

Kibitzer

Official Publication of the Chicago Contract Bridge Association October/November, 2025

Garner Garners the Gold! Congrats Team Wolfson, D'Orsi Senior World Champions Herning, Denmark!



Bridge professional, **Steve Garner**, Chicago, and former local, **Jeff Wolfson**, along with **Mike Kamil**, Deerfield, and teammates, Jeff Meckstroth, Larry Cohen, and David Berkowitz, topped the field in the D'Orsi Senior World Championship at the 47th World Bridge Games in Herning, Denmark in August. The team which led from start to finish was awarded gold medals on August 31st, as part of the World Championship Closing ceremony.

Congrats to Unit 123's finest!

Jan Martel served as non-playing team captain, while her husband, Chip, heralding from Champaign-Urbana, served as team coach.

Those unable to attend the Championships in Herning were able to watch the action on VuGraph on either BBO or LoveBridge.

47th WORLD BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS
14th WORLD TRANSNATIONAL OPEN TEAMS
Herning, Denmark • 20 - 31 August, 2025 • www.worldbridge.org

At the World Bridge Federation (WBF) Executive Council meetings in Herning, **Suzi Subeck**, Glenview, was elected WBF Honorary Secretary, replacing Adam Wildavsky. Suzi has been a member of the WBF Executive Council (Board of Directors) representing Zone 2 (Canada, Mexico and the United States) for several years.

She currently serves as Chair of both the Women's Committee and the Rules and Regulations Committee. She is a member of the WBF Management Committee, the Laws Committee, the Finance Committee and the Championship Committee.

Joe Stokes, Chicago, was also present in Herning as Captain of the Baker Women's Team.



The Executive Committee of the WBF... members from around the world

81 Unit 123 Players Earn Masterpoints at the Philly NABC July tournament!

Congrats to the following for scoring in Philly:
(in order from most to least points won)

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Brian Platnick | Craig Gardner |
| Kaining Sheng | Zhiqiang Hu |
| Nic Hristea | Steve Garner |
| Nicole Qian | Daniel Zagorin |
| Blythe Olshan Findley | George Klemic |
| Joseph Stokes | Cory Perkers |
| Carol Duffy | Karen Washington |
| Zhaofeng Wang | Judy Riehs |
| David Yang | Nikolay Demirev |
| Don Lussky | Daiva Vitukynaite |
| Ryan Daniels | James Dressler |
| Owen Jang | Jack Bierig |
| James Diebel | Larry Robbins |
| Ginny Schuett | Trucia Drummond |
| Dorie Isaacson | Michael Shelton |
| Alexander Xu | Alec Sun |
| Martin Harris | David Findley |
| Zinnia Meyer | Grazyna Brewiak |
| Ron Smith | Nishat Chishti |
| Nancy Frank | Jaroslav Piasecki |
| Robert Maxson | Alex Ding |
| Kevin Jang | Karen Glazer |
| Tanis Nielsen | Charles Alexander |
| Sadaf Quas | Matthew Dyer |
| Howard Engle | Michael Steigmann |
| Julie Shelton | Zheshen Li |
| Barbara Baer | Manmit Pantle |
| Li Miao | Aleksandar Lishkov |
| Emma Wang | Ryan Ha |
| Catherine Fashingbauer | Dane Meade |
| Ralph Katz | Drew Becker |
| Martha Katz | David Fritzsche |
| Mark Friedlander | Daniel Levin |
| Rahul Garga | Bill Goldberg |
| George Clark | Jeff Schuett |
| David Langer | Judy Zhu |
| Ben Fisk | Gail Shaps |
| Ranmit Pantle | Mark Pinkowski |
| Richmond Yeung | Leon Cao |
| Gediminas Poska | Cheri Bjerkan |
| | Haijin Li |



Brian Platnick Wins the Coveted Fishbein Trophy in Philly!!



ACBL Executive Director Bronia Jenkins presents the Spingold Trophy to the 2025 winners of the Spingold Knockout Teams: Yinghao Liu, Kevin Rosenberg, Brian Platnick, captain Jeff Wolfson, Yichao Chen and (inset) Steve Garner.

The ACBL Fishbein Trophy is awarded to the player who earns the most masterpoints at the Summer NABC.

Local expert, **Brian Platnick (3rd from left above)**, Evanston, earned 326 points at the Philly NABC in July to achieve the honor.

Brian won 250 points, finishing 1st in the Spingold KO Teams as a member of the Wolfson squad and another 76, finishing 6th in the Von Zedwitz 3-day Life Master Pairs with Danny Sprung of Las Vegas.

Joe Grue of New York was second with 300 points.

Another area expert, **Steve Garner** (insert pic above), finished 6th with 268.69. Steve was Platnick's teammate in the prestigious Spingold Knockout.

It is great to recognize Unit 123 players for their awesome performances.

After returning from Philly, Bryan followed up his Spingold victory, playing with wife, **Bryna Kra**, in the recent Labor Day Sectional Swiss, placing 3rd on Monday with teammates: **Ron Smith**, Glenview, and **Oren Kriegel**, Chicago. Oren is a newlywed. We wish Oren and his bride congratulations and best wishes!



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For more information, go to
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| | | |
|----------|------------|--------------------|
| Leon | Cao | Junior Master |
| Sedar | Erkoca | Junior Master |
| Cameron | Kubera | Junior Master |
| Rachel | Lee | Junior Master |
| Amy | Paris | Junior Master |
| Leslie | Pedley | Junior Master |
| Emma | Wang | Junior Master |
| Richmond | Yeung | Junior Master |
| William | Baxter | Club Master |
| Jan | Destefano | Club Master |
| Brian | Brown | Regional Master |
| Edward | Friedman | NABC Master |
| Doris | Griffin | NABC Master |
| Linda | Abrahams | Adv NABC Master |
| Mary | Phillips | Adv NABC Master |
| Massimo | Braschi | Life Master |
| Robert | Listernick | Life Master |
| Lois | Michaels | Life Master |
| Lois | Michaels | Bronze Life Master |
| Massimo | Braschi | Silver Life Master |
| Neal | Goldman | Silver Life Master |
| Vladimir | Reznik | Silver Life Master |
| Harland | London | Gold Life Master |



As of August 6, 2025:



Rank Advancements!

