

# Bridge News

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Robert Shore

### Next Board Meeting



I plan to hold the year's final Board meeting this month. My tentative plan is another Zoom meeting (of course), which I'd like to hold at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 14. We will certainly discuss the new 99er game discussed below. I hope also to hear a report at that meeting concerning what's happening at the national level, including the directive all districts and units have received not to sign new contracts for tournaments. I have a hard time believing that any changes would result in the loss of Bridge Week, the Summer's Best Tournament, as an annual event, but I've been shocked before.

### We're Off and Running

The evening 99er games described in my last column are up and running. The goal is to make 99er games available to those who can only play in the evenings. The problem we're trying to solve is that most clubs don't have enough 99ers to make a 99er game viable, so 99ers who want to play at night get "thrown into the deep end," often before they feel ready to do this.

The solution, suggested by our neighbors to the south in District 22 and joined by our neighbors to the north in District 21, is to make a game available that is open to all 99ers throughout most of California. To join, players must be "sponsored" by at least one of their local clubs. Clubs will be compensated for their players who participate. We're requiring sponsorship to avoid cannibalizing 99er games that clubs already have in place, and that sponsorship is on a night-by-night basis. Thus, a club that is already holding a Wednesday night 99er game could allow its players to play the statewide game Monday, Tuesday, and

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## District Director Report

by Kevin Lane

"Bridge is a game and should be fun."



### *My Email*

As noted last month, because of changes prompted by ACBL headquarters, my email address for district director work is now:

district23director@acbl.org.

### *October Board Meeting*

The board continues to conduct virtual meetings.

ACBL management presented a marketing plan to the board. Mary Stratton joined the ACBL as Director of Marketing right as the pandemic started in late spring. The only caution about marketing plans is that the pandemic has created uncertainty and delays as we wait for face to face bridge to regain its footing.

### District 23 Charity Preferences

I'm pleased to announce the first two charity preferences for District 23. These charities will receive an allocation from the ACBL's charity foundation.

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Thursday, while keeping the players for its own Wednesday night game. The choice is entirely up to the sponsoring club.

I'll provide more information about how the statewide games are doing as I receive it.

**This One Is Personal**

I was shocked to receive word not long ago that Art Gulbrandsen had passed after a battle with cancer. I started playing bridge seriously (sort of) as an undergraduate at Caltech. When my friends and I decided we wanted to expand our horizons beyond our classmates, we looked up bridge in the phone book. (Remember those?) And that's how we discovered Art and Diane's Arcadia Bridge Center.

The Bridge Center was my first home in the bridge world throughout my time at Caltech. It was a welcoming environment that surely had a lot to do with my lifelong devotion to the game we love. I continue to count as friends some of the people I met there, 40 years ago, and I still think fondly of the experienced players, now gone (but who still can be seen on the Pasadena Unit's Web site), who taught me oh so many lessons at the cost of many a matchpoint. When I wanted to interest my son, Sparky, in the game, we drove each week from my home in West Los Angeles to Arcadia so that Sparky and his mother could take their first lessons from Art's classes.

It's hard for me to believe that Art is gone. I can only imagine what this must be like for Diane and the rest of Art's family and many, many friends. My condolences to all, and to the Pasadena-San Gabriel Unit for the loss of a fixture.

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

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The West Valley Food Pantry has served the San Fernando Valley area for a number of years. And players in the San Fernando Valley area have consistently given financial support to that charity.

Womenshelter of Long Beach has also benefited from a long relationship with local bridge players. Unit 557 has had a long history of donating to Womenshelter of Long Beach, and this charity is particularly in need of financial support because of the pandemic.

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

## From the Director's Desk

*by David White*

*I want to be 14 again and ruin my life in all different ways. I've made those mistakes, now I have new ideas.*

**UNDOS****For the player:**

We all do it. Yesterday my partner marveled at my creative bidding when I responded One Spade holding a single spade and six hearts. Needless to say, I was appalled when I looked at the bidding review to see I had truly bid one of my stiff.

In BBO club games and games without a director, UNDO is not allowed. You made it, you live and die with it. There is no requirement to tell anybody you screwed up. In fact, it is against the rules to let your partner know; it would be unauthorized information.

If your OOPS is a convention, explain the convention. I repeat; DO NOT TELL anybody you mis-clicked. Example: RHO opens One Spade. You hold six spades and six points, and did not notice the opening call, so you bid two spades. When asked about your bid the answer is simply "Michael's, hearts and a minor and less than five HCP or more than 12 HCP." (Or an explanation of how you play it.) Because that is your agreement which is all the opponents are entitled to know about your call.

In most cases the mistaken bid is not conventional. If, it is the best answer is, 'no agreement' or 'Standard American'. Standard American bids do not need to be explained in detail, because everybody is supposed to know and understand Standard American. Regardless of how many times they ask you for an explanation, just answer 'No Agreement.' The exception is that you can tell the director privately you screwed up.

In an ACBL online tournament, UNDOs are allowed. And there the ACBL directors have been trained in the procedure. Players need to understand this procedure.

1. After the horrible realization you clicked the wrong thing. Go to the blue hamburger in one of the upper

corners of the screen. This is the same blue hamburger you'd click on to check a convention card or call the director. Click on 'UNDO.' This will flash a message to your LHO that you want an UNDO. DO NOT wait for a response from the player. Call the director with the explanation MIS-CLICK.

2. Now the hard part. Do nothing! If you get the UNDO request, wait for the director. If you made the UNDO request wait for the director.

3. The actual undoing of a call is only allowed when it is obvious. The bid is one you would never have made sober. So don't expect it to be approved if you opened 1NT holding five spades to the 7 and 16 points. Don't expect an UNDO if you responded incorrectly to Blackwood. Any UNDO request that could have been a slip of the mind, or a bad choice is going to be denied.

4. After the director reviews the situation he/she will inform LHO to accept or reject the UNDO request. After those instructions are acted upon, play on.

Once the UNDO requestor's partner has bid, it will take an act of divine intervention to reverse an oops. (The directors considered reversing a first round over-call of Seven Spades. It took a lot of convincing.)

The director decision on accepting or rejecting an UNDO is NOT open to discussion. Players may appeal it, after the hand, but you don't have time to discuss it during play. Failure to follow the director's instruction will result in an average minus adjustment.

