



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – July 22, 2024

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

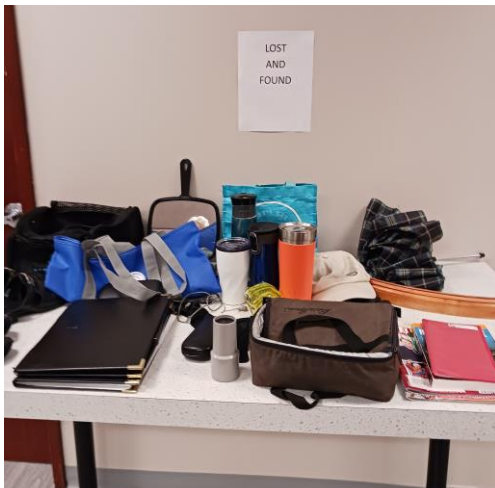
Looking Ahead

- ♥ 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: There will be a **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
 - ♥ August 19-23: All F2F open games will be **NAP games**, \$1 surcharge
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A Warm Welcome to New Member

- Theresa Dietrich
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Lost and Found Table



In the cloakroom

What a Great Group of Volunteers!

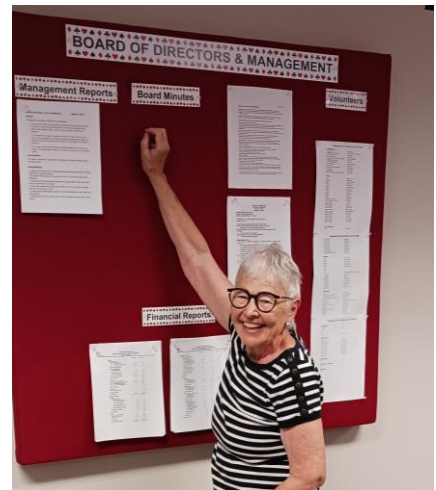
Contributed by Margot Stockie

We had 18 members of the club come out last Sunday to help with the cleanup. We started at 1:00 pm, and most stayed until 4:00 pm. That's about 50 hours of labour!

Our terrific volunteers were – in no particular order: Anita Hanson; Barb Neibert; Becky Blake (Bridgemates and more); Dave Baker (he was everywhere!); Dave Quarrie; Diane Jamieson (vault); Joe Blake (Bridgemates and more); Mary Nickel; Mike Peng (updated lists); Neil Jeffrey (Board of Director photos and more!); Pat Gascho; Pat McDonald (kitchen and more); Pat Northey; Sandy Graham (Sandy led at least 12 cleaners of the bidding cards, but they ran out of steam after three hours and some were taken home to be completed!); Sharon Boyd (Board of Director photos and bulletin boards); Suzanne Edwards; Tania St-Denis (side tables, air purifiers, cabinets, and more).

There is now a Lost and Found table as well as several abandoned sweaters and coats hanging in the cloak room. Please claim your treasures.

Phew, lots of camaraderie - but we're exhausted!!!





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.

Question

This hand was played in a GRBC F2F 299 game. I was sitting South and opened the bidding pre-emptively with 2♥. While it is undeniably true that I had seven hearts, including the AKQ, I didn’t like the rest of my hand. Yes, the void in clubs was nice, but there was no trick-taking potential in diamonds and spades. I thus downgraded my hand by bidding 2♥ rather than 3♥ (which would normally show seven hearts). Other pairs were able to get to 4♥ - and of course I did make 4♥. Some players even made 5♥!

Answer Lady, how might the bidding have gone to get to a game of 4♥? Signed, A 299 player

South Deals N-S Vul	♠ A J 9 8 4 ♥ 5 ♦ 8 6 ♣ A K J 10 6											
♠ Q 7 3 2 ♥ 10 9 ♦ A Q 10 ♣ Q 7 3 2	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 60px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		N		W		E		S		♠ K ♥ J 7 4 ♦ K J 9 3 2 ♣ 9 8 5 4	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ 10 6 5 ♥ A K Q 8 6 3 2 ♦ 7 5 4 ♣ —											
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i> 2♥									
All pass												

Answer

Thank you, reader, for sharing this hand. As it is a F2F, game we are unable to view the bidding sequences that other pairs used to bid to 4♥. The Answer Lady sought expert advice to provide the most accurate response.

