

After-Labor-Day Tourney Sept. 5-7

Labor Day may mark the end of summer, but it does not mark the end of fun for bridge players. The reason? Unit 123's After-Labor-Day Regional will be held September 5, 6, and 7 at Temple Beth-El, 2610 Dundee Road, Northbrook.



The special Invitational Pairs barometer game will be held on the first day, with qualifying rounds at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Also taking place that day will be the first session of the Stratified Open Pairs at 10 a.m., with the second session at 3 p.m.

Wednesday, September 6, will feature Open Pairs and Gold Rush Pairs at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. At 2:30 p.m., Jim Diebel will present an intermediate mini-lesson.

Thursday sees two sessions of Open Swiss Teams and Gold Rush Swiss Teams at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Tournament Chair Guy Franklin said single session entries will be accepted for the Open Pairs sessions. Partnership Chair is David Sales. For more information, see the flyer on page 8.



Subeck reports NABC plans on schedule



Suzi Subeck

Dear Unit 123 Members,

I'm happy to report that plans for the Chicago NABC are coming along right on schedule. Here are the updates.

John Goldstein, Charity Chair, has selected the Rosecrance Foundation as the Chicago Summer NABC Official Charity. A ceremony complete with a check presentation will take place at the NABC on Monday, July 17th, at the Sheraton between 2 pm and 3 pm.

The T-shirt registration gifts have been delivered to Horn Lake and will be brought here with the other ACBL supplies. They are yellow and look great!

Most days and games have been sold. Guy Franklin did a great job with Sponsorship.

Unit 123 is naming a day and a game that in memory of Les Kent, a CCBA past president and board member for several years.

It is not too late to volunteer to serve a few hours or more at the site behind the Registration, Information, Prize or Partnership desks. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Kathy Fortney at kathleensfortney@gmail.com. Kathy is placing volunteers on various committees.

We will be running restaurant buses for three nights at the site: Tuesday to China Town, Wednesday to Little Italy, and Thursday to Randolph Street/Greektown. We did this in 2015 and it was a huge success. For more information, contact DeMaris or Chuck Johnson at demaris_j@hotmail.com.

PROOF of VACCINATION will be REQUIRED! We have had some questions regarding this, but the ACBL plans to require proof through the Chicago NABC.

I hope unit members turn out in large numbers for the NABC, a fun, challenging, event. It will be held July 13-23 at the Sheraton Riverwalk Downtown. You could go home with gold.

Suzi Subeck
Chicago Summer NABC Tournament Chair

90-year-old player takes top ACBL Ace of Clubs Prize

A Unit 123 player, Donald Ferris, is the national winner of the Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs in the 500-1,000 masterpoint category. Quite an achievement for anyone, and particularly for Don who will be 91 in June.

Don said that he is thrilled and humbled to win the honor and credits his "kind and gentle partner" Ted Pristash, also of Mundelein, for helping him "learn bridge slowly."

The pair marks eight years of playing together at the Mundelein Area Duplicate Bridge Club owned by Joe Connolly, Unit 123 Treasurer.



Donald Ferris, left, playing in a local tournament.

Don, who grew up in the Fox Lake/Waukegan area of Lake County, was first introduced to bridge while in the U.S. Air Force. The 18-year-old initially served in a weather school in Rantoul. (Cont'd on p.3)

Honor special person or club at Chicago NABC

Dear Fellow Players,

District 13 members have the opportunity at the NABC to honor bridge gurus, friends, clubs, bridge teachers, partners, and those who have influenced us. In short just about anyone. To date, all of the days have been sponsored. Many of the individual games have been named, but several are still available for additional honorees.

Several people have named their favorite partners. One fellow named two of his partners for different games because he felt he owed those two women a lot. He wrote, "Addie only played with me because I drove her. We were neighbors. I still remember the first time we played and the first hand we played in NT. I saw that she had taken her losers first. That had never occurred to me." Consider naming game(s) at the summer nationals for your favorite partners .

Several bridge teachers have been honored by being named for days and games at nationals. Consider honoring your favorite bridge teacher by naming a game at the summer nationals for that person.

Some games have been named at the summer nationals for outstanding achievers

outside the world of bridge, including Dr. Alexander White, a Holocaust survivor. He endured several years of concentration camps ending as a Schindler's list survivor has been named for his years of perseverance during the war, his contribution to medicine, and his work lecturing about his experiences in WWII. Consider honoring any outstanding achiever that you admire. Two tournament games at the Chicago July nationals have been named for two of many loved Chicago area bridge clubs i.e. The Cultural Center Duplicate Bridge Club and The Hinsdale Duplicate Bridge Club. Consider honoring one or more of your favorite bridge clubs.

The cost of naming a game at the summer nationals to honor a partner, an outstanding individual or player, or a teacher is \$20 per session. Most games are two sessions, and the cost is \$40. Three session events \$60, etc. For more information or to sponsor someone, contact me at Guy Franklin, Sponsorship Chair 2023 Summer Chicago NABC 773-412-4882

guyfranklinchicago@gmail.com

(Below are the dates and names of the honorees at the time of publication.)

HONOREES

Thursday, July 13 Unit 123 "Unit 123 is proud to be the host of the official opening day of the 2023 summer nationals."

Friday July 14 Gerry Landy Day "Bridge was his passion. He loved the game and the people associated with it. He always was excited when the Nationals were in Chicago. He would attend for the entire week."

Saturday July 15 Dolores Baumgarten Day "Always of good cheer, known for her laugh, friendly to all, and willing to play with anyone. She helped many newbies fall in love with the game."

