

and the league is committed to spend the time and the money to continue that push.

■Tournament directors (and other staff) retirements, replacements, training?

Carman: The league does need to continue to push to develop directors and has committed the financial resources to do it. The new CEO will need to fill a few top management spots that are open so we don't lose our forward movement in all areas.

■ACBL Score and replacement software?

Carman: ACBL score and replacement scoring system's newest revision is supposed to be ready by early 2018 and the league is spending the money that is needed to make this happen. Stay tuned.

■Mix-ups at NABCs regarding wrong hands, wrong board placements, wrong number of overall places awarded, etc.?

Carman: The mix-up in Washington DC was human error with wrong hands and board placement. The directors are aware of what happened and have added additional safeguards to avoid this happening again. Masterpoint awards will hopefully be fixed when the new scoring system is unveiled. Currently some

events have to be manually redone as the system can't process it correctly.

■Fiscal aspects of ACBL operations, i.e., are we losing money, etc.? What do we need to do?

Carman: Through last October, the league was in the black over \$700,000 for the year. With lower than expected table counts in Orlando we will probably still be in the 1/2 million plus range for the year. The BBO [Bridge Base Online] income of \$250,000 for the last year was a bonus that had not been expected at the start of the year. The four-year, \$2 million contract Robert negotiated with BBO was a plum. Final 2016 financials should be in shortly. We are budgeted for the same gain in 2017 and hope to start aggressively replenishing our reserve fund which has shrunk the last few years.

■New member recruitment and retention?

Carman: We are holding even at 168,000 members with about 10,000 new last year and the same amount not renewing/dying. I think our recruitment programs are good and our website much improved for new/prospective players to navigate.

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

March 23-26, 2017

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

| | |
|--|---------|
| Stratified Swiss Teams (Playthru – 7 matches)..... | 10 a.m. |
| Stratified Open Pairs..... | 10 a.m. |
| Stratified 0-300 Pairs..... | 10 a.m. |
| Stratified Open Pairs..... | 2 p.m. |
| Stratified 0-300 Pairs..... | 2 p.m. |

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

| | |
|--|---------|
| Stratified Swiss Teams (Playthru – 7 matches)..... | 11 a.m. |
| Stratified 0-300 Pairs..... | 11 a.m. |
| Stratified 0-300 Pairs..... | 3 p.m. |

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

0-300 Stratifications: 0-50, 50-100, 100-300 as attendance warrants

Average masterpoints will be used to determine stratifications

All pairs events are single-session

Light lunch will be provided on Saturday and Sunday

No smoking in the building

Tournament chair: Bob Ondo, 313-320-5173, bobondo@gmail.com

Partnerships: Marilyn Crane, 734-591-3431, mqcrane@yahoo.com

Patti Stoner, 734-728-1748

TABLE TALK

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Stacey Tessler.... recording secretary
Bob Webber..... treasurer

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MBA CLUB DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

■**Friendly Friday BC**, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe Farms. Tony Faint, 586-649-3575. Friday 12 p.m.

■**Neighborhood Club**, St. Paul

Evangelical Lutheran Church, 375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe Farms. James Schmidt, 586-463-9835. Thursday 12 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

IT'S YOUR BID

By Marty Hirschman

It's a Slam-a-rama this issue, with a possible 6-something or more on four of the five problem hands. Hope you enjoy the ride.

Congratulations to Myles Maddox, still going strong at 91, for racking up a perfect 500. Also congratulations to Val Enache and Morris Swiger, who tied for the top score among our readers.

Thanks to Fran Wigod for reporting problems 1 and 5, to Willie Winokur for No. 2 and Lynne Schaeffer for No. 3.

If you are still going strong, or would like to be, send in your answers to next issue's hands, found at the end of this article.

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

♠QJ10543 ♥Q105 ♦KQ106 ♣void

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

-- 1♥ Pass 1♠

Pass 3♥ Pass ?

| Action | Score | Votes |
|--------|-------|-------|
| 4♣ | 100 | 7 |
| 4♦ | 80 | 5 |
| 4♥ | 60 | 3 |
| 5♥ | 50 | 1 |
| 6♥ | 50 | 1 |
| 5♣ | 40 | 0 |

We have a lot for slam, so 4♥ is out. 4♣ seems like a good place to start.

Chuck Burger (4♣): On this auction, new suit at the 4-level is a cue bid. Over the hoped for 4♦, then 5♥ asking for a spade control.

Jonathan Fleischmann (4♣): I'm going to set trumps with a

cuebid. This hand has to be worth a slam try since partner will have a good play with as little as ♠x ♥AKxxxx ♦Axx ♣xxx.

Willie Winokur (4♣): Hoping she bids 4♦. Then I will bid 5♥ and by some miracle she will grasp that I am worried about two possible spade losers and not "How good are your hearts?"

Joe Chiesa (4♣): Since ♠x ♥AKxxxx ♦Axx ♣xx yields 12 tricks South must at a minimum offer 4♣. Over 4♦ will bid 5♥ asking about spades. In days of yore, South would jump to 6♥ and East would fail to find the winning lead.

Howard Perlman (6♥): No good way to find out if partner has second-round spade control or if we're off pointed-suit

SCORES

Experts:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Myles Maddox..... | 500 |
| Sheldon Kirsch..... | 480 |
| Jonathan Fleischmann | 470 |
| Chuck Burger..... | 460 |
| Joe Chiesa..... | 450 |
| Dick Temkin..... | 450 |

Readers:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Val Enache..... | 410 |
| J. Morris Swiger..... | 410 |
| Patty Becker..... | 390 |
| Margaret Carden..... | 390 |
| Gerald Wahl..... | 390 |
| Dan Sutherland..... | 380 |
| Irv Hershman..... | 350 |

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Kerry Lafer..... | 340 |
| James Walter..... | 270 |
| George Pope..... | 250 |
| Jim Reed..... | 240 |
| Barb Reed..... | 230 |

Addendum (Winter 2016-2017 issue):

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Willie Winokur..... | 450 |
|---------------------|-----|

Correction: Due to a typographical error in the last issue, the score for 4♣ on Problem 5 was incorrectly listed as 90. The actual score for the bid was 80.

