



February 2026 Newsletter
Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club
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Happy Groundhog Day!

January was another month of strong game participation and more opportunities to learn and play bridge. Thanks to Les White, Dave Schroeder and Matthew Dyer for leading lessons for beginner and intermediate players. It's great to see Les's students joining us for supervised play on Friday mornings, and some being brave enough to compete in the Friday afternoon game and/or attend the 0-99 game on Saturday afternoons. We enjoy meeting them and welcoming them into the CDB family!

Thanks also to everyone who helps the directors clean up after the games – organizing the Bridgemates/bidding boxes/boards/table cards, putting the snacks away, cleaning the dishes (in the restrooms), dealing with the trash, vacuuming, etc. It's important to keep our nice new space looking good.

We're still working hard on fixing the heating problem. Please be patient and, meanwhile, wear layers! We're halfway through winter and spring is right around the corner. While we wait for that, hang in there and enjoy the warmth of friendship at Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club.

Game Calendar

Tuesday, February 3 – Mentor/Mentee game at 6:30 p.m.

Mon, Wed, Thurs, Sat – Open Games at 12:00 p.m. F2F

Monday, Wednesday – Open Games at 6:30/6:45 p.m. on BBO

Tuesday, Thursday – Open Games at 6:30 p.m. F2F

Friday – 750/Non-Life Master Games at 12:00 p.m. F2F

Saturday – 0-99 Game at 12:00 p.m. F2F

January 27 CDB Board Meeting and Officer Election

CDB held a meeting and officer election on January 27. The results of the election are:

- ❖ President – Dave Schroeder (re-elected)
- ❖ Vice President – Marjorie Zolla
- ❖ Treasurer – Cory Perkers (re-elected)
- ❖ Secretary – John Miller

The board also approved a small increase in compensation for experienced directors (after many years without one) and discussed the plans for upcoming bridge lessons.

Communicating with the Club

The best way to reach us is via email at chicagoduplicatebridge@gmail.com.

Also, please email Dave Schroeder at dave8459@yahoo.com about Tuesday evening games and use the BridgeWebs reservation/partner request website for ALL games (see link and instructions immediately below).

Game Reservations

We strongly encourage you to use BridgeWebs to make reservations for ALL games. This will help the Directors plan their game for the potential number of tables, how many people need partners, etc.

Making reservations on BridgeWebs is easy! **Especially if you use the link below, which allows you to go straight to the calendar where you can make a reservation and/or request a partner.** You may need to enter your email address or ACBL number to log in:

https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwor/bw.cgi?club=chicagodbc&pid=display_month

If you can't get the link to work, send an email to chicagoduplicatebridge@gmail.com and we'll get you set up.

If you'd rather start from the BridgeWebs home page, you can use the following procedure:

- 1) Select "Results" under "Upcoming Games" from the main menu on the left.
- 2) Select the game you want to attend. You may need to move the calendar to the following month.
- 3) If you need a partner, select "Partner Required."
- 4) Enter your name. When you leave the site, your request will be registered.
- 5) If you have a partner, select "Reservation Requested."
- 6) If you're asked for your name or ACBL number, enter it.
- 7) Insert your partner's name in the box that comes up.
- 8) Select the direction you prefer: N/S, E/W, or Any.
- 9) Select "Add reservation."

Solo Players

We guarantee partners for all one-section games, so if you feel like showing up for a game at the last minute, feel free to do so. On the rare occasion that we have a two-section game, please contact the director in advance and we'll do what we can to find you a partner.

But the **best way to find a partner**, or help us find one for you, is to use the BridgeWebs online reservation system described above to sign up ahead of time (the earlier, the better!). The sooner you let the director know you're coming, the more likely you are to end up with a compatible partner.

Internet/Social Media Coordinator Wanted!

The club is still looking for someone with expertise in online communications to maintain our website and social media presence (X, Instagram, Facebook). If you have experience in this area and you're interested in supporting the club as a volunteer, contact Matthew Dyer at msdyer@gmail.com to learn more about the position.

Membership

If you haven't paid your \$60 annual membership dues yet, please do so now. Of course, the club would also welcome any additional contributions our players are inclined to make! Contributions and dues may be paid in cash or check given to the director at any game or transmitted via Venmo. If you use Venmo, please let a director know in person or send an email to chicagoduplicatebridge@gmail.com so we can make sure you get credit for your donation.

