WinterFest, a great four-day tournament that features the exciting Invitational Pairs charity game, runs January 17-20. It will again be held at the beautiful Chevy Chase Country Club, 1000 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling.

The qualifying round for Invitational Pairs will be played at 7:30 p.m. Friday, with the final round at 2 p.m. Saturday. This year the event will benefit the Grass Roots Fund. Prior to the tournament, all those eligible to play in this event will receive an invitation to participate, including instructions for registration, which is free. After December 15, players may register online at www.bridgeinchicago.com/registrations. If you have questions, contact Adrienne Cohen at 630-941-0581.

The sectional tournament features three sessions daily of stratified open pair/team games on the regular schedule, plus a Board-A-Match team game Saturday night. The I/N schedule includes three sessions of stratified pairs on Thursday and Friday, and two sessions on Saturday. The tournament concludes with the always popular stratified Swiss Teams, which begins 10 a.m. Sunday, and will be a play-through event in the regular section. The I/N Swiss Team event will be two sessions, according to Tom Dressing, tournament chair. Lunch will be available for purchase on site during play.

Volunteers are needed to serve as standbys. Standbys play with those who come to WinterFest without partners. If interested in being a volunteer or need a partner, contact Partnership Chair Joe Connelly at 847-271-1666 or madbridge16@gmail.com.

You Are Invited!

Unit 123
Annual Meeting
January 19, 2019, 7 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 p.m.
Chevy Chase Country Club
1000 N. Milwaukee, Wheeling
The CCBA Board encourages all Unit Members to attend.

Order tickets now for Annual Dinner buffet

A tasty all-you-can-eat buffet at 5:30 p.m. will precede the Annual Meeting on January 19 during WinterFest. One need not stay for dinner in order to attend the Annual Meeting, which is free.

To make dinner reservations, send a $15 check made out to the CCBA to Judy Riehs, (847-215-7695), judymriehs@yahoo.com) at 731 Hapefield Lane, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089.

Tables of 10 may be reserved if prepaid by January 5. Tickets will be held for pickup at the tournament site.

Awards to be presented at Annual Meeting

Individuals will be recognized for their achievements and service during the Annual Meeting, which will be held on January 19 during WinterFest. The prestigious Harmon Wilkes, CCBA’s highest award, along with the Art and Greg Gran Sportsmanship, and the Carl Sharp Service Awards are among the honors that may be bestowed. In addition to the CCBA’s own honors, the board recognizes the winners of two ACBL awards: the Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Award and the Mini-McKenney. The business agenda includes electing five people to three-year terms on the 15-member CCBA Board of Directors. Each year, one-third of the terms expire. This year, the terms of Steve Brown, Todd Fisher, Guy Franklin, Les Kent and Sharon Pobloske are ending.

Other business includes a vote by CCBA members on a proposed change in the unit’s by-laws. The change includes a set of proposed binding arbitration rules to govern any disputes between the CCBA and participants in its tournaments. CCBA encourages comment and feedback by email to arbitration.rules at bridgeinchicago.com. The vote will take place without discussion. For more information see page 12.
Jan reviews 2018 in final column as president

This is the last column I’m writing as president (something for which I’m sure the editor is grateful — she always has to “remind” me that it’s due). We (that’s not a “Royal We,” it’s the Board of Directors and myself) began a tournament in Chicago, ended our long-standing relationship with the Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva, and moved FallFest from the Lindner Center in Lombard to the Wyndham Garden in Schaumburg.

2017 was a bit rough financially. Fortunately 2018 has been better, and tournament revenue has increased. After much debate, we decided to invest a portion of CCBA funds in order to get a better interest rate than checking accounts offer. This was a big decision because this is YOUR money, and there was a strong division of opinion between being fiscally responsible and hedging against rising costs. Treasurer Craig Gardner and the Finance Committee examined alternatives thoroughly, and ultimately recommended multiple small CD’s that have a very good rate of interest (relatively speaking).

We’ve welcomed new board members and said goodbye to old friends. We’re expanding the reach of the board by inviting non-board members to join us in various ways, and we’re actively supporting the ACBL’s mission to give Zero Tolerance teeth. Zero Tolerance is the rule only at ACBL-sponsored tournaments; club owners run their games as they wish, and we’re offering to assist them in ensuring enjoyable playing conditions. It’s difficult to bar a player from a game, but owners know that losing one entry fee is cheaper in the long run than losing many because a club gets a bad reputation.

An ongoing goal is to bring new players into the game. We recognize that many bridge players will never be interested in duplicate, but for those who enjoy the competition a variety of activities and convenient locations will always be important. We’re always interested in hearing your thoughts and suggestions about how we can improve your playing experiences.

