



March 2023 Newsletter
Chicago Duplicate Bridge
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Chicago Duplicate Bridge is enjoying the transition to spring. The club now has a regular cleaning service, which has brightened the space considerably. This month, we focus on our newer players and the games and supervised play on Friday, and celebrate their success in these and open games – congratulations to all. There are photos from the Grand National Teams. We appreciate your continued support through our lean months.

Upcoming Game Schedule and Special Events

****Tuesday, March 7 – Mentor/Mentee Game at 6:30 pm****

****Monday, March 6 – ACBL-Wide Senior Game at 12:15 pm****

****Charity/Club Championship games all month – extra black points****

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

Mon, Wed, Fri – 299er Games at 12:15 pm F2F*

Tue, Thu – Open Games at 6:30 pm F2F

***299er Games whenever enough pairs**

Online games Mon 630, Sat 1215pm on BBO

Advanced Bridge with Gino: Mon Mar 27th: Lebensohl

Bridge with Gino: Wed Mar 22nd: New Minor Forcing and 4th Suit Forcing

Friday – Teach, Learn, Play!

Our Friday supervised play session has evolved into a regular beginner game every Friday afternoon. We focus on beginner and returning players. Haven't played since college? This is the place to start. Never played duplicate, join us. Want to learn a particular convention or just refine your play, come play with us.



Each Friday at 10:30 AM we have supervised play. This is a session in which less experienced players play random boards and we talk about what the bidding should have been, how to defend, and what could have been done. We break from 11:45 to 12:15 for lunch. Bring your own. At 12:15, we play a shortened duplicate game, usually 18 or 20 boards in a really friendly non-competitive atmosphere. If you, or you have a friend, that might be interested, please contact Barry Little at barrylit@gmail.com.

Our newer players work hard to improve their game and we plan to recognize that as a club, and this is the first step in that direction. Next month, we hope to have nicer pictures of people actually facing the camera and not snipped from other photos, and this simply reflects the incompetence and laziness of the editorial staff, and not our desire to recognize their achievements.

Recognizing our I/N players

Pete Bush (now graduated from the I/N class) was our NLM player of the year for 2022, and he can have a nice photo in the newsletter when he sends me a nice picture of himself. This is a work in progress, and we hope to have a selection of nice photos to use for future editions.



Jackie Snuttjer had the highest matchpoint average for those who played more than one Friday game in February. I would like to personally apologize to Jackie that this was the best I could do in terms of photos at short notice.

Player of the Month - Friday Afternoon	
64%	Jackie Snuttjer
63%	Melvin and Pat Gerbie
57%	Betsy Jeffries
56%	Pat Miller
I/N Player of the Month in Open games	
59%	Cheng Zhiyu
51%	Bob Tonos
51%	Marcia Peterson
50%	Mai Phan

Taking the good players to the cleaners ... and when to balance and when you need to go home quietly and have a nice cup of tea instead.

So another “column” I would like to encourage others to contribute to in the spirit of encouraging our beginning players ... good players may seem to be infallible and yet they sit down at your table and sometimes leave with egg splattered all over their faces.

Here is one that happened to me this month, sitting down against Minnie Mitchell and Pat Miller at a Monday afternoon game where George and I were nailing down our agreements in anticipation of the GNTs.

On board 25 I am W with EW vul NS not and Pat opens non-vul as dealer as N my left opens 1H, and both hands pass to me – do I pass it out and let her play 1H? What is going on?

I held:

♠ Q852
♥
♦ J87653
♣ KJ3

And the thick plottens ...

So what do we know? N opened 1H but not 2N or 2C, so is likely limited to 19 points and her partner passed, so likely limited to 5 points, and didn't choose to jump in with a preemptive heart raise, or upgrade to a simple raise. So my partner likely has long hearts, and yet did not overcall 1N, so likely doesn't have 15-18 with a heart stopper. Normally when the auction goes 1? PP ? you question whether partner has a so-called trap pass – a X by partner would be for takeout, so with a penalty double of 1H, partner must pass hoping that you will reopen with a X which partner will pass.

