

Southern California

# Bridge News

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Robert Shore

### The Grand Slam Cup



With tournament play starting to resume in earnest, I thought it made sense to return to a proposal I've been wanting to push since the start of my first term, before the pandemic turned so much of our world upside down. In the tennis and golf worlds, most people recognize the importance of so-called "grand slam" events. As I write this, in fact, newspapers are prominently reporting that Rafael Nadal has set the record for most "grand slam" singles victories in men's tennis. I see no reason why the world of bridge (which originated the term "grand slam") can't enjoy similar marketing benefits from the concept, both within the bridge world and increasing our visibility to the outside world.

So this year's advertising for Bridge Week, the Summer's Best Regional, designates it as the first event in the Grand Slam Cup. The idea is to partner up with three other regionals (the Autumn's Best Regional, the Winter's Best Regional, and the Spring's Best Regional). We will track the points won by participants in the four Grand Slam Cup regionals. Much like the Mini McKenney Awards (though probably with different break points), the contest would be flighted, so that less experienced players have a chance for recognition in their own flight without needing to match the results of the top pros. The player in each flight who accumulates the most points in the Grand Slam Cup regionals would be recognized as that year's Grand Slam Cup winner in the flight.

I've been discussing this proposal with our neighboring districts (potential partners in the Grand Slam Cup) for a while now. Nothing is written in stone yet and we still need to reach agreement on a number of details, but I'm cautiously optimistic that

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## District Director Report

by John Jones  
former D23 Director



First, and most importantly, District 23 is NOT going away, nor being dissolved. There are essentially two things that have occurred. First, the District Director position (my position) was termed out and not renewed. There were a few other districts that lost their District Directors too. Approximately 1/3 of the District Director positions will be dissolved each year. The Board of Directors will eventually be the Board of Regents. There will be 13 Regions. Our Regional Director will be David Lodge. David is also the D22 Director (D22 was not termed out). I could have run against David, but I had only been the District Director for a short amount of time. Further, I trusted David will do an excellent job. Everyone that I spoke to about David had respect for David as a person and also as a bridge administrator. He has good ideas and thinks issues through well. Thus, I supported David in the election (he ran unopposed).

My ACBL email account has essentially gone away. I can get to some, but not all of the old messages, but not any of the new messages (they are supposed to be forwarded to my personal email, but

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we'll be able to reach an agreement in time to launch the inaugural Grand Slam Cup this year. I'll continue to report in this space as developments warrant.

### Grass Roots Events

The resumption of in-person play at our grass roots events marks another milestone in our continuing return to normality. A huge shout-out to MoJo for his efforts in organizing a successful North American Pairs District Final. I can't say it often enough. The world of bridge depends on volunteers. Without them, events simply don't happen. Even if you chose not to play North American Pairs this year, the next time you see MoJo, please take a moment to thank him for the time and work he is continuing to give to the game we all love.

Next up on the grass roots calendar is the Grand National Teams. We have tentatively scheduled the event for the weekend of June 11-12, 2022, at the Long Beach Bridge Club. As you may recall, our GNT Coordinator, Jeff Grotenhuis, did an amazing job last year under quickly changing and very challenging conditions to make it possible for us to hold that event at all. We are hoping this year for much less in the way of challenge and even more in the way of fun. The prize this year is the opportunity to represent our District in the National Finals at Providence, Rhode Island. Please let Jeff know that you appreciate his efforts.

### Upcoming Board Meetings

Our spring board meeting will take place via Zoom. The most likely date and time are 10:00 a.m. March 27, 2022, a week after the conclusion of the Spring Nationals. Our summer meeting will almost certainly be an in-person meeting on the Saturday evening of Bridge Week, which will be July 9.

Something you want me to know? Contact me at [Bob78164@yahoo.com](mailto:Bob78164@yahoo.com).

### DIRECTOR continued from page 1

they aren't being forwarded). My personal email is [johndjones44@yahoo.com](mailto:johndjones44@yahoo.com) and David's ACBL email is [district22director@acbl.org](mailto:district22director@acbl.org). If you received a rank advancement and want your bio in this district newsletter, send me an email and include a photo of yourself.

I will still be active in district politics. I remain a unit representative for Unit 559 (Pasadena), the District Youth Co-Ordinator, on the D23 Ethics Committee and the chair of the nearly defunct

handicapping committee. I recently worked with Jan Wickersham and Jordon Chodorow to help revise the D23 Bylaws. I recently suggested that the Monterey, San Diego, Long Beach and Ventura regionals be combined into a fun 'Surf and Sand' bridge competition, which would be independent of the Grand Slam Cup (you will hear more about both ideas in the future).

Thank you for letting me be your district director. If you need my help please email me.

## **The Director's Corner** *by David White*

*"Did you know that fourteen muscles are used in opening a bottle of wine? You have to exercise to stay healthy."*

### **Another Lesson in Becoming a Tournament Director**



Jean Molnar was the best . . . Period. After she passed in 2016, the annual award for the best Tournament Director was renamed in her honor.

A frequent discussion between Jean and myself was: "Who had the better prior life to prepare us to be a tournament director?" I had been a drill sergeant in the military; she had been a kindergarten teacher.

Jean had a paranormal ability that always amazed new TDs. She could teleport, physically move her body to any director call without traversing the space in between. Usually before the third syllable of di-rec-tor.

Jean's favorite warning to slow pairs was: "My mother always said every hand must be played the same day it was dealt."

Many of you may remember Gary Zieger, a crusty and grouchy director that I'll talk about in a future column. If you look up the word curmudgeon, most dictionaries will have Gary's portrait there. Gary celebrated no holidays. Jean would happily dress for any theme, at any tournament. During a holiday tournament when the directors were asked to wear red or green, Gary wore brown. Jean took it upon herself to convince Gary to wear something a little more

festive. Her powers of persuasion were rewarded when Gary came out wearing a red and green EARRING.

During one of the first tournaments I worked with Jean, I heard a blood-curdling scream of "DIRECTOR". (Yes most of my director stories start with a blood-curdling scream.) I looked up to see Jean wink into existence in front a very large (6'1" 400 pounds) and very red faced player. He was loud, agitated and his language was very blue.

I walked closer to the table about the time Jean asked the 'gentleman' to leave. He looked at me and asked if I was there to protect Jean.

"No, I'm here to protect you. She can be a real bad ass."

He looked down at Jean.

She pointed to the door.

He left. Not another word said.

#### Director's lessons for today:

1. Practice your rulings until you can give them smoothly and quickly.
2. Give the ruling and get out. Don't get into a dialog at the table.
3. Know when to shut up.
4. Have a 6'2", 240lb second director at your back.

Jean Molnar (Joan) (1943-2016) of Chula Vista CA was a tournament director, club director, TAP accredited bridge teacher, an Easybridge! Presenter and a Silver Life Master. She was a member of the National Goodwill Committee and received the Fred Friendly Award in 2004. Jean was a former kindergarten teacher which she feels was good preparation for this job. She got her nickname at a tournament when a player, trying to look like she was in the know, inaccurately identified her as "Joan."

## Notable Rank Advancements *by John Jones*

### **Dawn Lee – Ruby Life Master**



Dawn Lee has made Ruby Life Master. She was aided in this by her recently deceased boyfriend, Jeff Goldsmith. Jeff

was an expert bridge player who had many accomplishments in bridge. She credits Jeff with helping her learn many things in bridge. He played with her in club games, sectionals, and regionals. She credits him with being her "guiding light". Jeff helped her with reading materials, and tirelessly gave her bridge lessons until "they sank in". Jeff called Dawn an "incredibly lucky bridge player".

Her bridge career has varied due to other activities in life and how much time she had to devote to bridge. Her parents played so she was exposed to bridge at an early age. She played some in college. She played little for a while, but came back to bridge after her daughter was grown.

Dawn gives a lot back to bridge. She teaches at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club. She is currently the Vice President of the Beverly Hills Bridge Club. She received her "Best Practices Certificate" while at the Austin Nationals.