Thank you to the Kibitzer Editor, DeMaris Johnson, for all the work she does to deliver a quality newsletter six times a year.

Finally, my sincere thank you to the directors who have worked with me for the past two years to make “bridge in Chicago” better. They have run the tournaments, encouraged newcomers, taught classes, discussed options and possibilities, and always provided direction and support.

I’ve very much enjoyed meeting many of you, and I hope you’ll always let me know whether I can help with any bridge-related matters.

See you at the tables.
Jan Churchwell

Board of Directors Slate for 2019-2022

Craig Gardner, Chair of the Nominating Committee, recommended the slate of board members for the 2019-2022 at the October Board of Directors meeting.

The members whose terms end this year are Steve Brown, Todd Fisher, Guy Franklin, Les Kent, and Sharon Pobloske. The board voted unanimously to accept the recommended slate of Genny Cesario, Jim Diebel, and Mark Stein, who will join returning members Todd and Guy. Steve, Les, and Sharon did not wish to be reslated for another term. Each year five members are elected to three-year terms on the 15-member board.

2018 CCBA Officers/Board Members

President
Jan Churchwell

Vice President
Loring Knoblauch

Treasurer
Craig Gardner

Secretary
Tom Dressing

District 13 Director
Suzi Subeck

Board of Directors
Steve Brown
Adrienne Cohen
Todd Fisher
Guy Franklin
Mark Friedlander
Les Kent
Phil McPeek
Sharon Pobloske
Joe Stokes
Suzi Subeck
Bob Young

Kibitzer Editor
DeMaris Johnson

Recorder
Ralph Katz

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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.
SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, January 17
9:30  Stratified Open Pair/Team Game
2:00  Stratified Open Pair/Team Game
7:30  Stratified Open Pair/Team Game

FRIDAY, January 18
9:30  Stratified Open Pair/Team Game
2:00  Stratified Open Pair/Team Game
7:30  Invitation Charity Pairs to benefit the Grass Roots Fund (Higher awards!) Qualifying Round (Matchpoint scoring)
     Stratified Open Pair/Team Game

SATURDAY, January 19
9:30  Stratified Open Pair/Team Game
2:00  Stratified Open Pair/Team Game
7:30  Annual Dinner
8:00  Annual Meeting
     Stratified Board-A-Match Teams
     Stratified Open Pair/Team Game

SUNDAY, January 20
10:00 Stratified Swiss Teams, Playthrough
     Swiss Team Averaging
     7 boards, 7 matches, 20 VP scoring

Events for I/N Players
(0-500 Masterpoints Non-Life Master)
Stratification:  0-100, 100-300, 300-500

THURSDAY, January 17
9:30 Stratified Pairs
2:00 Stratified Pairs
7:30 Stratified Pairs

FRIDAY, January 18
9:30 Stratified Pairs
2:00 Stratified Pairs

SATURDAY, January 19
9:30 Stratified Pairs
2:00 Stratified Pairs

SUNDAY, January 20
10:00 Stratified Swiss Teams (2 sessions) More chances for Silver Pts.

Tournament Chair: Tom Dressing
847-215-0310
tom@dressing.org

Partnership Chair: Joe Connelly
847-271-1666
madbridge16@gmail.com

(Volunteers are needed to serve as standbys. Standbys are players who serve as partners for those who come to WinterFest without partners. Players at all levels may volunteer.) Contact Joe for partnerships and to volunteer as standbys.

Invitational Pairs: Adrienne Cohen
630-941-0581
www.bridgeinchicago.com/registration
(Note: Online registration for Invitational Pairs begins on December 15. No charge to register)

For information, contact Tom (email preferred)
Chicago Contract Bridge Association
www.bridgeinchicago.com

Join us January 19 at 5:30 p.m. for the Annual CCBA Dinner and Meeting.
Cost: $15.00 (CCBA subsidized)
Send Reservations and Checks payable to the CCBA to Judy Riehs 847-215-7695
731 Hapsfield Lane, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
Judymriehs@yahoo.com
Tables of 10 may be reserved if prepaid by January 5
Tickets will be held for pickup at the tournament site.

Pair/Team Games: One Game, Two Chances for Masterpoints!
1. As a Pair (Matchpoints, think club games)
2. As a Team (Board-A-Match scoring)
Pair/Team Games are single session. Come with a team, or come as a pair and automatically become the partners of the other pair at the first table where you sit. Scratch as a pair and win points. Scratch as a team and win points. Scratch BOTH ways and get the higher award (you can only get one award).

