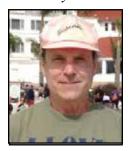
President's Message

The 53rd Card

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



I attended a beginning bridge lesson recently. Most of the dozen or so students had never played bridge before and were going to give it a try. The instructor, Mary Howe, started off with "We start by dealing out all 52 cards to the 4 players," and continued with info

on how to count points, etc. It was a real Page 1 lesson, but the students valued every word and enjoyed the hour.

We never got to the 53rd card involved with our game. That would probably come **much** later. As I think about it, I never knew about the 53rd card either until years after my first lesson when learning the game was surpassed by understanding how to better the competition in the game. We are, of course, talking about the convention card! We should all have at least one favorite 53rd card!

Now if everyone played the same systems, there would be little need for a convention card. I would imagine in the early days of bridge that might have been the case. Everyone did play to the same book and the same rules. Standard meant standard. Not anymore. As soon as creative thinkers started developing more effective ways of communicating with their bidding and card play, player behavior started to diverge. Hence the need for a personal documentation method. The earliest convention card I can recall was a 1961 version. It was published by ACBL and has been revised many times since then. The first edition was not complicated by today's standards. It is a longer process to fill out nowadays because those thinkers keep thinking!

Should everyone value the convention card? Absolutely. Right from the start, the convention card is a good tool for organizing thoughts during a player's learning phase. Notice how the sections almost follow

ACBLscore

by Kevin Lane, District Director



Bridge is a game and should be fun

ACBLscore

ACBLscore version 8.15 is now available from www.acbl.org and

should be used for reporting monthly club/unit financials going forward.

This new version of ACBLscore corrects a problem with reporting financials where unit games wereerroneously charged \$4 per table instead of the correct \$2.25 per table rate.

ACBL Strategic Priorities

At the Reno NABC, the board established four strategic priorities:

- Increase membership acquisition and retention.
- Develop and accelerate tournament director training and recruitment.
- Build the confidence of ACBL members through dealing effectively with cheating and maintaining financial health.
- Upgrade technology and secure our infrastructure while establishing the future architecture of ACBLscore.

These items represent the consensus of the 2015 board of directors on what the ACBL should focus on. I support these goals.

DIRECTOR continued on page 11

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Rank Changespage 10

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PRESIDENT continued from page 1

the table of contents from a bridge book. Opening NT, opening majors, opening minors, weak 2 bids, then defense. Start filling in those sections with a favorite partner and watch the sparks fly in your future games. As soon as you replace a "winging it" bid with a structured bid, your results will show it.

Lots of players and teachers recommend "keep it simple." Can the convention card be simple? Most assuredly it can be simple. Even the standard entries deserve to be recorded because partners make different choices. The same situations may require different actions on different days because you have a different person on the other side of your table. You deserve to be on the same page.

Another piece of advice is "any

agreement is better than no agreement." How many times has a partner asked "What is the right thing to do" in a specific situation. Lot's of times I don't know the "right" action, and just ask that we agree on something until we get better advice. Then there are those situations where five different players would pick five different solutions and all might work at various times. Your partner might have a preference among ideas, so you agree on that for the day and explore further later. Your particular agreement should go on your convention card if there is space for it and you should think about whether it needs an alert. Let's all remember, however, that we should not agree on something against ACBL rules or anything that is deliberately misleading. Those things fall in the class of "private agreements" and are not allowed.

fill one out and carry it to our bridge games? Opinions vary- only because of the observation that a lot of club players make little effort to carry one. In tournaments, it is a rule to have one completely filled out and available for the opponents to examine. That rule is pretty well followed, but my opinion is that the value is more to you and your partner than to the opponents. Sure, if you play with the same partner consistently, then you are very familiar with your convention card and only use it infrequently. But lots of players have a rotating set of partners and there are different agreements with each one! There is a rumor in duplicate bridge that each mistake costs you and your partner one place in the final standings. A few minutes of review on that wonderful convention card you have recorded with that partner may reward you a few hours later with a great finish. If you are going to sit there for three hours and challenge both yourself and those opponents, you may as well eliminate those careless errors of "forgotten" agreements and give the game your best shot based on your offensive and defensive skills. Reviewing the convention card beforehand with even occasional part-

ners can clear up those little notes that look confusing, can give the op-

portunity to add something new, or

can allow you to change an agree-

ment to something more construc-

tive. Those few minutes of review

may be your most valuable minutes

of the day and will certainly firm up your confidence in a partnership on

the rise. Try it - you'll like the re-

sults.

So how useful is a convention

card? Is it worth all the trouble to

Carolyn Taff & Marion Napier **REALTORS**

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Los Angeles Regional

Long Beach, CA

June 27 - July 3 2016





Tournament Highlights

Gold Rush Pairs - Tuesday through Thursday!
New Gold Rush Swiss - Friday!
Star Speakers every day!
299er games every day!
Daylight Schedule all week!



Monday Pro-Am Workshop & Game

Free two-hour bridge lesson on Monday June 27 from 10:30 am to 12:30, followed by lunch and a Pro-Am pairs game. Card fees for Pro-Am: \$14 (pros play for free)

Registration Required!

Please call Jeff Grotenhuis 310-600-4275

Hilton Long Beach

701 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA

Room rate: \$129 (please refer to ALACBU)

Reserve at 800-445-8667 by Thursday, June 2nd
Self parking: \$7

Card fees: \$14 (\$18 for non-ACBL Members)



Need a Partner?

