

# *The Kibitzer*



*Winter 2022 | Volume 69, Number 4*



**Interview with  
Samantha Punch**





# TRANSATLANTIC BRIDGE CRUISE – MARINA

**April 5-19, 2024 – Miami, Nassau (Bahamas), Bermuda, Azores, Cadiz (Spain), Grenada (Spain), Alicante (Spain), Barcelona (Spain)**

**Linda Tuff** will be your bridge instructor, director and tour leader. Barbara Seagram & Alex Kornel will be along as passengers & will play bridge & visit with everyone!

Click on this to get a taste of Marina: [youtu.be/PS1Csq\\_35dY](https://youtu.be/PS1Csq_35dY)

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

DAY	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
Apr 5 Fri	Miami, Florida, US	Embark 1 PM	7 PM
Apr 6 Sat	Nassau, Bahamas	8 AM	3 PM
Apr 7 Sun	Cruising the Atlantic Ocean		
Apr 8 Mon	Bermuda	10 AM	6 PM
Apr 9 Tue	Cruising the Atlantic Ocean		
Apr 10 Wed	Cruising the Atlantic Ocean		
Apr 11 Thu	Cruising the Atlantic Ocean		
Apr 12 Fri	Cruising the Atlantic Ocean		
Apr 13 Sat	Ponta Delgada (Azores), Portugal	9 AM	6 PM
Apr 14 Sun	Cruising the Atlantic Ocean		
Apr 15 Mon	Cruising the Atlantic Ocean		
Apr 16 Tue	Cadiz, Spain	7 AM	7 PM
Apr 17 Wed	Granada (Motril), Spain	8 AM	6 PM
Apr 18 Thu	Alicante, Spain	8 AM	4 PM
Apr 19 Fri	Barcelona, Spain	Disembark 8 AM	



## ABOUT MARINA

Refurbished: 2023 | Guests: 1238

Length: 785' | Tonnage: 66,084

Finest cuisine at sea:

French, Italian, Asian & Steakhouse specialty dining rooms

**Vision**

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# Bridge Weekend

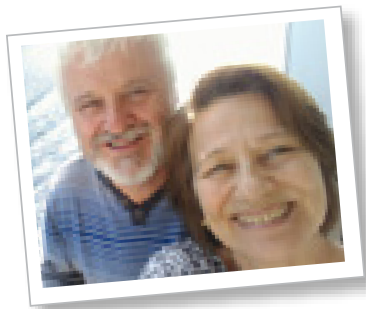
MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> - 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

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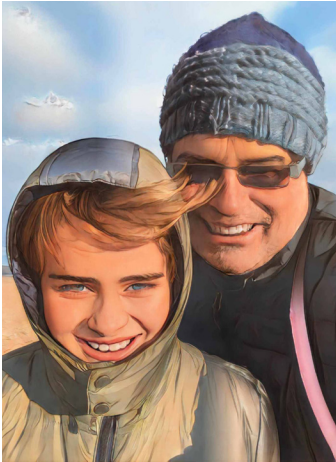
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One of my fond memories of the early days learning bridge is of searching through every bookstore's game section (if they had one) and rummaging around at rummage sales, looking for anything bridge related. My favourite find was the type of bridge book that told stories such as *The Club Expert* by British writer Jimmy Tait. And

now I have **John Carruthers** to thank. His latest, *Bridge with Another Perfect Partner* is the perfect holiday read, so if you're looking for a stocking stuffer idea, look no further.

Carruthers's hero is Selby, a bridge savant who continually surprises us with brilliancies. But then, upon further reflection, we discover that some of these great plays are not as unattainable as we might first think. Rather, you might just find yourself making one of these great plays if you're truly present at the table. Take for example this problem:

	Dummy	
	♠ K 8 4 3	
	♥ A Q 10 2	
	♦ 9 4 2	
	♣ Q 7	
You	South	North
♠ J 9	1NT	2♣
♥ K J 9	2♦	3NT
♦ K J 6		
♣ J 10 9 3 2		

You lead the ♣J versus 3NT and partner wins dummy's queen with his ace. Partner returns the ♣5 (original fourth best) and declarer wins the club king in hand. You can see that if you get in you can cash three more club tricks. Declarer cashes the diamond ace to see if anything good happens, but it collects three low cards: your 6, dummy's 2, and partner's 5. Declarer now takes a deep heart finesse winning the 10 in dummy. A spade back to hand and another heart

finesse and soon declarer is claiming nine tricks: three spades, four hearts, one diamond and one club. The full deal:

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

What did Selby do as West to beat the contract?

“At the other table, looking at my hand (West) and the dummy, I knew I needed to deflect declarer from what I could see would be a successful campaign. Declarer won the second round of clubs and cashed the ace of diamonds. I followed suit with the king... Declarer seemed quite pleased with himself. He was now going to make ten or eleven tricks, whereas some of the field was going to go down taking a finesse here or there. He led the five of spades to the king and ran the nine of diamonds to my jack. I had three clubs to cash for one down.”

Love it! Brilliant! And you know what else is brilliant? The news that just came out from ACBL headquarters that John Carruthers has been elected to the ACBL Hall of Fame! He will go in as the Blackwood Award winner which recognizes one's contributions to the game of bridge. Double congrats, JC!

For lots of fun story hand like the one above, and with just enough time before the Holidays, please visit [www.vinceoddy.com](http://www.vinceoddy.com) or [www.masterpointpress.com](http://www.masterpointpress.com) and order a copy of *Bridge with Another Perfect Partner*.

In this issue we welcome Canadian Junior star **Darwin Li** to the Kibitzer staff. Darwin won two gold medals at the World Youth Bridge Championships



held last August. **David Ellis** returns with a lesson on declarer play technique for newer players, plus he's made a YouTube video(!) so check out his column for more details. The incomparable Bob G: **Robert Griffiths** continues his series of deals for newer players. (He should have a III or a IV after that lordly sounding name, no?) And we welcome **Ross Driedger**, St. Mary's finest to the Kib, with a nice little lesson on defence.

When **John Rayner** owned and operated the Mississauga-Oakville Bridge Center he would frequently host special games and parties. There would be entertainment and almost always a game of some sort. In this issue we include one of his homegrown games called *Fractured Phrases*. Put on your thinking cap for these. **Howard Laufer** is back with another chapter in his amusing life adventures of learning to play duplicate.

And finally, we come to our cover story: an interview with **Samantha Punch**. She's spearheading a group called Bridge: A MindSport for All, (BAMSA) which is dedicated to promoting and fostering bridge as a social activity. She's a professor at the University of

Stirling in Scotland so takes an academic approach to the monumental task at hand.

I recently played in the Regional held in St. Catharines. What a great turnout. Tourney Chairperson extraordinaire **Kathy Morrison** was thrilled with the number of bridge players who turned out to play. Let's see if we can get some good numbers at the Toronto Sectional in January! Hope to see you there.

And finally, it's Awards Season. Unit 166 is taking nominations for the Kate Buckman Award (given to someone who contributes most to others' enjoyment of the game) and the Audrey Grant Award (for teaching excellence). Please nominate someone before Dec. 31, and email David Ellis at [ellis2106@gmail.com](mailto:ellis2106@gmail.com)

Andy Stark  
[andy.kibitzer@gmail.com](mailto:andy.kibitzer@gmail.com)

647 530 1360

On the cover: Samantha Punch

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## Now open for Face-to-Face & Virtual Bridge Games and Learning

### Mondays

- Open Game 12:00
- Shuffle & Play 12:30 Novice Casual Play w teacher
- Absolute Beginner Course (in progress Oct-Dec 2022)
- Level 2 course January 2023 (F2F and virtual both running)

### Wednesdays

- 750 Game 12:00
- 0-20 Game Supervised 12:00 Lesson at 11:15

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- Email recommended bidding for all hands and personal bidding comments

Tuesdays 49er 1:30

Thursdays 299er 1:30

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Mayfield United Church,  
12496, Dixie Road, Mayfield, Caledon ON  
Steven Norris 647-234-6352  
[albionhillsbridge@gmail.com](mailto:albionhillsbridge@gmail.com)

- Thur 1:00 pm 750

## BRONTE BRIDGE CLUB

Walton Memorial United Church  
2489 Lakeshore Road W., Oakville  
Jackie Syer 905-844-0574  
[jackiesyer@gmail.com](mailto:jackiesyer@gmail.com)

- Wed 12:30 pm Open
- Wed 12:30 pm 0-299\*

\*((\$5 games for the month of June)

## ETOBICOKE BRIDGE CENTRE

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

- Mon 12:00 pm Open
- Mon 12:00 pm Shuffle & Play
- Mon 12:00 pm Lessons
- Wed 12:30 Ppm 0 - 750
- Wed 12:30 pm 0 - 20  
(supervised lesson at 11:15)

## HALTON BRIDGE CLUB

Burlington East Presbyterian Church  
505 Walkers Line, Burlington  
Jackie Syer 905-844-0574  
[jackiesyer@gmail.com](mailto:jackiesyer@gmail.com)

- Tues 12:30 pm Open

## HART HOUSE BRIDGE CLUB

7 Hart House Circle, Toronto, ON  
416-978-2452  
[harthousebridgeclub@gmail.com](mailto:harthousebridgeclub@gmail.com)  
<http://sites.utoronto.ca/bridge/>

- Tues 6:30 pm Open

## JOSEE'S BRIDGE CLUB

Armour Heights Presbyterian Church  
105 Wilson Ave. (Avenue & 401)  
Josee Hammill [mjhammill@rogers.com](mailto:mjhammill@rogers.com)

- Mon 12:30 pm 0-20

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905-403-1333

- Mon 7:00 pm 499ers
- Tue 12:30 pm Open
- Thu 12:30 pm 0 - 2500
- Fri 12:30 Ppm 499ers

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Oakville, ON  
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647-629-3408  
Rob Drummond  
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- Mon 7:00 pm 499er and 0-20
- Wed 12:30 pm 499er

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**The next Board of Director meeting is  
Saturday January 14, 2023 at 9:00 am via video conference.**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will follow at 11:00 am.

If you wish to be added to the attendance list for the AGM,  
please contact Andy Risman at [arismanca@rogers.com](mailto:arismanca@rogers.com).



