

TABLE TALK

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SPRING 2022

A BUMPY ROAD FOR BRIDGE IN A “POST” COVID-19 WORLD

As COVID-19 case rates continue to fluctuate, duplicate bridge is coming to suffer both growing and shrinking pains simultaneously. Although initially perceived as a temporary band-aid, online play has seen high retention rates even as face-to-face options re-emerge. Some players are now faced with awkward decisions about when, where, and how to play bridge. Many have come to embrace the lower risk, lower commitment, faster feedback, and often lower cost associated with playing online. However, most live clubs and tournaments have not bounced back to even 50% of pre-COVID attendance, and decision-makers at all levels are struggling to find a balance that works for their members, as well as for the future of the game. In response to concerns of club and tournament coordinators, the ACBL is reducing online tournament options and using

masterpoints (MPs) to further incentivize live play:

→ **A new initiative** will change the way MPs are calculated for games of differing lengths. Soon, 18-board games - typical of many online BBO games - will continue to pay the same MP awards; however, the awards for games over 18-boards - common in live clubs - will be adjusted upwards according to the number of boards played. The ACBL has not yet announced a start date for this change.

SAVE THE DATES

JUNE 23-26: JOINT MBA-SOMBA SECTIONAL

AUG 25-28: MBA RUSSELL ROOSEN SECTIONAL

OCT 10-16: MBA MOTOR CITY REGIONAL

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Joint MBA/SOMBA Sectional

June 23—26, 2022

at

The Michigan Bridge Connection

26776 Twelve Mile Road, Southfield

Located just west of Northwestern Highway

248-356-6254

Thursday, June 23

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

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

Friday, June 24

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, June 25

BRACKETED Swiss Teams
Playthrough 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. The number of matches in each bracket is determined by the number of teams in the bracket.

Sunday, June 26

BRACKETED Swiss Teams
Playthrough 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. The number of matches in each bracket is determined by the number of teams in the bracket.

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

Mask requirement will depend on ACBL regulations at time of tournament

Players are on their own for lunch

Saturday and Sunday Swiss lunchtime breaks to be determined by director

No smoking in the building

Tournament Chairs: Steven Jacob, 248-259-1830 , sej5700@gmail.com
and Dave Dursum, 248-417-9469, ddursum@aol.com

Partnerships: Jane Gardner, 248-719-2941, janegard@umich.edu and
Marilyn Crane, 734-536-1731, mqcrane@yahoo.com
and Bill Goodman, 586-243-9918, billgoodman43@gmail.com

Publicity: Allan Tushman, 248-939-1793, altushman@yahoo.com

WELCOME

CLUB UPDATES

New Members

Pamela Bowers
Diane Conde
Laura Creagh
Sally Fedus
Jack Lapan
Brad Orr

Transfers

Manuel Alvarez
Phyllis Alvarez
Ruth Armstrong
Meylert Armstrong
Marilyn Blough
Catherine Boyle
Patricia Gilmour

Ann Hart
Patricia Quick
Robert Schulz
Marion Stetson
Gail Sugar
Donald Walker

» The Plymouth DBC afternoon games are: Tues & Weds at 12:30pm.

» The Trenton DBC Thursday evening game is at 6:30pm.

Michigan Bridge Association's

Russell Roosen Sectional

August 25 – 28, 2022

at

The Michigan Bridge Connection

26776 Twelve Mile Road, Southfield

Located just west of Northwestern Highway

248-356-6254

Thursday, August 25

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

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

Friday, August 26

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 27

BRACKETED Swiss Teams

Playthrough 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. The number of matches in each bracket is determined by the number of teams in the bracket.

Sunday, August 28

STRATIFIED Swiss Teams

Playthrough 10:00 a.m.

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.

