



TABLE TALK

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The War on Cheating

By now you have probably heard all about the cheating scandal that has rocked top-level bridge. Three of the most successful international pairs, all frequent competitors in North American championships, have been unofficially “outed” for allegedly using prearranged signals. Although there have been no hearings on any of the charges, they were supported by some very persuasive video compilations and analyses. You can read and view all the gory details on bridgewinners.com

The very top players in the world reportedly are commanding annual salaries of up to \$600,000 from a few very wealthy patrons. By tapping into this source of big revenues, the cheaters have committed a massive fraud on the bridge community and on their clients. And in a very fundamental and real-world way, they are going to get away

with it.

Not only is there no discussion at all of criminal charges, but the handful of wealthy clients who have been paying for the “services” of the cheaters have shown no interest in suing to at least try to get their money back.

For example, there is this comment by Pierre Zimmermann, patron of the Monaco squad, which included the accused Italian pair Fantoni and Nunes.

“I am now in my sixties. I am quiet and Zen. Some friends may have problems or may have done wrong things. It can be a fault but they remain friends. I forget the past. In 2015 I paid to ALL my teammates the bonus for results mentioned in the contract I signed. Whatever happens I will sue nobody.”

Financially, the cheaters are going to get away with it,

(Continued on page 2)

whether or not they are ever allowed to play organized bridge again.

Even that last matter (of expulsion from tournament bridge) is in some doubt, with hearings pending in ACBL-land and abroad. Historically, ACBL's efforts to give cheaters the treatment they deserve have been undercut by fear of litigation costs if expelled players file a lawsuit. The league was not fully prepared to defend these cases, and they often were settled on terms that allowed cheaters to return from expulsion. Possibly as a result, the league's top disciplinary committees have been reluctant to impose expulsion or other big penalties.

Fortunately ACBL has gotten smarter and better at prosecuting cheating cases, with more resources and personnel deployed to meet this threat to our game. Further steps are being taken now to videotape top matches and to enlist help from the expert bridge community in ferreting out the miscreants. Hopefully the World Bridge Federation and their other zonal organizations around the world will follow suit.

In its November issue, Bridge World Magazine observed, "There is wide disa-

greement over what should happen in the future. Some say that if there is cheating going on, *someone* must step in and do something about it.

...

"This situation very forcefully brings home the point that organizationally taking the path of least resistance when handling accusations of improper behavior is a very bad idea. It doesn't work. It has never worked. There is no reason to believe that it ever will work. There are strong indications that bridge organizations have failed to develop the players' respect when it comes to the policing and enforcement of behavioral requirements. Unless there is a dramatic shift in the official approach to such matters, we have reason to fear a continuing stream of public accusations with all their negative consequences, because whether or not there is cheating there will be a lingering belief that the possibility has remained unchecked."

To stop cheating, the League must take a firm stand, borrowing a concept from the War on Terror: WE DON'T NEGOTIATE WITH CHEATERS.

—Marty Hirschman,
Table Talk Editor

**Michigan Bridge Association's
Michael Graham Ann Arbor Sectional
January 30-31, 2016
Eastern Michigan University Student Center
900 Oakwood St., Ypsilanti MI 48197
734-487-1157**

Saturday, January 30

Stratified Open Swiss Teams Playthrough—7 matches..... 11 a.m.
*Stratified Non-LM Pairs (single session) 11 a.m.
*Stratified Non-LM Pairs (single session) 3 p.m.

Sunday, January 31

Stratified Open Swiss Teams Playthrough—7 matches.... 11 a.m.
*Stratified Non-LM Pairs (single session) 11 a.m.
*Stratified Non-LM Pairs (single session) 3 p.m.

***Starred events are open only to non-Life Masters
with fewer than 500 masterpoints**

***Free coffee and snacks. Free parking. There will be a lunch
break during which food will be available for purchase at the
food court in the building.***

Stratified Events: A = 3000+, B = 1000-3000, C = 0-1000
Non-LM Strats: (0-50) (50-200) (200-500) (as attendance warrants)
Average MP will be used to determine your strat.

Directions from Detroit suburbs:

**Take M-14 to U.S. 23 southbound to exit 37A (Washtenaw
Avenue toward Ypsilanti). Go east on Washtenaw Avenue
for 2.9 miles.**

**When you first come to the Eastern Michigan University
campus, turn left (north). This is Oakwood Street (there is
a traffic signal but no street sign).**

**Go .4 miles to the Student Center. The center and park-
ing lot will be on your right. *There is no charge for parking
on weekends.***

Tournament Chairman: Bob Katz, 734-657-3091,
rjkaa@sbcglobal.net

Partnerships: Rosanne Winokur, 248-661-3567, winokur@att.net
Marilyn Crane, 734-591-3431, mqcrane@yahoo.com

District 12 Website: www.district12bridge.org

TABLE TALK

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30660 Woodgate Dr.,
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248-646-3967
e-mail: MBATalk@aol.com

MARTIN HIRSCHMAN, Editor

Production editor: Marcia Abramson

MBA Corresponding & Membership Secretary: Paul Pomeroy, 34069 Hathaway St., Livonia MI 48150, ppommd@aol.com, 734-421-0193

MBA Officers

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MBA CLUB DIRECTORY

■**Ann Arbor BC**, Walden Hills Clubhouse, 2114 Pauline, Ann Arbor. Ray Gentz, 734-769-3994. Wednesday 7 p.m.

■**Burns Center Bridge**, 1320 Baldwin, Ann Arbor. Dick Fortune, 734-677-5674. Wednesday 12 p.m.

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

■**Downriver BC**, Southgate Civic Center, 14700 Reaume Pkwy., Southgate. Ron Smith, 519-969-4441. Tuesday 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.

■**Huron Valley Bridge Club**, Hartland Senior Center, 9525 E. Highland Rd., Howell. Jim & Cheryl Perna,

248-887-9283. Thursday, 6 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**, Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor. Dorothy Kuhn, 734-761-6691. 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 McKinley, Dearborn Heights. Joyce Kozma, 313-274-5587. Wednesday 11 a.m.

Zero would be a nice number

Most of our players have no ambitions to be world champions. They would just like to have a good time playing their favorite game and trying to do the best they can.

Unfortunately all too often very poor conduct — often by a few of our better players — has made “just having a good time” impossible for many.

We all know who these recurrent bad actors are [names omitted]. MBA would like to deal effectively with them, but we need your help.

Our unit is a strong supporter of the ACBL Zero Tolerance Policy, which gives players and the league a framework for building a case against the jerks as well as providing for immediate penalties for individual incidents of inappropriate conduct. Here is how it works:

If a player at the table behaves in an unacceptable manner, the director should be called **immediately**. Annoying behavior, embarrassing remarks, or any other conduct which might interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited by Law 74A. Law 91A gives the director the authority to assess disciplinary penalties.

The first offense usually will result in a penalty of one-quarter of a board or 3 IMPs. A second offense will lead to the player being kicked out of that event. Potential additional penalties include expulsion from the entire tournament and convening of a conduct and ethics committee with power to issue suspensions. Also, a record will be kept of the incident(s) to provide the basis for further action in the future.

Please help us clean up the game by immediately informing the director when a bad actor acts up.

—M.H

From the ACBL Zero Tolerance Handbook:

The ultimate purpose of the Z-T policy is to create a much more pleasant atmosphere in our [tournaments]. We are attempting to eradicate unacceptable behavior in order to make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all.

Following are some examples of commendable behavior, which, while not required, will significantly contribute to the improved atmosphere:

- Being a good “host” or “guest” at the table.

■Greeting others in a friendly manner.

■Praising the bidding and/or play of the opponents.

