

Publication of the Chicago Contract Bridge Association April/May 2022

## Grand National Teams to represent District 13 at NABC's

The teams that will represent District 13 at the North American Bridge Championships earned that right by winning their categories at the trials held during February at the Hilton in Northbrook. Approximately 20 teams participated in the two-day event. Winning the Championship Flight, in which players can have an unlimited number of masterpoints, were Gedimous Poska, Diva Vitukynaite, Jarislaw Piasecki, and Wiedlaw Kalita.

To qualify for the event, players had to live in District 13 and be a paid member in good standing with the ACBL.

Tto compete in Flight A, team members had to have fewer than 6,000 points. Players competing in Flight B had fewer than 2,600 points, and those competing in Flight C had fewer than 500 points and were not Life Masters.


Flight A winners, left to right: Marc Passman, Mark Ginsberg, Betsy Downs, and David Langer


Flight B winners, shown above, left to right: Ping Hu, Zhiqiang Hu, Henry Shi, Li Miao


Championship FlightTeam winner, left to right: Gedimous Poska, Diva Vitukynaite, Jarislaw Piasecki, and Wiedlaw Kalita


Flight C winners, left to right: Laverne Swiggum, William Omadhl, Terry Burk, and David Hill from Madison, Wisconsin


Flight C, Second place, left to right: Pete Bush, David Kovacs, Les White, Kunal Pujara

## Message from CCBA President

Covid may not be behind us yet, but we have at the least, a window of opportunity for face-to-face play. Table count is rising at the area's clubs. Please come and play at your local club.

As the CCBA's new president, I anticipate that we will find renewed energy for bridge among our membership. I look forward to seeing many of you at the bridge table.

The next Regional Tournament within an easy drive will be in Madison, Wisconsin. It runs May 3 thru 8.

Our Board of directors is looking at ways we can restore


Pres. Mark Stein and improve bridge in the Chicago area.

See you at the tables,

Mark Stein
CCBA President

Ginsburg, Langer Win Invitational Pairs


Mark Ginsburg


David Langer

Winners of the prestigious Invitational Pairs held during the WinterFest Sectional Tournament were Mark Ginsburg and David Langer, both of Buffalo Grove.

The event took place over two days, with half the field being eliminated during the qualifying round on the first day. To play in the event, players must meet certain qualifications and be invited to play.

Taking second place were Craig Jacobson of Skokie and Jon Sorkin of Deerfield. Third went to Geoff and Kendra Bridges of Chicago. Barometer scoring was used.

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## Kibitzer Editor <br> DeMaris Johnson

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District 13
Grand National Teams Trials


## Here is the status of clubs in Unit 123

Many bridge clubs in Unit 123 are open, and a few plan to open later this year, but others have not decided what they will do. Most of those that are open note that attendance is below pre-pandemic levels.

The Hinsdale DBC is open with games beginning at noon on Mondays and Thursdays in the Hinsdale Community Center. A 299 game is held when possible.
"As per CDC guidelines, we are no longer requiring that a mask be worn; but please bring a mask as you may need to wear it for one round," said Diane Martin, club owner.

Tables are spread apart and hand sanitizer is available. Light snacks are served, along with coffee, tea, and water.

Sue Erickson, owner of the Olympia DBC, said her club is open and meets Mondays at 10:30 a.m. at the Countryside Church in Palatine. She said masks are required "for now." Small individually wrapped snacks and coffee are available. Players, however, may bring their own food and drinks

All three of Tom's Games are open. The 10:30 a.m. game on Mondays has been open for a number of weeks, and the Thursday and Friday games at 10:30 a.m. opened in late March.
"Currently the novice and open games on Monday are together. In the past, the 0 750 game began at noon. I will be polling my players to learn when they would like to play," said Tom Dressing, owner of the clubs. All of his games are played at Temple Jeremiah in Northfield.

