

The Kibitzer



Spring 2025 | Volume 72, Number 1

John Rayner
1951 - 2025



**BARBADOS SUN SEA & SLAMS: SUN. FEBRUARY 8 – SUN. FEB 15, 2026
OR SAT. FEB 7-FEB 15, 2026 with BRIDGE WORKSHOPS ON SUN FEB 8, 2026**

**ACBL SECTIONAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT with SILVER MASTER POINTS
at SUNBAY HOTEL in BARBADOS**

SEVEN NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION (8-15 FEB) **INCLUDING ALL YOUR MEALS & DRINKS**
USD \$1,225.00 PER PERSON (DBL. OCC.) OR USD \$1,890.00 SINGLE OCCUPANCY

OR EIGHT NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION (7-15 FEB) **INCLUDING ALL YOUR MEALS & DRINKS**
USD \$1,400.00 PER PERSON (DBL. OCC.) \$2,160.00 SINGLE OCCUPANCY

EXTRA NIGHTS: \$175.00 USD per person DBL OCC. or \$270.00 per person SGL OCC.
Come early or stayover to tour this lovely island.

HOST HOTEL: BARBADOS BEACH CLUB MAXWELL COAST ROAD, CHRIST CHURCH
This hotel is now sold out for 2026

SUNBAY HOTEL is almost across the street from **BARBADOS BEACH CLUB: 240 steps**

You will have access to beach at Barbados Beach Club (as these are sister properties) & 5 drink tickets

INCLUDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER & LOCAL DRINKS ARE ALL INCLUDED AT BOTH HOTELS. IF YOU STAY AT SUNBAY, YOU DINE AT SUNBAY. STAY AT BARBADOS BEACH CLUB: DINE AT BBC. HOUSE WINE WITH LUNCH & DINNER. MANAGER'S COCKTAIL PARTY. CLOSING BANQUET SAT EVE @ BARBADOS BEACH CLUB. TAXES & HOTEL GOVERNMENT LEVY INCLUDED. WIFI IS FREE. BRIDGE WORKSHOPS ARE FREE.

GRATUITIES ARE NOT INCLUDED. WE RECOMMEND \$30.00 USD PER PERSON.

TRANSFERS TO AIRPORT ON DEPARTURE ON SUN 15 FEB ARE INCLUDED.
NO TRANSFERS TO HOTEL ON ARRIVAL ARE INCLUDED.

BOOK YOUR OWN AIRFARE (NOT INCLUDED). NOTIFY ROGLYN HINDS OF YOUR FLIGHT PLANS.

Contact Roglyn Hinds roglynhinds@gmail.com so she can arrange transportation from hotel to airport

BRIDGE EVENTS ARE NOT INCLUDED. Cost: \$16.00 USD per session. All bridge is optional.

This is a smaller tournament. Very friendly and fabulous. It will be sold out so book now.

Highly recommended by Barbara Seagram & Alex Kornel.
Barbados is Barbara's homeland for MANY generations (almost 4 centuries!)

Barbara Seagram & Alex Kornel will be attending the tournament in 2026. There will be TWO free seminars given by Barbara while there (Sun am & Sun aft: 8 FEB) FLY IN ON SAT 7 FEB to attend

TO BOOK: Contact Reservations Department at Barbados Beach Club 1-246-428-9900
or email reservations@barbadosbeachclub.com BOOKING CODE: **BRIDGE 2026**

DEPOSIT @ SUNBAY: \$525.00 USD per person (dbl occ) or \$810.00 USD (sgl occ)

Deposit is fully refundable if you cancel prior to November 15, 2025

Think of this as a packaged vacation and not just a hotel room. Hence this cancellation policy.

Contact Roglyn Hinds: Tournament chair roglynhinds@gmail.com or 246-231-0149

8 Feb: 10 – 12 & 2.30-4.30 pm: Bridge lessons
9 Feb: 9.30 am: Pairs Game
9 Feb: 7.00 pm: Pelau Pairs # 1 session
10 Feb: 9.30 am: Pairs Game
10 Feb: 7.00 pm: Pelau Pairs # 2 session
11 Feb: 9.30 am: Pairs Game
11 Feb: 2.30 pm: Rum Pairs
12 Feb: 9.30 am: Team Game # 1 session
12 Feb: 2.30 pm: Team Game # 2 session
13 Feb: 9.30 am: Pairs Game
13 Feb: 2.30 pm: Lady Burton Pairs # 1 session
14 Feb: 9.30 am & 2.00 pm: Lady Burton Pairs # 2 & 3

 **0-500 GAMES EVERY SESSION!** 

My name is Barbara Seagram & I am a bridge player, author and teacher. I was born and raised on this beautiful island in the Caribbean. The Barbados Bridge Committee do a wonderful job running this delightful bridge tournament in February each year. Imagine \$1,225.USD per person (dbl. occ) to spend a week at a hotel in Barbados in February, including all meals and drinks. The players are friendly, the sun shines forever and the island beckons. You cannot afford to not go! It is a very special island and we invite you to visit and enjoy all its magic. E-mail: barbaraseagram@gmail.com

There is no significance to the names Pelau Pairs, Rum Pairs, Lady Burton Pairs etc: It is just a designation to distinguish one event from another. Cost per session is \$16.00 USD. **There are 0-500 separate events at every session.**

TRANSATLANTIC BRIDGE CRUISE - ALLURA

April 14-30, 2026 - Miami, Bahamas, Bermuda, Azores (Portugal), Malaga, Cartagena, Mallorca (Spain), Naples/Pompeii, Rome (Italy)

Join the luxurious Allura, Oceania's **BRAND NEW** ship, on an exclusive 2026 cruise from Miami to Rome. With 67,000 tons of elegance, it accommodates 1,200 guests and features a dedicated crew of 800 for unparalleled service.

Linda Tuff will be your bridge instructor, director and tour leader.

Nancy Strachan will also be your director.

Click on this to get a taste of Allura: <https://youtu.be/wgU8bUHLdfw>



LINDA TUFF, NANCY STRACHAN & OCEANIA ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED by BARBARA SEAGRAM & ALEX KORNEI

INCLUDED: \$100 shipboard credit per cabin, Gourmet specialty restaurants, Unlimited Starlink Wi-Fi, Group Prestige Beverage Package (unlimited wine & spirits), Shipboard gratuities, soft drinks & juices & specialty coffees & teas, laundry services, group fitness classes.

Optional stayover in Rome

Prices from:

\$4599.00 USD or \$6399.00 CAD – Verandah cabin (B4) per person double occupancy.

To book, call Carolyn Kremer (Direct Travel / was Vision Travel):
705-435-5533 or 1-800-363-5533 # 1435. Email: ckremer@dt.com

DAY	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
Apr 14 Tue	Miami, Florida, United States	Embark 1 PM	5 PM
Apr 15 Wed	Great Stirrup Cay, Bahamas	7 AM	12 PM
Apr 16 Thu	At Sea		
Apr 17 Fri	Royal Naval Dockyard, Bermuda	11 AM	4 PM
Apr 18-21	At Sea		
Apr 22 Wed	Ponta Delgada (Azores), Portugal	11 AM	4 PM
Apr 23-24	At Sea		
Apr 25 Sat	Malaga, Spain	8 AM	8 PM
Apr 26 Sun	Cartagena, Spain	10 AM	7 PM
Apr 27 Mon	Palma de Mallorca, Spain	11 AM	7 PM
Apr 28 Tue	At Sea		
Apr 29 Wed	Naples/Pompeii, Italy	7 AM	5 PM
Apr 30 Thu	Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy	Disembark 8 AM	



Linda Tuff won the 2022 Teacher of the Year Award. She manages Halifax Bridge World club in Halifax, Nova Scotia



ABOUT ALLURA

Year Built: 2025 | Guests: 1238-1469

Total Cabins: 612 | Crew: 800

Length: 785' | Tonnage: 67000

Finest cuisine at sea:

French, Italian, Asian & Steakhouse specialty dining rooms

There is also a paddle tennis court, and 9-hole golf putting green, fitness track, shuffleboard, and croquet.



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I first heard my friend **John Rayner's** *Fractured Phrases* 20 years ago at a Christmas party at his club in Mississauga: four of us at a bridge table huddled around the answer page, trying to come up with as many answers as we could, and vying to top other groups of four. Later, John would reveal the answers. Sometimes they were met with laughs, other times with groans. Try one on. The answer is the name of a bridge convention. John's clue: "A company mandated relocation to the Lone Star state." (Answer below.)

The prize for coming first was the same prize one gets for receiving masterpoints. No not money or trophies, but in Rayner's words, "honour and prestige." John's party games at his club were legendary. If you were there, you know.

It feels like the end of an era because, sadly, we lost John in March. On page 16 you can read my personal reflections of John Rayner and what he meant to bridge in the GTA. Thanks to **Jill Thompson** and **Debra Feldman** for sending me many photos to include. Wish we had space for all of them. The photo on the cover is of John in Ireland in 2019.

Alright, time's up! Did you solve the fractured phrase posed earlier? The answer is *Texas Transfer*. Another of John's phrases is in the title of **David Ellis's** contribution. Thanks to all our contributors this issue: **Bob G., Doug Andrews, Mike Roche, Martin Hunter, Kibitzer** photographer **Jonathan Steinberg, Barbara Seagram, and Jamie Evans.**

Andy Stark
andy.kibitzer@gmail.com
 647 530 1360

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**Come join in on this annual
Bridge tradition getaway**

BRIDGE BASH

at Bayview Wildwood Resort

September 2-5, 2025



FEATURING

25 Tables of ACBL (OPEN) Sanctioned Bridge.

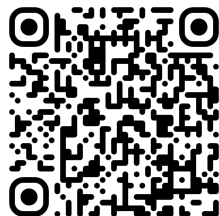
You don't have to be an ACBL member to participate.



