



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – April 22, 2024

Click [here](#) to access our regular game schedule.

Looking Ahead

- ♥ **Tonight's Friday night game (April 19) has been cancelled** due to the Gatlinburg tournament.
- ♥ Don't forget our special 19er online game Sunday mornings at 9:45 am.
- ♥ Cindy Mahn will be giving a mini-lesson on **Slam Bidding (Suits)** at the Monday morning bridge lab on April 22.
- ♥ April 22-28 is **Stardust games week.**
- ♥ **L'Otto begins** (see Mr. Bean)
- ♥ **[Buffalo Spring Sectional](#)**, April 26-28
- ♥ Lynda Burnett will be giving a mini-lesson on **No Trump Declarer Play** at the Monday morning bridge lab on April 29.
- ♥ As of April 29, **the Monday afternoon open game will switch to F2F.**
- ♥ **A new 299er F2F game will be launched on the same afternoon (April 29).**
- ♥ **749er POP UP GAME, Friday, May 3**
- ♥ Susan Lawton will be giving a mini-lesson on **Opening Leads (Suits)** at the Monday morning bridge lab on May 6.
- ♥ Liz McDowell will be giving a mini-lesson on **Balancing** at the Monday morning bridge lab on May 13.
- ♥ **Barbara Seagram** will show you how to take **[Tricks with Trumps](#)** at the Guelph Bridge Club on Tuesday, May 21.
- ♥ **[The Grand River \(Cambridge\) Sectional](#)**, May 25-26

Stardust Games - April 22 - 28

During the week of April 22 - 28, all GRBC games on BBO will be Stardust games. For an extra \$1BBO, 25% of your masterpoint awards will magically change to GOLD points. New this year, F2F games Tuesday, Thursday and Friday will be Stardust games where your extra \$1 will transform 25% of your masterpoint awards to GOLD!

Monday Afternoon 299er – April 29

You asked for it, now come and get it! The new Monday afternoon 299er game will start on April 29 at 1:00 pm at the club. Kevin, your director extraordinaire, is looking forward to seeing you there!

749er Pop-Up Game

The Friday May 3 749er game will be an ACBL Pop-up game. For an extra \$1, Dave Q will turn half of your masterpoint awards into RED points.

A Warm Welcome to Our Latest Members

- Daniel Day
- Rita Givlin

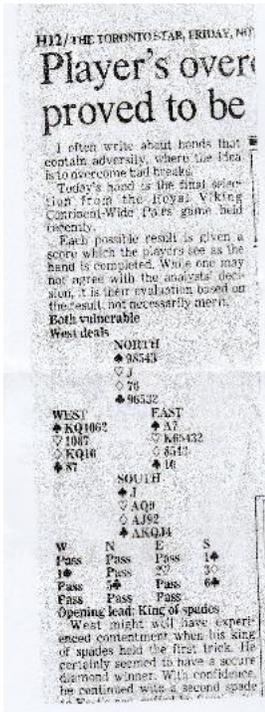
Royal Viking Continent-Wide Open Pairs

Contributed by Lissa Lowes

This week at bridge, my friend Gail Payne handed me a photocopy of a bridge hand and asked that I look at it and try to solve it. It was the hand and the beginning of the analysis of a hand from the *Toronto Star* November 4, 1988. It was not complete because she had actually been photocopying an article about how to care for poinsettias and this came along with it.

I read the introduction and saw that it was from the Royal Viking Continent-Wide Open Pairs competition. I had never heard of it so I turned to Google. This was a continent-wide event celebrating the 50th anniversary of the ACBL, and sponsored by Royal Viking Cruise Lines. The 36 deals in this collection were played September 15, 1987 in the Golden Anniversary Pairs. Scoring was by "Instant Matchpoints," which meant players got their matchpoint score from a predetermined chart immediately after playing each deal. An unusual attraction was that "gold" masterpoints — until then attainable only at large tournaments — were awarded at the local level.

Here is the hand in case you have trouble reading it.



