



TABLE TALK
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

VOL. 59 No. 1

JUNE 2018

For goodness' sake: What's going on at Horn Lake?

By Martin Hirschman
Table Talk Editor

A year ago, the ACBL hired an experienced, enterprising and affable businessman, Bahar Gidwani, as chief executive officer of the league. He took over last Aug. 1.

Gidwani seemed to be at least trying to improve communication with ACBL members, make improvements and develop new programs. But we will never know whether his ideas would have worked. At the end of April, the ACBL Board of Directors abruptly showed him the door.

Why?

Well, those in the know

aren't saying, supposedly because of the possibility of litigation regarding the firing. According to the ACBL's public statement:

"While Mr. Gidwani brought many new ideas to the organization, we regret there are issues that remain unresolved despite counselling by the Board of Directors,' [ACBL President Jay] Whipple says. For legal reasons, Whipple cannot elaborate further."

Meanwhile, Gidwani wrote in an email: "...I am not permitted to speak about the circumstances surrounding my departure. I'm sure you understand—and that you will hear

(Continued on page 22)

CANDIDATES WANTED

The annual MBA board election will be held at the Motor City Regional in October. If you are interested in running for the board, contact election chair Jonathan Fleischmann, 734-255-6104, jfleisc@umich.edu

2017 SOMBA/MBA JOINT SECTIONAL

June 21-24, 2018

Site: The Bridge Connection
26776 Twelve Mile Road, Southfield MI
Just west of Northwestern Hwy. 248-356-6254

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

<i>Bridge lesson for intermediate players</i>	9:15 a.m.
Stratified Open Pairs	10 a.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs.....	10 a.m.
<i>Swiss team lesson for new players</i>	2:10 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams	2:30 p.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs Swiss Teams	2:30 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs	7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

Stratified Open Pairs	10 a.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs.....	10 a.m.
Stratified Open Pairs	2:30 p.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs.....	2:30 p.m.
Stratified Open Fast Pairs (5 minutes per board)	7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

<i>Bridge lesson for new players</i>	9:15 a.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams Playthru – 7 matches	10 a.m.
Stratified Open Pairs	10 a.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs.....	10 a.m.
0-100 Pairs.....	10 a.m.
Stratified Open Pairs	2 p.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs.....	2 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 24

Stratified Swiss Teams Playthru – 7 matches	10 a.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs.....	10 a.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs.....	2 p.m.

Stratified Events: A=unlimited; B=0-3000; C=0-1000
0-500 Stratifications: 0-100, 100-300, 300-500 as attendance warrants
Average masterpoints will be used to determine stratifications.
All pairs events are single session.

Light lunch will be provided on Saturday and Sunday
No smoking in the building

Tournament chair: Owen Lien, 828-424-5905, forcingpass@gmail.com

Tournament co-chair: Satish Shah, 586-944-6708,
satishshah280@gmail.com

Partnerships: Marilyn Crane, (c) 734-536-1731,
(h) 734-591-3431, mqcrane@yahoo.com
Bill Goodman, 586-243-9918, billgoodman43@gmail.com

**Michigan Bridge Association's
RUSSELL ROOSEN SECTIONAL
August 23-26, 2018
Site: The Bridge Connection
26776 Twelve Mile Road, Southfield MI
Just west of Northwestern Hwy.
248-356-6254**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23

Stratified Open Pairs	10 a.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs	10 a.m.
<i>Swiss Team Lesson for New Players</i>	2:10 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams	2:30 p.m.
Stratified 0-500 Swiss Teams	2:30 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs	7 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24

Stratified Open Pairs	10 a.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs	10 a.m.
Stratified Open Pairs	2:30 p.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs	2:30 p.m.
Stratified Open Fast Pairs (5 minutes per board)	7 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

Stratified Swiss Teams Playthru – 7 matches	10 a.m.
Stratified Open Pairs	10 a.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs	10 a.m.
Stratified Open Pairs	2 p.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs	2 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

BRACKETED Swiss Teams Playthru – 7 matches	10 a.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs	10 a.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs	2 p.m.

Stratified Events: A=unlimited; B=0-3000; C=0-1000
0-500 Stratifications: 0-100, 100-300, 300-500 as attendance warrants
Average masterpoints will be used to determine stratifications

All pairs events are single session
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TABLE TALK

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Stacey Tessler.... recording secretary
Bob Webber..... treasurer

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Ondo, Grant Petersen, Patti Stoner,
Richard Temkin, Stacey Tessler, Al-
lan Tushman, Zachary Wasserman.

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. Debra Eaves, 248-935-0909. Wednesday 12 p.m.

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

■**Downriver BC**, Southgate Veterans Memorial Library, 14680 Dix-Toledo Rd., Southgate. Cono Emanuele, 734-675-3687. 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.

■**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.

■**Trenton DBC**, 2700 Westfield, Trenton. Bob Ondo, 313-320-5173. 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.

IT'S YOUR BID

By Marty Hirschman

Congratulations to Sheldon Kirsch for his perfect 500 and to Val Enache for high score among readers.

Table Talk moved to Ann Arbor this spring, so if you are mailing in your answers to this issue's problems, make sure to use our new address, found at the end of this article. Our email address is unchanged.

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

♠8 ♥762 ♦A2 ♣AKQ7632

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

--	--	--	1♣
Pass	1♦	2♠	?

Action	Score	Votes
3♠	100	14
3♣	60	5
3NT	30	0
4♣	20	0
5♣	30	0

We have eight probable tricks, and partner showed at least some values. If he has a spade stopper, we need to be in 3NT. A 3♣ bid here, which could just be a good minimum with a 6-card suit, won't do the job.

Disagreeing:

Gene Benedict (3♣): Cuebidding 3♠ would show a stronger hand.