HOW THE PANEL VOTED

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5A/B |
|----------------------|----|-----|------|------|-----------|
| Gene Benedict | 4♦ | 5♣ | Pass | Pass | 4♠/6♦ |
| Bob Brent | 4♦ | 4♠ | 5♣ | Pass | Dbl/4NT |
| Chuck Burger | 4♣ | 4♠ | Pass | 4♠ | 4♠/6♣-6♦ |
| Suzy Burger | 4♦ | 4♣ | Pass | Pass | Dbl/6♣-6♦ |
| Joe Chiesa | 4♣ | 4♣ | Pass | 4♠ | 4NT/5♦ |
| Jonathan Fleischmann | 4♣ | 4♣ | Dbl | 4♠ | 4♠/6♦ |
| Bob Katz | 4♥ | 4♣ | Dbl | Pass | 4♠/6♦ |
| Sheldon Kirsch | 4♦ | 4♣ | Pass | 4♠ | 4♠/6♦ |
| Morrie Kleinplatz | 4♥ | 6♣ | 5♣ | 6♥ | 3NT/3NT |
| Marilyn Maddox | 4♣ | 4♣ | Pass | 4NT | 4NT/6♦ |
| Myles Maddox | 4♣ | 4♣ | Pass | 4♠ | 4♠/6♦ |
| Howard Perlman | 6♥ | 4♣ | Dbl | 4♠ | 3NT/3NT |
| Irv Rosenstein | 4♦ | 5♣ | Dbl | 4NT | 5NT/6♣ |
| Don Rumelhart | 5♥ | 4♠ | Dbl | 4♠ | 4♣/6♦ |
| Dick Temkin | 4♣ | 3NT | Pass | 4♠ | 4♠/6♦ |
| Bob Webber | 4♥ | 4♣ | Pass | Pass | 4♠/6♣ |
| Willie Winokur | 4♣ | 4♣ | 5♣ | 4NT | 4NT/6♦ |

aces. Exclusion Blackwood [via 5♣] doesn't help as it gets us too high on many hands. Willing to shoot it out.

Don Rumelhart (5♥): General slam try. 5♥ could be too high, but 4♥ does not do the hand justice.

Gene Benedict (4♦): I am hoping 4♦ agrees hearts as trump and I get a 4♠ cuebid in return.

Bob Brent (4♦): I am not sure how to get to slam, but 6♥ is very possible and will try to pattern out.

Going low:

Bob Katz (4♥): Partner might have the right hand. If I cue 4♣ it might mislead opener.

Morrie Kleinplatz (4♥): Very

tough problem. You can be cold for 7 or down in 5. 4♣ or 4♦ would not lead to any conclusive path for either partner. At matchpoints, I play it safe.

Bob Webber (4♥): Too bad 4♣ isn't a cuebid.

At the table, 6♥ was a make. I do not have the hand record.

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

♠J ♥A9 ♦KJ106 ♣KJ10972
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
2♠ 2NT 3♠ ?

| Action | Score | Votes |
|--------|-------|-------|
| 4♣ | 100 | 10 |
| 4♠ | 60 | 3 |
| 5♣ | 50 | 2 |
| 3NT | 50 | 1 |
| 6♣ | 50 | 1 |

We have a lot for slam op-

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS DISTRICT FINAL May 12-13, 2017

The Grand National Teams district final will be held Friday and Saturday, May 12-13 at the Bridge Connection, 26776 W. 12 Mile Road, Southfield. Game time is noon on Friday and 11 a.m. Saturday.

Teams of 4, 5 or 6 players may compete in one of four flights: Championship: Unlimited; Flight A: 0-6,000; Flight B: 0-2,500; Flight C: Non-LM under 500.

Further information appears on the District 12 website (district12.org).

There is a discount for registering in advance. Contact district coordinator Susan Bailey-Carman at 269-664-4802 or SusanBC99@aol.com.

posite partner's 15-18 2NT overcall, so 3NT is out. 4♣ seems like a good place to start.

Marilyn Maddox (4♣): Interested in club slam. Partner will cuebid if interested or sign off in 4NT.

Myles Maddox (4♣): Trying for a club game or slam.

Jonathan Fleischmann (4♣): I can follow this up by bidding 5NT, asking partner to pick a slam. He'll realize I've got both minors with longer clubs, probably lacking first-round spade control.

Suzy Burger (4♣): Safer if partner has only one stopper. Could still get to 6♣/6♦ if right.

Howard Perlman (4♣): Followed by 5NT, pick a slam. Please don't ask if 4♣ is forcing!

Joe Chiesa (4♣): More days of yore when this hand jumps to 6♣ and East fails again to find the lead. Choices abound: 4NT quantitative. 4♣ unbalanced slam try. The whip, aspiring to +500. 4♣ describes a natural forcing slam try. Seems like what I hold.

Morrie Kleinplatz (6♣): With a practiced partnership, I would prefer 4♣, which should ask about the minors. I would then

raise 5♣ to 6♣ or bid 5NT over 5♦, showing a 6-4 hand. I would not risk that sequence with most partners.

Bob Brent (4♠): Headed to 6♣ or 6♦.

Chuck Burger (4♠): Followed by 6♣ to show minors but more clubs.

Don Rumelhart (4♠): A good hand with minors. I will pass 4NT, raise 5 of minor to 6.

At the table, partner held ♠AQ5 ♥J64 ♦AQ752 ♣Q6. With the king of spades on-side (for an early finesse to pitch a heart loser) and no ruff available to the defenders, both 6♣ and 6♦ were making.

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

♠KJ762 ♥Q73 ♦void ♣AKJ76

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

-- -- -- 1♠

Pass 1NT* 4♦ ?

*Forcing, 5-11 HCPS

| Action | Score | Votes |
|--------|-------|-------|
| Pass | 100 | 9 |
| Dbl | 70 | 5 |
| 5♣ | 60 | 3 |
| 4♠ | 40 | 0 |

There is no compelling reason to think you can make 10 or 11 tricks anywhere, or that you can or cannot beat 4♦.

Sheldon Kirsch (Pass): Hate

this, but no good bids.

Dick Temkin (Pass): Let's hear from partner. It may not even be our hand.

Marilyn Maddox (Pass): Expect partner to take some action if on a good 9-11 points.

Bob Webber (Pass): 4♥ may be the winning bid.

Gene Benedict (Pass): Let's see what partner can do. This would have been tougher with 16 or 17 points.

