

Kibitzer

Publication of the Chicago Contract Bridge Association June/July 2022

Exciting Windy City Regional is Back!

The Windy City Regional Tournament, where players have the opportunity to win red and gold points, is back!

The long-awaited tournament will be held August 2-7 in the University of Illinois Chicago's Student Center East, 750 S. Halsted Street, on Chicago's near west side. UIC is conveniently located near I-290/90 and public transportation, including the CTA Blue Line.

All games will be held during the day to give players the opportunity to enjoy evenings at downtown events and restaurants, including those in nearby Greek Town.

Games scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday include two-session open pairs and two-session Gold Rush pairs at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Single session entries will be accepted in all pair events.



UIC Student Center East

The remaining two days offer a favorite event for many: Swiss Teams. Thursday will feature two-session Open Swiss Teams and Gold Rush Swiss Teams at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. On Sunday, both Open Swiss Teams and Gold Rush Swiss Teams playthrough events will begin at 10 a.m.

Stratifications for Gold Rush games will be 0-100, 100-300, and 300-750. For Open games, they will be A: 3000+, B: 1500-3000, and C: 0-1500. All players are welcome in Open events, but only players with fewer than 750 MP's may play in Gold Rush games.

ACBL and local COVID protocols will apply, and proof of vaccination will be required.

A variety of sandwiches and refreshments will be available from vendors in the university's food court, located in the same building as the tournament. The CCBA has negotiated reduced-rate parking at UIC's large indoor/outdoor parking lot just across the street from the Student Center.

Questions? Contact Tournament Co-chair Bob Young at 847-280-1118 or by8888@hotmail.com. He prefers text or email. Co-chair Loring Knoblauch can be reached at 312-280-6250 or Loring.knoblauch@me.com. Partnership Chair Guy Franklin can be reached at 773-412-4882 or guyfranklinchicago@gmail.com. For details, see the flyer on page 3, or go to the CCBA website www.bridgeinchicago.com



CCBA Board establishes night game in Northfield



An night game was established this spring by the CCBA Board of Directors, because President Mark Stein and other members were concerned about the lack of face-to-face evening games available to players. It was noted that the options for those who go to school or work during the day were limited.

The game, which opened in May, is held at 7 p.m. Wednesdays in Temple Jeremiah, 937 Happ Road, Northfield, which is approximately 1 1/2

miles from the Edens Expressway at Willow Road. The entry fee is \$10 except for students with a valid ID, who will pay \$8.

The director is Phyllis Bartlett, a CCBA board member and a long-time owner and director of North Shore bridge games. She can be reached at 847-494-8474 or phyllisbartlett@gmail.com. Players must be vaccinated. Those who have not previously played at Jeremiah should bring an ID and their vaccination record card or photo. Masks are optional at this time.

New Mundelein night game

An ACBL sanctioned open game was established by Patricia Mayer, who is its director. It begins at 6:15 p.m. and ends by 9 p.m.

The game is held in the Fremont Township Administration Building, 22385 W. Highway 60, Mundelein. Game dates are June 1, 8, and 29, and the following six Wednesdays. Games beyond that will be scheduled based on availability at the township building. No winter games will be held. The entry fee is \$6.



Players must have a partner and need to sign up by 9 p.m. the day before the game. With sufficient notice, Patricia will try to find players a partner. She can be reached at 262-215-2566 or at Pattysarasota33@gmail.com.

Tell Us What Your Club Is Doing



Any time your club has a special event or a celebration, the *Kibitzer* wants to know. Don't be shy. Send emails and photographs to demaris_j@hotmail.com. The contact information is always listed in the box on page 2.

A current event that the *Kibitzer* wants to hear about is the Longest Day, a fundraising event to support the fight against Alzheimer's disease. How is your club participating? Are you having a special game, a raffle, etc.

2022 CCBA Officers Board Members

President
Mark Stein

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Loring Knoblauch

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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.

Unit 123 Windy City Regional August 2-7, 2022 University of Illinois at Chicago Student Center East, 750 S. Halsted St.

