



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – April 29, 2024

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

Looking Ahead

- ♥ **Don't forget our special 19er ONLINE game this coming Sunday morning at 9:45 am**
- ♥ All our games (F2F & online) on April 26-28, except for the Saturday morning 99er game, will yield **25% gold points** to those who do well. \$1 surcharge.
- ♥ [Buffalo Spring Sectional](#), April 26-28
- ♥ Malkin Howes will be giving a mini-lesson on **Penalty Doubles** at the Monday morning bridge lab on April 29.
- ♥ As of April 29, **the Monday afternoon open game will switch to F2F.**
- ♥ **A new 299er F2F game** will be launched on the same afternoon (April 29).
- ♥ **749er POP UP GAME**, Friday, May 3, 1:00 pm
- ♥ Susan Lawton will be giving a mini-lesson on **Opening Leads (Suits)** at the Monday morning bridge lab on May 6
- ♥ 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
- ♥ **Barbara Seagram** will show you how to take [Tricks with Trumps](#) at the Guelph Bridge Club on Tuesday, May 21.
- ♥ [The Grand River \(Cambridge\) Sectional](#), May 25-26



to the following new members

- Paul Quinn
 - Valerie Sharman
-



Beginners 3 Course

The latest crop of Beginners 2 grads has asked for a Beginners 3 course, and Cindy Mahn is happy to oblige. This course will concentrate on basic bidding, but will offer lots of tips on declarer play and defence as well.

This five-week course is intended for those who have taken beginner lessons or those who have been away from the game for a while. Bridge bidding has changed significantly over the past few decades, and we're definitely not in Kansas anymore! The course's topics include: opening in a suit, opening in no trump, responding, pre-empting, Stayman and Jacoby, Gerber, and Blackwood. A binder with lessons and homework sheets is included in the fee.

Regular partners might find it beneficial to attend as a pair.

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

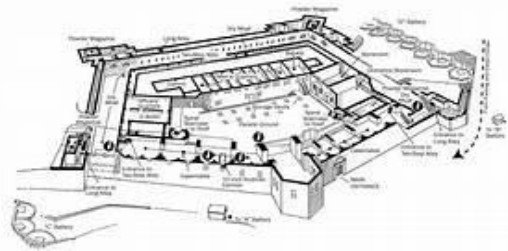
Click [here](#) to register.



Bean There Done That

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

Founded in 1937, the ACBL is the largest bridge bank in North America, serving over 160,000 customers and selling to thousands of successful investors through branches like GRBC. They boast a massive vault hundreds of feet underground in small-town Mississippi (approximate schematic is on the right). It does not house and protect traditional currencies like the dollars you pay for bridge games or the gold you spend on groceries. There's another currency. It's called master points.



Can you spend this currency? No.

Can you buy them? No (many have tried).

Can you sell them or give them away? No.

Can you hold them in your hand or purse? No.

Does ACBL Bank pay interest, dividends, or capital gains? No.

Here's how you can find out how rich (or poor) you are.

- Use the ACBL banking website: [MyACBL](#). It contains your official bank account statement.
- The back cover of the ACBL's monthly *Banking Bulletin* magazine lists your month-end balance.
- The Common Game results email offers a How Close am I to my next ACBL Rank link.

Although Pianola gets updated once a month (on the 7th) with updates from ACBL, you cannot see the number unless you are bonded officer of the club with 40 years of GRBC service.



Here are some of the approximately 60 Canadians who attended the Gatlinburg Regional Tournament

Photo Credit Jennifer Verdam

Tales from Gatlinburg ... Holding My Own Against the Pros

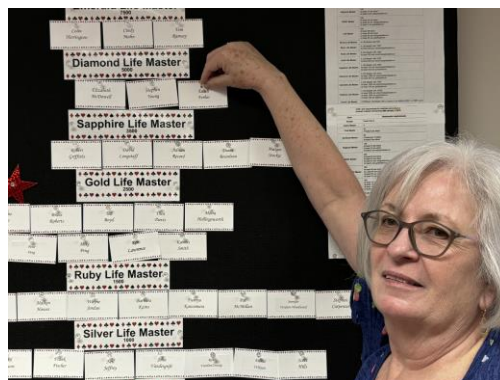
Contributed by Kathy Russell

Not long ago, I wrote about “playing up” being the best way to improve your game – and how GRBC has a lot of good open players whom you can learn from by playing in the open games. Not only has playing in our open games improved my game, but it also gave this now 900-masterpoint player the ability to stay composed while playing against the formidable professional and other top players in Gatlinburg who had tens of thousands of masterpoints.