There seems to be a disagreement about what double would mean here. (Should be "Too good to pass, no clear action," IMHO.) Also about whether you are good enough to double.

Don Rumelhart (Dbl): Negative with no clear bid. Hopefully partner will have some idea.

Suzy Burger (Pass): Dbl = penalty. 5♣ = too big. Partner still has a bid.

Chuck Burger (Pass): Double should be takeout, but I don't have 4th heart or enough of a hand. 5♣ precludes partner bidding 4♥ or showing 3-card limit raise.

Howard Perlman (Dbl): Seems pretty clear. Brings hearts into the game and if

partner passes and they make it...

Bob Katz (Dbl): Options are obviously Pass and Dbl. I don't think Dbl guarantees diamond cards, just shows a good hand that wants to compete.

Joe Chiesa (Pass): Why take the woodchipper (Dbl) from partner's hands. Double by *moi* is putatively penalty, not necessarily a trump stack but, if not, more high cards than this. My high cards are in the minimum range for an opening bid, and I have no reason to believe I can beat 4♦ or that I have a fit. Partner yet has a bid coming.

Jonathan Fleischmann (Dbl): I've got the shape to be pushy, so I'll try to take some of the pressure off partner.

Morrie Kleinplatz (5♣): Why God created preempts.

Willie Winokur (5♣): This is not a bridge problem. This question is meant to point out who are the cockeyed optimists.

At the table, partner had a three-card limit raise of spades: ♠109x ♥Ax ♦KJx ♣Qxxxx. Both 4♣ and 5♣ made 10 tricks. So did 4♦.

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

♠A ♥7 ♦AK9854 ♣A8542

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

| | | | |
|------|----|------|----|
| -- | -- | -- | 1♦ |
| Pass | 1♥ | DbI | 2♣ |
| 2♠ | 4♥ | Pass | ? |

| Action | Score | Votes |
|--------|-------|-------|
| 4♠ | 100 | 8 |
| Pass | 70 | 5 |
| 4NT | 60 | 3 |
| 6♥ | 50 | 1 |
| 5♣ | 20 | 0 |
| 5♥ | 20 | 0 |

4♥ by partner on the first round of bidding would have shown a stretched game bid, while 3♥ over 1♦ is best played as showing KQJ10xxx and out. So 1♥ followed by 4♥ should show full opening-type values with a strong 7-card suit. With our quick tricks and good controls, we are at least close to slam.

Confident:

Howard Perlman (4♠): With all these controls, I feel compelled to make one try. Partner bid 1♥ initially rather than 4♥, so partner has a good hand.

Chuck Burger (4♠): Partner has side values since he didn't bid 4♥ directly. This will also help find a minor.

Jonathan Fleischmann (4♠): Partner figures to have seven

or more semi-solid hearts and an outside card. With the right hand, partner can Blackwood and locate a grand.

Dick Temkin (4♠): Need to make a try with all of these controls.

Sheldon Kirsch (4♠): Hope his hearts are as good as advertised.

Don Rumelhart (4♠): A good hand. I considered 5NT (pick a slam), but that bid will likely be available on the next round as well.

Less certain:

Joe Chiesa (4♠): Like the aces and kings but fear a maldistributed trump suit. Will at least make a try. Pencing KQJ109xx and out in partner's mitt.

Willie Winokur (4NT): Yes, if she has ♠xxx ♥KQJ10986 ♦xx ♣x and a spade lead, I should pass.

Marilyn Maddox (4NT): Need to know about controls in heart suit. Expect partner to have at least pretty solid 6 or 7 hearts.

Unconfident:

Gene Benedict (Pass): Even if partner has KQJ109xx of hearts, 11 tricks may be the limit with a spade lead.

Bob Katz (Pass): Likely heart loser and who knows what else.

Bob Brent (Pass): And hope he (or she) can make it.

This hand came up in the finals of the NABC Mixed Board-A-Match and Werner Open Pairs last summer in Washington. Partner held ♠9852 ♥AKQ10864 ♦6 ♣7. With hearts 3-2 and diamonds 3-3, 13 tricks were available in hearts. Of the 106 tables where the board was played, 7♥ was bid and made 4 times, 6♥ (making 6 or 7) 23 times, a

heart game 69 times and a heart partscore (!) 6 times. There also was one +660, one +800, one +1100 and one -100.

Morrie Kleinplatz (6♥): At first glance it looks like a good play for 7. But there are inferences that it will not play easily. At favorable vulnerability neither opponent has preempted in spades, so partner has at least 3 and likely 4 of them. He is likely short in diamonds, which figure to break poorly. On a spade lead, entries will be a problem. I will hope to make 6.

MOVING UP...

JUNIOR MASTERS

Cynthia DeGalan
Donna Zajonc

CLUB MASTERS

Gertrude LaFerte

REGIONAL MASTERS

Rosemary Hastings
Joan Long
James McNamara
Pamela Morse
Barbara Schiff

NABC MASTERS

Susan Michelotti

BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

Stuart Dombey
Flora More
Catherine Nierle

SILVER LIFE MASTERS

Susan Marwil

GOLD LIFE MASTERS

Allan Becker
Patricia Becker
Samuel Hirschman
Grant Petersen

DIAMOND LIFE MASTERS

Kurt Dasher

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

♠A7 ♥A65 ♦Q652 ♣AKJ8
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 -- 1♦ 3♣ ?

5b. What is the lowest contract you plan to play in?

| Action | Score | Votes |
|---------|-------|-------|
| 4♠/6♦ | 100 | 6 |
| 4♠/6♣ | 100 | 2 |
| 4NT/6♦ | 80 | 2 |
| Dbl/6♣ | 70 | 1 |
| 4♣/6♦ | 70 | 1 |
| 5NT/6♣ | 70 | 1 |
| 5NT/6♦ | 70 | 0 |
| 3NT/3NT | 60 | 2 |
| Dbl/4NT | 50 | 1 |
| 4NT/5♦ | 50 | 1 |
| 4♠/5♦ | 50 | 0 |
| Dbl/3NT | 50 | 0 |

With all the weak hands people open these days, 18-point responder hands offer no guarantee of a slam. But we have a fit (probably) and good controls...

Dick Temkin (4♠/6♦): Partner is almost certain to have at least four diamonds and, with little or no wastage in spades, it's likely that he'll have the cards to make a slam.

