



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – June 19, 2023

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

Looking Ahead

- ♥ The F2F games during the week of June 19 will be **club championship games** = extra masterpoints, no extra cost).
- ♥ **Mini-lesson on opening leads** at the beginning of the Monday morning, June 19 bridge lab.
- ♥ It will be **Volunteer Appreciation Day** on Tuesday, June 20, with a potluck lunch and both an open and a 199er game in the afternoon. 11:45 start time.
- ♥ On Friday, June 23 from 9:30 am – noon, we will be offering a **FREE F2F workshop on tournament play** (see the Answer Lady's column).
- ♥ The Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25 online games will be in support of the **Alzheimer Society of Canada**. There will be extra master points and a \$BBO2 surcharge.
- ♥ **The Friday night game on June 30 is cancelled because** so many people are going to the Fredericton tournament.
- ♥ There will be **no bridge lab on Monday**, July 3 (statutory holiday for Canada Day).
- ♥ [Kitchener Regional Tournament, Tuesday, July 4 – Sunday, July 9](#)
- ♥ **No F2F games or daytime BBO games at our club**, Tuesday, July 4 – Friday, July 7 (due to our regional tournament)

Volunteer Appreciation Day is on June 20

Our club is awesome! We would not exist without all of our wonderful volunteers, and we would heartily like to honour and thank everyone for all that they do.

There are just too many names to mention, but we would like to say a special thank you to all of those who helped to keep us alive during our COVID hiatus. Some of the groups are:

- Virtual Games Committee
- Online Coaches/Mentors and those who organized them
- Virtual Games Directors
- COVID 19 Safety-Protocols Working Group
- Virtual Teachers
- Management Team
- Board of Directors
- Bonnie Kains and Jim Dalgliesh who visited our club twice a week for insurance purposes

We sure hope to see you all next Tuesday for our potluck at 11:45 am and two-section game at 1:00 pm!



The Bean Counter

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer

Apparently, you have Mr. Bean questions about the membership incentives. Great! Keep 'em coming...

Q: May I bring anyone (even my no-good brother-in-law) to a BBO/F2F game and s/he plays for free?

A: Yes. However, please bring someone who you believe may be interested in becoming a GRBC member. This will allow him/her to "kick the tires" before committing to a membership. Even if s/he doesn't become a member, you should hope that s/he will continue to play in our games as a non-member. We are just that much fun to play with/against.

Q: I recruited someone new to GRBC or brought a friend to a BBO/F2F game. When do I get the reward for having endured their incompetent play?

A: Do you think I'm made of money? But seriously, you will not receive your reward until early August. It's going to take that long for me to recover from a money tsunami called June.

Q: I don't pay transactions fees for my e-transfers ... why does GRBC?

A: Canadian banks assume businesses have lots of money and can afford it, or maybe they assume businesses do not scrutinize their account fees like ordinary citizens do. We are a non-profit company which limits us to certain types of accounts. Therefore, we have a 'non-profit business account' with TD Canada Trust. Sure, we could switch to a credit union or equivalent and not pay fees. Ten months of the year, we do not incur any banking fees at all. June is usually a high fee month (a good problem to have BTW).

Just a Reminder that **June is Membership Month at GRBC**

It's time to renew if you haven't already. This year's fee is our usual low price of \$70.

If you are now or ever have been a member of our club, all you need to do is give us \$70.

You can do this in one of three ways.

- Mail a cheque payable to Grand River Bridge Club (not GRBC) to Steve Allen, 75 Lorilee Crescent, Kitchener N2N 2J3.
- At the club, look for the Membership sign to find a kindly membership clerk who will help you renew and make payment.
- As a last resort (each e-transfer costs our club \$1.25), send an e-transfer to grandriver-bridgeclubtreasurer@gmail.com. Of course, you're welcome to send us an e-transfer for \$71.25, as several ingenious members have already done. Please indicate in the e-transfer comments entry section your name, your email address, and what your payment is for.

If you have never been a member of our club, you need to make payment in one of the ways indicated above PLUS you need to fill out a New Member Form. You can do this electronically [here](#) or if you're at the club, get the form from the aforesaid kindly membership clerk.

As of this writing, we have **105** members who are standing proud for 2023-2024. Why not make it one more?

Starting a combination coffee shop and family law office and calling it Grounds for Divorce.

Our Club's Management Team

This is the ninth in a series profiling the current members of our club's management team and thanking them and their predecessors for their stellar work. Next up is our management team secretary, Jim Fox.

Normally, we would begin by praising Jim's predecessor in the position, but as it happens we have already praised Jim's predecessor in this column. That's because our former club manager was also the management team's secretary, namely Jim Dalglish. So you can just take it as read that Jim did a great job in that capacity as well.

