

# Bridge News

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Robert Shore



### The Bridge Week Pro-Am

Bridge Week is rapidly approaching, and as usual, we will kick it off with our customary Pro-Am game. This is an opportunity for “amateurs” (our usual cut-off is non-life masters) to play a session with a more experienced player, for nothing more than the price of card fees. In addition, we will, also as usual, precede the game with a lecture. Grand Life Master Marjorie Michelin will speak on “The Setting Trick.” Lunch will also be provided.

There is a flyer elsewhere in the *Bridge News* with more details. This is a wonderful opportunity for pros and ams alike. Many of our most notable players willingly contribute their time to this event, so any “am” who signs up has a chance to partner with a grand life master and a national champion. Any pro who signs up will, at a minimum, get some free bridge. Much more importantly, our pros get the opportunity to give back to the game we all love by serving as a role model for good partnership conduct. Don't miss this fulfilling opportunity.

### Honoring Eddie Kantar at Bridge Week

By now, many of our readers probably know that one of the most recognizable and beloved members of District 23, Eddie Kantar, passed away in April. Eddie's talents were truly remarkable. I believe he still holds the distinction of being the only person ever to play world championships in both bridge and table tennis. July 6 will be “Eddie Kantar Day” and we would like those to share memories that afternoon. Please send any photos to Margie Michelin at [michelinonbridge@aol.com](mailto:michelinonbridge@aol.com), and make plans to join us.

### Grand National Teams

Our District's Grand National Teams event will take place at Long Beach on June 11 and 12. I

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## Regional Director's Report

by David Lodge



“You continue to screw around with masterpoints while Rome is still burning.” This was a short, cryptic message sent to me recently from a Region 11 member. I'm not sure what the intent was, but, this person got the part about changing masterpoint formulas right. We hear a lot from our club owners. Virtually all of them that are struggling to maintain their face to face clubs tell us that if we can modify mp awards to give relatively more to f2f play, they can attract more players back to their game. On the other hand, many club owners that are realizing substantial income from virtual play tell us that online players are here to stay and that diminishing importance of online mp will not spur f2f play but will hurt virtual players and the clubs serving them. Management and the BOD are trying their best to listen carefully and take steps that we hope caters to both camps and promotes the return to play by lapsed members.

Several years ago, the BOD created a Master Point Committee. The purpose was to take some of the minutiae of masterpoints off the BOD meeting agendas. The MP committee has made a suggested change which has been approved by the BOD.

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want to strongly encourage our junior players to form teams and play. I want to encourage you to play *even if you have no intention of going to Providence for the National Finals*. If the winning team chooses not to go, that opportunity is simply passed down to the next team in order.

There are a few reasons this is such a wonderful opportunity. First, the master point payoff (including gold points) is massive. For our non-life masters, this is a chance to collect a huge haul without needing to play more experienced players. Second, it's a local opportunity to play IMPs, a form of scoring that is much more similar to "traditional" bridge than is matchpoints, against your peers. Most local clubs don't offer very many team games, and those that do exist usually don't have enough tables to separate the more experienced players into their own flight. That's even true of many sectionals. This means that Grand National Teams is your best opportunity to play this common form of scoring against other players who, like you, are still mastering the intricacies of our game. Third, although even a two-team event has a large payoff, the payoff becomes even greater if more teams participate. Fourth, if we have enough teams in Flight B and Flight C, two teams from those flights will have the opportunity to represent us in Providence.

But I've left off the most important reason of all. It's the reason we all play. I encourage you to play Grand National Teams because, win or lose, you'll have a great time. Give yourselves a chance to have that experience.

Upcoming Board Meeting

Our next Board meeting will take place in person. It will occur at Long Beach on July 9, 2022, after the conclusion of the afternoon session. Make your plans now. We'll send an e-mail around about a week in advance asking folks to RSVP so that we know how many people we'll need to feed at the meeting.

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

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Starting as soon as we can accommodate the change from a computer programming perspective, the basis for awarding mps at clubs will be based on 18 boards. If a club decides to run a f2f 18 board game, the award will be calculated as we currently do it. For any games with boards played that exceed 18, the award will be

proportionately increased. So if your club runs a 24 board game, the award will be increased by 24/18 which equals 1 1/3.

As many of you know, regional and sectional attendance continues to fall well below pre-pandemic numbers. As an incentive to draw more players back to tournament play, the Overall awards (not the section awards) will be increased by 20%.

The league ran an experiment early this year called the Royal STAC. This was a regular f2f club STAC but all points awarded were given 25% to Gold, Red, Silver and Black. The experiment was so successful, that it's been extended and each district will have another opportunity to run a Royal STAC during the last 4 months of this year.

With respect to virtual play, 2 significant changes have been adopted. Currently, 4 mps is the maximum that can be earned in a regular (non-special) game. Of course this maximum is based on there being at least 40 tables in play. This includes the open tables and limited game tables. This 4 mp maximum is in effect at virtual games. Because of the ease with which virtual games can attract 40 tables (pooling, large consortiums, etc.) it is felt that the 4 mp max is excessive. Starting July 1, the max mps awarded at virtual clubs will be reduced to 2.5. The second significant change has to do with the visitor policy. The policy will no longer be enforced at clubs which have less than 50 tables per week.

