

May 2, 2021



Newsletter

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Report from the Ad Hoc Committee about Post-COVID Play

The Board wishes to be proactive in looking ahead to the time when face-to-face bridge might be possible. We established an ad hoc committee for this purpose; our first meeting was early in April.

As Judy mentioned in the last newsletter, our first principle is to ensure that our members will be safe. Therefore, we do not plan to rush ahead with face-to-face play. Until members have had both vaccine doses and public health authorities say that it is safe to resume with table games, we will not be opening our doors for face-to-face games.

We acknowledged that playing on BBO has been a very positive experience for many of our members. It has the advantages of taking less time, not requiring driving in the evening or inclement weather, and members do not need to be in London to play in our games. We are, therefore, recommending that the online schedule of games remain unchanged, at least during our transition to face-to-face games and perhaps longer.

We also recognized that some of our members do not enjoy online play or are unable to play online. Online play does not include the social element that many of our members enjoy. Also, it is likely less enticing to potential new members.

Our thinking thus far is that once we are able to play face-to-face bridge, we would operate a hybrid schedule, continuing the BBO game schedule and introducing face-to-face games gradually. A key goal would be to reintroduce the Tuesday afternoon Bridge Lab and the Saturday morning Practise and Play.

Pianola is developing a way to combine face-to-face play with online play. Players at the club could play at a table with an electronic device against opponents who were playing online. We hope to test this technology. It would require us to devise a payment system for online players. Another option raised was to test the Zoom feature that can be used with BBO.

We will keep you informed about further progress.

Janine Higgins, Chair

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
Saturday	1:15	0-200

Tillsonburg DBC

Tuesday	7:00	Open
Friday	1:15	Open

LBC members welcome

Bridge News

Extra Games Added



Play for bonus awards while helping Grass Roots' efforts.

Win DOUBLE black points when you play during Grass Roots Weekend in the Virtual Clubs! LBC has added an Open Pairs game on **Saturday, May 15th at 1:30 p.m.** Our regular 0-200 game will be at 1:15 p.m.

When you play, you'll also be supporting our area's local efforts to grow participation in a variety of events, including Grand National Teams and North American Pairs. Additional amounts raised will be sent back to each club's home district.



The Longest Day is an annual fundraising event held to support the fight against Alzheimer's disease. This is the eighth year of ACBL's partnership with the organization; the community has raised more than \$6 million! Funds raised in Canada are donated to the Alzheimer Society of Canada.

The event spans the longest day of the year, the Summer Solstice, and symbolizes the challenging journey of those living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers.

LBC's Longest Day Open Pairs game will be held **Saturday, June 19th at 1:30 p.m.** Our 0-200 game at 1:15 p.m. will also participate in The Longest Day.

How You Can Help?

As a player, simply playing bridge at the club during the event will raise funds, as sanction fees go directly to the Alzheimer Society of Canada. In return, you'll earn elevated masterpoints in the Longest Day game.

Grand River Bridge Club "Sectional" - May 29 and 30

Can bridge clubs hold an online Sectional Tournament? Well, no but sorta!

The ACBL is currently not sanctioning online Sectional tournaments however, bridge clubs can host special unit-wide games. London Bridge Centre games can include members from the LBC, Tillsonburg, St Thomas and Chatham clubs plus a limited number of guests. A unit-wide game includes all remaining clubs in Unit 249 such as Guelph, Waterloo, Goderich, Kincardine, Windsor and others. A unit-wide game is a great opportunity to meet up with bridge colleagues from other clubs within Unit 249.

Grand River will be hosting unit-wide games on the weekend of May 29 and 30. There will be pairs games on May 29 and Swiss Team games on May 30. Registration for these games will be the same as for LBC games; click on Virtual Clubs and then select the appropriate game. Further information regarding times and stratification will be posted shortly on Grand River's [website](#).

While these games are not Sectionally rated, they will be held during Silver Linings week and award DOUBLE the regular points, which will be SILVER instead of black.

The London Bridge Centre plus other clubs in Unit 249 will also be hosting unit-wide games throughout the remainder of 2021. A schedule for these games will be announced in upcoming newsletters. Hope you can join our friends at Grand River on the weekend of May 29 and 30.

What's Coming Up Soon?

To keep up-to-date on coming events, please check out the calendar on our website. As the pandemic comes to an end, bridge activity will increase and more events will be posted. Here is the [link](#).

Profile – Audrey Craig, Bridge Teacher

Where were you born? I was born in Ottawa and went to school there.

What was your first job? While in school, I worked part-time serving customers at a dry cleaner's.

What job did you hold the longest in your working career? I was secretary to the General Manager of the Central Canada Exhibition (same as the Western Fair here in London) and worked there for 26 years, from 1952 until I moved to London in 1978.

