

Bridge News

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Robert Shore



Board Meeting

Not much news to report this month. I reported to the Board on the expenditure of \$500 from my discretionary fund to seed the statewide 99er game I've been telling you about. That is a hard cap on the amount the District will spend, and I am hopeful that the game will earn enough to repay us, but there are no guarantees.

I also reported to the Board on ACBL's request that Districts and Units do not sign contracts for future tournaments until further notice. It is now time when we would ordinarily negotiate our next contract with the Long Beach Hilton. I continue to find it difficult to believe that ACBL would not permit our District to hold at least one regional per year, so I've asked Peter Benjamin, our Tournament Manager, to begin the negotiation. I have also asked our District Director, Kevin Lane, to do what he can to expedite our ability to get ACBL's sign-off on Bridge Week 2023, the Summer's Best Tournament.

Hope Springs Eternal

Just like all of you, I've been reading the papers. I remain optimistic that developments on the vaccine front will bear out my prediction that in-person bridge will again become feasible by the spring. Accordingly, I'm continuing to assume that Bridge Week, the Summer's Best Regional, will be back to normal by July.

But that's in significant part up to you, Gentle Readers. I hope that in particular my out-of-town readers begin making their plans to play at Long Beach. And it would be a crime, or at least a shame, if my local readers passed up what is likely to be one of the first regionals after the recent unpleasantness. So I

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District Director Report

by Kevin Lane

"Bridge is a game and should be fun."



My Email

As noted in my column the past few months, because of changes prompted by ACBL headquarters, my email address for district director work is now:

district23director@acbl.org

November Board Meeting

The board continues to conduct virtual meetings. In November, we held what would have been the normal board meeting in Tampa.

The ACBL's marketing director continued to present more detail on marketing. The board re-confirmed a prior vote to allow management to change the ACBL logo. I was in the category of board members who requested an overall marketing plan prior to committing significant marketing money. Evidently, the prior marketing team had spent money on this project before leaving so the change won't cost much and will mainly be phased in as items need replacing.

The financial projections for next year are not as rosy as 2020 has proved to be. The ACBL is still

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hope to see you all there to make Bridge Week bigger and better than ever.

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

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

projected to be profitable in 2021, but some expenses have arisen and the pandemic is still impacting the organization. Currently, all three NABCs for 2020 are scheduled to be held. But management is closely reviewing contracts for all future NABCs. They will make decisions for 2021 NABCs as soon as they can.

District 23 Charities

The paperwork for the quadrennial charity distributions to District 23 have been submitted. It will take a couple months to process. This money comes from the ACBL Charity Foundation, a separate organization from the ACBL. The Charity Foundation hasn't been able to raise money during the pandemic, so AFTER distributing this year's grants they intend to hold off on further distributions until their income returns to normal.

I welcome all input. *district23director@acbl.org*

From the Director's Desk *by David White*

I think we should test COVID-19 vaccines on politicians. If the vaccine works, mankind benefits. If the vaccine doesn't work, the country still benefits.

**For the player:**

You didn't get to finish a board. Your fault, the opponents fault, nobody's fault; the clock ran out. If there were six cards or fewer left to play, BBO will try to play the hand out. But it will not make any critical decisions or advanced plays. While BBO is very intuitive and doesn't lose count, if there is a finesse where you had no clues, if you needed to rectify count before a squeeze, BBO isn't going to do it. Then, as whenever there were more than six cards to play BBO assigns Ave/Ave.

The director then gets notified. They can look at the play and adjust score as needed.

Another point: BBO will never let you start a hand with two minutes or less on the clock. If you are 'frozen' with one board left to play, BBO probably determined you didn't have time to play.

For the Director:

For something different, there are other options and games you can run on BBO. When creating or editing a game, in the 'MOVEMENT' box: the standard entry of 'Clocked' creates a Mitchell movement, or a Howell if you use the +howell+ hack. Your other options include 'Swiss', 'Howell', and 'Unlocked'.

Howell is the same as using the +howell+ hack and you get a scrambled movement regardless of the number of tables. Be warned you can get some real funny movements with a Howell if you don't set the 'boards to play' and 'boards per round' correctly. It is a good idea to use the +roundsx" hack if you force a Howell movement this way.

Using the Swiss setting results in a Swiss Pairs game and a movement like Swiss teams. The East West pairs do NOT move to the next table, rather the best East-West plays the best North-South. With eight or fewer tables this game is best played with three rounds of six. With more than eight tables, four rounds of five boards is best. IMP scoring is also recommended for Swiss games.

An 'Unlocked' movement has every table moving as soon as possible. If you have slow players, this isn't for you. It requires a lot more work on the directors part in keeping the game moving. But with experienced and quick field it can shave many minutes off of game time.

Be warned, both the Swiss and Unlocked movements allow play backs so opponents could meet twice.

Why did I turn my clock back? I didn't need another hour of 2020.

