

Hand(s) of the Month

By Joel Hoersch
Editor, District 22 Forum



One of my favorite partners these days is Budak Barkan, a Turkish-born Caltech alumni who won his flight a few years ago in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin's master-point race. Budak and I always have many differences of opinion in bidding, but we have learned to reach compromises that make it possible to get to the right spot most of the time. He is the type of partner with whom it's easy to generate the best possible defense, and it's always a pleasure to watch him play a hand.

These two recent examples will show you what I mean. (In both hands, Budak is sitting South.)

♠ QJ6542
♥ K8
♦ 1072
♣ Q3

♠ K8 ♠ 109
♥ Q105 ♥ J932
♦ 984 ♦ AJ65
♣ K8642 ♣ J107

♠ A73
♥ A764
♦ KQ3
♣ A95

On the hand above, Budak opened INT, and played in 4♠ on a transfer auction. West led a diamond; East won the ace and continued the suit, not finding the club shift necessary to break the elimination and throw-in play that Budak visualized.

Budak won the diamond and cashed the ♠A(!) Now he played three rounds of hearts, ruffing in dummy, came to hand with the ♦Q, and led his last heart. West pitched a club, but it just delayed the inevitable; Budak ruffed and threw him in with a trump, so he

had to lead away from his ♠K. This gave Budak 11 tricks, and a cold top on the board.

Cashing the ♠A wins big whenever either defender has the king singleton, wins when trumps are 2-2 and the partial elimination finds the black kings in the same hand (as on this layout), and breaks even in many other cases.

♠ 106
♥ A5
♦ A2
♣ AKJ9853

♠ 85432 ♠ KQ97
♥ 10 ♥ QJ983
♦ KJ83 ♦ 75
♣ 1074 ♣ Q2

♠ AJ
♥ K7642
♦ Q10964
♣ 6

On this one, Budak became declarer in 3NT, after I had opened the bidding 1♣ and East had overcalled 1♥. West led ♥10, and Budak paused for a long time before playing to Trick 1. Then he won dummy's ace, and started clubs from the top ... the correct play, in my opinion, since it caters to a singleton queen or 10 offside, takes all the tricks if the queen falls doubleton, and makes six tricks anytime the suit breaks 3-2.

While cashing the club suit, it was fairly easy for Budak to determine that East was protecting spades and West had the diamonds. He came to hand with ♥A, rammed the ♦Q through West, and wrapped up 12 tricks.

Scoring +690 resulted in 17 matchpoints out of 19 ... not a cold top like the first example, but it enabled us to place 1st overall - which was good for free plays for the rest of the week. In this economy, what could be sweeter?

Gold Rush Pairs

By Ken Monzingo

Gold Rush Pairs is a popular regional event that separates the pairs field into two groups: Flight A/X (sometimes called A/B) and Strat B/C (sometimes called 0-300 and 300-750). In Flight A/X the usual point limits are 0-2000 (X) and 2000+ (A), and both play together. In Strats B/C the strats are usually 0-300 (C) and 300-750 (B), and they also all play together. If successful, Strat C players can win C or B points, but B can only win B awards, not C.

What this B/C event does is allow players with limited master-points to compete in a field with all opponents under 750 MPs,

giving them a chance to score MPs in Strat B which pays GOLD for section tops, and for overall awards. This is a great opportunity for those working towards Life Master to earn their coveted gold points while playing in such a limited MP field.

The 0-750 players appreciate it. Even if players are in Strat C with, say, 100 or 200 points, they can earn gold points should they win their section over the Strat B players.

Strat C section top wins, and C overall awards, still pay only red points - to get gold you must achieve section tops or overall award positions in Strat B (300-750) or enter the Flight A/X event competing against top players.

New Life Masters



Barbara Shukov
Los Altos Hills



Carol Miller
Fresno, Calif.



Linda CopperSmith
Fresno, Calif.



Maxine Sigel
San Francisco



Michele Musy
Menlo Park, Calif.



Robert Lohse
Discovery Bay



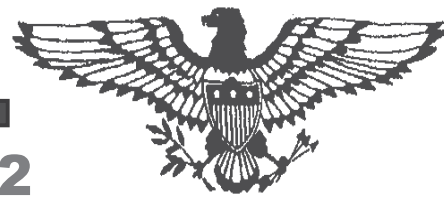
Terry McMillan
Palm Springs CA



Hong Hai Dubroff
Albuquerque NM

PRESIDENTS' DAY REGIONAL

February 14-20, 2012



District 21 website is your first resource for our Regionals:

- Make early partnership arrangements
 - Make hotel reservations
 - Plan your tournament events
 - Gather general information/directions
- www.d21acbl.com

Tuesday, February 14

1:00 p.m. Stratified Charity Pairs
299ers Stratified Charity Pairs
Charity Stratified Swiss Teams

7:00 p.m. LINCOLN BRACKETED KOs Rd 1
Continues Wednesday 9, 1 & 7
Stratified Charity Pairs
299ers Stratified Charity Pairs



Wednesday, February 15

9:00 a.m. LINCOLN KOs Teams - round 2
Morning Stratified Side Pairs 1st of 5
299ers Stratified Pairs

