



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

## ALERT – July 15, 2024

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

### Looking Ahead

- ♥ July 12: The Friday night open game will be an **NAP game**, \$1 surcharge
  - ♥ July 14: 1:00 pm, **Club Clean Up**
  - ♥ July 18-28: [Toronto NABC](#)
  - ♥ July 19: The Friday night open game has been cancelled.
  - ♥ July 26: The Friday night open game has been cancelled.
  - ♥ August 5: No bridge lab on the Civic Holiday
  - ♥ August 5-11: All BBO games will be **NAP games**, \$1 surcharge
  - ♥ August 10-11: [Tillsonburg Golden Leaf Sectional Tournament](#)
  - ♥ August 12-17: All F2F games will be **club championship games** – extra master points at no extra cost
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A warm welcome to the following new member

- Nancy Clarke
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### UW Students in Collegiate Bridge Bowl

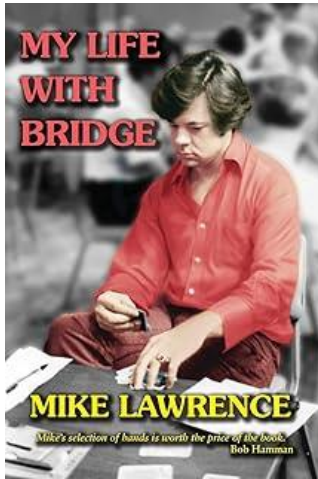
A four-person UW team will be competing with other universities at the North American Bridge Championships in Toronto later this month. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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### From the Club's Managers

*Contributed by Margot Stockie*

- Just a reminder of the club clean-up this coming Sunday (July 14 at 1:00 pm).
  - Also, there will be a Lost and Found table at the club next week.
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## Book Review

This is Mike Lawrence's first foray into non-didactic writing. Here's what he says about his new book.

"This book is, for me, a totally new adventure. Regarding this book, it's got bridge. It includes a lot of advice. Some system suggestions. Strong ones in many cases. And hands. Bob Hamman wrote the quote on the cover about these hands." [Mike's selection of hands is worth the price of the book.]

And here is an amusing excerpt from the book.

"In a pairs game, I was playing against Grant Baze. A wonderful player and a favorite partner of mine.

"This time, Grant was on my right.

"On one hand, I played in 3♣.

"LHO made the opening lead and my dummy put down a hand with superb trumps. His clubs were the AQT64.

This was too good to be true. I had the AQT64 of clubs as well. I really should have called the director and had the hand thrown out. But the moment was too good to waste.

"The bidding had suggested that Grant, on my right, had the king of clubs.

"I won the opening lead in my hand and immediately led the four of clubs. No one noticed that the four of clubs was also in dummy. West played a low one and I pretended to think about it before playing the ace. Grant played a little club, meaning that he probably still had the king.

"On the next trick, I led the queen from dummy and Grant took his king, noting that he was going to get his king whatever I did.

"When I played the ace on his king, Grant lost it.

"I called the director and showed my hand at the same time.

"Grant recovered and said this was the funniest thing he had ever seen."

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## More Church Bulletins

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and the deterioration of some older ones.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water'  
The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus'

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## Player Profile – Nancy Kennedy

*Contributed by Lissa Lowes*

Meet Nancy Kennedy! Nancy learned to play bridge in the most classic way. Her mother and grandmother wanted to play and needed two more people – enter Nancy and her younger sister. Thus, she learned to play and was called into service at the family cottage on an island north of Parry Sound too.

Nancy didn't play as a grown-up but when COVID hit she found that she was very bored and had the brilliant thought that she would get back into bridge. She tried BBO, and played in the casual games. She says that BBO saved her in COVID times. Now though, she rarely plays online, preferring F2F bridge.

Post COVID, she joined Nanci Phelan's group and started to get more comfortable with the game again. Nanci encouraged her to join GRBC. And now Nancy plays twice per week at the club and thinks about playing more, but it is a 30-minute drive from home. She is also busy managing her home and the many chores that come with it, mowing the lawn, shovelling snow, and on and on as we all know.

