

TABLE TALK
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

VOL. 60 No. 3

WINTER 2019-2020

Golf club is new site for Ann Arbor sectional

The Mike Graham Ann Arbor Sectional has a new home: The banquet facility at the Washtenaw Golf Club. The tournament will be held Jan. 25 and 26. See ad, page 3.

The course is a public golf club southeast of the intersection of Packard and Golfside, just a couple of miles southeast of the Washtenaw Ave. exit of U.S. 23.

The event space is large and completely accessible via ramps. Parking (including handicapped) is ample and

close to the building, and there is a covered drop-off area at the entrance. Restrooms are conveniently located just outside the playing room, and the entire area is carpeted and well-lit, with banquet chair seating and our standard card tables.

Lunch will be provided by the Golf Club and will be soup, sandwiches, and chips both days of the tournament. We hope to see you there!

—Julie Arbit,
Tournament co-chair



The banquet room at the Washtenaw Golf Club is spacious and well-lit.

Jacob, Chirgwin join MBA Board

Steve Jacob and Paul Chirgwin were elected to the MBA Board of Directors in voting at the Motor City Regional.

Board members Stacey Tessler, Jonathan Fleischmann, Julie Arbit and Marilyn Crane won new two-year terms.

Leaving the board are Marilyn Nathanson and Brenda Bryant. Thanks to them for their years of service.

Fleischmann named president-elect

The MBA Board elected Jonathan Fleischmann as 2020 president-elect and sectional tournament chair. He will take over as president for one year beginning in November 2020.

At the board's November meeting, Richard Temkin took over as president. Bob Weber and Stacey Tessler were re-elected as treasurer and recording secretary, respectively.

Bob Ondo will chair the Motor City Regional again next October after running the 2019 regional.

New Board member Paul Chirgwin was named MBA Goodwill chair.

Board member Allan Tushman will join outgoing board member Marilyn Nathanson in running MBA's Facebook page.

Table count down at Motor City Regional

There were 708.5 total tables at the 2019 Motor City Regional, down from 743.5 in 2018. Profit on the tournament was about \$10,500, down from \$13,180 the previous year, according to MBA Treasurer Bob Webber.

Entry fees were reduced to \$14 per player per session in 2019 from \$15 in 2018, Webber pointed out. ACBL's charge to the unit for director services at the tournament was down somewhat because lower-ranking directors, as a group, were assigned to the tournament.

Board names charity donee

The MBA Board has designated the Homeless Action Network of Detroit as the recipient of a \$6,200 grant from the ACBL Charity Foundation.

Michigan Bridge Association's
MICHAEL GRAHAM
ANN ARBOR SECTIONAL

January 25-26, 2020
Washtenaw Golf Club
2955 Packard Road, Ypsilanti MI 48197
734-434-2150

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

Stratified Open Swiss Teams
(playthru—7 matches) 10 a.m.
(Open Strats: A=Unlimited; B=0-3000; C=0-1000)
Stratified 0-500 Pairs (single session)..... 10 a.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs (single session)..... 2 p.m.
(0-500 strats: 0-100, 0-300, 0-500
as attendance warrants)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

Bracketed Open Swiss Teams (playthru)..... 10 a.m.
Teams will be divided into two or more brackets based
on average masterpoints. Each bracket is a separate
event with its own overall masterpoint awards.

**Entry fees include lunch of soup
and sandwiches both days.**

Free coffee and snacks will be available
throughout the tournament.

Tournament chairs:

Stacey Tessler, atessler@hotmail.com, 734-623-8050
Julie Arbit, jarbit24@gmail.com, 301-512-5679

Partnerships:

Marcy Toon, mtoon@umich.edu, 734-478-3394

District 12 website: District12bridge.org

TABLE TALK

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MBA Officers

Richard Temkin..... president
Jonathan Fleischmann.. president-elect
Owen Lien..... chairman
Stacey Tessler.... recording secretary
Bob Webber..... treasurer

Board of Directors

Julie Arbit, Shelley Boschan, Paul
Chirgwin, Marilyn Crane, Jonathan
Fleischmann, Jane Gardner, Martin
Hirschman (non-voting), Steve Jacob,
Owen Lien, Bob Ondo, Grant Pe-
tersen, Richard Temkin, Stacey
Tessler, Allan Tushman

MBA CLUB DIRECTORY

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

■**Ann Arbor Genesis**, 2309
Packard, Ann Arbor. Stuart Col-
lis, 734-678-5549. Tuesday 7
p.m.

■**Bridge On the Park**, 1320
Baldwin, Ann Arbor. Debra
Eaves, 248-935-0909. Wednes-
day 12 p.m.

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

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

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

■**Friendly Friday BC**, St. Paul

Evangelical Lutheran Church,
375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe
Farms. Tony Faint, 586-649-
3575. Friday 12 p.m.

■**Neighborhood Club**, St. Paul
Evangelical Lutheran Church,
375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe
Farms. Tony Faint, 586-649-3575.
Thursday 12 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 McKin-
ley, Dearborn Heights. Joyce Koz-
ma, 313-274-5587. Wednesday
11 a.m.

IT'S YOUR BID

By Marty Hirschman

I took over It's Your Bid from the late, great Steve Landen about 22 years ago. If you are wondering, I don't really know the "right" answer to most of these problems. That is why I have been using them in this column. Going forward, maybe I'll know the answers to someone else's problems.

Congratulations to Kurt Dasher, Jonathan Fleischmann and Linda Perlman for high score among our expert panelists, and to Neil Manley for top reader score.

With your participation, It's Your Bid will live on. Just send in your answers to Next Issue's Hands, found at the end of this article.

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

♠10 ♥972 ♦AJ1075 ♣AK42

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1♠ Pass 1NT* ?

*Semi-forcing

Action	Score	Votes
Dbl	100	8
Pass	90	7
2♦	60	2
2NT	30	0

There is a fair chance that, if they are left to their own devices, the vulnerable opponents will wind up -200 in 2♠ (5-2 fit with a 5-1 trump break). You may be saving them from that fate if you stick your nose in. On the other hand, you could have a big fit in a minor or even hearts.

If you do bid, should you double or overcall diamonds? Double is more flexible, and could result in a big penalty

against 1NT or runout, but it could induce partner to lead hearts away from an honor against an eventual spade contract or, worse, get you to hearts in a 4-3 fit with your own 5-1 trump break.

Don Rumelhart (Pass): The auction is unlikely to end in 1NT, so I expect to be better placed to make an intelligent bid.

Bob Brent (Pass): Still may have a chance to balance pending opener's rebid. If he passes 1NT, I have an excellent diamond lead.

Dick Temkin (Pass): I need a 4th heart to double with this hand. May have a chance to come in later.

Irv Rosenstein (Pass): May be a misfit hand.