Outside of bridge she currently is a special needs teacher for the Santa Monica School District. Previous to being a teacher she had a career with IBM.

### **Dominique Moore – Diamond Life Master**

Dominique Moore made Diamond LM. Here is her story.



I was very lucky to have a very patient mom who taught me how to play bridge and who still insisted on being my partner even though I passed her in Splinter bids! After I left my mother's wing, I was again very lucky to have partners who were good friends as well as good players and who had enough patience to continue what my mother started, that is to play bridge and give me a love for it.

When I started playing bridge with my mom, she took me to one of her friend's houses where the "children" (I was 17) would have their own bridge table alongside the "grownups." We would try very hard to make the correct bids on our own but every now and then we would run to our moms for help which was always given with patience. On the other hand, the "children" did not have that kind of self-control and when we made mistakes playing the cards and we went down on cold contracts, we would throw

each other in the lovely but COLD pond in the back yard! I took more than my share of dips!

The moral of this story is, never give up and enjoy the game! Eventually, even after making so many mistakes and making even more mistakes still, you can become a Diamond Life Master!

I must admit that having a husband who is a brilliant bridge player also helped a lot. Even though we have a hard time playing with each other because of our temperament, Arthur has taught me a lot!

What really sped my reaching this Diamond LM level was actually COVID-19 and my being introduced to playing bridge online. I did not think I would like it at first but I started liking playing with friends online and also with the robots. The really good thing about robots is they are always polite, they do not yell or make faces at you, and they do not throw you in the pond!

### **Kyle Miller – Junior Master**



Congratulations to Kyle for making Junior Master, his first rank advancement. Good luck going forward Kyle! Here is his story.

I'm a 39 year old software engineer working in mobile gaming and I started playing bridge about 5 years ago. At the time I was playing a lot of online card games with friends, mostly Euchre, Canasta, and Sheephead. I prefer social games with real players, and all of those games were available to play online with other human players. Over time I decided I wanted to find something that had a bit more strategy like many of the board games I enjoy, so I decided to try to learn bridge on my own online. With the help of a few websites (nofearbridge, karen's bridge library, etc...), I was able to pick up the basics of the game enough to bid and play hands online. I played mostly sample hands on NoFearBridge and with robot players on FunBridge to build up my skills.

Over time, I started to realize the nuances of the game and learn about different bidding systems. I switched over to SAYC with the help of FunBridge's built in explanation of bids and a lot of online articles, and decided I wanted to find some other like minded folks to play with. At the time I was living in

Maryland and the local bridge club met on weekdays while I was at work, so I tabled that for a few years.

Fast forward to the COVID-19 shutdowns. I had lots of free time at home and decided to look for a local club and lessons. By reaching out to the Beverly Hills Bridge Club I was able to get a lot of great information on lessons, places to play online, and where to look for in person play. I've now been playing regularly over the last year, and after taking lessons from Dawn Lee, started playing on BBO.

I look forward to being able to play in person sometime in the near future, finding a regular bridge partner, and sharing this game with other peers in my age group.

## **A Message from Our Regional Director by David Lodge**

It seems appropriate that in my first article for District 23, I should introduce myself. I've lived in the San Fernando Valley since 1965. My wife, Nance, and I still maintain a home in Encino.

As with many of you, I got introduced to bridge in the early 60's at UCLA. And like most of us of that generation, life quickly became jobs, marriage and children with little or no time to play bridge. In 1980, after a separation from my first wife I went on a date to the closest bridge club, The Bridge Academy, which at that time was in North Hollywood. I never saw the girl again, but I was at least invigorated, if not totally hooked. In the "good old days" almost everyone still worked and all bridge was at night. After every game, some of the best players around, Tim Lolli, David Priest, Wafiq, Irv Costal, etc. would retire to a local pub and go over all the hands. There were no hand records and those experienced players never had to write anything down. They remembered the auctions, the leads and the declarer or defensive problems. It was a terrific re-introduction to duplicate bridge. And then there was Bridge Week in Pasadena. What a great time we had. In a single session pair event, I got 2 tops against Fred Hamilton. Of course it wasn't a very big thrill because I had no idea who he was. So for a five year period from 1980 through 1985, I played at night, 1 regional a year, 1 NABC in Reno and no sectionals. I "graduated" from that phase of my bridge life with a grand total of approximately 90 masterpoints. I can't be sure because in those days



we got paper chits that we were supposed to send in to have our mp recorded, but of course, I never did that.

In 1986, I re-met, (we had actually met in the late 70's when both our kids were on the same soccer team) Nance. And there went my bridge because we both had youngish kids and family life again became the priority. In the early 2000's, Nance and several of her friends decided they wanted to start playing bridge. That became the spark that got me re-involved. We already owned a weekend place in the Palm Springs area and that is where I met the friends who would get me firmly back into the bridge scene. One of my first memories was becoming the 5<sup>th</sup> at a Sunday Swiss when one of the players could only play in the morning. The team went 2 and 2 in the a.m. When Dick (approximately 3,500 mp) left and I took his place, Peter Knee approached our team to find out how many mp I had to make sure that the team with about 12,000 mp wasn't going to get bumped up to the next bracket because of my mp vs. that of the player who left. I had actually met Peter during my prior life and might have thought I continued bridge and had accumulated lots of mp. A chuckle when we announced I had somewhere around 90 mp. We won 3 out of the 4 remaining matches and came in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In 2013, I was asked to join the D22 Board of Directors. I served as Secretary, Treasurer for 5 years and President for 2 years. In 2017 I ran for the national BOD and the rest, as they say, is history. I was re-elected for my second 3 year term in 2020 and in 2021, with the ACBL reorganization of the national

BOD, I was elected to be the representative from Region 11, which is made up of Districts 22 and 23. If you're not familiar with this reorganization, the purpose of creating regions is only to have fewer people on the national BOD. We are reducing the number of members from 25 to 13 (the transition won't be fully effective until 2024). So D23 still exists with its own bylaws, treasury, corporate structure and tournament schedule. It is connected with D22 only for the purpose of choosing a representative to the national BOD.

When not involved in bridge, either as a player which is not often or as a volunteer, I'm lucky enough to have several passions. First is family with 4 kids and 6 grandkids (7<sup>th</sup> on way in 4 months). I've been fishing since I was 3 and still in love with being on or near the water. Golf has unfortunately gone out of my life but not so flying. I started in 1971 and still love everything about aviation. Oh, and yes, DOGS. We're never without and currently have 3½ year old Wheaton Terrier, Tillie, and 8 month old Bernadoodle, Teddy. Any good dog trainers out there will take on cute, sweet but absolutely incorrigible Teddy?

Until next issue when we start to talk about our great game, thanks for taking the time to let me tell you a little about myself. I hope that many of you will come to the NABC in Reno and to the next Region 11 regional in San Diego in early April.

Stay safe, stay healthy and enjoy our great game.

### District 23 Rank Changes December 2021

#### Junior Master

Barbara A. Barschak  
Raffi A. Bezjian  
Ronald Rudolph  
Scott Sale

#### Club Master

Clementina Fleshler  
Judy K. Martin  
Gloria Orecklin  
Richard E. Parker  
Arthur B. Wallace  
Tracey Whitney

#### Sectional Master

Regi F. Block  
Caryn Mason

#### Regional Master

Susanne Hollis  
Suzanne K. Wilcox

#### NABC Master

Susan J. Briest  
Tomoko Y. Stock

#### Life Master

Bunnie Adler  
Charles E. Laine  
Ramesh Sawhney  
Lillian Slater

#### Bronze Life Master

Ramesh Sawhney

#### Silver Life Master

Madhu Sudan

#### Gold Life Master

Richard Gliksman

#### Diamond Life Master

Dominique C. Moore

#### Emerald Life Master

Adrienne D. Green



**ACBL Pacific**  
SOUTHWEST REGIONAL

APRIL 11-17, 2022

**Tournament Co-Chair:** Lenny Aguilera • [lenny.aguilera@acbl.com](mailto:lenny.aguilera@acbl.com)  
**Bill Grant:** • [billgrant@acbl.com](mailto:billgrant@acbl.com)  
**Director:** Sam Wasservall • [Sam@acbl.com](mailto:Sam@acbl.com)  
**Partnership Chair:** Kathy Jones • [kathy.jones@acbl.com](mailto:kathy.jones@acbl.com)

**Tournament Highlights**

- 6 satellite teams to separate Sunday Swiss
- Knockout Teams: Thursday and Thursday
- 4 satellite teams, Monday, Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday
- Open IMP Pairs & Swis
- Swiss & Pairs: Saturday & Sunday
- Saturday & Sunday: 20 & 21 Tuesday evening
- 20 & 21 Thursday & Friday are satellite
- All of the teams in the tournament are playing
- 22 Countries & 500+ Competitors
- Local tournament

**San Diego Mission Valley Marriott** • 8757 Rio San Diego Dr, San Diego, CA 92108 • 619-692-3800

**Side Game Series**

Mornings, Tuesday through Saturday	10:30 a.m.
Afternoons, Tuesday through Saturday	3:15 p.m.

