

The Kibitzer



Winter 2023 | Volume 70, Number 4



2024 Toronto NABC

2024 Toronto NABC

For all the latest updates to the 2024 Toronto NABC, please visit the website: torontonabc.org.

Hotels will sell out very quickly!

The rates are amazing - \$200 CAD for nice hotels in downtown Toronto in July. Other hotels are averaging \$500-\$800 a night that week in the area. The sale date is Tues., Jan. 16, 2024 - an important date. Reservations **MUST** be made via the ACBL - this link will be updated on Jan 16 with a direct link to book - <https://www.acbl.org/portfolio/nabccalendar/>

Once the hotel sells out (likely within hours), there is no guarantee the ACBL can acquire more rooms at a similar rate. Add in the fact the Blue Jays have home games EVERY day of the NABC, and accommodations/travel/parking won't be easy.

We are still looking for volunteers in a variety of areas, including the Youth NABC (Thurs 25-Sat 27) - <https://torontonabc.org/toronto-youth-nabc-needs-volunteers/>
Glenna Richardson is the volunteer coordinator. If you would like to contact Glenna, please email her at: glennarichardson@torontonabc.org

Sponsorships - did you ever want to have a game or day at an NABC named after you, someone special, or a business, etc.? Applications are open! <https://torontonabc.org/sponsorships/>

Tentative NABC and regional schedule is out - <https://torontonabc.org/schedule/>
Main game times will be 10am and 3pm.





RESERVATIONS OPEN JANUARY 16, 2024
 Events are being played at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre

acbl.org/nabc

NATIONAL-RATED EVENTS ♠ 10 a.m. & 3 p.m. for most events

July 13-15	July 17-18	July 19	July 20	July 21	July 22
NABC ROBOT INDIVIDUAL	MOREHEAD GNT CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT GOLDMAN GNT FLIGHT A SHEINWOLD GNT FLIGHT B MACNAB GNT FLIGHT C	GNT CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT GNT FLIGHTS A, B & C VON ZEDTWITZ LM PAIRS BRUCE LM-6000 PAIRS YOUNG 0-2500 PAIRS	GNT CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT GNT FLIGHTS A, B & C VON ZEDTWITZ LM PAIRS BRUCE LM-6000 PAIRS YOUNG 0-2500 PAIRS 0-10,000 NABC PAIRS	GNT CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT GNT FLIGHTS A, B & C VON ZEDTWITZ LM PAIRS BRUCE LM-6000 PAIRS YOUNG 0-2500 PAIRS 0-10,000 NABC PAIRS	SPINGOLD KO TEAMS TRUSCOTT/USPC SENIOR SWISS TEAMS <i>(Must be born before Jan. 1, 1960.)</i> WAGAR WOMEN'S PAIRS
July 23	July 24	July 25	July 26	July 27	July 28
SPINGOLD KO TEAMS 0-6000 & 0-2500 MINI-SPINGOLD WAGAR WOMEN'S PAIRS TRUSCOTT/USPC SENIOR SWISS TEAMS	SPINGOLD KO TEAMS 0-6000 & 0-2500 MINI-SPINGOLD WERNHER OPEN PAIRS FREEMAN MIXED BAM	SPINGOLD KO TEAMS 0-6000 & 0-2500 MINI-SPINGOLD WERNHER OPEN PAIRS FREEMAN MIXED BAM	SPINGOLD KO TEAMS 0-6000 & 0-2500 MINI-SPINGOLD ROTH OPEN SWISS TEAMS BEAN RED RIBBON PAIRS	SPINGOLD KO TEAMS 0-6000 & 0-2500 MINI-SPINGOLD ROTH OPEN SWISS TEAMS BEAN RED RIBBON PAIRS 0-10,000 MIXED SWISS TEAMS	SPINGOLD KO TEAMS 0-6000 & 0-2500 MINI-SPINGOLD ROTH OPEN SWISS TEAMS 0-10,000 MIXED SWISS TEAMS

REGIONAL & GOLD RUSH EVENTS

Game Times	
10 a.m. / 3 p.m. / 7:30 p.m.	
Event Types*	
Gold Rush Pairs Open Pairs Top-Flight Pairs Mid-Flight Pairs Fast Pairs Side Game Series	Gold Rush Swiss Teams Bracketed Teams Swiss Teams Zip Swiss Teams
*Two-session events are either 10 & 3 same day or 7:30 consecutive days. Events vary each day.	

INTERMEDIATE / NEWCOMER EVENTS

July 18-27
10 a.m. & 3 p.m. Stratified 0-299
0-5 pairs play FREE on Friday July 19
FREE two-hour lessons Saturday & Sunday July 20-21
Celebrity Speaker Series most every day at 9:15 a.m.
July 28
10 a.m. & 2 p.m. Stratified 0-299

YOUTH NABC

July 25-27	Event Types
Lunch every day Closing awards reception ceremony	National Youth Open Pairs National Youth Swiss Teams
Game Times	Youth Pairs Youth Teams CardrOOK Pairs
10 a.m. 2 p.m.	
Open to players 20 and under with less than 5000 masterpoints.	

acbl.org/ynabc

COLLEGIATE BRIDGE BOWL ♠ 10 a.m. & 3 p.m.

July 25-27	COLLEGIATE BRIDGE BOWL TEAMS ♠ COLLEGIATE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP
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acbl.org/bridgebowl



2024 SUMMER NABC SPONSORSHIPS

Take advantage of an opportunity to honour a special person either posthumously or who is part of your life now, or promote a business you or someone you know owns, and help support the NABC at the same time.

You or your business can sponsor a single session event, a 2-session event, a 4-session side game series, or sponsor an entire day. The event(s) you choose to sponsor will be named with the name of your choosing (name of the business, or person). This name will be in print on the playing schedule and elsewhere for all attendees to read. Please read the following information for various sponsorship amounts, what is included for your sponsorship and information on how to proceed.

Consider a unique way to reach a select group of people and leave a lasting memory in players' minds.

If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth Williams at elizwilliams12345@gmail.com

Platinum Level Sponsorship - \$1,500

Day Sponsor at the 2024 Toronto NABC
Sponsor of Two, 2 session Events
Name listed in Official NABC Event Schedule as a Day sponsor
Provided article published in the NABC daily bulletin

Gold Level Sponsorship - \$750

Sponsor of Two, 2 session Events
Name listed in Official NABC Event Schedule
Provided article published in the NABC daily bulletin

Silver Level Sponsorship - \$500

Sponsor of one, 2 session Event
Name listed in Official NABC Event Schedule

Bronze Level Sponsorship - \$250

Sponsor of one single session Event
Name listed in Official NABC Event Schedule

In Memoriam Day Sponsorship - \$1,000

Sponsor of Two, 2 session Events
Name listed in Official NABC Event Schedule
Provided article published in the NABC daily bulletin
Provided picture and write-up on memoriam board

In Memoriam Sponsorship - \$400

Sponsor of one single session Event
Name listed in Official NABC Event Schedule
Provided article published in the NABC daily bulletin
Provided picture and write-up on memoriam board



It's been a great autumn for bridge and for playing face-to-face. For those of you who attended the St. Catharines Regional in November, how about that Kathy Morrison! She puts on a great tourney—so nice to have a bustling hospitality room. And thanks to her daughter Jackie, of iA Private Wealth, for sponsoring the event. Hope to see you at the next St. Catharines tourney in February!

Darlene Scott and her group of volunteers are busy planning the Toronto NABC. You can read all about it in the preceding pages. Of note, they have been raising funds through 50-50 draws. Some of the lucky winners thus far have been **Martin Hunter** (winner

of \$430 at the TO Labour Day Sectional), **Dieter Gamm** (\$327 at Brampton) and **Parise Guerette** (\$225 at the Ottawa Regional). Look for more 50-50 draws at local Sectionals in the new year. Hot tip: the committee was able to secure amazing room rates. So, if you are thinking of staying downtown during the NABC, be sure to book early.

Thanks to each of our contributors this issue: **Ross Driedger, Robert Griffiths, Ray Jotcham, Howard Laufer, Darwin Li, Viktoria Renaud, and the Shoe** (who remembers his friend and popular Toronto-area player from the 70s-90s, Harmon Edgar). We could not put these Kibs together without the time and effort of our contributors, so thank you.

John Gowdy reminisces of the time he played with distant cousin **Bruce Gowdy**. On one of their last boards in a matchpoint game, John, on defence, allowed 2♦ to make an overtrick. Bruce went apoplectic. John reminded Bruce of all his errors earlier in the event. Bruce replied, "I can handle all my errors! It's yours I can't stomach." How about you? What's something humorous your partner said to you right after a deal?

