



# TABLE TALK

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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WINTER 2018-2019

## New convention charts let the genie out of the bottle

By Marty Hirschman  
Table Talk Editor

For many years, the ACBL has been quite protective of average players by prohibiting the use of some very unusual bidding methods in all but the most elite national events. But now, a quiet revolution may soon bring some very unusual bids to a bridge table near you.

There will be only minimal changes in novice and Gold Rush events under the Basic and Basic+ charts.

However, in unlimited sectional and regional events, the new Open and Open+ charts legalize all methods unless they are specifically disallowed, with almost all agreements being allowed starting with the responder's first bid.

Before we get into the details, consider this quote (in the October Bulletin) from

Tom Carmichael, who masterminded the creation of the new, liberal (some might say "radical") convention charts:

"Part of the reason to allow most bids is to encourage experimentation and growth. Every convention that a bridge player uses was invented at some point by a player; if we only ever allow those things that are already known the game as we know it would grow stagnant."

So what will be allowed under the new charts? It somewhat depends on the level of the event and, in some cases, whether the event involves longer rounds, such as KOs or Swiss matches of 6 boards or more. Here are some examples:

■ In sectional and regional games with rounds or matches of 6 boards or more, players will be allowed to open

*(Continued on page 27)*

**Michigan Bridge Association's  
MICHAEL GRAHAM  
ANN ARBOR SECTIONAL**

**January 26-27, 2019**

**SITE: Cobblestone Farm**

**2781 Packard Street, Ann Arbor MI 48108**

**734-794-6230**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 26**

Stratified Open Swiss Teams Playthru-7 matches ..... 10 a.m.  
Stratified 0-500 Pairs (single session)..... 10 a.m.  
Stratified 0-500 Pairs (single session)..... 2 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 27**

Stratified Open Swiss Teams Playthru-7 matches ..... 10 a.m.

*Free coffee and snacks. Free parking.  
Light lunch will be provided.*

**SWISS TEAM STRATS:**

A=3000+; B=1000-3000; C=0-1000

**0-500 STRATS:**

(as attendance warrants) 0-100, 100-300, 300-500

Average MP will be used to determine your strat.

**Tournament chairman:**

Stacey Tessler, 734-623-8050, atessler@hotmail.com

**Partnerships:**

Marilyn Crane, mqcrane@yahoo.com,  
734-591-3431, cell: 734-536-1731, and  
Jane Gardner, janegard@umich.edu,  
248-719-2941

**District website:** [www.district12bridge.org](http://www.district12bridge.org)

**Michigan Bridge Association's  
MICHIGAN STATE SECTIONAL**

**April 4-7, 2019**

**SITE: The Bridge Connection**  
26776 Twelve Mile Road, Southfield MI  
Just west of Northwestern Highway  
248-356-6254

**THURSDAY, APRIL 4**

Stratified Open Pairs.....	10 a.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs.....	10 a.m.
<i>Swiss Teams Lesson for New Players</i> .....	2:10 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams.....	2:30 p.m.
Stratified 0-500 Swiss Teams.....	2:30 p.m.
Stratified Open Fast Pairs (5 minutes per board) .....	7 p.m.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 5**

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

**SATURDAY, APRIL 6**

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

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7**

BRACKETED Swiss Teams Playthru (7 matches) .....	10 a.m.
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Stratified events: A=unlimited; B=0-3000; C=0-1000

0-500 Stratifications: 0-100, 100-300, 300-500 as attendance warrants.

Average masterpoints will be used to determine stratifications.

All pair events are single session.

Light lunch will be provided on Saturday and Sunday.

No smoking in the building.

**Tournament chair:** Richard Temkin,  
richardtemkin@gmail.com, 248-568-6599

**Partnerships:** Marilyn Crane, mqcrane@yahoo.com,  
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### TABLE TALK

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Emanuele, 734-675-3687. Tues-  
day 10:30 a.m.

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375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe  
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3575. Friday 12 p.m.

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

■**Plymouth Community DBC**,  
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a.m., Wednesday 11:30 a.m.

■**Trenton DBC**, 2700 Westfield,  
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5173. Thursday 7 p.m.

■**War Memorial**, 32 Lakeshore,  
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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

Possible slams, possible games and possible matchpoint decisions abound in this issue's set. Hope you scored well.

Congratulations to Gene Benedict who topped all the experts, and to Doris Jefferies and Gerald Wahl who led among readers.

To see what is possible, 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:

♠AK642 ♥82 ♦A972 ♣63

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
--	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	2♣	2♥	?

Action	Score	Votes
3♣	100	7
Pass	80	5
Dbf	60	2
2♠	60	2
2NT	50	1
2♦	20	0

*Presumably partner has six clubs and about 9 HCPs. You have three quick tricks and a doubleton club and possible ruffing value. So it seems normal to compete to 3♣.*

**Kurt Dasher (3♣):** Three quick tricks makes up for only having two-card trump support.

**Gene Benedict (3♣):** I am hoping to push the opponents one level higher. Partner is a passed hand, so he shouldn't get excited.

**Bob Brent (3♣):** I expect pard to have KQJxxx of clubs and perhaps a diamond honor.

*Other ideas:*

**Joe Chiesa (Pass):** As no 3♣ opening, partner rates to have six clubs and perhaps four hearts. Auction suggests clubs may split illy. Although 110 (in 3♣) beats 100 (in 2♥), passing may permit me to scoff at 2♠.

**Morrie Kleinplatz (Pass):** I suppose double ought to convey something like this, but I'm not going to chance it. Odds are that white against red partner is risking a lead director.

**John Koschik (Pass):** This is the low road. A double and pass by LHO would tell partner I have spade length, but since he didn't double 1NT, I'm worried that he, too, might have only two hearts.