Bob Katz (4♠/6♦): I don't want to guess 6♦ when 7♦ might be cold.

Don Rumelhart (4♣/6♦): Planning to support diamonds later.

Solvers who voted for 6♣ on 5B were just covering the possibility that partner will bid clubs; otherwise they will wind up in 6♦. So I scored 6 of either minor the same.

Bob Webber (4♠/6♣): 6♣ mainly if partner bids them next.

Chuck Burger (4♠/6♣ or 6♦): To game plus interest in diamonds and setting up RKC.

Jonathan Fleischmann (4♠/6♦): I think 4NT here is quantitative, but my hand feels too suit-oriented for that. 6♦ may be touch-and-go, but I may be trailing the field when they manage to stop in 3NT: If 5♦ makes exactly 11 tricks, I figure to lose to the pairs making 10 or more in NT.

Going slower and lower:

Bob Brent (Dbl/4NT): I would raise 3NT to 4NT. If partner bids 4♥, I can find out everything I need to know and end up in 6♦.

Joe Chiesa (4NT/5♦): 4♠ will fetch 5♦ – no help. By my lights, 4NT is RKC Blackwood, but even if North regards it as straight Blackwood, I will land on my feet. Moreover, if partner thinks quantitative that's likewise palatable.

Much lower:

Howard Perlman (3NT/3NT):
If partner has a balanced minimum, I'm high enough. The opponents have stuck it to us. Partner knows I am under duress and bid on with shape. I'm too balanced to be real aggressive.

Morrie Kleinplatz (3NT/3NT):
Won't score high on this panel. I stay preempted on this and hope to get a good board by playing in NT and beating all the pairs who play 5♦ or go down in slam. I'll pay off to the cold slams unless partner bids again. Too many minimum hands that have little play. For example: ♠Qx ♥Kxxx ♦AKJx ♣xxx. This hand might go down in 6♦ even with a lead away from the spade king. With what most people open these days, partner might have less.

At the table, partner held ♠Q6 ♥K42 ♦AJ743 ♣Q75. The Kx of diamonds was off-side (yes, in the preempter's hand), so 6♦ was down one after a non-spade lead. 3NT by South may not make after a spade lead through the Q (though there are chances for a strip squeeze; don't write in). So an IMP-oriented 5♦ contract might have been the big winner.

NEXT ISSUE'S HANDS

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

♠K632 ♥10963 ♦KQ2 ♣Q10
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
2♣ 2♦ 2NT
Pass 3♣ Pass ?

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

♠void ♥A54 ♦AQ10953 ♣K532
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
2♠ Pass 4♠ ?

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

♠A98752 ♥43 ♦AKQ7 ♣10
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1♣ 2♥ 2♠
3♥ 4♠ Pass ?

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

♠AJ95 ♥A98762 ♦void ♣932
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
Pass 3♣ ?

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

♠AK104 ♥63 ♦KQ9 ♣Q863
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1♣ ?

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

IN MEMORIAM

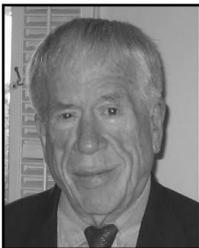
**Sarah Lampert
Esther Scheppele
Jerry Thornton**

Jerry Thornton, former MBA board member and chair of the Ann Arbor sectional, passed away Dec. 14. He was 80.

Stacey Tessler writes:

"Jerry and I were just great friends. He

loved the arts. He had subscriptions to the UMS concerts. He also collected art, loved to travel worldwide, and attended opera, ballet and plays. He and I went to Jackson each summer for the Shakespeare Festival.



"I could always call him to fill in at any game that I run in Ann Arbor. He was a great partner and never complained about bad bids or plays by his partner. A true gentleman. I miss him very much."

Marcy Toon writes:

"I met Jerry in 1990 when I first started working in the University of Michigan Graduate Library. Through the years

because of a mutual friend, we attended many concerts and musicals together, including trips to Stratford and the Shaw Festival. Jerry was always a congenial and loyal companion.

"We had recently become bridge partners, and I was very saddened to lose a good friend."

Esther Scheppele of Canton, who died Dec. 8 at 89, was a gold life master with over 3,300 masterpoints. She was a regular at local club games and tournaments, as was her sister Edith Jones, also an MBA member, who died several years ago.



Esther had worked for over 20 years as an accountant at the Hawthorn Center.

Neil Manley Jr. writes:

"Esther was a regular at the Plymouth Club for decades. She was my regular partner on Tuesday for at least 10 years. Our last game was in March 2015. Her memory didn't allow her to continue playing.

"I cannot recall a Tuesday that Esther had to cancel. Her

daughter told me that she and family would drive here to visit from out West. Sometimes when they got here Esther would tell them, 'See you later. I have a bridge game today.'

"Ed Williams and I visited her about a week before her death. She was in hospice care at an assisted living facility. She was on oxygen and unable to walk. She told us to call her if we needed someone to fill in at the bridge club."

Barry Crane update

"Who Killed Barry Crane," an update on the unsolved 1985 murder of ACBL's then top masterpoint holder, appeared in the January issue of Hour Detroit magazine.

You can read the article, written by MBA member Michael Betzold, at:

<http://www.hourdetroit.com/Hour-Detroit/January-2017/Who-Killed-Barry-Crane/>

2016 MBA Treasurer's Report

| | <u>2016</u> | <u>2015</u> |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <u>RECEIPTS</u> | | |
| Sectional tournaments | 3,005 | 4,582 |
| Motor City Regional | 5,532 | 5,912 |
| NAP | -404 | -686 |
| Bid boxes | 0 | 210 |
| Dues | 3,156 | 3,202 |
| Interest | 118 | 170 |
| | 11,407 | 13,390 |
| <u>EXPENDITURES</u> | | |
| Table Talk | 6,921 | 7,092 |
| Honoraria | 4,800 | 4,800 |
| Board meetings | 1,270 | 652 |
| District 12 | 860 | 419 |
| Office and postage | 635 | 899 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,128 | 1,011 |
| | <u>15,614</u> | <u>14,873</u> |
| Gain (loss) | -4,207 | -1,483 |
| Cash balance beginning of year | 37,807 | <u>38,570</u> |
| Cash balance end of year | <u>32,880</u> | <u>37,807</u> |

—ROBERT WEBBER, treasurer

Mike Graham Ann Arbor Sectional

Here are the results of the Mike Graham Ann Arbor Sectional, held Jan. 28-29 at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.