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

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ACBL
SANCTIONED

Bridge Weekend

MAY 3RD - 5TH, 2024

— 2 NIGHT ALL-INCLUSIVE GETAWAY PACKAGE —

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE WORLD'S GREATEST CARD GAME

Join husband & wife team, Martin Hunter and Danielle Gosselin while you enjoy Fern Resort's classic hospitality, great food and lakeside setting for a memorable weekend in the heart of cottage country. Martin is an Expert player and ACBL Tournament Director, while Danielle is an ACBL Accredited Bridge Teacher.

BOOK IN ADVANCE - THIS EVENT WILL SELL OUT!



OVER 9 HOURS OF DUPLICATE BRIDGE PLAY

- Optional casual bridge game - Friday at 3:00pm
- 4 sessions of ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge
- 4 Mini Lessons and one workshop
- Meet & Greet with complimentary wine & cheese
- Awards, prizes, and more!

2-NIGHT ALL-INCLUSIVE GETAWAY PACKAGE AT BEAUTIFUL FERN RESORT

Package includes accommodation, 6 meals per person (dinner on Friday, 3 Meals Saturday, Breakfast & Lunch Sunday), wine & cheese event, all Bridge activities and access to seasonal facilities.

Starting from \$533 per person*

*Price based on double occupancy, plus HST

Reserve online at fernresort.com,
call 1-800-567-3376 or email us at
getaway@fernresort.com to book
your stay today.

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UNIT 166 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

Please check the Unit 166 website for up-to-date club information www.unit166.ca

ALBION HILLS BRIDGE CLUB

Mayfield United Church,
12496, Dixie Road, Mayfield, Caledon ON
Steven Norris 647-234-6352
albionhillsbridge@gmail.com

- Thur 1:00 pm Open

BRONTE BRIDGE CLUB

Walton Memorial United Church
2489 Lakeshore Road W., Oakville
Jackie Syer 905-844-0574
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 pm 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

- Tues 12:30 pm Open

UNIT 166 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

Please check the Unit 166 website for up-to-date club information www.unit166.ca

HART HOUSE BRIDGE CLUB

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

- Tues 6:30 pm Open

MARILYN'S BRIDGE CLUB

24 Alexander St.
Brampton, ON L6V 1H6
(905) 791-4239
Gary Westfall
gwestfall@rogers.com

- Fri 12:30 pm Open

MOBRIDGE

Sherwood Village
2225 Erin Mills Pkwy, Unit #155A
Mississauga, ON L5K 1T9
www.mobridge.club
Phyllis Jones
mail@mobridge.club

- Mon 7:00 pm 0-1500
- Tues 12:30 pm Strat. Open
- Wed 7:00 pm 0-300
- Thurs 12:30 pm 0-2500
- Fri 12:30 pm 0-750
- Sat 10:00 am Strat. Open

OAKVILLE BRIDGE CLUB

Trinity United Church
1250 McCraney St. E
Oakville, ON L6H 3K3
Darlene Scott
oakvilledarlene@gmail.com

- Mon 12:15 pm Open
- Free lesson prior to game; arrive at 11:30 am

SHORELINE BRIDGE CLUB

Burlington East Presbyterian Church
505 Walkers Line, Burlington ON
Jackie Syer 905-844-0574
jackisye@gmail.com

- Fri 12:30 pm Open

STEPHEN'S BRIDGE CLUB

St. John's Anglican Church
19 Don Ridge Drive, North York, ON M2P 1H3
Richard Ross 416-816-7115

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

STEPPING STONE BRIDGE CLUB

Armour Heights Presbyterian Church
105 Wilson Ave. (Avenue & 401)
Cyndy Winkler cyndywinkler@gmail.com
<https://www.bridgewebs.com/steppingstones/>

- Mon 12:30 pm 0-20
- Tues 12:00 pm 0-399

TORONTO BRIDGE

Leaside Memorial Gardens
1073 Millwood Road, Toronto, ON
Rob Drummond 647-629-3408
info@torontobridge.ca

- Thur 9:00 am Limited (0-500)
- Thur 12:00 pm Open
- Wed 12:00 pm Open

TORONTO EAST BRIDGE CLUB

1512 Kingston Road, Scarborough, ON
416-419-3089 - Glenna Richardson
416-276-6415 - Laurie Miller
torontoeastbridgeclub@gmail.com

- Mon 7:00 pm Open and 0-20
- Wed 12:30 pm Open and 0-20

TORONTO LAWN TENNIS BRIDGE CLUB

44 Price Street, Toronto, ON
416-922-1105 - Ron Bishop

- Tues 6:30 pm Open
- Tues 6:30 pm Easy Going

TRILLIUM BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

St. Matthews Anglican Church
126 Plains Rd. E, Burlington, ON L7T 2C3
Sandra Thom 289-284-0122
sandra.thom46@gmail.com

- Wed 7:00 pm Open

Nominations Please!

For Unit 166 members only

Kate Buckman Award

Do you know someone who contributes to others' enjoyment of the game of bridge? Do you know someone who should be honoured by the Board of Unit 166? We're looking for nominations for the Kate Buckman Award for 2023. If you don't nominate someone, then we can't honour them and we really want to celebrate this kind of person and the contributions they make to the game of bridge.

Audrey Grant Award

Do you know a bridge teacher who exemplifies the best of the profession? Do you know someone who should be feted by the Board? Submit the nominations for the Audrey Grant Award for 2023. Again, if you don't nominate then we can't celebrate the excellence of this teacher's skill and dedication.

The Unit 166 Board of Directors should consider

for the Kate Buckman/Audrey Grant (circle one or both) Award. The reason that this person deserves your consideration is:

Please submit to David Ellis
ellis2106@gmail.com

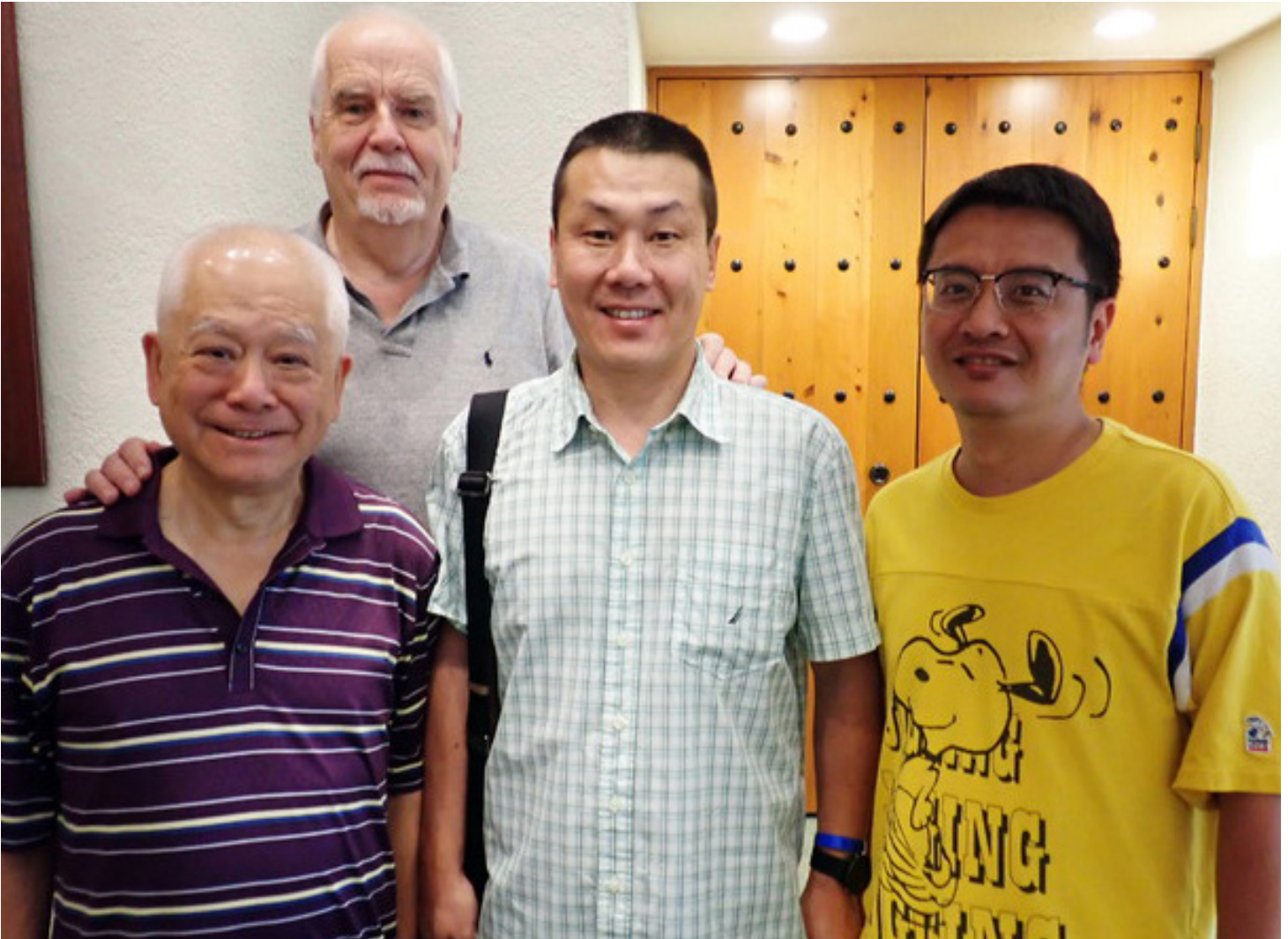
Deadline: December 31, 2023

Delivery Person Wanted

Unit 166 is looking for a delivery person for our bridge supplies, to be taken to our various tournaments. Currently the supplies are being stored in Burlington. Person would be responsible to pick up the supplies at the storage unit and transport them to the tournament (usually airport or downtown Sheraton). Person is also responsible to pick up the supplies after the tournament and take back to the storage unit.

