



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – December 11, 2023

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

Looking Ahead

- ♥ Today's two F2F games (499er and open) and tomorrow's 99er FTF games will be **Royal STaC games** - 25% each of gold, red, silver, and black points. There will be a \$2 surcharge.
- ♥ **Three-Chip 99er Game**, Saturday, December 9, 9:00 am
- ♥ **Upgraded Club Championship** for our F2F games, December 12 – 16 – extra masterpoints, no extra charge
- ♥ Malkin Howes will be giving a **mini-lesson on re-evaluating your hand after partner bids** at the bridge club on Monday morning, December 11.
- ♥ Christmas Parties: Tuesday afternoon, December 12; Wednesday afternoon, December 13; and Friday afternoon, December 15.
- ♥ **The Friday night open game on December 15 has been cancelled.**
- ♥ Online Swiss Team game, Tuesday, December 19, 7:10 pm
- ♥ **There will be no bridge labs on Christmas Day, December 25 and New Year's Day, January 1, 2024. There will be no games on Christmas Day.**
- ♥ **New Year's Day 8 is Enough Swiss Teams**
- ♥ [Cleveland Rock and Roll Regional](#), January 3-7, 2024
- ♥ [Toronto Non-Life Master Regional](#), January 5-7, 2024
- ♥ [Toronto January Sectional](#), January 5-7, 2024
- ♥ Saturday, January 13, [Learn Bridge in a Day](#)



Christmas Parties

Contributed by Joe Blake, Events Lead

It's December, and Christmas is just around the corner. The Christmas tree is up and decorated, so the Grand River Bridge Club is ready to go! We are celebrating three times during the week of December 11. We will be doing potlucks for the following games.

- The Tuesday Open game on December 12
- The Wednesday 649 and 299 games on December 13
- The Friday 499 game on December 15

The potlucks will start at noon followed by the games at 1:00 pm. There is no need to sign up: just come on down. Dress up in your best Christmas garb, bring along your favourite Christmas dish, and join us for some holiday Christmas cheer (also some really good bridge).



**NEW YEAR'S DAY
AT GRAND RIVER BRIDGE CLUB**

- SWISS TEAM FORMAT
- TEAMS WILL BE FORMED BY CONVENORS & DIRECTOR
- PLAYERS WILL BE RANKED ROUGHLY BASED ON THEIR
MASTERPOINTS AS 3 – 2 – 1
- NO TEAM TO EXCEED “8 POINTS”
- MORNING & AFTERNOON SESSIONS
- LUNCH PROVIDED IN ENTRY FEE
- PLAY BEGINS AT 10 AM
- MASTERPOINTS AWARDED
- COST IS \$20 PER PERSON
- SIGN UP AT THE CLUB OR E-MAIL DAVE QUARRIE AT
daviquar@bell.net
- ANY QUESTIONS? CALL DAVE AT 226 507 2684

**CONVENORS: LYNDA BURNETT & DAVE QUARRIE
GAME DIRECTOR: ALLEN PENGELLY**



Player Profiles - Dianne and John Stickney

Contributed by Anita Hanson

Today's profile is another twofer. Please meet long-time (though a wee bit intermittent) GRBC players Dianne and John Stickney.

Dianne and John are both locals, both born at Galt hospital (though they didn't know each other then.) John went on to study dentistry in Toronto, then came back, setting up his own practice, and hiring his first receptionist — Dianne. It was fate.

Though John remained a dentist, Dianne moved on, eventually settling on a career in real estate, as well as serving a couple of terms as a school trustee and as Elizabeth Witmer's campaign manager for all her campaigns. Dianne is still working (30 years and counting), while John took retirement six years ago.

Along with their busy careers, they also found time to build a family, and now have three sons and six grandchildren... as well as Covid dog, Cookie. In spite of playing a lot of bridge together, they will be celebrating 48 years of marriage in February.

Their bridge trajectories are somewhat different. John learned from his parents while still at home and continued to play through university. Dianne knew little about the game until marrying into a bridge family, and didn't learn to play until her 40s when John's parents taught her.

Their roots at GRBC go back to John's mother's involvement at Gage Street — many at the club will fondly remember Marjorie Stickney. When Marjorie sadly lost her husband and partner, Dianne stepped in, and it was then that she began playing at our club. Though still working long hours, John also occasionally partnered with his mother, and he nostalgically remembers her saying on most of their drives home, "Well, we didn't come first, but we didn't come last, either."

John and Dianne now play most Fridays in our 499er games (and are very appreciative of the many volunteers and just all 'round great people at GRBC!), as well as online with friends, and some Saturdays at the Waterloo Rec Centre. Dianne also plays regularly at Westmount Golf Club.

