

Bridge News

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Robert Shore



The Lame-Duck Session

After a false start, we were able to assemble a quorum and hold our scheduled elections for our officers. As I had hoped, most of our officers stood for and won reelection and I am delighted to continue working with them. Our Secretary, Tom Lill, never really wanted the job in the first place so when our District Director John Jones, in his capacity as *ex officio* Chair of the Nominations Committee, was able to locate a strong replacement, Tom was all too happy to step back from the role. I'd like to publicly extend my thanks to Tom for his willingness to serve and for the work he's put in over the last two years. I'd also like to publicly welcome and introduce our new Secretary, Lillian Slater of the Long Beach Unit. Lillian joins me and our returning Vice President and Treasurer, Jan Wickersham and Stan Holzberg, as elected officers of the District for the next two years.

As many of you probably know, our District has term limits on the office of President. We limit people to no more than two consecutive two-year terms, so I am now officially a lame duck. Obviously my first term featured an awful lot of marking time. Despite the recent rollback here in Los Angeles County, I remain hopeful that in-person bridge will continue its resumption and that we will see Sectionals here in the County before the end of the year. We have every intention of hosting Bridge Week, the Summer's Best Regional, in Long Beach in July 2022, and we have authorized our estimable tournament manager, Peter Benjamin, to negotiate and sign a contract with the Long Beach Hilton for the 2024 tournament. I am also hopeful we can resume progress on some marketing initiatives I was beginning to work on when the world shut down.

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District Director Report

by John Jones



What's happening with the ACBL Board of Directors? First, the Board of Directors voted 22 – 3 that vaccinated players will not need to wear masks in tournaments. Ironically, this vote was taken only hours before the news about the LA County Health requirements for remasking became public. The intent was to cover the Austin Nationals this fall from November 25 through December 5, but the motion was broad enough to include all sectionals and regionals. The motion became a priority item because many regionals that were ready to start advertising were set to cancel (fear of losing money) if players were required to mask while playing. A significant number of vaccinated players had stated they would not play in tournaments requiring masks. I voted with the majority. This motion can be revisited.

Aligning the online games with reopening F2F games is happening, but slowly. Negotiating the masterpoint awards various types of games will receive is tricky. The ACBL will likely take over a portion of the games and revenue share with the F2F clubs. Currently the online clubs are limited to 15% visitors. There is some logic to this, but some people, including almost all of ACBL upper management (who are tasked with enforcing the policing) feel the Visitor Policy should likely be dropped. The major player in

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PRESIDENT continued from page 1**North American Pairs**

Qualifying for the 2022 North American Pairs competition is underway right now. August is the last month for qualifying, which I understand can be done at an on-line club as well as in person. As I write this, my partner and I picked up our qualifications playing in person. The structure of the event at the District level will be a little different this year. Instead of holding Unit Finals (informally considered District semifinals), we'll simply invite all qualifiers to a two-session District Final event. We've authorized our NAP Coordinator, MoJo (Morris Jones), to exercise his judgment as to the precise format of the event (specifically, whether to combine flights), but the District Finals will be an in-person event.

STaCs Are Back

With clubs starting to reopen, we can resume holding STaCs, and we are doing so. Those of you who have been waiting for the right occasion to return to the table might keep an eye out for this opportunity. Just as before, it features the opportunity to win silver points, as well as the chance to renew in-person relationships that may have atrophied as we awaited a vaccine. I look forward to seeing more of you at the table as I resume play myself.

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

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the fight to keep the Visitor Policy at least in some form comes from the District Director chairing the Strategic Committee. I am a member of that committee. This is a slippery slope to negotiate and my belief is that some creative solutions are forthcoming. I'll try to update this in next month's report.

Robb Gordon, the national recorder, reports that considerably more Ethics/Player Memos are being filed. All reports of cheating/ethical violations are available online once the punishment is approved by the board. Punishments include: suspension, probation, loss of masterpoints earned by the partnership, loss of a portion (such as 1/4) of total masterpoints, prohibition of the cheating players playing together for a period (sometimes lifetime). Considerations in the toughness of the punishment include: the experience of the player(s) involved, how egregious the cheating was, and the level of the events

involved. An important issue is if the player(s) confess and apologize. The confession saves an enormous amount of time for the committee needing to prove the charges. A team of experts will generally analyze several hundred hands before making a decision. Secondary issues include how harmful the cheater is to ACBL's reputation including if the player was a bridge celebrity (such as having your picture on the cover of the Bulletin) or have held an ACBL office. Things that can't be used: race, color, creed, religion, gender, citizenship, etc. Bottom line is don't cheat and report those who do. Use player memos. Don't accuse anyone publicly though.

Rank Advancement rules will no longer be grandfathered as of Jan 01, 2023. This applies to those who joined the ACBL before January 1, 1996 for counting red points as gold points. There are also some that joined previous to 1988 that will lose the Mythical Silver Masterpoints. Mythical Silver points were awarded in 1988 at a 1 to 6 ratio Silver masterpoints to total masterpoints held at that point. There are some other things that will no longer be grandfathered as of 2023, so if you are close to a rank advancement and are being helped by being a member when the rules were different, get with it and get obtain your rank advancement by January 1, 2023.

Those playing in ACBL tournaments, must have an ACBL number to play in the future. A one-day guest membership for one day will be free.

There is a software coming that will allow preregistration for tournaments and events. Susie Cordell is heading this effort from the ACBL. There is some possibility that vaccination validation proof can be added to this software.

I will keep repeating that District 23 is NOT coming to end on December 31 of this year. Two things will happen. First, the 25 districts will be combined into 13 regions. D23 will be combined with D22 (most of Southern California) into Region 11. Second, a Regional Director will be elected. David Lodge, the current District Director of D22 is running unopposed and nominations are closed so he will be our new Region 11 Director.

Unit 532 is being dissolved. This was a D22 unit that was just west of LA County and D23. Many members of Unit 532 live in LA County. Members of Unit 532 are free (per ACBL rules) to select any unit they desire to be a member of. This unit is so close to D23 that several of the players from Unit 532 may select Unit 561 (San Fernando Valley) instead of Unit

547 (Ventura, in D22). The West LA Unit, Unit 562, is also geographically adjacent to Unit 532. But members of 532 may select any ACBL Unit to join, even those in other states (or countries).