#### **For the Director, when BBO starts allowing it at clubs:**

Your first indication of an UNDO request will be the Director call, with it's accompanying 'pop', and the red number on your director tab.

Handling UNDOs takes time. Answer UNDO request first.

1. Message the table to STOP.
2. Examine the hand of the requester. If not obvious ask what they thought they were doing. Forgetting a convention or changing their mind are NOT valid reasons.
3. After you make your decision, Message the entire table to accept or reject the UNDO, and tell them to play on.

4. Do not discuss the decision. Rather invite questions between rounds or after the game.

The process can be handled more quickly if you have some of the most common responses pre-loaded into your chat manager.

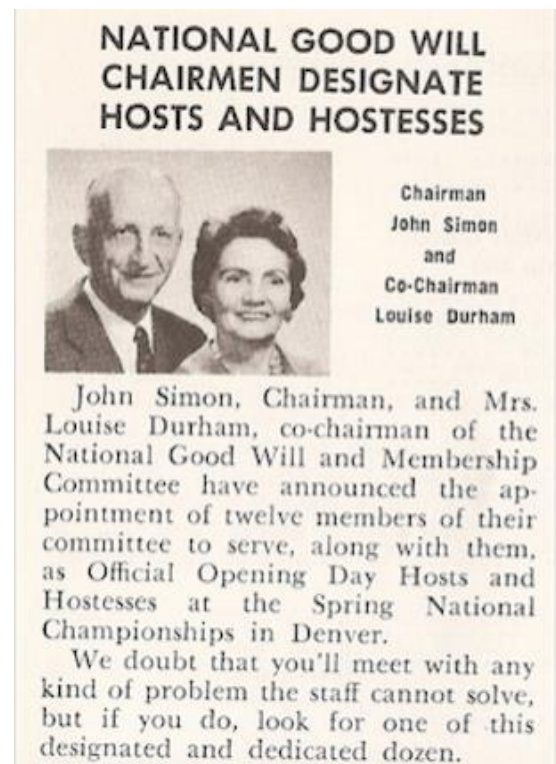
If a player fails to follow instructions three times, adjust the board to average minus and let them continue to the next board.

*Television may insult your intelligence, but nothing rubs it in like a computer.*

### **The ACBL National Goodwill Committee** *by Michael Marcucci*

The Goodwill Committee was founded in 1955 to promote good sportsmanship and goodwill within the game of bridge. Appointees are selected for their demonstrated love of the game, their attitude and deportment while playing, and their willingness to share good spirit with all our members.

The first Chairmen are shown in the article below on the occasion of the inaugural Committee reception at the 1961 Denver NABC.





In 1985, Aileen Osofsky was handed the reins and she performed so graciously and admirably over the next 25 years that, in 2010, on the occasion of her passing, the Committee was renamed in her honor.



Aileen in 1985



Aileen in 2009



Lapel pin

For D23, we'd like to show you our listing of Goodwill Committee members over the years. Each District is allowed 2 nominees per year. Appointments are for life. If you ever wondered what those little pins were & were afraid to ask, now you know!! Stay safe, my friends.

### D23 Members of ACBL Goodwill Committee

2020	n/a	2003	Dorothy Newland	Steve Rowe
2019	n/a		Freddie Straus	Jan Wickersham
2018	n/a	2002	Jeri Berger	Gloria Brown-Cook
2017	Om Chokriwala		Dick Jones	Jolyn Loomis
2016	Adam Barron		Mike Holloman	Sally Oliker
2015	Jill Meyers		Gabriella Jackson	Dr Morris Lorber
2014	Penny Barbieri		Carl Dahl	Barbara Dicker
2013	Leo Bell		Ron Oest	Peter Szecsi
2012	Rebecca Clough		Susan Hurlbert	Marge Kroch
2011	Ellen Kent		Karen Alpert	Ray Mack
2010	Ellen Anten		Peter Benjamin	Roger Clough
2009	Howard Einberg		John Killian	Weezie Reich
2008	Sheryl Kohlhoff		Eddie Kantar	Suzanne Trull
2007	Nancy Heck		Patricia Spain	Jay Brown
	Kathy Swaine		Dr Sam Haveson	Paul Larson
2006	Karen Byrd		Christine Frumen	Louise Sklar
	Barbara McKissick		John Swanson	Steve Wood
2005	n/a	1994	Janet Coussens	Paula Oliver
2004	Marie Dahl		Sue Mischick	Vance Moran
	Margaret Mataga			

1993	Bernie Mateer Lyle Peake	Jean Mlatick Virginia Wittich	1977	Betty Maier	Fred Maier
1992	Verna Baccus Leni Holtz	Beverly Cook Anna Digerness-Wittes	1976	Eilif Anderson	Wanda Hargrove
1991	Pat Abbey Alan LeBendig	Maida Maynard Rhoda Walsh	1975	Herb Nusbaum	Mrs Sunny Pearson
1990	Marshall Kuschner James Thornbrough	Trudy Nugit Lois Violin	1974	Russ Goode	Jeanne Trefzger
1989	Phyllis Fein	Jackie Stultz	1973	Dorothy Bare	Don Lundgren
1988	Marian Beerman Arthur Peterson	Woodie Kaiser	1972	Barbara Nusbaum	Tom Stoddard
1987	Elizabeth Gage Jerry Katz	Roslyn Kaiser	1971	Sylvia Roos	Roxy Violin
1986	Ken Platt	Pat McCabe	1970	Dr Vic Mastron	Mrs Guin Womack
1985	Hermine Baron	Stan Holdberg	1969	Robert Landy	Bonnie Sakomoto
1984	Cecil Cook	Goldie Jacobson	1968	Helen Wayte	Paul Wayte
1983	Jay Brown Sharon David	Jan Cohen Dave Watkins	1967	Irene Anderson	Jules Farell
1982	Gerry Bare	Esther Stephenson	1966	Mabs Askew	Lewe Mathe
1981	Ada Paulson	Harrison V Peterson	1965	Martin Kivel	Eileen Weingart
1980	Beverly Bond	Don Bond	1964	Phyllis Layton	Mark Layton
1979	Mrs Melrose Colvin	Mel Morris	1963	Bessie Stanley	G J "Sandy" Sandusky
1978	Lilyan Eisenstein	Bob Eisenstein	1962	Kelsey Petterson	Bea Petterson
			1961	Morris Portugal	Helen Portugal
			1960	Ralph Kempner	Eugenie Mathe
			1959	Augusta Oppenheim	Milton Vernoff
			1958	Helen Cale	Robert Hawk
			1957	Barry Crane	MaryJane Kauder
			1956	n/a	
			1955	<b>Founding of GW Committee</b>	

