



Daily Bulletin



96th Summer North American Bridge Championships | NABCDailyBulletin@acbl.org
Editors: Paul Linxwiler, Chip Dombrowski and Amy Casanova | Graphic Designer: Kathy Stemley

National event updates

- Bramley–Zia lead LM Pairs
- Gaarder–Ritzenberg lead Bruce quals
- Xia–Lin set pace in Young Pairs
- GNT enters semifinal stage

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Come try Bridge Battle



Come play BridgeBattle!

A fast and fun game blends Bridge and War — no lessons needed.

Just show up, play and win prizes.

Saturday, July 11 | 1- 3 p.m. | Free
Location: Room 205A, Minneapolis Convention Center

Pre-registration required for Spingold, Mini-Spingold KOs

Registration for the Spingold Knockout Teams is required by 3:30 p.m. Sunday, July 12. This can be done on Entry Express or on site Sunday.

For the Mini-Spingolds, the deadline is 3:30 p.m. Monday, July 13, for the 0–6000 and 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 14, for the 0–3000. Contingent entries are allowed: May withdraw pending qualification in another event. This can be done on Entry Express.



Goodwill Message

Be a champion of goodwill:
Engage, connect, and uplift others at the bridge table.

*Lamya Agelidis, Chair
Aileen Osofsky Goodwill Committee*

Avery Silverstein is Queen of Bridge

Avery Silverstein was not yet 5 years old when she issued her first royal proclamation: It was time for her to learn bridge.

She'd been hearing her parents, pro Aaron Silverstein and Gennifer Binder, who own a club called Bridge School of Long Island, talk about the game all her life, and she was tired of being left out. So she began learning on her fifth birthday, taking a class at the club taught by Bridge Bulletin columnist Michael Berkowitz.

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Bermuda Bowl Bound: Team Shourie grabs USA1 slot at Team Trials

By John Carruthers



Winners of the 2026 USBC Open Teams: Vincent Demuy, John Hurd, team captain Rajath Shourie, John Kranyak, Kevin Bathurst and Gavin Wolpert. They will represent the U.S. at the 2027 Bermuda Bowl as USA1.

The United States Bridge Federation does a fantastic job of organizing and running their championships, also known as the Trials. This year, 19 teams entered the Open Trials to qualify as

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Team Ge wins USBF Mixed trials



Winners of the 2026 USBC Mixed Teams: Michael Rosenberg, Debbie Rosenberg, team captain Xin Ge, Disa Eythorsdottir, Kevin Rosenberg and Amber Lin.

For the Mixed U.S. Bridge Championships, 15 teams entered. They played a three-day round-robin to qualify eight for the knockout stage. GE (Xin Ge, Disa

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Today's Bridge Events

Saturday, July 11 Units 178 & 103 Day 9:30 am & 3:30 pm

Event	Session	Sold	Entry/player/session*	
			Members with discount	Members without discount
MOREHEAD GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT	1-2 SF	M100F, mezzanine	\$43	\$53
GOLDMAN GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT A	1-2 SF	M100F, mezzanine	\$25	\$35
SHEINWOLD GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT B	1-2 SF	M100F, mezzanine	\$25	\$35
MACNAB GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT C	1-2 SF	M100F, mezzanine	\$25	\$35
10 am				
<i>Dennis Carman Saturday Morning Side Pairs</i> <i>Thu-Sat Daylight Series</i>	single	Exhibit Hall A, lower level	\$22	\$32
<i>St. Cloud DBC 299er Pairs</i>	single	Exhibit Hall A, lower level	\$18	\$28
<i>Saturday Bridge Plus</i> <i>Free: 12 deals (0-20), follows the 8 am lesson</i>	single	205B, level 2	Free	Free
10 am & 3 pm				
NABC+ OPEN PAIRS <i>2 qualifying & 2 final sessions</i>	1-2 Q	Ballroom A, ground level	\$38	\$48
VON ZEDTWITZ LIFE MASTER PAIRS	1-2 SF	Ballroom B, ground level	\$43	\$53
BRUCE LM-6000 LIFE MASTER PAIRS	1-2 SF	200D, level 2	\$25	\$35
YOUNG 0-3000 PAIRS	1-2 SF	200D, level 2	\$25	\$35
<i>Tom & Sue Grue Top-Flight Pairs</i> <i>(unlim./5000)</i>	1-2	Exhibit Hall A, lower level	\$22	\$32
<i>Mid-Flight Pairs (4000/1250)</i>	1-2	Exhibit Hall A, lower level	\$22	\$32
<i>Mignon Nearmyer Memorial</i> <i>Gold Rush Pairs</i>	1-2	Exhibit Hall A, lower level	\$22	\$32
<i>Jonathan Cohen Memorial Top-Flight</i> <i>Swiss Teams (unlim./6000/4500)</i>	1-2	Exhibit Hall A, lower level	\$22	\$32
<i>Mike Liddy Memorial 0-4000 Bracketed</i> <i>Round Robin Teams</i>	1-2	Exhibit Hall A, lower level	\$22	\$32
3 pm				
<i>Saturday Afternoon Side Pairs</i> <i>Thu-Sat Daylight Series</i>	single	Exhibit Hall A, lower level	\$22	\$32
<i>St. Cloud DBC 299er Pairs</i>	single	Exhibit Hall A, lower level	\$18	\$28
7:30 pm				
<i>Saturday Evening Side Pairs</i> <i>Fri-Mon Evening Series</i>	single	200D, level 2	\$22	\$22

* For premier, NABC+ and NABC events, participants must be full ACBL members and up-to-date with their membership dues or service fees. For all other events, participants must be ACBL members (or guest members). Inactive members may renew or pay a \$5 upcharge per session.

Unless otherwise noted, strata breaks for all stratified events are: A (2500+), B (750-2500), C (0-750). Three-flight events are divided A/X (6000+/0-6000); B/C (1500-3000, 0-1500); Gold Rush (400-750/200-400/0-200). Two-flight events are divided A/X/Y (6000+/4000-6000/0-4000); B/C/D (1500-3000/750-1500/0-750) if no Gold Rush OR A/B/C (3000+/1500-3000/0-1500) and Gold Rush (400-750/200-400/0-200). In B flights, no single player may be over 3000. In Gold Rush events, no single player may be over 750. **BOLD, UPPER CASE = NABC+ events.** UPPER CASE = NABC events. **Green = Regional events (gold and red points).** **Blue = Gold Rush events (gold and red points).** **Red = Intermediate/Newcomer 299er events (red points).**

International Fund

In NABC+ events, \$1.50 (per person, per session) of each entry fee will be allocated to the ACBL International Fund. These funds are used to underwrite part of the expenses of ACBL players who participate in international competition.

Today's Sponsors

Units 178 & 103 Day Unit 178

ACBL Unit 178 was formed in 1987 when it split from the greater Minnesota Unit 103. Currently, Unit 178 has more than 600 members who live mainly in the city of Minneapolis and most of the northern, southern and western suburbs. The unit's members have been active in ACBL bridge administration, including current members of the Advisory Council, the current district president, and a former ACBL president. Unit 178 also counts three Grand Life masters and nine Platinum Life Masters among its membership.

Unit 103

Unit 103 in Minnesota represents the eastern metro area and all of outstate Minnesota. The unit sponsors tournaments and awards programs, has policies in place to help clubs grow and improve, such as innovation grants, education grants, one-time subsidies for hardware purchases, and rebates to clubs that run standalone North American Pairs qualifying games for Flight C and so forth. Our board is active, thoughtful and supportive of bridge in Minnesota. Welcome to Minnesota Nice!

The St. Cloud DBC

The St. Cloud DBC is the proud sponsor of this weekend's 299er games at the 2026 Summer NABC. We believe strongly in outreach to new players and encouraging new players to play at local clubs and tournaments. You represent the future of duplicate bridge. Have fun!

Tom & Sue Grue

Tom and Sue Grue met when they paired up with Tom's mother, Maggie Grue, for the St. Paul Bridge Center Christmas party in 1979. Both Sue and Tom are from duplicate bridge

parents. Sue's father, Sheppard Homans, ran a bridge club in Marietta GA in the '50s and '60s, where Sue learned to score and direct in high school. Maggie Grue was a leading player in Minnesota though the early 2000s. Tom and Sue's son, Joe Grue, is a third-generation duplicate player of the Grue family.

It was at the Fall NABC in Minneapolis in 1994 that Joe first asked if he could help caddy the tourney (basically, to get out of school for six days). At the end of that NABC, Joe then asked his parents to teach him to play bridge. Since then, he has done reasonably well, winning basically everything there is to win in bridge (13 NABC titles and the Bermuda Bowl) and establishing a major professional bridge career without losing his charming personality and friendly, helpful demeanor.

Mignon Nearmyer Instructor

Mignon Nearmyer, who taught bridge and taught it well for more than two decades, died in 2025. Thank you, Mignon, for sharing your talent and skill with the bridge community here in the Minneapolis area. You brought people together with your knowledge, patience, and commitment to bridge.

Jonathan Cohen

Jonathan Cohen was a chemist, weather observer, music lover, Twins and Vikings fan, cross-country skier



and avid bridge fanatic. Jonathan was born in New York City, graduated from Cornell University in 1967 and received his doctorate in organic chemistry in 1971. Jonathan married Barbara Nolan 10 years later and they moved to Minnesota in 1982. He grew to love the Minnesota weather – especially the snow – and was an enthusiastic cross-country skier and amateur weatherman.

Jonathan was also an avid bridge player and frequently represented Minnesota in the North American Pairs and other events with his regular partner, Charlie Nauen. Jonathan was a true student of the game, constantly reading bridge books and studying new conventions and ideas.

Mike Liddy By Deanna Liddy

When Mike joined our Flight C GNT team, it was the beginning of the rest of our lives – we married in 1991. Mike was an aggressive bidder and an astute declarer. He loved the game and the excitement generated at the table. In 2023, we lost Mike to West Nile disease.



Dennis Carman

Dennis learned bridge while watching his parents play rubber bridge with other bridge-playing couples. He's been a member of the ACBL since 1973. In addition to serving on several national committees including



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**Thanks to our major sponsors for the Summer NABC in Minneapolis:
Joel & Laurie Kramer • Bill Voedisch and Laurie Carlson • District 14**

SPECIAL EVENTS

MEETINGS / SEMINARS / RECEPTIONS

Meetings are at either the Sheraton or Minneapolis Convention Center.

Saturday, July 11		Sunday, July 12	
Units 178 & 103 Day		Peg Kaplan Day	
8–9:45 am	Free Bridge Lesson with Barbara Seagram , “Surprise Tricks and Sneaky Plays,” followed by a special game for newer players. <i>Room 205A, level 2, MCC</i>	8–9:45 am	Free Bridge Lesson with Jerry Helms , “The Importance of a Plan: Suit Contracts,” followed by a special game for newer players. <i>Room 205A, level 2, MCC</i>
8 am–noon	Best Practices Teacher Workshop. Session three of three. Learn modern teaching techniques in this interactive course which includes hands-on experience. Pre-registration required. Assessments will be Saturday and Sunday. <i>Room 205D, level 2, MCC</i>	8 am–5 pm	Best Practices Teacher Assessments. <i>Room 205D, level 2, MCC</i>
8:30–10 am	Hall of Fame Committee meeting. <i>Lasalle, 14th floor, Sheraton</i>	10 am–noon	Bridge-Plus Game. A special game for newer (0-20 MP) players. 12 boards, no card fee. <i>Room 205A, level 2, MCC</i>
10 am–noon	Bridge-Plus Game. A special game for newer (0-20 MP) players. 12 boards, no card fee. <i>Room 205A, level 2, MCC</i>	1–6 pm	Learn Bridge in a Day?™ This popular session is designed especially for true beginners, those returning to bridge after long absences and those merely wanting to test the waters before committing to formal classes. The concentrated course includes both class instruction and coached play. No pre-registration required. Fee: \$30 covers textbook and door prizes. <i>Room 205A, level 2, MCC</i>
1–3 pm	Bridge Battle. An easy-to-learn game that gets newcomers hooked on trick-taking. Free. <i>Room 205A, level 2, MCC</i>	6–8:30 pm	Learn Bridge in a Day?™ Teacher Accreditation. Teacher training includes information on organizing and marketing LBIAD as well as maximizing retention rates, writing effective grant requests and the presentation of the seminar. Fee: \$75. <i>Room 205A, level 2, MCC</i>
2–6 pm	Best Practices Teacher Assessments. <i>Room 205D, level 2, MCC</i>	8:30–11 pm	Beyond Bridge. Karaoke, games, photo booth, etc. <i>Mill City Ballroom, lobby level, Sheraton</i>
8:30–10 pm	Advisory Council meeting. REVISED JULY 10. <i>Room 205A, level 2, MCC.</i>		

CELEBRITY SPEAKER PROGRAM

Don't miss these free lectures by some of the best-known players in the game!
Exhibit Hall A, back right corner, on the lower level of the Convention Center.

Saturday, July 11		Sunday, July 12	
9:15 a.m.	Patty Tucker <i>Splinter Bids</i>	9:15 a.m.	Norman Beck <i>Unusual Things and Bridge</i>
		2:15 p.m.	Jeff Hand <i>Play These Trump Contracts</i>

HOSPITALITY

Food will be served mornings beginning at 9 a.m. and, courtesy of the host committee, selected afternoons at 2 p.m. on each floor of the Minneapolis Convention Center that games are being held that day.