Stratification:
A: 2500+
B: 1000-2500
C: 0-1000

Alert:
Registration is required for the Invitational Pairs only.
For all other events, you need only arrive in time to purchase an entry.

Events may be combined at the discretion of the director. Masterpoint averaging when allowed.
Toys for Tots
More than $1,000 worth of toys were donated by the players at Nancy Miller’s Downers Grove and New Lenox-Joliet clubs to the United States Marine Corps Reserve’s Toys for Tots program. The Marines collected the toys at the clubs and will distribute them in December to children whose parents could not afford to buy them gifts. Nancy (pictured above) said that the Marines were very grateful and appreciated the donations.

Family Affair
It took only one family to make up a complete team at a recent Swiss Team game at Fox Bridge in Riverside. Shown, left to right, are Mary Rose Smith (a cousin) and siblings, Jack Lattner, Maggie Skiver, and Kate Gancer. Bob Dolan is the club owner/director.

Interactive Daily Bridge Column (IDBC)

There is a way to improve your bidding, play, and defense through the Online Daily Bridge Column. It’s interactive. The highly trained world-class robots are programmed to respond and react to your plays. They will challenge you to make the right moves and execute a sound strategy on every deal.

I developed the column with David Lindop and the Better Bridge Team six years ago. It has received rave reviews, including feedback from our subscribers such as:

“Being able to play and replay the hand, combined with columns that clearly explain what to look for and how to strategize, makes this the most useful column I’ve seen.”

“The Sunday bidding instruction and quiz is excellent continuing education.”

The column is a balanced program of bidding, play, and defense and is designed for players with a wide range of experience and skill. For example, the Saturday column, the Famous Deal, can challenge the best of us.

I’d like to invite you to experience the columns. Simply click on the link www.betterbridge.com/chicago. I look forward to your feedback.

Audrey Grant is a noted bridge author and teacher. She is a member of the ACBL Hall of Fame.
When planning the play in a suit contract, entries are critical

There are three common ways to avoid possible losers: by ruffing them, by taking finesses, and by discarding.

Entries are critical – don’t waste them by cashing your sure winners without planning how you could use those winners as vital entries, especially entries to the weaker hand. In our lessons, the players can see how to play after the fact but don’t see the plan before they start to play. Take a moment to PLAN! Try these examples. You are South:

1. North ♠️865 ♥️AK4 ♦️753 ♣️875
   South ♠️AQJ2 ♥️97 ♦️KQJT ♣️QJ
   Playing 4♠️ with ♥️Q lead, South has possible losers of one spade, one diamond and two clubs. With only two entries to dummy, it is important to win ♥️A and take the spade finesse immediately. Return to dummy with ♥️K, and repeat the spade finesse and hope for a 3-2 break. Finish drawing the last spade and knock-out the ♥️A.

2. North ♠️J653 ♥️4 ♦️8753 ♣️A753
   South ♠️AKQT2 ♥️J97 ♦️KQJT ♣️J2
   Playing 4♠️ with ♦️K lead, South has possible losers of three hearts, one diamond and one club. DO NOT start by leading a spade. You need spades in dummy to ruff two hearts. Start by leading a heart, and EW should lead a spade to limit your ruffs. Win in hand and ruff a heart. Lead a spade to your hand to ruff your last heart, and draw the rest of the spades. You eventually lose only 1♥️ + 1♦️ + 1♠️.

3. North ♠️543 ♥️A84 ♦️9753 ♣️KJ53
   South ♠️A76 ♥️KQJ6 ♦️AK ♣️Q2
   Playing 4♥️ with a ♠️K lead, South has possible losers of two spades, one diamond and one club. You have one extra club winner after knocking out ♠️A, but only one sure entry to dummy in ♥️A. Win ♥️A and start by leading ♥️KQ and stop drawing trump. Next, lead ♦️Q. Win any return and lead to ♥️A in dummy and cash ♦️KJ to discard losing diamond.

   4. North ♠️AJ543 ♥️984 ♦️3 ♣️QJ83
      South ♠️6 ♥️K6 ♦️A852 ♣️AK1092
      Playing 5♠️ with the ♥️2 lead to ♥️A and a heart to your ♥️K. South has possible losers of 1♥️ + 4♦️.
      This is a classic cross ruff hand, ruffing diamonds in dummy and ruffing spades and hearts in hand. Important – do Not lead ANY trump.
      Start the cross ruff immediately, and with spades and diamonds breaking reasonably, you should make 12 tricks, winning three side suit tricks and nine trump winning separately.
      With trump 3-1, if you draw trump, you end up winning only nine tricks.