■Having two clearly completed convention cards readily available to the opponents. (This one is a regulation, not just a nicety.)

The following are examples of behavior that will not be tolerated:

■Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, threats or violence.

■Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding.

■Constant and gratuitous lessons and analyses at the table.

■Loud and disruptive arguing with a director's ruling.

Nathanson, Wasserman join MBA board

Zachary Wasserman and Marilyn Nathanson won two-year terms on the MBA board of directors in voting during the October regional.

They replace Julie Arbit and Paul Pomeroy, who did not seek re-election. Pomeroy will stay on as executive secretary and membership chair.

Re-elected to the board were Jonathan Fleischmann, Marilyn Crane and Stacey Tessler.

Thanks to the outgoing

members for their years of service.

Fleischmann chosen as president-elect

The MBA board has chosen Jonathan Fleischmann as president-elect and sectional tournament chair. He will take over as president in fall 2016.

Ascending to the presidency for the current 12 months is Richard Temkin. 2015 president Kurt Dasher became chairman of the board.

Recording secretary Stacey Tessler and Treasurer Bob Webber were re-elected to their posts in voting at the board's November meeting.

New board member Zachary Wasserman will co-chair the 2016 Motor City Regional with Fleischmann.

"It's human nature, it's the way we're engineered. I played against the famed Italian Blue Team. They won 17 or 19 world championships at one point and the fact is, they cheated. Everyone knows that. There's problems in everything you do, and it's called life."

—Bob Hamman, quoted on Newsweek.com, September 23, 2015

SOMBA/MBA Progress Report

**By Dick Temkin
and Posh Gulati**

As presented in the June 2014 issue of Table Talk, MBA and SOMBA reached an historic agreement on February 11, 2014, under which SOMBA would allow MBA to hold its sectional tournaments at the new Bridge Connection facility in Southfield. Almost two years later, we are pleased to report that the results of that agreement have been successful in every aspect. (We will provide a copy of that agreement upon request.)

First, MBA's sectional attendance has increased on average by about 85 tables per tournament with very good financial results. Clearly, our bridge community has found the Bridge Connection to be a substantially better site than the Knights of Columbus building in Livonia that MBA had been using. In 2015, SOMBA has also held its sectionals at BC with positive results. And the new SOMBA/MBA Joint Sectional in June has been a great success for the past two years.

We want to commend Grant Petersen and Mike McDonald

for providing a comfortable, state-of-the-art club for our tournaments and want to congratulate them on running one of the top 50 clubs (by table count) in the country.

Second, under an "open door" policy, the leadership of both units is cooperating in unprecedented ways, including attending the meetings of each other's board of directors. In addition, our first-ever online membership directory has been accomplished. And, of course, both units continue to hold their regionals at the Costick Center.

Finally, as the principal negotiators of the 2014 agreement, we have been meeting monthly to continue this spirit of cooperation and to discuss the details of how a possible merger of SOMBA and MBA could be implemented. We will keep you informed of our progress in this regard.

IN MEMORIAM

Myron Charfoos
Marilyn Gushee
Martha Irwin
Jean Sundberg
Ronald Zajac

IT'S YOUR BID

By Marty Hirschman

I much prefer that It's Your Bid feature questions of judgment but, in Problem 3, I have once again been tripped up by the matter of methods. This one has hit a small nerve in the divide between tradition and modernity. It's a tempest in a teapot, to be sure, but you may find the details amusing.

Congratulations to Gene Benedict of Toledo who scored a perfect 500, and to Sandy Birnholtz and Val Enache for high scores among our readers. This was a low-scoring set; answers that strayed from the popular expert choice were severely punished in my scoring. I must have been in a bad mood when I rated the bids, probably because I was obsessing about Problem 3.

You too can vent your frustrations — and possibly win a little love from the bridge community — by sending in your answers to next issue's hands, found at the end of this article.

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

♠Q3 ♥AKQJ42 ♦K10 ♣K72
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

-- -- Pass 1♥
Pass 1♠ Pass ?

Action	Score	Votes
2NT	100	8
3NT	100	8
3♣	60	4
3♥	40	2
4♥	40	0

I guess this is just a borderline hand as to level and strain. We have about 7¼ tricks; does partner's 1♠ response mean he will be able to provide the other 1¾ for 3NT or 2¾ for 4♥? And which game has a better chance?

Gene Benedict (3NT): Too strong to bid 3♥, and 2NT would suggest a more balanced hand.

Norm Bolton (2NT): Protect the kings. Let partner know you have stoppers. 3NT too unilateral.

Brenda Bryant (3NT): I think it's too good to bid just 2NT with a six-card suit.

Chuck Burger (3NT): But 2NT has its charm without aces. Since two queens and a jack might make game, I can't fall short.

Suzy Burger (2NT): Right on value, leaves room for spade length.

SCORES

Experts:

Gene Benedict	500
Chuck Burger	470
Bob Brent	460
Joe Chiesa	440
Sam Hirschman.....	440
Norm Bolton	430
Bob Cappelli.....	430
Don Rumelhart.....	430

Readers:

Sandy Birnholtz	440
Val Enache.....	440
Sy Goodman	410
Morris Swiger	400
Bob Ondo	380
Kerry Lafer	360
Seymour Mandell	340
Marlene Mandell.....	270
Sarah Lampert	260
Margaret Carden	250
George Pope.....	220

HOW THE PANEL VOTED

	1	2	3	4	5
Julie Arbit	2NT	2♦	3♣	4♦	4NT
Gene Benedict	3NT	2♦	3♥	5♥	4NT
Norm Bolton	2NT	3♠	3♥	4♦	4NT
Bob Brent	3NT	2♦	3♥	5♥	6NT
Brenda Bryant	3NT	3♦	3♥	5♥	6NT
Chuck Burger	3NT	2♦	3♥	3♠	4NT
Suzy Burger	2NT	2♦	4♦	4♦	6NT
Bob Cappelli	2NT	2♦	3♥	5♥	2♦
Joe Chiesa	2NT	2♦	3♦	5♥	4NT
Jonathan Fleischmann	3♣	2♦	4♥	5♥	6NT
Sam Hirschman	3♥	2♦	3♥	5♥	4NT
Bob Katz	3♣	3♠	3♥	4♥	3NT
Sheldon Kirsch	3NT	3♠	3♦	3♠	4NT
Morrie Kleinplatz	3NT	2♦	4♥	5♥	3NT
Marilyn Maddox	3♣	2♠	3♥	5♣	4NT
Myles Maddox	3♣	2♦	3♥	5♥	6NT
Howard Perlman	3NT	3♠	4♥	3♠	4NT
Irv Rosenstein	3♥	2♦	3♥	4♦	4NT
Don Rumelhart	2NT	2♦	4♥	3♠	4NT
Dick Temkin	2NT	2♦	3NT	3♠	4NT
Bob Webber	3NT	2♠	3♥	4♦	4NT
Willie Winokur	2NT	2♦	4♦	5♥	3♣

Bob Cappelli (2NT): I would not think of making any other bid.

Bob Brent (3NT): Nine tricks should be easier than a heart game, which may have no play.

Joe Chiesa (2NT): As to strain, I am balanced (some of my associates might dissent) and nine tricks may well be easier than 10. As to 2NT vs. 3NT, I may well be worth 3NT (18 but a good six-bagger) but opt for the former as it may yield an opportunity to show six hearts over 3♣ or 3♦ by partner.

Jonathan Fleischmann (3♣): 3NT would be my call if the queen of spades were a small heart. As it is, I have too much playability in other strains and might have slam aspirations.

Sam Hirschman (3♥): It's not IMPs. Since my style is to try to eke out a 1♠ bid as often as possible, if partner passes, I'm thrilled. I don't think this is an underbid, just a very good 3♥ bid. I think this gives me the best chance of getting to the correct strain as well.

