

Kibitzer

A publication of the Chicago Contract Bridge Association Dec. 2020/Jan. 2021

Lowdown on Masterpoints Awarded in Clubs, ACBL BBO Games

Want to know what kind of masterpoints you can receive in club and ACBL BBO games and the fees? Here is the answer to those questions, and more.

Special Games to Support Clubs/Virtual Club Games



There are two types of SYC games. **ACBL Black Point Games** and **ACBL Daylong Black Point Games**. The former are pair games you play with a human partner; the latter are individual tournaments with robots.

Each club may host games with various numbers of boards, and has its own rules on who may play, and they set their own entry fees. A majority of the table fees is given back to your club. These games can be found under the Competitive link on BBO. In the Silver Point Weeks at the Clubs gives players an opportunity to earn silver points. These special weeks are announced on the ACBL website.

Black and silver points earned in SYC and **Virtual Club Games** are exactly the same as if you were playing in person, and count toward the Mini-McKenney.

In Virtual Club Games, players often are playing against folks they knew prior to the pandemic. A majority of the fees paid by those playing in the game is given back to the club.

Most Common Types of BBO masterpoint games

ACBL Robot Duplicate. An individual contest played with and against robots.

You compete against the other humans sitting your direction playing the same deals. Twelve boards, matchpoints or IMP scoring, one hour maximum to compete. \$1.25 per session.

ACBL Daylong. The same as the ACBL Robot duplicate games, but, as the name suggests, you have all day to complete 12 boards, allowing you to periodically pause and return to play. \$1.25 per session.

Individual ACBL. These are also individual contests (you don't need a partner) but played with and against humans. You play a few boards with a randomly assigned partner before switching to a new partner. Two boards, matchpoints, scored barometer style, 48 minutes long. \$1.25 per session.

ACBL Speedball. These are pair contests, so a partner is required. A regular partner is easiest, but a partnership desk is availa-

ble. These are 45-minute games with 12 boards. \$1.25 per session.

ACBL Pairs. These are pair contests, and a partner is required. A regular partner is recommended, but a partnership desk can assist you. Eighteen boards, with 18-minute rounds, are played. \$1.75 per session. Masterpoints in the above games are in the O (online) Category, and count toward rank advancement and Annual Online Point Races, but not the Ace of Clubs or the Mini-McKenney.

ACBL Masterpoint Regionally Rated Tournaments award red and gold points. Check out the website.

The BBO games are directed by BBO directors from around the world. ACBL games are overseen by ACBL directors, headed by Rick Beye. Brad Coles, a former ACBL director, is now overseeing all ACBL games.

CCBA Annual Meeting will be Zoom Affair

Five people will be elected to three-year terms on the 15-member board at the CCBA Annual Meeting in January, and new officers will be chosen by the Board.

Traditionally, the meeting has taken place during WinterFest following a delicious dinner, but the tournament was canceled due to the pandemic.

The Annual Meeting will take place online Saturday, January 30 at 7p.m. via Zoom. Unit members are encouraged to attend. Each year one-third of the terms expire. This year the terms of Tom Dressing, Mark Friedlander, Loring Knoblauch, Phil McPeck, and Joe Stokes expire.

The 2020 officers are President Tom Dressing, Vice President Loring Knoblauch, Treasurer Joe Connelly, and Secretary Jan Churchwell. (Continued on page 3)



Photograph from 2020 WinterFest blast.

Looking to the future, remembering the past



I'm sure that 2020 is a year many of us are eager to put in the rear-view mirror and are looking forward to a year that hopefully will be safer and less stressful.

Unfortunately, it will take some time before things are normal and we can resume the usual activities we enjoy such as playing in the clubs and tournaments.

Regarding tournaments, the CCBA Board has decided that January's WinterFest, a perennial favorite and one I chaired for several years, will not be held. It is at that tournament where we recognize outstanding players. This year, the board

decided not to give out the CCBA Awards, which include the Bob Glenn, Jan Ivory, and the Art Glatt as they are based on masterpoints earned at Unit 123 clubs and tournaments. Players earning the ACBL's Helen Shambroon Ace of Clubs and the Mini-McKenney will receive their certificates in the mail.

The Board, also, decided not to present the Harmon Wilkes Award (CCBA's highest honor), or the Art and Greg Gran Sportsmanship Award, due to the small number of games played in 2020. However, we thought it might be nice to take a walk down memory lane and recall those outstanding individuals who have won in the past.

