



Excitement is continuing to build for the Summer North American Bridge Championships, which will be held for 10 sensational days in Chicago, beginning July 13.

The thrilling event, which will attract players from around the world, will be held at the Sheraton Grand Chicago, 300

East North. Water Street. Also, serving as a host hotel is the nearby Intercontinental Chicago Magnificent Mile, 505 North Michigan Avenue.



To make reservations

Sheraton Grand Chicago contact the ACBL at 855-956-0776 or email acbl@conferencedirect.com by June 22 to get the bridge rate. After that date, contact the hotel direct.

Sponsorships

Also, there is still time for you or your club to honor someone special by sponsoring an event at the NABC. Sponsorship includes naming regional game sessions or naming a day after deserving individuals. These individuals receive mention in the NABC Daily Bulletin explaining their connection to the game of bridge and the District, Unit, Club or you, including a short bio. For more information, contact Guy Franklin, sponsorship chair at

guyfranklinchicago@gmail.com.

Mark Stein was re-elected president following the annual meeting of the Chicago Contract Bridge Association on January 22.

The annual meeting, for the third time, was held via Zoom. Also re-elected were Loring Knoblauch, vice president, and Jan Churchwell, secretary, Joe Connelly was elected treasurer, succeeding Tom Dressing. Tom has held several other positions on the board during his long tenure, including president and vice president.

State of the Unit Address

Mark pointed out that the CCBA Board exists to serve the bridge community in the Chicago area and to promote duplicate play.

To that end, he said, the CCBA has held three tournaments, two of which showed small losses and one which showed a profit. He pointed out that tournament attendance is growing, but slowly.

Mark said that Sarik Goyal, a graduate student at the University of Chicago, is the new webmaster, and that some changes will be made to the web. "We'll be updating it a little bit."

Also, Jim Abbot, am actuary, will be working with the treasurer on CCBA finances. Mark pointed out that another change made in the past year is the emailing of the Kibitzer to members.

Board Members Re-elected

During the business meeting, the five members whose three-year terms expired this year, were re-elected. They are Jan Churchwell, Joe Connelly, Steve McConnell, Jamie Rubenstein, and Suzi Subeck.



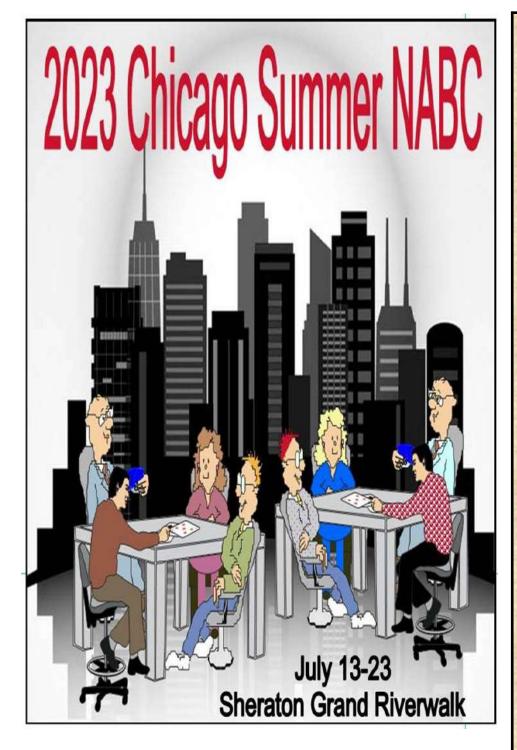
CCBA President Mark Stein

Sarik Goyal and Betsy Downs were appointed to the board to fill vacancies created by resignations. See page 4 to learn about these new board members. To see photographs of all the board members, please refer to page 3.

The CCBA's policy allows anyone who wishes to run for an office to do so provided they announce their candidacy no later than the December board meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Joe Connelly reported that Unit 123 is in good financial shape. He noted that a certificate was recently renewed and that it will be earning a higher interest rate.



You Do Not Want to Miss This

The NABCs, which attract people from around the world, offers games for players of all levels, from beginners to the world's finest. And the best part, it is taking place in our area. Be sure to mark your calendars,

2023 CCBA Officers Board Members

President Mark Stein

Vice President Loring Knoblauch

Secretary Jan Churchwell

> Treasurer Joe Connelly

Board of Directors Bill Anspach Phyllis Bartlett Betsy Downs Guy Franklin Sarik Goyal Robert Maxson Steve McConnell Jamie Rubenstein Joe Stokes Suzi Subeck

Kibitzer Editor DeMaris Johnson

The Kibitzer is published six times per year by the Chicago Contract Bridge Association (CCBA). KIBITZER DEAD-LINE FOR THE APRIL/MAY ISSUE IS MARCH 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.