North Deals	♠ 9 8 5 4 3
None Vul	♥ J
	♦ 7 6
	♣ 9 6 5 3 2
♠ K Q 10 6 2	♠ A 7
♥ 10 8 7	♥ K 6 5 4 3 2
♦ K Q 10	♦ 8 5 4 3
♣ 8 7	♣ 10
	♠ J
	♥ A Q 9
	♦ A J 9 2
	♣ A K Q J 4

The analyses were written by [Richard Pavlicek](#) and originally published in a souvenir booklet given to each participant after the game. Richard Pavlicek (born 1945) is an American bridge player, teacher, and writer from Fort Lauderdale.

So, I applied my massive brain power to the problem, and astonishingly came up empty. Can YOU see how to make six clubs?





Bean There Done That

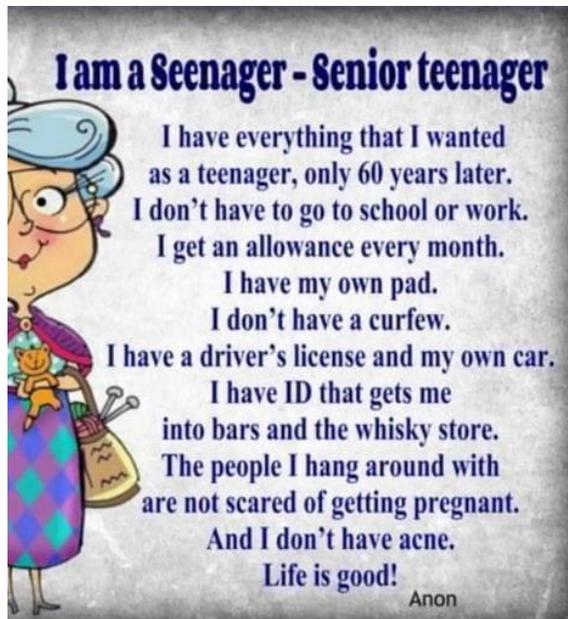
Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer (GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com)

Do you remember the days when GRBC received bupkis when you played online south of the border? That is still the case for most BBO games, but not Southeast Carolina's games. They cost you a \$5.50US entry fee and GRBC gets a portion of that amount back in revenue. That amount will vary by month but here are some recent "portions".

- \$1.82US January
- \$1.99US February
- \$2.00US March

And these amounts are subject to a currency exchange. Ka-ching!

Of course, we would want you to consider playing in our GRBC online games first. **To encourage this behaviour, the weekly GRBC BBO lottery is coming back!** Starting Tuesday April 23, L'otto will run Tuesdays-to-Mondays. Names of members who played in our online games will go into a Taylor Swift football helmet followed by a random draw for a gift card. The more times you play, the more chances you have. Winners will be announced in the ALERT each week.



Early Results from Gatlinburg

- **Janice and Michael Pengelly**, 2nd in B, Monday Gold Rush Pairs, and 4th in A, Tuesday Gold Rush Pairs
- **Dave Quarrie and Lynda Burnett**, 1st in A, Monday Gold Rush Pairs
- **Mike Peng, David Wilson, Edith Ferber, and Peter Peng**, 3/4, Monday KO Teams 2 and 3rd in B, Tuesday Side Swiss Teams
- **Bruce Roberts, Dianne Aves, Moira Hollingsworth, and Sharon King**, 2nd, Monday KO Teams 2
- **Sue Moses, Brenda Semple, Dave Quarrie, and Lynda Burnett**, Tuesday Open Bracketed Teams 14
- **David Baker and David Longstaff**, 2nd, Tuesday A/X Pairs

While the Cats Were Away, the Mice Did Play...

With so many of the club's open players away in Gatlinburg, on Tuesday a number of intermediate players braved the open game. They all did just fine, with two C players being in the money. Elinor Girouard and Richard Papineau placed second overall netting 1.69 masterpoints, while Andrew Widdis and Diane Jamieson were fourth earning 1.00 masterpoint.



Photo credits Joe Blake



Join Our Newcomer Game This Sunday!

Contributed by Jack Cole

Our new **Newcomer (19er) online game** launched on Sunday morning with five pairs who quickly learned about playing with robots! Congratulations to all who signed up to venture into online play, and thanks to Allen the Director for helping people get settled.

