

Bridge News

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Robert Shore

More on the Future



At the September conclusion of our August Board meeting, we reached a couple of decisions with a potentially large impact on the future of Bridge Week, the Summer's Best Regional, and on the future of District 23 itself. Fortunately, we have (barely) secured enough funds to cover the loss from this year's tournament, so we were able to look toward the future. The Board voted to open discussions with District 22 with a goal toward partnering with them in some way for the 2023 edition of Bridge Week, the Summer's Best Regional. Those discussions will occur between District 22 President Lamy Agelides and me. I will keep our ExComm informed of day-to-day developments, once Lamy returns from vacation so our discussions can start, and any proposed final agreement will be presented to the Board for District 23's final approval. I should add that District 22 has already made it clear that if they are to agree to this proposal, they will want a substantial level of input and control over much of the decision-making that goes into the Regional.

Separately, the Board voted to start investigating the pros and cons of a potential merger with District 22. This investigation will be conducted by a committee consisting of John Jones, Vice President Jan Wickersham, and me. I have also asked Regional Director David Lodge to join our deliberations. We should take it for granted that if we go this route, we will be combined with our neighbors for all purposes, including North American Pairs and Grand National Teams. For governance purposes, District 22 is currently divided into four regions. If we were to join them, we would probably become a fifth region.

Let me emphasize that for the time being, _____
 PRESIDENT continued on page 2

Regional Director's Report

by David Lodge

ACBL Headquarters-Horn Lake, Mississippi



Southern hospitality is great! As the chair of the Finance Committee of the BOD, I spent 2 days at HQ in late September. Management welcomed me graciously. While the world is moving inexorably to an on-line way of meeting, I'm a firm believer that nothing works as well as sitting down face to face. I was granted unfettered opportunities to meet with Peyton Dodson, the Director of Finance, Greg Coles, the Director of Operations and Joe Jones, the Executive Director. The ostensible reason for my trip was to offer any assistance I could about the 2023 ACBL budget. Peyton and I started with a complete review of how he puts the budget together. It seems like a very thorough process. It starts with the dissemination to the department heads (HD) of worksheets with historical data and very complete instructions as to how to prepare the requested information. All this input was due back to Peyton on 9/26. He'll then take a couple of weeks to review before he sends the draft budget to me and ACBL president, Joann Glasson. After review by me and my

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these are internal discussions intended to allow the Board to make an informed decision regarding whether to pursue a merger. We may well decide that we value our independence and wish to remain separate. Even if we decide we wish to pursue merger discussions, it's entirely possible we won't be able to reach agreement. In short, although the subject has been raised, there's a long way to go before any potential merger is consummated.

North American Pairs

North American Pairs qualifying at the club level is complete. Once again, as we did in 2021, we are going directly from club qualifying to the District Final. We had trouble getting the word out, so we are in the process of *rescheduling the District Final*, which had been scheduled for Sunday, October 9, at the Long Beach Bridge Center. If you qualified at a club game, make your plans (in January) to play for the chance for gold. The game is flighted (attendance permitting), so less experienced players won't be forced to play against the A players. And the winner and second-place finisher *in each flight* will get a check from ACBL to help subsidize the trip to the National Finals in New Orleans. It's a great opportunity to earn the right to represent our District at the national level. And even if you don't plan to go to New Orleans, it's a chance to pick up substantial chunks of gold points. Last, but certainly not least, it's an opportunity to have a great time spending the day playing bridge. I urge all eligible players to attend and try their luck.

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

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

finance committee, the report will go to the entire BOD.

Portions of the budgeting process are relatively easy, e.g., the editorial department knows how many magazines they are going to print. Therefore, determining the cost of printing and mailing is not a difficult task. Other areas require a great deal more subjective treatment. I spent most of my time working directly on budget matters with Peyton and Greg as we tried to come to agreement about the outlook for tournaments in 2023. We have data from 2019, the last full pre-pandemic year, and we have data from 2021 and 2022. However, we're still in a time frame where comparisons are changing. Sectionals have

dropped off significantly since 2019. There were 882 sectionals in 2019 and there are 484 projected for 2022. There were 146 regionals in 2019 and there are 105 projected for 2022. Once we agree on the probable number of events, we now must estimate the number of tables for each event. While we have some insight because we now have 13 months since we returned to f2f regionals, you can throw out the first several months as things were ramping up. The question: is what we are seeing over the last several months a good indicator of likely attendees? Conversely, are there a significant number of players who are still not coming to tournaments because of COVID concerns. At this point in the discussion, people tend to rely on anecdotal information to prejudice their thoughts. Greg says he's talked to a "lot" of people who are not coming back until they feel safe. I'm of the opinion that there are not a lot of members out there in this category and that we've reached the probable continuing attendance rate, which is in the low 50% area. An additional factor is that some regionals are going from the standard of 7 days to 5, and in some cases, 4 days. Likewise, sectionals are shortening as well.