Diane Sachs dianesachs@yahoo.com 562-981-4884

Tournament Manager:

Peter Benjamin ahoneydo@aol.com 310-720-6050

Director-in-Charge:

Ken Horwedel

Tournament Cair: Stan Holzberg District 23 President: Mike Marcucci

> Tournament Sanction:R1607031 Flyer Designer Mr F

Los Angeles Regional

... 10:30 am

Long Beach, CA

June 27 - July 3 2016



W. 1915

200 For Mindale Complete Description 10:20
299er Free Workshop/lunch Reserv. Rqd10:30 an
PRO AM (single session) Reserv. Red1.15 pm
AM Side Game Series(1 of 6)1:15 pm
Single Session Stratified Charity Pairs (ALACBU
Scholarship)7:00 pm

AM 299er Pairs (single session)...... 10:30 am

Tuesday, June 28, 2016 AM Side Game Series (2 of 6)...

Monday, June 27, 2016

Betsy Ross KO (1 & 2 of 4) 10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2) 10:30 am & 3:15 pn
Marvin Grabel Memorial Open Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)
10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Guest Lecture 2:30 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session) 3:15 pm
PM Side Game Series (1 of 5) 3:15 pn
PM 299er Pairs (single session) 3:15 pm
Dinner Break6:45 pm - 7:30 pm

Tue Wed Evening Swiss Teams (1 of 2) 7:30 pm

Wednesday, June 29, 2016

AM Side Game Series [3 of 6]			LO:30	ar
AM 299er Pairs (single session)			10:30	ar
Betsy Ross KO (3 & 4 of 4)	10:30	am &	3:15	pr
Firecracker KO (1 & 2 of 4)	10:30	am &	3:15	pr
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	10:30	am &	3:15	pr
Wed. Open Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	. 10:30	am &	3:15	pr
Guest Lecture				

Wednesday, June 29, 201

weunesday, june 29, 2010		
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)	3:15	pm
PM Side Game Series (2 of 5)	3:15	pm
PM 299er Pairs (single session)	3:15	pm
Dinner Break6:45 pm -		
Tue-Wed Evening Swiss Teams (2 of 2)	7:30	pm

Thursday, June 30, 2016 AM Side Game Series (4 of 6)......

AM 299er Pairs (single session)	10:3	0 pm
Firecracker KO (3 & 4 of 4)	10:30 am & 3:1	5 pm
Stars and Stripes KO (1 & 2 of 4)	10:30 am & 3:1	5 pm
Equinox Compact KO (1 & 2 of 2).	10:30 am & 3:1	5 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	10:30 am & 3:1	5 pm
John Wreede Memorial Open Pair	s (1 & 2 of 2)	
	10:30 am & 3:1	5 pm
Guest Lecture	2:3	0 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single ses	sion)3:1	5 pm
PM Side Game Series (3 of 5)	3:1	5 pm

Friday, July 1, 2016

AM Side Game Series (5 of 6)	0.30	an
AM 299er Pairs (single session)1	0:30	pn
Stars and Stripes KO (3 & 4 of 4)10:30 am &	3:15	pn
Liberty KO (1 & 2 of 4)10:30 am &	3:15	pn
Gold Rush Swiss Teams (1 & 2 of 2) 10:30 am &	3:15	pn
Friday Open Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	3:15	pm
Guest Lecture		
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)	3:15	pm

PM Side Game Series (4 of 5).....

turday, July 2, 2016

or really state of
AM Side Game Series (6 of 6) 10:30 am
Sandy Rink Memorial 299er Pairs (single session)
Marshall Miles Stratified Pairs (1 & 2 of 4)
Liberty KO (3 & 4 of 4)10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Queen Mary Compact KO (1 & 2 of 2)
Saturday Open Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Entertainment Event2:30 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session) 3:15 pm
PM Side Game Series (5 of 5)3:15 pm
PM 299er Pairs (single session) 3:15 pm

Sunday, July 3, 2016

Event Colors: New Events: Gold Teams: Green

Pairs: Blue 299ers: Black Breaks: Hot Pink



Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org www.LongBeachBridge.com

May 20 unit-rated Grassroots Fund Week game: Overall results: 1st in A: Ted Gibbs/Mike Welsh, 2nd Kay Tseng/Robert Backovic, 3rd Steve Rowe/Loren Hilf, 4th Ron Lien/Wei Pei, 5th Larry Topper/Betti Harris, 6th Lorna Wallace/Lutrell Long. In the B flight overalls: 4th Jean Matz/Bettyanne Houts, 5th Susan Bibby/Sharon Biederman. In the C flight overalls: 1st Frank Varga/Al Bakta, 2nd Coilleen Bilas/Dalia Hernandez, 3rd Marjorie Holmes/Julie Mills, 4th Susan Tucker/Marguerite Jungles. Congratulations to all!

May 22 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: 1st Xiaoxue Walker/Joseph Chalkin, 2nd Betti and Warren Harris, 3rd John Petrie/Sankar Reddy, 4th Dalia Hernandez/Colleen Bilas, 5th, Jo and John Melis, 6th Wayne Rapp/Judith Jones. In the B flight overalls: 4th Simone Chottin/Jeanette Estill, and tied for 5/6 Jane Reid/Joyce Henderson and Baum Harris/Richard Bakovic. In the C flight overalls: 3rrd Alan and Barbara Olschwang, 4th Rob Preece/ Usha Bansal. Congratulations to all!

70+% Game: May 16 through June 15: In the NLM game May 31 Ralph Brunson/Carol LoPresti had 71.73%. Congratulations you two!

