

Kibitzer

Publication of the Chicago Contract Bridge Association April/May 2025

Congratulations to GNT Winners

Congratulations to the four teams who won their flights in the District 13 Grand National Teams event held during February in Niles. The winners will represent the district at the summer North American Bridge Championships in Philadelphia, where they will compete against the winners of other districts in the nation. The winners of GNTs are shown below.



Winning the **Championship Flight**, where players had an unlimited number of masterpoints were left to right, Dan Levin, Jim Dressler, Jim Diebel, and Bill Goldberg.



Winning **Flight A**, where players could have up to 6,000 masterpoints were left to right, Matt Dyer, Michael Steirman, Corey Perkers, and George Clark.



Flight B, where players had fewer than 3,000 masterpoints were, left to right, Chuck Alexander, Ryan Daniels, Mark Pinkowski, and Nik Hristea.

Unit 123 Windy City Regional July 9-13



A mind blowing good time is awaiting those who attend the Windy City Regional on July 9-13 at the White Eagle Banquet and Restaurant, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles.

This exciting tournament by Unit 123 kicks off Wednesday with Open Stratified Pairs and Stratified Gold Rush Pairs at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. with the same schedule on Friday. On Thursday at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., players will enjoy IMP Pairs and Gold Rush IMP Pairs.

A favorite of many, Swiss Teams, will be held at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday. For newer players, Gold Rush Pairs will begin at the same times on Saturday,

A new and challenging event has been added to the lineup

on Sunday: Open Stratified Fast Pairs and Stratified Gold Rush Fast Pairs. The games will take place at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Win or lose, this event is always fun.

Tournament Chair Betsy Downs said that there will be a short break for lunch on Sunday. "Soup and bread from the onsite deli will be available. It can be purchased for \$5 at the time of entry. We expect games to end about 4 p.m. Sunday," she said.

Those needing a partner should contact Partnership Chair Jan Churchwell at jan8242@gmail.com.

For additional information, contact Betsy at loverofbeagles@gmail.com or see the flyer on page 3, or check out the website bridgeinchicago.com.



Flight C winners, who have fewer than 750 MPs and are not Life Masters, were, left to right, Ben Fisk, Rahul Garga, Ranmit Pantle, Manmit Pantle, and Avery Wang (not pictured).

Message from Windy City Tournament Chair

Dear Unit 123 members,

I am honored to chair Unit 123's Windy City Regional Tournament again this year. Your participation in last year's Windy City Regional made it our largest post pandemic regional. Thank you,

This year we are expanding the tournament from four to five days (July 9-13), providing Saturday and Sunday play for players who have asked for weekend play, and three weekdays of play for those of you who prefer to keep your weekends free for other things.

We've received positive feedback regarding the White Eagle Banquet Center as our tournament location, and are pleased to return to White Eagle for the 2025 Windy City Regional.

We are promoting Windy City in ACBL's Memphis *Daily Bulletin*, and at other Midwest tournaments. I hope this summer's Windy City can exceed last year's table count. More tables mean larger events, which mean more masterpoints for winners. Please bring your friends and help us grow Chicago's bridge tournaments.

See you in July,

Betsy Downs



Betsy Downs



If You Wear It, You Believe It

Dan Levin (left) and Jim Dressler, two members of the winning Grand National Team of which Jim Diebel and Bill Goldberg were members, wear shirts expressing their thought: "The search for the holy grail is an eight-card major suit fit."

Pantles place 2nd at NABC



Manmit Pantle and Ranmit Pantle (right) placed second in the President's Cup North American Pairs Flight C. The brothers from Chicago represented District 13 at the NABC in Memphis, TN. They finished just 0.25 masterpoints behind the winners.

(Photo courtesy of ACBL)

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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.



OOPS!

Our apologies to CCBA Board member Phyllis Bartlett for the misidentification under her picture in the last issue.

Unit 123 Windy City Regional

White Eagle Banquets & Restaurant, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave, Niles (Chicago)

Wednesday July 9 10AM and 3PM

Open Pairs (Stratified)
Gold Rush Pairs (Stratified)

Thursday July 10 10AM and 3PM

Imp Pairs (Stratified)
Gold Rush IMP Pairs (Stratified)

Friday July 11 10AM and 3PM

Open Pairs (Stratified)
Gold Rush Pairs (Stratified)

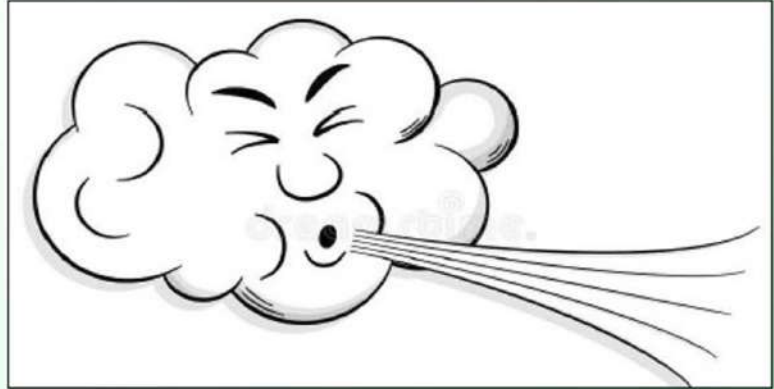
Saturday July 12 10AM and 3PM

Open Swiss Team (Stratified)
Gold Rush Pairs (Stratified)

