

# Kibitzer

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## Zagorin Wins Wilkes Award



*Daniel Zagorin, far left, listens to remarks from his wife, Layne, center, and presenter Phyllis*

Winner of CCBA's most prestigious award is Daniel Zagorin of Chicago, who has represented the U.S. in international bridge events, and has placed in the overalls in the last few national bridge tournaments.



*Daniel Zagorin*

He won the World Bridge Youth Award in 1997. Today, in addition to playing, he teaches and mentors beginning and emerging players.

Daniel, who has over 7,000 points, is committed to keeping bridge alive. As such, he has committed this year to donate all the money he makes playing bridge to a foundation that is paying college students to learn the game.

Daniel grew up in Chicago where he learned bridge from his grandparents who taught him a strong club system and strong two bids. He continued to play at the University of Iowa. He took about a 10-year hiatus from serious bridge to trade commodities for 25 years. He returned to the game in 2008 and catapulted to the top three years later. Today he is a real estate residential development in Lincoln Park with his wife, Layne.

Layne, who spoke during the presentation, said that her husband strongly believes in ethical play, sportsmanship, and grace in both victory and defeat. Layne joked that bridge was Daniel's first love. This was revealed when, after they were engaged, his gift to her was bridge lessons.

## Meet Your 2024 CCBA Officers

Loring Knoblauch was elected president of the Chicago Contract Bridge Association following the association's annual meeting on January 19 during the WinterFest Sectional Tournament.



*Loring Knoblauch*

He has been serving as president since last June when Mark Stein resigned citing personal and family obligations. He continues to serve on the board.

Bob Maxson was elected vice president, filling the vacancy created when Loring stepped up to fill the presidency.

Jan Churchwell was elected secretary. She has held the position for a number of years.

## Gran Sportsmanship Award Goes to John Vincent

John Vincent, a Sapphire Life Master, received the Art and Greg Gran Sportsmanship Award. He was recognized for playing the game

with integrity and respect for other players. He is a director and teacher, and encourages beginning players. Sue Erickson, owner of the Olympia Club in Palatine, said that in the 15 years that she's known John, he's always been a gentleman at the table. "Never a harsh word,"

John, when serving on the CCBA Board, chaired tournaments.



*John Vincent and presenter Phyllis Bartlett*



*Jan Churchwell*



*Bob Maxson*



*Missy Ravid*

Missy Ravid succeeds Joe Connelly as treasurer.

Five persons were elected to the 15-member board. Each year, five of the three-year terms expire.

Bill Anspach, Phyllis Bartlett and Loring were re-seated and were joined by Steve Donahue and Kathleen Fortney. Joe Stokes and Sarik Groyal chose not to seek re-election.

## CCBA honors Jim Diebel With Unit's Service Award

Unit 123's Service Award was presented to Jim Diebel, aka Wimpy, to recognize his contribution to bridge. He is club owner, director and teacher, and former board member. His teaching skills are on display in the articles he writes for the *Kibitzer* newsletter and on his website.



*Jim Diebel*

"Some people may view this award as being named Miss Congeniality in a beauty contest, but I don't look on it that way. If you go back and see who the past winners were, you will see that I am in very good company," Jim said.

Bill Harris, who presented the award, said that Jim encourages others. "He was the one who encouraged me to become a director."



### 2024 CCBA Board

Shown in the group picture above, left to right, are Jamie Rubenstein, Suzi Subeck, Steve Donahue. Joe Connelly, President Loring Knoblauch, Betsy Downs, Secretary Jan Churchwell, Phyllis Bartlett, Steve McConnell, Mark Stein and Treasurer-Missy Ravid. Not available for the group picture were Bill Anspach, Guy Franklin, Kathleen Fortney, and Vice President Bob Maxson.



### Unit 123 Awards presented at Annual Meeting

Three Unit 123 Awards were presented to members by master of ceremonies Steve McConnell. Craig Gardner received the Art Glatt Award, which is given to the member winning the most masterpoints in Unit 123 regionals.



Gardner, left, Steve McConnell



Dick Bruno

Dick Bruno won the Bob Glenn Award, which goes to the member winning the most masterpoints in Unit 123 sectionals.

Winning the Jan Ivory Award was



Sriram Datla

Sriram Datla, a technology executive from Naperville. The award recognizes the non-Life Master who won the most masterpoints during 2023.

### Award winner Jim Humphrey passes away

Jim Humphrey, a former recipient of CCBA's most prestigious award, the Harmon Wilkes, passed away January 11. Services were held January 22 in Arlington Heights.



