

# Kibitzer

Publication of the Chicago Contract Bridge Association June/July 2024

## Labor Day Plans

### Trophies, speaker, and more

Make your Labor Day weekend special by kicking back and enjoying your favorite game at Unit 123's Labor Day Sectional in Skokie. Tournament co-chairs Bob Maxson and Guy Franklin said they are excited that the three-day event returns August 31 to a favorite venue, the Weber Leisure Center, 9300 Weber Park Place, Skokie.

The tournament showcases the prestigious Invitational Pairs on Sunday, with the qualifying round at 10 a.m. and the Invitational Pairs Barometer Final at 3 p.m. Trophies will be presented to the winners. "We plan to have a large screen depicting the standing of each invitational pair after each round of play," Guy said.

Saturday and Sunday offer pair/team games at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. "On Saturday between sessions, Jim Diebel, a director, bridge teacher, and player, will lead a mini-lesson geared toward intermediate players," said Guy.

Labor Day sees a return to an event that was popular prior to the pandemic, Stratified Swiss Teams. "It will be a play-through, so it is suggested that players bring a lunch or pickup something quick from a nearby restaurant," said Bob.

The scheduling of the games on Saturday and Sunday gives players a chance to enjoy the food at the many nearby restaurants, either dine-in or take-out, according to Guy. He said a list of nearby restaurants will be available.

In addition to the tournament co-chairs, Steve McConnell is partnership chair, and Adrienne Cohen is Invitational Pairs chair. For their contact information and other details, see the flyer on page 4.

## Windy City June 27-30

### Beware: Look out for fun and MPs ahead



Some exciting changes have been made to the Windy City Regional Tournament this year to increase players' comfort and enjoyment.

For the first time since the pandemic, Windy City will be a four-day tournament, giving players an extra day to win even more masterpoints. The event includes a Saturday and Sunday so that those who work and go to school can easily participate. In the past, some of the venues were unable to either offer weekend

days, or to offer a price for weekends that was not above CCBA's budget. Players will find that every day has games for all skill levels.

The schedule includes stratified Open Pairs and Gold Rush Pairs at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Thursday through Saturday. On Sunday, there will be stratified Open Swiss and Gold Rush Swiss at 10 a.m. In addition, there will be a play-through at 10 a.m. Students who attend are eligible for a reduced entry fee of \$7 per session.



Another change this year is the site, the beautiful White Eagle Events and Conference Center in Niles.

"When I visited the facility, I was impressed. It seemed like there were chandeliers everywhere. I think players will love this site, which provides an excellent venue for tournament bridge for several reasons," said Tournament Chair Betsy Downs.

"For example, there is an in-house deli, which offers an extensive and interesting menu for those who do not want to leave the premises. For those who want to venture out, there is a wide choice of restaurants nearby," she said. In addition, players may bring their own food.

Another plus is that White Eagle is near major highways including I-294, I-94 and I-90, making it easy to access. For out-of-town players, there are several nearby motels, including the Holiday Inn Express.

"White Eagle has many ballrooms of various capacity. As we grow, we can move to larger ballrooms, thus accommodating several sections without crowding. The CCBA Board's goal is to build up tournament attendance to pre-pandemic levels. We need your help to achieve that goal. We ask that you go to the tournament and play several sessions and to spread the word about this fantastic regional," Betsy said.

The Board expects the Windy City Regional will be the first of many CCBA tournaments to be held at White Eagle Banquets and Restaurant in Niles. A second is already planned, the Stan Subeck Regional, formerly known as Central States. It will take place November 8-11.

For more information on Windy City, please see the flyer on page 3 or [bridgeinchicago.com](http://bridgeinchicago.com)

## Join the new CCBA Facebook Group

Do you have bridge related announcements or information to share, or wish to interact with others? If so, there is good news. The CCBA now has a Facebook group where Chicago area club owners, players, and teachers can do so.

If you are a Facebook user, you may have already received an invite. Simply accept the invitation to become part of the group. If you have not received an invitation, go to Groups in Facebook, search for CCBA, and request to join the group. You will be asked a few simple questions about your connection to the CCBA and an administrator will approve your request. Once a member, you will be able to invite other players to join as well.



There are a few rules that CCBA would like group members to follow:

- Be kind and courteous. ACBL zero tolerance guidelines will be enforced in this group. We're all in this together to create a welcoming environment. Treat everyone with respect. Healthy debates are natural, but kindness is required.
- No non-bridge promotions are allowed. Club managers can post information about special gamers and events. Bridge teachers can post information about available classes. Other promotions and solicitations are not allowed.
- A relationship to the CCBA is required. You must be a current or former member of Unit 123, or the partner of a Unit 123 player.

Areas group are:

- **Discussion.** This is the main posting area. You can post your bridge news, photos, and announcements. You can also create Chats for a given topic. Currently, there are Chats for bridge questions and for bridge teachers. Feel free to create additional chats if you'd like - just keep them related to bridge.
- **Featured.** This is an area for permanent announcements, such as the group rules.
- **Events.** Club owners can announce special games and other club events.
- **Media.** A location for bridge videos.
- **Files.** This is where you can find tournament flyers and other documents.

