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TABLE TALK

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JUNE 2019

ACBL Gets Tough On Opening 1NT With a Small Singleton

By Marty Hirschman
Table Talk Editor

Here is the latest example of our omniscient and omnipotent ACBL's efforts to impose its bridge judgment on the players...

If you wish, you can open 2NT (or open 2♣ and rebid 2NT) with a hand containing a small singleton.

You can open one of a suit and rebid 1NT or jump rebid 2NT with a small singleton.

You can overcall 1NT or 2NT with a small singleton.

But you can never, ever open 1NT with a small singleton...or even singleton jack or 10.

And, if you do choose to open 1NT with a singleton other than ace, king or queen, it may become a disciplinary matter subjecting you to a procedural penalty or perhaps worse.

How would you bid this hand:
♠J ♥AQ8 ♦A842 ♣AJ743?

You shouldn't open a minor and, when partner responds 1♠, rebid 1NT. That would show just 12-14 HCPs, and you have 16. You could open 1♣ and reverse into diamonds, but that overstates the strength of the hand and the suits. You could open 1♦ and rebid 2♣, but that doesn't show 16 points, plus partner will sometimes take a preference to 2♦.

But no matter how much you may think opening 1NT is clearly right on that hand, you cannot do it.

This past winter, Willie Winokur inquired about this situation to the Rulings department of the ACBL. He received this response from Lynn Yokel, ACBL Tournament Director and Rulings Box Associate.

"Up until the new Convention Charts came into effect last November, opening 1NT

(Continued on page 20)

JOINT MBA/SOMBA SECTIONAL

June 20-23, 2019

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

Stratified Open Pairs.....	10 a.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs.....	10 a.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, JUNE 21

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

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, JUNE 23

BRACKETED Swiss Teams Playthru (7 matches)	10 a.m.
--	---------

Stratified events: A=unlimited; B=0-3000; C=0-1000

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

Average masterpoints will be used to determine stratifications.

All pair events are single session.

Light lunch will be provided on Saturday and Sunday.

No smoking in the building.

Tournament Chairs:

Satish Shah, satishshah280@gmail.com, 586-944-6708

Richard Temkin, richardtemkin@gmail.com, 248-568-6599

Partnership Chairs:

Bill Goodman, billgoodman43@gmail.com, 586-243-9918

Marilyn Crane, mqcrane@yahoo.com, 734-591-3431, cell: 734-536-1731

Jane Gardner: janegard@umich.edu, 248-719-2941

District website: www.district12bridge.org

**Michigan Bridge Association's
RUSSELL ROOSEN SECTIONAL
August 15-18, 2019
SITE: The Bridge Connection
26776 Twelve Mile Road, Southfield MI
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248-356-6254**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

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, AUGUST 16

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

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.

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TABLE TALK

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Thursday 12 p.m.

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

■**Young Center BC**, R.A. Young
Recreation Center, 5400 McKin-
ley, Dearborn Heights. Joyce Koz-
ma, 313-274-5587. Wednesday
11 a.m.

IT'S YOUR BID

By Marty Hirschman

Congratulations to Gene Benedict who scored a perfect 500 to lead all expert panelists this issue. Also congrats to Val Enache who had the high reader score.

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

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

Action	Score	Votes
4NT	100	14
4♠	60	3
5♥	50	1
6♥	30	0
Pass	20	0

With a hand that evaluates to about 18 or 19 points with all the controls and a partner who is advertising opening values, a large majority of the panel saw no particular difficulty.

Jonathan Fleischmann (4NT): Partner can't have too much besides good trumps for his jump to game. I should know what to do with the answer to keycard, and we should be pretty safe at the five level. Over a two-with-the-queen

response, I'll bid 6♦ asking for third-round diamond control.

Morrie Kleinplatz (4NT): What's the problem?

Well, there is a problem. Partner could easily have a fair amount of his hand in clubs or even spades, leaving him with relatively weak hearts. Even if partner's hearts are as good as KQxxx or AQxxx, we'll only make with 3-2 hearts and the missing key card onside, about a 34 percent chance. And partner could easily have worse hearts than that. Roman Key Card Blackwood won't tell us if partner has AQxxx or AQJ10x or something else. And, as Joe Chiesa points out, if you are playing regular RKC, where a 5♦ response shows 1 or 4 key cards, there won't be room below 5♥ to ask whether partner has the queen of trump (which is accomplished by bidding the next step up that is not the trump suit).

SCORES

EXPERTS:

Gene Benedict	500
Bob Brent	460
Morrie Kleinplatz	460
John Koschik.....	460
Kurt Dasher	450
Bob Webber	450

Kerry Lafer	390
Irv Hershman.....	380
Seymour Mandell	360
Neil Manley	360
John Silberholz.....	360
Patty Becker.....	340
Margaret Carden	320
Steven Garland	310
John Reed.....	310
Jerry Jefferies.....	300
George Pope.....	280
Doris Jefferies	270

READERS:

Val Enache.....	440
Morris Swiger	430
Gerald Wahl	410

HOW THE PANEL VOTED

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

CANDIDATES WANTED

The annual MBA board election will be held at the Motor City Regional in October. If you are interested in running, contact election co-chairs Jane Gardner, janegard@umich.edu, 248-719-2941, or Shelley Boschan, seh23@gmail.com, 248-225-1700.

Joe Chiesa (4♠): Perhaps Rodwell, who gave birth to this abomination, should answer for me. Playing 1430, I would bid RKC and gamble if partner confesses to one key card and Her Ladyship. Playing alternative RKC, no room for the Queen ask. 5♥ is not a trump ask, but rather a spade inquiry. 6♦ exposes me to a heart ruff. Hoping partner can make a small noise over 4♠.

That answer raises many issues. First of all, I'm not sure how we can blame Eric Rodwell, inventor of support doubles, for this problem. The support double worked well to locate the 8-card heart fit. It is hard to see how we would be better off without it. Meanwhile, Chiesa's choice of 4♠, while showing a spade control, won't really solve our problem. Partner probably will think we are focusing on clubs, the unbid, uncuebid suit. Perhaps he will cuebid the king of clubs if he has it, but how does that help us with hearts? Indeed, it might be better if he doesn't have the club king; then he is a little more likely to have good hearts.

Chuck Burger proposes that 5♥ will ask about trump. The standard approach when the opponents have bid a suit is

to use the raise or jump to 5 of your agreed major to ask for control in the opponent's suit, not about trump quality. On the other hand, if partner has the near-solid trump holding we need, he probably should be able to figure out that we are not making a slam try with bad trump and no spade control.

Maybe the problem is just unsolvable with normal methods, in which case we are back to bidding RKC and hoping for the best.

Gene Benedict (4NT): I am going to check to see if we are off two key cards.

Bob Brent (4NT): If partner responds 5♠ [two key cards plus the Q of trump] I'm bidding the grand.

Suzy Burger (4♠): Hoping partner with solid hearts will bid slam or will cue with club king and just one loser in hearts.