Sunday July 13 10:00 and 1:30*

Open Fast Pairs (Stratified)
Gold Rush Fast Pairs (Stratified)

*Only a short break will be provided for lunch. Soup and bread from the onsite deli will be offered for purchase. It will cost \$5 at time of entry. (the rest of the cost is CCBA subsidized!). Players are welcome to bring their own food. **There will not be time to leave the building for lunch.** This event is expected to finish around 4pm.



Open Stratification: C=0-1999; B=2000-4999; A=5000+
MP Averaging
Gold Rush Stratification: 0-199; 200-399; 400-750
MP Averaging: NO player may be over 750!

To be eligible for overall Gold Points, Regional Events are offered daily as two-session events... however, if a player wishes to play in only one session, we will accommodate them. The decision to play one or two sessions **MUST** be declared at the time the entry is purchased. "Change of mind" will not allow a player with a good morning score to turn a one session entry into a two session entry at halftime!!

Tournament Chair: Betsy Downs
loverofbeagles@gmail.com

Partnership Chair: Jan Churchwell
jan8242@gmail.com

Nearby Lodging Choices:

There are many hotels and motels in the area, most with excellent internet rates. We do not have an official bridge hotel, so it is recommended that players research this themselves and make their reservations ASAP.

The Holiday Inn Express at 7247 N. Waukegan Rd in Niles is the closest hotel at 0.7 miles from the playing site.

O'Hare area Hotels are 4-6 miles from the playing site.

Skokie and Morton Grove area Hotels are in the range of 5-9 miles from the playing site.

Note: O'Hare area venues may charge parking fees

Entry fees

\$16 per session/person/pair; \$64/session/team
\$8 for students with valid ID
\$4 surcharge for non members and unpaid members

Snacks, water, coffee and tea will be provided!
Lunch selections available at deli onsite for purchase...
Restaurant Guides with local eateries will be available for pick-up or reference at the Information Table.

GNTs Bring Out the Best



Photos by Lisa
and Suzi
Subeck

Jim recalls experiences at Grand National Teams competition



*Winning with Wimpy
By Jim Diebel*

There are players who just always seem to do poorly against me. They're good players and they are winning players, but for some reason, something always goes wrong for them and I'm the beneficiary. It could be that I got to a lucky contract, or they bid to a good place only to be thwarted by some crazy distribution. For whatever reason, I just seem to have their number.

When I was starting out, there were a great many players who had my number. Even though at tournaments, I mostly competed in Flt B events, when I played in Swiss Teams or club games, I could count on leaving certain tables a bit bloodier than when I had arrived.

As my game improved, there were fewer and fewer pairs that "owned" me. Even at National levels, I often held my own against some of the top names in our game. There is an exception. As far back as I can remember, it seems I've always come away 2nd best when I played the Gardners. Whether it was Craig and his late wife Mary, or, less often, Bob and his regular foil, Dick Bruno, I can perhaps count on one hand the number of times I've left their table with a good score.

Of course, some of the time = Craig would volunteer it's most of the time—it's been because I'd shot myself in the foot, but you have to give them their due. They are, and have always been, among the best the city had to offer.

Craig, in addition to being a great player, is one of the nicest people you are likely to encounter at the table. Bob is just a great player. Please don't take this the wrong way. Of all of the bridge players I have ever known, there is no one I respect more than Bob Gardner. He may appear to be blunt, indifferent, and humorless, but he is also truthful and in-

sightful. Don't ask him a question unless you want to hear what may be a painful truth. Perhaps the best way I can describe Bob, is that he does not suffer fools. Ask him a stupid question and you can expect a dismissive answer. Simple acknowledgement from Bob Gardner is high praise indeed.

Anyway, back to my story. My partner and I were playing against Craig and Bob in the Grand National Teams a few weeks ago. In the qualifying round, you had to play 8 boards against all the other teams to determine which 4 teams would advance to the semi-finals. At unfavorable vulnerability, I picked up: ♠AJ5 ♥--- ♦T8753 ♣QJT62. Bob, on my right, opened 1D.

This event was scored in IMPs, like a team game, so it is imperative NOT to put yourself in a position to get doubled for a big penalty. Ordinarily, overcalling clubs with a hand this light is borderline suicidal; however, I felt there were two things in my favor. 1) If the opponents wanted to compete, it was going to be harder over a 2C interference than over a pass, and 2) The opponents likely had a heart fit and that suit was breaking poorly for them.

