

# TABLE TALK

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

VOL. 64 No. 1

WINTER 2023

## WINTER 2022-23 BRINGS STRONGER RETURN TO TOURNAMENTS

Michigan tournaments are moving towards pre-COVID attendance faster as of this Winter. The table to the right displays the percentage of recent table counts compared to the average of the two tournaments just prior to COVID. Beginning in November with the SOMBA Apple Cider Sectional, attendance has been at 50%+, even with the recent Valentine Sectional only running for three days this year for the first time.

Tournament	Attendance vs. Pre-Covid	
	Yr. 1	Yr. 2
MBA Michael Graham Sectional (Jan.)	<b>39%</b>	<b>57%</b>
SOMBA Valentine Sectional (Feb.)	<b>42%</b>	<b>50%</b> (3-day)
MBA Chuck Burger Sectional (Mar./Apr.)	<b>39%</b>	---
SOMBA Wolverine Regional (May)	<b>37%</b>	---
MBA-SOMBA Joint Sectional (June)	<b>45%</b>	---
MBA Russell Roosen Sectional (Aug.)	<b>44%</b>	<b>46%</b>
MBA Motor City Regional (Oct.)	<b>46%</b>	<b>45%</b>
SOMBA Apple Cider Sectional (Nov.)	<b>44%</b>	<b>50%</b>

## BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER?

An ACBL search committee is seeking candidates for Executive Director for the third time in five years, signalling turbulence in leadership that has some members worried. Reports from the ACBL Advisory Council indicate that no

candidates at this point are “outstanding,” but that the Search Committee will come to a decision in the coming months. Former ACBL Executive Director Joe Jones resigned from the position in Fall 2022. The Directors of Operations and  
*Cont'd, pg. 14*

FEATURES & COLUMNS

- 1, 14 | ACBL Turbulence
- 3, 16 | Remembering Zeke Jabbour
- 4 | MBA News + Updates
- 4 | 2022 MBA Financial Report
- 5 | D12 & ACBL News + Resources
- 6 | It's Your Bid Expert Panel
- 12 | Intermediate/Newcomer Nook
- 13 | Hand patterns quiz answers
- 15 | Test your defense solution

PEOPLE & EVENTS

- 2 | D12 Tournament Schedule
- 3 | New Members
- 3 | MBA Trophy Winners
- 5 | In Memoriam
- 5 | GNT District Qualifier
- 11 | Tournament Results
- 14-15 | New ACBL Milestones
- 18 | MP Race Winners
- 19 | Club Directory



2023 DISTRICT 12 TOURNAMENTS

- Mar 30-Apr 2:** Chuck Burger Sectional.....*Bridge Connection*
- May 11-13:** Grand Rapids Sectional.....*East Congregational Church*
- May 15-21:** Wolverine Regional.....*Bridge Connection*
- June 3-4:** Kalamazoo Sectional.....*Kalamazoo Bridge Club*
- June 16-17:** Lansing Sectional.....*Unitarian Universalist Church*
- June 22-25:** Ken Van Cleve Joint Sectional.....*Bridge Connection*
- June 23-24:** Petoskey Sectional.....*Petoskey Bridge Club*
- July 30-Aug 3:** Bay City Regional.....*Bay City Doubletree by Hilton*
- Aug 4-6:** Fort Wayne Sectional.....*Fort Wayne Bridge Center*
- Aug 15-19:** Holland Regional.....*Central Wesleyan Church*
- Aug 24-27:** Russell Roosen Sectional.....*Bridge Connection*
- Sept 8-9:** Traverse City Sectional.....*Kensington Church*
- Oct 6-8:** Highland Sectional.....*Indiana*
- Oct 9-15:** Motor City Regional.....*Bridge Connection*
- Oct 27-28:** Spooktacular I/N Sectional...*Birmingham Unitarian Church*
- Nov 16-19:** Apple Cider Sectional.....*Bridge Connection*

# WELCOME

## New Members

Catharine Broderick  
Ben Clingenpeel  
Dale Conger  
Judith Conger  
James Hallock  
Joseph Hartman  
Larissa Herrera  
Roger Hull

Dan Irish  
Ellen Kaufman  
Marilyn Kiefer  
Aaron Latham  
Frank Soares  
Tyler Van Andel  
Kenneth Westerman  
Robert Zannini

## Transfers

Roma Anderson  
David Bailey  
Carole Bivens  
Mary Holtze  
Gabi Ideh  
John Lusk  
Sally Lusk  
Joan Nuxoll  
Paul Steffanni

---

## REMEMBERING ZEKE JABBOUR



The bridge world recently lost another prominent and beloved Detroit-area player - Zeke Jabbour. Pictured above receiving a plaque from friends that was inscribed to read "Thanks for showing the world that nice guys CAN finish first" after his successful 1989 campaign to win the Barry Crane Top 500, Zeke is described by friends as a "treasure" and celebrated for both his disposition and bridge abilities. Zeke won the ACBL Sportsmanship Award in 2016. Originally from Ohio, Zeke enrolled at the Univ. of Michigan in the 1950s and went on to win eight NABC+ events, on top of his successful home design and building business, speech-writing work for the G. Mennon Williams administration, involvement and

*Cont'd, pg. 16*

## 2022 MBA TROPHY WINNERS

**Stein:** MBA's Flight A player of the year award:

**Bob Webber**

**Bluth:** MBA's Flight B player of the year award (0-2000):

**Marcy Toon**

**Winokur:** MBA's Flight C player of the year award (0-750):

**E.J. Chidiac**

**Marsee:** Michigan player who won the most total MPs in the calendar year:

**Owen Lien**

**Mouser:** District 12 member who won the most total MPs at the Motor City Regional:

**Owen Lien**

# MBA NEWS & UPDATES

» In Nov. 2022, the MBA Board voted unanimously to rename its Spring tournament to the **Chuck Burger Sectional**.

