

The Kibitzer



Summer 2026 | Volume 73, Number 2



**BARBADOS SUN SEA & SLAMS: SUN. FEBRUARY 7 – SUN. FEB 14, 2027
OR SAT. FEB 6-FEB 14, 2027 with BRIDGE WORKSHOPS ON SUN FEB 7, 2027**

**ACBL SECTIONAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT with SILVER MASTER POINTS
at SUNBAY HOTEL in BARBADOS**

SEVEN NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION (7-14 FEB) **INCLUDING ALL YOUR MEALS & DRINKS**
USD \$1,295.00 PER PERSON (DBL. OCC.) OR USD \$1,960.00 SINGLE OCCUPANCY

OR EIGHT NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION (6-14 FEB) **INCLUDING ALL YOUR MEALS & DRINKS**
USD \$1,480.00 PER PERSON (DBL. OCC.) \$2,240.00 SINGLE OCCUPANCY

EXTRA NIGHTS: \$185.00 USD per person DBL OCC. or \$280.00 per person SGL OCC.
Come early or stayover to tour this lovely island.

HOST HOTEL: BARBADOS BEACH CLUB MAXWELL COAST ROAD, CHRIST CHURCH
This hotel is now sold out for 2027

SUNBAY HOTEL is almost across the street from BARBADOS BEACH CLUB: 240 steps

You will have access to beach at Barbados Beach Club (as these are sister properties) & 6 drink tickets

INCLUDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER & LOCAL DRINKS ARE ALL INCLUDED AT BOTH HOTELS. IF YOU STAY AT SUNBAY, YOU DINE AT SUNBAY. STAY AT BARBADOS BEACH CLUB: DINE AT BBC. HOUSE WINE WITH LUNCH & DINNER. MANAGER'S COCKTAIL PARTY. CLOSING BANQUET SAT EVE @ BARBADOS BEACH CLUB. TAXES & HOTEL GOVERNMENT LEVY INCLUDED. WIFI IS FREE. BRIDGE WORKSHOPS ARE FREE.

GRATUITIES ARE NOT INCLUDED. WE RECOMMEND MINIMUM \$30.00 USD PER PERSON.

TRANSFERS TO AIRPORT ON DEPARTURE ON SUN 14 FEB ARE INCLUDED.
NO TRANSFERS TO HOTEL ON ARRIVAL ARE INCLUDED.

BOOK YOUR OWN AIRFARE (NOT INCLUDED). NOTIFY ROGLYN HINDS OF YOUR FLIGHT DEPARTURE PLANS.

Contact Roglyn Hinds roglynhinds@gmail.com so she can arrange transportation from hotel to airport

BRIDGE EVENTS ARE NOT INCLUDED. Cost: \$16.00 USD per session. All bridge is optional.

This is a smaller tournament. Very friendly and fabulous. It will be sold out so book now.

Highly recommended by Barbara Seagram & Alex Kornel.

3% surcharge on all credit card payments.

Barbara Seagram & Alex Kornel will be attending the tournament in 2027. There will be TWO free seminars given by Barbara while there (Sun am & Sun aft: 7 FEB) FLY IN ON SAT 6 FEB to attend.

TO BOOK: Contact Reservations Department at Barbados Beach Club 1-246-428-9900
or email reservations@barbadosbeachclub.com BOOKING CODE: **BRIDGE 2027**

DEPOSIT @ SUNBAY: \$555.00 USD per person (dbl occ) or \$840.00 USD (sgl occ)

Deposit is fully refundable if you cancel prior to November 15, 2026

Think of this as a packaged vacation and not just a hotel room. Hence this cancellation policy.

Contact Roglyn Hinds: Tournament chair roglynhinds@gmail.com or 246-231-0149

7 Feb: 10 – 12 & 2.00-4.00 pm: Bridge workshops
8 Feb: 9.30 am: Pairs Game
8 Feb: 7.00 pm: Pelau Pairs # 1 session
9 Feb: 9.30 am: Pairs Game
9 Feb: 7.00 pm: Pelau Pairs # 2 session
10 Feb: 9.30 am: Pairs Game
10 Feb: 2.30 pm: Rum Pairs
11 Feb: 9.30 am: Team Game # 1 session
11 Feb: 2.30 pm: Team Game # 2 session
12 Feb: 9.30 am: Pairs Game
12 Feb: 2.30 pm: Pairs Game
13 Feb: 9.30 am & 2.00 pm: Lady Burton Pairs # 1 & 2

0-500 GAMES EVERY SESSION!

My name is Barbara Seagram & I am a bridge player, author and teacher. I was born and raised on this beautiful island in the Caribbean. The Barbados Bridge Committee do a wonderful job running this delightful bridge tournament in February each year. Imagine \$1,295.USD per person (dbl. occ) to spend a week at a hotel in Barbados in February, including all meals and drinks. The players are friendly, the sun shines forever and the island beckons. You cannot afford to not go! It is a very special island and we invite you to visit and enjoy all its magic. E-mail: barbaraseagram@gmail.com

There is no significance to the names Pelau Pairs, Rum Pairs, Lady Burton Pairs etc: It is just a designation to distinguish one event from another. Cost per session is \$16.00 USD. **There are 0-500 separate events at every session.**



**SECTIONAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT AT SEA: SILVER POINTS
LONDON & BALTIC SPLENDOR BRIDGE CRUISE - MARINA [OCEANIA]**

June 8-22, 2027 - London, Skagen (Denmark), Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki, Tallinn (Estonia), Riga, Visby (Sweden), Berlin, Aarhus, London

Join the elegant Oceania Marina, a masterpiece of small-ship luxury, on the exclusive Bridge Cruise departing June 8, 2027. This beautiful, JUST refurbished ship welcomes just 1,250 guests, ensuring an intimate atmosphere and the unparalleled service that is Oceania's hallmark.

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 Marina: <https://youtu.be/jx4EJKPinDI>

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

INCLUDED: All specialty dining, shipboard gratuities, unlimited wifi, complimentary wine and beer with meals (OR shore excursion/shipboard credit: \$400.00 USD per person), Additional \$150.00 USD shipboard credit. Bridge program also included. Airfare not included.

**MUST BOOK WITH CAROLYN KREMER AT DIRECT TRAVEL TO TAKE PART IN OUR BRIDGE PROGRAM
Prices: (Other categories available)**

Inside Stateroom: \$5,699.00 USD (\$7,849 CAD)

Verandah Stateroom: \$7,199.00 USD (\$9,949 CAD)

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
Jun 8	London (Southampton), UK	Embark 1 PM	5 PM
Jun 9	At Sea		
Jun 10	Skagen, Denmark	11 AM	8 PM
Jun 11	Copenhagen, Denmark	7 AM	8 PM
Jun 12	At Sea		
Jun 13	Stockholm, Sweden	7 AM	5 PM
Jun 14	Helsinki, Finland	11 AM	8 PM
Jun 15	Tallinn, Estonia	7 AM	2 PM
Jun 16	Riga, Latvia	9 AM	5 PM
Jun 17	Visby, Sweden	7 AM	1 PM
Jun 18	Berlin (Warnemunde), Germany	8 AM	10 PM
Jun 19	Aarhus, Denmark	10 AM	6 PM
Jun 20	At Sea		
Jun 21	At Sea		
Jun 22	London (Southampton), UK	Disembark 8 AM	



ABOUT MARINA

Tonnage: 66,084 Length: 784.9 feet
Guest Capacity: 1,250

Marina blends sophistication with a contemporary flair to create a casually elegant ambiance. From the sparkling Lalique Grand Staircase to the stunning Owner's Suites, designer touches are everywhere.



Thanks to **John Carruthers** for writing the longest and most comprehensive article to appear in these pages, at least on my watch. Although it's a long read, I assure you it is worth it for the entertainment and learning.

More volunteers: as always, thanks to **Robert Griffiths** for his regular contributions, in addition to **Martin Hunter** for another instalment of Director, Please and **Doug Andrews** for a neat hand.

Speaking of volunteers, Unit 166 needs you. If you are looking for something to do in your spare time and would like to give back to our wonderful game, please reach out to Douglas Jordan. douglasgordan@yahoo.ca

Lots of great tournies coming up this summer-- hope to see you at one or two. Check out Sudbury! There's not only a regional in August but a Sectional in October.

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

On the cover: (left) David Colbert and grandson; (right) Danny Miles with wife Karen and daughters Charlotte & Hannah

We are so lucky in the bridge world to not only have an amazing card game to play, but the people who help make it fun to play. I'm talking volunteers. They deserve more than awards. Two of them are **David Colbert** and **Laurie Miller**. In this issue, you can read all about David and what he has done to be a deserving recipient of the 2026 Audrey Grant Award. As for Laurie, her interview will appear in August. Laurie won the 2026 Kate Buckman Award.

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Goderich Sectional

June 6 - 7, 2026

Seaforth Community Centre

122 Duke St

Seaforth, ON N0K 1W0

Saturday, June 6, 2026

The Percy Sheardown Open Pairs Sessions 1 and 2: 10:00 am and 2:30 pm

(Stratifications A: 1500+, B: 500-1500, C: 0-500)

Single Session entries available

0-299 Pairs Two Single Sessions: 10:00 and 2:30 pm

(Stratifications A: 200-299, B: 50-200, C: 0-50)

Sunday, June 7, 2026

Swiss Teams: 10:00 am and TBA

Two Session Play-through

A/X Swiss Teams - open to all players

B/C Swiss Teams - no player may exceed 2000 masterpoints

Entry fees:

\$15.00 per person per session open

\$12.50 per person per session 0-299

We will not be providing a lunch option but will have a longer lunch break so that people can make their own arrangements at local restaurants.

Tournament Chair

Jennifer Verdam

jennverdam@gmail.com

Partnership Chair

Doug Elliott

dougelliott51@gmail.com

OAKVILLE SUMMER REGIONAL

July 21 - 26, 2026

St Volodymyr Cultural Centre

1280 Dundas St W.,

Oakville, ON L6M 4H9

FREE PARKING (arriving by air? Toronto
YYZ 20 minutes away)



Tuesday July 21, 2026

Oakville Bracketed KO Teams
(1st & 2nd of 4 Sessions) 10:00 & 2:30
Oakville Open Pairs 10:00 & 2:30
199er Pairs Single Session 10:00
Oakville Gold Rush Pairs 10:00 & 2:30

Wednesday July 22

Oakville Bracketed KO Teams
(3rd & 4th of 4 Sessions) 10:00 & 2:30
Round Robin Bracketed Teams 10:00 & 2:30
Oakville Open Pairs 10:00 & 2:30
199er Pairs Single Session 10:00
Oakville Gold Rush Pairs 10:00 & 2:30

Thursday July 23

Oakville Bracketed KO Teams
(1st & 2nd of 4 Sessions) 10:00 & 2:30
Oakville Open Pairs 10:00 & 2:30
199er Pairs Single Session 10:00
Oakville Gold Rush Pairs 10:00 & 2:30
Hospitality 5:30-6:30

Friday July 24

Oakville Bracketed KO teams
(3rd & 4th of 4 Sessions) 10:00 & 2:30
Round Robin Bracketed Teams 10:00 & 2:30
Oakville Open Pairs 10:00 & 2:30
199er Pairs Single Session 10:00
Oakville Gold Rush Pairs 10:00 & 2:30
Hospitality 5:30-6:30

Saturday July 25

Round Robin Bracketed Teams. 10:00 & 2:30
Oakville Open Pairs 10:00 & 2:30
199er Pairs Single Session 10:00
Oakville Gold Rush Pairs 10:00 & 2:30

Sunday July 26

Bracketed Swiss Teams 10:00 & TBD

Note: Bracket 1 is open to all players. Depending on entries, it may be run with a Swiss movement.

Stratification: Subject to Director's discretion

All four 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.

Gold Rush - 750/500/300 Masterpoints

Each player less than 750mp

199er - 0-200 Masterpoints

Open Pairs - Open/2000/1250

MUST be an ACBL member to play

\$22 player/session for ACBL members

Extra \$4 for lapsed ACBL members

Free guest membership available for non-ACBL members. Contact Darlene if you require one.

HOST HOTEL -Special bridge rates-limited space

**TownePlace Suites 754 Bronte Rd, Oakville, ON
905-847-6667 or click here:**

[Towneplace Suites by Marriott Oakville](#)

**\$179 King/ \$189 2 Queen/ \$204 Suite w/ 2 Queens
& sofa bed. Rooms plus tax**

**Fully equipped kitchen, 55" TV inbuilt Netflix,
on-site laundry facilities, private patio with BBQ
Free: parking, wi-fi, hot buffet breakfast**

♣ THIS IS A ♠
♥ ZERO TOLERANCE TOURNAMENT ♠

Let's Play Bridge!