Mask requirement will depend on ACBL regulations at time of tournament

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: Steven Jacob, 248-259-1830, sej5700@gmail.com

Partnerships: Jane Gardner, 248-719-2941, janegard@umich.edu and

Marilyn Crane, 734-536-1731, mqcrane@yahoo.com

Publicity: Allan Tushman, 248-939-1793, altushman@yahoo.com

TEST YOUR PLAY SOLUTION (FROM LAST PAGE) HAND CREDIT: HENRY SHEVITZ

♠ 76
♥ T763
♦ KT432
♣ Q7

♠ AKJ842
♥ J92
♦ 97
♣ J6

♠ QT9
♥ AKQ85
♦ AQ
♣ A98

♠ 53
♥ 4
♦ J865
♣ KT5432

Contract: 4♥
Lead ♠A, ♠K, ♠J

After West starts with three top spades, South is in a bind. Regardless of the opponents' signaling, it is very likely that East is now out of spades, given that West overcalled at the 2-level. We are missing the crucial ♥J. If we ruff in with the ♥T, we may be able to avoid

getting overruffed. However, now dummy is down to only three trumps. If West started with Jxx in trumps, we will not be able to get to dummy to use the diamonds, and will have to lose 1-2 clubs.

There is a play that assures you the contact barring any voids or 4-0 trump splits:

Pitch a club from dummy on the third spade. East can ruff, but now we will win their return and: (1) Pull three rounds of trumps, (2) Cash our two top diamonds in hand, (3) Cash the ♣A, (4) Ruff one of our club losers in dummy, and (5) Pitch the other club loser on the ♦K. We lose the first three tricks and take the next ten, making 4.

IN MEMORIAM

Terry T Brown
Freddy Van Campenhout
Suzanne Cutler
Sondra Gunn
Larry Mori
Norm Rotter



Decorated bridge partnership Bill Melander and Larry Mori

Remembering Larry Mori:

Larry was a prominent bridge player in the Detroit area. Please send the editor any stories, memories, or photos you would like to share in the Fall TT Issue. Email and mailing addresses on the back cover.

TOURNAMENT NEWS & UPDATES

» The ACBL has updated its policy to allow Monday events at Regionals to start in the morning.

» The Motor City Regional will be held at the Bridge Connection.

» The North American Pairs district final will take place on Sun, Oct. 30 at the Bridge Connection. Check with your local club for NAP Qualifier games this summer.

» District 12 will partner with other districts to offer another Royal STaC event this Fall. MP awards will include gold, silver, red, and black points. Dates TBA.

TEAM GAMES, DEMYSTIFIED

Over the past few decades, team games at tournaments have been evolving based on player preferences. There is a range of vocabulary associated with these events that not all players may be comfortable with. Find below some common team game terms and the implications behind them:

Swiss: Teams are paired each round with opposing teams with a similar running score.

Round Robin: Teams play all or nearly all other teams in their division of an event. Pairings are not based on running score.

Bracketed: At the beginning of the day, teams are divided into brackets based on total team MPs. Teams only play opponents in their bracket, and overall places are awarded in each bracket. The format for each bracket is typically a Round Robin, but can be a Swiss depending on how the total number of teams can be divided into brackets.

Stratified: All teams compete in the same field, but for MP awards, your score is only compared with others in your stratum. Flights are based the team member with the most MPs.

Strati-flighted: Teams are divided into pre-determined flights based on the team member with the most MPs, and only play other teams in the same flight. Each flight is stratified and MP awards are paid for each stratification.

Handicapped: In any given match between two opposing teams, the team with the lower total MPs is given imps toward their total that round. This can either be a fixed number based on what stratification each of the two teams falls into, or proportionate based on the difference in MP totals of the two teams.

Tournament coordinators strive to plan a diverse array of events, but directors ultimately have discretion to combine sections or slightly alter event formats based on attendance.

It's Your Bid

Thank you to the panelists for their time and energy in participating in It's Your Bid! The winning panelist(s) and reader(s) for 2022 will receive a free play for the Motor City Regional in October.

