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VOL. 58 No. 2

JUNE 2017

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## Buy me\*

\*Or another local bridge pro or expert to play with you in a club game on Wednesday June 21 as part of the ACBL's annual Alzheimer's Association fundraiser

**By Marty Hirschman**

**The Summer solstice, June 21, is the longest day under the sun. In bridge it's a time to play, to help Alzheimer's disease go away.**

ACBL is hoping to raise \$750,000 this year for Alzheimer's research. On June 21, the Bridge Connection in Southfield is adding a couple of dollars to its entry fees to fund part of the club's contribution to the Alzheimer's effort.

The club is running a shortened game (15 or 16 boards) at 9:30 a.m., in addition to the regular noon and 7 p.m. sessions. All three games will be stratified and carry a 70 percent sectional rating.

**Play with your regular partner...or bid for somebody smarter. (Sorry, partners, for the slight. I was just aiming for something light.)**

Seventeen top local players, including yours truly, have volunteered to play with contributors in the afternoon session.

**Whether or not you're instructable, your fee will be tax-deductible!**

You can enter in person at the club or email your bid to [mibridgconn@gmail.com](mailto:mibridgconn@gmail.com).

Names of the participating experts and the current bid for each are listed at: [www.bridgewebs.com/connection](http://www.bridgewebs.com/connection)

There also will be a silent auction for bridge books, and players can make added contributions. Separately, MBA has donated \$250 to the Alzheimer's campaign.

# 2017 SOMBA/MBA JOINT SECTIONAL

June 22-25, 2017

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

## THURSDAY, JUNE 22

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

## FRIDAY, JUNE 23

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

## SATURDAY, JUNE 24

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 .....	1:30 p.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs .....	1:30 p.m.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 25

Bridge lecture .....	9:20 a.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams Playthru – 7 matches .....	10 a.m.
0-300 Swiss Teams.....	10 a.m.
Two single sessions if warranted	
Stratified Open Pairs .....	10 a.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs .....	10 a.m.
Stratified Open Pairs .....	1:30 p.m.
Stratified 0-300 Pairs .....	1:30 p.m.

Stratified Events: A=unlimited; B=0-3000; C=0-750

0-300 Stratifications: 0-20, 20-100, 100-300 as attendance warrants

Average masterpoints will be used to determine stratifications, but all players in 0-300 events must have fewer than 300 masterpoints.

Light lunch will be provided on Saturday and Sunday

No smoking in the building

**Tournament chairs:** Dave Fletcher, 586-206-6556, hdfletch@aol.com

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

Bill Goodman, 248-879-5741, billgoodman43@gmail.com

**Partnerships:** Lori Briscoe, 586-850-9401

**Michigan Bridge Association's  
RUSSELL ROOSEN SECTIONAL  
August 24-27, 2017  
Site: The Bridge Connection  
26776 Twelve Mile Road, Southfield MI  
Just west of Northwestern Hwy.  
248-356-6254**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 24**

Stratified Open Pairs.....	10 a.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs.....	10 a.m.
<i>Swiss Team Lesson for New Players</i> .....	2:10 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams.....	2:30 p.m.
Stratified 0-500 Swiss Teams.....	2:30 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs.....	7 p.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs.....	7 p.m.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 25**

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 Pairs.....	7 p.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs.....	7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26**

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 27**

Stratified Swiss Teams Playthru – 7 matches .....	11 a.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs.....	11 a.m.
Stratified 0-500 Pairs.....	3 p.m.

Stratified Events: A=unlimited; B=0-3000; C=0-1000  
0-500 Stratifications: 0-50, 50-100, 100-500 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, stodeserv@gmail.com

### TABLE TALK

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

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Temkin, Stacey Tessler, Allan Tush-  
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## MBA CLUB DIRECTORY

■**Ann Arbor BC**, Walden Hills Club-  
house, 2114 Pauline, Ann Arbor.  
Ray Gentz, 734-769-3994. Wednes-  
day 7 p.m.

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

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

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

■**Ford DBC**, Ford Motor Company  
World Headquarters, 1 American  
Rd., Dearborn. Ellen 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 McKin-  
ley, Dearborn Heights. Joyce Koz-  
ma, 313-274-5587. Wednesday  
11 a.m.

# IT'S YOUR BID

By Marty Hirschman

This issue's problems all appeared as survey questions on Bridgewinners.com, so I have some data on what the general bridge public thinks are the right bids (but no actual partner hands or table results).

Congratulations to Don Rumelhart for his perfect 500 on this tough set. Also congrats to Val Enache for the high score among readers.

You too can be part of the "general bridge public" by sending in your answers to next issue's hands, found at the end of this article.

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

♠K632 ♥10963 ♦KQ2 ♣Q10

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

-- 2♣ 2♦ 2NT

Pass 3♣ Pass ?

Action	Score	Votes
3♦	100	9
4♣	70	4
3♥	50	1
3♠	60	2
3NT	50	1
4NT	50	1
6NT	50	1
4♦	40	0

Poll on Bridgewinners.com (in percent): 3♥ 45; 3NT 17; 3♦ 14; 3♠ 10; 4♣ 7; 4NT 5; Pass 2.

*Partner either has 22 or more HCPs or almost that much with six or more clubs. Add our 10 HCPs, including the obviously very valuable Q10 of clubs, and we should*

*have a slam somewhere, maybe even a grand. But how to proceed?*

*Presumably partner's 3♣ is natural. But he could also have a four-card major. A 3♦ bid should get partner to bid a major if he has one, but what if he doesn't? Will he cuebid a major with fewer than four pieces? There does not seem to be a consensus on exactly what 3♦ shows, what the various responses and follow-ups would show, and whether to drive to slam, invite or even just settle for game.*

**Don Rumelhart (3♦):** This bid saves bidding space, shows club support, shows a diamond control and leaves room for partner to bid a major.