MASTERPOINT LEADERS:

1, Mark Bendure, 19.67
2/3/4, Martin Hirschman, 15.78
2/3/4, Lynne Schaeffer, 15.78
2/3/4, Gordon Parnes, 15.78
5, Frank Treiber III, 14.75
6, Robert Raf, 11.61
7/8, Richard Temkin, 11.22
7/8, Irving Rosenstein, 11.22
9/10, William Winokur, 10.87
9/10, Steven Winokur, 10.87

SATURDAY SWISS TEAMS

FLIGHT A: 1, Martin Hirschman, Mark Bendure, Gordon Parnes, Lynne Schaeffer. 2, Jonathan Fleischmann, Frank Treiber III, Jordan Kaye, Robert Katz. 3, Henry Zhang, Yanping Zhang, Ching-Po Wang, Xingyu Zhang. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Zhang team. 2, Kenneth & Arlene Geisler, Steven Kaplan, Randy Rodnick. 3, John Philbrook, John Allen, Tim Berges, Walter Magee. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Zhang team. 2, Geisler team. 3, James Walter, Klaus Brondum, Albert Sayed, Barb Ferrera.

SUNDAY SWISS TEAMS

FLIGHT A: 1, Robert Raf, Steven Jacob, Sandy Birnholtz, Clarke Cunningham. 2, Mark Bendure, Richard Temkin, Daniel Marcus., Irving Rosenstein. 3, Steven Winokur, William Winokur, Frank Treiber III, Michael Crane. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Raf team. 2, Chris Brewer, Stuart Dombey, Klaus Brondum, David Armstrong. 3, James & Kathleen Miller, Edward Stang, Eric Holder. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Brewer team. 2, Miller team. 3, Stephen Leist, John Berry, Richard Voss, James Peresta.

Non-LM winners

SATURDAY AM PAIRS:

Chris Hill, Ann Margosian

SATURDAY PM PAIRS:

Richard Voss, John Berry

SUNDAY AM PAIRS: Joyce Van Octen, Robert Hatto, tied with Jane Lehman, Mary Robinson

SUNDAY PM PAIRS: Edward & Jean Becker

**CONGRATULATIONS
NEW LIFE MASTER**

Sonia Manchek

2016 MBA Mini-McKenney

0 to 5: 1, James McNamara, 95.02. 2, Peggy Blaylock, 17.38. 3, Joe Feldman, 14.01.

5 to 20: 1, Daniel Rose, 29.22. 2, Betty Kaiser, 18.29. 3, Gary Boyers, 17.21.

20 to 50: 1, Julian Prince, 48.85. 2, Brian Morton, 32.91. 3, Jack Hyatt, 30.66.

50 to 100: 1, Pearl Lim, 116.40. 2, James Korte, 86.26. 3, Steven M. Miller, 76.26.

100 to 200: 1, Bob Ondo, 218.86. 2/3, Henry Zhang, 152.26. 2/3, Yanping Zhang, 152.26.

200 to 300: 1, Barb Ferrera, 159.53. 2, Susan R. Smith, 106.87. 3, Craig Ross, 90.43.

300 to 500: 1, Dennis Ebendick, 150.31. 2, Brad Dracka, 103.63. 3, Graham Putnam, 84.16.

500 to 1000: 1, Jordan Kaye, 189.38. 2, Steven Winokur, 150.45. 3, Dan Sutherland, 108.69.

1000 to 1500: 1, Wilbur Argersinger, 401.85. 2, James Walter, 288.95. 3, Sandy Birnholtz, 166.38.

1500 to 2500: 1, Zachary Wasserman, 408.14. 2, Grant Petersen, 351.61. 3, John Koschik, 341.66.

2500 to 3500: 1, Jonathan Fleischmann, 1023.82. 2, Joe Monro, 392.56. 3, Rose Burke, 251.70.

3500 to 5000: 1, Anastasia Tessler, 386.94. 2, Rhonda Monro, 343.26. 3, Michael Giordano, 340.26.

5000 to 7500: 1, Robert Katz, 430.60. 2, Sheldon Kirsch, 410.15. 3, Sondra Schubiner, 381.99.

7500 to 10000: 1, Owen Lien, 919.48. 2, Robert Brent, 352.89. 3, Allan Falk, 306.59.

Over 10000: 1, Bert Newman, 1047.09. 2, Martin Hirschman, 459.89. 3, William Arlinghaus, 385.76.

2016 MBA Mini-Ace of Clubs

0 to 5: 1, James McNamara, 40.96. 2, Jeanne Learman, 11.13. 3, Joseph Learman, 10.63.

5 to 20: 1, Betty Kaiser, 12.90. 2, Douglas Sendelbach, 11.32. 3, Rodney Guest, 10.18.

20 to 50: Brian Morton, 32.91. 2, Jack Hyatt, 26.73. 3, Marge Wolber, 17.57.

50 to 100: 1, Pearl Lim, 46.22. 2, Steven M. Miller, 41.70. 3, James Korte, 38.98.

100 to 200: 1, Bob Ondo, 70.42. 2, Giles Schnob, 49.01. 3, Carrie Osborne, 41.82.

200 to 300: 1, Craig Ross, 85.57. 2, Susan R. Smith, 52.67. 3, Barb Ferrera, 47.39.

300 to 500: 1, Rosemary McNair, 63.04. 2, Robert Holmes, 59.55. 3, Paul Chirgwin, 55.36.

500 to 1000: 1, Martha Henkel, 73.73. 2, Elmer Winkelman, 69.46. 3, Patricia Cosgrove, 63.09.

1000 to 1500: 1, James Walter, 150.97. 2, Judith Gessner, 99.12. 3, Marilyn Vander Velde, 86.62.

1500 to 2500: 1, James Smyth, 136.87. 2, Grant Petersen, 136.36. 3, John Koschik, 109.99.

2500 to 3500: 1, Jonathan Fleischmann, 135.75. 2, Margaret Moore, 113.18. 3, Joyce Bell, 110.14.

3500 to 5000: 1, Michael Giordano, 147.40. 2, Charlotte Miller, 103.20. 3, Anastasia Tessler, 71.27.