**Intermediate/Newcomer Events**

IMP Reception Monday	10:30 a.m.
IMP Lesson with Viki Gilliam	11:30 a.m.
Monday Charity IMP Pairs (single session)	2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday Mentor/Mentee Side Game	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday-Sat 0-300 Pairs (single session)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

(0.5 IMPs ACBL members Play Free on Tuesday)

**San Diego Mission Valley Marriott**

**Bridge Raker \$139** Reservations: 800 328-9790 or 619 692-3800  
 Mention ACBL for this special rate • Reserve by March 21

Your credit card will be charged (non-refundable) for one night at Hotel Bridge Raker  
 for reservations cancelled within 77 hours

Parking: \$8 for hotel guests & local attendees

Resort Fee Waived at Check-in • Free Guest Room Wi-Fi

Reserve Hotel Rooms online at [www.d22acbl.com/san-diego-regional](http://www.d22acbl.com/san-diego-regional)

**Be advised that applicable Safety Protocols will be in place.**  
 Check D22 website for up-to-date information: [www.d22acbl.com](http://www.d22acbl.com)

**San Diego Mission Valley Marriott** • 8757 Rio San Diego Dr, San Diego, CA 92108 • 619-692-3800

**Knockout Teams**

Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout Teams (4 sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
Thursday-Friday Knockout Teams (4 sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

**Bracketed Teams**

Monday Bracketed Charity Teams (2 sessions)	2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bracketed Teams (2 sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
Friday Bracketed Teams (2 sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
Saturday Bracketed Teams (2 sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
Sunday Bracketed Teams (2 sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

**Swiss Teams**

Tuesday thru Saturday Swiss Teams (single session)	3:15 p.m.
GNP Teams Friday & Saturday (4 sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

GNP Teams information on District 27 website: [d22acbl.com](http://d22acbl.com)

**Pairs Games**

Monday Charity Pairs & 0-300 Charity Pairs (single sessions)	2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday thru Saturday Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday Saturday Open Pairs (2 sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
Tuesday thru Saturday 0-300 Pairs (single sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
Tuesday Mentor/Mentee Pairs	7:30 p.m.
Friday IMP Open Pairs (2 sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
Sunday Fast Open Pairs (2 sessions)	10:00 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

**Card Fees:** \$15 per person • Unpaid ACBL Members \$4 Extra  
 Juniors 25 & under \$7 • Monday Charity Bracketed Swiss Teams \$128/Team



APRIL 11-17, 2022



# Pacific

## SOUTHWEST REGIONAL

### Monday, April 11

Monday Charity Pairs (single session) ..... 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.  
 Charity Bracketed Teams (2 sessions) ..... 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.  
 0-300 Charity Pairs (single session) ..... 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 a.m.

### Tuesday, April 12

Side Game Series (single session) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Open Pairs (2 sessions) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 0-300 Pairs (single session) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Tuck-Wood KO Teams (1 & 2 of 4 sessions) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session) ..... 3:15 p.m.  
 Mentor/Mentee Pairs ..... 7:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, April 13

Side Game Series (single session) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Open Pairs (2 sessions) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 0-300 Pairs (single session) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Tuck-Wood KO (1 & 2 of 4 sessions) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Bracketed Teams (2 sessions) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session) ..... 3:15 p.m.

### Thursday, April 14

Side Game Series (single session) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Open Pairs (2 sessions) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Tuck-Wood KO (1 & 2 of 4 sessions) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 0-300 Pairs (single session) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session) ..... 3:15 p.m.

Website: [www.d22acbl.com/san-diego-regional](http://www.d22acbl.com/san-diego-regional)

### Friday, April 15

Side Game Series (single session) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 IMP Open Pairs (2 sessions) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 0-300 Pairs (single session) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Tuck-Wood KO (1 & 2 of 4 sessions) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Bracketed Teams (2 sessions) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 GNT Teams All Flights (1 & 2 of 4 sessions) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session) ..... 3:15 p.m.

### Saturday, April 16

Side Game Series (single session) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Open Pairs (2 sessions) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 0-300 Pairs (single session) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Bracketed Teams (2 sessions) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 GNT Teams All Flights (1 & 2 of 4 sessions) ..... 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session) ..... 3:15 p.m.

### Sunday, April 17

Fast Open Pairs (2 sessions) ..... 10:00 a.m. & Playthrough  
 Bracketed Teams (2 sessions) ..... 10:00 a.m. & Playthrough

### Strats/Brackets

Open Pairs: 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+ (Strats by average)  
 Stratified Events: 0-750/750-2000/2000+  
 Gold Rush Pairs: 0-200/200-400/400-750  
 Swiss Teams: 0-750/750-2000/2000+  
 Bracketed Teams by Average MP:  
 KO Teams will not be handicapped  
 GNT Teams: 0-500/500-1500/1500-4000/6000+  
 Mentor/Mentee: Mentor Minimum: 1000  
 Mentor Maximum: 500, NLM

## The Puzzle Page

### Bridge Jeopardy by John Jones

#### Category: Husbands and Wives

#### And the answer is ...

\$100 – They lived in Israel for a while. They co-authored the Partnership Bridge Column for the ACBL Bulletin and have co-authored several books including: Conventions at a Glance, Tops and Bottoms, Forgive Me Partner, A Switch in Time, and For Experts Only.

\$200 – They married in 1923. He was called the Barnum of Bridge, promoting the game tirelessly. They invented and promoted an approach forcing system. She invented the Grand Slam Force convention (sometimes called Josephine). They played as partners in the Bridge Battle of the Century. They founded the Bridge World magazine in 1929.

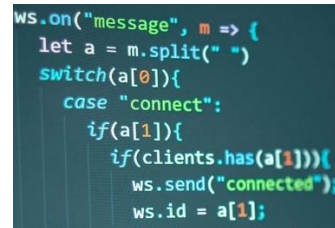
\$300 – They married in 1972. She won four World Championships, and was the second woman to play in the Bermuda Bowl. She wrote Bid better, Play Better and also Winning Declarer Play. She is credited with inventing splinter bids and the DOP1 convention. He was the New York Times Bridge Editor for 41 years and authored 13 bridge books including The Great Bridge Scandal exposing Reese and Shapiro's cheating.

\$400 In Kansas City on September 29, 1929 in a home bridge game, the following occurred: She overbid to 4♠. He played it poorly and went down two. She criticized his play. He slapped her. She shot him. He died. (She was amazingly acquitted). *[Editor's note: but she did have trouble finding bridge partners, thereafter.]*

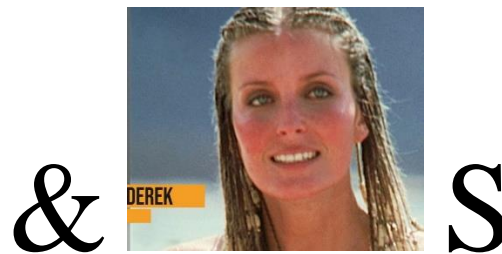
\$500 - They met in Sydney, Australia in 1961 after he moved there from England. They co-authored the book: Precision Our Style. They are the only husband and wife pair to ever play together in the Bermuda Bowl.