Another point to keep in mind is that if I left these two alone, they were favorites to get the best spot. I overcalled 2C and breathed a sigh of relief when Craig responded 2S. I'd gotten my lead director in, they were a level higher, and finding the best landing spot was going to be difficult for them. Unfortunately, my partner didn't get the memo that I was only kidding and blasted to 5C. Bob doubled and that ended the auction. I've been doubled by Bob many times over my bridge career. I can't recall a time when I'd ever made one of them, and I braced for the worst. Craig led the ♠K and this dummy came down.

Bd 19. S Dealer EW Vul:

| | |
|---------|---------|
| ♠ AJ5 | ♠ 62 |
| ♥ --- | ♥ KJ976 |
| ♦ T8753 | ♦ A |
| ♣ QJT62 | ♣ K8754 |

I won the Ace in hand and played a diamond to the Ace. I ruffed a heart back to my hand and ruffed another diamond, noting the ♦Q from Craig.

I continued the crossruff, with Bob having to follow to all 5 diamonds. When I led dummy's last heart, I was able to score my ♣Q "en passant" for the 11th trick.



I noted that an initial trump lead would have foiled my crossruff. I was not surprised to later learn that Craig didn't have any clubs. If he had, I am confident he would have led one. The whole hand:

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| ♠ KQT9743 | |
| ♥ A532 | |
| ♦ Q4 | |
| ♣ --- | |
| ♠ AJ5 | ♠ 62 |
| ♥ --- | ♥ KJ976 |
| ♦ T8753 | ♦ A |
| ♣ QJT62 | ♣ K8754 |
| ♠ 8 | |
| ♥ QT84 | |
| ♦ KJ962 | |
| ♣ A93 | |

This hand occurred during the 1st session. The format for the event dictated that we play 4 boards against every team and then another 4 boards in the 2nd session with a different set of boards.

Unsurprisingly, the board numbers were the same as the 1st session. Board 19 comes along and I pick up a powerful hand: ♠AK ♥AK32 ♦JT5432 ♣A.

Bob passed, and I opened 1D. Craig overcalled 1S, my partner passed, and Bob raised to 2S. Despite holding a weak suit, I felt fairly confident bidding 3D. Craig competed to 3S, and my partner suddenly came to life with 4D.

Bob bid 4S, which I felt certain I could beat, but if partner held a diamond honor and perhaps the ♥Q, I might be a favorite to make 5D. I bid 5D which got passed around to Bob who doubled. The opening lead was the ♣J.

(Continued on page 6)

Mini-McKinney Winners

0-5 Points

| | | | |
|----|---------------|---------|-------|
| 1 | Ranni Pantle | Chicago | 67.17 |
| 2. | Manmit Pantle | Chicago | 36.63 |
| 3. | Usha Raj | Chicago | 28.61 |

5-20 Points

| | | | |
|----|---------------|-------------------|-------|
| 1 | Sadaf Ouas | Naperville | 65.47 |
| 2. | Jack Latiner | Western Springs | 51.87 |
| 3. | Susan Hagerty | Arlington Heights | 42.17 |

20-50

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|------------|-------|
| 1. | Graham Mayer | Chicago | 71.30 |
| 2 | R. E. Stern | Chicago | 69.23 |
| 3 | Bradley Joselin | Northbrook | 52.86 |

50-100

| | | | |
|---|------------------------|------------|--------|
| 1 | Rahul Garga | Chicago | 333.83 |
| 2 | Zinnia Meyer | Chicago | 91.53 |
| 3 | Gail and Lonnie Kepley | Naperville | 91.10 |

100-200

| | | | |
|---|----------------|-----------------|--------|
| 1 | Zhyu Cheng | Jersey City, NJ | 156.82 |
| 2 | Dorie Isaacson | Northbrook | 144.62 |
| 3 | Alec Sun | Pittsburg, PA | 144.10 |

200-300

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------|--------|
| 1 | Charles Holmes | Chicago | 196.10 |
| 2 | Gregory Smith | Long Grove | 142.64 |
| 3 | Anthony Veenemanf | Olympia Fields | 109.41 |

300-500

| | | | |
|---|--------------|----------------|--------|
| 1 | Haijin Li | Lisle | 288.67 |
| 2 | Neal Goldman | Willow Springs | 157.67 |
| 3 | Avery Wang | Chicago | 115.01 |

500-1000

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------|--------|
| 1 | Harry Rosenberg | Chicago | 212.66 |
| 2 | Kazi Farooqui | Round Lake | 179.38 |
| 3 | Les White | Chicago | 170.34 |

1000-1500

| | | | |
|---|------------------|------------|--------|
| 1 | Bill Sack | Elmhurst | 148.31 |
| 2 | David Junge | Ingleside | 141.16 |
| 3 | Charles Nudelman | Northbrook | 136.62 |