Linda Perlman (3♣): Maybe partner will know what to do. If he bids 3♠, I will guess and bid 3NT.

Don Rumelhart (3♣): 4♣ bypasses 3NT, and everything else is a gross misstatement of my hand.

Bob Webber (3♣): 3♠ is just too much.

For the majority:

Chuck Burger (3♠): Do you have a stopper? I am a little light but the bid reflects the general nature of my hand. It feels like pard has a good hand with no major bid by pard.

Suzy Burger (3♠): With eight tricks in hand, 3♣ just isn't strong enough.

Joe Chiesa (3♠): Gravitating toward 3NT. Undiscussed, 3♠ is but a forcing cuebid. With a spade stopper partner should be able to grab 3NT. 3♥ here (natural) by me allows West to double for a lead. 3♣ with eight tricks is pusillanimous.

Jonathan Fleischmann (3♠): Partner will bid 3NT with a

SCORES

Experts:

Sheldon Kirsch	500
Chuck Burger	470
Suzy Burger	470
Bob Brent	460
Joe Chiesa	460
Bob Katz	460
Morrie Kleinplatz	460
Don Rumelhart	460
Brenda Bryant	450
Kurt Dasher	450

Readers:

Valentin Enache	420
Irv Hershman	410
Kerry Lafer	410
Margaret Carden	390
Neil Manley Jr.	390
Patty Becker	370
Jerry Jefferies	360
Barb Reed	350
Mark Hugger	340
Doris Jefferies	290
George Pope	280
Jim Reed	280

HOW THE PANEL VOTED

	1	2	3	4	5
Gene Benedict	3♣	Pass	3♠	6♣	3♦
Bob Brent	3♠	4♥	Pass	6♣	3♦
Brenda Bryant	3♠	Pass	3NT	6♣	3♦
Chuck Burger	3♠	Pass	3♠	6♣	3♦
Suzy Burger	3♠	Pass	3♠	6♣	3♦
Joe Chiesa	3♠	4♦	Pass	6♣	3♦
Kurt Dasher	3♠	Pass	4♠	6♣	3♦
Jonathan Fleischmann	3♠	5♣	3♠	6NT	3♦
Dennis Kasle	3♠	5♣	3♠	5NT/6♣	3♦
Bob Katz	3♠	Pass	Pass	7♣	3♦
Sheldon Kirsch	3♠	Pass	Pass	6♣	3♦
Morrie Kleinplatz	3♠	4♦	Pass	6♣	3♦
John Koschik	3♠	4♥	3♠	6♣	3♦
Linda Perlman	3♣	5♣	3♣	7♣	3♦
Irv Rosenstein	3♠	5♣	Pass	5NT	3♦
Don Rumelhart	3♣	Pass	Pass	6♣	3♦
Richard Temkin	3♠	5♣	Pass	6♣	2NT
Bob Webber	3♣	4♦	Pass	5NT	3♦
Willie Winokur	3♣	5♣	Pass	6♣	3♦

spade stopper. I'll let the hearts take care of themselves.

Dennis Kasle (3♠): Asking for a stopper. With the lack of any heart bid or implication of hearts, I think partner should have a stopper or length. Partner can figure out what kind of hand I have and can take it from there if he has a very good hand.

Morrie Kleinplatz (3♠): A slight overbid, but IMPs are IMPs. Hopefully partner's first job, when in doubt, is to show a stopper. If I had a big hand with the minors, he can count on me to bid over 3NT.

At the table, partner held: ♠KQx ♥AKxx ♦Kxxx ♣Jx, so a successful 6NT would usually be reached after a 3♠ bid, but maybe not after just 3♣.

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

♠KQ104 ♥A3 ♦QJ5 ♣Q1093

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

--	--	--	1♣
Pass	1♦	2NT	Pass
3♥	4♣	Pass	?

Action	Score	Votes
Pass	100	8
5♣	80	6
4♦	60	3
4♥	60	2

It's too late for 3NT, and I

don't think we can make 11 tricks in a minor. We'll be lucky to make 10, losing two tricks in the majors and one or two in the minors. There are potentially 7 IMPs between letting them make 3♥ and making 4♣, so we need 4♣ to be non-forcing. Partner had stronger bids available if he wanted to force to game.

Kurt Dasher (Pass): Likely spade, heart and minor loser. Pard would not bid only 4♣ with AK of diamonds and AK of clubs. Might be too high already.

Don Rumelhart (Pass): 4♣ is not forcing, and most of my assets are in the opponents' suits and not pulling full weight.

Gene Benedict (Pass): I have too many wasted values in the opponents' suits to consider game. Give partner ♠xx ♥xx ♦AKxxx ♣Axxx and you rate to have three losers in 5♣.

Chuck Burger (Pass): No inverted minor raise, no double and no cuebid, so 4♣ is non-forcing. Bad breaks, being off the ace of spades and the probable heart lead are more reasons to pass.

Suzy Burger (Pass): Partner is just competing.

Trying to invite back:

Joe Chiesa (4♦): Preserves vulnerable game prospects, alerts partner to a quasi double fit but permits us to bail out at the 4-level.

Other ideas:

Willie Winokur (5♣): Seduced by limited losers in the majors, and hoping pard has great minors.

Jonathan Fleischmann (5♣): I expect three or so working honors from partner, and probably 10+ cards in the minors. I'm rooting for a stiff heart across, or some way to

avoid a loser there.

Irv Rosenstein (5♣): Two-suit fit. Going for the vulnerable game.

Dick Temkin (5♣): With a six-loser hand, I don't think a 4♥ bid is a good idea. Game may not make, but I can't see passing, especially at IMPs.

