

The Kibitzer



Fall 2023 | Volume 70, Number 3



**ACBL Hall of Fame inductee,
John Carruthers**



TRANSATLANTIC BRIDGE CRUISE – OCEANIA: MARINA

April 5-21, 2025 – Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, Maceió, Recife (Brazil),
Dakar (Senegal), Cape Verde, Sta. Cruz de Tenerife (Canary Islands - Spain)



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

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

Click on this to get a taste of Marina: youtu.be/PS1Csq_35dY

Included: Ship gratuities – Taxes – Economy Air (We recommend that you take the air credit and let us book your air: Credit is \$2000.00 CAD or \$1500.00 USD approx.) Free Wi-Fi. Shipboard credit: \$300.00 USD per cabin. Credit of \$1000.00 USD per cabin for shore excursions. Free champagne and wine.

Prices from: \$7949.00 CAD or \$5899.00 USD – Verandah cabin (B4) per person (dbl occup).

To book, call Carolyn Kremer (Direct Travel): 705-435-5533 or toll-free 1-800-363-5533 # 1435. Email: ckremer@dt.com

DAY	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
Apr 5 Sat	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Embark 1 PM	9 PM
Apr 6 Sun	Buzios, Brazil	7 AM	5 PM
Apr 7 Mon	Cruising the Atlantic Ocean		
Apr 8 Tue	Salvador, Brazil	8 AM	5 PM
Apr 9 Wed	Maceió, Brazil	10 AM	8 PM
Apr 10 Thu	Recife, Brazil	8 AM	6 PM
Apr 11-13 Fri-Sun	Cruising the Atlantic Ocean		
Apr 14 Mon	Cruising the Atlantic Ocean		
Apr 15 Tue	Porto Grande, Cape Verde	8 AM	5 PM
Apr 16 Wed	Cruising the Atlantic Ocean		
Apr 17 Thu	Dakar, Senegal	7 AM	6 PM
Apr 18 Fri	Cruising the Atlantic Ocean		
Apr 19 Sat	Cruising the Atlantic Ocean		
Apr 20 Sun	San Sebastián de la Gomera, Spain	8 AM	9 PM
Apr 21 Mon	Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain	Disembark 8 AM	



ABOUT MARINA

Refurbished: 2023 | Guests: 1238
Length: 785' | Tonnage: 66,084
Finest cuisine at sea:
French, Italian, Asian & Steakhouse
specialty dining rooms

 **Direct Travel**
personalized experiences

DIRECT TRAVEL: TICO # 50023504



ACBL
SANCTIONED

Bridge Weekend

OCTOBER 13TH - 15TH, 2023

2 NIGHT ALL-INCLUSIVE GETAWAY PACKAGE

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE WORLD'S GREATEST CARD GAME

Your hosts are husband & wife team, Martin Hunter and Danielle Gosselin. Martin is an Expert player and ACBL Tournament Director, while Danielle is an ACBL Accredited Bridge Teacher. Enjoy Fern Resort's classic hospitality, great food and lakeside setting in a weekend to remember in the heart of cottage country.

BOOK IN ADVANCE - SPACE IS LIMITED!



OVER 9 HOURS OF BRIDGE PLAY

DUPLICATE OR SOCIAL BRIDGE

- 4 sessions of ACBL-sanctioned bridge
- 4 Mini Lessons and one workshop
- Awards, prizes, and more!
- Meet & Greet Wine and Cheese party

2-NIGHT ALL-INCLUSIVE GETAWAY PACKAGE AT 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 \$519 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.



On a sad note, we lost Canadian bridge icon Eric Kokish in June of this year. Please see the In Memoriam on page 34

We all know how fast the time goes, so it's not too early to start thinking about next summer's NABC in Toronto. Tourney Chair Darlene Scott and her awesome team encourage you to check out the NABC website: torontonabc.org.

Our cover story this issue is an interview with former Kib editor and multi-time Canadian champion, John Carruthers. Already part of the Canadian Bridge Federation's Hall of Fame, JC was recently inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame, last month in Chicago.

If you root around the unit166.ca website, you will see that there is one honorary life member mentioned and that is John Carruthers. He's done it all and then some. I was fortunate enough to play a couple tournaments with John a few years ago. I often think back to a bid he made and how it shows fine bidding judgment, especially in the dance of control-showing bids towards slam. JC held:

♠ Q
♥ K 8 3
♦ K J 10 6 4
♣ 8 7 6 3

Playingimps, it went three passes to me, and I opened 1♥. John's RHO overcalled 2♣, and John bid 2♥. LHO bid 3♣. I bid 4♣, trying for slam in hearts, and JC bid his second-round diamond control, 4♦. I bid 4♥ which 99% of the bridge players would pass, but JC found another bid: 4♠. This was all I needed to hear so I could bid 6♥ and we made the slam, which went unbid at the other table.

As JC said afterwards, "I had 'only' bid 2♥ the first time around, so I could show the second-round spade control after partner made a slam try." Feels to me many players would be afraid to commit to the 5-level with the 4♠ bid, but a lot of control bidding comes down to trust. The other hand was:

♠ A 5 3
♥ A Q J 10 9 6 4
♦ A 5
♣ J

David Deaves and his wife Maria attended the HoF ceremony in Chicago and reported the following story: A few days after the Hall of Fame Ceremony and banquet John ran into his friend Bob Hamman in the hotel's bridge playing area. Bob, one of the bridge world's elites, asked John if he got in. John answered, "No Bob, we missed the cut for the finals." Bob replied, "No, not the Life Master Pairs. I mean the Hall of Fame." John, proudly and happily told Bob that yes, thank you, he was now officially a member of the ACBL Hall of Fame. Bob's final comment: "I'm going to see if I can have it overturned!"

Thanks to DD for his article on JC and thanks to all our contributors this issue: Robert Griffiths, Ray Jotcham, David Longstaff, Albena Vassileva, Frank Mustoe, and Jenn Verdam.

Andy Stark
andy.kibitzer@gmail.com

647 530 1360

On the cover: Joey Silver (left) inducts John Carruthers (right) into the ACBL Hall of Fame at the 2023 Summer NABC in Chicago.

BARBADOS SILVER POINT SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

FEB 11-18, 2024

\$1,120.00 USD for 7 nights includes all meals and drinks & accommodation (\$1,785.00 USD single)

Book at reservations@barbadosbeachclub.com

For more information click here <https://bit.ly/3qziFsN>

Contact Barbara Seagram barbaraseagram@gmail.com for more information.

Barbara's newsletter: <https://barbaraseagram.com/pdf/newsletter.pdf>



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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	July 28
10 a.m. & 3 p.m. Stratified 0-299	10 a.m. & 2 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.	

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 Cardrout 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

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

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

STEPPING STONE BRIDGE CLUB

Armour Heights Presbyterian Church
105 Wilson Ave. (Avenue & 401)
Cyndy Winkler cindywinkler@gmail.com

- Mon 12:30 pm 0-20
- Tues 12:30 pm 0-199

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 0-2500
- Tues 12:30 pm Open
- Wed 12:30 pm Sup. Play
- Wed* 7:00 pm Open
- Thurs 12:30 pm 0-2500
- Sat 10:00 am Open

Last Wed of each month we run a Swiss

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

Continued on page 8

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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 599er and 0-20
- Wed 12:30 pm 599er and 0-20

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

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

- Tues 7:15 pm Open

ANGUS GLEN BRIDGE CLUB

3990 Mackenzie Dr. E
Markham, ON
905-237-7431
Izhar Haque Izharhaque02@gmail.com

- Mon 12:45 pm Open
- Wed 12:45 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/

PETERBOROUGH BRIDGE CLUB

184 Marina Blvd.
Peterborough, ON
705-745-2331
Anne Martens ptboblidge@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
905-883-9555
Medhat Fawzy medhatfawzy@hotmail.com

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

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38 Mallard Crescent, Bramalea, ON, L6S 2T6
tel. (905) 791-4239 email. gwestfall@rogers.com

UNIT 249 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

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

GUELPH BRIDGE CLUB

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 499, 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

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

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
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Kib interview with John Carruthers

Kib: Congratulations on getting into the ACBL Hall of Fame! Huge accomplishment.

JC: Thank you, I'm still feeling surprised. Shocked even.

Kib: I'm assuming the whole summer nationals was awesome for you this year. How was Chicago?

JC: The bridge was so-so. Being inducted into the Hall of Fame was fantastic! Having my family there from Georgia, California, Costa Rica, and Sweden made it very special for me. Having friends there from Canada, the USA, Croatia, and Bulgaria was a treat as well and so was being inducted in Chicago, my favourite American city.

Kib: Tell us about the family members who were there.

JC: My brother David lives in Atlanta. Two of his daughters, Ashley and Brittany, also live there and a third daughter, Megan, lives in Costa Rica. They were all in Chicago with three of David's grandchildren. A cousin of ours from California who we'd not seen in 60 years came as well! Tina Sundelin (PO's daughter), who's like a daughter to Katie and me, came from Stockholm with her husband Peter and their daughter Leah, 16 months old, who we met for the first time.

Kib: What's your relationship with Tina?

JC: We've known PO since 1978 and Tina since she was a year and a half old. PO and Jill Mellström, Tina's mother, came to the 1984 Olympiad in Seattle where we all played for our respective countries. Then in 1993, PO brought Tina and her friend Mikaela to Århus in Denmark for the World Juniors. We spent a lot of time with them all and became very fond of them. I met PO at a tournament in the Netherlands in 2001 and asked him how Tina was doing. "Great," he said, "she's in her last year of high school, top of her class and is planning to go to university in Boston next year." "Why Boston?" I asked, "She should come to Toronto. U of T is just as good as Harvard for undergraduate study, Toronto's a much nicer city than Boston, a much safer city, she has family there (us)



At the HoF ceremony, JC is flanked by Dan and Sharon Gerstman



Katie Thorpe and JC in Chicago

and..." I added, the kicker, "...it will cost you about a quarter as much to send her to U of T as it will to send her to Harvard or MIT." "Aha," said PO.

Seven months later, we picked Tina up at the airport. She spent four years at U of T and another year working in Toronto after graduation.