Schedule:

Tuesday, August 2

10:00 am and 3:00 pm
2 Session Open Pair
2 Session Gold Rush Pair

Wednesday, August 3

10:00am and 3:00pm
2 Session Open Pair
2 Session Gold Rush Pair

Thursday, August 4

10:00am and 3:00pm
2 Session Open Swiss Teams
2 Session Gold Rush Swiss Teams

Friday, August 5

10:00am and 3:00pm
2 Session Open Pair
2 Session Gold Rush Pair

Saturday, August 6

10:00am and 3:00pm
2 Session Open Pair
2 Session Gold Rush Pair

Sunday, August 7

10:00am Playthru events:
Open Swiss Teams
Gold Rush Swiss Teams



Great Playing
Venue...

Near CTA Blue
Line!

ACBL and Local
Covid Protocols
Apply

Vaccinations
Required

Intermediate/Newcomer

Tuesday, Wednesday,
Friday, Saturday
Gold Rush Pairs
Stratification:
0-100; 100-300; 300-750

Thursday, Sunday
Gold Rush Swiss Teams
Stratification
(by average)
0-100; 100-300; 300-750

Tournament Committee:

Co-Chairs: Bob Young
847-280-1118
by8888@hotmail.com
Text or email preferred

Loring Knoblauch
312-280-6250
Loring.knoblauch@me.com

Partnership Chair: Guy Franklin
773-412-4882
guyfranklinchicago@gmail.com

For more information:
bridgeinchicago.com

Stratification: A:3000+; B: 1500-3000; C:0-1500

Masterpoint averaging when permitted in all events.

In Gold Rush Pairs and Teams, no player may have more than 750 masterpoints.

Convenient parking across from playing site. Get discounted parking sticker at game desk.

Single Session Entries will be accepted in all Pair Events!

Congrats Rank Advancers!

Junior Master

Cynthia Annibali
Judith Boggess
Richard Ferguson
Stuart Ferst
John Keller
Ira Lerner
Donald Olson
Donald Salenger
Phuong Khanh Tran Nguyen

Club Master

Anne Baetz
Ann Boland
William Boak
Patrick Cayce
Sriram Datla
Steven Hamburg
Paul Hayes
Jamee Kane
Susan Maguire
Janet Rotner
Carolyn Short
Kim Spath
Chris Veeneman

Sectional Master

Steve Birkos
Rudy Broyles
Trucia Drummond
Daniel Fisher
Mary Grinstead
William Kennedy
Marcia Kraus
Roslyn Kroft
Dave McCarty
Lynn Shevelenko
Lewis Sita
Gregory Smith
Susan Sullivan

Regional Master

Robert Brock
Pam Van Boven
Zhao Yan

NABC Master

Robert Salita

Advanced NABC Master

Bob Kell
Robert Smith

Life Master

Vincent DeConti

Silver Life Master

Ruth Kuncel
Joan Orth
Marilyn Richards
Daiva Vitukynaite

Ruby Life Master

Kathleen Fortney
Ping Hu
Joyce Hunter
Jim Jurik

Gold Life Master

Wendy Dallain

Sapphire Life Master

Dan Driggett

Diamond Life Master

Charles Fortney

Emerald Life Master

Steve Clark



The Chicago Contract Bridge Association recently presented the Mini-McKenney Award to those named below. The award recognizes the players in Unit 123 who, in 2021, won the most masterpoints in the category in which they started the year.

Category	Winner	Points earned during 2021
0 to 5	Todd Holes	79.29
5 to 20	Mark Grunberg	59.73
20 to 50	William Ciciora	78.26
50 to 100	Janet Nolan	82.21
100 to 200	Joy Sweet	166.77
200 to 300	Peter Bush	216.47
300 to 500	Missy Ravid	233.32
500 to 1000	Donald Ferris	169.20
1000 to 1500	Daniel Wright	186.88
1500 to 2500	Edward Margulies	258.21
2500 to 3500	Stephen Donahue	1,162.42
3500 to 5000	Colleen Treanor	328.44
7500 to 10,000	Larry Cohen	383.21
Over 10,000	Ron Smith	807.34

ACBL announces face-to-face changes

20% overall award Increase

Earn a 20% upgrade on overall awards when you play at face-to-face regional and sectional tournaments.

This special award increase is exclusive to in-person regionals and sectionals. We're celebrating the growing comeback of face-to-face tournaments, and we hope you'll join us!

The 20% overall award boost began May 30 and will apply to all face-to-face tournament events until May 28, 2023. That's almost an entire year of chances to rake in the rewards!

Skip the line with Entry Express

Entry Express is the new online portal that allows you to RSVP to face-to-face tournaments and even buy your event entries ahead of time!

