Southern California **Bridge News**

Volume 60, #12 December 2023 Published by ALACBU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by John Jones

Mitch Dunitz Named Volunteer of the Year



Mitch Dunitz frequently gets mentioned because of his bridge expertise. Mitch did well again, he finished well again in the Atlanta national. Mitch was on the team which finished third in the prestigious North American Swiss. Jill Meyers and Ross Grabel were on the team also. Earlier this year Mitch and Ross won bronze medals in the world championships.

I am mentioning Mitch now for a much different reason. He was named the Nadine Wood ACBL Volunteer of the Year. Mitch helps out with many things. Mitch has set up a program in which students are paid to learn bridge. The teacher must also be a student. I believe the students are paid $15 per hour to learn bridge, and the teacher is paid twice that much. Mitch pays the money out of his own pocket, using Sharon Biederman's Bridge Brigade to assist with the payouts.

Mitch also serves on the national ethics committee, donates money to a variety of bridge causes, and is key to the Ed Foundation. Congratulations Mitch!

One of the nice things I get to do is to nominate the D23 candidates for ACBL Goodwill Awards. My two nominations for this year are Bob Shore and Kim Wang (national still has to approve). Bob was the district president for 4 years and has helped in many other ways. Kim is our caddie master and has helped in many ways over the years. They are both very pleasant to play against and deal with!

Another pair of players I will mention is a Pasadena pair that won the 299er pairs in Atlanta.

PRESIDENT continued on page2

Regional Director's Report

by David Lodge



The last 2023 face-to-face Board of Directors meeting wrapped up last week in Atlanta, preceding the start of the fall NABC. The finance committee's segment of the meeting concerned 2 motions, as well as the approval of the 2024 Operating and Capital Expenditure budgets. The BOD approved a motion to increase its annual contribution to the USBF's Junior program from $50,000 to $65,000 per year. Embedded within the same motion is a requirement that both the USBF and the CBF (Canadian Bridge Federation) provide annual financial statements and reports of their junior program activities in order satisfy the BOD that a need exists, and to be eligible for further contributions. Future contributions to the CBF, which at present are $25,000 per year, may be maintained, reduced or suspended inasmuch as they have not expended much of the prior funding given them. The other motion, which failed by a significant majority, dealt with capping the rebate of the Grass Roots funding back to the districts at $25,000 per year. Prior to COVID, a few very large districts got annual rebates of between $40,000 and $50,000. Even after giving stipends to both their GNT and NAP participants, they never spent a large portion of their rebate. Although the motion may have been well intended, it failed for several reasons, including that presently no district is

DIRECTOR continued on page2

Inside This Issue

Nort American Pairs Final Pix ……. page 3
Better Bridge Accreditation ……. page 4
Rank Changes ……. page 4
Puzzle Page ……. page 5
Around the Units ……. page 7
Problem Solvers' Panel …….. page 10

PRESIDENT continued from page 1

Benjamin Bascom of South Pasadena CA and Toban Toban of Pasadena CA scored an impressive 65.51%. Bascom learned bridge at a coffee shop. One of those that helped him was Zachary Vedro, who is one of the owners of the Pasadena Bridge Club. Toban returned to bridge earlier this year. The pair met while taking lessons from Mojo Jones at the Pasadena club. They traveled 3000 miles to win their title. Well done!

Units, make sure you update your membership files and indicate which of the unpaid members are deceased. The formula for units getting membership money is changing. There is more money available to units, but only if the files are updated and the membership levels grow.

The ACBL is in negotiations with the EDGAR foundation to use their software for detecting cheating at bridge. Cheating at bridge went up after the beginning of the pandemic. For a while players got away with cheating on BBO to a limited extent. However, they are now detecting cheaters using statistical software. The original guru of anti-cheating software was Nicolas Hammond. This is not Hammond's software, but it will be similar in its ability to detect cheating. Players can help by always reporting actions which appear to be cheating.

Attendance in Atlanta was high in national events, but lower than hoped for in regional and newcomer events. There may be a fourth flight added to the NAP competition.

Locally I am continuing to set up committees and volunteer positions. If anyone would like to be on a committee on help in some way, please email me at johndjones44@yahoo.com. Among the committees we could use help in are: Awards, Charity, Competition, Conduct and Ethics, Education, Elections, Historical, Parliamentary, Supplies, Technology, Tournament. I am welcome to positive ideas.

