

Bridge News

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by John Jones



As of this writing, we still do not know the financial status of the 2024 Long Beach Regional (and may well not be able to do a complete accounting within the next month). It is possible that we made a small amount of money, but likely we lost \$2000 - \$3000.

If you played in the regional, stayed in the Hilton at least one night, did not book your room by using the bridge rate (you booked too late or got a better rate using a rewards program or something), please contact us. This is especially true if you won 0.0 masterpoints. Call or text me at 562- 843-8046. The Hilton staff is cross-referencing room attendees to give us room credit for players that booked that way.

What we do know is that we have signed the contract for the 2025 Long Beach Regional. The 2026 regional will likely not be in Long Beach, due to conflicts with the World Cup and the Long Beach Centennial. 2027 will likely happen without significant problem, but hasn't been contracted yet. 2028 has the Los Angeles Olympics in July, so there is no chance we will have a July regional any place in the LA area. It is possible to have a regional at a different time. Anybody who would like to be added to the tournament committee (finds sites for regionals, plans schedules, gets out the flyer, helps with volunteers during the regionals) please contact me or Carolyn Hannas (our new Tournament Manager, replacing Peter Benjamin who did a tremendous job for years, thank you Peter), or Margie Michelin (our continuing Tournament Chair (and the 2024 Women's Pairs champion in Toronto!). Parking at the regional was a problem, but not as bad as I had anticipated. It may be better next year. I did notice players who lived close to the tournament finding creative solutions such as riding bikes or scooters. I'm going to take this opportunity to again thank all those

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Regional Director's Report

by David Lodge

[Editor's note: Because the July SCBN was never published, but David did submit an article, we are including it here. The August report follows.]



We are in Toronto where the Grand National Teams competition will begin in a few days. For those of you unfamiliar with the event, each of the 25 districts has the right to send up to 6* teams to compete for a coveted national title in one of four

flights at the summer NABC *(if at least 8 teams enter flights B and C, each of those flights can send an additional team). The flights are broken down by master points; non-life masters with fewer than 500 points can compete in the lowest flight, Flight C; Flight B is 0-2,500 mp; Flight A is 0-6,000 mp and the Open Flight has no upper mp limit. While there is a national set of conditions of contest that governs the most basic rules, each district can establish their own supplementary conditions. As an example, some districts require qualification at both the club and unit level in order to compete for the district title. Many districts have done away with the unit qualification requirements because turn-out has been relatively poor and districts are doing all they can to try and encourage participation. One of the factors that dissuades players

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who donated money (for naming rights or just to the regional fund), volunteered in any capacity, worked as a director or caddy, for making the regional great!

Once we get the 2024 Long Beach Regional wrapped up financially, I will announce the next ALACBU general meeting. Lillian Slater has done a good job of handling the hybrid meetings (both live and on Zoom). We had a good ALACBU meeting. We had some visitors from D22 who inquired as to the possibility of D22 and D23 merging. More on that later. D22 would like help with committees, planning etc. for the 2026 Fall nationals. If you are interested helping, please contact me. The next three ACBL Fall Nationals are all close to us: Las Vegas in 2024, San Francisco in 2025, and San Diego in 2026.

Tom Reynolds and I met with ACBL president Bronia Jenkins while we were in Toronto. Our topic was the possibility of holding tournaments at local clubs using laptop computers (or tablets or something similar), with the local sites being monitored by a local director/proctor. Currently this doesn't quite work, but within a year we hope to be able to do this. We are planning a trial run without masterpoints (using other prizes, such as games or lessons with D23's best players and other non-masterpoint awards).

We had GNT representatives in Toronto in Open, Flight A, and Flight B. Our greatest success was in Flight A (Stan Holzberg, Alan Flower, Tom Reynolds, Lance Kerr) in which we finished 5th – 8th. D23 gave no financial aid to our contestants this year. GNT coordinator Walt Schafer and I would like to change that for the future. We would like to hold a sectional to raise money for supporting our GNT teams. Again, if you would like to be part of this, please contact me.

Exit, stage left!

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

predominantly in flights_B and C from participating is that they're not really fully into the tournament scene yet, and going to the NABC can be expensive. There is no money given to the players by the league. The only stipends are from the individual districts. One can appreciate that COVID severely hurt the finances of the bridge community and that many districts eliminated or reduced the amount of the stipend. Personally, I think that this is one of the best events in bridge. It offers a perfect way for players to expand their social connections. It brings home the differences between team (International Match Point-IMP) scoring and Pair

scoring. It's actually an easier form of the game because not every trick is critical. Going down in a contract by one trick or 2 or 3 tricks doesn't make that much of a difference. It's the same with overtricks. So, in my opinion, it's more FUN. Encourage your clubs to run qualifying games when they're allowed. It's a great way to break up the daily pair game club format.