We're looking forward to seeing all of you in Facebook. If you have ideas about how to make the best use of this group, please post them in the Discussions area.

## Everybody loves STaC games

Everybody loves the STaC games, which give players the chance to win silver points at their local clubs. CCBA has three scheduled, the first was held in April.

The second STaC will take place August 12-18, just a couple weeks before CCBA's Labor Day Sectional (August 31-September 2), which will return to a favorite spot, the Weber Recreational Center in Skokie.

The third CCBA STaC will be December 16-21, approximately a month before the Stan Subeck Central States Regional Tournament, which will take place at White Eagle. (November 8-11.)

## 2024 CCBA Officers Board Members

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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.



## **Unit 123 Windy City Regional** (new venue, same great competition!) **White Eagle Banquets & Restaurant, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave, Niles (Chicago)**

### **Thursday June 27**

10am and 3pm Open Pairs (stratified)  
Gold Rush Pairs (stratified)

### **Friday June 28**

10am and 3pm Open Pairs (stratified)  
Gold Rush Pairs (stratified)

### **Saturday June 29**

10am and 3pm Open Pairs (stratified)  
Gold Rush Pairs (stratified)

### **Sunday June 30**

10am playthrough  
Open Swiss (stratified)  
Gold Rush Swiss (stratified)

Open Stratification  
0-2500/2500-5000/5000+ MP averaging  
Gold Rush stratification 0-200/200-400/400-750  
MP averaging but no player may be over 750

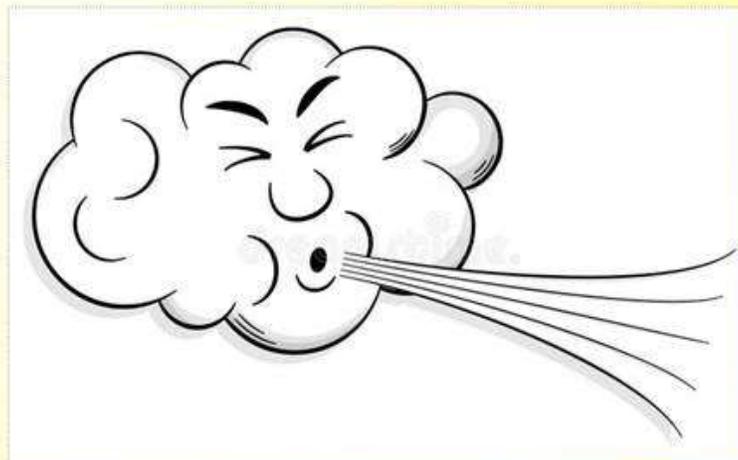
**To be eligible for overall Gold Points, Regional Events are offered daily as two-session events... however, if a player wishes to play in only one session, we will accommodate them. The decision to play one or two sessions MUST be declared at the time the entry is purchased. "Change of mind" will not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

#### **Entry fees**

\$15 per session/person/pair; \$60/session/team  
\$7 for students under age 26 with valid ID  
\$4 surcharge for non members and unpaid members

**Tournament Chair: Betsy Downs**  
**loverofbeagles@gmail.com**

**Partnership Chair: Jan Churchwell**  
**jan8242@gmail.com**



#### **Nearby Lodging Choices:**

**Holiday Inn Express 1.3 miles from site**  
**7247 N Waukegan Rd, Niles, IL**  
**Bridge rate of \$145 Wed-Fri and Sun; \$165 Sat.**

Reservations can be made in one of 2 ways:

1. By calling the Toll-Free Number 1-800-HOLIDAY (1-800-465-4329) or 847-588-1900. Please mention the group name CCBA or the group block code CCB at the time of reservation to obtain the discounted rate.

2. Online - links CCBA

<https://www.hiexpress.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=EX&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hot>

el-

[Code=CHISN&\\_PMID=99801505&GPC=ccb&cn=no&viewfullsite=true](https://www.hiexpress.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=EX&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hot)

**Rooms need to be reserved by 5/26/24 to guarantee reduced rate.**

Village Motel 1.3 miles from site  
6871 N. Milwaukee Ave, Niles, IL

Edgebrook Motel 1.5 miles from site  
6401 W Touhy Ave, Niles, IL

**Snacks and water will be provided**  
**Coffee is available for purchase at concession stand.**

**Unit 123 Labor Day Sectional  
Weber Leisure Center  
9300 Weber Park Place, Skokie  
August 31st—September 2nd, 2024**

**Saturday, August 31**  
10:00 am Pair/Team Game  
3:00 pm Pair/Team Game

**Sunday, September 1**  
10:00 am Invitational Pairs Qualifying Round  
10:00 am Pair/Team Game  
3:00 pm Invitational Pairs Barometer Final  
3:00 pm Pair/Team Game

**Monday, September 2**  
10:00 am Stratified Swiss Teams Playthru

Bring lunch or pick up something quick and yummy nearby! There is no Snack Bar on site!

