Southern California **Bridge News**

Volume 61, #6 June 2024 Published by ALACBU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by John Jones

July 1 – 7, 2024
July Regional at Long Beach Hilton
701 W. Ocean Blvd | Long Beach, CA 90831



Our July regional will be from Monday July 1 through Sunday July 7 at the Long Beach Hilton. There should be a flyer for the regional elsewhere in this newsletter. This is a great place to earn red and gold points and to see friends again. The lunch time speakers are fabulous, the hospitality is great, there is an online partnership desk, and there will be a free workshop Monday July 1 @ noon, taught by Margie Michelin.

If you wish to stay at the Hilton, the room rate is $154/night. This rate is good through June 20. To obtain rooms, call 1-800-445-8667. Use the code P09. After June 20, you will get the best available rate.

For more information contact Peter Benjamin at ahoneydo@aol.com or Margie Michelin at michelinonbridge@aol.com.

Single day parking for those who are commuting and not overnighting at the hotel is as follows: (the Hilton does not own, nor control, these parking lots)

1) 101 Magnolia (at the Long Beach Courthouse). $13/day. Hours are: 7am – 7pm, but will be extended on Monday night. This is about a 5-minute walk to the hotel.

2) 100 Oceangate at the Molina Center for $17.00 per day (across the street from World Trade Center/enter off Ocean Blvd). Hours are: 7am - 7:30pm. Closed on July 4; No weekend parking.

3) Valet Parking is available at the Hilton for $40.00 per day.

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Regional Director's Report

by David Lodge



Let's take a look at how the ACBL is doing.

Since I joined the D22 BOD well over a decade ago, ACBL membership has declined from about 175,000 to about 130,000. Despite this and even though we continue to lose members, albeit at a very small rate, the league is in excellent financial shape. Moreover, from the perspective of the quality of management, the organization is in the best condition since I've been a member of the National BOD, which began in 2018. Through 4 months of this year, membership has decreased 1,104, annualized to just over 3,300 members, if the trend continues. While still sobering, we can be encouraged that the rate of decline is much lower than in the first years of the pandemic and that most of the significant marketing initiatives have yet to bear fruit. At the end of April, members stood at 129,982. This does not include guest members.

Many see this continuous decline as the harbinger of doom. But take heart! The league is in fine financial shape and is generating income at a very respectable rate. For the 4 months ended April 30, the increase in net assets (because we are a not-for-profit organization, we use the term "Increase or Decrease in Net Assets" which is the same as "Pre-Tax Income, the

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4) Very Limited Self-Parking at Hilton for $17.50 per day.

There will be a general ALACBU Meeting – Saturday night at around 7 pm. If you are planning on attending, please let Peter Benjamin know in advance. This will be a good time to catch up on what is happening in D23, plans for an online tournament, our GNTs and NAPs, and a possible sectional to support our GNT representatives.

Donations for event naming have ended. However, you can make general donations for the regional. Many players have already done so. Thank you!! For details contact Laura Gastelum at lauralgastelum@gmail.com.

Our summer nationals will be in Toronto this year from July 17 through July 28.

Exit, stage left!

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

term we would use were we a for-profit organization), was $753,909 vs the budgeted amount of $124,587, and last year's $256,346. The large increase in net assets is partially due to a change in our monetary sharing with BBO. Under the leadership of our Executive Director, Bronia Jenkins, an amendment to the existing BBO was agreed upon resulting in the league receiving a very substantial increase in the table fees from the BBO games of 18 boards. This has nothing to do with VACB games. Additionally, the results from the spring NABC in Louisville were encouraging; we budgeted attendance for 6,000 tables and had an actual attendance of 6,759, resulting in a profit of $198,000. Overall, revenues, at $5,342,000 for the 4 months exceeded budget by $129,000, while operating expenses at$4,588,000 were under budget by $500,000. Much of the sharp variance in the expense area is due to timing issues, such as marketing personnel not being hired and programs with their related costs not going on-stream as quickly as forecast. Information Technology is under budget again for the same reasons. Expect this sharp variance to diminish throughout the remainder of the year. Cash and investments as of April 30, totaled $13,300,000. Other assets are $5,500,000. Total liabilities are $9,200,000. Net assets are $9,600,000.

Table counts (In 000,s):

	4 months thru 4/30	Budget	4 months 2023
Clubs-regular games	320	346	346
Clubs-special games	107	95	95
Clubs-online games	714	780	780
Clubs-total	1,141	1,221	1,221
Regional tournaments	23.8	22.7	22.7
Sectional tournaments	21.5	19.2	19.2

That's it for now. I'll see everyone in Long Beach.

District 23 Rank Changes April 2024

Junior Master
Violet Anderson
Karen Anthopoulos
Brian M. Burdiak
Scott Burleigh
Stephen Graham
Deb Ivons
Tom Ivons

Club Master
Lynn E. Carling
Dennis G. Depauw
Sharon L. Flower
Aarlyn L. Glenn

Sectional Master
Cherene Birkholz
Mary Sue Foard

Regional Master
Jonathan Fuhrman
Susan E. Kane
Bonnie L. Shok
Rita L. Van Lierop

NABC Master
Giacomo Beretta
Michael J. Connell
Robert S. Jennings

NABC Master
Rollin Ransom
Adrienne Sarmiento
Jan Van Lierop

Life Master
David A. Duke
Kay A. Hyland

Silver Life Master
Edward J. Nowacki

Gold Life Master
Alyssa T. Kennedy

LOS ANGELES PRESENTS THE 88TH ANNUAL BRIDGE WEEK

The Summer's Best Regional

JULY 1 - JULY 7

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

DAYLIGHT SCHEDULE! 299ER GAMES EVERY DAY!
PILE UP YOUR GOLD POINTS IN OUR GOLD RUSH PAIRS!
STAR SPEAKERS TUE-SAT! SATURDAY SPECIAL SHOW!

