

# TABLE TALK

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

VOL. 62 No. 1

SPRING 2021

## ACBL PLANS FOR RETURN OF TOURNAMENTS IN AUGUST

After a year away from live bridge for most, the ACBL has revealed a tentative process for restarting live tournaments. The League is hopeful that vaccine distribution will allow for safe play at Sectionals beginning in August, with Regionals following shortly thereafter in October. While the timing is still uncertain, local conditions and other safety

protocols may give some regions a head start. MBA has tournaments scheduled for both of the notable months: the Russell Roosen Sectional - Aug 26-29, and the Motor City Regional - Oct 11-17. Final decisions about these tournaments will be made with guidance from the ACBL, host sites, and public health and safety protocols as the dates grow nearer.

## MOTOR CITY REGIONAL NEW LOCATION



If held, the Motor City Regional in October 2021 will be held at The Hawk - a new Farmington Hills Community Center at the former Harrison HS site. The city has poured \$22.5M into sleek, spacious, and cutting-edge renovations,

and will accommodate a myriad of different uses. The site is located West of Middlebelt on 12 Mile. Architectural renderings pictured. For more information, check out [fhgov.com](http://fhgov.com) --> Government --> Current Programs & Initiatives.

*Michigan Bridge Association's*  
**Russell Roosen Sectional**  
 August 26 – 29, 2021  
 at  
 The Michigan Bridge Connection  
 26776 Twelve Mile Road, Southfield  
 Located just west of Northwestern Highway  
 248-356-6254

**Thursday, August 26**

Stratified Open Pairs 10:00 a.m.  
 Stratified 0-500 Pairs 10:00 a.m.

Stratified Swiss Teams 2:30 p.m.  
 Stratified Open Pairs 2:30 p.m.  
 Stratified 0-500 Pairs 2:30 p.m.

**Friday, August 27**

Stratified Open Pairs 10:00 a.m.  
 Stratified 0-500 Pairs 10:00 a.m.

Stratified Open Pairs 2:30 p.m.  
 Stratified 0-500 Pairs 2:30 p.m.

**Saturday, August 28**

Stratified Swiss Teams  
 Playthrough — 7 matches 10:00 a.m.

Stratified Open Pairs 10:00 a.m.  
 Stratified 0-500 Pairs 10:00 a.m.

Stratified Open Pairs 2:00 p.m.  
 Stratified 0-500 Pairs 2:00 p.m.

**Sunday, August 29**

BRACKETED Swiss Teams  
 Playthrough — 7 matches 10:00 a.m.

*The teams are divided into two or more brackets based on the average masterpoints of each team. Each bracket is a separate event with its own masterpoint awards. The purpose of bracketing is to establish groups within which each team is competitive.*

Stratified Events: A = 3000+, B = 1000-3000 and C = 0-1000  
 0-500 Stratifications: 0-100, 100-300 and 300-500, as attendance warrants  
 Average masterpoints will be used to determine stratifications  
 All pairs events are single session

**Proof of COVID vaccination is required to play.**

**Players are on their own for lunch.**

**Saturday and Sunday Swiss lunch time breaks to be determined by director.**

**No smoking in the building.**

Tournament Chair: Jonathan Fleischmann, 734-255-6104, jonathan@safeoffices.com  
 Partnerships: Marilyn Crane, 734-536-1731, mqcrane@yahoo.com  
 and Jane Gardner, 248-719-2941, janegard@umich.edu  
 Publicity: Allan Tushman, 248-939-1793, altushman@yahoo.com

## Features & Columns

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# MORTON'S FORK IN NT

BY HENRY SHEVITZ

	♠ A6	
	♥ 4	
	♦ AK765	
	♣ AT543	♠ QT42
♠ J8753		♥ AT53
♥ 98		♦ Q4
♦ J932	♠ K9	♣ J98
♣ Q7	♥ KQJ762	
	♦ T8	
	♣ K62	

IMPs. All Vul.