Tournament Co-Chairs:

Darlene Scott: DarleneScott@me.com
Catherine Griffin: cathgriffin@rogers.com
Partnership Chair: Elizabeth Williams:
elizwilliams12345@gmail.com




**Tillsonburg
Golden Leaf Sectional
Bridge Tournament
Aug. 8-9, 2026**



Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Tillsonbutg Duplicate Bridge Club

Tournament Chair – Jed Drew Jed.Drew@gmail.com (519) 550-3890

<p>Saturday, August 8</p> <p>10:00 am & 2:30 pm</p> <p><u>Two-Session Stratiflighted Pairs</u> Single Session Entries Welcomed</p> <p>A-X Flight</p> <p>A: 3000+ X: 0-3000</p> <p>B-C-D Flight</p> <p>B: 750-1500 C: 300-750 D: 0-300</p>	<p>Sunday, August 9</p> <p>10:00 am / TBA</p> <p><u>SwissTeams</u> Two-Session Play-Through</p> <p>Stratified A-B-C</p> <p>Director will stratify according to range of entries..</p>	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Unit 249 and the Tillsonburg Duplicate Bridge Club welcomes all players.</p> <p>This event is conducted under the ACBL's Zero-Tolerance policy. Please help us do everything possible to ensure everyone has an enjoyable bridge experience.</p>
<p>NOTE: All stratifications are dependent upon depth of field. Director may adjust as required.</p>		
<p>Entry Fees: Pairs \$17.50 per player per session. Teams \$140 per team.</p> <p>ACBL Members with fewer than 5 Masterpoints receive one FREE session on Saturday.</p> <p>Players 25 years and younger play for \$5 per session.</p> <p>To participate in this tournament, players must be a-paid-up ACBL member in good standing.</p> <p>Non-ACBL members are welcome and will receive a complimentary temporary ACBL membership.</p> <p>Lapsed members may participate only upon payment of current year;s dues, or payment of a \$4 per session surcharge.</p>		
<p>Westfield Public School 102 Dereham Drive Tillsonburg, ON N4G 0G5</p> <p>This beautiful building is fully handicap-accessible, with a spacious playing area and excellent lighting.</p> <p>Smoking is not allowed <u>anywhere</u> on school property.</p> <p>Map and Driving Directions on the Reverse Side of this Flyer</p>	<p><u>Free Coffee and Snacks Throughout</u> Catered Lunch Available On-Site Daily</p> <p>Host Hotel 92 Simcoe Street, Tillsonburg</p>  <p>Phone directly to the Hotel to receive a 10% discount rate. 1-866-942-7366</p>	

Tillsonburg Sectional

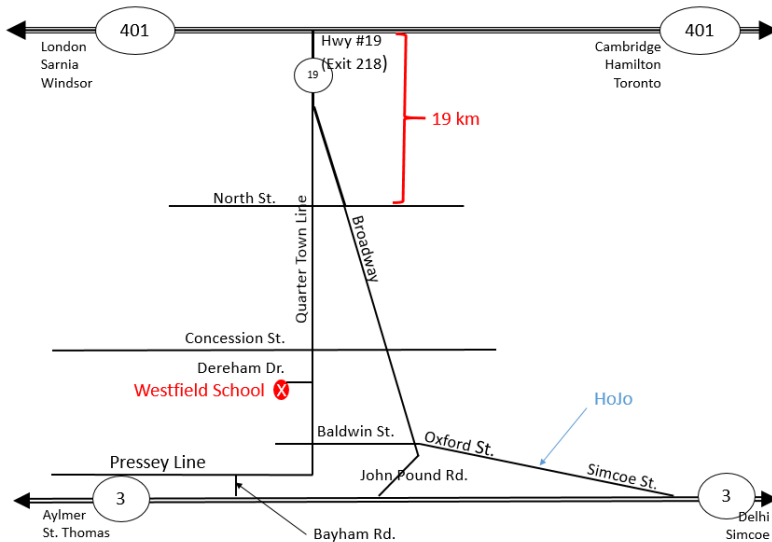
Site Location and Driving Directions

Site Location: Westfield Public School

102 Dereham Drive, N4G 0G5

(off Quarter Town Line* on the west side of Tillsonburg)

*Please note that some references may show as Quarterline Road – this is the same road!



Driving Directions

From Highway 401:

1. Exit at Hwy 19 (Exit 218).
2. Go southward 19 km to Tillsonburg.
3. Turn right at Second traffic light (North St).
4. Travel 500 m westward on North St. to 4-way Stop (Quarter Town Line).
5. Turn left on Quarter Town Line.
6. Drive southward on Quarter Town Line for 1.6 km until you come to a Stop sign (Concession St).
7. Continue southward on Quarter Town Line another 530 m to the first street on the right (Dereham Dr.).
8. Turn right on Dereham Drive to school.

From Simcoe/Delhi

1. Travel westward on Highway 3 to Tillsonburg.
2. Exit onto Simcoe St.
3. Travel westward full length of Simcoe and Oxford Streets to Downtown Tillsonburg (7.1 km) (5th traffic light).
4. At corner of Broadway Ave and Oxford St. angle slightly left and follow Baldwin Street westward.
5. Continue westward on Baldwin St. for 1.8 km to Quarter Town Line.
6. Turn right on Quarter Town Line and travel northward 650 m to Dereham Drive. (Dereham Drive is 2nd street on the left).
7. Turn left on Dereham Drive to school.

From St. Thomas/Aylmer

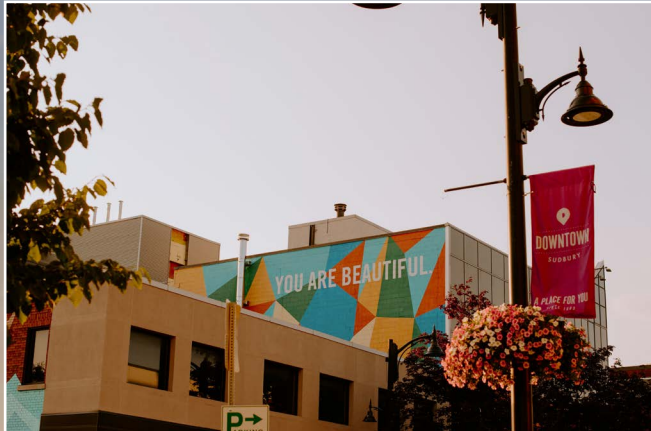
1. Travel eastward on Highway 3 to Tillsonburg.
2. Turn left onto Bayham Drive just before Tillsonburg.
3. Travel 1 km on Bayham Drive to Pressey Line.
4. Turn right on Pressey Line and continue 1.3 km eastward until it makes a 90 degree left curve and becomes Quarter Town Line.
5. Continue northward on Quarter Town Line for 1.1 km to Dereham Dr. (Dereham Drive is 4th street on the left).
6. Turn left on Dereham Drive to school.

Alternatively from St. Thomas/Aylmer

1. Travel eastward on Highway 3 to Tillsonburg.
2. Exit Highway 3 at John Pound Road – turning left.
3. Follow John Pond Road into downtown Tillsonburg (first traffic signal).
4. Turn left at light and go 1.3 km westward on Baldwin St. to Quarter Town Line (4-way Stop).
5. Turn right on Quarter Town Line and travel northward 650 m (Dereham Drive is 3rd street on the left).
6. Turn left on Dereham Drive to school.

SUDBURY IN AUGUST

This August, experience Sudbury at your own pace, where fresh air, culture, and connection come together. Enjoy gentle walks along Ramsey Lake or take in the natural beauty of Kivi Park's scenic trails, perfect for a relaxed outdoor escape. Explore underground at world-class attractions like Science North and Dynamic Earth, offering engaging, accessible experiences for all ages. Spend your evenings under the stars at YES Theatre's Refettorio, an open-air performance experience that brings music and storytelling to life. From local cafés to lakeside moments, Sudbury invites you to slow down, explore, and savour every moment of summer.





THE BIG NICKEL REGIONAL

GREATER SUDBURY ONTARIO

August 26, 27, 28, 29, 2026
Garson Community Centre
100 Church Street,
Garson ON

Tournament Chair: Leslie Dickson
leslie.dickson@sympatico.ca 705-929-2506

Partnership Desk: Sally Lamothe
lamothesally@gmail.com 705-929-6112

Stratification

199er Pairs (by average) A. 100-200 B. 50-100 C. 0-50

Open Pairs (by average) A. 2500+ B. 1250-2500 C. 0-1250

Gold Rush (by average) A. 500-750 B. 250-500 C. 0-250

Single sessions are available in all pairs

Stratifications may be changed at Director's discretion

Cost per session:

Wednesday to Friday \$18

Cost for Swiss: \$180 per team

(includes lunch)



Wednesday, August 26

1:00pm and 6:30pm

Stratified Open Pairs

Gold Rush Pairs

199ers Pairs (if numbers warrant)

Thursday, August 27

10:30am and 3:00pm

Stratified Open Pairs

199er pairs (if numbers warrant)

Bracketed Knockouts (Soloway style)

(Teams are guaranteed two sessions of play on the first day. Top four teams in each bracket will advance to the second day semifinals and finals)

Friday, August 28

10:30am and 3:00pm

Stratified Open Pairs

Gold Rush Pairs

199er pairs (if numbers warrant)

Knockout 3rd and 4th sessions

Saturday, August 29

9:30am

Swiss Teams

299er Swiss (if numbers warrant)

Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott

490 Barry Downe Rd., Sudbury

705-560-0111

Book your special rate – (press CTRL & click)

Special Rate \$189.00 for a Standard 2 Queen beds room

Must be booked prior to August 5, 2026

**Includes breakfast, Wi-Fi, parking, indoor pool, hot tub,
and fitness center**

Other nearby hotels

Microtel Inn and Suites by Wyndham

1312 Kingsway, Sudbury

705-470-6161

Hilton Garden Inn

475 Barry Downe Rd, Sudbury

705-586-3001

Comfort Inn East

440 2nd Ave N, Sudbury

705-560-4502

TownePlace Suites by Marriott

1710 Kingsway, Sudbury

705-525-7700

Moonlight Inn and Suites

350 Moonlight Ave., Sudbury

1-800-424-0321

Sudbury tourism - www.discoversudbury.ca

Labour Day Silver Point Sectional



September 5 - 7, 2026

At: St. Volodymyr Cultural Centre
1280 Dundas St. W.,
Oakville ON L6M 4H9
Free parking

Saturday September 5

Oakville Open Pairs 10:00 & 2:30
(A/X, B/C/D – 2 Session stratiflighted pairs)
299er Pairs Single Session 10:00 & 2:30
0-20 supervised pairs 10:00

Sunday September 6

Oakville Open Pairs 10:00 & 2:30
(A/X, B/C/D – 2 Session stratiflighted pairs)
299er Pairs Single Session 10:00 & 2:30

Monday September 7

Bracketed Swiss Teams 10:00 a.m. & TBA

Events are stratified by average Master Points and flights are based on highest Master Points of pair/team.

Stratiflighted event:

A: 4500+, X: 0-4500, B: 1500-3000, C: 750-1500,
D: 0-750

Single session entries for all Pairs games are welcome.

Tournament co-chairs: Catherine Griffin: cathgriffin@rogers.com
Darlene Scott: DarleneScott@me.com

Partnership Chair: Elizabeth Williams: elizwilliams12345@gmail.com

Session Fees

\$22 for ACBL members
+\$4 for non-current members

\$17 for students (under 21) & ACBL members
+\$4 for non-current members

All players MUST have an ACBL number. Guest memberships are currently free. Contact Darlene if you require one.

Nearby Hotel -Special bridge rates -limited space

TownePlace Suites
754 Bronte Rd, Oakville, ON
905-847-6667

Rooms are \$184 Cdn per night.

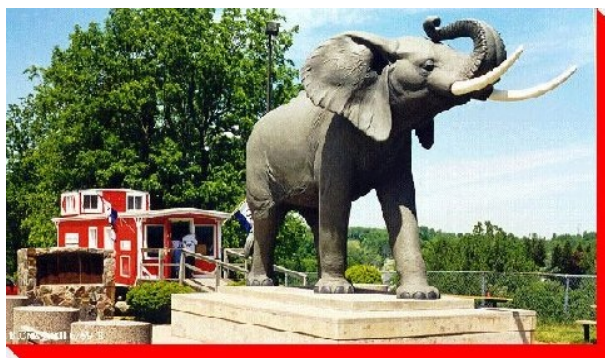
Last Day to Book: Tuesday August 4, 2026

To book a reservation go to:

[Book online \(reservation link\)](#)

♥ ZERO TOLERANCE TOURNAMENT ♠ **Let's Play Bridge**

74th Annual St. Thomas Jumbo Tournament



Sept 12th – 13th 2026

Sessions both days 10:00 am and 2:30pm. Hot meal between sessions

Entry Fees \$17.50 per session

To participate in this tournament, players must have an ACBL Player Number. Non-ACBL members are welcome and will receive a complementary temporary ACBL membership (not applicable to lapsed members).

(In consideration of those who are sensitive to fragrance, this is a scent-free tournament)

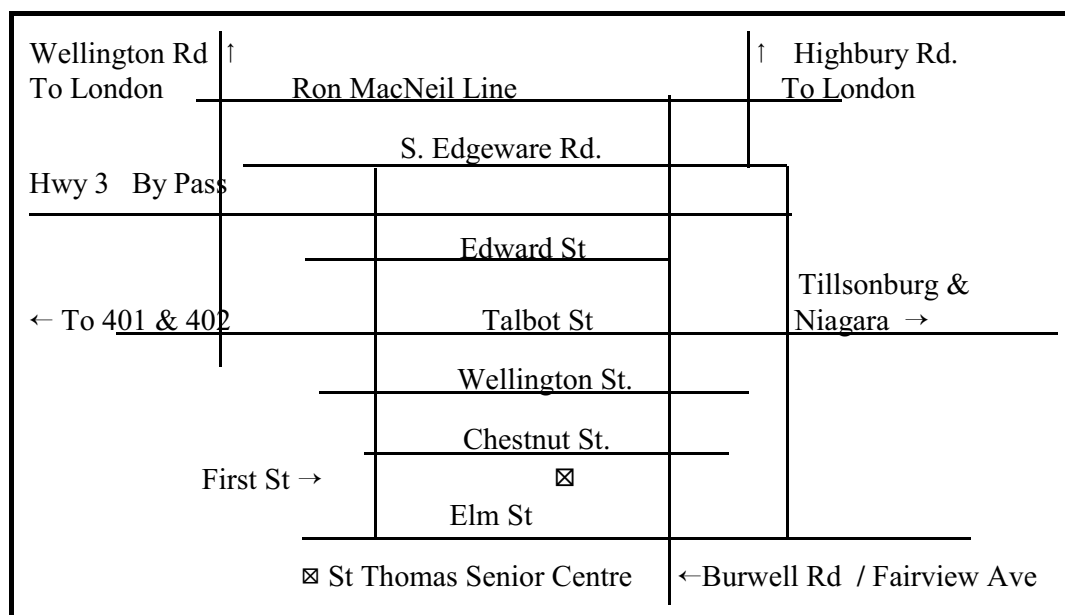
Saturday Sept 12th

2-Session Stratified Pairs Playthrough (single sessions welcome)

499er Pairs Playthrough (single sessions welcome)

Sunday Sept 13th

Open Swiss (A/X) and a Bracketed 0-2000 Swiss bracketed by team total points



Location:

St. Thomas Senior Centre,
225 Chestnut St.,
St. Thomas

Tournament Chair:

Jim Wright
(519) 631-5531
jwr1002393@rogers.com

Partnerships:

Jim Wright
(519) 631-5531
jwr1002393@rogers.com

Pairs

Strats: A=1500+, B=500-1500, C=0-500
499ers: A=300-500, B=100-300, C=0-100
all events stratified by average mps

Teams

Bracketed by team total points,
\$140 Entry fee per team



BRAMPTON BRIDGE BLAST!