Last month, I talked about EDGAR, a new anti-cheating software application that is being developed. Progress is ongoing but slow. The developers have hired some high level statisticians to test the software and insure that false positives are nearly impossible to occur. In the meantime, the league is processing claims at an increased pace. An assistant recorder has been hired to assist the National Recorder. By the way, nearly all claims of improper play have to start with a Player Memo, a downloadable copy of which is on the ACBL website. If you observe odd behavior, please take the time to fill out the Player Memo form. In and of itself, it may result in no action, but it will reside in player's file. To the extent that multiple memos appear in a players file, it is likely that an investigation will ensue and if appropriate, a charge will be filed.

We're getting close to the great D23 Long Beach Regional. I hope that all of you have it on your calendars. I'm looking forward to seeing you there. Stay well and keep safe!

## The Director's Corner by David White

N E S W  
1♣ P 1♠ P  
2♣ P 4♠ P  
P ?

### Illegal, Could be Unethical, Maybe Annoying, Absolutely



Here are a couple of those little things in F2F games that aren't specifically against the rules, but could be; and are certainly annoying to partners, opponents, and directors alike.

Making notes before leading. The player on lead puts down his hand, picks up his pen and convention card, writes down the contract and notes about the bidding, picks up his hand and re-sorts it. He then studies the hand for too long, picks a lead, and asks if there are any questions. For the thirty seconds to a couple of minutes that the leader was documenting the hand, the other players were forced to stare at the far wall and contemplate the sad state of world affairs.

Make a lead first. Write the great American novel in your convention card while the other players examine the dummy. What really is annoying is when this player gets behind and says that they play quickly. They may play quickly, but it takes them too long to get to the point where they are actually playing.

Asking questions at the wrong time. You can ask questions at your turn to bid or play with one exception. If you are in the pass out seat and your partner would make the opening lead as in the following auction....

Out of the 2,300,000,000,000,000,000,000 possible bridge hands you could hold, there is no hand that would justify bidding at the 5 level after passing twice. Why do you need to ask questions about the auction now? While the Laws allow you to ask questions, the only purpose for asking any at this point is to influence your partner's lead. That is unethical. [Editor's note: not to mention, illegal. Please refer to Law 20.G.1.]

Not saying hello when getting to a new table.  
Just plain rude.

Playing Sudoku while dummy. Also rude, and we actually have a law against not paying attention to the game.

Unsolicited, long, rambling, 'alert' explanations. If the opponents don't ask, you don't tell. While the name of a convention is not an explanation, I try to include the name in my explanation. i.e. "Puppet Stayman, partner is looking for a five card major." Or, "New Minor Forcing, partner has five cards in his major."

Requesting long, rambling, 'alert' explanations. You are entitled to a description of the convention, not how or when to play it.

Following some of these simple guidelines will make your game go faster and smoother, and make your director a happier person.

### District 23 Rank Changes April 2022

#### Junior Master

Alison Bosdet  
Denise L. Botsford  
Patrick G. Finley  
Dennis Higley  
Oded Tajkef  
Patricia M. Warner

#### Club Master

Camille D. Gardner  
Sandra L. Marsh  
Kyle S. Miller  
Scott Sale

#### Sectional Master

Phyllis M. Meyers

#### Regional Master

Lynda W. Gordon

#### NABC Master

Janelle Morton

#### Bronze Life Master

Cheri S. Bitar  
Ronnie H. Loeser  
Beebe J. Moorhead

#### Silver Life Master

Michael S. Abeles  
Jeffrey Hartmann  
Emma Kolesnik  
Joan C. Oliver  
John Vacca

#### Gold Life Master

Fern S. Dunbar

#### Sapphire Life Master

Dwight B. Hunt

#### Diamond Life Master

Joel P. Schiff





# DISTRICT 23

## Grand National Teams Finals

June 11th and 12th 2022

Long Beach Bridge Center

sanction #220633

### Swiss Qualifying

Saturday, June 11 @ 10 am  
and  
Saturday, June 11 @ 3 pm

### Knock Out Finals

Sunday, June 12 @ 10 am  
and  
Sunday, June 12 @ 3 pm

National Finals will be held July 13-July 17 during  
Summer Nationals in Providence, Rhode Island

\$17 per team member per session. Teams play  
2-4 sessions. If winners do not attend finals, second place finishers  
will have the right to attend.

### Point Limits and Conventions

Points as of August 6, 2021

Championship: Unlimited, Open + chart

Flight A : 0-6000, Open chart

Flight B : 0-2500, Basic + chart

Flight C : Non-LM < 500, Basic chart

### Maximum Masterpoint Awards

May be less, depending on game size

Championship Flight: 48.00 Gold

Flight A : 40.00 Gold

Flight B : 33.50 Gold

Flight C : 20.00, 50% Gold, 50% Red

### Event chair

Jeff Grotenhuis • District 23 GNT Coordinator  
email: jeffgro@gmail.com • cell: 310-600-4275

Conditions of Contest may be found at:  
<http://www.bridgewebs.com/acbl23>



# The Puzzle Page

## Bridge Jeopardy by John Jones

**Category: Bridge Fathers and Sons (give the last name in the question)**

And the answer is ...

- \$100 – James and Oswald (Ozzie).
- \$200 – Mike Jr. and Mike Sr.
- \$300 – Brad and Mike.
- \$400 – Richard Jr. and Richard Sr.
- \$500 – Kevin and Michael.

