



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

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Welcome David Schroeder – our new President

David joins the presidency with a long history with the board – most significantly as our unpaid legal counsel for the formation of the latest version of Chicago Duplicate Bridge as an entity, and the construction and negotiations of our agreements with Chicago Chess, which frankly have been essential to our survival. And a lot of visits to new locations.

Dave is known to most of you as the director of the Tuesday night game. Dave prides himself on providing homemade baked goods, a mentor/mentee game on (usually) the first Tuesday of the month, and a relaxed “after work” experience for players looking for both a good game of bridge, and where players bring and share snacks and drinks from around the world.

This month we celebrate the Grand National Team winners, two new life masters and we hope to see all of you as we work to build up our games.

We recognize the major award by the Unit for Barry Little’s commitment to bridge in Chicago.

And we have advice on claiming.

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

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

Mon/Wed – 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. 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.

March Mentor/Mentee Game on the 4th

Our next popular mentor/mentee game is scheduled for **March 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 Tuesday: 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.

Barry Little honored by Unit for service

CCBA recognizes outstanding service

Barry Little, right, and Guy Franklin, far right, were recognized by the CCBA for outstanding service.

Barry served as president of Chicago Duplicate Bridge, for several years. He runs the Supervised Play and I/N game and is a mentor. He also gives rides to players and makes great egg salad. Guy served on the CCBA Board and was chairman of various tournaments, with his favorite being the I/N tournaments. His aim was to attract young people to bridge.



*Courtesy of the CCBA Kibitzer.

Chicago Duplicate Bridge – or the downtown club, is a non-profit, where directors get paid, but everything else relies on volunteers. We don't have an owner who takes profits.

For 20 years, Barry Little has done much of the grunt work for the club, including serving as president, but his real claim to fame was the legendary egg salad served at the Monday game.

Newer players would line up an hour ahead of game time for it, and would then play informally. When they had questions, they would interrupt Barry from his vegetable chopping.

Fast forward to his Friday morning supervised play program followed by a duplicate newcomer game which he runs without pay. Through this program Barry has guided many players into duplicate bridge, and they stick because of his comfortable environment he has created, with good table behaviour and a fair and enjoyable experience for all. Barry has shown how to move players from beginner lessons to tournaments like this one.

In addition to being mentor to many, he has provided thousands of rides. And has helped many a player struggling with depression, cancer and end-of-life issues. Many players only leave the house and attend games because he cared enough to reach out.

Barry has quietly made a massive contribution to Chicago bridge. He is a club legend, loved by all, a true ambassador for the game, and a well deserving recipient of this award for his service to the community.

Chicago DBC players dominate 3 of the 4 flights in Grand National Teams Regional Qualifier

Grand National Teams Regional Final Niles, IL February 22-23, 2025		
Championship Flight	30	Aleksandar Lishkov
A Flight	1A	George Clark, Matthew Dyer, Cory Perkers, Michael Steigmann
	2A	George Klemic
B Flight	1B	Nic Hristea, Mark Pinkowski
C Flight	1C	Ben Fisk, Rahul Garga, Ranmit and Manmit Pantle

The Grand National Teams is a GrassRoots event where each of the ACBL's 25 Districts sends a team in each of 4 flights to represent the district at the ACBL-wide final at the NABC in Philadelphia. District 13 covers ChicagoLand, Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

This year our club had a particularly good showing, largely from our evening and weekend players. Aleks (who will soon be returning to Chicago) made the semi-final in the Championship Flight.

A-flight was won by 3 well-known faces around the club (and a college buddy who has made a rare appearance at the club).



B-flight was won by occasional players Drs Nic (far right) and Mark (aka the Polish Club) second from right.



C-flight was won in a blow-out by our young stallion squad who are regulars in our evening and weekend games.



We wish all the best of success representing the district in Philadelphia in July.

Credit to the amazing Suzi Subeck and daughter for the photos and tournament logistics.

The Grand National Teams is an excellent event – sponsored by the District with a cash subsidy to the National final – and I really hope more members of the club would pay attention to – it really is a lot of fun, and you get to play excellent bridge against players of roughly your skill

level. So please consider it more seriously next year. The North American Pairs is the pairs equivalent, and deserves more participation than it receives.

Claims are a complex subject.

