



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – May 6, 2024

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

Looking Ahead

The Sunday morning 19er ONLINE game has had to be cancelled due to insufficient interest.

- ♥ From Monday, April 23 through Monday, July 8, all BBO games will be part of our **lottery contest**. Big big big prizes!
- ♥ **Pop-Up Game**, Friday, May 3, 1:00 pm. \$1 surcharge. Half red points!
- ♥ Susan Lawton will be giving a mini-lesson on **Opening Leads (Suits)** at the Monday morning bridge lab on May 6 (reprise of lesson given last fall)
- ♥ Our F2F games from Monday, May 6 through Friday, May 10 will be **Royal STaC games**. \$2 surcharge. ¼ black, ¼ silver, ¼ red, and ¼ gold points.
- ♥ Liz McDowell will be giving a mini-lesson on **Balancing** at the Monday morning bridge lab on May 13.
- ♥ First day of **Basic Bidding/Beginners 3 course**, May 14, 9:00 am – 11:30 am
- ♥ **The Friday night open game on May 17 is cancelled.**
- ♥ There will be **no bridge lab on Victoria Day**, May 20
- ♥ **Barbara Seagram** will show you how to take **Tricks with Trumps** at the Guelph Bridge Club on Tuesday, May 21. **NOW SOLD OUT!**
- ♥ **All of the BBO games on May 25 and May 26 are cancelled.**
- ♥ [The Grand River \(Cambridge\) Sectional](#), May 25-26



Congratulations

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

Club Master

- Jennifer Baker
- Pamela McCreary
- Andrew Widdis

Life Master

- Suzanne Edwards

And a warm welcome to the following new ACBL members

- Kelly Kempel
- Paul Quinn
- Valerie Sharman



Beginners 3 Course/ Basic Bidding

Our lessons are fun, instructive, and an excellent way to make new friends and find new bridge partners.

Instructor: Cindy Mahn

Dates: Tuesday mornings, May 14, 21, 28, June 4, & 11, 9:00 am – 11:30 am

Venue: In our club's teaching room

Level: **Novice**

Fee: \$75 members/ \$85 non-members

Current Enrollment: 10

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



Bean There Done That

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

Howie Doooin'? (April 2024)	Compared To		Why % Change Since Last April?
	Last Month	A Year Ago	
BBO table counts	Down 8%	Down 14%	BBO was still riding a high back then
F2F table counts	Up 6%	Up 48%	More offerings now; bad F2F slump last year
Income	Up 7%	Up 3%	
Expenses	Down 11%	Down 22%	
Current Assets	Same	Up 7%	GIC interest and high \$US exchange rate
Paid up memberships	+4 (269)	+5 (264)	

Which of our games generate the most game **profit** (this month)?

1. Gold medal: 749er (46%) ... almost half!
2. Silver medal: Open (23%) ... moving up the podium
3. Bronze medal: 299er (22%)

**Every morning
I get hit by the
same bicycle.
It's a vicious
cycle.**

New Monday Afternoon F2F 299er Game

We had a great turnout of five and a half tables for our inaugural Monday afternoon 299er game. The hope is that next Monday we will get enough players for a Mitchell movement (seven tables)!



Photo Credit: Mary Nickel

The concurrent open game attracted six and a half tables. Next Monday in Mitchell land!





Funny Bridge Stories

Contributed by Lissa Lowes

Here are some funny stories and jokes about our wonderful game. Who says bridge players are too serious?