Pair Events are Single Session (excluding the Invitational Pairs!)  
Separate Under 750 Pair/Team Events if Attendance Permits (Director's Discretion)

Masterpoint Averaging  
Stratifications: A=3000+, B=1500-3000, C=0-1500



**Tournament Chairs:**  
Guy Franklin  
guyfranklinchicago@gmail.com  
773.412.4882

Bob Maxson  
bishopmaxson@yahoo.com  
708.366.8995

**Partnership Chair:**  
Steve McConnell  
stevepmac@sbcglobal.net  
312.890.1064

**Invitational Pairs Chair:**  
Adrienne Cohen  
dolly370@aol.com  
630.699.5050



**Our starting times at 10 and 3  
Make eating nearby a fait accompli!  
Our Restaurant Guides offer choices galore  
For dine-in or take-out on the North Shore.**



## Determine the Danger Hand when playing NT contracts



Ginny and Jeff Schuett

Defenders are working together to defeat the contract and, whenever they gain the lead, they may both be in a position to make it difficult for declarer to make the contract. That is sometimes the case but, on many hands, one opponent may be more dangerous than the other. It's important to recognize the difference between a safe and a dangerous, or potentially dangerous, opponent:

A *safe opponent* is one that cannot immediately defeat the contract after gaining the lead.

A *dangerous opponent* is one that may be in a position to defeat the contract after gaining the lead. This may be true because they have enough winners in NT to set you, or because they can lead through a protected honor to their partner, capturing that honor.

### Finessing into the Safe Hand -

If a trick can be lost while developing a suit, declarer should try to arrange to lose it to the safe opponent. This is commonly referred to as avoidance. Declarer wants to avoid losing a trick to the dangerous opponent. For example, suppose declarer needs three tricks from this suit:

	DUMMY	
	♠ K J 10 7	
WEST		EAST
♠ ?		♠ ?
	DECLARER	
	♠ A 9 8 2	

Declarer can afford to lose a trick to the ♠Q. If West is the dangerous opponent, declarer should play the ♠A and then lead a spade to dummy's ♠10 or ♠J.

If the finesse wins, declarer will have all four tricks. If the finesse loses, it will be to the non dangerous opponent and declarer will still have three tricks.

If East is the dangerous opponent, declarer should start with the ♠K and then lead

the ♠J, planning to play low if the ♠Q hasn't appeared. If the finesse wins, declarer has all the tricks in the suit.

If the finesse loses, it will be to West, the safe opponent. Declarer avoids the risk of losing to the dangerous opponent.

### Choosing the Dangerous Opponent -

Sometimes, declarer can choose which opponent to make dangerous and which opponent to make non-dangerous. Consider this hand. The contract is 3NT and West leads the ♥ 5 to East's ♥ Q.

	DUMMY	
	♥ 6 4	
	♦ 10 9 2	
WEST		EAST
♥ K 10 8 5 3		♥ Q 9 7
♦ K 8 3		♦ 6 5
	DECLARER	
	♥ A J 2	
	♦ A Q J 7 4	

Does declarer win the ♥A or holdup? If declarer holds up, East will return another heart. West will win the ♥K and lead a third round, establishing two more heart winners for the defense.

When the diamond finesse loses, West takes enough tricks to defeat the contract. On this hand, declarer should win the ♥A. That makes East the dangerous opponent.

If East gets the lead, East can defeat the contract by leading a heart, trapping your ♥J. West is the nondangerous opponent. West can't lead hearts without giving declarer a trick with the ♥J.

Since declarer is planning to take the diamond finesse, the contract will be safe if it loses to West.

If we switch the diamonds and the finesse had to be taken into East, it would be appropriate to holdup the A of hearts and win the third round before finessing the diamond into East.

Ginny & Jeff Schuett – bridge teaching  
phone 847-940-7236  
Email=jgschuett2@comcast.net

## Subeck Regional Set for Nov. 8-11



White Eagle Banquets and Restaurant

Players of all levels will have fun vying for red and gold points at The Stan Subeck Central States Regional Tournament, which will be held November 8-11 in Niles. The location will be the beautiful White Eagle Banquets and Restaurant, 6839 North Milwaukee Avenue.

On Friday through Sunday at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., players will enjoy Open Pairs and Gold Rush Pairs. All the games will be stratified.

The Monday, Veterans' Day, schedule offers three options at 10 a.m.

They include stratified Open Swiss and stratified Gold Rush games, plus a play-through.

The stratifications are the following: Open 0-2,500, 2,500-5,000, and 5,000+; Gold Rush 0-200, 200-400, 400-750.

Tournament Chair Suzi Subeck said that hospitality includes snacks and water, and that coffee is available for purchase at the facility.

White Eagle is conveniently located near several major highways. For more information, including directions, see the flyer on page 6.



# Stan Subeck Central States Regional

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

## Friday November 8

10 and 3 Open Pairs (stratified)  
Gold Rush Pairs (stratified)

## Saturday November 9

10 and 3 Open Pairs (stratified)  
Gold Rush Pairs (stratified)

## Sunday November 10

10 and 3 Open Pairs (stratified)  
Gold Rush Pairs (stratified)

## Monday November 11 (Veteran's Day)

10 playthrough  
Open Swiss (stratified)  
Gold Rush Swiss (stratified)

