



# TABLE TALK

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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## Merger update

**From Richard Temkin,  
MBA President**

Posh Gulati and I have had a conference call with an ACBL official to discuss our tentative plan to merge MBA and SOMBA into one unit.

We were informed that process must start with a petition signed by at least 50 ACBL members who reside in our combined nine-county area. That completed petition would be sent to ACBL headquarters, and they would then conduct a vote by email of the entire ACBL membership in those counties. If the majority of the ballots received are in favor of the merger, it would be brought before the ACBL

Board of Directors at its November meeting. If that body approves, we would then have a new unit to serve our nine-county area.

We will be preparing a petition to merge. There will be at least one "Town Hall" session at our Joint Sectional in June where we will provide more information and answer questions. The overall plan for a new, merged unit will follow the "Roadmap" that was described in the article in the March issue of Table Talk, "MBA, SOMBA boards greenlight merger talks."

***Q&A on proposed merger,  
Pages 16-17***

### 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 Kurt Dasher, 734-854-7280, [kdasher@buckeye-express.com](mailto:kdasher@buckeye-express.com).

## Third Annual Joint MBA/SOMBA Sectional June 23-26, 2016

Bridge Connection (248-356-6254)  
26776 Twelve Mile Road, Southfield (just west of Northwestern Highway)

### Thursday, June 23

Stratified Open Pairs.....	10 a.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs .....	10 a.m.
<i>Swiss Team Lesson for New Players</i> .....	2:10 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams .....	2:30 p.m.
Stratified 0-300 Swiss Teams .....	2:30 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs .....	7 p.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs .....	7 p.m.

### Friday, June 24

Stratified Open Pairs.....	10 a.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs .....	10 a.m.
Stratified Open Pairs.....	2:30 p.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs .....	2:30 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs .....	7 p.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs .....	7 p.m.

### Saturday, June 25

Stratified Open Swiss Teams playthrough-7 matches .....	10 a.m.
Stratified Open Pairs (single session) .....	10 a.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs (single session).....	10 a.m.
Stratified Open Pairs (single session) .....	2 p.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs (single session).....	2 p.m.

### Sunday, June 26

Stratified Open Swiss Teams playthrough-7 matches .....	11 a.m.
Stratified Open Pairs (single session) .....	11 a.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs (single session).....	11 a.m.
Stratified Open Pairs (single session) .....	3 p.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs (single session).....	3 p.m.

Stratified Events: A = 3000+, B = 1000-3000, C = 0-1000  
0-300 Strats: (0-50) (50-100) (100-300) (as attendance warrants)  
Average MP will be used to determine your strat.

**Tournament Chair:** Jonathan Fleischmann, 734-255-6104,  
jonathan@safeoffices.com

**Co-chair:** Posh Gulati, 248-390-7438, subgul@aol.com

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

**Food will be provided on Saturday and Sunday.  
NO SMOKING IN THE BUILDING**

# Michigan Bridge Association's Russell Roosen Sectional August 25-28, 2016

Bridge Connection (248-356-6254)  
26776 Twelve Mile Road, Southfield (just west of Northwestern Highway)

## Thursday, August 25

Stratified Open Pairs.....	10 a.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs .....	10 a.m.
<i>Swiss Team Lesson for New Players</i> .....	2:10 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams .....	2:30 p.m.
Stratified 0-300 Swiss Teams .....	2:30 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs .....	7 p.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs .....	7 p.m.

## Friday, August 26

Stratified Open Pairs.....	10 a.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs .....	10 a.m.
Stratified Open Pairs.....	2:30 p.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs .....	2:30 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs .....	7 p.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs .....	7 p.m.

## Saturday, August 27

Stratified Open Swiss Teams playthrough-7 matches.....	10 a.m.
Stratified Open Pairs (single session) .....	10 a.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs (single session).....	10 a.m.
Stratified Open Pairs (single session) .....	2 p.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs (single session).....	2 p.m.

## Sunday, August 28

Stratified Open Swiss Teams playthrough-7 matches.....	11 a.m.
Stratified Open Pairs (single session) .....	11 a.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs (single session).....	11 a.m.
Stratified Open Pairs (single session) .....	3 p.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs (single session).....	3 p.m.

Stratified Events: A = 3000+, B = 1000-3000, C = 0-1000  
0-300 Strats: (0-50) (50-100) (100-300) (as attendance warrants)  
Average MP will be used to determine your strat.

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### TABLE TALK

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### MBA Officers

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

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Shelley Boschan, Marilyn Crane, Kurt Dasher, Jonathan Fleischmann, Martin Hirschman (non-voting), Robert Katz, Marilyn Nathanson, Grant Petersen, Patti Stoner, Richard Temkin, Stacey Tessler, Zachary Wasserman, Rosanne Winokur, Willie Winokur

## MBA CLUB DIRECTORY

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

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

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

■**Downriver BC**, Southgate 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.

■**Huron Valley Bridge Club**, Hartland Senior Center, 9525 E. High-

land Rd., Howell. Jim & Cheryl Perna, 248-887-9283. Thursday, 6 p.m.

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

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

■**Thursday Evening Bridge**, Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor. Dorothy Kuhn, 734-761-6691. Thursday 7 p.m.

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

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

■**Young Center BC**, R.A. Young Recreation Center, 5400 McKinley, Dearborn Heights. Joyce Kozma, 313-274-5587. Wednesday 11 a.m.

# IT'S YOUR BID

By Marty Hirschman

A moment of silence for friend and long-time It's Your Bid panelist Norm Bolton...

Also, welcome to new panelist Owen Lien, a 27-year-old North Carolina transplant who already has an impressive bridge resume, including over 8,000 masterpoints.

Congratulations to Don Rumelhart for his perfect 500 and to Kerry Lafer who achieved the top reader score.

You, too, can try to be impressive by sending in your answers to next issue's hands, found at this end of this article.

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

♠A ♥KQ753 ♦A43 ♣AK87

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

--	--	--	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	?

Action	Score	Votes
4♠	100	9
3NT	70	6
4♦	70	4

*Partner is advertising a long suit or possibly something like KQJxx. Our stiff ace will help fill out that suit. His hand may be worthless and/or unreachable if we try to play in notrump. True, our ace of diamonds will prevent the defenders from immediately running that suit in 3NT, but what if we have to give up the lead?*

*We'll start by giving the notrumpers their say...*

**Gene Benedict (3NT):** Could

be our only game. Partner's rebid of 3♠ could be made on a five-card suit.