And now we bring you Jim Fox. Jim was worried that he wouldn't be able to find a photo where he wasn't holding a beer – and as you will see later on – he did manage to do this, but here is an apparently more typical photo.



Jim Fox

Jim's designation is secretary to the management team, but in addition to his formal duties he always tries to help out at the club whenever possible. For example, he assists the game director in any way he can. For example, he too was out in the parking lot with Joe Blake for our Barbara Seagram event.

Jim got initiated into bridge when he was ten because his mother and father and grandmother needed a fourth. It was a natural progression for Jim who has always had a facility with numbers, having learned to play cribbage at the age of five. He continued to play bridge at university, down in the coffee shop below the library at the University of Guelph – in fact, he may have spent more time in that coffee shop than in class. Jim went on to become a teacher and played socially for many years with a bunch of teachers including Dave Quarrie and Brian Krulicki. This led to his joining our club shortly after we opened our doors on Gage Street.



In terms of hobbies and interests, Jim's passion is fishing. He also plays at golf. And, amazingly, he still plays old-timer hockey three times a week! The photo shows Jim at the end of a 5K race in Ottawa, something he has done a few times – mostly to keep his more athletic daughter company. In addition, Jim and his wife really enjoy travelling. For example, they have done four European river cruises and have toured Alaska, Iceland, and Australia. Next year more Mediterranean countries!

For Jim, the attraction of bridge is primarily the social aspect. For him, Friday afternoons are really special and something to look forward to – because after the game he and a bunch of bridge cronies retire to the Bent Elbow to talk about the day’s hands (and much else). It is so much fun! Even though it can be hard to get a word in edgewise at times.....

Jim’s bridge tip flows from his love of the social aspect of bridge. He tries to just keep it simple and enjoy the game. Jim isn’t motivated by masterpoints nor does he aspire to play in the open games. It logically follows that Jim prefers our F2F games over our online games – and indeed he hopes that our club will look for opportunities to expand its in-person offerings and give him more chances to have fun with his friends.

Call for Volunteer

The position of **Air Purifier Chief** has become vacant. The duties are not major, estimated at an hour two to three times a year, and involve ordering and replacing filters as needed. A member able and willing to fill this position is invited to contact our manager, [Doug Grant](#).

And while we are at it, a hearty thank you to Valirie Binkle who has kept our air pure for more than a year now.



From the Archives – Unauthorized Information

Unauthorized information is any extra information emanating from a bridge player, be it in the form of a remark, a pointed question, an unmistakable hesitation or unusual speed, special emphasis, an unexpected Alert or failure to Alert, a gesture, or anything else that conveys information over and above the bid or play in question. An example might be if a player slams down the Double card, telegraphing that this is FOR PENALTIES. Another example is when a player plays a card so readily, perhaps even detaching it from his hand prematurely, as to make it apparent that it's A SINGLETON.

So players are allowed to do these things, in the sense that a trap door doesn't open beneath them, although it would obviously be better if they didn't. But what is **NOT** allowed is for their partners to take advantage of the additional information and then use it in choosing an unlikely (but advantageous) bid or a play. In other words, the extra information is "unauthorized" to one's partner.

Let's look at the example of a player whose partner has hesitated before bidding. Because of the miscreant's hesitation, the hesitator's partner is constrained whenever he has a *marginal* call or play. Let's say it's someone's turn to bid and he might or might not be justified in bidding 5♠. If his partner had hesitated before making his or her previous bid, the partner with the marginal bid **must** pass. This doesn't mean that he has to pass no matter what – he can bid if 5♠ if it's clear cut and most players would make that bid whether or not their partner had hesitated – but in the case of a borderline hand he must pass.

And just to be clear, it is totally fine for the opponents to take advantage of any additional information generated by their hapless opponent: while it is unauthorized to one's own partner, this type of information is completely authorized to the opponents and may be used to their own advantage. So why on earth would anyone want to help *them*?

On Track...  ...To Online



e-Partner: Partner Finding for Online Play!

Contributed by Lori Cole

Survey says! The #1 answer on the board is "I need a partner!"

Would you like to connect with more possible bridge partners? We've all heard of online dating, and it is often very successful. Can it work for finding bridge partners? Let's find out!

For those of you looking for a regular partner for online play, click on the e-Partner link below and fill in your bridge-playing and partner preferences. Data provided is confidential. This link will stay open until the end of June. Then, during the following week, the Matchmaker will do their magic. Shortly after that, your possible compatible partner results will be emailed to you.

Here's the link: [e-Partner](#)

Good Luck!



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. I have a "small" library of prepared questions, but I would welcome additional questions to build up that library and keep this column viable.