Bridge Lessons

Following up on Les White's very successful first series of beginner bridge lessons, CDB is offering even more opportunities for beginner, intermediate and advanced players to improve their game! Each lesson takes place at 10:00 a.m. at the club on a Saturday morning and lasts 90 minutes. After a short lunch break, students are encouraged to join the 0-99 game or the open game at noon or stay for supervised play when it's offered. The separate fees for the lessons and the games are \$15. **But - if you attend both**, the total fee is only \$20.

February and early March will feature a repeat of the well-received beginner course taught by Les White:

- ❖ Saturday, February 7 – Lesson 1: Introduction to bridge
- ❖ Saturday, February 14 – Lesson 2: Basic bidding and responding
- ❖ Saturday, February 21 – Lesson 3: More bidding and responding (overcalls, simple doubles)
- ❖ Saturday, March 7 – Lesson 4: Even more bidding and responding (responses to no trump, Stayman and Jacoby transfers)
- ❖ Saturday, March 8 – Lesson 5: Review and supervised play

The beginner course also will cover topics like bridge etiquette, leads and discards, scoring and 2-over-1 bidding.

Then a new series of **intermediate/advanced lessons** will begin on March 14.

New Opportunities to Play Bridge at CDB

Beginning in January, the club increased your opportunities to play bridge with us. We're now offering a **0-99 game** on Saturdays at the same time as the open game at 12:00 noon. Also, on alternating Tuesday and Thursday evenings, we'll offer **social bridge** for any member who wants to bring a group of 4 (or 8 or 12) players to take advantage of the club's facilities, including duplicate boards and hand records, for only \$5/person.

Day Game Starting Time

To help people beat rush-hour traffic going home, **all afternoon games now begin at 12:00**. Please be on time! If you're stuck in traffic or otherwise running late, let your partner know and/or alert the director. We'll do our best to accommodate you.

February 3rd Mentor/Mentee Game

This month's Mentor/Mentee game is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 3 at 6:30 pm** at the club. Please use the online sign-up process to RSVP but also email Dave Schroeder at dave8459@yahoo.com to let him know you're planning to be there. It's important that both mentees and mentors **let Dave know as early as possible** so he can ensure that we have enough mentors for all the mentees.

The Mentor/Mentee game is intended to be nurturing and instructive, and it's a great way to get to know and learn from some of the most experienced players at the club. Another reason to attend the Mentor/Mentee game is that Dave bakes treats like cookies or brownies - whatever strikes his fancy - for everyone to share, and they're always delicious!

Sunday Evanston Bridge Club Games at Northwestern

Sunday bridge games hosted by our Evanston Bridge Club friends are back! The next few games are scheduled for Sundays on:

- ❖ February 8 and 15
- ❖ March 1, 8, 22 and 29

All games start at 11:00 a.m. and are held at on Northwestern University's campus at Parkes Hall at 1870 Sheridan Road in Evanston. Free weekend parking is available on Hinman Avenue and at the 555 Clark Street lot.

RSVP is required for these games! To confirm your attendance, request a partner or just ask a question, contact Ben Fisk at benfisk2023@u.northwestern.edu.

Special Games

February is Education Fund month, which mostly promotes junior bridge teaching but also supports some initiatives for seniors.

The other special games in February are:

- ❖ Saturday, February 7: ACBL-wide International Fund, which is a competition across North America that provides extra points, including gold for the winners in each District. If you do well, you might even see your name in the Bridge Bulletin!
- ❖ Saturday, February 28: GO LOCAL March Madness, which offers 33% red points.

All these games, including the Education Fund, award double black points, so February is a great time to play if you're looking to boost your masterpoints.

New/Intermediate Players: Improve Your Game!

In addition to the lessons, CDB offers these opportunities for newer players to improve their bridge skills:

- ❖ Supervised Play
 - Friday at 10:00 a.m., followed by a game at 12:00 p.m.
- ❖ 0-99er game
 - Saturday at 12:00 p.m.
- ❖ Mentor/Mentee game
 - 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday evening of the month, although occasionally that date changes – check the calendar in the newsletter or the CDB website to confirm.
- ❖ Brief lesson
 - Thursday prior to 12:00 p.m. game.