### District 23 Rank Changes September 2020

#### Junior Master

Nikolay Diankov  
Kim Dobkin  
Clara Harris  
Anna May Labbe  
Julie A. Miller  
Austin Newberg  
Girija Reddy  
Marie Robinson

#### Club Master

Barbara K. Andryjowicz  
Thomas P. Beggane  
Nicole R. Berte  
Liza Billington  
Alex S. Geczy  
Juliety Green  
Yvonne M. Kroneberger  
Jane Manson  
Kenneth G. Miller  
Melinda Raine

#### Sectional Master

Fred J. Marcus  
Paul W. Poareo  
Amelia Thomas  
Thomas E. Unterman  
  
**Regional Master**  
Sheila Bub  
Dawn Suart  
Vincent L. Vilker

#### NABC Master

Charles J. Altman  
Carol L. Decordova  
Linda S. Mackenzie  
Ramani Ravikandan  
Sharon L. Witlen

#### Life Master

Susan L. Frank

#### Bronze Life Master

William L. Dilks

#### Silver Life Master

Susan Bibby  
Ken Bishop  
Yasue Harada  
Raymond D. Primus  
Mira Rowe

#### Ruby Life Master

Gary B. Grey  
Stuart J. Hemple  
Abby B. Triback  
Marion Tumen

#### Sapphire Life Master

Gerard W. Geremia  
Shiu-Ming Huang

## The Puzzle Page

### A New Feature in the SCBN

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

### Bridge Jeopardy *by John Jones*

North

♠ 9 7 5  
♥ K 5  
♦ Q J 9 6  
♣ A K 6 2

West

♠ Q 10 3  
♥ 7 2  
♦ 10 8 7 3 2  
♣ 9 7 4

East

♠ J 6 4  
♥ A Q 3  
♦ A 4  
♣ Q 10 8 5 3

South

♠ A K 8 2  
♥ J 10 9 8 6 4  
♦ K 5  
♣ J

Opening Lead = ♦3

Contract = 4♥

Would you like to play or defend?

No hint, that's a thing of the past. The solution is at the bottom of this page.

[Editor's note: no, no, you aren't in a slam, redoubled and vulnerable, missing the A-K of trumps. Like the TV game show, OK?]

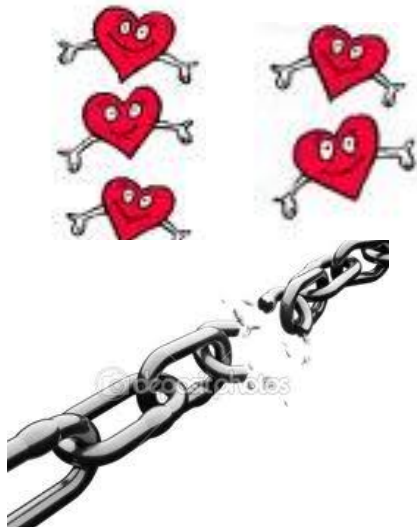
The topic is "Colors."

**And the answer is ...**

- \$100: The color associated with being vulnerable.
- \$200: The color of the standard simple ACBL convention card.
- \$300: The color of a LM with 2500 MP.
- \$400: The color of the four-card major, forcing club system played by Bob Hamman and Bobby Wolff.
- \$500: In five suited bridge, the color of the fifth suit, Eagles.

### November Rebus

Well, can *you* figure out what this says?



Solutions to these puzzles are on the page following. No peeking!

**Southern California Bridge News**  
 Published monthly by ALACBU, Inc.  
 1800 Avenue of the Stars, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
 Los Angeles, CA 90067  
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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.

## Solution to “Play or Defend?”

You should elect to defend. Declarer can duck the opening lead and East must win to avoid declarer pitching a diamond on the top clubs. If East rises with the ♦A at trick one, declarer can unblock the ♦K, which creates two pitches (one club, one diamond for his/her two losing spades. The defense counters this by switching to a club at trick two, which takes the club entry out of dummy. But it must be the ♣Q to smother declarer's ♣J. Declarer can try to cash the club and diamond winners, but East ruffs the third round of diamonds with the ♥3 and now the defense comes to one diamond, two hearts and a spade. This hand comes from page 37 of Julian Pottage's fine book “Defend or Declare”. This was a real hand. The author says that one of the Easts in this practice team match found the winning defense at the table, winning the ♦A at trick one and switching to the ♣Q. Well done!

## Solution to “Rebus”

Three – Two Heart Break

Have a good bridge rebus? Send it to johndjones44@yahoo.com

## “Bridge Jeopardy Questions”

\$100 - What is red?

\$200 - What is yellow?

\$300 - What is gold?

\$400 - What is orange?

\$500 - What is green?

## District 23 History Corner by Mike Marcucci

Our picture last month was no match for Joel Schiff's memory. From his days back at Cornell in New York, he remembers playing against our mystery lady, and a little digging through the files uncovered her story.

Our players were Mrs Agnes Gordon, Buffalo, NY, and Eric Murray, Toronto, after winning the Rockwell Mixed Pairs event at the November 1963 Bal Harbour NABC. (That is Miami for you non-Florida players.)

The reason these folks stuck in Joel's mind was the story of their victory that day. The Rockwell was a 4 session event and, after 3 sessions, Agnes and Eric were near the top but not leading for sure. In that 4<sup>th</sup> session, however, they rocked the field with a record 78% game to sweep away the competition and win by 67 matchpoints on a 25 top. We don't know if that NABC record still stands, but it was a huge feat that day and propelled them to stardom for the week.

We know that Eric went on to be a Canadian legend for his bridge career and hope that Agnes also had many more great moments in her bridge life.

How that original picture ended up in our D23 files, only Roger Clough knows, for he was the one who saved it all these years.

For this month, we show 3 gentlemen who need some identification from one of our readers. Hopefully, we will get a story on them to you next month.



## Around the Units in District 23



### Long Beach by Lillian Slater

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

The educational arm of Long Beach Bridge is called Bridge Brigade. In addition to Sharon Biederman, there are four primary teachers—Hank Dunbar ably assisted by his wife Fern, Rob Preece, Dalia Hernandez, and Steve Ramos. Our Long Beach column will be highlighting these teachers over the next four months.



