



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

[Our Website](#)

ALERT – February 20, 2023

Click [here](#) to access our regular game schedule.

Looking Ahead

- There will be **no Friday night game on February 17** because so many of our players are at the [Barbados tournament](#) this week.
- **Club Championship games** (extra masterpoints, no extra cost) for all face-to-face Games, February 20-26.
- **The spring team league** starts on Sunday, February 26 (you can register [here](#)).
- [Barrie Sectional Tournament](#), Saturday March 4 – Sunday, March 5.
- All of our f2f games during the week of March 21-24 will be **Membership Games**. Membership games award extra masterpoints at no extra cost – but only to paid-up ACBL members (membership in our club is irrelevant). Please note that *both* partners need to be paid-up ACBL members. If you are not already an ACBL member, you can remedy that [here](#) (please be sure to mention our club so that we can earn more upgraded club championship games for our members).
- [Spring Sectional – Buffalo Bridge Center, Amherst, NY](#). Friday, March 31 – Sunday, April 2.



Friendly February

During February, anyone who has either never played in one of our regular club games or else hasn't played in one of our regular club games since March 2020 can play free at our face-to-face games three times – and his or her partner will play free too.
A point of clarification – you can bring your enemies too.....

Valentine's Day Game Photos Worth a Thousand Words



The Subway lunch was a big hit!



Prizes for the winners as well as lots of door prizes (flowers, chocolates, and LCBO gift cards)



Al Pengelly's daughters Sarah and Natasha were excellent caddies.



Many players chose to wear red.

Everyone had fun. Everyone won masterpoints. Everyone was a winner!



First-place winners Adriaan Kempe, Kevin Latter, John Kip, & Cheryl White



Runners-up Glenn Mockford, Sue Moses, Brenda Semple, & Richard Prendiville



Jovial game directors Al Pengelly and Dave Quarrie hard at work



Let the games begin!

Photo credits: Dave Quarrie and Joan Slover



The Bean Counter

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer

Have you ever been part of a group of something ... like a church, school, choir, sports team, family, employment? Of course! Then you know that feeling of “belonging”. You enjoy the group and the people in it. Most groups have three things in common: they occur in a physical location; they involve people; and the people accomplish something together.

We hope that the GRBC is one of those groups that you enjoy “belonging” to. We are very fortunate to have physical space that is fully dedicated to playing bridge. This took a lot of hard work by many of our members to get us to where we are today. Many bridge clubs rent space in community centers and church basements. They set up and take down the bridge environment each time. And they lack the amenities that we have.

While you were getting ready for Christmas two months ago, your Board of Directors was busy making one of its most important decisions in recent years. Our lease with Dare Foods was ending in June 2023. The landlord had allowed us to renew our lease for another five years with the same price schedule and the same terms. Do we stay here or go elsewhere or become an online only bridge club?

Contributing to the agony of a decision was our financial situation. We had been steadily losing money since Christmas 2021. Participation in our BBO games was decreasing. Covid-19 continued to cause inertia to a speedy return to F2F. Inflation was ramping up and everything was costing more.

TO BE CONTINUED ... ha ha ha ... Answer is forthcoming next week. Same bat time, same bat channel.



Spring Team League Update

At present, we have five teams registered in the open division and only one team and one pair registered in the B division. So, we desperately need more B pairs!

Especially if you are a B player, please sign up and encourage others to do so. You can register online [here](#) or on the sign-up sheet beside the director's desk at the club. For more information, email the game director [Al Pengelly](#).



Congratulations...

to the following local players who were in the money at the recent sectional in St. Catharines.

- **Bruce Roberts and Robert Griffiths**, 5th in A, Friday Open Pairs
- **Rosemary Newkirk and Valirie Binkle**, 2nd in A, Friday 199er Pairs
- **Stephen Young and Tom Ramsay**, 3rd in A, Saturday Open Pairs
- **Moira Hollingsworth and Bruce Roberts**, 9th in A, Saturday Open Pairs
- **Martin Jones and Andy Martinek**, 4th in A, Saturday 499er Pairs

And to the following local players who earned extra masterpoints in Tuesday's STaC game.