Morrie Kleinplatz (2♦): I don't

SCORES

EXPERTS:

Kurt Dasher	470
Jonathan Fleischmann ..	470
Linda Perlman	470
Julie Arbit	460
Bob Webber	460
Joe Chiesa	450
Sheldon Kirsch	450
John Koschik.....	450
Don Rumelhart	450
Dick Temkin	450

READERS:

Neil Manley	450
Seymour Mandell.....	430
Dave Graf	410
James M. Swiger	410
Val Enache	370
Patty Becker	360
Irv Hershman	360
Jerry Jefferies	340
Barb Reed	330
Gerald Wahl.....	310
Doris Jefferies.....	280
George Pope	270
Jim Reed	260

HOW THE PANEL VOTED

	1	2	3	4	5
Julie Arbit	Dbl	2♠	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Gene Benedict	2♦	2♠	2♥	Dbl	Pass
Bob Brent	Pass	Pass	1♥	4♦	Pass
Brenda Bryant	Dbl	3♠	1♥	Dbl	4♥
Joe Chiesa	Pass	3♠	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Kurt Dasher	Dbl	2NT	1♥	Dbl	4♥
Jonathan Fleischmann	Dbl	2NT	1♥	Dbl	4♥
Sheldon Kirsch	Pass	2NT	1♥	4♦	Pass
Morrie Kleinplatz	2♦	2NT	Pass	Dbl	4NT
John Koschik	Dbl	2NT	1♥	Dbl	6♥
Myles Maddox	Dbl	2♠	2♥	4♦	Pass
Linda Perlman	Dbl	3♠	1♥	Dbl	Pass
Irv Rosenstein	Pass	2NT	Pass	Dbl	5♥
Don Rumelhart	Pass	2NT	Pass	Dbl	4♥
Richard Temkin	Pass	3♠	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Bob Webber	Dbl	2NT	1♥	4♦	Pass
Willie Winokur	Pass	2♠	Pass	Dbl	6♥

like double with such poor hearts. Also, I would like a diamond lead if they buy it in spades.

Gene Benedict (2♦): I think West is going to rebid spades. We may have a sacrifice against 4♠. Don't want to double since I can't stand a heart lead.

Brenda Bryant (Dbl): I think bidding diamonds is too unilateral (partner may have 5 hearts or we play in 4-3).

Kurt Dasher (Dbl): Takeout. Have enough to make one bid.

Jonathan Fleischmann (Dbl): I want to maintain maximum flexibility by doubling rather than overcalling, and I see no reason to wait until the auction comes back to be in 2♠ before deciding to enter the fray at the three-level.

Bob Webber (Dbl): I hate myself.

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

♠Q4 ♥987 ♦1052 ♣AKQ72
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
Pass 1♠ Pass 1NT*
Pass 2♦ Pass ?

*Semi-forcing, 5-11 HCPs
 (2♣ initially would have been game-forcing)

Action	Score	Votes
2NT	100	8
2♠	70	4
3♠	70	4
Pass	40	1
4♠	40	0
3♣	20	0

There was a problem like this in Bridge World about 35 years ago. The consensus choice was 3♠, though I don't remember if that was at matchpoints or IMPs.

We don't need to worry

Older

The average age of MBA members was 73.57 as of Sept. 30, up from 73.08 a year ago and 72.52 two years ago. The average MBA member has been in ACBL for 24.47 years.

The average member of District 12, including MBA, is 73.14, compared to 73.32 a year earlier and 72.35 two years ago. The average District 12 member has been in ACBL for 19.89 years. For the entire ACBL membership, the average age is 72.71, up from 72.37 a year earlier and 72.17 two years earlier. The average ACBL member has been in the league for 18.70 years.

about partner having a balanced 12- or 13-HCP hand (he would have passed 1NT with that) or about missing game if partner has 16+ HCPs (he'll bid again over whatever we bid here). Partner probably has four diamonds. Based on our lengths in the minors, his most likely shape is 5-3-4-1, but he could be shorter and/or very weak in hearts, which would be bad for playing in notrump.

John Koschik (2NT): The only choices are 2♠ and 2NT, and the latter is a better description of my overall values.

Morrie Kleinplatz (2NT): The clear value bid. Lots of ways for this to work well, with an obvious risk if hearts are wide open.

Jonathan Fleischmann (2NT): One of the less-fun auctions playing 2/1 Game Force, but I should be OK making the value bid here. If partner passes, I'll hope we can survive a heart lead. If partner can carry on to game, he should make a descriptive bid, which would allow us to avoid 3NT when 4♠ or 5 of a minor is better.

Joe Chiesa (3♠): Albeit at the table would bid 2.5 spades. 2NT is the e.g. for anti-positional. I am a spade short

for this bid, but the hand has playing strength. Expect the field will essay 2NT. Rooting for ♠AKJxx ♥x ♦AKxx ♣xxx.

Linda Perlman (3♠): This is hard, but best chance to get this hand going. Short a trump...

Brenda Bryant (3♠): Not a perfect bid, but I have a reasonable invite.

Dick Temkin (3♠): Qx is almost as good as xxx, isn't it? I have too much for 2♠, and 2NT on three small hearts is not appealing,

Qx may be about as good in filling out partner's suit as xxx, but compared to other 11-HCP hands, the latter will have two more points helping out in other suit(s), so arguably a hand like ♠432 ♥987 ♦Q102 ♣AKQ72 is worth about two points more than the problem hand.

On balance I would wuss out at matchpoints and take the plus in 2♠. Yes, it's a big underbid but if we jump to 3♠, showing a three-card limit raise, partner will probably need 14-15 points or so and three honors in spades to make 4♠, not a particularly likely parlay.

Gene Benedict (2♠): A 5-2 spade fit may score well if we

don't have a heart stopper in notrump.

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

♠7 ♥J87643 ♦AJ985 ♣A

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

Pass Pass Pass ?

Action	Score	Votes
1♥	100	8
Pass	90	7
2♥	60	2

If you pass this hand out, you could learn that you had a game or even a slam in hearts or diamonds. On the other hand, there is a good possibility that the deal belongs to the opponents in some number of spades.

The so-called Rule of 15, aka Pearson Points, aka Casino (Cassino?) Count, states that you should only open a sub-minimal hand in fourth seat if the total of your HCPs and spades is 15 or more

Like other Rules and Laws for bidding, the Rule is really just a theory. A study published in 2006 on Bridgewinners.com, plus my own experience, suggest that it should be changed to the Rule of 14, and that any hand you would open in first or second seat should surely be opened in fourth.

Is any of that helpful with this very distributional hand

with short spades?

Don Rumelhart (Pass): Fails the Casino Count by 5.

Dick Temkin (Pass): I would open in any other seat, but I have no spades and a lousy suit. Passing it out is more likely to get us a good score.

Joe Chiesa (Pass): Eleven Pearson Points. His formula for a 4th seat opener is MORE relevant today than days of yore, as partner cannot hold more than 10 points for his pass. Moreover, if we defend, do I really desire a heart lead?

Bob Brent (1♥): If opponents can outbid you in spades, so be it. But you could have a slam opposite ♠xxxx ♥AKx ♦Kx ♣xxxx!

Jonathan Fleischmann (1♥): Pearson Points give way to logic for me on this hand. The points figure to be evenly divided, and we probably have a fit in a red suit. While the opponents look to have a spade fit, I doubt it's more than eight cards, given their initial passes non-vulnerable in the modern era of aggressive opening bids. If they have eight spades, the suit is breaking poorly and they're on meager values, so I'm not too worried about them outcompeting us and making their contract.

Sheldon Kirsch (1♥): Don't have spades, but I can't pass. Hearts aren't good enough for 2♥, and it may be that we are supposed to find diamonds.

Linda Perlman (1♥): 6-5 come alive, and I have two aces.

