Rake in Gold Points at Regional Set for Nov. 7-10

Don't miss out on the fun at the amazing Unit 123 Regional Tournament set for November 7 through November 10 in Temple Jeremiah, 937 Happ Road, Northfield.

You will love the variety of pair and team games being offered. For example, this eagerly anticipated tournament offers two-session Open Pairs and Gold Rush Pairs at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Monday through Wednesday. On the same days, two single sessions are offered for pairs with 0-5 points.

In addition, an event loved by many is back. Knockouts will begin Monday with sessions one and two and will continue on Tuesday with sessions three and four.

For those who have not played in knockouts, the game's name says it all. In session one, each team plays against one other team. The winner advances to session two. Then the winners from session two play, with half the teams getting

knocked out. Those winners go on to face each other in the final session.

Thursday is dedicated to another team game. There will be a two-session Open Swiss and a two-session Gold Rush Swiss, beginning at 10 a.m. For those with 0-5 points, there will be two single-session Swiss Team games.

The tournament chair is CCBA President Mark Stein. He can be reached at 847-778-0145 or by email at marksstein@sbcglobal.net.

Anyone needing a partner for pair events or partners for a team event, should contact Partnership Chair Joe Connelly at 847-271-1666 or by email at Madbridge16@gmail.com.

"For those bridge players who have fewer than 750 masterpoints, this is a great

opportunity for them to earn many gold Pairs and Team events," Joe said. "And this site is close for many of our players."

For everyone's safety, ACBL COVID practices will be strictly enforced.





TOURNAMENTS: Shown are some of the players who had a blast at the Labor Day Sectional. See inside for more photographs of this tournament and the Windy City Regional Tournament. Don't miss out on the fun at the upcoming November Regional and WinterFest Tournaments. Be sure to read the November/December issue of the Kibitzer for details about WinterFest and the Annual Meeting.



Chicago's 2023 NABC needs volunteers

The 2023 Chicago Summer NABC Planning Committee is off and running to plan the best Chicago Nationals in eight years!

2015 was hugely successful because of the stellar work of the committee as well as the enthusiastic partic-



Suzi Subeck

ipation of the local players. We have a brand new venue for 2023 and it promises to be wonderful. We will be playing at the Sheraton Grand Chicago, 301 East North Water Street, Chicago; 312-464-1000; from July 13-23, 2023.

An NABC requires volunteers in advance and at the site. As chairman of this tournament, I can assure you from my experience working on the 1998 Chicago NABC, the 2006 Chicago NABC, and chairing the 2015 Chicago NABC, that your efforts will pay dividends when you see the numbers of players from all over the world playing bridge in your city! From experts to novices, they will come!

COMMITTEES, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tournament Chair: Suzi Subeck stansubeck@prodigy.net 847-509-0311 (home),

Information: Adrienne & Larry Cohen dolly370@aol.com,

Registration: Mike & Linda Saltzman mikesaltzman@gmail.com,

Tours (restaurant buses): DeMaris & Chuck Johnson demaris_j@hotmail.com,

Partnership: Yvette Neary yneary@gmail.com,

Charity: John Goldstein johnagoldstein@yahoo.com,

I/N: Ginny and Jeff Schuett jgschuett2@comcast.net,

Transportation and Parking: George Jacob gjacobs@windycitylimos.com, & Stan Subeck thesubecks@sbcglobal.net,

Treasurer: District Treasurer Stan Subeck thesubecks@sbcglobal.net,

Volunteers: Kathy Fortney kathleensfortney@gmail.com,

Prizes: Marge Morgan mumorgan55@gmail.com,

Hospitality: Suzi Subeck

stansubeck@prodigy.net 708-927-6851 (cell),

Sponsorship: Guy Franklin guyfranklinchicago@gmail.com,

Restaurant Guide: Ron Smith smithron@icloud.com,

Committee: Joe Stokes jstokes@uic.edu, and Publicity: Patt Quinn pattjq@gmail.com.

