

Southern California

Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by John Jones



Our summer regional in Long over Fourth of July Week was a big success! We were up over 40 tables from 2024, and avoided problems with our hotel commitment (which we had in 2024). Ken Horwedel fielded a great group of directors. Margie Michelin gave a wonderful Monday lesson and did an outstanding job with the speakers. Liz Ryan, Laura Gastelum, and Jeanne Sinsheimer did a sensational job with partnership and hospitality. Our caddies: Sophie, Tommy, Jason and Sirena were great and added a youthful touch to the tournament, especially since most of them played in the tournament when they weren't caddying. Ellis Feigenbaum was great in getting the boards made! Tom Lill got the bulletins out every day despite being out of state with a relative having surgery. Carolyn Hannas, in her first year as tournament manager, did an incredible job, taking care of all sorts of little problems. Carolyn's job was made a little more difficult given that the Hilton employee she had been working with, Kisha Cravens, was called into jury duty that week. Kisha was replaced by Abel Rodriguez, who also was terrific. Parking was easier than last year. Thanks again to Carolyn Hannas and Collette Paul for developing the parking map.

After a good 2025 tournament, where do we stand for future tournaments? I have some good news and some bad news in that area. The good news is that we are back at the Long Beach Hilton in July 2027 with a fully signed contract. The first bad news is that for 2026, the Long Beach Hilton is not available for the dates we desire. The dates we want (Fourth of July week) are blocked by the Hilton for the FIFA Soccer World Cup competition. We are looking at other sites, including holding a tournament in a locale other than

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Regional Director's Report

by David Lodge



Long Beach in the summer is a delightful place to visit. Excellent weather, plenty of terrific dining experiences to choose from and an excellent D23 4th of July summer regional. If you haven't attended this event recently, you've been missing out. The tournament attracted some top-level pros and had a significant table growth over last year. Next year may be a problem due to World Cup soccer potentially having a conflicting date but the situation is fluid, and each day brings additional info as to whether the traditional dates will be impacted. D23 board members are researching alternative dates and venues. At the D23 annual membership meeting on Saturday, July 5, Jordan Choderow was elected president. He replaces John Jones who has served for the last 2 years.

On the national level, it feels a bit like we are in the summer doldrums. There was a big push prior to the end of June to finalize our new contract with BBO. At the same time, knowing that we would no longer be granting BBO the exclusive right to issue ACBL masterpoints, Bronia was able to secure agreements with several other on-line platforms.

We're anxious to see what offerings these other platforms come up with and how their products resonate with our members.

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Long Beach. We are also looking into holding the tournament in a convention center, not a hotel. This would likely result in a Monday through Friday tournament as rates are higher on weekends. The other bad news is the obvious, that in 2028 the LA Olympics are in town for the summer, and we will likely have to move significantly off of our normal date. If you are interested in helping out in any way with the scheduling and presenting of tournaments, please consider joining the D23 Tournament Committee (contact any officer).

On Saturday, D23 had its annual general meeting and elected district officers. Jordan Chodorow is our new district president, and I am back in the vice-president role. Lillian Slater continues as secretary and Stan Holzberg was reelected as treasurer. Good luck to Jordan as he takes over the presidency. He will be writing next month's President column.

I will also congratulate Jason Howard on winning the first annual Jeff Goldsmith Barbu Championship at the regional. This is a different card game which appeals to bridge players (I consider it the second-best trick taking card game, slightly better than Oh Hell). Jason was first, David Grainger was second, Tommy Howard was third and Beth Howard and John Jones tied for fourth. I'll write more on alternative card games in later issues.

I will mention a few things that disappointed me during the tournament. On the Fourth of July we had a few elderly players walk across the street and attempt to watch fireworks from the deck of the Molina Garage (which was on our parking map). Molina's security guards refused to let them stay and watch fireworks. Shame on the Molina people! Those elderly bridge players wouldn't have hurt a thing! Another company I was disappointed with was the moving company that moved tables and bridge supplies to and from the Long Beach Bridge Center. They were Elite Movers and were far more expensive than the company we had used the previous two years (Gentlemen's Moving Co.) and their movers were less cooperative. Finally, we may have a couple of sets of boards that have disappeared. If anyone knows of their whereabouts, they belong to Ellis Feigenbaum, our board maker.

After writing this column, I have one more item that I promised to deal with as President. I will deal with dispersal of the funds which were raised for victims of the LA Fires earlier this year. If you know of D23 bridge players who lost their homes, had their homes partially destroyed, were forced to evacuate their

homes, or in any other way were significantly affected by the fires, please contact me at president@d23acbl.org. That email address should still probably reach me, and if these emails go to Jordan, he can forward them to me. We have \$1994 in the Fire Fund, which was started by Ellis and Margie. Donations came from several different sources including an online charity game, La Fetra BC, South Bay BC, Pasadena BC, and many individuals.

I have thanked several individuals for their efforts earlier in this article. I also want to thank some people for helping my tenure as president in other ways. Lillian Slater was wonderful in helping set up Zoom meetings and getting minutes out as secretary. Stan Holzberg was great as treasurer and returns phone calls faster than almost anyone. Morris (Mojo) Jones helped in various ways as NAP coordinator and district VP. Tom Reynolds worked very hard to create an alternative hybrid game. These plans got derailed when Tom's house was destroyed in the LA Fires. However, his efforts and ideas generated interest at a national level and will be used in future events. Thank you also to Walt Schafer, who took over as GNT coordinator. Thanks also go to the Long Beach Bridge Center and Chuck Laine. The club not only hosted our GNT the past two years, but stored supplies (tables, stanchions, paperwork) at the club. I will also thank my 10:30 Monday morning South Bay BC class (Coffee with JJ) for helping me prepare for my lecture during the regional on counting. Lastly, I will thank Tom Lill our tremendous Bridge News editor, who does an outstanding job without charging the district a dime!

Finally, thanks to Rita Van Lierop for all her help with the website and the other tasks she took on.