Brenda Bryant (1♥): We might have a game. I have a six-loser hand.

Gene Benedict (2♥): If the opponents balance, I will rebid 3♦. If the opponents have a 4-4 spade fit, it will break 4-1. It is unlikely two passed hands will bid 4♠.

Irv Rosenstein (Pass): Points rate to be pretty evenly divided, and where are all the spades?

Morrie Kleinplatz (Pass): With alacrity. Of course, if my opponents are Mr. and Mrs. Milquetoast, I might reconsider.

That's exactly wrong, in my view. Conservative opponents were more likely to pass in 1st and 3rd seats with 11 or even 12 HCPs. Opening lets them

**CONGRATULATIONS
NEW LIFE MASTER**

James Egan

back in. But when a more experienced and aggressive player passes, particularly in 3rd seat, they usually have a poor, balanced hand — a green light for us to open.

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

♠74 ♥A94 ♦KJ93 ♣A842

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
Pass 1♦ 3♠ ?

Action	Score	Votes
Dbl	100	13
4♦	60	4
5♦	40	0

Sheldon Kirsch (4♦): Want to double, but partner may not be able to take a joke.

For popular bridge theorist Marty Bergen, double here would be "Thrump." Please bid 3NT with a spade stopper. Whether it is that, or just a Negative Double, double is the only sensible way to get to 3NT, our most likely game.

Julie Arbit (Dbl): It's useful to play this as "thrump" showing values and asking partner to bid 3NT with stopper or make some other natural bid.

Linda Perlman (Dbl): Can't think of anything else. Actually don't promise four hearts at this level.

Dick Temkin (Dbl): Impossible problem. We have values

to be in game. Just have to hope partner doesn't respond with his own three-card heart suit!

Gene Benedict (Dbl): The most flexible bid. Partner might bid 3NT, pass for penalties or rebid a minor. If partner bids 4♥, I will try 5♦.

Brenda Bryant (Dbl): Flexible. We might play in a 4-3 heart fit or 3NT, or partner might pass.

I wonder if the 4♦ bidders considered Dbl.

Bob Brent (4♦): About all you can do. Not a game in every hand.

Bob Webber (4♦): This hand is not good enough to force to an 11-trick game.

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

♠KJ92 ♥AKQ832 ♦10 ♣104			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3NT**	Pass	?

*Artificial game force

**15-17, natural

Action	Score	Votes
Pass	100	9
4♥	70	4
6♥	50	2
4NT	50	1
5♥	50	1
5NT	30	0

Partner's most likely shape is 3-1-5-4, and he has at least one spade stopper. If hearts are 3-3 (about a 36 percent chance) you will be able to run that suit and make a lot of tricks in notrump. However, if hearts are 4-2 (a 48 percent chance), you may be limited to just three hearts tricks in notrump whereas you could get five if you play in hearts. Meanwhile, partner will deliver some minor-suit tricks, but how many? Is he Axxx in clubs (bad for notrump play) or KQJ10?

Another consideration is whether to look for slam. I'm against it on the theory that the hand is a misfit and therefore we would need close to the full 33 HCPs to want to be in slam, and we have just 28 to 30. But you could make 12 tricks if partner has the right hand and things go well in the play.

Bob Webber (Pass): An auction like this often means partner has only one heart. We have zero HCPs in partner's suits. Enough.

Gene Benedict (Pass): It sounds to me like partner has 3-1-5-4 shape. I don't think we have an 8-card fit on this hand. So I am keeping the bidding low.

Julie Arbit (Pass): I'd expect partner to be 3154 here (should open 1NT with 2-2-5-4 shape) so slam in hearts is remote.

Dick Temkin (Pass): Could score as many tricks in NT as hearts. Minor suit 10s could be helpful fillers in NT.

Joe Chiesa (Pass): Whole hand depends on whether partner holds stiff jack of hearts. Would bid 4♥ if a mild slam try, but it is not. With a max of 30 HCPs and no

known 8-card fit, I subside.

Don Rumelhart (4♥): My hearts are strong enough to play opposite a singleton. Partner's bidding shows spade values. Hopefully if partner's minor values are prime, he will check for controls.

Brenda Bryant (4♥): Shows a good hand. Would like a tad more but... Partner's minor suit holdings might be flimsy, so 4♥ might play better than 3NT.

NEXT ISSUE'S HANDS

1. MTPTs. E-W vul. As SOUTH, you hold:
 ♠J3 ♥K1075 ♦J872 ♣Q82
 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 Pass 1♠ Pass 1NT
 Pass 3♦ Pass ?

2. IMPs. E-W vul. As SOUTH, you hold:
 ♠KQ ♥AJ973 ♦1084 ♣874
 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 Pass Pass
 1♣ 1♠ 2♣ ?

3. IMPs. Both vul. As SOUTH, you hold:
 ♠J ♥AJ8 ♦Q10985 ♣AKQ7
 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 Pass 1♥ 3♠ 1♦ ?

4. MTPTs. None vul. As SOUTH, you hold:
 ♠J4 ♥A10932 ♦Q42 ♣K83
 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 Pass 1♠ 2♣ Dbl
 2♥ Pass 3♣ ?

5. IMPs. E-W vul. As SOUTH, you hold:
 ♠J73 ♥AKJ4 ♦J10986 ♣K
 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 Pass Pass 1♥ Pass
 1♠ Pass Pass ?

Mail your answers to:
 Table Talk Magazine
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 c/o Julie Arbit
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 Milford MI 48381
 Or email to:
 jarbit24@gmail.com

Alioto is tops at Motor City

Michael Alioto of Birmingham won three events and over 117 masterpoints to lead all players at the Vincent and Joan Remy Motor City Regional.

That made Alioto the winner of the William S. Mouser Trophy for the District 12 member who wins the most points at the regional.

Alioto also won the Mouser last year, and won a share of the trophy in 2017.

Here are the results of the tournament, held Oct. 28-Nov. 3 at the William Costick Center in Farmington Hills.

MASTERPOINT LEADERS:

- 1, Michael Alioto, 117.30
- 2, Martin Hirschman, 97.85
- 3, Robert Brent, 87.76
- 4, Johnathan Fleischmann, 60.74
- 5, Robert Katz, 60.70
- 6, Linda Perlman, 58.88
- 7/8, Steven Winokur, 47.70
- 7/8, Frank Treiber III, 47.70
- 9, Richard Temkin, 46.75
- 10, Julie Arbit, 45.75
- 11, Jerrold Grossman, 45.67
- 12, Michael Crane, 45.39
- 13, Samir Zeine, 44.59
- 14, Bob Webber, 44.14
- 15, Mary Smith, 43.90
- 16, John Koschik, 42.91
- 17, Bob Rasmussen, 42.24

- 18, Chuck Burger, 42.11
- 19, Sheldon, Kirsch, 41.90
- 20, Edward White, 41.80

MONDAY GRASS ROOTS FUND OPEN PAIRS FLIGHT

A: 1, Martin Hirschman, Robert Brent. 2, Sandy Birnholtz, Bob Rasmussen. 3, Jerrold Grossman, Debra Eaves.

FLIGHT B: 1, Birnholtz, Rasmussen. 2, Song Lin, Joe Monro. 3, Ronna Galin, Robert Raf. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Dennis Van Koevering, Cindy Turner. 2, David Satwicz, Thomas Bonfils.