### February Rebus

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



IXs



### Play or Defend? by John Jones

#### Angela Suggests a Sub

This is a slightly different format than I have previously used. In this case, the Play or Defend column comes with a story. However, the story indicates you are supposed to select “Play” and find your way home. The Angela in the story is not my partner Angela Chen (although she is an angel), but a fictitious angel.

You live a good life. You are good to your spouse, take in stray dogs and work hard at your job. You study bridge, are kind to your partners and play a tough game. You play in a major team championship and make a grand slam on a nice line of play. You compare with your teammates and find that your grand slam was just enough to bring your team home with the big win. Congratulations!

Then... poof... you are holding hands with an angel while flying through the clouds. She states “Hi, I’m Angela. Your time is up, and you are headed to heaven. You’ll like it there; they have good bridge



games. By the way, nicely played on that last slam you played on earth; your line of play was very clever." You ask "Do you play bridge?" "Sure, sometimes I'm a guardian bridge angel. You should see this Rueful Rabbit that I take care of."

You check into heaven and the angel takes you to a bridge game. She says "This is an interesting match. St. Catetan (the Patron Saint of Gambling), has a match with a bunch of demons. One table is finished, and at this table North-South have to bid and make a game for heaven's side to win. Go sit at the end of heaven's bench.

The angel speaks to Catetan and they look at the Viewgraph, which is positioned where you can't see it. The viewgraph displays:

♠ AK3  
♥: 82  
♦ A8753  
♣ AJ4

♠ 5  
♥ K63  
♦ 642  
♣ KQT972

The bidding has gone:

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	2♣	Double
4♦	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

*Opening lead = Queen of Spades*

Catetan looks distressed, and Angela asks what the problem is. "Well, they bid a game, but the wrong one. 3NT by North is ice cold, and 3NT is a good contract even from the wrong side. The heart ace is certain to be wrong, so declarer will go down in this contract. I can't believe they bid so poorly".

Angela answered "But 5♣ might be makeable".

Catelan exclaimed "Stop right there, you can't help. We agreed there would be no guardian angel interference."

Angela exclaimed "No, it's probably makeable on the actual layout, even with the heart ace wrong."

"Who's supposed to make it? Not these clowns who can't even bid it right. I have a substitution left (the rules of the allow subs in the middle of a hand), but who?"

"Let me make a suggestion" Angela said. "The new player on the end of the bench played in District 23. You know how great bridge is there! Give the newbie a try. You might be pleasantly surprised."

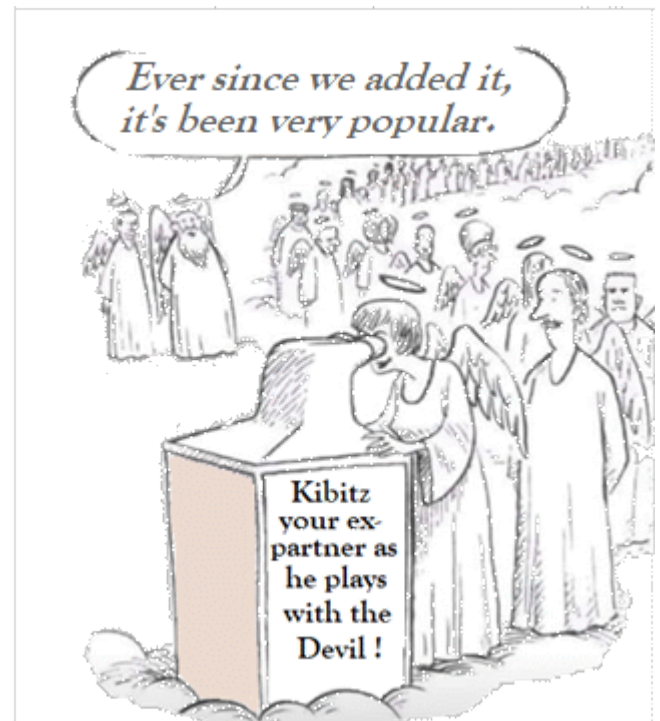
Catelan points at you and says "You're in. Go make 5♣".

Can you uphold the honor of D23 and make 5♣?

(Solutions to these puzzles are on page 8.  
No peeking!)

☺ ☺

Submitted by John Jones:



☺ ☺

## Solution to “Play or Defend?”

As stated in the problem, you are playing, of course.

The key play is to duck the opening lead. Depending on the continuation (a trump shift is probably best), you win (in hand on a trump shift), cash the diamond ace and the AK of spades pitching declarer's little diamonds. Now ruff a diamond high in declarer's hand. Cross to a club in dummy and ruff another diamond high. If diamonds were 3-2 and clubs were 2-2 or 3-1 then you can pitch two hearts on the long diamonds. Well played! You upheld the D23 honor, made Angela look good and made a friend in Catelan.

## Bridge Jeopardy Questions

- 100 – Who are Pamela and Matt Granovetter?
- 200 - Who are Josephine and Ely Culbertson?
- 300 - Who are Dorothy and Alan Truscott?
- 400 – Who are Myrtle and John Bennett?
- 500 - Who are Norma and Jim Borin?

## Solution to “Rebus”

“Coded 9s and 10s”

Have a good bridge rebus? Send it to [johnjdjones44@yahoo.com](mailto:johnjdjones44@yahoo.com)

## NAP Photo Gallery



A1: Finn Kolesnik – John Ramos

## North American Pairs District Final Results

### Flight A



### Flight A Underway

1. John Ramos – Finn Kolesnik
2. Robert Shore – Kevin Lane
3. Jordan Chodorow – John Jones
4. Steve Gross – Ellen Anten

### Flight B



### Flight B and Flight C Underway

1. James Alstad – James – Heltsley
2. Jack Chang – Zheng Zhang
3. John Meek – Ginger Boykin
4. Bruce Schelden – Mori Taylor



## Flight C

1. Paulette Burkitt – Terry Clougherty
2. Deborah Downs – Rami Razouk
3. Barry Sinsheimer Jeanne Sinsheimer
4. Julie Spore - Gavin Spore

## NAP Photo Gallery



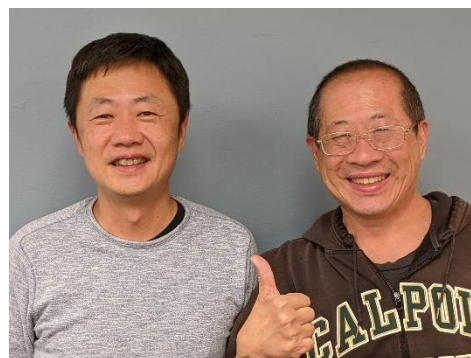
A2: Kevin Lane – Robert Shore



A3: John Jones



B1: James – Heltsley – James Alstad



B2: Jack Chang – Zheng Zhang



B3: John Meek – Ginger Boykin



C1: Terry Clougherty – Paulette Burkitt



C3: Jeanne Sinsheimer – Barry Sinsheimer



## 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:** February 5, 10:00 a.m., Ontario  
March, 5, 10:00, Upland  
**Team Games:** February 15 and 18, La Fetra  
**Club Championships:** February 8 and 11, La Fetra  
**Unit Game:** Saturday February 19, 11:00 a.m., Glendora  
**Unit Board Meeting:** 10:15 a.m. before the game

Please note, to participate in the team games, you must sign up in advance. Otherwise, it takes a miracle to get an exact multiple of four players for the games.

I got word from the ACBL too late to do anything in January, but this year I will be able to run 6 more Club Championship games, in addition to the 4 we are already entitled to, and 2 Upgraded Club Championships. I figure on running the 10 ordinary championships 1 per month, skipping January and December. One idea the little grey cells (warning, I've been rereading my Agatha Christie collection) came up with is to alternate pairs game and the team games as championships. I'll work the upgraded games in somehow. I can't really give a firm schedule yet, since

I don't know (yet) when the STaCs will be scheduled. I could run a team game during STaC week, which would upgrade the paltry payout the ordinary team game gets.

