



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

[Our Website](#)

ALERT – March 13, 2023

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

Looking Ahead

- ♥ The Thursday morning BBO 99er game is now the **Thursday morning BBO 199er game**.
- ♥ Effective March 9, there will be a **f2f 499er game on Thursday afternoons**.
- ♥ The **Guelph Spring Fling** will be held on Saturday, March 18 (see below)*
- ♥ All of our f2f games during the week of March 21-24 will be **Membership Games**. Membership games award extra masterpoints at no extra cost – but only to paid-up ACBL members (membership in our club is irrelevant). Please note that *both* partners need to be paid-up ACBL members. If you are not already an ACBL member, you can remedy that [here](#) (please be sure to mention our club so that we can earn more up-graded club championship games for our members).
- ♥ All of our f2f games during the week of March 27-April 2 will be **Royal STaC games** (extra masterpoints [25% each black, silver, red, and gold], \$2 surcharge).
- ♥ [Spring Sectional – Buffalo Bridge Center, Amherst, NY](#). Friday, March 31 – Sunday, April 2
- ♥ [Toronto Easter Regional](#). Tuesday, April 4 – Sunday, April 9
- ♥ **Our club's 11th birthday party** will be held on Tuesday, April 11.
- ♥ **Barbara Seagram** will be at our club on Wednesday, May 3. Hold this date!



Calling All 499ers

Effective Thursday, March 9, we will be adding a second **f2f 499er game**. It will start at 1:00 pm and run concurrently with the open game. Please come out and support your new game!

*Guelph Spring Fling

Come and join the party at the Guelph Bridge Club on Saturday, March 18 for a unit championship game. For \$15, earn extra masterpoints, have a pizza lunch, win prizes. Lunch starts at noon, and the game starts at 1:00 pm. You are requested to pre-register through [the club website](#) so they know how much pizza to order.



The Bean Counter

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer

Is one of your bucket list goals to pretend that you were the treasurer of a successful bridge club? No? Well, maybe you'd get a thrill if you had a chance to eyeball its finances?

The GRBC's financial statements for the previous month are always posted on the wall at the club. It is near the jigsaw puzzle shelves - a location that is purely coincidental. Just like your home finances, these reports show (\$) what assets we have, what income we've received or will receive, what we spent, what we owe. And other stuff like that. Blah blah blah. Confused? Do one of the puzzles.

GRBC - SPRING TEAM LEAGUE - WEEK 2

	BAKER	S. BOYD	T. BOYD	FUNG	HANEMAAYER	JAMIESON	PLAYOFFS	TOTAL
BAKER		20	20	WEEK 5	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 6	40
FUNG	WEEK 5	9	WEEK 3		WEEK 4	16	WEEK 6	25
HANEMAAYER	WEEK 3	WEEK 5	10	WEEK 4		12	WEEK 6	22
JAMIESON	WEEK 4	WEEK 3	WEEK 5	4	8		WEEK 6	12
S. BOYD	0		WEEK 4	11	WEEK 5	WEEK 3	WEEK 6	11
T. BOYD	0	WEEK 4		WEEK 3	10	WEEK 5	WEEK 6	10

Prepared by Al Pengelly





Letter to the Editor

Congratulations to those who attended the bridge tournament in Barbados. With your wonderful pictures and information clips it shows that you experienced and appreciated this special Island! I nursed at the Queen Elizabeth hospital in 1970 and these all brought back so many wonderful memories for me. The "Merrymen" were in their prime when I lived there and we attended many of their concerts and dances when we weren't working.

Being able to click on their albums now is amazing. I'll be playing them non-stop.

Enjoy your new memories too.

Sincerely,
Judy Bailey

Partnerships

Contributed by Joan Slover, Membership Lead

As a partnership facilitator, I have received calls from a few folks looking for a regular bridge partner. Being a matchmaker is not a quick or easy job! Patience is required by both parties. Most folks let me know at what level they wish to play or specific games they wish to play in. Others have more stringent criteria such as "only 2/1", or "no evenings because it's past my bed-time". I do keep an active list, and when someone contacts me I see if there is anyone suitable waiting to be paired. In the meantime, I urge the use of Partner Finder. Think of it as "speed dating" for bridge players or how to find your very own "bridge mate".



