

*April 23, 2023*



*London  
Bridge Centre*

*Newsletter*

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**Virtual Club Games**

**LBC**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9:15</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9:15</b>	<b>0-1500</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9:15</b>	<b>Open</b>

**Tillsonburg DBC**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Open</b>
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**LBC members welcome**

## Fee Changes Coming

At our annual meeting, members expressed concern about the club's financial situation. At that time, we indicated that we had a healthy bank balance which provided a financial cushion for the time being, and that we would monitor the situation and make recommendations after some time had passed.

We initially resisted increasing our fees since we didn't want to deter people from returning to the club. Thankfully, the number of tables has been slowly increasing so our revenues are rising. However, financial analysis indicates that we need to make a change. A projection of revenue and expenses suggests a loss of \$36,000 this year and \$32,000 next year assuming a gradual increase in the number of players. Even if we return to full pre-pandemic table numbers, increased costs (rent, utilities and ACBL, and directors' fees) would leave us in a deficit position.

We looked at other clubs and found that Grand River (Kitchener) and Guelph, both member-owned, not-for-profit bridge clubs, charge members \$8 per game (\$10 for non-members) and \$70 annually for membership.

The board, therefore, voted to increase game fees to \$8 as of May 1 and the membership fee to \$50 as of July 1. Non-members will continue to pay \$2 more for games. Since we need the full game fee to break even, the board also decided to discontinue the discount for multiple ticket purchases but rather continue to sell tickets as a convenience to members. The \$40 package will now contain five tickets.

Be assured that the board is working on cost reduction and revenue generation. For example, a programmable thermostat was installed to help reduce utility costs. A recent telephone campaign to encourage non-renewing members to return to the club resulted in more than 65 people renewing their memberships.

We hope you will cheerfully accept these increases to game and membership fees. The \$7 game fee has been in place since the opening of the club despite cost increases.

The board will continue to monitor the club's financial situation. It is possible that another fee increase will be required in the future. To avoid this, please play more often and encourage your friends to take lessons and play at the club. ☺

## Changes to Virtual Game Schedule

Due to the declining number of players, the board has decided to discontinue the Monday evening virtual game. The **last game will be on April 24**. We hope lots of past regulars will give this game a good send-off.

The Wednesday morning limited-point game also has declining numbers. We recognize that some regular players have 'graduated' and are no longer eligible to play in an under 500 game. We are therefore increasing the point limit for this game to 1500, lining up with the point limit for our popular Thursday afternoon game. If you are interested in playing online on Wednesday but could not qualify, now is your chance. The **increased point limit will begin on April 26**.

**April 24-30** virtual club games are all Silver Linings -  
Silver points at no extra charge to players!

## BARBARA SEAGRAM RETURNS TO OUR CLUB TUESDAY, MAY 2!

As announced in LBC's March 26 newsletter, Barbara Seagram will be at LBC on Tuesday, May 2 with a session on "To Win, Ruff or Duck". Details are on the LBC website [here](#). Registration is required through the website by April 29. Barbara will have her bridge books and tip sheets available for purchase. Cash or personal cheques; we are unable to accept credit or debit cards. Proof of Covid vaccination is required. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to develop your declarer skills!



## May 7 Social Sunday – Individual Game

Many of you are probably asking yourselves, what on earth is an individual game; surely bridge is a game of partnerships.

In an individual game, you change partners throughout the day. In between rounds, we will give you a minute or two to identify what conventions you want to play. The person who knows or wants the fewest conventions/simplest system prevails.

Points will be awarded based on cumulative individual results.

The purpose of an individual game is social – it is intended to help you get to play with people you might not otherwise meet. Lower-point players may play with higher-point players. We would like to promote the social element of our club – getting to play with different people is one way to accomplish this.

We would like as many members as possible to come out to this social game. Don't be shy!



The potluck part of this game is Wine and Cheese. Please bring your own plate and wine glass. As usual, we don't need everyone to contribute but hopefully, a number of you will do so.