District 23 Rank Changes October 2020

Junior Master

Nina M. Beck
Kirsten Blockhus
Benjamin Duncan
Beth L. Hollander
Nancy J. Imbery
Gilpin Netburn
Margie E. Reiter
Roberta Rosenberg
Georgia Seid
Uma Shrivastava
Kathy A. Virch

Club Master

Tim Deegan
Deeann Huddleston
Khushroo H. Lakdawala

Club Master

Marie-Laure Leglise
Andrea Luria
Chang-Huey Wu

Sectional Master

David Finkel
Lynda W. Gordon
Timothy V. Singer

Bronze Life Master

Elizabeth Burrell
Bob Weingarten

Silver Life Master

Rosemary A. Ford
Larisa Rappaport

Silver Life Master

Mark S. Rappaport
D. P. Schenker

Ruby Life Master

Alan R. Golden
Alan P. Olschwang

Gold Life Master

Anna L. Benatar
Nelly H. Gordon
Richard C. Weinberger

Sapphire Life Master

Milton Kalikman

Emerald Life Master

Bill L. Schreiber

The Puzzle Page

Play or Defend?
by John Jones

Bridge Jeopardy
by John Jones

North
♠ Q 7 4
♥ K J 9 7 5 3
♦ void
♣ 10 7 5 2

West
♠ 10 9 6 2
♥ 2
♦ Q J 9 7 2
♣ J 6 4

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

South
♠ A K J 8
♥ void
♦ A K 10 8 5
♣ A K 9 3

Opening Lead = ♥2
Contract = 6♣

Do you elect to play 6♣ or defend it?

The topic is "Cheaters."

And the answer is ...

\$100: Britain's Terrance Reece and Boris Shapiro finger placement on their cards indicated their length in this suit.

\$200: Loton Fisher and Ron Schwartz represented this country as juniors before being barred by the European Bridge Federation.

\$300: The country of the "Coughing Doctors" who were barred in 2014.

\$400: Americans Steve Sion and Alan Cokin indicated their preference for the opening lead by their placement of this object.

\$500: In 1975 two members of the Italian Blue Team conveyed information about their hands by doing this.

November Rebus

Well, can you figure out what this says?



Hello

Hello

Hello

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

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Solution to “Play or Defend?”

You should elect to declare. Ruff the opening lead and ruff a diamond in the dummy. Play a trump to the ace and ruff a second diamond in the dummy. Lead a spade to the Jack, then ruff a third diamond in dummy. Return to hand with a high spade and cash the club King. Lead a spade to the Queen and ruff a heart. At some point West will ruff in with the good club, but needs to put you in and your hand is good.

This hand comes from Julian Pottage’s great book “Defend or Declare.”

Solution to “Rebus”

Trump Echo

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

Bridge Jeopardy Questions

- \$100 – What is hearts?
- \$200 – What is Israel?
- \$300 – What is Germany?
- \$400 – What is a pencil?
- \$500 – What is tapping their feet?



Do not believe in, or talk about, luck. Of course, you may have bad luck for weeks or even months on end. But if you regularly lose, you are not the unluckiest player at the table; he is your partner. (Edward Mayer)

“What happens if ...” among tournament players is a phrase that generally means: “You idiot, why didn’t you ...” (Terence Reese)



District 23 History Corner

by Mike Marcucci

[Editor’s note: due to an editing SNAFU last month, the picture got chopped off on the right hand edge. Here is the complete picture:]



There was an interesting opportunity presented to everyone who came to last July’s Regional at the Long Beach Hilton. I wonder how many players took advantage? We put up on the walls something that had never been shown before. That is – the listing of all the Bridge Clubs that have ever operated within D23. Covers a lot of years. The earliest entry we’ve found so far was that the Eagle Rock Bridge Club opened in 1928 (or before). Would you believe that about 850 are listed? Compare that to the 22 that operate presently & one can see that a lot of H₂O has passed under the bridge since 1928.



The purpose of this project was to document all the clubs that have ever been open in our District along with their operating years, their locations, and all the Directors who worked so hard to furnish us with enjoyable places to play our game. As anyone who has

ever worked in a club or on a tournament knows, the behind the scenes work that is necessary to let you deal those cards is significant and should always be appreciated. Documenting those director names was a particularly important part of this project. They will now always be remembered for their efforts.

When these lists are handed out to each Unit, they will reside in your President’s Handbook. We hope that they will be locally displayed periodically and that any player will be able to examine or study the local copies. Since, over the years, many Units in LA have combined, the 9 present Unit lists will contain all of the consolidated data from those disbanded entities. Our highest number was 21 Units in 1960! The table below shows all those consolidations.

Present Units	Unit Consolidations
551 Pomona-Covina	Glendora
553 Glendale-Verdugo	Montrose, Tujunga
556 Antelope Valley	Lancaster
557 Long Beach	
559 Pasadena-San Gabriel	Eagle Rock, La Crescenta, Crescenta Valley, La Canada-Flintridge
561 San Fernando Valley	Burbank, Hollywood, Los Feliz, Van Nuys, Encino, N Hollywood, Canoga Park
562 West LA	Culver City, Culver-Marina, Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Westwood
564 Downey-Whittier	Southgate
568 Torrance-SouthBay	Inglewood, Westchester, Redondo Beach, Compton

And here is the total count of those Clubs over the years, which will show on those Unit lists.