**Sheldon Kirsch (2NT):**

## SCORES

### EXPERTS:

Gene Benedict .....	480
Dick Temkin .....	470
Myles Maddox.....	460
Don Rumelhart.....	460
Kurt Dasher .....	440
Morrie Kleinplatz .....	440

### READERS:

Doris Jefferies .....	430
Gerald Wahl .....	430
Patty Becker.....	410
George Pope.....	410

Jerry Viedrah.....	410
Sy Goodman .....	400
Margaret Carden.....	380
James Swiger.....	380
Jerry Jefferies.....	370
Kerry Lafer .....	360
Neil Manley .....	360
Irv Hershman.....	350

### ADDENDUM:

October issue:	
Seymour Mandell .....	450

## HOW THE PANEL VOTED

### HOW THE PANEL VOTED:

	1	2	3	4	5
Gene Benedict:	3♣	5♥	5♣	2♥	Pass
Bob Brent	3♣	4NT	5♣	Pass	3♦
Joe Chiesa	Pass	5♣	5♣	Dbl	3NT
Kurt Dasher	3♣	5♣	4♠	2♥	Pass
Jonathan Fleischmann	Dbl	6♥	4♠	2♥	Pass
Dennis Kasle	2♠	5♥	6♣	Dbl	Pass
Sheldon Kirsch	2NT	5NT	5♣	2♥	Pass
Morrie Kleinplatz	Pass	6♥	6♣	Pass	Pass
John Koschik	Pass	5♦	4♠	Dbl	3NT
Myles Maddox	Pass	5♣	5♣	Dbl	Pass
Howard Perlman	3♣	Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
Linda Perlman	Pass	5♦	4♥	Pass	3♦
Irv Rosenstein	3♣	4♠	5♣	Dbl	3♦
Don Rumelhart	Dbl	6♥	5♣	Dbl	Pass
Dick Temkin	3♣	6♥	5♣	2♥	3NT
Bob Webber	2♠	6♥	4♥	Pass	3NT
Willie Winokur	3♣	5♥	6♣	2♥	3♥

Seems like I should get in on the fun.

**Jonathan Fleischmann** (Dbl): Under the circumstances, this should be read as penalty with a trap pass of spades.

**Don Rumelhart** (Dbl): We rate to have the balance of values but no fit.

**Dennis Kasle** (2♠): Forcing. Maybe 3NT if pard has a heart stopper with good clubs.

**Bob Webber** (2♠): This is a mighty fine hand.

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

♠AK642 ♥KQ754 ♦AK4 ♣void  
**WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH**  
 -- -- Pass 1♠  
 Pass 1NT\* Pass 3♥  
 Pass 4♥ Pass ?

\*Forcing

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

*The right 3-count (e.g. ♠xx ♥J10xx ♦Qxx ♣xxxx) gives us a great play for slam, but partner will never cooperate.*

*Meanwhile, it is hard to imagine developing an auction that gives us enough information to want to bid a grand slam. So let's just jump to 6♥ and be done with it.*

**Morrie Kleinplatz** (6♥): There is no intelligent way to find out what you would like to know: Key cards are the A and J of hearts and/or the spade Q, and/or the A of clubs, and/or third-round control of diamonds. They might even lead the ace of clubs and set up dummy's K for a pitch. I am guessing that the odds are fair to make this.

**Dick Temkin** (6♥): Partner likely has a decent heart suit since he didn't preference back to spades. Slam is good opposite as little as ♠xx ♥J10xx ♦Qxxx ♣xxx, and he's not likely to accept a 5♥ invite with that.

**Don Rumelhart** (6♥): Bid what you think you can make. I see no reason to help the opponents defend.

*Going higher?*

**Bob Brent** (4NT): Rare to do it with a void, but if my partner has an ace, I should have a big shot. My diamond loser will go on the club ace. If he has two aces, I am bidding seven!

**Joe Chiesa** (5♣): Since ♠xx ♥Axxxx ♦xx ♣xxxx yields a grandy, I am obliged to move. I am going to bid 6♥, but if partner cues 5♠ over 5♣, I should probably play her for the heart ace and bid seven.

**Sheldon Kirsch** (5NT): Partner doesn't need much and should bid 6♣ with one of the two [heart honors].

**John Koschik** (5♦): Partner didn't bid 3NT, so he should have at least three hearts, likely four. Grand is not out of the question. My plan is to bid 6♣ over 5♥ and blame him when I'm down two in 6♥.

*Going low:*

**Kurt Dasher** (5♣): Will make one more try.

**Dennis Kasle** (5♥): How good are your hearts?

**Gene Benedict** (5♥): Since this is a three-loser hand, South should have opened 2♣. This bid invites slam and focuses on partner's trump support and possible spade honors.

**Irv Rosenstein** (4♠): Don't need much for slam. Must make a try.

*Going even lower:*

**Howard Perlman** (Pass): Conservative but only other

choice is to blast 6. No guarantee that partner has four hearts and could be in jeopardy at the 5-level.

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

♠J7 ♥10973 ♦QJ2 ♣KQ109  
**WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH**  
**2♥ 4♣\* Pass ?**

\*5+ spades and 5+ clubs, game-forcing

Action	Score	Votes
5♣	100	8
6♣	70	4
4♠	60	3
4♥	60	2

*If partner is serious about having game values in his own hand, then he has to have at least something like ♠AKxxx ♥x ♦Ax ♣AJxxx, perhaps more. On the other hand, he might have something like ♠AKQxx ♥x ♦x ♣AJxxxx. With our great clubs, it seems appropriate to at least make a try for slam. The only try available is to cuebid the opponents' suit.*

**Linda Perlman** (4♥): My clubs are great. Might try 4♥ as an all-purpose cue bid and hope pard bids 5NT: Pick a slam. If he bids 4♠, I will quietly bid 5♣.

**Bob Webber** (4♥): Then 5♣ over 4♠. Too good for 5♣ now.



*The majority, however, bids a dull 5♣.*

**Bob Brent (5♣):** Anything else is a pure guess.

**Sheldon Kirsch (5♣):** Don't hang him out to dry. This is enough.

*Partner asked us to choose between spades and clubs. We have great clubs and short spades, so it seems wrong to consider playing in anything except clubs. However...*

**Kurt Dasher (4♠):** 4♠ scores better at matchpoints than 5♣.

**Jonathan Fleischmann (4♠):** Even though 4♣ is game-forcing, it could be a bit of a stretch to communicate the shape. I'll try for the best matchpoint spot, knowing that we may just have three top losers playing in either black suit.

*Agreeing with me on this point:*

**Don Rumelhart (5♣):** Clubs rates to play at least one trick better than spades.

**Dick Temkin (5♣):** If partner has only five spades, he's likely to get tapped out in 4♠.

*Going all the way:*

**Morrie Kleinplatz (6♣):** I am placing partner with a singleton or void in hearts and the ace of diamonds. Of course we might be off two top tricks, but again, I'm playing the odds.