Bob Katz (3♣): Much too good for 3♥ or 2NT. This is a game-forcing hand.

Sheldon Kirsch (3NT):

Shows a running suit and a good hand. If my suit was a minor I would open 2NT.

Morrie Kleinplatz (3NT): This should show solid hearts and this kind of hand. I would prefer a 7th heart, but close enough.

Marilyn Maddox (3♣): Too good for 3♥. Want to make a game force.

Myles Maddox (3♣): Too good for 2NT.

Howard Perlman (3NT): Balanced with solid six-card suit—perfect description of strength.

Irv Rosenstein (3♥): Second choice is 2NT.

Don Rumelhart (2NT): Right on HCPs and right-sides the NT contracts. If partner checks back, I can still show my 6th heart. At IMPs I would be concerned about missing game or slam, so would probably jump-shift into clubs.

Dick Temkin (2NT): Too good for 3♥ and not quite enough to bid a game.

Bob Webber (3NT): Close approximation of my strength and shape in one bid.

As I was saying...

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

♠AQ10765 ♥A32 ♦A1085 ♣void

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

-- -- -- 1♠

Dbl 1NT Pass ?

Action	Score	Votes
2♦	100	15
3♠	60	4
2♠	40	2
3♦	30	1
4♠	20	0

We have a gilt-edged 14-count with 6-4 shape, plus some extra texture in the form of the 10 of spades and 108 of diamonds. Despite our limited point count, a simple 2♠ rebid would not come close to doing this hand justice. So it's 2♦ or 3♠...

Norm Bolton (3♠): That's my hand.

Chuck Burger (2♦): To be followed by 3♥ if I have another chance. 2♠ is too little and 3♠ is too much with broken suit and likely club wastage.

Suzy Burger (2♦): Most flexible, descriptive.

Bob Cappelli (2♦): Important to keep two suits in play. If partner bids 2♠, I will raise and he will know if he has the right cards.

Bob Brent (2♦): This was the toughest problem for me.

Can't argue with panelists who bid 3♠.

Joe Chiesa (2♦): A non-minimum 6-4. My spades are not compelling; my diamonds are not putrid. Not 2♠ or 3♠ as both my LHO and partner are short in spades. We may be on for many diamonds while 2♠, 3♠ fail. Moreover, 2♠ or 3♠ occludes hearts by partner.

Jonathan Fleischmann (2♦): Partner may well have 1-4-4-4 shape or something similar, in which case a spade rebid may work out badly. I have a strong enough playing hand that I'll be willing to raise spades if partner does take a preference.

Sam Hirschman (2♦): I can bid more spades later. If the auction ends at 2♦ I'll be very surprised. I'd rather have both my suits in. I'm comfortable raising partner's 2♠ preference. ("6-4 bid one more.")

Bob Katz (3♠): Partner should have a doubleton spade. 4♠ will have a good play if partner has a max.

Sheldon Kirsch (3♠): Another card and I would jump shift to diamonds. 2♦ could work but I think my hand is worth the jump in spades.

Morrie Kleinplatz (2♦): As Al

Roth used to say, "If I can get by this round..." Too weak for 3♦, too many other places to play, and too mediocre a suit for 3♠. But if partner doesn't pass, we will likely find our best spot, as I am prepared for any bid he may make.

Howard Perlman (3♠): Why would partner bid if short spades? Pretty much marked for two, and maybe Kx or Jx. 4♠ most likely game. Alternative 2♠ not unreasonable as partner not barred from raising.

Dick Temkin (2♦): Too good for 2♠; not enough for 3♠. If partner passes it rates to be OK.

Let me try to settle some of the disputed analytical points discussed above. First, partner does not promise two spades by bidding 1NT. It is losing bridge for partner to pass with a sound responder hand, say six-plus HCPs or

more, because opener will never believe he doesn't have just 0-5 and will bid too little (or not at all) later. Therefore, responder could easily have a singleton spade or even a void. Second, if partner does have two spades, he almost always will take a preference to 2♠ over 2♦, and you will be able to complete the picture of your hand by raising to 3♠. Otherwise, 2♦ may be as good a spot as any.

Having said that, I have to concede that underbidding with 2♠ will work well if partner has a minimum with two spades, or singleton honor, or a small singleton spade with shortish diamonds. The form of scoring — matchpoints — makes this a little more attractive than it would be at IMPs.

Bob Webber (2♠): If anybody bids 3♣, I'll try 3♦.

Marilyn Maddox (2♠): Partner freely bid 1NT. Expect two

TRANSFERRING UNIT MEMBERSHIP

Uniquely, ACBL allows transfers between units 137 (Michigan Bridge Association) and 203 (Southern Michigan Bridge Association). This can be done for any reason at the member's request.

If you wish to transfer your unit membership, send an email to ACBL at cindy.wages@acbl.org. You should include your name, address, ACBL number, and the appropriate to and from unit numbers. This must come directly from you.

spades in partner's hand.

Overbidding:

Brenda Bryant (3♦): Tough hand. I believe I have a hand that should be in game since I only have five losers. A jump-shift to 3♦ gives me the flexibility that if partner raises diamonds or bids 3NT, I can bid 4♠.

3. MTPTs. E-W vul. As SOUTH, you hold:

♠AKQ63 ♥9 ♦KQJ5 ♣Q63
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 Pass Pass Pass 1♠
 Pass 2♦ Pass ?

Action	Score	Votes
3♥	100	12
4♥	60	4
3♦	40	2
4♦	40	2
3♣	40	1
3NT	30	1
5♦	30	0
3♠	20	0

Way back in the 1970s, when players started adopting 2/1 Game Force, it was agreed by most that passed-hand two over ones would still be allowed with about 10 HCPs, but wouldn't be forcing to game (or forcing at all). Back then, splinters were just coming into the mainstream and were limited to the response to an opening bid of 1♥ or 1♠, or opener's second

bid after responder's 1♥ or 1♠. So jump new-suit bids in other auctions always were natural. Pass-1♠-2♦-3♥ was a strong jump shift by opener, promising four+ hearts. Pass-1♠-2♦-4♥ showed long hearts but not a terrific hand, and simply offered a choice of games. And if the auction went Pass-1♠-2♦-2♥, it wasn't entirely clear that responder had to bid again.

Apparently time has passed me by while I wasn't looking. A majority of our panelists now believe 3♥ is a splinter raise (showing shortness in hearts) over the passed-hand 2♦, and four others think 4♥ is the splinter. Some actually have agreements about this with their regular partners, while others were not sure. Some play two-way Drury in which the passed-hand 2♦ response to 1♥ or 1♠ shows support, so the issue presented by this problem doesn't exist for them.

There is some residual confusion. A couple of regular partners had different views of the meaning of 3♥ and 4♥. (To their credit, Cappelli-Katz and the Maddoxes apparently have firm agreements that 3♥ is a splinter.) One player who originally voted for 3♥ (when the questions went out a few months ago) more recently

indicated that 4♥ was the splinter in most of his partnerships.

I sent followup questions to the panelists for clarification. The information or quotes I got back are presented in brackets below.

Gene Benedict (3♥): Splinter. [But he usually plays two-way Drury.]

Julie Arbit (3♣): [3♥ would be natural and forcing for one round; 4♥ would be a splinter.] I need to make something up here to inquire more about partner's hand. He shouldn't bypass 3NT when that's our spot as he has a "temporizing" 3♥ bid available.

Howard Perlman (4♥): Obvious splinter as 3♥ would be natural and forcing. Slam not likely but not out of the realm...