I bid you a Happy New Year,

Tom Dressing
CCBA President

Harmon Wilkes*

1955 Joe Stedem
1956 K Higashuichi
1957 Eva Keenan
1958 Dr and Mrs. McMullan
1959 Ann Diamond
1960 Milt Ellenby
1961 Mr. and Mrs. Martin Cooper
1962 Mary Bridegroom
1963 None
1964 Dick Revell
1965 Bernie/Carl Petersen
1966 Bill Rosen
1967 Leo Weiner
1968 None
1969 None
1970 Joan/Arny Levy
1971 Charlie Mostow
1972 Sam Van Blarcom
1973 Adele Mueller
1974 Frieda Arst
1975 Jan Cohn
1976 Don Rutstein
1977 Dan Bash
1978 Winnie Billings
1979 Arnold Leavitt
1980 Mrs. Dean Cohler
1981 Janet/Larry Johnson
1982 None

1983an Ivory
1984 L. James Phillips
1986 Steve Cheng
1988 Bob Price
1989 Barbara Saben
1990 None
1991 None
1992 Jim Burt
1993 Adrienne Cohen
1994 Fred Buckman
1995 Tom Obermeier
1996 None
1997 Jim Stevens
1998 Jerry Goldfein
1999 None
2000 None
2001 Greg Gran
2002 Jim Humphrey
2003 Mary Gardner
2004 None
2005 Carol LaBarge
2006 None
2007 Ann Hayes
2008 Eleanor Shadur
2009 Tillie Ott
2010 Jeff Miller
2011 George Jacobs
2012 Ralph Katz
2013 Cheri Bjerkan
2014 Allan Jonas
2015 Howard Engle

2016 Ginny Schuett
2017 Angie Clark
2018 Craig Allen
2019 Jack Oest
2020 Eldad Ginossar
*The award is not presented every year.

Gran Sportsmanship

2010 Bob Spielman
2011 Judy Isenberg
2012 Joy Eckerling
2013 Dan Driggett;
Russell Rojakovich
2014 Kaye Miller
2015 Amin Hakim
2016 Phyllis and Ron Fogel
2017 Jane Kennedy
2018 Nancy Frank
2019 Matthew Dyer
2020 Mike Jones



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Vice President
Loring Knoblauch

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Defender must know difference between active/passive defense



By Ginny and Jeff Schuett

A good defender must know the difference between active and passive defense.

An active defense is one where you attack, sometimes taking a risky approach in order to establish fairly quick tricks for your side. This is particularly indicated when the dummy has a fairly long suit (or suspected long, strong suit from the bidding). The defense needs to establish their tricks before declarer can discard losers on that long suit.

A passive defense is where you try not to break new suits in an effort to not set up secondary honors as winners for declarer. Often, making the first lead in a suit costs about a half a trick, actually ending up helping declarer to establish slow, later

tricks. A passive defense makes the most sense when no obvious discards exist or when dummy is lacking in honors or other winners.

A passive defense forces declarer to break the dangerous suit(s) to establish his own tricks. Learning to adopt an active or passive defense is one of the more difficult parts of defense and often takes a long time to master. Here are some clues:

Example: 1♣ - 1♥
 3♣ long strong suit - 3♥ (long suit and forcing)
 4♥ - P

Here dummy will have a long, strong club suit and likely provide a good source of discards once trump has been drawn. So from a hand such as ♠10965 ♥754 ♦KJ72 ♣98, I would adopt an active defense and lead the ♦2 to try to win or establish quick winners.

Example: 1NT - 4NT (quantitative and inviting slam)
 6NT - P

Here the two hands barely have enough to reach a slam and partner likely has very little to help establish tricks for the defense, so defend passively.

From a hand such as ♠9876 ♥754 ♦KJ72 ♣98, I would adopt a passive defense and lead the ♠9 to try not to help declarer establish winners.



Contract: 4♠

Lead: ♥Q

North
 ♠ 432
 ♥ 7543
 ♠ 7
 ♣ J96

West
 ♦ 765
 ♥ QJ109
 ♦ 10842
 ♣ Q874

East
 ♠ 105
 ♥ A863
 ♦ AK9
 ♣ 10532

South
 ♠ AKQJ986
 ♥ K
 ♦ QJ3
 ♣ AK

East wins the ♥A and defends passively by returning a ♥ as dummy has no threat for discards. If East tries to cash one high diamond, South makes 10 tricks.

