Southern California **Bridge News**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by John Jones

GNT Dates and Site Likely to Change



D23 GNTs will be held on Saturday April 13 and Sunday April 14 at the Long Beach Bridge Center, 4782 Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach (562)-498-8113. Contact GNT coordinator Walt Schafer via email at walt_schafer2000@yahoo.com or at 847-744-4426.

Our July regional will be from Monday July 1 through Sunday July 7 at the Long Beach Hilton. For more information contact Peter Benjamin at **ahoneydo@aol.com** or Margie Michelin at michelinonbridge@aol.com.

Donations for event naming or just giving to the tournament generally are going well. For details contact Laura Gastelum at lauralgastelum@gmail.com.

There are nearby regionals in California that are coming up in other districts. D22 has a regional from March 25 through March 31 in San Diego. D21 has a regional from May 27 through June 2 in Sacramento.

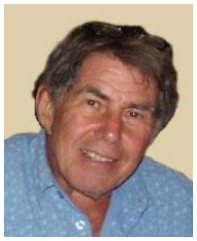
I mentioned last month that I would be dissolving the Ethics Committee if no issue came up. No issue has surfaced, so the D23 Ethics Committee is officially dissolved. Unit Ethics and Discipline Committees ceased to exist a few years ago. However, EDGAR is now fully functional. EDGAR will use statistics to determine if online players are cheating. Be careful, the penalties can be stiff.

Rita Vanlierop, our new webmaster, has reestablished our website. She has also established new email addresses for all the district officers. Mine is president@d23acbl.org.

Dadadadaaaa that's all folks.

Regional Director's Report

by David Lodge



The ACBL ended 2023 with 130,996 members. Membership showed a net decline during the year of 2,377. We gained 7,125 new members and reinstated 7,790 members. Death accounted for 1,691 and 15,601 dropped off through nonpayment of dues. The trend shows a definite slowing in the rate of membership decline. We lost almost 10,000 in 2022. In January 2024, we experienced a net gain in membership of 42. This is the second month in a row and the third month out of the last 6 showing a net gain in membership.

Participation shows mixed results. Tournament play is up, and club play is down. Regionals and sectional tables were up year over year by 14,736 and 8,655, respectively. STaCs tables were down by 7,344. NABC tables were up by approximately 10%, but variances year to year in national tournaments can be dramatically impacted by the cities in which the events are held. In 2023, New Orleans, Chicago and Atlanta, all big cities, were where tournaments were held. In 2022, one was held in Providence, a much smaller city. Club participation is slightly up in both F2F and online (VACB) play; 1,303,000 in 2022 vs 1,317,000 in 2023. Online play in BBO's club declined significantly; 2,579,000 tables

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in 2022 vs 2,297,000 in 2023.

The league lost $60,000 from operations in .2023. It realized gains from investments of $652,000, resulting in an overall increase in net assets of $592,000. Included in the results from operations were several significant unusual, non-recurring items: a penalty of $134,000 was paid to the Sheraton hotel in Phoenix due to our failure to meet our room commitment (we were facing a demand in excess of $200,000; legal fees of $117,000 were incurred to defend the league from a class action law suit by a group of tournament directors for overtime pay-while we were successful on nearly all counts, we did lose on one narrow issue resulting in damages of approximately $55,000 vs the several millions prayed for, but causing us to be liable for attorney fees.

The organization ended the year with $8,741,000 of net assets. This included $12,225,000, in cash and investments. We capitalized $709,000 of expenditures of which $667,000 arose from technology improvements.

On another topic, responses to a series of recent emails, the first from BBO followed by a response from the ACBL, indicate that there are some misunderstandings about online bridge clubs and the ACBL's awarding of masterpoints. The online games on BBOI, that are available under the 'ACBL WORLD" options are not run by the ACBL. They are run by BBO. BBO is an independent bridge club just like other virtual bridge clubs. BBO decided to replace their 18 board games with 16 board games because it is more profitable for them. Games with less than 18 boards, under ACBL regulations, do not constitute a full game, so the masterpoints awarded at BBO 16 board games are now 40% lower than other online and F2F games. The largest masterpoint awards available are at your local F2F club where you receive full masterpoints for playing 18 board games and additional proportional points for every board in the game over 18. Most VACB are still playing 18 board games and pay full masterpoints. To get the best payout of masterpoint awards online, go to "Virtual Clubs" and then click on "ACBL-North America" and you will see a list of available games for you to play in, starting in the next 2 hours.

The San Diego regional is just around the corner. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you there at the new venue in beautiful Del Mar.

New Life Masters in District 23
submitted by Mike Marcucci

Unfortunately, these newly minted life masters fell off of the input your Editor received last month. We are now rectifying that problem. Congratulations, new holders of that coveted Gold Card:



Sadika Elewy – May 23
Unit 559



Hanna Zhuang – Jul 23
Unit 559



Charles Rauch – Dec 18
Unit 568



Al Lum – Jul 04
Unit 557



Beth Morrin – Dec 16
Unit 556



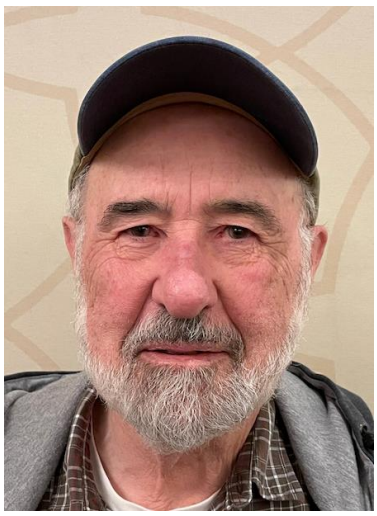
David Peim – Oct 12
Unit 568



Kim Wang – Jun 03
Unit 568



Mikey Alpert – Jan 24
Unit 561



Paul Poareo – Jan 24
Unit 568



Alan Olschwang – Dec 17
Unit 557

District 23 Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney Finalists
compiled by Mike Marcucci