In how many cities have you lived? I've lived in Carlton Place, Ottawa and London.

What was your best vacation? It was driving across Canada with my husband and two small children. We were pulling a trailer and had no prior experience with trailers. We had many adventures including finding a snake in the car and having a mouse walk back and forth across the dashboard as we drove. On one occasion, the car caught fire while driving through the Rockies. Back then, many treacherous mountain roads had no guard rails. This was so frightening that we left the mountains and drove back home through the U.S.

How old were you when you first started playing bridge? I was in my early 20's and that seems like an eternity ago. Sometimes we and another couple would play bridge from 7:00 pm to 4:00 a.m. We did not know the rules, we had no idea what we were doing, we bet on the games, and we had the best time!!

How did you find LBC? After I moved to London in 1978, I saw an ad in the London Free Press advertising the bridge club on McGregor Street saying it was a "Friendly Club" and welcomed "new to duplicate" bridge players. I had signed up with Newcomers and looked for anything related to bridge. So, I convinced one lady to come with me to this new adventure and I was hooked immediately. The first duplicate game in which we played, we were in 5D with 100 honours and everybody else was in 4H. Bottom board. I had to relearn the game of bridge very quickly.

What motivated you to become a bridge teacher? I took a lot of lessons from Richard Fokes who, after about a year, convinced me I should become a teacher, despite having never taught anything before. After many months of coaching, I started with Bridge Basics One. I have been teaching ever since, which I think is about 30 years. He was the man who was responsible for me becoming a Director of the ACBL.



What has surprised you most about teaching bridge? I was always surprised by how much I didn't know. As we progressed through various courses, some of the students would ask "what if" questions. I found I had to continually upgrade my knowledge as they kept asking questions and I was unsure of the correct answer.

Without identifying the players, can you give a brief description of your most challenging moment as a teacher? I cannot think of anything other than when the students asked the same question over and over again and I knew I had to find another way to explain it. Or when I could see from the look in their eyes that they didn't understand what I was saying. I would have to go back to the drawing board and start again.

What is your favourite part of being a teacher? The best part was in developing so many good friendships that have lasted over the years. When my students do well in a game, I am so happy for them. When I see their progress and see the "light" come on during a session, I am thrilled. I hope I have contributed to their knowledge and love of bridge.

What would you say to others to encourage them to become bridge teachers? Just all of the above. It is so satisfying to see the progress of students. A teacher needs a lot of patience and sometimes you have to repeat things a number of times, but when they get it, it makes you feel so very good and you know it's all been worth it.

What do you like best about LBC? The friends I have made there and the environment in which we play. It is a beautiful facility and I am sure it is envied by many other clubs.

Tell us about your other hobbies. I have been involved in fantasy baseball for over 20 years. I have golfed for many years but not recently. I am an avid reader, love movies, live theatre, music and sports. While in Ottawa, I was a member of the Orpheus Operatic Society and performed on stage in musicals for 10 years or more. I used to be a soloist and sang at weddings and in the church choir.

What would people be surprised to know about you? I owned an off-premise desktop publishing company in Ottawa and opened a branch here when I moved to London. I closed both places in 1990. I also owned a race horse for a number of years.

In addition, I dated Alex Trebek. We met at a party in Ottawa many years ago when he was an up-and-coming newscaster. Literally, 'our eyes met across a crowded room'. We dated six or seven times before he was offered a job in the U.S.

Profile - Janine Higgins, Board Member and Vice-President

Where were you born? Winnipeg. My dad worked for the Hudson's Bay Company and worked at the Winnipeg store briefly.

Where did you go to elementary school? Saskatoon for Grade 1 and 2. Edmonton up to Grade 8.



What was your first job? My first part-time job was as a cashier in a drug store. I soon got into lifeguarding and teaching swimming which was a better summer/part-time job. My first full-time job was as an articling student at Siskinds.

What job did you hold the longest in your working career? I was a lawyer at Siskinds for thirteen years, but I have been self-employed since 1993, so I have been my own boss for the longest time. My primary work now is teaching courses in conflict management, emotional intelligence, assertiveness, positive psychology, and negotiation. I also do some life coaching and workplace mediation.

In how many cities have you lived? Seven

What was your best vacation? Four weeks in New Zealand. (Loved it so much we did this twice.)

How old were you when you first started playing bridge? Perhaps seven? We went on a family vacation in the Rockies and it snowed in July. My parents needed something to do so they taught my brother and me to play bridge. Bridge remained a point of connection between my parents and me until my dad died a few years ago.

How did you find LBC? I played at Richard Fokes club and, because that club was ending, I was keenly aware of the group of people who were organizing a member-owned club and started to play as soon as the club opened.

What motivated you to become a board member? It is a form of service to an organization to which I am very committed.

What has surprised you most about being a board member? How quiet some board members are.

