



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

## ALERT – July 24, 2023

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

### Looking Ahead

- ♥ Both of today's F2F games (Friday, July 21) are **club championship games** = extra masterpoints, no extra cost).
- ♥ During the week of July 24, all 499er and up games will be **NAP Games** – F2F and online. The Thursday night game will be 0-2500 to align with the NAP strat requirement. Extra masterpoints, \$2 surcharge.
- ♥ We will offer a **new F2F 99er game** on Saturday mornings, starting July 29.\*
- ♥ There will be **no Monday morning bridge lab** on Monday, August 7.
- ♥ The week of August 7-13 will be **Silver Linings Week on BBO**. 150% regular club points (50% red, 50% black). Extra BBO\$2 charge.
- ♥ [Tillsonburg's Golden Leaf Sectional Tournament](#), Saturday August 12 – Sunday, August 13

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A warm welcome back to the following pre-Covid renewer...

- **Pat Cameron**



### Congratulations...

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

#### Junior Master

- **Jennifer Baker**
- **Sharon Nesbitt**

#### Ruby Life Master

- **Charles Leguerrier**

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NEW

### Saturday Morning F2F 99er Game (Starting July 29)

In response to a grass-roots initiative by the 0-100 players, GRBC is thrilled to begin offering an in-person 99er game on Saturday mornings at 9:30am, starting July 29. This is an 18-board game, allowing more time per board and expecting to finish between 11:30 am and noon. Players with more than 100 masterpoints are welcome, but they and their partner will not be eligible for masterpoint awards. This ACBL-sanctioned game will ease you into the duplicate game that we all love. It will also be a lot of FUN! We hope you will come out to support this new game!



## Player Profile - Elaine Doyle

*Contributed by Anita Hanson*

As it happens, one of our fairly-recent game directors is also a fairly-recent bridge player. Please meet Elaine Doyle, newly-minted director of the Thursday afternoon open game.

Elaine began playing bridge just in 2018, looking for an activity to take her out of the house, as all her other avocations were carried out at home. A few beginners' lessons got her hooked, and she has never looked back. Covid, of course, got in the way of the getting-out-of-the-house part, but those restrictive years have just made her appreciate face-to-face play even more. July's tournament at Bingeman's was a particular high point.

Elaine has been married to husband John for 34 years, and has been a practicing chiropractor for 23 of those years. John's work had them living in several varied locations, including Iowa, until 2001 when they settled in K/W and she set up her still-running practice. GRBC is happy they stayed.

Outside of work and bridge?... Though not involved in sports, Elaine is a great believer in the power of exercise, trying hard to get in a session of HIIT, cycling, or yoga on a daily basis.

John retired four years ago (meaning Elaine now has a live-in gardener, cook, and house cleaner... and many envious friends), and it was with thoughts of her own upcoming retirement that Elaine considered the possibility of becoming a director: it seemed the perfect way to keep busy, while staying involved with bridge. With that in mind, she took Martin Hunter's directors' course (where she was amazed by how much she didn't know about the rules of bridge!), and was then mentored by our own Mike Peng. She also gives a grateful shout-out to the other club directors, who have all been very helpful and supportive.

Favourite Bridge tip? Perhaps not surprisingly, it's "Call the Director!" The rules are there to help you, to restore equity, and to protect you and your game.

(Interesting final tidbit. Elaine knows shorthand! She made a point to learn it in order to take notes efficiently in university. How smart is that?)

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## Membership Matters

We now have 228 2023-2024 members. We think we may have peaked and will stop reporting our numbers as of this issue. This is a bumper crop for our club!

Thank you for joining us. You are in very good company!

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## Online 0 – 499ers! Reasons To Play Open Games!

*Contributed by Jack Cole*

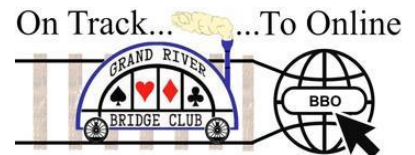
My partners and I recently played in four open games at GRBC and with our three new pooling partners: Wednesday evening (GRBC), Monday evening (Bridge Over Troubled Waters), Tuesday morning (London), and Tuesday evening (Tillsonburg).