Ginny and Jeff Schuett - bridge teaching, directing, play

CCBA Director Genny Cesario Passes Away at Home

We are saddened to report that Genevieve "Genny" Cesario of Elmhurst, a member of the CCBA Board of Directors, passed away November 17 after a brief illness.



She was formerly a Realtor, and teacher and librarian at Immaculate Conception Grade School. She leaves her husband, Joseph, five children, and several grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Elmhurst on November 21.

2021 CCBA Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

Also this year, the board has decided not to present the Harmon Wilkes Award, Unit 123's highest award, or the Gran Sportsmanship Awards, due to the pandemic.

The Helen Shanbron Ace of Clubs and the Mini-McKenney winners will be mailed certificates for their accomplishments.

The Ace of Clubs recognizes the person in each point category who won the most points in Unit 123 club games during the previous year.

The Mini-McKenney winners are the players who earned the most masterpoints in the category in which they started the year.



Remembering the fun had at the 2020 WinterFest

Auctions the same, results aren't in USBF duel

Bd 4, Dir W 3NT-1 N	♠ AJ ♥ Q942 ♦ 52 ♣ AQ754	N Claude Vogel
W Roger McNay	Round 1 RR2	Eric Stoltz E
♠ 73 ♥ KJ876 ♦ 943 ♣ J96	♠ K1062 ♥ 3 ♦ QJ86 ♣ K1082	W N E S P 1♠ P 1♠ P 1NT P 2♦ P 2♥ P 3NT P P P
0 0	♠ Q9854 ♥ A105 ♦ AK107 ♣ 3	George Jacobs S

In the Jacobs/Stoltz match the auctions at both tables were identical. The results were not. When Claude Vogel declared 3NT, Eric Stoltz led the D6. From declarer's perspective, assuming a fourth-best lead, East's four top diamonds were: QJ86, QJ96, Q986 or J986.

Claude mistakenly guessed that Stoltz led from one, not two honors, and played the DA from dummy. With both black kings offside, and the bad break in spades, declarer was only able to take eight tricks for a score of minus 100.

At the other table Dick Bruno led the DQ, clarifying the diamond position, however, it was far from over.

Dorn Bishop found a neat line of play to bring home his contract.

Bishop led a spade at trick two and finessed the jack, losing to East's king. Bruno had an easy spade exit. Bishop won the SA and led a diamond to dummy's ten. He cashed the SQ and led a fourth spade. Bob Gardner, West, discarded two hearts and Bishop discarded two clubs. Bruno exited with the DJ on which Bishop discarded a heart from his hand. The S9 was cashed and everyone discarded a club. This was the position:

Bd 4, Dir W 3NT= N	♠ AJ ♥ Q942 ♦ 52 ♣ AQ754	N Dorn Bishop
W Bob Gardner	Round 1 RR2	Dick Bruno E
♠ 73 ♥ KJ876 ♦ 943 ♣ J96	♠ K1062 ♥ 3 ♦ QJ86 ♣ K1082	W N E S P 1♠ P 1♠ P 1NT P 2♦ P 2♥ P 3NT P P P
0 0	♠ Q9854 ♥ A105 ♦ AK107 ♣ 3	Mike Day S

Bd 4, Dir W 3NT= N	♠ — ♥ Q94 ♦ — ♣ AQ	N Dorn Bishop
W Bob Gardner	♠ — ♥ KJ8 ♦ — ♣ J9	Dick Bruno E
6 2	♠ — ♥ A105 ♦ 7 ♣ 3	W N E S P 1♠ P 1♠ P 1NT P 2♦ P 2♥ P 3NT P P P

The D7 was lead from dummy. Gardner discarded the H8 and Bishop played the H4. (Note: It's far from obvious, but if Gardner discards a club, Bishop will need to read the position and discard the CQ to maintain communication in the heart suit.) Bruno won the D8. The four-card ending was:

Bd 4, Dir W 3NT= N	♠ — ♥ Q9 ♦ — ♣ AQ	N Dorn Bishop
W Bob Gardner	♠ — ♥ KJ ♦ — ♣ J9	Dick Bruno E
6 3	♠ — ♥ A105 ♦ — ♣ 3	W N E S P 1♠ P 1♠ P 1NT P 2♦ P 2♥ P 3NT P P P

Bruno exited with a heart, ducked to West's king. A club was returned.