**Willie Winokur (6♣):** Ordinarily Leaping Michaels requires high-quality suits. Since partner's club suit is so ratty, he must/should have extreme distro [shortness] in the red suits.

**Howard Perlman (6♣):** No way to invite unless 4NT is

### **GNT set for April 14**

The district level of the Grand National Teams will be held on a single day this year, Sunday, April 14, at the Bridge Connection in Southfield.

Winners in four flights will represent District 12 at the national finals in conjunction with the summer NABC in Las Vegas in July. The district provides a partial subsidy for the qualifiers.

Details of the district level, including the starting time, format, pre-registration rules and fees, will be posted this winter on the District 12 website.

invitational in clubs.

*When this hand came up in a club game, partner held ♠AK432 ♥void ♦A98 ♣AJ652. Spades were 4-2, so, in clubs, it was relatively easy to ruff up the spades for 12 tricks. 4♣ would be down 1 on repeated heart leads. No one at the Bridge Connection reached the slam. +420 in 5♣ garnered about 87 percent of the matchpoints available on the board.*

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

♠J8 ♥AK864 ♦J102 ♣K94  
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
Pass Pass 1♠ Pass  
1NT Pass Pass ?

Action	Score	Votes
DbI	100	6
2♥	100	6
Pass	90	5

*This would be easy at IMPs.*

**Morrie Kleinplatz** (Pass): Hope to beat them, since I can handle any lead from partner. Might even fetch 200. If we can't beat them, we might get very hurt in 2♥. This hand smells like defense.

**Howard Perlman** (Pass): Partner marked with spade length makes bidding ultra dangerous. Better chance to go plus defending.

*However, it's matchpoints, so we will just have to risk going for a number. 2♥ is alluring, but double is much safer. Partner could easily have length in one of the minors. Also, we can run to hearts if 2 of a minor is doubled, but there is no escape if 2♥ gets doubled.*

**John Koschik** (DbI): Partner probably has four spades and could be short in hearts. I'm not passing, and I think this is our best shot at a plus score.

**Irv Rosenstein** (DbI): We rate to have half the deck, and I can support any suit if partner does not want to defend.

**Don Rumelhart** (DbI): I need to balance with this hand at matchpoints. I would have bid over 1♠, but given that I didn't, double seems the most flexible.

*For the 2♥ bidders:*

**Gene Benedict** (2♥): It is too tough to defend against 1NT all the time. Partner won't know to lead hearts unless I bid them.

**Kurt Dasher** (2♥): I can't resist at matchpoints, especially since they might bid more. I might have lost 200 on defense, but that was far from certain.

**Willie Winokur** (2♥): Would prefer to double, but too many partners would pass and lead a spade. Oy!

*That might have happened in the 1960s, but today everyone plays these low-level doubles as takeout.*

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

<b>♠AKQ10 ♥984 ♦AJ ♣7653</b>			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
--	--	--	1♣
1♦	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	?

Action	Score	Votes
Pass	100	9
3NT	70	4
3♦	60	3
3♥	50	1
4♠	20	0

*We have 14 HCPs and partner showed about 11, so we are (barely) in the game range. I don't like to let the opponents talk me out of a relatively normal bid, namely 3NT. No diamond raise from East and no diamond rebid from West, so partner easily could have help in diamonds, perhaps 10xx.*

*If partner has that 10xx of diamonds, we need to play NT from our side. Also, bidding diamonds here tends to ask for a diamond stopper,*

*not a heart stopper. So I don't like 3♦:*

**Bob Brent** (3♦): I think my partner expects me to bid again after his cue bid, and I want him to bid 3NT with hearts stopped and a good hand. We could make a game with him holding as little as ♠xxx ♥xxx ♦xx ♣AKQxx, and he is better than that.

**Linda Perlman** (3♦): Still hoping for solid clubs. If partner gasps out 3♥, I'll go for 3NT. Anything could be right or wrong.

*Partner can't have solid clubs and the king of hearts. Just solid clubs and two or three small hearts will be enough most of the time.*

*Going for it:*

**Joe Chiesa** (3NT): Close, but because club K is onside [if partner has, say, AQJxx], will bid game. Will play partner for a heart card, as 3♦ may wrong-side 3NT.

**John Koschik** (3NT): We might make this even if we have no heart card. I don't think 3♦ is going to help partner make a decision.

**Bob Webber** (3NT): May need some luck.

**Dick Temkin** (3NT): Partner

rates to have five clubs and limit raise values that "have" to be concentrated in hearts and clubs. Something like ♠xx ♥KQx ♦10xx ♣KQJxx.

*There's that 10xx of diamonds again.*

*The majority takes the low road:*

**Kurt Dasher** (Pass): Partner has a minimum for his cue bid.

**Myles Maddox** (Pass): I just want to get a plus score.

**Jonathan Fleischmann** (Pass): No game seems likely, assuming partner is advertising just a limit raise.

**Don Rumelhart** (Pass): 3♣ is not forcing. Although I have a 14-count, it is matchpoints, and 3NT looks too risky.

**Morrie Kleinplatz** (Pass): Can't see bidding more. Maybe if I had the club 8 instead of the 7.

*Very funny, Morrie.*

### NEXT ISSUE'S HANDS

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

♠A ♥942 ♦AKJ653 ♣A75  
 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
 -- -- -- 1♦  
 Pass 1♥ 1♠ Dbl\*  
 Pass 4♥ Pass ?

\*3 hearts

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

♠KQ862 ♥J2 ♦Q76 ♣K54  
 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
 -- Pass Pass 1♠  
 2♥ Dbl Pass ?

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

♠AQ1096 ♥8 ♦A105 ♣10853  
 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
 1♥ 1♠ 2♣ 4♣  
 5♥ Pass Pass ?

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

♠KQ942 ♥K10942 ♦7 ♣54  
 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
 Pass 1♦ Pass 1♠  
 Pass 2♣ Pass ?

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

♠AK109 ♥K5432 ♦4 ♣KQ4  
 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
 -- Pass 1♠ ?

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

## ALIOTO TOPS AT MOTOR CITY REGIONAL

Michael Alioto of Birmingham won three events and 88.99 masterpoints to lead all competitors at the 2018 Vince and Joan Remy Motor City Regional, held Oct. 8-14 at the William Costick Center in Farmington Hills.