Non-bridge observation: in rereading my Christie collection, I continually run across amusing sentences. Remember, Ms Christie published her first novel in 1920. Here's a good one (not an exact quote) from an early novel: the girl (remember, back then, "girl" was an acceptable synonym for "young woman") was wearing a daringly short skirt, providing a good view of her ... ankles! Wheeeeeeeee!

Winner of the January Individual was Roger Boyar. Donald Logsdon was second, Clint Lew third, and Dan Robinson tied for fourth with Peter Kavounas.

The flyer for our upcoming (let's *hope*) Bridge Week Regional next July is now available at [acbl.org](http://acbl.org). Watch for the flyer to appear in an upcoming SCBN.

In another very competitive January Unit game, Clint Lew – Milt Kalikman took top honors with a 60.42 effort. Bill Papa – Mary Ann Wotring were second, Amr Elghamry – Lulu Minter third, Peter Kavounas – Dan Robinson fourth (but 1<sup>st</sup> in flight B), and Yours Truly – Hanan Mogharbel wrapped up the honor roll.

Three rank advancements this month, a rarity! Richard Parker and Art Wallace are now club masters, and Caryn Mason has reached Sectional Master status. Congratulations, all. You may recall, these three scooped up some nice points in Rancho Mirage.

The top game at La Fetra in January was ... wait for it ... believe it or not ... posted by Karen McCarthy and Yours Truly, with a 68.75% effort. (I'm pretty sure, in all the years I've been writing this column, that I've *never* before topped the monthly leader board. Oh well, blind squirrels and acorns, as you know.) Other top finishers in the pairs games were Caryn Mason, Mary Ann Wotring, Lulu Minter, Fredy Minter – Roger Boyar, Vic Sartor, and Bill Papa. Winners of the January team game (we had only one due to a scheduling foul-up) were Caryn Mason, Art Wallace, Richard Parker, and new ACBL member Patrick Finley.

BTW, if you missed the reference to a “chair” last month, here’s the story. I was playing in a Sectional tournament with a visitor. Towards the end of a long session, I opened in fourth seat with 1♠. Partner bid 2♥. Hmm. I had a doubleton heart and a sturdy 14-count, so if partner has anything reasonable, 3NT may be in the cards. Maybe even 4♥! So I plopped 2NT on the table. All pass. I don’t recall the opening lead, but when dummy hit the table, so did my jaw:

♠ xx ♥ KJxxxx ♦ xx ♣ xxx.

The contract, needless to say, was not a great success. After the session, I was jawing with the Director, the late, great George Winter. When I related this sad story to him, he gave me some sage advice: “Never make invitational bids when playing with a chair.” *C’est ça, par exemple.* (I *did* warn you about my recent reading.)

Here’s an interesting hand submitted by former Unit member Ho Ming Yim:

West deals, neither side vulnerable

		<u>North</u>	
		♠ A J 10 8 6	
		♥ 3	
		♦ A 9 8 7 6	
		♣ 10 5	
<u>Ho Ming</u>		<u>Robot</u>	
♠ 5 4		♠ K Q 2	
♥ A 10 8 6 5 4		♥ J 2	
♦ void		♦ 10 5 3	
♣ A K 9 7 2		♣ Q 8 6 4 3	
		<u>South</u>	
		♠ 9 7 3	
		♥ K Q 9 7	
		♦ K Q J 4 2	
		♣ J	

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

Yes, I’m afraid it’s another of those semi-balanced hands I’m so fond of.

In Hi Ming’s words: The only “interesting” thing about this hand is the distribution. Bidding and defense by NS were both horrible. I assumed 2♥ was a limit raise in spades. If North leads ♠A, then the spade

entry to the dummy is already established for two hooking two rounds of trump. However, if North leads any diamonds, it forces the declarer to trump twice on the diamond and equalizes the length of the trump stack. Declarer loses control of trump and will eventually lose the contract. To defeat the contract, it needs to be a diamond from the start. Also, I wonder if North lead clubs because he misread South’s double as Lightner double, i.e., lead the dummy’s second suit.

And now I will chime in.

I’m not too sure N-S’s bidding was “horrible,” but it could have been better. North has a perfectly reasonable 2♥ (Michaels) bid available. That would allow them to find either 4♠ or 5♦, which if doubled go for only 100 or 300, respectively. And if they were going to defend as they did ...

It’s the defense I strongly object to. First of all, a Lightner double (usually) calls for the lead of dummy’s *first* suit. But dummy has not shown a suit, really; he (well, OK, “it”) has only shown support for clubs and tolerance for hearts. And, leading a doubleton rarely leads to a good result when the leader doesn’t have trump control. And did North really think E-W had 11 clubs between them?

So, what should North lead? It really boils down to “which ace?,” right? South’s limit-raise-or-better did *not* promise the ♠K; indeed, unless the robot is suffering from a severe under-voltage, *it* should have the King. So the ♦A seems clear. No? Your comments are invited. (But I have a sufficient quantity of rotten tomatoes, thank you.)

I have another one for you ... but since it is also a semi-balanced hand, I’ll save it for another time.

Quote for the month: “Results! Why, man, I have gotten a lot of results. I know several thousand things that won’t work.” (Thomas Edison)

## Downey – Whittier by Liz Burrell

After struggling to have enough players for a sanctioned game since December, the Board of the Downey-Whittier Bridge Club made the difficult decision two weeks ago to cancel our games through the end of February.

At that time we will review our options. We cannot survive very long as a club when expenses exceed income.

During the first two weeks of January we had one game with 2 ½ tables and one with 3 tables. A few of our members were absent after having been exposed to the virus, some were caring for spouses, and a couple actually had CPVOD. We just did not feel we could ask people to come to our club under the circumstances.

We hope to be past the worst of this pandemic by March and that things will slowly get back to normal, whatever that is. If anyone has ideas or suggestions to encourage people to come back to the bridge table, we would certainly appreciate your sharing them. If any of you find yourselves with nothing to do on Wednesdays after March 1, we would love to have you join us. Game starts at 10 a.m. and meets at the Downey Woman's Club, 9813 Paramount Boulevard, Downey.

If you have suggestions, questions or comments, please email me at [lizburrell7@gmail.com](mailto:lizburrell7@gmail.com) or call at 562-972-2913.



## Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

### Unit 556 Board Nominations

Are you looking for adventure of a new and different kind? Unit 556 is seeking members who are interested in serving on the Unit Board in 2022. This is an opportunity to give back to the Santa Clarita and Antelope Valley bridge community, meet new friends, and have an impact on changing things for the betterment of Unit bridge players.

If you wish to self-nominate, please contact Ruth Baker ([rbaker1243@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rbaker1243@sbcglobal.net)) or Beth Morrin ([morrin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:morrin@sbcglobal.net)).

Nominations must be received by March 10<sup>th</sup>. Our annual meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 AM via Zoom.

### Virtual Game Schedule

Monday:	12:15 PM	Open game
Tuesday:	10:15 AM	749er game (cost is \$5)
	6:15 PM	Open game
Wednesday:	10:15 AM	749er game (cost is \$5)
Thursday:	10:15 AM	Open game
Friday:	12:15 PM	Open game
Sunday:	12:15 PM	749er game
	12:30 PM	Open game

**Contact our club manager at**  
**[paula@pacbell.net](mailto:paula@pacbell.net) for reservations. Our games**  
**cost \$3 unless it is a special game series.**

### Special games for February:

February 12-13: Valentine's Weekend, 2x regular club points, 50% red 50% black, no extra charge!

February 21-27: Educational Foundation Week, 2x regular club points, black points, extra \$1 per entry.