Linda Perlman (4♠): I would like to bid 4♠ as key card for hearts. I think it is important for all serious partnerships to play this. Partner can have any heart holding, so I might judge this hand better if I knew more about his hearts. I can still get out at 5♥, and sometimes bid a grand.

The advantage of using 4♠ as RKC for hearts is that the second step response – 5♣ – still leaves room for 5♦ to ask for the Q of hearts, with a chance to stop in 5♥ if partner doesn't have it. (Panelist Dennis Kasle also plays 4♠ as RKC for hearts in his regular partnerships.)

Irv Rosenstein (4NT): Hard to imagine a hand he can jump to 4♥ that does not give a good play for slam.

How about ♠xx ♥A109xx ♦Qx ♣KQJx? That would make 6♦ and 6NT virtually cold, while 6♥ has no play. So maybe we should forget about a grand slam and just jump to 6♦ over 4♥ to offer partner a choice of slams.

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

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

Action	Score	Votes
2♠	100	11
3♣	70	6
2NT	40	1

This was a normal non-vulnerable third-seat opener, but it has wound up putting us in a difficult spot. Partner's negative double showed the minors, and we could guess

to bid one of them. We could pass, but we probably can't come close to beating 2♥. 2NT would be natural, and we don't have a heart stopper. 2♠, the majority choice, could be a six-card suit with 14 HCPs, which may get us to the three-level in a 5-2 fit if there is more bidding.

Kurt Dasher (3♣): Not rebidding the bad spade suit. Partner asked me to bid a minor.

Don Rumelhart (3♣): Partner rates to have both minors or one long minor. 3♣ caters to either, and should we end up defending, I am showing something in clubs.

Bob Webber (3♣): With no heart raise, partner may have length there. 2♠ could be bad. So could this.

Irv Rosenstein (3♣): Hope it's not a 3-3 fit! Wish 2NT was pick-a-minor instead of natural.

Dennis Kasle (2NT): You choose.

Jonathan Fleischmann (2♠): Nothing looks too attractive, so I'll take the cheapest way out and see what happens.

Sheldon Kirsch (2♠): Staying low.

Morrie Kleinplatz (2♠): My suit is just strong enough to

survive a 5-1 fit. Perhaps I can scramble eight tricks if they force me. I'm not going to guess which minor to bid.

Bob Brent (2♠): Ugly hand. This is why I like to open those hands 2♠ in third seat.

Chuck Burger (2♠): By default. Truly ugly. I expect pard to bid again with a stiff spade.

Willie Winokur (2♠): Violating a Hirschman axiom: 2♠ (supposed to usually show six). Yeah, yeah, I know North was 1-2-5-5, but if I bid 3♣ North will be 2-3-4-4.

Gene Benedict (2♠): This is the weakest response I can make. Partner should be aware I could have opened light in third seat. The opponents are unlikely to double me.

Staying low has this advantage: If we bid 2♠, and the auction continues Dbl-Pass-Pass, we can redouble for partner to pick a minor. But if we bid 3♣ right away, we can't go back to 2♠.

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

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

Action	Score	Votes
Dbl	100	8
Pass	80	5
5♠	70	4
Abs	0	1

We have a lot more high-card strength than we might have had for our jump to 4♠. We can advertise that by doubling now. Partner can't have more than four points in spades, so he must have some defense to justify his overcall. And partner can pull if he deems it appropriate.

Gene Benedict (Dbl): If partner has either an ace or a key king, we will beat this contract. Partner should have something for his overcall.

Bob Brent (Dbl): Expect at least one defensive trick from partner.

Chuck Burger (Dbl): Despite favorable vulnerability and having five spades, because partner has values for an unpassed-hand overcall. It suggests two defensive tricks despite the likelihood of a spade void. It's matchpoints, not IMPs, and I don't think we can make 5♠.

Joe Chiesa (Dbl): At IMPs: 5♠ to avoid the big swing. My suspicion is that the four-level is the limit for both sides. I double as opposed to pass to

protect part's heart queen. Partner can pull with some unlikely holdings.

Kurt Dasher (Dbl): I have two aces, and maybe partner can supply a trick. I would have bid 3♥ instead of 4♠ on my first bid to let partner know I have a good hand.

Morrie Kleinplatz (Pass): It's a total guess as to who can make what. They might be missing 6 or down in 5. 5♠ is very anti-percentage and gives them a fielder's choice.

Irv Rosenstein (5♠): Not too happy about defensive prospects.

Dennis Kasle (Pass): I have two tricks, maybe.

Don Rumelhart (5♠): Likely we aren't getting spade tricks on defense. 5♠ should not be too expensive.

Dick Temkin (Pass): A close call, but going plus on defense seems more likely than making 5♠.

Bob Webber (Pass): Maybe a spade will cash.

Willie Winokur (Pass): Deeply ingrained bias about telling the same story twice.

Sheldon Kirsch (5♠): Did I really fail to splinter? Can't hit this.

Jonathan Fleischmann (Abstain): I'd have splintered with 4♥ the first time. Then I wouldn't have to worry about how to catch up here. I guess I'd bid 5♠ if I were asked to fill in for the ill person who left the auction to me.

While our 4♠ bid understated our defensive values, a splinter or cuebid would have overstated them, particularly by not showing the fifth spade. Then we would pretty much have been endplayed into bidding 5♠ over 5♥. 4♠ followed by double shows five spades and some defense, which is what we have.

John Koschik (Dbl): I would have bid 4♥ at my first call to help partner with his decision over a possible 5♥ bid. Now I'm guessing, but the five-level belonging to the opponents is often the truth.

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

♠KQ942 ♥K10942 ♦7 ♣54

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

Pass 1♦ Pass 1♠

Pass 2♣ Pass ?

Action	Score	Votes
2♠	100	9
Pass	60	4
2♦	60	3
3♦	50	1
2♥	50	1

There is a convention – “Rodwell” – that would have avoided this problem. In that method, jumps to 2♥ and 2♠ in response to partner’s 1♣ or 1♦ opening bid show five spades and four hearts, or 5-5, with limited values. But most of us are not playing that.

Dennis Kasle (2♥): This is a system problem. I would have bid 2♥ over 1♦ (Rodwell). Here I bid 2♥ and pass whatever my partner bids.

2♥ now would be an artificial game force (4th Suit Forcing), which would vastly overstate our values while not showing hearts. Bidding 2♠, the panel choice, shows six spades; partner will pass with a singleton spade, leaving us in a bad spot. Meanwhile, passing or bidding 2♦ will usually leave us in a six-card “fit.” Argh!

Don Rumelhart (2♠): Argh! I would like to bid 2♥ natural and nonforcing, but 2♥ would be an artificial game forcing call. At least 2♠ shows five spades and some values. Partner can always check back with a 3♥ bid if he has the right hand.

Joe Chiesa (2♠): Unappealing, but the best of a bad lot. 2♥ (4th Suit Forcing) is untenable, and 3♥ (which I play as

5-5 invitational) is under-strength in the face of a likely misfit.

