

# Kibitzer

A publication of the Chicago Contract Bridge Association August/September 2021

## Great News! Tournament set for Labor Day weekend

By DeMaris Johnson

The wait is over! Tournaments are back! The 18-month drought of tournaments caused by the pandemic is at an end.

On September 3, one of the players' favorite, the Silver Point Labor Day Sectional, will begin in the Weber Leisure Center, 9300 Weber Place, Skokie.



**A Blast from the past!** Pictured above is a memory from the 2019 Labor Day Silver Point Sectional.

The four-day event will run through Monday, September 6.

Tournament Chair Todd Fisher said the decision to kick off the tournament calendar with the Labor Day event was due to multiple reasons. First, players are returning to the clubs, and secondly, the event is located near the middle of Unit 123.

"This tournament has always been well attended in the past. We hope players will feel comfortable returning to this fun, casual event," Todd said.

Suzi Subeck, a member of Unit 123's executive committee, said she supported having the tournament, because players have told her they miss it.

"I've received calls from a number of people expressing their desire to go to the tournament," she said.

**NOTICE: See complete list on page 8 of the clubs now open, including times and locations.**

The tournament's intermediate/novice schedule begins with stratified open pairs at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Friday, and that schedule continues on Saturday and Monday.

Sunday includes stratified Swiss Teams at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., according to Guy Franklin, I/N chair.

The regular schedule begins with stratified open pair/team games at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Sunday will feature stratified Swiss

teams, beginning at 10 a.m. The final day's program will be stratified open pair games at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

The pair/team games give players two chances to win masterpoints—as a pair (matchpoints) and as a team (board-a-match scoring). Pair/team events are single sessions. Pairs who arrive without a team will be assigned teammates.

For more information, go to [www.bridgeinchicago.com](http://www.bridgeinchicago.com) or refer to the ad on page 4.

## Players tell why they're returning to the clubs

By Jamie Rubenstein

Amidst mostly fading pandemic worries, many Chicagoland bridge players - some of whom are now new online fans - appear ready to play face-to-face at the clubs and in tournaments.

Based on an informal Kibitzer sampling taken since the July 4 holiday, a majority, as one put it, "really miss the competition and camaraderie of table contact" and will return to the table.

Judy Gidden, a Chicago Silver Life Master and a patron of the newly reopened

Lawson Bridge Club said, "I am thrilled at seeing real people and touching the cards, and I'm not really concerned about any mask requirement."

Nonetheless many players said they prefer the online game because they fear getting sick, especially with the new Delta variant.

Others, like Steve Clark of Wilmette with 7,000 MPs, said he loves the game whether it is face-to-face or remote, as it appeals to both his intellectual and competitive sides. (Continued on p.3)

## Let's have fun at the Labor Day Sectional

The CCBA is working hard to get things back to normal, but we realize that it will take time.

You might say we're sticking our toe into the shallow end of the pool to test the water by starting with, what has always been a popular event, the Labor Day Silver Point Sectional in Skokie.

It will be held at the Weber Leisure Center, a familiar location to those who have played in the tournament for the past number of years. That was one of the reasons that we decided to kick off the tournament season with the Labor Day tournament. And it was chosen to be the first for a number of other reasons.

- ◆ It has always been a well-attended event.
- ◆ The location is in the heart of Unit 123 bridge.
- ◆ Things are slowly getting back to the new normal, with people seeming to be more willing to get out and go to restaurants, movies, etc.
- ◆ Most clubs are opening. While some have a low turnout, others are seeing numbers near pre-pandemic levels.
- ◆ Beginning with a sectional, players can determine their comfort level, and if they are not comfortable after playing one session, they do not need to return to finish an event, unlike regionals.

The final reason is that many of us on the board are eager to get back to normal. You may call us cockeyed optimists, but I'm ready to see everyone back at the tables in the clubs and at this inaugural tournament. I've missed the F2F competition and all your friendly faces. I hope you will take off your sweats, locate your bridge card, and find a partner to play with at the Labor Day Silver Point Sectional.

Let's get together and have some fun!

Tom Dressing  
CCBA President



*President Tom Dressing*

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DeMaris Johnson

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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](http://www.bridgeinchicago.com) or call the CCBA at 630-235-4718.