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

Mon. Dec. 20			
N/S	Paula Olivares – Bill Brodek		60.49%
E/W	Gerard Geremia – Rae Murbach		67.75%
Tues. Dec. 21			
N/S	Lulu Minter – Ernest Wong		57.41%
E/W	Ruth Baker – Roy Ladd		69.44%
Thurs. Dec. 23			
N/S	Bud Kalafian – Robot		72.50%
E/W	Ruth Baker – Bob McBroom		70.83%
Fri. Dec. 24			
N/S	Bud Kalafian – James Rozzell		59.03%
E/W	Gerard Geremia – Rae Murbach		63.54%
Sun. Dec. 26			
N/S	Amr Elghamry – Gerard Geremia		64.35%
E/W	Sharon Wolf – James Rozzell		60.83%
Mon. Dec. 27			
N/S	Ruth Baker – Robot		63.05%
E/W	Carol Tenda – Gary Tenda		70.03%
Tues. Dec. 28			
N/S	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky		63.49%
E/W	Amr Elghamry – Dominique Moore		58.33%
Thurs. Dec. 30			
N/S	Mira Rowe – Ron Oest		60.90%
E/W	Carolyn Cohen – Dominique Moore		63.34%
Fri. Dec. 31			
N/S	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky		72.22%
E/W	Jan Ladd – Roy Ladd		56.06%



Sun. Jan. 2  
 N/S Brigitte Tetzner 62.90%  
 E/W Mira Rowe – Ron Oest 62.15%

Mon. Jan. 3  
 N/S Judy Feder – Genise Hasan 59.72%  
 E/W Ruth Baker – Roy Ladd 65.87%

Tues. Jan. 4  
 N/S Amr Elghamry – Dominique Moore 68.06%  
 E/W Helen Wang – Genise Hasan 58.33%

Thurs. Jan. 6  
 N/S Jeff Grotenhuis – Morris Jones 61.11%  
 E/W Carolyn Cohen – Dominique Moore 59.49%

Fri. Jan. 7  
 N/S Gerard Geremia – Rae Murbach 71.43%  
 E/W Bill Brodek – Robot 64.86%

Sun. Jan. 9  
 N/S Roshen Hadulla – Bill Brodek 63.70%  
 E/W Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky 69.44%

Mon. Jan. 10  
 N/S Jacqueline Stultz – Bob Becker 64.69%  
 E/W Diana Borgatti – Carolyn Cohen 63.13%

Tues. Jan. 11  
 N/S Ruth Baker – Roy Ladd 61.11%  
 E/W Julie Hanson – Angela Peters 65.43%

Thurs. Jan. 13  
 N/S Maria Marvosh – Robo t 63.66%  
 E/W Joseph Viola – Gerard Geremia 60.19%

Fri. Jan. 14  
 N/S Diana Borgatti – Cathryn Martin 70.83%  
 E/W Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky 66.32%

Sun. Jan. 16  
 N/S Kathy Flynn – Robot 65.28%  
 E/W Diana Borgatti – Rae Murbach 60.42%

Mon. Jan. 17  
 N/S Genise Hasan – Kiran Kumar 59.59%  
 E/W David Khalieque – Tomoko Stock 62.25%

Tues. Jan. 18  
 N/S Amr Elghamry – Dominique Moore 62.85%  
 E/W Bill Brodek – Robot 66.32%

Thurs. Jan. 20  
 N/S Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky 71.26%  
 E/W Joseph Viola – Gerard Geremia 79.57%

Fri. Jan. 21  
 N/S Roshen Hadulla – Aggi Oschin 63.12%  
 E/W Steve Shanker – Sharon Wolf 64.81%

Sun. Jan. 23  
 N/S Diana Borgatti – Cathryn Martin 65.28%  
 E/W Kathy Flynn – Bob McBroom 67.01%

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

Tues. Dec. 21  
 Glen Drogin – Robot 72.22%

Wed. Dec. 22  
 Glen Drogin – Robot 65.97%

Sun. Dec. 26  
 Bob Becker – Robot 61.90%

Tues. Dec. 28  
 Sofi Kasubhai – Robot 66.67%

Wed. Dec. 29  
 Jackie Moor – Harry Randhawa 66.67%

Sun. Jan. 2  
 Margaret Shifley – Jerome Paul 60.32%  
 Lisa Walker – John Walker 63.49%

Tues. Jan. 4  
 Aggi Oschin – David Khalieque 62.50%

Wed. Jan. 5  
 Sofi Kasubhai – Robot 58.57%

Sun. Jan. 9  
 Steve Mancini – Michael Connell 65.00%

Tues. Jan. 11  
 Thomas Beggane – Robot 61.11%

Wed. Jan. 12  
 Maria Marvosh – Robot 63.89%

Sun. Jan. 16  
 Glenda Zelichov – Michael Zelichov 64.63%  
 Steve Mancini – Michael Connell 63.05%

Tues. Jan. 18  
 Aggi Oschin – David Khalieque 61.57%  
 Margaret Shifley – Jerome Paul 61.11%

Wed. Jan. 19  
 Lisa Walker – John Walker 70.00%

Sun. Jan. 23  
 Paul Brunton – James Gates 58.68%  
 Kenneth Peyton – Michael Connell 57.99%

Next Board meeting: TBA in April, via Zoom.

## Pasadena – San Gabriel

### by Morris “Mojo” Jones

bridgemojo.com



We had two great unit games in January, with 11½ tables on the 9th, and 11 tables on the 23rd.

Winners on the 9th include **Fredy Minter** and **Lulu Minter** N/S and **Stan Kosowski** and **Harish Singh** E/W. On the 23rd it was **Marie Nimmrich** and **Diane Gulbrandsen** N/S with **Arthur Moore** and **Dominique Moore** E/W.

We're planning another two unit games in February on the 13th and the 27th. The game on February 13th is also Super Bowl Sunday, but the unit game will be over about 4:00, with game kickoff at 3:30. That should be the perfect time to get back home, start up the game on the DVR, skip the commercials, and catch up to the live finish by the end of the game.

Space is limited for our unit games! Reservations are required. We've come close to running out of tables on previous Sunday afternoons. Please contact Miriam Harrington at (626) 232-0558 to reserve a seat. Remember that proof of vaccination is required, and masks must be securely in place throughout the game -- noses and mouths covered please! Please don't use thin cloth masks, or masks with ventilators. Send a picture of your vaccination card to Roy Wilson [unit559webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:unit559webmaster@gmail.com). I believe we're close to putting this all behind us, and I don't want to drag it out.

We've had real difficulty balancing the seeding of our unit games. On the 23rd we had nine flight A pairs playing N/S, and one playing E/W. This really makes it difficult to have a fair bridge game. We're going to have to insist that A pairs who can move from table to table play E/W, saving the stationary seats for those who truly cannot move without extreme difficulty.

This is not just a problem at our club. The most experienced bridge players are also the ones with the most mobility problems, for obvious reasons! I know a lot of players like playing N/S for the convenience, but that can't be an option, for the sake of the game. If you are requesting a N/S seat, please

let Miriam know that you are unable to play E/W. "I don't like to play E/W" is not a valid reason.

We have two new Regional Masters, **Susanne Hollis** and **Suzanne Wilcox**. Special congratulations to new Life Master (and Bronze Life Master) **Ramesh Sawhney**. **Madhu Sudan** is a new Silver Life Master. Marking a major milestone is **Dominique Moore** as a new Diamond Life Master. Congratulations all!

Mark your calendars for our next unit games, reservations required!:

- February 13, 12:30 p.m., Arcadia Bridge Center
- February 27, 12:30 p.m., Arcadia Bridge Center

#### Southern California Bridge News

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# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Mark Bartusek, David Chechelashvili, Jordan Chodorow, 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  
Both Vul

East	South	West	North
4♥	???		

You, South, hold: ♠A3 ♥A10 ♦AQ1094 ♣A1098

What call do you make?

