

# Bridge News

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Robert Shore*

### Back at the Tournament Table



I can now report from personal experience that tournament play has resumed within driving distance of Southern California. Over the last month I played in both the Las Vegas Regional and the Sun City Sectional. I gotta say, it felt very, very good to be playing bridge in person against people from all over the country.

The logistics in Las Vegas were straightforward. As required by Nevada law, the organizers required both proof of vaccination and masks. To ensure that everyone passed a vaccination check, they arranged the playing area to have a single entrance. After your vaccination status was checked, they issued a plastic "hospital bracelet" to evidence that you've been through the process. I played on Saturday and Sunday, and there was no line at all, probably because most people arrived, and were checked, earlier in the week.

Sun City was simple as well, though for a different reason. I played in the Sunday Swiss, which had only nine tables. Masks were not required (Sun City is in Riverside County, which doesn't require masks) and it was trivial for the organizers to confirm that everyone in the room had been vaccinated.

As you might expect, tournament attendance was down significantly from pre-pandemic numbers, particularly in Las Vegas. My guess is that the decrease was more attributable to the mask requirement than to a more generalized reluctance to return to the table. I suspect that as we continue our emergence from the pandemic and mask requirements are eased or lifted entirely, we'll see tournaments start to approach their pre-pandemic attendance numbers. This guess has me cautiously optimistic about Bridge Week at Long Beach, the Summer's Best Regional.

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## District Director Report

*by John Jones*



I'm writing this from Austin. The meetings are mostly over and the tournament is in full swing.

It's a little weird to have to show your vaccination card and wear a mask to play bridge. The board anticipated some problems with players wearing their masks properly, but so far so good. Nobody has caused a problem as far as I know.

The tournament areas are only on the third and fourth floors of the hotel. Thus, the areas are fairly easily controlled by ACBL employees and employees of the company hired to electronically check vaccinations.

The meetings seem endless. There were formal meetings, two rather long meetings each day. There were also dinner meetings, breakfast meetings, drink meetings, and committee meetings. We met with the World Bridge Federation officials. We met with people wishing to sell us things.

One of the major ways that I contributed in the formal and informal meetings was to contribute to the anti-cheating efforts. I'm currently the only mathematician on the board, and that's important because of the standards for sample sizes and necessary levels of significance and how they should

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PRESIDENT continued from page 1New Rules

Our final Board meeting of 2021 occurred this month. Thanks again to Vice President Jan Wickersham and her Bylaws Committee for preparing some updates that were necessary, due to the imminent ending of the position of District Director. Since that position had some specific roles in our Bylaws, an update was imperative. Now it's been done. We also took the opportunity to make one further change. Our Board has been able to meet via Zoom only because of one of Governor Newsom's emergency orders. That order will end at some point, and with it, so would our ability to accommodate Board members who can't physically attend a meeting. So we have now amended the Bylaws to authorize electronic attendance at our meetings. That should facilitate our ability to assemble a quorum in the future.

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

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be applied to bridge. I also have experience with helping handle Reynolds team games with cheating accusations. I met with Nicolas Hammond who wrote the book "Detecting Cheating in Bridge", along with AJ Stephani, the chair of the ACBL Appeals and Charges Committee. I also had several conversations with Robb Gordon, the ACBL recorder. Mitch Dunitz has also contributed to anti-cheating efforts.

There will almost certainly be major changes made to attempt to combat the rampant cheating that is currently occurring online. One of those changes will be there will be an assistant recorder hired to help Mr. Gordon get through the backlog created by the massive amount of Player Memos that have been filed. I want to encourage everyone to keep filing the memos though. EVERY MEMO IS READ, eventually all of them will be assessed. I have listened to many of you express frustration that you are being cheated online, and I sympathize. But filing player memos is your best recourse. Don't publicly accuse anyone of cheating – it's not allowed.

Southern California's John Swanson was selected for the ACBL Hall of Fame, although the ceremony will be delayed to a future tournament due to the pandemic. John is a contributing panelist to my Problem Solvers Panel.

George Jacobs was selected as the Honorary Goodwill Member of the Year. George has lectured on bridge in the Southern California area and is an all-around superstar for bridge with his gregarious and gracious personality.

The Sportsmanship award was awarded to the Scottish national team of Alex Adamson, Dennis Peden, Anne Perkins (NPC), Derric Perkins, Stephen Peterkin, Samantha Punch, and Derek Sanders. The team from Scotland was the first to refuse to play against the Italian Federation who had substituted a convicted cheater (who was barred for life by the ACBL) in the European Championships. After the Scottish team forfeited to the Italians, all 29 subsequent Italian opponents also forfeited. The Italians wound up third technically, but had not touched a card. Being first to take such a courageous stand earned the Scottish team the Sportsmanship Award. The Italian Federation, who has been embroiled in so many cheating scandals over the past few decades, typically blamed all its opponents and attacked their sportsmanship.