That made Alioto winner of the annual William S. Mouser Memorial Trophy for the most points won at the regional by a District 12 member. It was his second Mouser win. He was co-winner in 2017 with Sheldon Kirsch, his partner in all the major events at the tournament in both years.

Here are the results of the tournament.

### MASTERPOINT LEADERS

- 1, Michael Alioto, 88.99
2. Sheldon Kirsch, 86.07
- 3, Owen Lien, 63.38
- 4, Martin Hirschman, 60.19
- 5, Jerrold Grossman, 59.14
- 6, Richard Becher, 55.71
- 7, Robert Brent, 53.22
- 8, Bert Newman, 52.07
- 9, Debra Eaves, 50.35
- 10, Samir Zeine, 49.08
- 11, Michael Crane, 45.29
- 12, Willie Wikonur, 45.04
- 13, Jack Shartsis, 43.92
- 14, Stephen Apodaca, 42.62
- 15, Henry Shevitz, 38.53
- 16, Suzy Burger, 38.37

- 17, Robert Katz, 36.77
- 18, Robert Mendelson, 35.78
- 19, Hans Jacobs, 35.45
- 20, Robert Raf, 35.25

**MONDAY KO:** 1, Donald Rumlhart, Robert Katz, Ned Irving, Morrie Kleinplatz. 2, Dan Sutherland, Alan Cohn, Robert Raf, Ronna Galin.

### MONDAY OPEN PAIRS

**FLIGHT A:** 1, Robert Mendelson, William Winokur. 2. Gary Brinker, Joseph Ernsthausen. 3, Nadele Spiro, Suzanne Stevenson.

### MONDAY GOLD RUSH

**PAIRS 0-700 & 0-300:** 1, Nancy Spence, John Grant. 2, Peter Malcolmson, Mark Stern. 3, Thomas Bonfils, John Piljan.

### TUESDAY OPEN SWISS

**TEAMS FLIGHT A:** 1, Martin Hirschman, Robert Brent, Sheldon Kirsch, Michael Alioto. 2, Samir Zeine, Richard Becher, William Winokur, Jack Shartsis. 3, Michael Crane, Richard Temkin, Dennis Carman, John Koschik.

**FLIGHT B:** 1, Steven Winokur, Michael McDonald, Ching-Po Wang, Xingyu Zhang. 2/3, Larry Cohen, Kerry Lafer,

Thomas Hunt, Ross Weinstein. 2/3, Lynn Root, Ronna Galin, Allan Tushman, Karen Mann. **FLIGHT C:** 1. Satish Shah, Carol Young, Jerome Hasenjager, Song Lin. 2, Duaine Benard, Charlene Spitzza, Michael Hughes, Ann Haycock. 3, Martha Toon, Renata Wasserman, D. Abraham, Edmond Douville.

**TUESDAY GOLD RUSH SWISS 0-700:** 1, Catherine Curran, Joan Roberts, Leona Veldhuis, Ivana Dugal. 2, Shirley Shane, Guy Merskin, Paul Chirgwin, Edward Lough. 3, David Jasperse, Gary Camp, James Korte, Maria Conti. **0-300:** 1, Richard Voss, John Berry, Mary Robinson, Jill Rastelli. 2, Alan Hassoun, Julian Prince, Steven Miller, Jean Grande. 3, Peggy Roberts, John Caldwell, James McCabe, Barbara Drake. **0-100:** 1, Voss team. 2, Hassoun team.

**SYLVIA STEIN OPEN PAIRS FLIGHT A:** 1, Mary Smith, Henry Shevitz. 2, Steven Jacobs, Robert Raf. 3, Michael Alioto, Sheldon Kirsch. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Joe Monro, Michael McDonald. 2, George Christian, Larry Cohen. 3, Jagjit Singh, Robert Christensen. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Christian,

Cohen. 2, Lynn Root, Linda Mittelstaedt. 3, Penny Howley, Lori Strager.

**WEDNESDAY GOLD RUSH PAIRS 0-700:** 1, David Dursum, David Nelson. 2, Stephen Leist, James Peresta. 3, Carmel Contardi, Barbara Rozek. **0-300:** 1, Larry Leinweber, John Ryan. 2, Ronald Zurilla, James Egan. 3, Beth Kordt, Esther Cotton. **0-100:** 1, Leinweber, Ryan. 2, Diane Murphy, Janet Hotchkiss.

**DAYTIME SIDE SERIES #1:** 1/2, Fred Batten. 1/2, Richard Peacock. 3/4, Douglas Kahn. 3/4, Andrew Garnett.

**THURSDAY OPEN SWISS TEAMS FLIGHT A:** 1, Samir Zeine, Richard Becher, Owen Lien, Jack Shartsis. 2, Michael Crane, Hans Jacobs, Debra Eaves, Jerrold Grossman. 3, Steven Winokur, Frank Treiber, Bob Webber, William Winokur. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Steven Fine, Grant Petersen, Xingyu Zhang, Ching-Po Wang. 2, Michael Kaleel, Linda Golumbia, Art Golumbia, John Dreifus. 3/4, James Walter, Lillian Back, Cydnie Reich, Marilyn Nathanson. 3/4, Tai Chan, John Vollmayer, Lynda Thal, Bonnie Weinstein. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Chan

team. 2, Satish Shah, Song Lin, George Christian, Larry Cohen. 3, Larry Lewis, Ellen Silverest, Naresh Kapila, Lakshmi Vora.

**THURSDAY GOLD RUSH SWISS TEAMS 0-700:** 1/2, Dennis Waniolek, Arnold Gottlieb, Eva Rival, Richard Cantley. 1/2, Dennis Ebendick, James McNamara, Douglas Sweeder, Pearl Lim. 3, Joel Grossman, Tom Baer, Xiaoxin Susa Xu, Mark Hugger. **0-300:** 1, Beth Kordt, Esther Cotton, Pamela Radike, Mary Jo Campbell. 2, Jill Rastelli, Joan Capitano, Jane Lehman, Mary Robinson. **0-100:** 1, Rastelli team.

**FRIDAY OPEN PAIRS FLIGHT A:** 1, Michael Alioto, Sheldon Kirsch. 2, Jerrold Grossman, Debra Eaves. 3, Martin Hirschman, Robert Brent. **FLIGHT B & C:** 1, Song Lin, Jerome Hasenjager. 2, Walter Magee, Eric Holder. 3, Daniel Schiffer, Raj Patil.