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| George | Gilbert | Junior Master |
| Katherine | Heitmann | Junior Master |
| Alex | Jablonski | Junior Master |
| Deborah | Johnson | Junior Master |
| Cynthia | Olson | Junior Master |
| Glenn | Olson | Junior Master |
| Ron | Attreau | Club Master |
| Robert | Carson | Club Master |
| Joyce | Carter | Club Master |
| Janet | Reece | Club Master |
| Nellie | Ross | Club Master |
| Susan | Youngs | Club Master |
| Nancy | Purcell | Sectional Master |
| Josh | Zhao | Sectional Master |
| Rebecca | Anderson | Regional Master |
| Arnold | Grant | Regional Master |
| Susan | Hagerty | Regional Master |
| Kaibai | Liu | Regional Master |
| Alec | Sun | Regional Master |
| Zhaofeng | Wang | Regional Master |
| Ranmit | Pantle | NABC Master |
| Patricia | Ballman | Silver Life Master |
| Jacob | Breneisen | Silver Life Master |
| Mary | O'Donnell | Silver Life Master |
| Stewart | Margolis | Ruby Life Master |
| Craig | Henderson | Sapphire Life Master |
| Craig | Jacobson | Sapphire Life Master |
| W | Harris Jr | Diamond Life Master |



As of September 6, 2025:



Steve Donahue, Tournament Chair, ran a great Competition with help from key volunteers, **Steve McConnell, Bob Maxson, Jamie Rubenstein, and Jan Churchwell**. **Adrienne Cohen** ran the Invitational Pairs. Attendance in Invitational Pairs was as anticipated, recognizing that running only 2 Regionals and 2 Sectionals a year means fewer qualifiers. Congratulations to **Craig Gardner** and **Don Lussky**, winners, finishing just ahead of **Mike Airdo** and **George Klemic**. (pics of winners and runners up on page 5)

The Top 100 MP winners in order were:

| | | |
|----|------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | 35.1 | Craig Gardner - Streamwood, IL |
| 2 | 28.2 | Meyer Abarbanel - Mundlein, IL |
| 3 | 26.2 | Dick Bruno - Des Plaines, IL |
| 4 | 26.2 | Robert Gardner - Glenview, IL |
| 5 | 25.8 | Michael Airdo - Oak Park, IL |
| 6 | 24.3 | Jack Oest - Chicago, IL |
| 7 | 23 | Mark Ginsburg - Buffalo Grove, IL |
| 8 | 22.3 | Douglas Giloy - Rockford, IL |
| 9 | 21.2 | Sriram Datla - Naperville, IL |
| 10 | 21.2 | Manish Dixit - Naperville, IL |
| 11 | 20.6 | Don Lussky - Elmhurst, IL |
| 12 | 20.4 | Stephen Donahue - Riverwoods, IL |
| 13 | 20.4 | Craig Allen - Glen Ellyn, IL |
| 14 | 19.2 | Ron Smith - Glenview, IL |
| 15 | 19.2 | Zhaofeng Wang - Evanston, IL |
| 16 | 19.1 | James Abbott - Chicago, IL |
| 17 | 17.2 | Alec Sun - Chicago, IL |
| 18 | 17.2 | Jonathan Yue - Chicago, IL |
| 19 | 16.9 | David Langer - Buffalo Grove, IL |
| 20 | 16.7 | Amin Hakim - Glenview, IL |
| 21 | 16.7 | Tracy Nolan - Naples, FL |
| 22 | 16.2 | Ben Fisk - Chicago, IL |
| 23 | 16.2 | Ranmit Pantle - Chicago, IL |
| 24 | 16 | Rahul Garga - Chicago, IL |
| 25 | 16 | Ariel Smid - Huixquilucan, MX |
| 26 | 15.8 | Jeff Mandell - Northfield, IL |
| 27 | 15.8 | Joshua Stark - Grayslake, IL |
| 28 | 15.7 | Geoff Bridges - Chicago, IL |
| 29 | 15.7 | Kendra Bridges - Chicago, IL |
| 30 | 15.5 | George Klemic - Lombard, IL |
| 31 | 15 | Gustavo Saravia - Oak Park, IL |
| 32 | 14.7 | Craig Jacobson - Skokie, IL |
| 33 | 14.6 | Zinnia Meyer - Chicago, IL |
| 34 | 14.6 | Graham Meyer - Chicago, IL |
| 35 | 14 | Sam Nelson - Northbrook, IL |
| 36 | 14 | Richard Strauss - Northbrook, IL |
| 37 | 12.7 | Will Engel - Freeport, IL |
| 38 | 12.4 | Wayne Snider - Elk Grove Vlg, IL |
| 39 | 12.4 | L James Phillips - Park Ridge, IL |
| 40 | 12 | Judy Zhu - Romeoville, IL |
| 41 | 12 | Haijin Li - Lisle, IL |
| 42 | 11.8 | Sharon Fellars - DEERFIELD, IL |
| 43 | 11.6 | Brian Platnick - Evanston, IL |
| 44 | 11.3 | Jon Sorkin - Palatine, IL |
| 45 | 11.2 | John Miller - Chicago, IL |
| 46 | 10.9 | Robert Maxson - River Forest, IL |
| 47 | 10.9 | James Kehoe - Glendale Hts, IL |
| 48 | 10.9 | Kaibai Liu - Naperville, IL |
| 49 | 10.8 | Edward Friedman - Skokie, IL |
| 50 | 10.3 | David Joyce - Kenilworth, IL |