Congratulations....

to Al Pengelly, our lead director, who has qualified to be one of the 11 Canadian representatives at the World English scrabble Players Association Championship (WESPAC, also known as the World Championship) this summer. He will participate in 32 games of Scrabble over four days (July 22-25) in Las Vegas with the best Scrabble players from 44 different countries.

Mentor of the Year Award

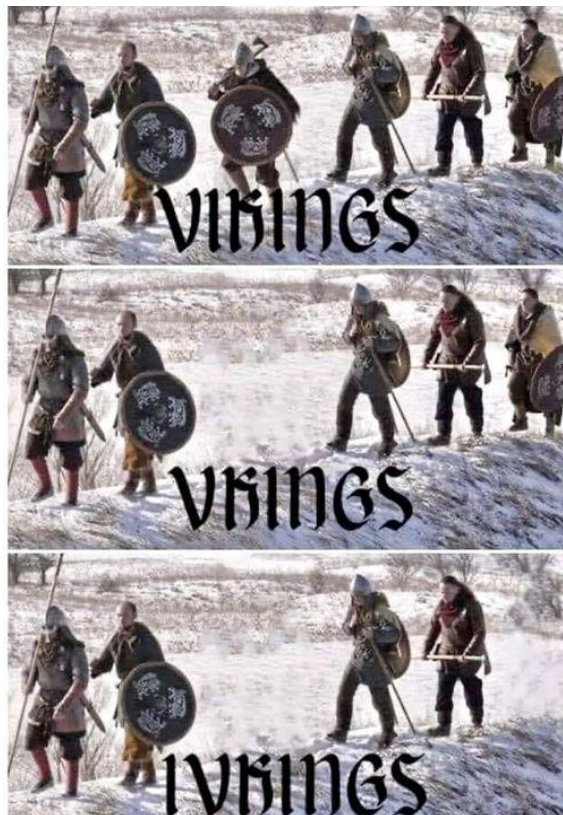
Contributed by Joan Slover, Membership Lead

After a bit of a hiatus, we will again be presenting the Grant Fryer Mentor of the Year Award. This award is based on voting by those who have been mentored. You may cast your vote at the club by filling out a ballot and putting it in the (tiny, red+ gold) ballot box near the directors' desk or emailing Joan SLOVER at rxjoan@rogers.com (if you can't make it in to the club). Voting will proceed for two weeks until St. Patrick's Day or the green beer is finished, whichever comes first.



Our club's motto is: Play and Learn Bridge in a Welcoming Environment. To make things even more welcoming, the management team is looking for someone to tend the members' bulletin board (the first one you see as you enter the club). The idea is that there would be informal snaps of our members as they enjoy the thrill of victory or suffer the agony of defeat at our club. Or maybe stuff their faces. Whatever.

For more information or to volunteer, write to clubmanager@grandriverbridgeclub.com.



Barry Crane Top 500

Three of our members have their names in lights in the latest *ACBL Bulletin* (**Cindy Mahn**, #440, **Bob Griffiths**, #489), and **Dave Baker** (#407) for being the top masterpoint earners in the whole ACBL during 2022. Two others who used to play at our club (**Dan Korbel**, #6, and **Charlene Richardson**, #473) are also listed.



The first Thursday afternoon 499er game attracted three tables. It's a start! Here are some of the players learning about the day's movement. We hope to see more 499ers next week!





Member Profile – Jim Weir

Jim was first introduced to bridge by his sister's mother-in-law around 1980, but all he remembers from those lessons is how to calculate HCPs. Ever since then, Jim has been interested in pursuing the game, but it wasn't until he retired in late 2019 that he had a chance to follow up. An Internet search led him to our club and, along with his wife Donna, Jim enrolled in Learn Bridge in a Day. They really enjoyed that workshop but it made them realize how much more there was to learn.