Open games give out more MPs. It's the way ACBL does things. Leaders in all three strata (A, B, and C), can get significant points. With just over 300 MPs, I am usually a C level player, but I earned 2.5 MPs at those four open games! Yes, we finished in the points in three of the four games!

Back in the “old days” before Covid, most bridge clubs would offer only open games, with maybe a 499er. New players improved by learning from the club masters. The best way to get better is to play with more experienced folks and, with the online tools now available, you can practically climb right inside their games. A great way to learn!

Just FYI, our pooling partners do not have any restricted level games online, so all of their online players play open, regardless of their Masterpoint (MP) levels! While some are very experienced, many are in the lower MP range. If you are a 0–499er, these are good reasons to try out the three open games from GRBC, plus the six new ones from our pooling partners. We now have open games happening every day of the week but Saturday. They will all show up in your BBO/Virtual Clubs/ACBL-North America” game list!

So next time maybe step outside your comfort zone a little bit, and try an open game. I think you'll find it's not all that uncomfortable!



## Bean There Done That.

*Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer ([GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com))*

THIS JUST IN! Starting this month, we will waive the cost of GRBC name tags for new members playing F2F at the club. This is a whopping \$8 value.

We won't adopt the same incentive for our new online-only members for obvious reasons (we can't see it on their pajama top). But when you start playing at the club, we will give you a name. If you're lucky, it will be the one that your parents gave you. Regardless, it will be much sexier than a “HELLO MY NAME IS” sticker.

But what about the F2Fers who don't have a name tag or cannot remember their own name? You'll have to buy one. That's just the price of getting old.

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## Our Club's Board of Directors

*This is the fifth and last for now in a series profiling the current members of our club's board of directors and thanking them and their predecessors for their stellar work. Next up is **Mary McClelland** in her own words.*



Here is a photo of me in my new boat at the cottage. The old one was found this spring upside down in the water in the boathouse!

I am the board's secretary. The board meets once a month, and my role is to set the agenda with input from the board members and take minutes of our meetings. In addition to this, I participate on sub-committees such as the nominating committee for new board members.

When I was young, my parents played "kitchen" bridge and they taught us the basics. My mother actually did play some duplicate bridge as well, but involved only my brother in that. My university roommate also played kitchen bridge. As a result, during our twenties we would often play at the cottage with her parents.

I did not take up duplicate bridge until about eight years ago. I was at the curling rink where a few of the curlers were talking about it - and the next thing I knew we were taking beginner lessons at the club. At the time there were only two evening games - a rookie master game on Monday evening and a Friday night open game (99er, 199er, and 499 games did not exist). I went to the Monday night game and they set me up with a master!

I followed my father's footsteps and, after an undergraduate degree in music, I pursued an accounting degree and became a CPA. Most of my career followed at Sunlife Financial, as a leader in the wealth customer service area.

Over the years I have enjoyed playing golf, curling, skiing and tennis. In more recent years, I love spending time at the cottage, kayaking, swimming, and sailing. Recently retired, I have the travel bug and have joined the Grand River "travelling bridge players" to Barbados, Gatlinburg and this winter to Boca Raton, Florida. I also enjoy cruising and celebrated retirement last year with a trip to Alaska.



The bridge tip which is most valuable to me, but which I have difficulty employing, is to SLOW DOWN. When I first started playing bridge, I couldn't believe how long people took thinking and always wondered... what are they thinking about! Now I have a better idea, but still find it hard to slow down. In fact, when I play with a slow player I tend to play even faster because I feel I have to make up for the time they have wasted.

My tip for others is don't be afraid to play with the "sharks". Playing at a higher level can only improve your game. They are also very generous with their time and will give you advice: all you have to do is ask.

One of the early tournaments I played in was in Cleveland. At the end of the week, one of the sharks had to leave early and I was asked to play with them in a team game on Sunday. The team included Dave Baker, Bob Griffith, Mike Peng, and me. We were in the AX division (the top level is A), and when Dave heard that he said "The last time I was in AX was when I had hair!". I think we got eight gold points that day and I was thrilled!

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## The Answer Lady

Contributed by Susan Lawton

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

### Question

My partner and I played this hand recently in an online game and would appreciate your input on how the bidding should have gone.