**Bob Brent (3♦):** Need to hear more from partner. He may

## SCORES

### Experts:

Don Rumelhart .....	500
Myles Maddox .....	490
Jonathan Fleischmann ..	460
Bob Brent .....	450
Joe Chiesa .....	450
Sheldon Kirsch .....	450
Dick Temkin .....	450

### Readers:

Val Enache .....	490
Dave Graff .....	460
Kerry Lafer .....	450
Jerry Jefferies .....	420

Thomas Goodwin .....	410
Morris Swiger .....	410
Clarke Cunningham .....	370
Patty Becker .....	340
Mark Hugger .....	340
Margaret Carden .....	320
Allan Becker .....	300
Gerald Wahl .....	300
Doris Jefferies .....	260
George Pope .....	220

### Addendum

March issue	
Marlene Mandell .....	390

## HOW THE PANEL VOTED

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

have a four-card major. Slam a definite possibility.

**Kurt Dasher (3♦):** I have a bit extra for the 2NT bid, force partner to bid again. Will raise 3NT to 4NT, cuebid spade king if partner does something else.

**Suzy Burger (3♦):** Waiting, encouraging, wanting further information. If partner bids 3 of a major, does he have some monster 6+ - 4? Or is it a cue?

**Jonathan Fleischmann (3♦):** In my partnerships with a standard 2♣ opening, a 3♦ rebid by responder functions as Stayman after a 3♣ rebid. I would expect partner to treat this situation similarly. I'll raise NT if that's partner's rebid, cuebid spades over clubs or hearts (not a second-round control of their suit), or raise spades to 5, hoping partner

reads this as values with no good control to bid.

**Dennis Kasle (3♦):** I am not sure what partnership agreement is over 2♣. Here, I would bid 3♦, and then 3♠ over 3♥ or 4♠ over 3♠.

**Sheldon Kirsch (3♦):** I hate the 2NT response, but it works out when partner has clubs. That being said, 3♦ gives us room to explore and show the nature of my hand.

**Irv Rosenstein (3♦):** Will raise clubs over 3-level bid by partner; possible slam in clubs or NT.

*Other ideas:*

**John Koschik (3♥):** Time to find out if we have a playable major.

**Gene Benedict (3♠):** Partner should know I have only four spades. A 4-4 spade fit could play a trick better than NT.

## TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

**June 11-16:** BAY CITY REGIONAL

**June 22-25:** Joint MBA/SOMBA 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:** NAP district final, Lansing

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

**Oct. 27-28:** Bloomfield Hills NLM sectional

**Oct. 27-29:** Midland sectional

*Four panelists chose to bid 4♣ (which is also my choice), thus taking the simple view that we have a club fit and will play there or in notrump. At least they have clarity on their side. And a 4-4 major fit may play worse than clubs or NT, especially if there are bad breaks.*

**Brenda Bryant** (4♣): I have the ♣Q, don't I?

**Chuck Burger** (4♣): Too good for 3NT. Cue bids and key card ask are set up. 6NT a likely landing spot.

**Joe Chiesa** (4♣): My 2NT bid was decidedly inconvenient. I would have passed 2♦ to await partner's rebid. I have now created a byzantine problem. Although 2NT should show 9-11 HCPs (few discuss this), 4NT should be quantitative, as I could have bid 4♣ prefatory to RKC, to establish trumps. Nonetheless, I choose 4♣ to simplify the auction.

**Dick Temkin** (4♣): I have good club support for this auction and have no reason to suppress it.

**Bob Katz** (3NT): Basically four options which all have their pluses and minuses: 3♠, 3NT, 4♣, 4NT (quantitative). So much of the hand is in diamonds and without the ace,

so I am taking the low road.

**Marilyn Maddox** (4NT): Ace-asking. Depending on responses, I will bid at least 6NT.

**Bob Webber** (6NT): Conditions have been made impossible by my 2NT bid. Pass, showing values, is so much better. I don't know what 4NT means now, so I'll bid what I think makes.

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

♠void ♥A54 ♦AQ10953 ♣K532

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

2♠ Pass 4♠ ?

Action	Score	Votes
5♦	100	6
Pass	90	5
Dbl	90	5
4NT	60	3

Bridgewinners: 5♦ 48; Dbl 39; Pass 14.

*Most of the panelists chose to act, which won't work out well if East is bidding on power. In that case, we probably will go for an ugly number. On the other hand, partner could have up to 12 or 13 HCPs with 3+ spades or short hearts. Fortunately, it's match-points (not IMPs or, shudder, rubber bridge) so we are at liberty to do what we think will work most of the time.*



*If we do act, what should we bid? Double will work well if partner has a spade trick or two, but we'll get to the wrong spot if partner bids 5♥ with, say, 3-4-3-3 pattern. 4NT is even worse, since that shows a two-suiter (or, for some, a three-suiter). Partner will probably respond 5♣ pretty much whenever he has three clubs or more. And if we remove that to 5♦ it will show a diamond-heart two-suiter.*

*So it looks like we are stuck with pass or my reluctant choice of 5♦.*

**Sheldon Kirsch** (5♦): A little thin on values, but they could be stealing us blind.

**Don Rumelhart** (5♦): Too great a chance that they are stealing from us. I prefer 5♦ to other calls as I expect a 5♠ call, and I want a diamond lead.

**Willie Winokur** (5♦): To quote my friend Floyd Sayed: "Best possible result...or best result possible?"

**Jonathan Fleischmann** (5♦): Anything could be right here, which is why preempts work. I prefer not to pass or double with a void and a good hand for offense. I've had zeroes before.

**John Koschik** (5♦): 4NT could unearth a better spot,

but the disparity in length/strength of my suits argues for diamonds.

**Marilyn Maddox** (4NT): Could overcall 5♦, but this bid gives room to hopefully find clubs as well as diamonds.

**Irv Rosenstein** (4NT): Hoping partner has longer diamonds than clubs!

**Brenda Bryant** (4NT): Don't really like it, but it's match-points.

**Gene Benedict** (Dbl): More flexible than 5♦ or 4NT. Even if we are slated to go down, the opponents often push to 5♠.

**Chuck Burger** (Dbl): Most flexible since playable in three suits. Pard can try 4NT with two suits. If he pulls, would like to have four hearts, but...