### Seeking Nominations for CCBA Board

If you know someone (perhaps yourself) who would make a great addition to the CCBA Board of Directors, now is the time to nominate that person. Five people will be elected to three-year terms on the 15-member board at the CCBA Annual Meeting in January. Each year one-third of the terms expire. This year, the terms of Jim Diebel, Todd Fisher, Guy Franklin, Bob Maxson and Mark Stein expire. Send your entry in writing (emails okay) by September 15 to Loring Knoblauch, nominating committee chair, 1200 Lake Shore Drive, Apt. 1106, Chicago, Illinois 60610 or to [loring.knoblauch@gmail.com](mailto:loring.knoblauch@gmail.com).

### Attention club owners, directors, and players

If you have any news, stories, special events, photographs or hands that you would like considered for publication in the Kibitzer, please contact DeMaris Johnson at [demaris\\_j@hotmail.com](mailto:demaris_j@hotmail.com). I'd love to hear from you.



## Players tell why they're returning to the clubs *(Continued from p.1)*

Steve also enjoys “the pleasures of relationships with a wide variety of talented and interesting people.”

At this time, however, Steve cannot play at the clubs because of a compromised immune system. “I don’t feel comfortable since my body has not generated sufficient antibodies.”



Louise and Steve Clark

Yet, his wife, Louise with 5,000 MPs, has resumed playing at the Ace of Clubs in Deerfield and so far has voiced no concerns.

Caryl Brown, a Highland Park Gold LifeMaster and a patron at several north suburban clubs including Northfield’s Temple Jeremiah, Glencoe’s Queen of Clubs, plus Ace, acknowledges she frequently plays online, “but I don’t think of it as real bridge. I find people often overbid, and I wonder if my opponents are being dishonest.”



Caryl Brown

Caryl, who enjoys other hobbies like pickle ball and canasta, agrees the handful of club games opened on the North Shore “feels like it used to” except there are fewer tables.

She is hopeful that the games will grow in size. She praises both Daryl Novick of Ace and Tom Dressing, a Jeremiah owner and president of Unit 123, for keeping their games alive.

She and her husband, Steve, a past director of CCBA, expect to play in the

NABCs in Austin, Texas over Thanksgiving, and hope to play in the Skokie Labor Day tournament.

Sharing Caryl’s view regarding online play is Chicago’s Alex Lishkov, who has accrued 700 MPs and, more recently, a bagful of national online awards.

He shares Caryl’s concerns regarding online cheating. Alex, 35, a Bulgarian native and a graduate of Princeton University in math and English, said “I really don’t like online because there is cheating.”

Alex, who often partners with U.K. players in winning online Fast Pairs, is active at the Lawson club, which was one of the earliest to reopen on May 3. Like others, Alex admits he enjoys playing “with real people”

Sam Sirko, a Chicago Bronze player and also a Lawson client, said he prefers in-person play because, “I really like the social aspect,” adding, “staring across the screen at robots is no fun.”

Jim Diebel, a Wood Dale player and owner of two clubs, Naperville DBC and Chicago Cultural Center, said he sees a desire among players to return to the club, yet many remain reluctant. In July, his table turnout was down to four or five from the pre-pandemic eight or nine.

Jim, a Unit 123 director, said the emphasis should be “on getting our players off of their computers and back into the clubs. Until enough players become comfortable in a F2F setting, I don’t think tournaments will show a profit.”

Although his table count is down, Lawson owner Jerry Scholle said he is encouraged by player comeback.



Lawson Club players back at the tables

Jerry is not an online fan for personal reasons. “I can’t sit in front of a computer for any length of time since breaking my right femur in 2018.”

Jerry said that playing in-person brings greater human connection and is preferable to playing bridge or attending meetings online, an apparent reference to the popular Zoom.

The Kibitzer survey found Lake Forest/Lake Bluff players like Eric Saunders and his partner David Sullivan, were among the earliest to resume in-person play in July. The team has been scoring well at both the Jeremiah and Queen of Clubs in Glencoe. Eric said he appreciated the return to F2F play.

For years, Eric ran a social club at the Knollwood Country Club. He tried out duplicate using cardboard separation shields to defray player COVID-19 worries. “They worked for a while but later I took them down,” he said.

Eric is not a fan of online bridge. “I really don’t like the robots and I don’t feel motivated by online play,” he said.

Mary O’Donnell, a Bronze Lake Forest player, who remains active online both afternoons and evenings, said she prefers in-person games at the Jeremiah and Queen of Clubs. She admits that it has been fun and somewhat enlightening to see the faces of the people whose names she sees online.

She said some of the “onliners are not nice and can be really nasty,” a claim often repeated in the *Kibitzer* survey.

And yet Chicagoan Dan Kuhn, with 35 MPs, appreciates the Bridge Base Online hand exercises, and tries to put them to use at the Chicago Duplicate Club and Lawson.



