

July 23, 2023



London
Bridge Centre

Newsletter

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Members Brimming With Ideas

July 16 saw the teaching room of the club filled with 26 members eager to contribute their ideas to help continue to move the club towards a vibrant future. In addition, six members contributed ideas by email. The workshop was facilitated by Janine Higgins, who removed her 'president' and 'member' hats to serve the group in presenting and collating their ideas.

Vice-President Angie Francolini kicked off the morning with a welcome and some background. She explained that the club built a significant reserve during the pandemic as a result of the solid support of our virtual games by our members. Our healthy bank balance will support us for some time as we continue to rebound from closing our doors during COVID. That said, we still have a monthly shortfall, we have a modest rent increase coming next year and our lease expires in less than two years. Therefore, it is a good time to look for ideas to grow our club. The board will review the ideas put forward by this group and determine how to move forward.

Janine led the group through the 'consensus workshop method' in which participants' ideas were recorded on index cards, then posted to the wall and grouped by participants.

Finally, the group named the actions described by the grouped cards. The actions proposed by the group were as follows:

- 'Sell' the club through advertising and promotion
- Generate non-bridge income
- Reach out to new players
- Provide regular skills development opportunities
- Increase the fun and social interaction among members
- Attract new players through incentives
- Diversify the location of games and lessons
- Engage and involve members through enhanced communication
- Increase attendance of existing members

Virtual Club Games

LBC

Tuesday 9:15 Open

Wednesday 9:15 Open

Tillsonburg DBC

Tuesday 7:00 Open

LBC members welcome

A number of participants at the workshop indicated their willingness to assist with one of these actions.

If you have an interest or a relevant skill to assist with any of these ideas, we would love to hear from you. Remember, whatever happens at our club (other than directing games), happens because of volunteer effort. Contact Janine at janine@janinehiggins.ca or Angie at afrancolini@rogers.com and indicate how you can help out.



AN EXCITING DEVELOPMENT FOR UNIT 249 ONLINE PLAYERS!

ACBL has approved our request to “pool” the Unit 249 clubs that offer online games. This means that more local players have easy access to online games offered by London Bridge Centre (LBC), Grand River Bridge Club (GBRC, including Guelph), Tillsonburg Duplicate Bridge Club (with St. Thomas and Simcoe), and Bridge Over Troubled Waters (Goderich, Owen Sound, Kincardine, and Saugeen Shores). Players in these clubs can join any Unit 249 online games with just one click; they will all show up in your **“ACBL – North America” virtual club game list in BBO**.


The goal is to have bigger games, for both the enjoyment of the players and the financial health of the clubs. Game times for the Unit 249 clubs do not conflict with other clubs in the unit.



The coordinating group examined the various games currently being offered in the unit and felt that there was potential to add an open game. Consequently, the LBC will offer a Wednesday morning OPEN game at 9:15 am on a trial basis in addition to its current Tuesday morning open game.

PLEASE support the online games of our Unit 249 partners whenever you can. This was a joint effort of the London, Tillsonburg, and Bridge Over Troubled Waters clubs, initiated and ably executed by a team from the Grand River Bridge Club led by Lori Cole

Welcome to Online Games With Local Clubs in Unit 249!

Game offerings as of July 10/23. (Subject to change.)



On Track...  ...To Online 

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday		Open (1:00) Grand River	Open (6:45) Bridge Over Troubled Waters 499 (7:00) Grand River
Tuesday	Open (9:15) London	199 (12:30) Grand River	Open (7:00) Tillsonburg
Wednesday	Open (9:15) London	499 (1:00) Grand River	Open (7:00) Grand River
Thursday	499 (9:25) / 199 (9:30) Grand River		Open (6:45) Bridge Over Troubled Waters 999 (7:00) Grand River
Friday		Open (12:45) Bridge Over Troubled Waters	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> We welcome guests at our online games. </div>
Saturday		499 (1:00) Grand River	
Sunday	499 (10:00) / Open (10:05) Grand River		

To find our games on BBO go to “Virtual Clubs/All Clubs” and type in club name as shown. The first time you may need to click on “VACB” and tell our Director the BBO names of you and your partner, so that you may play in all our games.

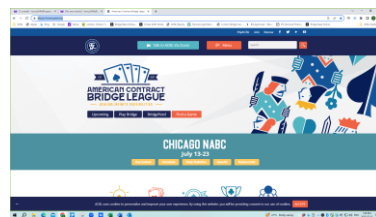
UPCOMING SECTIONAL TOURNAMENTS

A Sectional Tournament will be held in Tillsonburg on the weekend of August 12 and 13 and in Goderich on the weekend of August 26 and 27. A Sectional Tournament is an opportunity to meet and play bridge with other bridge players from clubs throughout southwestern Ontario, from Owen Sound, Guelph, Kitchener/Waterloo, Simcoe, Tillsonburg, St. Thomas, Chatham, Windsor, Sarnia, Parkhill, Goderich, Stratford, and Kincardine. A Sectional Tournament is funded and administered by your unit and hosted by volunteers from local clubs. All points awarded at Sectional Tournaments are SILVER which offers players a local opportunity to earn SILVER masterpoints towards their Life Masters.