   5. North ♠️A43 ♥️109842 ♦️103 ♣️AK3
      South ♠️62 ♥️AQJ63 ♦️QJ85 ♣️Q9
      Playing 4♥️ with the ♠️K lead, South has four possible losers 1♥️ + 1♦️ + 1♠️ + 2♣️. To best combine your chances, delay drawing trump. Win ♠️A and lead to ♠️Q and to ♠️AK in dummy to discard a spade. Now take a heart finesse which loses, and later you lose ♠️AK to make 10 tricks. If you take a heart finesse before taking the quick discard of a spade loser, you end up down one.

   The last hand was more complex using the quick loser discard and finesse to try to eliminate losers, but the order was important. There are often even more complex hands that use all three ways to eliminate your losers – ruff them, finesse, and discard them, either on extra high card winners or long suit winners.

   The key is to identify your possible losers, how to eliminate them, and the order of the play to maximize your chances and use your entries wisely.

   Planning the play improves your ability to see your options quicker and play hands better. Enjoy the journey!

Interesting hand played at CCBA tournament

President Jan Churchwell submitted the following hand from the Labor Day Sectional, which she found unusual and very interesting.

Dealer: S  Vulnerable: EW

   ♠️J72
   ♥️AK87543
   ♥️Q
   ♦️7
   ♣️Q8
   ♠️KJ8
   ♥️T9653
   ♥️62
   ♥️---
   ♦️Q7
   ♥️---
   ♦️AK
   ♣️JT985432
   ♣️AQ4
   ♥️QT9
   ♣️AK8432
   ♥️5

   South was Dealer and presumably opened one diamond. What would you bid with the West hand?

   With the North hand, you probably had visions of sugar plums dancing in your head; however, the pessimists (realists?) may have wondered who else had a way-out-there hand.

   East was probably still trying to evaluate the hand. After all, how many times do you get a hand with not one, but two voids and almost no points? (I know we’ve all had plenty of hands with almost no points!) How would you evaluate the East hand?

   In one Section, 12 pairs played the hand. Three pairs bid and made six hearts, and six pairs bid game in hearts, making six. Fairly normal looking so far.

   Two pairs ended up in slightly different contracts: One pair played in 3NT doubled making six. West has my sympathy. No matter who was on lead, West would not want to “waste” any of the winning black cards. The minute West leads any diamond besides the queen, South (or North) would do a metaphorical happy dance and collect 12 tricks. The hand makes 5NT all the time.

   The outlier was a six club bid by East, which was doubled, also making. East thought he was sacrificing and was a little worried about pushing the opponents to six hearts. He was prepared to sacrifice at seven clubs if that happened. As it turns out, seven clubs was the real - and only - sacrifice, which nobody in our section bid.
70% GAMES

79.2% Barry Holt, Matthew Dyer, Chicago Duplicate Bridge
77.0% George Clark, Matthew Dyer, Chicago Duplicate Bridge
76.9% Sandi Dvorak, Diane Hennessy, Glen Oak Country Club
75.8% Donald Dahlgren, Trichiropoly Thayumanana, Arlington Bridge B’s
75.6% Louis Nimnicht, Daniel Spain, Community Bridge Club
74.5% Tracy Nolan, Amin Hakim, Queen of Clubs DBC
74.4% Al Glick, Robert Young, Tuesday Night Out
73.8% Jack Snyder, W. Harris Jr., Naper No Trumpers
73.8% Margaret Young, Judy Mesjak, Fox Bridge
73.8% Jerome Scholle, Wayne Hall, Admiral at the Lake
73.3% Sharon Fellars, Barbara Saben, Queen of Clubs DBC
73.3% Elaine Rechel, Doris Welter, N. Shore Senior Center
72.7% David Balf, Diane Clark, Yorkville Duplicate Bridge
72.7% George Goewey, Todd Fisher, South Suburban Bridge Center
72.4% Judith Rodgers, Edward Peterson, The Clare
72.4% Glen Haas, Amin Karim, Wheaton DBC, Thursday
72.4% Keith Bach, Larry Cohen, Tree Towns DBC
72.3% Walter Pollack, Ira Lerner, New Eazy/Wednesday
72.2% Laura McCormick, Linda Levine, Chicago Duplicate Bridge
72.2% Sandra Allen, Marilyn Thomas, Country Club League
72.0% L. James Phillips, Richard Strauss, Tom’s Game
72.0% Jacqueline Goldberg, Ronald Helman, Admiral at the Lake
71.9% Sid Mitchell, David Donaldson, The Clare
71.7% Jean Burow, Robert Burow, N. Shore Senior Center
71.7% Marianna Alps, Robert Alps, N. Shore Senior Center
71.4% Gerald Schwartz, Charles Alexander, Tuesday Night Out
71.3% Betsy Downs, Rosanne Schabinger, Queen of Clubs DBC
71.3% Joan Reed, Robert Klingender, Arlington Bridge B’s
71.0% Ruth Westberg, Stacy Jacobs, S. Suburban Bridge Center
70.8% William Anspach, Robert Block, Reluctant Doubler DBC
70.5% Walter Pollock, Ira Lerner, New Eazy/Wed.
70.5% Michael Kelley, Martina Kelley, Olympia DBC
70.5% Guy Franklin, Michele Pockross, Chicago Duplicate Bridge
70.4% Barbara Stoe, Patricia Mayer, Mundelein Area DBC
70.4% Robert Butz, Larry Rabideau, New Lenox – Joliet DBC
70.3% Majorie Goetttsche, Arlene Erlebacher, Queen of Clubs DBC
70.1% Mary Anderson, June Chin, Chicago Duplicate Bridge
70.1% W. Harris Jr., Jack Snyder, All Bridge Saints
70.0% Tim Eckerman, Dolores Baumgart, Unusual No Trump DBC
70.0% David Schroeder, George Clark, Chicago Duplicate Bridge