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Of course, not a day goes by when there is some issue with on-line cheating. It is astounding to the BOD members that with all the publicity about our on-line computer cheating detection software, EDGAR, that people are still routinely agreeing to collusively cheat. There has yet to be a case charged in which the charged parties were able to convince an independent 3 arbitrator panel that their actions could possibly be explained by any other means than the elicited exchange of information (there was a case that was dismissed, not because there was insufficient evidence of cheating, but because the charging party, ACBL Recorder Office, had in the opinion of the panel, done an inadequate job of preparing the case).

Sadly, membership continues to decline. Membership growth and retention continues to be the main objective of the ACBL management and BOD. Despite

several initiatives, we are not seeing any sustainable model that is producing net, growth. Yes, we sign up lots of new members every month, either to guest memberships or regular memberships, but the number of lost members is exceeding the new member signups. In spite of fewer members, our organization is in fine shape. We realized slightly more than \$200,000 in increase in net assets for the 5 months ended May 31. We also enjoyed an increase in our investments of \$124,000. As of that date, we had cash and investments of \$13,300,000.

We're only 6 weeks away from our Labor Day regional in Orange County. So make plans and I look forward to seeing you there.

FYI Part 13 The Harold Vanderbilt Story

Mostly from Wikipedia
Topic Suggested by Alan Greenberg
by Bob Gruber



As the great-grandson of the shipping and railroad tycoon Cornelius Vanderbilt, Harold S. Vanderbilt was born to great wealth and privilege; as a child he was raised in Vanderbilt mansions, traveled frequently to Europe, and sailed the world on yachts owned by his father. He served in the US Navy in WWI, stationed for a time at Queenstown, Ireland. In 1920, he inherited the family's railroad empire and the fortune that came with it.

Vanderbilt achieved the pinnacle of yacht racing in 1930 by defending the America's Cup. He went on to win it in 1934 and 1937, each time in a different yacht. In 1993 he was inducted into the America's Cup Hall of Fame. In 1947, Vanderbilt was

invested as an honorary Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) by King George VI¹.

Vanderbilt was also a card game enthusiast. In 1925, he refined bridge scoring by introducing the idea of "vulnerability" and increasing the bonus for bidding and making a small slam and a grand slam. These changes basically brought the game to the present-day format of contract bridge and enabled the game of contract bridge to supplant auction bridge in popularity.

Three years later he endowed the North American team-of-four championship (now the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams, the Spring NABC's



marquee event) with an 11-pound trophy soon to be named the Vanderbilt Cup. In spite of its size, one year the trophy was stolen by an employee of the Los Angeles Ambassador Hotel, but was recovered about a month later when

the employee tried to fence it in Reno, NV.

His team won the eponymously-named cup twice, in 1932 and 1940. Vanderbilt also donated the World Bridge Federation Vanderbilt Trophy, awarded from 1960 to 2004 to the winner of the open category at the quadrennial World Team Olympiad, and since 2008 to the winner of the corresponding event at the World Mind Sports Games.

Vanderbilt invented the first strong club system, which he called the "Club Convention," but which has since become more commonly known as the Vanderbilt Club. The strong club, or forcing club, family of bidding systems has performed exceptionally well in world championship play. Along the way, he found time to write four books on bridge.

Vanderbilt, Ely Culbertson, and Charles Goren were the three people named when The Bridge World magazine inaugurated a bridge "hall of fame" in 1964. In 1969, the World Bridge Federation (WBF) made him its first honorary member. Vanderbilt was also a member of the founding class of the ACBL Hall of Fame inaugurated in 1995.

¹ The Commander of the British Empire is the 3rd of five Grades (/ranks) of the Order of the British Empire established in 1917 and indicates the person has made a significant achievement for the United Kingdom (regardless of citizenship). Vanderbilt's investment may

have been for his service in the Navy at Queenstown, but may also have been for sending his yacht, Vagrant, to assist 2 British yachts heading to the U.S. for the 1914 America's cup. While in route, Britain declared war on Germany and the race was canceled.

FYI Part 14

Information from The Bridgemate II (BM II)

by Bob Gruber

Once all tables have logged into their Bridgemate and entered the players' ACBL numbers, lots of information is displayable on all BM II units at the start of a round, during a round, at the end of a round and even at the end of the game.

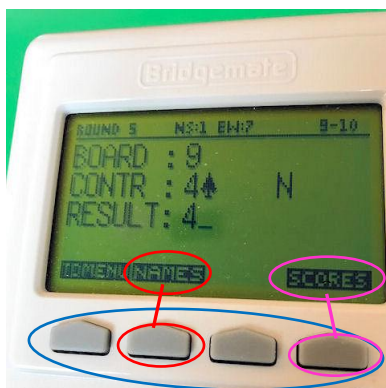
Start of Round Information

When you hit OK to wake up a Bridgemate at the start of a round, you see the N/S names and the E/W names. Hitting OK after that brings up a screen that shows:

Round Number							
NS Pair Number	EW Pair Number						
Boards to be played							
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">NS Names</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">EW Names</td> </tr> </table>		NS Names	EW Names				
NS Names							
EW Names							
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">ROUND 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">NS: 3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">EW: 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">BOARDS 10-12</td> </tr> </table>		ROUND 2		NS: 3	EW: 2	BOARDS 10-12	
ROUND 2							
NS: 3	EW: 2						
BOARDS 10-12							

Function Keys

The Bridgemate II (BM II) has 4 unlabeled function keys just below the display screen. They cause different actions depending upon the status of the inputs this round at this table or the status of the game itself. When a function key is active, its action is indicated in the screen just above it.



The 4 Function keys

During a Round: Late Entry/Correction of Player Numbers

When you press the NAMES function key during any round, four (4) lines of N/S/E/W player names appear. The leftmost function key becomes BACK. The rightmost function key becomes CORREC, which stands for "correction needed."

During a round, pressing the NAMES function key tells who should be at the table and what direction they should sit

If all 4 player names are correct, press the BACK function key (or CANCEL) to return to the prior display.