John Koschik (2♠): I could overbid with an invitational 3♥, but I think it’s more important to keep the auction low. Partner could still bid 3♣, and that’s where we’ll play it.

Linda Perlman (2♠): I’m too major-heavy to pass, allowing partner no more choices.

Morrie Kleinplatz (2♠): As in Problem 2, I hope to scramble eight tricks.

Kurt Dasher (2♠): Do not want to pass with only two clubs.

Dick Temkin (Pass): Hope that partner is 5-5. Hope the opponents balance. If it’s doubled and comes back to me, I’ll bid 2♥.

Willie Winokur (Pass): My opponents always balance.
☺ ☺ ☺

Chuck Burger (Pass): I hope partner has five clubs.

Jonathan Fleischmann (Pass): When the partnership has minimal values and an apparent misfit, it’s usually best to get out before the doubling starts.

Irv Rosenstein (2♦): Keep it

low on a misfit.

Suzy Burger (2♦): Really ugly.

Surprise: My personal choice is 2NT. Yes, it is an overbid by a queen or king, but it will often be the best spot, and it keeps the auction open in case partner has 15 to 17 HCPs, in which case we might even bid and make a game.

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

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

Action	Score	Votes
1NT	100	9
Pass	80	6
2♥	60	3
Dbl	30	0

We could pass, but we'll never catch up later. We could overcall 2♥, but the suit is so so so bad: We could have a game in notrump and still go for a number in hearts. Meanwhile, we have the values and stoppers for 1NT, and bidding that now will get it off our chest. We might get to bid hearts next if the auction continues. That will leave partner better placed to make a good decision.

Suzy Burger (1NT): Apart

from the stiff diamond, looks right. May find hearts if we belong there.

Jonathan Fleischmann (1NT): I have too much to pass, and my hearts are awful. The minors have a way of sorting themselves out, since partner rarely transfers there with fewer than six.

Gene Benedict (1NT): If the opponents later compete in spades, double for penalty. Your spade spots are good. You may be able to show the heart suit later. If you bid hearts and later double, that double is takeout.

Don Rumelhart (1NT): Right on values, and my hearts are so weak that it looks like a four-card suit.

Irv Rosenstein (1NT): Not perfect, but right on values. Cannot bid 2♥ on this lousy suit.

Linda Perlman (2♥): 1NT is tempting, but 2♥ could be great or awful. Since I have such nice hearts ☺☺, I bid 2♥.

Bob Brent (2♥): Toughest of the set. 1NT has merit. Cannot "trap pass" with 15 HCPs.

John Koschik (2♥): It's a dreadful suit, but 3NT, 4♥ and even 5♣ are games we might

bid and make despite partner's initial pass.

Morrie Kleinplatz (Pass): If East had opened in third seat, I might risk 2♥ or even 1NT. But with a full opener on my right and partner a passed hand, I will wait and see where this goes. If they find a diamond fit, I might reconsider, but this hand mostly smells like defense.

Chuck Burger (Pass): Pass for now. I expect to be involved later.

Joe Chiesa (Pass): 1NT is not in my repertoire. 2♥ when I may have zero heart tricks and four spade tricks frightens me. Moreover, I am not foreclosed from entering the auction anon.

Bob Webber (1NT): Pass is a very close second.

Myles Maddox (1NT): Has worked for me in the past.

NEXT ISSUE'S HANDS

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

♠52 ♥543 ♦AJ10852 ♣75
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1♥ Dbl Pass 2♦
Pass 2♥ Pass ?

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

♠J43 ♥KJ7 ♦108 ♣K8654
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
-- -- 1♣ Pass
Pass 1NT* Dbl Pass
2♦ Pass Pass ?

*Usually 11-14

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

♠AQJ10 ♥AJ985 ♦10 ♣Q105
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
3♦ Pass 4♦ Dbl
Pass 4♥ Pass Pass
5♦ Dbl Pass ?

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

♠AKQ972 ♥Q85 ♦1053 ♣J
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
-- -- -- 1♠
3♣ Pass Pass ?

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

♠Q104 ♥KQ42 ♦K6 ♣10643
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
-- -- 1♦ Pass
3♦* Dbl 3NT ?

*Weak

Mail your answers to:
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Or email to:
MBATalk@aol.com

Prof. Wasserman tops at Ann Arbor sectional

University of Michigan Emeritus Math Prof. Arthur Wasserman won one team



event and was third in the other to top all masterpoint winners at the Michael Graham Ann Arbor

Sectional. Here are the results of the tournament, which was held Jan. 26-27.

MASTERPOINT LEADERS:

1, Arthur Wasserman, 23.79
2/4, Owen Lien, 22.55
2/4, Bob Webber, 22.55
2/4, Sheldon Kirsch, 22.55
5/7, Bob Rasmussen, 17.60
5/7, Donald Rumelhart, 17.60
5/7, David Harty, 17.60
8/9, Michael Crane, 15.68
8/9, Richard Temkin, 15.68
10/12, Frank Treiber III, 14.50
10/12, Rhonda Monroe, 14.50
10/12, Joe Monroe, 14.50

SATURDAY SWISS TEAMS

FLIGHT A: 1, Owen Lien, Bob Webber, Sheldon Kirsch, Linda Perlman. 2, Richard Temkin, Joseph Ernsthausen, Gary Brinker, Michael Crane. 3, Stephen Carpman, Gail Geiger, Jeffrey Lagarias, Ar-

thur Wasserman. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Carpman team. 2, Richard Bauman, Klaus Brondum, James Egan, Graham Putnam. 3, Wilbur Argersinger, David Graff, Clark Malcolm, John Koschik. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Bauman team. 2/3, Arlene Geisler, Kenneth Geisler, P. Oates, W. Oates. 2/3, Stuart Collis, Guy Conti, Matthew Evett, Susan Evett.

SUNDAY BRACKETED TEAMS BRACKET 1:

1, David Harty, Bob Rasmussen, Arthur Wasserman, Donald Rumelhart. 2/3, Rhonda Monroe, Joe Monroe, Frank Treiber III, Song Lin. 2/3, Steven Winokur, Owen Lien, Bob Webber, Sheldon Kirsch.

BRACKET 2: 1, Gail Geiger, Stephen Carpman, Walter Magee, Eric Holder. 2, David Armstrong, Martha Toon, Pamela George, Klaus Brondum. 3, Duaine Benard, Gary Luoma, Jane Gardner, Barb Ferrera.

0-500 Winners

At Ann Arbor sectional

SATURDAY AM PAIRS: David Johnston, Charles Raeder

SATURDAY PM PAIRS: Ronald Bishel, Mike Bishel

President wins big at Michigan State Sectional

MBA President Owen Lien won over 37 masterpoints to lead all players at the Michigan State Sectional, held April 4-7 at the Bridge Connection in Southfield.

Here are results of the tournament.