2023 CCBA Board of Directors

The CCBA Board is made up of 15 members who are elected to three-year terms. Each year, the terms of five board members expire. A nominating committee selects candidates to slate for those five positions. This year all five incumbents whose terms expired expressed an interest in remaining on the board and were slated by the committee. Re-elected at the annual meeting were Jan Churchwell, Joe Connelly, Steve McConnell, Jamie Rubenstein and Suzi Subeck.

President Mark Stein chose Betsy Downs and Sarik Goyal to fill vacancies due to the resignations of Tom Dressing and Georgann Humphrey.

Still to be filled is the recent vacancy created by the resignation of Jim Diebel.



Mark Stein



Bill Anspach

Sarik Goyal

Bottom Row, left to right: Joe Stokes, Suzi Subeck.





Loren Knoblauch



Phyllis Bartlett



Robert Maxson





Jan Churchwell



Betsy Downs



Steve McConnell





Joe Connelly



Guy Franklin



Jamie Rubenstein



Meet Your Two New CCBA Board Members

By DeMaris Johnson

Two new members join the 2023 CCBA Board of Directors, Betsy Downs and Sarik Goyal, both of Chicago. They were appointed by President Mark Stein to fill vacancies created by the resignations of Tom Dressing and Georgann Humphrey.

Betsy, a retired architect, said, "My goal as a board member is to give back to bridge. Our aging demographics and the pandemic have seriously stressed our game. I hope that I can apply my problem solving skills and determination to work with the board and all bridge players to find ways for our game to survive and grow."

Sarik, a graduate student and a recent Silver Life Master, is also concerned about the game's survival.

"My primary goal as a board member is to make bridge in the Chicago area accessible and attractive for students and young professionals. I hope to continue playing this game throughout my life, so I know how important it is to help younger people become interested in bridge."

His long-time personal goal is to win an open NABC title. "My short-term goals are to play slower and count more." His biggest bridge accomplishment to date is winning the 0-10K knockout last spring at the NABCs in Reno.

Betsy, a Sapphire Life Master, hopes to become a Diamond Life Master this year. "Only 150 more masterpoints needed!"

Her other goals as a player are to keep developing skills and analytic analysis, and partnership trust and understanding. Her advice for beginners is to read bridge books (5 Weeks to Winning Bridge by Sheinwold was her breakthrough book), play with better players, learn to trust your partner, be trustable, be nice and have fun.

Like many players, her parents played bridge socially, and she played some in college, but it was not until 1966 that she took a real interest in the game. That year, she and her sister took a trip to Switzerland and met some guys who played bridge.



Betsy Downs

"We joined in the games, and I really enjoyed it. When we returned home, I started playing at the clubs and was hooked."

Sarik, graduated in 2021 from Northwestern University with majors in Statistics and Geography. Afterwards, he worked for one year as a Redistricting Analyst for the ACLU. Now, he is pursuing a Masters Degree in Computational Analysis and Public Policy from the University of Chicago.

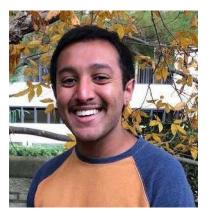
He said that he learned the basics of bridge in 2017 from his high school math teacher.

"Once I arrived at Northwestern, I discovered the university club and quickly became more interested. I gradually started to play in local club games, and then in tournaments." He now plays in several tournaments each year.

He had no friends or family who played bridge when he started playing, but says he has developed numerous friendships with people from around the world through bridge. "I've recently started to teach my parents and they enjoy working through Bridge Master on BBO."

He relates a funny story that occurred in Memphis four years ago at one of his early NABCs.

"I was playing the Silidor Pairs with a fellow Northwestern student. After finishing a round, I engaged in a friendly conversation with our opponents, who I did not recognize. Before we left for the



Sarik Goyal

next round, one of our opponents handed me his business card, which I quickly placed in my pocket.

"When I got back to our place that night, I was emptying my pockets and decided to look at the business card. At the top of the card, I read the name 'Robert Hamman.' The name sounded familiar, and after a quick Google search, I became aware of who I had just played that day."

Betsy also tells a funny story, where her fellow students played a trick on her.

"Back in the day, we would stay up playing bridge and drinking wine with friends all night until dawn and the birds started singing," she said.