John Koschik (4♥): Slam is likely. Partner didn't bid some number of clubs initially, so this is a strong auction with clubs and diamonds.

Bob Brent (4♥): Only thing I know is that I can't pass.

District 12 gets bigger

Northern Indiana's unit 154 has been transferred to District 12 from District 8 pursuant to a vote of the national ACBL board of directors in March. The unit has about 600 members in South Bend, Fort Wayne, Gary and a rectangle from the Ohio border to the Illinois border and extending as far south as Kokomo.

"We have joined the district of the players and the partners that we see every week from Michigan and northwestern Ohio," Unit 154 President Gary Chaney wrote in the unit's April newsletter. "On behalf of the Unit BoD, I thank

each and every one of you who signed the petition for transfer. Yes, all 480 of you! You comprised 85% of all the Unit members who played at a Unit club two or more times in the past two years. You spoke with gusto and passion and the ACBL heard you."

Northern Indiana joins MBA, SOMBA, Eastern Michigan, Western Michigan and Northwest Ohio in District 12. Since each district is limited to four regionals a year, Northern Indiana apparently is giving up on the annual September regional in Fort Wayne, which has seen declining attendance.

At the table, partner held a daring ♠xx ♥J10x ♦Axxx ♣Kxxx, so passing would have been a good idea.

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

♠Q104 ♥K1084 ♦J73 ♣754
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 Pass 1♠ Pass 1NT*
 Pass 2NT Pass ?

*Semi-forcing

Action	Score	Votes
Pass	100	10
3♠	70	6
3♣	50	1
3NT	50	1
4♠	50	1

Gene Benedict (3♠): We have an 8-card fit, and possibly a poorly guarded minor suit. Why not bid 2♠ originally?

Bob Katz (Pass): I would NEVER have bid 1NT, but having done that, I may have accidentally gotten us to the winning contract.

In 2/1 Game Force, raising 1♠ to 2♠ shows 6+ (7?) to a so-so 10 support points, so this hand arguably does not quite qualify. Instead we bid a semiforcing 1NT, planning a simple preference to 2♠ if partner bids 2 of another suit. Bidding it that way, as opposed to raising directly, will keep partner from going to the three-

level with 14 or 15 HCPs and a singleton. Also, it will discourage the opponents from balancing because they won't know we have an 8-card fit.

What does partner's 2NT show? Many believe it should deliver 18-19 HCPs. If so, we have to consider the added value of our Q and 10 of spades (being in partner's suit), and maybe raise to 3NT. If 2NT is just 17 to 18-, which is how I play it, then we should pass, or maybe correct to 3♠.

Joe Chiesa (Pass): With 19, partner would bid 3NT herself. Albeit I have a third spade, I have 6 flat points. Matchpoints counsels caution. If I had a ruffing value, I would contemplate 3♠.

If we had a ruffing value (and the same honors), we would have raised to 2♠ originally.

Chuck Burger (3♠) Non-forcing. Less than a direct raise.

Jonathan Fleischmann (3♠): Passing could well be right at matchpoints, but I'd need partner to have both minors well-covered. 3♠ should be this hand if playing constructive raises. 4♠ would show the limit raise.

Six of our 19 panelists volunteered that they would have raised to 2♠ immediately. A couple of them said they wanted to bid 3♠ now, but felt it showed a 3-card limit raise. When you adjust for that, the panel was pretty evenly split on playing notrump vs. spades.

John Koschik (3♠): Non-forcing. Will play better in spades unless partner's doubleton is in hearts.

Irv Rosenstein (Pass): Game prospects are iffy. Likely making the same number of tricks in NT as spades.

At the table, partner held ♠AKJ62 ♥A53 ♦Q9 ♣A62. Both notrump and spades usually would make 9 tricks, though both could be held to 8 on precise defense.

Brenda Bryant (3NT): We are vulnerable, so I will push to game. Seems either side has no shape, so why play 4♠? 3NT likely easier.

Hey, Brenda. It's match-points, so the vulnerability doesn't matter in bidding or not bidding a game. Vulnera-

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GOODWILL AWARD WINNER**

ble at IMPs, I also would bid 3NT.

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

♠QJ10 ♥103 ♦KQJ ♣K7643

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
--	--	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣**	Pass	3NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	?

*New Minor Forcing

**Clubs, game forcing

Action	Score	Votes
6♣	100	13.5
5NT	60	2.5
7♣	60	2
6NT	50	1
Pass	0	0

Has partner lost his mind? No, he is showing a big club raise with a spade void and enough material to make at least 6♣, even if you only have four clubs and 12 HCPs with some wastage in spades. Must be something like: ♠void ♥AKxxx ♦Axxx ♣AQxx. So...

Bob Katz (7♣): In this very unusual auction, where 4♠ would have been forcing, this should show a void and something like ♠void ♥AKxxx ♦Axx ♣AQxxx.

Linda Perlman, the only other 7♣ bidder, thinks partner would have ♠AKxx ♥AKxx(x)

♦void ♣AQxx(x). Meanwhile, Rosenstein and Webber believe partner is asking for a second-round spade control to play 6♣, so they sign off in 5NT. Fleischmann guessed partner is looking for third-round spade control for 7♣; he bids 6NT to show that his third-round spade control is the Q, not a doubleton.

Most of the panelists assumed 5♣ was 1430 Exclusion Blackwood. Other 6♣ bidders were signing off simply because they didn't like their hand.

Summing up the mood of the majority:

Don Rumelhart (6♣): I wish I knew what 5♣ meant. Is he trying to show a void? Are we playing exclusion? If so, what are the agreed responses? However, when partner makes a mystery bid, it is best to retreat to the cheapest level of the agreed suit and hope for the best.

