

December 20, 2020



Newsletter

Virtual Club Games

LBC

Monday	6:45	Open
Tuesday	9:45	Open
Wednesday	9:45	0-500
Thursday	9:30	0-50
Thursday	9:45	Open
Friday	9:45	0-500

Tillsonburg DBC

Tuesday	7:00	Open
Friday	1:15	Open

LBC members welcome



Holiday Hours

In normal times, today we would be recovering from our annual holiday party - which was scheduled for December 19th. We would be announcing that LBC would be closed for several days between December 23rd and December 28th - and looking forward to the January 1st New Year's Brunch with bartender **Russ Harp**. But this is 2020...

**The only closure will be Friday, December 25th
NO BBO game that day.**

Our tradition of a special game to welcome the New Year will be continued - but in a different way. There will be two virtual club games on **Friday, January 1st, 2021**.

- 0 - 200 MPs game at 9:30 a.m.
- Open Pairs game at 9:45 a.m.

Greet your friends and clubmates on BBO, and following the game enjoy your own brunch and mimosas!

Then, on **Saturday, January 2nd**, LBC will host two extra virtual club games.

- 0-200 MPs at 1:00 p.m.
- Open at 1:15 p.m.

For the truly dedicated: On Friday, January 1st you are also invited to play in Tillsonburg's Open Pairs at 1:15 p.m.

We hope to see a great turnout to kick off 2021!

For [Auld Lang Syne](#), view our past celebrations, click [here](#).

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Bridge News

New 0-200 Game
Saturdays at 1:15 p.m.
Begins Saturday, January 9th

LBC IMP League 2021!

Begins Thursday, January 21st @ 7:30
Games are played weekly via BBO.
All information is on the LBC website.

Please join us.



To view all the IMP League information and to register, click [here](#).

New Rank Achievements



Junior Master	Barbara	Ball
Junior Master	Don	Letton
Junior Master	Karen	Van Ryn
Life Master	Marg	Blackie
Bronze Life Master	John	Stoffman
Silver Master	Susan	Wark



Message from the President

Thank you to all who attended our AGM held through Zoom on December 1st, 2020. A special thank you to **Bruce Moor** and **Al Edwards** who administered the technology that allowed us to vote during the meeting. The LBC continues to rank in the top 10 percent out of 2724 ACBL affiliated bridge clubs in North America. We are now the 12th largest bridge club in Canada with 456 members. Our table counts continued to increase until Covid-19 forced us to close our doors on March 13, 2020.

Through BBO and ACBL, we have developed 6 weekly online games with another game to be added on January 9th, 2021. With the help of the Federal Government, the understanding and generosity of our landlord, and the income from our on-line games, our financial situation has remained stable. A big *Thank You* to all our members who have supported us through online games.

We said goodbye to retiring Board members - Judi Carter, Jackie Potters, Adele Woolfe, and Dwight Bender who was given special recognition as the motivating force in the founding of the LBC. We welcomed new Board members - **Gayle George, Rick Jordan, Janine Higgins, and Les Wroblewski.**

I wish you all health and happiness for this most unusual holiday season. May you all take heart in knowing that a vaccine has arrived that will allow us a return to face-to-face bridge sometime in 2021.

Best wishes,
Judy Stirling

Thanks



Judi Carter



Jackie Potters



Adele Woolfe



Dwight Bender



Feature Biography

Marilyn Ellis

Where were you born?

I was born in Sudbury, Ontario and lived in Espanola until I graduated from high school.

Where did you go to elementary school?

I went to Espanola Elementary School then Espanola High School. When I graduated from high school, I moved to London to attend the University of Western Ontario.

What was your first job?

My first job was working in the canteen at the local theater.

What job did you hold the longest in your working career?

I worked for the Thames Valley District School board formerly the London Board of Education, for 36 and a half years. The first 18 years I taught physical education and the second half of my career was in guidance.

In how many cities have you lived?

Since Espanola's population is about 5,800, I have only lived in one city.

What was your best vacation?

Two vacations stand out in my mind.

