



# Prez Sez by Ray Yuenger

A monthly column should allow some room for repetition without being a reprint of the last month's column. Avoiding last month's topics leaves me with little new to say, so I'll be brief.

Our fall sectional is coming in just more than a month, with an evening game at the San Jose Bridge Center on Friday, October 26. Pair games will be held at West Valley College on Saturday, October 27, and team games are there the next day, October 28. A link to the flyer appears at sjbridge.org.

The North American Pairs unit qualifier is on Saturday, November 3 for those of you who have qualified in a club game. This event is where you can advance to the District 21 qualifier.

The unit holiday party is on Sunday, November 18. We try to schedule it before your holiday season gets so hectic.

I'm sorry if you were unable to access sjbridge.org for about half a day last week. It took the website host some time to fix some technical problems I can't explain, let alone fix. The same fellow has been hosting the unit's website without charge for a couple of decades now, Morris Jones, a former Tuesday night director before Lynn Yokel, Neal Webb, and I took over his game.

Welcome Mike Hughes to the unit board. Doug Hong graciously created an opening by stepping aside as a board member. I'm counting on Doug to continue to work his magic in the background, providing his words of wisdom and experience and quietly acting to improve the San Jose Bridge Center in many ways.

And with that, you know what I know about the upcoming unit events.

## Top 10 Games August 11-September 10

1	75.00%	Winston Huang - Ming Sheng	8/25 Eve
2	71.43%	Robert Ritz - Paul Nelson	8/9 AM
3	70.43%	Gerald Hewitt Jr - Jeff Weaver	9/5 AM
4	67.86%	Pangjie Xu - Winston Huang	9/9 PM
Tie	67.86%	Melinda Foos - Michael Fleisher	8/24 Eve
6	67.26%	Don Morin - Judy Fisher	9/4 AM
7	67.00%	Don Laycock - Michael Fleisher	8/21 Eve
8	65.91%	Jack Verson - Dana Brown	8/15 AM
9	65.48%	Frances Dickman - Ted Ujifusa	9/9 PM
10	65.37%	Elizabeth De Paola - Robert Ritz	8/23 AM

## Late August - Early September Results

### Monday Morning SJBC 10:30AM

8/13	David Gambelin - Diane Shannon A Anthony Trigg - Mischel Postas A/B Colin Hemsley - Anne Dudman C Jory Segal - Roger Joseph B/C
8/20	Elizabeth De Paola - Frances Dickman A 65.74% Malcolm Mclaughlin - Paul Nelson A Linda Nemmer - Peggy Sprague B Colin Hemsley - Anne Dudman B/C Josephine Murray - Barbara Weber C
8/27	Ted Richmond - William Riester Jr A Amar & Susama Chunder B Bill Langlois - Wendy Dewell A
9/10	Robert Madalena - Matt Moore A Patricia Hannah - Jeffrey Hack A Andy Scott - Robert Allen B/C Colin Hemsley - Anne Dudman B/C

### Monday Evening SJBC 7PM

8/13	Stephen Tu - Ron Powell A
<b>Tuesday Morning SJBC 10:30AM</b>	
8/14	Team 1 (Hannah, Hack, Stewart, Keener) A Brien Wilson - Barbara Grams X/Y Rob Reicher - Joyce Freeman Z
8/21	Carol Nicoletti - Vera Huelbig A/B/C Karen Rice - Josephine Murray A/B Leila Mattinger - Dorr Clark C Jan Goodwin - Jean Myers D/E/F Henry Wen - Don Wolf D/E
9/4	Don Morin - Judy Fisher A 67.26% Kathleen Keener - Malcolm Stewart A Jane Schwartz - Michael Cohn B/C Donna & Sam Orme B/C
<b>Tuesday Evening SJBC 7:30PM</b>	
8/14	Robert & Marcia Dean A Joel Koransky - Ken Rosenfeld A/B Andy Andrews - Kenneth Yip B/C Colin Hemsley - Anne Dudman C
8/21	Don Laycock - Michael Fleisher A 67.00% Lynn & Diane Shannon A Richard Sarsfield - Melanie Kakalec B Ronald Baron - Ken Rosenfeld B Josephine Murray - Barbara Weber C Colin Hemsley - Anne Dudman C
9/4	Rohit & Shalini Dubey
<b>Wednesday Morning SJBC 11AM</b>	
8/15	Jack Verson - Dana Brown A 65.91% Bill Langlois - William Riester Jr A Shirley Foreman - Raja Smadi B Laurie Faulkner - Roger Joseph B Andy Andrews - Kenneth Yip C Joanne Cornbleet - Linda Kenigsberg D/E Sandra Bonnet - Joanne Quermann D/E Andy Andrews - Kenneth Yip E
8/22	Bill Langlois - William Riester Jr A Andy Scott - Anne Bossange A/B/C Mischel Postas - Karen Rice B Colin Hemsley - Anne Dudman C Joyce Holleman - Susan Maki D/E/F Marie Chong - Sumi Minami D/E/F
9/5	Carole Dietz - Tina Pearson A Irene Hashfield - Roger Joseph A/B/C Patricia Hannah - Jeffrey Hack B Gerald Hewitt Jr - Jeff Weaver D/E 70.43% Sandra Bonnet - Joanne Quermann D/E/F 65.65%
<b>Wednesday Evening SJBC 7:15PM</b>	
8/15	Raymond Yuenger - Michael Fleisher A Val Abid - Anne Dudman B
8/22	Melinda Foos - Peggy Sprague A Ronald Baron - Norman Marks A/B Monica Bacon-Proctor - Bill Roman C Patricia Hannah - Malcolm Stewart B
9/5	Mischel Postas - Donna Webb A/B Matt Moore - Hadi Eslambolchi A/B/C Val Abid - Anne Dudman C