Students can tell Hank Dunbar was a teacher even before taking on *three* of Bridge Brigade's OLLI classes. His patience, clarity, and enthusiasm for his subject are the hallmarks of a great teacher, and Hank has them in spades—in more ways than one!

Hank was a high school math teacher in Alhambra for 25 years, and his wife Fern was a speech therapist in Long Beach. While they were still working, they traveled during their summer breaks—RV camping throughout the United States and vacations abroad with bridge friends. Hank recounts that he always wanted to travel to a destination far

from the equator during the summer, while the others seemed to choose spots close to the equator. Visiting their home is like a tour of a museum, as it is filled with memorabilia and art from all these travels. Every Christmas season they invite Long Beach Bridge students and friends to an Open House at their home and to enjoy a neighbor's marionette show.

When Hank and Fern retired in 2003, they took free bridge lessons at the Lakewood Senior Center from a gentleman named Roger Boyar from whom Hank learned the basics, “most of what I use now.” They played duplicate party bridge once a month on Sundays with a group of two or three tables. It was one of these players who suggested they check out Long Beach Bridge.

Later that year, Fern and Hank attended their first ACBL National tournament in Long Beach and placed **FIRST** in a 0-5 Pairs competition. They still have their trophies today! Fern added, “Of course, then we placed dead last in our next event.” They continued to travel to tournaments everywhere together, having fun and earning points. Their tournament destinations included Hawaii, Arizona, Oregon, and the famous one in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Hank and Fern achieved Life Master on the same day in December 2008 at the Rancho Mirage tournament. They still occasionally play together while Hank now partners once a week with his cohort Rob Preece and Fern plays four days a week, one of them also with Rob.

Hank teaches the three introductory classes: Bridge 1 about the 2/1 system and bidding, Bridge 2 focusing on competitive bidding, and Bridge 3 for beginning Play of the Hand. What Hank enjoys most about teaching is “seeing a student do something right that may have come from me.” Bridge Brigade's introductory classes initially used ACBL's 2/1 spiral book but, over time, Hank found that the examples did not convey what he wanted. So, he's rewritten this curriculum infusing “his own personality into it.” Countless new players refer to his lessons as they navigate their own bridge journeys.

For eight years, Hank also taught a mini-lesson for anyone who wanted to attend on Tuesdays, 12-



12:30, before each NLM/Open game. Hank's advice to new players is "Have fun! Enjoy the challenge!"

Hank believes that "conventions can be really useful but there are occasionally bumps along the road with them." He continued by telling a story about playing in a Las Vegas regional tournament, "My favorite partner opened one spade. My hand was perfect for a conventional 'splinter' bid of four hearts. This double jump promises at least four spades (partner's suit) as well as an opening hand and shortness (zero or one) in the bid suit, hearts. The opener should alert this bid, and I knew I was in trouble when partner passed. The opponents were smart enough to pass and left me in a world-class misfit at four hearts. I had ZERO hearts, partner had three, and I played to a NINE-ONE split in trump. I did not make the contract."

Fern assists when Hank teaches his classes and often fills in tables for other classes while she's at the club. Fern's favorite, however, is Supervised Play. She enjoys answering the players' questions about bidding while letting them work out the play of the hand. Her advice to players is "as soon as the lead is made, make your plan. Don't be lazy and don't rush into it. Playing too fast leads to mistakes." Her favorite convention is Puppet Stayman (INT-P-3♣) because it allows a player to open No Trump with a 5-card major and still find that fit. When the club reopens, join Fern at a Supervised Play session any Tuesday, or Mondays and Wednesdays during OLLI intersession.

Hank is an avid fisherman and golfer. He ties his own flies for trout fishing, does bass catch-and-release at Canyon Lake in the Inland Empire, and goes on three ocean trips a year from San Diego for blue fin tuna. He is also the past president and life member of the Lakewood Men's Golf Club. They hold a monthly Sunday tournament open to members.

Hank and Fern's grandson Tristan just turned 19 and is a world class tennis player who, for the last two years, was home schooled and played in Europe with pros. Tristan will attend Stanford University in September on a tennis scholarship cheered on by two of his biggest fans, his grandparents. When they're not teaching or coaching at the bridge club, Hank and Fern spend down time at their condo overlooking the lake and create memories with family and friends.



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

Individual: Saturday, Nov. 7, 9:30 a.m., Claremont

Nope! No Unit game this month. We actually did have enough people sign up for a game in October – barely – but, we didn't have a place to play.

What's *That*? Old Reliable (a.k.a. Yours Truly) wasn't willing to host? Unthinkable!

Well, think again. The dice rolled, the gods laughed, and the Senior apartment Barbara (my wife, for those of you not in the know) and I put in for some time ago became available. Too good an opportunity to pass up, and with Barbara's health issues (and with me not getting any younger, either), we just had to go for it. So we are (as I write this) transitioning from a 1-acre lot, 2050 ft<sup>2</sup> home, 3 car garage, 8' x 10' garden shed, to a 1300 ft<sup>2</sup> apartment. NO extra storage. We've been having *some* difficulty sorting out the 41+ years' worth of accumulated Shinola. Hardest of all (for me) was disassembling my Christmas Village. It started out as a simple 4' x 8' O-gauge train layout, with maybe 3 or 4 buildings and a scanty assortment of people and animals. 22 Christmases later, it had grown via 4 additions to roughly 7' x 12', on two levels, and even that was overcrowded with decorations. Not to mention all the electronics. A true labor of love. Every snip and cut I made during disassembly took a piece of my soul with it.

But never fear, bridge-wise – although I'm moving, I remain within Unit 551. Or perhaps you *should* fear???

We did hold an Individual in October. Rosalie Roberts took top honors with a nice 67.86% effort, nosing out Roger Boyar's 64.29%. Sofi Kasubhai took third with 60.71%.

It does look like the Individual will continue in 2021. We located some new hosts, and also found a place to store the equipment. (Losing all that storage space *really* hurts!) Further news in December – assuming I can get organized by then.

Stop the presses! We have a promotion to report this month! Read all about it! Barbara

Andryjowicz is now a Club Master. Keep on plugging, Barbara, we're with you.