- **Stephen Young and Colin Harrington**, 4th in A for Districts 1, 2, 18, and 19.
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Lexophile Awards

Although "lexophile" is not in the dictionary, in some circles it describes a person who loves sentences such as "You can tune a piano but you can't tuna fish" or "To write with a broken pencil is pointless". An annual competition is held by *The New York Times* to see who can create the best original lexophile.

Here are some of this year's submissions.

- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- A will is a dead giveaway.
- A thief who stole a calendar got 12 months.
- I know a guy who's addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- He had a photographic memory, but it was never fully developed.
- Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.

Bridge in Barbados

Here is the merry band in Barbados for the Sun, Sea, and Slams tournament. Apparently, they are having a good time.



Here's our newest bronze life master, **Mary McClelland**, minted in Barbados.



Superhero **Bob Griffiths** demonstrates what to do at the bridge table if the air conditioning is too cold and you forgot your jacket.

TIME YOU LEARNED OUR LESSONS!

In the cards (get it?) are the following lessons.

- **No Trump Interference (Cappelletti, DONT, and Meckwell).** \$20 members/ \$25 non-members. Instructor: Malkin Howes. Current Enrollment: **3**. Level: Intermediate. **ONLINE POSTPONED, NEW DATE BEING SOUGHT, TBA**

- **Play of the Hand (Suits).** Five sessions. Wednesday evenings, February 22, March 1, 8, 15, & 23, 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm. \$95 members/ \$105 non-members (includes a \$20 text). Instructor: Dianne Aves. Current Enrollment: **4**. Level: **Novice**. **IN PERSON WE NEED FOUR MORE PLAYERS TO MAKE THIS COURSE A GO. THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS TOMORROW (SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18) AT 6:00 PM. BEING A GOOD DECLARER IS VERY IMPORTANT IN BRIDGE. PLEASE SIGN UP – AND IF YOU CAN, BRING ALONG A FRIEND!**

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



Lebensohl: What to do when the worm turns

In the good old days, you could open one no trump and never hear a peep from the opponents. You could at your leisure use transfers and Stayman and take all the time you wanted to arrive at your very best contract. Not anymore! These days your opponents are in your face all the time with their disturbing bids taking away your space and your transfers and your Stayman. That's why lebensohl was invented.

This workshop will show you the most simplified version of lebensohl available, the one with the lowest memory load. After learning the lebensohl system, the participants will go through a bidding exercise and then bid and play up to 12 hands where your pesky opponents have interfered with your no trump bidding.

Regular partners may find it beneficial to attend this workshop as a pair.

Level: **Intermediate**

Instructor: Malkin Howes

Mode: ONLINE

Date: Monday, February 27, 9:30 am – noon

Cost: \$20 members/ \$25 non-members

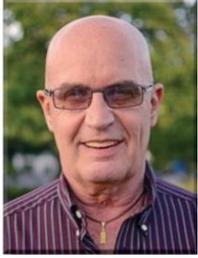
Current Enrollment: **13**

Coming Soon

- **Beginners 2**, Saturday mornings, March 4, 11, 18, 25, & April 1. In person. \$75 (uses same textbook as Beginners 1). Instructor: Sue Moses. Current enrollment **11**.

This course is also suitable for those who have been away from the game for some time. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

Matchpoints Versus Teams

The dynamics of a matchpoint game require us to take as many tricks as possible. If everyone is in 3NT making 10 tricks and you make 11 tricks, you get the top score. If you make only nine tricks, you get the bottom score. Playing in a team game, your goal is to do whatever you can to make your contract. Overtricks are relatively unimportant. Here is an example.

