



VOL. 58 No. 3

SEPTEMBER 2017

TABLE TALK EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Outgoing ACBL CEO: Board too big, no 'shared vision'

Editor's note: Robert Hartman left the ACBL this summer after almost six years as Chief Executive Officer. He agreed to do this interview with Table Talk Editor Martin Hirschman, by email.

TABLE TALK: Generally, what is wrong and right about the current ACBL, and what needs to be done?

HARTMAN: First off, I thoroughly enjoyed my tenure as ACBL CEO and believe the organization is in better shape than where I found it. The ACBL is financially stable and

has a solid team in place who will help take the organization to the next level.

The volunteer base is integral to everything we do at the ACBL. Volunteerism runs rampant and it's what makes our organization thrive. While we attracted 11,000-12,000 new ACBL members annually, I don't believe we tapped into the volunteer base to help be a recruitment force. That is a huge opportunity.

The organizational structure of the league makes it very difficult to get things done.

(Continued on page 26)

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

The annual election for MBA Board of Directors will be held during the last four days of the October regional. If you cannot be there on one of those days, you can still vote by completing and sending in an absentee ballot. See page 5. Candidates' pictures and statements appear on pages 6-7.

**Michigan Bridge Association's
Vince & Joan Remey Motor City Regional
October 9-15, 2017**

Wm. Costick Center, 28600 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills

*Side pair games Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 7 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.*

Monday, October 9

Handicapped Flighted KO Teams..... 1 PM & 7 PM
(Fl. A unlimited, Fl. B 0-2000)(Continues Tues. at 10 AM & 2:30 PM)
Stratified Charity Pairs (0-1500, 0-3000, unlimited) 1 PM & 7 PM
GOLD RUSH Pairs (0-100, 0-300, 0-750) 1 PM & 7 PM
Stratified Swiss Teams (0-750, 0-3000, unlimited)..... 7 PM

Tuesday, October 10

Stratified Swiss Teams (0-1500, 0-3000, unlimited)..... 10 AM & 2:30 PM
GOLD RUSH Swiss Teams (0-100, 0-300, 0-750)..... 10 AM & 2:30 PM

Wednesday, October 11

Handicapped Flighted KO Teams..... 10 AM & 2:30 PM
(Fl. A unlimited, Fl. B 0-2000)(Continues Thur. at 10 AM & 2:30 PM)
Sylvia Stein Stratified Pairs (0-1500, 0-3000, unlimited) 10 AM & 2:30 PM
GOLD RUSH Pairs (0-100, 0-300, 0-750) 10 AM & 2:30 PM
Stratified Swiss Teams (0-750, 0-3000, unlimited)..... 2:30 PM

Thursday, October 12

Stratified Swiss Teams (0-1500, 0-3000, unlimited)..... 10 AM & 2:30 PM
GOLD RUSH Swiss Teams (0-100, 0-300, 0-750)..... 10 AM & 2:30 PM

Friday, October 13

Handicapped Flighted KO Teams..... 10 AM & 2:30 PM
(Fl. A unlimited, Fl. B 0-2000)(Continues Sat. at 10 AM & 2:30 PM)
Stratified Pairs (0-1500, 0-3000, unlimited) 10 AM & 2:30 PM
GOLD RUSH Pairs (0-100, 0-300, 0-750) 10 AM & 2:30 PM
Stratified Swiss Teams (0-750, 0-3000, unlimited)..... 2:30 PM

Saturday, October 14

(Light lunch provided between sessions)

Stratified Pairs (0-1500, 0-3000, unlimited) 10 AM & 2:30 PM
GOLD RUSH Pairs (0-100, 0-300, 0-750) 10 AM & 2:30 PM
Stratified Swiss Teams (0-1500, 0-3000, unlimited)..... 10 AM & 2:30 PM
Stratified Swiss Teams (0-750, 0-3000, unlimited)..... 2:30 PM

Sunday, October 15

(Light lunch provided between sessions)

Marilyn & Myles Maddox Stratiflighted Swiss Teams 11 AM playthru
(7 matches) (Fl. 0-5000, unlimited) (Fl. B 0-750, 0-1500, 0-3000)

SIDE PAIR GAMES (0-750, 0-3000, unlimited)

Side Series #1: Tue., Wed., Thur. 10 AM & 2:30 PM

Side Series #2: Fri., Sat. 10 AM & 2:30 PM

Side Series #3: Tue.-Fri. 7 PM

You must play two sessions of the same series to win Gold points

INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER SCHEDULE (0-300 masterpoints)

Stratified I/N Pairs (single sessions) Tue. thru Sat. 10 AM & 2:30 PM

Stratified Swiss Teams (single sessions)..... Sun. 11 AM & 3 PM

I/N Strats: 0-20, 0-50, 0-100, 0-200, 0-300

All players in Flight B, Gold Rush and I/N events
must be under the stated masterpoint limits.

In stratified events, average masterpoints
will be used to determine your strat.

In all four-session KO events,
Flights A and B will play separately.

KO Handicapping: Teams that average more than 7500 MPs will
be handicapped at 7500 MPs.

Tournament Co-chairs:

Zachary Wasserman: zachwass@gmail.com, 248-892-0306

Jonathan Flesichmann, JAFleisc@umich.edu, 734-255-6104

Partnerships:

Marilyn Crane, mqcrane@yahoo.com, 734-591-3431

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TABLE TALK

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Jonathan Fleischmannpresident
Bob Ondopresident-elect
Richard Temkinchairman
Stacey Tessler recording secretary
Bob Webber treasurer

Board of Directors

Shelley Boschan, Marilyn Crane, Kurt
Dasher, Jonathan Fleischmann, Mar-
tin Hirschman (non-voting), Owen
Lien, Marilyn Nathanson, Bob Ondo,
Grant Petersen, Patti Stoner, Richard
Temkin, Stacey Tessler, Allan Tush-
man, Zachary Wasserman.

MBA CLUB DIRECTORY

■**Ann Arbor BC**, Walden Hills Club-
house, 2114 Pauline, Ann Arbor.
Ray Gentz, 734-769-3994. Wednes-
day 7 p.m.

■**Burns Center Bridge**, 1320 Bald-
win, Ann Arbor. Dick Fortune, 734-
277-8126. Wednesday 12 p.m.

■**Burns Park Bridge**, 1320 Baldwin,
Ann Arbor. Stacey Tessler, 734-623-
8050. Thursday 12 p.m.

■**Downriver BC**, Southgate Veter-
ans Memorial Library, 14680 Dix-
Toledo Rd., Southgate. Cono
Emanuele, 734-675-3687. Tues-
day 10:30 a.m.

■**Ford DBC**, Ford Motor Company
World Headquarters, 1 American
Rd., Dearborn. Ellen Silverest, 810-
225-2278. Tuesday 7 p.m.

■**Friendly Friday BC**, St. Paul
Evangelical Lutheran Church,
375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe
Farms. Tony Faint, 586-649-
3575. Friday 12 p.m.

■**Neighborhood Club**, St. Paul
Evangelical Lutheran Church, 375
Lothrop, Grosse Pointe Farms.
James Schmidt, 586-463-9835.
Thursday 12 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m.

■**Plymouth Community DBC**,
Cultural Center, 525 Farmer,
Plymouth. Jim & Cheryl Perna,
248-887-9283. Tuesday 11:30
a.m., Wednesday 11:30 a.m.

■**Thursday Evening Bridge**,
1320 Baldwin, Ann Arbor. Stacey
Tessler, 734-623-8050. Thursday 7
p.m.

■**Trenton DBC**, 2700 Westfield,
Trenton. Charles May, 734-301-
3872. Thursday 7 p.m.

■**War Memorial**, 32 Lakeshore,
Grosse Pointe. Judith Thomas,
313-372-4218. Monday 12 p.m.

■**Young Center BC**, R.A. Young
Recreation Center, 5400 McKin-
ley, Dearborn Heights. Joyce Koz-
ma, 313-274-5587. Wednesday
11 a.m.

MBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION
OCTOBER 2017

The annual election for the MBA Board of Directors will take place on the last four days of the Remey Motor City Regional, Oct. 12-15, 2017, in Farmington Hills. Voting ends at the start of the Sunday event. If you cannot attend the tournament, please fill out and mail an absentee ballot according to the directions below. One ballot per MBA member, please. A second ballot is provided for use by households with two MBA members. For additional ballots, contact Owen Lien at 828-424-5905.

Statements of candidates appear on the following two pages.