...More Winner	
<b>Thursday Morning SJBC 10:30AM</b>	
8/16	Tony Glynne - Dawn Black A Frances Dickman - Diane Shannon A
8/23	Mischel Postas - Thomas Feury A/B 66.48% Elizabeth De Paola - Robert Ritz A 65.37% Diane Weissman - Linda Rocha C Kathleen Keener - Irene Shibuya B Linda & Will Kenigsberg C
9/6	Kathleen Keener - Samuel Shat A/B Jory Segal - Daniel Claassen C
<b>Friday Morning SJBC 11:00AM</b>	
8/17	Miwako Wong - Dee Ann Hansen A/B Irene Hashfield - Roger Joseph A/B/C Colin Hemsley - Anne Dudman C
8/24	Monica Bacon-Proctor - Bill Roman A/B/C Lynn & Diane Shannon A Fern Herman - Jeffrey Hack B Jan Kiernan - Sumi Minami C
9/7	Malcolm Mclaughlin - Diane Shannon A Bill Langlois - Regina Norberg A Sabina Siem - Rita Tingley B Karen Rice - Paul Lee B Diane Weissman - Linda Rocha C
<b>Friday Evening SJBC 7PM</b>	
8/17	Team 1 (Dean, Dean) A
8/24	Melinda Foos - Michael Fleisher A 67.86% Jory Segal - Daniel Claassen B/C
9/7	Ronald Baron - Norman Marks A/B Colette & Art Quaife A/B
<b>Saturday Evening SJBC 6:36PM</b>	
8/11	Team 3 (Fleisher, Foos)
8/18	Team 2 (Ravera, Parsons)
8/25	Winston Huang - Ming Sheng A 75.00% Jun Shi - Tian Wei B Jan Kiernan - Sumi Minami C
9/8	Team 2 (Ravera, Parsons)
<b>Sunday Twilight SJBC 5:30PM</b>	
8/12	Melinda Foos - Michael Fleisher A Frances Dickman - Ted Ujifusa A Michael Angelo Ravera - David Sisson B Sandra Erickson - Mike Wyman B/C
8/19	Xin Ge - Yi Liu A/B Benjamin & Michael Leitner A/B/C June Hu - Jesse Liu C
8/26	Bruce Luttrell - Hansa Narasimhan A Manoj & Radhakishin Thawani A/B/C Joseph Tang - Vilas Namjoshi B Margareta Hodzic - George Schlinkert C
9/9	Pangjie Xu - Winston Huang A/B 67.86% Frances Dickman - Ted Ujifusa A 65.48% Rajeev Gupta - Radhakishin Thawani B/C John Grout - Raghu Murthy C

Unit 507 Board and Officers	
Ray Yuenger	President & Forum Columnist
Mich Ravera	Vice-President & Di-Rek'Tor Editor
Anne Bossange	Secretary
Karen O'Connell	Treasurer
Judy Fisher	Membership chair
Doug Hong Mischel Postas	Unit Game Coordinators
Lynn Yokel	Mentor Coordinator
Lynn Bartz	Education Liaison
Ray Yuenger	Recorder, NAP/GNT Coordinator
Stu Goodgold	Dist. 21 representatives

Promotions and Titles	
<b>JUNIOR MASTER</b>	Susan Maki Alex Zheng
<b>CLUB MASTER</b>	David Chen Manoj Thawani
<b>SECTIONAL MASTER</b>	Rochelle Alhadeff
<b>BRONZE LIFE MASTER</b>	Kathy Jasper
<b>RUBY LIFE MASTER</b>	Raja Smadi

### Idioter's Corner by Mich Ravera

The great Samuel Clemens performing as his alter-ego, Mark Twain, would often state that the only certain things were death and taxes, and that it might, under some circumstances, be possible to cheat death, but the Tax Collector would find you, even if you died.