Congratulations to our D23 Flight A Team for finishing 3rd/4th in the recent GNT Flight A Online tournament. Our GNT Flight A team was Carol Frank, Lance Kerr, Randy Howard and Tom Reynolds. They won the district competition, and added Mark Leonard and Ed Piken who had been on the second-place team in the District Finals to form a six handed team for the national level. The team played quite well before running into some bad luck in the semis.

I am continuing to promote F2F clubs which are reopening and requiring fully vaccinated only. The Pasadena unit will have games on Sundays August 8th and August 22nd at 12:30. The games will be played at the Arcadia Bridge Center. Call Miriam Harrington at 626 232-0558 for reservations. I have previously reported the reopenings of the Downey-Whittier Unit games, Long Beach Bridge Center, the South Bay Bridge Club, and the new 750 Club in the San Fernando Valley. Several other clubs are reopening soon. If your club requires proof of vaccination and is reopening, please let me know and I will promote your club. I am going to try and play in all the clubs that are reopening F2F.

The Director's Corner *by David White*

*The best thing about the good old days...
I wasn't good and I wasn't old..*



Small Games

As face to face bridge returns, many clubs are starting small. Directors who had 20 table games are seeing six or seven. Sessions that were five tables are now two or three.

That being said, it might be a good idea to review the differences of some small game movements and their advantages.

Items to consider when choosing a movement

1. Fairness. Players should compete against the maximum number of opponents. You do not want

players to compete against 13 other pairs, but only play the same boards as six or seven of them.

2. Ease of the players following the movement. You don't want the players going to the wrong table or playing the wrong boards. Having the right guide cards and reminding the players to check the Bridgmate frequently is crucial.

3. Preparedness of the director. How familiar is the director with the movement? The director should not try to use a split rover bye stand relay movement for the first time when they are playing director.

On to the movement choices

Four to seven players: there are no duplicate movements. Chicago style rubber bridge is your choice.

Play four deals, with the dealer and the vulnerability following the pattern of boards 1 through 4. After the four hands the players who sat out rotate into the North-East-South-and West seats in turn. Winner is the player with the highest total score after every player has played the same number of boards.

Eight players (two tables): this is the minimum number of players for an ACBL sanctioned game.

First choice: with ACBLscore in your normal club mode, choose a Home Style pairs.

Second choice: Put ACBLscore into Tournament Mode, you can run a Swiss Pair game. You can self generate the sanction number and event code SCORE will ask for.

The details for these types of games can be found at:
<http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/clubs/homestyleBridge.pdf>

Twelve players (three tables): the choice for three tables are limited. The three table Howell can be run as a fifteen, twenty, or twenty-five board game. But note, as with any duplicate game with less than eighteen boards there is a masterpoint reduction of 20%.

Four tables: normal choices for full masterpoint games are 21, 24, or 28 boards.

First choice: a full Howell (every pair plays every other pair), with three or four boards a round for 21 or 28 total.

Second choice: if you want a shorter game, is a three quarter Howell. This six round game will have a stationary at tables one and two. Those two tables will share (relay) boards during every round.

When setting up the game in ACBLscore pick 24 total boards. ACBLscore will automatically select a four table three quarter Howell movement.

Five tables: as the table count goes up so does the number of choices. Once again, a full Howell, plays more boards than some players are comfortable, 27; or short enough that the players feel cheated, 18 boards. But a full Howell is still your first choice.

A three quarter Howell movement is available for this movement also by setting ACBLscore for five tables, 24 boards.

But, there is a third choice: a Mitchell movement, especially for an I/N or beginners' game. It has the advantage of two first place awards.

Six tables: now the number of choice becomes daunting. There are movements for 27, 25, 24, 20, and 18 boards.

The first choice is a bye-stand relay Mitchell, six rounds of four, with boards shared between two adjacent tables.

Second choice: Howells play more opponents, have higher awards.

And a third option is a straight Mitchell. Don't forget the skip after three rounds.

Half tables with robots. Two years ago the thought of using BBO robots as fill in players was weird. Now after 18 months of on-line bridge it might be easier to get players to accept them. It's not easy and does take a little work before game time.

You can find the instructions on the D23 website at the address below.

https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwon/bw.cgi?club=acbl23&pid=docs_Robot%20Players%20at%20Clubs.pdf&sessid=283107445027674

“Feeling lonely? Super glue your coffee cup to the top of your car. Everybody will wave at you.”

District 23 Rank Changes June2021

Junior Master

Emma S. Danoff
Robert Fieles
Richard E. Parker
Arthur B. Wallace
Allen York

Club Master

Fred McKibben
Margo Peck
Marie Robinson

Sectional Master

Darrel E. Manson
Jane Manson

Regional Master

Janice U. Fischer
David W. Khaliouque
Marilou Lieman
Mathew A. Riklin
Helen Romm
John D. Romm

Gavin W. Spore
Rosalie Stern
Jay Swerdlow

NABC Master

Teri L. West

Bronze Life Master

Marsha A. Bocan
Debbie Faigen
Thomas D. Webb

Silver Life Master

Hanan Mogharbel
Richard S. Orandle

RubyLife Master

James W. Jensen

Gold Life Master

Stanley J. Greengard

SapphireLife Master

Wayne Otsuki
Ernest J. Wong

DiamondLife Master

Robert C. Perlsweig

The Puzzle Page

Play or Defend? by John Jones

North

♠ A K 4 3 2
♥ 10 2
♦ A 4 3
♣ K 3 2

West

♠ J 10
♥ 9 8 7 6
♦ J 10 9
♣ J 9 8 7

East

♠ Q 9 8 7
♥ 5
♦ K Q 8 5 2
♣ Q 10 6

South

♠ 6 5
♥ A K Q J 4 3
♦ 7 6
♣ A 5 4

Contract = 6♥
Opening Lead = ♦J

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

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

August Rebus

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



(Note – for editorial reasons we had to split the columns.)

Bridge Jeopardy by John Jones

Category: Bridge Partnerships

And the answer is ...

\$100 – They play RM Precision and are sometimes called Meckwell.

\$200 – These two former Dallas Aces played the Orange Club, a four-card major forcing club system.

\$300 – One was the Bridge World magazine editor, the other the LA Times bridge columnist. Together they developed a 5-card major, weak NT system that bore their names.