Bayview Wildwood Resort

1500 Port Stanton Pkwy, Port Severn, ON, P0E 1N0
www.bayviewwildwood.com

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food, and a ton of fun!**



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bridgebash.ca



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UNIT 166 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

Please check the Unit 166 website for up-to-date club information www.unit166.ca

ALBION HILLS BRIDGE CLUB

Mayfield United Church,
12496, Dixie Road, Mayfield, Caledon ON
Steven Norris 647-234-6352

albionhillsbridge@gmail.com

- Thur 1:00 pm Open

BRIDGE AT THE TEMPLE

Temple Sinai
210 Wilson Ave., Toronto ON M5M 3B1
Richard Ross 416-816-7115

- Mon 12:00 pm 0-1000
- Mon 12:00 pm Open
- Tues 6:30 pm Open

BRONTE BRIDGE CLUB

Walton Memorial United Church
2489 Lakeshore Road W., Oakville
Jackie Syer 905-844-0574

syerjacqueline@gmail.com

jackiesyer@gmail.com

- Wed 12:30 pm Open
- Wed 12:30 pm 0-500

ETOBICOKE BRIDGE CENTRE

Etobicoke Olympium
590 Rathburn Rd
Etobicoke, ON M9C 3T3
Steve Overholt 647-897-6179

All face-to-face games are temporarily inactive

HALTON BRIDGE CLUB

Burlington East Presbyterian Church
505 Walkers Line, Burlington
Jackie Syer 905-844-0574

syerjacqueline@gmail.com

jackiesyer@gmail.com

- Tues 12:30 pm Open

HART HOUSE BRIDGE CLUB

7 Hart House Circle, Toronto, ON
416-978-2452

harthousebridgeclub@gmail.com

<http://sites.utoronto.ca/bridge/>

- Tues 6:30 pm Open

UNIT 166 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

Please check the Unit 166 website for up-to-date club information www.unit166.ca

INA & FRIENDS LM PAIRS

Temple Sinai
210 Wilson Ave., Toronto, ON M5M 3B1
416-816-7115 or 416-706-8550
Richard Ross & Ina Demme
lifemastersbridge@gmail.com

- Fri 12:00 pm Open (Stratified)

MARILYN'S BRIDGE CLUB

24 Alexander St.
Brampton, ON L6V 1H6
(905) 791-4239
Gary Westfall
gwestfall@rogers.com

- Fri 12:30 pm Open

MOBRIDGE

Sherwood Village
2225 Erin Mills Pkwy, Unit #155A
Mississauga, ON L5K 1T9
www.mobridge.club
Max Rutherford 905 403 1333
mail@mobridge.club

- Mon 7.00 pm 0-99
- Mon 7.00 pm 0-1500
- Tue 12.30 pm Open
- Wed 7.00 pm 0-499
- Thu 12.30 pm Open
- Fri 12.30 pm 0-1500
- Sat 10.00 am Open

OAKVILLE BRIDGE CLUB

Trinity United Church
1250 McCraney St. E
Oakville, ON L6H 3K3
Darlene Scott
oakvilledarlene@gmail.com

- Mon 12:15 pm Open

Free lesson prior to game; arrive at 11:30 am

SHORELINE BRIDGE CLUB

Burlington East Presbyterian Church
505 Walkers Line, Burlington ON
Jackie Syer 905-844-0574
syerjacqueline@gmail.com
jackiesyer@gmail.com

- Fri 12:30 pm Open
- Fri. 12:30 pm 0-500

STEPPING STONE BRIDGE CLUB

Armour Heights Presbyterian Church
105 Wilson Ave. (Avenue & 401)
Cyndy Winkler cyndywinkler@gmail.com
<http://www.bridgewebs.com/steppingstones/>

- Mon 12:30 pm 0-20
- Tues 12:00 pm 0-399

TORONTO BRIDGE

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church
1585 Yonge St., Toronto, ON
Rob Drummond 647-629-3408
info@torontobridge.ca

- Wed 12:00 pm Open
- Thur 9:00 am Limited (0-500)
- Thur 12:00 pm Open

TORONTO EAST BRIDGE CLUB

1512 Kingston Road, Scarborough, ON
416-419-3089 - Glenna Richardson
416-276-6415 - Laurie Miller
torontoeastbridgeclub@gmail.com

- Mon 1:00 pm Supervised, 0 - 20
- Mon 7:00 pm Open and 0-20
- Wed 12:30 pm Open and 0-20

**Board approved minutes of the Jan. 26 meeting
are now posted at unit166.ca.**



Strategic Plan: Unit166 Strategy for Returning to Profitability

I. Create a Volunteer Culture: Tapping into Expertise Within the Bridge Community

The Unit establish an "Increase Volunteering" committee focused on recruiting members motivated by a sense of personal accomplishment and contribution to bridge. The goal is to match areas of expertise and skills, such as marketing for instance, with Committee and tournament needs.

2. Create and Execute a Plan for Revenue Growth

The Unit establish a “Grow Revenue” committee, with sub-committees of qualified volunteers, to create and execute a plan for increasing membership and attendance at tournaments and face-to-face clubs. Sub-committees are to include Marketing, Growing Adult Membership, and Growing Junior and Youth Membership.

3. Pro-Active Recruiting and Nurturing of Locally Available Tournament Directors

The Unit establish an “Increase Locally Based Tournament Directors” committee to focus on pro-actively generating and nurturing a minimum of six (6) qualified Tournament Directors within the Unit. The goal is to minimize travel, accommodation, per diem, and exchange rate expenses.

4. Fiscal Responsibility: Cost/Benefit Analysis for New Initiatives

Discretionary expenditures for new initiatives will be evaluated on the basis of their positive contribution to Unit profitability. In some instances, the benefit will be over a number of years in which case the payback period will be used as the basis for assessment. Exceptions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The Kib interviewed Unit 166 Board member Douglas Jordan to find out more about the newly formed Grow Revenue Committee and what he's looking for from Unit members.

Kib: What is the general function of the Grow Revenue Committee?

Douglas: The main function is to find ways to encourage young and older people to fully reap the social and intellectual benefits of duplicate bridge. The results will be measured in increased memberships and participation at tournaments and in-person clubs. This should ultimately also bring the Unit's finances back to pre-COVID levels.

Kib: Who serves on the Grow Revenue Committee?

Douglas: I have volunteered to Chair the Committee, reporting to the Unit Board. Debra Kestenberg has volunteered to serve as Recording Secretary. We have open positions on our three sub-committees: Marketing, Grow Adult Membership, and Grow Junior and Youth Membership. We plan to tap into creative ideas, expertise, and skills within our bridge community to fill these volunteer roles.

Kib: What will happen during Grow Revenue Committee meetings?

Douglas: The Committee will review ideas, along with costs and benefits, provided by the subcommittees. The Committee will also act as a general oversight of Unit business, looking for places where cost improvements can be found. They will then be delegated to the appropriate subcommittee for study or be sent to the Board of Directors for strategic review.

Kib: Any other benefit of the Grow Revenue Committee?

Douglas: A big benefit is that the Board of Directors will have more time to formulate strategic improvements to the way the Unit, District and ACBL support each other. This is much more in line with the function of a Board of Directors. An even bigger benefit is that the members of the Unit will now have input into the decision process. The three volunteer subcommittee Chairs will be leading teams of volunteers to work on our biggest opportunities.

Kib: Well, you have mentioned subcommittees several times, what are they?

Douglas: Currently we envision three subcommittees:

1. The Marketing Subcommittee will endeavour to improve attendance at Unit events.

To our members: If you have any background in marketing, your expertise would be welcome as a member of the Marketing Subcommittee or as the Chair of the Marketing Subcommittee.

2. The Grow Adult Membership Subcommittee will undertake to increase adult participation in Unit events. They are to work with adult educators to teach new players and to provide proper paths to ensure those interested in duplicate bridge find enjoyable and competitive outlets.

To our members: If you have experience with teaching adults bridge, working with an aging population, or running a club your expertise would be welcome as a member of the Grow Adult Membership Subcommittee or as the Chair of the Grow Adult Membership Subcommittee.

3. The Grow Junior and Youth Membership Subcommittee will set out to increase participation in bridge amongst the younger demographic. The challenge is to find ways to divert youth attention from playing games on phone/tablets/computers. This is a big challenge and is a long-term project.

To our members: If you have a background in teaching youth and would like to see bridge clubs in high schools and a bridge curriculum find its way into the Provincial curriculum, your expertise would be welcome as a member of the Grow Junior and Youth Membership Subcommittee or as the Chair of the Grow Junior and Youth Membership Subcommittee.

Kib: How many people are you looking for?

Douglas: My opinion, from being on numerous committees, is that a chair, secretary (a job I will be doing on all the subcommittees), and a dozen members is as large as can be easily handled. We will look at who is interested and try to select a variety of backgrounds for each subcommittee.

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Kibitzer Editorial Policy

The Kibitzer is published to promote bridge and to inform members of ACBL Units 166, 238, 246, 249 and 255 about tournaments and special events, as well as to entertain with deals and articles of interest. It is also a forum for the exchange of information and opinion among the members. Opinions expressed in articles or letters to the Editor are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Unit Boards of Directors or the Editor. The Kibitzer reserves the right to edit or exclude submitted material.

UNIT 246 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

AJAX BRIDGE CLUB

46 Exeter Rd., Ajax
Sonia Ostroff
905-419-0870

- Tues 7:15 pm Open

AURORA BRIDGE CLUB

406 Millard Ave, Newmarket, L3Y 1Z9
905-895-7321

Sally Loates sara.loates@yahoo.com

- Wed 12:30 pm Open
- Thurs 12:30 pm 0-500
- Fri 12:30 pm Open

BARRIE BRIDGE CLUB

18 Alliance Blvd., Barrie
705-721-9233

Jane Foster janekf74@hotmail.com

- Mon 1:00 pm 299er
- Tues 1:00 pm Open
- Wed 1:00 pm Open
- Fri 12:00 pm Open

BELLEVILLE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Belleville Masonic Temple, 132 Foster Avenue
Belleville, K8N 3P9

Club website: www.bridgewebs.com/belleville

Games are open; 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

Club manager - Peter Tarle peter@tarle.com

BLUE MOUNTAIN DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

100 Minnesota Street, Collingwood
705-446-9592

Christine Blake chrisedb@rogers.com

- Tues 1:00 pm Open
- Thurs 1:00 pm Open

COBOURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

232 Spencer Street E., Cobourg

pgiannandrea@gmail.com

- Wed 1:00 pm Open

ORILLIA DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Orillia Square Mall, Unit 22
1029 Brodie Drive,
Severn Twp. L3V 0V2
705-323-4944

Jean Belfour: jeanbelfour007@gmail.com

Club website: www.bridgewebs.com/Orillia

- Mon 1:00 pm Open
- Wed 1:00 pm 299er
- Thurs 1:00 pm Open

Details at: www.bridgewebs.com/orillia/

NORTH SIMCOE BRIDGE AND GAMES CLUB

(formerly Midland Bridge Club)
The Brooklea Golf and Country Club,
8567 Hwy. 93, Midland

Jeanette Halliday: jhalliday123@gmail.com

Club website: www.bridgewebs.com/midland/

- Mon 1:00 pm Open
- Tues 7:00pm Learning game
- Wed 1:00 pm Open
- Thurs 1:00 pm Social
- Fri 12:00 pm Bid Euchre

PETERBOROUGH BRIDGE CLUB

184 Marina Blvd., Peterborough
705-745-2331

Anne Martens ptboblidge@gmail.com

- Mon 1:00 pm Open
- Mon 1:00 pm 49ers
- Tues 1:00 pm 0-750
(one partner must be under 750 mps)
- Wed 1:00 pm Open
- Thurs 1:00 pm 0-750
- Fri 1:00 pm Open

RICHMOND HILL BRIDGE CLUB

Elgin Barrow Arena, 43 Church Street S,
Richmond Hill, L4C 1W1

Susan Beals sbealsca@yahoo.co.uk

- Thur 12:45 pm Open
- Sat 12:45 pm Open

THORNHILL BRIDGE CLUB

7755 Bayview Ave., Thornhill
905-883-955

Medhat Fawzy medhatfawzy@hotmail.com

- Mon 1:00 pm Open
- Wed 1:00 pm Open

WASHAGO BRIDGE CLUB

4108 Canal Rd., R.R.#2
Washago, L0K 2B0
Anne Sixsmith
647-528-1170

- Friday 12:00 pm Open

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tel. (519) 440-9346 email: jennverdam@gmail.com

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UNIT 249 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

BEACHGROVE BRIDGE CLUB

14134 Riverside Dr East, Windsor, N8N 1B6
519-564-7185
Marica Janisse
Private: May thru December
• Tues 6:30 pm

BREW'S BRIDGE CLUB

770 Maxwell St., Sarnia, 519-381-6792
Randy Breuer
• Tues 1:00 pm Open
• Wed 1:00 pm Open
• Fri 1:00 pm Open

GRAND RIVER BRIDGE CLUB

2481 Kingsway Drive, Kitchener, N2C 1A6
519-893-4595
Kathy Russell
Grand River runs a combination of 11 face-to-face games and one virtual game per week.
Please see our website for schedule details.
<https://grandriverbridgeclub.com/club-schedule>

GODERICH BRIDGE CLUB

Trinity Church 245 Mill Road, Goderich,
519-524-9635
Mary-Lynne Telford
The Goderich bridge clubs runs a face-to-face open game on Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. plus

a series of three virtual games per week.
Please see our website for schedule details.
<https://www.bridgewebs.com/goderichbridge/home.html>

GUELPH BRIDGE CLUB

23 Victoria Rd N, Guelph, N1E 5G6
519-400-4053
Thea Davis

The Guelph Bridge Club runs a series of 7 face-to-face games per week.
Please see our website for schedule details.
<http://www.guelphbridgeclub.org/gametimes.html>

KINCARDINE CHARITY BRIDGE CLUB

601 Durham Street, Kincardine, 226-398-6008
Tom Rajnovich tom.rajanovich@gmail.com
The Kincardine Charity Bridge Club runs 3 games per week.

