

January 28, 2024



London
Bridge Centre

Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Judy Stirling

Judy Stirling was President of the London Bridge Centre from 2019 until 2021 and served as a board member from 2018 until 2024. She was a mentor, a keen bridge player, an artist, and a champion of our bridge community. Please see the full [In Memoriam article](#).

Welcome to 2024!

The London Bridge Centre community gathered on Sunday, January 7 to celebrate the new year. Over 68 members and friends enjoyed a potluck meal (including roasted turkey - thank you Sam Hassan!) and Gillian Richardson's secret non-alcoholic punch/cocktail. Have a look at the [photos](#).

Gayle and I set up the tables and decorations on Saturday. The Practice & Play and 0-20 participants SQUEEZED into the teaching room (10 tables!). Laurie Tuttle and Sheila Aston scored a **75.22% game!** Wow! Many of us have played for decades without achieving a 70% game.

We successfully relaunched a virtual Open game on BBO every Wednesday @ 9:15 a.m., and are in the planning process to introduce a second virtual game. Together with rising face-to-face table counts, we are optimistic, but not yet in a financially sustainable position.

Our Taste of Bridge and Bridge Basics 1 courses are well attended. These courses are often an introduction to our club. Many of our students become members and continue to advance their game through the Practice & Play and 0-20 game offerings. The LBC recently signed up 10 new ACBL members - an impressive milestone!

Virtual Club Games
Wednesday, 9:15 Open

Tillsonburg DBC
Tuesday 7:00 Open
LBC members welcome

In an effort to expand our reach, the board has approved the launch of social media. We have hired New Leaf Collective to handle our digital media efforts which will include Facebook, Instagram, and Search Engine Optimization of our existing website. If you have special expertise in social media and would like to get involved, please contact me directly.

As a reminder, there is a suggestion box at the front desk. Our pizza + bridge social is in response to a member suggestion - we welcome your ideas.

On behalf of the board, thank you for supporting the London Bridge Centre!

Angie Francolini

PIZZA + BRIDGE

Our next Sunday social is on **February 4**. We will be serving free pizza. Please join us at **noon** for the pizza social; the game will begin at **1 p.m.** Look for the sign-up sheet at the Front Desk - we want to make sure we order enough pizza.



IF THE WEATHER OUTSIDE IS FRIGHTFUL...



If a game is cancelled due to weather it will be posted on the LBC website. Before leaving home please check the LBC [home page](#).

NEW RANK ACHIEVEMENTS

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



New Junior Master
New Life Master

Frances Fletcher
Graeme Tindale

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

WHAT ARE MASTERPOINTS ALL ABOUT?

If you're new to bridge you may be wondering what everyone's talking about. How do you earn points? Are all points the same? Check out an explanation of everything masterpoints related on our [website](#).

FELICITATIONS TO FACILITY FACILITATORS

A multitude of aspects comprise the responsibilities of our Facilities Manager - **Tom Jolliffe**. With the help of Les Wroblewski and Dwight Bender, he monitors our internet, phone, website, utilities, water cooler, and cleaning services. He sees to facility rentals, fire inspections, security systems, unit 249 storage, and more.

Dwight is responsible for ongoing landlord relations and maintenance of our sound systems and projectors.

Tom is also assisted by **Gayle George** in the washroom checks and supplies, **Gord Bryant** and **Dennis Hack** in garbage disposal, **Bruce Moor** in computer issues, **Gillian Richardson** in recycling, and **Fiona Woytowicz** and **Marion Gamble** as librarians.

Fine friends fashion a fabulous facility!



HAPPY NEW YEAR CELEBRATION ON JANUARY 7



EDUCATION

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) follow-up

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.**

For further information contact:

Sara Ellis 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

Questions: Contact Jane King @ janeaking914@yahoo.com

Location: London Bridge Centre

1106 Dearness Drive, Unit 9



Negative Doubles – Part 1

Over the next three newsletters we will introduce Negative Doubles. Larry Cohen uses a better term: "Takeout Doubles by Responder" since the double is for takeout when partner has opened the bidding. It generally shows the unbid suits, and it ALWAYS shows the other major.



How and when is the negative double used?

Partner opens the bidding in one of a minor suit, right hand opponent overcalls, and you have a hand that is good enough to make a bid, but you have no suitable bid to make.

e.g., partner opens 1♣ and right-hand opponent bids 1♠. A negative double from you guarantees at least four hearts and some diamonds, or clubs.