| 32 | 14.7 | Craig Jacobson - Skokie, IL |
|-----|------|---|
| 33 | 14.6 | Zinnia Meyer - Chicago, IL |
| 34 | 14.6 | Graham Meyer - Chicago, IL |
| 35 | 14 | Sam Nelson - Northbrook, IL |
| 36 | 14 | Richard Strauss - Northbrook, IL |
| 37 | 12.7 | Will Engel - Freeport, IL |
| 38 | 12.4 | Wayne Snider - Elk Grove Vlg, IL |
| 39 | 12.4 | L James Phillips - Park Ridge, IL |
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| 48 | 10.9 | Kaibai Liu - Naperville, IL |
| 49 | 10.8 | Edward Friedman - Skokie, IL |
| 50 | 10.3 | David Joyce - Kenilworth, IL |
| Ran | MPs | Player |
| k | | |
| 51 | 10.2 | Juliet(jill) Bergner - Arlington Hgts, IL |
| 52 | 10.2 | Rene Ortman - Arlington Hgts, IL |
| 53 | 9.92 | Tom Fogarty - Chicago, IL |
| 54 | 9.42 | Tod Moses - Saint Louis, MO |
| 55 | 9.37 | Betsy Downs - Chicago, IL |
| 56 | 9.04 | Joyce Joseph - Lincolnshire, IL |
| 57 | 8.84 | Mark Stein - Skokie, IL |
| 58 | 7.92 | Kenneth Tatz - Highland Park, IL |
| 59 | 7.84 | Kurt Haeusler - Burlington, KY |
| 60 | 7.84 | Sadaf Quas - Naperville, IL |
| 61 | 7.81 | Theresa Schneider - Northbrook, IL |
| 62 | 7.34 | Ashley Szymiski - Aurora, IL |
| 63 | 7.34 | Neal Goldman - Willow Springs, IL |
| 64 | 7.33 | John Groenewold - Schaumburg, IL |
| 65 | 7.33 | Dave McCarty - Chicago, IL |
| 66 | 7.32 | Aleksandar Lishkov - Kenilworth, IL |
| 67 | 7.2 | Chip Harrell - Chicago, IL |
| 68 | 6.94 | Jack Snyder - Rockford, IL |
| 69 | 6.88 | Samuel Miller - Glencoe, IL |
| 70 | 6.88 | Howard Engle - Highland Park, IL |
| 71 | 6.79 | John Knoepke - Evanston, IL |
| 72 | 6.74 | Susan Bass - Chicago, IL |
| 73 | 6.71 | Guy Franklin - Chicago, IL |
| 74 | 6.71 | Michele Pockross - Wilmette, IL |
| 75 | 6.59 | Mark Pinkowski - Chicago, IL |
| 76 | 6.5 | Alexander Xu - Lisle, IL |
| 77 | 6.5 | Kaining Sheng - Northbrook, IL |
| 78 | 6.35 | James O Donnell - Park Ridge, IL |

Labor Day Sectional

News from the September Unit 123 Board Meetings... and Actions that Followed:

At the regularly scheduled September board meeting, Directors voted to increase the 2026 Windy City Regional to 5 days as opposed to the originally scheduled 4, assuming there is an acceptable site in June. More on that in the future.

A new coffee pot and portable sound system have been purchased for use at tournaments. The new equipment should improve service and make our events more efficient and more pleasant.

The BOD thanked Steve Donahue for successfully running the Labor Day Sectional. It was Steve's first venture as a tournament chair and he did a great job. *(see pics below!)*

The two open BOD positions resulting from Kathy Fortney's resignation and Amin Hakim's resignation have been filled. The BOD met in a special Zoom session on September 30th, approving President Knoblauch's recommendations of **Craig Allen** to fill the 2-yr vacancy and **Frank Pancoe** to fill the 1-yr vacancy. Both of their terms will start immediately. Both Allen and Pancoe have served on the Unit Board in the past. The transition should be seamless.



Don Lussky & Craig Gardner



George Klemic & Mike Airdo



Invitational Pairs Winners and Runners-Up
photo credit: Bob Maxson



LD pics... photo credit: Betsy Downs



D13 Flight C Team Fisk Wins GNT in Philly! By Jamie Rubenstein

Finishing in first place at the Philly Flight C GNT gave District 13/Unit 123 first time NABC representatives on Team Fisk both the MacNab trophy and 45 GOLD MPs. Asked how it felt to compete in the National GNT event, Rahul Garga said, "For us, it was a matter of resilience, confidence and a shared belief that we were the better team going into every match." Team Fisk is young by ACBL standards: Garga, a 2023 University of Chicago business graduate, was joined by his partner, 24-year-old Ben Fisk, president of the Northwestern Duplicate Bridge Club, and 35-year-old twins, Ranmit and Manmit Pantle of Chicago. *(see August Kib to learn more about the twins.)*

Fisk performed the duties of team Captain. At the conclusion of the multi-day event, the team members awarded him their MVP! Ben continually reminded them to stay "focused." "Taking his advice," said Ranmit, "We were able to move on from bad boards and recover immediately. It felt good to let go of bad boards." Ranmit recalls that "on the third day, we were losing at half time." And to make matters worse, he and his partner had a disaster on the first board of the third quarter. While some players would lose hope, team Fisk remembered the advice of their captain and kept focused. They came back strong and eventually scored a win.

Providing advice for future Flight C GNT players, Fisk advocates simply concentrating fully on one board at a time.

Rahul says, "Don't lose sight of the prize. Even the best players will have bad boards... It is important to treat each board as fresh. On the last day, we went into the third quarter of the final with a pretty sizable lead, and our opponents came out swinging on pretty much every hand." He praised the Pantle brothers who aggressively doubled their opponents when their opponents bid too ambitiously. The brothers said, "Everything seemed to click match after match. We will never forget the surge of adrenaline as we compared scores."

How was the team's Nationals experience? Ben Fisk enjoyed it. He explained that it was the entire team's first time playing behind screens. He said it was tricky to pass the tray back and forth, but once they got the hang of it, it became second nature.

After several days of intense competition, Fisk and his crew grew totally confident. When one or the other pair had a shaky set, they approached their teammates quietly. As luck would have it, the partners covered for one another and the team just kept on winning.

The moral: You never know what's happening at the other table! Bury bad boards and go forward playing your best. As so often happens, teammates come through and momentum builds!

Ben said that by the end, he "felt very locked in" and couldn't think about anything but bridge. He was concentrating so hard, nothing could distract him.