2023 D23 Mini-McKenney Finals

10000+		
1	Ifti Baqai	1695.60
2	Mitch Dunitz	1547.88
3	Billy Cohen	1442.59
4	John Jones	638.80
5	Alex Kolesnik	512.60
6	Lulu Minter	462.90
7	Steve Gross	415.90
8	Gil Stinebaugh	383.90
9	Hemant Lall	293.40
10	Jill Meyers	253.50
7500-10000		
1	Aaron Jones	1067.2
2	Mike Mikyska	437.1
3	Viktor Anikovich	266.2
4	Peter Knee	140.7
5	Adrienne Green	119.2
6	Dr Sid Brownstein	84.5
7	Bill Langlois	53.0
8	David Chechelashvili	21.3
9	Stelios Touchtidis	14.8
10	Dan Botoaca	9.1

2023 D23 Ace of Clubs Finals

10000+		
1	Gil Stinebaugh	277.4
2	Lulu Minter	192.1
3	Steve Gross	137.6
4	Ifti Baqai	134.9
5	Mike Savage	99.9
6	John Jones	63.3
7	Ellen Anten	42.7
8	Alex Kolesnik	27.0
9	Mitch Dunitz	14.4
10	Jordan Chodorow	9.3
7500-10000		
1	Viktor Anikovich	44.4
2	Bill Langlois	10.7
3	Aaron Jones	5.1
4	Bill Schreiber	4.7
5	David Chechelashvili	3.5
6	Dan Botoaca	2.2
7	Peter Knee	2.0
8	George Wang	1.7

5000-7500

1	Bob Shore	371.1
2	John Ramos	345.3
3	Ed Piken	327.8
4	Jackie Hess	306.9
5	Robert Bass	249.8
6	Bill McClean	245.5
7	Jon Yinger	232.4
8	Connie Kang	193.4
9	Rae Murbach	191.4
10	Joan Rubin	184.1

5000-7500

1	Jackie Hess	242.0
2	Jon Yinger	192.7
3	Bill McClean	175.1
4	Ed Piken	140.6
5	Seymour Zemlyn	132.0
6	Joan Rubin	114.6
7	Mark Tang	108.8
8	Frances Israel	99.9
9	Jeff Strutzel	79.4
10	Bob Shore	71.4

3500-5000

1	Roberto Scaramuzzi	266.0
2	Alan Curtis	245.6
3	Neal Kleiner	209.5
4	Milt Kalikman	206.4
5	Kim Wang	191.0
6	John Petrie	188.5
7	Jojo Sarkar	186.5
8	Bud Bates	185.7
9	Rand Pinsky	172.2
10	Wayne Otsuki	169.6

3500-5000

1	Alan Curtis	204.5
2	John Petrie	129.9
3	Wayne Otsuki	129.2
4	Bud Bates	116.7
5	Kim Wang	116.4
6	Jo Melis	100.0
7	Maria Pendergast	92.3
8	Milt Kalikman	82.2
9	Gerri Carlson	79.8
10	Paul Nason	67.6

2500-3500

1	Sheila Bozin	315.3
2	Sin Orensztein	285.2
3	Paul Ryan	277.6
4	Alan Olschwang	258.2
5	Mark Peters	256.1
6	David Peim	226.3
7	Joan Mesias	179.0
8	Kiran Kumar	175.5
9	Valerie Gamio	169.2
10	Fern Dunbar	166.0

2500-3500

1	Sheila Bozin	271.2
2	Sin Orensztein	198.5
3	Alan Olschwang	195.1
4	Mark Peters	182.7
5	Joan Mesias	158.2
6	Fern Dunbar	139.5
7	Steven Rowe	128.3
8	Judith Jones	121.8
9	Dennis Semain	119.3
10	Paul Ryan	107.3

1500-2500

1	Laura Gastelum	390.0
2	Fredy Minter	258.7
3	Mel Fineberg	196.0
4	Rick Turner	194.9
5	Kiyo Nagaishi	178.7
6	Kathy Swaine	173.0
7	Mike Marcucci	161.3
8	Roy Ladd	160.1
9	John Bakovic	159.2
10	Clint Lew	147.6

1500-2500

1	Fredy Minter	203.3
2	Kiyo Nagaishi	143.6
3	John Bakovic	122.9
4	Mel Fineberg	114.2
5	Jane Reid	106.7
6	Al Appel	105.8
7	Alan Golden	86.0
8	Rick Turner	78.8
9	Gitta Earll	75.7
10	Sherry Troeger	68.0

1000-1500

1	Wenjia Yan	288.0
2	Robert Preece	234.5
3	Mori Taylor	229.8
4	Deborah Levinson	210.7
5	Mark Gould	200.0
6	Alan Flower	180.2
7	Jeanette Estill	173.1
8	Fuad Khuri	162.0
9	Bob Becker	152.5
10	Lee Hausner	135.5

1000-1500

1	Deborah Levinson	190.7
2	Mori Taylor	153.6
3	Jeanette Estill	148.8
4	Robert Preece	141.6
5	Fuad Khuri	135.7
6	Mark Gould	120.7
7	John Galligher	130.9
8	Alan Flower	102.7
9	Wayne Beagle	86.9
10	Lynn Danielson	85.3

500-1000

1	Paul Poareo	296.4
2	Ramani Ravikandan	276.9
3	Terry Hane	258.9
4	Michael Piken	234.8
5	Jeff Goldberg	228.1
6	Mikie Alpert	197.1
7	Ed Ruttenberg	190.0
8	Carol Decordova	170.3
9	Paulette Burkitt	167.0
10	Barry Heller	154.5

500-1000

1	Jeff Goldberg	145.7
2	Ed Ruttenberg	142.2
3	Terry Hane	131.2
4	Michael Piken	120.5
5	Suzanne Kuuskmae	104.8
6	Mikie Alpert	99.9
7	Lillian Slater	97.4
8	Sadika Elewy	94.7
9	Carolyn Verin	94.2
10	Shinko Mauritz	89.8