## Winners of the Kate Buckman Award

- 1982 Kate Buckman
- 1983 Ruth & Al Stevens
- 1984 Duke Wilson
- 1985 Chuck Jane
- 1986 Doug Drew
- 1987 Howard Schooley
- 1988 Glad Millman
- 1989 Katie Thorpe
- 1990 not awarded
- 1991 Elizabeth Fraser
- 1992 Eric Murray
- 1993 Steve Cooper
- 1994 David Bryce
- 1995 Barbara Seagram
- 1996 Bina Adams
- 1997 Nancy Hart
- 1998 John Carruthers
- 1999 Enid Roitman
- 2000 J. & F. O'Dowd & G. Harris
- 2001 Joan Richardson
- 2002 Patti Lee
- 2003 Michael Davey
- 2004 Irene Warner
- 2005 John Rayner
- 2006 Viktoria Renaud
- 2007 Fred Andreychuk
- 2008 Marion Watson
- 2009 Barbara Sims
- 2010 Hazel Wolpert
- 2011 Paul Cronin
- 2012 Mark Liberman
- 2013 Wayne Ruttan
- 2014 Lee Daugharty
- 2015 Carol Bongard
- 2016 Gary Westfall
- 2017 Audrey Grant
- 2018 Rob Drummond
- 2019 Jacqueline Syer
- 2020 Steve Overholt
- 2021 Andy Stark



## Winners of the Audrey Grant Award

- 2005 Audrey Grant
- 2006 Flo Belford
- 2007 Pat Teeter
- 2008 Patti Lee
- 2009 Hazel Wolpert
- 2010 Enid Roitman
- 2011 Barbara Seagram
- 2012 Sally Rewbotham
- 2013 Wayne Ruttan
- 2014 John Rayner
- 2015 \*not awarded
- 2016 Steve Overholt
- 2017 Michael Yang
- 2018 Michael Kammermayer
- 2019 Josee Hammill
- 2020 Viktoria Renaud
- 2021 \*not awarded

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- Wed 12:45 pm Open

### AURORA BRIDGE CLUB

406 Millard Ave, Newmarket, ON L3Y 1Z9  
905-895-7321  
Sally Loates [sara.loates@yahoo.com](mailto:sara.loates@yahoo.com)

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

### BARRIE BRIDGE CLUB

18 Alliance Blvd  
Barrie, ON  
705-721-9233  
Jane Foster [janekf74@hotmail.com](mailto:janekf74@hotmail.com)

- Mon 1:00 pm 299er
- Tues 1:00 pm Open
- Wed 7:00 pm Open
- Fri 12:00 pm Open

### BELLEVILLE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Belleville Masonic Temple, 132 Foster Avenue  
Belleville, ON, K8N 3P9  
Club website: [www.bridgewebs.com/belleville](http://www.bridgewebs.com/belleville)

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

Club manager - Malcolm Ewashkiw  
[mje116@bell.net](mailto:mje116@bell.net)

### BLUE MOUNTAIN DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

100 Minnesota Street  
Collingwood, ON  
705-446-9592  
Christine Blake [chrisedb@rogers.com](mailto:chrisedb@rogers.com)

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

### COBOURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

232 Spencer Street E.  
Cobourg, ON  
[pgiannandrea@gmail.com](mailto:pgiannandrea@gmail.com)

- Wed 1:00 pm Open

### LINDSAY DBC

210 Kent St. W.  
Lindsay ON  
705-464-9210  
Doug Brenner [dbrenner@sympatico.ca](mailto:dbrenner@sympatico.ca)

- Tues 1:00 pm Open

### ORILLIA DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Orillia Masonic Temple  
24 James Street E  
Orillia, Ontario  
705-325 3823

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

Details at: [www.bridgewebs.com/orillia/](http://www.bridgewebs.com/orillia/)

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184 Marina Blvd.  
Peterborough, ON  
705-745-2331  
Jo-Ann Lang [ptboblidge@gmail.com](mailto:ptboblidge@gmail.com)

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- Mon 1:00 pm 49ers
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2481 Kingsway Drive  
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519 893 4595  
Jim Dalgliesh  
[clubmanager@grandriverbridgeclub.com](mailto:clubmanager@grandriverbridgeclub.com)

- Mon 9:00 am Bridge Lab
- Tues 1:00 pm Open
- Thur 1:00 pm Open
- Fri 1:00 pm 499
- Fri 7:00 pm Open

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Thea Davis [clubmanager@guelphbridgeclub.org](mailto:clubmanager@guelphbridgeclub.org)

- Mon 1:00 pm 499, Open
- Tues 1:00 pm 199
- Wed 1:00 pm Open
- Fri 9:00 am lesson, non-sanctioned game
- Fri 1:00 pm 499, Open

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Randy Breuer

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Mailing Address  
430 McLeod Avenue N2Z 1X1  
226-396-6008  
Tom Rajnovich [tom.rajnovich@gmail.com](mailto:tom.rajnovich@gmail.com)

- Fri 1:00 pm Open

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519-601-2582  
Janine Higgins [janine@janinehiggins.ca](mailto:janine@janinehiggins.ca)

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- Mon 1:00 pm Open
- Tue 1:00 pm Bridge Lab
- Thur 1:00 pm 0-100
- Thur 1:00 pm 0-1500
- Fri 9:15 am 0-500
- Fri 1:00 pm Open

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USB Sports Bar downstairs  
519-809-7000  
Gary Robertson [garroberr@gmail.com](mailto:garroberr@gmail.com)

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

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Gord E Close [gordeclose@gmail.com](mailto:gordeclose@gmail.com)

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- Wed 1:00 pm Open

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519-832-9505  
Ian Walker [ianwalker672@gmail.com](mailto:ianwalker672@gmail.com)

- Tues 12:30 pm Open

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[littlebear@bmts.com](mailto:littlebear@bmts.com)  
Website: [Lake & Bay Bridge](#)

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- Thur 12:00 pm Open

Exact Reopening Date: TBA

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519-631-5531  
Jim Wright [manager@stthomasbridgeclub.org](mailto:manager@stthomasbridgeclub.org)

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- Tues 1:00 pm 0-500
- Thur 1:00 pm Open

### TILLSONBURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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45 Hardy Ave., Tillsonburg, ON  
Jed Drew 519-842-8786  
[jed.drew@gmail.com](mailto:jed.drew@gmail.com)

- Fri 1:00 pm Open



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2E Tremont Drive, #5,  
St. Catharines, ON  
905-704-0446  
[www.bridgecentreofniagara.com](http://www.bridgecentreofniagara.com)  
Brian Jones, [niagara@bridgewebsemail.com](mailto:niagara@bridgewebsemail.com)

- Wed 1:00 pm Open
- Thur 1:00 pm 499er

### NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CENTRE

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14 Anderson Lane, NOTL, ON  
Claude Tremblay [claudio@cmtmc.ca](mailto:claudio@cmtmc.ca)

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

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# Ontario players at the Phoenix NABC



Shan Huang & Kevin Dwyer won the Nail Life Master Pairs



Amy Casanova, Bridge Bulletin Associate Editor & Jonathan Steinberg, Region I Director



Greg Coles & Gavin Wolpert



Jacob Freeman & Sibrand van Oosten



Jacob Freeman



Linda Wynston

*photos courtesy of Jonathan Steinberg*





# Keeping Bridge Alive

## A Kib interview with Samantha Punch

I first met Samantha Punch at the 2011 Toronto NABCs. She and her team from Scotland had flown across the pond to test their abilities versus us North Americans. My team drew theirs in the first match of a 2-day KO event. It was a close match, but Sam and the Scots came out on top. Yes, it was a knockout *punch*, so to speak, pardon the pun. All I remember from that match is how fiercely she competed, of her concentrating on every bid and trick.

Flash forward to this past spring in Salsomaggiore, Italy, when I saw that Sam was competing in the world championships on the Scottish women's team. I thought, what a great person for a Kibitzer interview, (as you shall soon see). Sam has been doing all kinds of research in the past few years and announcing some of her findings on [www.bridgewinners.com](http://www.bridgewinners.com). Much of this interview took place last spring, and we followed that up with a Zoom session this past fall.

Sam is a professor in the Social Sciences department at the University of Stirling in Scotland. She was instrumental in starting up BAMSAs which stands for Bridge: A MindSport for All. What is a *mindsport* you ask. Well, you can probably figure it out. Figuring it out is a mindsport in and of itself! The BAMSAs website <https://bridgemindsport.org/> defines *mindsport* as, "a game of skill that requires mental agility rather than physical ability. Bridge, chess, draughts (checkers), go, xianqi (Chinese chess), and mahjong are all mindsports."

As their site further explains, bridge is unique amongst the mindsports in that it involves partnerships. Also, bridge is the last holdout of games in which no computer has ever beaten a human being. Chess, for example, lost this claim years ago when Deep Blue soundly defeated the world's number one chess player, (at the time) Garry Kasparov.

What's refreshing about Samantha's work is that it is for the good of our game. BAMSAs was originally titled, Keep Bridge Alive because there was evidence that our game was ... how shall I put it...dwindling out. And then along came Covid to make matters worse. Furthermore, if you recall, our Region 1 Director, Jonathan Steinberg, wrote a piece called "Saving Face-to-Face Bridge" in these pages (Summer Kibitzer, 2022). It was all about what we need to do to keep our game flourishing. It's a worldwide happenstance. Although bridge is not on life support, per se, its popularity is on a downswing.

Time to hear from Samantha Punch, who brings the same intensity and focus she displays when playing a hand of bridge to the important work of 'saving' bridge.

**Kib:** *From your Bridgewinners bio, you are "Working to establish the 'Sociology of Mind-Sport' as a new academic field with a focus on the sociology of bridge. This sounds fascinating, Sam. Can you elaborate on what you are doing as part of your research?"*



**Samantha:** BAMSA has three key goals:

- to transform the image of bridge
- to encourage more people of all ages to play
- to ensure the card game continues to thrive

In order to achieve these goals, BAMSA's starting point is to develop academic evidence on the dynamics and benefits of bridge as a mindsport. We are establishing a new academic discipline, the sociology of mindsport, using bridge as the key case study. For example, I am currently delivering a new academic module on the sociology of sport, mindport and leisure to undergraduates at the University of Stirling. As far as I know, it is the first university module (anywhere?) which includes the sociological study of mindsport.

We have five bridge research projects on the go at the moment (some finishing, others starting). Each one is publishing academic peer-reviewed papers to build

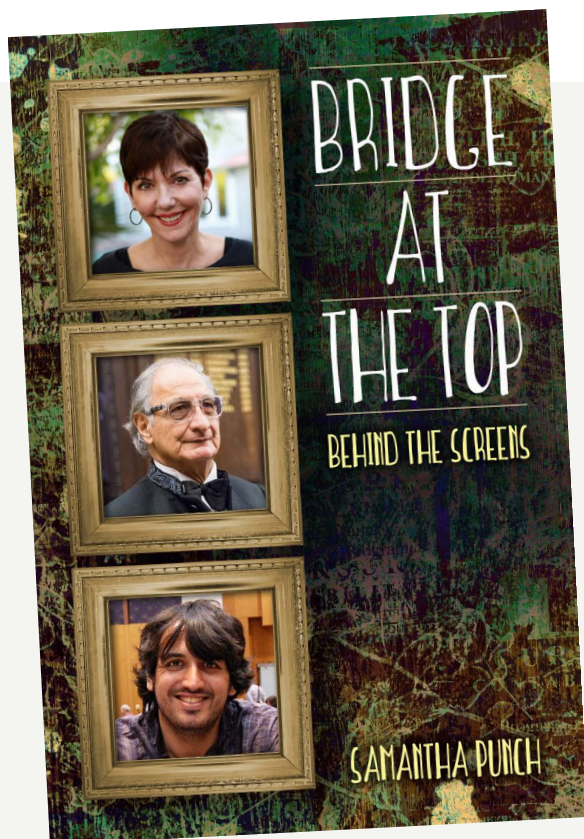
up an evidence base for bridge in the same way that chess has done for years.