He and the team were in "the right mindset" to bring home the victory. By the last day, Fisk said he had played enough boards that he was no longer shaken by a bad result. He simply regrouped his mindset, blocked out the bad board and made himself focus forward.

It is an interesting observation with respect to the team that their last quarter each day was a massive win. Fisk commented that his team seemed to play "well rested" whereas their opponents seemed to get more tired and falter. Perhaps the team's youth provided better stamina.

The experience of competing in a National event was invigorating and has made the team more driven than ever. They will hopefully compete in the GNT's again in February, 2026, where they could win another opportunity to represent District 13 at the National level. Congrats to all! Flight C teams should know that if the District Final has 8+ teams, the district can send 2 teams to the competition and have twice the shot to win!

Team Fisk: You made us proud!

"Hand"y ... Dandy!

Dealer North. EW Vul.

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| ♠ A 8 7 5 | |
| ♥ K Q J 10 | |
| ♦ K 5 | |
| ♣ 5 4 2 | |
| ♠ K 10 3 | ♠ Q J 6 4 2 |
| ♥ 8 6 3 | ♥ 5 |
| ♦ 9 4 | ♦ J 10 8 7 6 |
| ♣ Q 10 8 6 3 | ♣ K J |
| ♠ 9 | |
| ♥ A 9 7 4 2 | |
| ♦ A Q 3 2 | |
| ♣ A 9 7 | |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| — | 1♣ | Pass | 1♥ |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♦ | Pass | 4NT |
| Pass | 5♠ | Pass | 6♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

South's jump to three spades over North's simple heart raise was a splinter bid. When North showed a diamond control, South used Roman Key Card Blackwood to reach slam.

West led the six of trumps and declarer paused to form a plan. He counted ten top tricks. Declarer saw that to make his contract he would either have to ruff two low minor-suit cards in dummy or three spades in hand. As the former would require too much luck in the minor suits, he judged it a poorer chance than the latter.

So, after winning the first trick with dummy's ten of trumps, declarer cashed the ace of spades and ruffed a spade low in hand. Declarer then crossed to dummy with a low trump to the jack, since a two-two trump break would turn this into a claimer. When East showed out, declarer continued with a second spade ruff with the nine of trumps. Now he did a prescient thing: he cashed the ace of diamonds and then led a low diamond to dummy's king.

Declarer ruffed dummy's remaining spade in hand with the ace of trumps. Then he ruffed the three of diamonds

in dummy with the queen of trumps. After drawing West's last trump with the king, declarer claimed 12 tricks: one spade, four trumps in dummy, three spade ruffs in hand and four winners in the minors.

Notice that, if declarer had not cashed the ace of diamonds before playing a diamond to the king, the contract would have failed on this layout. West would have discarded a diamond on the fourth round of spades and ruffed the next round of diamonds. Declarer would still have had to lose a club and would have finished one trick short of his contract.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| ♠ A J 3 | |
| ♥ A 9 4 3 2 | |
| ♦ Q J 8 | |
| ♣ A Q | |
| ♠ 9 7 6 5 | ♠ Q 8 2 |
| ♥ K 10 | ♥ Q J 7 5 |
| ♦ 6 5 4 | ♦ A K 10 9 |
| ♣ 10 8 5 2 | ♣ 6 3 |
| ♠ K 10 4 | |
| ♥ 8 6 | |
| ♦ 7 3 2 | |
| ♣ K J 9 7 4 | |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| — | 1♥ | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 3NT | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

At the first table in a team game, the declarer was more noted for the speed of his play rather than his skill. West led the six of spades. Declarer played low from dummy and the queen forced his king. Declarer continued with a club to the ace and the queen of clubs, overtaking it with the king. When East discarded on the third round of clubs, declarer could make no more than eight tricks.

At the other table, declarer was more careful and deliberate. At trick one, he called for dummy's jack of spades since he wanted to preserve an entry to hand to cash the four club honors. If the jack of spades had held, then the king of spades would have been the entry. When

East covered the jack of spades with the queen, declarer took it with his king and led a diamond to the queen and East's king. East returned a spade, which was taken in dummy with the ace. Next, declarer cashed dummy's ace and queen of clubs. When both opponents followed to the clubs, declarer claimed nine tricks: a heart, three spades and five clubs. The ten of spades was the entry to his hand.

Note that this declarer's play of a diamond at trick two was a precautionary measure against clubs being five-one: he would then have been able to make a second diamond trick if the honors had been favorably placed.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>♠ K Q 8 ♥ 9 6 4 ♦ A Q 4 ♣ 9 7 4 2</p> | <p>♠ — ♥ A K Q 10 7 ♦ J 10 9 6 2 ♣ A J 3</p> |
| <p>♠ J 7 5 3 ♥ J 3 2 ♦ 8 5 ♣ Q 8 6 5</p> | <p>♠ A 10 9 6 4 2 ♥ 8 5 ♦ K 7 3 ♣ K 10</p> |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|--------|-------|
| — | Pass | 1♥ | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♥ | Double | Pass |
| Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 3♦ |
| Pass | 4♠ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

The auction here was fairly straight-forward: two hearts promised spade support and three diamonds was a long-suit game try. North had a near-perfect hand and bid the spade game.

West led a lowest-from-an-odd-number two of hearts. East played the queen, king and ace of hearts, suit-preference for clubs. Declarer ruffed low and saw that he would have ten easy tricks if trumps were not four-zero; East had to have the ace of clubs because West would surely have bid two hearts with that card.

So declarer led a low trump to dummy's king at trick four. When East discarded a diamond, declarer led a low club from the dummy. East rose with the ace and played another round of hearts. Declarer ruffed low to neutralize West's jack of trumps. West saw that it would be pointless to overruff and discarded a diamond instead. Declarer led a low trump to West's five and dummy's eight. After cashing the queen of trumps, declarer returned to hand with a club to the king. When that held, he had ten tricks: six trumps, three diamonds and a club.