Supervised Play and Games. Join us for Friday morning Supervised Play, a coaching session where you can ask experts and more experienced players for advice. Don't worry that you are "too new" or even "too experienced" to join the group – it's a great opportunity to learn more about bridge for players at all levels!

Friday supervised play at 10:00 is followed by a brief break for lunch at 11:30 and a 750/NLM (Non-Life Master) game at 12:00 noon. This game now regularly has 4-6 full tables, and there's a nice spirit of friendly competition among a fun and welcoming group. **You do NOT have to attend supervised play to join the game or vice versa.**

The fees are \$5 for supervised play and the usual \$15 for the game. If you come to both, there is no charge for supervised play. The Friday sessions are a great way to practice what you've learned by playing bridge in a friendly environment and to meet potential partners. Please let Barry Little know if you'll be attending supervised play and/or the Friday afternoon game by emailing him at barrylit@gmail.com.

To give you an idea of how much fun the Friday gang is, here's a photo from the January 16th celebration of the "special" birthday of Don Santoski, which included a delicious cake made by Nancy Purcell, one of Don's frequent Friday bridge partners.



Social Bridge. The best way to get better at bridge is to play, play, and play some more. If you want noncompetitive practice with real duplicate boards and hand records to check yourself against, get a group together and come play in the back room where we hold lessons. Beginning in January, we're offering social bridge on alternating Tuesday and Thursday evenings as follows:

- ❖ Thursday, February 5 and 19
- ❖ Tuesday, February 10 and 27

Kibitzing. "Kibitzing" always has been part of bridge. You get to peek over the shoulder of an experienced player, and - at the appropriate time - ask them brief and polite questions about their bidding or play of the hand.

The etiquette is to approach a table and ask a player, "Would you mind a kibitzer?" Most players will not object, but not everyone is comfortable being watched. If the player declines, find someone else. Many players take it as a compliment if you choose to watch them, and you'll get to see different bidding methods, thought processes and playing techniques.

Kibitzers may watch one player for several hands but should plan on kibitzing with a few players over the course of a game to see a variety of bidding and playing styles. You'll soon figure out which players are most welcoming to kibitzers and eager to share their knowledge with them.

Important: Kibitzers are expected to sit where they can see only one hand and need to pretend to be invisible and maintain a poker face. Do not react to the bidding or play by making comments or facial expressions or you will be asked to leave.

Try kibitzing! - you'll learn a lot and meet some knowledgeable, interesting and nice people.

Restroom Keys

There are public restrooms a few steps away from our club, but they require a key for entry. You can find the keys on chains on a table near the club entrance. Please remember to bring the key with you when you leave the restroom and put it back on the table.

Don't Like Stairs?

If you park on Level 2 there are seven steps to negotiate to get to and from the club and that's an issue for some of our players. If you're driving, you can park in one of the handicapped spaces if you have a permit; they are on the right as you pull into the lot. Or you can park on Level 6 and take the elevator or ramps down to Level 2 in the building using NO stairs.

Upcoming Tournaments

There are several tournaments scheduled in Illinois and surrounding states for February and March 2026. The list below is for Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri, but if you're interested in tournament play farther afield, check the additional listings at:

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

- ❖ Valentine's Sectional
 - February 4-7, Glendale WI
- ❖ Indianapolis Crossroads of America Regional
 - February 9-15, Indianapolis IN
- ❖ Metro East Swiss Sectional
 - February 14-15, Edwardsville IL
- ❖ **2026 Spring NABC**
 - February 25 – March 8, St. Louis MO **(see more information below)**
- ❖ Bluffs Bridge 0-750 Sectional
 - March 11-13, Council Bluffs, IA
- ❖ Racine Area Spring Sectional
 - March 25-27, Mount Pleasant, WI

The Spring NABC in St. Louis a big deal (pun intended)!

We're lucky to have a 10-day NABC tournament coming up during February 25 – March 8 in St. Louis, which is just a 5-hour drive or short flight from Chicago. Bridge events will be held at the **Marriott St. Louis Grand**, including most NABC-rated and evening events. North American Pairs and daytime regional events will take place at the **America's Center**, which is right across the street from the hotel.

