

Bridge News

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Robert Shore



Grand National Teams

I'll take one last opportunity to yet again thank our GNT Coordinator, Jeff Grotenhuis, for all of the work he put in so that our District could send teams to the GNT National Finals this year. When most volunteers might well have given up the ghost, Jeff persevered and made it happen. Congratulations to our District's representatives, and good luck to them in this month's national finals.

- Championship Flight: Alex Kolesnik, Mitch Dunitz, Ifi Baqai, Walt Schafer, John Ramos
- Flight A: Tom Reynolds, Randy Howard, Lance Kerr, Carol Frank
- Flight B: Robert McBroom, Kathy Flynn, Ruth Baker, Roy Ladd
- Flight C: Jennifer Wellman, Gordon Hull, Gavin Spore, Linda MacKenzie

Up for Grabs

The District 22 Unit comprising the easternmost part of Ventura County (immediately adjacent to the San Fernando Valley Unit) has decided to dissolve. The players in the dissolving Unit will have the option to join the Ventura Unit, to their west, or the San Fernando Valley Unit, to their east. I'm still in discussions with District 22 officials to determine what the best default option is for people who don't make a choice, but by far the most likely outcome is that those people will be automatically assigned to the Ventura Unit.

Next Board Meeting

Our next Board Meeting will be held in person on Saturday, July 3, at the Long Beach Bridge Center. Long Beach is holding a bridge game that day at 12:30, so we'll hold the meeting after the game. I'm really

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District Director Report

by John Jones



The ACBL Fall Nationals are going to occur F2F from November 25 through December 5 in Austin, Texas. I'm planning to go, be in meetings, and play most of the tournament. The next two nationals will be the spring nationals in Reno from March 10 through March 20, 2022 and the summer nationals in Providence Rhode Island from July 14 through July 24, 2022. Austin is an interesting city. Any city whose slogan is "Keep Austin Weird" has got to be unique. It is the state capital, the home to the university of Texas, and my favorite Texas city. ACBL tournaments will all require vaccinations for players and employees.

F2F club games are opening up in the LA area too. I helped reopen the Downey game I direct at a couple of weeks ago. Games are Wednesday mornings at 10:00. Call Liz Burrell at 562-972-2913 for details. There will be a new club opening in the San Fernando Valley. It sounds like an old club because it is called the 750 Club. However, all games will be open games. The new club will be located at the intersection of Ventura Bl. and De Soto Ave. in Woodland Hills. The club will open on Monday July 5. Games will be Monday - Saturday at 10:30, and on Monday and Thursday evenings at 7PM. Call Alan Curtis at 818-805-3044 for details. South Bay Bridge Club will expand and be opened on Mondays at 1:00, Thursdays

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looking forward to playing because it will be my first game in more than 15 months. If you plan to play, please make a reservation at the Long Beach Bridge Center's Web site so they know how many people to expect.

Plan on a 4:00 p.m. start time for the meeting. Please note that proof of vaccination is required to enter the building. This is our election meeting, so we *really* need a quorum. Unit Presidents — please make every effort to be sure you have a full slate of (fully vaccinated) representatives there.

This is the last column of my current term, so in closing I'd like to thank all of the volunteers who have contributed to the success of our District, and to everyone who has given me the opportunity to serve in this position and in my earlier positions with the District and with my home Unit. I am running for reelection, so I hope to continue serving in this position for two more years.

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

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at 10:30, and Saturdays at 2:00. Call the club at 310 - 325-7222 for details. Long Beach Bridge Club expands their games beginning in July and will be opened Monday – Saturday at 12:30. Call 562-498-8113 for details. I hear that Beverly Hills Bridge Club intends to open F2F in September. All of the above clubs require vaccinations. Get vaccinated and return to F2F bridge!

As F2F games begin to reopen, there will be extra masterpoints available to entice players back to the table. The first few games will be Club Championships. Thereafter there will be some Super Club Championships. Ask your club managers for the exact dates and details.

An issue that the board is dealing with is how to keep online games going with minimal effect on F2F clubs. The board has not acted on some of the issues of this nature yet, but has had a couple of meetings. One change that is likely to be made is that the "guest" regulations for online games will either be loosened or removed entirely. The "guest" requirements and requirements for being a member of an online club are a pain. My new friend Brian Fielding from the West LA area had to wade through a boatload of problems before being allowed to play in his local online game. Another issue is whether we

allow clubs to run simultaneous F2F games and online games. Currently, clubs are not allowed to run parallel games. Some club owners have argued that they need the revenue generated by the online games to run the F2F games. However, there is the argument that the games compete with each other, and this has proved to be a difficult issue. The vote on this will likely occur this month. Stay tuned!

My term as the D23 Director will end on Dec. 31 of this year. Thereafter we will have no District Director as the position gets phased out across the nation. The 25 ACBL districts across North America will all remain intact, but will also become part of an ACBL region. D23 will combine with D22 to become ACBL Region 11. The Regional Director will be David Lodge, who is running unopposed.