Saturday, July 11
Morning: fruit yogurt. Afternoon: brownies.

Sunday, July 12
Muffins

SPECIAL EVENTS continued

PATRON LOUNGE

Patron Members are invited to visit the Patron Lounge in the Craft Bar above the Convention Center lobby from 1 to 3 p.m. today through Wednesday, July 15, for light lunch and coffee. The lounge is not open in the mornings. Coffee, tea, water and freshly baked bread are available each day.

Saturday, July 11

House salad, chicken pot pie, lemon meringue cake

Sunday, July 12

Turkey wedge (smoked and deli roasted turkey, lettuce, aioli on focaccia), grapes, chips, cookie (boxed)

Sponsors

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Appeals and Charges, Goodwill and Charity, he's served on unit and district boards and chaired regionals. His proudest bridge achievement was making the finals in the Blue Ribbon Pairs at the Providence NABC.

Dennis directed bridge games in the late 1970s and early 1980s. He is active in unit mentoring programs and teaches private group sessions

Dennis spent much of his career in the steel industry. He met his wife, Susan, in 1977 at the Lansing (MI) Sectional held Thanksgiving weekend. They married in 1978 and welcomed a son, Taylor, in December 1979. They had a daughter in October 1981 who is deceased.

Many of the Carman family still play: Dennis' mother, Darlene (a former secretary of Unit 195), in Oklahoma City, where she moved to live with Dennis' brother, Bob. A sister in Florida has returned to bridge

after a long absence, and a brother in California is trying to increase and improve his bridge playing.



No smoking

Smoking and vaping are not permitted inside the Minneapolis Convention Center. This prohibition includes cigarettes, cigars, pipes, vapes and marijuana. It is a violation of both the ACBL codification and Minnesota law to smoke in an area where not permitted. Violators will be subject to discipline.

Evening entertainment

Four nights of fun evening entertainment are planned.

Sunday, July 12

Beyond Bridge: Karaoke, games, photo booth, etc. Light food and cash bar. 8:30 p.m. *Mill City Ballroom, lobby level, Sheraton*

Monday, July 13

It's Midnight Somewhere Zip KO: Social bridge, no masterpoints. 8:30 p.m. *Room 200B, level 2, MCC*

Wednesday, July 15

Bridge Mania: Jeopardy, Family Feud and other bridge-themed games. Light food and cash bar. 8:30 p.m. *Mill City Ballroom, lobby level, Sheraton*

Friday, July 17

Crazy Bridge: Chaos-inducing rule changes lighten the game. Get ready to laugh, play and think on your feet. 8:30 p.m. *Room 200B, level 2, MCC*



Instructor Accreditation

This program instructs teachers in methods of administering and presenting LBIAD.

If you wish to be accredited, you must complete the following two requirements:

Serve as a Table Mentor at a LBIAD seminar ♠ Attend a two-hour LBIAD Teacher Training event

Teacher Training includes information on organizing and marketing LBIAD, maximizing retention, writing grant requests and seminar presentation. A light meal will be provided 6-6:30 p.m. To register, or if you have questions, please contact **Patty Tucker** at bridgewithpatty2020@gmail.com.

Fee: \$75 USD (If purchasing a LBIAD license within 30 days of accreditation, \$50 of the \$75 fee will be applied to the first-year license fee.)

Sunday, July 12 ♠ 12:30-8:30 p.m. ♠ Room 205A, Minneapolis Convention Center



JUST FOR NEW PLAYERS

Colin Hall of Sioux Falls SD, has been playing bridge for four years. His son Miles, 10, has been playing for three.

"He's the youngest player to scratch in the tournament, would be my guess," Colin said. "Owen and Theo are 7, and today is their first tournament."

The brothers all learned the game from their grandmother.

"I have 10.7 masterpoints," Miles said proudly. He usually plays with his father, "but also with Jade and Donna."

"We're from South Dakota, so Jade Barrett and Donna Lombardini are our friends and bridge coaches, and they got us into the game," Colin explained. Barrett is a professional player and coach, while Lombardini is an ACBL tournament director.

Miles earned his first masterpoints at the Kansas City Regional.

"We played Swiss teams with Jade and Donna, and I won 0.45 red points," he said.

While Owen and Theo were less chatty than their older brother, Miles was happy to share their goals. If they earned masterpoints, Owen wants parakeets and Theo has his eye on



The Hall family (from left): Miles, Colin, Owen, an as-yet-unnamed raccoon and Theo, with teammates Laura Gastelum and Jason Doyle.

a guinea pig. The family already has a cat and a dog.

On Friday, the Halls teamed up with Laura Gastelum of Lomita CA and Jason Doyle in the bracketed teams. Doyle is a member of the Irish national team coached by Barrett.

Asked what he likes most about bridge, Miles said, "Winning."

Thinking Bridge

By Eddie Kantar

Dlr: West ♠ Q 9 4 2
Vul: Both ♥ K 5
♦ J 9
♣ A K 10 9 2

♠ 8		♠ 6 5 3
♥ J 9 6 4 2		♥ A Q 10
♦ A 10 4 3		♦ K Q 8 7 2
♣ 8 7 4		♣ 6 5
	♠ A K J 10 7	
	♥ 8 7 3	
	♦ 6 5	
	♣ Q J 3	

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♠
3♦	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Opening lead: ♦A.

Bidding commentary: In the modern game, jump raises of opening bids or overcalls in competition (3♦) are weak and preemptive. A cuebid is used to show strong supporting hands. As North, do not count for the ♦J, a secondary honor

card in a suit that has been bid and supported. Even so, your hand is strong enough to bid 3♠, and South is strong to bid 4♠, attaching extra value to honors (♣Q J) in partner's first-bid suit.

Defensive commentary: As East, when partner leads a winning card in a suit you have bid, and a suit in which you have strength, check dummy to determine whether you want a continuation or prefer a shift. If you want a shift, play your lowest card. Good partners can usually work out the "shift" suit. It is usually dummy's shorter side suit.

You want a heart shift, so play the ♦2. If you get the shift, you can take two hearts and two diamonds and defeat the contract one trick. If you don't ask for a shift and partner plays another diamond, you get only one heart trick. Declarer can rattle off five spades and five clubs for 10 tricks.

Eddie Kantar (1932–2022) was an accomplished player with two world championships and 17 NABC titles. Kantar is probably best known as a teacher and author of over 35 bridge books. He was a longtime contributor to the ACBL's Bridge Bulletin.



Bramley–Zia lead LM Pairs

Capping a strong 60% game in the first qualifying session with an even stronger 70% game in the second, Bart Bramley and Zia Mahmood topped the opening round of the von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs. They finished a half board ahead of Sweden's Per-Ola Cullin and Marion Michielsen. Third place is occupied by Zachary Grossack and Andrew Rosenthal.

Of the 264 pairs who entered he contest, 156 advanced to today's semifinal round.

Gaarder–Ritzenberg lead Bruce quals

The Maryland-based duo of Jim Gaarder and Jimmy Ritzenberg topped the qualifying round of the Bruce Life Master Pairs, limited to players under 6000 masterpoints. Gaarder and Ritzenberg turned in 59% and 65% performances in the first and second sets, respectively, to win the opening round by more than a full board.

In second place are the Milwaukee-area couple of Tamas Szabo and Aniko Szabo. In third place are Todd Thorsen of Lititz PA and Rolf Swenson of Silver Spring MD.

Thirty-six pairs qualified for today's two-session semifinal round out of the 64 pairs that entered the contest.

Xia–Lin set pace in Young Pairs

Qing Xia and Xuhua Lin of New Jersey lead the qualifiers in the Young 0–3000 Pairs. Xia and Lin scored 54.86% in the morning session and 60.58% in the afternoon session to finish a few matchpoints ahead of second-place duo Stephen Silvius and Elizabeth Silvius of San Bernardino CA. Narrowly behind in third place are Michael Berard and Art McCann of Maryland.

Thirty-six pairs advanced to today's semifinal round.

GNT enters semifinal stage

All flights of the Grand National Teams have been reduced to four teams.

In the Championship Flight, Han (D21, Bay Area) defeated Robinson (D6, DC–Maryland–Virginia) by 86 IMPs.

Schafer (D23, Los Angeles) saw a 33-IMP halftime lead disappear as Jones (D17, Southwest) rallied to pull even after three quarters. Schafer regained control in the final set, winning 149–141.

Moses (D8, Southern Illinois–Eastern Missouri) led throughout in a 160–126 victory over Allen (D13, Chicago).

Pollack (D9, Florida) built a commanding second-quarter lead and defeated Chen (D16, Texas) by 40 IMPs.

In Flight A, Bay Area's D21 Sanner squad lost a thriller to Chicago's D13 Smid team. Sanner led after the opening set but trailed by 23 IMPs at halftime. The Bay Area team cut the deficit to 8 after three quarters before falling by just 5 IMPs.

Florida's D9 Stephani team erased an 18-IMP halftime deficit to defeat D17 (Southwest) Rockoff by 44 IMPs.

Team Lee (D16, Texas) defeated D11 (Southern Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky) Petersen by 13 IMPs.

Seattle-area's Krah (D19) battled to the end despite trailing by 70 IMPs after three quarters, eventually falling to Caranicas (D14, Upper Midwest).

In Flight B, two matches were very close: Kosansky (D20, Pacific Northwest, Hawaii) led Ashbrook (D8, Southern Illinois–Eastern Missouri) by only 5 IMPs before pulling away in the fourth quarter to win handily. The final score was 151–117.

Goulet (D1, Eastern Canada) scored a 10-IMP victory over Henson (D7, Southeast).

Jonas-Silver (District 24, New York City) had a 71-IMP lead after three quarters over Munro (D6, DC–

Maryland–Virginia), who withdrew.

Daniels (D13, Chicago) cruised to victory over Nguyen (D16, Texas), winning by 103 IMPs.

In Flight C, the top seeds prevailed in three quarterfinal matches. The local District 14 Anderson team, seeded sixth, got a blowout win over District 2 (Ontario) Skalskyi, going up 110–38 at halftime and piling on to a 202–54 final.

The closest match was between District 4 (eastern Pennsylvania and western New York) McInneshin and District 21 (San Francisco area) Francis, with District 4 winning 96–85 after trailing only in the first quarter.

The other District 21 team, Girkar, were 129–92 winners over the Chen team from District 9 (Florida). Top-seeded Long from District 24 (New York City) turned a 1-IMP 43–42 first-quarter lead over District 6 (DC, Maryland, Virginia) Coleman into 102–47 at the half. It didn't get any closer as D24 went on to win 167–107.

The full semifinal pairings are on page 25.



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Correction

In yesterday's pairings for the Grand National Teams Flight B on page 25, the wrong team was listed in one of the quarterfinal matches. The District 6 team, not District 25, faced District 24 on Friday.

GNT Flight B

District 6: Alan Munro, Vienna VA; Colin Schloss – Jichong Chai, Falls Church VA; Hayoi You, Berwyn Heights MD

vs

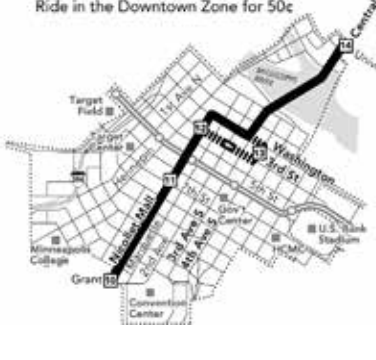
District 24: Maya Jonas-Silver – Jack Latta, Brooklyn NY; Andrew Jeanguenat – Kenneth Mandel, New York NY

Round Round Get Around: By Bus

Travel inside the Metro Transit Downtown Zone [see the dotted lines in the maps below] for **\$0.50**.

The #10, #25 and the **Free Bus** stop at the Convention Center and then make turns to head back to Nicollet toward the river. The #10 & #17 cross the Mississippi at 3rd Av. if you want to visit the St. Anthony restaurants (still in the downtown .50 zone).

Either the #17 or #18 head South on Nicollet to Eat Street (<10' away). A short walk to Nicollet gets you to them or you can board the Free Bus westbound across the driveway and exit at Nicollet. b

#17 \$0.50 will get you to the St. Anthony restaurants as well as near some in down-town East. The #17 continues South to Eat Street on Nicollet outside the .50 zone. 	#18 Travels up and down Nicollet with a jog into Downtown East. Eat Street restaurants are beyond the downtown .50 zone heading South. 	#10&25&FREE stop at the Convention Center. The Free bus turns W. to Hennepin at Washington before coming back S. on Nicollet. The 10&25 head East at Washington before crossing into the St. Anthony area on 3rd Av.  The Free Bus makes stops at even numbered cross streets & runs every 15' until 5am-1am.	#4 After riding up Nicollet on any of the free, #17,18, or 25 buses you can transfer to the Westbound #4 to go into the heart of the North Loop or the Eastbound #4 toward the Downtown East restaurants. 
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The Minnesota Bridge Blog has a link to these maps that you can download to your phone: [Round Round Get Around: By Bus](#)

Round Round Get Around Dining Saturday July 11: Eat Street

The metro ICE surge in January put a big hurt on the Twin Cities, but particularly along those restaurants in Eat Street which is famous for its assortment of ethnic dining options. Immigrant restaurant staff were afraid to come out, and guest patronage was damaged all over. Alex Pretti was killed in the heart of the district, and a memorial remains. The Greek restaurant, Christos, became somewhat of a crisis center that day: <https://www.bizjournals.com/twincities/news/2026/03/30/perspectives-recovering-operation-metro.html>

Need help with restaurant reservations? The Meet Minneapolis desk on the lobby level of the Convention Center will assist you.

