

WUMBA Bridge Trivia Answers

1. WUMBA Sectionals have been held in three states. Wisconsin and the UP of course, and at the Holiday Inn in South Beloit, IL --- just south of the state line. The total is “almost” four, as one year the La Crosse Sectional was played in a hotel on French Island, on the Mississippi River between La Crosse and La Crescent, MN. French Island is part of Wisconsin.

That tournament was held during the summer, and the Saturday event was still a two session Open Pairs. We had time after dinner to wander outside to the outdoor bar located on the river’s edge --- The Bikini Yacht Club. There was a large number of people there from a wedding. Live music. And don’t forget the bikini clad bar maids. The wedding guests started a conga line. Which we were contemplating joining when the late Bhola Singh, oblivious, as was often the case with Bhola, aimlessly meandered through the line. A few minutes prior to game time a nervous director, John Fourness, came outside looking for the bridge players. He said it was game time, and I said, “So?” He responded that we were leading. I told him, “John, I have won countless sectional bridge events. But this is my maiden voyage at this establishment, and I am rather enjoying it.”

2. The first WUMBA newsletter was *The WUMBA Finesse*. Ron Anderson was the Editor-Publisher, and Sue Picus was the co-editor. The newsletter was inaugurated on a trial basis, with the first issue published in August 1970. And the third, and final, issue, published in December 1970. Sometime not too long after, Mr. Anderson departed the Madison bridge scene; going to Wichita, KS; where I believe he had an offer to run a bridge club.
3. The “expert” guest of the September 1971 Madison Regional, nearly 50 years ago, was a British gentleman who wrote the bridge column for *The New York Times* --- Alan Truscott. While we were working on the newsletter one night, he gave us a very clever definition of a “subscription”; which, unfortunately, I do not remember. He wrote a daily column for the newsletter, featuring a hand that had been in play that day.
4. False. In 2018 Ripon was the largest with 202 tables, but in all other years, after the first three years, Ripon has been the second largest to Minocqua. But we are spotting them two sessions --- our seven to their nine. In average tables per session Ripon has been first for many years.
5. Three is not the total number. I have listed five. There may be more than five, but I would require documentation for any you propose. Four of the five are white males, which is so Republican.

- Rosemary Hinkfuss – The lone Democrat on the list; from the Green Bay area she served three terms beginning in 1988. The first woman member of the Green Bay Packers’ Board of Directors. She achieved the rank of Life Master.

- Greg Underheim – represented the Oshkosh area for 20 years, 1987 to 2007. He then served as an aide to US 6th District Representative Tom Petri, retiring when Congressman Petri retired in January of 2015. Greg played bridge back in the late 1960s; and started playing again after he retired. Greg is also a Life Master.

- Robert J. Larson – first elected in 1978. Now retired. Represented the north-central part of the State. He and his wife have played in Minocqua, and I believe also at the Eau Claire Regional.
- Robert Quackenbush – represented the Sparta area from 1971 to 1983.
- Mark Catlin Jr. - a lawyer from Appleton who served in the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1937-1943, 1949-1951, and 1953-1957. He served as Speaker of the Assembly in the 1955 session. Mr. Catlin passed away in 1987. In 1957, the State Bar of Wisconsin found Catlin guilty of unethical conduct. The ruling was upheld by the Wisconsin Supreme Court and he was fined \$1500 and his law license was suspended for six months. I don't know the reason(s), but believe it involved legal work Mr. Catlin did for Wisconsin's infamous Senator, "Tail Gunner Joe" McCarthy.

Mr. Catlin's most frequent bridge partner was John Fourness, and on October 1, 1970 Mr. Catlin was 11th on the WUMBA masterpoint list with 848 masterpoints.

6. The Green Bay Regional was held at the Brown County Arena. On Sunday of the tournament the Packers were playing a home game. Parking was optional. Tournament co-chairs, Dr. Bill Horne and his wife Bunny, were able to get former Packer great Ray Nitschke to draw for the grand prize, an autographed GBP football, prior to the Swiss Teams. Leaving time for Mr. Nitschke to head across the street to the Packer game.

