



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – June 24, 2024

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

Looking Ahead

- ♥ June 21: All open F2F 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** (\$1BBO surcharge)
- ♥ July 1: There will be **no bridge lab on Canada Day**
- ♥ July 1: All of our games will proceed as usual on Canada Day. Please wear **red** and white to the afternoon F2F games. A photographer may be present.
- ♥ July 8-July 12: All open F2F games will be **NAP games**, \$1 surcharge
- ♥ July 18-28: [Toronto NABC](#)



Tell Me About It – **Have a Good Sleep**

Even if your hearing is excellent (not always the case for bridge players), you are not allowed to hear your partner's Announcements and Alerts. This is a hard concept to wrap your mind around, but please try – because it's an important part of bridge ethics.

Unlike, say, tennis, where you are allowed to yell at your partner not to hit the ball because it's going out, in bridge your communication with your partner is confined to the use of the cards in the bidding box – the numbers 1 to 7, the four suits and no trump, double, pass, and redouble. Any other communication with your partner – such as slamming down the double card to make it clear it's for penalty or hesitating for a long time before bidding to convey your possession of extra values – is Unauthorized Information.

Into this category fall your partner's Announcements and Alerts. They are strictly for the ears of the opponents, and you must pretend that you didn't hear them: even if - indeed especially if - they alert you to the fact that your partnership is having a bidding misunderstanding. It is simply not ethical to be "woken up" to the true meaning of your bids/your partner's interpretation of them.

Next Week: What is Unauthorized Information and why does it matter?

On Track... ..To Online



AND THE WINNER IS... But first, a bit about our draw process, which would make Price-Waterhouse proud! **Our treasurer** tabulates the qualifying players in a spread-sheet and sorts them in some peculiar order. He sends the spreadsheet to **Janice Pengelly** and then independently tells **Jack** how many rows are in

it. Jack picks a random row and tells Janice what it is. She looks up that row in the spreadsheet, and we have a winner! Janice contacts the winner, and Jack writes this announcement! That said.....

It's Week 8 of our **online playing draw** and our winner is **STEVE ALLEN!** **Congrats** to Steve who (with 15 others) competed for (and **won**) **SILVER points** in our 749er game on Thursday, June 13. We had **50** 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, **for the last week in our current campaign,** could be you! BTW, that game paid **.96 points** to the winner. Why play elsewhere??





Bean There Done That

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

Did you know that the annual GRBC membership fee wasn't always seventy bucks? Back in the dark ages of 2012, it was \$50 for the inaugural year of our bridge club, \$60 the next year, and \$70 the next. Then in 2015, the treasurer found loose change in various sofas around K/W and the fee stopped going up. Even though the couch source of income dried up in 2016, the fee's been \$70 ever since.

Everything is a helluva lot more expensive these days, so why is it still \$70? The short answer is Mr. Bean (of the Scottish bloodline of MacBeans) doesn't want the GRBC bridge experience to cost more. The yearly tsunami of income provides a buffer to survive the unpredictability of our business. There will be good months and there will be bad months. Seventy buckaroos is sufficient to get us through rainy days.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: **153** at 9:00 am Thursday

Letter to the Editor

I was playing bridge on BBO and did something stupid, nothing unusual about that. But then I made a comment about my poor play to my partner, calling myself a name. The online software bleeped my private comment to my partner. I retyped it, thinking I had made a computer error. Bleeped again!

Who knew that BBO was so puritanical!

Bev Hitchman





Player Profile – Phil de Montigny

Contributed by Anita Hanson

Today we are introducing Club Master Phil de Montigny, a man of enthusiasm.

The first of his enthusiasms is, of course, bridge. Phil's is the familiar story of starting with kitchen bridge many years ago (his estimate is 45), taking a break when life got in the way, then re-discovering the game in the form of duplicate in the mid-90s. Living in Edmonton at the time, he played at the Edmonton Bridge Centre, and then had the opportunity to play in Fort Myers and Naples, Florida, where good teachers and a good partner motivated him to continue his bridge journey.

When asked about his favourite aspect of the game, he is hard to stop. He loves the social interactions, of course, but particularly enjoys the “inherent beauty” of the game — the logical mathematical reasoning that goes into it, working out the numbers, the probabilities, the percentages. And the bidding rules that create a codified communication between partners. And the constant challenge. And the fact that it's a game we can (and should!) play till we're well on in years. And...

Phil's other big enthusiasm is golf — he estimates an average of 120 rounds per year here and B.C. He is also a member of an English Golf Society (H.A.G.S), a sort of roving men's club that chooses an area in England each year to play at. This year's trip will take him to Bude, Cornwall.

Phil was born in Atikokan, Ontario (you might have to look that up – I did) but didn't stay long — he was only about a year old when his family moved to St. Boniface in Manitoba, where he spent the next 24 years. Now retired, he spent 45 years in the field of banking and finance, a career that took him all over Western Canada, including a stint in Whitehorse. It was his wife Sandy's work that brought them back to Ontario six years ago, which is when he joined GRBC.