1500-2500

| | | | |
|---|----------------|-----------|--------|
| 1 | Donald Ferris | Mundelein | 366.53 |
| 2 | Mark Pinkowski | Chicago | 266.46 |
| 3 | Mark Stein | Skokie | 237.02 |

2500-3500

| | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|--------|
| 1 | Judy Katz | Chicago | 332.24 |
| 2 | John Miller | Chicago | 311.44 |
| 3 | David Bogolub | Deerfield | 243.53 |

3500-5000

| | | | |
|---|----------------|-----------------|--------|
| 1 | Sam Nelson | Northbrook | 341.30 |
| 2 | Roger Hendrick | Western Springs | 320.58 |
| 3 | Fred Clayton | Carol Stream | 300.17 |

5000-7500

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|--------|
| 1 | Michael Airdo | Oak Park | 893.30 |
| 2 | Stephen Donahue | Riverwoods | 741.18 |
| 3 | David Langer | Buffalo Grove | 592.57 |

7500-10,000

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|--------|
| 1 | Craig Allen | Glen Ellyn | 743.39 |
| 2 | Richard Strauss | Northbrook | 368.14 |
| 3 | Michael Kutska | LaGrange Park | 300.34 |

10,000+

| | | | |
|----|---------------|------------|--------|
| 1. | Craig Gardner | Streamwood | 778.41 |
| 2 | Ron Smith | Glenview | 736.84 |
| 3 | Ralph Katz | Burr Ridge | 714.95 |

Grand National Teams competition

(Continued from page 5)

Bd 19: S Dealer EW Vul

| | |
|----------|---------|
| ♠ AK | ♠ 96 |
| ♥ AK32 | ♥ J97 |
| ♦ JT5432 | ♦ AQ6 |
| ♣ A | ♣ T7643 |

OMG! Was lightning about to strike twice on the same day? After 4 hapless decades of giving these guys my lunch money, was this going to be the day it turned around? Decide how you'd play the hand before reading on.

I could see that my only possible losers were 1 diamond and 2 hearts. I could afford to lose one heart if I could ruff the other heart high in dummy. With that in mind, I won the ♣A and led a diamond to the queen, delighted to see Craig follow. Bob won the ♦K and shifted to the ♥6. I didn't care who held the ♥Q, so long as the suit broke no worse than 4-2.

In retrospect, by that logic, I should have ducked the heart, but I rose with the Ace, and cashed the King, expecting to give up a heart and claim. Bob ruffed. Eventually, Craig won the ♥Q, and I went down one. Note that ducking the heart doesn't work either, as Craig simply gives Bob a ruff. Where did I go wrong?

I learned an important lesson from Eddie Kantar many years ago. When a contract looks too easy, think about what might possibly go wrong. I should have given more thought to the distribution of the whole hand. The opening lead sure looked like a singleton. Bob didn't try to give his partner a club ruff, so Bob probably held all the missing trumps. If Bob had 6 clubs and 3 diamonds, AND was able to raise spades, he couldn't have any heart length. One winning line would be to win the ♥A, draw trump, and lead a heart toward the ♥J9

Alternatively, if I was going to try to ruff a heart high, I should have attempted to keep high diamonds in dummy. One winning line would have been to lead a high diamond from my hand. This would necessitate that I trusted that Bob had at least 3 trumps,



else a club return could prove embarrassing. With a heart return, I can win the Ace, cross to dummy with another trump, and lead a low heart from dummy. Bob can ruff it or not, but if he does, it will be his last trick. If he instead pitches, I can win the ♥K give up a heart to the ♥Q and still ruff a heart high in dummy.

Our teammates defeated 5D undoubled, so we lost 100 points and 3 IMPs on the deal. We ended up losing that match by a single IMP, so making the contract would have been a huge gain. The whole hand:

| | |
|----------|----------|
| ♠ QJ8543 | ♠ 96 |
| ♥ QT854 | ♥ J97 |
| ♦ 7 | ♦ AQ6 |
| ♣ J | ♣ T7643 |
| ♠ AK | ♠ T72 |
| ♥ AK32 | ♥ 6 |
| ♦ JT5432 | ♦ K98 |
| ♣ A | ♣ KQ9852 |



Ace of Clubs Winners

0-5 Points

| | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------------|-------|
| 1 | Ursha Raj | Chicago | 27.91 |
| 2 | Eric Hinds | Western Springs | 22.98 |
| 3 | Aida Sulayman | Chicago | 22.58 |

5-20 Points

| | | | |
|----|--------------|-----------------|-------|
| 1. | Jack Lattner | Western Springs | 46.09 |
| 2. | Sadaf Quas | Naperville | 45.35 |
| 3. | Jana Cronin | Wheaton | 30.82 |

20-50 Points

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|------------|-------|
| 1. | Bradley Joselit | Northbrook | 32.37 |
| 2. | Mark Scoles | Naperville | 28.71 |