MONDAY GOLD RUSH PAIRS FLIGHT A:

1, Philip Malefyt, Stephen Hu. 2, James Verhage, David Winer. 3, Anita Green, Ralph Fortson. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Verhage, Winer. 2, Don Borseth, Mary Stewart. 3, Alan Hassoun, Ronald Zurilla. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Sandra Wolfe, Diane Kosuda. 2, Linda Schiller, Carol Resnick.

TUESDAY SWISS TEAMS BRACKET 1:

1, Martin Hirschman, Robert Brent, Linda Perlman, Michael Alioto. 2, Edward White, Samir Zeine, Dave & Patty Fred. 3, Richard Temkin, Dennis Carmen, John Koschik, Irving Rosenstein. **BRACKET 2:** 1, Steven Jacob, James Rowe, Robert Raf, Sandy Birnholtz. 2, Ste-

ven Fine, Grant Petersen, Ed Herstein, Bob Rasmussen. 3, Dennis Ebendick, Katie Daly, Janet MacDonald, Barbara Kalnick. **BRACKET 3:** 1, Lun Kuen Wong, D. Abraham, Kenneth & Arlene Geisler. 2, Thom Allen, Dan Sutherland, Michael Hermoyian, Ralph Fortson. 3. Helen Cook, Julie Baba, Lois Booth, David Cleveland. **BRACKET 4:** 1, Thomas Bonfils, Frank Johnson, Paul Chirgwin, Ann Bickford. 2, Manus Nemeth, David Satwicz, Latika Mangrulkar, Michael Koscielski. 3, Gay Garcia, Constance Chapp, Pamela Radike, Mary Jo Campbell. **BRACKET 5:** 1, Alan Hassoun, Mike Roeder, Marianne Victor, Judith Kamins. 2, Mary Robinson, Susan Royer, Jill Rastelli, Joan Capuano. 3, Eric Wiedmayer, Mike Bishel, Raj Patil, Martin Berman.

WEDNESDAY SYLVIA STEIN

OPEN PAIRS FLIGHT A: 1, Mark Bendure, Michael Alioto. 2, Jerrold Grossman, Sheldon Kirsch. 3, Julie Arbit, Lynn Root. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Arbit, Root. 2, Larry Cohen, Satish Shah. 3, Naresh Kapila, Arnold Gottlieb. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Cohen, Shah. 2, Kapila, Gottlieb. 3, Tom Baer, Jaime Myers.

WEDNESDAY GOLD RUSH

PAIRS FLIGHT A: 1, James Jasperse, David Jasperse. 2, Pamela Radike, Mary Jo Campbell. 3, Nancy Buck, Jane Roeser. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Hugh Rosenthal, Ronald Whitney. 2, Alan Hasson, Mike Roeder. 3, Jill Rastelli, Joan Capuano.

THURSDAY SWISS TEAMS

BRACKET 1: 1, Martin Hirschman, Robert Brent, Cono Emanuel, Michael Alioto. 2, Hans Jacobs, William Arlinghaus, Suzanne Stevenson, Sondra Schubiner. 3, Kurt Kasher, Jonathan Fleischmann, Robert Houtrow, Morrie Kleinplatz. **BRACKET 2:** 1, Thomas Hunt, Ross Weinstein, Deepak Dighe, Genie Baker. 2, Katherine Jernigan, Chuck Theis, Kathy Stepanovich, Gerald Stein. 3, Satish Shah, Carol Young, John Vollmayer, Song Lin. **BRACKET 3:** 1, Ellen Silverest, Hilary Mahon, Cheryl Kreger, Suzanne McIlhiny. 2, Kenneth & Arlene Geisler, David Satwicz, Thomas Bonfils. 3, Dan Sutherland, Thom Allen, Michael Koscielski, Michael Hermoyian. **BRACKET 4:** 1, David Jasperse, James Jasperse, Carrie Osborne, Lisa Karam. 2, Margie Ried, Barbara Button, Judith Kamins, Marianne Victor. 3, Manus Nemeth, Mar-

sha Leiphart, Alan Hassoun, Joel Grossman. **BRACKET 5:** 1, Robert La Cosse, Leslee La Cosse, Rupa Modi, N. Modi. 2, James Smith, Alberta Smith, Gerry Monroe, Mary Lou Monroe. 3, Donajean Lawson, Lucy Hallock, Barbara Snow, Julie Grygotis.

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY SOLOWAY KO TEAMS: 1, Steven Winokur, Frank Treiber III, Bob Webber, Robert Katz. 2, Richard Temkin, Gary Brinker, Michael Crane, Joseph Ernsthause. 3, Edward White, David & Patty Fred, Irving Rosenstein.

DAYTIME SIDE SERIES 1: 1, Harriet Brent. 2/3, Yanping Zhang. 2/3, Henry Zhang.

EVENING SIDE SERIES: 1, James Wedell. 2, Jonathan Fleischmann. 3/4, Karen Clemency. 3/4, Jim Bachelder.

FRIDAY OPEN PAIRS FLIGHT A: 1, Howard Perlman, Chuck Burger. 2, Frank Treiber III, Steven Winokur. 3, John Koschik, Donald Rumelhart. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Henry Zhang, Yanping Zhang. 2, Alex Khrakovsky, Joe Barnard. 3, Bob Rasmussen, David Aderente. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Zhang, Zhang. 2, Jane Gardner, Gary Luoma. 3, Bob Onodo, Mark Hugger.

FRIDAY GOLD RUSH PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Alan Hassoun, Mike Roeder. 2, Ronald Bishel, Mike Bishel. 3, Matthew & Susan Evett. **FLIGHT B:** 1 & 2, same as A. 3/4, Jean & Edward Becker. 3/4, Joan Capuano, Jill Rastelli.

SATURDAY OPEN PAIRS FLIGHT A: 1, Mary Smith, Henry Shevitz. 2, John Russell, Meyer Abarbanel. 3/4, Samir Zeine, Debra Eaves. 3/4, Gary Brinker, Robert Brandow. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Henry Zhang, Yanping Zhang. 2, Robert Raf, Ronna Galin. 3, David Aderente, Allan Loeb. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Zhang, Zhang. 2, Cindy Schaefer-Munz, Jay Munz.

SATURDAY GOLD RUSH PAIRS FLIGHT A: 1, John Abbott, Catherine Curran. 2, E. Chidiac, Gary Boyers. 3, James McNamara, Graham Putnam. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Chidiac, Bowers. 2, James Verhage, David Winer. 3, Charles & Susan Royer.

SATURDAY SWISS TEAMS FLIGHT A: 1, Howard Perlman, Chuck Burger, Jonathan Fleischmann, Allan Falk. 2, Hans Jacobs, William Arlinghaus, John Tscholl, Michael Kraut. 3, Suzanne Baker, Gary Theis, Katherine Jernigan, Robert Christensen. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Baker team. 2,

K. Van Alstine Jr., Freda Mills, Nancy House, Sue Berry. 3, Ellen Savage, Marjorie Nosal, Barbara Kalnick, Tyrone Loving. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Van Alstine team. 2, Savage team. 3, David Armstrong, Klaus Brondum, Dan Sutherland, Thom Allen.