There are changes coming in bridge. A new convention card is coming. It will start with 1♣ opening, not 1NT openings. It should be out in a few months. There is a new event at the club level and that is a Rainbow STAC. A Rainbow STAC will award black, silver, red and gold points. Each district will select one week from 2/1 to 4/30. The awards will be for F2F games only. Another change that I don't anticipate being implemented until possibly 2023 is a change in the structure of the masterpoint ladders. Online and Face-to-Face points will both be awarded, but probably counted on separate ladders. I have heard from D23 members who are very supportive of one form of the game versus the other. The reality of the situation is that both forms of the game have their place. There are significant efforts being made to clean up the cheating on the online games. But both forms of the game are important and here to stay. Eventually though, the masterpoint structure will be separate. This is almost universally looked at as a good idea, but there are many variables to worked out.

Balancing support for the F2F clubs and the online clubs is tricky. I very much support the F2F clubs. I also am in favor of the geographically aligned virtual clubs. There has been much discussion about how to deal with some of the clubs being widely separated geographically. Some of the clubs are very small and others huge. I much prefer the smaller geographically aligned clubs. The ACBL-run games

are my next choice. They are open to everyone. My least favorite games are the BBO games. The ACBL has a very bad contract with BBO. The contract runs until 2025. BBO is no longer owned by bridge players. BBO is currently managed by a bridge player that has tried to be helpful to the ACBL, but his hands are significantly tied by his bosses. The BBO games are harmful to both our F2F games and the local virtual clubs. BBO has refused to take actions that would help other games. I rue the day the ACBL board elected to have a long-term contract with BBO. In the interests of bridge, I encourage bridge players to avoid the cheap BBO games. Support your local virtual games instead.

I want to mention an omission from a list last month. One of the F2F Clubs was left off the list of clubs which are open for play. That club is the 750 Club in the San Fernando Valley run by Alan Curtis. Despite the name, it's actually an open club. They run games Monday through Saturday at 10:30, and Monday and Thursday evenings at 7:00. The club is located at 20855 Ventura Blvd.

I intended to include rank advancement stories in this issue. But difficulties of trying to get things done while in Austin has forced me to put those advancement bios off until next month.

Speaking of next month, I will continue most of my contributions to this newsletter after next month. But this District Director report will cease to exist after next month. D23 and D22 are being merged. David Lodge will be our Region's representative. The board will shrink from 25 board members to 20 as of January 1. Eventually the ACBL board will shrink to 13 regional representatives.

## The Director's Corner by David White

*"There are two rules in life:*

- 1. Never give out all the information.."*



### First Lesson in becoming a Tournament Director

Before Max Hardy became a professional bridge player, bridge author, and editor, he was an opera singer, on the faculty of the California Institute of Art, an associate national

tournament bridge director, and one of my first trainers in the world of tournament bridge. As Max's trainee, it was my job to follow him around the floor like a lost puppy, keep my mouth shut, and learn.

One Saturday night at a Denver regional the crowd was particularly rambunctious (read: drunk). North bellowed his request for a director. He did say please, and proceeded to explain in the thunderous voice of the righteous that the auction had gone as such, with non-vul and East the dealer.

W	N	E	S
		P	P
1♠	X	P	1NT
1♠	1NT	P	P
1♠	X	P	2♣
1♠	P	P	

At which point in time, North decided to call the director.

Max explained that North had accepted the 1♠ call (I don't think Max clarified which 1♠ call was accepted, but immaterial.) And now it was South's turn to call. The auction recommenced.

W	N	E	S
			1NT
1♠	1NT*	P	P

\* this is when North bit though his cigar.

W	N	E	S
1♠	"DIRECTOR! God damn it that's insufficient!"		

Max said calmly, "Now I can do something."

He explained to West his options. West bid 2♠ with a smile on his face.

2♠	X	P	P
P			

Your director lesson for today: The rules of 2021 allow the director to handle any infraction, regardless of how they become aware of the infraction.

The rules and the standards of 1974 were different. A TD could not rule on an infraction unless he/she were called to the table for that infraction.

I don't know if Max could have given a coherent ruling immediately when called. He was laughing too hard.

And the result of this board? 2♠x down one for an East-West top.

*“The first rule of 2022 is.....you don't talk about 2020 or 2021.”*

HARDY, Max (1932-2002) of Las Vegas NV was an associate national tournament director, bridge teacher and professional player. He was a former teacher of theory, composer, conductor, singer and music teacher. Max began directing in 1961 and attained his final rating in 1973, retiring in 2000. He started a career as an opera singer and later was a faculty member of the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music, which became the California Institute of the Arts. He served as vice-chairman of the ACBL Appeals Committee 1985-93 (resumed in 2000) and was an original appointee to the National Ethical Oversight Committee for five years. He was an associate editor of the Popular Bridge magazine and the founding editor of the Southern California Bridge News. Max was the author of several very popular books including “Five Card Majors – Western-Style,” which went through four printings, “Two Over One Game Force,” “Play My Card,” “Forcing NT,” “4th Suit, New Minors, Splinters and other Shortness Bids,” “Standard Bridge Bidding” and many more. He was a Master Problem Solvers panelist for many years. Max developed the Hardy Adjunct to New Minor Forcing and was a Platinum Life Master with more than 11,000 masterpoints. He won more than 100 regional titles.

