

*March 24, 2024*



# London Bridge Centre *Newsletter*

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**Virtual Club Games**

**Wednesday, 9:15 Open**

**Wednesday, 6:30 Open**

**Tillsonburg DBC**

**Tuesday 7:00 Open**

**LBC members welcome**

***The Judy Stirling Volunteer Appreciation Event***

**Sunday, April 7, 2024**

**12:30 p.m. start**

**Please signup by Friday, April 5, 2024**

The board is hosting this special event to honour the many volunteers who contribute to building a vibrant London Bridge Centre community. Naming this event is a tribute to Judy Stirling's contribution: sharing her talent, time, and treasure. She led by example and understood the importance and impact of our volunteers.

The event will have three components:

1. Formal Members' Meeting
2. Bridge Game - (approximately 1 p.m.)
  - \$5.00 fee
  - Unsanctioned (no points)
  - 18 Boards
  - Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd pairs (double up with tie)
    1. 3 Free Game Tickets X 2
    2. 2 Free Game Tickets X 2
    3. 1 Free Game Ticket X 2
  - Director fees waived (thank you, Bruce Moor)
3. Social
  - Introduction & Welcome
  - Lindor Chocolate & Raffle Ticket for each participant
  - Raffle Table
    - Donations welcome. Suggestions: Box of Chocolates, Flowers, Bottle of Wine, Preserves, Crafts. Place on the Raffle Table upon arrival, or drop off at the front desk
  - Free Punch and Sparkling Wine available
  - Free coffee and tea service
  - Cake (donated by Sandra & Don Letton)

## NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEMBERS' MEETING OF LONDON BRIDGE CENTRE INC.

**To: Members of London Bridge Centre Inc.**

A Special Meeting of the Members of London Bridge Centre Inc. will be held on **Sunday, April 7, 2024, commencing at 12:30 p.m.** at the London Bridge Centre, Unit 9-1106 Dearness Drive, London, Ontario.

The purpose of the meeting is twofold:

1. to revoke the appointment of Gary Westfall as auditor to conduct a Review Engagement of London Bridge Centre's financial statements for the year ending July 31, 2024, and to appoint him to perform a Compilation of those Financial Statements.
2. There will be an election of a director to fill a vacancy on the board.

The agenda, supporting materials and proxy form are available for your review on the club's website [www.londonbridgecentre.ca](http://www.londonbridgecentre.ca) in the Member Meeting section.

Only members of the London Bridge Centre may vote at the Special Meeting. A quorum is required to conduct business and members unable to attend may provide their proxy.

### Easter Weekend Games

Good news...all of our usual games will be taking place on the usual days and times.



Rob Stirling and family are hosting a celebration of life for LBC's former president Judy Stirling on Friday, May 10 at Sunningdale Golf and Country Club. Starting at noon, tributes are to be spoken at 1 pm. Lunch provided.

Many of Judy's paintings will be on display.

All friends are invited.

**ROOKIE & MASTER PARTNERSHIP GAME****Tuesday, April 2, 2024****6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**

6 p.m. start (Pre-Game Announcements and Pair Preparations)

6:30 p.m. Game

For one night only, the regular Tuesday night 0-1500 game will be replaced with a special Rookie & Master Partnership Game. We encourage all regular Tuesday night players to join us, as masters (100 MP+), or rookies (less than 100 MP).

The Rookie & Master Partnership Game is being played across Canada. We are confident the London Bridge Centre participants will shine in the rankings, with special master points awarded to top pairs.

We encourage novice players to sign up, and we will help pair you with a master. It will also be an opportunity to join the Tuesday evening group: a fun face-to-face game with a wide range of rated players.

Other masters are needed too! Sign up at the club.



Curious about the timing of our upcoming games and Special Events? Just [click](#) for a listing of all games and Special Events in 2024.

April 10: virtual club games award 200% black MPs.

April 22-26: all LBC games (F2F and Virtual) are Stardust – 25% gold, 75% black MPs. Also

May 5: Social Open Pairs Game (theme TBD) Special Points: 50% Red 50% Black

May 8: STARDUST Virtual Club Games: 200% Black

May 6-10: District 2 STaC - earn extra points

## 2023 ACE OF CLUBS AND MINI-MCKENNEY WINNERS

Congratulations to our LBC members who placed first in their respective **Ace of Clubs** and **Mini-McKenney** masterpoint categories.

The **Ace of Clubs** race recognizes the total masterpoints won during the year at clubs and the **Mini-McKenney** race recognizes all pigmented masterpoints won during the year. Winners of these two masterpoint races are recognized both at the **Unit** level and at the **District** level. **Ace of Clubs** winners receive certificates from the ACBL and **Mini-McKenney** winners receive medallions from the ACBL.

