

# The “Champagne” Regional Tournament



**Holiday Inn, 101 Trade Center Dr  
Champaign, Illinois**

**Wednesday, May 20 – Sunday, May 24, 2026**

## **Wednesday, May 20**

**Open Pairs** - Double Session 10:00 am 2:30 pm

**Gold Rush Pairs** - Double Session 10:00 am 2:30 pm

**Bracketed Swiss** – Double Session 10:00 am 2:30 pm

Note: One session Pairs Games are accommodated (any MPs)

## **Thursday, May 21**

**Open Pairs** – Double Session 10:00 am 2:30 pm

**Gold Rush Pairs** - Double Session 10:00 am 2:30 pm

**Bracketed Swiss** – Double Session 10:00 am 2:30 pm

Note: One session Pairs Games are accommodated (any MPs)

## **Friday, May 22**

**Open Pairs** – Double Session 10:00 am 2:30 pm

**Gold Rush Pairs** - Double Session 10:00 am 2:30 pm

**Bracketed Swiss** – Double Session 10:00 am 2:30 pm

Note: One session Pairs Games are accommodated (any MPs)

**Free Coffee/Tea each Morning and Afternoon**

**Lunch Provided on Saturday**

## **Saturday, May 23 “Georgia Heth IMP Pairs”**

**Open Pairs** - Double Session 10:00 am 2:30 pm

**Gold Rush Pairs** – Double Session 10:00 am 2:30 pm

Note: One session Pairs Games are accommodated (any MPs)

## **Sunday, May 24**

**Gold Rush Swiss Teams** 10:00 am Playthrough

**A/X/Y Swiss Teams** 10:00 am Playthrough

Lunch is included in the \$35 per player entry fee

**Entry Fees:** All players must have a current ACBL membership. Lapsed members will be charged an additional \$4 per session. Free guest memberships will be available for those who have never been a member.

**\$15 per player (\$30 per 2-session event)**

**\$35 per player on Sunday with lunch included**

**Students:** \$7 per session for full-time students under age 25 with a school ID.

**Stratifications:** Open Pairs 0-1250 / 1250-3000 / 3000+  
Gold Rush Pairs 0-150 / 150-300 / 300-750

Stratifications may change at Director's discretion

## Events

**Celebration Toast** - Please join us Wednesday, May 20 after the second session for a champagne toast to the game that we so dearly love.

**Gold Rush events** - No player may have more than 750 master points.

**Bracketed Swiss** - 2-session team event. Bracketed from the bottom up. Play only teams in your bracket. Winners in each bracket.

## Restaurants

A concession stand will be provided by the Holiday Inn each day for a quick breakfast and lunch.

Within walking distance...  
Baxter's American Grille, 100 Trade Center Dr  
Cactus Grill (Mexican), 1405 S Neil  
Jarling's Custard Cup (Ice Cream) 309 W Kirby  
Merry Ann's Diner, 1510 S Neil  
Napoli's (Italian), 1806 S Neil St  
Rainbow Garden (Asian), 1402 S Neil  
The Ribeye, 1701 S Neil (Dinner only)  
State Street Grille, in hotel (Breakfast and Dinner)

Fast Food within walking distance...  
Culver's; McDonald's; Meathead's Burgers; Niro's Gyros, 401 W Kirby; Steak 'n' Shake; Subway; and Taco Bell

A more detailed list will be available on site.

## Champaign, Illinois May 20 - May 24, 2026

**A toast: 'Here's to the Founding Fathers and Mothers of our great game, and let's put some PIZAZZ! into it!'**

### Holiday Inn

101 Trade Center Dr  
Champaign, Illinois  
Free parking

#### Special Bridge Rate: \$109/night + tax

Includes complimentary parking and in-room wifi.

For **reservations**, call 217-398-3400 and ask for the **"Champagne Bridge"** rate. Make your reservations by May 2, 2026, to get the group rate.

Director  
Tournament Contact

Partnership Chair

Peter Wilke  
Bill Bulfer  
bulfewa@hotmail.com  
309-264-7629  
Camilla Rabjohns  
acblunit208@gmail.com  
309-696-3333



### Bridge Tournament

In 1925, aboard the [SS Finland](#), [Harold Vanderbilt](#) play tested his version of [Contract Bridge](#), which used the same rules as Auction Bridge for the bidding and play but featured completely new scoring tables. After quickly becoming popular in Southampton and Newport, Vanderbilt's Contract Bridge was adopted by the Whist Club Of New York in 1927 and the Portland Club in 1929; by the end of 1929 it was the only bridge game being played in the clubs of NY and London.

As we see from this note in [Wikipedia](#), last year's 'Champagne Regional' marked the centennial of our beloved game. Many of us who play duplicate bridge today owe at least a nod to Harold Vanderbilt (yes, of the noses-in-the-air Vanderbilt family) for inaugurating the modern version of bridge. So this year, we would propose our regionals 'champagne toast' in honor of such fabled aristocrats as Mr. Vanderbilt, who made contract bridge, and later duplicate bridge, a game for all of us. Let's lift our glasses!