Nancy was born and raised in Toronto. She remembers her grandmother dragging her to a couple of bridge clubs when she was 18, but she was busy working and just didn't have the time to get serious about it.

She and her first husband moved to Montreal, and while there, started a duplicate bridge club in their basement. A game was held every Saturday evening, and her husband became a director. This is where Nancy earned her first master points!

Nancy moved back to Toronto and worked in insurance (Crown Life) as a computer programmer/business analyst. The company decided to move to Regina, and Nancy moved right along with them, spending 17 years there before coming back to this area. Nancy says about living in Regina that "since a very young age I was a 'true blue' Argonaut fan, but when I moved to Regina it did not take long to be drafted by "Rider nation" and cheer on their CFL team. It was lots of fun! It was also easier and faster to get around town. It was 20 minutes to get to work or pretty much anywhere you wanted to go."

Nancy has two children. Her daughter and two grandchildren live in Delaware, and her son lives in Kitchener, so everyone is close by, making visiting easy.

One of Nancy's passions is downhill skiing, and she skis mostly at Craighleith. She has travelled around Canada skiing too, many times with her brother, and has been to Jay Peak, Mount Tremblant, St. Anne's, Panorama, and Sunshine. She is still an avid skier!

Nancy loves the opportunity to keep learning that bridge provides, and her favourite bridge tip comes from Barbara Seagram – establish your longest suit. I asked whether this meant in no trump contracts, and Nancy clarified that it works just as well in a suit contract. A great tip! And her younger sister got back into social bridge when she retired too!

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## In Support of Virtual Bridge

*Contributed by Jennifer Verdam*

There are a lot of ways to play bridge these days. I myself play bridge at the club at the single game in the unit held both at night and within driving distance (Owen Sound has a Monday night game, but it's a bit too far for me for a round trip on a weeknight). I play day games at the club when I can, tournament games face to face at various levels, and of course I play online, both in the virtual clubs and casually with partners I know.

There are differing opinions on the various ways to play. Some think that we should be focusing all our attention on getting people to play face-to-face bridge. Some people play only online these days. For the most part, though, the consensus, even at the ACBL, seems to be that there is a place for both face-to-face and online, and that the future of bridge lies with a hybrid approach. With the improvement of technology, including anti-cheating algorithms, online is starting to seem more and more like a viable alternative, even if Covid is over and some of us can play in clubs.

There are serious advantages to both.

- Online, you cannot revoke or lead out of turn. Seriously. Give it a try. Furthermore, at least you know your partner isn't going to EXPLAIN your bid wrong, even if they do INTERPRET it incorrectly.
- Face-to-face gets people out, gives them a social outlet and a place to go, it's harder to be rude to people in person (plus the director will come yell at you if you are), and it's a different game in the same way that it is different to read something on a printed page vs a document online. Trust me. The first time I played face-to-face in more than three years was in Gatlinburg in 2022. Adrian and I played the AX pairs on the first day, and by the time we had played seven rounds, four people had self-alerted. I am pretty sure Meckstroth was one of them. Inexplicably, he still beat us.

I have now been playing bridge, kitchen, Chicago, and duplicate, on and off for 42 years (yes, 42. I had an Irish grandmother and a misspent youth), and I am still one of the youngest people in the club on any given day. I work full-time and it is likely that, despite Dave Longstaff's pleas, I will work for another ten years. My options for playing face-to-face other than weekend sectionals and the occasional holiday weekday are slim to none if we have no night games face-to-face or online.

Consider also that I am already completely fascinated with the game, and therefore I am deliberately seeking out opportunities to play. If I were this age and I didn't already play, I might be like so many people I talk to, and just wait until after I retired to take it up. Maybe.

Literally all of the virtual club games are now open to anyone. There are games that support clubs in our unit every single day of the week. Just think. You could eat dinner, clean up, walk your daughter's dog, get into your pajamas, pet your cats, pour yourself a glass of wine, and go play bridge without leaving your house. (Ok, I know that's oddly specific but IT'S NOT WHAT I DO, OK????? I have heard it's an option is all. From a friend. You don't know them.)