In 2020, Jim and his wife took the club's beginners lessons, which were online due to Covid, but then Covid kept them away from F2F bridge until this year. Realizing that there is only so much one can learn from lessons without putting what has been learned into practice, Jim recently started to play in the Wednesday afternoon F2F games. This experience has been invaluable. Jim's priority is his family. In addition to his wife and three kids, Jim has ten nieces and nephews and an ever-growing number of grand-nieces and grand-nephews (26 currently and two more on the way).

Jim's favourite bridge tip is that it's okay to make mistakes – everybody does! It's only by playing and learning from your mistakes that you become a better player. Jim is delighted that the waning of Covid has allowed him to enjoy more normal social situations, including F2F bridge.

Lastly, Jim wants you to know that at first he was nervous and self-conscious to play at the club, but now that he has started to get to know some of the Wednesday afternoon players and found everyone friendly and supportive of him (a beginner), these sessions are very enjoyable.

Casi Zehr (zehr@rogers.com) and Louise Dawdy (acedawdy@yahoo.com) would like to write up a profile of YOU along these lines. If you would be willing, please email one of them. The rest of us would love to find out more about you!



Lost Gloves

These gloves were found in the lobby. Do they look familiar? They're currently in our lost and found drawer.

TIME YOU LEARNED OUR LESSONS!

IN THE CARDS

- **Two Over One Module** (two consecutive lessons). Tuesday mornings, 9:00 am – 11:30 am, March 21 and 28. \$40 members/ \$50 non-members. Instructor: Stephen Carpenter. Level: **Novice/Intermediate**. ONLINE. Current Enrollment: **10**.

NEW: CHANGED FROM IN PERSON TO ONLINE

- **No Trump Interference (Cappelletti, DONT, and Meckwell)**. \$20 members/ \$25 non-members. Instructor: Malkin Howes. Level: **Intermediate**. ONLINE. Current Enrollment: **6**

NEW DATE: Monday, March 27, 9:30 am – noon

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Tom's Workshops

In April, we have a special treat for our intermediate players. Tom Ramsay has agreed to give three workshops on three semi-understood conventions. They are:

- **Inverted Minors:** A way to reach hard-to-bid games and slams;
- **Splinters and Mini-Splinters:** Important Tools for Slam Bidding; and
- **Negative Free Bids:** A way to show your long – but weak – suit.

Each of these workshops will be held in our teaching room on Thursday mornings from 9:30 am until noon, on April 13, 20, and 27.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



Basic Bidding Five-Week Course

Unlike the rest of our game, bridge bidding has changed a great deal over the years. That is why this basic bidding course is the first set of lessons that newly-minted bridge players should take. This course is also very useful to rusty players who played a long time ago and are interested in coming back to bridge.

The course will go over the basics of bidding and – bonus – will give its participants lots of tips on playing duplicate bridge, both face-to-face and online.

Instructor: Cindy Mahn

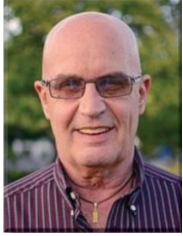
Level: **Novice**

Mode: In-person

Dates: Tuesday mornings, April 11, 18, 25, May 2, and May 9, 9:00 am – 11:30 am.

Cost: \$80 for members/ \$90 for non-members

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



Dear David

A Conundrum

Most of the time, your hand will fit into a strictly-defined category.

1. With a balanced 16-point hand, you open 1NT.
2. Partner opens 1♦ and you have eight HCP, four hearts, and a balanced hand, so you bid 1♥.
3. You have six nice spades and eight HCP, so you open 2♠.

I think you get my point. Easy-peasy, lemon-squeezy. Then we come to the hands that defy you to come up with a rational way to describe them. Too many approaches and too little time left in the round.

