

The Kibitzer



Spring 2025 | Volume 72, Number 1

Ain't life Grand!





TRANSOCEANIC BRIDGE CRUISE - ALLURA

April 14-30, 2026 - Miami, Bahamas, Bermuda, Azores (Portugal), Malaga, Cartagena, Mallorca (Spain), Naples/Pompeii, Rome (Italy)

Join the luxurious Allura, Oceania's BRAND NEW ship, on an exclusive 2026 cruise from Miami to Rome. With 67,000 tons of elegance, it accommodates 1,200 guests and features a dedicated crew of 800 for unparalleled service.

Linda Tuff will be your bridge instructor, director and tour leader.
Nancy Strachan will also be your director.

Click on this to get a taste of Allura: [OCEANIA ALLURA New Cruise Ship Coming in 2025](#)

LINDA TUFF, NANCY STRACHAN & OCEANIA ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED by BARBARA SEAGRAM & ALEX KORNEL

ADDITIONAL \$100.00 shipboard credit per cabin if you book before February 25, 2025

INCLUDED: \$100 shipboard credit per cabin, Gourmet specialty restaurants, Unlimited Starlink Wi-Fi, Group Prestige Beverage Package(unlimited wine & spirits), Shipboard gratuities, soft drinks & juices & specialty coffees & teas, laundry services, group fitness classes.

Prices from:

\$4599.00 USD or \$6399.00 CAD – Verandah cabin (B4) per person double occupancy.



Linda Tuff won the 2022 Teacher of the Year Award. She manages Halifax Bridge World club in Halifax, Nova Scotia

To book, call Carolyn Kremer (Direct Travel / was Vision Travel): 705-435-5533 or 1-800-363-5533 # 1435. Email: ckremer@dt.com

DAY	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
Apr 14 Tue	Miami, Florida, United States	Embark 1 PM	5 PM
Apr 15 Wed	Great Stirrup Cay, Bahamas	7 AM	12 PM
Apr 16 Thu	At Sea		
Apr 17 Fri	Royal Naval Dockyard, Bermuda	11 AM	4 PM
Apr 18-21	At Sea		
Apr 22 Wed	Ponta Delgada (Azores), Portugal	11 AM	4 PM
Apr 23-24	At Sea		
Apr 25 Sat	Malaga, Spain	8 AM	8 PM
Apr 26 Sun	Cartagena, Spain	10 AM	7 PM
Apr 27 Mon	Palma de Mallorca, Spain	11 AM	7 PM
Apr 28 Tue	At Sea		
Apr 29 Wed	Naples/Pompeii, Italy	7 AM	5 PM
Apr 30 Thu	Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy	Disembark 8 AM	



ABOUT ALLURA

Year Built: 2025 | Guests: 1238-1469
 Total Cabins: 612 | Crew: 800
 Length: 785' | Tonnage: 67000
 Finest cuisine at sea:
 French, Italian, Asian & Steakhouse specialty dining rooms
 There is also a paddle tennis court, and 9-hole golf putting green, fitness track, shuffleboard, and croquet.



TICO # 50023504



ACBL
SANCTIONED

Bridge Weekend

MAY 2-4, 2025 AND OCTOBER 3-5, 2025
2 NIGHT ALL-INCLUSIVE GETAWAY PACKAGES

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE WORLD'S GREATEST CARD GAME

Join husband & wife team, Martin Hunter and Danielle Gosselin while you enjoy Fern Resort's classic hospitality, great food and lakeside setting for a memorable weekend in the heart of cottage country. Martin is an Expert player and ACBL Tournament Director, while Danielle is an ACBL Accredited Bridge Teacher.

BOOK IN ADVANCE - THIS EVENT WILL SELL OUT!



OVER 9 HOURS OF DUPLICATE BRIDGE PLAY

- Optional casual bridge game - Friday at 3:00pm
- 4 sessions of ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge
- 4 Mini Lessons and one workshop
- Meet & Greet with complimentary wine & cheese
- Awards, prizes, and more!

2-NIGHT ALL-INCLUSIVE GETAWAY PACKAGE AT BEAUTIFUL FERN RESORT

Package includes accommodation, 6 meals per person (dinner on Friday, 3 Meals Saturday, Breakfast & Lunch Sunday), wine & cheese event, all Bridge activities and access to seasonal facilities.

Starting from \$547 per person*

*Price based on double occupancy, plus HST

Reserve online at fernresort.com,
call 1-800-567-3376 or email us at
getaway@fernresort.com to book
your stay today.



Yes, that is a recent photo of your winterized editor. How recent? Super recent. Less than one week ago recent. I'm pretty sure there will be snow on the ground and lots of it as you read these words. I tried to rush out this issue of the Kib so that you would have something to read while you are procrastinating from shoveling the snow. Hmm, I wonder if there has been a spike in BBO play recently.

A fun issue for you! As you can see from all the merriment on the front cover, that happy-go-lucky gang from KW and surrounds is our cover story.

You've seen them at tourneys, maybe you have visited their club—the Grand River Bridge Club—so hopefully you'll get a better sense of who they are and how they are just fabulous for bridge right now, and exactly what we need.

*On the cover from left to right: **Edith Ferber, Kathy Russell, Margot Stockie, Adrian Record, Jennifer Verdam, David Longstaff, Cindy Mahn, Bob Griffiths, Douglas Dolbear, Dave Baker, and Suzanne Edwards.***

On a sad note, the *In Memoriam* pages are somewhat lengthy this issue as we mourn the passing of four prominent players: **Nancy Hart, Bob Hollow, Joan Priebe,** and **Joe Sauro.** In addition, we lost **Marian Thompson** at Xmas and **Colin Harrington** just last week. Marian, a longtime member of the Granite Club who played bridge into her mid-90s, was an absolute sweetheart, and Colin, who was a part of the K-W gang which you will soon read about, was an astute player and “lover” of the SBS.

If you are ever not sent the Kib via email, you can find it on the District 2 website: <https://www.d2acbl.org>

Andy Stark
andy.kibitzer@gmail.com
 647 530 1360

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2025 DISTRICT 2 GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS



Open Flight
Flight A
Flight B
Flight C

No Masterpoint limits
Under 6000 Masterpoints
Under 3000 Masterpoints
Non-Life Master under 750 Masterpoints
(as of Sept 6, 2024 masterpoint cycle)

Winners of each Flight will represent District 2 in the North American Final, to be played at the Philadelphia NABC starting on July 23, 2025

Entries at the National Final will be covered by the ACBL or District 2

All players must be paid-up ACBL members and residents of District 2

Teams may consist of 4, 5 or 6 members. Members must play at least 1/2 the number of matches *or* sessions and 1/2 the boards of *each* KO matches.

Dates: June 14 and 15 if necessary
Times: 10:00 am & TBA
Cost: \$20 per person per session.
**Place: MObridge facilities at 2225 Erin Mills Pkwy, Mississauga, ON L5K 1T9
Unit 155A in Sheridan Mall
Coffee / tea and snacks available on site.**

Pre-registration deadline is June 8.

Teams are required to Pre-register with the **DISTRICT CO-ORDINATOR, who may be able to help Individuals / Pairs looking for Partners / Teammates**

DISTRICT CO-ORDINATOR

Edmund Fok d2.gnt.nap@gmail.com 416-678-7911

Link to District 2 Condition of Contest.

<https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/coc/gnt/02.pdf>

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UNIT 166 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

Please check the Unit 166 website for up-to-date club information www.unit166.ca

ALBION HILLS BRIDGE CLUB

Mayfield United Church,
12496, Dixie Road, Mayfield, Caledon ON
Steven Norris 647-234-6352

albionhillsbridge@gmail.com

- Thur 1:00 pm Open

BRIDGE AT THE TEMPLE

Temple Sinai
210 Wilson Ave., Toronto ON M5M 3B1
Richard Ross 416-816-7115

- Mon 12:00 pm Open
- Tues 6:30 pm Open

BRONTE BRIDGE CLUB

Walton Memorial United Church
2489 Lakeshore Road W., Oakville
Jackie Syer 905-844-0574

syerjacqueline@gmail.com

jackiesyer@gmail.com

- Wed 12:30 pm Open
- Wed 12:30 pm 0-500

ETOBICOKE BRIDGE CENTRE

Etobicoke Olympium
590 Rathburn Rd
Etobicoke, ON M9C 3T3
Steve Overholt 647-897-6179

All face-to-face games are temporarily inactive

HALTON BRIDGE CLUB

Burlington East Presbyterian Church
505 Walkers Line, Burlington
Jackie Syer 905-844-0574

syerjacqueline@gmail.com

jackiesyer@gmail.com

- Tues 12:30 pm Open

HART HOUSE BRIDGE CLUB

7 Hart House Circle, Toronto, ON
416-978-2452

harthousebridgeclub@gmail.com

<http://sites.utoronto.ca/bridge/>

- Tues 6:30 pm Open

UNIT 166 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

Please check the Unit 166 website for up-to-date club information www.unit166.ca

INA & FRIENDS LM PAIRS

Temple Sinai
210 Wilson Ave., Toronto, ON M5M 3B1
416-816-7115 or 416-706-8550

Richard Ross & Ina Demme
lifemastersbridge@gmail.com

- Fri 12:00 pm Open (Stratified)

MARILYN'S BRIDGE CLUB

24 Alexander St.
Brampton, ON L6V 1H6
(905) 791-4239

Gary Westfall
gwestfall@rogers.com

- Fri 12:30 pm Open

MOBRIDGE

Sherwood Village
2225 Erin Mills Pkwy, Unit #155A
Mississauga, ON L5K 1T9

www.mobridge.club

Max Rutherford 905 403 1333

mail@mobridge.club

- Mon 7.00 pm 0-99
- Mon 7.00 pm 0-1500
- Tue 12.30 pm Open
- Wed 7.00 pm 0-499
- Thu 12.30 pm Open
- Fri 12.30 pm 0-1500
- Sat 10.00 am Open

OAKVILLE BRIDGE CLUB

Trinity United Church
1250 McCraney St. E
Oakville, ON L6H 3K3

Darlene Scott
oakvilledarlene@gmail.com

- Mon 12:15 pm Open

Free lesson prior to game; arrive at 11:30 am

SHORELINE BRIDGE CLUB

Burlington East Presbyterian Church
505 Walkers Line, Burlington ON
Jackie Syer 905-844-0574

syerjacqueline@gmail.com

jackiesyer@gmail.com

- Fri 12:30 pm Open
- Fri. 12:30 pm 0-500

STEPPING STONE BRIDGE CLUB

Armour Heights Presbyterian Church
105 Wilson Ave. (Avenue & 401)

Cyndy Winkler cyndywinkler@gmail.com

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/steppingstones/>

- Mon 12:30 pm 0-20
- Tues 12:00 pm 0-399

TORONTO BRIDGE

Leaside Memorial Gardens
1073 Millwood Road, Toronto, ON

Rob Drummond 647-629-3408

info@torontobridge.ca

- Thur 9:00 am Limited (0-500)
- Thur 12:00 pm Open
- Wed 12:00 pm Open

TORONTO EAST BRIDGE CLUB

1512 Kingston Road, Scarborough, ON
416-419-3089 - Glenna Richardson

416-276-6415 - Laurie Miller

torontoeastbridgeclub@gmail.com

- Mon 7:00 pm Open and 0-20
- Wed 12:30 pm Open and 0-20

Next Board Meeting

Thursday April 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm,
via video conference.

