



October
2025

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North American Bridge Championship:

An Exciting and Fun Event

Whether you're a beginner or an aspiring world champion, there is something fun, exciting, and challenging coming to The San Francisco Marriott Convention Center, November 27 to December 7. The North American Bridge Championships (NABC) will be here.

NABC's are the premier bridge events in North America and are attended by players from all over the world. But you needn't be intimidated if you're just starting out. There is an exciting schedule of Gold Rush, Intermediate, and Novice (GRIN) games, lessons, and special events for you.

GRIN Events

Daily games will include morning and afternoon sessions for players with **0-299 masterpoints**, along with **Gold Rush two-session events** open to players with up to **750 masterpoints**, offering the chance to earn coveted gold points.

Education will be front and center, with **celebrity speakers** featured most days at **9:15 a.m.** and **2:15 p.m.**, giving participants expert strategies to sharpen their play. (Continued on page 2)

San Francisco Sectional

Don't miss the San Francisco Winter Sectional coming January 27 and 28 at St. Mary's Cathedral. It's a great opportunity to get those prized silver points without having to drive 20 miles or more.

On Saturday, it's pairs day. At 10:00, we'll have a single session 99er pairs, a 499er pairs, a single session stratified open pairs, and the first session of the dual session stratified open pairs. The second session of the open pairs is at 3:00 with another single session open pairs. All table fees \$18.

Sunday is two session bracketed swiss teams. Start time is also 10:00. The second session is 2:30 or as is announced by the director.

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NABC (Continued)

For those just starting out, **free bridge lessons** followed by 12-board games are scheduled for **Saturday, November 29, and Sunday, November 30 at 8:00 a.m.**, tailored to players with **0–20 masterpoints**.

Among the highlights is **BridgeWar**, a fast-paced, prize-filled event set for **Saturday, November 29 from 1:00–3:00 p.m.** Players can simply show up and join the fun.

In addition, the popular **Learn Bridge in a Day** program will run on **Sunday, November 30 from 1:00–6:00 p.m.**, offering newcomers and returning players a chance to learn the game through interactive lessons and coached play.

On **Wednesday, December 3, District 21** will host a complimentary light lunch for all players competing in the **0–299 bracket**.

However don't be disappointed if you were hoping to test your chops against the game's best. There are plenty of open events that anyone can enter.

For more information about GRIN Events, contact Janelle Van Rensselaer, janellevanr@gmail.com or Stephanie Youngquist, yoyo2000@pacbell.net.

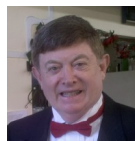
For Those Who Want Other Events

As usual at NABC'S, there will full schedule of regional, NABC and NABC+ events. The fall NABC's feature the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs and the Reisinger Board-a Match teams. There are knock-out teams and plenty of open pairs. Too many choices to mention.

Volunteers are still needed. So if you can spare a few minutes, sign up on the D21 website.

More Good News

Finally, all members of unit 506 will get a \$10 per session discount on table fees. No need to get a hotel room. Just use Entry Express to buy your entry. To get the discount, both members of a pair or all members of a team must buy their entry together.



An Aggressive Game By Steve Smolen

♠ A642		
♥ KQ8		
♦ 52		N deals
♣ A642		N E S W
♠ JT73	♠ K5	
♥ 754	♥ T9	1♣ P 1♥ P
♦ KQ86	♦ AT4	1♠ 2♣ 2♦ P
♣ J5	♣ KT9873	4♥ P P P
	♠ Q98	
	♥ AJ652	Lead J♣
	♦ J973	
	♣ Q	

Playing in a social game on my cruise we arrived at 4♥'s. North was a little excited when South bid 2♦. We may be high, but we deal with what we have.

The J♣ is led. We have 1♣, 5♥'s and 1♠. That's 7. we can get 1 or 2 more from ♠'s (lead to the Q for 1, 3-3 split for the other), and 1 from a ♦ ruff. That's 10. If the ♠'s don't split, maybe we can find a squeeze in the pointed suits (♦'s & ♠'s). We play the A♣ at trick 1, and lead toward the Q♠. East plays the K (Major part of the solution worked). East attempted to cash the K♣. I ruffed low, and led the 3♣. West wins with the 6 and leads a trump. K♥ wins in dummy, East contributing the 9, South the 5. I lead the 5♦ and East rises with the A, winning the trick. East leads the T♣, South ruffing with the J♥, and West is caught. (The end position and the rest are on page 3.)