Congratulations Rank Advancers

Junior Masters
Mary Anderson
Julie Angerer
Melinda Blake
Jacob Breniesen
Julie Campbell
Joyce Carter
Vince Cho
Jane Deitz
Doris Frankel
Arnold Friedlander
Arlyn Freeman
John Garton
John Green
Donna Gulley
Cynthia Huang
Betsy Jeffries
Shawn Kerns
Rosemary Krimbel
Cynthia Landreth
Daniel Lee
Bob Lenet
Carol Maynard
Nona McCall
Bryce Minetz
Rob Moore
Patricia Murlas
Bill Neal
June Odonoghue
Mai Phan

Club Masters
Debi Cantor
Howard Cohen
Gail Conder
Fred Heilizer
David Junge
Susan McVicker
Lawrence Moelmann
Jeanne Nunez
Julian Oettinger
Drew Olson
Susan Salzinski
Anna Schuh
David Schwartzwald
Carol Swartz
Constance Wahab
Susan Zagorin

Sectional Masters
Sherrill Bemonte
Helen Blinder

Regional Masters
Robert Black
Deborah Cole
A Gerald Erickson
Janet Erickson
Arnold Flank
Lee Frank
Mary Fry
John Groenewold
Myrtis Meyer
Kathleen Morrissey
Rene Ortman

NABC Masters
Martin Howard
Leslee Johnson
Carolyn Yelton

Adv. NABC Masters
Marcy Gookin
Judith Katz
Eric Kraskian
Vally Lev
Valerie Maragos
Cynthia Poyles
Carolyne Turek

Life Masters
Artie Cohen
Mary Garrison
Judy Geleerd

Bronze Life Masters
Rosemary McCarthy

Silver Life Masters
Sylvia Dunne
Robert Zboralski

Ruby Life Masters
Bonnie Boyer
Sue Hanneman
Eli Jolley
David Jubrier
Ryszard Matuszczyn
John Miller
Olivia Shapiro
Craig Wakefield

Gold Life Masters
Georgann Humphrey
Michael Kelley
Pennie Levin
Anthony Miller

Sapphire Life Masters
Carolyn Rowley

Judy Mesjak
Kyle Rokoff
Walt Werner
Winning is no mystery; anyone who can count to 13 can win

Holmes reached for his glass of ’98 Montrachet. “You know Watson, I was thinking of taking up bridge again. I soured on the game for a while after that Terry Reese business, but after watching some hands in Atlanta last summer, I thought it might be interesting to give it another go.”

“So did you watch some famous experts, like the Italians or Norwegians? I hear there are even a couple of decent players from the colonies.”

“No. I was watching this fellow they call Wimpy. Nothing spectacular, mind you, but his contracts were rarely boring. Take this hand, for example: In fourth seat, with everyone vulnerable, he picked up: ♠KJT85, ♥KT98753, ♦, ♣6. His LHO opened three diamonds, his partner doubled, and his RHO jumped to five diamonds. Throwingscience out the window, he decided hearts would likely play at least as well as spades (and there was less risk of an opening lead ruff), so he jumped to six hearts. His partner must have then suffered a severe brain aneurism, because he put him in seven hearts—would have called for an ambulance immediately, but his partner not only finessed, but threw spades (and there was an obvious lead to them in that deck). With five tricks to go, Wimpy had all spades. He led a spade finesse on the penultimate trick. Seven hearts, bid and made.”