**Brenda Bryant (3NT):** 4♠ may be right if partner has six or a very good five with no club card. Sigh.

**Joe Chiesa (3NT):** Random quacks (Qs and Js) in partner's mitt will suffice for 3NT. 4♠ is a profanation to the bridge gods. Opposite five or six icy or lukewarm spades we may have three or four trump losers.

**Jonathan Fleischmann (3NT):** For now, partner has promised only five spades, and I have no reason to bypass what may well be our only making game. 3NT does not end all auctions, and partner may bid on with enough distribution or strength.

**Sheldon Kirsch (3NT):** I play

## SCORES

### Experts:

Don Rumelhart .....	500
Bob Webber .....	490
Morrie Kleinplatz .....	480
Irv Rosenstein .....	480
Gene Benedict .....	470
Suzy Burger .....	470
Chuck Burger .....	460
Jonathan Fleischmann ..	450

### Readers:

Kerry Lafer .....	450
Patricia Becker .....	420
Sandy Birnholtz .....	420

Bob Ondo .....	400
Allan Becker .....	390
Margaret Carden .....	390
Jerry Jefferies .....	390
Dan Sutherland .....	380
J. Morris Swiger .....	360
Irv Hershman .....	350
Doris Jefferies .....	350
Sarah Lampert .....	350
Marlene Mandell .....	350
Seymour Mandell .....	320
Michael Betzold .....	310
Elmer Winkelman .....	310
Gerald Wahl .....	260

## HOW THE PANEL VOTED

	1	2	3	4	5
Gene Benedict	3NT	2♠	4NT	5NT	4♦
Bob Brent	4♠	2♠	5♦	5NT	4♣
Brenda Bryant	3NT	2♥	4NT	3♦	4♦
Chuck Burger	4♦	2♠	4NT	4NT	4♦
Suzy Burger	4♦	2♠	4NT	5NT	4♦
Bob Cappelli	4♠	2♥	4NT	3♣	3NT
Joe Chiesa	3NT	2♥	4NT	3♦	4♦
Jonathan Fleischmann	3NT	2♥	4NT	4NT	4♦
Bob Katz	4♠	2♥	4NT	5NT	4♣
Sheldon Kirsch	3NT	2♠	5♦	4NT	5♦
Morrie Kleinplatz	4♠	2♥	4NT	4NT	4♦
Owen Lien	4♦	2♥	4NT	5NT	3NT
Marilyn Maddox	4♠	2♠	4NT	3♦	5♦
Myles Maddox	3NT	2♠	4NT	4♣	4♦
Irv Rosenstein	4♠	2♥	4NT	4NT	4♦
Don Rumelhart	4♠	2♠	4NT	5NT	4♦
Dick Temkin	4♠	2♥	5♦	5NT	4♦
Bob Webber	4♠	2♠	4NT	4NT	4♦
Willie Winokur	4♦	2♠	4NT	3♦	4♦

this as an artificial auction, and unless partner has KQJxxx of spades this is an impossible bid. So, playing that system, I would raise to 4♠. However, in the constraints of this contest, I would show my stopper and expect partner to overrule me with the aforementioned spade holding.

**Bob Brent (4♠):** Tough problem. ♠KQJxx ♥Jx ♦xxxx ♣xx may be enough for game. If pard has more, like Ax of hearts, slam is possible.

**Bob Katz (4♠):** Responder could have bid 3♥ with two hearts and only five spades, or bid 3♦ with a singleton heart and five spades. So likely six spades and best contract.

**Morrie Kleinplatz (4♠):** I prefer to use 3♦ as a sort of waiting bid by responder, so 3♠ should be highly descriptive, and should not be made just to describe a 5th spade or even a raggedy six. I suspect 3NT will be a popular choice, but I don't like it at all. If partner has good spades and weak diamonds, you may be in a bad game with a good slam available: ♠KJxxxxx ♥Ax etc. While he might bid 4♠ with that hand, he might not.

**Marilyn Maddox (4♠):** At 3NT may not be able to reach dummy. May be able to make 10 tricks if partner has good spades.

**Irv Rosenstein (4♠):** As little as ♠KQxxxx ♥xx ♦xx ♣xxx gives us play for 4♠.

**Don Rumelhart (4♠):** Partner rates to have six or more spades and fewer than two hearts. If partner has a minimal hand with a singleton heart, it is hard to see where I will find nine tricks in notrump. I am hoping my prime values and partner's spade length will produce 10 tricks in spades.

*Our newest panelist (along with a handful of our old-timers) has an even better idea:*

**Owen Lien (4♦):** No introduction of new trump suit at the four-level (especially once three suits have been bid by our side already). Don't see where tricks are coming from in 3NT. Partner shows six spades (could have taken a false preference to 3♥). I think the fine controls make my hand too good for a simple 4♠. Imagine partner with ♠KQJxxx ♥Jx ♦Kxx ♣xx.

**Chuck Burger (4♦):** How good are your spades? I have

all controls. 3NT has no communication and 4♠ doesn't do justice to the strength of my hand. New suit at four-level here clearly a cuebid.

*When this hand came up in a recent sectional Swiss team event, the partner hand was ♠KQJ10xxxx ♥xx ♦xx ♣x. 6♠ was cold, but partner was afraid to move over opener's 4♠ because of concern about controls.*

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

♠KQJ765 ♥J1087 ♦void ♣A108  
 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
 -- -- Pass 1♠  
 Pass 2♠\* Pass ?

\*Game-forcing

Action	Score	Votes
2♠	100	10
2♥	90	9
3♠	30	0
3♣	20	0
4♠	20	0

*Years ago, when he was still living and playing in Michigan, Fred Hamilton told me that when you have six spades and four hearts as opener, you have to bid hearts at your second turn. This has worked very well after a 1NT response, catching big heart fits missed by other pairs. Is it different when the response is a game-forcing*

2♣? *And what about those clubs?*

**Jonathan Fleischmann (2♥):** I give priority to showing hearts here, especially because it is the most space-efficient choice from among 2♥, 2♠ and 3♣.

**Brenda Bryant (2♥):** I can always rebid spades to show six over partner's response. Else we may miss our heart fit.

**Joe Chiesa (2♥):** Lest the suit be lost. My spades are not so compelling that I should ignore hearts. 3♣ by me renders me clueless over partner's 3NT, losing perhaps both hearts and clubs. I plan to rebid 3♠ over 2NT and then 4♣ over 3NT.

**Bob Katz (2♥):** I never raise what could be a three-card club suit (or for some a two-card club suit if 2♦ shows five) with either fewer than four clubs or a hand that is wide open in both red suits with only 5 spades. I plan on bidding 3♠ over partner's next bid unless they bid 3♣.