Only one of the 6♣ bidders, Joe Chiesa, suggested a specific hand for partner: ♠void ♥AQJxxx ♦Ax ♣AQxxx. Possibly he has forgotten that it was he who suggested this problem 3½ years ago after a similar hand came up in the 2014 District 12 finals of the North American Pairs. In that

event, Chiesa actually held ♠void ♥AKJxx ♦Axx ♣AQ10xx. The auction went as indicated, and his partner bid 6♣ with the actual ♥AQ ♥10x ♦KQx ♣xxxxxx. Most of the field was in 6NT. Both slams made, so 6♣ was a bad score.

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

♠AK ♥K92 ♦AJ943 ♣874
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 -- -- -- 1NT
 2♥* Dbl** Pass ?
 *Hearts and a minor
 **Negative

Action	Score	Votes
3♦	100	18
2NT	50	1
2♠	10	0

This used to be a penalty double, so we haven't had a lot of experience with the negative variety. Supposedly the doubler is showing support for the unbid suits, especially spades, or maybe he has the values to raise to 2NT, since bidding 2NT here would have been Lebensohl.

Only a few panelists looked beyond their five-card minor, although they also have the very notrumpy Kxx of hearts. And partner did not really promise diamonds.

Dick Temkin (2NT): I think I

should tell partner I have a heart stopper.

Chuck Burger (3♦): 2NT and Pass are possible, but respect West's vul. bid. Pard can force and ask with 3♥ if strong. No club card and heart king onside stop me from going for penalty.

Joe Chiesa (3♦): Torn between 3♦ and 2NT. If partner has a minimum game try, 3♦ is probably best. (With a minimum he should be prepared for all my responses.) Over 3♦, 3NT remains possible.

At the table in a December club game that was part of the Common Game, partner (that was me) held ♠QJ52 ♥A654 ♦6 ♣J932. Over 3♦, I was constrained to bid 3NT, which was down one for a bad score. Maybe I should have passed over 2♥ and taken a plus, but I was concerned that we would be poorly placed if the opponents got to 3♦ or if our side was on for game in spades, or both.

Sorry, partner.

NEXT ISSUE'S HANDS

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

♠AJ ♥AQJ1042 ♦AJ83 ♣J
 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 - - Pass 1♥
 3♣ 3♠ Pass ?

2a. MTPTs. N-S vul. As SOUTH, you hold:

♠K ♥108652 ♦AKQ864 ♣7
 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 - - Pass ?

b. Assuming partner responds 1♠ to whatever you open, what will you bid next?

c. Will you make a third call if partner makes only a minimal second bid? If so, what bid do you expect to make?

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

♠Q63 ♥Q93 ♦AQ ♣AQJ52
 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 - Pass Pass 1NT
 2♦ Pass Pass ?

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

♠AK92 ♥AK954 ♦J7 ♣Q6
 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 2♠ 3♣ Pass 3♥
 Pass 4♣ Pass 4♠
 Pass 5♣ Pass ?

b. Do you agree with 3♥ and 4♠? If not, what would you have bid?

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

♠A875 ♥Q7652 ♦A ♣AJ7
 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 - Pass 1♣ 1♥
 Pass 1NT Pass ?

Mail your answers to:
 Table Talk Magazine
 4504 Knollcrest Road
 Ann Arbor MI 48108
 Or email to:
 MBATalk@aol.com

Michigan State Sectional

Here are the results of the Michigan State Sectional, played March 22-25 at the Bridge Connection in Southfield.

MASTERPOINT LEADERS:

- 1, Sandy Birnholtz, 27.00
- 2, Jonathan Fleischmann, 21.98
- 3, Samir Zeine, 21.52
- 4, Richard Temkin, 18.79
- 5, Michael Kaleel, 17.98
- 6, John Dreifus, 17.98
- 7, Michael Crane, 17.29
- 8, Robert Raf, 15.93
- 9, Brenda Jaffe, 15.56
- 10, Robert Katz, 14.94

THURSDAY AM PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Samir Zeine, Brenda Jaffe. 2, Kathy Twomey, Emily Miller. 3, George Christian, Larry Cohen.

FLIGHT B: 1, Twomey, Miller. 2, Christian, Cohen. 3, Michael Kraut, Ronald Rogers. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Twomey, Miller. 2, Christian, Cohen. 3, Frederick Fayle, James Banaszek.

THURSDAY SWISS TEAMS

FLIGHT A: 1, Michael Crane, Richard Temkin, Henry Shevitz, Mary Smith. 2, Steven Jacob, Robert Raf, Sandy Birnholtz, Grant Petersen. 3, Jonathan Fleischmann, Phyllis Cohn, Sandy Goller, Robert Katz. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Jacob

team. 2/3, Michael Kaleel, Richard Menczer, John Dreifus, Carolyn Simmer. 2/3, Steve O'Guin, Delores Bright, Michael Kraut, Ronald Rogers. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Satish Shah, Song Lin, Larry Cohen, George Christian. 2, Kenneth Geisler, Arlene Geisler, Emily Miller, Kathy Twomey. 3, Peter Malcolmson, Mark Stern, Richard Muntz, Susan Yester.

THURSDAY NIGHT PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Owen Lien, Jonathan Fleischmann. 2/3, William Landrum, Chris Wiggins. 2/3, Guy Conti, Stuart Collis. **FLIGHT B:** 1/2, Landrum, Wiggins. 1/2, Conti, Collis. 3, Peter Malcolmson, Margaret Carden. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Conti, Collis. 2, Malcolmson, Carden. 3, Tracey King, David McIntyre.

