

Here is an example of a four-deal Chicago. It wasn't actually played at TGRs, but it could have been.

Four players cut for partners – we will call them Bob and Carol and Ted and Alice. Bob cuts the king of diamonds, Carol the nine of spades, Ted the nine of hearts and Alice the four of hearts. The cards rank in the order of suits at bridge for the purposes of the cut, so the ♠9 is higher than the ♥9. Bob and Carol will therefore play as partners against Ted and Alice, and Bob chooses the seat in which he will sit. The compass positions have no relevance at rubber bridge, but they are included here for ease of reading the diagrams.

Bob chooses the blue cards. Ted to his left shuffles them, Alice to his right cuts, and Bob deals the first hand. No one is vulnerable on the first deal of any Chicago.

Deal 1	♠AJ98			
Love all	♥K72			
Dealer North	♦6543			
	♣Q7			
♠432		♠KQ7		
♥Q95		♥AJ8		
♦KJ7		♦Q1092		
♣10652		♣K83		
	♠1065			
	♥10643			
	♦A8			
	♣AJ94			
West	North	East	South	
Alice	Bob	Ted	Carol	
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	
Pass	Pass			

After this simple auction South led the three of hearts and North put up the king when declarer played low from dummy. This normal but unfortunate start to the defence gave declarer three heart tricks. South won the second round of diamonds and continued hearts, but declarer was able to knock out ♠A and claim seven tricks. There was no point in playing for an eighth, because overtricks do not count at TGRs unless the contract is doubled.

East-West score 40 "below the line" – part-scores carry forward as at rubber bridge. Carol had already shuffled the red pack while the first hand was being dealt, so Bob cuts for Ted to deal while Alice shuffles the blue cards.

Deal 2	♠K6532		
NS game	♥8		
Dealer East	♦1092		
	♣K872		
♠4		♠AJ7	
♥AJ109		♥KQ7652	
♦AQ753		♦KJ8	
♣Q64		♣9	
	♠Q1098		
	♥43		
	♦64		
	♣AJ953		

West	North	East	South
Alice	Bob	Ted	Carol
	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Note that despite the fact that no one has actually made a game, North-South are vulnerable because the non-dealing side is always vulnerable (and their opponents not vulnerable) on the second deal of any Chicago.

The auction is a good example of part-score bidding at Chicago. Alice's raise to 3♥ is not forcing, but because it takes the bidding beyond game, it is played as a mild slam try. Ted's bid of 3♠ is a cue bid showing a control (cue bids are permitted at TGRs). When Alice cooperates with 4♦ (another cue bid) East, Ted, has enough to bid Blackwood for aces (key-card Blackwood is not played at TGRs). Facing two aces, Ted bids the slam, and with just a club to lose there is no problem in the play.

East-West score 980 (180 for twelve tricks in hearts, 300 for a non-vulnerable game and 500 for a non-vulnerable slam).

Deal 3	♠KJ1095		
EW game	♥K63		
Dealer South	♦52		
	♣643		
♠Q43		♠876	
♥842		♥Q975	
♦KJ983		♦102	
♣K5		♣Q872	
	♠A2		
	♥AJ10		
	♦AQ74		
	♣AJ109		

West	North	East	South
Alice	Bob	Ted	Carol
			2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

2NT shows 20-22 points. Transfer responses are not used at TGRs, so Bob's bid of 3♠ is natural and forcing to game. With a doubleton spade, Carol bids 3NT and everyone passes. The opening lead is the eight of diamonds, and the play does not take long – declarer claims four spade tricks, two diamonds, two hearts and the ace of clubs. Of course, with the actual friendly distribution there were more tricks available, but since they don't count towards the score, Carol correctly tables her cards as soon as she can see enough tricks for the contract.

Overtricks don't count, but honours do, and Carol has four aces for a bonus of 150 points. In theory these are scored "above the line", but players tend just to write 550 below in such cases. Carol cuts the red cards for Alice to deal the final hand of the Chicago.

Deal 4	♠AKJ87		
Game all	♥AQ43		
Dealer West	♦5		
	♣873		
♠642		♠3	
♥K1098		♥2	
♦KJ97		♦AQ10864	
♣42		♣KJ1095	
	♠Q1095		
	♥J765		
	♦32		
	♣AQ6		

West	North	East	South
Alice	Bob	Ted	Carol
Pass	1♠	2NT	3♠
4♦	4♠	5♦	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

For once the auction is competitive. East's overcall of 2NT is the Unusual No Trump showing both minor suits – this convention is played at TGRs. North-South bid to four spades, which can be made with careful play, but East-West carry on to five diamonds. This is doubled and declarer loses the obvious four tricks: two major-suit aces and two clubs.

There is some discussion about how the play might have gone in four spades, since declarer could lose two hearts, a club and a diamond. But Bob assures everyone that he would have made the contract. "I ruff the second diamond, draw trumps, play a heart to the queen, then three rounds of clubs. Ted wins but must give a ruff and discard, and one of my losing hearts goes away." With everyone now happy that they have done the right thing in the bidding, it remains to add up the score.

East-West scored 40 and 980 on the first two hands for 1,020 overall. But North-South came back strongly with 550 and 500 on the third and fourth deals, so the net result is 30 to North-South. This is described as a "washout", since we score per 100 points at TGRs. The players cut for the next Chicago, and... but that is another story.