Eligibility points

Notice to members of other national bridge organizations:

If you are currently a member of a bridge organization outside of the U.S., Canada, Mexico or Bermuda, or have been in the past, please be aware that you must have eligibility points assigned to you prior to participation in any event at this NABC. This is especially important if you intend to enter an event, flight or stratum with a masterpoint limit or a bracketed event. Please visit the Tournament Operations office (*Room 201, level 2, MCC*) for this purpose. Previously assigned eligibility points do not need to be reviewed.

Need to join or renew?

You can renew or reinstate your membership online at acbl.org/join or in the Tournament Operations office (*Room 201, level 2, MCC*).



Queen of Bridge

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"I don't think there was ever going to be a world where I didn't play bridge," Avery told Adam Parrish when she appeared on his podcast last year. "It's just not possible."

No one would have guessed it back then – she enjoyed the game but it didn't take it very seriously before high school – but that was the start of her journey to becoming Queen of Bridge, an annual award of the ACBL Educational Foundation for graduating high school students.

"I can't imagine how my life would be if I hadn't started so early," she said. "It's been such a consistent part of my life."

Now 17, Avery has attended every Summer NABC since 2016, when she was just 7 years old. A hand she played at that tournament in Washington DC got written up in the Daily Bulletin. She was playing in a side game with her mother and got to 4♠ making five. Avery doesn't think there was anything remarkable about the hand other than the age of the declarer, but the article got picked up by the New York Post and then publications all over the world including India Today.

"From the time I was 5 to 13 or 14, it was super casual," Avery said. "I wasn't serious, I wasn't good."

As Aaron recalls, "The first 10 years, she just took a beginner class and never asked another question." As a child, when Avery made obvious bridge mistakes, she attempted to throw Berkowitz under the bus: "She'd say, 'But Michael told me to do that!' I'm pretty sure he didn't," Aaron gently corrected.

In 2018 Avery began taking part in a local youth program run by Barbara McLendon at the Cavendish Club in New York. There she met Jack Boge, when he was 10 and she was 9. They started playing together a year later and joined the USBF Junior training program in 2019.

It was a long pandemic-induced

break between the Summer NABC in Las Vegas that year and the next one in Providence in 2022, the first Jack and Avery played together. In the days before the Youth NABC, they played mostly 299er games, winning three of them. Perhaps she'd absorbed more in Junior training than she'd realized; it was time to move on to more advanced competition. A member of her team from the Youth Swiss invited them to Junior trials that December in Atlanta.

Though they didn't fare all that well, there weren't that many players under 16, and Jack and Avery were invited to be part of the USA2 Under-16 team at the 2023 World Youth Teams Championships in Veldhoven, Denmark.

That was the moment her bridge career took off. "The trials were the event that made Jack and I realize we wanted to be good," she said. "We spent those days practicing all day."

Since the beginning of 2023, Avery has devoted at least an hour each day to improving her game. She became close to her U-16 teammates Ethan Derman and Daniel Balof, both of whom would become partners of hers. (Jeffrey Yin and Claire Cao rounded out the team.)

Shortly before the world youth event, Avery and Jack won the Grand National Teams Flight C at the Summer NABC in Chicago, defeating the same fellow District 24 team in that final that they had lost to in the district competition. "Although we cruised through the event, we were both absolutely ecstatic afterwards," Jack said. Then came Veldhoven.

"We were dead last after the first day, and afterwards played every match and managed to qualify in seventh," Jack said. "To recover, especially in such a grueling format (four-day round robin), felt amazing, and she played super, super well the whole time."

They were picked by China as quarterfinal opponents and beat them, which set them up for a match with their fellow USA1 team: Charlie Chen,

Andrew Chen, Eric Xiao, Jeff Xiao, Kayden Ge and Brian Zhang. "They were the team everyone expected to win," Avery said. "And we beat them also."

"That's when it hit me. I was in the final of a U-16 world championship and a year before I was in 299ers."

Avery's team surprised everyone winning the silver medal, and the Chens and company took bronze.

Later that year, she made the second day of an NABC+ event for the first time, the Mixed Swiss Teams at the Fall NABC in Atlanta.

In 2024, playing with her dad, Avery placed 12th in the von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs. That fall, playing with Jack in the Mixed Swiss, her team not only repeated qualifying but actually led the field after the first day. "That was one of the first times I really knew she was going to be an amazing bridge player," Jack said.

At Junior trials that year, her team, now including Sam Pakh and Michael Hass, won. They got to be USA1 this time, at the 2025 World Youth Team Championships in Italy, but it was once again the USA2 team that took silver while USA1 got bronze.

"We lost in the semifinals to the same USA team we beat the previous time," Avery said. "That was the most heartbreaking I've been in my entire life."

Aaron is the team's coach and mentors them in the Junior program. He's seen Avery's development from the beginning. What sets her apart, he says, is "she works really hard." Though getting an early start helped – "the basics are ingrained in her" – "I think it's really mostly the effort. Since she's been 14, she does something in bridge every day. She texts me bridge questions 20 times a week. Even if she does something successful, she asks if she could have done better. She has a great attitude and works really hard."

Having been around high-level players most of her life, Avery is comfortable with them and often asks them questions. Steve Weinstein, Joe

Grue and Chris Willenken have all sent her notes. That willingness to listen also helps her, Aaron says. “She is less crazy than most of the Juniors I know. I’m not saying she’s disciplined. She’s aggressive and optimistic. Every young player I’ve seen does that.”

Interestingly, Avery has a similar record to her dad in his early years. When he was 21, Aaron won a bronze medal from the 1987 World Youth Teams – the first year it was held – and won Flight C of the North American Pairs in 1988.

“She’s much better than I was at 17,” he said. “I didn’t start playing until I was 17. I was not nearly as seasoned as she was. We didn’t have a Junior program back then.”

The biggest breakthrough moment for Avery came at the Spring 2025 NABC in Memphis, when she, Jack and Ethan played in the Vanderbilt with John McAllister. Seeded 51st out of 55 teams, they drew a first-round match against the No. 8 Rubenstein team (Stuart Rubenstein, Zach Grossack, Michael Rosenberg, Joe Grue and Brad Moss). Down about 60 IMPs at the half, they came back to win and went on to win the next day as well, reaching the Round of 16. The three Juniors on the team captured the hearts of those at the tournament. “Everyone was rooting for us,” Avery said.

Even losing to the Dinkin team in the Round of 16 may have been fortuitous. Avery has recently started following in her dad’s footsteps as a professional player, with Sam Dinkin as her sponsor.

Though Avery’s rise has been fast and dramatic, it hasn’t all been roses. She has often struggled with how she is perceived by fellow players and directors. In 2023, when she was hyper-focused on winning a world championship, she put intense pressure on herself, her partner and teammates. Though she and Jack have always been close friends, their partnership could appear at times to be quite acrimonious.



Jack Boge, Ethan Derman, Michael Haas, Daniel Balof, Avery Silverstein, Sam Pakh and npc Aaron Silverstein won bronze medals in the Under-21 teams at the 2025 World Youth Team Championships, two years after Boge, Derman, Balof and Silverstein won silver medals in the Under-16 teams.

“There was a while when I was way meaner to Jack than I ever should have been, and I feel so bad about it,” she said.

Part of the problem, she said, was that she felt most bridge players treated her as a little girl who didn’t know anything – which, to be fair, is how she viewed herself not long before that. She wanted people to see she knew what she was talking about, and some of her misguided table talk arose from that. But after a year or so, she came to realize she had traded her reputation from clueless novice to mean girl. A low point came when she was kicked out of the 2024 Youth NABC during the final day Swiss teams. But it led to a new quest for self-improvement.

“Over the past couple years, I have learned that being in a healthy partnership is as important as anything else in bridge,” she said. “I cannot play with someone I’m not close friends with. A lot of bridge is being able to connect with your partner. I started playing with other people [Balof and Derman]. I never treated them like I treated Jack. It’s not so much about getting better as it is making sure that you’re both having a good time.”

“When you’re a young woman playing bridge, people are going to treat you like you’re worse. It’s harder to be heard, it’s harder to be respected.

But I realized I don’t need to prove myself at all. I just need to play. If people don’t think highly of me, that’s them. My record will speak for itself.”

“All young players have an ego,” Aaron notes. “You have to be mindful of what makes your team play the best. She does try to do that.”

“It’s gotten way better,” Jack confirmed. Whatever was said back then doesn’t prevent him from singing her praises. “I think she’s so deserving of this award. She immerses herself in the game more than anyone can ever imagine, from directing, to teaching, to playing professionally. I expect to see amazing results and outreach from her in the near future.”

McAllister, who has known Avery since she was 8, was likewise thrilled. “She’s become a really strong player and a good friend. We’re really lucky as a community to have her as a player. I’m delighted that she is being recognized.”

Lately, it’s a different perception problem Avery is worried about – that she’s a nepo baby. “I’m very concerned about claims of nepotism,” she told Parrish. To be sure, growing up in a pro bridge player’s household is a privilege. But the Junior program does its best to level the field by giving all participants access to expert mentors, Aaron noted. He’s been mentoring

several kids besides Avery and her teammates since she joined the program.

Avery will be attending the University of Texas – conveniently located in the same city as Dinkin – and plans to major in biochemistry. She’s interested in neurology. “I’ve spent a lot of time looking at brain scans,” she said. But first she plans to take a gap year. But she doesn’t see her budding pro career getting in the way of her college plans. “Not a chance,” she said.

She’s excited about this year’s Junior trials, where she’ll be playing with Derman, hoping to make one of the Under-26 teams.

“Bridge for her is not only a game she loves but also a good social outlet,” Derman said. “She tries hard, loves to be right and loves to win. She’s dedicated to the game and has high aspirations as an individual and for out partnership, like I do.”

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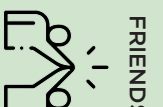
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Bermuda Bowl

continued from page 1

USA1 for the 2027 Bermuda Bowl; USA2 will be decided next year. To reduce that number to a perfect 16, there was a preliminary round-robin of the bottom 10-seeded teams, with the top seven victory point-earners joining the nine exempted teams (based on seeding points) in carrying on to the main event. There followed a 16-team, three-day round robin with the top eight making it through to two-day knockout matches for the quarterfinal, semifinal and final matches.

The top three seeds and pre-tournament favorites were: FLEISHER (Marty Fleisher–Chip Martel, Joe Grue–Brad Moss, Brian Platnick–Kevin Rosenberg); NICKELL (Eric Greco–Geoff Hampson, Ralph Katz–Nick Nickell, Bobby Levin–Steve Weinstein); and SHOURIE (Kevin Bathurst–John Hurd, Vincent Demuy–John Kranyak, Rajath Shourie–Gavin Wolpert).

True to form, the final was contested between FLEISHER and SHOURIE, with the latter coming from back from a large deficit in an exhilarating performance to win the match 253–209.

Early rounds

Dlr: South	♠ J 8 5	
Vul: E–W	♥ 6 5 4 2	
Bd. 51	♦ 3	
	♣ J 9 7 6 2	
♠ A K Q 9 7 2		♠ 10 4
♥ K Q 8		♥ A J 7 3
♦ J 10 5 4		♦ A K 7 2
♣ —		♣ 10 5 4
	♠ 6 3	
	♥ 10 9	
	♦ Q 9 8 6	
	♣ A K Q 8 3	

KOVACHEV v. SHOURIE

West	North	East	South
Kranyak	Kovachev	Demuy	Wilkins
			2♣ ⁽¹⁾
Dbl	5♣	Dbl	Pass
5♠	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♦	Pass	7♣	Pass
7♥	All Pass		

(1) 6+ clubs(!), 10–15 HCP

As I watched the bidding progress on this deal, I thought 6♠ and 6♥ were almost cold (and were cold on the lie of the cards) and 6♦ might make as long as declarer handled the trumps judiciously (i.e., taking a diamond finesse: not playing off the A–K on the first two rounds of the suit). When Kranyak bid 6♦, I felt a twinge of concern (I always root for “my Juniors” and Demuy and Wolpert of the SHOURIE team were two of my star Juniors back in the days when I managed and captained the Canadian Junior teams). That concern turned to alarm when Demuy bid 7♣. Then I realized that 7♥ could make: ruff the opening club lead, cash the ♥K Q, cross to dummy with a diamond, draw trumps and run the spade suit.

When Kranyak did find the 7♥ bid, I was pleased. But Kovachev was too smart for us – he led a trump, not a club. Kranyak won in hand, cashed the other high heart, crossed on a diamond and ruffed a club for, he hoped, his thirteenth trick. However, when he tried to get back to dummy in diamonds a second time, Kovachev ruffed it and led a club for down three!

Yes, Kranyak could have made it by winning the heart in hand, crossing to the ♦A, ruffing a club, then overtaking the ♥K with the ace in dummy to draw the trumps, playing for 3–3 hearts or the actual holding, 10–9 doubleton with South. However, 3–2 diamonds was a way more likely distribution than 3–3 hearts plus the chance of the 10–9 doubleton. Kranyak made the “correct” play, it was just not the winning play. The SHOURIE team lost 14 IMPs to 4♠ making six at the other table.