**FRIDAY GOLD RUSH PAIRS 0-700:** 1, Bruce Poling, Nancy Poling. 2, Graham Putnam, James Egan. 3, Hugh Rosenthal, George Pope. **0-300:** 1, Poling, Poling. 2, Rosenthal, Pope. 3, Phyllis Chenoweth, Ray Guolla. **0-100:** 1, Michael

Fant, Paul Tilly. 2, Diane Kosuda, Sandra Wolfe. 3, Jean Becker, Edward Becker.

**EVENING SIDE PAIR SERIES:** 1/2, Yanping Zhang. 1/2, Henry Zhang. 3, Owen Lien.

**DAYTIME SIDE SERIES #2:** 1/2, C. Arthur Nevins. 1/2, Jeanine Dow. 3, Samir Zeine.

**SATURDAY OPEN SWISS TEAMS FLIGHT A:** 1, Martin Hirschman, Robert Brent, Sheldon Kirsch, Michael Alioto, Edward White. 2, William Arlinghaus, Hans Jacobs, Michael Crane, Robert Brandow. 3, Robert Mendelson, Suzy Burger, Will Ehlers, Owen Lien. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Suzanne Baker, Gary Theis, Katherine Jernigan, Robert Christensen. 2, Timur Aydin, Barry Lippitt, Ching-Po Wang, Xinlei Zhou. 3/4, Kathy Twomey, Ellen Silverest, Emily Miller, Suzanne Mclhiny. 3/4, K. Van Alstine Jr., Rebecca Bellinger, Chris Grant, Theresa Bellinger. **FLIGHT C:** 1/2, Twomey team. 1/2, Van Alstine team. 3, Michael Koscielski, Raj Patil, Barbara Kalnick, Marlene Gouth.

**SATURDAY OPEN PAIRS FLIGHT A:** 1, Henry Zhang, Yanping Zhang. 2, Bert New-

man, Stephen Apodaca. 3, Michael Giordano, Richard Becher. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Zhang, Zhang. 2, Kimberly Grant, Gary Chaney. 3, Gary Luoma, Jane Gardner. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Zhang, Zhang. 2, Grant, Chaney. 3, Michael Ritza, Janice Norman.

**SATURDAY GOLD RUSH PAIRS 0-700:** 1, Inderpal Bhatia, Martha Bhatia. 2, Raymond Tylenda, Ronald Bolen. 3, Stephen Leist, James Peresta. **0-300:** 1, Tylenda, Bolen. 2, Jean Hellekjaer, Thomas Johnson. 3, Daniel Rose, Ronald Whitney. **0-100:** 1, Rose, Whitney. 2, Susan Royer, Charles Royer.

**SUNDAY MADDOX AX SWISS FLIGHT A:** 1, Kurt Dasher, Will Ehlers, Owen Lien, Jonathan Fleischmann. 2, Linda Perlman, Chuck Burger, Suzy Burger, Howard Perlman. 3, Steven Winokur, Frank Treiber III, Robert Katz, Morrie Kleinplatz. **FLIGHT X:** 1, Michael Crane, Lori Strager, Cheryl Bloom, James Bloom.

**SUNDAY B/C/D SWISS TEAM FLIGHT B:** 1, Satish Shah, Thomas Hunt, Jerome Hasenjager, Ross Weinstein. 2, Wilbur Argersinger, David Aderente, David Graff, Bob

Rasmussen. 3, Frank La Master, Nancy La Master, Kimberly Grant, Gary Chaney. **FLIGHT C:** 1/2, James Egan, Bob Ondo, Mark Hugger, Graham Putnam. 1/2, Richard Peacock, Lucy Peacock, Penelope Rudolph, Fred Batten. 3, K. Van Alstine Jr., Rebecca Bellinger, Theresa Bellinger, Chris Grant. **FLIGHT D:** 1, Egan team. 2, Chris Hill, Ann Margosian, Chun Zhou, Dennis Potocsky. 3, Corey Powell, Gregory Dressler, Klaus Bron drum, Hanne Bron drum.

#### **299er WINNERS AT MOTOR CITY REGIONAL**

**TUESDAY AM PAIRS:** Charles Raeder, David Johnston

**TUESDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS:** Barry Safir, Channing Lipson

**WEDNESDAY AM PAIRS:** Charles Raeder, David Johnston

**THURSDAY AM PAIRS:** Hwaja Kim, Michiko Ueda

**THURSDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS:** David Bogrette, David Cook

**FRIDAY AM PAIRS:** Robert Nowikowski, Barbara Nowikowski

**SATURDAY AM PAIRS:** Robert Nowikowski, Barbara Nowikowski



## **Temkin is MBA president-elect**

Former MBA president Richard Temkin will take another turn at the post in 2020 after serving a year as president-elect and sectional tournament chair.

Also in voting at the November board meeting, Owen Lien moved up to president, and departing president Bob Ondo became chairman of the board.

Recording Secretary Stacey Tessler and Treasurer Bob Webber were re-elected.

All the positions have one-year terms.

## **Gardner joins MBA board**

Jane Gardner was elected to the MBA board in voting during the October regional.

Grant Petersen, Shelley Boschan, Richard Temkin and Allan Tushman were re-elected.

Leaving the board is Patti Stoner. Thanks to her for her years of service.

## **Regional nets \$13,000**

MBA made a profit of just over \$13,000 on the October regional, up from \$2,878 last year, MBA Treasurer Bob Webber reports. A \$6,200

profit had been budgeted for the 2018 tournament.

Attendance was up just a few tables at 743.5, compared to 739.5 the year before, so the increased profit was mostly caused by other factors.

Entry fees for the 2018 event were \$15 per session for most players, a \$2 increase from 2017. In addition, the tournament saved \$3,600 on rental fees at the William Costick Center in Farmington Hills by using just the front room and not renting the back room, Webber said.

The MBA treasury jumped from \$29,442 at the end of August to \$38,279 at the end of October, presumably because of the big profit at the regional.

## **We're older**

Happy birthday, everyone. The MBA membership is now averaging over 73 years of age.

As of the end of September, MBA's average age was 73.08, up from 72.52 a year earlier.

