

MPLS Grand Slam Club

September 16, 2011

Membership Game

Mike Cassel, Newsletter Coordinator, mc2mikec@aol.com

Friday Evening Pairs Friday Eve Session September 16, 2011

Scores after 9 rounds Average: 108.0 Section A North-South

Pair	Pct	Score	Adjust	Rank	O/A	MPs	
6	61.34	132.50	0.00	1	3	2.06(O)	Kerry Holloway - Bob Balderson Jr
1	54.17	117.00	0.00	2	4	1.55(O)	Dan Knier - Thomas Knier
3	52.78	114.00	0.00	3		0.92(S)	Diane Henson - Larry Henson
9	51.62	111.50	-2.00	4/5		0.51(S)	Harold Dodson - Diane Warner
12	51.62	111.50	0.00	4/5		0.51(S)	Joseph Barrett - Tim Barrett
11	49.07	106.00	0.00				Paul Gutterman - Eric Hendrickson
2	47.92	103.50	0.00				Linda Brammer - Timothy Adamson
7	47.92	103.50	0.00				Jason Bribitzer-Stull - Matthew Bribitzer-Stull
8	47.45	102.50	0.00				Peg Waller - Bill Parker
5	45.83	99.00	0.00				Charles Nauen - Jonathan Cohen
10	45.83	99.00	0.00				Cezanne Martin - Carol Rynders
4	43.52	94.00	0.00				Daniel McIntyre - John Miller

Friday Evening Pairs Friday Eve Session September 16, 2011

Scores after 9 rounds Average: 108.0 Section A East-West

Pair	Pct	Score	Adjust	Rank	O/A	MPs	
3	61.81	133.50	0.00	1	1	3.67(O)	Ronald DeHarpporte - Tim Wernz
6	61.57	133.00	0.00	2	2	2.75(O)	Nancy Meeden - Glen Meeden
1	53.47	115.50	0.00	3	5	1.16(O)	Mark Krusemeyer - John Minton
2	53.24	115.00	0.00	4	6	0.87(O)	Sam Larson - Richard Lawson
10	51.16	110.50	0.00	5		0.37(S)	Verda Gould - Cecil Frank
12	50.46	109.00	0.00				Carole Miner - Cynthia Balderson
8	49.77	107.50	0.00				John Crouch - William Drake
4	48.15	104.00	0.00				Brian Crossley - Julie Tigges
9	46.30	100.00	0.00				John Stansbury - Bruce Boje
11	43.98	95.00	0.00				Eunice Smith - Gary Smith
5	41.67	90.00	0.00				David Neiman - John Stern
7	38.43	83.00	0.00				Dorothy Hardon - Dennis Kampa

Get the MGSC game results online at Acbl.org : Club Results : Minnesota : Minneapolis :

This week's results: <http://clubresults.acbl.org/Results/101691/2011/09/110916E.HTM>

MGSC KOs: Registration Deadline is gametime on September 30

Julie Tigges, our KO Coordinator invites you to register on our website: Teams can register their at <http://grandslammn.org/specialEvents/KOTeams.php>, or they can contact me at jj2@pro-ns.net or 612 201 4473. If anyone needs help forming team, they should contact me.

I plan to draw for matchups on the 30th.

For the veterans, same format as before. For newer members, it's a double elimination KO event. Teams agree on a time and place to play (usually the Bridge Center on a week night). The event takes place throughout the fall, usually ending in November.

Having good snacks is a club tradition... they don't appear magically. Sign up on this year's treat schedule at <http://grandslammn.org/calendar.php>.

Everyone on our expanded membership list will receive weekly newsletter this weekend next week. Only paid up members will receive the September 30 newsletter and the accompanying 2011-2012 MGSC Membership list. Your \$20 membership confers 4 evenings of free play (offsetting the entire membership fee), the weekly newsletter, the best game in town with free coffee and treats, and a well-subsidized end-of-year party.


We will gladly accept your \$20 until the end of the month. You can also mail your membership check to Ron DeHarpporte, 7021 Weston Circle, Edina MN 55439-1954.

Next week will be our Club Night #1. Play for free if you join before gametime.

9/9/11 bonus

Bob Balderson spotted this beautiful endplay from the Win-A-Membership Game:

Board 26 was a hidden gem Friday (9/9).

Board 26	♠ —	
East Deals	♥ Q J 9 6 4 3	
Both Vul	♦ Q J	
	♣ Q 10 7 4 3	
♠ A Q 8 5 2		♠ J 9 6 3
♥ K 10 8 5		♥ A 7
♦ K 8 2		♦ A 4
♣ K		♣ A J 9 6 5
	♠ K 10 7 4	
	♥ 2	
	♦ 10 9 7 6 5 3	
	♣ 8 2	

Kurt decided to upgrade [the East hand] to a 15-17 notrump.

