



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

[Our Website](#)

## ALERT – February 13, 2023

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

### Looking Ahead

- Registration has been closed for our annual **499er Valentine's Swiss Teams extravaganza**.
- There will be **no online game on Sunday, February 12** to encourage attendance at the Valentine's Day Swiss.
- [The Niagara Sectional Tournament](#) runs from Friday, February 10 through Sunday, February 12.
- Our online games during the week of February 13-19 will cost an extra \$2BBO for **Educational Fund Week**, double black points.
- Our face-to-face afternoon games on Tuesday, February 14, Thursday, February 16, and Friday, February 17 will be **STaC games** = EXTRA MASTERPOINTS, all of them **silver** (\$2 surcharge).
- There will be **no Friday night game on February 17** because so many of our players will be at the [Barbados tournament](#) that weekend.
- **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](#)).



### Bring A Friend

### 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.

## **499ers – Silver Points are Here for Your Taking!!!**

*Contributed by Kathy Russell, Chair of the Games Committee*

The Tuesday Feb 14, Thursday Feb 16, and Friday Feb 17 afternoon in-person games are Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaC) games. In addition to a fun afternoon playing with your friends, your extra \$2 means there are more masterpoints available, and they are all SILVER. You need silver points to progress up the rank ladder!

As 499ers, you are eligible to play in all three games! Think you don't stand a chance in the open game – think again! At the past two Thursday open games, my partners and I came in first and second (we are well under 1,000 masterpoints and I'm not a life master. That's right, we C players beat Dave Baker with his 15+ times our masterpoints along with all the other A players!

499ers, your chances of rolling in the silver are even better during the open games this STaC week.

- You qualify for all three strats in the Open game (three games within the game) giving you three times the opportunities to win masterpoints.
- Your results are amalgamated with concurrent peer group games at other clubs. Meaning the game size and masterpoints are even bigger!
- Many of the open players will be away that week – that's right most of the club's top players won't be at the club. They are spending thousands of US dollars in Barbados in hopes of winning silver points. You can win silver points for \$10Cdn a day. (They booked their trip before we knew about the STaC games – hee hee.)

I need silver points for the next rank, but alas I must still work for a living. I'm envious of all the opportunities the 499ers have to earn silver points that week at our club. Hope to see your names in the open game standings!

And, BTW, in case this is not enough inducement, if you have never played at our club or if you have not played at our club since March 2020, you and your partner will play free.

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## **The Bean Counter**

*Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer*

### **Attention all Interac transferers to the GRBC!**

Effective Monday February 13, the target email address will be [GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com). Our website will reference the change.

Your bank's e-transfer process allows you to type in comments. Please use that section to provide your name, your email address, and the purpose of the funds (membership, the XYZ lesson, the Treasurer Retirement Fund, etc.). It turns my hair grey when I do not have those vital pieces of information. Although you know who you are, the Interac notification email does not convey it to me.

Please make sure that you double check the target email address. If you send an Interact transfer to the wrong address, the GRBC will never receive it. Never is a long time. As a reward, I will confirm receipt of the funds within a couple of days - but only if you provided your email address!

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## Inaugural 299er Face-to-Face Game

*Contributed by Kevin Latter, Game Director*

A very enthusiastic group of 299er players showed up at our club at 1:00 pm last Wednesday afternoon for our first f2f game since March 2020. We had 34 players, of whom 14 availed themselves of the chance to play free (see Friendly February above). Some of them had not played at our club since before Covid, while others brought a friend who qualified. We had three people who were completely new to in-person duplicate bridge, with two of them having come to our bridge labs.

As regards the strats, of the 17 pairs, two pairs were A players, five pairs were B players, and all the rest were in C. Interestingly, C players were first and second in N/S, while C players were second and third in E/W. Well done, everyone!

Everyone appeared to have a great time, and we are looking forward to an even-better attended game this coming Wednesday. For more information, You can contact me at [blakl@rogers.com](mailto:blakl@rogers.com). If you need a partner, contact either Joan Slover ([rxjoan@rogers.com](mailto:rxjoan@rogers.com)) or Mary Lynn Benjamins ([mlbenjamins@rogers.com](mailto:mlbenjamins@rogers.com)).

A photographer will be in attendance at next week's game.

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*War and Peas*

## ***From the Archives:* Time to Make a Plan**

Every bridge teacher endlessly drums into his or her students the need for declarer to develop an overall plan before playing to the first trick. After all, more contracts are defeated by a thoughtless play at Trick 1 than at any other point in the hand.

But frequently the opponents make it very uncomfortable for declarer to take the time needed to make a plan. These opponents fidget and sigh and look at their watches and pull cards out of their hand or even tell declarer what card to play from dummy. Apart from being rude, they are not very bright.

For one thing, the opponents have almost as much to think about and plan as declarer does. The dummy delivers a wealth of information that helps the opponents count points and distribution around the table. They should be using this time to visualize the unseen hands - where the missing high cards are, the likely distributions, and what they should play to the first trick. They should also be planning what to do if declarer leads a certain card – because if they don't follow suit in tempo they will give the show away. How many times have you held the ace but hesitated before ducking? Now you might as well stick that ace to your forehead!