## June Rebus

Well, can you figure out what this says?



## Play or Defend? by John Jones

North

- ♠ Q 8 3
- ♥ A 7 3 2
- ♦ 9 7 2
- ♣ Q 9 6

West

- ♠ J 9 7 4 2
- ♥ 6 4
- ♦ K J 5 4
- ♣ J 3

East

- ♠ K 10 6
- ♥ K 5
- ♦ Q 8
- ♣ 10 8 7 5 4 2

South

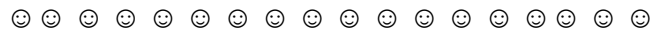
- ♠ A 5
- ♥ Q J 10 9 8
- ♦ A 10 6 3
- ♣ A K

Contract = 4♥

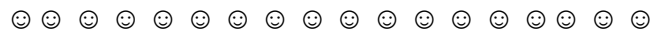
Opening Lead = ♠4

All players can see all the cards. Do you play or defend?

(Solutions to these puzzles are on page 7.  
No peeking!)



Submitted by John Jones:



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## LONG BEACH REGIONAL JULY 4-10



### **FREE WORKSHOP - JULY 4**

**"The Setting Trick"- Defensive Tips for Success!**

**10:30 -12:00 INCLUDES LUNCH**

**To register: email [dalia.hernandez@gmail.com](mailto:dalia.hernandez@gmail.com)**

**By Marjorie Michelin - Grand Life Master**



### **1:00 PRO-AM GAME**

**PLAY WITH A PRO FOR ONLY \$15**

**To register or questions, Contact Dalia Hernandez 562-221-1398**

**[dalia.hernandez@gmail.com](mailto:dalia.hernandez@gmail.com)**

**LONG BEACH HILTON -701 WEST OCEAN BLVD.  
LONG BEACH, CA**





## Solution to “Play or Defend?”

Answer: Play. You will obviously need to decline the unlucky line that attempts to put up the spade queen and win the ace at trick one. You would then cash the ♣A and ♣K and attempting to pitch on the ♣Q after playing a heart to the ace. That is a rational single dummy line that doesn't work here.

To make the contract, win the opening lead in hand, leaving the ♠Q in the dummy. Take the losing heart finesse at trick two. East will win, but has a dilemma. If he cashes the ♠K, that sets up the ♠Q in the dummy, and the black queens will both provide diamond pitches (using the ♥A as the entry). But if East doesn't cash the spade king and plays any suit except spades (a diamond shift is a good try) you are in control.

On a diamond shift you can win, cash both high clubs and enter dummy with the heart ace. Now you can pitch the losing spade on the queen of clubs, losing only two diamonds (fourth round of diamonds gets ruffed in dummy).

This hand comes from Julian Pottage's wonderful book Defend or Declare

## Bridge Jeopardy Questions

- \$100 – Who are James and Ozzie Jacoby?
- \$200 – Who are Mike Jr. and Mile Sr Cappelletti?
- \$300 – Who are Brad and Mike Moss?
- \$400 – Who are Richard Jr. and Richard Sr. Pavlicek?
- \$500 – Who are Kevin and Michael Rosenberg?

## Solution to “Rebus”

“Rubber Bridge”

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

## NAP Qualifiers Begin

June, July and August are when clubs can hold qualifiers for the annual North American Pairs tournament.

This year, as last year, players can qualify either at face-to-face clubs or online VACB virtual clubs. Qualifying games are announced by club managers. Contact your club manager for dates and times. Only designated NAP Qualifier games will count for qualification to the district final.

Club qualifying games award extra masterpoints, half black, half red. ACBL charges a small additional sanction fee to raise money to send the district-level winners to compete against the other districts at the Spring NABC in New Orleans.

The North American Pairs is really three tournaments: Open (Flight A) includes all eligible ACBL members. Flight B includes players with fewer than 2,500 masterpoints. Flight C includes non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 masterpoints. Your masterpoint holding at the end of May, 2022 (reported on June 6 and the July Bulletin) determines your flight -- so even if you go over 2,500 or 500 after May 31, you remain eligible for Flight B or C throughout the tournament.

For each scheduled weekly game, clubs may hold two qualifying games each month.

The district final will qualify players to compete in New Orleans at the NABC in March, 2023. Date and location for the district final will be announced soon.

Please review the full Conditions of Contest at the ACBL web site: <https://www.acbl.org/nap-qualifiers/>. District 23 NAP director is Morris Jones. Email questions to [nap@bridgemojo.com](mailto:nap@bridgemojo.com).

## Bridge Wisdom

from “Bridge Faux Pax,” by Joe Blatnik

Two reasons for not leading partner's suit:

1. You don't have any.
2. You're looking for a new partner.

## 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, nothing from Long Beach this month.*



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

**Individual:** June 4, 10:00, Ontario  
July: NO GAME

**Club Championships:** June 7 and 10, La Fetra

**Unit Game:** Saturday June 18, 11:00 a.m., Glendora

**LONGEST DAY:** Friday June 24, 8:45, La Fetra

**Unit Board Meeting:** 10:15 a.m. before the game

The May Individual was a real squeaker. Clint Lew was first by ½ matchpoint over Yours Truly, possibly because YT bid an optimistic grand slam that j.u.u.u.u.s.t missed coming home. Paul Chrisney was third, again by ½ match point. Gary Atwell was fourth, Barbara Andryjowicz fifth.