- Mon 12:45 pm Open
- Wed 9:30 am Mentor
- Fri 12:45 pm Open

Please see our website for schedule details.
https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwor/bw.cgi?club=kincardinecharity&pid=display_future

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/kincardinecharity/>

UNIT 249 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

LAKESHORE BRIDGE CLUB

#594 - 5030 Howard Ave., Oldcastle ON
519-996-4372
Ewoud Van Goch
Rob Garrioch
519-919-4455

- Mon 12:45 pm Open

LONDON BRIDGE CENTRE

9-1106 Dearness Drive, London,
519-601-2582
Angie Francolini presidentlbc@rogers.com

The London Bridge Centre runs 9
face-to-face games per week. Please see
our website for schedule details:
<https://www.londonbridgecentre.ca/>

MAPLE CITY DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

304 St Clair St, Chatham
USB Sports Bar downstairs
519-809-7000
Gary Robertson garroberr@gmail.com

- Mon 1:00 pm Open
- Wed 1:00 pm Open

MEAFORD BRIDGE CLUB

Knox Presbyterian Church
591 St. Vincent St., Meaford
226-568-3204
Jan Chappelle janchappelle@gmail.com

- Mon 1:00 pm Open
- Thurs 1:00 pm Open

OWEN SOUND DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

1450 2nd Ave W, Owen Sound
519-372-1922
Patricia Barker
osduplicatebridgeclubnews@gmail.com

- Mon 6:45 pm Open
- Wed 1:00 pm Open

PARKHILL LEISURE CLUB

176 Broadway Street, Parkhill
519-476-3144
Lynn Whalen ldw@execulink.com

SAUGEEN SHORES DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

525 Iving's Dr., Port Elgin,
Manager: John Lightfoot, 519-797-5858
littlebear@bmts.com
Website: [Lake & Bay Bridge](#)

- Tues 1:00 pm Open
- Fri. 1:00 pm Open

SIMCOE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

150 Colborne St. S.
St. James United Church
Simcoe, N3Y 4H6
519-631-5531
Jim Wright jwr1002393@rogers.com

- Wed 1:00 pm Open

ST. THOMAS DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

225 Chestnut Street, St. Thomas, N5R 5B2
519-631-5531
Jim Wright manager@stthomasbridgeclub.org

- Tues 1:00 pm Open
- Tues 1:00 pm 0-500
- Thur 1:00 pm Open

THE DUNES

Ausable Port Franks Community Centre
9997 Port Franks Road, Port Franks
519-719-2483
Janette Pedler pedlar99@hay.net

TILLSONBURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Tillsonburg Seniors Centre
45 Hardy Ave., Tillsonburg
519-631-5531
Jim Wright jwr1002393@rogers.com

- Fri 1:00 pm Open

WINDSOR SOCIAL DBC

333 Lacasse Blvd. Tecumseh
Roger Papineau rogerpapineau@sympatico.ca

- Wed 12:45 pm Open
- Fri 12:45 pm Open

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UNIT 255 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

BRIDGE CENTRE OF NIAGARA

2E Tremont Drive, #5

St Catharines, ON. 905-704-0446

info@bcon.club

We offer open and/or restricted level games most days.

Please check our website for our current schedule: www.bridgecentreofniagara.com

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CENTRE

NOTL Community Centre,

14 Anderson Lane, NOTL, ON

Claude Tremblay claudet@cmtmc.ca

- Tues 1:00 PM Open
- Fri 1:00 PM Open

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John Rayner – Bridge's Renaissance Man

Canada lost a bridge teaching legend in March when John Rayner died. He was a dear friend to so many, and so many friends came out to pay their respects at his celebration of life held in late March. There were nine speakers: four bridge-playing friends and five family members including John's older sister, Marilyn. We all had so many stories...probably because John himself loved stories. He loved telling them and he loved listening to them. Here are a couple that come to mind when I think about being John's friend over the past 37 years.

In 2000, John and I were playing in a regional pair game in Ft. Lauderdale. Out in the lobby just before the second session there was a bit of a commotion as people gawked and delighted in the presence of a famous bridge player's daughter. The crowd oohed and ahhed at the sheer cuteness of the young girl. John leaned over to me and said in a perfect stage whisper, "Mine's better." He was referring of course to his 4-year-old daughter Rebecca who was back home in Canada.

Another time, we were in Parry Sound for their fall Sectional. John and I were standing in front of a wall looking at the recap sheets and looking over results. I said, "Oh my, what a great bridge name. Check this name out: John *Ducklow*." To which John replied, "And don't forget his partner, Bob *Thirdhandhigh*."

Oh, the laughs we had over the years. At his house in Oakville, we used to play a trivia game called "The Jamie Game." Jamie Evans was one of two sons (the other being Michael) of Debra Feldman from her previous marriage. So, while technically stepsons, John considered both Jamie and Michael to be his sons.

(Debra was John's first wife.) Jamie was lightning quick with replies to trivia questions, hence the title of the game. I posed this one: "What is the capital of Canada?" Rebecca, about six years old at the time, maybe younger, was first to respond. "C!" she exclaimed. There was a pause as we all needed a sec to figure out her answer and that she was right: C is the capital of Canada, after all. John reminded me of that story just last Christmas.

In thinking about John and what he meant to bridge in the GTA during the past 55 years, it hit me that he was quite the Bridge Renaissance Man. He excelled, nay, he was world class, in five key areas: director, player, instructor, writer, and club manager. Let's take a deep dive, shall we?



Pointing to himself: Rayndear on BBO

Director

It was in the capacity of a director that I first met John in the spring of 1988. I had just returned home from London and my final year at Western and was staying with my parents for the summer when I noticed on the kitchen table a bridge book titled *The Joy of Bridge* by Audrey Grant. “What’s this,” I asked. “Oh, that’s our textbook; we’re taking lessons from John Rayner.” “But you already know how to play.” “Yes, but it’s been a while, and we feel rusty.” So, I read the textbook (a good read!) and said, “Alright, let’s play.”

My dad and I played in the Thursday night game and I was instantly impressed with John’s friendly exuberant demeanour. He was the owner-operator at the Mississauga-Oakville Bridge Club. From playing in games directed by John over the years I quickly noted how different he was as a director. Each player was greeted by name as they came up to pay their entry. Games started on time and finished on time. The movement was never fouled up. If there was a skip, we skipped on time. Then there was John’s boisterous and energetic round call: “Okay folks, **next** round!” He didn’t have to tell us, “Pairs get older; boards get younger,” or what to do or where to go. He kept it short and sweet. Why use 24 words when four will do?

For some random reason I remember once playing on a Friday afternoon at the newer location on Winston Churchill. To start the game, John announced, “Okay folks, we have 13 tables today—the per-r-r-fect movement.” And I instantly felt at home, relaxed, exactly where I needed to be in the world: at John’s friendly Friday afternoon game with John directing... perfect indeed.

John had a keen eye for up-and-coming players at his club, often sponsoring them to get their directing and/or teaching accreditation. Martin Hunter, among others, got his start at John’s club. I, too, directed at MOBC. I recall John telling me his one and only rule for directors: “Don’t *fuck up* the movement.” I direct

now at the York Club, and I think about John’s rule every time I forget to call a skip.

As a director, John was fair, pragmatic, thoughtful, and authoritative, but never overbearing. He conducted himself with humour and panache and high competence—a master at his craft. The Friday night game was the game to play in if you truly wanted to get better. I noticed how one pair coming in from Etobicoke, Jan & Bill Howlett, could not help but be late seemingly every single time. (Bill worked late, totally understandable.) John found a way to get them in, either to complete a full table or he’d slot them in as a bumping pair. He of course would illicit his patented mock indignation just to stick the needle in, but it was all in good humour.

Speaking of mock indignation, John had this down pat. Once I arrived to play during the winter and took off my gloves to pay my entry. John took one look at them and uttered, “Tsu...*gloves*” in a derivative tone. Another time a player was not happy with a ruling John had given and so the player demanded a committee. John’s reaction? “Tsu...*committee*.” (Upon opening his club in 1983, John had anticipated players



John playing with two dummies

requesting a committee, so he made it club policy: no committees.) See? Always thinking ahead.

And then there was the cheating incident. I've told this story before in the Kib so will now just focus on John's handling of it. In early 1990 I had witnessed a player dealing an unshuffled deck. When I arranged to meet John at his club I was literally shaking, having to tell John that one of *his directors* was cheating at team play. I had witnessed the player take a deck out of his winter coat pocket and without shuffling, deal out four hands and place them in the board for play. Plus, before seeing the ol' switcheroo, I had some incriminating circumstantial evidence. John listened quietly and thanked me for telling him, saying I had done the right thing and that he would handle it from here.

As it turned out, John's team was about to play the cheater's team in the final of the club's team league. So, John took all the decks that were to be used in the match and coloured in the ® symbol on the aces of spades. If the cheater were to switch decks, then the new deck would not have the same marking as the others. The plan worked to a tee but as it turns out the evidence against the cheater was even more stark: the cheater had switched in a coloured ACBL brand of cards when all of John's were Kem brand. The stacked deck was super obvious!

At the half of the final, John asked to speak to the cheater in private. He said to him, "I have reason to believe you have a deck of cards in your pocket; could you please empty your pockets?" The cheater reacted as a guilty one would, and stormed out of the club, feigning disgust. (For years I wanted to get up on the roof and see if a deck of cards was up there, but the deck was likely put in his car, mixed in with the other dozens of decks in the cheater's trunk—he was a bridge director after all, and you know directors keep dozens of playing cards in their car.) So, John pulled in the cheater's team to the private room and said the match was over, that he had evidence the cheater was cheating. They ignored the evidence, all instantly

in denial, and supportive of their teammate. John now played his trump card—he brought in the eyewitness (moi) to look them in the eye and say, "I saw the switch." They grumbled and drove home.