This NABC offers a great chance to dive into the world of bridge and explore St Louis. More advanced players can play in premier events that award platinum masterpoints, while those looking for gold points will have plenty of opportunities to earn those too. Newer players - even absolute beginners - can learn new skills in a space dedicated just for them.

In addition to a lot of bridge games, the St. Louis NABC will offer lessons for newer players plus opportunities to play other games and unusual versions of bridge:

- ❖ Catan, backgammon, cribbage and other games.
- ❖ Social bridge, Bridge Battle (a combination of bridge and war) and Crazy Bridge (a new rule for every hand).
- ❖ Bridge Mania – bridge-themed trivia games like “Jeopardy!” and “Family Feud.”

Sounds like fun!

Whether you attend the tournament for one or all 10 days, there will be plenty of opportunities to meet fellow bridge players from all over and play the world's best card game.

Here's a link to the tournament website: <https://www.acbl.org/stlouis/>.

Looking a little farther ahead, we'll have the rare opportunity to attend **another NABC** in the Midwest this summer. The Summer NABC tournament will take place July 9-19 in Minneapolis. Here the link to the tournament website: <https://www.acbl.org/minneapolis/>.

We hope to see many of our club players at these upcoming tournaments!

ACBL Rank Advancers

Congratulations to the CDB club members and friends who advanced in rank, based on the latest information from the ACBL:

- ❖ Junior Master: Tad Andracki, Jim Ehrenreich
- ❖ Club Master: Alex Jablonski
- ❖ Sectional Master: Ron Attreau
- ❖ Regional Master: David Brown, Colin Hall
- ❖ Bronze Life Master: Kunal Pujara
- ❖ Ruby Life Master: Joan Shafer, Kay Whitman
- ❖ Gold Life Master: Fred Shubert

Player Achievements

Congratulations to these players for success in face-to-face games held at the club in January!

65.00% - 69.99%		
1/12	Janet Nachman, Kay Whitman	67.86%
1/14	Janet Nachman, Samuel Sirko	66.79%
1/15	Ranmit Patel, Ben Fisk	67.36%

1/17	Cory Peterson, Matthew Dyer	67%
1/17	Joey Rickert, Jeffrey Slutsky	66.67%

70.00%+		
1/27	George Clark, Rahul Garga	70.58%

Congratulations to these players for their achievements at January 2026 tournaments:

<u>Jan. 6-9 Milwaukee Holiday Sectional – Glendale, WI</u>		
Wed. a.m. Open - Pairs	1A	Geoff Bridges & Kendra Bridges
Wed. p.m. Open - Pairs	3A	Geoff Bridges & Kendra Bridges
Thurs. a.m. Open - Pairs	3A	Jack Oest & Ariel Smid
Thurs. p.m. Open - Teams	1A	Jack Oest, Ariel Smid, Kerry Smith, Dick Bruno
Thurs. p.m. Open - Pairs	1A	Jack Oest & Ariel Smid
Fri. a.m. Open - Pairs	1/2A (tied)	Rahul Garga & Mark "Polish Club" Pinkowski
	5A	Jack Oest & Ariel Smid
Fri. a.m. Open - Teams	1A	Jack Oest, Ariel Smid, Kerry Smith, Dick Bruno
	2/3B, 1/2A	Rahul Garga, Mark Pinkowski, Mannish Dixit, Sandeep Raje
Fri. p.m. Open - Pairs	2A, 1B	Rahul Garga & Mark Pinkowski
	4A	Jack Oest & Ariel Smid
Friday p.m. Open - Teams	1A	Jack Oest, Ariel Smid, Kerry Smith, Dick Bruno
	3/4A, 1B	Rahul Garga, Mark Pinkowski, Mannish Dixit, Sandeep Raje
<u>Jan. 16-18 St. Louis Winter Sectional – Olivette, MO</u>		
Sat. a.m. Open Pairs	6A, 1B, 1C	Manmit Patel & Ranmit Pantle
Sat. p.m. Open Pairs	5A, 4B, 3C	Manmit Patel & Ranmit Pantle

If you have any CDB-related news or photos you'd like to share in next month's newsletter, please send them to chicagoduplicatebridge@gmail.com and patmiller@me.com.

Meanwhile, have a nice February, stay warm and we look forward to seeing you often at our bridge tables!