The award recognized Jim's ethical and competitive play, his love of the game, his considerable bridge skills, and his promotion of good behavior by example. Friends describe him as a generous, caring, kind man. He was passionate about all things bridge, and played all over the world. He

leaves behind his wife Georgann, whom he met through bridge. He loved being a grandfather.

"Jim, a retired accountant, was always willing to play with newer, up and coming bridge players. With patience, knowledge, and humor, he helped so many of us develop into better players, and kinder people at the bridge table," said his friend and fellow bridge player, Betsy Downs.

"The most crusty opponents would become pleasant when Jim was at their table. Even when giving opponents below average results, Jim was gracious and pleasant," she said.

### 2024 CCBA Officers Board Members

President  
Loring Knoblauch

Vice President  
Bob Maxson

Secretary  
Jan Churchwell

Treasurer  
Missy Ravid

Board of Directors  
Bill Anspach  
Phyllis Bartlett  
Steve Donahue  
Betsy Downs  
Guy Franklin  
Kathleen Fortney  
Robert Maxson  
Steve McConnell  
Missy Ravid  
Jamie Rubenstein  
Mark Stein  
Suzi Subeck

Kibitzer Editor  
DeMaris Johnson

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## Two new members elected to CCBA Board of Directors

A desire to give back to the game that they love is the reason the two newly elected members to the CCBA Board of Directors, Kathleen Fortney and Steve Donahue, gave for accepting the positions.

Kathleen Fortney, a Ruby Life Master from Wheaton, learned to play “bad rubber bridge with family. About 30 years ago, I took bridge lessons and began playing duplicate.”

Steve of Riverwoods got introduced to the game in 1973 as a freshman at the University of Illinois. “I took time off from bridge in 1988 with a bit over 1,300 masterpoints. I returned to bridge in 2019, after years of pleading from my former partner, Craig Allen. I came back full throttle.” He went from Silver Life Master to Diamond Life Master (over 5,000 points), in four years.

Both players, now retired, agree that a challenge facing the board is the need to attract more players to sectional and regional tournaments within District 13.

“A great deal of my travel involves going to regional and national tournaments, which allows me to learn how other units organize tournaments and attract players, Kathleen said.

Steve said that last year he traveled to three regionals outside of District 13. “Houston was huge. Champagne was pretty big and Effingham was small because locals did not attend. Chicago has a large bridge playing population. With our size, we should be able to get multiple sections in both our limited and open games.”

He said that when the NABC was held in Chicago in 2023, “Everyone I talked to from out-of-town said that it was a great tournament. How do we get them to come back for our regionals?” He praised the job done by the volunteers. That includes Kathleen, who was the Volunteer Chair.

Steve hopes ACBL’s recently hired CEO’s ideas “will spread and that it will be possible to incorporate those ideas into our unit.”

Both Kathleen and Steve believe one of the primary responsibilities of the board is to support the club managers, owners, and teachers who are in contact with the players. “They play a key role in retaining and recruiting members,” she said.

Kathleen added, “The problems facing the board are those that are being faced by bridge units throughout the ACBL. We have an aging demographic. We need to find ways to attract and retain younger players. Solutions will require a multi-pronged approach: educational partnerships, social media presence, and pricing strategies that make bridge more affordable for young people and those on a fixed income.”

She said the ACBL Educational Foundation has developed a number of programs aimed at young people. “Most of the young



*Kathleen Fortney*



*Steve Donahue*

people who attended the Youth NABC came from outside the Chicago area. It might make sense to talk to those units that sent large groups to find out what they did to get the kids involved.”

### State of the Unit Address By President Loring Knoblauch



2023 was a year of change for the CCBA. I assumed the role of president when Mark Stein resigned to care for his ailing mother. When Georgann Humphrey, Jim Diebel and Tom Dressing resigned, Missy Ravid, Sarik Goyal and Betsy Downs filled their shoes. They have proven to be a welcome additions to the Board, each bringing an unique skillset that we could well use .

In July, Chicago hosted the ACBL NABC downtown. The tournament was a huge success and Unit 123 was lauded for hosting. Suzi Subeck chaired the tournament and extends her personal thanks to the unit membership for its wonderful support.

In a strong effort to bring back face-to-face competition, Unit 123 ran several tournaments during 2023, including two regionals: Labor Day and Central States, and two sectionals: WinterFest and FallFest. We thank you, our players, for showing your dedication by attending these tournaments.

Going forward, the CCBA is committed to growing bridge through club games and tournaments. This year, at the suggestion of unit member David Joyce, the board is including week-end days at many events to allow those in the workforce to play more easily. We are counting on you to support this endeavor.