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

receiving a $25,000 rebate. Therefore, there would be no practical impact of the motion and it would cause management more work. The operating budget was approved showing a loss of slightly over $300,000. A key assumption in the creation of the budget is that membership will stay flat during the year. This is a slightly optimistic assumption in that we are still seeing a net monthly reduction in active members. However, we hope that we will see a stemming of that trend as many of the marketing efforts begin to show results. The two largest areas of expense are those related to IT and the costs of tournament directors. There's not much we can do this year to reduce IT expense. Our organization runs on 15+ types of different hardware platforms with software written in several different languages. As to Tournament Director costs, one issue that will contribute to increases is that nearly all TDs will become hourly employees and be entitled to overtime. Next week, before the Palm Springs regional starts, I'm going to be undertaking an analysis of our TD costs to see if there is any practical method of reducing some of this expense.

Joann Glasson, the ACBL BOD president for the last 2 years, has as one of her duties the privilege of selecting the Volunteer of the Year. She called me to ask what I thought about her top choice and, of course, I could not have been more thrilled to go give an unqualified endorsement of Mitch Dunitz. Mitch is a great ambassador for our game. There are a lot of excellent players at the top level, but none come the game with a greater display of integrity, warmth and ethical behavior. His volunteer service to the league is exceptional. Of course, his stand out effort is the promotion of bridge within the college community. Who else would dream of getting kids to play by paying them $15 per hour to learn from their peer teachers whom the program also pays. For if the money weren't enough, the program also provides pizza. He started the program using his own money. He then started a tax-free foundation to which he is probably still the largest contributor. The program is now being run at over a dozen schools across the country. There is a great write up in the Thursday NABC Daily Bulletin, which can be accessed the the ACBL site.

Chasing the cheaters in online bridge continues to be a major area of discussion and activity. The new arbitration system, the Institute of Bridge Arbitration (IBA) is up and running. Many cases which previously would have gone to the Online Ethical Oversight Committee are now being handled by the IBA. Aided by the early identification of online cheaters through the electronic detection system, EDGAR, which will come on board in January, and a streamlined method of handling cases, we should see a dramatic increase in the number of charges being filed and the number of cases adjudicated.

The fabulous Palm Springs regional starts on Monday, December 11. Grab you partner and teammates and come on down to great bridge, great weather, beautiful scenery, excellent dining and opportunities for lots of points.

District 23 Final for North American Pairs

By Morris "Mojo" Jones

A bit late (due to editorial brain-cramps), but here are the winners of our District NAP finals:



Flight A

John Jones – Robert Scaramuzzi



Flight B

Jeff Grotenhuis – Giacomo Beretta



Flight C

Nina Huang – Ming Hu

AUDREY GRANT'S LATEST METHODS FOR TEACHING
IN PERSON OR ONLINE!

Better Bridge Teacher Accreditation



December 21-22, 2023

Pasadena Bridge Club
Morris "Mojo" Jones, Managing Director
https://pasadenabridgeclub.com
(626) 247-4457

ABA and ACBL Teacher Certification Program

District 23 Rank Changes October 2023

Junior Master
Sally Baker
Mavis Baynard

Club Master
Cindy Barth
Paul Barth
Cherene Birkholz
Nancy Bornn
Lauren Edgerton
Kathleen M. Howell
Stanley G. Korenman

Sectional Master
Robert S. Jennings
Kurt Schneider
Alex Weir

Regional Master
Eveline Ginzburg
James R. Heltsley
Jerrod Mason

NABC Master
Priscilla C. Caillouette
Alan Nueman
Peter R. O Keeffe
Sandra Young

Life Master
Rajath Shourie
Lawrence Trygstad

Bronze Life Master
Rajath Shourie

Silver Life Master
Edward A. Ruttenberg
Shiela G. Singer

Gold Life Master
Martin G. Hurwitz urie

Sapphire Life Master
Bruce Altshuler
Leila Greenfield
Randy Howard

Emerald Life Master
Bob A. Johnson

The Puzzle Page

Bridge Jeopardy
by John Jones

Category: Starting with L (each term begins with the letter L)

And the answer is …

$100 – A bid which shows a fit and invitational values.