MBA ABSENTEE BALLOT

Please vote for NOT MORE THAN FIVE (5) nominees for the MBA Board of Directors. For your absentee ballot to be valid, it must be MAILED, with the name of the voter on the outer envelope. There must be no more than two ballots per envelope. If two ballots are sent in one envelope, the names of both voters must be written on the outer envelope.

This ballot may not be reproduced, and a facsimile will not be accepted. If you need additional ballots, please contact Owen Lien at 828-424-5905.

Please vote for NOT MORE THAN FIVE (5) candidates. An asterisk(*) indicates incumbent. Please put an X after your choices.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Brenda Bryant _____ | 4. Marilyn Crane* _____ |
| 2. Zachary Wasserman* _____ | 5. Stacey Tessler* _____ |
| 3. Marilyn Nathanson* _____ | |

**Mail ballots to Owen Lien, MBA Election Chair,
22061 Jerome St., Oak Park MI 48237 no later than Oct. 9.**

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BRENDA BRYANT

Brenda Bryant, 60 and born in Canada, learned to play bridge while completing her master's degree at Waterloo, Ontario. "My master's took me longer than I thought, since I kept filling in as the fourth!" Brenda came to Michigan to complete her Ph.D. at MSU. She is the Director of the Master's in Social Justice at Marygrove College in Detroit, and is also a Division Chair. She has over 7,000 master points and is traveling to France to compete in the Venice Cup since winning the Canadian Women's Team Trials and beating Mexico for a berth in the 16-team final.



ZACHARY WASSERMAN

I am pleased to announce I am running for re-election as board member of the MBA. It's been a pleasure to serve the community as chairman of the October regional. I hope to continue my service for the next term.



MARILYN NATHANSON

I am running again for the board and would appreciate your vote. Since joining the MBA I have created and "run" the MBA Facebook page, taken pictures at tournaments, and assisted in creating the MBA-SOMBA Directory. In addition, I was a coordinator of the Michigan Bridge Connection Team, raising money for Alzheimers.Org, the ACBL's annual fundraiser, on June 21st, "The Longest Day". I enjoy the many people who share my passion for the game and would like to give back to those who continue to help me as well as be an active participant in our bridge community.

MARILYN CRANE

Bridge brings us many friends, exercises our brains and even gives us master points. I've enjoyed working on the board for 10 years. Come to our local games and tournaments with or without a partner! I'd appreciate your vote.



STACEY TESSLER

I am running for a fifth term for the MBA board. As the recording secretary I am responsible for taking minutes at the MBA board meetings. I enjoy promoting active participation at local clubs and tournaments. I continue to run games in Ann Arbor as well as providing instruction for beginners and super seniors. During the past years I continue to provide novice instruction at the Thursday evening game in Ann Arbor and at Glacier Hills Retirement Community. I look forward to serving on the board for another term and would appreciate your vote.



TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

Sept. 17: NAP District Finals, Lansing

Sept. 22-24: Petoskey sectional

Sept. 28-30: Grand Haven sectional

Oct. 9-15: MOTOR CITY REGIONAL, Farmington Hills (MBA)

Oct. 20-22: Toledo sectional

Oct. 27-28: Bloomfield Hills

NLM sectional

Oct. 27-29: Midland sectional

Oct. 30-Nov. 5: District 12 Fall STAC

Nov. 9-12: Southfield sectional
2018

Jan. 6-7: Jackson sectional

Jan. 27-28: Ann Arbor sectional, Ypsilanti (MBA)

Feb. 8-11: Southfield sectional

Feb. 24-25: Flint sectional

IT'S YOUR BID

By Marty Hirschman

I select problems for It's Your Bid that offer a choice among two or more seemingly plausible options. If you are wondering why I haven't stated a strong opinion on a few of this issue's hands, it is because I rated the choices very close.

Congratulations to Dennis Kastle and Howard Perlman for their perfect 500s on this difficult set. Also congratulations to Jim Reed for high score among readers.

You too can make some close choices by sending in your answers to next issue's hands, found at the end of this article.

Hope to see you all at the Motor City Regional.

1. MTPTs. N-S vul. As SOUTH, you hold:

♠A32 ♥3 ♦A983 ♣AK863

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

Pass Pass 1♥ Dbl

Pass 3♦ 3♥ 4♥

Pass 5♣ Pass 5♦

A. Do you agree with your Dbl? If not, what would you have bid?

B. Given the bidding to that point, do you agree with 4♥? If not, what would you have bid?

C. Given the bidding to that

point, do you agree with 5♦? If not, what would you have bid?

Action	Score	Votes
Y/Y/N:6♦	100	12
Y/Y/Y	60	4
N:2♣/N:4NT/N:6♦	60	1
Y/N:5♦/Y	50	2
Y/Y/N: 5NT	50	1
Y/N:5♦/N:6♦	50	0
N:2♣/N:5♦/N:6♦	50	0
N:2♣/Y/Y	50	0
N:2♣/N:5♦/No:6♦	50	0
Y/Y/N:Pass	10	0

Words of wisdom

from Larry Cohen's
To Bid or Not to Bid

"Doubling with four trumps can create a big swing for the defenders. As against that, it will sometimes tip declarer off to the bad break."

In formulating this problem, I was mostly interested in what became part C: Is this hand good enough to bid slam after partner jumps in diamonds, then cooperates with what is presumably a control bid in clubs? Parts A and B were an afterthought. Nonetheless, I'll discuss Part A first.

SCORES

Experts:

Dennis Kasle	500
Howard Perlman	500
Bob Katz	480
Kurt Dasher	470
Jonathan Fleischmann ...	470
Dick Temkin	470
John Koschik	460
Don Rumelhart	460
Marilyn Maddox	450

Readers:

Jim Reed	450
Mark Hugger	400
Val Enache	380
Barb Reed	380
J. Morris Swiger	380
Irv Hershman	360
Doris Jefferies	360
Kerry Lafer	360
George Pope	330
Gerald Wahl	330
Patty Becker	320
Jerry Jefferies	250

HOW THE PANEL VOTED

	1A	1B	1C	2	3	4	5
Gene Benedict	No: 2♣	No: 4NT	No: 6♦	3♦	2NT	5♠	3♥
Bob Brent	Yes	Yes	No: 5NT	3NT	2NT	6♠	Dbl
Chuck Burger	Yes	Yes	No: 6♦	3♦	3♣	5♥	Dbl
Suzy Burger	Yes	Yes	No: 6♦	3♦	3♣	5♠	Dbl
Joe Chiesa	Yes	Yes	No: 6♦	3♦	Pass	5♥	3♥
Kurt Dasher	Yes	Yes	No: 6♦	3NT	3♣	5♥	Dbl
Jonathan Fleischmann	Yes	Yes	No: 6♦	3NT	Dbl	5♥	3♥
Dennis Kasle	Yes	Yes	No: 6♦	3NT	Dbl	5♥	Dbl
Bob Katz	Yes	Yes	No: 6♦	3NT	Dbl	6♠	Dbl
Sheldon Kirsch	Yes	No: 5♦	Yes	3♦	Dbl	6♠	Dbl
Morrie Kleinplatz	Yes	No: 5♦	Yes	3NT	Dbl	6♠	Dbl
John Koschik	Yes	Yes	No: 6♦	3NT	Dbl	5NT	Dbl
Marilyn Maddox	Yes	Yes	No: 6♦	3NT	Dbl	5♠	3♥
Myles Maddox	Yes	Yes	Yes	3NT	Dbl	5♠	Dbl
Howard Perlman	Yes	Yes	No: 6♦	3NT	Dbl	5♥	Dbl
Irv Rosenstein	Yes	Yes	Yes	3♦	Dbl	6♠	3♥
Don Rumelhart	Yes	Yes	Yes	3NT	Dbl	5♥	Dbl
Dick Temkin	Yes	Yes	No: 6♦	3♦	Dbl	5♥	Dbl
Bob Webber	Yes	Yes	No: 6♦	3NT	3♣	5♠	3♥
Willie Winokur	Yes	Yes	Yes	3♣	3♣	5NT	Dbl

In Part A, the one panelist who said he would bid 2♣ instead of double did not offer any comment. For the overwhelming majority:

Jonathan Fleischmann (Yes): Double is more flexible than 2♣.

Bob Katz (Yes): As far as I am concerned there is no conceivable 2nd choice. 2♣ is awful.

Sheldon Kirsch (Yes): I have 3 suits and none of them is good enough to overcall.

Morrie Kleinplatz (Yes): Prefer four spades, but then I'd prefer to be 30 again, too.

Irv Rosenstein (Yes): Extra strength compensates for only 3-card spade suit.

Don Rumelhart (Yes): The hand is too strong for an overcall.