## North American Pairs District Final January 16

Plans continue to be in place to hold the District 23 NAP Final game on Sunday, January 16, at the Long Beach Bridge Center.

This will be a two-session game, with the first session beginning at 10:00 a.m., and the second session to be announced. You should be able to plan for the second session to finish by 6:30 p.m. The game may be flighted or stratified depending on attendance.

Please note that **reservations** and **proof of COVID vaccination** are required to play. If you are a member of District 23, and qualified in any NAP qualifier game, online or face-to-face, anywhere in North America, during June, July, or August of 2021, you are eligible to compete in the district final.

The top pairs in each flight will be invited to compete for the national North American Pairs event to be held in March at the Reno NABC.

The NAP information web page <https://nap.bridgemojo.com> will be updated soon with links to the list of qualified players, conditions of contest, and more information about the event as it becomes available. Reservations can be made by email to [nap@bridgemojo.com](mailto:nap@bridgemojo.com). Please include your partnership names, email addresses, and ACBL player numbers.

### District 23 Rank Changes October 2021

#### Junior Master

Lee Hanson

#### Club Master

Dvorah Colker  
Ray Ishaeik

#### Sectional Master

Carolyn M. Watanabe  
Judy L. Webb

#### Regional Master

David Finkel

#### Life Master

Val Romoff

#### Silver Life Master

Ellen Carrier  
Jerry Smith

#### Ruby Life Master

Luis F. Gamio-Klapic  
Dalia Hernandez  
Samantha Macdouglass  
Fredy S. Minter

#### Emerald Life Master

Jordan Chodorow

# The Puzzle Page

## December Rebus

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



## Bridge Jeopardy by John Jones

Category: Bridge Coups

And the answer is ...

\$100 – This coup was not named after our 45<sup>th</sup> president, but happens in the end game when declarer needs to finesse in trumps but doesn't have one to lead (also called a reduction).

\$200 – This coup won't get you wet or clean, but occurs when a player holding AJx plays small on the lead of a king hoping to get a continuation for an extra trick.

\$300 – This coup was not named after a famous boys' choir, but is cashing a high card (normally the ace), to establish a menace (normally the queen) to enable a squeeze to work.

\$400 – This coup was not named after an island prison near San Francisco, and is specifically outlawed by the laws of bridge, but is the act of deliberately revoking by declarer to find the location of an opponent's card.

\$500 – This coup was not named after a ship which fought the Monitor, but occurs when a high honor is sacrificed to remove an entry from an opponent's hand.

(Solutions to these puzzles are on page 9.  
No peeking!)

## Play or Defend? by John Jones

North

♠ K J 8  
 ♥ K 8 7 2  
 ♦ A 8 5  
 ♣ Q 9 2

West

♠ Q 10 4  
 ♥ 10 6 5 4  
 ♦ 10 9 7 6 2  
 ♣ 3

East

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

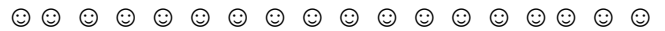
South

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

Contract = 4♥

Opening Lead = ♣3

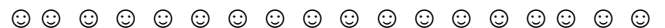
With both sides able to see all the cards and play perfectly, would you prefer to declare or defend?



Submitted by John Jones:



*Daddy sez that a  
 double finesse gives  
 you a 24% better  
 chance of making  
 the hand.*



Around the Units  
in District 23



Long Beach  
by Lillian Slater

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

*Sorry, no news from Long Beach this month.*



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

- Individual:** December 4, 10:00 a.m., Upland  
January 8, 10:00, TBD
- STaC:** December 7, 10 (La Fetra)
- Unit Game:** Saturday December 11, 11:00 a.m.,  
Glendora
- Upgraded Club Championship:** Friday, December 3
- No Game:** Friday, December 24; Friday,  
December 31 (La Fetra is closed for the year-end  
holidays).
- Unit Board Meeting:** 10:15 a.m. before the game

Because of all the disruptions in December – between Club Championships, STaC games, the Palm Springs regional, and the year-end holidays – we won’t be running team games this month. But we hope to resume them in January.

No promotions to report this month.

Winner of the November Individual was Stephen Andersen, with a 57.95% game. He just edged out Paul Chrisney, by ½ match point. Kurt Trieselmann took third – again just ½ match point behind second – and Kathleen Malovos – Yours Truly

... tied for fourth – once again, ½ match point behind. Talk about competitive!