[David's August report begins here]

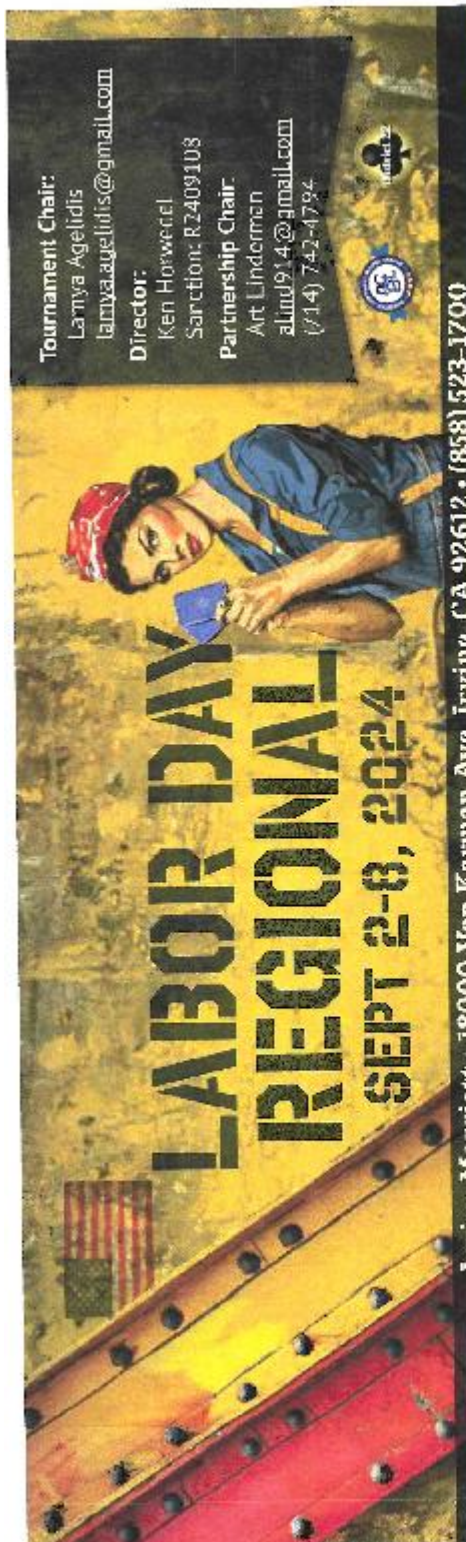
What is the future of online bridge and how does it compare to our current situation? Management and the BOD are very conscious of the nature of the interplay of the two modalities of playing bridge. We are committed to making no changes that will in any way be detrimental to F2F play. The pandemic changed everything. Bridge Base Online (BBO) has been the 1,000-pound gorilla in the online arena for many years. With the onset of the pandemic, BBO's business exploded. Along with that unique growth spurt came significantly increased revenues and profits. The league has had a contract with BBO since before the pandemic. Under this contract, in exchange for an annual payment to the ACBL which is currently \$550,000, BBO has virtual exclusivity (they account for 96+% of the online tables) to run ACBL sanctioned games which award masterpoints. The contract also provides for the fees that BBO pays for each table. With the huge expansion in the number of tables caused by the pandemic and significant price increases imposed by BBO, BBO's revenues increased dramatically, while ACBL's revenues were limited to an annual 6% increase in the table fees. This created a huge disparity in the amount of profit that the ACBL was realizing as compared to BBO. Late last year, our new executive director, Bronia Jenkins, began to look at the current reality of our position vis-à-vis BBO. She realized that there was an inherent unfairness in the finances. Exclusivity is also a problem, in that while other platform providers in the online space may have come up with better mouse traps, the ACBL isn't able to take advantage of these potentially superior products. The contract with BBO expires on June 30, 2025. Although not definitively determined at this time, in all likelihood, any new arrangement with BBO will not grant them exclusivity. Yes, we will forego the annual payment of \$550,000, but the ability to control our own destiny will more than overcome that issue. We've identified at least a half dozen online providers that are possible candidates to act as additional distributors. Many offer superior or different user experiences. The names so far include Swan Bridge, Shark Bridge, IntoBridge, Tricky Bridge, and RealBridge. Each of these platforms is unique and

we see some as having application in certain areas, e.g. Shark Bridge for teaching and education, Tricky Bridge for youth, etc. BBO will continue to run games that award masterpoints. In many cases, players may not see any change. If the virtual club in which they currently play continues to use BBO, there's no change. But if other providers get access to ACBL masterpoints and wind up competing with BBO in what they charge for table fees or the services they provide, players and virtual clubs may migrate. More on this topic in future articles as we draw nearer to finalizing our negotiations.

EDGAR update-EDGAR (Everyone Deserves a Game Above Reproach) is the Computer Based Cheating Detection program that has been utilized by the ACBL to detect likely online cheating. There is a comprehensive article about EDGAR in this month's edition of the ACBL Bulletin. Here's an update of the pertinent statistics from February 1 to July 10. There

have been 9 batches of players examined. Certain players have been prioritized and are included in the "requested bucket." These players included all ACBL employees, all members of the National BOD, all members of the Advisory Committee, all members serving on various ACBL committees, District and Unit officers, players as well as some players previously disciplined. Players examined-17,501 which includes 5,250 requested and all their partners (those examined beyond those requested are selected randomly); 242 have been determined to have cheated and 172 are suspicious and require more investigation; of those determined to have cheated, 25 have not as yet been charged; the remainder have been charged and notified and 145 have been resolved; it is expected that it will take approximately 18 months to examine all of the approximately 83,000 players who are playing online. Keep in mind that EDGAR is used exclusively to detect online cheating.