I thank the Board of Directors and I thank you all for your help and hard work giving bridge to Chicago.

## Two Unit 123 pairs fought for lead in Fast Pairs event at Atlanta NABC

Two pairs in Unit 123 finished first and second in the 0-10,000 Fast Pairs event at the NABC in Atlanta.

The pair of Howard Engle of Highland Park and Mark Friedlander defeated Steve Donahue of Riverwoods and Craig Allen of Glen Ellyn by less than a point, picking up 40.32 gold and 4.48 platinum points. Steve and Craig earned 30.23 gold and 3.56 platinum points.

Below is how the *ACBL Bulletin* reported the match.

After a below-average first qualifying session, the duo (Engle and Friedlander) picked up the pace and qualified in 15th place with a 58.31% second session. They moved up to fourth place with a 58.17% first final and had a strong second final session score of 63.18%. Their combined score was 582.66, just edging out Craig Allen of Glen Ellyn IL and Stephen Donahue of Riverwoods IL, whose combined score was 581.69.

Allen and Donahue qualified in ninth place and took the lead after the first final session. They were still in first place with one round to go, with Engle and Friedlander right behind them. The two spots flipped on the last board.

They are all good friends with one another and often team up together. They came in third in Wednesday's Top-Flight Swiss Teams. Earlier this week, Friedlander and Engle were fourth in the NABC 0-10K IMP Pairs and Allen and Donahue were fifth.

*(Photographs and article courtesy of the ACBL Bulletin)*



Howard Engle and Mark Friedlander



Craig Allen, left, and Steve Donahue

Here is a hand from the final session of the 0-10000 Fast pairs, with Steve and Craig playing North/South, and Mark and Howard playing East/West. Both teams reached and made four hearts.

Dir: W Vul: None Section WW, Board # 24 Boards 24

	K Q 5 4 2	
	A Q 5 3	
	A 6 5	
	6	
A 8		976
9 4		782
Q 10		1432
A Q J 10 8 7 2		543

J 10 3  
K J 10 8  
K 9 8 7  
K 9

Auction:

West	North	East	South
1D	1S	P	1C (limit + in spades)
X	2H	P	3H
4C	4H		

Steve said, "There wasn't too much to the play, but we were successful in getting to our 4-4 heart suit rather than the 5-3 spade suit. You make 5 hearts or 4 spades. +450 was a 79% board, +420 was a 38% board."

[https://live.acbl.org/event/NABC233/10KF/4/board-detail/WW?board\\_num=24](https://live.acbl.org/event/NABC233/10KF/4/board-detail/WW?board_num=24)



WinterFest Tournament Chair Joe Connelly faced the cold to deliver food for the Annual Meeting/ Dinner.

CCBA Secretary Jan Churchwell assists with the dinner preparations.

## Mark your Calendar

### FEBRUARY

February All Month	Education Foundation Games
February 14-17	Milwaukee Valentine Sectional Good Hope School, 2315 Good Hope Road Room 26, Glendale, WI
February 17, Afternoon	ACBL-wide International Fund Game (1st of 3)

### MARCH

March 11 Afternoon	ACBL-wide Senior Pairs (1st of 2)
March 26 Afternoon	ACBL-wide Charity Game (1st of 2)

### APRIL

All Month	Charity Club Championship Games
April 2-7	STaC
April 2, Any Session	Helen Shields Rookie/Master Game
April 22-23, 25-28	Stardust Split Week
April 24 Afternoon	ACBL-wide Charity Game (2 of 2)

### MAY

May 1-26	U.S. Bridge Championships Other Hyatt Regency 1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg
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### JUNE

June 27-June 30	Windy City Regional , White Eagle Events Ctr., Niles
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### AUGUST

August 12-18	STaC
August 31-September 2	Labor Day Sectional, Weber, Skokie

### NOVEMBER

November 8-11	Stan Subeck Regional, White Eagle Events Ctr., Niles
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### DECEMBER

December 16-21	STaC
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*CCBA events are in red. The CCBA Board of Directors has been and are continuing to work to develop a tournament schedule similar to the ones that existed prior to COVID. This work involves checking out numerous sites to find ones that are appropriate, comfortable, affordable, and available on the dates needed.*

## You will not want to miss these amazing tournaments

A dynamic tournament schedule that gives players an opportunity to win the points they need to advance to the next rank kicks off in June.