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.

In this issue we will examine what to do after partner opens one of a minor and right-hand opponent overcalls in spades.

Practice your bidding with these sample hands:

Partner opens 1♣ and right-hand opponent bids 1♠. What would you bid with each of these hands? Record your responses prior to reading the answers on the next page.

A.

♠ 9 4
♥ K J 4 3
♦ 8 7 6 4
♣ 5 3 2

B.

♠ 7 2
♥ K Q 7 3
♦ A 5 4 2
♣ 10 5 4

C.

♠ 2
♥ K J 8 6
♦ Q 3 2
♣ J 8 6 5 2

D.

♠ 2
♥ K Q J 8
♦ A Q 7 6
♣ A J 4 3

Partner opens 1♦ and right-hand opponent pre-empt 2♠. What would you bid with each of these hands?

E.

♠ 5 2
♥ A Q J 8 6
♦ A J 7 6
♣ 3 2

F.

♠ A Q 10 9
♥ A 6
♦ 6 5 2
♣ 6 4 3 2

G.

♠ 2
♥ A Q 10 3
♦ K Q 9 8
♣ K J 3 2

H.

♠ A Q
♥ A 3 2
♦ 10 9 5
♣ Q J 7 3 2

Answers: Bridge players don't always agree on bidding sequences. If you do not agree with our answers, ask yourself why, then ask a person whose opinion you respect how they would bid and why they would bid that way. Bridge discussion is good!

A) Pass. Not enough strength to bid.



B) Double. You have both unbid suits, but not enough HCPs or length to bid a suit at the two-level.

Bidding 2♥ in this auction would show a five card (or more) heart suit, while a negative double shows four hearts.

C) Double. On the borderline, but you do not want the auction to go 1♣, 1♠, P, P, P. If partner bids 2♦ after your negative double, then you will have to bid 3♣. It might be too high, but your partnership has a good club fit.

D) Double. You cannot bid hearts at the two-level without five or more hearts. There is no upper limit for a negative double, but it does guarantee four hearts. You want to try for a 4-4 heart fit before playing the hand in a minor suit or No Trump. Also, should you be in game or a slam? Your next bid will probably be a cue bid in spades to show a hand that has extra values and an interest in slam.

E) 3H. With five or more hearts and a good hand bid 3♥. This is a forcing bid that partner cannot pass. At this level you show almost an opening bid or more.



F) Pass. When you are playing negative doubles, you cannot make a penalty double with this hand. If you double, partner will assume that you are showing four hearts and some clubs, so you must pass. But what will happen if you pass 2♠? You hope partner will re-open with a 'Balancing' double and you will pass.

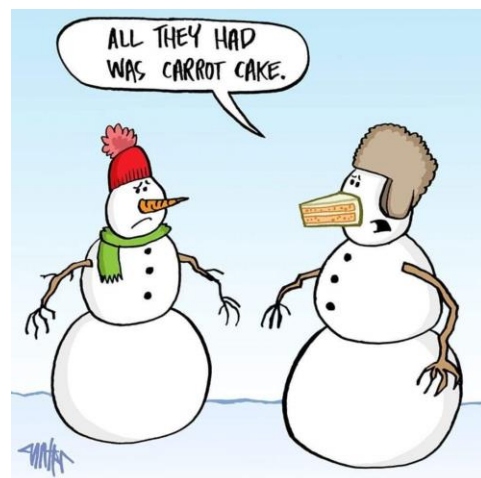
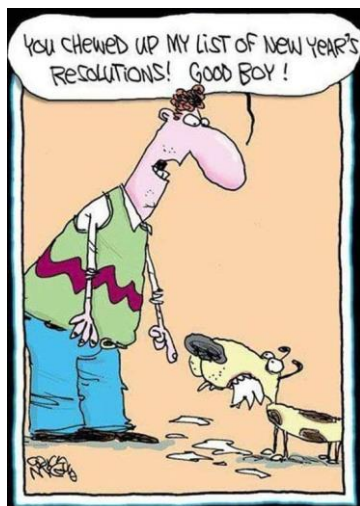
G) Double. You want to be in game, but don't know which game. Partner will bid hearts with a four-card heart suit. If not, then No Trump, clubs or diamonds will be partner's next bid and you should consider cue bidding spades to show a hand that has extra values, an interest in slam and shortness in spades.