DAYTIME SERIES 2: 1/2, Walter Goldsmith. 1/2, Brenda Jaffe. 3/4, Susan Hinton. 3/4, Ray Canale.

SUNDAY MYLES & MARILYN MADDOX SWISS TEAMS BRACKET 1: 1, Julie Arbit, Kurt Dasher, Robert Katz, Jonathan Fleischmann. 2, Michael Alioto, Mary Smith, Brenda Bryant, Sylvia Summers, Linda Perlman. 3, Michael Giordano, Walter Goldsmith, Samir Zeine, Bert Newman. **BRACKET 2:** 1, James Walter, David Aderente, Arthur Wasserman, Jeffrey Lagarias. 2, Steven Fine, Grant Petersen, David Graff, Bob Rasmussen. 3, Steven Jacob, Robert Raf, Michael Kaleel, John Dreifus. **BRACKET 3:** 1, Xingyu Zhang, Song Lin, Henry Zhang, Yanping Zhang. 2, Richard Peacock, Lucy Peacock, Fred Batten, Patty McCracken. 3, David Copi, Judith Gessner, Dianne Arman, Mary Keen. **BRACKET 4:** 1, Martha Toon, Klaus

Brondum, Corey Powell, Renata Wasserman. 2, Alan Hassoun, Joel Grossman, Thomas Ciaramitaro, Cassandra Rodger. 3, Susan Smith, Charles Smith, Barbara Kalnick, Shirley Yaccick. **BRACKET 5:** 1, Matthew & Susan Evett, James Egan, Ronald Zurilla. 2, Gary Boyers, E. Chidiac, Judith Kamins, Jerrie Sasson. 3, Inderpal & Martha Bhatia, Edward & Jean Becker.

299ER WINNERS AT MOTOR CITY REGIONAL

TUESDAY AM: Irma Glaser, Doreen Lichtman

TUESDAY PM: Chris Hill, Ann Margosian

WEDNESDAY AM: Julian Prince, Steven Miller

WEDNESDAY PM: Carla Cleary, Rosanne Murphy-Cotant

THURSDAY AM: Pamela Kane, Linda Brandemihl

FRIDAY AM: Mitzi Weinberg, Carol Winkelman

Letter: Good Regional

To the Editor:

Finally a great tournament.
Bob Ondo did a great job.
We need more young people.

—Marjorie Nosal

Linda Perlman is MBA's Player of the Year

Well-known professional player and bridge teacher Linda Perlman of Milan MI is the 2019 winner of the Edward F. Stein Memorial Trophy, MBA's award for player of the year.

Linda accumulated over 121 points in the race, narrowly edging out frequent partner Marty Hirschman. The Stein race came down to the final day of the Motor City Regional. Perlman locked up the trophy when her team finished second in the Bracketed Swiss while Hirschman's team fell short of the overalls.

Linda is a native of Cuyahoga Falls OH near Akron. She attended Ohio State University and lived in Columbus before moving to the Detroit area in 1968. Beginning in the 1980s she lived in Oklahoma City, Philadelphia and particularly south Florida where she worked as a club owner, teacher and professional player and served on the unit and district boards of directors.

She moved back to Michigan three years ago to be closer to her son and to retire, though she still works part-time.

"I'm so happy I came back

to Detroit," she said. "I love all the players at the Bridge Connection [where she plays regularly] and thank them for welcoming me."

Linda said her favorite partners are Hirschman and Owen Lien, though she won points toward the Stein trophy with many different partners and teammates.

She describes herself, among other things, as an animal lover. Her veterinarian, Mike Curley of Grand Rapids, is an occasional bridge partner. They finished in the overalls in the Sylvia Stein Open Pairs at the regional, which gave Linda some of the points she needed to win the Stein trophy.

Linda has one national win in the Mixed Board-A-Match teams in the 1980s and several seconds in national events, most recently the Women's Pairs with Debra Eaves at the Toronto NABC. She also has a bronze medal in a World Bridge Federation women's team championship.

The Edward F. Stein Memorial Trophy is awarded annually to the MBA member who wins the most points in overall placings in championship events at the unit's sectionals and regional. Points won at the regional count at 70 per-

cent, while points won at the sectionals count at 100 percent.

Here are the final 2019 Stein standings, compiled by William Arlinghaus*:

- 1, Linda Perlman, 121.85
- 2, Marty Hirschman, 120.56
- 3, Bob Webber, 112.58
- 4, Sheldon Kirsch, 109.91
- 5, Dick Temkin, 98.32
- 6, Steve Winokur, 85.87
- 7, Owen Lien, 85.10
- 8, Jonathan Fleischmann, 73.90
- 9, Julie Arbit, 73.38
- 10, Bert Newman, 68.17

*Arlinghaus, a very long-time MBA member who served many terms as unit president and tournament chair, has transferred his ACBL membership to Mississippi, where he spends most of the year. He graciously agreed to do the Stein computations one last time this year. Thanks, Bill.

—M.H.

TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

Jan. 18-19: Jackson sectional

Jan. 25-26: Ann Arbor sectional (MBA)

Feb. 6-9: Southfield sectional

Feb. 28-Mar. 1: Toledo sectional

Mar. 14-15: Flint sectional

Apr. 2-5: Southfield sectional (MBA)

Apr. 17-18: Bloomfield Hills I/N sectional

Apr. 19: Grand National Teams district level, Southfield

Apr. 26: MBA-SOMBA Pro Am

May 7-9: Grand Rapids sectional

May 11-17: FARMINGTON HILLS REGIONAL

May 29-31: Kalamazoo sectional

June 1-7: TOLEDO REGIONAL

June 13: Lansing I/N sectional

June 15-21: District 12 STAC

June 25-28: MBA/SOMBA

joint sectional, Southfield

July 24-26: Lansing sectional

Webber is 5-time loser at November sectional

I always thought Bob Webber was a second-rate player, and this proves it: He came in second overall in five events at the Apple Cider Sectional in Southfield in November.

Bob did not win a single event at the tournament. He placed second in three Swiss team events and two pair events.

This would probably be a better story if Bob came in second in the overall masterpoint list for the sectional, but somehow his 34.29 was the most of any player. Go figure.

—M.H.

More about *Detecting Cheating in Bridge*

Editor's Note: Nicolas Hammond's new book, *Detecting Cheating in Bridge*, created a bit of a stir in the bridge community. But will it make much of a difference? The author brings us up to date in this email interview.

TABLE TALK: *Congratulations on your book and thanks for agreeing to this interview. Has the amount of cheating changed over the last five years? Since your book came out?*

HAMMOND: Bridge is a game of mistakes; we all make mistakes, even the known cheating pairs. The difference is that the cheating pairs make fewer mistakes in certain parts of the game.

Given this, it is possible to measure the "quality" of a tournament (or event) by applying a formula to determine the mistake level. I have used this formula since 2015 when I was working with Boye.

[Boye Brogeland is a professional player from Norway who outed the first of a handful of top cheating pairs exposed in 2015.—Ed.]



Nicolas Hammond

The Mistakes Function (MF) — I also call it a Magic Function because no one believed it could exist — should be a constant for a given tournament/event assuming a sufficiently large number of played boards.

The MF value goes down with fewer mistakes, or to put this a different way, a low MF value indicates a stronger likelihood of cheating.

