

TABLE TALK

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

VOL. 64 No. 2

SUMMER 2023

A COMMUNITY UNITED

MBA-SOMBA MERGE INTO SINGLE UNIT

After half a century, the Michigan Bridge Association (MBA) and Southern Michigan Bridge Association (SOMBA) - the two units bisecting southeast Michigan - have been rejoined. Originally part of a single unit, SOMBA split off from MBA over 50 years ago. Following merger discussions undertaken by many Board members over the years, current presidents Steve Jacob (MBA) and Dave Dursum (SOMBA) collaborated to ramp up joint endeavors among the units in 2023 and ultimately saw the merger home.

»cont'd, page 3-4

REMEMBERING GRANT PETERSEN



Stuart and Grant Petersen at the 2015 Motor City Regional.

In August, the Southeast MI bridge community lost a longtime club owner, board member, player, teacher, and friend. Grant was the type to always have a smile on his face and an upbeat attitude, no matter the challenges at hand.

Grant served on the MBA Board for over a decade and ran a variety of successful games, special events, and education programming at his SOMBA club, The MI Bridge Connection. A memorial service and game is scheduled on Sun, Oct. 8. *Please send photos and remembrances to the Editor for publishing in the next Table Talk issue.*

ACBL WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In spring, the ACBL named Bronia Jenkins as the new League Executive Director. Bronia has received a warm welcome from the entire community and kicked off her tenure with exciting efforts in player recruitment, retention, and education.

FEATURES & COLUMNS

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TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Vince and Joan Remy Motor City Regional

Monday, October 9 – Sunday, October 15, 2023 at Michigan Bridge Connection, 26776 W. Twelve Mile, Southfield, MI 48076

Monday Oct. 9	Grass Roots Fund Stratified Open Pairs <i>(double session but may play single session)</i> 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Gold Rush Pairs <i>(double session but may play single session)</i> 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday Oct. 10	Stratified Swiss <i>(double session)</i> 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Stratified Intermediate/Newcomer Pairs <i>(single sessions)</i> 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Daytime Side Pair Series #1 <i>(single sessions 1 and 2 of 6)</i> 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday Oct. 11	Sylvia Stein Open Pairs <i>(double session)</i> 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Gold Rush Pairs <i>(double session)</i> 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Stratified Intermediate/Newcomer Pairs <i>(single sessions)</i> 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Daytime Side Pair Series #1 <i>(single sessions 3 and 4 of 6)</i> 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Thursday Oct. 12	Bracketed Swiss <i>(double session)</i> 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Stratified Intermediate/Newcomer Pairs <i>(single sessions)</i> 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Daytime Side Pair Series #1 <i>(single sessions 5 and 6 of 6)</i> 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Friday Oct. 13	Stratified Open Pairs <i>(double session)</i> 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Gold Rush Pairs <i>(double session)</i> 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Stratified Intermediate/Newcomer Pairs <i>(single sessions)</i> 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Daytime Side Pair Series #2 <i>(single sessions 1 and 2 of 4)</i> 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Saturday Oct. 14	Stratified Open Pairs <i>(double session)</i> 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Gold Rush Pairs <i>(double session)</i> 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Stratified Intermediate/Newcomer Pairs <i>(single sessions)</i> 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Daytime Side Pair Series #2 <i>(single sessions 3 and 4 of 4)</i> 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Sunday Oct. 15	Marilyn and Myles Maddox Bracketed Swiss Teams <i>(playthrough)</i> Intermediate/Newcomer teams <i>guaranteed in lower bracket</i> 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME

New Members

Raymond Bantle
Beth Ann Choate
Judith Connett
Ina Fernandez
Robert Klump
Stephen Pierce
Dan Smith
Susan Stoll
Erik Wahab

Transfers

Douglas Callahan
Gretchen Elwell
Edward Lechner
Brenda Lessel
Evie Lichter
Margie Reeves
Charmaine Smith
Ezra Sobel

IN MEMORIAM

*Sheila Kasselmann
Grant Petersen
Charles Smith
Mary Smith*

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS QUALIFIER

Top pairs in each flight
represent D12 at the 2023
Spring NABC in *Louisville*

SUNDAY, OCT 29

Bridge Connection, 11am

Flight A: Unlimited

Flight B: 0-2500

Flight C: 0-500

Club-level pre-qualification
required.

Top 3 pairs in each flight will
receive a travel stipend from
the League/District.

Registration form available at
District12bridge.org

The new, merged unit became
official beginning September 1,
2023, and is Unit 256. The
permanent name has yet to be
determined.

Unit 256 currently has 1,430
members (*how fitting!*) in 190
different zip codes, and houses
21 clubs in 14 different cities.