District 23 Rank Changes May-June-July 2024		
Junior Master	Sectional Master	Life Master
Richard A. Ackerman	Benjamin W. Bascom	Karmen Armoudjian
Ann B. Brown	Nayana L. Vora	Jeffrey D. Goldberg
Gayle M. Butler		Elliot B. Mazur
Bee Campbell	Regional Master	Melanie M. Smothers
Noel Drorian	Nicole R. Berte	
William L. Ketel	Robert M. Culbert	Bronze Life Master
Virginia L. King	Judith Estes	Karmen Armoudjian
Sydney J. Machtinger	Joseph A. Gusmerotti	Elliot B. Mazur
Darlene K Oliver	Jeffrey P. Johnson	Akiko Murakami
Gilbert Romoff	Sri Nagesh	
Diane P. Staes	Barbara Quinn	Silver Life Master
	Carol J. Schamp	Jeffrey D. Goldberg
Club Master	NABC Master	Michael E. Moss
Barbara Glicksman	Marcia A. Broderick	Paul W. Poareo
Tina J. Kenefick	Anne M. Doublier	Terese Thurman
Leslie Klein	Joey Duree	Judy T. Zucker
Sandy Marchese	Patricia L. Kasschau	
Charlene G. Pickarts	I. D. Patel	Ruby Life Master
Andy P. Rooke		Harish Singh
Jay E. Sandler		Lillian Slater
Cathleen R. Togut	Advanced NABC Master	
Shirley A. Wolfrom	Caryn L. Musicer	Diamond Life Master
		Paul H. Nason



LABOR DAY REGIONAL SEPT 2-8, 2024

Irvine Marriott • 18000 Von Karman Ave, Irvine, CA 92612 • (858) 523-1700

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lamya.agelidis@gmail.com

Director:
Ken Horwecel
Sarction: R2409108

Partnership Chair:
Art Linderman
alind914@gmail.com
(714) 742-4794



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)

LABOR DAY REGIONAL

SEPT 2-8, 2024



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

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

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

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



BEVERLY HILLS BRIDGE CLUB
325 S. LA CIENEGA BLVD,
BEVERLY HILLS, CA.

Saturday, September 14

Stratified 0-500 pairs 2 sessions 10am/2:30pm
 Stratified Open pairs 2 sessions 10am/2:30 pm
 Individual sessions--play one or both

Sunday, September 15

Stratified Open AND 0-499er Swiss Teams
 2 sessions at 10 am & 2:30 pm
 Teams must play both sessions

**SUNDAY BOX LUNCH AVAILABLE
 WITH TEAM ENTRY**

STRATIFICATIONS:

Open pairs: A=3,000+; B 500-3,000;
 C=0-500.
 80% Silver and 20% Black points

ENTRIES:

ACBL members: \$14.
 Unpaid ACBL members: \$18.
 (25 and under) ACBL members: \$7.
 Sunday teams: \$128.

NO CASH - CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS ONLY
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED Maximum
of 24 tables per Session

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW!](#)

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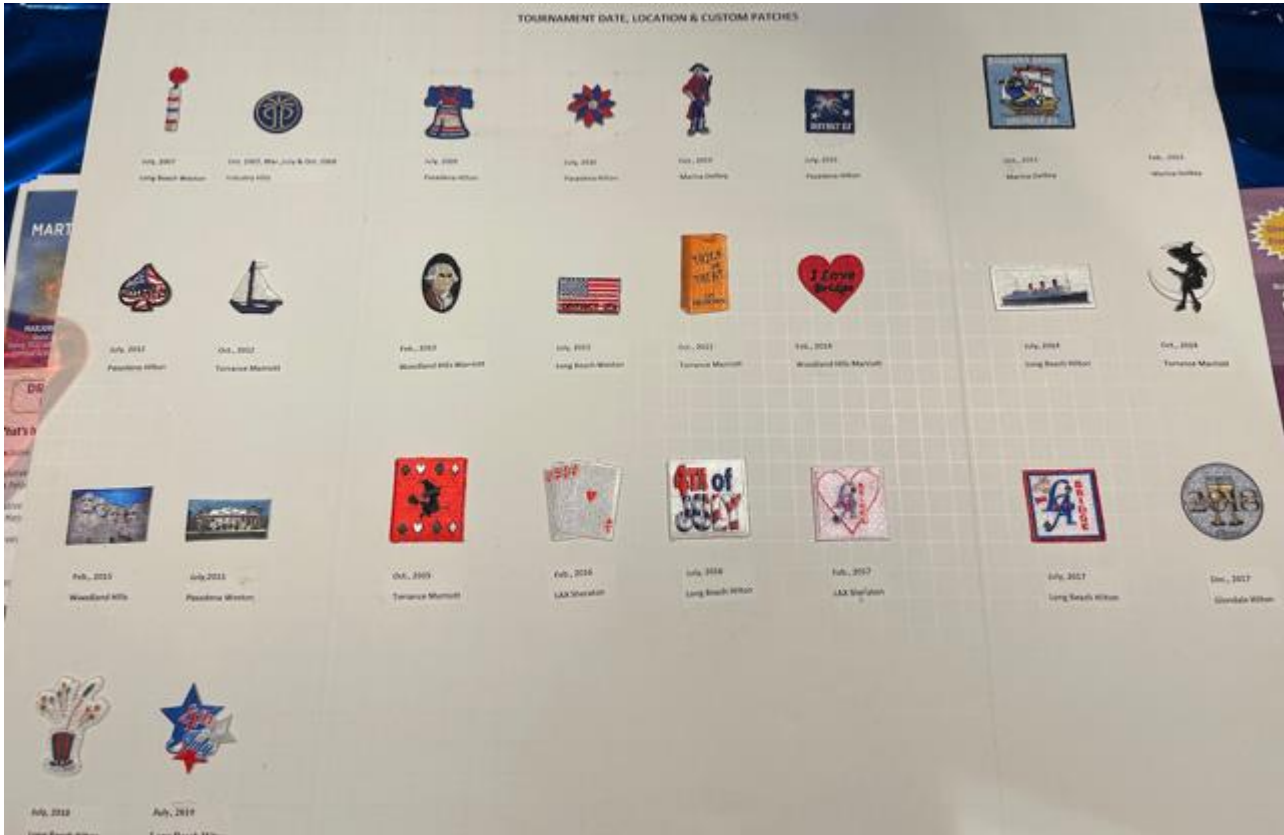
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Sticker Project by Mike Marcucci