Kib: John, you are a natural salesman. Tina must have liked Toronto.

JC: She loved it. She lived with us for her first term, then moved into residence, and rented a house with friends for her sophomore, junior and senior years. When she arrived, her English was good, but she spoke with a distinct Swedish accent. After a year at U of T, you'd swear she was a born-and-bred Torontonian. When she returned to Stockholm after her first year, her friends teased her that she spoke Swedish with a Canadian accent. Tina made many lifelong friends in those years, and they still visit each other both in Canada and in Sweden.

Kib: Joey Silver presented you at the induction ceremony, yes?

JC: He did. Joey was his usual flamboyant self. In general, Hall of Fame introduction speeches are dull and boring, but one could never say that about

Joey. I can't help comparing him to Eric Murray and imagining them in a courtroom appealing to a jury, although I don't believe Eric was ever thrown into jail by a judge for contempt of court, like Joey was. That became a cause célèbre in Montréal, Joey making the front page of the *Montréal Gazette*.

Kib: Surely Joey mentioned that, of all your achievements, you're most proud of your involvement with our Juniors?

JC: That's true. I still follow all 'my' Juniors to this day, always cheering for them when they compete. Two of my first Juniors (in 1991), Bronia Gmach (now Jenkins) and Geoff Hampson were at the Hall of Fame Ceremony. Geoff has, since 1991, won a couple of World Championships and many North American and USBF titles, and Bronia is the new Executive Director of the ACBL. I'm very proud of them and their achievements.

Kib: What else is going on with you and bridge?

JC: It's been a very eventful 18 months or so for me. My first bridge book, "Bridge with Another Perfect Partner," was published last year by Master Point Press and won the International Bridge Press Association's Book-of-the-Year award for 2022. At the end of last year, I retired as editor of the IBPA Bulletin after 20 years and was immediately named Editor Emeritus, the first time they'd given that title to anyone. Then came the Hall of Fame induction and, in September, the Town of Kingsville, where Katie and I now live, is honouring me at a ceremony in the Town Hall. That's after we get back from the World Championships in Marrakech, where Katie will be Non-Playing Captain of Canada's Bermuda Bowl team. I'll be tagging along as a camp follower, helping where I can.

Although I've been trying to divest myself of bridge commitments other than playing and writing, Mitch Dunitz, the Chair of the ACBL Hall of Fame Committee, has convinced me to take over from

him as Chair next year, so, as of the Spring Nationals in Louisville, I'll be the incoming Chair of the Hall of Fame Committee. I managed to avoid becoming Chair of the ACBL's now-defunct Anti-Cheating Commission and (many years ago) President of the CBF, but Mitch was more persuasive than anyone else had been.

Kib: Now you know how P.O. felt.

JC: I'm also co-authoring a bridge book with Joey Silver, "Confessions of a Bridge Addict," about Joey's bridge and legal antics and based on his articles on Bridge Winners that were so popular.

As many retirees have said: "I don't know how I found the time to work."

Kib: What does the Hall of Fame Committee do?

JC: The nine-member committee decides who's going to be on the ballot for voters to decide who gets in to the ACBL Hall of Fame. They follow an exhaustive process of reviewing each candidate's credentials, which consist mainly of their playing record in ACBL, WBF and their National Bridge Organization's events. To be elected, a candidate must receive, I think, 75% of the votes cast, similar to the Baseball Hall of Fame.



JC and Paul Thurston at the 2019 CNTCs in Burnaby, BC

To be on the ballot, a player must be a resident of one of the ACBL nations and be 60 years of age or be deceased. No player ever convicted of cheating is eligible, although there was a close call a couple of years ago when a person about to be inducted was convicted, just in time for the induction to be rescinded.

The electors are ACBL members who've won five or more NABC titles, existing Hall of Fame members and a few International Bridge Press Association members, who are mostly bridge writers familiar with bridge history. Additionally, the committee can recommend players for the von Zedtwitz Award, essentially equivalent to baseball's Oldtimers' Award and the Blackwood Award, given for services to bridge.

Kib: What will be your goals as Chair of the Hall of Fame Committee?

JC: As a serious student of bridge history, I believe there are a number of people who have been overlooked for one reason or another. I'll be attempting to redress that balance and, without prejudicing the process, no, I'm not going to mention any names here. There are also a couple of people who've declined induction – I'll be trying to convince them otherwise. Also, I don't believe there is currently a procedure for removing anyone from the Hall. There ought to be a way to remove someone



JC (far right) and the winning Senior team in 2019 (from left to right): John Rayner, Nader Hanna and Marty Kirr

convicted of cheating, in my opinion. Fortunately, this has never happened, and we hope it never does, but there ought to be a process in place.

There are a few other details that need to be looked at in terms of governance and administration, but nothing else major. I'll be trying to continue Mitch Dunitz's and his predecessors' good work.

Kib: Looking back over your long bridge career, do you have a favourite deal?

JC: I can't possibly pick one deal. Here are three, involving each of my main partners over the years: Marty Kirr, Joey Silver, and John Guoba.

I have been the fortunate recipient of some of the most spectacularly bad leads in the history of bridge. All of those I'm about to relate to you were against slams and all the leads were made by expert opponents, one of them a World Champion. To be a good opening leader takes skill, imagination, and nerve. It took a top-class player to have had the vision to make these leads.

In Wuhan, at the 2019 World Team Championships, the following deal arose. We were playing against the USA in the d'Orsi Bowl (Seniors).

Dealer East.

Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Woolsey	Kirr	Bramley	Carruthers
—	—	Pass	1♣ ¹
1♠	Pass ²	3♠ ³	4♦
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Strong, artificial, forcing; 17+ HCP
2. 0-4 HCP
3. Pre-emptive

Marty Kirr and I play a cross between Blue Club and Precision, incorporating, as John Guoba used to sardonically put it, "the worst aspects of each system." When three spades came to me, I introduced my suit, non-forcing, in light of Marty's 0-4 points. His five clubs puzzled me: how could he not have doubled (showing 5-7 HCP), or bid a simple two clubs (natural, 8+ HCP), or jumped in clubs (5-7 and very long clubs) and then be willing to play in five clubs? Could he intend five clubs to be the ace of clubs and diamond support? In any case, declining to play in a possible 2-2 fit and with my own near-solid suit, I decided to repeat the diamonds. Marty was not to be denied, however, so there we rested, in six clubs. Note that our fantastic system had put me, South, on play.

Kit Woolsey unerringly led ... the three of clubs! I was not hard-pressed to win with my king and play diamonds for plus 920. Kit was a little shaken up — he tried to concede an overtrick, despite holding the ace of trumps! I graciously declined it. Our teammates had made five spade tricks and the ace of clubs against three notrump by South so we won 14 IMPs.

Woolsey told me later that he had over-thought the deal. He'd been trying to cut down ruffs, but he wanted to maintain trump control. He was able to see the amusing side of it.

The next deal illustrates my partner Joey Silver's penchant for making the opponents (and, occasionally

partner!) crazy. The scene was the 9th NEC Cup in Yokohama, in 2000, and Allan Graves and George Mittelman were our teammates. We faced England in the quarterfinals. The match was filled with slams, the most incredible of which was the following deal:

Dealer South.
EW Vul

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

At their table, Mittelman and Graves had had an almost-normal auction and result.

West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Graves</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Mittelman</i>
—	—	—	1♥ ¹
1♠	2♥ ²	4♥ ³	6♥
Pass	Pass	6♠	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Likes to get his suits in with wild distribution
2. Walking the dog
3. Splinter raise

John Armstrong made an excellent decision to bid six spades – as you can see, six hearts was cold, and six spades was two off after Graves’ trump lead. Mittelman cashed the diamond ace when in with the ace of clubs. It was that rarest of birds, a vulnerable sacrifice against a non-vulnerable slam.

At our table, with Joey, there was even more ‘walking the dog.’

West	North	East	South
<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
—	—	—	2♣
2♠	Pass	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	5♥
Pass	6♥	6♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

If Allan Graves had walked the dog a little, Joey Silver took it on a leisurely stroll from Yokohama to Kyoto. As the late great Eric Kokish reported in the NEC Festival Daily Bulletin:

“Brian Senior appreciated that a heart lead was not only pointless, and also potentially dangerous, but couldn’t tell whether the defenders’ outside trick source was in clubs or diamonds. Hoping to know more after seeing dummy, and thinking it might be important to hold the lead, Brian made the expert lead of ... the king of diamonds!

“Unfortunately for him, he was in no position to lead to trick two. Pablo Lambardi, who had been bestowed with that privilege, was not keen to cash the ace of clubs at the potential cost of a 300-point undertrick, and saw no pressing need to worry about dummy’s diamonds, Senior obviously holding the queen of that suit. Accordingly, he decided to exit passively with a heart to force dummy.

“John Carruthers was pleased to accept that force, but was even more pleased to discard one of his four clubs. The other three went on dummy’s diamonds after trumps were drawn and JC chalked up plus 1660.

“I am incapable of making up a story as good as this one; 19 IMPs to Canada.”

Sadly, we lost the match anyway, 97-93.5.

John Guoba and I had been playing together for about 15 years when the following deal arose in the final of the 1987 Canadian National Team

Championship. Our teammates were Eric Murray, Mark Molson, and Boris Baran. As you'll soon be able to tell, Guoba and I still did not know our system! Mea culpa, as I shall explain.

Dealer South.
EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Molson	Kirr	Baran	Hobart
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Kirr and Hobart got to the best spot in one bid. Boris Baran led a spade and Marty claimed ten tricks when the queen held in the dummy; plus 430. At our table:

West	North	East	South
Carroll	Guoba	Turner	Carruthers
—	—	—	1♠ ¹
3♣ ²	4NT ³	Pass	5♦ ⁴
Pass	6♦ ⁵	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 5-card majors; strong club system; stretching a bit
2. 5+/5+ in clubs and hearts
3. To North: ordinary Blackwood; To South, RKCB for spades
4. To North: 1 ace; To South: 1 or 4 key cards for spades
5. To North: to play; To South, undiscussed and a guess

The problem was that in one place in our system notes, I had written that our version of four notrump was Roman Key Card Blackwood, meaning that (to me at least), every time we bid Blackwood, it was RKCB. In another place in the notes, however, I had omitted the Roman Key Card phrase, and had written that, after a major-suit one-level opening, four notrump was Blackwood for the suit opened. So, Guoba thought his four notrump was ordinary Blackwood, not RKCB. It was my fault, as the keeper of the system, for the inconsistent and ambiguous description. So, as it happened, we did know the system after all – it was just that we each knew a different system! Note that, once again, our fantastic system had put me on play.