After 112 boards of their quarterfinal match and with eight to play, BAILEY led NICKELL by 15 IMPs, 234 to 219. Here’s a lead problem:

♠ — ♥ J 9 8 5 4 3 2 ♦ K 9 7 ♣ 10 4 2

The opponents are vulnerable, you are not. The dealer, on your right, opens 1♠, playing a strong club system. You decide to take advantage of the vulnerability just a bit and overcall 3♥. Your LHO bids 4♠, your partner passes and your RHO produces a leap of his own, to 6♠, all pass. What’s it to be?

Benito Garozzo’s advice is to lead aggressively against slams, and the player holding this hand did so, leading the ♦7.

Dlr: North ♠ K Q J 8 7 4 3
Vul: N–S ♥ —
Bd. 113 ♦ A Q 10 6 5
♣ 8

♠ A 6 2
♥ Q 10
♦ J 3 2
♣ A 9 7 5 3

♠ —
♥ J 9 8 5 4 3 2
♦ K 9 7
♣ 10 4 2

♠ 10 9 5
♥ A K 7 6
♦ 8 4
♣ K Q J 6

NICKELL v. BAILEY

West	North	East	South
Lee	Greco	Korbel	Hampson
	1♠	3♥	4♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

A grateful Greco covered Korbel’s ♦7 lead with the 8 and beat the jack with the queen. After the ♦A and a diamond ruff with the ♠9, declarer was able to discard his club loser on a high heart, lead a trump and claim; plus 1430. (Daniel: Every player I’ve given this hand to led a diamond.)

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Wooldridge	Levin	Grainger
	1♠	3♥	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Wooldridge decided to try a little subterfuge, bidding his second-round control rather than either of his first-round controls. This worked perfectly for Grainger, who was able to make a control-bid of his own with 5♥, denying a diamond control. When Wooldridge leapt to 6♠, Levin realized that North was well-prepared for a diamond lead, so he led a heart. Declarer was able to discard his club loser, but when he lost the diamond finesse, he finished one off – the operation was a success, but the patient died.

The NICKELL team thus won 17 IMPs on this board to win the match by, you guessed it ... 16 IMPs, 257–241!

To no one’s surprise, the three favorites had made it through to the final four. NICKELL would face FLEISHER in one match, SHOURIE would go against WILDAVSKY in the other.

Defense is so difficult, as the following deals will attest.

Dlr: East
Vul: N–S
Bd. 62

♠ A 4
♥ A 4 3 2
♦ A J 2
♣ K 10 6 5

♠ Q 10 9 8 6 2
♥ K 9 7
♦ 10 4 3
♣ 3

♠ 7 3
♥ J 10 8 6
♦ K 6
♣ A Q J 9 2

♠ K J 5
♥ Q 5
♦ Q 9 8 7 5
♣ 8 7 4

NICKELL v. FLEISHER

West	North	East	South
<i>Platnick</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Moss</i>
1♠	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

(1) 2+ diamonds, 10–15 HCP

Levin won the Rusinow ♣J lead with the king, his eighth trick. He led the ♦A then jack to Rosenberg's king. East tested clubs by taking the queen and then shifted to the ♥J. As the ♥K was over the queen (Levin ducked hearts twice) and the ♠Q was offside, there was no ninth trick; down one, minus 100.

At the other table, the first four tricks were similar (Greco cashed the ♣A rather than the queen). However, when East shifted to the ♥J after the ♣A, Joe Grue won with his ace (not playing dummy's queen) and ran the diamonds. On the last of these, we had arrived here:

	♠ A 4	
	♥ 4 3	
	♦ —	
	♣ 10 6	
♠ Q 10 9 8		♠ 7 3
♥ K 9		♥ 10 8
♦ —		♦ —
♣ —		♣ Q 9
	♠ K J 5	
	♥ Q	
	♦ 5	
	♣ 8	

Declarer had won five tricks, the defense, two. On the ♦5, Hampson discarded a spade, Grue a heart and Greco, fatally, a heart. Declarer took full advantage, leading a spade to the ace and exiting with his remaining heart. Hampson could take his two heart tricks but then had to lead into dummy's ♠K J for nine tricks, plus 600 and 12 IMPs. It was a brilliant display by Grue. Greco had to hang on to two hearts in the end game to defeat 3NT.

Dlr: South	♠ 10 9 8	
Vul: Both	♥ A K J 5	
Bd. 83	♦ K Q 3	
	♣ A 10 3	
♠ Q 6 4 2		♠ A J 7 5
♥ 6 4 3		♥ —
♦ 9 5 4		♦ J 8 6 2
♣ K 4 2		♣ J 9 8 7 5
	♠ K 3	
	♥ Q 10 9 8 7 2	
	♦ A 10 7	
	♣ Q 6	

SHOURIE v. WILDAVSKY

West	North	East	South
<i>Wildavsky</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Doub</i>	<i>Demuy</i>
Pass	2♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♦ ⁽²⁾
Pass	2♥ ⁽³⁾	Pass	2♠ ⁽⁴⁾
Pass	2NT ⁽⁵⁾	Pass	3♦ ⁽⁶⁾
Pass	3♥ ⁽⁷⁾	Pass	3NT ⁽⁸⁾
Pass	4♣ ⁽⁹⁾	Pass	4♦ ⁽¹⁰⁾
Pass	4♠ ⁽¹¹⁾	Pass	5♣ ⁽¹²⁾
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

This was a very learned auction to a slam with little play. 2♣ was game forcing, 2♦ was either six or more hearts or 2=5=2=4. They relayed to show exact distribution, and 3NT confirmed a spade control with six hearts. After club and diamond control bids, 4♠ was key card, South showing one. Wildavsky led a diamond, giving nothing away but setting up his side for the disaster to follow. Demuy won with his ace over the jack and drew trumps ending in the dummy, East discarding one card in each suit, and led a spade. Doub played low and Demuy won with his king. He took the ♦K Q, then ran trumps. As the last heart was to be played, this was the situation:

	♠ 10 9	
	♥ —	
	♦ —	
	♣ A 10	
♠ Q 2		♠ A J
♥ —		♥ —
♦ —		♦ —
♣ K 2		♣ J 9
	♠ 3	
	♥ 2	
	♦ —	
	♣ Q 6	

When declarer played the ♥2, West had to discard a spade to retain two clubs, or the king would fall on the first round of the suit. Demuy pitched a spade from the dummy and East felt the pinch: if he ditched the ♠J, he'd be put on play with the ♠A to lead a club. There was no way Demuy was going to misguess clubs at that point – Doub would not have ducked the ace with the ♣K behind the ace. On the other hand, if East discarded the ♠A, a spade from declarer would have put West on play with the queen to lead away from the ♣K. Accordingly, Doub discarded a club.

Demuy produced the coup-de-grâce: he led the ♣Q, pinning the jack and making 12 tricks for plus 1430 and 13 IMPs! Did I mention that defense was difficult? And that Demuy is a great player?

Demuy was not finished yet. On the next board:

Dlr: West
Vul: None

♠ K 8	♠ A 7 5 4 3
♥ K J 8 5 4	♥ —
♦ K 9 5 2	♦ Q J 6
♣ 10 3	♣ J 8 7 5 2
♠ J 6	♠ Q 10 9 2
♥ 10 9 7 6	♥ A Q 3 2
♦ 10 4 3	♦ A 8 7
♣ Q 9 6 4	♣ A K

West	North	East	South
<i>Wildavsky</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Doub</i>	<i>Demuy</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	2♦ ⁽²⁾	Pass	2♠ ⁽²⁾
Pass	3♦ ⁽³⁾	Pass	3♥ ⁽⁴⁾
Pass	3♠ ⁽⁵⁾	Pass	4♠ ⁽⁶⁾
Pass	5♣ ⁽⁷⁾	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

- (1) 18–20 balanced; could have 5M or 6m
 (2) Four+ hearts
 (3) Transfer to hearts
 (4) Forced
 (5) Five hearts, Four diamonds, semi balanced; game-forcing, slam interest
 (6) RKCB for hearts
 (7) One or four key cards

Another learned auction to a dreadful slam, this one needing three spade tricks or two spade tricks and a spade-diamond squeeze. Wildavsky led a club to the jack and ace; Demuy drew trumps, East first discarding three spades, then a club. After a spade to the king and ace, Doub led another club to declarer's king. Demuy led a diamond to dummy's king, resulting in this position:

♠ 8	♠ 7
♥ 8	♥ —
♦ 9 5 2	♦ Q J
♣ —	♣ 8 7
♠ J	♠ Q 10 9
♥ —	♥ —
♦ 10 4	♦ A 8
♣ Q 9	♣ —

When declarer cashed the ♥8, East and West both threw clubs, declarer, the ♦8. Demuy led dummy's spade eight – when Doub followed with the seven, Demuy went up with the queen, dropping the jack, and claimed 12 tricks; plus 980 and 11 IMPs.

How did Vincent Demuy guess to drop the ♠J? There were three strong indicators: first, East had passed in third chair – there was no way he'd have done so with six spades to the A–J: he'd have opened 2♠; second, East would not have discarded three spades, exposing the jack to a finesse, then a drop by the queen; third, West would likely have led a low singleton spade if he'd had one. All the signs pointed to West's actual spade holding, doubleton-jack.

The semifinal scores were:

SHOURIE 242 – WILDAVSKY 192
 FLEISHER 243 – NICKELL 154

The final

The final was like two different events: in the first 75 boards of the 120-board match, FLEISHER outscored SHOURIE 187–109; the match looked to be over. However, over the next 45 boards, SHOURIE topped FLEISHER 144–22. When added together, that meant SHOURIE won the match, 253–209 and will be USA1 in the 2027 Bermuda Bowl.

With 82 boards played, SHOURIE had clawed back 6 IMPs to trail 202–130. The avalanche was about to start.

Dlr: South
Vul: Both

♠ J 9 7 6 3 2	♠ A Q
♥ A 9	♥ Q 10 8 7 6 2
♦ K 3	♦ 6 4
♣ 9 7 6	♣ A 5 2
♠ —	♠ K 10 8 5 4
♥ K 3	♥ J 5 4
♦ A Q 10 7 5 2	♦ J 9 8
♣ K Q J 8 4	♣ 10 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Platnick</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
3♦ ⁽²⁾		Pass	3NT
Pass			
4♣	Pass	4♠	Dbl
Pass	Pass	4NT ⁽³⁾	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

- (1) Fourth suit forcing
- (2) Five-five, non-minimum
- (3) ?

It appears that neither Demuy nor Kranyak was 100% confident of the meaning of 4NT after the 4♠ control bid. For Kranyak's part, he'd have been fine if Demuy had passed; if Demuy had responded as if to a key card ask, that would have been OK too. Demuy resolved the matter by leaping to slam, unwilling to risk a misunderstanding. He was not worried about missing a grand slam because Kranyak had offered 3NT as a final contract and had not bid 4♦ or 4♥ over 4♣.

When an expert defender leads a trump against a slam, an equally expert declarer always asks himself, "Why?" The conclusion is often that the opening leader has high cards in every side suit and does not want to risk leading away from them or, in the case of an ace, cashing it. A further consideration is that trumps are likely to be breaking favorably for declarer.

Here, Demuy was able to offer Rosenberg a Morton's Fork (named after Henry the VII's Lord Chancellor, John Morton, who collected taxes from Henry's nobles by declaring that if they lived extravagantly, they could obviously afford to pay 'benevolences' to the king; on the other hand, if they lived frugally, they had money saved).

Demuy won the trump lead in hand and led his low heart – if North ducked, declarer would discard the ♥K on the ♠A, losing just one diamond; if, instead, North rose with the ace, declarer would have five discards (four hearts and the spade ace), for his diamonds.

In practice, Rosenberg ducked the ♥A; Demuy won with dummy's queen, discarded the ♥K on the ♠A and took the diamond finesse. It lost, but he was able to win the ♣7 continuation with the 8, cash the ♦A, ruff a diamond with the ♣A, ruff the ♠Q to return to hand, draw the last trump and claim. Plus 1370 won 12 IMPs for SHOURIE against the +650 in 4♥ at the other table.

With the result of the match decided, the last board of the event put an exclamation point on SHOURIE's victory.

Dlr: West
Vul: N-S

♠ A 8 7 5 4
♥ A Q
♦ A J 7 6
♣ Q 6

♠ Q 10
♥ 10 9 8 7 4 3
♦ Q 9 5
♣ 10 9

♠ K 9 6 2
♥ K 6 5
♦ 8
♣ A K 8 7 4

♠ J 3
♥ J 2
♦ K 10 4 3 2
♣ J 5 3 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Platnick</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Demuy</i>
Pass	2♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♠ ⁽²⁾
Pass	2NT ⁽³⁾	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- (1) 18–20 balanced
- (2) Puppet to 2NT
- (3) Forced

Rosenberg did both well and poorly on opening lead, cashing the ♣A K and continuing with the 8. "Well," because on a fourth-best club lead, declarer would have had a second stopper; "poorly" because three rounds of clubs revealed the distribution in the suit. Kranyak won the third club with dummy's jack, discarding a spade, as West let a heart go. Declarer played the ♦K and another to the jack (good guess!), cashed the ♠A and ran the diamonds. On the last of these ...

♠ 8 7 5
♥ A Q
♦ —
♣ —

♠ Q
♥ 10 9 8 7
♦ —
♣ —

♠ K
♥ K 6
♦ —
♣ 7 4

♠ J
♥ J 2
♦ 4
♣ 5



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When the ♦4 is led from South, East is squeezed in three suits; if he discards: the ♠K, South's leading the ♠J to West sets up a winner in the suit; the ♣4, declarer can lead a club or a spade to give dummy an extra trick; a heart, South can drop the king.

