

some time in Michigan over the past two years and was planning to move back here. He died in December following a long battle with lung cancer.

I had the great pleasure of playing with both Steve and Jeffrey while they were living in Michigan. Both were tremendous natural card players, exciting personalities and good friends. —M.H.

IN MEMORIAM

Arlene Howe
Charles May
Orion Nazzaro
Ronald Spaeth
Robert Kromm

Attendance drops at Motor City Regional

Attendance at the 2017 Motor City Regional was just 739.5 tables, down 105 tables from 2016. The tournament showed a profit of \$2,878, compared to a budgeted profit of \$7,600.

The biggest drops in attendance were on Sunday, and in the KOs.

The combined Swiss events on Sunday were down 26 tables (13 fewer teams x 2 ses-

sions).

The 2016 regional racked up a total of 60 tables in KO events. There was only sufficient attendance to run a single Flight B KO for 13 total tables in 2017.

Bryant wins seat on MBA board

Brenda Bryant is a new member of the MBA board of directors following the October board election. Re-elected to two-year terms were Marilyn Crane, Marilyn Nathanson, Stacey Tessler and Zachary Wasserman.

Kurt Dasher did not seek re-election. Thanks to him for his years of service.

Lien is president-elect

Owen Lien has been named MBA president-elect and sectional tournament chair for the year beginning in November 2017.

In voting at the November 7 board meeting, Bob Ondo moved up to president, while Bob Webber and Stacey Tessler were re-elected as treasurer and recording secretary, respectively. New board member Brenda Bryant will chair the 2018 Motor City Regional.

**Michigan Bridge Association's
Michael Graham Ann Arbor Sectional
January 27-28, 2018
Eastern Michigan University Student Center
900 Oakwood St., Ypsilanti MI 48197
734-487-1157**

Saturday, January 27

Stratified Open Swiss Teams Playthrough-7 matches ... 11 a.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs (single session)..... 11 a.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs (single session)..... 3 p.m.

Sunday, January 28

Stratified Open Swiss Teams Playthrough-7 matches ... 11 a.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs (single session)..... 11 a.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs (single session)..... 3 p.m.

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

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

Directions from Detroit suburbs:

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

When you first come to the Eastern Michigan University campus, turn left (north) on Oakwood Street.

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

Tournament Chairman: Marty Hirschman,
H: 248-646-3967, C: 248-252-7732; mbatalk@aol.com

Partnerships: Marcy Toon,
734-478-4494, mtoon@umich.edu

District 12 Website: www.district12bridge.org

TABLE TALK

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MBA Officers

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

Board of Directors

Shelley Boschan, Brenda Bryant,
Marilyn Crane, Jonathan Fleisch-
mann, Martin Hirschman (non-voting),
Owen Lien, Marilyn Nathanson, Bob
Ondo, Grant Petersen, Patti Stoner,
Richard Temkin, Stacey Tessler, Al-
lan Tushman, Zachary Wasserman.

MBA CLUB DIRECTORY

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

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

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

■**Downriver BC**, Southgate Vet-
erans 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 Silver-
est, 810-225-2278. Tuesday 7
p.m.

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

3575. Friday 12 p.m.

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

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

■**Trenton DBC**, 2700 Westfield,
Trenton. Bob Ondo, 313-320-
5173. Thursday 7 p.m.

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

■**Young Center BC**, R.A. Young
Recreation Center, 5400 McKin-
ley, Dearborn Heights. Joyce
Kozma, 313-274-5587. Wednes-
day 11 a.m.

IT'S YOUR BID

By Marty Hirschman

Never have I had such a warm reception as when I returned to the bridge table recently after a six-day hospitalization with a freak case of congestive heart failure. They even let me sit North-South a few times until it became apparent that my heart and other body parts are just fine, thank you, and I wasn't going to die anytime soon. So, being "only" 68 years old (as of late December), I'm back to East-West. At least it all gave me a pretty good excuse for being a little late getting out this issue of Table Talk.

Congratulations to Jonathan Fleischmann for his perfect score on this issue's problems. Also, congratulations to Valentine Enache for best score among readers.

No matter your age or health you will always be South in It's Your Bid. So send in your answers to next issue's problems, found at the end of this article.

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

♠1032 ♥107 ♦AQ1073 ♣AQ3
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
-- 1♥ Pass 2♦*
Pass 3♦ Pass ?

*Game forcing

Action	Score	Votes
3NT	100	13
4♣	70	5
3♠	60	3
3♥	50	1
5♦	40	0
Pass	20	0

If there is room to bid both unbid suits below 3NT, you can just bid the one you have the stopper in. That's not the case here. It is a big headache. In my view, the focus

should be on spades, since that is what the opponents are going to lead most of the time. 3NT should show a spade stopper, 3♠ deny a spade stopper.

Only one panelist seems to agree:

Howard Perlman (3♠): First obligation is to find the right game. 3♠ is sort of "last train" to 3NT. Would have bid 1NT over 1♥, though that doesn't necessarily solve all problems.

No one else seems very sure.

Suzy Burger (3♠): I hope partner takes it as asking.