Contract: 3N South

Lead: ♠5

In 1487, John Morton was the Lord Chancellor of England, under Henry VII, responsible for tax collection. Wealthy citizens were expected to pay their share of taxes, and frugal citizens were deemed to have saved enough money to pay as well. Therefore, no citizen had a “winning option” The more well-known Morton's Fork applies in a suit contract. Declarer leads through a defender's high card (A or K). If the defender rises, it establishes extra tricks in that suit. If the defender ducks, then declarer discards the remaining loser in that suit-- meaning that the defender has no winning option.

In today's hand, the spade lead has attacked declarer's weakness. It is insufficient to knock out a club, because that would allow the defense to clear the spade suit. It is necessary to steal a heart trick, and that is possible only if East holds the ♥A. So declarer wins the opening lead on board and leads a heart. East is caught in the Morton's Fork-- If he rises with ace, declarer will then have 11 tricks, as the heart suit will run. So East must duck. After winning, declarer now attacks the club suit, which will provide 4 tricks with a 3-2 split. In fact this happens, so the contract is made with 2♠, 1♥, 4♣, and 2♦.

## Welcome

Dwight Angell  
Clarold Britton  
Valaida Buckner

Lynn Chard  
Mary Corcoran  
Derva Dressler  
Angela Klein  
Cagliyan Kurdak

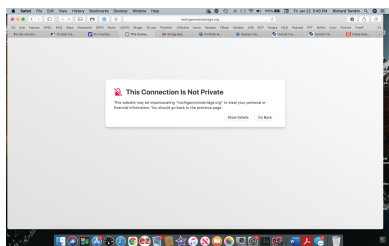
Michael Lanham  
John Minock  
Suzanne Minock  
Linda Neely  
Patricia Tuttle

# MBA ONLINE RESOURCES

Michigan Bridge Association has many online resources linked through the District 12 website:

[District12bridge.org](http://District12bridge.org)

The first, is an online member directory, akin to the paper copy mailed to all members when they join MBA. The directory can be found by “hovering” with your mouse cursor over either “Unit 137 MBA” or “Unit 203 Southern MI” and then clicking “MBA/SOMBA Directory.” However, many users have gotten an error message at this point that resembles the following:



In fact, rest assured that there is no real security issue, and can be circumnavigated by pressing “advanced” or “show details” (depending on your browser), and then “Accept risk” or “Proceed to/Continue to/Visit website. In all cases you will be led to a safe page to enter your ACBL number and access the directory.

Table Talk will also be online-only until MBA begins hosting tournaments again.

Assuming you have not opted out of receiving ACBL communications, you should receive an email with the Table Talk edition attached, and can always access it at [District12bridge.org](http://District12bridge.org) --> Newsletters --> Table Talk.

And remember, you can opt out of all future paper mailings of Table Talk by emailing the editor at:

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

## Tournament Spotlight: Austin NABC

ACBL will hold its first  
North American Bridge  
Championship since 2019:

**Nov 25-Dec 5**

Hotel reservations open at  
noon on June 22.

Avoid the Michigan winter for a bit longer by heading down to Austin! Limited events (including **GOLD RUSH**) on a 10a/3p schedule. Go to [nabc.acbl.org](http://nabc.acbl.org) for more information.



## REMEMBERING CHUCK BURGER

The bridge world lost Chuck Burger, a long-standing bridge icon, in Spring of 2021. Chuck was a renowned player with many national-level accomplishments in his record, and was well-known in Michigan for his kind demeanor and incredible bridge ability. The next issue of TT will feature a collection of stories and anecdotes in remembrance of Chuck. Please feel free to contribute to this feature at the email or mailing address listed on page 10.

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## It's Your Bid

Thank you to the panelists for participating in this issue's expert panel.

*The highest scoring expert AND reader in It's Your Bid will receive a free play at the MBA October Regional each year!*

A second congratulations to: Chuck Burger, Jonathan Fleischmann John Koschik, Dick Temkin, and Val Enache for their 2020 wins. MBA is hoping to be able to hold the 2021 Motor City Regional, where these awards may be redeemed.