"I am told that during one of these late night games, I played a spade contract, finessing and losing to the queen of spades. A couple of tricks later, I apparently decided to draw trump and missing the queen of spades, I again took the finesse, again losing to the queen of spades.

"My 'friends' had resurrected the queen of spades and placed it once again in my LHOs hand. While I was feeling very unlucky, they were cracking up. At least that's what they say. I don't really remember," Betsy said.









Managing the Trump Suit – Handling Poor Holdings



By Ginny and Jeff Schuett

We all wish our trumps were always solid, or solid missing the A or a single honor, where finessing makes sense. But all too often, we have poorer trump holdings.

It is rarely right to ignore trying to pull trump, unless you have some specific reason, like ruffing losers in dummy first. But once you decide it is time to pull trump (don't put this off too long!), there are some specific common holdings you should know and should learn how best to play them. Here are examples:

1. Dummy ♥ K95 Declarer ♥ AJ1042

It is usually right to finesse with 8 trumps, but there is a best way to handle this. Lead to dummy's K, then lead the 9 and let it ride if it is not covered. This allows you to pick up the singleton Q behind the A as well as Qxxx in front of the A.

2. Dummy ♥ J65 Declarer ♥ AQ742

DO NOT lead the J. Instead, lead a low heart to the Q and if that works, lead the A, hoping the king is a doubleton. Leading the J and having it covered will promote the 10 or 9 for the opponents.

3. Dummy ♥ 7652 Declarer ♥ AJ98

Lead a low heart to the 9, and if that loses to the K or Q, enter dummy and lead a heart to the J; right hand opponent started with Q10x or K10x.

4. Dummy ♥ 765 Declarer ♥ AQ942

First finesse the 9, and whatever that loses to, then enter dummy and finesse



the Q. Note you always lose one trick and this loses only one trick if RHO has J10x.

5. Dummy ♥ Q5 Declarer ♥ K97642

Lead toward the dummy and play the Q. If that works, you know LHO has the A. Therefore, lead another heart and play LOW from hand, hoping LHO started with Ax.

6. Dummy ♥ K65 Declarer ♥ Q10842

Lead toward the dummy and play the K. Whether that wins or loses, next lead from dummy and play the 10, hoping the J is with RHO.

7. Dummy ♥ 765 Declarer ♥ AJ1092

First finesse the 9, and whatever that loses to, then enter dummy and finesse the 10. Note this is actually the best play, even if you have 9 cards between you and dummy.

8. Dummy ♥ 7652 Declarer ♥ A943

Unless there is a risk of a ruff, it is almost always right to duck a heart in both hands first. Next cash the A and go about your business, leaving the high trump out. For example, this would allow you to ruff two losers in each hand without risk of the opponent pulling two of your trumps with their high one.

9. Dummy ♥ AJ5 Declarer ♥ 107642

First finesse the J, and whatever that loses to, cash the A next. Do not ever lead the 10 without having the 9 in your or dummy's hand. You would lead the 10 with 109842 in declarer's hand.

Ginny & Jeff Schuett – bridge teaching, directing, play phone 847-940-7236 Email-jgschuett2@comcast.net



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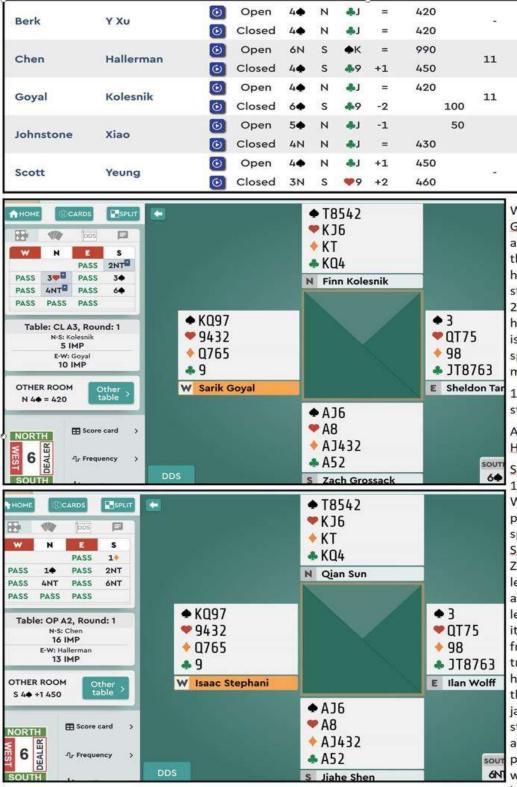
The thrilling event, which will attract players from around the world, will be held at the Sheraton Grand Chicago, 301 East North Water Street. Also serving as a host hotel is the nearby Intercontinental Chicago Magnificent Mile, 505 North Michigan Avenue. The rate at both hotels is approximately \$200 per night.