When you go to look for a game online, please do sign on early. In some cases, people will wait to see how many pairs sign up before they decide whether they are going to play. I have seen games that would have run fail because a couple of pairs withdrew at the last minute. Please don't do that. Even if it's a small game, you can still play, still earn masterpoints, and still chat with people you know.

Our club has pooled with bridge clubs in our unit – Guelph, London, Tillsonburg, and Bridge Over Troubled Waters (Goderich, Owen Sound, Kincardine, and Saugeen Shores) to give more local players easy access to our club’s online games, plus it means that there are more local games for our players to play in. The goal is to have bigger games, for both the enjoyment of the players and the bottom lines of the clubs. **PLEASE support online games from GRBC and our Unit 249 partners whenever you can.** We all win when we buy local!  
 Here are the pooled games.

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
<b>Monday</b>			BOTW: Open 6:45 GR: 749 7:00
<b>Tuesday</b>		GR: 299 12:30	Till: Open 7:00
<b>Wednesday</b>	LBC - Open 9:15		LBC: Open 6:30
<b>Thursday</b>	GR: 199 9:25 GR: 749 9:30		BOTW: Open 6:45
<b>Friday</b>		BOTW: Open 12:45	
<b>Saturday</b>		GR: 499 1:00	
<b>Sunday</b>	GR: 749 10:00 GR: Open 10:05	BOTW: Open 12:45	

BOTW: Bridge Over Troubled Waters (Goderich, Owen Sound, Kincardine, and Saugeen Shores)  
 GR: Grand River  
 LBC: London Bridge Centre  
 Till: Tillsonburg

Please support these games. They give all those people yearning to have a misspent youth a place to go and misspend it, and it gives your face-to-face clubs an extra revenue stream that many of them need.

A couple of other notes....

- While the South Carolina games are a reasonable option, it is better for both the local clubs, not all of whom income split with SC, and for the unit if you choose to play in a local game. Think about it.
- Additionally, the 18-board ACBL tournaments support none of our clubs and, if you play in a virtual club, you will play more boards and get more masterpoints.





## The Answer Lady

Contributed by Susan Lawton

As the “The Answer Lady” I have been responding to questions from “newer” players. 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

Answer Lady, several friends and I are beginning bridge players and have been playing online together. We recently encountered this hand but were unsure how the bidding might go. It looks as if we should be in game, even in no trump, but we were unsure how to get to that contract. Signed, 4 Bridge Friends

South Deals None Vul	♠ A K 4 ♥ K 9 8 2 ♦ A Q 3 ♣ 6 3 2		
♠ Q 10 9 8 7 6 ♥ A 7 5 3 ♦ 5 ♣ J 10		♠ J 5 3 ♥ J 6 4 ♦ J 8 6 2 ♣ 8 7 5	
	♠ 2 ♥ Q 10 ♦ K 10 9 7 4 ♣ A K Q 9 4		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♦
2 ♠	2 N	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 N	Pass	4 ♣
All pass			

### Answer

Thank you, *4 Bridge Friends*, for sharing this most interesting hand. As happens quite frequently in today’s bridge games, the opponents interfered at the first opportunity with a weak jump shift. In this case, West bid 2♠ after South opened 1♦. North’s bid of 2NT promises stoppers in spades, in this case the ♠AK. North also has a solid hand with 16 HCPs to match South’s 14 HCPs.

There are two main take-aways from these hands and the ensuing auction.

- The first take-away is: **trust your partner**. The bid of 2♠ is a weak bid and shows limited points, in this case seven HCPs and a long spade suit. When North bids 2NT, they are confidently telling their partner in South they aren't concerned about spades. They have sufficient points and distribution to bid 2NT and not one but two stoppers in spades. South allowed doubt to enter the conversation and didn't trust their partner's bid. South then decided to bid 3♣ to show their second suit. Even when North repeated the no trump discussion by bidding 3NT, South still wasn't convinced and bid 4♣.
- The second take-away is that **if both partners have opening points, they should be in game**. When South bids 4♣, North cannot pass. With those 16 HCPs, North should honour South's decision to avoid a no trump contract and bid game in one of the minors. As North holds the ♦AQ and South bid diamonds first, they could bid 5♦.

