

October 16, 2022



London Bridge Centre Newsletter

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Virtual Club Games

LBC

Monday	6:45	Open
Tuesday	9:15	Open
Wednesday	9:15	0-500
Thursday	9:15	Open

Tillsonburg DBC

Tuesday 7:00 Open

LBC members welcome

Annual General Meeting

39 people attended the annual meeting held at the club on September 24, 2022. (An interesting coincidence - 39 people also attended the previous annual meeting held by Zoom on October 21, 2021).

Treasurer, Kate Brooks, advised attendees that the club is in good shape financially. Our bank account is somewhat higher this year than in previous years. This is due to a few factors including rent relief from our landlord and the federal government, and very low operating costs to maintain the facility during the months we were restricted to playing online. At this time, our revenues are not quite equal to our operating expenses, which are higher than last year because we are now incurring cleaning and increased utility expenses and we are paying our directors (who were volunteering their services last year). The lower revenues are due in part to low table numbers at some games as people gradually return to face-to-face games and in part to a relatively high number of tickets purchased in previous years that are still in members' possession. In addition, we have fewer members than in previous years.

President, Janine Higgins, noted that all of our virtual and face-to-face games are covering their direct expenses and that the board will be closely monitoring revenue from game fees and membership fees compared to expenses. Because we are not certain of the extent to which our membership and table counts will return to previous levels, we chose to renew our lease for three years not five years. Our financial situation is adequate to fully cover our rent for these three years. We expect that the next twelve months will give us a more accurate picture of the future. There are many hopeful signs. Several face-to-face games have significantly increased table counts. In addition, our teachers have been continuing to provide lessons including beginner lessons.

AGM Continued

Janine thanked retiring board members Marilyn Ellis who acted as our membership chair and Betty Grant who was our secretary, as well as others who make significant contributions as volunteers.

Past President Judy Stirling presented the report of the nominating committee. The terms of Vice-President Angie Francolini and Alison Marr, who chairs our Education Committee were renewed for a further three years; Don Hambley and Danielle Galbraith were elected to the board. At the subsequent board meeting, Danielle was appointed Secretary.

After comments and questions from attendees, the meeting was adjourned and followed by an open game.

A big thank you to Marilyn and Betty for their hard work and dedication to LBC.



Marilyn Ellis



Betty Grant

Welcome to our new Board Members:



Danielle Galbraith



Don Hambley

HEALTH AND SAFETY

We have received numerous reports from members concerning some players not using appropriate sneezing and coughing protocols. If the protocols are not used germs are transferred to the cards and everyone else in the room.

Did you know:

1. a human touches his or her face on average 23 times an hour and during a bridge game 69 times.
2. Roughly 44% of those times you touch either your mouth or nose and 55% of those times you touch other areas of your face.
3. men touch their mustaches and beards up to 40 times an hour.
4. every time we do this and then touch the playing cards, we are depositing bacteria to which others may not be immune.

When we sit down at a table to play a game of bridge, we have no idea how strong or weak everyone's immune systems are that day.

When you sneeze or cough, please use your elbow. By doing this you will protect others from being contaminated with germs that are not friendly. If you have a tissue, you may use it to sneeze or cough, then discard it in the trash and finish by washing your hands.

With Autumn's arrival, we are all spending more time indoors. As a result, we will be exposed to colds, flu, etc. To keep everyone as healthy as possible please:

1. stay home if you're not feeling well or have symptoms
2. sanitize your hands as you enter the club
3. cough and sneeze into your elbow
4. sanitize after using the washroom



So let us all remember to stay home when not well, sanitize on the way into the club, wash our hands, cough and sneeze into our elbows; it's the most effective way to prevent the spread of germs to our friends and loved ones.





Check It Out



Flavour of the month

Why make do with one when you can have two over one?

For those who agree, we have a few titles of interest in the library.
The following authors address the subject:



- Marty Bergen
- Larry Cohen
- Audrey Grant & Rodwell
- Mike Lawrence
- Barbara Seagram
- Paul Thurston
- Max Hardy



NEW RANK ACHIEVEMENTS

To check out all new rank achievements, click [here](#).



- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| New Junior Master | Susan Chandelier |
| | Linda Lustins |
| | Deb Stuart |
| New Club Master | Thomas Conway |
| | Greg Hanbuch |
| | Sheila Handler |
| New Regional Master | Dennis Hack |
| New NABC Master | Linda Tindale |
| | Graeme Tindale |
| New Silver Life Master | Rick Jordan |
| | Charlene Richardson |
| New Ruby Life Master | Terry Wright |

Please note: There can be a delay of about two months before rank achievements are confirmed by ACBL and reported to LBC.

LBC Sectional Tournament – October 22 & 23, 2022

Our LBC Sectional tournament is less than a week away and we need your donations of baked goods and other snacks.



LBC is well known for its hospitality which has always included a range of savory and sweet snacks before our tournament games begin.

Please contact Marlene Benny at 519-453-0719 or Judy Stirling at 519-870-1906 for further information or to make a donation.



Royal STaC - Compete for Gold, Red, Silver, and Black points

All of our regular games during the **week of October 24** will be part of a Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaC). Players compete against others playing in games of the same point range at the same time at other clubs across Canada. Therefore, if you do better than many players across the country, there is the possibility of a lot of points. This STaC is special because **Gold** points are being awarded. All points awarded will be **25% Gold, Red, Silver, and Black**. We encourage you to participate in as many games as you can!





89th Western Ontario Sectional Bridge Tournament London, Ontario October 22 & 23, 2022



**London Bridge Centre
1106 Dearness Drive, Unit 9
London, On N6E 1N9**

Saturday October 22 at 10:30 am
Strati-flighted Pairs (play-through)
A/X: 2500+, 0-2500
B/C/D: 1000-2000, 500-1000, 0-500
Novice Pairs: 0-300 (1 session)

**Lunch at nearby local restaurants*

Saturday October 22 at 2:45 pm
Strati-flighted Pairs (2nd session)
Novice Pairs: 0-300 (1 session)

Note: Flight eligibility is based on the player with the highest masterpoints. Stratification within the flight is based on average masterpoints. Silver masterpoints awarded.

Pairs: \$12.50 per person, per session
(Note: \$5.00 per person for those with 0-5 masterpoints and those 21 years old and under. 1 session only.)

Tournament Chair:
Janine Higgins
janine@janinehiggins.ca
(519-439-5136)

Partnership:
Gayle George
Gaylergeorge@gmail.com
(519-851-0316)

Sunday October 23 at 10:30 am
Swiss Teams: (play through)
A/X Teams: A: 2500+, X: 0-2500
B/C/D Bracketed Teams: 0-2000

Note: Teams are bracketed by total team points. Silver masterpoints awarded.

Teams: \$100.00 per team

**A light lunch will be available on Sunday only. Cost is \$10.00.*

**Free coffee and snacks available both days.*

Covid-19 Protocols

**All participants must be fully vaccinated according to Health Canada guidelines.*

**Proof of vaccination is required. Please arrive early to comply with this requirement.*

**All participants must be both covid and symptom free for 7 days with no contact with someone know to have covid for 7 days.*

**Masks are highly recommended. Be prepared to wear a mask if necessary.*

**Hand sanitizers will be available.*

Note: These protocols are subject to change in order to comply with provincial guidelines.

www.londonbridgecentre.ca

LBC'S ARTISANS' SHOWCASE AND SALE

Saturday, December 3, 2022

11:00 a.m.

Bridge Game to Follow at 1:15 p.m.

As a way to raise funds for local charities and encourage bridge players to return to our club, we are holding a show and sale of handcrafted items made by our very own LBC members. To date, these items include woodturning, fine art, jewelry, quilting, solar lights, Christmas ornaments, and other crafts.

CALLING ALL ARTISANS

We know many of our members have talents that should be shared. We are inviting all artisans and crafters to display their handmade items in this show. Just in time for Christmas, think of this as **LBC's Artisan Marketplace**.

Artisans will donate 30% of their earnings to a yet-to-be-determined local charity on behalf of LBC.



As an added bonus...anyone who makes a purchase will play for free in the bridge game starting at 1:15!

