

PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

VOL. 65 No. 2

SUMMER 2024

TEAM UP ON SEPT 15 AT SEMBA 'EIGHT IS ENOUGH' SWISS

Join us on September 15 for a unique and popular Swiss Team game called "Eight is Enough." Players are assigned a number (1-3) according to how many masterpoints (MPs) they have:

- 1 = 0-750
- 2 = 750-3000
- 3 = 3000+

Team totals may not exceed 8. For instance, if two players with over 3000 MPs (3's) choose to play together, they may seek a pair of two 0-750 players (1's), for a total of eight. We encourage more experienced players to partner and team up with players in the "1" and "2" categories.

This game is meant to be an educational experience, similar to the annual pro/am game.

» **Sunday, September 15** | 1-4pm

» **Bridge Connection** | 26776
West 12 Mile Rd, Southfield

» **Cost:** \$5/player

» **Registration deadline:** Sunday,
September 8

» **Masterpoints awarded** (black
points at the upgraded club
championship level)

» **Light refreshments** provided

» **Contacts:**

» *Partnership/Teammate Desk:*
Jane Gardner | 248-719-2941
janegard@umich.edu

» *Registration:* Julie Arbit
301-512-5679
jarbit24@gmail.com

STAY TUNED:

**Table Talk Special Issue
Fall 2024**

"Taking the Lead"

All about leading at trick 1
and beyond!

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Two vacancies on SEMBA Board of Directors

SEMBA conducts its annual election during the October Motor City Regional for the upcoming calendar year.

Directors serve two-year terms and are responsible for tournament support, recruitment, club communications, or other Unit 256 activities.

Contact Steve Jacob at 248-259-1830 or via the email on page 16 for more information or to express interest.



SEMBA Dog Days of Summer Sectional in Honor of Grant Petersen August 22 – August 25, 2024

at

The Michigan Bridge Connection
26776 West Twelve Mile Road, Southfield 48034
Located just west of Northwestern Highway
248-356-6254



Thursday, August 22

Stratified Open Pairs 10:00 a.m.
Stratified 0-1000 Pairs 10:00 a.m.

Stratified Swiss Teams 2:30 p.m.
Stratified 0-1000 Pairs 2:30 p.m.

Friday, August 23

Stratified Open Pairs 10:00 a.m.
Stratified 0-1000 Pairs 10:00 a.m.

Stratified Open Pairs 2:30 p.m.
Stratified 0-1000 Pairs 2:30 p.m.



Saturday, August 24

STRATIFIED Swiss Teams
Playthrough 10:00 a.m.

0-1000 Pairs 10:00 a.m.

0-1000 Pairs 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 25

BRACKETED 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.



Tournament Chair

Owen Lien, 828-424-5905, forcingpass@gmail.com

Partnerships

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

2024 SAVE THE DATES

Aug 22-25: Dog Days of Summer Sectional
(see previous page for schedule)

Oct 14-20: Motor City Regional ▢.....

Oct 25-26: Spooktacular Intermediate/
Newcomer Sectional

Nov 14-17: Apple Cider Sectional



Motor City Regional Oct 14-20, 2024

Michigan Bridge Connection
26776 W. Twelve Mile Rd, Southfield, MI 48034
248-356-6254



Monday, October 14 10:00 2:30

Grass Roots Fund Stratified Open Pairs (double session but may play single session)
Gold Rush Pairs (double session but may play single session) (0-750 MP)



Tuesday, October 15 10:00 2:30

Stratified Open Pairs (double session)
Gold Rush Pairs (double session) (0-750 MP)
Daytime Side Pair Series #1 (single sessions 1 and 2 of 6)



Wednesday, October 16 10:00 2:30

Stratified Open **IMP Pairs** (double session)
(Stratified Open Pairs game that uses IMP scoring instead of matchpoints)
Gold Rush Pairs (double session) (0-750 MP)
Daytime Side Pair Series #1 (single sessions 3 and 4 of 6)



Thursday, October 17 10:00 2:30

Strati-flighted Teams (double session)
A/X Stratified Swiss (A=Unlimited, X=0-6000 by team average)
B/C Bracketed Teams (No player over 2500; only play teams in your bracket)
Daytime Side Pair Series #1 (single sessions 5 and 6 of 6)



Friday, October 18 10:00 2:30

Stratified Open Pairs (double session)
Gold Rush Pairs (double session) (0-750 MP)
Daytime Side Pair Series #2 (single sessions 1 and 2 of 4)



Saturday, October 19 10:00 2:30

Strati-flighted Teams (double session)
A/X Stratified Swiss (A=Unlimited, X=0-6000 by team average)
B/C Bracketed Teams (No player over 2500; only play teams in your bracket)
Daytime Side Pair Series #2 (single sessions 3 and 4 of 4)



Sunday, October 20 10:00

Bracketed Teams (double session playthrough)



NEW ACBL MILESTONES (continued, pg. 5)

Junior Master (5)

Richard Atkins	Sally Mezey
Cindy Beck	Donna Norton
Leif Britting	James Parker
Leslie Cohen	Jacquelyn Pierce
Judith Connett	Julie Pulte
Mika Ebihara	Allen Rubin
Ina Fernandez	Dan Smith
Larissa Herrera	Carol Spencer
Mary Holtze	Patricia Ward
Leslie Luciani	

Club Master (20)

Kathleen Cross	Mark Nosal
Ellen Kaufman	Stephen Pierce
Linda Kucway	Frank Soares
Mary Maynard	Bernard Stuecheli

Sectional Master (50)

Ann Dixon	Shaul Englender
Patricia West	Dan Irish
Jacqueline Blake	Larry Leinweber
David Bailey	

Regional Master (100)

Diane Conde	Mark Migdal
Gary Glenn	Jay Munz
Daniel Hakes	Janice Skadsen
Asher Howarth	Karen Stunkel
Sharon Maaske	Constance Wahab
Cindy Schaefer-Munz	

NABC Master (200)

L Dillon	Joseph Reimann
Paul Kubicek	Eric Wiedmayer

Adv. NABC Master (300)

John Berry	John Lowry
Chris Hill	Janice McHale
Robert Holmes	

SEMBA NEWS

» SEMBA has updated its tournament names! Keep an eye out for these new names, which include the upcoming "Dog Days of Summer" Sectional and next year's May "Spring Fling" Regional.