Unit 532 in D22 just west of the San Fernando Valley is collapsing. Two of the three units that Unit 532 is geographically connected to are the San Fernando Valley Unit and the West LA Unit. More on the details about this next month.

The Director's Corner by David White

If you can't look back at your younger self and realize that you were an idiot, you are probably still an idiot.



New Announcements (and some alerts)

FOR PLAYERS:

The difference between an alert and an announcement becomes a little more important with the new procedures. While both are technically alerts, with the alert you should wait for the opponents to actually ask about the alert. With the announcement, you tell them immediately what about the call that is unexpected.

Under the old alert procedure, there were very few announcements. In an effort to speed up the game the powers that be added many more announcements and in the process condensed the remainder.

During last week's online regional, the directors found that many players are still confused about the Alerts and Announcements that were adopted in January. So here are more of the changes.

A 1♣ Opening Bid that could be short is announced “Could be ---.” Fill in the blank with the minimum number of clubs expected.

A Non-Forcing 1♦ Opening that might not contain any diamonds: Announce “Could be zero.”

A Forcing 1♣ Opening showing 16+ HCP that might not contain any clubs: This is now an Alert.

A 1NT Opening Bid that shows xx-yy HCP: Announce “XX to YY.”

A 1NT Opening Bid that generally shows 12-14 HCP, but is frequently opened with 11 HCP: Announce “Good Eleven to Fourteen.”

After a NT opening: any response requesting the NoTrump bidder to bid a particular suit is announced by saying the suit. This applies to four suit transfers, Lebensohl, and Kokish also. Example 1NT - 2NT as a transfer to Diamonds is announced “Diamonds.”

After a 1♣ opening and a Takeout Double, a 1♥ bid showing spades: Announce “Spades.”

After a 1♦ opening and a Takeout Double, a redouble showing hearts: Announce “Hearts.”

After a 1♦ opening and a Takeout Double, a redouble showing spades: “Alert.”

As Advancer in the auction (1♣) 1♠ (P), a 2♦ bid showing hearts: Announce “Hearts.”

After a Very Strong 2♣ Opening, a 2♣ bid showing hearts: Announce “Hearts.”

A 4♦ Opening Bid showing spades: Announce “Spades.”

After a Preemptive 2♦ Opening, a 2NT response showing spades: Announce “Spades.”

After a 1NT opening, a 2♠ bid showing either clubs or diamonds: “Alert.”

As Responder in the auction 2♠ (X), a 3♦ bid showing either hearts or a raise to 3♠ that wants a heart lead: “Alert.”

After a 1♦ Opening and a Takeout Double, a 1♠ bid showing a balanced hand: “Alert.”

After a Natural 1♥ Opening, a 2♥ Direct Overcall showing Length in spades and an unspecified minor suit: Do not Alert or Announce.

After the unopposed auction 1NT - 2♥ - 2♠, where 2♥ was a transfer to spades, a 3♥ bid showing a game forcing hand with 6 or more spades: “Alert.”

After a first seat 1♥ opening, a 1NT Response that is Semi-Forcing: Announce “Semi-Forcing.”

After a third seat 1 of a Major opening, a 1NT Response that is Semi-Forcing: No Alert or Announcement required.

FOR CLUB DIRECTORS:

BBO has a policy of assuming an unannounced opening 1NT is 15-17 HCP. Anything else must be announced. And opponets can safely assume an unannounced call is 15-17.

Playing a different point range and not announcing it, is considered misinformation. If your club wants to adopt a similar policy in its face to face games; you should write it up, post it conspicuously at the club, and announce it frequently as a club policy, not an ACBL one.

I sent Ancestry some information on my family tree. They sent me a packet of seeds and told me to start over.

Never Say “Never”

In our maddening game of Bridge, “always” and “never” are rarely used words. But there are a few:

In a suit contract, never drop the Queen from Q-x when partner leads Ace from A-K. Dropping the Queen promises either the Jack behind it, or a stiff Queen. This tells partner he can get to your hand at trick two, if need be, for a lead through declarer’s hand.

Always trust your partner’s bids and plays, as opposed to those of your opponents. If you can’t do this ... it’s time for a new partner.

District 23 Rank Changes May 2020

Junior Master

Kathleen Carter
Ilona M. Guillemet
Billy W. Lo

Sectional Master

Mariann Nolan
Barbara Quinn
Joseph E. Roth
Diane R. Sharlin

NABC Master

Raimonda Scime
Arthur D. Vatz
Jennifer Wellman

Club Master

Maida B. Hastings
Julie A. Miller
Dede Moga
Rajath Shourie

Regional Master

Mikie Alpert
Jennifer T. Lerner
Paul W. Poareo
John C. Walker

Bronze Life Master

Alexander F. Wiles

Silver Life Master

Sandra D. Rucker
Mori Taylor
Sharon V. Wolf

Sectional Master

Stephen E Andersen
Joan B. Davidson
Yvonne M. Kroneberger

NABC Master

Henry S. David
Caryn L. Muscier
Howard Rosen

Gold Life Master

Genise M. Hasan

WHY BRIDGE IS BETTER THAN SEX

You don't have to hide your bridge magazines.