Compensation: \$30.00 per hour starting from the storage unit plus mileage at the prescribed rate set out by CRA. We would also pay for truck rental if necessary.

If interested, please contact Andy Risman via email at arismanca@rogers.com.



Richard Chan, Keith Heckley, Edward Xu & Ming Sheng won the Fri-Sat KOs, and the Sunday Swiss at the recently held regional in Puerto Vallarta.

Photo credit: JS

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
- 2022 *not awarded
- 2023 Andy Risman



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
- 2022 *not awarded
- 2023 Danielle Gosselin



A successful event was run in Thornhill on Oct. 21 by the Dreamland Bridge Club and promoted by the Council of Newcomer Organizations and AFACTE Charity Foundation of Canada. The winning team was Andrew Zheng, Jianfeng Luo, Qian Ren, and Tiger Hu.

Photo credit: Songbo Du



DISTRICT 2

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS

2024

Open Flight	No Masterpoint limits
Flight A	Under 6000 Masterpoints
Flight B	Under 2500 Masterpoints
Flight C	Non-Life Master under 500 Masterpoints (as of Sept. 2023 masterpoint cycle)

Winners of each Flight will represent District 2 in the North American Final, to be played at the Toronto NABC Starting July 17, 2024

Entries at the National Final will be covered by the ACBL or District 2

All players must be paid-up ACBL members and residents of District 2

Teams may consist of 4, 5 or 6 members. Members must play at least ½ the number of matches or sessions and ½ the boards of each KO matches.

Dates: Saturday, March 30 (& Sunday March 31, if >5 teams enter)
Times: 10:00 am & TBA
Cost: \$88 per team, per session (subject to change if required by registration #s)
Place: Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto, ON
(in conjunction with the Toronto Easter Regional)

Pre-registration deadline is March 28.

Teams are required to Pre-register with the **DISTRICT CO-ORDINATOR**, who may be able to help Individuals / Pairs looking for Partners / Teammates

DISTRICT CO-ORDINATOR

Edmund Fok d2.gnt.nap@gmail.com 416-678-7911

Link to District 2 Condition of Contest.

<https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/coc/gnt/02.pdf>

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tel. (705) 674-3677, cell. (705) 662-8813
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TREASURER: Cheryl Mahaffy
email. jc.mahaffy@fibreop.ca

SECRETARY: Fiona Christensen
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email. fionamchristensen@gmail.com

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email. marc.langevin@fibreop.ca

I/N COORDINATOR: Sue Hemmerling
email. hestia@eastlink.ca

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email. pokerjunkie7@hotmail.com

BOARD MEMBER TIMMINS: Bob Pawson
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email. bobpawson1@yahoo.ca

BOARD MEMBER NEW LISKEARD: Alan Young
tel. (705) 563-2996
email. youngalan1234@gmail.com

PRESIDENT: Linda Lord
5930 17th Sideroad RR 1, Schomberg, ON, L0G 1T0
tel. (905) 939-8409 email. lindaleelord@hotmail.com

TREASURER: Susan Beals
34 Falling River Dr., Richmond Hill, ON, L4S 2R1
tel. (416) 433-2292

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tel. (705) 749-9307 email. philsmith.99oak@gmail.com

EDUCATION COORDINATOR: Richard Garlick
102 King St. S., Alliston, ON L9R 1B5,
tel. (705) 435-9340 email. knotslogistics@rogers.com

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SPECIAL EVENTS: Paul Campbell
47 Herrell Ave., Barrie, ON, L4N 6T7
tel. (705) 734-0287 email. pacam1947@hotmail.com

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Irfan Ashraf
email. Nasreen.ashraf01@gmail.com

Doug Darnley
1525 Sandhurst Cres., Pickering, ON, L1V 6Y5
tel. (416) 258-1331 email. ddarnley@rogers.com

Medhat Fawzy
18 Price St., Richmond Hill, ON, L4S 1C8
tel. (416) 428-9034 email. medhatfawzy@hotmail.com

Janice Upenieks,
17 Maple Dr., Orillia L3V 3W3,
tel. (416) 435-3870 email. janice.upenieks@outlook.com

Jean Belfour, 438 Bay St., Orillia L3V 3X6,
tel. (705) 323-4944 email. jeanbelfour@sympatico.ca

Ken Collins, 338 Murray Dr., Aurora, ON L4G 6B2,
tel. (416) 471-5699 email. ken.collins@solution-integrity.com

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

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

UNIT 246 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

AJAX BRIDGE CLUB

46 Exeter Rd., Ajax ON
Sonia Ostroff
905-419-0870

- Tues 7:15 pm Open

AURORA BRIDGE CLUB

406 Millard Ave, Newmarket, ON L3Y 1Z9
905-895-7321

Sally Loates sara.loates@yahoo.com

- Wed 12:30 pm Open
- 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

- 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

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

Club manager - Malcolm Ewashkiw
mje116@bell.net

BLUE MOUNTAIN DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

100 Minnesota Street
Collingwood, ON
705-446-9592

Christine Blake 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

- Wed 1:00 pm Open

LINDSAY DBC

210 Kent St. W.
Lindsay ON
705-464-9210

Doug Brenner 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/

NORTH SIMCOE BRIDGE AND GAMES CLUB

(formerly Midland Bridge Club)
427 William Street, Midland, Ontario

Jeanette Halliday: jhalliday123@gmail.com

Club website: www.bridgewebs.com/midland/

- Mon 1:00 pm Open
- Tues 7:00pm Learning game
- Wed 1:00 pm Open
- Thurs 1:00 pm Social
- Fri 12 noon Bid Euchre

PETERBOROUGH BRIDGE CLUB

184 Marina Blvd.
Peterborough, ON
705-745-2331

Anne Martens ptbobridge@gmail.com

- Mon 1:00 pm Open
- Mon 1:00 pm 49ers
- Tues 1:00 pm 0-750
(one partner must be under 750 mps)
- Wed 1:00 pm Open
- Thurs 1:00 pm 0-750
- Fri 1:00 pm Open

RICHMOND HILL BRIDGE CLUB

Elgin Barrow Arena, 43 Church Street S,
Richmond Hill, L4C 1W1

Susan Beals sbealsca@yahoo.co.uk

- Thur 12:45 pm Open
- Sat 12:45 pm Open

THORNHILL BRIDGE CLUB

7755 Bayview Ave
Thornhill, ON
905-883-955

Medhat Fawzy medhatfawzy@hotmail.com

- Mon 1:00 pm Open
- Tues 1:00 pm Open

President: Ted Boyd
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**Happy Retirement,
Tom Ramsay!**

After 14 years on the Board, seven as President, Tom is done with bridge admin. Now, finally, all his finesses will work!

UNIT 249 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

BREW'S BRIDGE CLUB

770 Maxwell St., Sarnia, ON
 519-381-6792
 Randy Breuer

- Tues 12:45 pm Open
- Wed 12:45 pm Open
- Fri 12:45 pm Open

GRAND RIVER BRIDGE CLUB

2481 Kingsway Drive, Kitchener, ON N2C 1A6
 519-893-4595
 David Baker

- Mon 9:00 am Bridge Lab
- Tues 1:00 pm Open
- Wed 1:00 pm 299
- Thurs 1:00 pm 499, Open
- Fri 1:00 pm 499
- Fri 7:00 pm Open

GODERICH BRIDGE CLUB

300 Bethune Cres, Goderich, ON
 226-773-0241
 Maureen Knowler

- Tues 1:00 pm Open

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23 Victoria Rd N, Guelph, ON N1E 5G6
 519-400-4053
 Thea Davis

- Mon 1:00 pm 499, Open
- Tues 1:00 pm 199
- Wed 1:00 pm 199, Open
- Thurs 1:00 pm Swiss teams, alternating weeks
- Fri 9:00 am Non-sanctioned
- Fri 1:00 pm 499, Open
- Sat 1:00 pm Open, first Sat. of each month

UNIT 249 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

KINCARDINE CHARITY BRIDGE CLUB

601 Durham Street, Kincardine ON
430 McLeod Avenue N2Z 1X1
226-396-6008
Tom Rajnovich tom.rajnovich@gmail.com

- Mon 12:45 pm Open
- Fri 12:45 pm Open

Advance registration is required to play in these games. Please contact Tom Rajnovich at tom.rajnovich@gmail.com or call 226-396-6008.