Leading the charge is the Windy City Regional. It will take place



White Eagle Events Center

June 27-30 at the White Eagle Events Center in Niles, This is a new, and beautiful, location for the event



Weber Leisure Center

Next on the schedule is the

ever popular Labor Day Sectional, which returns this year to the convenient Weber Leisure Center, 9300 Weber Park Pl. Skokie.

The third tournament may be going by a new name, but it retains all of its fun and excitement. That is the Stan Subeck Regional Tournament, formerly known as Central States. The venue is again the beautiful White Eagle Events Center. The contest will take place over four days, November 8-11.





## Former CCBA President visits US President at White House

Former CCBA President and former ACBL President Suzi Subeck recently attended the White House Chanukah party. She went as a guest of her daughter Lisa Subeck, a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly.

Below is Suzi's account of the event:

I was awed by the famous personalities everywhere I looked. President Joe Biden gave an inspirational speech about the meaning of Chanukah... especially in today's mixed-up world. Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff, husband of Vice President Kamala Harris, greeted attendees and spoke. A White House Rabbi sang the blessings over the candles.

One particularly emotional moment occurred after the White House menorah was lit. A second menorah, one recovered from the rubble of a Kibbutz in Israel on October 7, was lit. This second menorah was presumably given to the President when he flew to Israel to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to support the Israeli position in the war.

Many Washington dignitaries were in attendance. I spoke with White House Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism, Deborah Lipstadt. I had heard Ambassador Lipstadt speak on the news earlier in the week and was very impressed with her understanding and commitment to



*U.S. Pres. Joe Biden*

*Suzi and Lisa Subeck*

improving this situation in the United States and in the world. My conversation with her was brief because she was running late for a flight to the Middle East where she had meetings scheduled the following day.

The dinner was excellent. It was "modern traditional." I must confess the White House chef is not as good at cooking latkes as my Grandma Goldie was, but then again, no one is that good.

The lamb chops, brisket and other fare were wonderful. The wine and cham-

pagne were in abundance. Buffets were set up in two different rooms and it was truly magnificent.



The halls and rooms behind the scenes at the White House

*Dinner at the White House*



*Suzi at the White House*

were amazing. Jill Biden was imaginative in decorating for both Christmas and Chanukah and there were warm, glowing lights everywhere.

There were trees with beautiful ornaments dating back in history, as well as others decorated by US elementary school students.

While Lisa attends many of the special events at the White House, for me, this was a first and I will treasure the experience for the rest of my life.

## WinterFest Fun





## Congratulations rank advancers!

### Junior Master

Ulrich Bien-Aime  
Judy Doyle  
Matthew Klein  
Franette Liebow  
Dingwei Liu  
Kathy McCarthy  
Diane Melio  
Yuyi Ni  
Mary Pratt  
Beth Sulfridge  
Yunfeng Zhang  
Susan Zilberstein

Rahul Garga  
Brian Greene  
Dorie Isaacson  
Lawrence Jakus  
Gail Kepley  
Patricia Kosinski  
Ira Leavitt  
Kaibai Liu  
William Miller  
Mary Stockmal  
Ziheng Yun

### Regional Master

Bob Lenet  
Chris Veeneman

### NABC Master

Barbara Ehrmann  
Carolyn Oesterle

### Advanced NABC Master

Sandra Laden

### Life Master

Henry Shi

### Club Master

Elaine Abramson  
Joan Brennan  
Marcia Desmond  
Gabriele Grumhaus  
Graham Meyer  
R E Stern  
Julie Walor

### Sectional Master

Tom Conaghan  
David Faulkner



### Bronze Life Master

Henry Shi

### Silver Life Master

William Artz  
William Berkman  
Joanne Kelly  
Irene Kozil  
Samuel Sirko

### Ruby Life Master

Marcia Levine

### Gold Life Master

Brian Blackmore

### Emerald Life Master

Howard Engle

## Treasurer's report and other news



The good news, according to 2023 Treasurer Joe Connelly, is that Unit 123 is in the black.

“We are a not-for-profit organization, so the Unit’s role is not to make money, but to use that money to hold tournaments and to support bridge in various ways,” he said. “We have the funds to do that.”

The board voted to rename the Central States tournament the Stan Subeck Regional. Suzi Subeck will chair the event in 2024, which will be held November 8-11 at a new venue, the beautiful White Eagle Events Center in Niles.

## Central States Regional



Photographs by Betsy Downs



## Overcaller: Bidding Options with good hands



Ginny and Jeff Schuett

A couple of BBO hands that came up recently pointed to some difficulties intermediate players often have in hand evaluation and how to show partner extras as overcaller.

