

February 25 2024



London  
Bridge Centre

Newsletter

*Inside this Issue:*

**Saturday Morning Game,  
Swiss Team/Wine &  
Cheese**

Page 2

**Extra Points,  
LBC on Social Media,  
Club Closure**

Page 3

**Thank You,  
Membership Reminders,  
Barbara Seagram Returns**

Page 4

**Volunteer Needed,  
Welcome New Members**

Page 5

**Education**

Page 6

**Negative Doubles**

Page 8

**In Memoriam**

**Virtual Club Games**

**Wednesday, 9:15 Open**

**Wednesday, 6:30 Open**

**Tillsonburg DBC**

**Tuesday 7:00 Open**

**LBC members welcome**

## LBC Introduces a New Online Game

Too dark, too cold, too snowy, don't want to get out of your PJs, then why not stay home and join in LBC's new evening online game?

Beginning **Wednesday, February 28, at 6:30**, we are starting a second online game.

Our Wednesday morning online game has been quite successful with an average of six or seven tables most weeks. Even with our online morning game, several members have been requesting another evening game. As well, results from our survey last fall indicated that a similar number of players prefer an evening online game to a morning online game. Now, with the establishment of our morning online game, the board has decided to offer an online evening game to our members.

The fee will be the same as the morning game at \$5US and the session will be an open game.

The board also wishes to introduce a limited masterpoint online game as well and will definitely strive to achieve this objective in the future. For those wishing for a limited masterpoint game, please be patient as we will continue to build our online presence and strive to expand our range of online game options.

Please consider playing in either our morning or evening online game. Other online venues offer a wide variety of games that the LBC is unable to match. Choosing to play at the LBC is very appreciated by the LBC board and contributes to the ongoing sustainability of the London Bridge Centre. The adage 'Use It or Lose It' comes to mind. Please support the LBC whenever you can.

Need help getting back online, then please contact Tom Jolliffe at [Tom.jolliffe@rogers.com](mailto:Tom.jolliffe@rogers.com).

Start planning now, line up a partner, and join us at the virtual bridge table on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. Players are reminded to sign in at least ten minutes before game time.

## CHANGES TO THE SATURDAY MORNING GAME

The 0 - 20 game on Saturday mornings at 9:30 has now been extended to a 0 - 50 game. This game aims to provide the experience and confidence to help you move into higher-ranked duplicate bridge games.

Also on Saturday mornings, we will continue to provide a Practice and Play session from 9:30 to 11:30 for those who want to further their skills in contract bridge. We provide mentors and you can ask questions about all aspects of bidding and play.

Please join us. You may come on your own or with a partner.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 3 - SWISS TEAM GAME @ 1 P.M.

Put this date in your calendar and join us for some Swiss cheese and wine! (Bring your own wine, glasses supplied).

For those not familiar with Swiss teams here is a quick description and a [link](#) to learn more. The game is played with four-member teams (two pairs of players to a team). You pay your entry fee and fill out a four-person entry form, naming one as captain of the team. Your team will be ranked by your team's total masterpoints.

You play in a head-to-head competition just like duplicate bridge. The difference in Swiss Team is that your N-S pair plays the E-W pair from another team and their N-S pair plays your E-W pair.

Sign up at the club. Full team sign-ups are encouraged. Those who sign up as a pair will be matched with other pairs if possible. The **deadline to sign up a team is Friday, March 1** at midnight.

There is no point-level qualification, just make up a team!

The cost is \$8, for four rounds of six boards.

The game will award points as 50% red and 50% black.

Please join us for a fun team game!



**DON'T MISS OUT ON POINTS!**

Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaC) - Silver points awarded at all face-to-face games - **March 4 to 8.**

Club Championship Week - Extra black points awarded at all face-to-face games - **March 16 to 22.**



The London Bridge Centre is now on Facebook and Instagram! Follow us on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#) for all the latest updates, event announcements, and exclusive behind-the-scenes peeks into our community. Whether you're a seasoned player or just starting, our pages are the perfect place to stay connected!

But wait, there's more! We want YOU to be a part of our online journey. Share your favourite moments from lessons, practice sessions, or game days at our centre. Tag us in your photos or send them directly to be featured on our pages!

**MARCH 23 - CLUB CLOSED**

London Bridge Centre will **NOT** be available to bridge players on **Saturday, March 23** as the facility has been rented to a third party.