**Suzy Burger** (Dbl): Partner should pull for a make.

**Dick Temkin** (Pass): Ugh! Just not good enough to take action.

**Bob Brent** (Pass): Staying fixed, but avoiding a big penalty.

**Kurt Dasher** (Pass): Not enough to force to 5-level opposite a hand that could not bid over 2♠.

**Bob Katz** (Pass): Sometimes preempts do you in. And we might be plus here and not be able to take 11 tricks on offense.

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

♠A98752 ♥43 ♦AKQ7 ♣10

**WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH**

-- 1♣ 2♥ 2♠

3♥ 4♠ Pass ?

Action	Score	Votes
5♠	100	11
Pass	60	4
5♦	60	4
4NT	30	0

Bridgewinners: Pass 41; 5♠

31; 5♦ 13; 4NT 2.

*You could make a spade slam opposite as little as ♠KQxx ♥x ♦xxx ♣Axxxx, so a big move is fully warranted (but see comments from the passers, below). The majority of the panel takes the straight-forward approach by bidding 5♠, asking partner for second-round heart control.*

**Joe Chiesa** (5♠): Obligated to bid as ♠Kxxx ♥x ♦xxx ♣Axxxx yields a decent play for slam. Both 5♠ and 5♦ have their advantages, but prefer to simplify, as 5♠ facilitates 6NT from partner's side (with Kx of hearts) when that is right. 7♠ will be very difficult to reach. RKC will get us there, but

doesn't keep us out of 6♠ when we are off AK of hearts.

**Irv Rosenstein** (5♠): If partner has a heart control, slam will have a play.

**Don Rumelhart** (5♠): Too much to pass. Asks partner for a heart control.

**Dick Temkin** (5♠): Partner jumped to 4♠, and I, too, have extra values. How can I do less than 5♠?

**Willie Winokur** (5♠): Translation: Two losing hearts.

**Gene Benedict** (5♠): Does partner have a heart control?

**Marilyn Maddox** (5♠): Asks partner to bid 6♠ without two spade losers.

**Brenda Bryant** (5♠): Ask for heart control. Could we be off two aces? If so, why did partner jump to 4♠?

*Presumably, partner jumped to 4♠ because he has 14-16 points for spades, and we showed 10 or more when we bid 2♠. So partner could have a heart control but still be off two aces. For example: ♠KQxx ♥KQ ♦xx ♣KQ10xx. Therefore, it is probably better to show what we have and let partner decide. What we have is diamond control and values:*

**Kurt Dasher** (5♦): Cue bid. Partner can bid slam with club ace and without two quick heart losers.

**Sheldon Kirsch** (5♦): I'll give it one try.

**Chuck Burger** (5♦): Best way to get a heart control from partner. If he does bid 5♥, I will try for 7 with 6♦. Just need right minimum.

**Bob Brent** (5♦): Looking for a grand.

*On the other hand:*

**Suzy Burger** (Pass): Partner didn't bid 4♥ = control.

**Dennis Kasle** (Pass): Partner did not bid 4♥, so I will pass.

**John Koschik** (Pass): I'm better than I might be, but I still have two small hearts. Partner could have bid 4♥, but didn't, and that's the control I'm worried about.

**Jonathan Fleischmann** (Pass): This pains me, but I do not believe we have 5-level safety. Partner should not have first-round heart control for his non-cuebid. With ♠QJ10 ♥Kx ♦xxxx ♣AKJx opposite, a normal 4♠ bid, we are plenty high enough.

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

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

Action	Score	Votes
Pass	100	16
3♥	60	3
Dbl	40	0
4♣	20	0

Bridgewinners: Pass 75; 3♥ 23; Dbl 2.

*Partner rates to be short in clubs, therefore is more likely to have heart support. And heart support makes my hand very valuable. I could pass and hope he doubles, but I don't need him to have much to make a game. So I feel constrained to bid 3♥.*

**Chuck Burger** (3♥): Danger in bidding or passing. A bit of a personality decision. Spades may get lost.

**Dennis Kasle** (3♥): Partner did not open 2♦, so Pass or 3♥ seems right, but I bid 3♥ which could be a big mistake.

**Marilyn Maddox** (3♥): Not good enough to double in case partner bids diamonds.

*The big majority (some of whom, I know, would have opened 1♥ on this hand) is playing it safe.*

**Gene Benedict** (Pass): Since

partner should be short in clubs, he will balance if possible. If the opponents bid 3NT, I will reconsider.

**Bob Brent** (Pass): Maybe partner will protect with shortness in clubs. Dangerous to bid directly.

**Brenda Bryant** (Pass): Hope partner can balance as he/she should be short in clubs.

**Suzy Burger** (Pass): 3♥ too dangerous with unknown hand behind you. Partner may still be able to act with short clubs and major values.

**Joe Chiesa** (Pass): Clearly cannot double and thus are unlikely to find spades. Therefore making 4♥ is the only justification for 3♥ now. I have a 9-count with good defense, a bad heart suit, and a passed partner who may well yet enter the fray with short clubs. Making 4♥ is far less likely than a visit to the slaughterhouse (e.g., -800) after 3♥.

**Bob Katz** (Pass): Don't like -800.

**Sheldon Kirsch** (Pass): Not wanting to be a hero.

**Jonathan Fleischmann** (Pass): I must be getting conservative in my old age. At the prevailing colors and form of scoring, I'm going to avoid going for a big number and await developments.

**Irv Rosenstein** (Pass): No safety at the 3 level. Partner may be able to balance if LHO passes.

**John Koschik** (Pass): I'm nervous about passing, but I could be walking into a buzz saw. If partner balances with double or 3♦, I'll bid 3♥.

**Don Rumelhart** (Pass): Too risky to bid on this hand as partner is a passed hand and West is not. If West passes and partner has enough to balance, we will get to game.

**Dick Temkin** (Pass): Not enough HCPs and too many clubs to bid here. If partner is short in clubs, perhaps he will have enough to balance. If not, it may not be our hand.

**Bob Webber** (Pass): Too many clubs to enter light.

**Willie Winokur** (Pass): In tempo. I do have a partner.

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

♠AK104 ♥63 ♦KQ9 ♣Q863

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

-- -- 1♣ ?