Another potential element of budget uncertainty is whether any on-line pigmented point games are allowed. So far, the BOD has taken the position that they want to eliminate on-line pigmented point games in order to demonstrate that they agree with most small club owners that say such games take away from their value. However, when these games are held, they tend to generate significant table boosts for the clubs and generate significant revenues for the league. So, the issue of on-line tournaments issuing pigmented points is still up for debate.

Final numbers for Providence are still not in. The league works with an organization, Conference Direct. This company helps with all planning for and negotiating with hotels that we ultimately choose for our NABC's. As part of their service, they audit all the guest rooms at all the official participating hotels to insure we're getting credit for those attendees having come through the ACBL. It is a long, involved process and takes several weeks after the end of the event. From what I've been able to determine, it looks like the tournament will lose approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000 before the allocation of overhead which will be in the neighborhood of \$100,000 to \$125,000. While a loss of this magnitude is never welcomed, this loss is much less than what was budgeted. The final table count was several hundred over 7,000.

While we're on the subject of NABCs, I hope you've got it on your calendars to come to Phoenix in November. It's a great time of the year for this beautiful desert area. Likewise, I hope you've got Ventura in late October and Palm Springs in mid-December calendared as well.

Stay healthy, stay safe, and enjoy our great game.

The Director's Corner by David White

The NC Sectional



As you browse the list of tournaments in the *Bridge Bulletin* and online at the ACBL website, you will occasionally see the type of tournament listed as Sectional (NC) or Cruise (NC). The NC stands for Non-Championship. NC tournaments have been around for many years. Only in the post COVID days have they gained any popularity, or notoriety.

The original purpose of the NC tournament is lost in antiquity. What it has become is a way for units and travel agents to hold an ACBL sanctioned tournament on the cheap.

What the sponsor saves by holding an NC tournament:

1. Sanction fees are slightly less,
2. ACBL does not provide hand records.
3. Can use a local club director.

Number three can be huge. Tournament Directors, while not paid particularly well, are reimbursed at government rate for travel, per diem, and lodging. ACBL charges a full sectional \$185.00 flat rate for the travel of the ranking director at a tournament. If the tournament has two or more directors, the tournament pays for the second, third, etc. Since there are only about ninety Tournament Directors qualified to run a sectional in all of North America, a TD's travel might be long, arduous, and expensive.

What does an NC tournament give up for these financial benefits:

1. ACBL does not sell hand records for an NC event. Without ACBL provided hand records only the overall results will be listed on the ACBL website.
2. The results are not posted to ACBL Live. The game files are sent to ACBL in Horn Lake. A week to ten days later, the results are listed on the website, not ACBL Live.
3. The masterpoint awards for any game at an NC event are only 80% of a full sectional.

While an off-duty part-time Tournament Director can run an NC event, if the event is sanctioned as NC; the rules of an NC event apply.

The rules for Non-Championship event have not been revisited since long before COVID. If your unit is considering an NC sectional, please check with Crystal Mann at ACBL headquarters for the latest rules.

DAWN'S DEMON DEFENSE by Jordan Chodorow

I had the good fortune to partner the noted Los Angeles bridge teacher Dawn Lee on this hand from a recent ACBL tournament online.

Dawn held ♠QJ43 ♥7543 ♦A872 ♣J and heard the auction 1♦ on her right, 1NT on her left, 3NT on her right, all pass. What do you think is the key card in her hand?

I led the ♠6 and dummy hit with ♠AK98 ♥AKQ2 ♦1093 ♣K10.

Declarer won the ace and played king and a club. Dawn threw the encouraging ♦2 on the second club (playing upside down signals) as I completed a high-low showing an odd number of clubs. On the third of SEVEN (!) club winners, declarer pitched the ♠8 from dummy and Dawn the ♦7. On the fourth club, I threw the ♦Q showing the jack, while dummy shed the ♠9 and Dawn the ♦8. (Declarer could not know with certainty that her ace was now bare.) On the fifth club, dummy threw the ♦9 and we defenders each pitched a spade, that suit now out of play. Another diamond from dummy and spades from us on the sixth club, and the ♦5 from me and ♠Q from Dawn while dummy dumped the ♦10 on the last club. With five tricks to go, declarer held ♠10 ♥108 ♦K4 ♣void opposite dummy's ♠K ♥AKQ2 ♦void ♣void. I held ♠void ♥J96 ♦J6 void and Dawn ♥7543 ♦A.

With three diamonds still outstanding, declarer

elected to bank on the hearts coming home rather than risking a diamond. Declarer led a spade to dummy's king and then and only then did Dawn part with her ♦A. Her carefully guarded ♥7 became our one and only trick at T13. Even though we could have taken the ♦A at trick one if I'd found that rather unlikely suit to lead on the auction, taking even one trick was worth over 80% on the board as almost three times more declarers took thirteen tricks than took twelve. For the others, the trick was the ♦A or the ♠Q.

But then, they aren't Dawn!