Sunday July 16 Jane Kennedy Day "Our Queen of Hearts, always ready to play bridge, spewing with great bridge tips, a most aggressive player, (my favorite player), a patient and loving bridge teacher."

Monday July 17 Janie Strauss Day "Janie is a warm, loving individual who ran a large, popular bridge club on the Northshore where she taught. Always of good humor and fun to be with."

Tuesday July 18 Bob Jackson Day "An expert player, a Platinum Life Master from the Northwest suburbs. He played bridge for 50 years until his death in 2021."

Wednesday July 19 Les Kent Day "A lover of bridge, who gave back to the card-playing

community through decades of hard work as a board member of Unit 123 and as a regional tournament chairman."

Thurs July 20 Unit 269 "Unit 269 proudly sponsors the Summer NABC and the Great Sizzlin' Summer Illinois June Regional in Crystal Lake with the best free donuts and bridge daily."

Friday July 21 Sam Amer Day "A pro player in the NYC area and player at the Honors Club where everyone had only good things to say about him, a former member of the USBF Junior Program, representing the United States in the 2018 World Youth Championships. We love you, Sam."

Saturday July 22 Dan Driggit Day "A beloved club and tournament player, a Gold Life Master, a regular feature at clubs in Oak Park, Darien, Elmhurst, Hinsdale, and Naperville, a respected high school music teacher and band leader."

Sunday July/23 Eldad Ginossar Day "An Israeli-American bridge player, teacher, and author, a medalist in the Rosenblum Cup, a European gold medalist, and runner-up in several NABC team and pair games as well as the winner of multiple Israeli championships. He's scheduled to attend the 2023 Chicago NABC."

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Wow! Look at these winners

The CCBA Board of Directors recently recognized Unit 123 winners of the Mini-McKenney and the Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs, two of ACBL's most significant awards. The winners in each level of achievement for both awards are listed below, as well as the online winners.

Mini-McKenney

The Mini-McKenney recognizes those who won the most masterpoints during 2022. Eligibility is determined by each player's masterpoint holding at the beginning of the calendar year. Unpigmented online points, such as from robot games, are not included.



Ron Smith

0-5	Mary Brennan	46.09
5-20	Sriram Datla	126.65
20-50	Gregory Smith	68.01
50-100	David Sales	85.69
100-200	John Groenewold	78.95
200-300	Maureen Spinel	117.91
300-500	Henry Shi	212.84
500-1000	Donald Ferris	458.51
1000-1500	Kathleen Fortney	219.28
1500-2500	Judi Katz	378.11
2500-3500	Roger Hendrick	314.92
3500-5000	Stephen Donahue	916.9
5000-7500	David Langer	469.10
7500-10000	Craig Allen	774.32
10000+	Ron Smith	1036.04

Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs

These club champions are recognized at the unit level and ACBL-wide. All points won at the club level are counted in this contest with the exception of those won in STaCs. This award was renamed in 2011 in honor of Grand Life Master Helen Shanbrom of Tamarac, FL. Shanbrom was one of the most active players in the ACBL for decades and won the top category of the Ace of Clubs more times than any other member in ACBL history.



Robert Gardner

0-5	Mary Brennan	46.09
5-20	Steven Hamburg	60.36
20-50	Larry Rapsky	61.96
50-100	Gayle Grunberg	71.57
100-200	Joan Stelmack	61.45
200-300	Maureen Spinell	117.91
300-500	Barbara Kinsella	81.02
500-1000	Donald Ferris	432.09
1000-1500	Steve Beicos	125.53
1500-2500	Judi Katz	329.46
2500-3500	Roger Hendrick	243.68
3500-5000	Michael Airdo	490.98
5000-7500	Mark Ginsburg	216.61
7500-10000	Craig Allen	391.25
10000+	Robert Gardner	362.73

90-year-old Mundelein Player wins ACBL Prize



(Continued from page 1)

It was there that he had the free time to learn bridge. "Several others and I became bridge players by relying on the Culberson and Jacoby books in the library."

He was later stationed near Fairbanks, where he flew 50 missions within 300 miles of the North Pole and over the Bering Sea, getting close to Russia.

Donald Ferris, After his 1955 discharge, he returned to Illinois, graduating with a degree in accounting from the University of Illinois at Champaign. He enjoyed a successful business career in Lake County, taking executive jobs at various companies. In 1979, he joined the Kimco Corporation.

After his retirement from there in 2009, he and his late wife Susan began playing "mainly party bridge with friends." After his wife's death in 2015, Don was introduced to a Waukegan duplicate club. The rest is history.

Online Races

The following are the players in Unit 123 who won the most masterpoints online in 2022.

0-5	Michael Lebens	173.91
5-20	Sriram Datla	233.73
20-50	Mary Hasten	79.00
50-100	David Sales	121.31
100-200	Patricia Sutton	187.10
200-300	James Langan	246.20
300-500	Doug Scofield	259.12
500-1000	Stanley Moreyno	352.65
1000-1500	Sheila Stillman	245.54
1500-2500	Keith Farral	340.92
2500-3500	Leszek Musiol	492.17
3500-5000	Betsy DeLange	387.98
5000-7500	Serdar Ogut	569.23
7500-10000	Judy Zhu	952.44
10000+	David Yang	355.70



Players Recall Memories of Past National Tournaments

By Jamie Rubenstein and DeMaris Johnson

On all fronts, both experienced and intermediate Chicago-land players remain positive and reflective on how they might fare in July's downtown NABC.

Take, for instance, **Cathie Westbrook**, an Evanston Silver Life Master, who is again following the advice of her adult son, David, by striving to cut "nervous unease" when she plays in the July 13-23 NABC with her long-time partner, Bill Shunas of Chicago.