Entry Express was available at the Spring NABC, and now, we're rolling it out to all U.S. open regional tournaments beginning June 31.

Mark Your Calendar!

**DO NOT MISS the return of the
EXCITING**

WINDY CITY REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

August 2-7

UIC Student Center East

Sacrifice or not when vulnerable? How do you know what to do?

You are vulnerable against non-vulnerable opponents, and those nasty opponents sacrifice over your game bid. How do you know what to do?

First of all, this is usually a very difficult decision and no one gets it right every time. The most important thing is if neither of you want to bid on to the five level in your suit, double them. Don't let them steal the contract undoubled – that is a sure way to get a terrible score. Some of the important issues:

- How strongly has partner bid – shown full opening values, or just a gambling jump to game (1♥-P-4♥)
- Check vulnerability. If they sacrifice Vul vs Vul or NV vs NV, be more inclined to double them.
- Look for possible double fit situations. With a double fit, it is more likely right to bid on to a five level contract.
- Check your holding in their suit. Honors below the ace suggest doubling them, two small is poor to bid five.
- Check your combined trump holding – with eight-card fits, rarely is it right to bid on to five level.

As South, what is your best guess what to do with each of the following hands (you are Vul vs NV)?

	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>
1. ♠AQJ543 ♥A4 ♦KQT4 ♣9	1♠ 4♠ ?	2♥ 5♥	3♥ P	4♥ P
2. ♠AQT4 ♥QJ96 ♦KJ5 ♣97	X* ?	3♦	1♣ 3♥	2♦ 5♦
	(*Neg showing majors)			
3. ♠5 ♥AJ9 ♦K82 ♣AQJ972	2♣ ?	4♠	1♥ Dbl	P P
4. ♠AQT54 ♥KJ94 ♦AT ♣92	1♠ 4♠ ?	2♣ 5♣	3♣* P	4♣ P
	(*Limit raise or better)			
5. ♠A9 ♥KQT85 ♦KJ83 ♣T3	1♥ ?	3♣	4♣*	5♣
	(*Forcing raise)			
6. ♠3 ♥AKT95 ♦AT92 ♣K82	1♥ ?	2♠	1♦ 3♥	P 4♠

Suggested Answers:

1. 5♠ - You have a very offensive oriented hand with a sixth trump and strong side four-card suit.

2. Double – You only have an eight-card fit and good defensive tricks in diamonds when partner will have one or none.

3. 5♥ - North doesn't know you have a good heart fit, nor an excellent source of tricks in clubs.

4. Double – Very tough decision. Your partner might only have a limit raise and you had minimal values to bid game. Your two clubs argues caution. If partner had a singleton club, they likely would have bid on themselves.

5. Pass – Partner has shown a game=forcing raise because the cue bid was at the four level, not the three level. You have nothing extra, average distribution, and the worst holding, two small, in their suit. Partner must bid on or double.

6. 5♥ - You have a double fit, singleton spade and a nine=card fit, not just an eight-card fit.



By Ginny and Jeff Schuett

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



"NO, BOB, YOU CAN'T MOVE ALL-IN... WE'RE PLAYING BRIDGE!"

Unit 123 Bridge Clubs, Players support games to aid Ukraine



Players at Dave Schroeder's Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club show

A number of Unit 123 bridge players and their clubs raised funds this spring in support of the victims of the war-ravaged nation of Ukraine. ACB-approved charity games, which included a \$2 fee, were the primary source of the fund raised.

The Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club was among those participating.

"We realized our first game back in late March could bring in only a few hundred dollars but if other clubs across the country did the same, it would raise some real money to help suffering Ukrainians," said David Schroeder, a director of the Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club.

The club's first Ukrainian Charity night game on March 29 at its South Loop facility brought in \$200 from four tables.

Dave, who has several Ukrainian friends, brought a full-size Ukrainian flag to the first special game. "I fly the flag in my window at home," he said.



Dave's cookies decorated like Ukraine's flag.

He also baked and brought to the game sugar cookies, which were iced in blue and yellow to match the national flag. Players also wore scarves, shirts and blouses with those same colors.

The Hinsdale Bridge Club raised more than \$600 initially, according to Director Diane Martin.

The club had two games – 10 tables on March 28 and 13 on March 30, each followed by a three freewill donation, which Diane matched. Proceeds were directed to the UN World Food Program with funds earmarked for Ukraine.