2024 AGM

Board approved minutes
are now available at:

www.unit166.ca

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Kibitzer Editorial Policy

The Kibitzer is published to promote bridge and to inform members of ACBL Units 166, 238, 246, 249 and 255 about tournaments and special events, as well as to entertain with deals and articles of interest. It is also a forum for the exchange of information and opinion among the members. Opinions expressed in articles or letters to the Editor are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Unit Boards of Directors or the Editor. The Kibitzer reserves the right to edit or exclude submitted material.

UNIT 246 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

AJAX BRIDGE CLUB

46 Exeter Rd., Ajax
Sonia Ostroff
905-419-0870

- Tues 7:15 pm Open

AURORA BRIDGE CLUB

406 Millard Ave, Newmarket, L3Y 1Z9
905-895-7321

Sally Loates sara.loates@yahoo.com

- Wed 12:30 pm Open
- Thurs 12:30 pm 0-500
- Fri 12:30 pm Open

BARRIE BRIDGE CLUB

18 Alliance Blvd., Barrie
705-721-9233

Jane Foster janekf74@hotmail.com

- Mon 1:00 pm 299er
- Tues 1:00 pm Open
- Wed 1:00 pm Open
- Fri 12:00 pm Open

BELLEVILLE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Belleville Masonic Temple, 132 Foster Avenue
Belleville, K8N 3P9

Club website: www.bridgewebs.com/belleville

Games are open; 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

Club manager - Peter Tarle peter@tarle.com

BLUE MOUNTAIN DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

100 Minnesota Street, Collingwood
705-446-9592

Christine Blake chrisedb@rogers.com

- Tues 1:00 pm Open
- Thurs 1:00 pm Open

COBOURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

232 Spencer Street E., Cobourg

pgiannandrea@gmail.com

- Wed 1:00 pm Open

ORILLIA DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Orillia Square Mall, Unit 22
1029 Brodie Drive,
Severn Twp. L3V 0V2
705-323-4944

Jean Belfour: jeanbelfour007@gmail.com

Club website: www.bridgewebs.com/Orillia

- Mon 1:00 pm Open
- Wed 1:00 pm 299er
- Thurs 1:00 pm Open

Details at: www.bridgewebs.com/orillia/

NORTH SIMCOE BRIDGE AND GAMES CLUB

(formerly Midland Bridge Club)
The Brooklea Golf and Country Club,
8567 Hwy. 93, Midland

Jeanette Halliday: jhalliday123@gmail.com

Club website: www.bridgewebs.com/midland/

- Mon 1:00 pm Open
- Tues 7:00pm Learning game
- Wed 1:00 pm Open
- Thurs 1:00 pm Social
- Fri 12:00 pm Bid Euchre

PETERBOROUGH BRIDGE CLUB

184 Marina Blvd., Peterborough
705-745-2331

Anne Martens ptbobridge@gmail.com

- Mon 1:00 pm Open
- Mon 1:00 pm 49ers
- Tues 1:00 pm 0-750
(one partner must be under 750 mps)
- Wed 1:00 pm Open
- Thurs 1:00 pm 0-750
- Fri 1:00 pm Open

RICHMOND HILL BRIDGE CLUB

Elgin Barrow Arena, 43 Church Street S,
Richmond Hill, L4C 1W1

Susan Beals sbealsca@yahoo.co.uk

- Thur 12:45 pm Open
- Sat 12:45 pm Open

THORNHILL BRIDGE CLUB

7755 Bayview Ave., Thornhill
905-883-955

Medhat Fawzy medhatfawzy@hotmail.com

- Mon 1:00 pm Open
- Wed 1:00 pm Open

WASHAGO BRIDGE CLUB

4108 Canal Rd., R.R.#2
Washago, L0K 2B0
Anne Sixsmith
647-528-1170

- Friday 12:00 pm Open

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tel. (519) 740-9614 email: boydst1945@gmail.com

UNIT 249 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

BEACHGROVE BRIDGE CLUB

14134 Riverside Dr East, Windsor, N8N 1B6
519-564-7185
Marica Janisse
Private: May thru December
• Tues 6:30 pm

BREW'S BRIDGE CLUB

770 Maxwell St., Sarnia, 519-381-6792
Randy Breuer
• Tues 1:00 pm Open
• Wed 1:00 pm Open
• Fri 1:00 pm Open

GRAND RIVER BRIDGE CLUB

2481 Kingsway Drive, Kitchener, N2C 1A6
519-893-4595
David Baker
Grand River runs a combination of 110 face-to-face games and one virtual game per week. Please see our website for schedule details.
<https://grandriverbridgeclub.com/club-schedule>

GODERICH BRIDGE CLUB

Trinity Church 245 Mill Road, Goderich,
519-524-9635
Mary-Lynne Telford
The Goderich bridge clubs runs a face-to-face open game on Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. plus

a series of three virtual games per week. Please see our website for schedule details.
<https://www.bridgewebs.com/goderichbridge/home.html>

GUELPH BRIDGE CLUB

23 Victoria Rd N, Guelph, N1E 5G6
519-400-4053
Thea Davis
The Guelph Bridge Club runs a series of 7 face-to-face games per week. Please see our website for schedule details.
<http://www.guelphbridgeclub.org/gametimes.html>

KINCARDINE CHARITY BRIDGE CLUB

601 Durham Street, Kincardine, 226-398-6008
Tom Rajnovich tom.rajnovich@gmail.com
The Kincardine Charity Bridge Club runs 3 games per week.
• Mon 12:45 pm Open
• Wed 9:30 am Mentor
• Fri 12:45 pm Open

Please see our website for schedule details.
https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwor/bw.cgi?club=kincardinecharity&pid=display_future

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/kincardinecharity/>

UNIT 249 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

LAKESHORE BRIDGE CLUB

333 Lacasse Blvd Tecumseh
519-996-4372
Ewoud Van Goch
Rob Garrioch
519-919-4455
Mon 12:45 pm Open

LONDON BRIDGE CENTRE

9-1106 Dearness Drive, London,
519-601-2582
Angie Francolini presidentlbc@rogers.com
The London Bridge Centre runs a combination of 9 face-to-face and 1 virtual game per week. Please see our website for schedule details. <https://site.pianola.net/london-bridge-centre/home>

MAPLE CITY DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

304 St Clair St, Chatham
USB Sports Bar downstairs
519-809-7000
Gary Robertson garroberr@gmail.com
• Mon 1:00 pm Open
• Wed 1:00 pm Open

MEAFORD BRIDGE CLUB

Knox Presbyterian Church
591 St. Vincent St., Meaford
226-568-3204
Jan Chappelle janchappelle@gmail.com
• Mon 1:00 pm Open
• Thurs 1:00 pm Open

OWEN SOUND DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

1450 2nd Ave W, Owen Sound
519-372-1922
Patricia Barker
osduplicatebridgeclubnews@gmail.com
• Mon 6:45 pm Open
• Wed 1:00 pm Open

PARKHILL LEISURE CLUB

176 Broadway Street, Parkhill
519-476-3144
Lynn Whalen ldw@execulink.com

SAUGEEN SHORES DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

525 Iving's Dr., Port Elgin,
Manager: John Lightfoot, 519-797-5858
littlebear@bmts.com
Website: [Lake & Bay Bridge](#)
• Tues 1:00 pm Open
• Fri. 1:00 pm Open

SIMCOE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

150 Colborne St. S.
St. James United Church
Simcoe, N3Y 4H6
519-631-5531
Jim Wright jwr1002393@rogers.com
• Wed 1:00 pm Open

ST. THOMAS DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

225 Chestnut Street, St. Thomas, N5R 5B2
519-631-5531
Jim Wright manager@stthomasbridgeclub.org
• Tues 1:00 pm Open
• Tues 1:00 pm 0-500
• Thur 1:00 pm Open

THE DUNES

Ausable Port Franks Community Centre
9997 Port Franks Road, Port Franks
519-719-2483
Janette Pedler pedlar99@hay.net

TILLSONBURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Tillsonburg Seniors Centre
45 Hardy Ave., Tillsonburg
519-631-5531
Jim Wright jwr1002393@rogers.com
• Fri 1:00 pm Open

WINDSOR SOCIAL DBC

333 Lacasse Blvd. Tecumseh
Roger Papineau rogerpapineau@sympatico.ca
• Wed 12:45 pm Open
• Fri 12:45 pm Open

PRESIDENT: Muriel Tremblay
280 Johnson St, Niagara on the Lake
email: muriel@cmtmc.ca

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4020 Mountain Rd. Beamsville L3J 2C8
email: bjcanada439@gmail.com

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Ain't life Grand?

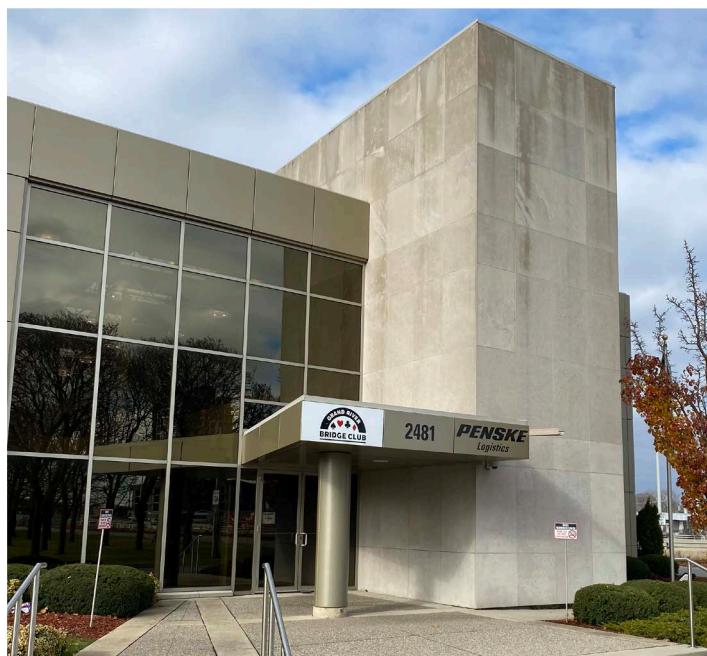
My eldest child (Lennox) just turned 16 in January and my youngest (Camilo) is coming up on 12 and a half. Fun fact #1: Camilo can never *technically* celebrate his 'half-year birthday' because the date does not exist. He was born August 30 and six months later to the day is *not* Feb. 30. Oh well, such are the vagaries of the Gregorian calendar. All this to say, in the natural course of events, there was a bit of a break from tournament bridge for me; reason: kids.

But when I did make the proverbial comeback a few years ago to play Sectionals on a regular basis, I tried to play as much as Supreme Commander would allow. One fine Sunday morning in the late summer of 2016, I made the nice three-and-a-half-hour drive to Goderich, to join a 4-person team and play a half-day. Fun fact #2: bridge players are addicts—they'll drive a total of 7 hours to play 24 boards. Fun fact #3: my mother's mother was born and raised in Goderich and was schoolmates with one of Canada's greatest bridge players, Percy "Shorty" Sheardown. Unfortunately, none of Shorty's prowess at the table rubbed off on my grandmother.