Note that it was important to play a club at trick five. If declarer had returned to hand with the king of diamonds, after taking the eight and queen of trumps he would

then have had to come off dummy with a club. East would have risen with the ace, after which a fourth round of hearts would have promoted West's jack of trumps into the setting trick.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>♠ 6 2 ♥ A K 5 4 ♦ A 9 5 4 ♣ A 10 8</p> | <p>♠ J 3 ♥ 9 7 3 2 ♦ J 8 6 3 2 ♣ 3 2</p> |
| <p>♠ Q 10 8 7 ♥ — ♦ K 10 7 ♣ K Q J 7 5 4</p> | <p>♠ A K 9 5 4 ♥ Q J 10 8 6 ♦ Q ♣ 9 6</p> |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|------------------|------|-----------------|
| — | — | — | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♦ ¹ | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | 3♥ ² | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4NT ³ | Pass | 5♣ ⁴ |
| Pass | 5♦ ⁵ | Pass | 5♠ ⁶ |
| Pass | 6♥ | Pass | Pass |

1. Natural, game-forcing
2. Stronger than 4♥
3. RKCB
4. 1 or 4 key cards
5. Trump-queen ask
6. Queen of hearts and king of spades

South thought his fifth heart and diamond queen were too much to make a simple raise to four hearts, so showed some interest with three spades.

At the other table in a team game, South had shown no such enterprise and had simply raised to four hearts. North had deferred to his opinion. Declarer had won the king-of-clubs lead with the ace and had led the ace of hearts. When West had shown out, declarer had breathed a sigh of relief, for now slam was very dicey. Taking some precautions, declarer led a spade to the ace, cashed the king of spades and ruffed a spade with the king of hearts. When East showed out, declarer drew trumps and conceded a spade, making 11 tricks when West cashed a club.

At the second table, declarer needed to make one more trick than his counterpart. Being a careful player, South won the club lead in dummy with the ace and, seeing that he needed spades to be no worse than four-two, led a spade immediately. He cashed the ace and king and led a third spade, ruffing it high in the dummy. Declarer led a trump to the queen, noted the four-zero break, and ruffed a fourth spade high in the dummy, setting up the fifth spade as a winner. Then declarer could lead dummy's last trump, covering East's card, draw trumps and claim 12 tricks and 11 IMPs.

Winning With Wimpy by Jim Diebel

Besides the number of masterpoints paid, what is the difference between winning at the club level and winning an open event at a regional? At the club level, it is often sufficient to simply capitalize on the mistakes of the opponents. At higher levels, you will rarely succeed by *waiting* for mistakes to just happen. You must exert pressure on the opponents, and create situations that **make** good things happen.

Suppose you open 1NT holding ♠ KJ74 ♥ Q973 ♦ AQ8 ♣ K6 and your partner bids 2D (transfer to hearts). My guess is that most of you wouldn't consider doing anything more than bidding 2H. After all, you have a dead minimum, and there's no reason to believe your side can make even 8 tricks if your partner's hand is extremely poor. This is the type of thinking that keeps the average player out of the winner's circle. Perhaps one should think outside the box and consider how many tricks their side can make defending an opponents' contract if it's bid.

Before you can totally appreciate why I choose to treat some of the following sequences as I do, you will need a rudimentary understanding of two different but extremely important principles: (1) **The Principle of Fast Arrival**, and (2) **The Law of Total Tricks**. In the most basic terms, **The Principle of Fast Arrival** states that *when we know where we are going, we go there as quickly as possible*. It is a logical corollary of Wimpy's Bidding Commandment #1, "We never ask a question that we already know the answer to." **The Law of Total Tricks** is more complex, but in simplest terms states that *when our side has a fit, the other side likely does as well*. Top players know that *when both sides have a fit*, and approximately half of the points, it will be a losing strategy to pass out the auction below 2NT. Using these two seemingly unrelated principles in tandem, it often becomes a winning strategy to get a minus score. Additionally, we understand that *against better competition*, you will need to voluntarily bid as high as you can as fast as you can, to keep the opponents from evaluating their assets accurately enough to compete to their best spot.

On the surface, there seems to be little to discuss in the way of strategy involving Jacoby Transfers. After a strong 1NT opening, Responder's hands invariably fall into 4 categories: Part Score, Invitational, Game, and Slam.

| | | | | |
|----|---------|---------|-------|--------|
| A. | ♠ T75 | ♥ K9752 | ♦ J6 | ♣ T94 |
| B. | ♠ KQT75 | ♥ 973 | ♦ KT8 | ♣ 94 |
| C. | ♠ KQT75 | ♥ K97 | ♦ 83 | ♣ Q94 |
| D. | ♠ K97 | ♥ KQT75 | ♦ A8 | ♣ Q94 |
| E. | ♠ KQT75 | ♥ A97 | ♦ 8 | ♣ KQ94 |

On hand (A), Responder has a dreadful hand but has every reason to believe that 2H will play better than 1NT, thus he transfers and passes. On hand (B), Responder has a typical invitational hand. He transfers to spades, and then rebids 2NT to leave the final decision up to Opener. On hand (C), Responder has a minimum game forcing hand with a weak holding in a side suit. He transfers to spades, and rebids 3NT. Opener will correct to 4S when he holds 3 spades. (D) Responder with a flat hand and no weaknesses should consider *not* using the transfer bid. Instead, preferring 2C, (Stayman) and the partnership only will play in hearts if it has a 9 card fit – otherwise 3NT will often be the superior matchpoint contract. On hand (E), Responder has a strong hand that might even make a slam. Responder starts with 2H, (transfer) and then rebids 3C, which is natural and *game forcing*. With wasted strength in the red suits, Opener may bid 3NT, but they have been warned. With a 3 card spade holding, soft values for their No Trump opening, and some wastage in the red suits, Opener may jump to 4S (*fast arrival*) but with good controls and minimal red suit wastage, opener should simply bid 3S, keeping the auction lower and promising a better hand.

Let me say a bit more about hand (D). Most beginning players have been taught to look for and play in an 8 card major suit fit when available. A 4-4 fit in No Trump cannot take more than 4 tricks in that suit. If that suit is trump, it will usually produce an extra trick, since if the suit breaks 3-2, there will be an extra trump in each hand, and one of them can be used to trump a side suit loser. A 5-3 fit is a bit different. In No trump, it still can't take more than 5 tricks. When that suit is trump, however, it only makes an extra trick if

The 3 card holding can trump a loser from the other hand or

There is a dangerous side suit and playing in a trump suit keeps the opponents from running them.