Open Stratification 0-2500/2500-5000/5000+ MP averaging

Gold Rush stratification 0-200/200-400/400-750

MP averaging but no player may be over 750

## Entry fees

\$15 per session

\$7 for students under age 26 with valid ID

\$4 surcharge for non members and unpaid members



Snacks and water are provided  
Coffee is available for purchase at concession

Tournament Chair: Suzi Subeck  
stansubeck@prodigy.net

Partnership Chair:  
TBD

## Nearby motels:

Holiday Inn Express 1.3 miles from site  
7247 N Waukegan Rd, Niles, IL

Village Motel 1.3 miles from site  
6871 N. Milwaukee Ave, Niles, IL

Edgebrook Motel 1.5 miles from site  
6401 W Touhy Ave, Niles, IL



## Tournament offers opportunity to exercise expert bidding judgment, defense



By Rowan Bell

The following hand from a recent online tournament provided both partners an opportunity to exercise some expert bidding judgment, and also offers some interest in both defense and declarer play:

North	South
S 87	S AK43
H 63	H AK52
D KT97	D A4
C AQT43	C K87

East dealt, and East-West remained silent throughout the bidding.

South opens the bidding with 2NT, showing 20-21. With three aces and three kings, South's hand is about as strong a 2NT opening as you'll find. Indeed, if you were to add some tens and nines to the South hand, a case could be made to upgrading the hand to a 2C opening. But here, the poor spot cards offset the strong controls, so in my view, an upgrade isn't warranted.

Holding 9 points opposite a maximum of 21, you might think North should simply sign off in 3NT. However, here it is, North who holds plenty of valuable spot cards – a 10 in a five-card suit, and a ten-nine combination in a four-card suit – has enough assets to give North slam interest opposite an appropriate South hand. As such, North starts with 3S, the Minor Suit Stayman convention. Over a 2NT opener, this bid typically shows 5-4 in the minors and at least some slam interest.

Without any 4-card minor to bid, South has an obvious rebid of 3NT.

While North could certainly pass 3NT, it is reasonable for North to continue exploring for slam with 4NT. This strongly suggests that North's shape is either 2=2=4=5 or 2=2=5=4, as in most partnerships, North would bid 4 of a major with 3 cards in one major and 1 in the other (although it is a matter for partnership

agreement as to whether North should bid the 3-card fragment, or the shortness), or 4 of a minor with 6 cards in that minor and 4 in the other.

Over North's invitational 4NT, in my mind, South's proper bid is clear: 6C.

Yes, bidding a 3-card suit for the first time at the six level is not something you see every day! However, the South hand is incredibly suitable for playing in clubs, with all those outside controls and the potential for a diamond ruff. Also, South knows that North should read 6C as showing only a 3-card suit: While there are perhaps some South hands with 4 clubs that would have bid 3NT over 3S instead of 4C, those hands would surely pass an invitational 4NT bid.

With 2=2=4=5 shape, North is happy to play in 6C and passes. If North's shape were instead 2=2=5=4, then North would likely bid 6D, in case South were 3=3 in the minors. With South's actual hand, they would then convert 6D to 6NT, and the partnership would be no worse off than if South had bid 6NT directly over 4NT.

The full hand:

North		East	
87		JT9652	
63		97	
KT97		J2	
AQT43		952	
West		South	
Q		AK43	
QJT84		AK52	
Q8653		A4	
J6		K87	

When this hand was played online, nobody managed to make 12 tricks in notrump. 6C, on the other hand, came home.

West led the queen of spades against 6C, won by South, who then played a club to the ace and a club back to the king, getting the good news in trumps. South then played ace of diamonds, a diamond to

the king, and a third diamond. East chose to ruff with the nine of clubs, but that would be the defense's only trick, as declarer can later ruff North's fourth diamond with the eight.

A trickier defense against 6C would have been for East to pitch a heart on the third diamond instead of ruffing. That allows South to ruff the third diamond, but now declarer needs to find the right path back to dummy to pull the defense's last trump. As the cards lay, South can prevail by cashing the king of spades and then ruffing a spade high; this line would fail, though, if either defender had started with a singleton spade and three clubs.

If South instead sought to cash the ace-king of hearts and then ruff a heart high before drawing the final trump, East would spoil matters by ruffing the second heart, and West's queen of diamonds would eventually be the setting trick.

While I think 6C is a much better contract than 6NT single-dummy, it is admittedly curious that nobody made 6NT on the actual layout, as there are two lines of play that would have brought 6NT home.

The more straightforward of those lines is to play the ace-king of diamonds early in the hand, before running clubs, and hope that a quack appears. When it does, declarer plays a third round of diamonds to establish dummy's nine as the 12th trick, while dummy still has a club entry. The more exotic line is to attempt a squeeze without the count against which-ever defender is guarding diamonds. However, declarer needs to make a decision fairly early in the hand as to whether to try squeezing said defender between the red suits, or between the pointed suits.

Suppose West leads the queen of hearts against 6NT, with South winning the ace. South runs clubs and, before making his discards on the final two rounds of clubs, needs to decide whether the defender with longer diamonds is more likely to also have long hearts or long spades. If declarer correctly guesses that the defense's diamond length is accompanied by heart length, then South needs to pitch two small spades on clubs, keeping both of the closed hand's small hearts.

