



May 2026 Newsletter
Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club
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Our bridge club continues to flourish!

We continue to see more tables and newer players at the games at our bridge club, including people who've attended our expanded offering of lessons. There are three more intermediate/advanced classes scheduled in May; you can find the list on page 5 of this newsletter. The highlight of the newsletter is a report on **Gino's visit to CDB**, which was a huge success. Thanks to Francie Margolin for providing the write-up and photos for Gino Fest on page 3. Please note that we'll be holding an **individual game** instead of the usual open game on Thursday evening, May 14th. An explanation of it works can be found on page 4. Try it – it's fun! You also can find a brief recap of how players associated with CDB fared at the recent **USBC** on page 8.

We hope to see all of you often at CDB Club's bridge tables this spring!

Game/Event Calendar

Tuesday, May 5 – Mentor/Mentee game at 6:30 p.m. F2F

Thursday, May 14 – Individual Game at 6:30 p.m. F2F

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

(Replaced by Individual Game on Thursday, May 14 – more info on page 4 below)

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

Saturday – 0-99 Games and Open Games at 12:00 p.m. F2F

Save the date: CDB Club potluck dinner – July 10, 6:30 p.m.

Hosted by Usha Raj at her River North apartment

(Details will be provided in the June and July newsletters)

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 our players 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. When we have a two-section game (for example, on Saturdays), 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, send an email to chicagoduplicatebridge@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.

Gino Fest at Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club

CDB welcomed our old friend Eldad "Gino" Ginossar back to the club in mid-April. Gino played in three games, after which he provided a postmortem, answering questions and discussing interesting hands. All three games were a huge success, drawing 46 players, much more than the usual number. We were happy to see some brand-new faces, as well as the return of some members who were making their way to our new digs for the first time.

The highlight of the visit was on Saturday, April 11, when Gino provided a lesson on how to bid after opponents interfere with your partner's 1NT opening bid. Following the same structure used in Gino's well-received pre-pandemic CDB classes, he presented the concepts and then the audience played hands that illustrated the lesson. While we played, he circulated, providing feedback and comments. This was followed by more teaching and another round of hands. At the end of the lesson, handouts provided the opportunity to review and perhaps re-create the lesson hands later. The lesson was followed by a lovely brunch, after which many players stayed to play in either our 0-99 MP game or the open game.

Feedback shows that the week was a great success! Both our newer players and old hands said they appreciated the chance to learn how a true expert analyzes a bridge hand. Even the newest players said they understood the value of Gino's hints, like "Don't be creative or improvisational on the opening lead; follow the known guidelines."

Gino was in town to play in the United States Bridge Championship (USBC) tournament in Schaumburg, where he did very well (see page 8). It was great to see him again, as always, and we look forward to our next chance to welcome Gino back to his bridge home in the US!



Individual Game – May 14th

CDB will be running an individual event instead of the usual open game at 6:30 on the evening of Thursday 14th. This is a fun event in which you play with 21-24 (!) different partners in one night. Our beginners have generally found this to be a good way to meet the more experienced players at the club. Don't think you have the experience for this? You'll be in good company with many of the players, and the better player is responsible for figuring out what the less experienced player knows. Think of it as a speed dating version of the mentor/mentee game! **If you're planning to attend, please sign up on BridgeWebs beforehand to help us plan the table movement.**

A brief description: essentially, there are three-board meta-rounds. After you play the first board, E, S and W get up and rotate around the table, so you play the three boards of the round with a different partner. Once the meta-round is over, all four players disperse and, if we have enough players, you'll partner with 21-24 different people over course of the night.

You'll have about 15 seconds to discuss how you'll be playing with each partner. If you're an absolute beginner, you should print out the new player convention list at:

https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwor/bw.cgi?club=chicagodbc&pid=docs_NewPlayerConventionList.pdf and bring it to the game with you. You should check everything that you know, hand your sheet to any more experienced partner, and assume that they'll play everything you know and nothing more.

Alternatively, you may choose to play the yellow card - we'll have lots of those available.

If you are an advanced player, we have a standard card: https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwor/bw.cgi?club=chicagodbc&pid=docs_GoodPlayerStandardInd2017.pdf, which is a consensus card of what all the better players at the club know and use. These may not be your choices, but you'll be able to play in an undiscussed partnership knowing that you have Lebensohl available, for example. You can strike things from the card that you don't know.

And you may use your own personal card when playing with a regular partner.

We don't hold individual games at the club very often, so take advantage of this rare opportunity to experience a very different bridge table movement. It's a great chance to (briefly) play with a bunch of people as partners instead of opponents. It's really fun - give it a try on May 14th!

Bridge Lessons

CDB began offering a new series of **intermediate/advanced lessons** in March and they continue through mid-May. The lessons are held from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays. Supervised play will no longer be offered on Saturdays; people who attend the lessons are encouraged to attend the open or 0-99 games, which cost just \$5 extra (\$20 total).

Here's the list of the topics for lessons in May:

- ❖ May 2 - Slam bidding
- ❖ May 9 - Splinters
- ❖ May 16 - Defensive card-play II

New/Intermediate Players: Improve Your Game!

In addition to lessons, CDB offers other learning opportunities for newer players:

- ❖ **Mentor/Mentee game**
 - 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday evening of the month, although occasionally that date changes – check 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.