But I digress, where am I going with this...ah yes, it did not take me long to realize there was a core group of bridge players omnipresent at these Sectionals in Southern Ontario. I knew a couple of them from the old days but many of them I was just meeting for the first time. They were all from Kitchener-Waterloo or the General K-W Area. They travelled in droves, played in different partnerships, socialized, rented Air B n' Bs, dined together, picnicked together. Eventually, they started travelling further afield to far-flung places as Fredericton and Gatlinburg. They are in Barbados as I write. There are plans afoot to go to Europe and play

in Holland this summer. Fun fact #4: they go practically everywhere.

So, for the last couple of years, I thought it would make for a fun Kibitzer article to tell their story. And by that what I really mean is get them to tell their own story—the story of this ubiquitous gang from K-Dub and surrounds, who seemed to be at every tournament everywhere. It took me a while to get organized (reason: kids), but I finally began the interview process in earnest last November. After some back-and-forth emails with their ringleader, aka social convenor, aka 'key cog,' Margot Stockie, I decided to venture down the 401, and up Hwy 8, to visit the Grand River Bridge Club and play in an afternoon game with none other than the president of Unit 249, Jennifer Verdam. We won (fun fact #5)!



The mothership

I arrived early to the mothership and parked my car in the free parking lot across the road, making sure to follow the instructions of parking in one of the designated spots for bridge players. The penalty for parking in a Penske parking spot is a visit to the club and a sharp admonition from Mr. Penske. So yeah, there you have it: the Grand River Bridge Club (GRBC) is not situated as I envisioned—loftily perched upon the riverbank of the Grand River, like a croft in Shetland, but wedged between Dare Cookies and the Penske Files, with the roar of Hwy 8 a stone's throw away.

Ah, but the moment you step inside the GRBC you notice the club is a veritable oasis, *the prototypical bridge club*: a cloak room with more space than most bedrooms, two rows of well-spaced bridge tables, a long corridor of more bridge tables, (they could host a Sectional!) an island for food prep and easy-access gnoshing, a refrigerator, plenty of cupboards, oh and at the back, about a kilometer down the corridor, a private room set up for bridge classes. I was immediately impressed. And you would be, too, so if you ever get the chance to play here, please make a reservation. Just scroll back a few pages and look for their contact info under the Unit 249 face-to-face bridge club listings.

I arrived plenty early and met up with Margot who was wrapping up a meeting. She introduced me to Sharon King. Sharon, a member of GRBC, was working on a project at the club whereby every member would be surveyed and asked pointed questions as to how the club could improve the member's experience as a bridge student/player. Sharon explained the initiative as a ground-up enquiry, something she had success with before at a company. The goal is to improve the club and have it so that every *member* is heard and that every *member* feels part of the community.

And isn't community what it's all about? So what started as a plan to interview the Traveling Wilburys turned into a different article of sorts. It was during

this first visit to the GRBC that I decided to focus on the club itself. I'm no psychologist but it's probably not a stretch to deduce that the thriving bridge community formed at the GRBC (and predecessor clubs) is what helped create the gang that would hang out together at out-of-town tourneys: the K-W gang is a special group of people and players, coming out of a special place.



Club managers Margot Stockie and Kathy Russell

Let's start with one aspect of a well-run club that is near and dear to my heart and that is communication. The club has their own weekly bulletin called *The Alert*. In it you can find the schedule, peruse the results, and absorb the lessons of some of the contributors such as Sue Moses, Lynda Burnett, Barbara Arthur, Steve Allen, and the club's bridge guru, David Baker. Here's the link to the club where the Alert can be accessed: <https://www.grandriverbridgeclub.com> Caution: please be sure not to fall in love so much that you forsake your Kibitzer reading time!

For a detailed history of the club, be sure to click on 'About Us' in the menu on the left of their homepage. Don't click on the chevron (well you *can*, for some

great photos of the club's time at a previous location) but click on the words 'About Us.' There, front and center, you will read the following: "Grand River Bridge Club is a volunteer driven non-profit bridge club. We have a Board of Directors and a Management Team. The Board of Directors is responsible for strategic and policy decisions while the Management Team is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the club." In summation, the club formed from the ashes of several smaller clubs in KW—each former club's owner/manager offering to merge their club into one big club, for the benefit of all. I'm reminded of the Three Musketeers and their motto: all for one and one for all.

Alert! Interview with Malkin Howes

The Alert's first editor was club member Malkin Howes. As Kib editor I have been on multiple group email exchanges with Malkin over the years but had never met her before my game in November at the GRBC. Here's the bulk of our most recent email exchange:

Kib: First, congratulations on building/designing/contributing to such a fabulous club bulletin. The Alert is a model for other bridge clubs. Can you tell us about your decision to stop editing?

Malkin: The immediate and personal reason that I stepped down is that my husband and I are building a new house, and I figured I would get too busy to devote the four hours a week minimum, day in and day out, that the Alert requires. But, in addition, I felt that it was time to pass the torch to newer and younger players, who are after all the future of our club. I was one of the seven founding board members. Of the seven, six still play regularly at our club (five of us were there yesterday) but only one is still in a leadership role.

Kib: What do you think the impact of the Alert was over the years on the newer players?

Malkin: Probably the most important role of the Alert was and is to keep reminding newer and more peripheral players of our club's existence - meaning it is crucially important that people elect to open the weekly email - so my priority was to make the Alert as readable as possible, including mentioning the names and photos of as many players as possible, and running cartoons and jokes and telling amusing stories.

Kib: Did you get feedback from some of them?



Malkin and her New York family in front of the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree and skating rink

Malkin: It would be very rare that I would get feedback about bridge insights in the Alert. Mostly, our players commented about its entertainment value. One kind reader actually told me that she scheduled her Friday mornings around the arrival of the Alert, including going out into her backyard with a cup of tea to read it. She was not excited to learn about stripe-tailed ape doubles or Merrimac coups, trust me!

Kib: Do you recommend that other bridge

clubs try to have a version of the Alert at their club?

Malkin: The Alert's official terms of reference are to: keep its readers connected to our club and to each other; provide information about our club's services and the successes of its members; advertise upcoming lessons and special events; and provide information designed to improve our players' bridge skills. If other clubs decide to have a version of the Alert at their clubs, they should start by deciding what



Malkin and husband Bryan with their two Waterloo granddaughters in their house at Christmas

they want it to achieve and whether they have the resources to produce it. From this the other details would flow, including things like the newsletter's content, format, and frequency of publication. I would be happy to help other clubs with establishing a newsletter on request.

Kib: So, now that you get to play 'house' for a while and perhaps devote a bit more time to playing, tell us how and when you first learned to play bridge.

Malkin: I learned bridge in the time-honoured way at the age of 8 when my parents needed a third and a fourth in the evenings and dragooned my brother (aged 7) and me. Somehow, despite my father's browbeating, I saw the beauty of the game and was hooked.

Kib: What was your first duplicate bridge experience like?

Malkin: This would have been at Western when I was in my second year (1965). Someone came to my apartment building and told a bunch of us about duplicate bridge (which was news to me), so I showed up at the university's bridge club shortly afterwards and the rest is history. I loved duplicate right away (even though I did very badly at first). Those were the days when you had to wait around afterwards while the club's fast adders totted up the points and announced the winners about 20 minutes after the game. And you got fractionals if you did well!

Kib: When did you feel you 'arrived' as a bridge player?

Malkin: A bunch of us from Western went to Guelph to play in a tournament there. I played in the side game with Margot Andean, and we won North-South! None of the heavy hitters who had played in the main game had done very well,

so Margot and I were briefly the toast of the town.

Kib: Who were your first mentors and who were the best players in your area?

Malkin: The best players at Western were David and Fanny Burke and Brian Johnston. My aforementioned brother (last mentioned when he was seven years old) also played at this club and in the fullness of time he married Barbie Hewson, Fanny's sister, meaning that we were all one big famdamily. David and Fanny were married for a time, and then Fanny was married to Brian for a time. And Fanny and I and a cast of thousands, including Fanny and Barbie's other sister Margaret, all lived together in Fanny's house at 38 McKenzie in London for several years. My brother, btw, was involved in the start-up of the Kibitzer—I believe he was in charge of advertising or something like that. John Howes, in case you knew him.

Kib: John was a little before my time, but I see he is mentioned in Unit 166's History of the Kibitzer, and yes, in charge of advertising, back when we needed someone in charge of advertising. Speaking of family, you married a Dare and the GRBC shares a wall with Dare Foods Ltd. What in your humble opinion is/was the best goodie that Dare produced?

Malkin: I asked my husband, and he says the best cookie Dare makes is the Raspberry Whippet. His personal favourite is Cinnamon Danish. My personal favourite was French Creme until it was discontinued. But all Dare cookies are delicious, and you should buy lots of them.

Kib: Thanks, Malkin! See you at the table, hopefully with cookies...*dare* I say. (I'll let myself out.)

The GRBC has a pretty good schedule for all levels of players. They hold face-to-face games every day of the week except on Sundays, and on that day, members can play on BBO in the SE Carolina Club. The SE Carolina game runs three games per day. Back at the mothership, Open games are held in the afternoon on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. On Fridays, the best day(!) the Open game starts at 7:00 pm and afterwards nearly every participant finds their way to the GRBC honorary pub to discuss the hands. If you're new to bridge, this is the BEST thing for your game: Play some, drink some, discuss some, learn some. And yes you can drink water but be social, alright?

For 299ers, there are designated games on Mondays and Wednesday afternoons. For the 749ers, games are held Wed. and Fri. afternoons. And finally, for the 99ers, games are Saturday morning at 9:00 am and Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm. There's a Bridge Lab on Monday mornings and plenty of lessons offered throughout the year. I noticed on the GRBC webpage that a course on Defence, taught by Stephen Carpenter, was sold out—it just wrapped up in early Feb. Another course for Beginners is being offered in April. Rita Givlin is the new teaching lead.

It feels like the club is doing all the right things to attract new players and keep them playing. Two highly invested players are Dianne Aves and Margot Stockie. From Ted Boyd's history of the club, we read that 13 years ago, "Dianne Aves was a staunch advocate of the development of a comprehensive set of lessons and developed a plan to offer lesson series several times a year." As for Margot, this article would not have been possible without her. I sat down with Dianne and Margot to learn more about the GRBC and the travelling group of tournament players.

Kib: So how did this gang get started?

Dianne: It's so long ago, I don't remember exactly how we formed a group. I think it must be 15 years. We started going to Gatlinburg, first as a cluster

of small groups. Once we found the condos in Gatlinburg, we stayed together with 2, 3, or 4 players in each condo. Eventually we decided to have dinner all together. Each condo prepared dinner one night of the week and we all ate together in one condo. Bring your plate, knife, and fork and of course whatever you want to drink. Before these Gatlinburg stints, smaller groups often went to tournaments in Southwestern Ontario, Buffalo, Cleveland, and Detroit. Of course, we also went to some Nationals. Then there was the big party week in St. Louis.

Margot: When the Grand River Bridge Club was formed in 2012 the ever "contentious" Dave Baker taught lessons. Yes, there had already been players travelling together but now we had a "new focus" other than just improving our bridge and going to tournaments and that was food and fun. Every lesson included a potluck supper and social time. From there our travels to tournaments included sharing meals, accommodations, and transportation.

Kib: Do you play in set partnerships or mix and match?