First of all, one should never downgrade one’s hand by bidding less than your pre-emptive bid promises. A 2♥ opening bid shows only six hearts. South’s hand has seven hearts, so if you wished to pre-empt, you should bid 3♥ as opposed to 2♥. By bidding this way, you let your partner know that you have seven hearts – which is often very important information.

One expert source suggested that you open the bidding with 1♥, rather than pre-empt with 2♥ or 3♥. Yes, you have only nine HCPs, but that heart suit, headed by the AKQ, almost guarantees seven tricks. North will then bid 1♠. South can then repeat hearts, showing six hearts. North would then mention their club suit. South can now bid 3♥, telling their partner that they have seven hearts, not just six. North would bid 4♥. Given the strength of North's hand, 4♥ can be made comfortably.

Last but not least, the Answer Lady discussed this hand with our resident expert Dear David. Dave suggests that Opener just bid 4♥ right off the bat! That bid prevents the opposition from entering the auction.

As you can see, the best opening bid on this hand is by no means clearcut.

- One heart?
- Three hearts?
- Four hearts?

How would **you** bid this hand to reach the right contract?



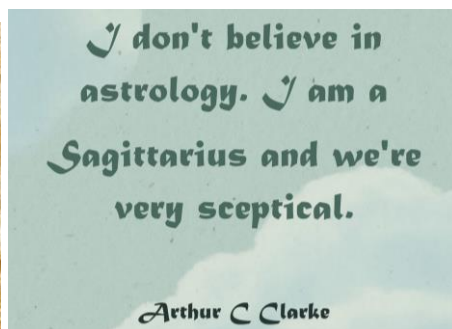
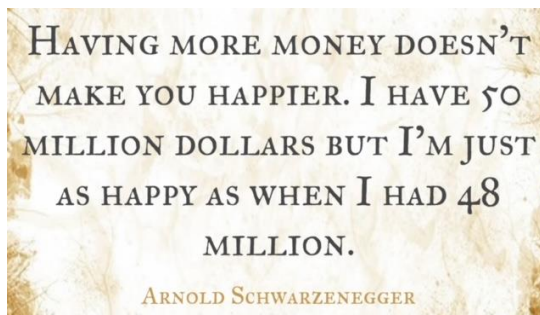
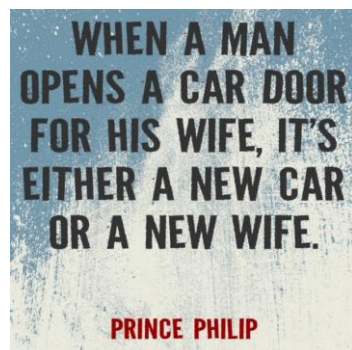
Bean There Done That

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

Have you wondered why the amount that you pay for lessons, books and games is dollars and no cents? To answer that, I need you to remember back to July 1, 2010 when Ontario adopted a harmonized sales tax. Steven Harper's portion was 5%, and Dalton McGuinty's portion was 8%.

Everything that GRBC buys ("expenses") needs to have 13% tax added on by the seller. Likewise, everything that GRBC sells ("income") needs to collect 13% tax from the buyer. Should a F2F game entry fee be \$9.04 (\$8 x 1.13)? Nope. That \$8 entry fee is actually \$7.08 plus 13%. And if that arithmetic is just too complex for you, "HST is included in the price".

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: 214 which is slightly less than last year's total at mid-July





Member Profile – Jane Cowan

Contributed by Anita Hanson

Today we are introducing newbie Jane Cowan.

Jane fell into GRBC bridge almost by accident. She first started playing as a teen with her parents (Goren, like most of us), but then took a decades-long break, and didn't start up again until her early 40s when she began playing once a week with a group of friends. Looking for more opportunities to play, she dropped in a few times to our Gage Street location where she was introduced to the incomparable delights of duplicate.

She decided the Monday labs would be a good way both to learn more and to get more play time in, and while there, connected with a compatible partner. The two now play regularly at the club at least once a week. It really is addictive! Jane loves that it is something constructive to do in her retirement years that is both stimulating and social.

Born in Calgary, Jane moved to Burlington with her family as a young child, and has been in Ontario ever since. She attended U of T, where she studied dental hygiene, and also met her periodontist husband, whose work then brought them to Kitchener.

During her 20 years as a hygienist, Jane was very involved with the profession, serving at one point as President of both the Ontario Dental Hygienists Association, then later the Canadian Association.