Bishop rose with the CA and overtook the HQ to score two heart tricks for +600 and 12 IMPs to Stoltz.

Thank you to Suzi Subeck for submitting these hands played by several CCBA players at the recent United States Bridge Federation tournament.

Wimpy warns players to beware of opponents bearing gifts



Winning with Wimpy

Bridge is a humbling game. Sometimes I play brilliantly (competently), while at other times, my play is less optimal (borderline psychotic). It's difficult to explain how I can play one way and still be capable of playing the other.

I've gone on record as claiming that you are only as good as you are on your worst day. If you can manage to eliminate (or greatly reduce) the simple blunders you already know how to avoid, your peers will view you with the respect and adoration usually reserved for much better players.

Case in point: A few weeks ago, I was playing with a strong partner in a BBO online tournament. I opened a rather speculative four spades in first chair, which got passed out. My partner put down a pretty nice dummy for me.

- ♠ K96
- ♥ AJ32
- ♦ T9
- ♣ J876

- ♠ QJ875432
- ♥ KT4
- ♦ Q2
- ♣ ---

The ♦4 opening lead was won by the ♦K on my right. East continued by cashing the ♦A, and then switching to a low club which I ruffed.

I led a high spade from my hand, won by the ♠A on my left, East following with the ♠10. West got out with the ♣A. My opponents were set on not helping me find that pesky ♥Q. It was going to be a pure guess. Or was it?

With nothing to lose I led the ♠8 from my hand and overtook with the ♠9 in

the dummy. I ruffed a club back to my hand, noting the fall of the ♣Q on my left. I overtook the ♠5 with the ♠6 and led dummy's ♣J. This got covered by the ♣K as I ruffed and West pitched a diamond.

I was at the crossroads. I could lead out another two or three trumps, but it was clear the opponents were not going to give me any help in locating that missing queen. What had I found out? Both opponents had only one spade.

West had led a low diamond, and appeared to have started with four or five of them. Based on THIS information only, East was slightly more likely to have room for the ♥Q. However, by taking the time to explore a little deeper, East was found to have started with six clubs to West's three.

It was starting to look like West was either 1-4-5-3 or 1-5-4-3. This suggested East started with either 1-2-4-6 or 1-1-5-6. Either way, West was now a heavy favorite to hold any specific heart.

Think of it this way: West had six known cards: one spade, two diamonds, and three clubs. This left seven unknown. East had NINE known cards: one spade, two diamonds, and six clubs. This left four unknown cards.

No matter how many spades I cashed from this point, West was always going to have room for three more cards than East. I cashed the ♥K and ran the ♥10. I was rewarded when it held the trick. The full deal:

- | | | |
|---------|--------|------------|
| ♠ A | ♠ K96 | ♠ T |
| ♥ Q9765 | ♥ AJ32 | ♥ 8 |
| ♦ J764 | ♦ T9 | ♦ A K853 |
| ♣ AQ3 | ♣ J876 | ♣ KT9542 |
| | | ♠ QJ875432 |
| | | ♥ KT4 |
| | | ♦ Q2 |
| | | ♣ --- |

You're probably thinking, "What an inspirational story." And you would have been right, except that this hand came up exactly six boards later. Holding ♠8 ♥AQJ54 ♦KQ ♣ QJ765 and unfavor-

able vulnerability, we had the following auction, and I'm south:

North	East	South	West
1NT	pass	2D*	3S
pass	pass	4C	pass
6C!	all pass		

*transfer

North

- ♠ AK
- ♥ T96
- ♦ J62
- ♣ AK983

South

- ♠ 8
- ♥ AQJ54
- ♦ KQ
- ♣ QJ765

West cashed the ♦A and switched to a low spade, dummy winning, and East following with the ♠9. You can say what you want about the bidding, but there's no denying that the contract isn't too bad.

It would appear that I only need the heart finesse, (arguably a favorite) to bring this one home. I led a middle club from dummy, and blinked for a second when East pitched the ♦5. Two more high clubs followed, East pitching the ♥2 and then the ♥3.

"How foolish!" I smirked to myself. East was apparently unaware that the heart suit was critical to my success. Unlike my former opponents, this guy was actually unconsciously volunteering to help me. Suddenly it dawned on me, that his hearts looked hopeless because they seemed irrelevant. West had probably seven or eight spades and now three clubs.

He led the ♦A at trick one, so that left at most two hearts, and probably only one. I finished drawing trumps in dummy and led the ♥T, knowing full well I was never going to finesse. When the stiff ♥K fell under the Ace, I congratulated myself on yet another well-played hand.