» The flighting for limited games at MBA tournaments will be **0-1000 MPs** beginning with the Chuck Burger Sectional in March-April (previously 0-500).

» **Owen Lien** was named president-elect for MBA. Former President Jonathan Fleischmann has moved to Chairman of the Board. Steve Jacob is the current President.

» MBA currently has 630 members. It is the top unit in D12 (of 6 total) for new member retention. MBA has a lower average age (73.82) than D12 (74.59) and ACBL (74.00).

Member losses accelerated in the second half of 2022, but have reversed in Jan-Feb 2023 compared to 2020-2022 trends:

Year	Membership Change
2020	-7.97%
2021	-7.07%
2022	-9.90%
2023	+0.16%

## 2022 MBA Financial Report

	Actual	Budget	Variance
<b>Receipts</b>			
Sectional tournaments			
Ann Arbor	(-1180)	(-1100)	(80)
Michigan State	(84)	600	(684)
Detroit District	268	1,000	(732)
Russell Roosen	934	1,100	(166)
Motor City regional	4,742	3,900	842
NAP	(68)	0	(68)
	4,612	5,500	(888)
Dues	2,831	3,000	(169)
Interest	4	0	4
	7,447	8,500	(1,053)
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Honoraria	4,800	4,800	0
Table Talk	3,768	4,000	232
Board meetings	501	200	(301)
Office and postage	490	600	110
District 12	0	700	700
Miscellaneous	707	1,000	293
	10,266	11,300	1,034
	(2,819)	(2,800)	(19)

December 31, 2021 worth: 32,683

December 31, 2022 worth: 29,864

» Given scheduling changes elsewhere in District 12, the joint **MBA-SOMBA June sectional may become a regional** starting in 2024.

» **MBA and SOMBA are continuing discussions of merging the two units.** To this end, the SOMBA Wolverine Regional in May will be jointly chaired by both units. Financial responsibility and revenue will be divided evenly between the two units. Further discussion of merging will resume following the regularly scheduled joint MBA-SOMBA sectional in late June.

Table Talk

DISTRICT 12 & ACBL  
News & Resources

- » D12 has a Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STaC) week scheduled from June 26-July 2. Earn silver points at participating club games!
- » The ACBL software upgrades to allow club game scoring to award proportionately more MPs for games that run more than 18 boards is complete and the change took effect in early March.
- » Find D12 news, information, tournament results, and more at District12Bridge.org.
- » Club game results for all ACBL games are now reported to ACBL Live for Clubs. Find these at [live.acbl.org](http://live.acbl.org), then click "Club Results" on the right. Use the search box to type in a club name or location. Note: there may be multiple clubs with the same name, so try each iteration of your club name in the list if necessary.

IN MEMORIAM

Philip D'Agostino  
Paul Ertel  
Frank Hicks  
Beverly Kruger  
Jane McMullen

GRAND NATIONAL  
TEAMS QUALIFIER

Winners of each flight represent D12 at the 2023 Summer NABC in Chicago.

SUNDAY, MAY 7

Bridge Connection, 11am

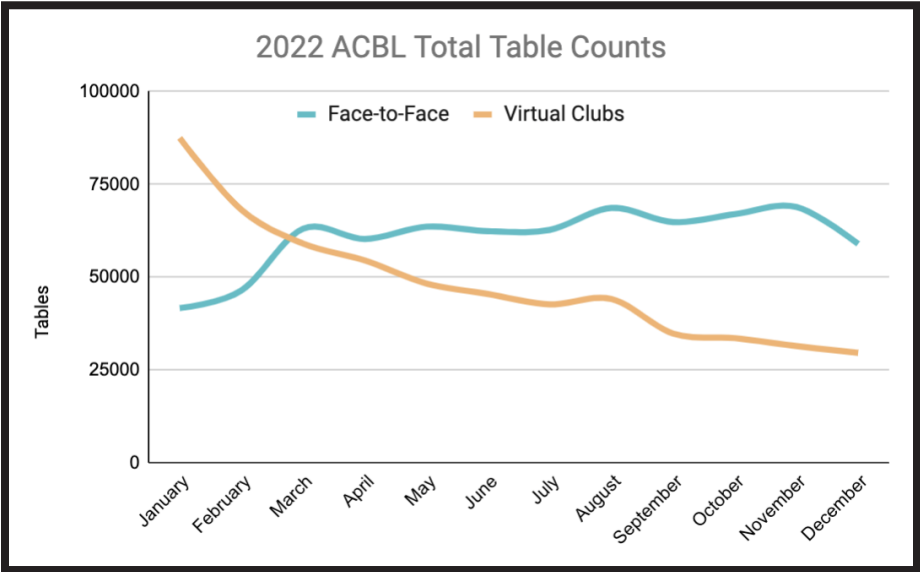
Unlimited: No MP Limit

Flight A: 0-6000

Flight B: 0-2500

Flight C: 0-500

No pre-qualification required. Winning teams will receive a travel stipend from the district. Registration form available on [District12bridge.org](http://District12bridge.org)



# It's Your Bid

Thank you to the panelists for participating in It's Your Bid! The winning panelist(s) and reader(s) for 2023 will receive a free play for the Motor City Regional in October.

