



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

## ALERT – March 18, 2024

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

### Looking Ahead

- ♥ [Sectional Tournament at Guelph Club](#), March 16-17
- ♥ Ron Van Der Zwaag will be giving a mini-lesson on **Bid One More?** at the Monday morning bridge lab on March 18.
- ♥ **Online Swiss teams game**, Tuesday, March 19, 7:10 pm
- ♥ Jack Cole will be giving a mini-lesson on **Playing in our Online Games** at the Monday morning bridge lab on March 25. **PLEASE BRING YOUR LAPTOP OR IPAD TO THE CLUB SO THAT YOU CAN FOLLOW ALONG.**
- ♥ **Online Swiss teams game**, Tuesday, March 26, 7:00 pm
- ♥ [Toronto Easter Regional](#), March 26-31
- ♥ Upgraded Club Championship game, **F2F 299 game on Wednesday, March 27 – extra masterpoints**, no extra charge. *Upgraded club championships are awarded to clubs by the ACBL every time ten of their players join the ACBL. The reason this upgrade has been bestowed upon our 299ers is that they are the source of most of our new ACBL members.*
- ♥ Our club will be open on Good Friday, March 29.
- ♥ Dave Quarrie will be giving a mini-lesson on **Play of the Hand in Suits** at the Monday morning bridge lab on April 1.
- ♥ **Online Swiss teams game**, Tuesday, April 2, 7:10 pm
- ♥ **Club Championships for F2F games**, Week of April 7
- ♥ Barbara Arthur will be giving a mini-lesson on **DONT (Disturbing Opponents' No Trump)** at the Monday morning bridge lab on April 8.
- ♥ **Online Swiss teams game**, Tuesday, April 9, 7:00 pm

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### Tuesday Online Swiss Team Games

There are online Swiss team games on the first, second, third, and fourth Tuesday of each month. Our club hosts the ones on the first and third Tuesdays, while the Bridge Centre of Niagara hosts the ones on the second and fourth Tuesdays. Our games start at 7:10 pm, and Niagara's games start at 7:00 pm. For more information and to register for our games, email [mi-chael.peng@rogers.com](mailto:mi-chael.peng@rogers.com). To register for the Niagara games, email [dougdolbear@gmail.com](mailto:dougdolbear@gmail.com). These games are for players of all levels and are lots of fun. Please login to BBO at least 15 minutes prior to game time, as it will help the game director set up the game. This would be much appreciated!

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## Thanks, Adriaan!

You probably never thought about it, but our club goes through seven or eight sets of pre-dealt boards every week – unless we're putting on a special event in which case we go through more. And we need an amazing number of pre-dealt sets of boards for our tournaments (60+ sets for a regional and 16 sets for a sectional)!

It takes about 45 minutes to deal one set of boards and, if you're good at arithmetic (as all good bridge players are), you now know that our dealing volunteers contribute at something like six hours of their time every week.

For more than ten years, Adriaan has been in charge of making sure that the right sets of boards magically appear exactly when needed. In addition, he has been responsible for ensuring that we always have enough sets of boards on hand and that we replace the playing cards whenever needed. Not to mention ensuring that our delicate (and expensive) dealing machine is always in tiptop shape.

As well, Adriaan attended management team and game committee meetings once a month. He also convened our local sectional at clubs last fall. Lastly, in the past Adriaan has served on our tournament committees.

Neither rain nor sleet nor dark of night have deterred Adriaan from fulfilling his responsibilities over the years. Even when he went through a patch of poor health issues and couldn't drive his car, Adriaan asked his wife to drive him to the club so he could do his job.

In short, Adriaan has been a faithful and reliable contributor to our club for many years, and it is with regret that we announce that he will be stepping down from his leadership role (he will still be dealing boards though). Thanks again, Adriaan!

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## Bean There Done That

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer ([GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com))

How are you doing after a full year of inflation and shrink-flation? I thought I'd brighten your day by reminding you of the bargains that you've received from the GRBC.