And the winners are:

### Unit 249 Ace of Clubs First Place Winners

- 200 - 300 Adam Witoslawski with 75.56 MP
- 1000 - 1500 Rick Jordan with 137.63 MP

### Unit 249 Mini-McKenney First Place Winners

- 50 - 100 Lydia Lee with 116.47 MP
- 200 - 300 Sara Ellis with 136.49 MP

### District 2 Mini-McKenney First Place Winners

- 50 – 100 Lydia Lee with 116.47 MP

And an honourable mention to all the LBC members who came in a close second in their **Unit 249 Mini-McKenney** masterpoint categories.

- 0 - 5 Lorna Graham with 34.06 MP
- 20 - 50 Deb Stuart with 64.45 MP
- 200 - 300 Adam Witoslawski with 86.90 MP
- 300 - 500 Kim Hauley with 189.85 MP
- 1000 - 1500 Rick Jordan with 204.36 MP

And a further honourable mention to the LBC member who came in second in their **Unit 249 Ace of Clubs** masterpoint category.

- 200 - 300 David Brown with 74.74 MP

For a complete list of LBC contenders in the 2023 **Ace of Club** and **Mini-McKenney** standings please click on the [Member Info](#) link.



## HAS YOUR PARTNER FLOWN OFF FOR AN AFRICAN SAFARI, A CRUISE DOWN THE NILE, A GONDOLA RIDE IN VENICE OR MAYBE HEADED TO THE COTTAGE FOR A FEW WEEKS?

It is not all unusual for your bridge partner to be away and you'll miss your regular bridge game at the London Bridge Centre.

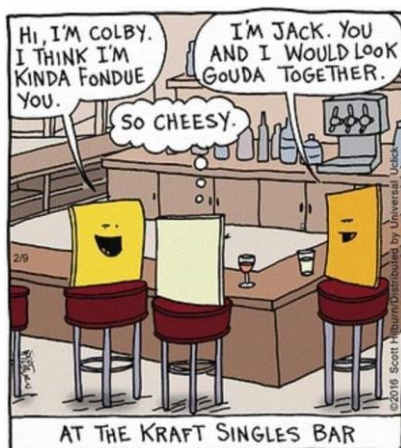
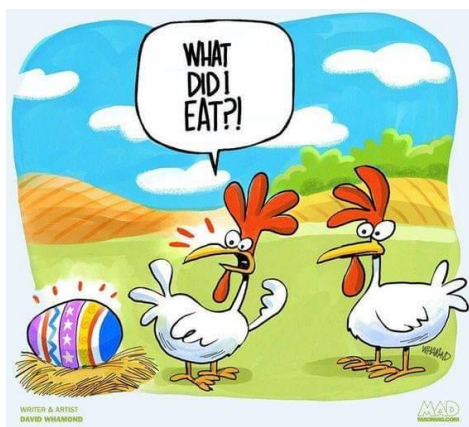
If you need a partner, your **Partnership Coordinators** are available to assist you in finding a partner. They will gladly help you find someone to play bridge with you while your bridge partner is away.

Our **Partnership Coordinators** are assigned to help you find a partner by specific games.

- 0-500 games on Monday and Friday mornings - **Tom Jolliffe 519-639-2206** - [tom.jolliffe@rogers.com](mailto:tom.jolliffe@rogers.com)
- 0-1500 games on Tuesday evening and Thursday afternoon - **Ruth Edwards 519-649-0897** - [bruth110286@yahoo.com](mailto:bruth110286@yahoo.com) and **Angie Francolini** - [presidentlbc@rogers.com](mailto:presidentlbc@rogers.com)
- Open games on Monday and Friday afternoons - **Janine Higgins 519-439-5136** - [janine@janinehiggins.ca](mailto:janine@janinehiggins.ca)
- 0-20 game, Practice and Play, and Bridge Lab on Saturday mornings and Tuesday afternoons - **Peter Tuttle 519-453-8733** - [petesrecords@hotmail.com](mailto:petesrecords@hotmail.com) and **Adele Woolfe 519-670-8439** - [adelewoolfe@gmail.com](mailto:adelewoolfe@gmail.com)

Please feel free to phone or email one of our **Partnership Coordinators** if your bridge partner will be away. Don't miss out on your regular bridge game. Your **Partnership Coordinators** are ready to help.