10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
STRATIFIED SENIOR PAIRS 55+yrs

1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
JEFFERSON BRACKETED KOs 1-2
Continues Thursday 1 & 7
LINCOLN KOs - rounds 3 & 4
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS
Monroe Stratified Side Pairs, 1st of 4
99/299ers Stratified Pairs

7:00 p.m. Stratified Swiss Teams
299ers Stratified Pairs
Monroe Stratified Pairs, 2nd of 4

Thursday, February 16 GOODWILL DAY

9:00 a.m. MADISON SWISS TEAMS 1st of 2
Morning Stratified Side Pairs 2nd of 5
299ers Stratified Pairs

10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
STRATIFIED SENIOR PAIRS 55+yrs

1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
U.S. GRANT BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2
continues Friday 1 & 7
JEFFERSON KOs - rounds 3 & 4
OPEN PAIRS 0-2500/2500+
QUALIFIES to BAROMETER FINAL
NON QUALS enter Evening Pairs or Swiss
TAFT GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750
Monroe Stratified Side Pairs, 3rd of 4
99/299ers Stratified Pairs, red

Friday, February 17

9:00 a.m. MADISON SWISS TEAMS - 2nd session
Morning Stratified Side Pairs 3rd of 5
299ers Stratified Pairs

10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
STRATIFIED SENIOR PAIRS 55+yrs

1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
WASHINGTON BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2
Continues Saturday 1 & 7
U.S. GRANT KOs - rounds 3 & 4
OPEN PAIRS 0-2500/2500+
TRUMAN GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750
Presidents Stratified Side Pairs, 1st of 6
99/299ers Stratified Pairs

7:00 p.m. Stratified Swiss Teams
299er Stratified Pairs
Presidents Stratified Side Pairs 2nd of 6

Matt Smith, Director in Charge. ACBL sanctioned R12022035 .Conventions on the General Chart allowed in all events. Mid-chart allowed Top Knockout bracket and any bracket which contains no team with a bracket designator of less than 1500 mps, as well as any 4 session Open Pairs or Open Swiss and Flight AX Events.

District 21 website: d21acbl.com
Tournament on site info: 408-810-2273

MARRIOTT HOTEL

2700 Mission College
Santa Clara, CA 95054

Book EARLY for the
Bridge Rate \$92

408 988-1500/800 228-9290

FREE PARKING

Saturday, February 18

9:00 a.m. WILSON SWISS TEAMS 1st of 2
continues Sunday 9am
Morning Stratified Side Pairs 4th of 5
299ers Stratified Pairs

10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
STRATIFIED SENIOR PAIRS 55+yrs

1:00 p.m. FREE STUDENT GAME 0-5mps
1:00 & 7:00 p.m.

JACKSON BRACKETED KOs
Continues Sunday 1 & 7
WASHINGTON KOs - rounds 3 & 4
OPEN PAIRS 0-2500/2500+
ADAMS GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750
Presidents Stratified Side Pairs, 3rd of 6
99/299ers Stratified Pairs

7:00 p.m. Stratified Swiss Teams
299er Stratified Pairs
Presidents Stratified Side Pairs 4th of 6

ENTRIES \$10
Unpaid & Non Members \$12

STRATIFIED EVENTS KEY

A 2000+ B 750-2000 C 0-750
O/W POSTED

All Swiss Team Events Based on average of team.
Eligibility for Pairs Events based on top player.
UNLESS OTHERWISE POSTED

Sunday, February 19

9:00 a.m. WILSON SWISS TEAMS - 2nd session
Morning Stratified Side Pairs 5th of 5
299ers Stratified Pairs

10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
STRATIFIED SENIOR PAIRS 55+yrs

1:00 & 7:00 p.m. ROOSEVELT COMPACT KOs
JACKSON KOs rounds 3 & 4
IMP Scored STRAT OPEN PAIRS
Presidents Stratified Side Pairs, 5th of 6
99/299ers Stratified Pairs

7:00 p.m. Stratified Swiss Teams
299er Stratified Pairs
Presidents Stratified Side Pairs 6th of 6

INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER EVENTS

Tuesday 1:00 & 7:00 p.m. Charity Pairs
Bridge Concepts Lectures with Scott Campbell
Noon Wednesday thru Sunday
99ers/299ers Wed thru Sat 9, 1 & 7
Fri & Sat Gold Pairs 0-300/750
Free Student Game Sat 1:00 p.m. 0-5mps
10:00 a.m. Monday Stratified Teams & Pairs

Monday, February 20

EARLY START 10:00 a.m.

STRATI-FLIGHTED SWISS TEAM
56 boards with a short break
Flight A 3000+ Flight X 0-3000
STRAT B -C-D TEAMS with a short break
Strat B 1000-2000 Strat C 500-1000
Strat D 0-500
BOB LUEBKEMAN SENIOR SWISS 55+yrs
FAST STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS
299ers Swiss Teams
299ers Stratified Pairs

Events in BOLD FACE are two or more sessions and award gold points.
Single session events award red points.

For Information Contact: Jackie Matthews
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