North American Pairs District Final October 9 *by Morris Jones*

The district final game for the North American Pairs will be held Sunday, October 9, at 10:00 a.m., at the Long Beach Bridge Center, 4782 Pacific Coast Hwy., Long Beach CA.

The district final is a two-session event. There will be a lunch break between sessions, and the event should be complete by 6:30 p.m.

Card fees are \$15 per person per session (\$60 per pair for the day). Top finishers will receive a partial travel reimbursement to play in the national NAP final tournament at the Spring NABC in New Orleans.

Qualifier games for the North American Pairs were held at face-to-face and online clubs June through August of this and every year. The full list of qualifiers for District 23 can be found at this link: <https://www.acbl.org/nap-qualifiers/> Click on District 23.

On the same web page, find a link to the ACBL NAP Conditions of Contest. They spell out eligibility and other requirements for the annual North American Pairs.

To play in the NAP District Final, you and your partner must be members of District 23 as defined in the Conditions of Contest. You may play in the District Final with any other qualified eligible player, but the partnership qualifies as a pair -- no changes of partnership are allowed for the national event.

Director-in-charge for the tournament will be Brandon Sheumaker. District 23 NAP Coordinator is Morris Jones.

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email newsletter@acblunit551.org
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Managing Editor. Bob Shore
Contributing Editor. John Jones

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New Life Masters
by Mike Marcucci



Carol Decordova – Jul 22
Unit 568



Charles Laine – Dec 21
Unit 557



Ed Ruttenberg – Jul 22
Unit 568



John Galligher – Jul 22
Unit 557



Joyce Field – Jul 22
Unit 568

The Puzzle Page

Bridge Jeopardy by John Jones

Category: Types of Leads

And the answer is ...

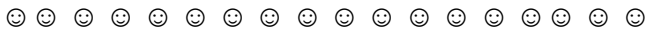
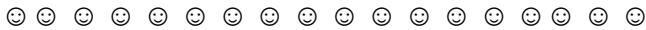
\$100 – Leading the Jack shows the Ten, but never the Ace, King, or Queen.

\$200 – Leading the middle card from three small ones.

\$300 – The spot card we normally lead against NT contracts.

\$400 – An alternative spot card leading method versus suit contracts.

\$500 – Second highest of touching honors.



October Rebus

Well, can you figure out what this says?



Play or Defend? by John Jones

North

♠ Q J
♥ 10 9 7
♦ 6 3 2
♣ A K 5 4 3

West

♠ 4 3 2
♥ A Q 8 6 5 4
♦ 7
♣ J 10 8

East

♠ 6 5
♥ K J 3 2
♦ K Q J 10 9 8
♣ 2

South

♠ A K 10 9 8 7
♥ void
♦ A 5 4
♣ Q 9 7 6

Contract = 6♠

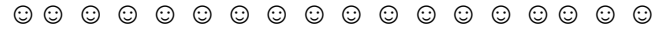
Opening Lead = ♦7

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

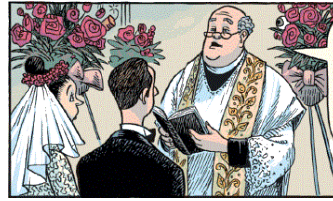
(Solutions to these puzzles are on page 7.
No peeking!)

Solution to “Play or Defend?”

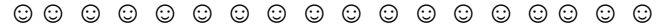
Answer: play. The danger is that the clubs are blocked since they do not divide 2-2. The winning line involves pitching a club on a losing heart. However, the heart trick must be lost to West, not East, to avoid East playing diamonds. The solution is to win trick 1. Play a spade to dummy at trick 2. Play the 7♥, if it is not covered, pitch a club. If the 7♥ is covered, ruff and lead a second spade to the dummy. Lead the 9♥ pitching a club if it is not covered. If it is covered, ruff and lead the second round of spades to the dummy. Now lead the ♥10 (East cannot cover all three hearts) and pitch a club. After trumps have been drawn, three rounds of clubs ending in the dummy allows for TWO pitches for the small diamonds. This hand was used in a 1987 competition held by the magazine International Popular Bridge Monthly.



Submitted by John Jones



...AND DO YOU PROMISE TO WATCH HER SIGNALS, TO RETURN HER OPENING LEAD, AND NOT OPEN 10 POINT HANDS?



Solution to “Rebus”

“Jack Denies”

(Remind anyone of the headlines about Marilyn Monroe’s relationship with J.F.K?)

Have a good bridge rebus? Send it to johnjones44@yahoo.com

Bridge Jeopardy Questions

- \$100 – What is Jack Denies?
- \$200 – What is MUD? (Definitely not recommended by the author)
- \$300 – What is Fourth Best?
- \$400 – What is Third and Fifth?
- \$500 – What is Rusinow?

