



Kibitzer

Publication of the Chicago Contract Bridge Association Dec. 2023, Jan. 2024

Awards, Election, and Food!

Attend the Chicago Contract Bridge Association's Annual Meeting on January 19 to learn if you or your friends received this year's awards, including the prestigious Harmon Wilkes Award.

The event, which is held during the WinterFest Sectional, will take place at the Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist in Palatine.

Awards include the Mini-McKenney, which recognizes the players who won the most masterpoints in their category during the year. The Ace of Clubs recognizes the players in each category who won the most points at club games during the year. During the meeting, five people will be elected to three-year terms on the 15-member board. Bill Anspach, Phyllis Bartlett and Loring Knoblauch have been re-slotted and will be joined by Steve Donahue and Kathy Fortney. Sarik Goyal and Joe Stokes opted not to run.

At the annual meeting, members will be asked to vote on amendments to the CCBA Bylaws. Official notice will be provided at least 10 days prior to the meeting. Such notice will include a copy of the amendments along with an explanation of the changes. The meeting will be preceded by a dinner. The CCBA is subsidizing the cost of the catered dinner, which reduces the price of tickets to only \$7.

*You are cordially invited to attend
 CCBA Board Annual
 Meeting and Dinner
 Friday, January 19, 5:30 p.m.
 Dinner tickets: \$7
 Send checks payable to
 CCBA to Joe Connelly
 436 Hickory St., Mundelein, IL 60060
 Deadline to purchase tickets, Jan. 5.
 Reserved tickets will be available for pick up
 Friday evening at the tournament site.*

2 Fantastic Tournaments Coming Your Way

The CCBA is ending the year with one fantastic tournament and is beginning the year with another fabulous tournament.

CENTRAL STATES REGIONAL



Coming up first is the Central States Regional where both experienced and novice players can earn red and gold points. This exciting event will take place December 11-14 at Temple Beth-El, 3610 Dundee Road, Northbrook.

Each day, games are planned for those with 0-5 points, according to Betsy Downs, tournament chair.

For those with 0-750 points, there is the Gold Rush Pairs, where the stratification is 0-100, 100-300, and 300-750. The stratification for the open pairs games is A: 3000+, B: 1500-3000, and C: 0-1500.

The schedule for the first three days includes 2-session open pairs, 2-session Gold Rush Pairs, and 2-session 0-5 pairs. Thursday's schedule includes 2-session Open Swiss Team game, 2-session Gold Rush Teams game, and 2-session 0-5 Swiss Teams game.

For further information, contact Betsy at loverofbeagles@gmail.com or 312-952-2537 or Partnership Chair Jan Churchwell at jan8242@gmail.com, or see the flyer on page 4.

WINTERFEST SECTIONAL



The exciting event beginning the year is the WinterFest Sectional, a three-day event which runs from January 18 to January 20 at the Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist, 1025 Smith Road, Palatine.

Adding to the fun is the CCBA Annual Dinner and Meeting on Friday evening, where players are recognized for masterpoint achievements. In addition, other special awards are given. More on that in an adjacent article.

Tournament Chair Joe Connelly said the games will start at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., a little earlier than usual, to give people a chance to get home when there is more light and in case of bad weather.

The tournament kicks off with 2-session Stratified Team Game and 2-session 0-500 stratified team game on Thursday.

The next two days feature 2 single-session stratified pair/team games and 2 single-session 0-500 stratified pair games.

The stratification will be as follows: A 3,000+, B 1,500-3,000, and C 0-1500; Non-Life Master stratification: 0-100, 100-300, and 300-500.

Anyone needing a partner should contact Partnership Chair David Sales at 847-564-9182 or 847-561-5648 or kishkes@gmail.com. For more information contact Joe Connelly at 847-271-1666 or madbridge16@gmail.com, or see the flyer on page 5.

Meet the Heroes

A recent Monday started out well for frequent bridge partners Mike Devine and George Roeper, and their longtime friend and carpooler Marge Hedegard.

All three, with different partners, had scratched in the Royal STaC at the Calumet Club. But unknown to them then, their biggest win would come after the game.

Mike pulled into a nearby station for gasoline. When he reentered the car, he said, "I don't feel well." He resumed the drive, but immediately pulled over, stopped the car and said, "I've never felt like this before."