In summary, you are either too strong or your club suit is too weak/short, or your hand is too multi-dimensional to overcall 2♣. No, those aren't all the same thing, but for now I'll just move on.

Parts B and C go hand in hand. If you bid 5♦ on B, you are certainly going to play there, and probably also if you bid 5♦ in C. (Oddly a few readers would have bid 5♦ in B but

changed their minds, I guess, and bid 6♦ in C.)

How good is partner's hand? His jump to 3♦ ostensibly shows 9 to 11 HCPs with at least four diamonds. The recent trend, however, is to have a 5-card suit when jumping in a minor in response to a takeout double because the alleged support that the doubler has for the minors is somewhat suspect. This line of thought supports bidding more aggressively with the problem hand.

Another issue: Is partner's 5♣ a suit or a cue bid? And does it matter?

Bob Katz (Y/Y/N:6♦): Partner should have a useful 10 points with few if any heart values.

Bob Webber (Y/Y/N:6♦): Partner's most likely shape is 2-2-5-4. My 5th club should take care of the spade loser. There should be a play for slam as long as partner does not have a stiff heart also.

Dick Temkin (Y/Y/N:6♦): Partner is responding positively to my 4♥ slam try. He won't have more than three spades and likely has 5 or 6 diamonds for his jump. Could be something like ♠KQx ♥xxxx ♦KQxxx ♣x or ♠Kx ♥xxxx ♦KQxxxx ♣x. If partner's club bid is a second

suit, that would be even better: ♠x ♥xxx ♦KQxxx ♣QJxx.

John Koschik (Y/Y/N:6♦): If partner is 2-2-5-4 with KQ of diamonds and Q of clubs, we can make a slam on two 3-1 breaks. He will have a little more, but the question is where his points are. If they lead a heart, likely, we will also prevail when partner is 3-1-5-4.

Chuck Burger (Y/Y/N:6♦): Despite no weak 2 bid or spade cue, I don't think partner is 5-5, so the only bad pattern is 3-1-5-4. ♠xx ♥xx ♦KQxxx ♣QJxx makes for strong slam.

Joe Chiesa (Y/Y/N:6♦): [After partner's 5♣ bid] Partner, at a minimum, should have ♠Kxx ♥xxx ♦Kxxxxx ♣x. (No prior spade bid thus less than four spades; no Q or J of diamonds as no Weak 2 bid. Club shortness: Since 4♥ by me confirmed diamonds as trump, 5♣ has to be a cue bid. Considerate of my hand, my guess is shortness.

Kurt Dasher (Y/Y/N:6♦): Since 5♣ cannot be a cue bid, partner must have both minors. Even with minimum ♠xx ♥xx ♦KQxxx ♣Qxxx, 6♦ should be cold.

Jonathan Fleischmann (Y/Y/

N:6♦): Partner cooperated by making a control bid. If he is short in clubs, his stuff will probably be usefully placed in spades and diamonds.

Suzy Burger (Y/Y/N:6♦): Hoping for good diamonds and a heart lead.

Staying lower:

Sheldon Kirsch (Y/N:5♦/Y): I have six losers, and it is too optimistic to expect a 3♦ bid to cover five of them.

Morrie Kleinplatz: (Y/N:5♦/Y): Partner is a passed hand. I don't think it pays to look for the perfect cards. We are odds on to have a heart loser as well as a loser in one of the other suits.

Irv Rosenstein (Y/Y/Y): Partner was unable to control bid in spades. We rate to lose a spade and a heart, so no slam.

Don Rumelhart (Y/Y/Y): Partner is unlikely to have more than five diamonds or he would have bid 2♦ or 3♦ at his first turn. He did not show K of spades. His 5♣ bid looks to be a second suit. We could make slam if partner's hand is ♠Qx ♥xx ♦KQxxx ♣QJxx, and I might play for that hand at IMPs, but not at matchpoints where going plus is very important.

2. MTPTs. Both vul. As SOUTH, you hold:

♠8 ♥102 ♦AK97652 ♣K95

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

Pass Pass 1♠ 2♦

Pass 2NT Pass ?

Action	Score	Votes
3NT	100	12
3♦	70	7
3♣	50	1
Pass	30	0
5♦	20	0

Partner's 2NT shows about 10 HCPs, usually with a couple of diamonds. (Qx would be nice.) We rate to make nine tricks in notrump if diamonds run or if partner has a second stopper in whatever suit the opponents lead. So, live a little...

Howard Perlman (3NT): Probably depends on the opening lead. Could be cold or we might go for a number.

Don Rumelhart (3NT): It is right to bid 3NT or 3♦, so I will choose the one that pays the most.

Morrie Kleinplatz (3NT): Points schmoints.

Marilyn Maddox (3NT): Great possibility diamonds will run and partner has two tricks.

John Koschik (3NT): Excellent chance for seven diamond tricks. Even if down one, it could be a successful

3NT preempt.

Dennis Kasle (3NT): Hopefully a quick nine tricks.

Kurt Dasher (3NT): Diamonds likely to come home.

Bob Brent (3NT): Nine tricks should be easy...even opposite a passed partner.

*Notwithstanding the unbri-
dled optimism of some of the
above-quoted panelists, a 2-2
break is only 40 percent, so
3NT will often work out badly,
including scores like -300 or
even worse.*

Sheldon Kirsch (3♦): Tempting to bid 3NT but partner is a passed hand and there is probably a problem hiding in the bushes.

Irv Rosenstein (3♦): Partner has 10-11 points. Diamonds not guaranteed running. Game prospects not so great.

Dick Temkin (3♦): Opposite a passed hand, 3NT probably has less than a 50 percent chance to make. At match-points I'll take a somewhat conservative view for a likely plus score.

Gene Benedict (3♦): No need to stretch for games at match-points. Diamonds might not run if you bid 3NT.

Chuck Burger (3♦): Too many holes with pard a

passed hand and it's match-points, not IMPs. Sometimes pard can still take it in.

Joe Chiesa (3♦): Never pass as the play in 2NT and 3NT will most often depend on the same considerations. Vul at IMPs, I would bid 3NT.

Slow learner?

Bob Webber (3NT): I've always bid 3♦ with these hands, usually for average minus results. It's time for something else.

3. MTPTs. None vul. As SOUTH, you hold:

♠Q6 ♥10986 ♦A2 ♣AJ1063

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1♦ Pass 1♥

1♠ Pass 2♠ ?

Action	Score	Votes
Dbl	100	12
3♣	70	5
2NT	60	2
Pass	50	1

We have a decent 11-count, way too good to pass but not enough to force to game. 3♣ is forcing for most of us (I think) and would imply a fifth heart, which we don't have. With opponents bidding and raising spades, double should be responsive, showing values to compete to the three-level. That's just about perfect.

Marilyn Maddox (Dbl): Let partner decide what to do. We have the majority of the points.

Myles Maddox (Dbl): Showing high cards with no definite action to take.

John Koschik (Dbl): Too good to pass, not enough to bid a forcing 3♣.

Irv Rosenstein (Dbl): Not penalty. I am fine with any suit partner bids.

Don Rumelhart (Dbl): I am unwilling to sell at the two-level, but 3♣ would be forcing.

Howard Perlman (Dbl): Hate it but must compete. Partner didn't make a support double, so we should be able to live in 3 of a minor. Can't bid 3 forcing clubs. The bonus is when lefty overcalled a 4-card suit and partner passes!

How about 2NT (and what does it mean?)

Gene Benedict (2NT): Invites game. It lets partner off the hook if he is minimum. Partner might contribute Axx, Kxx or Ax in spades.

Bob Brent (2NT): Partner has only two hearts at most (no support double) and I want him to bid. My first inclination was to double, but my strength is in the minors. If I

bid 3♣, I think that would be forcing! I doubt my spade Q is useful.

Some play 3♣ is non-forcing here...

Suzy Burger (3♣): Competitive.

Chuck Burger (3♣): Non-forcing. Better hands start with double or cue.

Bob Webber (3♣): Partner will have six diamonds and/or 3+ clubs (no support double).

Jonathan Fleischmann (Dbl): The infamous request to do something intelligent. I'm too strong to pass or bid a non-forcing 3♣, and I do not have enough to commit to game.

Bob Katz (Dbl): Partner probably had a weak NT with 8 or possibly as many as nine cards in the minors. He didn't bid 2♣, so he must have a pretty weak hand or a 3-2-5-3 holding that cannot bid 1NT. Something like ♠Jxx ♥Ax ♦KQxxx ♣Qxx. In the methods I play with most partners, 3♣ by me would be non-forcing, typically showing a 6th club. The forcing bids would be double and cue bid. There are many hands where you are 4-6 and want to bid 3♣ to play.