Greg Carroll was on opening lead. He led the three of hearts, trying for a spade ruff! When I called for the five from dummy, David Turner chuckled. I said to him, “Do you have the four?” He laughed and gave me a high five, good sport that he is. I was soon claiming, after drawing trumps and leading spades toward the king-queen twice. I had, at the least, tied a world record, winning the first trick in a slam with the singleton five, everyone having followed suit!

This board cost our opponents the win. We won 10 IMPs on it, instead of losing 10 IMPs had they simply taken their two aces. We won the match by 15. Eric Murray was very annoyed, very loudly and publicly, as was his wont, at Greg Carroll. Why? Carroll's lead had forced Murray to go to play with us in the 1988 Olympiad Teams in Venice. He was a bit mollified when we added Sami Kehela to our five-man team.

Which lead do you think was the worst? I'm leaning toward Woolsey's. But I'm eagerly awaiting the next one!

Kib: Thanks, JC. All the best in your bridge 'retirement.'



Adventures with Maggie

By Robert Griffiths

MAGGIE'S DILEMMA

Years ago Maggie and I were playing in a club game. I was South and Maggie North. After West passed, she opened 1♦ and East came in with a very shaky 2♣ overcall. I wasn't sure how this was going to go, but I made a negative double, hoping that I'd have time to show how many major cards I had. West passed and Maggie was on the spot. Normally, she makes a fast decision and bids but here she seemed frozen in time.

Later, she told me what was going through her mind. She was under strict orders not to rebid a 5-card suit. Even if she did, her hand was too good to simply bid 2♦. She considered 2NT with her singleton, even toyed with bidding 2♥ with her suit headed by the 4. Nothing seemed right but here everyone was staring at her, waiting. She was about to bid 2NT when a thought occurred to her. What if the best place to play the hand was 2♣ doubled? As far as she was concerned, passing a negative double was against all the rules, but so was bidding diamonds, hearts, spades or notrumps. When she put down the pass card, I think that East shuddered, while I sadly thought of the major suit game that we had surely missed.

I led the ♦5; Maggie won her ace and returned the queen of spades, covered by the king and my ace. I returned a small spade, ruffed by Maggie who came back now with the queen of diamonds, covered by declarer's king and ruffed by me. We had won the first 4 tricks and were still entitled to Maggie's A & K of trumps, and jack of diamonds and my A & Q of hearts. Declarer won 4 tricks for down 4 doubled and a NS score of +800, far better than the score that we would make for our game.

The rule about not passing after your partner makes a negative or takeout double is always in effect UNLESS you think that playing the doubled contract is the best

place to play the hand. Maggie discovered that no matter what the rules say or what your partner expects, you always have the obligation to get your side to the best contract. Passing a double when you are expected to bid is rarely the right action and is seldom right when you are very weak, but when you are strong, especially in the suit that is doubled, it can often be the right call.

Board 24
West Deals
None Vul

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

MAGGIE BREAKS A RULE

After the Tennessee tournament, Maggie returned to her high pressure job in the financial world and didn't play bridge again until last week when we played a club game. Maggie's mind was slowly getting tuned into the game; I know she had spent the week dealing with a big merger and wanted the bridge to be relaxing, not stressful. Early in the game, this hand came up. I was East, Maggie West, as the opponents, a pair of plodding perfectionists slowly and methodically

went through a bidding sequence: North transferring to spades then jumping to 3NT and South finally correcting to 4♠. When reminded that it was her lead, Maggie confidently led the ♦4. Declarer called for a low diamond from dummy and I played my queen, fully expecting it to lose to declarer's ace. I had often stressed to Maggie that it was somewhere between unwise and treacherous to underlead an ace against a suit contract. But when my queen held the trick I came to believe that I was sitting across from a fool or a traitor. My annoyance at Maggie's exotic lead was assuaged by the realization that it had totally fooled declarer, who hadn't considered that Maggie might have the ace. I returned my other diamond to her ace then was able to make my only trump when she returned a third diamond. When I played a small heart, Maggie asked if the lead wasn't in dummy with the king. On hearing that I had trumped the king, her mind made a swift paradigm shift.

Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

<p>♠ J 10 7 4 2 ♥ 6 5 ♦ K 6 2 ♣ A K 4</p> <p>♠ K 6 5 ♥ 10 9 ♦ A 10 7 4 3 ♣ 10 9 5</p> <p>♠ A Q 9 8 ♥ A K 8 7 ♦ J 9 8 ♣ Q 7</p>	<p>♠ 3 ♥ Q J 4 3 2 ♦ Q 5 ♣ J 8 6 3 2</p>
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After the game, when we were discussing how we beat 4♠ one trick, Maggie explained that her attention had wandered off during the auction. "They took forever to bid that hand; they both bid notrumps," she said, "so how was I to know that the contract was 4♠? And since I thought that the contract was 3NT, it was only right that I lead fourth best, with or without the ace. And, since we took two more tricks than the pairs who woodenly won't underlead aces...possibly

your strict rule might allow for the odd exception."

I really hate it when she makes the wrong play and it succeeds that well. I like making top boards but poetic justice should prevail: dummy should have had a singleton diamond and declarer the king. Then, Maggie would lose her ace while declarer would make his king. Then I'd get to say, "I told you so."

But this hand does show why it's so hard to make 'rules' about the play of bridge hands. You can find an exception for every rule you think is totally accurate. As I'm sure people are tired of hearing me say, "There are only two absolute rules about playing bridge hands: you should always follow suit and always be nice to your partner."

MAGGIE'S FAST KING

Maggie and I were playing at a club game recently against a pair of slow experts. She & I passed throughout while South, in third seat, opened 1NT, North tried Stayman and was disappointed to hear South's 2♦. North now bid 2♠, showing his 5-card suit, but South with his maximum jumped to 3NT.

Maggie led the jack of clubs, which I won with the ace and returned the 6. At this point declarer had 2 club tricks, 2 hearts and 1 diamond but could make 2 more once he drove out the king. To make his contract, all he needed was 2 spade tricks. He thought for quite a while then led the 3 of spades, deciding to go for his spade tricks before diamonds. Maggie didn't hesitate; she quickly played the king of spades which caused declarer to freeze. Playing the king was the right play but it was not the play that a novice would make. Everyone is taught "second hand low" and knowing to sacrifice her king is not what our expert South would have expected from a player that he knew was a beginner. He decided that Maggie would only play her king if she had both the king and queen so he ducked this trick, won Maggie's club return and led his second spade, finessing the jack. This was not a happy result for declarer who ended up taking no spade tricks with his AJ10 while the defense made both the king and queen.

I later asked Maggie how she knew to play the king of spades on the first lead. She said, "Yesterday I cornered the market on Mexican cotton faster than he decided what to lead at trick 3. I was expecting a diamond lead and I planned to play my king. When he surprised me with a spade, I had the king in my hand before I realized that it was the 'wrong' suit."

Why did Maggie's play of the king work so well? If she makes the normal play of a small spade. Declarer will play the jack and I, East, will be faced with the unhappy choice of letting the jack win for declarer's 9th trick or winning my queen which will let South set up 4 more spade tricks by finessing the 10 the next time. Playing the king ruins South's communication with dummy. He could have simply conceded down one by winning dummy's ace and abandoning spades or played as he did, hoping that the novice Maggie hadn't made an expert play and was only protecting her presumed holding of $\spadesuit KQx$.

Board I
North Deals
None Vul

\spadesuit K 8 5 \heartsuit 9 2 \diamondsuit K 8 6 3 \clubsuit J 10 9 7	\spadesuit Q 9 2 \heartsuit Q J 7 6 \diamondsuit 9 7 5 2 \clubsuit A 6
\spadesuit A J 10 7 4 \heartsuit 10 8 5 4 \diamondsuit Q \clubsuit 8 4 2	\spadesuit 6 3 \heartsuit A K 3 \diamondsuit A J 10 4 \clubsuit K Q 5 3

MAGGIE'S UNORTHODOX LEAD

Maggie has been busy with her career as well as her treatment for severe nomophobia, but we were recently able to have a session at a Toronto club game.

This hand came up early in the session. I was North, she was South playing against a thoughtful expert who sat East and opened INT in second seat. After a

Stayman sequence he became declarer in 3NT. Here's the auction:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	INT	Pass
2 \clubsuit	Pass	2 \diamond	Pass
3NT	All pass		

Board I
North Deals
None Vul

\spadesuit 8 5 3 \heartsuit K 9 6 4 \diamondsuit K 5 \clubsuit K J 7 3 2	\spadesuit Q J 9 \heartsuit 10 7 5 2 \diamondsuit A 6 4 \clubsuit 10 5 4	\spadesuit A K 6 \heartsuit A Q J \diamondsuit 9 8 3 2 \clubsuit Q 9 8
	\spadesuit 10 7 4 2 \heartsuit 8 3 \diamondsuit Q J 10 7 \clubsuit A 6	

Maggie, on lead, picked out the $\diamond 7$, her fourth best and our savvy expert quickly deduced that the correct play here is the $\diamond K$. His reasoning was that by the rule of 11* (which anybody reading this surely is familiar with), Maggie's partner (me) had one diamond that could beat the $\diamond 7$. But the intrepid expert knew that it couldn't be the Ace because that would leave Maggie with the QJ10, a sequence that every novice knows you lead the top of. So he played the king and was somewhat shaken when I won the ace and returned the suit to Maggie's 3 top diamonds. She then put him out of his misery by cashing her $\clubsuit A$.

Our unhappy expert quickly understood that if Maggie had led the 'normal' top of sequence $Q\diamond$ we would have been unable to beat the contract. He could cover the $Q\diamond$ with dummy's $K\diamond$; I would win the $A\diamond$ and return the $6\diamond$, but his remaining 9 & 8 would prove to be a stopper. And why did Maggie lead the 7 instead of the queen? "Sorry," she said, "I forgot."