Although there was a hospital nearby, George followed the experts' advice and immediately contacted 911. Paramedics arrived within minutes.

Mike was in the Emergency Department within 20 minutes of the onset of his symptoms, well within the golden hour for someone experiencing a cardiac event.

Mike said he probably would have dismissed his symptoms and continued the drive if he hadn't been with his friends. Mike is a hero for speaking up and allowing his friends to help.

George and Marge are heroes for quickly recognizing something was not right and rapidly activating 911 and the emergency response.

The photo was taken one week later when all three returned to the club.



Left to right: George Roeper, Marge Hedegard, Mike Devine

Winners all!

This article was submitted by Calumet Club owner Mary Schultz and former owner Diane Martin.

"Diane and I are in agreement that the players at this club are among the most kind, compassionate and generous players we have the pleasure of knowing. Their actions prove they are also wise," Mary said.

Please Help Us Find Future Tournament Sites

HELP!

Finding pleasant, affordable and accessible facilities for tournaments has always been a challenge for the CCBA Board and now, even more so.

The Board is seeking input from players for potential sites of at least 2,500 square feet that are accessible, with adequate parking space and good lighting. Such sites could include vacant commercial space, senior centers, VFW halls, women's clubs, schools and colleges, park district facilities, etc.

Please send your suggestions to David Joyce, dajoyce21@gmail.com.

2023 CCBA Officers Board Members

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Jan Churchwell

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The Kibitzer is published six times per year by the Chicago Contract Bridge Association (CCBA). DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY/MARCH ISSUE IS JANUARY 1. Send information to demaris_j@hotmail.com.

Opinions of columnists are their own and may not represent those of the CCBA. For more information, go to www.bridgeinchicago.com or call the CCBA at 630-235-4718.



Central States Regional December 11-14, 2023 Temple Beth-El

3610 Dundee Road, Northbrook, IL

Monday, December 11

10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
2-Session Open Pairs
2-Session Gold Rush Pairs
2-Single Session 0-5 Pairs

Tuesday, December 12

10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
2-Session Open Pairs
2-Session Gold Rush Pairs
2-Single Session 0-5 Pairs

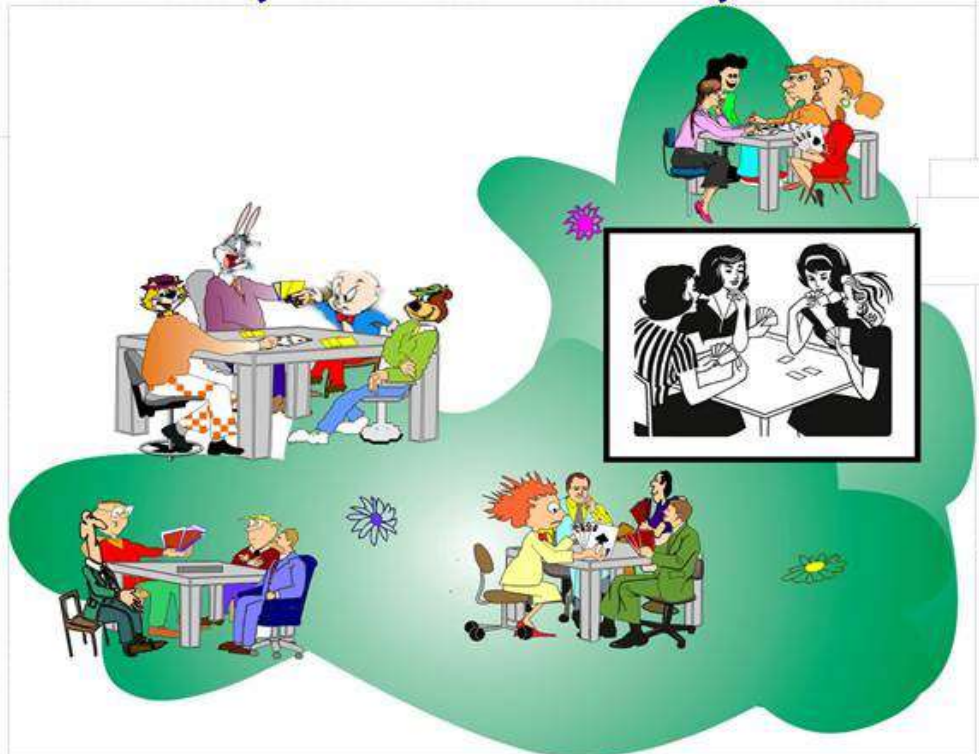
Wednesday, December 13

10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
2-Session Open Pairs
2-Session Gold Rush Pairs
2-Single Session 0-5 Pairs