## CURRENT ISSUE

PANEL		READERS	
Mark Bendure.....	480	Bob Katz.....	430
Gene Benedict.....	480	Myles Maddox.....	420
Suzy Burger.....	480	Joe Chiesa.....	410
Bob Webber.....	480	Kurt Dasher.....	410
John Koschik.....	470	Dennis Kasle.....	410
Marty Hirschman.....	460	Sheldon Kirsch.....	410
Morrie Kleinplatz.....	460	Irv Rosenstein.....	410
Owen Lien.....	460	Don Rumelhart.....	410
Jonathan Fleischmann.....	450	Dick Temkin.....	400
Linda Perlman.....	440	Brenda Bryant.....	390
Willie Winokur.....	440		
		Rick Schifter.....	390
		Matt Rosenthal.....	360
		Joe Monro.....	360
		J. Morris Swiger.....	350
		Neil Manley.....	340
		Margaret Carden.....	330
		Paul Chirgwin.....	290
		Ray Gentz.....	290

## HOW THE PANEL VOTED

	1	2	3	4	5
Mark Bendure	3♠	4♣	2♠	2N	3♦
Gene Benedict	3♠	4♣	2♠	2N	3♦
Brenda Bryant	4♥	3♣	2♥	2N	3♦
Suzy Burger	3♠	3♣	2♦	2N	X
Joe Chiesa	3♥	3♣	2♦	P	X
Kurt Dasher	3♣	3♣	2♦	P	X
Jonathan Fleischmann	2N	4♣	3♦	2N	X
Marty Hirschman	3♠	3♣	2♥	2N	X
Dennis Kasle	3♥	P	1♠	2N	X
Bob Katz	3♠	3♣	2♦	2♠	X
Sheldon Kirsch	3♣	4♣	2♠	3♦	3♦
Morrie Kleinplatz	2N	3♣	2♦	2N	X
John Koschik	3♠	4♣	1♠	2N	X
Owen Lien	2N	4♣	2♠	2N	3♦
Myles Maddox	4♣	4♣	1♠	2N	X
Linda Perlman	3♠	P	1♠	2N	X
Irv Rosenstein	3♠	3♣	3♦	2N	4♦
Don Rumelhart	3♣	4♣	2♠	3♦	3♦
Dick Temkin	4♣	4♣	2♠	2N	4♣
Bob Webber	2N	3♣	2♠	2N	X
Willie Winokur	3♥	P	2♠	2N	X

## 1. IMPs. N/S Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠Q75 ♥J965 ♦T953 ♣A9

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
P	1♣	1♥	P
2♥	2♠	P	?

*Partner's introduction of a new suit at the 2-level at this vulnerability shows a good hand. They are often 6-5 in clubs and spades, but may also have something like 4-2-1-6 or 4-1-1-7, depending on partnership style. Many other hand shapes would probably opt for a takeout double. The panel was stretched thin, with seven unique responses and no bid garnering more than 40% of the vote.*

<u>Action</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Score</u>
3♠	8	100
2N	4	80
3♥	3	70
3♣	3	70
4♣	1	50
4♠	1	50
4♥	1	50

**Mark Bendure (3♠):** Partner has a very good hand to bid on his/her own to 2♠ at IMPs red against white opposite a hand that has passed twice. Extra distribution, like a five card spade suit, is quite possible. With honors in both of partner's suits, pass is too wimpy. Since I have enough strength to raise, I likely only have 3 spades since I didn't make a negative double.

**Suzy Burger (3♠):** Partner either 6-5+ or big hand. I have some good cards for her.

**John Koschik (3♠):** The hand will play better in clubs if partner is 4=6, but making 4♠ or 5♣ will be difficult unless opener has enough to make another bid. If a 5=6 pattern, I expect to hear 4♠.

**Jonathan Fleischmann (2N):** Natural and value-showing. Unlike a reverse in an uncontested auction, partner's call is not forcing. I could pass or bid 3♣ to play there, but I have a reasonable heart stopper and enough in partner's suits to think 3NT may be reasonable. If partner repeats a suit, I'll play at least game there.

**Morrie Kleinplatz (2N):** Picture partner with AKXX, X, Ax, KQxxxx, and he will raise to 3. But

with one fewer Club and Kxx of Diamonds, partner will pass. The Hearts are just good enough.

**Owen Lien (2N):** I expect my partner is at least 6-4 since I know partner has 0-1 hearts, but didn't make a takeout X. Given this shape, partner could be a little shaded on strength. 2NT is natural here, and should be showing roughly this strength (just under a free 1NT bid the last round). I want to give partner the chance to show me 6-5, and my red-suit stoppers are weak so I don't want to preclude things by jumping to 3NT. Partner is virtually never passing my 2NT bid.

**Joe Chiesa (3♥):** My strength is limited by my initial pass. I have two most important cards in part's suits. 3♥ facilitates reaching 3NT, 4♠, or 5♣. I eschew 3♠ as I fear getting tapped in 4♠ on a 4-3 fit. 2NT is my second choice.

**Willie Winokur (3♥):** Double fit...go high.

**Kurt Dasher (3♣):** Would not have this problem at the table, prefer slightly light 1N instead of initial pass.

**Don Rumelhart (3♣):** I would like to have a 3rd club, but I want to leave partner room to bid 3♥ or 3♠. If partner passes, we are probably in the right spot.

**Dick Temkin (4♠):** Partner should have a good 5-6 hand in the black suits and I have two great cards to help. Picture AKxxx and KQJxxx.



## 2. IMPs. None Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠void ♥K ♦QT964 ♣QJT9842

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			?

While there is no textbook written on "freak" hands, there is a lot to be said for how experienced players evaluate shape, discipline, and aggression. Some panelists opted to pass, but otherwise were split 9-9 on opening 3♣ or 4♣. Atimps it often pays to really get in the opponent's way, but opening at the 4-level precludes playing 3N, which is a common spot when we have a long minor (or two!).

Action	Votes	Score
4♣	9	100
3♣	9	100
P	3	70

**Gene Benedict (4♣):** Put maximum pressure on the opponents.

**Sheldon Kirsch (4♣):** Flawed but necessary.

**John Koschik (4♣):** If partner has 10 cards in the majors, this won't go well, but I think it's the right balance between safety and causing a headache for the opponents.

**Owen Lien (4♣):** No book written yet on how to bid 7-5, but they do say "6-5, come alive." I plan to bid 4NT over an opponent's 4M bid to bring diamonds into the picture.