Of course, on a heart discard, declarer still must guess to drop the king and, naturally, that is exactly what Kranyak did when Rosenberg threw a heart – plus 600. Who needs 26 HCP to make 3NT when you play them like that?

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Martel</i>
2♥	2NT	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Fleisher started with the ace and another spade, keeping the defense's hopes alive. Hurd won the second spade in hand with the queen and advanced the ♥9. Fleisher rose with the ace and Martel made the sophisticated expert play of the jack, suit preference for spades! Unfortunately for North–South, that was the setting trick. Martel did not believe that Fleisher had overcalled 2NT with a five-card spade suit and he was preparing the way for a third-round spade ruff – he thought declarer would

follow suit to the third spade as he ruffed with the ♥2.

Hurd overruffed the next spade, drew the last trump and tried to split out clubs 3–3 for an overtrick (declarer had very carefully retained the ♥4 in hand to cross to the 6 in dummy had clubs been 3–3). When that failed, he had to settle for 10 tricks and plus 590. Added to Kranyak's magnificent plus 600 at the other table, that meant 15 IMPs to SHOURIE and a win by 44 IMPs. Even had Fleisher–Martel defeated 4♥ doubled a trick, they'd still have lost 11 IMPs.

If the SHOURIE team plays this well next year at whatever venue hosts the Bermuda Bowl (the location is undetermined at this time), we may well see Bathurst and Hurd hoisting the trophy for the second straight time.

You oughta be in pictures

If you achieve a new masterpoint milestone here in Minneapolis – Life Masters and upwards – please come by the Bulletin office (*Room 204, level 2, MCC*), and let us take your picture. We're eager to congratulate you and share your achievement in the Daily Bulletin.

Water Filling Stations

Several water filling stations are located throughout the Convention Center, often near the restrooms. Please use these stations to refill your water bottles and cups whenever possible. The ACBL is charged a premium for water provided inside the playing area. Your cooperation is appreciated.

FREE LESSONS

Teachers Barbara Seagram and Jerry Helms are each offering a free lesson. Better yet, both lessons will be followed by a free 12-board game for newer players (0-20 masterpoints). Pre-registration not required.

Date: Saturday, July 11
Time: 8am -9:45am
Speaker: Barbara Seagram
Topic: Surprise Tricks and Sneaky Plays

Date: Sunday, July 12
Time: 8am -9:45am
Speaker: Jerry Helms
Topic: Notrump Defense

Location: Room 205A, Minneapolis Convention Center



Play in our special ZIP KO social bridge event featuring short rounds and big fun!

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Monday, July 13 • 8:30 p.m.
 Room 200B, Minneapolis Convention Center



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Crazy Bridge runs from 8:30–10:30 p.m., with everyone starting together at 8:30.

Friday, July 17
 Room 200B, Minneapolis Convention Center

Mixed Trials

continued from page 1

Eythorsdottir, Debbie Rosenberg, Michael Rosenberg, Kevin Rosenberg and Amber Lin) and HAMMAN (Bob Hamman, Jill Meyers, Mike Passell, Kristen Onsgard, Kerri Sanborn and Steve Sanborn) topped the round robin and were also the two teams to survive the quarter- and semifinal matches, defeating SMID-SARNOW/ZHANG and KAPLAN/ROSENTHAL, respectively.

In the final, GE jumped out to a 35-IMP lead after the first set; HAMMAN won the second set by 8 IMPs and the third set by 4 IMPs. In the fourth set, GE picked up four slam swings in the first eight boards, earning 66 IMPs, taking the set by a score of 80–2. When HAMMAN could not close the gap after sets five and six, they withdrew. The final score was 263–104.

This deal from the first set might not look like much:

Dlr: North	♠ 8 4 3		
Vul: Both	♥ —		
Bd. 13	♦ 7 5 3 2		
	♣ K 8 7 4 3 2		
	♠ Q 6	♠ K 9 5	
	♥ A 9 3 2	♥ Q 8 6 5 4	
	♦ A J 9 8 6 4	♦ Q	
	♣ A	♣ J 10 9 6	
		♠ A J 10 7 2	
		♥ K J 10 7	
		♦ K 10	
		♣ Q 5	
West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Ge</i>	<i>Meyers</i>
<i>Passell</i>	<i>M. Rosenberg</i>	<i>Onsgard</i>	<i>D. Rosenberg</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dbl	2♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Rosenberg Alerted his 2♠ as “nonconstructive,” even though Hamman didn’t Alert his call, most players at this level have a way to distinguish a good raise from just “noise,” especially over a takeout double.

It’s an awkward hand for South to lead from. In the Open Room, Meyers opted for the ♠A and continued the suit to dummy’s queen. Ge cashed the ♦A and ruffed a diamond



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2027 Adventures

Miami to Miami 10 Nights
with Sylwia and Mike McNamara
Jan. 27–Feb. 7, 2027 | Rates from \$8,400

Hong Kong to Singapore 13 nights
with Sylwia and Mike McNamara
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with Corey Krantz 10 Nights Bridge Academy and
AMA River Cruise Colombia
April 21–May 1, 2027 | Rates from \$9,430

Lisbon to Belfast 12 nights
with Sylwia and Mike McNamara
May 12–24, 2027 | Rates from \$8,000

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10 Night Bridge Academy/AMA River Cruise
August 13–23, 2027 | Rates from \$9,000

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with the ♥8 to lead trumps. When Meyers didn't split, Ge could have made by putting in the ♥9, but went up with the ace for down one.

Debbie Rosenberg chose the ♦10. Onsgard went up with the ace, cashed the ♥A and led the ♦J for a ruffing finesse. When North didn't cover, she discarded a spade and was down two for 3 IMPs to GE.

The score was still close toward the end of the third set – GE was up by only 10 IMPs when this deal came up:

Dlr: East	♠ A		
Vul: Both	♥ A J 6 5 3		
Bd. 42	♦ 7 3		
	♣ K Q J 4 3		
	♠ K J 6	♠ 10 7 5 4 2	
	♥ Q 8 4 2	♥ K 7	
	♦ K 10 5	♦ A Q 9	
	♣ 9 8 6	♣ A 10 5	
	♠ Q 9 8 3		
	♥ 10 9		
	♦ J 8 6 4 2		
	♣ 7 2		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>K. Rosenberg</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Meyers</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♠	2NT ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

(1) Hearts and a minor

In the Open Room, Kevin Rosenberg figured North–South weren't on the same page (Meyers thought 3♦ was pass-or-correct to hearts, but Hamman thought it was game-invitational) and doubled 4♥. Lin led a second highest ♠7 to the 3, 6 and ace. Hamman tried the ♣K, Lin took the ace and led the ♦9, which held, then the ♦Q, which also held. She then played a spade. Hamman ruffed, cashed a club, ruffed a club in dummy and ruffed a diamond back to hand to ruff another club. West overruffed with the queen and played the ♥2 to the jack and king. West scored one more trump trick for down three and -800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>K. Sanborn</i>	<i>M. Rosenberg</i>	<i>S. Sanborn</i>	<i>D. Rosenberg</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♠	2NT ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

(1) Any two-suiter

West led a trump to the king and ace, East continuing trumps to dummy's queen. Declarer tried a low heart, East hopped up with the king, cashed the ♦Q A then played the ♣10. Declarer knocked out the ♥Q and was down one, but that was 12 IMPs to GE.

An interesting thing about these two deals is that on the first, neither South doubled with the strong trump holding (knowing they had a fit), yet on the second, West doubled with a weaker trump holding on the speculation that his opponents had a misunderstanding (and possibly no fit), which yielded a nice result for the GE team.

Good judgment and strong partnership agreements were a factor in the fourth set, which was a slam bidding clinic by the GE team. Kevin and Amber bid a grand slam on Board 47, picking up 11 IMPs, then Debbie and Michael had back-to-back slam swings on Boards 48 and 49.

Dlr: West	♠ 9		
Vul: E–W	♥ A Q 7		
Bd. 48	♦ A K Q 9 5 4		
	♣ A Q 8		
	♠ A Q 7 6 5	♠ J 10 8 2	
	♥ 6 3 2	♥ J 9	
	♦ J 6 3	♦ 7 2	
	♣ 7 5	♣ K J 10 9 6	
	♠ K 4 3		
	♥ K 10 8 5 4		
	♦ 10 8		
	♣ 4 3 2		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>K. Rosenberg</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Meyers</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the Open Room, Hamman eschewed a support double over West's 1♠ overcall, instead cuebidding. He raised 2NT to 3NT, and there they played, taking all the tricks for +520.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>K. Sanborn</i>	<i>M. Rosenberg</i>	<i>S. Sanborn</i>	<i>D. Rosenberg</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2NT ⁽²⁾
Pass	3♣ ⁽³⁾	Pass	3♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣ ⁽⁴⁾
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

(1) Artificial, six or more diamonds, invitational or better

(2) Asking

(3) Three-card heart support, game-forcing

(4) One or four key cards

At the other table, absent interference, Michael and Debbie had methods to uncover the heart fit and North’s strong hand, bidding the small slam for a 10-IMP swing.

Dlr: North	♠ A K J 10 4	♠ —
Vul: None	♥ 6 3	♥ J 4
Bd. 49	♦ K J 9 8 6	♦ Q 4 2
	♣ 4	♣ K J 10 9 7 5 3 2
	♠ Q 9 8 2	
	♥ K 10 9 8 7 2	
	♦ 10 3	
	♣ Q	
	♠ 7 6 5 3	
	♥ A Q 5	
	♦ A 7 5	
	♣ A 8 6	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
K. Rosenberg	Hamman	Lin	Meyers
	1♠	4♣	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
K. Sanborn	M. Rosenberg	S. Sanborn	D. Rosenberg
	1♠	3♣	4♦ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	4♥ ⁽²⁾	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥ ⁽³⁾	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

- (1) “Good but not great spade raise, about 13–15 support”
- (2) Last train
- (3) Two key cards, no queen

Lin took up an extra level of bidding room with her 4♣ call, whereas at the other table, the Rosenbergs had room to explore for slam, which is not a lay down by any means. Michael won the ♣K lead and started with a good shot: a spade to the jack. Thereafter, friendly defense allowed this to make.



Dlr: North ♠ K 5
 Vul: N-S ♥ Q J 10 8 5
 Bd. 53 ♦ J
 ♣ A K 10 8 2

 ♠ 10 2 ♠ A 9 8 6 4
 ♥ 9 6 ♥ —
 ♦ K 10 7 6 2 ♦ Q 9 8 4 3
 ♣ Q J 7 4 ♣ 9 6 5

 ♠ Q J 7 3
 ♥ A K 7 4 3 2
 ♦ A 5
 ♣ 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>K. Rosenberg</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Meyers</i>
	1♥	2♥	4♣ ⁽¹⁾
4NT ⁽²⁾	Pass	5♦	5♥
All Pass			

(1) Splinter; (2) Bid your minor

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>K. Sanborn</i>	<i>M. Rosenberg</i>	<i>S. Sanborn</i>	<i>D. Rosenberg</i>
	1♥	Pass	2NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	4♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	4NT ⁽³⁾
Pass	5♣ ⁽⁴⁾	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

- (1) GF spade raise, four or more
- (2) 5-5 minimum, no void
- (3) RKCB
- (4) One or four

Again, interference by Lin and Rosenberg muddled the waters for Hamman-Meyers, who wasn't positive 4♣ was a splinter. She might have passed 5♦ to show higher interest.

Although it's possible North-South were off two quick spade tricks, there's a good chance there was either shortness or an honor in the North hand. That was win 13 for GE, who added 20 more IMPs in the fifth set to lead by over 100. HAMMAN gave it 15 more boards but called it after that.

Kevin was the only one who played the entire Open and Mixed events; for both Xin and Kevin it was their first time qualifying in a non-Junior Trials.

"Huge respect to Hamman's team who had an amazing run," said Ge. "When I started to learn bridge in 1990, Bob Hamman was already the legendary figure who had won six Bermuda Bowls. I had never imagined, in my wildest dreams, that I could be his screenmate in a U.S. Trials final, an experience I will cherish forever."


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58	Viktor Aronov, Sofia Bulgaria; Ahu Zobu, Istanbul Turkey	660.44

59	Pedro Miguel Durao, Lisbon Portugal; Thomas Peters, Dayton MD	660.41
60	Vincent Demuy, West Palm Beach FL; Marusa Gold, Palm Beach Gardens FL	660.32
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120	Barry Margolin, Arlington MA; John Hogan Jr., Rehoboth Beach DE	622.66
121	Laura Wolin, Boynton Beach FL; Shannon Cappelletti, Delray Beach FL	622.03
122	Hjordis Eythorsdottir – Seth Cohen, Huntsville AL	621.43
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125	Eileen Cripps Stenberg, Asbury IA; Ann Nordeng, Waunakee WI	620.15
126	Shan Huang, Jupiter FL; Joan Millens, Kingston NY	619.84
127	Greg Hinze – Venkatrao Koneru, San Antonio TX	619.83
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143	Phillip Becker, Beachwood OH; John Bacon, Mayfield Heights OH	609.97
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145	Sarik Goyal, Jersey City NJ; Kelley Hwang, New York NY	608.30
146	Robert Robinson, Severna Park MD; Alexander Sandin, Horn Lake MS	607.25
147	Yan Wang, Richmond Hill ON; Xiaowen Li, Jersey City NJ	607.15
148	Anam Tebha, New York NY; Catherine Williams, New York City NY	606.80
149	Gregg van Dyke, St. Paul MN; Tom Grue, Roseville MN	606.74
150	David Ruderman, Burtonsville MD; Linda Marshall, Bethesda MD	606.67
151	Ettore Bianchi, Stamford CT; Leonardo Cima, Roma Italy	606.40
152	Paul Lewis, White Plains NY; Jill Marshall, Port Chester NY	604.96
153	Jonathan Fleischmann, Canton MI; Michael Curley, Rockford MI	604.52
154	Louis-Amaury Beauchet, Larmor-Plage France; Daniel Hoekstra, Portland OR	604.36
155	Bruce Luttrell, San Jose CA; Bruce Blakely, San Rafael CA	603.09
156	Alec Sun, Cambridge MA; Meiyan Duan, Andover MA	602.83

District 6 Bridge at the Beach is Back!

