

TABLE TALK

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

VOL. 63 No. 1

WINTER 2022

TOURNAMENTS SEE AROUND 50% PRE-COVID ATTENDANCE RATES

As with many other activities, the return to in-person bridge has been staggered nation-wide, with attendance rates compared to 2018-19 at less than 50% nearly across the board. District 12 has been able to hold more of its tournaments than many other districts, and has successfully hosted five sectionals and one regional since tournaments first returned in September 2021. MBA was also the first unit in the country to host a regional since early 2020, and among the first to host a sectional.

Tournament	Attendance vs. Pre-Covid*
MBA Russell Roosen Sectional	44%
MBA Motor City Regional	46%
SOMBA Apple Cider Sectional	44%
ACBL Fall NABC	55%
MBA Michael Graham Sectional	39%
Cleveland Regional	29%
SOMBA Valentine Sectional	42%

*Pre-COVID = average of the two tournaments just prior to COVID, except previous five for the NABC)

SAVE THE DATES


Royal STAC

(Sectional Tournaments at Clubs)

APRIL 11-17

Participating D12 Face-to-Face Clubs

Large, multi-district payouts, 1/4 each:
gold | red | silver | black

**Grand National
Team Qualifier**

Winners of each flight represent D12 at the 2022 Summer NABC in Providence

SUNDAY, MAY 1

Bridge Connection, 11am

Winners receive \$1200/team toward expenses for the NABC

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Michigan Bridge Association's

Michigan State Sectional

March 31 – April 3, 2022

at

The Michigan Bridge Connection

26776 Twelve Mile Road, Southfield

Located just west of Northwestern Highway

248-356-6254

Thursday, March 31

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, April 1

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, April 2

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, April 3

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

Masks will probably be required but 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 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

CONGRATULATIONS 2021 TROPHY & MP RACE WINNERS

Mini-McKenney (MM): MBA Player who won the most points in the year (as of 2020, points won in online ACBL games do count)

Ace of Clubs (AC): MBA player who won the most black points in the year (as of 2020, points won in online club games do count)

0 to 5

MM: Veronica Barrell - 53.99
AC: Veronica Barrell - 53.62

5 to 20

MM: Mary Campbell - 29.91
AC: Mary Campbell - 29.91

20 to 50

MM: Michael Garcia - 55.41
AC: Michael Garcia - 41.83

50 to 100

MM: Norm Kakarala - 115.24
AC: Norm Kakarala - 106.44

100 to 200

MM: Robin Wagner - 98.93
AC: Robin Wagner - 96.06

200 to 300

MM: Mike Bishel - 103.51
AC: Jean Becker - 61.11

300 to 500

MM: Gary Boyers - 209.06
AC: Gary Boyers - 146.14

500 to 1000

MM: Michael Hughes - 116.51
AC: Michael Hughes - 116.51

1000 to 1500

MM: Barb Ferrera - 169.55
AC: Barb Ferrera - 131.36

1500 to 2500

MM: Julie Arbit - 229.42
AC: Marilyn Nathanson - 182.96

2500 to 3500

MM: Jim Walter - 180.58
AC: Robert Freeburn - 169.82

3500 to 5000

MM: Walter Goldsmith - 135.58
AC: Walter Goldsmith - 127.14

5000 to 7500

MM: Lynne Cook - 314.12
AC: Lynne Cook - 304.39

7500 to 10,000

MM: Jonathan Fleischmann - 475.24
AC: Sondra Schubiner - 283.28

10,000 +

MM: Owen Lien - 565.78
AC: Brenda Jaffe - 311.75

WELCOME

New Members

Anne Beaubien	Theo Polley
Mary Fisher	Michael Rosenberg
Richard Fisher	Jane Spinner
Terrance Larson	Gigi Thomas
M P Narayanan	Shaozhong Zhao

Transfers

Karl Benson
Elvira Jenkins
David Johnston

MBA TROPHIES

Marsee: Michigan player who won the most points in 2021 (does not count online points)

Owen Lien

Mouser: District 12 player who won the most points at the 2021 Motor City Regional

Jerry Grossman

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.

