

April 17,  
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  |
| Saturday  | 1:15 | 0-200 |

**Tillsonburg DBC**

Tuesday 7:00 Open

**LBC members welcome**

## REMINDER - MORE FACE-TO-FACE GAMES RETURNING NEXT WEEK

Our **Monday afternoon Open game** returns this coming **Monday, April 18 at 1:00 p.m.** Registration is required and can be found [here](#).

Numbers are still low for our Monday morning game (in person). Registration is required and can be found [here](#).

Please note that the **Thursday morning 0-100 MP virtual game** has been phased out. Please join us at the club on **Thursday afternoon for the 0-100 MP game**. Our Thursday afternoon games return next **Thursday, April 21 at 1:00 p.m.** This includes the **0-100 MP game** and the **0-1500 MP game**. Registration is required and can be found [here](#).

**Registration is no longer required** for the Tuesday afternoon Bridge Lab and the Friday afternoon Open game.

Please refer to our [website](#) for up-to-date information on all of LBC's face-to-face and virtual games.

**REMEMBER - All LBC COVID protocols apply - proof of double vaccination is required and masks must be worn at all times. No snacks or drinks are provided, so bring your own beverage.**



## Join or Renew Your Membership



June 30th is the NEW end of Our Membership Year

In the past, our membership year was from October 1 through September 30. During the COVID-19 closure, all memberships were extended at no cost and both members and non-members paid the same game fee. We've had many requests recently about buying or renewing memberships. As a result, our new membership year will be from July 1st to June 30th. Our membership fee has not increased and will remain at \$30.00 per year for the foreseeable future.

**Current members** may renew their memberships online using the e-transfer feature of their financial service provider. **New members:** Membership Application forms are available at the club or you may print the [Member Application](#) form and bring it to the club or mail it to the club with a cheque (if you don't use the e-Transfer feature). E-transfer instructions are available on our [website](#).

### Benefits of Membership at LBC

Members of London Bridge Centre pay game fees of \$7 while non-members pay game fees of \$9. Since our return to face-to-face games, everyone (members and non-members) has paid a \$7 game fee. After our new membership year begins on July 1st, all non-members will pay a game fee of \$9. For the best value, it's recommended that you renew or purchase your membership before July 1st.

Members are provided with a nametag and have access to Pianola software for tracking, analyzing and accumulating their personal history of play at the club and using the Partner Finder function. We are a non-profit and member-owned club and all members are encouraged to participate in governance of the club.

## Barbara Seagram's Workshop a Big Hit



On April 8, sixty people were treated to an entertaining and educational workshop on 'Killing Defence' given by Barbara Seagram. Barbara's approach was to let us bid and play a hand and then ask 'how many declarers made their contract'. When almost every declarer put up their hand she would say 'oh dear' and then walk us through what we as defenders could have done to put down the contract. Sometimes this

involved signalling our partner, sometimes it involved remembering the bidding to draw assumptions about what was in partner's or declarer's hand. The lessons suited players at every level and participants gave Barbara a huge round of applause at the end of the workshop.

On her way home from Florida, Barbara stopped at a number of clubs to give workshops, without charge. Her goal was, firstly, to help clubs who might be struggling financially to get a bit of a boost, and secondly, to get people back to the bridge table who might not have ventured out to a face-to-face game. While our club values the revenue from the event, the best part was that approximately half of the attendees had not been back to the club since it reopened. Hopefully those players will see their way back to duplicate games or the Bridge Lab, especially as we bring back the Monday afternoon open and Thursday afternoon 0-100 and 0-1500 games.

Barbara exhorted all of us to stay to play in the games that afternoon. She told us 'a once a week player is always a weak player' and said that we needed to play three times a week to improve. Barbara followed her own advice and stayed to play with her husband Alex in the Friday afternoon open game. (They came first!)





## AN OPPORTUNITY TO WIN GOLD, RED, SILVER, AND BLACK MASTERPOINTS AT LBC

Participating clubs in ACBL District 2 (Ontario, Manitoba & Bermuda) will host a district-wide FACE to FACE **sectional tournament at clubs** (STaC) from April 25 to May 1. In recognition that players have not had the opportunity to travel to tournaments in this district for the last two years, this STaC differs from normal STaC games in that the points awarded will be split **25% gold, 25% red, 25% silver, and 25% black**. This is a great opportunity for players to receive pigmented points without having to travel to a major regional or national tournament.