When not playing bridge? John is an avid golfer, and Dianne an avid gardener, cook, and reader of historical fiction. They have also travelled extensively, and enjoy several weeks each winter in sunny Florida.

On to favourite bridge tips. John's is one he learned (eventually) from his wife and partner: "Bid in steps — don't jump right to game!" And Dianne's... "Wondering what an opponent's bid means or how you should have played a hand? — just ask! GRBC players are often very generous in sharing their expertise and help."



There are no extra pieces in the universe.....

You will find a table near the back of the room covered with jigsaw puzzles that have had a long home with us. Please help yourself to them, give them a new home, or donate them to someone who would appreciate them anew.

Scattered amongst them are a bunch of deserted water bottles.

Help yourself.

Edith

New Club Co-Managers

Contributed by Mary McClelland, Board Secretary

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Margot Stockie and Kathy Russell will be taking on the role of co-managers at our club.

Margot has been a member of the GRBC since its inception. Aside from her bridge expertise, she has extensive knowledge of the club. She has volunteered in numerous areas of the club's operation and is well known in organizing and leading our cleaning day.

Kathy has led the Games Committee over the last year and has demonstrated her organizational and leadership skills. She was instrumental in documenting and assisting the director's transition to online games during Covid.

Margot will attend the management meetings and Kathy will provide support as backup to Margot. Please welcome this dynamic duo to their new position.



*Please do not accept
friend requests from my
parents. They have been
hacked.*

Lizzie Borden



Congratulations

to the following local players who have advanced to the next ACBL level.

Club Masters

- ♥ Ben Cornell
- ♥ Randall DeKraker
- ♥ Paul Raymond

Sectional Master

- ♥ Wendy Duff

Bronze Life Master

- ♥ Betty Robertson

And a warm welcome to the following new ACBL members.

- ♥ Anne Anderson
- ♥ Hennie Stork
- ♥ Andrew Widdis

Early STaC Results

Congratulations to the following local players who won extra gold, red, silver, and black master-points in our club's STaC games last Tuesday and Wednesday. Because the results are compared to those of everyone in our district (Ontario, Manitoba, and Bermuda), the awards can be very generous for those who do really well.

- Margot Stockie and David Baker, 7/8 in A, 1.87 MP (Tuesday open)
- Cheryl and John Kip, 2nd in A, 1.85 MP (Wednesday 649)
- Don Slowinski and Ben Cornell, 4th in A, 1.28 MP (Wednesday 649)
- George Pepall and Adriaan Kempe, 5th in A, .91 MP (Wednesday 649)
- Jasia McKeague and Joan Lawson, 2nd in C, .96 MP (Wednesday 649)
- Marylynn Benjamins and Di Spearn, 2nd in A, 1.71 MP (Wednesday 299)
- Sandy Kendall and Yvonne Wepler, 3rd in A, 1.28 MP (Wednesday 299)
- Sharon Nesbitt and Joan Slover, 4th in A, .95 MP (Wednesday 299)
- Audrey Cook and Phil DeMontigny, 6th in A, .89 MP (Wednesday 299)
- Stu Cowan and Paul White, 6th in B, .67 MP (Wednesday 249)

Important Fact to Remember

Death is the #1 killer in the world.

Defibrillator Training

Contributed by Barbara Arthur

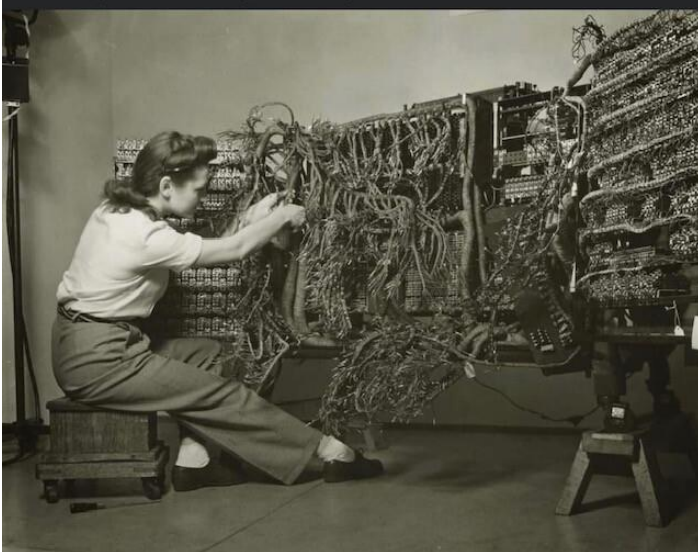
Did you know that we have a defibrillator at our club? It is located over the game director's desk. We already had occasion to use it a few years ago when someone had a heart attack during a game, so it's not at all theoretical.