- Playing with a stranger on OKbridge, I agree to Standard American, plus Cappelletti and some other gadgets she insists on. The way I see it, who cares what you play with pick-up partners. Better to just humour them so they can concentrate on judgment and reasoning, which are ten times more important. So, lo and behold, I find myself with a good one-suiter after the opponents open 1NT. Dutifully I bid 2♣ (an artificial relay to 2♦). Partner bypasses the relay and we wind up in a horrible spot for some horrible result. Confused, I ask her if we are playing Cappelletti. "Yes," she replied, "but I thought you forgot."
 - (Before the skip bid was eliminated) I must relate a good story given to me by Dan Molnar a couple years ago at the Nationals. On the subject of skip bids: "RHO pulls out the skip bid card and bids 2♠. I've got nothing, so I'm counting to 10 and then I pass. Next thing I know, RHO is calling, "Director! There was a hesitation."
 - Two wives are discussing how badly their respective husbands had played the previous evening—each convinced that their husband plays worse than the other. The first wife says, "Just let me tell you what happened last night. My husband was playing 7NT, vulnerable, with 12 top tricks and he needed a spade finesse for 13. Dummy had the AQ of spades and he had a couple of small ones and the finesse was onside. So, what do you think he did? He took the first 11 tricks and ended up in DUMMY with the AQ of spades and then led the queen from the dummy at trick twelve!" "So what's so bad about that?" says wife number two "Against my husband, that play works!"
 - South: Alert!
East: Yes?
South: I'm requested to further mis-describe my hand.
 - One advantage of bad bidding is that you get practice at playing atrocious contracts. Alfred Sheinwold
 - It's not enough to win the tricks that belong to you. Try also for some that belong to the opponents. Alfred Sheinwold
-



Player Profile – Frank Fischer

Contributed by Anita Hanson

Someone who has been a member of the KW bridge community for over 40 years should not need to be introduced but, just the same, today we are introducing long-time player Frank Fischer.

Back in the early 80s, Frank started to think about what he should be doing with his time once retirement hit. As luck would have it, it was at this same time that Milos Polak (a name pretty much every long-time local player will recognize) put an ad in the paper offering a 12 week learn-to-play course. Frank had enough bridge experience that he could skip the first two weeks, but he completed the rest of the course, and has never looked back and he now has his Life and Silver Life Masters and is working on becoming a Ruby Life Master.

Born in Germany, Frank came to Canada in 1957 at the age of 24. He had been apprenticing as a chef in Germany, so his first job in Canada was cooking at the Walper Hotel for three years. Following that, a few more cooking jobs convinced him that he needed a different career, and he took a welding course at KCI. After getting that license, he worked as a welder/fitter at E & E Seegmiller for over 30 years.

During this time, he met his wife Marilyn while she was in nurses' training at K/W hospital. They have a son and two adult grandchildren, and they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in April. Frank is very grateful to Canada, has loved it here, and enthuses warmly about the wonderful life he has had.

Frank's favourite pastimes are cooking, gardening, and bridge. Winters for many years were in Florida, where he attended a nearby bridge club, and summers were at their trailer at Fisherman's Cove where he often attended the bridge club in Kincardine.

Now in his 92nd year, Frank is still playing bridge as regularly as possible. Covid got in the way, of course, but he was able to play online thanks to the wonderful club members who helped train non-techie people such as himself on BBO. The last 18 months he has not played much due to surgery, an injury, and health issues, but is now back playing Thursday afternoons at the club.

Frank wasn't able to limit his bridge tips to just one favourite, but all are worth printing: 1) While learning, master just one thing at the time. 2) Never be afraid to ask for advice and guidance (but always ask it of players with more experience than yourself!) 3) Always, always be polite.

Tales from Gatlinburg ... Bronia Jenkins Kibbitzed My Table!

Contributed by Kathy Russell

Bronia Jenkins, Executive Director of the ACBL, was playing on a six-person team in the Friday Side Swiss. Towards the end of her sit-out match, she asked my opponents Kenneth Andino and Chris Sloan if she could kibbitz. She watched the last couple of boards of the match from Ken's perspective (my LHO). On the last board, I was declarer and had to work hard to make the contract.

When the match was finished, Bronia stood a couple of feet away with Ken and Chris discussing the hands. I heard her say "she made a good play on the last board". Wow, did that ever make me feel good! And I have playing in GRBC's open games to thank for making my game good enough to be on a team with the fabulous Edith Ferber, Margot Stockie, and Thea Davis in a high bracket that Bronia was interested in watching! Thanks for playing with me ladies!