You can now find Phil playing several times a week, at all levels of games (including Open on rare occasions — where he appreciates the learning opportunities that come with GRBC's more experienced players).

Phil and Sandy have happily settled into life at Stonecroft in New Hamburg. They have four children between them, and eight grandchildren, some close by, and some still out west. We are so glad they came, and appreciate his support of our club!

Favourite bridge tip? Phil's is short and simple – Never pre-empt your partner's pre-empt!



Dear David

When Not to Double or Redouble

Players will often bid a slam for the rush they get when it makes. An even bigger rush happens when they bid and make a grand slam. Much the same happens when you make a successful double or redouble. How do you feel when it doesn't work out the way you hoped it would?

Dir: N
Vul: All

7
9 14
10

♠ Q 8 5 3
♥ A 2
♦ Q 9 5 2
♣ J 7 2

♠ A 10 7 6 2
♥ 4 3
♦ A 10 8 6
♣ A Q

♠ K J 9 4
♥ K Q J 10 9 8 7 6
♦ -----
♣ 8

1

The bidding was, to say the least, exuberant. At some point, South bid 4♥ over 3♠. When East competed to 4♠, South bid on to 5♥, failing to see that his partner probably would not be able to help. East doubled and South reflexively redoubled with his powerful distribution. Down 1 was -400, a bottom score. Passing the double would have been -200, which would have been a three-way tie for bottom - better than nothing. Best of all, letting the opponents fail in 4♠ would have been a near-top.