300-500

1	Rajath Shourie	337.2
2	Jennifer Wellman	213.3
3	Ed Nowacki	161.7
4	Susan Briest	147.7
5	Thomas Cox	134.0
6	Melanie Smothers	133.7
7	Hanna Zhuang	133.1
8	Robin Hill	126.2
9	Barbara Kaye	112.7
10	Beverly Sugimoto	96.4

300-500

1	Susan Briest	108.5
2	Melanie Smothers	71.2
3	Robin Hill	68.5
4	Pamela Boyer	58.3
5	Allan Baraz	57.8
6	Lina Ashar	53.3
7	Paul Goddard	47.2
8	Ed Nowacki	44.4
9	Howard Small	43.6
10	Sue Hunter	40.3

200-300

1	Leo Dittemore	221.1
2	Stephen Andersen	116.3
3	Casey Stiers	101.3
4	Alan Nueman	91.6
5	Barry Sinsheimer	81.0
6	Bruce Walker	79.5
7	Paul Chen	66.8
8	Michael Vernia	63.7
9	Stephen Kiser	61.9
10	Tracee Dezzutti	60.9

200-300

1	Leo Dittemore	150.5
2	Stephen Andersen	68.7
3	Bruce Walker	57.4
4	Tracee Dezzutti	50.8
5	Casey Stiers	47.9
6	Barry Sinsheimer	43.0
7	Stephen Kiser	42.5
8	Carolyn Byrnes	38.5
9t	Kay Wardell	34.1
9t	Steve Mancini	34.1
10	Marcia Lane	32.1

100-200

1	Robert Propster	172.1
2	Caryn Mason	132.2
3	Ming Hu	110.4
4	Carolyn Hannas	108.6
5	Sri Nagesh	76.8
6	Joey Duree	74.3
7	Jeanne Sinsheimer	69.6
8	Nancy Imbery	68.9
9	Susan Lava	67.3
10	James Heltsley	63.1

100-200

1	Robert Propster	105.8
2	Carolyn Hannas	70.6
3	Sri Nagesh	69.4
4	Caryn Mason	55.4
5	Susan Lava	51.9
6	Frank Greco	39.4
7	Patricia Kasschau	37.5
8	Jan Van Lierop	37.2
9	Joey Duree	36.9
10	Rita Van Lierop	35.1

50-100

1	Nina Huang	398.8
2	Barbara Barschak	78.1
3	John Hugunin	67.8
4	Nicole Berte	67.4
5	Richard Parker	62.7
6	Melinda Wilson	52.0
7	Judy Webb	39.2
8	Peter Wong	38.6
9	Kurt Schneider	37.7
10	Jerrod Mason	35.8

50-100

1	Nicole Berte	46.9
2	John Hugunin	44.4
3	Melinda Wilson	41.7
4	Nora Lee Gecks	34.3
5	Peter Wong	32.8
6	Judy Webb	29.1
7	Daniel Frank	25.8
8	Phylly Yarnall	25.3
9	Nava Grutman	25.2
10	Ann Shaw	24.8

20-50

1	Yongkang Huang	113.3
2	Larry Cheung	80.3
3	Michael Lam	80.2
4	Sharon Vaughn	76.0
5	Jeffrey Johnson	67.7
6	John Sparks	53.9
7	Patricia Warner	52.5
8	Glenn Barry	50.9
9	Sherry Warmuth	41.7
10t	Susan Kane	35.7
10t	Jonathan Fuhrman	35.7

20-50

1	Larry Cheung	60.7
2	Michael Lam	60.5
3	Jeffrey Johnson	55.3
4	Patricia Warner	48.8
5	Sharon Vaughn	45.9
6	John Sparks	39.9
7	Glenn Barry	39.6
8	Stuart Soldate	31.3
9	Marra Boada	28.3
10	Shelby Birch	28.2

5-20

1	Arthur Weinstein	77.4
2	Peter Kavounas	52.8
3	Victoria Vaughn	51.0
4	Hsing Fang	38.0
5	Daniel Robinson	26.0
6	Guerry Collins	23.9
7	Fraser Perkins	23.9
8	Nancy Bornn	23.7
9	Jessie Ornelas	22.2
10t	Paul Barth	18.5
10t	Cindy Barth	18.5

5-20

1	Arthur Weinstein	32.0
2	Hsing Fang	31.3
3	Victoria Vaughn	30.7
4	Peter Kavounas	25.8
5	Guerry Collins	21.9
6	Fraser Perkins	19.1
7	Nancy Bornn	18.1
8	Jessie Ornelas	16.6
9	Daniel Robinson	15.7
10	Sara Seeley	15.2

0-5		
1	George Chilko	76.5
2	Robert Jennings	60.1
3	Ann Peacock	27.5
4	Herb Glicksman	26.0
5	Roaling Chang	25.1
6	David Anthopoulos	23.4
7	Cherene Birkholz	22.1
8	Allan Lubitz	22.1
9	Lauren Edgerton	20.4
10	Corkey Holt	20.4

0-5		
1	George Chilko	71.8
2	Robert Jennings	24.7
3	Ann Peacock	23.0
4	David King	19.0
5	Roaling Chang	18.5
6	Corkey Holt	17.5
7	Kathleen Howell	17.4
8	Joel Athey	16.7
9	Allan Lubitz	15.4
10t	David Anthopoulos	15.3
10t	Salina Lo	15.3

District 23 Rank Changes January 2023

Junior Master
Kenneth Farley
Margit Hillebrand
Linda L. Johnson
Brenda Leventhal
Cathy Roe
David E. Simon
Lydia L. Xie

Club Master
Sandip Bhagat
Bradford W. Edgerton
Judy P. Strauss
Beatrix Wilbur

Sectional Master
Mary Chiu
Cindy R. Cox

Sectional Master
Kyle S. Miller
Joanne L. Moser
Marc D. Moser
Naresh K. Nakra
Tracey Whitney