$200 – A card which apparently cannot take a trick.

$300 – The player who wins the previous trick does this for the next trick.

$400 – When the director comes to your table, the director will likely bring this book.

$500 – Sharing a name with a Monkees' song, this convention involves a bid that is one step above the current bid and one step below game in the trump suit. It is a mild slam try and conveys no information about the suit bid.

December Rebus

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

Play or Defend?
by John Jones

North
♠ K 6 5
♥ Q 8 6 4
♦ J
♣ A J 9 6 4

West
♠ 3
♥ J 9 7 5 3
♦ 6 4 2
♣ K 8 7 5

East
♠ A Q 7
♥ A 10 2
♦ 8 7 5
♣ Q 10 2

South
♠ J 10 9 8 2
♥ K
♦ A K Q 10 9 3
♣ 3

Contract = 4♠

Opening Lead = ♥5

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

(Solutions to these puzzles are on page 6. No peeking!)



Solution to "Play or Defend?"

Answer: defend. East wins the ♥A at T1. The key play is to shift to the ♣Q (the club shift must be to the queen) at T2. East now wins the first round of trumps and continues with the ♣10. Upon winning the second trump, East leads a third round of clubs and either scores a club trick or has more trumps than North for the setting trick.

This is hand #12 from Julian Pottage's great book Play or Defend?

"Rebus"

"Last Train Convention"

Have a good bridge rebus? Send it to johndjones44@yahoo.com

Bridge Jeopardy Questions

$100 – What is a Limit Raise?

$200 – What is a loser?

$300 – What is lead?

$400 – What is "The Laws of Duplicate Bridge"?

$500 – What is Last Train?

☺☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺☺ ☺ ☺

Submitted by John Jones



☺☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺☺ ☺ ☺

Southern California Bridge News
Published monthly by ALACBU, Inc.
1800 Avenue of the Stars, 12th Floor,
Los Angeles, CA 90067
Phone: 310-440-4100
email newsletter@acblunit551.org
Editor/Designer. . . . . Tom Lill
Managing Editor. . . . . John Jones
Contributing Editor. . . . . .John Jones

Copy deadlines: the 23rd of the preceding month. Opinions expressed in the Southern California Bridge News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of ALACBU, Inc., The Bridge News or the Editor. The Bridge News reserves the right to reject material it considers to be in poor taste or deems otherwise unsuitable for publication.

Around the Units in District 23



Pomona – Covina by Tom Lill

www.acblunit551.org

Individual: December 2, 10 a.m., Ontario
January 6, 10 a.m., TBD
Unit Game: December 9, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
Unit Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m. before the game
STaC: December 5, 8, 9 (Unit Game)

The November Individual was captured by Tom Cusack, with 63.64% In second we find, followed by Rose Roberts, then Peter Kavounas , Julianne Curry Linda Tessier, and Stephen Andersen.

In the November Unit Game, Fredy Minter – Amr Elghamry took top honors with a 68.99% effort. In second were Kitty Moon – Tom Cusack, followed by Judy Mogharbel – Yours Truly, and finally Stepen Andersen – Paul Chrisney.

The December game is a week earlier than normal, due to a conflict with the Palm Springs Regional. It's going to be a pot-luck, and we are requesting advance sign-ups so everyone doesn't bring the potato salad. The sign-up sheet is available at all the La Fetra games, or if you plan to come to the Unit game but don't normally play at La Fetra, just let Tom know and he'll add you to the list.

We have only one promotion to announce again this month. Randy Howard is now a Sapphire Life Master

The "big game" list for November features only two different pairs – and one player common to all three. The big score of 70.26% was turned in by Vic Sartor – Bill Papa. The other two big scores were 66.67% by Bill and Vic again, and then 65.97% by Vic and Eddie Rose.

Other winners in November were Fredy Minter, Roger Boyar, Mary Ann Wotring, Judy Mogharbel, and Yours Truly.

I had planned a "Four Is Enough" game for Black Friday, when La Fetra is closed for the Thanksgiving holiday. But someone had reserved BOTH alternate playing sites already! So I scheduled it for Saturday. Unfortunately, only 4 pairs showed up, so, what the heck, we'll run a team game.