MONDAY JULY 1

** Free Bridge Workshop **
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Reception Gifts and snacks
11:30 a.m.

Marjorie Michelin
Grand Life Master
michelinonbridge@aol.com

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Ken Horwedel

DISTRICT 23 PRESIDENT

John Jones

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

David Lodge



HILTON LONG BEACH

701 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA

Parking will be available to guests attending for the day at a nearby parking structure. We offer offsite parking at 101 Magnolia (the court house parking structure), which is a 5 minute walk away. FREE Shuttles will be available at prime times.

Valet is available for $34.

Overnight self-parking is $10 for guests who are staying at the hotel and will have access to the hotel underground self-parking.

Room rate is $154/night. The group code is 90P.

Guests may call Hilton reservations at 1 800 445 8667 and reference the code 90P, or use this link for reservations.

Card fees: $18 per player per session except Sunday.

Background Photo Credit: Long Beach Convention & Visitor's Bureau
Revised 3/17/2024

Sanction Number: 2240712O2



Monday, July 1, 2024

FREE WORKSHOP with 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
Marjorie Michelin Reception 11:30 a.m.
Gifts, coffee, snacks & fun

Marcia Brand
299er Pairs ..... 2:00 p.m.
Aft Side Series (1 of 6) ..... 2:00 p.m.

John Mills
Stratified Charity Pairs (1 session) . 2:00 p.m.
Charity Bracketed Teams ... 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Charity Pairs (1 session) ..... 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

RICKY RADOVIC DAY
AM Side Series (1 of 5) ..... 10:00 a.m.
299er Pairs (1 session) ..... 10:00 a.m.

Elizabeth and Tom Lebbare
Open Pairs ..... 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Gold Rush Pairs ..... 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Mini Soloway (4 sess) ..... 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Qualifying event - top 4 play Wednesday
Guest Lecture ..... 2:15 p.m.
Aft Side Series (2 of 6) ..... 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 3, 2024

UNIT 857/LONG BEACH BRIDGE CENTER DAY
AM Side Series (2 of 5) ..... 10:00 a.m.

Peggy Waite
299er Pairs (1 sess) ..... 10:00 a.m.
Open Pairs (2 sess) ..... 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

Larry Topper
Gold Rush Pairs ..... 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Bracketed Teams ..... 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Mini Solomay Finals ..... 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Guest Lecture ..... 2:15 p.m.
Aft Side Series (3 of 6) ..... 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 4, 2024

PASADENA SAN GABRIEL UNIT 819 DAY
299er Pairs (1 session) ..... 10:00 a.m.
AM Side Series (3 of 5) ..... 10:00 a.m.
Open Pairs ..... 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Gold Rush Pairs ..... 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

Marjorie Michelin
Firecracker Swiss ..... 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Guest Lecture ..... 2:15 p.m.
Aft Side Series (4 of 6) ..... 3:00 p.m.

Friday, July 5, 2024

AM Side Series (4 of 5) ..... 10:00 a.m.
299er Pairs (1 session) ..... 10:00 a.m.

George James
Open Pairs ..... 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

Gerry Gustafson
Gold Rush ..... 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Mini Solomay (4 sess) ..... 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Qualifying event - top 4 play Saturday
Guest Lecture ..... 2:15 p.m.
Aft Side Series (5 of 6) ..... 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 6, 2024

AM Side Series (5 of 5) ..... 10:00 a.m.
299er Pairs (1 session) ..... 10:00 a.m.
Open Pairs (2 sess) ..... 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Gold Rush Pairs (2 sess) ... 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Bracketed Teams ..... 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Mini Solomay finals ..... 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Special Show ..... 2:00 p.m.

Dan Logsdon
Aft Side Series (6 of 6) ..... 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 7, 2024

Fast Pairs ..... 10:00 a.m. & TBA

Matthew Mallory
AXY Swiss ..... 10:00 a.m. & TBA
0-2500 Bracketed Teams ..... 10:00 a.m. & TBA

Sunday Card Fees: $46 per person
Includes Buffet Lunch

AXY Swiss: 0-3000/3000-5000/5000+

Try the Mini Solomay Knockouts!

- This is a two-day, four-session, bracketed event
- Brackets are determined by the masterpoint average of the team
- Generally, there will be seven, eight, or nine teams in each bracket.
- The first day is a complete round-robin using victory point scoring
- The top four teams advance to the knockout phase on the second day.
- If knocked out after the first day, sign up for the next day bracketed teams.

Event Colors:

299ers: Orange Trainee Green Pairs: Blue

Final strats / brackets to be determined by the Director in Charge

Gold Rush	250 / 400 / 750
Open Pairs	0-2500/2500-5000/5000+

JOHN WAKEN PASADENA SECTIONAL

HOSTED BY
PASADENA BRIDGE CLUB
649 N Fair Oaks Ave #201
Pasadena CA 91103
(626) 247-4457

Location: https://pasadenabridgeclub.com/location

Enter below the clock tower



Plenty Of Parking

Director in Charge: John Coulombe
Tournament Manager: Morris Jones Email: mojo@pasadenabridgeclub.com

Card fee $14 Cash and Credit Cards

Four great pairs games each for 499ers and Open Pairs. Single session events at 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM

Events:

Stratifications are based on the average of players' masterpoints and may be adjusted at game time to optimize playing conditions.

