

December 17, 2023



*London
Bridge Centre*

Newsletter

Inside this Issue:

Holiday Schedule
Online Game
Partnership Coordinators
Page 2

Welcome New Members
New Rank Achievements
Earn Extra Masterpoints
Page 3

Renting Our Space
Good Fairies
Page 4

Education
Page 5

Volunteer Profile
Page 9

To Make You Smile
Page 11

Judi & Gord's Lesson
Page 12

Virtual Club Games
Wednesday, 9:15 Open

Tillsonburg DBC
Tuesday 7:00 Open
LBC members welcome

**NEW YEAR'S POTLUCK
AND GAME
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7**

Mark your calendars now! LBC is hosting a potluck lunch on **Sunday, January 7, 2024 at noon**. This will be followed by a friendly open game which we hope will be attended by players of all levels.

Our potluck will include entrees, salads, and desserts. Please bring your potluck item (along with serving utensils). Tables will be set up in the teaching room for the buffet.

To reduce the amount of clean-up effort required, and to avoid using paper plates, we ask all attendees to bring their own plates and cutlery.

BYOB. A complimentary non-alcoholic punch and glassware will be available.

We will aim to begin the bridge game at 1:00 p.m.

Look for signup sheets at the front desk.

LBC HOLIDAY GAME SCHEDULE

The club will be closed:

December 23, 25 and 26

January 1

Open for all other regularly scheduled play.

The club is usually closed on Sundays (December 24 and 31).

LBC ONLINE BRIDGE RESUMES ON BBO

The London Bridge Centre has successfully resumed the Wednesday morning online BBO bridge game. Attendance was six tables on both December 6 and 13. During our recent survey, close to 100 LBC members indicated their interest in playing an LBC online game. While not all can play on a Wednesday morning, there continues to be a significant member interest in playing online.

If you are looking for an online partner or would like further information on LBC's online games, then please contact Tom Jolliffe at 519-639-2206 or Bruce Moor at 519-636-9411. Complete information about how to sign up and join an online game can be found on the LBC's website under [BBO Virtual Club](#). Hope to see you online.

PARTNERSHIP COORDINATORS

Last month the club introduced the new service of **Partnership Coordinators** to our membership. Approximately 15 individual game partnerships have since been arranged by your **Partnership Coordinators**. We are delighted to see our membership participate in this new service.

If you are looking for a partner then please feel free to contact one of our **Partnership Coordinators**:

- Tom Jolliffe for 0-500 games. tom.jolliffe@rogers.com 519-639-2206
- Ruth Edwards for 0-1500 games. bruth110286@yahoo.com 519-649-0897
- Janine Higgins for open games. Janine@janinehiggins.ca 519-439-5136

You may also use the Partnership Finder application in [Pianola](#) to help find a partner.

Partner away, don't delay! Contact your **Partnership Coordinator** and play.

WELCOME!

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

Barbara Alton
Marnie Button
Irene Hramiak
Bill Kime
Ana Maria Lema
Art Pluss

Lois Barney
Elizabeth Dale Kenney
Sharon Jansen
Marianne Lee
Bonita Magill
Janine Przysiezny

NEW RANK ACHIEVEMENTS

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



New Junior Master	Sheila Aston
New Junior Master	Jeanette Morgan
New Club Master	Ann Young
New Silver Life Master	Rashmi Garg

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



CAN I RENT SPACE AT THE LONDON BRIDGE CENTRE?

You most certainly can rent space at the LBC. The London Bridge Centre is an excellent facility to host club events, club meetings, condominium AGM's, social gatherings, or family celebrations. The club is accessible, has lots of parking, has kitchen facilities, has a sound system, three large screen monitors and of course, lots of tables. If you are a member of another club, then please consider the LBC as a venue to hold your club events.

Rental rates are posted on the website under [Member Info - Rent the London Bridge Centre](#). LBC members receive a 20% discount on posted rental rates. The club also offers a 20% discount for bookings of five or more rentals within a calendar year.

Help support the LBC and consider renting the facility.

Good Fairies



Last month we introduced our new hospitality coordinator Lorna Graham. This month we would like to recognize her team: Judy Brown, Deb Ellison, Gayle George, Jane King, Lydia Lee, Nancy Lemieux, Sally McHenry, Peter Tuttle, and Adele Woolfe, all of whom make sure a variety of refreshments are on hand for every game played at the club; and who leave everything spic and span afterward.