*(Continued on page 8)*

*(Continued from page 7)*

## Opportunity to exercise expert bidding judgment, play

After that dummy plays a heart to South's king, and then South cashes the ace of spades. This leaves South on lead, in the following position:

	North	
	8	
	—	
	KT97	
West		Eas—
—		JT9
JT		—
Q86		J2
...		
	South	
	K	
	52	
	A4	
	—	

South now plays the squeeze card, the king of spades. If West were to pitch a diamond here, then South could take the remainder of the tricks by cashing the ace and then king of diamonds; both the queen and jack would fall under the king, making dummy's remaining dia-



monds good. Consequently, West needs to pitch a heart. But now South concedes a heart to West, establishing a heart trick in the South hand, which can be reached via the ace of diamonds.

This squeeze was not positional: It would have worked equally well if the East and West hands were switched.

Also, a similar squeeze would work if West were long in both spades and diamonds, instead of both hearts and diamonds:

South would instead need to pitch two low hearts on dummy's clubs, and then throw West in with a spade on trick 10 after squeezing West with the king of hearts a trick earlier, establishing declarer's 12th trick in



What do you get from a pampered cow?  
Spoiled milk

What does the dentist of the year get? A  
little plaque.

Playing bridge will keep you sharp, but  
on your partner you can't harp.

Why did the scarecrow win an award?  
Because he was outstanding in his field.

What did the left eye say to the right eye.  
Between you and me, something smells.

Why did the Oreo go to the dentist? Be-  
cause he lost his filling..

Why don't they play poker in the jungle?  
Because there are too many cheaters.

Some cause happiness wherever they go;  
others whenever they go . Oscar Wilde

Two things are infinite, the universe and  
human stupidity, and I'm not yet com-  
pletely sure about the universe. Albert  
Einstein.

### USBF Supporting Membership

If you don't want to play in the United States Bridge Federation (USBF) Championships that choose teams to represent the USA in the World Bridge Federation Championships, but do want to aid its events, a Supporting Membership can be the perfect way for you to be involved.

A Supporting Membership is \$25 for one year (\$75 for three years) and your donation will be used to cover inevitable expenses: attorney fees, accounting fees, website support services, tournament directors, insurance, WBF dues, and vugraph operators. The USBF is an all-volunteer organization. Its meetings are by conference call and at NABCs. Board members and the organization's officers are not compensated for meetings, travel, or hotel expenses. For more information, go to the USBF web site.



## Congratulations Rank Advancers

### Junior Master

John Adams  
Beth Boehrer  
Carol Cawley  
Trinidad Donoso  
Matthew Finlayson  
Gary Grottko  
Melinda Jacobson  
Donna Lutrey  
Nancy Marcus  
Zach Marks  
Tony Nocchiero  
Sally Pelling  
Usha Raj  
Christopher Staszak  
Roert Sullivan  
Lynn Thorpe

### Club Master

Martin Devine  
Jane Doepke  
William Florida

Susan Hagerty  
Pat Henahan  
Nancy Lagowski  
Nicole Qian  
Sadaf Quas  
Gene Waskowski

### Sectional Master

Brian Brown  
Linda Hoblitzell  
Graham Meyer  
R E Stern

### Regional Master

Bernard Dost  
Ellyn Eisner  
Rahul Garga  
Susan Gauen  
Michael Hagerty  
Patricia Kosinski  
Pat Price

### NABC Master

Zhiyu Cheng  
Leslie Cunix  
Max Krawczyk

### Life Master

Michael Dunn

### Bronze Life Master

Sriram Datla  
Lindy Knoepke

### Silver Life Master

Jonathan Greiman  
Robert Krakowsky  
Steve Kreiner

### Ruby Life Master

William Anspach  
Aleksandar Lishkov  
Gediminas Poska  
Richard Winsor

### Sapphire Life Master

George Clark  
Loring Knoblauch

### Diamond Life Master

John Goring

### Emerald Life Master

Daniel Zagorin

## A quandary at Swiss team event—bid game or slam or double opponents



By Jim Diebel  
Winning with Wimpy

Let's say you're playing in a Swiss Team event and you pick up the following hand:  
♠ A Q J 6 5 2 ♥ K Q 3 ♦ 8 6 5 ♣ 4 Every-  
body vulnerable and you open 1S.

The auction proceeds:

North	East	South	West
1S	3C	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	3D
Pass	Pass	3H	Pass
??			

Well, this took an ugly turn. If you considered doing anything other than reopening with a double on your second bid, we'll keep that secret between you and me. Double is clearly correct – substantiated by partner's decision to convert it to penalty. However, East wasn't so keen on playing 3Cx, and ran to 3D, which you were unable to double. Now partner bids 3H. What are you going to do? Can you pass 3H? Think about it before continuing.

Nothing stands out as terribly attractive. Partner likely has only 4 hearts, and suits often don't split well in these types of auctions. Nevertheless, you cannot pass. If partner had a weakish hand with great clubs, he could have passed 3D. The fact that he reopened suggests that he is too strong to settle for a small plus score. Whether you choose to raise hearts on your good 3-card fragment, or rebid your spades, you need to do something.

Exchange your ♥Q for the ♦Q and you might even try 3NT. I can't remember this problem ever coming up before, but it's worth discussing with your favorite partner. Usually fourth chair passes and doesn't attempt to rescue the Overcaller. After all, if the result (3Cx) is a disaster, it's partner's fault. If you try to rescue (3Dx) and things go worse, it becomes your fault.