Thursday, December 14

10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
2-Session Open Swiss Team Game
2-Session Gold Rush Swiss Team Game
2-Single Session 0-5 Swiss Team Game*

*If insufficient number of teams, games will be combined with the Gold Rush Swiss



Masterpoint Averaging when possible

Stratification: A:3000+; B: 1500-3000; C: 0-1500
Gold Rush Stratification: 0-100; 100-300; 300-750

Single session entries accepted for pair events

Tournament Chair: Betsy Downs
loverofbeagles@gmail.com
312-952-2557

Partnership Chair: Jan Churchwell
jan8242@gmail.com

**ALERT: Proof of Vaccination is
required for play**

New Year's Resolutions range from serious to silly

By Jamie Rubenstein

For some duplicate players in Chicago-land, the resolutions for 2024 can be pretty simple and mundane: let's do a better job of working with younger players and make sure all supplies are in working order.

Take Mai Phan, who with her husband, Bob Lenet, frequent Chicago Duplicate Bridge on Polk Street, puts it this way: "everything about in-person bridge improves physical and mental health, so we need to encourage attendance by those working and by younger players."

And secondly, Mai of Chicago adds "it is an obligation for individual players and bridge organizations to come up with ideas to meet those goals."

Barbara Harris, who does yeoman kitchen and fill-in duties at the Ace of Clubs in Northfield, hopes bridge clubs in 2024 ensure those table mats and bidding boxes are serving player needs.

"I play at the Sedgebrook Home in Lincolnshire and those table cards are different sizes and rae just awful," complains Barbara who thanks Daryl Noick, Ace manager, for "giving me a set of yellow table cards and a book on the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge."

And Mai Phan has two other 2024 resolutions to improve her game: "spend more time going over the boards that were played and focusing on one theme a week." That may be, she adds, "learning a newer convention or working on slow play."

"My New Year's Resolution is to be alive a year from now so you can ask me that again. No, there's nothing particularly wrong that I know of, I'm just becoming more aware of being OLD,," said CCBA secretary Jan Churchwell.

Charles Johnson, a regular at Naper DBC said that his was "to not make any resolutions about making any resolutions that I'd just break,"

Judy Meister, of Highland Park and a regular Ace of Clubs player, claims she "never make resolutions I cannot keep so I don't make any at all" but in 2024—on the contrary—she does look forward to

continuing a "four times a week schedule playing with partners I like."

Looking back on her bridge life, Judy, said, "Fortunately I didn't play in college or I would still be there or would have flunked out."

Years later she and a few friends took bridge lessons and "that's when the bug bit. I have been playing for 50 years and have had wonderful times."

As for the future, "I just hope I act in a kind, honest and friendly manner at the table. I want to wish my fellow bridge players a happy and healthy New Year. These are difficult times in our world and I hope that 2024 is filled with peace and good health."

Kai Liu resolves to become a better bridge player. He believes that will make both his partners and him happy.

Jim Diebel, after thinking for a few seconds, said he resolves to get in better shape.

Gerald Szymiski said he resolves to be nicer to his partners.

Cherrolyn Woodwine's resolution is the same a several others—to stay around for another year.

Wynn Cook said she has always had an organic garden, but that will change next summer. "I resolve to use a pesticide on my potatoes because beetles destroyed my crop this year."

Bob Maxson resolves to become a better player by keeping the bidding in mind when playing the hand.

TO BEGIN
THE BIDDING
IN A CARD GAME OR
AT AN AUCTION

The above was a question on the Jeopardy TV show.

District 13 NAP winners advance to National final



Claude Vogel



George Jacobs

Unit 123 players were outstanding at the District 13 North American Pairs contest held recently in Glendale, Wisconsin, sweeping the Flight A category.

Taking first in Flight A were Claude Vogel and George Jacobs.