Also, a special thanks to new volunteers Gord Bryant and Dennis Hack who have taken on the job of garbage disposal; and to Gillian Richardson who continues to dispose of recyclable materials for us.

We so appreciate the willing contributions of these volunteers. But we are also aware of many other 'good fairies' - like Judi and Gord Waters who have been spotted with the carpet sweeper and Gillian Richardson who assists with room cleanup. Our warm thanks and appreciation to all.

EDUCATION

This month we would like to highlight Practice and Play on Saturday mornings.

Some of the people playing at this time are new to our club. A few have learned online and are playing face-to-face for the first time. Many are graduates of our beginner course. The players stay at one table with prepared boards with travelers to help them understand duplicate scoring.



The teachers and helpers provide lots of encouragement and opportunity to ask questions. The pace is slow and the atmosphere is relaxed. They also learn about how to use bidding boxes, scoring, and bridge etiquette. They meet other keen players and partners with whom they can continue their bridge journey.

Last month we added a 0-20 sanctioned game alongside the Practice and Play. The notion was that playing in a sanctioned game is daunting and many beginner players find it difficult to take that next step. This venture has been marvelously successful. The most recent game had six tables.



There is a core group of members that have made all this possible. Peter Tuttle and Adele Woolfe lead this program. Peter's approachable teaching manner and Adele's enthusiasm, warmth, and people skills make them a brilliant team. Marie Wiley, Reg Young, and Virginia and Henry Przysiezny regularly attend, quietly filling in spots at the tables, and offering advice when asked. Other teachers (Jane King and Hazel Hewitt) have volunteered their time in accompanying cohorts of their students in their first foray into the Saturday morning sessions.

On behalf of the Education Committee thank you all for your passion and commitment to nurturing the next generation of bridge players.

New helpers are welcome. It is fun and moreover, an education for yourself as it challenges your own bridge-playing decisions. If you are interested in helping please just come to one of the sessions or contact Peter or Adele (al.woolfe@bell.net) to ask when you are most needed. As our President recently noted, "It takes a village to build a vibrant bridge club".



2/1 Game Force

London Bridge Centre

Unit 9 - 1106 Dearness Drive

Please join Peter Tuttle on Wednesdays 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

January 10, 17, 24, 31, February 7, 2024

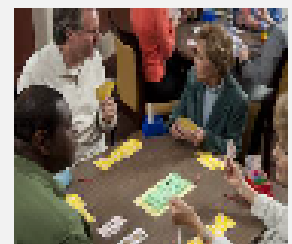
One of the most popular bidding systems is the 2-over-1 Forcing-to-Game system. It's an adaptation of Standard American with 5-card majors. The main difference is in the meanings of 2-level responses to an opening bid.

The advantage of the 2-over-1 system is that it saves bidding space. After making the initial 2-level response, responder doesn't have to jump to show forcing-to-game values. Because the auction can stay low, opener and responder have more room to exchange information below game level and more ways to investigate slam possibilities.

Cost of course: \$75 plus the cost of the text (approximately \$29)

Text: **2 over 1 Game Force** by Audrey Grant and Eric Rodwell

Register [here](#). The deadline for registration is January 3, 2024.



Bring friends!

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: Saturday mornings beginning Jan 13 2024

Time: 9:30 to 12:00

Registration: Online at www.londonbridgecentre.ca

Questions: Contact Barb O'Brien at theobriens181@gmail.com

Location: London Bridge Centre

1106 Dearness Drive, Unit 9



PLAY OF THE HAND Part I Winter, 2024



Play of the Hand, Part I reviews basic bidding and provides an opportunity to become more skilled at playing hands. It's an excellent follow up to Bridge Basics I or other beginner bridge courses.

Topics include planning the play in no trump and in-suit contracts, developing tricks through promotion, length, and finessing, and eliminating losers through ruffing and discarding.