For further information or to discuss participation in this event, please contact:

Dwight Bender at dlbender2110@gmail.com or Judy Stirling at judystirling0@gmail.com

Please note this event will be open to LBC members, their family, and their friends.

All LBC covid restrictions will be in place.

"Cash or cheque only"



EDUCATION AT LBC

LOST AND FOUND

"Lost and Found" started on Thursday, September 8 immediately following the afternoon 0-1500 game. This is a FREE session hosted by Dwight Bender. It is your opportunity to ask questions about bidding, declarer play, or defense regarding any hands played that day. It is suggested that you keep notes during the game of any hands you wish to discuss and bring them to Dwight's attention at the beginning of this free seminar. Dwight will give you his analysis and recommendations. Hand records will be provided to facilitate everyone's participation in the discussion. See you there.

ONLINE TEACHING

Our teachers are eager to add more students to their online tables. You may have a group of friends who want to learn together, or we can find a table for you. Lessons are customized to your needs. A fantastic way to learn.

Please see details [here](#).



**THE FOLLOWING EXCELLENT, IN-PERSON,
CLASSES ARE STARTING SOON**

**REGISTER NOW, ON THE CLUB'S
WEBSITE, BEFORE THEY FILL UP**

Bridge Basics 2

A beginner bridge course being taught at the London Bridge Center.

“Adding more pieces to the bridge puzzle”



Course Topics:

- Nov. 1: **Preemptive Opening Bids**
- Nov. 8: **Overcalls and Advances**
- Nov. 22: **Takeout Doubles & Advances**
- Nov. 29: **Competitive Auctions**

The detailed course outline can be found on the London Bridge Center website.

This 4 week course is designed for players who have completed Bridge Basics 1.

It introduces bidding concepts designed to help partnerships get to their best contract while making it difficult for the opponents to find their best spot.

Play of the hand and good defence will be included in each lesson.

Tuesday Mornings 9:30 - 12:00 in Nov.

Note: Lessons are not on consecutive weeks

Course Instructor: Mary Howe
Course cost: \$60 plus the Student Text

Register at the London Bridge Center web page.
Deadline for registration is Oct. 23, 2022.

SAVE A LIFE at LBC



We all hope this never happens at LBC, but if someone collapses suddenly, and is unresponsive, you need to be ready to respond.

In most cases, this person is experiencing a heart attack that has disturbed the heart rhythm (ventricular fibrillation) and there is no effective output from the heart. To be fully prepared to respond, members are encouraged to take an accredited basic life support course. LBC will help subsidize the cost of this (contact the President or Treasurer).

However, there are other ways of improving your readiness. If the person is unresponsive and has no apparent pulse or regular respirations, chest compressions should be started. Current guidelines say that rescue breathing is not necessary initially.

Learn how to do them properly here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lwRQTGzKcw>

LBC has an **Automatic External Defibrillator**. Know where it is. (On the wall to the left of the washrooms, close to the library end of the room). It is easy to use and CANNOT DO HARM. It will analyze the cardiac rhythm and only apply a shock if it is necessary. The shock may restore normal rhythm and be life-saving. Visit this website for a demonstration of the use of our specific model <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMhSWnuOST8> (unfortunately includes advertising and promotion).

If someone present is competent at airway management and the resuscitation effort continues, rescue breaths should be added - 2 breaths every 30 compressions until emergency services arrive. There is an airway mask in our emergency kit with the AED.

Remember

- ask someone to call 911
- ask someone to fetch the AED
- start compressions
- shock

And **you** may SAVE A LIFE



This depletes the battery, and the audio instructions will not proceed beyond the first instruction to apply the pads. (Correct skin contact prompts the machine to go to the next set of instructions). The pads are expensive and can be used only once, so cannot be used for practice.

Profile – Brian Rice – Game Director

Where were you born? I was born in London, Ontario.

Where did you go to school? I attended Wortley Road Pubic School and South Collegiate High School. I was a proud product of the Wortley Village before it became expensive and trendy.



What was your first job? Following in my sister's footsteps, I worked for three summers at Clevelands House in Muskoka. I spent the next two summers working in recreation at the Salvation Army children's Village, which really helped me in my teaching career.

