

Kibitzer

A publication of the Chicago Contract Bridge Association December 2019/January 2020

Make plans to attend Annual Meeting, Dinner

Who will win CCBA's prestigious awards? You will find out at the Chicago Contract Bridge Association's Annual Meeting, which will be held January 25 during WinterFest.

All members of Unit 123 are invited to the Annual Meeting and the delicious dinner that precedes it; however, you do not have to attend the 5:30 p.m. dinner in order to attend the 7 p.m. meeting at the Chevy Chase Country Club, Wheeling.

The highlight of the meeting is the awarding of the Harmon Wilkes, CCBA's highest award, along with the Art and Greg Gran Sportsmanship, and the Carl Sharp Service Awards.

In addition to the CCBA's own honors, the board recognizes the winners of two ACBL awards: the Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Award and the Mini-McKenney.

The business agenda includes electing five people to three-year terms on the 15-member CCBA Board of Directors.

Each year, one-third of the terms expire. This year, the terms of Adrienne Cohen, Suzi Subeck, Jan Churchwell, Craig Gardner, and Bob Young expire. Craig, Adrienne and Bob have indicated they do not plan to seek reelection.

To make dinner reservations for the tasty all-you-can-eat buffet, send a \$15 check made out to the CCBA to Judy Riehs, (847-215-7695), judymriehs@yahoo.com at 731 Hapsfield Lane, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089.

Tables of eight may be reserved if pre-paid by January 13. Reserved tickets will be held for pickup beginning Friday evening at the tournament site.

Annual Meeting, Dinner Jan. 25

Wow! Fun! WinterFest Tourney begins Jan. 23



WinterFest, which includes the prestigious Invitational Pairs Charity Game, begins January 23 in Wheeling at the Chevy Chase Country Club, 1000 N. Milwaukee Avenue.

The four-day Silver Point Sectional begins on Thursday with Stratified Open Pair/Team Games at 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The second day sees the beginning of the Invitational Charity Pairs, which will benefit the Grass Roots Fund. The qualifying round will begin at 7:30 p.m. with Matchpoint scoring.

The final round will begin at 2 p.m. Saturday and Barometer scoring will be used. The winners will be introduced at the Annual Dinner.

Prior to the tournament, all those eligible to play in this two-day event will receive an invitation to participate, including instructions for registration, which is free. After December 15, players may register online at www.bridgeinchicago.com/registrations. If you have questions, contact Adrienne Cohen at 630-941-0581.

The I/N schedule includes stratified pairs at 9:30 a.m., 2 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Sunday features a two-session Swiss Teams event, beginning at 10 a.m.

On the regular schedule, there will be stratified open pair/team games at 9:30 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. Friday through Saturday, with stratified Swiss Teams on Sunday beginning at 10 a.m. Lunch will be available for purchase on site Sunday during play, according to Tournament Chair Joe Connelly.



FallFest

Shown are a few of those who enjoyed the FallFest Regional held recently at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Schaumburg. Don't miss what is next up on the tournament schedule, WinterFest.

Extends invitation to WinterFest, Annual Meeting



Pres. Tom Dressing

There's not a lot to do in the frigid air that will descend upon us in January – but I know of one thing you can do. Join us for the WinterFest Sectional and Annual Membership meeting in late January in Wheeling!

At the membership meeting, we take the time to recognize CCBA members for their masterpoint prowess. All levels of players are recognized, from novice to expert alike! ACBL awards include the Ace of Clubs and the Mini-McKenney, with CCBA awards including the Bob Glen, Art Glatt, and the Jan Ivory.

The CCBA gives an award for sportsmanship (The Gran Sportsmanship Award), and presents our most prestigious award (The Harmon Wilkes Award) to someone exemplary that has given back to the game we all love. Nominations for these awards come from you, our membership.

Finally, five new (or returning) board members are welcomed to the board to serve a three-year term.

The CCBA offers a meal to those in attendance at a significant discount -- \$15 for an all-you-can-eat buffet! How can you beat that! Please make your reservations with Judy Riehs so that we can reserve your spot (check the flyer on page 3 for her information!)

2020 is shaping up to be a fun year, with the District 13 Regional April 13-19 in Lake Geneva, Stars of Tomorrow May 2-3 in Glenview, the Windy City Regional August 3-9 in Downtown Chicago, the Labor Day Sectional September 4-7 in Skokie, and the Central States Regional Oct 12-18, and the FallFest Sectional, November 20-22, both in Schaumburg.

I'm looking forward to the new year, and I encourage you to come to our tournaments. If you've never played in a tournament, you can dip your toes into the water - so to speak - at the Stars of Tomorrow event, which is solely for non-Life Masters. I invite you to come share in the fun.