## TO MAKE YOU SMILE



## WEDNESDAY ONLINE GAMES

We almost all prefer the social interaction of face-to-face bridge games. It is simply so enjoyable to keep in touch with your bridge friends, share a few laughs, and kid your peers about their last bid. But **Online** bridge offers several advantages to our regular face-to-face games.

Are you pressed for time? **Online** games take less time as there is no travel time to and from the club. Are you concerned about the weather? No problem, stay cosy at home and play bridge **Online**. Don't like to go out at night, leave the car in the garage and play in our Wednesday evening **Online** game. Work during the day, then try our nighttime **Online** game.

Not only are **Online** games more convenient, but you can't revoke, drop a card, play, or bid out of turn and you don't even need to sort your cards. **Online** bridge is a great teaching tool for newer players as you can replay the hand and learn from misplays or incorrect bids. Also, if you are looking for some guidance in playing bridge, you can participate in our 5th Chair teaching program where one of our teachers guides you through bridge hands **Online**. This is an excellent opportunity to help newer players develop their bridge skills before playing face-to-face at the club.

Our members have requested a variety of **Online** games and the board is attempting to expand our **Online** game options. Hopefully, we can soon add a limited point **Online** game to our schedule.

So don't miss out. Plan to join us **Online** in either our Wednesday morning game at 9:15 or our Wednesday evening game at 6:30.

Hope to see you both in person and virtually.



## RENT THE LONDON BRIDGE CENTRE?

Did you know that you could rent the London Bridge Centre? While the bridge centre hosts up to nine games per week, there are periods when the facility is idle and could be rented for other purposes. The board has been actively seeking individuals and organizations that might be interested in renting either the teaching room or the entire facility for a meeting, a social gathering or a special event.

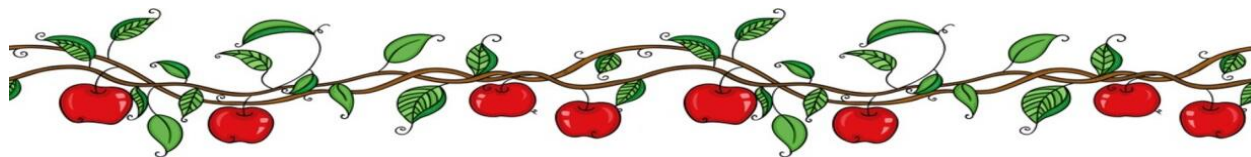
We have had several occasions to rent the club in the last few months. Currently, the London Crokinole Club rents the teaching room one evening a month. Unit 249 also rents a locker space annually to store tournament bridge supplies plus they rent the entire facility for the weekend of the London Sectional. Other organizations such as the London Newcomers' Club and the London-Fanshawe Liberal Party Association have rented space at the LBC.

Just this past week, Learning Curves has agreed to rent the teaching room on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm for the next six months. Learning Curves offers classroom teaching to individuals who wish to obtain their motorcycle licences. So don't be surprised if you see the occasional motorcycle in the parking lot.

Please welcome our new friends to the London Bridge Centre.

If you know of any organization or club that is looking for space to hold a meeting, a teaching session or a social gathering, then please contact Tom Jolliffe at 519-639-2206 or email Tom at [tom.jolliffe@rogers.com](mailto:tom.jolliffe@rogers.com) and he would be glad to meet with any prospective renter. Further information about our rental rates can be found on LBC's website under [Member Info/Rent the London Bridge Centre](#).





## Apples for our Teachers

Our club can be proud of the educational opportunities on offer during each season. Overall planning is undertaken by: **The Education committee** of Alison Marr, Linda Tindale, Sara Ellis, Mary Howe, Marie Wiley, Adele Woolfe, Fiona Woytowicz.

We appreciate **our teachers**: Audrey Craig, Hazel Hewitt, Mary Howe, Jane King, Barbara O'Brien, Peter Tuttle, and Marie Wiley. While not always working in a volunteer capacity, each is known to be very generous with extra time and assistance.

**Taste of Bridge**: Sara Ellis assisted by Lesley Harden, Kim Hauley, Lydia Lee, Kim Pattenden, and Graeme Tindale entice potential new players to join us. A recent enrolment of 19 participants has been very encouraging.

The ongoing Tuesday Bridge Lab and Saturday Practice and Play provide stepping stones toward competitive play in a nurturing environment. Both are led by Peter Tuttle and assisted by: **Tuesday Bridge Lab**: Adele Woolfe, Judi Waters, Gord Waters, Sue Edwards, Eva Good, Tony Francolini, Marion Gamble, Alison Marr; and others.