However, whilst our first phase is to develop the academic evidence, the second phase is to work collaboratively with bridge organisations and practitioners (teachers, players, organisers) to ensure that the findings have a practical use for the bridge community. For example, the findings can be used to lobby policymakers to introduce bridge into the curriculum for schools.

BAMSA's remit extends beyond the world of academia and a key goal is to raise awareness about the different facets of bridge as a mindsport. Ultimately BAMSA is working towards the recognition and development of mindsport education in schools. This will offer children opportunities to develop their brain fitness and friendships through mindsports, as well as through physical sports.



Samantha presenting the bridge, gender and sexism research to the European Bridge League



This book is dedicated to Justin Lall, my first interviewee, who exemplified many of the key qualities of a top player discussed in this book. He sadly passed away at just thirty-three years old in August 2020 as the manuscript was being finalized. This quote from Justin's interview captures the essence of Bridge at the Top and reflects why many loved playing with him:

*Being a good partner, getting the best out of your partner, is just very important, and having your partner know that you are not going to yell means they will not be overly cautious — they'll just play the game. If people are comfortable playing the game, then they will play well. Whatever level someone is at, you want them to play the best that they can.*

Samantha's book *Bridge at the Top* is published by MasterPoint Press and is available as an ebook from <https://ebooksbridge.com>

**Kib:** *How is it all going so far?*

**Samantha:** So far, we have seven published academic papers, each with an accessible two-page summary on our website (<https://bridgeminisport.org/home/research/>). I've published a book – *Bridge at the Top: Behind the Screens* based on the interviews with top players. Most people outside the bridge world do not realize that bridge can be played at elite level with world championships and professional players. So, this work contributes to shifting the stereotypical images of bridge in wider society.

We also held a four-day online conference in June 2021 with 8 two-hour sessions covering a range of bridge topics (including wellbeing, digital bridge and the pandemic, cheating, gender, ageing, education and youth bridge, marketing). All the presentations and recordings of the discussions are freely available on the BAMSA website (via the events section). We had over 500 participants attending from 62 countries.

Our newest project is *Bridging Schools*, where we will be interviewing pupils, teachers, and parents about the experience of learning bridge at school. Another mission, based on BAMSA's research findings on gender and bridge, is to encourage the World Bridge Federation and European Bridge League to develop an Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) policy. We must stamp out everyday sexism and other *isms* if we are to be more welcoming to players from all social groups. Addressing gender inequalities within the game will also help to decrease the high drop-out rate of young women players.

**Kib:** *Do you get funding for these types of projects from the government and/or the private sector?*

**Samantha:** I spent two years crowdfunding to raise money to pay part-time researchers to work with me (donations still very much appreciated- <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/u5c0e5e7810869>). My salary is covered by the University of Stirling, and in order



to get the work started the University subsidised the research heavily by not charging for overheads, administration, nor for my time. Hence BAMSA has been able to achieve a lot with not such a large budget. We are a small team of part-time researchers, with some additional costs for the BAMSA website and developing the resources/outputs.

Once we have established a track-record in this new field of the sociology of mindsport, BAMSA aims to seek a large research grant for an interdisciplinary, cross-cultural project with practical outcomes. For example, this would be for a project on healthy ageing and tackling social isolation or on digital learning and building intergenerational relations. An ideal would be if someone like Bill Gates or other bridge sponsors would support such a project.

**Kib:** *If the WBF gave you 5-7 minutes on the microphone and you could address everyone involved here at the world championships (players, captains, coaches, staff, committee members, everyone), what would be your message? What can we do to help keep bridge alive?*

**Samantha:** We can all help to spread the bridge bug. I remembered about my desire to learn bridge, after one guy at work on a Monday morning spoke so passionately about winning a bridge congress that weekend. His eyes lit up and I wanted to know more about what made them sparkle so much.

I often try to tell people what a great game it is and that it is never too soon nor too late to learn. Once in the gym I was on a cycling machine next to someone and suggested he give it a go. Three years later he bumped into me, thanking me for sowing the seed. We also shouldn't worry about teaching children in school and it being hard to retain them. The seed is sown – even if they return to the game in twenty years, you have helped that to happen.

I would also talk about some of the points above relating to the need to develop mindsport education, so we are not just relying on individual charismatic

teachers to start a school bridge club. Collectively we need to work together to get mindsports integrated into teacher training colleges in the same way that physical education is. The other thing that would be helpful is to dialogue with policymakers outside the bridge world to integrate bridge as a solution for tackling rising global rates of loneliness and mental health issues.

**Kib:** *Is Scotland like the rest of the world where bridge is on the decline? I feel like bridge peaked in North America around the late 60s to mid 70s. Since the mid 40s it seemed every couple played, perhaps not well, but they played. Nowadays, folks are not picking it up until their late 50s, if they pick it up at all. How dire is it?*

**Samantha:** The growth of bridge was between 1930s—'50s as it was a cheap and fun leisure activity when people relied on entertainment within the home. Cards was a popular pastime and people learnt from family and friends in the local neighbourhood. There was a lack of competing interests and bridge was fashionable with lots of publicity in newspapers. Back then top players were like minor celebrities who were both role models and promoters of the game.

Gradual decline began from the 1960s as some of these things started to change. Nowadays more leisure choices are available, and many are quicker to learn than bridge. We are more used to instant gratification and some hobbies have become more physical to compensate for lack of activity at work (with many jobs involving less manual labour). More women now work outside the home, so they have less time to play, especially during the day. So, it has become perceived as more of a past-time for older people in retirement.

Hence a key thing we need to do is to publicize bridge as a mindsport for all ages, showing the benefits for children, for community building and for intergenerational bonding. Another thing is not necessarily to resist too much that it is a game for



those with more time on their hands – i.e. the pre-retirees looking for a less physically demanding leisure activity, or the empty-nesters who are searching for a new challenge. Depending on the context, sometimes it might make more sense to channel energy, time, and investment to the older age groups if that is where successful uptake is more likely. We should celebrate and promote that bridge is a great game for older people rather than just lament that there are not enough younger players.

However, it is also about creating more varied and new opportunities for teaching bridge to younger people too. BAMSAs believes one way of doing that, is to develop the notion of mindsport education for schools – encouraging mind fitness alongside physical fitness. Bridge offers the non-sporty children or children with Asperger’s or physical disabilities to engage in an activity that may appeal to them and allows them to make friendships and challenge themselves through playing cards.

So yes, bridge has lost some of its traditional popularity, but there are avenues to expand its popularity within different parts of society. We need to accept that when teaching bridge, several approaches might be needed for beginners: for those with no knowledge of card games, for those who know about suits and tricks, for those who prefer digital learning and for those who prefer to learn in face-to-face environments. Lifelong learning should be fun so it is helpful if the teaching methods and style can reflect that.

**Kib:** *What are all the aspects of bridge that bring you joy?*

**Samantha:** The thrill of problem-solving every 7-8 minutes, the thrill of winning (always made sweeter because of the pain of losing) and the thrill of escaping to the bridge bubble for several days/weeks and losing track of everything else.



Samantha framed!

## Managing emotions

Here's an extract from Samantha's paper titled [Playing with Emotions: Emotional Complexity in the Social World of Elite Tournament Bridge](#), *Emotions and Society*

"Players of competitive sports are required to maintain composure in a controlled way ([Peterson, 2015](#)). However, bridge is similar to chess, where, unlike physical sports, there are fewer opportunities for 'acting out' ([Fine, 2015](#)). Our findings show all players engaging in emotion management, rooted in a common perception that emotions are detrimental at the bridge table and should be strategically managed to improve outcomes. Players explain that being emotional detracts from concentrating on the bridge hand, and momentary lack of focus may lead to avoidable mistakes:

'Emotions at the bridge table are bad, period – especially negative ones. Negative emotions are real killers.' (Jeff Meckstroth, 64, USA)

'Concentration is more difficult if you allow yourself to get emotional. So, if you're cross with partner, it may be you who makes the next mistake.' (Brian Senior, 67, England)

As Susanna Gross (51, England) puts it, to be emotional "is clearly detrimental," because "it's just diverting your energy from the task at hand."

Hence, players self-consciously try to instrumentalize their emotions, to achieve better outcomes. This is key to partnership dynamics and players' ideas about what makes a good bridge partner:

'A good temperament is someone who is a good

partner – so they are pleasant, they don't pull faces, they are easy to play with, sympathetic.' (David Gold, 41, England)

'Temperament is everything. You really just have to be encouraging and keep a positive attitude. You can't get too emotional. You've got to be supportive of your partner.' (Jeff Meckstroth, 64, USA)

A central part of emotion management in bridge is managing emotion in partnership. This means being attuned to the emotions one is giving off at the table, including via facial expressions and body language, as well as more active efforts to avoid emotional outbursts:

'♠My partner♥ doesn't care if I look grumpy, but if you're playing with weaker players and you're sitting ... sometimes when you focus it looks like you're upset, but I focus really hard on not trying to look unhappy when I play.' (Jenny Wolpert, 34, USA)

This indicates how players manage their own emotions to benefit their partner, which is common in team sports where prosocial actions require 'taking into consideration the needs of others and accommodating others' needs by adjusting or altering one's own behaviours' ([Tamminen and Crocker, 2013](#): 743).

However, 'the complexity of interpersonal regulation' means that players may be trying to 'regulate their own and others' emotions without fully appreciating the emotional state of their teammate' ([Campo et al., 2017](#): 387). Over time, players learn how their own and their partners' emotions are tied to specific actions and try to minimise situations of conflict."

~Samantha Punch





**Kib:** *Let's go back to the beginning a bit. Where did you grow up; how did you get introduced to bridge? And when did you know you were "hooked"?*

**Samantha:** I grew up in Tonbridge, Kent in England. I studied in Leeds and then my first academic job was as a researcher in Stirling, Scotland and I've lived there ever since. For the first year of my job, I was finishing off my PhD (on the sociology of childhoods in rural Bolivia), so when the PhD was finally completed, I decided to take up a new hobby as I had evenings and weekends back. I phoned up Stirling Bridge Club, joined the lessons half-way through (which meant starting with bidding at the two level – my excuse for being an overbidder) and caught up the rest via the teacher's notes and books.