The diagram shows a bridge hand with the following cards and bidding sequence:

Player	Hand (Cards)	Bidding
North	♣ Q 9 4, ♥ 8 6 3, ♠ 10 2, ♦ Q 10 7 3 2	Pass
South	♣ 7, ♥ A Q 10 2, ♠ K 8 7 6, ♦ 9 8 6 5	1NT, Pass, Pass
East	♣ K 8 6 5 2, ♥ K 5, ♠ J 9 5 3, ♦ A J	1♣, 2♣
West	♣ A J 10 3, ♥ J 9 7 4, ♠ A Q 4, ♦ K 4	Dbl, Pass

The bidding sequence shown in the center is: 1♣, 1NT, Dbl, Pass, 2♣, Pass, Pass, Pass.

East opened 1♣ and South overcalled 1NT. West doubled the 1NT as a way to show support for the other three suits: spades, hearts, and diamonds - and no support for the clubs. With only four points in their hand, North passed. East, thinking that as partners they play Meckwell over 1NT, decided to rebid the clubs by bidding 2♣. East was anticipating that West would correct to the actual suit. Instead, West thought that East was showing her long club suit and no support for the other three suits and passed. The contract was left in 2♣.

Thank you, Answer Lady

## Answer

Good morning, GRBC players, and thank you for sharing this interesting bidding dilemma. The Answer Lady didn't feel confident in providing input and sought more expert advice from *Dear David*. The hand was subsequently discussed at Dave's session on Friday morning at the Regional tournament.

Here are Dave's thoughts.

The double by West is a penalty double after the 1NT bid, showing at least seven or eight HCP points; in this instance, West has a good nine points. It's challenging to play 1C-1NT doubled, so East could consider bidding their other four-card suit, namely spades, or 2NT, anticipating that West has those seven or eight points making 2NT a strong possibility to succeed. The 2NT would be a game force, showing extra values. On this hand, however, East has only 12 points; so bidding that four-card spade suit, would be the first priority. Vulnerability will be a consideration as N/S are vulnerable and a better result might be made by leaving the double in. In teams, however, one needs to be extra cautious in doubling in these situations as it is a much riskier endeavour.

An additional note should be made about that Meckwell Convention, which was developed by Bridge experts Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell. Meckwell is a convention for disturbing 1NT openings. Simply described, the double (depending upon partnership agreement) can represent the following: one long minor or both majors. Partner would bid 2♣, and the player who doubled would further describe their hand, assuming there was no interference. As Dave noted however, Meckwell is intended after a 1NT opening bid and not after a 1NT overcall. So Meckwell would be off the table in the bidding on this hand.

If the hand is played in 1NT (doubled) by South, Dave recommended a spade lead as the best lead by West.

Despite the number of bidding confusions, the contract of 2♣ surprisingly made, even with West's shortness in clubs.

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## Dear David

### Impulsive Behaviour

There are a great many precepts that we rely on when we learn how to play the game — “Eight-ever, Nine-never”, or “Support with support”, or “Fourth-best from longest and strongest”, etc. Today’s column takes its inspiration from a list of “46 Bridge Rules to Live By” by World Grand Master Karen McCallum.

#### DON'T PLAY TO TRICK 1 UNTIL YOU HAVE A PLAN.

Applies both to defenders and to declarer. If you don't know what you're playing for, don't play!

Dir: E  
Vul: NS

4	17 8	11	♠ A	♥ Q 10 5	♦ Q 10	♣ A K Q 10 6 4	3	♠ 10 9 7 3 2	♥ J 9 7	♦ K 6 5 4	♣ 5
			♥ A 8 6	♦ J 9 7 2	♣ 9 2						
			♠ K 8 5	♥ K 4 3 2	♦ A 8 3	♣ J 8 7					

**2** This was Board 2 of a four-board round against strong opposition. West opened 1♣ in third seat and East responded 1♠. When West seemed to be struggling to find an appropriate rebid, I suggested that she should “Just bid 3NT— you know you want to.” She quickly accepted my challenge and duly bid 3NT. I am not very good at keeping my mouth shut. The opening lead was the ♠10. It is quite possible that North held ♠A10973, leading middle from an interior sequence (10 from A109) against NT. Many declarers would play low from dummy at Trick 1, and play would proceed normally. This declarer took advantage of the fact that the opponents did not know that her ♠A was singleton. She covered the ♠10 with the ♠J and an extra trick was created when South played the king. “Well done!” was all I could say as we recorded a near bottom score.