There will be a sign-up sheet to say if you are planning to and to indicate if you plan to bring wine or cheese. Advance sign-up helps the director set up the game.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

Please remember the LBC is a perfume-free environment. Please be careful using scented grooming products, hand lotions, etc. Scents can cause serious health situations for some individuals.



## Fine Art Photography Auction for Ukraine

In May, we will hold a sealed bid auction of fine art photography prints of Janusz Adamus. Janusz is a club member and a professor of mathematics at Western, but also an avid landscape and nature photographer. You can check out his photography portfolio at [www.lenspresso.com](http://www.lenspresso.com). A selection of his images printed in large format on archival fine art canvas will be displayed during the month of May for club members to submit their bids in a silent auction. **All of the proceeds from this auction will be donated to support humanitarian aid for Ukraine, either through the Canadian Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal or the United24 charity.** The donations will be made in the name of the auction winner(s) if they wish. To learn more about the response to the humanitarian crisis generated by the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine visit [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca) and [www.u24.gov.ua](http://www.u24.gov.ua).



## LOOKING FOR A PARTNER?

Board members recently conducted a telephone campaign to reach out to former club members who had not renewed their memberships. One of the themes we heard was that a number of people were no longer playing because they no longer had a partner, whether because of illness, relocation to a different city, or COVID concerns. We have also heard from members at the club that they would like to develop additional partnerships, for example, because their usual partner is away seasonally or wants to play fewer games per week. We are also attracting new members who are looking for partners.

Janine Higgins has agreed to take on the role of partnership coordinator. If you are looking for a regular or even occasional bridge partner, please send her an email.

She would also love to hear from people who have regular partners but are willing to play an additional game each week or are available on an occasional basis.

Your email should have 'Bridge Partner' in the subject line and say your point level, what games you would like to play, and what systems or conventions you prefer. No promises that you will get matched with someone whose preferred convention card will look just like yours, but I will make some effort to match people with similar preferences. My email address is [janine@janinehiggins.ca](mailto:janine@janinehiggins.ca).

Please do not forget about Pianola's Partner Finder which is a great way to find a partner for a particular game on a particular day and which may help you find a compatible partner on an ongoing basis.

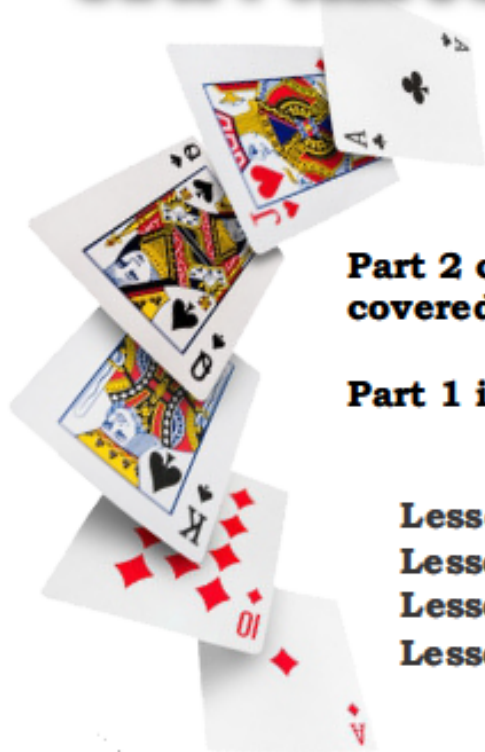
**Please welcome the following new members who joined the  
London Bridge Centre in March**

Janice Mayne  
Steve Mayne  
Elizabeth McCarthy

We look forward to seeing you at the bridge table!