Margot: For the past few years someone is "appointed" to set up the partnerships ahead of the tournament. This includes recruiting participants in order to include everyone. It's a tough job because bridge players are nothing if not opinionated!

Dianne: There are always long-term partnerships, but we do some mixing and matching, too. We always try to have multiples of 4 going together so it works for teams. Sometimes there are mix-ups about teams but in the end, it all works somehow. Arrangements for teams happen quite a long time before tournaments.

Kib: Is everyone from K-W and surrounding area?

Dianne: Our players don't all live in Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge. Some who are part of the group drive for up to an hour to come to our club

to play. Quite a few of our GRBC members are also members of the Guelph Bridge Club.

Kib: One of my first Sectionals was Guelph in 1990 and I am 99% sure Dave Baker was in the field. He was a strong player then and he's a strong player now, having accumulated nearly 14,000 masterpoints.

Dianne: Dave Baker is usually our go to person when we have questions. He is extremely patient and helpful when we approach him with questions. He is not the only one who can answer questions though. There are many "teachers" in the group, and we've "grown" together. We compete against one another, but we also help each other along. I think we would all agree that this has been one of the greatest benefits of having our group. We are all much better players than we used to be. We are friends, competitors, teammates, and helpers.

Margot: As a result of the lessons taught by Dave a significant number of us play SBS. Colin Harrington would ask when a bid was alerted if we were playing that "Stupid Baker System" and it went from there. Many systems are played at the club and lively discussions of the pros and cons are ongoing!

Kib: And it seems to me that Margot is the main social convenor.

Dianne: Margot is our group "Mom." She organizes and helps in many ways. She is not the only one though. Margot and Thea often provide breakfast and lunch to all when we are away at a tournament. They buy and prepare food ahead of time for all and charge enough to cover the cost of it. It's amazing how much variety there is and it's usually healthy! Like with any group, some herding is necessary at times. In addition to providing food for the group for breakfast and lunch, Margot and Thea also make reservations for dinners out.

Margot: The "cheapitude factor" comes to mind when planning our trips. Working on a low budget means that we can travel together more often. We

have stayed in hotels, motels, friends and relatives' homes and cottages, mobile home parks, Air B n' Bs, and a campsite. We've had many beach days, campfires, whale watching, star gazing...

Kib: And surely some stories to tell! Dianne let's turn it over to you, and then we'll bring in David Longstaff.

Dianne: Partying in the boardroom at the Embassy Suites Hotel in St. Louis. The hotel finally found a way to restrict our noise to one space and let every other hotel guest sleep! The first day back at our home club, I arrived wearing Dave Baker's red tee shirt, with a plaid shirt over that. In addition, I had a pack of his cigarettes in my pocket and Dave's convention card in my back pocket. As luck would have it, at our first game back at the club, Moira and I started against Dave the first round. Surprisingly Dave didn't recognize 'Dave.'

After a member's car died on the I-75 on our return from Gatlinburg, AAA found us the only hotel room left in Cincinnati. Five of us crowded into the tow truck and were driven to this nearby hotel where we spent the night in a one-bedroom suite. Four women and one man who insisted on having his picture taken with three women in the king size bed.

Then there was the time a few women dressed Dave Baker as a woman, complete with a wig and makeup. He looked so cute that one of the guys kissed him! We have proof.

Then there was the time when I fell asleep at the table in the finals of a knockout in Fredericton. All 13 cards fell to the floor. I promptly woke up, picked up my cards and tried to continue playing. My LHO kindly pushed my body from a slant to straight up, twice, during the play. We subsequently won the final and wondered how the conversation at the opponents' table went when they couldn't even beat a team where one player couldn't stay awake!

Bob Griffiths is our music person. At a regional in Cleveland, in the hotel's restaurant area, Bob led our group in singing The Twelve Days of Christmas, in early January. It was a song he was quite sure we all knew the words.

Adrian Record has a green robe which we have been 'enjoying' for years. It's his uniform once dinner is over. He roams the hotel hallways at any time, drink in hand, in the same old green robe.



Adrian and his amazing technicolour dreamcoat (aka famous green robe).

Moira Hollingsworth and I jumped into bed with Colin Harrington one night in Gatlinburg. He awoke from his sleep and just smiled and giggled. For once he was speechless.

David Longstaff is the jokes man. Besides telling his endless list of jokes, he can sing the Periodic Table, from memory. At first glance, opponents or even our newer players, are quite surprised that this straight looking dude can be so funny. We know better.

Recently 12 of us got back from a regional in Puerto Vallarta. The tournament was scheduled to be at the Westin Hotel. Westin broke the contract with the tournament organizers, so the Westin Hotel ended up subsidizing our stay at a beautiful all-inclusive, right across the street from the playing site. In between bridge games, we enjoyed the beach, pools with swim up bars, and tons of food. Our last night there we had dinner at the outdoor steakhouse. Our main waiter was so attracted to Mary McClelland that he plied her and us with bottles of Prosecco and then endless rounds of Baileys on the rocks. What a great sendoff from Mexico!

By the way, we are always proud of those in our group who do well at tournaments. These people in our group are our partners or teammates, but most of all they are our friends.

David Longstaff: It's hard to pick a favourite memory; there are so many of them. My favourite always tends to be the most recent 'away group' tournament, currently the Puerto Vallarta regional this past November. Okay, one particularly vivid memory: driving down the I-75 on a Sunday evening, just after entering Tennessee on the way to Gatlinburg, in Margot's daughter's minivan with me at the wheel and 5 passengers, when I suddenly drop 8 inches and realize the front left wheel has come off and is passing me in the next lane. The full story would take pages to tell (it's hilarious), but no injuries, and Margot was an absolute star to make sure everything eventually turned out fine. Dave Baker even managed to cross 4 lanes of traffic (twice) to bring the wheel back.

Kib: And that's a wrap. Thank you to Margot n' Malkin, Dianne, Dave n' David, Bob, Kathy, Mary, and all the good folks at the GRBC. See you at the table soon and who knows...maybe Fredericton in June!



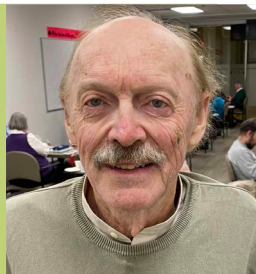
The GRBC was recently in Puerto Vallarta! **Wearing red, left to right: Robert Griffiths, Sharon King, David Longstaff, and Lois Matton; wearing blue: Dianne Aves, Ted Boyd, Mary McClelland, and Margot Stockie; wearing green: Sharon Boyd; wearing yellow: Bruce Roberts and Thea Davis and wearing black: Dave Baker**



The gang in Barbados last week.



This photo collage was lifted directly from the Grand River Bridge Club's excellent website: grandriverbridgeclub.com



I Feel Like a W...

By Doug Andrews

It was good to see the increased attendance at the Fall NABC in Las Vegas. Of course, Las Vegas is an outstanding destination: slot machines available as soon as you get off the plane, exotically themed hotels, flashing lights, and many top entertainers create the impression that nothing is real, including money. Prices have risen substantially from pre-Covid times, especially ACBL entry fees. However, the Shania Twain concert was full value. She was on stage for over two hours and had the audience on its feet for many of the favourites. The whole two-level stage was a tech and video wonder.

Colin Lafferty and I had a good five days of bridge – qualifying for the finals of the two-day Nail Life Master Pairs and winning the three-day 0-6000 Blue Ribbon Pairs.

Here are some hands to give you a taste of the experience. What would you bid?

1. ♠J 8 4 ♥K 8 2 ♦K Q 4 ♣A Q J 7

Doug	LHO	Colin	RHO
1♠	Pass	2♣ (GF)	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Double
4♥	Pass	?	

2. ♠K 8 4 3 ♥A ♦J ♣A 9 8 6 4 3 2

Colin	RHO	Doug	LHO
1♣	Pass	2♣ (GF)	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♣ (KC Ask)	Pass
4♦ (IKC)	Pass	?	

3. ♠K 10 9 6 ♥J 10 9 4 2 ♦5 ♣Q 6 2

Colin	RHO	Doug	LHO
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	?	

4. ♠K 10 ♥A J 10 ♦A J 7 2 ♣A Q 6 4

Doug	LHO	Colin	RHO
1♦	Pass	2♦ (GF)	Pass
2NT	Pass	?	

5. ♠Q 5 ♥K 8 5 3 ♦9 7 5 ♣K 10 6 2

Colin	RHO	Doug	LHO
2♣	Pass	2♥ (artificial positive)	Pass
2NT (22+ hcps)	Pass	3♣ (Puppet Stayman)	Pass
3♦ (a 4-card M or two)	Pass	3♠ (at least 4 hearts)	Pass
4♥	Pass	?	

What happened in Vegas...

On hand 1, Colin signed off in 4♠. They led a diamond but there was no diamond ruff. We held nine spades missing the queen and it fell on the first round. If they had not intervened, one partner would have asked for key cards after the cue bidding and slam would have been reached. Perhaps the lesson on this hand is to intervene in the opponents' auction as much as possible. You may give them additional options to consider or change the meaning of their subsequent bids. The doubler was Marielle Brentnall, playing with Ray Hornby, both of Winnipeg; they finished seventh overall.

On hand 2, I decided to play it safe and bid 5♣, which ended the auction. The missing key card was the king of clubs, and we had ten clubs between us. Colin played for the drop, which did not work, but the king was onside. Generally playing in five of a minor will be a bad score, so I probably should have gambled and bid 6♣ to be with the field. However, I violated a basic rule of matchpoint bidding by not responding 1♠ to 1♦ to show my four-card major. In fact, we had a 4-4 fit, and a number of pairs had bid 6♠. Many pairs open a minor with two or fewer cards, so they are more likely to identify major suit fits than recognize a big minor suit fit.

On hand 3, I decided that my hand might be more likely to produce game in a minor than to make 3NT, so I bid 4♣. With seven clubs to the AJ10 and three outside aces, Colin drove to 6♣. Clubs split 3-0 with the king onside. Colin ruffed a diamond, took the trump finesse, and made seven. That was tied for a top. Interestingly only one other pair reached game, 5♣ also making 7.

On hand 4, Colin made the value bid of 4NT, and I passed. Colin showed good discipline as this hand occurred midway through the final session and we could overhear players advising their partners, "There is no tomorrow." A few pairs bid slam, which was not unreasonable but less than a 50% probability. The required heart finesse for the king lost; the diamond finesse for the queen won, but diamonds broke 4-1, so there were only three tricks in that suit. After getting this news, I ducked a spade to set up a spade-club squeeze, which materialized. Plus 460 was most of the matchpoints, beating all the pairs in slam going down and the declarers in 3NT who only made +430.

All those hands were from the Mini Blue-Ribbon Pairs.

Hand 5 arose during the first round of the final session of the Nail Life Master Pairs. I bid 5♣, Colin bid 5♠, and I signed off in 6♥. The opening lead was

the ten of diamonds and now we have a play problem:

Contract: 6♥

Lead: ♦10

♠ A K 3 2
♥ A Q 7 4
♦ K Q 2
♣ A 8

♠ Q 5
♥ K 8 5 3
♦ 9 7 5
♣ K 10 6 2

I played the ♦K, RHO won the ace of diamonds and shifted to a heart. I have to assume that hearts are splitting 3-2 to have any chance. One ruff in either hand will give me eleven tricks but where's the twelfth to come from? I could try to ruff two clubs in dummy after two rounds of trump are drawn, but there could be transportation issues. However, if LHO held two clubs and three hearts and ruffed in front of dummy I might get home – not much of an extra chance but it steered me in the right direction.

