



**April 2024 Newsletter**  
**Chicago Duplicate Bridge**  
**47 W. Polk St., Lower Level**

<http://www.bridgewebs.com/chicagodbc>

[chicagoduplicatebridge@gmail.com](mailto:chicagoduplicatebridge@gmail.com)

**Tax ID #32-0456104**

## **April: Lots and Lots of Special Games!**

Whether you're just getting back into the grove after a winter in warmer climes or you've stuck it out and are feeling in a rut, or none of the above, April is the time to jump back into bridge at Chicago Duplicate Bridge. We are **loaded** with special events this month. ACBL is sanctioning two events that provide pigmented points, including a week where you can earn Gold points at the Club. We have a STaC the first week of the month. And not only are we hosting our popular Mentor/Mentee game, but we'll be having an Individual game the evening of the 18<sup>th</sup>. And don't forget that we're working with Northwestern University bridge to offer games on Sundays. This month it's the 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at Dearborn Station; the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at Parkes Hall. Read more about each of these events in the pages below.

**\*\* Monday, April 1 – Sunday, April 7—STaC at **F2F** games\*\***

**\*\* Tuesday, April 9 – Mentor/Mentee Game at 6:30 pm\*\***

**\*\* Sun, April 14 – April Showers (NU at CDB) at 12:15 (**Red** points)\*\***

**\*\* Thursday, April 18 – Individual Game at 6:30 pm\*\***

**\*\* Friday, April 19 – April Showers game at 12:15 pm (**Red** points)\*\***

**\*\* April 22-26 – All **F2F** games are Stardust Games (**Gold** points)\*\***

**\*\* Wednesday, April 24 – ACBL-Wide Charity Game at 12:15\*\***

**\*\* Sun, April 28 – Stardust Game (NU at NU) at 12:15 (**Gold** points)\*\***

**Mon, Wed, Thurs – Open Games at 12:15 pm **F2F****

**Monday – Open Game at 6:30 pm on **BBO****

**Friday – 299er Games at 12:15 pm **F2F****

**Tues, Thurs – Open Games at 6:30 pm **F2F****

## Staying in Touch

[chicagoduplicatebridge@gmail.com](mailto:chicagoduplicatebridge@gmail.com) is the best way to reach us. If possible, please let the director know if you will be attending evening games. Email David Schroeder at [dave8459@yahoo.com](mailto:dave8459@yahoo.com) for Tuesday evening games; Matthew Dyer at [msdyer@gmail.com](mailto:msdyer@gmail.com) for Thursday evening games.

## April STaC

Chicago Duplicate Bridge is offering STaC—Sectional Tournament at the Clubs—games during the first week of the month—April 1 through 7. All F2F games that week will be part of the STaC. This is an opportunity to earn Silver points without going to an external tournament. These games are always well-attended and lots of fun. Join us!

## Win Red and Gold Points at the Club!

In April we will host two unusual events where you can win those coveted Red and Gold points right at CDB. On Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> (under the auspices of NU at CDB) and Friday the 19<sup>th</sup>, we will hold April Showers games, where all points awarded are 50% Red and 50% Black. And all week April 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup> (plus the 28<sup>th</sup> at NU), all points awarded will be 25% Gold and 75% Black. The chance to win Gold points without going to a major tournament is very rare—only twice a year, and the next time is not until December.

## Looking for a Fun, Unique Bridge Challenge?

New-ish players, want to play with some of the most experienced players in the club? Advanced players, want to see if you can still win without all the special conventions? Then join us on the evening of Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, when CDB will run an Individual event. This is a game for everyone regardless of skill level, and you don't need a partner. You will play two or three boards with many different partners. It's akin to a bridge version of a speed-dating event, and we hope that some may find new partners by the end of the night. These games are a lot more relaxed and social than most, but it's still a chance to win Masterpoints.

To make an individual game work, we need some ground rules. Here's how it goes. You will have one minute to determine what your new partner knows, but assume the yellow card.