I had first encountered a simplified form of bridge whilst travelling in Brazil for a month at 21 years old. I made a mental note to learn the real bridge someday, and finally got round to it at 29 years after finishing

my PhD. I knew straightaway on reading the first ten lessons I had missed, that it was a card game that I was going to enjoy.

I really became 'hooked' when a local bridge club member suggested I went to a weekend congress with them to play bridge from Friday through to Sunday evening. 'Why would I want to do that?' I asked, content with playing once a week on beginner's night at the club. 'Ah, I get it' was my response after realizing another bridge world beyond the club existed and offered another layer of challenge and excitement.

And that's something to remember – many newer or young players don't know about the possibility of bridge tournaments beyond the school/club or the opportunity to represent your country (or region). It is up to us to create opportunities to help the new players to get hooked.

**Kib:** *Are there others at your institution whom you've turned on to bridge? Do you get support from your colleagues regarding your bridge projects? (Curious to know if some of the academics scoff at the thought of playing bridge.)*

**Samantha:** Yes, I've inflicted bridge onto quite a few of my colleagues! I've brought in researchers to help with particular aspects of the research – such as an academic whose area of expertise is the sociology of work. He has helped with theorizing the findings around the professionalization of bridge and the notion of 'devotee work' (ie. when your hobby becomes your job).

We also set up a University Bridge Club and invited members of the local community to join in so we had a mix of students, staff and wider community. At first there was some amusement regarding the bridge research – see <https://archive.discoverysociety.org/2019/12/04/taking-bridge-seriously/?msclid=7796d740b6b711eca4ed563ab62c4f9f>



Dr Miriam Snellgrove worked three days a week across several bridge studies, and she found that her colleagues could not take it seriously as an area for research. I think there are several reasons for that – people see it as a game, not as serious leisure which contributes to wellbeing and improved mental health, as well as helping to develop transferable life skills such as empathy, cooperation and problem-solving in the context of incomplete information. There is also a perception of it being a dull game for little old ladies rather than a cut-throat competitive arena where players of all ages can battle their wits.

Some think that research should be about improving society – addressing poverty for example and how could a game like bridge be worthy of research funding? The answer is because it can address big societal problems like social isolation and loneliness for example. Community cohesion and the building of intergenerational relations are aspects of society that are becoming lost – bridge offers community and intergenerational bonding. It is certainly an innovative area for research which can help to tackle societal challenges like healthy ageing which should start in childhood, not in older age.

## Links to Samantha's articles and research

Our 8 research projects are on the Research area of our website:

<https://bridgemindsport.org/home/research/>

There is also a list to our current publications in the attached and each has a two-page summary on the website (in each project via the link above)

The main two projects that might interest players are:

Bridging Minds:

<https://bridgemindsport.org/home/research/bridging-minds/>

Bridging Gender:

<https://bridgemindsport.org/home/research/bridging-gender/>

And there's also Bridging Covid but we've not got much out on that yet, though there's this policy piece:

Snellgrove, M., Punch, S and Rees, T. (2021) Using Digital Leisure to Tackle Social Isolation, [Policy Briefing for the Scottish Government](#).

Blog on Taking Bridge Seriously

<https://archive.discover society.org/2019/12/04/taking-bridge-seriously/>

~Samantha Punch

**Kib:** *Do you have a favourite bridge memory that you can share (perhaps one you have not shared before) that encapsulates why you love the game?*

**Samantha:** One good memory was playing against the Nickell team in the first round of the Spingold (a 64-board match). It was Zia and Bob's first outing, and it was exciting to be playing them, surrounded by their kibitzers. At one point Zia asked us to stop pre-empting so much (we figured that aggressive bidding was a sensible tactic against such a team). With 8 boards to go we were winning, and Zia was on lead to a slam with two aces – he led the wrong one. Coach Kokish whispered to him that they may have just lost the match. Alas our teammate with Zia's cards couldn't decide which ace to lead, so led neither... They piled on a few imps, we lost, the upset never happened...

A few years later though we did beat a couple of great teams to get to the round of 16 in the Spingold and for four-handed amateurs that was fun...

**Kib:** *One of the themes I'm trying to explore with different articles in The Kibitzer is answering the question, "Why do we play bridge?" I'll start with a couple rapid fire reasons, and then I invite you to fill in as many as you can think of....*

- Love for the competitive arena and the knees need replacing
- To meet other like-minded people
- To meet people

**Samantha:**

- For escapism and to experience 'flow'
- For the thrill of winning and to try to avoid the pain of losing
- For the drunken post-mortems until 4 in the morning...
- For the varied challenges of every new hand

**Kib:** *Speaking of a new hand...time for a hand! Can you share with us one of your triumphs in Salsomaggiore?*

**Samantha:** There was a hand in the match versus Brazil where my partner Anne Symons and I bid to a nice slam in spades, and we picked up 11 imps when our counterparts stopped in game. I was North and opened 1♠ in third seat:

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

Anne, South bid 2♣ Drury. I bid 2♥ which is natural and forward going. My partner now re-evaluated her ♥K (as it fit my side heart suit) and jumped to 3♠. This was all the encouragement I needed so I bid 3NT which is a serious slam try in our methods. She made a control bid in clubs and soon we were in 6♠.

Although a diamond lead would have been more challenging, the opening lead of a club made the hand play quickly. I could pitch my losing diamond on the club king in dummy.

**Kib:** *Great auction and well-deserved result! I'd like to close with one last question about how we can go about saving bridge...I wonder if there's a precedent out there of some other pastime that was on the brink of 'disappearing' and somehow brought back and regained some of its popularity.*

**Samantha:** It's a good question, I can't say I've thought about trying to find an equivalent case study and looked at what they did. There are some people who say, "Oh things come and go, and we should not be worried; if it's time to die, it's time to die." But I



don't really believe that. I really do believe that there's so much that bridge offers. If we can get it thought of more, and marketed more as a mindsport, and if folks can become aware of all the benefits of a mindsport such as mental well-being and forming community, the community cohesion aspect...there's just so many aspects to it. We're sold on bridge but we're just talking to ourselves about it. What we do need to do about it is get it into government agendas. We need to get it into education curriculum and to teacher training colleges. I mean, something big has to change.

We also need to look closer at our methods. We are not successful at teaching young people. One, we've tried to replicate our face-to-face situation onto the online environment. We need to completely rethink

how we teach bridge in an online environment in an interactive way. And have better tools to do that. And two, we've tried to teach young people the same way we teach older people, so we need different methods there. We read from books. But kids don't read books—they learn from watching online. They watch 5-minute videos so how can we produce learning bridge in fun, short, snippet ways? They learn rather complicated video games so how can we replicate that? It's got to be energetic and exciting, and it's got to have levels, and something entices them to go to the next level...so we need a gamer to design something. But this costs big money. So, we need collaboration, backed by big NBOs and the WBF.

**Kib:** *Thank you, Sam.*



# Driedger for the Defense

By Ross Driedger

You find yourself at your local club for the Friday night duplicate. It is ‘just a club game’ but the Friday night field is the toughest on the schedule. Everyone is a Life Master and you would guess the average rating of the players is between 2500 and 3000 masterpoints.

In second chair, with both sides not vulnerable, you, West, pick up:

♠Q 10 5 2 ♥K 10 3 2 ♦6 3 2 ♣A 2

The auction is simple:

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
Pass	3NT	All pass	INT

South’s notrump range is 15-17 HCPs. Your lead.

The traditional wisdom in this auction is to look for a major suit lead, and since you have both, is there a better holding to lead from between your hearts and spades?

At most, partner has 5 HCPs and you would like to hit some value in her hand. If you lead a heart, you will be happy to catch partner with the A or Q of that suit – two cards that she likely does not hold. A spade is hoping for the A, K or J opposite; one more card than in hearts, and one of those cards leaving partner with other values on the outside.

You lead the ♠2.

Dummy  
 ♠ 7 6 4  
 ♥ Q J 9  
 ♦ K Q J 4  
 ♣ J 5 3

You  
 ♠ Q 10 5 2  
 ♥ K 10 3 2  
 ♦ 6 3 2  
 ♣ A 2

The first trick goes: ♠2, 4, 9, jack.

So much for all the fancy thinking about which major to lead, but declarer doesn’t have nine tricks yet, so while the lead was initially disappointing, you must keep focus. You and partner are playing upside down attitude and standard count.

The play continues. Declarer plays the ♦5 to the king in dummy while partner follows with the 2. At trick three, declarer calls for the heart queen. Do you duck this trick or win with the king? If you take this trick, how do you continue?

A lot of information on defense can be gleaned from the way declarer plays the hand. This deal is a perfect example. Let’s count up the points, then consider each suit to see if we can build up a picture of the hand. If declarer’s opening is normal, then partner is sitting on 4 to 6 HCPs. In spades, partner will have played her highest, the 9. This leaves declarer with 8 HCPs in spades: the ace, king and jack. Also, we know declarer



Ross is a software developer/consultant/educator based out of London, On. His areas of expertise are music software, games, and educational software, artificial intelligence and secure code. Ross is also a musician (composer, arranger, singer), though my focus in music is on writing music software.

A Silver Life Master, he spends much of his free time playing contract bridge, achieving that standing mostly in the past 7 years. Bridge is a game of making and avoiding errors and whenever I feel I need a lesson in humility, a session of bridge with an honest appraisal of my errors is a good dose of therapy.

has the ♠8 as partner would have played the 8, holding both the 9 and the 8.

In hearts, declarer's play marks him with the ace. If he did not have that card, he would have led to dummy instead of going to dummy to play the queen. Further, declarer's play makes no sense if he only has two cards. With doubleton ace, he would have likely played the suit differently.

In diamonds, while we cannot be 100% certain, it looks like declarer has the ace and is using the suit for transportation purposes. If he does not hold the ace, he would have continued the suit to force the ace; then he would have manufactured a dummy entry in hearts, if needed. Further, if declarer has the diamond ace, then it cannot be ace doubleton, otherwise he has just blocked the suit.

So based on what we know, we can place declarer with:

♠A K J 8 (x) ♥A x x (x) ♦A x 5 (x) ♣x x (x)

Outside of clubs, declarer has shown 16 HCPs and so cannot hold a club honour. Given this construction, he has three spade tricks, one heart, and four diamonds. If you duck this, he will claim his ninth trick and his contract.