And not the fun started. When I uploaded the file to Live for Clubs, no masterpoints showed up. I even got an alert from the League ("please explain") telling me what to do. Didn't work. So after repeated attempts, I called the League. You are going to die laughing when I tell you what went wrong. The EIE instructions tell the Director to enter "+EIE+" into the tournament data name field. Which is exactly what I did. Too bad, so sad. Putting the quote marks in caused the problem. "*The great problem with communication is the illusion that it has taken place.*"

Oh, yeah, in case you are interested, the winning team was Bill Papa, Roger Boyar, Paul Chrisney, and Gary Atwell. They are now all 0.72 masterpoints richer.

For this month's interesting (?) hand, we feature … Board 12, what else? (If you don't know the story behind Board 12, don't ask. You won't like the answer.) It came up in a BBO Open game, and has a few … interesting … features.

West deals, N-S vulnerable. You, South, pick up the following hand:

♠ KQ987 ♥ QJ ♦ J1092 ♣ QJ

Yes, you have one of your favorite holdings, QJ tight, twice no less. There are probably worse 12 counts, but only all four QJ combinations comes to mind.

The situation improves markedly when partner opens 2NT. Hey, could be a slam hand! You duly call 3♥, and partner leaps to 4♠! Wow, a super-accept! Since you have nothing to cue-bid, you decide to just ask for controls with RKC Blackwood. Yes, that's usually a poor idea with two fast losers in not one, not two, but all three side suits. But partner's gotta have *something* over there, to open 2NT. And you hold pretty near all the secondary honors, leaving partner rich in Aces and Kings.

Partner goes 5♣, which cannot possibly be only one, unless this deck has 44 HCP in it. Figuring the spades will run and your "small" cards are pretty good fillers, you go 6NT – it *is* matchpoints, after all.

When partner's hand becomes visible, you are ready to cry:

♠ A3 ♥ AK9864 ♦ AQ3 ♣ A10

Gulp. Not only are two of the promised spades missing, but where did that sixth heart come from? Certainly not a textbook 2NT opener!

However, partner has the luck of 3 rabbits (complete with their feet). The opening lead was the ♠5 (from J1065), and dummy's 7 holds the trick! No lead could have hurt you, considering the minor suit tenaces in declarer's hand, and the diamond suit ready to provide a couple of tricks. 12 tricks roll in after you take the losing diamond finesse.

What happened elsewhere? Take a look:

6NT making, 5 times
6♥ making, 3 times
4♥ making 7, 1 time
3NT making 6, 1 time

So your +1440 was worth 77.8%. With the diamond hook failing and spades 4-2, 6♠ fails unless you peek at East's hand. Better lucky than good!

BTW, where 4♥ made 7, the opening lead was a small club, the ♣K is onside, and declarer has just enough in dummy to establish the fifth spade for a second diamond pitch.

Quote for the month: "Our major obligation is not to mistake slogans for solutions." (Edward R. Murrow)



Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley
by Beth Morrin

As we approach the holiday season, the Santa Clarita Community Center has a modified schedule. We will have our regular F2F games in December on the 1st and 8th. Again, if interested in playing on Friday, please contact Ruth Baker (rbaker1243@sbcglobal.net) as space is limited. We will resume our Friday game in January on the 12th and have our "After the Holidays" party.

Winners of the Friday F2F game:

Nov. 3

N/S	Donna Davidson – Bill Langlois	67.01%
E/W	Ruth Baker – Beth Morrin	56.21%

Nov. 17*

N/S	Jan Ladd – Roy Ladd	64.29%
E/W	Barbara Jones – Tom Jones	61.51%

*District 22-23 STaC game (6 pairs made the overalls)

Virtual Game Schedule

Monday:	12:15 PM	Open game
Tuesday:	6:15 PM	Open game
Thursday:	10:15 AM	Open game
Sunday:	12:30 PM	Open game

Contact our club manager at virtualclub@bridgemojo.com for reservations. Our regular games cost $4 (unless it is a special game series). Virtual games are now available to all BBO players.