The MF values for the Bermuda Bowl from 1955 to 1991 were nearly all low. There are few boards from each tournament, but the average MF value during this period was low. We see that the MF value for 2007-2013 is also low.

There was a very large increase in the MF value for 2015 for the Bermuda Bowl in

Chennai. Why? It should be the same as previous years. The Bermuda Bowl was held in September 2015. All the top players were put on notice that Boye was finding cheating pairs in August 2015. If you were a cheating pair you stopped. The MF value (1.42) in 2015 was significantly higher than previous Bermuda Bowls. Did players suddenly become a lot worse on defense? Or did they stop cheating?

For 2017, the MF value dropped to 1.30. This is still above the historical average for top tournaments but different from 2017. But I suspect some top pairs had started to use methods that could not be detected through video analysis.

What would be expected for 2019 when my book came out and players now knew that they can be detected by statistics instead of video evidence? If the MF predictions are correct, the MF value should go up. The MF value for the 2019 Bermuda Bowl was 1.49. Assuming a minimum threshold of 1,000 boards; this was the cleanest ever Bermuda Bowl. If you compare the 1.49 value with the earlier major tournaments

from the last 20 years, this data point is the furthest to the right (less cheating).

This is the objective data from the tournament; this is not my subjective opinion on what happened. Therefore it is demonstrable that Boye in 2015 had a major impact on cheating in Bridge above and beyond the pairs that were caught.

The data is still early for the book. For the first test, it shows that the book has had an even bigger impact on top level Bridge than Boye's crusade. Unless anyone else has an explanation for the dramatic increase in the MF value for 2019.

***TT:** How has your book been received...by the bridge public, top players, ACBL, WBF and others? By the suspected cheaters?*

HAMMOND: Don't know. You would have to ask them.

The only top player who has bought it and has asked if I could use his comments is Bob Hamman. When was the last time he needed to read a Bridge book? "I liked it" was his comment. In the book, I talk about the Blue Team. I make the statement that there

are some Italian pairs that definitely were not cheating based on the statistics, Bob immediately named them. It is not true to draw the conclusion that the remaining pairs were cheating because there are, in most cases, not enough boards for statistical proof. It is true that if you look at the data from 1955-1991 that there were almost certainly some non-Italian pairs that were cheating. Bob was correct in naming the most likely pairs based on the data.

TT: After the summer 2019 NABC, you posted that “some top pair(s) will not be there at the next NABC or major event...” Have there been any developments you can tell us about?

HAMMOND: Since the book, I've submitted data on at least two different pairs to the ACBL along with supporting documentation. What happens next is up to them.

I gave information to WBF before China on at least one pair that was cheating and would be playing in China. Based on the statistics, they were almost certainly cheating in China. I gave WBF the information in which part of the game they were cheating. This was before China. I know

that the WBF has videos from China, but I have not seen any videos from WBF. Assuming that they have sufficient quality and quantity of video it should be possible to identify their method(s). The WBF would have to find volunteers to look at these videos; I do not have the time.

There are almost certainly pairs from before 2015 that were cheating; but there is limited video on them. Finding a code from a limited video set is very difficult. After 2015, if you were cheating, you would change your methods each session making it impossible to find a code from video.

TT: What have you done specifically to help bridge administrators ferret out cheating or specific cheaters?

HAMMOND: Most of what I do now is private, and I don't share the details publicly.

Some of the National Bridge Organizations (NBOs) will ask about a pair and I will provide information.

I have also commercialized the software and methodology. There is only a limited amount of information I am willing to give out for free. This is a fine line: the NBOs

want to see that the software works before they buy/license. What I have, but haven't provided, is the list of top pairs that are most statistically likely to have been collusive cheating. One of the tells is if a pair had a sudden drop in performance after 2015. Those pairs know who they are. So do I.

As an example, earlier this year I saw a pair that I know is cheating that was playing in the same event as me at a NABC. I passed the names to the ACBL. They arranged video for the next session. Bridgescore+ [Hammond's scoring and cheating detection software] can process all data from the ACBL web site. The Bridgescore+ software was able to predict the boards where something "wrong" was happening. Sure enough, when ACBL provided the video, the software had correctly identified boards where something "wrong" happened. What happens next is up to the ACBL. It is a pair long suspected by many.

TT: Your book specifically named just one or two pairs—Hamman-Wolff, Meckstroth-Rodwell—who your computations seemed to show were NOT cheating? Is that right,

and are there other honest pairs you can identify?

HAMMOND: To be more accurate: it did not show that Hamman-Wolff (HW) and Meckstroth-Rodwell (MR) are not cheating.

Both HW and MR are what my lawyers calls "public figures" in Bridge. As such, I could use their data without worry. I did not ask any of those four players if I could publish their data.

I am NOT saying that HW or MR are cheating pairs. Or that they are not cheating pairs! I show their data in comparison to the known cheating pairs and you can draw your own conclusions.

TT: You seemed to suggest that we should be limiting or eliminating the chance of cheating by using computer terminals for the competitors in top matches. How would that work?

HAMMOND: No, my book is about statistics and how they can be used to detect cheating.

The long-term part of the book will be the realization that you can use statistics to improve your own game in addition to detecting cheating.

I have made no personal statement about an all-electronic environment.

TT: *Are any bridge organizations moving in that direction?*

HAMMOND: There is at least one NBO that is running tournaments in an all-electronic environment.

I will be very interested to see if the MF value has changed significantly with the introduction of the all-electronic environment. This would further validate the MF work.

TT: *I got the impression from reading your book and from your post-NABC post that you feel you are on a personal mission to end or limit cheating in bridge. How are you feeling about that project now?*

HAMMOND: It's not necessarily a personal mission. I do lots of other things.

For me the "project" is done. I have shown that the software can detect cheating because it correctly identifies the pairs that we know historically have cheated.

It may take some time before this is embraced and NBOs correctly use this technology to quickly identify new pairs that have started to cheat.

ACBL Board rejects plan to cut its size

The ACBL Board of Directors has voted to reject a plan to cut its size. The vote was 15 to 10 in favor, with 17 votes needed to pass the proposed bylaw amendment.

The vote came at the Board meeting held in conjunction with the Fall NABC in San Francisco. A few days later, the league's Board of Governors, an advisory body, voted to ask the Board of Directors to reconsider. That could prompt a second look by the directors at their meeting at the Spring NABC in Columbus.

"Two Directors who voted 'no' have already publicly changed their minds," District 12 Director Dennis Carman, who has supported cutting the size of the board, wrote in an email to Table Talk. "The five retiring Board members voted 3-2 in favor. Part of the negative votes thought they had too little time to consider it."

The proposal would have cut the board, currently at 25 members, to 13. The existing 25 districts would have been combined into 13 regions, with one board member chosen from each region. The current districts would have

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continued to exist to run regionals and the local levels of the Grand National Teams and North American Pairs.

As in the current structure, the regional representatives to the Board of Directors (“Region Directors”?) would have been elected by members of the boards of all the units in the region.

The proposal was the work of a Task Force appointed by ACBL President Russ Jones at the behest of the Board of Governors.

Bob Hamman, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Eddie Wold, Gavin Wolpert, Adam Grossack and JoAnn Sprung are among the top players who separately announced their support for the plan in posts on Bridgewinners.com in early November. They were hoping ACBL would become more effective, both in administering the league and in promoting bridge.