LONDON BRIDGE CENTRE

9-1106 Dearness Drive, London, ON
519-601-2582
Janine Higgins janine@janinehiggins.ca

- Mon 9:15 am 0-500
- 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

MAPLE CITY DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

304 St Clair St, Chatham, ON
USB Sports Bar downstairs
519-809-7000
Gary Robertson garroberr@gmail.com

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

MEAFORD BRIDGE CLUB

Knox Presbyterian Church
591 St. Vincent St., Meaford
226-568-3204
Jan Chappelle janchappelle@gmail.com

- Mon 1:00 pm Open
- Thursday game starts in October

OWEN SOUND DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

1450 2nd Ave W, Owen Sound, ON
519-371-9949
Gord E Close gordeclose@gmail.com

- Mon 6:45 pm Open
- Wed 1:00 pm Open

PORT ELGIN DBC

600 Tomlinson Drive, Port Elgin, ON
519-832-9505
John Lightfoot

- Tues 12:30 pm Open

SAUGEEN SHORES DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

600 Tomlinson Drive, Port Elgin, Ontario
Manager: John Lightfoot, 519-797-5858
littlebear@bmts.com
Website: [Lake & Bay Bridge](#)

- Mon 12:00 pm Open
- Thur 12:00 pm Open

Exact Reopening Date: TBA

SIMCOE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

150 Colborne St. S.
St. James United Church
Simcoe, ON N3Y 4H6
Jed Drew 519-842-8786
jed.drew@gmail.com

- Wed 1:00 pm Open

ST. THOMAS DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

225 Chestnut Street, St. Thomas, ON N5R 5B2
519-631-5531
Jim Wright manager@stthomasbridgeclub.org

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

TILLSONBURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Tillsonburg Seniors Centre
45 Hardy Ave., Tillsonburg, ON
Jed Drew 519-842-8786
jed.drew@gmail.com

- Fri 1:00 pm Open

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2E Tremont Drive, #5
St Catharines, ON. 905-704-0446
niagara@bridgewebsemail.com
We offer open and/or restricted level games
most days.
Please check our website for our current
schedule: www.bridgecentreofniagara.com

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CENTRE

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

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

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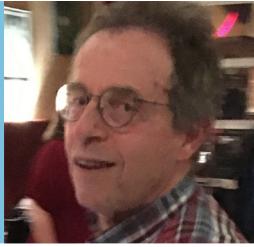
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Summer	Apr. 20	May 15
Fall	July 20	Aug. 15
Winter	Oct. 20	Nov. 15



Adventures with Bob

By Robert Griffiths

DOWN 5 IS GOOD BRIDGE

I was North, playing in an online Swiss match with Mike. East dealt and opened 1♣. Mike passed and West bid 1♥.

My hand looks like roadkill, but we are not vulnerable and they are. This is a good time to throw in a nuisance bid, so I jumped in with 2♠. East quickly showed his good clubs with a 3♣ bid. Mike passed and it took West about half a second to jump to 6♣.

This was passed back to Mike, who never bids without thinking for 10 seconds. In good time, he bid 6♠. West took half a second to double 6♠ and this was passed out.

Board 6
East Deals
EW Vul

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

East led the ♥A. There was nothing to the play as we lost the obvious 6 tricks for down 5, a score of -1100. Of course, I couldn't get angry at Mike for putting me into the hopeless slam. EW would have scored 1390 for making all of the tricks in 6♣.

It turned out that our partners took 13 tricks after bidding 6NT with the EW hands for a score of +1470.

Our gain on the board was 370 points for 9 IMPs.

The only downside of the sacrifice might have been if our impulsive opponent had taken the push and gone on to bid 7♣ which would have scored 2140. That would have changed our 370 point gain into minus 670, and a loss of 12 IMPs.

Perhaps over 7♣, Mike or I would have gone on to 7♠. In that case, our -1400 would make for just a 2-IMP gain on our partners' +1470. Some hands are more like poker than bridge.

PLAYING LIKE A MAN WITH THE QUEEN

Your first hand at the Kitchener Regional tournament is in a team game against a couple of strangers. They seem to know what they are doing.

Your partner, North, deals and opens 1♦. With no interference from EW, you bid 1♠ and see North raise to 2♠. So you jump to 4♠.

West's opening lead is the ♣2. What is your plan?

Board 12
North Deals
EW Vul

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

Counting losers, you can see 1 club, 1 or 2 hearts and possibly 1 spade. The contract looks reasonable, but not a sure thing. On the club lead, it seems that East will win trick one and there is the danger of a heart shift, giving you 2 fast heart losers unless East holds the ♥A.

Every bridge writer since the beginning of time (which is some time in the 1920s) has stressed that declarer's trick one play is often vital. So, you should consider the club suit. It looks like West has led from 3 or 4 clubs headed by the queen. That leaves 4 or 5 clubs with East.

The 'normal' play in the club suit is the jack from dummy, assuming that West has led from the queen, not the ace. But you have the opportunity to make a deceptive play at trick one.

If, instead of the jack from dummy, you play a low club, East may be left wondering. You are acting like a man (or woman) with the ♣Q in his (or her) hand. If the queen is with South, then West's ♣2 lead must be a singleton.

If you can convince East that you have the ♣Q he may feel the obligation to give his partner a club ruff. A club return at trick 2 gives you the chance for 6 spades, 4 diamonds, and 2 clubs for 12 tricks. If you had routinely played the ♣J at trick one, East would have had no better option than to return the ♥J. Now you will not only lose 2 heart tricks but the play of a third heart will force dummy to ruff; West's ♠K will be the setting trick.

You are a tricky woman.

PROTECTING KINGS

Here's a hand from an online game three years ago. I was West and opened 1♥ after South's pass. North passed and my partner bid 2NT. We play that as a limit raise or better in hearts. I should show a short suit here, but we generally bypass that plan if the singleton is a high honour. A 3♣ bid might not be best as it gives partner an inaccurate picture of where my values are. I could have bid 3♥, warning of a minimum hand, but with a sixth

heart, I chose to bid 4♥. It was a team game and I didn't want to miss the vulnerable game.

That was enough to get my partner thinking slam so she bid 4NT, RKC. I replied with 5♥, showing my 2 key cards, the ♦A and the ♥K, but denying the ♥Q which got my partner to thinking about the missing key card.

Board 3
South Deals
E-WVul

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

It was very likely that I held the ♥K for my heart bids which would leave our side missing one ace, either diamonds or spades. In either case, she wanted the lead to come from South, which would leave her kings protected at trick one. So she went for the slam, but bid 6NT, so the lead could not come from North. South led a trump and my partner had 12 tricks: 6 hearts, 4 diamonds and 2 clubs.

The other team played in the heart game; North led the ♠Q and the defence took the first 2 tricks, making 11 tricks. There is no lead from South that will prevent East from making 12 tricks in NT.

Good bid, partner.

Hamilton Bridge Centre Celebrates their 25th Anniversary!

On Friday, March 13, 2020, we had our last face-to-face game at the club. What followed was heartbreaking. I was very grateful to be able to offer three weekly virtual games and two teaching tables on BBO afterwards but had to give up all hope of opening the club again.

On September 30, 2023, we had the good fortune to celebrate our 25th Anniversary at the Dundas Senior Center. 13 tables of enthusiastic players gathered to enjoy a wonderful workshop by the incomparable Barbara Seagram followed by lunch and a friendly bridge game. My goal was to celebrate our loyal players who had supported us through all these years and still support us virtually. I also wanted to pay tribute to my husband Chuck who was instrumental in running the club but who passed away last July.

Our club was not just a place to play this wonderful game that is great for your old age, (but also gets you there faster), but was a place where players found long lasting friendship and support. We had 8 weekly games, several learning opportunities and a lot of fun. We had special parties for every possible opportunity: Valentine's Day, Halloween with great costumes, Christmas, New Year's Eve, etc.

At our 25th anniversary celebration we had a surprise appearance by our favorite nun, "Sister Anne," who praised our club for keeping seniors off the streets and out of the casinos all these years. Then she turned into Anne Schurter, and, playing with her husband Elmer, won first place NS.

We relived a lot of wonderful memories, recalling all our great directors, great bridge trips to the South in the winter, and amazing costumes at Halloween such as the All-Elusive Gold Point...

I am so pleased that two of our directors Ted Seager and Norm Macdonald offer great weekend bridge in September at the wonderful Fern Resort and they and Eileen Grady run games at the different Senior Centers in town.

I am humbled and very grateful to have had the opportunity to run our club all these years; we received the prestigious Kate Buckman Award for bringing back and further developing bridge in Hamilton. I am the proud owner of the Audrey Grant Award for teaching excellence. We did it all! But it's the friendships that matter the most.