District 23 Rank Changes August 2022		
Junior Master	Sectional Master	Life Master
James M. Adner	Nicole R. Berte	Henry S. David
Nancy Bornn	Judy E. Blits	Carolyn L. Verin
Geoff Lang	Nora Lee Gecks	
Whitney Phillips	John Hugunin	Bronze Life Master
Victoria Vaughn	Linda Lessing	Nancy Nakanishi
Shaomin Zheng	Susan Teal	Carolyn L. Verin
Club Master	Regional Master	Silver Life Master
Nina M. Beck	Belle Frieman	Alan W. Flower
Marra Boda	Patricia L. Kasschau	
Linda Carter		Ruby Life Master
Beth L. Hollander	NABC Master	Elizabeth A. Morrin
Jeffrey P. Johnson	Steven L. Anderson	
Michael Lam	Danielle Dina	Gold Life Master
Vernetta Lieb	Beverly S. Sugimoto	Marilyn J. Kogan
Stuart Soldate		Gary A. Moore

Around the Units
in District 23



Pomona – Covina
by Tom Lill
www.acblunit551.org

- Individual:** October 1, 10 a.m., Upland
November 5, 10 a.m., TBD
- Club Championships:** October 11 and 14, La Fetra
- Unit Game:** Saturday October 15, 11:00 a.m.,
Glendora
- Unit Board Meeting:** 10:15 a.m. before the game
- Club Appreciation Games:** October 1, 18, 21
(Individual and at La Fetra)

In the September Individual, Linda Tessier took top honors at 59.03% effort. Trailing her we find Kiran Kumar in second, Karen McCarthy third, Kitty Moon and Peter Kavounas tied for fourth, and Nancy Stebbins rounded out the leader board.

In the September Unit game, Vic Sartor – Bill Papa took the top spot with 62.5%. Right behind them were Roger Boyar – Fredy Minter, then Clint Lew – Linda Tessier. Susan Emminger – Paul Chrisney – Steve Andersen and Gary Atwell Mary Ann Wotring tied for the final spot on the leader board.

There were no rank advancements again this month.

Topping the charts this month we find Bill Papa – Vic Sartor, with an impressive 74.07% game. It’s surprising to have the second-best top score at 72.92%, but that’s what Fredy and Lulu Minter accomplished. We have a number of other 65%+ efforts: the Minters again, 69.64%; Clint Lew – Linda Tessier, 65.36%; and Bill Papa – Vic Sartor again, 65.29%. Others to top the leader board: Roger Boyar, Caryn Mason, and Patrick Finley.

Here’s an amusing hand I picked up in our September Individual. No one vulnerable, North dealing, sitting East I found myself looking at:

♠ J5 ♥ none ♦ J752 ♣ AKQJ987.

North passed. Figuring that 3♣ preempts never even slow anyone down these days, I called 4♣. Seven sure club tricks, and if Briggidia smiles a diamond trick, and someone sure has a lot of major suit cards. Even 4♣ didn’t slow them down: South called 4♠. My partner, feeling somewhat left out of things, passed. North passed, and in a what-the-heck mood, I broke discipline and went 5♣. It was *that* kind of day. This went around to North, who took the push to 5♠ (he held ♠A108 and not much else). All pass. There must be some ferocious distribution around, so no doubles by anyone.

So far a rather pedestrian situation, wouldn’t you say? Here’s where the fun begins. Thinking (hoping) partner might be short in clubs, I led the club *Jack*. Dummy came down with three small clubs. Hmm. So far so good. Partner, with 3=7=3=0 shape, gave my ♣J a long look and then ruffed ... and returned a heart for me to ruff. We made all five of our trumps on the ensuing cross-ruff, and then declarer could claim. We got a top on the board – it seems that 4♣ is a make, but all the other scores were contracts going down our way. Now, if I simply lead my clubs from the top, we take only three tricks for down one, because I never get any heart ruffs. Isn’t bridge an easy game? Or: better lucky than good!

Quote for the month – with the mid-term elections coming up, this little gem seems appropriate for all who plan to cast a vote: “To serve the Publick (sic) faithfully, and at the same time please it entirely, is impracticable.” (Benjamin Franklin)

Downey – Whittier
by Liz Burrell

Liz Burrell, 562-972-2913
lizburrell7@gmail.com
Downey-Whittier BC

The calendar says we should be well into Fall but my thermometer doesn’t agree. We are expecting close to 100 in Southern California which is about 25 degrees too hot for most of us. Hopefully, things will change soon.

September was a good month at Downey considering our dwindling number of players. We had 4 tables on the 7th, 4.5 tables on the 14th, and 3 tables on the 21st; an average of 4 tables for the first three weeks. Even so, several of our members had good games. Gabrielle Sill/Connie Kang had a 71% game last week and earned 1.90 points. John Petrie/Sankar Reddy scored a 64.17% on the 7th with 2.04 points. And John Dobson/Barbara Horn scored 60.42% and earned 1.92 points on the 14th. These are the first place winners but 2nd, 3rd, and 4th also earned points.