Top six places and cumulative scores after two issues:

Suzy Burger (1000) | Marty Hirschman (970) | Bob Webber (960)
Morrie Kleinplatz (960) | Mark Bendure (950) | Irv Rosenstein (950)

PANEL

Suzy Burger.....	500	Don Rumelhart.....	450
Morrie Kleinplatz...	500	Willie Winokur.....	450
Kurt Dasher.....	490	Gene Benedict.....	440
Jonathan Fleischmann.	490	Dennis Kasle.....	440
Irv Rosenstein.....	490	Joe Chiesa.....	430
Dick Temkin.....	480	Brenda Bryant.....	410
Mark Bendure.....	470	Myles Maddox.....	400
Marty Hirschman...	470	Linda Perlman.....	380
Bob Webber.....	470	Bob Katz.....	350

READERS

Neil Manley.....	430
Ray Gentz.....	420
Paul Chirgwin.....	360
Margaret Carden....	280
Irv Hershman.....	270
Matt Rosenthal.....	250
Gerald Wahl.....	250

Cumulative leaders:

Neil Manley (860)
Ray Gentz (850)

HOW THE PANEL VOTED

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

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

♠AJ86 ♥AQ63 ♦AJ874 ♣void

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♦
P	1N	P	?

While this hand certainly looked promising at the get-go, partner's 1N bid should slow us down a fair bit. Although partner is denying a 4-card major, some panelists still opted to reverse into 2♥ to give as much information as possible. Others chose to pass given a likely misfit, despite having up to around 26 combined HCP. Still others invited to game with 2N, or rebid 2♦ to try to find a fit there. Without many major-suit cards, partner does rate to have diamonds, but could still conceivably have a 3325 or (dreaded) 3316 pattern.

Action	Votes	Score
2♥	6	100
P	5	90
2N	4	80
2♦	3	70

Suzy Burger (2♥): (Ugh) Not quite worth a reverse, but lesser of evils.

Kurt Dasher (2♥): Seems normal to reverse with 16 pts.

Jonathan Fleischmann (2♥): With too much to pass vulnerable at IMPs and 2♦ being woefully misdescriptive, I'll prefer a light reverse. There may not be much in the choice of majors to bid, but I'll start low and avoid bypassing hearts and implying weakness there.

Don Rumelhart (P): I have no reason to believe that anything I will bid will improve the contract.

Brenda Bryant (2N): ...sigh...

Marty Hirschman (2N): A little too good to pass, though that might be a little tempting at matchpoints. I'd like to show my strength and length in both majors, but since I would have to bid them one at a time, that would force the auction to 3NT -- not good if partner has a minimum.

Bob Webber (2N): Red at IMPs, I must stretch a little.

Mark Bendure (2♦): Partner doesn't have a 4 card major and I don't want to play no-trump with a club void, so a diamond part score should be playable. Our hand looked promising to start with, but it is time to slow down with an apparent misfit.

Joe Chiesa (2♦): No second choice. No likely game unless partner can raise diamonds. Certainly no reverse knowing we have no major-suit fit.

2. IMPs. All Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠Q ♥AQ985 ♦KJT3 ♣A64

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

This hand represents a common dilemma - to 3NT or not to 3NT? This tends to be a much harder problem at matchpoints, which is reflected by the panel's votes at imps here. Most went for the straightforward route of raising diamonds to seek out the best game or slam.

Action	Votes	Score
4♦	14	100
4♣	2	60
2N	1	50
2♦	1	50

Gene Benedict (4♦): Set the trump suit. Partner should have either 5 diamonds or a strong hand or both. We will probably get to slam.

Morrie Kleinplatz (4♦): This is another of those hands that depends on the agreed meaning of 3♦. As I play it, 3♦ promises extras and I am heading towards slam. But if partner is allowed to bid 3♦ on KJ10xx, x, Qxxxx, KQ then we need to stop in game.. That sort of ambiguity is why I like to play 3♦ as showing extras. An ambiguous system would be even more of a headache at MP's, where 3NT would be the right spot on the above hand.

Don Rumelhart (4♦): Too good to check out in 3NT, I am hoping for bigger things.

Willie Winokur (4♦): I believe that from A to B...go in a straight line. 4♦ sets trump.

Joe Chiesa (4♣): Must be a diamond cue as with spade support I would bid 3♠ here. If I bid 4♦ I will be unsettled over partner's 5♦.

Bob Katz (3N): Best choice among the bad choices unless opponents will let me bid 3♣.

3. IMPs. All Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠AJ6 ♥void ♦AJT95 ♣98543

<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>
	1♥		?