It wasn't enough to hold her, though, and after 20 years, she decided to make a change. A BIG change. She enrolled at WLU, and got a degree in vocal performance. This was followed a little later by teachers' college, and she spent the next 30 years teaching high school, first music, then English literature, then supply teaching wherever needed. Jane retired six years ago.

Jane has two sons and two grandchildren, all living in Toronto. And when not on the highway to Toronto or playing bridge, she is not sitting at home wondering what to do. Always active, she volunteers at Thrift on Kent, plays pickleball and golf, and hikes. Since that isn't quite enough, 15 years ago, she formed Soul Sauce, a jazz-based mixed-voice choir. Though no longer directing it, she still enjoys taking her part singing with them. For quiet time, she enjoys settling down with a good thriller, or something... anything... by Ann Patchett.

As a relative newcomer to duplicate, Jane had a bit of trouble coming up with a favourite tip to share, so has instead borrowed a quote from Bill Gates: "Bridge is one of the last games where the computer is not better!"

Thoughtful, focussed, and committed, Jane is a very welcome addition to the GRBC family. Please say hello next time you run into her!

Everyone Deserves a Game Above Reproach (EDGAR)

Contributed by Lissa Lowes

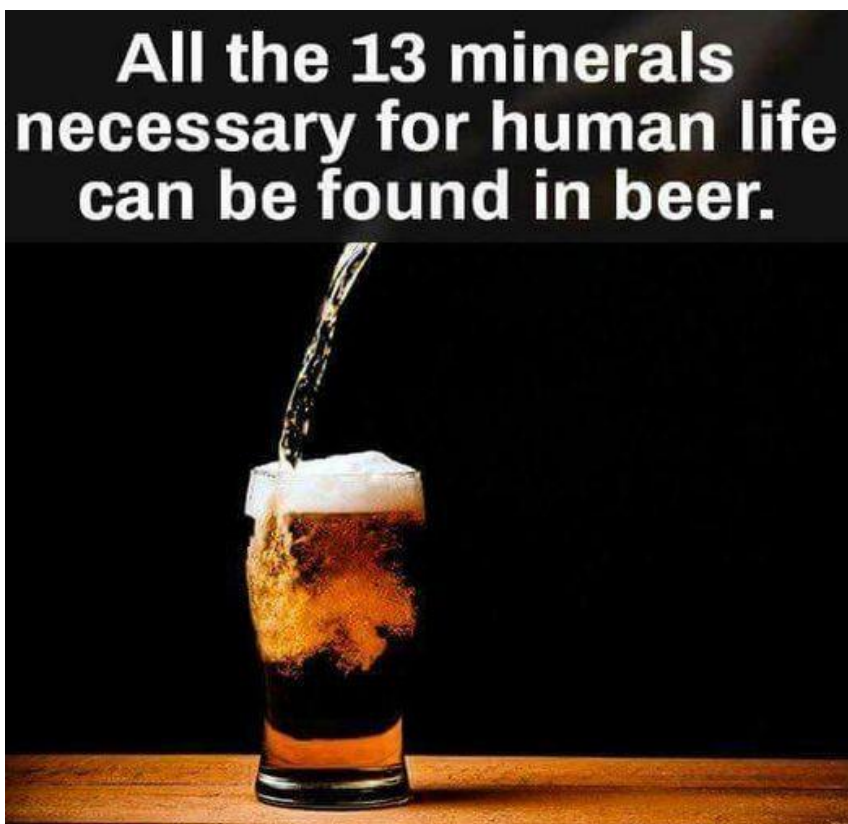
I recently received a mass distribution email from Allen Smith, SE Carolina Club of Clubs. (GRBC is a member club). As I skimmed it, I saw an interesting mention of EDGAR and a link to the list of people who have been suspended, expelled, or have resigned to avoid disciplinary action for cheating at online bridge. The list is lengthy, and I was absolutely gobsmacked. I had no idea how widespread the problem is.

"EDGAR" (Electronic Data Gathering and Anti-cheating Radar) is software that uses advanced algorithms to analyze patterns of play, as opposed to isolated instances. The name both pays homage to the great Edgar Kaplan, the father of modern bridge ethics, as well as lends itself to the proposition that everyone deserves a game above repreach.

EDGAR operates independently from bridge organizations, though it offers its services to them. It does not directly handle cheating reports but rather directs them to the appropriate agency.