You are expected to claim when the outcome of the hand is clear, and continuing to play the cards is a waste of everyone's time.

When claims are done well they speed up the game, and when done poorly they upset everyone, including the director who has to rule against one of the pairs.

Good procedures when claiming:

Any outstanding trump MUST be mentioned, "drawing trump" is usually sufficient.

The claim doesn't have to be for all of the remaining tricks, but should be accompanied by a statement of how the remaining tricks will be played. Good claim statements are "you will get two diamonds at the end", or "I will knock out the diamond ace and take the rest of the tricks" or "I will continue to cash winners until you take your trump, and then take the rest of the tricks". It is merely a statement of a known outcome.

Commonly accepted claim techniques are to face your hand and make a claim statement. Claimer will often place cards on the table in the order in which they are intended to be played, indicating which tricks each side will end up with. The order will be treated as a claim statement.

Advanced players claim when they see the outcome of the hand. Newer players should make a reasonable attempt to understand the claim, and accept it if it is correct and clear. And call the director if anything is unclear.

What happens when there is a bad claim:

Bad claims happen with no ill-intent. Top level players also miscount trump, or forget that an ace was not knocked out. If the claim is correct it will be allowed, and if it is faulty, rulings will generally be in favour of the non-claiming side.

You should call the director if there is an unmentioned trump, or ambiguity in the claim. "I don't understand this claim – please check it".

The director must allow continuation of play by agreement of all 4 players, which is generally a bad idea for the non-claiming side – just ask the director to assess the claim as stated.

The director will ask for a repeat of the claim statement. The claimer will often embellish, and you should not allow this "no he did not mention the trump when he claimed".

The director will ask all players to face their cards, and assess the claim statement. You can object if the director missed something.

Myth vs Reality about claiming:

- Myth: You may not claim unless it is your turn to play. Reality: Anyone can claim at any time, and should do so when the outcome of the hand is clear.
- Myth: You may not claim while trump are out. Reality: You may do, but you expose yourself to risk if all of those trump are not mentioned in the claim statement
- Myth: You may only claim all remaining tricks. Reality: You can claim any number of the remaining tricks (eg I will take the next 6 diamonds and concede the last three)
- Myth: You cannot include a finesse as part of the claim. Reality: You may claim on a presumed working finesse, but if it fails, the remainder of the claim will be re-evaluated according to the original claim statement.

- Reality: You are allowed to state a line of play which involves losing a trick first (eg I will knock out the club ace, win the return and then concede a heart to you at the end).
- Reality: You are allowed to claim on a complicated squeeze manoeuvre but need to state it explicitly in your claim statement (remember that the point is to speed up the game
- Reality: You are allowed to make a claim dependent on the remaining layout of the cards (“I will take the rest of the tricks if spades split 3-3 and concede one if they are 4-2” or “I will run my hearts from the top and will take 4 or 2 depending on whether the Q falls” or “Does the jack fall” or “Does anyone have 4 to the jack”).

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. It is the only downtown Thursday option, and the game is usually small but of high quality.

Board Activity (Move?)

There is no major progress on the potential move to report in the last month.

The Board meeting on Tuesday, January 28, discussed 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. Since the Chess Club finds the location unsuitable, the move will require a substantial investment in a kitchenette, without them splitting the bill, and we have not reached a suitable parking arrangement with the building. Other locations near Washington and Wells have not received an enthusiastic response. Negotiations and searches are ongoing but no decisions have been made. Key considerations include monthly rent, renovations needed, and public transportation access and parking.

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

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.

map.parkchicago.com (thanks to Paul Prez for the link) shows the times and prices for pay-at-the-box spots. 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 sparse in March due to the NABC. 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/>.

- ❖ Spring NABC
 - Mar 12-23
 - Memphis, TN
- ❖ Appleton Sectional
 - Mar 27-29
 - Appleton, WI
- ❖ Spring 499er Sectional
 - Mar 29-30
 - Olivette, MO

Rank Advancers

Congratulations to those who advanced in ACBL rank, as reflected in the latest data release from ACBL which lags by a month. **Gail McGuinness**, Junior Master; **Lori Schretzman**, Club Master; **Steve Strong**, NABC Master;

New Life Masters

Daniel Cieslik and Mona Deutsch are regulars at our evening games and have achieved the rank of Life Master. Congratulations to both.