The next day the cheater's teammates recanted. They realized John was right and that John was right to conduct himself the way he did. They felt awful for not spotting the clues during the previous months. The cheater was never seen again—he did not show up at the unit's ethics hearing and he is currently on the ACBL's lifetime ban list. I only mention this story here to illustrate John's professionalism.

Although John did not aspire to direct at a higher level than the club game, if he wanted to, he could have, and he would have been stellar. John's passion was with playing and teaching bridge.



John & Jill, Antarctica 2016

Player

John was a world class bridge player, and he didn't need a coffee mug to prove it. He won the Canadian Team Championships in 2011 with his longtime friend and partner Michael Roche (they were soulmates, born one week apart in March of 1951. Michael was John's best man, twice actually). John also won the national Seniors with Roche in 2015. Then, in 2018, 2019, and 2023, John won the Seniors with Nader Hanna. Way back in 2003, John won the Canadian Open Pairs with John Duquette. It's too tricky to research but if we include Rosenblum years (where anyone can apply to represent their country) and in years where 4-person teams won the Nationals and could add a pair to compete in the World's, John played for Canada at World Championships at least twelve times.

As Nader said in his eulogy at the celebration of life, their success was due to John being John. John was a partner-first type of player whereby partners were to be treated with the utmost respect. John's nature was to be calm and considerate never tumultuous. As always when you partner John, you finish the game shaking hands and saying thanks for the game. Michael Roche and Robert Lebi, another frequent high-level partner of John's, will say the same thing: John was a world class partner.

John proved that he was also a world class *club* player, and at Sectionals and at Regionals, where much of the pressure is off. One thing that stands out is that John would never embarrass his partner in front of the opponents; instead he would ask his partner to step away from the table to go over (say) a system agreement (rather than having these discussions in front of the opponents).

I was fortunate to sit across from John at all levels of play. In my first game with him at his club, back in the 80s, I opened a vulnerable 4♥. John raised me to 6♥. I

eagerly anticipated the appearance of the dummy and John's trump support, and I am still waiting to see his trumps to this day. For you see, John raised me to 6♥ with a heart void. It was the right bid, the winning bid, as all others in 4♥ made two overtricks and all those in the doomed 6NT never saw the dummy (my hand) as there was no outside entry to the solid hearts. John reasoned that a beginner like me would not open 4♥ unless they had a very good suit.

Another time we played in a regional pairs game at the Royal York. The declarer had shown two suits in the bidding, but I did not lead a trump. John switched to a trump as soon as he got in. After the hand, I asked, "Should I have led a trump?" "Always!" he replied. From that day on I know to lead a trump when dummy prefers one of declarer's suits over another.

At a Regional in Buffalo, John pulled off a standard deceptive play, but not so standard that the declarer sniffed it out. I led the ♥2 versus 3NT. Dummy came down with two small hearts; John held ♥AKxx. Knowing I had four hearts, and that declarer had three, John won the first trick with the ace(!) and led back his original fourth best. Declarer, who started life with ♥Q10x, inserted the ten and I won the jack. I had nothing better to do than play back a heart and it went discard from the dummy-king-queen! That looked weird until I figured out what John had done. He purposely did not cash his ace-king of hearts; he gave declarer a guess. File that one away. I know I did.

Later, in the same event but versus a different team, all vul., I picked up:

♠ - -
♥ A J 10 9 8 7 5 3
♦ - -
♣ K Q 10 9 7



Inducting Mike Roche into the CBF Hall of Fame, June 2024. John Carruthers, right, quipped, "I'm speaking now because nobody wants to follow John Rayner."

Just your everyday 8-5 hand! I was dealer and thought of 1♣ and 4♥ and 2♣ and finally decided none of those felt right. So, I opened 6♥. The next player overcalled 6♠ and John doubled. We beat it two tricks for plus 500. At the other table, the opponent with my hand also opened 6♥. My teammate did not overcall; instead, he doubled, and our teammates collected another plus 500. Add them up and plus 1000 was a cool 14 imps.

At Barb Wood's club game at the Oakville arena John and I were yukking it up with everyone who sat

down to play against us. A new pair arrived and one of the ladies said, "Well you two sure are having fun." To which we replied, in *unison*, "We **always** have fun." More guffaws. Another time, at John's own club, we were up to our usual hijinks. Apparently, the laughter got a tad too loud for a nearby competitor. The lady, Grania Ashworth, bless her heart, turned around and in her strict schoolmarm voice said, "Gentlemen, please—a little decorum!" I looked over at John and he made the same look a kid would make when caught with their hand in a cookie jar. That face. Just made it funnier. (I saw Grania at the Celebration of Life and reminded her of the incident and she had remembered it well!)

John loved to tell this next story. We were playing in a regional pairs game in FLA when John opened INT and it went pass-pass-pass. The defence lost their way a bit as it turned out John had opened with a singleton spade king. (This was in the year 2000, well before the ACBL had issued any dictums on opening notrump with a singleton.) The opponent said, "I think I'll call the director." John responded with, "Of course." The director came over, heard the complaint, and said, "Okay go ahead and play your next board. I will confer with the other directors and get back to you," and off she went. When we had finished the second board, the director was already there. She said, and I quote, "Alright, I talked the hand over with the other directors, and it is in our estimation that the INT opening with a singleton king *shows fine bidding judgment*." If that is not the best ruling one could ever receive—in your favour and a compliment to boot. You can see why John loved to tell that one.

As always, part of John's sense of humour is his feigned indignation. It came up in our most recent game, before he passed. We were playing the Sunday Swiss in last November's Oakville Regional. I put the dummy down and the opening leader said, "Wow, great hand." John swooped in and replied, "**I'll be** the judge of whether his hand is good or not." Delivered in just the right tone so that all knew he was kidding.



John had a little lamb...

John loved to play, even in the home game. He loved to do well, naturally, but more than anything he seemed to be happiest playing in the club and sectional games. While the upper-level games lacked the playfulness, at all levels he pure and simple loved to play bridge. He would be the first to tell you that an all-time highlight of his was winning a regional pair game in Ottawa with his son Michael.

Instructor

This is just an estimate, but I think John must have taught thousands of students over six decades. He started teaching bridge in the 70s and he most recently taught a group at the Hillsboro Country

Club in FLA in January of this year. Some of his first students became lifelong friends and they are playing to this day: Barbara Sims and Carol Anne Besler, to name two. They saw that John was up and coming and asked him to teach them in their homes, each taking a turn at hosting. Later they would become seminal members at his club.

Over the years John has taught at many places around the GTA: the Decadent Club (an offshoot of the Badminton & Racquet Club), Lambton Golf and Country Club, the Granite Club, the Verity Club, and St. Georges United Church. Maybe you attended one of his lectures at a tournament as John has spoken at numerous Regionals and Nationals.

Many of us who have partnered John, or played in the same game, have benefitted from the post-game post-mortems. It is there that a lot of learning can take place. I can still hear his mock indignation, “Bidding 2♦ with that hand is ridiculous.” Oh, how he loved that word, *ridiculous*. I can still hear his way of saying it, of punching the second syllable: *rih-DIC-u-lus*.

When I think of how lucky we are in Ontario, with all our world class bridge teachers, I think of their signature line, or lesson. Audrey’s might be, when teaching basic bidding, “How high and where?” Barbara, in teaching declarer play, talks about focusing, and working, on the project suit. And John’s is “Show some enthusiasm!” So, after he died, I wanted to immediately honour him by teaching one of his signature lessons. It’s a tried-and-true lesson on takeout doubles, the responses, and the follow-up bidding. For some reason, students often have trouble bidding their hand when they have a good 9-11 points, and their partner has made a takeout double. They want to bid at the one-level, as if they are responding to an opening bid and *can* respond at the one-level, as a new suit is forcing. To get them to jump a level, John would incant, “Show some enthusiasm!” So many games are missed because one partner doesn’t make the bid that describes their hand. And now, thanks to John, many students know about showing some enthusiasm.

I'd like to close this section by quoting Ann Hanna. Ann and another B&R member, Wendy Porritt, were the two women who started up the Decadent Tuesday Bridge Club. After John died, I emailed the Decadent convenors to let them know of John's passing. In a private email, Ann responded, "John 'saved' Decadent when our wonderful original teacher, Michael Davey, suddenly died, just after our lesson year had begun. I called my new friend, Audrey Grant and asked WHO she would recommend. She said the BEST TEACHER of ALL is JOHN RAYNER, who lives in Oakville, but you'll never get him, he's so busy—and gave me a list of others. I called all—with no luck—then thought, 'Why not try John?' By chance, he had every other Thursday afternoon available in Toronto where he was going to be teaching at St. George's Church in the mornings. At the time, we were called the Decadent Tuesday Bridge Club because I booked off my work on Tuesdays—to play bridge! So, to get John we became the "Decadent Tuesday Bridge on Thursday Club!" John's brilliant and methodical teaching style suited my learning style, and I've learned more from him than from all others combined—and shall miss him not 'being there' to consult—and laugh with.

Writer

Many years ago, I asked John, "Do you think you'd like to write a bridge book?" And he said, "Yes, I have two ideas for books." He told me one idea which I've since forgotten. The other idea of John's was a book for the advancing beginner. He told me its title would be, "Bridge for the Advancing Player Complete," a nod to Goren and Root. This one makes a lot of sense for him to write because the course he taught the most was called 'Bridge for the Rusty Player.' But writing a book takes lots of bum-in-chair time. John was too busy playing, directing, and teaching and preparing lessons to write a book.

If he taught thousands of students, he probably wrote tens or hundreds of thousands of pages of bridge notes. He used a font I cannot name, but I'd recognize

it anywhere and his style was to use lots of *italics* and **bold font**. And sometimes he used **enlarged font in bold and italics to really make a point**. A few of his students have dug up old notes by John. These, along with your old musty cottage playing cards, are bridge items that should never be discarded. I have some notes of his on opening leads which could be part of a book, and yes, they are perfect for the advancing beginner.

While John did not publish (except for a dozen or so articles he contributed to the *Kibitzer*), he certainly was creative. This creative side would come out whenever he planned a party game or whenever he had the chance to speak. Take for example a year ago in Penticton when he was asked to be the main speaker at Mike Roche's induction into the Canadian Bridge Hall of Fame. He reprised his old song, one that he wrote to honour his partnership with Mike. It is titled, "O What a Beautiful Contract" and is sung to the tune of "O What a Beautiful Morning" from Oklahoma. He would sing a *cappella* in his baritone voice.

And then we come to his puzzle game called 'Fractured Phrases.' Try solving some yourself. The answer to each prompt is a bridge convention or bridge play. Although these have been published in the *Kibitzer* in the past couple of years, here's a sample:

~Getting two burgers at the drive thru

~Lawrence, Roche, and Rosenberg competing in the high jump (a convention)

~The combination of an underwire bra and a girdle perhaps? (a conventional double)

John wrote dozens of these and there was some flexibility in which phrases John would use at any given function, depending on his audience. Some, shall we say, could be ... risqué. So, consider this the G-rated version. The answers to the above phrases are Takeout Double, Leaping Michaels, and Support Double.

Club Manager

I have intentionally saved the best for last. John was in his element as owner of a bridge club. He was not only the owner, but operator, CEO, Grand Poobah, Master of Ceremonies, and maestro, conducting a community of like-minded people, all sharing the love of bridge. You know that lyric from the theme song to Cheers? Like the Cheers bar, the Mississauga-Oakville Bridge Centre was a place “where everybody knows your name.”