It is partly because of the Tax Collector's prowess that it is very difficult for a person to be an independent contractor anymore. But, regulatory processes often require that even occasional and casual employees must be treated as employees. This makes it difficult for organizations like, for instance, let's say, maybe The Silicon Valley Unit of the American Contract Bridge League to hire casual employees. Say, for instance, caddies.

Ronald Reagan, our 40<sup>th</sup> president said that Minimum Wage laws were great for the employees who kept jobs, but saw that, at the time, Theater Ushers had largely disappeared. He assured the American people that the job certainly hadn't disappeared because theater patrons enjoyed finding their way to their seats in the dark.

I don't enjoy passing my own boards to the other table in a team game for fear that I might see what is going on at the table. In the rest of the Bridge world outside North America, it is very common to use pre-duplicated boards for team games. Play one and pass it down. But, it is much nicer just to be able to call "Caddy!" and have the boards appear from nowhere as if they had been properly located in the first place.

Let us hope that "Bridge Caddy" doesn't go the way of "Theater Usher" as a job. The question is "What are we willing to pay to make sure that it doesn't?"



## A Simple Fix to a Serious Problem by Mich Ravera

In the days when Bridge was new, a guy named Blackwood invented a convention to help avoid bidding a slam when his side was missing two aces. That seemed like such a great idea that it inspired a guy named Gerber to imitate and improve upon it.

Understanding when Blackwood's Convention was in effect was generally unambiguous. **4NT** is a rarely a reasonable contract to propose to play. So, the rule was "It's on except in a few obvious cases when it's off." Fair enough.

John Gerber's Convention both had the advantage and suffered from the fact that it could and would be invoked at a lower level in the bidding. The advantage is that it kept the level of bidding lower. The disadvantage was that **4♣** would often show up as a bid that one would like to treat as natural. So, many experts adopted the rule "It's off except when it's on." That is, if local player Steve Burnham is to be believed, except in Omaha, where the reverse is true.

Enter the Italian Blue Team. In their original version, known as "Roman Blackwood", **5♥** and **5♠** were used to distinguish which two aces were held by the Answerer. But sometimes **5♠** would come up as the answer when hearts was to be trump and the pair would be lacking for two of the aces. This had the problem that **5NT** would be a follow up inquiry and not a sign off and leave the pair no choice but to play in **6♥** and hope that the missing two aces were either split or neither was held by the player on opening lead.

Of course an improvement was introduced where, instead of distinguishing which two aces were held asking about 5 key cards, the **5♥** and **5♠** answers were used to tell about whether Answerer held the queen of trump. Of course, the Interrogator would sometimes be stuck with a **5♠** answer when hearts was to be trump and the pair would be lacking for two of the key cards. This had the problem that **5NT** would be a follow up inquiry and not a sign off and leave the pair no choice but to play in **6♥**.

I could, at this point, go into the fact that the Blue Club Team had numerous inquiry bids -- at least nine that were named with Greek letters -- and only used this method of asking about both outside aces and suit quality with one bid as a last resort when they didn't figure out the trump suit until the 3- or 4-level, but that didn't keep even them (who may have used some creative and not necessarily completely legal methods for getting trump suit agreement at low levels) from getting stuck with a **5♠** answer.

Now, asking about the queen of trump seemed like such a good idea and hearts was going to be trump almost half of the time that Roman Key Card Blackwood was invoked, so one would think that players would have discovered this and make allowances for it. Well, they did, but they didn't correct the **5♠** answer problem.

Instead, they would switch the **5♣** and **5♦** answers so that, if hearts were to be trump, when the Answerer had one of the key cards, it was still possible to ask about the queen of hearts without trying to use **5♥** as both a sign off and as a question about the queen. A **5♣** answer left room to use **5♦** as an inquiry.

Now, even playing San Francisco, the bad slam prevention convention that I prefer, you can be expecting to play in hearts and get a **5♠** answer (which usually shows either two aces and a king or an ace and three kings) and still be missing an ace and a king (or, very rarely, two aces). Yep, **5NT** would be a follow up and you have no real choice but to play **6♥** and hope ... Does this problem sound familiar?