The new Board of Directors is
comprised of eight members
each from the former MBA and
SOMBA Boards. The two former
Units will contribute matching
funds to the new, joint treasury,
and former Boards will decide
what to do with any surplus
funds. Tournament schedules
will be unchanged for 2024, and
only minimally affected - if at
all - thereafter.

While joining units has been a
discussion point for over a
decade, the impetus for the
merger was renewed after the
COVID-19 hiatus. Some of the

challenges facing units - such as dwindling player bases, seasonal member losses, and disinvestment in leadership roles - were exacerbated over the past three years.

Merging the units should help alleviate some of these pressure points. A single Board can develop cohesive strategies for outreach, education, advertising, and player recognition. The new Unit will also have a broader network and single treasury, which will help with creative player recruitment and retention, and provide structured support for clubs and tournaments. Above all, the Unit Board will seek to represent the interests of its members at all levels and in all areas.

Be on the lookout for further details regarding trophies, MP awards, publications, and more.

MBA MEMBERSHIP TRENDS

» As of June 30, MBA was first in the District for new member gains and new member retention % after two years.

» As of September 1, MBA membership was up 4.32% in 2023. This is a vast improvement from the prior year which was at -3.04% on Sept. 1, 2022. There was a bump in new members early in 2023, and many reinstatements in springtime.

» Attendance has remained steady at Southeast MI tournaments, averaging 46% of overall pre-COVID numbers. The 2023 Russell Roosen Sectional (August) marked the beginning of the third year of tournaments since the COVID-19 hiatus.



**A new platform
for online bridge!**



Swan Games offers multiple ACBL-sanctioned games daily, and often hosts celebrity Q&A sessions after the games.

Players use their real names when signing up, so anyone banned for inappropriate, rude, or unethical behavior cannot simply rejoin.

Their 18-board games cost \$3/entry (cheaper than on BBO) and allot 6-minutes per board. You can also play casually against friends or strangers for free. There is optional audio/video at all tables.

Go to SwanGames.com to sign up for free and get \$30 in Swan Bucks at no cost!

DISTRICT 12 & ACBL UPDATES

» Bob Katz has been appointed District 12 Recorder. Jonathan Fleischmann has been appointed Disciplinary Chair. Marty Hirschman continues as Appellate Chair.

» ACBL member dues, club fees, and tournament fees will increase effective January 1, 2024. Further details from ACBL are pending.

» Both the long-standing and new version of the convention card will be accepted going forward.

» New Executive Director Bronia Jenkins presented on a few of her early priorities at the Chicago NABC this Summer, including: (1) boosting memberships for lapsed members, guest members, and social players; (2) tiered memberships with flexible benefits; and (3) joint bridge + pickleball programming.

WHY COUNT COUNTS

♠ J76		
♥ A72		
♦ QJ		
♣ AKQT5		
♠ A54		♠ 2
♥ QT4		♥ K863
♦ A732		♦ K98654
♣ 873		♣ 64
♠ KQT983		
♥ J95		
♦ T		
♣ J92		
Contract: 4♠		
Lead: ♥4		

On many hands, a certain level of precision is required to take all our winners. The above hand illustrates the importance of an under-utilized carding principle: **present count** (also called current count or remainder count). Regardless of what carding you use with your partner, most partnerships use **STANDARD** present count. This means playing **HIGH-LOW** with an **EVEN** number, and **LOW-HIGH** with an **ODD** number remaining.

Using standard present count (as opposed to upside-down) helps with unblocking. One frequent situation for present count is when partner leads vs. NT and we win the trick. If we return that suit, we should give standard present count from our remaining cards there.

The above hand is slightly more nuanced. South is declaring 4♠ after having opened a weak 2♠. West leads the ♥4. South has useful pitches on the club suit, but has to knock out the ♠A first and pull trumps. South ducks the opening heart lead. **East wins the ♥K and returns a heart - notably, the ♥3, indicating an odd number remaining.** South hopefully sticks in the ♥9, but West covers with the T, forcing dummy's Ace.

South begins pulling trump, so West gets on lead. **Because East showed ODD present count when returning the heart, we as West know s/he started with four, and the hearts are 3-3-4-3 around the table; we have another heart trick to collect.** If we don't know the count and are unsure about the hearts, we may first try to cash two diamond tricks, losing our heart trick when declarer ruffs the second ♦ and pitches the ♥ loser on dummy's clubs.

It's Your Bid

Thank you to the panelists! The winning panelist and reader for 2023 have received a free session at the Motor City Regional in October. The director will have the two winners' names. Stay tuned as the It's Your Bid panel reconfigures in light of the MBA-SOMBA merger!