“You love to pick them up. You love to stick them on cards, walls, friends, windshields, etc. We all have a collection of them somewhere. But here’s the question: do you remember where they came from?? Yes, we’re talking about bridge tournament stickers. Now that you have those colorful little jobbers, wouldn’t you like to remember that the little frog sitting on the lily pad was handed out at the 1998 Wahoo Regional, where you had such a great time & enjoyed that birthday seafood feast on the wharf?

We in D23 are trying to do something about that. If you attended, you may have noticed the following display on our Hospitality Desk:



Yes, it’s hard to read, but that’s not the point. We’ll make a bigger one later. This one was made up by Penny Barbieri and we are trying to expand on it by identifying all the missing dates and MORE.

Please look at the following pics and see if you or any of your friends can identify where these particular stickers were distributed to all the players. (Hotel & Date) We are collecting ALL the info you can remember & will be working on future displays. Yea! Please excuse the cartoons but we hope you get the idea.

We will appreciate any info you have and commit it all to our history records..... Thanks bunches!





The Teacher's Corner

Dogs That Don't Bark *by Daniel Oakes*

We generally start out as bridge players focused on our own cards. "2-way finesses" are 50-50 propositions to the novice; on a good day, we find the queen, and on a bad day, we don't. When we move to the intermediate level, one of things we've learned is to draw inferences based on what the opponents do. For instance, "East preempted in diamonds, so he probably has fewer clubs than West. I'll finesse West for the queen of clubs, not East." Now our "50-50" proposition has gotten a lot better. But one hallmark of advanced and expert players is that they draw inferences from what the other players at the table *don't* do. Like the great Sherlock Holmes, who solved the mystery in Silver Blaze by noticing that the dog didn't bark (therefore, the thief was someone the dog knew), experts sometimes find their clues from what's missing, not what's there.

Here's a relatively easy one. Against good opponents, you hold ♠J875 ♥5 ♦QJ83 ♣JT84. You're on lead after the opponents' quick auction: 1♥ - 3♥; 4NT - 5♦; 6♥ - P. Let's say you lead the jack of clubs (possibly on the basis of another negative inference - partner could have doubled the artificial 5♦ bid for a diamond lead, but didn't). Dummy comes down:

♠ K42 ♥ Q842 ♦ A4 ♣ K752
♠ J875 ♥ 5 ♦ QJ83 ♣ JT84

The J of clubs holds the trick, and with dummy's diamond holding, shifting to the queen is safe (you don't expect a second club to cash, because someone once told you, correctly, that good players don't use Blackwood with two fast losers in a suit). Declarer wins the ace of diamonds in dummy, ruffs a club (you were right; that club of declarer's was a singleton), cashes the king of diamonds, and ruffs a third round of diamonds. To recap: five tricks have been played; three rounds of diamonds (the third ruffed in dummy) and two rounds of clubs (the second ruffed in declarer's hand). For the purposes of this article, partner isn't helping you at all with any sort of useful signals. Declarer now plays his remaining 4 trumps, having started with AKJT6. That will leave you with four cards in your hand. Will they be your four spades, or three

spades and the jack of diamonds (partner has clubs covered)?

While you're pondering that, here's a variation on the theme that shows up frequently in novice auctions. You have something like: ♠Q5 ♥QT84 ♦AQ65 ♣AT8. You open 1♦ and partner responds 1♠. What now? The common rookie error is to bid 2♥, showing your 4-card major, but that's a reverse, promising longer diamonds than hearts and a very good hand (typically 17+). Having learned of the importance of the 4-4 major suit fit, however, novice players are very fearful of losing a possible heart fit, but they needn't be.

Partner *could have* bid 1♥ but didn't. Partner therefore probably doesn't have four hearts, or if he does, he has even longer spades and won't pass 1NT; he'll rebid 2♥, and you'll find the fit on the second round. Partner may rebid spades instead, with a hand that's 6-4 in the majors, but that's fine too; you'd find a different 8-card major suit fit.

By simply rebidding 1NT instead of 2♥, you've both described your hand to partner (balanced, too weak to open 1NT) *and* retained the possibility of playing in 1NT when you don't have that 8-card major suit fit.