EDUCATION

# Advancing Your Game Part 2



**Part 2 completes lessons 5 - 8 of the course that covered lessons 1 - 4 in October 2022.**

**Part 1 is a pre-requisite for enrolling in Part 2.**

**Lesson 5:** Preempts & Strong 2 Club Openers

**Lesson 6:** Overcalls

**Lesson 7:** Doubles, Redoubles & More

**Lesson 8:** Competitive Auctions

## Thursday Mornings 9:30 - 12:00

Part 1: Four weeks already completed

Part 2: Four weeks: May 11, 18, 25, June 1

*Note: Part 1 is a prerequisite for Part 2*

**Course Instructor:** Mary Howe

**Course cost:** \$60 plus \$12 for the Student Notebook/Text

Register at the London Bridge Center web page.

*Deadline for registration is May 1, 2023.*



# Bridge Basics 2

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

**"Adding more pieces to the bridge puzzle"**



## Course Topics:

- June 7: **Preemptive Opening Bids**
- June 14: **Overcalls and Advances**
- June 21: **Takeout Doubles & Advances**
- June 28: **Competitive Auctions**

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

## Wednesday Mornings 9:30 - 12:00

**Course Instructor:** Mary Howe

**Course cost:** \$60 plus the Student Text

Register at the London Bridge Centre web page.

*Deadline for registration is May 21, 2023.*

# Introduction to Balancing

Do you tend to defend more than you declare?  
Do your better opponents refuse to let you play hands at a low level?

If the answer is “Yes”, then maybe this course is for you.

This three week course is intended for those people who want to be competitive in the bidding, especially when the high card points are evenly distributed between North/South and East/West.



## Course Topics:

- June 7:** Balancing when the opponents find a fit and stop below 2NT.  
Responding to partner's balance.
- June 14:** Balancing when left hand opponent opens the bidding and there are two passes to you.  
Responding to partner's balance in the pass out seat.
- June 21:** Dangerous situations for balancing. Practice hands.

## Wednesday Afternoons 1:00 - 3:15

**Course Instructor:** Barry Onslow  
**Course cost:** \$50

Register at the London Bridge Centre web page.  
*Deadline for registration is June 1, 2023.*





### In Case You Have Forgotten...

(More about etiquette and protocol at the bridge table)

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

#### Tip 31 - AFTER THE HAND IS OVER

- Leave your cards in their neat line until all four players have agreed on the result of the hand (Law 65).
- If you need to go trick-by-trick to agree on the result, one player should lead the process. If necessary, call the director.
- North enters the result on the Bridgmate, then gives it to one of the opponents to verify the result.
- East or West should carefully verify that the board number, contract, declarer, and result have been entered correctly. It is much easier to correct an error on the Bridgmate before it is accepted.

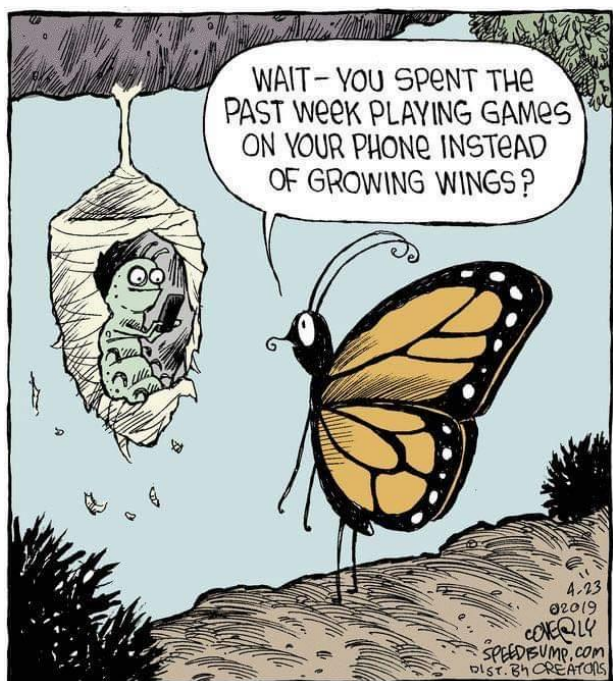
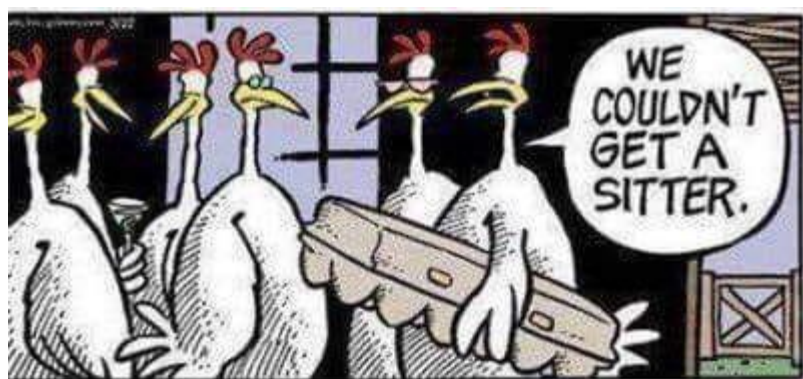
#### Tip 32 - AFTER THE HAND IS OVER