We will be going again this Sunday at 9:45am, and we really need a few more players to make the game viable. Please invite your friends. As an added bonus, I'll host a free Zoom mini-workshop after the game, demonstrating some of the online learning and exploration tools, such as the use of BBO History and The Common Game. Even if you don't play on Sunday, you can still participate in the workshop: just drop me an email.

To join the game, you will need a BBO user name, an ACBL number, some BBO dollars, and a partner, and those should all be in place **before** Sunday. [Sue Moses](#) can help find a partner, or you can use Pianola or the partnership desk at the game itself. Email me (jhcole@mgl.ca) if you need more help.

The introductory video is still available at <https://youtu.be/RI2ESTQrk3Y> to give you a lesson in online play. Watch, and then come on out and join the game in Sunday! (Log in to www.bridgebase.com a half hour before game time.)



Player Profile – Bob Gilck

Contributed by Anita Hanson

Today we introduce Regional Master and longtime local resident, Bob Gilck.

Bob was born at the Grand River (then K/W) hospital and lived most of his life in Old Kitchener, which he remembers nostalgically — “You know the one — 60,000 people, no crime, jaywalking made the 6 o’clock news.”

His home at the age of 13 was, in fact, on Greenfield Avenue, just a couple of blocks from GRBC’s current address. Want an idea of how long ago that was? As a grade 7 Safety Patrol (crossing guard), Bob helped students get across King Street at Franklin — instead of the eight lanes of 90 km/hr traffic we now use the Franklin St. bridge to cross, it was a single lane in each direction, with a railway track running between them. (He says the only thing in the neighbourhood that hasn’t changed since then is the sweet aroma of Dare cookies.)

Bob had a career in manufacturing (metal machining) for over 50 years, beginning as a machinist and very quickly becoming a programmer, then a supervisor, and finally a general manager of his own plant. In 1990, he decided to start his own manufacturing company and had the business for almost 30 years.

He and wife Pat have been happily married for 40 plus years, and have two sons.

Bob began playing bridge with a group of friends at the age of 19. They were almost always a player short for one of their spontaneous games, and a favourite cry was “fourth!” It didn’t take him long to move on to duplicate, playing upstairs at the Breithaupt Center (it was a much younger crowd in those days) — but then it didn’t take long again for life to get in the way, and put his bridge career on pause.

It took almost 50 years and retirement to get him playing again, and he played at a number of different venues until Covid forced so many things to shut down. Like most of us, he switched to BBO (where his handle is bobgilck — go figure!) until things opened up again. He now plays F2F in the 299 and 749 games, occasionally dipping his brave toes in the Open.

When asked what’s his favourite thing about the game, Bob’s answer is — having a good afternoon with his partners. And his least favorite? — not having a good afternoon with his partners. He compares it to a Leaf’s hockey game — you just never know which Leaf team is going to show up.

And finally, his bridge tip: Don’t be in a hurry to learn too many conventions all at once. The old saying, “don’t become a Jack of all trades, Master of none,” really applies in bridge!



Dear David

Just Another Tuesday at the Club – Part 3

A habitual cocaine user wanders into the kitchen where his wife is making pie crusts. He sees a pile of flour and reflexively buries his nose in it. He can't help himself, even though he knows that looks can be deceiving.

Dir: W

Vul: None

7

11 10

12

♠ J

♥ K J 7 5

♦ A J 10 4 3

♣ J 8 3

♠ K Q 8 4

♥ Q 10 8 6 4 3

♦ 6 2

♣ 7

♠ 7 6

♥ A 2

♦ K 8 7 5

♣ K 9 5 4 2

♠ A 10 9 5 3 2

♥ 9

♦ Q 9

♣ A Q 10 6

24

West passes and North reflexively snorts out a 2♥ bid. What is poor South to do? Their partnership plays a new suit as forcing. (This is a Public Service Announcement – Since you can make a forcing 2NT asking bid over a weak two-bid, what useful purpose does it serve to play new-suit-forcing? More often than not, responder hates your suit and has a better/longer suit of his own that he wants to bid, but he wants you to pass, but you can't pass because it is forcing, but, but, but,,).)