Many panelists felt that this hand presented a tough problem, but ultimately most converged on a takeout double. Very few opted to make a two-suited bid (Unusual 2NT), likely

due to apprehansion about committing to the 3-level vulnerable, the lackluster club suit, huge disparity between the quality of the minors, and potential of missing a spade fit. Two-suited bids can be a double-edged sword, useful to describe a majority of cards in one shot, but often with some significant drawbacks like those mentioned above.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Score</u>
Dbl	13	100
P	3	60
2N	1	50
2♦	1	50

Suzy Burger (Dbl): Shortness acts.

Marty Hirschman (Dbl): Clubs are too horrible to commit to the 3-level via Unusual NT. Also, I am not willing to deep-six a possible spade fit. An overcall in diamonds could be the winner, but risks missing big fits in clubs or spades.

Morrie Kleinplatz (Dbl): Another tough one. I double, but with little conviction.

Irv Rosenstein (Dbl): Not ideal, but even a 4-3 spade fit may play well. Even better if partner picks a minor!

Willie Winokur (Dbl): Double has the least downside.

Brenda Bryant (P): Could hit gold by bidding 2NT or X, but partner likely has something in hearts.

Don Rumelhart (P): I am a spade short for double and my clubs are not good enough for 2NT vulnerable.

Gene Benedict (2N): Tell partner ten of your cards immediately. Since you are void in hearts, the heart suit is going to be supported. Takeout double lacks a fourth spade, but that is my second choice.

Bob Katz (2♦): Other options are pass and double. Never bidding 2N.

4. IMPs. N/S Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠A9653 ♥KJ5 ♦43 ♣QT3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	1♠	?

This call may have been more contentious 30 years ago when opening styles were a bit more sound - these days, balanced 10-counts tend not to invite. here, given the unfavorable vulnerability, panelists opted not to pass and try to “punish” the opponents. If partner has enough to bid over our 1N, we are likely to make a game, and would need to collect 800+ (holding the opponents to only 3 tricks) against 1♠x.

Action	Votes	Score
1N	17	100
2N	1	50

Mark Bendure (1N): Just about right on high-card strength without good enough spade intermediates to want to defend.

Jonathan Fleischmann (1N): While it may be right to pass and hope to play for penalties, the vulnerability and weak spade spots augur better for offensive prospects.

Marty Hirschman (1N): We are not going to get rich in 1♠x, which we could get to by passing and then passing partner's reopening double. Given that opps may have K, Q, J and 10 of spades, we may struggle to beat 1♠ if partner has a minimum. And if we have a game, we'll probably lose 7 or 8 IMPs by getting only 300 in 1♠x.

Linda Perlman (1N): Not enough to wait and play 1♠x.

Dick Temkin (1N): Value bid with 10 HCP.

5. MP. None Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠Q8764 ♥A ♦KT8432 ♣J

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

This hand is an awkward, mis-fitting 10-count that warranted a lot of “yech” and “ugh” sentiments from the panel. A common agreement is to play 2♦ as an artificial game force here (“Fourth Suit Forcing”), leaving this hand with only flawed alternatives. Many panelists opted to stay low and take preference to partner’s first-bid suit (hearts), even without a known fit there. Others stretched slightly to invite with 2N or 3♦, but as the split panel suggests, these are the types of hands where you tend to shrug, close your eyes, and go with your gut, as there really is no “right” answer.

Action	Votes	Score
2♥	7	100
2N	6	90
2♦	2	70
2♠	2	70
3♦	1	60

Mark Bendure (2♥): Yech!! I can't bid 2♦ (artificial and forcing to game) or rebid my anemic spade suit. 2NT is possible but it sounds too encouraging and a no-trump contract would likely play poorly with a misfit and communication problems. I would have an easy "false preference" with two small hearts, so the singleton ace can't be too much worse.

Irv Rosenstein (2♥): Staying low on misfit; no safety at 2NT or 3 level.

Jonathan Fleischmann (2N): While a slight overbid, this seems to give us the best chance of finding the best strain, whether that happens to be spades or notrump. If 3♦ were 5-5 invitational, or even 4-6 weak as some used to play it, I might consider that. This jump-shift by responder often gets overlooked in partnership discussion, so I'd lean towards 2NT to remain on firm footing.