» Starting in 2025, the January Ann Arbor sectional and March/April Bridge Connection sectional will exchange dates.

» SEMBA's Diane Kosuda received the ACBL Goodwill Ambassador award for District 12. We thank Diane for her dedicated service to our bridge community!

» SEMBA Board Member Bob Ondo has been hired by the ACBL as a local tournament director! Unfortunately, this means he can no longer serve on the SEMBA Board, and he will be missed.

» The ACBL partnership with EDGAR ("Everyone Deserves a Game Above Reproach") is actively monitoring ACBL games on BBO. EDGAR has flagged >200 partnerships for review, and the ACBL is enforcing the disciplinary code accordingly. Three SEMBA players has been disciplined for collusive cheating on BBO.

» SEMBA snowbird members are encouraged to register their winter address with the ACBL. However, snowbirds do not receive TT when their address is outside SEMBA territory. TT is accessible to all online at District12Bridge.org (click Newsletters on the left-hand menu).

THE STRATI-FLIGHTED SWISS

The 2024 Motor City Regional will feature a team event not hosted in Southeast Michigan for many years:

The Strati-flighted Swiss.

The event is divided into two games: an **A/X Swiss** and a **B/C Bracketed Team Game:**

A/X Swiss:

- » No masterpoint limit
- » Teams are “power matched” each round according to VP score
- » There are two stratifications (“A” and “X”), by team average MPs
- » “A” is unlimited; “X” is often limited to around an average of 5000 MPs
- » Teams in “X” win masterpoints for how they place in “X,” regardless of how they place overall

B/C Bracketed Team Game:

- » No player may have 2500+ MPs
- » Teams are split by team average MP into 2+ brackets and only play teams in their bracket
- » The bracketed format is more comfortable for newer players. It also tends to finish earlier, because teams do not have to wait for their new assignments between rounds.

This event caters to overall preferences, but requires fairly high turnout. SEMBA attendance has now rebounded enough since the COVID hiatus to support this format.

Life Master (500)

Peter Hellekjaer

Bronze Life Master (750)

Janice McHale

Silver Life Master (1000)

David Dursum

Jerrie Sasson

Toufic Hamaoui

Ruby Life Master (1500)

Melvin Bowers *Arlene Geisler*

Gary Boyers *Martha Toon*

Barb Ferrera

Gold Life Master (2500)

David Aderente

Sapphire Life Master (3500)

Cheryl Perna

Ray Gentz

James Walter

Platinum Life Master (10,000)

Janice McHale

Grand Life Master (10,000 + National Open victory)

Sondra Schubiner

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jim Figlik

Kevin Power

Bernice Kalil

Diana Rothstein

Farris Kalil

Linda Spigelman

John Park

Kathleen Trott

Ralph Pearlman

James Zamjahn

IN MEMORIAM

Patricia Baxter

Thomas Thomson

MASTERING IMPs

The Motor City Regional will feature an **IMP Pairs** event this year.

This event functions exactly like a normal matchpoint (MP) game, but instead of using percentages to compare your score against the field, this game uses IMPs.

Your score on each board is compared with all other pairs in your direction for the IMP average. At the end of the game, pairs are ranked by IMP total, not percentage.

The IMP pairs format can produce unexpected victories, making the game more inclusive for players of all skill levels. It also allows pairs to practice at IMPs without teammates. Here are some IMP strategies to consider:

Bidding:

- » Bid vulnerable games aggressively - if it is borderline, err on the side of bidding game
- » Preempts (e.g. Weak 2's) should be sound/conservative
- » Be EXTRA cautious doubling partscores
- » Feel more free to double game-level contracts bids; it's not a huge deal if they make it

Play:

- » Focus on making contracts, not about taking the maximum number of tricks
- » Use the same principle on defense - focus on beating the contract. Extra undertricks are just gravy.

I/N QUIZ: WHAT YOU HAVE VS. WHAT YOU'VE SHOWN

Answers on page 16

EAST	WEST	EAST
♠ KQT	1♣	3N
♥ AQ3	4N	?
♦ Q93		
♣ T632		

What should East bid after West invites to slam?

EAST	W	N	E	S
♠ 9532	1♥	1♠	P	P
♥ J3	3♥	P	?	
♦ AJT7				
♣ Q83				

What should East bid after West jumps to 3♥?

EAST	W	N	E	S
♠ 8		1♠	X	2♠
♥ AK52	P	P	?	
♦ AQ83				
♣ KT92				

What should East do at their second turn?

THE FUTURE OF UNIT 256 TROPHIES

Starting with 2024, SEMBA will name the following awards annually:

Flight A trophy: SEMBA "player of the year" who wins the most MPs at SEMBA tournaments

Flight B trophy: SEMBA 0-2000 MP player of the year

Flight C trophy: SEMBA 0-750 MP player of the year

Goodwill Award: SEMBA member who has dedicated significant efforts in the community

Award guidelines will be further specified in a future TT issue.