## CURRENT ISSUE SCORES

### EXPERTS

Joe Chiesa.....	500	J. Fleischmann.....	420
Bob Katz.....	490	Morrie Kleinplatz.....	420
Gene Benedict.....	460	Linda Perlman.....	410
Marty Hirschman.....	460	Dick Temkin.....	410
Sheldon Kirsch.....	460	Dennis Kasle.....	400
Bob Webber.....	460	Bob Brent.....	390
Suzy Burger.....	450	Irv Rosenstein.....	390
Brenda Bryant.....	440	Chuck Burger.....	370
Kurt Dasher.....	440	John Koschik.....	360
Don Rumelhart.....	440	Myles Maddox.....	320
Mark Bendure.....	420	Willie Winokur.....	290
Table Talk			

### READERS

Gary Boyers.....	460
Nathan Banker.....	410
Matt Rosenthal.....	360
J. Morris Swiger.....	360
Arthur Wasserman.....	340
Neil Manley.....	330
Irv Hershman.....	310
Jerry Viedrah.....	310
Val Enache.....	230
George Pope.....	220
Paul Chirgwin.....	150

# HOW THE PANEL VOTED

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
Mark Bendure	2N	6♣	5♣	4N	2♥
Gene Benedict	2♦	5♣	4♣	4N	3♥
Bob Brent	1N	4♣	4♣	5N	1N
Brenda Bryant	2N	4N	6♣	4N	3♥
Chuck Burger	2♦	5♣	X	5N	2♥
Suzy Burger	2♦	4♣	5♣	4N	2♥
Joe Chiesa	2♦	4N	4♣	4N	3♥
Kurt Dasher	2♦	5♣	5♣	4N	3♥
Jonathan Fleischmann	2♦	4♣	3N	4N	1N
Marty Hirschman	2♦	4N	6♣	4N	3♥
Dennis Kasle	2♦	4♣	4♣	5N	2♠
Bob Katz	2♦	4N	4♣	4N	2♥
Sheldon Kirsch	2♦	4♣	4♣	4N	3♥
Morrie Kleinplatz	3N	6♣	4♣	4N	2♥
John Koschik	3N	4♣	5♣	6♥	3♥
Myles Maddox	3N	4N	X	4♣	2♦
Linda Perlman	2N	4N	4♣	4N	1N
Irv Rosenstein	2♦	4N	3N	4N	2♥
Don Rumelhart	2N	4N	4♣	5N	2♥
Dick Temkin	2N	6♣	4♣	6♥	3♥
Bob Webber	2♦	4N	5♣	4N	1N
Willie Winokur	2N	5N	3N	4♥	2N

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

♠AT ♥T ♦AJT53 ♣KJ732

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	1♥	P	?

Action	Votes	Score
2♦	12	100
2N	6	80
1N	2	60
3N	2	60
2♣	0	20
3♦	0	20

*Some of the hardest auctions in bridge begin with an overcall. With partner's wide range of possible hands, along with no fit, many panelists opted for a practical NT bid, while others chose to show their nice diamond suit with 2♦, which by default should be forcing, although by agreement can be non-forcing.*

**Gene Benedict (2♦):** *Might not play well in no trump with a spade lead. Partner might want to bid her hearts again.*

**Bob Brent (1N):** *1 1/2 NT would be perfect.*

Table Talk

**Don Rumelhart (2N):** *Invitational. NT rates to be our best strain for game. Perhaps a slight underbid, but I am concerned that my singleton heart will lead to communication issues between the two hands if partner has a marginal hand.*

**2. IMPs. All Vul. SOUTH holds:**

♠Void ♥K ♦AKT42 ♣AKT9643

<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>
P	P	3♠	?
<u>Action</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Score</u>	
4N	9	100	
4♠	4	80	
6♣	3	70	
5♣	2	60	
4♣	2	60	
5N	1	50	
5♠	1	50	
X	0	20	

*“Freak” hands tend to produce a variety of results, and this one is no different. Some panelists opted to show both minors (with 4♠, 4N, or 5N), while others treated the hand as single-suited with clubs, and tried to place the contract with little information and little room to explore.*

**Joe Chiesa (4N):** *Flying by my own wings here as I have no way of communicating to partner what I need for slam. As I must guess between 5♣ and 6♣, 4NT stands out (over 6) as over 5♦ I can bid 6♣ suggesting a 2 card differential in the*