All of the above conspired to make South pass this one out at our table. 2♥ just barely made eight tricks. Almost every other table played 3, 4, or 5♠, making 10 or 11 tricks.

By now, I am sure, you get my point. Nevertheless, I will spell it out for you. DO NOT OPEN A WEAK TWO WITH FOUR CARDS IN THE OTHER MAJOR!!! “DO NOT” is a little strong. There are a few exceptions.

If you have: xxxx AKJxxx xx x, 2♥ is likely your best chance to buy the contract (or to attract the best lead from partner if you are defending). Once in a while, partner will have AKxxx x Axx xxxx and you will make 6♠, but you have to play the odds sometimes. The other exception occurs when partner is a passed hand. With the hand above, you know that your opponents have more than half the high-card points. Your aim is not to have a constructive auction, but rather to take-up bidding room (hence the word, pre-emption). In that case, even QJxx AJxxxx xx x is an acceptable 2♥ pre-empt in third seat.

Don't react when you pick up a six-card suit. Follow your agreements. Not a week goes by that I don't see at least one player opening a weak two-bid with a good four-card major on the side.

Someone glued my
pack of cards
together,

I don't know how to
deal with it!

For Intermediate *Jake's*
Play a Bad Hand Well

No. 139

♠ Q983
 ♥ 106
 ♦ K1064
 ♣ AK4



♠ AK104
 ♥ K4
 ♦ Q952
 ♣ J83

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♥	2♠	3♥	4♠
All pass			

I was South, declaring 4♠. West's opening lead was the ♠J. I drew all of the outstanding trumps in three rounds, ending in my hand. The trumps turned out to be divided 3/2, with East having three and West only two, discarding a heart on the third round.

- At Trick 4, I led my ♦2 to West's ♦3, dummy's ♦K, and East's ♦8.
- At Trick 5, I called for dummy's ♦4, to East's ♦J, my ♦Q, and West's ♦A.
- At Trick 6, West exited with his last diamond, won by dummy's ♦10. East discarded a heart, and I followed with a small diamond.
- At Trick 7, I led dummy's fourth diamond and took the trick in my hand. East and West discarded hearts.

If you were in my shoes, what would you do now?

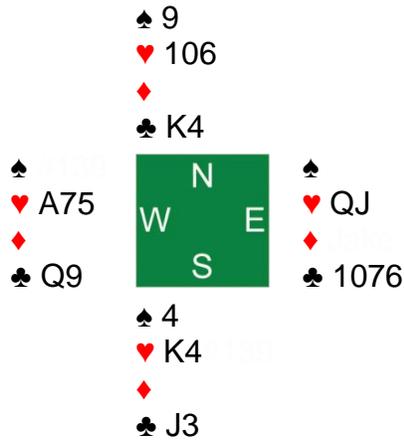
SOLUTION

You did well to bring in the diamonds with only one loser, but there is still the possibility of three additional losers (two hearts and a club). So, the big question is how to eliminate one of these losers.

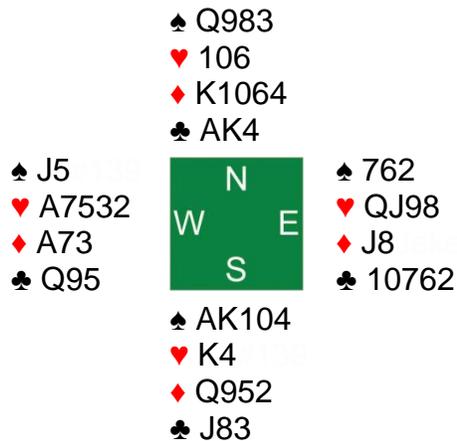
If East holds the ♥A, life is easy, but given the bidding that is unlikely. In fact, it looks as if West holds all of the missing high cards: the ♦A, the ♥A, and the ♣Q.

If this is the case, the only way to eliminate one of your losers is to endplay West. Given this plan, the correct play is to cash the ♣AK and call for dummy's last club, hoping that West has to take his ♣Q.

Here is the situation after you have cashed dummy's ♣A.