Sheraton Grand Chicago

To make reservations for this national tournament in our beautiful city, contact the ACBL at 855-856-0776

USBF JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS This is from the recent USBF Junior Championships in Atlanta where University of Chicago students Sarik Goyal and Ilan Wolff played.



Stephani won his queen. The hand was cold at this point if declarer guessed correctly which way to take the diamond hook. As it was, he never needed that. On the run of the spades and clubs, Wolff pitched one diamond and Stephanie pitched two and declarer played the ace and king, bringing down the queen for twelve winners. 11 IMPs to Chen

On Board 6, two U26 pairs bid slam. Interestingly, both auctions involved a quantitative bid opposite which partner accepted with a minimum (or in one case, a subminimum.)

In Kolesnik/Goyal, North/South played 6S on their 5-3 spade fit. Goyal led his singleton C9, dummy winning the queen. Grossack tried a spade to the jack, losing to the king with

West and a small heart came back. Grossack won the king in dummy and played the S4 to the ace, getting the bad news. In the fullness of time, he lost the two high spades and a stray trick for down two. Note: the 2NT opening showed 19 or 20. Zach held 18! When Finn invited with 4NT, is the fifth diamond or the third spade enough to accept on the subminimum?

11 IMPs to Goyal whose teammates stopped in game and made it.

A very different ending in the Chen/_© Hallerman match:

Shen opened 1D and Sun responded 1S. Shen bid 2NT showing 18-19. When Sun bid 4NT quantitative, his partner did not know he held five spades, taking 6S out of the picture. Shen accepted on his minimum as Zach did!! Stephani had to choose a lead. Spades was his strongest suit and 3 of his suits were four cards in length. Leading into the strong hand, it is most reasonable to lead a heart from weakness so as not to blow a trick. Assuming the declaring side has 32 HCP, West cannot expect their partner to hold more than a jack. Stephani chose an often correct stance in IMPs: He made the most attacking lead of the SK, hoping his partner's jack was in that suit. Shen 6N won the ace, played a club to the king and a spade toward the jack.

Clubs celebrate holidays with food, games, and good cheer



Pictured, left to right is George Roeper, president of South Suburban Bridge Center, Joan Butz, Bob Butz, and Lynne Kostopoulos, vice president.



Above and left : South Suburban



Naperville players, left and right, enjoy chili, cookies, cake and other goodies.





Yorville Club owner Karl Anderson stirs his chili. Below a player has a bowl of the soup.



Jim Diebel, owner of tne Naperville Duplicate Club, far right, serves up his "famous" homemade chili.



Accurate signals important when defending suit contracts



Winning with Wimpy

In the past two issues, we looked at how important it is to use accurate signals when defending suit contracts. We continue that topic in this issue.

The Suit Preference Signal

The suit preference signal is probably the most misunderstood principle in bridge. Most players will swear that when an ace is led against a suit contract, and dummy comes down with a singleton in that suit, that third chair's play is a signal about which suit opener should switch to. This is completely untrue.

Many times, 3rd chair will want the suit continued, to "tap" dummy's trump holding. Sometimes there is a long suit in dummy and the only entry will be in trump. By forcing dummy to ruff, you may be removing a valuable

entry needed later. Therefore, the Suit Preference Signal is NOT used when dummy tables a singleton. If third chair wants Opener to continue (and "tap" dummy), he plays low. If he wants a switch, he plays high. It is up to Opener to work out

which suit to switch to. Most of the time, the clues will be there.

 ▲ 7 ♥ AKJ8 ◆ T97 ♣ J874 		42 2 ★ J95 ★ T652 ★ 865 ★ T93		 West leads the ♥A against 6S. East can see that if South needs the the diamond finesse, it will work, and the auction has disclosed that South has the ♣A. There is only one chance to defeat the hand. East plays the ♥2 to entice West to continue the heart suit. Dummy is forced to ruff the heart, and East's ♠ J95 is eventually promoted to the setting trick. If West mistakenly reads partner's deuce as request for a club switch, the slam will make. If East wanted a club switch, he'd play the ♥6. West should realize that there can't be any urgency for a diamond lead, so if a switch is indicated, it must be to a club. 	
North 1D 3C 4NT 6S	East pass Pass Pass Pass	South 1S 3S 5D Pass	West Pass Pass Pass Pass	If, for example West held a diamond void, he would play an unnecessarily high heart to request a switch to the non-obvious suit. In this case, the ♥10 but partner would likely not read it. Better would be for East to make a (Lightner) Double, asking for an unusual lead. East's failure to double makes a strong suggestion that East does not hold a void.	L

The real place that the suit preference signal is used is when one partner is giving the other partner an expected ruff. The size of the card that is led for the ruff should suggest to partner which suit to return to get back and secure a second ruff.