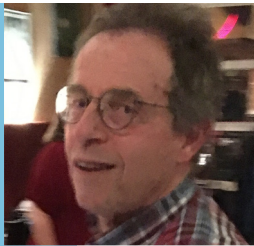
Do not dare duck this trick! You will lose the post-mortem with partner, trying to justify a poor result. Instead, win the heart king and play the ace of clubs and then the 2, allowing partner to cash her club suit for down 3 and a good board. The full deal:

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

Notice declarer went after hearts as soon as possible to give you a problem. (If the king is onside 3NT is cold.) And if declarer cashed all his diamonds first, before taking the heart finesse, partner would have had a chance to signal for a club. But you figured that out all by yourself!

## 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.



# For Newer Players

By Robert Griffiths

## A PRESIDENTIAL DEAL

Playing in the pair game at the recent London Tournament, I came up against a pair I know well. I won't mention their names. I'll just call them the Presidents of our Local Bridge Clubs or PLBCs.

I was North and liked my hand. I opened 1♥. PLBC East quickly bid 2NT, unusual for the minors. My partner passed and PLBC West bid 4♣. This is not a constructive bid; West has a bunch of clubs and no interest in defending hearts.

I was not about to defend 4♣, so I tried 4♥. A double might be a better bid, giving my partner the option of spades but I did not want any doubles left in.

In a nanosecond PLBC East bid 6♣! This was passed back to me.

Board 1  
North Deals  
None Vul

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

Most high level bids are made with due consideration. When a competent opponent quickly and confidently bids a slam, they likely know what they are doing; this contract was going to be a success.

It was passed back to me and I felt like I was looking at a roulette wheel with just 3 bids on it: Double, Pass and 6♥.

First, I thought, "So many high cards, I must double."

Then, "But it was bid so confidently, I should pass."

Then, "If they are making 6♣, I should sacrifice in 6♥. I could go down 4, doubled for -800, and still show a profit over their 920."

In the end, it seems that I was neither sure enough of their success to try the sacrifice nor sure enough of their failure to double. So, I meekly passed.

To top it all off, I led the ♥A, allowing East to take all 13 tricks. Only the lead of the ♠A would hold them to 12.

In spite of making the wrong bid and the wrong lead, we scored above average on the hand. Almost half of the field played in 6♣, doubled, most making with an overtrick. Only one pair in the field failed to bid the slam and one NS pair did find the 6♥ sacrifice.

Oddly, one partner in the pair that found the sacrifice was a former President of both the aforementioned local bridge clubs--a past PLBC. These guys are everywhere!

## WORST OVERCALL EVER

Playing in a pairs game, West opened 1♣. I was North and idly thought I could squeak in a 1♦ overcall, showing some values and something of a diamond suit.

East passed as did my partner and West doubled. With his big hand, West just wanted to hear more from East.

East had no qualms about passing 1♦ doubled. She had a lot of defensive tricks and neither knew nor cared that she and her partner might be missing a game.

Board 7  
South Deals  
Both Vul

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

The play wasn't fun. East led a spade, won by West who returned a spade to my king. I tried a club towards the dummy giving West the chance to win two club tricks while East threw away two of her hearts. Then West played the ace and queen of hearts; my king was ruffed out.

East led another spade, so I ruffed to make a second trick. That plus the ♦A was all I could do, so I managed 3 tricks and a score of -1100. If East had gone right after trumps, I might have been held to 2 tricks.

Not my finest hour.

What did the 'field' do with this hand? Half of the NS pairs got plus scores when EW tried the spade slam which failed with both major kings offside.

The other half of the field scored negative results when EW stopped in game. No pairs achieved my level of incompetence.

## A SAFE WAY TO MAKE EXTRAS

This hand is from the recent Ray Mille tournament in Guelph.

South dealt and opened 1♦. NS were playing precision; the diamond opening promised two or more diamonds and 11/16 HCPs with no 5-card major. West passed and North bid 1♠. East jumped to 2NT which promised clubs and diamonds in this situation; South's diamond bid was considered artificial. South passed and West bid 3. North kept on with 3♥ and South jumped to 4♠ after East's pass.

East led the ♣J against 4♠. North can see 11 easy tricks if the spade split is not 4-0. Should North simply take their 11 tricks?

No. The game is matchpoints; every trick matters. If North can find a way to make 12 tricks, he should go for it.

Board 19  
South Deals  
EW Vul

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



The only hope of making an extra trick is in the club suit. From the auction, North can assume that East has 5 clubs, leaving 3 with West. East ought to be the 5 to 3 favourite to hold any particular club. If so, playing the ♣Q at trick one will provide the 12th trick.

This is a poor plan here. If West wins trick 1 with the ♣K and shifts to a diamond then declarer will make only 10 tricks rather than the 11 he counted originally. He could even go down if the spades split 4-0.

Instead, North can find a safer way to play for a twelfth trick. If he wins trick 1 with dummy's ♣A and

draws trumps, he has enough entries to dummy to ruff 2 clubs. When the ♣K falls from the West hand, dummy's queen is set up to throw one of his diamond losers away.

East may have been the favourite to hold the ♣K but when declarer starts with 11 tricks on a hand and scores only 10 tricks a poor score is almost guaranteed. South should find a way to make overtricks that does not endanger the tricks he already has.



## *We are still playing online*

We have a 599er game every day at 1:00 pm and three 0-1500 games per week.

Our face-to-face Stratified game is on Mondays at 12:30 pm at St. John's Anglican Church

Check out our website: Stephen's Bridge Club at [Bridgewebs.com](http://Bridgewebs.com)

Sign up for weekly emails at [lauferbridge@gmail.com](mailto:lauferbridge@gmail.com)

Phone Richard at 416-816-7115













# Declarer Play Technique

By David Ellis

Once the bidding is over it is up to the declarer to win as many tricks as possible, especially in matchpoint scoring. In team games, playing IMPs, it is important that the declarer makes the contract and extra tricks are less important. The declarer has many techniques to use: finesses, squeeze plays, loser-on-loser plays, ruffing losers, strip endplays (aka The Strip and Throw-in play or Elimination play), discarding losers on long suits, etc. However, sometimes the declarer must guess what the best line of play is.

There are 2 mathematical concepts the declarer can use: Theory of Vacant Spaces and Principle of Restricted Choice.

Question #1:

Can you explain how those concepts work and how they may improve your chances for a better score?

Question #2:

Occasionally, the declarer will get a mirrored or reflective hand, which makes the normal techniques impossible to use. Do you know the principles to use when declarer gets these hands?

Answer #1

## Theory of Vacant Spaces

A Vacant Space is defined as the number of possible locations in which a particular card can occur. At the start of a hand, the probability that a particular card lies in a particular hand is one-quarter, or  $1/4$ , or  $13/52$ , the proportion of vacant places in that hand.

Here's an example hand to illustrate. East opens  $3\heartsuit$ , South overcalls 3NT and North bids 6NT. The opening lead is the  $\heartsuit 3$  and here are the North-South cards:

♠ 8 7 6 3  
♥ 6 4  
♦ A J 6 5  
♣ A Q 4

♠ A K Q  
♥ K Q 5  
♦ K 10 9 8  
♣ K 8 7

East wins with the heart ace and returns the heart jack. West discards the  $\clubsuit 2$ .

By calculating the heart distribution, you know for sure that East has 7 hearts and West has one heart at the start of the hand. Assessing Vacant Spaces, you know that West has 12 cards that are unknown, and East has 6 cards that are unknown. Therefore, there is twice the chance ( $12/6$ ) that the  $\diamond Q$  is in West's hand. This is a conditional probability of this occurring based on the Theory of Vacant Spaces. In order to use this theory, the declarer must always COUNT both HCPs and Distribution at the first trick and ongoing throughout the hand.

## Principle of Restricted Choice

When you're missing two touching honours (usually Q-J) and one gets played unusually early, assume it's a singleton and their partner has the other honour in a 9-card fit.

Example:           ♠ A 10 8 7  
                      ♠ K 9 4 3 2

Say you start by cashing the ace. If West plays the jack, assume it is a singleton and finesse East for the queen.

Explanation: The jack is either from a singleton jack or a doubleton Q-J. (If they played the jack from Q-J-x, what we do is irrelevant we're always losing to the Q.) The singleton jack is more likely, so you should play East for Q-x-x and finesse. In theory, if West had Q-J, West could play either card half the time, but if West had a singleton jack he must play it. In short, his choice is restricted. So, when you see the jack, West is twice as likely to have a singleton. Since from singleton jack, they will have to play the jack 100% of the time, while from Q-J they will play the jack only 50% of the time.

Restricted Choice usually applies with the classic Q-J combination guess, but it can occur with the J-10 combination or 2 touching equivalent cards.

### TV Show Example

Remember the TV Game "Let's make a Deal" with Canadian host, Monty Hall. Behind 3 doors there are 1 car + 2 goats, and the contestant must choose 1 door. Let's say the contestant chooses Door #1. Monty would always say, I am first going to reveal what is behind (say) Door #3. Door #3 would always have a goat behind it (NEVER a car). Now Monty would say, "Do you want to stick with #1, or change to #2?" This is the exact same thing as the Queen/Jack decision. Monty's choice of doors to show the contestant was restricted!

You should assume Monty displayed door #3 because he had to (singleton jack). If your door (#1) contained a goat (as it will 1 time in 3), Monty has to reveal the other goat door. He knows the car is behind #2. He has to show you #3 (he has to play the jack).

So, when Monty offers you a switch, you should switch. You will WIN THE CAR 2/3 of the time! Yes—you will win 2/3 (67%) of the time by always switching.

- When defender plays a face card, the probability that that player holds any equivalent card is 33%. It is usually held by the other defender.
- When West has the singleton J, they have no choice but to play it. When they have Q-J, they will play either the queen or the jack 50% of the time. Therefore, when West plays the jack, he is twice as likely to have a singleton. This is the Principle of Restricted choice.
- Train yourself to pay attention to these unexpected high card plays from the defence. If there are two touching cards missing and one gets played, assume it's a singleton.
- Eg., you hold A, K, 10, and the defence holds Q J. If one player plays the jack on the first trick in this suit, then the other player most likely has the queen.

## Answer #2

Occasionally you must declare a hand with a mirror image such as this one:

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

♠ A 10 4 3  
♥ K 8  
♦ J 6 4 3  
♣ A J 6

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
all pass			

## Assessment:

You receive a low club lead. There are three diamond losers. There are no club or heart loser. Maybe the ♠Q is a loser. The bidding gives us no clues. West has led away from a worthless club suit, a passive lead as declarer/dummy have all the honours. West likely has a diamond honour and probably a heart honour and would not lead away from them as leading away from honours can lose a trick.

## Examples:

#1: West's hand: ♠Q52 ♥Q975 ♦A5 ♣9742.

West would not lead a suit with an honour and would lead 4<sup>th</sup> highest (♣2) or a BOSTON (♣9)

#2: West's hand: ♠652 ♥Q975 ♦A5 ♣9742. Leading a trump would be another good passive lead. The choice would be random – a 50% choice.