This week, the Answer Lady is on the Tournament Trail, preparing for the South West Ontario Regional, to be held at Bingemans Conference Centre in Kitchener, July 4-9, 2023.

Back in November, I did a brief write-up about tournaments and I'm repeating some of that same message here.

Why I am suggesting tournaments for the newer player? Actually, bridge tournaments are for all bridge players. Even the beginning player can find a game where they can compete against players of their own skill level. At the South West Ontario Regional, there are 199 pairs games every morning, except Sunday. In addition, all of the games will be stratified, such that each 199 game will have three separate stratifications: 0-200; 0-100; and 0-20 and three separate winners in each stratification! You might also notice that the 199 pairs event has a reduced entry rate of \$10 per game.

Tournaments offer bridge players another venue to sharpen their skills and compete in different formats with both pairs and team games available. One has an opportunity to meet players from other regions, learn some new skills, and socialize with friends away from the bridge table. Many tournaments offer a 'learning component' and our tournament is no exception: four teaching lessons by experienced bridge instructors will be offered on Tuesday through Friday, at 9:00 am, also at no cost to the interested player.

Most players who have never attended a tournament have lots of questions. Still feeling a bit apprehensive and need a bit more encouragement? The Grand River Bridge Club is offering a free workshop: **Tournament Masterclass on Friday, June 23rd from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm**, hosted by none other than the Answer Lady! This workshop will be covering a number of topics including: benefits of tournaments, coloured MP, stratification, pairs vs team games, what events should I enter, tournament preparation, and tournament day has finally arrived!

Here is your chance to have all your questions about tournament play answered and meet the Answer Lady in person, allowing you to feel more comfortable and confident heading to the tournament. While this course is free, please register online by clicking [here](#), so we can plan effectively for numbers. It will be held in the teaching room at the club. Be sure to bring all your questions!

Hope to see you at the South West Regional!

TIME YOU LEARNED OUR LESSONS!

- Just a reminder that the Answer Lady will be teaching a **second mini-lesson on opening leads to novice players** at 9:00 am at our Monday morning bridge lab on June 19. The first one got rave reviews! No pre-registration required.
 - And another reminder that the Answer Lady will be answering your **questions about tournament play** on Friday, June 23 at our club from 9:30 am until noon. FREE! Click [here](#) to register.
-



FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

Strength or Length

I was hoping that you might tell me what your first bid would be when playing North (we play Standard American). My partner and I have spent a lot of time discussing this board.

I'm not sure what the problem could be unless you believe your hand is too good to open 1♦.