It was tough to come up with a good Hand-of-the-Month this time. Because of the commotion caused by my move, I played exactly ONE time in October, and the hands were so-so in the interest department. Let's dig into the archives and see what surfaces:

OK, here's a hand I played in a Regional way back in '06. We were in the consolation Swiss of a compact knockout event, and had blown it big time against this team on the first 6 boards. I personally floored a stone cold vulnerable game, and at the other table our teammates played 3♣ (making) while our opponents bid and made, on an insane auction, 6NT. So we were 23 IMPs out with six boards to go.

OK, teeth-gritting time. On the first board of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, we set them 3 tricks in 3♦ for +150, which seemed promising. Then as East, I picked up this beast, as dealer (Vul vs Not):

♠ K Q J 10 9 x ♥ 2 ♦ --- ♣ A 10 8 x x x.

I hope everyone in the world would open that monster 1♠, which is what I did. (Well, I had about 48 masterpoints at the time, so if things seem a bit primitive / stupid ...) Here's how it went:

North	East	South	West
	1♠	2♠	pass
pass	3♣	3♥	4♣ (1)
pass	4♠	5♦	pass
pass	5♠	X	all pass

(1) East, to self: Ding-ding-ding-ding-ding-ding ..... !!!!!!!

The opening lead was the ♥A followed by the King, ruffed. Here's the complete deal (more or less – I didn't record the spots):

♠ x x x x	♠ K Q J 10 9 x
♥ x x x	♥ 2
♦ x x x x	♦ none
♣ x x	♣ A10 8 x x x
♠ 4 3	
♥ Q x x x	
♦ Q J x	
♣ K J x x	
♠ A	
♥ A K J x x	
♦ A K x x x x	
♣ Q	

As you can see, as long as I pump spades out it's cold for +850. In the other room the auction was different (no kidding!) and our teammates played 6♦X, down 1 for -100. That was 13 IMPs in, and on the last 4 boards, one was a flat board at 5♠ making, and the other three, all part score hands, we had plus scores on all of them at both tables. We took the set 30-1, winning the match 33-27 to win the consolation. The motto: NEVER GIVE UP.

And yes, of course, North got my usual hand by mistake.

Quote for the month: "I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use." (Galileo)

## 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" with 4 open MP games and a trial IMP game on Sunday afternoon. The open MP games are held on Monday at 12:15, Tuesday at 6:15, Thursday at 10:15 and Friday at 12:15. Members may have one guest per month and are asked to notify Paula Olivares, our club manager, via email ([paula@pacbell.net](mailto:paula@pacbell.net)) 24 hours in advance to allow time for the guest to be temporarily added to our database. Guest pairs are not allowed.

### Meet Our Virtual Club Directors:

This month we are featuring our Club Manager and backup director, Paula Olivares.

Originally from Boston, Paula began playing bridge at home as her father's partner, while her mother took a break and served desert and coffee. She joined the high school bridge club, playing Friday evenings at a different students' homes. In college

(University of Texas at El Paso), she enjoyed playing bridge between classes in the Student Union.

After receiving her B.A. and M.S. in mathematics, Paula spent the next 30 years in Southern California raising four children while pursuing a career with Pacific Bell/ATT and teaching Math part-time at College of the Canyons. A few years before retirement she rekindled her interest in bridge and signed up for Rand Pinsky's Beginning Bridge series in 1999, quickly becoming addicted to duplicate bridge.

After retiring in 2002 Paula became a certified director, bridge teacher and life master. In 2007 she moved to Rosarito Beach, Mexico where she taught bridge classes, helped two clubs become sanctioned ACBL clubs, and coached 5 players to become directors. She also began teaching and directing bridge on cruise ships doing 26 cruises over the next 12 years on Princess, Royal Caribbean, Cunard, Holland American, Azamara and Seabourn cruise lines.

Back to Valencia in 2011, Paula continued teaching bridge in her home and started the Friendly Bridge Club in 2012 as a place for her students to play together.

Winners in Unit 556+ Open MP games:

Mon. 9/28

N/S: Gerard Geremia - Rae Murbach 63.43%

E/W: Paula Olivares – Bill Brodek 68.29%

Tues. 9/29

N/S: Saul Teukolsky /- Roselyn Teukolsky 61.83%

E/W: Amr Elghamry – Dominique Moore 61.04%

Thurs. 10/1

N/S: Carolyn Cohen - Dominique Moore 70.75%

E/W: Temo Arjani – Bill Brodek 63.63%

Fri. 10/2

N/S: Bob McBroom – David White 63.31%

E/W: Carolyn Cohen – Bill Brodek 63.00%

Mon. 10/5

N/S: Debra Pride – John Bell 67.44%

E/W: Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky 61.26%

Tues. 10/6

N/S: Temo Arjani – Khushroo Lakdawala 65.62%

E/W: Sharry Vida – Beth Morrin 57.99%

Thurs. 10/8

N/S: Mira Rowe – Ron Oest 64.65%

E/W: Carolyn Cohen - Dominique Moore 58.84%

Fri. 10/9

N/S: Carolyn Cohen – Bill Brodek 64.39%

E/W: Ramesh Sawhney – Temo Arjani

Mon. 10/12

N/S: Gerard Geremia – Rae Murbach 68.99%

E/W: Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky 67.83%

Tues. 10/13

N/S: Saul Teukolsky - Roselyn Teukolsky 66.67%

E/W: Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky 59.38%

Thurs. 10/15

N/S: Kathy Swaine – David Khalieque 62.99%

E/W: Roy Ladd – Paula Olivares 61.39%

Fri. 10/16

N/S: Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky 58.54%

E/W: Michael Connell – William Martin 66.51%

Mon. 10/19

N/S: Mary Ann Self – Gwen Castelda 61.69%

E/W: Carolyn Cohen – Gerry Belcher 64.92%

Tues. 10/20

N/S: Temo Arjani – Khushroo Lakdawala 60.42%

E/W: Ruth Baker – Roy Ladd 64.51%

Thurs. 10/22

N/S: Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky 66.09%

E/W: David White – David Khalieque 63.86%

Fri. 10/23

N/S: Gay Gipson – Paula Olivares 60.19%

E/W: Linda Young – Russ Buker 66.44%

Winners of Unit 556+ Sunday Afternoon IMP Pairs  
Game at 3:20:

Sunday Oct. 4

Kathy Flynn – Bob McBroom

Sunday Oct. 11

Kathy Flynn – Bob McBroom

Sunday Oct. 18

Sharry Vida – Beth Morrin

Sunday, Oct. 23

Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky

Next board meeting: TBA

## The District 23 Club by David White

### Masterpoint Limited On-line Clubs



#### D23 Club

The D23 club is an online club sponsored by Unit 556. It holds one game weekly at 3:15pm on Sundays. It is open to players with fewer than 500 masterpoints.