John was a great boss. He held Christmas parties for his directors and teachers. These grew to be Christmas parties for staff and friends of the club during the last few years. If you were invited one year, you were a regular invitee. We’d often meet at the club for drinks and stories and jokes and then reconvene at some restaurant if the event was not catered at the club. We dined at places like Michael’s

Back Door on the Lakeshore, or a Chinese Buffet in the strip mall one over from the club or Mish, part of the same strip mall as the club. When John sold MOBC, he continued to host a Christmas party at his condo with second wife Jill Thompson. John loved to share the highlights of his family so there would always be a recap of the year’s events and milestones, and of course there would be entertainment and games provided by John, Jill, and the guests.

The entertainment aspect goes back to the late 80s. John held an average of four party games per year. The order of operations was to gather, have some appetizers, play a full game of bridge, do some puzzles or party games in between rounds, then eat dinner. After dinner we’d all push the bridge tables aside (watch out for those bid boxes!) and we’d set up an ad hoc stage where folks would get up and entertain the crowd.



Winning the 2019 Cdn. Seniors with Nader Hanna, Marty Kirr & John Carruthers



John & Debbie's backyard with Eric Shepherd. We sang American Pie to all hours.

Jim LeFrancois was one of the talents. Once John saw and heard Jim play guitar, singing some song that Jim had written to the tune of something we all knew, Jim became a mainstay. If I could go back in time and hear one of Jim's songs it would be the one he titled, "I Love this Club," as it was a veritable love song to John's club and all the people who were members.

Then there's John Fraser: Pick an endeavour and John F. excelled at it. Peel Board of Education Director? Check. Cruise ship dance partner? Check. Acting in Good Will Hunting? Check. Stand-up comedy? Triple check. John Fraser killed. He had John. R in stitches. Breathless. Keeled over. Grabbing his gut. Every. Single. Time. While John F's comedy did not suit all tastes, it suited John R just fine. It was a treat just to watch John sit in the front row and laugh himself silly.

The club, in its heyday, had games almost every day of the week, some days having two games. There were two team leagues, one for Flight A, the other for Flight B. There was a bevy of bridge classes and a smattering of party games. John's club was special, creating memories and community.

In the summer of 1999, John moved his club from the original site on Vanier Drive to its longtime location on Winston Churchill in the back of a strip mall

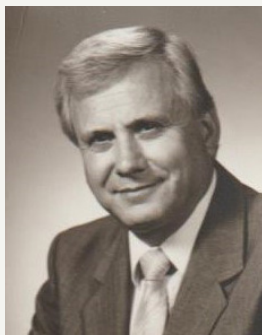
where, really, no other place should exist other than a bridge club. Okay maybe a dance studio. Upon opening John held a special party game to commemorate the occasion. One player from Toronto, a known curmudgeon in the Toronto-area bridge world, made a trip to John's office to tell John what he thought of the washrooms. "John, I must commend you on the state of your washrooms! They are pristine!" John looked up and quipped, "Are they still?" Apparently, that was the curmudgeon's one and only visit to the new club. C'est la vie.

• • • • •

John was an excellent director, an extraordinary player, a fabulous teacher, a creative writer, and a wonderful and beloved club manager. Who else in the world has excelled in all five areas of bridge? I can't think of one. Sure, there are some famous player/teachers and there are some top ACBL directors who are wonderful players, but is there anyone else, other than John Rayner, who can lay claim to being the bridge world's Renaissance Man?

How lucky are we that this University of Toronto student discovered the bridge room during his first year and never left it?

In Memoriam



COLIN HARRINGTON

Colin was the second of six sons born to Thomas George Harrington and Hilda May Naylor just months after the onset of World War II. He remembered sheltering when the sounds of the V1 and V2 rockets that relentlessly bombed his birthplace of London, England were heard. The resultant war-torn landscape was his (and his brothers') playground.

In January 1966, Colin moved his family to Africa to teach at Teso College in Soroti, Uganda. Unfortunately, a young Idi Amin was appointed chief of Uganda's army and air force shortly after their arrival. Colin became uncomfortable with this political development and astutely moved his young family to Canada.

In Canada, Colin immersed himself in his new community. He taught as a high school mathematics teacher from 1969 to 1994 in the city of Cambridge. His former students will remember well his granting of "JG" or "JGS" meaning "Jolly Good" or the most coveted "Jolly Good Show" for work well done. Not satisfied with teaching only math, he also tried to enrich his students' vocabularies by always teaching a word of the day.

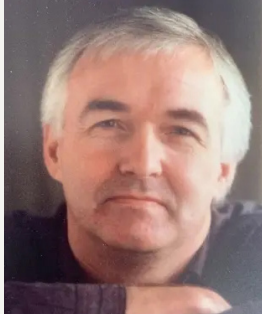
Colin always had an overwhelming social conscience. He believed in making the world a better place. This led him to join the political landscape. He became President of the local chapter of the NDP in the 70s into the 80s and later became a City Councillor for Cambridge. After his teaching career ended, he spent 20 years as a School Trustee.

Anyone who knew Colin knew of his love and mastery of bridge. He became enamoured with the game at university where he'd skip many a class to play. Over his lifetime he would play at any opportunity and was a decades long member of the Guelph and Kitchener clubs. He was well-renowned throughout the entire bridge community. He was the winner of dozens of sectional and regional tournaments over his lifetime. His achievements culminated in him being awarded his Life Master designation in 1983, his Diamond Life Master in 2008, and his Emerald Life Master in 2017. There are anecdotes of people bowing when his name was mentioned in bridge circles; everyone relished the opportunity to play with Colin.

As his family we think of his twinkling eyes, beaming smile and infectious, boisterous laugh and we remember his kind and sage words, his joyous singing and his undisputed intelligence. He was truly a beloved man. He will be sorely missed.

Jolly Good Show Colin on a life well, well lived.

Colin is survived by his wife Patricia, his son Mark (Susan), his daughter Frances (Graham), his grandchildren James (Aida), Catherine, Geoffrey (Danielle) and Naylor (Heather), and his great grandchildren Arthur and Colin.



WAYNE RUTTAN

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Wayne Leonard Ruttan, at the age of 81, on April 3, 2025. Cherished soulmate and husband of Joyce (nee Black) for 61 years. Fabulous father of Derek (Sarah), Colin and Julie Graham (Todd). Proud granddad of Kyle, Megan, Jordyn, Darcy, Shayne and Evan.

Dad leaves behind a large network of friends and family in Toronto and Gravenhurst. Dad spent his whole life in Toronto. He grew up in Little Italy and attended Western Tech High School, where he met Mom. After starting their own family, they moved to West Hill. Dad spent 50 years as a draftsman, helping craft some of Toronto's most iconic structures, including Ontario Place and SkyDome.

Dad had many passions (some would say obsessions), including playing guitar, playing hockey, cycling, photography, canoeing, and bridge. As a bridge club owner, teacher and mentor, he touched the lives of thousands. Inspired by his photographic idol, Ansel Adams, he travelled to Yosemite many times, where he produced countless works of art. Most of his friends and family have at least one his photos in their homes. When we were young, Dad was an active member of the 7 Oaks community. When he wasn't coaching our softball teams, he was umpiring games. He spent many years in the West Hill Kinsmen Club, including a term as president.

~ Toronto Star

Wayne was a MUCH-LOVED teacher. He was a special man with a gentle way and his games grew and grew. This gave new players a place to practice and spread their wings. Without Wayne, there would be far fewer players in Toronto today. He was always accompanied by his beautiful wife, Joyce. What a team they were, and together they created a wonderful atmosphere for less-experienced players. We were all devastated to hear of Wayne's passing.

~ Barbara Seagram





JOHN RAYNER

It seemed like an innocent enough invitation: “Come over and play some cards with us—we need a fourth.” He had an assignment due Friday in his English class at the University of Toronto, where he was a first-year undergrad history student. But he figured he’d work on the assignment later in the week, so he accepted. He didn’t know it at the time but this would lead to him soon dropping out of university and dedicating his life to a card game.

John Willison Rayner was born March 15, 1951, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He was the second of three children born to Ruth Rayner (nee Roe), a nurse at a local hospital, and Willison (Win) Rayner, an engineer at Coca Cola. From a young age John showed an aptitude for sports. Countless afternoons after school, in the cold Winnipeg winters, he would stop off at home to grab his skates and stick and head to the park for hours of hockey. He was a top player in high school, winning multiple MVP awards. Following professional sports remained a lifelong passion for John.

Alas, an athletic career was not in the cards. Soon after dropping out of U. of T. at 19, John started teaching bridge. In his early 30s, with a friend he founded John Rayner’s Mississauga-Oakville Bridge Centre at a little place he rented on Vanier Drive in Mississauga. John both directed and taught—he had a particular passion for teaching. His most popular course was called Bridge for Rusty Players. Word started to spread and slowly the bridge club filled up with players and students. The club moved to a new location on Winston Churchill and the good years continued.

John built the bridge club into a special place: friendships were formed, relationships began, and a community thrived. John organized party games and special events to celebrate someone’s birthday or someone winning an award. After the bridge game, folks were invited up to a makeshift stage to sing or tell jokes or stories—any and all talents welcome! If John had two happy places, they were at home for a gathering of family and friends, with him barbecuing, and at the bridge club with him as maestro. Although it was a sad day when John sold his club after over 25 years, it is still going strong, presently located in Sheridan Centre on Erin Mills Pkwy.

Among the highlights of John’s career in bridge: winning six national championships, representing Canada at world championships at least 12 times, winning the Kate Buckman award for contributing to others’ enjoyment in bridge and winning the Audrey Grant award for teaching excellence. John has taught thousands of players over the years, some of them going on to be bridge teachers themselves. John won hundreds of regional and sectional tournaments and indeed was more than an expert—he was a world class player.

He met Debbie Feldman when she showed up to his club for a bridge game. Soon she became his wife and the mother of their daughter Rebecca. It was evident to anyone who spent any time with John how important Rebecca was to him and how proud he was of her. With Debbie came Michael and Jamie, whom he quickly came to love as sons.

In 2013 John married Jill Thompson which began a new chapter of his life living in Toronto. John and Jill travelled widely and enjoyed playing many games together, including bridge.

COVID hit the bridge community hard and it particularly impacted John, not being able to teach, direct, or play bridge in person. He taught group lessons online for a year and they were very well received; he continued to teach private group lessons in the years that followed.

John leaves behind Jill Thompson; his daughter, Rebecca; his sons, Michael Evans (Karly) and Jamie Evans (Kathleen); his grandchildren, Charlie, Leighla, Max, and Mackenzie; his sisters, Marilyn Rayner and Margaret Bland; his aunt, Elizabeth (Betty) Lang; Rebecca's mother, Debbie Feldman; Carolyn Feldman (Buby to Rebecca, Michael, and Jamie); many relatives, and an extensive list of friends.

~ Jamie Evans



Jamie and his son Charlie





Adventures with Bob

By Robert Griffiths

ANOTHER FINE MESS

I was playing in the Swiss Teams of the recent Guelph Sectional. This was a board late in what had been a bad round. I had personally misdefended a vulnerable game contract. This is usually enough to ensure a loss in a short match. We were looking to make up the 12 imps that I was sure I had blown.