Unfortunately, there won't be a July Individual. To quote a certain famous Mr. Howard, *"I'm a victim of soicumstance!"* What with the Independence Day holiday and the returning Bridge Week Regional – not to mention some family business the Director just *must* attend to – there's no good date for the durned thing. We'll return in August. Yes this is only the June issue, but I figured I'd give you some advance warning.

And, speaking of early, be aware that I've already registered us for the STaC (silver points) in July. We'll hold games on 7/26 and 7/29.

In the May Unit game, Linda Tessier – Clint Lew edged out Hanan Mogharbel – Yours Truly by ½ matchpoint. (Do you see a trend here? *Sigh!*) Paul Chrisney – Steve Andersen were first in flight B.

*However* .... I must confess to being disappointed at the turnout for our game. Three tables only! Our worst attendance, *ever*. (Well, we had a 3-table game once before, but that was when there was a problem with the electricity at our playing site, and we had to punt on third down ...) I had thought there might have been a tournament in the area somewhere, but that was not the case. There were a lot of tournaments being held that weekend ... but the nearest was in Reno, Nevada. Not exactly local.

So were we y'all gotten to? Attendance at La Fetra has been reasonably close to pre-pandemic levels. Are we doing something wrong? YOUR Unit doesn't actually show any profit from the unit games – usually we show a small loss, but we're happy to be keeping duplicate bridge alive here in the Inland Empire. But three tables ... it's hardly worth holding the game, at that attendance level.

If there are changes you'd like made – we are OF COURSE open to suggestions from our members. But I, for one, cannot read minds. And the Elder Wand is not available ...neither is the One Ring ...

We have once again signed up for The Longest Day. We will hold a single-session fundraising game on Friday, June 24, 8:45 a.m. (our normal start time). ALL funds received are donated to the Alzheimer's Association. The entry fee for this special game – awarding extra masterpoints – will be \$7. If you can't make the game, but wish to donate, please visit <http://act.alz.org/goto/unit551>.

Just one rank advancement this month. Patrick Finley has taken the first step upwards, to Club Master.

Topping the charts in April were Fredy and Lulu Minter, at only 71.07%. Others placing first were Clint Lew, Linda Tessier, Margie Hall, Linda Ananea, Ken Vagadia, and Glenn Hornberger.



There don't seem to have been many interesting hands over the last month. So, here's that semi-balanced hand I held back a few months ago. You are in second seat, no one vulnerable, RHO opens 1♥. You hold:

♠ A106532 ♥ A ♦ 9 ♣ AJ1098.

Michaels could be right – spades and a minor, don't you know? – but with six spades, let's see what develops after a 1♠ overcall.

LHO raises to 2♥, partner is silent (so what else is new?), and RHO goes game, 4♥. Hmmm. Your three aces look good for defense, but where do you expect to find trick 4? On the next deal, perhaps. So let's try 5♣. Pass, pass, double! All pass. Partner comes down with

♠ J8 ♥ 873 ♦ K J 10 ♣ K7532.

Making 5! RHO has a stiff club so you were *not* beating 4♥. Well done! (It's not certain where RHO found that double, holding 2=5=5=1 shape and 12 HCP, part of which was ♠Q7. Oh well, if you don't bet, you can't win, right? But not this time.)

Quote for the month: "I'm going to stop asking "How dumb can you get?" People seem to be taking it as a challenge. (seen on a T-shirt)

## Downey – Whittier

by Liz Burrell

For some reason, my articles don't seem to be getting to the right place lately, at least not consistently. Apologies for the goof-ups ... the fault is entirely mine.

As we reported last month, some changes were made at Downey in an effort to increase attendance at our once-robust club. The price reduction to \$8 started Wednesday, April 6 and our second Potluck was held May 18. Attendance hasn't increased as we had hoped but we will continue the price reduction and Potluck for at least another month. Next scheduled Potluck will be June 15. Mark your calendars!

All of you are undoubtedly familiar with the campaign called "The Longest Day" sponsored by ACBL in support of the Alzheimer's Association. It is held during the week which encompasses June 21, the longest day of the year. This year, it is June 20-26. During that week, ACBL donates card fees from clubs

across the US and Canada to raise money for research and treatment of Alzheimer's Disease.

For the first time, our little club is working to raise money for this very worthwhile cause. We can't hold 24-marathon bridge games as do some of the megaclubs in the US and Canada. So we are inviting all of our friends to join us, especially on Wednesday, June 22. The more tables we have, the more money will be donated. If you can't play at Downey that day, perhaps you would consider making a donation to our efforts. Any amount is welcome and appreciated. Please contact me at [lizburrell7@gmail.com](mailto:lizburrell7@gmail.com) if you are interested. We will also be having a pizza lunch that day sponsored by our good friend and member, I. D. Patel.

We are all looking forward the resumption of our District 23 Summer Regional in Long Beach, July 4-10 at the Hilton. It seems like years since we've been able to play in a tournament is almost in our back yard. Also, congratulations to our NAOP qualifiers, especially to our Director, John Jones and his partner. Good luck to all!

Thanks to all who have supported us through these unprecedented times. Come visit us at Downey on Wednesday mornings at 10:00. For more information, email me at the address above or call 562-972-2913.



## Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley

by Beth Morrin

This is the tenth year of ACBL's partnership with the Alzheimer's Association to support the fight against Alzheimer's disease. To participate this year, all Virtual Club games on the weekend of June 18-19 will have the sanction fees donated to the Alzheimer's Association and clubs with face-to-face games can pick any game during week of June 19-26. Please help us to support this cause by playing in one of those games. Also, you can donate separately to Alzheimer's or one of the participating teams.

The Joshua Tree Bridge Club is running a face-to-face game on Tuesday afternoon at private residences. These are small games of 2 or 3 tables. If

interested, contact Beth Morrin at  
 morrin@sbcglobal.net.

### 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.

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

Mon. Apr. 18  
 N/S Kathy Flynn – Bob McBroom 61.67%  
 E/W Lulu Minter – Ernest Wong 61.39%

Tues. Apr. 19  
 N/S Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky 58.33%  
 E/W Amr Elghamry – Dominique Moore 63.89%

Thurs. Apr. 21  
 N/S Paula Olivares – Roy Ladd 59.69%  
 E/W Kathy Flynn – Ruth Baker 62.22%

Fri. Apr. 22  
 N/S Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky 66.83%  
 E/W Bill Brodek – Robot 62.86%

Sun. Apr. 24  
 N/S Bud Kalafian – Robot 70.37%  
 E/W Temo Arjani – Robot 63.89%

Mon. Apr. 25  
 N/S Sharon Wolf – Steve Shanker 59.94%  
 E/W Carol Inman – Susan Smith 62.89%

Tues. Apr. 26  
 N/S Rae Murbach – Joseph Viola 60.07%  
 E/W Pat Larin – David White 62.50%

Thurs. Apr. 28  
 N/S Jackie Moor – Michael Connell 58.08%  
 E/W Alan Nueman – Robot 63.64%

Fri. Apr. 29  
 N/S Ramesh Sawhney – Robot 61.34%  
 E/W Rae Murbach – Gerard Geremia 61.81%

Sun. May 1  
 Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky 70.56%

Mon. May 2  
 N/S Avice Osmundson – Kiran Kumar 65.97%  
 E/W Amr Elghamry – Rae Murbach 64.35%

Tues. May 3  
 N/S Avice Osmundson – Kiran Kumar 58.95%  
 E/W Kathy Sawine – Rand Pinsky 60.80%

Thurs. May 5  
 N/S Gerard Geremia – Joseph Viola 65.83%  
 E/W Harry Randhawa – David Khalieque 63.61%

Fri. May 6  
 N/S Lulu Minter – Ernest Wong 66.44%  
 E/W Kathy Flynn – Robot 66.44%

Sun. May 8  
 N/S Jan Ladd – Roy Ladd 65.19%  
 E/W Rae Murbach – Joseph Viola 64.91%

Mon. May 9  
 N/S Maria Marvosh – Robot 62.27%  
 E/W Jane Archer – Farryl Weitzman 59.41%

Tues. May 10  
 Temo Arjani – Robot 60.00%

Thurs. May 12  
 N/S Gerard Geremia – Joseph Viola 63.89%  
 E/W Greg Vernon – Robot 61.54%

Fri. May 13  
 N/S Gary Zoss – Dwaine Hawley 59.17%  
 E/W Ramesh Sawhney – Robot 59.44%

Sun. May 15  
 N/S Aggi Oschin – David Khalieque 59.72%  
 E/W Kathy Flynn – Bob McBroom 61.11%

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

Tues. Mar. 22  
 Jerome Paul – Margaret Shifley 65.28%

Wed. Mar. 23  
 Jim Campbell – Michael Connell 58.33%

Sun. Mar. 27  
 Caryn Musicer – Glen Musicer 59.72%

Tues. Mar. 29  
 Jerome Paul – Margaret Shifley 60.00%

Wed. Mar. 30  
 Anita Walker – Robot 62.50%

Tues. Apr. 5  
 Maria Marvosh – Robot 63.89%

Wed. Apr. 6  
 Sofi Kasubhai – Robot 57.64%

Sun. Apr. 10		
Thomas Beggane – Robot	73.61%	
Tues. Apr. 12		
Aggi Oschin – David Khalieque	66.67%	
Wed. Apr. 13		
Hilary Clark – Robot	60.42%	
Sun. Apr. 17		
Steve Mancini – Michael Connell	60.19%	

Next Board meeting: TBA, via Zoom.

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

bridgemojo.com



Sorry for missing last month’s Bridge News! April was a weird month for me.

Let me start with the Mini McKinney and Ace of Clubs winners for 2021. There was lots of bridge to be played last year, and here’s who did the best in our unit.