It is possible to make 6NT, 6♣, and 6♦ with this hand. That weak jump shift did its job - namely it interfered and prevented North and South from finding their slam. More-skilled players with advanced bidding skills would probably be able to overcome the interference and still get to the small slam.



**Think Johnny Cash...**

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# TIME YOU LEARNED OUR LESSONS



## Beginner Lessons

Just a reminder that we are relying on you to spread the word about our Learn Bridge in a Day and beginner lessons.

**The next Learn Bridge in a Day session will be offered on Saturday, September 14 from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. The cost is \$35.**

**Current Enrollment: 5**

**The next set of Beginners (Part 1) lessons will be offered in the Fall of 2024:** Sept. 21, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2. Times: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. \$85.

**Current Enrollment: 2**

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

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BikeRiding.mp4

## Playing Bridge is Like Riding a Bicycle

Well, okay, this video isn't about playing bridge, but it is very funny. You need Media Player to play the video, but despite your computer's probable warnings it is perfectly safe to view if you can make it work.

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## From the Archives – Calling Cards from Dummy

When declarer is calling for a card to be played from dummy, ideally he or she will clearly state both the suit and the rank of the desired card (eg, "the seven of diamonds"). On the off chance that this will not always happen, the rules stipulate as follows.

1. If declarer says "a high diamond", he or she is deemed to have called for the highest diamond.
  2. If declarer says "win the trick", he or she is deemed to have called the lowest card needed to win the trick.
  3. If declarer says "play low" or "play a heart", he or she is deemed to have called for the lowest card in the suit.
  4. If, when leading from the board, declarer designates a rank but not a suit, he or she is deemed to be continuing the suit in which dummy won the preceding trick, provided there is a card of the designated rank in that suit.
  5. If dummy did not win the preceding trick and declarer designates a rank but not a suit from the board, he or she is deemed to have called for a card of the designated rank if he or she can legally do so. If there are two or more such cards that can be legally played, declarer must designate which is intended.
  6. If declarer calls a card that is not in dummy, the call is void and declarer may designate any legal card.
  7. If declarer indicates a play without designating either a suit or a rank (for example, saying "play anything"), **either defender may designate the play from dummy.**
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## Dear David

### Aces & Spaces

♠ A 9 8 6  
 ♥ ----  
 ♦ A K Q  
 ♣ A Q J 8 7 4

Unless you have a well-developed bidding system that includes cue-bidding, it is often very difficult to figure out whether partner's assets fit well with yours when you have a void suit.

2♣ is strong and 2♦ is a game force with at least one ace or king. When North showed a heart suit, a 3♠ bid is a definite possibility. However, if you look down the road (which is what you should ALWAYS do during an auction), you realize that if partner does not have four spades, he will not be able to bid 3NT because you have all the diamond stoppers. 3NT may be the last best contract. So, you bypass the spades and try 3NT. Partner now (happily) surprises you by raising your clubs! Now what?

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
2♣	2♦
3♣	3♥
3NT	4♣
6♣?!	

You can't bid 4NT asking for keycards because even if partner has the ♥A and ♠K, it doesn't deal with your spade problem. You could cuebid 4♦, but you are even worse off if partner doesn't cuebid 4♠ (only in your dreams). You are left with only two choices.

1. After partner pulls your natural 3NT bid to 4♣ (which is an obvious slam try in clubs), a return to 4NT by the 3NT bidder says "I don't think there is a slam partner, so let's try 4NT". If opener likes the 4♣ bid, he either signs off in 5♣ or cuebids something.
2. Your second choice is to blast to 6♣ and hope that it works out. That was my unscientific choice.

