

# Chat It Up!

More beginners are entering the world of duplicate bridge!



## New Players Coming To Clubs!

With table counts growing around the country, it is evident that bridge players are heading back to face-to-face games at their clubs and traveling to tournaments again. That is good news for bridge players and in District 9, we are very happy to see those familiar faces at the tables again! There is even better news: Many of these players are new to the game! Several clubs in District 9 have seen an uptick in their beginner lesson attendance and students taking these classes are starting to dip their toes into more serious bridge by heading to the duplicate table.

## Chip or Chat?

ACBL Sanctioned "Chat Games" are drawing players into the competitive arena because of the comfort level they feel in these games. Chat Games are usually very limited games: 0-20, for instance. Often players are allowed to ask questions about the bidding. Some clubs allow an unlimited number of questions and others have Chat Games that limit the number of questions the players are allowed to ask. Jourdan's Temple Sinai in Delray Beach offered a "Chip Game," in April, in which players were given chips with their entries. Each chip was good for one question. The fewer masterpoints the player had, the more chips they received. It was such a huge success that they plan to hold Chip Games again next season.



Above: Diane Thomas ponders Maureen Sippel's lead in a Chat Game in Naples, Florida, while Bettye Carol Douglas lays down the dummy and Hillary Cooper makes her plan as declarer.



Above: At Jourdan's Chip Game, players with 0-100 masterpoints are allotted three chips, 100-200 - two chips, 200-300 - one chip. Each chip is good for one question.

## Why Beginners Love It!

Chat Games are an easy place for beginning players to learn the logistics of duplicate bridge and try their new skill. “After two winters of bridge lessons with the teacher at my local club, I finally had the courage to go to our Chat Bridge game,” said Maureen Sippel of Naples, Florida. “I loved it! Everyone was so friendly. I liked the relaxed atmosphere of the room; It gave me a chance to settle in and calm my nerves.”

After two Chat Games, Sippel ventured into the 0-99'er game at her club. She still plans to play in chat for as long as she is eligible (under 20 masterpoints at her club) but she now feels comfortable playing with more experienced players. “Playing bridge with so many different players has proven that I can learn from each one of these hands and I am confident my game will improve. It’s an exciting prospect,” Sippel says.



Above: Ed Cooper of Naples, Florida enjoys playing in his first Chat Game with partner Justin Nolan and opponents Deborah and Bruce Duncan.

## Jump Shift To Regionals

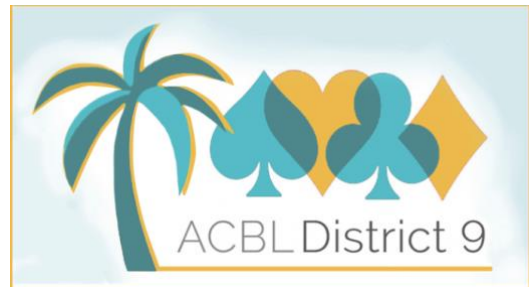
Once players become comfortable in Chat Bridge, they migrate to the limited point games at their clubs. From that point, endless opportunities exist to advance their bridge game. New players are often surprised to hear that there are events at tournaments that are specifically geared toward them. At District 9 Regional Tournaments, we have complimentary classes on many mornings before the play begins and we hold limited masterpoint games, especially with the newer player in mind. For information about Regional Tournaments, please visit the [District 9 website Tournaments page](#).

For each of our tournaments, there is a corresponding Tournament Flyer. New players who are looking to dive into tournament bridge will find helpful information about understanding the events listed in Tournament Flyers here:

### [How To Read A Tournament Flyer](#)

Come join us for bridge at its best and most fun. We cannot wait to see you at the table!

- Tracy H. Nolan - D-9 Board, Education Liaison
- Elizabeth Harris - D9 Board Member



## Florida Regional October 16-22, 2023

### Monday, October 16th

- 10:30 & 3:00 Mon-Tue Bracketed Knockouts (continues Tuesday 10:30 & 3)
- 10:30 & 3:00 Charity A/X/Y Open Pairs
- 10:30 & 3:00 Charity Gold Rush Pairs (Limit to players under 750 MPs)
- 10:30 Morning Side Game (1st of 6)
- 1:00 Free Lesson with Bruce Greenspan
- 3:00 Free Game for 0-100 Pairs
- 3:00 & 7:30 Charity Bracketed Round Robin Teams
- 3:00 Afternoon Side Game (1st of 6)
- 7:30 Evening Side Game (1st of 3)

Above: Florida Regional Tournaments, such as the Sanibel Regional in October of 2023, often have games for very new players. All our Regionals have Gold Rush Pairs, which is also a great place for beginning players to play.