- Saturday July 27
  - 10:00 AM Open Pairs
  - 10:00 AM 499er Pairs
  - 3:00 PM Open Pairs
  - 3:00PM 499 Pairs
- Sunday July 28
  - 10:00 AM Open Pairs
  - 10:00 AM 499er Pairs
  - 3:00 PM Open Pairs
  - 3:00PM 499 Pairs

Space is very limited! Make reservations early online using RSVPBridge. You can request to join the Open or 499er groups and select your events here:

https://www.rsvpbridge.com/join/PasadenaSectional2024

So many great lunch options at the site!

- Blaze Pizza
- Donuts & Burgers
- Vallarta Market: Mexican and Sushi
- Hoot's Wings
- Starbucks
- Chinese
- Subway

Also, near all the great Old Town Pasadena hotels and restaurants

ACBL DGC
Sanction No, 2407323

ZERO TOLERANCE OBSERVED

Tournament Chairs: Angela Peters and Sherry Hansen



Monday, September 2 - 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

- **Monday Charity Pairs** *(single sessions)*
- **Charity Bracketed Teams** *(2 sessions)*
- **0-500 Charity Pairs** *(single sessions)*
- *Monday Pairs single sessions included in Side Game Series*
- *The designated charity for the evening games is* ***Ronald McDonald House Charities***

Tuesday, September 3 - 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

- **Side Game Series** *(single sessions)*
- **Open Pairs** *(2 sessions)*
- **Gold Rush Pairs** *(2 sessions)*
- **0-500 Pairs** *(single sessions)*
- **Bracketed Teams** *(2 sessions)*

Wednesday, September 4 - 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

- **Side Game Series** *(single sessions)*
- **Open Pairs** *(2 sessions)*
- **Gold Rush Pairs** *(2 sessions)*
- **0-500 Pairs** *(single sessions)*
- **Bracketed Teams** *(2 sessions)*

Thursday, September 5 - 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

- **Side Game Series** *(single sessions)*
- **Open Pairs** *(2 sessions)*
- **Gold Rush Pairs** *(2 sessions)*
- **0-500 Pairs** *(single sessions)*
- **Bracketed Teams** *(2 sessions)*

Friday, September 6 - 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

- **Side Game Series** *(single sessions)*
- **IMP Open Pairs** *(2 sessions)*
- **Gold Rush Pairs** *(2 sessions)*
- **0-500 Pairs** *(single sessions)*
- **Bracketed Teams** *(2 sessions)*

Saturday, September 7 - 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

- **Side Game Series** *(single sessions)*
- **Open Pairs** *(2 sessions)*
- **Gold Rush Pairs** *(2 sessions)*
- **0-500 Pairs** *(single sessions)*
- **Bracketed Teams** *(2 sessions)*

Sunday, September 8 - 9:30 a.m. & TBA

- **Fast Open Pairs** *(2 sessions)*
- **Bracketed Teams** *(2 sessions)*



Tournament Highlights

- Bracketed Teams: Monday-Sunday
- Open IMP Pairs on Friday
- Sunday Fast Pairs out by 2:45 p.m.
- Marjorie Michelin's I/N Program
- D22 Signature Hospitality

Strats/Brackets

Open Pairs: 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+ (Strats by average)
Stratified Events: 0-750/750-3000/3000+
Gold Rush Pairs: 0-200/200-400/400-750
Bracketed Teams by Average MPs

Card Fees

$18 per person
Unpaid ACBL Members: $4 extra
Juniors 25 & under: $9
Cashless Tournament

Irvine Marriott

Bridge Rate: $169 **Reservations:** 800 228-9290
Mention ACBL for this special rate • Reserve by August 12
Your credit card will be charged for one night plus tax at host hotel bridge rate for reservations cancelled within 72 hours of arrival date.
Parking: $15 day or overnight parking
Free Guest Room Wi-Fi
Reserve Hotel Rooms online at:
www.d22acbl.com/labor-day-regional/hotel

Intermediate/Newcomer Events

Coordinated by Marjorie Michelin

I/N Lesson "Trump Management" with Marjorie .... Mon 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Local & International Guest Speakers ..... Tue - Fri 9:15 a.m. & 2:15 p.m.
Panel of Experts ..... Sat 2:00 p.m.
Single Session Charity 0-500 Pairs ..... Mon 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Single Session 0-500 Pairs ..... Tue - Sat 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
I/N Reception and Post Mortem with Marjorie ...Tue following the p.m. session

(0-5 MPs ACBL members Play Free on Tuesday!)

Check D22 website for up-to-date information:
www.d22acbl.com/labor-day-regional

The Puzzle Page

Bridge Jeopardy
by Tom Lill

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

And the answer is …

$100 – Spade, Heart, Diamond, Club.

$200 – A bid asking an opening notrump bidder to describe his holdings in the major suits.