50-100 Points

| | | | |
|----|---------------|------------|--------|
| 1. | Rahul Garga | Chicago | 144.34 |
| 2. | Gail Kepley | Naperville | 72.41 |
| 3. | Lonnie Kepley | Naperville | 72.41 |

100-200 Points

| | | | |
|----|----------------|--------------|-------|
| 1. | Robert Tonos | Chicago | 76.22 |
| 2. | Bernard Dost | Vernon Hills | 60.45 |
| 3. | Susan Sullivan | Wilmette | 60.12 |

200-300 Points

| | | | |
|----|------------------|----------------|-------|
| 1. | Anthony Veeneman | Olympia Fields | 98.04 |
| 2. | Charles Holmes | Chicago | 88.53 |
| 3. | Geraldine Tyler | Olympia Fields | 63.75 |

300- 500 Points

| | | | |
|----|-------------------|----------------|-------|
| 1. | Neal Goldman | Willow Springs | 93.87 |
| 2. | Michael Adami | Park Forest | 82.55 |
| 3. | Lawrence Moelmann | Glen Ellyn | 78.34 |

500-1,000 Points

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|---------|--------|
| 1. | Les White | Chicago | 153.88 |
| 2. | Ashley Szymiski | Auora | 128.97 |
| 3. | Carolyn Naselli | Chicago | 108.54 |

1,000-1,500 Points

| | | | |
|----|----------------|---------|-------|
| 1. | Kay Whitman | Chicago | 96.70 |
| 2. | Marjorie Zolla | Chicago | 87.03 |

1500-2,500 Points

| | | | |
|----|---------------|----------------|--------|
| 1. | Paul Prez | Chicago | 171.84 |
| 2. | Joan Nelson | La Grange Park | 159.67 |
| 3. | Betty Steffek | Orland Park | 132.98 |

2,500-3,500

| | | | |
|----|-------------------|-------------|--------|
| 1. | John Miller | Chicago | 262.92 |
| 2. | Frank Christopher | Elmhurst | 156.53 |
| 3. | Wende Dallain | Forest Park | 155.71 |

3500-5,000

| | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----------------|--------|
| 1. | Roger Hendrick | Western Springs | 272.68 |
| 2. | Fred Clayton | Carol Stream | 226.96 |
| 3. | Cherrolyn Woodwine | Naperville | 175.61 |

5,000-7,500 Points

| | | | |
|----|----------------|----------------|--------|
| 1. | Toddy Leavitt | Chicago | 172.82 |
| 2. | Mark Ginsburgf | Buffalo Grovef | 161.52 |
| 3. | Alfred Simmons | Chicago | 148.62 |

7,500-10,000 Points

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|----------------|--------|
| 1. | Michael Kutska | La Grange Park | 255.11 |
| 2. | Suzanne Dunaway | Hinsdale | 222.67 |
| 3. | Arch McKellar | Evanston | 103.91 |

Over 10,000 Points

| | | | |
|----|-------------------|---------------|-------|
| 1. | L. James Phillips | Chicago | 55.73 |
| 2. | Claude Vogel | San Diego, CA | 54.58 |
| 3. | Craig Gardner | Streamwood | 35.74 |

Congrats! Rank Advancers

Jr Master

Susan Enright
Pascale Kichler
Gail McGuinness
Kaining Sheng
Robert Switzerland
Kristin Warren
Sally Wood

Club Master

John Adams
Marjorie Appel
Dan Ehrmann
Bruce English
Linda Martorana
Lori Schretzman

Regional Master

Jean Atchison
Michael Dubois
Madhavi Gullapalli
Gail Kepley
Helen Melchior
James Reeder
Mark Simon
Layne Zagorin

NABC Master

Robert Brock
Dorie Isaacson

Advanced NABC Master

Gail Conder
Avery Wang

Life Master

Jacob Breneisen
Daniel Cieslik
Kunal Pujara

Bronze Life Master

Jacob Breneisen
Jan Summers

Silver Life Master

Sriram Datla
Neel French
Ted Pristash
Leon Ungier

Ruby Life Master

Irene Beaudoin

Bill Davis
Steve Kimmel

Gold Life Master

James Abbott
Paul Prez

Sapphire Life Master

Frank Christopher

Diamond Life Master

Al Levering



Grand National Teams Pictures



Bidding clues, card combos help you decide what to do at trick 1



By Ginny and Jeff Schuett

You are declarer and must decide what to play at trick one. This is rarely a simple guess – usually the bidding or a card combination will help you decide what to do. In each hand below, you are South as declarer with the bidding and lead shown.

North (Dummy's hand) is shown above yours. What is your play at trick one and why?