You don't have to lock the door when you play bridge online.

It's OK to have a bridge calendar on your wall, tell bridge jokes, and invite ANYONE to play with you including a total stranger.

It's OK to hire a pro to play with you occasionally (and you don't have to worry that he/she is an undercover cop).

When you see a really good player playing you don't have to feel guilty about imagining the two of you at the bridge table together.

Your partner won't say "Bridge again? We just played last week. Is bridge all you ever think about?"

If your regular partner is not available he/she won't mind if you play with someone else.

Your partner doesn't become upset about people you played bridge with long ago.

You can still do it in your 80's and 90's and no one will gasp if they find out.

No one expects you to play with the same partner for life.

The Puzzle Page

Play or Defend? by John Jones

North

♠ A 5
♥ J 8 6 3
♦ Q 10 9 4 2
♣ A K

West

♠ K 10 7 6 3
♥ A 9 5 4
♦ K 8
♣ Q 7

East

♠ J 9
♥ 10 7
♦ 7 6 3
♣ J 8 5 4 3 2

South

♠ Q 8 4 2
♥ K Q 2
♦ A J 5
♣ 10 9 6

Contract = 3NT
Opening Lead = ♠6

With both sides able to see all the cards and play perfectly, would you prefer to declare or defend?

Bridge Jeopardy by John Jones

Category: CEOs and Company Owners

And the answer is ...

\$100 – A CEO and founder of Microsoft Corporation and part owner of Bridge Base Online (BBO).

\$200 – CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, in 2006 he sponsored a bridge match between Americans and Europeans.

\$300 – The director of the New York Central Railroad, in 1925, while onboard the SS Finland, he originated changes in the bridge scoring system, developing Contract Bridge.

\$400 – CEO of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, he promoted the Precision Club bidding system.

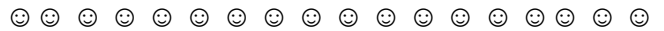
\$500 – CEO of Bear Stearns, he was criticized for playing in the 2008 Detroit national bridge tournament while Bear Stearns was collapsing.

July Rebus

Well, can you figure out what this says?



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

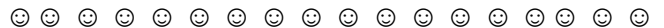


Trivia Time!

Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later.

Bamboo may grow three feet in twenty-four hours.

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase... 'Goodnight, sleep tight.'



Southern California Bridge News

Published monthly by ALACBU, Inc.

1800 Avenue of the Stars, 12th 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?”

Answer = You should elect to declare. The key play comes at T1 and you need to win the ♠A in dummy! This effectively blocks the spade suit. You can now make the hand by attacking either red suit. Let’s say you knock out the ♥A, West can continue with a low spade, but you let East win. If West elects to lead the ♠K then declarer’s Q and 8 form two stoppers.

This was another real hand reported by Julian Pottage. When the hand was played at the table, South won the opening lead in hand with the ♠Q and led a low heart at T2. West won the ♥A and continued with a low spade to dummy’s ace. Declarer only had 8 tricks and could not arrange to cash the five tricks in clubs and hearts and be in the South hand to lead spades for the endplay. Declarer actually unblocked hearts, cashed the two club tricks and the heart, and led a diamond to the ace. West’s hand was now good.

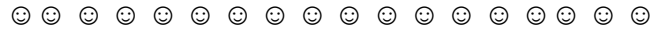
Solution to “Rebus”

Wolff Signoff

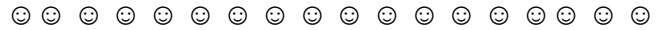
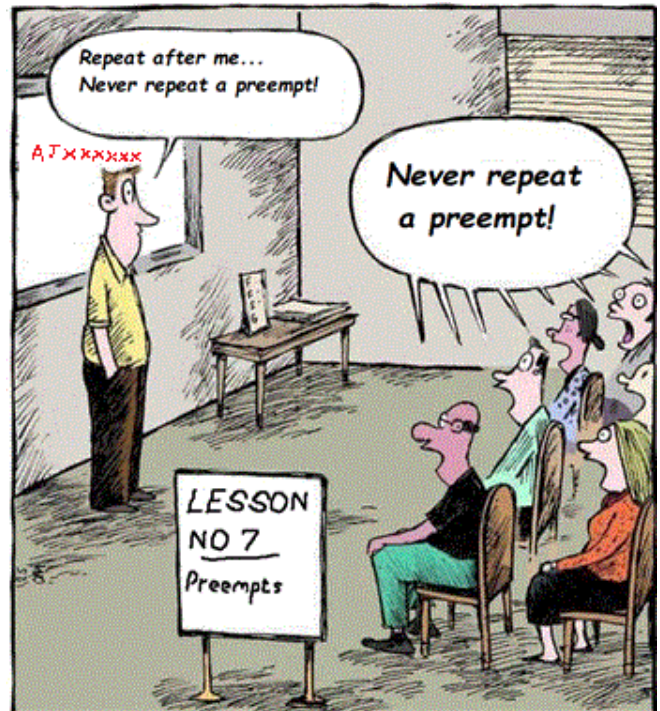
Have a good bridge rebus? Send it to johndjones44@yahoo.com