A player in the Hinsdale club, Oksana Marchuk, is a native of Ukraine. She expressed thanks for the contributions, as she has many friends still in Ukraine.



Oksana Ukraine player

Oksana moved to the U.S. at age 12 from Lviv, which is near the Polish border. She noted the ongoing humanitarian effort in her country. She has donated her own money to Ukrainian groups, including the War Warriors and the Red Cross.

Diane Martin said 40 played in the charity game at her Calumet club in Highland, Indiana.

Other clubs supporting Ukraine include Tom's Game and the Ace of Clubs in Northfield.

Ace of Clubs owner Daryl Novick said that his April games were charity games, with the \$2 per person fee going to Ukraine.

"We were happy to do this. It was the right thing to do," Daryl said.

Patt Quinn, Chicago Duplicate Bridge, said funds from her April charity games were donated to UNICEF. "I also collected a decent amount by just asking players to give to our collection," she said.

(Submitted by Jamie Rubenstein)



How do you know you are old? People call at 9 pm and ask if they woke you up!



Milwaukee
Summer Fun

Regional



August 23-25
Four Points by Sheraton
5133 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee, WI

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

10 a.m. & 3 p.m.
Open Pairs
Gold Rush Pairs

Thursday

10 a.m. & 3 p.m.
Open Swiss Teams
Gold Rush Teams
Side Pairs Series

Sunday

10 a.m. & TBA
Stratified Swiss Teams

Tournament and Partnership Chair

Yvette Neary
414-526-9035
yneary@gmail.com

Great Hospitality—Free Coffee & Breakfast Treats

Current ACBL & Local Government COVID Protocols will be implemented

Waukesha Unit 222
Summerfest Sectional

July 27-30

St. John Neumann's
Parish Hall
2400 W. State Road 59
Waukesha, WI
(enter rear lower level)

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

Strata for all pair/team games
0-1000, 1000-3000, 3000+

Strata for all 299 events
0-50, 50-100, 100-300
Strats may be adjusted as attendance warrants

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

We will follow ACBL and local regulations
regarding COVID Protocols

Key to successful defense is accurate communications



Jim Diebel
Winning with Wimpy

Everyone agrees that defense is the toughest part of the game. It is hard because defeating a contract requires teamwork, and you can't see partner's cards. Therefore, successful defenders must communicate, and the more accurately they can do so, the better the results.

Here are some hints on what to do when you are playing third chair and partner leads an honor

I'm a huge fan of upside down count and attitude. There are several reasons, but mainly it is because their message is usually clearer.

When using standard attitude signals, and partner leads an honor and I do not like it, it is easy.

I follow with my lowest card. When I wish partner to continue, it gets a bit trickier. I need to throw a higher card, but I can't afford to throw away a possible trick. This leads to murkier signals, where partner has to try to work out whether I liked or hated his lead.

Using upside down signals, when I wish partner to continue, it is also very easy. I follow with my lowest card.

When I wish to discourage partner, I have the same problem standard players have when they want to encourage a continuation, except – and this is a big deal – when I don't like his lead, it's generally because I have useless cards in that suit. Usually I can afford to play my highest useless card to send the message.

Did you catch that last part? I send my highest (spot) card to tell partner I don't like it. If I can't afford to waste my highest card, there's a good chance I like the lead. There are a few conditions to this.

First of all, when you follow with (or discard) an honor, it promises that you hold the touching honor underneath, as well as denying the honor above. In other words, if you drop the queen under partner's ace, you either hold the jack of that suit, or your queen is a singleton. No exceptions.

Discarding the ace, promises the king. Dropping the jack promises the 10. You never discard an honor to make a discouraging signal. If you don't like partner's honor lead and hold jack-deuce, you are forced to play the deuce.

Second, the honor discard takes precedence over count. Suppose partner leads the ace (presumably from AK). You hold JT4. Whether you play standard or upside down, your play is the same: the jack. If you played the 10, you would have denied the jack. If you played the four, (and you were playing upside down), you would be promising the queen. While it is true playing Standard that you could play the four to deny the queen, it does not give as much information as following with the jack. The only reason to play the four might be that dummy shows up with the nine. For example, the suit might look like this:

	965	
AK83		JT4
	Q72	

In this example you would need to keep the jack-10 combination to prevent either the queen or the nine from being promoted to a trick.