**Morrie Kleinplatz (2♥):** I prefer 2♠ to be a default bid rather than showing a 6th spade, and 3♣ to show four with extras. 2♥ keeps it low and smokes out three-card



spade support immediately. I will remove 2NT to 3♠, and then 3NT to 4♣. If partner bids 3NT immediately, I will remove to 4♣, since she clearly has real clubs to bid this way. Partner will know to devalue soft diamond values.

**Owen Lien (2♥):** Allows partner to support spades cheaply or raise hearts. Will also allow me to support clubs next, having shown 12 of my cards. Yes, I have nice spades, but I can show those later, while 2♥ is the most economical bid and will allow me to most accurately describe my shape.

**Irv Rosenstein (2♥):** Planning on raising clubs next. Pinpoints shortness in diamonds.

**Richard Temkin (2♥):** I'm too good to just rebid 2♠, and partner can certainly hold four hearts. If possible, I'll support clubs and rebid spades if he doesn't raise hearts.

**Marilyn Maddox (2♠):** Spade suit is self-sufficient. Can bid hearts later.

**Sheldon Kirsch (2♠):** Six good spades and a minimum should be mentioned before the four-card heart suit. Also, I would rather play my 6-1 fit than my 4-3.

**Bob Brent (2♠):** Where I live.

Awaiting partner's next bid. Over a 2NT rebid, will support clubs.

**Chuck Burger (2♠):** On the way to show weak 6-4 and support clubs later over some NT. Can't raise clubs yet.

**Suzy Burger (2♠):** Can support clubs later. Important to show 6th spade now.

**Don Rumelhart (2♠):** It is matchpoints, so I will emphasize my strong spade suit in the event we can play a spade contract. Partner is allowed to bid 3♥, and if he doesn't I will show my club support next.

*I think the 2♠ bidders are understating the problems they are going to have finding a heart fit later. Say partner holds ♠x ♥AKx ♦xxx ♣AJxxxx; might he not bid 3♥ over 2♠, looking to you to bid 3NT with a diamond stopper? Also, let's say partner bids 3♣ next and you bid 3♥; might that not show just three strong hearts with no diamond stopper?*

*At the table, partner held: ♠A98 ♥AQ98 ♦J54 ♣Q96. 6♥ is excellent (and you will often take more tricks in hearts than in spades at any level), but the heart fit was never uncovered after South rebid 2♠ and partner raised.*

*Thanks to Willie Winokur for suggesting this hand.*

**Willie Winokur (2♠):** Then...if later...Hearts.

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

♠84 ♥J9754 ♦KQJ108 ♣9  
**WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH**  
**2♠ Dbl 4♠ ?**

Action	Score	Votes
4NT	100	16
5♦	50	3
5♥	50	0
Dbl	40	0
6♦	20	0

*4♠ could be making if the opponents have the right distributions. Meanwhile we rate to have a good fit in at least one of our five-card red suits. So it seems normal to bid here, recognizing that we could be trading a plus for a minus.*

*The overwhelming majority of the panel chose 4NT, presumably a two-suit (three-suit?) takeout. Partner bids his longer minor. If clubs, we correct to diamonds, thus conveying the message that we have diamonds and hearts. Some sample comments:*

**Bob Webber (4NT):** Shows two or three places to play. We will correct clubs to diamonds, implying diamonds

and hearts.

**Brenda Bryant (4NT):** Pick a suit. If they choose clubs, I can bid diamonds. I would hate to unilaterally bid hearts...If partner, for example, only holds three.

**Bob Katz (4NT):** Opponents are vulnerable, so they plan on taking a lot of tricks. If partner bids 5♣, then I will bid 5♦, showing diamonds and hearts. This may make or may be a good save. I have no incentive at IMPs to play in a major. If partner has three hearts and longer diamonds, I may get to pitch hearts on his clubs.

**Jonathan Fleischmann (4NT):** Two places to play with no interest in defending. I have too much shape to pass 4♠.

**Chuck Burger (4NT):** And correct clubs to diamonds to show reds. No, I don't like the doubleton spade, but good chance pard has no more than one. Vulnerability makes me bid.

**Owen Lien (4NT):** Planning to correct diamonds to hearts. We are favorable at IMPs, and I'm 5-5 with decent playing strength. Would be nice to be 1-5-5-2 instead, but other than the singleton club, I have virtually zero defense to 4♠.

**Don Rumelhart (4NT):** Two places to play. I have somewhere between zero and one defensive trick, so a sacrifice seems like good insurance against their likely vulnerable game.

**Morrie Kleinplatz (4NT):** This is not without risk, since partner might not know how to evaluate his hand if the auction continues Pass-5♣-5♠-Dbl (or Pass?) by me. But at this vulnerability I doubt that RHO will bid 5♠, and we should get to our best game or even slam.

**Joe Chiesa (4NT):** Under protest as the problem is foul. I would not make the same bid at KOs and Swiss. I am under strength for my bid. I judge 4♠ down 1 or 2, and 5 of our best suit circa 46 percent, but am willing to concede -100 when we were going +100 or +300 in 4♠ whipped to avoid larger adverse swing. They may, of course, bid 5♠, delivering me from my folly.

*I assume he means he would bid 4NT in a long match, but double in, say, a 7-board Swiss match.*

*Other ideas:*

**Dick Temkin (5♦):** My diamonds are much better than

hearts, and since this is IMPs I'm not concerned about missing a heart fit. It's not clear whose hand this is, and if the opponents bid on I certainly want to encourage a diamond lead.

**Bob Brent (5♦):** Would bid hearts at matchpoints.

*When this hand came up on Bridge Base, partner held ♠J ♥A83 ♦A542 ♣AK1083. 5♦ usually went down 1, while 5♥ would have been doubled (bad heart break) and down 1 or 2. The winning action was to double 4♠, which (if partner sits) was booked for down 3, +800! It seems that the opponents had a more carefree attitude about the vulnerability than we did.*

4. IMPs. E-W vul. As SOUTH, you hold:

♠K72 ♥QJ654 ♦AQ5 ♣KQ  
**WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH**  
**Pass 1NT\* Pass 2♦\*\***  
**Pass 2♥ Pass ?**

\*15-17

\*\*Transfer

Action	Score	Votes
5NT	100	7
4NT	90	6
3♦	70	4
3♣	50	1
4♣	50	1
6NT	30	0

*We have 17 HCPs, which arguably is enough to bid a slam opposite a 15-17 notrump, especially if we are not off two aces, which is just barely possible. Meanwhile our five-card suit is somewhat suggestive of playing in hearts rather than notrump, although it is easy to construct hands for partner that make 6NT safer or more likely to make than 6♥, even when we have an eight-card fit.*

*Not surprisingly, the panel is split between inviting slam and forcing to slam, while mostly striving to offer hearts – or even another suit – as a possible place to play.*

**Gene Benedict** (5NT): Pick a slam. This bid has been popularized by Marty Bergen. He once wrote a Bridge Bulletin article about bidding 5NT when choosing the right slam. This leaves room for partner to show a strong five-card suit.