Bridge Jeopardy Questions

- \$100 – Who is Bill Gates?
- \$200 – Who is Warren Buffett?
- \$300 – Who is Harold Vanderbilt?
- \$400 – Who is CC Wei?
- \$500 – Who is Jimmy Cayne?



Submitted by John Jones:



Overheard at the bridge table:

South (after partner’s bid): Alert!
 East: What’s that?
 South: I’m requested to further misdescribe my hand.

Mr. Crane, I have watched you for 51 deals, and you have bid on every one of them. (A kibitzer, to Barry Crane)

Which half of your singleton club do you intend to play? (Player with a perfect count on the hand, to fumbling RHO)

My partner played very well today, except he was playing some game other than bridge.

The hand should have been passed out, but with entry fees the way they are today ...

Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Lillian Slater

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

Sorry, no news from Long Beach this time.



Pomona – Covina by Tom Lill www.acblunit551.org

Individual: Saturday July 3, 9:30 a.m., Upland
Unit Game: Saturday July 10, 11:00 a.m., Glendora
Unit Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m. before the game

Big News! La Fetra is re-opening! Here are the details as I received them:

“The La Fetra Center will tentatively be reopening Tuesday, July 6 for almost all of our activities indoors. I know most of you have already sent me your 2021 Space Requests, so we are already prepared on that front. If your group/club/service is interested in returning, please note that all activities will take place at their usual time from before the facility closed last year. The only exception is that we will not be having after-hours programming at this time. If your program is normally after 5:00pm and you cannot change the time, I will let you know as soon as I hear something regarding the allowance of evening programs. If your program is normally after 5:00pm and you are open to changing the time, I will work with you to select a time that works best for the group.

Some notes:

- We will be having our activities at 100% capacity.
- As per the current LA County Department of Public Health guidelines, individuals who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are not required to wear masks, whereas individuals who are not vaccinated are required to wear masks. The La Fetra Center will notify all participants of this rule (or any new rule/guidance the LA County DPH gives us).
- All participants must fill out a new Emergency Form, and all participants must sign a new liability waiver that includes details about COVID-19.”

So what does this mean for our bridge games at La Fetra?

I will PLAN on holding the normal Tuesday and Friday games, starting at 8:45. I am unable to make this too much earlier (8:30 anyone?) nor can I extend the time we have the rooms available so we can start later. Sorry. Other groups use the facility, also.

I am reducing the entry fee for the games (from \$7 to \$5), at least through the end of the year, to come more into line with the games on BBO.

We will resume the Thursday evening game if & when permitted to do so. You don't come to the evening game because you don't drive at night? Why not contact someone who lives not too far out-of-the-way and share a ride?

And, for those of you who have gotten used to the inflated masterpoint awards on BBO: the ACBL is allowing all clubs to hold 8 weeks worth of “Welcome Back” games – paying at the Club Championship rate. If you'd like to see the awards from that game, go to our web site and see the results of the June 28 game. The winners got 2.63 black points; in an ordinary game, it would have been 0.80. And we can hold 2 weeks worth of Upgraded Club Championships. These games can be held any time this year. The first few games will be regular club games while we get the word out, but after that ... buckets of masterpoints will be awarded.

Those of you (a sadly small group) who have been supporting the PPDVBC will be getting a rebate of some of your entry fees to those games. How much? I can't say exactly right now; I'm waiting for Mojo's final accounting. It will be in the neighborhood of \$1.50 for every session you played in the PPDVBC. Why am I doing this? A couple of reasons: I hardly did anything to earn this money (some minor bookkeeping and recording), AND to help keep bridge alive in our area. Scratch my back, I'll scratch yours, etc. Just backs, though, no monkey business allowed here.

Snacks will still be available, but they will be individually wrapped items for the near term. No open chips & salsa for example. At least, not right away. On a TRIAL basis I'll bring water and sodas. If there's no sales at all, that will be that. (All profit from such sales goes toward the Unit 551 operating budget.)

I'll run the games as long as we have enough attendance. If (for example) we have to keep cancelling the Tuesday game for lack of attendance, then I will simply stop holding it. Anyone else who'd like to take over in that case, talk to me, friend. I'm not unreasonable, it just seems like it because I almost am.

If you've been vaccinated - be prepared to show proof. No, not to me, to the officials at La Fetra.

Because the local senior centers, which mostly offer a bridge game, are starting to reopen, the July 5 game will be the last Monday session held at Rose's until the end of summer. Depending on how things turn out of course, we might restart earlier. And the Individual, on the first Saturday of each month, will continue as usual.