"When the Nationals were in Chicago in 2006, David insisted that I play despite my reluctance considering I only knew social bridge and had never seen a bidding box," laughs Cathie.

With the pressure from David, an Albany, N.Y. software specialist, Cathie relented, agreeing to play in just one session. She does not regret that decision to play. "I enjoyed the tournament so much I went back that same week for a couple more sessions and then later started searching local clubs to play."

Judy Riehs of Buffalo Grove, a Diamond Life Master with 5,800 MPs, has fond memories of playing in more than a dozen Nationals, from Boston to Las Vegas, with her late friend, Dorothy Leonard.



Judy Riehs

Besides the bridge, the highlight was hitting all the tourist sites in the host cities. For instance, in Boston the duo took time between sessions to visit Faneuil Hall, and



Bill Shunas, Cathie Westbrook

in Vegas, they toured the Liberace Museum and Red Rock Canyon.

"In New Orleans, we had seafood several times and went to Cafe du Monde more than once. After the tournament in Reno, we went to San Francisco and then traveled north to stop at the wineries," she said. In Indianapolis, pair took a walk on the Indianapolis 500 race track.



Kendra Bridges

Kendra Bridges

Kendra Bridges of Northbrook believes that playing in the NABCs is a great way to improve one's bridge game.

"Simply by showing up and paying for an entry, you have the chance to

play against the best players in the world," she said.

"My husband Geoff and I attend nationals whenever our schedules and budget permit," said Kendra, a Diamond Life Master and an assistant tournament director. They recently played in the spring NABC in New Orleans.

She also enjoys regional tournaments, but said that during the 16 years she and Geoff lived in Boise, Idaho with their two young children, tournaments were infrequent.

"Boise is a long way from everywhere," laughs Kendra. "The Idaho capital held a regional about once every three years." Her bridge life improved following a move to Indianapolis. "There were so many tournaments within a two hour drive. Just amazing."

Meanwhile, Kendra reminisces about when, as a C player, going to an NABC with "my favorite partner, Geoff."

"We decided to enter the mixed pairs. We had arranged to have grandparents watch the children, and we were off to play with the big kids. I picked up the following East hand."

Board 1
North Deals
E-W Vul

	N	
West		East
		♠ A 3
		♥ A Q 10 x x
		♦ Q J x x x
		♣ x
	S	

"North dealt and opened 1 ♠. I, refusing to be intimidated, overcalled 2 ♥. Third hand chimed in with 3 ♣ and partner passed. Opener now jumped to 4 ♠. I passed, and responder continued with 4 NT. Opener bid 5 ♦ and responder jumped to 7 NT, which my partner doubled.

"I remember being pleased that my partner had such faith in my vulnerable overcalls. Everyone passed and partner lead A♠!," Kendra said.

Holly and Harland London of Woodridge relate their experiences at the NABCs.

Harland recalls his first National.



Harland and Holly London

"Fresh out of college my friends and I entered the Sunday Swiss at the Chicago Nationals. The event was seeded so with no master points, we sat down against the Dallas Aces in the first round.

"We played flawlessly and with most of the boards being flat we only lost by 8 IMPs. Being young, foolish and cocky, we rode our inflated egos to lose three of the next four matches

"We played flawlessly and with most of the boards being flat we only lost by 8 IMPs. Being young, foolish and cocky, we rode our inflated egos to lose three of the next four matches

At Harland's second National and Holly's first, he recalls that going into the second day of a two-day event, "We were guaranteed to win 2.61 gold points.

(Continued on page 5)

Tips on making defensive Leads in the middle of the hand and BOSTON



Ginny and Jeff Schuett

1. Opening leads are based on a series of rules that make sense before seeing any cards in dummy. Often when leading in the middle of the hand (trick two or later), it might be right to lead a card that would be considered ridiculous as an opening lead.

2. BOSTON – Bottom Of Something Top Of Nothing was coined by Barbara Seagram. After the opening lead, it is often right to give an indication of honor(s) held in

the suit by leading low with a desire for partner to return the suit (e.g., lead ♥ 2 from ♥ KJ92 – bottom of something), or lead high in the suit with no further interest in that suit (e.g., lead ♥ 9 from ♥ 9752 – top of nothing) but an indication for partner to look elsewhere if he can win this trick. Often the leader is just trying to reach the other defender to return the opening lead or a different suit that has weakness in dummy or possibly a card that needs to be led through. An example might be ♦ Kx in the dummy where the defender has ♦ AQ sitting over that holding.

3. Be advised that if you lead the A from AKx vs. a suit contract, that is a trick one convention only. During the middle of the hand (after trick one), the king is led from the AKx(x). The reason is that after trick one a defender is likely to want to lead an ace without the king and does not want partner to think he has the king. If you are on lead against a spade contract with ♠ xx ♥ xxx ♦ AKxx ♣ AKxx and the you choose to lead ♣ A abiding by the rule to lead A from AKx, then if you next choose to lead ♦ based on partner's signal or dummy's holding, then you should lead K. If you lead ♦ A, you actually deny the K. Remember this is the second trick and the rules are different at trick two and later. These are considered to be leads in the middle of the hand.

4. The rules for the opening lead against suits generally forbids you to underlead an ace for fear partner might misread your lead and you might never get your ace. But at trick two and later, you often want to underlead an ace to give declarer a guess in a key suit, or to allow partner to win their honor and return the suit to your ace, often getting a late ruff in that suit. Underleading an ace later in the hand is acceptable and better, often the correct play.

