

Kibitzer

Official Publication of the Chicago Contract Bridge Association August/September, 2026



**Pics from
Windy City
Regionall
photo credit:
Missy Ravid**

Story on page 2
2025: 263 players/305
tables.
2026: 244 players/283
tables.

If interested in joining
the CCBA Board of
Directors, see directions
at bottom of page 11!

Windy City Regional Schaumburg...

1	61.5	Stephen Donahue Riverwoods, IL
2	61.5	Craig Allen Glen Ellyn, IL
3	43.4	Mark Ginsburg Buffalo Grove, IL
4	43.2	Jack Oest Chicago, IL
5	42.7	Rahul Garga Chicago, IL
6	39.6	Craig Gardner Streamwood, IL
7	39.6	Robert Gardner Glenview, IL
8	35.8	Ben Fisk Chicago, IL
9	34.4	Joshua Stark Grayslake, IL
10	31.7	Tom Fogarty Chicago, IL
11	31.6	Bob Fisk Cincinnati, OH
12	29.8	Ariel Smid Huixquilucan, MX
13	25.2	Sandra Sarnow Huixquilucan, MX
14	25.1	Rick Schoenfield Westchester, IL
15	25.1	David Bogolub Deerfield, IL
16	24.4	Matthew Dyer Chicago, IL
17	23.1	Richard Strauss Northbrook, IL
18	23.1	Sam Nelson Northbrook, IL
19	23	David Langer Buffalo Grove, IL
20	22.5	Howard Engle Highland Park, IL
21	22.5	Samuel Miller Glencoe, IL
22	20.9	Adrienne Cohen Elmhurst, IL
23	20.5	Sharon Fellars Deerfield, IL
24	20	Colleen Treanor Bloomingdale, IL
25	19.4	Earle Miller Oak Brook, IL
26	19.4	Daniel Mihalcea Montgomery, IL
27	18.9	David Joyce Kenilworth, IL
28	17.8	Ryan Daniels Vernon Hills, IL
29	17.7	John Seng Champaign, IL
30	15	Will Engel Freeport, IL
31	14.6	David Yang Darien, IL
32	14.2	Wayne Snider ELK GROVE VLG, IL
33	14	Neal Goldman Willow Springs, IL
34	13.8	Jerry Poliquin Kansas City, MO
35	13.4	Tamas Szabo Oconomowoc, WI
36	13	L James Phillips Park Ridge, IL
37	13	William Scott Madison, WI
38	13	Craig Jacobson Skokie, IL
39	13	Tod Moses Saint Louis, MO
40	12.6	Mark Stein Skokie, IL
41	12.3	John Russell Barrington, IL
42	11.9	Aleksandar Lishkov Chicago, IL
43	11.3	Genie Baker Chicago, IL
44	11.3	Robert Kruger Schaumburg, IL
45	11.3	Janet Kruger Schaumburg, IL
46	10.5	John Goring Frankfort, IL
47	10.4	Daniel Wright Deerfield, IL
48	10.4	Bill Sack Elmhurst, IL
49	10.3	Geoff Bridges Chicago, IL
50	10.3	Kendra Bridges Chicago, IL

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38	13	Craig Jacobson Skokie, IL
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48	10.4	Bill Sack Elmhurst, IL
49	10.3	Geoff Bridges Chicago, IL
50	10.3	Kendra Bridges Chicago, IL
51	10.2	Mark Pinkowski Chicago, IL
52	10.1	George Klemic Lombard, IL
53	9.71	Jeff Schuett Lincolnshire, IL
54	9.08	John Miller Chicago, IL
55	8.68	Nic Hristea Chicago, IL
56	8.6	Robert Maxson River Forest, IL
57	8.51	Brad Stout St Louis, MO
58	8.35	Jeff Mandell Northfield, IL
59	8.33	David Brown Chicago, IL
60	7.95	Judy Zhu Romeoville, IL
61	7.95	Haijin Li Lisle, IL
62	7.43	Zinnia Meyer Chicago, IL
63	7.43	Graham Meyer Chicago, IL
64	7.34	Mark Simon Evanston, IL
65	7.2	Ashley Szymiski Aurora, IL
66	7.19	Michael Airdo Oak Park, IL
67	7.18	Jack Snyder Rockford, IL
68	7.06	Drew Becker Chicago, IL
69	7.06	Sheldon Natenberg Glenview, IL
70	6.85	Kevin Mistrik Prospect Hgts, IL
71	6.84	Jeff Duckworth Sugar Grove, IL
72	6.82	Zeyu Wang Evanston, IL
73	6.8	Meyer Abarbanel Mundlein, IL
74	6.55	Margaret Eppstein Hinesburg, VT
75	6.51	James Abbott Chicago, IL
76	6.45	Kenneth Tatz Highland Park, IL
77	6.45	John Bacsas Elkhorn, WI
78	6.38	Michael Ellgass Naperville, IL
79	6.38	Mark Holle Downers Grove, IL
80	6.1	Judy Riehs Buffalo Grove, IL
81	5.85	Richard Greenthal Chicago, IL
82	5.75	Manish Dixit Naperville, IL
83	5.75	Sriram Datla Naperville, IL
84	5.32	Dick Bruno Des Plaines, IL
85	5.32	Ray Johnson Park City, UT
86	5.23	William McFall New Berlin, WI

The Windy City Regional took place at Eventz in Schaumburg from June 3-7.

The Gold Rush events were well attended... up almost 3 times from our most recent tournaments. For that, we owe a big thank you to **Diane Beyer Martin** for encouraging her players to attend. This location is slightly better for Diane's contingent and they rallied to support it.