Chuck Burger (3♥): Splinter even though partner is a passed hand. [When 2♦ was natural for me, I played new suits forcing for one round; therefore 3♥ would be a splinter.]

Suzy Burger (4♦): Would bid 3♥ if partner not a passed hand. Not sure if it would have the same meaning now... [No agreements in place because

we play two-way Drury. But if we didn't, once you bid new suit over 2♦, isn't partner expected to bid once more with his 10+? In which case 3♥ should be a splinter...]

Bob Cappelli (3♥): Shows shortness and four-card support. My partner and I promise five diamonds for the 2♦ bid. I am looking for a slam in all likelihood in diamonds but maybe in spades.

Bob Katz (3♥): Splinter bid. [4♥ would be a choice of games.]

Don Rumelhart (4♥): Splinter. If partner has two bullets, this hand could produce slam. Since I will not stop short of 5♦, I may as well tell my partner how to evaluate their heart cards. [If 3♥ is not a strong jump-shift in this auction, I don't know what would be. 2♥ would be natural and non-forcing. If you play splinters, 4♥ is a splinter, if not 4♥ is a choice of major-suit games. Those who treat 3♥ in this auction as a splinter are confusing this auction with a 2/1 game force auction. I would be really interested in what the 3♥ bidders plan on bidding when partner decides he prefers hearts to spades or diamonds and persists cor-

recting to hearts.]

Sam Hirschman (3♥): Splinter. Don't know what else 3♥ would mean. Shows my hand pretty well. [Without discussion with partner, I'd assume 2♦ is forcing to 2NT, 3♦ or 3 of one of my suits. So, since 2♥ is forcing, 3♥ should be a splinter.]

Joe Chiesa (3♦): For those that believe 3♥ is a splinter, amp up the thorazine. 3♣ is a bit esoteric, so I will make the slight underbid. (3♦ shows extras as I could have subsided over a passed hand 2♦ with a minimum.) 3♦ edges 4♦ as it keeps alive 3NT, which requires little more than Axxxx (x) of diamonds and a heart stopper. [If you want to be able to bid 3♥ as a splinter here it requires an agreement. Classical splinters have been expanded to many other auctions as a matter of bridge logic, but not this one as 2♦ is non-forcing and you need bids to describe two suiters, e.g., 4♥ with ♠KQJxxx ♥KQJxxx ♦x ♣void, 3♥ with ♠AKQxx ♥KQJx ♦x ♣Axx, and 2♥ with ♠KQxxx ♥Axxx ♦void ♣Axxx.]

Jonathan Fleischmann (4♥): If I were sure 3♥ was a splinter, I'd bid it. But I think it's natural given that 2♥ is non-forcing opposite a passed

hand. I hate to bypass 3NT at matchpoints, but I have to explore for slam when it might be cold opposite the minor-suit aces.

Sheldon Kirsch (3♦): I would bid 3♥ if partner would recognize it as a splinter, but we should have plenty of time for that. [He usually plays two-way Drury, so this problem wouldn't come up.]

Morrie Kleinplatz (4♥): 3♥ would be a splinter in most 2/1 partnerships, but not after partner has passed. I would be nervous if partner started thinking over 4♥. How many partnerships have discussed whether this is natural or a splinter in their system opposite a passed hand? [I play 2♦ as three-card Drury with most of my partners, so the issue is irrelevant in that context. Without it, though, I would treat 3♥ as strong with hearts if partner is allowed to pass 2♥ (a treatment not likely to be used by many), but a splinter if 2♥ could not be passed.]

Bob Webber (3♥): This would clearly be a splinter if partner wasn't a passed hand. I think it should be here also. [Apparently Mike Crane and I had not discussed this. He thinks 4♥ is a splinter and that 2♥ would be non-forcing. I

was leaning toward 2♥ being a one-round force.]

Irv Rosenstein (3♥): Splinter. Partner has 10-12 points with diamonds. Diamond slam likely if no wastage in hearts, else settle for 5♦.

Finally, a wild gamble that seems unnecessarily risky but at least avoids the whole splinter thing:

Dick Temkin (3NT): Giving partner the diamond ace leaves him with 5-7 HCPs in the rounded suits. Gambling this is enough to stop them from taking five tricks before I get in. Matchpoints is a wonderful game! [3♥ would be a jump-shift. Don't recall discussing 4♥. I play 2♦ as Drury about 50% of the time.]

When this hand came up on Bridge Base, partner held ♠4

How to access the Joint MBA-SOMBA directory

You can reach the Joint MBA-SOMBA member directory by going to the District 12 website at: district12bridge.org

Click on Member Directories, then on MBA/SOMBA, and follow the prompts. You will have to put in your ACBL number.

♥732 ♦A10984 ♣AJ109. 5♦ made just 11 tricks. 3NT (and 4♥!) would not have been a success.

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

♠AKJ4 ♥AKJ75 ♦K8 ♣52

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

-- 1♦ Pass 1♥

Pass 1NT 2♣ 2♠

Pass 3♥ Pass ?

Action	Score	Votes
5♥	100	10
3♠	70	5
4♦	70	5
4♥	40	1
5♣	40	1
4NT	20	0
6NT	20	0

East's delayed 2♣ overcall has somewhat messed up our bidding plan for this hand. We were going to use New Minor Forcing or some similar checkback device to find out whether partner has three hearts. Now we cannot be sure. Partner could have just two hearts and no club stopper (despite the more optimistic comments by some of our panelists, below).

Even assuming partner has three hearts, our slam aspirations hinge partly on whether partner has a club control. The usual way to ask for a control in a suit bid by the opponents is to jump to five of

the agreed major. Partner can pass with no control, cuebid a first-round control if they have it (in case a grand slam is still in the picture) or bid NT (5NT? 6NT?) with the guarded king of the suit.

That would solve the control problem, but we might still be off two aces or one ace and the queen of trump (which would rate to be offside because of the club length on our right). We might need the queen of spades, too.

Nearly half the panel chose to just ask about the club control and not worry about the rest.

Joe Chiesa (5♥): Asking for club control. Aggressive but no other slam try is palatable. Partner cannot hold the dreaded 3-2-5-3 without a club stopper here. The extant high cards belie that possibility.

Brenda Bryant (5♥): Asking about first- or second-round control in clubs.

Gene Benedict (5♥): This focuses on the club problem, sends a clear message to bid slam with a club control.

Bob Brent (5♥): Hard to imagine partner opening without something in clubs. If he cuebids 6♣, I will bid 6♦, and

perhaps 6NT from his side would be best if he has Kx.

Jonathan Fleischmann (5♥): I think I've seen this in a textbook somewhere. Partner bids 6♥ with the KQ of clubs (the Kx won't do much good under the club bidder) and bids 6♣ with the ace of clubs. I figure any missing cards should be well-placed.

Sam Hirschman (5♥): Asking about club controls. I'm more worried about missing 7 than going down in 5.

Bob Cappelli (5♥): Asks for second-round club control. Partner can bid 5NT with QJx of clubs, 6NT with Kxx and bid 6♣ with the ace of clubs.

Morrie Kleinplatz (5♥): 4♦ second choice, but might suggest a singleton club. Even at matchpoints, this hand is too good to not invite slam.

I don't see why 4♦ would show a stiff club. You could just cuebid 4♣ with that.

The rest of the panelists are trying to find out about the club situation at a lower level. If they can get a club cuebid out of partner, they can then find out about key cards and the queen of hearts via RKC.

Sheldon Kirsch (3♠): Need a club control.

Howard Perlman (3♠): Looks like we may want to play from partner's side if partner suggests protecting his expected club holding. Over 3NT would raise to 4NT quantitative.

Irv Rosenstein (4♦): Showing secondary support for partner's suit. Partner may be able to place contract after this bid.