Why do we have these 'rules' that can work out better if you break them? Because for every hand like this where leading a card other than the top of the

sequence gains you a trick there are several where you get more tricks by following the rule. Maggie and I caught a break here; the unlucky expert will look forward to playing us again---players that break rules usually hurt themselves more than the opponents.

*Rule of 11: When a player has led their fourth best card in a suit, the other players can, by subtracting the value of the card led from 11, determine the number of cards outstanding that are greater than the card led. Outstanding here means in the three hands other than the opening leader's. If the 7 is fourth best,

declarer, subtracting 7 from 11 learns that there are 4 cards above the 7 in the West, North and East hands. Declarer can see two in his hand and one in dummy, so North has exactly one.

Likewise, North, seeing one in his hand and one in dummy will know that declarer has exactly two cards above the 7.

The rule of 11 ALWAYS works. But only if opening leader has actually led fourth best. By leading fifth best, he could fool everybody, including his partner.

JONATHAN STEINBERG'S CHICAGO NABC PHOTO ALBUM



Sue Lan Ma & Peter Petruzzellis



Maria & David Deaves



Peter Wong & Jianfeng "Jeff" Luo



Barbara Seagram



A Comedy of Terrors

By David Longstaff

This is NOT a tale about great declarer play bringing in a seemingly hopeless contract. Instead, it is simply a story illustrating how a mistake can have a happy ending.

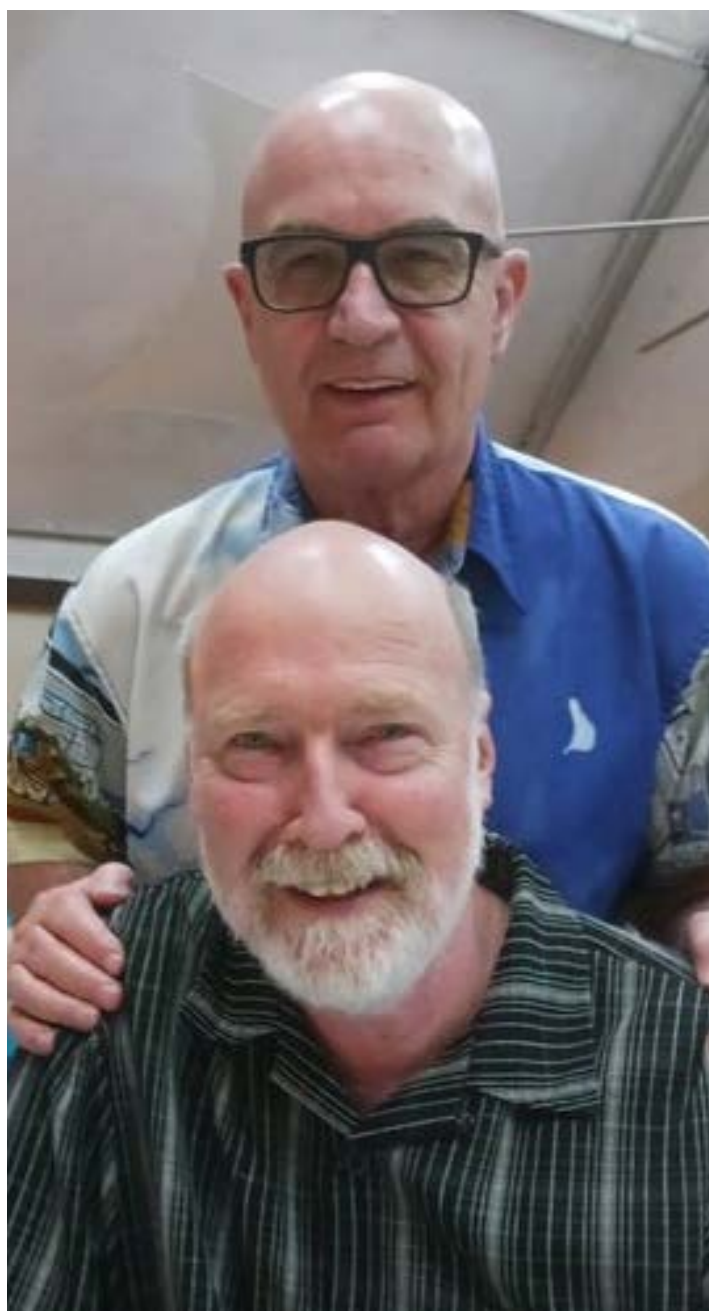
I was playing in a BBO online game hosted by the Grand River Bridge Club, with my regular Wednesday night partner, Dave Baker.

White against red, I was in second seat, holding:

♠ J 9
♥ 5
♦ A J 5 4 2
♣ Q J 10 8 4

Baker had recently persuaded me to change our opening 2NT to show 5-5 in the minors, either < 11 hcp, or more than 16 hcp. It had come up a few times already, with decent results. So here, obviously, was another chance to use our new toy. After RHO passed, I opened 2NT, accompanied by the appropriate BBO self-alert. LHO hesitated for several seconds and passed. Baker quickly bid 4♥ and RHO passed.

Wow! What in the world is 4♥? We had never fully discussed all possible responses to 2NT, but this was clearly a puzzler. Could it be to play? That seemed reasonable, but I decided to fall back on the old adage that 'All Strange Bids By Partner Are Forcing,' so I bid 5♣, which I self-alerted as "pass or correct." LHO again hesitated and passed. Now Baker tanked for well over 30 seconds and finally came out with 6NT! That was quickly passed around to LHO, who instantly doubled.



The Daves: Baker and Longstaff

Just before the opening lead was made, I saw Baker's comment in the BBO chatbar: "Oh." Now I knew that something bad had just occurred. Sure enough, dummy came down with:

♠ A Q 7 5 3 2
♥ A Q
♦ Q 8 6
♣ 5 2

Clearly, Baker had forgotten and assumed I had the standard balanced 20-21. His 4♥ bid was a transfer to 4♠. He had assumed my 5♣ rebid was some undiscussed super-accept and decided 6NT would get us all the marbles at matchpoints. Having belatedly realized his mistake, his next BBO chat comment was simply: "Sorry." Now may be a good time to show you the whole hand:

Dir: West
Vul: NS

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

West	North	East	South
2NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♣	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	DOUBLE!	All Pass	

The opening lead was the ♥10. I figured I would just play quickly to get this over with and take our sure bottom. I played the queen of hearts from dummy and was mildly surprised when it held. Without much thought, I led the diamond queen from dummy and

lost the finesse to LHO's king. At this point, North could have cashed two club tricks for at least +300, but he continued with another heart, driving out dummy's ace as I threw a small club. With nothing else to do, I took my remaining 4 diamond tricks, pitching dummy's two little clubs, leaving me on lead with:

Dir: West
Vul: NS

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

I led the jack of spades, and when LHO did not cover, I let it run. The ♠J held! Another spade, finessing dummy's queen, and both opponents followed low. I then cashed dummy's remaining spades, making 12 tricks, thereby setting my new personal record for Wildest and Clearly Most Undeserved Score. 6NT doubled, making, not vulnerable, is worth 1230.

North had smelled blood in the water. He was shrewd enough to start a heart rather than cash his top clubs, and the potential "down 4" result was still in the cards right up until the fatal mistake of not covering the jack of spades. Had he covered, his partner's ♠10 would have promoted his ♠8 into the high spade on the 3rd round. Hence the old bridge adage: "Cover an honour with an honour."

Those who know me won't be too surprised to learn that this still hasn't stopped me from grumbling whenever I feel I've been the victim of a 'fix'. To his credit, Baker's final chat comment was: "Still sorry."



Spot Marks The X (3)

By Ray Jotcham

When you have a sure trump winner behind the declarer, BE RELUCTANT TO OVER-RUFF.

Let's examine some cases. Partner, East, has opened 2♥, next hand has overcalled 2♠, and 4♠ is duly reached. As West, you lead a heart, and see the dummy:

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

Partner wins two high hearts, declarer following, and leads a third heart. Declarer ruffs with the jack. Plan your defense.

Partner cannot have a side trick as he would have opened 1♥ with a king or ace on the side. Hence the only hope is to win TWO spade tricks. Since declarer likely has a six-card suit, if we over-ruff, he would then be able to draw all the trumps, claiming the balance. Therefore, we must not over-ruff, and, after offering up a prayer to the bridge gods, hope partner's singleton trump is the TEN. It is, and your ♠9 scores the setting trick.

Same auction, but let's change the hands slightly:

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

The first two tricks are the same. Partner now leads a third heart, and declarer ruffs with the ♠J. Now you hope partner has a doubleton ♠10. If so, your ♠8 will take the setting trick if you avoid the temptation to over-ruff.

Again, we change the cards slightly:

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

Now we hope for partner to hold the ten and eight of trumps so that our ♠7 gets promoted. If we trade our ♠7 with dummy's ♠6, again, if partner holds the ten-eight of spades, we get a promotion.

Sorry, I cannot think of a 3-card holding where the trump five can get promoted. Well, you can't win'em all!

The moral is: RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO OVER-RUFF WHEN YOU HAVE A TRUMP TRICK THAT CANNOT GO AWAY.

How do you play the following club combination for no loser?

♣ J 10 4

♣ A Q 5 3 2

The question is slightly unfair, since there are two different correct ways to play the suit. If you have no entry back to the ♣J 10 4, you lead the jack and hope the suit breaks. If you have entries back to the dummy, lead the four-spot in case a singleton ♣K pops up. Leading the jack will lose a trick if the suit is 4-1 with the singleton king onside.

Now a hand from the real world (if BBO can be termed the "real" world).

Vul. vs. non-vul.

♠ Q J 10 8 7 5
♥ A K Q 9
♦ 3
♣ A 7

After a 3♦ bid on your left, and two passes, you are faced with some unpalatable choices. Double seems normal, but what do you do over 4♣? What about over 3♥? Or over 3NT? I decided to bypass all these problems and bid what I might make: 4♠. This was followed by three passes. (A look of anguish was communicated by mental telepathy from partner!)