In general, an overcall has a maximum of about 16 HCP and if the overcaller has more, he should start with a takeout double. If the doubler bids his own suit or raises partner on his next call, he shows extras, say 17+ including distribution. Many call this the “big double.” Some hands might not have great high card strength, but do have great trick taking strength. Here are the two hands that occurred last week on BBO.

Example 1 - You are South and East opens 1 ♦.

♠ AQ63  
♥ AQ52  
♦ 4  
♣ A1085

Your first bid is easy, make a takeout double. West passes and North bids 1 ♠ and East passes. North’s non-jump bid of 1 ♠ shows about 0-8 points, as he should be jumping or doing something stronger with 9+ points. If South has nothing extra with routine support for all unbid suits, he should pass. On this hand, South clearly has extras, so should raise to 2 ♠.

It is tempting to bid more, but you have a partner, and after all, they might have no points and four little spades. In fact, occasionally they might have only 3-card spades if their long suit is the opponent’s suit. If East doesn’t pass, but competes with 2 ♦ or 2 ♣, many partners would interpret your bid of 2 ♠ as just competing without significant extras, which is

really not true. So after 2 ♦ or 2 ♣ by East, it is necessary to pass with a regular takeout double. Your partner can always bid again with the top of his non-jump suit bid. So with a little extra, just raising partner’s suit is sufficient to show an invitation to get to game.

Jumping to 3 ♠ with or without interference, shows 18-19 and clearly inviting game if North has more than a minimum. In fact, North had 7 HCP with the following hand

♠ KJ1082 ♥ 974 ♦ 10863 ♣ K  
and many pairs missed game.

North’s hand is so good that with careful play by not drawing trump, 12 tricks are available in a spade contract.

Remember that making a takeout double and bidding again, whether the doubler’s own suit or raising advancer’s suit shows extras, and is called the big double. It isn’t needed to verify to partner I have a fit for you; the takeout double already says that.

Example 2 - You are South and East opens 1 ♦.

♠ A63  
♥ KQJ9852  
♦ A4  
♣ 10

Everyone who held this hand started with an overcall of 1 ♥, and West passed and North bid 1NT and East passed. Many players just rebid 2 ♥, but that is a huge underbid, ignoring the fact you have 8+ tricks in your own hand, a strong hand indeed. Remember that 1NT responses to an overcall should be better than the 6-bad 10 responding 1NT to an opening 1 ♥ playing Standard American. An overcall of 1 ♥ could easily be less than an opener, so responding 1NT to a 1 level overcall is more like 8-11 HCP.

As South, we think it is close whether to rebid 3 ♥ or 4♥. North had  
♠ KQ2 ♥ 104 ♦ Q1063 ♣ K974 and most would pass a 2 ♥ rebid, but raise a jump to 3♥ to 4♥ and 10 tricks is easy.

Don’t get too attached to your HCP when you have long strong suits, try to count tricks, not just points.

Ginny & Jeff Schuett - Teaching, directing, play  
Contact: phone 847-940-7236 or  
jgschuett2@comcast.net

## ALERT! GNT Pre-registration Ends February 18

Pre-registration for District 13’s 2023/2024 Grand National Teams ends February 18. Teams wishing to enter must contact Suzi Subeck, District 13 Director, by phone at 847-509-0311 or 708-927-6819, or by email at [stansubeck@prodigy.net](mailto:stansubeck@prodigy.net). Another option is to register online at [bridgeinchicago.com](http://bridgeinchicago.com) when it becomes available. Entering teams must have a written confirmation either by email or mail.

Play will take place February 24 and 25 in the Renaissance Chicago Glenview Suites, 1400 Milwaukee Avenue, Glenview, IL.

The Championship Flight (unlimited number of points), Flight A (fewer than 6,000 points) and Flight B (fewer than 2,500 points) events will take place over four sessions and will be concluded in a single weekend. Flight C (Non-Life Master with fewer than 500 points) will be a two-session Swiss Team event played to conclusion on February 25 only.

Flight eligibility is established by ACBL’s September 2023 masterpoint cycle. Masterpoints won after this cycle will not impact flight eligibility for these events.

The Conditions of Contest (both ACBL and D13) are on the district website at: <https://acbl-district13.org/D13GNTflyers.htm>.





## Clubs celebrate holidays with parties



Players at **Tom's Club**, Judy Freeman, Susan Rogers, Teri Schneider and Jean Farnsworth, enjoy one of the eight pizzas (about 120 slices) club owner Tom Dressing made completely from scratch..