\$400 – He was the most famous player in the world and the most published. She was the first woman to play in the Bermuda Bowl, and was considered by some experts to be the best player in the world. She was asked “how it felt to play with the best player in the world”; she answered “Ask Charlie”!

\$500 – This Canadian pair was second in the Bermuda Bowl three times. According to Edgar Kaplan, “they didn’t much care for one another, but each of them thought the other was better than he was”.



Read this rebus from top to bottom in the left column, then top to bottom in the right column.)

Solution to "Play or Defend?"

You should elect to declare. Win ♦A. Play ♠A, ♠K, and third spade pitching a diamond. If East returns a club, win ♣A, cross to ♥T and ruff the fourth round of spades high. Finish trumps, cross to the ♣K and pitch the losing club on the long spade.

Thanks to Eddie Kantar for this problem.

Solution to "Rebus"

Forcing Notrump

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

Bridge Jeopardy Questions

\$100 – Who are Eric Rodwell and Jeff Meckstroth?

\$200 – Who are Bob Hamman and Bobby Wolff?

\$300 – Who are Edgar Kaplan and Alfred "Freddie" Sheinwold?

\$400 – Who are Helen Sobel Smith and Charles Goren?

\$500 – Who are Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela?

Trivia Time!

La Paz, Bolivia, which is about 12,000 feet above sea level, is nearly a fireproof city, and the fire engines – ordered out of civic pride – gather dust in their firehouses. At that altitude, the amount of oxygen in the atmosphere barely supports fire.

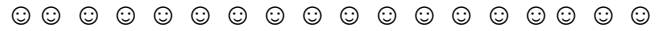
Isaac Newton's only recorded utterance while he was a member of Parliament was a request to open the window.

There are 2,500,000 rivets in the Eiffel Tower.

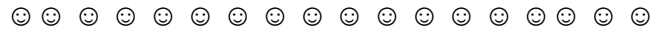
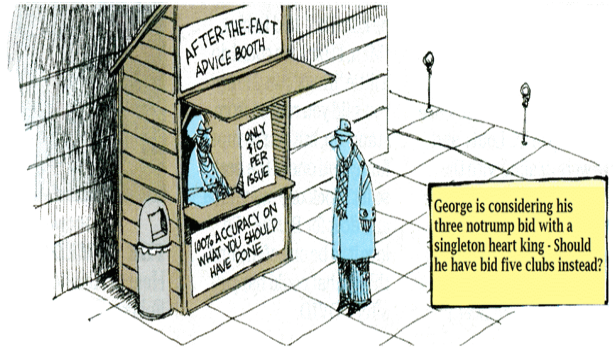
The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28%.

(Now get this..)

The percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%.



Submitted by John Jones:



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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: No game in August
Unit Game: Saturday August, 21:00 a.m., Glendora
Unit Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m. before the game
STaC: August 17 and 20 at La Fetra

La Fetra games for the next nine weeks will be super-rich in masterpoint awards. We will be taking advantage of the ACBL’s “Welcome Back” policy by holding Club Championship games for eight of the next nine weeks. The exception will be the STaC games noted above, which pay silver points. Entry fee for the Club Championships remains at a low, low \$5; for the STaCs, it will be a bit higher because the sanction fee is something like six times higher than for the club games. Your rebate cards remain good for all La Fetra games – until they are used up of course.

Attendance has been mixed but the trend is promising. The Tuesday game struggles, as always, but the Friday game is almost back to where it was pre-disaster. I received a request from La Fetra as to whether or not we wished to continue the Thursday evening game; and if so, would we consider (or wish

to move it to another night)? PLEASE vote! Let me know your wishes in this regard.

Our final fund-raising total on The Longest Day was \$890. I wish to thank all of you who participated in this worthy cause.

We have two promotions this month. Richard Parker and Arthur Wallace have taken that first big step and are now Junior Masters. A bit farther up the scale, Hanan Mogharbel has risen to Silver Life Master. Not an easy chore when pigmented points have been so hard to earn lately. Congratulations to all three of you.

The reason for cancelling this month’s Individual is twofold. First, our main playing site isn’t available (nor are our secondary sites for that matter!). Then, too, attendance would be expected to be problematical. So, we’ll see you (hopefully) in September.

For our Hand-of-the-Month, well try a little comic relief. Examine the following deal, and follow the proceedings closely. Not too closely, though, you don’t want to rear-end the dude in front of you:

North deals, N-S Vulnerable.

♠ A Q 10 8	
♥ A	
♦ 6 2	
♣ A Q J 10 4 2	
♠ K J	♠ 9 7 5 3
♥ K J 8 6 2	♥ Q 7 5
♦ K 10 3	♦ A Q 9 5
♣ K 8 3	♣ 9 5
♠ 6 4 2	
♥ 10 9 4 3	
♦ J 8 7 4	
♣ 7 6	

You, North, open 1♣, pass, pass, and West chimes in with 1♥. You go 2♣, East raises to 2♥, pass, pass. Hoping partner has *something* – as little as the ♠J will be useful – you try 3♣, which becomes the final contract. Unfortunately, after the opening heart lead, you see that partner has exactly what you would expect on the auction: nothing. Well, too bad that ♦J isn’t the ♠J.

You win the heart lead, play ♣A and ♣Q, and ruff the heart return. You draw the last trump. Oh well, you figure to lose one club, two diamonds, and three spades, down two. -100 against their +110 for 3♥ making, not so bad even at matchpoints. But not willing to give up just yet, you try the effect of the ♠8. ♠9 from East, but West overtakes with the ♠J. Hmmmm! Is this your lucky day? You ruff the next heart, cash the ♠A, and the ♠K falls from the West hand! That gives you three spades, five clubs, and a heart for your contract! Never give up is the motto.

We'll close with a hand submitted by Linda Tessier, which occurred during a for-fun game:

LHO dealt, and after two passes, RHO opened 1♠. Linda found herself looking at this collection:

♠ AK ♥ AKQJ ♦ AKQ6 ♣ AKQ

Only 35 HCP. (Don't laugh, at least not too hard. In the 1995 Atlanta NABC, those nasty computers dealt a 36 hand! It was universally opened 7NT, which went one down.)