- **September 19th & 20th**

Fall Sectional Offering 100% Silver

Century Gardens Recreation Centre
340 Vodden St. E.
Brampton ON

Session Fees:

- ACBL Members \$20
- \$4 additional Fee for any player not currently an ACBL Member
- Student Rate: \$5

Tournament Chair: Gary Westfall
gwestfall@rogers.com
905-791-4239

Partnership Chair: Susan Nolan Thomas
susannolanthomas@gmail.com
(905) 702-0072

Times:

Saturday 10:00 & 2:30
Sunday 10:00 & TBA

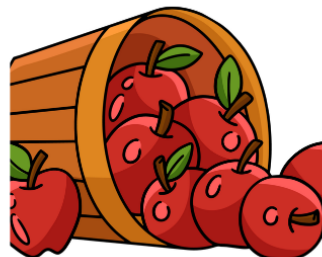
Saturday: Two-Session Stratified
Single Sessions Welcome

- 499er NLM
(With no one person over 499 MP.)
- Open Pairs
**Stratified events: A: 4000+, X: 0-4000,
B: 1500-2500, C: 750-1500, D: 0-750**

Sunday: Bracketed Swiss

Please note: Stratification is at the discretion of the Director.

Accessible, Ample Parking
Refreshments
Zero Tolerance
Friendly Competition





Canada's Capital Regional

22-27 September 2026

Cohere Centre
(formerly EY Centre)
4899 Uplands Drive
Ottawa, Canada K1V 2N6



Tournament Features:

- 6 days of Open, Swiss Teams, Gold Rush and Knockouts
- 2 supervised/newcomer games
- Daily Chalk Talks by Grand Masters and local experts
- Complimentary morning coffee
- Hospitality and lunches for purchase
- Thursday social with entertainment
- Free parking

Tournament Chair:

Karin Keyes Endemann
613 884-8446

ChairOttawaRegional@gmail.com

Director-in-Charge: Dominique Guay

Partnership:

Cille and Rob Harris

PartnershipOttawaRegional@gmail.com

Host Hotels: *(discounted rates until noon 20 August)*

- Hilton Garden Inn *(code 912)* 613 288-9001
- Fairfield Inn&Suites *(code ORL)* 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

Website: Bridgewebs.com/unit 192

Entry Fees: *(CAN\$ per session)*

- ACBL membership required
- ACBL members: \$22
- Unpaid ACBL members: +\$4
- Supervised: (0-20 MP): \$5



SUDBURY BRIDGE CLUB FALL LOCAL SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT OCTOBER 16-18, 2026

PLEASE NOTE: NEW LOCATION

Doctor Edgar Leclair Community Centre and Arena
158 Agnes St, Azilda, On P0M 1B0

Once again, the Sudbury Bridge Club invites you to join friends, old and new, for a weekend filled with strategy, warm smiles, and our famously delicious treats.

Tournament Chair: Sue Lepage: suemlepage@outlook.com
Tournament Co-Chair: Millie Wood Colton: milliewoodcolton@gmail.com
Partnership Desk: Carole Roy: carolejroy@persona.ca
Director in Charge: Norm Malette
Sudbury Bridge Club: sudburybridge@gmail.com



STRATIFICATION

Open Pairs (by average)	A. 1000+	B. 300-999	C. 0-299
299er Pairs (by average)	A. 100-299	B. 50-99	C. 0-49

EVENT SCHEDULE

Friday October 16 - 10:30 pm & 3:00 pm

- Stratified Open Pairs 0 - ∞ MPs
- Stratified 299er Pairs 0-299 MPs (numbers permitting)

Saturday October 17 - 10:30 am & 3:00 pm

- Stratified Open Pairs 0 - ∞ MPs
- Stratified 299er Pairs 0-299 MPs (numbers permitting)

Sunday, October 18 - 9:30 am

- 2 sessions play through
- Stratified Open Swiss Teams

MASTERPOINTS

- ACBL will award the same number of Master Points, but points will be divided 80% Silver & 20% Black.
- Stratification of all events determined by pairs or team.

ACBL MEMBERSHIP

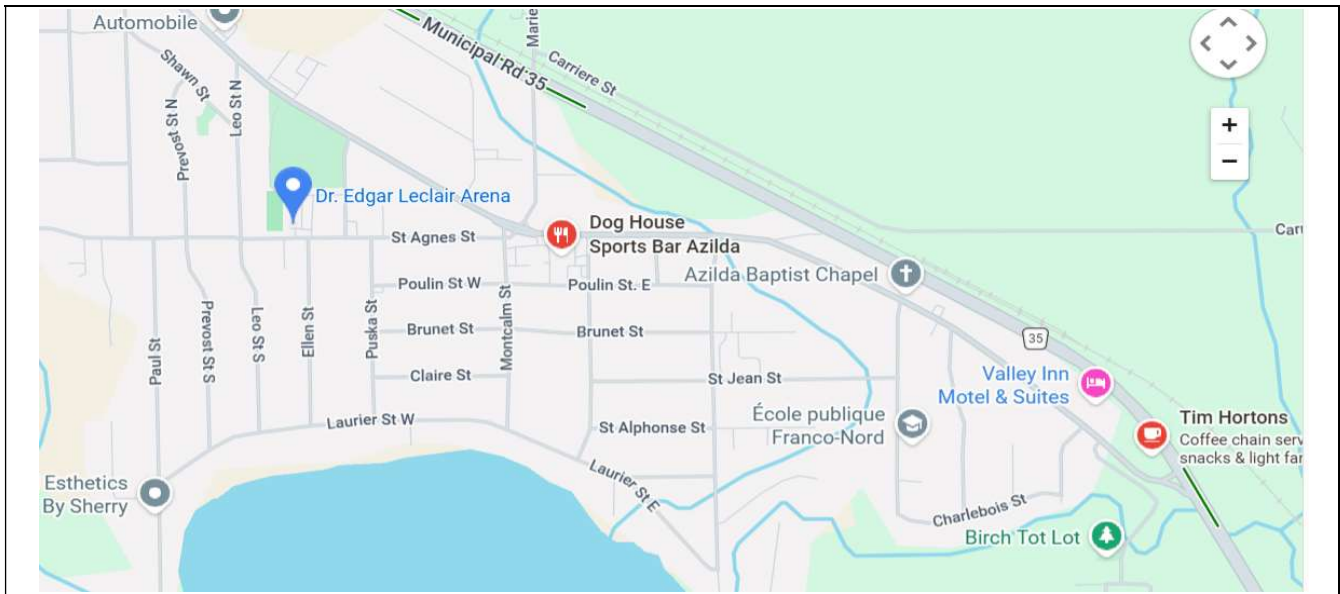
- Mandatory for all participants.
- Temporary memberships available at \$4.00 for non-members or expired memberships.

ENTRY FEES

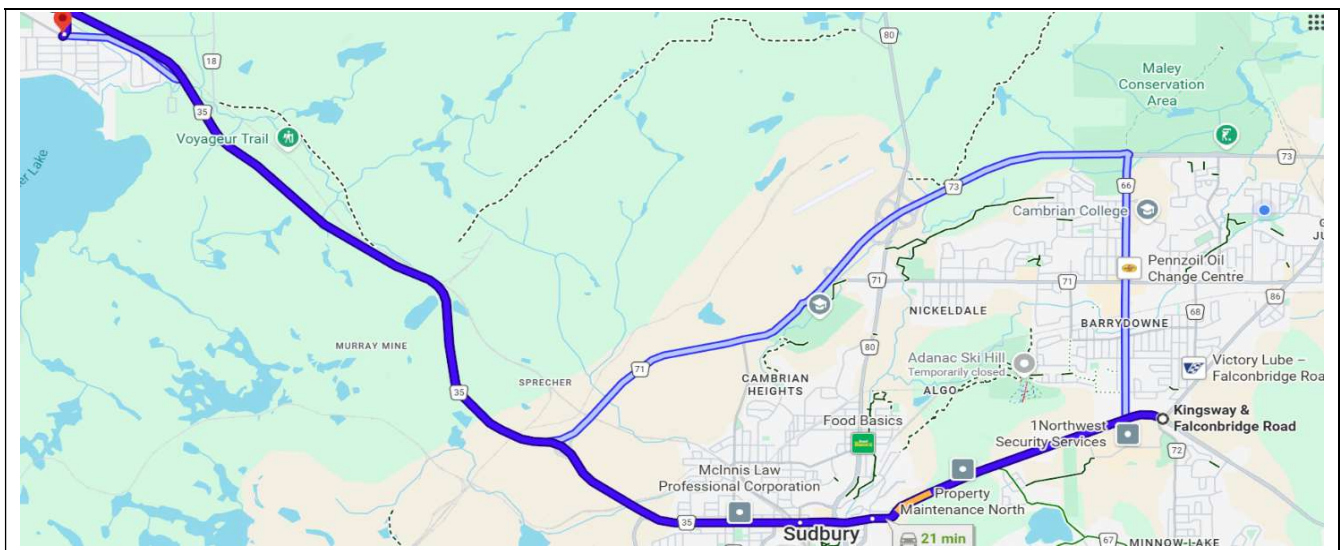
- Friday – Saturday: \$16 per session
- Sunday Swiss Teams: \$160 per team (Free Lunch included)

HOTELS

- **TownePlace Suites by Marriott**
1-705-525-7700 1710 Kingsway
- **Hilton Garden Inn**
1-705-586-3001 475 BarryDowne Rd.
- **Microtel Inn and Suites by Wyndham**
1-705-470-6161 312 the Kingsway
- **Fairfield Marriot Inn & Suites**
1-705-560-0111 490 BarryDowne Rd.
- **Northland Motel**
1-800-855-4533 3150 Errington Ave Chelmsford
- **Valley Inn Motel & Suites**
705-983-4276 500 Notre Dame St E Azilda
- **Radisson Hotel**
705-675-1123 85 St Anne Rd. Downtown
- **Econo Lodge Sudbury**
705-674-4203 1145 Lorne St
- **Super 8 by Wyndham**
705-522-7600 1956 Regent St
- **Holiday Inn**
705-522-3000 1696 Regent St



Azilda: Dr Edgar Leclair Community Centre and Arena Location



For participants from Southern Ontario locations: Hwy 400 changes to Hwy 69. On Hwy 69, take the South East bypass on the left and turn left onto Hwy 17 (the Kingsway),

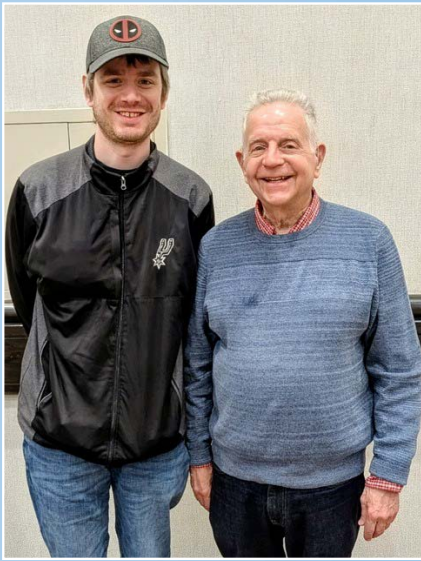
1. Follow Hwy 17 West through the City of Sudbury to Azilda or alternatively...
2. From the Kingsway (Hwy 17), Turn right on Barry Downe Rd (across from the Costco), drive to the end and merge left on the roundabout onto the Maley Dr bypass and take the ramp to Azilda/Chelmsford.

From North Bay: Follow 1 or 2 above

From Sault Ste Marie, take Hwy 17 East and exit toward Timmins onto Hwy 144 for 11 km. Turn right on RR Rd 35 to Azilda.

From Timmins, follow Hwy 144 South. Hwy 144 turns into Hwy 35, turn into Azilda.

Generally, whether staying in the South end or New Sudbury area, the drive will be approx. 18 km and a time of 22 minutes. The drive from Downtown Sudbury is a bit shorter at 14 km. and 16 min. If staying in Azilda or Chelmsford, it's a short drive.



Alex Hudson & Jonathan Steinberg won Friday Open Pairs



Cindy Oishi & Danny Miles



Darlene Scott, Tournament Chair



Nina Ke, William Liu, Casper Gu & Rudy Cheng

Seen at the Toronto Easter Regional

Photo Credit: JS



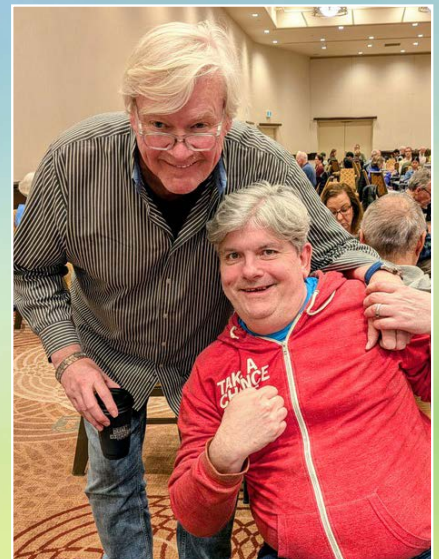
Peter Peng, David Longstaff, Adrian Record & Mike Peng, 2nd Friday Bracketed Teams (1)



Dave Colbert, 2026 Audrey Grant Award (for teaching excellence) winner



Irving Litvack & Roy Hughes won Tuesday Bracketed KO (1)



Ranald Davidson & Joe Varnell





Routine hands can be exciting

By Robert Griffiths

Here's a hand from the recent Burlington sectional tournament held in April. The hand at first glance looks like a routine part score. Each side has 20 HCPs. EW have two 8-card major fits; NS have 9 clubs between them.

East opened 1♠ and South overcalled 2♣. West raised to 2♠ and North doubled to show the other two suits. East passed and South plodded away with 3♣ which was passed back to East who competed to 3♠. South thought of bidding higher but liked his chances against spades and the hand was passed out there. Just a normal auction when the points are evenly divided.

Board 6
East Deals
EW Vul

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

South led his singleton heart, won in dummy with the ace. A spade was led to East's jack and South's queen. South exited with the ♦7 and his partner won the queen.

When North returned a heart, South ruffed with the ♠7 and began to squirm with delight. He could see tricks galore for NS. His side could win 3 spade tricks, 2

diamonds, and possibly 2 clubs. That would mean +300 for NS on a partscore hand.

After ruffing the heart, the remaining cards in South's hand were ♠A ♦3 ♣AQ97642. He impulsively led the diamond to his partner's ace. He was hoping that his partner would understand that a club return was needed next. As his partner huddled, unsure of what to return, South realized his blunder. North could not know whether it would be better to lead another heart for South to ruff (if South's spades were anything lower than the ace) or to lead a club through Declarer's hand. South had been playing like a man who wanted another ruff, so North settled on a heart play. Now, when South was thrown in with the ♠A, he was forced to lead clubs himself, allowing East to make a trick with the ♣K and the contract went down only 2, scoring +200 for NS.

If South had been more thoughtful after ruffing with the ♠7, he would have cashed the ♠A before leading his last diamond. That would have made it clear to North that there were no more ruffs to be had, and the club lead would be automatic, ensuring down 3 and a NS score of +300. By leading the diamond before the top trump, South lost the only safe exit card that he had.