This actually makes us the youngest unit in District 12, which has an average age of 73.32.

The ACBL's average is 72.37.

## **MOVING UP...**

### **JUNIOR MASTERS**

Gillian Andrews  
Elie Chidiac  
Kathleen Kasiborski  
Patricia West  
Richard Zao

### **CLUB MASTERS**

Martina Garland  
Steven Garland  
Julie Grygotis  
Susan Lambrecht  
Katherine Petersen  
Sheila Sikkenga  
Alicia Treder

### **SECTIONAL MASTERS**

Harold Osher  
Judy Osher  
Michele Rambour  
Jill Rastelli  
Susan Royer  
Paul Tilly

## **CONGRATULATIONS NEW LIFE MASTERS**

Chris Brewer  
Susan Evett  
Arnold Fink

### **REGIONAL MASTERS**

Sarah Beckman  
Steven Dotson

### **NABC MASTERS**

Ronald Bolen  
Peter Malcolmson  
Bruce Ridley  
Raymond Tylenda

### **ADVANCED NABC MASTER**

Beth Kordt  
Henry Zhang  
Yanping Zhang

### **BRONZE LIFE MASTER**

Shirley Bigelow  
Chris Brewer

Katie Daly  
Arnold Fink  
Wendy Winnick

### **SILVER LIFE MASTER**

Susan Bonfield  
William Gregg  
Beverly Pollock

### **RUBY LIFE MASTER**

Marilyn Whims  
David Woelk

### **GOLD LIFE MASTER**

Richard Menczer

### **SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER**

John Koschik

---

### **WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS**

Jerry Bailey  
Maryanne Beltzman  
Roy Bryans  
Barbara Conroy  
Kathleen Cross  
Charles Gladhill  
Margaret Lafeldt  
Cecilia Montoye  
Thomas Ory

Benjamin Paolucci  
Kenneth Powell  
Jane Sawall  
Maureen Tait  
Ann Walcott  
Jason Wang

### **WELCOME, TRANSFERS**

Roma Anderson  
Gary Bergin

David Boley  
Rose Crandell  
Judy Huntington  
Suzanne Joos  
Harry Leffler  
Amber Music  
John Silberholz  
Richard Stearns  
Janelle Van Keirsbelk

## It's Your Lead

Matchpoints. E-W vul.  
As SOUTH, you hold:  
♠K ♥A53 ♦AQ103 ♣AQ1098  
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
-- -- 1♠ Dbl  
2♠\* 3♥ 4♠ Dbl

All Pass

\*4-6 HCPs, usually just 3 spades

What do you lead?

Considering partner's heart bid and looking at your hand, it appears that you have every suit locked up. There is no danger of declarer taking discards on anything, so there is no rush to cash any winners.

This type of situation calls for a trump lead to prevent declarer from taking too many ruffs in dummy, which is the only way they are going to make any tricks.

Here was the full hand from a recent club game:

NORTH		EAST	
♠842		♠AQJ1053	
♥K974		♥2	
♦964		♦KJ8752	
♣KJ7		♣void	
WEST		SOUTH	
♠976		♠K	
♥QJ1086		♥A53	
♦void		♦AQ103	
♣65432		♣AQ1098	

If you lead your K of spades, or as it happens a club, you will hold declarer to 9 tricks. If, however, you lead the ace of hearts, declarer will make 10 tricks with the help of a ruffing finesse in hearts.—M.H.

## NAP Update

Here are the winners of the district level of the North American Pairs, held Sept. 16 in Lansing. The top three pairs in Flight A and the top four pairs in Flights B and C have qualified to represent District 12 in the national finals to be held in conjunction with the Spring NABC in March in Memphis.

**FLIGHT A:** 1, Bob Webber, Sheldon Kirsch. 2, Kurt Dasher, Cono Emanuele. 3, Michael Crane, Richard Temkin.

**FLIGHT B:** 1, Wilbur Argersinger, Bob Rasmussen. 2, Xingyu Zhang, Ching-Po Wang. 3, Richard Johns, Gary Theis. 4, Robert Christensen, Jagjit Singh.

**FLIGHT C:** 1, Song Lin, Tengyun Tony Cao. 2, P. Steven Dotson, Donna Dotson. 3, Suzette Greep, Carole Wiseley. 4, John Kunnen, Gary Camp.

## **WORLD'S GREATEST BRIDGE BIDDER?**

**By Marty Hirschman**

*"World's Greatest Ribs" –  
Sign at Ginopolis Restaurant  
in Southfield*

Dubbing myself, or perhaps just this column, "World's Greatest Bridge Bidder" has provoked mixed reaction from my friends and acquaintances in the bridge world – a mashup, I suppose, of admiration, ego and envy...or just thinking it is ridiculous. Meanwhile no one has stepped forward to challenge for the title.

What do you think?

I have been tied up with tournaments, club games and lessons for the past many weeks, so haven't been posting. But the long, cold Michigan winter is coming, with its slowdown of bridge activity here, so I will have time to write and to respond to more inquiries. Please send your questions to me on Facebook or at mbatalk@aol.com.

Fran Wigod of suburban Detroit writes: "I held: ♠x ♥Ax ♦Axxxx ♣Axxxx. All vulnerable. My left-hand opponent opened 2♥ and it was passed around to me. Do I have a bid?"

Marty's answer: Bid 3♦. You are too good to pass, not good enough for 4NT (minors,

but obviously committing to the 5-level), not enough spades for Dbl. Maybe we will bid clubs next if partner acts.

## **Kirsch wins 3<sup>rd</sup> Stein**

Sheldon Kirsch is the 2018 winner of the Edward F. Stein Memorial Trophy, MBA's player-of-the-year award. He previously won the Stein in 2015 and 2017.

First awarded in 1961, the Stein Trophy 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 sectionals.

Here are the top finishers in the 2018 Stein race (compiled by William Arlinghaus):

- 1, Sheldon Kirsch, 144.45
- 2, Owen Lien, 103.03
- 3, Marty Hirschman, 92.14
- 4, Bert Newman, 91.22
- 5, Jonathan Fleischmann, 89.68
- 6, Richard Becher, 76.40
- 7, Willie Winokur, 76.15
- 8, Bob Katz, 74.81
- 9, Linda Perlman, 71.06
- 10, Richard Temkin, 54.41

## On the beach: ACBL takes a bath

**By Rick Roeder**

*From BridgeWinners.com*

My feelings during the Hawaii nationals were incredibly mixed. Selfishly, I was thrilled as the Hilton Hawaiian Village, the ocean and Waikiki provide an unparalleled environment. Easily my favorite venue of the zillion nationals I have attended.