All in-person games at the LBC from **April 25 to April 29** will be run as STaC games, at no extra charge. Enhanced points ultimately awarded to those who place in the club game will depend on the number of clubs participating in that specific time slot with similar point range restrictions. The points initially awarded will be silver; when all STaC sessions are completed, ACBL will convert the awards to gold, red, silver and black.

LBC games for the Royal STaC are as follows:

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| April 25 | Monday Morning 0-500, Monday Afternoon Open |
| April 28 | Thursday Afternoon 0-1500 and 0-100         |
| April 29 | Friday Morning 0-500, Friday Afternoon Open |

Tillsonburg, St. Thomas and Simcoe are also running STaC games for their in-person games that week.

## STARDUST WEEK FOR ONLINE GAMES APRIL 25 TO MAY 1

### Win gold and black Masterpoints®

Stardust Week's coming and with it your chance to double your winnings. No need to change your routine, just play in your usual Virtual Club game on BBO. There's no need to register. Just turn up and play.

### What's special about Stardust Week?

You'll learn double regular Masterpoints® in the Virtual Clubs, and points will be 1/4 gold, 3/4 black! For more information click [here](#).

## INTERESTING READINGS FROM BBO

Dealing with Mistakes – [Click here](#)

Cheating at Bridge – [Click here](#)

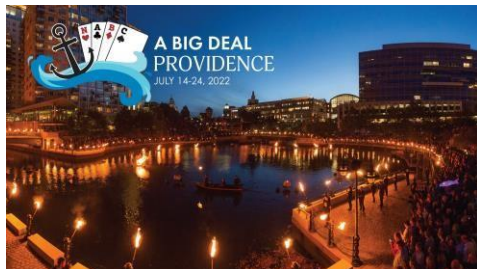


## News from the ACBL



Click [here](#) to access the latest news

### An Exciting Bridge Event for Newer Players!



The year's biggest bridge event – the [Summer North American Bridge Championships](#) – will soon be here, and you're invited! Did you know that an NABC is one of the best tournaments a newer player could attend? Even though the name may sound intimidating, you'll find a welcoming space with plenty of events and games for players with 0-300 masterpoints!



### THE PERFECT GETAWAY

#### Caribbean - Roundtrip Miami

on Royal Caribbean Symphony of the Seas

**October 29 - November 5, 2022 from \$2229 pp**

ACBL Sanction # pending

[Details](#)



### Toronto SUMMER Regional - Delta Hotel Toronto Airport July 5-10

Interested in being a caddy at the tournament? Or have a teenage family member who would like to caddy? Interested caddies, please email [darlenescott@me.com](mailto:darlenescott@me.com) for more information and provide information about yourself and the dates you would be available.

**1st Canadian Youth Bridge Online Summer Camp** for students in grades 5 - 12. [Details](#)

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITY



**In person classes are starting up again with Bridge Basics 1 beginning May 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Bridge Basics I** is a general introduction to the game of bridge that includes basic terminology, bidding, and card play. This course is designed for individuals with no bridge experience or for those who are returning to bridge after an extended absence from the game.

See the [website](#) for more information.

When: Tuesday afternoons at 1 – 3 p.m. Dates: May 3 to June 21, 2022 (8 sessions) Cost: \$125 plus cost of materials

Please follow the latest Covid-19 protocols at the club.

Register directly with Barb at [kjobrien@sympatico.ca](mailto:kjobrien@sympatico.ca); the deadline to register is April 29, 2022



## LIBRARY UPDATE



Now that our club is up and running again and the library is also accessible, we would like to account for all items which have been out on loan over the past two years. Please search your bookshelves and return any borrowed books as soon as you possibly can. Thanks very much!



## **Profile – Fiona Woytowicz - Board Member and Co-Librarian**

*Where were you born?* Nakuru, Kenya

*Where did you go to elementary school?* Bridge of Don, Aberdeen.

*What was your first job?* Well, one of the first more interesting ones was grouse beating on the Perthshire hillsides. I possessed the required skills of being able to walk slowly through the heather while waving a white flag.

*What job did you hold the longest in your working career?* During my career, I taught in Glasgow, Ayr, Duncan B.C., Vancouver, and finally London, Ontario. The longest held was the position I retired from at the School for the Arts.

*What was your best vacation?* A grand family reunion in the Dordogne. We had sole occupancy of an ancient chateau complete with winding stone staircases, grand banquet hall, dungeons, etc. That plus the charm of the region, made for a memorable week.

*How old were you when you first started playing bridge?* Only began playing after retirement - which explains a lot!