That's how I choose to remember that hand. What actually happened was West showed out and I had to surrender a trick to the ♥K. My partner commented: "You're so naive!" I privately responded that I knew that either I, or my right hand opponent was an idiot. (Continued on p. 8)

District 13 Director's Report

The ACBL Board of Directors recently completed three days of meetings on Zoom.

Georgia Heth of District 8 was elected for a second term as president. I remain Chairman of the Board for another year.

The issue of online cheating was discussed at length. The ACBL is committed to catching any and all unethical behavior and punishing it accordingly. Leveling the playing field is a priority for the League.

Face-to-face Regionals and Sectionals will not be sanctioned through February. After that, it remains to be seen.

The St. Louis NABC (March 11-21) is still on the schedule, but assuming it is a go, reservations will not be opened until the end of December.

The online games are going strong. The online tournaments are well attended and well liked. They afford players a chance to play with their friends from all around ACBLland. Fewer boards than in a face-to-face event are played because people find too much screen time causes eye-strain and headaches. Fewer boards enables them to take a needed break.

Districts and units have been asked not to schedule new tournaments at this time as the immediate future remains unclear.

Several District 13 clubs are participating in the Virtual Club Game Program.

Hope to see you online!

Respectfully submitted,

Suzi Subeck



Here's your chance to win gold MPs online

The Fall North American Online Bridge Championship (NAOBC) continues until December 6. Entries for the NAOBC Premier Pairs will be sold on BBO, like for all pair tournaments, two hours before game time. Security is a high priority for this event. ACBL requires all players in all matches to have an ongoing video and/or audio chat with their screenmate.

All games will award masterpoints at 80 percent of the NABC formula.

Open Pairs: If there are 50 tables, first place would be 61.70 MP. 100 percent gold
0-5000 Pairs: If there are 50 tables, first place would be 49.36 MP. 100 percent gold
0-1500 Pairs: If there are 50 tables, first place would be 37.02 MP. 100 percent gold

Entries times for the December 5 pair games follows:

Saturday, 10 a.m., Entries open for Premier Pairs 0-1500 Flight

Saturday, 10:10 a.m., Entries open for Premier Pairs 0-5000 Flight

Saturday, 10:20 a.m., Entries open for Premier Pairs Open Flight.

The fees are as follows:

Open Pairs: \$100 / pair / event. Players who qualify for the final play free. NABC Junior discounts apply.*

0-5000 and 0-1500 Pairs: \$80 / pair / event. Players who qualify for the final play free. NABC Junior discounts apply.**

*Discount = \$45 per Junior, maximum four discounts per team

**Discount = \$30 per Junior player

The tournament included knockouts, but the deadline to enter has passed.

For all the details regarding the NAOBC, go to the ACBL website.

Aid USBF with Supporting Membership

If you want to help aid the United States Bridge Federation (USBF), but do not want to play in the championships, then you may want to consider a Supporting Membership, which is available for \$25. The USBF Championships choose the teams to represent the United States in the World Bridge Federation Championships.

As a Supporting Member, you are eligible to:

1. Enter the fantasy brackets, run on Bridge Winners, for the USBF trials choosing our Open and Senior teams for the World Championships. The highest-ranking Supporting Member in the fantasy brackets for each of these two events will win the prize of your choice - either an online match against the USBC winners or dinner with them at the next NABC.
2. Receive daily emails during the USBF Championships. These sum-

marize the previous day's results and provide vugraph information and links to daily bulletins containing pictures and commentary on individual hands.

3. Upon advance request, make arrangements for you to kibitz a USBF member of your choice for a session once each year - either at the NABC or the USBF Championships.
4. Upon advance request, the USBF will arrange for you to be one of the vugraph commentators for one session of the team trials.

A Supporting Membership is \$25 for one year (\$75 for 3 years), and the ACBL now offers you the chance to become an USBF Supporting Member when you renew your ACBL membership. If you don't want to wait that long, you can join by choosing the red Donate Now button on the USBF website.

New!

ACBL Guest Membership

Introducing ACBL Guest Memberships!

Enjoy the perks of joining the American Contract Bridge League for FREE for 120 days with the new Guest Membership option.



Play in Exclusive Games

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Here are Your Next Steps

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We want to meet you! [Sign up today](#), and join your friends at the table.