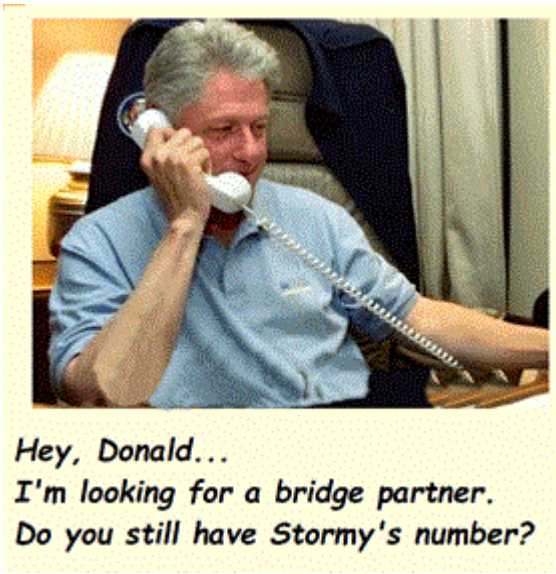
$300 – Defender's play of a card showing either attitude, count, or suit preference.

$400 – A double-jump bid showing shortness in the named suit, and good support for partner's suit.

$500 – A discard that is highly ambiguous, at best!

☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

Submitted by John Jones



☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

Play or Defend?
by Tom Lill

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

West	East
♠ J 10 9 3	♠ 8 6 5 4
♥ A 10 4	♥ K 9 5
♦ A 8 7 3	♦ K 10 5
♣ 7 4	♣ 10 6 2

South
♠ A K Q 2
♥ J 8
♦ Q J 6 4
♣ Q J 5

Contract = 3NT
Opening Lead = ♠J

South	West	North	East
1NT	pass	2D*	pass
2H	pass	3C	pass
3NT	all pass		

* transfer to hearts

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

(Solutions to these puzzles are on page 9. No peeking!)

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Solution to "Play or Defend?"

"Jailbreak"

Answer: declare. You clearly win the first trick. See what will happen if you now run five rounds of clubs: you can readily spare a diamond and a spade but both defenders retain three diamonds. A diamond now goes to the queen and ace, at which point West switches to hearts. The defenders cash their ace and king of those before throwing you in with a spade. East's ♦K-10 take the last two tricks.

It cannot help to play off your top spades before cashing the clubs. Then you must lose a spade as well as the two ace-kings. Nor will it help to attack hearts. With the ace and king divided, you will create a third loser if you do. If the ace and King of diamonds sit onside, you could lead the queen from hand and later play towards the jack. As the cards lie, this plan fails too.

To succeed, you will surely need to play diamonds twice from dummy. To succeed you need to take the slight risk of four clubs on your right (you will have a marked finesse if they are on your left). Overtake the first round of clubs (low to the ace also works given the 3-2 split) and lead a diamond off dummy. This renders the defenders helpless. If they take their diamonds and return a club, you can win in hand to enjoy your spade winners. You have a certain heart stopper and, if West continues spades, you pitch a heart from dummy and wait to score your third spade trick until after you have led a diamond towards the jack.

Thanks to Julian Pottage for reporting this problem.

Bridge Jeopardy Questions

$100 – What is a Suit?

$200 – What is Sayman?

$300 – What is a signal?

$400 – What is a splinter bid?

$500 – What is a six?

Around the Units in District 23



Pomona – Covina by Tom Lill

www.acblunit551.org

La Fetra Games: Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45
Individual: July 13, 10 a.m., Upland
STaC: July 9, 12, La Fetra
Unit Game: June 15, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
July 20, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
The Longest Day: June 21, La Fetra
Unit Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m. before the game

The May Individual was captured by Eileen Finlay, with 64.77%. In second we find Julianne Curry , then Clint Lew, Steve Andersen, and Linda Tessier rounded out the leader board.

In the June Individual, the top spot was captured by Kiran Kumar with a nice 66.67% effort. Then we see Kitty Moon, Peter Kavounas, Stephen Andersen, and finally Dan Robinson tying with Ramona Hernandez for the final spot on the leader board.

In the May Unit Game, Fredy Minter - Amr Elghamry captured overall honors, with 63.1%. Behind them were Vic Sartor – Bill Papa, Tim and Eileen Finlay, and finally Nancy Stebbins – Art Weinstein.

There was one rank advancement this month. Violet Anderson is now a Junior Master.

There were some interesting "big games" this month. The oddest was turned in early in the month, when Tim and Eileen Finlay scored 69.27% … and finished THIRD! In that same game, Yours Truly and Judy Mogharbel scored 71.88% … and finished SECOND! The winners of that game were Fredy and Lulu Minter, scoring a monstrous 77.60%. Go figure! The other big games were turned in by Fredy Minter and Roger Boyar, 68.75%; Caryn Mason – Art Weinstein, 65.28%; and Fredy and Roger again, just sneaking over the bar at 65.10%. Other winners in May: Gary Atwell, Steve Andersen, Mary Ann Wotring, Peter Kavounas, Judy Mogharbel, and Yours Truly.

Don't forget about The Longest Day, June 21 at La Fetra. All proceeds go to the Alzheimer's Association. For this special game, the entry fee is raised to $6.

A team including our Steve Andersen captured the Bracket 2 Team game down in Huntington Beach, earning a nice 7.19 silver points. Nice going, Steve.