The dedication to this is unmatched



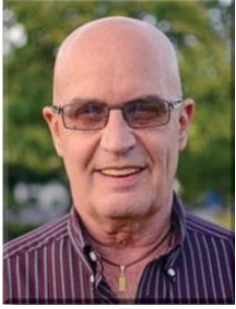
On Track...  ...To Online



AND THE WINNER IS... YES, the OTTO team is enriching your spring and summer with a third series of L'OTTO **online playing draws**. And our first winner is **PAUL WHITE**. Congratulations! Paul played on the first day of week 1 in our **299er** game, Tuesday afternoon, April 23. We had **101** entries this week to win a \$25 gift card

from Timmies. Every time a current GRBC member plays in one of our online games, their name goes into the draw. Play with us on BBO by Monday, and the next winner could be you!

FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

Cancun Tales

I have been writing about hands from recent tournaments and a few notable individuals I have encountered in my bridge travels. I thought it might be a good time to talk about some of my holiday-with-bridge destinations.

Going back about 30 years ago, Fran Chivers was my regular/favourite partner. Since I had only a limited number of vacation days from my job, we could go to far-off bridge destinations only a few times a year. One of our first (oft-repeated) destinations was Cancun, Mexico. We stayed in the hotel that sponsored the small bridge tournament. It had everything I wanted in a vacation destination – a chair by the pool, a good book, waiters who came unbidden to your chair to ask if you needed anything, and a swim-up bar featuring unlimited free drinks. We all have our own ideas about what heaven should look like.

Sometimes you would walk down to the road to catch a bus into town, which came by frequently and charged 50¢ (rip-off artists!), as there was nothing but a long line of hotels where we stayed. They had a permanent outdoor market in town. As you walked along, someone from each stall would try to lure you in. After I exercised my Canadian politeness a few times by saying “No thanks”, I learned that it was better to say nothing and avoid eye contact. At one point, a particularly-insistent barker behind me finally called out “Mr. Clean, Mr. Clean”. I decided I owed him a look because he made me laugh.

The Bridge

We were playing at a table where I had to alert my partner’s double. When asked for an explanation, I said it was a Rosenkranz double. A very rude person a few tables away opined in a loud voice “He’s probably playing it incorrectly”. As I was preparing my equally-rude comeback, I looked over at Mr. George Rosenkranz himself. Got me! George passed away a few years ago, but he was (and probably still is) the leading masterpoint holder in Mexico.

We were playing against Rosenkranz and Eddie Wold (# 3 on the all-time masterpoint list). We had a beautiful auction. We knew almost everything about each other’s hands after about eight bids apiece. I was about to bid 7♥, even though I knew we were missing four hearts to the queen, when it suddenly dawned on me that we might make 13 tricks without my long heart suit. Indeed, 7NT made where 7♥ would have failed.

George and Fran went out into the hallway for a smoke (oh glory days—indoor smoking) and Wold glared at me in a way that made me think that he suspected we might be cheating. After all, how could a pair of unknowns get the best of them. I just walked away. George came back in and asked to talk to me out in the hallway. He seemed genuinely interested in knowing how our system worked, so I quickly gave him the two-minute version.

About nine months later, I recognized the hand in the *Bridge Bulletin* under George's byline. Even though our names were not mentioned, I was quite pleased until he not only misrepresented the auction but also referred to his opponents as "relative newcomers". I was ready to fire off a nasty letter to the ACBL but reason returned. What did it matter if my name wasn't mentioned? I will end this episode by saying that Fran and I had a 73% game and the big boys had 43%. They must be newcomers!

One morning we ventured out to a morning pairs event and sat down against George and Mike Passell (#2 on the all-time masterpoint list). (I was wondering if we would soon see Meckstroth and Rodwell.) Our opponents were both smiling and very pleasant to us as they had likely been beating up on lesser mortals all morning. At some point on the last board of the round, I grossly overbid to 3♦, doubled by Passell. I was going down one vulnerable for -200 and zero match-points until I remembered a little trick I had picked up from Larry Woods. I call it "Play them where they ain't".

I played a suit that had two sure losers in dummy, making it look as if I was trying to get a ruff. (We were 2-2 in the suit, so no ruff). Passell switched to a trump in order to stop the non-existent ruff, picking up the trump suit for me. Three diamonds, doubled and making – a top board. It was nice to get a top - but even nicer to stay at the table and listen to them arguing about whose fault it was. The gods had been vanquished by mere mortals.