See you at the table,

Tom Dressing, President

2019 CCBA Officers/ Board Members

President
Tom Dressing

Vice President
Loring Knoblauch

Treasurer
Craig Gardner

Secretary
Jan Churchwell

District 13 Director
Suzi Subeck

Board of Directors

Genny Cesario
Adrienne Cohen
Jim Diebel
Todd Fisher
Guy Franklin
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Opinions of columnists are their own and may not represent those of the CCBA. For more information, go to www.bridgeinchicago.com or call the CCBA at 630-235-4718.





WinterFest

Chicago Sectional

January 23-26, 2020

Chevy Chase Country Club

1000 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling, IL



SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, January 23

9:30 Stratified Open Pairs/Team Game
2:00 Stratified Open Pairs/Team Game

FRIDAY, January 24

9:30 Stratified Open Pairs/Team Game
2:00 Stratified Open Pairs/Team Game
7:30 Invitational Charity Pairs to benefit the Grass Roots Fund (Higher awards!) *Qualifying Round* (Matchpoint scoring)
Stratified Open Pairs/Team Game

SATURDAY, January 25

9:30 Stratified Open Pairs/Team Game
2:00 Invitational Charity Pairs to benefit the Grass Roots Fund (Higher awards!) *Final Round* (Barometer scoring)
Stratified Open Pairs/Team Game
5:30 Annual Dinner
7:00 Annual Meeting
7:30 Stratified Open Pairs/Team Game

SUNDAY, January 26

10:00 Stratified Swiss Teams, Playthrough
Swiss Team Averaging
7 boards, 7 matches, 20 VP scoring

ALERT:

Registration is required for the Invitational Pairs only.

For all other events, you need only arrive in time to purchase an entry.

Pair/Team Games: One Game, Two Chances for Masterpoints!

1. As a Pair (Matchpoints, think club games)
2. As a Team (Board-A-Match scoring)

Pair/Team Games are single session. Come with a team, or come as a pair and automatically become the partners of the other pair at the first table where you sit. Scratch as a pair and win points. Scratch as a team and win points. Scratch BOTH ways and get the higher award (you can only get one award).

Stratification:

A: 2500+

B: 1000-2500

C: 0-1000

Events for I/N Players

(0-500 Masterpoints Non-Life Master)
Stratification: 0-100, 100-300, 300-500

THURSDAY, January 23

9:30 Stratified Pairs
2:00 Stratified Pairs

FRIDAY, January 24

9:30 Stratified Pairs
2:00 Stratified Pairs

SATURDAY, January 25

9:30 Stratified Pairs
2:00 Stratified Pairs

SUNDAY, January 26

10:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
(2 sessions) *More chances for Silver Pts.*

Tournament Chair: Joe Connelly
847-271-1666
madbridge16@gmail.com

Partnership Chair: Tom Dressing
847-215-0310
tom@dressing.org

(Volunteers are needed to serve as standbys. Standbys are players who serve as partners for those who come to WinterFest without partners. Players at all levels may volunteer.) Contact Tom for partnerships and to volunteer as standbys.

Invitational Pairs: Adrienne Cohen
630-941-0581
www.bridgeinchicago.com/registration

(Note: Online registration for Invitational Pairs begins on December 15. No charge to register)

For information, contact Joe or Tom

(email preferred)

Chicago Contract Bridge Association
www.bridgeinchicago.com

Join us January 25 at 5:30 p.m.
for the Annual CCBA Dinner and Meeting.
Cost: \$15.00 (CCBA subsidized)
Send Reservations and Checks payable to the CCBA to
Judy Riehs 847-215-7695
731 Hapsfield Lane, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
Judyriehs@yahoo.com
Tables of eight may be reserved if prepaid by January 13

Reserved tickets are available for pick up beginning Friday evening at the tournament site.

Events may be combined at the discretion of the director.
Masterpoint averaging when allowed.



FallFest - Oh What Fun Was Had!



*Les Kent
Tournament Chair*



*Need a partner?
See Joe Connelly*



Congratulations on your rank advancement

Jr. Masters

Mohamed Agha
Celeste Denton
Eduardo Frajman
Cynthia Harris
Denise McDermott
Joe Nolan
Eileen Pembroke
Joanne Reed
Thomas Stelmack
Cheryl Stoneking
Rosemary Tupper
Mary Veeneman

Club Masters

Laura Desmarias
Vita Girdvainis
Mary Grinstead
Tim Joyce
Steven Lewis
A Noah Minetz
Bryce Minetz
Dean Pappas
Robert Scholl
Linda Smoke
Anthony Veeneman

Shirley Watkins
Ginney Qian Ye

Sectional Masters

Donald Dahlgren
Mary Edmunds
Lola Flamm
Karlen Flowers
Keith Goldstein
Jill Hurwitz
Pam Lipton
William Price
Patricia Stratton