5000 to 7500: 1, Lynne Cook, 156.83. 2, Ed Herstein, 110.82. 3, Richard Becher, 104.76.

7500 to 10000: 1, William Winokur, 156.79. 2, Robert Brent, 132.03. 3, Brenda Jaffe, 122.71.

Over 10000: 1, Bert Newman, 154.45. 2, Lynne Schaeffer, 87.82. 3, Bob Webber, 77.66.

Note: Categories denote points held at the beginning of 2016

Suzy goes for the gusto

Matchpoints
None vul.

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--|
| | NORTH | | |
| | ♠A852 | | |
| | ♥1063 | | |
| | ♦J986 | | |
| | ♣62 | | |
| WEST | | EAST | |
| ♠7 | | ♠QJ1064 | |
| ♥AKQ87 | | ♥J942 | |
| ♦K102 | | ♦4 | |
| ♣10754 | | ♣KJ8 | |
| | SOUTH | | |
| | ♠K93 | | |
| | ♥5 | | |
| | ♦AQ753 | | |
| | ♣AQ93 | | |

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| -- | -- | -- | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | Dbl | 3♦* | Dbl |
| 4♥ | Pass | Pass | 5♣ |
| Dbl | 5♦ | Pass | Pass |
| Dbl | Pass | Pass | Pass |

*Mixed raise

Opening lead: 7 of spades

Suzy Burger bullied her opponents to the 5-level, then doubled and made the most of the defense on this hand on Bridge Base last summer.

Sitting West, Suzy led her singleton spade against 5♦x. Declarer went up ace in dummy and took the diamond fi-

ness, losing to the king.

Next, Suzy made the dramatic and risky play of under-leading her AKQ of hearts. East, Lynne Schaeffer, won the jack and returned the queen of spades. Declarer's king was ruffed away. Eventually declarer had to lose a spade, for down 2, -300, giving Burger and Schaeffer an 86 percent score on the board.

Actually, declarer botched the rest of the play and went down 3, giving East-West 92 percent.

Newman wins 6th Marsee

Bert Newman, MBA's top masterpoint holder, was the 2016 winner of the Grant Marsee Memorial Trophy, awarded to the Michigan player who wins the most masterpoints in the Barry Crane Top 500 race.

Newman amassed 1047.49 total points in the year, edging out 2015 winner Jonathan Fleischmann, who won 1023.82 points in 2016.

It was Newman's sixth Marsee win. He previously won the Marsee in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2013 and 2014.

The Denver 10: Another sad episode for bridge

By Marty Hirschman
Table Talk Editor

What would happen if you play a Swiss match at a regional, and when you compare scores with your teammates you discover that both pairs inadvertently sat in the same direction?

What would you do? How would the match be scored?

It has happened before and it will happen again. It has happened often enough that the ACBL has a specific rule for this situation incorporated in its General Conditions of Contest for Swiss teams:

“PLAY

“9. Each team captain must ensure that his pairs are playing in opposite directions. Failure to do so will result in both teams receiving a zero score.”

And it happened in Denver last May during the Sunday Swiss at the Rocky Mountain Regional in a much talked about case involving a pair of teams that included a number of professional players, well-known experts and one member of the national ACBL board of directors.

There was no time to replay the match.

So what did they do? Did they call or inform the director?

No.

Instead, nine of the players did nothing, while the captain of one of the teams turned in a score slip showing the match as a tie. That resulted, initially, in both teams getting 10 Victory Points on the 20-point scale -- 10 more than they were entitled to under the rules.

Several minutes later, a player on another team who got wind of what happened told the directors about the incident. (Ironically[?] that player was top pro Mike Paskell, who himself recently faced unrelated ethics charges. See “Incident at Palmetto,” Table Talk, June 2016, p. 24.)

The score of the match was changed to 0 VPs for each team.

Close to a month after the tournament, ACBL brought charges against the 10 members of the two teams involved.

In November the case was heard by the ACBL Ethical Oversight Committee (EOC).

Results of the hearing (“In the matter of Hinze et al. ...”) are posted on the ACBL website under News...Recent Disciplinary Decisions. One player, David Grainger, reached a negotiated settlement, agreeing to serve six months probation. Three other players, Canadian professional Cameron Doner; top pro Mark Lair and longtime ACBL board member Dan Morse, both of Texas, were found guilty of violating paragraph 3.7 of the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations (CDRs) (“Actions or behavior unbecoming” a player in an ACBL event). Lair and Morse also were found guilty of violating CDR 3.2 (“Violation of ACBL regulations.”). Charges were dismissed against the other six players. Doner was given six months’ probation. Lair and Morse were suspended for 30 days, to be followed by a one-year period of probation.

Although the case was heard during the Fall NABC, the decision wasn’t published in the Daily Bulletin of the tournament as required by CDR 9.6. According to ACBL, that was because the decision wasn’t finalized until after the tournament.

Consistent with current league rules, the website re-

port of the discipline makes no statement about the substance of what allegedly happened or of the factual findings that were the basis of the decision.

While the case was pending, news about it appeared on BridgeWinners.com, spawning a torrent of commentary, mostly critical of the defendants for not immediately informing the director of what had happened and for, in effect, making their own incorrect ruling that the match be considered a tie. There were colorful but unsubstantiated claims and speculation about the details of what happened.

We will never know all the facts.

There also was discussion on BridgeWinners.com about whether those involved knew of or should have known of the rule that such a match be scored as a so-called “double blitz,” i.e., no VPs for either team. And there were a few testimonials to Lair’s good ethics and sportsmanship during his long career.

In August, Lair resigned from the team that was scheduled to represent the United States in the Seniors division at the fall 2016 world championships. It is assumed he did so to avoid any embarrass-

ment to our nation and the U.S. Bridge Federation as a result of the then-pending Denver 10 case.

Besides the official report of the EOC, the only public statement by anyone involved in the case was posted on Bridgewinners.com in January by Marc Zwerling, an attorney who represented Lair before the EOC. (“Fact Instead Of Fiction: A True Report on the Denver Regional”). According to Zwerling, all the players claimed that, at the time, they did not know what the rule was for such an occurrence and that they mostly assumed the match would be scored as a tie.