**Don Rumelhart (4♣):** Looks like the textbook bid to me.

**Brenda Bryant (3♣):** Jimmy Gardner once told me..."9 cards or

more in the minors? Pre-empt!"

**Suzy Burger (3♣):** Reserving the option to compete with 3/4 NT depending on auction.

**Joe Chiesa (3♣):** Reserving the option of bidding 4NT over their 4M. Pass is pusillanimous, leaving far too much room to the opps.

**Linda Perlman (P):** Pass and wait to see what happens. Planning on bidding later.

**Willie Winokur (P):** Pass...will show this on the next round.

## 3. MPs. E/W Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠QJT4 ♥Q84 ♦K98732 ♣void

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	X	P	?

At matchpoints, it really pays to find your major suit fits. Most partnerships agree that takeout doubles only promise 3+ in the other suits, but many panelists still opted to advertise the spade fit over the longer diamonds. Jumping a level here shows about 8-11 HCP.

Action	Votes	Score
2♠	8	100
2♦	5	80
1♠	4	70
3♦	2	60
2♥	2	60

**Mark Bendure (2♠):** With the club void, six card diamond suit and spade intermediates, this hand is game invitational in playing strength. Invite in spades, not



diamonds, for now, as partner almost certainly has 4 spades, a major suit game requires fewer tricks than a minor, and major suit contracts pay 30 per trick. At IMPs, 3♦ is more attractive.

**Willie Winokur (2♠):** Old fashioned...as few as 4 and 8-11 points

**Bob Katz (2♦):** A very difficult hand. I would like to jump in spades if I were certain partner had four of them. But that is not a given. I would like to be able show both spades and longer diamonds. A 2♦ bid is my best chance at the auction not dying. That is why I don't want to jump to 3♦ and think 2♠ may not get us to the right spot.

**Morrie Kleinplatz (2♦):** I will very likely have a chance to bid my Spades later, and would be willing to do so at the 3-level.

**John Koschik (1♠):** A little conservative, but my void suggests someone will bid clubs. I will bid diamonds next.

**Jonathan Fleischmann (3♦):** I have too much for a simple response, and I have some hope with my distribution that the auction won't die out even when facing a minimal partner with four spades. I'm hoping to show spades next. Al Roth and I are hoping to survive this round.

**Irv Rosenstein (3♦):** Expect most will bid spades, but diamonds making 4 outscores spades making 2.

**Brenda Bryant (2♥):** Argh!!! A tad aggressive but not sure where we should play...

**Marty Hirschman (2♥):** Too much

playing strength to just jump to 2♠. I will bid game in spades if partner fesses up to having four of them. If partner bids 3♣, I will bid 3♦.

#### 4. MPs. All Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠A85 ♥Q75 ♦QT83 ♣QJ4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
P	1♠	2♦	?

While a fairly "ugly" 11-count with flat shape and "quacky" honors, it is still an 11-count so most panelists chose to invite. However, the majority forewent the spade fit in favor of NT with a near double stopper in the oppoent's suit and no ruffing value in sight.

Action	Votes	Score
2N	16	100
P	2	60
3♦	2	60
2♠	1	50

**Gene Benedict (2N):** Invite game. You're 4-3-3-3 and holding queens does suggest a nine trick NT game rather than ten trick spade game.

**Jonathan Fleischmann (2N):** My hand has lots of losers and a double diamond stopper. If we have a game, the one that only requires nine tricks seems best.

**Marty Hirschman (2N):** I almost never conceal support, but this hand screams notrump; all my values are working there, including the 10 of diamonds. Second choice: 2♠; subtraction factors for 4-3-3-3 shape and unsupported queens mean this hand is short of values for a limit raise. I have too many spades to try for a penalty.

**John Koschik (2N):** A penalty pass is tempting, but I have three spades. 2N describes my hand better than 3♦.

**Owen Lien (2N):** I do have a spade fit, but I am also 4333 with 4 in the opp's suit. Also, I have 3 queens. I read somewhere once that that's a good time to strive for NT. My ♦Q is worthless in spades, but QTxx is gold in NT providing me with a double stopper.

**Linda Perlman (2N):** I hate this hand, but this closest to what I have.

**Bob Webber (2N):** Can't help myself. Playing for penalty at this level with a fit and iffy trumps does not appeal.

**Joe Chiesa (P):** If partner reopens with a double I will pursue 200 or 500. Any other bid by him (save pass) will aid in the spades versus NT decision. Second choice 2NT as it gives meaning to the ♦Q.

**Sheldon Kirsch (3♦):** Seems obvious.

**Bob Katz (2♠):** This hand is 11 HCP that add up to about 8. It just isn't a limit raise.

## 5. MPs. All Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠QJT95 ♥Q76 ♦AJT5 ♣3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	1♥	1♠	2♣*
X**	2♦	2♠	?

\*Cue bid, limit raise+

\*\*Long club suit

There are a lot of considerations on this spirited auction. The spade values look ripe for defense, and many panelists opted to double.

Others chose to continue to show our nice side fit in diamonds to try to get to the right level in hearts.

Action	Votes	Score
X	13	100
3♦	6	80
4♦	1	50
4♣	1	50

**Marty Hirschman (X):** Despite our double fit, I can't ignore the potentially big penalty against 2♠x. There is some chance they are having a mixup over whether the double shows clubs or 3-card support, and there is some chance we cannot make 10 tricks in hearts. However, I think West is going to pull to 3♣; even if partner doubles that, I will bid 4♥ next. Alternatively, partner may pull to 3♥, in which case I will bid 4♥.

**Morrie Kleinplatz (X):** And I will sit for it if LHO bids 3♣ and partner doubles. If it goes 3♣ pass-pass, I have an easy 3♦ bid.

