

# TABLE TALK

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

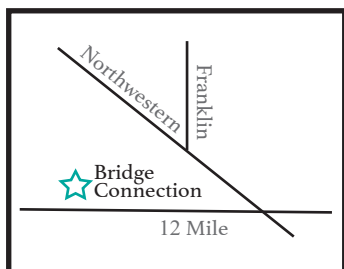
VOL. 62 No. 2

FALL 2021

## MOTOR CITY REGIONAL TO BE HELD AT BRIDGE CONNECTION

MBA's Motor City Regional (Oct 11-17) will take place at the Bridge Connection in Southfield. Given the uncertainty created by the pandemic, the MBA board opted to relocate the tournament to the Bridge Connection and avoid any financial jeopardy of continuing

with the new site of The Hawk in Farmington Hills. Based on averages at recent U.S. tournaments, the club's 50+ tables will accommodate projected attendance. Proof of vaccination against COVID-19 will be required for all players without exception. Masks will also be required (subject to change). The address of the Bridge Connection is 26776 W 12 Mile Rd. The club is on the main floor at the East end of the building (closest to Northwestern); parking is ample.



## REMEMBERING CHUCK BURGER

Chuck Burger's 11 national titles, countless other accomplishments, witty bridge humor, and warm, unassuming table demeanor leave a lasting legacy in the bridge world. Find a brief biography and collection of kind words and memories of Chuck on page 11.



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TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

<div>Monday</div> <div>Oct. 11</div>	<div>Grass Roots Fund Stratified Open Pairs (<i>double session but may play single session</i>) ..... 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.</div> <div><b>Gold Rush</b> Pairs (<i>double session but may play single session</i>) ..... 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.</div>
<div>Tuesday</div> <div>Oct. 12</div>	<div>Bracketed Swiss Teams (<i>double session</i>) ..... 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.</div> <div>Stratified <b>Intermediate/Newcomer</b> Pairs (<i>single sessions</i>) ..... 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.</div> <div>Daytime Side Pair Series #1 (<i>single sessions 1 and 2 of 6</i>) ..... 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.</div>
<div>Wednesday</div> <div>Oct. 13</div>	<div>Sylvia Stein Open Pairs (<i>double session</i>) ..... 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.</div> <div><b>Gold Rush</b> Pairs (<i>double session</i>) ..... 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.</div> <div>Stratified <b>Intermediate/Newcomer</b> Pairs (<i>single sessions</i>) ..... 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.</div> <div>Daytime Side Pair Series #1 (<i>single sessions 3 and 4 of 6</i>) ..... 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.</div>
<div>Thursday</div> <div>Oct. 14</div>	<div>Bracketed Swiss Teams (<i>double session</i>) ..... 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.</div> <div>Stratified <b>Intermediate/Newcomer</b> Pairs (<i>single sessions</i>) ..... 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.</div> <div>Daytime Side Pair Series #1 (<i>single sessions 5 and 6 of 6</i>) ..... 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.</div>
<div>Friday</div> <div>Oct. 15</div>	<div>Stratified Open Pairs (<i>double session</i>) ..... 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.</div> <div><b>Gold Rush</b> Pairs (<i>double session</i>) ..... 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.</div> <div>Stratified <b>Intermediate/Newcomer</b> Pairs (<i>single sessions</i>) ..... 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.</div> <div>Daytime Side Pair Series #2 (<i>single sessions 1 and 2 of 4</i>) ..... 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.</div>
<div>Saturday</div> <div>Oct. 16</div>	<div>Stratified Open Pairs (<i>double session</i>) ..... 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.</div> <div><b>Gold Rush</b> Pairs (<i>double session</i>) ..... 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.</div> <div>Stratified <b>Intermediate/Newcomer</b> Pairs (<i>single sessions</i>) ..... 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.</div> <div>Daytime Side Pair Series #2 (<i>single sessions 3 and 4 of 4</i>) ..... 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.</div>
<div>Sunday</div> <div>Oct. 17</div>	<div>Marilyn and Myles Maddox Bracketed Swiss Teams (<i>playthrough</i>). <b>Intermediate/Newcomer</b> teams guaranteed in lower bracket. .... 10:00 a.m.</div>

Michigan Bridge Association's

Vince and Joan Remy Motor City Regional

Monday, October 11 — Sunday, October 17, 2021 at Michigan Bridge Connection, 26776 W. Twelve Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48076

# Save the Dates:

## North American Pairs Qualifier

District 12 will hold its  
qualifier for this  
grassroots event ONLINE  
on BBO on:

### October 24

Top finishers in each flight  
are eligible to compete in the  
final at the RENO NABC in  
Spring 2022. Monetary  
awards provided.

Go to [District12Bridge.org](http://District12Bridge.org) and  
click "STaC-NAP-GNT then NAP.

## Austin NABC

ACBL plans to host its  
first North American  
Bridge Championship  
since 2019:

### Nov 25-Dec 5

Hotel cancelations are  
available until 10/30. Masks  
and proof of vaccination will  
be mandatory.