Speaking for American bridge and the ACBL, however, the recent nationals was an unmitigated disaster, struggling to break 6,000 tables. Based on conversations I had with district directors, the ACBL is saddled with what were purported to be incredibly high penalty fees for not meeting room guarantees.

Some disasters cannot be foreseen. However, the ACBL's coming financial bath was crystal clear. The 2006 Honolulu nationals should have provided ample caution with its relatively low table count. Did the ACBL not realize that its membership would be significantly older in 2018 than 2006, that many senior citizens, especially those from the eastern parts of the USA, would be averse to the long travel to the islands?

Several years ago, I was stunned to find out that Honolulu was granted another nationals. I was curious enough to ask some Board members as to why the islands were granted another nationals. The typical comment I got was, "Person X jammed it through." Where were the ACBL CEO and the 25 Board members during this important decision-making process?

When I found out the contract that the late counsel of the ACBL negotiated was one of the most disadvantageous possible to the ACBL, I was again in disbelief. How can one individual enter into a contract that may cost the ACBL upwards of \$500,000 without reasonable oversight?

I have come to several conclusions:

The current ACBL governance structure is untenable. The recommendation presented at the Atlanta nationals by the Comptons to significantly reduce an unwieldy Board would be a good start.

The existing decision-makers have clearly not paid enough attention to financial realities and to the aging demographics of ACBL members.

If the decision-makers were fully aware of the financial peril of another Hawaii nationals yet still voted for Hawaii, one has to think that the self-interest of a paid trip to paradise compromised their fiduciary duty. The least the Board could have done is to have its meetings in Honolulu conducted by phone conference to help reduce the significant financial losses that all could see were coming.

I believe there are two solutions in response to the latest episode where the ACBL acted in an extremely questionable manner:

1) A reduced number of decision-makers needs to be coupled with a CEO who has some real clout. As of yesterday!

2) If the above is not accomplished in the near term, I believe USA bridge needs a new organization to guide a game facing significant demographic and financial challenges, and needs to do so in a way to fully embrace online bridge. This proposal is not as radical as it sounds. West Coast bridge thrived quite nicely under a separate umbrella for many years before being folded into the ACBL. Granted, a VERY different era, but the latest ineptness of

the decisions involving the Hawaii nationals is nothing short of alarming.

*Rick Roeder is a former Michigander now living and playing bridge on the left coast.*

## TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

**Jan. 12-13:** Jackson sectional

**Jan. 26-27:** Ann Arbor sectional (MBA)

**Feb. 7-10:** Southfield sectional

**Feb. 23-24:** Flint sectional

**Mar. 1-3:** Toledo sectional

**Apr. 4-7:** Southfield sectional (MBA)

**Apr. 12-13:** Bloomfield Hills I/N sectional

**Apr. 14:** GNT district final, Southfield

**May 9-11:** Grand Rapids sectional

**May 13-19:** FARMINGTON HILLS REGIONAL

**May 31-June 2:** Kalamazoo sectional

**June 20-23:** Joint MBA-SOMBA sectional, Southfield

**June 24-30:** STAC

**July 7-12:** FLINT REGIONAL

**Aug. 9-11:** Lansing sectional

**Aug. 15-18:** Southfield sectional (MBA)

**Aug. 19-25:** GRAND RAPIDS REGIONAL

**Oct. 14-20:** MOTOR CITY REGIONAL, Farmington Hills (MBA)

# Saving ACBL: A proposal

**Editor's note: Rumbblings about the ACBL's fiscal and other problems have prompted interested players to exchange ideas about reforming the league. The following commentary and proposal was emailed around by a California bridge professional.**

**By Andrew Gumperz**

I would like to throw in my \$.02.

**1. I believe Chris Compton has identified the starting point for all ACBL reform: *Reduce the board from the current 20+ to a manageable number (5 to 7 board members).***

The biggest impediment to achieving any ACBL reform is gaining board-approval for the reforms. When was the last time you saw 25+ people agree on *anything* involving significant change? Until the decision-making structure of the ACBL is scaled down, there is little or no hope of reforming the organization. So in the short run, the top goal is gaining ACBL approval to reduce the seats on the ACBL Board. The secondary goal is to put individuals into those seats who share our concerns

and are willing to consider radical changes.

**2. Prioritizing the problems facing the ACBL**

As I see it the ACBL's problems can be divided into these areas, listed in approximate order of importance:

1. Insufficient casual bridge players (prospective ACBL members) to recruit from
2. Ineffective coordination over members with the bridge clubs
3. Inactive current ACBL members
4. Reduced attendance among active members
5. All issues related to operating bridge tournaments

Fifty years ago, there existed a passive base of 50 million+ "kitchen bridge players" who knew the rules of rubber bridge and played socially with friends and family. This audience also had a dedicated and prolific marketeer and promoter (Charles Goren) who wrote books and hosted a successful reality TV show for them. Because of this ready-made base, recruiting new tournament players to the ACBL was simple. Shake a stick and you hit six kitchen bridge players. They already

“knew how to play bridge” and already had passion for the game. Converting them to tournament play required teaching them a more complex (but still fairly simple) system and a new scoring system—they were up and running in “5 weeks” (or less).

Today the passive base of kitchen bridge players has almost evaporated. There are no authors with Goren’s marketing genius promoting bridge to non-players. Without this base, recruiting a new tournament player is far more time-consuming and much more prone to failure. We try to train newbies from scratch until they can fit into the much more complex modern tournament world. They are far more prone to drop out during this process. In my opinion, until we can rebuild a large foundation of casual bridge players, we will be fighting a losing battle to recruit new tournament bridge players.

### **3. How should the absence of casual bridge players be addressed?**

Fortunately, in a modern internet-driven world, the potential to massively scale up the number of casual bridge players is infinitely easier than 50 years ago. Many kids like bridge. If they will adopt

“Pokemon Go” by the tens of millions, there has GOT to be a way to recruit a few million new, young bridge players to play casually with their friends. However, it wouldn’t be cheap and it would require a small full-time organization to customize the tech and market the heck out of it.