SCORES

Experts:

Jonathan Fleischmann	500
Don Rumelhart	480
Gene Benedict	470
Linda Perlman	470
John Koschik	460
Howard Perlman	460
Joe Chiesa	450
Dennis Kasle	450
Bob Katz	450

Readers:

Valentine Enache	440
------------------------	-----

George Pope	430
Irv Hershman	410
Neil Manley	410
J. Morris Swiger	400
Patty Becker	370
Sy Goodman	360
Doris Jefferies	360
Mark Hugger	340
Jerry Jefferies	340
Michael Betzold	320
Seymour Mandell	320
Klaus Brondum	270

HOW THE PANEL VOTED

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

Irv Rosenstein (3♠): See if partner can bid 3NT.

Chuck Burger (4♣): Where I live. Can't bid 3♥ (Honor-x or better), and 3♠ a telling bid or otherwise ambiguous.

Sheldon Kirsch (4♣): I'll pass 4NT. Wish I could bid 3♣.

Marilyn Maddox (4♣): Without a spade stopper, let partner decide.

Willie Winokur (3♥): Deferring to pard how to proceed. Hope I like his next bid.

The majority just goes for the gusto...

Joe Chiesa (3NT): Clearly our most likely game. 3♠ shows spades, 3♥ as a waiting bid fails on three counts: 1) When I bid 3♥, the rules forbid me from saying "waiting bid." 2) I lack one heart. 3) 3♥ is a bigger bid than 4♥ – so the strength measure is errant.

Gene Benedict (3NT): Jeff Meckstroth did the same thing in a similar auction. Dummy had Qxx of spades. I had KJx. The jack of spades lead beats the hand. I didn't find it.

Bob Brent (3NT): Per Hamman's rule and Bert's law...

Brenda Bryant (3NT): Somebody has to bid it. Maybe they

won't lead a spade or they will be 4-4 or partner will bid 4♦.

Jonathan Fleischmann (3NT): This feels like an application of Hamman's Rule. Slam is remote on these cards, and sometimes partner has enough of a stopper with three little spades.

Bob Katz (3NT): The fact that neither NV opponent chose to bid spades is very favorable. Sometimes spades are 4-4, and 3NT is the only makeable game.

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

♠A10 ♥K ♦AK10754 ♣AQ63
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
-- -- 1♣ Dbl
Pass 1♥ 2♣ ?

Action	Score	Votes
2NT	100	8
3NT	100	8
3♦	70	4
2♦	60	2
Dbl	50	0
Pass	10	0

2NT would show about 19 HCPs with a balanced hand, while 2♦ would show about 17-18 with long diamonds. You are too good for either of those. We could cuebid 3♣ or jump to 3♦ to show 19+ HCPs, but we aren't likely to find out anything useful.

Jonathan Fleischmann (3NT): The problem with 3♣ or 3♦ is that neither gives partner a way to find out about my club stoppers. 2♦ gives partner space, but is too much of an underbid. It doesn't take much from partner for this to come home, and he may not know if he has the right yarborough.

To put it another way, if merely insubstantial-looking values in partner's hand will give you enough to make a contract, you have to bid it yourself.

Howard Perlman (3NT): Too much to do anything else.

Bob Webber (3NT): Partner rates to have a few diamonds.

Dennis Kasle (3NT): Best chance for game. With nobody bidding spades, my partner surely has a card. 3♦ is probably the better bid, but partner would not know what to do after that.

Sheldon Kirsch (3NT): Don't need much, and should get a club lead.

Morrie Kleinplatz (3NT): A 3-4-3-3 yarborough from partner might be enough. The red queens would make it a high percentage game, and many other holdings work.

Bob Katz (2NT): It is right on

values and I have a source of tricks. Likelihood of a slam is minimal. If I bid anything else, I will likely have to bid 3NT later. I would bid 3NT if I was assured a club lead, but sometimes the opponents don't cooperate, either because they are void or because they have something else to lead.

Bob Brent (3NT): Hope lefty has a club to lead.

John Koschik (2NT): If partner bids 3♥, I may wish I had bid diamonds, but 2NT is about right on clubs and overall strength.

Don Rumelhart (2NT): This shows a good hand. I'll see if partner can squeeze out a raise.

Gene Benedict (2NT): Invites game and shows a big hand. I will probably take one spade, five diamonds and two club tricks in 2NT.

Chuck Burger (3♦): 2NT has a matchpoint charm. 2♦=good hand. 3♦ begs for a bid. If I catch a bid, I will try NT.

Joe Chiesa (3♦): Although 3NT seems patently obvious with a double stopper and a 20-count including a good 6-card suit, 6♦ opposite ♠Kxx ♥xxxxx ♦xxxx ♣x offers a

reasonable play for slam. Moreover, I may yet offer 3NT over 3♥ or 3♠.

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

♠KJ643 ♥void ♦AJ1054 ♣A65

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

-- 1♥ Pass 1♠

2NT 3♠ Pass ?

Action	Score	Votes
4♣	100	13
4♠	70	5
6♠	60	2
4♦	50	1
5♠	50	1
4NT	40	0

Partner was under pressure and may have stretched to raise because he had four spades, but, with our good controls and decent trump, we still are worth a slam try or two.