PANEL

READERS

Suzy Burger.....500	Owen Lien.....460	Gerald Wahl.....450
Marty Hirschman..500	Irv Rosenstein.....460	Neil Manley.....430
Bob Webber.....490	Dick Temkin.....450	Ray Gentz.....430
Mark Bendure.....480	Willie Winokur....440	Dick Bauman.....430
Brenda Bryant.....480	Kurt Dasher.....430	Jerry Viedrah.....380
Bob Katz.....480	Sheldon Kirsch.....430	J. Morris Swiger....350
Dennis Kasle.....470	Linda Perlman.....420	Irv Hershman.....340
Gene Benedict.....460	Jonathan Fleischmann..410	Paul Chirgwin.....270
Joe Chiesa.....460	Don Rumelhart....400	*Due to a printing error on #4 in the last issue, all readers received 100 points on this problem.
Morrie Kleinplatz..460		

HOW THE PANEL VOTED

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

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

♠Q8542 ♥AK ♦A2 ♣KJ76

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		3♥	?

Preempts are some of the most powerful bids in bridge, with the ability to put the opponents to an early guess, often without too much risk. The 3♥ preempt here poses a big problem for South, who would like to find a spade fit if possible, but really can't risk missing 3N, as it is often the last making spot. Most panelists chose to forego showing the spades in favor of getting the strength of the hand across, and not risk partner going past 3N when they have no heart stopper and no spade suit to show.

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

Marty Hirschman (3N): Game if I make it, and this is the only way to get there. Obviously 3♠ could work out better, but bidding 3♠ would simultaneously overbid the spades and somewhat underbid the strength of the hand. Missing an 8-card spade fit might turn out be a blessing, since the preempt makes it a little more likely than usual that West has a trump stack.

Irv Rosenstein (3N): Following Hamman's rule.

***Editor's note:** Hamman's 3NT rule is widely regarded as: "If you have a choice of reasonable bids and one of them is 3NT, then bid it."

Don Rumelhart (3N): Either double or 3♠ could be right, but if 3NT is right I need to bid it now.

Morrie Kleinplatz (3♠): Still the most likely strain, will usually be OK if partner passes or bids 4♠ or an unlikely 3NT. Pre-empts!

Willie Winokur (X): Double seems to have the least downside.

2. IMPs. None Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠Q54 ♥8 ♦K97 ♣KQ8532

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

*Forcing

This hand came up in a local rubber bridge game and is not much of a problem at matchpoints, but at IMPs it is more contentious. Most panelists opted to respect the misfit and pass, hoping to go plus, but there is an argument for bidding on to avoid missing a game - partner could still have a 14-15 count, and with a fitting club holding, game is certainly possible.

Action	Votes	Score
P	14	100
2N	4	70
3♣	1	50

Mark Bendure (P): Close between pass and 3♣. If partner has something like Ax of clubs we might have an easy make at 3NT, but we are not vulnerable, the hand could well be a misfit, partner has at least as many hearts as I have clubs, major suit tricks pay 30 apiece, and bidding takes us a level higher, so it is time to take the low road.

Irv Rosenstein (P): No need to stretch for iffy game; try to go plus.

Willie Winokur (P): I at least have one heart. Pard may be void in clubs. Make the 532 the 1097 of clubs and I would bid 3♣.

Gene Benedict (2N): Invites game. It pays to be aggressive at this imp.

Jonathan Fleischmann (2N): While I wouldn't bid on just to correct the partial, I've got a possible source of tricks and enough values that I need to keep 3NT in the picture.

Don Rumelhart (3♣): Seems to describe my hand. If partner has a fitting card in clubs, he can bid 3NT.

3. MPs. All Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠K5 ♥AKQ96 ♦AJ42 ♣KJ

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	P	P	Dbl
P	1♦	P	?

This tricky hand becomes even more challenging to describe when an opponent opens first. Starting with a double is necessary to show a strong hand, but when partner unexpectedly bids our secondary diamond suit, it's not clear how to proceed. The panel was split between cuebidding clubs to set up a force, jumping in NT or hearts, or showing hearts at the 1-level, still a strong "double and bid" action.

Action	Votes	Score
2♣	7	100
2N	5	90
2♥	5	90
1♥	2	70

Jonathan Fleischmann (2♣): No number of hearts seems right with such a powerful hand and a good diamond fit. The cuebid should keep maximum flexibility.

Sheldon Kirsch (2♣): Need to start describing the strength of this hand.