Suzy Burger (4♦): Eventually would like to get to 6♥ if partner has club ace or 6NT if he has the king. Over 4♥ will continue with 4♠.

Chuck Burger (3♠): Should force a club cuebid; 4♦, denying a club control, may not.

Don Rumelhart (3♠): I need to leave room for partner to bid 3NT or, with the right hand, cuebid 4♠.

Dick Temkin (3♠): Certainly worth exploring for slam with 19 prime HCPs opposite an opening bid.

Norm Bolton (4♦): Partner needs to know about the diamond king.

Bob Webber (4♦): I will pass if partner bids 4♥. The five level doesn't feel completely safe.

Julie Arbit (4♦): I would have made a takeout double of 2♣ instead of bidding 2♠, but now

I can bypass the club cue to see if partner has an impenetrable club control (not Kx or KJ).

One panelist thinks bidding clubs is the way to ask for a club control:

Marilyn Maddox (5♣): Need to know if we have two club losers. Partner will bid 6NT with Kx.

Going under:

Bob Katz (4♥): I am not playing partner for exactly Q-Q-AQ-A.

That would be 13 tricks. He doesn't need all that for 12.

At the table, partner held ♠1052 ♥982 ♦AJ64 ♣AK9. Both major-suit queens were offside, so 11 tricks was the limit.

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

♠AJ7 ♥K982 ♦AK6 ♣A54

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

-- 1♦ Pass 1♥

Pass 1NT Pass ?

Action	Score	Votes
4NT	100	13
6NT	60	5
3NT	40	2
3♣	30	1
2♦	30	1

This one is easy. A flat 19 is not enough for slam opposite

a balanced 12, so inviting with 4NT is clearly the way to go.

Marilyn Maddox (4NT): Asks how good the rebid of 1NT is.

Sam Hirschman (4NT): Partner is like 12-14. I want him to bid a slam with any 14 or a good 13, and pass with 12 (or the good 11).

Irv Rosenstein (4NT): Partner should bid on with 13-14 HCPs.

Dick Temkin (4NT): While the 4-3-3-3 distribution is a negative, with 18 of my 19 HCPs in prime values this hand is worth an invitation.

Howard Perlman (4NT): 19 but no source of tricks. Can't commit to a slam opposite a balanced minimum.

Bob Webber (4NT): Enough.

Chuck Burger (4NT): With no source of tricks and sterile pattern, I am not worth 5NT to force to slam.

Joe Chiesa (4NT): By my methods, if partner accepts he should jump to 6♦ with a 5th diamond.

Myles Maddox (6NT): My cards are prime, and even opposite a minimum hand likely to make 6.

Suzy Burger (6NT): The value bid, and not beat off the top.

Jonathan Fleischmann (6NT): I have no intention of stopping short of slam. Although 7♦ may make, it is somewhat obscure. Any more scientific

TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

Jan. 9-10: Jackson sectional

Jan. 30-31: Ann Arbor sectional (MBA)

Feb. 11-14: Farmington Hills sectional

Feb. 27: Flint sectional

Mar. 4-6: Toledo sectional

Mar. 31-Apr. 3: Southfield sectional (MBA)

April 8-9: Bloomfield Hills I/N sectional

Apr. 28-30: Grand Rapids sectional

May 9-15: FARMINGTON HILLS REGIONAL

May 20-22: Kalamazoo sectional

June 6-12: TOLEDO REGIONAL

June 13-19: Spring STAC

June 23-26: Joint MBA-SOMBA sectional, Southfield

July 8-10: Lansing sectional

July 15-17: Freeland sectional

Aug. 15-21: PETOSKEY REGIONAL

auktion may help tip off the defenders, and I suspect we'll end in the same place much more often than not.

Bob Brent (6NT): Anything else is pusillanimous.

Bob Cappelli (2♦): We play two-way New Minor Forcing. I want to see if partner has five diamonds. If no 3♦ bid, I will bid 4NT invitational and expect him to bid slam with a good 13 or 14 HCPs and pass otherwise.

Going under:

Bob Katz (3NT): Not enough to bid 4NT or investigate for diamond slam. Especially with 3-4-3-3 hand and my longest suit is weak.

Morrie Kleinplatz (3NT): I'll hope for a good board by giving RHO a mostly blind lead and pulling for that lead to give away a trick or a tempo. If I make a slam try, she is likely to lead more passively. My 4-3-3-3 19-count opposite a 14 max makes this the percentage action.

At the table, partner held ♠6 ♥AQ5 ♦Q9752 ♣KJ32. A more normal 2♣ rebid by partner probably would have gotten us to the good 6♦. Despite partner's minimum count, the five-card diamond suit means

6NT also has a decent chance.

NEXT ISSUE'S HANDS

1. MTPTs. E-W vul. As SOUTH, you hold:

♠AQ4 ♥K76543 ♦A9 ♣K7
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
— — — 1♥
Pass 1♠ Pass ?

2. IMPs. None vul. As SOUTH, you hold:

♠A ♥KJ975 ♦KQ3 ♣J765
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
2♠ 2NT 3♠ ?

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

♠A1093 ♥A ♦A9865 ♣A32
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
— Pass Pass 1♦
1♠ Dbl Pass ?

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

♠AKQ43 ♥87 ♦KQ85 ♣102
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
Pass 1♦ Pass 1♠
Pass 2♦ Pass ?

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

♠J103 ♥63 ♦A6 ♣KQJ1072
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
3♥ 4♥ Pass ?

Mail your answers to:
Table Talk Magazine
30660 Woodgate Dr.
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Kwun Chung

Pearl Lim

Charlotte Miller

Ryan Sweeder

Charlotte Wade

Darleen Yaskanin

Kirsch is tops at Motor City

For the third straight year, Sheldon Kirsch of West Bloomfield has captured the William S. Mouser trophy for the District 12 player who wins the most points at the Vince & Joan Remey Motor City Regional.

Here are the results of the tournament, held Oct. 12-18 at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills.

MASTERPOINT WINNERS

- 1, Sheldon Kirsch, 80.65
- 2/3, Brenda Bryant, 76.84
- 2/3, Michael White, 76.84
- 4, Owen Lien, 75.96
- 5, Jonathan Fleischmann, 75.94
- 6, Anam Tebha, 75.52
- 7, Zachary Brescoll, 75.08
- 8/11, James Melville, 67.75
- 8/11, Jacob Morgan, 67.75
- 8/11, Valentin Kovachev, 67.75
- 8/11, Lynne Rosenbaum, 67.75
- 12, Henry Shevitz, 67.10
- 13, Suzy Burger, 66.67
- 14/15, Larry Mori, 64.29
- 14/15, Leonard Melander, 64.29
- 16, Joe Chiesa, 60.55
- 17, Morrie Kleinplatz, 58.29
- 18, Beverly Gardner, 49.87
- 19, Richard Temkin, 44.77
- 20, Grant Petersen, 39.86

MONDAY OPEN PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Grant Petersen, Bob Ondo. 2, Bob Rasmussen,

Arthur Wasserman. 3, Lynne Cook, Georgene Cronin.

FLIGHT B: 1 & 2, same as A. 3, Steven Kaplan, Shelley Boschan. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Kaplan, Boschan. 2, Renata Wasserman, Martha Toon. 3, Marcel Villeneuve, Janet Waters.

MONDAY/TUESDAY KO

TEAMS: 1, Jonathan Fleischmann, Morrie Kleinplatz, Sheldon Kirsch, Henry Shevitz. 2, Anam Tebha, Michael White, Zachary Brescoll, Owen Lien, Brenda Bryant. 3/4, Valentin Kovachev, Jacob Morgan, James Melville, Lynne Rosenbaum. 3/4, Larry Mori, Leonard Melander, Bob Webber, Joe Chiesa, Michael Crane.