Let the 26th year begin!

~Viktoria Renaud





Chuck and Viktoria at John Rayner's Virtual Christmas party 2020



Halloween 2010



The Balancing Act

By Howard Laufer

“You should really take lessons,” the director Helen said as my wife and I registered for our first game of duplicate bridge at the club in Clearwater, Florida. I ignored her comment completely thinking to myself that we had played a lot of social bridge, so we were pretty much ready to play duplicate in a more formal setting. After all, how much different could it be? As it turns out---completely different! My bold thinking wasn’t just an overly optimistic assessment of our ability to play but also a declaration of my ignorance of the competitive nature of the game.

For the next two years, I played exclusively with my wife. We picked up bits and pieces of bridge knowledge from our experience at the table listening to the experts whom we played against in the ‘open’ games at our home club in Canada. We started to read the same basic bridge books that everyone read—you know, Audrey and Barbara—the gold standard for beginners. Finally, we took our first lessons, a short series of lectures titled, “Boot Camp for Married Couples.” The most important lesson that we learned was that it was time to find different partners. I think everyone goes through two or three partners before finding the perfect fit. Marriage is designed for a life partnership but not always for a bridge partnership.

More lessons followed over the next year. I found my niche playing in 499er games and that’s where I met Bob. I already had lessons in declarer play, defense, and ultimately 2/1. “Everyone plays it now,” they said. My new partner, Bob, was a somewhat of a throwback, a dinosaur in this modern era of bridge. “Let’s not play 2/1,” he suggested.

“Why not?” I replied. “It has a lot going for it.”

“Not for me,” said Bob. “I don’t want to give up playing INT contracts.” No trump contracts were Bob’s bread and butter. I knew enough to suggest that we could play one no trump as semi-forcing, but Bob would have none of it. “You know there are other aspects of this game that we haven’t even really tapped into yet.” That statement caught my attention.

“What do you mean,” I queried.

“Look, we both are lifelong card players. We both have card sense and we both play aggressively, so let’s find the best way to succeed using our strengths. The game of duplicate is not one dimensional. It is designed for the competitive player and that’s us.”

I was still mystified. We weren’t experts, just barely intermediates, I was not sure what he was getting at.

“What’s the point of duplicate bridge?” he asked. I didn’t get a chance to answer because he quickly laid it out for me. “Get the best score on the hand played, right?”

“Isn’t that obvious,” I thought out loud.

“Here is the important part,” he said emphatically. “No matter what your contract—take one more trick than your opponents who are playing at the other tables. We play for overtricks. That’s the simple path to success.”

He was right, of course. From that point on, we played

to make that extra trick every chance that we could. I discovered that there were lazy players who didn't try to win overtricks. They took the easy way out and just made their contract—nothing more. We, on the other hand, scored better than the field, time after time, by making that one trick that was hidden from view. "It's a balancing act," Bob said. "Overtricks are not always available so go for one when it's possible but back off when it's not. Our motto: take all you can and then steal one of theirs."

Bob had one more trick up his sleeve. "Did you notice that when we play in open games, the experts never seem to let us play in our fit at the two level?" He let that sink in for a minute. "Remember, if they have a fit, then we also have a fit so let's get in their face—no more easy two-level contracts for the opposition. Let's push them up a level. But it's still a balancing act. If we have nine trumps between us, we can play at the three level. That's the law of total tricks working for us. By the way, they don't call the spade suit the 'hammer' suit for nothing. Hit them with it every chance you get."

Again, Bob was right. The more we interfered with our opposition's two-level fits, the more successful we were. Do the math. If their contract fails, we get a plus score. If our 'in their face' bid buys the contract, and we make—it's a plus score. Even if it fails, down one is only -50. Still good for us because they could score more if they played their contract. Even down one, vulnerable, is only 100 and if they had a major fit, they would score 110. That's a win-win, in my book. Bob had a unique way of looking at it. "Pushing them up a level is like 'trash talking' in any other sport. It throws them off their game. We play tough in football or hockey, so why not here. It's part of duplicate bridge whether they like it or not."

I started to understand what he meant when he said that there were nuances to the game that I didn't see yet. Well, he was starting to open my eyes.

"Competitive bridge means disrupting your

opponent's game. Put up every roadblock that you can. It's that simple." Bob declared.

"What do you do with a highly distributional hand?" Bob asked.

"Is that a rhetorical question?" I shot back.

Bob laughed. "That one you know." He went on: "That's why we play DONT, Michaels, and Unusual. Don't think about interfering with balanced hands and don't miss an opportunity to 'stick it to them' if you have a distributional hand. The ditty, 'six-five, come alive' works both ways. So does 'six-four, bid more.' Those kinds of hands don't come along that often, so don't waste them."

Smiling, I said, "So now we are down to rhyming couplets." Bob laughed even louder.

The last thing Bob stressed was really "balancing" in the pass out seat. "Look," he said. "When your pass allows your opponents to be the declarer, you are 'the balancer.' That's a heavy-duty responsibility not to be taken lightly. Do you really want to sell out the contract? Of course not! We fight for every contract. Don't let them escape when we have the keys to the cage." A good partnership relies on the trust one has in letting his partner balance hands that can be balanced. There was one rule that Bob insisted on and he stressed it over and over again: in the pass out seat, borrow a king from your partner. Simple. Add 3 points to your hand and bid accordingly. That gives you enough ammunition to overcall a suit, to make a take-out double, or to even bid a balancing INT with 12-14 high cards points.

Sometimes, it may come down to you in the balancing seat when the bidding goes: 1{, pass, pass, and now it's your turn to bid. Just exactly what are you going to do? Are you tempted to pass? Well, don't. You have an obligation to protect your partner's hand. Partner may have opening points and was unable to overcall or even double. Sure, the opener might have a big hand

and you are letting him in to bid again but remember his partner passed showing 0-5 points. That's not likely to be too helpful to the opener. So, if your hand allows you to balance, then just do it. Remember you are bidding your partner's points for him. Can balancing be dangerous sometimes? Sure! Nothing is perfect in bridge and there may be the rare occasion where the opener can find a game based on his own high card points. So be it. Life happens.

The real lesson in aggressive play comes from the idea that you are required to do everything in your power

to defeat your opponent's contract or to interfere with their ability to find their best contract. Even the ACBL's code of ethics will stand behind you on this point **if** you are bidding competitively. Take them out of their comfort zone every chance you get. Don't be afraid to push them around. Remember, bridge is a bidder's game, so get in the mix and don't let them play their low-level contracts if you can compete for your own contract. It is your duty to protect the field of players by being competitive wherever you can. Don't sit on the sidelines. Get in the game!



The 18th World Youth Teams Championships

By Darwin Li

The 18th World Youth Teams Championships were held in Veldhoven, the Netherlands, from July 31 to August 7. To my delight, I found myself on the Canadian Under 26 team, and our squad was rounded out by the dynamic medley of Olivia Laufer, Connor Havens, Victor Lamoureux, Martin Zhao, and the ever-so-calm Jacob Freeman. With a flourish of youthful zest, Canada paraded two more teams onto the bustling stage of competition: the sprightly U21 and the budding U16 squads.

As we arrived at the hotel, I was immediately taken aback by its sheer immensity. A smorgasbord of dining halls, a lively sports and rec center, a beckoning swimming pool, and never-ending corridors that led to countless loungers awaiting another fiesta. The only hiccup in this haven was its secluded location. There was little sightseeing to do apart from a humble town with nothing more than a handful of eateries, a quaint ice cream parlor, and a homely supermarket.

Thankfully, the hotel was more than sufficient to satisfy our boredom before the first match: volleyball with the Swedes; squash with the Estonians, and snooker with the folks from England—those were a few of many non-bridge activities. We cherish all the time we can spend with friends whom we meet once a year. The food was likewise exquisite, dinner especially (lunch was lacking in comparison). It was a buffet for all three meals, with plates covered with sandwiches, pasta, meat, and salads in addition to great desserts—cheesecakes, pie, and ice cream.

The opening ceremony, albeit modest with just a roll call and a speech, heralded the onset of the competition. The matches and lineups had been determined beforehand. I played four matches on the first day, and sadly, lost three as we were finding our footing. A nice win against Greece, however, kept our hopes up. Here's a hand from that match that exemplifies the chaotic bidding of us juniors:

North
 ♠ 8 6 2
 ♥ K Q
 ♦ A Q J 7 5 3
 ♣ Q 6

West
 ♠ K 10 3
 ♥ A J 5 4 2
 ♦ 10 2
 ♣ K 8 2

East
 ♠ A Q J 7 5 4
 ♥ 10 9 8
 ♦ —
 ♣ 10 9 5 3

South
 ♠ 9
 ♥ 7 6 3
 ♦ K 9 8 6 4
 ♣ A J 7 4

West	North	East	South
1♥	2♦	2♠	4♦
4♠	5♦	5♠	All pass

East-West have a double major fit while North-South have an 11-card diamond fit. Sitting South, I jumped to 4♦ on my first turn and was raised by my partner in a very competitive auction. East-West were able to find their spade fit owing to East's first round decision to not reveal support for West's hearts. 5♠, however, is quite tragic following two losing finesses in hearts

to KQ doubleton and two subsequent club losers for down 2. Our teammates appropriately let North-South play a doubled 5♦ for down 1—there being one loser in every suit but trumps. That meant 9 IMPs for us, a considerable chunk of our 14 IMP win.