## Ann Arbor Sectional

MBA's winter sectional  
returns to the popular  
Washtenaw Golf Club:

### Jan 29-30

### Transfers

Frederick Alger  
Kathryn Altman  
Meylert Armstrong  
Toni Bowyer  
Laurie Caylen  
Brian Chambers  
Brenda Facey  
Sally Feder

## Welcome

Judy Flowers  
Emanuel Kahana  
Rivka Kahana  
Brenda Lessel  
Joan Moon  
Jean Sturtevant  
Henry Zhang

### New Members

Robert Barber  
Veronica Barrell  
Karen Bollinger  
Mark Bus  
Edwin Clarke  
Jack Kalbfleisch  
Pradeep Kumar  
Mark Nosal  
David Rabahy

# It's Your Bid

Due to shorter issues during the pandemic, many insightful and clever comments from panelists have not been included this year, but as tournaments return, Table Talk issues will resume their normal length. Thank you to the panelists for their time and energy in participating in It's Your Bid!

The director at the 2021 Motor City Regional will have a list of the 2020 winners - Jonathan Fleischmann, John Koschik, Dick Temkin, and Val Enache - as well as the 2021 winners to redeem their free plays.

Congratulations to all!

## 2021 WINNERS

### PANEL

Bob Katz  
Marty Hirschman

### READERS

Gary Boyers

## HONORABLE MENTIONS

Mark Bendure  
Joe Chiesa  
Kurt Dasher  
Bob Webber

Irv Hershman  
J. Morris Swiger

## CURRENT ISSUE SCORES

### PANEL

Dennis Kasle.....	490	Irv Rosenstein.....	440
Mark Bendure.....	480	Don Rumelhart.....	440
Willie Winokur.....	470	Bob Katz.....	440
Marty Hirschman...	470	Suzy Burger.....	430
Morrie Kleinplatz...	470	J. Fleischmann.....	430
Linda Perlman.....	470	Sheldon Kirsch.....	420
Kurt Dasher.....	470	Gene Benedict.....	420
Owen Lien.....	460	Dick Temkin.....	420
John Koschik.....	460	Joe Chiesa.....	410
Bob Webber.....	460		

### READERS

David Graff.....	430
Margaret Carden.....	410
Irv Hershman.....	390
Ray Gentz.....	380
J. Morris Swiger.....	330
Gerald Wahl.....	310
Gary Boyers.....	300
Paul Chirgwin.....	250
Dick Bauman.....	240

# HOW THE PANEL VOTED

	1	2	3	4	5
Mark Bendure	3♠	6♣	3N	4♣	P
Gene Benedict	3♠	5♣	3N	4♥	4N
Suzy Burger	2♦	6♣	5♣	4♥	5♠
Joe Chiesa	2♦	5♠	P	P	4N
Kurt Dasher	3♠	5♦	3N	4♣	P
Jonathan Fleischmann	3♠	5♦	2N	4♣	P
Marty Hirschman	3♠	6♣	3N	4♣	4N
Dennis Kasle	2♦	5♠	3N	4♣	5♠
Bob Katz	3♠	5♣	3N	P	5♠
Sheldon Kirsch	2♦	5♠	3N	4♥	5♥
Morrie Kleinplatz	2♦	7♣	3N	4♣	5♠
John Koschik	2♦	5♦	3N	4♣	6♥
Owen Lien	2♦	5N	3N	4♣	P
Linda Perlman	2♦	6♣	3N	4♣	6♥
Irv Rosenstein	3♠	6♣	3♣	4♣	4N
Don Rumelhart	3♠	5♦	3N	4♣	5♣
Dick Temkin	3♠	5♠	P	P	5♠
Bob Webber	2♦	4N	3N	4♣	P
Willie Winokur	2♦	6♣	3♣	4♣	5♠

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

♠QJ97542 ♥J ♦A8 ♣QJ6

Action	Votes	Score
2♦	10	100
3♠	9	90

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

Panelists were split nearly down the middle here - many chose a practical, invitational jump to 3♠. The other choice was 2♦ - most experts play this as an artificial force (inv+ or GF by agreement). This is akin to "New Minor Forcing" that one might play over a 1N rebid by opener. 2♦ allows opener to further describe their hand to try to find the best strain.

**Jonathan Fleischmann (3♠):** *I have no confidence that we belong in game, so I'll invite the most likely one. Sometimes we'll play 3♠ when 5♣ is good, but even starting with a forcing 2♦ isn't likely to allow us to sort that out.*

**Bob Katz (3♠):** *I don't like it but the 7th spade forces me to do this.*

**Morrie Kleinplatz (2♦):** *Everyone now plays this as an artificial force; some play it game forcing, some not. In either case, partner's*

next bid should make it easy going forward. Ideally partner bids either 2♠ or 3♣, in which case I can bid 4♥.

**Owen Lien (2♦):** I would bid 2♦ (artificial GF) intending to play in 4S unless partner really doesn't like them, then we can possibly play in 3NT or 5♣.

**Willie Winokur (2♦):** The hard part is next, after opener's third bid.

2. IMPs. All Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠Void ♥AQ ♦AJT653 ♣98743

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♦	3♣	4♠	?

This hand comes from a particularly cruel set in a US Bridge Federation online event earlier in 2021. The last making contract for N/S is 6♣ (West holds KQx in clubs), which many panelists chose to bid directly. A variety of other tacks were also chosen, with most options likely leading to 6♣ once North pumps the brakes with useless spade honors and a mediocre trump suit.