Dick Temkin (2N): Ugh! At least this is right on the point count and I'm not up to taking a preference to the stiff ace.

Bob Webber (2N): There are several unsavory choices.

Willie Winokur (2♠): "Director, I have to go to the men's room. Sub please." On a good day pard is 3/5/0/5. On a bad day, 0/5/3/5. Brutal.

Bob Katz (3♦): It's MP so I can gamble a bit. At table I would bid 1N to start, forgoing finding my 9-card spade fit, playing the odds and anticipating the rebid problem. But I guess I have to answer the problem as is. 3♦ showing long diamonds and sort of keeping the auction alive. 2nd choice is a false preference of 2♥.

Fall 2022 Hands

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

♠T7542 ♥65 ♦4 ♣86432

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	2♣	2♦*	?

*Natural, 6-9HCP

2. MPs. E/W Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠J8 ♥AKQ9865 ♦Q ♣A32

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
P	1♦ 3N*	P	1♥ ?

*Long minor and stoppers in unbid suits

3. MPs. All Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠T5 ♥AJ7 ♦9732 ♣A943

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	1♦	?

4. IMPs. N/S Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠KJT652 ♥AJT7 ♦KJT ♣void

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

5. MPs. None Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠AQ ♥A97643 ♦AKJ6 ♣7

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		3♠	?

Thanks to Bob Ondo and Joe Monro for their submissions!

Readers, submit your responses by July 31:

Jarbit24@gmail.com

Mailing address on back cover

INTERMEDIATE/ NEWCOMER NOOK

10 Common Errors and How to Avoid Them,

By Mary Smith

The following is an ABRIDGED version of MBA expert Mary Smith's cover article from the July 2007 ACBL Bulletin. To view the full article, log in to MyACBL and select "Bridge Bulletin." Then, once the current issue appears, click "Archives" at the top right to view issues dating back to 2005.

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What distinguishes experts from good players and good players from average players is the frequency of mistakes...

"It is not the handling of the difficult hands that makes the winning player. There aren't enough of them. It is the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones." -- Alan Sontag

Here are 10 common errors and solutions to help avoid them:

1. Playing too Fast

Solution: Slow down [...] Whether you're declaring or defending, you are entitled to think for a few seconds, especially at trick one.

2. Cashing tricks, especially aces, too early

Solution: Planning ahead is good for defenders, too. Aces should capture kings and queens, not 2's and 3's [...]

"It's not enough to win the tricks that belong to you. Try also for some that belong to the opponents." -- Alfred Sheinwold

3. Trump mismanagement

Solution: If your hand or the dummy [is close to having all good tricks], you should usually pull trumps so your winners won't be ruffed. [However, if you're planning a crossruff], don't pull trumps, or at least not enough to thwart your plan.

4. Bad bidding - part 1

Solution: Tell your partner what you've got instead of making her guess.

5. Misusing conventions

Solution: Learn the convention *and* the continuations [e.g. after a Michael's cuebid or after opener responds to Stayman].

6. Bad penalty doubles

Solution: Don't double for penalty just because you have a strong hand. You need tricks and, usually, some trump tricks.

7. Captaincy issues

Solution: When you have basically described your hand, leave the competitive decisions up to partner.

8. Telling the same story twice

Solution: Resolve to stop rebidding five-card suits if there is a reasonable alternative.

9. Bad bidding - part 2

Solution: Support with support.

10. Physical or mental errors

Solution: Before playing to any trick take a quick glance at the table, left to right.