Back to the issue at hand. Same Swiss. Same vulnerability. Same stubborn partner. You pick up

♠ A K T 9 5 3 ♥ J 6 3 2 ♦ A T ♣ 3.

North	East	South	West
1S	3C	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	3D
Pass	Pass	3H	Pass
??			

This time, I trust you knew to raise to 4H. If you considered cue-bidding 4D to show a diamond control with a great hand in support of hearts, you can go to the head of the class. Let's suppose you made that cue bid. You forgot that this partner simply can't take a joke, and before you know it, you're in 6H.

The only good news here is that partner has to play it, but you just know if he goes down, he's going to find some way to blame you for it. If you are going to have any chance to save face at dinner, you need to be able to come up with a winning line yourself – so if partner manages to screw it up, you can calmly tell him how he should have played it.

Here is what partner sees:

♠ A K T 9 5 3  
♥ J 6 3 2  
♦ A T  
♣ 3

♠ 6 4  
♥ A K Q 8 4  
♦ 7 3  
♣ A K 9 4

The opening lead is the ♦K.

Declarer wins the ♦A in dummy, East following low and then cashing the ♥AK, and West pitches a low diamond. From here, partner manages to mangle the hand. On the assumption that East holds 7-8 clubs for his vulnerable 3C preempt, can you find the best continuation? Make your plan before reading on.

East is known to have 3 hearts, 7-8 clubs, 1-3 diamonds, and 0-2 spades. It must be safe to cash the ♣AK to pitch dummy's losing diamond. That part was easy. Where to go from here?

It's time to turn our attention to dummy's spades. There are 5 missing spades. Five cards can be expected to break 3-2 about 68% of the time. On this hand, I'd be very surprised if spades broke 3-2. That would make East's distribution 2-3-1-7. That's not unreasonable,

but if East has only 1 diamond, that leaves West with EIGHT.

Furthermore, if East has two spades, the chances that they are exactly the ♠QJ. Doubletons are 10%. How did I come up with that number? Suppose the missing spot cards were the 2, 3, and 4. If West holds exactly 3 spades, they can only be QJ2, QJ3, QJ4, Q23, Q24, Q34, J23, J24, J34, and 234. These are the only 10 ways they can divide. In only 1 (10%) of those 10 ways does East have exactly the ♠QJ. Armed with this information and knowing that overtricks are inconsequential, the winning line should start to materialize.

Leave that last trump outstanding and play a spade to the 9. If it loses to an honor, and a diamond or a club comes back, trump in dummy and draw the last trump in hand. Now close your eyes and whisper "I trust mathematics" and take that spade finesse again. When it wins, you have your 12 tricks. If the first finesse wins, you must draw the last trump (in hand) before leading another spade toward the dummy. West will split, but you can win, ruff a spade, and ruff a club or diamond back to dummy to enjoy the rest of the spade suit.

What if East shows out on the first spade? If he ruffs the 9, he will be out of trump and you will have two trumps in dummy to ruff two of your losers. You'll score 2 spades, 5 hearts (in hand), 2 ruffs (in dummy), 2 clubs and a diamond. East does no better by pitching a club. Now declarer draws the last trump and ruffs a loser in dummy. Declarer scores 3 spades, 5 hearts (in hand), 1 ruff, 2 clubs and 1 diamond.

At the other table, West led his singleton club. This made it easy for declarer, who drew 3 rounds of trump, cashed the ♠AK, ruffed spade, ruffed a club, ruffed a spade, and still had the ♦A in dummy to get back and enjoy those two spade winners for 13 tricks.

I was declarer. Did I find the winning line? No I did not. I did not think the hand through thoroughly enough and drew 3 rounds of trump. When spades broke 4-1, I did not have sufficient entries in dummy to set up and enjoy the rest of the spade suit. (Continued on p. 12)

## Mark your Calendar

### APRIL

### JUNE

All Month	North American Pairs Games, Flights A, B, and C
June 16-23	The Longest Day
June 17-21	Sizzlin' Summer Illinois Regional Holiday Inn, Route 31 and 3 Oaks Road, Crystal Lake-
June 7-9	Minocqua-Lakeland Bridge Sectional Highway 47, Woodruff Town Hall
June 27-June 30	Windy City Regional, White Eagle Events Ctr., Niles
June 30	Pop-Up Fathers' Day Games (Check with your club)

### JULY

All Month	North American Pairs Games, Flights A, B, and C
July 9	ACBL-wide Summer Instant Matchpoint Game
July 10-13	Waukesha Summerfest Sectional 2400 W. State Road, Waukesha WI, St. John Neumann's Parish Hall

### AUGUST

All Month	North American Pairs Games, Flights A, B, C
August 12-18	STaC
August 19	ACBL-wide Junior Fund Games—2nd of 2
August 31-September 2	Labor Day Sectional, Weber, Skokie

### NOVEMBER

November 8-11	Stan Subeck Regional, White Eagle Events Ctr., Niles
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### DECEMBER

December 16-21	STaC
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*CCBA events are in red. The CCBA Board of Directors is continuing to work to develop a tournament schedule similar to the ones that existed prior to COVID.*

## Here's Scoop on Other Tournaments in Dist. 13

In addition to the amazing tournaments scheduled by our local Unit 123, other units in District 13 have tournaments scheduled.