MASTERPOINT LEADERS:

- 1, Owen Lien, 37.93
- 2, Jerrold Grossman, 33.97
- 3, Irving Rosenstein, 31.74
- 4, Martin Hirschman, 29.41
- 5, Edward White, 27.80
- 6, Bob Webber, 27.36
- 7, Sheldon Kirsch, 27.16
- 8, Richard Temkin, 24.25
- 9, Michael Crane, 24.03
- 10, Frank Treiber III, 23.42

THURSDAY AM PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Song Lin, Joe Monro. 2, Ruth Metevier, Dolores Bright. 3, Kathy Newman, Shelley Boschan.

FLIGHT B: 1, Lin, Monro. 2, Marilyn Crane, Jane Gardner. 3, Richard Cantley, Dennis Waniolek. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Cantley, Waniolek. 2, Thomas Bonfils, Dan Sutherland. 3, Susan Yester, Richard Muntz.

THURSDAY SWISS TEAMS

FLIGHT A: 1, Robert Mendelson, Samir Zeine, Bert Newman, Edward White. 2, Steven Winokur, Frank Treiber III, Owen Lien, Linda Perlman.

3, Richard Bauman, Stephen Carpman, Arthur Wasserman, Nathan Banker. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Bauman team. 2, Carolyn Simmer, Richard Menczer, Philip Smith, Susan Woodrow. 3, Thomas Bonfils, Bob Ondo, Peter Bolgar, Joyce Bell. **FLIGHT C:** 1, James Korte, Carrie Osborne, Pearl Lim, Paul Chirgwin. 2, Jerrie Sasson, Paul Schneider, Latika Mangrulkar, Sheldon Dulberg.

THURSDAY NIGHT FAST

PAIRS FLIGHT A: 1, Jonathan Fleischmann, Kurt Dasher. 2, Philip Smith, Susan Woodrow. 3, Peter Malcolmson, Margaret Carden. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Smith, Woodrow. 2, Malcolmson, Carden.

FRIDAY AM PAIRS FLIGHT

A: 1, Irving Rosenstein, Michael Crane. 2, John Dreifus, Michael Kaleel. 3, Martin Hirschman, Bob Webber.

FLIGHT B: 1, Dreifus, Kaleel. 2, Patricia Becker, Allan Becker. 3, Grant Petersen, Sandy Birnholtz. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Thomas Bonfils, Denise Brown. 2, Carolyn Thurman, Elizabeth Baer. 3, Carrie Osborn, Beth Kordt.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Frank Treiber III, Owen Lien. 2, Martin Hirsch-

man, Bob Webber. 3, Jerrold Grossman, Sheldon Kirsch. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Marilyn Nathanson, Geraldine Spilman. 2, Steven Winokur, Michael McDonald. 3, Gary Luoma, Rosemary Bailey. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Tyrone Loving, Pearl Lim. 2, Daniel Schiffer, Raj Patil. 3, Rita Levin, Lilo Dare.

FRIDAY NIGHT FAST PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Jonathan Fleischmann, Brad Dracka. 2, Kathy Newman, Bert Newman. 3, Susan Woodrow, Peter Bolgar. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Woodrow, Bolgar. 2, Ralph Gurganus, Janice McHale.

SATURDAY SWISS TEAMS

FLIGHT A: 1, Michael Crane, Sheldon Kirsch, Jerrold Grossman, Henry Shevitz. 2, Phyllis Cohn, Owen Lien, Jonathan Fleischmann, Julie Arbit, Sandy Goller. 3, Richard Temkin, Mary Smith, Myles Maddox, Irving Rosenstein. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Ronna Galin, Robert Raf, Cheryl Bloom, James Bloom. 2, Katherine Jernigan, Michael Swift, Gregory Perkowski, Kathy Stepanovich. 3, Dennis Waniolek, Richard Cantley, Lakshmi, Vora, Arnold Gottlieb. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Jernigan team. 2, Waniolek team. 3, Bob Ondo, Michael Koscielski, Renata Wasserman, Corey Powell.

SATURDAY AM PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Larry Cohen, Steven Kaplan. 2, Michael Giordano, Richard Becher. 3, Ronald Horwitz, Anastasia Tessler. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Cohen, Kaplan. 2, Paul Pomeroy, Harry McKinney. 3, Fran Wigod, Gerald Wigod. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Wigods. 2, Irving Hershman, Paul Stunkel. 3, Thomas Bonfils, Dan Sutherland.

SATURDAY PM PAIRS

FLIGHT A: 1, Samir Zeine, Judy Hocher. 2, Grant Petersen, Alan Cohn. 3, Gerald Wigod, Fran Wigod. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Petersen, Cohn. 2, Wigods. 3, Harry McKinney, Paul Pomeroy. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Wigods. 2, Irving Hershman, Paul Stunkel. 3, Thomas Bonfils, Dan Sutherland.

SUNDAY BRACKETED TEAMS

BRACKET 1: 1/2, Edward White, Martin Hirschman, Susan Parnes, Gordon Parnes. 1/2, Richard Temkin, Jerrold Grossman, Debra Eaves, Irving Rosenstein. 3, Owen Lien, Linda Perlman, Sheldon Kirsch, Bob Webber. **BRACKET 2:** 1, David Graf, Bob Rasmussen, Grant Petersen, Michael McDonald. 2, Sandy Birnholtz, Robert Raf, Michael Kaleel, John Dreifus. 3, Graham Putnam, Ed Herstein, Donn Dotson, P. Steven Dot-

son. **BRACKET 3:** 1, Pamela Radike, Laurence Schiff, Barbara Schiff, Mary Jo Campbell. 2, Randy Walker, John Pouget, James Peresta, Stephen Leist. 3, Matthew Evett, Susan Evett, Stuart Collis, Guy Conti.

**499er Winners
at April Sectional**

THURSDAY AM PAIRS: Barbara Schiff, Laurence Schiff

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SWISS TEAMS: Ronald Zurilla, James Bayson, Lois Wodicka, Bedford Embrey Jr.

FRIDAY AM PAIRS: Norman Wechsler, George Pope

FRIDAY PM PAIRS: James Egan, Ronald Zurilla

SATURDAY AM PAIRS: Jean Grande, Alan Hassoun

SATURDAY PM PAIRS:

Douglas Sweeder, Ryan Sweeder

Grand National Teams

Here are the winners of the Grand National Teams district finals, held April 14 in Southfield. These teams will represent District 12 in the national finals at the summer NABC in Las Vegas.