**Owen Lien** (5NT): Choice of slams. Allows me to force to slam while still keeping hearts or even other strains in the picture. I can't bid 6NT because partner can't go back to 6♥. Second choice would be 4NT quantitative as lack of heart interiors and KQ tight of clubs are negatives.

**Bob Brent** (5NT): Pick a slam. Could be off two aces, but I like our chances.

**Bob Katz** (5NT): Pick a slam. If opener bids 6♦, 6♥ or 6♠, we will play there.

**Don Rumelhart** (5NT): Pick a slam. Given the advent of RKC Blackwood, we no longer need 5NT to be a grand slam force.

*I don't think 5NT was ever Grand Slam Force (bid 7 with two of the top three trump honors) here. That would be a Texas Transfer followed by 5NT. On the given auction, 5NT used to be forcing to 6 and invitational to 7, or, for some, just a stronger slam invite than 4NT.*

**Morrie Kleinplatz** (4NT): Second choice 5NT. I can imagine hands off two aces or even one where slam has no play. Partner will value the AK of hearts and outside controls, so with the right minimum will bid 6♥.

**Sheldon Kirsch** (4NT): I have "bad" points. Unless partner likes his hand on the auction we may be high enough.

**Bob Webber** (4NT): Not Blackwood. This is not the best 17-count. An invitation

should be enough.

**Irv Rosenstein** (4NT): Slam invitational with five hearts. Cannot force to slam as we can be missing two key cards and no guarantee of eight-card fit.

**Jonathan Fleischmann** (4NT): Perhaps I've underbid a little with this quantitative invite, but I think this is the best description of my hand. Partner tends to pass only with true minimums, and we probably won't make slam then, especially if partner has a doubleton heart.

**Chuck Burger** (4NT): This asks, and if accepted aces are responded. 5NT forces and doesn't let pard look at his hearts. With only 32 points we could be off two heart tricks or even two aces.

*I thought transferring to a major at the two-level and then bidding 4NT would offer a choice of 4NT, 5♥, 6♥ or 6NT (with other possibilities including 5NT to invite back, or a new suit to show length there and a healthy hand).*

*Four panelists found a good way to probe for a heart fit and leave room to ask for key cards later: bidding a (forcing) 3♦ to see if partner likes hearts.*

**Willie Winokur** (3♦): Delaying the ultimate question of finding out what opener's heart holding is [planning to bid RKC next if partner supports hearts].

**Joe Chiesa** (3♦): I need to divine whether partner has three hearts. I eschew 4NT as partner will pass holding some 15- or 16-counts and three hearts. My hand is better than 17 HCPs when partner holds three hearts. If partner bids 3NT over 3♦ I can raise to 4NT.

**Brenda Bryant** (3♦): Sigh. No agreements here so I bid another suit, then bid a "fake cue" and then bid 4NT RKC to make sure we have at least two aces in partner's hand.

**Marilyn Maddox** (3♦): Could be a suit or checkback for three-card heart support. If partner bids 3NT will bid 4♣ Gerber. If partner bids 3♥ will bid 4NT to ask for keycards.

*I doubt that Marilyn's proposed 4♣ (over partner's possible 3NT followup) would be taken as Gerber by most of our panelists. It probably should show four clubs (0-5-4-4) pattern with slam interest.*

*At the virtual table on Bridge Base, partner held ♣J10 ♥AK*

♦Kxx ♣A10xxxx. (Yes, it has become common to open 1NT with a six-card minor, 6-3-2-2 shape and 14, 15 or even a so-so 16 HCPs.) 6♣, 6NT or even 6♥ would have been quite good – if you survive the possible opening spade lead through the king.

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

♠87 ♥Q65 ♦KJ2 ♣AJ642  
 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
 -- 1♦ Pass 2NT  
 Pass 3♠ Pass ?

Action	Score	Votes
4♦	100	13
3NT	50	2
4♣	50	2
5♦	50	2

*What is partner doing? Why didn't he, she or it (robot partner?) just bid 3NT?*

**Irv Rosenstein (4♦):** Partner is expressing doubt about notrump, likely a distributional hand, so with uncertain heart stopper, we will play in a suit.

**Don Rumelhart (4♦):** Partner either has extra values or extra distribution or both. Whatever partner has, I need to tell him about my excellent diamond support.

**Dick Temkin (4♦):** Unwilling to chance 3NT at IMPs with

this heart holding, and keeps the door open for a possible diamond slam. Give partner something like ♠AKxx ♥x ♦AQxxxx ♣Kx and 3NT goes down while 6♦ has a good play.

**Jonathan Fleischmann (4♦):** Natural and forcing. Partner looks to be short in hearts, clubs or both. My hand looks somewhat slam-suitable with spade shortness, diamond honors and the ace of clubs.

**Brenda Bryant (4♦):** if I had a double heart stopper with my double club stopper, I would bid 3NT.

**Morrie Kleinplatz (4♦):** Must be forcing. No second choice here. Partner will clarify his intentions with his next bid.

**Chuck Burger (4♦):** Over 4♥ or 4♠ then 5♣. I expect 5-6 [shape] at least. If partner has slam interest, I do.

**Suzy Burger (4♦):** Set trump. partner is probably 5-6(+) of various strengths. Will cooperate with 5♣ over 4♥.

**Joe Chiesa (4♦):** Better than 5♦ but not good enough for 4♣ cuebid as 7/11ths of my hand [HCPs] is outside of partner's suits and I have but three diamonds. If partner bids 4♥, I

can now offer 5♣ with a smile on my face and joy in my heart.

*Other possible bids:*

**Marilyn Maddox (5♦):** Expect partner to have six diamonds and five spades, so heart queen has no value; and no spade card.

**Bob Brent (4♣):** Hopefully partner is in sync with you, expressing concern about hearts and suggesting a diamond fit. He already knows you don't have four spades. He sounds like he is 5-6 with something like ♠AKxxx ♥x ♦AQxxxx ♣K, or ♠AKxx ♥x ♦AQxxxx ♣Kx or, better yet, ♠AKxx ♥x ♦AQxxxxx ♣x.