*minors. If I intuited I needed a swing would bid 5♣ only.*

**Bob Katz (4N):** *Asking partner to bid a minor. The likelihood of 5♣ being better and ending up in diamonds is less than the risk of playing in clubs when diamonds is the right contract.*

**Chuck Burger (5♠):** *Pard should bid 5NT with equal minors; that doesnt spell a slam but I have to gamble that pard has the right hand or shape.*

**Jonathan Fleischmann (4♠):** *With most of my partners, this shows both minors and a better hand than a 4NT overcall. I’m not sure I’ll be able to sort out strain and level, but this should give me my best shot.*

**Morrie Kleinplatz (6♣):** *Science or practicality? The alternative requires a lot of understanding. Ideally if I bid 4♠ and partner delicately bids 4NT I could complete my description with 6♣, and partner could convert to 6♦ with the red suits. But so much could go wrong along the way.*

**Dick Temkin (6♣):** *Decent chance partner has the heart ace along with several other possible hands that will make. Wrong distribution to offer two places to play with 5N.*

**Sheldon Kirsch (4♣):** *Maybe an underbid but gotta start somewhere.*



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

♠A742 ♥A3 ♦T ♣AQJT86

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1♠	X	3♣	1♣
----	---	----	----

Action	Votes	Score
4♣	9	100
5♣	5	80
3N	3	60
X	2	60
6♣	2	60
4♠	1	50
P	0	20

We can deduce partner is short in spades from the auction, and many panelists chose to seek out a club fit, although the preemptive nature of East's bid doesn't leave much room to explore for slam.

**Gene Benedict (4♣):** Need to hear partner's second bid. If she bids four spades I will get excited. Five clubs would sound like I had a seven-card suit.

**Don Rummelhart (4♣):** Confirms club length and shows extras; encourages partner to Q-bid.

**Brenda Bryant (6♣):** Bit of a gamble...but partner must have some clubs since he is void or short in spades. 4♠ is an alternative bid, but if partner bids 5♥ or 5♦...I am forced to bid 6♣ anyway. 5♣ seems a tad shy.

**Chuck Burger (X):** Responsive - strange but when I correct to 5♣, he may with 2 plus controls bid again

**Jonathan Fleischmann (3N):** I'm a bit of a paper tiger. I've been down before, and it's less painful in print.

### 4. MPs. Unfavorable. SOUTH holds:

♠AQ753 ♥AJT8 ♦K7 ♣A5

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

P	3N*	P	1♠
---	-----	---	----

\*(4333) shape with 3 spades and unknown 4-card suit. 13-15 HCP

Action	Votes	Score
4N	14	100
5N	4	70
6♥	2	60
4♣	1	50
4♥	1	50
4♠	0	30
6N	0	20

This method still lingers in many partnerships, and the true test on this hand is hand evaluation. Many judge South's hand to be worth a quantitative invite to slam, but there is less consensus on playing in our known 5-3 fit versus in NT, as well as what 4N would mean here.

**Bob Brent (5N):** Pick a slam....it's much better for partner to respond 2♣ on those flat hands, particularly if you have four hearts

**Bob Katz (4N):** Keycard Table Talk



**Sheldon Kirsch (4N):** *Should be quantitative.*

**Linda Perlman (4N):** *Slam try, balanced, keeping NT in play.*

**Bob Webber (4N):** *If I wanted to bid Blackwood, I would control bid first.*

**John Koschik (6♥):** *I don't see a route to find a grand, and this allows us to play the right major while protecting what might be a vulnerable ♣K. This auction saved me from bidding 3NT on every problem.*

**5. MPs. None Vul. SOUTH holds:**

♠QJT ♥QT97 ♦JT632 ♣A			
<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>
1♠	X	P	?
<u>Action</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Score</u>	
3♥	8	100	
2♥	7	90	
1N	4	80	
2N	1	50	
2♦	1	50	
2♠	1	50	

*At matchpoints, getting to a major suit fit is often a top priority. As such, most panelists opted to show the hearts (as opposed to the longer diamond suit) opposite partner's takeout double. Others opted for NT, a responsible choice given the soft values of the hand and relatively poor red suit quality.*