TUESDAY OPEN SWISS

TEAMS FLIGHT A: 1, Robert Katz, Frank Treiber III, Michael Alioto, Robert Crafton. 2, Robert Mendelson, Chuck & Suzy Burger, Marvin Zucker. 3/4, Richard Temkin, Joseph Ernsthause, Gary Brinker, Irving Rosenstein. 3/4, Margaret Moore, Rose Burke, Lynne Cook, Georgene Cronin. **FLIGHT AX:** 1, Sandy Birnholtz, Charles Federman, Grant Petersen, Steve Allen. 2, Darryl Haynes, Michael Kerns, Freda Mills, K. Van Alstine Jr. 3, Larry Lewis,

Sook Wilkinson, Lakshmi Vora, Naresh Kapila. **FLIGHT AY:** 1, Lewis team. 2, Stephen Carpman, Gail Geiger, Arthur Wasserman, Bob Rasmussen. 3, Duaine Benard, Gary Luoma, Rosemary Bailey, Louise Less.

TUESDAY GOLD RUSH SWISS TEAMS UNDER 750: 1, Don & Laurie Beth Pocock, Larry MacDonald, Sandy Becher. 2, Wilma Swayze, Rosemary Sharland, Tom Shellberg, Gretchen Dietz. 3/4, Cindy Obermeyer, Sue Smith, Marilee Neff, Laura Burke. 3/4, Peter Krailo, David Denomy, Tim Thomas, John Bokhoud. **UNDER 300:** 1/2, same as Under 750 3/4. 3, Martha Toon, Graham Putnam, Mark Hugger, Mark Whitehead.

TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY MORNING SWISS TEAMS: 1, Marcel Villeneuve, Janet Waters, Jonathan Fleischmann, Brad Dracka. 2, Inderpal & Martha Bhatia, Bob Ondo, Mark Hugger, Mark Whitehead.

WEDNESDAY SYLVIA STEIN OPEN PAIRS FLIGHT A: 1, Suzy Burger, Beverly Gardner. 2, Daniel Marcus, Richard Temkin. 3, John Koschik, Dennis Carman. **FLIGHT AX:** 1, Marilyn Crane, Judi

Amatangelo. 2, Michael Kraut, Thomas Thomson. 3, Neal Strand, Jane Hall. **FLIGHT AY:** 1, Kraut, Thomson. 2, Strand, Hall. 3, Marilyn Nathanson, William Landrum.

WEDNESDAY GOLD RUSH PAIRS UNDER 750: 1, George Christian, Larry Cohen. 2/3, Tim Thomas, John Bokhoud. 2/3, Janis James-Rubin, John Vollmayer. **UNDER 300:** 1, Thomas, Bokhoud. 2, Joel Grossman, Marilyn Collins. 3, Chris Hill, Ann Margosian. **UNDER 100:** 1, Hill, Margosian. 2, Mary Robinson, Jill Rastelli.

THURSDAY MORNING SWISS: 1, Kathy Twomey, Suzanne McIlhiny, Shelley Boschan, Beth Gursky.

WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY KO TEAMS: 1, Owen Lien, Anam Tebha, Zachary Brescoll, Michael White, Brenda Bryant. 2, James Melville, Jacob Morgan, Valentin Kovachev, Lynne Rosenbaum. 3/4, Genie Baker, Deepak Dighe, Naresh Kapila, Larry Lewis. 3/4, Larry Mori, Michael Crane, Leonard Melander, Bob Webber, Joe Chiesa.

THURSDAY OPEN SWISS TEAMS FLIGHT A: 1, Morrie Kleinplatz, Henry Shevitz, Sheldon Kirsch, Jonathan

Fleischmann, Kurt Dasher. 2, Stephen Apodaca, Hans Jacobs, Bert Newman, Michael Huston. 3, Robert Bitterman, Robert Brent, Robert Crafton, Michael Alioto, Robert Cappelli. **FLIGHT AX:** 1, Ronald Rogers, Jerome Hasenjager, Thomas Hunt, Satish Shah. 2, Jagjit Singh, Suzanne Baker, Dhruman Shah, Darryl Haynes. 3, Michael Kaleel, Richard Menczer, Seymour Mandell, Neal Strand. **FLIGHT AY:** 1, Kaleel team. 2, William Landrum, Marilyn Nathanson, John Vollmayer, Lakshmi Vora. 3, David Gillespie, Barb Marti, William Gregg, Ardale Johnson.

THURSDAY GOLD RUSH SWISS TEAMS UNDER 750: 1, Thom Allen, Bob Ondo, Rosemary Sharland, Arlene Borland. 2, Tom Baer, Dennis Ebendick, Jane Gardner, Barb Ferrera. 3, Elma Sterk, Pearl Lim, John Boekhoud, Tim Thomas.

SIDE SERIES #1: 1, Janet Abramson-Borson. 2/3, Stuart Petersen. 2/3, Grant Petersen.

FRIDAY OPEN PAIRS FLIGHT A: 1, Suzy Burger, Beverly Gardner. 2, Stephanie & Robert Alexander. 3, Stuart Petersen, Grant Petersen. **FLIGHT AX:** 1, Petersens. 2,

Marc Sylvester, Zachary Wasserman. 3, Ching-Po Wang, Sue Lan Ma. **FLIGHT AY:** 1, Wang, Ma. 2, Monica Taylor, Lewis Richardson Jr. 3, Mark Weiss, Stu Cohen.

FRIDAY GOLD RUSH PAIRS UNDER 750: 1, Lisa Karam, James Korte. 2, Steven Kaplan, Larry Cohen. 3, Maria Conte, Carrie Osborne. **UNDER 300:** 1, Karam, Korte. 2, Conti, Osborne. 3, Jean & Edward Becker, **UNDER 100:** 1, Karam, Korte. 2, Beckers.

SATURDAY OPEN PAIRS FLIGHT A: 1, Linda Perlman, Michael Seamon. 2, Jerrold Grossman, Lynne Schaeffer. 3, Hao Ge, Michael Creager. **FLIGHT AX:** 1, Patricia & Allan Becker. 2, William Niemczyk, Allan Tushman. 3, Henry Zhang, Yanping Zhang. **FLIGHT AY:** 1, Zhangs. 2, James Walter, K. Van Alstine Jr. 3/4, Jeffrey Orwin, William Kelser. 3/4, Mary Lou Schaffer, Sue Berry.

SATURDAY GOLD RUSH PAIRS UNDER 750: 1, Rita Levin, Anita Green. 2, Steven Kaplan, Randy Rodnick. 3, Eva Rival, Dennis Waniolek. **UNDER 300:** 1, Paul Schneider, Adrienne Kanter. 2, Elma Sterk, Pearl Lim. 3, Mark Hugger, Mark Whitehead. **UNDER 100:** 1, Hugger, Whitehead. 2,

Betty Kaiser, MaryPat Kamin-ski.

SATURDAY COMPACT KO:

1, Valentin Kovachev, James Melville, Lynne Rosenbaum, Jacob Morgan. 2, Stephen Apodaca, Hans Jacobs, Bert Newman, Michael Huston. 3, Michael Kraut, Mary Smith, John Tscholl, Dan Roseberry.

FRIDAY/SATURDAY KO

TEAMS: 1, Larry Mori, Leonard Melander, Mark Bendure, Jim Fatka, Joe Chiesa. 2, Brenda Bryant, Michael White, Zachary Brescoll, Anam Tebha, Owen Lien. 3, Jack Shartsis, Robert Brent, Barry Onslow, Martin Hirschman, Chuck Burger, Howard Perlman.