**Owen Lien (3NT):** I don't know if partner is worried about hearts or clubs in this sequence. However, even opposite short hearts, Qxx is still a stopper nearly half the time (AK together in either opponent hand). My nice diamonds should fill out partner's suit well, and I hope to have nine top tricks. If I held a 4th diamond, I would happily support partner.

*This hand came up on Bridge Base. Partner held ♠AKQx ♥x ♦Axxxx ♣KQ10. Presumably he would content himself with 5♦ over 4♦.*

## NEXT ISSUE'S HANDS

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

♠QJ ♥void ♦97632 ♣AK9532  
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
- - - ?

2. MTPTS. E-W vul. As SOUTH, you hold:

♠A1043 ♥62 ♠A9 ♣KJ764  
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
1♥ Pass 1♠ ?

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

♠J10764 ♥A8 ♦K86 ♣432  
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
Pass 1♥ Pass 1♠  
Pass 1NT Pass ?

4. MTPTS. N-S vul. As SOUTH, you hold:

♠void ♥5 ♦AK9765 ♣AKQJ74  
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
- - - 1♦  
Pass 1♠ 2♥ ?

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

♠Q82 ♥KQ10754 ♦Q8 ♣54  
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
Pass 1♦ Pass 1♥  
2♣ 2♦ 3♣ ?

**Mail your answers to:**  
Table Talk Magazine  
30660 Woodgate Dr.  
Southfield MI 48076  
Or email to:  
MBATalk@aol.com

## **MBA-SOMBA Merger Q & A**

**By Martin Hirschman,  
Table Talk Editor**

**Q. If the two units merge, would there be any change in the local tournament schedule?**

**A.** According to the Road Map written by MBA and SOMBA representatives, the new unit would continue to run the same tournaments at the same times of year. Down the road, the board of the combined unit would have authority to make changes.

**Q. How would the transition from two units to one be accomplished?**

**A.** Under the Road Map, a new board of directors would be phased in via two separate elections a year apart. Current board members with additional years left in their terms would automatically remain part of the new board for the first year. The new board would have 19 elected members. Currently the SOMBA board has 15 voting members, MBA has 13.

**Q. What would be the name of the new unit?**

**A.** The working title of the new unit is Bridge Association of Southeast Michigan

(BASEM). That is not final, however.

**Q. What happens to the assets of the two units?**

**A.** Currently MBA has about \$35,000 in its treasury, while SOMBA has over \$100,000. According to the Road Map "SOMBA will contribute an amount equal to or greater than the amount contributed by MBA to BASEM's treasury." If SOMBA only puts in \$35,000, it is unclear what will happen to the rest of the SOMBA money.

**Q. What happens to the various trophies awarded annually by the two units?**

**A.** With one exception, all the current trophies and plaques – including MBA's Stein, Mouser, Bluth and Winokur trophies – would be retired. The exception is the Grant Marsee Trophy, which is awarded to the Michigan player who wins the most masterpoints in the year. The BASEM board would initiate new trophies to replace the old ones.

**Q. What would happen to Table Talk and to SOMBA's newsletter?**

**A.** Under the Road Map: "The editor of the newsletter would be compensated and the newsletter will be mailed



to all Unit members. The Executive Committee [of the unit Board] will review all of the material in the newsletter before it is finalized and sent to the printer. An editorial team to assist the editor should be considered. A new name for Table Talk should also be considered.”

Under the circumstances, I have tendered my resignation as editor of Table Talk, effective upon the merger of the two units.

SOMBA has not published its newsletter, The Echo, since 2011. Instead, SOMBA maintains a website that includes organizational news.

## **MBA treasury down**

MBA lost over \$4,000 in the three months ending April 30, unit Treasurer Bob Webber reported.

Cash reserves dropped over 11 percent in the period, from \$40,425 to \$35,871.

Disappointing turnout at the March-April sectional was partly to blame, along with new increases of 8 to 10 percent charged by ACBL for directors and sanction fees at sectionals. The tournament was budgeted to make \$1,300, but showed an actual profit of just \$4. The table

count was 301, down from 316.5 in 2015.

MBA’s principal money-maker is the October regional. Revenues for the rest of the year are outstripped by costs, particularly for the publication of Table Talk.

## **Letter**

### **To the Editor:**

I enjoy Table Talk very much. COVER TO COVER.

–George Pope

<p><b>Congratulations New Life Master</b></p>
---

Brad Dracka

## **WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS**

Adele Brinkman  
Douglas Brinkman  
Matt Collins  
Joseph Depinto  
Sheila Kasselmann  
James McMillan  
Annie Pappenhagen  
Virginia Rice  
Anita Sandercott  
Frances Twiddy

## **WELCOME, TRANSFERS**

Lucille Adler  
Susan Birnholtz  
Helen Davis  
Julian Prince  
Paul Tilly

## Norm Bolton goes out a winner

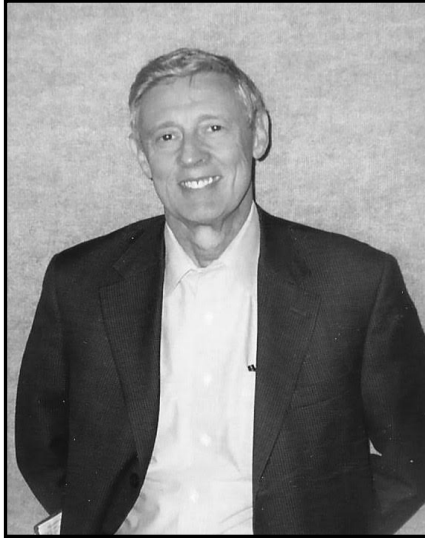
Dr. Norman Bolton, one of Michigan's top players, died April 6 of congestive heart failure. He was 81.

A Platinum Life Master with more than 10,000 masterpoints, Norman had a number of appearances on the annual Barry Crane Top 500 list. He was first in the U.S. and fourth overall in the World Wide Bridge Contest in 2010.

In recent years, as he cut back on his medical practice, Norman was a frequent winner at the Bridge Connection in Southfield and the Unitarian Church in Bloomfield Hills. He played his last bridge on March 31 at the Michigan State Sectional in Southfield when his team won the Thursday Afternoon Swiss Teams.

Norman graduated from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1958 when he was just 23, and at one time referred to himself as the "Boy Surgeon." He was board certified in surgery and served as chief of staff at Sinai Hospital in Detroit in the 1980s. He also served as chairman of the State Medical Board.