Numerical Order:	Clubs	PBL		Clubs	PBL
550 Burbank	14		561 Encino	14	
551 Covina	40	2	561 N Hollywood	20	3
552 Culver City			562 San Gabriel Valley	19	2
552 Culver-Marina	22		562 West LA	6	
553 Glendale			563 Santa Monica	70	
553 Glendale-Montrose	26	1	564 Downey-SouthGate	29	
553 Glendale-Tujunga			565 Westchester	20	2
554 Hollywood-Los Feliz	4		565 Westchester-South Bay		
554 Inglewood	30	2	566 Westwood	25	3
555 Van Nuys	56	1	567 Whittier	34	
555 Lancaster	11		568 Torrance	57	1
556 Antelope Valley	25		569 SouthGate	18	
557 Long Beach	95	6	570 La Crescenta		
558 Los Angeles	95	12	570 Tujunga - Crescenta Val	14	
559 Pasadena			571 Redondo Beach	2	1
559 Pasadena-Eagle Rock	69	4	572 Canoga Park	7	
560 Pomona	8	3	573 Eagle Rock		
574 Glendora			573 LaCanada-Flintridge		
			575 Compton		

Note that we have found 43 Pacific Bridge League (PBL) Clubs. Those are the ones that opened before 1956. Tom Stoddard, naturally, opened the very first ones around 1933 in his hotel. Spencer Kapp gave Tom lots of help in those early days.

There are several Clubs that have stood out from the rest over time. The Wild Whist (Westwood); House of Bridge (Inglewood); Bridge Connection (N Hollywood). The Bridge Academy on Reseda Blvd was open for 34 years; Bobbe Londeree kept her Club in Whittier operating for 30 years though she moved about 6 times. Ray Weir’s Regency Club in Glendale operated for 38 years.

The longest running Club locations presently operating in District 23 are:

- 1) San Marino Rec Center (68 yrs)
- 2) Leisure World DBC (58 yrs)
- 3) Friendly Hills BC (54 yrs),
- 4) Arcadia Bridge Center (49 yrs), and
- 5) Long Beach Bridge Center (38 yrs).

#4 Arcadia stands alone as the only Club managed by the SAME folks – Art & Diane – all that time. What dedication and hard work to do that and how very sad that Art will not have the pleasure of marking that 50 year anniversary with Diane in the near future.

The significance of the word “location” is that San Marino has changed names several times, but has always been in the exact same building since being built by the Women’s Club in 1952. Why they put the plaque near the ground rather than eye-level is a mystery.



There are several “Invitational” Clubs that have operated longer, but they do not run “sanctioned” games, so cannot be considered in the category above. The Town Club (Pasadena) seems to have been operating since 1927. The Pasadena Women’s Club has been open since 1945, and the Valley Hunt Club (original sponsor of the Rose parade!) has conducted games since 1960. We don’t know much about these clubs since requests for bridge info have been met with silence! Our club # data in this article does not include this group of clubs. In 2020, there are 11 Invitation only clubs around LA along with numerous other Senior Center, Country Club, etc. semi-private groups that offer bridge.

The last item to cover in this first Club overview is to give you an idea of the number operating each year. Data are not easy to come by, but we do have a few accurate points. From our modest beginnings in 1933, as the popularity of our game grew, club numbers also grew. By 1965, we had 158

Clubs in LA. By 1975, that number was 102, and by 1985 it counted out at 57. That roughly correlates to our # of ACBL bridge players. Our # topped out in 1968 with about 9600 players. In the 70's, we were down to 8000 and, by the 80's, down to 7000. Today we run at about 3300 players in LA supporting our 22 Clubs.

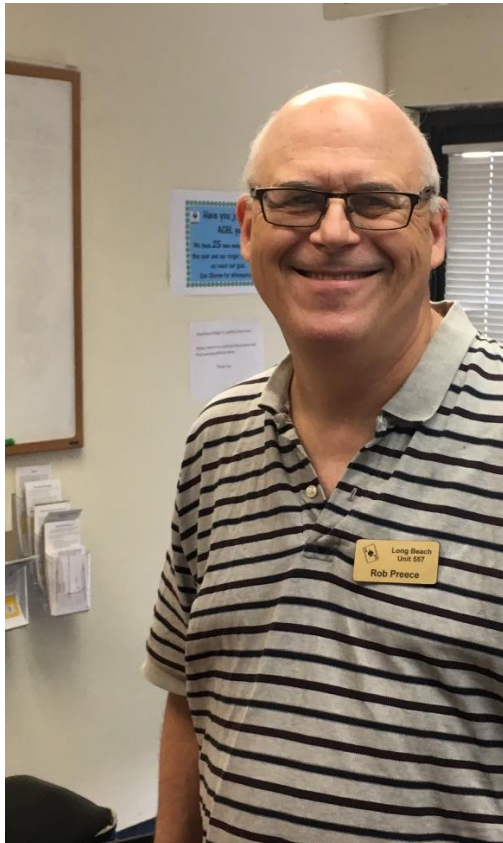
It has certainly been a rough year for bridge. Our Clubs need all the support we can give them, with perhaps the main method being the on-line supplement which ACBL gives back to your home club when we play in their on-line games. If our full-time clubs (Barrington, Beverly Hills, Arcadia, 750 Club, Long Beach, South Bay) can manage to stay solvent until they can fully open again, we will owe those owners and managers a great deal. We are all looking forward to the day we can sit face-to-face again.

Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Lillian Slater

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com



Rob Preece mesmerizes his students with his mother's wise bridge sayings, his deprecating sense of humor, and the occasional use of his duck call whistle to get their attention! From the "eight ever, nine never" rule for pulling trump to "bid where you live," Rob teaches Play of Hand and Defense classes for Long Beach Bridge Brigade.

Rob's bridge journey started when he watched his parents play party bridge with friends. One time

they won a set of four metal duplicate boards, which only added to his fascination! When he was in middle school, he talked his parents into teaching him the basics of the game. His older sister hated bridge but, as she was often in trouble, her punishment was being Rob's partner. Along the way, he bought a used copy of *Goren Bridge Complete*, read it cover-to-cover, and, since it was "complete," he thought there wasn't anything he didn't know about bridge.

From these auspicious beginnings, Rob went on to graduate school at the University of Maryland at College Park where he earned his PhD in economics. During that time any girl who "agreed to date me became my bridge partner for the night." Rob added, "Until later I never realized bridge could be played without beer." During his work at the FCC in Washington, D.C., in the early 1980's, Rob played bridge every day at lunch.

From there, Rob relocated to Dallas in 1993 where he worked with a high tech company and later taught Adult Ed classes at the Dallas Community College.

It was in Dallas that Rob started playing duplicate bridge. Therese Milford, a cousin of a coworker, discovered the Dallas club and brought Rob to it. He recalls when he dragged his wife Karen to the club. Of course, as newcomers, they were fumbling with their bidding boxes and talking during the hands. At one table, after a couple of bad boards, the opponent husband started yelling at his wife, calling her incompetent. Karen turned to Rob and asked, "Can we go now?" They politely stayed to finish the game but Karen never returned. Therese's husband didn't like it either, so Rob and Therese started a partnership that lasted 10 years! Since Rob was working at the time, he played duplicate at least twice a week— evenings and weekends.

During this same period, Donna Compton, a national champion bridge player, started her own bridge club. She asked Rob to be one of her directors and, while there, he started teaching some of the Bridge Academy of North Dallas beginning classes, earning his ACBL teacher accreditation (TAPS) while doing so. In 2008 Rob moved to Southern California,

called Long Beach Bridge, and asked them to find him a partner. He added, “That’s a really nice thing about the club. They help new players and strangers find partners with whom to play.”

Rob loves bridge, “a great game” where he’s “happy to see people show enthusiasm for the challenge.” He can actually see their ‘Aha!’ moments as people use their brains. He teaches Defense and Play of the Hand classes, using the ACBL books for both. Additionally, this past year Rob developed and began teaching his Advancing Player workshops. He finds interesting hands from a variety of sources, has the students bid/play them, and then reviews both Play and Defense techniques. A favorite Rob-adage from this class is “The card gods gave you a five-card suit in dummy so try to use it!”

Rob said the best thing about teaching “is the thrill for me to watch people ‘get it!’” He honestly added that it is also “ego gratifying to be in front of students who think I’m smart.” The worst part is when students “won’t shut up when I’m trying to teach.” In addition to teaching two OLLI classes a week and running Tuesday’s Supervised Play, Rob makes himself available to students after games. He patiently reviews hands and answers any students’ questions, jokingly sharing his own experiences to make students feel better and realize the complexity of the game.

Rob also likes to bid, so he likes anything that lets him do so! He believes that having a convention to interfere against a NT opening is important. He also likes to apply the Law of Total Tricks in his game, especially how the total number of trump provides an indicator of how high the partnership can bid.

Rob’s current business is www.booksforabuck.com. His books can be found at Amazon and multiple e-Book venues. He writes science fiction and fantasy under his own name as well as mysteries and romances under the pen names Amy Eastlake and Robyn Anders. He also helps others format their books for self publishing, although he is no longer accepting new authors for that service.

During our safer-at-home time, Rob has been learning Blender 3D software for modeling and animation. He created an animated short, “I Miss Bridge” that can be accessed via this link, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wa5JFkrO0go>. He explained, “I used textures from texture.com for things like the rug in my office, the parking lot and concrete materials, and some of the building exteriors. I used the makehuman application for character creation and

some of the animations using mixamo. Several of my bridge students and one of my bridge partners, as well as my wife, contributed the character voices. The cards in the falling card animation came from ACBL’s graphics library and the falling cards themselves were a physics animation done in Blender. This was a new skill for me (some might argue a lack of skill) but I’ve had fun with it in a world where I’m missing my in-person bridge.”

One other thing few people know about him is that (before the pandemic), he visited his 91-year-old mother in San Diego at least once a month and still periodically played bridge with her. As Rob’s mother says, “Bridge is the one thing you can do no matter how old. And people are happy to see you because then they have a table and can play bridge.” Bridge Brigade students are certainly always happy to see Rob!



Pomona –
Covina
by Tom Lill
www.acblunit551.org

Individual: Saturday, Dec. 5, 9:30 a.m., Upland

In the November Individual, Stephen Andersen headed the field with a nice 61.4% game, Clint Lew placed second, Roger Boyar tied with Mary Ann Wotring for third, and Linda Tessier rounded out the top five.