Jim Diebel



Jerry Scholle

# LABOR DAY



## Silver Point Sectional September 3-6



## Weber Leisure Center 9300 Weber Place, Skokie, IL



### Schedule:

#### Friday, September 3

- 10:00 Stratified Open Pair/Team Games
- 2:30 Stratified Open Pair/Team Game

#### Saturday, September 4

- 10:00 Stratified Open Pair/Team Game
- 2:30 Stratified Open Pair/Team Game

#### Sunday, September 5

- 10:00 Stratified Swiss Teams (playthru)

#### Monday September 6

- 10:00 Stratified Open Pair Games
- 2:30 Stratified Open Pair Game

Masterpoint Averaging when possible

Stratification: A: 2000+, B: 750-2000, C: 0-750

### Intermediate/Novice Schedule

#### Friday, September 3

- 10:00 Stratified Open Pair
- 2:30 Stratified Open Pair

#### Saturday, September 4

- 10:00 Stratified Open Pair
- 2:30 Stratified Open Pair

#### Sunday, September 5

- 10:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
- 1:00 Stratified Swiss Teams

#### Monday September 6

- 10:00 Stratified Open Pair Games
- 2:30 Stratified Open Pair Game

Tournament Chair: Todd Fisher

Marengo@aol.com

773-807-5178

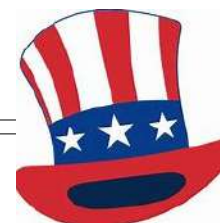
I/N Chair: Guy Franklin

guyfranklinchicago@gmail.com

773-412-4882

For More Information:

[www.bridgeinchicago.com](http://www.bridgeinchicago.com)



Pair/Team Games: One Game, Two Chances for MP's

1. As a Pair (Matchpoints)
2. As a Team (Board-A-Match scoring)

Pair/Teams are single session. Come with a team, or come as a pair and be assigned teammates.

Scratch as a pair or team and win masterpoints! Scratch BOTH ways, and get the higher award.

## Tips on balancing over 1-level opening bid that's passed around to you



By Jeff and Ginny Schuett

When you bid in the balancing seat over a one level opening that is passed around to you, the rules are different than in overcaller's direct seat.

In general, the same bid made in the direct seat can be made in the balancing seat with about a king less, so 3 points less.

What do you do with these hands on this auction:

S	W	N	E
1♣	P	P	??
1) ♠AK87	♥108	♦654	♣AQ63
2) ♠Q87	♥KQ10	♦KJ97	♣K72
3) ♠KJ875	♥AQ973	♦4	♣Q2
4) ♠K5	♥AQJ74	♦K4	♣10932
5) ♠KQ84	♥KJ94	♦AJ104	♣2
6) ♠AKJT42	♥K4	♦A4	♣J109
7) ♠AQ87	♥KQ	♦KJT7	♣AQT

Answers:

- 1<sup>a</sup>: You have an awkward hand. Bidding a good 4 card suit at the one level is acceptable, definitely should be 5+ cards long at the two level. Double is not good without 3+ hearts.
- 1NT: In balancing seat, most play this 11-14 HCP. Be sure to discuss with partner whether you play system on, so responder can use Stayman/Transfers. Many people do. Over a major suit opening, the top of range should be up to bad 16 HCP.
- 2♣ Michaels, to show both major suits, usually 5-5 or longer.

4) 1♥: This is a typical one level balance in a 5 card suit. You might be weaker, but this is well within the normal range to bid a suit.

5) Double, normal. Note you might be a little weaker than this for your double. So you can raise partner if they bid one of your 4 card suits and have this much strength.

6) 2♠: You might not know this bid, but a jump here is not preemptive, but fairly strong. Usually about 14-17 HCP and a good 6+ card suit. Partner should feel free to raise on a doubleton and some modest values.

7) 2NT: The unusual 2NT is usually played in the direct seat, but not the balancing seat. In balancing seat, it is harder to describe this strong hand of about 19-21 HCP with stopper(s) in the opener's suit, and it also allows partner to use the same bids you use over an opening 2NT, so Stayman, transfers, etc.

Ginny & Jeff Schuett—bridge teaching, directing, play  
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## Congratulations Rank Advancers

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Joyce Joseph  
Norman Segal  
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### Gold Life Master

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Rosalie Rappin

### Sapphire Life Master

Michael Airdo

### Diamond Life Master

Serdar Ogut

### Platinum Life Master

Barbara Saben



## Local player competes in exciting USBF semifinal

The below hand is from the semifinals of the United States Bridge Federation JLall 4 Online Teams Tournament. This hand features Brian Platnick of Evanston, a strong local competitor, who played on the winning Lall team. Over time he has played on teams in which he partnered with another local player, Martha Katz, and with John Diamond, who was a member of the junior team that won the World Championships a number of years ago.