It is of course very Important that we have enough people on hand who are up-to-date on how to use it to increase the odds that someone present will know what to do if and when another cardiovascular event occurs at our club. If you are interested and willing to take part in such training (about a half a day, supplemented by online resource material), please contact me, Barbara Arthur, at arthur32@bell.net, 519-594-2114. We particularly encourage those who have had CPR certification in the past to participate.

Thank you for making our club a safer place for everyone!

Interesting Historical Photos

An engineer wiring an early IBM computer in 1958.



Double helix staircase designed by Leonardo da Vinci, 1516.



The "snow" in the Wizard of Oz movie was 100% pure asbestos.



Titanic vs modern day cruise ship.





The Answer Lady

Contributed by Susan Lawton

As the "The Answer Lady" I have been responding to questions from "newer" players over the past several weeks. A request has been made to share those players' questions and my responses in the Alert, essentially a column for the beginner player! You can write to me at suzan2420@yahoo.ca.

Question

I read with interest your column of November 27, 2023, where you advised the Responder with only 6-9 points and five spades to pass Opener's 1NT bid rebid after opening 1♦. I played the hand below with my partner who was sitting East. They also opened the bidding with 1♦. I then bid 1♥ and East bid 1NT. I decided to repeat my hearts at the two level. I had 10 HCPs and seven hearts. My partner passed and we made three hearts. Was that the right thing to do? Signed, a 199 player

Answer

Good morning, 199 player. Thank you for this interesting hand. As this is a F2F game, the actual bidding can't be displayed. So, the bidding went 1♦-1♥-1NT-2♥ and that is where the contract was left. East actually has a 15-HCP hand but is unable to open 1NT with that singleton heart. As the bridge gods sometimes ordain, Responder bid the heart suit, that one suit that contains Opener's singleton.

As a beginner player, your bid of 2♥ was perfectly reasonable with seven hearts headed by the AK. Opener's 1NT rebid shows minimal values, reasonable as East's 15 HCPs are flawed. However, a bid of 2♣ instead of 1NT would be preferable in that it would better describe East's hand. West would still likely repeat those hearts to show the extra length. Another interesting feature of this hand is South's decision to pass rather than make a one-level overcall bid of 1♠ after Opener's 1♦. South has a nice spade suit headed by the AK of spades, five spades, and 8 HCPs. If South had decided to enter the auction and bid 1♠, you as Responder can still very comfortably bid 2♥, showing at least five hearts and more than 10+ HCP. The singleton spade in West's hand increases the hand value. In fact, it is possible with careful play to make four hearts on this hand. Of course, it would be important to make sure all the trumps are removed to prevent any diamond ruffs by South.

D 25	N	W	N	E	S
	♠ Q987 ♥ 4 ♦ Q873 ♣ QJ109		P	P	P
		2♥	P	P	P
W					
♠ 4 ♥ AK108752 ♦ K54 ♣ 87					
			E		
			♠ J32 ♥ Q ♦ AJ962 ♣ AK42		
	S				
	♠ AK1065 ♥ J963 ♦ 10 ♣ 653				
					2♥ W NS: 0 EW: 0

On Track...  ...To Online



SE Carolina Club Online Games

When there is not a GRBC online game available, are you trying to find a SE Carolina Club of Clubs game to play in? We hope so, because any time you play in a SE Carolina game, some of your entry fee is shared with GRBC ☺ .

The SE Carolina games are listed under a number of titles, all containing the phrase “SE Caro”. Here are some examples.

Open SE Caro Clubs S1 Friend

2500 SE Carolina Clubs S3

<749 SE Carolina S5

749 SE Caro Vero

Open SE Caro S1 Vanderbilt

749 SE Caro Clubs Gr-Riv S1

The last game in this list is our sponsored game, whereby GRBC gets a modest cut of every-one's entry fee ☺ ☺ ☺! This game happens every Saturday morning at 9:30am.

The easiest way to find SE Carolina games is to type “SE” in the search bar, and a shorter list of games will appear. And of course, you all know how to find our Grand River online games, of which we offer at least one game every day except on Fridays. And these are the best way to support our club online. Many thanks for your support!



Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer (GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com)

Anyone playing in our GRBC online games this week may have noticed something different. The entry fee was reduced from \$5US to \$4.50US. What madness is this? Ebenezer Scrooge would be shaking his head!