Unfortunately, the Open events were less well attended than last year and as a result, overall attendance was below what was anticipated.

Thanks to **Betsy Downs**, tournament chair... to **Missy Ravid** and **Fran Lyne**, Hospitality Chairs (there were raves about the new snacks!) ... to **Jamie Rubenstein**, coffee set-up guy... to **Jan Churchwell**, Partnership Chair (by far the best since Carl Sharp!!) ... to **Jim Diebel**, lecturer ... to the entire set-up crew ...

Thanks to **Chicago Duplicate Bridge** for closing a couple of days so players could attend the tournament. It was noticed and appreciated.

Thanks to all the players who supported the event!!

Top 100 MP winners on left



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or call the CCBA at 630-235-4718.

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

First Name	Last Name	New Rank
Susan	Barclay	Junior Master
Janet	Bishop	Junior Master
Elaine	Cizner	Junior Master
Linda	Ewing	Junior Master
Roberta	Gilbert	Junior Master
Robert	Goodman	Junior Master
Gena	Guerrieri	Junior Master
Ken	Indeck	Junior Master
Selene	Sun	Junior Master
Ya	Wang	Junior Master
Aileen	Yang	Junior Master
Leon	Cao	Club Master
Elliot	Eisenberg	Club Master
Amparo	Laurens	Club Master
Patti	Manoogian	Club Master
Tony	Nocchiero	Club Master
Elan	Ravishankar	Club Master
Qin	Chen	Sectional Master
Ron	Attreau	Regional Master
Alex	Ding	Regional Master
Trucia	Drummond	Regional Master
Thomas	Pelliccioni	Regional Master
Anna	Powers	Regional Master
Steven	Safran	Regional Master
Richmond	Yeung	Regional Master
Josh	Zhao	Regional Master
Colette	Bourke	NABC Master
Tom	Conaghan	NABC Master
David	Fritzsche	NABC Master
Dennis	Jennings	Life Master
Larry	Lapalio	Silver Life Master
Neel	French	Ruby Life Master
Neal	Goldman	Ruby Life Master
Lynn	Gryll	Ruby Life Master
Ashley	Szymiski	Ruby Life Master
Donald	Ferris	Gold Life Master
Bill	Goldberg	Gold Life Master
Aleksandar	Lishkov	Gold Life Master
Ronald	Miller	Gold Life Master
Kenneth	Tatz	Diamond Life Master
Sally	Levering	Emerald Life Master
Michael	Kutska	Platinum Life Master

As of June 6

**Rank Advancements
Congrats!
Star Performance!**

First Name	Last Name	New Rank
Bruce	Leavitt	Junior Master
Maddie	Stoll	Junior Master
Gregory	Szymiski	Junior Master
Lori	Vardas	Junior Master
Judy	Doyle	Club Master
Paul	Duggan	Club Master
Sascha	Gordon-Zolov	Club Master
Oxana	Malevanaia	Club Master
Joseph	Rickert	Club Master
Michael	Smith	Club Master
Scott	Freer	Sectional Master
Alex	Jablonski	Sectional Master
Thomas	Finch	Regional Master
Cynthia	Harris	Regional Master
David	Brown	NABC Master
Joshua	Hurwitz	NABC Master
Mark	Simon	NABC Master
Susan	Zagorin	Adv NABC Master
Les	White	Life Master
Bob	Kell	Bronze Life Master
Chip	Harrell	Silver Life Master
Les	White	Silver Life Master
Stephen	Bell	Gold Life Master
Suzanne	Dunaway	Platinum Life Master

As of July 6

**Best Performance by Locals at the Summer NABC:
Oren Kriegel and Ron Smith Win the NABC+ Open Pairs**



**District 13 GNT A & B Teams
Place 2nd at NABC!**

Good job all of you. You played really well. We loved following your progress!

You made us proud!

The 1 No Trump Structure – Part V by Jim Diebel

E. Bidding After Interference:

Fifty years ago, few dared to enter an auction in the face of a strong 1 NT bid. This is because virtually all doubles were penalty, and the risk of being doubled and going for a large number seemed to outweigh the value of a small part score plus. Today, nearly everybody feels comfortable interfering in your strong NT auctions in great part because so few players have a penalty double option. If the opponents are unable to double you for penalties, you may as well tell partner the suit you want led, or possibly the strain in which you might compete or save. The wide acceptance of conventions such as D.O.N.T. and Cappelletti have made overcalls of 1NT commonplace, and 21st century methods are going to have to be able to deal with these annoyances to be successful.

Since one of the goals of sound bidding is **consistency**, we want our rules to be applicable to other common situations as well. Therefore, when partner opens 1NT and our RHO overcalls on the 2-level, we agree that:

1. Any new suit by responder on the 2 level is **NON-FORCING**.
2. Any new suit by responder on the 3 level is **GAME FORCING**.
3. A Double is **Penalty** for the suit(s) **shown**, not necessarily the suit **bid**.
4. A cue bid is Stayman.
5. If no suit has yet been shown, a Double is **conventional** (Often Stayman).
6. Our regular systems are **ON** over a double whether or not the double is conventional.