And why should South be unhappy about scoring +200 on a partscore hand? The score of +200 was average for NS only because half the field played in a club partscore by South, usually scoring +170. Most of those defending 3♠ scored more than 200.

The high cards here are evenly divided, but every high card that mattered is poorly placed for EW. The par score for the hand is 6♣, making 6 for NS. NS can also make 4NT as the cards lie. But of course, with their 20 HCPs, none of the NS pairs came close to bidding the club slam or the NT game.



Kib interview with David Colbert

Etobicoke's very own David Colbert has been awarded the 2026 Audrey Grant Award for excellence in teaching. David has been playing bridge for over 55 years. He's won numerous tournaments and can lay claim to being a CNTC champion. David now joins an esteemed list of AG winners, including luminaries such as Audrey Grant (of course!), Barbara Seagram, John Rayner, Patti Lee, and Hazel Wolpert, just to name a few.

Since retiring as a high school math teacher, David took to being the club expert at the Etobicoke Olympium bridge club, often staying after the game to

help players improve their game. Over the years he has mentored juniors and developed his own panel, proffering sage bridge advice to avid readers. You too will be invited to attend David's "lessons." Best part of all they are free! He emails the problems to both panelist and student, and then you can read the expert solutions, plus Dave's recap, all for the low, low cost of merely supplying your email address.

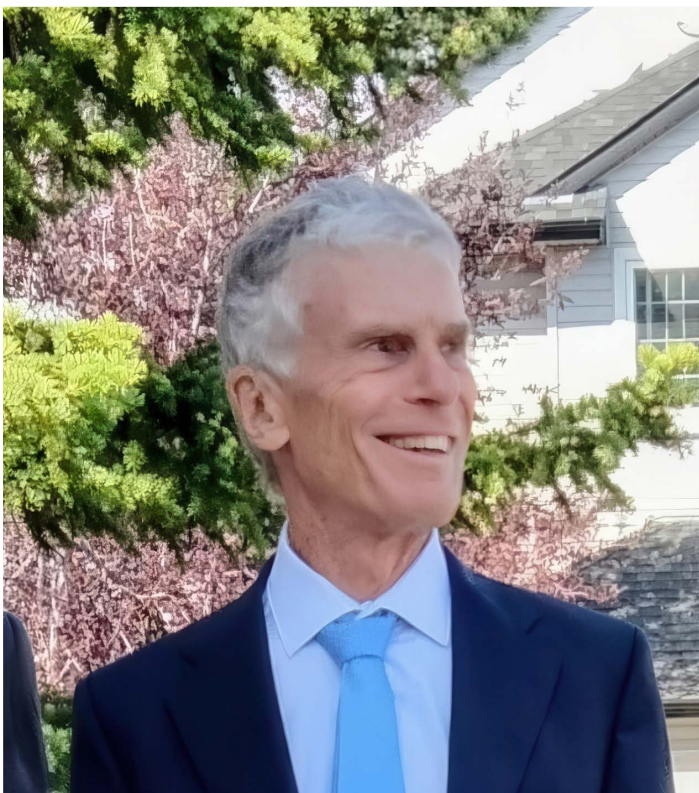
Dave and I sat down in April to discuss winning the AG and also his life as a bridge player, mentor, and teacher.

Kib: How did you get your start in bridge?

Dave: My parents would have a couple over and they would play. They had a plastic tablecloth which featured charts explaining all the basic bidding requirements. I would sometimes sit in and take mom's place while she prepared snacks. Mom had little idea how to play. She asked me once after she knew that I could play, "Just tell me how many rounds of trumps to pull! I find this game so frustrating." (My answer then was 'two,' and I stand by that today.)

Kib: When did you go out to play duplicate the first time?

Dave: I was at the University of Toronto and dropped in to the Hart House to see what "bridge club" meant. I picked up a partner in the weekly free duplicate game and was hooked. I had no idea duplicate even existed. I like cards and I love to compete.



Kib: Do you have memories of some of your first tournaments?

Dave: I attended my first regional in about 1971. I went to Sudbury to play with John Jarman. We got a room for \$5.00 a night in a nearby hotel that was closing, and we let a guy we met at the game pay us \$1.00 to sleep on the floor. On the Sunday we didn't have a team, but Adolph Feingold, Marty Caley and Diana Gordon needed a pair because someone didn't show up. John and I were good but knew little. The other three rotated while John and I played all day. At first, they were just glad not to drive home. By the final match we were in contention— everyone was pumped to win. We lost when I didn't open a hand with 11 points and 5-5 in the red suits and Marty was all over me, explaining why that was not a good idea. I felt pleased, deep down, that his expectations of us were now so high. I also recall driving with John Rayner, Roy Dalton, and Roy Hughes to New Brunswick for a Regional - maybe 1974 - where we made the semi-final of a knockout for about 10 gold points. What a thrill. And John saying that his dream was to establish bridge as a pastime in Mississauga...as his career. Really? But he did!

Kib: Who were some of your early mentors?

Dave: While playing in the Hart House game, I learned a great deal from Roy Hughes and I watched the strong players like the Shoe and John Guoba. Plus, I very thoroughly read *Five Weeks to Winning Bridge* by Alfred Sheinwold.

Kib: What are a couple things you learned early and have never forgotten, things that still work for you today?

Dave: Absolutely, it is to not be afraid. We are surrounded by people who love safety. If we are brave and know the odds our tempo can aid us. Others think you are going to make your contract. I remember thinking, "Darn, the guy didn't leave it in 2NT, he went to 3NT! Then I said to myself, "I can do that, too."

David Colbert's Panel

As mentioned in the interview, David has conducted his own bidding panel for the past ten years or so. It's modeled after the Bridge World's Master Solvers' Club, and one honed by the ACBL, which you can read each month in the Bulletin. Theirs is called "It's Your Call." Similar but different.

David regularly (about once per week) sends out three (and only three) problems to his expert panel. Each expert, in turn, responds with a brief answer and justification for what they would do on each problem. The benefits chiefly go to those who are cc'd on the emails, who are David's mentees and general fan base. We all learn from each other, including Dave*. Here is a sample:

David Colbert: You hold:

♠105 ♥754 ♦AK10 ♣65432 Non-vul. versus vul.
In fourth seat, the bidding goes:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♥	Dbl.	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	?

Bill Treble: 3♠. Ugh. Too much to pass. A 3♥ cuebid doesn't appeal.

Martin Hunter: 3♦. Bidding where I live. I have too much to pass as we are close to having the values for game. I will support spades later.

John Gell: 3♠. I have enough here to raise.

Kib: What are some things you feel you have learned in the past couple of years?

Dave: I am always learning. One thing just recently is that you can sometimes violate the Law of Total Tricks (that is, you can bid over them at the 3-level). You can do this when you have an off-shape hand with only 8 trumps.

Kib: I've played on teams with you and Jay Stiefel, a solid player and holder of about 30,000 masterpoints. Tell us about your partnership with Jay and what are some morsels he has taught you?

Dave: Jay Stiefel was coming in from Connecticut and needed a partner in St. Catharines, so Jonathan Steingberg set us up. Jay and I hit it off right away. First session, declarer was in notrump and led a ten. I had Kxx, dummy had AQJx and I did not cover. Jay had 9xxx. They got 4 tricks instead of 3. I apologized to him, and he smiled and said, "You'll be fine." He knew I was shaking in my boots but could play.

We played together for several years afterwards at tournaments in Atlanta, Gatlinburg and Ottawa. Once, when playing against Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell, he told me I was respecting them too much, and just to play my game. He could see what was going on. I settled and we beat them in a knockout semi for something like 60 masterpoints, even though their sponsor was sick and couldn't play. Balicki and Zmudzinski were the other pair. Jay was right. If you think the other pair is better than you, then they are.

Jay said sometimes we should overcall INT with 14 points and good spots. Gulp. Jay was nice to play with because he wanted as much as possible to just play a natural system with few conventions. Memorizing impedes enjoyment and restricts judgment. He didn't even favour Lebensohl after they open a weak 2.

Here's a great idea of Jay's. He insisted that we need a better system over Reverses, an improvement on Ingberman: that 2NT after a reverse should show 8-10 points with stopper(s) in the other two suits.



This happens to be the most frequent hand we might have. Responder's rebid of 3NT shows 11-13 points. If Responder rebids their major, it shows 5+ (e.g., 1♦-1♠, 2♥-2♠) and the 4th suit should be artificial, a weak hand showing 7 or fewer points. I have used it since then, and I teach it to all my intermediate mentees now.

Kib: Speaking of your students...How did your online expert panel come about? I imagine it evolved over the years.

Dave: My panel started in about 2016 with me asking (by email) for opinions from Mike Cafferata, Keith Balcombe, Mike Kenny and I think Martin Hunter. I would ask a few questions and send their responses to about a dozen of the people that would sit around with me after Olympium games. Then I added John Gell, Doug Baxter, and through Keith's encouragement,

I added Ross Taylor, Bill Treble and Roisin O’Hara, and eventually Fred Lerner—all bridge friends of mine and mostly Canadian champions. The panel recently gained two more experts: the Kibitzer editor and Danny Davies, a former junior world champion for England, now living in Toronto.

The cc list of people just keeps rising as people ask to be included. There are now 50-60 regular readers. My instincts to want to teach—it was my career after all—have surprised even me. Over time, and through Renette Bourgeois’s advice, I now keep it to just the three questions.

Kib: This is a great time to invite readers to join in. Fine by you?

Dave: Sure! Here’s my email: davecolb@rogers.com. They can email me whenever they want to join the list.

Kib: Back to Renette for a moment—she has been a big help to you as you mentor Canadian juniors. And I suppose she was one of your early mentees?

Dave: Yes! Renette is in Europe right now with family. This started a few years ago. She partners me and we frequently meet on zoom. She gives her perspective, as she picked up things when learning from Steve Overholt. Also, she has a better handle on what these newbies can absorb, tells me always that I am jumping the gun too much, that slow patient steps work better.

Kib: What have been your bridge highlights? Any favourite wins or achievements?

Dave: Yes, highlights were the 1993 CNTC championship, for which a huge factor was that the “pro” team with Gittleman and Silver and Carruthers, etc., did not quite make the playoffs - and our team helped beat them when Mary Paul and I had a very nice set of results. I remember I took an unusual vulnerable 5-level sacrifice in 5♠ down only one, when 5♥ made their way, also vulnerable. Our teammates were Mike Kenny & Mike Cafferata and Chris Hough

Ross Taylor: 3♥. Partner’s sequence suggests a terrific hand. I like my ♠10, my strong clubs and the likelihood that all partner’s values are well placed sitting over the opener. I bid 3♥. If partner bids 3NT, I am happy to pass. If not, we still reach the right game (4♠).

Danny Davies: 3♥. We should have enough for game as double then 2♠ shows 7/8 playing tricks or 18+ HCPs. Given the ♦AK are guaranteed tricks (and entries to finesse), I’m happy to play in 3NT (if partner bids it) or 4♠.

Doug Baxter: 3♥. With 2 quick tricks, I have

enough for game on this auction. 3♥ is not a command to bid 3NT with a heart stopper, just choosing the right game. I certainly want to be in 3NT, not 4♠, opposite AKQJx QJx Qxx Ax. But want to be in 4♠ with AQJxxx Ax xx AQ.

Roisin O’Hara: 3♦. Partner is showing a great hand but not necessarily 6 spades. My 2♣ bid didn’t promise points so now I want to show partner where my values are placed. If partner rebids 3♠ I’ll go to 4S, and partner bids 3NT, I’ll pass.

Mike Kenny: 3♥. I want to tell partner we have the values for game but let partner make the next bid knowing they won’t be passed below game.

Fred Lerner: 3♠. Partner doubled and bid their own suit. This shows a strong hand and a self-supporting suit. My ♠10x and ♦AK are enough to support his spades.

Andy Stark: 3♠. Partner is showing 18+ so let’s show some life. If partner passes 3♠, I will guide you to the partnership desk. 😊 If partner cuebids 4♣ next, we have an easy 4♦ call.



& Mike Roche. There is nothing in bridge that can compare to the thrill of winning a national team championship.

In 2005 we came second in the CNTCs, then reached the top 16 out of the 180 teams in the Rosenblum Cup in Verona. We beat Russia and France in the rounds of 64 and 32, then lost to the best team in the world from the U.S.A. I played with Keith Balcombe, who taught me a different way to play after my many years partnering Mike Cafferata. It was fascinating to play a strong club system with 4-card major opening bids! Oh, and takeout doubles everywhere—it was a super aggressive system. Keith was very supportive of me, and we had a lot of success wherever we played.

Kib: I recall imping with you and Keith during a KO match in Toronto. My partner and I came back to compare results with you, and I said, “Sorry guys, had an accident, minus 800.” And you, without skipping a beat, said, “Oh-oh, that’s...win 12!” Man, that made me laugh. Do you have any other goals? Would you play in another CNTC if the partner and team were all a good fit?

The Kibitzer Information

The Kibitzer is available online at www.unit166.ca, every three months: February, May, August, and November. Readers are invited to share their email addresses with the ACBL so that they may receive notification The Kibitzer is ready for viewing.

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Please send to Andy Stark, andy.kibitzer@gmail.com

KIBITZER ONLINE: <http://unit166.ca>

IMPORTANT KIBITZER DATES:

Issue:	Deadline:	Posted online by:
Fall	July 20	Aug. 15
Winter	Oct. 20	Nov. 15
Spring	Jan. 20	Feb. 15
Summer	Apr. 20	May 15

Dave: Goals? Life changes. Stages of bridge life for me were trying to learn, then trying to win, then trying to get better players as partners, then to get master points, then to win big events and tournaments. Now I feel that I know the game as well as it is possible to know, I aspire more to enjoy than achieve. There are too many things that must go right to achieve: the card luck, the play of the opponents, and the play of your teammates. The enjoyment is a personal thing, a few hours with the right person.

The words I heard that Eddie Wold said when being inducted into the Hall of Fame really struck me: "I would gladly hand back all my bridge trophies if I could go back in time and learn to play this game again." Yes! The thrill of learning this ridiculously hard game as we play it... It takes about ten intense years. Then you start making errors of concentration, not from lack of knowledge. Playing with a person who is learning can bring back some of our best experiences at the table. Renette is now my regular partner, and she helps me when I mentor Canadian juniors. Our mantra is this: "The good things matter. The bad things don't matter."

Would I play in another CNTC? Yes, but the team and especially my partner would have to be just right. Ross Taylor has partnered me occasionally in recent years and I thoroughly enjoy every session with him. So, we shall see...

