



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – June 10, 2024

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

Looking Ahead

- June 7: Tonight's game (Friday, June 7) is cancelled due to the Seaforth tournament
- ♥ June 7-9: All BBO games are **NAP games** – extra half red points, \$1 surcharge
- ♥ June 8-9: [Toronto 0-500 Sectional Tournament](#)
- ♥ June 8-9: [Goderich \(Seaforth\) Sectional](#)
- ♥ June 10: Jack Cole will be teaching a bridge lab **mini-lesson on scoring** via Zoom
- ♥ June 10-15: All F2F games will be **Membership games** – extra black points, no extra cost. Non-ACBL members can play in these games but will not be eligible for master-points...
- ♥ June 10-16: All BBO games will be **Silver Linings games**. \$1 surcharge, extra **silver** points
- ♥ June 17: Sue Moses will be teaching a bridge lab **mini-lesson introducing signals**
- ♥ June 17-21: all open games will be **NAP games**, \$1 surcharge
- ♥ June 22-23: **BBO Charity games**, extra masterpoints, \$1 surcharge
- ♥ June 24: Cindy Mahn will be teaching a bridge lab **mini-lesson on reverses**
- ♥ June 28: **F2F POP-UP game** for the Friday afternoon 749 game. \$1 surcharge, 50% **red** points.
- ♥ June 29-30: [Thornhill Summer Sectional](#)
- ♥ June 30: **BBO POP-UP Games**
- ♥ July 1: There will be **no bridge lab on Canada Day**
- ♥ July 8-July 12: **NAP Games** – Monday Open Game, Tuesday Open Game, Thursday Open Game, and Friday Open Game. \$1 surcharge.
- ♥ July 18-28: [Toronto NABC](#)

Scoring Matters Mini-Lesson (for Novices and Beginners)

Contributed by Jack Cole

Do you want to better understand duplicate scoring but can't schedule that full **Scoring Matters** workshop? Well, on Monday June 10 Jack Cole will present the *Reader's Digest* version, as part of our Monday morning Bridge Lab. The Zoom mini-lesson can be watched with others at the club, or at home (free of charge) on your own computer. In about 30 minutes, Jack will cover hand scoring, duplicate scoring, and some tips for improving your duplicate results. Drop by the club to join the lab, or email Jack (jhcole@mgl.ca) by Sunday evening, and a Zoom link will be sent to you before the lab starts at 9:00 am.



to the following local players who have advanced to the next

ACBL level.

Junior Master

- **Brian Stief**

Diamond Life Master

- **Edith Ferber**

And a warm welcome to the following new ACBL members.

- **Daniel Day**
- **Rita Givlin**

And to the following local players who were in the money at last weekend's tournament in Niagara.

- **Marylynn Benjamins and Karen Whitworth**, 1st in A, Friday Afternoon Pairs & 4th in A, Saturday Morning Pairs
- **Barb Neibert and Anita Hanson**, 4th in C, Saturday Morning Pairs
- **Sal and Noah Pace**, 2nd in the Sunday Morning Pairs & 1/2 in the Sunday Afternoon Pairs

Tell Me About It – Failure to Alert in F2F Games

In the course of a F2F bridge auction, whenever a player makes an alertable bid their partner is required immediately to say "ALERT". Bids are alertable when they represent a special partnership understanding that "may not be readily understood and anticipated by a significant number of players". **Alertable bids** are in red on the convention cards.

After the auction is over

If one of the defenders is aware of a failure to alert, they cannot tell their opponents until the hand is over because the information may wake up their own partner and help them defend the hand. In that case, this defender should reveal the failure to alert or mistaken information as *soon as the hand is over*, and the director should be summoned if the opponents feel they may have been damaged.

If the declarer or the dummy is aware of a failure to alert, they should tell the opponents *before* the opening lead (it's okay to tell the opponents *before* the hand is played because in this case it doesn't matter if the other partner is woken up), and the director should be summoned if the defenders feel they may have been damaged.

Now the onus is on the director to make things fair, and that is why our directors are paid the big bucks.