BRIDGE DE-MYTH-IFIED: TEMPO & HESITATIONS

Many misconceptions surround tempo in bridge. Some players are unaware that knowledge from partner's tempo is "unauthorized information" (UI), while others believe that once a player hesitates, their partner is effectively barred from bidding. Neither is true!

Law 73.C.1: When a player has available to him UI from partner, such as from haste or hesitation, he must avoid taking advantage of that UI.

Law 16.B.1(a): When a player believes that an opponent who had a logical alternative chose an action suggested by UI, he should summon the Director after the play. The Director shall adjust the score if he finds that an infraction of law resulted in an advantage.

When a Director is called for tempo-related UI, he follows 3 steps, only progressing if warranted by the previous step:

1. Assess whether there was UI.
2. Assess whether the UI suggested a particular action or set of actions (e.g. bidding vs. passing).
3. Determine whether the player with UI had one or more "logical alternatives" from which to choose, besides the one suggested by UI.

Consider the following auction:

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1N	2♥	<u>P</u>	P
?			

Suppose East's pass was slow. N/S should wait until the end of the auction to confirm with E/W that there was a Break-in Tempo (BiT). If E/W do not agree, summon the

Director. If they agree, N/S may summon the Director at the end of the hand if they feel advantage was gained by the UI.

The Director first assesses whether there was UI, and then proceeds to #2, assessing independently or with a poll whether a particular set of actions was suggested. If warranted, the Director conducts a poll for #3 to determine whether the player with UI had multiple logical alternatives from which to choose, or whether their action was clear.

On our example hand, it is clear that East's slow pass suggested acting with the W hand, rather than passing, which satisfies Step #2. If W has a "clear" action based on his hand - e.g. he makes a takeout double with

♠AQT5 ♥53 ♦AJ4 ♣KQJ5

- the poll should reflect that there were not logical alternatives to the action chosen (double). If the action was not clear based on the poll, there would be an adjustment.

If this happens to you, do not feel badly! Many UI cases are unintentional. Directors are here to help us stick to the (nuanced, and often tricky) rules of the game.

NB¹: Being a generally slower player does not exempt players from tempo-related adjustments.

NB²: Players should avoid speculative actions based on the assumption that a board will be adjusted due to opponents' UI. This behavior, known as a "double shot" or "taking two bites at the apple," involves aiming for a top board, counting on the UI adjustment if the strategy fails.

INTERMEDIATE/ NEWCOMER NOOK

In this issue, we will cover two strategies that both rely on one core concept: Count, count, count, and then count some more!

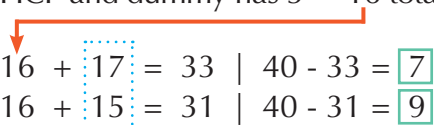
Defense: Counting Partner's High Card Points (HCP)

Let's discuss a strategy that every player should practice: When declarer has a specified HCP range, count partner's HCP range as soon as the dummy is visible.

This sounds a lot harder than it is! The strategy is best used when your opponent opens 1N; let's assume this shows 15-17. Everyone passes, and you make the opening lead. Once you can see the dummy, follow these steps:

- » Add dummy's HCP + your HCP
- » Add the total to the UPPER end of declarer's range → Subtract from 40 total HCP in the deck for partner's minimum HCP
- » Add earlier total to the LOWER end of the range → Subtract from 40 total HCP in the deck for partner's maximum HCP

Example: Suppose you have 11 HCP and dummy has 5 = 16 total.


$$\begin{array}{l} 16 + 17 = 33 \mid 40 - 33 = \boxed{7} \\ 16 + 15 = 31 \mid 40 - 31 = \boxed{9} \end{array}$$

Partner has 7-9 HCP

Let's take another example. Your opponent opens 1N and their partner bids 3N. You have 9 and

dummy has 12 = 21 total.

$$21 + 17 = 38 \mid 40 - 38 = 2$$

$$21 + 15 = 36 \mid 40 - 36 = 4$$

Partner has **2-4 HCP**

This can help you avoid giving declarer free tricks. If partner shows up with an ace, they won't have another HCP in their hand, so don't lead away from any vulnerable honors! This process may feel like a drag at first, but before long it will be routine!

Cardplay: Understanding Hand Patterns

This strategy was featured in Table Talk in 2022, but is so useful that it's high time we revisit it!

The strategy focuses on **hand patterns**. This term refers to various distributions of 13 cards. Imagine you have a hand that is 6-2-3-2. Suits are listed from high to low, so this indicates six spades, two hearts, three diamonds, and two clubs.

These patterns also tell us the distribution of a single suit across all four hands. Suppose you have a hand with six spades. The other seven spades are distributed among the other hands. Starting with your hand and moving clockwise, spades may be 6-2-3-2 → you have six, your partner has three, and each opponent has two.

One of the best ways to start incorporating this counting into your play is to internalize the most frequent hand patterns. Memorizing these shapes to the point where they roll off your

LONGEST SUIT = 4	LONGEST SUIT = 5	LONGEST SUIT = 6	LONGEST SUIT = 7
4333	5332	6322	7222
4432	5422	6331	7321
4441	5431	6421	7330
	5521	6430	
	5440		
	5530		

tongue will really get you thinking about the cards spatially. The diagram above shows the most common hand patterns. Try cutting out this diagram and placing it on the side of a mirror or above the kitchen sink. Spend 20 seconds every time you glance at it reading some of the patterns “aloud” in your head. In a short time, you will be able to use this counting at the table. Here is an example where this type of counting comes in handy (another example can be found in the “Test Your Play” hand from the back cover):

♠ 975

♥ QT4

♦ QJ93

♣ 954

♠ 843

♥ 853

♦ K64

♣ AKJT

♠ A

♥ KJ962

♦ A852

♣ 762

♠ KQJT62

♥ A7

♦ T7

♣ Q83

East opens 1♥. The final contract is 4♠-South. West leads the ♥4, their partner’s suit. East sticks in the ♥K and declarer wins the ♥A. Now declarer starts to pull trump, playing the ♠K. East wins the ♠A and plays a small heart, which West wins with the ♥Q.