If one or more player names are erroneous or missing, press the CORREC function key. The names change to player #s.

N: nnnnnn_ _
 S: nnnnnnn
 E: nnnnnnn
 W: nnnnnnn

The cursor, the underline character (_), is hard to see on the BM II screen. It is circled in this paper for illustration only; it is not circled on the actual screen. The CANCEL key becomes a destructive backspace. When a number is correct, press the OK key to advance to the next line.

During a Round: Reviewing Scores

In the snapshot in the prior Function Keys section, the text in the far right of the last line of the display says SCORES. When you press the associated function key, it brings up a list of the boards and the scores entered so far this round at this table. The boards and scores are only at this table; no results from other tables are displayed.

Not only can this display tell you how many boards have been played, but also which boards have been played. If you inadvertently entered Board 14 as Board 15, Board 14, which you've played, doesn't have an entry and Board 15, which you have yet to play, does have an entry. If you encounter this type of situation, call the Director who, in this case, will erase the

erroneous entries for Board 15, allowing you to enter boards 14 and 15 properly. *[Editor's note: this situation is not uncommon, especially in a bye-stand/relay Mitchel movement, where two tables share the same boards each round.]*

End of Round Information

At the end of a round, the Bridgemate displays a screen like that below, telling you:

END OF ROUND 2
NS: STAYS
EW → 3 EW

The number of the round just completed
Where the NS pair plays the next round
Where the EW pair plays the next round

End of Game: Can't Wait to See Your Rank & Game Scores

The Bridgemate II can display your provisional rank and a provisional board-by-board summary at the end of the game.

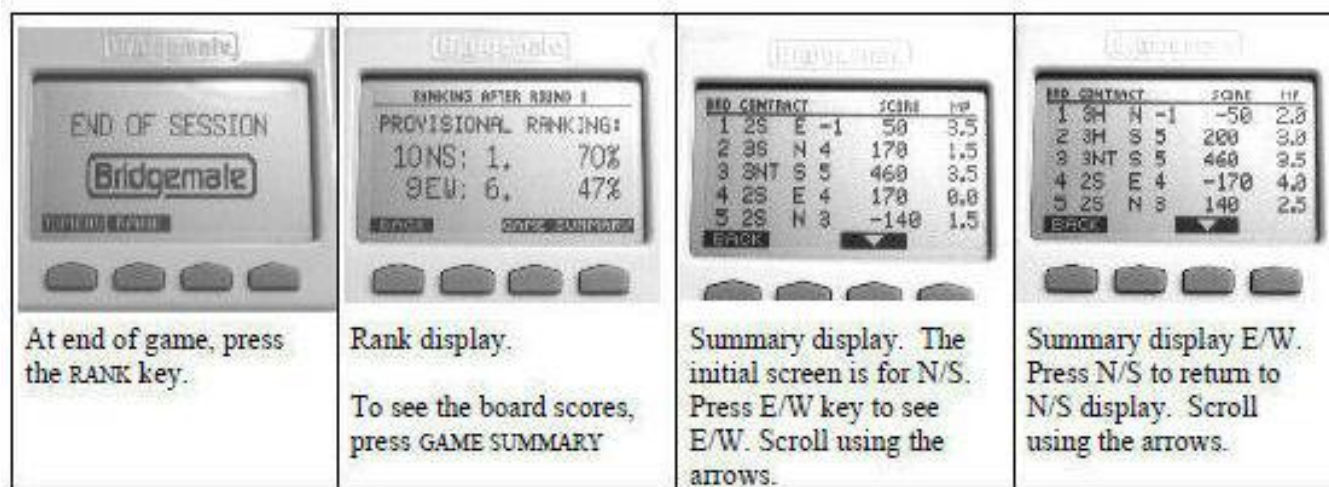
In the Summary display, the rightmost column may be in matchpoints (as shown here) or may be in per cent (%) depending upon what the Director has specified.

Seeing Rank & Game Scores after the BM II has Logged Out

If your Bridgemate II table unit has logged out, or returned to the opening screen, all is not lost. You may still get your provisional rank and game summary by logging in on any available Bridgemate table unit. Login as the table where you played your last board. Upon successful login, the Bridgemate will immediately go to the end of session screen—and rank will be displayed above the 2nd function key from the left. Follow the steps above.

Sometimes, however, when you press rank, the Bridgemate II skips the provisional ranking screen and goes straight to a prompt of:

Enter pair number and direction to view ranking
PAIR: _



The RANK display is for your section only. It is a provisional ranking because other tables may still be in play, and of course, score corrections may subsequently be made. Moreover, ACBLscore is the source authority for both ranking and game scores.

To reach the provisional Summary display, press either function key beneath the words game summary. N/S comes up first. Press E/W to see the E/W summary.

Enter the 1 or 2 digits of your pair number and then E for E/W or N for N/S. If it's a Howell movement, just enter your pair number. When you press the OK key, the Game Summary should be displayed.

[Editor's note: if you ever play in an Individual movement – rare, but they do happen – the Bridgemates go a bit stupid. After the first round, the names get totally scrambled. We've verified (the hard way) that the correct scores go to the correct players – but don't be confused by this.]

The Teacher's Corner

Case for The Defense *by Daniel F. Oakes*

How many different reasons can you think of for wanting to overtake partner's winner when you're 4th to play to a trick? I'll give you a few at the end of this article; the question relates to a hand I played with a mentee at a club on Monday. My partner only has somewhere between 100 and 200 masterpoints, but is an eager student of the game and is adding to that total at a rapid pace (I saw his name quite a few times as I perused the regional winners last week). Here's the hand in question:

(North)	
♠QJ2	
♥J	
♦76543	
♣A954	
(West (Me))	(East (Avid partner))
♠764	♠98
♥QT43	♥98765
♦AJ8	♦KT9
♣QJ7	♣KT3
(South (Competent Declarer))	
♠AKT53	
♥AK2	
♦Q2	
♣862	

I led the ♥3, which seemed to give away a trick when declarer won with the singleton J in dummy. I say "seemed to" because declarer could have ruffed the ♥2 anyway, and the extra pitch wasn't useful to her. After winning the heart in dummy, declarer won three rounds of trump, ending in her hand, and led a small club, ducking to partner's 10. Partner played a heart to declarer's ace, and declarer played a second club, on which I played the J. Declarer ducked again; if she wins the trick with the ace, she'll lose a club and two diamonds, making 3; giving up the second club is a no-cost play, because it gives the defense a chance to make a mistake.