Kib: Thanks, Dave and again, a hearty congrats on winning the Audrey Grant. You are a very deserving recipient of this prestigious award. I think your students and mentees feel lucky to have you as a mentor, especially Canadian juniors.

Keith Balcombe: 3♠. I toyed with passing 2♠ on this hand, but that is probably not right. Partner might hold: ♠AQJxx ♥Kxx ♦Qxx ♣AQ. That makes 3NT but probably 4♠ as well. Partner might hold: ♠AKxxx ♥Kx ♦Qxx ♣AQx for which no game might make although spades might be 3-3. Too many HCPs in diamonds, a short suit.

David Colbert: The panel votes five times for 3♠, four times for 3♥ (which is their suit and sends it back to partner) and twice for 3♦.

No one passes. We have a lot of respect for partner's strong bidding, and we have a maximum 2♣ advance of the double. Their comments were very helpful. 3♦ helps if partner is considering 3NT, the 3♠ bid is nice if partner has six spades, and the 3♥ bid could shift the blame.

At the table partner had 19 points and six spades, so 4♠ and 3NT will both make. It was important to take another call and not pass 2♠.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

*Remember, if you too would like to improve your bidding and be added to David's mailing list, you can send him an email: davecolb@rogers.com.
As the saying goes, "the more the merrier."



The Last Three

By John Carruthers

The Canadian Bridge Federation conducts its National Championships in two phases: an online qualification and a face-to-face final stage. This year, the online phase, completed over January 23-25, 2026, comprised 16 teams, which played a complete round robin of 12-board matches to qualify eight teams for the final, to be held in Penticton, BC in June, opposite their terrific Regional tournament.

The Round Robin was conducted over three days with five matches per day. With one match to play on Day 3, 15 teams still had a mathematical chance to qualify! The standings at that point were:

Place	Team	VP Total
1.	GARTAGANIS: Judith Gartaganis/Nick Gartaganis, David Sabourin/Jeff Smith	192.78
2.	WILLIS: Brad Bart/Jeff Blond, Nic l'Ecuyer/Marc-André Fourcaudot/Dave Willis	168.22
3.	YAN: Alex Hong/Rock Shi Yan, Jianfeng Luo/Zheng Zhang, Edward Xu/Yan Wang	157.97
4.	TODD: Doug Fisher/Bob Todd, Ray Hornby/Neil Kimelman	152.96
5.	BUCHANAN: Chris Buchanan/Allan Terplawy, Peter Jones/Vincent Lambert	143.34
6.	BATES: Steve Bates/Bernie Lambert, Yi Peng Mai/Xiao Dong Zhao	140.11
7.	JACOB: Mike Hargreaves/Gord McOrmond, Dan Jacob/Bryan Maksymetz, Michel Lorber, Zygmunt Marcinski	136.98
8.	BRENTNALL: Marielle Brentnall/Rasim Sari, Ganesan Sekhar/Michael Shaw	136.97
9.	FINDLAY: Daniel Bertrand/Gordon Campbell, Ian Findlay/Paul Janicki	135.85
10.	ROCHE: Douglas Fraser/Sandra Fraser, James Galand/Gerry McCully, Daniel Lyder/Michael Roche	135.51
11.	PRODAN: Feng Ming Chen/Jiawei Luo, Danny Miles/Andy Stark, Andrei Prodan/Terence Rego	132.27
12.	LIANG: Mark Caplan/Eiji Fujirai, Terry Du/Michael Wang, Shigang Liang/Mike Xiao-Fang Zhue	124.24
13.	KERSEY: Don Kersey/Bill Koski, Ana Kovacevic/Miro Kovacevic	123.86
14.	WANG: Xiaojing Deng/Difan Wang, Lu Gan/Nok Yin Lee, Xiaoming Shen/Difan Wang	123.70
15.	KUZ: Richard Chan/John Ren, Daniel Chui/David Zhang, Morrie Kleinplatz/Bob Kuz	123.20
16.	BURNS: Shelley Burns/Kelvin Raywood, Linda Connell/Deb Harper	109.15

The top four teams were almost-certain qualifiers; the top three had a lock and fourth would need a collapse from them and a miracle finish for five other teams to pass them. The teams ranked twelfth through fifteenth needed a blitz in Match 15, along with some help from the other teams. Team 16 was already eliminated.

The qualifying matches were played on RealBridge, which provided real-time updates on the standings, board by board. The action was non-stop, with a single board having the capacity to raise or drop a team four or five places in the standings. Here, we're going to look at the teams ranked fifth through eleventh and show

the volatility involved on the last three boards of Match 15 on of Day 3. Those three boards were dynamite, everything we kibitzers could have hoped for – not necessarily so the players. TODD, in fourth place, did not collapse and none of the teams ranked twelfth through fifteenth managed a blitz.

The lineups for that last match were:

1. GARTAGANIS vs. 4. TODD
2. WILLIS vs. 13. KERSEY
3. YAN vs. 11. PRODAN*
5. BUCHANAN* vs. 14. WANG
6. BATES* vs. 10. ROCHE*
7. JACOB* vs. 8. BRENTNALL*
9. FINDLAY* vs. 15. KUZ
12. LIANG vs. 16. BURNS

We shall follow the fortunes of the seven asterisked teams in the five matches they played, board by board, for the last three deals – those teams were in that middle group of teams ‘on the bubble’; four of the seven would qualify.

The scores in the five relevant matches, after 9 of 12 boards, with three to play, were:

YAN 13 – PRODAN 22
 BUCHANAN 10 – WANG 16
 BATES 15 – ROCHE 2
 JACOB 28 – BRENTNALL 28
 FINDLAY 32 – KUZ 32

These were the updated standings after the third day’s Board 57 (Match 15 of 15):

Rank After 9 Bds.	Team	Current VP	Previous Position	Change From Match 14
5.	BUCHANAN	160.33	5	=
6.	BATES	154.08	6	=
7.	JACOB	146.98	7	=
8.	BRENTNALL	146.97	8	=
9.	FINDLAY	145.85	9	=
10.	PRODAN	145.17	11	+1
11.	ROCHE		141.54	10 -1

As you can see, not much had altered vis-à-vis the standings. That was about to change in a big way.

Board 58. Dealer East. Both Sides Vulnerable

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

In all the following bidding diagrams, the first-named team (which was the higher in the standings after 57 boards) is North/South in the first diagram of any given match.

YAN v. PRODAN

West	North	East	South
<i>F.M. Chen</i>	<i>E. Xu</i>	<i>J.W. Luo</i>	<i>Y.Wang</i>
—	—	1♦	1♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Redouble
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Z. Zhang</i>	<i>D. Miles</i>	<i>J.F. Luo</i>	<i>A. Stark</i>
—	—	1♦	1♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	2♥	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

With the defence able to take no more than four tricks, both declarers had an easy time of it: plus 600 to each side for a push.

BUCHANAN v. WANG

West	North	East	South
<i>D.Wang</i>	<i>C. Buchanan</i>	<i>X.M. Shen</i>	<i>A.Terplawy</i>
—	—	1♦	1♠
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

With her partner potentially waiting to pass a takout double for penalties, Xiaoming Shen followed the sound principle of not defending at the one level doubled with a void in trumps. With a good six-card suit and potential tricks in both East's suits, Allan Terplawy made a speculative double of three notrump, hoping that he had two entries and that declarer had no more than two spade stoppers and did not have nine tricks, but soon found out that he could not beat it; minus 750 to North/South.

West	North	East	South
<i>P. Jones</i>	<i>N.Y. Lee</i>	<i>V. Lambert</i>	<i>L. Gan</i>
—	—	1♦	1♠
Pass	Pass	Double	2♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

It is possible to beat two spades two tricks on a middle spade lead and a continuation with another middle spade when West regains the lead. However, Peter Jones, as did everyone else against a spade contract, led the seductive jack of diamonds: eight, king, two. Vincent Lambert shifted to the ace and queen of clubs. Lu Gan won with his king, ruffed a diamond and led the seven of clubs – when East failed to cover, declarer discarded his heart, West ruffing and leading another diamond.

The defence still had a chance. However, when declarer ruffed the diamond in dummy and led a heart from dummy, East drove the final nail into his own coffin by rising with the ace. Declarer ruffed and continued with the ace and a low spade. Left with queen-ten-nine of spades and king-two of hearts, Jones could see that if he exited with the king of hearts, declarer would ruff and play the king and jack of spades back to him, making the queen of hearts at trick thirteen, so he tried the deuce of hearts – no good – Gan won with the queen, discarding his diamond queen. West made another trump trick but that was only their fifth; plus 670 to declarer.

That was a lovely 16 IMPs to WANG.

BATES v. ROCHE

West	North	East	South
<i>D. Lyder</i>	<i>S. Bates</i>	<i>M. Roche</i>	<i>B. Lambert</i>
—	—	1♣ ¹	2♥ ²
Pass ³	2♠	Double ⁴	Pass
Pass ⁵	Pass		

1. Precision
2. Spades
3. (a.) 0-4 HCP or (b.) a penalty double of spades
4. Takeout
5. Penalty double of spades

Michael Roche led the king of diamonds, asking for standard count and receiving the two, four and eight, and continued with the diamond ace, ruffed by Steve Bates as North. Declarer led the club four toward the king:

ace, six, nine. East continued with the three of clubs: king, eight, five. Having had the queen of diamonds set up for him by the defence and suspecting that the ten was about to fall under the queen, declarer led dummy's ace of spades and continued with a low one. Daniel Lyder won with his seven and led the king and another heart, ruffed by declarer, who continued with the king of spades and the queen and nine of diamonds. The ten of diamonds did indeed fall under the queen but, having four tricks in already, West still held the queen-ten of trumps for one off, minus 200 for North/South.

West	North	East	South
<i>Y. P. Mai</i>	<i>S. Fraser</i>	<i>X. Zhao</i>	<i>D. Fraser</i>
—	—	1♣ ¹	1♠
INT	Pass	2♦	2♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
I. Precision			

Declarer arranged the timing a little better and the defence a little worse here. Mai led the usual diamond jack to Zhao's king. East cashed the ace of clubs and continued with the two to Douglas Fraser's king. Declarer led his heart to East's jack and that defender led the club queen, ruffed low and over-ruffed. At that point, West had to shift to a trump, exchanging a trump trick for a diamond trick, but altering the timing in the defence's favour. In practice, West led a heart to his partner's ace, ruffed by declarer. Fraser ruffed a diamond in dummy, ruffed a heart in hand and ruffed another diamond in dummy, reducing West to the queen-ten-nine-seven of spades. Displaying a little flair, Fraser led the heart queen from dummy and discarded the diamond queen from hand on it. Mai had to ruff and had the opportunity to exhibit even more flair by ruffing the red queens with the queen of spades but, alas, he ruffed low to lead a spade into South's ace-king-jack for plus 670 to North/South. Had East retained the club queen until that trick, we might have seen four queens on trick ten!

Together with the plus 200 at the other table, that gave 13 much-needed IMPs to ROCHE.



LOVE YOUR BRIDGE TEACHER ?



Have you ever had — or do you currently have — an exceptional bridge teacher? Show your appreciation by nominating them for the **ABTA (American Bridge Teachers' Association) Teacher of the Year Award**.

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Nomination Deadline: June 3, 2026

Questions about the nomination process? Contact **Josée Hammill** mjhammill@rogers.com

JACOB v. BRENTNALL

West	North	East	South
<i>M. Shaw</i>	<i>D. Jacob</i>	<i>G. Sekhar</i>	<i>B. Maksymetz</i>
—	—	2♦ ¹	2♥ ²
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Natural, strong, could have another suit

2. Spades

Michael Shaw bid to the obvious contract at his table, plus 600.

West	North	East	South
<i>M. Hargreaves</i>	<i>M. Brentnall</i>	<i>G. McOrmond</i>	<i>R. San</i>
—	—	1♦	1♠
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Double
4♦	Pass	5♦	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Gord McOrmond also followed the principle of not defending at the one level with a void in trumps. Michael Hargreaves too bid to the obvious contract but removed it when doubled. Declarer could have made five diamonds doubled by guessing to play the ace and a low club, followed by two high diamonds, a heart to the king, a spade ruff, then good clubs, but, not being able to see all the cards, he did not. Minus 200 meant 13 IMPs to BRENTNALL.

FINDLAY v. KUZ

West	North	East	South
<i>D. Zhang</i>	<i>P. Janicki</i>	<i>D.S.W. Chui</i>	<i>I. Findlay</i>
—	—	1♦	1♠
Pass	Pass	Double	2♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

David Zhang led the jack of diamonds; Daniel Chui won with his ace, took the ace of clubs and continued with the club queen. Ian Findlay won with his king, ruffed a diamond in the dummy and led the seven of clubs, covered by the jack, ruffed by the eight of spades and over-ruffed by the nine. West continued with the six of spades to declarer's jack. South in turn led the ace, king and a low spade to West's queen. With just one trump remaining, when the defence led two rounds of hearts, South had to ruff with his last trump. Although declarer now led the queen of diamonds to pin the ten, when East won with the king, he had a heart remaining for two off, plus 500.

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Campbell</i>	<i>B. Kuz</i>	<i>D. Bertrand</i>	<i>M. Kleinplatz</i>
—	—	1♦	1♠
Pass	Pass	Double	2♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Gordon Campbell led the by-now-familiar jack of diamonds. Daniel Bertrand won with his king and shifted to the ace and three of clubs. Morrie Kleinplatz won and ruffed a diamond, then led a club, covered, ruffed and over-ruffed. West continued with another diamond, ruffed in the dummy. Declarer led dummy's fourth club, covered, and discarded his heart on it; when East led the thirteenth club, declarer discarded his diamond queen. Unfortunately, South had not done the job he needed to do, which was to shorten his trumps while exhausting West of the side suits. The defence had taken five tricks and West still had two trump tricks to come with the heart king as an exit card. That was minus 500 for declarer, and a dreadful push.

The key match scores with two boards to play were then;

YAN 13 – PRODAN 22
BUCHANAN 10 – WANG 32
BATES 15 – ROCHE 15
JACOB 28 – BRENTNALL 41
FINDLAY 32 – KUZ 32

These were the updated standings after that third day's Board 58:

Rank After	Team	Current VP	Previous Position	Change
10 Bds.				
5.	BRENTNALL	150.94	8	+3
6.	BATES	150.11	6	=
7.	BUCHANAN	147.35	5	-2
8.	FINDLAY	145.85	9	+1
9.	ROCHE	145.51	11	+2
10.	PRODAN	145.17	10	=
12.	JACOB	143.01	7	-5

With two boards to play, three teams were just decimals apart for the last qualifying spot. And none of those seven potential qualifiers was safe; equally, none was out of it.