In the Friday Knock-out Teams (Bracket 3 of 6), we were unlucky to draw the team with pros Kurt Schneider and Robert Brady in first round – the team that ultimately won the bracket. During that match, one hand stands out in my memory. Rob opened a big 2♣, my partner Edith Ferber passed, and Kurt bid 2♦ waiting. I had a few points along with the KQxxx of clubs, so I thought I’d stick in a lead-directing bid of 3♣, never expecting to be declarer. Well, Rob passed, and Edith passed, and Kurt doubled, which was passed out. I thought “Oh CR*P!”, but immediately settled in to declare the contract. True to form, Rob and Kurt made no mistakes, and I was down a couple doubled.

When it came time to compare with our teammates Margot Stockie and Thea Davis, we found that Margot and Thea had bid and made their game and we had actually gained IMPs for that board! Rob and Kurt were a delight to play against – so nice and “professional”, immediately explaining every delayed alert and key-card bids as soon as the auction was over, without having to be asked. Thanks for having me on your team Edith, Margot, and Thea!

Gatlinburg Glory



Edith Ferber became a Diamond Life Master in Gatlinburg and joined this elite group on our Milestones Bulletin Board



Player Profile – Peter Gaasenbeek

Contributed by Anita Hanson

This week we introduce high-flyer Peter Gaasenbeek. Peter came to GRBC in 2018 and, although a loyal member of our club, he is no longer a member of ACBL — he plays for the sheer enjoyment of the game, rather than for the masterpoints, loving both the mental exercise and social connections.

He began that enjoyment decades ago, at the age of 16, when an older brother taught him the fundamentals — so his early days involved three-handed playing with his brother and sister-in-law. Then in 1970, he moved on to duplicate, playing Precision, because that's what his partner wanted. The Precision didn't last, however, and he describes his current game as very simple — "just uses a little bit of bridge sense."

Born in the Netherlands, Peter came to Canada at the age of eight, and settled with his family in Hamilton. Immediately following high school there, he trained in the Air Force for the reserve squadrons and flew with them for four years while continuing his education at McMaster.

It was soon after the Air Force training that he met his wife to-be Irene — together they have three children, and next year will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary!

After university, the sky still called to him, and he decided on a career in flying. His first job was as a bush pilot in northern Manitoba, which he says was very interesting — largely because he didn't know how to do the job. He must have learned though, because he later moved on to do the same work in Kenora, and then from there worked his way up through various commercial airlines, spending the last four years of his working life with Air Canada.

It is almost inevitable that a long-time pilot will have some great stories. Peter says though he was never truly afraid, there were a few moments that raised his heart rate for a few seconds — like the time the engine of his single-engine plane began flying apart in the air. No choice but to turn it off and hope to make a quiet gliding landing on the nearest lake. (Fortunately, in this case that's what happened.)

Then another engine failure on an approach to Pearson airport. Luckily, this time it was a Boeing 767 so there was a second engine, and Peter was able not only to land smoothly with just one, but also to compensate for the lopsidedness and taxi the full distance to the gate. If he hadn't been obligated to tell them, the passengers would never have known there was anything wrong.

Corner him some afternoon at the club to hear more!

Favourite bridge tip time. When defending, be careful with your leads. Don't help declarers by leading a new suit that gives them a free finesse and sets up the suit for them.

Missing Set of Teaching Boards

We can't find our #1 set of teaching boards. When last seen, the boards were in a small silver suitcase. Anyone with information about the set's whereabouts is requested to contact [Malkin](#).



New Lead Teacher

Please give Rita Givlin a warm welcome as she takes over the role of lead teacher at our club. Rita was a career teacher and principal in the public school board, and a recent graduate of our Beginners 2 class.

If you have any ideas about lessons or workshops that you would be interested in taking, please be sure to tell Rita all about your ideas. She will be all ears.

Bakers – Start Your Ovens

Contributed by Cindy Mahn

The K/W Regional will be held at the Hespeler Arena On May 25 and 26.

We are very hopeful that our local players will help us – as they have in other years - with our hospitality by bringing in some baking on either the Saturday or the Sunday morning (or both). A sign-up sheet has been posted on the magnetic whiteboard by the Director's desk.

Thanks in advance! Your help will be greatly appreciated!



The widest motorway in the world is located in Ontario, Canada. At its widest point, this highway has 22 lanes.

Reprinted from the ACBL Speakeasy – Members Only - News

Contributed by Lissa Lowes

I thought this was a concise explanation of the differences among the various ACBL races. The results are tabulated by unit and masterpoint range also. You don't need to do anything except be a paid-up member of ACBL to be automatically entered in these contests. As has already been noted, a number of GRBC members did well in these races! Congratulations.