**Mark Bendure (2♥):** *Taking the low road for now. My spade length and no raise by East make a spade ruff at trick 3 possible, and the hand has too many quacks for 3♥. Hearts instead of diamonds because they pay more and partner may be short in Diamonds but not hearts. No need to stretch for thin games at matchpoints*

**Jonathan Fleischmann (1N):** *Anything could be right here. 1NT maximizes space to explore, communicates values, and shows our stopper. 3♦ is the most natural description, but may lose a heart fit. 2♦ would give us more space to find hearts, but undersells the hand and might get passed when we're cold for game. 3♥ will get us to our major-suit game when we have one, and may just be our highest-scoring partscore. It could be wrong if partner has a minimum and only three hearts, where we take a minus when other partscores make. In short, I'm going to ask a kibitzer to fill in for me while I take an urgent phone call.*

**Brenda Bryant (3♥):** *Int might be right...but a single A♣ I don't like it. Partner can always cue spades then I can bid 3nt.*

**Marty Hirschman (3♥):** *Shows 9-11 HCPs which I have. Three of the points are secondary values in spades, which is certainly not ideal, but QJ10 may have some value in the play. If partner has enough to*

continue but only three hearts, and if they want to keep 3NT in the picture, they can continue with 3♠.

**John Koschik (3♥):** *Why do I feel like this isn't going to end well?*

**Dick Temkin (3♥):** *Don't see a reasonable alternative.*

**Bob Webber (1N):** *There are several reasonable choices.*

*"Bob Hamman would be proud of me: 4 out of 5" [NT bids]*  
- Willie Winokur

## FALL 2021 HANDS

A big thank you to our panelists for their time and effort! Readers, submit your responses by August 15 via:

*Jarbit24@gmail.com*

OR

*Julie Arbit*

*900 W. Maple Rd.*

*Milford, MI 48381*

**1. IMPs. None Vul. SOUTH holds:**

♠QJ97542 ♥J ♦A8 ♣QJ6

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

**2. IMPs. All Vul. SOUTH holds:**

♠Void ♥AQ ♦AJT653 ♣98743

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♦	3♣	4♠	?

**3. MPs. N/S Vul. SOUTH holds:**

♠AQ ♥9 ♦T652 ♣A98763

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♥	P	1N*
2♠	X	P	?

\*Forcing

**4. MPs. None Vul. SOUTH holds:**

♠K964 ♥K9864 ♦Void ♣KT82

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		3♣	P
P	X	P	?

**5. MPs. E/W Vul. SOUTH holds:**

♠Void ♥KJT97 ♦KQJ3 ♣KQ96

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♥
P	2N*	4♠	?

\*Jacoby 2N (GF, 4+♥)

Thanks to Joe Chiesa and Willie Winokur for problem submissions.

**MI Youth  
Bridge Camp**

July 11-July 17

Fenton, MI

See flyer on:

*District12Bridge.org*

# INTERMEDIATE/ NEWCOMER NOOK

Some days at the bridge table (or in life!) it sure feels like all of the finesses are bound to lose. The ones that hurt the most tend to be the ones where we can take them “either way.” That is to say, we can choose which opponent to play for a specific honor. Here is a pair of nearly identical hands. However, in the left hand, we can only play West for the ♠Q; on the right, we can take the finesse either way:

♠ KJ62  
♥ KQ8  
♦ 87  
♣ KQ32

---

♠ A873  
♥ AJ4  
♦ A94  
♣ JT5

♠ KJ62  
♥ KQ8  
♦ 87  
♣ KQ32

---

♠ AT73  
♥ AJ4  
♦ A94  
♣ JT5

On hands where you can choose which way to take a finesse, remember to consider if one opponent is more “threatening” than the other, should they get on lead. We don’t know which way the finesse will win or lose, but we can try to minimize the fallout if we guess the wrong hand:

♠ T64	
♥ 74	
♦ KJT9	
♣ KJ54	
?	?
♠ A94	
♥ KJ5	
♦ AQ4	
♣ AT62	

We begin our NT contract plans by counting our sure tricks: 1 spade, 1 heart, 4 diamonds, and some unknown number of clubs. We need at least three club tricks to make our contract. Probability favors taking a finesse over cashing the AK. However, we have a choice of whom to play for the ♣Q. We can cash the A in hand and play small towards the J in dummy to finesse West for it, or play small to the K in dummy and play back to the T in hand to play East for it. Now is the time to consider the ramifications of each hand getting in. We aren’t imminently worried about spades or diamonds, but hearts may be a problem. With the ♥Q and ♥K gone, our ♥J5 remaining is vulnerable, but only if EAST gets on lead and plays through the J5. If West gets on lead, he cannot lead a heart THROUGH your vulnerable heart holding - our J remains a stopper. Therefore, East is the “Danger Hand” and West is the “Safe Hand.” We cannot afford for East to get on lead with the ♣Q, so we play a small club to the K in dummy, and a low one from dummy back to our T in hand. If the finesse wins, we take our winners and call it a day. If the finesse loses to the Q in West, they cannot lead hearts productively, and we will get back on lead to take our three club tricks.

Contract: 3N  
Lead: Small ♥ to the Q and K

Plan the play.

Table Talk

\*This line assumes clubs split 3-2. We have little chance of making the hand otherwise, so we “play for what we need.”

## NEW ACBL MILESTONES

Junior Master (5)

*William Eichbrecht*

*Deb Mexicotte*

*Mary O'Shaugnessey*

*David Schatz*

*James Wares*

Club Master (20) ♠

*Patricia Quick*

*Errol Soskolne*

*Patricia West*

Sectional Master (50) ♠♠

*Gillian Andrews*

*Mike Andrews*

*Catherine Bolton*

*Dr. Barbaranne Branca*

*Barbara Gehlert*

*Norm Kakarala*

*Aneel Karnani*

*William Schott*

*Gail Soderling*

Regional Master (100) ♠♠♠♠

*E. J. Chidiac*

*Guy Conti*

*Ralph Gurganus*

*Robin Wagner*

NABC Master (200) ♠♠♠♠

*Mike Bishel*

*Donna Dotson*

*Steven Dotson*

*Jill Rastelli*

*Sheri Rotenberg*

## TEST YOUR PLAY SOLUTION (FROM BACK COVER)

♠ 752

♥ 62

♦ QT963

♣ 753

♠ QT9

♥ 8543

♦ 75

♣ KT86

♠ J643

♥ JT97

♦ A82

♣ Q9

♠ AK8

♥ AKQ

♦ KJ4

♣ AJ42

IMPs, all vul

Contract: 3N (South)

West leads the ♥J. Plan the play.

This hand appears fairly cut and dry at first glance: If the opponents cannot duck diamonds enough times to lock declarer out of dummy, the contract will make. Otherwise, it will go down. However, you can maximize your chances with some careful thinking in the club suit - if clubs are 3-3 or four to an honor on our right, we can take 2 spades, 3 hearts, 2 diamonds, and 2 clubs.

Win the heart lead at T1 and immediately duck a club. We still have both majors double stopped, so we can go after diamonds later. West will win the club cheaply and play one of the majors. Now we

win that and cash the ♣A, noting the Q falling on our left. We turn our sights again to diamonds, leading the J and overtaking with the Q when West ducks. This ensures an entry to dummy no matter where the ♦A is. Once in dummy after the ♦A has been ducked twice, we turn our sights back to clubs to lead towards the remaining J4 in hand. East can take the ♣K, but now we have built two club and two diamond tricks to go with our 5 top major suit winners, and have not lost anything if it turns out that someone had a singleton or doubleton ♦A all along.

Thanks again to Gene Benedict for this “take all your chances” hand!