Big Masterpoint Awards May 16 through June 15: In the open games: May 16 Sankar Reddy/John Petrie won 3.65 for 1st. May 17 Cliff Goodrich Robert Gish won 4.67mp for 1st, Chiye Horiguchi/Mark Tang won 3.50mp for 2nd. May 18 Bob Bakovic/Vivian Kiley won 3.35mp for 1st. In the Grassfoots Fund Week game May 20 Mike Welsh/Ted Gibbs won 5.10mp for

1st, Kay Tseng/Richard Bakovic won 3.83mp for 2nd. May 21 Colleen Bilas/Jon Yinger won 3.06mp for 1st. In the Unit Game May 22 Joseph Chalkin/Xiaoxue Walker won 3.79mp for 1st. In open games: May 30 Earl VanDerVord/Michael Daley won 3.79mp for 1st. June 3 John Petrie/Earl VanDerVord won 3.19mp for 1st. June 4 Betty McClellan/Marcie Evans won 3.23mp for 1st, Ted Gibbs/Mike Welsh won 3.2mp for 2nd. June 6 Sankar Reddy/John Petrie won 3.50mp for 1st. June 7 John Petrie/Sankar Reddy won 4.52mp for 1st, Kay Hyland/Lynne Finley won 3.39 for 2nd. June 8 Michael Daley/Earl VanDerVord won 3.35 for 1st. And June10 Lorna Wallace/Lutrell Long won 4.23mp for 1st, John Petrie/Cecil Cook won 2.17mp for 2nd. Congratulations to all!

New Members: Jenny Ernst, Rondal Cunningham, Louis Shen. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Sectional Masters: John Hagman, Jim Keese. New Silver Life Master: Joyce Henderson. Steve Skinner. Congratulations to all three!

Get Well Wishes to Sibyl Smith.

Condolences to the family and friends of Lois Perovich who passed away earlier this month.

Upcoming Events at the Club

May 15-21 Grassroots Fund Week. Extra points. Card fees \$12.

May 26 at 12:30 Interclub Championship game. Extra points, regular card fees.

May 22 Unit Game. Dessert served during the game. Card fees \$8.

May 30 Junior Fund Game. Extra points, card fees \$12.

June 3 and 4: Worldwide Bridge Contests. Extra points, regular card fees.

June 6-12: Club Championship Week. Extra points, regular card fees.

June 22 Inter-Club Championship game on Wednesday Night along with an NAP qualifying game. Extra points, regular card fees.

June 26 Unit Game. Dessert served during the game. Card fees \$8.

July 10 Unit-rated Swiss teams game.

July 11-17 Districts 22 and 23 Summer STaC games. Extra points, card fees \$12

July 24 Unit Game. Dessert served during the game. Card fees \$8. Future Unit Games will be played on August 21, September 25 and October 23.

July 25-31 NAP (North American Paris) qualifying week. Extra points, regular card fees.

News from Leisure World

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Eight is Enough - Swiss Team May 16 Clubhouse #3: 1st Verna Becker, Christine Frumen, Kathryn Moore and Dee Park. 2nd Sue Boswell, Monica Gettis, Diane Sachs and Peggi Spring. 3rd Judith Jones, Sylvia Kaprelyan, Linda Nye and Emma Trepinski. 4th Ralph Brunson, Fern Dunbar, John Hagman and Rob Preece. 5th George Alemshah, Carman Gross, Bettyann Houts and Melanie Smith.

Unit Rated Game – June 13 Clubhouse #3: Marilyn McClintock/Bob Mault 1 in A. Lorna Wallace/Larry Topper 2 in A, 1 in B. Chie Wickham/Alan Olschwang 3 in A, 2 in B, 1 in C. Fern Dunbar/Lavonne McQuilkin 4 in A. Betty Jackson/Larry Slutsky 5 in A. Monica Gettis/Peggi Spring 6 in A, 3 in B. Stan Blitz/Harshad Vora 4 in B, 2 in C. Joyce Henderson/Howard Smith 5 in B. Jeanette Estill/Simone Chottin 6 in B. Jane Gibbons/Chuck Cutchshaw 3 in C. Nancy Litcher/Paul Chen 4 in C.

70% Game: On 6/3 Fern Dunbar and Diane Sachs had a 70.78% game, on 6/4 Diane Sachs and Hank Dunbar had a 72.49% game.

Get Well wishes to Jean Byer, Bill Linskey, Sibyl Smith and Dick Stammerjohn

Upcoming club championship games: Clubhouse #3: July 14th, Clubhouse #1: July 15th and July 23rd

What do you think?

Send letters to the editor to: bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org



Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game/STaC – Saturday, July 16, 11:00 a.m. Individual – Saturday, July 2, 9:30 a.m., La Verne Site

We have two Unit games to report this month (thanks to a little timely procrastination...) The May Unit game was captured by Vic Sartor - Bill Papa, with Anand and Kiran Kumar taking second, Penny Barbieri - Rosalie Roberts third, and Genise Hasan - Linda Ananea tying for fourth with Claudia Cochran - Patricia Radamaker. In June, Kerry Sartor - Vic Sartor took the top spot, followed by Anand and Kiran Kumar, Roger Boyar - Richard Patterson, with Susan Emminger - Patricia Radamaker and Penny Barbieri - Gino Barbieri tying for the fourth spot. Darlene and Tom Sessions won Flight C.

Lots of ties... seems appropriate, as this is being written on Father's Day...

In the June Individual, Yours Truly took the top spot, followed by Roger Boyar, Richard Patterson, Linda Tessier, and Clint Lew. In spite of the conflict with our Bridge Week Regional, the July game will be held as usual, for those who don't plan to play in Long Beach.

Speaking of Unit Games, we have some good news and some not-so-good news. The good news is that for the July STaC game (awarding silver points), we are able to hold the line on the entry fee at \$8, in spite of the recent increase in the sanction fee. However, due to the fact that the sanction fee for the regular Unit Games has more than tripled, we are going to have to raise the entry fee by a buck, to \$7. It's our first increase in about 10 years, and still one of the best bargains around. And you get free entertainment from the director, who tries (sometimes vainly, sometimes unintentionally) to be humorous.