Regional Masters

Joyce Durra
Sherry Goldberg
Rudy Lubov
Lawrence Moelmann
Lee Nykaza

NABC Masters

Elvira Kudia
Ellen McGregor
Edward Peterson
Bonnie Rothenberg
James Sturtevant

Rosalie Sturtevant
Barbara Wetzel

Advanced NABC Masters

Fred Princehorn

Life Masters

Virginia Enman
Kathleen Gerbosi
Sue Lies
Cynthia Polayes
Neal Spero
Jan Summers
Carolyn Turek

Bronze Life Masters

Boris Sheyman
Daiva Vitukynaite
Richard Winsor

Silver Life Masters

Howard Schacter
Sheila Sittinger

Ruby Life Masters

Judith Davis
Sharon Jenness
Robert Maxson



Sherry Roberts
Joseph Tomlinson

Gold Life Masters

Constance Galanti
Wieslaw Kalita

Sapphire Life Masters

Todd Fisher
Don Lussky
Cherrolyn Woolwine

Diamond Life Masters

Drew Becker
Marlene Konik
Judy Riehs

70% GAMES

76.7% Trichiropoly Thayuma-
na, Mohamed Agha, Arlington
Bridge B's

76.2% Linda Levine, Laura
McCormick, Chicago Dupli-
cate Bridge

75.9% George Alukai, David
Kulig, Chicago Duplicate
Bridge

74.9% Roger Hendrick, Roger
Theis, Hinsdale Duplicate

74.8% Kathy Norman, Chris
Lyon, Admiral at the Lake

73.4% Michael Airdo, Adria-
na Humada, Chicago Dupli-
cate Bridge

73.2% Mark Ginsburg, Judy
Riehs, Tom's Game

72.9% Miriam Mertz, Jim
Humphrey, Tom's Game

72.7% Judi Katz, Adriana
Humada, The Clare

72.2% Barbara Baer, Pauline
Oyama, Chicago Duplicate
Bridge

72.0% Eli Jolley, Merilee
Elliott, Chicago Duplicate
Bridge

71.9% William Shunas,
Catherine Westbrook, Unu-
sual No Trump DBC

71.9% Muneer Jamal,
Madhavi Gullapalli,
Hinsdale Duplicate

71.7% David Langer, Ken-
neth Tatz, Ace of Clubs

71.7% Mike Reinstein, Phil-
ip Reinstein, New Eazy/
Wednesday

71.5% Michael Devine, Jo-
seph Chin, South Suburban
Bridge Center

71.4% Mary Reed, Pete
Bush, Chicago Duplicate
Bridge

71.3% Matthew Dyer, Mark
Pinkowski, Chicago Dupli-
cate Bridge

71.3% Jeroen Swinkels,
Todd Fisher, Ace of Clubs

71.2% Louis Nimnicht,
Daniel Spain, Community
Bridge Club

71.1% Jack Snyder, Robert
Maxson, Naper No Trumpers

71.1% Barbara Walczak,
Robert Ferguson, Communi-
ty Bridge Club

71.0% Marjorie Zolla, Barry
Little, Chicago Duplicate
Bridge

70.8% George Clark, Mat-
thew Dyer, Chicago Dupli-
cate Bridge

70.8% Mary Ann Veeneman,
Tony Veeneman, South Sub-
urban Bridge Center



70.7% Howard Engle, Samuel
Miller, Ace of Clubs

70.5% Judy Zhu, Platt Hill,
All Bridge Saints

70.3% Marc Passman, Donald
Weil, Tom's Game

70.3% Carole Greene, George
Clark, Chicago Duplicate
Bridge

70.2% Carolyn Coukos, Mary
Ellen Laue, New Eazy Bridge

70.1% Michael Devine, Don-
ald Valiska, South Suburban
Bridge Center

70.1 Rita Wiley, Bill Amster,
Arlington Bridge B's

70.1% Carol Ann Lombardo,
Kenneth Jensen, Chicago Du-
plicate Bridge

Planning the Play in 1NT, the Toughest Contract in Bridge



By Ginny and Jeff Schuett

Whatever the final contract, be it one notrump or any notrump, declarer makes the same preliminary plans for the play – don't play to trick one without developing a plan. Don't worry, it often changes.

- Review the bidding for clues, although opponents rarely have bid if in 1NT.
- Analyze the lead for clues about that particular suit – how many do they have/honors/etc.?
- Count the sure tricks without losing the lead (KQJ10 is not a sure trick!)
- Where is declarer's best opportunity to develop more tricks?
- What is declarer's stopper situation in their suit, if the lead is lost?
- Develop a plan for each separate suit.

g. Develop a plan for the whole hand, giving careful consideration to the entries and timing.