	N North ♠43 ♥K54 ♦1054 ♣J8732																	
W West ♠98762 ♥A10 ♦AQJ7 ♣109	<table border="1"><tr><td>W</td><td>N</td><td>E</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">1NT Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table>	W	N	E	S	1NT Pass				2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass	E East ♠AQ105 ♥QJ8 ♦K863 ♣A4
W	N	E	S															
1NT Pass																		
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass															
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass															
	S South ♠KJ ♥97632 ♦92 ♣KQ65	<table border="1"><tr><td>4♠</td><td>East</td></tr><tr><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr></table>	4♠	East	0	0												
4♠	East																	
0	0																	

As you can see by looking at all four hands, you have a club loser and a heart loser in a 4♠ contract. The normal way to play spades is to take two finesses. If North has the ♠K and the ♠J, you will make an overtrick. If North has only one of those cards, you will make ten tricks. If North has neither of those cards (which is the case in this diagram), the contract may fail. In theory, you could lead to the ♠A, then come back to your hand to lead another spade, but you would lose precious matchpoints when North has both spade honours. So you played the hand reasonably and ended up with an average score for going down one trick, just like all the other matchpoint players.

Now, let's look at the dynamics of playing the same hand in a team game. Safety is paramount at teams. If you make 4♠ at your table and your opposition at the other table fails by a trick, you will win at least 10 IMPs (International Match Points). If it turns out that you played as safely as possible and made only 10 tricks while the opposition made 11 tricks at the other table because North had ♠KJ4 or ♠KJ3 or ♠KJ43, you lose only one IMP - not a big deal. This preamble was designed to lead you to thinking about how to increase your chances of winning ten-plus IMPs at a negligible cost of at most one IMP.

If you start with a spade to the ace and South plays the jack or king, you have succeeded in holding your losers to one. If both opponents play small spades, you come back to your hand to lead a second spade. Your contract will be safe if North started with at least one spade honour. If South started with ♠KJ4 or ♠KJ3, you were never going to be successful.

At matchpoints, finessing twice has a strong chance of success. At teams, safety is your biggest concern.

FOR OPEN PLAYERS

An Improbable Slam Bid – A Dummy’s View

Contributed by Mike Peng

Here’s a hand from the recent St. Catharines’ sectional tourney. During the Friday evening open pairs event, I was sitting East and picked up this hand.

Board 2	♠ A K 9 6 4 2
East Deals	♥ 2
N-S Vul	♦ 10 7 2
	♣ K 8 7
♠ Q J 8 5	♠ —
♥ A Q J 7	♥ 10 5 4 3
♦ A 8	♦ K 9 5 3
♣ 10 4 2	♣ A J 9 5 3
	♠ 10 7 3
	♥ K 9 8 6
	♦ Q J 6 4
	♣ Q 6

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1 ♣	1 ♠	Dbl	2 ♠
3 ♥	3 ♠	4 ♥ ¹	Pass
Pass	4 ♠	5 ♣ ²	Pass
5 ♦ ³	Pass	6 ♥!	All pass

1. As the auction progressed, my hand evaluation increased: a void in the opponents' spade suit, a club fit with my partner, and a 4-4 heart fit.
2. Secondary club fit with mild slam interest in hearts
3. Cue bid showing the ace of diamonds

Neil and I have been known to be somewhat exuberant in our bidding, and this hand was no exception. But his free bid of 3♥ suggested that he had a full opener with hearts and clubs. And the opponents were competing vigorously in spades, my void suit. These factors caused my hand re-evaluation to increase with each round of the bidding. Once my partner bid 5♦, I figured he must have something like ♠xxx ♥AQJx ♦Ax ♣Kxxx. If this were the case, it seemed to me that 6♥ would make since we had only one loser in the rounded suits. So, with only 8 HCP, I bid it!

The Play

The lead was the ♠K. I tabled my hand and said, “Partner, this slam may require some work!?” Luckily, my partner was wearing a mask which muffled what I thought was an expletive, and then he focused on the play.