Looking at my hand, it is very likely my partner has long hearts, and was hoping I would reopen with a X that he was planning to pass. Down 2 or 3 doubled would be an excellent score for us. So I cooperated and reopened with a X, and George made a perfectly reasonable pass, and Pat had a very easy time taking the 8 tricks for 1HX+1 and a score of +260. We consoled ourselves that it could have been held to +160 (an easy 7 tricks).

What went wrong?

A key point is that George does *not* have a 1N overcall and could have Xed himself – and I trust my partner. George might strain to takeout X with 4 spades, and would overcall with 5 spades and most remaining hands. So we likely have a diamond fit – can we stop in 2D (which I guess I want to), or will he bid 3N if I balance and he has the presumed heart holding but not enough to defeat 1H given my very sad 7 point hand?

And the answer is that if I had put all of that together, it would have been clear to me that George was going to pass a X of 1H, and that if I bid 2D then we would end up in 3N and unless the diamonds produced 5 or 6 tricks then we would be in serious trouble. I should simply pass and hope to take a plus score if we can set 1H, or a small minus score if we can't, and give up on the optimal score of a small diamond partscore, which we cannot get to.

Board: 25	♠ AKT	
Dealer: N	♥ KJ9874	
Vul: E-W	♦ T	
	♣ AQ5	
♠ Q852		♠ J6
♥ J87653		♥ AQT65
♦ KJ3		♦ A92
		♣ T98
17		
7	♠ 9743	N 1 - 1 2 2
	♥ 32	S 1 - 1 2 1
11	♦ KQ4	E - 1 - - -
5	♣ 7642	W - 1 - - -

And so, this is the winner the March “Doofus of the Month” award, which will be a self-nominated confession. I hope it will become a regular feature of our better players looking back on a decision and saying to themselves – weeeelllll that probably wasn’t my best bridge decision, and presenting it as a learning opportunity for others.

Presenting February “Doofus of the Month” Matthew Dyer, for not following through on the basic principles of balancing:



NABC Comes to Chicago in July

The 2023 NABC Tournament will be held at the Sheraton Grand in Chicago next July 13-23! If you have never attended an NABC Tournament, this is your chance to see what it’s all about without spending lots to travel. There are games at all levels. If you don’t have a partner, there is a Partnership Board where you can post your info and look for someone compatible. This is also a chance to watch some of the “big boys” at the table. There are free lessons virtually every day by national experts.

The organizing crew is looking for volunteers, as most of the “non-bridge” activity is staffed exclusively by volunteer locals. Most of the volunteer work is simple and limited in time - staffing booths for an hour or so before game time to hand out welcome packs and section prizes, or putting together the welcome packs ahead of time. If you are knowledgeable about

the city and recommend restaurants or things to do, this is a great way to show off our city to the bridge world – offer to help out with the restaurant guide. There will be nightly buses to various restaurant areas, which will need a coordinator, so if you were planning on dining in Greektown one evening, you may as well volunteer to coordinate the bus. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Kathy Fortney at kathleensfortney@gmail.com.

Tuesday night baked goods and Mentor/Mentee on the 7th

Our next popular mentor/mentee game is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 7**, at 6:30 pm, F2F. The games usually have only 18 boards, to allow time for feedback as the hands are played if possible. Email dave8459@yahoo.com to signup. Tuesday night is an opportunity for any or our newer members to basically receive a free informal lesson from a more experienced player. Every Tuesday nights offer baked goods by Director Dave Schroeder - cookies, brownies—whatever strikes his fancy, and almost every week we receive excellent feedback on his bakery skills.

All newer players are welcome. Email Dave, and he will hook you up with a good match. Bring your own partner if you like. And if you are interested in mentoring – the club loves volunteers.

Offerings for New or Intermediate Bridge Players

Chicago Duplicate Bridge offers several ways for less experienced players to learn and practice their skills. Less experienced players are also **always** welcome to play in the Open games; most everyone is welcoming and will offer feedback if you ask.

- ❖ Supervised Play
 - Friday F2F 10:30am
- ❖ 299er games when there is enough attendance
 - Monday, Wednesday, Friday F2F 12:15pm
- ❖ Monthly Mentor game
 - First Tuesday evening of the month 6:30pm unless otherwise noted

Grand National Teams Qualifier

The weekend of February 25-26 saw the District Grand National Teams Qualifiers. The club had some, but fewer than usual, representatives this year, but please enjoy some photos from the event, courtesy of Suzi Subeck.