SOLUTION: Did you keep that jack of diamonds? You shouldn't have! Declarer *could have* ruffed another diamond if he still had a diamond loser in his hand. When he runs off his trump instead, you can safely (I did say your opponents were good players) infer that he doesn't have a diamond loser in his hand. Declarer's spades are AQ96. If you kept all your spades, you get the last trick with the jack, both setting and impressing your advanced declarer; if you kept the jack of diamonds, you get to discard it at trick 13 while declarer scores up his slam with the 9 of spades after cashing the A, K, and Q dropping the three spades you kept.

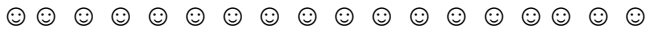
The Puzzle Page

Bridge Jeopardy
by John Jones

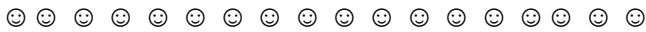
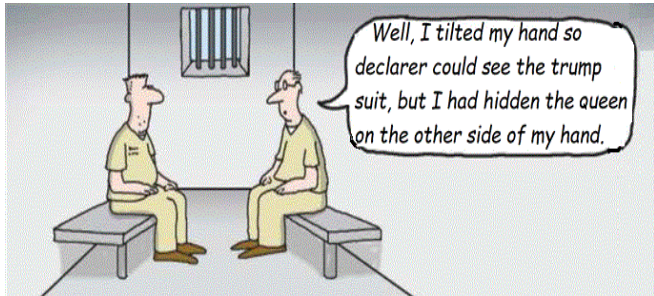
Category: Starting with T (each term begins with the letter T)

And the answer is ...

- \$100 - The highest score on a board in a matchpoint game.
\$200 - The highest card played after each of the 4 players plays is awarded this.
\$300 - 1NT - 4 and 1NT - 4 are types of this transfer bid, also a state name.
\$400 - A broken honor sequence such as AQ, KJ, AJ, QT.
\$500 - If you have KJ9 opposite A108, you have this type of finesse.



Submitted by John Jones



Play or Defend?
by Tom Lill

North
A K
K J 8 7 5
A 6 5 4
K 7

West
7 6 2
A 10 3
Q 9 8
Q 10 9 4

East
8 3
Q 9 6 4 2
J 3
A J 3 2

South
Q J 10 9 5 4
none
K 10 7 2
8 6 5

Contract = A4
Opening Lead = C10

Table with 4 columns: South, West, North, East. Row 1: 1♥, pass, 1♠, pass. Row 2: 2NT, pass, 4♣, all pass.

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

(Solutions to these puzzles are on page 12. No peeking!)

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Solution to “Play or Defend?”

“Terrific Timing”

Answer: declare. As North has shown a good hand. West might have underlead the ♣A. However, as the cards lie, you cannot get a club trick and whoever wins Trick 1 will switch to a trump. With the ♣K gone, you cannot control who wins the second club, which rules out a club ruff. Even if the ♣K remains in dummy, you could only take a club ruff if (East most likely) holds the ♣A and a singleton trump. In that situation, neither defender can play a second round of trumps. This sounds something of a long shot, and hardly worth the chance of finding the ♣K onside.

If diamonds play without loss, you can afford to lose three clubs, but that would require someone to hold ♦QJ doubleton. Might you do something with dummy’s hearts to take care of the third club?

One the ♣K loses to the Ace and a trump comes back, you ruff a heart to hand. As entries to dummy look scarce, you could lead the ♦7 to the Ace and ruff a second heart. You go back to the table with a trump and ruff a third heart. Although the ♥A falls, you have reached a hopeless position. You would have to exit with a club to escape for one down.

You need to set up a third diamond trick whilst you still retain control over proceedings. After your initial heart ruff, lead the ♦7 and duck. You win the trump return in dummy, ruff another heart, draw the missing trump and cash the ♦K. Then lead the ♦10 to the Ace, ruff a third heart and cross back by playing the carefully preserved ♦2 to the ♦6. You can now enjoy the ♥K.

Thanks to Julian Pottage for reporting this problem.

Bridge Jeopardy Questions

\$100 – What is a top?

\$200 – What is a trick?

\$300 – What is Texas?

\$400 – What is a tenace?

\$500 – What is a two-way finesse?

Around the Units in District 23



Pomona – Covina
by Tom Lill
www.acblunit551.org

La Fetra Games: Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45
Individual: September 14, 10 a.m., Ontario
STaC: August 20, 23, La Fetra
Club Championships: September 17, 20
Unit Game: August 17, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
Unit Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m. before the game

For those of you who missed my deathless prose last month, the article can be found on our Unit web site.

In the July Individual, the top spot was captured by Stephen Andersen with a nice 69.17% effort. Then we see Linda Tessier, Yours Truly, and Peter Kavounas. In August, Yours Truly took the top spot with only 60.71% (a real tight game!). Kiran Kumar, Clint Lew, and Peter Kavounas rounded out the leader board.

In the July Unit Game, Clint Lew – Linda Tessier won with a 59.03 score – another tight game! Yours Truly – Judy Mogharbel took second place, only 1 matchpoint in arrears. Next came Vic Sartor – Bill Papa, and Kitty Moon – Tom Cusack tied with Tim and Eileen Finlay for fourth.

There were no rank advancements this month.

There were five “big games” again in July. The top score was turned in by (no surprise here!) Fredy and Lulu Minter, 69.44%. Vic Sartor and Mary An Wotring scored 67.02%; Caryn Mason and Vic Sartor scored 66.74%; and Nona Stokes – Ramona Hernandez went over the bar with 65.28%. Other winners last month: Bill Papa, and Art Weinstein.