Oh, do I have a hand for you *this* month! Believe it or not – I wouldn't make up anything this silly – this hand came up during a La Fetra club game. (Don't believe me? Check the results for Tuesday, May 28 – it's a game from The Common Game.) I'll give you just the South hand first. North deals, only N-S are vulnerable:

♠ none ♥ AQJ75 ♦ none ♣ AKQ106542

"Only" 16 HCP, right W.W.? Look again – it's a *one-loser hand*! After two passes, I opened 2♣. LHO doubled (he has an 18-count!) and partner bid 2♦. We didn't have any special agreement about 2♦ after the double. RHO passed, and I bid … 2♥! If partner didn't raise, I planned to keep bidding clubs until she got sick of it and went home, I guess. But she raised me to 4♥ – showing some trump support but little else – and I said what-the-heck (to myself of course) and shot 6♥. This was met with another double by LHO, so 6♥X became the final contract. As you can see, it is stone cold on any lead, the entire deal being:

	♠ 10 9 8 2 ♥ 10 9 6 ♦ Q 9 6 5 2 ♣ 8	
♠ A Q 6 5 ♥ K 8 ♦ A K J 8 ♣ J 9 7		♠ K J 7 4 3 ♥ 4 3 2 ♦ 10 7 4 3 ♣ 3
	♠ none ♥ A Q J 7 5 ♦ none ♣ A K Q 10 6 5 4 2	

Poor West. With the best hand at the table, at least in terms of HCP, he's helpless even if he finds a club lead. +1660 was of course worth all the matchpoints. The rest of the field was all over the place,

all declared by South: 5♣ making 6 twice, +620; 5♣X making 6, +950; and 2♣X making 4 overtricks (!), for a very rare vulnerable +980. Evidently no one else thought to show the heart suit first. Go figure. Seemed clear to me, but then, as always, my invitation to the prestigious Cavendish tournament seems to have gotten lost again this year. Sigh.

I'm sure that the pair scoring +980 were somewhat disappointed to find that their score was not a top!

We note that West would be well advised to read the chapter in S. J. Simon's *Why You Lose at Bridge* on the mathematics of doubling. Not that it would have helped this time, with all the other Souths having been mesmerized by that club suit!

Finally – you think *you* get some poor hands? Check *this* one out! I had already picked up a true Yarborough that session – that is, a hand with no honor cards, not even a 10-spot – when this gem came along:

♠ 32 ♥ 9432 ♦ Q532 ♣ 543

Indeed. *Two* cards higher than a 6-spot … and one of those a 9-spot. One card from a true Yarborough. This may be the second-worst hand I've ever held. Let's mirror-image the hand, counting four points for a deuce, three for a trey, etc. Then that hand would count up to 30 anti-points. How often have *you* held 30 HCP? Not often, I would bet! Once again, if my mathematics are correct (it *does* happen on occasion), the odds against picking up 30 HCP are better than 113,580 to 1. The odds against picking up that absolute hound-dog must be about the same.

Quote for the month: "Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example.. (Mark Twain)



Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley

by Beth Morrin

Sorry, nothing from SC-AV Unit this month.

Pasadena – San Gabriel

by Morris "Mojo" Jones

bridgemojo.com



Things have been hopping at the Pasadena Bridge Club. The club is now open six days a week plus every other Sunday.

The club is planning to close on July 2, 3, and 4, that's Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, during the Long Beach Regional. We'll have our regularly scheduled games on the other days.

Unit Games are held every other Sunday, though in July, the game on the 7th will not be held so players can join the final day of events at the regional. Our July game will be on July 21 at 12:30. Please contact Miriam Harrington, (626) 232-0558 or miratpf@aol.com, or Mojo or Zachary at the bridge club to reserve your seat. (If you're already a unit game player, you can book your seat directly on RSVP Bridge as well.) With turnout being around 14 tables now, reservations become very important!

The Pasadena Sectional is returning this year with four great pairs games on Saturday and Sunday, July 27 and 28. Space is very limited, and reservations are required!

To reserve your seats for the sectional using RSVPBridge, you and your partner can join the tournament using this URL: https://www.rsvpbridge.com/join/PasadenaSectional2024 then sign up for specific events. Note that this is significantly easier when both partners have joined the group before signing up.

Unit game winners for May:

- May 5
  - N/S Cathryn Martin, Diana Borgatti
  - E/W Robert Shore, Kevin Lane
- May 19
  - N/S Karen Arase, Gitta Earll
  - E/W Rae Murbach, Jerry Murbach
  -

Rank changes for May, congratulations to all!

- Regional Master
  - Jonathan Fuhrman
  - Susan Kane
- NABC Master
  - Michael J Connell
  - Robert S Jennings



Long Beach
by Lillian Slater

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com



Bridge education is thriving at Long Beach Bridge Center. Every Monday morning, 12-16 tables attend Rob Preece's classes on selected topics ranging from Doubles to Slam Bidding. Each lesson is comprised of three parts: a Director's Minute to review the rules (and etiquette) of duplicate bridge, the focus lesson, and eight related boards to bid, play, and then discuss. Attendees include developing players who have completed Hank Dunbar's Bridge 1, Bridge 2, and Bridge 3 lesson series, as well as intermediate players who want to review and fine tune aspects of their game.

In addition to classes, Long Beach offers a broad array of opportunities for players to then practice and improve their skills. Tuesday mornings, 9:30-11:30, feature a 199'er game supervised by Rob Preece and Fern Dunbar with another 199'er game on Wednesday morning supervised by Leo Dittemore. Once a player becomes comfortable there, they can also play in the NLM games currently scheduled Wednesday and Friday afternoons at 12:30 p.m.

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On Saturday, May 18th, Unit 557 held its first Non-Life Master Sectional since the pandemic. Thirty-four pairs participated for the challenge and, of course, for Silver Points. Twenty pairs competed in the morning session and 14 in the afternoon. Silver masterpoints totaling 37.24 were earned by 34 players! Congratulations to them and to all who accepted the challenge to compete!

Bagels and cream cheese with fruit accompanied Rob Preece's mini-lesson at 9 a.m. before the morning game. The afternoon featured home-baked goodies, ice cream, and chips to fuel the players.