Big Virtual Club Games (65+%):

Tues. Oct. 24

Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	65.87%

Mon. Oct. 30

Donald Ferris – Robot	69.19%
Greg Vernon – Robot	65.40%

Tues. Oct. 31

Betty Youmans – Carole Spencer	67.48%
Bill Brodek – Robot	65.97%
Amr Elghamry – Dominique Moore	65.12%

Thurs. Nov. 2

Kathy Flynn – Ruth Baker	67.28%

Mon. Nov. 6

Marian Kosior – Suzanne Clark	68.69%

Tues. Nov. 7

Kevin Choi – Zachary Madden	69.44%
Amr Elghamry – Dominique Moore	68.44%

Thurs. Nov. 9

Diana Borgatti – Rae Murbach	71.18%
Roy Ladd – Robot	68.75%

Mon. Nov. 13

Greg Vernon – Robot	65.08%

Thurs. Nov. 16
Sherry McHarg – Woodrow McHarg 66.05%

Tues. Nov. 21
Amr Elghamry – Dominique Moore 66.67%

Next Board Meeting: TBA

Pasadena – San Gabriel
by Morris "Mojo" Jones

bridgemojo.com



It may be too late by the time you read this, but if you don't yet have your place reserved for the **December 10 Holiday Party at Arcadia Community Center,** it may be too late! We're having a great taco buffet, and of course a Royal STaC game, for $30 each. Check with Miriam Harrington to see if there are still spaces available. (626) 232-0558 or miratpf@aol.com

We have to order food from the caterer a week in advance, so if you haven't yet made your reservation, you might be able to play, but may not have any food!

We had two nice big Unit Games in November:

November 5, at the Pasadena Bridge Club, 9 tables:

- N/S Fredy and Lulu Minter
- E/W Don Garner and Margie Lee

The November 19 game at the Arcadia Bridge Center had 13 tables, and was a Sectional Tournament at Clubs:

- N/S Paul Nason and Diana Borgatti
- E/W Amr Elghamry and Dominique Moore

For the STaC overall results, we didn't have any big winners in the region, but Amr and Dominique took 5th overall for region, out of 39.5 tables.

How about a **New Year's Eve party**? Not late into the evening, but a bridge game in the afternoon, at the Pasadena Bridge Center. I'm planning an "Eight is Enough" format team game for Sunday, December 31. After bridge, if you'd like to hang out, we can play board games maybe! I'll have more details later. I'd love to serve wine, cheese, maybe a Mexican buffet -- truly make a party out of it.

Bridge Basics 1 – Introduction is starting on Wednesday evenings, with the first class on January 10. This is shaping up to be a huge class, so it's a good idea to get your reservation in early with PCC Extension! Visit https://pasadenabridgeclub.com to find the link to register.

Congratulations to **Robert Jennings** who became a new Sectional Master this past month!



Long Beach
by Lillian Slater

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

Long Beach Bridge Center was filled to capacity and brimming with activity on November 4th and 5th with Unit 557's Local Sectional. It couldn't have happened without the board volunteers helping host this event!

With Sean Lui directing, we had 17 tables of Open Pairs and 7 NLM ones in the morning, with 16 tables of Open Pairs and 8 of NLM in the afternoon. Sunday's Swiss had 21 teams competing for points. Thanks to all who attended, and congratulations to those who earned Silver points!

Hope to see you at our holiday party on Sunday, December 17. Also, mark your calendars to attend our unit games next year, scheduled the fourth Sunday of the month except when there are holiday conflicts. Happy holidays to you and your families. See you at the bridge table.



Problem Solvers' Panel

John Jones is moderator. Sid Brownstein, David Chechelashvili, Kitty Cooper, Lynne Feldman, Alex Kolesnik, Mister Mealymouth, Jill Meyers, 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
N-S Vul

North	East	South	West
4♥	pass	???	

You, South, hold: ♠ A105 ♥ 97 ♦ A975 ♣ A976

What call do you make?

Partner has made a vulnerable versus not 4-level preempt. We have two trumps and all three outside aces. Is that enough to make a slam? Most of the panelists think it is not enough. I'll start with the dissenters.

Shuster: 6♥. The relevant question is whether to keycard along the way in order to give partner the option to bid a grand. All my constructions where a grand is good aren't really 4♥ openers, so I think going that route is more likely to get us to a bad grand than a good one. Yes, we might not make six, but failing to bid it is downright cowardly. This might also give LHO a problem.

Mealymouth: 6♥. What I think partner can make. If some keycard ask were available, whether Roman Keycard Blackwood or (better) Kickback, I would not use it, especially on adverse vulnerability, where a 6♠, 7♣, or 7♦ save might be profitable, and any messing around is more likely to let the opponents find one than help our side determine whether to play in 5♥, 6♥, or 7♥.