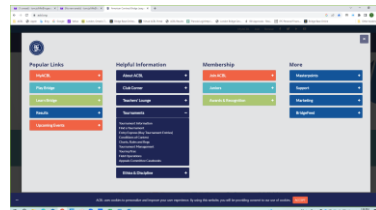
ACBL Introduces ONLINE REGISTRATION

For those familiar with Sectional Tournaments, game day registration usually involves a lineup to pay your game fees. No longer do you need to wait in line as ONLINE REGISTRATION is now available for our Sectional and Regional Tournaments.

To register go to <https://www.acbl.org/> and click on **Menu.**



Click on [Express Entry](#) under Tournaments



Then scroll to find your tournament and click on **Buy Entries.**

Once you have registered online for your pair or team, you will receive an email prior to the session indicating your seat assignment. No more lineups, simply go directly to your seat assignment. Fees for Sectional Tournaments have remained unchanged at \$12.50 per session.

See tournament flyers for further info.




Tillsonburg's Golden Leaf Sectional Bridge Tournament Aug. 12-13, 2023



Tournament Chair – Jed Drew Jed.Drew@gmail.com (519) 842-8786

Partnerships – Diana May dianamay@hotmail.com (519) 409-0560

<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, August 12</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Two-Session Stratiflighted Pairs</u> Single Session Entries Welcomed</p> <p>11:00 am & 3:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A-X Flight A: 3000+ X: 0-3000</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B-C-D Flight B: 1250-2000 C: 500-1250 D: 0-500</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I/N Flight A: 200-300 B: 100-200 C: 0-100</p> <p>Pairs flight eligibility is based upon player with highest masterpoints. Stratification within flight is based upon average masterpoints</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, August 13</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Swiss Teams</u> Two-Session Play-Through</p> <p>10:30 am / TBA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A/X Swiss Teams Open to all players</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B/C Swiss Teams No player may exceed 2000 masterpoints</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♣♥♦♠</p> <p>Two Strats in each event based on average masterpoints</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COVID-19 Protocols</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All participants must be fully vaccinated according to Health Canada guidelines at least 14 days in advance of the event. • Proof of vaccination is required. • All participants must have been COVID-free for at least 7 days and they may not have been in close contact with anyone known to have COVID within the last 7 days. • Masks are optional – with proviso that if any player requests masks to be worn, then all players at that table will be required to comply. Thus, you should be prepared to wear a mask. • Hand sanitizers will be readily available and participants are encouraged to use them. <p style="text-align: center;">These protocols are subject to change in order to comply with current directives from the Province and/or SouthWest Health Unit.</p>
<p>Entry Fees: Pairs \$12.50 per player per session. Teams \$100 per team.</p> <p>ACBL Members with Less than 5 Masterpoints receive one FREE session on Saturday.</p> <p>Players 25 years and younger play for \$5 per session.</p> <p>To participate in this tournament, players must be an ACBL member in good standing.</p> <p>Non-ACBL members are welcome and will receive a complementary temporary ACBL membership.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Westfield Public School 102 Dereham Drive Tillsonburg, ON N4G 0G5</p> <p>This beautiful building is fully handicap-accessible, with a spacious playing area and excellent lighting.</p> <p>Smoking is not allowed <u>anywhere</u> on school property. <i>(If you are smoking we will treat you as if you are on fire!)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Map and Driving Directions on the Reverse Side of this Flyer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Free Coffee and Snacks Throughout Catered Lunch Available On-Site Daily - \$12</p> <p>Individually Packed Deli Lunch Plate including potato, macaroni and cole slaw salads, cold meats, bun, boiled egg, celery and carrots, pickles, disposable cutlery and napkin. Drink included</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Host Hotel 92 Simcoe Street, Tillsonburg</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Phone directly to the Hotel to receive a 10% discount rate: 1-866-942-7366</p>	



Goderich Sectional

August 26 – 27, 2023

Knights of Columbus Community Hall
390 Parsons Court
Goderich, ON N7A 4K3

Saturday, August 26, 2023

The Percy Sheardown Open Pairs Sessions 1 and 2: 10:30 am and 3:30 pm

(Stratifications A: 1500+, B: 500-1500, C: 0-500)

Single Session entries available

0-299 Pairs Two Single Sessions: 10:30 and 3:30 pm

(Stratifications A: 200-299, B: 50-200, C: 0-50)

Sunday, August 27, 2023

Swiss Teams: 11:00 am and TBA

Two Session Play-through

A/X Swiss Teams - open to all players

B/C Swiss Teams - no player may exceed 2000 masterpoints

Entry fees: \$12.50 per person per session

We will not be providing a lunch option but will have a longer lunch break so that people can make their own arrangements at local restaurants.