When: Wednesday afternoons, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.
February 14 – March 13, 2024 (five sessions)

Where: London Bridge Centre, 1106 Dearness Drive, Unit 9

Cost: \$105 which includes the text *Play of the Hand in the 21st Century* (ACBL Bridge Series)

Instructor: Marie Wiley, Accredited Bridge Teacher, Life Master

For further information or to Register: Visit the London Bridge Centre website (londonbridgecentre.ca) or contact Marie Wiley (mewiley@rogers.com)

VOLUNTEER PROFILE – AL EDWARDS - TREASURER

Where were you born? Strathroy General Hospital

Where did you go to school? S.S.#6, Bosanquet – a one-room schoolhouse; then North Lambton Secondary in Forest, Ontario; followed by the University of Waterloo for my B. Maths (Hons Co-op). After graduation, I earned Fellowships in the Canadian Institute of Actuaries and Society of Actuaries through their joint education and examination program of qualification.



What was your first job? On our family farm, helping with farm chores of all kinds. The herd of pigs, with six to ten sows, was my special responsibility and helped finance my education.

What job did you hold the longest in your working career? My career at London Life (including Great-West Life and Canada Life in the later years) was officially 33 years, plus two years of co-op terms in my student days and several years of part-time after my formal retirement. I was Chief Actuary for 12 of those years.

In How Many Cities Have You Lived? Two cities (London and Waterloo), and one farm near Arkona, Ontario.

What was your best vacation? A family vacation to Tanque Verde Ranch near Tucson, Arizona when our two daughters were 13 and 10 years old.

How old were you when you first started playing bridge? 20, in university.

How did you find LBC? My wife, Sue, and I were part of the group that founded LBC in 2015.

What motivated you to become a board member? I was on the first LBC board for six years, including two years as President. I returned to the board to help with the challenge of regaining financial sustainability for LBC after the pandemic setbacks.

What has surprised you most about becoming a game director? Until I qualified as a game director in 2008, I only had a general familiarity with the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. It's amazing how intricate they can be as they try to cover the various possible scenarios that might arise at the table! And the Masterpoint system gets complicated as it tries to recognize vastly different playing situations fairly.

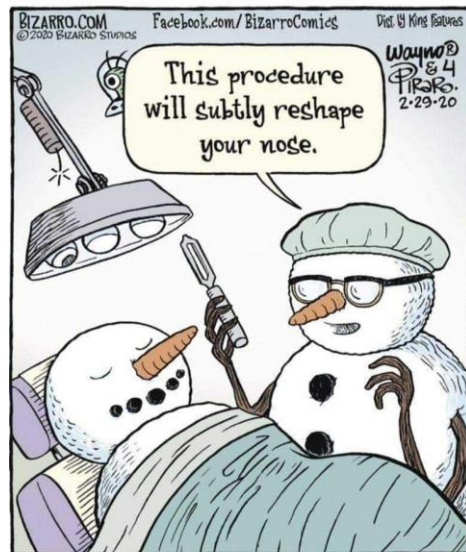
What is your favourite part of being a board member? Getting to know and work with the other board members as they contribute their perspectives and expertise for the betterment of the club.

What do you like best about LBC? The amazing amount of volunteer effort that our members willingly contribute to sustain the club.

Tell us about your hobbies. I am an avid golfer – which is why I am rarely seen at LBC in the summer months, an avid reader, and grandpa to two grandchildren.

What would people be surprised to know about you? My baking specialty is banana cream pie, following my mother's recipe.

TO MAKE YOU SMILE



FORGET IT, WE'RE
HERE FOR NEW NOSES...





A study in 2000 at The University of California, Berkeley, found strong evidence that an area in the brain used in playing bridge stimulates the immune system. Researchers suggest that is because players must use memory, visualization and sequencing.

Add to that - laughter, and we have the recipe for success at the Tuesday bridge lab.

Judi, Gord, Marie & Adele

Here is the hand that caused some consternation and then laughter.

♠ 8 6
♥ A T 8 3
♦ 9
♣ Q 9 8 5 4 2

Partner opened with one club.

Holding this hand responder wanted to pass. "No!! I'm not bidding one heart with 6 points."

Helper explained, "Yes, we respond with 6 points."

"O.K. I will but if I go down it's your fault!!!!" Then laughter.

Yes. Respond with 6 points at the one level.

Here are some hands to think about.

♠ 8 6
♥ A T 8 3
♦ 9 8 5
♣ J 8 5 2

5 points and flat

Yes, you can pass this hand.

♠ K Q T 9 8
♥ T 8 3
♦ 9
♣ 8 5 3 2

Although it is only 5 points, the length in the spade makes it worth a bid of one spade.

May your holiday season be full of laughter.

Fa la la la la, la la la la,