Action	Votes	Score
6♣	6	100
5♠	4	90
5♦	4	90
5♣	3	80
5N	1	70
4N	1	70
7♣	1	70

**Suzy Burger (6♣):** What I think I can make.

**Joe Chiesa (5♠):** Unless playing some non-standard form of GSF or Exclusion RKC this is the best I can do. Hoping in the face of my GS try partner will regard the AK(Q) of clubs as a go sign. Alternatively could RKC and assume E possesses the ♠A but that is a tad frisky.

**Sheldon Kirsch (5♠):** To bid less than 6♣ would be a sin.

**John Koschik (5♦):** I'm going to drive this hand to slam, and I want partner to know I have values in case they bid more spades. Even if we have a grand, I doubt we can bid it.

**Gene Benedict (5♣):** With West holding diamonds over me, this hand won't play well and the trump suit is weak.

**Bob Webber (4N):** I think we will end in 7♣. I don't want the opponents to save. Maybe they won't if they think a spade will cash.

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

♠AQ ♥9 ♦T652 ♣A98763

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

\*Forcing

A limitation I face as Table Talk Editor having only played bridge for 10 years is neglecting certain meanings for bids that are non-standard to me, but are

straightforward in some circles. The double here is a good example of this: most modern styles play this as takeout, but penalty used to be much more common. As a result, the panel took a few different directions, but primarily sought out NT. The spade tenace and the form of scoring which so strongly favors playing in NT prompted most panelists to bid 3N; although slam is in the picture, it is often too risky to bypass 3N to explore thoroughly.

Action	Votes	Score
3N	13	100
3♣	2	70
P	2	70
2N	1	60
5♣	1	60

**Marty Hirschman (3N):** *The practical bid. Partner's double is takeout, showing extra values, so we could have a club slam, but I would have to give up on 3NT to find out.*

**Morrie Kleinplatz (3N):** *Whether we are playing this as penalty or takeout with extras, the vulnerability says this is where we want to be.*

**Owen Lien (3N):** *With X being takeout, I have a very good hand with a double stopper in spades. Being matchpoints, I will follow the Hamman rule and bid 3NT as that is a reasonable option.*

**Linda Perlman (3N):** *I'm not sure whether to bid 5 or 6 clubs, but if I bid 3N I get to count the ♠Q.*

**Don Rumelhart (3N):** *Highest scoring game. 3 clubs is a huge*  
 Table Talk

*underbid, 4 clubs bypasses 3NT, but may find 6 clubs. However, when the opponents bid at the two level in a live auction, it is usually best to give up on slam and bid our best game.*

**Joe Chiesa (P):** *Partner has made a penalty double of 2♠ and we have the AQ there plus an outside Ace. Carnage is imminent. Moreover we have no obvious game.*

**Suzy Burger (5♣):** *Safer than NT*

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

♠K964 ♥K9864 ♦Void ♣KT82			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		3♣	P
P	X	P	?

*Vulnerability can play a strong role in situations like these, but at equal colors in matchpoing scoring, it is often a high-risk/high-reward situation to pass partner's takeout doubles. Most panelists chose to take our likely plus in 4 of partner's better major by bidding 4♣.*

Action	Votes	Score
4♣	13	100
P	3	70
4♥	3	70

**Mark Bendure (4♣):** *The playing potential is too great to pass, and my major suit length may detract from our defensive prospects, so I enlist partner's help in finding the best major to play.*

**Jonathan Fleischmann (4♣):** *I don't like to bury partner for balancing, but it won't take much for*



game to be good. Giving partner the choice of majors allows us to find a superior 4-4 spade fit. If partner happens to be 3-3 in the majors, she should bid the lower-ranking one.

**John Koschik (4♣):** I'm looking at a minimum of two club tricks on defense, but I'm guessing we won't get rich defending 3♣ doubled. I'll bid 4♥ over 4♦ and pass 4M.

**Joe Chiesa (P):** Partner's double is balancing. We have 2 or more trump tricks and 2 outside kings. 4♣ ( the only alternative) may yield a 44 spade fit with perhaps bad splits. Take the plus.

**Gene Benedict (4♥):** 4 hearts may be a 5-4 fit, which is better than a 4-4 spade fit.

5. MPs. E/ Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠Void ♥KJT97 ♦KQJ3 ♣KQ96

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

\*Jacoby 2N (GF, 4+♥)

Another hand where vulnerability is critical, the panel was very much split among an immediate 5S , pass waiting to pull partner's presumed double to show strength, 4N asking for keycards (rare with a void, but there are hands for it!), and others.

Action	Votes	Score
5♠	6	100
P	5	90
4N	4	80
6♥	2	70
5♥	1	60
5♣	1	60

**Bob Katz (5♠):** Exlucision. If partner only has 1 ace outside of spades, I lose.

**Dick Temkin (5♠):** If partner has all of the non-spade aces, they should know what to do!

**Marty Hirschman (4N):** It is barely possible that partner has only one ace, in which case I can get out to 5♥. On the other hand, he could have all 4, in which case I will bid a grand. If partner shows two or three aces, I will gamble out 6♥ -- after all the alternative was to just jump to 6♥ right away. I could bid 5♠, but partner is unlikely to be able to bid 7♥ even if he has the three non-spade aces, so what is the point?