Taking second were Michael Steigmann and Josh Shanes, and placing third were Cheri Bjerkan and Larry Robbins.

All three pairs will represent the district in the North American Pairs final, a four-session event, to be held at the Louisville, Kentucky Spring NABC.

Flight B winners, in order of finish with winners listed first, were Sean McNally and Julia White of Unit 123, James Abbot and Charles Alexander of Unit 123, Greg Harding and Doug Babcock of Unit 149, Pin Hu and Henry Shi of Unit 123, Kathlen Allen and Mary Reiss of Unit 222, and LaVerne Swiggum and William Omdahl of Unit 149.

Flight C winners, in order of finish, were Paul Rogerson and Bill Rogerson, Max Krawczyk and Avery Wang, Margaret Bohanon and Sandra Cooper, and Alec Sun and Gan Yang, and Jacob Reinke and Ben Fisk.

All were from Unit 123, except the third place finishers, who were from Unit 222.

Representatives from Flight B and C also will advance to the finals in Louisville.



Declarer needs to count both fast and slow tricks to be a winner



Winning with Wimpy
By Jim Diebel

This month's column will not have a lot of new information for the experienced player, but if your declarer play could use some fine tuning, you may want to pay attention.

Declaring at No Trump:

When the opening lead is made and dummy comes down, Declarer needs to count his tricks. There are two types of tricks he needs to count: Fast Tricks: These are tricks that can be taken off the top. Slow Tricks: These are tricks that need to be developed.

An example of fast tricks:

North: ♠ QJ83

South: ♠ AK72

There are 4 spade tricks available whenever declarer wants them.

Slow tricks may need more than one lead to develop: An example:

North: ♠ QT8

South: ♠ J74

Declarer can develop one spade trick if he's willing to give up the lead twice.

You need to run your Fast Tricks when the opponents have a long suit they plan to run, and you have no stopper.

When all side suits are safe, it's generally better to try to develop your Slow Tricks.

As a BBO director, here's a look at a few examples from a hand I witnessed on BBO recently.

North
♠ 7 3
♥ K Q J T 5
♦ T 6
♣ J 9 5 3

South
♠ K 8
♥ A 3
♦ A J 9 4 3
♣ A Q T 4

South	West	North	East
1D	P	1H	P
2NT	P	3NT	All Pass

You are South in 3NT. The opening lead is the ♠4. East plays the ♠J and naturally, you win the king.

The opponents have at least 4 spades ready to run against you. Counting your fast tricks, you have 5 hearts, 1 spade, 1 club, and 1 diamond. That's 8 tricks, so you're going to need the club finesse. The good news is that you don't need to take it right away.

Best strategy is to run 5 hearts, pitching a diamond, your last spade, and finally another diamond. This may put a little pressure on West, who might pitch a spade or two in order to keep some minor suit honors. With any luck, West pitches at least one spade and you take the club finesse.

If it loses, you hope West can't cash more than 3 spades. You'll discard two diamonds and a club and cross your fingers West must give you the rest. I gave you the correct hand, but not the actual lead at the table.

What really happened is that West led a low diamond, and

declarer made a great play to go up with ♦10. When the lead is coming through dummy and dummy has Kx, Qx, Jx, or 10x, it is usually right to go up with dummy's honor. One notable exception is when dummy has Qx or Jx, and you hold Jxx or Qxx. In those two cases, you must play low to insure a trick in the suit. The same is true if dummy has Kx and you hold Jxx. You must play low from dummy. Give dummy Jx opposite your Kxx, and it's once again right to go up with the honor. I digress.

The ♦10 won in dummy, and declarer did not stop to count his tricks, or to take inventory of his assets. Unlike the previous example, Declarer is in no immediate danger, so long as he doesn't lose a non spade trick to East.

East is the "Danger Hand," as a spade lead from East could be disastrous. Fortunately, you have an avoidance play available in clubs.

You can lead the ♣9 from dummy, and let it ride. Should West show up with the ♣K, you still would have a positional spade stopper. Once you win the ♦10 at trick one, you should not do any worse than 5 hearts, 3 clubs, and two diamonds for 10 tricks. If West wins and makes the likely spade shift, you will make 11 tricks.

If he switches back to the ♦K, you can win and return the ♦J. Now if they DON'T immediately switch to a spade, you will still emerge with 11 tricks.