I had the South hand and, in third seat, opened 1♦, West passed and partner bid 1♠. This bid stopped any spade interference that the opponents might have considered and they stayed quiet throughout the auction.

My next bid was 2♣; West passed and partner had too much to simply bid 2♦. He might have tried 2NT but chose to show his invitational values with a jump to 3♦.

I started to get stars in my eyes, imagining that partner held a shaplier hand for this bid. Thinking of the possibility of a diamond slam, I tried a cuebid of 3♥, wondering if I should insist on diamonds if partner bid 3NT after my heart bid.

Partner had seen me misdefend an earlier hand and was willing to push for a makeup slam; he cuebid 4♣. After this bid, I pictured partner's hand filling in both of my minor suits and providing a parking space for my losing hearts on his obviously strong spades. Full of confidence, I jumped to the diamond slam.

Board 21
North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ K 8 5 2	
♥ Q 9 3	
♦ J 9 2	
♣ A 10 2	
♠ A 9 6 4	♠ Q J 10 7 3
♥ K 7 4 2	♥ J 10 6
♦ 8 6	♦ Q 7 5
♣ 7 5 3	♣ Q 9
	♠ —
	♥ A 8 5
	♦ A K 10 4 3
	♣ K J 8 6 4

On opening lead, West was endplayed. Whatever he led was going to help me. He tried the ♠A which I ruffed.

That gave me a parking spot for my second heart loser when I got to the ♠K, but I still had one sure heart loser and had two minor suit queens to find. My partner had got me into another fine mess!

I had to get the trumps out but only had one sure dummy entry, so I led to the ♣A at trick 2, noting that East played the 9. Then I led the ♦9 which won the trick when East didn't cover.

Next, I had to find the ♣Q. I hoped that East wasn't messing with me when he played the 9 so I led the ♣2 towards my hand and gratefully saw East play the queen. It was all over then as long as the diamonds split 3/2. The clubs were high and just a heart to lose at trick 13.

Our optimistic bidding had landed us in a very low percentage slam. Both minor suits had to split 3/2, both queens had to be found and there were two possible heart losers. I was lucky that the opening leader held the ♥K and could not attack that suit.

It was a slam that only fools would bid. Or players who were hoping to make up for earlier misdeeds in a short Swiss round. This result was enough to allow us to pull out the win.

THERE'LL ALWAYS BE ANOTHER GOOFY HAND

Here's a hand from a club game. My partner, East, dealt and passed, resisting the urge to make a vulnerable preempt with her 2 HCPs and 1-7-0-5 shape. South opened 1♠ and I bid 2NT, showing the minors. My plan was to bid 4NT, insisting on a minor if 4♣ came back to me. The Common Game commentator suggested I should have immediately jumped to 4NT over the 1♠ opener to show my hand.

Over 2NT, North bid 3♦. This is an artificial bid over my Unusual 2NT bid, showing a strong raise in spades. If he had simply bid 3♠ it would show spade support with a weaker hand.

My partner re-evaluated her preemptive hand and jumped to 5♣. She imagined the hand playing very well opposite an unusual 2 notrump hand. She decided that this was not a hand to worry about little things like high card points. She hoped to hold 5♣ doubled to down 1 for a rare vulnerable vs not vulnerable sacrifice.

Board 22
East Deals
EW Vul

♠ —	♠ Q 10 8 5 4	♠ 6
♥ 10	♥ A Q 2	♥ J 9 7 6 5 4 3
♦ A J 10 9 7 5 4	♦ K Q 6 2	♦ —
♣ A K 7 6 2	♣ 5	♣ J 10 8 4 3
	♠ A K J 9 7 3 2	
	♥ K 8	
	♦ 8 3	
	♣ Q 9	

South wasn't giving up without a fight; she came in with 5♠. This is the part of the auction where nobody is sure whether their bid is a sacrifice or whether the opponents are sacrificing.

Before I bid 6♣, I considered whether I could be pushing NS into a makeable slam. I decided that 6♠ would be unlikely to make, although after this auction, a club void in the North or South hand would be very possible. In any event, I bid 6♣ and surprisingly, this was passed out.

South led the ♠A, ruffed in dummy. Two rounds of trumps were drawn, then the ♥10 was led. This was our only losing trick; all my partner had to do was to ruff the diamond return, ruff two hearts in dummy and her hand was high.

I think that my partner's well judged jump to 5♣ made it possible to find this unusual 14-HCP slam. She was willing to bet on making 10 tricks---that is, she expected 5♣ doubled to go down just one, after seeing my unusual NT bid. I thought that my hand was so much stronger than I advertised; my bid of 6♣ simply showed I believed that my partner knew what she was doing.

It turns out that 6♣ for EW is unbeatable but a diamond ruff will stop NS from making 5♠. This is an extreme example of *points schmoints*.

OOPSIES

I wrote yesterday's blurb in the Barbados heat and I may have been distracted. Or something.

I overlooked a fine defensive play that South might have made to set the 3NT contract. Several nasty recipients of the blurb pointed this play out to me.

North led the ♥6 and South found himself on lead with the queen. If South had thought, "Why did West duck the heart lead?" he might have found the killing defence.

West had advertised a heart stopper in the auction, yet he didn't take it at trick one even though he would then have a sure double stopper in hearts. A clever

South player might infer that West needed to keep the heart ace in his hand as a later entry.

Board 12
South Deals
EW Vul

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

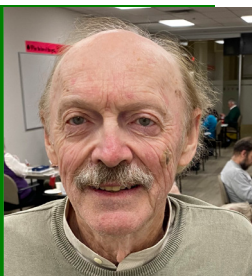
There is only one way to knock that heart entry out of West's hand. If South were to play a small heart at trick 2, declarer would simply duck it around to dummy. But South can be sure to defeat the contract with the lead of the ♥K at trick 2.

West's ace will be gone before he has the chance to unblock the top spades from the dummy--a classic example of a famous defensive play in bridge called the Merrimac Coup. This is when a player, usually a defender, sacrifices a high card in order to eliminate a vital entry. South is making West win their heart ace before West can untangle spades.

Perhaps if I write my blurb before I pour the first daiquiri of the day, I won't miss this kind of play.



Cliff Campbell & Jonathan Steinberg (Kib photographer extraordinaire - thanks, JS!)



Double Dummy Problem

By Doug Andrews

♠ Q 9 7 5 3	♠ A 6
♥ Q 10 5 4	♥ A K 8 7
♦ J 9 7 3	♦ K Q 5
♣ —	♣ A 7 5 3
	♠ —
	♥ J 9 6 2
	♦ A 10 6 4 2
	♣ K Q J 10
	♠ K J 10 8 4 2
	♥ 3
	♦ 6
	♣ 9 8 6 4 2

Terry Du, who is a CBF Board member and the non-playing captain of the Under 26 Canadian Junior Team, played this hand brilliantly in the A/X Swiss Teams at the Toronto Regional. After I opened 1♦ as East, Du reached 4♠ and partner led the ♦3.

I won dummy's king with the ace and played the king of clubs. What should West do? This is a double dummy defence challenge.

On analysis it turns out that it doesn't matter what West does. The actual play went as follows. West pitched a diamond and Terry won with the ♣A. Terry then played the queen of diamonds pitching a club, then ruffed a diamond in hand to play a heart to the ace. He cashed the ♥K, pitching another club.

Then Terry ruffed a heart in hand, and played the jack of spades, letting it ride. The ♠J won so he played a spade to the ace, ruffed a heart back to hand, and then led clubs until West got endplayed in trumps and had to lead a spade into the K10 (because after the two ruffs South's spades were shorter than West's).

Declarer took four top tricks (the ace and king of hearts, the queen of diamonds, the ace of clubs), plus six trump tricks.

But a solver says 4♠ can be beaten. How? I think if West leads a heart to start, the defence can play a forcing defence and deprive South of winning the ace of clubs. Do you agree?

Modified Roman Keycard

Pairs. Both non-vulnerable.

You hold ♠A87 ♥AK8543 ♦A93 ♣A

You deal and open 1♥. It goes 3♠, 4♠ from partner, pass to you.

My choice was 7♥ but the person who had this hand chose to bid 4NT.

Partner (an expert) responds 5♥! What's that? Back home talking about the hand we figured it out: 5♥ normally shows 2 without the Q—but on this hand 5♥ showed the Q without the 2.

Love it.

~Mike Roche



Director Please!

By Martin Hunter

I was sent these two hands recently, asking if they were valid INT opening bids:

1)
 ♠ K Q J 5 4
 ♥ J
 ♦ A 8 7
 ♣ A Q 8 6

2)
 ♠ A 4
 ♥ K
 ♦ K 10 7 6 4 2
 ♣ A J 5 3

ACBL definition of a 'Natural' INT or 2NT Opening (an offer to play there):

~No void, and no more than one singleton (must be an ace, king, or queen)

~Not ten or more cards in two suits combined

So, the first hand quite clearly does not qualify due to the singleton jack. But neither does the second hand. While the singleton is a king (which is okay), there are ten cards in the minors. (Not okay.)

To be clear, no 5-5, 6-4, or 7-3 distributions are allowed, but 7-2-2-2 is acceptable.

What are the consequences?

Should the offending side gain an advantage, the Director may award an adjusted score. A procedural penalty may be considered.

In restricted MP games up to 3000 MPs, the same guideline applies to 2NT openings and INT or 2NT overcalls.

However, in Open games, there are no shape restrictions on 2NT openings or overcalls. And there are no shape restrictions on INT overcalls, provided the hand is considered 'strong' such as 15+ HCPs.

Do you have a question for ACBL Director, Martin Hunter?

Please email him at martinhunter@rogers.com and watch for his response to your query in a future issue of the Kibitzer.





Combination of Under-wire Bra and Girdle

By David Ellis

Do I have your attention? The title is a reference to the late John Rayner and his famous Fractured Phrases, specifically, the fractured phrase clue he devised with the answer being 'Support Double.' Let's take a closer look at the support double.

First, it comes at opener's rebid. It is a double by Opener after RHO interferes over Responder's first bid. It is forcing as the Opener has unlimited HCPs, ranging from 12-19. However, Responder may pass if they choose to convert the double to penalties; Responder will need a trump stack to leave in the double.

The support double means the opener has exactly three of responder's suit (major or diamonds) and is used to find an 8-card fit. Some partnership agreements do not use Support Doubles after INT interference by RHO. Support doubles are no longer alertable; they were but they aren't now.

Support Doubles can be used at a low level when opponents bid up to the 2♥ level as noted on the convention card.

In the sequence:	<u>Opener</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>RHO</u>
	1♦	Pass	1♥	2♠

Opener cannot make a support double after a 2♠ bid as it forces Responder to the 3-level and this may not play well if Responder is minimum (5-7 points) and only has four hearts.

Responding to a support double

6-9 HCPs

This minimum range may be difficult as the partnership must not get to too high a contract.