Norman counted many bridge players among his patients, and freely gave out



medical advice to those who "consulted" with him at club games and tournaments. He is survived by three grown children and three grandchildren.

Bob Brent writes:

"Norman was and always will be my favorite partner. We traveled to many a national and regional together, just the two of us. I won my first major regional open pair with him and more knockouts than I can possibly remember. Probably half of my 70 blue ribbon qualifications were with him as a partner.

"I have played with many great players, but on his best day, which was most of the time, Norman was as good as anyone.

"I started playing with Norm

when he was a second-year surgical resident at Sinai Hospital in 1960. He was very raw and knew few conventions, but one could see that he had major talent and that when he could be taught discipline, he would blossom. Some of his partners were very tough on him, but he was smart enough to realize that he did not need a 'better' partner to succeed.

"I will miss his sense of humor, which was often cryptic but amazing. What I will miss the most is the best friend I ever had. An example of his sense of humor: An opponent took forever to play a simple hand. It was the last board of a club game and everyone was waiting for our table to finish. The player went down one after an agonizing demonstration of ineptitude. She turned to Norm and asked, 'Could I have made that?' Norm fired back immediately: 'Maybe if you took a little more time!'"

**IN MEMORIAM**

Norman Bolton  
Curtis Simmons

**TOURNAMENT  
CALENDAR**

**June 6-12:** TOLEDO REGIONAL

**June 13-19:** Spring STAC

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

**July 8-10:** Lansing sectional

**Aug. 5-7:** Freeland sectional

**Aug. 12-14:** St. Joseph sectional

**Aug. 15-21:** PETOSKEY REGIONAL

**Aug. 25-28:** Southfield sectional (MBA)

**Sept. 9-11:** Traverse City sectional

**Sept. 17:** Lansing I/N sectional

**Sept. 18:** N. AM. PAIRS DISTRICT FINAL, Lansing

**Oct. 7-9:** Midland sectional

**Oct. 17-23:** MOTOR CITY REGIONAL, Farmington Hills (MBA)

**Oct. 28-29:** Bloomfield Hills I/N sectional

**Oct. 28-30:** Toledo sectional

**Oct. 31-Nov. 6:** Fall STAC

**Nov. 10-13:** Southfield sectional

**2017**

**Jan. 7-8:** Jackson sectional

**Feb. 9-12:** Southfield sectional

**Mar. 23-25:** Southfield sectional (MBA)

**Apr. 8-9:** Grand National Teams District Final

## Editor wins four events at Michigan State Sectional

Table Talk Editor Marty Hirschman was on the winning squad in all three team games and came in first and third in two pair games at the Michigan State Sectional, racking up over 43 masterpoints.

Here are results of the tournament, held March 31 to April 3 at the Bridge Connection in Southfield.

### **MASTERPOINT LEADERS:**

- 1, Martin Hirschman, 43.87
- 2, Lynne Schaeffer, 30.67
- 3, Sheldon Kirsch, 29.33
- 4, Grant Petersen, 27.43
- 5, Stuart Petersen, 24.49
- 6, Morrie Kleinplatz, 24.43
- 7, Jonathan Fleischmann, 20.62
- 8, James Walter, 18.99
- 9, Michael Giordano, 16.40
- 10, Lillian Back, 16.12

### **THURSDAY AM PAIRS**

**FLIGHT A:** 1, George Christian, Larry Cohen. 2, Richard Becher, Michael Giordano. 3, James Walter, Lillian Back. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Christian, Cohen. 2, Walter, Back. 3, Grant Petersen, Stuart Petersen. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Christian, Cohen. 2, Sook Wilkinson, Lakshmi Vora. 3, Fred Batten,

Richard Peacock.

### **THURSDAY AFTERNOON SWISS TEAMS FLIGHT A:**

1, Martin Hirschman, Lynne Schaeffer, Norman Bolton, Debra Eaves. 2, Ronald Horwitz, Brenda Jaffe, Walter Goldsmith, Michael Giordano. 3, Dennis Carman, John Koschik, Arthur Wasserman, Bob Rasmussen. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Carman team. 2, Marilyn Nathanson, Rita Levin, Sook Wilkinson, Lakshmi Vora. 3, Deepak Dighe, John Vollmayer, William Landrum, Chris Wiggins. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Nathanson team. 2, Dighe team. 3, Satish Shah, Jerome Hasenjager, Larry Cohen, George Christian.

### **THURSDAY NIGHT PAIRS**

**FLIGHT A:** 1, Kurt Dasher, Jonathan Fleischmann. 2, Steve Allen, Sandy Birnholtz. 3, Renata Wasserman, Martha Toon. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Allen, Birnholtz. 2, Wasserman, Toon. 3, Henry & Yangping Zhang. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Zhangs. 2, Michael Betzold, Gerald Wahl. 3, Peter Malcolmson, Margaret Carden.

### **FRIDAY AM PAIRS FLIGHT**

**A:** 1, Martin Hirschman,

Robert Katz. 2, Morrie Kleinplatz, Sheldon Kirsch. 3, William Winokur, Frank Treiber III. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Grant Petersen, Stuart Petersen. 2, Jim Masterson, Douglas Hauke. 3, Robert Raf, Steven Jacob. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Masterson, Hauke. 2, Jane Gardner, Dennis Ebendick. 3, Henry & Yangping Zhang.

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS**

**FLIGHT A:** 1, Grand Petersen, Stuart Petersen. 2, Dolores Bright, Georgene Cronin. 3, Martin Hirschman, Lynne Schaeffer. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Petersens. 2, Carolyn & Danny Krebs. 3, Henry & Yangping Zhang. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Zhangs, 2, Charles Schiff, Steven Winokur. 3, Stuart Dombey, Chris Beaver.

**FRIDAY NIGHT PAIRS**

**FLIGHT A:** 1, Jonathan Fleischmann, Kurt Dasher. 2, Edward & Jean Becker. 3, Joyce Jonik, Barb Ferrera. **FLIGHT B & C:** 1, Beckers. 2, Jonik, Ferrera. 3, Craig & Marianne Linderman.

**SATURDAY AM PAIRS**

**FLIGHT A & B:** 1, James Walter, Lillian Back. 2, George Seroka, Robert Palmer. 3, Charles McPeek, Arun Desouza. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Seroka, Palmer. 2, McPeek,

Desouza. 3, Steven Kaplan, Randy Rodnick.

