



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT245

ALERT – April 10, 2023

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

Looking Ahead

- ♥ [Toronto Easter Regional](#). Tuesday, April 4 – Sunday, April 9
 - ♥ All of our f2f games during the week of April 10-14 will be **upgraded club championships** – extra masterpoints, no extra cost.
 - ♥ All of our virtual games during the week of April 10-16 will be **ACBL Charity Foundation Games**. Double black points, \$7BBO
 - ♥ **No bridge lab** on Easter Monday morning, April 10.
 - ♥ **Our club's 11th birthday party** will be held on Tuesday, April 11 (the afternoon open game will be replaced by a rookie/master game on that day – see below)
 - ♥ All of our virtual games during the week of April 24-30 will be **Silver Linings Games**, 150% silver points, \$7BBO.
 - ♥ **Barbara Seagram** will be at our club on Wednesday, May 3. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. Number of spots remaining: **52**.
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Congratulations

to the following local players who earned extra masterpoints in the Thursday and Friday STaC games at our club last week.

Roy Dandyk and Louise Dawdy, 2nd in A, Thursday afternoon 499ers

Marlene Dopko and Sue Durance, 3rd in A, Thursday afternoon 499ers

David Dennis and Bob Gilck, 1st in A, Friday afternoon 499ers

Jim Dalglish and Bob Livermore, 3rd in A, Friday afternoon 499ers

David Baker and Kathy Russell, 1st in A, Friday evening open

Noah and Sal Pace, 2nd in A, Friday evening open

Adrian Record and Bob Griffiths, 3rd in A, Friday evening open

Click [here](#) for the full results.



No Bridge Lab on Easter Monday, April 10



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

Sectional Master

- **Valirie Binkle**

Bronze Life Master

- **Mary McClelland**

And a warm welcome to the following new ACBL members.

- **Christopher Book**
- **Russel Kerr**
- **John Moore**
- **Sharon Nesbitt**



And a very warm welcome to our newest club member – **Russel Kerr**.

Toronto Easter Regional Results

Congratulations to the following local players who won their section in the first few days of the Toronto Easter Regional.

- **Judy Beauchamp and Martin Jones**, 1st in C, Tuesday Super GR Pairs
 - **Bruce Roberts, Dianne Aves, Moira Hollinsworth, and Sharon King**, 2nd, Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout 2
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We're Turning 11!

Registration closes today (Friday) for our rookie/master game on Tuesday, April 11. If you haven't already signed up, now would be a good time to do so. You can either put your name on the sign-up sheet on the Special Events bulletin board (near the director's desk) or email [Joe Blake](#) with your intent to play. There are currently well over 40 players registered – so it's definitely going to be a fun party!

Cake cutting is at 12:30 pm, so please plan to arrive early.

Rookie/master games are great because they make it possible for players of all levels to mingle. Sometimes the rookies learn something. Sometimes the masters learn something. And occasionally, new mentorship pairs are formed. Always, everyone has a good time.

The Squeeze

No, this is not about declarer play, but rather about the situation most bridge clubs are finding themselves in these days while trying to reconstitute their F2F games and/or offer online games. There are two main types of BBO games – the “BBO ACBL” games and the club (VACB) games.

- The first part of the squeeze is applied by the **BBO ACBL games**. Despite their name, they are not ACBL games but rather just plain old BBO games (BBO is a sanctioned ACBL club that pays table fees to the ACBL, just like any other sanctioned club). When you play in a non-club BBO game, the revenue goes to BBO and your club receives absolutely no financial or operational benefit.
- The second part of the squeeze is the way that the ACBL has let the **BBO club games** evolve. At first, the BBO club games saved the clubs’ bacon, bringing in much-needed revenue that paid the rent during the pandemic. But it wasn’t long before a few clubs got together and created online consortiums that combined dozens of clubs – syndicates that could offer lots of big games every week with features and conveniences that the mom and pop bridge clubs simply could not match. The ACBL has now forbidden the formation of new consortiums, but unfortunately it has grandfathered the already-approved consortiums. This has created a permanent uneven playing field among the non-consortium clubs, an unevenness that has only increased with the passage of time. Today, one VACB consortium accounts for about 30% of all online VACB play, and its market share continues to increase week over week.

One of the competitive advantages of the consortiums is that they offer big games and thus bigger masterpoint awards. This leads to comments like “I signed up but your game had only five tables so my partner and I unregistered and hunted around for a bigger game.”