*This problem was given to me by my friend Rae Murbach. Rae passed at the table since no bid seemed right and she didn't want partner to advance 4♠ over a double. Partner would have bid 4♠, which makes 10 or 11 tricks depending on the lead and play. The hand makes 5♦ from partner's side, but could make 6♦ from your side if you guess well. Rae's pass netted 45% of the matchpoints. I considered double, but told her I would bid 4NT. I now think that was wrong, and I lean towards double. One of the difficulties on this hand is that if you double and partner tries 4♠, is the delayed 4NT minors or is it Blackwood?*

**Bartusek:** Pass. Yuck. I have to roll the dice. A double fetching a 4♠ response from partner is untenable. Let's just collect maybe +200 on defense. At least this way I can tell people that our esteemed moderator poses problems which make me pass on 4 out of 5 problems.

**Chodorow:** 4NT. Double will not achieve anything good. Partner is not passing. I'm not passing his 4♠ response. Double followed by 4NT would be keycard. Double followed by 5♦ would overstate the diamonds and lose clubs. The club texture is rich enough to play opposite one honor, making it easily the equivalent of a poorer five-bagger. 4NT is the down-the-fairway bid you want when confronted with such a preempt.

**Wittes:** Double. I'm too good for any other action. If partner passes, fine. If partner bids 4♠, I will bid 4NT.

**Chechelashvili:** Double. The real problem is what to bid if partner bids 4♠. 4NT after 4♠ might be taken as RKC, so I believe the best is to pass hoping for the best. Unlikely that partner will bid 4♠ with just four spades, unless she is 4=1=4=4 or similar, so I will hope she has five or six spades and we will make based on the sheer power of the combined hands. After all, it is matchpoints. Any other bid from partner and I know what to do. Double has an added benefit that partner can pass, although I admit that based on vulnerability and my holding in hearts, it is unlikely.

**Roeder:** Double. Catering to partner having a terrible hand and passing or bidding 4NT (two places to play). If partner bids 4♠, the world has not ended. My follow up would then be 5♦. I would be thrilled if a 4NT follow up would be minors but, in real life, my guess is that partner would interpret as RKC.

**Shuster:** Double. Hopefully partner can find a pass here, but if worst comes to worst and he bids 4♠, I'll put my trust in my best suit and bid 5♦. This is hardly bullet-proof, but does give our side the best chance to find slam. Or to defend. If partner bids 5 of-a-minor, I'll try for seven with 5♥. Partner, aceless will need just about everything else to go, which is fine.



**Michelin:** Double. My answer would have to be dependent on our partnership agreements of double here. If double is takeout, I can't do that. If double is penalty and partner bids 4♠ with cards and long spades (not a 4-card suit) then I may pass. If I bid 5♦ over their expected 4♠ advance I may miss 5♣. 5♦ is unilateral but could be the winning call. 4NT takeout for minors is probably a slight underbid; they did bid 4♥ vulnerable. So, the diamond finesse rates to be off and partner will most likely play me for at least 5-5. I'd rather play my 5-2 spade fit at the 4-level than a 4-3 club fit at the 5-level. Without knowing our agreements, I would venture double and see what happens and then try to make an intelligent decision after I see what partner's bid is. This question makes me want to pretend I never got the panel questions.

<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">2</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Matchpoints Both Vul</div>	East	South	West	North
	pass	pass	1♣	dbl
	1♦	dbl*	1♠	2♠
	pass	???		
	* No agreement			
	You, South, hold: ♠ 9832 ♥ KJ87 ♦ Q762 ♣ 10			
	What call do you make?			

*This hand comes from the D23 Flight A NAP held recently. I was playing with Jordan Chodorow. To be fair, there had been a discussion of low-level doubles. I believe that the exact statement I made was “most low-level doubles are for takeout.” Jordan believed that there was enough of a discussion to have something of an understanding, while I wasn’t sure what to think. (Isn’t bridge an easy game?) I knew that a penalty double was in line with expert standard, but that general takeout and even 4-4 in the majors were played by some pairs. With the three possibilities looming, I made what I thought was a 100% cuebid (since my hand was unsuitable for a penalty double of 1♠) to try to gain more information. Jordan thought I had spades and a minimum and passed. I’ll start with Jordan, who is answering from a perspective that he did think he knew what the double meant based on discussion.*

**Chodorow:** Pass. John is giving my hand from the D23 NAP-A final. He wasn’t sure what my double showed, but it’s not quite accurate to say “no agreement.” We do have an overarching agreement that “when in doubt about the meaning of double, assume it is not penalty.” So, the doubt should be resolved in favor of my having shown both majors (the optimum use for this specific double), and any major bid should be natural. I have nowhere to go. More interesting to me is what to bid over West’s 1♠ with John’s ♠KQ ♥A652 ♦AJ4 ♣AQ43. If John wanted to make an unmistakable cuebid, of the three possibilities, I would have thought it would be 2♣; it’s possible he has primary diamonds or spades, but it’s not possible that he has primary clubs.

*The rest of the panel didn’t have that information and some were confused because they knew that a double of 1♦ was almost universally played as penalty to stop psyches and free bids on four small. I further confused some of them by stating “No agreement” instead of just leaving the meaning of the double out.*

**Shuster:** 4♣. It’s close to just bidding 3♠, but the stiff club could easily be the key to the city, and my spades could hardly be better on this auction. Lacking agreement, double of 1♦ was penalty. I would have bid 1♥ instead (especially if there was any doubt about the meaning of double).

**Wittes:** 3♣. Could West be shrewd enough to psych 1♠? I’ll bid 3♣, then partner can tell me their intentions with the 2♠ bid. If they bid 3♥ or 3♠ I’ll raise.

*Think knowing partner’s style is important? The next panelist has played with me some during each of the last six decades.*

**Bartusek:** 3♥. Seems normal to show my other suit (since my double showed diamonds). I assume partner would have doubled 1♠ with real spades. *Bingo! But note that it took a cuebid to stop Mark’s using his constant green cards! Maybe the Green Party was paying him to advertise?*

*And my most regular current partner.*

**Roeder:** 3♥. You have already shown values with your questionable double of 1♦. I see nothing extra. When the opponents offer a new suit at the 1-level, I believe it best to play double as showing the suit. Otherwise, a psych is too difficult to expose. *Another bingo!*

**Chechelashvili:** 3♥. It looks like partner has 18+ HCP with a missing spade stopper. She can easily have four hearts, so I will show my 4-card heart suit now. I hope this bid also shows spades and denies 5 hearts, as otherwise why did I Double instead of bidding 1♥ previously?

**Michelin:** 3♥. Having no agreement in this situation is confusing when partner makes a takeout double and the opponents bid a suit in front of me. The double of 1♦ is penalty for me. I only have 6 HCP, so I would have bid 1♥. So now that I doubled for you either as

penalty or as both majors. Partner didn't double the 1♠, so the 2♠ bid must be forcing. Again, I want to not answer these questions! I'll bid 3♥; since I didn't bid 1♥ the first-time partner should not play me for more than four. If he thought I showed both majors he can go back to spades; if he was looking for a club stopper, I don't have one. If he was looking for a diamond stopper and thought I had both majors, he could have bid 3♣. I am bidding 3♥ and expecting nothing good to happen.



<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">3</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Matchpoints E=W Vul</div>	East	South	West	North
	1♥	1♠	pass	pass
	2♥	pass	pass	dbl
	pass	???		
You, South, hold: ♠KQ973 ♥K1098 ♦5 ♣K42 What call do you make?				

*This is another hand from the D23 NAP. Jordan's hand turned out to be ♠xx ♥x ♦AQxxx ♣Jxxx. On the actual hand declarer in hearts is cold for 8 tricks and might make 9 tricks. The actual declarer would have been Lance Kerr who likely would have made nine tricks. Again, I'll start with Jordan, who knows the hand.*

**Chodorow:** Pass. John was in a tough spot here. By the Rule of 9, it's just short of a conversion: 2 level + 4 trumps + 2 trump honors = 8. But I'll treat the KT98 as three honors, not because I expect three tricks from it but just because the hand looks nauseating for offense and quite appetizing for defense. My balancing-seat double was a bit lighter and less perfectly shaped than it might have been, and West (the non-bidding West in the diagram) was lying in wait with a nice hand, doubling John's 3♣ with queen-doubleton of hearts and AQ985 of clubs. John got out for -1, which has to qualify as a Best Played Hand of the Year nominee, but this was a 33% board even though they make 3♥ per the hand record (I'd be happy making two in real life). I'll stick to my guns and pass even though I know it means minus something-seventy.