West should now take stock of the situation. East opened 1♥, showing 5+ hearts. Dummy (North) has 3 and we (West) have 3. So, starting with West and moving clockwise, hearts are 3-3-5-2 around the table. This means South is out (having played at Trick 1 and another on the most recent trick). West should evaluate if switching to a new suit is urgent.

Eyeing the threatening club suit in dummy, West should switch to the ♦Q (top of a sequence), through the king, before declarer can pull trump and pitch a diamond on the clubs. There’s no guarantee that East has the ♦A, but it’s important to try, just in case!

IT'S YOUR BID

This issue features a few hands from recent local tournaments that divisively split the panel of experts.

Thank you to the panelists for participating! Congratulations to the winners, scoring the highest sum for the past three issues, and earning a free session at the 2024 Motor City Regional:

Panel Reader

Brenda Bryant Neil Manley

Honorable Mentions:

Panel: John Koschik, Morrie Kleinplatz

Reader: J Morris Swiger, Paul Chirgwin

The next issue's hands are on page 14. Because the Fall 2024 issue is a special issue on leading, the hands will all be opening lead problems, instead of bidding problems. The "Table Talk Standard" leading agreements can be found on page 15.

PANEL SCORES

M. Bendure.....500	O. Lien.....470
B. Bryant.....500	B. Webber.....470
M. Kleinplatz.....500	G. Benedict.....460
M. Crane.....490	J. Fleischmann.....460
D. Temkin.....490	S. Burger.....450
K. Dasher.....480	J. Koschik.....450
M. Hirschman.....480	W. Winokur.....450
J. Chiesa.....470	J. Grossman.....420
D. Eaves.....470	I. Rosenstein.....420
C. Jolly.....470	M. Maddox.....410
B. Katz.....470	

READER SCORES

D. Bauman.....470	Jethro the Bidding Robot
M. Carden.....460	(B. Rasmussen).....400
J.M. Swiger.....460	T. Larson.....400
R. Gentz.....450	P. Chirgwin.....390
N. Manley.....450	

HOW THE PANEL VOTED

	1	2	3	4	5
Mark Bendure	2♥	X	3♦	3N	X
Gene Benedict	2♥	4♣	3♦	3N	4♥
Brenda Bryant	2♥	X	3♦	3N	X
Suzy Burger	4♣	4♣	3♦	P	X
Joe Chiesa	2♥	3N	3♦	3N	X
Mike Crane	2♥	4♣	3♦	3N	X
Kurt Dasher	2♥	X	3♦	P	X
Debra Eaves	4♣	4♣	3♦	3N	X
Jonathan Fleischmann	2♠	X	3♦	3N	X
Jerry Grossman	2♥	3N	3♦	3N	2♠
Marty Hirschman	3♣	4♣	3♦	3N	X
Christian Jolly	2♥	3N	3♦	3N	X
Bob Katz	3♣	X	3♦	P	X
Morrie Kleinplatz	2♥	X	3♦	3N	X
John Koschik	3♣	X	3♦	3N	4N
Owen Lien	4♣	4♣	3♦	3N	X
Myles Maddox	5♣	4♣	3♦	P	4♥
Irv Rosenstein	5♣	X	3♦	P	4♥
Dick Temkin	3♣	X	3♦	3N	X
Bob Webber	3♣	X	3♦	P	X
Willie Winokur	4♣	4♣	3♦	3N	4N

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

♠KT9765 ♥T2 ♦void ♣AQT72

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

Thank you to panelist Dick Temkin who submitted this hand. This was the East hand on Board 12 at the Bridge Connection on 1/4/24, which uses hands also played by many other ACBL clubs via The

Common Game. Nearly 1000 pairs bid this hand, and the most common result was making +130 in a clubs partscore. Many were also going -1 in 5♣. Partner's hand was: ♠8 ♥963 ♦AKQT6 ♣K653. The division among the panelists suggest that the evaluation of the hand is borderline, with some forging to game (most using the fourth suit forcing convention - 2♥ here), while others were content with partscores if partner had a minimum opening.

Action	Votes	Score
2♥	9	100
3♣	5	90
4♣	4	80
5♣	2	70
2♠	1	60

Mark Bendure (2♥): *Fourth suit forcing. With the huge club fit I am not stopping short of a black suit game. Now that we know we are headed to at least game, maybe we can figure out strain and level.*

Brenda Bryant (2♥): *Game force. The club fit, to me, demands it.*

Joe Chiesa (2♥): *Flawed, but so are 4♣ and 5♣. 2♥ keeps 4♠ (cursed MPs), 5♣, and more gradiose contracts extant.*

Marty Hirschman (3♠): *This will be a decent spot if partner passes. Will rebid spades if partner bids again.*

John Koschik (3♠): *If North can't take another bid, game prospects are marginal.*

Bob Webber (3♣): *Nice hand, but let's not go minus in spades or game.*

Debra Eaves (4♣): *Invitational. Partner may be able to bid 4♠ with three of them, suggesting a choice of games.*

Owen Lien (4♣): *Ugh, what a nasty problem. At IMPs, I would happily force to game. 4♣ feels like the value bid at MPs and is what I'll go for.*

Jonathan Fleischmann (2♠): *I might have made an invitational jump shift initially if playing that. Here, I'll lean into the matchpoint scoring and repeat my major, hoping for a chance to come alive next round if partner or an opponent has more to say.*

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

♠Q ♥QT98 ♦QT9 ♣J9863

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

This problem is a matchpoint dilemma we all dread - one misfit and one big fit with partner, but with a lot of defense against vulnerable opponents on the side. The panel was largely split here between doubling for blood (hoping for 200, 500, or more) and bidding on to hopefully collect our plus score declaring.