Earn Up to 20 Masterpoints®

Show off your success when you win masterpoints! The points you earn can be seen in your online profile page the day after playing.



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The world's best magazine for bridge lovers is posted online every month. It has tips, games, news from the world of bridge and more.

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Margaret Young

Gold Life Master

Edwin Glickman
Earle Miller
Barbara Sacks

Sapphire Life Master

Tom Fogarty
Theresa Schneid

Diebel Warns Players

(Continued from page 5)

I just simply was unaware of which one of us it had been! I protested that maybe West could have had a singleton ♥K, and then I would have been a hero. My partner then reminded me of the hand I played earlier.



Before staking the fate of the contract on the heart suit, it couldn't have cost me anything to do a bit more detective work. After three rounds of trump, I should have cashed the ♦K. West would follow. Then I could have crossed to dummy in trump to lead the ♦J and the ♠A. Both opponents would follow. The math wouldn't be difficult.

West started with at least three diamonds and exactly three clubs. He preempted 3♠ against a strong NT at favorable vulnerability. Could his partner have four spades, a club void, and fail to raise to 4♠? Highly unlikely. No, the evidence points to West holding exactly 7-0-3-3 shape. The full deal:

♠ AK
♥ T96
♦ J62
♣ AK983

♠ Q765432
♥ ---
♦ A93
♣ T42

♠ JT9
♥ K8732
♦ T8754
♣ ---

♠ 8
♥ AQJ54
♦ KQ
♣ QJ765

Beware of bridge opponents bearing gifts!

Want more? Go to www.wimpy.biz/bridge for practical tips on bidding, play, bidding and defense.



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."



Puppet Stayman, a specialized version of Stayman

Puppet Stayman is a specialized version of regular Stayman that is popularly used in response to a 2NT opening bid.

Beginning an auction with 2NT has pluses and minuses. In the plus column, opener gets to convey her strength (for the purpose of this column, we'll define 2NT as showing 20 to 21 high-card points) and relative shape, which is, of course, balanced. On the minus side, 2NT is unwieldy because it takes up a lot of bidding space. Also, many of the hands that are candidates for 2NT openings will contain a five-card major. If you open 2NT on a hand that has five hearts or five spades, wouldn't it be easy to miss a 5-3 major-suit fit? This is why many pairs use puppet Stayman, a bidding tool designed to diagnose such a fit.

Here's how it works: After a 2NT opening (the opponents are silent), a 3♣ response promises at least game-going values and asks opener if she has a four- or five-card major. With five hearts, opener rebids 3♥. With five spades, she rebids 3♠. If opener has four hearts or four spades (or both), she rebids 3♣. With no four- or five-card major-suit holding, opener rebids 3NT. The responses to 3♣ Puppet Stayman are Alertable.

After a 3♣ response

When opener rebids 3♣, saying that she has at least one four-card major, responder still isn't sure which major opener holds — or if opener has both majors. If responder has only one four-card major, he tells opener about it by bidding the other

major at the three level. So with four hearts, responder rebids 3♥; with four spades, responder rebids 3♠. This seems backward. Why do this? If opener has a fit for responder's major, it allows her to bid it at the four level, ensuring that the strong hand declares. For example:

Opener	Responder
2NT	3♣ (1)
3♣ (2)	3♥ (3)
4♣ (4)	Pass

- (1) Puppet Stayman: do you have a four- or five-card major?
- (2) I have at least one four-card major.
- (3) I have four hearts.
- (4) (4) Me too. Let's play 4♣ instead of 3NT.

Notice that the strong hand bid hearts first and will declare the contract.

What if opener's major doesn't fit responder's? Opener rebids 3NT.

Finally, what if responder has both four-card majors? Responder rebids 4♣ over 3♣ to command opener to choose.

Opener	Responder
2NT	3♣ (1)
3♣ (2)	4♣ (3)
4♣ (4)	Pass

Puppet Stayman: do you have a four- or five-card major? (2) I have at least one four-card major. (3) I have four hearts and four spades. Choose a major-suit game. (4) I have four spades. After a 3♣ or 3♥ response When opener shows a five-card major, re-

sponder can usually place the contract (unless he has slam ambitions). With a three-card or longer fit for opener's major, responder will usually bid four of that major to end the auction. If responder doesn't have a fit for that major, he rebids 3NT.