Special, as in “Esteemed”

If you've read this month's *Bridge Bulletin* (April 2024), you'll see a large section devoted to winners of masterpoint contests and races. Each contest/race is a little different, and each has multiple categories for winners (esteemed players, if you will). All rankings are based on performance in 2023.

The Mini-McKenney contest recognizes members who won the most masterpoints during a calendar year. Players are placed in a category based on how many points they had at the beginning of the year. Starting on page 18, the top 25 finishers in each category are listed. (Points won in the “colourless” online bridge games don't count.)

Beginning on page 24 are the Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs winners. It's similar to the Mini-McKenney, but the totals are just what was earned at face-to-face clubs. And then starting on page 28 are the Ace of Virtual Clubs winners (ACBL Virtual Clubs only; points won in the “colourless” online bridge games don't count).

Finally, **beginning on page 34**, you have the Masterpoint Race winners. Again, it's groups of 25, but the categories are based on different (special?) considerations – things like age and sectional tournaments.



themoonmothwrites [Follow](#)

My 4yo: *points to the label on my tea bag*
what does that say?

Me: it says “over 300 years of experience”. It means the people at twinings have been making tea for 300 hundred years.

Her: *dramatic gasp* they haven't even died?!

Me: *whispering* tea vampires...



lynati [Follow](#)

Immortalitea.



necarion

You may live forever, but there is a steep cost.



Leaping Michaels and Lightner Doubles

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

This hand is from a team game at the Gatlinburg Regional. At my table, West dealt and opened with 2♥.

Board 4											
West Deals	♠ A Q J 9 4										
Both Vul	♥ —										
	♦ K Q 7 5 2										
	♣ K 8 5										
♠ 10 5	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 3
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ A Q J 8 3 2		♥ 10 9 7 5 4									
♦ —		♦ A 8 6 4 3									
♣ Q 10 6 3 2		♣ J 9									
	♠ K 8 7 6 2										
	♥ K 6										
	♦ J 10 9										
	♣ A 7 4										
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>								
2♥	4♦	4♥	6♠								
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All pass								

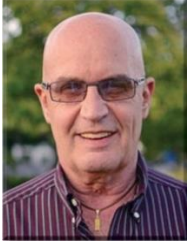
My partner, North, jumped to 4♦. This is a conventional bid called Leaping Michaels. With this convention, a jump to four of a minor suit after an opponent's major suit weak two bid promises at least five cards in the bid suit (diamonds here) and at least five cards in the other major. And, of course, it promises a strong enough hand to play at the four-level.

After the 4♦ bid, East raised to 4♥, and I stopped to think. Partner is promising a very good hand with five spades. I could try Blackwood, but we were a new partnership; we had no agreement on which key cards I was asking for.

Finally, I simply bid what I thought (hoped) I could make, 6♠. This was passed back to East who doubled.

West led the ♥A, and 12 tricks were easy. Trumps were drawn and the ♦A was the only loser. East's double was a Lightner double, asking for an unusual lead - often Dummy's first-bid suit. He thought there was a good chance that West held a singleton diamond, which West might normally be leery of leading, as it was one of our suits. East would win his ♦A and give partner a ruff. It would have been a perfect plan if West had held a singleton diamond instead of a void. At the other table, my teammate in the West seat chose to open 1♥. Their North opponent overcalled 1♠; East jumped to 4♥ and South countered with 4♠. Now, when West continued with 5♥, nobody knew who was bidding with values and who was sacrificing. North and South meekly passed the 5♥ bid out, undoubled. West lost one spade, one heart and two clubs, going down two for -200. Compared with the +1660 for 6♠ doubled, making six, it made a good gain for our side and a good story.

📣 Sometimes bidding gadgets work well (Leaping Michaels in this case) and sometimes they don't (Lightner doubles in this case).

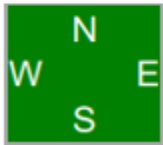


Dear David

What Could Go Wrong?

The title refers to what Moira Hollingsworth would say to me after she clearly overbid her hand and waited with trepidation for the dummy to come down. This article is a reminder of the consequences of your failure to worry about the worst that can happen.