**SATURDAY SWISS TEAMS**

**FLIGHT A:** 1, Edward White, Martin Hirschman, Sheldon Kirsch, Morrie Kleinplatz. 2, Michael Crane, Lori Strager, Lynne Schaeffer, Suzy Burger. 3, Leonard Melander, Brenda Bryant, Jonathan Fleischmann, Brad Dracka.

**FLIGHT B:** 1, Bob Ondo, Corey Powell, James Egan, Graham Putnam. 2, Michael McGaw, Neil Manley Jr., Robert Raf, Ronna Galin. 3, Cassandra Rodger, Dennis Waniolek, Eva Rival, Arnold Gottlieb. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Ondo team. 2, Rodger team.

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS FLIGHT A & B:**

1, Steven Kaplan, Randy Rodnick. 2, Genie Baker, John Vollmayer. 3, James Walter, Lillian Back. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Kaplan, Rodnick. 2, Baker, Vollmayer. 3, Shelley Boschan, Marcia Abramson.

**SUNDAY AM PAIRS FLIGHT**

**A:** 1, Gene Owens, Edward White. 2, Raj Patil, Arun Desouza. 3, Marilyn Nathanson, Charles McPeek. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Patil, Desouza. 2, Nathanson, McPeek. 3, Edward Lough, Paul Chirgwin. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Lynn Martin,

Jean Grande. 2/3, Laura Burke, Nancy Spence. 2/3, Gerald Wahl, Michael Betzold.

**SUNDAY SWISS TEAMS**

**FLIGHT A:** 1, Martin Hirschman, Lynne Schaeffer, Susan & Gordon Parnes. 2, Richard Temkin, Joseph Ernsthausen, Irving Rosenstein, Gary Brinker. 3, Michael Crane, Bob Webber, Sheldon Kirsch, Morrie Kleinplatz. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Steven Winokur, Willie Winokur, Robert Mendelson, Charles Schiff. 2, Victoria Valone, Barbara Jur, Robert McKee, Sook Wilkinson. 3/4, Phyllis Cohn, Kurt Dasher, Jonathan Fleischmann, Brad Dracka. 3/4, Grant Petersen, Joe Monro, Zachary Wasserman, Alan Cohn. **FLIGHT C:** 1, James Walter, Renata Wasserman, Bob Ondo, Corey Powell. 2, Ralph & Karin Raber, Peter Erdman, Charlotte Wade. 3, Constance Jones, James Egan, Graham Putnam, Mark Hugger.

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS**

**FLIGHT A:** 1, Dennis Ebendick, James McNamara. 2, Edward White, Gene Owens. 3, Richard Peacock, Fred Batten. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Ebendick, McNamara, 2, Peacock, Batten. 3, Edward Lough, Paul Chirgwin. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Ebendick, McNamara. 2,

**Stein Trophy Race**

Compiled by Bill Arlinghaus

- 1, Marty Hirschman, 57.89
- 2, Sheldon Kirsch, 43.91
- 3, Lynne Schaeffer, 32.04
- 4, Bob Katz, 31.23
- 5, Jonathan Fleischmann, 29.83
- 6, Bill Melander, 22.16
- 7, Michael Giordano, 21.18
- 8, John Koschik, 19.22
- 9, Jim Walter, 18.18
- 10, Suzy Burger, 16.33

Jerrie Sasson, Gerard Pelpowski. 3, Laurence & Barbara Schiff.

**299er winners  
at Southfield sectional**

**THURSDAY AM PAIRS:** Linda Lutze, Mary Beebe

**THURSDAY AFTERNOON SWISS TEAMS:** Craig & Marianne Linderman, Nancy Spence, Susan Michelotti

**FRIDAY AM PAIRS:** John Abbott, Pat Garant

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS:** Stephen & Kathleen Leist

**SATURDAY AM PAIRS:** Julian Prince, Steven Miller

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS:** Daniel Rose, Ronald Whitney

**SOLUTION TO  
DOUBLE DUMMY**  
From back page

<b>NORTH</b>	
♠AK974	
♥965	
♦K83	
♣A4	
<b>WEST</b>	<b>EAST</b>
♠J86	♠Q103
♥K1082	♥AJ43
♦	♦Q654
♣KQ10753	♣86
<b>SOUTH</b>	
♠52	
♥Q7	
♦AJ10972	
♣J92	

Yes.

After winning the ace of clubs at trick 4, declarer runs the 8 of diamonds, then leads the 3 of diamonds and finesse again.

Next comes a spade to dummy's ace, a heart ruff in hand, a spade to dummy's king and another spade, ruffed in hand.

That will bring declarer down to AJ of diamonds and the J of clubs. So he just ruffs the club with dummy's K of diamonds and leads another spade, scoring the AJ of diamonds by overruffing East.

Thanks to Jerry Grossman for reporting this hand, which came up in a recent NABC.

**MOVING UP...**

**Junior Masters**

Jeanne Learman  
Joseph Learman  
James McNamara

**Club Masters**

Susan Birnholtz  
Catherine Bolton  
Gary Boyers  
Barbara Branca  
Daniel Rose

**Regional Masters**

James Egan  
Douglas Kahn  
James Korte  
Craig Ross  
Deanne Spoor  
Henry Zhang  
Yangping Zhang

**Advanced NABC Master**

Martha Bhatia

**Bronze Life Master**

Martha Toon

**Silver Life Master**

Shobhana Joshi

**Ruby Life Masters**

David Aderente  
Norm Bash  
Jeanne Hernandez  
Kerry Lafer

**Sapphire Life Master**

Jonathan Fleischmann

**Diamond Life Master**

Anastasia Tessler

## Incident at Palmetto

By Marty Hirschman

A funny thing happened to Board 5 on the way from one table to the other in a Swiss match at the February 2015 Palmetto FL Regional.

At the first table, the layout was:

N deals  
N-S vul.

	<b>NORTH</b>	
	♠K9x	
	♥Axx	
	♦xxx	
	♣Jxxx	
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>
♠A7x		♠J5
♥xx		♥10xx
♦QJ10x		♦AK87xx
♣Axxx		♣8x
	<b>SOUTH</b>	
	♠Q108xx	
	♥KQJ9x	
	♦void	
	♣KQ10	

<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>
Pass	2♦	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	5♦
5♥	Dbl	All Pass	

Declarer, North, was Michael Passell, the well-known professional player, World Champion and Grand Life Master who is second on the all-time masterpoint list with over 79,000 points (as of early 2016). His partner was Mary

Chilcotte. Opponents were Marvin and Linda Darter of North Port FL.