Brian Platnick

**Sunday's  
SemiFinals**

<p>♠ AQ104</p> <p>Bd 54, Dir E</p> <p>2♥ X= E</p> <p>W Debbie Rosenberg</p> <p>♠ J853</p> <p>♥ 107</p> <p>♦ A1072</p> <p>♣ A98</p> <p>Brian Platnick S</p>	<p>♥ K</p> <p>♦ Q843</p> <p>♣ J742</p> <p>W N E S</p> <p>P X 2♥ P P</p>	<p>N John Diamond</p> <p>♠ K2</p> <p>♥ AJ9654</p> <p>♦ J96</p> <p>♣ 106</p>	<p>♠ AQ104</p> <p>Bd 54, Dir E</p> <p>3♣ = S</p> <p>W Bob Hamman</p> <p>♠ J853</p> <p>♥ 107</p> <p>♦ A1072</p> <p>♣ A98</p> <p>Kevin Rosenberg S</p>	<p>♥ K</p> <p>♦ Q843</p> <p>♣ J742</p> <p>W N E S</p> <p>P X P P</p>	<p>N Owen Lien</p> <p>♠ K2</p> <p>♥ AJ9654</p> <p>♦ J96</p> <p>♣ 106</p>
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The fourth quarter of the Joel/Lall match had seven double digit swings in fourteen boards. The last such swing occurred on Board 54 of the fifty-six board match. At both tables, East opened 2H (weak). This was passed around to North, who doubled at both tables.

Kevin Rosenberg bid 3C with the South hand and played there. The HT was lead and Weichsel won the HA. Peter switched to a trump. Rosenberg played the CQ, and Hamman ducked his ace. Kevin continued clubs. Hamman won the CA and exited with a third round of trumps.

Rosenberg played the S9, covered by the jack, queen and king. Weichsel exited with the S2. Declarer played the S7, West covered with the S8, and the trick was won by dummy's ST. Since the S6 was now established, declarer could trump one losing heart and discard a heart on the SA. He conceded the DA and took nine tricks for N/S +110.

At the other table, Brian Platnick was out for blood. Brian passed the takeout double and led the CK.

Declarer, Will Watson, won the CA in dummy and carefully led the H7! When Owen Lien played his singleton HK, Watson won the HA and played a heart toward dummy. Platnick ducked and the HT won in dummy. Watson came off dummy with a spade toward his king.

John Diamond won the SA and played a club to Platnick's queen. Brian exited with the DK, taken by dummy's ace.

Watson led a spade to his hand and played a high heart. Platnick won the heart, led a diamond to North's queen and trumped the third round of diamonds. Declarer claimed eight tricks for E/W +670

12 IMPs to Lall

Note that this match was very close... and in the end, the margin of victory was only 5 IMPs!

# Wimpy delivers the scoop on useful and unusual convention called XYZ



*Winning with Wimpy  
By Jim Diebel*

When I play with my best partners, we play several conventions to make certain sequences more specific. Many good players would have you believe that the methods they use are complex and difficult. In my experience, that is simply untrue.

In fact, good players achieve better results because they make fewer mistakes. They make fewer mistakes because they streamline their agreements into only the most necessary components.

One of the conventions I find most useful is called XYZ. Many might suggest it is beyond the comprehension of the average player. I disagree strongly. So here I present my notes entitled:

## XYZ for Dummies

### 1. What is XYZ?

XYZ is a convention that is triggered any time, in an uncontested auction, Opener makes his second bid on the 1-level. There are 10 sequences that launch XYZ. They are: (no opponents bidding) 1C-1D-1H, 1C-1D-1S,

1C-1D-1NT, 1C-1H-1S, 1C-1H-1NT, 1C-1S-1NT, 1D-1H-1S, 1D-1H-1NT, 1D-1S-1NT, 1H-1S-1NT.

There is no need to memorize these 10 sequences. If Opener opens on the 1-level (X), Responder responds on the 1-level (Y), and Opener rebids on the 1-level (Z), both partners recognize that Responder's next call will be conventional unless it is Pass, 1NT or 3NT.