If anything changes between now and July 6, I will send out a Bridge Alert. You don't receive the Bridge Alerts? WHY NOT? It's not like it costs anything.

Our Longest Day event was a modest success, much to Our Surprise. We had 7 1/2 tables, and counting all donations, we raised at least \$790. Why the qualification? Donations received by 7/31 count toward our fundraising goal, and one person has already asked about making a late donation. We'll have the final totals next month.

We have two promotions this month. Dede Moga is now a Club Master, and Stephen Andersen is now a Sectional Master. Congratulations to you both! And although she appeared in last month's "Rank

Changes" section, somehow I forgot to congratulate Caryn Mason for taking that tough first step up the ladder, Junior Master. I don't know what happened, except that May was a rough month over here. No excuse, of course.

Our Hand-of-the-Month was submitted by Ho Ming Yim, whose only commentary was "Here's an interesting hand ... of course I misplayed it." I'll give it to you as an exercise; see if YOU get it right!

♠ Q J 8 4 3
♥ A 9 4
♦ Q 7 5 2
♣ 4

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

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

As usual when there are long suits about, the auction was lively (East deals, both sides vulnerable):

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

The opening lead was the ♣8, ♣4, ♣A, ♣2. RHO then played the ♥2, ♠3, ♥J, ♥A. Declarer now attacked trumps with ♠J, ♠A, ♠5, ♠2. Now comes the ♥10, ♠5, ♥3, ♥4. The ♠K drew the remaining enemy trumps, whereupon declarer ruffed the ♣5 in dummy, and ... over to you! What now? Think, think, think!

You need the ♦Kx onside, that's for sure. (Yes, the ♦K could be stiff offside. "One peek is worth two finesses!") If diamonds are 2-2, 1-3, or 0-4, it doesn't matter which diamond you lead (so long as you do take the finesse for the 2-2 case). But if they are 3-1 ...and the ♦K is stiff ...leading the ♦Q promotes West's ♦10 and down you go in a makeable contract!

Well, I for one cannot laugh. Been there, done that, then scraped egg off of face!

Quote for the month: "A hunch is creativity trying to tell you something." [Frank Capra]

Downey – Whittier

by Liz Burrell

Last Wednesday, June 16, was our first face-to-face bridge game at Downey since March 11, 2020. We had a great game (6 full tables), many old friends and some new ones as well. Gabrielle Sill and Connie Kang were first overall with an outstanding 62.92% game and 2.33 black points. Marjorie Michelin and Myrna Kupperman were second overall with a fine 62.08% game and 1.75 black points. It was wonderful to actually see people again. We do hope some of you will be able to join us again each Wednesday morning in Downey.

Like everyone, we are still partially in shock after the last year and a half. We have all been stuck at home, playing bridge online (thank goodness for the virtual games!) and each day seemed like the day before, so it has been difficult to find anything entertaining to put in this column. Perhaps you might enjoy a few interviews with prominent people at the Downey Bridge Club until things slowly start to return to normal.

The first interview will be in next month's issue. Stay tuned to this station!



Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley

by Beth Morrin

Congratulations to Kathy Flynn, Bob McBroom, Ruth Baker and Roy Ladd for winning the team competition that will represent District 23 in the next Grand National Teams contest.

Summer Schedule (June, July and August)

Monday:	12:15 PM	Open game
Tuesday:	10:15 AM	599er game (cost is \$5)
	6:15 PM	Open game
Wednesday:	10:15 AM	599er game (cost is \$5)
Thursday:	10:15 AM	Open game
Friday:	12:15 PM	Open game
Sunday:	12:15 PM	599er game (new time)
	12:30 PM	Open game (new time)

Contact paula@pacbell.net for reservations. Our games cost \$3 unless it is a special game series.

Winners in Unit 556+ Open MP games:

Mon. May 24	
N/S: Steve Shanker – Sharon Wolf	63.03%
E/W: Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	65.71%
Thurs. May 27	
N/S: Ruth Baker – Anita Walker	60.83%
E/W: Carolyn Cohen – Dominique Moore	58.89%
Fri. May 28	
N/S: Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	61.36%
E/W: Ruth Baker – Kathy Flynn	70.96%
Mon. May 31	
N/S: Pat Larin – Debra Pride	68.69%
E/W: Mary Ann Self – Gwen Castelda	62.98%
Tues. June 1	
N/S: Hanan Mogharbel – Tom Lill	60.76%
E/W: Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	61.46%
Thurs. June 3	
N/S: Julie Hanson – Angela Peters	68.77%
E/W: Paula Olivares – Roy Ladd	61.57%
Fri. June 4	
N/S: Mira Rowe – Ron Oest	62.18%
E/W: Rae Murbach – Gerard Geremia	65.81%
Sun. June 6	
N/S: LuLu Minter – Ernest Wong	63.66%
E/W: Rae Murbach – Joseph Viola	62.15%
Mon. June 7	
N/S: Paula Olivares – Bill Brodek	64.76%
E/W: Pat Larin – Debra Pride	62.66%
Tues. June 8	
N/S: Ruth Baker – Roy Ladd	59.92%
E/W: May Abagi – Hani Abraham	61.51%
Thurs. June 10	
N/S: Bob McBroom – David White	67.07%
E/W: Carolyn Cohen – Dominique Moore	67.12%
Fri. June 11	
N/S: Bob McBroom – David White	64.65%
E/W: Pat Larin – Wayne Rapp	62.63%
Sun. June 13	
N/S: Mira Rowe – Robot	64.19%
E/W: Roshen Hadulla – Bill Brodek	67.11%
Mon. June 14	
N/S: Ruth Baker – Roy Ladd	62.15%
E/W: Paula Olivares – Bill Brodek	64.81%