Action	Score	Votes
--------	-------	-------

1♠	100	8
----	-----	---

Pass	90	7
------	----	---

1NT	70	4
-----	----	---

Dbl	30	0
-----	----	---

Bridgewinners: Pass 52; 1♠ 44; Dbl 5.

*We can pass and hope the opponents bid hearts so we can double at our next turn. However, passing with 14 HCPs doesn't work out well in my experience. Double is out with only two hearts. We could bid 1♠ or perhaps a stretched 1NT now and get this hand off our chest – but with the risk of getting (or already being) too high or to the wrong strain.*

*According to my notes, I would have bid 1NT (but that was three months ago).*

**Sheldon Kirsch** (Pass): Close between this and 1NT, but if partner is short in clubs I may have time to show this hand.

**Gene Benedict** (Pass): For me to overcall a four-card major, the hand has to be perfect with a side suit like Axxx. I might have a chance to bid later.

**Joe Chiesa** (Pass): As ignorance is forever busy, two alternatives emerge: 1) 1NT. Is this the hand to upgrade? 14 HCPs, no source of tricks and better defense than offense. 2) 1♠. In my mind, AK10x is not sufficient to overcall a four-card suit with this flat hand.

**Chuck Burger** (Pass): 1♠ has its charm, but three spades in partner's hand is not a lock. I

plan on bidding later. Don't like 1NT.

**Suzy Burger** (Pass): Pass for now. May find a way in later.

**Dick Temkin** (Pass): Could consider 1♠ if partner was a passed hand.

**Jonathan Fleischmann** (1♠): I doubt this will be a panel favorite. I'm more inclined than most to pass in these situations, as I dislike off-shape takeout doubles and light notrump overcalls. However, the hand strength and chunky four-card major give me an out on this hand. Also, I'm sick of passing.

**Bob Brent** (1♠): My late partner Norm Bolton always insisted that I act with 14 points, and he was right!

**Brenda Bryant** (1♠): I have 14 points. I need to do something.

**Don Rumelhart** (1♠): I have enough to enter this auction, however, I don't have the right distribution for a takeout double, and I am too weak to overcall 1NT. I certainly want a spade lead if partner ends up on lead.

**John Koschik** (1♠): Not my usual style, but I like it better than either Pass or 1NT.

**Bob Katz** (1♠): I don't like four-

card overcalls, but 1NT is worse.

**Bob Webber** (1♠): Clubs not good enough for 1NT.

**Willie Winokur** (1NT): No, my card is not marked 14-17.

**Kurt Dasher** (1NT): A point light, but have good spots.

**Marilyn Maddox** (1NT): Good 14 points. Prefer that bid to overcalling 1♠ or passing.

**Irv Rosenstein** (1NT): A little light, but I like the honors concentration; partner can use Stayman to find the possible spade fit.

## NEXT ISSUE'S HANDS

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

♠A32 ♥3 ♦A983 ♣AK863  
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
Pass Pass 1♥ Dbl  
Pass 3♦ 3♥ 4♥  
Pass 5♣ Pass 5♦

A. Do you agree with your Dbl? If not, what would you have bid?

B. Given the bidding to that point, do you agree with 4♥? If not, what would you have bid?

C. Given the bidding to that point, do you agree with 5♦? If not, what would you have bid?

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

♠8 ♥102 ♦AK97652 ♣K95  
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
Pass Pass 1♠ 2♦  
Pass 2NT Pass ?

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

♠Q6 ♥10986 ♦A2 ♣AJ1063  
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
— 1♦ Pass 1♥  
1♠ Pass\* 2♠ ?

\*Denies three hearts

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

♠AKQ10753 ♥K8 ♦AJ ♣Q6  
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
— — Pass 2♣  
Pass 2♦\* Pass 2♠  
Pass 3♠ Pass 4♦  
Pass 5♣ Pass ?

\*Artificial game force (usually 4+ HCPs)

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

♠K73 ♥void ♦AK2 ♣AKQ8653  
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
— — 1♥ ?

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

## Michigan State Sectional

March 23-26

### MASTERPOINT LEADERS:

- 1, Jerrold Grossman, 30.41
- 2, Lynne Schaeffer, 26.85
- 3, Sheldon Kirsch, 25.34
- 4, Jonathan Fleischmann, 24.19
- 5, Robert Katz, 23.23
- 6, Robert Mendelson, 21.39
- 7, Kurt Dasher, 19.92
- 8, Debra Eaves, 19.08
- 9, Cono Emanuele, 18.96
- 10, Wilbur Argersinger, 18.85

### THURSDAY AM PAIRS

**FLIGHT A:** 1, Cono Emanuele, Kurt Dasher. 2, Jonathan Fleischmann, Robert Katz. 3, Michael Crane, Richard Temkin. **FLIGHT B:** 1, David Aderente, James Walter. 2, Steve O'Guin, Dolores Bright. 3, Kathy Twomey, Suzanne McIlhiny. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Twomey, McIlhiny. 2, Arlene & Kenneth Geisler. 3, George Christian, Larry Cohen.

### THURSDAY SWISS TEAMS

**FLIGHT A:** 1, Michael Zerbini, Beth Armstrong, Suzy & Chuck Burger. 2, Michael Kaleel, Carolyn Simmer, Richard Menczer, John Dreifus. 3/4, Phyllis Cohn, Jonathan Fleischmann, Kurt Dasher, Cono Emanuele. 3/4, Alan Cohn, Robert Raf, Grant Petersen, Steven Jacob, Michael

McGaw. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Kaleel team. 2, Alan Cohn team. 3, Steve O'Guin, Dolores Bright, Charlotte Miller, Marilyn Crane. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Bob On-do, Barb Ferrera, Dennis Eben-dick, Joel Grossman. 2, Nancy Spence, Susan Michelotti, Barbara Button, Margie Ried. 3, Kenneth & Arlene Geisler, Latika Mangrulkar, Deepak Dighe.