If you have ANY questions, feel free to contact me ... or if you wish to volunteer for a specific committee/s or just to volunteer, please contact Kathy Fortney with your name, your interests and/or areas of expertise, times you would be generally available at the site in July, and contact information.

You can also address any of the their chairs with questions about their roles and their duties.

Thanks in advance.

Suzi Subeck 2023 NABC Tournament Chair

Committee chooses slate for CCBA Board

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 expire in 2023 expressed an interest in remaining on the board and were slated by the committee. The election will take place at the Annual Meeting. Phyllis Bartlett was chair of the committee, which consisted of three board members and four people from the general membership. Board members whose terms are ending include Jan Churchwell, Joe Connelly, Steve McConnell, Jamie Rubenstein and Suzi Subeck. Following the Annual Meeting, the board will meet to choose its officers for 2023.

2022 CCBA Officers Board Members

President Mark Stein

Vice President Loring Knoblauch

Secretary
Jan Churchwell

Treasurer
Tom Dressing

Board of Directors
Bill Anspach
Phyllis Bartlett
Joe Connelly
Jim Diebel
Guy Franklin
Georgann Humphrey
Robert Maxson
Steve McConnell
Jamie Ruberstein
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 OCTOBER/NOVEMBER issue is SEPTEMBER 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.



Rake in the Gold! Unit 123 Four-Day Regional

November 7-10
Temple Jeremiah
937 Happ Road
Northfield, IL



Monday, November 7

10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.2-Session Open Pairs2-Session Gold Rush Pairs2-Single Session 0-5 PairsKnockout - Sessions 1 and 2 (if sufficient number of teams)

Tuesday, November 8

10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.2-Session Open Pairs2-Session Gold Rush Pairs2-Single Session 0-5 PairsKnockout - Sessions 3 and 4

Wednesday, November 9

10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.2-Session Open Pairs2-Session Gold Rush Pairs2-Single Session 0-5 Pairs

Thursday, November 10

10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.2-Session Open Swiss Team Game2-Session Gold Rush Swiss Team Game2-Single Session 0-5 Swiss Team Game*

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

Don't "leave" without your points!

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: Mark Stein

marksstein@sbcglobal.net 847-778-0145

Partnership Chair: Joe Connelly

Madbridge16@gmail.com 847-271-1666

We adhere to ACBL Handicapping Policy. ACBL COVID Practices will be strictly enforced.

Rank Advancements

Junior Master

Curt Cassel Jana Cronin Marilyn Cushing Melvin Gerbie Patricia Gerbie Bradley Joselit Mary Beth Long Gerry Monteiro Joyce Roush Patricia Walker

Club Master

Celeste Denton Barbara Disko Melvin Hecktman Arlene Keane Patricia Kosinski Ira Lerner Barbara Miller Jo Ellen Schroedter Dia Weil

Sectional Master

Sandra Bishop Conrad May Lili Parsai

Regional Master

Sid Bennett

Karen Cohen Daniel Cox Helen Greembaum Bernadine Hines Georgia Janewicz Marcia Peterson Terry Shaker Mark Stern

NABC Master

Jacob Breneisen Barbara Kinsella Maureen Spinell

Silver Life Master

Kate Gancer Kathleen Lewin Aleksandar Lishkov Kelly Moses Catherine Westbrook

Ruby Life Master Steve Beicos

Sapphire Life Master Nancy Frank

Diamond Life Master

Kendra Bridges

Katz on World Championship Team

CCBA member Ralph Katz is a member of the team that won the World Championship at the World Bridge Federation's recent tournament. Top players around the world vied for the title.

Ralph was on the Nickell Team, which defeated the Ventin Team to win the top prize, which is called the Rosenblum Championship.



Ralph Katz

The event was described as follows by the WBF, "Ventin and Nickell exchange blows as first one and then the other took the lead. It was only in the second half of the sixth set that Nickell was able to build an insurmountable lead and secure another world title."