NEW ACBL MILESTONES

Junior Master (5)

*Brian Chambers
Terrance Larson
Cynthia Mann*

Club Master (20) ♠

Charlotte Worthen

Sectional Master (50) ♠♠

*Suzanne Cagwin
Cosette Campbell
Deborah Defever
Gary Glenn
Ann Ye*

Regional Master (100) ♠♠♠

*Gillian Andrews
Mike Andrews
Larry Junck*

NABC Master (200) ♠♠♠♠

*Susan Royer
Robin Wagner*

Adv. NABC Master (300) ♠♠♠♠♠

Jill Rastelli

Bronze LM (750) ♠♠♠♠♠

Beth Kordt

Silver LM (1,000) ♠♠♠♠♠♠

Yanping Zhang

Ruby LM (1,500) ♠♠♠♠♠♠

*Timur Aydin
Mike Kaleel*

Gold LM (2,500) ♠♠♠♠♠♠♠

Ed Williams

TAKING ALL YOUR CHANCES

NORTH

♠ QT
♥ J52
♦ A54
♣ AJ864

SOUTH

♠ AK9762
♥ K74
♦ T76
♣ 7

Contract: 4♠
Lead ♣K

The Spring 2020 issue of Table Talk featured a favorable review of Eddie Kantar's *Take All Your Chances at Bridge*. The following hand played recently between two MBA Board members exemplifies the principles in this book.

N/S landed in an optimistic 4♠ contract. In the auction, South showed 6+ spades and an opening hand. E/W were silent. On the ♣K lead, we see two diamond losers and at fewest two in hearts, and that is assuming trumps are friendly.

North's club suit could conceivably provide a useful pitch or two depending on the layout of clubs in the opponents' hands, and our entries to the dummy.

If the opponents' seven total clubs divide 5-2 (KQxxx in one hand), we can never set up a club trick. If they divide 4-3, we can ruff three clubs, and then dummy's last club will be good. Additionally, in the scenario where West started with just ♣KQx, we only have to ruff two clubs, and then the Jack will be good.

The biggest challenge here is entries: Do we have enough entries to dummy to ruff out clubs and get back to cash the club winner we worked so hard to set up? Assuming KQxx with West, we need four total entries to ruff three clubs and cash the last one. If West has just KQx, we only need three entries.

Our entries: ♣A, ♦A, ♠Q

There is another potential entry as well: the ♠T.

We could lead a spade to dummy's Ten and gain an additional entry if the Jack is onside (with West). However, if the ♠J is offside (with East), we lose a trick we likely don't have to lose, and go down an extra trick.

A big factor in this planning process is the form of scoring: At IMPs (team games), making the contract is sacred, and it is advantageous to make risky plays to try to make a contract. It is not too costly to go down an extra undertrick in the process. At matchpoints (pairs games), it can be disastrous to go down an extra trick.

Without getting into the weeds with percentages, at IMPs it is right to finesse the ♠T. KQxx is sufficiently more likely than KQx that it is worth taking the 50% shot at the extra entry.

At matchpoints, there is an additional wrinkle: Do we think the rest of the field is also in 4♠? If so, we want to do damage control and avoid risky plays. Even if we go down 1, we will tie most of the field, and end up with an average board. However, if we've gotten to a spot that the rest of the field is not in, there is less harm in risky plays. We were already getting a bad board for being too high, so we may as well shoot for the moon. If the cards are friendly, we make a game that few others have reached, netting us a very good result. If they are not friendly, we aren't much worse off.

With only 22 HCP, no ruffing value in the short spade hand, and only an 8-card fit, we are in an aggressive spot. Many opponents will likely stay lower. *So, this is an ideal spot to take all of our chances.* On this particular hand, the ♠J is indeed onside, so we do not go down

an extra trick, but clubs split 5-2, so it is impossible to set up a club for a pitch. Only three pairs of 11 reached 4♠. Find the full hand here (Bd. 20 Fri PM pairs, SOMBA May Regional):

♠ J4	♠ QT	♠ 853
♥ Q9	♥ J52	♥ AT863
♦ Q832	♦ A54	♦ KJ9
♣ KQT93	♣ AJ864	♣ 52
	♠ AK9762	
	♥ K74	
	♦ T76	
	♣ 7	

MBA BOARD VACANCY



The MBA Board seeks candidates for the 2022 Election

- » Four annual meetings
 - » Feb, May, Sept, Nov
 - » Dinner provided
- » Flexible responsibilities
- » Two-year term
- » Election takes place at Motor City Regional (absentee ballot available in Fall issue of Table Talk)
- » Contact Mark Bendure: bendurelaw@cs.com

MBA TROPHY ROUNDUP

MBA awards five trophies each year. Trophies are inscribed with winners' names annually and presented at the MBA Spring Sectional. Trophies are currently housed at the Bridge Connection, although winners may keep them for the following year.