Tom said it took an evening to make the sauce and two nights to make the eight pizzas. He said the dough is from the Easy Pizza Dough recipe on [www.kingarthurbaking.com/recipes/the-easiest-pizza-youll-ever-make-recipe](http://www.kingarthurbaking.com/recipes/the-easiest-pizza-youll-ever-make-recipe). He flavors the dough by adding a tablespoon of oregano, 1/2 tablespoon of basil, 1 teaspoon of onion powder and a teaspoon of garlic powder to the dough.



"It was a lot of work, but it was a thank you party for my regulars and a happy holidays party for everyone else," he said.

There was a variety of pizzas, ranging from Hawaii pizza with pineapple to the more traditional flavors. Tom's Club averages 16-17 tables in the summer, but falls to 10-12 in the winter when players head south.



Enjoying some of the Italian beef and other goodies at the **Naper DBC** owned by Jim Diebel was Jeff Duckworth (left). Two familiar faces Bob Maxson (middle left) and George Jacobs were found by the dessert table, which included sweets made by Jim and the players. Far right, bottom, Jim checks the sweets table to make sure everything is okay.

Lynne Kostopoulos submitted the following regarding the **South Suburban Bridge Club**.

The club celebrated Christmas by treating members and guests to a scrumptious lunch followed by their ACBL membership game.

Bridge brings us to the table, but it's our stories, such as the following, that create bonds.

Paul Muszik is a proud Notre Dame alumnus (Double Domer). He is also an admirer of the 1953 Heisman winner from Notre Dame, Johnny Lattner.



Jack Lattner, Paul Muszik, and George Roeper, SSBC president

Johnny's eldest son, Jack, brought joy and kindness to the party. He presented Paul with a copy of the *Time* magazine cover photo from November 9, 1953, autographed by his late father, Johnny. Many were moved to tears by this kindness.

Fun facts: Jack has enough duplicate players in his family to field an entire team or two for Swiss events.

Johnny and his wife, Peggy, enjoyed bridge, taught the game to their children, and played in sanctioned games in the Chicago suburbs.



## Being brain dead does not help one win



By Jim Diebel  
*Winning with Wimpy*

It would be nice if in every column I wrote I could show you some hand where I was remarkably brilliant with the hopes that others could learn from my spectacular play. Unfortunately, the hands where I was unexplainably brain dead far outnumber those that merit review. Take the following example. I play in a semi-expert team game every Sunday morning on BBO, and this particular Sunday, my team was down 10 IMPs with only one board left to play.

As West (D), with everyone vulnerable, I pick up ♠ AJ973 ♥ 84 ♦ 98 ♣ Q986 and the auction proceeds:

West	North	East	South
P	P	P	1C*
1S	Dbl	3S**	4H
P	P	4S	Dbl

All Pass

\*Polish Club (could be short)

\*\* 4+ spades, (weakish)

The first question you might well ask why I'd bother to overcall 1 S with a marginal suit and a hand that clearly belongs to the opponents. This is a risky venture when vulnerable at IMP scoring, but my experience has been that any information I can give my partner will usually help him make a better bid, or eventually help him find the best defense. I did not expect to play the hand in spades, but a spade lead from partner might help him avoid a different suit where he gives something away.

His jump to 3S had no other purpose than to chew up the bidding room for the opponents. Maybe they have a slam and this might make it harder for them to find it. When they settled in 4H, no one was more surprised than I to see partner sacrifice in 4S. They doubled, and I was saddled with having to minimize the damage. The opening lead was a low heart to the ace and heart was returned. North won with the ♥10 and switched to the ♠2. South produced the King and I won the ace.

(West – Wimpy)

♠ AJ973  
♥ 84  
♦ 98  
♣ Q986

East

♠ QT864  
♥ 972  
♦ AT643  
♣ ---

At this point, I stopped to assess the damage. For a weak hand, partner had just about exactly what I needed. In fact, I could see only 3 obvious losers: 2 hearts (already lost) and a diamond. Next I looked at winners. I have 5 spades and a diamond. I needed 4 more. If I drew the outstanding ♠5, I would only be able to ruff 3 clubs in dummy. However, it struck me that if I could give up a diamond, and they didn't return a trump, I could cross ruff the rest of the hand with high trumps for 10 tricks. Got to thinking I might even MAKE this hand.

With a plan in mind, I ruffed a club in dummy and returned the ♥9. South played low, and I was struck with inspiration. South had doubled 4S, so South was the defender most likely to hold the outstanding trump. Figuring South may have erred in not covering the ♥9, I pitched my remaining diamond, knowing that if North couldn't return a trump I was positioned to win the rest of the tricks on a cross ruff. Great plan?