The Declarer I monitored played the hand as if the opening lead had been a spade. He ran his 5 heart tricks first, squeezing his own hand in the process.

What is he going to pitch on those 3 winning hearts? Certainly not a spade. He still had only 8 top tricks, cashing the hearts early forced him to part with either some of his club winners, or possible diamond winners.

Eventually he chose to pitch 2 clubs and 1 diamond. He now took a hopeless finesse of the ♦9 losing to the ♦Q, and when a spade came back to East's Ace, he managed to take 9 tricks.

	North	
	♠ 7 3	
	♥ K Q J T 5	
	♦ T 6	
	♣ J 9 5 3	
West		East
♠ J x x x		♠ A Q T x x
♥ x x		♥ x x x x
♦ K Q x x x		♦ x
♣ x x		♣ K x x
	South	
	♠ K 8	
	♥ A 3	
	♦ A J 9 4 3	
	♣ A Q T 4	

West made a poor lead choice. Declarer had opened a diamond, but South did not take advantage. With the ♣K and ♠A sitting favorably, declarer could not take fewer than 12 tricks.

After winning the diamond, he runs the ♣9, eventually scoring 4 club tricks. Now he runs 5 hearts, and (knowing where the ♦KQ are), discards down to the ♠Kx and the ♦A.

A spade from dummy hands him his 12th trick. Taking 9 tricks gave South his well deserved bottom.



WinterFest

Chicago Sectional

January 18-20, 2024

Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist
1025 N. Smith Road
Palatine, Illinois 60067

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, January 18

9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

2-Session Stratified Team Game

2-Session 0-500 Stratified Team Game

FRIDAY, January 19

9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

2 Single-Session Stratified Pair/Team Game

2 Single-Session 0-500 Stratified Pair Game

SATURDAY, January 20

9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

2 Single-Session Stratified Pair/Team Game

2 Single-Session 0-500 Stratified Pair Game

Tournament Chair

Joe Connelly

847-271-1666

madbridge16@gmail.com

Partnership Chair

David Sales

847-564-9182, 847-561-5648

kishkes@gmail.com



For more information: bridgeinchicago.com

Masterpoint Averaging when possible

Stratification: A 3000+, B 1500-3000, C 0-1500

Non-Life Master Stratification: 0-100, 100-300, 300-500

WE WILL FOLLOW ACBL AND LOCAL REGULATIONS
REGARDING COVID PROTOCOLS!

CCBA ANNUAL DINNER/MEETING

You are invited to join the CCBA Board for the CCBA Annual Meeting and Dinner at 5:30 p.m. on January 19. Tickets for the catered dinner are \$7 (CCBA subsidized).

Deadline for purchasing tickets is January 5.

Send checks payable to the CCBA to

Joe Connelly, 436 Hickory Street, Mundelein, IL 60060.

Reserved tickets will be available for pick up Friday evening at the tournament site.

What does partner's unusual bids mean?



Ginny and Jeff Schuett

You find a partner you enjoy playing with and you play regularly and start to develop some basic understandings and working out a system you both enjoy playing. No matter how much time you spend, there will occasionally be bids that partner throws at you that haven't been discussed and are hard to decipher. Some days it seems almost every bid is like that. Give partner some room – usually you can work out what they mean. Here are examples of fairly common bids like that.

	South	West	North	East
1.	1♣	P	1♥	P
	3♣	P	3♥	P
	4♦?			
	South	West	North	East
2.	1♠	2NT	3♠	P
	4♠	4NT?		
	South	West	North	East
3.	1♠	P	1NT	P
	2♦	P	3♣	P
	??			
	South	West	North	East
4.	2♥	3♠?		
	South	West	North	East
5.	1♥	2♥	2♠?	
	South	West	North	East
6.	1♥	P	1NT	P
	2♦	P	2♠	P
	??			

Answers:

1. North's 3♥ is natural, usually showing 6+ card ♥ and forcing. North should not introduce a new suit here, so what can 4♦ mean? It is called an advanced cuebid and says he likes ♥ and also has the ♦A, an example ♠ 74 ♥ KT3 ♦ A9 ♣ AKQT83. It suggests he thinks slam is possible, and implies he doesn't have a ♠ control, since the controls are shown up the line.