Morrie Kleinplatz (Dbl): Second choice: 2NT. This hand probably plays best in 3♣, but an immediate 3♣ might be construed as forcing. Good sequence to discuss with partner.

Here is my contribution to that discussion: New suits by responder are forcing. I'm so old-fashioned.

Really going low; partner won't save him:

Joe Chiesa (Pass): A working 9-count sans a known fit. We may be able to make 3♣, but we cannot play 3♣ as that bid is forcing. Moreover partner has a bid left and will try mightily to avoid defending 2♠.

4. MTPTs. None vul. As SOUTH, you hold:

♠AKQ10753 ♥K8 ♦AJ ♣Q6
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 Pass 2♣
 Pass 2♦* Pass 2♠
 Pass 3♠ Pass 4♦
 Pass 5♣ Pass ?

*Artificial game force (usually 4+ HCPs)

Action	Score	Votes
5♥	100	8
5♠	80	5
6♠	80	5
5NT	60	2
6NT	50	0

Joe Chiesa (5♥): I shame Victor Frankenstein with the monster I have created with my 2♣ bid. Though a picture card light for 2♣, I was forced into 4♦ as 3♠ could show a big hand. Now with 4.5 losers opposite a hand that could not splinter over 2♠ I am forced to bid 5♥ in case partner needs second-round heart control for slam. Will pass 5♠ and go down 1, fittingly.

When we hold a big hand – big enough, perhaps, to open 2♣ – it is easy to forget that, having opened 2♣ we often have shown the full strength of our hand. There is a tendency to keep bidding until we get to slam because, well, we have a big hand.

The correct mind-set is to assume that the partner of the 2♣ bidder will eventually drive to slam if he has 10 points or more, and will make a slam try with a promising hand a little short of 10 points.

Here, we needn't have bid anything but 4♠ over 3♠, and we certainly should not be pushing toward slam now. To this point, partner has denied the ace of hearts and shown a club control. That is nowhere near enough for slam. Even if partner has ace of clubs and both red queens, we would still need a successful dia-

mond finesse and some place to put our little club. AK of clubs would give us a pitch for the diamonds, but we'd still need the ace of hearts onside (or ace of hearts lead).

Having come to this point we certainly are worth no more than a 5♥ cue bid, which will allow partner to bid 6♠ if he has extras but no heart control.

Dennis Kasle (5♥): This is why I play controls. I will bid 5♥, but I probably should bid 5♠.

Chuck Burger (5♥): Need more help. I'll pass 5♠.

Jonathan Fleischmann (5♥): Last Train-ish. Partner may have little more than the ace of clubs here, so I can't force slam. 5♥ should just ask partner if he has anything else to contribute.

Howard Perlman (5♥): Could be in jeopardy at the 5-level. Basically Last Train. I need a source of tricks.

Suzy Burger (5♠): Minimal 2♣ bid. We are off the heart ace. Need partner to have AK of clubs, K of diamonds.

Gene Benedict (5♠): I have bid this hand very strongly. I will give partner an out if he is minimum.

Bob Webber (5♠): This has not been a good auction so far. Using 3NT as a space saver in control bidding major suit auctions would have helped. If we had bid 3NT last round (denying the club ace) instead of 4♦, the auction would have gone 4♣-4♦-whatever by partner, all one level lower. I would not want to be at the 5- or 6-level on very many hands. Partner needs several key cards. I'm wondering also if control bidding by opener is mandatory no matter how ratty the 2♣ opening bid?

John Koschik (5NT): I'm a little light (I would have opened 1♠), but I have a heart card and it is the king.

Going for the gusto:

Bob Brent (6♠): I would have bid only 1♠ as opener. I won't quarrel with anyone who bids 6NT. No guarantee of slam despite my holding.

Bob Katz (6♠): Partner's raise to only 3♠ shows at least an ace or two kings. Had he bid 4♠ over 4♦, I would have known he held AK of clubs or ace of clubs and king of diamonds. We are missing the ace of hearts, but partner could have the queen. This should be no worse than a 50-

50 slam and could be cold.

The traditional view is that 4♠, instead of 3♠, would have denied an ace, king, singleton or void. Katz must have some special agreements.

Sheldon Kirsch (6♠): I'm not sure I like the 2♣ bid, but partner asked if I could control hearts and I can.

Morrie Kleinplatz (6♠): I'm trusting that partner, with no high honor in spades, would not bid 5♣ without anything else, hopefully a minor suit king and some other secondary honor.

Irv Rosenstein (6♠): Partner is interested in more than game; we are missing the heart ace, so 7 is out of the question.

I guess we can all agree on that last part.

5. MTPTs. None vul. As SOUTH, you hold:

♠K73 ♥void ♦AK2 ♣AKQ8653
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1♥ ?

Action	Score	Votes
Dbl	100	14
3♥	70	6
5♣	30	0
3♣	10	0

3♥ here asks partner to bid

3NT with a heart stopper. That certainly could be the winning move.

Gene Benedict (3♥): I have nine tricks. This asks partner to bid 3NT with a heart stopper.

Joe Chiesa (3♥): My second choice is double, but 1♥ whipped may not be our best spot (if partner passes).

Irv Rosenstein (3♥): Shows a long running minor. Partner should bid 3NT with a heart stopper. If not, I will bid a club game, unless I hear a spade control bid. Then I bid a club slam.

The majority apparently reserves 3♥ for a somewhat weaker hand...

Don Rumelhart (Dbl): This hand is way too good for any other initial action.

Dick Temkin (Dbl): Too good to bid 3♥. A spade game or slam in clubs or spades are possible. If we belong in 3NT we may still be able to bid it.

Chuck Burger (Dbl): Keeping options open. 3♥ asking for a stopper is possible, but I can still get there after double.

Sheldon Kirsch (Dbl): My hand is good enough to bid

5♣ on my own so I'll start with double. If partner can stop hearts, we can still get to 3NT.

Thinking about going big:

Bob Katz (Dbl): I have much too much to bid either 3♥ asking for a stopper or 2♣. We could easily have a small slam and might have more than that. The right 6-point hand produces a grand. If I was required to place the contract immediately, I would consider 6♣.

Planning on going big:

Howard Perlman (Dbl): What else? I'm going to bid 6♣ eventually. Just a matter of how quickly. Might catch Qxxxx of diamonds or a plethora of other good dummies.

Dreaming about going really big:

Bob Brent (Dbl): In my fantasy dreams, my partner responds 2♠ and I can bid 5NT, landing in the grand...

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Fromm
Charles Hirschert
Elmer Winkelman

NEXT ISSUE'S HANDS

1. MTPTs. N-S vul. As

SOUTH, you hold:

♠1032 ♥107 ♦AQ1073 ♣AQ3

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1♥ Pass 2♦*

Pass 3♦ Pass ?

*Game forcing

2. MTPTs. None vul. As

SOUTH, you hold:

♠A10 ♥K ♦AK10754 ♣AQ63

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1♣ Dbl

Pass 1♥ 2♣ ?

3. MTPTs. None vul. As

SOUTH, you hold:

♠KJ643 ♥void ♦AJ1054 ♣A65

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1♥ Pass 1♠

2NT 3♠ Pass ?

4. MTPTs. None vul. As

SOUTH, you hold:

♠K9873 ♥AKQJ102 ♦85 ♣void

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1♣ 1♦ 1♥

Pass 3NT Pass ?

5. IMPs. N-S vul. As SOUTH,
you hold:

♠AQ ♥AKQJ543 ♦104 ♣KJ

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

2♠ Pass Pass ?

Mail your answers to:

Table Talk Magazine

30660 Woodgate Dr.

Southfield MI 48076

Or email to:

MBATalk@aol.com

Letters:

Night not so golden

To the Editor:

I know the majority of bridge players are retired and now prefer playing during the day. But if we want bridge to continue past our lifespan, why are we discouraging younger players from entering tournaments by scheduling fewer events at night for newer, more novice pairs?

At the May tournament at Costick, my partner and I wanted to try for the gold points we need for Life Master. We found out we could earn gold if we played in two nights of side games, either Tue.-Wed. or Thu.-Fri. But when we arrived Thu., we found out there was not enough people for a side game. Fortunately, we found a pair willing to team up with us and we did well in Swiss teams.

Something very similar happened at the prior tournament earlier this year at the Bridge Connection.

My partner, like many of retirement age, still works a full-time day job. Must he retire to become a Life Master?