Daryl Novak, owner of the Ace of Clubs, said the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday games are open, and he has not determined when the Saturday game will open. All the games begin at 10:30 a.m.. The Tuesday and Wednesday games are


Players enjoying a game in the Hinsdale Community Center.


Ace of Clubs games are being held F2F on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays.
held in Temple Jeremiah in Northfield, and the other games are located at BJBE Congregation in Deerfield. Daryl said attendance is down a full section, compared to the pre-pandemic. Proof of vaccinations is required. Masks are optional, but those players who are uncomfortable with no masks can ask the other players at their table to wear a mask.
"Tables are socially distanced and there are hand sanitizers and smiles at every table," Daryl said.

Jim Diebel, owner of the Naper DBC, has kept his Tuesday and Friday games open during much of the pandemic, but attendance was below the pre-pandemic level. No plans have been made regarding the opening of his Monday game in Chicago or his Friday West Suburban DBC in Elmhurst. The clubs meet at noon in the Community United Methodist Church in Naperville. A light lunch is served, often including homemade soups. Masks are not required in the game area.

The Lawson Bridge Studio opened in February after shutting down during the Omicron wave. Jerry Scholle, club owner, said that attendance is about 50 percent of the pre-pandemic level.
"Losses are due to deaths, to people moving away, and to various other reasons. Because of these losses," Jerry said. " I don't expect the numbers to get back to pre-pandemic levels, but I do expect an increase in the summer."

The club meets Monday and Wednesday at 6:20 p.m. in the Ann Sather Restaurant, Chicago. Masks are optional. Drinks and cookies are served.

Joe Connelly's Mundelein Area DBC, which opened several months ago, is on hiatus, and a reopening date has not been set. The club will meet Mondays at 9:15 a.m. in the Fremont Township Administration Building.
(Continued on page 7)

## Determine partner's point count range for his last no trump bid



Most no-trump bids have a three-point range. For example, an opening bid of 1NT can either be by partnership agreement 15-17, 16-18, 13-15, or 12-14!

In the following quiz, you are South. Determine your partner's point count range for his last no-trump bid. Use the number in parenthesis after each bid to determine how much leeway you have.

For example, if you see a (2), you know the bid has a two-point range. Fill in the proper numbers. Assume any 1NT opener shows 15-17 HCP.

By Ginny and Jeff Schuett

| 1. | South | North | 4. | South | West | North | East |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1\% | 1* |  | 1 * | $1 \vee$ | $1 \sim$ | P |
|  | 2NT | 4NT (2) |  | 2NT(2) |  |  |  |
| 2. | South | North | 5. | South | West | North | East |
|  | 1NT | 2\% |  | 1 * | P | P | $1 \vee$ |
|  | 2 | 4NT (2) |  | 1NT(2) |  |  |  |
| 3. | South | North | 6. | South | West | North | East |
|  | 1* | 1 * |  | 1 * | P | 14 | 2\% |
|  | 14 | 2NT (2) |  | 2NT (2) |  |  |  |



1. 13-14 HCP: This assumes opener's range is 18-19. This bid is invitational to slam, so if opener is on top, he bids slam, otherwise passes. If responder is stronger, say 15-17 HCP, he simply bids 6NT and with more, bids 7NT.
2. 16-17 HCP: The 4NT bid is invitational to slam, not Blackwood. With more, responder should bid 6NT. With less, responder gives up on slam and bids 3NT. However, with a good looking 15 HCP and a fivecard suit, he can upgrade and invite slam with 4NT.
3. 11-12 HCP: This bid is invitational to game, but not forcing. Every so often, responder will have a great 10 HCP. North may still have a 4-card $\downarrow$ suit.
4. 18-19 HCP: South might be slightly off-shape for aclassic NT bid, but the jump is the key to the extra strength given North only promised $6+$ HCP. Sample hands might be the following:
```
^ Q4 \bullet AQJ3 * AK973 & Q8 or ^ J5 『 KJ93 * KQJ3 & AKJ
```