Kurt Dasher (2♣): Creating force, bidding hearts next.

Morrie Kleinplatz (2♣): Good problem. If partner rebids 2♦, that is likely a total bust. If partner rebids 2♥, 2♠, or 2NT we will head for game. Good hand for partnership discussion. What would 2♥ now show? Is it strong enough?

Linda Perlman (2N): Certainly possible to mention my suit and bid 2♥ but think I'm showing a better hand this way, 20-21 pure pts. And want to play from my side.

Dick Temkin (2N): Value bid which right-sides the contract. A cue bid likely just delays the pain.

Joe Chiesa (2♥): Conveys my strength and is almost a 6-card suit. 3♦ is palatable but suggests an 11 trick game. 2NT or 3NT likely forecloses 4♥ or 5♦ and may require help in the blacks.

Owen Lien (1♥): If my partner can't bid over this then game seems unlikely. I do play a more conservative X and bid style than others (i.e. need more than 17 random HCP).

4. MPs. None Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠K ♥KT76 ♦Q4 ♣AT9842

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

Another preempt problem where the opponents put us to an early decision without much information. On one hand, we know we have a club fit, and partner could still have hearts with us, but some panelists opted to gamble with 3N, in the hope that West would underlead the ♠A and we can rattle off 9+ tricks after that. Others chose to show their club suit with the hope of finding the right game, and exploring for slam.

Action	Votes	Score
3N	7	100
4♣	7	100
X	2	70
5♣	2	70
P	1	60

Mark Bendure (3N): Hamman's Rule (if 3NT is a plausible contract, bid it). I hope to take a lot of club tricks. With possible bad splits, at matchpoints I am reluctant to go past 3NT to try for a club slam.

Owen Lien (3N): Not only the likeliest game, but most likely the only way to get there. If I reopen X, partner is too likely to bid 4♥ with only 3, even if holding a tenuous spade stopper. 4♣ an underbid but 5♣ a long way away. I expect to make 3NT unless they can take the first 5+ tricks. Plus, it's matchpoints!

Bob Webber (3N): What else?

Dick Temkin (4♣): Too many losers to bid 5♣. Leaves room for partner to bid hearts with four, though west may hold four hearts since they didn't open 3♠.

Brenda Bryant (4♣): X could be right -- but if partner has length in clubs, there goes our tricks in that suit [on defense].

Bob Katz (4♣): Not good enough to double back in and too many clubs. If partner has four hearts, they will correct. If they have extras, they will go on.

Jonathan Fleischmann (X): Since I'm not sure what number of clubs is right, anyway, I'll keep 3♠x, 3NT, and 4♥ in the game.

5. MPs. None Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠AKQJ62 ♥A4 ♦T ♣AT93

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♠
Dbl	1N	2♣	?

Pinochle players who are accustomed to multiple copies of honor cards will feel right at home on this hand, but bridge players will sense something fishy. While it may seem like there need to be more than 40 HCP in this deck to justify everyone's bid, matchpoint players tend towards aggressive actions when no one is vulnerable, and are often rewarded. The real question here is which game do we want to get to, 4♠ or 3N? We have eight tricks in hand and partner is likely to contribute a ninth, but 4♠ may pay better if we can ruff or pitch any club losers away.

Action	Votes	Score
3N	9	100
4♠	6	90
X	2	70
3♠	1	60
3♣	1	60

Gene Benedict (3N): Matchpoint gamble. Partner should be able to provide one trick for their no trump bid.

Marty Hirschman (3N): I have to get us to game. Given the takeout double, the 2♣ response and my four clubs, partner rates to be fairly short in clubs and therefore have length and values in the red suits. I have eight probable winners. It is not too much to play partner for a trick. Doubling 2♣ for penalty has a definite appeal, but our probable six spade tricks on offense could be worth as little as one or two on defense. That is a big disparity.

Linda Perlman (3N): Look at all those tricks. Might say double, then when it goes 2♦ x pass, what will I do?

Brenda Bryant (4♠): Don't like my singleton diamond and the hand seems suit-oriented. Also, given the bidding, partner is likely short in clubs.

Bob Katz (4♠): Apparently a pinochle deck. (Why is this a problem? I cannot imagine any other choice.)