2023 Panel Winner:

Mark Bendure

Honorable Mentions:

Suzy Burger
Morrie Kleinplatz
Bob Webber

2023 Reader Winner:

Ray Gentz

(second year running!)

Honorable Mentions:

Matt Rosenthal
J Morris Swiger

CURRENT ISSUE PANEL

Mark Bendure.....	500	Dick Temkin.....	460
Morrie Kleinplatz.....	500	Bob Webber.....	460
Irv Rosenstein.....	500	Joe Chiesa.....	450
Suzy Burger.....	480	Marty Hirschman.....	440
Jonathan Fleischmann.....	480	Dennis Kasle.....	430
Willie Winokur.....	480	Bob Katz.....	430
Kurt Dasher.....	470	Brenda Bryant.....	420
Sheldon Kirsch.....	460	Linda Perlman.....	420
John Koschik.....	460	Myles Maddox.....	400
Owen Lien.....	460	Gene Benedict.....	390

READERS

Ray Gentz.....	450
David Graff.....	410
Matt Rosenthal.....	360
Irv Hershman.....	350
J. Morris Swiger.....	340
Paul Chirgwin.....	260
Rick Schifter.....	260

HOW THE PANEL VOTED

	1	2	3	4	5
Mark Bendure	P	6N	5♦	4♣	2♥
Gene Benedict	P	6N	4♠	5♣	2♠
Brenda Bryant	P	5N	5♦	4♣	4♠
Suzy Burger	P	6N	6♦	4♣	2♥
Joe Chiesa	P	4♦	6♦	4♣	2♠
Kurt Dasher	P	6N	6♦	4♣	2♠
Jonathan Fleischmann	P	4♦	5♦	4♣	3♠
Marty Hirschman	P	6N	6♦	6♣	3♠
Dennis Kasle	P	-	5♦	4♣	3♥
Bob Katz	P	4♦	5♦	5♣	2♥
Sheldon Kirsch	P	6N	5♣	4♣	3♠
Morrie Kleinplatz	P	6N	5♦	4♣	2♥
John Koschik	P	4♦	6♦	4♣	3♠
Owen Lien	P	4♦	5♦	4♣	3♥
Myles Maddox	P	4♣	5♦	6♣	2♠
Linda Perlman	P	5N	6♦	4♣	3♥
Irv Rosenstein	P	6N	5♦	4♣	3♠
Dick Temkin	P	6N	5♦	6♣	2♥
Bob Webber	P	6N	5♣	4♣	3♠
Willie Winokur	P	4♦	5♦	4♣	2♥

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

♠Q ♥J74 ♦AQJT4 ♣Q743

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	X	P	?

This question proved unanimous due to the vulnerability which favors defending here. Some readers noted that the auction may continue after South’s pass; for instance, West may opt to make an “SOS” redouble asking East to bid their longest suit. West may do this with something like a 4-4-3-2 or 3-3-4-3 shape, hoping to find partner with a long major that plays better than 1♦. Then, depending on North’s actions, South may later have to decide whether to defend, and if not, what level to bid to.

Action	Votes	Score
P	20	100

Gene Benedict (P): Hope partner leads a trump. We may not make 3NT.

Suzy Burger (P): I expect at least 500.

Joe Chiesa (P): Partner’s lead. The problem, if any, emerges when the opponents pull to 1♠. More difficult at other colors.

Jonathan Fleischmann (P): If I can make 3NT, I expect to collect more in doubled vulnerable undertricks.

John Koschik (P): This looks like 500, or at least 200 against our partscore.

Bob Webber (P): I imagine there will be problems later.

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	?

The panel’s bids here reflect a common divide among experts in uncharted auctions: a scientific approach vs. a “best guess” approach. North’s 2♠ bid set up a game forcing auction, so South was free to rebid hearts to show extra length. North declined to rebid a black suit or make a move towards slam, suggesting a misfit. This was enough for many panelists to take their best guess of 6N, but others opted to go slower to explore other strains and perhaps a grand slam. This exploration could yield a better result, but carries more risk of a bidding misunderstanding along the way.

Action	Votes	Score
6N	10	100
4♦	6	80
5N	2	60
4♣	1	50

Marty Hirschman (6N): 7NT if we are behind in the match.

Morrie Kleinplatz (6N): Don't see a way to determine whether 7 is on.

Bob Webber (6N): We have sufficient HCPs for a small slam, but no way to count tricks for a grand slam.

Joe Chiesa (4♦): I can always bid 6NT. Suspect if 7 is there it is in clubs. If partner has AKxx x Kx and AKQxxx he should be able to assume control. 6NT is final. 5NT will elicit 7 when it is wrong.