So, I drove to slam, via Stayman

He received the diamond ten lead, which he won in hand with the ace to play a spade to the queen, RHO showing out (this is technically the correct play in spades because either opponent could have KTxx).

From here we eventually finished down 1, but double-dummy, the hand is cold.

After getting the news in spades, play a spade to your jack. LHO wins and and on any return except a heart, you can squeeze RHO in clubs and hearts.

If, LHO returns a heart, you must make the counter-intuitive play of winning with the king in the dummy. Then, diamond, diamond ruff with the 9, finesse the spade 8, and run trumps to reach the following 4-card ending:

--- T9s ----- K

--- A ----- AJx

RHO, who has the QJ of hearts and the queen of clubs is caught in a cross-cross squeeze: whichever suit they unguard you can set up.

Very Cool!

Membership Game Highlights

A single matchpoint separated the top three pairs in the sectionally rated 12 table Membership Game. These three pairs were all 2 boards ahead of the rest of the field. Congratulations to Mr.'s Wernz and DeHarpporte for their victory. The Meeden's were a mere .5 matchpoints behind also sitting EW, and the Holloway /B. Balderson pair topped the NS field .

Thanks to John Minton for another tasty submission from Friday's game:
Fish are Biting

In poker players like me are known as “fish,” easy prey for predators who make a living at the game. Fish often appear at bridge games as well and are eagerly awaited by experienced players.

Bill Parker, playing with his daughter Peg (Waller), knows all about fish, and when we arrived at his table to play Board 5 Friday night, he knew exactly what lure to use. After Peg opened 1 club with the North hand, Bill bid 2NT with AJ852, AJ2, KJ6, 62. Since 2NT was forcing, Peg raised him to game.

The trap was set. On lead with 976, 84, A72. KT954, I convinced myself that a club lead after that auction was futile and that partner (Mark Krusemeyer) was marked with a spade suit. Accordingly, I bit on the attractive lure and placed the spade 9 on the table. Bill had no trouble gathering 11 Tricks [ed. all the matchpoints] and was pleased with the fact that the fish were biting.

John Minton

On Deck

9/23 This Friday is our Club Night #1. Play for free if you pony up the \$20 membership fee before gametime..

9/30 Regular Game last night to join MGSC and receive the 2011-2012 membership list.

10/7 Club Appreciation Team Game As you are putting your MGSC KO team together you might make plans to play in our first ever IMP Team game. A club appreciation team game has a full sectional rating at no additional entry fee. Here are the contest conditions:

Imp Team Game

- **Imp scores compared to entire field in your direction. Your imp score on each board will be based on the difference between your raw score and every other result your direction: cross-imps.**

- **BAM movement**

- **Net Imp Score for your team (+ Imps less – Imps) are aggregated from both N-S and E-W pairs for IMP Team Overall awards.**

10/14 No Game Autumn Harvest Sectional

Upcoming Venue Changes: Conflicts at the Richfield Community Center will have us at the TCBC on October 21and December 9. Please note this on your calendars.

-Mike

Peg Waller has unearthed 1/5 hours of interviews that Jim Hall did with Grant Baze in October of 1984. The material was published by Jim early in 1985 in the MGSC newsletter. The first segment (about 1/3 of the interview) follows below:

Jim Hall interviews Grant Baze

AN INTERVIEW WITH GRANT BAZE AND RHODA WALSH

by Jim Hall

Patti Stuhlman pencilled me in for 4-5 weeks of GSC bulletin writing back in August. I began thinking about possible topics and one idea came to mind shortly. How about interviewing the bridge player who was likely to set the record for most masterpoints won in a single year, Grant Baze?

Dick Melson & I were scheduled to play on Grant & Rhoda's KO and swiss teams in Sioux Falls in October & also an opening swiss & mens swiss in Lake Geneva in November. The problem was, when should I ask for the interview? If Melson & I played low early in the week & we got knocked out, Baze may have told me what I could do with my interview. Like why don't you interview Barry, you've helped him more than me this week? Timing is everything. I decided to "trust the beef" & myself by waiting until everyone could sleep in (no morning KO's). We lost in the finals of the KO on Friday so I approached them with my request for an interview. They were quite happy & enthusiastic to oblige.

They invited me to their room after the evening session on Friday, so armed with my tape recorder & no prior experience as a reporter the interview began. Before I begin let me set the scene. I interviewed Grant & Rhoda on October 19, 1984. At that time Barry Crane was breathing down Baze's neck. The masterpoint totals were: BAZE 2518 CRANE 2412 WALSH 2022. The interview lasted 1½ hours & before we get to the question & answer portion I'll detail some of the things learned in the hour and a half.