If you care about the future of your local bricks and mortar club, here are four things you can do to help it.

- Play in your club’s F2F games.
- Play in your club’s VACB online games.
- Send an [email to the ACBL executive director](#) telling him to level the playing field by getting rid of the grandfathered competitive positions granted to only a few clubs.
- Play bridge to have fun, not to accumulate masterpoints. Don’t be suckered in by the lure of the big game.

Adapted from the March 27 SE Caroline Bridge Weekly Email

GRBC - SPRING TEAM LEAGUE - WEEK 6

	BAKER	S. BOYD	T. BOYD	FUNG	HANEMAAYER	JAMIESON	PLAYOFFS	TOTAL
BAKER		20	20	16	15	15	18	104
FUNG	4	9	17		9	16	10	65
HANEMAAYER	5	6	10	11		12	20	64
S. BOYD	0		6	11	14	10	10	51
T. BOYD	0	14		3	10	15	0	42
JAMIESON	5	10	5	4	8		2	32

POINTS AWARDED - Baker 8.40, Fung 6.30, Hanemaayer 3.60, S. Boyd 3.60, T. Boyd 1.80

Congratulations to team Baker for taking first place and team Fung for clinching second place (despite winning only two of the six matches!) by one point!

Prepared by Al Pengelly



The Bean Counter

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer

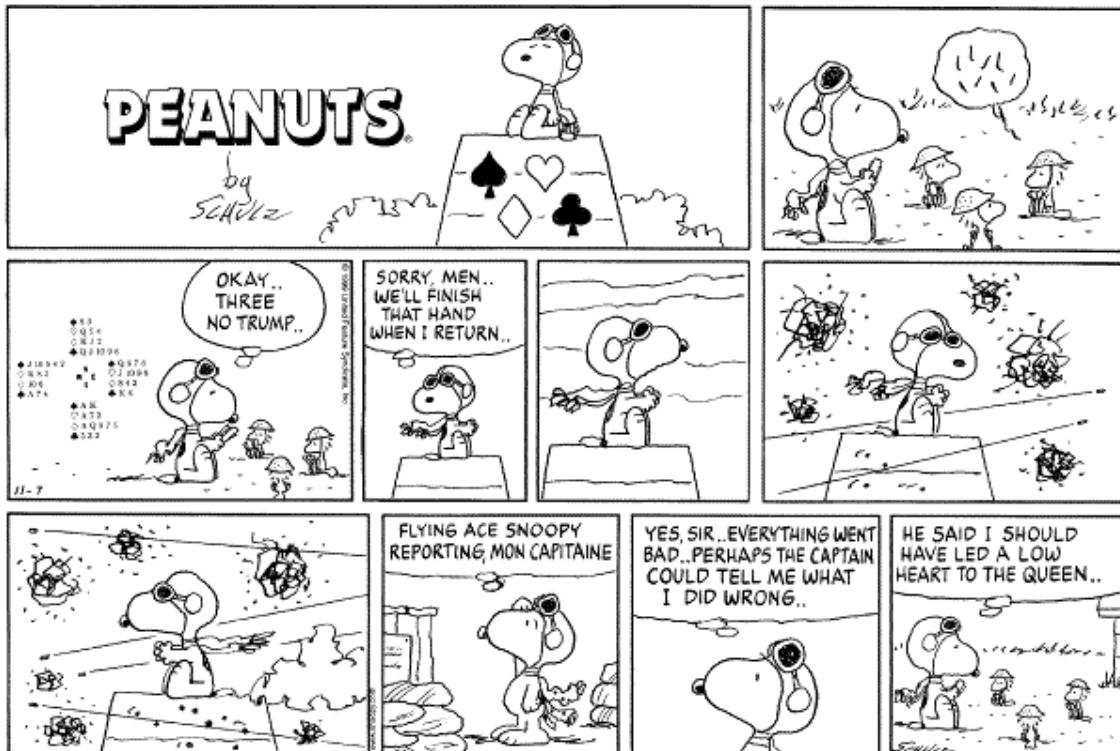
During the pandemic, many bridge clubs continued to have a physical location that sat unused. For the GRBC, that Rip Van Winkle lasted 25 months (March 2020 to March 2022). Note: the \$amounts that follow represent a total over that time period.