Judgement to use:

- It is perfectly alright to play in a 4:3 fit at the 2-level.
- 96% of the time, opening 1♦ indicates at least 4 diamonds
- Bid INT with a stopper in opponent's suit
- Rebid your long minor if you have one
- If you have 10+ HCPs, jump to show enthusiasm

Example #1

South	W	N	E	S
♠ 984		1♣	P	1♥
♥ AQ76	1♠	X	P	2♥
♦ J83				
♣ 762				

With 7 HCPs, South must rebid the heart suit to shut down the contract and play in a 4:3 fit. While 1NT is a more convenient bid, South cannot bid it without a spade stopper. Even with 5 hearts, South should rebid 2♥ and not jump.

Example #2

South	W	N	E	S
♠ 9764		1♦	P	1♠
♥ Q5	2♣	X	P	2♦
♦ KJ83				
♣ 653				

With 6 HCPs and a poor spade suit without honours, South should not rebid the spades. North most likely has four diamonds. South should support diamonds. The 2♦ bid does not show additional values—it indicates 6-9 HCPs with a fit, and not 5-card spade suit. This bid is non-forcing.

Example #3

South	W	N	E	S
♠ KJ5		1♣	P	1♥
♥ 9764	1♠	X	P	1NT
♦ K76				
♣ 765				

With 7 HCPs, South responds 1♥ with a 4-card heart suit. West interferes with 1♠ showing a 5-card spade suit and North makes a support double. With a stopper in spades, South can safely bid 1NT.

Example #4

South	W	N	E	S
♠ A942		1♦	P	1♠
♥ J93	2♣	X	P	2♦
♦ A43				
♣ T42				

With 9 HCPs, South should rebid 2♦ because North may have 5 diamonds. North has 3 spades. Playing in a 4-3 fit is relatively okay, but assessment with the bidding so far, North's distribution may be: 3-4-4-2 or 3-3-5-2 or the like. There is a good chance NS have an 8-card diamond fit. The best way to look for this concept is to bid 2♦, which would not be forcing nor invitational. If North has 5 diamonds, a diamond partscore should be much easier than spades. NOTE: If East did support West by upping the bid to 3♣, double for penalty should strongly be considered. South has 9 HCPs with 2 aces, and 3 hearts. Your partner has an opening bid. This means N/S have 4 more points than E/W. Given that East's club raise is on the low side, N/S should have a chance to set them. If North's hand is not suitable for defence, he is welcome to go back to diamonds.

Example #5

South	W	N	E	S
♠ 73		1♣	P	1♥
♥ T943	1♠	X	P	2♦
♦ KJ873				
♣ Q9				

With this 5-4-2-2 hand, after partner's support double, South can rebid 2♦ which shows long diamonds and is an offer to play—it is non-forcing and non-invitational. All bids below 2♥ are natural, show about 6-9 HCPs, and are non-forcing.

10-13 HCPs

- Invitational
- With stopper in opponent's suit, bid 2NT
- Rebid of the other minor = 5+
- Jump to your partner's suit with 4-card support
- Bid of the other major shows 4
- Jump to 3 of our major show some enthusiasm

South	W	N	E	S
♠ KQ873		1♦	P	1♠
♥ 93	2♣	X	P	3♠
♦ K74				
♣ K93				

As Responder, if we have 5+ cards in our spade suit, then after Opener's support double, we know we have a major suit fit. With a fit, Responder bids 3♠ with an invitational hand and 4♠ with a game hand. Another important thought process is when we hold a 5-card major suit: If Opener does not make a support double, then we know that we do not have a fit. Opener's other actions deny having 3-card support.

13-16 HCPs

South	W	N	E	S
♠ 72		1♦	P	1♥
♥ A873	1♠	X	P	2♠
♦ AK8				
♣ Q874				

As a Responder and with a stopper in opponent's suit, Bid 3NT. Without a stopper, and 13+ HCPs, cuebid the opponent's suit. It shows a game-forcing hand and no stopper in the opponent's suit. This is like a Western cuebid asking for a stopper in opponent's suit

16+ HCPs

- Slam interest
- Cuebid opponent's suit

Toronto Easter Regional



Shelley Burns, CBF President & Andy Risman, Unit 166 President



Catherine Kinsella, ACBL Director, CBF Executive assistant



Joe Varnell & Karen Lane won the Wed RR teams



Zsoka Bella & Douglas Jordan



Joan Renzoni



April Halbert & Carol Doyon



Nick Jewitt (won Tuesday Gold Rush Pairs) & Melanie Parker



Dwight Bender (1st in Wed. RR Teams) & Steve Mackay (2nd in Tuesday Open Pairs)



Canada's Under 16 team going to the World's in July



Crystal Ingoldsby, Sally Briggs & Sherrill Bain



John Gell, Mark Liberman, Lewis Richardson & Linda Hechter, Easter Regional, 2nd in the Sunday A/X Swiss



Close to the 401 with plenty of free parking / Wonderful homemade treats

Come get your share of SILVER POINTS!!!

**Saturday, May 24: Non-Life Master, <500 MP and A/X/Y Pairs
at 10:00am & 2:30pm**

Two Session Play-through, although single session pairs will be welcome

Saturday Stratifications:

Non-Life Masters, <500 MPs:	A: 300-500	B: 100-300	C: 0-100
A/X/Y Pairs:	A: 2500 +	X: 1000-2500	Y: 0-1000

Sunday, May 25: Bracketed Teams (by Total Team MPs)

Two Session Play-through starting at 10:00am with a short break for lunch.

Top Bracket available to all, at Director's discretion.

A lunch will be available for purchase each day.

Entry Fees (debit or credit card only):

Saturday - \$15 / person /session.

Sunday - \$120 per Swiss Team (2 sessions).

ACBL members, whose memberships are not current, add \$4 / person/ session.

Non-ACBL members are required to join the ACBL.

Chair: Kathy Russell, GRBCSectional@gmail.com

Partnership Desk: Rick Arthur, grbcpartnership@maildepot.net

Location:

Hespeler Memorial Arena, Beehive Lounge
640 Ellis Road West
Cambridge 519-740-4681 ext. 4605

Directions:

Highway 401 to Townline Road (exit 286),
North on Townline Rd to Ellis Rd West
Left on Ellis Rd West to Hespeler Arena



Goderich Sectional

June 7 - 8, 2025

Knights of Columbus Hall
390 Parsons Court
Goderich, ON N6A 4K3

Saturday, June 7, 2025

The Percy Sheardown Open Pairs Sessions 1 and 2: 10:00 am and 2:30 pm

(Stratifications A: 1500+, B: 500-1500, C: 0-500)

Single Session entries available

0-299 Pairs Two Single Sessions: 10:00 and 2:30 pm

(Stratifications A: 200-299, B: 50-200, C: 0-50)

Sunday, June 8, 2025

Swiss Teams: 10:00 am and TBA

Two Session Play-through

A/X Swiss Teams - open to all players

B/C Swiss Teams - no player may exceed 2000 masterpoints

Entry fees: \$15.00 per person per session

We will not be providing a lunch option but will have a longer lunch break so that people can make their own arrangements at local restaurants.

Tournament Chair

Jennifer Verdam

jennverdam@gmail.com

Partnership Chair

Doug Elliott

dougelliott51@gmail.com

Peterborough Local Sectional Tournament

*Returning to Spring Dates in 2025

June 21 and 22, 2025

McDonnell Street Community Centre
(formerly Peterborough Lawn Bowling Club)
577 McDonnell Street, Peterborough, ON

Free coffee, tea and snacks
Light lunch available for purchase both days

Tournament Events

Saturday June 21

Stratified Open Pairs
Two single sessions at 10:30am and 2:30 pm
(note: This is not a two session total point event)

0 to 299 Pairs (if numbers in attendance warrant)
Single sessions at 10:30 am and 2:30 pm

Sunday June 22

Swiss Teams
Two session play-through beginning at 10:30 am with a break for lunch

General Information

Stratification/ Awards
Strata will be at Director's discretion, depending on attendance
Awards will be 80% silver points and 20% black points

Entry Fees (CASH only)
\$14 per player per session for ACBL members
an extra \$4 per player per session for non ACBL members

Tournament Chair: Phil Smith
philsmith.99oak@gmail.com
705-749-9307

Partnerships: Maureen Nichols
mo.nichols13@gmail.com
705-874-6019

Please Join Us for **Silver** Points at the
THORNHILL SUMMER SECTIONAL
Saturday, June 28 & Sunday, June 29, 2025

Event Schedule (Based on numbers and at the Director's discretion)

Saturday, June 29: **10:30 am & 3:00 pm**
Pairs *Two-session event. Single entries are welcome.*

Stratified Open Pairs A: 2000+ B: 750 - 2000 C: 0 - 750

Stratified Limited Pairs 0 - 300 Pairs

Stratified Limited Pairs 0 - 50 Pairs (if number sufficient)

Sunday, June 30: **10:30 am & TBA**
Stratified Swiss Teams

Play through. Pizza and drinks purchased on-site.

Flight A/X: (separate) A: 3000+ X: 0-3000

Flights B/C/D: B: 1250-2000 C: 500-1249 D: 0-500

Stratification is determined by the average of the pair or team. However, averaging does not allow a player to play in a strat if the player's total masterpoint holding is greater than that stratification's maximum number of points.

Session Fees: \$17 (Includes HST) for ACBL members
(\$4 additional fee for unpaid or non-ACBL members)
\$5 for students

Tournament Chair – Linda Lord, lindaleelord@hotmail.com, 905-713-9141

Partnership Chair – Lorraine Eaglesham, Lmeaglesham@aol.com, 647-335-4177

Location – Main floor, south end of the Thornhill Community Centre, 7755 Bayview Ave., Thornhill, L3T 4P1. The Centre is on the northeast corner of Bayview and John Street. John Street is between Hwy 407 and Steeles Ave.

****LOTS OF FREE PARKING****



South Western Ontario

Regional

Bridge Tournament

Kitchener-Waterloo, ON

July 1-6, 2025

Playing Site

[St George Hall](#)

665 King St N, Waterloo, ON

Lots of free parking

This will be a cash free tournament
(Credit and Debit Cards only)

**Coffee and a light lunch will be available on-site
at additional costs**

Tournament Hotel

Courtyard by Marriott

50 Benjamin Road East

Waterloo ON N2V 2J9

519-884-9295

\$179 per night including buffet breakfast

Book by May 31, 2025 with group rate code:

SW Regional Bridge or SOR

Per Session Prices

199er games \$15 (ACBL Members only *)

All other games \$20 (ACBL Members only *)

* ACBL members, whose memberships are not current,
add \$4 /person /session

This will be a cash free (Credit/Debit Cards only)
tournament

Tournament Chair

Dave Quarrie

daviquar@gmail.com

Partnerships

Pat McMillan

palemusic@icloud.com

Tuesday July 1

Open Pairs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Gold Rush Pairs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Mini-Soloway Knockouts T-W (1 & 2 of 4)	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
199er Pairs	10:00 am

Wednesday July 2

Open Pairs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Gold Rush Pairs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Mini-Soloway Knockouts T-W (3 & 4 of 4)	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Wednesday Swiss Teams	10:00 am & TBA
199er Pairs	10:00 am

Thursday July 3

Open Pairs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Gold Rush Pairs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Mini-Soloway Knockouts T-F (1 & 2 of 4)	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
199er Pairs	10:00 am

Friday July 4

Open Pairs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Gold Rush Pairs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Mini-Soloway Knockouts T-F (3 & 4 of 4)	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Friday Swiss Teams	10:00 am & TBA
199er Pairs	10:00 am

Saturday July 5

Open Pairs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Gold Rush Pairs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Saturday Swiss Teams	10:00 am & TBA
199er Pairs	10:00 am

Sunday July 6

Bracketed Swiss	10:00 am & TBA
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Stratifications

Open Games.....A: Open, X: 0-3000, Y: 0-1500
Gold Rush.....A: 0-750, B: 0-500, C: 0-200
199 Games.....A: 0-200, B: 0-100, C: 0-50

South Western Ontario

Regional Bridge Tournament

Kitchener-Waterloo, ON

July 1-6, 2025



Please Note

- Daily Speaker Program Tues-Fri at 9:15AM
- All points will be red or gold
- Zero Tolerance is in effect for this tournament
- In consideration of those who are sensitive to fragrance, this is a scent-free tournament
- When an event has an upper MP limit, all players must have fewer than that number of master points
- Single session entries are welcome for pairs events
- Mini-Soloway Knockouts: All 4 session KO teams use the Mini-Soloway format: teams are guaranteed two sessions of play the first day; the top four teams in each group advance to the second day's semifinals

Special Event: Barbara Seagram

On Monday June 30, at 1pm, Barbara Seagram will be holding a special session for intermediate players. The topic will be "Locating Opponents' Honours. Who has the Missing Queen?"