However, Peter Tuttle will hold **Practice and Play and the 0 - 50 game** on **Sunday, March 24** at **9:30** for those who are able to come.



In this series, we wish to acknowledge the contributions of the volunteers who enable the successful running of our club.

This month consider the many aspects of our financial operations - weekly bank deposits, cash management, accounting, bill payments, insurance, tax returns, business and website licenses, and much more.

We thank our team of **Al Edwards, Tom Jolliffe, Sue Edwards, Kate Brooks, Henry Pryzsiezny, and Jim Stewart.**

## MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS

New memberships can be purchased at any time during the year not just during our annual membership drive. This year the Board of Directors decided that any new memberships purchased within three months of the end of our fiscal year (July 31st) will not expire until the end of the next fiscal year. So, if a new membership is purchased for \$50 in May, 2024, it will be valid until July 31, 2025.

Please make sure that your contact information in Pianola is up to date. We have been getting a lot of bounced back emails from members lately. To update your information, click on the person icon in the top right corner in Pianola, scroll down to "My account". This will take you to your information where you can check it for accuracy and make any necessary changes.

Finally, there have been a couple of instances lately where members haven't been receiving any information from the club. Turns out the members blocked us as spam. If your friends or partners aren't hearing from us have them reach out so we can check this out. Pianola has a way to unblock us.



LBC's great friend **Barbara Seagram** will be returning on Wednesday, May 22! Plans for the event are being developed and include a teaching session in the morning and a game in the afternoon. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the organization or at the event, please contact Al Edwards at [al.edwards@bell.net](mailto:al.edwards@bell.net). We look forward to another great day of bridge learning with Barbara - and her husband Alex Kornel plans to join her on this visit!

## VOLUNTEER WANTED TO TEACH BRIDGE

Grigg Snyder, the Convenor of the Bridge Group at the Horton Street 50+ Centre and Co-Chair of the Advisory Committee for that organization is seeking a volunteer to teach bridge to their members and guide other Level Basic 1 players. The games are on Mondays from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Music Room at the Boys & Girls Club, 184 Horton Street, London.

Grigg can be reached at 226-663-5014 or [gsny67@gmail.com](mailto:gsny67@gmail.com) if you are able to help.



## Fragrance Sensitivity Awareness



Please be aware that several people at LBC have noted that fragrance causes irritation with their allergies and breathing issues. Please avoid the use of grooming products (perfume, aftershave, hand lotion, some makeup) that contain fragrance when at the bridge club. Thanks!

## WELCOME!

The following individuals have joined the club in the past few months; please make them feel welcome:

Eleanor Huang  
Mike Kellestine  
Khalil Rayman  
Andrew Szemeredy

Jill Jeffery  
Steve Malcolm  
Catherine Ross

## EDUCATION

### A Taste of Bridge at London Bridge Centre



Saturday, March 16

9:30 to 12:30 p.m.

Unit 9 - 1106 Dearness Drive



**Preregistration is required by Wednesday, March 13**

Click [here](#), to register online.

*A Taste of Bridge* is an introductory session for people who are considering learning to play this popular card game. No prior bridge experience is needed. In three hours, we aim to show how much fun the game can be and hope you will see what a challenging and interesting game it is. Come alone or bring a group to the event. All are welcome. **There is no fee but registration is required.**

For further information contact:

Sara Ellis [ellis.saraj@gmail.com](mailto:ellis.saraj@gmail.com)

# Beginner Bridge Lessons

Looking for a new hobby?

Learn to play bridge!



**Bridge Basics One** is an introductory course to the game of bridge that covers basic terminology, bidding, card play and defense.



**COST: \$120 plus text**

**Sessions: 8**

**Date: Saturdays, April 6 to May 25**

**Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Registration: Online at [www.londonbridgecentre.ca](http://www.londonbridgecentre.ca)**

**Questions: Contact Jane King @ [jane914@yahoo.com](mailto:jane914@yahoo.com)**

**Location: London Bridge Centre**

**1106 Dearness Drive, Unit 9**



## Negative Doubles - Part 2

In this issue we look at responses you can make when partner opens one of a minor and your right-hand opponent makes an overcall in hearts. Surprisingly, your opponent has helped, rather than hindered, your bidding.



### ***How does the opponent's heart overcall help your bidding?***

You can now differentiate between holding a four-card or a longer spade suit. Make a negative double with four spades but bid one spade if you have 5 or more spades.