- Avoid reciting your hand or the results so loudly that you can be heard at the next table. Not only is it distracting to those players, but the board may be moving to that table, in which case you are providing unauthorized information which could prevent them from playing the board.
- You may not touch another player's cards during or after play without their permission. (Law 7)
- Avoid gloating over a good result. Comments such as "I'm glad you didn't find a heart lead" may sound like gloating to one of your opponents.
- Avoid fretting over a bad result. Doing so often causes another bad result, and makes it hard to be sociable – or to be a good partner.

#### Tip 33 - END OF A ROUND

- North passes the boards to the next lower table or asks someone at the table to do so.
- At the end of a round, the Bridgmates allow you to check the scores that have been entered during that round. The word "SCORES" will show in the bottom right corner of the screen. Pressing the small button immediately below that will show the N/S scores. If one is in error, call the director to correct the score.
- If the end of the round has been called and the next East/West pair is ready for your table, please vacate your seat so play can continue.
- If you are ready to move to the next round before the round is called, and the seats are available, do so quietly without disturbing other tables – but first make sure there is not a skip!
- If you are getting the boards you are about to play from the next table, you must avoid seeing any of the hands or exposed cards. Ask the players for "A board, please?" or ask the director or another player to get one for you.
- If visiting while waiting for the next round, use your library voice. Players who are behind will play even more slowly if it's noisy because it's much harder to concentrate.

## TO MAKE YOU SMILE



## Peter's Lesson



Please join us for  
Tuesday Bridge Lab  
Saturday Practice & Play

### Suit Combinations and Safety Plays

In the [last newsletter](#) and upcoming issues, we are exploring declarer play of the hand, keeping in mind the standard **odds** with common suit combinations. We will look at suits in isolation, not considering the rest of the hand.

The declarer is East and holds the following suit combinations between her hand and dummy (West).

A K J T 9 8    E

3 2    W

#### Example 1

Missing only the queen, you should lead small to the hand with the ace taking a first-round finesse of the jack. The finesse gains when North has the bare queen but loses when he has any of the four small singletons (four times as likely). However, if South holds the Q, the finesse fails.

A Q 9 2    E

5 4 3    W

#### Example 2

Needing three tricks, you should finesse toward the 9 first, then return to hand and finesse toward the queen. This improves your chances over a first-round finesse of the queen when South has J T.

A 3 2    E

K J 5 4    W

#### Example 3

Needing four tricks, play the ace first, then finesse to the jack. Needing only three tricks, play the king, then ace, then low to the jack. This gains when South has queen doubleton.

### Joke of the Day

Little Johnny says to his mother, "We are having a small PTA meeting tomorrow just you, me and the principal."





## *In Memoriam*



Susan Kime

Sue passed away at home on April 3, 2023, shortly after her husband's passing. Our condolences to her family. She was described as a wonderful cook and hostess, lively and generous, and a great deal of fun. She loved bridge and spent many hours at the bridge table here at LBC and The Hunt Club. For more information, please click [here](#).