### THURSDAY NIGHT PAIRS

**FLIGHT A:** 1, Kurt Dasher, Cono Emanuele. 2, Peter Bolgar, Jonathan Fleischmann. 3, Klaus Brondum, Martha Toon. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Brondum, Toon. 2, Allan Tushman, William Landrum. 3, Dennis Ebendick, Joel Grossman. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Brondum, Toon. 2, Ebendick, Grossman.

### FRIDAY AM PAIRS FLIGHT

**A:** 1, Brenda Jaffe, Walter Goldsmith. 2, Jerrold Grossman, Julie Kraus. 3, Dolores Bright, Charlotte Miller. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Gary Luoma, Rosemary Bailey. 2, Patricia & Allan Becker. 3, James Walter, Wilbur Argersinger. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Steven Kaplan, Larry Cohen. 2, Joel Grossman, Barb Ferrera. 3, Latika Mangrulkar, Deepak Dighe.

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS**

**FLIGHT A:** 1, Robert Mendelson, Suzy Burger. 2, Debra Eaves, Lynne Schaeffer. 3/4, Irving Rosenstein, Sheldon Kirsch. 3/4, Jerrold Grossman, Julie Kraus. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Harry Jagtiani, Frederic Fayle. 2, Murray Bloom, Gerald Bloom. 3, Richard Menczer, Carolyn Simmer. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Randy Walker, John Pouget. 2, James McNamara, Tyrone Loving. 3, Daniel Schiffer, Raj Patil.

**FRIDAY NIGHT PAIRS FLIGHT**

**A:** 1, C. Arthur Nevins, Jeanine Dow. 2, Clarke Cunningham, Genie Baker. 3, Charles & Susan Royer. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Cunningham, Baker. 2, Royers. 3/4, Jonathan Fleischmann, Phyllis Cohn. 3/4, James Wedell, Peter Bolgar.

**SATURDAY AM PAIRS**

**FLIGHTS A & B:** 1, Bob Rasmussen, Wilbur Argersinger. 2, Neil Manley Jr., Elaine Spiro. 3, Allan Tushman, William Landrum. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Paul Chirgwin, Ann Bickford. 2, James McNamara, Douglas Sweeder. 3, Steven Kaplan, Randy Rodnick.

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON**

**PAIRS FLIGHT A:** 1, James Smyth, Michael McGaw. 2, Joyce Bell, Charlotte Miller. 3,

Jagjit Singh, Katherine Jernigan. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Smyth, McGaw. 2, Singh, Jernigan. 3/4, Beverly Onisko, Dolores Bright. 3/4, Wilbur Argersinger, Bob Rasmussen. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Douglas Sweeder, James McNamara. 2, Ralph Raber, Sandra Bellner. 3, Randy Rodnick, Steven Kaplan.

**SATURDAY SWISS TEAMS**

**FLIGHT A:** 1/2, Robert Mendelson, Lynne Schaeffer, Sheldon Kirsch, Henry Shevitz. 1/2, Jerrold Grossman, Debra Eaves, Jack Shartsis, Michael Crane. 3, Grant Petersen, Sandy Birnholtz, Alan Cohn, Clarke Cunningham. **FLIGHT B:** 1, Petersen team. 2, Hilary Mahon, Cheryl Kreger, Ellen Silverest, Lakshmi Vora. 3, Ronna Galin, Robert Raf, Cheryl & James Bloom. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Mahon team. 2, Randy Walker, James Peresta, John Pouget, John Berry. 3, Bruce & Nanci Poling, Constance & John Wood.

**SUNDAY SWISS TEAMS**

**FLIGHT A:** 1, Steven Winkur, Frank Treiber III, Robert Katz, Brenda Bryant. 2, Jerrold Grossman, Sheldon Kirsch, Frank Sensoli, Bob Webber. 3, Martin Hirschman, Lynne Schaeffer, Susan & Gordon Parnes. **FLIGHT B:** 1,



James Walter, Lillian Back, Grant Petersen, Alan Cohn. 2, Michael McGaw, Nathan Banker, James Smyth, Neil Manley Jr. 3, Satish Shah, Jerome Hasenjager, Thomas Hunt, Ross Weinstein. **FLIGHT C:** 1, Theresa Bellinger, Rebecca Bellinger, Chelan Priller, James Wedell. 2, Renata Wasserman, Corey Powell, Klaus Brondum, Albert Sayed. 3, Inderpal & Martha Bhatia, Bob Ondo, Mark Hugger.

### **299er winners at March sectional**

**THURSDAY AM PAIRS:** Laurence & Barbara Schiff

**THURSDAY SWISS TEAMS:** Lisa Karam, James Korte, Carrie Osborne, Maria Conti

**FRIDAY AM PAIRS:** Chris Hill, Ann Margosian

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS:** William Ahlstrom, Douglas Sweeder

**SATURDAY AM PAIRS:** Gay Garcia, Constance Chapp

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS:** Lynn Martin, Janice McHale

**SUNDAY AM PAIRS:** Tengyun Tony Cao, Xiaoping Wu

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS:** Xiaoping Wu, Tengyun Tony Cao

## **IN MEMORIAM**

Martha Hooberman  
Beverly Riordan

### **BEVERLY RIORDAN**

Former MBA President and Executive Secretary Beverly Riordan died on May 8 in Ann Arbor. She was 88.

In addition to serving bridge, Riordan was an accomplished player. In 1984, she won the Mouser trophy, awarded annually to the District 12 member who wins the most points at the Motor City Regional. She also served as a contributing editor to Table Talk magazine in the 1960s and '70s.

In her non-bridge life, Riordan taught chemistry and biology at Ypsilanti High School and later worked as a lab instructor at Washtenaw Community College. She had five daughters, 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



## *Bye-bye Dr. Schaeffer:* **Lynne leads, leaves**

Lynne Schaeffer, one of the most successful Detroit-area players of the last two decades, has a 10-point lead in the 2017 Edward Stein Trophy Race. But she won't win it.

After racking up over 42 points in the Ann Arbor and March sectionals, Schaeffer, who won the Stein in 2000, packed up and moved to Portland OR in April. The retired Marygrove College professor of English has a daughter and grandson there. She is not planning to return to Michigan, and has transferred her ACBL membership to the Portland-area unit.