**Mark Bendure (P):** I plan to bid 5♠ over double, but I would like to hear what partner has to contribute before making any decision as to level. Slam should be easy opposite the Q of ♥ and two minor suit Aces, but we could be off two bullets. Pass and pull should be stronger than bidding directly.

**Kurt Dasher (P):** This a forcing auction. If pd doubles will bid 5♥ slam try. This denies a minor ace, would cue bid one if I had it. If partner makes any other bid will look for slam by cue bidding.

**Bob Webber (P):** Over partner's double, I'll bid 5♠. Since this a grand slam try, hopefully partner will bid 7♥ with the right hand.

**Don Rumelhart (5♣):** It is tempting to pass and pull to show extra values, but I think I am too good for that, but not quite good enough to bid 5♠.



# WINTER 2021-22 HANDS

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

♠Q8542 ♥AK ♦A2 ♣KJ76

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		3♥	?

## 2. IMPs. None Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠Q54 ♥8 ♦K97 ♣KQ8532

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

\*Forcing

## 3. MPs. All Vul. SOUTH holds:

♠K5 ♥AKQ96 ♦AJ42 ♣KJ

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

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

♠K ♥KT76 ♦Q4 ♣AT9842

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

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

♠AKQJ62 ♥A4 ♦T ♣AT93

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

A big thank you to our panelists for their time and effort! Readers, submit your responses by November 25 via:

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

OR

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

## IN MEMORIAM

*James Anderson*

*Chuck Burger*

*Larry Burgess*

*Edward Lough*

*Don Pocock*

*Charles Sneden*

*Janice Stephens*

*Carmela Wellman*

# MBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

FALL 2021

The annual election for the MBA Board of Directors will take place on the last four days of the Motor City Regional, Oct. 11-Oct. 17, 2021. Voting ends at the start of the Sunday event. If you cannot attend the tournament, please fill out and mail an absentee ballot according to the directions below. Return ballots to: [Owen Lien 22061 Jerome St, Oak Park, MI 48237](#). Statements of candidates appear on page 19

## MBA ABSENTEE BALLOT

INDICATE SELECTION WITH AN "X" BEFORE THE CANDIDATE'S NAME. SELECT NO MORE THAN FIVE (5).

\_\_\_\_\_ Julie Arbit\*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Mark Bendure  
\_\_\_\_\_ Marilyn Crane\*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Steve Jacob\*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Rhonda Monro

\* indicates incumbent candidates

### Absentee Voting

The name(s) of the voter(s) must be on the outside of the envelope. No more than two ballots per envelope; if two ballots are in an envelope, the names of both voters must be provided on the outside of the envelope. Absentee ballots must be mailed. Return ballots to listed address by October 12, 2021.

## TEST YOUR PLAY SOLUTION (FROM BACK COVER)

BY MARTY HIRSCHMAN

♠ QJ4  
♥ A8762  
♦ J94  
♣ Q2

♠ 7  
♥ J43  
♦ AQT732  
♣ K64

♠ K863  
♥ KQT9  
♦ K8  
♣ J92

♠ AT952  
♥ 5  
♦ 65  
♣ AT875

Partner had only the king of spades and jack of clubs in the black suits, so needs KQ of hearts and K of diamonds for his opening bid. So you will easily defeat 4♠x if declarer started with four red cards.

The only danger is that declarer started with A10xxx of clubs. This

is quite likely, since he needs that extra shape to justify his jump to 4♠. And partner's play of the jack at trick one tells us that declarer has the 10 of clubs.

If you take the king of clubs, declarer will soon get in with his last trump and cash the rest of the clubs to make 10 tricks.

However, if you duck the club, the queen will win, and declarer will be stuck in dummy. Since he has only one trump left and no red winners, he won't be able to get to his hand twice both to knock out your king of clubs and get back in to cash the remaining clubs, so he will go down 2.

## CHUCK BURGER

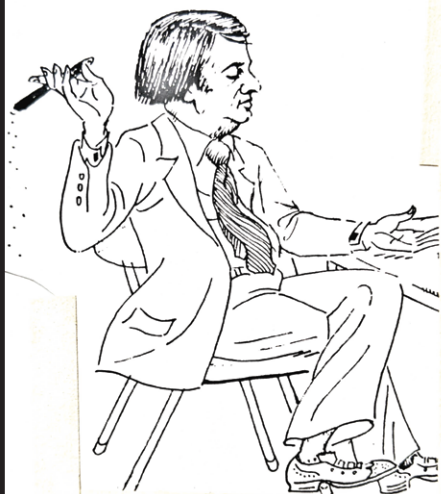
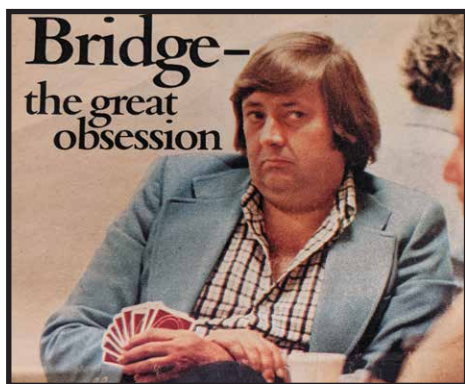