Joe Chiesa (X): Something is rotten in Denmark. LHO did not Michaels. Partner did not bid 2 of a red suit. RHO did not have to bid over 1NT. Does everyone have clubs? RHO did not have to bid over 1NT. Does everyone have values? Double may smoke them out. I can always bid 3NT or 4♠ later. 4♦ as an auto-splinter now is possible to find an unlikely slam. 3NT now risks the opponents running the diamond suit.

Don Rumelhart (3♠): May be a slight underbid, but leaves open the possibility of 3NT by partner.

Sheldon Kirsch (3♠): Too good for 4♠, I might bid that next time.

Summer 2022 Hands

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

♠AJ86 ♥AQ63 ♦AJ784 ♣void

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♦
P	1N	P	?

2. IMPs. All Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠AQ ♥AQ985 ♦KJT3 ♣A64

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

3. IMPs. All Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠AJ6 ♥void ♦AJT95 ♣98543

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♥	?

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

♠A9653 ♥KJ5 ♦43 ♣QT3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
P	1♣	1♠	?

5. MPs. None Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠Q8764 ♥A ♦KT8432 ♣J

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

Readers, submit your responses by April 18:

Jarbit24@gmail.com

Julie Arbit
900 W. Maple Rd.
Milford, MI 48381

Table Talk

2021 MBA FINANCIAL REPORT

Total worth January 1, 2021

33,089.00

RECEIPTS

Motor City Regional	3617.00	
Roosen Sectional	2834.00	
Dues	3031.32	
Interest	3.74	9486.06
		<u>42575.06</u>

EXPENDITURES

Motor City Regional	2789.13	
Roosen Sectional	2360.14	
Table Talk	1963.81	
Honoraria	1200.00	
Liability insurance	315.00	
Ann Arbor Sectional	288.83	
Bulk mail fee	265.00	
Office and postage	252.49	
Board meetings	237.84	
Alzheimer's Association	200.00	
Michigan Annual Report	20.00	9892.24
		<u>32,682.82</u>

Total worth December 31, 2021

32,682.82

HELP MBA IMPROVE TOURNAMENTS!

The MBA Board is seeking input from players on how to make Sundays at sectionals more appealing!

Whether you have Sunday morning commitments, want to be home in time for the game, are daunted by playing all day at the end of a long tournament, or anything else, we want to redesign our Sundays in a way that works for our members.

Be on the lookout for an email survey about this, or come find us at the Spring Sectional to share your feedback!

Table Talk

CLUB UPDATE

The Ford DBC and Trenton evening games are reopening!

Director: Bob Ondo

Ford DBC: Tuesdays 6pm
Hope Lutheran Church

Trenton DBC: Thursdays 7pm
2700 Westfield Rd
Beginning March 17

IN MEMORIAM

Kathryn Altman

Robert Berarducci

Robert Brent

Danny Feldman

Marilynne Foley

Marty Morrison

NEW ACBL MILESTONES

Junior Master (5)

Robert Barber

Edwin Clarke

M P Narayanan

Sandra Williams

Shaozhong Zhao

Club Master (20) ♠

Gail A Bernstein

Daniel Hakes

Anne Ye

Sectional Master (50) ♠♠

Veronica Barrell

Jay Munz

Cindy Schaefer-Munz

Barbara Snow

Regional Master (100) ♠♠♠♠

Michael Garcia

John Kraus

Lynn McGann

NABC Master (200) ♠♠♠♠

Rosemary Hastings

Life Master (500) ♠♠♠♠

Gary Boyers

Charles Royer

Bronze LM (750) ♠♠♠♠

Gary Boyers

Dennis Ebendick

James Egan

INTERMEDIATE/ NEWCOMER NOOK

Opening leads are widely regarded as one of the hardest aspects of bridge, not to mention the most subject to randomness. How often have you led the unbid suit against a 3N contract, only to find out that it is where the opponents have the bulk of their strength?

However, despite many experts referring to the opening lead as the “opening guess,” there are some definitive principles that can help guide you towards getting these guesses right more often than not. Thus, the topic of the day is:

To lead trump, or not to lead trump?

Depending on whom you ask - and what kind of mood they're in - you will get a range of answers about when to lead trumps. Here are some situations where it is **OFTEN BENEFICIAL** to lead trumps:

(1) **When one opponent has shown 2+ suits on the auction**, and their partner selects one of them as the trump suit.