A native Detroiter, Lynne learned bridge from her parents, well-known local players Sid and Lorraine Heinrick. After some early success in her 20s and 30s, Schaeffer took 20 years off from bridge before returning with a vengeance in the early 1990s. She has dozens of regional wins and several top 10 finishes in NABC+ (so-called national) events. She is a Platinum LM with over 11,700 master-points.

The Stein is MBA's player of the year award. Only points

won in overall placings in the top flight or bracket of unlimited events count toward the Stein. Here are the standings with three tournaments to go (compiled by Bill Arlinghaus):

- 1, Lynne Schaeffer, 42.67
- 2, Robert Katz, 32.10
- 3, Jonathan Fleischmann, 29.56
- 4, Sheldon Kirsch, 29.02
- 5, Richard Temkin, 26.46
- 6, Irv Rosenstein, 24.77
- 7, Steven Winokur, 23.93
- 8, Marty Hirschman, 21.70
- 9, Mark Bendure, 19.71
- 10/11, Kurt Dasher, 18.96
- 10/11, Cono Emanuele, 18.96

## **GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS UPDATE**

Here are the winners of the District 12 finals of the Grand National Teams, held May 12-13 in Southfield. They will represent the district in the national finals at the Summer NABC in Toronto. **CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT:** Suzy & Chuck Burger, Martin Hirschman, Allan Falk. **FLIGHT A:** Jerrold Grossman, Dennis Kastle, Mark Bendure, Daniel Marcus. **FLIGHT B:** Grant Petersen, Alan Cohn, Michael Kraut, Thomas Thomson, Ching-Po Wang, Xingyu Zhang. **FLIGHT C:** Tengyun Tony Cao, Xiaoping Wu, Henry Zhang, Yanping Zhang

## **CANDIDATES WANTED**

The annual MBA board election will be held at the Motor City Regional in October. If you are interested in running for the board, contact election chair Owen Lien at 828-424-5905 or forcingpass@gmail.com.

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### **MOVING UP...**

#### **JUNIOR MASTER**

Sheila Kasselmann  
William Pressprich  
Donna Shea

#### **CLUB MASTER**

Peggy Blaylock  
Susan Royer  
Ann Solomon  
David E. Wood

#### **SECTIONAL MASTER**

Donna Dotson  
Daniel Rose  
Charles Royer

#### **REGIONAL MASTER**

Joyce Close  
Sharyanne Kollin  
Julian Prince

#### **NABC MASTER**

Pearl Lim  
Patty McCracken

#### **ADVANCED NABC MASTER**

Mark Hugger

#### **SILVER LIFE MASTER**

Joyce Kozma  
Penelope Rudolph

### **RUBY LIFE MASTER**

Sandy Birnholtz  
Marilyn Vander Velde  
James Walter

### **GOLD LIFE MASTER**

Jacqueline DeRouin

### **CONGRATULATIONS NEW LIFE MASTER**

Richard Gillam

### **WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS**

Marlene Johnson  
Kevin Kretschmann

### **WELCOME, TRANSFERS**

Ruthan Brodsky  
Julie Grygotis  
Michael Kaleel  
Mary Kraushaar  
Bill Landrum

## SOLUTION TO AT THE WHEEL

From back page

<b>NORTH</b>	
♠873	
♥A863	
♦A962	
♣Q10	
<b>WEST</b>	<b>EAST</b>
♠K	♠J642
♥Q92	♥J105
♦J854	♦103
♣76542	♣AK83
<b>SOUTH</b>	
♠AQ1095	
♥K74	
♦KQ7	
♣J9	

East had the AK of clubs and probably the Q or J of hearts (since West might have led a heart with QJx) or QJ10). Despite that, East did not open the bidding in third seat. So he is very unlikely to hold the king of spades. There also is some chance that East's 10 of diamonds is a singleton. In that case, if we take a losing trump finesse, West will give East a diamond ruff.

Therefore we should win the diamond return (in hand, preserving entries to dummy and keeping alive the possibility of finessing the 9 of diamonds for a heart pitch) and cash the ace of spades.

Assuming both defenders follow with low spades, declarer next should cross to the ace of hearts and finesse against East's hoped-for jack of spades. If that works, and there is no diamond ruff for East, declarer will get back in and run the remaining spades. That will squeeze either opponent in the red suits if he started with four or more of each or four+ diamonds and the QJ10 of hearts. Failing that, declarer will have to guess whether to take a third-round diamond finesse or play for the drop.

When this hand came up at the Bridge Connection, West actually held the singleton king of spades. When that dropped under the ace, declarer could cross to dummy and pick up East's jack of spades.

### Words of wisdom

from Larry Cohen's *To Bid or Not to Bid*

"Doubling with four trumps can create a big swing for the defenders. As against that, it will sometimes tip declarer off to the bad break."

"Experts throughout the world can be found bidding too much on the five level – over and over again."

## 30 Years

This spring is the 30th anniversary of my appointment as editor of Table Talk. During that time, I've produced over 100 issues. But I still have a backlog of articles that I didn't have room to print. The best of these leftovers appear on the following pages. – M.H.

### Letters from Willie

<b>NORTH</b>	
♠K32	
♥832	
♦K973	
♣432	
<b>WEST</b>	<b>EAST</b>
♠J94	♠A10
♥AQ76	♥954
♦AQJ86	♦10542
♣J	♣9765
<b>SOUTH</b>	
♠Q8765	
♥KJ10	
♦void	
♣AKQ108	

Against South's 4♠, West did not find the give-up-nothing lead of the ace of diamonds. The actual lead was the club jack. Declarer won and played a spade to the king and ace.

As you can see, if East gives pard a ruff, declarer emerges with 10 tricks. But if he, counterintuitively, returns

a heart... tada!... down one. The contract made at our table.