Illustration by Steve Hench

*an absolutely terrific player; with his feet on the ground. Chuck didn't want to leave his law practice and move to Dallas for what seemed like an oddball experiment."*

Among numerous spotlights in print, Chuck is featured in a 1983 issue of the Michigan Magazine of the Detroit news: *"Burger remembers how obsessed he became with the game when he learned it while attending the University of Michigan. I played seven days a week. There was always a new challenge. You'd do something that worked 10 times and the 11th time it wouldn't work. I never could find the end of the game. I couldn't get enough."*

Chuck began playing bridge at the University of Michigan in the 1950s, where his mentors included Zeke Jabbour who was a grad student at the time. Chuck went on to earn a law degree at the University of Detroit and continued on in the bridge world, winning 11 national events and finishing 2nd in 19 more. In 1967, Chuck was invited - along with Bob Hamman and Eddie Kantar - by Bobby Wolff and Ira Corn to join the Dallas Aces, a professional venture intended to develop a full-time, salaried bridge team capable of beating the prestigious Italian Blue Team on the international stage. In his 2011 autobiography, Wolff writes: *"Burger was actually my first choice. An attorney living in Michigan, Chuck was - and still is -*



Chuck also represented District 12 in Omar Sharif's Bridge Circus (featured in the July 2021 ACBL Bulletin) in 1970. Chuck is well remembered and missed across the bridge world and beyond. On the following pages, find a collection of stories, memories, and words about Chuck from some who knew him well.

## ODE TO CHUCKIE

His bridge playing prowess was never in question,  
 But let us now add the following suggestion:  
 Unlike many players from the North, East, South, West,  
 His "table behavior" was always the best - -  
 Congenial he was to everyone,  
 It didn't matter what you had won.  
 Many New Year's Eve parties, he and Suzie there,  
 And his bidding theories he'd consent to share,  
 To the garage with some guests or with the host,  
 That's when he actually liked to share the most.

Now a little story, not a rumor  
 That confirms that Chuck had a sense of humor:  
 In between sessions (an eventual winner)  
 With his partner, Jim, he went to dinner.  
 Jimmy Cayne - - former Chairman/CEO, Bear Stearns - -  
 Of a mistake by the waiter, he eventually learns.  
 Jimmy started to argue, at first with the waiter,  
 Then with the owner, his voice became greater.  
 Chuckie, realizing they might end up late,  
 Said out loud to Jimmy, "Come on, we can't wait.  
 We've got to get back (and then took a bow),  
 So let's get going or buy this guy's restaurant now."

The Hall of Fame did "good" - - with Chuckie's honor - - awardin'  
 To our dear friend, we'll miss you. From Susan Parnes & Gordon

The following is a reprint of the NYT bridge column from June 22, 1995. The event is the Team Trials to select the teams to represent the US in the Bermuda Bowl in Beijing. Chuck, playing with Jimmy Cayne, Mark Lair, Mike Passell, Paul Soloway, and Bobby Goldman went on to compete as USA1 in the Bermuda Bowl.

<p>♠ T764 ♥ --- ♦ Q98532 ♣ Q94</p>	<p>♠ K3 ♥ AT7 ♦ AT764 ♣ AK8</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Burger</i></p> <p>♠ AJ92 ♥ 53 ♦ K ♣ T76532</p>
--	--

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
P	X	P	4♠

Burger played brilliantly on the diagramed deal to bring home an improbable contract. As South, he had to guess when his partner doubled the four-heart opening, and guessed wrong by bidding four spades: Five clubs, even a wild six clubs, would have succeeded, and a penalty pass would have netted 500.

When the diamond eight was led, Burger inspected the dummy in disgust. Four spades seemed to have little chance. He played low

from dummy and captured the jack with the king. The spades were not likely to break conveniently, but he had no choice. He led to the spade king, finessed the spade jack and was rewarded. He then cashed the ace, leaving West with a winner, and led to the club ace to reach this position:

♠ ---		♠ ---
♥ AT7		♥ KQJ8642
♦ AT7		♦ ---
♣ K8		♣ ---
♠ T		
♥ ---		
♦ Q9532		
♣ Q9		
	Burger	
	♠ 2	
	♥ 53	
	♦ ---	
	♣ T7653	

Burger ruffed a diamond and led a heart, on which West was forced to discard a diamond, and dummy's ace won. He then cashed the club king and exited with a club, forcing West to give dummy two diamond tricks, for a total of 10 tricks. The same contract failed in the replay [other room], and Burger's team gained 12 imps.