- ✚ The first was with another couple to Barcelona, Spain then to a villa in the French countryside then back to Paris before returning home.
- ✚ The second trip more recently was with our daughter and her family to Amsterdam then flew to the south of India, on to Chandigarh in the north then finally to a tiny village west of Delhi.
- ✚ ...And then there is New York, New York. The most amazing city in the world.



How old were you when you first started playing bridge?

I played a few hands when my mom had friends over in the afternoons. In 2005, when planning what I might want to do when I retired, I took a beginners' course from Richard that had been advertised in the Spectrum. Then I continued with lessons at Bridge Fokes.

Feature Biography Marilyn Ellis continued

How did you find LBC?

When Bridge Fokes closed I transitioned to Brian Rice's Monday afternoon bridge, then to LBC.

What motivated you to become a board member?

I was asked by a couple of board members to consider being the membership chair for a three-year term. I agreed because my personality and skill set led me to believe I could do a good job in that role.

What has surprised you most about being a board member?

Board members donate an amazing amount of time and energy to the club. There is a high level of expertise and commitment within the board. Great care and concern go into making members' experiences at the club positive and rewarding.

What do you like best about LBC?

The members are friendly and welcoming. The club provides lots of learning opportunities so members can improve their skills and knowledge.

Tell us about your other hobbies.

I play a lot of online scrabble. I have been engrossed with the politics in the United States for many years. The last 4 years have been particularly dramatic and excruciating.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

My partner and I have 4 children and 4 grandchildren.





What happened to the cookies?

Remember when we last met at the club in early March? You probably enjoyed a cookie at the break. The cupboards were fully stocked by our *cookie-purchasing* volunteers **Nancy Lemieux** and **Marg Steers** - and then - COVID-19 shut everything down.

When it became clear that the shutdown was going to be more than three weeks, the cookies went into freezers. And there they rested until late October. As the second wave rolled in and reopening was further delayed, the cookies had languished long enough. They were donated to the **Salvation Army Centre of Hope**, whose food bank and kitchen welcomed them!

So now the LBC cookie containers are clean and empty, anxiously waiting to be restocked in 2021!



Columbia Employee Store Invitation

**Valid Until January 3rd
for you & 4 guests**

The invitation is non-transferrable.

The LBC member must be present to redeem the invitation.

Please bring the invitation and photo ID.

To download a copy of the invitation, click [here](#).

Learning Opportunities Courses



Barry Onslow
519-657-9793
bonslow@uwo.ca

Slam Bidding for the Intermediate Player

Taught by [Barry Onslow](#)

Slam bidding is difficult even for expert players. This course is designed for the intermediate player who is comfortable **playing regularly in the Open Games** and is looking to improve toward becoming an expert player. To achieve the maximum benefit, you should take this course with a partner who has a similar level of bridge expertise and a desire to improve to the next level.



Registration deadline is Wednesday, January 6.

PLEASE NOTE: There are 2 components offered with this course.
The cost of EACH component is \$90.00.

- A. Formal Teaching Component
- B. Practice & Play (**OPTIONAL**)

A. Formal Teaching: Lessons (Zoom)
Class Dates: January 18th to February 22nd
Time: Mondays, 2:00 – 4:15
Sessions: 6
Cost: \$90 including resources

B. Practice & Play: Guided play using BBO and Zoom
Dates: Weekly, to reflect topics taught
Runs concurrently with classes
Time: mutually agreed upon, 2 hr. in the aft
Sessions: 6
Cost: \$90

To view more information and the course outline, click [here](#).

To register, click [here](#).

Payment should be by e-transfer or cheque.

If you have questions, please contact [Barry Onslow](#).

Learning Opportunities

Courses continued



Marie Wiley

mewiley@rogers.com

519 433-1537

Defence Courses

Taught by [Marie Wiley](#)

- ❖ **Defence 1: Opening Leads and Signals** was offered previously but can be offered again to anyone who missed it. Contact Marie if you are interested.
- ❖ **Defence 2** covers 2nd and 3rd hand play as well as defensive strategies. It will be offered in January, 2021. Please see schedule details below.