Well, you can be pretty sure RHO is joking, unless he has serious vision problems. Since she had 12 tricks in hand – and for some reason, wasn't playing the "Cockamamie Jack-Ask" convention, she just shot 6NT, which caused gales of laughter from the other players. That is, until dummy came down with

♠ Jxx ♥ xxx ♦ xxxxx ♣ xx,

and 13 tricks rolled in.

Of course, after the deal, the kibitzer (waiting to cut in) admitted to having cooked the deal! Well, you knew that!

The vulnerability wasn't stated, but one has to wonder – what would have been the result in 1♠ doubled? Of course if Linda doubles instead of shooting the small slam, partner must take it out into diamonds... might 7♦ then be reached????

Quote for the month: "There is no conceivable human action which custom has not at one time justified and at another condemned." [Joseph Wood Krutch]

Downey – Whittier

by Liz Burrell

Congratulations are in order for some very good games played in July at Downey-Whittier Bridge

Club, and one played June 30 which was too late to make it in the Bridge News. On that day, Al and Mary Kiechle had a 69.58% game E/W and Kiran Kumar and Avice Osmundson were high N/S with 62.08%. On July 7, perennial winners, Gabrielle Sill and Connie Kang were overall winners with a 67.20% game. On July 14 Subba Ravipudi and Sankar Reddy were tops with 61.81% and Bob and Linda Krause were close behind with 61.11%. (For some reason the hands were extra challenging that day. Whew!) Last week, July 21, Gabrielle Sill and Connie Kang again posted a very nice 64.29%. Many congratulations to these winners. As usual, all participants enjoyed the games at Downey whatever the score.us again each Wednesday morning in Downey.

Some of you may know that the Downey Bridge Club has been in existence for many years and, like most clubs, we've had our ups and downs. Around 1966, however, our fortunes took a turn for the better: Mary and Al Kiechle moved to Downey. Like many new residents, they joined the Newcomers Club and took advantage of their beginning bridge lessons. Both Mary and Al quickly learned to love the game and played party bridge for several years. They had heard about duplicate bridge and bravely decided to give it a try. Luckily for us, they ventured into a Friday night game at the Downey Bridge Club located at that time on Florence Boulevard. That's all it took: they were both hooked.

Over the years, the ownership of the DBC changed hands several times and by 2002, membership had dwindled to the point where the Club leadership had decided to close. At the time, Mary was Unit Treasurer and she said, "Not so fast!" (I am guessing about that part but knowing Mary, there is no way she would have sat back and done nothing.) Sure enough, she took it upon herself to convince the unit to take over the club.

Along with some other avid bridge players and club members, they found a suitable facility at the Downey Woman's Club (where we still play) and hired two directors. One of these was Marcie Evans who was our director until recently when poor health made it necessary for her to retire.

Marcie was just what the club needed. Her enthusiasm, bridge savvy, teaching ability and genuine love of the game helped sustain our little club through difficult times.

Mary and Al have played at many tournaments and clubs around the country including Alaska and

Hawaii and they both still play at the Downey Bridge Club. Obviously, they have learned a thing or two about bridge since Mary now has over 2000 master points and Al has around 1200 and both are still counting. Inevitably, they have had many memorable experiences at the bridge table, one of which she shared with the author.

It was a tournament in March 1995 in Birmingham, Alabama, during which a huge snowstorm struck. This is a pretty rare event in Birmingham and, of course, there were no snow plows in the city. Everyone in the entire hotel was stuck. Undaunted, however, the tournament continued. Two days later everyone was allowed to leave, no doubt with many fond memories of Birmingham.

All of us who have played at Downey, and those who are still playing there owe Mary (and Al) our thanks for their determination to keep the game we all enjoy alive and well in Downey. We sincerely hope they will be with us for a long time to come.



Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

Face-to-Face Game Schedule at Joshua Tree Bridge Club

Tuesdays at 12:30 PM
2747 West Ave. L, Lancaster CA

Proof of vaccination and masks are required as per LA County regulations for indoor activities

Face-to-Face Beginning Bridge Lessons at Joshua Tree Bridge Club

Monday 10:00 am – noon
Saturday 10:00 am – noon

Contact Beth Morrin (morrin@sbcglobal.net)
for reservations

Virtual Game Schedule (August through November)

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

Sunday:	12:15 PM	599er game
	12:30 PM	Open game

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. June 21

N/S	Rae Murbach – Gerard Geremia	75.75%
E/W	Kathy Flynn – Bob McBroom	62.12%

Tues. June 22

N/S	Amr Elghamry – Dominique Moore	60.76%
E/W	LuLu Minter – Ernest Wong	61.81%

Thurs. June 24

N/S	Roshen Hadulla – Kiran Kumar	71.53%
E/W	Temo Arjani – Bill Brodek	56.25%

Fri. June 25

N/S	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	58.33%
E/W	Carolyn Cohen – Bill Brodek	63.06%

Sun. June 27

N/S	Pat Larin – Debra Pride	58.02%
E/W	Rae Murbach – Joseph Viola	65.35%

Mon. June 28

N/S	Paula Olivares – Bill Brodek	67.82%
E/W	Ruth Baker – Roy Ladd	65.74%

Tues. June 29

N/S	Amr Elghamry – Dominique Moore	61.11%
E/W	Kathy Flynn – Bob McBroom	66.36%

Thurs. July 1

N/S	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	65.36%
E/W	Gerard Geremia – Joseph Viola	65.36%

Fri. July 2

N/S	William Martin – Michael Connell	54.44%
E/W	Steve Shanker – Sharon Wolf	65.00%

Sun. July 4

N/S	LuLu Minter – Ernest Wong	66.67%
E/W	Kathy Flynn – Bob McBroom	61.30%

Mon. July 5

N/S	Rae Murbach – Gerard Geremia	62.52%
E/W	Sharry Vida – Beth Morrin	65.61%

Tues. July 6

N/S	Amr Elghamry – Dominique Moore	66.55%
E/W	Pat Larin – David White	75.35%

Thurs. July 8

N/S	Temo Arjani – Bill Brodek	65.97%
E/W	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	66.20%