I won the heart in dummy with the queen, played ace and king of clubs, ruffed a club and everyone followed, so now I played for a squeeze – ace of hearts, king of hearts, diamond to the dummy, spade to the queen in hand, bringing us to this four-card ending:

♠ Q 10 8	♠ A K 3 2	
♥ - -	♥ —	♠ J 9
♦ - -	♦ —	♥ - -
♣ Q	♣ —	♦ J 8
		♣ - -
	♠ 5	
	♥ 8	
	♦ 9	
	♣ 10	

I played the ♥8 and LHO was be-tween a rock and a hard place: pitch the ♣Q and my ♣10 becomes a trick or pitch a spade and the ♠3 grows up. Many pairs did not bid slam and about half of those who did went down, so this was a great result to start our evening session. Unfortunately, I took it as an indication that we were destined to do well and got a little carried away in the rest of the session!

It was nice to be playing bridge again in a large field and seeing many old friends. Tournament bridge really has suffered under the Covid pandemic. Let's hope Shania Twain is right: "Up, up, up, it can only go up from here."



Winners of the 0-6000 Blue Ribbon Pairs: Colin Lafferty and Doug Andrews.



The juniors stop for a moment to pose at the 2025 Canadian Junior Team Trials, held at MOBC in late December.



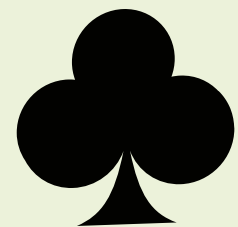
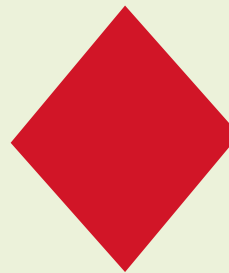
There are currently two Tuesday evening games in town, both starting at 6:30 pm, now that the Toronto Lawn Club has shut its doors to non-Lawn members. There is the venerable Hart House game capably run by Director Kevin Johnston and Asst. Director David Harrison, pictured here ...



...and there is the game at the Temple Sinai run by Richard Ross and directed by longtime director Ron Bishop, pictured here on opening night last November. These guys could go toe-to-toe in reciting bridge stories. Incredible stuff.



If you are looking to play on a Monday evening or Wed. afternoon, look no further (drive no further?) than the Toronto East Bridge Club run by Laurie Miller and Glenna Richardson, pictured here. Hearty congrats to Glenna—the 2025 recipient of the Kate Buckman Award. Hearty congrats to Glenna—the 2025 recipient of the Kate Buckman Award which is awarded annually to a Unit 166 player who has contributed greatly to other people's enjoyment of bridge.

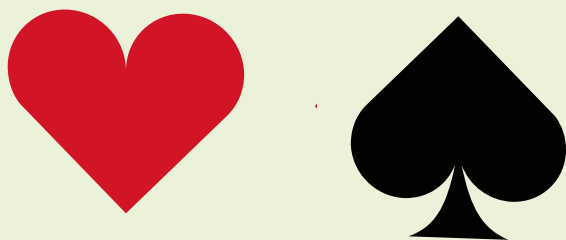




Between Christmas and New Year's MOBC hosted the 2025 Canadian Junior Bridge Trials to determine our U16 and U26 representatives at the World's (to be held in Italy this July). Pictured here are (far left) Terrence Rego, npc of the U16s and (far right) Terry Du, npc of the U26s. In the middle, the proverbial rose between two thorns, is Catherine Kinsella, director, CBF executive assistant, player, chauffeur... the list goes on.

Here's another photo from the Junior Trials In the foreground on far left: Vera Qian; standing at back from left to right: Jeff Martinovic, Cindy He, Simon Hungate, Quan Chen and Max Cheng; and sitting in the middle: Garrett Liu.

At the Trials, the winning U16 pair was William Liu and Casper Gu while the winning U26 pair was Quan Chen and Connor Havens. The Kib will have more on the Junior teams in the Summer issue, out in May.



How about that Martin Hunter? Fresh off his celebration of becoming a Platinum Life Master last fall, he and his partner just last week had an 81% game at MOBC! Martin has offered to write a new feature in these pages, a little something we shall call, "Director, please!" Martin will take your questions around the rules and ethics of the game and provide his response. I'll offer up his first question. Martin, I occasionally see a player make a bid that they intend to be the final contract, and whether they are aware of it or not, they fold up their cards and place their hands on their lap or the table. Is there a rule against this?



Adventures with Bob

By Robert Griffiths

PAR IS FOR GOLFERS

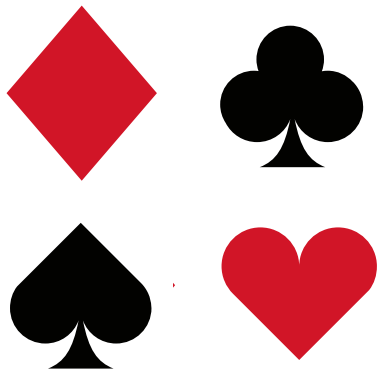
Here is a fascinating hand from the recent Canadian Seniors' Team Championships.

The teams involved mostly consisted of very good players, some of whom were Grand Life Masters and past Canadian champions. It was interesting to see how their approaches differed when dealing with the hand.

It was played at six tables; at each of them, after two passes, South opened 1♠. The West players had different ideas.

Two of them, starry eyed with their likely nine tricks on a spade lead immediately bid 3NT. One of them played this contract and was embarrassed when North led his 4th best diamond; the defence won the first 10 tricks. **+600 for NS**

The other 3NT bidder saw two passes, then South "balanced" with 4♥, a contract that would play very well (12 easy tricks). West was having none of that and went on to 5♣. This was passed out and 11 tricks came in after North led the "wrong" major, his singleton spade (who wouldn't?) **+600 EW**



Board 29
North Deals
Both Vul

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

Two of the West players doubled South's third seat spade opener.

At one of these tables, North passed, then East bid 2♦, South passed and West quietly bid 2NT which was raised to 3NT by East. North led his partner's suit, the ♠2, and West quickly claimed 11 tricks. **+660 EW**

The other doubler saw North bid 2♦, doubled by East. South jumped to 3♥; West bid 3NT (Qx is a stopper!) then North competed to 4♥. This was passed to West who bid 5♣ which was doubled by North and passed out. North led his singleton spade, so the doubled game was made. **+750 EW**

That leaves the two West players who bid their clubs immediately.

One tried 2♣, passed back to South who bid 2♥. West bid 3♣ and North raised to 3♥. This was passed out! Was West afraid of NS making a game in hearts? **+230 NS**

Finally, we come to the West player who jumped to 3♣, alerting his bid as “strong.” This time, his partner, impressed by his own spade stopper, bid 3NT. On lead, South would surely have found a way to guide NS to winning the first 10 tricks but West saved the day by bidding 5♣. North, of course, couldn’t find a red suit lead. His ♠2 gave EW the club game. **+600 EW**

What’s it all mean? The “par” contract on the hand is 7♣ doubled by EW which will go down 3 for **+800 to NS**. The sacrifice would come after NS bid to their unbeatable small slam of 6♥. It’s hard to imagine how any table might find their way to par on this hand. Let’s just call the hand an oddity.

WHAT DO YOU CALL AN 8-CARD SUIT?

You call it trumps, of course. So says the old joke. But every bridge rule (except the rule of 11) has exceptions.

In a local club game, I was South, squirming with delight, contemplating my lovely two-loser hand. I opened 2♣; all that really mattered to me was partner’s red suit holdings.

Board 23
South Deals
N-S Vul

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

West passed and my partner bid 2♥. We play this as a negative bid--partner is showing a bad hand, with no aces or kings. So ended the slam dream.

At this point, while East paused to think, I was mulling over the play in 4♠, my obvious next bid. If the defenders were totally passive, leading clubs or spades at every opportunity, the spade game might go down if I were forced to lead both red suits from my hand. My two losers might expand to four.

But, East came to my rescue, doubling my partner’s 2♥ bid. That was very good news. For their opening lead, West would almost certainly start a heart (partner’s suit), and not the club or spade that I had feared.

And, with a heart lead, 4♠ was practically a sure thing. The ♥K would be my tenth trick. But, this is matchpoints, and if the same number of tricks is available in notrump, it should be played in notrump.

So, I ignored my 8-card spade suit and bid 3NT, counting on winning ten tricks on a heart lead, beating all of the pairs that played 4♠.

Of course, there was the teensy possibility of East’s winning the heart lead with his ace, then shifting to a diamond through my doubleton king. I could lose a lot of tricks if that happened, but what were the odds?

So, I bid 3NT and all was well--the heart jack lead was ducked to my king, 8 spade tricks and the club ace came next and we had a top board by ignoring our 11-card fit. The best that anybody did in spades was 10 tricks.

So now what do you call an 8-card suit? *Sometimes* a side suit.



A Matter of Inferences

By David Cohen

This hand arose during the round robin portion of the recently held CNTCs. My partner Ken Collins and I were playing in the Open division when we encountered this interesting hand:

♠ A Q 7 5
♥ Q 8 7
♦ 7 4 2
♣ K J 2

♠ 10 6 3
♥ 6 4
♦ K Q 8 5
♣ A 8 6 3

North opened 1♣ as dealer, East passed, and South bid 1NT ending the auction.

The opening lead was the ♦6 and it went low from dummy, 10 from East, and the queen was won in hand. Next came the ♣3, seven from West, and the jack, losing to East's queen. East, somewhat surprisingly, played the ♣4, to the 6, 9 from West(!) with the king in dummy winning.

This is a good time to stop and think about all the available inferences that come with that club play: first, East is void in diamonds, otherwise, why didn't he return one? The second inference is that East has a huge heart holding such as ♥AKJ or ♥AK10 and is hoping for partner to lead a heart through dummy. A third inference is that East holds the king or even king-jack of spades.

Now let's add up East's presumed high cards: ♠K, ♥AK and ♣Q. With all those points, why didn't East overcall or double the 1♣ opening? Likely it is because East does not have a five-card suit. Also, East could not double 1♣ with a singleton diamond. It's all adding up! So, it appears that East's shape is probably 4-4-1-4. This makes West's shape to be 2-4-5-2.

The club spots played by West have set up a tenace position, so we play the ♣2 to the 8 in hand, and then the ace of clubs to clear the suit. West pitched an encouraging diamond and a discouraging heart on the two clubs. We are up to four tricks.

We play the spade three, to the 4, queen, and king, and there is East, endplayed again. East realizes that he is never going to get partner in, so he cashes the ♥AK and exits a heart to the queen. Now we're up to five tricks. Note that best defense would be for East to play on spades (not hearts), but they didn't see it.



From the vaults: Ken and David after finishing third overall in the 2017 Red Ribbon Pairs.

We cash the ♠A, stripping the West hand to only diamonds. That's six tricks. Now we duck dummy's last diamond to West. They can cash the ♦A but will have to exit to the ♦K for the seventh trick. INT MAKING!

Here is the full deal:

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



Correspondence

Hi Andy,
I just read the issue. Great job, as usual.