In the play, Passell finessed spades into East, losing to the jack. Down 1, 200 for EW. This was a possible 12+ IMP loss for his team if the opposing NS bid and made a game at the other table.

That never happened. When the board was played at the other table, the layout was:

	<b>NORTH</b>	
	♠K9x	
	♥Axx	
	♦xxx	
	♣Jxxx	
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>
♠AJ7x		♠5
♥xx		♥10xx
♦QJ10		♦AK87xxx
♣Axxx		♣8x
	<b>SOUTH</b>	
	♠Q108xx	
	♥KQJ9x	
	♦void	
	♣KQ10	

<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>
Pass	1♦	2♦	Dbl*
2♥	3♦	All Pass	

\*Can penalize at least one of N-S's suits

East made 4, +130.

How did the hand diagram change? It is undisputed that Passell was the sole person



who caused the board to be fouled. Here is his version of what happened (as it appeared on Bridgewinners.com in late summer 2015):

“I sat North and tossed a board on the floor after we had gotten a poor result. Sometime during the next hand I noticed a card sitting face down next to a pocket and inserted it. This was a three-way match, so I thought it prudent to make sure the board was correct before our opponents took the boards to the other table. I counted the cards and found 14 in one hand and 12 in another, so I moved the extra card, which I thought was the one that had fallen out and I had replaced. I should have checked more thoroughly, but I thought I had fixed it. When we compared results, our opponents said there was a fouled board and I realized it was my screwup and owned up to it. They had won 2 IMPs on the board, and we decided to just let that result stand. I should have gone to the director, and I wish I could go back in time and do so.”

For some reason it apparently did not occur to Passell to involve his opponents in making sure the hand was correct or even to look at the

cards to make sure they were in the right place.

Marvin Darter, one of the table opponents, published his version of the facts in spring 2016, also on Bridgewinners.com:

“This is what really happened that day. Mr. Passell kept the boards for the round propped against the table leg. Numerous times during the round, he would reach down to handle the boards – at the time we thought the boards kept falling flat on the floor and he was just reaching down to put them back against the leg .... Linda asked him several times why he didn’t just put the boards flat on the floor and he responded that he liked them leaning against the leg. We figured this was just some habit. At the end of the match, Mr. Passell immediately picked up the boards from the floor and gave them to us to take to our table as it was a round robin. He did not put them on his lap, he did not put them on the table. Thus, he did not have any opportunity to count the cards in any of the hands. After the match was over, we approached Mr. Passell and told him there was a problem with a board. His response was that some

cards (not “a” card) had come out and he had put them back in as well as he could. Besides, he said, you won 2imps on the board. And that’s when Linda and I – not Mr. Passell – went to the director. The tournament director told us our recourse was to file a player memo explaining what happened and so we did.

“No matter how many times we go over it, we can come to no conclusion except that Mr. Passell switched 2 important cards in one of the boards in our match. I can only guess at his motivation for doing this... although I have a couple of pretty good guesses.”

To its credit, ACBL management vigorously prosecuted the case against Passell, including the filing of briefs and calling of witnesses. At the 2015 summer NABCs, the Appeals and Charges Committee found Passell guilty of violating three Disciplinary Rules and found that the appropriate provision governing the recommended penalty was under DR E13 which is listed as “Prearrange a deal or part thereof including one card.” The recommended penalty under E13 is “2 years suspension to Expulsion and 25 to 100 percent of Disciplined Player’s total masterpoint

holdings.” The actual penalty ordered by the committee was that Passell was put on probation for 13 months, and one-quarter of his masterpoints were taken away.

Passell appealed to the Appeals and Charges Committee, which heard the case at the fall NABC in Denver. That committee vacated the previous penalty. Instead, Passell would be suspended for two weeks beginning Dec. 20 and would be docked just the 15.40 masterpoints that his team won in the event. In an odd-looking move, ACBL and Passell issued a joint statement, published in the Daily Bulletin of the NABC, emphasizing that Passell’s conviction was “only an ethical violation (but not cheating.)”

Passell’s publication on Bridgewinners.com last summer drew many supportive comments. Others were not so sympathetic, however.

Jonathan Steinberg of Toronto, a former member of the national ACBL board of directors, commented: “Recent well publicized (and some less publicized) decisions by various ACBL Disciplinary Committees have led to a widespread belief that it is not what you do, but rather who you are (and who your friends

are) that will ultimately decide your fate.

“A World Champion, upon appeal/review, had his sanction changed to a two weeks Christmas to New Year holiday suspension followed by... nothing! Frankly, I have never heard of a suspension as short as two weeks. I had always believed it was mandatory that after any period of suspension, a much longer probationary period would follow. Apparently I was mistaken, or the rules have changed.”

In his posting on Bridgewinners, Darter wrote: “...I agree that the ACBL’s ruling wasn’t right. If I or any other normal member of the league did what Mr. Passell did, I expect he or she would have been kicked out of the league or at least suspended for more than a couple of weeks.”

What do you think?

## GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS UPDATE

Here are the winners of the District 12 finals of the Grand National Teams, held April 9-10 in Southfield.

They will represent the district in the national finals at the Summer NABC in Washington DC.

**UNLIMITED FLIGHT:** Joe Monro, Owen Lien, Zachary Wasserman, Michael McDonald

**FLIGHT A:** Dennis Carman, Joanne Molt, Lowell Seyburn, Robert Houtrow

**FLIGHT B:** Grant Petersen, Robert Korten, Ching-Po Wang, Xingyu Zhang

**FLIGHT C:** Tengyun Tony Cao, Xiaoping Wu, Tan Yang, Anne Ye

### CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!!!

MBA has a page on Facebook, with lots of interesting features, schedules, results, photos and links.

To view the page, go to Facebook.com, then type “Michigan Bridge Association” into the field at the top and hit enter. Be sure to “Like” the page.

The administrator of the page is Marilyn Nathanson. If you have anything you want to contribute, please contact her at: [mnathanson@ameritch.net](mailto:mnathanson@ameritch.net)

## DOUBLE DUMMY

By Marty Hirschman

### NORTH

♠AK974

♥965

♦K83

♣A4

### WEST

♠J86

♥K1082

♦

♣KQ10753

### EAST

♠Q103

♥AJ43

♦Q654

♣86

### SOUTH

♠52

♥Q7

♦AJ10972

♣J92

Contract: 4♦ by South

West leads a heart to East's ace. East returns a heart to West's king. Next West plays the king of clubs which you duck. At trick 4 West continues with a low club to dummy's ace.

Can South make the rest of the tricks and his contract? Solution, page 23