Tues. June 15		
N/S:	Kathy Flynn – Bob McBroom	66.67%
E/W:	LuLu Minter – Ernest Wong	59.76%
Thurs. June 17		
N/S:	Carol Trenda – Gary Trenda	65.12%
E/W:	Carolyn Cohen – Dominique Moore	67.59%
Fri. June 18		
N/S:	Diana Borgotti – Cathryn Martin	62.37%
E/W:	Bob McBroom – David White	59.85%
Sun. June 20		
	Barbara Jones – Tom Jones	63.49%

Winners in Unit 556+ Limited MP games:

Tues. June 1		
N/S:	Lora Smith – John Tyner	54.17%
E/W:	Hilary Clark – Carlos Garcia	61.81%
Wed. June 2		
N/S:	Carol Trenda – Gary Trenda	58.80%
E/W:	Steve Mancini – Michael Connell	55.56%
Sun. June 6		
N/S:	Jackie Moor – Harry Randhawa	57.41%
E/W:	Carole Collins – Julie Tillman	56.02%
Tues. June 8		
N/S:	Kent Burrell – Elizabeth Burrell	63.49%
E/W:	Steve Mancini – Michael Connell	56.75%
Wed. June 9		
N/S:	Steve Mancini – Michael Connell	66.11%
E/W:	Terry Clougherty – Paulette Burkitt	55.56%
Sun. June 13		
N/S:	Steve Mancini – Michael Connell	65.82%
E/W:	Glenda Zelichov – Michael Zelichov	63.54%
Tues. June 15		
N/S:	John Meek – Ginger Boykin	66.32%
E/W:	Kenneth Peyton – Michael Connell	55.56%
Wed. June 16		
N/S:	Kerry Goldstone – Glen Drogin	72.92%
E/W:	Julie Hanson – Angela Peters	57.64%
Sun. June 20		
N/S:	Terry Ross – Paulette Burkitt	56.11%
E/W:	Noel Jeffrey – Xiaoyan Zhou	59.44%

Neither the Friendly Bridge Club nor the Valencia Bridge Studio is planning to reopen with face-to-face games. Since that leaves Santa Clarita with no brick-and-mortar Bridge Club, Bob McBroom is exploring the idea of opening a Bridge Club in Santa Clarita.

Joshua Tree Bridge Club has reopened in the Antelope Valley for F2F bridge with an open game on Tuesday afternoon at 12:30 (please contact Beth Morrin at morrin@sbcglobal.net if interested). Beginning lessons are also offered on Monday and Saturday from 10:00 AM until noon.

The Unit 556+ Virtual Bridge Club will continue games on BBO for at least the rest of 2021.

The games June 13 through June 18 were NAP qualifying games and June 20 was a Longest Day game.

Next Board meeting: TBA, via Zoom.

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists are: Mark Bartusek, Ed Davis, Jeff Goldsmith, Mike Shuster, and Jon Wittes.

This column is dedicated to my friend and former partner Lucy Gellner Tredenick. Lucy passed away recently after a long fight with cancer. Lucy's bubbling personality always made her a pleasure to be with at the table, whether she was a partner or an opponent. Lucy was originally from Peru, but lived most of her life in California. She was a teacher by profession, but her love was for her daughters, Wendy and Kelly, and her grandchildren. She was the sister of Gabby Jackson, who was also upbeat and positive. Lucy's presence at South Bay Bridge Club at her favorite northeast most table will be missed.

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 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">1</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">IMPs Both Vul</p>	<p><u>South</u></p> <p>1♥ ???</p>	<p><u>West</u></p> <p>pass</p>	<p><u>North</u></p> <p>1♣ 1♠</p>	<p><u>East</u></p> <p>pass pass</p>
<p>You, South, hold: ♠J74 ♥KJ874 ♦A852 ♣7</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

Wittes: 1NT. Close between pass and 1NT, but I think it's right to bid 1NT just in case partner has a borderline jump shift or possibly even six clubs and five spades.