The rest of the days passed in a blur. Our team was unable to qualify in the top 8 unfortunately, largely owing to a winless final day. This meant BAM consolation matches for the rest of our time in Veldhoven, where we comfortably placed twelfth.

It is difficult to describe our emotions during the time in the Netherlands. The results didn't come close to dampening our spirits; we were too busy feeling overwhelmed with the inter-continental bonds we had formed. My reunion with the Estonians, whom I had won a world championship in Italy in 2022, stirred a blend of sheer elation and nostalgia, for we share unfathomably profound memories. We heartily greeted our British and Polish friends as well. Playing bridge simply allows you to create these intrinsic connections with other individuals, teams, and even nations—connections, rooted in this elegant and delicate game, something that you can't find anywhere else.

Thank you Veldhoven!



The U-26 Canadian squad: NPC Bryan Maksymetz, Connor Havens, Olivia Laufer, Darwin Li, Martin Zhao, Victor Lamoureux, and Jacob Freeman



To Bid or Not to Bid? That is The Question

By Ray Jotcham

“Whether ’tis nobler in the mind to bid and suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune going set...” If Hamlet were a bridge player, he probably would have asked himself this question many times. Sometimes accepting an invitation is right, and sometimes it’s wrong. How can we improve the odds of being right?

To illustrate the point, consider the following hand: You pick up as dealer:

♠ A 4 3 2
♥ K 3 2
♦ A 4 3 2
♣ K 5

Not quite enough to open 1NT, so you bid 1♦. Partner bids 1♥, and you rebid 1♠. Partner bids 2NT, showing a good 10 to a weakish 12 HCPs. Partner’s average is 11 HCPs, and you have 14. On average, 3NT will make more often than not with 25 HCPs between two hands of somewhat equal strength. **However**, points don’t win tricks—they merely help to establish tricks.

Partner’s hand:

♠ J 6 5
♥ A Q J 7
♦ J 6
♣ Q J 3 2

I judge your chance of success somewhere in the range 0-5%. The lack of fillers in either hand says the only chance of success is either ♠KQ doubleton or any number of times behind dummy’s ace. So, it is

probably right with an “aces and spaces” hand to pass the invitation.

Let us change opener’s hand to:

♠ Q 10 9 8
♥ K 10 2
♦ A 10 9 8
♣ K 10

We’ve weakened opener’s HCPs by two, but game will only be defeated if both the king and queen of diamonds are behind the ace! Is there something wrong with Goren’s point count? Well, yes, there is. Goren’s count doesn’t give weight to intermediate cards, especially in combination with higher honours.

Ron Klinger wrote a book about hand evaluation called ‘Banzai evaluation.’ In this method, the ten is assigned one HCP, the jack, 2 HCPs, etc. This means there are now 60 points in the deck instead of 40. Consequently, instead of 25 HCPs for game in notrump, we need 37½, rounded to 38 Banzai Points (BPs). So that you don’t suffer a brain cramp by recounting your points using the BP scale, a simpler method is simply add your Goren points to the **number** of honours in your hand. The first hand given has a BP count of 18 (14 HCPs + 4 honours) while the second hand has a BP count of 20 (12 HCPs + 8 honours). Which hand is worth a raise to 3NT?

Why isn’t Banzai used exclusively for hand evaluation for notrump purposes? Some people did try it in Europe. Since a standard 1NT opening showed 15-17 HCPs, this equated to 23-25 BPs.

This meant hands like:

♠ K J 10 x	♠ Q J 10 x
♥ K 10 x	♥ Q J 10
♦ K J 10	♦ Q J 10
♣ K 10 x	♣ Q J 10

were almost a maximum INT opener (14 HCPs + 10 honours = 24 BPs, or 12 HCPs + 12 honours = 24 BPs), while a hand like

♠ A Q x
♥ A x x x
♦ A x x
♣ A x x

was a minimum INT opener (18 HCPs + 5 honours = 23 BPs). The use of BPs increased the accuracy of notrump bidding, **but** as can be seen from the examples, could be used on hands with a wide range of strengths, as much as a 6-HCP range. Most bridge jurisdictions have adopted a maximum range of 4 HCPs for a natural INT opening (14-17 or 15-18). Hence Banzai evaluation has been banned for opening notrump bids. However, there is no law against using it to reevaluate your hand in light of the bidding.

A refinement I have not mentioned is that bonus BPs are added for extra length in a suit (one point for a five-card suit and two points for a six-card suit, etc.).

Can we use the Banzai principle in responding to a INT opening? Why not? Consider the two following hands:

♠ Q x x	♠ Q x x
♥ Q x x	♥ Q J x
♦ Q x x	♦ x x x
♣ Q x x x	♣ Q J x x

Using Goren count, both hands are worth eight HCPs. Using BPs, the first hand counts as 12 BPs, and the second hand as 13 BPs. Hence the second hand is a better raise to 2NT than the first. Most experts would raise on the second hand, but would think strongly about passing with the first. If asked why, they

would say something about honours working together on the second hand. If one of the jacks were moved into the diamond suit, again a pass would be a strong contender, since isolated queens and jacks don't always pull their weight.

What about a hand with nine HCPs? In general, you should always invite with nine HCPs. The only exception might be if you have **two** or **three** isolated jacks. Consider the following hand:

♠ K Q J
♥ J x x
♦ J x x
♣ J x x x

Unless partner has four or five spades, your spades might as well be KQx. If partner has only two or three spades, your isolated jacks may be worth even less than a point each. Note that BPs don't help on this hand. Banzai evaluation makes this hand worth 15 BPs, an obligatory raise to 3NT. It will work if opener has 23 BPs, but we have seen that not all 15-17 HCPs translate to 23-25 BPs.

What if partner has opened with a very strong notrump bid (2NT or 2♣ followed by 2NT)? In general, HCPs work quite well here. An ace is usually evaluated as better than four scattered jacks, so most experts stretch to raise with an ace and nothing else. However, a few scattered tens would make the decision easier. The ace has the advantage that it will allow you a sure entry to dummy if a successful finesse is necessary for the contract. Four scattered jacks may give you an entry to dummy, but not always. Take these examples:

♠ J x x	♠ J x x
♠ Q x x	♠ A K Q

In the first case, only a doubleton ♠AK over the queen allows an entry with the jack, and in the second case, the suit is blocked. You may ask why we need the

doubleton AK in the first case. If defender has ♠AKx, he can duck if you play the queen, or win if you play a low card. Try it and see. If the honours are divided, there is no way to generate an entry via the jack.

Let's give a resounding 'BOO!' to isolated jacks!

Does Banzai evaluation work when seeking to play a trump contract? No, because the goals are different. In the case of notrump bidding, we are seeking to make tricks via a bludgeon method, that is, he who has the most tricks via good stoppers and secondary values wins. With a trump suit, there are many more ways to generate tricks (cross-ruff, suit establishment, miscellaneous trump coups, etc.).

What is necessary for success in trump contracts?

- (1) Length in trumps. In general, the more trumps you have, the more tricks you are likely to win. This is not always true but will usually be the case (there is a classic deal where you can make thirteen tricks on a 3-3 fit in trump even with a trump lead by a high cross-ruff for the last four tricks.)
- (2) Controls. If the opponents have aces and kings that cash, no matter how many queens and jacks you have, you will have big trouble trying to make a trump contract. However, aces and kings are not the only controls: short suits are useful when partner has losers in the same suit. In Goren's point count, a void suit when accompanied by a suitable number of trumps was assigned a value of FIVE points, more than for an ace!
- (3) Secondary values in suits held by the partnership. For example, in the auction 1♦-1♥, 1♠, the queen and jack of clubs are suspect values; whereas in the suits bid, they may be worth their weight in bitcoin.

To illustrate the concept more fully, consider the following deals:

♠ K x x x ♥ x x x ♦ A K x x x ♣ x	♠ K x x x ♥ x x x ♦ A K x x x ♣ x
♠ A Q x x x ♥ A x ♦ x x x ♣ Q x x	♠ A Q x x x ♥ A x ♦ Q x x ♣ x x x

If North is a passed hand, he can bid 3♦ over 1♠ by partner to show four or more spades and a potential source of tricks in diamonds, aka a 'fit-showing jump.' Without help in diamonds, South on deal one will sign off in 3♠. North, with a club control, will ignore the sign-off and raise to game, which makes. On the second deal, opener can rebid 3♥, hoping responder can do something good (like show short clubs; after all, having shown nine cards in two suits, how many clubs can he have?) When responder shows a splinter by bidding 4♣, opener can infer that responder has very strong diamonds and ask for key cards. Slam will be unlikely to fail. Note that the diamond queen is worth **two** tricks!