Next week: What to do if your partner gives an incorrect explanation of your bid

On Track...  ...To Online



AND THE WINNER IS... Week 6 of our **online playing draw** has produced our next winner, and **Congratulations** go to **SUZANNE EDWARDS!** Suzanne (and 35 other players) competed for **red** points in our 749 game on Monday evening, June 3. We had **70** entries this week, to win a \$25 gift card from Timmies. **Every time a current GRBC member**

plays in one of our online games, their name goes into the draw. Play with us on BBO by Monday, and the next winner could be you!

Does Playing Bridge Help Ward Off Alzheimer's Disease?

After each losing a grandparent to Alzheimer's disease, neurologists Ayesha and Dean Sherzai decided to become experts in preventing cognitive decline.

Through their research involving data from 3,000 people and a review of others' research, they determined that diet and lifestyle can prevent the development of Alzheimer's disease and reverse mild cognitive impairment. They coined an acronym that summarizes their research on preventing dementia: NEURO.

Most relevant to bridge players is 'O' but here is the whole acronym.

N - Nutrition (think greens, whole grains, and berries)

E - Exercise (both aerobic and strength-building)

U - Unwind (find ways to reduce stress in your life)

R - Restore (get 7-8 hours of sleep every night)

O - Optimize

Optimize refers to developing cognitive reserve. Cognitive reserve is increased by how much we challenge our brain. They suggest that this isn't as easy as doing Sudoku or crossword puzzles, but rather by engaging multiple areas of the brain at once, specifically around things you are passionate about or that give you a sense of purpose. Examples they suggest are knitting a complex pattern, learning a language, or learning to play an instrument. Additionally, social interaction is very important since it engages the brain through facial recognition, memory, focus, and language skills as well as emotional engagement.

Duplicate bridge is not specifically mentioned, but it meets their criteria, especially in-person play. When we play bridge at the club, we interact with people, we use our memory, we engage our emotions (hopefully with fun, laughter, and a sense of accomplishment), we use our hands to sort cards and bid, we use analysis and strategic thinking, and we use flexibility when unexpected things happen during card play. Taking lessons in bridge would also be an "Optimize" activity. Isn't it great to know that something we enjoy is also helping our brains?

By Janine Higgins, reprinted with permission from the London Bridge Centre's newsletter

**I may not
have lost all
my marbles
yet, but there
is a small hole
in the bag
somewhere.**



Bean There Done That

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer (GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com)
The month of May witnessed our **worst** online (BBO) table count in the history of the GRBC. Visitors' table counts to our BBO/F2F games also registered the worst table count ever. **Where did everyone go?**

An increase in F2F table counts helped us achieve a \$500 game in May. [Legend for those who aren't colour-blind: **good bad**]...

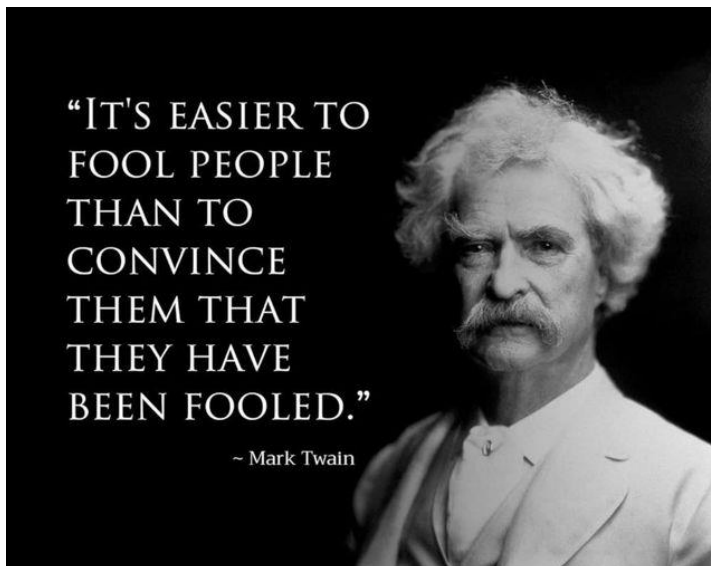
Howie Doooin'? (May 2024)	Compared To		Why % Change Since May 2023?
	April 2024	May 2023	
BBO table counts	Down 42%	Down 52%	Playing elsewhere? Cancelled games? F2F instead?
F2F tables counts	Up 16%	Up 53%	More F2F offerings (eg Mondays)
Income	Same	Up 33%	Increase in F2F table counts
Expenses	Up 12%	Down 24%	
Current Assets	Same	Up 10%	GIC interest and high \$US exchange rate
Paid-up memberships	+2	+6	Does not include 2024-2025 early bird sign-ups