There is a catch, however. As responder, you have to get into the habit of asking about opener's majorsuit holdings even when you have only three cards in hearts or spades — remember that opener might have five. For example:

♠Q 6 4 ♠8 7 ♠A 9 4 2 ♠Q 5 3 2. I

If partner opens 2NT it seems automatic to bid 3NT, but playing puppet Stayman you should bid 3♣ first. If opener shows a five-card spade suit (3♠), you'll happily bid 4♠. If not, you'll sign off in 3NT.

After a 3NT response 3NT will frequently end the auction. Responder will continue only if he has unusual length in the majors. With hands that contain a 6-4 pattern in the majors, for example, responder may start with 3♣ to find out if opener has a major-suit fit. When opener says no, responder may then transfer into the six-card major at the four level. This one is easy to forget, so be sure to discuss it!

NOTE: Did you know? Playing Puppet Stayman, you can still play Jacoby and Texas transfers over a 2 NT opening. The treatments are compatible.



ACBL December/January Online Event Schedule*

Nov. 7-8

Dec. 17-20

Winter Wonderland Regionally rated events



American Contract
Bridge League

*Subject to change.

ACBL cancels January, February tournaments

The North American Bridge Championships (NABCs) scheduled for 2021 are still planned,; however, the Fall NABC, which was to run November 26-December 6 in Tampa, Florida was cancelled. In addition, all regionals and sectionals planned for January and February are cancelled due to concerns for the “safety of our membership, staff and volunteers” during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the ACBL.

This includes the cancellation of remaining non-life master tournaments for 2020 or other tournaments this year in which ACBL tournament directors are not technically required.

At this time, three NABCs are scheduled for 2021. The first of the 11-day events is set for March 11-21 at the Renaissance Grand Hotel and America’s Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

The summer event is set for July 15-25 in the Providence Convention Center in Providence, Rhode Island.

The fall NABC will take place November 25-December 5 in the JW Marriott in Austin, Texas.

For those who plan ahead, the spring 2022 event will be in Reno, Nevada on March 11-21 at the Silver Legacy, Circus, and the Eldorado Hotels.

Chicago will be the site for the 2023 summer tournament, which will be held July 13-23 at the Sheraton.

The NABCs offer pair and team games at every level, which award points of many colors, including platinum.

Earn masterpoints by using the app FunBridge

Get Masterpoints by playing Funbridge on your computer, smartphone and tablet. As a partner of the American Contract Bridge League, the online bridge app Funbridge is licensed to run official Masterpoints tournaments allowing you to move up your national rankings as if you were playing in a club.

HOW TO PLAY ACBL TOURNAMENTS ON FUNBRIDGE

HOW TO DOWNLOAD FUNBRIDGE on smartphones and tablets

From an iPhone/iPad:
download Funbridge via
the App Store.



From an Android device:
download Funbridge via the Google Play
Store.

Once you download the app, you will be invited to play your first deal. After your first deal, you will have to enter a username to be able to access the main menu of the app and game modes.

HOW TO PLAY ON FUNBRIDGE from a computer (PC and Mac)



Type
"play.funbridge.com" in
the address bar of your

web browser to access the online version of Funbridge. Create your Funbridge account. An account is required to access all game modes. To create an account, enter a username, an email address and a password.

HOW TO ACCESS ACBL MASTERPOINTS TOURNAMENTS

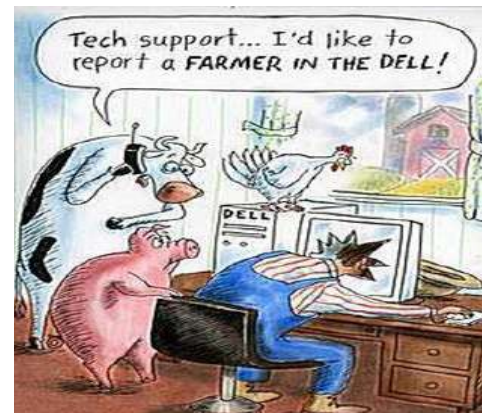
To play an ACBL tournament, follow the steps below: Open your Funbridge app and log in if needed Go to "Play a tournament", then "Federation tournaments" Go to "ACBL - Masterpoints" Tournaments are split into three tabs: in progress, soon and archives. You can play ongoing tournaments straight away, register for upcoming tournaments and access your past tournaments in the records.

ENTER YOUR ACBL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER

To be awarded with the Masterpoints earned in these tournaments, enter your ACBL number in the box provided on the home screen of the game mode.