Stay tuned for more information about our November 16-17 Sectional. As a Local Sectional, it will be stratified to allow both Open and NLM players to compete against others at their level. Saturday will be Pairs with Swiss teams on Sunday. Reservations will be required.

Mark your calendars. Hope to see you at the table.

Downey-Whittier
by Daniel Oakes

The club was able to host three Unit Championship games in May, with John Petrie and Sankar Reddy taking down the first two of them en route to a club-leading 7.71 masterpoints for the month. In the final championship, on May 31, they were dethroned by Bill Skupen and Jack Rainsberry, bringing Skupen up to 5.19 mp earned at the club in just two appearances, behind Petrie/Reddy and just behind Id Patel and Raj Ramchandani (5.36). Id Patel will be providing pizza this week to celebrate his success and his birthday, so come early and come hungry on Wednesday, June 19 for the 10:00 a.m. game. Also, birthday wishes go out to Selma Menard, who celebrated number 100 in May. We have a new unit reporter, so send notes and news for publication to Dan at OAKES2007@LAWNET.UCLA.EDU.

How would you and your favorite partner bid this one: ♠KQxx ♥AKQ9xx ♦JT ♣9? You open 1♥ and partner responds 1♠. Your right hand opponent overcalls 2♦, and it's your turn. Team game, everyone vulnerable. More to follow...

Problem Solvers' Panel

John Jones is moderator. Wafik Abdou, Mark Bartusek, Paul Boudreau, Jordan Chodorow, Kitty Cooper, Ellis Feigenbaum, Alex Kolesnick, Mister Mealymouth, Margie Michelin, 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
1♠	pass	???	

You, South, hold: ♠ Q865 ♥ J6 ♦ AJ10976 ♣ J

What call do you make?

Shuster: 2NT. I'll bid that if it is limit raise or better. Or if I have a bid for a super-limit raise (often 3NT) I'd do that. This is "A hand that evaluates to a limit raise, but I would be sick if partner passed." I won't bid anything non-forcing below 4♠.

The expert world is increasingly combining Jacoby 2NT with a limit raise. This technique accomplishes two objectives: 1) it makes it more difficult for the hand not on opening lead to throw in a lead directing bid. 2) by compressing two bids it opens up 1M 3M to be used as a mixed raise.

Chodorow: 3♣. Mini-splinter if available, else 2NT. Since the right ten count will make game, any passable call such as 3♠ must get an F. 4♠ passes that test, but since the right minimum may produce slam, it gets only a D. 4♣ is an overbid, besides which my splinters systemically deny two fast losers in any side suit. It gets a C. Jacoby2N is good and gets a B, but if you can start with a 3♣ mini-splinter to show shape and limit strength, that's perfect.

Feigenbaum: 3♣. This is a mini-splinter. I raise to game showing a maximum if partner signs off.

Michelin: 3♣. I play 3♣ is a mini-splinter showing about 8 to 10 or possibly a good 7. If partner signs off, I will bid game anyway, but I don't want to make a full splinter 11-13. If partner cue bids I will cooperate.

Roeder: 3♠. (if that is our limit raise). Most experts now play that Jacoby 2NT response incorporates 4 card limit raises. I just do not think I have enough juice to splinter.

Wittes: 3♠. Partner could have some 10-point hands where 4♠ is cold or could have a 15-point hand where we have 4 losers. A limit raise seems reasonable, and has the additional bonus of making it difficult for the opponents to enter the auction at the 4 level with distribution at this vulnerability.

Boudreau: 3♠. Limit Raise. Anything more is very optimistic. I have mini-splinter relays available but that is not part of 2/1 GF.

Some of our panelists play that 3NT is a minimum GF splinter in an undisclosed suit. They opt to use that treatment here.

Cooper: 3NT. This is an unknown mini-splinter in our system.

Kolesnick: 3NT. I like to play 1♠-3NT as a mini-splinter (4+ spades, shortness somewhere, roughly 10-12 HCP). This hand seems perfect. If partner asks with 4♣, I'll bid 4♦ to show my stiff club.

Abdou: 4♣. This hand fits our 8-11 splinter criteria. With stronger hands I prefer bidding more slowly.

Some panelists get to 4♠ quickly, hoping that either we make, or we might shut them out of something.

Mealymouth: 4♠. A "weak freak" needn't be utterly weak, and a 4-6 hand is almost as appropriate as a 5-5 hand. Yes, it's easy enough to conjure up a hand opposite which I'd want to reach slam, but Bob

Hamman (that's who North is, isn't he?) whispered in my ear many decades ago that he doesn't have that hand. I fear that if I try something exotic like some form of splinter or other forcing raise, the opponents may find a profitable club sacrifice or a heart lead that stops an overtrick. I keep my blueprints in a locked drawer and don't want to show them to my opponents.

Bartusek: 4♠. This hand is slightly too strong for a jump to 4♠, but I am vulnerable. I'll take the risk of missing a decent slam. The jump to 4♠ will hopefully stop the opponents from entering the auction and finding a good sacrifice at these conditions-of-contest.

I found this problem in an old Midwest bidding panel. 8 of their 16 expert panelists voted for a GF 2♦. Their moderator objected strenuously, thinking that 4♠ was the best bid.

2

IMPs
Both Vul

South	West	North	East
1♦	1♠	2♣	X*
???			

* Penalty

You, South, hold: ♠ AJ106 ♥ Q106 ♦ KQ642 ♣ 6

What call do you make?