At least one member of the partnership must be a resident of District 23.

This game also rewards the series winners. The top six players each month, by the average of their two best games.

For October these winners were:

1. Caryn Musicer (tie) 63.7%
2. Glen Musicer (tie) 63.7%
3. Carol Reukauf (tie) 59.4%
4. Paul Reukauf (tie) 59.4%
5. Jacqueline Moor (tie) 56.2%
6. Harry Randhawa (tie) 56.2%

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### California 99ers Nite Club

This on-line club is open all players with 100 Masterpoints or less who are residents of District 21, 22, or 23; provided their home club has enrolled in the program. There is no guest plan for this club, each player must be a member of a club in one of those three districts.

A portion of the entry fee is returned to the player's home club.

This club also host a zoom chat before the game and a short lesson, question, and answer session on Zoom after the game.

Cal 99er games are held Mon-Thur at 6:30pm. At this time the Cal 99er club has no series awards.

Finding these limited games on BBO can sometimes be a challenge.

From the BBO opening screen, click on COMPETATIVE. On the new Tournaments screen click on ACBL Virtual Clubs. In the upper right hand corner, Click on SEARCH, then type in the search word: *D23* for the D23 club, or *Cal* for the Cal 99er

club. The game will appear in the much shorter list. Click the game and register as normal. If you are blocked or refused, message the director or 'ellis10'.

The link to the Cal 99er Zoom chat is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3050101825?pwd=OC9ueFJPVkJXQWxrWmhWVUJCN2s1UT09>

If you don't have Zoom installed on your computer, the first time you click the link it will try to install the Zoom program, which needs your permission.

If you have Zoom installed already, open the app before you click on the link. This will speed the sign in process.

If you have questions about either on line club, click this mail link:

<mailto://davewhite50@verizon.net>

and include 99ers in the subject line.

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

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



We're all shocked and saddened by the passing of Art Gulbrandsen this past month. So many of us were influenced by the work he and Diane did, and it's impossible not to express our appreciation. I have to respect the family's desire for privacy, but his passing calls us to honor his memory. See Robert Shore's comments in this issue for more remarks.

I'm proud that the virtual bridge club created in the wake of the pandemic has been able to keep bridge alive for the many friends and players of the Bridge Center in Arcadia as well as the other venues in the area. It's also worth noting that our online play has contributed to the financial support of the club managers and directors in our area.

If you really don't want to play bridge online, consider calling Diane at the Bridge Center. She might like to hear from you.

Congratulations to our members who have moved up the ladder of ACBL ranks: new Junior Master Julie Miller, new Club Masters Ken Miller and Liza Billington, and new Ruby Life Master Abby Triback.

Special congratulations to our two new Sapphire Life Masters: Shiu-Ming Huang and Gerard Geremia. Both have been long time fixtures in our games, and I always enjoy losing to them at the table (which is usually the case!).

We currently have four open games on the weekly calendar, and several limited games. Our two newcomer games on Saturday afternoon and Wednesday evening are getting a regular turnout of graduates from my online bridge classes. The full schedule is at <https://bridgemojo.com/ppdvbc>.

Did you see my picture in the October bulletin? My 'mission control' for teaching online bridge classes has been upgraded quite a bit since that picture was taken. I'll be announcing new classes soon at the BridgeMojo web site, <https://bridgemojo.com>.

I'm planning lots more beginning bridge classes, starting with PCC early next year. I'm also working with a group from Palm Desert to help bring new players into the game.

My tag line from here on will be "Next year in the bridge club!"



Submitted by John Jones:



# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists are: Mark Bartusek, Ellis Feigenbaum, Bill Hall, Mister Mealy-mouth, Margie Michelin, Tom Reynolds, 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.*

Tom and Bill are both new to the panel. Tom is the creator and head-honcho of the Reynolds team games. Bill is one of my partners in those matches. There are problems from Reynolds team games in this edition, so this is a good time to add these experts to the panel.

November is a month to be thankful. I'll start at the top; I'm thankful for Kevin Lane and Bob Shore who serve D23 well during this strange time. Thank you, gentlemen! I'm thankful for Tom Reynolds who captains my teams in online team matches. I'm thankful for Mitch Dunitz and his awesome friends and supporters who help raise money and provide tremendous support for the growth of bridge in D23. I'm thankful for Carol Frank and all she does for youth bridge. I'm thankful for all the readers who give me problems and comment on my column (so that I know that someone is actually reading it). I'm thankful for all of my wonderful panelists. There are far too many of them to name. I'm thankful for Dave White, who gets the newsletter onto the Internet. I'm very, very thankful to my proofreaders, who behind the scenes do an awesome job of correcting typos, grammar, and increasing accuracy and clarity. I appreciate the contributions of Miriam Harrington, Bob McDonnell and Jo Melis for their help in this regard. I'll save the biggest thank-yous for last. Chris Hitchcock is my primary proofreader and Tom Lill is my fabulous editor. I forever run late, but these guys get the last-minute versions in and looking good. Thank you both of you for an immense amount of help.

<h1>1</h1> <p>IMPs None Vul</p>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
			1♦	3♣
	pass ???	pass	double	pass
	You, South, hold: ♠J5432 ♥J6 ♦10752 ♣AQ			
What call do you make?				

*It looks like we have several options on this hand which is maximum for not taking action on the previous round. Pass, 3♦, 3♣, 3NT, 4♣, 4♦ and 4♠ all have some merit. I'll start with the panelists who choose to go rather low.*

**Hall:** 3♣. This should be more forward-going than 3♦. Converting to penalty in IMPs is too risky with so many diamonds. *Yes, 3♠ is more likely to get raised than 3♦, but it's less likely to get raised than 4♦.*

**Michelin:** 3♣. I am only bidding 3♣. We could be cold for game in spades or 3NT. I like my fit in

diamonds and I am hoping to get a club lead. If we were vulnerable I would bid game if playing with Ellis. He likes low percentage vulnerable games in case they make, so I am safe if it goes down. It may be right to bid game non-vulnerable as well here.