What job did you hold the longest in your working career? I was a high school geography teacher from 1976 to 2005.

In How Many Cities Have You Lived? I've lived in London with the exception of a bizarre 13-year exile to Wallaceburg where I became very involved in local politics and community activism.

What was your best vacation? The best one is hopefully yet to come. Before Covid, we got addicted to cruises and went on seven.

How old were you when you first started playing bridge? Despite the fact that my family was Baptist, we played a lot of cards, but not on Sundays! My first game of bridge was when I was 13 and my sister needed a partner against my parents.

How did you find LBC? I played duplicate bridge once in the 70s and vowed that once I retired it was the game for me. I got so involved that I was invited to the LBC founding group where Dwight, Al, and Sue had already done more work than I could ever comprehend.

What motivated you to become a game director? At the former Bridge Fokes, Richard Fokes was often away and also did not like 9 a.m. games. He had confidence in me and knew I could get up in time for the morning games so he asked me to start directing. When a friend and I went to Toronto to take the game-directing course, we had no money so we took a Boler trailer (the smallest trailer to ever exist), parked it behind the bridge club, and slept in it overnight. When a few senior members of our club discovered our "hotel", we had to admit that we had no running water and thus, no showers.

What has surprised you most about becoming a game director? I am still surprised that people want to “over-benefit” from opponents’ sloppy mistakes. They forget that the score will unbalance the results for everyone else in the room.

What has been your most challenging call as a director? Before the declarer begins the play, we must always repeat the final bid/the contract, especially if it makes no sense. Two strong players watched a newcomer double 3 Diamonds because that player mixed up the red and green cards. I ruled that it must have been a mechanical error since few people double that contract. Three players agreed but the declarer blew up and said he would “get even with me”. Thankfully we now have the LBC.

What is your favourite part of being a director? In sports, I ran dozens of track meets and basketball tournaments. I love to see things move smoothly. I never dreamed I would run my own game on Mondays at a local church, but I demanded Alerts and was able to stop strong players from deceiving weaker pairs.

What do you like best about LBC? Bruce, Tom and company do so much preparation and work and I just show up and turn on the machines. LOL. Seriously, we have brought in so many talented leaders and workers. We are a remarkable and inclusive democracy.

Tell us about your hobbies. I like to sing and I’d like to see us bring back our LBC Christmas party. For the past 12 years, I have directed bridge at the Westmount Presbyterian Church, having taken over a well-established bridge community started and run by Mrs. Parks until she passed away.

What would people be surprised to know about you? I was once a top hurdler in Ontario. I placed 2nd in Ontario in high school hurdling and I once got to run at Maple Leaf Gardens. When I was a hurdler at McMaster, I was ranked 4th in Ontario. I also played football and rugby for McMaster. Imagine me with 30 fewer pounds and you’ll get the picture. Also, I have partnered with over 400 people at the bridge table.



You’re probably not aware of how distracting finger tapping/drumming can be during a bridge game.

Please make sure you don’t cause distractions while you deliberate your next play.



In Case You Have Forgotten...

(More about etiquette and protocol at the bridge table)

(an excerpt from [LBC's Code of Conduct](#) first printed on January 14, 2018.)

Tip 13 – PSYCHIC BIDS

- Psychic bids – bids which deliberately misrepresent the player's hand – should never be used against a weaker pair, and only rarely in a club game, since they can unfairly affect the results.
- The Laws prohibit psychic bids which are the subject of a partnership agreement – either explicit or implicit e.g. based on previous practice.
- LBC does not permit deliberate psychic bids in limited-point games.
- A bid that misstates the value of a hand by 3 points or fewer, or the length of a suit by one card is not a psychic bid. (See discussion re Law 40 in Duplicate Decisions.)

Tip 14 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

- There are a few common, standard bids which are to be “announced” by the bidder's partner before the next player bids:
 - If partner opens 1 No Trump, announce your agreed point range, e.g. “15 to 17.”
 - If partner bids Diamonds or Hearts as a Jacoby or Texas transfer after your No Trump bid, say “Hearts or Spades.”
 - Announcement bids are printed in blue on the convention card blank.
 - “Forcing”, “semi-forcing” and “may be as short as 2” are other common announcements.
 - You should pick up the “alert” card and touch it to the table or tap it against the bidding box when making an announcement, to ensure that the opponents are aware of the announcement. This is especially important if one of the others at the table is hard of hearing.