“Reduction of the BOD is a must IMO,” Meckstroth wrote. “The evidence from the past 20 years proves we have too many cooks in the kitchen. I see this proposal as a huge step in the right direction. Hopefully the BOD will put the future of our game ahead of personal interests....Smaller board will help streamline the

implementation of new and good ideas to help grow our organization and bring in younger players.”

Under the most recent version of the plan, District 12 would have been combined with District 11 (Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia) and District 10 (Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, western Tennessee and eastern Arkansas) to form the new Region 7.

Our Region would have 14,700 ACBL members, second-most of any Region. Florida, the current District 9, would by itself become Region 8 and would have 19,500 members. Other Regions would range from 9,800 members to 13,600.

Prior to rejecting the proposal, the board amended it to delete a controversial provision that would have allowed those board members elected in 2018 and 2019 to add three years to their current terms without again standing for election. They would have served concurrently with newly elected region representatives during a transition period. Insiders had said that the term-extension provision was necessary for the proposal to have a chance to pass.

—M.H.

Editor has big time playing 4♥

This hand came up in a recent club game at the Burns Park Senior Center in Ann Arbor.

E-W vul.

NORTH

♠J5
♥K82
♦AKQ10752
♣J

SOUTH

♠AK9
♥A10754
♦6
♣Q653

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

My partner, North, was Ed Herstein. His 2♦ was game-forcing in our methods, and Ed did well to respect my signoff in 4♥. Of the eight times this board was played, N-S reached 5♥ twice and the no-play 6♥ three times!

The opening lead was the 3 of diamonds, which gave me pause. The lead of dummy's suit is often a singleton on this kind of auction. That would mean the normal play of cashing ace, then king of hearts and running diamonds might

not be a big success.

If West had a singleton diamond, she probably was the longer of the two defenders in trump. I decided to immediately ruff a diamond in my hand. If West did have a singleton diamond and three hearts to an honor, she could overruff and cash a club, but then I would win the return, play two rounds of trump ending in dummy and run the diamonds, taking the rest of the tricks.

When I ruffed the diamond with the 10 of hearts, West overruffed with the queen, cashed ace of clubs and switched to a spade, 5, 10, A.

Next I cashed ace of hearts, East following with the jack. I led a low heart and successfully finessed the 8, East discarding, cashed the heart king and took the rest of the tricks with the help of the now established diamonds.

That was making 5, while all the other declarers were down at least 2 in 4♥, 5♥ and 6♥. The E-W hands were:

♠743	♠Q10862
♥Q963	♥J
♦3	♦J984
♣A9874	♣K102

West could have frozen out the diamonds if she did not overruff at trick 2.

—M.H.

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS RESULTS

The District 12 level of the North American Pairs was held Sep. 15 in Lansing. The top three pairs in Flight A and the top four pairs in Flights B and C are eligible to compete in the national final at the Spring NABC in Columbus.

Here are the results of the district level:

FLIGHT A: 1, Jonathan Fleischmann, Kurt Dasher. 2, Owen Lien, Julie Arbit. 3, Robert Houtrow, Lowell Seyburn.

FLIGHT B: 1, Henry Zhang, Yanping Zhang. 2, George Roach, Christopher Gennick. 3, Song Lin, Tai Chan. 4, Xingyu Zhang, Ching-Po Wang.

FLIGHT C: 1, Gerald Stein, Chuck Theis. 2, Pamela Radike, Mary Jo Campbell. 3, Stephen Leist, James Peresta. 4, J. Kevin Miller, Stephen Bibler.

MOVING UP...

JUNIOR MASTERS

Paula Engel
Norm Kakarala
Robert Kienle
Jay Silverman

CLUB MASTERS

Gail Beron
Harold Felty
Gail Soderling

SECTIONAL MASTER

Eric Wiedmayer

REGIONAL MASTER

Susan Royer

NABC MASTER

Michael Fant

BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Matthew Evett

RUBY LIFE MASTER

Steven Winokur

GOLD LIFE MASTERS

James Bloom
James Walter

Letter: Why cheat?

To the Editor:

Why do Bridge players cheat? I am not asking a naive question. Let's leave out those cheaters who are paid...the so-called professional players. The motive there is obvious. Hopefully those pros who do cheat are in the minority and are banished.

But, how much inner joy can there be when the cheater has not won by talent. A hollow victory.

Any articles by psychiatrists on this subject?

—Willie Winokur

Arbit is new Table Talk editor

Enough is enough. I am stepping down after 32½ years as editor of Table Talk.

Julie Arbit, a relative youngster who has emerged as one of the area's top players, will take over the job, beginning with the next issue.

Julie learned to play bridge in 2011 during her time as an undergraduate student at the University of Michigan. She won the NAP Flight C with Jordan Kaye at her first Nationals in 2013, and qualified on teams to represent the U.S. in World Youth championships in 2014 and 2016.



Since moving back to Michigan in 2018, Julie has split her time between a social research center in Ann Arbor, a master's program in environmental policy through the University of Michigan, and plenty of bridge in metro Detroit. Aside from work, school, and bridge, Julie finds time for indoor rock climbing, vegan cooking/baking, and building up her dream two-acre homestead.

Julie becomes only the fourth editor of Table Talk. Judy Maddocks and Vince Remy each served for 13 years before I took over in 1987. I'm sure Julie will do a great job, and I am looking forward to reading the magazine for many years to come.

A bit of personal history: Taking over the editorship was arguably the beginning of the end of my legal career, which wound up lasting only 8½ years. I was just 37 when my first issue came out, featuring Sylvia Stein winning two events at our sectional. At that time, I had three relatively young children (none of whom were yet Life Masters). Now I am turning 70 and I have three very young grandchildren. Where did the time go?

Thanks to all my loyal readers. Thanks also to my wife and World's Greatest Editor, Marcy Abramson, who has kept me mostly out of trouble all these years.

—Marty Hirschman
Table Talk Editor,
1987-2019

**Congratulations
to Kurt Dasher
2019 winner of the MBA
Goodwill Award!**

**SOLUTION TO
AT THE WHEEL**
From back page

	NORTH	
	♠AQ876	
	♥	
	♦K2	
	♣K108765	
WEST		EAST
♠J954		♠103
♥876		♥Q109543
♦J54		♦63
♣J94		♣AQ3
	SOUTH	
	♠K2	
	♥AKJ2	
	♦AQ10987	
	♣2	

Win the diamond lead and cash three top spades, pitching a heart. Now run the rest of your diamonds. (You'll have to overtake the king if you ducked to the 10 at trick one.) This will reduce the hand to the following position:

	♠
	♥
	♦
	♣K1087
Immaterial	♠
	♥Q109
	♦
	♣A
	♠
	♥AKJ
	♦
	♣2

Now just exit with the deuce of clubs. West must lead a heart, allowing you to take the finesse you couldn't take yourself. No credit if you forgot to cash the spade honors before running diamonds, since you will be frozen into the dummy, allowing East the pitch his hearts and hold AQ of clubs. (Yes, 6♦ would have been a better contract, but not a better story.)

This problem was originally published in Table Talk, June 1987, my first issue as editor. I played the hand as indicated when it came up in a Swiss teams at the Pittsburgh regional in the old William Penn Hotel. My partner was the legendary Cliff Bishop. It was the only time I played with him.