The opening lead was a low heart, and here is what I was looking at:

♠ 3
♥ J 7
♦ K 10 7 2
♣ K J 6 5 3 2

♠ Q J 10 8 7 5
♥ A K Q 9
♦ 3
♣ A 7

The key card on the deal appears to be the spade NINE. Since diamonds appear to be 7-1, lefty has only six places for the spade nine to hide, and righty has twelve hiding spots. A finesse against the nine is indicated. I won the heart lead in dummy, and led a spade, confidently playing the seven-spot. When I opened my eye, I had good news and bad news. The good news: I won the trick. The bad news was that lefty had played a diamond. I resolved to take what tricks I could and go down gracefully. Lefty showed up with a doubleton club queen, so I was able to discard a diamond from hand on the ♣J. I now ruffed a diamond and cashed two hearts. Coming down to ♠Q J 10 8 which had to score two tricks, I made my game!

The complete deal:

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

The deal is interesting in several respects. 3NT played by North can be held to ten tricks. Played by South, eleven tricks are easy. 5♣ by North goes down via spade ace, and a second spade, setting up righty's ♣10. But note that 5♣ by South is cold, as there is no trump promotion. 4♥ by South is cold for ELEVEN tricks on any defense. Try it as a double-dummy problem (hint: West is entitled to a heart and a diamond or two diamonds, but not both.)

A deal in which TWO nines come into play is the following:

Dir: N
NS vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Pass	3♥	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	All pass	

The club king was led, pinpointing that hearts were 7-0 as expected. After winning the club ace, a low spade drew the king, won by the ace. We can now see we have two possible spade losers and two heart losers. Maybe we can use dummy's nine of diamonds as an entry so that we can score our small trumps by ruffing clubs. We lead a low diamond. West, who also has been thinking, inserts the diamond KING, blocking the diamond suit. Oh well! We win the ace, and ruff a club. Now two diamonds are cashed, confirming that West started with 4-0-5-4 distribution.

Now we can ruff our winning diamond with dummy's nine of spades and ruff another club in hand. We exit with a heart and wait to score two trump tricks with ♠Q 8 7 after West gets endplayed in trumps. Both pointed nines proved to be of value!





Student tourney at Barrie Bridge Club

By Frank Mustoe



On June 15 the Barrie bridge club hosted 70 students from Codrington public school to a tournament (another section was playing in a different area).

The students, in three classes (4/5, 6/7 and 7/8), were taught the fundamentals of bridge one class a week over the school year. We could not have introduced these youngsters to our wonderful game without support from the school, its principal and teachers. Financial contributions from our local Unit 246, and from members of the Barrie bridge club, allowed for transportation to the club and a pizza lunch at no cost to the students. Club volunteers were essential to the smooth running of events on the day.

The Educational division of ACBL provided books to help the students learn, and trophies for the top N-S and E-W winners at the tournament.



In this, their first ever bridge tournament, Rachel J. and Charlie S. had a 79% game.



Junior Bridge

By Albena Vassileva

Grand slams are some of the most exciting, yet nerve-wracking contracts one can play during a bridge match. With the stereotype of juniors generally being over-bidders, playing a 6-level contract is far from a rare occurrence for us. However, getting to the 7-level is something I'd say we still approach with a standard level of caution. A few months ago, my partner and I ended up in 7♦ with the following hand:

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

Seems like an interesting hand, right? Our auction went as follows:

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠*	Pass	5NT
Pass	6**	Pass	7♦
All Pass			

*2 key cards with the ♦Q

**♣K

East leads the ♣J, and I win with the club ace in my hand. Looking at my own hand and the dummy, I'm quite confident that I'm making the contract. I play the ♦2 from my hand, and suddenly East discards the ♥10. It suddenly gets quite tricky since West has five diamonds to the 10 8. I played the ♦9 from dummy, West covered with the 10, and I won with the ♦J. I then played the small spade from my hand, playing the ace and king of spades from dummy and discarding a club from my hand. I then ruffed a low spade, with West discarding the ♥5. I then played a small heart, winning in dummy. I played the ♠9 from the board, West ruffed with the ♦4, and I over-ruffed with the ♦7.

I then went wrong when I played another small heart from my hand to dummy, and West ruffed with the ♦6; so, right then and there I went down 1 for -100. Thirteen tricks can indeed be made. It requires a bit more of a carefully thought-out plan than the line of play that I took.

My first mistake was earlier on in the hand, where I did not ruff a small spade early-on to reduce my count of trumps to the same number as West and then to be able to run dummy's spade suit to either throw my cards in the other suits or over-ruff West. Making that small change in my play early on would've led me to make the grand slam.

In the end, while I did not find the best grand-slam-making line of play, this hand served as a reminder for me to consider my options more carefully in the line of play as one slight change in the first few cards played can make a huge difference in the outcome (as

it did here, with ruffing the third spade I played from the board instead of the second so I could've made). It wasn't a great board for us as some other pairs were in 6♠ making and 4♠ making 6, however it is

still much appreciated to have an interesting hand and good learning lesson even when the end result isn't necessarily what my partner and I wanted!



Best hand of the day

By Jennifer Verdham

Against a top Toronto player at the recent K-W regional, in second seat, white against white, I pick up:

♠ —
♥ K Q 4
♦ A K 3
♣ A Q J 8 7 5 3

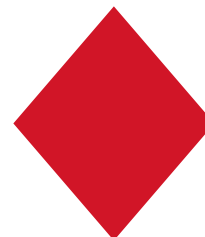
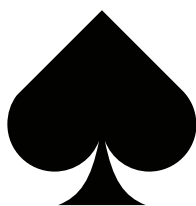
Dealer on my right opens 1♣!

Envisioning a disaster when my partner (Adrian Record) inevitably bids 1♠ and I literally have no bid that doesn't sound like a mini-splinter, I nevertheless double, and Responder bids 1♠. Adrian passes, Opener bids 2♠ and now I bid 3♣. South passes and Adrian bids 3♦. Richard passes and now I have a quandary. I finally bid 5♣ which buys the contract.

I get a spade lead and here is what I was looking at:

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

I ruff the spade in my hand, and I think for a bit. I have only one entry to the board, and I need to pitch a heart to guard against a second heart loser, so I decide since it's teams, make your damn contract, Jenn, and I bang down the ace of clubs. The king falls singleton to my left and I make six. Lol! At the other table, they are in 3♣ making 6. Points schmoints.





Hall of Famer John Carruthers

By David Deaves

Maria and I consider ourselves fortunate to have been invited by John Carruthers as two of his many guests to the 2023 ACBL Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony at the Chicago Summer Nationals. John received the Blackwood Award, which is given to individuals who have contributed greatly to the game of bridge. The Hall of Fame program described John as “an accomplished writer, administrator and player.” John is truly multi-talented.

ACCOMPLISHED WRITER

As a writer, John wrote a portion of the World Bridge Federation’s World Championship book for many years. As an editor, John edited the Ontario Kibitzer for 16 years and the International Bridge Press Association Bulletin for 20 years. Also, he has edited tournament Daily Bulletins throughout the world. John is definitely an accomplished editor.

Further, his book “Bridge with Another Perfect Partner” received the IBPA Master Point Press Book of the year (2022) award. In a previous issue of the Kibitzer, I said it was the best bridge book I’ve ever read and is required reading for anyone who wants to improve their declarer play. Not to stop there, John has now three times won the IBPA Deal of the year Award for writing.

ADMINISTRATOR

In 1997, John organized and Chaired the World

Junior Team Championships in Hamilton, Ontario. In addition, he managed and coached the Canadian Junior Bridge Program for 15 years, guiding two teams to medals. He has served on the Canadian Bridge Federation and the ACBL Hall of Fame Committees

and has contributed to various ACBL and European bridge committees. Further, he has acted as non-playing captain of many of Canada’s Open, Women’s, and Junior teams, and has coached Canadian and international teams.

He served diligently on Unit 166 and the Canadian Bridge Federation Boards. One wonders how he finds time for all his bridge, and bridge related activities.

PLAYER

John’s accomplishments as a player are numerous and outstanding. Let’s start with Canadian Championships. John has won 13 championships from 1983 to 2020; these first places were mixed in with 8 second places. Also, he represented Canada in World Championships 21 times from 1978 to 2019. Further John was the first winner of the Richmond Trophy, awarded to the top Canadian masterpoint winner for the year (1974).

In international competition John has twice won the Netherland’s Forbo Team Championship and he came second in the World Senior Pairs in 2016. Last, but not least, are John’s North American Bridge Championship wins:

- ~Life Master Pairs 2018
- ~Senior Swiss Teams 2008
- ~Senior Knockout Teams 2008
- ~Master Mixed Board-a-Match Teams 1991

In addition, John, has 2 seconds and 3 thirds in NABC’s, one second being the 1988 Life Master Pairs. A first and a second in the Life Master Pairs, in my opinion, is incredible, as I believe the Life Master Pairs is the toughest pairs event in the world.

THE CEREMONY

Joey Silver of Montreal, one of John's playing partners acted as John's presenter for the Blackwood Award and related John's escapades as a bridge celebrity. John accepted the award and responded with an articulate, eloquent, and humorous speech. Here's one anecdote, as told by John (I paraphrase):

"First, for those newer players who are unfamiliar with Canadian Bridge history, when I started playing bridge 60 years ago Eric Murray (deceased 2018) was Canada's greatest bridge player. In his later years he became one of my partners. Eric Murray was inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame in 2002. He needed a presenter so he said to me "All my friends are dead, so will you be my presenter?"

Eric had a prickly sense of humour and John used it well in his speech. John said Eric described John's abilities as follows: on opening lead: good leader; on declarer play, competent declarer; on bidding, excellent bidder; 4) on defence, when it comes to defence...I'm on my own!

With these "tongue in cheek" stories about Eric, I'm sure you'll appreciate the last one.

John was inducted into the Canadian Bridge Hall of Fame in 2015 and he asked Eric (a long-time member of the Canadian Bridge Hall of Fame) to be his presenter. Eric responded with "What's the procedure to withdraw from the Hall of Fame?"