Greg Hinze, the team captain who reported the “tie,” was sitting out for that match and allegedly misunderstood what had happened, Zwerling stated. The others, as depicted in the article, seemed to be relying on whoever reported the result to tell the director what had actually happened, and mostly they claimed to have only vague or non-existent recollections of the discussions among them at the time the mix-up was discovered:

“...Lair got up and went over to compare with the other team. Along the way, he ran

into Morse. Since the teams were late and the directors were pressing to have all report slips turned in, the conversation was short – perhaps 20 seconds. Lair recalls that Morse confirmed his team’s pairs had sat the same direction and that he shared Lair’s view that the match would be scored as a tie. In addition, Lair vaguely remembers expressing concern that the teams might be subject to a procedural penalty. When he left, Lair understood that Morse’s team [Hinze] would fill out and turn in the score slip, and report that the pairs had sat the same direction. On the way to returning to his team’s table, Lair stopped by the Hinze team’s table to commiserate about their joint misfortune.

“Lair remembers little about his conversation with other members of the Hinze team except that they were standing in separate groups and the conversation was brief. Doner and [Hinze team member Kay] Enfield testified that they were standing by themselves – embarrassed – while Morse and Grainger stood several feet away. Enfield attempted to call a director but the call was aborted because with play having been com-

pleted it seemed the only thing left to do was to report what had happened. Grainger recalls saying that he thought the match would be scored as a tie to which Lair and Morse commented that they thought so as well. For his part, Morse remembers none of the conversation, which is not surprising since he was headed to the bathroom and, as all the witnesses agreed, the entire exchange took 30 seconds or less.”

According to Zwerling the original charges against the 10 players featured ethics offenses for violation of CDR 3.13 [Knowingly Submitting False Information to a Tournament Official] and Appendix B -E7(b) [Intentionally Submit [ting] a False Result of a Hand, Round or Match]. “The essential facts charged were that all the players of each team ‘...knowingly agreed to submit a false result for the match...’ ” None of the players was found guilty of the so-called “ethical violations.”

If you are wondering, the Hinze team, which included Morse, Grainger and Doner, wound up second in the event, 14 VPs out of first. The other team, which included Lair, came in 5th and would

have been 3rd if the teams had received 10 VPs for a tie.

Commentary (by the author):

■ACBL management is to be commended for bringing these charges. It would have been easy and the path of least resistance to do nothing.

■All players on the two teams who knew what happened should have received at least a slap on the wrist for failing to make sure it was properly reported. It is unclear why the committee found no culpability by the majority of the players involved.

■ACBL rules about publishing reports of disciplinary incidents (CDR 9.6) should be amended to allow for a brief report of the facts found by the committee as the basis of its decision. The official report of this incident does not say anything about teams sitting the same way in a Swiss or what was and was not reported to the directors.

■Arguably the “double blitz” rule is too harsh. That seems to be the position of the editors of Bridge World magazine, who stated in their November issue: “At one time, sitting incorrectly was scored as a tie, but it was believed

that opposing teams that didn't mind a tied result would conspire to submit a false report that they had seated themselves wrongly."

A comparable scoring issue can occur in a pair game when a board cannot be played due to the fault of one or both pairs. In such a case, the pair or pairs at fault would typically be awarded Average-minus on the board, which results in each getting 40 percent of the available match-points.

A 40 percent score on the 20 VP scale would give each team 8 VPs. That seems a

little high.

Another idea is to assess a procedural penalty, usually 3 IMPs per board. In a 7-board match, that would be -21 IMPs for each team, which would convert to just 2 VPs for each team. That seems low, though better than 0 VPs.

A plausible approach would be to average the two above possible scores and give each team 5 VPs. That sounds just about right to me. And maybe it would be enough of a bone to discourage the players from playing games with the reporting of such matches.

TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

Mar. 17-19: Toledo sectional

Mar. 23-26: Southfield sectional (MBA)

Apr. 1: Lansing NLM sectional

Apr. 7-8: Bloomfield Hills I/N sectional

Apr. 27-29: Grand Rapids sectional

May 5-7: Frankfort sectional

May 12-13: Grand National Teams district final, Southfield

May 15-21: FARMINGTON HILLS REGIONAL

May 22-28: Spring STAC

June 3-4: Kalamazoo sectional

June 11-16: BAY CITY REGIONAL

June 22-25: MBA/SOMBA joint sectional, Southfield

July 7-9: Lansing sectional

July 14-16: Toledo sectional

Aug. 14-20: KALAMAZOO REGIONAL

Aug. 24-27: Southfield sectional (MBA)

Sept. 8-10: Traverse City sectional

Sept. 17: N. Am Pairs district final, Lansing

Sept. 22-24: Petoskey sectional

Sept. 28-30: Grand Haven sectional

Oct. 9-15: MOTOR CITY REGIONAL, Farmington Hills (MBA)

Oct. 27-29: Midland sectional

Bridge cheaters' teammates will keep most of their titles

By Martin Hirschman
Table Talk Editor

In November, when the ACBL's Appeals and Charges Committee reaffirmed cheating convictions against two top international pairs, stripping them of all titles and masterpoints, the committee determined that their teammates would only lose their titles and high finishes in the 2015 Spingold KO Teams. This despite the widespread belief that the two pairs – Israelis Lotan Fisher and Ron Schwartz, and Italians (playing the last several years for Monaco) Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes – had been cheating for a long time, using illegal pre-arranged signals.

The controversial decision by the Appeals and Charges Committee to allow teammates to keep their titles, except in the 2015 Spingold, overruled decisions by the Ethical Oversight Committee (EOC) last summer that the teammates would lose their titles won with the cheaters for the preceding four years.

Teams including the two offending pairs had faced off in

the finals of the Spingold in both 2014 and 2015, with the team that included the Israeli pair winning the title both times. (Published reports suggest that Fisher-Schwartz were cheating in more different and creative ways than Fantoni-Nunes!) The Israelis' 2015 teammates – team sponsor Jimmy Cayne, Michael Seamon, Alfredo Versace and Lorenzo Lauria – will lose their title and masterpoints for the event. Meanwhile the Italian/Monaco pair's teammates – team sponsor Pierre Zimmermann, Franck Multon, Tor Helness and Geir Helgemo – will lose their second-place finish.