*How did you find LBC?* Any 'kitchen bridge' group worth its salt eventually begins mentioning the club. And before you know it, you are attending Peter's Tuesday afternoon sessions and then becoming enticed in to early competitive play. And the rest is history!

*What motivated you to become a Board member?* I was made an offer I couldn't refuse! Tough to say 'no' when you realize the benefits already received and that it was time to start giving back.

*What has surprised you most about being a board member?* I am more impressed than surprised by the degree of commitment of the Board, to serving the needs and requirements of all members from the newest to the longest standing, and from the complete beginners to the most experienced.

*What have you found most challenging?* Most recently, addressing the issues around reopening and resuming face to face play while maintaining a balance with the on-line play which many members have been enjoying.



*What is your favourite part of being a board member?* Being in touch with how the club operates and what decisions have to be made. I am also glad to be assisting in the operation of our club library.

*Tell us about your other hobbies.* Fewer than I used to have. Now, indoors - reading and outdoors - gardening and walking.

*What would people be surprised to know about you?* Nothing too much to report, but there was a time when I choreographed a few musical productions.

## NEW RANK ACHIEVEMENTS

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



|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| New Junior Master    | Thomas Conway      |
| New Junior Master    | Joanne Cowan       |
| New Sectional Master | Sandra Letton      |
| New Sectional Master | Ray Stanfield      |
| New Regional Master  | Gillian Richardson |

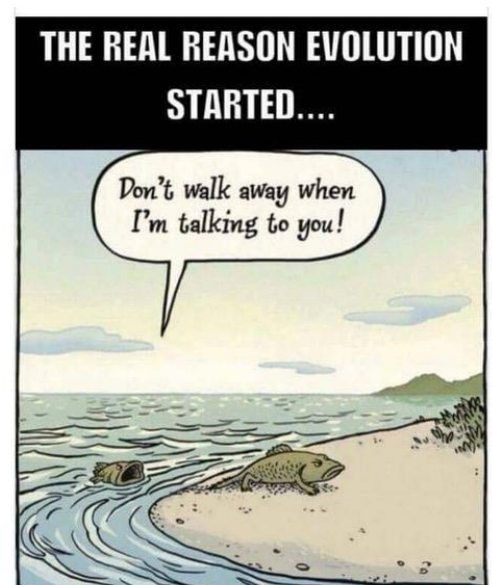
**Please note:** There can be a delay of about two months before rank achievements are confirmed by ACBL and reported to LBC.



## TO MAKE YOU SMILE



YOU KNOW WHEN  
YOU BUY A BAG  
OF SALAD & IT  
GETS ALL BROWN  
& SOGGY?  
  
COOKIES DON'T  
DO THAT



## Peter's Lesson

Peter Tuttle



Hello everyone. It has been tremendous to see some of you on Tuesday afternoons at LBC.

### To X-Ruff or Not to X-Ruff

The contract is 6 hearts in the South and the opening lead is a spade. Count your losers.

- No hearts
- 1 club
- You have 2 tricks in diamonds but then some losers.
- You can win 1 spade but then you are in trouble.
- Diamonds and spades will require ruffs.

♠ A 8 7 6 4  
♥ A Q 7 6  
♦ K  
♣ 7 4 2

N

♠ 3  
♥ K J 9 8  
♦ A 8 7 4 2  
♣ A K 8

S

If you call your trump at the outset, you have several losers. You should consider playing the hand as a **cross ruff**. Once you begin there is NO plan B. You must stay the course. Take 30 seconds to make the decision carefully. Consider the following:

- Shortness on both sides of the board
- Losers on both sides of the board
- Quick tricks (winners) in your side suits
- Sound trump suit to prevent opponents from over-ruffing

**KEY for SUCCESS: CASH YOUR SIDE SUIT WINNERS FIRST!**

Win the A of spades. Cash the K of diamonds. Play small club to the A, K of clubs. Then play the A of diamonds dropping the club loser in North. Continue to cross ruff, using the small trump cards first and higher ones later. Voilà at least 12 tricks!

### Joke of the Day

What happened when the dog went to the Flea Circus?  
The dog stole the show!





## *In Memoriam*



We are very sad to say goodbye to Dave Dorrance, a member of LBC since its inception and a stalwart at the Wednesday night games.

Dave was a gentle and kind man whose wit, smile and gracious style brightened the room. Long time dear friend and bridge partner, Sam Hassan, described him as a joy to play with. He never missed the Wednesday night games or the regional tournaments. You might remember him for his Hawaiian shirts which he wore to remind himself of his many travels. Our condolences to his wife, Joan, and family. For further information, please [click](#).