Click [here](#) for a list of those ACBL bridge players currently under discipline as of July 15, 2024. Prepare to be shocked.

I am equal parts glad that the cheaters are being caught - and saddened by how many of them there are. I do find it hard to grasp why people would cheat. What is the point of playing? To win? Or to have fun?



From the Archives – No Fooling!

Savvy declarers are alert to their opponents' tells – for example, if a declarer is wondering where the queen of spades is, he or she might lead the jack of spades from the board and then watch RHO (right-hand opponent) to see if he or she hitches. However, any inference that a declarer might take from a break in tempo is by no means a sure thing – RHO might be, for example, trying to remember what trump is or thinking about lunch – and any inference declarer may take from a hesitation is at his or her own peril.

That said, it is unethical for an opponent to hitch when he or she has no problem – and it is especially unethical for an opponent to hitch when he or she has a singleton in the suit. Here's an apt anecdote from Augie Boehm's recent memoirs *Big Deal*.

Al Roth, a savagely ethical expert, and his amateur partner are defending a slam. Declarer leads the jack of trumps from jack-ten-nine-fifth towards dummy's ace-king-fourth. In second seat, the amateur gives a convincing imitation of a player with a problem before playing low from two low. Declarer, taken in by the charade, ducks in dummy, and Roth ducks with queen-doubleton. At the end of the deal, the mystified amateur asks Roth why he didn't take his trump queen and set the slam. "You took so long to duck, I thought you had it" replied Roth.

VOTE!



**SILVERWARE
UP**



**SILVERWARE
DOWN**



Dear David

Aces & Spaces Revisited

Last week you read my column (I hope) in which I suggested that 4♣ would be a slam try in clubs.

West Deals N-S Vul	♠ 10 5 4 3 ♥ J 7 5 3 ♦ 8 6 4 ♣ 10 3		
♠ A 9 8 6 ♥ — ♦ A K Q ♣ A Q J 8 7 4	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q J ♥ A 8 6 4 2 ♦ 10 7 3 ♣ K 6 5	
	♠ K 7 2 ♥ K Q 10 9 ♦ J 9 5 2 ♣ 9 2		
<i>West</i> 2♣ 3♣ 3NT 6♣?!	<i>North</i> Pass Pass Pass All pass	<i>East</i> 2♦ 3♥ 4♣	<i>South</i> Pass Pass Pass

Most play that the 2♦ response to 2♣ is a game force, since they use other methods to show a bad hand. Once you have embarked on a game forcing auction, you have no reason to jump to game when you have extra values. The slow approach promises extras. Since East showed a heart suit and no support for clubs, West decided that 3NT was best. When I then said that 4♣ was a slam try in clubs, it was suggested to me that 4♣ might be construed as the Gerber convention, asking for aces. It never occurred to me, even though I have Gerber checked on my Convention Card.

Here is my take on the horrors of playing Gerber over no trump!

Back when I started playing bridge about 100 years ago, I was taught to play Gerber. It was a handy little gadget designed to make sure that you were not off two aces in your quest for slam. For example, partner opens 1NT (15-17) and you blast to 6NT with 17 HCP. Alas, he has only 15 and the opponents quickly cash their two aces, the only two honours they hold. The game has evolved quite a bit as we slid into the 21st century, and it has been noted that the use of Gerber as a handy tool got in the way of a natural bid of 4♣, showing either a club suit or a cuebid try for slam. Those who insist that a 4♣ bid over NT was always Gerber have lost the ability to use the bid for anything else. What to do? I have two suggestions.

1. You could agree that you play Gerber only when it is a *jump* to 4♣ over a 1NT or 2NT bid.
2. My second suggestion is a little more radical. *Do not use the Gerber convention ever again!* There are plenty of methods you can use to get to slam, including the blast-and-hope method. On this hand, the 4♣ was a natural raise of partner's suit, and it really got partner's motor running.

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

No. 145

♠ KJ874
 ♥ 1086
 ♦ K85
 ♣ A10



♠ AQ5
 ♥ A732
 ♦ AQ97
 ♣ 98

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
All pass			

I was South, declaring a 4♠ contract. West led the ♦10, and I won the trick with my ♦Q while East followed. I banged down the ♠A and was dismayed to see East discard a club ♣. East discarded another club on my ♠Q at Trick 2.

At Trick 3, I led a spade to the board, covering West's ♠9 with dummy's ♠J, while East discarded a third club.