# IN MEMORIAM

*Patrician Becker*  
*Mary Brooks*  
*Elizabeth Campbell*  
*Carolyn Johnson-Boxley*  
*Dr. Richard Menczer*  
*Fred T. Will*

## NEW ACBL MILESTONES

Adv. NABC Master (300) ♠♣♥♦

*Michael Fant*  
*Daniel Rose*

Life Master (500) ♠♣♥♦

*Joyce Close*  
*Beth Kordt*  
*Patty McCracken*  
*Rosalyn Monticciolo*  
*Paul Tilly*

Bronze LM (750) ♠♣♥♦

*Carrie Osborne*  
*Charles A. Smith*  
*Henry Zhang*

Silver LM (1000) ♠♣♥♦

*Barb Ferrera*  
*Constance Jones*  
*Martha Toon*

Ruby LM (1500) ♠♣♥♦

*Dr. Alan Cohn*  
*Dr. Steven Shumer*

Sapphire LM (3500) ♠♣♥♦

*Judi Amatangelo*  
*Nathan Banker*  
*Grant Petersen*

Diamond LM (5000) ♠♣♥♦

*Clarke Cunningham*  
*Daniel Marcus*

Emerald LM (7500) ♠♣♥♦

*Brenda Bryant*  
*Jonathan Fleischmann*

# GOOD FOR THE GANDER

We are all familiar with the frustrations of preempts in auctions. They take up valuable bidding space, and make it riskier for us to try to describe our hand to partner. One such auction that can be very preemptive in nature, but is rarely described as such, is as follows:

<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>
	1♦	2♣	?

While the overcall is only one level higher than the opening here, it has precluded responder from showing a major cheaply. As such, the negative double by South in this spot tends to show at least one major. With only one of the majors, South must be game-forcing, or be able to tolerate partner's opening suit, such that he has an option if

opener only has the other major. This brings us to today's auction:

<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>
	1♦	2♣	X
P	3♣		

A cuebid by opener here is unfortunately ambiguous by necessity: you may need to set up a forcing auction with long diamonds, with one major, or with both majors. Many players by default believe this promises both majors, but there are a number of hands that may need to cuebid here to keep the auction going. Another such auction is as follows:

<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>
	3♣	X	P
4♣			

Be sure to discuss cuebids like these and get on the same page about what suits we are or aren't promising!

## TABLE TALK

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# 2021 MBA MINI MCKENNEY STANDINGS

## 0 to 5

Nancy Roney - 4.50  
Barbara Thomas - 3.35  
Patricia Tuttle- 1.26

## 5 to 20

Mary Campbell - 15.65  
Janice Skadsen - 9.92  
Deb Mexicotte - 9.92

## 20 to 50

Michael Garcia 20.27  
Marlene Johnson - 16.82  
Brenda Lessel - 16.28

## 50 to 100

Norm Kakarala - 76.01  
Mike Andrews - 57.01  
Gillian Andrews - 50.98

## 100 to 200

Robin Wagner - 37.87  
Shirley Lindbery - 25.25  
Ralph Gurganus - 22.33

## 200 to 300

Mike Bishel - 67.96  
Jean Becker - 53.59  
Mary Robinson - 39.10

## 300 to 500

Gary Boyers - 78.46  
Barbara Schiff - 48.10  
Joan Capuano - 47.62

## 500-1000

Carrie Osborne- 61.30  
Michael Hughes - 55.94  
Beth Kordt - 38.95

## 1000-1500

Janet Macdonald- 57.15  
Dan Sutherland - 55.35  
William Landrum - 52.03

## 1500-2500

Marilyn Nathanson - 78.43  
Barbara Kalnick - 63.84  
Julie Arbit - 61.19

## 2500-3500

Robert Freeburn - 108.76  
Michael MacDonald - 68.63  
James Walter - 52.63

## 3500-5000

Grant Petersen - 60.08  
Walter Goldsmith - 55.51  
Joe Monro- 40.24

## 5000-7500

Lynne Cook - 119.75  
Richard Temkin - 70.77  
Daniel Marcus- 28.10

## 7500-10,000

Sondra Schubiner - 147.24  
Jonathan Fleischmann- 118.99  
Brenda Bryant - 14.44

## 10,000+

Mike Levine - 201.06  
Owen Lien - 151.35  
Brenda Jaffe - 139.08

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# TEST YOUR PLAY

**IMPs. All Vul. N/S hands:**

♠ 752  
♥ 62  
♦ QT963  
♣ 753

♠ AK8  
♥ AKQ  
♦ KJ4  
♣ AJ42

Contract: 3N-South

West leads the ♥J. Plan the play.  
Solution, page 12

Thanks to Gene Benedict for  
submitting this play problem.

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