The reason 1NT is the toughest contract is that there are typically lots of leading back and forth between dummy and declarer's hand. Rarely is it obvious where the seven tricks will come from, because they often come from many suits, not just one or two suits. Entries and timing the order of suits played are often the keys to success.

Possible winners are potential tricks that may or may not be realized, since they depend on 1) driving out the opponents' higher card(s) to promote lower cards, 2) taking finesses, 3) ducking to give the defenders their trick(s) early to keep an entry to additional tricks, and 4) how the missing cards in a suit might divide.

The normal strategy for playing a notrump contract is to work on the possible winners early in the hand, while the stoppers are still intact. Plan to cash the fast winners later in the hand, when the stoppers have been removed or there are enough tricks to succeed.

When declarer does NOT need the long suit for entries, often it is best to run the



long suit to force the defenders to discard. Beware doing this without length so winners won't be developed for defenders if they have more length than declarer's length.

All the while declarer is building up tricks, the opponents are looking for ways to beat the contract. There are two common threats:

- They might establish their long suit winners.
- The "wrong" opponent (called the "danger hand") might gain the lead and make a damaging lead through a vulnerable suit.

Ginny and Jeff Schuett—bridge teaching, directing, play. Email: jgschuett2@comcast.net Phone: 847-940-7236

2019 - 2020 CALENDAR

EVENT

Unit 123 STaC

WinterFest

Milwaukee Sectional

CCBA Winter STaC

District 13 Regional

Stars of Tomorrow

District 13 STaC

CCBA Summer STaC

Unit 222 Sectional

Windy City Regional

GMBA Regional

Labor Day Sectional

Central States Regional

District 13 STaC

FallFest Sectional

CCBA Fall STaC

DATE/PLACE

Monday, December 9 - Sunday, December 15, at local clubs

2020

Thursday, January 23-Sunday January 26, Chevy Chase County Club, 1000 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling

Wednesday, February 5-Saturday, February 8, Milwaukee

Monday, February 10-Sunday, February 16, At the Clubs

Monday, April 13-Sunday, April 19, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

Saturday, May 2-Sunday, May 3, Glenview

Monday, May 11-Sunday, May 17, At the Clubs

Monday, July 6-Sunday, July 12, At the Clubs

Wednesday, July 29-Friday-Saturday, August 1, Waukesha, WI

Monday, August 3- Sunday, August 9, Downtown Chicago

Monday, August 3-Sunday, August 16, Milwaukee

Friday, September 4-Monday, September 7, Weber Leisure Center, 9300 Weber Park Place, Skokie

Monday, October 12-Sunday, October 18, Hyatt Regency, Schaumburg

Monday, November 9-Sunday, November 15, At the Clubs

Friday, November 20-22, Schaumburg

Monday, December 7-Sunday, December 13, At the Clubs



When should defender win a trick, when should defender duck



**Winning
with Wimpy**
By Jim Diebel

I've recently noticed with a couple of my students that they don't fully understand a card combination which arises fairly frequently.

The combination I am referring to is when dummy hits with KQTxx(x) and they are sitting behind the dummy with the ace.

At some point in the hand, the declarer leads low toward the dummy in that suit, and plays the King or Queen.

Invariably, my students win the ace, as they've been taught to win tricks in 4th seat when possible. While it's true that winning tricks is generally a good thing, in this particular case it is almost always right to duck.

If that seems strange to you, then you definitely need to read this month's column.

First, we need a quick discussion about the hold-up play. Most players are familiar with the concept of holding up an ace until declarer is out of that suit.

The hold-up is critical to cut declarer off from extra tricks in dummy. It is less effective when dummy has a side entry, but can be instrumental in disrupting the delicate communication between declarer and dummy.

In order to win the ace at the most advantageous time, the defenders are schooled in giving count in those critical suits.

Now here's something you might not know: When defender holds the key card in a critical suit, that defender should always give false count to partner. The partner without

the key card must absolutely give the true count.

Consider this hand: South opens 1NT and North raises to 3NT:

(1)
 ♠ A J T 9 7 3
 ♣ 8 6 2 ♣ K 4
 ♣ Q 5

(2)
 ♠ A J T 9 7 6 3
 ♣ 8 2 ♣ K 4
 ♣ Q 5

Dummy has no outside entries. At some point, South leads the ♣Q. For the defense to have any chance, East must hold up, even though South could now drop his bare King. West, who does not hold the critical card, gives the true count: ♣2 in the 1st example, and the ♣8 in the second. If you are playing UDCA, reverse the plays.

Now consider this similar situation:

(3)
 ♠ A J T 9 7 3
 ♣ K 8 2 ♣ 6 4
 ♣ Q 5

(4)
 ♠ A J T 9 7 6 3
 ♣ K 8 2 ♣ 4
 ♣ Q 5

This time, when the ♣Q is led, West holds the critical card and plays the ♣8. East gives true count with the ♣6 or the ♣4. In all four cases, Declarer can't be certain whether to try to drop a singleton King on his right, or play for the finesse.