To prepare, assume that the Yellow Card will be used. **Beginners**, this is what you have been taught. We suggest bringing a printed-out list of conventions you know printed out. Your partner will play whatever you are comfortable with.

**Advanced players:** You WILL play whatever YOUR beginner wants to play in the Individual. If two advanced players are paired, you can use a "CDB Good Player Individual" card, which we have available.

**Intermediate players:** We suggest downloading the Good Player advanced card and crossing out what you don't know and use that when you play with a more experienced player.

## Chicago Players Win at District and National Levels

On Monday, March 11, CDB held the ACBL-Wide Seniors Silver Point game. Club members Marjorie Zolla and John Miller not only won locally with a 64.77% game, but that score enabled them to win over all of District 13 and earn 10 Silver Masterpoints. To realize what an accomplishment this is, you need to know that District 13 comprises Chicago, Wisconsin, Upper Michigan, and Greater Milwaukee. Not only that, but all of the District 13 winners of Silver points were familiar faces and played in the CDB game. Francie Margolin and Sue Gauen came in 2<sup>nd</sup>, followed by Dave Schroeder and Rosede Olson at 3<sup>rd</sup>, Paul Prez and Carole Green at 4<sup>th</sup>, and Carolyn Naselli and Les White at 5<sup>th</sup>.

And this year we had very good representation in the Flight C North American Pairs. District 13 was represented by 4 pairs:

- ❖ Gan Yang and Alec Sun are recent transplants to Chicago from Carnegie Mellon.
- ❖ Ben Fisk and Jakob Reinke are our Northwestern stars.
- ❖ BJ Groenewald and Dave McCarty are Lawson regulars who visit our evening games.
- ❖ Bill and Paul Rogerson are a father-son pair who participate extensively in our BBO-VACB games and occasionally our evening games.

Unusually, all 4 pairs from our district finished day one in the top half of the field, and on day 2, 3 of the 4 pairs were in the top 20 going into the final session. Gan and Alec finished in the overalls. Congratulations to all 4 pairs on representing our clubs and the district with aplomb.



L to R: Ben Fisk, Jakob Reinke, Bill Rogerson, Paul Rogerson, BJ Groenewald, Dave McCarthy, Alec Sun, Gan Yang

## April Mentor/Mentee Game on the 9th

Our next popular mentor/mentee game is scheduled for **April 9** at 6:30 pm, F2F. While the mentor/mentee game is usually scheduled on the first Tuesday of the month, the first week of April CDB is offering STaC games—a good opportunity for newer players to earn Silver MPs. Our evening games use a manual signup process; email [dave8459@yahoo.com](mailto:dave8459@yahoo.com). Please **let Dave know as soon as possible if you plan to attend** the mentor/mentee game so that he can ensure that we have enough mentors for all the mentees.

Mentor night is intended to be nurturing, and we hope to see many of you there. And there's a bonus every month: Director Dave Schroeder bakes a treat—cookies, brownies—whatever strikes his fancy. I/N players are welcome, regardless of whether you have a partner. But it is important to email Dave in advance and we will find you a partner. If you have a partner to play with, great; again, please let Dave know in advance. Mentors: If you are available, email us and we will match you up.

## Sunday Games Back at CDB and Northwestern U

CDB at Dearborn Station will be the location for Northwestern University games on Sunday March 31, April 7, and April 14 while NU is on break. On April 21, the games return to Parkes Hall in Evanston. Join a great group of students and other for weekend bridge.

## New or Intermediate Players: I/N Fridays and More!!

Come join us at Supervised Play on Fridays at CDB. We often have new players who come with little to literally no bridge experience. Don't be afraid that you are "too experienced" or "too new" to benefit from joining the group. If you are looking for more chances to play in a limited-MP game, consider joining our Friday afternoon 299er game.