Suppose partner opens a strong 1NT, RHO bids 2D and you hold:

A.	♠ 964	♥ AQ852	♦ 83	♣ J72	or
B.	♠ AT4	♥ KQT85	♦ 54	♣ Q93	or
C.	♠ A92	♥ QT65	♦ 64	♣ KJ83	or
D.	♠ QJT74	♥ KQT85	♦ 4	♣ J9	or
E.	♠ QJT742	♥ KQT8	♦ 4	♣ J9	or
F.	♠ QJT742	♥ KQ8	♦ 4	♣ J95	or
G.	♠ J95	♥ 85	♦ AJ97	♣ Q762	

Article
Continued on page 5

First of all, it is **extremely** important that we **ask the meaning** of 2D. Assume we are told that it is natural. In hand (A), we sign off in 2H. Partner with 4 card support and a maximum is allowed to raise to 3H, but no further. Hand (B) is stronger and starts with a game forcing 3H. Hand (C) is game forcing and starts with a Stayman cue bid of 3D. Hand (D) is distributional, and may take 2 bids to describe. Responder starts with a game forcing 3S, and if Opener bids 3NT, corrects to 4H. Hand (E) starts with a Stayman cue bid of 3D. If Opener bids a major, responder will raise to game, but if Opener bids 3NT, Responder will correct to 4S (natural). Hand (F) is our old friend, the Texas Transfer (4H). If you thought you could bid 3S forcing, and correct to 4S, you may get into trouble when partner correctly interprets this sequence as a slam try. Hand (G) is the most enjoyable. With no probable game, you make a penalty double of 2D and collect your just rewards.

Suppose we ask the meaning of 2D, and we are told that it is Cappelletti, (for the majors). With hands (A) - (C), we would start with a **Double**, promising a penalty double in **at least one** of the promised suits. When LHO selects a major, Opener's only responsibility is to double with four pieces, and pass with fewer. If I held either hand (D) or hand (E), I wouldn't expect 2D to be Cappelletti, and would suspect that the opponents have had a misunderstanding. I would **pass** and double two of a major later. When RHO runs to 3D, I would bid 4D, expecting partner to work it out. With hand (F), I would bid 3NT, knowing that the opponents were never going to stop in spades. With Hand (G) I'd either pass or bid 3NT, leaning strongly toward the former.

Finally, if we are told that the 2D bid is D.O.N.T. (Diamonds and a higher suit), the responses are identical to what we would bid if the 2D bid were natural. Note that on all the hands where we have a penalty double of RHO's major, we can't do it, since there is a strong possibility that the opponents will stop at 2Dx. On hand (G), it's unlikely the opponents will stay in 2Dx, and will probably run to a major, but there's always the chance that partner will be able to double it. If not, you can gamble with 2NT or 3NT, but **Pass** could be the winning option.

Club Closure Announcement: Lawson Bridge Club formerly at Ann Sathers Restaurant has closed its doors!
"Regulars" are advised to try Chicago Duplicate BC ... in the city and very welcoming. Thank you Jerry Scholles for your many years running Lawson. The players looked forward to seeing you often! Hope you can now find time to play some!! Location & contact info for Chicago DBC can be found on the CCBA website at CCBAunit123.com.

When RHO doubles or bids 2C, we follow a different set of rules:

1. All systems are **ON**, and a double of 2C is Stayman
2. When RHO makes a **penalty double**, 2C is Stayman, and **redouble** shows a 5 card minor.
3. When RHO makes a **penalty double**, **Pass** is forcing. Opener must re-open.
4. When RHO makes a **conventional** double, 2C is Stayman, and **redouble** shows strength.

A.	♠ Q753	♥ J964	♦ 962	♣ 64
B.	♠ Q8542	♥ T73	♦ 874	♣ J5
C.	♠ 74	♥ J85	♦ 964	♣ QT753
D.	♠ T62	♥ 84	♦ AT63	♣ QT75
E.	♠ T62	♥ 84	♦ Q863	♣ J975

We treat these differently, because with modern methods, the opponents will rarely play in 2C when they overcall it. Since 2C is nearly always conventional, for the sake of simplicity, we treat them all identically. Doubles, however, require special care. We need to find out the meaning of the double and act accordingly. On hand (A), over 2C or Double – regardless of meaning (which we ask to keep partner involved) – we are going to Stayman this hand: (bidding 2C over X, or doubling 2C). If partner bids 2D, we will sign off with 2H. With hand (B), whether RHO bids 2C or doubles, we will bid 2H – transfer. If this is bid over a penalty double, Opener will prudently decline to super-accept. Holding hand (C), we will pass if RHO bids 2C or doubles **conventionally** – (that’s why we ask). Over a **penalty double** however, we **redouble**, over which partner will **puppet** to 2C. On this hand we will pass 2C, but we might correct to 2D. Hands (D) and (E) are typical hands we might hold when RHO makes a penalty double. On the first, we make a forcing pass, and pass partner’s reopening double. Don’t expect LHO to sit for this. If LHO is alert, he will pull the double before you have the opportunity to let partner know that you aren’t broke. On the last hand, when partner reopens with a redouble, you will run to 2C and hope partner is able to play there. He will know you only have 4, (since you didn’t redouble immediately), and if 2C is unplayable, he will bid his first playable suit (hopefully 2D). Note that Opener does not reopen with a redouble if he holds a 5 card suit. In that situation, he will reopen in his suit.