What if North is not a passed hand? Some people will bid 2NT Jacoby and others will bid 4♣ (a splinter raise); all these people will be wrong! A splinter raise should be made on "aces and spaces" hands, and Jacoby 2NT Jacoby raises should be on balanced hands **without a potential source of tricks**. Since there is a potential source of tricks in diamonds, why not bid them? You can always raise spades later, but partner can now look favourably on any diamond cards he may hold.

As an aside, in ancient Britain (1940s and 1950s), the bidding on these cards might have gone:

1♠	3♦
3♠	4♣ (agrees spades since jump shifts are not made on 2-suits)
4♥	4NT etc.

In the ACOL style, S.J. Simon promoted the idea that if you could invent a minimum hand for opener that would let you make a slam, then your hand was worth a game-forcing jump-shift. This is probably why British teams of the era had good results against American teams in top-level competition. The Americans were hampered by Standard American bidding, and the need to have aces or voids for cue-bids.

What does all this have to do with invitations? Any time you raise partner's suit, you have issued an invitation. A single raise is a weak game invitation which is often refused, that is, Opener does not bid game. A limit raise is a stronger game invitation which is usually (but not always) accepted. A game-forcing raise is an invitation to slam, which may not even be honoured with an RSVP.

However, if the opener wishes to investigate further, he may ask responder if he is interested in cooperating further by making another bid in a new suit. Responder may either sign-off or toss in his two-cents worth by bidding something new.

Again, a useful tool in helping make the decision is the Losing Trick Count. Remember that isolated queens are counted as loser **unless** partner has made a natural bid in that suit. Then they get promoted in value, so you can deduct a loser from your hand.



2 actuaries were spotted at the recent Niagara Regional: Mel Norton of Burlington, and John Stiefel of Wethersfield, Connecticut.





Driedger for the Defence

By Ross Driedger

It's 9:59 on a Sunday morning and you find yourself at a Sectional tournament, playing in the Flight A Teams. You haven't had your fifth cup of coffee yet, so you are not fully awake, but you are sitting in the East chair, against a more than competent pair. The opposition is not the strongest team in the field, but they are by no means the weakest. The last of your boards have just been shuffled and you pick up your first hand of the day while trying to clear the last of the morning cobwebs.

In fourth seat, both sides are vulnerable, you pick up:

♠ Q 5 2 ♥ K Q 7 ♦ K J 9 4 2 ♣ 5 3

Here's the auction:

West	North	East (You)	South
			1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	7♣
All pass			

That's quite the auction to start the day, and the last thing you want to bring back to your teammates is -2140, so how to beat this?

Partner leads the 10, and this is what you see:

Dummy
 ♠ A K J
 ♥ 8 6 3
 ♦ A Q 10 8 7
 ♣ 8 7

You
 ♠ Q 5 2
 ♥ K Q 7
 ♦ K J 9 4 2
 ♣ 5 3

Plan your defense.

Answer

There are deals where it is possible to reconstruct the entire deal based on the dummy, your hand, the opening lead, and the auction. This is just such a hand. Let's see how much of a clear picture we can build.

- There are 15 HCPs outstanding. Based on the auction and the opening lead, declarer has them all.
- Based on declarer's jump to 3♣, she has solid clubs.
- How many clubs? The jump to 7♣ after finding out she had all the key cards, without asking for kings, tells us that she has more than the 6 that would be minimum for that rebid. She feels that kings do not matter in taking 13 tricks.
- 9-card club suit? No. She would have claimed the contract within five seconds (9 clubs + 1 diamond + 1 heart + 2 spades). The grand slam is a claimer.

- 8-card club suit? Declarer has 12 tricks, so it appears that all that is needed is to not make a silly error in discarding.
- 7-card club suit? That means declarer has 11 tricks and you can take a quick power nap as you collect a setting trick or two at the end of the hand.

So, what is the problem? If declarer has fewer than a 9-card trump suit, the defense is straight forward...or is it?

Let's take a deeper look into declarer having an 8-card suit. We know 10 of declarer's cards (8 clubs and the ♠A), let's give her a spot card in each side suit:

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

South has two chances for 13 tricks: the spade finesse or setting up a diamond trick. We know that the ♠Q is offside, and the diamonds are unfriendly. What would happen if declarer were to try ruffing out the ♦K? After winning the ♥A, she leads to the ♦A, ruffs a diamond with the ♣A, enters dummy with a club, ruffs another diamond with ♣K (partner showing out), going back to dummy with a club to play the ♦10, which you cover with the jack, and ruffed.

This would be the position:

Dummy		You
♠ A K J		♠ Q 5 2
♥ 8 6		♥ K 7
♦ Q		♦ K
♣ —		♣ —
	Declarer	
	♠ x	
	♥ J x	
	♦ —	
	♣ Q J 10	

With three more clubs to play, you can discard the ♦K after declarer lets go of the ♦Q from dummy, but after that, you will need to keep the ♥K without pitching any spades. You are squeezed. Either you unguard the ♠Q or you pitch the ♥K, making declarer's jack her 13th trick.

So, if declarer has 8 clubs and she can read the position, the grand slam is cold.

How do you defend against a squeeze? There are several standard defenses, but in this case, you need to give the impression that you are not under pressure. Mentally place the ♠Q in partner's hand and you have no problem. If you can give declarer the impression that you do not hold that card, there is a chance she will play the finesse in that suit after you have unguarded the spade queen.

To successfully defend this hand, you need to unguard your ♠Q at your first opportunity. Declarer will play the ♣Q next, throwing a small heart from dummy. While it looks like you have a safe discard with the ♥7, the best play is to discard a small spade, unguarding your queen. From declarer's point of view, who would

do that at this point in the hand? Well, you would because you know the squeeze is coming.

All this can be gleaned from the hands you can see, the opening lead, and the bidding. Here is the actual hand:

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

In the end, declarer took the spade finesse into the unguarded queen. The ♥K was cashed for down 2.

Card Sense

Growing up, everyone knew someone who always had great card sense. Bridge players often call it experience. This is my 3rd video on declarer play technique. One good concept about these techniques is that you never need a partner to play the hand as declarer. You are on your own!

In defensive play and bidding, you and your partner need to have an understanding and knowledge of what you are trying to say when you are trying to win the contract. You can have virtually no experience about bidding or defence, but once you have won the contract, bad or good, you are definitely by yourself to make the best playing decisions.

I made this video to help improve your "card sense." It's called, "The Power of the 5th Card" and can be found by clicking here: <https://youtu.be/1yyxE3q7rrs>

~David Ellis

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.

TORONTO NON-LIFE MASTER REGIONAL - REVISED

January 5 - 7, 2024

Intermediate / Novice Schedule

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

**Rooms - Call 1-888-627-7175 Ask for ACBL Convention Jan 2024 to get group rates
\$165 if booked by December 7, 2023**

Click here>> [Book your group rate for ACBL Convention Jan 2024](#)

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

<https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1693589662154&key=GRP>

Friday January 5, 2024

199er Pairs 10:00
Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/100) 10:00 & 2:30

Saturday January 6, 2024

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

Sunday January 7, 2024

199er Pairs 10:00 **MUST pre-register by Sat 6 pm to
soverholt1@gmail.com**
Bracketed Gold Rush Swiss Teams 10:00 & TBA

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

Session fees: \$20 CAD (members) +\$4 for non-current members

**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

Tournament Chair:

Darlene Scott
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!