## West's choice is restricted:

In #1, with the ♠Q, West will always lead a club;  
In #2, without the ♠Q, they might lead a club or a trump.

The Plan: Cash ♠A, then lead a small spade finessing West for the ♠Q. This beats a blind guess!

Therefore, with mirrored hands, when you cannot ruff losers or pitch losers on long suits in the dummy, try for extra tricks by finessing. Also, you can try to throw in the opponents at an opportune time (endplay), and hope something good happens.

## To all my bridge colleagues

My wife and I left Toronto (Hollywood North) and spent the month of November in California. We played serious F2F bridge but failed with our try-outs for acting. However, we made a movie. I used my teaching techniques that I used as an Academic Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto and elsewhere around the world. I presented a problem, defined, and explained it thoroughly, gave solutions, and demonstrated the answers using slides, graphics, and video.

You can see the movie! It's a short 25-minute video about declarer's entry management. It is an educational video and stars Mike Kammermayer, the Bridge Director at the Granite Club in Toronto. I want to thank both Jocelyn and Linda for playing small parts.

To watch, type "Concepts of Entry Management" into the search bar on YouTube, or click on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZD8kXOn2IU>. I caution you that you may want to watch it many times as the concepts are quite complex. I would appreciate very much if you would click the thumbs up icon.

Suggestions or comments are always welcome. Please share this link with all your other bridge partners, colleagues, and friends.

~David Ellis





# St. Catharines Double Squeeze

Roisin O’Hara declared 6NT so well during the recent St. Catharines Regional Swiss that her opponents told her it belonged in the Kibitzer. So here it is, thanks to the encouragement of Andrei Prodan and Adrian Barna.

First, a note about the bidding. To show a balanced hand with 22-24 points, most experienced duplicate players start with 2♣, then rebid 2NT over their partner’s 2♦ bid. So far, nobody has bid a real suit, so Stayman and Transfers are on. North, Roisin’s husband Paul O’Hara, bid 3♣ and when Roisin denied a heart suit, he put her in the notrump slam.

♠ A 2  
♥ 9 6 5 4  
♦ K 4 2  
♣ K 8 3 2

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

♠ J 10 9 8  
♥ 10 8 3  
♦ Q 10 8 7 6  
♣ 6

(Roisin)  
♠ K 7 5 3  
♥ A K Q  
♦ A 5  
♣ A Q 7 4



Roisin gardening in her backyard

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	6NT	all pass	

Opening lead: ♣J

It’s a good slam—cold if clubs break 3-2 and hearts break 3-3. And if not, there are squeeze possibilities...

Roisin won the ♣J with the ace as everyone followed. The ♣Q was played next and East pitched a diamond.

With clubs not breaking Roisin had to look elsewhere for her 12th trick. She also had to assume that hearts would play for four tricks. Since she can afford to lose one trick, Roisin played a small spade from each hand. Squeeze enthusiasts will recognize this play as “rectifying the count.”

East won a cheap spade trick per force and returned a heart.

Declarer now played three rounds of hearts, thankful that everyone followed. Now to play the cards in the right order to take advantage of a squeeze.

Roisin crossed over to the ♣K, East pitching a second diamond.

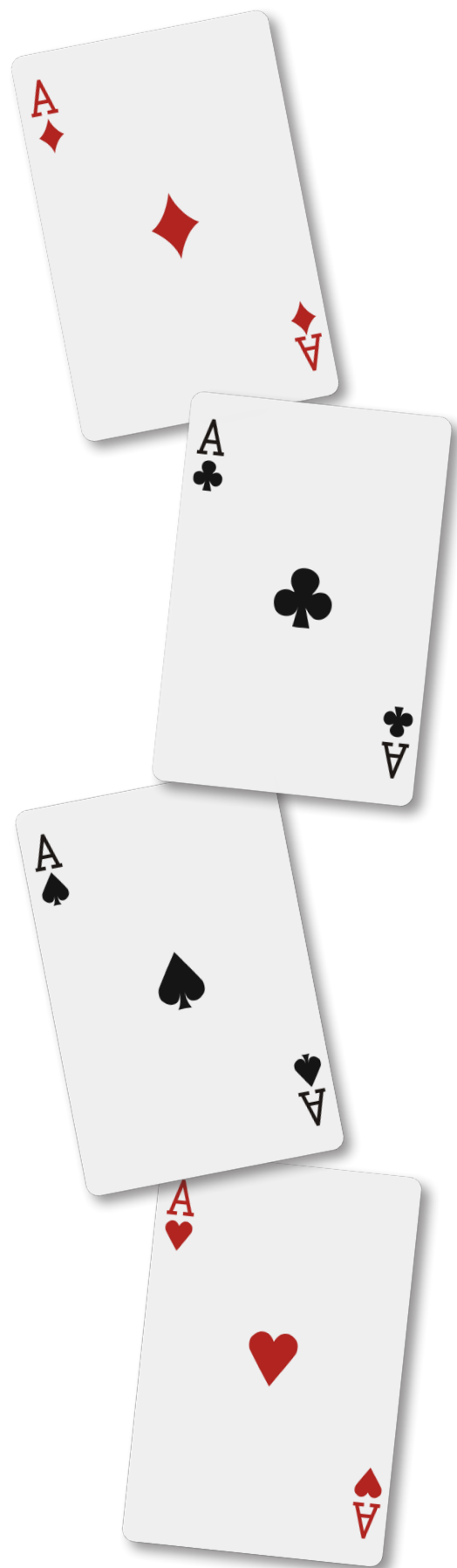
The last heart was played from dummy. On this, East pitched a third diamond, having to guard his spades. Meanwhile, West pitched a spade.

Declarer pitched the losing club in hand. The ace of spade was then played with everyone following. Here is the end position after the ♠A was played:

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

Declarer crossed back to hand with a low diamond to the ace. But when the ♠K was played, West had to throw a diamond in order to keep the ♣10. The ♣8 in dummy was still a threat. Roisin pitched the ♣8 under the ♠K.

There are two tricks left and suddenly nobody could protect diamonds, so dummy's lowly ♦2 took the last trick. Well played, Roisin. And thanks to the A's, Andrei and Adrian, for being such good sports.





# Find Your Game

By Howard Laufer

When I retired, I filled my time with favourite hobbies and pastimes like most retirees do. For me it was travelling, golfing, and playing cards. A lot of people who retire are worried that they will literally be bored to death but in fact, retirees tend to be busy people who can't seem to find enough time in the day to complete all the tasks they set out to do. I think anyone who retires needs variety in the things that they do, but most of us tend to gravitate towards one or two things that we love to do.

For me, I need a challenge. Sure, I golf and that's one heck of a challenge for anyone. Chasing a little white ball around a golf course might seem ridiculous to some, but to others, it is a passion. One benefit of golf is that for an entire morning or afternoon you can escape the stress and worry of everyday life. You stay focused on the task at hand and don't think of much else. Bridge is like that too; only more so. Now that I am a little older and wiser, I prefer playing bridge compared to anything else. What I didn't realize when I first started playing was that bridge tends to consume you like a fire-breathing dragon devouring its prey.

At my first duplicate game in a small town where I lived, I found players of various abilities and skill levels. We were all thrown in together in an "open game." We were told that even though we were beginners, we had to play against players with thousands of masterpoints. "Games are stratified," they said, "you are really only competing against players in your own "stratification" level.

Somehow it didn't seem fair. "That's okay," said the experts, "it's how we all started. Playing against the best makes you a better player. You learn by experience." The old timers always reminded us that 'back in the day' when they started there were no limited games for beginners; just open games---so just dive in and play with the sharks. That's where you really learned the game. Who were they kidding? Just because they learned that way doesn't make it the right way. Sure, it's always better playing in good competition to pick up the nuances of the game but really what "newbies" need are lessons from good teachers. A kid struggling with high school physics doesn't suddenly sit down with Einstein to discuss quantum mechanics.

The best advice a beginner can get is: "take some lessons." Good teachers possess a skill set that combines knowledge with an understanding of how the learning process works. Natural bridge players like natural athletes find their own inherent skills emerging without any real effort. It's just there. The rest of us need instruction, encouragement, support, feedback or maybe just a smile—great teachers like great coaches fill that void. Skills develop over time. A 90mph fastball doesn't find the strike zone the first time. Neither does a player trying to make a slam with less than slam points. Add some knowledge and add some practice and it can be done.

Before television, cell phones, computers, and video games, there were only a few options available for filling in your spare time. Past



generations read, listened to the radio, indulged in hobbies, or played cards to fill the void. My family was made up of card players. My parents played every Friday night with their friends, and I played regularly with my friends. Sure, board games were fun, but I could only play Monopoly so many times. Chess was challenging but it lost its appeal since so few people played it. Cards, however, presented infinite possibilities. Each new hand dealt, created a puzzle to be solved. Every time the deck was shuffled a new problem appeared on the table. Maybe, that's what we were—problem solvers.

Bridge is not just any card game. It is unique. How is it possible to play a game of cards that is so sophisticated yet limited to only 15 words? Did I catch you on that one: 1-7; club, diamond, heart, spade, no-trump; pass, double, re-double?

My wife and I started playing bridge for fun like so many others did. We socialized with one couple who knew a little bit about the game. Once a week we got together to play cards and chit chat about everything going on in the world except bridge. What took place during the play of the hand was not that important. Sure, we learned a little bit about counting points and bidding contracts but that's about it.

Many years later, we graduated to a game of “competitive” bridge where eight of us, all golfers by the way, got together to play off against each other moving from table to table in a round-robin mini tournament. Lots of wine and lots of laughs but very little learning. It was still social bridge. When we finally retired, my wife and I decided to spend our winters in Florida. We played bridge once a week at the clubhouse in a small retirement community. Since we were newly retired, we were quite young compared to our competition which was made up of a group of charming, elderly ladies who had played bridge for a ‘thousand’ years. They played “progressive”

bridge where the reward at the end of the evening was a pot of money that each player had paid into for the ante. These shrewd old gals were excellent players and they loved taking our money.

Later, we moved to a larger retirement community that offered a non-sanctioned game of duplicate bridge and that's where it all really started for us. One of the couples we met there – lifelong bridge players—convinced us to join the duplicate bridge club in Clearwater. Now the world of bridge became more serious and much more challenging. Once on this slippery slope, there is no turning back. You start reading bridge books—Audrey and Barbara are mandatory. You start taking lessons. The first ACBL Bridge Bulletin arrives at your doorstep, and you don't know where to begin. Those glossy pages offer advice from beginner to expert.

