



**February 2025 Newsletter
Chicago Duplicate Bridge
47 W. Polk St., Lower Level**

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

chicagoduplicatebridge@gmail.com

Tax ID #32-0456104

Thank You, Barry!

For the past several years, Barry Little has been president of the Board of Chicago Duplicate Bridge. When we were on Orleans, Barry made everyone's favorite egg salad on Monday and contributed the occasional spectacular rum cake. He taught beginner/intermediate lessons. He shopped for snacks and beverages. And as president, he just generally saw to it that what needed to get done, got done. When it came time to resume face-to-face play, Barry looked at more than 50 potential locations for CDB. Since we moved to Dearborn Station, Barry has been the main liaison with the landlord. He was a major participant in the physical moves from the old place to storage and then to the new. More recently, he began and continues to run the Supervised Play and I/N game on Friday that has brought several new members to CDB and to the game of duplicate bridge.

And let's not forget perhaps the most important part, beyond all these tasks. Barry has given hundreds—probably thousands—of rides to other players; has played in mentor games; has served on the Board and then became its leader. And most, most important—he's a friend to all. Barry resigned from the Board at the meeting Tuesday night. Time for a rest, though he'll still be running Fridays and doing other things as needed. He deserves the thanks of every one of us.

****Tuesday, February 4 – Mentor/Mentee Game at 6:30 pm****

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

Monday – Open Game at 6:30 pm on BBO

Tuesday, Thursday – Open Games at 6:30 pm F2F+

Friday – 750/NLM Games at 12:15 pm F2F

Staying in Touch

chicagoduplicatebridge@gmail.com is the best way to reach us.

+Reservations for Tuesday and Thursday games please. Email David Schroeder at dave8459@yahoo.com for Tuesday evening games; Matthew Dyer at msdyer@gmail.com for Thursday evening games. The Thursday afternoon game is struggling, so please consider adding this game to your weekly schedule. It is the only downtown Thursday option, and the game is usually small but of high quality. Please RSVP each week if you plan to attend, and we commit to sending out a confirmation email on Wednesday evening, or a cancellation if we have insufficient interest. Please get into the habit of checking email before leaving the house.

February Mentor/Mentee Game on the 4th

Our next popular mentor/mentee game is scheduled for **February 4th at 6:30 pm**, F2F. Our evening games use a manual signup process; email 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.

Thursday: A Chance to Try Something New

Consider playing at CDB on Thursday afternoons. Our goal as a club is to provide a good bridge game in downtown Chicago every day. We often have visitors from out of town who are in Chicago for business or other reasons who have free time and want to play bridge. And we have members who like the Thursday game and a few for whom it best fits their schedule. Right now we are not getting consistent attendance so we need your help. Thursday afternoon would be a good time to try playing with a new partner, or to try out new conventions or approaches with your usual partner. Jim O'Neil is the director and, as always, runs a good game. We hope to see you there.

Board Changes

Each new Board elects a new slate of officers at its first meeting after the election. At Tuesday's meeting, Dave Schroeder was elected president. Other officers include Francie

Margolin, vice-president; Pat Miller, secretary; and Cory Perkers, treasurer. With the resignation of Barry Little from the Board, John Miller was appointed to serve out Barry's term, as permitted by the CDB bylaws.

Board Meeting Discussion (Move?)

The Board meeting on Tuesday, January 28, was attended not only by Board members but also by several other members. All members are welcome at all Board meetings, though only Board members may vote on any decisions taken. The main topic of discussion was a possible move from Dearborn Station. As you know, the Board has been considering a move to the Century theatre building at Clark and Diversey. However, the Chess Club has let us know that they will not move with us to that location. There remain several possibilities: (1) move on our own to Century theatre building in a different space, (2) move with the Chess Club to the Loop, specifically to the area of Washington and Wells, (3) with Chess, remain as is month-to-month at Dearborn Station, (4) with Chess, negotiate a longer-term lease at Dearborn Station, (5) find another location. There are questions to be answered before we would decide on either option (1) or (2). Negotiations are ongoing and no decisions have been made. Key considerations include monthly rent, renovations needed, and public transportation access and parking. The Board agreed to meet in a month or so to review new information learned.