**TORONTO JANUARY SECTIONAL
JANUARY 5 - 7, 2024
Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel
123 Queen St. West, Toronto ON M5H 2M9**

**Rooms - Call 1-888-627-7175 Ask for ACBL Convention Jan 2024 to secure
group rates
\$165 if booked by December 7, 2023**

Click here>> [Book your group rate for ACBL Convention Jan 2024](#)

OR if link doesn't work, copy and paste:
<https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1693589662154&key=GRP>

Friday January 5, 2024

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

Saturday January 6, 2024

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 7, 2024

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

**Session fees: \$20 CAD (members) +\$4 for non-current members
Players must have an ACBL number. Guest memberships are currently free.
Contact Darlene if you require one.**

Single sessions entries are available to all pair events

Tournament Chair: Darlene Scott DarleneScott@me.com

Partnership: Elizabeth Williams elizwilliams12345@gmail.com



Niagara Sectional February 9-11, 2024

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



Friday February 9, 2024

Open Pairs 1:30 & 7:00
499^{er} Pairs 1:30 & 7:00
199^{er} Pairs 1:30 & 7:00

Hospitality will follow evening game

Saturday February 10, 2024

Open Pairs 10:00 & 2:30
499^{er} Pairs 10:00 & 2:30
199^{er} Pairs 10:00 & 2:30

Hospitality will follow afternoon game

Sunday February 11, 2024

Bracketed Swiss 10:00am playthrough

30 minutes break after 4th Round

For Reservation

1-877-688-2324 Ext 2

Or Click

[Niagara Area Unit 255 Sectional Tournament](#)

Or

www.holidayinn.com/stcath

enter NAB as the group code

\$129 (single or double)

if booked before

January 26, 2024

FREE Parking

Fantastic Niagara Hospitality

Tournament Chair:

Cathy Williams 905-979-5063
Email cwilliams44.cw@gmail.com

Partnership Chair:

Margaret Dykstra 905-732-4324
Email adykstra3@cogeco.ca

Stratification

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

Open Pairs 0 to ∞ masterpoints
499^{er} Pairs 0 to 500 masterpoints
199^{er} Pairs 0 to 200 masterpoints

General Information

Events can be Playthrough or Single Session
All events will have 3 strata at the Director's discretion.
\$17/player/session for ACBL members
Extra \$4 for lapsed ACBL members
Guest membership for non-ACBL members will be available.
All events stratified by average masterpoint.
ACBL COVID policy at time of tournament in place

Sectional Tournament Sponsored

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Toronto Easter Regional 2024

MARCH 26 - 31, 2024

Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel
123 Queen St. West, Toronto ON M5H 2M9
Rooms - Ask for special bridge rate
\$145 plus tax if booked by Feb 26, 2024

[Book your group rate for ACBL Convention March 2024](#)
or 1-888-627-7175

Tuesday March 26, 2024

Bracketed KO Teams (2 session qual. Round Robin)	10:00 & 2:30
Open pairs (Open/4000/2000)	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush pairs (750/500/300)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30

Wednesday March 27, 2024

Bracketed KO Teams (2 session Semi-final & Final)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/300)	10:00 & 2:30
Open Pairs (Open/4000/2000)	10:00 & 2:30

Thursday March 28, 2024

Sheardown Open KO (1 & 2 of 4 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
Open Pairs (Open/4000/2000)	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/300)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30
Swiss Teams - single session	2:30

Friday March 29, 2024

Sheardown Open KO (3 & 4 of 4 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/300)	10:00 & 2:30
Stratified Open Pairs (Open/3000/1500)	10:00 & 2:30

Saturday March 30, 2024

Open Pairs (Open/4000/2000)	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/300)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30
Unit 166 Youth Cup Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
Grand National Teams (& Sunday March 31, if >5 teams enter)	10:00 & TBA



Sunday March 31, 2024

Flight A/X Swiss Teams (Open/5000)	10:00 & TBA
Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams (0-4000)	10:00 & TBA
Bracketed Gold Rush Teams (0-750)	10:00 & TBA

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

Contact Darlene if you require one.

Session fees: \$20 CAD (members) +\$4 for non-current members Students - \$10

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

Partnership:

Laurie Miller 416-276-6415
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!**

Toronto Easter Regional 2024

MARCH 26 - 31, 2024

Intermediate / Novice Schedule

Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel
123 Queen St. West, Toronto ON M5H 2M9
Rooms - Ask for special bridge rate
\$145 plus taxes if booked by Feb 26, 2024

[Book your group rate for ACBL Convention March 2024](#)
or 1-888-627-7175

Tuesday March 26, 2024

199er Pairs 10:00

Wednesday March 27, 2024

199er Pairs 10:00

Thursday March 28, 2024

9:00 lesson (free) 10:00
0-20 Pairs Supervised** - \$10

** Players can ask bidding questions during game 10:00

199er Pairs 10:00
I/N Hospitality after 10:00 game

Friday March 29, 2024

199er Pairs 10:00

Saturday March 30, 2024

199er pairs 10:00

Sunday March 31, 2024

No game scheduled

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A fun time is guaranteed for all!

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Contact Darlene if you require one.

Session fees: \$20 CAD (members)
+\$4 for non-current members



Intermediate/Novice Program Supervisor & Partnerships:

Questions? Need a partner? Call Steve Overholt soverholt1@gmail.com
647-897-6179 (email preferable)

Tournament Chair:

Darlene Scott

DarleneScott@me.com

Please be aware we must follow ACBL's policy for tournaments. This policy is posted in each month's ACBL Bulletin magazine that every current member gets in the mail.

****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.



In Memoriam

Harmon Edgar

Harmon and I have been friends for more than forty years. While he was still in Canada, he and I made our one and only trip to the Bermuda Bowl in 1987. We had qualified by winning a Canadian championship and then a three-country playoff with Bermuda and Mexico. The sad news about Harmon's passing got me thinking back to those days.

Harmon did not waste much of his life on displays of anger or casting blame. He was generally happy-go-lucky about bridge until you least expected it. For daily life, I had to invent our slogan "Dare to be boring."

However, Harmon turned into a superstar when the opponents behaved badly. Since that kind of behaviour by opponents puts me off my game, Harmon was an ideal partner for me.

In the round robin stage of the Canadian championship, we were well-placed to make the four-team playoff, but our schedule for the last five matches was against all five of the other top six teams. On the very first hand of the final day, Harmon picked up:

♠J 9 7 x x ♥10 x ♦A K x ♣A K x

In our system, he had to open a notrump. I raised to three with ♠Q ♥QJx ♦QJxxx ♣QJxx. Harmon's RHO had ♠AK108x and ♥AK and cleverly doubled. In his system that called for a **heart** lead. Harmon guessed wrong and pulled to 4♠, going for 1100 into his own vulnerable game. Too late, we invented "redouble shows doubt."

The opponents made the serious mistake of jeering at Harmon about his decision. I opted not to say anything, waiting for Harmon to go into action. Sure enough, Harmon said nothing. We won the next eight hands and a blitz.

In the playoffs en route to the championship and eventually, to the Bermuda Bowl, Harmon personally destroyed one of the best Canadian pairs of all time, Boris Baron and Mark Molson. We had a healthy lead going into the second quarter. Fire alarms were to be tested some time that day at our hotel.

In the second quarter, everybody played perfectly for twelve boards of 16. On board 13 Boris and Mark went down in a game they might have made.

Board 14 was get-even time for them and "strike now" time for us. We were non-vul against vul and I opened 4♦ holding ♠Jx ♥x ♦KQJxxxx and ♣Jxx. Mark made a very slow double. Harmon held:

♠Q 9 x x ♥x x x ♦10 x x ♣Q x x

Harmon raised to...wait for it...SEVEN diamonds, catching Boris with

♠x x ♥A Q J 10 x x x ♦x ♣x x x

It became Boris' turn to agonize. Just then, the fire alarm bells began to ring deafeningly. They did not stop until much later—after Boris had passed, invitational to the grand slam. Mark, who had ♠AK10xx ♥Kx ♦Ax ♣AKxx had no problem accepting but was not psychic enough to accept in hearts. Seven spades was eventually converted to seven notrump. My guarded jack of clubs meant there was no squeeze, and the rest was history.

From there we coasted into the Bermuda Bowl playoff scheduled for Mexico City. After the win in Ottawa, our teetotaller, David Turner, was standing on a table holding a bottle of champagne aloft, and proclaiming,

“Altitude training.” Harmon was beaming quietly and happily. We remember your smile, Harmon.

~The Shoe (Michael Schoenborn)



Photo credit: Mike Dorn Wiss and Fred Lerner

TOURNAMENT TRAIL

Page numbers (p.) refer to ads in this issue. An asterisk (*) means tournament information was in the previous issue.

Information is subject to change - check www.unit166.ca or www.acbl.org for up-to-date information.

2023

November

23-Dec. 3 Atlanta NABC

16-20
25-26
31-June 1

May

Kingston Regional
Goderich
Niagara 0-750

2024

January

5-7 Toronto NLM Regional, p. 35
5-7 Toronto, p. 36
27-Feb 2 Bermuda Regional

10-18

Canadian Bridge Championships,
Penticton BC

June

July

12-14
18-28

Hamburg (local)
Toronto NABC, pp. 2-5

February

9-11 St. Catharines, p. 37

22-28
26-28

August

North Bay Regional
Niagara 0-500

March

2-3 Barrie (local)
14-24 Louisville NABC
26-31 Toronto Easter Regional

21-22

September

Peterborough (local)

April

15-21 Gatlinburg
26-28 North Bay

5-10
15-17
28-Dec. 8

November

Toronto Fall Regional
Niagara-on-the-Lake
Las Vegas NABC

All tournaments are Sectionals unless noted

Deadline for the Spring Kibitzer: January 20, 2024

The Kibitzer

Andy Stark

36 Poucher St., Toronto ON M4J 2Y9