5. 18-19 HCP: The key to understanding this higher range without jumping, is that partner passed. With partner having <6 HCP, you must have a strong hand $18-19$ to have any chance to make $2 N T$. So you don't have to jump to show extras when N passes.
6. 18-19 HCP: First off, opener does not have to bid unless he has an automatic bid - responder gets a chance to rebid. Like 4) responder only showed 6 HCP with a 1 level bid, so bidding 2 NT shows extras, the $18-19$ hand with stopper(s). With minimum, opener is better off passing without an automatic bid, since partner may want to double.

General Rule - If opener's NT rebid is at same level as responder's bid, it shows a minimum. If opener's NT rebid is at a level higher than responder's bid, it shows extras, generally 18-19. Examples:

| $1 *$ | $1 *$ | $(\mathrm{P})$ | $1 \bullet$ | $2 *$ | $1 *$ | $(2 *)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $1 \mathrm{NT}=12-14$ | $2 \mathrm{NT}=18-19$ |  |  | $2 \mathrm{NT}=12-14$ |  | $(\mathrm{P})$ |



## Status of Clubs

## (Continued fron page 4)

Fox Bridge has been open for a number of weeks. The club meets $11 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. on Wednesday in the Riverside Town Hall. Club owner Mary Schultz said masks are not required.
Snacks are provided, and players may bring a beverage.

Elaine Morrison said she had not decided when to resume her Tuesday Rising Stars Game at the North Shore Congregation in Glencoe.
"If I do resume the game, it will not be before the end of April or the beginning of May," Elaine said. "Also, no date has been set for the opening of the Queen of Clubs DBC," she said.

Karl Anderson said he had not decided whether to open his Monday, Thursday and Saturday games in Yorkville, or his Wednesday game in Wheaton.

Also, no decision has been made regarding the Aurora Wednesday Duplicators game.

The Unusual No Trump Duplicate Bridge Club in Evanston, which had games on Friday, Saturday and Sundays, is permanently closed according to its owner Ron Helman.

Patt Quinn of Tree Towns DBC said that she is not sure when she will begin having facd-to-face games, but until then she will be running BBO games on Tuesday and Friday at $6: 30$ p.m.


## Waukesha unir 222 Summerfest Sectional Jully 27-30

## Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

9:30 a.m. \& 2 p.m. Pair/Team \& 299er Pair Games

## Saturday

9:30 a.m. Stratified Swiss Team Game
2-session play-through. Team averaging.

St. John Neumann's Parish Hall 2400 W. State Road 59, Waukesha, WI

Tournament Chair Paula Slesar 262-695-2585
Hospitality Chair Judy Burzynski 262-391-0970
Partnership Chair Barb Keehn 414-861-0703

Eight Ever, Nine Never... Rhyming Tips are always clever!

## Congratulations to Rank Advancers! You Did It!

Junior Master
Sandy Boles
Bonnie Carmell
Tom Conaghan
Maryann Leonard
Mary Lou Maher
Therese Prouty
Sally Schuster
Club Master
Ginny Collins
Ann Fitzgerald
Judy Fleming
Mary Hasten
Todd Holes
Susan Hoseman
Stephanie Kiefier
Clark Pellett
Eileen Trost

Sectional Master
Lenette Ortega
Michael Jacobson
Marty Marcus
Geraldine Peterson
Jakob Reinke
David Sales
Layne Zagorin
Regional Master
Shelley Gorson
Leslie McLean
Janet Nolan
Karen Prieur
Lisa Radomski
Marion Weil
NABC Master
Melissa Graves

Suzanne Helfrich
Lawrence Moelmann
Advanced NABC Master
Peter Bush
Shelley Johnson
Bronze Life Master
Judy Geleerd
Ellen McGregor
Diana McIntosh
Ralph Schindler
Brian Werner
Silver Life Master
Donald Dvorak
Anthony Gillian
Valy Lev
William Shunas
Glorya Spero