Virginia Beach Veterans Day Regional

November 9 – 14, 2026



Celebrate our Veterans on Veterans Day

[Click here for tournament details](#)

QUALIFIERS IN THE BRUCE 0-6000 LM PAIRS

18.0 Tables		Carryover
1	Jim Gaarder, Columbia MD; Jimmy Ritzenberg, Bethesda MD	212.71
2	Aniko Szabo – Tamas Szabo, Oconomowoc WI	202.73
3	Todd Thorsen, Lititz PA; Rolf Swenson, Silver Spring MD	198.90
4	Gary Croland, Delray Beach FL; Peter Levathes, Palm Beach Gardens FL	193.48
5	John Boackle Jr., Poway CA; Lamya Agelidis, San Diego CA	192.31
6	Jeffrey Schwartz, Fairfax VA; Cynthia Ogden, New York NY	191.57
7	Dave Hoffman, Melbourne FL; Michael Heins, Fond du Lac WI	191.14
8	Gabriel Tawil, Boynton Beach FL; Jim O'Brien, The Villages FL	189.23
9	Benjamin Hawn, Lancaster PA; Andie Hawn, Willow Street PA	188.81
10	Brian Koblenz, Leavenworth WA; Pete Cowles, Tucson AZ	185.62
11	Samuel Phillips, Largo FL; Rajasekhar Menon, Lutz FL	185.09
12	Richard Kassir – Shlomit Rind, New York NY	183.71
13	Mike D. Aguiar – Dorothy Mersereau, Calgary AB	183.18
14	Yin Lin, Sunnyvale CA; Michele Liu, Cupertino CA	182.54
15	Valerie Deneroff – Martin Deneroff, New York NY	181.16
16	Mark Blanchard, Bay Shore NY; Amy Rhodes, New York NY	180.09
17	Paul Chan – Lily Chan, Columbia MO	179.14
18	Julie Clark, Aurora CO; Marion Brum de Barros, Denver CO	178.50
19	Henry Shi – Ping Hu, Naperville IL	178.39
20	Lisa Mita, Downingtown PA; Bharat Rao, Berwyn PA	178.08
21	Alexander Stille, Bethesda MD; Barbara Devaney, Washington DC	177.86
22	Phillip Vest – Chris Sloan, Nashville TN	177.44
23	Peng Cheng – Xiaoyu Cheng, Saratoga CA	176.91
24/25	Jennifer O'Neill, Greenwood Village CO; Denise Klein, Denver CO	176.80
24/25	Li Zhang, San Jose CA; Jay Wang, San Leandro CA	176.80
26	Barry Dehlin, Dresher PA; Matt Sherman, Rochester NY	176.69
27	Murat Berk, Potomac MD; Peter van Zijl, Hanover MD	176.48
28	Anne Kao, Bellevue WA; Robert Munger, Seattle WA	176.16
29	Chantal Dube, Montreal QC; Charles Faille, St.-Constant QC	173.61
30	Jeff Dater, Dallas TX; Kathryn Aliotta, St. Paul MN	173.19
31	Randi Adelman, Teaneck NJ; Jess Jurkovic, New York NY	173.08
32	Anne Hollingsworth, Walnut Creek CA; Ethan Wood, Dover MA	172.98
33	James Keegan, Boston MA; Kyle I Larson, Rockford IL	172.23
34	Naomi Paasch, Moorhead MN; Carrie Stockman, Bloomington MN	171.59
35	Sheryl Sack – Lana Imerman, Atlanta GA	170.96
36	Andrea Nilsson, Varberg Sweden; Jane McLaughlin, San Francisco CA	170.21

QUALIFIERS IN THE YOUNG 0-3000 PAIRS

18.0 Tables / Based on 31 Tables		Carryover
1	Qing Xia, Short Hills NJ; Xuhua Lin, Edison NJ	280.23
2	Stephen Silvius, Wilmington DE; Elizabeth Silvius, San Bernardino CA	277.51
3	Michael Berard, Glenn Dale MD; Art McCann, Finksburg MD	277.11
4	Dan Small – Lloyd Mandell, New York NY	276.47
5	Peter Sugerman, South Windsor CT; Douglas Deacon, East Hartford CT	266.31
6	Rita Vachani, Lexington MA; Stan Piltch, Plymouth MA	265.74
7	Giorgio Provenza, United Kingdom; Lee Guy, London United Kingdom	264.86
8	Nancy Marshall, Edgewater NJ; William Sigward, Pelham NY	263.60
9	Donna Marino, Denver CO; Daniel Lev, New York NY	262.17
10	Joel Steinberg, Princeton Junction NJ; Robert Goldbloom, Hastings-on-Hudson NY	260.97
11	Brian Castle – Linda Atkinson, Poway CA	260.30
12	Lindsay Pearlman, Las Vegas NV; Eleanor Seaman, New York NY	259.84
13	Richard Clark, Derwood MD; John Gretzinger, Grand Rapids MI	259.00
14	Rebecca Anspach, Saint Paul MN; Deborah Weiss, Minneapolis MN	257.50
15	Jayson Lee – Katherine Lee, Hillsborough CA	256.96
16	Clarende Duby – John Prance, Calgary AB	255.97
17	Manning Rountree, Lyme NH; Mark Webb, Rome GA	255.85
18	Melanie Petsch, New York NY; Janine Buss, Port Washington NY	255.54

19	Pradip Gandhi, Hillsborough NJ; Sandy Johnson, Ho-Ho-Kus NJ	255.22
20	Matthew Evett – Susan Evett, Ann Arbor MI	254.43
21	Mark Throop – Eleanor Throop, Framingham MA	253.90
22	Fred Yu – Chungli C. Wang, Bellevue WA	253.36
23	Matthew Bribitzer-Stull – Jason Bribitzer-Stull, Bloomington MN	253.02
24	Janet McGlynn – Thomas McGlynn, Catonsville MD	251.81
25	Shen Duan, Andover MA; Marin Hirono, New York NY	251.17
26	Ewan McNay, Glenmont NY; Chris Chung, Palo Alto CA	250.01
27	Rob Gleason, Madison WI; Leah Creswell, Fitchburg WI	249.72
28	David Neiman – Mark Lasoff, Minneapolis MN	248.38
29	Melanie Appelbaum, Armonk NY; Gina Davanzo, Eastchester NY	247.56
30	Mollie Freier, Marquette MI; Ronald Grosh, Middleton WI	246.94
31	Steven Hamburg, Troutman NC; Lee Dowell Jr., Denver NC	245.76
32	Hongbo Li, Baltimore MD; John Rothschild, Elkridge MD	245.67
33	Dorie Isaacson, Northbrook IL; Lee Nykaza, Scottsdale AZ	244.46
34	Sharon Murphy – Daniel Murphy, Indianapolis IN	244.13
35	Stephen Pollard, Laramie WY; Nancy Alvarado, Lakewood CO	243.97
36	Stephen Mast – Holli Mast, Stanley NC	243.75

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS – SEMIFINAL PAIRINGS

GNT CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

16 Tables

District 8: Tod Moses, St. Louis MO; Will Engel, Freeport IL; Joshua Stark, Grayslake IL; George Jacobs, Geneva IL; Michael Halvorsen, Champaign IL; Tom Oppenheimer, Clayton MO

vs

District 9: William Pollack – Rozanne Pollack – David Berkowitz, Boca Raton FL; Sam Lev, Aventura FL; Janice Seamon-Molson, Hollywood FL; Gary Cohler, Wellington FL

District 21: Yanong Han, Milpitas CA; Tien-Chun Yang, San Jose CA; Ethan Liu, Fremont CA; Ming Sheng, Los Altos CA; Jun Shi, Halfmoon Bay CA

vs

District 23: Walter Schafer Jr., Inglewood CA; Mitch Dunitz, Sherman Oaks CA; Iftikhar Baqai, Irvine CA; Alexander Kolesnik, Los Angeles CA

GNT FLIGHT A

16 Tables

District 16: Jessie Lee – James Zhan – Ying Peng, Sugar Land TX; Sarah Chen, Austin TX; Mark Pan, Celina TX

vs

District 14: Andrew Caranicas – Charles Carroll, St. Paul MN; Paul Gutterman, Palmetto FL; Jackson Wahl, Minneapolis MN; Richard Lawson, Plymouth MN

District 13: Ariel Smid, Huixquilucan Mexico; Rahul Garga – Ben Fisk – Charles Holmes, Chicago IL

vs

District 9: AJ Stephani, Daytona Beach FL; Greg Moniz, Debary FL; Per Berg – Lynn Ostergaard, Flagler Beach FL; Stephan Juliusburger, Big Pine Key FL; Jack Brawner Jr., Palm Harbor FL

GNT FLIGHT B

16 Tables

District 1: Simon-Pierre Goulet – Ashot Harutyunyan – Shih-Chieh Fuh, Montreal QC; Frederic Belanger, Verdun QC

vs

District 13: Ryan Daniels, Vernon Hills IL; Mark Pinkowski – Nic Hristea – James Abbott, Chicago IL

District 20: Alan Kosansky, Kailua HI; Kevin Marnell, Milwaukie OR; Alex Clapp, Kihei HI; Jack Patnode, Kula HI

vs

District 24: Maya Jonas-Silver – Jack Latta, Brooklyn NY; Andrew Jeanguenat – Kenneth Mandel, New York NY

GNT FLIGHT C

16 Tables

District 4: Seulky McInneshein, Elkins Park PA; Devika Chakraborty, Bryn Mawr PA; Yaacov Garini, Narberth PA; Lou Primavera, Norristown PA

vs

District 24: David Long – Vincent Zheng – Aaron Igra, New York NY; Sam Bellows, Brooklyn NY

District 14: Ross Anderson, Woodbury MN; Linus Bendel-Stenzel, Richfield MN; Mark Feld, Bondurant IA; Thomas Lee, St. Paul MN

vs

District 21: Milind Girkar, Sunnyvale CA; Shailesh Sampat, San Jose CA; Maggie Zhao, Palo Alto CA; Henry Zhang, Saratoga CA

STEVE GAYNOR FRIDAY OPEN PAIRS

24.0 Tables / Based on 61 Tables

	A	B	C		
35.50	1			Jiang Gu, Mountain Lakes NJ; Weishu Wu, Irvine CA	64.59%
26.63	2			Eddie Wold – Arjune Bose, Houston TX	61.57%
19.97	3			Eric Rodwell, Clearwater FL; Mark Bartusek, Santa Barbara CA	61.55%
14.98	4			Guillermo Minutti – C. Valerie Gamio, Rolling Hills Estates CA	59.50%
11.83	5			Betty Starzec, Sugar Land TX; Robert Morris, Houston TX	58.86%
10.14	6			Edward Foran, Acworth GA; Nicolas Hammond, Alpharetta GA	58.40%
8.88	7			Mark Itabashi, Newport Beach CA; Laura Brill, White Plains NY	58.40%
7.89	8			Bob Lyon, Fishers IN; Kevin Henry, Cincinnati OH	58.33%
18.52	9	1		Paul Frean – Daniel Rothstein, New York NY	57.56%
13.89	10	2		Gene Brandl, Apple Valley MN; Del Swanson, Bloomington MN	54.85%
5.92	11			Michael Keller, Yellowstone National Park WY; Thomas Romine, Billings MT	54.69%
10.42	12	3		Chih-Kuang Lee, Houston TX; Kas Rangan, Spring TX	53.95%
7.81		4		Thomas Knier, Burnsville MN; Daniel McIntyre, St. Paul MN	53.64%
6.17		5		Brandon Wolpert, Palm Beach Gardens FL; Omer Ekinci, Astoria NY	53.13%
5.29		6		Joel Kramer, Minneapolis MN; Gary Knippenberg, Golden Valley MN	52.78%
4.63		7		Tracey Bauer, San Rafael CA; Elizabeth D'Orazio, Corte Madera CA	52.43%
4.12		8		Mark Ambrose – Beth Dlutowski, Louisville KY	51.02%
7.41			1	Alan Dichter, New York NY; David Miller, Orient NY	50.87%
5.56			2	Alan Yu, Herndon VA; Haoxiang Zhang, Decatur GA	50.41%
4.17			3	Roger Pitman, West Newbury MA; Zheshen Li, Chicago IL	48.99%
3.13			4	Donna Neff – Bradford Stone, Reno NV	48.41%
2.47			5	Edie Siemens, Prior Lake MN; Amy Howells, Lakeville MN	47.75%