Fall Sectional Winners

499er Pairs

F Derrick Pallas & Cynthia Walker

D&E Kathryn Walker & Pamela Resser

Open Pairs

B&C Deepak Ramanathan & Armand Nuggihalli

A Crispin Barrere & Robert Thomson

Teams

Bracket 3

Janice O'Brien, David Gendreau, Jo Streich, Chris Chou

Bracket 2

Robert Johnson, Jo Levy, Jane McLaughlin, Emily Francis

Bracket 1

Jo Ginsberg, Len Vishnevsky, Wesley May, Richard Ross

An Aggressive Game (continued)

	A64	
	Q8	
	<hr/>	
	64	
J107		5
75		10
KQ		10
<hr/>		987
	Q9	
	A6	
	J9	
	<hr/>	

West must now play. If West pitches a ♦, I can ruff a ♦ to make the J good, if West pitches a ♠ the ♠'s are all good, so West must underruff. But this just delays the inevitable. I can still ruff the ♦ with the 8♥'s, cash the Q♥'s cross back to my hand with the Q♠'s and led the A♥ and West is squeezed in the pointed suits.

Sectionals (continued from p.1)

Turnout has been disappointing at both sectionals and unit games ever since the pandemic. While turnout is down at both sectionals, it's particularly bad for the summer/fall.

Our second sectional has historically been in June, but turnout was so poor last year that we thought maybe having it in September would be better. It was worse. What was particularly surprising was that a lot of local players who come to unit games didn't come to the sectional. We could have almost had the sectional in the room we use for unit games.

So, we are asking you, the unit members, for suggestions? What can we do to improve attendance? Is there something we can change to entice more of you to come?

Costs continue go rise. Rent for unit games is \$577. For the sectional, it's nearing \$5,000. Director fees are up. Food costs more. Yet, attendance is down. We've reluctantly raised sectional table fees starting next year, as have other units. We trying to hold the line on unit game fees. But something has to change.

So, please, any ideas are welcome.

Send your thoughts to SFunit506@gmail.com.

Unit Game Winners

Congratulations to this year's unit game winners.

February

499er:	A,B,C	Michael Macko, Jeff Cohen
Open	C	Tom Stillman, Janice O'Brien
	A,B	Tom McKelvey, John Santibanes
	A	Stella Wan, Sylvia Shi (Tie in A)

March

499er	B,C	Ruth Quigley, Katherine Rogers
	A	Catherine Klumpp, Diane Hidy
Open	C	David Gendreau, Lynn Magnet
	A,B	Andy Straus, Susan Ledford

April

499er	A,B,C	Michael Macko, Travis Emick
Open	B,C	H. Daniel Banks, Dolores Mackinnon
	A	Robert Balas, Mark McCarthy

May

499er	A,B	Francesca Petruzzelli, Laurie Cohen
Open	A,B,C	Stella Wan, Johan Safsten

June

499er	A,B,C	Alice Chu, Julian Yan
	A	Diane Hidy, Catherine Klumpp (Tie)
Open	C	Ray Ochoa, Jocelyn Startz
	B	Tom McKelvey, John Santibanes
	A	Peggy Strong, Peter Sager

July

499er	A,B	Zhongxia Qi, Eddy Qi
Open	B,C	Alice Chu, Alvis Hendley
	A	Gary Porter, David Strauss

August

499er	C	Zhongxia Qi, Eddy Wi
	A,B	Diane Ross, Kathleen King
Open	C	Etan Cohen, Ann Morrison
	B	Bo Han Zhu, Shao-Heng Chu
	A	Stella Wan, Kevin Rosenberg

Come out and win October 11, November 8 (Teams), December 20

Play Live Bridge in Clubs

There are plenty of opportunities to get out and play.

Quicktricks

Mondays at 6:45 at Most Holy Redeemer Church, 18th and Diamond

Carlisle Bridge Club

Tuesdays at 1:00. at The Carlisle 1450 Post St.

Sunset Bridge Club

Wednesdays and Fridays at noon. Brotherhood Masonic Lodge 855 Brotherhood Way Contact Tom at tjsbridge@gmail.com if you wish to play.

Chinese American Bridge Club

Mondays at 11:30 by invitation only. Contact any member if you wish to play.