	 ▲ T4 ♥ KJ2 ♦ KQJ9 ▲ KQ 	87
 ▲ J982 ♥ 43 ◆ AT3 ◆ A982 	 ▲ AK ♥ QT98 ♦ 654 ♣ J43 	 ▲ Q7653 ♥ A76 ◆ 2 ▲ T765 5

West leads the ♠2 against 4H. East plays the Queen and South wins the Ace, hiding the ♠K. South plays a heart to the ♥K and East wins the ♥A. Grasping at the only chance to beat the contract, East switches to the \blacklozenge 2, an obvious singleton, given dummy's holding in the suit. West wins the A and returns the 3, a suit preference signal. Without the signal, East would likely have switched back to a spade.

East plays back a club, and the subsequent diamond ruff defeats the contract 2 tricks. If East carelessly returns a spade, South will make his contract. Had West held the **A** instead of the **A**, he would have returned the $\mathbf{10}$. (Continued on page 10)





Accurate signals important

(Continued from page 9)

North 1D 2H	East Pass Pass	1H	West 1S All Pass
	♠ Q75		
	♥ KT7		
	♦ AKC	DT2	
	♣ 42		
♦ AKJ6		♦ T4	
♥ 432	-	♥ 65	
♦		♦ J97	53
↓ ↓ QJT8	7	◆ 96:	
₩Q110		T 90.)3
	♦ 983	0.0	
	♥ AQJ	98	
	♦ 864		
	\Lambda AK		

West leads the \bigstar A against 4H. East's \bigstar 4 (along with the lack of raise to 2S) convinces West that it is low. West continues with the \bigstar K and gives East a spade ruff.

Without the suit preference signal, it is a near certainty that East would return a club. West, however, was on the ball and gave East the ruff by leading the ▲ J, The signal was unmistakable, and East dutifully returns a diamond, not a club, to give his partner the setting trick.

Admiral Club Reopens

The Admiral at the Lake Bridge Club, 929 W. Foster St., Chicago, reopened February 7 after suspending its games in 2020 during the pandemic.

Game time is 1 p.m. with a mini-lesson at 12:45 p.m. The entry fee is \$10 for regular games and \$11 for special games. Parking at the club is limited, but the club has arranged for extra parking at Marianno's across the street. Parking placards are available. For additional information, call Philip Lapalio, club owner, at 773-939-7515.



RANK ADVANCEMENT

Junior Master

Joel Goldberg Siobhan Hill Gail Kepley Lonnie Kepley Arminuar Mitchell Anna Powers Barbara Rourke Daniel Turner

Club Master

Michael Brdecka Ann Devries Karen Glazer Bradley Joselit Michael Lebens Patricia Miller Donald Olson Jackie Snuttjer Clea Van Voorhis Sectional Master Sriram Datla Diane Spanier

Regional Master

Bess Grossweiner David Sales David Schwartzwald

NABC Master

Patricia Costello Barbara Flaxman John Groenewold Janet Nolan Blanche Romey Sheila Stone

Advanced NABC Master Muggsy Jacoby

Life Master Clayton Chrisman

Silver Life Master

A Bascon Judy Mesjak Dian Taylor

Ruby Life Master Nance Booty Herbert Rosen

Gold Life Master Ryszard Matuszczyk Judith Meister

Diamond Life Master Tom Fogarty Frank Pancoe



ACBL Club Events

February	All Month	Educational Foundation Games
	Saturday, February 4/ Afternoon	ACBL-wide International Fund Game – 1st of 3
March	Monday, March 6/ Afternoon	ACBL-wide Senior Pairs – 1st of 2
	Tuesday, March 28/ Afternoon	ACBL-wide Charity Game – 1st of 2
April	All Month	Charity Club Championship Games
	Thursday, April 13/ Any Sessions	Helen Shields Rookie/Master Game (Canada-wide Event)
	Wednesday, April 26/ Afternoon	ACBL-wide Charity Game – 2nd of 2

District 13 2022/2023 Grand National Teams

Saturday, February 25, 2023, 11:00 and TBA & Sunday, February 26, 2023, 11:00 and TBA

Note:Renaissance Chicago Glenview Suites, 1400 Milwaukee Avenue, Glenview, ILNew Site!Telephone: (847) 803-9800 Bridge Rate: \$104+tax by February 10, 2023

The Championship Flight, Flight A, and Flight B events will take place over four sessions and will be concluded in a single weekend.