Our total contribution to The Longest Day ended up at \$651. A big Thank You to all who played in the game, and an even bigger Thank you to those who tossed some extra bucks into the pot.

Here’s a moderately interesting hand that came up last month. You are East, and hold

♠ none ♥ Q1097 ♦ KQ76543 ♣ K2

No one is vulnerable. South deals and passes. Partner opens 1♣, and North ventures 1♠. 2♦ seems reasonable – at least, I thought so. South maintained a respectful silence, and partner raised to 3♦. North called 4♠ (!) and I, seeing little if any defense against 4♠, went 5♦. Pass, pass, 5♠ (he sure is persistent), 6♦ by me, pass, pass, 6♠, X, all pass.

Well? What would you guess the final results of the board to be? Ready?

The full deal was

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>North</u></p> <p>♠ A K Q 10 6 5 4 2 ♥ 6 4 2 ♦ none ♣ 8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>East</u></p> <p>♠ none ♥ Q 10 9 7 ♦ K Q 7 6 5 4 3 ♣ K 2</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>West</u></p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ A K ♦ A 10 9 2 ♣ A Q J 9 7 3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>South</u></p> <p>♠ J 9 8 3 ♥ 8 5 3 ♦ J 8 ♣ 10 6 5 4</p>

Alas, both 7♣ and 7♦ are there, but with all the interference, it’s hard to get to the grand. The results were: 5♠XN, -500; 5♣W, +440; 6♠XN, -500 (twice); and one lone pair at 6♦E, -940.

Would you have gotten to the grand with the E-W cards?

Quote for the month: “Don’t be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated. You can’t cross a chasm in two small jumps.” (David Lloyd George)



Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

Our Face-to-Face game is being held on Saturdays through August 10th at the Newhall Community Center in Santa Clarita. We will move back to Friday at 10:00 am starting on August 23rd. Reservations are required as our space is limited.

Please contact Ruth Baker (rbaker1243@sbcglobal.net) or Paula Olivares (paula@pacbell.net) for more information.

Winners of the Saturday F2F game:

July 6			
N/S	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	65.08%	
E/W	Esin Parikh – Barry Parikh	54.80%	
July 13*			
N/S	Donna Davidson – Bill Langlois	62.20%	
E/W	David Khalieque - Ted Maki	58.04%	
July 20			
N/S	Ruth Baker – David Khalieque	61.31%	
E/W	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	63.39%	
July 27			
N/S	Kathy Howell – Don Dachner	58.33%	
E/W	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	60.12%	
	Ruth Baker – David Khalieque	60.12%	
Aug. 3			
N/S	Donna Davidson – Bill Langlois	61.71%	
E/W	John Langer – Beth Morrin	63.65%	

Note: * is a STaC game – Donna and Bill were first in 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. 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. June 3	Ruth Baker – Roy Ladd	66.32%
Thurs. June 6	Gerard Geremia – Joseph Viola	70.83%
Tues. June 18	Bill Brodek – Robot	74.07%
Thurs. June 20	Aggi Oschin – Bill Brodek	65.14%
Thurs. June 27	Jerome Paul – Margaret Shifey	65.28%
Thurs. July 11	Gerard Geremia – Joseph Viola	74.07%
Tues. July 23	Mira Rowe – Ron Oest	72.22%
Tues. July 30	Khushroo Lakdawala – Bill Brodek	65.28%
Mon. Aug. 5	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	67.13%
Tues, Aug. 6	Amr Elghamry – Dominique Moore	66.67%

Congratulation to our Unit Players who have advanced in rank:

Club Master: Barry Parikh
NABC Master: David Khalieque
Bronze Life Master: Bernard Seal

Long Beach Regional Winners:

Esin and Barry Parikh won the Wednesday AM 299 Pairs with 61%

Next Board Meeting: TBA

Pasadena – San Gabriel

by Morris “Mojo” Jones

bridgemojo.com



The big news this month is the successful presentation of the John Waken Pasadena Sectional for the first time post-pandemic.

For most of our unit board members, this was the first experience with putting on a sectional tournament. It turned out to be a great way to get experience with all the organization and promotion that's involved. It was really gratifying to see how everyone pitched in to help set up the rooms, bring in snacks and coffee, and clean up the space by 7:00 PM on Sunday! Congratulations and thanks to tournament chairs Angela Peters and Sherry Hansen.

We ended up with a total of 103 tables of bridge played over the weekend. The top winners were Freddy and Lulu Minter.

The unit managed to cover expenses and then some. This should make us more confident and ready to hold a sectional in a real venue next year. Not having split rooms will enable us to have pairs games on Saturday and team games on Sunday. We're working on getting the Arcadia Community Center August 9-10 next year.

We held one unit game last month with 12 tables on July 21. Winners N/S were Jeannette Deverian and Dan Lubesnik. E/W was Amr Elghamry and Dominique Moore.

Our August 4 game had 11-1/2 tables, and was won by Karen Arase and Gitta Earll N/S, with Amr and Dominique winning again in E/W.

We'll be holding unit games on most first and third Sundays of each month for the rest of 2024. The next two are August 18 and September 1. All of the unit games are held at the Pasadena Bridge Club. Contact Miriam Harrington at (626) 232-0558 or miratpf@aol.com to make reservations. We serve pizza at 12:00, and the game starts promptly at 12:30. Card fees for the unit games are still only \$10, cash only please!