Regional Master
Julie A. Hanson
Chang-Huey Wu

NABC Master
Frances L. Gross
Marcia C. Lane

Advanced NABC Master
Beverly S. Sugimoto

Life Master
Mikie Alpert
Casey Stiers

Bronze Life Master
Mikie Alpert
Kim Ebner

Silver Life Master
Cheri S. Bitar

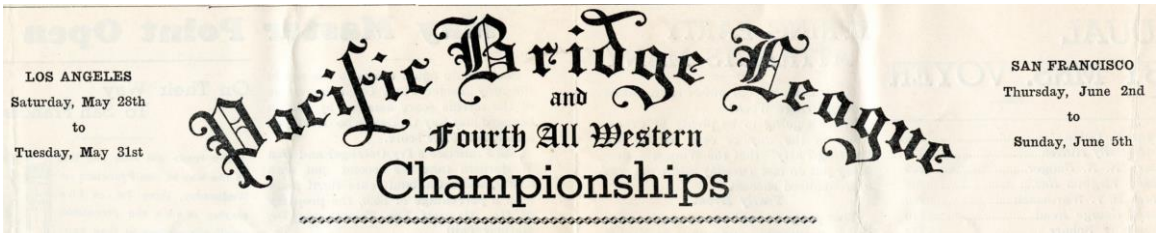
Gold Life Master
Laura L. Gastelum

Sapphire Life Master
Jonathan H. Holmes

A Blast from the Past
unearthed by Mike Marcucci

Here's a tournament flyer from before the ACBL had absorbed the bridge activity from the West Coast! Bridge was *something* back then. Take note of the keynote speakers …

1938



LOS ANGELES
Saturday, May 28th
to
Tuesday, May 31st

Pacific Bridge League
and
Fourth All Western
Championships

SAN FRANCISCO
Thursday, June 2nd
to
Sunday, June 5th

LOS ANGELES EVENTS

OPENING ADDRESS: BY THE HON. FRANK L. SHAW,
MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES
SATURDAY, MAY 28TH, AT 1:15 P.M.

All-Western
Open Pairs Championship

1st Qual. Session, Sat., May 28, 1:30 p.m.
2nd Qual. Session, Sat., May 28, 8:00 p.m.
1st Final Session, Sun., May 29, 1:30 p.m.
2nd Final Session, Sun., May 29, 8:00 p.m.
All pairs will play through the two qualifying sessions. Number of pairs to qualify and method of elimination will be announced from the floor.

Masters Points: 25 - 15 - 5.

Entry Fee: $2.50 per player for both qualifying rounds; $2.50 per player for both final rounds.

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS: *Julian Erlenbach*
Edward Taylor

Amateur Pairs Championship
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

A new event this year, instituted in recognition of the junior and amateur players, whose activities have become so pronounced during the past year that the League feels that they should have the opportunity to participate in Bridge Week tarough an event that is exclusively their own. Major players and experts can not enter this event.

1st Session, Saturday, May 28, 1:30 p.m.
2nd Session, Saturday, May 28, 8:00 p.m.
All pairs will play through both sessions; there will be no eliminations.

Entry Fee: $2.00 per player.

Mayors Cup Event

1st Session, Sunday, May 29, 1:30 p.m.
2nd Session, Sunday, May 29, 8:00 p.m.
All pairs will play through both sessions; there will be no eliminations.

Masters Points: 3 - 1.

Entry Fee: $1.50 per player.

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS: *Carl Shy*
George Abrams

Ely Culbertson Trophy

1st Session, Monday, May 30, 1:30 p.m.
2nd Session, Tuesday, May 31, 1:30 p.m.
All pairs will play through both sessions; there will be no eliminations.

Masters Points: 4 - 2.

Entry Fee: $1.50 per player.

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS: *Betty Walton*
Dorothy Dougherty

All-Western
Masters Individual Championship

Limited to the 25 ranking Master Players; participants to be invited on their standing on the Master Point List.

1st Session, Monday, May 30, 1:30 p.m.
2nd Session, Tuesday, May 31, 1:30 p.m.

Masters Points: 20 - 10 - 5.

Entry Fee: $5.00 per player.

DEFENDING CHAMPION: *George Sherman*

Dual Mixed Teams-of-four
and Mixed Pairs Championship

1st Session, Monday, May 30, 8:00 p.m.
2nd Session, Tuesday, May 31, 8:00 p.m.
Any two mixed pairs can combine to make up a team of four, and there will be two championships decided simultaneously, each independent of the other. All participants have the opportunity of winning either the team or pair championship, or both. Scores will be calculated both ways.

Masters Points: Team game, 4 - 2.
Pair game, 5 - 3 - 1.
(NOTE—No pair can win Masters Points in both games.)

Entry Fee: $2.00 per player.

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS
Mixed Team: *Harriet Watson—Ruth Baehr*
Chas. Arnoldy—Ray Oakley
Mixed Pair: *Eunice Cooney—W. Schroeder*

♠

OFFICIAL BRIDGE WEEK HEADQUARTERS—LOS ANGELES
ELK'S TEMPLE, 607 S. Parkview

All players are urged to utilize the facilities of official headquarters, because these places will be doing their share to make Bridge Week a success. It is fitting that we do something in return.

♠

Welcoming Luncheon, Saturday, May 28, 12 o'clock noon.
At Martini's—On Wilshire just around the corner from Elk's Club.
$1.00 to Los Angeles Players. Out-of-Town Players Guests of the League

SAN FRANCISCO EVENTS

OPENING ADDRESS: BY THE HON. ANGELO J. ROSSI,
MAYOR OF SAN FRANCISCO
THURSDAY, JUNE 2ND, AT 1:15 P.M.