BBO increased the minimum entry fee for all bridge clubs' games to \$4.50 in October. Matching that number would make us more or equally competitive in that large ocean of online games. A reduced fee might just attract visitors to our games ... probably those people for whom a 50¢ bargain is a big deal. That 50¢ reduction means less revenue for GRBC, but it's only about \$150CDN / month.

Another Important Fact to Remember

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

Time You Learned our Lessons!

Continuing

- **Newcomer bridge labs** every Monday morning, 9:00 am – 11:30 am, except on holiday Mondays. Upcoming mini-lessons include **Re-evaluating Your Hand After Partner Bids** with Malkin Howes on December 11, **Play of the Hand (Suits) Part 2** with Dave Quarrie on January 8, **Counting Trump** with Barbara Arthur on January 15, and **Responding to Pre-Empts** with Stephen Carpenter on January 22.
-

Recorded Lessons

- **Get That Extra Trick by Playing Card Combinations Correctly**, two-hour digital workshop by Stephen Carpenter.
- **Scoring Matters**, two-hour digital workshop by Jack Cole.

Pay \$10 in any of the [usual ways](#), and ask [Malkin](#) to send you the link.

Still in the Cards



Learn Bridge in a Day?

Do you know someone who likes to play cards and would enjoy learning about a game that offers many hours of inexpensive entertainment and brain stimulation, not to mention the opportunity to make lots of new friends and become part of a very supportive environment?

If so, why not give them Learn Bridge in a Day as a Christmas present? This is a very fun day, the object of which is to show people how enjoyable bridge is (as opposed to teaching them much about the game). For every person you register, we will send you a cute gift certificate that you can tuck into the lucky persons' Christmas stockings.

Instructor: Stephen Carpenter

Date: Saturday, January 13, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Cost: \$35

Venue: In the teaching room at our club

Current Enrollment: 4

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



Beginner 1 Lessons

Instructor: Sue Moses

Dates: Saturday, January 20, 27, February 7, 21, & 28

Cost: \$85 (includes the cost of the text)

Venue: In the teaching room at our club

Current Enrollment: 3

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

FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

Don't Try This at Home

South Deals ♠ Q J 10 3
 E-W Vul ♥ 6 3
 ♦ 10 3
 ♣ K J 10 9 2

♠ K 6 5 4
 ♥ Q 10
 ♦ K Q 7 2
 ♣ A Q 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 9
 ♥ A K J 7
 ♦ A J 6
 ♣ 6 5 4 3

♠ 8 7 2
 ♥ 9 8 5 4 2
 ♦ 9 8 5 4
 ♣ 8

West	North	East	South
			P
1N ¹	2♣ ²	Db1 ³	P
2♦ ⁴	P	3NT	AP

1. 15-17
2. clubs and a major
3. Stayman
4. no four-card major

Question

I would appreciate your input on this hand I played against you. After a very long pause by me as I tried to decide what to do, you diagnosed my problem and suggested that a double of 2♣ is known as a stolen bid double (as in you would have bid 2♣ as Stayman if West had not over-called 2♣). What I was thinking about bidding was 3♣ (Puppet Stayman asking for a four-card or five-card major). With 17 points, I was anticipating we would be heading to slam somewhere. When partner denied a four-card major, I signed off in 3NT. Would 4NT (quantitative raise asking partner to bid 6NT with a maximum) be a better bid, or should I just bid 4NT right away even though I have no club stop?

Answer

The 2♣ bid (showing clubs and a major) is scary because you can see that North's club values are behind your partner's club values. (Since North can have at most 8 HCP, partner must have at least the ♣Q, so clubs are stopped). If your choice is to stop in game, 3♣ puppet is the way to go: 3♣- 3♦ (at least one four-card Major) -3♥ (promising four cards in spades) - 3NT. If you want to try for slam on your combined 32-34 HCP: 1NT-2♣-4NT (quantitative). Partner has 16 (not

quite a max), so we look at the positives and the negatives of the West hand. Positives: You know where the missing high-strength is, you have a little shape (not 3433 distribution), you have no jacks and you have one 10. Negatives: The ♣Q is of dubious value and secondary high spot cards (eights and nines) are non-existent. I would recommend West reject.

There is one other method that you could use to get to slam. The auction 1NT - 5NT asks partner to bid their four-card suits up-the-line. For example: 1NT - 5NT - 6♦ (I have four diamonds, but I don't have four clubs) - 6♥ (I don't have four diamonds but I have four hearts) - 6♠ (I don't have four hearts but I have four spades) - 6NT (we have no 4-4 fit, so I guess we are playing 6NT).