Tip 15 – ALERTS – PART 1- ALERTING

- Several bids are to be “alerted” by the bidder's partner before the next player bids.
- The alert is required by the Laws of Duplicate Bridge so that the opponents are aware that the bid does not have its natural meaning.
- Alertable bids are printed in red on the convention card blank.
- When partner makes an alertable bid, say “Alert” while picking up the Alert card and touching it briefly to the table or on the side of the bidding box, to ensure that the opponents are aware of the announcement. This is especially important if one of the others at the table is hard of hearing.
- Do not volunteer an explanation of the alert until an opponent asks at their turn to bid or play.
- Several bids are now so commonly used that no alert is required. Stayman, the Strong 2 club opening & any 2 diamond response to it, Gerber or Blackwood and the responses to them, cuebids of a suit first bid by the opponents (e.g. Michaels, limit raises) or an immediate overcall of 2 No Trump (Unusual) are common examples.
- Conventional bids above the level of 3 No Trump, beginning with opener's first rebid, are delayed alerts. They are not alerted during the auction; declaring side alerts before the opening lead; defending side alerts after the opening lead has been made face-down, before the dummy is tabled.
- When in doubt as to whether a bid is alertable it is safer to alert it, even if you can't remember exactly what it means. Opponents are entitled to know that it may not be a natural bid.
- The ACBL publication Alert Procedures is available on the ACBL website www.acbl.org.

To Make You Smile

Aphorisms

- ❖ I read that 4,153,237 people were married last year. Not to cause any trouble...but shouldn't that be an even number?
- ❖ Relationships are a lot like algebra. Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?
- ❖ You know that tingly little feeling you get when you love someone? That's common sense leaving your body.
- ❖ My therapist says I have a preoccupation with vengeance. We'll see about that!
- ❖ I think my neighbour is stalking me as she's been Googling my name on her computer. I saw it through my telescope last night.
- ❖ Money talks...but all mine ever says is goodbye.
- ❖ If you think nobody cares whether you're alive, try missing a couple of payments.
- ❖ Money can't buy happiness, but it keeps the kids in touch.

Truisms

- ❖ I changed my password to "incorrect" so whenever I forget it the computer will say, "Your password is incorrect."
- ❖ I'm great at multi-tasking--I can waste time, be unproductive, and procrastinate all at once.
- ❖ Television may insult your intelligence, but nothing rubs it in like a computer.
- ❖ If you keep your feet firmly on the ground, you'll have trouble putting on your pants.
- ❖ Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
- ❖ I was going to wear my camouflage shirt today, but I couldn't find it.
- ❖ If at first, you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

Peter's Lesson



Hi everyone. I am happy to see so many at our Tuesday bridge Lab. All are welcome. Please join us.

Peter Tuttle

Eight Ever Nine Never

You may have heard the bridge maxim - when a player holds the Ace and King but not the Queen, she should go for the Queen to drop, if there 9 cards in a suit between her hand and dummy. However, with 8 cards try for the finesse.

However, a word of caution, pay attention to bidding clues to inform your play of the hand. Look at the following.

Bidding:

S	W	N	E
1 H	2 S	3 S	Pass
4 H	p	P	P

♠ QJT762
♥ 5
♦ 108
♣ K873

♠ A4
♥ A982
♦ A974
♣ 652

♠ K85
♥ KJT64
♦ 53
♣ A Q4

♠ 93
♥ Q73
♦ KQJ62
♣ JT9

The bidding tells us that West has a long spade suit indicating he may have few hearts. North's cue bid indicates a limit raise or better in hearts. South should consider that East might have 3 hearts to the Q. With this bidding clue the hearts are not as likely to break 2/2. It might be better to try for the Q finesse rather than hoping for the Q to drop on the A K even with 9 hearts. Take time to make a plan.

Joke of the Day

The first restaurant on the moon had great food
But no atmosphere.