Next up is the Minocqua-Lakeland Bridge Sectional, which is set for June 7-9 at the Woodruff Town Hall, Highway 47, Woodruff, Wisconsin.

There are evening games, along with daytime games, on the first two days of the tournament.

Waukesha is having its Summerfest Sectional on July 10-13 at the St. John Neumann's Parish Hall, 2400 W. State Road 59, Waukesha, Wisconsin. Wednesday features its annual potluck luncheon. Players are told to bring their appetite and a dish to pass.

For more information on these three tournaments, check out the website [www.acbl-wumba.org](http://www.acbl-wumba.org).

Jeopardy answers.

Do you know the questions?

NAMED FOR AN EARL,  
A YARBOROUGH  
IN THIS GAME IS  
A HAND OF 13 CARDS  
IN WHICH NO CARD  
IS HIGHER THAN 9

PLAYING BRIDGE,  
THE DONKEY LED  
THE 4 OF CLUBS &  
THE ELEPHANT  
DECIDED TO...

## Sizzling Summer Regional June 17-21

The Great Sizzling Summer Illinois Regional will take place June 17-21 at the Holiday Inn in Crystal Lake.

Monday through Thursday will have A/X/Y Open Pairs (double sessions), and Gold Rush Pairs (double sessions) at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Also scheduled on those four days are a Stratified Side Series of four games. The first games in Series One will be

held on Monday, with the second two games on Tuesday. Wednesday starts the second four-game series.,

A/X/Y Swiss Teams and Gold Rush Swiss Teams will take place Friday at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Both are double sessions. There will be a free lunch for players.

For more information, see the flyer at [acbl.org](http://acbl.org) or contact Tournament Chair Marilyn Croft at 312-203-0849.

*Bridge Trump It*

Time	Club	Location	Contact
TBA Sunday	Northwestern Bridge Club	Parker Hill, Northwestern Univ. 1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston	Ben Fisk 513-808-1443
9:15 Monday	Mundelein Area DBC	Freemont Twnship Office 22385 W. Rt. 60, Mundelein	Joseph Connelly 847-271-1666
10 :15 Monday	Olympia DBC	Countryside Church 126 Smith St., Palatine, IL	Sue Erickson 847398-3440
10:30 Monday	Ace of Clubs	Temple Jeremiah 937 Happ Road, Northfield	Daryl Novack 847-8109272
11:00 Monday	Calumet DBC	Elks Club 3120 45th St., Highland, IN	Mary Schultz 245-224-2553
11:00 Monday	Oak Lawn DBC	Oak Lawn Tennis Club 10440 S. Central, Oak Lawn	Keith O'Malley 630-336-4376
11:30 Monday	Yorkville DB	Beecher Community Center 908 Game Farm Rd., Yorkville	Karl Anderson 224-276-0715
12 noon Monday	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Community Center 8th and Madison, Hinsdale	Diane Beyer Martin 708-2071500
12:15 Monday	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Dearborn Station 47 W. Polk Street, Chicago	Patt Quinn 630-220-9058
12:30 Monday	Chicago Cultural Center	Chicago Cultural Center 77 E. Randolph St., Chicago	James Diebel 630-244-9292
6:20 p.m. Monday	Lawson Bridge Studio	Ann Sathers Restaurant 909 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago	Jerry Scholle 773-209-7089
10:30 a.m. Tuesday	Ace of Clubs	Temple Jeremiah 937 Happ Road, Northfield	Daryl Novack 847-8109272
11:00 am. Tuesday	Naper DBC	Community United Methodist Church 20 S. Center St., Naperville	James 'Diebel 630-244-0202
11:00 a.m. Tuesday	St. Charles Duplicate Bridge	Baker Community Center 101 S. 2nd, St. Charles	Marilyn Croft 630-203-0849
12 Noon Tuesday	S. Suburban Bridge Center	S. Suburban Bridge Center 18144 Glen Terrace, Lansing	Patricia Valiska 219-934-9405
6:30 p.m. Tuesday	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Dearborn Station 47 W. Polk Street, Chicago	Patt Quinn 630-220-9058
6:30 p.m. Tuesday	Tree Towns DBC on BBO	Elmhurst BBO	Pat Quinn 630-220-9053
7:00 p.m. Tuesday	Ace of Clubs	Northmoor Country Club 820 Edgewood Road, Highland Park	Phyllis Bartlett 847-494-8474
10:30 a.m. Wednesday	Ace of Clubs	Temple Jeremiah 937 Happ Road, Northfield	Phyllis Bartlett 847-494-8474
10 :30 a.m. Wednesday	New Lenox-Joliet DBC	New Life Church 500 S. Gougar New Lenox	Nancy Miller 815-514-5363
11:00 a.m. Wednesday	Community Bridge Club	Calumet Township Center 1900 W. 41st Ave., Calumet Township, IN	Alan Yngve 219-215-45408
11:00 am Wednesday	Fox Bridge	Riverside Town Hall 27 Riverside Road, Riverside	Mary Schultz 248224-2553
12 noon Wednesday	University Club	University Club 79 E. Monroe, Chicago	Larry Cohen 630-941-0581
12 noon Wednesday	Glen Oak Country Club	Game starts up in May Glen Oak Country Club 21W451 Hill Avenue, Glen Ellyn	Patt Quinn 630-220-9053
12 noon Wednesday (2nd, 4th Wed.)	Glen Ellyn DBC	Healthtrack Sports Wellness 875 Roosevelt Road, Glen Ellyn	Sue Kamphuis 630-348-5369
12:15 am Wednesday	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Dearborn Station 47 W. Polk Street, Chicago	Patt Quinn 630-220-9058
6:32 p.m. Wednesday	Lawson Bridge Studio	Ann Sathers Restaurant 909 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago	Jerry Scholle 773-209-7089
10:30 am Thursday	Tom's Game	Temple Jeremiah 937 Happ Road, Northfield	Tom Dressing 847-323-4602
11:30 a.m. Thursday	Yorkville Duplicate Bridge	Beecher Community Center 908 Game Farm Rd., Yorkville	Karl Anderson 224-276-6715
9:00 am Thursday	12 Hearts	Freemont Township Administration 22385W. Route 60, Mundelein	Patricia Mayer 262-215-2566
12 noon Thursday	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Community Center	Diane Beyer Martin