- e.g. 1♣ - 1♥ - Double (I have 4 spades partner, and some diamonds or clubs.)  
 1♦ - 1♥ - 1♠ (I have 5 or more spades partner.)

When you make a negative double over the opponent's heart bid you **guarantee** four spades. Generally you should have 4+ cards in the other minor, or in partner's minor. The negative double showing a four-card spade suit can also be used when your right-hand opponent pre-empts two or three hearts.

### ***How many points are needed to make a negative double?***

- If the opponent's overcall is at the one-level: 6, 7 or more HCPs.
- If the opponent's overcall is at the two level: 8, 9 or more HCPs.
- If the opponent's overcall is at the three level: close to an opening bid.

*There is no upper point limit for a negative double. It can be made with 15, 20 or even more HCPs.*

### QUIZ (Write down your answers before reading the answers we provide)

Partner opens 1♣ and right-hand opponent overcalls 1♥. What would you bid?

- |              |           |             |           |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| A.           | B.        | C.          | D.        |
| ♠ K J 10 4 3 | ♠ A K 7 2 | ♠ K 10 9 2  | ♠ A Q J 2 |
| ♥ 4          | ♥ 7 3     | ♥ 6         | ♥ 8       |
| ♦ 8 7 6 4    | ♦ A 5 4 2 | ♦ A 3 2     | ♦ A Q 7 6 |
| ♣ 5 3 2      | ♣ 10 5 4  | ♣ J 8 6 5 2 | ♣ A J 4 3 |

Partner opens 1♦ and right-hand opponent pre-empts 2♥. What would you bid?

- |             |           |           |            |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| E.          | F.        | G.        | H.         |
| ♠ A J 9 5 2 | ♠ A 9     | ♠ A Q 3 2 | ♠ A J      |
| ♥ 6 2       | ♥ A Q J 9 | ♥ 3       | ♥ A J 10   |
| ♦ 7 6       | ♦ 6 5 2   | ♦ K Q 9 8 | ♦ 10 9 8 5 |
| ♣ A Q 3 2   | ♣ 6 4 3 2 | ♣ K J 3 2 | ♣ Q J 7 3  |



**Answers to the Quiz:**

You will not always agree with our answers. The important question to ask yourself is, “Why don’t I agree?”. Then ask a person, whose opinion you respect, what they would bid and why.

- **1♠.** Close. Yes, you only have 5 points (4 HCPs plus one length point) but it might be your last chance to tell partner that you have five spades. Also, you want partner to lead spades on defence. Bidding aggressively generally pays off.

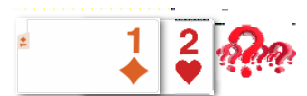


B) **Double.** You have both unbid suits. However, freely bidding 1♠ would show 5+ spades, and you do not have enough HCPs or length to bid diamonds at the two-level.

C) **Double.** You have four spades and enough HCPs to make a negative double at the one level. If partner bids 2♦ then you will have to bid 3♣. It might be too high, but you will have a fit.

D) **Double.** There is no upper limit for a negative double. However, you cannot bid spades at the one-level holding fewer than five spades. Your first goal is to try for a 4-4 spade fit before playing the hand in a minor suit or No Trump. Your next bid should be hearts, showing shortness, strength and trying for slam.

E) **2♠.** This bid shows 5+ spades and 10+ HCPs. Your next bid could be difficult. Depending on what partner bids, do you have enough for game, and where?



F) **Pass.** A double here is negative, showing 4 spades. If you double, partner will take it out, probably to spades (maybe 4♠ if she holds four of them). What happens when you pass? You hope partner will ‘Balance’ with a double and you will happily pass. You might be tempted to bid NT with hearts stopped. However, 3NT is not a certainty, and a juicy penalty will probably be a top board. Understanding the concept of ‘Balancing’ is important as you progress in your bridge skills.

G) **Double.** You want to be in at least game, but which game? If possible, you want to play in a 4-4 spade fit whenever partner has four spades. If not, then you want to play in No Trump if partner has hearts stopped. After partner’s response to your negative double, be sure to bid game.

H) **3NT.** You have opening points, two heart stoppers and enough to be in game. 3NT is not guaranteed but probably is the best chance for game rather than five of a minor. Remember: Diamonds are for your finger!



## *In Memoriam*



We are sad to announce the passing of Brad Boyle, a world-class bridge player who played at LBC until his health prevented him from doing so. You can read Ken Bowlby's tribute to Brad [here](#), and his obituary [here](#). Our condolences go out to his family.