OPEN FLIGHT: Michael Crane, Richard Temkin, Dennis Carman, John Koschik

FLIGHT A: Robert Houtrow, Lowell Seyburn, William Northrop, David Whitehouse

FLIGHT B: Ching-Po Wang, Xingyu Zhang, Henry Zhang, Yanping Yang, Cristina Tita, Timur Aydin

FLIGHT C: Thomas Bonfils, David Satwicz, Tengyun Tony Cao, Anne Ye

TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

June 20-23: Joint MBA-SOMBA sectional (Southfield)

June 22-23: Petoskey I/N sectional

June 24-30: STAC week

July 7-12: FLINT REGIONAL

Aug. 9-11: Lansing sectional

Aug. 15-18: Southfield sectional (MBA)

Aug. 19-25: GRAND RAPIDS REGIONAL

Sept. 6-8: Traverse City sectional

Sept. 15: N. Am. Pairs district

final, Lansing

Sept. 21: Lansing I/N sectional

Sept. 27-29: Petoskey sectional

Oct. 3-5: Holland sectional

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

Oct. 25-26: Bloomfield Hills I/N sectional

Oct. 25-27: Toledo sectional

Oct. 28-Nov. 3: STAC week

Nov. 14-17: Southfield sectional

2018 MBA Mini-McKenney

2018 MBA Mini-Ace of Clubs

Note: Categories denote points held at the beginning of 2018.

0-5: 1, Eric Wiedmayer, 19.92. 2, Mike Andrews, 11.48. 3, Elie Chidiac, 10.18.

5-20: 1, Naoko Wada, 25.35. 2, Larry Trager, 20.48. 3, Julie Grygotis, 15.04.

20-50: 1, Susan Royer, 31.99. 2, Shirley Lindberry, 22.80. 3, Guy Conti, 19.22.

50-100: 1, Charles Royer, 55.92. 2, Mary Robinson, 47.25. Jill Rastelli, 43.76.

100-200: 1/2, Joyce Close, 65.17. 1/2, Rosalyn Monticciolo, 65.17. 3, James Egan, 60.07.

200-300: 1, Maria Conti, 120.32. 2, Beth Kordt, 112.33. 3, James McNamara, 71.51.

300-500: 1/2, Henry Zhang, 152.58. 1/2, Yanping Zhang, 152.58. 3, Carrie Osborne, 135.71.

500-1000: 1, Barb Ferrera, 136.35. 2, Jane Gardner, 114.47. 3, Paul Chirgwin, 104.79.

1000-1500: 1, Steven Winokur, 235.19. 2, Jordan Kaye, 182.88. 3, Penelope Rudolph, 137.85.

1500-2500: 1, James Walter, 396.76. 2, Wilbur Argersinger, 344.46. 3, David Aderente, 272.43.

2500-3500: 1, John Koschik, 334.52. 2, Grant Petersen, 326.40. 3, Joe Monro, 237.93.

3500-5000: 1, Charlotte Miller, 254.90. 2, Dennis Kasle, 169.35. 3, Cono Emanuele, 139.88.

5000-7500: 1, Jonathan Fleischmann, 886.92. 2, Sheldon Kirsch, 516.06. 3, Robert Katz, 443.09.

7500-10,000: 1, Robert Brent, 436.53. 2, William Winokur, 294.49. 3, Allan Falk, 274.65.

Over 10,000: 1, Owen Lien, 975.65. 2, Bert Newman, 632.92. 3, Martin Hirschman, 551.49.

0-5: 1, Eric Wiedmayer, 18.38. 2, Mike Andrews, 11.48. 3, Elie Chidiac, 8.54.

5-20: 1, Larry Trager, 17.85. 2, Julie Grygotis, 13.48. 3, Robin Wagner, 13.17.

20-50: 1, Shirley Lindberry, 17.98. 2, Eleni Lambrecht, 12.19. 3, Rodney Guest, 11.46.

50-100: 1, Brian Morton, 29.90. 2, Charles Royer, 29.47. 3, M. Newman, 23.18.

100-200: 1, Barbara Schiff, 40.20. 2, Julian Prince, 36.63. 3, Bruce Ridley, 36.09.

200-300: 1, Beth Kordt, 47.93. 2, Patty McCracken, 45.74. 3, Maria Conti, 44.57.

300-500: 1, Craig Ross, 65.61. 2, Pamela Morse, 65.33. 3, Pearl Lim, 54.79.

500-1000: 1, Dana McWilliams, 83.61. 2, Gail Terry, 78.73. 3, Martha Henkel, 74.91.

1000-1500: 1, Gail Geiger, 100.78. 2, Steven Winokur, 98.49. 3, Judith Gessner, 88.24.

1500-2500: 1, Michael McDonald, 131.83. 2, James Walter, 122.01. 3, Carolyn Simmer, 121.11.

2500-3500: 1, Margaret Moore, 153.21. 2, James Smyth, 130.70. 3, Grant Petersen, 126.74.

3500-5000: 1, Charlotte Miller, 128.64. 2, Dennis Kasle, 66.01. 3, Arthur Golumbia, 53.38.

5000-7500: 1, Lynne Cook, 211.22. 2, Jonathan Fleischmann, 171.44. 3, Richard Becher, 145.46.

7500-10,000: 1, Robert Brent, 200.56. 2, William Winokur, 155.81. 3, Brenda Jaffe, 150.55.

Over 10,000: 1, Bert Newman, 200.26. 2, Martin Hirschman, 149.00. 3, Linda Perlman, 147.09.

Lien takes Marsee Trophy

MBA President Owen Lien is the 2018 winner of the Grant Marsee trophy, awarded to the Michigan player who wins the most points in the year as counted in the Barry Crane Top 500 and mini-McKenney races.

Lien won 975 masterpoints in 2018. He also won the trophy in 2017 when he chalked up 931 points.

Second both years was Jonathan Fleischmann. He won 886 masterpoints in 2018 after winning 895 in 2017.

Winokur, Zhangs take B and C Trophies again

In 2018, for the second year in a row, Steven Winokur won the Beverly Bluth Memorial Flight B trophy and Henry Zhang and Yanping Zhang won the Willie Winokur Flight C trophy.

Both trophies are given to MBA members who win the most points in our sectionals

and the Motor City Regional. Points won at the regional are counted at 70 percent.

2018 BEVERLY BLUTH FLIGHT B TROPHY Final Standings

Compiled by Shelley Boschan

- 1, Steven Winokur, 72.67
- 2, Sandy Birnholtz, 47.60
- 3, Michael Kaleel, 46.56
- 4, Xingyu Zhang, 38.76.
- 5, Arthur Wasserman, 32.84
- 6, David Aderente, 30.27
- 7, Bob Ondo, 24.44
- 8, Ronna Galin, 23.42
- 9, James Walter, 23.07
- 10 Carolyn Simmer, 21.21

2018 WILLIE WINOKUR FLIGHT C TROPHY Final Standings

Compiled by Shelley Boschan

- 1/2, Henry Zhang, 29.06
- 1/2, Yanping Zhang, 29.06
- 3, James Egan, 24.47
- 4, Jane Gardner, 24.43
- 5, Michael Fant, 23.37
- 6, Maria Conti, 21.88
- 7, Bob Ondo, 21.80
- 8, Barb Ferrera, 21.02
- 9, Paul Tilly, 20.57
- 10, James McNamara, 15.10

Arbit replaces Wasserman on MBA Board

Julie Arbit has been named to replace Zach Wasserman on the MBA board.