I enjoyed seeing the impressive wood carvings, and Howard Laufer's story brought back memories of other fictional bridge stories relating to detectives or mysteries. It also brought back some personal memories, as you'll see below.

I'm sure you know that Don Von Elsner wrote a series of lighthearted (as I recall) bridge mysteries featuring Jake Winkman, that Matt Granovetter authored a few also, and that (alert: Canadian content reference approaching!) Jim Priebe has published several whodunits featuring Art Fraser. Going back further, Agatha Christie also entered the arena, but offhand I can't think of any others.

Art Fraser, by the way, was a Montreal bridge player of the 1970s (and probably also before that), so Jim must have known him when he (Jim) lived in Montreal, and my guess is that he chose the name of his fictional creation as a tribute to the real-life Art. I played with and against Art in rubber bridge, partnered him a couple of times in matchpoint games, and teamed with him and the late Jim "Flash" Gordon several times in team games. Jim, who was from Vermont, passed away "in the saddle," so to speak, at an NABC approximately 10 - 15 years ago, where he was acting as an assistant to Rose Meltzer's squad. Art moved to Victoria B.C. probably in the early eighties, and I suspect that he passed away many years ago.

As for Howard's story, I enjoyed it—he had to tell his tale in a compact form, due to space limitations. Of the three authors he named as inspirations (Chandler, Hammett, and Spillane), I think the style Howard adopted was that of the hardboiled Spillane much more so than those of the comparatively refined Hammett or Chandler. I hope that Howard does more writing of this sort. Kudos to Mr. Laufer for this nod to the golden age of noir, and - as always - congrats to you on a typically excellent issue.

~Bert Eccles



The Gap Bid Principle in 4-Way Transfers

By David Ellis

Definition

- 2♦ = Transfer to hearts.
- 2♥ = Transfer to spades.
- 2♠ = Transfer to clubs (promises at least six).
- 2NT = Transfer to diamonds (promises at least six).

Transfer to minors

- 6-card minor
- Want to play in 3-level minor, 3NT, or slam
- **Alertable**

How to show a balanced hand with 8-9 HCPs

- Give up the natural 2NT bid
 - Choose between these 2 conventions
1. Use Rule of 16 (HCP + number of cards 8 or over = 16) then bid 3NT
 2. You must start with 2♣ Stayman, you may not have a 4-card major; rebid 2NT **Alertable**

Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder
1NT	2♣	1NT	2♣	1NT	2♣
2♥	2NT	2♠	2NT	2♦	2NT
HCP 8-9 No 4-card Major		HCP 8-9 (+ or -) 4-card Major		HCP 8-9 (+ or -) 4-card Major	

After 1NT - 2♠* (transfer to clubs):

Opener's rebid

- 3♣ = small 3 clubs
- 2NT = **Gap Bid Principle** (super acceptance)
= With this sequence: 1NT-2♠-2NT-3♣:
2NT is the bidding gap between 2♠ and 3♣
= Opener will rebid 2NT **Alertable** (which is the gap)
= Must have HCP 17
= must have 3 clubs with at least 1 major honour or 2 honours or 4 clubs
= Must have 9-card minor suit fit
= desire to play either 3NT or slam if partner has the right values.

- Responder's rebid choices
 - If very weak, signs off at 3♣.
 - Decent solid minor signs off at 3NT.
 - Slam investigation: Cuebid 1st round control
 - Bidding sequence: 1NT-2♠-2NT-**New Suit** = 1st round control (ace, void, or singleton) in that bid suit. If stopped in short suit bid 3NT + game

Example of using the Gap Bid Principle to bid a slam

N	♠ KJ4	♥ A92	♦ KQ85	♣ K83
S	♠ A82	♥ 7	♦ A73	♣ AQT765

W	N	E	S
	1NT	P	2♠
P	2NT	P	3♦
P	3♥	P	3♠
P	4♣	P	4♥
P	5♦	P	6♣
P	P	P	

After bidding 2♠ indicating long clubs + partner bids 2NT, Gap bid HCP 17. South should cuebid 3♦ to show the ace of diamonds and slam interest.

North cuebids 3♥ to show the ace of hearts.

South cuebids the ♠A. North cuebids 4♣ shows the king 2nd round control. With the ♣K. South bids 4♠ showing the king of hearts or second round control. Then North cuebids 5♦ to show the ♦K, in case you want to consider 7♣ or 7NT. South should sign off at 6♣.

After 1NT - 2NT* (transfer to diamonds♦)

Opener's rebid on 4-way transfer

- 3♣ = **Gap Bid Principle** (super acceptance)
- = With his sequence: 1NT-2NT-3♣-3♦
 - 3♣ is the bidding gap between 2NT and 3♦
 - = Opener will rebid 3♣ **Alertable** (which is the gap)
 - = Must have HCP 17
 - = Must have 3 diamonds with at least 1 major honour or 2 honours or 4 diamonds
 - = Must have 9-card minor suit fit
 - = Desire to play either 3NT or slam if partner has the right values.
- 3♦ = 3 small diamonds

Responder's rebid

- Signs off at 3♦ = Pass
- With a decent solid minor, sign off at 3NT
- Considering slam: cuebid an ace

When Opener shows no interest in the minor

- After INT-2♠-3♣-?

- Pass when very weak
- New suit = ace or shortness, with slam interest
- 3NT with decent solid clubs

- After INT-2NT-3♦-?

- Pass when very weak
- New suit = ace or shortness, with slam interest
- 3NT with decent solid diamonds

Frequency of INT openings

HCP 15	44% of the time
HCP 16	33% of the time
HCP 17	23% of the time

Bridge at the Temple

Temple Sinai, 210 Wilson Ave.

Monday at 12:00 noon

Tuesday at 6:30 pm

Friday at 12:00 noon

And every weekday online

For more information call Richard at (416) 816-7115





In Memoriam



Photo by JS

NANCY HART

Nancy and Dick moved to Cobourg many years ago. Together, they would have beginner and novice players from the Cobourg Duplicate Bridge Club over weekly to help them along with their game. Nancy always provided nibblies. This was done out of the goodness of their hearts.

I remember very well attending a sectional in Barrie and the attendance was overwhelming. Nancy was directing and before getting the game started, she opened her arms and while beaming, welcomed all of the players. This was so typical of Nancy. She was everyone's friend.

She was a very good and fair director, always maintaining calm while explaining a ruling. The bridge world has lost a very fine player, director, and good friend.

~Debbie Bennett

I agree with Debbie--Nancy was a friend to all. As a newbie in the early 90s I was immediately in awe of Nancy, who was directing Sectionals and Regionals at the time. I was a nobody but Nancy treated me like I was a somebody.

As a director, Nancy was friendly and fair but also strict--she knew just the right tone to use when dealing with out-of-line bridge players. Where others might be curt and exasperated, Nancy was direct and calm. When I think of great directors, Nancy is on my shortlist. Coburg was lucky to have Nancy (and husband Richard) all those years.

~Andy Stark



BOB HOLLOW

My good friend Bob Hollow passed away January 16 after spending some time in hospital. He had come home from the Vegas tournament with a flu virus and never fully recovered, suffering a cardiac arrest on New Year's Eve. But Bob, being Bob, continued to fight for life. Eventually, lack of oxygen proved to be his downfall.

Bob had played rubber bridge for many years but by his own admission, he was just tossing cards around. It was not until he had learned the importance of counting, he said, that his bridge game improved.

His competitive bridge life took an upward swing when he won the 0-1500 Mini Spingold in back-to-back years, in Toronto in 2001 and in Washington, D.C. in 2002. After that, Bob became a regular on the bridge circuit, winning enough points each year in the early 2000s to place near the top of the Richmond trophy race.

Because of his gregarious nature, everyone knew Bob. And those reflecting on his passing on "Bridge Winners" recalled his winning personality: "He was a bon vivant with a joie de vivre." "I loved Bob; he was such fun." "Bobby was a free spirit whose happy countenance was so infectious that it was impossible not to love the guy."

This comment from national champion Josh Donn captures Bob's humility: "He was so jovial and smiling all the time. At a North American Bridge Championship in 2003 or so, I sat down to play against him in a day-long knockout match. He was effusive in telling my partner what a big fan of mine he was and that he was honoured to play against us. And then he beat us."

I will miss our time together at the bridge table and our countless personal conversations and phone calls which made me recognize what a special person Bob was. Rest in peace, my friend.

~Malcolm Ewashkiw



JOAN PRIEBE

Joan Priebe died peacefully December 9, 2024, at Wenleigh residence, Mississauga. She was born January 17, 1935, in Ottawa, the only child of Mac and Bertha Gowling. She is survived by her husband, James Priebe; four children; six grandsons and three great-grandchildren. Joan had a wonderful career as an English teacher, culminating in her appointment as a department head in business English. She loved her work as much as her students loved her. Joan was an excellent bridge player, recognized as an Emerald

Life Master who won many bridge tournaments locally and throughout North America.

Photo by JS



JOE SAURO

I met Joe ten years ago, as a teammate in Gatlinburg. Joe had recently moved to Oakville from North Bay with the intention of staying 5 years, in order to play a better calibre of bridge and more tournaments. Despite me being hopeless (his opinion), Joe took me under his wing. Joe liked to drive, and we did many road trips to distant tournaments. Being originally a Thunder Bay boy, I shared Joe's long-distance driving philosophy: only stop when you need gas. Passengers with weak bladders were an object of scorn. Over those many thousands of kilometres, I never once got to touch the steering wheel. We also shared a tolerance for cheap accommodations, which earned me brownie points with Joe.

Famous for his "crazy" preempting style (Jxxxx in first seat, non-vulnerable was always worth a 2-bid), only his regular partners understood the high degree of discipline behind those bids and behind Joe's bidding in general. Those same partners got to understand what a kind, decent, honest guy he really was.

Joe knew everyone on the bridge circuit and fit right in. One of his favorite hands was against Curtis Cheek and Eric Rodwell in a KO, down 35 at the half (not our fault but that's a different story). We got to 3NT on a slow auction, Joe pushing like crazy. As the bidding progressed, I became aware that we had drawn a kibitzer, who kept muttering loudly (as a rookie, I was pretty sure this wasn't allowed). By the end of the auction, our kibitzer, none other than David Berkowitz, was talking full sentences! As I tabled dummy, Berkowitz jumped up, ran around the table and stared at Joe's hand, stating, "So this is all it takes to make 3NT with Curtis on lead." Joe calmly wrapped up 9 tricks on 22 combined points and, yes, it was the only lead to allow the contract to make. Joe was in his element.

True to his word, Joe headed back to North Bay after his 5-year foray in the south, content with a quieter life in the north. Post-Covid, we got to play 2-3 times a year, always fun and exciting: Joe knew how to create action at the table. Joe achieved his final bridge goal of 10,000 points in April. Too bad our tentative road trip in 2027 isn't going to happen.