Alas, North produced the last trump, and I was reduced to hoping diamonds split 3-3 (36%). I won the trick in the dummy and ruffed a diamond. A club ruff and another diamond ruff followed, but when South showed out on the third diamond, I was unable to secure my tenth trick. Down one.

North

♠ 52  
♥ KJT6  
♦ KQ52  
♣ J73

(West – Wimpy)

♠ AJ973  
♥ 84  
♦ 98  
♣ Q986

East

♠ QT864  
♥ 972  
♦ AT643  
♣ ---

(South)

♠ K  
♥ AQ53  
♦ J7  
♣ AKT542

So where was my stupidity? Most of you have likely already figured it out. My plan had a 50% chance of working, and another 36% chance if they were able to return a trump. That's about a 68% chance of success. It doesn't seem so bad; however, it was all an illusion. In order to succeed, my plan required me to ruff dummy's second diamond with the ♠3. If diamonds were 5-1, North might be able to overruff. If South had the singleton diamond, he could not ruff profitably if he had the missing trump. The only problem would be if diamonds were 5-1, and the player with 5 diamonds could return a trump. Even then there might be some remote squeeze possibilities.

If diamonds behaved a more reasonable 4-2, I had sufficient entries in dummy to set up the 5th diamond for my 10th trick. Playing ♠A and another diamond was the winning play. Once diamonds are known to be no worse than 4-2, I could pull the last trump and easily set up dummy's last diamond. If diamonds were 5-1, I was still going to succeed if North had the length and South had the missing trump (cross ruff).

I had a blind spot. I saw a good line and didn't stop to think if there might be a better one. I tell my students constantly: "Whenever possible, try to set up your long suit for discards rather than trying to ruff all of your side suit losers." This usually involves using dummy's trumps as entries, rather than as ruffs. A lot of novice and intermediate players try to set up their own hand as the master hand, without considering setting up the dummy instead. Had I held the East hand, it is a virtual certainty that I would have gotten this one right. A 4-2 or 3-3 diamond split, (84%), two diamond ruffs, and the East hand would be high. North switched to a trump to try to keep me from ruffing clubs. If he hadn't done that, I likely would have triumphed whether I found the best line or not. Since he didn't want me to ruff clubs, I focused on that strategy rather than looking at better options.

At the other table, EW also bid to 4S, but my teammates made the winning decision to bid 5H rather than defend. It went down two for -200. -200 at both tables resulted in a 9-IMP loss. We should have been +790 for an 11-IMP win. So we lost the match by 19 instead of winning by one. Live and learn.