> Ruby Life Master Don Grenesko Janet Hickerson Marie Maurer Josh Shanes

Gold Life Master
Audrey Rubinstein
Sapphire Life Master John Vincent

Diamond Life Master
Sam Miller
Marc Passman

## What is the best line of play to make 7 spades when you only have 12 top winners?



From the Championship Flight GNT Semi-Final: Oest vs Jacobs
E/W bid to 7S as follows:
East West
1S 2C (could be 2 and GF)
$2 \mathrm{~S} \quad 3 \mathrm{~S}$
4C $\quad$ 4NT (RKC)
5 C (3) 7 S
$7 S$ is a very good contract, but there are only 12 top winners. Jack Oest submitted this hand on BridgeWinners asking what was the mathematically best line of play. A trump was led and the spades divided 2-2.

Declarer's two choices seem to be to either test hearts or diamonds first.

If declarer plays three rounds of hearts and the jack does not fall, they can fall back on the diamond finesse for their $13^{\text {th }}$ trick.

In the alternative, declarer can test diamonds first by cashing the ace and king and trumping a small diamond. If the queen does not fall, declarer hopes to find their $13^{\text {th }}$ trick in hearts.

At first blush, it appears that testing hearts first might be best because the probability of the HJ falling in three rounds is significantly greater than the probability of the diamond queen falling in three rounds. However, by testing diamonds first, declarer has the possibility of an opponent being caught in a heart/minor suit squeeze. Determining the probability of squeeze positions is quite complex. After a good deal of discussion online, it appears that the two lines of play are mathematically equal!! Either one can be tried...

The line we (the Subecks) suggest is to cash three rounds of trumps. Since the auction did not reveal declarer's distribution, either opponent might make an erroneous discard that reveals a position. After cashing three rounds of spades, declarer can play the DAK and trump a diamond, then play the CA and a fifth round of trumps. If no one showed out on the third round of diamonds, declarer can choose between discarding a diamond or a club on the $5^{\text {th }}$ round of spades. If, for example, RHO shows out on the 3rd diamond, declarer would know that LHO holds the diamond queen and vice versa, which would aid declarer in deciding which card to pitch.

On the last spade, LHO may be squeezed in hearts and either clubs or diamonds. If dummy's squeeze card has not turned good, declarer plays on hearts and will have good information on whether to drop the HJ or finesse against it. On the actual layout, playing hearts first will automatically succeed since the hearts are 3-3. Playing diamonds first may require declarer to guess the heart position.

## If the grand slam looks easy, consider what could go wrong



Jim Diebel
Winning with Wimpy

As I write this, I'm still smarting a bit from coming up short in the recemt Grand National Teams Flight A finals.

Over 42 boards, the other team made fewer mistakes than we did, and consequently won the right to represent our district in the Nationals this summer.

Two of the hands involved our team bidding a grand slam, both of which failed. The details are too gruesome to discuss here, but suffice it to say that they swung 36 imps the other way, in a match that eventually was decided by far fewer. It brought to mind another hand from around 12 years ago, also in the same event, and also involving a grand slam. I'm reprinting my column from May, 2010.

Pretend you are playing in the semi-final round of the Flt A Grand National Teams. You are one of 5 teams, needing to place in the top 2 to advance to District finals. After 26 tough boards, you've been pleased with your results, and estimate that barring a complete collapse by your teammates that you are comfortably in the lead. With 4 boards to go, you pick up this hand:

Nobody vulnerable
Dealer: South
$\frac{\text { North }}{\text { A AQ }}$
QUJ984
KQ96
\& A4

## South

AK9853

- A 7
- AJT875
\& ----

IT'S HARD TO WIN AT BRIDGE


IF THE CARDS DO NOT LIE IN YOUR FAVOF

| South | West | North | East |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1D | Pass | 1H | Pass |
| 1S | Pass | $2 C^{1}$ | Dbl |
| 2 S | Pass | 3D | Pass |
| $5 C^{2}$ | Pass | $5 S^{3}$ | Pass |
| 7D!* | All Pass |  |  |

Ace of Clubs?
${ }^{3}$ Two

* I think there is good play for this.