When you call for dummy's ♣K, West would like to jettison his ♣Q in order to avoid the looming endplay, but if he does that, your ♣J will become the boss club. And of course if he doesn't jettison it, he gets endplayed on the next trick when he has to take his ♣Q. At that point, all he can do is cash his ♥A and surrender.
Here is the full hand.



It's good bridge (and very enjoyable) to offer your opponents only losing options.



Rolls Royce is the most durable car ever made. Almost 3/4 of the cars that have been produced by Rolls Royce in the company's history are still in active use today.

Top Master Point Earners at our Club

Contributed by Allen Pengelly

This table lists the individuals who have earned the most master points at our club in each of three master point bands since the beginning of March.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	28.77	1	Susan Durance	10.10	1	Andrew Widdis	12.37
2	Ted Boyd	17.58	2	Kim Wakeford	9.89	2	Brian Gaber	9.34
3	Mike Peng	15.87	3	Jack Cole	9.51	3	Sheila Charters	9.58
4	Kathy Russell	15.17	4	Rick Arthur	8.64	4	Mark Sherwood	8.69
5	Edith Ferber	14.67	5	Elinor Girouard	7.76	4	Doug Fickling	8.69
6	Bob Griffiths	13.78	6	John Kip	6.91	6	Randall DeKraker	7.85
7	Roy Dandyk	13.14	7	Renate Boucher	6.71	6	Doug Fickling	7.85
8	Stephen Young	12.59	8	Judy Beauchamp	6.62	8	Peter Gaasenbeek	6.79
9	Lori Cole	11.77	9	Cheryl Kip	6.51	9	Robert Darby	5.64
10	David Wilson	11.64	10	Martin Jones	6.48	10	Pat Pietrek	5.34
11	Thea Davis	10.69	11	Molly Worden	6.33	11	Russel Kerr	5.08
12	Suzanne Edwards	10.24	12	Nanci Phelan	5.92	12	George Rybiak	4.31
13	Malkin Howes	9.89	13	Bob Giilck	5.68	12	Richard Rybiak	4.31
14	Tony Verhoeven	8.82	14	Jim Dalgliesh	5.58	14	Phil De Montigny	4.30
15	Margot Stockie	8.23	15	Joe Blake	5.53	15	Sharon Nesbitt	3.76
16	John Hanemaayer	8.01	16	Louise Dawdy	5.46	16	Debbie Miethig	3.60
17	Steve Carpenter	7.98	17	David Dennis	5.11	17	Pat Northey	3.35
18	Neil Jeffrey	7.47	18	Andy Martinek	5.03	18	Chris Beck	3.10
19	Sharon Boyd	7.33	19	Kevin Latter	4.95	19	Julia Prendiville	2.88
20	Barbara Arthur	6.75	20	Carolyn Baechler	4.86	20	Don O'Bright	2.76
21	David Longstaff	5.80	21	Marlene Dopko	4.83	20	Richard Wehrle	2.76
22	Shelley Metcalfe	5.78	22	Janice Pengelly	4.53	22	Marianne Dziarski	2.69
23	Cindy Mahn	5.54	22	Cheryl White	4.53	23	Wendy Duff	2.67
24	Lynda Burnett	5.42	24	Paul White	4.49	24	Judy Charbonneau	2.65
25	Dave Embury	5.07	24	Steve Allen	4.49	25	Kathy Chandler	2.56

If you would like to play in a particular game but lack a partner that day, you can either:

- For both online and F2F games, log on to [Pianola](#), click on Partner Finder, and create a Partner Finder advert. This needs to be done at least a few hours in advance of the game. *When you use Partner Finder, it will allow folks to see your contact information. If you have posted a Partner Finder ad, kindly remember to check your phone and email and, when you've found a partner, delete your ad. Someone who replied to your ad may be waiting for a response.*
- For online games only, log in to the game in question and register yourself on the Partnership Desk tab (or look to see if someone else has already registered there).

If you are looking for a regular partner, contact [Joan Slover](#), our membership lead. Please let her know what sort of game/partner you are interested in – your playing level, your available time slots, F2F and/or online, and any other pertinent information.

We have fun in **spades**.
 We play with all our **hearts**.
 We treat our members like **diamonds**.
 We are restarting L'otto at our **club**.