The Mini McKinney is for most points overall, including club games and tournament play:

Starting Rank	Name	Points
>10000	John Jones	167.2
7500-10000	Lulu Minter	663.0
5000-7500	Rae Murbach	284.4
3500-5000	Ernie Wong	568.9
1500-2500	Cathy Martin	97.9
1000-1500	Fredy Minter	155.7
500-1000	Sadika Elewy	69.7
300-500	Paulette Burkitt	144.5
200-300	Hilary Clark	69.5
100-200	Kim Ebner	153.4
50-100	Mariann Nolan	86.3
20-50	Ming Hu	28.3

5-20	Julie Miller	25.9
0-5	Susan Kane / Jonathan Fuhrman	22.8

The Ace of Clubs is for most points earned in regular club or VACB games:

>10000	Rebecca Clough	80.1
7500-10000	Lulu Minter	601.3
5000-7500	Rae Murbach	268.5
3500-5000	Dominique Moore	135.3
2500-3500	Ernie Wong	497.1
1500-2500	Cathy Martin	97.9
1000-1500	Fredy Minter	146.8
500-1000	Sadika Elewy	69.7
300-500	Paulette Burkitt	139.1
200-300	Hilary Clark	67.9
100-200	Kim Ebner	134.2
50-100	Mariann Nolan	81.0
20-50	Ming Hu	27.4
5-20	Julie Miller	23.7
0-5	Susan Kane / Jonathan Fuhrman	21.2

Our Unit 559 players who did best in 2021:

1	Lulu Minter	662.6
2	Ernie Wong	568.9
3	Rae Murbach	284.4
4	John Jones	167.2
5	Fredy Minter	155.3
6	Kim Ebner	153.4
7	Paulette Burkitt	144.5
8	Dominique Moore	143.9
9	Mike Connell	130.4
10	Angela Peters	123.9



We had great attendance at our four Unit Games in April and May:

April 10:

N/S Madhu Sudan and Stan Majcher.

E/W Greg Tapia and Hanna Zhuang (First overall).

April 24:

N/S Peter Szecsi and Amr Elghamry.

E/W Karen Arase and Gitta Earll (First overall).

May 1:

N/S Lulu and Fredy Minter (First overall).

E/W Bob Shore and Kevin Lane.

May 22:

N/S Elliott Mazur and Rose Boot (First overall).

E/W Arthur Moore and Dominique Moore.

**June Unit Games** are scheduled for June 12 and 26. Reservations required! Contact Miriam Harrington (626) 232-0558 to reserve a seat. Games are held at the Arcadia Bridge Center, with boards ready to play at 12:30 p.m.

**Rank changes:** Congratulations to new Club Masters **Nina Huang** and **Premi Thomas**, new Advanced NABC Master **Karmen Armoudjian**, and new Bronze Life Master **Michael Lo**.

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Mark Bartusek, Jordan Chodorow, Kitty Cooper, Mitch Dunitz, Lynne Feldman, 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		South	West	North	East
			1♦	1♥	2♦
		???			
		You, South, hold: ♠ K92 ♥ 84 ♦ K75 ♣ KQ1085			
Matchpoints Both Vul		What call do you make?			

**Shuster:** 3♣. Goodness, a tough problem. Double might be a popular answer, but it is also the path towards playing in 3♠ or 4♠ with fewer than half the trumps (wouldn't you try 4♠ as North with: ♠AQx ♥AKxxx ♦x ♣Jxxx?) 2♥ is disgusting with the lead coming through the ♦K and woefully inadequate heart support. 2NT without tricks or a second stopper isn't a good idea. Pass is possible, but this is a pretty good hand opposite a red overcall (how would you catch up next round if partner doubles 2♦?) I think that leaves us with 3♣ on the 5-bagger. But if you think about it, partner, unable to double 1♦ with short diamonds is more likely to have secondary clubs than spades. At least you didn't ask me if this was forcing.

**Bartusek:** 3♣. Game is very unlikely with both opponents bidding vulnerable, so we should aim for the best partscore. Partner can correct to 3♥, but that's unlikely because partner didn't bid 2♥ initially on a very limited hand. The spade distribution should be 4333 around the table with LHO being 4-4+ in the pointed suits. Unless partner has extra heart length he is very likely to have club support. I considered 2NT, but it's a big overbid and lacks playing tricks and quick tricks. I also considered 2♥ but rejected it. Note that this 3♣ bid is a great lead-director if the opponents end up playing

3♦. I would finally like to say "good luck" to those pairs playing a 3-3 spade fit (partner being 3=5=2=3 or possibly 3=5=1=4 at MPs) after making a responsive double with this hand! Admittedly after a responsive double it might be right to confuse partner by correcting his 2♠ bid to 3♣ (although opener can preemptively bid 3♦! to throw a wrench into the proceedings).

*Several panelists try double, acknowledging the 3-3 spade fit looms.*

**Cooper:** Double. I wish I had another spade but I have too much to pass and not quite enough for a natural 2NT if I even play that here. This is how to get to a 3-3 fit.

**Dunitz:** Double. I'll correct 2♠ to 3♣.

**Chodorow:** Double. Take away any king and I pass, assuming partner will play me for eight HCP with no clear action. With this much, I have to act, especially given that I like judicious 1♥ overcalls (which usually just help the opponents find the extent of their spade fit nice and low). On a partscore hand, I can't raise hearts and encourage partner to compete erroneously. 3♣ is on the planet but too unilateral. The real question is whether I sit for 2♠, which partner might well bid on ♠AJ8 ♥AQT93 ♦J4 ♣762. The answer is yes, in

tempo, as partner may be 4-5 or the opponents may come to the rescue.

**Feldman:** Double.

**Roeder:** Double. If partner gets carried away in spades, at least the tap can be taken in the short hand. With Kxx of Diamonds in front of the opening 1♦ bidder, 3♣ is an egregious overbid.

**Wittes:** Double. I don't like my king of diamonds, but the opponents have at least an 8 card fit, and I have the values to compete, plus this will probably be my last chance to show these values.