In the November Unit game, Bill Papa – Vic Sartor’s 69.91% game buried the rest of the field. Sheesh. Tim and Eileen Finlay took second, Kurt Trieselmann – Paul Chrisney were third, Fredy Minter – Amr Elghamry fourth, and Karen McCarthy – Karen Olin rounded out the leader board by placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in flight B. The rest of us got a “nice try.”

Winners at La Fetra in November were led by Caryn Mason – Mary Ann Wotring, who posted a fine 67.71% score. Other winners were Lulu Minter, Vic Sartor, Bill Papa, Fredy Minter, and Roger Boyar.

The October team games were won by the team of Roger Boyar, Hanan Mogharbel, Steve Mancini, and Yours Truly. We actually tied in wins with 3, but eked out the win by 1 VP. The other winning team consisted of Tim and Eileen Finlay, Vic Sartor, and Mary Ann Wotring. They also tied another team in wins (2) but their wins were both blowouts, so ...

More bad news on the tournament front. While plans for our own Bridge Week Regional in Long Beach are moving forwards (I’ve seen the preliminary tournament flyer), District 22 has cancelled their Winter Regional (Costa Mesa). Apparently, their 2020 Winter Regional barely met its hotel commitments, and noting that F2F play is way down right now, they decided they could not afford the risk of a huge financial hit. Worse, the host hotel also forced them to cancel the September regional as part of the package. But they are looking around for another host.

Ever feel like you are stuck in a rut ... stuck in a rut ... stuck in a rut? Ever fell ... OK, here’s an amusing hand I held last month. As usual, it’s one of those semi-balanced hands that seem to crop up so often. And we play hand-dealt cards, too! I’ll show you my hand and the auction at my table, first. I held the North cards as dealer, no one vulnerable:

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

A normal enough 1♥ opening bid, right? LHO overcalled 2♣, partner chimed in with a 2♥ raise. Now

the fun begins! RHO called 3♥, an “unassuming cue bid” showing limit raise or better values in clubs. He also told me after the play was over that he wanted to stop me from bidding 3♥. Well, I replied that once partner raised, I was never ever bidding less than 4♥, damn the torpedoes. After all – where are all the black cards? Seemed normal enough to me! LHO, who admitted later he had misinterpreted the 3♥ bid as asking for a heart stopper, doubled. (He had ♥Q42). Partner passed, and RHO went deep into the tank before passing. The opening lead was the ♦4, and when dummy came down, I thought Christmas had come early:

♠ 10 8 7 3 2 ♥ 7 6 3 ♦ Q J 5 ♣ Q 9

Partner apologized for making such a skinny raise, but those diamonds were pure gold! LHO had led a singleton, so making 5. If he tries to cash his ♠AK, I cannot pick up the ♦K but still make 4. At some other tables, E-W pushed on to 5♣, which makes. The N-S pairs in 5♥, not being blessed with a favorable lead, went one down. Luck – don’t leave home without it!

You can keep hoping I’ll have an interesting 4-4-3-2 hand to report, some day. But don’t hold your breath.

I *do* of course have another one of those entertaining semi-balanced hands for you ... but you get a break this time. Let’s try an opening lead problem. You, South, hold this hand:

♠ 9 7 6 3 2 ♥ 10 ♦ Q 7 6 ♣ A Q 9 8

Your side does not enter the auction. RHO deals and opens 1♦, responder goes 1♥, then the auction proceeds 2♣ – 2♠ (4SF), 2NT – 3NT. And you have to lead!

Well, it would seem we can eliminate all four suits. But since this is BBO, we can’t even hope partner will lead out of turn and have it accepted. Sigh. Clubs and diamonds are Right Out. Spades are out – let declarer take her own finesses, should they be needed. Hearts? Well, that’s all that’s left. Lead a singleton? Horrors!!! But wait! East has shown 9 (or more) cards in the minors, and 2 or 3 spades. Why not a stiff spade? Because then she’d have 3 hearts and would likely rebid 3♥ rather than 2NT. So, E-W probably have 7 hearts between them, you have 1. Partner has at least 5, and should have a few high cards. So a heart it is. Partner’s hand:

♠ K 10 8 4 ♥ J 5 4 3 2 ♦ 4 ♣ K 10 3.

Well, how were *you* to know declarer’s hearts were Jack high, and partner’s hearts pipsqueaks?

Anyway, dummy actually had ♥AKQxxx, declarer a singleton. They also had 9 diamonds. Unfortunately for declarer but luckily for your side, when declarer saw the bad heart split, she played to drop the ♦Q. When that failed the hand collapsed and 3NT went down 2. With declarer holding ♠AQJ, if she guesses the diamonds, she makes 11 tricks. Luck – don’t leave home without it!

Unfortunately, the bridge gods paid us back right away, showering a 35% game on us.