All-Western
Women's Pairs Championship

1st Session, Thursday, June 2, 1:30 p.m.
2nd Session, Friday, June 3, 1:30 p.m.
All pairs will play through the two sessions; there will be no eliminations.

Masters Points: 4 - 2.

Entry Fee: $2.00 per player.

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS: *Verna Leonard*
Marjorie Mortimore

Hollywood Championship
FOR THE JOAN CRAWFORD TROPHY

1st Session, Thursday, June 2, 8:00 p.m.
2nd Session, Friday, June 3, 8:00 p.m.
All pairs will play through the two sessions; there will be no eliminations.

Masters Points: 6 - 3 - 1.

Entry Fee: $2.00 per player.

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS: *Lois Senderman*
Harry Levy

Mayors Cup Event

1st Session, Thursday, June 2, 1:30 p.m.
2nd Session, Friday, June 3, 1:30 p.m.
All pairs will play through the two sessions; there will be no eliminations.

Masters Points: 3 - 1.

Entry Fee: $1.50 per player.

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS: *Morris Mendelsohn*
Tom Stoddard

All-Western
Teams-of-four Championship

1st Session, Saturday, June 4, 1:30 p.m.
2nd Session, Saturday, June 4, 8:00 p.m.
All teams will play through the two sessions; there will be no eliminations.

Masters Points: 18 - 9 - 4.

Entry Fee: $3.00 per player.

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS: *Walter Turner*
George Gooden—Dr. B. L. Straus
Don Oakie—Dr. George Rogers

AND TWO BIG NEW EVENTS

All-Western
Masters' Pairs Championship

1st Session, Sunday, June 5, 1:30 p.m.
2nd Session, Sunday, June 5, 8:00 p.m.
All pairs will play through the two sessions; there will be no eliminations.

Masters Points: 20 - 10 - 5.
Entry Fee: $2.50 per player.
NOTE—This year, all players holding six (6) or more Masters Points will be eligible; hereafter, only Full Masters (10 or more points) will be admitted.

Presidents' Trophy Event
(FAREWELL TO BRIDGE WEEK)

Open Pairs, One Session Only
Sunday, June 5, 1:30 p.m.
MR. H. C. REUTHER—MR. J. R. BEAUCHAMP
This event is in commemoration to the past and present presidents of the Pacific Bridge League, Mr. H. C. Reuther, of San Diego, incumbent, and Mr. J. Roger Beauchamp, of San Francisco, past president, being the officials so honored this year.

Masters Points: 1.
Entry Fee: $1.00 per player.

♠

OFFICIAL BRIDGE WEEK HEADQUARTERS—SAN FRANCISCO
BELLEVUE HOTEL, Geary and Taylor Streets

All players are urged to utilize the facilities of official headquarters, because these places will be doing their share to make Bridge Week a success. It is fitting that we do something in return.

♠

Welcoming Luncheon, Thursday, June 2, 12 o'clock noon.
Information as to Location at Bellevue Hotel.

The Puzzle Page

Bridge Jeopardy
by John Jones

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

And the answer is …

$100 – The person you play bridge with.

$200 – The call which uses the green card in the bidding box.

$300 – Over a 1NT or 2NT opener, this bid asks for a 5-card major.

$400 – A bid that deliberately misdescribes a hand. It is protected by the Laws of Bridge.

$500 – This advice suggests you should add your HCP to the number of your spades when considering a fourth seat opening bid.

Play or Defend?
by John Jones

North
♠ 10 8 6 4
♥ 7 6 3
♦ Q
♣ A K Q 4 3

West
♠ A J 5
♥ 10 4
♦ K 10 9 6 3
♣ J 10 2

East
♠ Q 9 7
♥ 5 2
♦ A J 8 7 5 4 2
♣ 9

South
♠ K 3 2
♥ A K Q J 9 8
♦ void
♣ 8 7 6 5

Contract = 5♥

Opening Lead = ♦10

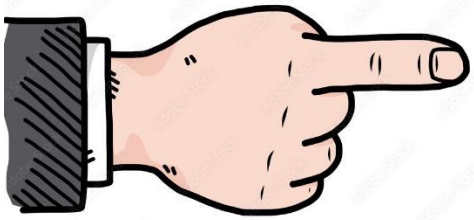
All players can see all the cards. Do you play or defend?

(Solutions to these puzzles are on page 11. No peeking!)

March Rebus
by John Jones

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





Solution to "Play or Defend?"

Answer: play. Yes, the club spots are blocked and there is no dummy entry in hearts. But there is a way around the difficulty. Ruff the opening lead, pull trumps and cash exactly two top clubs. Now duck a club if West has retained the ♣J or ♣T. (If West has unblocked the club honors, you can run the clubs pitching a spade). If West wins the third round of clubs, a spade return gives up a spade, while a diamond return is a ruff/sluff allowing two spades to be pitched from the declaring hand.

Bridge Jeopardy Questions

$100 – Who is partner?

$200 – What is Pass?

$300 – What is Puppet Stayman?

$400 – What is a psych?

$500 – What are Pearson points?

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Submitted by John Jones



I dunno why they keep calling me Jack-Of-Hearts, kitty. My name is John-Of-Santa-Fe-Springs.

☺☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

Rebus

Pearson Points

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

Around the Units in District 23



Pomona – Covina
by Tom Lill
www.acblunit551.org

Individual: March 2, 10 a.m., Ontario
April 13, 10 a.m., TBD
Unit Game: March 16, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
STaC: March 19 and 22
Unit Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m. before the game
Club Championships: March 26 and 29, La Fetra

The February Individual was captured by Clint Lew, with 66.67%. In second we find Steve Mancini, then Linda Tessier, Kiran Kumar, and Art Weinstein tying Nancy Stebbins for the fifth spot.

In the February Unit Game, Tim and Eileen Finlay took top honors, with a 60.19% effort. In second were Kitty Moon – Tom Cusack , followed by Judy Mogharbel – Kiran Kumar, with Caryn Mason – Richard Parker tying Dan Robinson – Julianne Curry for the final spot on the leader board.