Maria, and I were proud to be at John's induction and to count him and his wife Katie Thorpe as our friends. Clearly, Katie's support has contributed to John's star status. Katie is no "second fiddle" to John. She has represented Canada in World Championships many times, winning Silver and Bronze medals. She has won Canadian and North American Bridge Championships, and Katie, too, is a member of The Canadian Bridge Hall of Fame.

To sum up: John is a great bridge player, an outstanding ambassador for bridge, and a class guy. Congratulations, JC!



John Carruthers & Michael Roche, after winning the 2018 Life Master Pairs

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.



In Memoriam

Eric Kokish

May 19, 1947 – June 10, 2023

Eric was a giant in not only Canadian bridge, but on the world scene. One of his many nicknames was ‘Koach’ for his talents and success at coaching bridge players and teams. The bridge world was flooded with tributes in the days and weeks just after his death; here are a few of them.

Turk, you were an amazing dad. Thank you for choosing me (and us), and for being there through all the twists and turns of my life. Your love for my mom and for each of us so profoundly shaped my life, for the better, that I cannot even begin to put that into words. You loved me (and us) with the depth of your cells. You believed in me even when I didn't. Thank you.

I will always remember you desperately trying to get me hooked on bridge, when I was just a squirt of maybe 6 or 7 years old. Hours spent practicing adding up to 13, you would say “5-4-1...” and wait for me to fill in the blank with “3!” (Sorry it was never meant to be!) As a teen, we became real friends, even confidantes. You always had my back, particularly with your incredible ability to convince mom to let me stay out a little later, travel a little further. You and mom would regularly invite my whole pack of unruly teenage friends into your dinner parties, and we all loved it. We would share food and listen to records for hours. Our house was so full in those days, with laughter and music and friends. I am incredibly lucky.

I remember traveling to Italy with you at 19 for a bridge tournament, and then the adventure of standing-room-only on trains and having to sleep in airports. (Suffice to say, this was not quite your style, but you would go along with anything if it was with me!) There are so many memories, they keep coming at me in waves this week. It feels like there is a huge hole in the world right now, and maybe there always will be.

It was an enormous move bringing you and mom to Peterborough three years ago, at the start of the pandemic. But it has been such a gift to be able to spend this time with you. I love how much you loved your house, the neighbourhood, and

your office space. Finally, a big, well-organized, cool room with enough space for all the things – records, baseball cards, and bridge stuff!! My kids will always remember “bubbling” together through these years, Saturday night dinners at your table, the pool, the laughs, the puzzles, and Charly. What I would do to make you another pot of chicken soup, another pumpkin pie, to take you for another patio lunch.

On our last day together, just last week, we ate delicious chocolate cake Elyse made, and Alex serenaded you with “Girl, Put Your Records On” (Corinne Bailey Rae), mic in hand, in her beautifully sweet voice ... I know you had a lot of favourite music (Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen). But that song sounds like a poem written by you for each one of us, your “gurgles.” That was such a special day. Having us together at home, with your kids and grandkids baking and singing for you, is exactly what you would have chosen as your send-off. There is never enough time. I am heartbroken. Love you always.



*May (or as you liked to call me, “Mayette”)
~May Chazan*

Convincing and Complete

Each bid, each card, each decision we made was like a musical note to Eric, and the master composer moulded our rhythm, tempo and harmony into a beautiful, coordinated symphony. Sir Isaac Newton once said, “If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.” Eric Kokish (Eric or Koach, as he liked being addressed) was one such giant who I was fortunate enough to associate with and learn from. The bridge world has lost an icon – one of its most celebrated players and arguably the greatest bridge coach ever. Despite the shock and sadness I felt upon receiving the news of Koach’s passing, I felt lucky to have had the chance to know him and wanted to write this obituary to celebrate his life.

In our fervent, vigorous preparation preceding the Youth World Championships last year, my partner Darwin Li from Canada

and I were practising on a bidding table around 11:30 pm India time. It was lonely, repetitive work, and both of us were exhausted and ready to call it a day. Suddenly, the familiar ping of BBO (BridgeBase Online) chat jolted me back to attention as I realised that there was a message from EOK (Koach's BBO ID) on our table. I rubbed my eyes to ensure I wasn't hallucinating, but it was clear – THE Eric Kokish was kibitzing our table. In his typical humility, he asked, "Is it OK if I talk to you both as we go along?" We enthusiastically agreed, and over the course of the next few weeks, Koach regularly joined our evening (or morning for him!) practice sessions, profoundly influencing the trajectory of not only my game but also my thought process, extending his pragmatic influence beyond bridge into other realms of my life.

Despite his immensely packed schedule, he generously devoted hours coaching us from the crack of dawn through the morning, withdrawing only to take his dog out for a walk. He was extremely patient, repeatedly explaining his elaborate ideas and conventions. Darwin and I would simultaneously be on a Discord voice call, frantically attempting to comprehend each part of his advice. Recently, I revisited the extensive conversations we had with Koach over BBO chat (which he wisely advised us to save) and email. Although I was despondent, reading his humorous messages transported me back not only to the intensity before the Championships but also Eric's encouraging, witty repartees, which made us laugh even when we were utterly dejected. BBO restricted his detailed messages due to its word count limit, and each day his humorous "battle with BBO til one of us wins", as he called it, entertained us as we learned. Eric loved Indian food and I promised to cook butter chicken for him, but unfortunately it was not to be.

We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves; however, Koach's rigour and intensity of training challenged us and was crucial to our eventual success. Despite being the architect and founder of multifarious, intricate and modern conventions, he taught us how to think, not simply memorise systems. To improve our systems, he asked exhaustive questions that forced us to think hard. It wasn't just the World Championships he was preparing us for. He nudged both of us to concentrate on building a long-term partnership, which he said would be formidable, despite the distance. Moreover, our age difference with Koach didn't matter, we could communicate effortlessly. After logging out, he would send us streams of assignments to be completed and give us feedback over email as well. Koach's expertise extended beyond coaching; he was also a prolific writer and

teacher, sharing his wisdom and insights with bridge enthusiasts worldwide. Long before meeting him, I was a fan of his regular Bridgewinners posts and articles.

A wise man once said: "A good teacher is like a candle - it consumes itself to light the way for others". Although Koach's light may have ultimately flickered out, his life has illuminated the path of innumerable others, including myself. The powerful, eternal legacy of the master teacher, innovator, convention builder and visionary will endure. His impact on the bridge community will be remembered by generations to come, as his disciples continue to carry forward the torch he ignited. His teachings, conventions, and unwavering dedication to the game will perpetually echo through the halls of bridge clubs and tournaments worldwide. His love of bridge was infectious; he inspired countless people in Canada and all over the world to pick up the game. Koach's flame will never truly be extinguished; the fiery passion of his life has ignited our candles – and he will live on through us.

And thus, after hearing the egregious news of his passing, I recalled the email Darwin and I received from Eric and Beverly after winning the pairs and teams events at the World Championships, which would have been impossible without him. It was titled "Convincing and Complete," congratulating us for our victory. Now, as I look back, those two words describe Eric's life beautifully – enduring, inspiring, and fulfilled.

~Anshul Bhatt (from Mumbai, India winner of 3 Gold medals at the World Youth Championships 2022 in Italy at the age of 13. He was coached by Eric Kokish (Canada) and Keyzad Anklesaria (India) before the event.

.....

I first met Eric Kokish during my international bridge debut in Tokyo in 1984. I was 19, barely a Life Master, and full of questions about bridge. Eric, already an icon in Canada, graciously provided me with deeply insightful answers. I liked him. We began a decades-long friendship and Eric became an early mentor/hero to me.

I learned so much from Eric over the years through our friendship and his advice, through his MSC columns in *The Bridge World* (he was the best), through his chapters in the *World Championship Books* (he was the best), and years later through his coaching (he was the best). Though Eric was



perhaps most well known as a coach and writer, he was also a truly great player - something I witnessed many times as both his partner and his teammate. Eric's focus at the table was extraordinary, even for a top expert - he almost never made careless errors. His bidding judgment was also exceptional.

I was Eric's partner in what I believe was his last major tournament as a player - the star-studded 2017 Yeh Brothers Cup. At the time Eric was 70 and hadn't played seriously in close to a decade. I somehow convinced him we should play Precision which was something Eric hadn't done for over 25 years. In preparation for the tournament Eric expanded my roughly 80 pages of system notes to roughly 400 pages! It took me weeks of intense study to absorb it all. This is the way. Eric was amazing, and we won the event.

Eric Kokish was a man of many passions. Aside from bridge, Eric also loved sports, music, animals, food, and especially his family. Not just me but bridge itself has lost a dear and true friend. Deepest sympathies from Sheri and me go out to Bev and Matthew.