Quote for the month: “Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons.” (Popular Mechanics, forecasting the relentless march of science, 1949.)

## Downey – Whittier by Liz Burrell

*Sorry, no news from Downey this month.*



## Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

Unit 556 held our second face-to-face Unit Championship game on Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Lancaster. The winners were:

First Place Mira Rowe & Ron Oest  
57.29%

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Paula Olivares & Charles Morrin with 53.13%

Paula also gave out the following awards:

Kathy Swaine won 2020 Ace of Clubs & Mini-McKenney for 1500 to 2000 MPs.

Mira Rowe won the online award for 500-1000 MPs.

Next Unit Championship game will be on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at Joshua Tree at 12:30 PM.

Please contact Beth Morrin at [morrin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:morrin@sbcglobal.net) for reservations since space is limited.

The first face-to-face social game in Santa Clarita was held on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Games will continue Thursday afternoons at the Senior Center from 1:30 to 3:30. Masks required. Register online at <https://myscvcoa.org/in-person-class-registration/> up to 7 days in advance.

#### Virtual Game Schedule

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
	12:30 PM	Open game

Contact our game manager at [virtualclub@bridgemojo.com](mailto:virtualclub@bridgemojo.com) for reservations. Our games cost \$3 unless it is a special game series.

#### Winners in Unit 556+ Open MP games:

Mon. Oct. 25		
N/S	Jane Archer – Farryl Weitzman	56.60%
E/W	Jeanette Deverian – Cathryn Martin	59.03%
Tues. Oct. 26		
N/S	Kathy Flynn – Bob McBroom	59.13%
E/W	David Khalieque – Harry Randhawa	60.32%
Thurs. Oct. 28		
N/S	Bill Brodek – Temo Arjani	62.22%
E/W	Diana Borgatti – Rae Murbach	64.44%
Fri. Oct. 29		
N/S	Diana Borgatti – Cathryn Martin	63.06%
E/W	Ruth Baker – Kathy Flynn	66.94%
Sun. Oct. 31		
	Amr Elghamry – Gerard Geremia	66.39%
Mon. Nov. 1		
N/S	Ramesh Sawhney – Temo Arjani	59.60%
E/W	Lulu Minter – Ernest Wong	64.10%
Tues. Nov. 2		
N/S	Rand Pinsky – Kathy Swaine	71.83%
E/W	Lulu Minter – Ernest Wong	63.89%
Thurs. Nov. 4		
N/S	Gerard Geremia – Joesph Viola	65.40%
E/W	Mary Ann Self – Thomas Beggane	57.32%

Fri. Nov. 5		
N/S	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	58.95%
E/W	Gerard Geremia – Rae Murbach	62.35%
Sun. Nov. 7		
N/S	Rae Murbach – Joesph Viola	72.96%
E/W	Temo Arjani – Adam Barron	63.61%
Mon. Nov. 8		
N/S	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	64.20%
E/W	Gary Zoss – Dwaine Hawley	61.11%
Tues. Nov. 9		
N/S	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	58.33%
E/W	Tom Lill – Hanan Mogharbel	61.11%
Thurs. Nov. 11		
N/S	Genise Hasan – Robot	54.44%
E/W	Bud Kalafian – Donald Zachary	60.28%
	Elliot Nueman – Alan Nueman	60.28%
Fri. Nov. 12		
N/S	Carolyn Cohen – Bill Brodek	67.19%
E/W	Diana Borgatti – Cathryn Martin	61.43%
Sun. Nov. 14		
	Gerard Geremia – Rae Murbach	64.58%
Mon. Nov. 15		
N/S	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	60.00%
E/W	Ramesh Sawhney – Temo Arjani	60.56%
Tues. Nov. 16		
N/S	Carol Ashbacher – Robot	66.27%
E/W	Temo Arjani – Robot	69.84%
Thurs. Nov. 18		
N/S	Bill Brodek – Temo Arjani	64.17%
E/W	Gerard Geremia – Joesph Viola	62.22%
Fri. Nov. 19		
N/S	Gerard Geremia – Rae Murbach	73.89%
E/W	Carolyn Cohen – Bill Brodek	61.11%
Sun. Nov. 21		
	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	58.89%
<b>Winners in Unit 556+ Limited MP games:</b>		
Tues. Oct. 26		
	Aggi Oschin – David Khalieque	62.78%
Wed. Oct. 27		
	Caryn Musicer – Glen Musicer	65.28%
Sun. Oct. 31		
	Carol Inman – Susan Smith	65.74%
Tues. Nov. 2		
	Kenneth Peyton – Michael Connell	71.11%



Wed. Nov. 3	Suzanne Kuuskmae – Carol Decordova	67.59%
Sun. Nov. 7	Jerome Paul – Margaret Shifley	65.00%
Tues. Nov. 9	Maria Marvosh – Robot	61.67%
Wed. Nov. 10	Teri Unsworth – Angelica Clark	58.33%
Sun. Nov. 14		
N/S	John Walker – Susan Dietz	56.67%
E/W	Ruth Roe – Linda Dillon	58.89%
Tues. Nov. 16	Caryn Musicer – Glen Musicer	70.83%
Wed. Nov. 17	Karen Harms – Margaret Shifley	67.78%
Sun. Nov. 21	Sofi Kasubhai – Robot	78.89%

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

Next Board meeting: TBA, via Zoom.