CDB offers Supervised Play at 10:30 for \$5, followed by a short break for lunch and a shortened (usually 18- or 21-board) 299er game at 12:15. This game now regularly has **at least 4 full tables**, so there's a nice spirit of friendly competition. But **you do NOT have to attend the Supervised Play to join the game**. If you come to both, there is no charge for the Supervised Play. This is a great way to practice and see the rules you have learned in actual use. The atmosphere is relaxed and supportive. It's also a great way to meet potential partners, so don't be afraid to come without a partner arranged in advance. Please let us know whether you will be attending Supervised Play and/or the game by contacting Barry Little in advance at [barrylit@gmail.com](mailto:barrylit@gmail.com).

### ❖ Supervised Play

- Friday F2F
- 10:30 am

- ❖ 299er games
  - Monday, Wednesday, Friday F2F if demand allows
  - 12:15 pm
- ❖ Mentor game
  - Monthly, first Tuesday evening of the month unless otherwise noted
  - 6:30 pm
- ❖ Brief lesson
  - Thursday prior to 12:15 game

### **Interested in Becoming a Life Master? Here's a Primer on Tournaments**

Below you will see a list of upcoming tournaments. ACBL offers three levels of tournament play. If you are interested in moving up the ACBL levels and becoming a Life Master, you need to earn what they call “pigmented” Masterpoints—not only the Black points that you can earn at the usual Club games or on VACB BBO games, but also Silver, Red, and Gold points. Life Master rank requires 500 points, of which at least 75 are Black, 75 Silver, 50 Red, and 50 Gold. You can earn MPs at any tournament across the US and in many other countries, or even on some cruises. And you can attend for part of a day, an entire day, or basically as much as you want. Here are the levels, in increasing order of size, and what you can earn.

- ❖ Sectionals: Local tournaments that offer Silver MPs. Two to three days.
  - STaC weeks: Like the one the first week of April, win Silver points at the Club (hence the name, **Sectional Tournament at the Clubs**).
- ❖ Regionals: Designed for larger areas. Offer Gold MP for top winners and Red for others who place. Two to four days.
- ❖ Nationals (NABC): Offer Red and Gold MPs. Offered 3x a year, alternating among east, middle, and west regions of the US. Ten days or more. They're great fun—lots of energy, lots of events geared toward players at every level from under 5 MPs to international champions.

## **Spring into Tournament Play!**

If you are eager to play in a tournament, take advantage of April and May offerings. It's a great time of year for a short road trip. The list below is current for Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and eastern Missouri, but if you have an itch for tournament play, check the listings at

<http://tournaments.acbl.org/>.

- ❖ Appleton Sectional
  - April 4-6
  - Appleton, WI
- ❖ Summer I/N (Non-Life Master) Sectional
  - April 6
  - Bloomington, IL

- ❖ Adult Bridge Camp #11
  - April 9-12
  - Carlinville, IL (St. Louis metro)
- ❖ District 13 Spring Regional
  - April 15-19
  - Middleton (Madison), WI
- ❖ US Bridge Championships
  - May 1-26
  - Schaumburg, IL
  - See <https://usbf.org/2024-united-states-bridge-championships/2024-united-states-bridge-championships/index.php>
- ❖ Indianapolis Spring Sectional
  - May 3-5
  - Indianapolis, IN
- ❖ St. Louis Spring Sectional
  - May 17-19
  - Olivette, MO
- ❖ Illini Regional
  - May 21-26
  - Champaign, IL

## Rank Advancers

***Congratulations to all those who advanced in ACBL rank, as reflected in the latest data release from ACBL.*** These players have been playing in club games and in tournaments, and they've been successful in moving up the ladder. **Trinidad Donoso** and **Usha Raj**, Junior Master; **Graham Meyer** and **RE Stern**, Sectional Masters; **Rahul Garga** and **Jane Warach**, Regional Masters; **Max Krawczyk** and **Earl Rivers**, NABC Masters; **Aleksander Lishkov**, Ruby Life Master; **George Clark**, Sapphire Life Master.