What is your overall plan to play the hand?

| | | S | W | N | E |
|----------|-----------------------------|----|----------|-----|----------|
| 1. | North: ♠J753 ♥A863 ♦943 ♣Q5 | 1♥ | P | 2♥ | Dbl |
| Lead: ♣2 | | P | 3♦ | 3♥ | All Pass |
| | South: ♠T62 ♥KQT95 ♦KQ ♣AT6 | | | | |
| 2. | North: ♠AJ7 ♥AQT ♦J6432 ♣J5 | | 1♣ | Dbl | P |
| Lead: ♠K | | 2♣ | P | 2♦ | P |
| | South: ♠43 ♥KJ98763 ♦A9 ♣K4 | 3♥ | P | 4♥ | All Pass |
| 3. | North: ♠KJ87 ♥T83 ♦AQ32 ♣75 | 1♠ | P | 3♠ | P |
| Lead: ♥9 | | 4♠ | All Pass | | |
| | South: ♠AQ643 ♥AK76 ♦T5 ♣K4 | | | | |
| 4. | North: ♠QJ87 ♥873 ♦AKT9 ♣75 | 1♠ | P | 3♠ | P |
| Lead: ♦Q | | 4♠ | All Pass | | |
| | South: ♠AK6432 ♥AT9 ♦85 ♣A4 | | | | |

Answers:

1. To decide what the right play is, South must recall the bidding. East made a takeout double, so East is the one with most of the high cards. Therefore, you should play LOW to trick one, hoping West led from the ♣J and East holds the ♠K. If this is the case, you won't lose a club trick and will make 9 tricks.

2. South's cue bid is forcing one round or more, depending on the next bids. South might have 4-4 majors and invitational strength, or a single suit with a game forcing hand. North bids 2♦ and South now jumps to 3♥, which is natural and game forcing. It would also be appropriate for South to just jump to 4♥, but rarely is slam possible. Best play at trick one is to duck the ♠K lead, because it shows the ♠Q and creates a finesse later for a loser discard. If West just continues ♠, South should finesse ♠, J and then discard ♦ on ♠A. Now play to ♦A and ♥ to dummy to ruff ♦, back to ♥ in dummy to ruff ♦, and lo and behold they break 3-3. You have pulled trump and can discard your ♣ losers on dummy's ♦ to make 12 tricks and a likely top board.

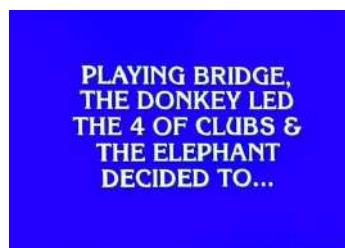
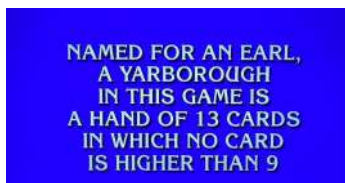
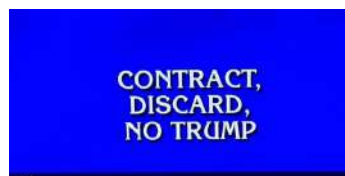
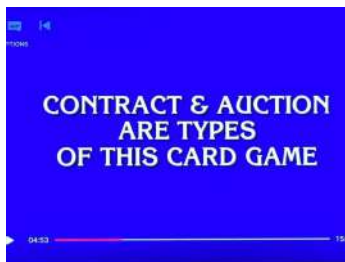
3. No opposition bidding, but West chooses to lead the ♥9. Look at your good ♥ spots. The lead marks East with both the ♥QJ. Therefore, cover the ♥9 with the ♥T. East plays ♥J, and you win ♥K. Now pull trump ending in dummy to lead ♥8, and finesse if East plays low. Finesse again if the ♥Q hasn't appeared yet, and discard a losing ♣ from dummy on the ♥A. Now take the ♦ finesse. If it is successful, you will make 12 tricks, otherwise 11 tricks, losing only 1♦ and 1♣.

4. Win ♦A and pull trump ending in South to lead a ♦, and finesse the ♦9 to create a discard for the losing ♣ on the ♦K.

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



Can you answer these Jeopardy Questions?



Answers: 1, 2 and 3
Bridge
Number 4
Trump it

STaC means Silver

CCBA STaC games will take place April 8-13 and December 8-15, 2025. Here's your chance to win silver points by playing in your favorite clubs.

2025 District 13 Spring Regional, Madison Marriott West

1313 John Q Hammons Dr., Middleton, WI, phone: 608-824-2710

Room Rate: \$159—Reservations **must** be made by April 14, 2025 to guarantee rate

Monday May 5- Friday May 9th

Schedule of Events:

Monday, May 5

10:00 and 3:00 Open Pairs (0-1500; 1500-3500; 3500+)

10:00 and 3:00 Gold Rush Pairs (0-100; 100-300; 300-750)



Tuesday May 6th

10:00 and 3:00 Open Pairs (0-1500; 1500-3500; 3500+)

10:00 and 3:00 Gold Rush Pairs (0-100; 100-300; 300-750)

Wednesday May 7th

10:00 and 3:00 Open Swiss Teams (0-1500; 1500-3500; 3500+)

10:00 and 3:00 Gold Rush Swiss Teams (0-100; 100-300; 300-750)



Thursday May 8th

10:00 and 3:00 Open Pairs (0-1500; 1500-3500; 3500+)

10:00 and 3:00 Gold Rush Pairs (0-100; 100-300; 300-750)

Friday May 9th

10 am Stratified Swiss Teams Playthrough ... Lunch Included

Flt A/B/C (3500+; 1500-3500; 0-1500)

Yvette Neary

Tournament Chair

414-526-9035; Email: yneary@gmail.com

Marge Morgan

Partnership Chair

Email: mumorgan55@gmail.com

Daily Hospitality - Special Student Rate with valid Student ID

No proof of vaccine required.