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

bridgemojo.com



At least for a while, people were coming back to play in the unit game! Our November game on the 14th reached capacity at the Bridge Center with 15 tables.

Overall winners were Fredy and Lulu Minter, with Paul Nason and John Villalobos taking second both in the N/S section.

We'll have a single Unit game on Sunday, December 12. We're planning to make it a little more festive, with a traditional holiday lunch of pizza. ☺ Reservations and proof of COVID vaccination are required! Call Miriam Harrington for reservations at (626) 232-0558.

Online club games continue six days a week in combination with five other nearby units. Drop in at

[bridgemojo.com](http://bridgemojo.com) and click “Games” for the full schedule.

Last week we were delighted to report Lulu Minter’s change in rank, this week Fredy joins in climbing the ladder as a new Ruby Life Master. Congratulations!

### Solution to “Play or Defend?”

Solution: You should elect to declare.

The best defense appears to be leading four rounds of clubs. Declarer can prevail by ruffing with the ♥9, cashing one (or zero) heart and taking the spade finesse before cashing declarer’s second high heart. A low heart now allows the heart finesse against West’s ♥T and then running the spades.

This was an actual BBO practice hand.

### Bridge Jeopardy Questions

- \$100 – What is Trump Coup?
- \$200 – What is Bath Coup?
- \$300 – What is Vienna Coup?
- \$400 – What is Alcatraz Coup?
- \$500 – What is Merrimac Coup? (One of my favorite plays in bridge.)

### Solution to “Rebus”

“Bath Coup”

Have a good bridge rebus? Send it to [johndjones44@yahoo.com](mailto:johndjones44@yahoo.com)

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 Los Angeles, CA 90067  
 Phone: 310-440-4100  
 email [bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org](mailto:bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org)  
 Editor/Designer. . . . . Tom Lill  
 Managing Editor. . . . . Bob Shore  
 Contributing Editor. . . . . John Jones

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# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Mark Bartusek, Kitty Cooper, Mitch Dunitz, Ellis Feigenbaum, Ross Grabel, Margie Michelin, Rick Roeder, Mike Shuster, and Jon Wittes are panelists.

*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.*

# 1

IMPs  
None Vul

West	North	East	South
3♦	pass	pass	???

You, South, hold: ♠A10653 ♥J10653 ♦K ♣Q7

What call do you make?

*The hands for the December PSP came from a variety of sources. Thanks to all of you that send me hands.*

*This is a hand that came up in my morning practice session with Dave Pelka. I held this hand. I think it possible to choose any of the following: Pass, Double, 3♥, 3♠, or 4♦.*

**Feigenbaum:** 3♠: I don't like it, but basic rule of thumb is if I was going to open it at the 1-level I tend to bid over a preempt. This hand might be the exception.

**Shuster:** Pass. This is an eight-loser hand. The ♦K makes it unlikely partner is trapping, so if I were going to reopen, I'd try 3♥. If you double, you're stuck with whatever partner does, and 3NT or 4♣ would be quite unwelcome. Meanwhile, the vulnerability reduces the loss should the bad game we stay out of winds up a lucky make.

**Grabel:** Pass. Obviously, anything could work or go for a number. If I were going to bid, I would bid spades, but I certainly am not going to bid 4♦ to put both majors into play. If I can make something, I'll probably get too high.

**Dunitz:** Pass.

**Cooper:** Double. I hate to pass with 5-5 but I am not good enough to bid 4♦. Bidding 3♠ could miss a ♥ fit. I have some help if partner passes. Maybe it would be best to pass but I can't bring myself to.

**Michelin:** Double. I hate this hand, John! I am not good enough to bid 4♦, pick a major. I have bad suits and a bad hand. I should pass but I am going to say double. My partner will probably bid 5♣ of course and then I'll lose a partner.

**Bartusek:** Double. It's obviously risky, but I'm non-vul, so the number won't be that large. It seems right to attempt to get to a major suit fit (and possibly a cold game). Partner often won't be able to bid in direct seat due to holding diamond length. Let's hope partner doesn't bid 4♣.

**Wittes:** Double. If my king of diamonds and queen of clubs were in the majors, I might try 4♦, but I hate having half my values in my short suits, especially the king of diamonds. Pass might even be right, but with 5-5 in the majors, I can't resist taking some action.