As I prepared to switch to the ace of diamonds, partner began to tank, and eventually played the king on my jack, leaving the following position:

(North)	
♠ ---	
♥ ---	
♦76543	
♣A9	
(West (Me))	(East (Avid partner))
♠ ---	♠ ---
♥QT	♥98
♦AJ8	♦KT9
♣Q	♣3
(South (Competent Declarer))	
♠AT	
♥K	
♦Q2	
♣8	

The overtake hasn't cost us...yet. But partner must now switch to a diamond. Because of declarer's play of twice ducking the club, she's maintained communication with dummy, and due to the 3-3 split in the defense's clubs, she can play a club to the ace and pitch one of her losing diamonds on the ♣9. After taking the trick with the ♣K, partner switched to...another heart, and declarer won with the king and played a club to the ace, pitching a losing diamond as described above to make a second overtrick, which was quite costly, as there were a lot of 140s and 150s (some N/S pairs played in NT), so the difference between -140 and -170 was worth quite a few matchpoints.

Leaving aside the overtake for a moment, can you see why, having put himself on lead, partner's heart continuation was a mistake? I'll get to that question too, but first, my thoughts at the table, about the overtake.

Frankly, I was somewhat impressed. Most inexperienced players don't even consider spending a high card on a trick partner is about to win, and it's frequently correct. This wasn't a time when it was necessary (or even desirable), and he fell from grace a bit with the heart play, but the fact that he considered it and was willing to risk it said a lot for his future possibilities, in my opinion.

Here's why the heart play was wrong: Partner is (presumably) playing me to have led from the king of hearts – the first trick went to dummy's jack, and declarer later won the second heart trick with the ace. But could I have the king of hearts, and could it be that it was a *heart*, not a diamond, that declarer was planning to pitch on the 13th club?

Alas, no. Remember, declarer is competent; dummy's diamonds weren't going to set up for any discards, and it was a lot of work to prepare a single pitch on a long club (which she wouldn't have been able to do, had the clubs split 4-2). So what would a competent declarer with a losing heart in her hand have done, with no way to pitch it? *She would have ruffed it before pulling trump.* When declarer exhausts dummy's trump immediately, we can draw the inference (if we know that declarer knows what she's doing) that she has no heart losers. So it was a diamond trick that he should have worried might go away on the 13th club.

At the beginning of the article, I asked how many different reasons you could think of that a defender might overtake. It's a useful exercise, if you haven't thought of it before; knowing that sometimes it's right to overtake partner's trick is good. Knowing *when* and *why* it's right is better. Here are some possibilities:

- Partner might be endplayed. For instance, if partner has the AQ in a critical suit and declarer has the K, it's important for you to win the trick and lead through the K so partner can take two tricks. If partner wins the trick, he can't lead the suit without giving up a trick to the K.

- Partner might be out of the only remaining suit in which we have winners. If our only tricks are in diamonds, and you have the good diamonds, you don't want to leave partner on lead if he doesn't have a diamond to reach you.

- You might need to give partner a ruff, either in the suit being played or another suit. Self-explanatory?

- You might need to protect partner from making a mistake. Let's say dummy has AQT8 of a side suit, and partner, to dummy's left, has three small cards. Partner may not know how many tricks declarer has coming in the suit; if you have three small cards, declarer has four tricks coming, but if you have KJ9x, declarer only gets one card in the suit. This inability to count declarer's tricks may cause partner to misdefend, for example not knowing if the defense should be cashing out or not. Because you're the one who knows how many tricks declarer has coming in the critical suit, it may be right for you to win the trick and direct the defense.

So taking partner's trick may certainly be the right play, but as my old bridge teacher John Wong used to say, "Have a plan."

District 23 Rank Changes July 2025

Junior Master

Lily Li
Judy Nakelsky
Melissa Rigazio
Milo Sketeris
Prashant Vaidya

Club Master

Suzanne Gati
Jerry L. Glenn
William L. Ketel
Karoline Snakenborg
Steve Snively
Louis N. Sterling
John Yachechak

Sectional Master

Robert G. Mossler

Regional Master

Cherene Birkholz
Babs P. Dizon
Margit Hillebrand

NABC Master

Billy W. lo
Julie A. Hansen

Bronze Life Master

Lawrence Trygstad

Silver Life Master

Betty Andelson
Larry L. Kussin

Ruby Life Master

Robert S. Corry
Lee Hausner
Rosemary Rice

Gold Life Master

Hank Crowder
Sandra Satlin

Diamond Life Master

Kim Wang



Many great lunch options at the site!

2025 JOHN WAKEN SECTIONAL PASADENA SAN GABRIEL UNIT 559

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and restaurants

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<https://pasadenabridgeclub.com/location>

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Plenty of parking

Director in Charge: TBD

Associate Director: Morris Jones

Partnerships: Morris Jones (626) 247-4457 mojo@pasadenabridgeclub.com

All players are welcome - Beginners, Intermediates & Advanced!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday, August 23 10:00 AM • Open Pairs and 499er Pairs* 3:00 PM • Open Pairs and 499er Pairs* *No player over 500 Masterpoints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday, August 24 10:00 AM • Two Session Open and 499er* Swiss Teams 2nd Session Immediately After Lunch
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Fees: (Cash or Credit Cards) ACBL Members **\$15.00** per person/per session (Unpaid/Inactive members -\$19 per player per session) and Swiss **\$120.00** per team (Unpaid/Inactive members -Additional \$4.00 per person)

Stratifications are based on the average of players' masterpoints and may be adjusted at game time to optimize playing conditions. Space is limited! Make reservations early online using:

<https://www.rsvpbridge.com/join/PasadenaSectional2025>.