A secondary topic of discussion was the resumption of bridge lessons, whether beginning, intermediate, or advanced. If you are qualified to teach bridge and would be interested, please contact any Board member.

Solo Players

All games now guarantee partners, so if you feel like showing up for a game at the last minute, you should do so. As always, the further in advance you let the director know, the better your chances of finding a compatible partner.

Sunday NU Games

Sunday games at Northwestern are scheduled for February 9 and 16. There will be no game on February 2 or 23. If you are interested in playing at NU's Sunday game, check CCBA for the latest information.

Facebook Coordinator Wanted

Chicago Duplicate Bridge has a dormant Facebook page. If you like doing Facebook and Instagram, please contact Matthew to become our Social Media coordinator.

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

Come join us at Teach and Learn 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 750/NLM ((non-Life Master) 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) 750/NLM game at 12:15. This game now regularly has **4-6 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.

- ❖ Supervised Play
 - Friday F2F
 - 10:30 am
- ❖ 750/NLM 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

Etiquette Guide for Newer Players

A guide for newer players going to their first tournament on various etiquette issues.

Fold your score card so that scores are on the inside. A lot of you have your scorecard on display. It is folded the wrong way and you attempt to conceal it with a bidding box, but it needs to be folded so that you cannot see the results of boards played. You should be trying to hide any results from opponents. It may seem stupid to you, but if a good player sees that 7D made on board 8 which they have yet to play, they cannot unsee that. You have just deprived them of the opportunity to play the board fairly, because they now have to report themselves to the director.

You should have a convention card filled out. It is not just a nicety; it is a requirement of the tournament rules. There are four versions of the ACBL standard convention card, including the “yellow card,” which is a pre-filled card containing the conventions most newer players use. They are available at CDB and at all tournaments. CDB also has our home-grown “conventions list” which many of you use, with checkmarks and scratch-outs. It is not a standard ACBL-approved card, but is good enough. It satisfies the requirement that you need to tell your opponents what you are playing. Take that to the tournament if you don’t know how to complete a convention card. The convention card is for the use of your opponents, not you. Do NOT peek at it during the auction. Look at it between rounds if you have forgotten what you are playing.

During the auction ask questions only when it is your (not partner’s) turn to act and only if you need the information. Otherwise ask at the end. You are fully entitled to detailed explanations of what your opponents are doing, but only when it is your turn to bid or play a card. Most good players allow the opponents to complete their auction, and then simply ask “please explain the auction” at the end. Then you get a 20-second description of the whole thing in one go, rather than a 20-second description of each bid along the way. If you need to know, you should ask – and are entitled to whenever it is your turn to act, but just wait until the end in most cases. Most good players will bend over backwards to protect you and explain complicated auctions. If you ask during the auction, you risk alerting the opponent that his partner doesn’t remember what they agreed a specific bid meant.

Do not say “No questions” or “Partner, please lead face down” when you are not on lead. The correct procedure is that the auction ends with 3 passes. Leader asks any questions she wants and then leads face down, asking partner, “any questions?” At this point non-leader gets to ask anything he wants to. If anything is uncovered that may have affected the lead, then you call the director, and the laws will protect the non-offending side. For example, I think you can appreciate that if non-leader asks aggressively about an artificial diamond bid during the auction, it might show interest in a diamond lead. And if he indicates he has questions (about that artificial diamond bid), it might influence the lead. If you see this, you should call the director. The correct procedure and a poker face are designed to avoid this situation.

Stay quiet as dummy – but know when you are allowed to do something. Dummy is allowed to do very few things: keep track of trick count, play specific cards as directed by declarer, and answer questions as to how many tricks have been taken and which hand they are in. Dummy is allowed to ask declarer, “No spades?” as an attempt to prevent an irregularity. Dummy may attempt to prevent an irregularity, but not guide the play. The reason for the rule is obvious – it’s a lot easier to get good results when a pro is telling a client how to play a hand when dummy.