5. Quiz – Leading according to the BOSTON concept – After trick 1, what card would you lead?

- A) Dummy - North ♠ T 6 2 You – East ♠ K 9 5 3
- B) B) Dummy - North ♥ T 6 2 You – East ♥ Q J 9 3

- C) C) Dummy - North ♦ T 6 2 You – East ♦ 9 7 5 3
- D) D) Dummy - North ♣ Q 6 2 You – East ♣ A K J
- E) E) Dummy - North ♦ T 6 2 You – East ♦ A 7 3
- F) F) Dummy - North ♣ 9 7 2 You – East ♣ K J 8 4 3

Answers: A) ♠ 3 B) ♥ Q C) ♦ 9 D) ♣ K E) ♦ 3 F) ♣ 4 (4th best)

Defense is hard. Try to understand these plays and the logic behind them, and your defense will improve and your opponents and partner will be impressed!

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

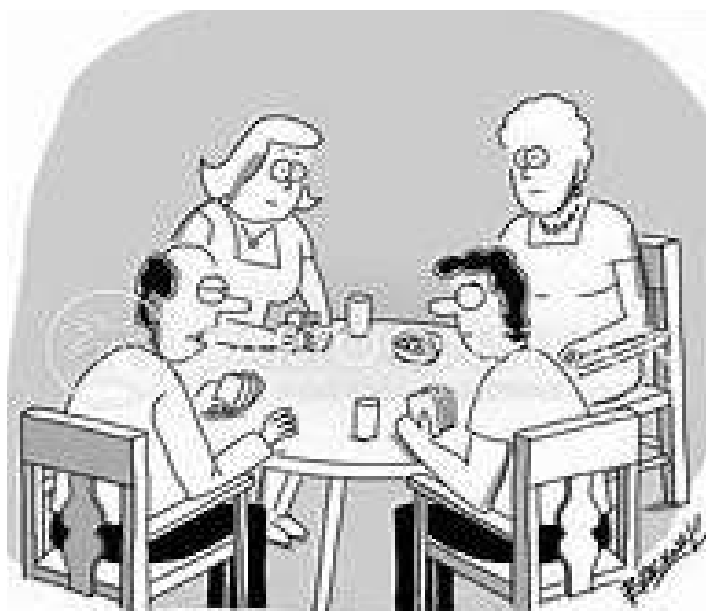
Players recall memories of Nationals

(Continued from page 4)

“Overnight one of our partners became ill and could not attend the event.



“At my third National, Holly and I were advancing well in the Sunday Swiss playing against four Columbia University students. We bid and made 6NT nonvulnerable. Our partners sacrificed in seven clubs, down four vulnerable, for a minus number larger than the current national debt.



“NO, BOB, YOU CAN'T MOVE ALL-IN... WE'RE PLAYING BRIDGE!”

2023 Chicago Summer NABC



July 13-23

Sheraton Grand Riverwalk

Congratulations to Rank Advancers

Junior Master

Maha Hamadeh Awwad
Mary Anne Bateman
Susan Hagerty
David Holzmann
Mary Sue Honigschmidt
Kaibai Liu
Linda Martorana
Laurene McMahon
Mary Roberts
William Rysanek
Eleanore Wood

Club Master

Sharon Dixon
Melvin Gerbie
Debra Lattner
Soraya Tonos
Ziheng Yun

Sectional Master

Zhiyu Cheng

Regional Master

Sriram Datla
Therese Hoesli

NABC Master

Gail Conder
Milda Roszkiewicz
David Sales

Life Master

Richard Steck

Bronze Life Master

Joel Goldberg
Pam Lutsch
Richard Steck

Silver Life Master

Diana Federl
Peggy Griem
Bill Sack

Ruby Life Master

Gary Dorsay

Gold Life Master

Judi Katz

Sapphire Life Master

Geoff Bridges
James Dressler

Diamond Life Master

Michael Airdo
Stephen Donahue
Betsy Downs
Amin Hakim

Emerald Life Master

Meyer Abarbanel

NABC offers, seminars, workshops in Chicago

It is true that the NABC are about having fun and challenging yourself at the bridge table, but it can be a learning experience as well. A number of educational programs will be held.



For example, for the inexperienced player, there is **Learn Bridge in A Day?**[®] You'll nail the basics of bridge in this interactive class that has both instruction and coached play. If you're just starting, returning to the game, or wanting to test the waters before taking formal lessons, this course is for you. Leave the class and take on a newcomer game! The fee for this five-hour seminar to be held on July 15 is \$20 if you preregister or \$25 at the door. The fee includes a textbook.

For teachers, there is **Learn Bridge in a Day? Instructor Accreditation**. This program will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on July 15. The program instructs teachers in methods of administering and presenting LBIAD. A light meal will be provided. The fee is \$75. To register, email Patty Tucker at patty@whirlwindbridge.com

The workshop, **No Trump in a Day**, will be held the afternoon of July 16. The workshop will explore basic no trump bidding and the most common responses, from raises to Stayman and Jacoby transfers. The course includes a student workbook, a presentation and practice hands. The fee is \$20 if you pre-register or \$25 at the door. A textbook is included.

The Best Practices Teacher Workshop on July 14-16 will cover proven techniques that help teachers be more effective in their classroom. The focus is on how, rather than what, to teach. Participants may opt to demonstrate their Best Practices proficiency on Sunday afternoon or Monday morning to earn certification as an ACBL Best Practices teacher. For more information visit acbl.org/bpteacher. The fee is \$125. It is recommended that you preregister.

For the exact location of each session, check the *NABC Daily Bulletin*.

Sizzlin' Summer Regional June 5 in Crystal Lake

Unit 239's The Great Sizzlin' Summer Illinois Regional will run June 5-9 at the Holiday Inn in Crystal Lake at Route 31 and Three Oaks Road.