Masks will be supplied ... if an opponent requests you to mask up, you must comply.

Connect with players in Facebook Group

The CCBA has a Facebook group where Chicago area players, club owners, and teachers can make bridge-related announcements, share information, and interact with each other.

If you are a Facebook user, you may have already received an invite. Simply accept the invite to become part of the group.

If you haven't received an invite, go to Groups in Facebook, search for CCBA, and

request to join the group. You'll be asked a few simple questions about your connection to the CCBA, and an administrator will approve your request.

Once a member, you'll be able to invite other players to join as well. This is a private group, which will help us avoid spam and trolls.

We're looking forward to seeing you on Facebook. Please post in the Discussion area any ideas you have regarding the site.

When you are playing bridge, you are playing a mind sport

Did you know that bridge is one of the few games recognized as a "mind sport"?

It shares this title with games like chess and Go! The World Bridge Federation (WBF) is even recognized by the International Olympic Committee, highlighting the game's intellectual and competitive nature.



So when you play bridge, you're not just having fun - you're engaging in an officially recognized sport!

Share this fun fact with your friends and show them why bridge is more than just a card game!

[#bridgesport](#) [#bridgetrivia](#) [#cardgames](#) [#learnbridge](#) [#bridgeforbeginners](#) [#bridgecommunity](#) [#funwithbridge](#) [#bridgeenthusiasts](#)



Dates set for 2025 NABC



The dates for the 2025 North American Bridge Championships are set. For assistance, contact Conference Direct at (855) 956-0776 or email acbl@conferencedirect.com.

The summer NABC will take place July 24-August 3 in

Philadelphia. The host hotel is the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1201 Market Street, Philadelphia. The room rate is \$199 per night, plus tax. The final NABC of the year will be November 27-December 7 in San Francisco, California.

Easy way to find a bridge teacher

Are you looking for a bridge teacher to learn bridge or improve your skills?

If so, you may want to check out the CCBA Teacher Tracker at bridgeinchicago.com. It provides the names of area bridge teachers along with their contact information.

If you are a teacher, you may want to be included in the Tracker or to have your information updated. If so, contact Jamie Rubenstein, CCBA Communications Committee cochair, at jamierube76@gmail.com.