Don Rumelhart (4♣): Slam is likely, so I will continue the conversation with my cheapest cuebid.

Willie Winokur (4♣): And then 5♦.

Bob Webber (4♦): Then 5♣ to see if partner has a diamond control.

Brenda Bryant (5♠): I think this would imply I have minors covered. We may or may not have a slam here. Assuming opener has four spades.

Chuck Burger (4♣): Looking for a diamond cuebid. I will still try again. Six probably likely but suits not breaking. Pard has a good hand with four trump.

Looking, but with trepidation...

Howard Perlman (4♣): Must make some sort of try. Will bid 4♠ over either red suit cue by partner. Caution is paramount as bad splits may abound.

Irv Rosenstein (4♣): I will see if partner has slam interest. If he has no diamond control, we will stop in 4♠.

Kurt Dasher (4♣): Trying for slam. Will cuebid diamond ace next if partner cooperates.

Not looking...

Bob Katz (4♠): There is nothing about my hand that leads me to believe we have a slam.

Morrie Kleinplatz (4♠): This hand is not as good as it looks with a heart void and the minors behind me. Moreover, I play that partner could have bid 3♦ to show a strong spade raise, so she is just competing.

Linda Perlman (4♠): Partner could have bid 3♦ with a good spade raise. I have a good enough hand to try for slam,

but I'm going with things splitting badly and taking the low road.

Gene Benedict (4♠): I have many negative features on this hand. I lack good spade spots, my heart void means I can't set up dummy's hearts. West's diamonds are over my diamonds. The spades are unlikely to break 2-2. There is too much work to do.

Bob Brent (4♠): Things are going to break poorly, and it may be difficult to make 12 tricks. My first inclination was to bid a slam, but common sense prevailed.

Going all the way!

Dick Temkin (6♠): Would expect 16-18 points without the interference, but now partner may be stretching with 4-5 in the majors and a good opener. 5NT (Grand Slam Force) is tempting, but heart wastage is likely and could easily have a minor suit loser.

Maybe going beyond all the way.

Dennis Kasle (4♣): Looking for 4♦, then 4NT. Don't care if I am void. I need two with the queen for thoughts of 7.

Wow.

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

♠K9873 ♥AKQJ102 ♦85 ♣void
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

-- 1♣ 1♦ 1♥

Pass 3NT Pass ?

Action	Score	Votes
4NT	100	5
5♥	100	5
4♠	80	3
6NT	80	3
Pass	70	2
4♣	70	2
4♥	60	1
5NT	60	1
6♥	50	0
5♠	20	0

2NT by partner would have shown 18-19 balanced. 3NT usually shows a long strong

ABA Spring Nationals in Motor City

The American Bridge Association is holding its spring nationals in the Detroit area. The dates are April 12-18 at the Edward Hotel and Convention Center in Dearborn.

The ABA is an historically African-American organization that was formed in the segregation era. The group and its tournaments are open to all.

For more information about the tournament and about local ABA clubs, go to: <http://ababridge.org>.

club suit, with stoppers and too much to bid just 3♣. It doesn't really promise a solid suit. Our club void is a big minus, to say the least, but we still have an awful lot to just pass.

Morrie Kleinplatz (Pass): I don't expect to have much company, but this seems like a crapshoot to me. We may make anything from 4 to 7. What would you bid with ♠A ♥x ♦QJx ♣AKQJxxxx? If there was a way to ask for first- or second-round diamond control I would go on.

The 5♥ bidders think they have the answer to that.

Dick Temkin (5♥): Partner has to have more than a solid club suit and a diamond stopper. Just want to be sure he has the ace or king. Would be pusillanimous to do less!

Gene Benedict (5♥): This bid focuses on the diamond problem for slam. 6♣ by my partner would show solid clubs and the Kx of diamonds.

Chuck Burger (5♥): Focus on second-round control of diamonds. Over 5NT I will try 6NT and expect ace of spades.

I'm confused. Might not partner have something like

QJx of diamonds to bid 5NT over 5♥?

Bob Brent (5NT): Protecting partner's diamond K. He should bid 6 with second-round diamond control.

Bob Webber (4♣): After 4♦, 6NT. After 4♠, maybe 5NT.

Sheldon Kirsch (4NT): Got six tricks and spade help. Should make a move.

Dennis Kasle (4NT): Can't be quantitative because partner is bidding on long clubs and a diamond stopper or two.

Bob Katz (4♠): This has to show solid hearts and serious slam interest without a diamond control. Partner likely has long clubs he believes will run, a diamond stopper and maybe the spade queen.

Just shooting it out:

John Koschik (6NT): It would help to know partner's style, but if he has solid clubs, he only needs the diamond ace or spade ace and diamond king.

Irv Rosenstein (6NT): Should have plenty of tricks if they cannot cash two winners before we get in. Something like ♠Ax ♥x ♦Kxx ♣AKQJxxx or ♠Qx ♥x ♦Axx ♣AKQJxxx.

If partner has that much, we don't need to bid the slam ourself. Partner will surely bid the slam over any invitation.