Dir: S
Vul: None

16	♠ A Q 8 5
4 15	♥ 9
5	♦ K Q J 10 9 7 4
	♣ A

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

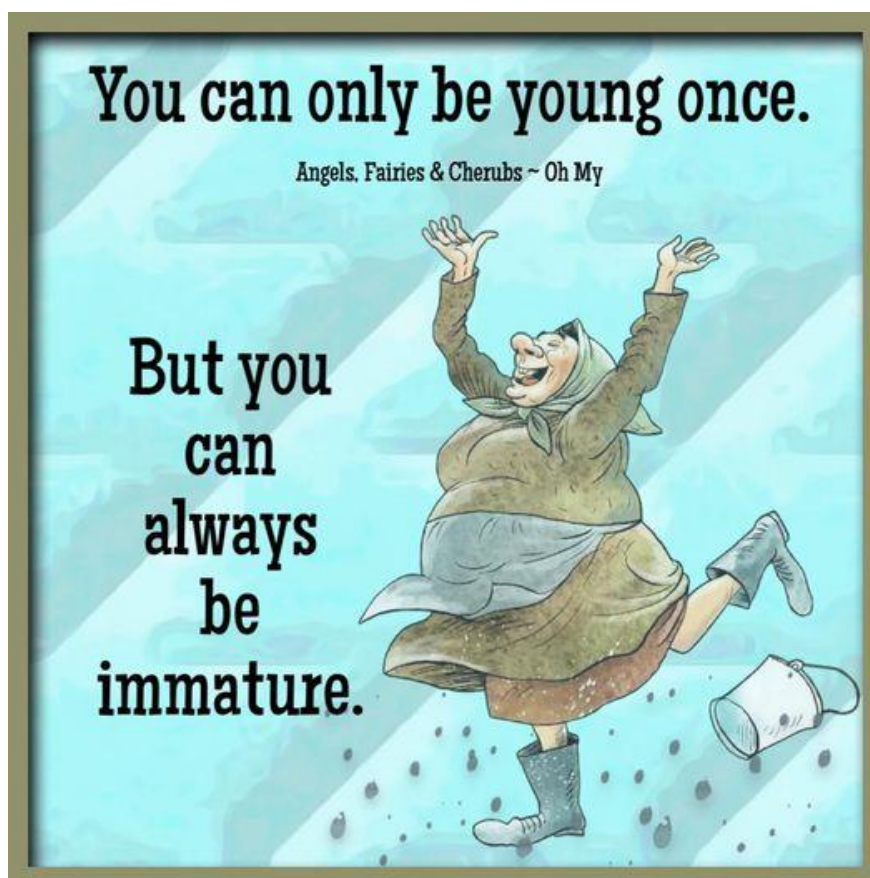
♠ 10 7 6 3
♥ Q 7 5
♦ 8
♣ K 8 7 3 2

I expect the auction would go: 1♦ 1♥ p p 1♠ 2♥ 2♠ ("Please remember partner--I didn't have enough points to make a negative double, so don't go crazy"). You should make at least nine tricks on this hand -- ten if you guess well or they make a defensive error. You should at least invite over 2♠ by bidding 3♠. If partner has as little as xxxx xxx x xxxxx you have a play for game.

Any time you can give partner a minimum hand for his/her bidding and game is still a reasonable prospect, you should, at the very least, least try for game. If partner's hand was: ♠K763 ♥752 ♦8 ♣87432, you are odds-on to make 11 tricks with only 19 points between the two hands!

Contract	Lead	Result	Score		Matchpoints	
			N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W
4♠ S	♥6	=	420	-420	4.00	0.00
4♥ E	♦8	-3	150	-150	3.00	1.00
3♥ E	♦8	-2	100	-100	1.50	2.50
4♥ E	♦8	-2	100	-100	1.50	2.50
3♣ S	♥4	-1	-50	50	0.00	4.00

The writer allowed the opponents to play 4♥, but beat it three tricks for a good result. I am suggesting that if they force you to bid 4♠ on this hand, you should accept the challenge. If they try to sacrifice in 5♥, you should unleash Thor's hammer upon them. Each side had approximately half the strength on this hand, but the side that fared best was N/S because they had the better distribution. Length often bests strength.



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 May.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	28.67	1	Suzanne Edwards	13.71	1	Sharon Nesbitt	5.07
2	Edith Ferber	28.13	2	Jim Dalgliesh	11.34	2	Rick Arthur	4.77
3	Cindy Mahn	22.59	3	Lynda Burnett	9.53	3	Louise Dawdy	4.47
4	Ted Boyd	15.71	4	Barbara Arthur	8.36	4	Casi Zehr	3.67
5	Mike Peng	14.60	5	Barbara Lindsay	7.84	5	Jim Fox	3.56
6	Maira Hollingsworth	14.13	6	Sue Moses	7.04	6	Patricia Pietrek	3.26
7	Neil Jeffrey	13.87	7	Joan Slover	6.79	7	Kathy Chandler	2.87
8	Kathy Russell	12.96	8	Bev Hitchman	6.78	8	Audrey Cook	2.69
9	Stephen Young	12.67	9	David Dennis	6.65	9	Debbie Miethig	2.67
10	Sharon King	11.66	10	Janice Pengelly	6.39	10	Pat Northey	2.47
11	Robert Griffiths	11.61	11	Lori Cole	6.36	11	John Aldridge	2.40
12	Diane Bourdeau	11.49	12	Shelley Metcalfe	6.16	12	Chris Beck	2.08
13	Neil Coburn	11.02	13	Cheryl White	6.13	13	Jeannie Leforge	2.03
14	Margot Stockie	10.63	14	Bob Livermore	5.54	14	Carol Gerber	1.89
15	John Hanemaayer	10.16	15	Sue McDonald	5.43	14	Judy Johnston	1.89
16	Bonnie Kains	9.84	16	Brenda Semple	5.36	16	Judy Charbonneau	1.83
17	Scott Hills	9.34	17	Elinor Girouard	5.24	17	Russel Kerr	1.75
18	Liz McDowell	8.76	18	Nanci Phelan	5.18	18	Joan Hartviksen	1.69
19	Colin Harrington	8.57	19	Gloria Carter	5.12	19	Pat Gascho	1.68
20	Steve Carpenter	7.49	20	Pat McDonald	4.91	20	Steve Cameron	1.62
21	Pat McMillan	7.36	21	Belinda Burt	4.74	21	Brian Gaber	1.58
22	Dave Quarrie	6.56	22	Andy Wilson	4.69	22	Eileen Curtis	1.44
23	Mary McClelland	6.19	23	Jack Cole	4.47	23	Marianne Dziarski	1.43
24	Frank Fischer	5.87	24	Joe Blake	4.24	24	Valirie Binkle	1.37
25	Jennifer Verdam	5.78	25	Anita Hanson	4.04	25	Carla Laubach	1.35

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 don't take advantage of unauthorized information at our **club**.