Wear Your Nametag

Unless you already know everyone at your game, please wear your nametag. Our club's motto is PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT, and part of the welcoming environment is making it easy for everyone – especially those who are newer to our club – to know who you are.

And, conversely, if you are new to our club, wearing your nametag makes it more likely that the other players will remember you next time and be more welcoming.

If you want to get in touch with any of our members - perhaps to ask them for a game or to befriend them in some other way – you can access contact information for most of our members through [our Pianola website](#) (click on MEMBERS). In addition, there is a printed-out list on the Members bulletin board.





Player Profile – Pat Northey

Contributed by Lissa Lowes

Meet a force of nature – Pat Northey! And she was destined to be a bridge player without a doubt.

Pat first began playing when she was in high school. Her mother loved bridge and needed a partner, so taught her. (Her father hated it.) Pat continued to play when she was in nursing training at Victoria Hospital in London. There was a 24-hour rotating game, so whenever you were off shift – you played!

After she completed training, started working, got married, and had three children, life was too busy for anything but some casual games. They lived in Hamilton, then Toronto, where all three children plus her four grandchildren now live. Pat enjoys having them so close and seeing them often. It also gives her a chance to pet sit her grand puppies. She is divorced, and was living in Kitchener, though has recently moved to the Barrel Yards in Waterloo, and she loves it.

When Pat decided to get back into bridge, she took lessons at the adult rec centre in downtown Waterloo, which was where she first heard about GRBC. The club was located upstairs there at that time and one afternoon the class went up and played duplicate. Pat thought that she would never learn this game after that experience, but forged onwards. During COVID, she took online lessons at GRBC, and then went on to F2F games after the pandemic. She currently plays three times a week in 299er games. She says she loves it and would go every day if she could.

Pat really enjoys the supportive, friendly atmosphere of the club and describes the mentoring as a huge help, and the lessons too. She likes how playing makes the brain work, and then really likes to go over the hands after the game with her partner. She asks – “Can you ever really learn this game?”

Pat worked as a nurse, and later in her career worked in Coronary Care at the K/W Hospital for some years. While she was there, one of the cardiologists asked her if she would be interested in learning how to perform echocardiograms, a new cardiac ultrasound technique. She said yes, and it just took off from there. A few years later, Pat left the hospital and went with several physicians to set up Cardio Pulmonary Services (CPS) where she managed the clinic and continued to perform echocardiograms, Pat also taught echocardiography in the continuing education department of Mohawk College in Hamilton. During her tenure, she had the opportunity to go to Georgetown, Guyana where she taught physicians the new technology. Truly cutting edge.

Pat is also very involved in community theatre. She started as an actor as well as taking on various technical roles backstage, but discovered Stage Managing, a role which she loves and excels in. Like bridge, the theatre is its own community and you get to know everyone. Currently, she manages at least one show per year. One recent show was called Pearl Gidley, based on a true story about two spinster sisters who housed American deserters. It was performed by the Elmira Theatre company, and was a big success. It is clear that Pat has a flair for organization! Pat's BBO handle is patnorthey and her bridge tip is to always go back to the basics. Don't be afraid to tap into the knowledge of the more experienced players. She recently attended her first tournament (Cambridge Sectional) and is looking forward to her next one!