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

♠AQ ♥AKQJ543 ♦104 ♣KJ
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
2♠ Pass Pass ?

Action	Score	Votes
3NT	100	11
Dbl	80	6
4♥	70	5

Strong hands start with double. Right???

Suzy Burger (Dbl): Over 3♣, will continue with 3♥. Over 3♦ will bid 3NT.

Joe Chiesa (Dbl): Keeps both 4♥ and 3NT in play. Double

Youth Bridge Camp

Kids age 10 to 16 who are interested in learning bridge will have a great opportunity to do so in Michigan this summer. Local player Susan Woodrow is running a Michigan Youth Bridge Camp, July 15-21 in Holly. For further information, email Susan at:

Michiganyouthbridge
@yahoo.com or
suzywoodrow@hotmail.com

may evoke useful info from the omnico-competent seated opposite me.

Dennis Kasle (Dbl): Then we'll see.

Chuck Burger (Dbl): Followed by 3NT over diamonds and 4♥ over 3♣. A direct 3NT or 4♥ is unnecessary.

But if we double and partner bids 2NT Lebensohl (weak relay) won't we have wrong-sided 3NT (and 4♥)?

Bob Katz (3NT): I cannot double without likely wrong-siding a 3NT contract (Lebensohl response). 3NT is one trick fewer than 4♥.

Howard Perlman (3NT): Strong possibility only nine tricks available. Need much less from partner than in 4♥.

Jonathan Fleischmann (3NT): I'm not sure what's right here, but I know I've found a making contract if they lead their suit. 4♥ requires more than that to make, and both contracts may be fine if partner actually has something. I'm certainly not giving the opponents any help on defense.

Don Rumelhart (3NT): I am hoping for a black suit lead or some of partner's points in diamonds.

Linda Perlman (3NT): I have

8-plus tricks in NT and I am balanced. These hands never make 4♥.

Other ideas:

Sheldon Kirsch (4♥): If I bid 3NT, I may get the surprise diamond lead.

Morrie Kleinplatz (4♥): This is a strong bid in the passout seat. Partner should go on with two aces and a little more. Double is good, too, but I'd hate to hear partner bid hearts and get the lead from the wrong side.

John Koschik (Dbl): This will wrong-side notrump if partner has trash (Lebensohl) but will keep slam in the picture on other hands.

Answering that:

Bob Webber (3NT): Every card we need for slam could be in East's hand.

Slam seems like a very long shot. Just making a game sounds good to me.

NEXT ISSUE'S HANDS

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

♠8 ♥762 ♦A2 ♣AKQ7632
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
-- -- -- 1♣
Pass 1♦ 2♠ ?

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

♠KQ104 ♥A3 ♦QJ5 ♣Q1093
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
-- -- -- 1♣
Pass 1♦ 2NT Pass
3♥ 4♣ Pass ?

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

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

*Semi-forcing

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

♠QJ10 ♥103 ♦KQJ ♣K7643
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
-- -- Pass 1♣
Pass 1♥ Pass 1NT
Pass 2♦* Pass 2NT
Pass 3♣** Pass 3NT
Pass 5♠ Pass ?

*New Minor Forcing

**Clubs, game forcing

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

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

*Hearts and a minor

**Negative

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

A note of appreciation

To: Michigan Bridge Association President Jonathan Fleischmann

I wanted to congratulate and thank you, the MBA board, and tournament chairman Bob Ondo for an outstanding tournament experience.

The recent Russell Roosen Sectional [August 2017] was a wonderful bridge event—especially for players like myself who have fewer than 500 points. There were multiple events available for us, and I found it refreshing to have so many opportunities to compete with my peers.

I believe I speak for many 0-500 players when I claim that here are some of the outcomes of the tournament:

—It led to an increased enthusiasm for the game and the competition.

—It helped us understand that learning more about the game is necessary to improve our game.

—It brought us a great deal of enjoyment and camaraderie.

If any of these outcomes are part of the mission statement of the MBA, then please consider the Roosen sectional to be a huge success!

I look forward to future posi-

tive experiences in bridge!
With appreciation,

—Joyce Jonik,

Sept. 12, 2017

Alarum

To the Editor:

I LOVED, LOVED, LOVED
your Shakespeare. Lots of
fun...and funny...and true.

—Irv Hershman

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Brenda Braceful
Anne Burke
William Facey
Harold Felty
Barbara Gutenberg
Bebe Hartman
Patricia Quick
Linda Schwartz
Roberta Tankanow
Naoko Wada
Rhoda Wolshon

WELCOME, TRANSFERS

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Carol Exley
Kathleen Kasiborski
Walter Otto
Linda Perlman
Kathleen Quilter
Ardyth Zeunen

Alioto, Kirsch tops at Motor City Regional

Michael Alioto and Sheldon Kirsch each won 107.86 masterpoints to top all finishers at the 2017 Vince & Joan Remy Motor City Regional. That made them co-winners of the 2017 William S. Mouser Memorial Trophy, awarded annually to the District 12 member who wins the most points at the tournament.

Alioto and Kirsch played as partners throughout the tournament. They won two championship pair games and were on the winning team in two Swisses.