**Gene Benedict (3♦):** Shows a fit with partner's second suit. It's too early to double.

**Owen Lien (3♦):** Show my double fit. Partner shouldn't be bidding 2♦ here as "noise" after the opp's X of 2♣. This should be a pure bid. Perhaps I should be doubling in case partner is 0=5=4=4, but I have no idea what to do if partner were to double 3♣, so I will show my 2nd fit. Maybe if partner is 0=5=4=4, they will over-compete in spades and I'll get a bigger number.

**Irv Rosenstein (4♦):** Have already shown support for hearts. Let partner know about 2nd-suit fit.

**Dick Temkin (4♣):** Could even have a slam opposite partner's two-suiter.

# Summer 2023 Hands

## 1. MPs. E/W Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠Q ♥J74 ♦AQJT4 ♣Q743

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	X	P	?

## 2. IMPs. E/W Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠Q85 ♥AKQ854 ♦A76 ♣82

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	P	1♥
P	2♠	P	3♥
P	3N	P	?

## 3. MPs. None Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠J632 ♥K5 ♦AT98763 ♣void

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
4♣	X	P	?

## 4. IMPs. All Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠AJ9864 ♥void ♦AK87 ♣J63

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♠
P	2♣	P	2♦
P	2♥	P	2♠
P	3♥	P	?

## 5. IMPs. None Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠AKT5 ♥Q ♦K874 ♣AKT3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	P	P	X
P	1♠	P	?

Readers, submit your responses by May 5:

[Jarbit24@gmail.com](mailto:Jarbit24@gmail.com)

Mailing address on back cover

# 2022 Michael Graham Ann Arbor Sectional Results

## Overall Masterpoint Winners

Bob Katz - 16.17  
Christian Jolly - 16.17  
Gordon Parnes - 14.60  
Susan Parnes - 14.60  
Dick Temkin - 11.20

## Saturday Stratified Swiss Flight A

Susan & Gordon Parnes -  
Bob Katz - Christian Jolly

## Flights B & C

Stephen Leist - John Berry -  
Richard Voss - Murali Mani

## Sunday Stratified Swiss Flight A

Kurt Dasher - Julie Arbit -  
Bob Katz - Christian Jolly

## Flight B

Tom Bonfils - Paul Stunkel -  
Richard & Susan Furlow

## Flight C

Reuven AnafShalom -  
Cagliyan Kurdak - Larry  
Junck - Diane Kosuda

# INTERMEDIATE/ NEWCOMER NOOK

## 1. Hand Evaluation

**High card points (HCP)** were first popularized by Charles Goren in his 1936 publication “Winning Bridge Made Easy” which pulled from Milton Work’s “4-3-2-1 System.” HCP quickly replaced Ely Culbertson’s “honor tricks” as the predominant method for hand evaluation in bridge in the US.

Using HCP to evaluate hands is essential for modern duplicate, but there are limitations to its formulaic approach. Some players use Losing Trick Count, modified HCP, and other strategies to help fill these gaps, but here we will discuss some logical, non-formulaic tips and tricks that don’t require extra calculations at the table.

These may come in handy when you’re trying to make a borderline decision, evaluate “shapely” hands, decide whether to bid again in a competitive auction, and more. Each tip is accompanied by a brief explanation and 1-2 sets of “better” and “worse” example hands.

**Having your HCP in long suits is better than having them in short suits**

Why? Honors make long suits easier to set up.

✓ ♠2 ♥AKT764 ♦AJ63 ♣94  
✗ ♠A ♥KT7642 ♦J643 ♣A9

**Soft honors (Q/J) are much better when supported by intermediates**

Why? Intermediates make it more likely Q’s and J’s will take tricks.

✓ ♠QT8 ♥AK52 ♦JT62 ♣K3  
✗ ♠Q52 ♥AKT8 ♦J632 ♣KT

**We want soft honors (Q/J) in our trump suit and prime honors (A/K) in our side suits**

Why? We’d rather have prime honors in partner’s potential short suits; Q’s and J’s are wasted HCP opposite a small singleton or doubleton.

→ Partner opens 1♠

✓ ♠Q84 ♥873 ♦A65 ♣9752  
✗ ♠A84 ♥873 ♦Q65 ♣9752

**When in doubt, shortness makes your hand better (except when it’s in partner’s long suit)**

Why? Having shortness generally means we have more 3+ card suits to use to build tricks.

✓ ♠AQ5 ♥KQT732 ♦5 ♣K98  
✗ ♠AQ5 ♥KQT732 ♦85 ♣K9  
✓ ♠KT4 ♥8 ♦AKJ42 ♣QT97  
✗ ♠KT ♥84 ♦AKJ42 ♣QT97

**If you’re balanced, having your HCP in partner’s long suit(s) is better than having them elsewhere**

Why? Honors make long suits easier to set up.

→ Partner opens 1♦; you respond 1♥, partner rebids 1♠

✓ ♠K43 ♥Q973 ♦AJ6 ♣T53  
✗ ♠943 ♥AQ73 ♦653 ♣KJT

## Double fits play incredibly well

Why? It's easier to set up our side suit(s) as a source of tricks.

→ Partner opens 1♠; you respond 2♥; partner raises to 3♥

✓ ♠Q42 ♥AQJT54 ♦A ♣972

✗ ♠7 ♥AQJT54 ♦A42 ♣Q97

## 9-card fits play, on average, 1.5 tricks better than 8-card fits

Why? It's easier to pull trumps, handle bad splits, ruff losers, and maintain control.

→ Partner opens 1♥

✓ ♠K4 ♥Q982 ♦86 ♣AJT43

✗ ♠K4 ♥Q98 ♦862 ♣AJT43

## In competitive auctions, 4441 hands are often better off defending

Why? None of the opponents' suits is splitting nicely for them.

→ Partner opens 1♠; RHO bids 2♦; You raise to 2♠; LHO bids 3♦ and it goes pass-pass back to you.