Board 59. Dealer South. Neither Side Vulnerable

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

While the previous board offered opportunities in the bidding, play and defence, this one was all about the bidding. East/West could throw a monkey wrench into the works by jamming North/South a little; just not too much as they have seven losers against best defence. Seven hearts is cold on the lie of the cards – you cannot go down unless you deliberately set out to do so. The software will not even let you revoke.

YAN v. PRODAN

West	North	East	South
<i>F.M. Chen</i>	<i>E. Xu</i>	<i>J.W. Luo</i>	<i>Y. Wang</i>
—	—	—	1♥
2♥ ¹	2♠ ²	Pass	3♦ ³
Pass	3♠ ⁴	Pass	4♠ ⁵
Pass	4NT ⁶	Pass	5NT ⁷
Pass	6♣ ⁸	Pass	6♦ ⁹
Pass	7♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Spades and a minor
2. Limit raise or better in hearts
3. Accepts limit raise; diamond values toward slam
4. Marking time, cooperating
5. Spade control
6. RKCB
7. 2 key cards plus a void
8. Queen ask
9. Heart queen plus diamond king

West	North	East	South
<i>Z. Zhang</i>	<i>D. Miles</i>	<i>J.F. Luo</i>	<i>A. Stark</i>
—	—	—	1♥
1♠	2NT ¹	Pass	3♠ ²
Pass	4♣ ²	Pass	4♦ ²
Pass	4NT ³	Pass	5NT ⁴
Pass	6♣ ⁵	Pass	6♦ ⁶
Pass	7♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 4-card limit raise or better in hearts
2. Control bids investigating slam
3. RKCB
4. 2 key cards plus a void
5. Queen ask
6. Heart queen plus diamond king

These were two very similar auctions to achieve a noble push.

BUCHANAN v. WANG

West	North	East	South
<i>D. Wang</i>	<i>C. Buchanan</i>	<i>X.M. Shen</i>	<i>A. Terplawy</i>
—	—	—	1♥
2♥ ¹	2♠ ²	Pass	3♦ ³
Pass	3♠ ⁴	Pass	4♦ ⁵
Pass	4NT ⁶	Pass	5NT ⁷
Pass	6♣ ⁸	Pass	6♦ ⁹
Pass	7♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Spades and a minor
2. Limit raise or better in hearts
3. Accepts limit raise; diamond values toward slam
4. Marking time, cooperating
5. Diamond control
6. RKCB
7. 2 key cards plus a void
8. Queen ask
9. Heart queen plus diamond king

Another very similar auction. Would all 13 other pairs do likewise?

West	North	East	South
<i>P. Jones</i>	<i>N.Y. Lee</i>	<i>V. Lambert</i>	<i>L. Gan</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2NT ¹	Pass	3♠ ²
Pass	4♣ ³	Pass	4♠ ⁴
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦ ⁵
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Forcing-to-game heart raise
2. Spade shortage
3. Club control; slam try
4. Spade void
5. Diamond control

No, all of the other 13 pairs could not produce an auction to the very good grand slam. This was the first pair we'd seen so far that did not have to deal with interference; as a result they produced an auction where, after admitting to a club control, North signed off twice, since much of his hand was in spades, the suit in which his partner was void.

That meant 11 IMPs to BUCHANAN.

BATES v. ROCHE

West	North	East	South
<i>D. Lyder</i>	<i>S. Bates</i>	<i>M. Roche</i>	<i>B. Lambert</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2NT ¹	Pass	3♠ ²
Pass	4♣ ³	Pass	4♦ ³
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♠ ⁴
Pass	6♦ ⁵	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Forcing-to-game heart raise
2. Spade shortage
3. Control bids
4. Exclusion Key-Card Blackwood
5. 2 key cards outside spades, no heart queen

Here was another auction where, left to their own devices, North/South could not get to seven hearts.

West	North	East	South
<i>Y. P. Mai</i>	<i>S. Fraser</i>	<i>X. Zhao</i>	<i>D. Fraser</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2NT ¹	Pass	4♠ ²
Double	6♥	Pass	7♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Forcing-to-game heart raise
2. Void-showing

The Frasers showed no such reticence. Trusting Sandra to have both the appropriate cards he needed to take care of his club losers for her leap to slam, Douglas bid one more. That was worth 11 IMPs to ROCHE.

JACOB v. BRENTNALL

West	North	East	South
<i>M. Shaw</i>	<i>D. Jacob</i>	<i>G. Sekhar</i>	<i>B. Maksymetz</i>
—	—	—	1♥
2♥ ¹	Double	Pass	Pass
2♠	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Spades and a minor

What a remarkable auction! One partner doubles a two-level part score with four-card support for his partner's five-card major and the other passes with 11 red cards and a void in the suit. Partner doubled, despite his right-hand opponent's apparent satisfaction with spades rather than trying to escape into his partner's minor. The defence made four trump tricks and four side aces and kings for plus 500, small consolation for the grand slam their way.

West	North	East	South
<i>M. Hargreaves</i>	<i>M. Brentnall</i>	<i>G. McOrmond</i>	<i>R. San</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2NT ¹	Pass	4♦ ²
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT ³
Pass	5♦ ⁴	Pass	7♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Forcing-to-game heart raise
2. Good second suit of 5 cards or more
3. RKCB
4. 0 or 3 key cards

Rasim San was interested to know if his partner held the spade ace, as it would provide a discard for one of his club losers. When Marielle Brentnall showed three key cards, South had no doubt about contracting for all the tricks. That won him 14 IMPs.

FINDLAY v. KUZ

West	North	East	South
<i>D. Zhang</i>	<i>P. Janicki</i>	<i>D.S.W. Chui</i>	<i>I. Findlay</i>
—	—	—	1♥
2♥ ¹	2♠ ²	Double	3♦ ³
Pass	4♣ ⁴	Pass	4♦ ⁴
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Spades and a minor
2. Limit raise or better in hearts
3. Accepts limit raise; diamond values
4. Control bids

Both North and South were rather timid: Janicki with three aces and four trumps after his partner had made slam tries and had shown diamonds and controls in the suit; Findlay with excellent trumps and 11 red cards after his partner had cooperated with four clubs.

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Campbell</i>	<i>B. Kuz</i>	<i>D. Bertrand</i>	<i>M. Kleinplatz</i>
—	—	—	1♥
1♠	2♠ ¹	Pass	3♦ ²
Pass	3♠ ³	Pass	4♣ ⁴
Pass	5♣ ⁴	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Limit raise or better in hearts
2. Accepts limit raise; diamond values
3. Marking time, slam try with spade control
4. Club control

Whatever Morrie Kleinplatz intended with four clubs (larceny? lead-inhibiting? misclick?), Bob Kuz' five clubs provoked him into bidding the small slam. Should he have tried five diamonds along the way?

It was an ungainly push.

With just one board to go...

YAN 13 – PRODAN 22
 BUCHANAN 21 – WANG 32
 BATES 15 – ROCHE 26
 JACOB 28 – BRENTNALL 55
 FINDLAY 32 – KUZ 32

These were the updated standings after Board 59:

Rank After	Team	Current VP	Previous Position	Change
11 Bds.				
5.	BRENTNALL	153.88	5	=
6.	BUCHANAN	149.63	7	+1
7.	ROCHE	148.96	9	+2
8.	BATES	146.66	6	-2
9.	FINDLAY	145.85	8	-1
10.	PRODAN	145.17	10	=
12.	JACOB	140.07	12	=

With one board to play, barring a remarkable last board and extraordinary results on it, it appeared likely that BRENTNALL would get in and JACOB would not. The other five teams were fighting it out for the remaining three slots.

Board 60. Dealer West. North-South Vulnerable

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

The last board was another one which there was nothing to the play or defence (except if East/West found a heart sacrifice) – everything depended on whether North/South could reach slam. Slam is very good (cold on the lie of the cards), depending on little more than bringing in spades and diamonds without loss, an approximate 78% proposition. The fly in the ointment was East/West's seven-three heart fit, in which they had only three aces to lose, along with a potential club ruff.

YAN v. PRODAN

West	North	East	South
<i>F.M. Chen</i>	<i>E. Xu</i>	<i>J.W. Luo</i>	<i>Y. Wang</i>
4♥	4♠	5♥	Double ¹
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I. Card-showing

West	North	East	South
<i>Z. Zhang</i>	<i>D. Miles</i>	<i>J.F. Luo</i>	<i>A. Stark</i>
4♥	4♠	5♥	Pass ¹
Pass	5♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

I. Forcing, encouraging

13 IMPs to YAN.

BUCHANAN v. WANG

West	North	East	South
<i>D. Wang</i>	<i>C. Buchanan</i>	<i>X.M. Shen</i>	<i>A. Terplawy</i>
4♥	4♠	5♥	Pass ¹
Pass	5♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

I. Forcing, encouraging

West	North	East	South
<i>P. Jones</i>	<i>N.Y. Lee</i>	<i>V. Lambert</i>	<i>L. Gan</i>
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

BATES v. ROCHE

West	North	East	South
<i>D. Lyder</i>	<i>S. Bates</i>	<i>M. Roche</i>	<i>B. Lambert</i>
3♥	Double	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♥	5♠	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West <i>Y. P. Mai</i> 3♥ Pass	North <i>S. Fraser</i> 4♠ Pass	East <i>X. Zhao</i> 5♥ Pass	South <i>D. Fraser</i> 5♠
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13 IMPs to BATES.

JACOB v. BRENTNALL

West <i>M. Shaw</i> 4♥ 5♣ Pass	North <i>D. Jacob</i> 4♠ 5♦ Pass	East <i>G. Sekhar</i> 4NT Pass Pass	South <i>B. Maksymetz</i> Pass 5♠
---------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------

West <i>M. Hargreaves</i> 3♥ Pass	North <i>M. Brentnall</i> 4♠	East <i>G. McOrmond</i> Pass	South <i>R. San</i> Pass
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FINDLAY v. KUZ

West <i>D. Zhang</i> 3♥ Pass	North <i>P. Janicki</i> 3♠ Pass	East <i>D.S.W. Chui</i> 3NT Pass	South <i>I. Findlay</i> 4♠
----------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------

West <i>G. Campbell</i> 3♥ Pass Pass	North <i>B. Kuz</i> 4♥ ¹ 6♠	East <i>D. Bertrand</i> Double Pass	South <i>M. Kleinplatz</i> 4♠ Pass
---------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------

1. Spades and a minor

13 IMPs to KUZ.

In all eight matches, only four of the 16 pairs found their way to six spades (one pair had an accident and bid to seven spades, not escaping the heart lead). No one took the seven-heart save, although one pair was doubled in five hearts, losing just the three aces.

As the match (and the event) came to a close, it so happened that this board had been played at every other table but Campbell/Kuz/Bertrand/Kleinplatz's. At that moment, and before that table comparison, the FINDLAY team was in a qualifying position, in eighth place, while the ROCHE team was out, in ninth. After Bob Kuz bid

and made six spades, the FINDLAY team dropped to tenth, elevating ROCHE to the eighth and final qualifying spot. For the kibitzers, this was magic.

Those three boards produced double-digit swings on 16 of the 24 comparisons, five, five, and six respectively for Boards 10, 11 and 12.

The final scores in our key matches were:

YAN 26 – PRODAN 22
 BUCHANAN 21 – WANG 32
 BATES 28 – ROCHE 26
 JACOB 28 – BRENTNALL 55
 FINDLAY 32 – KUZ 45

These were the rankings of our seven key teams at the completion of play:

Rank After 12 Bds.	Team	Current VP	Previous Position	Change
5.	BRENTNALL	153.88	5	=
6.	BATES	150.82	8	+2
7.	BUCHANAN	149.89	6	-1
8.	ROCHE	144.80	7	-1
10.	FINDLAY	141.80	9	-1
11.	PRODAN	140.89	10	-1
12.	JACOB	140.07	12	=

GARTAGANIS (194.92), WILLIS (172.64), TODD (170.82) and YAN (169.35) were indeed the top qualifiers. LIANG had a big final match, moving from twelfth to ninth on 141.93; however, even a blitz would have left them just short. The bottom four teams remained there. The teams in fifth through eighth breathed a sigh of relief while the ninth through twelfth-place squads had much to remonstrate themselves about. Nevertheless, for the kibitzers, it was a brilliant show!



Ontario Bridge Odyssey, Part IV

The Ontario Bridge Odyssey, affectionately and musically known as the OBO, started on the last Sunday in April, 2025 and finished on the first Saturday in May. After stops in Mississauga, Kincardine, Owen Sound, Collingwood, and the U. of T's venerable Hart House, the OBO's next game occurred on the Wednesday afternoon at the Toronto East Bridge Club (TEBC). I had already partnered Bev Ross, Mel Norton, Chris Cowan, Debbie Feldman and Mark Lieberman; my partner du jour was Canadian bridge champion and junior bridge mentor, lover of systems and gadgetry, and wizard at conjuring tricks out of thin air: Danny Miles.

One of the nicest guys you will meet in the bridge world, Danny and I go back at least 25 years, when he was a young pup emerging from the Waterloo

University bridge scene. You knew he was destined for great things with his attention to detail and exemplary concentration skills at the table. If he makes a mistake, and there are not that many to find, it's usually from playing too quickly, because when there is a problem to be solved, Danny almost always works it out.

Danny and I had played at TEBC once before. TEBC is run by 2026 Kate Buckman award winner Laurie Miller (stay tuned for a Kib interview with Laurie—it will appear in the August issue) and the 2025 KB award winner Glenna Richardson. Clearly the KB trophy has become part of the décor at TEBC! The bridge club is not that hard for me to get to since I live in Riverdale, but it is a bit of an effort for Danny as he comes from midtown TO. We both love the club; even if we have to deal with Toronto traffic to get to it, the TEBC is so worth it.

Laurie and Glenna have built a thriving and loving bridge community, so it's no coincidence that they are back-to-back winners of the KB. Before I get to my game with Danny, (spoiler alert: we had a 72.5% game), let me tell you about the TEBC. Actually, let's let Laurie and Glenna tell it:

Things you should know about the Toronto East Bridge Club (TEBC)

The idea of having a sanctioned bridge club in the east-end of Toronto was inspired after a group of bridge players participated in Toronto's first bridge pub crawl hosted by Ada Spanjaard in 2018. Ada and nine other individuals worked together to invest and create the Toronto East Bridge Club (TEBC). On April 29, 2019, the club officially opened its doors.



The club was well supported by the local community as well as individuals like Audrey Grant who generously gave her time in running a workshop event to help raise money in support of the club. Another bridge giant, Barbara Seagram has also been supportive of our club throughout its history.