Action	Votes	Score
X	10	100
4♣	8	90
3N	3	70

Brenda Bryant (X): Tough. Probably I have 3 tricks. Not sure we can make game and they are vulnerable. It's a gamble... for sure 4♣ is safe, but it's matchpoints.

Morrie Kleinplatz (X): I'm playing the percentages, hoping for 200 or 500, and if the former, that 5♣ doesn't make. My soft values tilt the balance. Of course 3♥ might make, but it's MP's, so it's only one board.

Bob Webber (X): +500 seems at least as likely to me as making 3N.

Gene Benedict (4♣): If partner is void in hearts, we may not beat it.

Mike Crane (4♣): Wimpy bid.

Marty Hirschman (4♣): Big fit, but red queens are probably worthless in clubs. Even if partner is AKxxx x xx AKxxx, we would need misdefense to make 3NT.

Owen Lien (4♣): Partner's failure to re-open X tells me that he doesn't have a powerhouse. I'll just bid a prosaic 4♣. Maybe I'll get to double 4♥. Not keen to double 3♥ with what might only be two tricks and possible that none of partner's clubs are cashing.

Joe Chiesa (3N): Hamman's Rule. Though double is superficially attractive, I will need partner to produce 3+ defensive tricks (I have 2+) for 500 when we know we have a minimum of 10 clubs. As my hand is all Q's and J's, 5♣ does not beckon.

Jerry Grossman (3N): At IMPs I might try 4♣ instead.

3. MPs. None Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠JT7 ♥QT54 ♦KQJ76 ♣J

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

A somewhat unusual auction, but indeed it occurred at a recent SEMBA tournament. The strange part is that East opted not to bid Michaels, nor make a takeout double, but then bid both majors even after South showed hearts with the negative double. The panelists were unanimous in supporting partner's diamonds without investigating game. On this particular hand, East held: ♠AK8542 ♥AK97 ♦void ♣T82. Bidding 3♦ was a winner, as partner found a good sacrifice of 5♦x over the making 4♠ game. Partner's hand was: ♠3 ♥J62 ♦AT984 ♣AK53, and West ♠Q96 ♥83 ♦532 ♣Q9764.

Action	Votes	Score
3♦	21	100

Mark Bendure (3♦): A slight underbid, but the quacks may not be worth much, and I have shown about this much strength by bidding 3♦ freely after already showing some values with the negative double.

Gene Benedict (3♦): Too many queens and jacks to do more.

Jonathan Fleischmann (3♦): I'm perhaps a bit heavy for this call, but nothing else fits and I'm well short of a game-force.

Bob Katz (3♦): Guessing there is a problem here, but I don't see it.

Dick Temkin (3♦): *With no aces and only one king, I'll take the low road, especially at MP.*

Bob Webber (3♦): *I've never predicted a unanimous answer, but. . .*

4. IMPs. E/W Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠QJ6 ♥86 ♦QT873 ♣AK4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		P	1♦
3♠	X	P	?

Another hand from a recent SEMBA tournament, this one held by the editor, albeit at matchpoints. At the table, the choice was 3N, which only came to six tricks before the opponents inexorably took the rest. Interestingly, -300 scored 53% because on this particular hand, West can make 3 or 4 spades, depending on the lead. At IMPs, panelists feared the wrath of doubling a making partscore and most opted to bid. West's hand was ♠KT98542 ♥T972 ♦K ♣2 and East's ♠A3 ♥K54 ♦A64 ♣T8753.

Action	Votes	Score
3N	15	100
P	6	80

Brenda Bryant (3N): *Argh. 3N.*

Joe Chiesa (3N): *Smiling and smiling. I would never be in this spot as I would not open. Q's and J's. Flat. Don't want a diamond lead. 12 bad HCP. I again invoke Hamman's Rule as 3N may avoid the axe. Opponents may think I have an opening bid. Pass plays top and bottom.*

Marty Hirschman (3N): *What else?*

John Koschik (3N): *My guess is we'll beat 3♠ and go down in 3N, but if I'm wrong the cost of -730 is too great at IMPs. (Good problem, Julie).*

Owen Lien (3N): *What else?*

Dick Temkin (3N): *Hamman's Law. Passing at IMPs is too dicey for me.*

Bob Webber (P): *The alternative for me is 3N. We can't hold up in spades and we have not very many apparent tricks.*

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

♠A ♥AKQ9754 ♦3 ♣KQ98

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♠	?

One of the most frustrating things in bridge is knowing exactly what you need to find out, and not being able to do it. This hand would love to make a single bid asking partner for aces. Sadly, bidding is generally designed to be a "telling" language rather than an "asking" one, and many panelists chose to double. Starting with a double and then bidding (or jumping!) in a new suit shows a strong hand, stronger than jumping to 4♥ directly.