Davis: 1NT. It is possible that we have a game so it is best not to pass. A 1NT bid makes it easy for partner to bid 2♥ with 4=3=1=5 and some extras and keeps us low if partner has a pass or has a six-card club suit.

Bartusek: 1NT. Seems normal since other choices are greater distortions. Sure, I'd like an additional club, but I have a 4-card stopper in the unbid suit and can accurately describe my point range. Obviously, I won't like a 2♣ continuation from partner, but it'll then give me the option of bidding a scrambling 2♥ or a less confusing 2♠. Note that a suit contract will usually be preferable when partner has diamond shortness (but partner's 4+ club suit will usually have intermediate club honors opposite my shortness if we stay in 1NT).

Goldsmith: 1NT. 2♠ would be fine on values and is

probably the better scoring partial at matchpoints, but at IMPs, I want to make it easy for partner to bid 2♥ to get to our most likely game.

Lastly, we will hear from a man who makes a prediction about the rest of the panel votes.

Shuster: 1NT. I'm sure 2♠ will be popular, but it is unnecessary and could propel us to a poor 4-3 fit. We rate to have enough stuff to make 1NT if we stop here and if partner continues, we'll be better placed to find either major.

Good answer, lousy prediction! The panel unanimously selected 1NT. I think that the votes would have been different if the condition had been matchpoints. This hand came from my advanced online supervised play and was randomly dealt. Jo Melis had this hand and elected to pass. When the opponents balanced, she tried 2♥ trying to indicate a hand with three spades and five hearts.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">2</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">IMPs None Vul</p>	South	West	North	East	
	???	1♦	2♣	pass	
	You, South, hold: ♠KQ86 ♥AK32 ♦J42 ♣73				
	What call do you make?				

Wittes: 3NT. I'm just too good to bid anything else. The good news is they didn't bid 2♦ or 3♦ on my right. If partner doesn't have a diamond stopper, so be it. If partner has as little as AKQxxx of clubs and honor X of diamonds, we are a favorite to make 3NT.

Shuster: 2NT. In my opinion, the bottom end for a 2♣ overcall of 1♦ is much lower than other two-level overcalls. That specific auction puts a lot of pressure on the opponent's negative double, since both majors are unbid. So I'll give partner a bit of leeway here and bid 2NT. If partner has a good hand, they'll show a 4-card major on the way to 3NT if they have one. If they have a poor hand, they'll just retreat to 3♣ and that should be fine.

Bartusek: 2♦. How else are we going to find a 4-4 major suit fit? If partner rebids 3♣ (and not 2NT) it'll probably be playable.

Davis: 2♦. This is the best way to show interest in game. If partner bids 3♣, I can pass feeling fairly comfortable that 3NT will not be a good contract.

Goldsmith: 2♦. What else? 2NT is silly, you can't bid a four-card suit here, and you can't pass with game values.

This is another hand from one of my classes. Mike Macy held this hand and tried 3NT. The good news was that partner had solid clubs. The bad news is that partner had no help in diamonds and the diamond suit ran. 2NT looks like a better bid than 3NT, and 2♦ possibly an even better bid, although 2NT might work better than 2♦ if partner holds ♦Qx.

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">3</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Matchpoints E-W Vul</p>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
	1♥ ???	3♦	3♥	3NT
	<p>You, South, hold: ♠AJ7 ♥KJ8762 ♦A10 ♣107</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>			

Shuster: Pass. If partner has a heart honor, the ♦A is good enough to beat 3NT a lot and I don't expect to take 10 tricks on offense. I'll defend.

Bartusek: Pass. I'm expecting to defeat this contract the majority of the time with a heart lead (and a double might drive them into 4♦). A 4♥ bid looks like taking an intentional minus score.

Davis: Double. We can probably beat 3NT if I lead a heart. To make, declarer would need two heart tricks, the club ace and six diamond tricks including an entry to the diamond suit after it is set up and, although it is possible, having all those things occur is unlikely. I don't think our prospects of making 4♥ are as good as those of defeating 3NT so my choice is double. If 3NT is failing, it may go down more than one which would be +500 and beat +420 if we were able to make 4♥. If LHO runs to 4♦ and partner does not double 4♦ after I doubled 3NT, I will guess he has a stiff diamond and I will take a shot at making 4♥.

Wittes: 4♥. If they have 1 heart stopper, we're going to beat 3NT at least 3 tricks. If they have 2 heart stoppers, they'll probably make 3NT. If right hand opponent has the AQ of hearts, we might even be making 4♥, while they make 3NT.

Goldsmith: 4♥. I'm a little skeptical they can make 3NT, but at this vulnerability, East is probably not joking. He knows a lot about his partner's hand, and knows he's going down a lot if he's wrong.

This hand was sent to me via Facebook from the great Michael Kamil. Kamil is not only an expert player and awesome advocate for bridge, but he has spent considerable time during the pandemic evaluating hands and taking an active role in anti-cheating issues.