Note, we have a new venue for the Individual, in Upland. It’s the home of Rose Roberts, 2501 Euclid Crescent East, in Upland. It’s a bit tricky to find, whoever planned the roads up there was apparently having a serious conversation with Jack Daniels (or equivalent) at the time.

The Chino location is no longer available for the Individual – I’m pretty sure the new owners would be rather surprised (to say the least) if a bunch of bridge players descended on them one fine Saturday morning.

Well, back to there being no promotions in the previous month.

And, the Unit game is still on hiatus.

By the way, I have to wonder, is anyone out there reading my deathless prose? I ask, because over a week ago, I sent out a “Bridge Alert” announcing my new email, and requesting receivers thereof to re-up by replying to the new address. Not one response so far. Sigh. If you want to stay on – or join for the first time – the Bridge Alert mailing list, please send an email to me at thomasmlill8@gmail.com.

Again, this month, it was tough to come up with a good Hand-of-the-Month. Lots of fun hands, but nothing truly phenomenal (read that “weird”). So, I’ll improvise by showing how important hand valuation – and also luck – can be. This hand was held by my partner:

♠ K J ♥ A 6 ♦ A J 9 8 ♣ K 10 8 5 3.

She opened 1♣, eschewing the off-shape 1NT bid. I responded 1♥. The opponents were mercifully silent, for a change. Well – your rebid? Yes, counting the long club, it’s a 17 count, but the tight spade honors are a defect. But really, the only choice is a reverse into 2♦, right? If that’s the sequence you chose, then your partner (me, in this case) rejoiced, and holding

♠ A 10 8 7 ♥ K Q 8 3 ♦ K 4 ♣ A J 9

made the obvious bid of 6NT. After a spade lead, and with the ♣Q on side, all 13 tricks roll home. Except for one unfortunate opposing pair who went for sticks-and-wheels (1100) in 2♦X, you got a tie for top. Thank you, partner. Of course, if she does open an off-shape 1NT, you will still get to 6NT, but then you don’t have the fun of playing the hand. In fact, quite often the hand was played by partner, in which case 13 tricks will be more difficult because you won’t get a spade lead from ♠Qxx.

For your amusement – and my pleasure (hey, I gotta get something out of writing this column!) – here’s another little lesson on “never give up.” Playing in the 0-1000 PPDVBC game recently, my partnership (with my help) got just over 4% on the first two boards, playing against a friend. We took some good-natured ribbing for that. But justice was served when we edged that pair out (it was a 7 table Howell movement) by 0.09% for first place. NEVER give up!

BTW, if you’re tired of seeing me blow my own horn in these hands, and run across an interesting hand, send it to me and I’ll write it up. See your name in print!

Quote for the month: “Americans generally do the right thing, after first exhausting all the available alternatives.” (Winston Churchill)

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) 24 hours in advance to allow time for the guest to be temporarily added to our database. Guest pairs are not allowed.

Unit 556 Board Nominations

Are you looking for adventure of a new and different kind? Unit 556 is seeking members who are interested in serving on the Unit Board in 2021. This is an opportunity to give back to the Santa Clarita and Antelope Valley bridge community, meet new friends, and have an impact on changing things for the betterment of Unit bridge players.

If you wish to self-nominate, please contact Ruth Baker (rbaker1243@sbcglobal.net) or Beth Morrin (morrin@sbcglobal.net). Nominations must be received by March 1st

Winners in Unit 556+ Open MP games:

Mon. 10/26	N/S	Roy Ladd – Ruth Baker	65.66%
	E/W	Sharry Vida – Beth Morrin	60.10%
Tues. 10/27	N/S	Roshen Haulla – Suzanne Helie-Bisson	59.03%
	E/W	Amr Elghamry – Dominique Moore	67.36%

Thurs. 10/29	N/S	Ruth Baker – Anita Walker	60.71%
	E/W	Amr Elghamry – Rae Murbach	67.06%
Fri. 10/30	N/S	David Tukey – David White	65.66%
	E/W	Bud Kalafian – Stephen Licker	59.09%
Mon. 11/2	N/S	Carolyn Cohen – Gerry Belcher	62.35%
	E/W	Mary Ann Self – Gwen Castelda	59.57%
Tues. 11/3	N/S	Bud Kalafian – Stephen Licker	62.04%
	E/W	Saul Teukolsky-Roselyn Teukolsky	61.67%
Thurs. 11/5	N/S	Sharry Vida – Beth Morrin	63.12%
	E/W	Amr Elghamry – Rae Murbach	67.19%
Fri. 11/6	N/S	Carolyn Cohen – Bill Brodek	65.08%
	E/W	Michael Connell – Roshen Hadulla	63.96%
Mon. 11/9	N/S	David Khalieque – Tomoko Stock	56.62%
	E/W	Carol Provost – Russ Buker	61.11%
Tues. 11/10	N/S	Bud Kalafian – Stephen Licker	60.76%
	E/W	Ruth Baker – Roy Ladd	60.02%
Thurs. 11/12	N/S	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	57.22%
	E/W	Sharry Vida – Beth Morrin	65.28%
Fri. 11/13	N/S	Adam Barron – Sharon Wolf	64.58%
	E/W	Sharry Vida – Beth Morrin	65.28%
Mon. 11/16	N/S	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	65.15%
	E/W	Rosie Avila – Geoff Paul	55.90%
Tues. 11/17	N/S	Ben Reisch – David White	65.28%
	E/W	Ruth Baker – Roy Ladd	64.51%
Thurs. 11/19	N/S	Paula Olivares – Roy Ladd	56.08%
	E/W	Jerome Paul – Margaret Shiftley	72.81%
Fri. 11/20	N/S	Rae Murbach – Gerard Geremia	62.07%
	E/W	Bob McBroom – David White	65.06%