TOURNAMENT DETAILS

Four daily tournaments Scored by MPs
or IMPs 12 or 18 deals



Virtual Games (Earn Masterpoints Points) (Clubs listed below)*Note: There may be other virtual club games, but we have not been notified of their days or times.*

Day	Time	Club	Fee
Monday	9:00 am 4:10 pm 6:30 pm	ACBL Games that support your local clubs	\$6 BB (Bridge Bucks) (66% of the funds will be distributed to clubs that you frequented last year.)
Monday	10:10 am 1:00 pm	Jeremiah and BJBE (vacb162636)	
Monday	12:15 pm 6:30 pm	Chicago DBC and Lawson (private message ChicagoDB) (vacb270876) Chicago DBC (Dyer, Perkers, Quinn)	
Monday	11:30 am	Hinsdale, SSBC, Calumet DBC (Newcomers II:14 a.m.) vacb134098	
Tuesday	9:00 am 4:10 pm 6:30 pm	ACBL Games that support your local clubs	\$6 BB (Bridge Bucks) (66% of the funds will be distributed to clubs that you frequented last year)
Tuesday	10:30 am	Naper-Chicago (vacb270876) (Diebel)	
Tuesday	10:10 am 1:00 pm	Jeremiah and BJBE (vacb162636)	
Tuesday	12:15 pm	Chicago DBC and Lawson (private message ChicagoDB) (vacb270876)	
Tuesday	6:15 pm	Hinsdale, SSBC, Calumet DBC (Newcomers II:14 a.m.) vacb134098	
Wednesday	9:00 am 4:10 pm 6:30 pm	ACBL Games that support your local clubs	\$6 BB (Bridge Bucks) (66% of the funds will be distributed to clubs that you frequented last year)
Wednesday	10:10 am 1:00 pm	Jeremiah and BJBE (vacb162636)	
Wednesday	12:15 pm 6:30 pm	Chicago DBC and Lawson (private message ChicagoDB) (vacb270876) Chicago DBC (Dyer, Perkers, Quinn)	
Wednesday	7:15 pm	Hinsdale, SSBC, Calumet DBC (Newcomers II:14 a.m.) vacb134098	
Wednesday	11:10 am	New Lenox, All Bridge Saints (vacb185751)	
Wednesday	6:15 pm	The Clare, U C Club (275776)	
Thursday	10:10 am 1:00 pm	Jeremiah and BJBE (vacb162636)	
Thursday	12:15 pm 6:30 pm	Chicago DBC and Lawson (private message ChicagoDB) (vacb270876) Chicago DBC (Dyer, Perkers, Quinn)	
Thursday	11:30 am	Hinsdale, SSBC, Calumet DBC (Newcomers II:15 a.m.) vacb134098	
Friday	9:00 am 4:10 pm 6:30 pm	ACBL Games that support your local clubs	\$6 BB (Bridge Bucks) (66% of the funds will be distributed to clubs that you frequented last year)
Friday	10:30 am	Naper-Chicago (vacb270876) (Diebel)	
Friday	10:10 am 1:00 pm	Jeremiah and BJBE (vacb162636)	
Friday	12:15 pm	Chicago DBC and Lawson (private message ChicagoDB) (vacb270876)	
Friday	12:15 pm	The Clare, U C Club (vacb275776)	
Saturday	9:00 am 4:10 pm 6:30 pm	ACBL Games that support your local clubs	\$6 BB (Bridge Bucks) (66% of the funds will be distributed to clubs that you frequented las year)
Saturday	10:10 am 1:00 pm	Jeremiah and BJBE (vacb162636)	
Saturday	12:15 pm 6:30 pm	Chicago DBC and Lawson (private message ChicagoDB) (vacb270876) Chicago DBC (Dyer, Perkers, Quinn)	
Saturday	11:10 am	New Lenox, All Bridge Saints (vacb185751)	
Sunday	9:00 am 4:10 pm 6:30 pm 1:00 pm	ACBL Games that support your local clubs	\$6 BB (Bridge Bucks) (66% of the funds will be distributed to clubs that you frequented las year)
Sunday	12:15 pm	Chicago DBC and Lawson (private message ChicagoDB) (vacb270876)	
Sunday	6:15 pm	Hinsdale, SSBC, Calumet DBC (Newcomers II:14 a.m.) (vacb134098)	
Sunday	3:00 pm	New Lenox, All Bridge Saints (vacb185751)	