“Watson leaned forward. “And is that what happened?”

“I said the hands were interesting. What would have been interesting about that? After ruffing the club back to hand, (RHO contributing the ♦Q), he continued his plan to get a count on the clubs. He led a low heart toward the ace, but LHO followed with the ♥Q. This was unlucky, because now he would be forced to abandon his chance to count the club suit and instead need to cross back to his hand with a trump finesse. Dummy’s only other entry would be the ♦A, and that would be needed later.”

“But Holmes,” protested Watson, “what if the chap on his left had the doubleton ♥Q?”

“Don’t be silly, Watson. Everyone knows that when four cards are missing, including the queen and jack, that when one of the honors appears on the first lead across the table, that the odds are roughly 2:1 that the other honor lies in the other hand. Declarer finessed the ♥10 on the way back, LHO pitching a diamond, and drew RHO’s last trump. Now he had nothing better to do than run his hearts. Both opponents pitched only diamonds, and if I didn’t know better, I’d swear there were 15 or 16 of them in that deck. With five tricks to go, Dummy had ♠A9, ♥ --, ♦A, ♣AT. Wimpy had all spades. He led a spade to dummy’s ace and noted that everyone followed. Now he cashed the ♦A, and both opponents pitched clubs. Finally, he cashed the ♦A. LHO followed small, and RHO contributed the ♠K. He led the last spade from dummy and naturally, RHO played low…”

“Whatever did he do, Holmes? Without the count in clubs, the ♦Q could be in either hand!”

“Quite elementary, my dear Watson. If you remember at trick two, declarer had led a club from dummy and RHO put in the ♠Q, unable to resist the habit. The fall of the ♦K later made it a near-certainty that he had started with ♦KQx.”

“But couldn’t RHO have false carded that ♦Q from ♦KQx?”

“Hammon might find that play, or Mahmood. Perhaps even Woolridge. Moriarty most certainly. This was an event limited to 6,000 masterpoints, and only a truly brilliant player could have foreseen the necessity to mislead partner so early in the hand. No, the evidence pointed to LHO holding that ♦J, thus having starting with exactly 1-1-7-4 shape. Consequently, he took a spade finesse on the penultimate trick. Seven hearts, bid and made.”

“So what was this Wimpy chap doing in this limited event? He sounds brilliant!”

“Quite the contrary, I’m afraid. After watching him for nearly three hours, I came to the conclusion he possessed no extraordinary abilities whatsoever. For example, with a two-way guess for a queen, he would count out the hand, and finesse the player presumed to have the greater length.”

“But Holmes, isn’t that what he is supposed to do?”

“It’s hardly a conclusive method. Why he could be wrong anywhere from 25 to 40 percent of the time! Could you imagine if I was wrong that often? How the tongues would wag. I study the opponents. Elevated respiration, darting eyes followed by a quick glance to the floor, fingers fidgeting nervously. They could never hide their holdings from a true detective. I would expect to drop a singleton honor off-side nine times out of 10!”

“So this Wimpy wasn’t a winner?”

“Watson, that’s the part that baffles me. This ordinary player consistently placed amongst the leaders. He has no more talent than your average grade school student, yet somehow he manages to come out ahead time and time again.”

“So Holmes, it seems you are saying that anyone who can count to 13 can win at this game that has a reputation for being so complex?”

“I’m afraid so, old chum,” lamented the famous sleuth. “What’s the point in playing a game where anyone can be an expert?”
Tournament Chair Les Kent (above left) and I/ N Chair Guy Franklin
Rare play turns out to be the winning solution in matchpoint event

By: George Klemic

At a recent local sectional, this deal came up in a matchpoint event:

NS vul, East dealer:

North ♠9874  ♣A86  ♠A32  ♦J97  ♥2
South ♦63  ♠KQJT43  ♦K4  ♠A84

West North East South

1♥

2NT*  3♥  All Pass

(*minors, expected to be at least 5-5)

The play started this way:

1) ♦A – 4 – K – 3
2) ♠5 – 7 – T – 6
3) ♣Q –

At first glance, this hand does not appear to be that interesting. With strong spot cards in the trump suit, you can pull out six trump winners, the ace of clubs, and two top diamonds for nine tricks; however, playing matchpoints, your goal is to take as many tricks as possible. On this deal, prospects for an extra trick are minimal. Clearly none of the spades in dummy look like winners.