Action	Votes	Score
X	15	100
4♥	3	70
4N	2	60
2♠	1	50

Debra Eaves (X): *All big hands start with a double.*

Jonathan Fleischmann (X): 3N or 4♥ could be right, but I'll try for a little science in the auction. I have enough strength that I may get to describe my hand a bit before the opponents get too high.

Bob Katz (X): Much too good for 4♥. You have 12 tricks opposite, xxx, xxx, xxx, Axxx. If, worst case scenario, it goes 4♠ P ♡ back to you, then you can bid 5♥.

Morrie Kleinplatz (X): If partner jumps in diamonds, I'll jump in hearts. The only risk is that partner passes the double. Ah for the days before Michaels - an easy 2♠ bid!

Owen Lien (X): I'll start with X planning to bid hearts as high as necessary (up to the 5-level). Hard to see how we'll sensibly find our way to a hypothetical slam, but maybe I'll get lucky. Not concerned with partner leaving this one in given the VUL and partner being under the spade bidder.

Gene Benedict (4♥): This might prevent a 4♠ or 5♦ sacrifice.

John Koschik (4N): This is an ace ask. If I had minors, I would have started with 2N. The problem with DBL, then 4N over the hoped-for 2♣ advance is RKCB 1430. If I discover no aces (5♦), I can't get back to hearts.

Jerry Grossman (2♠): I can't risk partner's passing a takeout double. On a good day, partner will have an ace and we can make 6♥. If 4N right now were Blackwood, that would be my choice, but I think it is probably just a high-level takeout for the minors.

FALL 2024 "IT'S YOUR LEAD" HANDS

The Fall 2024 TT Issue - "Taking the Lead" will be all about leading. Accordingly, the following hands present OPENING LEAD PROBLEMS.

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

♠92 ♥J3 ♦AQJ73 ♣AJ98

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
X	P	4♠	1♦ AP

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

♠972 ♥T8 ♦AJ52 ♣K843

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
3♠*	P	1N	P
4N	P	4♥	P
6♥	AP	5♣**	P

*5-5 Majors GF **1/4 keycards

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

♠AQ ♥854 ♦KJ3 ♣K7543

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	P	1♥	P
	P	2♦	AP

4. MPs. None Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠K ♥T954 ♦AT643 ♣QT9

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
4♠	AP	2♠	P

5. MPs. None Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠93 ♥T96 ♦3 ♣AQJ9863

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
3N	AP	1N	3♣

Readers, submit responses by
September 8, 2024

jarbit24@gmail.com

Mailing address on back cover

"TABLE TALK STANDARD" LEADING AGREEMENTS

LEADS (circle card led, if not in bold)

versus Suits

(X) X

x x (X) X

x x (X)

x x x (X) (X)

(A) K x

(T) 9 x

(K) Q x

K (J) T x

(Q) J x

K (T) 9 x

(J) T 9

Q (T) 9 x

(K) Q T 9

versus Notrump

(X) X

(X) x x x

(X) x x

(X) x x (X) x

(A) K J x

A (Q) J x

A (J) T 9

A (T) 9 x

K (Q) J x

(K) Q T 9

(Q) J T x

Q (T) 9 x

(J) T 9 x

(T) 9 x (X)

LENGTH LEADS:

4th Best

vs SUITS ☐

vs NT ☒

3rd/5th Best

vs SUITS ☒

vs NT ☐

Attitude vs NT ☐

vs. NT:

King = power lead (asks for unblock)

Ace/Queen = asks for attitude

HAND HIGHLIGHT: MAKING INFERENCES (ADVANCED)

The editor faced an interesting problem at the June Regional:

S: ♠4 ♥JT7532 ♦void ♣QT9643

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

2N*

5♦

1♠

P

6♠

X

AP

P

North's double here is generally "lightner," saying 'I need you to make an unusual lead,' which is often to get a ruff at Trick 1. Unfortunately, this puts South in a quandry looking at 6-6 in the unbid suits!

Grasping at straws for reasons to lead a heart vs. a club, South considered that East could have bid 5♥, usually showing a second suit or concentration of strength, to help West evaluate whether to bid on, especially if N/S continue bidding diamonds. With that small sliver of an inference, South reasoned that East's second suit is more likely clubs, which couldn't have been bid at the 5-level. So, a SMALL club was led (giving LOW suit preference), North ruffed it, and returned a diamond, which we ruffed to beat the contract. They will not always be right, but even the smallest of inferences can be life savers!

PRO/AM RECAP

The annual SEMBA Pro/Am in May was a hit! The game was 15 tables. Thank you to all of the pro's who came to support this education initiative!

Congratulations to the winners!

North/South:

- 1 Joan Heinz - Mike McDonald
- 2 Betty Blase - Mike Crane
- 3 Nancy Strickland - Bob Webber

East/West:

- 1 Anne Farnen - Gary Boyers
- 2 Alyce Howarth - Julie Arbit
- 3 Ann Bieneman - Mark Bendure



SEMBA Pro/AM Players

RESOURCE ROUNDUP: KAPLAN-REUBENS HAND EVALUATOR

The Spring 2024 issue of Table Talk featured a useful app (CueBids) for cell phones that allows you to practice bidding. Positive feedback about that feature inspired a new intermittent TT column: **Resource Roundup**. The column will cover book reviews and online/print resources useful for improving your game. Today, let's look at an online hand evaluator tool developed by U.S. experts Edgar Kaplan and Jeff Rubens:

www.jeff-goldsmith.com/cgi-bin/knr.cgi

You can also Google search for "Kaplan Rubens Hand Evaluator" to find it. On the Hand Evaluator page, you will see a very small box. You can type a hand into the box (in suit order from spades to clubs, no symbols needed), and the evaluator will consider HCP, shape, concentration of honors, Tens and Nines, and other relevant evaluation

metrics to give you a more nuanced view of the hand. Let's see examples:

1 AT54 K4 K43 AKQT
K&R (AT54 K4 K43 AKQT) = 20.30

2 QT7 A43 KJ6 J972
K&R (QT7 A43 KJ6 J972) = 9.05

In example 1, we have 19 HCP with nice intermediates and honors concentrated. The more nuanced value of this hand is over 20, so you may consider opening 2NT (20-21).