If West was the type of player who always gave the right count, Declarer could get it right frequently. Declarer can't be certain whether West is giving the true count because he doesn't hold the

King, or the false count because he does.

Of course if East held ♣Kxx in any of these examples, the first duck would be elementary, and the contract would always fail. The Defense must give Declarer a losing option.

Now we turn to the combination that so many get wrong. Dummy can be assumed to hold a side entry:

(1)
 ♠ K Q T 7 6 3
 ♣ J 9 2 ♣ A 4
 ♣ 8 5

(2)
 ♠ K Q T 7 6
 ♣ J 9 2 ♣ A 4
 ♣ 8 5 3

When Declarer leads toward the Clubs, West plays the true ♣2 (UDCA ♣9), because he doesn't hold the ace.

East must smoothly duck. If East makes the mistake of winning the trick, Declarer will finesse the ♣10 the next time he plays the suit. By ducking, the defense gives declarer a losing option.

(3)
 ♠ K Q T 7 6 3
 ♣ A 9 2 ♣ J 4
 ♣ 8 5

(4)
 ♠ K Q T 7 6
 ♣ A 9 2 ♣ J 4
 ♣ 8 5 3

This time, West does hold the critical card, and gives false count (♣9, UDCA ♣2), again the ♣K will win the first time.

The next time Declarer leads toward the combination, West must smoothly duck again, and declarer will often misguess by putting in the ♣10. Note that in all four cases, the defense was only

entitled to one trick if Declarer plays the suit optimally.

If there is a side entry, and it is a suit contract (some other suit), West should not duck the ♣A on the second play, because declarer can now establish the suit with a ruff.

Assume you are East, defending a NT contract and you encounter this layout:

(1)
 ♠ K Q T 7 6 3
 ♣ 9 2 ♣ A J 4
 ♣ 8 5

(2)
 ♠ K Q T 7 6
 ♣ 9 2 ♣ A J 4
 ♣ 8 5 3

When the suit is led, West gives the true count. North plays the ♣K. It may appear safe to win the ♣A.

Once again, this is the wrong play. Even if dummy has no outside entry, East has surrendered control of this key suit.

Although East is entitled to two tricks in the suit, when he gets them is essential to the success of the defense.

Note that in the 1st example, if Declarer has a side entry, he can duck the second round of the suit, guaranteeing three tricks from the combination.

In the second example, declarer finesses the ♣10, once again getting his three tricks.

If East ducks the first round, he can hold Declarer to one trick in the suit if there is no outside entry.

If he can win the second round and successfully remove dummy's side entry, he can shut out the suit altogether.

(Continued on page 8)



Order Tickets Now for CCBA All-You-Can Eat Buffet

Join your CCBA bridge playing friends for a tasty all-you-can-eat buffet, which will be served at 5:30 p.m. prior to the January 25 Annual Meeting. One need not go to the dinner in order to attend the meeting.

To make reservations, send a \$15 check to to Judy Richs, at 731 Hapsfield Lane, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089, or call 847-215-7695, or email her at Judymrichs@yahoo.com). Tables of 8 may be reserved if pre-paid by January 13. Tickets will be held for pickup at the tournament site, beginning Friday evening.



I am a staunch advocate of "less is more." My observation is that at every level of the game, players are using too many conventions. Too often I see players (from beginner to world champion) misusing or forgetting their methods. Everyone would benefit if they would just KISS. (Keep It Simple, Stupid.) Don't spend all of your time learning new conventions instead of working on your play.

If I had to choose just four conventions, this would be my list:

- A)
1. Negative Doubles
 2. Blackwood
 3. Stayman
 4. Jacoby transfers

If you forced me to choose four more, this would be the next group:

- B)
5. 4th Suit GF
 6. Methods (I prefer "DONT".) vs. Opponents' Notrump
 7. Weak jumps in competition
 8. 2NT ask (Feature) after our Weak 2-bids

If you insisted I fill my convention card with 12 conventions, these would be the next four:

- C)
9. Unusual notrump / Michaels bids
 10. New Minor Checkback
 11. Jacoby 2NT
 12. Support Doubles

And, since people just love to learn/play/teach conventions, these would be my D-list -- choices 13-16:

- D)
13. Lebensohl
 14. Drury
 15. Inverted Minors
 16. Splinter Bids

Honestly, I think it would be counterproductive for 99 percent of players to go any further than this. The memory strain is not worth it. Someone once said, "The Road to Hell is Paved with Good Conventions."

This list is referred to in more detail in "Talking Bridge."