When your side holds less than 31-32 HCP, the odds do not favor bidding a slam in No Trump. That said, when you hold

(Wimpy, Continued from page 9)

a combined 28-31 hcp, it is very likely that any tricks that need to be lost will be lost whether playing in a suit or playing in No Trump. 28-31 pts will usually produce 11 tricks. Unless somehow playing in a suit can provide a 12th trick, there is a matchpoint benefit to playing in NT. Hand (D) contains 14 HCP. If partner opens 1NT, the partnership holds between 29 and 31 pts. If a finesse or two works, you'll likely make 12 tricks. If finesses fail, you'll probably be held to 11 tricks. You might even be off 2 aces! The significant thing to recognize is that you are going to take the same 11 or 12 tricks whether playing in your 5-3 fit or playing in NT, so you don't want to go looking for a 5-3 fit. I don't want to recommend ignoring your 5 card major altogether. If you happen to have a 9 card fit (which is why you should choose to use Stayman here), Declarer's techniques to produce an extra trick increase significantly enough to warrant playing in the suit.

Of those who play **Super-Acceptance** bids over Jacoby Transfers, nearly all fail to use this gadget to maximum profit. The overwhelming majority will only Super Accept with 4-card support and a maximum (usually 17). While this works fine in the local club game, it won't get you more than average against the next level of competition. Since we know that it's generally wrong to allow the opponents to play in their comfortable contracts below 2NT, strong players will rarely allow you to play 2H or 2S when you have a 9-card fit. How do they know? First of all, they won't have many cards in that suit, and secondly, the weaker Responder's hand is, the more points they will hold to be able to re-open the auction.

Why not find out whether or not they balance and then bid to the 3-level? The problem with this strategy is that once the opponents find their best suit, they may discover that their fit is as good as yours. On the hands where you can only make 2H with a 9-card fit, it is a virtual certainty that they can make 9 tricks or more in their best strain. Frequently, there will be hands where your side can make 3H, and their side can make 9 or even 10 tricks in their best suit! Even if they can't make 3S, they may bid it, and you will collect +50, or +100, when you could have made +140 for playing 3H unmolested. Unless you are playing against weak opponents, it will be a winning strategy to risk going down in 3H holding a 9-card fit, rather than to risk defending a 3-level contract by the opponents. For that reason, **I recommend that you Super-Accept on all 4-**

card holdings!

When partner transfers to a major and we hold 4 cards in that suit:

With a minimum hand (15 pts): **Jump to 3 of the major**

With a non-minimum 4-3-3-3 hand: **Bid 2NT** (this is forcing to at least 3 Spades)

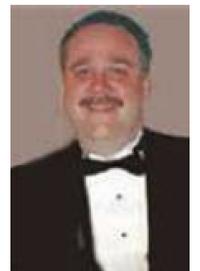
With a non-minimum 4-3-3-2 hand: **Bid your doubleton as cheaply as possible.**

These highly descriptive bids make it relatively easy for Responder to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses, and perhaps re-evaluate a hand that initially they might have passed out on the 2-level. Furthermore, we've seen that when this jump to the 3-level results in our side going down, it will be a victory against all but the weakest fields.

Jim Diebel writes for the Kibitzer and serves on the Board of Directors of District 13. He also runs one of the most successful club games in the Western suburbs. In his "free time," he gives bridge lessons on and off line.

As a Unit volunteer, Jim lectures newbies between sessions at many Unit 123 tournaments. Jim's lecture at the recent Labor Day Sectional was well received and enjoyed by those who attended.

If looking for lessons or wanting an opportunity to meet with Jim in person, you may email him at Wimpy@wimpy.biz for more information.



Interim Acting Kibitzer Staff:
CCBA Communications Committee:
Suzi Subeck, Editor
Jan Churchwell
Jamie Rubenstein