LEBENSÖHL

Lebensöhl is a popular convention used by nearly all expert players after interference over 1NT. ALL of the rules we have already adopted are incorporated into the Lebensöhl convention – namely: (1) new suits on the two level are non-forcing, (2) new suits on the three level are game forcing, and (3) cue bids are Stayman. Most players have elected to use Lebensöhl for interference of 2D, 2H, or 2S, and play “**Systems On**” over 2C as I outlined above. The key component of Lebensöhl is the **conventional** use of 2NT. This bid is artificial and forcing, requiring Opener to **puppet (relay)** to 3C. The Lebensöhl 2NT bid allows the partnership to (1) compete in a suit on the 3-level in situations where bidding the suit naturally would otherwise be forcing, and (2) allow responder to show or deny a stopper in the suit overcalled. Responder will typically either hold a **weak** hand with a long suit, or a **strong** hand with a stopper in the overcalled suit. Suppose RHO overcalls 2H after a 1nt opening by Partner:

A.	♠ AQ7	♥ 64	♦ K962	♣ Q764
B.	♠ AQ7	♥ K73	♦ 874	♣ Q853
C.	♠ AQ75	♥ 85	♦ K64	♣ Q853
D.	♠ AQ75	♥ K85	♦ 64	♣ Q853
E.	♠ Q74	♥ 85	♦ QT8753	♣ J6
F.	♠ QJ542	♥ 73	♦ AJ94	♣ J5

With hand (A), Responder leaps to 3NT. This **denies** a stopper in hearts, and shows no interest in major - (Fast arrival). With hand (B), Responder starts with 2NT (Lebensöhl). Opener puppets to 3C and Responder bids 3NT which promises values for game along with a heart stopper. Holding hand (C), Responder bids 3H (Stayman) denying a heart stopper - (Fast arrival again). Hand (D) begins with 2NT (Lebensöhl). Opener puppets to 3C, and Responder bids 3H (Stayman), this time promising a heart stopper. With hand (E), Responder starts with 2NT (Lebensöhl) correcting 3C to 3D. An immediate 3D would have been game forcing. Finally, holding hand (F), Responder starts with 2NT (Lebensöhl), and corrects 3C to 3S. Since 2S was available over 2H, and 3S immediately would have been forcing, this is one of the few occasions when an invitational call can be made. Opener has the option of passing, or correcting to 3NT or 4S. Responder has not promised a heart stopper.

Why Volunteer for Bridge?

Bridge is slowly shrinking. Its great popularity of decades ago is dying. The fun of playing video games and the health benefits of physical sports (soccer, lacrosse, football, tennis, running and more) are overwhelming the card game! Younger players can't carry the torch unless they learn the game and appreciate the great skill it takes to solve the "every hand" puzzle. There must be a balance between physical sports and mind sports.

Many (perhaps most) of us learned bridge in college with friends or at the kitchen table with our parents. It was fun. It was challenging. It was inexpensive... and it was accessible. Our roommates saw us playing and learned to play too. Our sisters and brothers didn't want to be shut out and joined in the action.

Great stars of the game like Ralph Katz learned from his uncle when his uncle was teaching Ralph's cousins.

Over time, bridge has become more than a game to many. Bridge professionals earn a living wage playing at tournaments and club games with bonuses predicated on success. Bridge teachers teach classes face-to-face and online, some earn a first living and some supplement a second income, helping out with child care and other life costs.

Starting at the top, there is the World Bridge Federation (WBF) which is the ultimate overseer of the game. The WBF runs international tournaments: some with country representations and some transnational. They challenge the cream of the crop and the winners must abide by all the requirements of the Olympics since bridge is recognized at the topmost level as a mind sport.

The WBF is made up of Zones. There are 8 Zones: Zone 1=Europe; Zone 2 = North America; Zone 3=South America; Zone 4=Asia and Middle East; Zone 5=Central America and Caribbean; Zone 6= Asia Pacific; Zone 7=South Pacific; Zone 8=Africa.

The Zones are comprised of National Bridge Organizations (NBO's). Every country in the mix is its own NBO.

We are part of Zone 2: the United States, Canada and Mexico.

All of these organizations are focused on bringing back members who have stopped paying dues and who are not playing in tournaments or club games... us included!

It is not necessary for players to return to competition for enjoyment from the game, but it is hoped that they will be enthusiastic about the game and, at least, draw pleasure from such things as the VuGraph shows, now run on different platforms regularly. The United States Bridge Federation runs its tournaments on the LoveBridge platform. It is easy to watch the delayed VuGraph and follow the action at one particular table or at two tables at once. Their broadcasts are frequently simulcast on U-Tube with live commentary and the ability for the audience to pose questions or comments in chat. The ACBL runs its VuGraph on the RealBridge platform... also with frequent U-Tube commentary.

Keeping the game alive means keeping the players involved. Joining committees for hospitality at tournaments, for finding new and viable sites, driving a fellow player to a game, asking newer players to play from time to time, seeking to join the Unit or District Board of Directors and/or just showing up to kibitz or fill in a game when needed is all worthwhile support and is much appreciated.

You get out of the games what you put into them. See the CCBA website (ccbaunit123.com) for contact information to reach the Unit Board members and ask how you can help. We will appreciate it and we believe you will too! See the committee list on page 10 and consider volunteering... committee chairs will be happy to involve you!

"Hand"y ... Dandy!

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West began in inspired fashion, leading the ace and another trump. Declarer saw that he was unlikely to be able to ruff a heart in the dummy and so decided to play on clubs, hoping initially for the king and queen of clubs to fall in three rounds.

After winning the second trump in dummy with the jack, declarer cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club. After crossing back to dummy by overtaking the queen of diamonds with the king, declarer played another club and when West played the queen of clubs, instead of ruffing this card, declarer threw a heart. This enabled him to retain trump control.