For Intermediate *Jake's*
Play a Bad Hand Well

No. 140

♠ A107
 ♥ K643
 ♦ AJ643
 ♣ 4



♠ 832
 ♥ AQJ107
 ♦ K9
 ♣ K63

West	North	East	South
			1♥
2♥*	4♥	All pass	

* Michaels: 5+ spades and 5+ in an unspecified minor

I was South, declaring a 4♥ contract. West led the ♠K, and I won the trick with dummy's ♠A while East followed suit.

- At Trick 2, I led the ♥3 from the dummy to my ♥A, both opponents following.
- At Trick 3, I led the ♥Q from my hand. West played the ♥8, and East discarded a club.
- At Trick 4, I continued with the ♥J overtaking it with dummy's ♥K, while West played his last trump, the ♥9. East discarded a small diamond.
- At Trick 5, I called for the ♦3. East cleverly inserted the ♦10, which I won with my ♦K. West, void in diamonds as expected, discarded a club.
- At Trick 6, I led a spade and West took his ♠Q and then cashed his ♠J at Trick 7. East followed once and then discarded a club.
- At Trick 8, West hesitated for quite a while and eventually put the ♠9 on the table. I called for the ♣4 from dummy on which East discarded the ♣10, and I ruffed in my hand.
- At Trick 9, I put the ♦9 on the table, West discarding a club. If you were in my shoes, what would you do now?

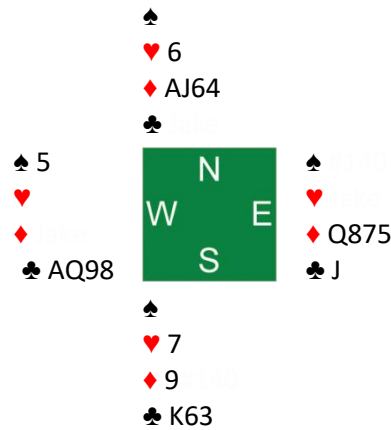
SOLUTION

The following points can help you to make a good decision.

- So far, you have lost two tricks, meaning you still have room to lose another trick.
- East has no major cards left: he holds a bunch of diamonds and a club or two.
- East's diamonds must be something like ♦Q875.
- West holds only spade(s) and clubs.

Consequently, you know that East's ♦Q is the only card that can beat your ♦9. So, if you let the ♦9 go, you can promote dummy's ♦J. A club lead from East at this point could have been a big problem if you hadn't prepared for it at Trick 8 when you discarded dummy's singleton club. So, the right play at Trick 9 is to let the ♦9 go (play the ♦4 in dummy).

Here is the five-card ending.

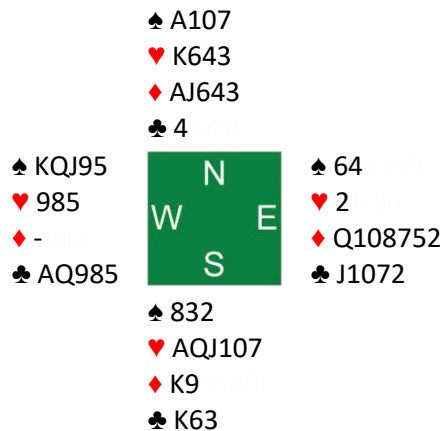


When you float the ♦9, East has two options. He can refuse to take the trick, whereupon you can enter dummy by ruffing a club and then cashing the ♦A and ruffing a diamond in your hand to make your contract. So, it's pretty unlikely that East would refuse to take your ♦9. Let's assume East takes your ♦9 with his ♦Q. Holding only diamonds and clubs, he has two options.

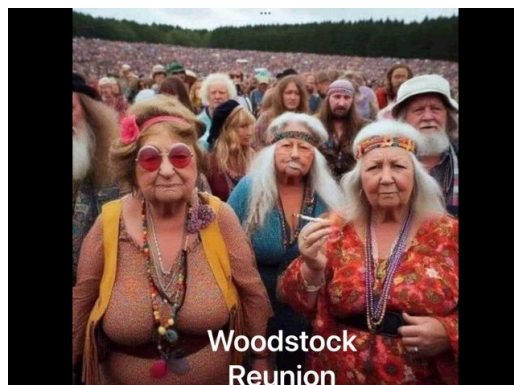
1. He can exit with a diamond, in which case you can cash dummy's ♦AJ discarding two clubs from your hand and then ruffing a diamond in your hand to make your contract.
2. He can exit with a club, in which case you ruff it in dummy and then cash your two good diamonds and ruff the last diamond in your hand to make your contract.