~Keith Heckley



Unit 166

2024 Mini-McKenney Awards

0–5		
Denys Skalskyi	Mississauga	63.63
Klaus Schaefer	Mississauga	43.72
Syed Abbas	Toronto	33.45
5–20		
Louis Daigneault	Mississauga	113.69
Kit Moore	Toronto	66.01
Marvin Ens	Oakville	56.29
20 to 50		
Stanislaw Zielinski	Etobicoke	98.25
Sarah Stairs	Toronto	92.48
Susan Guichon	Toronto	49.49
50–100		
Alan Burnham	Mississauga	174.38
Ilkka Kakkanen	Mississauga	100.23
Ki Wai Yau	Toronto	74.73
100–200		
William Steele	Toronto	137.9
Maurice Fishlinsky	Etobicoke	107.27
Xinshan Zhao	Oakville	88.34
200–300		
Suhasini Vaidya	Toronto	170.48
Gordon Lee	Toronto	133.04
Nicholas Jewitt	Toronto	102.64
300–500		
Barbara Dance	Toronto	159.57
Lee Coplan	Toronto	155.07
Robert Lao	Toronto	127.47

500–1000		
Cindy He	Toronto	291.59
Roger Chu	Toronto	244.98
Jagjit Pal Singh Anand	Brampton	219.08
1000–1500		
Kim Jenkinson	Burlington	499.46
Amy Yin	Mississauga	419.65
Kathryn Jensen	Toronto	240.53
1500–2500		
Claude King	Mississauga	387.99
Myrtle Herzenberg	Toronto	370.77
Rod McLeod	Burlington	267.96
2500–3500		
Peter Peng	North York	505.2
Pengqiao Qu	Oakville	396.51
Mike Fernane	Brampton	256.81
3500–5000		
Edward Xu	North York	589.95
Steven Mehta	Mississauga	406.66
Debbie Feldman	Oakville	246.93
5000–7500		
Peter Wong	North York	1390.66
Jianfeng Luo	North York	1113.35
Leslie Amoils	North York	441.64
7500–10,000		
Mel Norton	Burlington	966.55
Gary Westfall	Brampton	495.43
Jack Shinehoft	Dundas	384.89
Over 10,000		
David Grainger	Etobicoke	925.57
Jonathan Steinberg	Toronto	895.69
Andrew Firko	Oakville	584.13

Unit 166

2024 Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Awards

0–5		
Klaus Schaefer	Mississauga	33.45
Syed Abbas	Toronto	28.58
Robert McPhail	Mississauga	20.05
5–20		
Louis Daigneault	Mississauga	76.86
Marvin Ens	Oakville	54.02
Kit Moore	Toronto	52.52
20 to 50		
Stanislaw Zielinski	Etobicoke	56.88
Sarah Stairs	Toronto	53
Susan Guichon	Toronto	39.23
50–100		
Alan Burnham	Mississauga	114.35
Ilkka Kakkanen	Mississauga	87.88
Ki Wai Yau	Toronto	56.34
100–200		
William Steele	Toronto	79.34
Mark Cohen	Toronto	57.69
Peter Barber	Oakville	44.6
200–300		
Robert Saggo	Bolton	59.66
Nicholas Jewitt	Toronto	56.38
Janet Philipp	Mississauga	45.03
300–500		
Walter Grondin	Burlington	63.68
Fred Moshenko	Oakville	62.7
Shirley Leong	Toronto	48.23

500–1000		
Walter Smeding	Burlington	138.29
Jagjit Pal Singh Anand	Brampton	94.72
Linda Glover	Toronto	86.03
1000–1500		
Amy Yin	Mississauga	189.52
Linda Hechter	Toronto	124.64
Ann Hennum	Mississauga	117.81
1500–2500		
Rod McLeod	Burlington	174.06
Andre Desmarais	Burlington	148.79
Steve Bonnar	Mississauga	128.93
2500–3500		
Keith Pugsley	Oakville	136.91
Joanne Grandy	Toronto	84.39
Pengqiao Qu	Oakville	79.48
3500–5000		
Steven Mehta	Mississauga	304.78
Terry Bradley	Burlington	133.55
Suzanne Hidi	Toronto	119.36
5000–7500		
Barbara Seagram	Toronto	129.1
Alex Kornel	Toronto	125.32
Lewis Richardson	Toronto	91.27
7500–10,000		
Mel Norton	Burlington	321.29
Roger Snowling	Hamilton	208.05
Gary Zlot	West Palm Beach FL	189.08
Over 10,000		
James Priebe	Mississauga	128
Andrew Firko	Oakville	127.05
Peter Petruzzellis	Scarborough	99.17

Unit 166

2024 Virtual Ace of Clubs Awards

0–5		
Denys Skalskyi	Mississauga	15.73
Mary Aduckiewicz	Hamilton	14.08
Howard Bogach	Toronto	8.88
5–20		
Gail Cosgrove	Mississauga	19.08
Mary Hill	Toronto	19.08
Margie Ryder	Toronto	14.12
20 to 50		
Margaret Decourcy	Oakville	28.12
Sarah Stairs	Toronto	22.68
Jini Israni	Toronto	19.06
50–100		
Mark Trojanowski	Oakville	59
Kiem Lan Njoo	Toronto	47.85
Michael Fowler	Toronto	41.3
100–200		
Cheryl Davidson	Toronto	48.22
Janet Loterman	Toronto	42.25
Nita Naik	Mississauga	39.43
200–300		
Suhasini Vaidya	Toronto	131.34
Gordon Lee	Toronto	113.29
Catherine Colburn	Mississauga	62.9
300–500		
Lee Coplan	Toronto	110.96
Veena Sardana	Toronto	97.49
Joanne Lecker	Mississauga	85.94

500–1000		
Frank Indelicato	Hamilton	136.96
Jerry Howarth	Etobicoke	131.92
Nirmal Bahal	Toronto	110.29
1000–1500		
Kim Jenkinson	Burlington	309.09
Ron Lawrence	Oakville	177.04
Kathryn Jensen	Toronto	135.76
1500–2500		
Mrytle Herzenberg	Toronto	263.14
Alan Huttung Lam	Scarborough	115.81
Raymond Mitchell	Etobicoke	113.29
2500–3500		
Peter Peng	North York	213.38
Mike Fernane	Brampton	170.1
Steve McGrahan	Hamilton	132.69
3500–5000		
Janet Galloway	North York	97.68
Robert Panchuk	Burlington	60.95
Jill Thompson	Toronto	55.76
5000–7500		
Vera Carpenter	York	190.27
Jianfeng Luo	North York	145.1
Detlef Ladewig	Toronto	56.91
7500–10,000		
Mel Norton	Burlington	463.6
Gary Westfall	Brampton	274.2
Roman Klein	Oakville	136.1
Over 10,000		
Andrew Firko	Oakville	372.38
Dudley Camacho	Toronto	301.06
Barry Senensky	Toronto	176.56



Guelph Local Sectional March 22 & 23, 2025



**Saturday, March 22
10:00 am and 2:15 pm**

Single Session Stratified Pairs Games
\$14 per ACBL member (\$28 per pair)/session

**Sunday, March 23 10:00 am
& TBD**

Stratified Swiss Teams
\$28 per ACBL member pair/
\$112 per team

You must be an ACBL member to play in this tournament.

Lapsed ACBL members must pay an additional \$4 per single session/ \$8 for Swiss Teams.

Two Sections: A/X (2500+/ 0-2500) and B/C/D (1000-1500/ 300-999/ 0-299)

Stratification is determined by the average of the pair or teams.

No player with more than 1,500 masterpoints can play in the B/C/D section.

The director may alter the masterpoint parameters to balance the field.

Optional Lunch \$12/day

Saturday: pulled chicken or pulled pork on a bun & salad
Sunday: mixed sandwiches, veggies & fruit

**FREE coffee, tea,
and home baking**

Tournament Chair: Pat Fung, patfung47@gmail.com

Partnership Chair: Thea Davis, theadavis16@gmail.com

Director in Charge: Kathy Russell, directorunit249@gmail.com

Guelph Bridge Club, 23 Victoria Road North, Guelph, ON

This event is limited to 24 tables, and pre-registration is required. **ONLY ONE PERSON SHOULD REGISTER ON BEHALF OF EACH PARTNERSHIP OR TEAM.**

To Register, follow the link on the GBC website: guelphbridgeclub.org

Prepayment for games and lunch can be made by e-transfer to gbcrevenue@gmail.com. Please indicate names and event(s) and/or food. Otherwise, payment will be made at the door, and debit card (please, no credit cards) payment will be greatly appreciated. Players are welcome to try their luck by showing up on the day without having pre-registered, but they risk being turned away.

Registration will close for each game as it sells out or at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 whichever comes first. After the deadline, players who wish to register are welcome to send an email to directorunit249@gmail.com to find out if there is space.

COVID Requirements: Proof of vaccination is no longer required; however, players should be prepared to wear a mask when that is requested by another player.

**Masterpoints won in local sectional tournaments are
80% silver and 20% black.**

Toronto Easter Regional 2025

APRIL 15 - 20, 2025

We are so happy to welcome you back for the 2025 Toronto Easter Regional!
Book your room early for special rates - limited number of rooms. Don't be disappointed!

Tuesday April 15, 2025

Bracketed KO Teams (1&2 of 4)	10:00 & 2:30
Open Pairs (Open/2000/1250)	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/300)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30
199er Pairs	10:00

Wednesday April 16, 2025

Bracketed KO Teams (3&4 of 4)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30
Open Pairs (Open/2000/1250)	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/300)	10:00 & 2:30
199er Pairs	10:00

Thursday April 17, 2025

Sheardown Bracketed KO(1&2 of 4)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30
Open Pairs (Open/2000/1250)	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/300)	10:00 & 2:30
FREE LESSON	9:00
0-20 Pairs Supervised \$12 ***	10:00
199er Pairs	10:00

Friday April 18, 2025

Sheardown Bracketed KO (3&4 of 4)	10:00 & 2:30
Open Pairs (Open/2000/1250)	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/300)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30
FREE LESSON	9:00
0-20 Pairs Supervised \$12 ***	10:00
199er Pairs	10:00

Saturday April 19, 2025

Open Pairs (Open/2000/1250)	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/300)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30
FREE LESSON	9:00
199er Pairs	10:00

Sunday April 20, 2025

Flight A/X Swiss Teams (Open/5000)	10:00 & TBA
Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams (0-4000)	10:00 & TBA
Bracketed Gold Rush Teams (0-750)	10:00 & TBA



Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel

123 Queen St. West, Toronto ON M5H 2M9

Rooms - Ask for special bridge rate of \$152 plus tax if booked by March 18, 2025

[Book your group rate for ACBL Convention April 2025](#)
or 1-888-627-7175

Players must have an ACBL number. Guest memberships are currently free. Contact Darlene if you require one.

Session Fees: \$22 CAD (members) +\$4 for non-members.
Students \$17

***** Players can ask bidding questions in Pairs Supervised game**

Single session entries are available for all pair events.

All 4 session KO teams use the mini Solway format. Teams are guaranteed sessions of play the 1st day. The top 4 teams in each group advance to the 2nd day's semifinals.

Tournament Chair:

Darlene Scott

DarleneScott@me.com

Partnerships:

Elizabeth Williams

elizwilliams12345@gmail.com

ZERO TOLERANCE for unacceptable behaviour! If someone negatively affects your enjoyment at this tournament, please IMMEDIATELY contact a Director.
A fun time is guaranteed for all!

♣ THIS IS A ♦
♥ ZERO TOLERANCE TOURNAMENT ♠
Let's Play Bridge!