Wasserman resigned because he has moved to Boston to attend nursing school.

Arbit will fill out the remainder of Wasserman's term, which ends this October.

OPENING 1 NT

(from page 1)

with a small singleton could be treated as a deviation or a psych without rectification for the non-offenders if the partnership had no explicit or implicit agreement that they would make such a call.

“Assuming they had not discussed the possibility and bidding 1NT with a small singleton had not occurred more than occasionally, no adjustment would be made to the board -- only a warning that the pair could not open 1NT with a small singleton more than around once every 6 months as that would establish an implicit agreement. In other words, it was not illegal to open 1NT with a small singleton absent a partnership agreement.

“The new Convention Charts have clarified the issue:

“Bidding Agreements are allowed unless they are specifically disallowed. If an Agreement would be disallowed unless it satisfies a specific High Card Point or *shape requirement*, a player may not use judgment to include hands with fewer High Card Points or a different shape.

“The definition of a natural

1NT opening bid is:

“A NT opening bid or overcall that contains no voids, no more than one singleton, which must be an ace, king, or queen, and that does not contain 10 or more cards in two suits combined.

“The Open Chart (which is the chart used for most events including club games) states as disallowed:

“A non-Forcing 1NT opening that does not meet the definition of Natural. (Each of the other charts, which may be used for different levels of competition, has similar wording).

“This language taken in combination indicates that opening 1NT with a small singleton is illegal and can no longer be treated as a deviation or a psych.

“If a player makes an illegal call and the other side is damaged as a result, the score should be adjusted to a likely result had the illegal call not been made. If a player has already been warned about opening off-shape hands 1NT and continues to do so anyway, not only should the result be adjusted if the other side is damaged, but a Procedural Penalty should be given.”

Dear Reader, you have been warned.

MOVING UP...

JUNIOR MASTERS

Linda Brandemihl
Floreen Halpern
Marlene Johnson
Kenneth Powell

CLUB MASTERS

Mike Andrews
Deborah Jackson
Michael Mullin
Nancy Mullin
Robin Wagner
Eric Wiedmayer

SECTIONAL MASTERS

Ralph Gurganus
Eleni Lambrecht
Brian Morton
M.H. Newman
Anita Watson

**CONGRATULATIONS
NEW LIFE MASTERS**

Pearl Lim
Carrie Osborne
Albert Sayed
Gerald Wahl

REGIONAL MASTERS

Mike Bishel
Donna Dotson
Jill Rastelli
Charles Royer
Anne Swanson

NABC MASTERS

Joyce Close
Rosalyn
Monticciolo
Julian Prince
Daniel Rose

BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

Jane Gardner
Susan Smith

GOLD LIFE MASTERS

Wilbur Argersinger
Lillian Back

SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER

Joe Monro

MBA Treasurer's Report for 2018

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Sectional tournaments	4,837	4,419
Motor City Regional	13,181	2,991
NAP	(586)	(644)
Dues	3,438	3,183
Interest	<u>128</u>	<u>148</u>
	20,998	10,097
 <u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
Table Talk	5,951	7,289
Honoraria	3,600	4,800
Board meetings	923	1,277
District 12	838	842
Office and postage	692	813
Miscellaneous	<u>1,068</u>	<u>1,258</u>
	<u>13,072</u>	<u>16,279</u>
Gain (loss)	7,926	(6,182)
Cash balance beginning of year	<u>26,698</u>	<u>32,880</u>
Cash balance end of year	<u>34,624</u>	<u>26,696</u>

- Robert Webber, treasurer

Bridge Connection to host Longest Day games on Wednesday, June 19

The ACBL's annual Longest Day benefit for the Alzheimer's Association will be celebrated by the Bridge Connection in Southfield on Wednesday, June 19.

There will be four games, each carrying high masterpoint awards. Stratified open pair games will be held at 9 a.m. (18 boards), noon (lunch will be served) and 7 p.m. There will also be a 0-750 game at noon.

Players will have the opportunity to bid to play with an expert (see the Bridge Connection's Facebook page for details or check at the club). All winning bids will be tax-

deductible donations to the Alzheimer's Association.

In addition, there will be a 50/50 raffle with lots of door prizes, and a bridge book sale. Direct donations to the association through the Connection are also welcomed to help meet a \$3,600 challenge grant from one of our players.

Last year, the Connection raised nearly \$20,000 and has set a goal of \$25,000 for this year.

Come play in all the games to support this very worthy cause. For further information, call the club at 248-356-6254 or send an email to Ron Horwitz at: horwitz@oakland.edu.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Wayne Adams
Linda Kucway
Gloria Dzielsky
Lynn Eichbrecht
William Eichbrecht
Jay Flowers
Daniel Hakes
Robert Kienle
Cynthia Mann
Gerald Poissant
Dennis Rasch
Archie Sader
William Schott
Jay Silverman

Barbara Snow
Errol Soskolne
Zachary Stein-Perlman
Jeanne Van Ochten
James Wares

WELCOME, TRANSFERS

Julie Arbit
Norm Kakarala
Mary Klingel
Earl Koenig
Arlene Lewis
Robert Nosse
Anne Wyeth
Ruiqi Xing

**SOLUTION
TO DEFENSE**
From back page

NORTH	
♠Q76	
♥K98	
♦J105	
♣AK97	
WEST	EAST
♠J1082	♠3
♥10732	♥654
♦AQ73	♦K2
♣8	♣J1065432
SOUTH	
♠AK954	
♥AQJ	
♦9864	
♣Q	

Based on partner's play at trick one, declarer started with AQJ of hearts, and we've seen her AK of spades. So it is time to switch to diamonds.

Declarer's shape is 5-3-4-1, so partner has just two diamonds. Therefore, you ruff and shift to a low diamond so

you can immediately cash three tricks in the suit and defeat the contract.

A related problem:

Matchpoints
None vul.

NORTH	
♠Q76	
♥K98	
♦J105	
♣AK97	
EAST	
♠3	
♥654	
♦42	
♣J1065432	

The bidding and play go as in the above problem. But this time, it's matchpoints and, East does not have the king of diamonds. To prevent partner from underleading in diamonds and giving declarer an overtrick, East should pitch diamonds at every opportunity.

Time will be on our side

MBA has purchased three round clocks. The word "round" does not describe their shape, but rather their use in showing how many minutes are left in the current round of play. The new clocks will be used in our tournaments to encourage slow players to catch up.

MBA also has invested in new bidding cards to replace worn out and missing inserts in 232 bid boxes.

MBA member Joyce Bell undertook to clean up the boxes and identify which ones needed new inserts. Thanks, Joyce!

Dick Fortune murdered in Ann Arbor

Well-known Ann Arbor bridge player and director Dick Fortune was murdered in his home in February. He was 71 years old.

Fortune's body was found during a welfare check of his residence. Police have withheld most details, including the cause of death.



As Table Talk went to press in mid-May, the murder remained unsolved.