SUNDAY MADDOX A/X SWISS TEAMS FLIGHT A:

1, Valentin Kovachev, Lynne Rosenbaum, Jacob Morgan, James Melville. 2/3, Zachary Wasserman, Marc Sylvester, Yi Ouyang, Ed Herstein. 2/3, Joseph Ernsthausen, Gary Brinker, Sheldon Kirsch, Henry Shevitz. **FLIGHT AX:** 1, Wasserman team. 2, Jonathan Fleischmann, Jerrold Grossman, Kurt Dasher, Brad Dracka, Jordan Kaye.

B/C/D MADDOX SWISS TEAMS FLIGHT B:

1, Wilbur Argersinger, David Graff, Arthur Wasserman, David Aderente. 2, Victoria Vallone,

Charles Schiff, Ross Weinstein, Thomas Hunt. 3/4, Xingu Zhang, Yaqi Zhu, Sue Lan Ma, Ching-Po Wang. 3/4, Michael Kraut, Steven Winkur, John Dreifus, Steven Shumer. **FLIGHT C:** 1/2, same as B. 3/4, Monica Taylor, Lewis Richardson Jr., S. Berry, Alan Charters. 3/4, Stu Cohen, Mark Weiss, Robert Jakes, Ange Jaffrelot. **FLIGHT D:** 1, James Walter, Klaus Brondum, Mark Whitehead, Mark Hugger. 2, Dave Williamson, Lynne Parker, Ginny Braidwood, Arlene Loca. 3, John Vollmayer, Thomas Ciaramitaro, Vishwas Gadgil, Lakshmi Vora.

**299er Winners
at Motor City**

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

PAIRS: Chris Hill, Ann Margosian

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

PAIRS: Stanley Kurzman, Stanley Jacobson

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

PAIRS: Robin Myles, George Pope

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

PAIRS: Gay Garcia, Anita Smokevitch, tied with Tillie Nelson, Marge Caram

SATURDAY MORNING

PAIRS: Jamie Ling, Richard Shaw

Kirsch wins first Stein Trophy

Compiled by Bill Arlinghaus

Sheldon Kirsch is the 2015 winner of the Dr. Edward F. Stein Memorial Trophy, awarded annually to the MBA member who wins the most points in overall placings in unlimited events in our tournaments. It was his first Stein win.

Here are the top finishers in the annual race:

- 1, Sheldon Kirsch, 121.15
- 2, Robert Katz, 110.76
- 3, Bill Melander, 98.33
- 4, Jonathan Fleischmann, 98.26
- 5, Dick Temkin, 76.75
- 6, Lynne Schaeffer, 62.18
- 7, Suzy Burger, 60.76
- 8, John Koschik, 59.40
- 9, Bert Newman, 58.05
- 10, Kurt Dasher, 57.74

Fleischmann wins Bluth again

Compiled by Kurt Dasher

For the third year in a row, Jonathan Fleischmann has won the Beverly Bluth trophy, awarded to the Flight B player who wins the most points at our tournaments. The trophy was donated in 2013, and Fleischmann has been the only winner.

Here are the 2015 standings for the Bluth:

- 1, Jonathan Fleischmann, 119.51
- 2, Grant Petersen, 63.15
- 3, Wilbur Argersinger, 49.57
- 4, Art Wasserman, 40.09
- 5, Brad Dracka, 39.70
- 6, Steve Winokur, 39.17
- 7, Julie Arbit, 38.62
- 8, Zach Wasserman, 36.37
- 9, James Walter, 33.33
- 10, Bob Ondo, 28.94

Dracka wins second Winokur

Compiled by Kurt Dasher

For the second year in a row, Brad Dracka has won the Willie Winokur trophy, given to the Flight C player who wins the most points at our tournaments.

Here are the 2015 standings in the Winokur:

- 1, Brad Dracka, 39.70
- 2, Steve Winokur, 39.17
- 3, Bob Ondo, 28.94
- 4, Barb Ferrara, 23.53
- 5, Jordan Kaye, 23.49
- 6, Marvin Zucker, 22.76
- 7, Yi Ouyang, 18.40
- 8, Dennis Ebendick, 18.21
- 9, Patti Stoner, 17.95
- 10, Xingyu Zhang, 17.44

Russell Roosen
Sectional, August 27-30

MASTERPOINT LEADERS

1, Robert Katz, 35.51
2, Robert Brent, 34.61
3, Jack Shartsis, 31.69
4/5, John Koschik, 29.38
4/5, Dennis Carman, 29.38
6, Jerrold Grossman, 27.57
7, Sheldon Kirsch, 25.92
8, Michael Crane, 25.87
9, Frank Treiber III, 23.96
10, Martin Hirschman, 23.22

THURSDAY AM PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Paul Kwiecien, Suzanne Baker. 2, Mark Weiss, Stu Cohen. 3, Bob Webber, Michael Crane.
FLIGHT B: 1 & 2, same as A. 3, Vicki Neiberg, Jagjit Singh.
FLIGHT C: 1, Nancy Stein, Lori Strager. 2, Fran Wigod, Cydnie Reich. 3, Naresh Kapila, Larry Lewis.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

SWISS TEAMS FLIGHT A: 1, Jack Shartsis, Jerrold Grossman, Sheldon Kirsch, Henry Shevitz. 2, Robert Crafton, Frank Treiber III, Robert Katz, Michael Alioto. 3/4, Richard Temkin, Robert Brent, Bob Webber, Michael Crane. 3/4, Phyllis Cohn, Jonathan Fleischmann, Brad Dracka, Kurt Dasher. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Cohn team. 2, James Rowe, Thomas Hunt, Dolores Bright,

Ross Weinstein. 3, Larry Lewis, Naresh Kapila, Sook Wilkinson, Lakshmi Vora. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Lewis team. 2, Geraldine Spillman, Bonnie Weinstein, Cydnie Reich, Fran Wigod. 3, John Piljan, Raj Patil, N. Modi, B. Modi.

THURSDAY NIGHT PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Michael McGaw, Alan Cohn. 2, Brenda Fortunate, Edward White. 3, Bob Rasmussen, Arthur Wasserman. **FLIGHT B:** 1, McGaw, Cohn. 2, Rasmussen, Wasserman. 3, Elmer Johansen, J. Morris Swiger. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Rita Rubin, Daniel Schiffer. 2, James Walter, Renata Wasserman. 3, Tracey King, David McIntyre.

FRIDAY AM PAIRS:

1, Dennis Carman, John Koschik. 2/3, Martin Hirschman, Robert Brent. 2/3, Larry Cohen, Steven Kaplan. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Cohen, Kaplan. 2, Judi Amatan-gelo, Harriet Brent. 3, Naresh Kapila, Larry Lewis. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Cohen, Kaplan. 2, Kapila, Lewis. 3, Marilyn Nathanson, William Landrum.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Dennis Carman, John Koschik. 2, Robert Katz, Frank Treiber III. 3, Bill Goodman, Marty Goodman. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Goodmans. 2,

Anthony Savant, Harrison Fletcher. 3, Victoria Vallone, Tai Chan. **FLIGHT C:** 1 & 2, same as B. 3, Dennis Waniolek, Richard Cantley.

FRIDAY NIGHT PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Anastasia Tessler, Bert Newman. 2, Jakob Kristinsson, Edward White. 3, Gail Hanson, James Wedell. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Hanson, Wedell. 2, Cheryl & James Bloom. 3, Vijaya Kamath, Shobhana Joshi.