It seems that last month's comment in this section must have fired up Bill Papa and Vic Sartor this month. They turned in a blistering 76.7%, game, beating out Fredy and Lulu Minter's 73.6% effort. Fortunately (for the rest of us), Bill is in Greece for the next three →

months. Other section-toppers were Joe Unis, Herb Stampfl, Roger Boyar, Sandy Jones, Richard Patterson, Roger Ginsburg, Penny Barbieri, John Barrow, Mary Miller, Margie Hall, Ann Raymond, and Gino Barbieri. Three promotions this month. Abdelrahim A Mehilba is now a Junior Master, Cheng-Hung Yeh is a Club Master, and Kai Liu is a sectional Master. Congratulations to you all.

This month we have two hands to entertain you. Both occurred during our Longest Day event, on consecutive boards, no less!

No one vulnerable, East deals, and as North you are looking at: ♠KQ7 ♥-- ◆AQT64 ♣AQ974.

The auction goes pass, pass, 1, over to you. Well, you might double, but how about 2NT (minors)? This hand is surely worth more than one bid, and you might luck out and find a spade fit, who knows?

East raises to 3♥, and partner surprises everyone by leaping to 5♦! West competes with 5♥, and again it's over to you.

We hope you called 6♦, because partner's hand is: ♠AT ▼T7 ♦K9853 ♣JT85. 6♦ is cold and 7♦ is on the club hook, which wins. Now wouldn't it be something if EW tried 6♥ and you got to 7♦?

On the very next hand, it's North-South again with the tickets, but this time you are South, holding: ♠A8763 ♥AKJ42 ♦-- ♣QT9.

NS vulnerable (if it matters, which it does not), you deal and open 1♠. West calls 2♠, partner raises to 2♠, East passes, and it's up to you.

Well, Walter the Walrus sees only 14 points (16, having two decent 2 five card suits), and either passes or re-raises to 3♣, in which case partner will probably pass. You've got fair playing strength with that nice side suit. How about a help-suit game try of 3♣? This strikes gold. Partner accepts and puts down ♠K42 ♥83 ♠864 ♣KJ872.

It's not often partner can help that much! Trumps are 3-2 and 11 tricks roll in, losing only a trump and the A.

Finally, a big thanks to all of you who participated in the Longest Day, by donating, playing, or just plain helping out. Turnout was modest, but we believe everyone had fun. There were a few problems in the afternoon session (the Director had been called away by a family emergency) but everything worked out in the end.

Quote for the Month: "He that cannot reason is a fool. He that will not is a bigot. He that dare not is a

slave." (Andrew Carnegie)
Until next month...



Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

We are continuing to profile some of our Inspirational Players in Unit 556. This month we are featuring Russ Buker of Lancaster:

Russ started playing bridge and other card games at an early age. He thinks he was probably introduced to bridge filling in when needed in family social bridge games. He learned Culbertson's bidding methods but never had any formal lessons. He more or less stumbled into duplicate bridge with his wife while playing at club games while in the air force. Like a lot of us, he let bridge go for many years while he was raising a family and working.

After receiving his master's degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Florida in 1959, he moved to the Antelope Valley where he was stationed at Edwards Air Force Base. He ran a duplicate game at Edwards for four years and was also playing at other games in the area. One of his favorite memories was always going to the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles for Bridge Week. When he decided to learn more about bridge, he studied on his own from one of Max Hardy' book. He still loves going to tournaments in the Southern California area and Las Vegas.

Now a silver life master, he still plays bridge at least three times a week in both Antelope Valley and Castaic. He has three regular female partners and they agree that he is always a perfect gentleman who walks them to their cars after every game.

The Longest Day

We had a great turnout for the Longest Day Charity Game on June 20th with 13 tables. We raised \$625 for the Alzheimer's Association. Congratulations to Bill Brodek and David White for scoring the top score in the nationwide afternoon event with over 2600 pairs. A big thank you to Paula Olivares for organizing and running the game. The results were:

Bill Brodek and David White - 69.9%

- 2 George MacDonald and Hansford Rowe 61.7%
- 3 Bert Stock and Roy Ladd 60.9%
- 4 Leah Leavitt and Onorita Pallanti 57.1%
- 5 Lamonte Johnson and Ted Maki 54.9%

May Unit Game

The following are Unit Game Results from May 23 at the Friendly Bridge Club in Santa Clarita

NS

- 1 Bert Stock and Roy Ladd 61.1%
- 2 Carol Ashbacher and Melisse Benson 60.3%
- 3 Lamonte Johnson and Ted Maki 59.1%

EW

- 1 Arif Shah and Basant Shah 52.9%
- 2 Paula Olivares and Shari Elias 50.9%
- 3 Anita Walker and Jackie Moor 50%

Magic Mountain Sectional

Unit 556 will hold our Magic Mountain Sectional this year on September 17-18 at the Friendly Valley Auditorium, 19345 Avenue of the Oaks in Santa Clarita. On Saturday there will be two single session events, Stratified Open Pairs and Limited Masterpoint Pairs at 10:00 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. On Sunday there will be a play-through Stratified Open Swiss Teams event at 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact tournament chair Bill Brodek (bbrodek@yahoo.com) or partnership coordinator Tracy Boys (abigquack@sbcglobal.net).