Our table count hasn't been great since the pandemic but we have good games, interesting hands and the prospect of earning points every week. This week we will have a Club Membership Game which earns 81.8% sectional-rated black points. Please join us for our regular games as well as up-coming StaC games on November 2 and December 7. Wednesday mornings at 10:00 in Downey.

Obviously, club games and tournaments are still suffering from the effects of having been closed for such a long time. Local and national officers and directors have been working hard to keep our games afloat and to continue to sponsor tournaments. It is a very difficult job to say the least. We hope solutions can be found so that we can eventually return to bridge as we knew it. In the meantime, thanks to all who are working diligently to make this happen.



Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

Unit 556 is still looking for a place in the Santa Clarita area to restart face-to-face bridge games. If anyone has suggestions, please contact one of our board members. The Virtual Club is still going strong.

Virtual Game Schedule

Monday:	12:15 PM	Open game
Tuesday:	6:15 PM	Open game
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 virtualclub@bridgemojo.com for reservations. Our games cost \$3 unless it is a special game series.

Big Games (65+%):

Mon Aug. 29	
Carolyn Cohen – Diana Borgatti	70.22%
Tues. Aug. 30	
Lulu Minter – Ernest Wong	69.05%
Thurs. Sept. 1	
Alan Neuman – Elliott Neuman	68.89%
Sun. Sept. 4	
Kathy Flynn – Bob McBroom	70.68%
Paula Olivares – Bill Brodek	67.90%
Mon. Sept. 5	
Gerard Geremia – Rae Murbach	66.39%
Tues. Sept. 6	
Bob McBroom – Bill Brodek	70.37%
Fri. Sept. 9	
Roy Ladd – Robot	65.66%
Sun. Sept. 18	
Amr Elghamry – Gerard Geremia	68.06%
Kathy Flynn – Bob McBroom	66.67%
Bill Brodek – Robot	65.97%
Mon. Sept. 19	
Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	67.68%
Thurs. Sept. 22	
Greg Vernon – Robot	69.95%
Sunday Sept, 25	
Roy Ladd – Ruth Baker	73.02%

Next Board meeting: TBA, via Zoom.

Pasadena – San Gabriel by Morris “Mojo” Jones

bridgemojo.com

Save the date! Our unit is going to have a good old-fashioned holiday bridge game and party on December 11 at the Arcadia Community Center. It's a traditional event for our unit, and a great opportunity to reconnect with honored partners and opponents. I'll have more information in the November and December Bridge News.

Face-to-face bridge is alive and well! I have two classes of beginning bridge students, each one has 17 students. We're having some "supervised play" sessions on Friday evenings at the Arcadia Bridge Center, and hopefully this group will help revive the Saturday morning rookie game at the Bridge Center.

I know games are coming alive at Valley Hunt Club and other private clubs around Pasadena. I really love playing and teaching in person, and it warms my heart.

Our twice-monthly Sunday unit games have been well attended, with ten tables at both games in September.

On September 11, NS winners were Carolyn Cohen and Stephen Licker. EW winners Arthur and Dominique Moore. On September 25, NS winners were Fredy and Lulu Minter. EW winners Ming Hu and Sherry Warmuth.

Online we still have an active player group with five games a week, pooling with the Santa Clarita, Glendale, Pomona, and Downey units. You can find our game schedule at <https://bridgemojo.com/unit556>.

Congratulations to new Club Masters Linda Carter, Beth Hollander, and Stuart Soldate. New Bronze Life Master is Nancy Nakanishi. Special congratulations to new Gold Life Master Marilyn Kogan!

For October, our unit games are scheduled for October 9 and 23. Dates for November haven't yet been set, but we may hold a game during the STaC week on November 6. As always, our space at the Bridge Center is quite limited, so reservations are required to attend the unit games. Call Miriam Harrington to reserve your seat at (626) 232-0558.

Our October game conflicts with the NAP District Final, but if you qualified I hope to see you in Long Beach. I won't be playing in the game this year, but I'll be there to get Brandon started. Then I'll be driving back to Arcadia to direct the unit game, and back to Long Beach to finish up later. It'll be a long day, but a worthy one!



Long Beach by Lillian Slater and Ardis Laine

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

Thanks to all who joined us for the September 25th unit game! We had 12 tables in the Open, when 1½ tables of 199'ers joined the Open competition. Let's break this record in October! Join us at 12:30 on Sunday, October 23rd.

The unit is also finalizing the format of its first sectional in three years. Stay tuned for details but save the dates, Saturday and Sunday, November 12-13.

See you at the bridge table!

September's 70 Percent Games

Jackie Hess and Alan Flower scored a 70.54% game on September 9th in a field of 8 tables.



Jackie and Alan

On September 12th, Fern Dunbar and Rob Preece played a 70.45% game in a field of 9 tables.