SATURDAY OPEN SWISS

FLIGHT A: 1, Robert Brent, Jerrold Grossman, Jack Shartsis, Martin Hirschman. 2, Jeffrey & Sheila Lesser, Dolores Bright, Charlotte Miller. 3/4, Richard Temkin, Dennis Carman, John Koschik, Irving Rosenstein. 3/4, Steven Winokur, Robert Katz, William Winokur, Frank Treiber III. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Michael Kaleel, Arthur & Linda Golumbia, John Dreifus. 2, Robert Raf, Deepak Dighe, Georgene Cronin, Neal Strand. 3, D. Abraham, Patti Stoner, Fran & Gerald Wigod. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Abraham team. 2, S. Berry, Sue Berry, Sally Spalsbury, Freda Mills. 3, Ellen Silverest, Lakshmi Vora, Naresh Kapila, Larry Lewis.

SATURDAY AM PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Carolyn Sim-

mer, Richard Menczer. 2, Michael Kaleel, Thomas Thomson. 3, Bert Newman, William Rouse. **FLIGHT B:** 1 & 2, same as A. 3, Sandy Birnholtz, Jeffrey London. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Birnholtz, London. 2, Lynda Thal, Ronna Galin.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

PAIRS FLIGHT A & B: 1, Neil Manley Jr., Elaine Spiro. 2, Rita Levin, Anita Green. 3, Lynda Thal, Ronna Galin. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Levin, Green. 2, Thal, Galin.

SUNDAY AM PAIRS FLIGHT

A: 1, Robert Jakes, Zoe Alpern. 2, Marilyn Crane, Susan Belen. 3, Victoria Vallone, Thomas Ciaramitaro. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Jakes, Alpern. 2, Penny Stuart, Teri Ford. 3, Jerome Halperin, Seymour Brode. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Stuart, Ford. 2, Halperin, Brode. 3, Marce Lee, Beth Kordt.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Seymour & Marlene Mandell. 2, Jacob Lutz, Mari Kaftan. 3, Richard Menczer, Neal Strand. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Lutz, Kaftan. 2, James Peresta, Michael Tschirhart. 3, Penny Stuart, Teri Ford. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Peresta, Tschirhart. 2, Stuart, Ford. 3, Douglas Sweeder, William Ahlstrom.

SUNDAY SWISS TEAMS

FLIGHT A: 1, Joseph Ernsthausen, Robert Katz, Gary Brinker, Kurt Dasher. 2, Michael Crane, Bob Webber, Sheldon Kirsch, Michael Alioto. 3, Xingyu Zhang, Ching-Po Wang, Ying Yuan, Yaqi Zhu. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Zhang team. 2, Zachary Wasserman, Michael McDonald, Yi Ouyang, Ed Herstein. 3, Robert Raf, Michael McGaw, Steven Jacob, Sandy Birnholtz. **FLIGHT C:** 1, D. Abraham, Patti Stoner, James Gruenberg, Edward Lough. 2, Martha & Inderpal Bhatia, Renata Wasserman, Corey Powell. 3/5, Anthony Savant, Harrison Fletcher, Kenneth & Arlene Geisler. 3/5, John Philbrook, John Allen, Richard Long, Delinda Boylan. 3/5, Ellen Silverest, Susan Morman, David Gillespie, Barb Marti.

Non LM Winners at Roosen sectional

THURSDAY AM PAIRS: James Wedell, Sylvia Wohlman

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SWISS TEAMS: Graham

Putnam, Joseph Bianco, Joel Grossman, Marilyn Collins

THURSDAY NIGHT PAIRS: Michael Betzold, Gerald Wahl

FRIDAY AM PAIRS: Tom Baer, Bob Ondo

FRIDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS:

Graham Putnam, James Egan

FRIDAY NIGHT PAIRS: Maria Conti, Carrie Osborne

SATURDAY AM PAIRS: B. Joorabchi, Farid Jano

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS: Chris Hill, Ann Margosian

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS DISTRICT FINALS Sept. 20, 2015

The top three finishers in Flight A and the top four in B and C have won the right to participate in their respective national finals at the Reno NABC in March.

FLIGHT A: 1, Leonard Melander, Mark Bendure. 2/3, Martin Hirschman, Edward White. 2/3, Jonathan Fleischmann, Kurt Dasher.

FLIGHT B: 1, Brad Dracka, Zachary Wasserman. 2, Richard Bodettte, Christopher Gennick. 3, Catherine Gay, Robert Trenary. 4, Richard Johns, Jagjit Singh.

FLIGHT C: 1, Henry Zhang, Yanping Zhang. 2, George Jenkins, Gregory Perkowski. 3, Xiaoping Wu, Tengyun Tony Cao. 4, Gary Theis, Chuck Theis.

SOLUTION TO DOUBLE DUMMY

From Back Page

	NORTH	
	♠K64	
	♥5	
	♦K75	
	♣AKQJ96	
WEST		EAST
♠1053		♠QJ87
♥Q873		♥J962
♦QJ1094		♦632
♣8		♣104
	SOUTH	
	♠A92	
	♥AK104	
	♦A8	
	♣7532	

This is a classic compound squeeze (aka Compound Double Squeeze) position. Never heard of that? This is how it works...

Win the opening lead in hand and cash five of the six club tricks, throwing a heart from hand. West must keep at

least two diamonds (or dummy's 7 of diamonds will be your 13th trick). So he will have to give up his guard of the third round of one of the majors. That will leave East with the sole guard of the major that West discards.

Next cash the AK of the suit West abandoned, then play the king of diamonds and the last club.

For example, if West pitches a spade early on, you will cash AK of spades, then K of diamonds, leaving this position:

	♠6	
	♥5	
	♦7	
	♣6	
♠		♠Q
♥Q87		♥J96
♦J		♦
♣		♣
	♠9	
	♥AK10	
	♦	
	♣	

"In bridge, unlike U.S. presidential politics, 'TRUMP' is a good thing."

--Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, at a Senior Center bridge game in Springfield MA this fall. Sanders wound up filling in at the game for five hours and advanced to the finals of the club's annual tournament, according to website Core Rant. If he somehow winds up in the White House, Sanders would be the first bridge-playing president since Dwight Eisenhower.

Now the last club will squeeze both defenders. East has to keep a high spade, so will probably pitch a heart. South then pitches the 9 of spades and West has to give up one red suit or the other.

If on the cashing of the first five clubs West holds spades and pitches two hearts, you will cash AK of hearts and K of diamonds, leading to this position:

	♠K6	
	♥	
	♦7	
	♣6	
♠1053		♠QJ8
♥		♥J
♦J		♦
♣		♣
	♠A92	
	♥10	
	♦	
	♣	

Now the 6 of clubs forces East to throw a spade, after which South pitches the 10 of hearts and West is squeezed between spades and diamonds.

Pretty cool, huh?

Motor City Regional attendance down

Attendance at the 2015 Vince and Joan Remey Motor City Regional was 778 tables, down from 885 the year before. Most of the decline was in the Knockouts and the mid-week Swiss team events. Saturday attendance was down 33 tables, partly because of the Michigan-Michigan State football game that day.

Because of the decline in the table count, the tournament, held Oct. 12-18 at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills, made a profit of just \$7,000 — \$5,000 below projections. The MBA treasury was at \$41,049 as of the end of October.

Membership also down: MBA membership sank to 838 in October, down 37 from October 2014.

Old: The average MBA member is 72.51 years old up from 71.87 a year ago. The ACBL average is 71.47.

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DOUBLE DUMMY

By Marty Hirschman

IMPs

Both vul.

NORTH

♠K64

♥5

♦K75

♣AKQJ96

WEST

♠1053

♥Q873

♦QJ1094

♣8

EAST

♠QJ87

♥J962

♦632

♣104

SOUTH

♠A92

♥AK104

♦A8

♣7532

Contract: 7NT

Opening lead: Q of diamonds

Plan the play.

Solution, page 30