However, the Israeli pair's 2014 Spingold teammates – team sponsor Richard Schwartz, Allan Graves, Espen Lindqvist and Boye Brogeland – will keep their title and masterpoints. Their names will appear in any list of past winners – minus the Israeli pair. (To their credit, these teammates have disavowed their title. And it was Brogeland's courageous "outing" of the cheating by the Israeli pair that led to their expulsion from

bridge and inspired the investigation and disciplining of Fantoni-Nunes.)

Similarly, the “Monaco” teammates of the Italian pair will keep their second-place finish and masterpoints in the 2014 Spingold. They also will keep their Spingold wins in 2011 and 2012, their Reisinger wins in 2012 and 2013 and their second-place finish in that event in 2011 – all of which were accomplished with Fantoni-Nunes on their team.

Cayne, Seamon, Versace and Lauria – now stripped of their 2015 Spingold win because of their Israeli teammates – will keep the 2007 Reisinger title they won with Fantoni-Nunes. (Yes, they had the pleasure over the years of playing and winning with both of these cheating pairs.)

No reasons were given by the EOC or the Appeals and Charges Committee for their decisions on the teammates issue. Subsequently, two ACBL officials – District 12 director and A & C committee member Dennis Carman, and ACBL in-house counsel Linda Dunn – explained that the EOC incorrectly applied the four-year rule adopted by the Board of Directors (in CDR

4.1.8) in Fall 2015. That rule became effective January 1, 2016. Because of that effective date, A & C took the position that the prior 4.1.8 applied to cases of cheating in 2015 and before. The prior 4.1.8 provided that teammates and partners would lose only those titles and masterpoints from the events in which the cheating was found to have occurred.

The decision on the teammates issue was criticized in a number of posts on BridgeWinners.com.

Boye Brogeland wrote:

“Land of the free, home of the brave – what happened? Bridge craves integrity, not lawyering and money talks. Shame on us who allow this to happen.”

Fred Gittleman wrote:

“1) It is completely unjust that these people should benefit in any way from playing on teams with convicted cheats. I believe that they should also have all of the seeding points, masterpoints, and titles they won (when playing on teams with FN and FS) forfeited.
“2) It is ridiculous that FN and FS caused so much damage over so many years to all of the participants in all the events that they played in EXCEPT for those that hap-

pened to be their teammates/ accomplices.

“3) Severely punishing the teammates/accomplices of convicted cheats might well be an effective deterrent. Instead these decisions effectively say ‘if you team with cheats you don’t risk anything more than a slap on the wrist.’

“About my use of the term ‘teammates/accomplices’...I would guess that only some of the teammates of FN and FS either knew or strongly suspected that these pairs were cheating. These people should be seen as accomplices and punished severely.”

Former ACBL Board of Directors member Jonathan Steinberg of Toronto wrote:

“A disgraceful cop-out by the ACBL Appeals & Charges Committee. Clearly, a fear of lawsuits from mega-millionaires

who don’t want to lose their precious NABC titles. Sadly, that’s what NABCs are fast becoming...playgrounds for the super wealthy and their clients.”

Other sports also have had to deal with the teammate issues. Early this year, renowned sprinter Usain Bolt and his Jamaica teammates had their gold medals for a 2008 Olympic relay taken away because a retest of an old sample showed that one of Bolt’s teammates had been using a banned stimulant.

Unlike the Olympics, ACBL has no mothballed blood tests for cheating to go back and reexamine. Presumably there is no video of the players in ACBL events before the 2015 Spingold, so no direct evidence of cheating in those prior events.

NAP Correction

Last issue Table Talk reported the incorrect results for Flight B & C of the North American Pairs District Finals. Here are the correct results:

FLIGHT B: 1, Eugene Kales, Ben Bomber. 2/3, Rene & Cameron Shunta. 2/3 Bob Rasmussen, Arthur Wasserman. 4, Robert Christensen, Jagit Singh.

FLIGHT C: 1, Chuck & Garty Theis. 2, Henry Zhang, Yanping Zhang. 3, Nancy Spence, Jane Roeser. 4, Carrie Osborne, Maria Conti.

SOLUTION TO AT THE WHEEL

From back page

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| NORTHS | |
| ♠54 | |
| ♥AKQJ1098 | |
| ♦J5 | |
| ♣J5 | |
| WEST | EAST |
| ♠6 | ♠QJ10987 |
| ♥7654 | ♥3 |
| ♦9876 | ♦KQ10 |
| ♣9876 | ♣KQ10 |
| SOUTH | |
| ♠AK32 | |
| ♥2 | |
| ♦A432 | |
| ♣A432 | |

You only have 11 top tricks,
but you still have a way home

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Celeste Batchev
Marie Brady
Pamela Freeman
Angela Katz
Michael Madden
Frank Rhodes III
Nicholas Rifel
Annemarie Shorter
Ruth Tobias
Robin Wagner
Patricia West

WELCOME, TRANSFERS

Andrew Hagen
William Niemczyk
Jeffrey Selbst
Coieann Sheehy

as long as East has all the
outstanding high cards.

After winning the opening
lead, you must cash your two
minor suit aces. Then run
hearts. With one heart to go,
this will be the position:

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| NORTH | |
| ♠5 | |
| ♥8 | |
| ♦J | |
| ♣J | |
| WEST | EAST |
| ♠ | ♠QJ |
| ♥ | ♥ |
| ♦98 | ♦K |
| ♣98 | ♣K |
| SOUTH | |
| ♠K32 | |
| ♥ | |
| ♦ | |
| ♣4 | |

On the last heart, East is
squeezed in three suits. If he
pitches a spade, you have two
extra spade tricks. If he pitch-
es a club or diamond, you
next cash the jack of that suit,
squeezing East between
spades and the other minor.

This repeating Triple
Squeeze does not work if you
fail to cash your minor suit
aces before running hearts.
Try it.

Ironically (?) West can de-
feat the contract by leading a
heart at trick one. So much for
leading partner's suit!

AT THE WHEEL
By Marty Hirschman

IMPs
N-S vul.

NORTH

♠54
♥AKQJ1098
♦J5
♣J5

SOUTH

♠AK32
♥2
♦A432
♣A432

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| Pass | 4♥ | 4♠ | 4NT |
| Pass | 5♠* | Pass | 7NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

*2 key cards and Q of hearts

Opening lead: 6 of spades
Plan the play
Solution, page 27