What have you found most challenging? Joining at a time when we don't have face-to-face meetings has been a bit difficult. On the other hand, pre-COVID, I was asked to be on the board but could not commit to attending meetings with my work schedule as a trainer, so having virtual meetings (and less work) allows me to participate.

What is your favourite part of being a board member? The opportunity to influence the future direction of the club.

What do you like best about LBC? I just love bridge so having opportunities to play is wonderful. I like that there are so many excellent players who are willing to give their time and talents to others learning the game.

Tell us about your other hobbies. I enjoy yoga and paddle sports. I go on a white-water canoe trip with a group of women every year and have done so for over 30 years. The portages got me interested in hiking and my husband and I now do a lot of hiking, including completing the entire Bruce trail a few years ago. (That took six years.)

What would people be surprised to know about you? I was on a game show (Headline Hunters) when I was in law school in Toronto. I won a sewing machine and a TV.



Learning Opportunities

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE INTERESTED IN LEARNING TO PLAY BRIDGE?

Hazel Hewitt has openings in her new online beginner bridge course. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn to play bridge in a small group setting (see ad below).

Do you know someone looking for a challenging, stimulating and safe activity during these restrictive pandemic times?

Please spread the word to family and friends, and consider reaching out on social media. You can help to share this game we all love and to grow the membership of our club.

MENTORS NEEDED

Hazel needs volunteers to play a few games with graduates from her beginner course.

Mentors do not need to be advanced players, rather they need to know the basics and to relate to the challenges facing beginner players. Some players need help negotiating the online platform. Some will appreciate feedback on basic bidding and play. All will appreciate the chance to play and gain experience in a supportive environment.

If you are willing to act as a mentor, please contact Hazel.

BEGINNER BRIDGE ONLINE (BRIDGE BASICS I)

Groups of four meet online and learn to play bridge in 10 lessons. A new group starts as soon as there are four participants. At each lesson Hazel teaches a concept and then students play practice hands to demonstrate the principles.

After completing the course each participant is linked to a mentor to help them transition to online games and/or in person games when the club reopens. Lesson dates and time are mutually agreed upon.

Please call or email Hazel Hewitt hazeljhewitt@hotmail.com or 519 274-9724.

See also link to [course descriptions](#) and [Fifth Chair Online Coaching](#)

Here are some comments from graduates of her course:

From Sara

I thought the online teaching method worked really well. I was looking for a refresher as I played years ago and this worked perfectly for me. The others were pretty much at the very start of their bridge life and I thought that they also found online to be very good. It was perfect that there were four of us learning so the teacher was dedicated to our table. In summary, I think that online is a great way to learn!!

From Susan

... I was procrastinating 'beginning', and when given the opportunity to join the group, I was quite excited! From the beginning it was relaxing, fun, friendly, and very supportive and encouraging to those of us who are not quite as quick on the pickup. I was not overwhelmed as a beginner! I certainly think the group of four works well and helps in feeling connected. I'm not sure a large group would work so well for me. Looking forward to continuing.

From Michele

I thought that the course duration was great and that we were able to cover the material thoroughly. The use of the text was appropriate and the little tests at chapter end were quite enlightening. It was great to meet three new online friends (hopefully one day in person) and to see them come along in the program as well. Looking forward to Bridge Basics 2.

From Cindy

I have enjoyed my bridge 'journey' so far! While I have personally had challenges with learning all the various rules of the game, I hope to continue practicing and learning in the desire to someday be able to confidently play the game - I know I have a way to go!

Alison Marr, Chair Education Committee

Peter's Lesson



Peter Tuttle

Hello folks. Missing you!

The Finesse: Lesson 1

A finesse is an attempt to win a trick with a card that is not high.
We will begin with following card combinations.

Example 1

North: Q 3 2

South: A 5 4

Let's look at a suit with three cards on each side of the table. We want to improve our chances of winning an extra trick with the Queen.

- Take the first trick with the Ace.
- Then **lead small** towards the Queen. If West plays the King, play low winning your Queen later. If not, play the Queen and hope that East does not cover with the King. This gives you a 50/50 chance for an extra trick.

Example 2

North: A 3 2

South: Q 4

This time our suit is distributed with three cards in one hand, two in the other.

- **FIRST**, **lead small** from the North hand towards the Queen. If East plays the King, save your Queen for later. If not, play the Queen and hope! This gives you a 50/50 chance for an extra trick.

In each of these examples, you are missing the King and you seek to promote the Queen. Hence you lead small to the Queen. You do not lead the Queen. Do not lead an honour card to take a finesse unless you will benefit if the next player covers that card.

Joke of the Day

Golfer: "You must be the world's worst caddy!"

Caddy: "No, that would be too much of a coincidence."

Be safe, Be well.

Peter