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ZERO TOLERANCE OBSERVED

Bridge Jeopardy

by Tom Lill

(Solutions to Bridge Jeopardy are on page 13. No peeking!)

OF ALL THE IDIOTIC LEADS! YOU KNEW I HAD THE KING! YOU'LL NEVER LEARN THE RUDIMENTS OF BRIDGE IF YOU LIVE TO BE A THOUSAND! HONESTLY, I -

I DID NOT KNOW YOU HAD THE KING! AND, FURTHERMORE, I'M PLAYING MY HAND MY OWN WAY. IF I WANT ANY ADVICE I'LL -

"TO PRESERVE THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE"

WITTE

Submitted by Tom Lill

District 23 Unit Presidents

Unit	President
551 – Pomona – Covina	Tom Lill
553 – Glendale-Verdugo	Adam Barron
556 – Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley	Paula Olivares
557 – Long Beach	Leo Dittimore
559 – Pasadena – San Gabriel	Lisa Walker
561 – San Fernando	Joan Rubin
562 – West Los Angeles	Jordan Chodorow
564 – Downey-Whittier	Kent Burrell
568 – Torrance-South Bay	Carol Decordova

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Around the Units in District 23



Pomona – Covina
by Tom Lill
www.acblunit551.org

La Fetra Games: Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45
Individual: NO Individual in July
August 2, 10:00 a.m., Ontario
Club Championships: August 12, 15, La Fetra
Unit Pairs Game: July 26, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
August 16, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
Unit Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m. before the game

Thanks again to Patrick Finley, for collating the masterpoint statistics for June:

1	14.69	Vic Sartor
2	13.79	Fredy Minter
3	13.39	Lulu Minter
4	13.38	Caryn Mason
5	10.80	Peter Kavounas
6	10.60	Mary Ann Wotring
7	9.65	Patrick Finley
8	8.47	Steve Andersen
9	7.17	Clint Lew
10	7.14	Richard Parker

These totals include all La Fetra and Unit games, but don't include points won at outside tournaments or clubs, or in online games. I will do a separate list for the new Claremont Bridge Club, which has only played 3 games to date:

1	1.66	Patrick Finley
2	1.35	Steve Andersen
3	1.33	Art Weinstein
4	1.23	Judy Mogharbel
	1.23	Tom Lill

The CBC game is a "limited" club, and only holds one game a week, so the point totals are going to be lower than expected.

And, just for your amusement and amazement, here's the top 20 masterpoint grabbers for the first six months of 2025. Again, these totals include all La Fetra

and Unit games, but not the CBC games (yet – maybe next month).

1	93.32	Fredy Minter
2	81.95	Lulu Minter
3	69.88	Vic Sartor
4	68.59	Partick Finley
5	67.68	Caryn Mason
6	55.97	Mary Ann Wotring
7	45.00	Steve Andersen
8	40.01	Ramona Hernandez
9	38.85	Nona Stokes
10	37.80	Peter Kavounas
11	34.02	Tom Lill
12	33.88	Roger Boyar
13	31.50	Gary Atwell
14	29.20	Clint Lew
15	28.63	Judy Mogharbel
16	28.19	Steve Mancini
17	25.89	Linda Tessier
18	22.08	Duane Woodman
19	19.31	Bill Papa
20	19.08	Dave Raymond

At La Fetra, the very top score was posted by – brace yourself, better be sitting down – Karen McCarthy and Yours Truly, with 67.63%. Well, as I've said before, even a blind squirrel finds an acorn now and then. (This is of course no reflection on Karen!) Next up we find Fredy and Lulu Minter, 65.19% (twice). Those were the only over-65% games turned in. I suppose, with the fields getting larger, there won't be such wild swings in the scoring. Other winners include Clint Lew – Linda Tessier, Ramona Hernandez – Nona Stokes, Peter Kavounas – Richard Parker, and Vic Sartor – Mary Ann Wotring.

There have only been three games so far at the newly-opened Claremont Bridge Club, run by David Ochroch. The best game so far is a monster 74.43% game turned in by Art Weinstein – Steve Andersen. The next two were turned in by Judy Mogharbel – Yours Truly, 68.0% and 67.46%. Finally, Patrick Finley – Patrick Rogers managed a section top.

There were no promotions *again* last month. But, having edited the Bridge Week Daily Bulletins, I can state with certainty that there will be at least one in next month's issue.

13 Unit members brought home the impressive total of 180.80 masterpoints from the Long Beach Regional, and almost ALL of them were gold points! The top five finishers, with their ranking in the overall tournament list, were:

53	31.22	Stephen Andersen
68	26.16	Caryn Mason
74	25.43	Richard Parker
84	22.93	Peter Kavounas
98	19.94	Mary Ann Wotring

For our hand-of-the-month, we'll try something different. What, you say? Not another semi-balanced hand? Nope! This time, it's "You Make the Call: Bad luck ... or bad bid?"

It's IMPs, and first in hand you pick up

♠ Kxxx ♥ Kx ♦ Kx ♣ AQ10xx.

Normal (?) people will open this 1♣. But let's think about this. You have FOUR suits you'd like to have led up to, not through. And you have 15 HCP. Would you consider a slightly off-shape 1NT? That virtually guarantees the lead will run up to your hand.

At the table, Your Correspondent did open 1NT. After a Stayman sequence, the final contract became 4♠. The opening lead was a small club, and you stared in disbelief at your dummy:

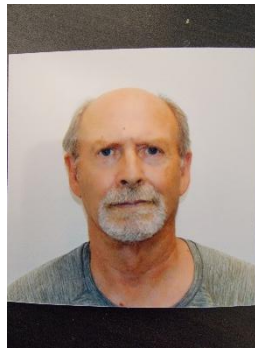
♠ AQJx ♥ Ax ♦ xx ♣ J9xxx.