Wittes: Pass. Even at Vul. vs NV, I would not expect partner to have more than eight tricks in their hand to open 4♥ in first seat. If they have a miracle minor suit side fit and we can make a slam, so be it.

Chechelashvili: Pass. I need a perfect hand from partner to make 6♥.

Brownstein: Pass. I'm not playing my partner with eight solid and an outside king. I Pass!

Roeder: Pass. Namyats is a great treatment, but even if not employed, pass is clear.

Kolesnik: Pass. At these colors I expect partner to have about eight tricks. I do have three aces, but I don't see a twelfth trick.

Meyers: Pass. I am not playing partner for nine tricks in her hand – no slam try for me.

Cooper: Pass. I expect her to make it, but 11 tricks are not 12 tricks!

Feldman: Pass.

2

Matchpoints
None Vul

South	West	North	East
1♠	4♥	4♠	6♥
???			

You, South, hold: ♠ AKQ10832 ♥ 7 ♦ A ♣ K973

What call do you make?

There are times when bridge resembles poker. On this auction, who is bidding to make and which sides merely has a massive fit. Is East bluffing and daring us to bid 6♠?

Wittes: 6♠. This is a guessing game. If partner doesn't have the ace of clubs, we're probably down one. If one of the opponents has a spade void, they could be making 6♥. Not worth the risk not to bid 6♠.

Shuster: 6♠. For all I know, both sides are making. I expect this might not end the auction.

Chechelashvili: 6♠. I would make a try if RHO allowed it, but now I have to bid it all alone. If I am with a regular partner, I would double – which has the same meaning – "partner what do you think about the slam?". Some people who play forcing pass, would make a forcing pass with the same meaning.

Meyers: 6♠. This is a guessing game/shooting match, I am going to bid 6♠, I think they think we can make a slam.

Roeder: 6♠. If partner shows up with a round suit void, buy some lottery tickets.

Brownstein: 6♠. 6♠ is my bid. This could be a make or good save.

Cooper: 6♠. Insurance? Who knows…

Feldman: 6♠.

Kolesnik: 6♠. I obviously have no clue from the auction. When they jump to 6♥, they are trying to lure me into bidding 6♠, but I can't see how they know that they have two defensive tricks. Partner's 4♠ is wide ranging. So, anything I do is a guess. I'll guess to bid 6♠.

Mealymouth: 6♠. A great hand for Eddie Kantar's version of Roman Keycard Blackwood, in which after Teller's reply, Asker's 6♣ authorizes a grand slam with third round club control. Alas, one of those nasty opponents might object to 4NT on the flimsy grounds that it's insufficient, so I'll settle for 6♠. Nobody will know who's saving against whom. Besides, on this auction a grand slam may hinge on fourth-round club control. *(What a panelist! Mealymouth even tells us what the best insufficient bid is!)*

3

IMPs
Both Vul

South	West	North	East
1♣	pass	2♦*	pass
2♠	pass	4♣	pass
???			

* Strong jump shift

You, South, hold: ♠ AKQJ ♥ KJ ♦ Q96 ♣ K1032

What call do you make?

OK, let me be honest here. The previous problem had a unanimous panel, something I try to avoid. I try to give problems that have three options. But this problem is worse. I used the problem as it was given to me by a European star, but I should have rejected it. The problem is with opener's rebid. If the 2♦ Strong Jump Shift (SJS) was Soloway style, then it required a 2♥ puppet so the SJS hand could complete the description. If it was normal agreements, there are two aspects of our hand that need to be described. The two key features of our hand are the nice diamond support and the 19 HCPs. The 2♠ rebid addresses neither of those issues. Supporting diamonds looks like the way to go. Several panelists caught my poor construction. Let's listen to the panels' objections.

Meyers: Keycard in diamonds. I object to the 2♠ bid. Why aren't I telling partner I have a diamond fit? Now 3♦ is going to sound like a delayed raise. When you can set trump, you should! How do I keycard in diamonds now? That is what I want to do but since I cannot do that whatever is keycard in clubs that is what I am doing and if we have all the keycards I am bidding 7NT, otherwise 6NT.