Not everyone is advanced enough or wants to play Swiss teams—especially per-

haps the very newer, younger players we need to encourage to play bridge. And it's clear if you overload the schedule with games during weekdays, there aren't going to be enough players left to play pairs games at night. Not enough pairs left with any energy after playing all day.

This, to me, is called shooting yourself in the foot. Kill your game with bad scheduling.

There are many easy solutions: Keep day games but with a lighter day schedule. Move evening times to 6:30 or even 6, early enough so seniors can go to bed before 11 but late enough so that working people can still play. Or play Swiss teams at 10 and 2 but pairs game only at night.

Or go back to the way the schedule used to be... I seem to recall pairs played at night and the tournaments were packed. In fact, players of all skill levels play at night regularly in non-tournament weekly games!

I don't get it.

— Michael Betzold

Dave Fletcher, president of SOMBA, which ran the May Regional, sent the following reply:

First, thank you for your well

thought out message.

Your concerns are ones long shared by our area bridge organizations. Despite all intentions to provide opportunities for the working players, we have found no real solution.

Local night games have poor attendance and many have closed. Many of our clubs struggle with high rent costs and cannot afford to run at a loss. We even sponsored some free night games played with mentors, and our table counts were 7, 5 and 10. Almost none were new players and only 2 the whole time worked full time.

Tournament events are constantly shuffled to try to find optimal events and times that maximize attendance and accommodate our cross-section of players—age and abilities.

We have tried regional and sectional tournaments with more night events, including ones for 299ers, and the attendance was dismal. We hold "learn bridge in a day" sessions on weekends to encourage the working people, but still it is the older population that shows up. We are going to try a class in a local school even though previous attempts have not been fruitful.

Our organizations talk all the time of ways to grow interest in bridge and are always open to new ideas. I am sorry there were not enough people for the side game you came for—we ended up cancelling many of the night games and also the knockouts.

Please maintain your passion for our game, and your ideas are welcome anytime.

Old-timers should be remembered

To the editor:

As time goes by the names of tournament and past “heroes” of the game become forgotten.

Who were these local people who made bridge the game it is, who now lend their names to tournament events or otherwise?

1. Russell Roosen: A club owner, bridge columnist, theorist and fine fellow!

2. Vincent and Joan Remey: Great people and excellent players who otherwise lived quiet and productive lives.

3. Grant Marsee: Is there a tournament named for him? [No, just a trophy.—Ed.]

4. Tom Weeks [He ran a large club game in the 1950s and '60s.—Ed.]

5. Judy Maddocks: Past editor of Table Talk for over a

decade. But never named to a tournament? Exceptionally fine woman, teacher, mother, wife and person who loved the game.

Would such an occasional article not be fitting at tournament times to tell the new players about the birth of duplicate bridge in the Detroit area? Do people remember that Helen Shanbrom was a regular Detroit player? And how about Sylvia Stein, Floyd Sayed and Phil Leon...gone and probably forgotten. Even Helen Sobel Smith, the greatest of all was a local playing resident in her older stages of life.

— Seymour Mandell

2017 STEIN TROPHY RACE

Compiled by William Arlinghaus

Here are the Stein standings with just the Motor City Regional left on the tournament calendar:

- 1, Jonathan Fleischmann, 79.98
- 2, Sheldon Kirsch, 78.92
- 3, Martin Hirschman, 69.41
- 4, Robert Katz, 61.52
- 5, Richard Temkin, 57.76
- 6, Kurt Dasher, 48.84
- 7, Daniel Marcus, 46.79
- 8, Sandy Birnholtz, 45.67
- 9, Cono Emanuele, 45.26
- 10, Lynne Schaeffer, 42.67

MBA-SOMBA Joint Sectional

June 22-25

MASTERPOINT LEADERS:

- 1, Sheldon Kirsch, 27.40
- 2, Sandy Birnholtz, 27.20
- 3, Martin Hirschman, 26.89
- 4, Richard Temkin, 23.66
- 5, Michael Alioto, 23.47
- 6, Gary Hann, 21.98
- 7, Michael Crane, 20.36
- 8, Lynne Cook, 20.12
- 9, Debra Eaves, 18.67
- 10, Daniel Marcus, 18.52

THURSDAY AM PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Sandy Birnholtz, Grant Petersen. 2, Richard Temkin, Michael Crane. 3, Charles Schiff, Bob Webber.

FLIGHT B: 1, Birnholtz, Petersen. 2, Lakshmi Vora, Thomas Ciaramitaro. 3, Michael McDonald, William Rouse.

FLIGHT C: 1, Theresa & Rebecca Bellinger 2, Shiv Tangri, James McNamee II. 3, Raj Patil, Barb Marti.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Martin Hirschman, Dennis Kastle. 2, James Smyth, Nancy Finkel. 3, Larry Simon, Scott Roland. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Smyth, Finkel. 2, Simon, Roland. 3, Dolores Bright, Steve O'Guin. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Peter Malcolmson, Margaret Carden. 2, Raj Patil, Barb Marti. 3, Glo-

ria Bennett, Diane Wellstein.

THURSDAY SWISS TEAMS

FLIGHT A: 1, Duaine Benard, Gary Luoma, Louise Less, Rosemary Bailey. 2, Larry Lewis, Naresh Kapila, Thomas Ciaramitaro, Lakshmi Vora. 3, Owen Lien, Michael Alioto, Kurt Dasher, Brenda Bryant.

FLIGHT B: 1 & 2, same as A. 3, Robert Raf, Grant Petersen, Clarke Cunningham, Sandy Birnholtz. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Kenneth & Arlene Geisler, Patricia & Scott Miller. 2/3, Richard Muntz, Susan Yester, William Niemczyk, Barb Ferrera. 2/3, George Pope, David Dursum, Robin Myles, David Winer.

THURSDAY EVENING PAIRS

FLIGHT A & B: 1, Yanping Zhang, Henry Zhang. 2, Seymour & Marlene Mandell. 3, Chris Wiggins, William Landrum. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Zhang & Zhang. 2, Dennis Ebendick, Tyrone Loving. 3, Michael Betzold, Gerald Wahl.

FRIDAY AM PAIRS FLIGHT A:

1, Judi Amatangelo, Ginny Poulter. 2, David Winer, David Harris. 3, Jean Boettcher, Steven Gaynor. **FLIGHT B:** 1 & 2, same as A. 3, Richard Cantley, Dennis Waniolek. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Winer, Harris. 2, Cantley, Waniolek. 3, Rosemary Sharland, Arlene Borland.

FRIDAY AM SWISS TEAMS

FLIGHT A: 1, Robert Katz, Jonathan Fleischmann, Owen Lien, Jerrold Grossman, Jack Shartsis. 2, Michael Kaleel, Neal Strand, Deepak Dighe, Ching-Po Wang. 3, Renay Danto Weiner, Brenda Jaffe, Walter Goldsmith, Richard Becher. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Kaleel team. 2, Anthony Savant, Harrison Fletcher, Larry Lewis, Naresh Kapila. 3, William Landrum, Victoria Vallone, Barb Ferrera, Tom Baer. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Kenneth & Arlene Geisler, Margie Ried, Dennis Ebendick.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Gary Hann, Edward White. 2, Clarke Cunningham, Sandy Birnholtz. 3, Anastasia Tessler, Bert Newman. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Cunningham, Birnholtz. 2, Judi Amatangelo, Ginny Poulter. 3, Bonnie Weinstein, Lynda Thal. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Marilyn Collins, Jean Grande. 2, Rosemary Sharland, Arlene Borland. 3, Renata Wasserman, Martha Toon.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SWISS TEAMS

FLIGHT A: 1, Daniel Marcus, Sheldon Kirsch, Richard Temkin, Michael Alioto. 2, Carol Kastle, Lynne Cook, Rose Burke, Sondra Schubiner. 3, Robert Mendelson, Jack Shartsis, Bob Webber, Charles Schiff. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Inderpal & Martha Bhatia, James Egan,

Graham Putnam. 2, Thom Allen, Dan Sutherland, Joyce Bell, Ruth Brownstein. 3, Michael Kaleel, Neal Strand, Ching-Po Wang, Deepak Dighe. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Bhatia team.

SATURDAY SWISS TEAMS

FLIGHT A: 1, Edward White, Martin Hirschman, Gary Hann, Sheldon Kirsch. 2, Cono Emanuele, Lori Strager, Michael Crane, Michael Alioto. 3, Richard Becher, Michael Giordano, Jerrold Grossman, Debra Eaves. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Anthony Savant, Harrison Fletcher, Larry Lewis, Naresh Kapila. 2, Michael Kaleel, Arthur & Linda Golumbia, John Dreifus. 3, Mary Bennett, Deepak Dighe, Shobhana Joshi, Thomas Ciar-amitaro. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Patti Stoner, Genadiy Hirscht, Robert Hammell, D. Abraham.