- BBO games were priced at the minimum allowed by ACBL/BBO (5 BBO\$)
  - Price for F2F games remained unchanged (\$8/\$10)
  - The usual \$2 surcharge on special ACBL games was reduced to \$1 ... both BBO and F2F
  - Two free games were awarded to a member who recruited a new member (\$16 value)
  - Name tags were free for new members playing F2F (\$8 value)
  - L'otto (aka the GRBC BBO lottery) gave some lucky duckies \$25
  - Bridge advice was free (after you'd already gone down)
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## How to Play in Our Online Games Mini-Lesson

Contributed by Jack Cole

Newer players - did you know that more than half of the GRBC games are played online, including a weekly 199er and 299er? Not only do online games offer great convenience – you can play from home, the cottage, in your pyjamas, in a snowstorm – but also online games have GREAT tools for improving your bridge bidding and play. At the March 25 bridge lab, we'll be showing a video that will step you through joining our online games. Bring your laptop or tablet; help will be available if needed. The video can be re-watched later, and there is a possibility of a sample online game at a later date if enough new players join on.

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## Player Profile – Bob Darby

*Contributed by Anita Hanson*

This week, we introduce to you Paris resident Bob Darby, a fairly-recent member of GRBC. Bob began life on a dairy farm near Elora. When he was young, his family moved to a new location outside of Drumbo in Oxford County, where he farmed with his father in a mixed operation of livestock and crops. Then in the late 1980s, Bob became a full-time employee at Ayr Farmers Mutual Insurance Company.

Until his move to Paris five years ago, Bob had a herd of purebred Black Angus cattle that his family enjoyed showing at fall fairs — a highlight was that one of his Black Angus bulls was the Grand Champion Junior Bull at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. (Appropriately, Bob's BBO handle is Angus4me12.)

Bob did not grow up in a bridge-playing family, but learned from his in-laws after getting married. Then children, work, and life got in the way, and he took a long break. He more recently got back to playing "kitchen bridge" with friends, but then Covid lockdowns made him desperate to find more things to do. (One of his other lockdown endeavours was cooking lessons, but that's another story.)

Bob always had an interest in learning more about duplicate bridge, and an online search for information on the subject took him to GRBC's website. A further request for more information got him an immediate (of course!) response. He purchased a Barbara Seagram book (which was left for him at the door of the club because of lockdowns) and took off from there. He has since found a regular partner and plays multiple times a week — mostly F2F — getting the week off to a good start with the Monday morning lab. It is largely the social aspect that keeps him coming back, along with the challenge of learning new things and then putting them into practice.

When not playing bridge, Bob enjoys attending theatre with his wife Helen and travelling, mostly to destinations in Europe. They have also recently bought a recreation property in Port Stanley, and especially love spending time with their growing grandchildren. They have two sons, three grandchildren, and a cat. Bob points out that the cat is Helen's!

His favourite bridge tip is good advice for all beginners and beyond: keep taking lessons, and play as much as you can. He is enthusiastic in his praise of the lessons offered at GRBC, and takes as many of them as he can.

We are so lucky to have so many skilled players who are willing to share their expertise!

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## Conventional Wisdom

This is the seventh in a series of columns on convention cards. Today, we will look at the rectangle entitled DESCRIBE RESPONSES/REBIDS.

	DESCRIBE	RESPONSES/REBIDS
2♣ _____ to _____ HCP Strong <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> 2♦ Resp: Neg <input type="checkbox"/> Waiting <input type="checkbox"/>		
2♦ _____ to _____ HCP Natural: Weak <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Strong <input type="checkbox"/> Conv. <input type="checkbox"/>		2NT Force <input type="checkbox"/> New Suit NF <input type="checkbox"/>
2♥ _____ to _____ HCP Natural: Weak <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Strong <input type="checkbox"/> Conv. <input type="checkbox"/>		2NT Force <input type="checkbox"/> New Suit NF <input type="checkbox"/>
2♠ _____ to _____ HCP Natural: Weak <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Strong <input type="checkbox"/> Conv. <input type="checkbox"/>		2NT Force <input type="checkbox"/> New Suit NF <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>OTHER CONV. CALLS:</b> New Minor Forcing: <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Way NMF <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Weak Jump Shifts: In Comp. <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Comp. <input type="checkbox"/> _____ 4th Suit Forcing: 1 Rd. <input type="checkbox"/> Game <input type="checkbox"/> _____		