Is all lost? Are we doomed sometimes, despite getting a reasonably encouraging answer, to play in **6♥** and hope that the player with the cards that will doom the contract is prohibited from leading them?

The answer is "Of course not!" But, you have to be willing to learn a new convention. Are you ready for it? When spades is not under consideration as a trump suit, **4♠** might occasionally say something about a spade control or ask about cards outside of spades, but if you have adopted any of these agreements, you probably don't need the advice offered in this column. Instead, **4♠** can be used as the inquiry bid instead of **4NT**. This gives you one more bid to use as an answer which leaves you the ability to stay below **5♥**, if you don't like the answer.

If you Play Roman Key Card Blackwood, you can switch back to the 30-14 answer system, if you like, since as well as fixing the "whoops!" **5♠** answer, you also have room to use both **5♣** and **5♦** to ask about the queen of trump when Answerer holds zero or one key cards.

The important thing on which to agree, if you plan on adopting this convention, is how far distant in the bidding spades can have been mentioned by someone on our side and that we have still agreed to play in hearts. Is it sufficient that either player jumped in hearts or that they both bid them? Are there some auctions where one player or the other on our side bid as many as **2♠** where **4♠** is the inquiry bid?





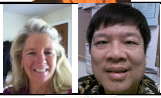


In case, you are wondering. Did Mich Ravera just make up this convention? The answer is "no". The convention is known as "Kickback" ans has been around for years before I started to play competitive Bridge. I first ran across mention of it in about 1998 or so when I was reading the ACBL publication "How to Fill out the New ACBL Convention Card".

Of course, if you are going to agree to do this when hearts is trump, you may want to do something similar when a minor suit is trump. **4♥** could be your inquiry bid when diamonds are going to be trump and **4♦** could be your inquiry bid when clubs are going to be trump. While this convention looks exactly like "Kickback", it is often called "Redwood", since the trigger bids are both red suits. But, since no one ever really wants to play in four of a minor suit, you might just as well use four of the intended minor suit as the trigger bid. Of course, this doesn't apply when you are trying to escape from or are chased out of **3NT** or when you have to go to the 4-level because the evil opponents have the audacity to bid three of their major suit.

This last convention is know as "Minorwood".

I promised a solution. I gave one (even though it might have three different names).

### Unit 507 Club Games

Day	Time	Game Type	Photo	Directors	Phone (408)
Monday	10:30 am	Open Stratified Hand records		Carole Dietz	395-6360
Monday	7:00 pm	Open Stratified MidChart Hand Records Lifelines Lesson 6:30PM		Mich Ravera	432-1020 / 510-410-0371
Tuesday	10:30 am	Open Stratified Hand Records		Judy Fisher	395-0032
Tuesday	3:00 pm	Lesson and Supervised Play			
Tuesday	07:00:00 PM	Open Stratified Hand Records		Lynn Yokel	499-2011
Wednesday	11:00 am	Two Sections: Open and 0- 299 Stratified Hand Records (Lesson 10:30 am)			
Wednesday	07:00:00 PM	Open Stratified Hand Records			
Thursday	10:30 am	Open Stratified Hand Records		Mary Steele	202-0419
Thursday	3:00 pm	Shuffle and Deal			
Friday	11:00 am	Open Stratified Hand Records "Points Schoints"		Gabi Bowling	650-619-0555
Friday	7:00 pm	Open Stratified Hand Records		Mary Steele / Doug Hong	202-0419 / 209-4381
Saturday	6:36 PM	Open Handicapped Mid-Chart IMP / Teams Hand Records Lesson 6:15PM"		Mich Ravera	432-1020 / 510-410-0371
Sunday	5:30 pm	Open Stratified Hand Records		Doug Hong	209-4381

All games are held at the NEW San Jose Bridge Center (408-871-1232), located at 1090 South Bascom Ave, Unit 105, San Jose, CA

All games allow methods and systems permitted by the ACBL General Convention Chart. Those games identified as "Mid-Chart" or "Super Chart" also permit methods authorized by those charts with proper disclosure. Check club postings, visit our web site at <http://www.SJBridge.org> or call for the exact dates and times of the Special Unit games. Games are often reduced, relaxed, or canceled during local tournaments.