Dir: W	
Vul: NS	♠ 10 5 4 3
	♥ J 7 5 3
1	♦ 8 6 4
20 10	♣ 10 3
9	
♠ A 9 8 6	♠ Q J
♥ ----	♥ A 8 6 4 2
♦ A K Q	♦ 10 7 3
♣ A Q J 8 7 4	♣ K 6 5
	♠ K 7 2
	♥ K Q 10 9
	♦ J 9 5 2
	♣ 9 2

As you can see, I was much luckier than I deserved. Clubs split 2-2 and the ♠K was onside, so I could trump a spade and throw the other spade on the ♥A – making seven. Only two tables out of six got to 6♣ (the other pair was Jim Kavanagh and Mel Goldstein who had just moved up into the open game). One pair played 4NT (making six) and three pairs played in 3♣!!! Oh, the shame!

Now for a public service announcement: Matchpoint play is unforgiving. Playing in five-of-a-minor is what you do when you have one or more suits unstopped. If you bypass 3NT (trying for slam) and then decide you don't have enough, 5♣ or 5♦ nets you +400 and the NT bidders will get +430 or +460 – a bottom for you. If your slam try fails, try to get back to 4NT or 5NT. Five of a minor is the (matchpoint) kiss of death.

# 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 June.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	Cindy Mahn	30.24	1	Rick Arthur	8.71	1	Peter Gaasenbeek	9.24
2	Edith Ferber	25.44	2	Bev Hitchman	7.47	2	Randall DeKraker	8.11
3	David Baker	24.61	3	Elinor Girouard	6.82	3	JP Fraresso	5.75
4	Mike Peng	21.27	4	Robert Gilck	6.44	4	Andrew Widdis	4.80
5	Kathy Russell	20.05	5	Kevin Latter	6.30	5	Nancy Kennedy	4.69
6	Roy Dandyk	19.06	6	Renate Boucher	5.06	6	Sonja Miner	4.33
7	Suzanne Edwards	18.06	7	Brian Gaber	4.93	7	Phil DeMontigny	4.13
8	Ted Boyd	14.89	8	Douglass Grant	4.64	8	Debbie Miethig	4.10
9	Moira Hollingsworth	14.24	9	Marlene Dopko	4.54	9	Sharon Nesbitt	4.04
10	Pat McMillan	13.63	10	David Dennis	4.45	10	Sheila Charters	3.25
11	Steve Carpenter	13.57	11	Martin Jones	4.14	11	Robert Darby	2.73
12	Neil Jeffrey	12.83	12	Joan Slover	3.95	12	Pat Northey	2.63
13	Neil Coburn	12.42	13	Cheryl Kip	3.93	13	Doug Fickling	2.55
14	David Longstaff	10.77	13	John Kip	3.93	14	Sandra Stone	2.51
15	Margot Stockie	9.50	15	Andy Martinek	3.76	15	Richard Rybiak	2.20
16	Malkin Howes	9.12	16	Steve Allen	3.56	15	George Rybiak	2.20
17	Dave Quarrie	8.48	17	Cheryl White	3.47	17	Carla Laubach	2.01
18	Susan Lawton	7.54	18	Joe Blake	3.16	18	Ben Cornell	1.98
19	Diane Bourdeau	7.48	19	Manfred Young	2.90	18	Don Slowinski	1.98
20	Thea Davis	6.98	20	Sue Peterson	2.88	20	Mark Sherwood	1.95
21	Jim Dalgliesh	6.73	20	Belinda Burt	2.88	21	Pat Gascho	1.57
22	John Hanemaayer	5.67	22	Di Spearn	2.77	22	Jane Cowan	1.55
23	Scott Hills	5.26	23	ML Benjamins	2.67	23	Anne Anderson	1.52
24	Tom Ramsay	5.07	24	Gordon Hunter	2.57	24	Hilary Kekanovich	1.46
25	Dave Embury	5.00	25	Jack Cole	2.52	25	Stephen Bitove	1.44

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).

We have fun in **spades**.  
 We play with all our **hearts**.  
 We treat our members like **diamonds**.  
 We all ride bicycles at our **club**.