Jonathan Fleischmann (4♦): The ideal contest cop out. I can show a control to explore for slam without having to commit to a follow-up action. I'd love to hear 4♠ from partner so I can trot out Blackwood.

Owen Lien (4♦): I am definitely forcing to slam, and will probably start by cuebidding 4♦ to see if I can elicit any heart support from partner. If I can't, then we'll be playing 6NT. Can't see any way to intelligently investigate for 7 otherwise, and a small singleton heart in partner's hand won't be enough, but xx or singleton J would be terrific :)

Willie Winokur (4♦): Hoping it is just what pard wanted to hear.

Linda Perlman (5N): Pick a slam.

Brenda Bryant (5N): Invite to a grand... either 6NT or 7NT. Partner could have running clubs.

Myles Maddox (4♠): Gerber

3. MPs. None Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠J632 ♥K5 ♦AT98763 ♣void

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

This hand comes from an 18-board BBO game where the Editor had the good fortune of sitting West - South's decision is unenviable. Particularly at matchpoints, the level and strain are both in question. We don't want to miss out on playing in spades if it's right, but there is no guarantee that partner has 4+ spades. We are nearly sure to have a diamond fit, but slam requires a few critical cards from partner and we lack the room to explore for those.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Score</u>
5♦	11	100
6♦	6	80
5♣	2	60
4♠	1	50

Mark Bendure (5♦): It is a guess since partner's spade holding is unknown. That's why people preempt. 4♠ is possibly playable, but with a 4-level preempt on my left, bad splits may be in the offing and I like the security of a long trump suit.

Bob Katz (5♦): These are somewhat impossible problems and so you have to guess. Doubler could have almost any shape without a self-sufficient suit to bid. This makes anywhere from a grand slam to absolutely nothing. For example partner could hold AKx, AJxxx, Kx, Kxx making nothing, or a ton of hands that make both 7♠ and 7♦.

Myles Maddox (5♦): It would be an easier decision at IMPs.

Irv Rosenstein (5♦): Unless partner has AKQ of spades, A of Hearts, K of diamonds, we likely have a spade and a diamond to lose.

Dick Temkin (5♦): May play better than 4♠ even if partner has four of them.

John Koschik (6♦): The air is thin for investigation. Even if partner has four spades, 6♦ might play better.

Sheldon Kirsch (5♠): Heading toward 6 or 7 diamonds.

Bob Webber (5♣): Then 6♦ over 5♥ or 6♠ over 5♠.

Gene Benedict (4♠): At IMPs I would try 5♦.

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	?

North's bidding shows at least 5-6 in the bid suits, meaning we have a 9-card club fit. Most panelists opted to show the club fit at the 4-level and give partner room to clarify their strength. We know they have enough to bid 2/1 GF over 1♠, but we don't know much beyond that. The other panel responses indicate how hard this hand is to evaluate. Some leapt to 5♣, a sign-off, likely wary of the misfitting other suits. Others crossed their fingers and leapt to 6♣, skipping an ace-ask likely due to the void.

Action	Votes	Score
4♣	15	100
6♣	3	60
5♣	2	50

Joe Chiesa (4♣): Setting the trump suit. Level yet pends.

Morrie Kleinplatz (4♣): No rush, and the Heart void is a negative.

John Koschik (4♣): Once I've set the strain, partner can drive the train. But it's an express to at least 6♣.

Owen Lien (4♣): Partner is advertising 6-5, and I have Jxx of the 6-card suit. I really don't think I'll be able to stop short of slam on this one.

Linda Perlman (4♣): Sounds like partner is 6/5. I have a great hand for clubs. Will not stop below slam.

Dick Temkin (6♣): Partner should have at fewest 6 clubs. May not have a grand even if she has the top three clubs.

Gene Benedict (5♣): This shows my exact pattern. Partner can bid slam with extra values.

Bob Katz (5♣): Partner has at fewest 6♣ and at least 5♥ and with that much distribution, might not have all that many HCP.

5. IMPs. None Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠AKT5 ♥Q ♦K874 ♣AKT3

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

Thanks to Joe Chiesa for this submission! There are many considerations here, including that partner may have only three spades with a weak hand such as ♠J83 ♥97532 ♦QT ♣862. The panel was split among raising spades, cue-bidding, and splintering. Partner denies as much as 9 HCP by bidding merely 1♠, so raising to 2♠ shows more than a minimum. Some mentioned that 2♥ should deny 4♠, but there is value in being able to stop at the 2-level. Those that jumped in spades or splintered may be too high. A more optimistic view would consider the form of scoring and view this risk as acceptable when trying to get to game.

Action	Votes	Score
2♥	6	100
3♠	6	100
2♠	4	90
3♥	3	80
4♠	1	60

Mark Bendure (2♥): Showing extra strength, followed by 3♠, letting partner stay out of game with a useless hand, but getting to game opposite a useful card or two.