Other members of the team were Nick Nickell, Bobby Levin, Jill Levin (non-playing captain), Eric Grece, Geoff Hampson, Steve Weinstein, Nortberto Bocchi (non-playing team manager).

M&M guy is actually local bridge player Jacobs

The M&M guy, better known to CCBA members as bridge expert George Jacobs, was honored at the start of a recent White Sox game in Chicago.

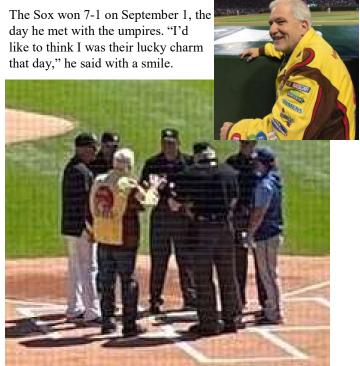
He was called to the field to participate in the pre-game ritual where the teams present their line-up cards to the umpires.

"It was exciting and fun. Actually, what they do is shoot the breeze and tell jokes," George said. "Someone posted that I was the coach for the day because Tony La Russa was absent, but obviously that was not true."

George said he was asked to take the line-up card out to the umpires "because the White Sox know me. I have supplied their transportation for all over the country for years." He is the owner of Windy City Transportation.

George has appeared at Sox games and other sporting events wearing the distinctive yellow M&M jacket since 2003, when his wife Stacy gave it to him as a birthday present.

"I was in Lake Geneva recently and a man came up to me and asked me if I was at the Cub playoff game in 2003. He recognized me from the jacket," said George.



George Jacobs participates in a pre-game ritual.

Visualize what partner needs to make game or slam

When deciding whether to push toward game or slam, it is often important to determine whether partner's hand seems to fit well with yours. There are many tools to help make that decision – help suit game tries, Jacoby 2NT, Splinters and others. When partner shows shortness in some way, be aggressive when your hand has few or no honors in partner's short suit, or when the opponents are bidding, be aggressive when you have shortness in the opponent's suit. For example:

E	S	W	N	South	North
	2 🛦	P	2NT	♦ KQT973	♦ J42
P	3 🚓	P	4 🖍	♥ 52	♥ AKJ98
P	P	P		♦ 654	♦ 3
				♣ K3	♣ OJ96

When North hears South open 2S, he may visualize a likely four losers with one in spades, one in diamonds, and two in clubs. But if North tries to find out if South has something in clubs, one or more of the club losers may go away.

What if partner has a high honor in clubs? Then the partnership likely only has three losers – one in spades, diamonds, and clubs. Most players use 2NT responding to a weak two to ask opener for a "feature," defined as an ace or king protected, like Ax or Kx. When North finds out partner has the A or K of clubs, game becomes a good bet.

Е	S	W	N	South	North
	1 🚓	3 A	Dbl (Neg)	4	♦ A92
P	4NT	P	5 ♦ (2 KC + ♥ Q)	♥ KJ105	♥ Q976
P	6 ♥	All Pass		♦ KQ2	◆ AJ43
				♣ AKO106	♣ J7

Using a negative double over a three-level preempt should show about an opening hand or better, especially over a 3 ♠ preempt, given you are asking opener to bid at the four level. South has a great hand with his singleton spade and if North has four plus ♥ with about opening strength, slam is very possible. Given the only suit North has promised with his negative double, 4NT should be RKC for hearts. This is a great slam, losing only the ♥ A.

E	S	W	N	South	North
	1 ♦	3 A	Dbl (Neg)	♠ A	♦ J85
P	4NT	P	5 ♠ (2 KC +♥ Q)	♥ K98	♥ AQJ2
P	6 ♦	All Pa	SS	♦ AKQJ97	♦ 62
				♣ K I4	▲ ∆653



Similar to hand two, North's negative double implies four plus ♥ and in this case, knowing the strength of North's hearts might lead to a good diamond slam. Just because you use



By Ginny and Jeff Schuett

a suit as the keycard trump suit doesn't mean you cannot play the final contract in opener's strong suit.