The entire year they have pretty much played bridge 6 days a week & traveled on Monday, which they say is their toughest day. Packing & unpacking six large suitcases, waiting in airports & changing planes 2 & 3 times in some cases, checking into a new hotel & unpacking again makes for a long day. Rhoda acts as the travel agent & Grant as the pack horse. She makes hotel & airline reservations, pays bills, calls the answering service in L.A. for messages etc. They gave up their condo the beginning of the year & stored their furnishings. They carry everything with them.

They tend to eat breakfast in the room & dinner out. I noticed, and they confirmed, that they don't scrimp on anything. They fly to most tournaments, stay in the best hotels, & eat in the fine restaurants. First cabin all the way. They both prefer to eat light before playing bridge. Food apparently isn't real important to either as they are trim, in Rhoda's case, & downright skinny in Grant's case. Grant lost 20 pounds just after his skin cancer operation in the middle of the year (he's feeling fine) & has been unable to put it back on. Rhoda does aerobic exercises for an hour each day. Grant gets no exercise to speak of other than smoking what appears to be 2-3 packs a day. They take 30 vitamin pills a day, eat no red meat, consume no sugar, salt, coffee, alcohol, & nary a coke or diet cola. Neither one have read a newspaper the entire year. If the world is threatened they figure they'll hear about it at the next tournament site. Rhoda reads books on nutrition & listens to instructional tapes on a variety of subjects. Grant reads novels & bridge books. Neither watch much if any TV. Rhoda, in addition to acting as the travel agent has also kept track of everything to do with their "McKenney year". Kept track of their exact points-won (& Barry's too) so they don't make the same mistake the hideous one did last year (not knowing his exact point totals going into the last week of the year), & also jotting down a lot of hand & anecdotes. She also keeps track of who they played with, who their teammates were, etc. When I asked them if a book on "their year" was forthcoming they said no, they didn't think so. They did, however, leave open the possibility of changing their minds and publishing something in the future.

JIM: The McKenney chase. Was it planned or did you just start fast & decide to go for it?

RHODA: Late last summer or early fall Barry Crane suggested Grant go for it & that he would help him (play with him, help line up partners & teammates etc).

GRANT: Barry didn't mean necessarily in '84, but some year in the near future. I decided, what the hell, I'll try in '84. The first week of the year we went to Florida to play & then to Colorado Springs. The 3rd week, in Monterey, we had a falling out & its been him against me ever since.

JIM: It seems like Barry needs a confrontation with someone every year. If he doesn't strike one up with someone who is opposing him he'll strike one up with someone he is backing (such as Ron Andersen). If there isn't any friction he'll stir some up.

GRANT & RHODA: That's right (agree in unison).

JIM: Last year it was Linda Peterson, a few years back Skolnik.

RHODA: And years ago it was Hermine (Baron). They still haven't spoken to each other for what must be close to 20 years now.

JIM: As we talk it is nearing the end of October. How is the race going?

GRANT: Things went along real well till Labor Day when I decided to go to San Francisco (his home town) rather than Shreveport or El Paso. At the time I was 300 ahead of Barry. I had a 25 point tournament in San Francisco & the next week 15 at Louisville. I just got wiped out and Barry gained over 150 points in 2 weeks.

JIM: There's a lot of ebb & flo though. It's tough to stroke out 90 or 100 every week. You have some breaks when you get 120 & you have to have some down periods too.

GRANT: Right.

RHODA: The 3 weeks starting with Labor Day Barry beat us. The last 3 weeks we have done better than Barry. I'm confident Grant will beat Barry & break Ron Andersen's record (2994) in the process.

GRANT: Last week in Las Vegas it was exciting on the week-end. Neither Barry or I had done much until Saturday. On Saturday Mike Smolen & I had 431. Barry was 2nd with 424. In the Swiss on Sunday Bary won & I was 2nd. Although I didn't gain much ground for the week it hopefully has turned things around for me.

JIM: A lot of us this week think Barry made a tactical error going to Detroit instead of Sioux Falls. He's done fairly well in "frontierland" in the past. I'm surprised not to see him here.

RHODA: Maybe Caravelli wouldn't come here.

GRANT: He has to work for a couple of weeks coming up. Maybe he couldn't fly out of here Sunday night and get to work by Monday. I know he's lined up very solid for the rest of the year with Kerri (Shuman) & Ron.

RHODA: He's calling in his markers. He'll fly people in to play with him (Kerri is with him in Detroit now) & in some cases cover their expenses. In order to get his pros to come to a tournament he'll sometimes provide a client for them.