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%		
1/28E	Janet Nachman, John Miller	65.11
1/31 I/N	Aida Sulayman, Pat Knowles	65.87
2/4	George Clark, Rick Greenthal	68.75
2/7 I/N	Jackie Snuttjer, Betsy Jeffries	66.67
2/10	Marjorie Zolla, John Miller	67.75
2/18E	Matthew Dyer, George Clark	66.43
2/20E	Matthew Dyer, Rick Greenthal	65.28
70%+		
2/17	Patt Quinn, Carolyn Naselli	70.37

Congratulations to this player for success at a recent tournament!

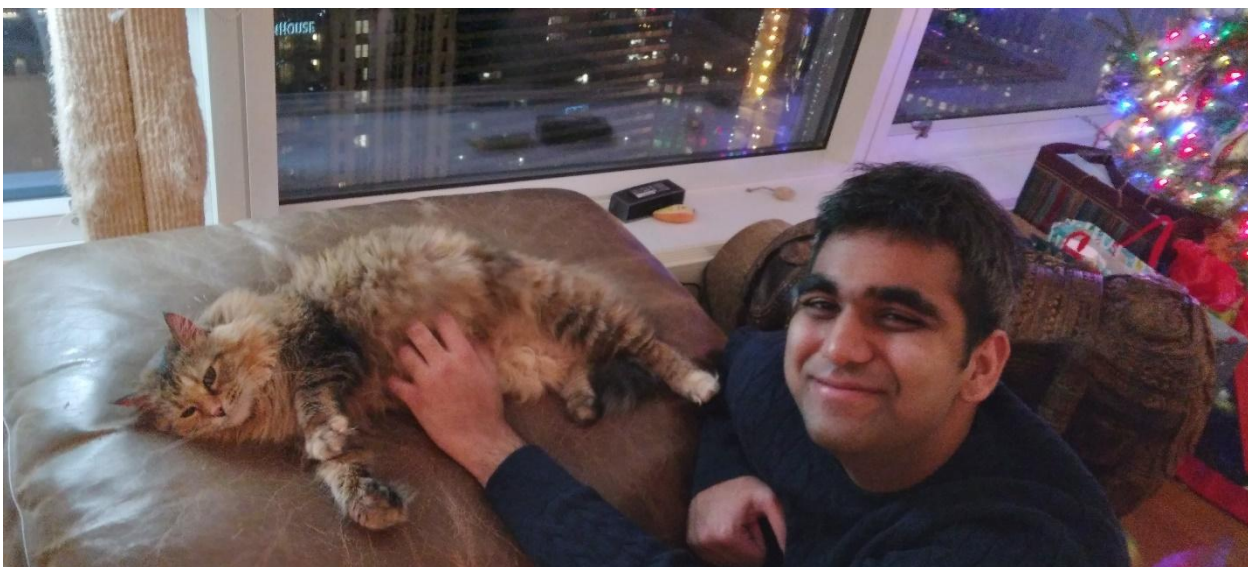
Niles Winterfest Sectional		
Niles, IL		
January 31-February 2, 2025		
Fri AM Pairs	6A 2B	Ariel Smid
Fri AM Teams	2C	Steve Morris, Bob Listernick
Fri PM Pairs	1B	Ariel Smid
	1C	Bob Listernick, Steve Morris
	5C	Pete Bush, Dave Kovacs
Fri PM 750	1D	Eileen Martin, Gail Conder

Sat Open Swiss	3A	George Clark, Matthew Dyer, Cory Perkers, Michael Steigmann
	6A2B1C	Rahul Garga, Charlie Holmes, Ariel Smid
Sun AM Pairs	6B3C	Rahul Garga, Charlie Holmes
	5C	Manmit and Ranmit Pantle
Sun PM Teams	2A1B1C	Mona Deutsch, Steve Morris, Manmit and Ranmit Pantle
	4A2B	Polish Club, Carole Greene, Joe Tomlinson
	5A3B2C	Ariel Smid, Rahul Garga, Charlie Holmes

Unit 123 Rankings for 2024

And we remain proud of our rank advancers and hope to have an event soon to celebrate them. So this bears repeating. The ACBL has three awards that recognize the players who win the most MasterPoints in their Unit, District, and nationwide. The 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
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	

Ace of Virtual Clubs

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+	