SATURDAY AM PAIRS FLIGHT

A: 1, Lynne Cook, Rose Burke. 2, John Koschik, Dennis Carman. 3, Jean Boettcher, Steven Gaynor. **FLIGHT B & C:** 1, Henry Zhang, Yanping Zhang. 2, Steven Kaplan, Randy Rodnick. 3, William Smallwood, John Borden.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS FLIGHT

A: 1, Bert & Kathy Newman. 2, John Koschik, Dennis Carman. 3, Marilyn Crane, Charlotte Miller. **FLIGHT B & C:** 1, Henry Zhang,

Yanping Zhang. 2, James McNamara, Douglas Sweeder. 3, Stuart Collis, Guy Conti.

SUNDAY SWISS TEAMS

FLIGHT A: 1, Daniel Marcus, Martin Hirschman, Dennis Kastle, Mark Bendure. 2, Kurt Dasher, Jonathan Fleischmann, Sheldon Kirsch, Michael Alioto. 3, Gordon & Susan Parnes, Brenda Bryant, Robert Katz. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Margaret Moore, Robert Raf, Clarke Cunningham, Sandy Birnholtz. 2, Shobana Joshi, Deepak Dighe, Mark Bumler, John Piljan. 3, S. Berry, Sue Berry, Freda Mills, Mary Lou Schaffer. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Bob Ondo, Inderpal & Martha Bhatia, Mark Hugger.

SUNDAY AM PAIRS FLIGHT A:

1, Jane Gardner, Gary Luoma. 2, Barb Ferrera, James Walter. 3, Bruce Ridley, Douglas Sweeder. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Ridley, Sweeder. 2, Daniel Rose, Ronald Whitney.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS

FLIGHT A & B: 1, Rosemary Sharland, Arlene Borland. 2, Mollie Stein, Leba Rautbort. 3, Tan Yang, Chun Zhou. **FLIGHT C:** 1 & 2, same as A & B.

299er winners at June sectional

THURSDAY AM PAIRS: Linda & Mel Marx

THURSDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS: Chris Hill, Ann Margosian

FRIDAY AM PAIRS: Gay Garcia, Lucretia Karo

FRIDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS: Bruce Ridley, Stanley Kurzman

SATURDAY AM PAIRS: Pearl Lim, Mary Stewart

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS: Mike Bishel, Ronald Bishel.

Hwang tops at August sectional

New Yorker Kelley Hwang stopped by Southfield Aug. 24-27 and scooped up over 40 masterpoints to lead all players at the Russell Roosen Sectional. Here are the results of the tournament:

MASTERPOINT LEADERS

1, Kelley Hwang, 40.55
2, Jonathan Fleischmann, 34.87
3, Michael Alioto, 32.35
4/5, Sheldon Kirsch, 25.61
4/5, Morrie Kleinplatz, 25.61
6, Zachary Wasserman, 23.49
7/8, Owen Lien, 23.26
7/8, Jeffrey Starr, 23.26
9, Martin Hirschman, 22.67
10, William Winokur, 20.15

THURSDAY AM OPEN PAIRS FLIGHT A:

1, Steve O'Guin, Dolores Bright. 2, Charlotte Kartsonis, Brenda Jaffe. 3, Neal Strand, Daniel Marcus. **FLIGHT B:** 1, O'Guin, Bright. 2, Judi Amatangelo, Lynn Root. 3, Sandy Birnholtz, Grant Petersen. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Frederic

Fayle, James Banaszek. 2, Arlene & Kenneth Geisler. 3, Fran Wigod, Mari Kaftan.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SWISS TEAMS FLIGHT A: 1, Martin Hirschman, Myles Maddox, Mary Smith, Dennis Kasle. 2, Kelley Hwang, Zachary Wasserman, Jerrold Grossman, Owen Lien. 3, Alan Cohn, Grant Petersen, Bob Rasmussen, Arthur Wasserman. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Cohn team. 2, Michael Kaleel, Richard Menczer, Carolyn Simmer, John Dreifus. 3, Wilbur Argersinger, James Walter, Philip Smith, Susan Woodrow. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Tony Willemssen, Song Lin, Tai Chan, Bob Ondo.

THURSDAY NIGHT OPEN PAIRS FLIGHT A: 1, Kurt Dasher, Michael Alioto. 2, Subhash & Kiran Gulati. 3/4, Michael McGaw, Peter Bolger. 3/4, Fran & Gerald Wigod. **FLIGHT B:** 1/2, same as A. 3/4. 3, Rita Rubin, Daniel Schiffer. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Wiggs. 2, Rubin, Schiffer.

FRIDAY AM OPEN PAIRS FLIGHT A: 1, Morrie Kleinplatz, Sheldon Kirsch. 2, Jonathan Fleischmann, Kelley Hwang. 3, Richard Yanko, Jeffrey Starr. **FLIGHT B:** 1, James Rowe, Dolores Bright. 2, Ste-

ven Winokur, Wilbur Argersinger. 3, Neal Strand, Michael Kaleel. **FLIGHT C:** 1, John & Barbara Reed. 2, Cassandra Rodger, David Cleveland. 3, Mark Hugger, Bob Ondo.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON OPEN PAIRS FLIGHT A: 1, Robert Mendelson, William Winokur. 2, Michael Alioto, Michael Crane. 3, Henry Zhang, Yanping Zhang. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Zhang, Zhang. 2, Judi Amantangelo, Marilyn Crane. 3, Steven Kaplan, Larry Cohen. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Zhang, Zhang. 2, Kaplan, Cohen. 3, R. Bloom, Evelyn Liehr.

FRIDAY NIGHT OPEN PAIRS FLIGHTS A, B & C: 1, Henry Zhang, Yanping Zhang. 2, Rita Rubin, Peter Bolgar. 3, Robert Raf, Ronna Galin.

SATURDAY OPEN SWISS TEAMS FLIGHT A: 1, Robert Katz, Linda Perlman, Owen Lien, Jonathan Fleischmann. 2, Michael Alioto, Kelley Hwang, Morrie Kleinplatz, Sheldon Kirsch. 3, Steven Winokur, Bob Webber, William Winokur, Frank Treiber III. **FLIGHT B:** 1/2, Ronna Galin, Robert Raf, Michael McGaw, James Smyth. 1/2, Cristina Tita, Timur Aydin, Arthur Wasserman, Bob Ras-

mussen. 3, Dennis Waniolek, Thomas Ciaramitaro, Lakshmi Vora, Eva Rival. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Waniolek team. 2, Margie Ried, Barbara Button, Sandra Weaver, Marietta Ankoviak.

SATURDAY AM OPEN PAIRS FLIGHT A: 1, Anastasia Tessler, Wilbur Argersinger. 2, Cono Emanuele, Henry Shevitz. 3, Michael McDonald, Sandy Birnholtz. **FLIGHT B:** 1, McDonald, Birnholtz. 2, Carolyn Simmer, Neal Strand. 3, Zachary Wasserman, Kimberly Music. **FLIGHT C:** 1, R. Bloom, Gerald Bloom. 2, Steven Kaplan, Shelley Boschan.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON OPEN PAIRS FLIGHT A & B: 1, Zachary Wasserman, Kimberly Music. 2, Henry Zhang, Yanping Zhang. 3, Ofer Haramati, Arnold Cohen. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Zhang, Zhang. 2, Steven Kaplan, Shelley Boschan.

SUNDAY OPEN SWISS TEAMS FLIGHT A: 1, Jeffrey Starr, Howard Perlman, Suzy & Chuck Burger. 2, Kelley Hwang, Kurt Dasher, Jonathan Fleischmann, Michael Alioto. 3, Edward White, Martin Hirschman, Robert Katz, Suzanne Stevenson. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Michael Kaleel, Neal Strand, Richard Menczer, John Dreifus. 2, Wilbur Arger-

singer, James Walter, David Aderente, John Koschik. 3/4, Deepak Dighe, Lynda Thal, John Vollmeyer, John Piljan. 3/4, Thomas Ciaramitaro, Victoria Vallone, Barb Ferrera, Bob Ondo. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Dighe team. 2, Martha Toon, Corey Powell, Renata Wasserman, Lynn Cundy. 3, Thom Allen, Douglas Sweeder, Irving Hershman, Ronna Galin.