FRIDAY AM PAIRS FLIGHT

A: 1, Dennis Carman, John Koschik. 2, William Winokur, Steven Winokur. 3, Michael McDonald, Sandy Birnholtz. **FLIGHT B:** 1, McDonald, Birnholtz. 2, Lakshmi Vora, Naresh Kapila. 3, Wilbur Argersinger, David Graff. **FLIGHT C:** 1, James McNamara, Maria Conti. 2, Raj Patil, Daniel Schiffer. 3, Mike Roeder, Richard Verhelle.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, John Dreifus, Michael Kaleel. 2, Martin Hirschman, Robert Katz. 3, Carolyn Simmer, Richard Menczer. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Dreifus, Kaleel. 2, Simmer, Menczer. 3, Murray Bloom, Gerald Bloom. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Irving Hershman, Paul Stunkel. 2, Larry Cohen, Steven Kaplan. 3, Manus Nemeth, Adrienne Allard.

FRIDAY NIGHT FAST PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Bert Newman, Kathy Newman. 2, Joe Monro, Rhonda Monro. 3, Jonathan Flesichmann, Brad Dracka. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Fleischmann, Dracka. 2, Alfred Varone, Myra Pasma.

SATURDAY AM PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Debra Eaves, Jack Shartsis. 2, Steven Kaplan, Randy Rodnick. 3, Sandy Birnholtz, James Rowe. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Kaplan, Rodnick. 2, Birnholtz, Rowe. 3/4, John Philbrook, John Allen. 3/4, Roger Chan, Bedford Embrey Jr. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Kaplan, Rodnick. 2, Chan, Embrey. 3, Pearl Lim, Dennis Ebendick.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Joe Monro, Owen Lien. 2, Sarah Beckman, John Beckman. 3, Delores Bright, Charlotte Mil-

ler. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Beckman, Beckman. 2, Carol Fink, Arnold Fink. 3, Pearl Lim, Dennis Ebendick. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Beckman, Beckman. 2, Fink, Fink.

SATURDAY SWISS TEAMS

FLIGHT A: 1, Bob Rasmussen, Arthur Wasserman, Cing-Po Wang, Xingyu Zhang. 2, Michael Kaleel, Linda Golumbia, Arthur Golumbia, John Dreifus. 3, Mary Smith, Myles Maddox, Richard Becher, Michael Giordano. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Rasmussen team. 2, Kaleel team. 3, James Walter, Clarke Cunningham, David Aderente, Wilbur Argersinger. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Stuart Collis, Guy Conti, Matthew Evett, Susan Evett. 2/3, Irving Hershman, Harold Lipsitz, Joyce Bell, Chun Zhou, Xiaoping Wu. 2/3, Lisa Karam, Carrie Osborne, James Korte, James McNamara.

SUNDAY SWISS TEAMS

FLIGHT A: 1, Steven Jacob, Robert Raf, Sandy Birnholtz, Clarke Cunningham. 2, Kurt Dasher, Jonathan Fleischmann, Sheldon Kirsch, Linda Perlman. 3/5, Michael Giordano, Bert Newman, Kathy Newman, Walter Goldsmith. 3/5, Wilbur Argersinger, David Graff, Lillian Back, Bob Rasmussen. 3/5, Michael Crane, Richard Temkin, Irving

Rosenstein, John Koschik.
FLIGHT B: 1, Jacob team. 2, Argersinger team. 3, John Hartman III, Philip Cowen, Alan Cohn, Grant Petersen.
FLIGHT C: 1, Stuart Dombey, Corey Powell, Renata Wasserman, Martha Toon. 2, K. Van Alstine Jr., Mary Lou Schaffer, Sue Berry, Freda Mills.

**CONGRATULATIONS
 NEW LIFE MASTERS**

James Korte
 Corey Powell

**299er winners
 at March sectional**

THURSDAY AM PAIRS: Pamela Radike, Mary Jo Campbell.

THURSDAY SWISS TEAMS: Gerard Peplowski, Richard Shaw, David Donegan, Diana Donegan.

FRIDAY AM PAIRS: Philip Malefyt, Jacqueline Larivee.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS: James Egan, Ronald Zurilla.

SATURDAY AM PAIRS: Jean Hellekjaer, Thomas Johnson.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS: Daniel Rose, Ronald Whitney.

SUNDAY AM PAIRS: Kikuko Kobayashi, Yumiko Narita.

Lien wins Marsee

Owen Lien is the winner of the 2017 Grant Marsee trophy, awarded to the Michigan player who wins the most total masterpoints as counted in the Barry Crane Top 500.

Lien amassed 931 points in the year, edging out Jonathan Fleischmann, who won 895 points. Perennial Marsee winner Bert Newman was third with 811.

All three of these players are MBA members. Lien, a sometime professional player who directs games at the Bridge Connection in Southfield, is currently MBA's president-elect and sectional tournament chair.

Lien was 101st on the national Barry Crane list, which includes all points won during the year, except in online play.

Where do you stand?

How many MBA members have how many masterpoints? Here is a breakdown (as of the end of 2017):

0 points: 38	300-500: 69
0.05-10: 103	500-750: 78
10-50: 88	750-1000: 49
50-100: 52	1000-3000: 139
100-200: 74	3000-5000: 23
200-300: 49	5000 and up: 33

Mike Graham Ann Arbor Sectional

Here are the results of the Mike Graham Ann Arbor Sectional, held Jan. 27-28 at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.