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, August 16 at 5:15 at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita

Upcoming NAP qualifying Games

Tuesday, July 12 at 12:30 (Senior Center in Santa Clarita)

Tuesday, July 26 at 6:45 (Senior Center in Santa Clarita)

Tuesday, August 9 at 12:30 (Senior Center in Santa Clarita)

Upcoming Unit Games

Monday, July 18 at 12:30 (Senior Center in Santa

Clarita)

Monday, August 22 at 12:30 (Senior Center in Santa Clarita)

Other Events

Sunday, July 10: "8 is Enough" Swiss Team game at 1:00 p.m. at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale. Each team is limited to 4 members whose point levels add to 8 or less. The stratifications are 0-450 = 1; 450-1200 = 2 and 1200+ = 3. Check with Paula Olivares (paula@pacbell.com) or Beth Morrin (morrin@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

Magic Mountain Sectional: Saturday, September 17 and Sunday September 18 at the Friendly Valley Auditorium in Santa Clarita.



San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

Special Congratulations

The 750 Bridge Club hosted a very successful Carol Lang Memorial Game on Friday, June 3. This event featured 26 tables of duplicate bridge and a delicious catered Italian luncheon, generously provided by Bill and Terry Morton. The overall winners, whose names will be engraved on the permanent commemorative plaque, were the EW pair of John Van Egmond – Lamonte Johnson (A1) with a 67.12% game.

NS winners were: Martin Hurwitz – David Sievers (A1), Jane Winston – Lynn Edelson (A2, B1, C1), Bobbie Eckstein – Phyllis Licht (A3, B2, C2), and Leona Frisch – Jerry Rose (C3). Other EW winners were: Gary Baxley – Ray Primus (A2, B1), Tracy Boys – Eva Seri (A3), Billy Blanchard – Monica Fastovsky (B2), Barbara Glick – Joan Grossblatt (B3), Barbara Cohen – Jay Fuller (C1), Charles Warner III – Robert Glickman (C2), and Susan Graber - Vanessa Gold (C3).

May "Top Ten" Masterpoints at the 750 Club were Ray Primus 9.89, Ronald Malkin 7.64, Ravnesh Amar 7.54, Susan Raphael 7.51, William Raff 7.40, John Tickner 7.40, Dick Berg 6.50, Phillip Calloway 6.47, Martin Hurwitz 6.44, and Rochelle Lotto 6.27. 70% games were achieved by Jeff Hartmann − Frank Rappaport →

71.30% and William Raff – John Tickner 71.30%.

July 19: Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night

The next Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night will be held Tuesday, July 19. Dinner is \$18 per person and starts at 6 p.m. and the bridge is \$5 per person and begins at 7 p.m. This is an ACBL sanctioned game and the first place NS and EW winners will receive coupons for Braemar's Wednesday night "Pastabilities" dinner. For reservations and/or partnerships contact Nancy Klemens at nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

The 750 Club Future Events

North American Pair Qualifying Games will be held during June, July, and August. Half red and half black points will be awarded to the winners. There is a \$1 extra fee for each of the games which will be for Open, Stratified Pairs. Specific dates are listed below in the **Calendar** section.

During the weeks of July 4-8 and July 11-15, the church will be using the bridge room for their annual summer bible school. Therefore, all bridge games will be held in the Family Center (large building on Rudnick, just north of the church).

STaC games will be held during the week of July 11 - 15. Silver points will be awarded to the winners and all STaC games are \$1 extra/person.

Calendar

Monday, July 4, day game only at the 750 Club. Closed at night.

Monday, July 4 – Friday, July 15, 750 Club bridge games will be held in the Family Center on Rudnick Ave.

Monday, July 11 – Friday, July 15, STaC games at the 750 Club. \$1 extra fee/person.

Monday, July 18, North American Pair Games, 750 Club, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Tuesday, July 19, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. See details above.

Wednesday, July 27, Unit 561 Board Meeting, 750 Club, 2:45 p.m.

Tuesday, August 9, Thursday, August 11, and Friday, August 12, *North American Pair Games, 750 Club, 11 a.m.

Saturday, August 27, Unit 561 Lunch/Game, at the 750 Club. Please save the date!

Saturday, December 3, Unit 561 Holiday Bridge and Dinner Party, at the 750 Club. Please save the date!



Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit: www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568 SBBC: www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

NAOP Qualifier: Wednesday, July 6, 11:30 a.m. Club Championship: Saturday, July 9, 2:00 p.m. Club Championship: Monday, July 11, 6:30 p.m. Club Championship: Wednesday, July 20, 11:30 a.m. NAOP Qualifier: Monday, July 25, 11:30 a.m. Friday Night game on July 15

Club Championships

The Club Championship on May 18 was won by Norman Futami/Booth Tarkington in Flights A and B. On June 13 the Club Championship was led by Arlene Greengard/Pat Schenasi in Flight A with Beverly Narahara/Carole King on top in Flight B and Gerry Gastelum/Nancy Reichi winning Flight C.

Team Winners

May 24: John Brailliar, Robert Rothman, Steve Ramos, Ed Piken

May 31:Mary Ann Coyle, Bo Bogema, Mike Savage, John J. McDermott

June 14: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Lucy Gellner, Wayne Otsuki

Milestones

Sadly we report the passing of Marge Haneline, one of our units junior players. Marge was a close by neighbor of Gerri Carlson and an avid duplicate and party Bridge player in the South Bay for many years.

TSB Sectional

The Torrance South Bay Sectional drew 121 tables over the Memorial day weekend. The facility was quite nice and things went smoothly. Thanks to tourney manager Stan Greengard for his efforts.

Unit members and honorary unit members who won events at this Sectional were Linda Klebs/Frank Reig (0-500 NLM Pairs), Fran Israel/Mark Raggio (Stratified Open Pairs), Diane Maye/Tajie Major/Loretto Russell/Carol Hansen (0-500NLM Swiss), Mike Savage, Bruce Horiguchi, Weidong Pei, John J. McDermott (Open Swiss).

Just looking for an Opinion

You play fourth best leads. Against a suit contract you Hold Q987 in an unbid suit. If you are leading this suit what card would you lead? Just looking for unbiased opinions.