**Roeder:** Double. I hear Rick Nelson singing "Fools Rush In"!

*This poor little fool selected double. Dave had a 3=4=3=3 11 HCP hand and bid 4♥, which would be touch and go, but likely making on a squeeze.*

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">2</h1> <p>IMPs None Vul</p>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>
	pass	1♠	3♦	4♦
	pass	???		
	You, South, hold: ♠Q8654 ♥AJ875 ♦A ♣A6			
What call do you make?				

*This is another of the practice hands I had with Dave. This time the presented hand was Dave's.*

**Shuster:** 4♥ for now. I'll cuebid 5♣ over 4♠, then slam if partner can bid 5♥. Looking for fitting honors is the best chance of stopping accurately. Keycard here doesn't solve much: it just forces us to slam opposite one key; but we also need a fitting heart honor. Even opposite great clubs such as KQJxx, we can't pitch enough heart losers away.

**Dunitz:** 4♥. Clearly forward going.

**Grabel:** 4♥. If partner bids 4♠ I will Keycard and make overtures towards a grand via a 5♥ or 5♠ response. If partner cuebids, I will again make overtures looking for seven.

**Wittes:** 4♥. My spades are not very good, but partner rates to have four trumps, and my controls outside the suit are terrific, so 4♥ is the least I can bid with this hand.

**Feigenbaum:** 4NT. It's a toss-up between bidding 4♥ which might give partner some useful options later in the auction or just bidding Keycard. I suppose it depends if I want to torture partner that day or not. Being close to the season of good will I will just bid a mundane 4NT.

**Cooper:** 4NT keycard. I'm depending on partner for good trump.

**Michelin:** 4NT. I have all the outside controls so I will just bid Keycard here.

**Bartusek:** 4NT. A lot of minimum hands from partner will make slam with potential heart and club finesses working. Thus, I think I have to take the bull by the horns when a sub-minimum like ♠AKxx ♥Kxx ♦xxx ♣xxx could actually score up +1010.

**Roeder:** 5♣. You cannot find out what you need to know in the Heart suit. Zia would approve as you wish to discourage a club lead in ♠.

*Dave found a highly creative call here. He bid 6♦. My hand was ♠AKJxx ♥Qx ♦x ♣KJ9xx and I bid 7♠, which would make with the heart finesse onside.*

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">3</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">IMPs E-W Vul</p>	South	West	North	East
	1♣	3♦	dbl	pass
	???			

You, South, hold: ♠Q6 ♥K73 ♦A94 ♣KJ1073

What call do you make?

*This hand was given to by Mike Savage, who played this hand online with Paul Ryan. The actual hand was matchpoints, not IMPs. Paul insisted that pass was clear. I agreed and used the hand but changed the conditions to IMPs to make the problem more difficult.*

**Grabel:** Pass. No guarantees here but I expect to beat this (or at least hope to!)

**Cooper:** 3♥ at teams with no joy. Pass at pairs. Looks like they won't have many tricks outside of diamonds and the vulnerability is so tempting. Maybe pass at teams is right too but the coward here wouldn't.

**Michelin:** 3♥. If they are vulnerable and we are not, sitting for double could be right, 3NT might make, but my partner would have to have great cards, which would make sitting tasty. However, it is IMPs and doubling them into game can be risky with only one diamond trick if I can't get a ruff and an ace. I think I'll bid a chicken 3♥ here.

**Roeder:** 3♥. Bidding 3NT is not only an overbid but is often a poor idea when the only stopper in the suit is the Ace. Pass is for thrill seekers who get off on hitting on 16.

**Feigenbaum:** 3♥. The broccoli bid. You don't have to like it; you just have to do it.

**Shuster:** 3NT. The diamond stopper can be withheld, so this rates to make. I'd be more tempted to pass on this pattern with the "wrong" diamond holdings for NT, such as QJ10. If partner's spades are bad, 3♦ doubled might even make.

**Dunitz:** 3NT.

**Bartusek:** 3NT. The vulnerability tempts me to pass and go for the throat, but I have a lot of "soft" values and partner might have a club fit. I can hold up in diamonds to break the opponent's communication in 3NT. West knows that he is vulnerable. Pass is a close second choice. Note that I'd pass if I knew my opponent was an aggressive preemptor (like some of the people on the panel ☺). *Gee, could he possibly be including me?*

**Wittes:** 4♣. A chicken bid, but I really have a good opening bid but nothing more, and unless partner has a 5-card heart suit or a lot of extras, 4♣ may be the extent of what we can make.

*Lots of things could be right. I'm still a passer, but think it is far riskier at IMPs than it would be at MPs. 3NT might work if partner has a little extra. But if you aren't going to pass or try 3NT, I like 4♣ better than 3♥. 3♥ could easily be a three – three fit.*

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">4</h1> <p>Matchpoints Both Vul</p>	North	East	South	West
	1♣	1♠	2♦	4♠
	dbl	pass	???	

You, South, hold: ♠void ♥AK ♦KQJ9854 ♣K743

What call do you make?