499er winners at August sectional

THURSDAY AM PAIRS: Michael Fant, Paul Tilly

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SWISS TEAMS: Pamela George, Robert Palmer, Arlene Borland, Rosemary Sharland

THURSDAY NIGHT PAIRS: Craig & Marianne Linderman

FRIDAY AM PAIRS: Rosemary Sharland, Arlene Borland

FRIDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS: Barbara Kaluz, Carol Borich

SATURDAY AM PAIRS: James Egan, Ronald Zurilla

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS: John Abbott, Catherine Curran

SUNDAY AM PAIRS: Carrie Osborne, James Korte

SUNDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS: Rosemary Sharland, Arlene Borland

CEO

(Continued from page 1)

Having any group of 25 people vote for any initiative is difficult. Add in the political nature of serving on the ACBL board and it becomes almost impossible.

The board is too big. I served on a task force which worked to overhaul the national board structure, but our attempt was met with resistance and was ultimately unsuccessful. Looking back, this was the likely catalyst that caused me to reevaluate my role in the organization.

I take the blame for the committee's failure as I should have insisted on hiring an outside board expert rather than having us figure it out on our own. This independent voice would have also added credibility to the process. The expenditure of \$30,000 or \$40,000 would have been a drop in the bucket for the potential upside of a restructure. I found a consultant and didn't fight hard enough to onboard her.

Another problem is that the units, districts and bridge clubs aren't aligned with a shared vision. In fact many times they are at odds. For example, a sectional that

comes to town should be celebrated by the bridge community, yet it is many times viewed negatively as it takes away revenue from the hard-working local clubs that "created" these players.

TABLE TALK: What is the negative consequence of the ACBL board being too large? What would be better? Why?

HARTMAN: There are two issues here. A large board and a board where 100% of the board members are elected rather than selected. The only positive is geographic diversity and local representation, which of course is important to units and districts. In one district meeting, a district board member said, "Who cares if anything gets accomplished...so long as our district has representation!"

Anytime you have a board of more than 10-12 people, it takes a very long time to get things accomplished and bureaucracy reigns.

TABLE TALK: How have the problems with the board structure negatively affected the organization? Be specific if possible.

HARTMAN: I believe the 25-person board has been detrimental to the organization, not

because of the people who serve, but because of the structure. As one board member explained to me “structure drives behavior.” The board members are smart, passionate people who love the game of bridge, but the structure doesn’t allow them to perform.

Here’s a good example of the lunacy that can happen: At one meeting, a board member submitted a dozen or so motions. Even though none of them had a prayer of passing, the president assigned each one to a committee. The committees asked that the motions be pulled as they were not gaining traction. The board member stood firm and said each motion should be voted on. I believe each one failed, 24-1, at full board. This process took a lot of manhours. I conservatively estimate 2 hours per motion x 12 motions x 30 people (board and staff).

TABLE TALK: You referred to “the political nature of serving on the ACBL board,” as a negative. Can you explain what the problem is and what we should do about it?

HARTMAN: I believe the majority of the board should be selected, not elected. I worked hard on a committee to ac-

complish this, but was unsuccessful and didn’t gain traction.

The committee consisted of three board members, three Board of Governors members and three members of staff.

TABLE TALK: What can and should we do about and for our clubs?

HARTMAN: Our structure really doesn’t work for today’s clubs. For example, a club can invest in a facility and educate hundreds of players in a region. Then, a non-profit club opens in a church down the street at 1/3 the price and many of those players shift to the new club. It’s not fair.

I believe protecting a bridge club’s territory would be a positive for the game. It would allow clubs to invest back into the game and offer them assurance. This would be more of a franchise model rather than a sanctioning model. Of course, the legal ramifications would need to be explored as this could jeopardize the not-for-profit status of the league. These are types of items that the Board should be exploring!

TABLE TALK: What do you see as your major accomplishments in the job?

HARTMAN: There were many accomplishments during my time at the ACBL.

I am most proud of the way that we handled cheating. We took swift and deliberate action to prosecute incidents of cheating – whether they happened at the local or national level. We created an anti-cheating commission made up of some of the top bridge minds to help assist the League with ways we can detect cheating going forward. They were a listening ear for me and gave of their time to help protect the future of our game. We tried more cheating cases in the last few years than the League tried in the last few decades.

Membership increased by a few thousand, when the rumblings were that “bridge is dying.” We were able to get renewed publicity for our game and raise a boatload of money with the creation of The Longest Day, in support of the Alzheimer’s Association.

We were also able to shore up the Tournament Director work force through the creation of training programs. There was a real fear that the TD ranks were facing a retirement cliff without the next generation of TDs ready to lead. I believe those fears are

now gone thanks to the work of my team.

The online NABC event which netted well over \$100,000 was another significant move in the right direction. The League must embrace these types of events that allow members from all over the country (and the world) to participate in an NABC via the use of technology. These types of events are the future.

Finally, helping to get the ACBL Educational Foundation out from under the ACBL Board of Directors will pay dividends for decades to come. A new non-profit board was constituted—the right way—with people with the 3Ws—work, wisdom and wealth. Having a team that is selected, rather than elected just works better as you have put the right people with the right skills on the board. I look forward to seeing what that board innovates. I expect great things.

TABLE TALK: You mentioned the online NABC event held this summer. Do you see this expanding to more/different events? How would that work? Would there be regional and sectional online events as well? Pair and team

games with live as opposed to robot partners?

HARTMAN: All of the above should be explored in a measured way. It is critical that online is complementary, not competitive to face-to-face offerings. Ultimately, a revenue share model would likely need to be developed. Another big picture strategic item that the board should be focused on.

TABLE TALK: Whether it is merited or not, there is a lot of concern about cheating in online events. How do we deal with that?

HARTMAN: I felt very confident that BBO placed excellent security measures in place. For example, if you played a certain set of hands, nobody you've ever played with in the past (face-to-face or online) would see any of those same hands online! Also, if any player is repeatedly taking unusual lines of play these are flagged. Pretty amazing what technology can do.

TABLE TALK: Where do we stand and what do we need to be doing regarding...finances?

HARTMAN: We have about \$7,000,000 in the bank and

are on firm footing

TABLE TALK: ... Headquarters/office staff/customer service?

HARTMAN: Excellent. We are blessed to have such a solid team of people in Horn Lake, led by Carol Robertson.

TABLE TALK: ... The masterpoint system/possible new rating system?

HARTMAN: This is a major issue that will face the new CEO. I look forward to seeing the new possible systems that may be out there.

TABLE TALK: ... New player recruitment, demographics and the future of bridge?

HARTMAN: While member recruitment is solid, the average age does continue to creep up. That should cause some fear. The average age of a new ACBL member is 65. [The average age of all current ACBL members is about 72.—Ed.] So, while we were able to attract new members, we weren't able to make a dent into the age statistic.

TABLE TALK: ... The Bulletin and other publications?

HARTMAN: The Bulletin is in good shape. The team of Paul, Sue, Chip and Cindy do

a great job and the magazine is well received by the membership.

TABLE TALK: Can you tell us a little more about the family business you will be joining?

HARTMAN: My uncle owns a food manufacturing business

in Florida – Variety Foods and Farm Fresh Pickles. He had been trying to get me to join the company for a while, and I felt the time was right to join him. We have about 50 employees and manufacture mostly deli items (tuna salad, chicken salad, stuffed cabbage, chopped liver and pickles).

Nightmare

By James Walter

Bridge is a tough enough game. It gets worse when you feel that you have three opponents at the table.

In a recent club game (names omitted to protect the guilty), as dealer I picked up: ♠A97 ♥AJ10 ♦AQ2 ♣AQ104. The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

LHO leads a low heart and the following dummy appears: ♠10853 ♥9843 ♦54 ♣865. Nightmare!

East follows with the 5 and 10 wins the opening lead. I cash the ace of hearts and RHO sluffs a spade. I exit with the jack of hearts. LHO wins that and cashes two more hearts, RHO sluffing a club and two more spades.

Next I win the diamond re-

turn and cash the ace of spades, noting the fall of the jack and queen. I now exit with a spade, win the diamond return, cross to the 10 of spades, cash the good 8 of spades and finesse the club to make the contract! The whole deal was:

♠10853		
♥9843		
♦54		
♣865		
♠J		♠KQ642
♥KQ762		♥5
♦J9873		♦K106
♣72		♣KJ93
	♠A97	
	♥AJ10	
	♦AQ2	
	♣AQ104	

As I awoke from the nightmare, I may have muttered to my partner something like "Don't ever do that again."

[East surely should have kept three spades and thrown a diamond. –Ed.]

Hamlet on Bridge

By William Shakespeare
and Martin Hirschman

Who wouldst have thought that a late 16th century bard would so insightfully anticipate the “slings and arrows of outrageous fortune” in our game 500 years later? It’s all there in his most respected play...