→ For instance, the opponents have the uncontested auction:

1♦-1♠-2♣-2♦

(2) **When our side has the balance of power** and we want to remove opportunities for them to collect tricks by cross-ruffing.

→ For instance, the opponents, after preempting, take a sacrifice in 5♥ against our vulnerable 4♠ game.

Other examples of an opponent showing a two-suited hand include: DONT auctions after we open 1NT, and Michaels and Unusual 2NT auctions.

On the flip side, here are some situations you want to **BEWARE** of, where leading a trump can be incredibly costly:

(1) **When one of the opponents has shown a long side suit** that may allow them to pitch their losers away if we don't cash our winners early.

→ For instance, the opponents have the uncontested auction:

1♣-1♠-2♣-4♠

(2) **When we have a vulnerable holding in the trump suit** and may be pickling a trick in the suit that we are entitled to if we don't lead it.

→ For instance, holdings like:
Jx opposite Qxx | KTx opposite Qx

(3) **When we are seeking a ruff, or believe we may give partner a ruff somewhere.** Leading suits to actively seek ruffs (like leading small doubletons) are contentious, and tend to work much better if we have a "fast" trump entry (like the ace or protected king). This is because our short suits are likely the opponents' long suits, so by leading them we are setting them up early. If we're not assured to get on lead in trumps to get our ruffs, declarer will capitalize on having these side suits all set up for pitches.

Happy leading!

NEW ACBL MILESTONES

Silver LM (1,000) ♠♣♥♦

Milton Siegel

Chris Brewer

Klaus Brondum

Stuart Dombey

Suzanne McIlhenny

Joan Micou

Marie Schwanitz

Ruby LM (1,500) ♠♣♥♦

Ronald Horwitz

Gold LM (2,500) ♠♣♥♦

Julie Arbit

Elmer Johansen

Michael Kraut

Zachary Wasserman

Sapphire LM (3,500) ♠♣♥♦

Steven Jacob

Neil Manley Jr

Diamond LM (5,000) ♠♣♥♦

Cono Emanuele

Emerald LM (7,500) ♠♣♥♦

Lynne Cook

Richard Temkin

BD OF GOVERNORS ANTI-CHEATING REPORT

Following a NYT news-worthy surge in high profile bridge cheating cases - both in person and online - in the past ~5 years, many governing bodies are still grappling with security, investigation, and discipline. Some pay reviewers to look at anonymous results and assess the likelihood that a player or pair was cheating. Others are considering volunteer groups and training programs to handle the immense time and energy commitment involved with suspected cheating. The ACBL Board of Governors, an advisory committee for the Board of Directors, released a report in October 2021 with recommendations to the ACBL on the topic.

In summary:

1. **License** or create software to identify probable cheating pairs.
2. **Obtain** all BBO information on probably cheating pairs, regardless of BBO action taken.
3. **Hire** or assign a full time associate National Recorder to clear the current backlog of cases.
4. **Prepare** charges on all provable cases of collusive cheating.
5. **Penalize** collusive cheaters who undergo a hearing with a suspension of 3+ years and those who settle cases with a 1+ year suspension.
7. **Develop** a system to use cameras in online games to discourage cheating.
8. **Publish** reports of cheating hearings and appeals in the Bulletin.
9. **Form** an Institute for Bridge Arbitration to decide cases involving top and professional players.

TEST YOUR PLAY SOLUTION (FROM LAST PAGE)

♠ J84			
♥ Q8			
♦ Q75			
♣ AK652			
♠ K6		♠ AT9532	
♥ AT5		♥ 64	
♦ K98632		♦ JT	
♣ Q8		♣ 943	
	♠ Q7		
	♥ KJ9732		
	♦ A4		
	♣ JT7		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	2♠	3♥
P	4♥	AP	

1. ♠K-4-2-7
2. ♠6-8-A-Q
3. ♠5-?

Plan the play.

From the auction, we can assume that West is out of spades on the third round. We are missing ATxxx in trumps, and have already lost two tricks. **We can use the principle of "vacant spaces" here:** At trick three, we know that four of East's remaining cards are spades. We know nothing about West's remaining cards. West has more 'spaces' for hearts, and is more likely to hold more total hearts. If West does indeed hold more hearts, it is more likely they hold any given heart. In this scenario, ruffing with the ♥9 here only wins if East started with the ♥T. **Given that it is more likely that West started with it, we can ruff HIGH with the K/J and then use the ♥8 to finesse West for the Ten when pulling trumps.** Once the ♣Q shows up onside, we only lose two spades and the ace of trumps.