**Saturday Practice and Play**: Adele Woolfe, Virginia Pryzsienzky, Henry Pryzsienzky, Marie Wiley, Reg Young.

And for Intermediate players, the ever-popular **Thursday Lost & Found** thanks to Dwight Bender.

## BRIDGE & CURLING: GAMES THAT DEMAND CONCENTRATION, STRATEGY, AND HUMILITY.

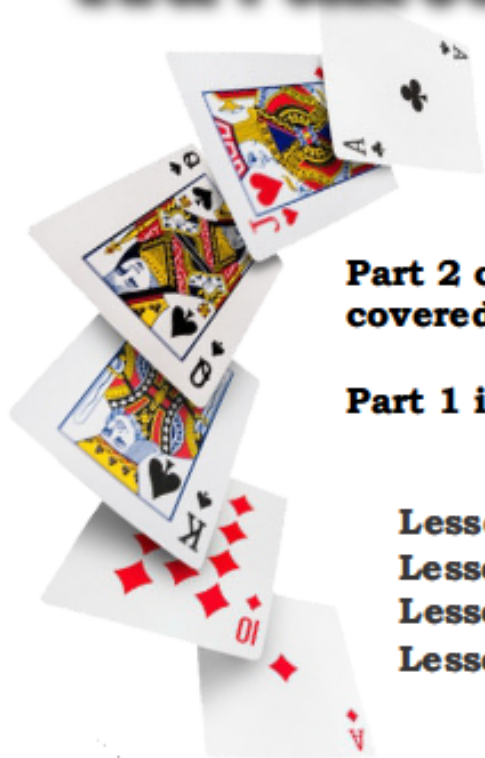
Two of Tony Francolini's favourite pastimes are the game of bridge and curling. He wanted to test his theory that many others share his love of games impossible to master. So, he developed and covered the cost of placing an advertisement at the London Curling Club. The poster is 2' X 8' and is on display along the rink until the end of the 2024-25 season.





EDUCATION

# Advancing Your Game Part 2



**Part 2 completes lessons 5 - 8 of the course that covered lessons 1 - 4 in October 2023.**

**Part 1 is a pre-requisite for enrolling in Part 2.**

- Lesson 5:** Preempts & Strong 2 Club Openers
- Lesson 6:** Overcalls
- Lesson 7:** Doubles, Redoubles & More
- Lesson 8:** Competitive Auctions

## Thursday Mornings 9:30 - 12:00

Part 1: Four weeks already completed

Part 2: Four weeks: May 9, 16, 23, 30

*Note: Part 1 is a prerequisite for Part 2*

**Course Instructor:** Mary Howe

**Course cost:** \$60 plus \$12 for the Student Notebook/Text

Register at the London Bridge Centre web page.

*Deadline for registration is May 1, 2024.*

## BARBARA SEAGRAM AT LBC - May 22, 2024

Barbara Seagram is visiting LBC for the fifth time! Barbara is donating her time and talents once again to support this fundraiser for London Bridge Centre.

This entertaining and educational bridge event is Wednesday, May 22, at LBC starting at 9:30 a.m.

In the morning, Barbara will present a seminar on the topics "**Taking Tricks with Tiny Cards**" and "**Hocus Pocus with the Trump Suit**". A light lunch will be served followed by an 18-board ACBL-sanctioned open game, planned to start at 1:00. We expect to wrap up around 3:30.

The fee for the seminar, lunch, and game is \$60 per person for those who register and pay by May 12. While we hope that you can join us for lunch and the game, the fee to attend Barbara's seminar only is \$45 if registered and paid by May 12. All fees include HST.

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** as capacity is limited. If spaces are remaining after May 13, the fees will be \$70 for the whole event, and \$55 for the seminar only. Registration form and further details are available [here](#).

Barbara will have some of her books, cheat sheets, and pocket guides available for purchase. Her latest (38th!) book, "Bridge: The Magic of Defence" has received rave reviews. Barbara has won the ABTA Book of the Year Award five times, most recently for Play it Safe in 2022 and Barbara's Bridge Tips in 2021. Please bring cash or personal cheques for purchases; Barbara is not able to accept credit cards.

Players not attending the seminar are welcome to join in the game for the usual \$8 member and \$10 non-member entry; please arrive by 12:45 so we can set up the game for 1:00. Come out and say hi to Barbara and Alex!

Negative Doubles Part 3

In this issue we will look at using a negative double after partner opens one of a minor and your right-hand opponent makes an overcall in the other minor.

e.g., 1♣ – 1♦ – Double This sequence guarantees 4-4 in the majors.