There were no rank promotions this month.

The big games list for last month was headed by Fredy and Lulu Minter, with a whopping 71.35% game. Next in line – a rare occurrence indeed – was the 67.02% game turned in by Judy Mogharbel and Yours Truly. Then we find the Minters again, with two 66.67% games, and Nona Stokes – Ramona Hernandez, 66.55%. The only section leaders not to break 65% (but they DID win!) were Tim and Eileen Finlay.

Something a little different this month, for our interesting (?) hand. We all know that judgement is a big part of bidding, right? Here's a case where one player took the right view and got to the cold slam, while no one else – even the very, very good pairs – did not. I'll show you the E-W hands.

South deals, no one is vulnerable:

West: ♠ 5 ♥ A9852 ♦ 93 ♣ AJ854

East: ♠ AKQJ6 ♥ QJ5 ♦ AK76 ♣ 7

The opponents are silent, so after three passes, you, East, have your first decision to make. You have a 4-loser hand. Do you open 2♣? Two-suited hands can be difficult to describe after a 2♣ opening, so you settle for 1♠ (and hope partner does not pass).

Now over to partner. Normally, a 2/1 response – even playing Standard, and especially by a passed hand in any system – would show around 11 HCP, right? Maybe a shapely 10 or a poor 12. Partner looked at that 5-5-2-1 shape and went 2♥.

Cowabunga, Buffalo Bob! With controls in all the unbid suits, great support for partner's known five-card suit, and figuring 11 over there, you launch into RKC Blackwood. Hearing about the two key cards, you settle for 6♥. The trump King is onside, so 13 tricks are there. Partner elected not to ruff a club in dummy, so +980. Results at the other tables were +510, +490, +460, and +450. (Don't ask me – I just report 'em, I don't explain 'em.) Only one pair elected to try for that golden pairs overtrick by ruffing a club, and since neither opponent had a singleton club, 13 tricks. (Trumps were 3-2, by the way.)

One has to wonder: the West hand does evaluate to 11 *total* points when you add one for each of the nice five-card suits. In hearts, the East hand reevaluates to 22. Why didn't anyone else get to the slam? As the cards lie, 6♠ also makes, but most people will eschew a 5-1 fit when there is a 5-3 fit available. True, that spade suit in the East hand does resemble a six-carder …

Quote for the month: "Progress always involves risk; you can't steal second base and keep your foot on first." (Frederick Wilcox)



Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley
by Beth Morrin

Our Annual Meeting and Unit 556 Board Election will be held on Saturday, April 6th at the Newhall Community Center.

Any Unit member interested in serving on our board can self-nominate.

Please contact Ruth Baker (rbaker1243@sbcglobal.net) by March 31st.

Our Face-to-Face game in Newhall is going well. We've picked up some new players. If interested in playing, contact Ruth Baker for a reservation since our space is limited.

Winners of the Friday F2F game:

Feb. 2
N/S Kathy Howell – Don Dachner 65.43%
E/W Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky 66.17%

Feb. 9
N/S Bill Langlois – Donna Davidson 73.32%
E/W Ruth Baker – Bernard Seal 72.62%

Feb. 16
N/S Harry Randhawa – Alan Nueman 63.27%
E/W Mira Rowe – Ron Oest 61.15%

Feb. 23
N/S Jerrod Mason – David Khalieque 64.07%
E/W Aggi Oschin – Harris Hall 64.85%

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. ACBL has increased the minimum entry fee to $5. Virtual games are now available to all BBO players. Invite your favorite partner to play with you in one of our games.

Big Virtual Club Games (65+%):

Mon. Jan. 29
Chic Callas – Lynn Duffe 67.22%

Thurs. Feb. 1
Gerard Geremia – Joseph Viola 69.44%

Sun. Feb. 3
Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky 71.03%

Sun. Feb 11
Rae Murbach – Joseph Viola 65.74%

Mon. Feb. 12
Kristi Kubo – Robot 67.01%

Tues. Feb 13
Pat Larin – David White 68.33%

Thurs. Feb. 15
Diana Borgatti – Rae Murbach 65.28%

Mon. Feb. 19
Carolyn Cohen – Diana Borgatti 67.22%

Next Board Meeting: TBA

Pasadena – San Gabriel

by Morris "Mojo" Jones

bridgemojo.com



On Sunday March 3 we held our annual unit membership meeting before the Unit Game at the Pasadena Bridge Club.

Outgoing unit board members are Richard Halverstadt and Linda Stuart. Thanks so much for your help and contributions!

Incoming unit board members are Liza Billington, Don Garner, Patricia Luehrs, Gloria Rommel, and Doug Senour. When you see them at the table, be sure to thank them for their volunteer service!

For the Unit Game and meeting on March 3, the unit had a surprise gift for the players: no card fee for the game! Sixty players came to fill 15 tables at the Pasadena Bridge Club, enjoy pizza, salad, beverages, and cake, all provided by the unit and served by the unit board.

Meanwhile in February we held two great unit games. Here are the winners for February:

Feb. 4:
N/S Madhu Sudan and Stan Majcher
E/W Fredy Minter and Lulu Minter

Feb. 18:
N/S Madhu Sudan and Stan Majcher
E/W George Wang and Frank Shih

Congratulations to players achieving new ranks in the ACBL:

Junior Master
Ken Farley

Club Master
Sandip Bhagat
Beatrix Wilbur

Regional Master
Julie Hanson

Bronze Life Master
Kim Ebner

Coming up in March, the Pasadena Bridge Club will be holding silver point STaC games at the Open Pairs games on Wednesday and Thursday, March 20-21, and a 0-750 game on Saturday, March 23.

The next Unit Game will be on March 17 at the Arcadia Bridge Center. The April game dates have not officially been set, but will most likely be on April 7 at the Pasadena Bridge Club, and April 21 at the Arcadia Bridge Center. For reservations for any Unit Game, contact Miriam Harrington, (626) 232-0558, or miratpf@aol.com.