Ann Arbor police detectives visited the Thursday afternoon club game at the Burns Park Senior Center about two weeks after the killing. They were seeking information about Fortune's whereabouts in the hours before he was killed. No one at the game had any relevant information.

There is no reason to believe the murder had anything to do with bridge.

According to published reports, police said Fortune may have known his killer. They do not believe it was a random incident. "We definitely have a

direction in this case and we don't feel there's a threat to the community," said Ann Arbor Police Lt. Earle Fox.

Fortune was a retired U.S. postal worker. As a young man he attended Michigan State University where he was a competitive swimmer. In recent years he was involved with social dancing.

He was well-known in his east side Ann Arbor neighborhood, particularly because he maintained a beautiful garden that attracted children and families. An article on MLive three days after Fortune's death featured his garden, including color photos of the flowers.

Fortune had two boarders living at his home at the time of his death. Police said they were cooperating in the investigation.

IN MEMORIAM

Dick Fortune
Marion Litt
Nancy McCaffrey
Ann Mercier
Marjorie Vensel
Thelma Woodson

North Carolina man charged with 1985 murder of Barry Crane

After almost 34 years, the murder of bridge star Barry Crane has apparently been solved.

Edwin Hiatt, an employee at an auto repair shop in Burke County, North Carolina, was arrested in early May and charged with bludgeoning and strangling Crane. Police said DNA and a confession linked him to the crime.

Crane was a native of Detroit where he was known by his birth name, Barry Cohen, until he moved to Los Angeles in the 1950s and changed his last name to pursue a career in the entertainment business. He became a television producer, directing dozens of episodes of such hit 1970s and '80s shows as *The Incredible Hulk*, *Hawaii 5-0* and *The Six Million Dollar Man*. He also produced the show *The Magician* and was associate producer for *Mannix* and *Mission: Impossible*.

At bridge, Crane was known as a hyper-aggressive bidder and masterful cardplayer. At the time of his death, he had more masterpoints by far than any other player ever, and the ACBL renamed the annual McKenney race as the Barry



Crane Top 500 in his honor.

A housekeeper found Crane, 57, dead in his garage in his Studio City CA townhouse on July 5, 1985. He was naked and had been wrapped in bedsheets. He had been beaten with a large ceramic statue and strangled with a telephone cord.

There was no word on a motive for the killing. Hiatt, who would have been 18 at the time, has been charged with murder and will be returned to Los Angeles for trial, police said.

Crane's murder went unsolved until police said they matched a fingerprint from Crane's stolen car to Hiatt last year. FBI investigators then obtained discarded cigarette butts and a coffee cup from the parking lot of the auto repair shop where Hiatt worked.

DNA from some items matched that from cigarette

butts found in Crane's stolen car, which was discovered shortly after his death on a mountain road, investigators said.

On March 8, homicide detectives went to North Carolina to interview Hiatt. "During the interview, Hiatt admitted to killing Barry Crane," an LAPD statement said.

Video from WSOC-TV showed Hiatt, 52, of Connelly Springs being arrested. Hiatt, with long white hair and beard, held his handcuffed hands in front of him as he was taken to a car.



Edwin Hiatt

Hiatt told the station that he didn't remember Crane's name until it was told to him and had no memory of what occurred so long ago except for "bits and pieces that were brought back to me just by suggestion."

Asked if he could have killed Crane, he replied: "I don't remember the guy... Anything's possible back then...I was big into drugs."

"I just don't want to remember the past," he said, adding later: "It's a different life today."

According to the News Herald's Morganton.com website, Hiatt's criminal history dates back to 1985, when he was caught in Utah with a stolen car. It was not Crane's, but the most notable charge in his criminal history was a 1997 domestic violence charge, the website reported.

In that domestic violence case, a witness reported that Hiatt choked and beat his now ex-wife to the point she vomited, according to court records cited on the newspaper website. Hiatt also allegedly threatened to burn the house down.

James Schmidt

Grosse Pointe area club director James F. Schmidt died Feb. 10 after suffering a stroke. He was 68 and lived in Harrison Township in Macomb County.

Schmidt was retired from teaching science at University Liggett School in Grosse Pointe Woods, where he also coached girls softball. He also taught at Macomb Community College.

Helgemo suspended for drug violations

The World Bridge Federation in March suspended Geir Helgemo, the world's top-ranked player, after he failed a drug test.

The federation announced that Helgemo, who is Norwegian but represents Monaco in bridge events, tested positive for synthetic testosterone and female fertility drug clomifene at the World Bridge Series event in Orlando last summer.

After accepting he had breached anti-doping rules, Helgemo was suspended by the WBF until Nov. 20. He also had all titles, medals and points from the 2018 World Bridge Series revoked, and must pay about \$4,000 to cover administrative costs.

Kari-Anne Opsal, president of the Norwegian Bridge Federation, said the drugs were "not performance enhancing," adding, "Geir Helgemo...has previously played for the Norwegian national team and is our biggest star. Many within the bridge community know Geir and respect him.

"It is his responsibility not to take substances that are on the doping list, even though in this instance they are not performance enhancing in bridge.

I feel for Geir in this situation and hope he will come back stronger...when his ban ends."

The Monaco Bridge Federation said it "regrets" Helgemo's sanction. "Experience shows that anti-doping regulation cannot be applied without discernment to the brain sport of mind games," said the federation's president, Gilbert Vivaldi.

The World Bridge Federation is recognized by the International Olympic Committee and abides by World Anti-Doping Agency rules. It is unclear why Helgemo was taking these drugs. Testosterone is sometimes taken by athletes to enhance their physical strength, but it is not believed to improve mental abilities.

Italian cheater readmitted to ACBL

In a controversial move, the ACBL has readmitted expelled Italian professional player Massimo Lanzarotti who was thrown out as a result of a 2005 cheating incident.

A statement issued by Georgia Heth, chair of the ACBL Appeals and Charges Committee (A&C), apparently with approval from Lanzarotti, gave a lengthy explanation of the November 2018 decision:

“Regulations in effect in 2005 provided that a player could apply for readmission after five years if they admitted guilt, provided an appropriate apology, and were supported by their local organization,” according to the statement. “Current regulations require a five-year waiting period if the player admitted guilt prior to the hearing on the charges, and a 10-year waiting period if a hearing was held. All requests are reviewed and decided by the Appeals and Charges Committee and reported to the Board of Directors.

“In 2005, a championship committee [in Europe] found Lanzarotti and his partner, Andrea Buratti, guilty of cheating by sharing unauthorized information, specifically that Mr. Lanzarotti [who was dummy on the deal] looked in an opponent’s hand and signaled the trump distribution to his partner. He was originally suspended for 30 months, which was reduced to 18 months upon appeal. He resumed playing bridge at the end of his sentence in non-ACBL events.