Morrie Kleinplatz (2♥): Second choice 3♠. The danger is that partner might hold, Jxx, xxxx, Qxx, xxx. 2♥ gives partner a chance to show something beyond a bust.

Jonathan Fleischmann (3♠): This is the value bid. In the modern style, raising to 2♠ would show a sound takeout double with four spades. I'd cuebid first if I had a game-forcing hand with at most four spades, and the jump is somewhere in between. Partner may be broke, and might even have only three spades with 3=4=3=3 pattern or thereabouts.

John Koschik (3♠): This will be too much if partner has a 3=4=3=3 wretch, but after a double in the balancing seat, 2♠ is too conservative at IMP scoring. At matchpoints I would bid 2♥ and pass 2♠.

Joe Chiesa (2♠): More difficult red. I have an effective 17 count. Partner may have 0 and but 3♠.

Owen Lien (3♥): Feels about right. A mini splinter in support of spades. Not quite game forcing, but almost there. This isn't a stopper ask because it's a jump. If I were looking for a stopper, I would advance with 2♥.

Brenda Bryant (4♠): Value bid.

Fall 2023 Hands

1. IMPs. None Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠T9832 ♥6 ♦2 ♣QT7543

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

2. MPs. All Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠void ♥K9732 ♦J94 ♣KJT72

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			P
1♠	2♣	2♠	?

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

♠Q85 ♥76 ♦AT953 ♣Q94

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

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

♠K ♥A ♦AKT9864 ♣A874

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		P	1♦
1♠	3♦*	3♠	?

*Weak

5. MPs. All Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠A63 ♥void ♦QJT85 ♣87543

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	1♠	P	?

Readers, submit responses by Nov 3

Jarbit24@gmail.com

Mailing address on back cover

MBA Goodwill Award

The MBA Goodwill Award is presented annually to a member who has demonstrated outstanding service to the community. The 2022 Goodwill Award winner is:

Marty Hirschman

Marty served as Table Talk Editor from 1987 to 2020. He attended MBA BoD meetings, chaired tournaments as a non-voting member, and hosted annual social bridge parties. Marty has also done a great deal of bridge teaching. We thank Marty for his service!

MBA Goodwill History (1976-2019):

Virginia Huber	Ken Donelson
Marilyn Maddox	Jim Mikel
Mary Ann Will	Judy Thomas
Dottie Morochnick	Mike Graham
Al Silber	Roseanne &
Dick Lawrence	Willie Winokur
Dorothea Berst	Dorothy Kuhn
Lee Alpern	Joan McKean
Zeke Jabbour	Ronald Horwitz
Bert Newman	William
Jean Sherman	Huppenbauer
Dick Mydloski	Peggy Hicks
Clerely Cheney	Mark Leonard
Marge Lewan	Sandy Arlinghaus
Theresa Perry	Judi Amatangelo
Phil Leon	Don Rumelhart
Woody Ott	Michael Giordano
Irene Lewis	Jerry Thornton
Dick Goodwillie	Joyce Bell
Art Columbia	Bill Landrum
Kathy Newman	Jane Gardner
Beverly Bluth	Kurt Dasher
Edie Jones	
Ruth Metevier	

1. Where Counting Really Counts

If a bridge teacher or expert is asked what the #1 strategy for improving bridge results is, many would likely say “remember what has been played and *count out* your opponents’ hands.”

And sure, counting out the shapes and high card points (HCP) of your opponents can take a lot of the guesswork out of declaring and defending. But while you continue to develop this skill - which certainly takes time - there are other counting strategies that can elevate your play:

When your opponent has shown a fixed HCP range, count your partner’s HCP at Trick 1.

→ How? Most often, this is possible on hands where an opponent opened 1NT or 2NT. Let’s use 1NT (15-17) for our example case:

Right-hand opponent (RHO) opens 1NT; LHO raises to 3NT which ends the auction. You lead 4th best from your longest suit.

Count dummy’s HCP - let’s say they have 11 on this hand. Add them to yours - let’s say 8. Now add the 1NT opener’s range:

$$11 + 8 + 15 = 34$$

$$11 + 8 + 17 = 36$$

Subtract that from 40 total HCP in the deck, and we know partner has a range of 4-6 HCP.

→ Why? If partner shows up with an ace - make note! The most they can have left is a queen or two jacks. This can help you determine what to switch to or what cards to hold on to later on.

Count your opponents’ trumps even when you are defending.

→ How? Consider what you know from the auction. Does declarer likely have 4-5 trumps (e.g. they found a fit using Stayman), or 6+ (e.g. they opened a Weak 2)?