**Lynne Schaeffer:** *I met Chuck and became friends with him in 1957 (oy). At that time he was already probably the best player in Michigan and he was about 19 or 20. People in Portland ask me if he was my partner and I always say that he played with me a couple of times as a giant favor to me. Everyone wanted to play with Chuck. When he walked into a bridge club he was swarmed with "I had this hand yadda yadda" and he always listened and gave a fair and*

*considered response.*  
*Beyond the bridge, he was the most charming guy-if you visited him, he would take you out to his porch, and the conversation would flow. I am going to miss those days. He had the greatest family and he was the perfect grandpa. If I am gushing, he was gush-worthy.*

*A couple of maxims from Chuckie re bridge which I follow: Give me count and I'll work out the hand. And, nothing good ever happened to me opening a diamond with diamonds and five clubs.*

**Allan Falk:** *I had the privilege of playing with Chuck on multiple Grand National Teams; in 1996 we took the silver medal (technically there isn't one, but it's Olympic season--9 years later, with a better partner, Chuck won the GNT and completed "the cycle", having previously won the Spingold, Vanderbilt, and Reisinger Team events). In the quarterfinals, with typical ninja skill Chuck saved me from a poor opening lead with a remarkable series of plays, prompting me to write an article for the NABC Daily Bulletin entitled "Chuckmeister":*

	Dummy	
	♠ Kx	
	♥ KQ9	
	♦ AJxx	
	♣ AKQx	
Falk		Burger
♠ Txx		♠ QJ9
♥ Txx		♥ AJxx
♦ Qxx		♦ K9xx
♣ JTxx		♣ 9x
	Declarer	
	♠ Axxxx	
	♥ xxx	
	♦ Tx	
	♣ xxx	



*Against South's 4♠ contract, I led a low diamond; when declarer played low from dummy with little thought, Chuck surmounted the first hurdle by winning ♦K. In tempo, Chuck made the only return that gave the defense a chance—a low heart to my 10 and dummy's Q. That was merely an expert play, but there was more to come.*

*Declarer needed 3-3 spades, so he cashed ♠A, on which Chuck contributed ♠Q. On the spade continuation, Chuck played ♠J. It not being clear whether Chuck or I might have a doubleton heart (when ducking the ♠J would lead to a heart ruff), declarer won ♠K and and played a third round (if declarer instead takes the diamond finesse, the defense will score a diamond ruff). Now Chuck's brilliance paid off; I was able to win ♠10 and return a heart, and Chuck cashed two tricks for down 1. The whole deal was played in under three minutes; Chuck had sized up the situation and unhesitatingly underplayed his spade honors to rescue the defense from impending doom, realizing I must have both major suit 10s, 3 spades, and ♦Q to give us a chance. Some day you too might be fortunate enough to see a true master of the game produce such a sequence of defensive plays, but I wager it will take a substantial investment of time to see the torturous sequence unfold in ultra slow motion.*

*But Chuck was more than merely a bridge genius; he was a boon*

*companion, a redoubtable friend, and a great father and family man. To spend quality time with Chuck and Suzi (for whom I could easily scribe well-deserved paeans of praise) and their outstanding children was always a treat; to know Chuck both at and away from the bridge table was an honor and a piece of good fortune I will forever treasure, and I will sorely miss his beneficent bonhomie and insightful intelligence.*



**Carol Kasle:** *[At Mercy College to kibbitz the Regional]: The play began and Chuck and his partner bid to a 2♣ contact. The opening lead was made and Chuck must have taken 5 minutes to play from the dummy. To me it looked like a simple hand to come to 8 tricks but what did I know. When the hand was over I leaned over and whispered to him "what took you so long to play to the first trick?" He replied in a very kind tone "Carol, I have more to think about than you do".*

*I came to find out how lucky we all were to have known this exceptional bridge player both in talent and demeanor.*

**Danny Marcus:** *I was friends with "Charlie Brown" for more than 50 years and played kitchen bridge with him many times. Not long ago I played in my only tournament with him. We won a Regional Open Pairs! I treasure that day. "Let's ask Chuckie" was the way to resolve difficult bridge questions. He always had the right answer.*

**Joe and Rhonda Monro:**

*When Joe first started playing backgammon he would play Chuck because he was one of the best players in the 70's...[he'd] go to Chuck until he learned the game and eventually became one of the best players.*

Joe and Rhonda also relayed another popular Chuck-ism: "Leads are tough." He also instilled the importance of going over hands after sessions in many players.

**Owen Lien:** *The first time I remember interacting with Chuck was at the district NAP finals in Lansing. Turned out we were playing against Suzy and him twice that day. 2nd time around, I asked him if he had his guns ready. In response, he put his hands in the shape of guns and responded "locked and loaded!" Chuck had a wonderful sense of humor and was a world class player to the end.*

**Chip Martel:** *Lew [Stansby] and I played on a team with Chuck and Jimmy Cayne with Hamman-Wolff around 1990. We had one big win, coming from well behind to win the Spingold...Chuck was always a great guy and good teammate.*

Table Talk

A REPRINT OF SOME OF THE  
REPLIES TO A BRIDGEWINNERS  
ARTICLE BY MARK LEONARD  
DATED MARCH 25, 2021:

**Mark Bendure:** *A genuine class act.*

**Glenn Eisenstein:** *All around good guy and the epitome of class.*

**Bobby Levin:** *Who didn't love Chuckie.*

**Zia Mahmood:** *A true gentleman with the emphasis on gentle. Talented modest and generous.... A class act and example to the rest of us.*