Rob and Fern

Torrance – South Bay by Carolyn Byrnes and Laura Gastelum

South Bay Bridge Club - Bouncing Back

Day games are growing; 5 times a week, both **Open and Limited**. Sheryl Kohlhoff's lessons before Thursday Limited game are helping I/N players. Monday mornings with John Jones (JJ) advance the game for intermediate players.

Night Swiss Games are a big success, sometimes as many as six teams! Monday at 6:00pm. Eight is Enough* Game and Wednesday at 6:30pm Open Swiss. Players at all levels from clubs far and wide have been attending, so come meet new players! Visit SBBC (<http://www.southbaybridgeclub.com/>) site for times, limits and RESERVATIONS. We help find partnerships/teams.

Fall is a "Back to School". Kicking off the semester is Grand Life Master Marjorie Michelin conducting **Bridge in a Day (BID)**. Sunday October 16 at 10:30 am-3:30pm, course fee \$20. Share with all those missing the fun of bridge. Register on SBBC or OLLI (<http://www.csudh.edu/olli/membership-registration/>) (ID 43682) sites.

Beginner Bridge classes Tuesdays at 1:00pm, start October 18th for 8-week series. Lillian Slater from Long Beach will instruct. Class is co-hosted by OLLI CSU Dominguez Hills. Register for classes on SBBC site or through OLLI. (ID 43681) Class is \$75 + \$20 material fee when registering at SBBC.

SBBC is conducting a GOGO* to recruit students for Beginner Bridge Class, who are new to the game, returning after a hiatus or who want to learn 2 over 1.

***Get one student registered, Get one free play in regular game.**

Volunteers are sought for all events, be a Bridge Ambassador, register on SBBC site.



Carolyn Byrnes & Laura Gastelum at **OLLI Open House**. High level of interest in bridge classes.

*Eight is Enough Swiss Team-each team max 8 points. Rank & Points: A=3, B=2, C=1*OLLI – Osher Lifelong Learning Institute www.csudh.edu/olli/membership-registration/ Course ID: Bridge in a Day-43682, Beginning Bridge 43681 SBBC www.southbaybridgeclub.com sbbc.club.manager@gmail.com SBBC Phone numbers: 1-310-325-7222 or Laura (Education) 310-738-5960.

PRINT & POST FLYERS

Flyers for Bridge-in-a-Day, the Beginning Class, and the Registration form can be found on the D23 web site.

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Wafik Abdou, Mark Bartusek, David Chechelashvili, Mitch Dunitz, David Grainger, Daniel Korbelt, 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

Matchpoints
E-W Vul

North	East	South	West
1♦	pass	1♥	pass
3NT	pass	???	

You, South, hold: ♠ J ♥ AK10965 ♦ 52 ♣ AQJ6

What call do you make?

Partner's sequence shows a strong hand with a nearly solid suit, shortness in partner's suit, and stoppers or at least partial stoppers in the unbid suits. Slam is clearly at least close, and a grand may be available. How do we best make progress? Methods matter here. Some partnerships play that 4♦ would be Automatic Minorwood (RKC). Other partnerships play that 4♣ (Kickback) would ask for keycards. I believe it is more common for partnerships to play that 4♦ followed by 4NT is the way to ask for keycards. The next question is whether we want to cuebid or keycard. The panelists address all of these questions. I will start with a comment that I disagree with, from one of my regular partners.

Roeder: 4NT. RKC, not quantitative, when partner shows a big diamond hand. For Kickbackers, 4♣ would be the call. For Minorwooders, 4♦.

I think 4NT is quantitative, a natural slam invite. I'm joined in that thought by both Bartusek and Shuster.

Bartusek: 4♦. We should get to at least 6♦ or 6NT, but a grand (7♦ or 7NT) is definitely possible. Thus, I'll set trumps to allow partner to cuebid the ♠A and allow a follow-up 4NT to be RKC for diamonds (and then ask for the trump queen and club king after a three-keycard response). Note that partner would treat an immediate 4NT as quantitative. We might be on the same wavelength starting with a 4♣ bid, but 4♦ seems safer.

Shuster: 4♦. I want to set diamonds before bidding keycard. A direct 4NT could (should?) be taken as natural. If partner can't come back 4♣, I suppose I'll play 6♦, otherwise we'll play 6NT or 7NT depending on whether we're missing the spade ace. +190? *Please not +190, 4 of a minor after a natural 3NT is ALWAYS forcing and frequently slammish.*

Grainger: 4♦. Partner's suit should run opposite a doubleton, and they should have some more stuff outside of hearts. Bidding RKC next if possible.

Korbelt: 4♦. Slam is in the air.

Abdou: 4♦. Whether our agreement is that 4♦ is a raise or optional Blackwood doesn't matter; will drive it to slam. The question is do we have seven if partner has something like ♠Axx, ♥x, ♦AKQTxxx, ♣Kx.

Dunitz: 4♦/6NT. Have never seen this in real life. If 4♦ was keycard, I would bid that, otherwise 6NT.

Is there an argument in favor of 4♣ instead of trying 4♦?