1ST FRIDAY GOLD RUSH PAIRS

29.0 Tables

	A	B	C		
10.24	1	1		David Barrows, Tiverton RI; Bob Bringhurst, Middletown RI	61.71%
7.68	2			Bruce Tepper – Earl Rivers, Cincinnati OH	60.46%
5.76	3	2		Amar Nath – Bill Wallace, Des Moines IA	57.75%
4.32	4	3		Rick Snyder, Bixby OK; Joe Parsons, Tulsa OK	56.98%
3.41	5			Sheila Coyle, Roswell GA; Kay Watson, Atlanta GA	56.74%
2.93	6			Jonathan Schwalb, Glenmont NY; Kristine Roth, Fernandina Beach FL	56.50%
3.83	7	4	1	Phoebe Hyman – Scott Hyman, Lynchburg VA	56.09%
2.69	8			Valerie Kazhdan, Fort Lee NJ; Michael Contente, New City NY	55.86%
3.07	9	5		Bill Spear – Bonnie Spear, Boulder Junction WI	54.73%
1.86	10			Scott Hoversten, Woodbury MN; Lloyd Arntsen, Minneapolis MN	54.16%
2.10	11	6		Andy Latto, Foxboro MA; Michael Monroe, Brookline MA	54.16%
1.58	12			Sharon Saile – George Saile, Vienna VA	54.04%
2.87	13	7	2	Keith Davies, St. Augustine FL; Michael Brent, St. Louis MO	53.74%
1.64	14	8		Randy Steil – Wilhelmina Allen, Port Allen LA	53.55%
1.38	15			Paul Snow, Madison MS; Deborah Culler, Gulfport MS	53.47%
2.15		9	3	Stefan Mrozewski, Honolulu HI; Toby Craig, Beaverton OR	52.53%
1.34		10		Patrice Sedelmaier, New York NY; Emelia Barbanel, Bronx NY	52.21%
2.27		11	4	Zafar Nomani – Ghazala Nomani, Bergenfield NJ	52.15%
2.51			5	Paul Koontz, Portola Valley CA; Vivek Paul, Los Altos Hills CA	51.11%

1ST FRIDAY MORNING SIDE PAIRS

8.0 Tables

	A	B	C		
3.90	1			Linda Brammer, Edina MN; Eric Swanlund, Minneapolis MN	67.86%
2.93	2			Linda Murdock, Nashville TN; Kevin Clark, Franklin TN	57.74%
1.92	3/4			Linda Robinson, Arlington MA; Katarzyna Dufurat, Wroclaw Poland	56.85%
3.25	3/4	1	1	Justin Shiao, Atlanta GA; Lixin Zheng, Greenbelt MD	56.85%
1.47	5			Jerry Helms, Charlotte NC; Betty Sue el Gammal, Hoover AL	55.06%
2.44		2	2	Karen Eveland, Lewiston ID; Christina Kelton, Middleton WI	52.98%
1.83		3		Pamela Leese, Edina MN; Pamela Knous, Bonita Springs FL	49.78%
1.37		4		David Trevor, Bloomington MN; David Goodrie, Plymouth MN	49.70%

1ST FRIDAY MORNING 299ER PAIRS

12.0 Tables

	A	B	C		
3.30	1			Eric Edwalds, Minneapolis MN; Suzanne Jiwani, Edina MN	71.13%
2.48	2			Chris Rasmussen, Monroeville PA; Henry Mauer, Madison WI	67.86%
2.53	3	1		Lawrence Weinstein – Robert Levine, Miami Beach FL	60.12%
1.90	4	2	1	Sherry Enzler, St. Paul MN; Nancy Strom, Roseville MN	59.23%
1.04	5			Bonnie Lervik, Excelsior MN; Mary Stark, Naples FL	58.33%
1.25	6/7	3/4		Nancy Olt – Patricia Grasso, Bedford MA	57.44%
1.25	6/7	3/4		Albert Ho, Jersey City NJ; Andrew Chou, Guttenberg NJ	57.44%
0.80		5		Navin Jaipuriyar, Blaine MN; Frank Lerman, Edina MN	56.85%
1.14			2	Wayne Bogatzki, MN; Gary Lindert, Rosemount MN	52.68%
0.86			3	Bill Swanson, St. Paul MN; Jim Groskopf, MN	50.60%

1ST FRIDAY AFTERNOON SIDE PAIRS

10.0 Tables

	A	B	C		
4.33	1			Larry Johnson, Brooklyn Center MN; Jim Skonnord, St. Paul MN	64.29%
3.25	2			Jerry Helms, Charlotte NC; Betty Sue el Gammal, Hoover AL	61.01%
3.68	3	1		Karen Olson – Kenneth Olson, Detroit Lakes MN	58.93%
2.76	4	2	1	Judi Whaling – Richard Whaling, Houston TX	56.55%
2.07	5	3		David Levin – Marguerite Levin, Plymouth MA	55.65%
1.84	6	4	2	Quan Chen, North York ON; Isaac Stone, Edmonton AB	54.17%
1.16		5		Tom Malterer – Clyde Johnson, Duluth MN	53.87%
1.38			3	Jessica Yu – Rose Gong, Irvine CA	51.19%

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1ST FRIDAY AFTERNOON 299ER PAIRS

11.0 Tables

	A	B	C		
3.15	1			Eric Edwalds, Minneapolis MN; Suzanne Jiwani, Edina MN	73.21%
2.40	2	1		Navin Jaipuriyar, Blaine MN; Frank Lerman, Edina MN	66.37%
1.77	3			Chris Rasmussen, Monroeville PA; Henry Mauer, Madison WI	64.29%
1.80	4	2		Nancy Olt – Patricia Grasso, Bedford MA	61.90%
1.00	5			Rex Newman, Fridley MN; Christine Green, Kenosha WI	58.33%
1.35	6	3		Jayshree Patel – Bhairavi Mahant, Woodbury MN	55.65%
1.01		4		Donald McCormick – Lori McCormick, Rio Verde AZ	52.38%
1.33		5/6	1/2	Terese Lynch – Timothy Johnson, Minneapolis MN	51.49%
1.33		5/6	1/2	Jane Hess, St. Paul MN; Dona Maki, Minneapolis MN	51.49%
0.86			3	Carol Lord, Edina MN; Merrikay Bailey, Minneapolis MN	51.19%

TONY AMES FRIDAY OPEN BRACKETED ROUND ROBIN TEAMS BKT 1

7 Tables

25.49	1	Bob Drijver, Aalsmeer Netherlands; Rob Helle, Mauritius; Cornelis van Prooijen, Nieuw Vennep Netherlands; Bauke Muller, Zwaag Netherlands; Ed Hoogenkamp, Ourense Spain	104.00
19.12	2	William Voedisch, Marine MN; Barry Purrington, Eagan MN; Joseph Browan, Maplewood MN; Joseph Koester, Brooklyn Park MN	81.00
14.34	3	Lynne Castoldi, Minnetonka MN; Christian Lahrmann, Virum Denmark; Mathias Bruun, Hellerup Denmark; Nicolai Heiberg-Evenstad, Finnsnes Norway	75.00

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

The International Bridge Press Association serves anyone involved in bridge media which would include journalists, podcasters, social media hosts, bridge influencers or anybody in promoting the game in any way.

We invite everybody to consider joining the IBPA either as an Associate or a full member.

ibpa.com



TONY AMES FRIDAY OPEN BRACKETED ROUND ROBIN TEAMS BKT 2

9 Tables

16.71	1	Dan Morgenstern, Brunswick ME; Roland Miller, Bowdoin ME; Stephen Kolkhorst, Portland ME; David Waterman, Scarborough ME	97.00
12.53	2	Eli Jolley, Auburn AL; Judith McNutt, Pittsfield MA; Deborah Branch, Delray Beach FL; James Miller, Wilton Manors FL	87.00
8.23	3/4	Jay Silberberg, Denver CO; Ralph Haines, Evergreen CO; Louis Trautwein III – Betsy Weiss, Naples FL	86.00
8.23	3/4	David Lodge, Rancho Mirage CA; Bob Price, La Quinta CA; Louis Goldsmith, Indio CA; David Peim, Palm Desert CA	86.00

TONY AMES FRIDAY OPEN BRACKETED ROUND ROBIN TEAMS BKT 3

9 Tables

13.91	1	Shirley Shi, Sacramento CA; Jerry Jia, Berwyn PA; Chin Huang, Foster City CA; Sheng Dou, Brentwood CA	105.00
10.43	2	Kevin Robertson – Sharon Robertson – Barbara Greenspan, Beachwood OH; Joan Waletzky, Shaker Heights OH	97.00
7.82	3	Phyllis Siegel, St. Louis MO; Grant Sterling, Charleston IL; Lois Sherwood, Norton NB; Larry Sumner, The Villages FL	96.00
5.87	4	Ann Romeo, Seattle WA; Marie-France Benoit, Madison WI; Larry Shell, Muscatine IA; Arjun Chaunal, Issaquah WA	90.00

TONY AMES FRIDAY OPEN BRACKETED ROUND ROBIN TEAMS BKT 4

9 Tables

11.95	1	Tengyun Tony Cao, Troy MI; James Yi, West Bloomfield MI; Ying Yuan, Kalamazoo MI; Xiaoping Wu, Bloomfield Hills MI	128.00
8.96	2	Heather Harmeyer – Aaron Krieser, Foristell MO; Gustavo Saravia, Oak Park IL; Elizabeth Gompels, Cambridge MA	108.00
6.72	3	James Coke, Shingle Springs CA; Susan Bogan, Fair Oaks CA; Ashish Gupta, Sacramento CA; Aniket Mondal, Davis CA	82.00
4.51	4/5	Xintao He – Michael Salscheider – Joyce Lewis, Rochester MN; Jerry Rosenblad, Stewartville MN	80.00
4.51	4/5	Deborah Crisfield, Philadelphia PA; Brendan O'Malley – Linda O'Malley, Lafayette Hill PA; Jeffrey Rohrbeck, Berwyn PA	80.00

TONY AMES FRIDAY OPEN BRACKETED ROUND ROBIN TEAMS BKT 5

8 Tables

10.08	1	William Taylor, Rancho Palos Verdes CA; Diane Elliott, Torrance CA; Caryn Mason, San Dimas CA; Robert Jennings, Pasadena CA	82.00
7.56	2	Dennis Viner – Cyndy Sidore, Kapaa HI; Debbie Keller – Kathy Mitton, Tucson AZ	81.00
5.67	3	Robert Marx – Harold Fellerman – Al LaTendresse, Maple Grove MN; David Ochs, Pharr TX	70.00

TONY AMES FRIDAY OPEN BRACKETED ROUND ROBIN TEAMS BKT 6

7 Tables

7.21	1	Sarah Wahl, Minneapolis MN; Megan Murphy, St. Paul MN; Jeffrey Boitnott, Columbia MD; Owen Barnett, McLean VA	92.00
5.41	2	David Klevan – James Lair, St. Paul MN; Joseph Kivel, Pine City MN; Patti Huiras, Olive Branch MS	72.00
4.06	3	Richard Trachy, Golden Valley MN; Kristine Verdin – Thomas Bedford, St. Paul MN; Dan Ganter, Maple Grove MN	71.00

TONY AMES FRIDAY OPEN BRACKETED ROUND ROBIN TEAMS BKT 7

7 Tables

5.82	1	Barbara Johnson – Mary Staahl – Mary Rutten – Gloria Emerson, Fargo ND	81.00
4.37	2	Rhonda Rossman, Cold Spring MN; David Hanson, Mora MN; Connie Ginter, Becker MN; Bruce Graham, Sneads Ferry NC	74.00
3.27	3	Jeanne Sinsheimer – Barry Sinsheimer, Redondo Beach CA; Tommy Howard – Jason Howard, Hawthorne CA	73.00

Minneapolis Kibitzing from Afar: Vugraph & Bridgecasts

By Jan Martel

Vugraph

We have a very complete schedule of vugraph from the 2026 Summer NABC in Minneapolis. We'll be covering the Grand National Team Championship Flight semifinal round on Saturday, July 11, and the final on Sunday, July 12.

From Monday, July 13, until Sunday, July 19, we'll be covering the Spingold. And just in case this isn't enough, on Friday, July 17, we'll also cover the College Bridge Bowl final in the afternoon.

Kibitz on RealBridge

Vugraph will be shown on RealBridge, which provides reliable delayed broadcasts, as well as a wealth of information for those of you who want to see what happened at other vugraph tables, and a bunch of statistics. Operators can now chat to spectators to give you inside information on what is happening at the table, e.g., if the director has been called, if a player is really thinking this long, etc. Operator chat will appear as each board is played. You can't respond or ask the operators questions, as by the time you see something on the kibitz site, the operator will be following a future board.

To kibitz on RealBridge, go to kibitz.realbridge.online/ and click on the event you want to watch. RealBridge has helpful information for spectators to help you find what you're interested in.

Schedule

- Saturday–Sunday, July 11–12: GNT Championship Flight. Second half of the semifinal on Saturday and all of the final on Sunday. Minneapolis is on Central Time, which is five hours behind UTC/GMT. Play is at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. each day. Vugraph will have a 30-minute delay, so Saturday's show will start at 4 p.m. and Sunday's will start at 10 a.m. and at 4 p.m. CT.
- Monday–Sunday, July 13–19: We will cover the Spingold from start to finish. On Monday and Tuesday, when there will be too many teams for screens, the vugraph morning session will start at 10:30 a.m. and the afternoon session at 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, the morning session will start at 10 a.m. and the afternoon session at 4 p.m.
- Friday, July 17: At 3:30 p.m., we will cover the final of the Collegiate Bridge Bowl Championship.