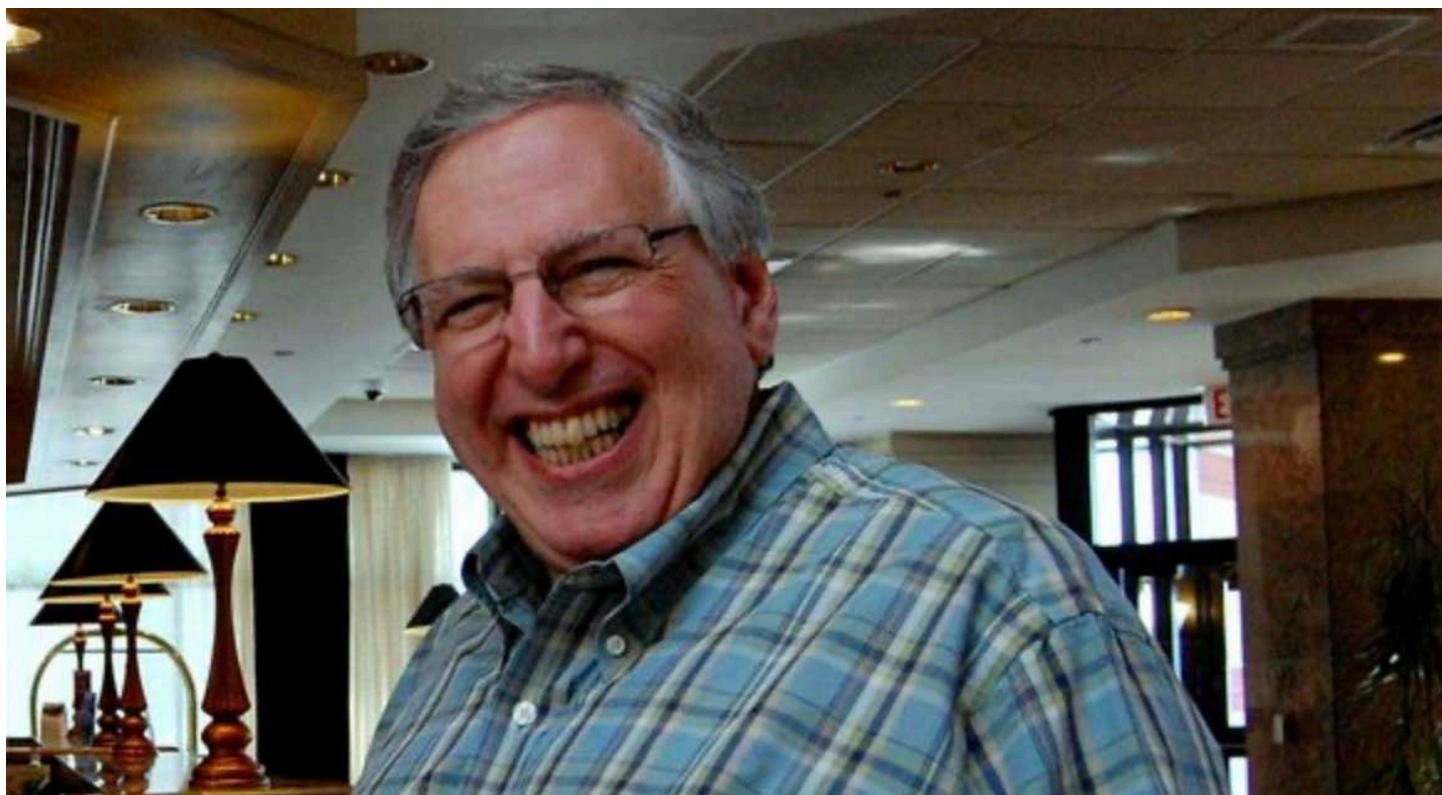
~Fred Gitelman

Eric was known by many nicknames in the bridge world: Kokes, EOK, and Koach being the most common. As you all know, he had a great sense of humour and did not take himself seriously. He and I emailed many times over the past few decades on many topics (bridge, books and music primarily) and I nearly always addressed him fondly as Kokes. Being a totally incompetent keyboardist, I once made the huge mistake of addressing him as "Kikes", the "o" and "i" being adjacent on the keyboard. I then sent the email without reviewing it (always a big blunder). I received an immediate reply with the comment, "Freudian slip, JC?" and a smiling emoji. As you can imagine, I was mortified. But Eric did not take offense and made it easy for me to repent my complete stupidity. He was one of a kind, a true icon of world bridge, a great player and writer and the best bridge coach in history.



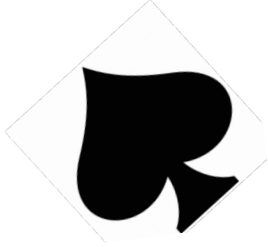
(A perfect "Kokes" emoji.)

~John Carruthers



Summer

Niagara-on-the-Lake Sectional August 18-20, 2023



NOTL Community Centre
14 Anderson Lane, NOTL
(off Hwy 55/Mississauga Rd)
905-468-4386



0-750 Tournament

Friday August 18th, 2023

750 Pairs 1:00pm & 7:00pm
199 Pairs 1:00pm & 7:00pm

Saturday August 19th, 2023

750 Pairs 10:00am & 2:30pm
199 Pairs 10:00am & 2:30pm

Lunch will be available for purchase

Sunday August 20th, 2023

750 Pairs 10:00am & 2:30pm
199 Pairs 10:00am & 2:30pm

Lunch will be available for purchase

All players are required to abide by
the COVID protocols of ACBL and the
Province of Ontario

Tournament Chair:

Chandi Jayawardena 905-941-1676
Email chandij@sympatico.ca

Partnership Chair:

Peggy-Sue Verkerk 905-359-0159
Email peggysueshaver@yahoo.com

Stratification

(Pair Average and strats adjusted as attendance warrants)

750 Pairs 200 - 750
199 Pairs 0 - 200

General Information

All Events are Single Session

\$15/player/session for ACBL members

Extra \$4 for lapsed ACBL members

Temporary membership for non-ACBL members will
be available.

All events stratified by average masterpoints.



www.unit255.com

Silver Points

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Most Friendly Atmosphere

Sectional Tournament Sponsored by

Jaclyn Morrison of



(905) 937-0962

jac.morrison@iaprivatewealth.ca



Goderich Sectional

August 26 – 27, 2023

Knights of Columbus Community Hall
390 Parsons Court
Goderich, ON N7A 4K3

Saturday, August 26, 2023

The Percy Sheardown Open Pairs Sessions 1 and 2: 10:30 am and 3:30 pm

(Stratifications A: 1500+, B: 500-1500, C: 0-500)

Single Session entries available

0-299 Pairs Two Single Sessions: 10:30 and 3:30 pm

(Stratifications A: 200-299, B: 50-200, C: 0-50)

Sunday, August 27, 2023

Bracketed Swiss Teams: 11:00 am and TBA

(499 bracket guaranteed)

Entry fees: \$12.50 per person per session

We will not be providing a lunch option but will have a longer lunch break so that people can make their own arrangements at local restaurants.

Tournament Chair

Jennifer Verdam-Woodward

woodwardj@compassminerals.com

Partnership Chair

Doug Elliott

dougelliott51@gmail.com

As per the ACBL's communication on March 15, 2023, we are currently removing the requirement that players must be vaccinated to attend. Please be aware that we must follow the ACBL's policy for tournaments, and any such requirement could be reinstated if that policy changes.

Please also note that while masks are not required by law, players must still be courteous to one another. If a player requests that others at their table wear a mask covering their nose and mouth, we expect that this will be done. Refusal to comply with these requests will result in removal from the tournament. Please bring a mask with you. There will be masks available for those who forget.

Labour Day SILVER POINT SECTIONAL Bridge Tournament

September 2-4, 2023

Delta Hotels by Marriott Toronto Airport

655 Dixon Road, Toronto M9W 1J3

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

or Call 1-800-668-3656 or 416-244-1711

Ask for GROUP code "ACB" Special bridge rate \$139 if booked by August 11, 2023

Schedule of Events

Saturday, September 2

- **10:00 AM & 2:30 PM** - A/X, B/C/D - 2 Session stratiflighted pairs, Single session entries are welcome
- **10:00 AM** - 0 - 199 Pairs - Single session stratified pairs
- **10:00 AM** - 0 - 20 Supervised pair game

Sunday, September 3

- **10:00 AM & 2:30 PM** - A/X, B/C/D - 2 Sessions stratiflighted pairs, Single session entries are welcome
- **10:00 AM** - 0 - 199 Pairs - Single session stratified pairs

Monday, September 4

- **10:00 AM & TBA** - A/X Swiss Teams - Open to all - Stratified by team average
- **10:00 AM & TBA** - B/C Swiss Teams - Stratified by team average, No player with more than 2000 MP
- **10:00 AM** - 0 - 199 Pairs - Single session stratified pairs
Monday morning 0 - 199 game requires pre-registration. Please contact Steve Overholt: soverholt1@gmail.com

There will be complimentary lessons by Steve Overholt at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

EVENTS ARE STRATIFIED BY AVERAGE MASTER POINTS & FLIGHTS ARE BASED ON HIGHEST MASTER POINTS OF PAIR/TEAM

Stratiflighted event: A: 4000+, X: 0-4000, B: 1500-2500, C: 750-1500, D: 0-750

Single session entries for all Pairs games are welcome.

Session Fees:

\$16 CAD

(members)

+\$4 for non-current members

All players MUST have an ACBL number. Guest memberships are currently free. Contact Glenna if you require one.

\$10 CAD

Full time students up to age 21 (members)

+\$4 for non-current members.

PARKING AT THE SITE IS FREE FOR BRIDGE PLAYERS

CHAIRPERSON:

Glenna Richardson 416-419-3089
glennarichardson@bell.net

PARTNERSHIP CHAIR:

Laurie Miller 416-276-6415
lauriemiller333@gmail.com

NOVICE/INTERMEDIATE CHAIR:

Steve Overholt 647-897-6179
soverholt1@gmail.com

Please Join Us for *Silver** Points at the
NEWMARKET LOCAL SECTIONAL

September 9 & 10, 2023
held at the Aurora Duplicate Bridge Club.

****IMPORTANT NOTE**** *This event is limited to 25 tables so players must pre-register with the Registration Chair, Sally Loates. Sally can be reached at sara.loates@yahoo.com or C. 647-339-0367.*

Event Schedule (at the Director's discretion)

Saturday, Sept. 9 - Pairs 10:30am & 2:30pm.

Stratified Open Pairs	A- 2000+	B: 750 – 2000	C: 0 - 749
Stratified Limited Pairs	0 - 300 Pairs		
Stratified Limited Pairs	0 – 50 Pairs (if numbers sufficient)		

Sunday, Sept. 10 - Stratified Swiss Teams ***10:30 am. & TBD***
Play through. Pizza can be purchased on-site.

Flight A/X: (separate) A=3000+ X=0-3000

Flights B/C/D: B=750-2000 C=300-749 D=0-299

Stratification is determined by the average of the pair or team. However, averaging does not allow a player to play in a strat if the player's total masterpoints holding is greater than that stratification's maximum number of points.