Wittes: 4♣. If partner has the ♠A, ♣K, and seven solid diamonds, we belong in 7NT. If partner has the ♠K, the ♣K and 7 solid diamonds, we belong in 6NT. I would hope if partner has the ♠A they would bid 4♣ over 4♣. Any other bid by me, I'm not likely to find out about the ♠A.

Chechelashvili: 4♣. Trying to find grand if partner has both the ♠A and ♣K.

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">2</h1> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">IMPs E-W Vul</p>	North	East	South	West
	1♥	pass	1NT	pass
	2♥	pass	???	
<p>You, South, hold: ♠ Q76 ♥ 10 ♦ K97 ♣ KQ8652</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

Do we take the sure plus score or try for a touch-and-go non-vulnerable game? And if we try for game, which bid is best? Is 3♣ a constructive call or do we have to bid 2NT if we make a try? Does the current trend towards light opening bids have an effect on this decision?

Korbel: Pass. Let's try to go plus. Yes, I could miss 3NT. But we aren't vulnerable and you should see the crap my partners open at these colors.

Wittes: Pass. I have a reasonable hand for my 1NT bid, but no fit for partner and no first round control. Barring a miracle side club fit, I'll be happy with any plus score on this hand.

Dunitz: Pass. Missing a pushy non-vulnerable game is not a tragedy. I would bid if vulnerable.

Bartusek: Pass. I don't think this is close (especially since it's only a potential non-vul game). Sure, we could have a perfecto fit and 3NT could make, but I believe that is way against the odds. Let's not risk the plus score.

Grainger: Pass. Misfitting garbage. No worries at all playing Gazzilli.

Gazzilli is an Italian convention. In the auction 1M 1NT (forcing), opener rebids 2♣ to show either a minimum hand including clubs or a strong hand (at least 16 HCP (depending on partnership agreement)). Since 2♣ (forcing for one-round) includes most strong hands, minimum bids in other suits show HCP minimums. Gazzilli is gaining in popularity and may in some form (there is also a Swedish version titled "The Witch") become expert standard.

Roeder: Pass. No ace and no fit = no bid. Bidding would be as optimistic as dating Robert Redford in the 1970's and expecting him to be a gourmet cook. *You mean like Redford's co-star Paul Neuman (The Sting, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid) being a gourmet chef? Oh, he actually was a gourmet chef.*

Two columnists took this opportunity to promote their version of Multi (which makes this problem easier).

Shuster: Pass. We could belong in 6♣ (♠void ♥AQ98xx ♦Qxx ♣Axxx). More likely, we belong in 2♥, with a misfit and no aces and opening one-bids getting lighter and lighter. I prefer sound weak two-bids that go all the way up to 12 (with Multi 2♦ to take care of the unsound two-bids). If using that treatment, 2♥ shows a good hand and I'd feel like I needed to continue here. But that is not the way the world bids at favorable vulnerability.

Chechelashvili: 3♣. This is why I like intermediate 2M openings coupled with weak Multi 2♦ to avoid problems like these (among other benefits). Should be constructive as it makes no sense to correct the contract.

Multi 2♦, heaven forbid! This publication is from D23 in the ACBL, and the ACBL frowns on murders, arsonists and Multi-bidders! Just because almost all other bridge organizations allow Multi as if it was routine doesn't mean the ACBL should stoop so low (at least in pair games)!

Abdou: 3♣. Game is still possible with a good fit, maybe even slam ♠Ax ♥ATxxxx ♦x ♣Axxx.

I think the point the 3♣ bidders make that 3♣ is best played as constructive in this auction is accurate. The alternative, a corrective 3♣ bid, won't come up often if it is restricted to hands that can be fairly certain that the suit is good enough.

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">3</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">IMPs Both Vul</p>	East	South	West	North
	1♠	2♦	dbl	3♦
	3♥			
	???			
<p>You, South, hold: ♠ A9865 ♥ void ♦ KQ10953 ♣ AQ</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

It is good to be 6-5. When we are 6-5 it is great to have partner support our six-card suit. In this we know spades aren't breaking and it will be difficult for partner to cover all of our spade losers. How do we best make progress?

Bartusek: 3♠. Let partner in on the secret that it's our hand. This will allow partner to double a potential 5♥ call by the opponents with wasted heart values and allow either of us to make a forcing pass if necessary. Note that I am always getting to at least 5♦. If I just blast 5♦ then I won't know what to do if 5♥ comes back to me.

Roeder: 3♠. If partner has a fourth diamond, we may have a slam.

Abdou: 4♥. Slam is at worst a finesse through opener if partner has ♦A and short spades, this allows partner to cue 4♠ on the way if he has the ace and takes away a 4♥ raise from the opponents.

Grainger: 4♥. Maybe partner can give me 4♠ if the opponents shut up. (Which I will bid 5♣ over, a 4th trump along with a little something is really what we need here).