2. West's 2NT bid is the unusual NT, for takeout emphasizing the minors, usually 5-5. To bid 4NT, West might have a huge minor 2 suiter, thinking EW can make game, but more likely he thinks NS can make game and he is sacrificing. West might have
♠ - ♥ 3 ♦ AQ9863 ♣ KJT832.

3. Your hand as South is ♠ KQ963 ♥ K6 ♦ QT863 ♣ A -. What do you bid? Partner should be showing a weak hand with long clubs, at least 6 or more ♣, and no support for either ♠ or ♦. Many players bid 3NT and my guess is that will be down 2 or more, often many more. With misfit hands it is best to pass as soon as the misfit is known, and try to avoid NT. South should pass!

4. Is West preempting over South's weak two? NO. Only one side can preempt. Jumps here are natural, long suit overcalls within 1 to 1.5 tricks of game. The overcaller needs little in support, just a trick or more.
♠ AKJT874 ♥ K3 ♦ QJT ♣ J.

5. If West has a Michaels cuebid and shows 5+♠, is North trying to show ♠? Since ♠ is the only suit NS knows that West holds, then that cue bid is a cue bid in support of South's ♥, showing a limit raise of ♥ or better, something like ♠ K4 ♥ KJ73 ♦ AJT ♣ 7643. It promises 3+♥ and 10+ support pts.

6. North's bid cannot logically show ♠ length since he didn't respond 1♠. The

2♠ here is called the impossible ♦ raise, showing the best possible raise of ♦ maximum high card points and long ♦, often 6+♦. The 2♠ is stronger than bidding 3♦, which is more of a courtesy raise. The 2♠ bid can be used over a 2♣ or 2♦ rebid by opener. It can be used playing 2/1 or standard.

Ginny and Jeff Schuett-bridge teaching, directing, play. Phone 847-940-7236 or email: jgschuett2comcasr.net.

ALERT! GNT Pre-registration Ends February 18

Pre-registration for District 13's 2012/2024 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. Another option is to register online at 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 AC-BL'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>.

Milwaukee Holiday Sectional

December 27 - 30, 2023

GOOD HOPE SCHOOL – ROOM #26
2315 W. GOOD HOPE ROAD – GLENDALE WI
(FOLLOW SIGNS TO 4 ACES BRIDGE CLUB)

Wednesday—Saturday

9:30 a.m. Single Stratified Pair/Teams
Stratified 499er Pairs

2:00 p.m. Single Stratified Pair/Teams
Stratified 499er Pairs

All Events Are Single Session

Strata: Open Games 0-1000, 1000-3000, 3,000+

499er Games 0-100, 100-300, 300-499



DIRECTIONS **FROM I-43**: EXIT #80 GOOD HOPE ROAD WEST FOR 1¼ MILES TURN LEFT JUST BEFORE THE TENNIS COURTS ON THE SOUTH SIDE, **FROM I-41**: EXIT #47 GOOD HOPE ROAD EAST FOR 5.5 MILES TURN RIGHT JUST AFTER THE TENNIS COURTS ON THE SOUTH SIDE

TOURNAMENT and PARTNERSHIPCHAIR: Yvette Neary
(414-526-9035) EMAIL: yneary@gmail.com

WE WILL FOLLOW ACBL AND LOCAL REGULATIONS REGARDING COVID PROTOCOLS

Congratulations rank advancers! Take well deserved bow.

Junior Master

Thomas Cantwell
Barbara Fried
Lynn Hoff
Vanessa Klugman
Llyn Longwell
Diane Merna
Gina Myerson
Robin Oldfield
Sadaf Quas
Donald Santoski
Margaret Schilt
Vikas Taralekar
Debbie Vanderbilt

Club Master

Rebecca Anderson
Dede Banks
Sandra Brdecka
Rahul Garga
Patricia Gerbie
Siobhan Hill

Zinnia Meyer
Anna Powers
Carole Quille
Donald Salenger
Mary Stockmal
Terry Zengeler

Sectional Master

Sandy Boles
Kristy Declene
Michael Dubois
Siv Ferguson
Betsy Jeffries
Sara Noel
Avery Wang