### 2. What are the rules of XYZ?

Responder knows quite a bit about Opener's hand after 2 calls. Probably about 80% of the time, Responder will be able to place the contract with his next bid. Occasionally, Responder will need more information. In these cases, XYZ can be quite useful. XYZ can be summed up in 3 simple rules:

1. Any bid on the 3-level is natural and game forcing

2. All invitational sequences must begin with an artificial bid of 2C

3. 2D is an artificial bid promising game-going values. The auction cannot die below game.

Any bid on the 3-level is natural and game forcing:

This rule sounds simple, but is probably the one that gets misused the most. A jump to the 3-level promises a long suit or suits with possible slam interest.

Opener Responder  
1D 1S  
1NT 3C

Since Responder has created a game force, his clubs cannot be longer than his spades, or he would have started with 2C. Expect Responder to be 5-5, 6-5, or perhaps even 6-6, with very good suits. A minimum holding might look something like: ♠AKJTxx, ♥--, ♦Qx, ♣KQJxx. Red honors other than aces figure to have limited value. If Responder is less distributional, he should continue with a simple game forcing 2D call.

Opener Responder  
1D 1H  
1S 3H

This sequence is dangerous because it looks like an auction we have seen many times where Responder is inviting game in hearts. Playing XYZ, all invitational hands must begin with 2C, so this is actually a game forcing hand with very good hearts. Something like: ♠Jx, ♥AKQTxxx, ♦x, ♣AJx.

Once again, Responder will be interested if you have aces, or perhaps kings. Opener would be expected to cue bid his cheapest ace. Opener should only bail out in 3NT (or 4H) with very soft values. Often, partner will not need too much. A 3NT signoff might look like: ♠KJ9x, ♥x, ♦KQTxx, ♣KTx. If Opener doesn't fit hearts, but has a questionable side suit issue, like: ♠KT9x, ♥x, ♦AQJxx, ♣J9x, he needs to bid 4H. Partner doesn't need help in hearts, but there is no guarantee he has a club card.

All invitational sequences must begin with an artificial bid of 2C.

This is the workhorse bid of XYZ that does most of the heavy lifting of the convention. Responder wants to invite game, and Opener is obligated to find out what type of invitation partner wants to make. Therefore, Opener relays to 2D (artificial) to find out where partner wants to make his invitation.

## BRIDGE PLAYERS WILL GO TO BID WITH ANYBODY



Opener Responder  
1C 1S  
1NT 2C\*  
2D\*\* 2H

- ♦ artificial, suggesting desire to make an invitational bid
- ♦ \*\* artificial (forced). Opener gives partner maximum room to make his invitation.

This is a simple sequence where responder is inviting game with 5 spades and 4 hearts. With a minimum and 4 hearts, Opener can pass. This is the type of hand many players would use the New Minor Forcing convention.

Opener Responder  
1D 1S  
1NT 2H

Note that Responder did not start with 2C. Responder is NOT inviting a game. Responder has a weak hand with at least 5 spades and at least 4 hearts. Opener should pass or correct to 2S.

Opener Responder  
1D 1S  
1NT 2C\*  
2D\* \* 3H

3H can't be forcing, because Responder started with 2C. Responder has an invitational hand with at least 5 spades and at least 5 hearts. Opener can pass with a minimum and a heart preference.

Opener Responder  
1D 1S  
1NT 2C\*  
2D\* \* 2S

Opener has 5 spades and invitational values. This is one of the simplest of the XYZ sequences.