Fri. July 9

N/S Susan Smith – Aggi Oschin 63.31%
E/W Carolyn Cohen – Bill Brodek 63.89%

Sun. July 11

Avice Osmundson – Kiran Kumar 64.35%

Mon. July 12

N/S Kathy Flynn – Bob McBroom 59.03%
E/W Anita Walker – Aggi Oschin 65.75%

Tues. July 13

N/S Amr Elghamry – Rae Murbach 60.80%
E/W Ruth Baker – Roy Ladd 71.30%

Thurs. July 15

N/S Barbara York – Sharry Vida 62.50%
E/W Roshen Hadulla – Kiran Kumar 64.35%

Fri. July 16

N/S LuLu Minter – Ernest Wong 68.62%
E/W Mira Rowe – Ron Oest 59.37%

Sun. July 18

Roshen Hadulla – Bill Brodek 69.84%

Winners in Unit 556+ Limited MP games:

Tues. June 22

N/S Marianne Newman – Eva Schilk 62.70%
E/W Jerome Paul – Margaret Shifley 60.71%

Wed. June 23

N/S Kenneth Peyton – Michael Connell 61.57%
E/W Tomoko Stock – David Khalieque 59.26%

Sun. June 27

N/S Steve Mancini – Michael Connell 68.75%
E/W Lora Smith – John Tyner 62.50%

Tues. June 29

Sofi Kasubhai – Robot 57.08%

Wed. June 30

Michael Perera – Stephen Anderson 63.19%

Sun. July 4

Carol Trenda – Gary Trenda 76.92%

Tues. July 6

David Khalieque – Aggi Oschin 55.56%

Wed. July 7

N/S Nancy Guenther – Judith Tomic 55.00%
E/W Marianne Newman – Lawrence Newman 57.78%

Sun. July 11

N/S Jerome Paul – Margaret Shifley 60.71%
E/W Jackie Moor – Harry Randhawa 70.14%

Tues. July 13

David Khalieque – Aggi Oschin 63.89%

Wed. July 14

Tomoko Stock – David Khalieque 60.32%

Sun. July 18

N/S Glenda Zelichov – Michael Zelichov 62.96%
E/W Lora Smith – John Tyner 69.44%

Neither the Friendly Bridge Club nor the Valencia Bridge Studio is planning to reopen with face-to-face games.

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

The games July 26-August 1 were Stardust games.

The games June 13-June 18 and July 11-23 were NAP qualifying games and June 20 was a Longest Day game.

Next Board meeting: TBA, via Zoom.

Pasadena – San Gabriel by Morris “Mojo” Jones

bridgemojo.com



Not a lot of news in the Pasadena unit. The Bridge Center in Arcadia continues a schedule of bridge five days a week. Drop in to

<http://www.arcadiabridgecenter.com> for the schedule, and give Diane a call at (626) 445-3797.

Still nothing to report on the planned renovation for the San Marino club. I know we're all eagerly awaiting any news of the city's plans for the club and building.

We had a second Unit Game on July 11 at the Bridge Center, which doubled as an NAP qualifier game. Overall winners were Jack Chang and Sophia Chang (winning from Flight B), second overall Patrick Cardullo and Carolyn Cohen. Flight C overall winners were Michael Rodrigues and Ron Lu.

August has two Sunday Unit Games on the calendar: August 8 and August 22, and the unit board is hoping to continue with two Unit games monthly for

August2021

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a little while, inviting players to come back into the bridge club. For these games in particular, reservations will be required, as well as proof of a COVID vaccination. For reservations, contact Miriam Harrington at (626) 232-0558 or by email at miratpf@aol.com.

Special congratulations to new Sapphire Life Master Ernie Wong! :)

I will be offering my first new-era face-to-face beginning bridge classes this September through Pasadena City College Extension program on Wednesday evenings. I'll have more information and dates on <https://bridgemojo.com> as registration becomes available.

Best regards,

Mojo.

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists are: Sid Brownstein, David Chechelashvili, Jordan Chodorow, Mitch Dunitz, Ellis Feigenbaum, Mister Mealy-mouth, Margie Michelin, Jacqui McGreal, Rick Roeder, Mike Shuster, John Swanson, and Jon Wittes.

Jacqui McGreal is a guest panelist. She (representing Iceland) was my partner in the last World Bridge Federation world championships in Orlando. She played well and we made several cuts to make the last day and finish in the overalls.

This column is dedicated to South Bay Bridge Club icon Ernie Frank who passed away a few days ago. Ernie was one of the people I used to enjoy discussing difficult bridge hands with when I was learning bridge. At a time when most players didn't know the 2/1 GF system very well, Ernie knew it well and was good at finding the best bid on tough hands. Ernie was one of the kindest, most gentle players ever. He would play with anyone including new beginners and always was a pleasure to play with. The South Bay Club used to call him to fill in and he always came, never asking who he would be partnered with. RIP Ernie!

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>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">South</th> <th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">West</th> <th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">North</th> <th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">East</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">1♦</td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">1♥</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">???</td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">You, South, hold: ♠KQ10 ♥Q ♦QJ8643 ♣AK5</p> <p style="margin: 0 0 0 0;">What call do you make?</p>	South	West	North	East	1♦		1♥	pass	???			
South	West	North	East										
1♦		1♥	pass										
???													

This is a difficult rebid. It was also a difficult problem for me to format and present. If I presented the problem as an opening bid problem, I don't get to the difficult rebid problem. I could have presented it as a two-part question, with the first part being "do you agree with 1♦"? That puts the emphasis of the problem where I don't want it, on the opening bid as opposed to the rebid. I counted on my wonderful panel to speak up if they would have opened 1NT. Several would or might have opened 1NT and did speak up. After Pass Pass 1♦ Pass 1♥ Pass rebid choices

include 1♠, 2♣, 2♦, 2NT, and 3♦. Talk about an imperfect lot. Let's consult the panel. I'll start with the most conservative answer.

Mealy-mouth: 2♦. Why do my partners almost always bid my singleton suits when I have six cards in another? I think they do it just to be perverse. I downgrade this hand because the diamonds are so puny. I'll bid 2♦ now. If I can get by this round, I'll channel Al Roth and ask him what to bid next turn. Second choice: Abstain. I confess; I'm inexperienced

with problems like this. I'm so scared of problems like this that for five decades I've treated singleton aces, king and queens as though they were doubletons. In real life, I'd be declaring a heart contract after an opening 1NT and a transfer bid.

Several panelists selected the 2NT rebid, theoretically showing 18 or 19 balanced, as the best description.