Larry runs and is the star of Bridge with Larry Cohen. He is a 25-Time National Champion, ACBL Player of the Year, ACBL Honorary Member of the Year, and ACBL Top 10 Living Most Influential in Bridge. <http://www.larryco.com>



When to win, when to duck

(Continued from page 7)

Here is a hand from actual play:

North	East	South	West
1C	1D	Dbl	1S
2H	2S	Pass	Pass
3H	Pass	Pass	3S
All Pass			

North
 ♠ 93
 ♥ AQ98
 ♦ J76
 ♣ KQ63

West
 ♠ AQT2
 ♥ 3
 ♦ T52
 ♣ AJT85

East
 ♠ KJ6
 ♥ 7652
 ♦ KQ983
 ♣ 4

South
 ♠ 8754
 ♥ KJT4
 ♦ A4
 ♣ 972

A. South continued North's ill-conceived attack with another spade. Declarer won in dummy, overtook the ♠K getting the unwelcome news that trumps weren't 3-3. Declarer now successfully passed the ♦T.

When this held, declarer drew the last trump, and ran the diamonds, getting nine tricks total. This was a well-deserved top for EW and a more than well-deserved bottom for NS.

While it's difficult to lay this disaster at the feet of my partner, had she ducked the ♦A, I am confident my poor choice of opening leads would not have cost us the board.

For more tips on improving your bidding and defense go to www.wimpy.biz/bridge



I, sitting North, got off to the terrible lead of a low spade.

A heart lead would have been much better. Declarer won the ♠10 and led a diamond, 6, Q,

Fifth Chair



21 Rules of Being a Good Partner

By Marty Bergen

"I have always believed that your attitude toward your partner is as important as your technical skill at the game." Rixi Markus, one of the all-time great players. Before you sit down to discuss what you are playing, you should start your partnership off on the right note. Half the battle of winning is being a good partner. Always observe the following:

1. Do not give lessons, unless you are being paid to do so. "According to an evening paper, there are only five real authorities on bridge in this country. Odd how often one gets one of them as a partner." *Punch* (British magazine).

2. Never say anything to your partner unless you would want him to say the same to you. If you are unsure whether your partner would want you to say something, don't.

3. Never "result" (criticize your partner for a normal action just because it did not work this time).

4. Unless your intent is to clear up a misunderstanding, avoid discussing the hand just played. If you cannot resist, be discreet.

5. Remember -- you and your partner are on the same side.

6. Do not forget that your partner wants to win as much as you do.

7. If you feel the urge to be nasty, sarcastic, critical or loud, excuse yourself and take a walk.

8. When there is time between hands, do not discuss bridge.

9. When you want to consult another player about a disaster, ask about your hand, not your partner's.

10. Do not ever criticize or embarrass your partner in front of others.

11. Remember that bridge is only a card game.

12. Have a good time, and make sure that your partner does also. "Bridge is for fun. You should play the game for no other reason. You should not play bridge to make money, to show how smart you are, or show how stupid your partner is... or to prove any of the several hundred other things bridge players are so often trying to prove." Bridge legend Charles Goren.

13. Trust your partner; do not assume he has made a mistake.

14. Although it may be unfashionable, it really is okay to be pleasant to a partner with whom you also happen to live.

15. Remember: "The worst analysts and the biggest talkers are often one and the same." Bridge columnist Frank Stewart. Think twice before verbally analyzing a hand. Do not embarrass yourself with a hasty, inaccurate comment.

16. When you voluntarily choose to play bridge with someone, it is not fair to get upset when partner does not play any better than usual.

17. Never side with an opponent against your partner. If you cannot support your partner, say nothing.

18. If you think you are too good for a partner, and do not enjoy

playing bridge with him, do everyone a favor and play with someone else. That is clearly much better than being a martyr. However, be careful before burning bridges -- another player's grass may not be greener.

19. Learn your partner's style, regardless of how you feel about it. Do not expect your partner to bid exactly as you would. When partner makes a bid, consider what he will have, not what you would have.

20. Try to picture problems from partner's point of view. Seek the bid or play that will make his life easiest.

21. Sympathize with partner if he makes a mistake. Let your partner know that you like him, and always root for him 100%.

Bergen is a 10-time national champion and American Contract Bridge League Grand Life Master, as well as a World Bridge Federation World International Master. He has written 19 bridge books and writes a monthly column in The ACBL Bridge Bulletin. <http://www.fifthchair.org>



Feb. 17 deadline to register for GNT

The District 13 Grand National Team (GNT) competition will be played February 22 and 23 at the Hilton Northbrook, 2855 North Milwaukee Avenue, Northbrook. Be aware that pre-registration is required to play in the GNT.



All teams wishing to enter must provide notification by noon on February 17, by contacting: Suzi Subeck, District 13 Director, 847-509-0311 home, 708-927-6819 cell, stansubeck@prodigy.net, or by registering at bridgeinchicago.com when it is available.