*The rule of 9 Jordan referred to is a Mel Colchamiro Rule. "To use the rule, add the level of the contract, the number of the trumps, and the number of trump honors held including the ten. If this sum is nine or more, pass the takeout double for penalty". The rule worked on this hand, although I confess to never thinking of it when I am making a decision. I thought partner was likely to be about 5-5 in the minors with two spades (no 2NT balance) and a weakish hand. I thought it likely that Tom Reynolds (sitting behind me) would likely double 2♠ which would activate his partner into making penalty doubles also. So, I bid 3♣ directly.*

**Shuster:** Pass. It's MPs, so I'll go for 200 here. I don't like partner's auction - if he passed 1♠ because he was afraid of the misfit, then what makes him think the 3-level is ok?

**Chechelashvili:** Pass. It's matchpoints, they are red and I have at least 3.5 tricks on defense. Partner rates to be 2=1=5=5 with approximately 8 to 10 HCP, so we have to be really unlucky for it to make. Picture Partner with ♠xx ♥x ♦Jxxx ♣AQJTx. Also, I believe West should have no entries at all which will make it even harder for East to play.

**Wittes:** Pass. I hope partner isn't too weak to enter the auction at favorable vulnerability. Partner rates to be 2=1=5=5 or 2=2=5=4. With the first hand 3♣ could be right, but my heart texture is just too good not to try for at least +200 at match points.

**Bartusek:** Pass. This seems dangerous, but it seems percentage in the long run (and no other action promises a likely plus score). Partner didn't bid 2NT demanding a minor suit takeout, so should be fairly balanced knowing that I might pass it out. A sample construction for partner might be ♠xx ♥xx ♦KJxxx ♣AJxx. Obviously, I'm leading a club.

**Roeder:** 3♣. Partner did not have enough ammo to bid over 1♠. To punish partner for enterprise by passing 2♥ doubled is a form of masochism best left to the BDSM section of pure porn.

**Michelin:** 3♣. Partner does not have hearts and did not bid 1NT and does not have spades. He didn't have enough HCP or tolerance for spades to bid, but has values in the minors. I do have at least two heart tricks on defense, but no aces. I will bid 3♣. Partner can ask for heart stopper if they think 3NT is a choice. They were probably trying to protect my hand. I have to admit, sitting seems tasty instead of a part score, but it's likely the aces are in the opener's hand and my partner doesn't have trump to ruff spades. They may make 2♥. I am sticking with 3♣.

<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">4</div> <div style="text-align: center;">IMPs N-S Vul</div>		<u>East</u> 1♥	<u>South</u> ???	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>
	You, South, hold: ♠10862 ♥AQJ10 ♦AQ10 ♣108				
	What call do you make?				

*This problem was submitted by panelist David Chechelashvili. David was also a panelist last month and voted for double on the hand from last month that will be repeated as problem 5 this month (see below). Here is David's story.*

**Chechelashvili:** Pass. I'm not sure if I am supposed to say this on a panel, but this is the hand from recent JLa15 round robin. I am very aggressive when fighting for partscores even at that vulnerability, so I doubled. This did not end very well - 2♣ doubled down two. Partner had ♠Jxx ♥xx ♦xx ♣Jxxxxx. The opponents, Jeff Hampson and Eric Greco defended flawlessly as expected and took their trumps separately ruffing in each hand. It might look like the opponents have 3NT, but it is hard to make if I pass (lack of communications). At the other table, Bobby Levin passed with my hand and as expected 3NT went down 1. So, probably fighting for a part score at this vulnerability is not right, unlike on board 5 (next problem).

*And now for the player who introduced me to David many moons ago.*

**Bartusek:** Pass. My apologies, I don't understand the problem.

*Maybe their partnership didn't last long?*

**Chodorow:** Pass. Loose lips sink ships. Am I supposed to bid an understrength 1NT (the top of the range being higher on a NT overcall, especially of a major) with my only source of tricks East's five-or-more-bagger? Double and 1♠ are unthinkable. When the opponents' bid suit is your best suit - let alone by far your best suit - any doubt should be resolved in favor of passing.

**Roeder:** Pass!!! One of Phil Read's legendary 36 Rules: "When your RHO bids your best suit, you pass." *These rules do exist:*  
<https://www.lajollabridge.com/Bailey/topics/appendix2.htm>

**Wittes:** Pass. Too much concentration in opener's suit, and not enough to take any other action at this time. Let's see how the auction proceeds.

**Shuster:** Pass. He bid my suit. I know a few juniors who would bid 1NT here, but my preference is to bid game very aggressively opposite a 1NT overcall. (*Finesses have a strong tendency be successful in this situation*). Do we want to be in game opposite a random 8 count? ♠Qxx ♥xx ♦Jxxx ♣KQxx say? I don't think so.

**Michelin:** Pass. I guess if I were Mark Itabashi or Mike Cappelletti or Kenny Gee, I would overcall 1NT but I am not them, so I pass.

5

Matchpoints  
Neither Vul.

East	South	West	North
1♦	dbl	pass	2♣
Pass	???		

You, South, hold: ♠A654 ♥AKQ7 ♦973 ♣K8

What call do you make?

The panelists received the following instructions. \* This is a follow-up to problem #5 in last month's PSP. The majority of the panel (8 of 11 panelists plus the moderator) preferred double. So, if you don't like the double, please feel free and say so. But please answer the current problem as if you had been called to fill-in and the double had already occurred.

*I'll start with the panelist who suggested last month that he would bid again after doubling.*

**Shuster:** 2♥. I have the values for a double-and-bid, so passing 2♣ is out. A 4-3 (or maybe even 4-2) heart fit will play just fine and hearts scores more than clubs if both are making. I tell my juniors that any hundred honors suit including the ace can be treated as one longer than it is. AKQx is as good as AQJT, right?

**Wittes:** Pass. When this hand was given last month, I agreed with the double, and said I would reluctantly pass if partner bid 2♣, so I'll stand by that.

**Chechelashvili:** Pass. My bid from the last panel was: "Double - what else?" When I made this double, I took it for granted that my next bid in response to partner's probable 2♣ is pass. When you double on hands like this, you must be prepared to play on 5-2 or even 4-2 fits, although partner should have a very specific hand to bid 2♣ instead of a 1NT. Like ♠xx ♥xxx ♦xxxx ♣Qxxx. This is the worst hand where we probably go down one in 2♣ while 1♥ is making. The question is will they allow to let us play 1♥, or they will bid and make their 1NT?

**Bartusek:** Pass. With insufficient assets for game and an apparent misfit we need to stay as low as possible. Any additional bid by me would grossly overstate the value of the hand. Hopefully partner has a 5-bagger.

*Yes, partner will frequently have a 5-bagger to bid 2♣, especially if doubling on this hand is your style. Chris Hitchcock, a great proofreader, mentioned to me that he knows that Eric Rodwell and Jeff Meckstroth have an agreement to double on hands of this shape, and try to have five cards in clubs if they advance 2♣ in this auction.*

**Roeder:** Pass. Once you made the reasonable decision not to overcall 1NT, you have made your bed – even if partner thinks you are a sloppy bedmaker.

*One panelist from last month didn't like the double then and still doesn't.*

**Chodorow:** Pass. There is no recovery from the double. There is only prayer and the rationalization that partner had to bypass a lot of bids to pull out 2♣.

**Michelin:** Pass. I may not have made a takeout double. I might have overcalled 1♥. We can still find spades if I chose to double later. I'll play my partner for at least five clubs since he/she couldn't support a major. They also didn't jump in clubs showing 9+ HCP. I pass.