Time	Club	Location	Contact
TBA Sunday	Northwestern Bridge Club	Parker Hill, Northwestern Univ. 1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston	Ben Fisk 513-808-1443
9:15 Monday	Mundelein Area DBC	Freemont Twnship Office 22385 W. Rt. 60, Mundelein	Joseph Connelly 847-271-1666
10 :15 Monday	Olympia DBC	Countryside Church 126 Smith St., Palatine, IL	Sue Erickson 847398-3440
10:30 Monday	Ace of Clubs	Temple Jeremiah 937 Happ Road, Northfield	Daryl Novack 847-8109272
11:00 Monday	Calumet DBC	Elks Club 3120 45th St., Highland, IN	Mary Schultz 245-224-2553
11:00 Monday	Oak Lawn DBC	Oak Lawn Tennis Club 10440 S. Central, Oak Lawn	Keith O'Malley 630-336-4376
11:30 Monday	Yorkville DB	Beecher Community Center 908 Game Farm Rd., Yorkville	Karl Anderson 224-276-0715
12 noon Monday	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Community Center 8th and Madison, Hinsdale	Diane Beyer Martin 708-2071500
12:15 Monday	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Dearborn Station 47 W. Polk Street, Chicago	Patt Quinn 630-220-9058
12:30 Monday	Chicago Cultural Center	Chicago Cultural Center 77 E. Randolph St., Chicago	James Diebel 630-244-9292
6:20 p.m. Monday	Lawson Bridge Studio	Ann Sathers Restaurant 909 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago	Jerry Scholle 773-209-7089
10:30 a.m. Tuesday	Ace of Clubs	Temple Jeremiah 937 Happ Road, Northfield	Daryl Novack 847-8109272
11:00 am. Tuesday	Naper DBC	Community United Methodist Church 20 S. Center St., Naperville	James 'Diebel 630-244-0202
11:00 a.m. Tuesday	St. Charles Duplicate Bridge	Baker Community Center 101 S. 2nd, St. Charles	Marilyn Croft 630-203-0849
12 Noon Tuesday	S. Suburban Bridge Center	S. Suburban Bridge Center 18144 Glen Terrace, Lansing	Patricia Valiska 219-934-9405
6:30 p.m. Tuesday	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Dearborn Station 47 W. Polk Street, Chicago	Patt Quinn 630-220-9058
6:30 p.m. Tuesday	Tree Towns DBC on BBO	Elmhurst BBO	Pat Quinn 630-220-9053
7:00 p.m. Tuesday	Ace of Clubs	Northmoor Country Club 820 Edgewood Road, Highland Park	Phyllis Bartlett 847-494-8474
10:30 a.m. Wednesday	Ace of Clubs	Temple Jeremiah 937 Happ Road, Northfield	Phyllis Bartlett 847-494-8474
10 :30 a.m. Wednesday	New Lenox-Joliet DBC	New Life Church 500 S. Gougar New Lenox	Nancy Miller 815-514-5363
11:00 a.m. Wednesday	Community Bridge Club	Calumet Township Center 1900 W. 41st Ave., Calumet Township, IN	Alan Yngve 219-215-45408
11:00 am Wednesday	Fox Bridge	Riverside Town Hall 27 Riverside Road, Riverside	Mary Schultz 248224-2553
12 noon Wednesday	University Club	University Club 79 E. Monroe, Chicago	Larry Cohen 630-941-0581
12 noon Wednesday	Glen Oak Country Club	Glen Oak Country Club 21W451 Hill Avenue, Glen Ellyn	Patt Quinn 630-220-9053
12 noon Wednesday	Glen Ellyn DBC	Healthtrack Sports Wellness 875 Roosevelt Road, Glen Ellyn	Sue Kamphuis 630-348-5369
12:15 am Wednesday	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Dearborn Station 47 W. Polk Street, Chicago	Patt Quinn 630-220-9058
6:32 p.m. Wednesday	Lawson Bridge Studio	Ann Sathers Restaurant 909 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago	Jerry Scholle 773-209-7089
10:30 am Thursday	Tom's Game	Temple Jeremiah 937 Happ Road, Northfield	Tom Dressing 847-323-4602
11:30 a.m. Thursday	Yorkville Duplicate Bridge	Beecher Community Center 908 Game Farm Rd., Yorkville	Karl Anderson 224-276-6715
9:00 am Thursday	12 Hearts	Freemont Township Administration 22385W. Route 60, Mundelein	Patricia Mayer 262-215-2566
12 noon Thursday	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Community Center	Diane Beyer Martin

Time	Club	Location	Contact
6:30 pm Thursday	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Dearborn Station 47 W. Polk Street, Chicago	Patt Quinn 630-220-9058
10:30 am Friday	Tom's Game	Temple Jeremiah 937 Happ Road, Northfield	Tom Dressing 847-323-4602
11:00 am. Friday	Naper DBC	Community United Methodist Church 20 S. Center St., Naperville	James 'Diebel 630-244-0202
11:00 a.m. Friday	St. Charles Duplicate Bridge	Baker Community Center 101 S. 2nd, St. Charles	Marilyn Croft 630-203-0849
12 noon Friday	Oak Park Country Club	Oak Park Country Club 2001 N. Thatcher, Oak Park	Joyce Sirota 708-203-4990
12 Noon Friday	S. Suburban Bridge Center	S. Suburban Bridge Center 18144 Glen Terrace, Lansing	Patricia Valiska 219-934-9405
12:15 Friday	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Dearborn Station 47 W. Polk Street, Chicago	Patt Quinn 630-220-9058
12:30 pm Friday	The Clare	The Clare 55 E. Pearson, Chicago	Larry Cohen 630-941-0581
6:30 p.m. Friday	Tree Towns DBC on BBO	Elmhurst BBO	Pat Quinn 630-220-9053
11:00 a.m. Saturday	Community Bridge Club	Calumet Township Center 1900W. 41st Ave., Calumet Township, IN	Alan Yngve 219-215-45408
11:30 a.m. Saturday TBA	Yorkville Duplicate Bridge	Beecher Community Center 908 Game Farm Rd., Yorkville	Karl Anderson 224-276-6715
9:30 am Saturday	Arlington Bridge B's	Park District Senior Center 1801 W. Central Road, Arlington Heights	Patricia Braun 847-506-3321

## WinterFest Snapshots