TEBC was really kicking into high gear with two well-attended regular games and an active supervised section when in March 2020, it closed due to the pandemic. When it was evident that the club would not be reopening soon, the game was moved to Bridge Base Online (BBO).

In the spring of 2022, when it was deemed safe to do so, the club reopened the face-to-face games at the new and present location, St. Nicholas Birch Cliff Anglican Church, 1512 Kingston Road. It was a slow start as players were reluctant to return to face-to-face bridge. There were times when the player's fees were refunded because there weren't enough players for a sanctioned game. However, the club persisted, and we are now hosting anywhere from 10-15 tables at the Monday evening and Wednesday afternoon games.

In August 2024, Glenna Richardson, and Laurie Miller, both founding members, directors and bridge teachers bought the club outright from the original group of investors. The club has about 252 active players. We have had anywhere from 100-200 students attend our bridge classes since reopening and over 100 beginners have participated in our supervised games. Most have since graduated to the "big kids" tables. TEBC has a good and welcoming vibe. The more experienced players are truly supportive and are known to mentor the newer players when asked.

Where to grab a little something before or after the game

On Monday evenings after the game, you can find many players discussing the deals at Busters by the Bluffs, 1539 Kingston Rd (kitty corner from the club, heading east).

After club events, members also gather at Feathers Pub, at 962 Kingston Rd (1.8 km from the club, heading west).



Danny giving Laurie Miller a really good dummy. With Declan O'Meara and Bruce Disher

We are more than just a bridge club!

- TEBC is the proud sponsor of Ada Spanjaard's Annual Pub Crawl.
- Host a Bridge Bash at Bayview/Wildwood Resort. Four days of bridge, food, and fun.
- Honour birthdays each month with cake.
- Host a Christmas lunch fundraiser to raise money for the winter lunch program for those in need each year. Last year the club raised over \$2000 through the generosity of our players.
- Teach a variety of Bridge lessons from beginner to intermediate

TEBC hosts workshops and, bridge and lunch events throughout the year. To keep informed of what we offer subscribe [get on our email list here](#) or check out the website at www.torontoeastbridgeclub.com



Thank you, Laurie and Glenna. Your homework is perfect! One thing I would add for those interested in the post-game postmortem at Busters by the Bluffs, (an essential if you want to improve your game), is that Buster's has 1990s pricing—you can't afford not to go there.

It was Danny who nudged me into playing at the TEBC earlier in the year. We had a game worth a mention in the Bulletin (north of 75%). Danny was keen to be part of the OBO and the Wednesday afternoon worked perfectly with our schedules. (He can get a game in before picking up his girls from school.) Although he looks way younger than his age, Danny's been playing for 35+ years. He says, "I am (unfortunately) still the youngest person in the bridge club most days!"

Danny learned to play bridge with his paternal grandmother, Frances. His parents kept playing for a bit, eventually stopping, but he was the one who kept at it. His uncle was a great player in the 60s and 70s and so the family often had a foursome gathered around the green baize at family gatherings.



I asked Danny when and where he got his Life Master's. He said, "I believe it was in 1997 or 1998 at a club game in Cambridge(?) while attending the University of Waterloo. Probably partnering Brad Bart, who was my mentor at the time, and frankly still is!" I also asked him for a few of his personal favourite bridge achievements. Here is what Danny puts on his highlight reel:

"Definitely winning my first CNTC in Montreal in 2012 on a young, fun team that was comprised of Dan Korbel, Darren Wolpert, Les Amoils, Nic L'Ecuyer, and Vince Demuy, and getting to play in my first World Championships where we (surprisingly) made the playoffs, losing a close match to Monaco (now a tainted team).

"An earlier success was winning the Flight 'A' GNT in 2006 in Chicago playing on a 5-handed 'wheel': Korbel, David Grainger, Doug Baxter, some future editor of the Kibitzer and moi. We pioneered how a 5-bagger *should* line up in that each player had two and only two partners: Korbel partnered Miles and Grainger,

Grainger partnered Korbel and Baxter, Baxter partnered Grainger and Stark, Stark partnered Baxter and Miles, and I partnered Stark and Korbel. This way, no matter who is sitting out, we all know who is in and who is playing with whom.

“I’ve enjoyed mentoring and captaining junior players and teams and seeing them develop into strong players; sometimes I’m lucky and they’ll still have a game with me. So, my third highlight is something that hasn’t happened yet but I’m confident it will: partnering one (or both) of my daughters. Hannah is 9, Charlotte is 7; they both love cards and games. Stay tuned.”

Danny and I most recently paired up for the 2026 CNTCs. We were added to the Prodan team, and you can read about our last three boards in this very issue (the excellent piece put together by John Carruthers). Unfortunately, we missed a slam on the last board and that cost us a spot in the quarter finals (my fault). To prepare for the event, Danny and I practiced bidding hands on Cuebids, and we constantly added to our system notes. He learned a ton of stuff from his partner from last year, Jason Feldman. I asked Danny for his favourite convention:

“My favourite convention that comes up often and is a must for advancing players is two-way new minor

forcing. It sounds intimidating but is quite straightforward. It allows you to sort out very common hand types to get to the right partscore or game when opener has a generic weak notrump. A convention I’ve recently started playing with Jason, part of his system with a Dutch player, Louk Verhees, includes optional keycard ask for the minors. Any time we bid 4 of an agreed minor (even if agreed for the first time) and it is forcing (i.e. not just responding to a takeout double, or competing), it is optional keycard. Responder bids the next step to say they have a minimum in the context of the auction (asker can re-ask with the next step), else they respond keycards. It allowed us to have an excellent record in minor suit slam bidding in the recent CNTCs. Unless you have a very practiced partnership with impeccable judgment, having minor suit keycard being optional will improve your accuracy in bidding or staying out of minor suit slams.

“One of my favourite bridge plays is ducking in notrump; both on defence and as declarer. For example, holding AJx or AJxx over dummy’s KQ10xx, ducking the king (or even the ten) should be trivial for a good player and often causes the hand to fall apart for declarer. On offence, if dummy holds something like AQJxx and one entry, and you hold two little and a bunch of stoppers, completely ducking the first round counters the defence from ducking with Kxxx and you’ll in time score three tricks instead of two.”

In short, Danny is a winner, so you’ll have to excuse me for lining him up for a game in the OBO. In addition to the 2006 GNTs, Danny has won four CNTCs with four different partners (Korbel, Jeff Smith, Steve Mackay, and Feldman), plus he’s won a Canadian Mixed championship with Sondra Blank. I asked him for his best percentage matchpoint games. Danny said, “I don’t think I’ve ever hit 80% in a pair game but I’ve been close. From memory, I’ve been over 75% at the club with Brad Bart, Bobby Robinson, (my father’s childhood friend, and the first time we ever played together), Daniel Lavee at bridge camp in Anaheim, and last year at TEBC.”



Here's a hand Danny declared during our game at TEBC, the type of result that can lead to that elusive 80% game.

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

Danny was dealer as South and opened 1♦. West overcalled 1♥, I made a negative double to show exactly four spades (with 5+ spades I would bid 1♠), East passed, and Danny bid INT. I could have retreated to 2♦ as I knew Danny held four or more diamonds, but since it was matchpoints and since I held an extra heart stopper, I left in INT and that was passed out.

Many Wests eschew leading a heart figuring declarer is ready for a heart lead, but it is often the right lead as you are gaining a tempo, setting up your suit. Here though it might have cost a trick because if Danny sticks in the ♥8 at trick one he will win an extra heart trick. On this day, West led the club king.

I'm sure Danny was a tad dismayed as the club seemingly turned out to be a good lead for them as we only had one club stopper. Danny correctly ducked both the club king and the queen continuation. Then, the club barrage suddenly stopped, hinting at the 2-6 distribution.

West tried a low spade. Danny called for the ♠10 which led to East covering with the jack and Danny won his ace. Since hearts could be played from either hand, and, since West was known to hold five of them, Danny decided to play on diamonds. It's important to lead towards the ♦KQ, so out came a low diamond. It



went ♦8-king-ace! East was in and tried the club jack. Danny won his ace per force while West pitched a spade.

It always helps to be a little lucky in this game, so Danny breathed a sigh of relief when the ♦4 caught the jack. He could now win the ♦Q in dummy, plus two more diamonds. He later knocked out both the heart ace and spade king and claimed 8 tricks for a top board.

This board turned out to be one of those fascinating non-flat boards where there are multiple contracts declared by all four positions at the table. Of the ten times it was played, North declared it one time (1♠); East declared twice, in 1NT and 2NT; South declared five times (1NT, 2♦, and 3♦); and West declared twice (1♥ and 2♠). Oddly, nobody declared a club contract and that was EW's best fit!

The mark of a true Flight 'A' player is that they tend not to get knee deep in the muck of bullying and/or out-lawyering the lesser experienced players. They're good players, they know it, and they don't need to remind others of that fact. Reminding other players is the mark of a Flight 'B' competitor. To wit, Danny is a true Flight 'A' player, not only for his conduct at the table but for his ethics and banter. He's quick-witted and often the opponents don't mind getting a bottom board because he's just so nice and empathetic to their plight, and in the good way. He truly likes to see others do well and he has fun playing the game. I asked Danny for some of his all-time fun at-the-table memories.

Danny said, “At a midnight game at the Toronto regional, my partner Brad Bart completely fished an overtrick in a normal contract. He stood up and shouted to our teammates across the room. ‘LOSE ONE!’ Another midnight experience, this time in Gatlinburg, Dan Korbel opened INT and played there. They led a spade, and I put down dummy, something like ♠Kx ♥Jxx ♦10xxx ♣xxxx. I said, ‘You should win the king.’ ‘OK, king,’ said Dan. The king holds. I say, ‘Now a diamond to the jack seems right.’ ‘OK, diamond please, and he stuck in the jack, winning. Those were fun times! One memory from a session at Doubles in Toronto (Mike Nadler’s club decades ago) saw the biggest penalty I’ve ever gotten from a freely bid contract. In fourth seat, after three passes, the opponents opened and got to 4♠. We doubled and beat it for 2000. I don’t remember the details, but it was legit. After the deal, the Opener said, ‘Guess I shoulda passed it out!’

“The NABCs are fun of course; I always like going back to my hometown of Winnipeg but haven’t been back for a tournament in years. I’ve had the most success in Montreal, winning the CNTC there in 2012, 2015, runner up in 2018, and even winning the CNTC-B there in 2001.

I mentioned at the outset that Danny likes playing a few conventions and gadgets. One of the differences between a convention and a gadget is that a convention will come up (or should come up) every time you play, such as Stayman and Blackwood. A gadget might come up only once a blue moon because it is only played after a specific sequence. Some sequences go days, weeks, even months without ever coming up. Here’s a gadget I learned from Danny that will illustrate the difference.

Say you pick up, ♠A2 ♥K108 ♦10763 ♣KJ64. Your LHO opens 1♦, partner overcalls 1♥, RHO passes, and now it’s your turn. What is your call? Hopefully you do not bid 2♥ because you have more than 5-10 support points. You have a nice 11 count with three-card heart support. You cannot insist on game as partner just made a one-level overcall. So, you

make a cuebid raise and bid 2♦. Partner might have a nice 12 or 13-count and is not sure whether to take the low road and retreat to 2♥, or the high road and go looking for game.

Gadget to the rescue! When the opponents open 1♦, and partner overcalls 1♥, you can switch the minors so that 2♣ becomes the cuebid raise. (2♦ is now open for some other meaning such as a natural club bid.) Why do you want to make this switch? So that Overcaller has a step, 2♦ to say, “I have the 13-count; not sure what to do, what do you think?” Rebidding 2♥ is always a weak bid, an attempt to play at the 2-level, but now Overcaller has a 2♦ call to express interest in game, but without going beyond the 2-level. A great idea...provided you remember it. And Danny pretty much remembers all his gadgets. This one comes up specifically after a 1♦ opening bid and a 1♥ overcall. Good luck!



And best of luck to Danny and his dream of one day playing with his daughters. They have the pedigree, so I believe it’s just a matter of time. Look for them at your local club. Danny will be easy to recognize with his red bandana and matching electric guitar!

The OBO will continue in August with a report on my game with my national mixed partner, and bridge teacher extraordinaire: Hazel Wolpert.





Director Please!

By Martin Hunter

Hi Martin,
The bidding went 1♥ (1♠) 1♠ - What do I do?

Hi Friend,

1) Establish whether the 1♠ bid was truly Insufficient or not

- a) If it was an Inadvertent Call (mechanical error), they can change without penalty
- b) If not paying attention, or “did not see 1♠,” it is an **Insufficient Bid** - they cannot change

If b), then Offender’s LHO may accept the 1♠ bid and we continue.

If the Insufficient Bid is not accepted, then:

Offender must make their bid sufficient at the cheapest level (2-level here) showing Spades.

If 2♠ would not show spades (eg. heart support) then that is not possible.

Opening Bidder is going to be barred from the auction. Offender can do anything but Double; They can Pass. Partner of offender will be barred from auction and there will be lead penalties should offending side be defending.

Make sure that offender knows these options. They can place the final contract, or Pass.

~Martin

Hi Martin,

South is in a Spade contract: They win a Heart trick at trick 3, West playing the ♦7.

After a query from East (“No hearts partner?”), West says, “Oops, yes, I have ♦7.”

The Director is not called and the ♦7 is set aside.

West wins a club trick at trick 6. Does South now have options?

Any difference if the exposed card is the ♦Q?

Hi Friend,

The Director should have been called when the ♦7 was changed to the ♦7.

He / She would have explained the follow-ups (and likely waited at the table).

The ♦7 is a Major Penalty Card (correction of a revoke, not established).

It must be played at the first legal opportunity: as in **right now**, when West won a trick.

If offender’s partner (East) were to get on lead, Declarer would have had options.

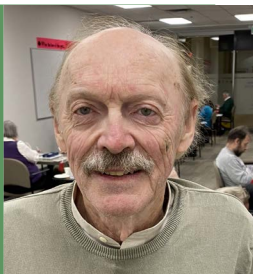
The ♦7 vs the ♦Q would apply only in the case of a Minor Penalty Card which is a card dropped accidentally or stuck to another.

~Martin

Footnote: After my previous article on “How to be a Good Dummy,” it has been disappointing to see some Dummies still not following the Laws or practicing correct Bridge Etiquette. As Dummy, please avoid the following:

1. Dummies who do not display their Dummy immediately (writing in scorecard, using BridgeMate)
2. Dummies participating in play (Table tapping, voice prompts)

Any questions and/or comments should be directed to martinhunter@rogers.com



Your Chance to be a Hero

By Doug Andrews

This hand came up in the last round of a matchpoint game at the club. You've had an above average, but not winning game; a top board might get you into first.