What happens when declarer leads (or calls) from the wrong hand? Well, the laws allow either opponent without consultation to accept the lead out of turn (as would be the case if a defender led out of turn). This could be hugely advantageous to the defenders if declarer was not in fact paying attention. They are entitled to this advantage, and dummy saying “you’re on

the board” deprives them of that opportunity. Our players do this a lot and it is very irritating to anyone who knows it is wrong and why.

Dummy may not draw attention to an irregularity during the hand, but is allowed to call the director once attention has been drawn to it. So dummy spots a revoke at trick 4 and cannot draw attention to it until the end of the hand. The hand is over, and everyone looks like they are about to muck (bring all cards into one pile before returning them to the board) their cards. I as dummy will request that no one touch their cards and agree on a result. Once the result is agreed, I cease to be dummy and can call the director to protect my side. It is a lot easier for the director to figure out what happened if the cards are still in order of play, which is why you need to desperately try to avoid card mucking. Declarer may ask dummy which hand they are in, and dummy is allowed to answer.

All players are allowed to look at their most recently played card until their side plays to the next trick. This is usually done to determine which hand was on lead or whether they have revoked. Any player may delay play to the next trick by keeping his card face up, and may request to see all cards played to the current trick. Once all four cards are turned over, no one can request to see cards played to the previous trick.

One of dummy’s legal responsibilities is keeping track of tricks won using her own cards. Dummy (or either defender) is allowed to point out to her partner that he has the current trick pointed incorrectly but only until their side plays to the next trick. Neither dummy nor defender is allowed to point out to partner that previous tricks are mispointed.



Matthew has a misturned card; his partner hasn't told him about it.

Failure to Alert, Mis-explanation, Mis-alert: Somewhere during the auction, something happens, partner alerts, fails to alert, gives a wrong explanation – says you were playing natural when you were playing Cappelletti, and you know at the end of the auction that something has gone wrong. What do you do? If you are the declaring side, you are required to tell the defending side of any misinformation or failure to alert before the opening lead is selected. If you are the defending side, you are not allowed to communicate with your partner until the end of the hand, and so you must wait until the play is over, but you must fess up at the end of the hand, and call the director.

The directors are your friends, the opponents are not. Call them – it isn't an unfriendly action. Something happens – a lead out of turn, an insufficient bid, and the opponents inform you that you must now lead a heart. Well, no, you must not. And your hand should go into the air and "Director, please." The director will arrive and ask "Why didn't you call when the infraction occurred?" Just call the director when the infraction occurs.

I am an experienced club director. I still call the director as a player even when I know what the outcome should be, because as a player I waive a lot of rights when I don't and complicate the situation. I also call the director in situations where I know I have done something wrong (or have a close call) and the opponents may not be aware of all of their options, or sometimes even that there was a problem.

If you pay to play bridge, you are usually paying for an expensive director who has been through training and testing and is being paid. And I often sit there and hear table 3 say "well you need to leave that out on the table" and then very imaginative things that happen to that card, some of which have no connection to the laws of bridge. The directors want to be called.

Evening Parking at the Dearborn Club

The parking lot behind the building now charges for evening parking, and the attendant is staying later. The club does not benefit if you park in their lot, so we encourage you to explore some of the other options available.

Most on-street parking is free after 5 or 6 pm (in the pay-at-the-box spots). Plymouth Court between Harrison and Polk has many spots that are loading zones during the day and free nights and weekends. Don't park in resident parking without a sticker, and do check the closest box to be sure it is free. We also recommend installing the Spothero app on your phone to find the cheapest public parking in the area.

For those with safety concerns, just call the club and we will send someone to escort you to and from your car. Many evening players offer rides home to those who arrive by public transportation, so safety should not be a concern, particularly since the South Loop is one of the safest neighborhoods in the City of Chicago.