You continue in the fashion until a fit is uncovered, or you reach 6NT if you have no fit. Curiously, 6♦ happens to make on this hand - two spades, a spade ruff, four hearts, four diamonds, and one club. So - 1NT - 5NT - 6♦ (I don't have four clubs, but I do have four diamonds) - passsss! You could dine out on retelling that story for years!

South Deals	♠ Q J 10 3	
E-W Vul	♥ 6 3	
	♦ 10 3	
	♣ K J 10 9 2	
♠ K 6 5 4	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A 9
♥ Q 10		♥ A K J 7
♦ K Q 7 2		♦ A J 6
♣ A Q 7		♣ 6 5 4 3
	♠ 8 7 2	
	♥ 9 8 5 4 2	
	♦ 9 8 5 4	
	♣ 8	

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			P
1NT ¹	2♣ ²	5NT ³	P
6♦ ⁴	P	6♥ ⁵	P
6♠ ⁶	P	6NT ⁷	AP

1. 15-17
2. Clubs and a major
3. Please bid your four-card suits up the line
4. I don't have four clubs but I do have four diamonds
5. I don't have four diamonds, but I do have four hearts
6. I don't have four hearts but I do have four spades
7. I don't have four spades so 6N is our destiny

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 November.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	14.60	1	Jim Dalglish	11.36	1	Debbie Miethig	5.37
2	Ted Boyd	9.62	2	Lori Cole	7.54	2	Brian Gaber	5.19
3	Moira Hollingsworth	8.34	3	Regina Williams	7.12	3	Sheila Charters	4.23
4	Suzanne Edwards	7.95	3	Denis Williams	7.12	4	Don Slowinski	3.64
5	Mike Peng	7.91	5	Judy Beauchamp	6.94	5	John Aldridge	3.57
6	Stephen Young	7.89	6	Martin Jones	6.30	6	Peter Gaasenbeek	3.19
7	Cindy Mahn	7.83	7	Bob Gilck	6.18	7	Paul Raymond	3.13
8	Margot Stockie	7.39	8	Jack Cole	5.44	8	JP Fraresso	2.61
9	Pat McMillan	7.19	9	Rick Arthur	5.27	9	Sandra Kendall	2.40
10	Bonnie Kains	7.04	10	John Kip	5.22	10	Ben Cornell	2.38
11	Malkin Howes	6.63	10	Cheryl Kip	5.22	11	Pat Northey	2.32
12	Neil Coburn	6.25	12	Janice Pengelly	5.17	12	Audrey Cook	2.30
13	Kathy Russell	5.60	13	Bob Livermore	4.93	13	Jim Fox	2.29
14	Sharon King	5.59	14	Kevin Latter	4.74	14	Russel Kerr	2.26
15	Neil Jeffrey	5.38	15	Cheryl White	4.64	15	Larry Brooks	2.10
16	Liz McDowell	5.08	16	Judy Widdecombe	4.45	16	Jane Wilson	2.02
17	Dianne Aves	4.80	17	Lissa Lowes	4.32	17	George Rybiak	1.99
18	Edith Ferber	4.79	18	Tony Verhoeven	4.08	17	Richard Rybiak	1.99
19	Bob Griffiths	4.70	19	Andy Martinek	3.85	19	Andrew Widdis	1.95
20	Dave Quarrie	4.14	20	Molly Worden	3.80	20	Stu Cowan	1.84
21	William Christian	3.91	21	Elinor Girouard	3.76	21	Steve Cameron	1.80
22	Dave Embury	3.01	22	Nanci Phelan	3.64	22	Pat Gascho	1.78
23	Paul Latimer	3.00	23	Nancy Cattanach	3.62	23	Carla Laubach	1.62
24	John Hanemaayer	3.00	24	Sue Durance	3.53	24	Sharon Nesbitt	1.56
25	Adriaan Kempe	2.75	25	Glenn Mockford	3.45	25	Janice Gibson	1.36

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

- For both online and f2f games, log on 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. *When you use Partner Finder, it will allow folks to see your contact information. If you have posted a Partner Finder ad, kindly remember to check your phone and email and, when you've found a partner, delete your ad. Someone who replied to your ad may be waiting for a response.*
- For online games only, log in to the game in question and register yourself on the Partnership Desk tab (or look to see if someone else has already registered there).

If you are looking for a regular partner, contact [Joan Slover](#), our membership lead. Please let her know what sort of game/partner you are interested in – your playing level, your available time slots, F2F and/or online, and any other pertinent information.

We have fun in **spades**.

We play with all our **hearts**.

We treat our members like **diamonds**.

You can get poker chips on Saturdays at our **club**.