Dir: W  
Vul: All

14	5 14	7	♠ J 7 4 3	♥ 9 4	♦ K 5 4	♣ J 8 6 4	♠ 8	♥ A J 10 8 7 6 2	♦ A	♣ K Q 9 3
			♥ K 5 3	♦ J 3	♣ A 10 2					
			♠ K 9 5	♥ Q	♦ Q 10 9 8 7 6 2	♣ 7 5				

**4** Two boards later, against the same pair, I opened 1♥ in second seat. After East overcalled 1♠ and partner bid 1NT, I blasted to 4♥. The opening lead was the ♦J. I could almost taste the sweet nectar of revenge as I called for the ♦Q from dummy and the same player that had perpetrated that dastardly play on Board 2 fell into the same trap by covering with the king! “Cover an honour with an honour” has always been a well-known truism, but there are exceptions. There can be no practical advantage to covering this queen with the king, given that it would make all of the diamonds in dummy high, but her knee-jerk reaction (so ingrained in all of us) gave me an above-average score for making 4♥. What’s good for the goose is good for the gander.

Quack!

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## No. 117

♠ 65432  
♥ 98  
♦ A82  
♣ 982



♠ AKQ  
♥ Q4  
♦ K10976  
♣ K54

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Dbl <sup>1</sup>	4♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4♠
Dbl	All pass		

1. 15+ HCP
2. Texas Sacrifice, just kidding 😊. I interpreted it as Texas Transfer, but my partner seems to have had his own ideas 🤔.

So, there I was declaring a 4♠ doubled contract. West led the ♦Q, I called for dummy's ♦2 and took the trick with my ♦K, East following suit. I then banged down my ♠AK, reaping the ♠J10 from West and the ♠97 from East. If you were in my shoes, what would you do now?

### SOLUTION

You have two certain heart losers and three potential club losers, and you need to get rid of two of them if you are going to make your contract. Your only hope is to develop your diamond suit for no losers before the opponents can take their five tricks. But if you draw the last outstanding trump now, you will have no safe way back to your hand once you take dummy's ♦A. Of course, you could eventually get back to your hand with clubs if it's East who holds the ♣A, but that is unlikely given the bidding.

The only totally safe entry to your hand is the ♠Q. So, don't draw the last trump yet, but rather tackle diamonds right away. This is risky since the opponent who holds the last trump may also be short in diamonds, but beggars can't be choosers.

- So, at Trick 4, lead the ♦10 and finesse West's ♦J. This will work and - bonus - East will follow suit.
- At Trick 5, cash the ♦A to drop the ♦Q, crossing your fingers that East doesn't have the outstanding trump. It's your lucky day!
- At Trick 6, lead a trump from dummy toward your ♠Q to draw the last outstanding trump.

Now you can cash your two good diamonds and throw dummy's two hearts on them. Then concede three club tricks, but you have your ten tricks.  
Here is the full deal.

	♠ 65432	
	♥ 98	
	♦ A82	
	♣ 982	
♠ J108	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">             N W     E S           </div>	♠ 97
♥ AJ86		♥ K7532
♦ QJ4		♦ 53
♣ AQJ		♣ 10763
	♠ AKQ	
	♥ Q4	
	♦ K10976	
	♣ K54	

According to some, the game of bridge got its name from the Galata Bridge which spans the old and new parts of Istanbul. This bridge was apparently crossed every day by bridge players who wanted to go to a coffeehouse on the other side to play cards. You can believe this or not as you like, but today's hand also speaks to declarer's need to be able to bridge the divide between his hand and the dummy.

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## Top Master Point Earners at our Club

*Contributed by Allen Pengelly*

These rankings will return next week. Al is currently competing in the World Scrabble Championships in Las Vegas. Wish him luck!

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

- For both online and f2f games, log on to [Pianola](#), click on Partner Finder, and create a Partner Finder advert. This needs to be done at least a few hours in advance of the game.
- For online games only, log in to the game in question and register yourself on the Partnership Desk tab.

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

We have fun in **spades**.  
We play with all our **hearts**.  
We treat our members like **diamonds**.  
We always make a plan at our **club**.