If you were in my shoes, what would you do now?

SOLUTION

Dummy's remaining trumps are ♠K8 while West's are ♠106. So, a spade loser is looming. In addition, you have two sure heart losers and a club loser. One too many losers!

But maybe you can find some joy in the diamond suit? West led the ♦10 which denies the ♦J - meaning that you can finesse East for that card. And if this is true, you can score four diamonds, four spades, and the ♥A and the ♣A for a total of ten tricks. Of course, West will ruff in at some point when you run diamonds - but that's okay, you are going to lose a trump anyway. Therefore, you can proceed in one of these two ways.

1. Cash the ♠K and then run your diamonds (finessing East for the ♦J), allowing West to ruff in whenever he chooses. If West ruffs in early, you won't be able to score four diamonds, but you will be able to take your tenth trick with dummy's last trump instead.

OR

2. Cash the ♠K and continue with another trump, the ♠8. West will win the trick with his ♠10, but you can win whatever he returns and then organize your four diamond tricks.

Here is the complete hand.

	♠ KJ874	
	♥ 1086	
	♦ K85	
	♣ A10	
♠ 109632		♠
♥ KJ95		♥ Q4
♦ 10		♦ J6432
♣ K43		♣ QJ7652
	♠ AQ5	
	♥ A732	
	♦ AQ97	
	♣ 98	



It's lucky that West chose his singleton diamond for his opening lead, as that let you get four tricks in that suit. If West had led a heart or a club, you would have been done for.

Bottom line: if the opening leader has four or more trumps, he should never lead his short suit but rather lead one of his longer suits in an effort to force declarer to ruff in and lose control of the trump 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 June.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	Cindy Mahn	35.53	1	Rick Arthur	9.52	1	Randall DeKraker	9.79
2	David Baker	31.25	2	Bev Hitchman	8.19	2	Peter Gaasenbeek	9.77
3	Edith Ferber	30.46	3	Kevin Latter	7.72	3	Andrew Widdis	6.36
4	Mike Peng	26.97	4	John Kip	7.66	4	JP Fraresso	5.75
5	Roy Dandyk	25.00	5	Bob Gilck	7.19	5	Phil DeMontigny	5.69
6	Suzanne Edwards	22.50	6	Elinor Girouard	6.82	6	Sharon Nesbitt	5.28
7	Kathy Russell	22.45	7	David Dennis	6.39	7	Nancy Kennedy	4.69
8	Moira Hollingsworth	16.65	8	Renate Boucher	6.37	8	Robert Darby	4.46
9	Steve Carpenter	16.56	9	Brian Gaber	6.22	9	Sonja Miner	4.33
10	Ted Boyd	16.23	10	Marlene Dopko	5.59	10	Debbie Miethig	4.10
11	Pat McMillan	15.89	11	Cheryl Kip	5.21	11	Sheila Charters	3.25
12	Neil Jeffrey	14.29	12	Manfred Young	5.15	12	Paul Raymond	3.01
13	Dave Quarrie	13.17	13	Douglass Grant	4.64	13	Pat Northey	2.63
14	David Longstaff	12.57	14	Martin Jones	4.59	14	Doug Fickling	2.55
15	Neil Coburn	12.42	15	Joan Slover	4.55	15	Sandra Stone	2.51
16	Margot Stockie	12.36	16	Joe Blake	4.47	16	Joan Hartviksen	2.47
17	John Hanemaayer	9.61	17	Steve Allen	4.41	17	Mark Sherwood	2.41
18	Malkin Howes	9.54	18	ML Benjamins	4.32	18	George Rybiak	2.20
19	Thea Davis	8.84	19	Andy Martinek	4.21	18	Richard Rybiak	2.20
20	Susan Lawton	7.54	20	Cheryl White	3.94	20	Carla Laubach	2.01
21	Diane Bourdeau	7.48	21	Valirie Binkle	3.47	21	Don Slowinski	1.98
22	Jim Dalgliesh	6.73	22	Belinda Burt	3.30	21	Ben Cornell	1.98
23	Paul Latimer	6.69	23	Gordon Hunter	3.24	23	Jacques Druart	1.91
24	Lynda Burnett	6.60	24	Jack Cole	3.16	24	Hilary Kekanovich	1.67
25	Dave Embury	6.50	25	Judy Widdecombe	3.10	25	Pat Gascho	1.57

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 cleaned up at our **club**.