Winter Tournaments

It's cold and often snowy and/or windy out there (just step outside), making winter a great time to play bridge. The tournament schedule is full in February but less so in March. Make plans now to go to one of the maybe-new-to-you tournaments. 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/>.

❖ Winterfest Sectional

- January 31-February 2
- **Saturday, February 1** features a 2-session Swiss team game followed by the Unit annual meeting and pizza dinner. Dinner requires a reservation in advance. Chicago Duplicate Bridge will be highlighted, so we'd like to see a good turnout to support the club. See <https://www.bridgeinchicago.com/data/bridgeinchicago.com/resources/flyerupdated.pdf>.

- Niles, IL

❖ Bruce Brown Valentine Sectional

- February 12-15
- Glendale, WI

❖ Saluki Swiss Sectional

- February 14-15
- Edwardsville, IL

❖ District 13 GNT Final

- February 22-23
- Niles, IL

❖ Indianapolis Crossroads of America Regional

- February 24-March 2
- Indianapolis, IN

❖ Appleton Sectional

- Mar 27-29
- Appleton, WI

❖ Spring 499er Sectional

- Mar 29-30
- Olivette, M

Rank Advancers

***Congratulations** to those who advanced in ACBL rank, as reflected in the latest data release from ACBL. **Avery Wang**, Advanced NABC Master **Kunal Pujara**, Life Master;*

Jacob Breneisen, Life Master and Bronze Life Master; **Neel French**, Silver Life Master; **James Abbott** and **Paul Prez**, Gold Life Masters.

Player Achievements

Congratulations to these players for success in face-to-face games at the club! All games Open unless otherwise noted. I/N denotes 750/non-Life Master game. E denotes Evening game. I denotes Individual game movement.

65.00% - 69.99%		
1/6	Neel French, Soraya Tonos	68.85
1/8	Lynn Gryll, Carole Greene	67.26
1/13	Paul Prez, Carole Greene	68.45
1/22	Herb Rosen, John Miller	65.50
1/23 E	Neel French, David Schroeder	68.51
70%+		
1/2 E	Neel French, Genie Baker	79.82

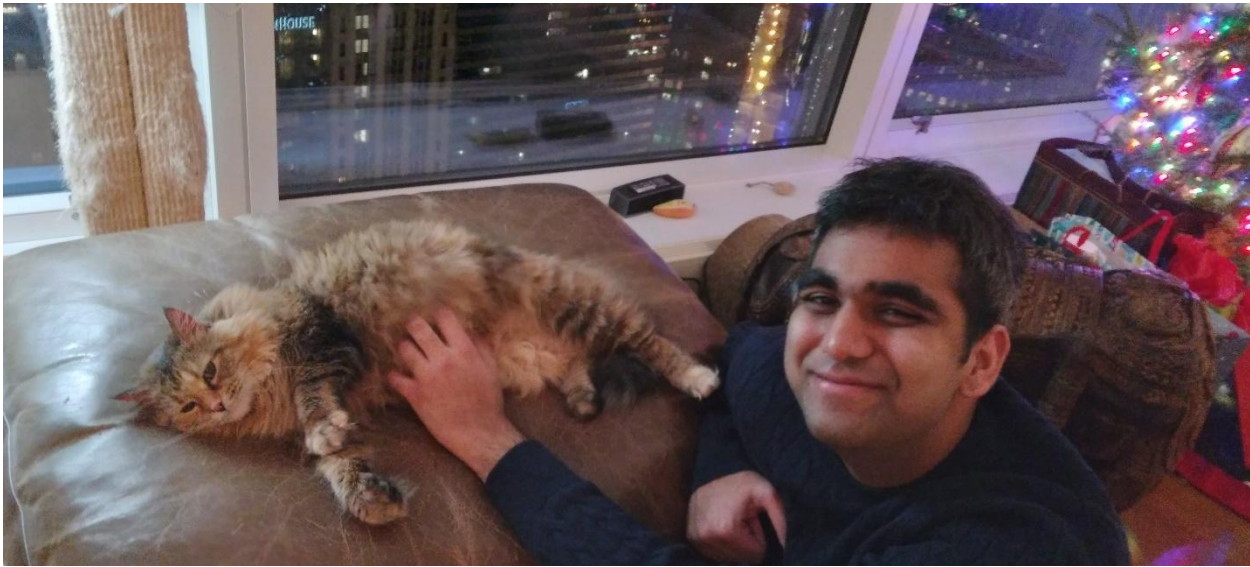
Congratulations to this player for success at a recent tournament!