## Player Achievements

***Congratulations to these players for success in face-to-face games at the club!*** All games Open unless otherwise noted. E denotes Evening game. I denotes Individual game movement.

<b>65.00% – 69.99% Games</b>		
3/6	Herb Rosen, Maurice Champagne	66.50
3/14	George Clark, Marshall Levine	68.75
3/21 E	Jakob Reinke, Ben Fisk	65.00

<b>65.00% – 69.99% Games</b>		
3/22 499er	Susan Gauen, Mary Walsdorf	65.87
3/29 499er	Mary Anderson, Larry Jakus	67.26

***Congratulations to these players for success at this spring's NABC!***

<b>Spring NABC March 13-24 Louisville, KY</b>		
NAP Flight A Final	8	Cheri Bjerkan
Platinum Pairs Final	4	Gino Ginossar
Lebhar IMP Pairs Day 1	30	Sarik Goyal
	92	George Klemic, Jon Gleimic
Lebhar IMP Pairs Final	17	Cory Perkers, Michael Steigmann
Senior Mixed Day 1	55	Cheri Bjerkan
NABC+ Open Day 1	42	Harry Rosenberg
	49	Kyle Rockoff, Daniel Weiss
NABC+ Open Final	14	Daiva Vitukynaite, Gediminas Poska
10K Swiss Teams Day 1	5	Geoff Bridges, Kendra Bridges, Tom Dressing
10K Swiss Teams Final	3	Ziheng Yun, Zhiyu Cheng
Silver Ribbon Pairs Final	8	Cheri Bjerkan
Vanderbilt	Round of 16	Daniel Zagorin
Rockwell Mixed Pairs Day 1	110	Kendra Bridges
Rockwell Mixed Pairs Final	6	Cheri Bjerkan, Joe Stokes
	7	Daiva Vitukynaite, Gediminas Poska
Silidor Open Pairs Day 1	89	Sarik Goyal, Kyle Rockoff
Silidor Open Pairs Final	60	Daniel Zagorin
	63	Gino Ginossar
Jacoby Swiss Teams Final	4	Daniel Zagorin
Flight C NAP Day 1	26	Jakob Reinke, Ben Fisk
	30	BJ Groenewald, David McCarty
	46	Paul Rogerson, William Rogerson
Flight C NAP Final	14	Gan Yang, Alec Sun
Robot Individual	50A, 10B	Sarik Goyal
	51A, 11B	Burke Snowden
Thursday Int'l Fund Open	<b>1A, 1B 17A, 4B, 1C</b>	<b>Michael Steigmann Zhiyu Cheng, Charley Holmes</b>
Friday Open Pairs	7A	Geoff Bridges, Kendra Bridges
Saturday Evening Side Game	7A, 5B, 2C 4C	Rahul Garga, Charley Holmes RE Stern



Sunday Fast Pairs	2B	Michael Steigmann, Cory Perkers
Sunday Top Flight Swiss Teams	2A 8A, 1B	George Klemic, John Greiman Sarik Goyal
Sunday Mid Flight Swiss Teams	2B, 2C	Rahul Garga, Charley Holmes, RE Stern
Monday Top Flight Pairs	18A	Daiva Vitukynaite, Gediminas Poska
Monday Mid Flight Pairs	7A, 3B	Harry Rosenberg
Monday Gold Rush Pairs	6A, 5B, 3C	RE Stern, Rahul Garga
Monday Evening Side Pairs	5C	RE Stern, Rahul Garga
Tuesday Gold Rush Pairs	2A, 1B	Ziheng Yun, Zhiyu Cheng
Wednesday Top Flight Pairs	14A	Gino Ginossar
Open Bracketed Teams B5	2A	Harry Rosenberg
Friday Evening Side Pairs	7A, 5B, 2C 5C	BJ Groenewald, Dave McCarty Jakob Reinke, Ben Fisk
Sunday Top Flight Swiss Teams	5A, 2X, 1Y	Kyle Rockoff, Sarik Goyal