Winners of Unit 556+

Sunday Afternoon IMP Pairs Game at 3:20:

Sunday Nov. 1	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky
Sunday Nov. 8	Ruth Baker – Roy Ladd
Sunday Nov. 15	Betty Norton – Fay Greenholtz
Sunday, Nov. 22	Kathy Flynn – Bob McBroom

Our Holiday schedule will be as follows:

Friday (Dec. 25) Christmas day canceled
 Saturday (Dec 26) game at 12:15 added
 Thursday (Dec. 31) game at 10:15 a.m. still on
 Thursday New Year's Eve game at 7 p.m. added.
 Friday (Jan. 1st) game at 12:15 p.m. still on.

The District 23 Club by David White



Masterpoint Limited On-line Clubs

The D23 club is an online club sponsored by Unit 556. It holds one game weekly at 3:15pm on Sundays. One partner must be a member of D23.

Unit 556 can open this game to all D23 499ers because they hold to a strict guest policy in their open games.

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:

½ tie	John Meek	61.56
½ tie	Ginger Boykin	
¾ tie	Ruth Roe	60.0%
¾ tie	Linda Dillon	
5/6 tie	Betsy Nicassio	54.8%
5/6 tie	Carol Decordova	

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.

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

Registration:

- Between 4:30PM and 6:15PM, log into BBO.
- Select “Competitive” under “Play or Watch Bridge”
- Select “ACBL Virtual Clubs” under “Tournaments”
- Look for VACB905265 “California 99er NiteClub”

The link to the Cal 99er post-game Zoom chat and lesson 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.

For more information, please contact your home club or the 99er NiteClub at 99erNiteClub@gmail.com

2020 is like looking both way before you cross the street and then getting hit by an airplane.

Pasadena – San Gabriel by Morris “Mojo” Jones

bridgemojo.com



Pasadena San Gabriel is happy to share a virtual club with two of our neighboring units, Pomona (551) and Downey (564), and we have a great slate of games on BBO.

We have a nice gathering of newcomers now, twice a week, on Wednesday evening and Saturday afternoon. Players are taking advantage of the free ACBL guest memberships and winning their first masterpoints. It's a good sign that it's still possible for the game to grow and thrive while it's so difficult to get together in person.

That's not to say that I don't ache for the day when I'm able to sit down at a bridge table with my partner, opponents, and 52 actual playing cards. Maybe I'll revoke, or make an insufficient bid, just because I can. ☺

Our Open game schedule has three well-attended games every week: Saturday and Sunday at 12:30, and Wednesday evening at 7:15. On the final Sunday of November, we had our biggest game ever with 14 tables. I'd have loved to play in that game! As it was, I got to be a fly on the wall and watch epic Pasadena matchups like Rae Murbach with Joe Viola vs. Amr Elghamry with Gerry Jeremiah, or Carolyn Cohen with Cathy Martin vs. Diana Borgatti and Gerry

Belcher. It's moments like that when I'm grateful that we're able to keep playing.

There's also a thriving community of non-Life Masters playing on Saturday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings. The 0-1000 game on Monday evenings always draws a crowd as well.

I'm finally starting to collect recordings of my 15-minute bridge lessons offered every Saturday morning at 9:30 before the Saturday morning 499er game. Everyone is welcome to drop by! It's great to see the faces with a cup of coffee on Saturday mornings. Drop me a note for an invitation: mojo@bridgemojo.com

Congratulations to new Junior Masters Beth Hollander and Uma Shrivastava, and special congratulations to new Sapphire Life Master, Milt Kalikman.

Our complete virtual bridge club web page is available at <https://bridgemojo.com/ppdvbc> -- the Pasadena Pomona Downey VBC.



Submitted by John Jones:



I have five bridge partners so I need five apology cards.



Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists are: Paul Boudreau, Jeff Goldsmith, Mister Mealy-mouth,
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.

<h1>1</h1> <p>Matchpoints None Vul</p>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
	1♦	pass	1♠	pass
	1NT	pass	pass	2♥
	???			
<p>You, South, hold: ♠Q76 ♥KJ5 ♦AJ85 ♣K102</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

We had an easy hand to bid until our Right Hand Opponent balanced with 2♥. Now we have three routes to go. We can go for the throat and double, hoping to collect +300. We can bid 2♠ showing three card support for partner's spades. Or we can pass, leaving the decision to partner. Let's hear from the panelists.