Special Club Games, for more, go to BridgeinChicago.com

| | | | | | |
|--------|--|-------------------------|--------|--|------------------------------------|
| 1-Oct | HealthTrack DBC Wednesday - 12:15 | Club Appreciation Teams | 13-Oct | Chicago Duplicate Bridge Monday - 12:00 | Club Appreciation Pairs |
| 1-Oct | University Club Wednesday - 12:00 | Club Appreciation Pairs | 13-Oct | Calumet DBC Monday - 11:00 | Club Championship |
| 1-Oct | Chicago Duplicate Bridge Wednesday - 12:00 | Club Appreciation Teams | 14-Oct | NaperDBC Tuesday - 11:00 | Grass Roots Charity Pairs |
| 2-Oct | Hinsdale Thursday - 12:00 | Hinsdale Charity Game | 14-Oct | The Admiral At The Lake Tuesday - 12:30 | Club Appreciation Pairs |
| 3-Oct | Tom's Game Friday - 10:30 | Red Hot Challenge | 15-Oct | University Club Wednesday - 12:00 | Grass Roots Charity Pairs |
| 3-Oct | St. Charles Duplicate Bridge Friday - 11:00 | CLUB APPRECIATION PAIRS | 15-Oct | Lawson Bridge Studio Wednesday - 18:20 | Club Appreciation Pairs |
| 3-Oct | NaperDBC Friday - 11:00 | Membership Game | 15-Oct | Chicago Duplicate Bridge Wednesday - 12:00 | ACBL-wide Seniors |
| 3-Oct | Chicago Duplicate Bridge Friday - 12:00 | Red points | 15-Oct | Fox Bridge Wednesday - 11:00 | Club Championship |
| 3-Oct | The Clare Friday - 12:30 | Red Points | 16-Oct | Hinsdale Thursday - 12:00 | Club Appreciation |
| 5-Oct | Northwestern Sunday - 12:00 | Game TBD | 16-Oct | Chicago Duplicate Bridge Thursday - 12:00 | Club Appreciation Pairs |
| 6-Oct | Hinsdale Monday - 12:00 | Club Appreciation Game | 16-Oct | Chicago Duplicate Bridge Thursday - 18:30 | Club Appreciation Pairs |
| 6-Oct | Chicago Cultural Center M Monday - 12:30 | Club Appreciation Pairs | 17-Oct | St. Charles Duplicate Bridge Friday - 11:00 | CLUB APPRECIATION PAIRS |
| 6-Oct | Lawson Bridge Studio Monday - 18:20 | Grass Roots FUNd | 17-Oct | Chicago Duplicate Bridge Friday - 12:00 | Club Appreciation Pairs |
| 6-Oct | Chicago Duplicate Bridge Monday - 12:00 | Charity Pairs | 17-Oct | NaperDBC Friday - 11:00 | Grass Roots Charity Pairs |
| 6-Oct | Calumet DBC Monday - 11:00 | Club Appreciation | 17-Oct | The Clare Friday - 12:30 | Charity Game (\$! extra) |
| 7-Oct | NaperDBC Tuesday - 11:00 | Club Appreciation Pairs | 19-Oct | Northwestern Sunday - 12:00 | Game TBD |
| 7-Oct | The Admiral At The Lake Tuesday - 12:30 | Grass Roots Fund | 20-Oct | Hinsdale Monday - 12:00 | Hinsdale Charity Game-Earn |
| 8-Oct | University Club Wednesday - 12:00 | Membership Game | 20-Oct | Chicago Cultural Center M Monday - 12:30 | Club Appreciation Gold Point Swiss |
| 8-Oct | Lawson Bridge Studio Wednesday - 18:20 | Grass Roots FUNd | 20-Oct | Lawson Bridge Studio Monday - 18:20 | 4th Quarter Club Championship 1 |
| 8-Oct | Chicago Duplicate Bridge Wednesday - 12:00 | Charity Pairs | 20-Oct | Calumet DBC Monday - 11:00 | Club Appreciation |
| 8-Oct | HealthTrack DBC Wednesday - 12:15 | Charity Pairs | 21-Oct | NaperDBC Tuesday - 11:00 | Club Appreciation Gold Point Swiss |
| 8-Oct | Fox Bridge Wednesday - 11:00 | Club Appreciation | 21-Oct | The Admiral At The Lake Tuesday - 12:30 | 4th Quarter Club Championship |
| 9-Oct | Chicago Duplicate Bridge Thursday - 18:30 | Charity Pairs | 22-Oct | University Club Wednesday - 12:00 | Club Appreciation Gold Point Teams |
| 9-Oct | Hinsdale Thursday - 12:00 | Clup Championship | 22-Oct | Lawson Bridge Studio Wednesday - 18:20 | 4th QTR Club Championship 1 |
| 9-Oct | Chicago Duplicate Bridge Thursday - 12:00 | Charity Pairs | 22-Oct | Chicago Duplicate Bridge Wednesday - 12:00 | Club Appreciation Pairs |
| 10-Oct | St. Charles Duplicate Bridge Friday - 11:00 | SILVER STAC | 22-Oct | HealthTrack DBC Wednesday - 12:15 | Club Appreciation Pairs |
| 10-Oct | NaperDBC Friday - 11:00 | Club Appreciation Pairs | 22-Oct | Fox Bridge Wednesday - 11:00 | Club Appreciation |
| 10-Oct | Chicago Duplicate Bridge Friday - 12:00 | Charity Pairs | 23-Oct | Chicago Duplicate Bridge Thursday - 12:00 | Club Appreciation Teams |
| 10-Oct | The Clare Friday - 12:30 | Club Appreciation Game | 23-Oct | Chicago Duplicate Bridge Thursday - 18:30 | Club Appreciation Teams |
| 12-Oct | Northwestern Sunday - 12:00 | Game TBD | 24-Oct | St. Charles Duplicate Bridge Friday - 11:00 | CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP GAME |
| 13-Oct | Hinsdale Monday - 12:00 | Club Championship | 24-Oct | Chicago Duplicate Bridge Friday - 12:00 | Club Appreciation Teams |
| 13-Oct | Chicago Cultural Center M Monday - 12:30 | No Game - Columbus Day | 24-Oct | NaperDBC Friday - 11:00 | Club Appreciation Gold Point Swiss |
| 13-Oct | Lawson Bridge Studio Monday - 18:20 | Club Appreciation Pairs | 24-Oct | The Clare Friday - 12:30 | Club Appreciation Game |

**Unit 123 WinterFest Sectional
January 30-February 1, 2026
Irish American Heritage Center,
4626 N Knox Avenue, Chicago, IL**

Friday Jan 30 10:00 AM pair/ team game*
3:00 PM pair/ team game*
Saturday Jan 31 10:00 AM & TBD
Swiss Teams (2 sessions)
499er Pairs (2 separate events) 10 AM & 2:30 PM
6:00 PM annual dinner **
and Unit 123 membership meeting
(Reservations will be Required)
Sunday Feb 1 10:00 AM pair/ team game*
3:00 PM pair/ team game*
All pair team events are single session
* pair/team games will be held if number of entries
allows for this format. Separate pair/team events for
under 500's at Director's Discretion.
Stratification (with masterpoint averaging)
A=3000+ B=1500-3000 C=0-1500

Tournament Chair:
Betsy Downs loverofbeagles@gmail.com

Partnership Chair:
Jan Churchwell jan8242@gmail.com

Saturday night inside the venue...
Annual Meeting and dinner on menu!
Now 'bout the dinner And how to reserve,
As well as the items That we plan to serve:
Our subsidized meal like last year will be:
Pizza and Salad, with chippy Cookie!
Your cost:15 dollars, The rest we will pay...
We hope you will join us Following play!
Checks should be sent to Fran Lyne's direction.
By 1/17 wth pizza selection!!
Sausage or Spinach Or Pepperoni,
If none of those wanted, then cheese it will be.
Checks MUST be written to CCBA.
The bank has insisted we write them that way!
Pick up your tickets from Fran** at the site.
And share with your friends, a fun winter night!
Fran Lyne 6538 N Greenview Avenue, Apt 2
Chicago, IL 60626
773-972-5014 TheLynes.21stcentury@rcn.com