The opponents have no defence against your play.

Here is the full deal.



Right from the start, you knew your hand's clubs were a problem. As often happens in trump contracts, you had a choice between a) trying to ruff your hand's losers with dummy's short trumps or b) trying to develop dummy's long side suit in order to discard your hand's losers on them. On this hand, your good intermediate diamond cards tip the balance towards trying to develop dummy's long suit.



Top Master Point Earners at our Club

Contributed by Allen Pengelly

This table lists the individuals who have earned the most master points at our club in each of three master point bands since the beginning of March.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	37.51	1	Brian Gaber	12.75	1	Andrew Widdis	15.42
2	Ted Boyd	24.20	2	Jack Cole	11.91	2	Mark Sherwood	12.58
3	Roy Dandyk	18.87	3	Susan Durance	11.14	2	Doug Fickling	12.58
4	Kathy Russell	18.83	4	Rick Arthur	10.73	4	Sheila Charters	11.80
5	Mike Peng	18.34	5	Kim Wakeford	9.89	5	Randall DeKraker	8.87
6	Edith Ferber	17.82	6	John Kip	9.76	6	Peter Gaasenbeek	8.73
7	Robert Griffiths	15.58	7	Elinor Girouard	9.23	7	Paul Raymond	8.42
8	Stephen Young	14.81	8	Renate Boucher	9.19	8	Robert Darby	6.66
9	Lori Cole	14.49	9	Bob Gilck	8.19	9	Phil De Montigny	6.54
10	Margot Stockie	13.48	10	David Dennis	8.10	10	Debbie Miethig	6.47
11	Malkin Howes	12.25	10	Martin Jones	8.10	11	Russel Kerr	5.76
12	David Wilson	11.64	12	Judy Beauchamp	8.02	11	Pat Pietrek	5.76
13	Suzanne Edwards	11.57	13	Molly Worden	7.95	13	George Rybiak	5.57
14	Neil Jeffrey	11.47	14	Marlene Dopko	7.86	14	Richard Rybiak	5.29
15	John Hanemaayer	11.25	15	Cheryl White	7.71	15	Sharon Nesbitt	4.93
16	Thea Davis	10.90	16	Jim Dalglish	7.19	16	Pat Northey	3.91
17	Tony Verhoeven	10.57	17	Cheryl Kip	7.04	17	Chris Beck	3.61
18	Pat McMillan	10.53	18	Nanci Phelan	6.93	18	Audrey Cook	3.21
19	Cindy Mahn	9.96	19	Andy Martinek	6.65	19	Louise Bell	3.17
19	Dave Embury	9.96	20	Kevin Latter	6.36	19	David Bell	3.17
21	Steve Carpenter	7.98	20	Janice Pengelly	6.36	21	Kathy Chandler	3.13
22	Moira Hollingsworth	7.70	22	Carolyn Baechler	6.26	22	Marianne Dziarski	3.11
23	Sharon Boyd	7.33	23	Joe Blake	5.53	23	Julia Prendiville	3.09
24	Barbara Arthur	6.75	24	Louise Dawdy	5.46	24	Pauline Copleston	2.89
25	Dave Quarrie	6.25	25	Nancy Cattanach	5.34	25	Don O'Bright	2.76

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

- For both online and F2F games, log on to [Pianola](#), click on Partner Finder, and create a Partner Finder advert. This needs to be done at least a few hours in advance of the game. *When you use Partner Finder, it will allow folks to see your contact information. If you have posted a Partner Finder ad, kindly remember to check your phone and email and, when you've found a partner, delete your ad. Someone who replied to your ad may be waiting for a response.*
- For online games only, log in to the game in question and register yourself on the Partnership Desk tab (or look to see if someone else has already registered there).

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

We have fun in **spades**.

We play with all our **hearts**.

We treat our members like **diamonds**.

We are offering Royal STaC games at our **club**.