- Many people write 22+ HCP beside 2♣, but you might also consider writing 8½ quick tricks.
  - Tick the **Strong** box.
  - Beside 2♦, most people tick the **Waiting** box.
  - On the lines to the right, you should indicate what responder's bids mean. Some people use step responses, for example. But there are two main systems.
    - If you and your partner have agreed to use 2♥ as a bust bid, write **2♥ = 0-3 HCP**. If you and your partner have agreed to use 2NT to show hearts, **write 2NT = hearts**. Both 2♥ and 2NT are alertable. Using this system, the responses of 2♠ and 2NT promise at least 8 HCP and five of the suit. But there is no need to write the latter on your card.
    - If you and your partner have agreed to use a double negative (2♦ followed by 3♣, **alertable**) to show a bust hand, write **double negative**. Using this system, both 2♥ and 2♠ promise at least 8 HCP and five of the suit. But there is no need to write the latter on your card.
  - Beside 2♦, write **6 to 10**, assuming you don't have a conventional use for this bid.
  - Beside 2♥, write **6 to 10**.
  - Beside 2♠, write **6 to 10**.
  - Check the **2NT Force** for all three bids, and write **FEATURE** above each (unless you have a conventional use such as Ogust for the 2NT bid). Some people also like to write RONF in these spaces. RONF stands for **Raise Only Non Force**, and it just means that every bid *other than a simple raise* (for example, bidding 3♥ after your partner opened 2♥) is forcing (cannot be passed).
  - Don't tick any of the boxes in the **OTHER CONV. CALLS** section unless you have an agreement with your partner to use them.
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## Dear David

### Tales from the Crypt

No hands this week. Reminiscences.

I first started playing bridge in 1972 at the University of Waterloo. I wandered into the huge cafeteria where four people were playing cards and three were watching them. Since I was always a card lover, I wandered over to watch my first game of bridge. That prompted me to visit the on-campus bridge club where I could watch and learn. When I was asked to play with someone who had come without a partner, I strongly suggested that he find someone who had a clue, but he insisted that it would be all right. At the end of the game, he told me we had won! When I asked how he knew that we had won, he pointed out the recap sheet. This was BC (before computers). Since I couldn't understand what all the numbers meant, I just smiled and said thanks for the game. The fish saw the worm, took the bait, and was hooked.

I occasionally played with Walter, a retired pharmacist at Milos' club. He was in his late 80's and always wore a suit with a white dress shirt. He continuously smoked fat cigars at the table (OMG), always leaving them in his mouth. One day the auction went 1♣ pass pass to Walter. After 30 seconds, he asked for a review. Another 30 seconds required another review. After yet another review request to which I exasperatedly replied "ONE CLUB PASS PASS, Walter!" We settled down to wait. Meanwhile, a lump of cigar ash had left a trail down his shirt and stopped on top of his exceeding large belly. I immediately forgot why I was perturbed with Walter. I could only stare and wonder when the ash would continue its journey.

Early on in my bridge playing days, I went to the Royal York hotel in downtown Toronto to play in a regional tournament. At the time, I was experimenting with different bidding systems. That day, we were playing KS, which is Kaplan-Sheinwold, named after the partnership that invented it. The main features of KS were a weak one no trump, 2♣ non-game-forcing Stayman (at the time 2♦ was popular as game forcing), and no weak two-bids. Whenever we sat down at a new table, I announced we were playing KS. The age demographic for bridge was a lot younger back then, so when we sat down against these two really old guys who looked like easy pickings (they were younger than I am now), I proudly announced our names and that we were playing KS. In response, one of them replied "We are also playing KS. I am Kaplan and my partner is Sheinwold". Oops! So much for easy pickings. (FYI, we did beat them.)

Over the years, I frequently played against a Very Good Player who had a ton more experience than I did. There were a couple of incidents, however, that really annoyed me. He played odd-even discards. At his first discard (the first time he didn't follow suit to a trick), an odd card (3,5,7,9) said he liked the suit he discarded. An even card (2,4,6,8,10) said he didn't like the suit he discarded, while a high even card meant he liked the higher of the other two suits and a low even card said he liked the lower of the other two suits. Fair enough. The problem with the system is: what do you do if you like a suit but you don't have an odd card in that suit or you don't have an even card in the suits you like? The VGP solved this problem by taking up to 60 seconds to discard, very clearly informing his partner that he didn't have the right card to discard. I would frequently try to encourage the director to bar him from playing odd-even because he wouldn't play his cards "in tempo".

I played against this same guy at a tournament. I was dummy, and he always held his cards slightly facing the dummy so declarer wouldn't have a chance to see his cards. He had only one red card and he revoked in that red suit early in the hand. Since dummy can't say anything until the hand is over, I watched him moving that revoke card around in his hand multiple times, con-

tinuing to revoke in that suit. When he tried to concede and fold up his cards with four tricks to go, I screamed for the director so loudly that some guy out on the street looked to see what the noise was about. Perhaps he wasn't quite the VGP I thought he was.