GATLINBURG SMOKY MOUNTAINS APRIL 21 - 27, 2025

**DISTRICT 7
REGIONAL**

www.gatlinburgregional.org



Scan QR Code
Gatlinburg Website



Kingston & The Islands Regional Bridge Tournament May 7-11, 2025 Kingston, Ontario



Join us in beautiful historic Kingston, ON, for FIVE Fabulous Days of Bridge!
Swiss Teams or Knockouts every day! Gold Rush & Super Gold Rush Pairs!

+ BONUS DAY on May 12: Kingston Regional continues online on BBO for District 1 members!
Full schedule and all the details are available at <https://www.bridgewebs.com/kdbc/>

Playing Site: The Quality Inn & Conference Centre
33 Benson Street, Kingston, Ontario

Kathy McDonald, Tournament Chair
KDBCtournaments@gmail.com

Sharon Boal, Partnership Chair
KDBCtournamentspartners@gmail.com

Accommodations in Kingston
<https://www.visitkingston.ca/stay/>

We recommend booking accommodation early as
Kingston is popular in May!

Stay where you play! The Conference Centre Kingston Central host hotels are offering a **BRIDGE RATE** (standard room) if booked before April 6, 2025.

Phone the host hotel directly and ask for the "Kingston Duplicate Bridge Club" rate. **Book early**—there is limited availability for these room rates.

The Quality Inn Central 33 Benson St, Bldg #1
BRIDGE RATE \$139* 1-613-546-3661 ext. 0

Comfort Suites Central 33 Benson St, Bldg #2
BRIDGE RATE \$159* 1-343-477-0280 ext. 0



Close to the 401 with plenty of free parking / Wonderful homemade treats

Come get your share of SILVER POINTS!!!

**Saturday, May 24: Non-Life Master, <500 MP and A/X/Y Pairs
at 10:00am & 2:30pm**

Two Session Play-through, although single session pairs will be welcome

Saturday Stratifications:

Non-Life Masters, <500 MPs:	A: 300-500	B: 100-300	C: 0-100
A/X/Y Pairs:	A: 2500 +	X: 1000-2500	Y: 0-1000

Sunday, May 25: Bracketed Teams (by Total Team MPs)

Two Session Play-through starting at 10:00am with a short break for lunch.

Top Bracket available to all, at Director's discretion.

A lunch will be available for purchase each day.

Entry Fees (debit or credit card only):

Saturday - \$15 / person /session.

Sunday - \$120 per Swiss Team (2 sessions).

ACBL members, whose memberships are not current, add \$4 / person/ session.

Non-ACBL members are required to join the ACBL.

Chair: Kathy Russell, GRBCSectional@gmail.com

Partnership Desk: Rick Arthur, grbcpartnership@maildepot.net

Location:

**Hespeler Memorial Arena, Beehive Lounge
640 Ellis Road West
Cambridge 519-740-4681 ext. 4605**

Directions:

**Highway 401 to Townline Road (exit 286),
North on Townline Rd to Ellis Rd West
Left on Ellis Rd West to Hespeler Arena**

Peterborough Local Sectional Tournament

*Returning to Spring Dates in 2025

June 21 and 22, 2025

McDonnel Street Community Centre
(formerly Peterborough Lawn Bowling Club)
577 McDonnel Street, Peterborough, ON

Free coffee, tea and snacks
Light lunch available for purchase both days

Tournament Events

Saturday June 21

Stratified Open Pairs

Two single sessions at 10:30am and 2:30 pm

(note: This is not a two session total point event)

0 to 299 Pairs (if numbers in attendance warrant)

Single sessions at 10:30 am and 2:30 pm

Sunday June 22

Swiss Teams

Two session play-through beginning at 10:30 am with a break for lunch

General Information

Stratification/ Awards

Strata will be at Director's discretion, depending on attendance

Awards will be 80% silver points and 20% black points

Entry Fees (CASH only)

\$14 per player per session for ACBL members

an extra \$4 per player per session for non ACBL members

Tournament Chair: Phil Smith
philsmith.99oak@gmail.com
705-749-9307

Partnerships: Maureen Nichols
mo.nichols13@gmail.com
705-874-6019



South Western Ontario

Regional

Bridge Tournament

Kitchener-Waterloo, ON

July 1-6, 2025

Playing Site

St George Hall

665 King St N, Waterloo, ON

Lots of free parking

This will be a cash free tournament
(Credit and Debit Cards only)

Coffee and a light lunch will be available on-site

Tournament Hotel

Courtyard by Marriott

50 Benjamin Road East

Waterloo ON N2V 2J9

519-884-9295

\$179 per night including buffet breakfast

Book by May 31, 2025 with group rate code:

SW Regional Bridge or SOR

Per Session Prices

199er games \$15 (ACBL Members only *)

All other games \$20 (ACBL Members only *)

* ACBL members, whose memberships are not current,
add \$4 /person /session

This will be a cash free (Credit/Debit Cards only)
tournament

Tournament Chair

Dave Quarrie

daviquar@gmail.com

Partnerships

Pat McMillan

palemusic@icloud.com

Tuesday July 1

Open Pairs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Gold Rush Pairs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Mini-Soloway Knockouts T-W (1 & 2 of 4)	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
199er Pairs	10:00 am

Wednesday July 2

Open Pairs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Gold Rush Pairs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Mini-Soloway Knockouts T-W (3 & 4 of 4)	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Wednesday Swiss Teams	10:00 am & TBA
199er Pairs	10:00 am

Thursday July 3

Open Pairs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Gold Rush Pairs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Mini-Soloway Knockouts T-F (1 & 2 of 4)	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
199er Pairs	10:00 am

Friday July 4

Open Pairs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Gold Rush Pairs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Mini-Soloway Knockouts T-F (3 & 4 of 4)	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Friday Swiss Teams	10:00 am & TBA
199er Pairs	10:00 am

Saturday July 5

Open Pairs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Gold Rush Pairs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Saturday Swiss Teams	10:00 am & TBA
199er Pairs	10:00 am

Sunday July 6

Bracketed Swiss	10:00 am & TBA
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Stratifications

Open Games.....A:	Open, X: 0-3000, Y: 0-1500
Gold Rush.....A:	0-750, B: 0-500, C: 0-200
199 Games.....A:	0-200, B: 0-100, C: 0-50

South Western Ontario

Regional Bridge Tournament

Kitchener-Waterloo, ON

July 1-6, 2025



Please Note

- Daily Speaker Program Tues-Fri at 9:15AM
- All points will be red or gold
- Zero Tolerance is in effect for this tournament
- In consideration of those who are sensitive to fragrance, this is a scent-free tournament
- When an event has an upper MP limit, all players must have fewer than that number of master points
- Single session entries are welcome for pairs events
- Mini-Soloway Knockouts: All 4 session KO teams use the Mini-Soloway format: teams are guaranteed two sessions of play the first day; the top four teams in each group advance to the second day's semifinals

Special Event: Barbara Seagram

On Monday June 30, at 1pm, Barbara Seagram will be holding a special session for intermediate players. The topic will be "Locating Opponents' Honours. Who has the Missing Queen?".

Access to Site

From Toronto and points east on Hwy 401:

- Take exit 278 for Hwy 8 W towards Kitchener/Waterloo.

From London and points west on Hwy 401:

- Take exit 278 and turn left onto King St E. toward Kitchener/Waterloo.
- Continue 2.7 Km on King St then exit right to HWY 8 West
- Take ramp to merge onto HWY 8 W. toward Kitchener/Waterloo

From both directions - Continue:

- Use two right-hand lanes to get on Hwy 85 N & Hwy 7 E towards Waterloo
- Use two left hand lanes to continue 11.7 Km North on Hwy 85 and exit right to Regional Road 15/St. Jacobs
- At the light, turn right on King St N
- Proceed 200 yards and turn right into St George Hall

Seen playing bridge at the Charleson Regional...



Barbara Seagram and Alex Kornel



Bill and Kim Koski

Photos by JS



Canada's Capital Regional

23-28 September 2025

EY Centre
4899 Uplands Drive
Ottawa, Canada K1V 2N6



Tournament Features

- Daily (10:00 & 2:30) Open, Swiss teams, Knockouts, Gold Rush and side games
- 2 supervised/newcomer games
- Daily *Chalk Talks* by Grand Masters and local bridge experts
- Complimentary morning coffee
- Daily hospitality & lunches for purchase (\$15)
- Free parking

Host Hotels *(discounted rates)*

- Hilton Garden Inn *(code 900)* 613 288-9001
- Fairfield Inn&Suites *(code NCB)* 613 691-2161

Use code "ORT" for the following 3 hotels

- Hampton Inn by Hilton 613 248-1113
- Holiday Inn Express 613 247-9500
- Homewood Suites *(shuttle)* 613 422-3678

Program see ACBL tournaments
<https://www.acbl.org/tournament/>

Entry Fees *(CAN\$ per session)*

- ACBL membership required
- ACBL members: \$20 (~US \$14)
- Unpaid ACBL members: \$24
- 0-20 MP: \$5
- Free 120-day guest memberships

Stratification *(unless otherwise noted)*

- Open 0-1500/3000/3000+ *(incl. side games)*
Friday 0-2000/3000/3000+
- A/X 0-5000/5000+
- BCD 0-750/1500/3000
- Gold Rush 0-250/500/750 *(gold for 750 strat
overalls and section tops)*
- Super Gold Rush 0-500/1000/1500
- Supervised Pairs <20

Tournament Chair

Karin Keyes Endemann
613 884-8446

ChairOttawaRegional@gmail.com

Director-in-Charge

Dominique Guay

Partnership

Reta Murray 613 558-3487

PartnershipOttawaRegional@yahoo.ca



TOURNAMENT TRAIL

Page numbers (p.) refer to ads in this issue. An asterisk (*) means tournament information was in the previous issue.

Information is subject to change - check www.unit166.ca or www.acbl.org for up-to-date information.

March

8	Burlington I/N CANCELLED
13-23	Memphis NABC
22-23	Guelph (Local), p. 44
28-30	Hamburg (Local)

April

11-13	North Bay (Local)
14-20	Canadian Bridge Finals, Toronto
15-20	Toronto Easter Regional, p. 45
21-27	Gatlinburg Regional, p. 46

May

3-4	Barrie (local)
7-11	Kingston Regional, p. 46.
9-12	Quebec City Regional
24-25	Cambridge, p. 47
31-June 1	Toronto I/N CANCELLED

June

7-8	Goderich
9-14	Rochester Regional
14-15	GNT Trials, p. 5
21-22	Peterborough (Local), p. 48
25-29	Can-At, Fredericton NB

July

1-6	Waterloo Regional, p. 49
11-13	Buffalo
19-20	Hamilton
24-Aug. 3	NABC Philadelphia

August

9-10	Tillsonburg
15-17	Niagara-on-Lake, I/N
19-24	Can-Am Regional, Laval
30-Sept. 1	Oakville

September

6-7	St. Thomas
9-14	Barrie Regional
12-14	Buffalo
16-21	Ottawa Regional, p. 51
27-28	Brampton

October

18-19	London
21-26	Buffalo Regional

November

11-16	Niagara Regional
27-Dec. 7	NABC San Francisco

All tournaments are Sectionals unless noted.

Deadline for the Winter Kibitzer: April 20, 2025

The Kibitzer

Andy Stark

36 Poucher St., Toronto ON M4J 2Y9