Mentor/Mentee Game. This month's Mentor/Mentee game is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5 at 6:30 pm at the club. Please use the BridgeWebs 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 essential 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.

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 in a friendly environment, meet potential partners 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 5-7 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.

In addition to signing up on BridgeWebs, 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 as often as possible. 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 our back room where we hold lessons. People who've tried this so far are giving us great feedback on the opportunity to play with friends and introduce them to the concept of duplicate bridge.

The cost for social bridge at the club is only \$5 per person. We're offering the opportunity to play social bridge most Tuesday and Thursday evenings in May – but not on May 5, since that's the evening of the mentor/mentee game, or on May 14 due to the individual game. Here are the May dates when social bridge will be available:

- ❖ Tuesdays: May 12, 19, 26
- ❖ Thursdays: May 7, 21, 28

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. 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.

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

Special games in May are:

- ❖ Grassroots Fund: double black points (May 1-17 and 25-31)
- ❖ Silver Point STAC games (May 18-24)

Sunday Evanston Bridge Club Games at Northwestern

The next games hosted by our friends at Evanston bridge club are scheduled for Sundays on:

- ❖ May 17, 10 (tentative) and 24.

All games start at 11:00 a.m. and are held 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.

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 coming up in Illinois and adjoining states in the next couple of months. Also, don't forget that there's another **NABC tournament taking place during July 9-19 in Minneapolis!** Details about that major tournament will be included in the June CDB newsletter, but if you're interested in attending, you may want to visit their website at <https://www.acbl.org/minneapolis/> now for information about locations, hotel reservations and fees (including discounts), game schedules, learning opportunities and special events.

The list of tournaments below is for May and June in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri. If you're interested in tournament play farther afield, check out the additional listings at <http://tournaments.acbl.org/>.

- ❖ Indianapolis Spring Sectional
 - May 1-3, Indianapolis, IN
- ❖ District 13 Spring Sectional
 - May 4-8, Middleton, WI (Madison area)
- ❖ De Pere Sectional
 - May 13-15, De Pere, WI
- ❖ The "Champagne" Regional Tournament
 - May 20-24, Champaign, IL
- ❖ St. Louis Senior Olympics (Other)
 - May 27, Olivette, MO
- ❖ Egg Harbor Sectional
 - June 2-4, Egg Harbor, WI (Door County)
- ❖ Windy City Regional
 - June 3-7, Schaumburg, IL
- ❖ Bruce Hardy Memorial Sectional
 - June 5-6, Sioux City, IA
- ❖ Waterloo Open Regional
 - June 10-13, Waterloo, IA
- ❖ Edwardsville Sectional
 - June 12-14, Edwardsville, IL (St. Louis area)
- ❖ Minocqua-Lakewood Sectional
 - Woodruff, WI

- ❖ The Great Summer “Sizzlin” Illinois Regional
 - June 15-19, Crystal Lake, IL
- ❖ Waukesha Summer Sectional
 - June 24-27, Waukesha, WI (Milwaukee area)

ACBL Rank Advancers

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

- ❖ Sectional Master: Valerie Goodman
- ❖ Regional Master: Zheliang Fan, Manmit Pantle
- ❖ NACBL Master: Brian Greene, Graham Meyer
- ❖ Advanced NACBL Master: Dave McCarty, Ranmit Pantle
- ❖ Bronze Life Master: Ben Fisk

Player Achievements

***Congratulations** to these players for success in face-to-face games held at the club in April:*

	65.00% - 69.99%	
4/1	Neel French & Guy Franklin	67.00%
4/8	Steven Wang & Eldad Ginossar (Gino)	68.29%
4/11	Cory Perkers & Matthew Dyer	69.79%
4/29	Herb Rosene & John Miller	65.17%
	70%+	
4/18	Joey Rickert & Jeffrey Slutsky	73.75%
4/18	Candace Wark & Adele DeMooy	70.00%
4/21	Aleksandar Lishkov and Brad Stout	72.22%

United States Bridge Championship (USBC)

The USBF chose Schaumburg, IL as the place to hold their annual 10+ day tournament that determines the teams who will represent the US in world competition. This year they selected players for the Open USA 1st team and the Mixed USA 1st team. This is arguably the most prestigious event in USA bridge, and it attracts most of the top players in the country.

Three CDB semi-regulars - Ariel Smid from DePaul and Nicole Qian and Philip Wang from Northwestern - teamed up with good friend of the club Julie Arbit from Ann Arbor, MI to enter the Mixed event. On paper, this team was the second weakest of the 15 teams that entered the event, but they finished in 5th place, outclassing several teams that have won world championships. This is an impressive achievement, especially for such a young team, and we’re very proud of them – well done! We’re lucky to have these players grace our club with their presence from time to time, and we look forward to seeing them at our special evening games sometime soon. Results - with impressive MP #s - are shown below:

United States Bridge Championship (USBC) invitational, April 13 – 30, Schaumburg, IL		
Open USBC	5/8, 54.00 MPs	Gino
Mixed USBC	1, 112.50 MPs	Amber Lin & Kevin Rosenberg
	3/4, 56.25 MPs	Gino
	5/8, 36.16 MPs	Ariel Smid, Nicole Qian, Philip Wang & Julie Arbit

That's it for this month! 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. We hope you'll all continue to take advantage of the many opportunities to play and – and learn how to play - bridge offered by Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club!