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Status of F2F Club Games

Club	Status	Time/Day	Location	Requirements/Contact
Lawson Bridge Studio	Open	M/W/6:20 pm	Ann Sather Restaurant 909 W. Belmont, Chicago	Pre-registration and masks required Jerry Scholle 773-209-7089
Calumet DBC	Open	M/11 a.m	Calumet Highland Elks Elk's Club, 3120 45th Street, Highland, Ind.	Diane Martin puccinni2008@gmail.com
Hinsdale DBC	Open	M/Th 12 noon (499er II:45)	Hinsdale Community Center 8th and Madison, Hinsdale	Diane Beyer Martin puccinni2008@gmail.com
Olympia DBC	Open	M/10:30 am	Countryside Church 126 Smith, Palatine	Sue Erickson 847-398-3440
South Suburban BC	July	Tu/F/noon	Trinity Lutheran School 18144 Glen Terrace, Lansing	Lynne 708-217-5947 or patthesoxfan@comcast.net
Ace of Clubs	Open	M/W/10 am Sat/10:30	Temple BJBE 1201 Lake Cook Rd Deerfield	Daryl Novick 847-810-9272 or Phyllis Bartlett 847-494-8474 Vax card required/No food provided.
Unusual No Trump Naper DBC	Open Open	Tu/F 11 am	Community United Methodist Naperville	Jim Diebel 630-244-9292 Vax card required. Some food provided.
Temple Jeremiah	Open	M/W/Th/ Fri Noon, Th/F 10 am 0-750	937 Happ Road, Glenview	Tom (224)901-2582 or tom@ Dressing.org. Jeff Schuett (for Wed) 847-308-2393 or jgschuett2@comcast.net Vax card. No food provided.
Mundelein Area DBD	Open	M/9:15 am	Fremont Township Adm. Office Mundelein	Joe Connelly Vax card required first time. madbridge16@gmail.com
Hinsdale	Open	Sa/12:30 pm	Union Church, 137 Garfield Hinsdale	Nancy Miller Masks optional unless a player at the table requests it. No food provided. \$10
New Lenox	Open	Th/10:30 am	New Life Church, 500 S. Gougar New Lenox	Nancy Miller, masks optional No food.. Coffee provided \$8
Fox Bridge	Open	W/11 am	Riverside Townhall 27 Riverside Road Riverside	Mary Schultz 248-224-2553 or schultzelmhurst@aol.com No food or drink provided but may bring.
Queen of Clubs	Open	Tu/10:45 am	N. Shore Congregation Israel 1185 Sheridan Rd., Glencoe	Elaine Morrison 847-334-4575 QofClubs120@gmail.com Vax required first time. Masks not required. No food provided. May bring sandwich.
Wheaton DBC	Open	W/11:30 a.m.	St. Matthews Church 1420 Gables Blvd., Wheaton	Karl Anderson kmanderson21@yahoo.com Vax card required. Only coffee provided. May bring own snacks. .
Chicago DBC	Open	M-Sa/12:15 p.m. Dearborn Station, lower level Tu, Th/ 6:20 p.m. Polk/State Sa/12:15 p.m. 499er game M,W/12:15 p.m. 299er game Th/6:30 p.m. 299er game		chicagoduplicatebridge@gmail.com Tea, coffee, snacks. Online games 6:30 Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Club phone 872-892-7941 Proof of vax required.
St. Charles DBC	Open	Tu/11 a.m.	Baker Community Center Upstairs. Elevator available.	Marilyn Croft Vax required. Coffee. No food. All but Tues online games continue.
Tree Towns	Closed	BBO Tu,F/6:30		Patt Quinn at pattgq@gmail.com



## Players tell why they're returning to the clubs

Continued from page 3)



David and Paul Langer

"I do like the challenges, and the exercises help to remind me to count my cards," Dan said.

Among both online and in-person players are the Langers, a father-son pair led by David of Glenview, who is often joined at the Jeremiah table by dad, Paul.

"It was my father who introduced me to the game when I was in high school and later I played duplicate in college," recalled David, a Diamond Life Master with 5,370 MPs spanning 35 years of playing.

The father-son camaraderie at the table has always been a "feel good" relationship with David adding, "My father and I enjoy playing together very much and I owe him a lot."

Like so many, David expresses his great enthusiasm at the return to F2F in club games and says, "it is very uplifting to see so many people that I haven't seen since the lockdown." David plays in the clubs six days a week and BBO twice a week.

Concludes David, "I encourage everyone who loves the game and has not yet returned to F2F to consider doing so as soon as you feel ready." Think of "entertainment and intellectual stimulation," adds David. "There's nothing quite like an in-person duplicate bridge game."



## Wimpy delivers the scoop on XYZ

(Continued from page 8)

Opener Responder

1C	1S
1NT	2C*
2D*	* 3S

Compare this sequence to the 2nd example from the previous section. This is how you invite game with 6+ spades. Partner can pass, bid 3NT, or accept the invitation to 4S. Note that Responder has no interest in slam.

Opener Responder

1D	1S
1NT	2C*
2D*	* 2NT

This is how you invite a game in No Trump using XYZ.

Responder has only 4 spades (or would have bid 2S) and less than 4 hearts (or would have bid 1H on his first bid). This is a simple sequence that those not playing XYZ would have raised to 2NT without the 2C-2D relay sequence being necessary.

Opener Responder

1C	1S
1NT	2C*
2D*	* 3C

This is pretty straightforward. Responder is inviting game in clubs or NT, promising a club fit. This is another simple sequence where those not playing XYZ would have jumped to 3C directly without the 2C-2D relay.

Opener Responder

1C	1S
1NT	3C

This is one of those dangerous sequences. It looks like an invitational raise in clubs. Those who remember rule #1 will realize that this is a game forcing club raise. Responder looked for a spade fit (with 4 or 5 spades), before making it clear to partner that he wants to be in a game forcing club auction.