MASTERPOINT LEADERS:

1, Sheldon Kirsch, 20.42
2/3/4, Martin Hirschman, 15.32
2/3/4, Susan Parnes, 15.32
2/3/4, Gordon Parnes, 15.32
5/6, Joseph Ernsthausen, 14.24
5/6, Gary Brinker, 14.24
7/8, Bob Rasmussen, 13.41
7/8, Arthur Wasserman, 13.41
9, Henry Shevitz, 13.20
10, Jonathan Fleischmann, 13.02

SATURDAY SWISS TEAMS

FLIGHT A: 1, Gary Brinker, Henry Shevitz, Sheldon Kirsch, Joseph Ernsthausen. 2, Martin Hirschman, Samuel Hirschman, Susan Parnes, Gordon Parnes. 3, Bob Rasmussen, Arthur Wasserman, Ching-Po Wang, Xingyu Zhang. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Rasmussen team. 2, Suzanne Baker, Gary Theis, Robert Christensen, Joseph Stevenson. 3, Richard Bauman, J. Morris Swiger, Elmer Johansen, Mary Keen. **FLIGHT C:** 1/2, Kenneth Geisler, Arlene Geisler, Patricia Miller, Scott

Miller. 1/2, Chris Brewer, Klaus Brondum, Martha Toon, D. Abraham. 3, Matt Evett, Susan Evett, James Egan, Graham Putnam.

SUNDAY SWISS TEAMS

FLIGHT A: 1, Jim Stokes, Bert Newman, Linda Perlman, Jonathan Fleischmann, Owen Lien, Kevin Fay. 2, Cono Emanuele, Robert Katz, Sheldon Kirsch, Kurt Dasher. 3, Martin Hirschman, Gene Owens, Gordon Parnes, Susan Parnes. **FLIGHT B:** 1, David Harty, Donald Rumelhart, Bob Rasmussen, Arthur Wasserman. 2, Richard Voss, John Berry, Randy Walker, Don McCabe. 3, Pamela George, Martha Toon, Renata Wasserman, Corey Powell. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Voss team. 2, George team. 3, Maria Conti, Beth Kordt, Latika Mangrulkar, Deepak Dlghe.

499er winners at Ann Arbor sectional

SATURDAY AM PAIRS: Stephen Leist, James Peresta

SATURDAY PM PAIRS: Stephen Leist, James Peresta

MOVING UP...

JUNIOR MASTERS

Eileen Blough
Adele Brinkman
Douglas Brinkman
Barbara Browne
Bruce Browne
Cosette Campbell
Mitzi Estes
Harold Felty
Lucy Hallock
Virginia Rice
Jack Ryan

CLUB MASTERS

Susan Gibbs
Joseph Learman
Anne McBrien
William Pressprich
Naoko Wada

SECTIONAL MASTERS

Gary Boyers
Guy Conti

Hugh Harness
Berrye Thompson

REGIONAL MASTERS

Ruthan Brodsky
Michael Fant
Jamie Ling
Daniel Rose
Mark Stern

NABC MASTER

Steven Miller

ADVANCED NABC MASTER

Maria Conti

BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Robert Skye

SILVER LIFE MASTERS

David Copi
Irving Hershman
Dan Sutherland
Doris Terwilliger

SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER

Clarke Cunningham

GNT DISTRICT FINAL

Here are the winners of the District 12 final of the Grand National Teams, held May 11-12 in Southfield. The winners in each flight will represent District 12 in the national final at the Summer NABC in Atlanta.

UNLIMITED FLIGHT: Jonathan Fleischmann, Howard Perlman, Martin Hirschman, Allan Falk, Jordan Kaye, Frank Treiber III

FLIGHT A: Kurt Dasher, Cono Emanuele, Grant Petersen, Zachary Wasserman, Michael Kraut, Frank Sensoli

FLIGHT B: Bob Rasmussen, Wilbur Argersinger, Arthur Wasserman, David Aderente, Timur Aydin, Cristina Tita

FLIGHT C: Tengyun Tony Cao, Chun Zhou, Henry Zhang, Yanping Zhang

2017 MBA Mini-McKenney

2017 MBA Mini-Ace of Clubs

Note: Categories denote points held at the beginning of 2017

0 to 5: 1, Naoko Wada, 15.18. 2, Larry Trager, 12.84. 3, Alicia Treder, 9.89.

5 to 20: 1, Helen Klar, 12.04. 2, Jeanne Learman, 11.03. 3, Susan Gibbs, 10.88.

20 to 50: 1/2, P. Steven Dotson, 38.51. 1/2, Donna Dotson, 38.51. 3, M.H. Newman, 26.78.

50 to 100: 1, Julian Prince, 50.34. 2/3, Joyce Close, 43.51. 2/3, Rosalyn Monticciolo, 43.51.

100 to 200: 1, Pearl Lim, 164.10. 2, James McNamara, 127.15. 3, James Korte, 114.68.

200 to 300: 1, Yanping Zhang, 150.61. 2, Henry Zhang, 144.59. 3, Carrie Osborne, 140.25.

300 to 500: 1, Barb Ferrera, 174.50. 2, Bob Ondo, 141.31. 3, Craig Ross, 105.59.

500 to 1000: 1, Steven Winokur, 222.42. 2, William Niemczyk, 100.68. 3, Ronna Galin, 87.74.

1000 to 1500: 1, James Walter, 478.56. 2, Sandy Birnholtz, 236.08. 3, Arthur Wasserman, 139.03.

1500 to 2500: 1, Wilbur Argersinger, 410.29. 2, Zachary Wasserman, 256.59. 3, David Aderente, 203.04.

2500 to 3500: 1, John Koschik, 461.36. 2, Margaret Moore, 314.44. 3, Grant Petersen, 311.79.

3500 to 5000: 1, Jonathan Fleischmann, 895.80. 2, Michael Giordana, 389.74. 3, Dennis Kasle, 253.59.

5000 to 7500: 1, Sheldon Kirsch, 463.74. 2, Anastasia Tessler, 360.63. 3, Kurt Dasher, 334.88.

7500 to 10000: 1, Owen Lien, 931.84. 2, Robert Brent, 436.47. 3, William Winokur, 321.85.