Mealy-mouth: 2♠. With thanks to East for letting me improve the contract if North passes, inducing West to lead a doubleton heart honor if North corrects to 2NT, or inducing North to bid a long club suit if he neglected to bid 2♣ last turn for fear that I would think it a Petty Little Odious Bid (*New Minor Forcing*).

Wittes: Double. I probably wouldn't risk it at IMPs, but I have a maximum for my bidding, and although I only have 3 hearts, I have a good heart holding. +300 is a whole lot better than +100 if it is our hand for a part score.

Boudreau: Pass. But then discuss if double of these balancing bids is better served as '3-card support but willingness to defend' versus pure penalty.

Goldsmith: Pass. I have decent defense and negligible offense. Partner can be very weak, so doubling seems excessive.

Shuster: Pass. Maybe this is why I struggle at MPs... all I see is a balanced, unremarkable hand that prefers to defend than declare, but I am too chicken to double.

I echo Shuster's sentiments, but color me chicken too. My hand is more defensive than offensive, even with three spades, but I'm a heart short of feeling I need to double. I pass, maybe partner can act.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">2</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Matchpoints Neither Vul</p>	South	West	North	East
	???	1♦	dbl	1♥
	You, South, hold: ♠8754 ♥KQ1085 ♦QJ4 ♣5			
	What call do you make?			

I'll start with a panelist who nailed the key question.

Goldsmith: 2♥. You want to know the difference between doubling and bidding hearts and bidding 2♥ directly, right? People stopped psyching here by the mid-70s, so I haven't discussed it with anyone. That said, this hand looks like 2♥ to me. Of course, if you play double is takeout (a convention that is getting pretty popular these days), you have no alternative, so therefore no problem.

Within the guidelines of his system, this panelist has no options.

Boudreau: Double. I play double is penalty; 2♥ would have another meaning.

Wittes: Double. I don't expect the auction to end here, but this is where my length and strength are. If it should go 2♣ Pass Pass, I think I would actually bid 2♥ rather than 2♠. If it goes 2♣ double pass, I have a tough decision to make, but think I would still bid 2♥, since they have an 8 card club fit, and we rate to do fine in a heart part score, even on the bidding.

Mealy-mouth: Double. Has Boris Schapiro risen from the grave to psych 1♥ with a singleton again? He won't escape undoubled this time.

Psychs in this situation used to be more common. I used to play with the late Mike Pudlin who psyched in this situation occasionally. Transfer responses after the takeout double have gained in popularity, and of course the double of an artificial bid is natural/penalties.

Shuster: 2♥. I want to send a forward-going message, but there is no point in starting with a double, since I'm not willing to defend 2-of-a-minor. What I really want to avoid is partner trying to figure out my range after LHO runs to 2♣/2♦ and I later bid 2♥ (I think a 1-level penalty double should deliver more high-card values). I suppose 1♠ is possible, but hearts rates to be a better fit, despite the break.

I play that both double and 2♥ (and 3♥) are available to show hearts. This allows flexibility in describing different hands that have hearts. This hand looks about perfect for 2♥ showing a hand that expects to make eight tricks despite a bad break.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">3</h1> <p>Matchpoints Both Vul</p>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
			1♦	1♠
	pass	2♣	pass	2♠
	dbl	3♣	pass	pass
	???			
	You, South, hold: ♠AJ986 ♥AQ95 ♦83 ♣102			
	What call do you make?			

I took this hand from an East Coast panel from about two decades ago. On that panel, nobody, not a single panelist, nor the moderator, nor either editor mentioned that the initial pass was wrong. I intended to explain why passing was wrong and a negative double was best. But my panel stole my thunder. Here's how!

Mealmonth: Pass. Foolish, foolish, foolish me! Did I forget to make a heart-surrogate double of 1♠ in vain hope of a juicy penalty after a pass by West and a takeout double by my partner? Why should I expect North to have anything better than a balanced minimum and a routine sell-out to 1♠? Now it's too late to seek +140 in a heart partscore on what might be but isn't known to be a 4-4 fit, as we have no safe haven at the three-level when North is a likely 2=3=5=3. West will be ruffing off my ♠A at Trick 1 and East will be ruffing off partner's ♣K at Trick 3. So I have nothing better than to pass, hoping for +100 on defense while content to accept -110 when my counterparts are getting overboard and suffering -200. There must be a reason I live just off Cochran Avenue; didn't Johnny say, "If the hands don't fit, then you must quit?" Quit bidding, that is.

Shuster: 3♥. I strongly disagree with the pass of 1♠. Yes, we rate to be able to extract a penalty if they stay put, but we have our own auction to worry about and any of the other players could make the auction awkward if it doesn't go as planned. Now we have no idea. Partner couldn't bid 2♦ over 2♣ and he couldn't hit 3♣ so I'll take a shot that we can make something higher. I'm not doubling without trumps. Pass feels like it is just giving up the board when 4♥ or 3NT could be easy.

Goldsmith: Heh. Trap passing with invitational values is dangerous; this is what happens. If you have less, you just pass if the auction gets inconvenient; if you have more, you bid something forcing. Make something up if you have to. In between, you are stuck, so I'd have started with a negative double and let them escape. Now, you can't really pass, so what else is there to do but go for 200 and double? West will turn up with nine solid. It's only one board.