Tournament Chair

Jennifer Verdam-Woodward

woodwardj@compassminerals.com

Partnership Chair

Doug Elliott

dougelliott51@gmail.com

As per the ACBL's communication on March 15, 2023, we are currently removing the requirement that players must be vaccinated to attend. Please be aware that we must follow the ACBL's policy for tournaments, and any such requirement could be reinstated if that policy changes.

Please also note that while masks are not required by law, players must still be courteous to one another. If a player requests that others at their table wear a mask covering their nose and mouth, we expect that this will be done. Refusal to comply with these requests will result in removal from the tournament. Please bring a mask with you. There will be masks available for those who forget.

EDUCATION

We have had a busy Spring season with Beginner courses, Bridge Basics II and III, and Intermediate courses, Advancing your Game and Balancing. All received rave reviews. Lost and Found was well attended and appreciated after each Thursday afternoon game. 5th chair teaching continues online with many active groups.

Thanks for your feedback about the courses. We would love to hear from more participants – currently, there is about a 50% response rate to the surveys. The feedback helps our teachers plan the course content and pace. It is also helpful to receive requests to teach a specific subject. Such requests can also be forwarded at any time to me or to a teacher.

To give you a heads-up for the Fall, here are the preliminary plans

A Taste of Bridge	September 24
Lost and Found	September (Thursday after the afternoon game)
Bridge Basics I	October 3 (Tuesday a.m.)
Bridge Basics III	October 12 (Thursday p.m.)
Advancing Your Game	October 26 (Thursday a.m.)

Later in the year, we hope to offer

Play of the Hand

Defense

Jacoby 2NT and 4-way transfers

Course details and registration will appear soon on the website.

Alison Marr, Education Committee

NEW RANK ACHIEVEMENTS

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

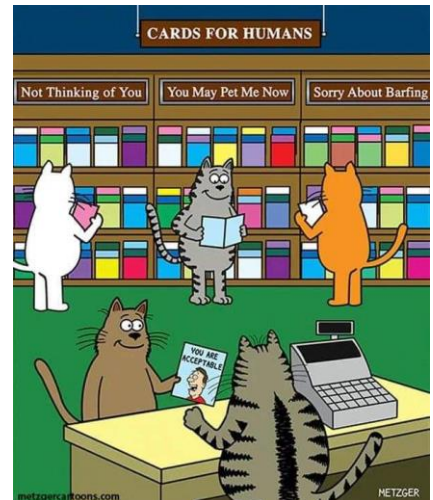


New Junior Master
 New Junior Master
 New Junior Master
 New Club Master

David Lee
 Mary Wells
 Ann Young
 Laurence Burt

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

TO MAKE YOU SMILE





In Case You Have Forgotten...

(More about etiquette and protocol at the bridge table)

(an excerpt from LBC's Etiquette and Procedures Tips.)

Tip 40 - DISCUSSION WITH PARTNER

- If you need to discuss an agreement with partner you should step away from the table (even if you are North-South). This should preferably be done between rounds and only if time permits. You may not discuss agreements during the bidding or play of a hand.
- Do not discuss previous hands either at the next table or when the next pair arrives at your table. They may be playing the board later.
- If you have a sit out, you and your partner should use your library voices while visiting. Better yet, move away from the playing area to have a chat so that you do not disturb the other players. It is amazing how voices carry when the room is quiet.

Tip 41 - "DIRECTOR PLEASE!"

- A director oversees all aspects of a bridge game and has absolute authority during the game (Laws 81, 90, and 91). Call the director promptly if there is an irregularity. It's her job to make the game fair for everyone.
- It is good practice to say to the other players at the table "I would like to ask for the director's guidance in this situation." Then "Director Please!" and raise your hand.
- Do not shout "Director!" as soon as an opponent's card or bid lands on the table. It will sound like "Stop thief!" to the offender and those around you.
- Remember you are calling the director for the other players, not on the other players.
- Even if you know the applicable rule, call the director. The director may be able to point out options of which you are not aware, and the other players will not be wondering whether you have the rule exactly right.