The other thing to bear in mind is that if you let declarer plan the play in peace, the rest of the hand will usually go much faster. Once declarer has a plan, unless he has to drastically change it in midstream, he will usually be able to move through the tricks like a machine. The time invested at Trick 1 will come back in spades. Well, maybe in hearts. ♥

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## **Letter to the Editor**

Baron Barclay has listed **Dianne Aves' new book *Counting at Bridge: The easy way to improve your game*** as one of the best new books to read this month. You will find it on the second page of this month's (February 2023) *Bulletin*.

I have this book, and I have found it very useful. Congratulations to Dianne and to the club!  
Mark Obermeyer

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St. Patrick driving the snakes out of Ireland.



## Spring Team League Update

At present, we have five teams registered and one pair looking for teammates. Each team consists of four to six players. It is too early to determine the number of divisions (because we need to know the number of teams beforehand). Al Pengelly is the director in charge for this event, and he will determine the divisions (or brackets) closer to the registration deadline of February 21. 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.

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## Valentine Swiss Teams

A few housekeeping items for those who are participating.

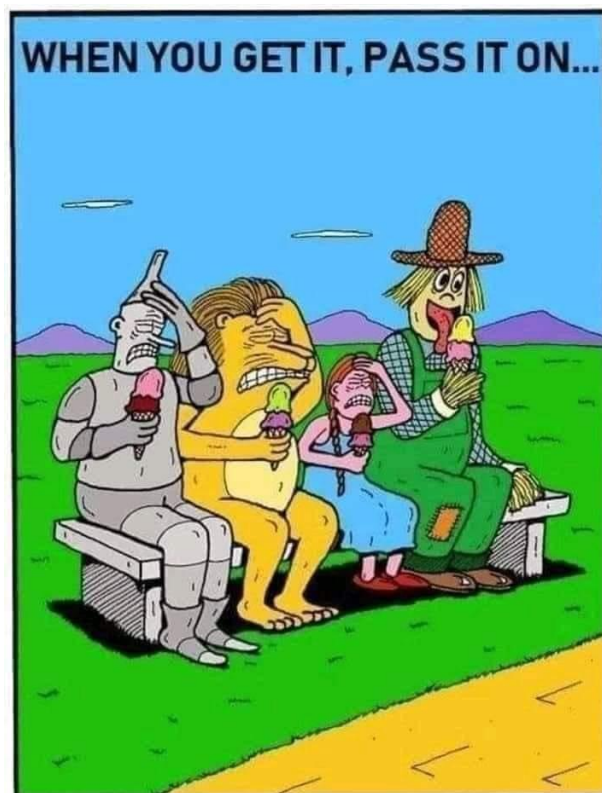
- The game starts at 10:00 am, but the players should plan to arrive and register by 9:30 am so that we can start on time.
  - In order to avoid confusion during registration and to save time, the team captain is asked to collect the \$20 fee from his team members and then take the money to the director's desk and register the entire team.
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## Roy's Interim Intermediate Bridge Lab

*Contributed by Roy Dandyk*

Every Tuesday morning until Liz returns from Arizona, I (or my alternate) will lead an intermediate bridge lab at the club. This is a very informal drop-in session, no partner required. We will start at 9:45 am, and for the first 15 minutes or so, those present will play hands, followed by a 30-minute mini-lesson (the next one will be about planning and playing hands), followed by more hand playing until approximately noon. The cost is \$8 members/ \$10 non-members. Those who need to leave early in order to play in the 12:30 pm online game are welcome to do so. That is why I am starting early!

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# TIME YOU LEARNED OUR LESSONS!

In the cards (get it?) are the following online workshops.

- **Negative Doubles**, Monday morning, February 13. Online. \$20 members/ \$25 non-members. Instructor: Malkin Howes. Current enrollment: **9**. Level: **Intermediate**.
- **No Trump Interference (Cappelletti, DONT, and Meckwell)**. Monday morning, February 20. \$20 members/ \$25 non-members. Instructor: Malkin Howes. Current Enrollment: **7**. Level: **Intermediate**.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register for either of these workshops.

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## Play of the Hand (Suits)

In an 18-board club game, you are likely to be declarer on four or five boards. You need to learn techniques to help you become a better declarer.

- You need to be aware of your goal.
- You must learn how to make a plan.
- You must learn how to implement your plan.

In this five-week course, you will learn how to make a plan right after the opening lead has been made, and you will also learn how to minimize your losers so that you can make your contract and maybe even make overtricks.

Instructor: Dianne Aves

Level: **Novice**

Mode: In person

Dates: Wednesday evenings, 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm, February 22, March 1, 8, 15, & 22

Cost: \$95 members/ \$105 non-members (includes a \$20 text)

Current Enrollment: **2**

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

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## 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 **10**.