Opening Lead: «6

Think about how you might play this hand. Trust me, there is nothing tricky. How do you like your chances?

This hand kept my team from advancing to the District finals. Looking at both hands, I saw immediately that if trumps broke 2-1, (78\%) I could claim at trick two, by drawing trump, claiming 6 diamonds, 3 spades, 1 club, 1 heart, and 2 spade ruffs in dummy. I called for the \#A, pitching my $\vee 7$. I cashed a high diamond in dummy, (preparing to spread my hand) and was only mildly annoyed when West showed out. After all, unless Spades were 5-1 or 6-0, I could establish my fifth spade with a single ruff in dummy. Preparing for the possibility that spades might not be 4-2, or 3-3 (16 percent), I cashed the A to fall back on a ruffing finesse in Hearts if absolutely necessary. This plan would only fail in the case of 3-0 trumps, 5-1 or 6-0 spades, and the $\vee K$ offside. I didn't work out the exact probabilities ( $98.2 \%$ ), but I knew it would take an absolute miracle for me to go down. I was content with my chances.

Guess what? Spades were 5-1 and the $¥ K$ was offside. Unlucky? Only for the careless. Should I have done anything about it? You're damn right I should have.

Once diamonds were known to be 3-0, it was time to take out a little insurance against a bad spade division. I thought I had prepared for that by cashing the $\vee$ A early, but it wasn't enough. I drew three rounds of trumps and then led the $\uparrow A Q$ from dummy. When RHO showed out on the second spade it was too late to try anything other than the ruffing finesse against the $\vee \mathrm{K}$.

After cashing the $\vee \mathrm{A}$, I should have crossed back to dummy with a high trump, and ruffed a heart in my hand. Back to dummy with another trump (drawing the last enemy trump in the process) and ruff another heart.
(Continued on page 10)

## If the grand slam looks easy, consider what could go wrong

## (Continued from page 9)

If the $\vee K$ still hadn't appeared (it would have), I cross to dummy with the $\wedge A$, cash the $\wedge Q$, and ruff another heart with my last trump. Now cash the $\uparrow K$, pitching dummy's losing club, ruff a spade to get back to dummy, and lead dummy's $5^{\text {th }}$ heart for the $13^{\text {th }}$ trick.

This line of play works whenever trumps are 2-1, $\boldsymbol{O R}$ spades are not worse than 5-1 or 6-0, $O \boldsymbol{R}$ hearts are no worse than 42, with the $\vee K$ in the long hand with East. Chances of success: about 99.7 percent. Grand slams are no time to be careless.

It needs to be noted that I failed on this hand because it looked too easy. I was blind to the fact that it was possible that suits might break unreasonably. Had the hand been tougher, say, remove the $\uparrow Q$ from dummy. I would have never gone down. I'd have taken the normal precautions that all conscientious declarers take to insure their contracts. In my defense, this hand has been given to eight random experts (identities hidden to protect their reputations), and six of them went down! Truthfully, if I hadn't played it myself, I would swear unconditionally that I would have gotten it right at the table. When your contract looks too easy, ask yourself what could possibly go wrong. When a contract looks impossible, ask yourself what might possibly go right.