Back to happier stories. I played with and against John Gilbert a number of times over the years. In my opinion, he is the best player in our unit, but he never plays at the club and rarely at tournaments (he plays mostly online nowadays). One day John asked me to play at a tournament at Hart House in Toronto. We walked to a restaurant at break time with less than an hour to eat.

Now John can drink a prodigious amount of alcohol with no apparent effect on his game. On this day, he was halfway through his fourth beer (while I was on my one-and-only) when I suggested we return right away or we would be late. He then asked the waitress for the cheque AND ANOTHER BEER. He finished number four before she got back to the counter and number 5 magically disappeared. Other than his glowing red face, he showed no effects on his game.

Same dude, only crazier. He had met some guy online from central USA who travelled to our area just to play live bridge with him, so he asked me and a partner to play with them. Unfortunately, the playing site had a bar! At the end of an eight-hour day, his face looked like a beet. We finished a few boards ahead of them and I snuck their card away to compare. We were virtually tied when they got to the last board. At our table, the opponents bid a slam that was very difficult to play, but declarer got it right. If John bid and made it, we would win the event. If not, we would come second. I was watching from 10 feet away. John was smiling and sweating and wavering in his chair and joking with his opponents, and I felt like I was on the maiden voyage of the Titanic. You know how this turned out. It took John forever to play it, but he got it right!

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Look at this, Lime street station, now look again and squint your eyes



This is a photo of Lime Street Station in Liverpool. If you squint, you can see something amazing. If you still can't see what we're talking about, there's a hint at the end of the Alert.

# 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 February.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	20.82	1	Jack Cole	9.33	1	Andrew Widdis	6.93
2	Ted Boyd	14.24	2	Judy Beauchamp	8.49	2	Brian Gaber	6.83
3	Edith Ferber	14.15	3	Jim Dalgliesh	8.01	3	Paul Raymond	5.71
4	David Wilson	11.89	4	John Kip	7.89	4	George Rybiak	5.68
5	Kathy Russell	11.60	4	Cheryl Kip	7.89	5	Mark Sherwood	5.57
6	Lori Cole	10.72	6	Rick Arthur	7.82	5	Doug Fickling	5.57
7	Bob Griffiths	10.51	7	Susan Durance	7.75	7	Sheila Charters	5.39
8	Neil Jeffrey	9.23	8	Carolyn Baechler	7.64	8	Randall DeKraker	5.37
9	Mike Peng	8.98	9	Regina Williams	7.51	9	Richard Rybiak	5.04
10	Steve Carpenter	7.40	9	Denis Williams	7.51	10	Russel Kerr	4.30
11	Roy Dandyk	7.32	11	Louise Dawdy	6.59	11	Kathy Chandler	3.93
12	Wayne Schroeder	6.26	12	Kevin Latter	6.33	12	Sharon Nesbitt	3.84
13	Stephen Young	5.94	13	Nancy Cattanach	5.80	13	Robert Darby	3.81
14	Scott Hills	5.66	14	Elinor Girouard	5.56	14	John Aldridge	3.66
15	Dave Quarrie	5.34	15	David Dennis	5.16	15	Peter Gaasenbeek	3.65
16	Moirra Hollingsworth	5.30	16	Renate Boucher	4.99	16	Julia Prendiville	3.57
17	Margot Stockie	4.92	17	Brenda Semple	4.93	17	Debbie Miethig	3.55
18	Tony Verhoeven	4.71	18	Bob Giilck	4.68	18	Jeannie Leforge	3.38
19	Sharon Boyd	4.68	19	Cheryl White	4.48	19	Phil De Montigny	3.34
20	John Hanemaayer	4.67	20	Douglass Grant	4.33	20	Pat Pietrek	3.14
21	Diane Bourdeau	4.29	21	William Sherman	4.21	21	Ken Hundert	3.10
22	Malkin Howes	3.68	21	Andy Wilson	4.21	21	John Snowden	3.10
23	Barbara Arthur	3.57	23	Kim Wakeford	4.14	23	Patricia Gascho	2.73
24	Adrian Record	3.45	24	Vivian McLellan	3.97	24	Pauline Copleston	2.66
25	Thea Davis	3.27	25	Gordon Hunter	3.89	25	Jane Wilson	2.61

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**.

If you pull back and look at the outline, you will see the head of a famous Liverpoolian musician.