GUV Award

At the Las Vegas Regional I won five consecutive best percent game bets with my friend Shirley Carroll. With one session to go Shirley was playing with Gerri Carlson. I offered to quintuple the bet amount for this session so Shirley would have a chance at coming out even. However Shirley declined and just settled on the standard bet amount. Well, Shirley, when opportunity knocks you gotta open the door. Shirley and Gerri put together a 67% game to far outdistance me and pard. They finished 5th ovevall.

Also in Vegas I played with the partner I said needed new glasses in this column recently. On one hand I thought the bidding went as follows. 1DDD by me, 1HHH by pard, 2SSS by me, 4SSS by pard, all pass. LHO looked at me kind of funny and asked what the bidding meant. I thought it was straight forward enough and said so. Except... pard did not bid 4SSS. He bid 4CCC as a splinter. Well I did have very good clubs (AKJT), but playing a 4-1 fit pard still went down 2 where 5SSS was cold. I promised him that I would get new glasses after that one.

Na Zdrowie





West LA by Robert Shore

Mamma Mia

The ABA hosted us yet again for the twice-annual ABA-ACBL game, and once again their hospitality will be hard to match. Thank you to everyone who made us feel so welcome, and of course to the players who made the game such a rousing success. Winning the event were Shoreh Toufanian and Larry Margott. We hope to see everyone at Barrington in a few months when it's our turn to host the series.

A Hat Trick

Last month also saw the Spring West Los Angeles Sectional, and our Unit members did us proud. A member of our Unit was part of the winning pair or team in every event at the tournament. Lew and Rhoda Himmell started things off by winning the Saturday morning Open Pairs event. Richard Stevenson, Kris Sommer, and Vera Mandell got past a number of very strong and experienced teams to win the Compact Knockout Teams event. Wayne Karson won the Sunday morning Open Pairs event. Your Humble Scribe was a winner in the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs and, along with Howard Einberg, in the Sunday Swiss as well, thus taking an early lead in the race for the Jill Meyers Trophy.

Your Humble Scribe entered the winner's circle again by winning the Saturday Compact Knockout at the Garden Grove Sectional. Ifti Baqai won the Saturday morning Open Pairs event at Garden Grove, and also scored up wins at the Sacramento Regional in the Tuesday Daylight Pairs and then again in the Wednesday Daylight Pairs. Alex Wiles won his bracket of the Kings Knockout Teams event. Our less experienced members more than held their own at the South Bay Sectional, with S.T. Peterson and Cheri Bitar winning the Saturday morning 0-500 Non-Life Master Pairs event while Mary Williams won the Saturday afternoon 0-500 Non-Life Master Pairs. Mike Savage won the Sunday Swiss and led all masterpoint winners at the Sectional.

Opportunity Is Knocking

Qualifying has begun for the annual North American Pairs competition. Look for a qualifying game in June, July, or August to get eligible for a Unit Final. District winners in each of the three flights (open, 0-2500, 0-500 NLM) will get \$700 each to defray their costs to attend the Spring North American Championships in Kansas City, and second-place pairs in each flight will get at least \$350. The last couple of years, the District has even kicked in some extra money for the second- and third-place finishers. Club-level games award at the sectional level, and half the payoff is red points. Don't miss out!

Welcome Mat

The newest members of the ACBL who hail from our Unit are Stephen Bauman, Daniel Harrington, Edward Jackson, and Helen and John Romm. Transferring in from other units are Jacky Schiff, Sandy Schmitz, and Gail Stone. That's two full tables of new members. Please give them a warm welcome when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

After a one-month hiatus, big games are back in style. At Beverly Hills, John Lu and Danny Kleinman hit 70%, as did Rahim Israel and Lou Papp. Club champions last month at Beverly Hills were Rhoda and Lew Himmell and Karen Schwartz and Bob Ashen.

Barrington rejoined the big game train as well. Sally Karbelnig and Danny Kleinman paired up to hit the 70% mark, and did Aram Bedros and Art Zail.

As always, the Marina City Club holds its games Tuesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. at 4333 Admiralty Way. Call Robin Thayer at (310) 713-8647 for information or for a partner.

Climbing the Ladder

Starting their climb up the ladder as our Unit's newest Junior Masters are Barbara Dischler, Laurel Resnick, Susan Rosman, and David Swartz. Susan Jameson has become a Club Master. Helaine Blatt, Susan Cohen, and Jacqueline McCarthy are now Sectional Masters. Stuart Hemple and Barbara Wellisch have reached NABC Master status.

Phyllis Selig-Kerns has become a Bronze Life Master. William Baxter and Jim Clarkson have reached Ruby Life Master. Mike Mikyska is now a Diamond Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

Got news? Send it to me at Bob78164@yahoo.com.

D23 Rank Changes May 2016 Club Master

Charlotte Bannan, Roger Ginsburg Stanley Kangas, Jean Parks Rosalie Zalis

Sectional Master

Phoebe Evans, Sofi Kasubhai Stan Levine, Brigitte Prince Howard Simon

Regional Master

Judy Husted, Marty Husted Lilli Kalmenson, Catherine King Albert Lax, Val Romoff Jerold Rose, Rosalie Storc Izydor Wilchfort, Annette Wolas

NABC Master

Virginia Brewer Hsuehching Chang Judith Tomic

Adv NABC Master

Life Master

Kent Burrell Phil Rabichow William Raff Bob Shapiro

Bronze Life Master Nancie Barrier

Silver Life Master

Kenneth Kidd Richard Stein

Ruby Life Master

Dorothy Favre Robert Rothman

Gold Life Master Louis Papp

Diamond Life Master Jordan Chodorow

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

Charity Grants

Many ALACBU units have inquired about the charity grant process. We are well ahead of the normal paperwork schedule. I will make an effort to contact each unit at the Long Beach regional to make sure that no grant request slips through the cracks, but unit representatives are also free to contact me.