In the second example, we have a scattered 11-count. Imagine your partner opens 1♣. With 11 and no major, you'd typically bid 2N to invite partner to game. However, with a 3-3-3-4 shape and scattered honors, the evaluation comes back at 9.05, suggesting you should consider bidding a mere 1N. The K&R evaluation should be used as a guideline rather a rule, but can help you add some nuance to your evaluation toolkit.

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I/N QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Pass. We've shown about 13-15 HCP and we have 13 (a minimum).
2. Bid 4♥. We've shown about 0-10 with 0+ hearts, but have 8 HCP and two hearts (a maximum).
3. Double again. We've shown 12+ HCP with takeout shape, but we have 16 HCP (extras).

TEST YOUR PLAY SOLUTION

(from back cover)

♠ 3	♠ AKT854	♠ Q9
♥ KQJT743	♥ T62	♥ A8
♦ AJT	♦ 6	♦ K97542
♣ A5	♣ 962	♣ K73
	♠ J762	
	♥ 5	
	♦ Q83	
	♣ QJT84	

North opens 2♠ (weak). The final contract is 6♥-West. North leads the ♠A, everyone follows suit. North continues with the ♠K; we trump this in hand. We need to figure out where the ♦Q is.

Let's pull trump. In doing so, note that North started with three hearts, in addition to the six spades advertised by the opening 2♠ bid:

→ ♥ = 7-3-2-1 around the table
→ ♠ = 1-6-2-4 around the table

This leaves North with only four minor suit cards. Play the clubs first to gain information - lead the ♣A, then the ♣5 to the king, then dummy's third club, which you trump in hand. North follows suit to all three club tricks.

Add the information up [6♠ + 3♥ + 3♣] to reveal that North has AT MOST one diamond, with a hand pattern of 6-3-1-3 or 6-3-0-4. So, play the ♦T to the King (seeing North's only diamond), and finesse South for the ♦Q on the way back.

WOLVERINE REGIONAL RESULTS

Open pairs

Monday: Jerry Grossman, Morrie Kleinplatz

Wednesday: Mike Crane, Bob Webber

Friday: Jonathan Fleischmann, Mike Curley

Saturday: Cono Emanuele, Kurt Dasher

Gold Rush pairs

Monday: Ronald Zurilla, James Egan

Wednesday: James Egan, Janice Skadsen

Friday: Dennis Hack, Gordon Bryant

Saturday: Chris Hill, Mark Merritt

Open Swiss

Tuesday: A: Susan & Gordon Parnes, Brenda Bryant, Jim Fatka B: Joseph Reimann, John Caldwell, Lakshmi Vora, Naresh Kapila C: Manus Nemeth, Barb Marti, Maria Conti, Daniel Schiffer

Bracketed Teams

Thursday: **Bkt 1:** Samir Zeine, Saleh Fetouh, Jian Wang, Jiang Gu **Bkt 2:** Suzanne Baker, Gary Theis, Katherine Jernigan, Joedy Patrick **Bkt 3:** Manus Nemeth, Robin Lewis, Mark Migdal, Shaul Englander

Sunday: **Bkt 1:** Bob Webber, Jerrold Grossman, Sheldon Kirsch, Marty Hirschman **Bkt 2:** Ying Yuan, Xingyu Zhang, Xiaoping Wu, Song Lin **Bkt 3:** Paul & Karen Stunkel, Tom Baer, Jane Gardner **Bkt 4:** Matt & Susan Evett, Steven & Donna Dotson

Side Games

Tuesday AM: Carolyn & Mitchell Simmer

Thursday AM: Chun Zhou, Peter Bolgar

SEMBA CLUB DIRECTORY

[Numbers] correspond to club info on right; *Invite-only games

Monday

- [1] Winners Bridge | 11a
- [2] Blue Water Bridge Club | 12p
- [3] War Memorial | 12p
- [4] Ann Arbor City Club | 1p*

Tuesday

- [5] Downriver BC | 10:30a
- [6] Alger Center BC | 12p
- [7] Plymouth DBC | 12:30p
- [4] Ann Arbor City Club | 1p*
- [8] Ford DBC | 6p

Wednesday

- [9] Eton Center DBC | 11a
- [10] Mid Week BC | 11a
- [7] Plymouth DBC | 12:30p
- [11] Country Club of Dt. | 12:30p*
- [12] Mackinaw BC | 1p*
- [13] Ann Arbor Bridge Club | 7p

Thursday

- [14] Burns Park Bridge | 12p
- [15] Neighborhood Club | 12p
- [11] Country Club of Dt. | 5p*
- [16] Trenton DBC | 6:30p

Friday

- [17] Bridge Central | 11a
- [18] St. Clair DBC | 12p
- [19] Highland DBC | 12:15p
- [4] Ann Arbor City Club | 1p*

[20] Bridge Connection

- Mon-Fri | 11:55a
- Sat | 12:30p
- Weds | 7p

Virtual

- Listings here are IN-PERSON
- On Bridge Base Online, click "Virtual Clubs" then "ACBL - North America" to find VIRTUAL games