- Holding just one four-card major, you can bid that major at the one level.
- Bidding a major over 1♦ does not promise a five-card suit.
- With five spades and four hearts bid 1♠ and hope you are strong enough to show your four-card heart suit later.
- With five hearts and four spades bid 1♥. Partner will only expect a four-card suit and will bid spades when holding four spades and fewer than four hearts.
- With 5-5 distribution bid 1♠, planning on rebidding hearts twice if you hold a strong enough hand.

e.g., 1♦ – 2♣ – Double This sequence may promise 1 or both majors depending on your agreement.

Originally, a negative double showed two four-card majors. However, because responder often has just one four-card major, and no other suitable call, the modern style suggests making a negative double with one four-card major and a 'suitable' call if partner bids the major you do not have. Sometimes it means passing with three cards in the other major, bidding NT, or supporting partner's minor. Whichever style you decide to choose, it is important to discuss this sequence with your partners. Bridge is a complex game!

If you have a five-card or longer major, and 10+ HCPs, bid your major at the two level.

**QUIZ** (Write down your answers before reading the answers we provide)

Partner opens 1♣ and right-hand opponent overcalls 1♦. What would you bid?

A.	B.	C.	D.
♠ K 10 4 3	♠ A Q 7 4 2	♠ K 9 8 4 2	♠ A Q J 2
♥ Q 9 8 7 4	♥ J 10 7 3	♥ Q J 6 5 3	♥ K Q J 8
♦ 6 4	♦ 2	♦ 2	♦ 3
♣ 5 3	♣ 10 5 4	♣ J 8	♣ A Q 4 3

Partner opens 1♦ and right-hand opponent overcalls 2♣. What would you bid?

E.	F.	G.	H.
♠ A J 9 5 2	♠ A Q 4 2	♠ A Q 3 2	♠ A J
♥ 6 2	♥ A J 9 8	♥ A 3	♥ A J 10
♦ Q 7 6	♦ 6 5 2	♦ K 9 8 6	♦ 10 9 8 5
♣ A 3 2	♣ 3 2	♣ J 3 2	♣ Q J 7 3

**Answers:**

You will not always agree with our answers. The important question to ask yourself is, “Why don’t I agree?”. Then ask a person, whose opinion you respect, what they would bid and why.

A) 1♥. You only have 5 HCPs plus 1 length point, and if partner doesn’t support hearts, or bid one spade, you will probably have to pass and put this hand down as the dummy. However, you do not want to pass having nine major suit cards. Being an aggressive bidder generally pays off, but not always. We would pass whatever partner bids, hoping it is not NT.



B) 1♠. If partner’s next bid shows a minimum hand in spades or clubs, then you should pass. If partner bids 1NT you should consider 2♥ (showing 5-4 distribution), but 1NT could be best.

C) 1♠. If partner does not support spades, then you will bid 2♥ next. If partner bids 2NT over your 2♥ bid, you should bid 3♥. This is a sign-off bid, showing a weak distributional hand. If partner bids on, he has been warned!

D) Double. There is no upper limit for a negative double. Your first goal is to try for a 4-4 major suit fit before playing the hand in clubs or NT. If partner bids a major your next bid should be a cue bid in diamonds, showing shortness in diamonds and an interest in a major suit slam. If partner does not bid a major suit then your cue bid shows an interest in a club slam.

E) 2♠. This bid shows 5+ spades and 10+ HCPs. Your next bid could be difficult. Depending on what partner bids, do you have enough for game, and where?



F) Double. If partner bids 2♠ or 2♥ do you invite, or do you bid four of the major suit? You have 12 playing points (11 HCPs and one for the doubleton club). We favour bidding game with very close hands. Jeff Meckstroth (100,000 MPs) was asked by a new partner what sort of game tries he plays. He responded, “I bid game and then try to make it!” There is only one Meckstroth, but it is a useful guide.

G) Double. You might have a difficult second bid. If partner bids spades, then life is easy. If partner bids hearts, then what? Do you invite game in diamonds? Seems a bit wimpy when you might be able to make a diamond slam. However, you could also go down in five diamonds. Or, do you hope partner has a partial club stopper for NT? Try not to lose too much sleep because you will never be correct all the time. Even Meckstroth goes down!

H) 3NT. You have opening points and enough HCPs to be in game. 3NT is not guaranteed but probably is the best chance for game rather than five diamonds. There is also an argument for passing and hope partner balances with a double.

In the newsletter’s three articles we have provided an introduction to Negative Doubles. Once you become comfortable with these ideas there are other examples of negative doubles you might want to explore.