As the declarer plays any trumps from their hand, count upwards in your head. If they ruff something early in their hand, and then pull a few rounds of trump, keep track of how many are played. If our side has five total trumps that means declarer-dummy have eight. These often split 4-4, 5-3, or 6-2. See if you can determine how many declarer has left.

→ Why? If declarer is out of trumps, you can cash winners that they won’t be able to ruff in hand (they have no more trumps!) and you also don’t worry about giving ruff/sluffs.

Count your winners and your losers when declaring a suit contract.

→ Why? Counting winners can help you make a plan for declaring at Trick 1. It will help you make sure you select the right declaring strategy, whether it's pulling trumps immediately, embarking on a cross-ruff, ruffing losers in dummy, setting up a side suit first, or something else.

→ How? Consider the following hand where the contract is 4♥-S.

	♠ J7643	
	♥ 986	
	♦ A53	
	♣ A9	
♠ KT98		♠ Q52
♥ 42		♥ A73
♦ KQ98		♦ J64
♣ T85		♣ QJ62
	♠ A	
	♥ KQJT5	
	♦ T72	
	♣ K743	

The lead from W is the ♦K. Looking at the N/S hands, it looks like we have the following losers: 0 spades, 1 heart, 2 diamonds, and 0 clubs. This bodes well for 10 tricks for our contract!

However, let's count winners. We have: 1 spade, 4 hearts, 1 diamond, and 2 clubs. This only comes to 8 tricks - where does the discrepancy come in?

The key is in the club suit. We counted 0 losers there and 2 winners. If we pull all of the defenders' trumps, there will be no

trumps left in dummy to use to ruff the little clubs with. Dummy has no long, strong suit that we could set up to pitch the clubs on. Let's re-count our winners assuming we ruff two clubs in dummy: 1 spade, 6 hearts (4 in our hand, 2 in dummy), 1 diamond, and 2 clubs. This is how we get to 10!

To execute this plan, we need to work on ruffing the clubs in dummy before pulling trump. So, first we win the diamond lead at T1. Play the ♣A and then a club to the king; ruff a club in dummy. Play a spade back to hand and play your last club, ruffing it with the ♥8 or ♥9 in dummy. Even if they overruff with the ♥A, that's a trick they were already going to get, anyway.

2. Balanced Ranges Quiz

(answers page 16)

The Winter 2023 Table Talk issue featured a lesson on balanced hand ranges. Test your knowledge using the questions below:

1. What usually is opener's priority for their first rebid?
2. What is your plan when opening an 18-count with 3-3-4-3 shape?
3. What range does opener show after the uncontested auction 1♦ - 1♠ - 1N?
4. How do you show a balanced 20-21 count?

NEW ACBL MILESTONES

Junior Master (5)

*Dale Conger
Judith Conger
Susan Goodnow
James Hallock
Dan Irish
Jack Kalbfleisch
Robert Klump
Linda Kucway
Jack Lapan
Sandra Plunkett
Lorna Prescott
Frank Soares
Susan Stoll
Kenneth Westerman*

Club Master (20) ♠

*Edwin Clarke
Barbara Conroy
Jane Dorr
Richard Fisher
Lucie Greenberg
Cecil Miskel*

Sectional Master (50) ♠♠

*James Adams
Barbara Browne
Diane Conde
Harold Felty
Paul Horst
Anne McBrien
Michael Rosenberg*

GOOD FOR THE GANDER: AUCTIONS TO DISCUSS!

The following auctions are not the most common, but are open to multiple interpretations. There is no definitively superior way to play these, so the best agreement is one that both partners will remember!

1. Doubles of cue-bids when we have an established fit.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	1♠	X	2♠
P	P	3♠	X

The most useful meaning for this double is either lead-directing or anti-lead-directing. An anti-lead direct indicates a weak holding in the suit and suggests that partner should think carefully before leading away from a vulnerable honor holding.

2. Support doubles/redoubles for diamonds; similarly, when partner makes a negative double showing 4+ hearts.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	P	1♦
1♠	X		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	1♠	X
2♦	X		

Discuss whether these are support doubles, showing three in responder's suit, or another meaning.

Cont'd on following page

3. Doubles of cue-bids in the support double position.

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

	1♣	1♦	1♥
2♣	X		

If you play support doubles, would they apply if the opponent makes a cue-bid in support of the overcall suit? In the above example, is North's double a support double showing 3 hearts, or is it showing extra club length?

4. Jumps to 3M.

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

	1♣	P	3♠
--	----	---	----

It is slightly more common in modern standard bidding to define the 3♠ bid here as a preemptive jump - something like ♠KQT8542 ♥J5 ♦985 ♣4. However, it is also reasonable to play it as a splinter in support of clubs.