Regional Master

Phil Abrahams
Dalsang Chaudhari
June Chin
Gabrielle Fischer
Donna Lee Gulley

Dennis Jennings
John Knoepke
Mary Murtaugh
Jamee Rosa
Richard Rosenbaum
Joe Stuprich
Wendy Watkins

NABC Master

Cynthia Bixel
Eileen Martin
Steven Norman
Bonnie Phemister
Gregory Smith
Gerry Yeggy
Beverly Yusim



Advanced NABC Master

Juliet (Jill) Bergner
Jacob Breneisen
Janet Nolan
Rene Ortman

Life Master

Sriram Datla
Patricia D'Errico
Arnold Flank
Marcus Gottlieb
John Groenewold
Marshall Hirshman
Haijin Li

Bronze Life Master

Patricia D'Errico
Marcus Gottlieb
Marshall Hirshman
Sean McNally



Ruby Life Master

Abdullatif Alduaij
Valy Lev
R D Minehart

Gold Life Master

Phyllis Bartlett
Jeannette Chase
Mary Hurt

Diamond Life Master

Carl Nelson

Choose the play that gives opponents chance to make mistake



By Rowen Bell

Here's a card play principle to keep in mind: When facing a choice between two seemingly equivalent lines of play, choose the one that gives the opponents an opportunity to make a mistake.

This recent deal is an illustration: North dealer, matchpoints

N-S vulnerable

North	
A9764	
Q87	
J86	
T3	
West	East
52	KJT8
92	T3
A973	KT52
J9864	K75
South	
Q3	
AKJ654	
Q4	
AQ2	

After two passes, South opens 1H. With East-West staying silent, North raises to 2H and South carries on to 4H.

West leads the five of spades; dummy plays low and West wins the king, returning the jack of spades to South's queen. Now South plays the ace of hearts and a heart to dummy's queen, noting the 2-2 split, and then pitches a diamond on the ace of spades.

There are three things South would like to do: set up the long spades for a second diamond discard; take a club finesse; and ruff the third club in dummy.

If South could do all three of those

things, then South would take the rest of the tricks. However, dummy doesn't have enough entries to allow declarer to do all three.

As such, while the defense has missed their opportunity to take two quick diamond tricks to hold declarer to four, it appears as though the defense is still destined to come to a second trick.

The most obvious line of play is for South to take the club hook at trick six. When it wins, declarer cashes the club ace and ruffs the club. Now declarer can establish the a spade winner by ruffing, but can't reach dummy to use it. As such, South is fated to lose a diamond in the end, making five.

But, look at what can happen if declarer instead decides to ruff a spade at trick six, then cross to dummy with a small heart at trick seven.

Declarer now leads the established spade from dummy in the following six-card position:

	North	
	9	
	--	
	J86	
	T3	
West		East
--		--
--		--
A97		KT5
J98		K75
	South	
	--	
	KJ	
	Q	
	AQ2	

After pitching the queen of diamonds on the spade, South still makes only 11 tricks on best defense, losing a club at the end. As such, on a double-dummy basis, this line of play neither gains nor loses anything over the normal line discussed above. Both lines make five when the club king is onside, and four when it is offside. However, here "best defense" means that at least one defender needs to hold on to all three of the clubs, and that defense may

be hard to find. South is known to have started with exactly five cards in the minors. The defenders may be reluctant to place declarer with a third club after South had eschewed the opportunity to take a club ruff.

At the table, East pitched a small club on the spade at trick eight. This was necessary if South had started with AQxx of diamonds, in which case a diamond pitch from KTx would make it possible for declarer to take three diamond tricks.

After declarer pitched the queen of diamonds on the spade, he took a successful club hook which was followed by two rounds of hearts. West needed to find a discard on trick 11 holding the bare ace of diamonds and the jack-nine of clubs. West decided that South was more likely to hold the king of diamonds than a third club, and thus pitched a club.

The club ace now got rid of the defense's remaining cards in that suit, and declarer's deuce of clubs was good on trick thirteen: making six, for a top.

Nominations for Wilkes, Gran Awards closing

The deadline to nominate someone for one of CCBA's two top awards is December 15.

The Gran Sportsmanship Award nominee should be someone who always plays fair, abides by the rules of the game, offers encouragement to their partner and teammates, accepts the judgement call of the directors, and is gracious in victory and defeat.