For masterpoint calculations, The Motor City Regional counts at 70% of masterpoints earned at MBA Sectionals. Online points are not counted for any trophies.

Edward F Stein Memorial Trophy:

MBA's Player of the Year award. MBA member who wins the most total MPs in overall placing in unlimited events at MBA tournaments. Points won for placings below Flight A are not counted.

William S. Mouser Trophy:

District 12 member who wins the most total MPs at the Motor City Regional.

Grant Marsee Trophy:

Michigan player who wins the most total MPs in the calendar year.

Beverly Bluth Trophy:

MBA's Flight B player of the year award. MBA member who started the calendar year with fewer than 2,000 MPs and won the most points at the unit's sectionals and regional.

Willie Winokur Trophy:

MBA's Flight C player of the year award. Except as indicated below, it is inscribed annually with the name of the MBA member who started the calendar year with fewer than 750 MPs and won the most points at the unit's sectionals and regional.

THE LONGEST DAY

A Message from the
Bridge Connection

June 21, 2022

In just a few weeks the Summer Solstice will be here and that means it's time for The Longest Day. Once again, the ACBL is in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association to raise funds to support this worthy cause.

Locally, The Michigan Bridge Connection in Southfield will be participating in this effort by running a special game awarding considerably higher masterpoints at noon on Tuesday June 21st.

Your *direct* donations to the Alzheimer's Association are welcomed. Please make your

check payable to: "Alzheimer's Association" and bring it to the Connection any time. If you prefer to donate cash, receipts for your donation will be available in the club. Lastly, you can donate online by going to: act.alz.org. Click on "Donate" - "Donate to The Longest Day" - "Donate to Fundraiser" (insert Ronald Horwitz) - "Michigan Bridge Connection"

If donating online, be sure you see a box saying you are donating on behalf of the Michigan Bridge Connection.

The Connection also has several bridge books, including some classics, that are on sale to support the AA.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing you at the Bridge Connection on the 21st. More information is available by calling the club at 248-356-6254.

2022 MICHIGAN STATE SECTIONAL RESULTS

Single-Session Open Pairs

Th AM: Mary Smith -
Henry Shevitz

Fri AM: Joe Monro -
Sandy Birnholtz

Fri PM: Marty Hirschman -
Bob Webber

Table Talk

Single-Session Swiss Teams

Th PM: Bob Mendelson - Willie
Winokur - Mike Crane - Bob
Webber

Single-Session 0-500 Pairs

Th AM: Jane Stewart - John Kraus

Th PM: Peter Hellekjaer -
James Verhage

Fri AM: Gerald Wahl -
Michael Betzold

Fri PM: Peter Malcolmson -
Mark Stern

Two-Session Swiss Teams

Sat Bracket I: Jerry Grossman -
Bob Webber - Dick Temkin -
Mike Crane

Sat Bracket II: Stephen Leist -
Richard Voss - Murali Mani -
John Berry

Sun Bracket I: Ed White - Marty
Hirschman - Bob Webber - Jerry
Grossman

Sun Bracket II: Tom Bonfils -
Edward Becker - Josie Doherty -
Peter Bolgar

Overall Masterpoint Winners

Bob Webber - 49.27
Marty Hirschman - 40.62
Jerry Grossman - 39.29
Ed White - 29.14
Mike Crane - 25.87
Dick Temkin - 22.38

Test Your Play

Credit: Henry Shevitz

NORTH

♠ 76
♥ T763
♦ KT432
♣ Q7

SOUTH

♠ QT9
♥ AKQ85
♦ AQ
♣ A98

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

			2♣
2♠	P*	P	2N
P	3♣	P	3♥**
P	4♥	AP	

*North's pass indicates values

**3♥ shows five hearts

West leads the AK of spades
and leads a third spade to T3.
Plan the play. Solution, p. 4

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2022 MBA Tournament Schedule:

Jun 23-26: Joint Sectional
Aug 25-28: MBA Sectional
Oct 10-16: MBA Regional

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

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