IN MEMORIAM

Harold Osher
Barbara Perkin

Correction

My article "When Detroit's bridge community broke in half," Table Talk, June 2008, which explored the role of racism and anti-Semitism in the breakaway of SOMBA from MBA, incorrectly reported the year of that incident. The breakup and founding of SOMBA occurred in early 1958.

Parting Shots

Editor's Note: As Table Talk editor, I have sat on the MBA board as a non-voting member for the past 32 years, a post I'm now leaving along with the editorship. Some parting thoughts...

TOURNAMENT INACCESSIBLE: Some years ago, I went to a wedding party at Cobblestone Farms in Ann Arbor. The banquet area had two levels. The first was one story up from the entry level, accessible by stairs or a small elevator. The second banquet level was accessible from the first level and only by a staircase. The only bathrooms were on the entry level, two flights down from the upper level.

When the site was proposed for the January 2019 Ann Arbor sectional, I knew it was no place for a group whose average age is 73. I should have spoken up, but the site had enthusiastic backing by the person who was going to run the tournament, partly or largely because of low cost. (I also was afraid that if I complained I would get stuck running the tournament, as I had the year before, when no one on the board wanted to do it.)

On the Saturday of the tournament, the novice pair game was put on the top floor, possibly along with an overflow table or two from the Open Teams. The director, Ken Van Cleve, who was dying of prostate cancer, told me he would not have taken the assignment if he knew about the layout of the facility.

Subsequently I received persistent complaints from one of our members about the lack of accessibility at the site. So when it looked like Cobblestone Farms would be the site again in 2020, I did speak up and lobbied our board to look elsewhere. I had made some efforts to find another site, but apparently I wasn't very good at it. Fortunately, new Ann Arbor tournament co-chair Julie Arbit sprang into action, undertaking an extensive search for a better facility. Finally she turned up the Washtenaw Golf Club, which was right under my nose, less than a mile from my house. It rates to be a terrific venue for bridge. Bravo, Julie!

ELECTION DIRELECTION: Many years ago, not long before I became editor of Table Talk, there was a bit of a dustup over voting procedures in the election for the MBA board. A club director who

was running for the board collected ballots from players at her club game and attempted to have them counted in the election. I don't know how that was resolved, but an upshot was that the board adopted strict procedures for voting: Absentee ballots had to be mailed. In-person voting would be only at the specified tournament and only for a half hour before each session on specified days. This year, a few ballots were received by other routes and were included in the vote count. This probably did not affect the result of the election but it could have. The board is reviewing our voting procedures.

PUBLISH OR PERISH? Two years ago, at a time of down finances for our unit, some board members proposed that we stop printing Table Talk and just put it online. The savings would be about \$1150 per issue for printing and postage. I told the board they could do that, but I would not continue as editor, partly because I thought we would lose a lot of readers. The proposal was shelved, but we cut back from four issues a year to three for 2018. We also had just three issues (this is the third) in 2019, although with our finances looking up, the

board was planning to go back to four issues in 2020. With a new editor taking over now, the proposal to eliminate the print version of Table Talk could be revived. If you have an opinion on this, contact your local board member. BTW, Table Talk is already posted to the District 12 website and has been for over a decade. Have you ever read it there?

JUST DO IT FOR BRIDGE:

When I served as MBA president in 2014 I tried to do a little extra. I organized and ran two Learn Bridge in a Day-type programs in Ann Arbor, with a total of more than 100 participants. I made a point of visiting all the open clubs in MBA and playing there. I made a tiny effort to bridge the racial divide in bridge by

**WELCOME,
NEW MEMBERS**

Charles Crone
Iwona Buscani
Paul Siupik

**WELCOME,
TRANSFERS**

Joan Capuano
Billy Dabbs
Frank Drinan
Michael Garcia
Christi Hoagland

playing at the Detroit ABA club and meeting with their local president. I took the lead in establishing the Bluth and Winokur trophies that honor the accomplishments annually of our Flight B and C players. We needed to conserve our funds, so we had meetings at the Bridge Connection and at my house, instead of restaurants. We dined on cold cuts instead of steaks. Currently we have a small, hard-working group leading MBA. Going forward we need more volunteers who are willing to do the work, and hopefully do a little extra, to run our tournaments and promote bridge.

—M.H.

MBA's Top 50 Masterpoint Leaders

As of Nov. 1, 2019
(Fractions omitted)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1, Bert Newman, 25,175 | 13, Allan Falk, 8,991 |
| 2, Martin Hirschman, 19,427 | 14, Sondra Schubiner, 7,590 |
| 3, Chuck Burger, 16,533 | 15, Robert Katz, 7,428 |
| 4, Myles Maddox, 16,065 | 16, Brenda Bryant, 7,268 |
| 5, Bob Webber, 13,449 | 17, Richard Temkin, 7,070 |
| 6, Mary Smith, 12,775 | 18, Sheldon Kirsch, 6,980 |
| 7, Owen Lien, 12,159 | 19, Richard Becher, 6,884 |
| 8, Linda Perlman, 12,085 | 20, Suzy Burger, 6,882 |
| 9, Kathy Newman, 11,057 | 21, Jonathan Fleischmann, 6,697 |
| 10, Brenda Jaffe, 9,823 | 22, Donald Rumelhart, 6,625 |
| 11, Willie Winokur, 9,271 | 23, Kurt Dasher, 6,381 |
| 12, Robert Brent, 9,190 | 24, Lynne Cook, 6,290 |
| | 25, Anastasia Tessler, 5,969 |
| | 26, Michael Giordano, 5,777 |
| | 27, Joe Chiesa, 5,687 |
| | 28, Ruth Metevier, 5,676 |
| | 29, Howard Perlman, 5,646 |
| | 30, Ed Herstein, 5,569 |
| | 31, Irving Rosenstein, 5,469 |
| | 32, Charlotte Miller, 5,287 |
| | 33, Dennis Kastle, 5,066 |
| | 34, Rhonda Monroe, 4,977 |
| | 35, Daniel Marcus, 4,897 |
| | 36, Cono Emanuele, 4,692 |
| | 37, Christopher Hough, 4,416 |
| | 38, Clarke Cunningham, 4,211 |
| | 39, Barry Lippitt, 4,206 |
| | 40, Frank Sensoli, 4,131 |
| | 41, Barbara Marcus, 3,977 |
| | 42, Arthur Golumbia, 3,970 |
| | 43, John Koschik, 3,904 |
| | 44, Walter Goldsmith, 3,790 |
| | 45, Ruth Brownstein, 3,740 |
| | 46, Joe Monroe, 3,737 |
| | 47, Fred Will, 3,725 |
| | 48, Joan McKean, 3,591 |
| | 49, Rose Burke, 3,558 |
| | 50, Judi Amatangelo, 3,437 |

AT THE WHEEL
By Marty Hirschman

IMPs
 N-S vul.

NORTH
 ♠AQ876
 ♥
 ♦K2
 ♣K108765

SOUTH
 ♠K2
 ♥AKJ2
 ♦AQ10987
 ♣2

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♣	1♥	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	Dbf	All Pass	

West leads a low diamond. Having been spared the club lead, can you roll this one home?

Solution, page 28

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