Some expenses that related specifically to having a “club house” **had to be paid**: rent, insurance, Internet, and telephone. Some **expenses were suspended**: cleaning (\$8,300 savings) and dust floor mats (\$1,400 savings). Our landlord, Dare Foods, reduced our rent for one year (\$9,400 savings). By the way, we **never pay** for electricity, heating, and air conditioning (covered in our rental contract).

Expenses related to providing online games **had to be paid**: Pianola, Zoom, online game directors, and ACBL invoices.

To help bridge clubs stay afloat, the ACBL came out with a program called “Support Your Club” (SYC for short, pronounced sick methinks). It was like “CERB for brick & mortar bridge clubs”. We have **received extra revenue** every month since May 2020 (\$2,500 US extra), but it has decreased to almost \$nothing these days. Every little bit helped us pay the bills (I’d say ‘to keep the lights on’, but they were motion activated and turned on/off automatically).

A big thank you goes out to the volunteers who braved the pandemic, coming into the club to check it for insurance reasons (Jim Dalglish and Bonnie Kains). Kudos go to the volunteers that continued to perform their role for free, as well as to those who should have been paid but elected to work for free. I like free.





Instructions for Joining the ACBL (American Contract Bridge League)

You can join the ACBL either as a full member (\$66.65 per year) or as a guest member (free for the first 120 days).

USING THE FREE GUEST MEMBERSHIP OPTION

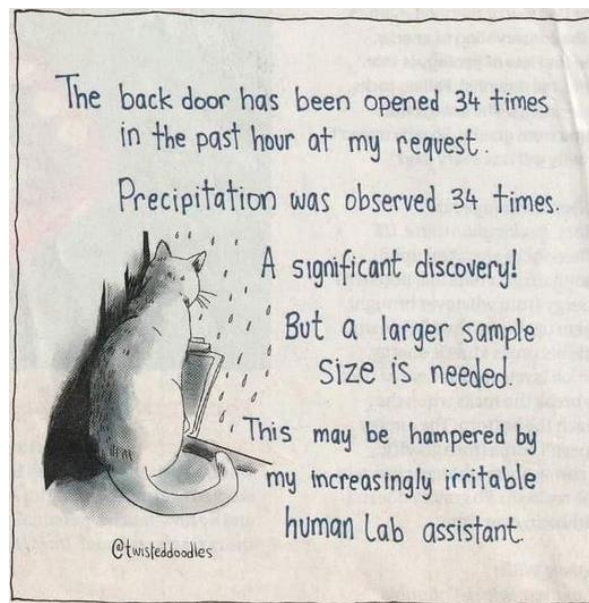
- Go to https://acbl.site-ym.com/general/pick_username.asp
- Pick a username (it can be your email address) and then enter your first name and last name and then click CONTINUE.
- Enter and confirm a password and email address and then enter your personal information.
- THIS IS KEY! In the additional information block PLEASE enter these recruiting numbers (it is important to use our club number because we get a special game every time we recruit 10 new members)
 - Recruiting Club Number 129866
 - Recruiting Member 9099077
 - Recruiting Member's Name Kathy Russell
 - How did you hear about us Teacher
- Click the box "I Accept the Terms of Use".
- Click Submit.

That is it! Wait a day or so for the ACBL to get back to you with a membership number.

THE FULL MEMBERSHIP OPTION (\$66.65 per year)

- Go to www.acbl.org/membership/
- Click on JOIN NOW.
- Follow the breadcrumbs as above in the Guest Membership section, and be sure to enter the recruiting numbers and names listed.

There are lots of benefits to full ACBL membership: for example a monthly subscription to the excellent *Bridge Bulletin*, special discounts, and the ability to accumulate masterpoints. And there are some, although not as many, benefits to guest membership, including special pricing for the first year of regular membership and the ability to earn up to 20 masterpoints.



TIME YOU LEARNED OUR LESSONS!

IN THE CARDS (GET IT?)

- **Basic Bidding Five-Week Course.** \$80 members/ \$90 non-members. Tuesday mornings, April 11, 18, 25, May 2, and May 9, 9:00 am – 11:30 am. Instructor: Cindy Mahn. Level: **Novice**. IN PERSON in our teaching room. Current Enrollment: **8**.

THOSE WHO TAKE THIS COURSE WILL RECEIVE UP TO THREE FREE PLAY VOUCHERS.