5. Balancing with a new suit at the 3-level.

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

	1♦	1♥	X
2♥	P	P	3♣

Many people treat this bid as non-forcing, useful for weaker hands with a 4216 shape or similar. Sometimes, you can't stand to let the opponents play in 2M, but don't have a forward-going hand. However, it is also reasonable to play it as forcing.

NEW ACBL MILESTONES

Regional Master (100) ♠♠♠

Cagliyan Kurdak

Mickie Macritchie

Mary Wheeler

Joyce Van Ochten

NABC Master (200) ♠♠♠♠

Nancy Dupont

Miriam Forman

Larry Junck

Evie Lichter

Life Master (500) ♠♠♠♠♠

Jill Rastelli

Bronze LM (750) ♠♠♠♠♠

Albert Sayed

James McNamara

Silver LM (1,000) ♠♠♠♠♠♠

Corey Powell

Susan Smith

Paul Stunkel

Ruby LM (1,500) ♠♠♠♠♠♠♠

Jordan Kaye

Gold LM (2,500) ♠♠♠♠♠♠♠♠

Duaine Benard

Sapphire LM (3,500) ♠♠♠♠♠♠♠♠♠

Michael McDonald

I/N Quiz Answers

(from page 13)

1. Opener's first priority generally is to limit the strength of their hand.
2. We plan to open 1♦, and if partner responds 1M, we rebid 2N.
3. 12 - 14 HCP
4. Open 2N

2023 D12 TOURNAMENTS

Oct 6-8: Highland, IN Sectional

Oct 9-15: Motor City Regional

Oct 27-28: Spooktacular I/N Sect.

Oct 29: NAP District Final

Nov 4-5: Kalamazoo Sectional

Nov 16-19: Apple Cider Sectional

See **District12Bridge.org** for more details!

Your Input Requested!

DISPELLING BRIDGE MYTHS

Submit your examples of
pervasive - but false - bridge myths

In 2020, an expert player posted an article on BridgeWinners.com titled: Most Pervasive "Bridge Club Myths" re Bidding? The article garnered hundreds of comments from players around the globe contributing some outlandish "bridge-isms" that local players insist are true.

For instance, can you open 1N with a worthless doubleton? Modern bidding says, "yes, absolutely." In a new TT series, we'll begin breaking down some of these myths and others.

Have you been told conflicting "rules" or otherwise disagree with the maxims other players are loyal to? Send your examples to the editor at:

Jarbit24@gmail.com

They'll likely appear in the next issue with commentary on the history of the principle, what modern consensus is on it, and any gray area or wiggle room.

Mailing address listed on back cover/last page.

KEN VAN CLEVE MBA-SOMBA SECTIONAL RESULTS

Open Pairs

Thurs AM: Bob Mendelson-Bob Webber (61.87%)

Fri AM: Jon & Sally Lusk (65.00%)

Fri PM: Dick Temkin-Mike Crane (68.54%)

0-500 Pairs

Thurs:

AM: Jane Stewart-John Kraus (67.08%)

PM: Julian Prince-Dan Irish (60.00%)

Fri:

AM: Patricia Phelps - Char Goonewardena (64.58%)

PM: Anthony Faint - David Cleveland (54.17%)

Team Games

Thurs PM: Bob Mendelson-Suzy Burger-Marty Hirschman-Bob Webber (64)

Sat:

Bkt I: Marty & Sam Hirschman-Gordon & Susan Parnes (62)

Bkt II: Tengyun Tony Cao-Yanping Zhang-Xiaoping Wu-Song Lin (90)

Bkt III: Gary Boyers-Alan Hassoun-Joel Grossman-Jerrie Sasson (91)

Sun:

Flight A: Michael Curley-Jonathan Fleischmann-Kurt Dasher-Mike Alioto (102)

Flight B: Tengyun Tony Cao-Yanping Zhang-Xiaoping Wu-Song Lin (85)

Flight C: Mike Andrews-Gillian Andrews- Robert & Barbara Nowikowski (45)

RUSSELL ROOSEN SECTIONAL RESULTS

Open Pairs

Thurs AM: Michael D Alioto-Kurt Dasher (66.50%)

Fri AM: Michael Giordano-Barb Ferrera (61.61%)

Fri PM: Samir Zeine-Charlotte Miller (58.33%)

0-1,000 Pairs

Thurs:

AM: Robert & Barbara Nowikowski (64.88%)

PM: John Lowry-Mike Andrews (63.89%)

Fri:

AM: Dave Dursum-James Ver Hage (68.15%)

PM: Robert & Barbara Nowikowski (64.01%)