**The Di-Rek-Tor is published monthly by Unit 507 of the American Contract Bridge League. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Unit Board.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>September Bridge Calendar</b>						
16 Doug's Open Game with Hand Records: 5:30PM	17 Carole's Open Stratified Game with Hand Records: 10:30AM Mich's Open Game with Hand Records: 7PM	18 Judy's Stratified 199er & Stratified Open Game w/separate sections and hand records: 10:30AM Supervised Play: 3PM <b>Club Championship: 7PM</b>	19 Lynn's Lesson: 10:30AM <b>Club Championship: 11AM</b> Lynn's Open Stratified Game with Hand Records: 7PM	20 Lynn's Stratified 499er & Stratified Open Game w/separate sections and hand records: 10:30AM Shuffle&Deal: 3PM	21 Gabi's "Points Schoints" Game: 11AM Mary and Doug's Open Game w/ Hand Records: 7PM	22 Mich's Midchart Handicapped IMP Game with Hand Records: 6:36PM
23 Doug's Game: 5:30PM	24 Carole's Game: 10:30AM <b>Club Championship: 7PM</b>	25 <b>Club Championship Swiss Teams &amp; 199er Pairs: 10:30AM</b> Supervised Play: 3PM Lynn's Game: 7PM	26 Lynn's Lesson: 10:30AM 2-Section Game: 11AM <b>Club Championship: 7PM</b>	27 2-Section Game: 10:30AM Shuffle&Deal: 3PM	28 Gabi's Game: 11AM Doug & Mary's Game: 7PM	29 Mich's Game: 6:36PM
30 <b>Club Championship: 5:30PM</b>	<b>October</b>					
	1 Carole's Game: 10:30AM <b>Club Appreciation Pairs: 7PM</b>	2 2-Section Game: 10:30AM Supervised Play: 3PM Lynn's Game: 7PM	3 Lynn's Lesson: 10:30AM 2-Section Game: 11AM Lynn's Game: 7PM	4 2-Section Game: 10:30AM Shuffle&Deal: 3PM	5 <b>Senior Pairs: 11AM</b> Doug & Mary's Game: 7PM	6 <b>Club Appreciation Pairs: 6:36PM</b>
7 Doug's Game: 5:30PM	8 Carole's Game: 10:30AM <b>Sliver of GOLD Teams: 7PM</b>	9 <b>Swiss Teams &amp; 199er Pairs: 10:30AM</b> Supervised Play: 3PM <b>Unit Board Meeting: 5:30PM</b> <b>Club Appreciation Pairs: 7PM</b>	10 Lynn's Lesson: 10:30AM 2-Section Game: 11AM <b>Sliver of GOLD Teams: 7PM</b>	11 <b>Sliver of GOLD Teams: 10:30AM</b> Shuffle&Deal: 3PM	12 Gabi's Game: 11AM Doug & Mary's Game: 7PM	13 <b>Sliver of GOLD Teams: 6:36PM</b>
14 <b>Club Appreciation Pairs: 5:30PM</b>	15 Carole's Game: 10:30AM Mich's Game: 7PM	16 2-Section Game: 10:30AM Supervised Play: 3PM Lynn's Game: 7PM	17 Lynn's Lesson: 10:30AM 2-Section Game: 11AM Lynn's Game: 7PM	18 2-Section Game: 10:30AM Shuffle&Deal: 3PM	19 Gabi's Game: 11AM Doug & Mary's Game: 7PM	20 Mich's Game: 6:36PM
21 <b>Sliver of GOLD Teams: 5:30PM</b>	22 Carole's Game: 10:30AM Mich's Game: 7PM	23 2-Section Game: 10:30AM Supervised Play: 3PM <b>Sliver of GOLD Teams: 7PM</b>	24 Lynn's Lesson: 10:30AM <b>Sliver of GOLD Teams: 11AM</b> <b>Club Appreciation Pairs: 7PM</b>	25 <b>Club Appreciation Pairs: 10:30AM</b> Shuffle&Deal: 3PM	26 Gabi's Game: 11AM <b>Sliver of GOLD Teams: 10:30AM</b> <b>Club Appreciation Pairs: 7PM</b>	27 <b>Sliver of GOLD Teams: 10:30AM &amp; 3PM</b>
28 <b>Sliver of GOLD Teams: 10:30AM</b>	29 Carole's Game: 10:30AM Mich's Game: 7PM	30 2-Section Game: 10:30AM Supervised Play: 3PM Lynn's Game: 7PM	31 Lynn's Lesson: 10:30AM <b>Club Appreciation Pairs: 11AM</b> Lynn's Game: 7PM	1 2-Section Game: 10:30AM Shuffle&Deal: 3PM	2 Gabi's Game: 11AM Doug & Mary's Game: 7PM	3 <b>Unit NAP Qualifier - Two Sessions: Noon &amp; TBA</b>