–Willie Winokur,  
January 21, 2013

How often when dealer passes and second seat opens a 14-16 1NT does the dealer pair have a grandee? Check out this hand played at the Bridge Connection:

Both vul. <b>Bert Newman</b>	
♠AJ9875	
♥K6	
♦AQ6	
♣86	
<b>Willie Winokur</b>	<b>Bob Crafton</b>
♠void	♠K32
♥10985432	♥AQ7
♦void	♦K10732
♣AJ10543	♣K9
<b>Bill Rouse</b>	
♠Q1064	
♥J	
♦J9854	
♣Q72	

I passed and Bert opened 1NT. After two passes, I reopened with 2♣ (clubs and a major). Eventually we languished in 5♥, making 7. [That was worth 6½ matchpoints out of 11. Two pairs were doubled in 5♥, and no one got to slam. –Ed.]

–Willie Winokur,  
December 27, 2015

## Bridge goes to Hollywood

By Marty Hirschman,  
May 2005  
(Updated)

What if everything was about bridge?! Here, I've recast (so to speak) movies as they would have been in a bridge-oriented universe.

*Chicago:* Richard Gere, Rene Zellweger and Catherine Zeta-Jones are three players looking for a fourth for four quick deals of bridge in the Windy City. Four deals. Chicago. Get it?

*10:* Bo Derek has a very long suit. Dudley Moore makes a fool of himself by doubling her.

*A Shot in the Dark:* Peter Sellers opens 7NT, bumbles his way to 13 tricks.

*Seven:* Kevin Spacey leads his singleton, then ruffs out Brad Pitt's queen.

*Black Widow:* Debra Winger drops the doubleton queen of spades before the black widow can do any more damage.

*Fargo:* Frances McDormand sends some out-of-town pros to the wood chipper at the North Dakota regional.

*Child's Play:* Chuckie and bride wipe out the opponents – literally – in the Junior Team Trials.

*Night of the Living Dead:* Charles Goren and Helen Sobel come back from the grave to win one last club championship.

*North by Northwest:* Cary Grant is a kibitzer who is conscripted to fill in with Eva Marie Saint at the Mount Rushmore regional.

*Boys from Brazil:* Gabriel Chagas and Pedro-Paulo Assumpcao lead their squad to victory in the Bermuda Bowl.

*Thelma and Louise:* Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon are two perennial losing club players who miss a cold Grand Slam and, in a moment of confusion and depression, try to compensate by going all Grand at the Canyon.

*Mr. and Mrs. Bridge:* Biopic on Ely and Josephine Culbertson.

*Hannah and Her Sisters:* Woody Allen coaches his wife and her sisters to defeat in the national Women's KO.

*Ship of Fools:* Standards of bridge play are low on this Caribbean cruise.

*Bob and Carol and Ted and*

*Alice:* Two suburban couples find success in the national Mixed Teams by swapping partners.

*Seven Days in May:* Only Kirk Douglas stands in the way of Burt Lancaster's evil plan to run the table at the Farmington Hills regional.

*The Longest Day:* John Wayne and Robert Mitchum play five sessions in 18 hours at the St. Mere Eglise sectional.

*Irma la Douce:* Shirley MacLaine is a small card who makes a big impression at the Montmartre duplicate.

*The Pianist:* Eric Rodwell plays the hotel piano between sessions (documentary).

*Reds:* Warren Beatty has a giant heart-diamond two-suiter.

*Diary of a Mad Housewife:* Based on the Bennett murder case, a Kansas City matron blows away her husband after he goes down in 4♠ (documentary).

*Bridge on the River Kwai:* Alec Guinness undertakes a high-level contract, but William Holden blows it up. 7♠? Double!

*A Bridge Too Far:* British team

is waylaid en route to the European championships.

*Diamonds Are Forever:* Sean Connery and Jill St. John bid to a distributional 6♦. They're a perfect fit!

*New Jack City:* Wesley Snipes and Ice-T open an inner city bridge club. Caveat for new members: Don't psych!

*The Ten Commandments:* Charlton Heston climbs Mount Sinai to bring back Barry Crane's rules for his partners.

*Braveheart:* Mel Gibson has a lot of hearts, but most of the honors in the deck are stacked against him.

*Sum of All Fears:* Ben Affleck's team is up by 12 IMPs, but opponents bid a windy vulnerable Grand Slam on the last board

*Mean Girls:* Typical Women's KO finals at an NABC

*Casino Royale:* Daniel Craig takes on the field at a Monte Carlo tournament

*300:* Gerard Butler of underdog Greece nails Persia for a small number in the Bermuda Bowl finals.

*Iron Man:* Robert Downey Jr. splits his honors. Not through the Iron Duke, er, Man.

## Eddie Kantar play

By Marty Hirschman,

October 13, 2007

IMPs

E-W vul.

### NORTH

♠K6  
♥103  
♦AQ54  
♣K9843

### WEST

♠Q103  
♥KQJ642  
♦K  
♣765

### EAST

♠952  
♥A97  
♦10862  
♣Q102

### SOUTH

♠AJ874  
♥85  
♦J973  
♣AJ

### SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♠	2♥	Dbl	Rdbl
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Opening lead: 6 of hearts

I'm trying to keep my head in the game on BridgeBase a few days ago, but after playing a few tricks on this deal, I'm thinking about Eddie Kantar and a 32-year-old hand.

In the diagrammed deal, my partner tried 5♦ after finding out we have no heart stopper for 3NT. East's redouble showed a high heart honor, so West led a cute 6 of hearts. East won the ace and re-

turned the 9. West won and played a third heart, giving me a ruff-sluff that attacks my trump holding but doesn't really help me because I have no sure loser to pitch.

I ruff in dummy and throw a spade from hand. Next I lead a club to the ace and play a low diamond. Out comes West's king, and, just like that, I'm back with Eddie Kantar at the 1975 Bermuda Bowl.

With five boards to go in the desperately close final between Italy and the U.S., Belladonna and Garozzo overbid to a truly horrible 7♣, and Kantar is on lead sitting behind the club bidder with K10 doubleton of clubs and expecting as a result to very shortly be crowned a world champion. But after he leads, he sees AQ doubleton of clubs hit in dummy behind him, and depression sets in. Belladonna, the declarer, has only six clubs to the J98xxx. but he gamely wins the opening lead in hand and plays a club to Kantar's 10 and dummy's queen, cashes the ace and soon claims 13 tricks.