- Trick 1: ♠K (led from North), ruffed in dummy with ♥3, followed by ♠3 and ♠5
- Trick 2: ♦3, ♦6, ♦A, ♦2
- Trick 3: ♠J, ♠4, ♦5, ♠7
- Trick 4: ♣2, ♣7, ♣9, ♣Q
- Trick 5: ♥6, ♥7, ♥2, ♥4
- Trick 6: ♦8, ♦7, ♦K, ♦4
- Trick 7: ♥5, ♥8, ♥J, ♠6
- Trick 8: ♣4, ♣8, ♣J, ♣6

Trick 9: ♥10, ♥9, ♥Q, ♠9
Trick 10: ♥A, ♦10, ♦9, ♥K
Trick 11: ♣10, ♣K, ♣A, ♦J
Tricks 12 & 13: good clubs in dummy

When the dust settled, we had made the slam with the only trick registered by the opponents being the ♣Q at Trick 4.

Post Mortem

Neil played the hand well. We had some luck in the lie of the cards, and the opponents missed some opportunities on defence. At Trick 3, North was not certain who had the ♠Q, and so he chose not to cover the jack. After winning the ♣Q at Trick 4, if South had returned a spade forcing a ruff in the dummy he would have shortened dummy's trump length - which in turn would later ensure a heart trick (since South's ♥K9 could not be finessed at Trick 9).

In the board recap, the results were split with most playing in 3♠ (North) down two, or 4♥ (West) making four, so our result of 6♥ making was a top).

The question remains whether 6♥ was a good bid. On a combined 22 HCP, it was definitely exuberant! Perhaps after the 4♠ bid, rather than placing the cards in my partner's hand - which I got only half right (the red suits, but not the black suits) - I could simply pass and let partner decide. I think with his holdings he would have been just as happy to defend 4♠ doubled. But then this story would not have been written!



For Intermediate *Jake's*
Play a Bad Hand Well

No. 106

♠ QJ9
 ♥ 7654
 ♦ Q62
 ♣ KJ6

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 1087
 ♥ AQJ1093
 ♦ A
 ♣ 1098

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♠	2♥
Dbl*	3♥	4♦	4♥
All pass			
* Support double - 3 spades			

The opponents pushed me up to 4♥ and now I need to make the contract. West led the ♦4, small from dummy, ♦9 from East, and I took my ♦A.

It was really important that I understand where the missing high cards were, so I started to explore by leading spades. At Trick 2, I led the ♠10 from my hand which West took with the ♠K, continuing with the ♦J at Trick 3. East's ♦K overtook dummy's ♦Q and I ruffed with my ♥9. At Trick 4, I led another spade, which East took with the ♠A. East then led another diamond at Trick 5, which I ruffed with my ♥10.

At Trick 6, I entered dummy with the ♠Q, and then I led a heart at Trick 7. East followed and I banged down my ♥A - upon which West played the ♥K! At Trick 8, I drew the last outstanding trump with my ♥Q. What now?

SOLUTION

You've lost two tricks already, so you have to play clubs for only one loser. Where are the ♣A and the ♣Q? Let's see. The opponents started with a combined 20 HCP, and so far East has shown up with seven of these 20 points (the ♠A and the ♦K). Given that West made an opening bid, it is highly likely that he originally held the remaining 13 HCP (this explains why I banged down my ♥A rather than finesse East's ♥K). Ergo, the ♣A and the ♣Q are almost certainly hiding in West's hand.

So, at Trick 9, lead the ♣10 from your hand and watch West's reaction.

If he doesn't cover, let your ♣10 float around to East. You will win the trick. Now lead your ♣9.

- If West covers with the ♠Q, overtake with the ♠K. Again, it will win the trick and now the only club trick you will lose is the ♣A.
- If West takes it with his ♣A, play a small club from dummy. When you regain the lead, lead your last club and finesse the ♠Q.