With East on lead, no return could harm declarer - the defense had the unpalatable choice of allowing him a heart ruff in the dummy, obviating the need for an extra club trick, or letting him set up the clubs. Declarer had his ten tricks either way.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

On this deal (see top of next column), North/South bid to a pretty decent grand slam and declarer looked for his safest route to 13 tricks.

After the splinter bid of four diamonds, South used Roman Key Card Blackwood. North's response promised one or four key cards with spades as trumps.

On the bidding it had to be the latter and South leapt to the grand slam in spades.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the queen of hearts, taken in hand by declarer with his singleton king. Declarer counted eleven top tricks and saw that the most likely source of the other two was in dummy's club suit. If the suit broke 3-2 then there would be tricks to burn. Also, if the trumps were 2-2 and the clubs were no worse than 4-1 then again there would be sufficient entries to set up the clubs.

Thus declarer turned his mind to coping with trumps 3-1 and clubs 4-1; if trumps were 4-0 he would need clubs to be at worst 4-1 and the defender with four trumps to hold at least two clubs. His first move was to cash the queen of trumps. When both defenders followed to the first trump, the trumps were then known to be at worst 3-1, and declarer put the next part of his plan into action by cashing the king of clubs.

Declarer then crossed to dummy with the king of trumps and discarded the queen of clubs on the ace of hearts. After a low club was ruffed with the jack of trumps, declarer drew West's last trump with dummy's ace and then ruffed a second low club. After cashing the ace of diamonds and ruffing a diamond, declarer cashed the ace of clubs and claimed the last two tricks with dummy's established club winners.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ 10 8 6
♥ A Q 10 6 2
♦ A 5 3
♣ 5 2

♠ A Q 5 4 3
♥ 9 4
♦ J 7 4
♣ 9 7 4

♠ 7 2
♥ J 7 5 3
♦ Q 10 9
♣ Q J 10 8

♠ K J 9
♥ K 8
♦ K 8 6 2
♣ A K 6 3

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After the transfer sequence, West led the five of spades and declarer counted eight sure winners. He saw that the best chance for an extra trick was in hearts, as long as he could prevent East from gaining the lead. The best way to do that was to start the heart suit from dummy, intending to finesse the eight if East followed low. So declarer called for dummy's ten of spades and, when it held, he led a low heart to the eight and West's nine. West exited with a diamond but declarer was in control; he took this in hand with the king of diamonds, unblocked the king of hearts and, when all followed, he could claim nine tricks.

Note that if declarer had played low at trick one, he could no longer have made a ninth trick.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ Q 10 9 4 3
♥ 9 6
♦ A K 5
♣ 9 5 4

♠ 2
♥ Q J 10 8 3
♦ 10 7 2
♣ K J 7 3

♠ 7 6
♥ K 7 5 2
♦ Q J 8 4
♣ 10 8 6

♠ A K J 8 5
♥ A 4
♦ 9 6 3
♣ A Q 2

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After a simple limit-raise auction, West led the queen of hearts. Declarer's thoughts turned to an elimination - he saw that an essential part of such a plan was to prevent East from gaining the lead in hearts. Declarer called for the six of hearts from dummy and, after East played an encouraging seven, he ducked.

After winning the second heart with the ace, declarer drew trumps in two rounds. Next, he played the ace, king and another diamond. This eliminated the diamond suit and gave each defender a poisoned option. If West won the trick, he would either have to concede a ruff-and-discard or lead into declarer's club tenace.

In fact it was East who won the diamond. If he had shifted to a low club, declarer would have played low from hand and West would have been endplayed. In practice, though, East shifted to the ten of clubs, which was covered by the queen and West's king. West took his best shot by exiting with a low club. Declarer now took his best second chance by calling for dummy's nine of clubs. When this held, he had made his game.

Note that if East had played the king of hearts at trick one, declarer would have won the first trick with the ace of hearts. Then, after drawing trumps, he would have exited with a heart. As West held both the jack and ten of hearts he would have had to win the trick and, after regaining the lead, declarer would have played similarly.

Facts and Figures (from Richard Pavlichek):

Number of Hands There are 635,013,559,600 unique bridge hands. Nobody actually counted them, but it is easy to calculate as the number of combinations of 52 items taken 13 at a time.

Hand Patterns 4-4-3-2 is by far the most common. It occurs 21.56 percent of the time. 5-4-3-1 occurs 12.93 percent of the time, and 4-3-3-3 only 10.54. 6-4-2-1 occurs 4.70 percent of the time, and 4-4-4-1 only 2.99.

Least Likely Hand Because it is one specific hand... Note that "13 cards in the same suit" comprises *four* specific hands, hence four times as likely, and "13 black cards" comprises millions of hands.

Worst Lead A-J-10-7. In fact it is the worst of all four-card holdings, costing a trick over 38 percent of the time.

Rarest Hand Of 635+ billion possible bridge hands, only 1,086,008 have four aces and four kings; 10,455,016 have a 10-card suit; and 67,108,864 have one card of each rank.

Same Hand Twice Only 938,252 to be exact. Despite the massive number of hands, the chance of all being unique falls under 50 percent after 938,252 hands.