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

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## FOR OPEN PLAYERS



## Dear David

### Not Another Double!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

About 100 years ago, at the inception of the game of bridge a double just meant “I don’t think you can make this!” Today, a double could have a great many different interpretations. Here’s one to consider:

A Lightner double is a lead-directing double of an enemy slam contract. It frequently implies a void, and asks partner for a ruff. Generally speaking, partner is asked to:

1. Lead dummy's side suit, if one has been bid; or
2. Lead declarer's side suit, if one has been bid; or
3. Make any other unusual lead - usually your longest suit to get a ruff.

Additionally, the double asks partner to NOT lead any suit that your side has bid.

The screenshot shows a bridge hand interface with the following details:

- North:** ♠K1042, ♥QJ7, ♦Q2, ♣K752. A 2NT bid is shown with a note "minors" and an "Explain" button.
- West:** ♠Q, ♥43, ♦AJ1093, ♣J10983. A 5♦ bid is shown.
- East:** ♠76, ♥1098652, ♦K8765, ♣.
- South:** ♠AJ9853, ♥AK, ♦4, ♣AQ64. A 6♠x bid is shown with a note "South".
- Bidding:** West bid 5♦, North bid 2NT, East bid 6♠x, South bid 6♠x.
- Tricks:** 0 for West, 0 for South.

You bid 5♦ on your meagre collection not only as a potentially-profitable sacrifice, but also to prevent the opponents from asking for aces or keycards. You might be tempted to bid 7♦ now, but you have a real possibility of defeating them in 6♠ if partner can be persuaded to lead a club. Since neither opponent has bid a side suit, the double must ask partner to lead his longest side suit, which you know must be clubs. After a club lead is trumped, a diamond to the ace and a second club is trumped. Down two doubled!

I “borrowed” this hand from the *Bulletin* because no mention was made of a potential Lightner double situation. At the table, West led the ♦A, and East signalled that he didn’t like diamonds, leading West (who strongly believed that his partner must have five diamonds for his 5♦ bid) to switch to a club. Down one is good bridge. But what if South had had a diamond void and East had the ♥A? Only a club lead is the winner.

Now for the naysayers. What if you get your ruff but don’t have another trick? You can justify your action by saying that you hoped partner had a trick since the opponents might have bid seven if they had no apparent losers.

This convention is NOT for the faint-of-heart, so be sure you have a long discussion with your partner if you choose to play it. When it works, it’s a thrill.

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# 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	17.93	1	Suzanne Edwards	10.33	1	Rick Arthur	5.85
2	Mike Peng	15.75	2	Cheryl White	8.58	2	Nancy Cattanach	5.55
3	Ted Boyd	14.10	3	Shelley Metcalfe	7.92	3	Louise Dawdy	5.12
4	Sandy Graham	9.50	4	Lori Cole	7.43	4	Belinda Burt	4.51
5	Mary McClelland	9.15	5	David Dennis	7.34	5	Brian Gaber	4.39
6	David Longstaff	9.08	6	Renate Boucher	6.98	6	Debbie Miethig	3.47
7	Liz McDowell	8.87	6	Jack Cole	6.98	7	Casi Zehr	3.43
8	Colin Harrington	8.41	8	Cheryl Kip	6.89	8	Don Slowinski	3.42
9	Edith Ferber	7.85	9	Roy Dandyk	6.82	8	Ben Cornell	3.42
10	Malkin Howes	6.99	10	John Kip	6.77	10	Paul Raymond	3.39
11	Margot Stockie	6.94	11	Martin Jones	6.02	11	Elaine Doyle	3.36
12	Neil Jeffrey	6.85	12	Barbara Arthur	5.94	12	Audrey Cook	3.29
13	Bonnie Kains	6.23	13	Bev Hitchman	5.67	13	Kathy Chandler	3.20
14	Bob Griffiths	6.02	14	Adriaan Kempe	5.54	14	Jane Wilson	2.53
15	Moira Hollingsworth	5.29	15	Marlene Dopko	5.30	15	Molly Worden	2.46
16	Neil Coburn	5.11	16	Sal Pace	5.16	16	Valirie Binkle	2.20
17	Kathy Russell	4.66	17	Susan Durance	5.11	17	Chris Beck	2.08
17	Scott Hills	4.66	18	Nanci Phelan	4.99	18	MJ Hartleib	1.85
19	Ronna Hoy	4.65	19	Jean White	4.98	19	Donna McKay	1.83
20	John Hanemaayer	4.40	20	Kevin Latter	4.67	20	Doug Livesey	1.82
21	Stephen Young	4.34	21	Gordon Hunter	4.38	21	Charlene Schell	1.75
22	Diane Bourdeau	4.30	22	Lynda Burnett	4.32	22	Richard Prendiville	1.48
23	Wayne Jordan	3.48	23	Judy Beauchamp	4.05	23	Ginny Marshall	1.08
24	Cindy Mahn	3.08	24	Noah Pace	4.04	23	Diane Jones	1.08
25	Dave Embury	3.03	25	Virginia Alviano	4.02	25	Julia Prendiville	1.07

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 have a new f2f game at our **club**.