Boudreau: Double. But will pass 3♦.

Lastly, we'll hear from a panelist who likes the problem and analyzes it well.

Wittes: 3♥. Risky, but it should be our hand. Partner couldn't bid 2♦ over 2♣, and could only pass over 3♣ after I doubled 2♠. I expect partner to have at least three hearts, maybe four on this auction. Good problem by the way.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">4</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">IMPs Both Vul</p>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
	pass	pass	1♣	pass
	1♦	pass	1♠	pass
	???			
<p>You, South, hold: ♠K7 ♥Q63 ♦KJ96542 ♣K</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

This one didn't get by the panel either. The hand has twelve HCP, but it is very soft and potentially a misfit. There was significant discussion about what methods we were using and which sequence showed an invite with diamonds. I changed all the bids to 3♦, assuming that is the way to show an invitational hand. Using Joe Kivel's great convention XYZ, the way to invite a game and show diamonds is to bid 2♣ (forcing partner to bid 2♦) and then bid 3♦.

Boudreau: 3♦. I'll invite showing long diamonds with whatever accomplishes this in our methods. Definitely a conservative call that might prove insufficient. However, if playing in the Walsh style, 1♠ denies a flat hand and therefore will have diamond shortness quite frequently.

Goldsmith: 3♦. I don't think this is really worth an invite, but vulnerable at IMPs, I can't take the low road. Sometimes partner's singleton is in hearts or he has an 18-count. If playing XYZ, 2♣ then 3♦, otherwise 3♦.

Shuster: 3♦. If we belong in 3NT, it could be better from the other side opposite heart holdings like KT, AT, Kx. If we don't belong in 3NT, 3♦ ought to have play. Without a known fit, this hand is too weak to force game. And without heart help, we surely don't belong in NT.

Wittes: 3♦. A little bit of an underbid with my seven diamonds, but my cards are a little soft, and if partner doesn't have a fit, we might not have a game.

If playing XYZ over 1♣ 1♦ 1♠ you could bid 2♣ or 2♦, whether you want to force to game or not, and then bid 3♦.

Mealmonth: 3♦. If we can make 3NT, North must be able to bid again; if not, 3♦ is high enough.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">5</h1> <p>IMPs Both Vul.</p>	South	West	North	East
	???	1♠	pass	3♦*
	<p>* Artificial limit raise (Bergen)</p> <p>You, South, hold: ♠753 ♥AQ107 ♦7 ♣AQJ87</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>			

I consider this the toughest problem of the set and one of the toughest problems I have presented this year. The opponents might be stealing, but maybe not. I risk a double game swing if I stay quiet, but going for a monstrous number if I bid and am wrong. Further, I can't be certain if the opponents are ready for me to bid or not. Paul asks a good question of whether the 3♦ bidder can have a large part of his Limit Raise in distributional values. I think the answer is that is that he might have a significant part of his hand's worth in ruffing value, increasing the danger in passing. And what do we bid if we decide to bid? 3♥, 3♠ (like Michaels) and 4♣ all have some merit.

Boudreau: 3♥/Pass - Partner's stiff or void spade has me putting on rose-colored glasses as long as 3♦ can include mini-splinters where RHO will then have fewer HCP and I will buy a better dummy. If 3♦ absolutely denies a mini-splinter then I will make the conservative Pass. If they ignore my 3♥, then at least partner will not be making an attacking diamond lead.

Goldsmith: Pass. Double of an artificial limit raise is lead directing. 3♠ seems a little rich. It might work, or partner might have a 1=2=7=3 Yarborough. Risking going for 1700 at IMPs is not a sensible strategy. At the other table, partner finds a heart lead, the king is in dummy, and they go down in 4♣.

Mealmonth: Pass. Cursed be my nasty opponents: 13 years may they lie bleeding! Why aren't they playing Fit Jump Shifts at the three-level like normal human beings? Then I could double for takeout and all would be well. As it is, that tricky East is trying to tempt me into bidding 3♥. Who does he think I am, Marshall Miles? Set your snares for someone else, you sneaky fellow. Now I'll just pass and hope partner infers from my failure to make a lead-directing double that leading from his ♦KJxxxx (his only face cards) is not a good idea.

I have a feeling that Marshall, the former moderator of this column would have bid 3♠. Whatever he chose to do, it would be in complete tempo. Marshall kept even tempo in difficult situations better than anyone I ever played with.

Shuster: 3♠. Ugly, I know, but there are a lot of IMPs in these decisions. The good news is that partner is marked with a stiff spade. Opposite a decent fitter with a working king we are probably on a finesse for 11 tricks. The bad news is that opposite diamond length/wastage, we could be going down several tricks with game failing the other way.

Wittes: 4♣. Another good problem. I could be going into the frying pan. Partner should have a fairly weak hand with a singleton spade. We could have a miracle heart fit, but I'll bid my length, plus a club lead is certainly better than a diamond against 4♠, and less likely to be doubled.

How's that for an ugly problem? You want to know what I'd do? If I couldn't find a fill-in, I'd probably make a bid that I hate: 3♠.

Have a wonderful holiday season. Thanks for your support during this very strange 2020. See you next year!