*Other panelists choose 3NT, one of them thinking he may be in a polling precinct.*

**Shuster:** 3NT. In honor of this being for Nov 2020, I'll be bidding No Trump whenever plausible.

**Reynolds:** 3NT. If I don't bid it we don't get to 3NT.

*Other panelists argue for the spade game.*

**Feigenbaum:** 4♠. I would be happier to bid 3NT if I had another club card. So 4♠. It is. Sometimes 36% games make.

**Bartusek:** 4♠. Partner should have extras for reopening at the 3-level (especially at IMPs). The double fit in the pointed suits makes me optimistic about game (not to mention the likely working major suit finesses through LHO).

**Mealymouth:** 4♠. In context, I have a moose.

**Wittes:** 4♠. I couldn't have a much better hand not to have taken any action over 3♣. I'm assuming partner must have at least three spades. 3NT could conceivably be right, but the 5th spade tends to make 4♠ a better bet.

*I'm a 4♣ bidder. If partner bids 4♦ or 4♥, I'll try 4♠. I think that is a choice between 4♠ and 5♦.*

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">2</h1> <p>Matchpoints Both Vul</p>	South	West	North	East
	???			1♣
	You, South, hold: ♠AQ82 ♥AQ753 ♦1094 ♣5			
	What call do you make?			

*This problem was suggested by Mark Bartusek. The 4=5=3=1 shape makes this a difficult problem. We have to decide between overcalling 1♥, bidding Michaels with the wrong shape, or doubling. Note that the panelists who are doubling are not all in the same camp. Some are passing if partner bids 2♦, fearful that bidding again will significantly overstate the hand. One panelist plays low level equal-level conversion doubles and is doubling and then bidding hearts to show four spades and five hearts. My style is to play that doubling and then bidding a new suit shows a strong hand, so doubling and bidding again is out for me.*

*We'll start with the panelist who plays that double then 2♥ would be Equal Level Conversion.*

**Mealy-mouth:** Double. I trust my partner won't play me for a moose when I rebid in hearts over his diamond advance. Much as I respect Teddy Roosevelt, he was a bit before my time.

*The other doublers are passing 2♦, feeling that they have tried to get to a major and at least have diamond support.*

**Bartusek:** Double. A very tough problem since both double and 1♥ are in the ballpark. Each action has its risks since double risks missing a 5-3 heart fit, while 1♥ risks losing the spade fit. I usually double if the spade suit is fairly good. Obviously, I would overcall holding 4=5=2=2 distribution to avoid partner hanging me by bidding diamonds. I seem to remember that double didn't work out since we missed our 5-3 heart fit.

**Wittes:** Double. If partner responds in diamonds we might miss a 5-3 heart fit, but I'd rather double keeping spades in play.

**Hall:** Double. The fifth heart is no excuse to neglect potential fits in the other two suits.

**Feigenbaum:** 1♥. I'll bid 1♥ unless I have discussed this sequence. I am not risking the stratosphere by doubling and then bidding hearts over 1♦ or 2♦.

**Shuster:** 1♥. Our most likely fit is in hearts and double could lose it. 1♥ doesn't necessarily lose spades.

**Michelin:** 1♥. If partner has spades I may hear from him, I am not good enough to double and if he bids diamonds to correct to hearts. I am sure partner was waiting for the takeout double to convert to a penalty pass. It is after all Halloween!

**Reynolds:** 1♥. Per Mike Lawrence I can't overcall 1♥ then double. I should bid 2♣ (Michaels) but per Edgar Kaplan I should double since I have support for three suits. I still like the flexibility of 1♥. But then what do I know about match points?

*Tom is the only panelist to mention the possibility of bidding Michaels. I abhor trying Michaels on 4/5 shapes. The problem is that we have placed the competitive decision that will make or break the hand into partner. Partner will make very poor Law of Total Trick decisions because our bid will have fooled him.*

*I will mention that there is another way of bidding the hand that nobody has discussed. I saw Mike Cappeletti Jr. bid a hand like this while playing with a very weak client. Mike overcalled 1♠ then later bid 2♥ and it nearly got us. We were about halfway through the defense when I wondered why partner was defending the hand strangely. It finally dawned on me that Mike was bidding strangely because he wanted to make sure his partner didn't play the hand.*



3

IMPs  
E-W Vul

South	West	North	East
		2♥	3NT

???

You, South, hold: ♠AQ9864 ♥105 ♦8 ♣J1062

If you pass or double, what do you lead?

*First, we will hear from a panelist who bids, eliminating the need for selecting an opening lead.*

**Wittes:** 4♥. I would try 4♥ at this vulnerability, and hope we go for less than their vulnerable game.

*The passers are in three camps: club leaders, heart leaders and spade leaders.*

**Reynolds:** Pass. ♣J. I try to not give up the 9th trick.

**Bartusek:** Pass. ♥T. Admittedly if partner has Kx of spades this lead will be a disaster. When in doubt lead partner's suit and hope for the best (2nd choice is a low spade). Partner can't be too critical in the postmortem since I led his suit from T5. *Sometimes it's better to worry more about winning the board than winning the postmortem* 😊

**Mealymouth:** Pass. ♥T. I don't feel desperate enough to lead a low spade, especially when my partners know I expect good suits from them for their Weak Twos. Besides, East is Marshall, isn't he? *(This is a reference to the late Marshall Miles, the former moderator of this column. Marshall loved bidding NT when he had a singleton King).* Odds are 8-to-5 that he doesn't have a heart stopper, so I'll lead the ♥T and hope my partner, holding ♥AQ9864, will guess to shift

to his singleton spade when Marshall's ♥K falls beneath his ♥A. Two spade tricks and three heart tricks should suffice. It's not matchpoints, so I don't need to try for the greedy down two I might get if I were to lead low to partner's doubleton ♠K.