Tip 42 – WHEN THE DIRECTOR ARRIVES

- When the director arrives and says, "How may I help?", the player who called should first describe the reason for the call--without interruption. The director will then ask the other players if they have anything to add. Keep voices quiet and calm; ("Just the facts, ma'am."). The director can only listen to one voice at a time.
- The director may ask one of the players to step away from the table with her. This is done so that the director can ask questions, the answers to which might give unauthorized information to that person's partner if overheard.
- If the director makes a ruling that you feel is in error, do not argue. If you think that there's a relevant fact that the director is missing, point that out gently; "Did I mention that the contract was Five No Trump?"
- If you still feel the ruling is in error, accept it and get back to play. Speak privately to the director later or after the completion of play to ask for an explanation of the relevant law. If the ruling was in error, the director may decide to adjust the scores.
- Director rulings that involve judgment may be appealed. Just ask the director to review the ruling with a committee. If at all possible, this will be arranged promptly following the completion of play.

Peter's Lesson



In the early days of Covid, I decided that a bridge column might be a good way to help my Tuesday group stay connected to London Bridge Centre. We are now enjoying a wonderful group on both Tuesdays and Saturdays at LBC. Hence, I have decided that the LBC Newsletter bridge column is ready for renewed energy and focus. I am pleased to let you know that Judi Waters and her support team will continue to contribute articles to the newsletter for your enjoyment. Many thanks, Judi.

Thanks to Adele Woolfe, Al and Sue Edwards and Penny Finneron for proofreading and editing my columns. I hope to see you all at the club. Thank you for reading my columns.

All the best,
Pete

My favourite Bridge columnist of all time is B. Jay Becker. When he passed away in 1994, his son carried on the tradition. The Becker bridge column is designed to be entertaining as well as instructive. It features hands that are gleaned from tournaments, classes, books, and other sources. The point of each column is to make the reader feel he or she has learned something that will improve their game, while not being heavy-handed or overly technical. B. Jay met his wife at a tournament in Toronto when he was 69. From that time on, his columns often featured 'Sylvia hands'. His work could be read in the Toronto Star and the New York Times. This month, I have decided to feature one of my favourites. Click [here](#) to read about Becker's contributions to bridge.



With thanks to Mr. Becker.

Bridge & Humor: An Incredible Hand by B. Jay Becker

Ludington Daily News – 5 Mar 1970

<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; background-color: #e0f0e0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: right; margin: 0;">W</p> <p>♠ 4</p> <p>♥ T 9 6 5 4</p> <p>♦ Q J 8 7</p> <p>♣ 7 5 3</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; background-color: #e0f0e0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: right; margin: 0;">N</p> <p>♠</p> <p>♥ Q J 8 7 3 2</p> <p>♦ T 9 6 5 3 2</p> <p>♣ 9</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; background-color: #e0f0e0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: right; margin: 0;">E</p> <p>♠ A K Q J T 9</p> <p>♥ 8 7 6 5 4 3 2</p> <p>♦</p> <p>♣</p> </div>																					
<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; background-color: #e0f0e0; padding: 5px;"> <p>South dealer.</p> <p>Both sides vulnerable.</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; background-color: #e0f0e0; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: right; margin: 0;">S</p> <p>♠</p> <p>♥ A K</p> <p>♦ A K</p> <p>♣ A K Q J 10 8 6 4 2</p> </div>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>7♣</td> <td>TRF.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>TRF.</td> <td>TNT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>TRF.</td> <td>TR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	7♣	TRF.	Pass	Pass	TRF.	TNT	Pass	Pass	TRF.	TR	All Pass			
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It was the best hand I ever held. Quietly, without fanfare, I opened with seven clubs. West passed, and so did dear partner, but East bid seven spades. This was very disturbing, but there was little left for me to do except double. West passed, and so did partner, but East came to life with a vibrant redouble. Now I have known East for many years, and a more conservative bridge player you have never seen. When he redoubles, – you can dismiss all thoughts of beating the contract. You have no idea how cautious this man is. He always wears suspenders in addition to a belt. Alongside him, Casper Milquetoast would look like an absolutely, reckless individual. I was getting ready to lead, when all of a sudden the thought struck me that East must have thirteen spades. In a flash I saw the way out. I backed my judgment and bid seven no trump. West couldn't have a spade and I had thirteen tricks with any other lead. When East doubled, I was so carried away by my brilliant deduction that I redoubled. When West opened the four of spades I could hardly believe my eyes. East took it with the ace, followed with the king, and then, with fiendish delight, cashed his spades, one by one. Never have I been more miserable. With every trick East took, I winced. The biggest set in history was taking place, down thirteen – 7,800 points. The word would get around. I could never live it down. With a final flourish, East played his last card—the four of spades. Suddenly, it hit me. This was the same card West had led originally. Something was wrong. My anger mounted. My anguish sought to express itself, but I couldn't get the words out.

Just then a familiar voice said, "Wake up, dear, and stop groaning, for heaven's sake. You have to write tomorrow's column." So here it is.