Opener Responder

1C	1S
1NT	2NT

The previous two examples beg the question: "What does the above sequence show?" This question can be easily deduced when we rule out what it can not be. It can not be a no trump invitation, because all invitational sequences start with 2C. Responder didn't continue with

2D, so it can not be a game force. Remember that an immediate jump to 3C is game forcing. This leaves us with the realization that this sequence must (by default) show a non-forcing simple club raise. Something like: ♠QJxx, ♥x, ♦Kxx, ♣QTxxx.

So far, I'd say that I haven't presented a compelling argument for anyone to adopt XYZ. The 3-level game forcing bids are nice, but come up only rarely. The invitational sequences have inherent traps, which require the user to be alert, or risk disaster if forgotten.

On the surface, it would appear that simple bidding gets the same job done, and with less chance to screw it up. These are all valid arguments.

The real reason to adopt XYZ is rule #3. It makes the rest a minor inconvenience. I've run out of room. Next issue, I'll explain why XYZ needs to be the next convention you add to your arsenal with your favorite partner.

### Jeopardy Question

Do you know the answer to this recent question on the TV quiz show Jeopardy? The players did not. The answer is Hoyle.

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## Using 2NT to ask for a feature over weak 2 opening

This popular 2NT convention is used after your partner opens with a weak two-bid. It is frequently misused.

After a 2♦, 2♥, or 2♠ weak two-opener a response of 2NT is conventional. A small percentage use it as "Ogust," but most common is "[Feature](#)." The 2NT bidder has at least game (maybe slam) interest. As to what might constitute "interest," see my article on "[The Rule of 17](#)."

A "[Feature](#)" is usually an ace or king. It is NEVER a singleton or void. Occasionally, it can be a queen or even a jack with length. Before we get into the responses, remember that the most important part of this system is that partner is fundamentally asking: "Do you like your hand?"

[Here are the responses to the 2NT inquiry:](#)

Rebid of the Weak-2 suit: ANY MINIMUM (might actually have a "feature" as well).

Rebid in a new suit: ANY NON-MINIMUM, with a "feature" in the suit bid.

Rebid of 3NT: NON-MINIMUM with a "solid" or extremely good suit.

These responses will be clarified with examples:

Opener:

♠ Q J 10 9 8 3 ♥ K 3 ♦ 5 4 ♣ 6 4 2

After 2♠-2NT: Rebid 3♠ because this is a minimum. Do not show a [Feature](#) with a minimum.

Opener:

♠ K Q J 9 8 7 ♥ K 5 2

♦ 5 4

♣ 3 2

After 2♠-2NT: Rebid 3♥ to show the heart feature (and extras--not minimum).

Opener:

♠ K Q 9 8 7 2 ♥ 7 ♦ K 5 4 ♣ 4 3 2

After 2♠-2NT: You must decide if this is a minimum (in which case rebid 3♠) or a non-minimum (in which case rebid 3♦ to show the feature). This could depend on your preempting style (is it a maximum for YOU?). Also important is position and vulnerability. For a 2nd seat Vulnerable preempt, I'd consider this a minimum and would rebid 3♠. For a dealer favorable-vulnerability preempt, I'd consider it a maximum and would rebid 3♦.

Opener:

♠ A K J 10 9 7 ♥ 3 2 ♦ Q 4 ♣ 7 6 4

After 2♠-2NT: I would rebid 3NT and treat this as a "solid suit." Sure, I'd prefer to have AKQ--but I can't treat this as a minimum, and prefer not to announce a diamond feature with only Q4 doubleton.

Opener:

♠ A Q 10 8 7 6 ♥ 3 ♦ Q J 7 6 ♣ 4 2

After 2♠-2NT: I recommend 3♦ to show a non-minimum and a diamond feature. Yes, a feature is usually a king or ace, but what choice do you have? You can't rebid 3♠ as that would show a minimum. You can't rebid 3NT as that would show a better spade suit. You can't rebid 3♥, because shortness is not a feature.

### Notes:

>There is some judgment involved (especially depending on what your partnership considers a minimum).

(Continued on page 11)

## Using 2NT to learn feature

(Continued from page 10)

>Vulnerability, position and form of scoring are important.

>The main purpose is that responder is "looking for game" and opener needs to say if he is BAD (minimum) or GOOD.

>A secondary purpose is that the location of the feature could help responder to bid 3NT, or game/slam in a suit.

>2NT then 3NT by responder offers opener the choice to correct back to 4 of the major (with unusual shape). Responder's direct 3NT response is not correctable.