Bridgecasts

Rob Barrington and friends will be hosting live commentary on the ACBL YouTube channel. The current plan is as follows:

- Saturday, July 11: GNT Championship Flight Semifinals with summary of first half of play and live coverage of second half at 4 p.m. CT.

- Sunday, July 12: GNT Championship Flight final featuring full coverage of the match at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Monday–Friday, July 13–17: Spingold rounds of 128, 64, 32, 16, and 8. A summary of the first half of play each day and full live coverage of the second half, starting at 4 p.m. CT each day.
- Saturday–Sunday, July 18–19: Spingold semifinal & final matches. Full-day coverage of the play, starting at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. CT each day.

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Club owners, managers and teachers honored

At every NABC, the ACBL hosts the Club and Teacher Reception to recognize the dedicated club managers, teachers and volunteers whose efforts keep the game thriving.

Manager of Education and Marketing Stephanie Threlkeld welcomed the large crowd, thanking the Board of Directors, tournament directors and ACBL staff in attendance, including Manager of Club and Member Services Sherry Terraciano, Felicia Holt, Education Program Manager Blakely Meyers, Executive Director Bronia Jenkins and Executive Assistant Shaneka Cunningham.

Also recognized were the American Bridge Teachers' Association Teacher of the Year, Lorraine Eaglesham of Unionville ON, and the ACBL's newest Hall of Famer, Barbara Seagram.

"We try to provide support materials for you," Threlkeld said. "We're always adding new resources and we do it based on your feedback. If you don't see what you need, please let us know."

She also highlighted the growing popularity of BridgeBattle, now available as a tabletop game. Designed as a "gateway drug" to bridge, it introduces complete beginners to the game in a fun and accessible way and has already proved highly successful. A free BridgeBattle event will be held today from 1-3 p.m. in Room 205 of the Convention Center.

The evening concluded with a raffle, with four attendees taking home gift baskets: Thomas Romine of Billings MT; Betsy Cutler of Allentown PA; Ala Hamilton-Day of Philadelphia PA and Peter Boyd-Bowman of Greensboro NC.



Manager of Education and Marketing Stephanie Threlkeld



Club managers and teachers gathered Friday night at the Sheraton in Minneapolis



Raffle winners Thomas Romine, Betsy Cutler, Peter Boyd-Bowman and Ala Hamilton-Day



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SEPTEMBER 21-27, 2026

TOURNAMENT FLYER



On defense, gather the clues

By Jeff Schuett

Board 16 of the GNT Championship Flight offered a good example of the best approach to defense: Try to gather clues from the bidding, the opening lead and the dummy to help defend better.

Dlr: West	♠ 10 4 2	
Vul: E-W	♥ A K 10 8 2	
	♦ 8	
	♣ K 8 7 5	
♠ 8 5		♠ K J 9 7 6
♥ 7 4		♥ Q J 5 3
♦ A K J 9 6 2		♦ 3
♣ A J 2		♣ Q 9 3
	♠ A Q 3	
	♥ 9 6	
	♦ Q 10 7 5 4	
	♣ 10 6 4	

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♥	1♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

East-West play Precision, so West's hand is limited to 15 HCP.

Partner, South, led the ♥9.

As North, I knew East had at least five spades for the 1♠ call over 1♥ and also that East likely had four hearts (Q-J-x-x) based on dummy's holding and the opening lead. That left East with four cards in the minors, and I initially guessed them to be 2-2.

I decided attacking dummy's entry to the long diamonds might work best, especially if partner had the ♣Q, so I won the ♥K at trick one and led a low club. East played the 9, South the 10, and dummy won with the jack. Declarer tried cashing dummy's ♦A K, hoping the ♦Q or ♦10 would fall doubleton or that the suit might split 3-3. When this failed to happen, the roof fell in.

Declarer next led a low spade to his jack and South's queen. South returned a club: 2, king, 3. A third round of clubs went to dummy's ace, and when another spade was played from dummy to East's king, South won the ace, cashed the ♦Q and lead a heart to my ace, and I cashed the long club. Altogether we took two spades, two hearts, a diamond and two clubs for down three: Plus 300 for North-South.



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Entry fees

A valid ACBL player number is required to play in all events at the NABC.

For all daytime events, a discount of \$10 per player per session is available to

1) ConferenceDirect-reserved registered guests of the host hotel; 2) other registered guests/roommates added through the EE form; and 3) residents of the host district who purchase entries through Entry Express.

Players must be full ACBL members whose dues are current in order to compete in any Premier NABC+, NABC+ or NABC events. Except in the few events where guest members are expressly permitted, players must also be full ACBL members and up-to-date on dues to play in regional events. Guest members are allowed only in events with an upper masterpoint limit of 20 and in the 299er events today (Friday, July 10).

Premier NABC+ events are the Grand National Teams (Championship Flight), von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs, Spingold Knockout Teams and the Roth Open Swiss Teams. The undiscounted entry fees for these contests are \$53 per player per session. For team events, this means \$212 per team per session for four-person teams, \$265 per team per session for five-person teams and \$318 per team per session for six-person teams.

NABC+ events are the NABC+ Open Pairs, Wagar Women's Pairs, Truscott/USPC Senior Swiss Teams, Wernher Open Pairs, Freeman Mixed Board-A-Match Teams and the Oshlag Fast Pairs. The undiscounted entry fees for these contests are \$48 per person per session. For team events, this means \$192 per team per session for four-person teams, \$240 per team per session for five-person teams and \$288 per team per session for six-person teams.

Note: \$1.50 per person per session benefits the International Fund for all of the above events.

NABC event are the Grand National Teams (Flights A, B & C), the Bruce LM-6000 Pairs, the Young 0-3000 Pairs, the 0-6000 and 0-3000 Mini-Spingold Knockouts, the NABC 0-10,000 Pairs, the 0-10,000 Mixed Swiss Teams and the Bean Red Ribbon Pairs. The undiscounted entry fee for these events is \$35 per player per session. For the team events, this means \$140 per team per session for teams of four, \$175 per team per session for teams of five and \$210 per team per session for teams of six. (All flights of the GNT have no fee the first two days of the contest.)

Regional events are \$32 per player per session. For team events of one or two sessions, the entry fee is \$128 per session. Evening events are \$22 per session.

Events with a masterpoint limit of 500 or lower are \$28 per player per session.

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Maddie Archbold (center) of Second Harvest Heartland, a regional foodbank, receives a \$5000 check from the ACBL Charity Foundation. With her are Minneapolis Tournament Chair Patti Stuhlman (left) and Beth Dlutowski of the Charity Foundation.

Locals choose foodbank for Charity Foundation gift

At each NABC, the ACBL Charity Foundation provides \$5000 to the local tournament committee to allow them to select a charity of their choosing to receive the funds. In Minneapolis, the local committee chose Second Harvest Heartland, a regional foodbank that serves 59 counties in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Second Harvest representative Maddie Archbold was on hand Thursday at the Minneapolis Convention Center to receive the donation, presented by Tournament Chair Patti Stuhlman and ACBL

Charity Foundation Trustee Beth Dlutowski of Louisville KY.

"Last year, Second Harvest provided 143 million meals to community regionally. We also help families enroll in food assistance and provide prepared meals for people who need more than groceries. We are part of a network of some 1100 local food partners who help distribute meals," said Archbold.

"Some 75 to 80 percent of our budget comes from individual or corporate donors, such as this generous gift from the ACBL Charity Foundation," she said.

For more information on the organization, visit 2harvest.org.



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Entry Express and purchase options

All monetary transactions are cashless, including entries for NABC and regional games. All major debit/credit cards are accepted wherever entries are sold.

Advance entries for events are available through the ACBL's online Entry Express system. It is necessary for eligible players to use this system in order to receive the host discount of \$10 per session for being a guest of the host hotel or resident of the host district.

To use Entry Express, go to acbl.org/ee or scan the QR code at right. This may be done until 8 a.m. the day the event begins and subsequent days. For continuing events, purchase each day through Entry Express to



continue receiving the discount.

Hotel guests are assigned two discount coupons per night of stay plus one (e.g., six nights gets 14 coupons). If you are staying at the hotel but are not on the discount list, go to acbl.org/minneapolisEEform to be added. Missing discounts are not refunded. See the FAQ at acbl.org/ee for more information. Only hotel guests who made their reservations through ConferenceDirect are automatically assigned discount coupons.

For help with Entry Express, visit the ACBL Help Desk located on either the ground level lobby or lower level in Room L100F.

Entries may also be purchased at the event location in the hour before the start time.

Buying early is especially recommended for NABC+ pairs events. All entries must be purchased at least 15 minutes before game time. Pairs who expect to be seeded should buy at least 30 minutes in advance.

NABC+ Open Pairs



Winners of last year's NABC+ Open Pairs: Vincent Demuy and Marusa Gold

The NABC+ Open Pairs, which debuted last year, begins today. The four-session event is designed to give pairs who fail to qualify for the second day of the von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs a place to play. A similar event is held in the spring.

- 2024** Giuseppe Delle Cave, Sergio Bianchi
2025 Vincent Demuy, Marusa Gold

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Date: Sunday, July 12
Time: 1-6 p.m.
Location: Room 205A, Minneapolis Convention Center
Cost: \$25 pre-registered at acbl.org/reglbiad or \$30 at the door - includes textbook

More info:
[Email marketing@acbl.org](mailto:marketing@acbl.org)

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Welcome Cocktail
Warm-up Pairs
Open Pairs
Traditional Dinner
Open Teams
Friday Excursions
Gala Dinner and Prize Giving
Cool-down Pairs

Tomorrow's Bridge Events

Sunday, July 12				
Peg Kaplan Day				
9:30 am & 3:30 pm				
Event	Session	Sold	Entry/player/session* Members with discount	Members without discount
MOREHEAD GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT	1-2 F	M101C, mezzanine	\$43	\$53
GOLDMAN GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT A	1-2 F	M101C, mezzanine	\$25	\$35
SHEINWOLD GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT B	1-2 F	M101C, mezzanine	\$25	\$35
MACNAB GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS FLIGHT C	1-2 F	M101C, mezzanine	\$25	\$35
10 am				
Dennis Carman Sunday Morning Side Pairs <i>Sun-Tue Daylight Series</i>	single	Exhibit Hall A, lower level	\$22	\$32
St. Cloud DBC 299er Pairs	single	Exhibit Hall A, lower level	\$18	\$28
Sunday Bridge Plus <i>Free: 12 deals (0-20), follows the 8 am lesson</i>	single	205B, level 2	Free	Free
10 am & 1 pm				
Yvonne Carroll Fast Pairs (unlim./4000/1500)	1-2	L100H, lower level	\$22	\$32
10 am & 3 pm				
NABC+ OPEN PAIRS	1-2 F	Ballroom A, ground level	\$38	\$48
BRUCE LM-6000 LIFE MASTER PAIRS	1-2 F	200D, level 2	\$25	\$35
YOUNG 0-3000 PAIRS	1-2 F	200D, level 2	\$25	\$35
Lorna Nordlinder Memorial Open Pairs (unlim./4000/1500)	1-2	Exhibit Hall A, lower level	\$22	\$32
Gold Rush Pairs	1-2	Exhibit Hall A, lower level	\$22	\$32
Peg Kaplan Top-Flight Swiss Teams (unlim./6000/4500)	1-2	Exhibit Hall A, lower level	\$22	\$32
Tom Botten Memorial 0-4000 Bracketed Round Robin Teams	1-2	Exhibit Hall A, lower level	\$22	\$32
10 am & 3:30 pm				
VON ZEDTWITZ LIFE MASTER PAIRS	1-2 F	M100F, mezzanine	\$43	\$53
3 pm				
Sunday Afternoon Side Pairs <i>Sun-Tue Daylight Series</i>	single	Exhibit Hall A, lower level	\$22	\$32
St. Cloud DBC 299er Pairs	single	Exhibit Hall A, lower level	\$18	\$28
7:30 pm				
Sunday Evening Side Pairs <i>Fri-Mon Evening Series</i>	single	200D, level 2	\$22	\$22

* For premier, NABC+ and NABC events, participants must be full ACBL members and up-to-date with their membership dues or service fees. For all other events, participants must be ACBL members (or guest members). Inactive members may renew or pay a \$5 upcharge per session. Unless otherwise noted, strata breaks for all stratified events are: A (2500+), B (750-2500), C (0-750). Three-flight events are divided A/X (6000+/0-6000); B/C (1500-3000, 0-1500); Gold Rush (400-750/200-400/0-200). Two-flight events are divided A/X/Y (6000+/4000-6000/0-4000); B/C/D (1500-3000/750-1500/ 0-750) if no Gold Rush OR A/B/C (3000+/1500-3000/0-1500) and Gold Rush (400-750/200-400/0-200). In B flights, no single player may be over 3000. In Gold Rush events, no single player may be over 750. **BOLD, UPPER CASE = NABC+ events.** UPPER CASE = NABC events. **Green = Regional events (gold and red points).** **Blue = Gold Rush events (gold and red points).** **Red = Intermediate/Newcomer 299er events (red points).**

International Fund

In NABC+ events, \$1.50 (per person, per session) of each entry fee will be allocated to the ACBL International Fund. These funds are used to underwrite part of the expenses of ACBL players who participate in international competition.