The next Bridge Introduction course will be at the Pasadena Bridge Club on Saturday mornings at 9:30 starting April 6. To register, visit the Pasadena Bridge Club web site https://pasadenabridgeclub.com and look for the registration link in the top right corner.



Long Beach
by Lillian Slater

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

Sorry, nothing from Long Beach this month.

Problem Solvers' Panel

John Jones is moderator. Wafik Abdou, Mark Bartusek, David Chechelashvili, Jordan Chodorow, Kitty Cooper, Lynne Feldman, Rick Roeder, Mike Shuster, and Jon Wittes are panelists.

As always, panelists are playing 5-card majors, 15 - 17 NT, and 2/1 GF. Beyond that, except where indicated, panelists may use any reasonable methods.

1

IMPs
None Vul

North	East	South	West
pass	1♥	???	

You, South, hold: ♠ AQ93 ♥ J8 ♦ A2 ♣ KJ642

What call do you make?

This hand is from a team game at South Bay Bridge Club. I was the 1♥ bidder. The player holding this hand was Alan Flower, who passed over 1♥. After a forcing 1NT bid to his left and a 2♣ rebid by opener, he passed again. After a 2♥ preference by responder, opener passed. Alan balanced with 2♠, which he played well to make. He asked me what I would have done and I answered double. But I said that if you asked enough players, you would get most of: Pass, Double, 1♠, 1NT, 2♣, and 2♥. I told Alan that with the exception of 2♥, I would accept any of those actions if my partner selected one of them. Most of the possibilities were discussed by some of the panelists.

Agreeing with Alan's pass.

Bartusek: Pass. I think it is too dangerous to double with only a doubleton diamond (and too scary for 2♣ with such a bad suit). Let's listen to the auction and then decide whether it is wise to enter on the next round. Admittedly some people might overcall 1♠, which is my second choice (and clearly Marshall Miles' choice).

Yes, Marshall loved overcalling 4-card majors with a longer minor suit in reserve. He wrote books advocating this technique.

Arguing for the 1♠ overcall.

Roeder: 1♠. Let's prepare the defense if need be. Plus, your ♠9 should be admired.

Chechelashvili: 1♠. I think it is close, and none of the bidding choices – 2♣, 1NT, or double – look unusual to me, but my slight preference is towards 1♠. If there is no further competition from the opponents, we should be able to decide between 3NT versus 4♠ on a 4-3 fit with the right hands.

The rest of the panel selected double, with some of them thinking it was a tough bid.

Wittes: Double: Nothing is perfect, but I feel I have to take some action. If partner bids 2♦, I will pass. I have anything else covered.

Chodorow: Double. 1♠ is misguided, bringing four of my cards into play rather than eleven. 2♣ is unspeakable. Pass puts too much pressure on partner and suggests we're happy defending hearts, which we're not. Yes, I only have two diamonds, but think of all the calls (pass, 1♠, 1NT, 2♣) she has to bypass to bid them. We'll be fine.

Shuster: Double. You just can't live in fear of the auction developing in the worst possible way. This hand type needs to get in.

Abdou: Double. I'm not ashamed of ♦Ax! This is the most flexible and best lie, because the clubs are too weak for an overcall and pass risks getting blown out of the auction. 1♠ is possible but I would rather lie about a diamond than a spade.

Some thought double looked pretty easy,

Feldman: Double. Not sure what the issue is here. *Vanna, can I buy a diamond?*

Cooper: Double.

2

IMPs
E-W Vul

West	North	East	South
1♦	3♥	3♠	???

You, South, hold: ♠ 765 ♥ A7654 ♦ KJ9 ♣ 65

What call do you make?

We are at favorable vulnerability. Partner has got part of the job done, now it's our turn.

Bartusek: 4♥. I'm fearful that a 5♥ bid might push them into a making slam (my diamond honors are onside!). In addition, I'm worried about going for 800 at the 5-level with such a balanced hand when the opponents have no fit. Sure, the LOTT (Law of Total Tricks) implies that you are safe having 11+ trumps combined, but Lawrence's book about Fighting the Law sheds valuable light on considering distribution and location of honors in refining your bidding decisions.

Shuster: 4♥. I want to take away the cuebid and aim them at game. I can always bid 7♥ later if needed.

Cooper: 5♥. I might as well bid 5♥ now rather than over 4♠. With my diamonds slotted they probably make six so I'm choosing the bid least likely to railroad them into it while taking up their room to explore.

Chodorow: 5♥. Take maximum space and leave them guessing while putting us at no risk.

Abdou: 5♥. This takes away Blackwood and I want to cash our heart if possible.

Feldman: 5♥. I'll defend spades at the 5-level.

Chechelashvili: 5♥. Let them make the last guess at the highest level I am willing to bid.

Thus far, most of the panelists have bid 5♥, intending to take up the maximum amount of room and then likely be quiet for the rest of the auction. Against that, some of the panelists are hoping that going a little lower might keep the opponents lower also. There are two more panelists to be heard from. I'll let a wonderful singer do the introductions - from the beautiful, melodic voice of Judy Collins:

"Don't you approve?"

Yes, we all appreciate the heart bids,

"But where are the clowns? Send in the clowns. Don't bother, they're here."

Wittes: 4♣. I think this is the first time I have ever psyched in these problems! The opponents are probably heading toward a spade slam, and at this vulnerability I can do whatever seems right. How can I slow them down? Bidding some number of hearts will probably push them there. Let them try to figure out what my 4♣ bid means. I don't have to worry about getting a club lead, because I will be on lead.

Roeder: 4NT. But, if I am in a desperate situation, slowing down the auction via 4♣ will throw a monkey wrench into the proceedings.

I might not have thought of 4♣, but if I did, I'd be a clown too.