*This problem is an old problem from an East coast panel. Many calls received votes from the panel.*

**Cooper:** 4NT. Pick a minor, but what next? Raise to 6? *Now just a minute! I'm the moderator and I ask the questions! Panelists answer the questions and explain their reasoning. I get no respect!*

**Shuster:** 6♦. 2♦ did not create a game force. That means partner must act with extra values. Therefore, this double, while a penalty double, does not promise a spade stack. 6♦ rates to have play and can better withstand a bad break than a potential 4-4 club fit (and opposite ♦xx, there could be a diamond ruff lurking against clubs).

**Bartusek:** 6♦. I need to guess. Obviously, you didn't give me the diamond 10 in order to suggest that either clubs or diamonds might be the proper strain. Unfortunately, a 5NT pick a slam doesn't quite do justice to my great diamond suit (and a 4-4 club fit might not play well). Thus, it seems that 6♦ is the percentage spot despite partner's warning of wasted spade values. Perhaps I should cuebid 5♠, but I don't believe we can bid a grand with any confidence.

**Grabel:** 5NT. Pick a slam between clubs and diamonds. It may be wrong to give an option since partner could have something like ♠AQxx ♥Qxx ♦xx ♣Axxx and I may be able to pitch losing clubs in a 6♦ contract.

**Wittes:** 5NT. This should show a very good hand with long diamonds and a club fit. If partner has a perfecto, we could be cold for a grand, but the double scares me off a little.

**Michelin:** 5♠. I'll bid 5♠. This should be pick a minor suit slam. Again, my partner is promising spade cards so I could be off two aces, but I'll gamble if he is looking at the ♦A, ♣AQJx of clubs he can bid a grand. He knows I have hearts under control when I bid 5♠!

**Feigenbaum:** 5♠. If 5♠ means pick a minor suit slam I have a void in spades so if you have ♣AQJx and the ♦A that's what I bid. Absent that agreement I just bid 6♦.

**Roeder:** 5♠. 5NT might get you to the safest minor but you need to keep the possibility of a grand alive.

**Dunitz:** 5♠. This is forcing to slam - I doubt there is an intelligent way to explore, but this is what I'll start with.

*The diamond suit is strong enough that diamonds is the likely best trump suit and I would bid 6♦.*

*The following calls received panel votes from the original panel 31% = 5♠, 19% = 6♦, 12% = 6♣, 10% = 5♣, = 10%, Pass = 8%, 4NT, 5% = 5♦, 2% = 5NT.*

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">5</h1> <p>IMPs N-S Vul.</p>	East	South	West	North
	1♥	2♣	dbl	pass
	2♠	???		
<p>You, South, hold: ♠2 ♥AJ ♦K1074 ♣AK9873</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

*This difficult competitive situation has a couple of difficult questions. One question is whether this hand is worth another bid. Does the potential reward of acting outweigh the risk of acting? Another question is “if we elect to act, which bid is best”?*

*We’ll start with panelists who think that passing is prudent.*

**Feigenbaum:** 3♣. I don’t like the colors, but I think I am unlikely to get doubled at the 3-level, and I really don’t want to sell out to 2♠ with a hand that basically needs 2 clubs and the ♦J to make 3♣.

**Bartusek:** Pass. It’s very, very tempting to bid. I’d probably take the opportunity to back in with 2NT showing 4-6 in the minors at matchpoints, but it seems too risky vulnerable at IMPs. Even if they have an 8-card spade fit partner probably has at least eight (maybe nine) cards in the majors. East could be bidding on only a 3-card spade suit, and if the opponents are playing Flannery then East should have only 3-card spade support. I can easily see going for -500 or even -800 on some days of the week. Partner is still there, and might be able to balance with nothing in spades and some useful values. *If a pair is playing Flannery, should the double of 2♣ suggest five spades?*

**Wittes:** Pass. Partner rates to have at most four points and probably nine cards in the majors, so even though I have a good overcall, I’m going to reluctantly pass. Of course, if I were to bid 3♣ or even 2NT showing six clubs and four diamonds and a good hand, partner may now double them if they persist in spades (which they might do anyway without any further bidding from me).

**Roeder:** 2NT. Partner should be able to divine that this is not a natural bid even if undiscussed.

**Dunitz:** 2NT. Showing diamonds.

**Grabel:** 2NT. This seems clear. I want to compete, and this is the way to do it.

**Cooper:** Double. Takeout.

**Michelin:** Double. I have a good hand and my partner should have length in spades and we can set them. Doubling again should show diamond cards. Hopefully he won’t sit for it holding four bad spades.

**Shuster:** Double. 2NT is also possible, but this leaves partner the option of passing the double. This may yet be a 4-3 spade fit, and if so, they could be off three or more tricks.

*I think the point that double allows partner to pass occasionally is a key factor in deciding between double and 2NT.*