Flight C will be a two-session Swiss Team event played to conclusion on Sunday only.

There will be no competition among flights. Players must choose the flight in which they plan to play.

Flight	Masterpoints	Club Qualifying
Championship	Unlimited	Determined by Unit
Flight A	Fewer than 6000 points	Determined by Unit
Flight B	Fewer than 2500 points	Determined by Unit
Flight C	Non Life Master and fewer than 500 points	Determined by Unit

Flight eligibility is established by ACBL's September 2022 masterpoint cycle. This information was produced on August 6, 2022 in Horn Lake, MS. Masterpoints won after this cycle will not impact flight eligibility for these events.

Players must reside in District 13. Each member of the team must be a paid member in good standing with the ACBL. Club qualifying games are permitted at Unit discretion but are not required at any level of competition. A Flight B or C team may qualify under the rules of any Unit where a plurality of team members reside.

In addition, players who are currently, or have ever been in the past, members of another bridge organization, whether domestic (e.g., American Bridge Association) or foreign (e.g., Polski Zwiazek Brydza Sportowego), must submit information on their past and/or current ranking in that organization. Submissions must be in writing (email is fine) and must be received by the District GNT Coordinator or District 13 Director at the time of registration for the event. The information submitted may be used to assign a conversion to ACBL masterpoints for purposes of verifying flight eligibility.

An entry in the CHAMPIONSHIP Flight is a commitment to play in the National Final. Entries in lower flights may play to conclusion before declaring intent. We understand your reluctance to commit in advance.

GNT Coordinator:	Registration:
Stan <u>Subeck</u> 847-509-0311 stansubeck@prodigy.net	PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT. All teams wishing to enter must provide notification by noon on February 19, 2023 by contacting:
One team will qualify in Championship and FI. A In the event that there are 8 or more teams in the District Final of Flight B &/or C, that flight or flights will qualify the 2 top teams. Any teams representing D13 at the National Event will receive a stipend paid at the NABC.	Suzi Subeck, District 13 Director, (847)-509-0311 Home, (708) 927-6819 Cell, stansubeck@prodigy.net, or by registering on line at <i>http://bridgeinchicago.com</i> when it is available Entering teams must have a written confirmation either by email or letter. No team without such a written con- firmation should assume that entry has been verified. It is important to know in advance the teams entered. Captains should bring the confirmation with them to the site and be prepared to present it when purchasing an entry.

For more complete information, please consult conditions of contest at acbl.org... both local and <u>ACBLwide</u>

The District 13 Spring Regional April 24-28, 2023

Madison Marriott West 1313 John Q Hammons Dr, Middleton, WI

For Reservations, call 1-608-831-2000 Room Rate: \$139 ... To insure rate availability, reserve by April 2

Note: New Monday-Friday Schedule!!

Monday, April 24 10:00 & 3:00 Open Pairs (0-1500; 1500-3000; 3000+) 10:00 & 3:00 Gold Rush Pairs (0-100; 100-300; 300-750)

Tuesday, April 25 10:00 & 3:00 **Open Pairs (0-1500; 1500-3000; 3000+)** 10:00 & 3:00 **Gold Rush Pairs (0-100; 100-300; 300-750)**

Wednesday, April 26 10:00 & 3:00 Open Pairs ((0-1500; 1500-3000; 3000+) 10:00 & 3:00 Gold Rush Pairs (0-100; 100-300; 300-750)

Thursday, April 27 10:00 & 3:00 Single Session Side Games to Benefit the Grass Roots Fund 10:00 & 3:00 **Bracketed Swiss Teams**

Friday, April 28 10:00 Stratified Swiss Teams Playthrough ... Lunch Included... Flight A/B/C (3000+; 1500-3000; 0-1500)



Masterpoint Averaging When Permitted!

Tournament Chair: Suzi Subeck 847-509-0311 Email: stansubeck@prodigy.net

Partnership Chair: Yvette Neary Email: yneary@gmail.com



Hospitality Suite!!!

Daily Bulletins

Special Student Rate with valid student ID card!

Registration Gifts!

Free Box Lunch on Friday