Monday through Thursday will feature A/X/Y Open Pairs-Double Session, Gold Rush Pairs-Double Session, and Stratified Side Series at 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. The Side Series will be four games played over two days. Friday will feature a double session A/X/Y Swiss Teams and a Gold Rush Swiss Teams at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. A free lunch will be provided to Friday's players.

To qualify for a chance at gold points, one must play in two sessions of the same event.

The stratifications are as follows:

A/X/Y: 0-1500, 1500-3500, and 3500+;

Gold Rush: 0-150, 150-300, 300-750, and Stratified Events: 0-750, 750-2500, and 2500+.

There will be free coffee and doughnuts each day. Proof of COVID 19 vaccination will not be required.

For more information, contact Tournament Chair Marilyn Croft at 312-203-0849 or jmcraft@sbcglobal.net or Partnership Chairs Janet and R.J. Kruger at 847-840-5146 or jkruger1@yahoo.com, or check the flyer on the ACBL website.



Unit 123 After-Labor Day Regional

Temple Beth-El, 3610 Dundee Road, Northbrook, IL



September 5-7, 2023

Tuesday, September 5

10:00 ***Invitational Pairs*** Qualifying Round
2:30 Invitational Pairs Barometer Final

10:00 Stratified Open Pairs First Session
3:00 Stratified Open Pairs Second Session combined with Invitational Pairs Consolation

Wednesday, September 6

10:00 Open Pairs First Session
Gold Rush Pairs First Session
3:00 Open Pairs Second Session
Gold Rush Second Session

Thursday, September 7

10:00 Open Swiss Team First Session
Gold Rush Swiss Team First Session
3:00 Open Swiss Team Second Session
Gold Rush Swiss Team Second Session

While eating 'tween sessions can be rather tight,
We're doing our best to get it all right!

Our Area Guides offer choices galore...
Of restaurants and takeout here on the North Shore.

If Chicago dogs (unlike Rover below!)
Are what you desire: Portillos to Go!

The 10 and 3 start times were thoughtfully planned,
For time to have pizza, thin crust or panned!

Single Session entries accepted for Pair events (excluding the Invitational Pairs!)
Masterpoint Averaging

Stratifications:

Open Events
A=3000+, B=1500-3000, C=0-1500
Gold Rush Events
0-100, 100-300, 300-750

Tournament Chair:

Guy Franklin, guyfranklinchicago@gmail.com, 773.412.4882

Partnership Chair:

David Sales, kishkes@gmail.com, 847-564-9192, 847-561-5648



Tips on when to open - or not open - light during contentious bidding

I've written many articles about Opening Bids over the years, and I've steadfastly maintained my position that opening the auction should promise some values.



By Jim Diebel

I am bringing this up now because more and more often, players are finding excuses to open auctions with lighter and lighter holdings.

The side that opens the auction will, more often than not, have a tangible advantage in getting to the best contract and buying the auction as cheaply as possible. The disadvantages of getting too high are often outweighed by the advantages of landing the first punch. I've found myself looking for reasons to stretch my own somewhat clearly defined boundaries. Therefore, I'm amending my earlier guidelines to give you a better fighting chance in these contentious times.

First, let's review the definition of Quick Tricks. $AK = 2$ QT $AQ = 1.5$ QT $A = 1$ QT $KQ = 1$ QT $Kx = .5$ QT

I've had a long-running suggestion that an opening bid should contain 2.5 Quick Tricks (QT) and 12 high card points (hcp). Having extra of one of those components could compensate for a deficit in the other.

So 11 hcp and 3 QT or 13 hcp and 2 QT were fine. In general, I've mostly held firm that hands with 11 or 12 hcp and fewer than 2.5 QT, or even 13 hcp with fewer than 2 QT should generally be passed. There are never more than 2 Quick Tricks in a suit and never more than 8 Quick Tricks in a deal. There are always 4 aces in a deal, so there are always at least 4 QT. Most deals, kings will not be singleton, so there is usually at least 2 QT in kings.

Quick Tricks are an important principle because if the opponents win the auction, often in trump, it is uncommon that the defense can win the third round of a suit. In short, aces will usually win the first round when a side suit is played. Kings will often win the second round of a suit played, depending on the position of the

ace. Isolated kings will win the second round when the position of the ace is favorable. AQ combinations will win the first two tricks depending on the position of the king. When the king is unfavorably placed, the AQ combination will only be worth one trick.

Why does all of this matter?

When we open the auction, we are staking our claim to playing the hand. If partner is strong enough, he will push to game or even slam. Sometimes the opponents will be bidding to make their contracts, and sometimes they will be competing in the hopes that we can't punish them sufficiently to compensate for our part score, game, or slam.

Distribution will play a critical role in these decisions. When distribution is extreme, kings, queens, and lesser honors will rarely be worth anything. Sometimes, aces will have little to no value on defense. The fact that we have 11 or 12 HCP will have very little impact on whether or not the opponents can make their contract. It's not a question of how much we have, but which honors we hold, and whether or not they cash.

The more QT we hold, the less likely the opponents will succeed in higher level contracts. Having few quick losers also translates to being more able to profitably compete higher in our own suit, as we may have time to develop slow winners on which to pitch our slow losers.

This strategy has served me well for several decades. One of the greatest benefits is that my partners can rely on me to have my bid when they've had to make difficult high level decisions.

As I've said many times, consistency remains the key to winning bridge. Be a reliable partner, and you will be a wanted partner.