There is a law in physics that states that water seeks its own level; so: find yours. No matter what anyone says, let me tell you that bridge is difficult to learn and almost impossible to master. At least in physics, laws are universal but in bridge they are ever changing. Depending how and where it's used, a bid of 2 Clubs can be natural, inverted, strong, Stayman, Drury or a new minor forcing bid. Confused? Well, there's more. A bid of 2NT can be natural, unusual, Jacoby, Jordan, or asking for a feature. You get the idea! Remember this game has only a 15-word vocabulary but it has a myriad of ways of conveying information. Bridge theory overwhelms the game. Where do you start: the Law of Total Tricks or Losing Trick Count? What happens if you can't count to 13? Maybe that's the first thing we should all learn.

After bridge theory comes bridge strategy and that overwhelms you, too. Does second hand always play low but breaks the rule to cover an honour with an honour? Wait, didn't we learn that there is no “always or never” in bridge? As complicated as all this is, there still is a place for

every level of player in the game. Right now, I am comfortable in the middle. I keep learning and every now and again I have a Eureka moment that opens my eyes to new possibilities and the game becomes even more fascinating than before. That's what makes it so compelling.

I am the middle child in a family of three siblings. Maybe that's why I am comfortable playing at the intermediate level. My older sister, who has played bridge all her adult life, would be considered an expert. She is what I would call a "business" player. She comes to the table not to chit chat but to play serious bridge. She is there to win! Another thing that amazes me is that a lot of experts love defence best. My sister is no exception to that rule. Defence demands even more patience, discipline, and concentration. I was never a big fan of memory work but to win that 13<sup>th</sup> trick you better have your "thinking cap" in place from trick one.

My younger brother, more than anyone else I know, is a true student of the game. He never dabbled in anything in his life: he always wanted

to master it, whatever "it" was. But that was his nature in everything that he tackled. In the past, I had only played a handful of times with my brother as my partner but when all the clubs went virtual, I now had the chance to play with him on a semi-regular basis. For me, this is fun time bridge because I get to use gadgets that I can't use with my regular partner. So, here I am, in the middle, between my big sister and my kid brother. That's where I am in life and that's where I am in bridge.

"Find your game, laddie," was a common phrase that I often heard from Will, an old Scottish gentleman, who was my friend and my mentor when I first learned to play golf. Well, I guess that's the best advice that I can pass on to you. Maybe, in bridge, that might translate into find your own level—your own comfort zone. Because once you do, you will have found a game for life and that's a wonderful thing.

Note: Technically, the blue alert card is not part of the spoken vocabulary of duplicate bridge. It's not a "call" in bridge but rather a visual warning to the opposition.



The Miles family at the Phoenix NABC: Danny, Ricki & Gary

*photo courtesy of Jonathan Steinberg*



# Canadian Juniors

By Darwin Li

Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy hosted the 7th World Youth Transnational Bridge Championships from August 7th to 14th, 2022. Here is my personal account of the competition:

First, I was quite fortunate. After two tiring years of a pandemic, I was aged 15, and playing with 13-year-old Indian prodigy Anshul Bhatt; I barely qualified for the Under 16 division. We played six days of endless bridge together (the 7th and last day was an individual event), and our teammates for the Teams event were two solid Estonian players. In preparation, and to familiarize myself once more with in-person bridge, I played two tournaments before Italy: the Toronto Regional and the Providence NABCs, both in July.

The pairs event went by far more smoothly than the teams. We earned a gold medal as the only pair to score a 60% game. Much of this was thanks to a good start in the first couple of days that greatly boosted our confidence and breezed us through the qualifiers. Our first board had our opponents going off two in 5♦, and the second is below:

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

Sitting South, I reached 4♥ after a stable auction that included a mild slam try. After a club lead won by East and a club return, 11 tricks were secured. But it was matchpoints, and I knew it would not be enough. I wanted to seize the opportunity of my opponent failing to switch to a diamond. This being said, my hopes for a 12th trick largely lay with a favorable distribution in spades or some kind of squeeze with West having both ♦A and ♠Q10. This became considerably easier after I drew trumps, crossed to dummy with a club, and led a spade, East inserting the 10. Something about it seemed like it was top of nothing, so I took the ace and cashed all my winners in hearts and clubs. West came down to ♠Q and ♦A, and when I played a spade from hand, I claimed, winning the last trick with the ♠9. 12 tricks meant 87.28% when 11 tricks would have scored an exact 50%.

“Well played,” my partner said, as we both seemed visibly content with the result, despite not knowing the percentage at the time. This board helped us in winning the gold medal of the pairs event.



Teams were a bit crazier. It was a close final between us (Blitz) and our opponents (USS Unsinkable). A bad start had us down by 10 at the half. The entire match came down to a couple of swing boards, one of which was the first board of the third set:

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

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♣	3♦	5♣	6♥
Dbl	All pass		

I sat West. What a whacky hand! EW, have a 13-card club fit, and NS are cold for 6♦. 6♥ goes down on a ♦ lead, which my Lightner double was trying to indicate. My partner, perhaps due to pressure, forgot our agreement and led a spade. This, however, tricked the declarer, who thought I was doubling on strength. As a result, declarer won the spade and took the heart finesse immediately, playing me for ♥Q10(x). What happened next is quite unfortunate for NS. My partner won, and this time switched to a ♦, which I ruffed. Cashing my spade meant 2 down and +300 for our side. In combination with our teammates making 6♦, 15 imps were gained for our side.

Everyone made a mistake on this board but me. North should consider the possibility of my Double as Lightner, South should choose 6♦ over 6♥ as a much safer slam, and my partner should undoubtedly have led a diamond. No hard feelings though, since after the board all four of us laughed at the craziness of the deal, most of us never having seen a 13-card fit.

This board put us back into the lead, albeit briefly. The swings continued and we didn't take and hold the lead until the fourth quarter. But the deal sure helped us win the gold medal!

The true highlight of the tournament was not with the medals, however, but simply with playing with and against juniors from around the world. This tournament was a true embodiment of the spirit of youth bridge. The memories and friends I made will last forever. Salsomaggiore was a nice place too: the pizza and pasta were extraordinary.

I would definitely do this again.

*Born and raised in Toronto, Darwin currently attends Grade 10 at Upper Canada College. He started learning bridge at the age of 9 and has thoroughly enjoyed it since. Darwin recently won two gold medals at the World Youth Transnational Bridge Championships in Salsomaggiore. He is a member of the Canadian national youth team, and competed in Atlanta, Las Vegas, and Providence. In his free time, Darwin also enjoys biking and coding.*



Darwin and Anshul Bhatt of India won gold in the 2022 Under 16 Pairs



# TORONTO NON-LIFE MASTER REGIONAL

January 6 - 8, 2023

## Intermediate / Novice Schedule

Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel  
123 Queen St. West. Toronto ON M5H 2M9

**Rooms - Call 1-888-627-7175 Ask for special bridge rate "AC3"  
\$159 if booked by December 8, 2022**

**Click here>>** [Book your group rate for American Contract Bridge League 2023](#)

OR if link doesn't work, copy and paste:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-linkmi?id=1663169488869&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

### Friday January 6, 2023

#### Lesson 9:00 - 9:40

49er Pairs	10:00
199er Pairs	10:00
Hand Analysis	1:15 - 2:00
Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/100)	10:00 & 2:30
199er Pairs	2:30

### Saturday January 7, 2023

#### Lesson 9:00 - 9:40

0-20 Pairs Supervised - FREE	10:00
199er Pairs	10:00
Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/100)	10:00 & 2:30
I/N Hospitality after 10:00 game/before 2:30 game	
199er Pairs	2:30

### Sunday January 8, 2023

199er Pairs	10:00
Bracketed Gold Rush Swiss Teams	10:00 & TBA

**NOTE:** The 2:30pm 199er games will run if there are sufficient numbers of players. **SINGLE SESSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR GOLD RUSH PAIRS GAMES.**

Supervised games means players can ask bidding questions during the game.  
Questions? Need a partner? Call Steve

**Session fees: \$18 CAD (members) +\$4 for non-current members**

**All events under 100 Master Points pay only \$10 per session**

**Players must have an ACBL number.** Guest memberships are currently free.

Contact Darlene if you require one.

#### Intermediate/Novice Program

#### Supervisor & Partnerships:

Steve Overholt 647-897-6179

[soverholt1@gmail.com](mailto:soverholt1@gmail.com)

#### Tournament Chair:

Darlene Scott

[DarleneScott@me.com](mailto:DarleneScott@me.com)

**ZERO TOLERANCE for unacceptable behaviour!**

If someone negatively affects your enjoyment at this tournament, please contact a Director IMMEDIATELY. A fun time is guaranteed for all! **See page 45 for COVID Protocols**

# TORONTO JANUARY SECTIONAL

## January 6 - 8, 2023

Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel  
123 Queen St. West, Toronto ON M5H 2M9

**Rooms - Call 1-888-627-7175 Ask for special bridge rate "AC3"  
\$159 if booked by December 8, 2022**

**Click here>>** [Book your group rate for American Contract Bridge League 2023](#)

OR if link doesn't work, copy and paste:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-linkmi?id=1663169488869&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

### Friday January 6, 2023

Open pairs (Open/4000/2000)	10:00 & 2:30
B,C,D Pairs (1500/1000/750)	10:00 & 2:30

### Saturday January 7, 2023

Open Pairs (Open/5000)	10:00 & 2:30
B,C,D Pairs (4000/2000/1000)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30

### Sunday January 8, 2023

Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & TBA
-----------------------------	-------------

**Session fees: \$18 CAD (members) +\$4 for non-current members**

**Players must have an ACBL number.** Guest memberships are currently free.

**Contact Darlene if you require one.**

#### Tournament Chair:

Darlene Scott

[DarleneScott@me.com](mailto:DarleneScott@me.com)

#### Partnership:

Laurie Miller

416-276-6415

[lauriemiller333@gmail.com](mailto:lauriemiller333@gmail.com)

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Note this is a moving target and could change at any time, based on developments, and will be reviewed by the Director-in-Charge every day of the tournament.

When masks are not required by law, we expect players to be courteous to each other. If a player requests others at their table to wear a face mask, we expect this will be done. Face masks will be available for those that don't bring one and need one.

See the link for the current ACBL policy: [https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/covid/Covid\\_Protocols.pdf](https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/covid/Covid_Protocols.pdf)

## **HOW TO PRE-REGISTER YOUR COVID VACCINATIONS:**

All staff, players and volunteers must be fully vaccinated with a complete set of vaccinations completed no less than 14 days before the date of the event in which the player wishes to purchase an entry. (Booster shots are highly recommended, but not required at this time)

### **Everyone attending must provide to the Event Safety Coordinator at the playing site:**

#### 1. Vaccine Record

1. Fully completed no less than 14 days prior to the date of the event. **To facilitate this process, ACBL Unit 166 has partnered with VOW Digital Health.** Unit 166 is providing this as a free service to all staff, volunteers and players. At the tournament there will be a special fast track line for those who pre-register their proof of vaccination.