East Deals	♠ KQ2		
All Vul	♥ AQ		
	♦ 852		
	♣ 86432		
♠ 984		♠ 3	
♥ J96532		♥ K107	
♦ 109		♦ AKQJ6	
♣ KJ		♣ 10975	
	♠ AJ10765		
	♥ 84		
	♦ 743		
	♣ AQ		



East wins the first three diamond tricks and switches to the ♣10. This is the point at which you think “*What can go wrong?*” If you play your queen (a 50% chance of success) and West wins the king (as shown in this layout), West will switch to a heart, taking away one of your precious entries to dummy. You know that the heart finesse is doomed because East opened the bidding. Your only chance now is that clubs were originally splitting 3-3 (a 36% chance of success). So, you have to win the ♥A, lead to your ♣A, back to dummy in spades and ruff a club. Failure! “Sorry, partner, there was no way to make it on this lie of the cards”. Or was there?

Here is an alternate approach. When there are six cards missing in a suit, they will divide 4-2 about 48% of the time. Win the ♣A and lead the ♣Q. West wins and leads a heart. Win the ace and trump a club HIGH. A spade to dummy and trump another club HIGH. Two more rounds of spades (ending in dummy) and cash the last club, throwing your heart loser. 3♠ bid and made.

West	North	East	South
		1♦	1♠
pass	2♦	pass	2♠
pass	3♠	all pass	

What do the numbers say? The club finesse will work 50% of the time. When the club finesse loses, 36% of the time the suit will split 3-3. That amounts to a 68% chance of success. When you go for the alternate approach, you will be successful only 48% of the time. In other words, if you go with the percentages on this hand, you will fail - but over the long run you will be successful.

You can look up [tables of percentages on how a suit will divide](#). It might be worth a look. Those with eidetic memories will know them all. We mortals will have to make do with hazy recollections. Here is a tip you should be able to remember: If you are missing an even number of cards (four or six or eight), they will split evenly (2-2 or 3-3 or 4-4) at most, 40% of the time. If you are missing an odd number of cards (three or five or seven), they will split as evenly as possible (2-1 or 3-2 or 4-3) at least 60% of the time.

To boil it down even more:

- An even number of missing cards will usually split unevenly.
- An odd number of missing cards will usually split as evenly as possible.

What could go wrong?

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	31.42	1	Brian Gaber	10.97	1	Andrew Widdis	14.25
2	Ted Boyd	19.78	2	Jack Cole	10.87	2	Sheila Charters	11.46
3	Roy Dandyk	16.99	3	Susan Durance	10.29	3	Mark Sherwood	10.57
4	Kathy Russell	16.76	4	Kim Wakeford	9.89	3	Doug Fickling	10.57
5	Edith Ferber	16.66	5	Rick Arthur	9.77	5	Randall DeKraker	8.38
5	Mike Peng	16.66	6	Elinor Girouard	9.03	6	Paul Raymond	8.14
7	Stephen Young	14.18	7	Renate Boucher	8.51	7	Peter Gaasenbeek	7.15
8	Robert Griffiths	13.78	8	Martin Jones	8.10	8	Robert Darby	6.17
9	Lori Cole	13.45	9	Molly Worden	7.56	9	Pat Pietrek	5.76
10	David Wilson	11.64	10	John Kip	7.48	10	Russel Kerr	5.56
11	Malkin Howes	10.69	11	Judy Beauchamp	6.98	11	Phil De Montigny	5.37
11	Thea Davis	10.69	12	Bob Giiick	6.86	12	Debbie Miethig	5.16
13	Suzanne Edwards	10.53	13	Marlene Dopko	6.72	13	George Rybiak	4.77
14	Margot Stockie	10.48	14	Andy Martinek	6.65	14	Richard Rybiak	4.77
15	Tony Verhoeven	10.12	15	David Dennis	6.62	15	Pat Northey	3.91
16	John Hanemaayer	9.14	16	Nanci Phelan	6.57	16	Sharon Nesbitt	3.76
17	Cindy Mahn	8.89	17	Cheryl Kip	6.51	17	Chris Beck	3.61
18	Neil Jeffrey	8.31	18	Kevin Latter	6.36	18	Marianne Dziarski	3.11
19	Dave Embury	8.08	19	Jim Dalgliesh	6.28	19	Kathy Chandler	2.92
20	Steve Carpenter	7.98	20	Cheryl White	5.70	20	Julia Prendiville	2.88
21	Sharon Boyd	7.33	21	Joe Blake	5.53	21	Don O'Bright	2.76
22	Barbara Arthur	6.75	22	Louise Dawdy	5.46	21	Richard Wehrle	2.76
23	Pat McMillan	6.52	23	Carolyn Baechler	5.22	23	Wendy Duff	2.67
24	David Longstaff	5.80	23	Donald Rieger	5.22	24	Judy Charbonneau	2.65
25	Shelley Metcalfe	5.78	23	Peggi Rieger	5.22	25	Patricia Gascho	2.56

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 Beginners 3 at our **club**.