Unit 123 Labor Day Sectional
Weber Leisure Center
9300 Weber Park Place, Skokie
September 4th — September 7th, 2026

Friday, Sept 4

10:00 am Pair/Team Game
10:00 am 0-750 Pair/Team
If attendance warrants
2:30 pm Pair/Team Game
2:30 pm 0-750 Pair/Team
If attendance warrants

Saturday, Sept 5

10:00 am Pair/Team Game
10:00 am 0-750 Pair/Team
If attendance warrants
2:30 pm Pair/Team Game
2:30 pm 0-750 Pair/Team if attendance warrants

Sunday, Sept 6

10:00 am Pair/Team Game
10:00 am Chicago Invitational Pairs Qualifying* (*2-session event... sold as such*)
3:00 pm Invitational Pairs Final with Barometer Scoring
3:00 pm Stratified Open Pairs

*Both players MUST be qualified to play ... check qualification criteria at CCBAUnit123.com under tournaments
All pairs MUST pre-register with Adrienne Cohen (contact information below)

Monday, Sept 7

10:00 and TBA
Swiss Team - six 7-board matches with short lunch break after the 3rd match
Entry Fees: \$14.00/session \$7.00 students with proper I/D 56.00/team/session
Stratifications: C: 0-1000; B: 0-3500; A: **Unlimited**

List of Unit Players with 1300+ Masterpoints is online at CCBAUnit123.com under the Tournaments tab. Those players are automatically qualified for the Invitational Pairs! Annual performance Q's will follow!

Between Sessions!
SATURDAY ALERT:
Free Diebel lecture,
Sure to make sense...
"Take all Your Tricks
When you're on Defense!"



Tournament Chair:
Steve Donahue
spd47@aol.com
630-290-3457
Assistant Chair:
Bob Maxson
bishopmaxson@yahoo.com
630-220-3217
Partnership Chair:
Jan Churchwell
jan8242@gmail.com
Invitational Pairs Chair:
Adrienne Cohen
dolly370@aol.com
630.699.5050

10 and 2:30 affords a short break.
Pick up a burger... don't count on a steak!
Choices nearby. Use your discretion
Be back in time for the second session!!



Board News and Administrative Information ...

Dates and Information on the **2007-2008 District 13 GNT Final** to determine qualification for the National Event in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dates: **February 27-28, 2027**

Place: **Good Hope School, Room #26, 2315 W Good Hope Rd, Glendale, WI** (suburb of Milwaukee)

In September, 2026,

The GNT Flyer will be posted on the District website at: <https://www.acbl-district13.org/D13GNTflyers.htm>
And on the Unit website at: ccbaunit123.com ... choose tournaments and click on flyer next to GNT

Club News:

Joe Connelly, past CCBA Treasurer and owner and director of the Mundelein Area Duplicate Bridge Club, happily reports that club member, **Don Ferris**, who is 93, has reached the rank of Gold Life Master. The club celebrated with Don at a party at the game on Monday, June 8th.



Don's partner was **Ted Pristash !!**

Don and Ted have been partners for at least 10 years!
Very impressive and very exciting!!

Congratulations Don! Quite an accomplishment!!

2026-2027 CCBA Committee List:

Executive Committee: Suzi Subeck, chair, President

Bob Maxson, VP
Missy Ravid, Treasurer
Jan Churchwell, Secretary
Loring Knoblauch, Immediate Past President

Communication: Jan Churchwell, chair

Jamie Rubenstein
Wayne Snider
Suzi Subeck (Kibitzer)

Tournament Oversight: Suzi Subeck, chair

Betsy Downs
Craig Allen
Missy Ravid
David Sales
Jan Churchwell, Unit Partnership Chair

Finance: Frank Pancoe, chair

Missy Ravid, treasurer
Bill Anspach
Mark Stein
Suzi Subeck

Awards: Bob Maxson, chair

Loring Knoblauch

Sites: Suzi Subeck, acting chair

Betsy Downs
Frank Pancoe

Education/I/N: Mark Stein, chair

Loring Knoblauch
Bob Maxson

(The CCBA President is a member of all committees and is invited to attend all committee meetings.)

Club Relations: Phyllis Bartlett, chair

Mark Stein
Wayne Snider
Jan Churchwell

Nominating: Mark Stein, chair

Committee to be determined as per our by-laws

Inventory: Betsy Downs, chair

Governance: Bill Anspach, chair

Craig Allen
David Sales
Jan Churchwell

Tournament Event Scheduling: Adrienne Cohen, chair, Advisor to the BOD

(committee composition defined as all tournament chairs + Peter Wilke, Head Tournament Director)

Betsy Downs
Missy Ravid
Steve Dohahue
Suzi Subeck
Peter Wilke, Advisor to the BOD

Tournament Hospitality: Missy Ravid & Fran Lyne, co-chairs

Jamie Rubenstein
Suzi Subeck
Purchase snacks for tournaments; Take snacks to the playing site at the time of set-up; Help with coffee and other preparation at the site

Conduct and Ethics: Craig Allen, chair

Wayne Snider
David Sales
Suzi Subeck

CCBA meetings are held every other month. Dates vary for convenience. Meetings may be hybrid (face to face and on Zoom) or entirely on Zoom... at the President's discretion.

Board of Directors Contact Information is on Page 3



Unit 123 Membership by the Numbers...

As of June 2, 2026

Current Membership Totals

2,170

Paid Members

283

Guest Members

New Member Growth

6

Your unit welcomed new players this period. Each new member represents long-term growth potential and future engagement opportunities.

Reinstated Members

7

These members returned to the game. Re-engagement efforts are working — and more lapsed members may be within reach.

Member Expirations

25

These members became inactive. Even small reductions here can significantly improve retention and overall unit strength.

Member Movement

10

Moved In

5

Moved Out

Unit 123 has 7 members on suspension for ethics/cheating issues as of June 2, 2026 and 19 members on probation. To see names of players and disciplinary reports, go to ACBL.org, choose **menu** and **under discipline...** sort by unit. Disciplinary reports are there in their entirety. It makes for interesting reading!!