What a horrible duplication in shape! Still, you see 11 tricks, 12 if the ♦A is on side. Except ... RHO ruffs the lead! And of course, the ♦AQ are sitting over the ♦K, so you are down one before you can catch your breath.

Played by partner, 4♠ as it will be if you open 1♣, will likely make 11 tricks, since the holder of ♣Kxx is not likely to shift to a club into the ♣AQ when he doesn't know about the five clubs in the closed hand.

So, does this qualify for the Karapet Djoulikian Unlucky Hand of the Year award, or are you guilty of masterminding the deal? You make the call!

Quote for the month: "The only time to eat diet food is while you're waiting for the steak to cook." (Julia Child)



Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Don Dachner

Carole Provost is now a life master! She achieved that magic title by placing 2nd in the Swiss teams at the Regional in Long Beach. The team of Harry Randhawa and Alan Nueman plus Carole and Ruth Baker each won 6.08 gold. Congratulations!

Dianne Vermillion is our newest member. Steve Cormier bought her an ACBL membership as a gift.

Ruth Baker still meets weekly to practice with her students. In the fall, she will start a Wednesday game. 12 boards and maybe a mini lesson.

Santa Clarita Bridge Club results

6/21

North: Donna Davidson and Bill Langlois	64%
South: Alan Nueman and Harry Randhawa	62%

6/28

North: Donna Davidson and Bill Langlois	59%
South: Gary Gray and David Khalieque	61%



Long Beach by Carolyn Byrnes

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

Movements Maximizing Master Points

It is the duty of the Director to try to structure the competition (game) such that:

- (1) most possible ACBL Master Points are awarded

- (2) most possible Pairs receive Master Points

This can be accomplished through the selection of the movement in which the game is executed.

The Howell movement is considered to be the most **Equitable movement**. *The Howell movement awards 65% more Master Points, to more Pairs, than a "Mitchell" movement.* *

The Master Points awarded in a competition is a function of various factors, such as:

- (1) number of Pairs your Pair competes against in the competition.
- (2) level of the competition, Open vs Limited Games, Open and special games pay more MP.
- (3) number of Boards played, more boards more MP can be earned.

Many bridge games (e.g., 5 or 7 Tables) can be set up as either a "Mitchell" or a "Howell" movement. Some players prefer a "Mitchell" movement, sitting N/S stationary the entire game. The Howell movement ("How Will I find My Table") requires most pairs to change tables and directions each round. There is at least one stationary pair in every Howell movement. The Howell movement provides a more equitable & balanced field.

*As Roger Neds, the Savannah Bridge Club Director of Directors, recently told SBC members:

In a standard 6 Table game using a Mitchell movement 1st place in each direction pays 0.60 points MPs, 2nd place in both directions will receive 0.42 MPs.

Only 4 pairs are paid and a total of 2.04 points are awarded.

If a Howell movement is used 1st wins 1.2 MPs, 2nd - 0.84, 3rd - 0.60, 4th - 0.42, and 5th - 0.30.

Now 5 pairs earn points and 3.36 points are awarded, **65% more than the Mitchell**.

Pasadena – San Gabriel

by Morris "Mojo" Jones

bridgemojo.com



Sorry, nothing from Mojo this month.

Downey-Whittier

by Daniel F. Oakes

Before we get to some results, here's a bridge riddle for you – What's better than finding partner with a fit for your spade suit? Answer at end of column.

On June 4th, Yas Takeda and Robert Yu were first E/W and first overall with a blistering 67.08%. Dan Oakes and Mike Ventri were a distant second on both counts, five full percentage points behind. Anita Frost and Jim Gorin were 1st E/W among the Bs, and tied for first B overall with Bob and Linda Krause, who were on the N/S side of the table. Top N/S honors went to Gabby Sill and Steve Hough, ahead of Jon Yinger and Kiran Kumar. Second B E/W were Raj Ramchandani and John Dobson.

June 11th was a three-horse race in a six-table Howell, with John Petrie & Sankar Reddy, Kiran Kumar & Avice Osmundson, and Gabby Sill and Bob Rubin (always nice to see Bob...sorry I missed that day!) all over 60%, and finishing in that order, with Petrie & Reddy topping 65%. I guess that's six horses. Ramchandani & Dobson were 1st B, ahead of Terry Binns & Ivan Claman.

On the 18th, we were back to a Howell, with Petrie & Reddy scoring again – 1st both N/S and overall with 65.42%. Sill & Hough had a 62.08% score that would have topped the E/W field, but they were on the same side of the table as Petrie & Reddy, so settled for second. Shelby Oakes (Hi mom!) & Ruth Salisbury were 1st B N/S and 2nd B overall. Dan Oakes & Mike Ventri were 1st E/W ahead of Ramchandani & Dobson, who not only finished 2nd E/W, but took top B overall honors. Nancy Meraz and Toni Hoffman were 2nd C overall.

On June 25th, John Jones and Nancy Stebbins blasted the field with a 65.63% game, 8% higher than anyone else in either direction. They sat E/W, and 2nd in that direction were Jack Rainsberry & Bill Skupen. Ramchandani & Dobson were 1st B E/W, and Meraz & Hoffman were 1st C. On the N/S side of the table, there was a tie for first between Kumar & Osmundson and Ventri & Hough. Tied for 3rd N/S and 1st B were Bob & Linda Krause and Kent & Lizz Burrell.

I saw some familiar names as I scanned the Long Beach Regional results...

John Jones was on the 2nd place team in Monday's Bracket 1 Swiss, just a couple of victory points behind the winners. He was on the 2nd place team in the same event on Wednesday, too.

Steve Hirsch, who's put in an appearance or two at the club in the not-too-distant past finished 3rd in Wednesday's Bracket 2 Swiss.

Robert Davis and Kiran Kumar were on the 4th place team in Wednesday's Bracket 4 Swiss.

Larry Shannon (pretty sure I saw him at the club a couple of months ago; we'll claim him) tied for 1st in the Bracket 3 Swiss on Thursday. He also took 3rd in the same event the next day.