GRBC Membership Drive 2024-2025

Contributed by Joan Slover

Our annual membership drive starts next week, and the cost to be part of our community remains at the low, low price of \$70. Payment can be made two ways:

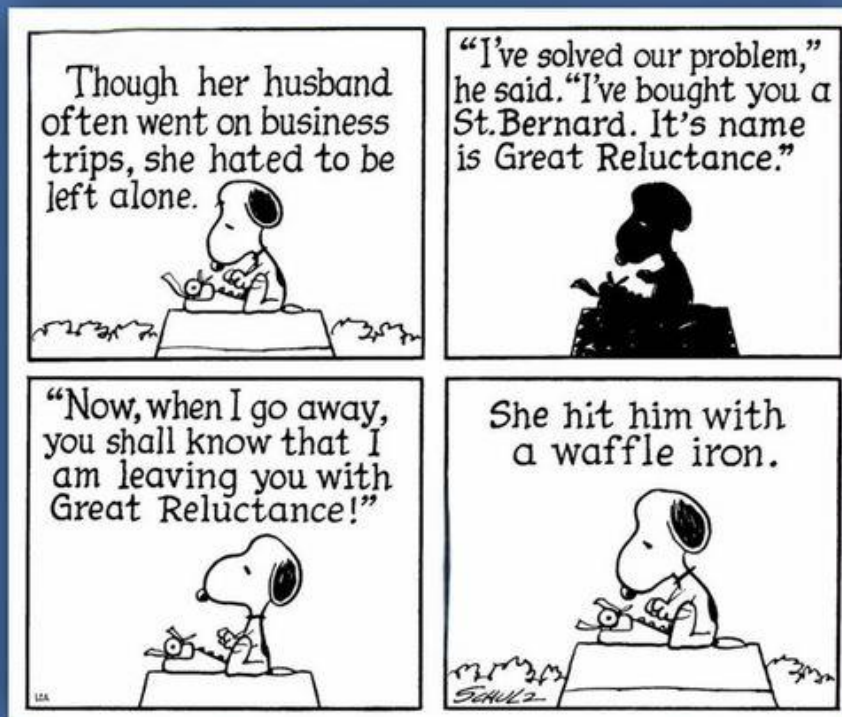
- *At the club*, to an onsite "Membership Minion" or the game's director (cash/cheque/debit)
- *At your home-sweet-home*, (e-transfer to GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com or mail a cheque payable to "Grand River Bridge Club" (**not** GRBC) to Steve Allen, 75 Lorielee Crescent, Kitchener Ontario N2N 2J3.

Either way, please be sure to identify who you are! We are not psychics.

The current number of paid-up members for 2024-2025 is six.

Things to bear in mind:

- When you renew your membership and play twice a week over the summer, you'll break even by late September;
 - When you don't renew your membership, you will be charged an extra \$2 for our F2F games;
 - When you recruit a **new** paid-up member, your reward will be two free-game vouchers; and
 - There is no smarter investment of your OAS and CPP payments than the GRBC coffers.
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Dear David

Always Be Prepared (to unblock)

I was a boy scout more than 60 years ago. I would roll up old newspapers into rolls and tie some twine around them. Nobody ever told me why we were doing this. (I suspect the scoutmaster was taking them home and using them as pseudo-logs in his fireplace). Perhaps I should take the high road and assume he was teaching us to be industrious.

Here is today's hand. ♠A1032 opposite ♠KQ9

Let us say that you are in NT, or a side suit with all the trumps drawn. You want to take four tricks in this suit. If the ♠J falls in one, two, or three rounds, yay. So, you cash the king and queen and lead the ♠9. South plays a small one and you play the ace. Alas, North shows out so no fourth spade trick. You might say you could have finessed the ♠9 on the very first round, but you have no indication that the play should be initiated that way. Let's change the hand slightly: ♠A102 opposite ♠KQ98

The normal way to play this one is to lead a spade to the king and then the ♠8 to the ace. When you lead the second spade the ace, South shows out. Yay! You win the ace and finesse the next time for four spade tricks. *Except*, you **did not** lead the 10 on the first round and you have no side entries to the East hand. North will not be so kind as to cover the 10 on the third round and you garner only three tricks.