And the winner? Don Rehfeldt from Wisconsin Rapids, WI. And his athletic prowess? He was a first team All American basketball player in 1950, his senior year at Wisconsin. At the time of his graduation, he was the leading scorer in Wisconsin history with 1041 points. As of October 1, 1970 Mr. Rehfeldt ranked 27th on the WUMBA Life Master list with 484 masterpoints.
7. We played the afternoon session in a beautiful room. Alas, at night that room was reserved for a wedding reception. So we had loud music to deal with in our new playing area, the deck surrounding the swimming pool. There was a sign on the door to the swimming pool that said it was closed until 11:00 p.m. Now imagine you had brought the family to the hotel for the weekend, I believe this was February – Marchish, and the pool was closed. The last round wasn't finished at 11:00 p.m. But it mattered not to the hotel patrons. I don't blame them. Keep the cards dry was the common refrain. Based on my score I would have been better off going swimming, and I am not a good swimmer.
8. Play was temporarily halted while we all went to the window to watch this rather large Black Bear who had wandered down to check out the dumpster at the Northwoods Supper Club. When play resumed one player blamed a bad result on the fact that he couldn't remember what had been played. I should have thought of that excuse.

Double Dummy Solution.

Six notrump can always be made. Win the diamond lead in dummy, and lead a heart towards your hand, intending to insert the nine. But east thwarts that by inserting the jack. Kiss the second heart hand entry goodbye. Lead a low spade towards the jack. West flies the queen; and exits with the king of clubs. Your last hand entry gone. Now there is no entry to the long spades.

However, you parry this by leading a red card to dummy and running your five red suit winners. Dummy's last four cards are the jack of spades, a losing diamond, and the queen-nine of clubs. You retain the AK86 of spades, or AK8 of spades and the five of clubs. It matters not.

And for his last four cards west holds the 1097 of spades and the J10 of clubs. Whoops; it can't be done.

And east? As is often the case on squeeze hands, east is irrelevant.

Embarrassment at Bridge

Recently *Bridge Winners* had a chat on the worst play you have ever seen, or the funniest comment you have ever heard at the bridge table. Some of the plays, and comments, were hilarious. As for the worst play? I suspect all of us could fill a large tome with our miscues. I could write a trilogy consisting solely of "World-Wide Zeroes." Adding at the end, "To Be Continued."

But I thought I would contribute something that didn't occur at the table; and would be considered peripheral to the game.

We were playing in a weekday two-session regional Swiss Teams in Lake Geneva. I was playing with Duane Steinhauer, and our teammates were Shirley Maddox and Nancy Rane. We had to eat a quick fast-food dinner after the first session, as Duane had to go to a District #13 meeting between sessions.

I had taken a week of vacation for the tournament; and had a room at the Grand Geneva. So, prior to the second session, Nancy, Shirley and I were in my room doing what bridge players are always doing --- discussing bridge hands. I should note that in those halcyon days it was primarily females playing in weekday events. The only males likely to be playing were either bridge professionals or retired gentlemen. I was never in the former category, and, at that time, not yet in the latter.

As we left the room to return to the playing site for the second session, the hallway was full of players, nearly all females, on their way back to the playing site. Seeing one gentleman and two ladies emerge from the same room led to some arched eyebrows. Soon transformed into daggered glares when Nancy leaned up and kissed me on the cheek, and said, quite loudly, "Thank you Lee; that was wonderful!" Emphasizing "wonderful." The only two not shooting daggers at me were Nancy, who was wearing a Cheshire Cat smile, and Shirley, who was laughing.

Caught totally unawares, I was speechless, as difficult as that may be to believe. Had I been prepared, the proper response would have been to stop, put my arm around Nancy, and say, quite loudly, "I think Duane and Shirley should be able to find a substitute pair."

I should note that Nancy nearly always bettered me in this type of verbal jousting. And this was her crowning achievement.