✓ ♠J754 ♥KJ865 ♦Q92 ♣T

✗ ♠J754 ♥KJ86 ♦Q952 ♣T

## 2. Balanced Hand Ranges

Playing 2/1 or SAYC, the opening bidder's first rebid should clarify the strength of their hand. That is to say, do they have a fairly mundane 12-count, or perhaps something more exciting? For unbalanced hands (hands with a void, singleton, or two doubletons), this can be a tall order and varies widely from one auction to the next. For balanced hands, though, there is a

pattern to follow that will give partner a very good idea of your hand after your first rebid:

### 12-14 HCP:

Open 1x and plan to rebid 1NT\*.

### 15-17 HCP:

Open 1NT.

### 18-19 HCP:

Open 1x and plan to rebid 2NT\*.

### 20-21 HCP:

Open 2NT.

### 22-24 HCP:

Open 2♣ and rebid 2NT.

*\*Assumes partner had enough to respond at the 1-level (6+ HCP). If they did not, you often want to let the opponents have the contract.*

## 3. Hand Patterns Quiz

(answers page 17)

The Fall 2022 TT issue featured hand patterns. Find a followup quiz below (assume no 8+ card suits):

1. Your LHO opens 4♥ and everyone passes. You and dummy each have one heart. How many hearts does partner likely have?

2. Declarer (RHO) opens 1♠ and rebids 2♥. They end up in 4♠. We cash the first three diamond tricks; the 13th ♦ is in dummy. What are declarer's 3 possible shapes?

3. Partner opens 1♠, RHO bids 2♦. You bid 2♥, LHO bids 3♦. Partner bids 4♥. If you have four diamonds, how many diamonds can you expect partner to have?

4. What are the 7 possible hand patterns when you bid Michaels showing both majors?

# NEW ACBL MILESTONES

## **Junior Master (5)**

*Mary Bergmann*

*Pamela Bowers*

*Barbara Conroy*

*Mary Fisher*

*Cecil Miskel*

*Cecelia Montoye*

*Terry Selman*

*Patricia Tuttle*

*Fangqing Yuan*

## **Club Master (20) ♠**

*Jane Bersuder*

*Diane Conde*

*Terrance Larson*

*Mary Martin*

*Jane Monnich*

*Brad Orr*

## **Sectional Master (50) ♠♣**

*Daniel Hakes*

*Cagliyan Kurdak*

*Deb Mexicotte*

*Janice Skadsen*

*Constance Wahab*

## **Regional Master (100) ♠♣♥**

*David Johnston*

*Art Mooradian*

*Cont'd on following page*

Marketing departed around the same time, reportedly for reasons related to Jones's resignation. The Director of IT, Chief Legal Officer, and National Events Manager have also departed in the past 6-8 months. Many of these departures were on one-day notice.

Jones, former Chief Financial Officer and self-proclaimed "finance guy," was tapped by the ACBL Board of Directors (BoD) in 2018 following an unsuccessful 6-month search process to replace CEO Bahar Gidwani, whose early termination by the BoD was contested and resulted in costly arbitration. Reportedly, an unprecedented unanimous rejection of the 2023 operating and capital budgets put forth by Jones was related to his resignation. A former BoD member commented that historically, the budget would undergo an iterative process that always resulted in its final approval by the BoD.

Considering that the average tenure for an Exec. Director of a non-profit is six years, ACBL is falling well below this mark. Some players close to the situation have speculated on Bridge Winners that tensions between the BoD and leadership have resulted in the two consecutive losses, and that the current position description may result in the same fate, including a residency requirement in Horn Lake, MS. The overwhelming consensus of most players is that more transparency on the priorities and decisions of the BoD is needed and warranted as representatives of a 501(c)(4) organization. Table Talk



Management, Litigation, and Financial reporting on the ACBL website use inconsistent naming conventions and can be difficult to navigate. Minutes from BoD and Advisory Committee meetings are currently only available for 2022 and motions only from the most recent meeting (Fall 2022). There has been no public update from the search committee since posting the first position solicitation on Dec 1, 2022.

## Test Your Defense Solution (From last page)

**Short answer:** Yes! You should play the Q.

**Long answer:** Once declarer plays the ♠ on the first round of spades, our remaining ♠QT are equal. Declarer knows we (South) started with the Q (because the finesse of the J won) but has no information about the T. So, on the second round of the suit, playing the Q doesn't give them any new information. We play the card we are KNOWN to hold. Now declarer has a guess about which defender to play for the ♠T. They could finesse or play for it to drop under the K. See the spade position below if we drop the Q on the second round.

		NORTH		
		♠ 543		
		♥ 92		
		♦ A853		
DECLARER (W)	♣ Q743		DUMMY (E)	
♠ AJ8			♠ K762	
♥ AJ74			♥ 85	
♦ 964			♦ KQJ	
♣ KJ6			♣ A985	
		SOUTH		
		♠ QT9		
		♥ KQT63		
		♦ T72		
		♣ T2		

Source: ACBL  
18-board game  
on BBO, Sept.  
30, 2022

### NABC Master (200) ♠♠♠♠

Gillian Andrews  
Mike Andrews  
Margaret Carden  
Ralph Gurganus  
Jean Hull  
Mark Stern

### Life Master (500) ♠♠♠♠

Michael Betzold  
Joan Capuano  
Daniel Rose

### Bronze LM (750) ♠♠♠♠

James Korte  
Patty McCracken

### Silver LM (1,000) ♠♠♠♠

Shelley Boschan  
Gary Boyers  
Paul Chirgwin  
Richard Muntz  
Bob Ondo  
Carrie Osborne

### Ruby LM (1,500) ♠♠♠♠

Ronna Galin  
Janet Macdonald

### Gold LM (2,500) ♠♠♠♠

Stephen Carpmann

### Sapphire LM (3,500) ♠♠♠♠

Suzanne Stevenson

### Emerald LM (7,500) ♠♠♠♠

Sheldon Kirsch

## ZEKE JABBOUR, CONT'D

support for local theater, and many additional charitable and other endeavors. Find below remembrances from Willie Winokur and Marty Hirschman:

**Winokur:** Zeke was the ultimate partner. No matter that my dummy did not closely resemble the bidding...nor, the ensuing defense as he directed went awry....no eye rolling, no jaw clenching. And my favorite Zeke guideline....when leading against 3NT.. lead the unbid minor rather than the unbid major. Has a high percentage of success.