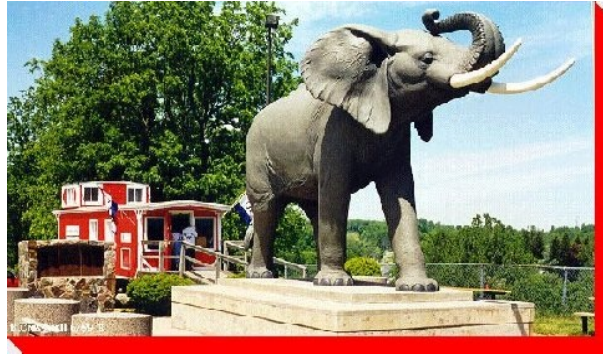
Session Fees: \$12 (Includes HST) for ACBL members
(\$4 additional fee for unpaid or non-ACBL members)
\$5 for students
Special rate for players with 0 – 20 masterpoints - \$8

Tournament Chair – Linda Lord, lindaleelord@hotmail.com, 905-713-9141

Location – entrance at rear of Newmarket Veterans Assoc. Bldg, 406 Millard, Newmarket, Ont. L3Y 1Z9. Free parking on-site or on adjacent side streets.

***Masterpoints won in Local Sectionals are 80% silver and 20% black.**

71th Annual St. Thomas Jumbo Tournament



Sept 9th – 10th 2023

Sessions both days 11:00 am and 3:00pm. Hot meal between sessions
Entry Fees \$12.50 per session

To participate in this tournament, players must have an ACBL Player Number. Non-ACBL members are welcome and will receive a complementary temporary ACBL membership.

(In consideration of those who are sensitive to fragrance, this is a scent-free tournament)

Saturday Sept 9th

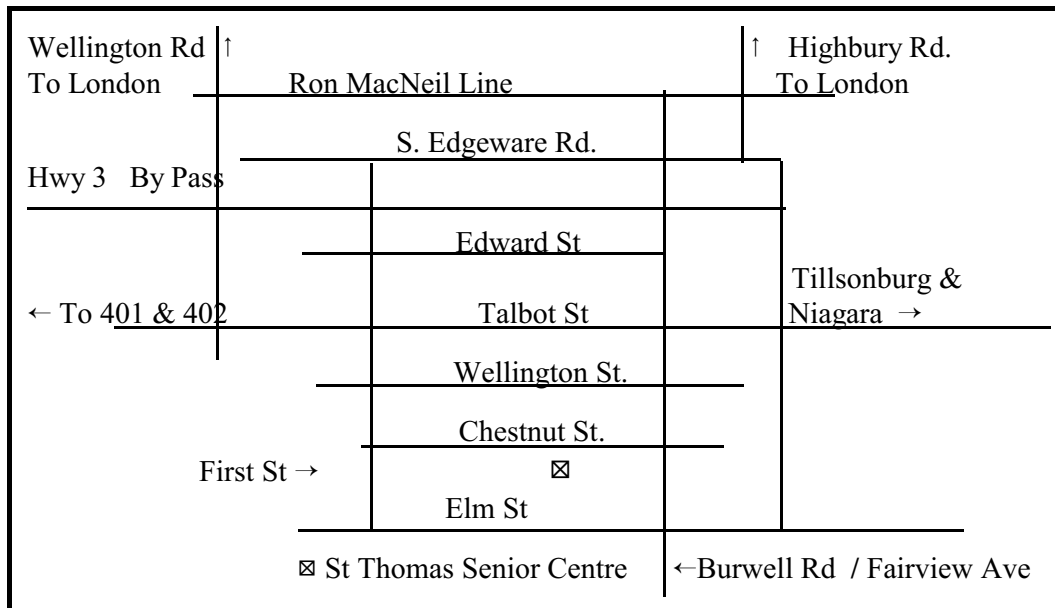
2-Session Stratified Pairs Playthrough (single sessions welcome)

299er Pairs Playthrough (single sessions welcome)

Sunday Sept 10th

Open Swiss (A/X) and a Bracketed 0-2000 Swiss bracketed by team total points

On line registration is available on the ACBL website (ACBL, Menu, Tournaments, Entry Express)



Location:
St. Thomas Senior Centre,
225 Chestnut St.,
St. Thomas

Tournament Chair:
Jim Wright
(519) 631-5531
manager@stthomasbridgeclub.
org

Partnerships:
Jim Wright
(519) 631-5531
manager@stthomasbridgeclub.
org

Pairs

Strats: A=1500+, B=500-1500, C=0-500
299ers: A=100-300, B=20-100, C=0-20
all events stratified by average mps

While proof of Covid-19 vaccination will not be required, all players are recommended to be up-to-date with their vaccinations and to wear masks if asked.



BRAMPTON BRIDGE BLAST!



September 30th & October 1st

Local Sectional
Offering 80 % Silver & 20 % Black Points

Game Times:
Saturday & Sunday
10:00 am & 3:00 pm

Century Gardens Recreation Centre
340 Vodden St. E.
Brampton ON

Session Fees:

- ACBL Members \$15
- (\$4 additional Fee for non-ACBL members)
- Student Rate: \$5

Tournament Chair: Denise Donovan
dcdonovan49@gmail.com
(416) 575-6754

Partnership Chair: Susan Thomas
susannolanthomas@gmail.com
(905) 867-4418

Saturday: *Single Sessions* (*awarding more masterpoints than a double session*)

- **499er NLM** (No one person can be over 499 masterpoints.)
- **Open Pairs A, B, C**

Sunday: Flighted Swiss Teams

- **A/X**
- **B/C/D** (No one person can be over 2000 masterpoints.)

Stratification is by average at the Director's discretion.

Pre-Registration Encouraged

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNM3QaM7ppeX-WezGErrSraBUq3fqfVWWYfYKCRuz0KILq_g/viewform

Accessible, Friendly
Hospitality (& onsite concession)
Zero Tolerance
Ample Parking

Niagara Regional



November 7-12, 2023



Niagara Falls



Welland Canal



Niagara on the Lake - Clock Tower

Booking Your Hotel

Playing Site:

Holiday Inn

327 Ontario St,
St Catharines, ON. L2R 5L3
Reservations 1-877-688-2324 ext 2
use Code NAB

Reserve before October 24, 2023 and request the ACBL rate at the following hotels:

Holiday Inn

\$129
Single or Double

Holiday Inn

\$169
Full Kitchenette Suites

GREAT NIAGARA FEATURES

- ♥ Warm Welcome Greetings
- ♥ FREE Intermediate/Novice Mini-lesson
- ♥ FANTASTIC Niagara Hospitality
- ♥ Section Top Prizes
- ♥ FREE Parking
- ♥ GOLD RUSH games
- ♥ KO Teams games
- ♥ Swiss games

Tournament Chair:
Partnership Chair:

Kathy Morrison
Elaine Gill

(289) 968-9889
(905) 386-6193

kmorrison37@icloud.com
gillelaine1943@gmail.com

Event Schedule

Tuesday November 7

Niagara Bracketed KO Teams (1 st & 2 nd of 4 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
St Catharines Open Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
99 ^{er} Pairs Single Session	10:00
Niagara on the Lake Gold Rush Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
Niagara Hospitality	5:30 to 6:30

Wednesday November 8

Intermediate/Novice Mini-lesson (Free)	9:00 to 9:45
Niagara Bracketed KO Teams (3 rd & 4 th of 4 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
Round Robin Bracketed Teams	10:00 & 2:30
St Catharines Open Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
99 ^{er} Pairs Single Session	10:00
Niagara on the Lake Gold Rush Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
Niagara Hospitality	5:30 to 6:30
Mentoring Game (Free)	7:00 to 9:00

Thursday November 9

Intermediate/Novice Mini-lesson (Free)	9:00 to 9:45
Niagara Falls Bracketed KO Teams (1 st & 2 nd of 4 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
St Catharines Open Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
99 ^{er} Pairs Single Session	10:00
Niagara on the Lake Gold Rush Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
Niagara Hospitality	5:30 to 6:30

Friday November 10

Intermediate/Novice Mini-lesson (Free)	9:00 to 9:45
Niagara Falls Bracketed KO Teams (3 rd & 4 th of 4 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
Round Robin Bracketed Teams	10:00 & 2:30
St Catharines Open Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
99 ^{er} Pairs Single Session	10:00
Niagara on the Lake Gold Rush Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
Niagara Hospitality	5:30 to 6:30

Saturday November 11

Welland Compact Bracketed KO Teams (1 st & 2 nd of 2 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
St Catharines Open Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
99 ^{er} Pairs Single Session	10:00
Niagara on the Lake Gold Rush Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
Niagara Hospitality	5:30 to 6:30

Sunday November 12

Bracketed Swiss Teams	10:00 & 2:30
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Note: Bracket 1 is open to all players. Depending on entries, it may be run with a Swiss movement.



Regional Tournament Sponsored by

Jaclyn Morrison of



(905) 937-0962

jac.morrison@iaprivatewealth.ca

Stratification

(subject to Director's discretion)

Stratified events are based on average MP holding of pair or team

All four-session KO teams use the mini-Soloway format. Teams are guaranteed two sessions of play the first day. The top four teams in each group advance to the second day's semifinals.

Gold Rush

0 to 750 masterpoints

Each player less than 750MP

99^{er}

0 to 100 masterpoints

Open Pairs

0 to ∞ masterpoints

\$20/player/session for ACBL members

Extra \$4 for lapsed ACBL members.

Temporary membership for non-ACBL

members will be available.

Zero Tolerance Tournament – Play Nice

For Additional tournament details visit our website at: www.unit255.com

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

August

18-20 Niagara-on-the-Lake, I/N, p. 37
25-27 Goderich, p. 38

September

2-4 Toronto, p. 39
9-10 Newmarket, p. 40
9-10 St. Thomas, p. 41
30-Oct. 1 Brampton, p. 42

October

3-9 Ottawa Regional
21-22 London
24-29 Buffalo Regional

November

7-12 St. Catharines Regional, p. 43
23-Dec. 3 Atlanta NABC

**All tournaments are Sectionals
unless noted**

2024

January

5-7 Toronto
5-7 Toronto NLM Regional
27-2 Bermuda Regional

February

9-11 St. Catharines

March

14-24 Louisville NABC
26-31 Toronto Easter Regional

April

15-21 Gatlinburg

May

16-20 Kingston Regional

July

18-28 Toronto NABC, p. 6

Deadline for the Winter Kibitzer: October 20, 2023

The Kibitzer

Andy Stark

36 Poucher St., Toronto ON M4J 2Y9