First of all, continue to open all hands with 3 QT, 2.5 QT + 12 hcp, and 2 QT + 13 hcp regardless of distribution. This column is about those marginal hands that don't quite make the cut, but seem tempting. When deciding whether or not to open a marginal hand, there are several factors that should be considered:

· Are you opening the suit you want led? Getting partner off to the best lead on defense is worth something. If by bidding, you are prompting your partner to make the best lead, it is probably better than passing. If your values are elsewhere, you might be better off passing for now.

· Do you have a comfortable rebid? Good players don't bid in a vacuum. Always assume partner is going to make the most awkward call (mine always does) and know what you plan to do in that eventuality.

· Are your values mostly concentrated in your long suits? Hands with honors in short suits tend to perform better on defense. When most of your values are in your long suits, they have powerful offensive potential and limited defense.

· Do you have a lot of major suit cards? When everyone has around 10 hcp, the side with the major suit fit will usually be the side which can go plus. If you don't open, your opponents (with minor suit oriented holdings) may elect to pass out the hand rather than give you the chance to back in.

· Do you have a decent second suit? It's always better to give your partner a choice. If you don't open the hand, it's unlikely you will have the time or opportunity to show partner both of your suits.

· Do you have some distribution? 4-3-3-3 and 4-4-3-2 hands have very little going for them. Without a clear opening bid, pass and hope the hand gets passed out. Let's look at some borderline hands and see if we can find an excuse to open. What do you do in 1st seat with the following hands?:

Write down your answers and see how your hand evaluations compare with mine.

1. ♠ Q5 ♥ KJ75 ♦ KJ4 ♣ Q973
2. ♠ A75 ♥ T864 ♦ AK4 ♣ 973
3. ♠ KQT75 ♥ QJ832 ♦ 6 ♣ KT
4. ♠ JT72 ♥ 93 ♦ KQJ74 ♣ A7
5. ♠ 6 ♥ 84 ♦ AT863 ♣ AQ954
6. ♠ 94 ♥ J75 ♦ AQJT4 ♣ QT3
7. ♠ T52 ♥ 8 ♦ KQJ5 ♣ AJ865
8. ♠ AT972 ♥ AJ8 ♦ Q94 ♣ 97
9. ♠ QT765 ♥ K7 ♦ J9864 ♣ A

(Answers on page 10)

Tips on when to open - or not open - light during contentious bidding

(Continued from page 7)

Answers: (and these are by no means definitive):

1. Pass.

You have 12 hcp but only 1QT. No shape. No desire for a club lead, which is what you'd have to open. If the opponents buy this hand, whatever suit partner chooses to lead will almost certainly be better than clubs.

2. 1C.

As ugly as this hand is, it has 3 QT. If you pass, you may never recover.

3. 1S.

Your hand only has 11 hcp and 1.5 QT. If falls well below (my) standards for an opening bid. Why open it? Hands like this frequently will get passed out. If you can find a major suit fit, it is likely your side can take 8 or 9 tricks. Passing risks missing out on a likely plus in a part score. Yes, you may get too high, but I feel bidding risks less than passing.

4. 1D.

Only 2 QT and only 11 hcp. Why are we opening this one? First of all, you've got a great diamond suit, and if you end up defending, you'd like partner to lead one. Second, is that you have four of the master suit, spades. You have a comfortable rebid over anything partner might respond. If he bids 1NT, you can pass and table a decent dummy. If he bids 2C, you can rebid your diamonds and see what develops.

5. 1D.

This one was easy. 2.5 QT but only 10 hcp. The 2-suited nature of this hand makes it automatic to open. Also, you'd very much like to get your second suit in before the opponents find their likely spade fit. This hand offers lots of possibilities to profitably compete even if the opponents have the balance of power and a good major suit fit. This hand also qualifies as a pure "Rule of 20" hand. All indicators point to opening.

6. Pass.

I'd open 1D in third seat, but only to suggest an opening diamond lead to partner. If partner has already passed, in all likelihood, this hand belongs to the opponents

and they'll find a major suit fit. I'm happy to suggest an opening diamond lead. This hand does not have enough going for it to open opposite an unpassed partner. I'm delighted to pass it out in fourth seat, as the opponents very likely have a major suit partial which they haven't found, and I'm not giving them a second shot to find it.



7. Pass.

I have 11 hcp, 2 QT, and two decent suits. What is the problem? There would be no problems if partner responded 1D (good luck with that) or 1S (which we happily raise). The problem is that partner is likely going to respond 1H. Now what do we do? All rebids are flawed. 1NT puts us in a difficult strain with a probable misfit. Our club suit needs a lot of help to bring in. Partner may have an opening (or near opening) hand and raise us into a thin game with little or no play. Am I being unduly pessimistic here? You betcha. If partner has a good hand, passing risks very little. Even if LHO now opens with 3H, I can comfortably reopen with a double as a passed hand. This hand is probably the toughest of the set. Most players I know would find a reason to open 1C. It might work out, it might not. I think it's a very close decision with the scale pointing ever so slightly toward pass.

8. 1S.

11 hcp and 2QT. For the same reasons as #3, we open because it's more dan-

gerous not to open. You own the master suit and if everyone else has around 9-11 hcp, they won't be looking for an excuse to open the auction. It's a minimum, and you will pass the first nonforcing opportunity the partner gives you. If the opponents compete and partner eventually decides to double them for penalty, you have approximately the defensive values partner will expect. With two aces, this hand is exponentially better than the following 12 hcp collection:

♠ KQT72 ♥ KQ8 ♦ Q94 ♣ 97

9. Pass.

This is NOT a "rule of 20" hand. Your points are concentrated in your short suits. You have two 5 card suits and they're both terrible. I'm not saying you can't compete with this hand, but I believe opening it opposite an unpassed partner is criminal. If partner opens, this collection of trash might produce something. On the other hand, if the opponents bid clubs and hearts, I would be delighted to stick in a takeout double. I'd prefer a little more information before deciding to jump into this particular pool.