**Hirschman:** Zeke won so often that he developed a sort of expertise of winning. Once we were playing in a small sectional Swiss team in Toledo. We won the first few matches but only by a little each time, which meant we weren't getting a big share of the available victory points. Zeke commented that this was OK because usually you would win the event if you won all the matches small. And that is exactly how it turned out.

Zeke was interested in sports psychology, particularly as it pertained to winning at bridge. Despite that interest, or maybe as an explanation of it, Zeke was not one of those rabid competitors who can completely ignore if some things go badly early in the session. He was more human and sensitive than that. He was quite despondent one time in a sectional pair game when he misguessed the declaration of the first hand of the set -- a top to bottom swing. "This is the kind of hand that you need to get right to win," he said. I told him I had recently won a pair game despite getting a zero on the

first board, but he wasn't buying it. We limped along for the rest of the afternoon. Another time, after we lost a regional KO team match, he told me, "We may have bad boards, but we don't have bad sessions." [...]

Zeke was an imposing and charismatic presence, a little like the "World's Most Interesting Man" in the Dos Equis beer commercials of a few years ago. He always wore a sports jacket and featured a handlebar moustache, which complemented his full dark head of hair and swarthy good looks. His eyes sparkled. When he was declaring, and something cute was about to happen, like a squeeze or endplay, he would wink at his partner. Bridge players sometimes mistook him for Omar Sharif.

When Zeke was out on the regional trail the year he won the Barry Crane Top 500, he needed to recruit many partners and teammates. A couple of times I was tapped. [...] This memorable hand came up [in Dayton] in a KO match. South was Jeff Meckstroth. Please excuse my use of the present tense in the following; I am reliving the moment.

	♠ AJ53	
	♥ QJ	
	♦ KJ73	
♠ Q72	♣ J75	♠ T964
♥ KT42		♥ A97
♦ 8642	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> </div>	♦ T5
♣ A4		♣ 9632
	♠ K8	
	♥ 8653	
	♦ AQ9	
	♣ KQT8	

Lead: ♥2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1N	P	2♣	P
2♥	P	3N	AP

As you know, when returning a suit that partner has led, it is routine to lead back the higher of two remaining cards. For example, from A73, win the ace and play back the 7. This helps partner count out the hand. But sometimes...

When Meckstroth opens 1NT I provisionally decide I will lead a heart against a NT contract, and when the auction reveals he holds four hearts I nonetheless just decide to go with it. [...Zeke wins the ♥A and] goes into the tank. He is looking at dummy and looking at his hand. And eventually he starts twirling his moustache. Meanwhile, I am sitting there and my only thought is not very nuanced: "Play back a heart. Please!"

Finally after about six minutes, Zeke plays back the 7 of hearts to my king. At this point I am awake enough to realize that, given the 1NT opener, there isn't room in the deck for Zeke to have any more high cards. And since he was known to have started with three hearts, the only hope is that he started with A97. So I lead back the 4 of hearts from my remaining 104.

When Zeke plays the 9, I involuntarily blurt out: "Wow." I never do this. Don't do it at your local club. However, Meckstroth, who has been following developments, presumably with some quiet horror, just looks over to me and asks: "Do you have the ace of clubs?" When I say "Yes," he folds up his cards and puts them back in the board. He is down 1. As we go on to the next hand, Meckstroth suddenly stops sorting his cards and starts (briefly) complimenting us on the defense, shaking his head in appreciation. Then he resumes the process of beating us on every other swing in the match.

We were on a 5- or 6-person team. Right after we scored up the match, one of the teammates who had been sitting out came over and looked at our scorecard. "You only picked up on one board," he commented. "And that was a good story," Zeke replied. But the teammate wasn't interested in hearing it. We had lost the match.

Zeke had a subtle sense of humor so I'm sure he didn't mind when, after he won the Barry Crane Top 500, Sharon had some political-type buttons printed up with a picture of Zeke with the caption: "Shit happens." His win in the Barry Crane had the intended effect of springboarding his 25+ year career as a nationally known professional player. Sadly Zeke was in failing health and out of bridge in his last years. The old soldiers of bridge just fade away, I guess. So long, old friend.

**Editor's Note:** Marty Hirschman interviewed Zeke for the March 1990 Table Talk Issue. For an electronic copy of this issue, email the editor at Jarbit24@gmail.com.

## HAND PATTERNS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Partner likely has **3-4 hearts**. Hearts are probably **8-3-1-1** or **7-4-1-1** around the table.
2. 5431, 5530, 6430
3. The opponents have shown 8+ diamonds and we have 4. **Partner has 0-1♦**. We also know s/he has 5+♠, and 3+♥. Partner's most likely shapes are 5413, 5314, 6313, 6412, and 5503.
4. 55(21), 55(30), (65)(11), (65)(20), 66(01), (75)(01), (76)00

**MM: Mini McKenney**

Total Masterpoints  
(excluding online)

**AC: Ace of Clubs**

Masterpoints won at clubs  
(excluding STaC)

**O: Online**

Masterpoints won in online  
games on Bridge Base  
Online (BBO)

**0-5**

MM: Fangqing Yuan (34.74)  
AC: Cecil Miskel (11.85)  
O: Diane Conde (59.45)

**5-20**

MM: Michael Rosenberg (24.54)  
AC: Michael Rosenberg (23.34)  
O: N P Narayanan (23.98)

**20-50**

MM: Gerald Poissant (73.23)  
AC: James Adams (27.61)  
O: Cagliyan Kurdak (186.36)