Swanson: 2NT. Where's our game other than 3NT? The spade ten makes this one easy.

Chodorow: 2NT. The hand doesn't evaluate to 18-19, so I would have no quarrel with a 1NT opener. As it is, having no interest in foregrounding these diamonds (and not wanting partner to worry about either black suit), I'll bid 2NT confidently, knowing (from the robots, inter alia) how often such off-shape notrump bids work out well enough to compensate for the missing count. If I can just get by CHO (*Center Hand Opponent*), that is.

Michelin: 2NT. I would open 1NT with a bad card suit and 17 and open 1♦ with a good five card suit and 17 intending to rebid 2NT. This is a so-so six card suit so I don't want to jump to 3♦ as a rebid. Also, it seems a little heavy. I have double stoppers in the other two suits and my ♥Q has to be a working card so I bid on the aggressive side for sure in IMPs.

Wittes: 2NT. No other bid properly shows the strength of this hand with both unbid suits doubly stopped. With most of my partners I play 3♦ following a 2NT rebid transfers back to hearts. This shows at least five hearts, and is usually followed by 3NT, giving me my choice of 3NT or 4♥. If partner transfers with 3♦, I will bid 3NT, not 3♥.

Chechelashvili: 2NT. The only other alternative I am considering is 3♦. Underbidding 2♦ or temporizing with 1♠ or 2♣ is not an option for me. While I am certainly not overly excited with the bad 6 card suit, or a singleton honor in hearts, very little is needed from

partner to make 3NT. The reason why I would choose 2NT over 3♦ is that if partner passes with a misfit in diamonds, 2NT has more chances to be made than 3♦. And if partner has a fit or tolerance for diamonds, 2NT might not be worse contract than 3♦.

Roeder: 2NT. A 3♦ rebid puts too much pressure on partner given your robust black honors. If we wind up in 4♥ on a 6-1 fit, my lady should be a strong helper.

One alternative is jump rebidding in the long suit.

Shuster: 3♦. I'd have opened 1NT, but I'm not going to rebid 2NT here with broken diamonds and the wrong heart holding. Experience has taught me to trust in the long suit.

Feigenbaum: 3♦. I might have opened this hand 1NT. I have no great way to describe my strength, and 3♦ is ugly. But 3♦ it is.

This hand occurred in one of our Monday/Thursday night online Caltech games. My partner Jacqui McGreal held this hand. She chose to open 1NT to try to avoid this difficult rebid. Let's hear from her.

McGreal: 2♣. *Several panelists mentioned the possibility of opening 1NT: Chodorow, Feigenbaum, Mealy-mouth, Michelin, Shuster and now McGreal, who faced the problem at the table. As you know, I opened 1NT just to avoid this problem, but since I am forced to do something now, I will go with 2♣.*

Dunitz: 2♣. If this gets passed, I haven't missed anything. I'll rebid 2NT next.

Brownstein: 2♣.

I like the 2♣ rebid. It avoids the problem of 2NT showing a balanced hand and overstating the diamond suit. Its solidly at the top of the range for a 2♣ rebid, which should be about a good 11 to a poor 18. Yes, the obvious defect is that I'm a club short. Can't have everything, and if the bid was easy, it shouldn't be in this column.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">2</h1> <p>IMPs Both Vul</p>	South	West	North	East
	???	1♠	pass	1NT#
	# Forcing notrump			
	You, South, hold: ♠10543 ♥AK82 ♦K ♣AKQJ			
What call do you make?				

Great, I have a 20 HCP hand! Against that, I don't have a five-card suit and partner rates to have maybe zero to four. I could double now and get ready for partner bidding 2♦. I could pass and possibly get in later or I can overcall a great four-bagger at the two-level.

Shuster: Double and hope to not hear diamonds (which I will correct to NT).

Chechelashvili: Double. The bigger problem will be on a next round if partner bids 2♦, but I will take my chances that the bidding will continue differently, and even if partner bids 2♦ (after pass from LHO) I can always bid 2NT, or pass 2♦.

The majority of the panelists waited, hoping for a sequence that allows a double to show hearts and clubs.

Brownstein: Pass. Nothing else is reasonable.

Dunitz: Pass for now. Can't afford to double and have partner bid diamonds.

Swanson: Pass. Because the bid options are so unappealing now, why not wait and hope someone bids diamonds? This approach may lead to never getting a bid in with all these high cards. I draw comfort that the opponents are vulnerable so they are unlikely to be engaged in outright robbery.

Wittes: Pass. Partner rates to have at most three points. We may have a plus score against wherever they land. Unless partner has four hearts or four clubs we probably have no place to play. If it should go 2♦ Pass Pass or 2♣ Pass 2♦, I will double, improving our chance of finding an eight-card fit.

Chodorow: Pass. This doesn't deny a hand, even a big one. I'll obviously take out diamonds, but odds are reasonably high I'll be passing throughout.

Michelin: Pass. Since 1NT is forcing, I am going to pass for now, and see what happens. I will cuebid or

double depending on the rebid by opener and action of the responder. My partner can't have much. Against me, I am sure Itabashi would bid 2♣, and it will work for him!

Feigenbaum: Pass. One of the great benefits of opponents playing 1NT forcing, is that I can get back in later and show my strength.

McGreal: Pass. Partner rates to have zero points. No one has found a fit yet. I will pass with my 20. If they are at 2♦ the next time it comes around, I will double for takeout and pray for partner.

It has the obvious problem that partner will expect a fifth club, but what about trying a 2♣ overcall?

Mealymouth: 2♣. This time I couldn't wait. I did channel Al Roth, and he said, "Children, children! Why must you always *bid*? Why don't you just wait and see? Then, when West's 2♦ rebid comes round to you, you can double for takeout. Perfect!" Sorry, Daddy, that's not what happens to me. If I pass, West will rebid 2♠ and if I double then, partner will bid 3♦ with ♠98 ♥Q97 ♦98762 ♣865. Yes, when I double with a singleton in an unbid suit, my perverse partners *always* bid that suit. So instead, I'll mix my ♠10 with my clubs now and bid 2♣. If West does bid 2♦ next, I'll mix my ♦K with my hearts and rebid 2♥ when it comes round to me. This hasn't been a good time for my eyesight. Last year, after my ophthalmologist tested me, he wouldn't even reveal my score on the Eye Chart Test. Instead, he reminded me of the year, which I knew already. I'm afraid that when I see him again a few months from now, my eyesight will have deteriorated further.