It was the first Mouser win for Alioto. Kirsch previously won the trophy in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Here are the results of the tournament, held Oct. 9-15 in Farmington Hills.

MASTERPOINT LEADERS:

- 1/2, Sheldon Kirsch, 107.86
- 1/2, Michael Alioto, 107.86
- 3/4, Robert Brent, 67.89
- 3/4, Martin Hirschman, 67.89
- 5, Michael Crane, 42.96
- 6, Debra Eaves, 42.64
- 7, Walter Goldsmith, 41.45
- 8/9, Sue Lan Ma, 38.72
- 8/9, Peter Petruzzellis, 38.72
- 10, William Winokur, 37.95
- 11, Morrie Kleinplatz, 37.34
- 12, Michael Giordano, 36.52

- 13, Dennis Carman, 36.05
- 14, Hans Jacobs, 35.56
- 15, Jonathan Fleischmann, 35.53
- 16, Sondra Schubiner, 35.32
- 17, Richard Temkin, 35.28
- 18, Linda Perlman, 32.84
- 19, Steven Winokur, 32.46
- 20, Jagjit Singh, 31.71

MONDAY CHARITY PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Michael Alioto, Sheldon Kirsch. 2, Morrie Kleinplatz, William Winokur. 3, Sue Lan Ma, Peter Petruzzellis. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Harry Jagtiani, Frederic Fayle. 2, Clarke Cunningham, Sandy Birnholtz.

MONDAY GOLD RUSH PAIRS UNDER 750:

1, David Cleveland, John Vollmayer. 2, James Peresta, Stephen Leist. 3, David Mitchell, William Ahlstrom. **UNDER 300:** Perest, Leist. 2, Mitchell, Ahlstrom. 3, Paul Tilly, Michael Fant.

MONDAY/TUESDAY UNDER 2000 KO TEAMS:

1, Larry Lewis, Naresh Kapila, Thomas Ciaramitaro, Lakshmi Vora. 2, Sook Wilkinson, Tai Chan, Ching-Po Wang, Song Lin.

TUESDAY SWISS TEAMS

FLIGHT A: 1, Martin Hirschman, Robert Brent, Sheldon Kirsch, Michael Alioto. 2, Daniel Marcus, Sondra Schubiner, Mark Bendure, Sean Pryke. 3,

Steven Winokur, Willie Winokur, Walter Goldsmith, Debra Eaves. **FLIGHT B:** 1/2, Thom Allen, William Niemczyk, Carolyn Simmer, Milton Siegel, Richard Menczer. 1/2, Suzanne Baker, Jagjit Singh, Gary Theis, Robert Christensen. 3, Anand Agarwal, James Smyth, Cheryl & Jim Perna. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Allen team. 2, Gary Luoma, Jane Gardner, Bob Ondo, Tyrone Loving. 3, David & Debbie Deal, Lynn & Peter Root.

TUESDAY GOLD RUSH SWISS TEAMS UNDER 750:

1, Bruce Ridley, Steven Miller, Julian Prince, Tony Willemssen. 2, Laura Burke, Susan Michelotti, Marilee Neff, Melinda Muirhead. 3/4/5, Chris Balyo, Valerie Tabler, Catherine Feldmann, Maureen Knowler. 3/4/5, John Abbott, Paul Joseph, Catherine Curran, Ivana Dugal. 3/4/5, Joyce Jonik, Bruce Burns, Renata Wasserman, Frances Kawalec. **UNDER 300:** 1, Ridley team. 2, Beth Kordt, Esther Cotton, Barbara Dursum, Jean Hellekjaer. 3, Frank Johnson, James McNamara, Lisa Karam, Carrie Osborne.

WEDNESDAY PAIRS FLIGHT

A: 1, Michael Crane, Hans Jacobs. 2, James Walter, Alex Kharkovsky. 3, Michael

Giordano, Walter Goldsmith.

FLIGHT B: 1, Walter, Kharkovsky. 2, Deepak Dighe, Larry Lewis. 3, Sean Pryke, Mark Bendure. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Dighe, Lewis. 2, Lynn Root, Karen Mann. 3, Valerie Tabler, Catherine Feldmann.

WEDNESDAY GOLD RUSH PAIRS UNDER 750:

1, James McNamara, Douglas Sweeder. 2, Mari Kaftan, Rita Levin. 3, George Lupone, Peggy Gallagher. **UNDER 300:** 1, McNamara, Sweeder. 2, Lupone, Gallagher. 3, Jm Shea, Cheryl Ross. **UNDER 100:** 1, Michael Fant, Paul Tilly. 2, Jerrie Sasson, Gary Boyers. 3, Mary Robinson, Jane Lehman.

THURSDAY SWISS TEAMS

FLIGHT A: 1, Dennis Carman, John Koschik, Irving Rosenstein, Richard Temkin. 2, Jordan Kaye, Julie Arbit, Kurt Dasher, Brad Dracka, Jonathan Fleischmann, Morrie Kleinplatz. 3, Martin Hirschman, Robert Brent, Sylvia Moss, Linda Perlman, Michael Alioto, Sheldon Kirsch.