West will squirm in his seat, but he is helpless. As long as you know where the high clubs are, you always can make your 20-HCP game!

Here is the full hand.

♠ QJ9	♠ A543
♥ 7654	♥ 82
♦ Q62	♦ K1097
♣ KJ6	♣ 742
♠ K62	♠ 1087
♥ K	♥ AQJ1093
♦ J8543	♦ A
♣ AQ53	♣ 1098



The technique of leading a side suit in order to learn more about the opponents' distribution or the location of their high cards is called a discovery play.

Band names



Top Master Point Earners at our Club

Contributed by Allen Pengelly

This table lists the individuals who have earned the most master points at our club in each of three master point bands since the beginning of January.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	19.61	1	Suzanne Edwards	13.64	1	Rick Arthur	7.98
2	Mike Peng	18.25	2	Cheryl White	11.39	2	Brian Gaber	5.94
3	Ted Boyd	14.73	3	Shelley Metcalfe	9.81	3	Nancy Cattanach	5.55
4	Colin Harrington	11.09	4	Roy Dandyk	9.31	4	Belinda Burt	5.23
5	David Longstaff	10.52	5	John Kip	8.94	5	Louise Dawdy	5.12
6	Sandy Graham	9.95	6	David Dennis	8.82	6	Ben Cornell	4.30
7	Mary McClelland	9.79	7	Adriaan Kempe	8.16	6	Don Slowinski	4.30
8	Liz McDowell	8.87	8	Lori Cole	8.12	8	Paul Raymond	3.97
9	Edith Ferber	8.57	9	Barbara Arthur	7.78	9	Debbie Miethig	3.47
10	Neil Jeffrey	8.10	10	Renate Boucher	7.73	10	Casi Zehr	3.43
11	Margot Stockie	7.26	11	Jack Cole	7.43	11	Elaine Doyle	3.36
12	Malkin Howes	6.99	12	Cheryl Kip	7.37	12	Audrey Cook	3.29
13	Bob Griffiths	6.92	13	Martin Jones	6.30	13	Kathy Chandler	3.20
14	Stephen Young	6.75	14	Kevin Latter	6.17	14	Molly Worden	2.91
15	Neil Coburn	6.51	15	Susan Durance	6.16	15	Jane Wilson	2.53
16	Moira Hollingsworth	6.36	16	Marlene Dopko	6.05	16	Richard Prendiville	2.51
17	Kathy Russell	6.28	17	Bev Hitchman	5.67	17	Chris Beck	2.50
18	Bonnie Kains	6.23	18	Nanci Phelan	5.58	18	Valirie Binkle	2.20
19	John Hanemaayer	6.18	19	Lynda Burnett	5.53	19	Jeannie Leforge	1.86
20	Ronna Hoy	5.59	20	Virginia Alviano	5.33	20	MJ Hartleib	1.85
21	Scott Hills	5.55	21	Salvatore Pace	5.16	21	Donna McKay	1.83
22	Peter Peng	4.88	22	Jean White	4.98	22	Douglas Livesey	1.82
23	Wayne Jordan	4.37	23	Douglass Grant	4.95	23	Charlene Schell	1.75
24	Diane Bourdeau	4.30	24	Gordon Hunter	4.70	24	Julia Prendiville	1.31
25	Steve Carpenter	3.73	25	Andy Martinek	4.62	25	Pauline Copleston	1.28

If you would like to play in a particular game but lack a partner that day, you can either:

- Log in to [Pianola](#), click on Partner Finder, and create a Partner Finder Advert. This needs to be done at least a few hours in advance of the game. OR
- Log in to the game in question and register yourself on the Partnership Desk tab.

If you are looking for a regular partner, contact [Joan Slover](#), our membership lead.

We have fun in **spades**.
 We play with all our **hearts**.
 We treat our members like **diamonds**.
 We are all friends at our **club**.