John Jones took 2nd yet again, this time in Friday's Open Pairs, just 0.20% behind the winners.

Kiran Kumar was on the 4th place team in Tuesday's 0-3000 Bracket 1 Swiss.

Dan Oakes was on the 1st place team in Saturday's Bracket 3 Swiss.

Kiran Kumar was on Saturday's Bracket 4 Swiss winning team, 1 VP ahead of Larry Shannon's team. Larry's getting a lot of mileage here...I think he needs to come to the club more often.

In the overall masterpoint awards, John Jones carried the flag for the club, racking up 53.89 on the week, good for #21 overall.

Did you figure out the answer to the riddle? Since I regaled you with tales of my spectacular failures at the Huntington Beach Sectional last month, I figure I can sneak in one success story from Bridge Week (Long Beach Regional) this time. What's better than partner having a spade fit for you? Answer: Partner *not* having a spade fit. Huh?! I'll explain...

Playing in a Swiss teams game, I came back from the lunch break and picked up six decent spades (something like AQxxxx), a doubleton heart, and

KQTxx of clubs. My right hand opponent opened 1♣, and I overcalled a spade, thinking that if I caught partner with a spade-fit, we could get A LOT of tricks, despite the opponent's opening the bidding. My left-hand opponent raised to 2♣. Sadly, my partner didn't have a spade fit; happily, what he *did* have was ten red cards (2-4-6-1), and he found a responsive double, showing the red suits. Pass TO me...passed BY me...passed PAST me. 2♣x went down 4 vulnerable for 1100 to the good guys, and were on our way to turning things around after a mediocre start. Opener had Axx of clubs, lefty had 9xxx, and partner had a singleton jack. I confess, I don't regret missing our spade fit one bit!

San Fernando Valley by Alan Curtis

Our 12 table UNIT game was held on Sunday, June 23rd wrapping up the end of our "Longest Day" campaign. Thanks to the efforts of Toni Hansen, Joan Rubin and Sheila Bozin, the UNIT raised \$3,600 for the Alzheimer's Foundation. This was accomplished through extra dollar game contributions, donations and player auction bids. With the District 23 Great Royal STaC and many other special games, there will be a ton of master points awarded during July!

Bridge Jeopardy Questions

\$100 – Who is the Colin the Corgi?

\$200 – Who is Timothy the Toucan?

\$300 – Who is Charlie the Chimp?

\$400 – Who is Oscar the Owl?

\$500 – Who is the Squirrel (Mrs Victor Mollo)?

NOTE: No credit on the \$500 question unless you get the "Squirrel" part!

Problem Solvers' Panel

John Jones is moderator. Mark Bartusek, Kitty Cooper, Mitch Dunitz, 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

Matchpoints
Both Vul

East	South	West	North
pass	1NT*	3♦#	3♠
pass	4♠	5♣	pass
pass	???		

* 15-17

lowest available Diamond bid, 2♦ would have been a single major suit.

You, South, hold: ♠AK8 ♥J10632 ♦QJ ♣A95

What call do you make?

OK, who is my RHO? It was me. Any expert bidding at Vulnerable versus Non-Vulnerable will have an excellent hand. So, the panel is cautious.

Cooper: 5♠. If partner had a diamond card, they would have doubled. We may not make this or maybe both contracts make if partner has say ♠QJxxxx ♥AKQ ♦xxx ♣x

Shuster: Double. We're in a force and half my stuff is in their suits.

Roeder: Pass. At these colors, LHO is not kidding around. I might be persuaded to double if I knew 4♠ was a maker. But I don't. At other colors, partner's pass is likely forcing.

Dunitz: Pass. The scary thing here is my LHO has a monster two suiter when they bid at the 5-level when vul. vs not. My diamond holding is awful for defense. What kind of hand can partner have when he fails to double or bid 5♠? Something like ♠QT9xxx and ♥Kxxx or maybe Axxx of hearts. The more you want to place in partner's hand, the more likely it is that he might have taken direct action over 5♣. So, I reluctantly pass.

Bartusek: 5♥. I think LHO is probably (0-1)=7=5 with some HCPs. I have very little defense against 5♣, and partner surprisingly declined to double, indicating extra offensive strength and poor defense. We might nip 5♣ a trick, but the safer course of action is to bid one more. Partner could easily be loaded with only major suit honors which would not bode well for defending. I believe a stiff club and the right major suit honors opposite might let 5♥ or 5♠ make. Additionally, 5♥ gives partner a choice between 5♥ and 5♠. Perhaps all 5-level contracts are down one.

Wittes: 5♠. I'm not doubling 5♣ when they bid 3♦ and 5♣ while being vulnerable vs nonvulnerable. Partner should have ♠QJxxxx and a heart card. The 5♣ bidder must have AK10xxxx of diamonds and KQJxx of clubs.

Feldman: 5♥. It wouldn't surprise me if this is a make; I would expect partner to double with a defensive trick. So, I save with five hearts as a suggested contract. *If we offer hearts as an alternative strain to spades and partner picks hearts, we may have improved our trump situation.*

At the table (an online BBO game) I was the 5♣ bidder. I held ♠void ♥A9 ♦AKT986 ♣KT743. I thought that if I bought a decent dummy that I had chance to make 5♣

or 5♦. I wouldn't have bought well though. My partner held ♠96532 ♥Q875 ♦7 ♣865, and the best I could do would be down 1. World Champion Jessica Larson was the player that got this problem. She tried 5♠, which I doubled, down 800 when the hand fell apart for her.

2

IMPs
Both Vul

North	East	South	West
2NT	pass	3NT	X*
pass	pass	???	

* Your screen mate alerts and tells you they have an agreement to lead the shorter major.

You, South, hold: ♠J ♥K92 ♦10742 ♣K9853

What call do you make?

A significant question here is how we play a redouble of a penalty double of 3NT. If it is showing doubt then that comes into play. But if it is "We are making, please don't run" then likely we don't want to try redouble.

Roeder: Redouble. Shows doubt, which I have in spades! *I think I'll put that comment down as "pun intended."*

Let's hear from those that are sitting it out.