**IMPORTANT Alert:
Stan Subeck Central States
Regional
Schedule:**

Thursday October 16
11 and 3:30 Open Pairs (stratified)
Gold Rush Pairs (stratified)
Friday October 17
10 and 3 Open Pairs (stratified)
Gold Rush Pairs (stratified)
Saturday October 18
10 and 3 Open Pairs (stratified)
Gold Rush Pairs (stratified)
Sunday October 19
10 playthru
Open Swiss (stratified)
Gold Rush Swiss (stratified)

**New Site: Patty Turner Center
375 Elm Street
Deerfield, IL**

**Note: Later starting times on Thursday!
New Location!**



Tournament Chair: Suzi Subeck
stansubeck@prodigy.net
Partnership Chair: Jan Churchwell
Jan8242@gmail.com

A Grand That Was Anything But... by Rowen Bell

If you've read enough bridge literature, you may have encountered a hand where a capable pair reached a grand slam despite missing the ace of trumps, without there being a bidding misunderstanding. Here's my contribution to that dubious subset of the literature...

Sitting South in third seat with neither vulnerable, I picked up the following hand:

AQ AQ5 8762 KQ42. Partner opened 1S, and with opponents silent, it proceeded:

| North | South |
|-------|-------|
| 1S | 2C |
| 3C | 4C |
| 4D | 4N |
| 6C | ? |

Rowan Bell moved from Unit 123 to Minnesota a few years ago, but just changed his Unit affiliation last year. He will always be a good friend, local to us!



My 2C was natural and game-forcing. Partner's 3C showed 4-card support and ought to deny a 4-card red suit, since he could have cheaply bid that suit at the 2-level and then supported clubs. I should perhaps have rebid 3H, stopper-showing, to learn whether partner's diamond holding was suitable for notrump; but bid 4C, still forcing.

Many partnerships would play here that 4D was RKC with clubs agreed as trump. Lacking that agreement, partner's 4D was instead a control-bid, showing first-round diamond control. I grabbed the bull by the horns and bid 4N, RKC for clubs. Now partner's 6C, by agreement, showed some void and an odd number of key cards, which I can tell from my hand is one.

So, what do we know about partner's hand? He has a red-suit void; but we don't know which one. That implies he has exactly one minor-suit ace; but again, we don't know which one. Also, since he has a red-suit void but declined to bid the other red suit cheaply at the 2-level, he rates to have at least 10 cards in the black suits.

If his void is in diamonds, then we could easily make 7C: His hand ought to resemble something like KJxxxx Kxx – AJxx, which makes grand if neither black suit is 5-0.

On the other hand if his void is in hearts, we may already be too high at 6C: Give him something like KJxxxx – AQx JTxx, and 6C goes down on a diamond lead if East has the king.

Given these considerations, plus the notion that the opponents were more likely to have come into the auction with a 10-card heart fit as opposed to a 9-card diamond fit, I decided to make the bold raise to 7C.

As the first paragraph of the article foretold, that was not a successful action, as on this particular day, North's hand was: KT9653 – AK9 J853. Clubs split 5-0, so 6C was already too high: Most pairs in 6C went down 3, which is what I managed to do in 7C, salvaging something.

One last note here. If you play 2/1, what is your agreement on the meaning of opener's jumpshift over 1S-2C? Many partnerships play the 3D and 3H rebids here as splinter raises of responder's suit, since opener doesn't need to worry about creating a force with extra values (as would be true in Standard American). Here, if we'd had a clear agreement to this effect and if North's first rebid had been 3H, then I would have been warned that the hand was not slam-suitable and could have signed off in 3N.



Jeff and Ginny Schuett are running a bridge cruise without great email capability. Jeff has been unsuccessful trying to send their regular column for this issue of the Kibitzer. Apparently attachments don't travel well from the waters! We look forward to having the Schuetts back in print in our December issue. Happy sailing!

ACBL News... Disciplinary Information...

In response to widespread online cheating that began during the pandemic, the ACBL implemented a strict disciplinary system to protect the game's integrity. The ACBL recognizes that its approach may have been too rigid, sometimes leading to punishments that were disproportionate to the offense. To address this, Management, in coordination with the Appeals & Charges Committee, proposed a series of changes, which the Board has approved.

- **Club Discretion for Suspended Players:** Club leadership now has the discretion to allow suspended members to return to F2F club play under controlled conditions. The policy for suspended members to participate in club games applies only to players who were charged after February 1, 2024. The reason for this date is that EDGAR, ACBL's computer-based cheating detection program which flags online cheating, was initiated then. The new policy is designed specifically for players who were flagged by this program. Suspended members who are permitted to play are still considered Members Not in Good Standing. They are only allowed to play in specified games and may not play with complicit partners. They are not permitted to direct games or to be present at games in which they are not participating.
- **Review of Pre-2022 Online Cheating Cases:** All cases of players identified by EDGAR as colluding online, but who clearly ceased this behavior before 2022, will be reviewed. The Office of the National Recorder will communicate any modifications to a player's current discipline directly to them.
- **Players permitted back in club games may not receive masterpoints.**
- **When brought in front of the Board of Governors (Advisory Council), it was far from universally supported.** Many club owners there were not in favor, along with many other BOG representatives.

COMBATING ONLINE CHEATING

The ACBL continues to utilize EDGAR (Everyone Deserves a Game Above Reproach) ... program development and current support largely attributed to Franco Bassagio, New York, **Brian Platnick**, Evanston, and **Jack Oest**, Chicago, to detect online cheating. No new runs have been made since November 2024, other than for people being considered for National Committees or the Hall of Fame.

Since February 1, 2024, 12,089 players have been submitted for screening, with a total of 37,875 examined (this includes their partners). Approximately 900 players identified by EDGAR have been charged or received Official Warnings. The current online cheating rate, which includes all players (members, non-members, and inactive accounts), is estimated to be between 2.5% and 3%. Disciplinary actions have included Official Warnings (185), Fast Track Discipline (FTD) (571 players), Negotiated Resolutions (NR) (50), Expedited Disciplinary Panels (10), and Institute of Bridge Arbitration resolutions (15), with 24 resignations pending charges and 42 pending cases.