We're planning to hold an Over/Under game on Sunday, Sept. 29. This is a game where newer players will be paired with experienced players. It's a great opportunity for the new players to get experience

playing with experienced players, and for the experienced players to provide encouragement for new players to play more fearlessly.

Special congratulations to new Life Masters and Bronze Life Masters Karmen Armoudjian and Elliott Mazur. Congratulations to new Silver Life Master Teresa Thurman.



Long Beach by Lillian Slater

www.acblunit557.org

www.LongBeachBridge.com



At the celebration for Unit 557's newest Life Master, Melanie Smothers holds her new swag— a license plate holder.



Congratulations to Bonnie Mitchell who became a Life Master during July 2024’s Los Angeles Regional. She is pictured above with her frequent partner, Elaine Montgomery, who played with her when she attained this accomplishment. Psst, Bonnie’s 96 years young.



On Saturday, July 20th, Long Beach Bridge Center served as the venue for JCUAA’s (Joint Chinese University Alumni Association of Southern California) annual bridge tournament. With good food, great company, and competitive bridge, 27 tables competed for prizes. There were bridge and raffle winners, and everyone in attendance received a door prize. Special thanks go to the event organizers, Tim Cheng and Kim Wang, and Danny Wu, JCUAA president. A great time was had by all!

Downey-Whittier by Daniel Oakes

Mike Ventri and Dan Oakes turned in the club’s 70% game of the in June (73.31%, but who’s counting?!) at the June 5 NAP qualifier. Proving that he’s the brains of the operation, Ventri came back the following week and won with a different partner – Steven Hough.

Other winners in June were John Dobson and Barbara Horn, John Petrie and Sankar Reddy (twice!), Gabby Sill and Connie Kang, Jon Yinger and Alan Flower, and Robert Davis and Kiran Kumar.

Mike Ventri topped the month’s point-gainers, picking up 8.42 points at the club in June, thanks to a combination of special games, good play, and perfect attendance. Petrie and Reddy displayed those same qualities to rack up 7.12 points for the month, and John Yinger and Alan Flower took a week off and still tallied 4.8 points. If you’re keeping track at home, that’s a lot of points we’re giving away in just four games (and there are many more as well), so join us Wednesdays at 10:00, where there’s always a good chance a special game will be going on (June featured 3 NAP qualifiers and an Alzheimer’s Game).

July's biggest game was posted by John Petrie and Sankar Reddy (65.63%), just ahead of Avice Amundson (64.81%). Other winners included Mike Ventri and Steve Hough (twice), Jack Rainsberry and Bill Skupen, and Raj Ramchandani and Neil Rhodes.

In June, I asked about this hand: ♠KQxx ♥AKQ9xx ♦JT ♣9 (IMPs, both vulnerable). You open 1♥ and partner responds 1♠; what do you do after RHO overcalls 2♦? This was a problem from an old (not too old) "It's Your Call," with a panel of expert responses. My instinct was to bid 4♣ - game forcing, 4-card support, singleton club – but if you play splinters, are you sure your partner would take it as a splinter? Why do I ask? Because multiple panelists, including 8-time world champion and over-65-time national champion Jeff Meckstroth, expressed doubt as to what 4♣ would mean. Pretty amazing that a second-round bid in a not-too-unusual auction would create ambiguity among the world's best players, but...

"4♣ from [Daniel] Korbelt, who says, "My instinct is to bid 4♣, but I am not sure whether that would be natural or a splinter.""

"[Steve] Weinstein says he would like to use 4♣ as a splinter, "but I think it would be natural.""

"Meckstroth, also unsure of whether 4♣ would be a splinter, keeps it simple with 4♠."

On the other hand: "[Mike] Lawrence is quite sure. "4♣ splinter. Automatic."

For what it's worth, both four spades (90) and four clubs (100) scored well. I checked with my one of my partners (the one who plays splinters), and he said that's what he would read it as. Today's first tip – far more important than the theoretical merit of a given convention is being on the same page as partner. Today's second tip – if you're in doubt, make the less ambiguous bid. Even the pros who think 4♣ is (or should be) a splinter chose to bid 4♠ rather than make a bid that might be misinterpreted. Also note...*no* panelists thought 4♣ was (or should be) Gerber. Just sayin'.

Next month's theoretical topic: Partner opens 1♣, and after RHO overcalls 1♠, you make a negative double, showing at least six points and four hearts. Partner rebids 2♦. The question is... Is that a reverse? I'll share my thoughts and make my argument next month, but be forewarned; it's not the expert consensus. Until next week...may all your finesses work. Unless you're at my table. If you're not my partner.

Problem Solvers' Panel

John Jones is moderator. The format for this month is unusual. I normally do not use old Bridge World (BW) Master Solver's hands. This month is an exception. I used these 4 hands in a presentation during the Long Beach Regional. My panelists here are twofold. I am including the names of the players who participated during the presentation. I am also including comments from the 2002 BW panel.

The BW panelists were bidding according the whatever version of BW Standard existed at the time. My players, were as always are playing 5-card majors, 15 - 17 NT, and 2/1 GF.