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♠
♥ K98
♦ K5
♣ KQJ107642

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Looks pretty simple. You would probably open 1♣ and rebid clubs at some level, depending on what happens next. However, life at the bridge table is seldom so kind. You happen to be in third seat and partner opens with a strong NT. Simple just became challenging. The clock is ticking. Even if you have some way to show a strong hand with solid clubs, it seems as if you eventually must guess how many clubs to bid. My partner decided on the direct approach, making a Gerber 4♣ bid, asking for aces. I have documented in previous articles that it is unsound to ask for aces when holding a void, because an ace in your void is usually unhelpful. Perhaps this is an exception. Partner responds 4♦, showing zero or four aces. Since partner cannot have no aces, it must be four. 7NT can be claimed before the opening lead: one spade trick, two heart tricks, two diamond tricks, and eight club tricks = 13 tricks. However, my partner (whose name I promised not to divulge) got a tad confused and bid 5♣, asking for kings. How I could hold four aces and a king (19 HCP) is beyond my understanding, but I dutifully responded 5♦, showing zero or four kings. Partner then bid 6♣, which I converted to 6NT, since I had no ruffing value in clubs. Here is my hand.

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♠ A875
♥ A652
♦ AJ4
♣ A8

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Partner later admitted he/she got a tad confused and bid 5♣ to play and then 6♣ to play. A TAD!!! Let us see what happens if I have three aces. If my missing ace is a black ace, 6♣ will make at least 12 tricks. If my missing ace is a red ace, worst-case scenario is I will need the missing ace to be sitting well for me -- a worthwhile small slam.

What if I have only two aces? If they are the diamond or heart aces, or the club and diamond aces, or the club and heart aces = good chance. But if one of the aces is the spade ace (as my good friend Mr. Ramsay would say), call for the ambulance. So, we have determined that slam will be worthwhile at least half of the time when you have only two aces.

The other three times this hand was played saw one pair in 3NT and the other two pairs playing 6♣, giving us an undeserved top. If you do the math, you will usually get it right. If you hate math, BLAST! Both are acceptable methods.

FOR OPEN PLAYERS

Another Improbable Slam Bid – Declarer’s View

Contributed by Mike Peng

A couple of week’s ago, I wrote an article in the Alert regarding an improbable slam bid. Well, here is the sequel!

It was a dark and stormy Friday evening with thundersnow and blizzard conditions that moved our regular F2F game to online. I had my semi-regular game with my partner Neil, and we were not doing well during this session when we arrived at board 22.

I was sitting South when my RHO started with 1♥. I had a nice 16 count; however, my void was in diamonds rather than hearts - so I took the conservative route and overcalled 1♠. My LHO cuebid 2♠ showing a limit raise or better with heart support, and my partner bounded off to 4♠. My RHO passed, and what was I to do? It looked as if the majority of HCPs were with the opponents and we had a super fit (10+ trumps), so I passed. LHO persisted with 5♥, and Neil took another bid of 5♠. RHO passed.

Now what? Neil knows better than to tell the same story twice (he could have passed over 5♥ and let me decide), so my conjecture was his 5♠ bid must show either a heart void or extra length in spades. Looking at my hand, I started counting up potential losers = only one spade, assuming partner had a heart void for his 5♠ bid. So, I bid 6♠ missing three aces!

22 D	N North	W	N	E	S
	♠ 10985432 ♥ K ♦ 7643 ♣ 9	2♠ 5♥ P	4♠ 5♠ P	1♥ P P	1♠ P 6♠
W West		E East			
♠ ♥ 983 ♦ AKQ9852 ♣ 874	♦ A	♠ A ♥ AQJ72 ♦ J10 ♣ 106532			
	S South				
	♠ KQJ76 ♥ 10654 ♦ ♣ AKQJ				6♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0

My LHO made the logical lead of the ♦A, which I ruffed, followed by two rounds of clubs on which I discarded the singleton ♥K and claimed, making six. On the board recap for our club, three out of seven pairs reached the 6♠ contract with the identical result.

Here is The Common Game recap.