Playing upside down, you would need to play the jack to keep partner from continuing the suit. This may seem to be a knock against upside down signals, and it is, but the benefits outweigh these occasional drawbacks far more often. In

this example, the suit becomes "frozen", meaning whichever side leads it next will lose a trick.

You might ask, how do I know if I like partner's honor lead? That is easily answered. When partner leads on honor, he is promising the honor directly below. Therefore, ace from AK, king from KQ, queen from QJ and jack from JT. At this point, he hasn't thrown away a trick, but he desperately needs to know whether he can continue the suit profitably. He will look to your signal.



If he leads the ace, he is looking to see whether you hold the queen. If he leads the king, he is looking for either the ace or the jack. If he leads the queen, he is looking for the ace, king, or 10. These holdings are known as Equal Honors. If you hold the honor card(s) he is looking for, you are expected to follow with an encouraging signal. Using Upside Down, it would be your LOWEST card. Any card other than your lowest would deny holding an equal honor.

So assume you hold ♣ J54, and partner leads the ♣ A against a suit contract. If you played the ♣ 4, you would be promising the queen, or a doubleton. If you played the jack, it would promise the 10. Thus by default, you are forced to play the ♣ 5. This is NOT a clear signal. Partner may have a tough time working it out, but at least you have given him a chance. Change your holding to the ♣ J863, and you happily play the ♣ 8.

You may think that the ♣ 8 only tells partner that you hold neither the ♣ Q or doubleton, but he can probably infer more than that.

(Continued on page 9)

Communications is key

(Continued from page 8)



For example, if partner doesn't hold the ♣ 9, and it is not in the dummy, he can almost assuredly place it in Declarer's hand. Why? Because if you were going to discourage clubs, and YOU had the ♣9, you would have played it rather than the eight.

What if you held ♣ Q98? Now your ♣ 8 was indeed your lowest card and partner will have to work it out based on the cards he sees, the spot played by declarer, and the auction.

It's certainly conceivable that he won't work it out and switch to another suit. This might not be a disaster, because if declarer held enough clubs to confuse partner, he may have trouble getting rid of them all so long as you and partner don't throw them away.

The underlying point I am trying to make here is that, whenever possible, make the clearest possible plays and discards. Get used to using your highest and lowest cards more frequently. Partner will come to rely on them. In cases where there might be ambiguity, partner will often conclude that the card he is looking for must be in declarer's hand, since you could have been counted on to play it if you held it. These are the foundations of good partnership.

Minocqua-Lakeland Bridge Sectional

The Friendly Northwoods Tournament

June 2-5

Woodruff Town Hall

Hwy-47 (1418 First Ave.), Woodruff, WI

Thursday

1:30, 7:30 pm Stratified 499er Pairs
 Stratified Open Pair/Team

Friday

9 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Stratified 499er Pairs
 Stratified Open Pair/Team

Saturday

9 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Stratified 499er Pairs
 Stratified Open Pair/Team

7 p.m. Stratified 499er pairs
 Short Match Swiss

Chair: Lee Schultz Ischultzupnorth@gmail.com 715-356-4143

The GREAT Sizzlin' Summer Illinois Regional



June 4-10

The Holiday Inn, Crystal Lake

*To qualify for a chance at Gold Points,
you have to play in two sessions of the same event*

Saturday

1 pm & 6 pm

A/X/Y Open Pairs, double session
Gold Rush Pairs, double session
Stratified Side Series 1, Games 1 & 2 of 5 (3, 4, 5
Sunday)

Sunday

9:30 am & 2 pm

A/X/Y Swiss Teams, double session
Gold Rush Swiss Teams, double session
9:30 am, 2 pm, 7 pm
Stratified Side Series 1, Games 3, 4, 5

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

9:30 am, 3 pm

A/X/Y Open pairs, double session
Gold Rush Pairs, double session
9:30 am, 2 pm, 7 pm
Stratified Side Series 2 (Monday, Tuesday)
Stratified Side Series 3 (Wednesday, Thursday)

Friday

10 am & 2 pm

A/X/Y Swiss Teams, double session
Gold Rush Swiss Teams, double session
Free sandwich lunch provided.