**Robb Gordon:** *A long-time friend, a great player, and a wonderful gentleman.*

**Sue Munday:** *Among the nicest of gentlemen.*

**John Carruthers:** *Chuckie was a true gentleman and a great friend. When Ira Corn was forming the Aces in the late 60s, Chuck was the first invitee. With a burgeoning law practice in Detroit and a lucrative partnership with his university partner Jimmy Cayne, Chuck had to decline. Chuck was a terrific player, among the best, and the epitome of class.*

**Mark Perlmutter:** *Indeed he was a gent in all respects and appreciated the beauty of the game. He was quick to compliment an opponent who made a good play against him.*



**Mark Lair:** *My lasting memory of Chuck Burger: A mutually adoring marriage with Suzy. Super impressive children and a closely bonded family. A loving and supportive teammate. A very dangerously strong bridge partnership(not to mention a brotherly close friendship) with Jimmy Cayne and truly one of the best declarers on our planet. One of our top tier best guys has left us!*

**Matt Smith:** *I didn't know Chuck well, but he always impressed me. When I first started working big events at the NABCs, I was very nervous. The fact that virtually none of the players knew me made it worse. In their concentration, most tended to look right through me as if I were invisible. Chuck was one of the few who early on and always thereafter acknowledged me with a smile and a hello.*

**Steve Shane:** *"They're calling our class", literally true for me as Chuckie and I were freshmen together at U of M and got swept into the Zeke Jabbour, Gene Davidson gang, late nights, bridge, Wahoo and lots of talk. We both became lawyers and maintained our relationship across the ensuing 67 years. Always with good humor, a sly smile and a twinkle in his eye, especially for Suzie and kids, a great guy, a class act, a super player and someone I was always proud to call my friend.*

**Rick Roeder:** *RIP to a class act and Go Blue*

**Mike Passell:** *Chuckie was a great teammate an even greater player and most importantly an even greater human being. We will all miss him.*

**Gary Hann:** *Suzy, among those who regularly beat my brains out for decades, Chuck was one of the very finest. He won with all levels of partners, and my most sincere condolences, sadly, we have lost another true great one in bridge and in life.*

**Brian Glubok:** *I was privileged to be friendly with Chuck, played on teams with him and Jimmy Cayne in the 90's, won a Jacoby Swiss with them way back then.*

*He was a wonderful guy with a great attitude towards life and a big fan of the Red Wings and other sports teams in Detroit. He really loved it one time when I introduced him to a visitor at a nationals as "A friend of ours, not just a friend of mine".*

*I asked him if he knew what I meant, and he blurted, elated, "Of course I do! I watch 'The Sopranos'!"*

**Kerri Sanborn:** *I was lucky enough to have played with Chuck once at a regional in Detroit. And what a pleasure. He was a star, a gentle person and a terrific talent. The bridge world has lost one of its elite.*

## NEW ACBL MILESTONES

### Junior Master (5)

*Mary Corcoran*  
*Andrew Hagen*  
*Angela Klein*  
*Linda Neely*  
*Nancy Roney*  
*Patricia Schatz*  
*Barbara Thomas*

### Club Master (20) ♠

*Veronica Barrell*  
*Mary Campbell*  
*Paula Engel*  
*Gary Glenn*  
*Cagliyan Kurdak*  
*Kathleen Kasiborski*  
*Deb Mexicotte*  
*Robert Nosse*  
*Mary O'Shaughnessey*  
*Janice Skadsen*  
*James Wares*

### Sectional Master (50) ♠♠

*Michael Garcia*  
*Marlene Johnson*  
*Nancy Knat*  
*Sheila Kasselmann*  
*Paul Temple*

### Regional Master (100) ♠♠♠♠

*Betty Kaiser*  
*Norm Kakarala*  
*Shirley Lindbery*

### NABC Master (200) ♠♠♠♠

*Michael Bastedo*  
*Clark Malcolm*

## INTERMEDIATE/ NEWCOMER NOOK

You may be familiar with the notion of “ruffing losers in dummy,” a common maxim in early declarer strategy. However, it can be helpful to understand the logic behind these principles to better apply them, and be able to spot exceptions. Let’s take the following two hands as an example:

♠ AKJT8

♥ A762

♦ A6

♣ A9

♠ Q53

♥ T

♦ J97532

♣ KJ3

With the West hand declaring 4♠ on the lead of the ♥K, let’s count our top winners: We have the top five spades, one heart, one diamond, and two clubs, for 9 total. However, we have an opportunity to ruff hearts in dummy. If the opponents are unable to overruff us, we may be able to ruff three hearts in dummy, as we have ample entries to our hand. This brings our trick total to 12, as we are scoring all 8 of our collective spades separately. Understanding the mechanics of this strategy are important on hands where one partner opens some number of NT, responder transfers, and we end up playing in responder’s suit at any level. Generally, declarer is the one with the shorter trump length here. Thus, on these hands, we need to follow the principle of “ruffing losers in the *short* trump hand” (if possible) - note this is declarer’s hand. A very common mis-step is ruffing losers in *dummy*, which has the long trumps on a transfer auction. This doesn’t add to our total trick count, and can be very costly if we “tap” our long trumps too much.