FLIGHT B: 1, Michael Kaleel, Linda & Arthur Golumbia, John Dreifus. 2, Suzanne Baker, Jagjit Singh, Gary Theis, Robert Christensen. 3, Larry Cohen, Kerry Lafer, Thomas Hunt, Ross Wein-

stein. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Kenneth & Arlene Geisler, Scott & Patricia Miller. 2, William Niemczyk, William Landrum, Allan Tushman, Barb Ferrera. 3, Jane Gardner, John Vollmayer, Tai Chan, Tom Baer.

THURSDAY GOLD RUSH SWISS TEAMS UNDER 750:

1, Mari Kaftan, Rita Levin, Kathleen Young, Anita Green. 2, Richard Cantley, Dennis Waniolek, Arnold Gottlieb, Eva Rival. 3, David Winer, David Dursum, Jean Grande, Ruthan Brodsky. **UNDER 300:** 1, Winer team. 2/3: Bruce Graham, Tony Willemssen, Steven Miller, Julian Prince. 2/3, Jim Shea, Cheryl Ross, Carmel Contradi, Barbara Rozek.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY SIDE SERIES:

1, Bert Newman. 2/3, Nancy Colbert. 2/3, Joseph Hollis.

FRIDAY PAIRS FLIGHT A:

1, Michael Alioto, Sheldon Kirsch. 2, Martin Hirschman, Robert Brent. 3, Peter Petruzzellis, Sue Lan Ma.

FLIGHT B: 1, Jagjit Singh, Robert Christensen. 2, Cameron Shunta, Renee Shunta. 3, Robert Raf, Steven Jacob.

FLIGHT C: 1, John Hartman III, Philip Cowen. 2, Marilyn

Nathanson, Geraldine Spilman. 3, Frederic Fayle, James Banaszek.

FRIDAY GOLD RUSH PAIRS

UNDER 750: 1, James & Maureen Wynalek. 2, David Jasperse, Stacy Honson. 3, Barb Ferrera, Bob Ondo. **UNDER 300:** 1, Jasperse, Honson. 2, Jane Lehman, Jill Rastelli. 3, Joyce Close, Rosalyn Monticciolo.

SATURDAY SWISS TEAMS

FLIGHT A: 1, Jack Shartsis, Zachary Wasserman, Owen Lien, Chuck Burger. 2, Donald Rumelhart, Stephen Mackay, David Colbert, Ned Irving. 3, Martin Hirschman, Robert Brent, Sheldon Kirsch, Michael Alioto. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Kenneth & Arlene Geisler, Barb Marti, Lakshmi Vora. 2, Bob Ondo, Grant Petersen, Mark Hugger, Alan Cohn, Rhonda Monro. 3, Tai Chan, Ching-Po Wang, Lynda Thal, Song Lin. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Geisler team.

SATURDAY OPEN PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Bert Newman, Dennis Kastle. 2, Andrew Garnett, Douglas Kahn. 3, Peter Bolgar, Samir Zeine. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Garnett, Kahn. 2, Stuart Dombey, Chris Brewer. 3, Judy Hoher, Clarke Cunningham. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Dombey,

Brewer. 2, Richard Cantley, Dennis Waniolek.

SATURDAY GOLD RUSH PAIRS UNDER 750: 1, James Korte, Carrie Osborne. 2, Robert Hammell, Genadiy Hirscht. 3, Lisa Karam, James McNamara. **UNDER 300:** 1, Karam, McNamara. 2, Beth Kordt, Esther Cotton. 3, Chris Hill, Ann Margosian. **UNDER 100:** 1, Judy & Harold Osher. 2, Richard Shaw, Jamie Ling.

SUNDAY A/X SWISS TEAMS FLIGHT A: 1, Gary Brinker, Sheldon Kirsch, Michael Alioto, Joseph Ernsthausen. 2, Owen Lien, Linda Perlman, Brenda Bryant, Sylvia Moss. 3, Rose Burke, Sondra Schubiner, Lynne Cook, Debra Eaves. **FLIGHT X:** 1, Suzy Burger, Daniel Marcus, Robert Mendelson, Mark Bendure. 2, Kurt Dasher, Morrie Kleinplatz, Frank Treiber III, Julie Arbit, Jonathan Fleischmann, Jordan Kaye.

SUNDAY B/C/D SWISS TEAMS FLIGHT B: 1, Michael Kaleel, Neal Strand, Richard Menczer, Carolyn Simmer, John Dreifus. 2/3, Satish Shah, Jerome Hasenjager, Thomas Hunt, Ross Weinstein. 2/3, Wilbur Argersinger, David Graff, David Aderente, Arthur Wasserman.

FLIGHT C: 1, Inderpal & Martha Bhatia, Corey Powel, Renata Wasserman. 2, Kenneth & Arlene Geisler, Louise Hahn, Sook Wilkinson. 3, Kathy Twomey, Ellen Silverest, William Gregg, Lakshmi Vora, Linda Muirhead. **FLIGHT D:** 1, Bhatia team. 2, Edward & Jean Becker, Mary Stewart, Pearl Lim. 3, Mark Hugger, Bob Ondo, Jane Gardner, Barb Ferrera.