Team Games

Thurs PM: Kurt Dasher-Mike Alioto-Jonathan Fleischmann-Bob Katz (50)

Sat:

Flight A: Julie Arbit-Jonathan Fleischmann-Kurt Dasher-Owen Lien (102)

Flight B+C: Stephen Leist-Murali Mani-Paul Stunkel-Jane Gardner (76)

Flight B&C (2nd): Reuven AnafShalom-Cagliyan Kurdak-Richard Bauman-James Walter (64)

Sun:

Bkt I: Kurt Dasher-Mike Alioto-Jonathan Fleischmann-Bob Webber (108)

Bkt II: Arun Desouza-Edward Westmeyer-William Gregg-Bob Ondo (68)

Bkt III: Corey Powell-Renata Wasserman-Reuven AnafShalom-Cagliyan Kurdak (65)

2023 MBA-SOMBA WOLVERINE REGIONAL

Two-Session Swiss Teams

Tues Bracket I: Michael Creager-Ken Kranyak-Bob Webber-Linda Perlman (94)

Tues Bracket II: Duaine Benard-Paul Stunkel-Gary Luoma-Jane Gardner (119)

Tues Bracket III: Manus Nemeth-Barb Marti-Robin Lewis-Patricia McCabe (97)

Thurs Bracket I: Richard Temkin-Mark Bendure-Gordon & Susan Parnes (82)

Thurs Bracket II: Armeen Qayoom-Ewoud Van Goch-Chris Balyo-Valerie Tabler (98)

Thurs Bracket III: Matthew & Susan Evett-Graham Putnam-James Egan (109)

Sun Bracket I: Marty & Sam Hirschman-Gordon & Susan Parnes (78)

Sun Bracket II: Bob Raf-Save Jacob-Steve Shumer-Michael Kaleel (75)

Sun Bracket III: Graham Putnam-Barbara Kalnick-James Egan-William Gregg (93)

Sun Bracket IV: Mike & Gillian Andrews-Robert & Barbara Nowikowski (81)

Two-Session Open Pairs

Mon: Frank Trieber-Steve Winokur

Weds: Bob Webber-Michael Crane

Fri: Suzanne Stevenson-Rose Burke

Sat: Cono Emanuele-Joe Ernsthausen

Two-Session Gold Rush Pairs

Mon: Daniel Rose-Ronald Whitney

Weds: Robin Lewis-Patricia McCabe

Fri: Joseph Reimann-John Caldwell

Sat: Edward Lechner-Erich Schifter

Single-Session Side Pairs

Tu AM: Norm Kakarala-Michael Garcia

Tu PM: Beverly Onisko-Charlotte Miller

Th AM: Beverly Onisko-Dolores Bright

Th PM: Fran & Gerald Wigod

Overall Masterpoint Winners

Wolverine Regional:

Bob Webber - 128.77

Richard Temkin - 96.73

Michael Crane - 80.92

Marty Hirschman - 79.75

Jerry Grossman - 78.57

Gordon Parnes - 74.14

Frank Trieber III - 69.30

Steven Winokur - 67.44

Ken Van Cleve Sectional:

Peter Wong - 26.75

Jessica Lin - 26.75

Marty Hirschman - 22.26

Richard Chan - 22.15

Roosen Sectional:

Kurt Dasher - 34.50

Mike Alioto - 30.37

Jonathan Fleischmann - 26.91

Bob Webber - 20.68

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)

3640 Madison St, 48124

Ellen Silverest, 810-225-2278

esilverest2002@yahoo.com

» Eton Center BC:

Wed: 11am (Open, No limit)

4900 Pardee, 48125

Joyce Kozma, 313-274-5587

joykozrn@att.net

Grosse Pointe Farms

» Country Club of Detroit:

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

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

220 Country Club, 48236

Harrison 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

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

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

All ACBL players can play in Bridge Connection Virtual Games on BBO regardless of whether they've played there in the past. See

www.bridgewebs.com/connection

Look for an updated directory in the next TT issue with all clubs in the newly merged Unit 256 (formerly MBA & SOMBA)!

SAVE THE DATES

SEPT 26-OCT 2:

ROYAL STaC

Win gold, red, silver, and black
points at participating
club games!

OCTOBER 9-15:

**MOTOR CITY
REGIONAL**

OCTOBER 29:

DISTRICT NAP FINAL

Compete in your flight to
represent District 12 at the
Louisville NABC in March!

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Table Talk

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Upcoming Tournaments

Oct 9-15: Motor City Regional
Oct 27-28: Spooktacular I/N
Nov 16-19: Apple Cider Sectional

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Owen Lien.....President-Elect
Jonathan Fleischmann....Chairman
Dick Temkin.....Secretary
Bob Webber.....Treasurer

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