Limited

- [4] Ann Arbor City Club | Thurs 1p | <499*
- [17] Bridge Central | Tues 11a | <2500
- [20] Bridge Connection | Thurs 11a | <1000; Tues 9a | <300 (Barometer)

Club Location & Managers

See pg. 19 for club manager contacts

- [1] 38651 Woodward, Blmfld Hls; Dave Fletcher
- [2] 600 Gd River, Port Huron; Fred Goodell
www.bluewaterbridgeclubs.com
- [3] 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pt Fms; Tony Faint
- [4] 1830 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor; Ronnie Meade
- [5] 14680 Dix-Toledo, Southgate; Cono Emanuele
- [6] 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pt Fms; Dave Fletcher
- [7] 525 Farmer St, Plymouth; Jim Perna
- [8] 3640 Madison, Dearborn; Ellen Silverest
www.facebook.com/FordBridgeClub
- [9] 4900 Pardee, Dearborn Hts; Joyce Kozma
- [10] 38651 Woodward, Blmfld Hls; Tony Faint
- [11] 220 Country Club, Grosse Pt Fms; Dave Fletcher
- [12] 190 E.Long Lake, Blmfld Hls; Josie Doherty
- [13] 2114 Pauline, Ann Arbor; Ray Gentz
<https://arbor.bridgeclubs.net/>
- [14] 1320 Baldwin, Ann Arbor; Matt Evett
- [15] 375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe; Tony Faint
- [16] 2700 Westfield, Trenton; Bob Ondo
- [17] 17200 Dove, Clinton Twp; Vickie Vallone
- [18] 308 S 4th St, St Clair; Fred Goodell
www.bluewaterbridgeclubs.com
- [19] 444 Beach Farm, Highland; Jim Perna
- [20] 26776 W 12 Mile, Southfield; Mike McDonald
www.bridgewebs.com/connection/

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Silverest: 810-225-2278

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Vallone: bridgecentralstation@gmail.com

CHUCK BURGER SECTIONAL RESULTS

Open pairs Thurs AM: Joe Monro, Mike McDonald Fri AM: Mike Crane, Brenda Bryant
Fri PM: Oliver Burgess, Zach Wasserman

0-1000 pairs Thurs AM: Diane Kosuda, Randy Walker Thurs PM: Peter Hellekjaer, James Ver Hage Fri AM: John Caldwell, Joseph Reimann Fri PM: John Caldwell, Joseph Reimann Sat AM: Norm Kakarala, Gay Garcia Sat PM: Tracey King, Margaret Carden

SS Swiss Thurs: Gary Boyers, Arun Desouza, Ricky Wasserman, Nathan Banker

Sat. Swiss A: Julie Arbit, Kurt Dasher, Owen Lien, Jonathan Fleischmann B: Arun Desouza, Gary Boyers, Ellen Silverest, Bill Gregg C: Dan Irish, Murali Mani, Jane Gardner, Bob Ondo

Sun. Bracketed Teams Bkt 1: Jonathan Fleischmann, Kurt Dasher, Bob Webber, Marty Hirschman Bkt 2: Lynn & Peter Root, Sue McIlhiny, Kathy Twomey Bkt 3: Matt & Susan Evett, Gillian & Mike Andrews

KEN VAN CLEVE REGIONAL RESULTS

Open pairs

Thursday:

A: Peter Wong, Jiang Gu

B: Jian Wang, Yimei Cao

C: Tengyun Tony Cao, Xiaoping Wu

Friday:

A: Peter Wong, Jiang Gu

B: Jim Walter, David Aderente

C: Toufic Hamaoui, Robert Holmes

Gold Rush pairs

Thursday:

A, B: Thomas Johnson, Jean Hellekjaer

C: Patricia Quick, Jane Bersuder

Friday:

A, B: Mike Andrews, John Lowry

C: Frank Pysz, Daniel Vecchioni

Sat. Bracketed Teams

Bkt 1: Jonathan Fleischmann, Mike Alioto, Kurt Dasher, Morrie Kleinplatz

Bkt 2: Cheryl & Jim Bloom, Ronna Galin, Bob Raf

Bkt 3: Diane Kosuda, Jerrie Sasson, Bob Ondo, Kim Hauley

Bkt 4: Matt & Susan Evett, Steven & Donna Dotson

Sun. Open Swiss

A: Steven Winokur, Frank Treiber III, Richard Temkin, Mike Crane

B (tie): Ying Yuan, Yaqi Zhu, Xingyu Zhang, Yanping Zhang

B (tie): Dan Sutherland, Thom Allen, Susan Woodrow, Leif Britting

C: Matt & Susan Evett, Erich Schifter, Stuart Collis

TEST YOUR PLAY

BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE

WEST

♠ 3
♥ KQJT743
♦ AJT
♣ A5

EAST

♠ Q9
♥ A8
♦ K97542
♣ K73

This hand is a follow-on to the topic covered in this issue's I/N Nook column.

North opens 2♠ (weak, showing 6). The final contract is 6♥-West. North leads the ♠A; and everyone follows suit. North continues with the ♠K, which we trump in hand.

We pull trumps, noting that North started with three hearts. We know North started 6-3 in the majors. How can we gain more information to make an informed guess about the ♦Q?

Answer, pg. 17

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Upcoming Tournaments

Aug 22-25: Dog Days Sectional
Oct 14-20: Motor City Regional
Nov 14-17: Apple Cider Sectional

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Owen Lien.....Vice President
David Dursum.....Chairman
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David Fletcher.....Treasurer

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