The players participating in the Long Beach Regional were: Josh Resa, Doug Timmer, Toni Hansen, Gary Ansok, Judy Tomic, Chris Marin, Fuad Khuri, Yeng Kang, Allan DeSeptra, Rose Gong, Jessica Yu, Sarah Liu, Shari Van Luchene, Steve Gross, Jay Hansen, Deborah Goldsmith, Joesph Van Luchene, Jean Futami, Shalini Dubey, Joyce Field, Jim Borak, Jennifer Wellman, and Lou Zucker.

The PSP will return to normal format in the September edition.

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">1</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Matchpoints E-W Vul</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">West</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">North</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">East</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">3♦</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">3♥</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">???</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">You, South, hold: ♠ A9863 ♥ 104 ♦ void ♣ KJ7653</p> <p style="margin: 0 0 0 40px;">What call do you make?</p>	West	North	East	South	3♦	3♥	pass	???
West	North	East	South						
3♦	3♥	pass	???						

The BW scoring was:

4♣	100	20 votes
3♠	70	4 votes
4♥	60	6 votes
pass	40	2 votes
4♦	0	0 votes

Brian Glubok: 4♣. Put your faith in your long suit. Second choice, three spades.

Billy Eisenberg: 4♣. Too much disparity for three spades.

Bobby Wolff: 4♣. I decided against the lazy man's four hearts. I'll pass a return to four hearts but will bid four spades over partner's four diamonds.

Kitty Munson (now Cooper) and **Eddie Kantar:** Four hearts. Partner bid in direct seat with some diamond length, so must have a decent hand. My trump fit is not adequate to worry about missing slam, and my spades are not robust enough to try for a different game when partner is likely to have at least nine red cards.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">2</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Matchpoints E-W Vul</p>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
	pass	pass	pass	???
<p>You, South, hold: ♠ void ♥ KJ8643 ♦ Q ♣ KQ10752</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

The BW scoring was:

1♥	100	21 votes
4♥	70	2 votes
2♥	60	6 votes
Pass	50	2 votes
3♥	0	1 vote

Fred Hamilton: 1♥. One heart. This is a matter of tactics. Certainly, 4♥ has a lot going for it. As who knows what's out there? Still, I can bid comfortably to the five level all by myself. I feel I can handle the competition even with my lack of defense. After all, the opponents' suits are breaking about as badly as possible. Add your points and your spades and pass it out? Not on Route Sixty-Six!

Larry Cohen: 1♥. It's possible to open 4♥ on the theory that slam is unlikely, but wouldn't that be silly opposite some 4=1=4=4 where 5♣ is laydown and 4♥ is in trouble.

Mike Shuman: 1♥. Without spades, I'm shooting dice here. With six-six, I want to bid both suits. Thus, I reject any type of preempt. Still, it's a guessing game.

Al Roth: 2♥. This is like shooting craps. In sixty years of playing bridge, I never had a problem like this. This is only a fun hand, and it does not belong in our Master Solvers' Club. All I know is that I will never be allowed to play this deal in 2♥. What will develop, only God or the BW might know.

Kitty Munson. Pass. I have no spades. My partner has fewer than six of them, so the opponents have at least eight spades. If I open, the opponents will get to some spade contract that they can make or that we will have to save against. Yuck.

Unlike most BW hands, this was an actual deal. (Roth was wrong!) It was a 1951 national pair event. Kitty had it right, the opponents make 7♠!

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">3</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">IMPs Both Vul</p>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
	1♣	1♠	pass	???
	<p>You, South, hold: ♠ 7 ♥ A63 ♦ KJ843 ♣ 10654</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>			

The BW scoring was:

1NT	100	16 votes
pass	70	11 votes
2♦	60	5 votes

David Berkowitz: 1NT. Vulnerable one-level overcalls can be strong hands. I can't worry that every deal is a death trap; I have to try to find a better contract.

Jeff Rubens: 1NT. Every possibility is wrong by a little. In such situations, I aim at the least committal action.

Marshall Miles: Pass. I don't play 6 – 21 HCP overcalls as some people do.

Grant Baze: Pass. Bidding anything might encourage partner to act again with disastrous results.

Eddie Kantar: Pass. *Chez moi*, this hand isn't strong enough to advance.

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">4</h1> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">IMPs None Vul</p>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
	Pass	pass	1♦	pass
	1NT	pass	2♦	pass
	Pass	X	XX	2♠
	???			
<p>You, South, hold: ♠ 973 ♥ 1062 ♦ K3 ♣ AJ742</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

The BW scoring was:

3♦	100	18 votes
pass	70	6 votes
dbl	60	3 votes
3♠	40	2 votes
4♣	40	1 vote
3NT	40	1 vote
4♦	40	0 votes
3♣	30	1 vote
2NT	20	0 votes

Brian Glubok: 3♦. The bid partner wants to hear. Adjust total-trick estimate upward for no major-suit wastage.

Grant Baze: Pass. There is no reason to get involved. If partner passes two spades, we are as likely to go plus there as anywhere else.

Kit Woolsey: Pass. I have maximum spade length and minimum diamond length for my one-notrump response, so there is no incentive to bid 3♦. If we belong there, partner will take another call. There is not quite enough defensive material to justify doubling 2♠.

Marshall Miles: 3♣. I think the odds are about four to one that we belong in 3♦ but, if so, partner will bid 3♦ himself.

Eddie Kantar: Pass. I could be way off base, but if has something like 3=4=5=1 and strength just short of a reverse, playing me for clubs, this could be juicy – very juicy.