>Discuss opener's 4-level jump rebid after 2NT (my recommendation: A side 5-card suit, so 6-5).

>Be sure you know if a new suit is forcing after a weak two-bid (standard is "YES").

>Also learn the [LAW of Total Tricks](#) for responding to preempts. If no Game Interest, [Follow the LAW](#)..

Larry runs and is the star of *Bridge with Larry Cohen*. He is a 25-Time National Champion, ACBL Player of the Year, ACBL Honorary Member of the Year, ACBL Top 10 Living Most Influential in Bridge and finally 2020 Hall of Famer. He is an autor and hosts a weekly webinar, Bridge Made Simple (BMS).



### ACBL warns against cheating

The ACBL issued the following warning. "When you play on BBO, every call and every play are recorded. If you cheat online, you will get caught.

"In addition to player reports by BBO, there are automatic surveillance tools to alert the game operators of potential cheating.

"If a player is found to be cheating in an ACBL sanctioned game, the club will bar that player from BBO. In addition, the player may be subject to discipline under the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations. Both ACBL and BBO are doing everything possible to maintain the integrity of these online games so that honest players can be confident of a fair contest."



Dear District Presidents, Unit Presidents and Tournament Chairs,

In February, the ACBL announced that the sanctions for all regionals and sectionals scheduled through July 2021 were canceled and outlined a plan for the return to face-to-face play. Click [here](#) to see the original communication.

Consistent with that announcement and the requirements for staffing tournaments that begin after July, due to the risk posed by the coronavirus Delta variant, the ACBL will not staff any open regional or sectional tournaments that begin between August 1-31, 2021, and the sanctions for those tournaments are therefore canceled.

If you are sponsoring an I/N tournament in August using a local director (not an ACBL Tournament Director), while ACBL management encourages you to cancel the event, you may make the decision in your own discretion.

If you are sponsoring an open sectional tournament in August where you expect fewer than twenty tables per session, you may downgrade it by staffing it with a local director (not an ACBL Tournament Director). While ACBL management encourages you to cancel the event, you may make the decision to downgrade an open sectional in your own discretion.

ACBL management continues to closely monitor the situation and will communicate a decision regarding September tournaments by August 16, 2021.

This was not an easily made decision, but it is a necessary one. We are disappointed with this turn of events, particularly because we were optimistic just a few short weeks ago. We remain hopeful that we can all meet at the table again soon.

Thank you for your continued support of our great game.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Jones  
ACBL Executive Director  
July 30, 2021





# AUSTIN

FALL ♡ 2021 ♦ NABC

NOV. 25 - DEC. 5

The Fall North American Bridge Championships (NABC) will be held November 25-December 5 in Austin, Texas, at the JW Austin Marriott.

Registration is now open for that hotel and for the nearby Austin Marriott. Rooms are \$179 plus tax. For assistance, contact Conference Direct at 855-956-0776 or email [acbl@conferencedirect.com](mailto:acbl@conferencedirect.com).

All players must have an ACBL member number to participate in any event (ACBL member numbers are valid for life, even if your membership is inactive). If you have never been an ACBL member, you can purchase a full-year membership or become a guest member (120 days free).

The tournament, which attracts thousands of players, is held three times a year at varying locations in the United States and Canada. The NABCs can be enjoyed by players of all skill levels, from beginners to experts, in both pair and team games. This means there are points of many colors, including platinum.

When not at the table, one can take some time to explore the city and some of its one-of-a-kind attractions. While known for its thriving live music scene, there's plenty more to do in this Texas town, like visiting historic sites, sampling local barbecue and Tex-Mex, viewing local art and more.



## Did You Know?

**North American Bridge Championships (NABC)** are 11-day events drawing thousands of bridge players. There are pair and team games at every level, which equals points of many colors, including platinum. You'll also find opportunities to boost your bridge skills and hone your teaching practices. The NABCs are hosted by ACBL and held three times a year at varying locations across the U.S. and Canada.

**Regional Tournaments** are multi-day events hosted by a district. Open and stratified games offer many chances to win, and most regionals also have special educational opportunities for newer players. You can earn both gold and red points at a regional.

**Sectional Tournaments** are shorter tournaments, usually three days, hosted by units and clubs given special allowances. Silver points are awarded, and some sectionals are limited to players who have yet to reach Life Master.

**Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STaC)** are tournaments with a sectional rating staged at participating clubs in a specific geographical area. A STaC can last up to seven days. There are winners and overall places for participants, and awarded points are silver.