The goal would be to fill the role previously occupied by Goren and to create a compelling online bridge environment for players who primarily want only a social experience. By repopulating this niche, as a side effect we create millions of new potential tournament bridge players. Once we have rebuilt this population, the second step is to build a pathway for these players into bridge clubs and tournaments. That in itself is quite a task and an appropriate place to engage with the ACBL and the clubs. But unless the passive bridge population is rebuilt, *it almost doesn’t matter how well you build the bridge.* There are just not enough people to walk it.

### **4. Who should take on this task?**

**Not the ACBL.** The ACBL has plenty on its plate just running the tournament game, and frankly marketing and training newbies is not its



strong suit. Rebuilding a base of casual players will require flexibility and willingness to try new things. When one avenue fails, they will need to pivot and try another. The ACBL, by its nature, is not built for tasks that require a nimble organization. Instead, I would suggest establishing a non-profit corporation staffed by a small tech savvy staff and funded by an endowment from the wealthiest bridge enthusiasts.

#### **5. What is the mission of this hypothetical nonprofit?**

To avoid competition with the ACBL and existing online bridge services, its mission would be to promote “amateur” bridge. Amateur bridge would be defined as online rubber bridge played using extremely simple, standardized bidding. The goal is to create an online bridge environment to replace the kitchen table. Users learn the basics and socialize with friends, but outgrow it quickly. The goal is to provide a playing/learning environment that takes a person from zero bridge knowledge to tournament bridge beginner status. The system would be designed to drive users towards more sophisticated bridge outlets like BBO, their local

bridge club and the ACBL for more engaging competitive bridge activities when the users are ready.

#### **6. Final note**

I hate to make ominous sounds, but I do believe that:

- The demographic crisis has already hit the ACBL big time
- Without action, the pace of this crisis will only accelerate
- As the average member age climbs, the closer the ACBL creeps to member collapse

The ACBL is already woefully underfunded and vulnerable. It won't take much collapse to drive it into insolvency.

*Gumperz, 55, of Berkeley CA, has been a tournament bridge teacher, player and author for 35 years. You can read some of his writing on bridge at <http://andrew-gumperz.blogspot.com/> and <https://bridgewinners.com/article/series/gumps-tips/>*

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**JANE GARDNER,**  
MBA 2018 GOODWILL  
AWARD WINNER

## SOLUTION TO PLAY OR DEFEND?

From back page

<b>NORTH</b>	
♠AJ976	
♥A3	
♦94	
♣KJ92	
<b>WEST</b>	<b>EAST</b>
♠102	♠KQ543
♥KQ875	♥J92
♦Q632	♦AK87
♣53	♣7
<b>SOUTH</b>	
♠8	
♥1064	
♦J105	
♣AQ10864	

To make the contract, declarer needs to develop two extra spade tricks. So declarer wins the opening lead with the ace of hearts, then plays the ace and jack of spades, pinning West's 10, while East covers with the queen or king. Declarer ruffs, pulls two trump, ending in dummy, and plays another spade, ruffing out East's remaining honor.

A third trump play puts dummy back on lead to cash two good spades, throwing two diamonds or two hearts. That gives declarer a total of six trumps in hand, three spades plus the ace of hearts. And,

eventually, declarer ruffs a red card in dummy for the 11<sup>th</sup> winner. Making 5.

Easy, right?

Well, what if East doesn't oblige by covering the jack of spades? When East plays a low spade on the jack, declarer can pitch a red card (thus scoring spade trick number 2) but that doesn't immediately eliminate a loser. And what can declarer do next?

If declarer plays another spade right away, East can play low again, and declarer will have to ruff (high) to prevent West from ruffing. That would kill any chance for a third spade trick.

Alternatively, declarer can pull two trump, ending in dummy, before playing the third round of spades. East covers and declarer ruffs. Then declarer can return to dummy with a third round of trump and ruff out East's remaining spade honor. But how then to return to dummy to cash the remaining good spade for another pitch? If declarer uses a fourth round of trump to get to dummy there won't be any trump left, and, therefore, no 11<sup>th</sup> trick.

Verdict: Defend. Declarer can only make 10 tricks on best defense.

## New convention charts

*(Continued from page 1)*

artificial 1-level bids that show length in a different suit. For example, a 1♦ opening could be used to show spades.

■In most unlimited sectional and regional events, artificial responses to opening bids or overcalls will be allowed. For example, you could play transfers over a 1♣ opening bid. 1♣ (P) 1♦ might be used to show hearts.

■In six-board or longer matches in most unlimited regional events, players will be allowed to open 1NT with a small singleton, but not with a void.

■In most six-board or longer matches at regionals, players will be allowed to open artificial preempts that show length in one of two particular suits. For example, it will be legal to open 2♠ with a long club or diamond suit. Also, this rule legalizes the use of Multi 2♦ in which a 2♦ opening bid shows a Weak Two Bid in either hearts or spades.

■In most two-session or longer regional events, whenever an artificial preempt is allowed, possible strong meanings can be appended to the artificial preempt. For example, the Multi 2♦ opening bid could be made on a very

strong hand OR a Weak Two Bid in hearts or spades. Or a 2♣ opening bid could be based on any very strong hand OR a Weak Two Bid in diamonds.

In some cases, players who use these very strange and unfamiliar methods will be required to provide the opponents with a written defense – a document the player would have to read and absorb at the table, presumably without violating the normal time limits.

The proposed changes were written by an ACBL committee chaired by Carmichael and approved by a unanimous vote of the national board of directors in March. The change was effective Nov. 21.

At this stage, it is unclear just how much of a burden these newly allowed methods will place on average players, particularly in regional KOs and Swiss teams, and how the new rules and charts will be received. For example, will players feel compelled to adopt some of these complex and artificial methods to remain competitive? We shall see.

## PLAY OR DEFEND?

By Marty Hirschman

### NORTH

♠AJ976

♥A3

♦94

♣KJ92

### WEST

♠102

♥KQ875

♦Q632

♣53

### EAST

♠KQ543

♥J92

♦AK87

♣7

### SOUTH

♠8

♥1064

♦J105

♣AQ10864

Contract: 5♣ by South

Opening lead: K of hearts

Can or cannot South make 11 tricks  
on best defense?

Solution, page 26

## TABLE TALK

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