| Time | Club | Location | Contact |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| TBA Sunday | Northwestern Bridge Club | Parker Hill, Northwestern Univ. 1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston | Ben Fisk 513-808-1443 |
| 9:15 a.m. Monday | Mundelein Area DBC | Freemont Township Office 22385 W. Rt. 60, Mundelein | Joseph Connelly 847-271-1666 |
| 10:15 a.m. Monday | Olympia DBC | Countryside Church 126 Smith St., Palatine, IL | Sue Erickson 847-398-3440 |
| 10:30 a.m. Monday | Ace of Clubs | Temple Jeremiah 937 Happ Road, Northfield | Daryl Novick 847-810-9272 |
| 11:00 a.m. Monday | Calumet DBC | Elks Club 3120 45th St., Highland, IN | Mary Schultz 245-224-2553 |
| 11:00 a.m. Monday | Oak Lawn DBC | Oak Lawn Tennis Club 10440 S. Central, Oak Lawn | Keith O'Malley 630-336-4376 |
| 11:30 a.m. Monday | Yorkville DB | Beecher Community Center 908 Game Farm Rd., Yorkville | Karl Anderson 224-276-0715 |
| 12 noon Monday | Hinsdale | Hinsdale Community Center 8th and Madison, Hinsdale | Diane Beyer Martin 708-207-1500 |
| 12:15 p.m. Monday | Chicago Duplicate Bridge | Dearborn Station 47 W. Polk Street, Chicago | Patt Quinn 630-220-9058 |
| 12:30 p.m. Monday | Chicago Cultural Center | Chicago Cultural Center 77 E. Randolph St., Chicago | James Diebel 630-244-9292 |
| 6:20 p.m. Monday | Lawson Bridge Studio | Ann Sathers Restaurant 909 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago | Jerry Scholle 773-209-7089 |
| 10:30 a.m. Tuesday | Ace of Clubs | Temple Jeremiah 937 Happ Road, Northfield | Daryl Novick 847-810-9272 |
| 11:00 am. Tuesday | Naper DBC | Community United Methodist Church 20 S. Center St., Naperville | James 'Diebel 630-244-0202 |
| 11:00 a.m. Tuesday | St. Charles Duplicate Bridge | Baker Community Center 101 S. 2nd, St. Charles | Marilyn Croft 630-203-0849 |
| 12 Noon Tuesday | S. Suburban Bridge Center | S. Suburban Bridge Center 18144 Glen Terrace, Lansing | Patricia Valiska 219-934-9405 |
| 6:30 p.m. Tuesday | Chicago Duplicate Bridge | Dearborn Station 47 W. Polk Street, Chicago | Patt Quinn 630-220-9058 |
| 6:30 p.m. Tuesday | Tree Towns DBC on BBO | Elmhurst BBO | Pat Quinn 630-220-9053 |
| 7:00 p.m. Tuesday | Ace of Clubs | Northmoor Country Club 820 Edgewood Road, Highland Park | Phyllis Bartlett 847-494-8474 |
| 10:30 a.m. Wednesday | Ace of Clubs | Temple Jeremiah 937 Happ Road, Northfield | Phyllis Bartlett 847-494-8474 |
| 10 :30 a..m. Wednesday | New Lenox-Joliet DBC | New Life Church 500 S. Gougar New Lenox | Nancy Miller 815-514-5363 |
| 11:00 a.m. Wednesday | Community Bridge Club | Calumet Township Center 1900 W. 41st Ave., Calumet Township, IN | Alan Yngve 219-215-45408 |
| 11:00 a.m. Wednesday | Fox Bridge | Riverside Town Hall 27 Riverside Road, Riverside | Mary Schultz 248=224-2553 |
| 12 Noon Wednesday | University Club | University Club 79 E. Monroe, Chicago | |
| 12 Noon Wednesday | Glen Oak Country Club | Game starts up in May, Glen Oak Country Club 21W451 Hill Avenue, Glen Ellyn | Patt Quinn 630-220-9053 |
| 12 Noon Wednesday (2nd, 4th Wed.) | Glen Ellyn DBC | Healthtrack Sports Wellness 875 Roosevelt Road, Glen Ellyn | Sue Kamphuis 630-348-5369 |
| 12:15 a.m. Wednesday | Chicago Duplicate Bridge | Dearborn Station 47 W. Polk Street, Chicago | Patt Quinn 630-220-9058 |
| 6:30 p.m. Wednesday | Lawson Bridge Studio | Ann Sathers Restaurant 909 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago | Jerry Scholle 773-209-7089 |
| 10:30 am Thursday | Tom's Game | Temple Jeremiah 937 Happ Road, Northfield | Tom Dressing 847-323-4602 |
| 11:30 a.m. Thursday | Yorkville Duplicate Bridge | Beecher Community Center 908 Game Farm Rd., YorkvilleTBA | Karl Anderson 224-276-6715 |
| 9:00 a.m. Thursday | 12 Hearts | Freemont Township Administration 22385W. Route 60, Mundelein | Patricia Mayer 262-215-2566 |
| 12 Noon Thursday | Hinsdale | Hinsdale Community Center 8th and Madison, Hinsdale | Diane Beyer Martin 708-207-1500 |
| 12:15 Thursday | Chicago Duplicate Bridge | Dearborn Station 47 W. Polk Street, Chicago | Patt Quinn 630-220-9058 |

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



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|-----------------------|---|
| April 2 | All Month, Charity Club Championship games |
| April 2-4 | Racine Spring Sectional, Mt. Pleasant, WI |
| April 9-13 | Unit 123 STaC |
| April 14 -15 | Silver Slivers 25% silver (check with your club.) |
| April 16 | ACBL-wide Charity Game |
| April 17-20 | Silver Slivers 25% silver (check with your club.) |
| April 19-20 | POP-UP games (check with your club) |
| All Month of May | Grass Roots FUNd Game |
| May 5-11 | Stardust Week |
| May 5-9 | District 13 Spring Regional, Madison, WI |
| May 15-17 | WUMBA Green Bay Sectional, Green Bay, WI |
| May 19-21 | Silver Slivers 25% silver (check with your club.) |
| May 10-21 | Stardust 25% Gold (check with your club.) |
| July 9-13 | Windy City Regional, White Eagle Banquet Center 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave, Niles, |
| August 30-September 1 | Labor Day Sectional, Weber Center, Skokie |
| October 16-19 | Stan Subeck Central States Regional White Eagle Banquet Center 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave, Niles |
| December 8-15 | Unit 123 STaC |

Red indicates CCBA sponsored tournaments.

Racine Spring Sectional April 2, 3 & 4

**The Lanes on 20
6501 Washington Ave.
Mt. Pleasant, WI**

**Daily Schedule
9:30 a.m and 2 p.m.
Pair/Team Game
499er Pairs**

**Tournament Chair
Lee Petold
1-262-406-6487**