Time	Club	Location	Contact
6:30 pm Thursday	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Dearborn Station 47 W. Polk Street, Chicago	Patt Quinn 630-220-9058
10:30 am Friday	Tom's Game	Temple Jeremiah 937 Happ Road, Northfield	Tom Dressing 847-323-4602
11:00 am. Friday	Naper DBC	Community United Methodist Church 20 S. Center St., Naperville	James 'Diebel 630-244-0202
11:00 a.m. Friday	St. Charles Duplicate Bridge	Baker Community Center 101 S. 2nd, St. Charles	Marilyn Croft 630-203-0849
12 noon Friday	Oak Park Country Club	Oak Park Country Club 2001 N. Thatcher, Oak Park	Joyce Sirota 708-203-4990
12 Noon Friday	S. Suburban Bridge Center	S. Suburban Bridge Center 18144 Glen Terrace, Lansing	Patricia Valiska 219-934-9405
12:15 Friday	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Dearborn Station 47 W. Polk Street, Chicago	Patt Quinn 630-220-9058
12:30 pm Friday	The Clare	The Clare 55 E. Pearson, Chicago	Larry Cohen 630-941-0581
6:30 p.m. Friday	Tree Towns DBC on BBO	Elmhurst BBO	Pat Quinn 630-220-9053
11:00 a.m. Saturday	Community Bridge Club	Calumet Township Center 1900W. 41st Ave., Calumet Township, IN	Alan Yngve 219-215-45408
11:30 a.m. Saturday TBA	Yorkville Duplicate Bridge	Beecher Community Center 908 Game Farm Rd., Yorkville	Karl Anderson 224-276-6715
9:30 am Saturday	Arlington Bridge B's	Park District Senior Center 1801 W. Central Road, Arlington Heights	Patricia Braun 847-506-3321

## A quandary at Swiss team event

(Continued from P. 9)

I only made 5. Before you criticize me too sharply, it should be noted that my partner not only did not cue bid 4D over my 3H call, but he passed! I was staring at a dummy that looked like a favorite to win all 13 tricks knowing I wasn't even in game.

The whole hand:

♠ A K T 9 5 3	
♥ J 6 3 2	
♦ A T	
♣ 3	
♠ Q J 8 7	♠ 2
♥ 7	♥ T 9 5
♦ K Q 9 8 6 4 2	♦ J 5
♣ T	♣ Q J 8 7 6
5 2	
♠ 6 4	
♥ A K Q 8 4	
♦ 7 3	
♣ A K 9 4	

So why did I pass 3C instead of bidding 3H? I knew we likely had a vulnerable game and possibly a slam. I was quite certain I held 3 club tricks on defense, and probably at least one

heart. We had no assured spade fit. If partner could provide as few as 2 two tricks, we had 500, and 800 or 1100 was not out of the question. My club strength was likely wasted in a suit contract, and my diamond and spade holdings seemed like a negative. 3Cx would have gone down -1100, but it looked like they had found a safe landing spot in 3D. Even 3Dx rates to go down -1100 if partner can resist leading a high spade. Had my partner's diamonds been ♦ AJT5, we'd be singing a different tune.



The North American Bridge Championships (NABC) offers an excellent chance to dive into the world of bridge and explore the best of a new city. More advanced players can play in premier events awarding platinum masterpoints. Those looking for gold points will have plenty of opportunities, too. Newer players and even absolute beginners can learn and hone new skills in a dedicated space just for them. Whether you're in Toronto for a day, a weekend or all 10 days, it's a wonderful time full of meeting fellow bridge players from all over and playing the world's best card game.

All bridge play will be at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, North building. There are three host hotels:

InterContinental Toronto Centre 225 on Front Street West, the Sheraton Centre at 123 Queen Street West, and The Westin Harbour Castle at 1 Harbour Square.

Reservations through ACBLs housing bureau ConferenceDirect close have closed, please contact the hotel directly for your reservation. Online reservations are still available.