SPARKLING DECLARER PLAY

BY HENRY SHEVITZ

♠ 2	♠ QJT64	♠ 95
♥ A2	♥ J93	♥ KQ65
♦ T653	♦ A872	♦ KJ9
♣ AK8754	♣ 9	♣ T632
	♠ AK873	
	♥ T874	
	♦ Q4	
	♣ QJ	

<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>
-------------	--------------	-------------	--------------

	P	P	1♠
2♣	4♣	5♣	AP

Opening Lead: ♠Q

Result: 5♣ = | +600 | +10.07 IMPs

This hand comes from an online tournament, and demonstrates sparkling declarer play. North's 4♣ bid was a splinter in support of spades. East, however, was not to be deterred, and raised to the 5-level.

The opening lead of the ♠Q held the trick, and N continued with spades, ruffed by declarer. The trumps were drawn in 2 rounds, and declarer made the key play of a diamond to the king! Next, four rounds of hearts were played, declarer discarding a diamond on the 3rd, and ruffing the 4th heart.

Declarer then led the ♦6 from hand, and the defense was defenseless. North ducked, South winning with the queen, and was then forced to lead spade, presenting declarer with a ruff-sluff, discarding his last (losing) diamond, while trumping in dummy. +600 was worth 10 IMPs.

2021 RUSSELL ROOSEN SECTIONAL RESULTS

Single-Session Open Pairs

Th AM: Rose Burke-Lynne Cook
Th PM: Bob Ondo-Steve Jacob
Fr AM: Dick Temkin-Irv Rosenstein
Fr PM: Mary Smith-Howard Perlman
Sa AM: Dennis Carman-John Koschik
Sa PM: Peter Bolgar-Edward Becker

Single-Session 0-500 Pairs

Th AM: Donald Meier-Michael Garcia
Th PM: Carlee Lehna-Carole Wiseley
Sa AM: Gerald Wahl-Mike Betzold

Single-Session Swiss Teams

Th PM: Dick Temkin-Mike
Crane-Sheldon Kirsch-Jerry
Grossman

Two-Session Swiss Teams

Sat: Julie Arbit-Jonathan
Fleischmann-Bob
Mendelson-Howard Perlman

Sun Bracket I: Julie Arbit-Owen
Lien-Jonathan Fleischmann-Kurt
Dasher

Sun Bracket II: Chun Zhou-
Xiaoping Wu-Tan Yang-
Shaozhong Zhao

Overall Masterpoint Winners

Sheldon Kirsch - 27.95
Kurt Dasher - 26.49
Jonathan Fleischmann - 26.46
Julie Arbit - 25.19
Dick Temkin - 23.25
Owen Lien - 23.20

2021 MOTOR CITY REGIONAL RESULTS

Two-Session Swiss Teams

Tues Bracket I: Brenda Bryant-Linda Perlman-Owen Lien-Zach Wasserman-Howard Perlman

Tues Bracket II: Kathy Twomey-Gary Boyers-Ronna Galin-Suzanne McIlhiny

Thu Bracket I: Bob Webber-Bob Katz-Jerry Grossman-Mike Crane

Thu Bracket II: Arun Desouza-Bob Ondo-Barb Ferrera-Jim Walter

Thu Bracket III: Mary Robinson-Jane Lehman-Mary Thorne-Laura Brice

Sun Bracket I: Ed White-Marty Hirschman-Jerry Grossman-Sheldon Kirsch

Sun Bracket II: Chun Zhou-Xiaoping Wu-Tan Yang-Tom Bonfils

Sun Bracket III: Graham Putnam-James Egan-Steven Dotson-Donna Dotson

Two-Session Open Pairs

Mon: Marty Hirschman-Ed White
Weds: Jerry Grossman-Sheldon Kirsch
Fri: Robert Todd-Bill Cook
Sat: Linda Perlman-Mike Curley