Roeder: 2♣. If you can trust LHO, Pard has bupkis. *Can you believe that "bupkis" passed my Word spelling checker?* This hand may be a misfit so, I will content myself with a lead director. Pass is fine, too. Partner will never play you for this hand if you double, so why bother? So you can later make a second double

and hear partner bail out to diamonds? No thanks!

With Ricky, Mealy and maybe and maybe Itabashi and Mealy's ophthalmologist with me, I would try 2♣. If the opponents get to 2♦, I will double. What to do if partner bids 2♦ is more of a guess. Partner might be risking bidding on something like ♦QJ8xxx, so I won't hang partner, I'll pass 2♦ and hope it doesn't make too much.

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">3</h1> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Matchpoints N-S Vul</p>	South	West	North	East
	pass	1♥	1♠	1♦
	pass	2♦	2♥	2♣
	???			pass
<p>You, South, hold: ♠109 ♥A106 ♦J63 ♣A9865</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

This problem gets the award for the most different panelist answers this month. Pass, 2♠, 2NT, 3♣, 3♦, 3♥, 3♠ and 4♥ all were selected by at least one panelist. Spades versus hearts as the trump suit is one consideration. Another is how strongly do we move towards game. One possible helpful piece of information is how aggressive partner is on hands of this ilk. I'll take the answers in order of lowest to highest.

Swanson: Pass. If partner held good values for his bid, he would double 2♦.

Brownstein: 2♠. This is timid with two aces. And with good spade spots, but it might be right, and does avoid passing.

McGreal: 2NT. I think partner has a very good hand and any missing spade honors rate to be onside. My 10 and 9 look pretty handy, and I have two entries. I am tempted to bid 3NT, but will restrain myself and only bid 2NT, in case pard does not have any help with a diamond stop.

I like the 2NT bid on values, but think that either spades or hearts will be a more successful strain than NT.

Dunitz: 3♣. Sure, I'd like a third spade or a fourth heart, but Rome wasn't built in a day. Partner has a fine hand to be bidding this way when vulnerable. I'm bidding 3♣, a forward going cue.

Chodorow: 3♦. I have a great hand in context. When I'll be putting down dummy, I have every ounce of my bids, so partner should now be able to place the contract.

Neither of the cue bidders gave a reason for selecting 3♣ versus 3♦. Maybe the suit you cue should have a card there, but it's still close. The cue-bidders might get some additional help with selecting the major suit to be the trump strain.

Michelin: 3♥. I have shown no values yet. I am playing my partner to have at least five good hearts for this bid, it should be natural. I am raising hearts. I am bidding only 3♥ but tempted to bid 4♥.

Feigenbaum: 3♥. 2♥ by partner must be natural. I have two aces. I shall be courteous and make a courtesy raise.

Roeder: 3♥. Must show life but how to do so is awkward. If partner carries on to the four level with a choice-of-games cuebid, I will be happy to show spade tolerance.

Wittes: 3♠. Partner rates to be 6-4 with a very good playing hand. I didn't bid 2♠ the first time, I have two great spots in spades, a secondary heart fit, and two bullets. I couldn't possibly have a better hand.

Mealymouth: 2♠. 4♥. I'll bid 2♠. Partner sees the vulnerability as well as I do, and I don't think he'd be risking a matchpoint poison minus 200 when I could have a yarborough. At least I have some good spot-cards in his suits. What's that you say? I saw the cards wrongly? My ♣2 is actually the ♣A and my ♦2 is actually the ♥A, so my hand is actually hold ♠T9 ♥AT6 ♦J63 ♣A9865? In that case, change my bid from 2♠ to 4♥. My hand is actually worth about three tricks more than I thought. Monday I'll call my ophthalmologist and change my appointment to Tuesday.

Shuster: 4♥. I'm not going to pussyfoot around with this much coverage. Partner took a serious risk with 2♥ and we need to reward that enterprise.

Chechelashvili: 4♥. Partner should be at least 5-5, with the worst hand being ♠AQJxx ♥KQ98x ♦x ♣xx in which case 4♥ would still make if hearts are divided 4-1. Thus, I would not torture my partner with 3♦ or 3♥ bids. My 109 of S, ATx in hearts and A of clubs are too valuable.

Looks like a reasonable layout and a reasonable bid.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">4</h1> <p>IMPs E-W Vul</p>	<u>South</u> <u>West</u> <u>North</u> <u>East</u> ???
	You, South, hold: ♠Q943 ♥AQ98762 ♦108 ♣void What call do you make?

There are several issues on this problem. Is this hand worth a light opening bid? Can we preempt with a side four-card spade suit? If we do, how high do we preempt? Is passing a viable alternative? Style has a lot to do with this one. Pass, 1♥, 2♥, 3♥ and 4♥ would all have their supporters. Nobody answered 2♥, which some would select, but I think is worse than any of the other answers. OK Mitch, you can go first.

Dunitz: 4♥. Obvious, isn't it? John Swanson would probably skewer me for this: "😬okay, this could work out badly..."

Well, lets hear from Mr. Swanson.

Swanson: 4♥. This hand is too strong for a favorable 3♥, has too many flaws for 2♥ and too few high cards for 1♥. Pass concedes the playing field to the opponents and descriptive calls latter in the auction are not certain. Despite those points being stated, I wouldn't castigate partner for a different choice.

Shuster: 4♥. The 9876 made me do it. At least that's what I'll tell my teammates. Side spade length makes it more likely the opponents will have awkward shapes to compete.

Chechelashvili: 4♥. I've got to apply pressure, especially white versus red. Once in a while we will go down in 4♥, when 4♠ is cold, but most of the times this bid will create big problems for opponents.

Mealymouth: 4♥. I'll bid 3.1416♥. Easy as pi. What? They don't allow transcendental bids? Actually, I rounded my real choice up to the nearest ten-thousandth, so it's a rational bid. If they don't allow fractions either, that's the unkindest cut of all. I'm forced to invoke Dedekind's Law: Round down when vul., round up when not. Favorable vulnerability, I'll round up to 4♥. *Now just a cotton picking minute! There is a real Dedekind's Cut in mathematics. This is the first time I've seen it applied to a bridge problem though. Good application Mealy!*

Marshall would come out of his grave if he saw me allowing fractional bids!