Interested in Joining the CCBA Board of Directors?

Members of Unit 123 are asked to self-nominate for Board positions. If you are interested in joining the BOD for a term starting in 2027, please send your name and qualifications along with contact information to nominating chair, Mark Stein, at marksstein@sbcglobal.net. Mark is establishing the nominating committee which, following interviews and discussion, will recommend a slate to the BOD. Applications should be sent no later than October 15th. Five members' terms expire each year. Some will opt to re-up and others may retire. Any member of Unit 123 in good standing with the ACBL may apply.

HAND EVALUATION FOR SLAM BIDDING – DELAYED SPLINTERS

by Jeff and Ginny Schuett

When deciding whether to push toward slam, it is often important to determine whether partner's hand seems to fit well with yours. There are many tools to help make that decision – but splinter bids are one of the best tools available. When partner shows shortness in some way, be aggressive when your hand has few or no honors in their short suit. Bid conservatively when you have secondary honors (K, Q, or J) opposite their short suit because those honors are not carrying their full value. Many players understand the use of splinter bids for the first bid from responder such as 1♥ - P - 4♣ to show singleton or void in clubs, opening strength and 4+ card support in opener's major. But splinters can also be shown in other situations such as a delayed basis after opener's rebid. For example:

1.	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>North</u>
		1♠	P	2♣	♠ AQ10983	♠ K42
	P	2♠	P	4♦	♥ A8	♥ K98
	P	4NT	P	5♥ (RKC = 2 w/o)	♦ 875	♦ 9
	P	6♠	All Pass		♣ K10	♣ AQJ965

Once North shows the fit and ♦ shortness by making the 4♦ delayed splinter bid, South can appreciate the value of the ♣ K10 in responder's long suit. Once South rebids 2♠, North is now aware of the 9+ card ♠ fit. Notice neither hand contains significant high card strength, but does have shortness in an important weak suit of declarer.

2.	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>North</u>
		1♠	P	2♦	♠ AK874	♠ 102
	P	2♥	P	4♣	♥ AJ987	♥ KQ106
	P	4NT	P	5♠ (RKC = 2 w/Q)	♦ 7	♦ AKJ864
	P	6♥	All Pass		♣ 85	♣ 6

Once South rebids 2♥ North knows of the ♥ fit and shows the fit with ♣ shortness by making the 4♣ delayed splinter bid. In the play, South can either cross ruff or set up the clubs by ruffing 2 clubs in hand and return to dummy with ♥.

3.	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>North</u>
		2♣	P	2♦	♠ AKQ105	♠ J982
	P	2♠	P	4♦	♥ AT4	♥ KQ42
	P	4NT	P	5♦ (RKC = 3/0)	♦ A97	♦ 6
	P	5NT	P	6♦	♣ AQ	♣ 9652
	P	6♠	All Pass			

Responder's bidding after partner opens 2♣ is another good area to consider using splinter bid raises, even with modest hands. Here, North has a modest hand with 4-card support for opener, but to show some possible useful short, North's best second bid is a splinter raise of 4♦ to show the ♦ shortness and support in partner's major in one bid.

We suggest as you find hands that might make slam, try to see if splinter bids might be used. They are great fun and very effective in finding great fitting hands!

Jeff & Ginny Schuett—
teaching, directing, play, Email: jgschuett2@comcast.net,



Unit 123 Masterpoint Winners at the Minneapolis NABC... WTG!

