



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

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

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Welcome to 2025!

It's a new year, and like everything else, costs for Chicago Duplicate Bridge are subject to inflation. Whether it's the cost of soft drinks or maintaining infrastructure, everything costs more. To help offset those costs, the table fee for all "regular" games is now \$14. ACBL charges CDB per player for all games, with an add-on fee for special games that provide additional Masterpoints. Traditionally those additional costs have been passed on as table fees. To keep the fees affordable, CDB's fees for special games will be capped at \$15 regardless of the premium charged by ACBL.

****Tuesday, January 7 – 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.

January Mentor/Mentee Game on the 7th

Our next popular mentor/mentee game is scheduled for **January 7th 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.

Reminder: It's Not Too Late to Pay Your Dues

Annual dues of \$60 for 2024/25 were due in November. Dues help keep the doors open and the lights on. Any dues paid now will provide membership benefits through next November. The Directors are now collecting the extra \$2 per game from players who are not members as of that game day. Dues can be paid via cash, check (made out to Chicago Duplicate Bridge), or Venmo. And no, we don't have Zelle. Blame our bank.

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.

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.

Potential Club Move

As you know, the Board is considering a move to the Century theatre building at Clark and Diversey. Any move would be in partnership with the Chess Club. Negotiations are ongoing

and no decisions have been made, regardless of the results of the negotiations. No move would happen before spring.

Partnership Bridge with George (by Matthew)

I have encouraged many people to form at least one serious partnership – you need to have someone you learn with, have frank discussions with, and choose a system and set of conventions together. Both George (Clark) and I play with other people, but we play with each other in top-level events. We play once a week online – and once again we had a couple of public spats using some most ungentlemanly language. We do it because we need to use every mistake at a club game to uncover ten similar mistakes when it matters. Discussions after bridge are how you improve.

In this hand, George was dealer sitting North. Here is the situation after George opened 2C and East bid:

S msdyer

♠	KQJ10732
♥	7
♦	K832
♣	7

W	N	E
	2♣	2♠

I clicked on the 2S, bid by a BBO robot, and learn that it means “twice rebiddable spades; 9+ points.” And the robots typically don’t psych. But might they? It certainly looked like it, but talking George into my own twice rebiddable spade suit seemed like it might be a problem.

So what are the agreements here? George and I have clear agreements after interference over a 2C opener. We pass to show a game force (like a 2D bid would be if there were no interference) and we double with a bust (like a 2H bid if there were no interference). And we can bid our own suit, but what to do if the opps have bid my suit? So I have to pass (a one-round forcing bid) and after George bid 3C, I felt I had no option but to try 3N since I couldn’t show my spade suit. My thinking was that George would have sat there and wondered what I was smoking if I had bid any number of spades.

And here was the outcome after the initial lead of the H5.

D 1	N villa660 twice rebiddable ♠; 9+ total points	S
W jflomaha2	♠ AKQ109653 ♥ Q9 ♦ AQ10 ♣ AKQ109653	2♣ 2♠ P P 3♣ P 3NT P P P
	♥ Q	E Robot
	♥ 5 ♥ 8	♠ A98654 ♥ J8643 ♦ J6 ♣
	♥ 7	
	S msdyer	
	♠ KQJ10732 ♥ 7 ♦ K832 ♣ 7	3NT S NS: 1 EW: 0

<https://tinyurl.com/22epqy53>

And I don't think I've ever played in 3N holding Q9 vs 7 and won a trick in that suit.

There were arguments about when I should have bid spades as South, and then whether North should pass and leave it in. The consensus was that he as North should probably bid 4C, but it could be right to pass 3N because it looks like the clubs run, right?

Bridge is hard.

Sunday NU Games

As of this writing, no schedule for bridge at Northwestern has been released. 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

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 picks up again this month—what a great way to beat those stuck-inside blues! 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/>.

- ❖ Milwaukee Holiday Sectional
 - January 7-10
 - Glendale, WI
- ❖ St. Louis Winter NLM Regional
 - January 17-19
 - Olivette, MO
- ❖ St. Louis Winter Sectional
 - January 17-19
 - Olivette, MO
- ❖ 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

Rank Advancers

Congratulations to those who advanced in ACBL rank, as reflected in the latest data release from ACBL. Aida Sulayman, Club Master; Diane Kelley, Silver Life Master.

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%		
12/2	Paul Prez, Carole Greene	69.80
12/11	Herb Rosen, Jim O'Neil	67.41
12/16	John Miller, Marjorie Zolla	66.00

Congratulations to these players for success at CDB games held as part of the recent Unit 123 STaC!

Unit 123 STaC December 16-24		
Monday Afternoon Misc and Open Small Game	1A, 1B 4A	John Miller, Marjorie Zolla Susan Adams, Carole Greene
Tuesday Evening Misc and Open Small Game	1A, 1B 1A, 1B 3A, 3B	Matthew Dyer, Ben Fisk Richard Greenthal, John Knoepke Rahul Garga, Avery Wang
Wednesday Afternoon Open	1A, 1B, 1C 6A, 5B 4C 5C	A Bascon, Richard Stern Sylvia Dunne, Lawrence Jakus Rosede Olson, Kay Whitman Susan Gauen, Marcy List
Thursday Evening Open	1A, 1B 2A, 2B, 1C 3A, 3B 4A, 4B, 2C	Carole Greene, Paul Prez Rahul Garga, Charles Holmes George Clark , David Schroeder Daniel Cieslik, Ben Orzeske
Friday Afternoon 749er	1A, 1B 2A, 2B	Frances Margolin, Patricia Miller Betsy Jeffries, Jackie Snuttjer

And Congratulations to these players for success at the recent NABC tournament.

NABC Autumn 2024 November 28 – December 8 Las Vegas, NV <i>National-Level Two-Day Events</i>		
Soloway KO	72D1 77D1	Matthew Dyer, Rahul Garga, Ariel Smid Griffin Stewart
Life Master Pairs	15D1 54F	Gediminas Poska, Daiva Vitukynaite Joseph Stokes, Gino Ginossar
10K Pairs	1F 18D1	Gediminas Poska, Daiva Vitukynaite Dave Bogolub, Steve Kreiner
Blue Ribbon Pairs	33D1	Aleksander Lishkov
6K Blue Ribbons	27F 29D1	George Klemic Nic Hristea, Mark Pinkowski
10K Mixed Pairs	20D1	Gediminas Poska, Daiva Vitukynaite
Reisinger	15D1	Aleksander Lishkov
Keohane Swiss	20F	Kyle Rockoff, Daniel Weiss, Sarik Goyal
6K Pairs	1F	Dave Bogolub, Steve Kreiner
<i>Regional Single Day Events</i>		
Educational Pairs	6A	Matthew Dyer, Rahul Garga
First Sunday Swiss	6A4X 8A6X	Griffin Stewart George Klemic
Thursday Top Flight Pairs	14A	Aleksander Lishkov
Friday Fast Pairs	4Y	Mark Pinkowski, Nic Hristea
Bracket 3 Second Saturday Teams	1B3	George Klemic