- **Inverted Minors.** \$20 members/ \$25 non-members. Thursday morning, April 13. 9:30 am – 11:30 am. Instructor: Tom Ramsay. Level: **Intermediate**. IN PERSON in our teaching room. Current Enrollment: **8**.

- **Opening Leads.** \$20 members/ \$25 non-members. Friday morning, April 14, 9:30 am – noon. Instructor: Susan Lawton (the Answer Lady). Level: **Novice**. IN PERSON in our teaching room. Current Enrollment: **4**.

THOSE WHO TAKE THIS LESSON WILL RECEIVE UP TO THREE FREE PLAY VOUCHERS.

- **Mini-Splinters and Splinters.** \$20 members/ \$25 non-members. Thursday morning, April 20, 9:30 am – 11:30 am. Instructor: Tom Ramsay. Level: **Intermediate**. IN PERSON in our teaching room. Current Enrollment: **1**.

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



Negative Free Bids

Partner opens 1♦ and your right-hand opponent overcalls 1♠. You hold:

♠63
♥AQ9652
♦54
♣Q74

How do you get your heart suit into the auction?

In standard bidding, 2♥ is 10+ HCP and forcing. You're not strong enough for this. A negative double poses problems too.

You can solve this problem if you can make a non-forcing 2♥ bid (a negative free bid). Find out the advantages and disadvantages of negative free bids in this workshop. Regular partners may find it beneficial to attend this workshop as a pair.

Date: Thursday, April 27, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Instructor: Tom Ramsay

Level: **Intermediate**

Mode: In person in our teaching room

Cost: \$20 members/ \$25 non-members

Current Enrollment: **1**

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



Rosenkranz Doubles

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Some players are using yet another low-level double, the Rosenkranz double. This bid is used after your partner overcalls and the next player bids. In this situation, a double (or redouble) by you promises either the ace or king or both of partner's bid suit. This bid is very useful as a raise or to help your partner find an opening lead should he find himself on lead.

Board 17			
North Deals	♠ K 4		
N-S Vul	♥ K J 9		
	♦ A J 7		
	♣ Q 9 8 6 5		
♠ A 9 2	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q J 10 6 5	
♥ Q 10 6 2		♥ 8 5	
♦ 9 6 5 2		♦ 10 8 4 3	
♣ 4 3		♣ A 2	
	♠ 8 7 3		
	♥ A 7 4 3		
	♦ K Q		
	♣ K J 10 7		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	1 ♠	Dbl
Rdbl	2 ♣	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	5 ♣	All pass	

North dealt and opened 1♣. East, my partner overcalled 1♠ and South made a negative double. I redoubled to show the ♠A. North retreated to 2♣. West passed and South, with a full opening bid, chose to invite the club game with a 4♣ bid.

North huddled, considering her bid. She asked my partner why he had alerted my redouble and heard that it promised the ace or king of spades.

Well, that cheered North up no end, and she promptly bid 5♣ knowing that her ♠K was well placed behind the ace, not in front of it. My Rosenkranz redouble had been more useful to North than to my partner who came to regret his 1♠ bid.

North had only to finesse my ♥Q to make her 11 tricks. Without my informative bid she likely wouldn't have tried the game.

Despite the odd accident like this, the Rosenkranz double is a useful tool and gains more tricks than it loses. You should have it in your tool kit.

FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

Tell Me!

Two hands from the same session that illustrate suit preference signals.

Hand 12

N dbaker ♠AQ2 ♥QJ5 ♦Q32 ♣10873	W coindim ♠106 ♥642 ♦J876 ♣AJ52	E edithgrbc ♠K93 ♥AK10 ♦AK54 ♣K64
S Kirussell ♠J8754 ♥9873 ♦109 ♣Q9	Bidding: W Pass, N Pass, E 2NT, S Pass W 3♠, N Pass, E 3NT, S Pass W Pass, N Pass, E Pass, S Pass	

Score: 0-0, 3NT East

East has 20 or 21 HCP and West shows up with 6 HCP. The math tells me that South has 2 or 3 HCP. (Do the math whenever you can. It will be a big help). South leads the ♠5 to my ace. West ducks my spade queen (partner plays the ♠4 showing she started with five spades). When I lead the ♠2 to East's ♠K, I know South's last three spades are the J87. They are all equal in value, so she can play any one of them on this trick. I know she has the ♠J (by inference) and ♣Q (because the math told me she must have 1 or 2 more points). Nevertheless, she plays her lowest spade to show a club value. If she had had a diamond value, she would play her middle spade, and if she had had a heart value, she would play her highest spade. On this hand, I didn't need a signal. On another hand, she might have a sure entry. If I subsequently won a trick, I might have to switch to the right suit before the opponents could take enough tricks to make their contract.