*Note: One-Session Pairs Games are Accommodated
(any MPs)*

Tournament Chair: Marilyn Croft 312-203-0849
 jmcroft@sbcglobal.net

Bidding mishap reveals fascinating play problem



By Rowan Bell

Sometimes a bidding mishap can reveal a fascinating play problem that might have gone unnoticed in a more normal contract. This theme is evidenced by the following hand, played and reported by my long-time partner Christopher Monsour, who relocated from Chicago to his native Maryland during the pandemic.

East is dealer with neither vulnerable at matchpoints, and the North-South hands are as follows:

North	South
♠ KQJ	♠ 32
♥ AJ74	♥ Q962
♦ 63	♦ —
♣ AJ84	♣ KT76532

East opens 3D, and it goes pass-pass to North. Double from North as a balancing action seems clear here. East passes, South bids 3H, and now West belatedly extends partner's preempt with a 4D bid.

When this hand was played in an online 'robot individual', North was the human and the other players were robots. Most Norths, Christopher included, chose to bid 4H over 4D, which seems like a reasonable matchpoint competitive action. Unfortunately, the robot South interpreted the 4H bid as showing a much stronger hand, and launched into Roman Key-Card Blackwood with 4NT. North's response of 5H showed 2 or 5 keycards for hearts, without the queen. South read this as 5 keycards rather than 2, and placed the contract in 7H!

Obviously 7H is down immediately on a spade lead. However, suppose that West leads the ace of diamonds. On that lead, does this overly ambitious contract have any play?

To get to 13 tricks without taking any tricks in spades, we need 7 clubs, plus 2 diamond ruffs in the closed hand, plus 4 hearts. Also, the third round of trump will need to be played from dummy, since the

closed hand will be out of hearts after two ruffs and two rounds of trump.

With a little thought, we can work out a series of things we need in order for this to come to pass. First, West needs to have king-tripleton of hearts. Second, East's heart doubleton must include the eight. And third, we will need a dummy entry outside of trumps in order to cash the third round of trumps after the two diamond ruffs have been taken. That entry can only be in clubs, so we need West to have at least one of the two outstanding cards in that suit.

Suppose we lead the queen of hearts at trick two. If West ducks and the queen holds, we follow with a heart towards dummy's ace-jack, and then we ruff a diamond with the closed hand's last trump. Now we play a club towards dummy, crossing our fingers: If neither West nor East can ruff this trick, then we win in dummy, play dummy's high trump, and claim.

Things become more interesting if West covers the queen of hearts with the king at trick two. We win the ace and ruff a diamond back to hand, leaving the nine of hearts as the closed hand's last trump. Now we face a choice between two lines of play, depending on which opponent we think holds the ten of hearts. If we think East started with ten-eight doubleton, then we need to overtake the nine with the jack, smothering the ten; with the eight having previously fallen, dummy's seven of hearts is good. (If West started with king-eight-low, this line fails.)

On the other hand, if we think East started with eight-low doubleton, then we need to plan on running the nine of hearts. If West covers with the ten, we play the jack and cash the established seven; if West ducks, we cross to dummy with a club to cash the ten. (If West started with king-ten-eight tripleton, this line fails.)

If West leads a diamond and then covers the queen of hearts at trick two, and East follows suit with the eight, which East heart holding should we play for: ten-eight doubleton, or eight-low doubleton? That's a complicated question. On the one hand, it is twice as likely that East started with eight-low doubleton as it is that they started with ten-eight doubleton, since there are

two ways East could hold eight-low (85, or 83). On the other hand, how likely is it that East would play the eight on the first round of trumps from eight-low? Most defenders would play low without giving the position much thought, and few defenders would recognize that playing an in-tempo eight from eight-low might give declarer a losing option in trumps. On balance, if the eight appears on the first round of trumps, then it is probably best to play for ten-eight doubleton.

All of the analysis above has assumed that West led the ace of diamonds. However, at the table, the robot West did not lead either a spade or a diamond, but instead led the queen of clubs.

How does the club lead impact things? Well, on a double-dummy basis, the club lead is fatal: If the defenders are perfect, there is no lay of the cards on which South can make 7H after a club lead. Even if the opening lead isn't ruffed, the club lead forces declarer to use up a vital dummy entry before it is needed.

Consider the play after a club lead if East started with eight-low of hearts. Declarer wins the club in dummy, ruffs a diamond, and advances the queen of hearts. West covers; declarer wins the ace, ruffs another diamond, and advances the nine of hearts. But now, West can defeat the contract by refusing to cover the nine! If West ducks the nine, there is no way declarer can get to dummy to cash the jack of hearts: One round of clubs having already been played, West can ruff declarer's club lead with the ten of hearts to defeat the contract.