For those who were wondering, Jim O'Neil does actually play bridge.



Nic Hristea and Polish Club represent in B-flight.



Matthew, Cory, George and Kevin entered a team in A-flight.



Aleks Lishkov flew back from Florida to play with David Joyce against Oren Kriegel and Ron Smith (who visit the club once a year for their NAP qualification)



Geoff and Kendra Bridges ultimately won A Flight.



Occasional players Bill Sack and Dan Wright represented in B-flight, and in the background, Gediminas Poska chuckles when Daiva Vitukynaite cracks a joke. Jack and Brian did not think it was funny.

Common Game Compliments!

After most CDB face-to-face games, players receive an email from the Common Game. In the email, you are given a chance to reflect on your experience with a Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down icon. When you do that, you get another screen that allows you to nominate a “Goodwill Player” and comment what was especially notable.

Dave Schroeder continues to receive positive feedback on his Tuesday night treats.

Winter Snow Days and Evening RSVPs System

We launched a winter snow plan and evening game list in December. Occasionally bad weather, anticipated poor attendance or a COVID scare have cancelled evening games, and F2F games are moved online to BBO. The online games have allowed us to reconnect with some long-lost friends who have moved away, or are home-bound. We host a regularly scheduled Monday evening game on BBO at 630pm.

Chicago Duplicate Bridge remains primarily a FaceToFace club. Please assume all regular games will be F2F, and if we need to move any game online, we will announce by email on the day.

The Evening Game Email List will be used for evening announcements, cancellations and ad hoc BBO games. Please email chicagoduplicatebridge@gmail.com and ask to be included if:

- You want to know when we have evening online games (homebound or out of town).
- You need to know when evening games are cancelled.
- You can help out as a spare player if we need you

Sat, Sun and Tues Afternoon Options in the Spring

Sunday and Tuesday afternoon games are currently cancelled. Saturday afternoon happens online only. We think:

- players want a regular team game somewhere in Chicago
- students and working people want a live game on the weekends
- there is demand for a 750MP game (maybe on Tuesday or Saturday afternoon).

Talk to your directors – if you want games, we will run them.

Tournament Season Continues

The tournament 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/>. For the next year, ACBL has announced a **20% bonus on MPs** earned at F2F Regional and Sectional tournaments, so now's your chance to earn those silver, red, and gold points that you need to advance to the next level.

The ACBL continues to monitor COVID prevalence around the country. Covid protection measures required depend on the level of infection in the area at the time, but *regardless of the local level, ACBL will be requiring proof of vaccination of all players*. Check with tournament flyers or committees if you have questions about virus protections.

- ❖ **Racine Sectional**
 - Mar 29-31
 - Mount Pleasant, WI
- ❖ **Evansville Regional**
 - March 20-25
 - Evansville, IN
- ❖ **District 13 Regional**
 - April 24-28
 - Middleton (Madison) WI
- ❖ **NABC Spring Tournament**
 - March 9-19
 - New Orleans, LA
- ❖ **NABC Summer Tournament**
 - July 13-23
 - Chicago!

For more information on all upcoming local tournaments, see <http://bridgeinchicago.com/tournaments/>.

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. N denotes an I/N game

70%+ Games		
2/6	Marjorie Zolla, John Miller	70.83
2/20	George Clark, Matthew Dyer	70.37
2/28 E	Matthew Dyer, Polish Club	70

65.00% – 69.99% Games		
2/2 E	Dave Schroeder, Jim O Neil	68
2/6	Paul Prez, Carole Greene	66.67
2/24 N	The Gerbies	68.25
2/24 N	Jackie Snuttjer, Betsy Jeffries	66.25
2/27	Michael+Gabby Kamil	67.87

Congratulations to these players for success away from the Club!

Grand National Teams District 13 Final		
Championship Flight	2	Aleksandar Lischkov
	3	Gediminas Poska Daiva Vitukynaite
Flight A	1	Geoff and Kendra Bridges Tom Fogarty
	2	George Klemic
	3	Jim O'Neil
Flight B	2	Mark Pinowski, Nic Hristea Jim Abbott, Ryan Daniels