Shuster: 4♥. I'm not willing to commit to 6♦ yet, as there could be just too much work to do on a trump lead.

Should we just bid what we think we can make?

Korbel: 5♦. Sure, we could have a slam, but I really have a lot of spades to try to deal with.

Dunitz: 5♦. I could make more, but where will my spade losers go on a trump lead? This feels right, and, I might even get doubled.

Chechelashvili: 5♦. It makes no sense to bid 3♠; I'd need perfect cards from partner to make six, but 3♠ might allow my LHO to bid 4♥ and let them find a good sacrifice against 5♦.

Wittes: 6♦. I don't want to start cue bidding at a lower level so the opponents have a better idea what to do. Let them try to work out what's right with minimum information.

<h1>4</h1>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
	pass	1♣	pass	1♥
	3♠	pass	pass	???

You, South, hold: ♠ K ♥ K1075 ♦ Q2 ♣ A109852

What call do you make?

Matchpoints
Neither Vul

What is West's motivation for passing and then preempting?

Grainger: Double. Everyone knows West has four or more hearts. Hopefully partner will bid 3NT or pass.

Abdou: Double. This is more flexible than a youthful 3NT; partner has a minimum and West is a passed hand, may have hearts with his spades or bad spades; it's a zoo out there. 4♣ is pusillanimous with that hand.

Shuster: 3NT. I prefer a structure where I can make a forcing club raise WITH a major, but most don't use it. I guess I have to bid 3NT now, it is MPs after all and partner could hold ♠Jxx or better or maybe the stiff king will work its magic. It's not like we will necessarily get to a sensible spot if I bid 4♣.

Dunitz: 3NT. Could be a sad story but...

Chechelashvili: 3NT. Even if LHO has AQJTxxx in spades which would surprise me considering his initial pass, it might still be our best BAM contract.

Korbel: 3NT. Let's go!

Roeder: 3NT. Fueled in part by the lack of a 4♠ bid on my right. Matchpoints is a sick game for sick people. No wonder I love it.

Two panelists acknowledge Marshall Miles, the former moderator of this column, who was famous for bidding 3NT with a singleton king in the opponents' suit. The aggravating thing was, when I was playing with Marshall, he ALWAYS succeeded in making 3NT with his stiff king. Let me try 3NT on a stiff king, and it was maybe, maybe, maybe.

Wittes: 3NT. Since we're playing match points, I'll try the Marshall Miles bid. At IMPs I'd be more inclined to try to get to 5♣. 3NT also allows for partner to bid 4♥ on the off chance that they have a minimum balanced hand with four hearts.

Bartusek: 3NT. I fear that we have too many losers to make 5♣. Did you get this problem from an old column by Marshall Miles? Marshall would be proud of anyone who bids 3NT with this hand. A stiff king is always a stopper (unless Marshall is on lead!).

<h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">5</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">BAM Both Vul.</p>	South	West	North	East
	1♦	1♥	2♥	3♥
	???			
<p>You, South, hold: ♠ A1085 ♥ 74 ♦ A953 ♣ AQ7</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

This problem came from a few years ago. If the hand occurred today, I would guess that 1NT would be a fairly common opening bid for two reasons. One reason is that as opening bids get lighter and lighter, many pairs are opening 14 – 16 INTs, which caters to opening balanced 11 HCP hands. The second reason this hand would be opened 1NT is that the three aces are worth more than 12 HCP and some players would upgrade this hand and open a 15 – 17 NT.

Several panelists tried double. It's not at all clear that they are on the same page in terms of the meaning of double.

Korbel: Double. However partner interprets this is good with me. There's no way we are defending anything undoubled at BAM.

Abdou: Double. Convertible values, do something! With regular partner it's a Thrump double since we have a fit. It means bid 3NT with a stopper.

Shuster: Double. I have a lot of defense, and the form of scoring greatly rewards defending doubled in close spots.

Grainger: Double. Show some sign of life, let partner do something intelligent. Majority these days are opening 1NT either systemically or as an upgrade.

Chechelashvili: Double. Extras with no clear-cut bid. Why did not I open 1NT?

Dunitz: Double. No clear action, good trick taking potential if partner passes.

Bartusek: Double. If I had more distribution with a stiff heart I would bid 3♠, but I'm too balanced to force the issue. My prime controls demand that we don't allow the opponents to play 3♥ undoubled. Let's make an action double where collecting +200 or +500 might easily win the board when no game makes for us. Partner will assume that I am very balanced to make an action double.

The alternatives to doubling appear to be passing or trying 3♠.

Wittes: 3♠. Descriptive of my strength and takes up minimum bidding space.

Roeder: 3♠. The ultimate "delay the problem" answer. I will reluctantly pass 3NT. I am presuming that partner has denied four spades. Playing a Moysian 4♠ fit might be right but I would like partner to hold two spade honors. Otherwise, electing to pass 4♠ is for "dreamers and telephone schemers" as Joni Mitchell once sang.