Two-Session Gold Rush Pairs

Mon: Ronald Whitney-Daniel Rose
Weds: Carlee Lehna-Barbara Cusick
Fri: Gay Garcia-Constance Chapp
Sat: Gary Boyers-E J Chidiac

Single-Session Side Pairs

Tu AM: Robert Todd-Bill Cook
Tu PM: Raj Patil-Bert Newman
Th PM: Paul Stunkel-Bill Rouse

Side Series Overalls

Bill Rouse-Paul Stunkel - 63.02%
Bert Newman-Raj Patil - 60.96%
Walter Goldsmith-Mike Giordano-58.80%
Stephanie Gasper-Jacqueline Carney - 55.21%
Robin Lewis-Patricia McCabe - 53.65%

Overall Masterpoint Winners

Jerry Grossman - 89.66
Sheldon Kirsch - 73.54
Marty Hirschman - 71.75
Ed White - 71.75
Owen Lien - 68.28
Linda Perlman - 57.04
Mike Crane - 56.22
Brenda Bryant - 53.07
Robert Todd - 44.78
Bill Cook - 44.78

MICHAEL GRAHAM ANN ARBOR SECTIONAL RESULTS

Two-Session Swiss Teams

Sat:

1st: 85 VPs - Ken Geisler-Arlene Geisler-Barb Ferrera-Jim Walter

2nd: 71 VPs - Gary Boyers-E J Chidiac-Ronald Whitney-Alan Hassoun

3rd: 70 VPs - Marcy Toon-Stuart Dombey-Chris Brewer-Larry Junck

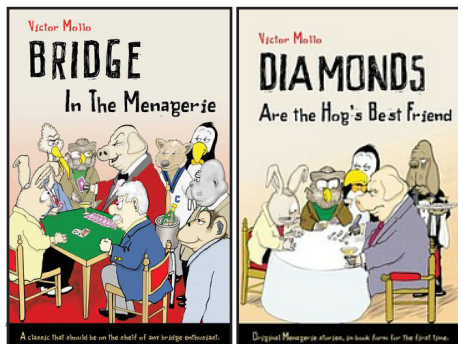
Sun:

1st: 122 VPs - Bob Katz-Julie Arbit-Cono Emanuele-Kurt Dasher

2nd: 121 VPs - Ed White-Marty Hirschman-Bob Webber-Jerry Grossman

3rd: 88 VPs - Marcy Toon-Pamela George-Corey Powell-Stuart Collis

BOOK REVIEW: VICTOR MOLLO “MENAGERIE” SERIES



Victor Mollo was a British contract bridge player in the mid-1900s. His most famous book series - consisting of five original books and eight published after Mollo's death with some previously unpublished material - follows pointed caricatures at the Griffins Bridge Club of bridge players with animals such as the Rueful Rabbit, Secretary Bird, and Peregrine the Penguin. Each persona embodies someone you may have encountered at a bridge game, albeit in exaggerated form, alongside brilliant, hilarious, and outlandish bridge hands. Most Menagerie hands are in a rubber bridge context, and while some may prove instructional, the characters really shine through on each deal in a laugh-out-loud kind of way.

The beginning of each book introduces the *dramatis personae* of the forthcoming stories, and a tagline for each (e.g. Peregrine, a senior kibitzer at the rival bridge club, the Unicorn - “A technician is a man who knows exactly what to do the moment he has done something else”). As Mollo continues to chronicle the “faults and foibles...engaging voices...and comic virtues” of the Griffins, we are treated to a variety of ridiculous hands that will have you shaking your head at the bridge crimes and mischief these animals commit. If you're in the market to read bridge but don't want to trudge through an instructional book, this series is a must. You may even find some insight into the minds of a hand “hog” or lucky “leprechaun” that you've played against for years!

Test Your Play

By Julie Arbit

NORTH

♠ J84

♥ Q8

♦ Q75

♣ AK652

SOUTH

♠ Q7

♥ KJ9732

♦ A4

♣ JT7

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1♣

2♠

3♥

P

4♥

AP

1. ♠K-4-2-7

2. ♠6-8-A-Q

3. ♠5-?

Plan the play.

Solution, p. 12

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Permit 242

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2022 MBA Tournament Schedule:

Mar 31-Apr 3: MBA Sectional
Jun 23-26: Joint Sectional
Aug 25-28: MBA Sectional
Oct 10-16: MBA Regional

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