The nominee for the Harmon Wilkes Award, CCBA's most prestigious honor, should exhibit all those qualities, and should have contributed to the preservation and development of duplicate bridge and to the maintenance of its good reputation. In addition, the candidate should compete at a high level, have an in-depth knowledge of bridge, and be gracious in sharing that expertise with less experienced players.

Submit nominations to Phyllis Bartlett, Awards Committee Chair at bartlett,phyllis@gmail.com.

Mark your Calendar

DECEMBER 2023

December 4-10	STaC (District 13)
December 5 Morning	ACBL-wide International Fund Game- 3rd of 3
December 11-14	Central States Regional Tournament Temple Beth-El, 3610 Dundee Road, Northbrook
December 27-30	Milwaukee Holiday Sectional Good Hope School, 2315 W. Good Hope Road Room 26, Glendale, WI

JANUARY 2024

January 18-20	WinterFest Chicago Sectional Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist 1025 N. Smith Road, Palatine 60067
January 19	CCBA Annual Meeting and Dinner, 5:30 p.m. Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist 1025 N. Smith Road, Palatine 60067

FEBRUARY

February 14-17	Milwaukee Valentine Sectional Good Hope School, 2315 Good Hope Road Room 26, Glendale, WI
April 1-6	STaC

A tentative schedule has been drawn up and is shown below. As more details become available, they will be revealed to CCBA's membership.

JUNE

June 26-July 1	Windy City Regional
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AUGUST

August 19-24	STaC
August 30-September 6	Labor Day Sectional

OCTOBER

Mid-Late October	Central States Regional
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NOVEMBER

Nov 11-16 (Possibly moved to December)	STaC
TBD	IN Events

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.



The 2023 Fall North American Bridge Championships will be held November 23 to December 3 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel, 265 Peachtree Center Avenue NE, Atlanta, Georgia. Reservations through the ACBL Housing Bureau ConferenceDirect closes October 20. After that date, one must contact the hotel directly for reservations, and the bridge rate may not be available.

For more information, visit the ACBL website.



**Reservations Open
January 16, 2024**

July 18–28
Intercontinental (\$209 CAD+tax per night),
Sheraton (\$203 CAD+tax per night),
Westin (\$203 CAD+tax per night)



Royal STaC Games

The Royal STaC (Sectional Tournament at the Clubs) is open to all Unit 123 clubs.

The games will run simultaneously with other units in ACBL Region 5, which encompasses District 13, along with District 12 (lower Michigan and Northern Indiana), and District 14 (Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Nebraska.)

Every Royal STaC point won will consist of 25 percent each of gold, silver, red and black.

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 BBO	Elmhurst	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 Twnship, 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
12:15 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 114-901-2582
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 8th and Madison, Hinsdale	Diane Beyer Martin 708-2071500
12:15 Thursday	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Dearborn Station 47 W. Polk Street, Chicago	Patt Quinn 630-220-9058

Time	Club	Location	Contact
6:30 pm Thursday	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Dearborn Station 47 W. Polk Street, Chicago	Patt Quinn 630-220-9058
6:30 pm Thursday	Glen Ellyn DBC	Healthtrack Sports Wellness 875 Roosevelt Road, Glen Ellyn	Sue Kamphuis 630-348-5369
10:30 am Friday	Tom's Game	Temple Jeremiah 937 Happ Road, Northfield	Tom Dressing 114-901-2582
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 Cllar	The Clare 55 E. Pearson, Chicago	Larry Cohen 630-941-0581
6:30 p.m. Friday	Tree Towns DBC on BBO BBO	Elmhurst	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



Unit 222 Valentine Sectional February 14-17

GOOD HOPE SCHOOL – ROOM #26
2315 W. GOOD HOPE ROAD – GLENDALE WI
(FOLLOW SIGNS TO 4 ACES BRIDGE CLUB)

WEDNESDAY—FRIDAY

9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
Pair/Team Game and 499er Pair Game

SATURDAY

9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Bruce Brown Cup Open Pairs
9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. 499er Pair Game (Single
Session)

Tournament Chair

John Pereles 414-559-3463 jcpereles@gmail.com

Partnership Chair

Yvette Neary 414-526-9035 yneary@gmail.com

Strata for open games: 0-999, 1000-299, 300-499

Strats may be adjusted as attendance warrants.