Milwaukee Holiday Section Glendale, WI January 7-10, 2025		
Thursday Morning 499er	3A	John Knoepke

Unit 123 Rankings

ACBL has three awards that recognize the players who win the most MasterPoints in their Unit, District, and nationwide. Thee Mini McKinney recognizes MasterPoints won in in-person or online club games and tournaments. The Ace of Clubs award recognizes MasterPoints won in in-person club games; the Ace of Virtual Clubs awards, those won in online club games.

For the second time in a decade – following on the footsteps of John Miller (who had a decent performance in the Gold Life Master race) – Chicago Duplicate Bridge has a national-level winner. The ACBL-wide winner of the coveted 50-100 point crown goes to Rahul Garga this year. Rahul’s 334 MasterPoints beats out all our regular player and all in his starting category. Rahul is a regular player at our Tuesday and Thursday night games. And it seems that he is a friend to cats, or at least one cat.



Congratulations to all players in the top 10 of their group in the Unit 123 rankings for the entirety of 2024.

Mini McKinney		Ace of Clubs	
0-5 / 5-20	Ranmit Pantle, 2 Usha Raj, 3 Aida Sulayman, 5	0-5 / 5--20	Usha Raj, 1 Aida Sulayman, 3 Ranmit Pantle, 4
20-50	Graham Meyer, 1 R E Stern, 2	20-50	
50-100	Rahul Garga, 1 Zinnia Meyer, 2 David Faulkner, 5	50-100	Rahul Garga, 1 David Faulkner, 8 Lawrence Jakus, 9
100-200	Ziheng Cheng, 1 Alec Sun, 3 Ziheng Yun, 4 Robert Tonos, 6 Nicole Qian, 9	100-200	Robert Tonos, 1 Susan Gauen, 6 Robert Listernick, 8
200-300	Charles Holmes, 1 Pat Knowles, 6 Mary Anderson, 8	200-300	Charles Holmes, 1 Mai Phan, 4 Pat Knowles, 6 Mary Anderson, 7
300-500	Avery Wang, 3 Gail Conder, 4	300-500	
500-1000	Harry Rosenberg, 1 Les White, 3	500-1000	Les White, 1 Carolyn Naselli, 3
1000-1500	Bill Sack, 1	1000-1500	Kay Whitman, 1 Marjorie Zolla, 2
1500-2500	Mark Pinkowski, 2 Mark Stein, 3 Daniel Wright, 4 Paul Prez, 5	1500-2500	Paul Prez, 1 Joseph Tomlinson, 4

Mini McKinney		Ace of Clubs	
2500-3500	John Miller, 2	2500-3500	John Miller, 1
3500 -5000	Matthew Dyer, 6	3500-5000	Carole Greene, 4 Matthew Dyer, 7
5000-7500		5000-7500	
7500-10000		7500-10000	
10000+		10000+	

Ace of Virtual Clubs	
0-5 / 5-20	
20-50	
50-100	David Faulkner, 9
100-200	Paul Rogerson, 6 William Rogerson, 6
200-300	Mike Mehringer, 7
300-500	James Lacy, 6
500-1000	
1000-1500	Bill Sack, 2 Lori Anzine. 4
1500-2500	Daniel Wright, 3 Mark Pinkowski, 5
2500-3500	John Miller, 2
3500 -5000	George Clark, 2 Patt Quinn, 3 Matthew Dyer, 6 James O'Neil, 8
5000-7500	
7500-10000	
10000+	