3♥ versus 4♥ is something of a stylistic question.

McGreal: 3♥. I will just open 3♥, have a spade mixed in with my clubs. *Jacqui's preempts could easily be described as "sound at any vulnerability."*

Wittes: 3♥. I know I have four spades, but I have 7 pretty good hearts, and will have a tough time showing this hand if I don't bid it now. If it is the opponents' hand, I'll also make it more difficult for them.

Michelin: 3♥. I have partners with whom I would consider losing trick count and open 1♥. I like loser trick counts for certain situations, especially if we have found a fit. Here, I have very little defense so I would not open it 1♥. I am opening it 3♥. Even if we have a spade fit, I may need to ruff a lot so I am bidding where I live. I am almost 100% positive that my husband Ellis will open this 1♥. If Ellis opens 1♥ and gets to the right spot, I'll hear about it being the right call. However, if I open 1♥ playing with him and get a bad result, I will also hear about it big time!

Ok, does Margie get a point for predicting Ellis' call?

Feigenbaum: 1♥. As usual, I'm not supposed to like it otherwise it wouldn't be a bidding contest.

Yes, score a predictive point for Margie, except that I normally only score "Match Game" points in the February (Valentine's) issue.

And if no bid fits, is Pass an option?

Brownstein: Pass. We could be cold for a spade slam.

Chodorow: Pass. Matter of style. My early position preempts look exactly as expected, and that doesn't include four creditable spades.

I'll finish with the panelist answer that most closely matches my feeling on this problem. Is there any surprise that it comes my most frequent partner?

Roeder: 4♥. Your spade holding will make it awkward for them to double if their best hand is accompanied by short spades. If they happen to stagger into a spade contract, you can laugh as they totally mis guess the trump situation. No second choice at these colors.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">5</h1> <p>Matchpoints None Vul.</p>	South	West	North	East
	???	1♠	dbl	3♠&
	& = weak raise			
	You, South, hold: ♠973♥KQJ9742♦2 ♣K5			
	What call do you make?			

Nice hand and we clearly have a fit. Blackwood would be nice, but is 4NT Blackwood in this auction? The rule I have in all of my most regular expert partnerships is that in competition "if 4NT could reasonably be takeout (two places to play), then it is takeout". Thus, 4NT will not get partner to answer aces or keycards. Disagreeing with my rule is...

Chodorow: 4NT. "4NT, I do." When you say "I do," it means you do intend it as Blackwood; "4NT, I don't" means you don't. Joking aside, I would use a responsive double for the minors, so this'll tell me what I need to know. Negligible risk of getting too high.

4NT followed by 5♥ should be some kind of a slam try though, so are 4♠, 5♥ and maybe doubling followed by aggressive action.

Wittes: 4♠. 4♥ is just too much of an underbid. 4♠ is a slight overbid, but I think I would bid it, followed by 5♥. If partner has two aces and a spade void, I think they would carry on. If they have two aces and a singleton spade, I hope they would pass 5♥, but maybe not. They could even have ♠void ♥Axxx ♦KQxx ♣QJxxx. Would they carry on with that hand? Maybe, maybe not. If they have ♠void ♥Axxx ♦Axxxx ♣AQxx, we're cold for a grand! I think they would bid 5♠ over 4♠ with that hand.

Dunitz: 4♠. Tough problem. Facing partner's spade shortness, I need three aces for slam. Only one ace, and I'm down at the 5 level. If I only bid 4♥, the opponents will likely bid 4♠. So, here's the plan: I'm cueing 4♠, and then bidding 5♥.

Michelin: 4♠. I bid 4♠. My partner will think I have a good hand in support of the minors. But after he chooses his minor, I will bid 5♥. This should show slam interest in hearts. If I started with 5♥ he would most likely think I was asking about spade control which I know he has. This is a little aggressive. I'd

like him to have three aces but the opener must have one. My goose may get cooked for this bid if he has two other aces and we will be down when he plays me for an ace...sigh.

Mealymouth: 5♥. Yes, I know, down one opposite ♠4♥A1083♦KQ107♣QJ106, but I'm not playing with Joe Murphy, so Murphy's Law doesn't apply. *Would Muryphy's Law apply if you were playing with Edward A. Murphy?* Maybe he has ♠void♥A1082♦A843♣A9764, however. It's matchpoints, so a couple of overtricks will be nice.

Feigenbaum: 5♥. I'm making the assumption opponents are being honest. But I am going to need to make a decision over 4♠ so I might as well give opponents the problem and if partner has the perfect three aces or a void in spades 6♥ will be laydown.

McGreal: 5♥. 4♥ is not enough, I do not even know how to stop at 5♥ if 4NT is Blackwood - so I will just bid 5♥ and hope pard does not raise to 7♥.

The problem is not only technical but tactical. The opponents are very likely to bid 4♠ if we bid 4♥.

Brownstein: 4♥. I'm not risking slam but it's tempting.

Shuster: 4♥. A tiny underbid, but I have no aces at all.

Chechelashvili: 4♥. Tough hand. We can easily miss a slam, but I am hoping one of the opponents has a void in hearts, or even a singleton and a 5-5 hand and I will hear 4♠ bid from LHO, and will have a chance to bid 4NT and correct 5m to 5♥ which should show slam interest.

Swanson: 4♥. Three aces for partner produces a slam; one ace produces a minus score in 5♥. Obviously, I must take the push if the opponents bid 4♠. I'll do so with 4NT, not because partner will think it is a keycard ask (should it be?), (*still takeout in my book*) but when

I correct his minor suit bid to 5♥ he will realize I have an excellent playing hand.

Roeder: 4♥. Would like to do more but do I have five-level security? A responsive double followed by a heart bid is a clever approach if partner is on the same wavelength but I would not take the risk of a misunderstanding.

This brings us to our final guest panelist for the month.

George Jones (that's my dog, not the deceased country singer): 4♥. Finally, a problem I like. I hope the moderator, my human, has more problems like this. That will remind him to walk the dog more often. Bidding 4♥ will probably get the opponents to bid 4♠. Then I can bid 5♥ and get doubled "walking the dog." What's that you say, the opponents may not double me? That would be crazy! Did you ever see a dog make a 5-level contract?!!!