*Problems 1, 2 and 4 on this problem set come from an old East Coast Panel. Problem number three was suggested by Cal Waller and problem number five was suggested by Arlene Greengard. Cal and Arleen both play out of the South Bay Bridge Club.*

*On this hand, the Eastern experts voted 6 votes each for double and 3♣. 2♥ got two votes and 2NT and pass each got a vote.*



<h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">2</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Matchpoints Both Vul</p>	South	West	North	East
		1♣	pass	1♠
	2♠	pass	3♥	3NT
	???			

\* Natural

You, South, hold: ♠ A987542 ♥ KJ4 ♦ A3 ♣ 5

What call do you make?

*What in the name of Charlie Goren is going on here? If partner really has hearts we have a great fit and my hand is terrific. But the deck seems to have too many HCP, and why didn't partner act the first time?*

**Wittes:** 4♥. Are we playing with a pinochle deck? Partner couldn't bid over 1♣, yet enters the auction at the 3-level vulnerable on a misfit hand! Since we are playing with an expert partner, I can't imagine partner has misconstrued the auction. I would think partner might have bid 2♥ over 1♣ with ♥QT9xxxx of hearts and a minor suit card, and what can East have to justify a 3NT bid, maybe a big club fit and the ace of hearts. Maybe somebody is psyching, but it couldn't be partner vulnerable. Whatever, I couldn't possibly have a better hand in support of hearts on this auction.

**Roeder:** 4♥. Either 1♣ was psyched or (at least) one of the players has a substance abuse issue. 3♥ should never be bid out of fright, especially when not yet doubled. My 2♠ bid said that I was prepared to play 2♠ opposite short spades. I prefer to trust my partner over the opponents, despite my confusion at partner's inability to initially make a heart chirp.

**Cooper:** 4♥. I have a great hand for partner maybe I should cuebid 4♣.

**Chodorow:** 4♥. Must roll.

**Dunitz:** 4♥. Believe partner, not the opponents.

**Feldman:** 4♥.

**Shuster:** Pass. I think our partnership is having an accident, and if I take another call it will only make it

worse. Partner couldn't overcall 1♥ but now raises the level when I show spades that can play with a known bad break? I doubt it. I think he is playing me for hearts. Well, I no longer have to guess - RHO has warned me to stop bidding and I will.

**Bartusek:** 4♠. What is partner doing? Partner should have heart length with strong spade tolerance and a hand that wasn't good enough for a 1♥ overcall on the first round. Thus, we have a nice double fit (e.g. ♠KQ ♥QTxxxx xxx xx or ♠Qx ♥A9xxxx ♦xx ♣xxx or even better IF the opponents are messing around). Even though we can probably defeat 3NT with the proper heart plays there is cause for concern since it might involve tough guesses for both me and my partner. We might not be able to make 4M, but it seems too risky to let the opponents play 3NT. It's a tough decision whether to bid 4♥ or 4♠ but partner doesn't know about my seventh spade which will make spades play better. Note that there is always the possibility that RHO has psyched a spade, but he is vulnerable. *It is also inconsistent to psych 1♠ and still go 3NT, if anyone has psyched it is likely West with 1♣.*

*The Eastern panel also found this problem to be perplexing. Their votes went 9 for 4♥ with 1 for 4♣ (a cuebid for hearts – mentioned by Cooper here) and three votes each for Pass and Double. It was suggested directly by one panelist that we should worry that our expert partner has missed the auction and thought 2♠ was Michaels. That's a practical thought in real life, but are we supposed to make those kinds of interpretations on a bidding panel?*

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">3</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Matchpoints E-W Vul</p>	South	West	North	East
	???			3♣
	You, South, hold: ♠ AKQ6 ♥ A864 ♦ 7 ♣ AJ85			
	What call do you make?			

**Dunitz:** Double. If I and I play a 3♦ advance is Lebensohl here, showing some kind of weak hand. *That sounds like a useful treatment.* I will bid 3NT over that. The only problem is what to do after a jump in diamonds. It could be ugly.

**Feldman:** Double. Over a 3♦ response, I'll bid 3NT.

**Roeder:** Double. After problem 2, it is refreshing to have a problem from this universe. I'll pray partner does not respond 4♦ or 5♦.

**Wittes:** Double. I'll raise a major and bid 3NT over 3♦ I can't see bidding 3NT directly over 3♣ with great support for either major.

**Shuster:** Double. We rate to have a major fit here, so I'm not going to just commit to 3NT. I can convert 3♦ to 3NT. Should partner stick it to me with 4♦, I'll mutter a prayer to Briggadda that no one holds five spades and try for the 4-3 (4-2?) fit. Feels like I bid 3NT last time I had this problem.

**Bartusek:** Double. This hand is very suit oriented and we must strive to find a 4-4 major suit fit. I have an easy 3NT rebid if partner responds with 3♦. Partner will avoid jumping in diamonds unless he has a lot of them. Takeout doubles of a minor suit sometimes have less than optimal support for the other minor.

**Chodorow:** Pass. In tempo! 3 of either major and 4♣ are misdirected. Double rates to hear diamonds, but even if I get lucky and partner croaks out 3M, who knows whether to raise? 3NT is not my bridge. Partner is short in clubs and may double, in which case I'll tell my contractor to get started on the new addition, but even if partner passes, we rate to come out well at these colors.