Flight eligibility is established by ACBL's September 2019 masterpoint cycle. This information was produced on August 6, 2019 in Horn Lake, MS. Masterpoints won after this cycle will not impact flight eligibility for these events.

Players must reside in District 13. Each member of the team must be a paid member in good standing with the ACBL.

Club qualifying games are permitted at Unit discretion but are not required at any level of competition. A Flight B or C team may qualify under the rules of any Unit where a plurality of team members reside.

Players who are current, or have ever been members of another bridge organization - domestic or foreign- must submit information on their past and/or current ranking in that organization.

An entry in the Championship Flight is a commitment to play in the National Final. Any teams representing District 13 at the National Event will receive a stipend paid at the NABC.

For more complete information, consult your conditions of contest on the District 13 website at <http://acbl>.



And FallFest Fun Continues



Special Club Games *(Earn Extra Points)*

Day/Date	Time	Club	Location	Event
Mon - Dec 2	12:30 pm	Chicago Cultural Center M	Chicago Cultural Center	Club Championship
Mon - Dec 2	12:00 pm	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Community Center	ACBL Membership Game
Mon - Dec 2	6:20 pm	Lawson Bridge Studio	Ann Sathers Restaurant	Club Championship
Mon - Dec 2	11:30 am	Yorkville Duplicate Bridge	Beecher Community Center	Charity Game
Tue - Dec 3	10:45 am	Ace Of Clubs	Temple Jeremiah	Club Championship
Tue - Dec 3	11:00 am	NaperDBC	Wesley United Methodist	Charity Club Championship
Tue - Dec 3	1:00 pm	The Admiral At The Lake	Admiral at the Lake	Grass Roots Fund Game
Tue - Dec 3	7:00 pm	Tree Towns DBC	First Congregational Church	Club Championship
Wed - Dec 4	11:00 am	Fox Bridge	Riverside Town Hall	Club Championship
Wed - Dec 4	7:00 pm	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Community Center	ACBL Membership Game
Wed - Dec 4	7:00 pm	Reluctant Redoubler DBC	Unity Church	Club Championship
Thu - Dec 5	12:00 pm	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Community Center	ACBL Membership Game
Thu - Dec 5	6:45 pm	Wheaton DBC Thursday	St. Matthews Church of Christ	Charity Game
Fri - Dec 6	11:00 am	Naper No Trumpers	Wesley United Methodist Church	Charity Club Championship
Sat - Dec 7	12:30 pm	All Bridge Saints	Union Church of Hinsdale	ACBL Membership Game
Sat - Dec 7	11:30 am	Yorkville Duplicate Bridge	Beecher Community Center	ACBL Membership Game - Potluck
Mon - Dec 9	12:30 pm	Chicago Cultural Center M	Chicago Cultural Center	STaC Game
Mon - Dec 9	12:15 pm	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club	STaC Game
Mon - Dec 9	12:00 pm	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Community Center	STaC -Potluck
Mon - Dec 9	6:20 pm	Lawson Bridge Studio	Ann Sathers Restaurant	STaC Game
Mon - Dec 9	11:30 am	Yorkville Duplicate Bridge	Beecher Community Center	STAC Game
Tue - Dec 10	12:15 pm	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club	STAC Game
Tue - Dec 10	6:30 pm	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club	STAC Game
Tue - Dec 10	11:00 am	NaperDBC	Wesley United Methodist Church	ACBL Club Championship - Party
Tue - Dec 10	1:00 pm	The Admiral At The Lake	Admiral at the Lake	STaC Game
Tue - Dec 10	7:00 pm	Tree Towns DBC	First Congregational Church	STaC Game
Wed - Dec 11	12:15 pm	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club	STaC Game
Wed - Dec 11	11:00 am	Fox Bridge	Riverside Town Hall	Charity Pairs
Wed - Dec 11	7:00 pm	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Community Center	Club Championship
Wed - Dec 11	6:20 pm	Lawson Bridge Studio	Ann Sathers Restaurant	STaC Game
Wed - Dec 11	12:00 pm	New Eazy/Wednesday	Temple Jeremiah	STaC Game
Wed - Dec 11	10:30 am	New Lenox - Joliet DBC	New Life Church	Charity Pairs
Wed - Dec 11	7:00 pm	Reluctant Redoubler DBC	Unity Church	STaC Game
Thu - Dec 12	12:15 pm	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club	STAC Game
Thu - Dec 12	6:30 pm	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club	STAC Game
Thu - Dec 12	12:00 pm	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Community Center	STAC Game
Thu - Dec 12	6:45 pm	Wheaton DBC Thursday	St. Matthews Church of Christ	ACBL Membership Game - Potluck
Fri - Dec 13	1:00 pm	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club	STaC