Roeder: 3♦. What I easily could have bid last round. Caution: 7♣ may go down where other grand slams make.

Shuster: 4NT. Let's just get this over with (and the call I should have made last round). I'm planning on underbidding with 7NT next if we have all the aces.

Cooper: 3♦, setting trump. Why didn't I just bid RKC over 2♦?

Mealymouth: Having failed to strut my stuff at my second turn with a jump to 3NT, depicting my balanced 19 HCP and conferring captaincy upon responder, I have no easy way to catch up now, so I'd better grab the steering wheel. In a well-oiled partnership, I'd have an agreement that after strong agreement on a minor suit, *Roman Keycard Gerber* applies, so I'd bid 4♣. With an amateur partner, I'd bid a bull-by-the-horns 6NT and pray that North doesn't take it as FAST (Fast Arrival Shows Trash).

Chechelashvili: 4♥ (as Kickback) or 4NT – depending on if we play Kickback or not. All I need is 3 aces and ♦K from partner to make 7NT.

Wittes: 4♦. With most of my partners, I play this is keycard for diamonds. If partner has three controls, I'll bid 6NT, if partner shows four controls I'll bid 7NT.

Feldman: 4♦. Kickback (essentially Blackwood for clubs).

Brownstein: 3♦. Then I'll bid 5NT pick a slam after asking for aces.

Kolesnik: 4♣. I'm setting trumps. Now I expect a 4♥ cuebid from partner and I will bid 4NT Blackwood. I suspect that 7♣ is cold.

4

IMPs
Both Vul

East	South	West	North
2♦*	???		

* Weak

You, South, hold: ♠ AKJ10863 ♥ AQ9 ♦ void ♣ KQ6

What call do you make?

At least this one is a decent problem. The choices appear to be double, 3♦ and 4♠. 3♦ shows a solid or near solid suit (assuming some variation of leaping Michaels is in play.)

Shuster: Double. Too good for 4♠. If partner passes and it is wrong, I'll pay off.

Meyers: Double. I'll then jump in spades.

Roeder: Double. Way too strong for 4♠. This might be regrettable if partner passes it out. However, penalty passes in front of the bidder do not occur very often.

Chechelashvili: 4♠. Double is too dangerous as partner can pass with some hands where I would hate to be in 2♦ doubled when 4♠ Is cold.

Feldman: 4♠

Mealymouth: 4♠. Though I might do the same with two tens replacing my two queens, I'll bid 4♠ now. I trust partner knows that there's no such animal as "Weak Versus Weak," so I won't create later problems for my partner and myself by offering a choice of strains with an initial takeout double.

The call I like best is 3♦.

Cooper: 3♦. This asks for a stopper, when followed by 4♠ it is a one suited slam try.

Kolesnik: 3♦. I hate to double with a void. It has gone all pass too often when we have a slam and are defending 2♦X. I plan on bidding 4♠ next, showing about a ten-trick hand.

Wittes: 3♦. I'd like to double, but can't risk it going all pass. If partner bids the expected 3♥, I'll bid 4♦.

Brownstein: 3♦. I'll start with 3♦ and probably try again.

5

Matchpoints
Neither Vul.

West	North	East	South
1♠	pass	2♠	3♣
3♠	pass	pass	???

You, South, hold: ♠ void ♥ AKQ ♦ K106 ♣ QJ108764

What call do you make?

Wittes: 4♣. Once again, I'd like to double in case partner has five or six cards in one of the red suits and club shortness, but I can't take the chance of partner passing 3♠ doubled, though even that could be right on certain hands.

Mealymouth: 4♣. I need little more than ♦QJ from partner to make it. Though I'm highly spadophobic, I don't fear 4♠ on this deal as I expect my partner to double 4♠ if my 4♣ pushes the opponents into it.

Shuster: 4♣. I'm not selling here, nor torturing partner with a double.

Chechelashvili: 4♣. Again, double is too dangerous with potentially only one defensive trick.

Brownstein: Double. Not ashamed I would double again for take out.

Cooper: Double.

Feldman: Double.

Kolesnik: Double. I hate to double with a void, but everything else is wrong.

Meyers: Double. Takeout!

Roeder: Double. However, 4♣ is OK. Pass is ridiculous. My choice would be affected by who the 3♠ bidder is.