Again, we are well ahead of schedule. This year's effort is more complex than usual, and I will provide an update at the District board meeting.

New League Counsel

In Reno, the board also voted to hire a new league counsel to be based in our Mississippi headquarters. Mitch Dunitz was on the hiring committee for this position. The ACBL has hired Linda Dunn who will start July 15. Linda J. Dunn is an attorney with a career that encompasses large firm and in-house legal practices, business planning, financial analysis, as well as business management. She has an AB in Psychology and Social Relations from Harvard University and a JD/MBA from Harvard Business and Law Schools. Linda recently earned a Masters in Law from The John Marshall Law School in Chicago.

Linda learned to play bridge during high school in Memphis, TN and continued to play during her college years. A member of the ACBL and the American Bridge Association (ABA) since the mid-1980s, Lindadid not play bridge while she pursued her legal career and only recently returned to the game.

She is passionate about the game of bridge and her goal is to ensure that anyone interested in the game learns to play it.

Linda is a certified ABA bridge instructor (and plans to soon be certified by the ACBL). She has taught several beginning bridge classes at local Chicago public libraries, community centers and her local club. She frequently plays in her local bridge club and competes in local, regional and national tournaments, having achieved the rank of Gold Life Master (ABA) and Regional Master (ACBL). One of her best bridge memories is winning the ABA Silver Life Master Player of the Year and she looks forward to advancing up the ACBL ranks.

Linda also enjoys reading (British mysteries are a favorite) and she collects modern art. She also enjoys the companionship of her two Weimaraners.

Please help our district by attending the Long Beach regional which figures to be a big success.

The summer NABC will be held later in July in Washington D.C.

Reach me at klaned23@gmail.com



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Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones
Panelists: Gerry Bare, Eddie Kantar, Tim Lolli, Margie Michelin,
John Swanson and Jon Wittes



South	West	North	East
9			2♥
•			
	You, Sou	ıth, hold:	
	♦ K9632 V K	♦ AT7 ♣ QJ76	
	What call do	you make?	

This problem was submitted to Jerry Helms of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin a few months ago. The reader bid 2♠. Helms disliked the 2♠ bid (the rest of the auction was horrid), and said he would Pass. He didn't even mention Double. I had the feeling that if I asked a group of experts, I would hear Double (my choice), 2♠, and Pass. It seems to me that Pass is most conservative, Double is flexible but doesn't get the fifth spade into play, and 2♠ has the most to gain or lose. Let's hear from the panel.

Lolli: Pass. Am I really supposed to bid with this hand? 13 meager high cards including an 80% worthless ♥K is too rich for my blood.

Wittes: Double. To me, it's close between double and pass, so I'll vote for the more aggressive action. I would not bid 24 on that moth-eaten suit.

Bare: Double. Poor spades make double a safer bid, and if partner has a good hand the ♥K may make NT a better spot even with a 5-3 spade fit.

Michelin: Double. Miserable! Pass, 2♠, or Double could all be right. I hate my spade suit, and my stiff ♥K. However, I am the one who is short in hearts so I am supposed to take action, I am going to treat my spade suit as a 4 card suit for MP and hope that when I double partner can Pass for penalties or bid 3NT. My ♥K rates to score so double is my choice but I don't love it.

Swanson: 24. Double is a reasonable option.

Kantar: 2♠. Looks pretty clear. It's not strong enough to double and then bid spades.

For the latest news...

District 23 on the web:

http://www.bridgewebs.com/acbl23/

2
IMPs all vul

South	West	North	East
1 ♦ ?	Dbl	1♠	Pass Pass
	You, South, hol	d:	

◆Q76 ♥7 ◆AKQT76 ◆K97 What call do you make?

Spades or diamonds? The two level or the three level? What's your poison?

Swanson: 2♠. Without the double, I would have rebid 2♠. However, partner is not apt to bid a poor spade suit in this situation and 2♠ is a bit more encouraging than 2♠. The argument against the immediate raise is that in spades the value of the great diamond suit may not be realized.

Wittes: $2 \bullet$. If they bid $2 \checkmark$ and it comes back to me, I'll bid $2 \bullet$.

Michelin. 3♦. We are vulnerable at IMPs, and I am an aggressive sort, so I am going to upgrade my hand to a 3♦ rebid. I think it is too good to bid only 2♦. I have a good suit, and raising spades on three when I have to ruff and am likely to get a bad split seems wrong. If partner has a good hand, 3NT is probably a good spot, but where is the heart suit? My RHO didn't bid (no points but may have the heart suit) or my LHO may have a big hand with hearts. My 3♦ bid may be harder

for him to bid over than $2 \blacklozenge$ or $2 \spadesuit$, [Good point!] I will try for the vulnerable game bonus at IMPs.

Lolli: 3• because of the •10. 2• has a couple of advantages: I might be able to bid 2• over a kindly 2• by the opponents, or partner will maybe bid 2• so that I can bid 3• to locate our 5-3 fit. 2• has the disadvantage that it is easier for the opponents to bid hearts at a lower level, but East has already passed when he had a chance to do so. 3• makes it harder to find a 5-3 spade fit but easier to find 3NT when that's right.

Bare: 3. I don't want the bidding to come back to me at a low level after 2.

Kantar: 3. They still don't allow fractions, so 2 1/2 diamonds or 2 1/2 spades are out.

No Eddie, they don't allow for fractional bids, except in Bruce Walker's alternative version of the game. BTW, if anyone has Bruce Walker's fascinating rules for alternative bridge, please contact me.

Looking for a Club?