Dir: S
Vul: EW

9
1 18
12

♠ J 7 5
♥ 9 7 4 2
♦ 2
♣ 10 9 8 6 4

♠ 8
♥ A 6
♦ K Q 9 4 3
♣ A K Q 3 2

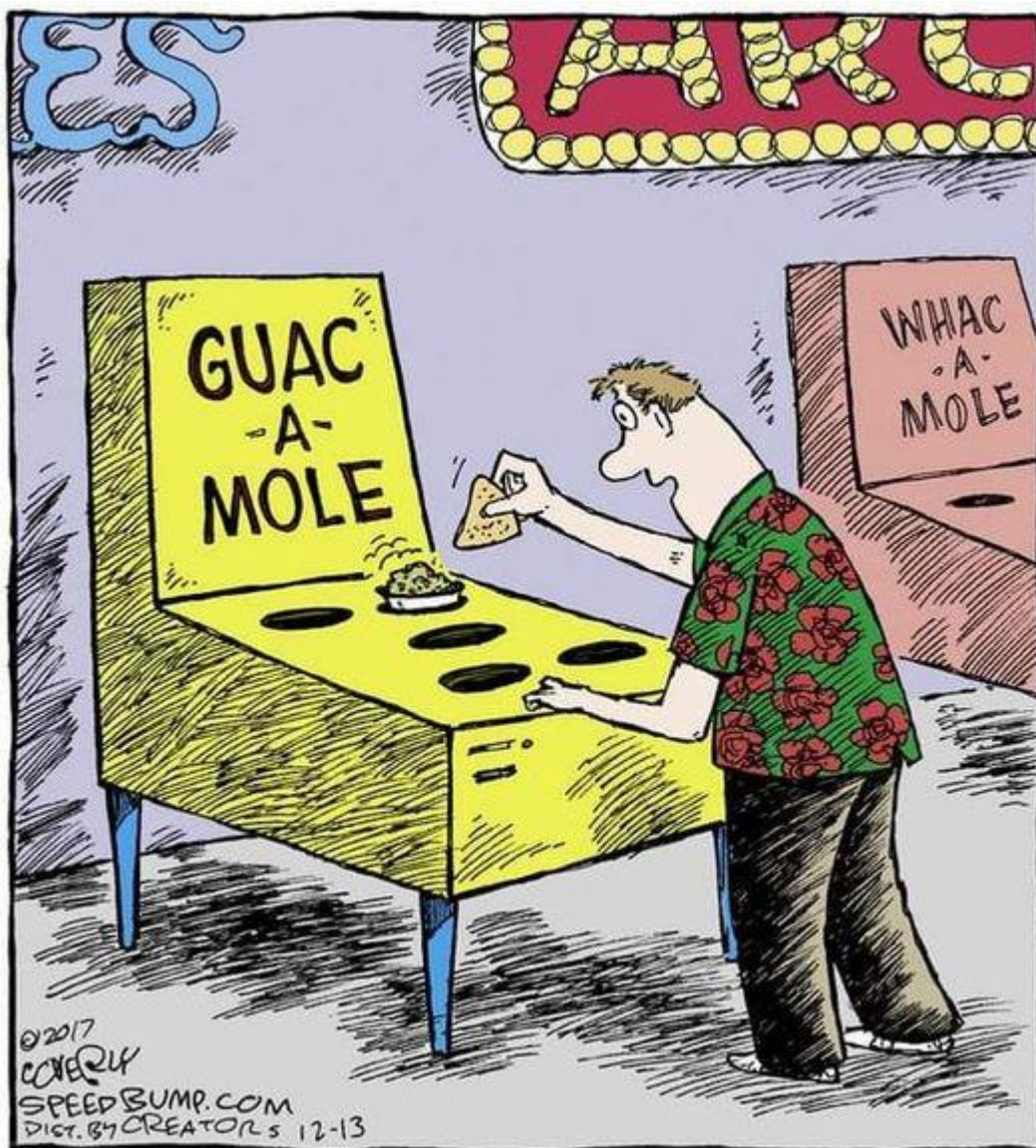
♠ A K Q 10 6 4
♥ Q J 10 5
♦ 7 6
♣ 5

Although I explained the reasoning behind the folly of the redouble, the very next time I played against him, he made the same injudicious redouble. After we got to the cold 4♠ game, East decided to sacrifice in 5♣. It is very rare to make a successful sacrifice against an opponent's game when you are vulnerable and your opponents are not vulnerable, but this was an exception. Since we could make only 10 tricks in spades (+420 for us) and the opponents could make only 10 tricks in 5♣ doubled (+200 for us), they would have got a very good result. Except for the fact that even though I explained that redoubles are usually a bad idea, the same player redoubled for a very bad score (-400). Three other tables were -200.

The only time it is a good idea to redouble a contract is when:

1. You are playing for money and you are greedy;
2. You are playing it as an SOS (partner, please bid a different suit and perhaps it won't be as bad);
3. You are trying to scare the opponents into bidding one more (a bottom doubled is the same as redoubled); and
4. You are 100% sure that you can make your contract and the opponents have nowhere to run.

I will make one more point about doubles. Sometimes, when you have your opponents right where you want them, it is wise to pass. For example, the opponents decide to risk 3NT and you are on lead with \spadesuit AKQJ10. How will you feel if they run to five clubs and it is unbeatable? Look before you leap.



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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	29.12	1	John Kip	11.39	1	Peter Gaasenbeek	12.48
2	Mike Peng	27.96	2	Cheryl White	10.76	2	Randall DeKraker	9.94
3	Cindy Mahn	25.21	3	Bev Hitchman	10.03	3	Andrew Widdis	8.58
4	Kathy Russell	20.00	4	Elinor Girouard	9.74	4	Sheila Charters	7.52
5	Roy Dandyk	19.78	5	Kevin Latter	8.67	5	JP Fraresso	6.91
6	Ted Boyd	19.10	6	Brian Gaber	7.13	6	Doug Fickling	6.70
7	Edith Ferber	17.66	7	Rick Arthur	7.04	7	Sharon Nesbitt	6.32
8	Suzanne Edwards	16.84	8	David Dennis	6.84	8	Mark Sherwood	6.10
9	Moira Hollingsworth	15.51	9	Cheryl Kip	6.70	9	Nancy Kennedy	5.07
10	Margot Stockie	14.03	10	Bob Gilck	6.50	10	Richard Rybiak	4.87
11	Malkin Howes	13.29	11	Jack Cole	6.28	11	George Rybiak	4.87
12	Pat McMillan	13.15	12	Anita Hanson	6.12	12	Phil de Montigny	4.78
13	Jim Dalgliesh	13.08	13	Steve Allen	5.54	13	Pat Northey	4.18
14	Neil Coburn	12.25	14	Marlene Dopko	5.41	14	Debbie Miethig	3.97
15	Steve Carpenter	12.13	14	Joe Blake	5.41	15	Sonja Miner	3.70
16	Stephen Young	11.42	16	Renate Boucher	5.35	16	Robert Darby	3.51
17	Barbara Arthur	11.20	17	Judy Widdecombe	5.34	17	Pat Gascho	3.34
18	Dave Quarrie	11.18	17	Vivian McLellan	5.34	18	Casi Zehr	3.22
19	Dave Embury	9.48	19	Barb Neibert	5.32	19	Don Slowinski	3.10
20	David Longstaff	7.88	20	Virginia Alviano	5.04	20	Ben Cornell	3.10
21	Neil Jeffrey	7.64	21	Martin Jones	4.72	21	Judy Charbonneau	3.07
22	Lori Cole	7.47	22	ML Benjamins	4.37	22	Pat Pietrek	3.01
23	Dianne Aves	7.43	23	Gordon Hunter	4.09	23	Russel Kerr	2.72
24	Lynda Burnett	7.20	24	Andy Martinek	4.08	24	Carla Laubach	2.50
25	Ron VD Zwaag	7.10	25	Belinda Burt	3.86	25	Sandra Stone	2.48

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're enjoying summer at our **club**.