299er Winners At Motor City Regional

Tuesday AM Pairs: Sally Saunders, Barbara Maertens

Tuesday Afternoon Pairs: Michael Fant, Paul Tilly

Wednesday AM Pairs: Linda Temple, Karen Kearns

Wednesday Afternoon Pairs: B. Joorabchi, Farid Jano

Thursday AM Pairs: Shiv Tangri, Xiaoxin Susa Xu

Thursday Afternoon Pairs: Ronald Zurilla, James Bayson

Friday AM Pairs: Shiv Tangri, Xiaoxin Susa Xu

Saturday AM Pairs: Kikuko Kobayashi, Yumiko Narita

Sunday AM Swiss Teams: Chris Hill, Ann Margosian, Joyce Close, Rosalyn Monticciolo

Kirsch wins 2nd Stein

Sheldon Kirsch is the 2017 winner of the Edward F. Stein Memorial Trophy, MBA's player-of-the-year award.

The Stein, first awarded in 1961, is inscribed annually with the name of the MBA member who wins the most total masterpoints in overall placings in unlimited championship events at the unit's sectional and regional tournaments, including the joint MBA-SOMBA sectional. Points won at the Motor City Regional are counted at 70 percent, compared to 100 percent for points won at the sectionals.

Kirsch amassed 154.42 Stein points during the year, the 4th highest winning total in the trophy race. He previously won the Stein in 2015.

Here are the top finishers in the 2017 Stein race (compiled by William Arlingaus):

- 1, Sheldon Kirsch, 154.42
- 2, Marty Hirschman, 115.60
- 3, Jonathan Fleischmann, 91.43
- 4, Richard Temkin, 79.36
- 5, Robert Katz, 73.57
- 6, Daniel Marcus, 63.45
- 7, Steven Winokur, 62.11
- 8, Willie Winokur, 58.35
- 9, Kurt Dasher, 57.29
- 10, Owen Lien, 51.66

TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

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

Feb. 8-11: Southfield sectional

Feb. 24-25: Flint sectional

Mar. 2-4: Toledo sectional

Mar. 22-25: Southfield sectional (MBA)

Apr. 13-14: Bloomfield Hills I/N sectional

Apr. 26-28: Grand Rapids sectional

May 4-6: Frankfort sectional

May 11-12: GNT district final, Southfield

May 14-20: FARMINGTON HILLS REGIONAL

June 1-3: Kalamzoo sectional

June 4-10: TOLEDO REGIONAL

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

June 25-July 1: District 12 STAC

July 13-15: Lansing sectional

July 20-22: Freeland sectional

Aug. 13-19: PETOSKEY REGIONAL

Aug. 23-26: Southfield sectional (MBA)

Sept. 7-9: Traverse City sectional

Sept. 16: NAP District final, Lansing

Sept. 27-29: Grand Haven sectional

Oct. 8-14: MOTOR CITY REGIONAL, FARMINGTON HILLS (MBA)

Top Bridge Pros' Tax Woes Continue

From Bridge Winners.com,
Sept. 25, 2017

Recently, the #1 and #2 WBF-ranked players Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness were convicted of gross negligent tax fraud by the Oslo District Court. Born in Norway, they began to represent Monaco in international competition almost a decade ago.

They were accused of not paying Norwegian taxes on combined earnings of 18,000,000 NOK (around \$2.3 million) over an 8-year period. The court deemed this to be in violation of Norwegian tax law and sentenced Helgemo to 14 months in prison plus a fine of 280,000 NOK (around \$38,000), while Helness was sentenced to 16 months in prison and fined 340,000 NOK (around \$43,000).

We spoke with Helgemo, and learned that he is going to appeal this decision. He believes he has a good chance of a much lighter sentence because he feels that he was under the tax laws of Monaco (which has no individual income tax), as the earnings in question were *“paid in Monaco to play for Monaco, and (we) are also residents of*

Monaco. However, we are still not convinced about the tax rules and can certainly not understand them.” Even if the sentence isn't reduced on appeal, the expected amount of prison time would be 6-11 months.

SOLUTION TO AT THE WHEEL

From back page

IMPs
None vul.

NORTH

♠A54
♥A42
♦1032
♣KQ32

WEST

♠QJ109
♥KJ109
♦9
♣9876

EAST

♠K32
♥Q53
♦QJ7654
♣10

SOUTH

♠876
♥876
♦AK8
♣AJ54

There is only one hope for a ninth trick. Lead the 10 of diamonds off dummy, hoping for singleton 9 in West. If East covers with the Q or J, win in hand and look for that 9 to fall. If it does, go back to dummy and play a diamond to the 8.

It's a simple game.

A Second Overtrick

By Marty Hirschman

Matchpoints
E-W vul.

NORTH

♠732

♥K9

♦A1072

♣AK42

SOUTH

♠AK4

♥Q8

♦KQJ83

♣876

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

-- 1♦ 1♠ 2♠

Pass 3♣ Pass 3NT

All Pass

Opening lead: 9 of spades

At a recent club game I played 3NT on this seemingly dull layout. I have an easy 10 tricks by knocking out the heart ace. Meanwhile, the defense will set up their spades. After that it will be risky at best to duck a club trying to set up a long card in that suit since there will be the chance of losing the lead to East, who would have one or more spades to cash.