Over 10000: 1, Bert Newman, 811.02. 2, Martin Hirschman, 482.32. 3, William Arlinghaus, 285.71.

0 to 5: 1, Larry Trager, 12.84. 2, Naoko Wada, 10.28. 3, Alicia Treder, 7.80.

5 to 20: 1, Helen Klar, 9.19. 2, Nancy Kanat, 8.97. 3, Jeanne Lerman, 7.90.

20 to 50: 1/2, P. Steven Dotson, 26.11. 1/2, Donna Dotson, 26.11. 3, M.H. Newman, 25.98.

50 to 100: 1, Brian Morton, 27.70. 2, Julian Prince, 25.31. 3, Ruthan Brodsky, 24.65.

100 to 200: 1, James McNamara, 64.10. 2, Pearl Lim, 56.34. 3, Barbara Schiff, 36.63.

200 to 300: 1, Carrie Osborne, 47.51. 2, Tyrone Loving, 42.30. 3, Charles A. Smith, 40.54.

300 to 500: 1, Craig Ross, 92.32. 2, Barb Ferrera, 73.98. 3, Susan Higbie, 56.12.

500 to 1000: 1, Steven Winokur, 101.97. 2, Penelope Rudolph, 70.95. 3, William Niemczyk, 62.87.

1000 to 1500: 1, James Walter, 163.15. 2, Sandy Birnholtz, 125.79. 3, Marilyn Vander Velde, 84.29.

1500 to 2500: 1, Wilbur Argersinger, 128.62. 2, Richard Menczer, 111.85. 3, Michael McDonald, 103.53.

2500 to 3500: 1, Margaret Moore, 190.80. 2, James Smyth, 160.82. 3, Rose Burke, 128.10.

3500 to 5000: 1, Jonathan Fleischmann, 177.05. 2, Michael Giordano, 146.80. 3, Charlotte Miller, 121.45.

5000 to 7500: 1, Lynne Cook, 165.71. 2, Richard Becher, 121.30. 3, Ruth Metevier, 107.96.

7500 to 10000: 1, William Winokur, 175.89. 2, Brenda Jaffe, 153.77. 3, Robert Brent, 153.37.

Over 10000: 1, Bert Newman, 148.28. 2, Bob Webber, 125.16. 3, Myles Madrox, 94.93.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

John Berkaw
 Cynthia Brady
 Linda Brandemihl
 Mary Campbell
 Lucie Greenberg
 Kathy Griffin
 Marie Harkenrider
 Aneel Karnani
 Judy Kavulich
 Anne Mabley
 Elaine Malley-Snider
 Cynthia McNamara
 Carl Mitchell
 Mandy Mitchell
 Virginia Morgan
 Joan Plonka
 Janna Roop
 Lynne Stanich

Vesta Svenson
 Barbara Thomas
 Laurie Townsend
 Eric Wiedmayer

WELCOME TRANSFERS

Darrell Bain
 Sarah Beckman
 L.H. Dillon
 Jane Gardner
 Francis King
 Phyllis Kordick
 Eleni Lambrecht
 Paul Lewis
 Thomas Pound
 Claude Rebeck
 Victor Rizzo
 Nancy Sergeant
 Jeffrey Vargo

2017 MBA Treasurer's Report

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
RECEIPTS		
Sectional tournaments	4,419	3,005
Motor City Regional	2,991	5,532
NAP	-644	-404
Dues	3,183	3,156
Interest	<u>148</u>	<u>118</u>
	10,097	11,407
EXPENDITURES		
Table Talk	7,289	6,921
Honoraria	4,800	4,800
Board meetings	1,277	1,270
District 12	842	860
Office and postage	813	635
Miscellaneous	<u>1,258</u>	<u>1,128</u>
	16,279	15,614
Gain (loss)	-6,182	-4,207
Cash balance beginning of year	<u>32,860</u>	<u>37,087</u>
Cash balance end of year	<u>26,698</u>	<u>32,088</u>

—ROBERT WEBBER, treasurer

IN MEMORIAM

Thelma Bilbrey
Dorothy Kuhn
Jeanne Learman
Marilyn Maddox
Walter Otto
Ronald Smith
Bonnie Thompson

Marilyn Maddox

Marilyn Maddox, one of our top and most beloved players and teachers, passed away in January following a long battle with cancer. She was 88.



Playing mostly with her husband Myles, Marilyn had many regional and sectional wins. She amassed 14,743 masterpoints which was the 5th highest total among living MBA members.

The Maddoxes were frequent teammates of Joan and Vince Remey and Phil Leon before those local stars passed from the scene in the late 1980s and '90s. In 1998, Marilyn and Myles were co-winners of the Edward F. Stein Trophy, MBA's player-of-the-year award.

Marilyn learned bridge at age 12. She met Myles in

1946 and helped him learn the game. They married in 1949. Marilyn taught bridge at the Village Club in Bloomfield Hills for 35 years.

Marilyn had an infectious smile and was always upbeat. Interests included gardening, cooking, baking and interior design. Always impeccably dressed, she was universally described by friends and acquaintances as "classy." She is survived by Myles, two of their three children, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Dorothy Kuhn

The Ann Arbor City Club hosted an open club championship game May 1 as a memorial to Dorothy Kuhn, who passed away in November. The event drew 24 tables and was financed entirely by the Kuhn family.



Kuhn, who was 78, died after a long battle with congestive heart failure. She was a long-time director and manager of club games at the City Club (formerly known as the Women's City Club).

Well liked by all, Dorothy was the 2005 MBA Goodwill Award winner.

Beware of making a hasty claim

By Jerrold Grossman

Law 74B4 states that “as a matter of courtesy, a player should refrain from... prolonging play unnecessarily (as in playing on although he knows that all the tricks are surely his) for the purpose of disconcerting an opponent.” But there is often more than meets the eye when it comes to claiming.