H) 3NT. You have opening points, two spade 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.

In the next issue we will look at what to respond when partner opens a minor, and right-hand opponent overcalls in hearts.

Written by *Barry Onslow & Mary Howe*

TO MAKE YOU SMILE



ASK DWIGHT

Friday Afternoon January 5, Board 9

With the strong two-suited (literally!) North hand, do you open 1S and risk hearing 3 passes; or 2C and hope to tell partner about both suits somehow? How should the auction go after the opening bid? At our table the auction started with 1S by North followed by East bidding 2NT showing both minors. What auction(s) do you recommend?

| North | | D | NV |
|-------|----------------|---|----|
| ♠ | A J 10 8 7 5 2 | | |
| ♥ | A K Q J 8 3 | | |
| ♦ | | | |
| ♣ | | | |

| West | V | East | V |
|------|------------|------|-----------|
| ♠ | K 6 3 | ♠ | 4 |
| ♥ | 6 5 | ♥ | 7 4 |
| ♦ | 7 6 5 | ♦ | K J 9 4 2 |
| ♣ | Q 10 9 5 4 | ♣ | A J 7 3 2 |

| South | | NV | HCPs |
|-------|------------|----|------|
| ♠ | Q 9 | | 15 |
| ♥ | 10 9 2 | | 5 |
| ♦ | A Q 10 8 3 | | 9 |
| ♣ | K 8 6 | | 11 |

Amazing hand! First of all, I would open 2C since I have game in my own hand. Assuming the opponents pass throughout a reasonable auction would be:

2C – 2D (waiting)
 2S – 3D (natural)
 3H – 4H
 5C – 5D
 6H – P

Opener North should be showing at least 5/5 in the majors when they rebid 3H. Hence responder South can raise to 4H with 3 card support in hearts. North should continue with a 5C control cuebid as does South with 5D. Since South has denied 3 card spade support by bidding 3D North jumping to slam in hearts seems a strong favourite.

In the second scenario when East bids 2NT showing both minors after a 1S opening, South should make a card-showing double while denying 3 card spade support. The likely auction will be:

1S - 2NT - X - 3/4/5C

6H - P - P - P

The interference bid of 2NT in fact should help the opponents get to the slam in this case. Because of the double by South, North knows that partner is highly unlikely to have 3 card spade support, otherwise they would raise spades. They also know that South has values and bidding 6H asks partner to either pass or correct to 6S with equal preference to both majors.



Exiting Laughing - a wonderful play about the lasting friendships formed at the bridge table. A few bridge friends from the London Bridge Centre attended on Saturday, January 20.



In Memoriam

Judy Stirling



Our dear friend Judy Stirling died on January 9.

Judy was passionate about bridge and devoted herself to learning all she could about the game. She also committed herself to supporting the club, as a very effective and hard-working president from 2019 until 2021, by attracting and nurturing new players, and by being quick to volunteer wherever help was needed. Her loyalty was further expressed by the donation she left to the club in her will.

Judy excelled at all she undertook - as a tennis player on the junior circuit, as the creator of a warm and welcoming home, in her profession as a psychotherapist, and more recently in her exploration of art where over a few brief years she became an accomplished artist. We remember a kind and generous soul, one with a fine sense of humour and an ability to get to the heart of the matter, whether it be a complex issue at the board or an intimate personal conversation. She had clarity of vision. She weathered her lengthy illness with grace and dignity, never complaining and determined to make the most of her remaining time.

She left her mark on many lives and will be sorely missed. Our condolences go to her family, Rob, Jeff and Tom. A celebration of life will be held in the spring.

To read her obituary please click [here](#).

In Memoriam Continued

Margaret Fenlon



One of Marg's greatest pleasures was her passion for bridge, progressing from a social to a competitive duplicate bridge player, where she became an ACBL Life Master. Marg was a regular player at LBC until 2018 when her health forced her to give up playing. She was an initial investor when the LBC was formed.

To read her obituary please click [here](#).

John Stoffman



It is with great sadness that we pass on the news that Dr. John Stoffman died on January 23. He had some health issues lately but had recently been able to play at the club. We will miss John's dry sense of humour, and his calm and gentle presence at the bridge table.

To read his obituary please click [here](#).