1	203.85	Larry Robbins, Glenview IL	55	13.21	Dorie Isaacson, Northbrook IL
2	181.93	Ron Smith, Glenview IL	56	11.43	George Klemic, Lombard IL
3	154.12	Oren Kriegel, Chicago IL	57	10.32	Martha Katz, Burr Ridge IL
4	148.74	Brian Platnick, Evanston IL	58	10.26	Peter Doan, Chicago IL
5	138.77	Craig Allen, Glen Ellyn IL	59	9.54	Zhiying Xu, Naperville IL
6	110.00	Ralph Katz, Burr Ridge IL	60	9.45	Jakob Reinke, Evanston IL
7	105.47	Craig Gardner, Streamwood IL	61	9.42	Matthew Dyer, Chicago IL
8	103.29	Steve Garner, Chicago IL	62	9.05	Deirdre Brekke, Chicago IL
9	98.63	Stephen Donahue, Riverwoods IL	63	9.05	Lori Schretzman, Highland Park IL
10	97.84	Daniel Zagorin, Chicago IL	64	8.89	Alexander Xu, Lisle IL
11	93.28	Rahul Garga, Chicago IL	65	6.64	Ron Attreau, Chicago IL
12	90.95	David Yang, Darien IL	66	6.27	David Langer, Buffalo Grove IL
13	87.99	Mark Pinkowski, Chicago IL	67	6.25	Graham Meyer, Chicago IL
14	83.50	Gediminas Poska, Palos Hills IL	68	5.62	David Fritzsche, Kildeer IL
15	83.50	Daiva Vitukynaite, Palos Hills IL	69	5.62	Richard Kern, Grayslake IL
16	72.81	Charles Holmes, Chicago IL	70	5.26	Sascha Gordon-Zolov, Chicago IL
17	65.31	Ben Fisk, Chicago IL	71	5.20	Elan Ravishankar, Schaumburg IL
18	58.60	James Abbott, Chicago IL	72	5.20	Charles Sweet, Barrington IL
19	58.60	Nic Hristea, Chicago IL	73	5.20	Emma Wang, Palatine IL
20	58.60	Ryan Daniels, Vernon Hills IL	74	5.19	Alex Jablonski, Chicago IL
21	55.58	Henry Shi, Naperville IL	75	5.03	Ginny Schuett, Lincolnshire IL
22	55.58	Ping Hu, Naperville IL	76	5.00	Carolyn Rowley, Evanston IL
23	50.92	Jeff Schuett, Lincolnshire IL	77	4.67	Gail Shaps, Highland Park IL
24	50.58	Zinnia Meyer, Chicago IL	78	4.67	Jack Bierig, Highland Park IL
25	50.53	Judy Zhu, Romeoville IL	79	4.63	Kimberly Smith, Long Grove IL
26	49.56	Wenfei Wang, Northbrook IL	80	4.34	Michael Dunn, Downers Grove IL
27	44.87	Dick Bruno, des Plaines IL	81	4.34	Cynthia Polayes, Chicago IL
28	44.56	Nicole Qian, Evanston IL	82	4.26	Ian Dunbar, Evanston IL
29	42.12	Yizhou Liu, Chicago IL	83	3.70	Leon Cao, Chicago IL
30	37.81	Jack Oest, Chicago IL	84	3.52	Nathaniel Miller, Glen Ellyn IL
31	36.29	Gustavo Saravia, Oak Park IL	85	3.44	Michael Shelton, Wilmette IL
32	35.00	Haijin Li, Lisle IL	86	3.44	Julie Shelton, Wilmette IL
33	34.73	Cheri Bjerkan, Elmhurst IL	87	3.43	Sadaf Quas, Naperville IL
34	33.89	Zeyu Wang, Evanston IL	88	3.43	Kurt Haeusler, Wheaton IL
35	31.14	Ashley Szymiski, Aurora IL	89	3.33	Erel Amit, Northbrook IL
36	31.14	Neal Goldman, Willow Springs IL	90	3.25	Westley Wei, Woodridge IL
37	30.43	Aleksandar Lishkov, Chicago IL	91	3.05	Gregory Smith, Long Grove IL
38	29.83	Richmond Yeung, Chicago IL	92	2.77	Jeanne Kowalski, Berwyn IL
39	27.52	Don Lussky, Elmhurst IL	93	2.77	Jan Summers, Aurora IL
40	25.55	Jeff Duckworth, Sugar Grove IL	94	2.10	Rick Schoenfield, Westchester IL
41	25.22	Zheshen Li, Chicago IL	95	2.10	David Bogolub, Deerfield IL
42	23.19	Stephen McConnell, Evanston IL	96	1.97	David Golper, Highland Park IL
43	22.22	Nancy Frank, Glencoe IL	97	1.73	Jojo Kim, Evanston IL
44	22.09	Jenna Rivet, Glen Ellyn IL	98	1.46	Mary Stockmal, Hinsdale IL
45	20.70	Jiateng Sun, Evanston IL	99	1.46	Rebecca Anderson, Clarendon Hills IL
46	20.01	Kaining Sheng, Northbrook IL	100	1.45	Tad Andracki, Chicago IL
47	19.62	Thomas Dressing, Buffalo Grove IL	101	1.12	Kendra Bridges, Chicago IL
48	18.50	Mark Ginsburg, Buffalo Grove IL	102	1.01	Allyson Pooley, Chicago IL
49	17.56	Susan Bass, Chicago IL	103	0.97	Philip Moss, Wilmette IL
50	17.56	Michele Pockross, Wilmette IL	104	0.76	Robert Maxson, River Forest IL
51	17.27	Arnold Grant, Glenview IL	105	0.75	Mary Walsdorf, Chicago IL
52	16.44	Mark Stein, Skokie IL	106	0.75	Susan Gauen, Chicago IL
53	16.29	Joseph Stokes, Chicago IL	107	0.40	Sandy Boles, Northfield IL
54	15.44	Christopher Staszak, Orland Park IL	108	0.40	Joan Traynelis, Chicago IL

**Make your dates and plan to play.
We want to see you in the fray.**

**Fran and Missy will bring treats.
Some be healthy; some be sweets.**

**Jan will find a pard for you
If and when you want her to.**

**The staff on hand will run the show.
They're the best and that we know.**

**Games for all in every flight.
Be good players: Please don't fight!**

**Forget mistakes... discuss tomorrow.
Play in peace and not in sorrow.**

Open Stratification: C=0-1999; B=2000-4999; A=5000+

MP Averaging

Gold Rush Stratification: 0-199; 200-399; 400-750

MP Averaging: NO player may be over 750!

Entry fees

\$16 per session/pair; \$64/session/team

\$8 for students under with valid ID

\$4 surcharge for non members and unpaid members

**Please, please stay home if you are not
feeling well. The health of our players is
important to us!**

Stan Subeck Central States Regional

Eventz Center

1100 American Lane, Schaumburg, IL

(note: Same location as the
Windy City Regional last May)

Schedule:

Thursday October 15

**10 and 3:00 Open Pairs (stratified)
Gold Rush Pairs (stratified)**

Friday October 16

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

Saturday October 17

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

Sunday October 18

**10 playthru
Open Swiss (stratified)
Gold Rush Swiss (stratified)**

**Tournament Chair: Suzi Subeck
stansubeck@prodigy.net**

**Partnership Chair: Jan Churchwell
Jan8242@gmail.com**

Hospitality Chairs: Missy Ravid and Fran Lyne