Once North shows two keycards plus the Q in ♥, the only likely loser South might have is in clubs, and a finesse, if needed, might work. South settles for 6 ♦ and North's ♥ J allowd South to make 13 tricks without a club finesse. At the Providence Summer nationals, the other table in the Senior Swiss missed slam on this actual deal, settling for 3NT over the negative double with the South hand.

Slams don't occur very often, so try practicing your slam bidding with your favorite partner by taking a full deck and removing all the minor suit cards below a 7 and major suit cards below a 5 and then deal out two hands and bid them. With distributional hands, try to visualize if slam is likely if partner has values in the right place and then see if you can find that out. This greatly increases the chance you will get to bid or approach bidding more slams.

Ginny & Jeff Schuett – bridge teaching, directing, play phone 847-940-7236 Emailjgschuett2@comcast.net



Windy City

Oh, what fun it was!



Tournament co-chairs Loring Knoblauch, above left, and Bob Young check in players.















More Windy City Fun







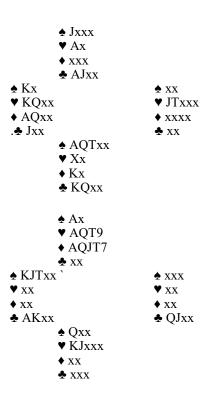


Important to Use Accurate Signals When Defending Suit Contracts

Partner leads an honor against a suit contract. What do you do? Well, it depends on which honor is led, and what's in your hand. Here are some examples.

1. Dropping an honor to show an honor.

Just like opening leads, when you drop an honor, you are promising the honor directly underneath, and DENYING the honor immediately above. This can be a powerful defensive tool.



After West opens 1NT, North South find their way to 4♠. East leads the ♥K, and South greedily takes the ace thinking that he can pitch a heart on a club later. East contributes the ♥J and the contract is doomed. West gets in with the ♠K and underleads his heart honor. East gets in and makes the obvious shift to a diamond, defeating the contract.

South makes the contract by ducking the first trick – a scissors play. With East unable to gain the lead, declarer trades a heart loser now for a diamond loser later. Declarer takes 4 spades, 5 clubs and 1 heart.

North opens 1 diamond, and South responds 1 heart. West overcalls 1 spade, but North jumps to 4 hearts. West leads the ♣A and East contributes the ♣Q (to show the jack). West continues with a low club and East does not squander the entry. He switches to a spade and when he later gets the lead again with the ◆K, he returns a spade to beat the contract.

The opportunity to follow with the king to show the queen does not come up too often, as partner will rarely lead the ace without the king. It is far more common to discard a king to promise the queen (simultaneously denying the aace). These types of defensive signals often spell the difference between winning and losing.

2. Signaling Low-High to show a doubleton

If you've been following me any length of time, you should be aware of how strongly I push upside-down signals. They're easier to read and defenders are less likely to give tricks away. I know some VERY good players who still use standard high-low signals. Well, I've got some news for you. I'm not as good as they are, and neither are you. Their judgment is far better than ours, and they can make the right decisions based on several factors that we simply wouldn't consider. You and I need as much help as we can get, and upside -own signals is a strong start.

Partner leads an ace against a suit contract. We will assume partner has the king, because leading unsupported aces will rarely be a winning strategy. With a small doubleton, third seat plays low, encouraging partner to continue. Partner continues with the king, and gives us a ruff. I prefer upside down signals for several reasons, but one of the best is that they're easier to read. It's often difficult for declarer to hide the fact



Winning with Wimpy by Jim Diebel

that we're playing our lowest card. When we are lucky enough to be dealt the deuce, partner knows for certain it is our lowest card.