**Michelin:** Pass. ♠6. I am sure that my RHO has a long running diamond suit and I am going to give him his 9th trick. I am leading my fourth best spade into his SINGLETON KING. *Nope Marshall wasn't the declarer. Partner had Kx of spades.*

**Shuster:** Pass. ♠6. Maybe I'll get lucky and catch Kx with partner or a doubleton with the diamond ace.

**Hall:** Pass. There is no clear choice, but I will try the 4th best spade.

*Both Bill and Tom had seen the hand but apparently didn't recall it. But this panelist got it right without having seen it previously!*

**Feigenbaum:** Double. This hand is close, depends on style of 2♥ bids. Some modern first seat Weak Twos are beyond even my propensity for being a lunatic occasionally. Playing with a sound 2♥ bidder I think I double and lead a 4th best spade. In the famous words of Jim Looby, "if I were playing with myself I would double."

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">4</h1> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Matchpoints E-W Vul</p>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
	pass	pass	1♦	1♠
	double	2♠	3♠	pass
	???			
<p>You, South, hold: ♠75 ♥AKJ8 ♦J93 ♣Q874</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

*Thank you to Paul Kushner for this problem. I am a passed hand that has shown a minimum negative double or better. Partner has cuebid 3♠ and obviously has a very big hand. I don't have the spade stopper that it would be our top priority to show. What does partner's 3♠ bid show? Do we have to get to game? Can he pass 4♦? Partner almost certainly has solid or nearly solid diamonds. With exactly three hearts, he might have doubled 2♠, showing three hearts with extra values. But partner has either forced to game or nearly forced to game. Could he have as little as ♠x ♥xx ♦AKQxxxx ♣Axx? We have an absolute maximum, and if partner has solid diamonds, a stiff spade and the ♣A, slam is likely.*

**Hall:** 4♦. Partner may be raising hearts or asking for a stop. If the former, he will correct; if the latter, I hope he bids 5.

**Mealy-mouth:** 4♥. Okay, Gaston, I'll take it. You do have a singleton spade and ♥Qxx, don't you? It's matchpoints, and I can take the ruff in the short hand.

**Reynolds:** 4♥. I think the 4-3 will score more if it makes.

**Wittes:** 4♥. Even if partner has only three hearts, the Moysian should play pretty well, and we are playing matchpoints. The auction also sounds like we're playing with a pinochle deck.

**Feigenbaum:** 4♣. I am a simple soul. If I bid 4♣ partner knows I have hearts and clubs, I'll await partner's next move.

**Michelin:** 4♣. My partners always want me to hold the right cards. I tell them ahead of time I don't have the right hand. If he was looking for a spade stopper I don't have it. If he has hearts after whatever I bid, I'll hear. If I bid 4♣ he may take that as a cue bid in

support of his diamonds or hearts but that is what I am bidding. I am sure I was supposed to bid 4♦.

**Shuster:** 5♦. I lack a spade control, but I do have enough extra that I don't want to risk ending in 4♦. Partner rates to have either seven solid diamonds and the club ace or six solid with the club ace and another round honor. Opposite some partners, 4♦ would be enough.

**Bartusek:** 5♦. Partner usually has a distributional hand too strong to bid 3♦ (a somewhat balanced hand would double instead of 3♠). Assuming that we play good-bad 2NT in this auction partner has a few ways to bid a minor 2-suiter (3♣, or 2NT followed by passing 3♣, or bidding 4♣, and 5♣). In any case s/he should have at least six diamonds in a very strong hand. I doubt that we have a spade stopper so let's just bid the most likely game.

*It's been a long time since I've felt my panel has whiffed on a problem. But I don't think they thought out this problem well. We have a maximum passed hand and need to show it. 4♦ isn't necessarily forcing. 4♥ implies a fifth heart and doesn't describe a slam try. 4♣ is at least forcing, but it doesn't show either a diamond fit nor a good hand. I've got more sympathy for 5♦, which should at least describe a decent hand for diamonds. But the probability that we have a slam if partner has a singleton spade is quite likely. If partner has ♠x ♥Qx ♦AKQxxxx ♣Axx or ♠x ♥xx ♦AKQxxxx then slam is cold. The bid I like is 4♠. This should not show a spade card. I would bid 3NT with a spade card. It should show a maximum and values for a possible slam without a spade control. I like that description.*

5

Matchpoints  
None Vul.

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

You, South, hold: ♠KQ10 ♥AQ32 ♦AKJ863 ♣void

What call do you make?

*OK, I slipped one in on the panelists. Or at least I tried to. This is the actual companion hand to Problem #1 with a 3♠ response by the responder who had passed originally. The 3♠ bid is hardly automatic, and I don't like it (I'm a 4♣ bidder, with 4♠ and 3NT as reasonable alternatives. But 3♠ was selected by two panelists and also the player who faced the problem at the table. Let's see how the panelist deal with this side of the problem.*

**Bartusek:** 4♠. Partner didn't pass the double with club length, so is very likely to have five spades. Note that s/he probably wouldn't bid a bad 4-card major holding diamond support.

**Michelin:** 4♠. Another Halloween hand, he skipped over hearts so maybe there is an off chance he has five spades. I'm doubtful. He didn't jump or make a negative double in the first place so his hand is the usual drek. I hate ruffing clubs with my honors in spades but I'll put in one of my diamonds with my spades my partners are color blind maybe they won't notice when I say "Sorry I thought I had four spades." I can see 6♦ might make and John is trying to have the girl look bad.

**Shuster:** 4♦. I've got a big hand, but don't want to commit to strain or level just yet. If I bid 4♣, partner will think it a spade raise and just sign off in 4♠ holding ♠Jxxx ♥Kx ♦xxx ♣Qxxx. I want to make an affirmative move in this excellent diamond suit. Once clarifying the nature of my hand, I will be comfortable with respecting partner's next move.

**Mealy-mouth:** 4♦. If partner has four hearts or a fifth spade, he should figure me for three spades, four hearts and bid game in our eight-card major-suit fit.

**Feigenbaum:** 4♣. In the interest of Halloween I have to make at least one bid to make partner squirm.

**Reynolds:** 4♣. I can still have a slam but "How do you get to game?"- Al Roth. If partner rebids 4♠ I play it there. If partner bids 4♦, I am happy with 5♦.

**Hall:** 4♣. Slam is still possible, even a grand if partner's high cards are ♠A and ♥K.

**Wittes:** 4♣. But what do I do next? If this is the companion hand to #1, we are a 3-2 spade break or a 2-1 diamond break away from making a slam. This is a possible follow-up hand from Problem 1. *This is exactly the companion hand from #1. Great catch! We'll give you the Cody Bellinger Great Catch Award (Dodger fans will understand).*