Special Club Games *(Earn Extra Points)*

Day/Date	Time	Club	Location	Event
Fri - Dec 13	11:00 am	Naper No Trumpers	Wesley United Methodist Church	Club Championship - Holiday Party
Fri - Dec 13	10:45 am	Tom's Game	Temple Jeremiah	STaC Game
Sat - Dec 14	11:00 am	Ace Of Clubs	JourneyCare	Club Championship
Sat - Dec 14	12:30 pm	All Bridge Saints	Union Church of Hinsdale	Charity Pairs
Sat - Dec 14	11:15 am	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club	STaC Game
Sun - Dec 15	1:00 pm	Chicago Duplicate Bridge	Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club	STaC Game
Mon - Dec 16	10:30 am	Ace Of Clubs	BJBE Congregation	Club Championship
Mon - Dec 16	12:30 pm	Chicago Cultural Center M	Chicago Cultural Center	Charity Game
Mon - Dec 16	12:00 pm	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Community Center	Club Championship
Mon - Dec 16	6:20 pm	Lawson Bridge Studio	Ann Sathers Restaurant	Swiss Teams Grass Roots Fund
Mon - Dec 16	11:30 am	Yorkville Duplicate Bridge	Beecher Community Center	Membership Game - Potluck
Tue - Dec 17	7:00 pm	Tree Towns DBC	First Congregational Church	Charity Pairs
Wed - Dec 18	7:00 pm	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Community Center	STaC Game
Wed - Dec 18	6:20 pm	Lawson Bridge Studio	Ann Sathers Restaurant	Grass Roots Fund
Wed - Dec 18	10:30 am	New Lenox - Joliet DBC	New Life Church	Membership Game
Wed - Dec 18	7:00 pm	Reluctant Redoubler DBC	Unity Church	Junior Fund Swiss Teams
Thu - Dec 19	12:00 pm	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Community Center	Club Championship - Potluck
Thu - Dec 19	10:45 am	Tom's Game	Temple Jeremiah	Inter-Club Championship Game (ICCG)
Sat - Dec 21	12:30 pm	All Bridge Saints	Union Church of Hinsdale	Charity Swiss
Thu - Dec 26	10:45 am	Tom's Game	Temple Jeremiah	Club Championship
Fri - Dec 27	10:45 am	Tom's Game	Temple Jeremiah	Club Championship
Wed - Jan 1	6:20 pm	Lawson Bridge Studio	Ann Sathers Restaurant	Junior Fund Game
Mon - Jan 6	12:30 pm	Chicago Cultural Center M	Chicago Cultural Center	Junior Fund Game
Mon - Jan 6	6:20 pm	Lawson Bridge Studio	Ann Sathers Restaurant	Junior Fund Game
Tue - Jan 7	1:00 pm	The Admiral At The Lake	Admiral at the Lake	Junior Fund Game
Wed - Jan 8	6:20 pm	Lawson Bridge Studio	Ann Sathers Restaurant	Junior Fund Game
Mon - Jan 13	12:30 pm	Chicago Cultural Center M	Chicago Cultural Center	Junior Fund Game
Mon - Jan 13	6:20 pm	Lawson Bridge Studio	Ann Sathers Restaurant	Junior Fund Game
Tue - Jan 14	1:00 pm	The Admiral At The Lake	Admiral at the Lake	Junior Fund Game
Wed - Jan 15	6:20 pm	Lawson Bridge Studio	Ann Sathers Restaurant	Junior Fund Game
Mon - Jan 20	12:30 pm	Chicago Cultural Center M	Chicago Cultural Center	Junior Fund Game
Mon - Jan 20	6:20 pm	Lawson Bridge Studio	Ann Sathers Restaurant	Junior Fund Game
Tues-Jan 21	1:pp pm	The Admiral at the Lake	Admiral at the Lake	Junior Fund Game
Wed - Jan 22	6:20 pm	Lawson Bridge Studio	Ann Sathers Restaurant	Junior Fund Game
Mon - Jan 27	12:30 pm	Chicago Cultural Center M	Chicago Cultural Center	Junior Fund Game
Mon - Jan 27	6:20 pm	Lawson Bridge Studio	Ann Sathers Restaurant	Junior Fund Game
Tues-Jan28	1:00 pm	The Admiral at the Lake	Admiral at the Lake	Junior Fund Game
Wed - Jan 29	6:20 pm	Lawson Bridge Studio	Ann Sathers Restaurant	Junior Fund Game



STaCs offer silver points Win silver points during the Unit 123's Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaC), which runs December 9-15. The more tables throughout the Chicago area, the greater the awards. All Open Pairs are stratified 0-750, 0-1500, and unlimited masterpoints. Intermediate/Newcomer games are also offered. Call any club owner or manager for details. Also, see the Special Games listed on pages 11 and 12.