Several experts commented on this problem to Kamil's Facebook page. 4♥ was a common answer with some thinking they might make, and others bidding 4♥ as a sacrifice. Double, Pass and 4♦ all had supporters also. Some of the experts pointed out that the 3NT bid might have been made based upon a great club suit.

Kamil didn't give the entire layout, or even partner's hand, but reported that "I'll let you be the judge of how you did. 3NT makes and 4♥ makes with a good guess in trumps. If you double though (this is what happened at our table), RHO runs to 4♦. Should you pass, this partner will bid 4♥. If you pass 3NT though..."

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">4</h1> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">IMPs BOTH Vul</p>	South	West	North	East
			1♠	pass
	2♣	pass	2♥	pass
	3♣	pass	3♥	pass
	???			
<p>You, South, hold: ♠K2 ♥void ♦10987 ♣AKQJ1098</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

Bartusek: 3♠. How can I hide Kx in partner's 1st bid suit? Sure, my clubs are fantastic, but partner might have 6-5 or greater distribution. Follow-up bids of 3NT, 4♣, or 4♦ from partner will help determine our final resting spot.

Goldsmith: 3♠. I don't see the problem.

Shuster: 3♠. I'll keep the ball rolling. 5♣ could be terrible opposite short trumps and diamond losers. Partner will choose between 3NT and 4♠.

Wittes: 3♠. Anything could be right on this hand depending on partner's minor suit holdings. Kx of partner's first bid suit is just too good of a holding not to show it at this time. We could be cold for 6 or 7 no trump, or the 4 level could be too high! Partner could have something like ♠AQJxx ♥AJ10xx ♦Axx ♣void, or ♠AQJxx ♥KQJxx ♦xxx ♣void.

A club void might make it more likely that 3NT would be a better contract, although either 4♠ and 3NT might be in trouble if the ♠K isn't an entry opposite a club void.

Davis: 3NT. Which is more likely? Nine tricks in notrump, ten tricks in spades or 11 tricks in clubs? My guess is nine tricks in notrump. The major suit aces

and any diamond honor in partner's hand or the opponents not holding a 5-card diamond suit or the opening leader deciding to lead an honor from AQJxx or KQJxx in diamonds will likely result in making 3NT.

This is a hand Steve Robinson used in a bidding panel about 20 years ago. Robinson was strongly in favor of 3NT, not 3♠. Robinson argued that "Unless partner has good spades, is able to win the lead, draw trumps and run the clubs, spades will not play well. Give partner ♠AQJxx ♥KQxxx ♦xx ♣x and 4♠ goes down with a club lead or club shift...Doesn't 5♣ or 3NT rate to make more often than 4♠? Why support spades on a doubleton when partner needs very little to make 3NT? Supporting on a doubleton, unless partner shows six, makes sense only if no other game contract is feasible. ♠Axxxx ♥KQxxx ♦J ♣x is all partner needs to make 3NT. Give partner ♠AQJxxx ♥xxxx ♦x ♣x and 6♣ is cold." Robinson was so strongly in favor of 3NT that in scoring the problem he violated his own scoring rules. He scored 3NT 100 and gave 3♠ a 90, despite 8 panelists bidding 3♠ and only two panelists answering 3NT. This is the only time I ever saw Robinson score an answer that wasn't the plurality panel answer with the top score (which was his stated policy).

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">5</h1> <p>Matchpoints E-W Vul.</p>	South	West	North	East
	1♥	2♣	pass	pass
	???			
<p>You, South, hold: ♠K2 ♥AQ7654 ♦AQ872 ♣void</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

Shuster: 3♦. Maybe partner is salivating over there, but I am 6-5 with only 3 losers. I'm aware this might lead to a poor result.

Goldsmith: 2♦. Doubling with a void is a little scary, and with short spades is out. I need some texture to try 3♦. This isn't really a 3-loser hand until it finds a fit.

Bartusek: 2♦. I admit that doubling could be best if partner has an awesome club stack; but partner will generally be expecting something like 5431 distribution (NOT 6-5 with a club void). Partner will pass with a lot of hands where we should be declaring. Bidding 2♦ does not deny a decent hand; it just shows at least 10 cards in the red suits.

Wittes: Double. If partner wants to punish them at this vulnerability, I'm game despite my distribution. If partner bids 2♥ or 2♠, I will bid 3♦.

Davis: Double. I would like to have a club to lead through declarer if appropriate but I have enough defense to make defending 2♣ doubled acceptable and down even just one will beat a part score our way.

This hand was played in the Downey Unit's Wednesday morning game. The F2F game is now open for vaccinated players. I direct the game. Alan Flower was playing with Tom Reynolds. I messed up the actual problem. LHO bid 3♣. Not 2♣. The panel answers had started coming in before I realized my error, so I let the problem stand as I sent it out, but I like the actual problem better. Alan asked me what I would bid. I said double. Alan tried 3♦ and got to 5♦ making five when partner produced ♠Axxx ♥x ♦Kxxx ♣Txx.