Bartusek: Pass. It seems very unilateral for me to pull. Partner can look at their hand and decide for themselves. Note that I do not play the treatment where redouble here shows doubt.

Shuster: Pass. I suppose I might use the blue XX card to up the stakes if I thought it was going to be close between down one and making, but here we're likely down two if they find the right lead, so it is too risky.

Cooper: Pass. Seems OK to me, I have plenty.

Wittes: 4♣. The 3NT doubler must have AKQxxxx of spades.

Dunitz: 4♣. Many people would redouble, expressing doubt. This treatment has merit, but I would prefer to use redouble as a punishment weapon (okay, sometimes punishing myself). So, I run, perhaps foolishly.

I omitted Lynne's response because, while correct, it dealt with a mistake I had made, while the other panelists were given the intended problem.

3

IMPs
N-S Vul

West	North	East	South
2♥	X	5♥	???

You, South, hold: ♠K1086 ♥K2 ♦J10943 ♣32

What call do you make?

Now for a theoretical question. "Is this a forcing auction for us"? The expert world would be split on this question. Leading the group which would argue that with both opponents preempting that we must be in a force (not that the double of 2♥ showed enough to beat it) would be the late Eric Kokish, who was considered by some the world's best bridge theoretician. I'm in the this is forcing camp, but would guess that I am in the minority. Sure enough, our panel isn't in agreement.

Cooper: Double. I have some stuff and whatever partner does is fine with me. If we are in a logical force then this suggests defending.

Shuster: Double. I vote to defend with a wasted card. As a practical matter, we should be in a force here.

Feldman: Double. I'm showing values to beat this.

Wittes: Double. Partner should have a stiff or void heart. I'd like to bid 5♠, but unless partner has tons of extras, I'm not confident of making 5♠, and if partner has the extras, we're more likely to defeat 5♥.

Bartusek: Pass. I don't think people would define this as a forcing pass situation. It seems normal to just pass and await developments. I have a balanced hand with the wasted heart king.

Dunitz: Pass. I don't want partner to bid, thinking I have more.

Roeder: Pass. Doubling squeals on the heart position. If partner doubles again, I will have an interesting decision but will likely pass.

<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">4</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Matchpoints Neither Vul</div>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	pass	pass	1♦	2♥*
	pass	3♣	???	
	* weak jump overcall			
	You, South, hold: ♠974 ♥void ♦AQ10876 ♣AQJ4			
	What call do you make?			

RHO's 3♣ call seems strange. It is fitted, or getting out of hearts by a hand that didn't bid the round before? Part of the panel seems perplexed by this interesting turn of events. I'm certainly baffled.

Feldman: Double. I'm not sure if this is an escape from hearts or showing a fit. If they are escaping, then I'm setting up partner to double hearts.

Shuster: Pass. From my hand, I think RHO is doing some weird fitted thing, but LHO can't know that. After all, some people do pass hands with long clubs from time to time.

Bartusek: Pass. I think partner is something like 3=4=3=3. Thus, it's a guess concerning how good partner's hearts are. If partner has poor hearts, then I should be bidding 3♦ here; but if partner has good hearts, then we should be defending the eventual 3♥ contract (possibly doubled by partner). Partner is a passed hand, so I shouldn't be too optimistic that we have a making game to protect despite the location of the ♣K being favorable.

Wittes: 3♦. Surely the 3♣ bidder has a huge heart fit with their partner. If I double 3♣, what will I do over 3♥?

Cooper: 3♦. My clubs are well placed. If partner has a heart stack and bids 3NT now, maybe they will make it. Double would be takeout.

Dunitz: 3♦. If this were 1955, I would double for penalty. But I don't think double has that notation in the modern world. I think it shows extra values with four spades. *I agree with Mitch here, I think double should show spades and extras.* Arghh! So, I bid 3♦.

Roeder: 3♦. Pass is for Neville Chamberlain acolytes. Double hides the main feature of your hand. Often, the 3♣ bid is based on heart tolerance or fit.

5

Matchpoints
Both Vul.

South	West	North	East
pass		4♣	4♥
pass	pass	4♠	5♦
pass	???		

You, South, hold: ♠J963 ♥764 ♦K1054 ♣A10

What call do you make?

Now for Mr. Toad's Wild Ride. I suspect someone was dealing goulash or ghoulies (where the cards are deliberately not shuffled but dealt out several at a time to create very distributional hands)!

Shuster: Pass. I don't think they're making 5♦ and I seriously doubt we're making 6♣. And the spade fit isn't tempting, since spades are unlikely to be breaking and the fit won't be able to withstand heart forces.

Bartusek: Pass. I think partner is likely to be 4-7 or 4-8. I'm happy to defend 5D; but, if they land in 5H then I might bid 5S. Unfortunately, a 4-4 fit might not play that well with a side 8-4 or 7-4 fit and bad breaks. I don't think partner would bid this way with 5 spades.

Wittes: Double. If they bid 5♥, I'll bid 5♠.

Cooper: Double. They have a lot of red cards but I think I can beat 5♦, now 5♥ is another question. Partner should have only 4♠ and be perhaps 7-4? Spades are not breaking well enough for us to make ours.

Feldman: Double.

Dunitz: 5♠. Another vul v vul headache. The diamond holding is great for defense, but let's try and guess what partner has before pulling out the red card. What is the worst hand partner can have? ♠KQxx, ♥x, ♦x, ♣KQJxxxx, or ♠KQxxx, ♥x, ♦x, ♣KQJxxx. Perhaps 7-5? Might partner have more? Of course? Remember, they are vulnerable. I would probably bid 5♠. Here is an added bonus. If you manage to bid 5♠ in tempo, the opponents, seeing you bid vulnerable, may bid one more. Alas, that would make me very happy!

Roeder: 5♠. When the distribution is this wild, bidding "one for the road" helps eliminate a potential disaster. We might make slam but it is tough for me to play partner for 8-5 with sufficiently strong Spades.

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