Now let's look at how suit preference works with only two suits.

Hand 19

N dbaker ♠A982 ♥8 ♦J76543 ♣74	W devinem ♠QJ10 ♥K9 ♦K98 ♣109653	E Sharon2129 ♠K653 ♥AQ2 ♦102 ♣KQJ8
S Kirussell ♠74 ♥J1076543 ♦AQ ♣A2	Bidding: W Pass, N Pass, E 3♥, S Pass W 4♣, N Pass, E Pass, S Pass	

Score: 0-0, 4♣ West

I led the ♥8 to the ♥2, ♥T, and ♥K. South knows declarer has the ♥9 (because I led the ♥8), so she is going to win the first club lead and try to give me a ruff. If she leads her lowest heart for me to ruff, she says she likes diamonds. If she plays her highest heart for me to ruff, it says she likes spades. What does it mean if she leads a middle heart (the ♥5 or ♥6)? It means she likes the other two suits equally, or she hates the other two suits equally. So, she led the ♥3 for me to ruff and I returned a diamond. If she had led the ♥J, I would have tried to give her a spade ruff. When partner doesn't need a count or attitude signal, make a suit preference signal. Every card you play should tell a story.



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	20.65	1	Lori Cole	8.43	1	Nancy Cattanach	5.09
2	Robert Griffiths	19.20	2	Cheryl Kip	8.40	2	Louise Dawdy	3.96
3	Edith Ferber	15.13	3	John Kip	8.40	3	Molly Worden	3.87
4	Mike Peng	12.68	4	Barbara Arthur	7.46	4	Debbie Miethig	3.36
5	Colin Harrington	11.21	5	Roy Dandyk	7.32	5	Rick Arthur	2.72
6	Kathy Russell	10.52	6	Lynda Burnett	7.31	6	MJ Hartleib	2.28
7	David Longstaff	10.01	7	Renate Boucher	7.08	7	Elaine Doyle	2.21
8	Ted Boyd	7.83	8	Shelley Metcalfe	6.92	8	Brian Gaber	2.19
9	Pat McMillan	7.48	9	Jim Dalglish	6.82	9	Kathy Chandler	2.09
10	Sharon Boyd	7.23	10	Susan Durance	6.56	10	Larry Brooks	2.07
11	Scott Hills	6.25	11	David Dennis	6.43	11	Valirie Binkle	1.81
12	Dave Quarrie	5.67	12	Jack Cole	6.33	12	Judy Johnston	1.74
13	John Hanemaayer	5.43	13	Martin Jones	5.86	13	Stu Cowan	1.66
14	David Wilson	5.36	14	Cheryl White	5.80	14	Sandra Kendall	1.65
15	Liz McDowell	5.15	15	Marlene Dopko	5.59	15	Don Slowinski	1.53
16	Dianne Aves	5.13	16	Bob Giilck	5.46	15	Ben Cornell	1.53
17	Malkin Howes	4.42	17	Andy Martinek	4.78	17	Alicia Wright	1.47
18	Sandy Graham	3.94	18	Virginia Alviano	4.37	18	Pat Pietrek	1.40
19	Moira Hollingsworth	3.92	19	Bob Livermore	4.29	19	John Aldridge	1.32
20	Frank Fischer	3.91	20	Brenda Semple	4.23	20	Sharon Nesbitt	1.27
21	Cindy Mahn	3.79	21	Joe Blake	4.21	21	Jane Wilson	1.25
22	Ed Hills	3.52	21	Steven Allen	4.21	22	Don O'Bright	1.21
23	William Christian	3.36	23	Suzanne Edwards	4.06	23	Richard Wehrle	1.21
23	Neil Jeffrey	3.36	24	Sue Moses	3.59	24	Judy Charbonneau	1.20
25	Diane Bourdeau	3.08	25	Nanci Phelan	3.54	24	Denise Dolff	1.20

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 wish you a happy Easter at our **club**.