# BOOK REVIEW: WINNING NT LEADS

BY DAVID BIRD

Consider the following Common Game hand from Sept 8, 2021:

	♠ T9	
	♥ KJT8	
	♦ J53	
	♣ AQ75	
♠ J83		♠ AK52
♥ AQ97		♥ 632
♦ A96		♦ Q8
♣ 943		♣ KJT8
	♠ Q764	
	♥ 54	
	♦ KT742	
	♣ 62	

WEST   NORTH   EAST   SOUTH

2♣                  P                  2♣                  P

2N                  AP

\*12-15

Thanks to Bob Ondo for providing this hand!

West bids Stayman and invites after NT after failing to find a heart fit. East, with 13, declines the invitation. Many with the South hand would lead a 4th best diamond. And regardless of the success of the lead, there is a lot to be said for “leading with the field,” especially at matchpoints. However, knowing the opponents are likely under 24-25 HCP here (having stopped short of game), we know partner has some values, and presumably entries. This may lead us to try a heart through West - who indicated hearts on the auction - with the hope of hitting partner’s suit, as they are more likely to get in later. If this kind of opening lead logic interests you, Bird’s

## NEW ACBL MILESTONES

Adv. NABC Master (300) ♠♠♠♥

*Mary Robinson*

Life Master (500) ♠♠♠♥

*Jean Becker*

Bronze LM (750) ♠♠♠♥

*Susan Evett*

Silver LM (1000) ♠♠♠♥

*Jane Gardner*

Ruby LM (1500) ♠♠♠♥

*Adam Kind*

*Mark Weiss*

Gold LM (2500) ♠♠♠♥

*Sandy Birnholtz*

*Marilyn Nathanson*

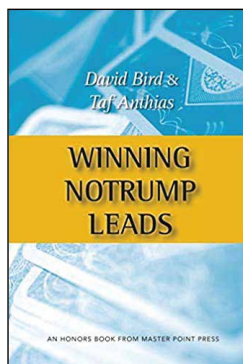
Sapphire LM (3500) ♠♠♠♥

*Robert Freeburn*

Platinum LM (10,000) ♠♠♠♥

*Willie Winokur*

*Winning NT Leads* is a must read. Based on simulation data Bird outlines the technical probabilities of various leads in many diverse NT situations.



# 2021 MBA CANDIDATES



Julie Arbit: I learned to play bridge in 2011 as an undergraduate student at UM. I have gotten to represent District 12 in several NAP and GNT finals, and qualified to represent the US in world junior championships in 2014 and 2016. I moved back to MI in 2018 and currently split my time among a research job at UM, finishing up a Masters in Environmental Policy, and teaching bridge. I also work for the US Bridge Federation and assist on a variety of matters for their Board of Directors and tournaments. I began as editor of Table Talk in 2020 and thoroughly enjoy all of the MBA efforts I've gotten to contribute to over the course of my several terms.



Mark Bendure: I first became an MBA member more than 50 years ago and have remained one ever since. I served on the MBA Board several years ago and was part of an unsuccessful effort to merge MBA and SOMBA. For a long time I was largely inactive due to time spent with my family and an active law practice that has included argument in the U.S. Supreme Court. In recent years I have been able to play more and have been honored to represent our district in national NAP and GNT competitions. I am now able to again give back to a great organization that has brought me some of my closest friends, together with the enjoyment and challenge of the game. I hope to offer a helpful perspective as we attempt to retain the social benefits of face-to-face play while adapting to a changing world.



Marilyn Crane: Many of you know me from working at the partnership desk at our local Sectionals and Regionals. It gives me the opportunity to meet new players and many times match up winners! I would appreciate your vote and look forward to serving on the board for another term.



Steve Jacob: I have been an active duplicate player for over 35 years. I would like to "give back" to MBA since our bridge community has given so much to me. I have a Master of Business Administration from U of M and been in business since 1980. I believe that my many years of playing bridge and my business experience will benefit the MBA Board. Developing programs and ideas to grow our membership is an area that interests me.



Rhonda Monroe: I met Joe 49 years ago playing backgammon. When he started to play golf, I decided to learn how to play bridge. My first bridge teachers were Marty Hirschman, Chuck Burger and Steve Landen. I have served on the board before, and early on found out that newcomers were not being addressed or welcomed as they should be. Marilyn Maddox and I spearheaded an effort to make our tournaments more attractive to out of towners and younger players. I love bridge and that is why I am running for the MBA board once again. I was born and raised in Detroit and am proud of our city!

# TEST YOUR DEFENSE

By Marty Hirschman

## WEST

♠ QJ4  
♥ A8762  
♦ J94  
♣ Q2

## SOUTH

♠ 7  
♥ J43  
♦ AQT732  
♣ K64

## WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

	1♣	1♠	2♦
3♦	P	4♠	P
P	Dbf	AP	

1. ♣4-2-J-A
2. ♥5-3-A-10
3. ♠Q-3-2-7
4. ♠J-6-5-♦7
5. ♠4-8-9-♦2
6. ♠A-♦3-♥2-♠K
7. ♣5-?

Plan the defense.

Solution, p.10

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## TABLE TALK

Official Publication of  
the Michigan Bridge Association

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

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Official publication of the  
Michigan Bridge Association  
ACBL D12, Unit 137

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