June 22 deadline for NABC hotel bridge rate

The Summer North American Bridge Championships will be held for 10 sensational days in Chicago, beginning July 13.

The event will be held at the



Sheraton Grand Chicago, 300 E. Water St. (\$209 + tax).

Also, serving as a host hotel is the nearby InterContinental Chicago Magnificent Mile, 505 North Michigan Ave. (\$204 +tax).

To make hotel reservations for the national tournament contact the ACBL at 855-956-0776 or email acbl@conferencedirect.com by **June 22** to get the bridge rate.

CHICAGO NABC SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, July 12

noon & 5 pm **MOREHEAD GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT**
Pre-qualification required
GOLDMAN GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT A
Pre-qualification required
SHEINWOLD GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT B
Pre-qualification required
MACNAB GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT C
Pre-qualification required

Thursday, July 13

10 am International Fund Pairs
International Fund Swiss Teams
International Fund 299er Pairs
10 am & 3 pm Educational Foundation Open Pairs (unlim./3000/1500)
Educational Foundation Gold Rush Pairs
Educational Foundation Bracketed Round Robin Teams
10 am & 3:30 pm MOREHEAD GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS CHAMP. FLIGHT
GOLDMAN GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT A
SHEINWOLD GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT B
MACNAB GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT C
3 pm Educational Foundation Pairs
Educational Foundation Swiss Teams
Educational Foundation 299er Pairs

Friday, July 14

9:30 am & 3:30 pm MOREHEAD GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS CHAMP. FLIGHT
GOLDMAN GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT A
SHEINWOLD GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT B
MACNAB GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT C
10 am Friday morning Side Pairs
Fri-Sun Daylight Series
299er Pairs
10 am & 3 pm VON ZEDTWITZ LIFE MASTER PAIRS
2 qualifying, 2 semifinal & 2 final sessions
BRUCE LM-6000 LIFE MASTER PAIRS
2 qualifying, 2 semifinal & 2 final sessions
YOUNG 0-2500 PAIRS
2 qualifying, 2 semifinal & 2 final sessions
Open Pairs (unlim./3000/1500)
Gold Rush Pairs
Bracketed Round Robin Teams
3 pm Friday Afternoon Side Pairs
Fri-Sun Daylight Series
299er Pairs
7:30 pm Friday Evening Side Pairs
Fri-Mon Evening Series

Saturday, July 15

JUNIOR DAY
9:30 am & 3:30 pm MOREHEAD GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS CHAMP. FLIGHT
GOLDMAN GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT A
SHEINWOLD GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT B
MACNAB GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT C
10 am Saturday Morning Side Pairs
Fri-Sun Daylight Series
299er Pairs
Bridge Plus+
10 am & 3 pm VON ZEDTWITZ LIFE MASTER PAIRS
NABC 0-10,000 PAIRS
BRUCE LM-6000 LIFE MASTER PAIRS
YOUNG 0-2500 PAIRS
Top-Flight Pairs (unlim./5000)
Mid-Flight Pairs (3000/1250)
Gold Rush Pairs

BOLD UPPER CASE-NABC+ Events, Platinum points
UPPER CASE- NABC Events, Gold and Red points
Regional Events- Gold and Red points
Gold Rush Events- Gold and Red points
Intermediate/Newcomer Events, 0-299 masterpoints-Red points

3 pm Top-Flight Swiss Teams (unlim./6000/4000)
Bracketed Round Robin Teams (0-3000)
Saturday Afternoon Side Pairs
Fri-Sun Daylight Series
299er Pairs
7:30 pm Saturday Evening Side Pairs
Fri-Mon Evening Series
Sunday, July 16
9:30 am & 3:30 pm MOREHEAD GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS CHAMP. FLIGHT
GOLDMAN GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT A
SHEINWOLD GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT B
MACNAB GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT C
10 am Sunday Morning Side Pairs
Fri-Sun Daylight Series
299er Pairs
Bridge Plus+
Free: 12 deals (0-20), follows the 8 am lesson
10 am & 1 pm Fast Pairs
10 am & 3 pm VON ZEDTWITZ LIFE MASTER PAIRS
NABC 0-10,000 PAIRS
BRUCE LM-6000 LIFE MASTER PAIRS
YOUNG 0-2500 PAIRS
Open Pairs
Top-Flight Swiss Teams (unlim./5000)
Mid-Flight Swiss Teams (3000/1250)
Gold Rush Swiss Teams
3 pm Sunday Afternoon Side Pairs
Fri-Sun Daylight Series
299er Pair
7:30 pm Sunday Evening Side Pairs
Fri-Mon Evening Series
Monday, July 17 GOODWILL DAY
10 am Monday Morning Side Pairs
Mon-Tue Daylight Series
299er Pairs
10 am & 3 pm **WAGAR WOMEN'S PAIRS**
2 qualifying & 2 final sessions
Open Pairs (unlim./3000/1500)
Gold Rush Pairs
Bracketed Round Robin Teams
10 am & 3:30 pm **SPINGOLD KNOCKOUT TEAMS**
Full-day knockout matches ending Sunday 7/23;
Pre-registration required by 8 pm Sun 7/16
TRUSCOTT/USPC SENIOR SWISS TEAMS
Must have been born before Jan. 1, 1960; 2 qualifying
& 2 final sessions
3 pm Monday Afternoon Side Pairs
Mon-Tue Daylight Series
299er Pairs
7:30 pm Monday Evening Side Pairs
Fri-Mon Evening Series
Tuesday, July 18
10 am Tuesday Morning Side Pairs
Mon-Tue Daylight Series
299er Pairs