**Cooper:** 3NT.

*Of course, on the actual hand, the player holding this hand doubled. Naturally partner had a good hand with diamonds, ♠xxx ♥Qxx ♦AKQxx ♣xx. By the time the smoke cleared, they were in 6NT going down.*

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">4</h1> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Matchpoints E-W Vul</p>	South	West	North	East
	1♣	pass	1♠	pass
	???			

You, South, hold: ♠ 7643 ♥ void ♦ A52 ♣ AKJ1042

What call do you make?

*One panelist goes low. He might be right, but this bid made me think of one of my favorite cartoon character quotes "I'll gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today".*

**Roeder:** 2♠. You have enough offensive assets to bid 3♠. BUT the opponents have not bid hearts, so heart wastage is likely. While I do not mind a 3♠ bid, partner may overvalue his hand if slam is to be investigated.

**Shuster:** 3♠. This is enough with four small trumps, not because I don't think we'll make game (I do!) but because I'm concerned that over 4♣ partner will keycard with something like: ♠Kxxxx ♥Axxx ♦Kx ♣Qx or ♠AQxx ♥Axx ♦Kxxx ♣xx. Long experience has taught me to take it in a notch with bad trumps.

**Cooper:** 3♠. In my partnerships we use the one under bid (3♥ here) for real raises to 3 or 4 so this just shows tricks and about a 6 loser hand. I would prefer better spades (then I might bid 4♠).

**Dunitz:** 3♠.

**Bartusek:** 3♥. This "should" be unanimous...LOL. A mini-splinter perfectly describes my hand. Obviously, this hand is stronger than last month's 2♥ / 3♥ "wimpy answer" hand.

**Chodorow:** 3♥. I don't like to overvalue shortness before it's known to be useful (give partner ♠J985 ♥KQ9 ♦JT63 ♣87), but 2♠ is just too wimpy. If I evaluated the hand as worth a four-bid, I'd bid 4♥, as 4♣ would show a balanced hand and I don't like 4♣ with four spades to the seven. A raise to the three level feels like the Goldilocks evaluation. There, 3♠ is possible, but why suggest balanced pattern when you can describe the hand so nicely with the mini-splinter, which will often include great clubs? Bring partner into the picture.

**Feldman:** 4♣.

**Wittes:** 4♥. Very possibly an overbid. If partner has AKxxx of spades and out, we're a favorite for a slam. If partner has Qxxx of spades and scattered values, we may be going down in game, but my controls and good club suit are too much not to bid as aggressively as possible.

*On this hand with a smorgasbord of options for raising spades the Eastern panel voted for 4♣ and 3♠ five times each. 3♥ and reversing into 2♦ each received two votes, while 4♥ and 4♠ got one vote apiece. I dislike 4♠, which should be balanced, but think there is merit to just about everything else. At the table I would probably try 4♥, but maybe on a different day I'd try 4♣ or 3♥.*



<h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">5</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">IMPs E-W Vul.</p>	South	West	North	East
	1♠	pass	2♥	pass
	???			

You, South, hold: ♠ AQJ1062 ♥ A76 ♦ void ♣ QJ106

What call do you make?

**Bartusek:** 3♥. I'm not going to withhold heart support to cater to pitching losing hearts on diamonds (with a 6-2 spade fit?). If 2♠ specifically guaranteed 6+ spades in your partnership, then there is some logic in showing the extra spade length before supporting hearts (at the risk of confusing partner). I like to support partner to make auctions flow easier. The problem will come in later bidding rounds. If partner bids 3♠ (showing support) then I'll obviously play spades instead of hearts.

**Chodorow:** 3♥. Lots to get across - support, the diamond void, and one-loser spades - so conserve space.

**Cooper:** 3♥. This is a slammish raise in my partnerships. Too many choices; splintering usually shows four trumps, it would be nice to show the sixth spade but I think the important message is heart support and interest in higher contracts.

**Feldman:** 3♥.

**Wittes:** 4♦. I wish I had a better club control, but this hand is just too good not to take an aggressive stance.

**Dunitz:** 2♠. I have to rebid this chunky suit.

**Roeder:** 2♠. Why waste potentially needed space with a splinter or jump to 3♠? Strain selection is far from clear at this juncture. Just because you have eight or more hearts does not necessarily mean you want to play in hearts. Give partner a hand like ♠x ♥Kxxxx ♦Axxx ♣AKx.

**Shuster:** 2♠. I want to emphasize spades first. The spades are good enough to bid 3♠, but by bidding 2♠, we'll hear if partner has clubs or if partner's hearts are good enough to rebid. Unless partner can suggest hearts again without hearing support from me, then we aren't playing in hearts. Where do you want to be opposite: ♠xx ♥Kxxxx ♦Axx ♣AKx?

Even opposite a ♠void ♥Kxxxx ♦Axxxx ♣AKx, 6♠ is a better slam than 6♥.

*This was an actual hand, although it occurred at matchpoints. The companion hand turned out to be ♠Kx ♥KQTxx ♦Kxx ♣Axx. I changed the problem conditions to IMPs to try to keep club slams possible. It's not certain that we want to play in either hearts or spades. If partner holds ♠void ♥KJxxx ♦Jxx ♣AKxxx, or similar, we belong in clubs. Bidding 2♠ has the bonus that we can still easily play in clubs if partner next bids 3♣.*