N/S Result	# of Pairs	PCT	MP %
480	7	28	58
450	4	16	35
980	3	12	88
-50	2	8	10
200	2	8	19
1210	2	8	98
-750	1	4	0
-100	1	4	4
400	1	4	25
750	1	4	75
800	1	4	79

The most common results were spade games making five (with four results) or six (with seven results). These contracts were presumably based on the direction of the declarer, since those that played the contract from North (after some South players choose to double or employ a Michaels 2♥ cuebid after the 1♥ opening bid) will receive the lead from East. East will likely lead a major suit ace and, seeing the dummy's solid clubs, proceed to cash the other major ace for two defensive tricks. The three +980's are the results from our club. Note the two results of -50 are likely 6♠ contracts with the defence finding a major suit lead. Finally, the two results of +1210 are the 6♠ doubled contracts where the defence started with the ♦A.

Luck favours those who are brave or foolhardy!!!



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	14.03	1	Suzanne Edwards	11.06	1	Rick Arthur	4.96
2	Mike Peng	12.48	2	Shelley Metcalfe	10.82	2	Nancy Cattanach	4.54
3	Edith Ferber	8.64	3	Barbara Arthur	10.01	3	Debbie Miethig	3.37
4	Dave Quarrie	8.44	4	Lynda Burnett	9.84	4	Belinda Burt	3.19
5	Colin Harrington	8.10	5	John Kip	9.65	5	Audrey Cook	2.90
6	Neil Jeffrey	7.81	6	Cheryl Kip	7.48	6	Molly Worden	2.84
7	Ted Boyd	7.73	7	Roy Dandyk	7.41	7	Brian Gaber	2.77
8	Robert Griffiths	7.37	8	Cheryl White	6.71	8	Elaine Doyle	2.48
9	Stephen Young	7.26	9	Barbara Lindsay	6.51	9	Don Slowinski	2.24
10	Kathy Russell	7.09	10	Adriaan Kempe	6.40	9	Ben Cornell	2.24
11	Wayne Jordan	5.27	11	Lori Cole	5.94	11	Paul Raymond	2.19
12	Diane Jamieson	4.81	12	Virginia Alviano	5.80	12	Jeannie Leforge	2.13
13	Sandy Graham	4.65	13	Jim Dalgliesh	5.22	13	Pauline Copleston	2.11
14	Rebecca Kalbfleisch	4.51	14	Douglass Grant	5.05	14	Patricia Northey	2.06
15	Ronna Hoy	4.37	15	Jack Cole	4.84	15	Jane Wilson	1.80
16	Neil Coburn	4.36	16	Renate Boucher	4.41	16	Chris Beck	1.75
17	Liz McDowell	4.25	17	J. Lewis Corbin	4.31	17	Valirie Binkle	1.71
18	David Longstaff	4.06	18	Nanci Phelan	4.13	18	Stu Cowan	1.66
19	David Wilson	3.91	19	Jim Fox	4.04	19	Nancy Kennedy	1.64
20	John Hanemaayer	3.81	19	Marion Allan	4.04	20	Joan Stroud	1.59
21	Cindy Mahn	3.60	21	Susan Durance	3.99	21	Richard Prendiville	1.27
22	Sharon Boyd	3.58	22	Tony Verhoeven	3.88	22	Denise Ontonovich	1.23
23	Scott Hills	3.44	23	Robert Giilck	3.84	23	Marianne Dziarski	1.18
24	Peter Peng	3.40	24	Susan Kerrigan	3.82	23	Patricia Pietrek	1.18
25	Diane Bourdeau	3.35	24	Martin Jones	3.82	25	Phil Fiess	1.07

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

- Log in 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. OR
- Log in to the game in question and register yourself on the Partnership Desk tab.

If you are looking for a regular partner, contact [Joan Slover](#), our membership lead.

We have fun in **spades**.
 We play with all our **hearts**.
 We treat our members like **diamonds**.
 You can learn 2/1 at our **club**.