These arrangements have been implemented for your COVID-19 health and safety; thus **no exceptions will be made.**

Please refer to this Infographic (<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:a915abc9-3c5a-461f-a933-655c776c19df#pageNum=1>) for more information on how to COVID-clear for this event.

### **In the next 48 hours, on your smartphone:**

1. Have a photo of your Government-Issued ID and Vaccine Record.
2. Click this [VOW Digital Health Event Link](#) and follow the steps to upload a photo of your ID and Vaccine record.

\*\*Should you need it, the Health Protocol ID is 4MK-22Y

### **Setting up an account for someone else:**

1. Log out of your account.
2. Create another account by clicking Sign Up and following the steps to upload an ID.
3. Click on "+ Add New Health Protocol" and enter the Health Protocol ID 4MK-22Y when prompted.
4. Follow the required steps to COVID clear. If you have questions about the event, please contact [darlenescott@me.com](mailto:darlenescott@me.com)

For questions about COVID-clearance, please contact [CustomerSupport@vow.app](mailto:CustomerSupport@vow.app)

Winter



# Niagara Sectional February 10-12, 2023

Holiday Inn & Suites Parkway Conference  
327 Ontario St, St Catharines  
(QEW take Exit 47 Ontario Street)  
905-688-2324



## Friday February 10, 2023

Open Pairs	1:30 & 7:00
499 <sup>er</sup> Pairs	1:30 & 7:00
199 <sup>er</sup> Pairs	1:30 & 7:00

Hospitality will follow evening game

## Saturday February 11, 2023

Open Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
499 <sup>er</sup> Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
199 <sup>er</sup> Pairs	10:00 & 2:30

Hospitality will follow afternoon game

## Sunday February 12, 2023

Bracketed Swiss 10:00am playthrough

30 minutes break after 4<sup>th</sup> Round

### For Reservation

1-877-688-2324 Ext 2

Or Click

[Niagara Area Unit 255 Sectional Tournament](#)

Or

[www.holidayinn.com/stcath](http://www.holidayinn.com/stcath)

enter NAB as the group code

\$119 (single or double)

if booked before

January 17, 2023

## Tournament Chair:

Wiebe Hoogland 905-688-0734  
Email [Wybren@bell.net](mailto:Wybren@bell.net)

## Partnership Chair:

Margaret Dykstra 905-732-4324  
Email [adykstra3@cogeco.ca](mailto:adykstra3@cogeco.ca)

## Stratification

(Pair/Team Average subject to Director's discretion)

Open Pairs	0 to $\infty$ masterpoints
499 <sup>er</sup> Pairs	0 to 500 masterpoints
199 <sup>er</sup> Pairs	0 to 200 masterpoints

## General Information

Events can be Playthrough or Single Session

\$15/player/session for ACBL members

Extra \$4 for lapsed ACBL members

Temporary membership for non-ACBL members will be available.

All events stratified by average masterpoint.

## FREE Parking

## Fantastic Niagara Hospitality

### Zero Tolerance Tournament – Play Nice

For Additional tournament details visit our website at: [www.unit255.com](http://www.unit255.com)



# Toronto Easter Regional 2023

**APRIL 4 - 9, 2023**

Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel  
123 Queen St. West, Toronto ON M5H 2M9  
Rooms - Ask for special bridge rate 'ACA'  
\$141 if booked by March 6, 2023

[Book your group rate for American Contract Bridge League 2023](#)

or 1-888-627-7175 or copy & paste

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1663076181408&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

## Tuesday April 4, 2023

Bracketed KO Teams (2 session qual. Round Robin)	10:00 & 2:30
Open pairs (Open/4000/2000)	10:00 & 2:30
Super Gold Rush (1500/750/300)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30

## Wednesday April 5, 2023

Bracketed KO Teams (2 session Semi-final & Final)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30
Open Pairs (Open/2000/750)	10:00 & 2:30

## Thursday April 6, 2023

Sheardown Open KO (1 & 2 of 4 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
Open Pairs (Open/4000/2000)	10:00 & 2:30
Super Gold Rush Pairs (1500/750/300)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30
Swiss Teams - single session	2:30

## Friday April 7, 2023

Sheardown Open KO (3 & 4 of 4 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed KO Teams (2 session qual. Round Robin)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/100)	10:00 & 2:30
Stratified Open Pairs (Open/3000/1500)	10:00 & 2:30



## Saturday April 8, 2023

Bracketed KO Teams (2 session Semi-final & Final)	10:00 & 2:30
Open Pairs (Open/4000/2000)	10:00 & 2:30
Super Gold Rush Pairs (1500/750/300)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30
Unit 166 Youth Cup Pairs	10:00 & 2:30

**Sunday April 9, 2023**

Flight A/X Swiss Teams (Open/5000)  
Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams (0-4000)

10:00 & TBA  
10:00 & TBA

**Session fees: \$18 CAD (members)  
+\$4 for non-current members**

Single session entries are available to all pair events.

Bracketed KO's may be handicapped at Director's discretion.

**Tournament Chair:**

Darlene Scott  
[DarleneScott@me.com](mailto:DarleneScott@me.com)

**Partnership:**

Laurie Miller 416-276-6415  
[lauriemiller333@gmail.com](mailto:lauriemiller333@gmail.com)

**ZERO TOLERANCE for unacceptable behaviour!**  
If someone negatively affects your enjoyment at this tournament, please contact a Director IMMEDIATELY.

**A fun time is guaranteed for all!**

**See page 50 for COVID Protocols or go to [Unit166.ca](http://Unit166.ca)**



## Purchasing Hard Copies

**Are you interested in receiving a hardcopy of the Kibitzer?  
Please contact me for pricing and to set up a subscription.**

**Andy Stark**  
[andy.kibitzer@gmail.com](mailto:andy.kibitzer@gmail.com)  
**647-530-1360**

# Toronto Easter Regional 2023

APRIL 4 - 9, 2023



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<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1663076181408&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

### Tuesday April 4, 2023

199er Pairs 10:00

Session fees: \$18 CAD

(members)

+\$4 for non-current members

### Wednesday April 5, 2023

49er Pairs 10:00

199er Pairs 10:00

All events under 100

Master Points pay only \$10

per session **Players must**

**have an ACBL number.**

### Thursday April 6, 2023

0-20 Pairs Supervised\*\* - **FREE** 10:00

199er Pairs 10:00

I/N Hospitality after 10:00 game

**Guest memberships are**

**current- ly free.**

**Contact Darlene if you**

**require one.**

### Friday April 7, 2023

199er Pairs 10:00

199er Pairs 2:30

**Intermediate/Novice**

**Program Supervisor &**

**Partnerships:**

### Saturday April 8, 2023

49er Pairs 10:00

199er pairs 10:00

Steve Overholt

[soverholt1@gmail.com](mailto:soverholt1@gmail.com)

647-897-6179 (email prefer-  
able)

### Sunday April 9, 2023

199er Pairs 10:00

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behaviour!

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enjoyment at this tournament, please  
contact a Director IMMEDIATELY.

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**Tournament Chair:**

Darlene Scott

[DarleneScott@me.com](mailto:DarleneScott@me.com)

Free Lessons offered

Tuesday through Saturday at  
9:00

\*\*Supervised games means  
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questions during the game.

**Questions? Need a partner? Call Steve**



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  1. Fully completed no less than 14 days prior to the date of the event.

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**\*\*Should you need it, the Health Protocol ID is 49LDPY**

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4. Follow the required steps to COVID clear. If you have questions about the event, please contact [darlenescott@me.com](mailto:darlenescott@me.com)

For questions about COVID-clearance, please contact [CustomerSupport@vow.app](mailto:CustomerSupport@vow.app)

# JOIN US....

VACB901660 Unit 166 **SUNDAY** Dec 18, 2022 \$5 game

6:45 pm	0 - 300 mp's
7:00 pm	0 - 1000 mp's
7:15 pm	OPEN

To register for the game on [bridgebase.com](https://bridgebase.com) go to:

Virtual Clubs / All Clubs / type "Unit 166" in the top right search box  
Click on the game you wish to register for

Registration begins precisely 2 hours prior to game start time. **Please register AT LEAST 30 minutes prior to game start time.**

*Helpful hints:* Beside the "Register" tab, you will see "Details" "Entries" "Partnership" tabs

*If you need a partner:* Click Partnership tab, enter your username & wait for an invitation, then click accept when invited, OR if a username is already there, click on the username & invite them to play with you

*To confirm your registration:* Click Entries tab to see all registrants (including you)

*After registration:* You may leave your computer, **BUT you MUST log back in 5 minutes prior to game start time.** If not, the game may start without you, regardless of your registration

*Send message to director:* Go to "People" Tab, in "Add Friend" box enter VACB901660 click "Add". In your Friends list, click on VACB901660 & type a message

♦ ♣ ♥ ♠ **Mark your calendars for our next games** ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦

**SUNDAY JANUARY 22, 2023**

**6:45 / 7:00 / 7:15 PM**

Enquiries email: [DarleneScott@me.com](mailto:DarleneScott@me.com)

If you have any issues with registering, send a chat message to VACB901660

♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ Have a great game! ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦

## 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](http://www.unit166.ca) or [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org) for up-to-date information.

### 2023

#### January

6-8 Toronto, NLM Regional, p. 43  
6-8 Toronto, p. 44  
28-29 London

#### February

10-12 St. Catharines, p. 46  
13-19 STaC (Canada wide)

#### March

4-5 Oshawa  
11 Burlington, I/N Sectional  
8-19 New Orleans NABC  
18-19 Guelph

#### April

4-9 Toronto Easter Regional, p. 47  
8-9 GNT District 2 Final  
17-23 Gatlinburg  
21-23 North Bay  
22-23 Caledon

#### May

6-7 Peterborough  
12-14 Sault Ste. Marie  
9-19 Canadian Bridge Championships,  
Niagara Falls  
12-19 Niagara Falls, CBF Regional  
26-28 Sudbury  
27-28 Cambridge

#### June

2-4 Niagara-on-the-Lake, I/N Sectional  
10-11 Toronto, I/N Sectional

#### July

4-9 Kitchener Regional  
15-16 Hamilton  
13-23 Chicago NABC

#### August

11-13 Tillsonburg  
18-20 Niagara-on-the-Lake, I/N Sectional  
25-27 Goderich

#### September

2-4 Toronto  
9-10 St. Thomas  
23-24 Caledon East

#### October

30-1 Chatham  
14-15 Collingwood  
28-29 Oshawa

**All tournaments are Sectionals  
unless noted**

**Deadline for the Spring Kibitzer: February 15, 2023**

*The Kibitzer*

Andy Stark

36 Poucher St., Toronto ON M4J 2Y9