(Continued from page)

10 am & 3 pm **WAGAR WOMEN'S PAIRS**
Top-Flight Pairs (unlim./5000)
Mid-Flight Pairs (3000/1250)
Gold Rush Pairs
Bracketed Round Robin Teams

10 am & 3:30 pm **SPINGOLD KNOCKOUT TEAMS**
TRUSCOTT/USPC SENIOR SWISS TEAMS
0-6000 MINI-SPINGOLD KNOCKOUT TEAMS
Full-day knockout matches until complete; Pre-
registration required by 8 pm May 7/17
0-2500 MINI-SPINGOLD KNOCKOUT TEAMS
Full-day knockout matches until complete; Pre-
registration required by 8 pm Mon 7/17

3 pm **Tuesday Afternoon Side Pairs**
Mon-Tue Daylight Series
299er Pairs
0-20 Pairs

7:30 pm **Tuesday Evening Side Pairs**
Tue-Fri Evening Series

Wednesday, July 19

9:30 am & 3:30 pm **SPINGOLD KNOCKOUT TEAMS**
0-6000 MINI-SPINGOLD KNOCKOUT TEAMS

10 am **Wednesday Morning Side Pairs**
Wed-Thu Daylight Series
299er Pairs

10 am & 3 pm **WERNHER OPEN PAIRS**
2 qualifying & 2 final sessions
FREEMAN MIXED BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS
2 qualifying & 2 final sessions
Open Pairs (unlim./3000/1500)
Gold Rush Pairs
Top-Flight Swiss Teams (unlim./6000/4000)
Bracketed Round Robin Teams (0-3000)

10 am & 3:30 pm 0-2500 MINI-SPINGOLD KNOCKOUT TEAMS

3 pm **Wednesday Afternoon Side Pairs**
Wed-Thu Daylight Series
299er Pairs

7:30 pm **Collegiate Individual**
Wednesday Evening Side Pairs
Tue-Fri Evening Series

Thursday, July 20

9:30 am & 3:30 pm **SPINGOLD KNOCKOUT TEAMS**
0-6000 MINI-SPINGOLD KNOCKOUT TEAMS
0-2500 MINI-SPINGOLD KNOCKOUT TEAMS

10 am **Thursday Morning Side Pairs**
Wed-Thu Daylight Series
299er Pairs

10 am & 1 pm **Fast Pairs**

10 am & 3 pm **WERNHER OPEN PAIRS**
FREEMAN MIXED BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS
Top-Flight Pairs (unlim./5000)
Mid-Flight Pairs (3000/1250)
Gold Rush Pairs
Top-Flight Swiss Teams (unlim./6000/4000)
Bracketed Round Robin Teams (0-3000)
Collegiate Bridge Bowl Championship
Round-Robin or Swiss qualifier

3 pm **Thursday Afternoon Side Pairs**
Wed-Thu Daylight Series
299er Pairs

7:30 pm

Friday, July 21

9:30 am & 3:30 pm **SPINGOLD KNOCKOUT TEAMS**
0-6000 MINI-SPINGOLD KNOCKOUT TEAMS
0-2500 MINI-SPINGOLD KNOCKOUT TEAMS

10 am **Friday Morning Side Pairs**
Fri-Sun Daylight Series
299er Pairs
Fast Pairs
BEAN RED RIBBON PAIRS
2 qualifying & 2 final sessions
Collegiate Pairs
Open Pairs (unlim./3000/1500)
Gold Rush Pairs
Bracketed Round Robin Teams
Collegiate Bridge Bowl Championship
ROTH OPEN SWISS TEAMS
2 qualifying, 2 semifinal & 2 final sessions
Friday Afternoon Side Pairs
Fri-Sun Daylight Series
299er Pairs

10 am & 1 pm **Collegiate Individual**

10 am & 3 pm **Friday Evening Side Pairs**
Tue-Fri Evening Series

10 am & 3:30 pm

3 pm

7:30 pm

Saturday, July 22

9:30 am & 3:30 pm **SPINGOLD KNOCKOUT TEAMS**
0-6000 MINI-SPINGOLD KNOCKOUT TEAMS

10 am **Saturday Morning Side Pairs**
Fri-Sun Daylight Series
299er Pairs
0 am & 1 pm **Fast Pairs**
10 am & 3 pm **BEAN RED RIBBON PAIRS**
Collegiate Pairs Championship
Top-Flight Pairs (unlim./6000/4000)
Mid-Flight Pairs (3000/1500/750)
Top-Flight Swiss Teams (unlim./6000/4000)
Bracketed Round Robin Teams (0-3000)
ROTH OPEN SWISS TEAMS
0-10,000 MIXED SWISS TEAMS
2 qualifying & 2 final sessions
Saturday Afternoon Side Pairs
Fri-Sun Daylight Series
299er Pairs
Youth/Collegiate Pro-Am

10 am & 3:30 pm

3 pm

7:30 pm

Sunday, July 23

9:30 am & 3:30 pm **ROTH OPEN SWISS TEAMS**
SPINGOLD KNOCKOUT TEAMS
Sunday Morning Side Pairs
Fri-Sun Daylight Series
299er Pairs
Top-Flight Swiss Teams (unlim./6000/4000)
Playthrough with a short break
Bracketed Round Robin Teams (0-3000)
Playthrough with a short break
Fast Pairs
0-10,000 MIXED SWISS TEAMS
Sunday Afternoon Side Pairs
Fri-Sun Daylight Series
299er Pair

10 am

10 am & tba

10 am & 1 pm

10 am & 3:30 pm

2 pm