When we are dealt the three, the deuce may be in either partner's hand or in dummy, and again, partner knows it is our lowest card. What if our lowest card is the four, five, or higher? Even in those cases, partner will usually be able to see the lower outstanding spots and work it out. Another possibility is that declarer has some holding like QJ3, and would rather lose his honor to a ruff now, than throw away the queen or the jack and give up any hope of scoring a trick in that suit later.

West leads the A against a heart contract. East plays the deuce looking for a continuation. West plays the king and gives East a spade ruff.

West leads the ace and East plays the 6. Even if you were playing standard signals, East would not drop the Q, as that would promise the jack. South plays the 5, and West has to stop and think. Where's the deuce? If East has it, what is his holding? Not ♠ T62 or East would have dropped the 10. Perhaps ♠ J62. That's possible. West may switch, which is unlikely to cost, or continue and give East a ruff..

(Continued on page 11)

Labor Day Tournament was a BLAST!



Chicago bridge and chess clubs agree to share space

The Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club (CDBC) has agreed to rent space in its facility at 47 W. Polk Street to the Chicago Chess Center (CCC), a move that benefits both groups financially.

CDBC President Barry Little said that during the past two years, face-to-face chess and bridge games suffered from the pandemic. Now both organizations are addressing their rental expense by combining forces.

The CDBD was forced to close its Orleans Street site in March 2020. It moved to its present site in July 2021. The CCC was seeking a new home after leaving its site at the University of Illinois at Chicago campus. The sharing arrangement implemented in August, allows chess players to conduct games and tournaments on weekends and Friday nights with no anticipated conflict with the bridge schedulelayout.

"When my bridge partner, Jim Abbott, and I were there Saturday, it was nice to hear from chess players inquiring about bridge lessons," said Mark Pinkowski, a member of Chicago Duplicate.

Abbott recalled his days in Pennsylvania when bridge and chess clubs shared





Chicago bridge players Ken East, (standing) CDBC President Barry Little and his partner, Marj Zolla check out a chess board.

space. He even recalls picking up a book on the Precision System.

David Schroeder, who directs games for CDBC, said his club hopes that sharing space will help both organizations weather the COVID downturn until face-to-face games can return to pre-COVID levels and become the norm.

Submitted by Jamie Rubenstein



Diebel opens Chicago game

After being closed for two years, Jim Diebel has reopened his Monday club game



that meets at 12:30 p.m. in the Renaissance Room of the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington Street, Chicago.

Jim said he will change an entry fee of only \$5 until the end of the year in the hopes of attracting more players to face-to-face games in the club.

Players Happy To Be Back At Labor Day Tournament

Players are finding their way back to the tournaments, but the numbers fail to match pre-pandemic levels. The Labor Day Silver Point Sectional in Skokie attracted an average of 20 tables per game, a slight increase over last year.

Labor Day Tournament Co-Chair Bob Maxson called the tournament a success and said that those who attended seemed to have a good time.

"Bob is correct. The players were happy to be playing tournaments in person again, and he did an awesome job as tournament chair, especially considering it was his first time as a chair," said Diane Martin, tournament director.

Tournament co-chair, Jim Diebel, called the sectional "a great start to the remainder of our CCBA tournament schedule." He noted the event attracted many of the top players in the area.

To participate, players had to show proof of vaccination. Masks were optional. Snacks, coffee and tea were available daily. Lunch was served during the Swiss team game on Monday.

The Labor Day tournament, which took place in 2021, was the CCBA's first tournament to be held in 20 months.

The next tournament, Central States, will be held November 7-10 at Temple Jeremiah, Northfield.

20% overall award Increase

Earn a 20% upgrade on overall awards when you play at face-to-face regional and sectional tournaments.

This special award increase is exclusive to in-person regionals and sectionals. We're celebrating the growing comeback of face-to-face tourneys, and we hope you'll join us!

The 20% overall award boost will apply to all face-to-face tournament events until May 28, 2023. That's almost an entire year of chances to rake in the rewards!