In this hand, I looked far ahead enough to see that I should have a remote contingency plan if spades broke poorly. It was
so unlikely; I didn't plan anything better than a 50\% finesse. It would have cost me NOTHING to ruff a couple of hearts before testing spades. East was acting in front of me and couldn't possibly hurt me. This tiny precaution is all that stood between my team advancing to the District finals of the GNT's and going home. It was embarrassing to report this result to our teammates. Learn from my mistake.
The complete hand:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \frac{\text { North }}{\text { A AQ }} \\
& \text { QUJ984 } \\
& \text { KQ96 } \\
& * \text { A } 4
\end{aligned}
$$

| West | East |
| :---: | :---: |
| AJT764 | A 2 |
| - K 65 | - T 32 |
| - ----- | -432 |
| *J8762 | *KQT953 |

## South

AK 9853
$\bullet A 7$

- AJT875

か---

I may decide to give up bidding grand slams. Nothing good ever comes from them.

| Date | District/Unit | Location | Type |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mar 1-3 | $13 / 123$ | Northfield (Chicago) | sectional |
| Mar 10-20 |  | Reno NV | Nationals |
| Mar 14-20 | 11 | STaC D11 | STaC |
| Mar 19 | 14 | Rochester MN | IN event |
| Mar 25-27 | 11 | Kettering (Dayton) <br> OH | sectional |
| Mar 25-27 | $\mathbf{8}$ | Huntley IL | sectional |
| Mar 25-27 | 14 | Waverly (Lincoln) NE | sectional |
| Mar 26-27 | $\mathbf{8}$ | Olivette (St Louis) MO | IN event |
| Mar 30-Apr 1 | $13 / 149$ | Mount Pleasant <br> (Racine) WI | sectional |
| Mar 31-Apr 3 | 12 | Southfield (Detroit) <br> MI | sectional |

# The District 13 Spring Regional is Back May 3-May 8, 2022 

Great New Venue: Madison Marriott West 1313 John Q Hammons Dr, Middleton, WI

For Reservations, call 1-888-745-2032
American Contract Bridge League District 13 Bridge Tournament Room Rate: \$139 To insure rate availability, reserve by April 4

Tuesday, May 3
10:00 \& 3:00 Open Pairs (0-1500; 1500-3000; 3000+)
10:00 \& 3:00 Gold Rush Pairs (0-100; 100-300; 300-750)
Wednesday, May 4
10:00 \& 3:00 Open Pairs (0-1500; 1500-3000; 3000+)
10:00 \& 3:00 Gold Rush Pairs (0-100; 100-300; 300-750)
Thursday, May 5
10:00 \& 3:00 Stratified Single Session Side Games to benefit the Grass Roots Fund
10:00 \& 3:00 Open Swiss Team (0-1500; 1500-3000; 3000+)
10:00 \& 3:00 Gold Rush Teams (0-100; 100-300; 300-750)
Friday, May 6
10:00 \& 3:00 Open Pairs (0-1500; 1500-3000; 3000+)
10:00 \& 3:00 Gold Rush Pairs (0-100; 100-300; 300-750)
Saturday, May 7
10:00 \& 3:00 Open Pairs (0-1500; 1500-3000; 3000+)
10:00 \& 3:00 Gold Rush Pairs (0-100; 100-300; 300-750)
Sunday, May 8
10:00 Stratiflighted Swiss Teams Playthrough including lunch
Flight A/X/Y (5000+; 3000-5000; 0-3000);
Flight B/C/D (750-1500; 300-750; 0-300)
Note: Different Playing Space... Consult Bulletin for Location and Directions

## Welcome Back to Face-2-Face Play!



The hotel is beautiful. The parking is great. Lunch provided with the game on Sunday... within Covid protocols..

Open+ Chart for Sunday Flight A/X/Y Swiss Teams
Masterpoint Averaging When Permitted
We adhere to ACBL Handicapping Policy

```
Hospitality Suite!!!
Daily Bulletins
Students play for half price with valid student ID card!
Registration Gifts!
```

Tournament Chair: Suzi Subeck 847-509-0311
Email: stansubeck@prodigy.net
Partnership Chair: Yvette Neary Email: yneary@gmail.com