3 Matchpoints E-W Vul	South	West	North	East
	1♦	2♣	pass	pass
	???			

You, South, hold: ♠ QJ83 ♥ 3 ♦ AQJ8765 ♣ A

What call do you make?

The options here include doubling, 2♠, 2♦, or 3♦. When I played with the late Mike Pudlin, I would always opt for double in weird situations like this. Sometimes it was against my better judgement, but Mike liked it and it certainly picked up some awesome numbers.

Abdou: Double. I'll correct hearts to spades (showing four since I didn't reopen with 2♠). Partner is unlikely to have good enough clubs to sit with me having the ♣A and will not jump in hearts when an easy 2♥ was available over 2♣.

Wittes: Double. I doubt that partner wants to pass 2♣ doubled when I'm looking at the ace and they bid 2♣ vulnerable. What happened to the heart suit? If partner bids 2♥, I'll correct to diamonds. If partner bids spades, that's fine.

Feldman: 2♠. *Lynne didn't comment on this call, but notice that 2♠ makes it impossible for the opponents to bid 2♥ and possibly find an easy heart fit.*

2♦ versus 3♦ arguments include:

Bartusek: 2♦. I considered 2♠, but I was worried that the auction would prove unmanageable later on (not to mention deceiving partner as to my values). In addition to emphasizing the primary feature of my hand (the awesome diamonds) this will also allow me an easy 2♠ bid later over somebody's 2♥ call.

Chodorow: 2♦. With a four-loser hand, I have an easy spade bid on the next round even if it has to be higher than the two-level. This tells partner I have a big hand for offense but not necessarily for defense. Double with a stiff heart is a road I won't go down.

Roeder: 2♦. Spades can wait.

Shuster: 3♦. I have too much hand to pass, but I also want to get above an enemy 2♥ contract. 2♠ is possible, but doesn't honor the suit disparity properly (imagine partner with Kxx in spades and a stiff diamond – they will pass 2♠ and that won't be right).

Cooper: 3♦. I have huge playing strength!

Finally, let's return to the question Jon asked – "What happened to the heart suit?"

The man that thinks he knows says:

Chechelashvili: Pass. Since they are vulnerable, it is very likely that LHO is strong, it is their hand and LHO is strong and they have a better strain in 2♥, 3♥, or 4♥. So, I am willing to take a risk and pass. At any other vulnerability I would bid 2♦.

4

IMPs
N-S Vul

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

You, South, hold: ♠ AJ9754 ♥ J2 ♦ AKQ83 ♣ void

What call do you make?

The crux of this issue is how much of a spade fit does partner show? Some partnerships would play that it doesn't show spade tolerance at all. Many partnerships would show a partial fit, and some would play 3♣ shows club values and a complete spade fit. A critical issue is how aggressive/disciplined your second seat 3♣ bids are. The more disciplined the partnership is in second seat, the greater the chance that North will have a club suit worth mentioning and have made a disciplined pass in second chair. If you preempt on almost anything, 3♣ must have a spade fit because good club hands would have acted in first seat.

Chodorow: 3♠. I don't believe 3♣ shows spade tolerance. Even if partner has two small spades, we have no entries to dummy and will lose two hearts and at least two spades and still have to do something with our long diamonds. If someone figures out to double 4♠, we could lose the event on this board.

Wittes: 3♠. I'd like to bid more, but I have no fit for partner, and my spade suit is not great without a fit. I would love to bid diamonds natural, but that would imply a club fit rather than be a natural bid.

Shuster: 3♠. I hope partner's spades don't look like my clubs.

Feldman: 3♠.

Abdou: 4♠. My passed partner bidding 3♣ must have a partial spade fit (partner didn't open 3♣).

Bartusek: 4♠. Partner would not be entering at the 3-level as a passed hand without some tolerance for my suit. Bidding 3♣ vulnerable without a partial fit opposite a simple 1-level overcall is way too dangerous. Qx of spades and out is enough for me to gamble 4♠.

Cooper: 4♠. 3♣ by a passed hand should be fit-showing or at least show spade tolerance with some reason to bid. In my partnerships it shows a fit. Club values mean no slam.

Chechelashvili: 4♠. A good partner will have a spade fit with clubs after he was unable to open the bidding with 1♣ or 3♣. I think it is too much to expect partner to have a heart control and the ♠K, so I will simply try to give as little info to opponents as possible and bid the game.

Roeder: 4♠. A practical bid. 3♦ is reasonable if understood but any rational society teaches their children not to play with guns.

5

BAM
Both Vul.

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

You, South, hold: ♠ AQJ8 ♥ AQ43 ♦ J9742 ♣ void

What call do you make?

Here we have the conservatives who try 3♥, the more aggressive bidders who try 4♥, and the optimists who cue for a possible slam.

The conservatives mention the form of scoring.

Abdou: 3♥. This is enough at this form of scoring. 4♣ is too aggressive – if finesses are needed, they probably are not working. At IMPs 4♥ is maybe worth a shot. The risk of overbidding is that partner may get carried away.

Bartusek: 3♥. Sure, we could have a game with a perfect fit opposite a minimum from partner; but I'm worried that partner will hang me if I jump to 4♥. Additionally, I doubt that the auction is over since I have only 14 HCPs and a void in the opponent's suit. It's likely that partner will be able to work out that I'm short in clubs as the auction progresses.

Those who wish to try game without encouraging partner too much:

Chechelashvili: 4♥. To me 3♥ would be an underbid and 4♣ an overbid.

Shuster: 4♥. My diamonds are insufficient to make a stronger move.

Cooper: 4♥. This is a good gamble!

Finally, those who take my approach:

Roeder: 4♣. I'm curious to see what alternatives your esteemed panelists give.

Wittes: 4♣. I don't like my diamond holding, but otherwise I have the values for a 4♣ bid.

Feldman: 4♣.

Chodorow: 4♣. When you want to hear something (such as 4♦) from partner, make the bid that tees it up for her. *A subtle, but excellent point!*