This hand is more difficult than it might have been a few years ago because few pairs have agreements dealing with a penalty double of a low-level bid in a GF auction. What does redouble mean? Is it SOS or are we making 2♣?

Chodorow: Pass. This is the hardest problem of the set if you haven't discussed the situation with partner in explicit detail. Does pass show club tolerance, such that you have to make an SOS redouble with a small stiff? Or does pass just say you have nothing else to show? And if so, do you in fact have nothing else to show, or do you need to show the fifth diamond with 2♦? Or indicate the spade stack with 2NT? (Normally we don't treat notrump as an escape hatch.) Could redouble be construed as business? (Probably not the percentage use for it.) For now, it's probably safest to pass the buck (partner can always make an SOS redouble of her own); after the hand, you'll talk.

Abdou: 2♦. Who plays that as penalty? In that case, I believe them 2♦.

Wittes: 2♦. Who would play a penalty double of 2♣ on this auction? If they truly have that hand, I can't see bidding more than 2♦ at this point. I don't want to bid 2NT from my side freely on a minimum, and have them lead a club through partner's hand and a spade back through mine. If partner does bid 2♠, I would then bid 2NT.

Feigenbaum: Redouble. If redouble is do something intelligent denying club support, then I do that. If not then I make a mundane Pass.

Cooper: Redouble. Prefer to play elsewhere and happy to defend if they run.

Boudreau: 2♦. Ugh. My spade length and no negative double hopes to buy at least ♦Jx from partner. Believing the penalty double of 2♣ is certainly a factor.

Kolesnick: 2♦. The bid I was going to bid without the double.

Mealymouth: 2♦. But first I call the Director. As I understand it, under the latest classification of treatments and conventions by the ACBL, penalty doubles under the level of 7NT are now illegal. Is it possible that East flunked Botany and can't tell Snapdragon from Foxglove? That's no excuse for violating the regulations. Without the double, I'd have rebid 2♦. The double gives me an alternative: to pass. That's what I'd do with a balanced minimum, e.g. only four diamonds and a second club. But I dare not do so with a nice five-card diamond suit and only one club.

Roeder: 2NT. Lacking a third diamond spot to suggest playing in diamonds. Also, a competent soul who has doubled in this unusual situation will have a diamond holding that suggests that diamonds will not play well (adopting the theory that one does not double the only contract they can beat, especially at a low level). Only one thing for sure: one of the other 3 has done something bizarro – hopefully not my partner.

2♠ showing a spade stopper might allow partner to declare NT and protect the club position.

And there are panelists who think that there is a party they don't want to attend.

Shuster: Pass. I wasn't invited to this party.

Bartusek: Pass. I wasn't invited to this party. Additionally, LHO might not sit. Partner can take care of themself?!?!.

Michelin: Pass. Partner has another call if he chooses.

What?!?! There is a party and Margie's not going? Say it ain't so!

3

Matchpoints
N-S Vul

North	East	South	West
1NT	3♠	???	

You, South, hold: ♠ QJ6 ♥ AJ62 ♦ AKQ62 ♣ J

What call do you make?

After partner's strong NT we can tell the opponents have between five and seven HCP. Could those points be the ♠AK? Can we find out?

Shuster: Double. For now... I won't pass 3NT should partner bid it. If partner bids 4♣ or 4♦, then we're off the ♠AK. If partner advances 4♥, I guess I raise to 5♥ to ask about the spade control.

Abdou: Double. Slam may be down on a spade ruff unless partner has a spade honor and we belong in NT. Starting with double is most flexible unless partner passes (unlikely).

Boudreau: Double. If partner bids 4♥, I get to bid 5♥ to learn if we are actually off the ♠AK. If he bids 5♠, I will settle for 6♥. If he bids 5NT (♠K) we will play 6NT. Over anything other than 4♥, 6NT and hope not to hear double by RHO.

Chodorow: Double. There's just room for partner to have a 1NT opener with two fast spade losers. Three of your continuations are easy: 6NT over 3NT; 5♥ over 4♥ showing two fast spade losers (or should 5♠ perhaps show the same hand with ♠Qxx, forcing 5NT if partner has no spade control and thus not risking AK and a ruff?); and a forcing 4♦ over 4♣. Strangely, it's trickier over 4♦, as 5♦ doesn't carry the same connotation as 5♥ over 4♥, and either 4♥ or 5♣ might be misconstrued. A 4♠ cuebid at any point is misguided.

Cooper: Double. Let's learn more about partner's hand!

Michelin: Double. I don't like my ♠QJx for a negative double. And I don't like bidding 4NT. If partner accepts, we might be off the AK of spades. If I make a negative double and partner bids 4♥, I can bid 5♥, which asks for first or second round control of spades for partner to bid 6♥. I can still go down on a ruff but I think I'll choose double.

Feigenbaum: Double. Bid a slam and hope it makes? I'll start with a negative double, and covert clubs to diamonds. Partner should know I have hearts and diamonds with longer diamonds.

Roeder: 6NT. Only a suicidal pessimist would think you are off the two high spades. But I guess that is why fences were built on the top of the Coronado Bridge railings. A spade ruff is too much of a possibility to consider suit play.

Wittes: 6NT. It's hardly possible for partner to have neither the A nor K of spades at this vulnerability looking at my hand. If I were to make a negative double, we are in danger of getting to 6♥ with trumps breaking badly and them leading ace and a spade for a ruff on the go. 12 tricks at no trump seems likely.