The problem, if it can even be called that, seemed to revolve around losing the lead

twice. So after winning the spade lead (ducking cannot help) I decided to go to dummy with a diamond and lead the 9 of hearts through East, who was likely to have the ace for his overcall.

East could hardly take the heart ace at that point because that would give me an extra trick if I had Qxx of hearts. So, the queen of hearts won the trick.

Next I cashed the rest of the diamonds. East, who started with just a singleton diamond, pitched two clubs and two hearts. Since his failure to make a Michaels cuebid precluded him from having started with five hearts, I knew he was down to blank ace, so I could safely duck a club. Clubs were 3-3 originally, so I wound up with 11 tricks and a tie for top on the board.

East actually started with ♠QJ1065 ♥A764 ♦4 ♣953. To hold me to 10 tricks, he had to hold onto a small heart along with his ace. Then the opponents could run hearts when in with the club.

If East had started with four clubs, he really would have been in trouble on the run of the diamonds since he would have had to hold onto guards in spades, hearts and clubs.

Zhangs, Winokur trade trophies

By Martin Hirschman

In 2016, Henry Zhang and Yanping Zhang tied for first for the Beverly Bluth Trophy, MBA's Flight B player-of-the-year award, while Steven Winokur won the Flight C Willie Winokur Trophy. But for 2017, Winokur won the Bluth, while the Zhangs (who are not related but played as partners throughout both years) tied for first in the Winokur race.

How could this be?

Prior to 2017, the Bluth went to the MBA member who started the year with fewer than 2,000 points and won the most points in MBA tournaments. If that player started the year with fewer than 750 points, the cutoff for Flight C, the next-highest ranking C player was awarded the Winokur. Under that rule, the Zhangs won the Bluth even though they started 2016 with just a little over 100 points each, and Winokur was awarded the Winokur trophy (named for his father) as the next highest scoring Flight C player.

Starting in 2017, however, the MBA board decided that only players with between 750

and 2,000 points would be eligible to win the Bluth. That was Steven Winokur, who by the beginning of the 2017 had 875 masterpoints. Meanwhile the Zhangs each had just 292 points at the beginning of 2017, so they were still eligible to win the Winokur, which they did.

Here are the top finishers in each of these two 2017 trophy races (compiled by Bob Ondo):

Beverly Bluth Flight B Trophy

- 1, Steve Winokur, 70.12
- 2, Sandy Birnholtz, 58.75
- 3, James Walter, 53.92
- 4, Wilbur Argersinger, 48.26
- 5, Michael Kaleel, 41.47
- 6, Zachary Wasserman, 34.69
- 7, David Aderente, 24.38
- 8, Steve O'Guin, 24.00
- 9, Jordan Kaye, 22.86
- 10, Alan Cohn, 21.04

Willie Winokur Flight C Trophy

- 1/2, Henry Zhang, 32.45
- 1/2, Yanping Zhang, 32.45
- 3, Barb Ferrera, 31.13
- 4, Bob Ondo, 27.50
- 5, Pearl Lim, 21.27
- 6, James McNamara, 20.53
- 7, James Egan, 19.76
- 8, Michael Fant, 18.33
- 9, Steven Miller, 17.09
- 10, Thom Allen, 15.43

MOVING UP...

JUNIOR MASTERS

Curtis Estes
Clara Marks
Robert Murray
Larry Trager
Alicia Treder
Naoko Wada
Robin Wagner
Eileen Walsh

CLUB MASTERS

Jeanne Learman
Suzanne Shepard

SECTIONAL MASTERS

Mary Bedsworth
Patricia Colett
Kikuko Kobayashi
Larry Macdonald
Sue Moll
Cynthia Robinson
Melvin Robinson

NABC MASTERS

Carol Gove
Douglas Kahn
Beth Kordt
James McNamara

ADVANCED

NABC MASTERS

Inderpal Bhatia
Pearl Lim

BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

Barb Ferrera
Frances Kawalec
Renata Wasserman

CONGRATULATIONS, NEW LIFE MASTERS

Robert Hatto
Tyrone Loving
Bob Ondo

SILVER LIFE MASTERS

Genie Baker
Carolyn Deyett
Ronna Galin
Fran Wigod
Steven Winokur

RUBY LIFE MASTERS

Stephen Carpman
Barbara Kalnick
Marilyn Nathanson
Mrs. J.J. Weiss

SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER

Walter Goldsmith

DIAMOND LIFE MASTER

Jonathan Fleischmann

PLATINUM LIFE MASTERS

Owen Lien
Mary Smith

AT THE WHEEL
By Marty Hirschman

IMPs.
None vul.

	NORTH	
	♠A54	
	♥A42	
	♦1032	
	♣KQ32	
WEST		EAST
	SOUTH	
	♠876	
	♥876	
	♦AK8	
	♣AJ54	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1♣	2♦	3NT
All Pass			

Opening lead: Queen of spades

You duck two spades and win the third, East following.

Next, you cash the ace and king of clubs. East pitches a diamond.

Now what?

Solution, page 20.