In fourth chair, both vulnerable, you pick up: ♠A10963
♥743 ♦Q4 ♣A98 and hear the auction go:

West	North	East (you)	South
2♦	2♠	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	all pass	3♥

Is selling out to 4♥ a winning action? Would double give you the top you need?

The answer to both questions is negative. 4♥ makes. At the table you doubled but partner mis-defended and let them make an overtrick.

According to the hand records, the winning call is 4♠, which is only down one doubled on best defence. To achieve the best result, you need to finesse the jack of clubs in order to pitch your diamond loser, and you need to ruff as many hearts in dummy as they will allow. The full deal:

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

Juniors at the Toronto Regional



Correspondence



Andy,

I was heartened to see the message by ACBL President Cindy Shoemaker in the March, 2026 Bulletin regarding ACBL membership issues.

This has been a primary concern of mine for a few years. Prior to the pandemic, ACBL membership was up around 160,000. Today, the ACBL membership has declined to 132,000.

Our local club had 150 members prior to the pandemic. Today, we have 44, mirroring the overall decline of ACBL and our aging population.

Let's face it—the extreme decline in membership is unsustainable. So, I am encouraged to see that the ACBL has recognized the need to address this threat.

Ms. Shoemaker is emphasizing “retention” as their primary focus. Of course, retaining existing members is very important. We must ensure that our members have a positive and rewarding experience to keep them coming back.

However, retention is only one side of the coin. Every year, we lose members due to illness and death. That is unavoidable. At our local club, members are in their 70s and 80s. We have some in their 90s, too. Every year more members die.

Last year, our executive took steps to retain existing members, such as having social events throughout the year, offering snacks for regular games and sending regular email communications to members. We should also honour long-time members. These are easy steps that any club can do.

Recruitment is the other side of the coin, but recruiting is a far more difficult task.

From my experience in St. Thomas, there are countless people in the community who are interested in bridge. We just have to find ways to reach them. That starts with an active and innovative executive to provide the leadership clubs need to survive.

I would like to see the ACBL come out with ideas and programs that local clubs can adopt to recruit new members. For example:

- A website template with ACBL graphics that clubs can customize
- Ads for both print and electronic media
- Posters that clubs can reproduce and post locally
- News release format for clubs to announce club activities
- A slideshow or video presentation about bridge
- Funding for recruitment efforts
- A manual “how to set up a school program”

Give the clubs the tools they need to recruit new members!

Carole Coplea

St. Thomas Duplicate Bridge Club





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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, Caledo ON

Ed Trueman

edtrueman55@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 0-1000/Open
- Fri 12:00 pm 0-1000

BRONTE BRIDGE CLUB

Burlington East Presbyterian Church

505 Walkers Line, Burlington

Jackie Syer 905-844-0574

syerjacqueline@gmail.com

jackiesyer@gmail.com

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

DUNDAS DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Dundas Senior Center

10 Market St. S., Dundas

Eileen Grady 905-379-4029

eigrady@gmail.com

1:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Sat. of every month

ETOBICOKE BRIDGE CENTRE

Etobicoke Olympium

590 Rathburn Rd

Etobicoke, ON M9C 3T3

Steve Overholt 647-897-6179

- Wed 12:00 pm 0-1000
- Wed 12:00 pm 0-50 with
a supervised lesson at 11:30 am

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

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

MARILYN'S BRIDGE CLUB

Flower City Senior Center
8870 McLaughlin Rd S.
Brampton L6Y 5T1
(905) 791-4239
Gary Westfall
gwestfall@rogers.com

- Mon 1:00 pm Open

MOBRIDGE

Sherwood Village
2225 Erin Mills Pkwy, Unit #155A
Mississauga, ON L5K 1T9
www.mobridge.club
Martin Hunter 905 403 1333
mail@mobridge.club

- Mon 7.00 pm 0-100
- Mon 7.00 pm Open
- Tue 12.30 pm Open
- Wed 12:30 pm Shuffle and Play/
Lessons
- Wed 7.00 pm 0-750
- Thu 12.30 pm Open
- Fri 12.30 pm 0-1000
- Sat 10.00 am Open
- Sat 10:00 am 0-50

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 Community Gardens
Rob Drummond 647-629-3408
info@torontobridge.ca

- Wed 12:00 pm Open
- Thur 9:00 am Limited (0-500)
- Thur 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 1:00 pm Supervised, 0 - 20
- Mon 7:00 pm Open and 0-20
- Wed 12:30 pm Open and 0-20

Michael Kammermayer (COBA) reported that there has been no change in the financial position of the Association. A meeting is in the process of being scheduled with interested clubs to address election of a new executive and a Unit Board representative, along with other matters.

Unit 166 Elections

Andy Risman, Danny Miles, Elizabeth Williams, Sheila Xu, and Mel Norton agreed to let their names stand.

Nomination of District 2 Representatives

Andy Risman, Darlene Scott, Mel Norton, David McCrady, and Elizabeth Williams have agreed to serve as Unit representatives.

Committee Updates

Increase Locally-Based Tournament Directors Committee

Sheila Xu led a discussion on members newly qualified and moving towards qualification.

Volunteer Committee

Deferred to the next meeting.

Grow Revenue Committee

Douglas Jordan updated on the continued need for volunteers.

- Marketing Subcommittee
- Adult
- Youth (and School Bridge)

Tournament Contract Updates

Darlene Scott had no current updates.

P.A. System Buy vs. Rent for Easter Regional

Andy Risman presented substantial savings. After discussion, it was agreed to proceed at this competitive price.

Tournament Budget

The budget for the 2026 July Oakville Regional was presented. There was discussion and it was agreed to not, in this instance only, include comparative results from the 2024 November Oakville regional.

Motion by Mel Norton seconded by Elizabeth Williams *that the Budget for the 2026 July Oakville Regional, be accepted as presented. Carried*

Tournament Reports

The reports for the 2025 Labour Day Oakville Sectional, 2025 Hart House IN Sectional, and the Royal STaC were presented. There was a discussion on the price tiers for tournaments and it was decided to abide by the Unit's current policy.

Motion by Darlene Scott seconded by Denise Donovan *that the Reports for the 2025 Labour Day Oakville Regional, 2025 Hart House IN Sectional, and the Royal STaC, be accepted as presented. Carried*

Motion by Darlene Scott, seconded by Danny Miles *that Douglas Jordan be appointed Tournament Chair for the House IN Sectional. Carried*

Unit 166 Local Sectionals

The report for the 2025 Mississauga Local Sectional and the budget for the 2026 Burlington Local Sectional were presented.

Motion by Andy Risman seconded by Mel Norton *that for future Local Sectionals, there will be a 50:50 split on net income, subject to budget approval by both parties.* **Carried**

Motion by Mel Norton seconded by Andy Risman *that approval is provided in principal, for the 2026 Mississauga Local Sectional at MO Bridge.* **Carried**

Honorariums

Motion by Darlene Scott, seconded by Sheila Xu *to pay Glenna Richardson an honorarium in the amount of 1,500 for chairing the 2025 Labour Day Oakville Sectional; to pay Douglas Jordan \$1,000 for chairing the 2025 Hart House IN Sectional.* **Carried**

Kibitzer Update

Deferred to the next meeting.

Unit166 Website Upgrade to HTTPS Update

Sheila Xu updated on the status and will follow up.

Kate Buckman and Audrey Grant Awards

Denise Donovan advised the Board of members nominated for the Kate Buckman Award and the Audrey Grant Award. The Board voted and the results were accepted.

2026 January Tournament Concerns

Danny Miles and Denise Donovan each led a discussion on the importance of providing a positive experience for new players to encourage on-going tournament participation. It was agreed to actively recruit for the currently vacant I/N Coordinator role.

Next Meeting

Sunday May 25, 2026 at 9am via video conference.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9pm.



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tel. 705-734-0287 email. pacam1947@hotmail.com

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:
Doug Darnley
1525 Sandhurst Cres., Pickering, L1V 6Y5
tel. 416-258-1331 email. ddarnley@rogers.com
Janice Upenieks,
17 Maple Dr., Orillia L3V 3W3,
tel. 416-435-3870 email. janice.upenieks@outlook.com
Ken Collins, 338 Murray Dr., Aurora, L4G 6B2,
tel. 416-471-5699 email. ken.collins@solution-integrity.com
Lyn Stevens, 23-1020 ParkHill Rd W., Peterborough,
K9K 0E1 *tel. 705-876 8138 email. lynstevens@hotmail.ca*

RECORDER: Paul Thurston
18 Mount Grove Crescent, Wellington, K0K 3L0
email. tweedguy@gmail.com

SUPPLY MANAGER: Paul Campbell
47 Herrell Ave., Barrie, L4N 6T7
email. pacam1947@hotmail.com

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

Linda Lord lindaleelord@hotmail.com

- Wed & Fri 12:30 pm Open
- Tues 6:45 pm Open
- Thurs 12:30 pm 0-300

BARRIE BRIDGE CLUB

Unit #3, 18 Alliance Blvd., Barrie
705-721-9233

Jane Foster janekf74@hotmail.com

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

- 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

- Tues & Thurs 1:00 pm Open

Club manager - Peter Tarle peter@tarle.com

BLUE MOUNTAIN DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

100 Minnesota Street, Collingwood
705-888-9211

Ruth Eidt rutheidt@gmail.com

- Tues & 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

Donna Earl: fredearl@rogers.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

Birte Ayer birteayer@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



President: Jennifer Verdam
315 Margaret Ave., Apt 114, Kitchener ON, N2H 6S5
tel. 519-440-9346 email: jennverdam@gmail.com

Vice President:

Secretary & Director at Large: John Abbott
9185 Blencarn Court, Windsor, ON, N8S 4L3
tel. 519-944-4911 email: johnabbott916@gmail.com

Treasurer: Tom Jolliffe
18 Cadeau Terrace, Unit 10, London, ON, N6K 4Z1
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Education Liaison: Malkin Howes
335 Marlowe Drive, Waterloo, ON, N2I 5A5
tel. 519-884-3146 email: mdare@symptico.ca

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tel. 519-842-6791 email: brian.clark@sympatico.ca

Supplies Manager: Gord Bryant
tel. 519-204-8870 email: gkbryant@rogers.com

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PO Box 2461, 84 Church St. South, St. Marys ON, N4X 1A3
tel. 519-274-9724 email: hazeljhewitt@hotmail.com

Director at Large: Gary Robertson
7839 Talbot Trail, Blenheim, ON N0P1A0
tel. 519-809-7000 email: garrobert@gmail.com

Director at Large: Alan Pyke

Director at Large: Lorna Graham

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

Kathy Russell

Grand River runs a combination of 11 face-to-face games and one virtual game per week.

Please see our website for schedule details.

<https://grandriverbridgeclub.com/>

GODERICH BRIDGE CLUB

Trinity Church 245 Mill Road, Goderich,
519-524-9635

Mary-Lynne Telford

- Tues 1:00 pm Open

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

- 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/kincardinecharity/>

LAKESHORE BRIDGE CLUB

#594 - 5030 Howard Ave., Oldcastle ON
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 9
face-to-face games per week. Please see
our website for schedule details:

<https://www.londonbridgecentre.ca>

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 & District 2 Rep.: Muriel Tremblay
Vice President & Electronic Contact: Brian Jones
Secretary: Sheila Longstaff
Treasurer: Kathy Morrison
Tournament Coordinator: Claude Tremblay
Membership Chair & D2 Rep: Wiebe Hoogland
Education & Intermediate/Novice Coordinator:
Ginger Grant
Non-Board members:
Newsletter/Promotions: Heather Beckman
Webmaster: Dena Jones
All of the above may be contacted by emailing
info@unit255.org

UNIT 255 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

BRIDGE CENTRE OF NIAGARA

2E Tremont Drive, #5
St Catharines, ON. 905-704-0446
info@bcon.club

We offer open and/or restricted level games most days.

Please check our website for our current schedule: www.bridgecentreofniagara.com

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CENTRE

NOTL Community Centre,
14 Anderson Lane, NOTL, ON
Claude Tremblay claudet@cmtmc.ca

- Tues 1:00 PM Open
- Fri 1:00 PM Open



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.



In Memoriam



David Bryce

David Bryce passed away last November. David was a longtime player and ACBL Director, and assistant to the Kibitzer back when we mailed out hardcopies. David was living in Muskoka the past few years, managing a B&B, and not playing much at all.

Fellow lawyer friends John Laskin and Tom Greer remember David as a fierce competitor, and aggressive bidder, often arriving at contracts nobody else would get to. David's sister Rebecca Harrison wrote in his obituary, "David was committed to Reconciliation and attended Orange Shirt Day in Ottawa every year on September 30, to honour the children who survived and those who did not."

Steven Norris

In April, Steven Norris passed away in his sleep with his wife Debby at his side. With spirit and determination, Steve had been battling an aggressive form of cancer. His final days were spent at Matthew's House Hospice in Alliston surrounded by Debby, his family and friends.

Steve and Debby were often seen at bridge clubs, frequently playing at Richmond Hill. He was actively involved in the bridge world, serving as the CVBA rep. for Unit 166, in addition to chairing the Caledon Sectionals. Steve will be missed by his family, but also by his friends and those who knew him at the bridge table.



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.

2026

June

6-7 Seaforth, p. 5
24-28 Can-At, Halifax, NS

July

4-5 Thornhill, p. 6
8-19 NABC Minneapolis
21-26 Oakville Regional, p. 7

August

8-9 Tillsonburg, p. 8
14-16 Niagara-on-the-Lake, I/N
18-23 Montreal Regional
26-29 Sudbury Regional, p. 10

September

5-7 Oakville Labour Day, p. 14
12-13 St. Thomas, p. 15
19-20 Brampton, p. 16
22-27 Ottawa Regional, p. 17

October

14-17 Winnipeg Regional
16-18 Sudbury, p. 18
17-18 London
23-25 Toronto, I/N

November

6-8 St. Catharines
13-15 Mississauga Local
26-Dec. 6 NABC San Diego

December

7-13 Region 1, Sectional at Clubs

2027

January

8-10 Toronto
8-10 Toronto NLM Regional
23-30 Bermuda Regional

February

19-21 St. Catharines

March

11-21 NABC Dallas
23-28 Toronto Easter Regional

All tournaments are Sectionals unless noted.

Deadline for the Summer Kibitzer: July 20, 2026

The Kibitzer

Andy Stark

36 Poucher St., Toronto ON M4J 2Y9