Bartusek: 6NT. The danger of a spade ruff makes me avoid a suit contract. Additionally, this stops a spade lead through the spade ace in partner's hand if I declared a diamond slam. A negative double which found a heart fit would suffer from both the previous concerns (in addition to a bad trump split).

Kolesnick: 6NT. I could be cold for a grand slam, but I no longer have the room. I'll just bid a practical 6NT. If they have the AK of spades and we have the rest of the deck, so be it.

Mealymouth: 4NT. Normally I would look at the opponents' convention card to see how they play this 3♠ jump overcall. Might it be strong? Or might it be two-suited, showing spades and clubs. But looking at my own hand, I can pretty well tell it's a good old newfangled Weak Single-Jump Overcall. I can almost picture partner's hand: ♠109 ♥KQ75 ♦JT3 ♣AKQ8. Opposite that hand, despite the 4-4 heart fit, I want to reach game, not slam, and to avoid playing in a suit, even with an 8- or 9-card fit. But in case I'm mistaken and partner has more, I'll bid 4NT to invite slam.

I got this problem from a player who suggested 5♠ asked for a spade control. That treatment is standard if trumps are known, but here?

4

Matchpoints
N-S Vul

East	South	West	North
3♣*	pass	3♠	X**
pass	???		

* = creative expert, but not a junior and not known to psych
** = takeout

You, South, hold: ♠ void ♥ AQ963 ♦ 64 ♣ A106543

What call do you make?

Bartusek: 6♥. Let the opponents make the final guess. Thank you for the footnote, because I've played this double as penalties for decades with some partners (stops the opponents from psyching our suit). *Good point, I've played doubles in this auction as penalties too!*

Shuster: 6♥. There might be too much work in 7♥. I don't want to do anything that could cause partner to bid hearts first, lest we lose a club ruff. I would have overcalled 3♥.

Cooper: 6♥. This could have handling problems but my vulnerable partner made a takeout double at the 3-level.

Kolesnick: 6♥. I'll make another practical jump to slam, 6♥. I have no clue, but the room to explore has been taken away.

Michelin: 6♥.

Abdou: 5♥ (general slam try). I have both of their suits controlled but need lots to get rid of my clubs or set partner's hand up! ♠Kxx ♥KJxx ♦AQxxxx ♣void would be nice, but not a great hand opposite three hearts.

Mealymouth: 5♥. I'll resist the temptation to make what seems to be the value bid, 6♥, for fear that 6♥ will crash on the rocks of distribution unless partner has the moderate extras he needs to accept my slam invitation.

Feigenbaum: 4♥.

Roeder: 4♥. There are old pilots and bold pilots but few old, bold pilots.

Wittes: 4♣. With any cooperation from partner, I'm on my way to 6♥.

Boudreau: 4♣. If he responds 4♥, 4♠ is easy. Over 4♦, a more reluctant 4♠.

Chodorow: 4♣. You're on your way to slam in hearts, but a grand may be child's play. Start with a 4♣ cuebid, intending thereafter, if partner has bid hearts, to cuebid twice in spades. You're hoping eventually to hear 5NT GSF.

5

Matchpoints
N-S Vul.

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

* = Forcing ** = Splinter

You, South, hold: ♠ AK642 ♥ AQ43 ♦ A742 ♣ void

What call do you make?

This problem has the experts divided. Some sign off, some make scientific slam tries, others blast a slam, and some want to get to seven.

Abdou: 4♥. I hate splinters in this auction, I like fit-jumps better.

This is a bad hand when partner has great clubs and only four hearts.

Boudreau: 4♠. Certainly, 5♣ would deny ♠A.

Michelin: 4♠. I am bidding 4♠ as a cue bid and forcing if partner bids 5♣. I will continue with 5♦ and see where we are off to. Probably if he signs off in 5♥ I will bid to at least six perhaps cuebidding 6♣ clubs looking for a grand.

Chodorow: 4♠. Again, you're on your way to slam in hearts (4♦ set hearts as trumps until the end of time), but a grand may be cake. You'll follow with cuebids in diamonds and again in spades.

4NT with a void?

Shuster: 4NT. Again, there could be too much work to do in 7♥, but I'll invite it via 4NT then 5NT (assuming partner shows one or two.) I expect to end in 6♥ regardless. Keycard with a void is fine. It beats leaping to slam and telling the world about the void.

Bartusek: 4NT. I was tempted to just bid 7♥, but even if partner has the heart king there might not be enough tricks. It's extremely unlikely that partner doesn't have the heart king, but whether partner also has the ♣A (and ♣K) will be crucial to the number of tricks we can take.

Feigenbaum: 5♣. I might have found the hand it's OK to bid keycard with a void, probably bid 5♣ in any case.

Roeder: 5♣. However, if I'm running late for the bus, 7♥. Always bidding slam but 5♣ cannot hurt. You did not mention if an immediate 3♥ bid by partner was natural and invitational. If so, that might impact how optimistic you choose to be.

Wittes: 5♦. If partner bids 5♥, I'll bid 6♣.

Kolesnick: 6♥. Partner is most likely 2=5=1=5. I have a great hand, but taking 13 tricks is a stretch. If partner has the perfect: ♠Qx, ♥KJxxx, ♦x, ♣Axxxx, I still may not take 13 tricks. I'll again just bid a practical 6♥.

Cooper: 6♥. I'm not sure how to find 7♥ if it is there, 6♥ should be OK.

Mealymouth: 6♥. Partner is not splintering for the sake of splintering. He has slam hopes, and I have as good a hand as partner can hope in view of my inability to jump-shift.