Using Accurate Signals Important

(Continued from page 8)

West leads the ♠K and East plays the ♠5. If South plays the ♠2, West knows that when he regains the lead, he can give partner a ruff.

If Sneaky South plays the ♠7 or ♠6, West can still work it

Partner would have played the ♣7 from ♣ 752, so Declarer must be hiding the other spot card.

So either partner has \bigstar J52 or \bigstar J5.. Either way, it's safe to continue with the \bigstar Q if partner still has a trump.



In this example, West has overcalled spades, and North has bid No Trump.

The final contract is hearts, so West leads the ♠A hoping to give East a ruff. East must be careful to play the ♠6. West can't be certain who has the ♠10, but continuing spades is too dangerous.

Had East held a singleton ♠10, West could read it and work out that it was safe to give his partner a spade ruff.

Did Jeopardy Champ Play In Windy City Tourney

It is rumored that Jeopardy champion and professional sports gambler James Holzhauer was among those who played in the Windy City Regional Tournament held in Chicago. James, a Naperville native, won nearly \$2,500,000 in his 33



appearances on the game show. We were unable, however, to verify whether he did or did not play in Chicago.





SUPERIORLAND BRIDGE CLUB Sectional Bridge Tournament Oct 13-15

Marquette Township Community Center 1000 Commerce Drive, Marquette, MI



499 Pair Teams

Thursday 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Friday 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. 499er Short Match Swiss 7 p.m.

Stratified 499er Swiss

Saturday 9 a.m.

Chairpersons

Duane Fowler 906-225-1907 Paul Bonatti 905-485-4844

Partnerships

Cerona Stevens 906-249-3529 906-361-1324



ACBL Events Calendar

October

Club Appreciation
Clubs may hold two Club
Appreciation Games per
sanctioned session during the
month of October. Any combination of pair and team games is
allowed, not to exceed two total
games per sanctioned session.
The games must be held at the
time of a club's regular
sanctioned game.

December 20-23 Snow is falling, sleigh bells are ringing and gold masterpoints are waiting for you during the upcoming online tournament, Winter Wonderland.

YOU PASS
IN THIS CARD GAME
IF YOU DECLINE
TO MAKE A BID
WHEN IT'S YOUR TURN
IN THE AUCTION



An answer on Jeopardy. Do you know the question?

Only 1 night bridge game survives

Chicago's venture into face-to-face night games has been unsuccessful in most instances.

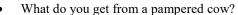
The exception is the Lawson Bridge Studio's Wednesday night game held in Ann Sather Restaurant. It has managed to survive, drawing approximately five tables.

A game begun by the Chicago Contract Bridge Association Board in May was closed in August due to low attendance, having a maximum of four tables at its peak. The game was held at Temple Jeremiah in Northfield.

Phyllis Bartlett, a CCBA director who helped run the Jeremiah game, said it had hoped that working people would want to play bridge in the evening, but attendance was low.

Submitted by Jamie Rubenstein

It's Time to Smile





- What does the dentist of the year get? A
- Playing bridge will keep you sharp, but of you can't harp.
- Why did the scarecrow win an award? Because he was outstanding in his field.
- What did the left eye say to the right eye. Between you and me, something smells.
- Why did the Oreo go to the dentist? Because he lost his filling.
- Why don't they play poker in the jungle? Because there are too many cheaters.
- Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go. Oscar Wilde
- Two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not yet completely sure about the universe. Albert Einstein.
- The odds of going to the store for a loaf of bread and coming out with only a loaf of bread are a zillion to one. Erma Bombeck.
- When do monkeys fall from the sky? During Ape-ril showers
- Can February March? No, but April May.
- What flowers grow on faces? Tulips
- Why are trees very forgiving? Because in the Fall they "Let
 it Go" and in the Spring they "turn over a new leaf"
- Why is the letter "A" like a flower? A bee comes after it .
- When do people start using their trampoline? Spring-
- What do you get when you pour hot water down a rabbit hold? A hot cross bunny