East would not have spent the king on trick one without all of the other top cards in the suit. The diamond suit has two winners, but even the opponent’s five spot is enough to prevent a third winner. We have already counted the trump winners, given the dummy doesn’t appear to be able to provide any additional ruffs with the flat shape. That leaves the club suit, and there is a hint of hope there. To begin with, consider this three-card ending with South on lead:

♥J97  ♦KQ5  ♠A84

If this is the layout of the cards, South is entitled to two tricks. The solution is to lead a low club towards the jack. If West ducks, the jack will win. If west instead plays one of the top cards, they now have to lead back a club in the two card ending, and declarer will now be able to score the last two cards, the order depending on which card is returned.

It is worth noting that this is the only layout for which you can win two tricks. Suppose instead that East holds Q72. Even if you guess correctly and play the ♣9 when West plays a low club, which would force the queen, now East safely exits a club and the defense will score the other high honor.

With this layout in mind, this is the basic concept that we want to try to generate a tenth trick. Returning to the deal at hand, we have a lot of information about the hand. To begin with, when West overcalls 2NT, showing the

minors, this is almost always at least 5-5 in length. They have also shown up with two spades. This leaves only one card unaccounted for, but we actually know what that is as well based on the play. If an opponent leads an ace against a trump contract and continues with a small one, that almost always suggests they are looking to ruff the third round. Thus, West’s shape should be exactly 2-1-5-5, and therefore, East holds 5332.

Furthermore, based on our analysis of the 3-card ending above, we are hoping that the full deal looks something like this:

♠9874  ♠A86  ♠A32  ♠J97  ♣KQJT2  ♥7  ♥J9756  ♠KQJT43  ♦K4  ♠A84

We don’t know the exact layout of the diamond suit, but since all of the opponent’s cards are equals from your perspective, this is a good estimate of how the cards are distributed. The only question now is how do we take advantage of this knowledge? Suppose that we attempt to create an endplay similar to the above layout. After the defense wins the first two tricks, it could continue:

3) ♦Q – ♥K – ♦6 – ♦8
4) ♥3 – ♥7 – ♥A – ♥2
5) ♥6 – ♥5 – ♥T – ♥5
6) ♥Q – ♥2 – ♥8 – ♥9
7) ♦4 – ♦6 – ♦A – ♦8
8) ♦J – ♦T – ♦K – ♦7
9) ♥J – ♥9 – ♥9 – ♥A, after which we will have this four-card layout:

♣-  ♥-  ♠-  ♦2
♣-  ♥-  ♠-  ♥Q
♣-  ♥-  ♠-  ♥T3
♣-  ♥-  ♠-  ♥A84

This isn’t going to work. If we cash the last trump, West can simply discard a club loser, keeping only the two clubs (KQ) and a high diamond. You can win the ace of clubs, but that will be it. If you don’t cash the last trump and lead a club first, then West wins the queen and plays a diamond. Now, you are end played as declarer and will lose a second club.

This is where visualization of the entire deal becomes important. If we play the west hand to be exactly 2-1-5-5 shape, we can create a different kind of end play. Suppose, rather than drawing all of the trumps, we only draw what is necessary, but also remove any other safe exit cards? This is the order that we will play the cards, again starting with trick three:

4) ♦Q – ♥K – ♦6 – ♦8
5) ♥3 – ♥7 – ♥6 – ♥2
6) ♥4 – ♥6 – ♥A – ♥T
7) ♥3 – ♥Q – ♥5 – ♥7

At this juncture, the deal now looks this way:

♣9  ♥A8  ♠J97  ♦J2
♣-  ♥-  ♠-  ♦A84

Now we are finally ready to endplay West by leading a small club towards the jack. West must win, otherwise dummy will play the jack and the hand will be over. Once West wins either a high club or a low club will allow declarer to score both the ace and jack. Finally, should West exit a diamond instead, now the dummy can trump with the ace, allowing declarer to discard a club loser: a ruff and stuff play. All roads now lead to 10 tricks.

This play is called a partial elimination and endplay, and is quite rare. What makes the play unusual is not being able to pull all of the trumps directly, but specifically leaving some trump cards outstanding. However, the opponent that is thrown in, in this case with a high club, does not retain any trumps to exit with, nor any other safe cards, thanks to you clearing the diamond suit.

This is an advanced play, and difficult to spot. It flies opposite of the usual guideline while playing in a trump contract that you should draw trumps so as not to lose any tricks to the opponents’ small trumps. In this case, after the first few tricks and the auction, it suggested that drawing one trump would be enough to insure that you are completely safe.