**50-100**

MM: Veronica Alger (80.27)  
AC: Veronica Alger (75.93)  
O: Michele Glenn (129.21)

**100-200**

MM: Mike Andrews (75.91)  
AC: Julie Grygotis (49.23)  
O: Margaret Carden (82.60)

**200-300**

MM: Robin Wagner (117.84)  
AC: Robin Wagner (116.79)  
O: Jill Rastelli (138.90)

**300 to 500**

MM: Norm Kakarala (74.43)  
AC: Joan Capuano (41.39)  
O: Mike Bishel (158.71)

**500 - 1000**

MM: Yanping Zhang (214.54)  
AC: Gary Boyers (112.66)  
O: Gregory Dressler (306.06)

**1000 - 1500**

MM: Barb Ferrera (128.15)  
AC: Barb Ferrera (72.34)  
O: Chris Brewer (130.72)

**1500 - 2500**

MM: Steven Winokur (155.85)  
AC: Steve O'Guin (83.77)  
O: Stephen Carpmann (390.01)

**2500-3500**

MM: Mark Bendure (202.77)  
AC: Marilyn Nathanson (127.88)  
O: Ray Gentz (173.54)

**3500 - 5000**

MM: Rose Burke (213.75)  
AC: Rose Burke (116.88)  
O: Judi Amatangelo (227.29)

**5000 - 7500**

MM: Kurt Dasher (209.05)  
AC: Charlotte Miller (107.19)  
O: Clarke Cunningham (626.32)

**7500 - 10,000**

MM: Jonathan Fleischmann (918.34)  
AC: Lynne Cook (416.32)  
O: Sondra Schubiner (146.20)

**10,000+**

MM: Owen Lien (1,457.98)  
AC: Brenda Jaffe (220.05)  
O: Mary Smith (473.11)

# MBA CLUB DIRECTORY

## Ann Arbor

### » Ann Arbor City Club:

**Tue, Fri: 1pm** (Invitational, No limit)

**Thu: 1pm** (Invitational, 0-499)

1830 Wastenaw Ave, 48104

Ronnie Meade, 734-994-0877

ronmeade@comcast.net

### » Ann Arbor Bridge Club:

**Wed: 7pm** (Open, No limit)

2114 Pauline Blvd, 48103

Ray Gentz, 734-945-6021

ray62856@gmail.com

## Dearborn & Dearborn Heights

### » Ford Duplicate Bridge Club:

**Tue: 6pm** (Open, No limit)

1 American Way, 48126

Ellen Silverest, 810-225-2278

esilvere2002@yahoo.com

### » Eton Center BC:

**Wed: 11am** (Open, No limit)

4900 Pardee, 48125

Joyce Kozma, 313-274-5587

joykozrn@att.net

## Plymouth

### » Plymouth DBC

**Tue: 12pm** (Open, No limit)

**Wed: 12pm** (Open, No limit)

525 Farmer St, 48170

Jim Perna, 248-343-3877

jimperna@gmail.com

## Grosse Pointe Farms

### » Country Club of Detroit:

**Wed: 12:30pm** (Invitational, No limit)

**Thu: 5pm** (Monthly, Invitational, No limit)

220 Country Club, 48236

Dave Fletcher, 586-786-0811

hdfletch@aol.com

### » Neighborhood Club:

**Thu: 12pm** (Open, No limit)

**Fri: 12pm** (Open, No limit)

375 Lothrop Rd, 48236

Anthony Faint, 586-649-3575

frtonyfaint@gmail.com

## Southgate

### » Downriver Bridge Club:

**Tue: 10:30am** (Open, No limit)

14680 Dix-Toledo Rd, 48195

Cono Emanuele

conoemanuele@hotmail.com

## Trenton

### » Trenton DBC:

**Thu: 6:30pm** (Open, No limit)

2700 Westfield, Fireplace Rm, 48183

Bob Ondo, 313-320-5173

bobondo@gmail.com

## Online

The MBA Board is unaware of ongoing MBA virtual clubs. Ann Arbor City Club players can play in Bridge Connection Virtual Games on BBO. See

**<https://www.bridgewebs.com/connection>** for schedule.

# Test Your Defense

(Beginner/Intermediate)



DUMMY (E)

♠ K762

♥ 85

♦ KQJ

♣ A985

SOUTH

♠ QT9

♥ KQT63

♦ T72

♣ T2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	P	1♣	P
2N	P	1♠	P
		3N	(AP)

T1: ♦3-♦J-♦T-♦4

T2: ♠2-♠9-♠J-♠3

T3: ♠A-♠4-♠6-♠?

Dummy wins the first trick with the ♦J. Declarer leads a spade towards their hand, inserting the J which wins. They now play the ♠A. Which spade do you play from your remaining ♠QT? Does it matter? **Solution, page 15.**

PRESORTED STANDARD

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Southfield, MI

Permit 242

## TABLE TALK

Official Publication of  
the Michigan Bridge Association

Julie Arbit, Editor

900 W. Maple Rd

Milford, MI 48381

## Table Talk

Official publication of the  
Michigan Bridge Association  
ACBL D12, Unit 137

**JULIE ARBIT**, Editor

MBA Secretary

Jarbit24@gmail.com

(301) 512-5679

## MBA Officers

Steve Jacob.....President  
Owen Lien.....President-Elect  
Dick Temkin.....Secretary  
Bob Webber.....Treasurer

## Board of Directors

Julie Arbit, Mark Bendure, Shelley  
Boschan, Marilyn Crane, Jonathan  
Fleischmann, Jane Gardner, Steve  
Jacob, Owen Lien, Rhonda Monroe,  
Bob Ondo, Grant Petersen, Irv  
Rosenstein, Richard Temkin

## Upcoming MBA Tournaments

Mar 30-Apr 2: Chuck Burger Sectional

May 15-21: Wolverine Regional

June 22-25: MBA/SOMBA Sectional