Act I

“A little more than kin, and less than kind.” **We got divorced, but we still play the Mixed Pairs together.**

“Oh that this too, too sullied flesh would melt, Thaw and resolve itself into a dew!” **I crashed my partner’s king of trump under my ace. How embarrassing.**

“How weary, stale, flat and unprofitable seem to me all the uses of the world!” **We were short a trick in 7NT because we had KQ doubleton opposite Ax of spades.**

“Frailty, thy name is woman!” **I should have grabbed 3NT so I didn’t have to watch my wife bungle the play.**

“Neither a borrower nor a lender be.” **Please stop underbidding... and overbidding.**

“This above all: To thine own self be true, And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man.” **Don’t psych!**

“It is a custom More honor’d in the breach than the observance.” **If a Weak Two Bid shows six, why does everyone keep opening 2♠ with just five?**

“Something is rotten in the state of Denmark.” **Partner opened 1♣, RHO overcalled 1NT and I have 20 HCPs.**

“That one may smile and smile and be a villain.” **That nice pair was using pre-arranged signals!**

“Oh day and night, but this is wondrous strange.” **We won the two-session pair game!**

“There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.” **Suits don’t always divide evenly; you need to plan for possible bad breaks.**

“The time is out of joint. O cursed spite, That ever I was born to set it right!” **Declarer claimed down one, losing a diamond with Axx opposite K10x, but I’m obliged to tell him my QJ is dropping doubleton.**

Act II

"Tis true 'tis pity; And pity 'tis true." **Trump are 5-0 offside.**

"Though this be madness, yet there is method in 't." **The opponents bid Blackwood, but it is our side that had a slam!**

"There is nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so." **My husband talks a good game, but he's deluding himself.**

"What a piece of work is a man! How noble in reason! How infinite in faculty!" **My partner made 6NT on a compound double squeeze.**

"Oh what a rogue and peasant slave am I!" **I fell for that obvious falsecard like a ton of bricks.**

"The play's the thing..." **Just bid 3NT and try to make it!**

Act III

"To be or not to be. That is the question." **I should kill myself after going down in that cold 3NT.**

"The undiscovered country." **I should have played on clubs, not diamonds.**

"I was the more deceived." **If you wanted a spade return, why did you signal for a diamond?**

"The lady doth protest too much methinks." **She's blaming me for her mistakes again.**

"Words without thoughts never to heaven go." **That was a great bid... for a different hand.**

"I must be cruel only to be kind." **I had to go down to punish partner for his overbidding.**

Act IV

"Good night, ladies; good night sweet ladies; good night, good night." **I won and you lost!**

"Alas poor Yorick! I knew him, Horatio." **He died of a heart attack at the table after going down in a Grand Slam on a 4-0 trump break.**

"The cat will mew and dog will have his day." **Every anti-percentage play my opponents took worked out for them today.**

Act V

"Good night, sweet prince. And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest." **Declarer guessed to hook me out of my Jxxx.**

"The rest is silence." **The first is "Partner, you are an idiot."**

ACBL Masterpoint Insanity

**By Jonathan Steinberg,
Toronto**

From a post on BridgeWinners.com

We all recognize that the ACBL is in the business of selling masterpoints, and has been for some time. We all recognize masterpoint inflation over the years and the proliferation of events and strats to make "everyone" a winner.

Even so, there has always been some underlying logic to masterpoint formulas. Several years ago the ACBL introduced the "Strength of Field" (SoF) concept to regional bracketed KO events. In my opinion, it was and remains a huge success. There were motions to introduce the SoF concept to matchpoint pair events and Swiss teams. Sadly, at the last minute a concerted effort by a few ACBL Board members scuttled the proposals.

Today we have a masterpoint award system devoid of logic and reason. Bottom line: If you are playing in a stand-alone open pairs or Swiss event, the awards will be small. If your event is opposite a similar limited (usually under 750 masterpoints) Gold Rush event, the award will be large, ridiculously so.

For example, at the recent Greenville SC regional, one day there was a 16-table open pairs opposite a Swiss team event. There was no Gold Rush Pairs. The 16-table open paid 11 or 12 masterpoints to win. One day there was a 12-table Flight A/X Pairs opposite a mid-flight pairs and a Gold Rush Pairs. First place in Flight A paid a remarkable 32 points to win! The examples above are typical throughout ACBL land.

Since masterpoints are at the heart of ACBL's business, it is incumbent upon the ACBL Board of Directors to at the very least have some internal consistency among masterpoint award charts. That is not the case today.

Creating some logic and sanity in ACBL masterpoint awards will not solve the demographic issues, as the average ACBL member nears his/her mid-70s, but it must be done. The Greenville Regional appears to be headed towards a 10% drop in attendance which is the trend throughout the ACBL. Very worrisome.

Hopefully, ACBL's new CEO, Bahar Gidwani, will be able to start to reverse the downward trend. A modicum of fairness, logic and internal consistency in masterpoint awards would be a fine start.

SOLUTION TO AT THE WHEEL

From back page

NORTH	
♠KQ642	
♥J72	
♦6	
♣AK83	
WEST	EAST
♠85	♠J973
♥KQ5	♥A984
♦KQ932	♦874
♣972	♣104
SOUTH	
♠A10	
♥1063	
♦AJ105	
♣QJ65	

You have four club tricks and the ace of diamonds, so you will need four fast spade tricks.

The percentage play in spades is to play low to the 10. This picks up Jx, Jxx or Jxxx in East, but loses to Jxx in West. A priori, the finesse is a straight 50 percent, while playing for 3-3 spades is about 36 percent. Note that if West had Jx of spades, dropping it would do no good because then East would have 9xxx, preventing you from scoring the fourth round of the suit.

For the finesse-the-10-of-spades line to work, you will

need two entries to dummy outside of spades — one to take the finesse and another after you (hopefully) win the 10 of spades and cash the ace. So, on the fourth heart, pitch a diamond, not a club. You will need two little clubs in hand to enjoy the two entries to dummy in clubs.

After the diamond switch, win the ace and play a club to dummy's ace, saving the K of clubs for later re-entry. Then just lead a spade to the 10.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Badri Agarwal
John Bank
Connie Diceasare
Mary Maynard
Sandra Plunkett

WELCOME TRANSFERS

Chere Bates
Brenda Bryant
Ileen Gottlieb
Bonnie Hilligoss
Kathryn Kinser
Paul Lewis
Evie Lichter
Rosemary Mountain
Jack Ryan

MOVING UP...

JUNIOR MASTERS

Julie Grygotis
Alice Hart

CLUB MASTERS

Nancy Kanat
Helen Klar
Donna Tope

SECTIONAL MASTERS

Mike Bishel
P. Steven Dotson
Lynn McGann
Catherine Molloy
Dorothy
Saulsberry

REGIONAL MASTERS

Marce Lee
Rosalyn
Monticciolo

NABC MASTERS

Michael Betzold
James Korte

ADVANCED NABC MASTERS

Carrie Osborne

SILVER LIFE MASTERS

Anne Paddock
Murray Rosenthal

RUBY LIFE MASTERS

Steve O'Guin
Arthur Wasserman

CONGRATULATIONS, NEW LIFE MASTERS

Dennis Ebendick
Timothy Romlein
Charles A. Smith

GOLD LIFE MASTERS

Terry T. Brown
Ray Gentz

DIAMOND LIFE MASTER

Michael Giordano

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You have seen me for years around the Bridge Club. Not sure if you knew that I spend the rest of my time selling Real Estate. Recently, I was invited to join Signature Sotheby's International Realty. I accepted the invitation and now find myself working for the company that offers the best in worldwide marketing exposure. This company will allow me to provide you the best customer service, and as always, my personal attention utilizing the most sophisticated marketing tools as well as the latest technology available in the real estate industry. Please call for a complimentary home consultation today!

AT THE WHEEL

By Marty Hirschman

IMPs.
E-W vul

				NORTH ♠KQ642 ♥J72 ♦6 ♣AK83							
WEST								EAST			
				SOUTH ♠A10 ♥1063 ♦AJ105 ♣QJ65							
WEST		NORTH		EAST		SOUTH					
						1♦					
Pass		1♠		Pass		1NT					
Pass		2♣*		Pass		2NT					
Pass		3NT		All Pass							

*New Minor Forcing

West leads the heart king and East encourages. West continues with the heart queen, followed by a low heart to East's ace. East then tables the 13th heart (after which he will switch to the 8 of diamonds). What do you pitch on the last heart? Plan the play. Solution, page 34.