(Continued on page 11)





A BIG DEAL PROVIDENCE

JULY 14-24, 2022

The Summer North America Bridge Championships will take place July 14-24 in Providence, Rhode Island, on July 14-24.

The tournament gives players of all levels - from beginners to experts - the opportunity to test their skills against other players at their same level.

Events include Swiss Teams, Gold Rush pairs, open pairs, and many

other events, which are held throughout the day and evening.

All bridge events will be played in the Rhode Island Convention Center. It is connected by a covered walkway to the Omni Providence Hotel. The other host hotels are within walking distance.

You may book a room by contacting Conference Direct, ACBL's housing

partner at 855-956-0776 or acbl@conferencedirect.com by June 22. Warning, the bridge rate may not be available after June 22.

For more information on the NABC, go to the ACBL web page or check the *Bridge Bulletin*.



Bidding mishap reveals fascinating play problem

(Continued from page 10)

Nevertheless, declarer has a faint hope: If East started with ten-eight doubleton of hearts, then the defense could easily get the position wrong and allow declarer to make.

As before, suppose declarer wins the club in dummy, ruffs a diamond, and advances the queen of hearts; but now assume that East's hearts are ten-eight doubleton. If West covers the queen, then declarer will make! We win the ace, ruff a second diamond, play the closed hand's last heart to dummy's jack, cash the good seven of hearts, and claim.

To beat the contract, West needs to refuse to cover the queen of hearts. This is counter-intuitive; we saw above that on a diamond lead, it was necessary for West to cover the queen, in order to give declarer a choice between two different lines of play if East follows with the eight. But after a club lead, ducking the king of

hearts gives declarer an insoluble problem. While declarer can continue with a heart to the jack, after that, declarer can't simply cash the heart ace, because declarer first needs to get a second diamond ruff. Once the ruff has been taken, declarer tries to re-enter dummy with a club, but West ruffs with the king.

The full hand:

♠ AT976	♥ K53	♦ AT74	♣ Q	♠ 854	♥ T8	♦ KQJ9852	♣ 9
♠ 32	♥ Q962	♦ -	♣ KT76532				

At the table, about two-thirds of the online robot individual field ended up in this awful seven hearts contract and received the club lead.

In this format, the human Norths slipped into the South seat to declare the contract. Christopher found the best line of play, namely to play East for ten-eight doubleton of hearts and try to induce West to waste the king prematurely by covering the queen on the first round of hearts.

The robot West did indeed cover, and Christopher was the only person in the field to bring seven heart home. Well done!

**Don't Miss the fun at the
Windy City Regional
August 2-7**



AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

— DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —

ACBL Events Calendar

June 1-30 North American Pairs (NAP) Club
Qualifying 2x regular club masterpoints, 50% red, 50% black, in ACBL Virtual Clubs. Qualifiers move on to District NAP finals.

June 18-19 The Longest Day 2x regular club masterpoints, 100% black, in ACBL Virtual Clubs. The Longest Day is an annual fundraising event held to support the fight against Alzheimer's disease. Funds are distributed to the Alzheimer's Association in the US, as well as to the Alzheimer Society of Canada



Unit 123's clubs have an opportunity to join in the fight against Alzheimer's. Each year the ACBL partners with the Alzheimer's Association for the Longest Day, a fundraising event for dementia research and care.

If your club is holding face-to-face games, choose one day during the week of June 19-26 to hold as many games as desired to benefit the Alzheimer's Association.

Learn how you can participate in The Longest Day by downloading the Team Captain Guide at the ACBL website for custom resources.

Be sure to register your club's team with ACBL headquarters to be included in the participating club page. When starting a team for The Longest Day, use code ACBK for complimentary registration. For more information, contact ACBL Team Coordinator Stephanie Threlkeld at stephaniethrelkeld@acbl.org or at 662-253-3112.

The ACBL, Longest Day's inaugural partner, has raised almost \$8 million for the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association.

The Longest Day, however, is more than a fundraiser. It is increasing awareness of the resources the Alzheimer's Association can provide for free.

If your club is participating, we want to know about it. Email your information and photographs to DeMaris Johnson, Kibitzer editor, at demaris_j@hotmail.com.