Check out https://web3.acbl.org/findalist/club

All clubs in Los Angeles are listed. You can look up all the game times, locations, and contact info.

3 IMPs EW vul S W N E

You, South, hold: ♣-- ♥KQT983 ♦762 ♣KJ97 What call do you make?

1♥, 2♥, 3♥, 4♥, or pass. All five of these calls would be selected by some expert. This problem was presented by Steve Robinson about 15 years ago. His problem elicited all five responses, but Robinson prefers 4♥, which is consistent with his super aggressive preemptive style. Robinson and his teammates Peter Boyd, Kit Woolsey, and Fred Stewart played against a D23 squad in the recent USPF Senior Trials in Denver. The D23 squad consisted of Alan Daniels playing with Dave Pelka and Lance Kerr playing with Tom Reynolds. They commented on the super aggressive preempts that the Robinson team made.

Swanson: 2♥. Routine for me. If the auction happens to continue 2♠, pass, pass to me, I'll try 2NT.

Lolli: 2♥. Not strong enough for 1♥ for defense purposes, and a little too strong for a weak two. So, we're allowed to have solid values once in a while. Could we miss a better club fit? Yes.

I'm in the camp with the $3 \checkmark$ bidders.

Kantar: 3^{\vee} . I started by passing, then moved up to 2^{\vee} , and finally, with an eye on the vulnerability, settled for the man's bid, 3^{\vee} .

Looks like 3♥ *is a woman's bid, too.*

Michelin: 3♥. They may be cold for 4♠ and 4♥ might be better, but my partners always have the spade suit when I am trying to shut the opponents out. I am 6 - 4 and 2♥ is not right here, so I am bidding 3♥. Second choice is 4♥.

Bare: 3V.

Wittes: 3. I have some distribution and texture, and it will make it a little tougher for the opponents to come in with the spade suit.

4 MPs no vul

S	W	N	E
Pass	Pass	Dbl	1♥ Pass

* Hearts and a minor

You, South, hold: ♠KT7 ♥T87 ♦QJ7 ♣A876 What call do you make?

Normally we would like to show some values with 10 HCP, even over a balancing double. Here, the bids that show extras: 1NT, 2♥ and 3♠, all have flaws. This might be a more difficult problem if partner had doubled directly, not in balancing chair.

Bare: 1NT, best description, not good enough for 2♥. Right on values and shape, but the ♥T87 just might not stand up as a stopper. East's pass makes 1NT a little more attractive though.

Wittes: 2. It's a good hand with a lot of cards that are probably working, but no distribution, and partner's cards are in front of the opener. If partner bids again, I'll cooperate fully.

Swanson: 2♣. There is some temptation to bid 1♠, but partner might get too energetic. In addition, if North bids again, I won't want to pass 2♥. A better plan is to bid 2♣, then either double 2♥ if it gets back to me, or then to try spades.

Kantar: 2. Edgar Kaplan always said that: "When in doubt, bid your longest suit." Of course, I wish it were a little longer.

Michelin. 2♣. I have a 10 count but 4333, and partner maybe doubling for me. At MPs, 1♠ may be right, but I am going to bid a mundane 2♣.

Lolli: 2. I have nothing to get excited about here, unless partner bids again. If partner bids again, I should be well placed to know how to proceed.

5
IMPs
all vul

S	W	N	Е
			1NT
?*			

*Your methods are Hamilton (Cappeletti)

You, South, hold: ♠A ♥KQJT762 ♠QT87 ♣7 What call do you make?

3♥ is not terribly well defined in Hamilton (I'm sure Fred defined it, but the rest of us don't know what it is supposed to be). I don't know definitively either. However, playing 3♥ as strong when vulnerable makes sense.

Wittes: 3. Should show a good hand and good suit at this vulnerability.

Lolli 3. Should show about this hand. I don't like doubles in these cases, as declarer wins the heart and diamond aces, and five clubs tricks. I am concerned about missing game if partner has •KJx and nothing else, but those are the breaks.

Michelin: 4♥. Whose hand is it? If in Hamilton, a 3♥ bid would be more preemptive than strong, I would have to go with 4♥. I have very little defense, and it might be a double game swing. If I had a partner I trust, in this column, partner is always assumed to be an expert unless the problem specifically states otherwise I could bid 3♥. This would show a very good hand not needing hearts, and partner and would raise with aces. Of course, my partner will hold ♠KQ, nothing in diamonds, ♠KQ and no entry. If we can't make 4♥, they are probably cold for 3♠ or 4♠. No matter how many hearts I bid, I am sure if they have a spade game they will find it!

Swanson: 4. If I bid any less, I won't be happy passing should the opponents try to declare a black suit contract.

Bare: 4. No way to find out about diamonds.

Here is a new convention for me. I guess it's a Kantar asking bid.

Kantar: 4♥. It's a new form of asking bid, asking partner to please have the ◆J.

Next Month's Problems

1. MPs, NS vul

South	West	North	East
	3♣	Pass	3NT
Dbl	Pass	Pass	4♣
Dbl	Pass	5♥	Pass
?			

You hold: ♠AQ985 ♥A4 ♠A98 ♣AJ5 South, what call do you make?

2. IMPs,NS vul

South	West	North	East
			2 * *

?

* 2♦ was described as weak but random You hold: ♠AJ ♥AKQ964 ♦A2 South: What call do you make?

3. IMPs, all vul

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
?			

You hold: ♠AKQ653 ♥7 ◆J4 ♣Q652 South: What call do you make?

4. MPs, all vul

South	West	North	East
?			

You hold: ★95 ▼K986542 ◆AJ83 South: What call do you make?

5. IMPs, NS vul

South	West	North	East
			3♦
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
?			

You hold: ♠K853 ♥K8652 ♦Q43 ♣A South: What call do you make?