Here is a hand I played at matchpoints against one of the top Flight A pairs at the Bridge Connection in suburban Detroit.

	NORTH	
	♠A72	
	♥A	
	♦AQJ10987	
	♣72	
WEST		EAST
♠J943		♠Q105
♥J874		♥Q1092
♦63		♦K5
♣Q85		♣A1094
	SOUTH	
	♠K86	
	♥K653	
	♦42	
	♣KJ63	

After a straightforward 1♦-1♥-3♦-3NT auction, West led her fourth best spade. Despite

the entry problems, I decided to win the spade lead in my hand (East put up his queen) and try the diamond finesse. East won the king and returned the ten of spades, which West overtook and I ducked, and she cleared the suit.

Dummy is now up except for those two clubs. Surely, I reasoned, if either opponent held the ace of clubs along with the nine of spades, that person would claim the last two tricks at this point. And it seemed clear from the play of the spade suit that West held the 13th spade. Ergo, the club ace was on my right! So all I needed to do was come down to the three-card ending with ♥A ♠72 in dummy and ♥K ♣KJ in my hand, and lead a club to the king if East ducked. Making four.

Well, that is the happy ending as the cards lie, but hold on a minute! What if the opponents' club honors are reversed, East keeps at least two clubs, and West comes down to ♠9 ♣A and “forgot” to claim at trick five? When I execute my brilliantly reasoned ending, the opponents take the last three tricks, and I'm down one! The moral of the story: Sometimes when it's obvious to claim as a defender, it's the wrong thing to do.

ACBL: What's going on?

(Continued from page 1)

the full story over time.”

Sources close to the board report that there were a variety of problems, particularly in the management of ACBL staff at the league's headquarters in Horn Lake MS. Employees were threatening to quit, one source said. Presumably we will be hearing more as time goes on.

Chris Compton – attorney, professional player and Dallas bridge club proprietor – commented in an article on bridgewinners.com. It is a little hard to tell from his article whether he has personal knowledge of the details or what his sources are. Compton wrote:

“Bahar Gidwani was viewed as extremely polite, brilliant, popular, very responsive and willing to listen to each and every member. Everyone may rest assured that the entire BOD wanted Gidwani to succeed. To think otherwise is paranoia. When the BOD unanimously hired Gidwani, hopes were high and expectations were as well – everyone was sure he had new and good ideas. Now the BOD appears bumbling, stumbling, and unfortunately, seen as

doing business as usual. It's true, the BOD is slow to really let the CEO run the League. Maybe they are right, I am not sure, I do not know enough...

“So what happened in the short period of time between the honeymoon hiring and last Monday? Simply put, I fear that if the BOD does not respect your Bridge ability or knowledge, they won't support your '10 Big Ideas'...

“...the ACBL staff was unimpressed with CEO Gidwani – a feeling was discussed that Gidwani 'just did not get it.'

“So, now [in March] we come to Philadelphia for the NABC meetings, the short version is: the BOD wanted Gidwani to follow their priorities, not his. He stood firm on his ideas – maybe some that he had already been asked not to focus on – were moving forward against the BOD wishes. Next, he was offered a 'coach' or 'counseling.'

“Gidwani refused the coach (what CEO would accept one, not many) ... now a rapid deterioration in relationships, a request to resign, and an apparent recognition that resigning was both admitting defeat and unwise from a personal financial point of view. With apparently 2 years left on a contract with 300K salary, the

normal breakup is a negotiation. No lawyer would advise Gidwani to resign. Yes, I foresee protracted settlement negotiations and possible litigation..."

I sent a draft of this article to Gidwani and ACBL President Whipple.

Whipple replied: "The Board has no more comments at this time.... We have great confidence in our interim Executive Director and have a Search underway. Hopefully, you will share these positive and forward moving initiatives in lieu of unsubstantiated speculation."

Gidwani commented: "As you can imagine, your article is missing important facts and details. It is up to you of

course, if you want to publish something that has these kinds of defects. I'd prefer that you either publish something simpler or that you wait until the full story is available. Either option would be more accurate and would avoid recirculating other people's speculations and assumptions. Wish I could offer more. I am sure you'll get a more clear picture of what happened and why, soon."

Chief Financial Officer Paul Cuneo has been named acting executive director. A search is underway for a new CEO. The search committee is chaired by Cuneo and is composed of five district directors plus the chair of the ACBL Board of Governors.

New team events

The MBA board has modified some of the team events at the August sectional and October regional.

In August, the Sunday Swiss Team event will be bracketed. Entrants will be ranked by average masterpoint holding, then separated into groups of 7, 8 or 9 teams based on the masterpoint holding. Play will be a complete round robin within each group.

In October, the knockout events will consist of three 16-board matches played over just two sessions. The field will be divided into brackets of no more than eight teams each. Winners of the first match will play half the next match before the lunch break, the rest after. Survivors will then immediately play a 16-board final.

TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

June 21-24: Joint MBA-SOMBA sectional, Southfield

July 13-15: Lansing sectional

July 20-22: Saginaw sectional

Aug. 13-19: PETOSKEY REGIONAL

Aug. 23-26: Southfield sectional (MBA)

Sept. 7-9: Traverse City sectional

Sept. 15: Lansing NLM sectional

Sept. 16: N. Am Pairs district final, Lansing

Sept. 27-29: Grand Haven sectional

Oct. 5-7: St. Joseph sectional

Oct. 8-14: MOTOR CITY REGIONAL, Farmington Hills (MBA)

Oct 26-27: Bloomfield Hills NLM sectional

Oct. 26-28: Toledo sectional

Nov. 15-18: Southfield sectional

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