“The ACBL brought its own charges against Lanzarotti and Buratti, as the Code of Disciplinary Regulations gives

the ACBL jurisdiction over its members’ behavior even if it occurs in a non-ACBL event, which this offense did. On Nov. 18, 2005, the ACBL Ethical Oversight Committee (EOC) found Lanzarotti and Buratti guilty of violating Law 73 of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge by deliberately communicating unauthorized information that was gathered by viewing the unplayed cards of an opponent. Both men were expelled from the ACBL. All convictions for ethical violations are reviewed by A&C. This decision was confirmed by A&C in its entirety. Mr. Lanzarotti applied for readmission in 2011 and 2014 and was denied.

“Regulations in effect at the time of Mr. Lanzarotti’s expulsion provided guidelines for factors to consider at a readmission hearing. These are 1) admission of guilt, 2) appropriate written apology and 3) support for readmission from the player’s local bridge organization. Mr. Lanzarotti was unable to meet the first two conditions at the first two readmission hearings, as he denied guilt. However, the committees at both of these hearings thought he had proved rehabilitation. Two of the current members of A&C served on all four of Mr. Lanzarotti’s

hearings before the committee and were familiar with what occurred in the three prior hearings.

“A&C was aware that there had been allegations made prior to the 2005 hearing that Lanzarotti and Buratti were cheating. A report from a prior ACBL National Recorder revealed that he had investigated the pair but found no evidence of cheating, which was part of the evidence at the 2018 hearing...In the “old days,” pairs suspected of cheating were kibitzed and observed. Results were scrutinized. The widespread videotaping now in use was not available then. Lanzarotti was convicted of a one-time violation, not a pattern of behavior, and there was no evidence at the time of a pattern of behavior. A&C was bound by the evidence provided and the scope of the conviction.”

At the 2018 hearing, according to the statement, “Lanzarotti admitted cheating and explained what occurred. He made a complete disclosure and full apology. The Italian Bridge Federation (FIGB) supported his application and confirmed that there had been no disciplinary proceedings against him since he had resumed playing.”

Heth also noted that “Lanzarotti has been very involved in helping train Italian Junior bridge players, volunteering extensively ‘to share his knowledge and experience.’ Italy does not have a formal training program for Juniors like the US and Canada do. He plays and works with Juniors individually. He has worked with at least eight players who have represented Italy in Junior championships, some of whom only made the team after he worked with them. Mr. Lanzarotti started this volunteer work after his conviction.”

According to the statement “Lanzarotti has played again [in Europe] for approximately 11 years since his expulsion without incident. This evidence of rehabilitation is rarely available as most players expelled by the ACBL do not have the opportunity to play in organized bridge elsewhere.”

Pursuant to regulations in effect at the time of the expulsion, Lanzarotti’s masterpoints won during the year prior to his conviction have been removed and replaced by eligibility points. He had won 450.91 masterpoints in the year prior to his conviction, the statement said.

The decision to readmit

Lanzarotti was condemned by some top American players.

Jeff Meckstroth wrote on Bridgewinners.com: "This is outrageous IMO. Does A&C really believe this individual has been rehabilitated? It was noted there had been no incidents reported by the Italian bridge Federation. Remember, when Fantoni returned to the Italian pairs championship recently, he was welcomed back with hundreds of likes on social media.

"This decision is misguided, the serial killer analogy is accurate. Perhaps it is time for new leadership when this appears to be justified by technicalities."

Bobby Wolff wrote that the Lanzarotti decision was a "disgrace" which "if continued, will do no less than ultimately destroy the high level game so many of us love and will, in time, filter down to the lower levels, rendering the game itself incompetent of attracting newcomers, much less, worldwide acclaim."

JoAnn Sprung wrote: "Mr. Lanzarotti admitted cheating and explained what occurred. ...[he] sat down with a partner (s) and developed a system for transmitting information to gain an advantage. He proudly stood up and accepted the

accolades for his ill-gotten gains. He cheated numerous players out of their rightful successes. And A&C let him back in. This is just one of many disgraceful decisions by A&C. Time to disband A&C and let EOC do the job."

A bridge rant too far

Leiv Bornecrantz, 72, swore and was accused of being aggressive in an unseemly exchange with the tournament director, and has been suspended for two years for allegedly breaching conduct and etiquette rules.

It was not the sort of behavior expected at a seniors bridge tournament in a genteel seaside town.

The retired businessman has been a keen player of the card game since 1962, winning tournaments in Australia where he lived before moving to England four years ago.

The dispute centered on his convention card. Bornecrantz employed an Australian version and, after being told it was not "legal," was asked to use an English Bridge Union (EBU) card instead.

When tournament director Kathy Williams asked him to fill in the new card at a tournament in Eastbourne, East Sussex, he said: "Bull****, I'm

not going to do it.”

Bornecrantz was then said to have stood up, “snatched” the cards out of the director’s hand and walked out.

He was also alleged to have made “an aggressive move” toward her, “possibly causing her to feel threatened.”

EBU bylaws state “a player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times.” Its disciplinary committee found Bornecrantz guilty at a London hearing he decided not to attend. He was banned from EBU events for two years and fined £150.

Bornecrantz, who lives in nearby St Leonards-on-Sea with his wife, Elizabeth, is furious. Central to his case is that he has been diagnosed as autistic. He informed the EBU of this, with an accompanying hospital letter, after being charged. But the EBU’s written ruling states that it “decided this should not influence our decision.”

Bornecrantz, who worked as a management consultant, describes himself as “high functioning,” but admits his condition means his “social skills are not always the greatest,” and confrontations “do set me off.”

He wrote to the EBU that the swearing charge was

“fatuous” but accepted that if he had directed a four-letter word at the tournament director it “would have been accurate but aggressive.” He said “bull****” was “highly descriptive” of the EBU’s attempts to keep its players in the 1950s.

He also told the EBU its insistence on the use of a particular convention card was “over-prescriptive nanny authoritarian Nazism.” He denied that he “snatched” the cards. “One man’s taking is another man’s ‘snatch,’” he maintained. As for the charge that he was aggressive, he said: “If just walking towards the tournament director is aggressive, the definition needs an update.”

Bornecrantz said autism means he “does not smile” even when playing bridge. He added: “I was found guilty by a kangaroo court in a case that is essentially about using the wrong stationery,” he added. “I’m prepared to launch a civil case in a proper court if I have to.”

EBU chief executive Gordon Rainsford said: “The EBU has a comprehensive equalities codes, but will not tolerate abuse against its officials and staff.”

– From the Daily Mail.com, Jan. 13, 2019

DEFENSE
By Marty Hirschman

IMPs.
None vul.

NORTH

♠Q76
♥K98
♦J105
♣AK97

WEST

♠J1082
♥10732
♦AQ73
♣8

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Trick 1: 2♥-8♥-4♥-A♥

Trick 2: A♠-2♠-6♠-3♠

Trick 3: K♠-8♠-7♠-2♣

Trick 4: Q♣-8♣-7♣-4♣

Trick 5: 4♠-10♠-Q♠-6♥

Trick 6: A♣-3♣-6♦-?

How do you defend?

Solution, page 23

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