Italy wins the championship, and later everyone is saying Kantar should have played the king when the club was led toward the AQ, and Belladonna says he then would



have played Kantar's partner Billie Eisenberg for 10xxx of clubs and gone down while trying to pull off a trump coup.

Back on BridgeBase, these musings lead me to the winning line. I capture the king of diamonds with the ace, then play three rounds of spades ruffing low in dummy. When East has to follow, I'm home: king of clubs, club ruff, spade ruff with the queen while East underuffs. Then, at trick 12, a club play from dummy lets me score the J9 of trumps over East's 108. Making 5.

If West had been dealt the K10 of diamonds and made the "Eddie Kantar play" of going up with the king of diamonds when I first led toward dummy, and then I played the hand the way I did, West would have been able to over-ruff with the 10 at trick 12. I would have gone down, but it would have made for a great column.

## Shuffle 'em up!

It takes just seven ordinary, imperfect shuffles to mix a deck of cards thoroughly, researchers have found. Fewer are not enough and more do not significantly improve the mixing.

[Persi Diaconis, a mathematician and statistician at Harvard University, who did the research,] has found that many bridge players take advantage of the non-randomness of seemingly shuffled cards. He said a bridge club in New York State once consulted him...to find out whether several players were cheating...These players had figured out that the cards were not being randomly shuffled and that they could predict the distributions of cards by knowing what the deck looked like at the end of the previous hand.

The players "admitted to it readily," Dr. Diaconis said. "But they didn't think they were doing anything wrong. After all, they were just thinking." The club asked those players not to play together for a year.

[The bridge] encyclopedia "used a computer to figure out the odds," Dr. Diaconis said. "...Some of these odds were at variance with expert play. The experts had intuited — correctly — the actual ways the cards were shuffled. People thought the encyclopedia was wrong."

—*New York Times*,  
January 9, 1990

## Don't Cover

By Mary Smith, updated  
from the early 2000s

Most of us learned to "cover an honor with an honor." This advice is not an oversimplification, it's just plain wrong.

The late, great Rick Kaye would tell his partners to stop automatically covering honors, especially in the opponents' trump suit.

You should cover only when there is a reasonable chance to promote a trick (or more) for your side, either in your hand or partner's.

A good general guideline is don't cover the first of two or more "touching" (i.e., equal) honors, although you should sometimes cover the second time.

After the opening lead is made, take a second or two to look at the dummy and decide if an honor is led whether or not you will cover, so when declarer gets around to that suit, you will be ready to duck, hopefully smoothly.

Here are some don'ts, with explanations:

1. Don't cover the first of two touching honors, for example, if dummy leads an honor from QJxxx. Partner or declarer might have singleton ace.

2. Don't cover if declarer leads the jack and dummy has six or more of the suit. For example:

	<b>A87xxx</b>	
<b>K9</b>		<b>Q</b>
	<b>J10xx</b>	

3. If you are not 100 percent sure, don't cover in the opponents' trump suit. Don't help declarer locate missing honors, particularly the queen, by covering:

a. KJxx opposite A1098x. Most bridge players know to cash the AK, playing for the drop ("...nine never") but it cannot hurt to start by leading the jack, possibly inducing a cover. Don't cover with Qxx! Declarer is planning to go up ace and cash the king.

b. J97xx opposite K108x. Most players start with the jack. Then if the next player plays low, they think it's a 50-50 guess whether to let the jack ride or go up with the king. By the way, it's vastly superior to let the jack ride. But don't make it easy for declarer by covering with the queen (or ace) from Ax, AQx, AQxx, Qx or Qxx.

c. QJxx opposite A987 is a bit more complicated. I have seen experts "automatically" cover the queen with the king from Kx. When they do, declarer's best play is to win the

ace, then lead the 9, 8 or 7 and finesse, which will win. So don't cover the queen. Do you see declarer's losing option? After the queen holds, she may well lead the jack, playing you for Kxx and partner for 10x. (However, if declarer doesn't have the 98, it will be better for you to cover; if you don't he will just cash the ace on the second round of the suit. I said it was complicated!) Of course if you started with K10 or K9, you should

cover unless you think declarer has more than four of the suit.

4. J10x opposite Axx. If declarer leads the jack and you cover with the king or queen, declarer can win the ace and lead back toward the 10 to get a second trick – unless you started with KQx(xx). If you have just the K or Q and you play low on the jack, then cover the 10 if it is led the next time, you will hold declarer to one trick.

## Sam at the Wheel

<b>NORTH</b>	
♠J10x	
♥A97x	
♦xx	
♣AKQx	
<b>WEST</b>	<b>EAST</b>
♠x	♠AQ87
♥xx	♥Q108xx
♦KJ10xxx	♦A
♣9xxx	♣10xx
	♠K9xxx
	♥KJ
	♦Qxxx
	♣Jx

Sam Hirschman declared 4♠ after East overcalled hearts.

Tr. 1: Heart-x-10-J

Tr. 2: J of clubs-x-x-x

Tr. 3: Club-x-A-x

Tr. 4: J of spades-Q-K-x

Tr. 5: Spade-diamond-10-ace

Tr. 6: Club-diamond-x-Q

Tr. 7: Spade-7-9-diamond

Tr. 8: K of hearts-x-x-x

Tr. 9: Spade to East's 8

Down to all hearts and the ace of diamonds, East had to lead into dummy's heart tenace, so three of declarer's diamond losers were discarded on the hearts and last club. Making 4.

Note the key play of cashing the king of hearts at trick 8. Otherwise, East would be able to cash his ace of diamonds and get out safely with a heart.

Nice technique, son.

—M.H., sometime in the last 30 years

# **AT THE WHEEL** **By Marty Hirschman**

Matchpoints.

Both vul.

	<b>NORTH</b>	
	♠873	
	♥A863	
	♦A962	
	♣Q10	
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>
	<b>SOUTH</b>	
	♠AQ1095	
	♥K74	
	♦KQ7	
	♣J9	

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

**All Pass**

\*Limit raise of spades

Opening lead: 7 of clubs

East wins the opening lead with the king of clubs, cashes the ace of clubs and gets out with the 10 of diamonds.

Plan the play.

Solution, page 20.