Course: **Defence 2**

Format:

- 40 to 50 minute lesson via **Zoom**
- followed by 1 hour of practice on **BBO** at 3:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m.

Start Date: Wednesday, January 20th

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Sessions: 4

Cost: \$50 plus the cost of the textbook

Registration: Please contact Marie directly.



An **advantage of online courses** is that some flexibility is possible if the timetable outlined above does not fit your schedule. Private classes for groups of four are possible. Contact Marie for further information.

If you need help getting into playing bridge online, or have never used Zoom before, let Marie know **well ahead of the start date of the course**. She will arrange to assist you.

Learning Opportunities

Courses continued

Are you interested in developing your bridge skills?
Would you appreciate some practice in an online environment?

Several teachers from **London Bridge Centre** are offering small group lessons while they sit as **fifth chair** to guide your progress. These lessons may take a variety of formats for communication. Your group will play at a mutually agreed upon time. Prices and the length of each session may vary slightly. Please contact the following teachers if you would like more information.



Audrey Craig

audrey-craig@rogers.com

519 657-3665

- ✚ Practice & Play (groups of 4)
or
- ✚ Specific topics: 2/1, 1430, Jacoby 2NT



Hazel Hewitt

hazeljhewitt@hotmail.com

519 274-9724

- ✚ Practice & Play (groups of 4)
- ✚ Beginner and advancing beginner



Mary Howe

maryhowe@comcast.net

- ✚ Practice & Play: Targets the conventions taught in the **Advancing Your Game** course (Prerequisite)



Peter Tuttle

petesrecords@hotmail.com

- ✚ Practice & Play (groups of 4)
- ✚ Provides responses to your bidding and play of the hand questions



Marie Wiley

mewiley@rogers.com

519 433-1537

- ✚ Practice & Play (groups of 4)
- ✚ Provides responses to your bidding and play of the hand questions

Peter's Lesson

Peter Tuttle



Hello Tuesday and Wednesday folks!

Lesson: How do you respond to 1 no trump when you have a void?

**Your partner opens 1 no trump.
How do you respond in each scenario?**

♠ J 9 8 7 5
♥ K 6 5 4 3
♦
♣ Q J 3

Count your points.

Do you think you should be in game? Hmm... Not likely.

You have at least 4 cards in BOTH majors. Usually, you want at least 8 points to bid Stayman. Because you have a void, you need to play in a major suit.

- Bid 2 clubs.
- If partner bids 2 diamonds, you respond 2 hearts to play.
- If partner bids either one of the majors, just pass and be happy.

♠ A J 8 7 5
♥ Q 6 5 4 3
♦
♣ K 6 5

Count your points.

Should you be in game? 10 high card points and void – probably game! This time a different bidding strategy.

- Bid 2 diamonds as a transfer to hearts.
- After partner bids 2 hearts, you then jump to 3 spades. This bidding approach shows game going points with 5 hearts and 5 spades.
- Partner can then go to game in the preferred major.

Due to Covid, I finished **three** books yesterday. That's a lot of colouring!

Be safe. Be well.

Peter





In Memoriam



Peter Muxlow
1952 - 2020

For full obituary, click [here](#).

With great sadness, we are noting the passing of our LBC friend, **Peter Muxlow**. He was a kind and gentle soul, always gracious at the bridge table.

Brian Rice remembers him as a great and patient partner, fun to travel with as they participated in games in St. Thomas and tournaments. Peter was a regular helper with Brian's bridge group. He wanted to assist and fill in as a partner. Everyone learned from him.



At LBC

Marie Wiley remembers how much he enjoyed reminiscing about qualifying and playing at the Nationals in San Francisco.

Everyone thought highly of Peter. His warm smile will be sorely missed. If you want to view a beautiful video tribute to his memory and his love of cards, please click [here](#).

If you have questions or comments regarding the newsletter, please contact [Adele Woolfe](#).

**Keep up to date on everything that's happening
at the London Bridge Centre.**

Visit the website: www.londonbridgecentre.ca