This deal is interesting as a defensive problem as well. East allowed declarer a chance at brilliance by returning a spade at trick three...but, looking at their heart suit, should realize that the odds of a spade ruff being successful are quite low. Unless partner has at least the queen of trumps, declarer can trump high enough and draw trumps.

The same distribution count information is available to East. Partner is expected to be 5-5 in the minors, and the only other distribution that makes any sense is for the full shape to be 2155. If partner has good clubs, a club return will prevent this special endplay, and on a different day, might even set the contract (when declarer has only Kxx of clubs, allowing partner to score both the ace and queen immediately as well as giving you a ruff).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day/Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat - Dec 1</td>
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<td>Chicago Duplicate BC</td>
<td>Charity Pairs</td>
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<td>STaC</td>
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<td>Club Championship</td>
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<td>Unit Game</td>
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**Special Club Games (Earn Extra Points)**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day/Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>Tue - Jan 8</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>The Admiral At The Lake</td>
<td>Admiral at the Lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed - Jan 9</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Hinsdale</td>
<td>Hinsdale Community Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed - Jan 9</td>
<td>6:20 pm</td>
<td>Lawson Bridge Studio</td>
<td>Ann Sathers Restaurant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu - Jan 10</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
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<td>Mon - Jan 14</td>
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<td>Mon - Jan 21</td>
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<td>Mon - Jan 21</td>
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<td>Wed - Jan 23</td>
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<td>Thu - Jan 24</td>
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<td>Mon - Jan 28</td>
<td>6:20 pm</td>
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<td>Ann Sathers Restaurant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue - Jan 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed - Jan 30</td>
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<td>Wed - Jan 30</td>
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<td>Thu - Jan 31</td>
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</table>

**Board expected to adopt new arbitration rules**

The CCBA is expected to adopt at its Annual Meeting a set of binding arbitration rules to govern any disputes between the CCBA and participants in its tournaments. After the rules are adopted at the Annual Meeting, the new Arbitration Policy will go into effect and will start appearing on entry forms. CCBA encourages comment and feedback by email to arbitration.rules@bridgeinchicago.com. CCBA members at the January 19 Annual Meeting are eligible to vote on the proposed change in the unit’s by-laws. The vote will take place without discussion. The proposed change follows.

Section 10. Sanctions and Disputes

(a) A Conduct & Ethics Committee of the Board of Directors shall have original jurisdiction over all matters ("Incidents") which may be heard by a Unit arising out of (i) alleged infractions occurring at an ACBL sanctioned club; (ii) appeals from the actions of a tournament committee at a Unit-sanctioned tournament; (iii) direct disciplinary action arising out of conduct at a Unit-sanctioned tournament; or (iv) referrals from other Units relating to actions of Unit members at non-Unit sanctioned tournaments.

(b) The CCBA President shall appoint a Conduct & Ethics Committee, including its Chairman, who shall be a member of the Board of Directors with no personal interest in the outcome of the Incident, when appropriate to investigate and adjudicate any Incident. The Committee shall consist of no fewer than three and no more than five members and may, except for the Chairman, at the President’s discretion, include CCBA members who are not on the Board of Directors. Such committee shall have all the powers to censure, suspend, expel, or otherwise discipline a member to the full extent afforded a Unit under the terms of the Code of Disciplinary Regulations of the ACBL, as the same may be amended from time to time.

(c) The Chairman of the Conduct & Ethics Committee (i) shall be responsible for gathering all information relating to any incident; and (ii) shall chair and conduct all hearings initiated at the request of the Chairman, the Chairman shall (a) present evidence and/or bring facts to the attention of the Committee; and (b) participate in the voting and the deliberation of the Committee; and (c) assist the other Committee members, as may be necessary, in understanding the applicable procedures and their duties and responsibilities. (d) All conduct and ethics hearings shall be conducted in accordance with the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations.

(e) All other disputes between the CCBA and any of its members or participants in any of its tournaments, but excluding an appeal of any decision of the Conduct & Ethics Committee, shall be resolved by binding arbitration in accordance with the rules published at http://www.bridgeinchicago.com/data/bridgewichicago.com/resources/CCBAArbitrationProcedureforResolvingDisputesWithMembers(4-17-18).pdf, as they may be revised from time to time. These Arbitration Rules are incorporated by reference into these Bylaws, and are to be interpreted in accordance with the explanation located on the CCBA website at http://www.bridgeinchicago.com/data/bridgeinchicago.com/resources/