Now, for the rest of the story. I was playing a game long, long ago in a club far, far away (Cambridge, actually), when two very well-dressed ladies sat down. We were informed that they had been playing bridge for many years, but it was their first time at a duplicate club. Easy pickings, I thought. They were pushed to the three-level and in my head, I gleefully rubbed my hands together as I placed the double card on the table. The dummy was much stronger than I expected. About halfway through the hand, I saw that the entire dummy was good for two overtricks. It took declarer about 20 more seconds to see the same thing. Then came the horror. She had squandered her dummy entries in the trump suit, her only way to get to dummy. All of the trumps that remained in her hand were higher than dummy's. The whole table sat still for the next three minutes while she desperately searched for a way. Down two, doubled. She never returned to the club.

From that day forward, I vowed to never let that happen to me. How do you get good at something? Practise, practise, practise. Here is a made-up hand to illustrate. ♠AQ1086 opposite ♠KJ97. This is the trump suit. It will require three rounds to draw trumps. This is what the suit will look like: ♠108 opposite ♠9

Why does this matter? If you need an entry to the West hand, lead the ♠9 to the ♠10. If you need an entry to the East hand, lead the ♠8 to the ♠9. I call this "fluidity". You may ask, "What if I have plenty of side entries in both hands"? Take a few seconds to do it anyway. If you make yourself do it every time, whether it matters or not, you will not be caught short when it unexpectedly does matter. **Practise.**

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	20.19	1	Cheryl White	8.66	1	Randall DeKraker	7.36
2	Mike Peng	16.88	2	John Kip	8.64	2	Peter Gaasenbeek	5.86
3	Cindy Mahn	14.18	3	Jack Cole	5.72	3	Andrew Widdis	5.48
4	Ted Boyd	13.62	4	Barb Neibert	5.32	4	Sheila Charters	5.22
5	Roy Dandyk	13.01	5	Kevin Latter	5.23	5	Sharon Nesbitt	5.19
6	Margot Stockie	12.45	6	Marlene Dopko	5.04	6	Doug Fickling	4.15
7	Edith Ferber	11.53	7	Brian Gaber	4.93	6	Mark Sherwood	4.15
8	Kathy Russell	11.45	8	David Dennis	4.82	8	Nancy Kennedy	3.77
9	Stephen Young	11.42	9	Anita Hanson	4.79	9	George Rybiak	3.07
10	Barbara Arthur	10.19	10	Elinor Girouard	4.25	9	Richard Rybiak	3.07
11	Suzanne Edwards	9.70	11	Cheryl Kip	3.95	9	Judy Charbonneau	3.07
12	Moira Hollingsworth	8.45	12	Renate Boucher	3.76	12	Pat Pietrek	3.01
13	Jim Dalgliesh	7.98	13	Vivian McLellan	3.70	13	Robert Darby	2.92
14	Neil Jeffrey	7.64	13	Judy Widdecombe	3.70	14	Russel Kerr	2.72
15	Dave Quarrie	6.94	15	ML Benjamins	3.62	15	Sonja Miner	2.54
16	Dave Embury	6.81	16	Virginia Alviano	3.54	16	Pat Gascho	2.47
17	Malkin Howes	6.66	17	Bob Gilck	3.44	17	Pat Northey	2.41
18	Neil Coburn	6.61	18	Bev Hitchman	3.43	18	Casi Zehr	2.38
19	Lori Cole	6.50	19	Sue Peterson	3.42	19	Ben Cornell	1.97
20	Dianne Aves	6.37	20	Steve Allen	3.38	19	Don Slowinski	1.97
21	Susan Lawton	6.17	21	Louise Dawdy	3.06	21	Debbie Miethig	1.90
22	Steve Carpenter	5.51	22	Sharon Schnarr	2.92	22	Jim Fox	1.88
23	Lynda Burnett	4.90	22	Keith Schnarr	2.92	23	Kevin Loader	1.82
24	David Longstaff	4.44	24	Martin Jones	2.72	24	JP Fraresso	1.80
25	Liz McDowell	4.41	25	William Sherman	2.66	25	Marianne Dziarski	1.79
25	Pat McMillan	4.41	25	Andy Wilson	2.66			

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 ward off Alzheimer's at our **club**.