



March 2026 Newsletter
Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club
2828 N. Clark St., Second Level

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

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Spring is just around the corner!

Despite the bitterly cold weather, February was another month of strong game participation and opportunities to learn to play bridge at CDB. We continue to see new players (many of whom have attended Les White's beginner lessons) joining our games, supervised play and/or social bridge options. Thanks to Les and the other directors/experts who've been teaching the intermediate/advanced lessons! A new series of intermediate/advanced classes begins March 14, and the list of the lessons can be found on page 3 of this newsletter. We hope you'll enjoy the longer days, warmer weather – and lots of bridge games at CDB – in March!

Game Calendar

Tuesday, March 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

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 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 also would 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.

March 7 will feature a repeat of the final **lesson 5 of the beginner bridge course** taught by Les White, which includes a review session of the first four lessons and supervised play.

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

- ❖ March 14 Preemptive bidding
- ❖ March 21 2/1 game forcing
- ❖ March 28 Defensive card play I
- ❖ April 4 Doubles
- ❖ April 11 Special lesson led by Eldad Ginossar (aka Gino), professional bridge player from Israel and a favorite teacher at our club
- ❖ April 18 Bidding strong hands
- ❖ April 25 Slam bidding
- ❖ May 2 Splinters
- ❖ May 9 Advanced no trump bidding
- ❖ May 16 Defensive card play II

New/Intermediate Players: Improve Your Game!

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

❖ 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.

❖ 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.

❖ Brief lesson

- Thursday prior to 12:00 p.m. game.

Mentor/Mentee Game. This month's Mentor/Mentee game is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 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!

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 and have a lot of fun!

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.

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 of 4 (or 8 or 12) players together and come play in the back room where we hold lessons. Take advantage of the club's resources, including duplicate boards and hand records for only \$5 per person. In March we're offering social bridge on some Tuesday and Thursday evenings as follows:

- ❖ Tuesday, March 3, 17, 24 and 31
- ❖ Thursday, March 5, 12, 19 and 26

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.

Special Games

During the week of March 9 - 15, our ACBL District 13, including Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club, will be holding STAC games, which provide an opportunity to earn silver points!

Other special games in March are:

- ❖ March 1 - 8: GO Local 33% RED March Madness
- ❖ March 9 - 28: Club Championship
- ❖ March 29 - 31: Education Fund

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:

- ❖ 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.

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 a challenge 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 a lot of tournaments scheduled in Illinois and surrounding states for March and April 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/>.

- ❖ 2026 Spring NABC
 - February 25 – March 8, St. Louis MO
- ❖ Bluffs Bridge 0-750 Sectional
 - March 11-13, Council Bluffs, IA
- ❖ Spring 499er Sectional
 - March 21-22, Olivette, MO
- ❖ Racine Area Spring Sectional
 - March 25-27, Mount Pleasant, WI
- ❖ NLM (Non-Life Master) Spring Sectional
 - April 4, Bloomington, IL
- ❖ Springfield Local Sectional
 - April 9-11, Springfield, MO

- ❖ Appleton Spring Sectional
 - April 9-11, Appleton, WI
- ❖ 2026 United States Bridge Championship Other
 - April 13-30, Schaumburg, IL
- ❖ Spring Festival Sectional
 - April 17-18, Urbandale, IA
- ❖ Mount Pleasant Spring Sectional
 - April 24-25, Mount Pleasant, IA
- ❖ Spring Sectional
 - April 30 – May 2, Kansas City, MO

ACBL Rank Advancers

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

- ❖ Junior Master: Oksana Malevanaia
- ❖ Sectional Master: Peter Beer
- ❖ Life Master: Richard Stern
- ❖ Bronze Life Master: Rahul Garga
- ❖ Silver Life Master: Brian Werner

Player Achievements

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

65.00% - 69.99%		
2/2	Neel French & John Miller	65.63%
2/10	George Clark & Rahul Garga	65%
2/12	Dave Schroeder & Peter Beer	66%
2/14	Joey Rickert & Jeffrey Slutsky	65.00%
2/18	Steven Wang & Dave Schroeder	68%
2/28	Dave Schroeder & George Clark	68%
70.00%+		
2/21	Les White & Dave Schroeder	71.67%
2/24	Rahul Garga & George Clark	

Congratulations to these players for their achievements at February 2026 tournaments

<u>January 30 – February 1, 2026 Winterfest in Chicago, IL</u>		
Friday a.m. Open - Pairs	A3/4, B1	Eric Neumann, Mark ("Polish Club") Pinkowski
	B3	Julie Arbit, Ariel Smid
	C1	Richard Stern, Gustavo Saravia
Friday a.m. Open - Team	A4, 1B	Eric Neumann, Kyle Rockoff, Mark Pinkowski, Christopher Staszak
	A5, 2B	Rahul Garga, Charles Holmes, Julie Arbit, Ariel Smid
	B3	Paul Prez, Patricia Ballman, John Miller, Carole Green
Friday p.m. - Pairs	A5, B1, C1	Rahul Garga, Charles Holmes
	B3	Julie Arbit, Ariel Smid
Friday p.m. – Team	A2/3, B1, C1	Rahul Garga, Charles Holmes, Julie Arbit, Ariel Smid
	B3	Richard Strauss, Sam Nelson, Richard Stern, Gustavov Saravia
Friday p.m. 0-750	A1	Peter Beer, Debbie Kamin
Sat. a.m. 0-500	B3, C2	Ron Antreau, Alex Jablonski
Sunday a.m. Open - Pairs	A5, B1	Rahul Garga, Ariel Smid
	A6	Cory Perkers, Stephen McConnell
	B4, C1	Ben Fisk, Ranmit Pantle
	C4	Lori Schretzman, Deirdre Brekke
Sunday a.m. Open - Team	A1/2, B1/2	Cory Perkers, Kyle Rockoff, Stephen McConnell, Christopher Staszak
	A6/7, B4/5, C1	Ben Fisk, Josh Zhao, Ranmit Pantle, Les White
Sunday p.m. Open - Pairs	A6/7	Cory Perkers, Steve McConnell
	C4/5	Rahul Garga, Ariel Smid
Sunday p.m. Open - Team	B3	Cory Perkers, Kyle Rockoff, Stephen McConnell, Christopher Staszak
	C4	Mark Pinkowski, Rahul Garga, Nic Hristea, Ariel Smid
<u>February 4 -7, 2026 Valentine's Sectional, Glendale WI</u>		
Saturday Open Pairs	A5 B2, C1	Mark Pinkowski, Rahul Garga
<u>February 21-22, 2025 District 13 GNT Final</u>		
D13 Flight A GNT Final	A1	Amiel Smid, Ben Fisk, Rahul Garga, George Holmes

The full results for CDB players at the February 25 – March 8 NABC tournament in St. Louis will be included in the April newsletter. Good luck to all our players who have been or will be attending that exciting event!

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. By the time you get the April newsletter, spring will have sprung! Meanwhile, we look forward to seeing you at our bridge tables.