Access to Site

From Toronto and points east on Hwy 401:

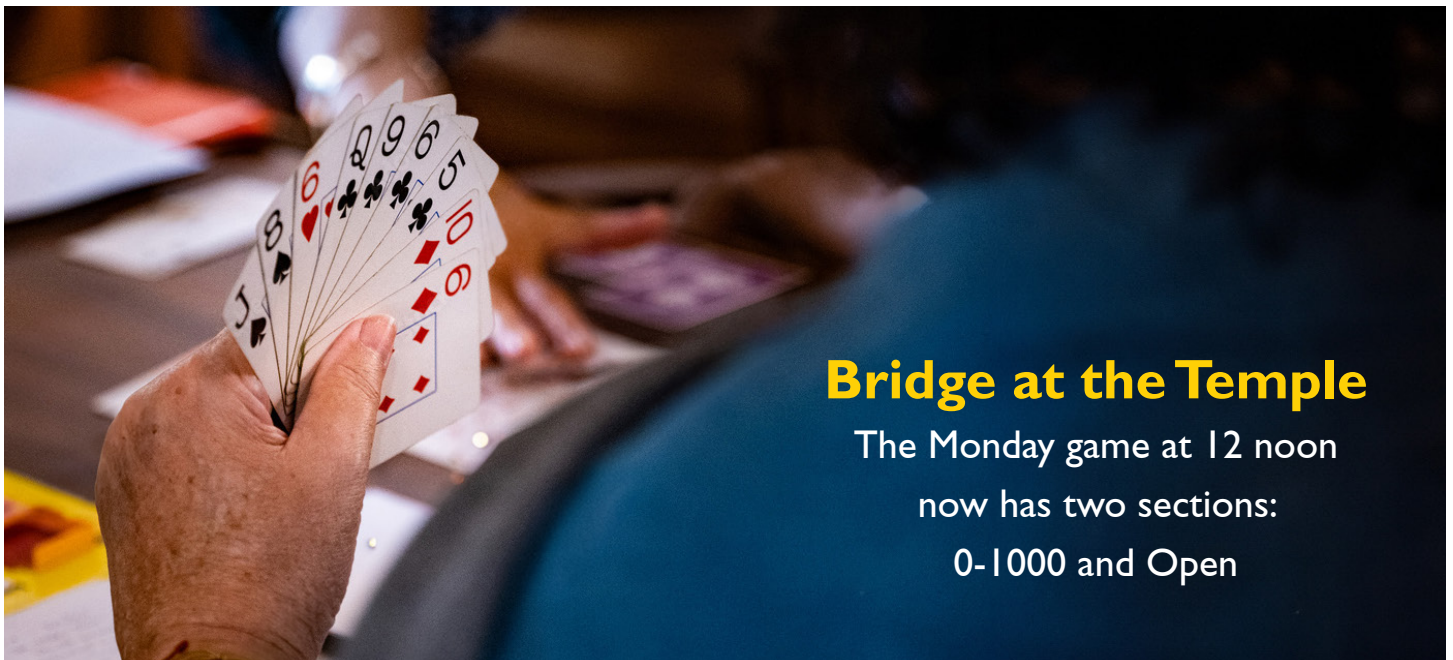
- Take exit 278 for Hwy 8 W towards Kitchener/Waterloo.

From London and points west on Hwy 401:

- Take exit 278 and turn left onto King St E. toward Kitchener/Waterloo.
- Continue 2.7 Km on King St then exit right to HWY 8 West
- Take ramp to merge onto HWY 8 W. toward Kitchener/Waterloo

From both directions - Continue:

- Use two right-hand lanes to get on Hwy 85 N & Hwy 7 E towards Waterloo
- Use two left hand lanes to continue 11.7 Km North on Hwy 85 and exit right to Regional Road 15/St. Jacobs
- At the light, turn right on King St N
- Proceed 200 yards and turn right into St George Hall



Bridge at the Temple

The Monday game at 12 noon

now has two sections:

0-1000 and Open



Tillsonburg's Golden Leaf Sectional Bridge Tournament Aug. 9-10, 2025



Tournament Chair – Jed Drew Jed.Drew@gmail.com (519) 550-3890

Partnerships – Diana May dianamay@hotmail.com (519) 409-0560

Saturday, August 9

10:00 am & 2:30 pm

Two-Session Stratiflighted Pairs

Single Session Entries Welcomed

A-X Flight

A: 3000+ X: 0-3000

B-C-D Flight

B: 1000-1500 C: 500-1000 D: 0-500

Single-Session Stratified Pairs

I/N Flight

A: 200-300 B: 100-200 C: 0-100

Sunday, August 10

10:00 am / TBA

Bracketed Teams

Two-Session Play-Through

Teams will only play other teams in their own bracket.

Top bracket will play a traditional Swiss format and lower brackets will play a Round-Robin movement.

Teams may request placement in the top bracket. Number and size of brackets will be dependent upon number of entries.

Welcome

Unit 249 and the Tillsonburg Duplicate Bridge Club welcomes all players.

This event is conducted under the ACBL's Zero-Tolerance policy. Please help us do everything possible to ensure everyone has an enjoyable bridge experience.

NOTE: All stratifications are dependent upon depth of field.
Director may adjust as required.

Entry Fees: Pairs \$15 per player per session. Teams \$120 per team.

ACBL Members with fewer than 5 Masterpoints receive one **FREE** session on Saturday.

Players 25 years and younger play for \$5 per session.

To participate in this tournament, players must be an ACBL member in good standing.

Non-ACBL members are welcome and will receive a complementary temporary ACBL membership.

Lapsed members may participate only upon payment of current year's dues, or payment of a \$4 per session surcharge.

Westfield Public School

102 Dereham Drive

Tillsonburg, ON N4G 0G5

This beautiful building is fully handicap-accessible, with a spacious playing area and excellent lighting.

Smoking is not allowed anywhere on school property.

**Map and Driving Directions on the Reverse Side
of this Flyer**

Free Coffee and Snacks Throughout

Catered Lunch Available On-Site Daily

Host Hotel

92 Simcoe Street, Tillsonburg



Phone directly to the Hotel to receive
a 10% discount rate.

1-866-942-7366

Tillsonburg Sectional

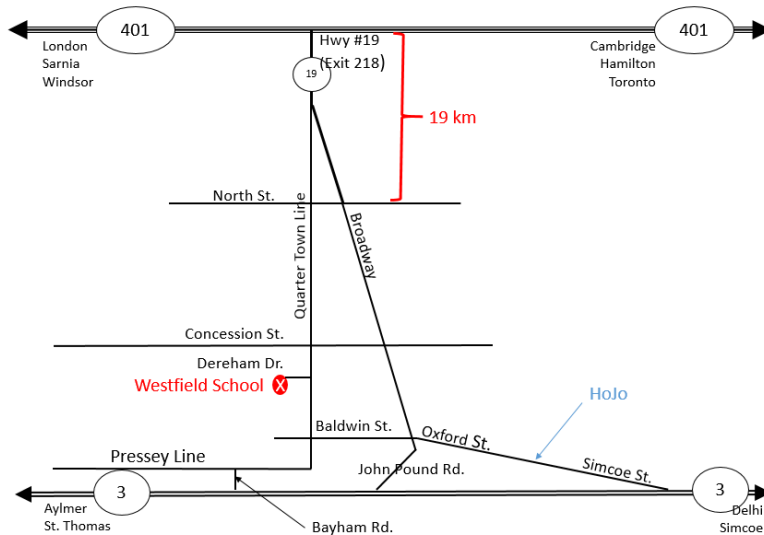
Site Location and Driving Directions

Site Location: Westfield Public School

102 Dereham Drive, N4G 0G5

(off Quarter Town Line* on the west side of Tillsonburg)

*Please note that some references may show as Quarterline Road – this is the same road!



Driving Directions

From Highway 401:

1. Exit at Hwy 19 (Exit 218).
2. Go southward 19 km to Tillsonburg.
3. Turn right at Second traffic light (North St).
4. Travel 500 m westward on North St. to 4-way Stop (Quarter Town Line).
5. Turn left on Quarter Town Line.
6. Drive southward on Quarter Town Line for 1.6 km until you come to a Stop sign (Concession St).
7. Continue southward on Quarter Town Line another 530 m to the first street on the right (Dereham Dr.).
8. Turn right on Dereham Drive to school.

From Simcoe/Delhi

1. Travel westward on Highway 3 to Tillsonburg.
2. Exit onto Simcoe St.
3. Travel westward full length of Simcoe and Oxford Streets to Downtown Tillsonburg (7.1 km) (5th traffic light).
4. At corner of Broadway Ave and Oxford St. angle slightly left and follow Baldwin Street westward.
5. Continue westward on Baldwin St. for 1.8 km to Quarter Town Line.
6. Turn right on Quarter Town Line and travel northward 650 m to Dereham Drive. (Dereham Drive is 2nd street on the left).
7. Turn left on Dereham Drive to school.

From St. Thomas/Aylmer

1. Travel eastward on Highway 3 to Tillsonburg.
2. Turn left onto Bayham Drive just before Tillsonburg.
3. Travel 1 km on Bayham Drive to Pressey Line.
4. Turn right on Pressey Line and continue 1.3 km eastward until it makes a 90 degree left curve and becomes Quarter Town Line.
5. Continue northward on Quarter Town Line for 1.1 km to Dereham Dr. (Dereham Drive is 4th street on the left).
6. Turn left on Dereham Drive to school.

Alternatively from St. Thomas/Aylmer

1. Travel eastward on Highway 3 to Tillsonburg.
2. Exit Highway 3 at John Pound Road – turning left.
3. Follow John Pound Road into downtown Tillsonburg (first traffic signal).
4. Turn left at light and go 1.3 km westward on Baldwin St. to Quarter Town Line (4-way Stop).
5. Turn right on Quarter Town Line and travel northward 650 m (Dereham Drive is 3rd street on the left).
6. Turn left on Dereham Drive to school.

Labour Day

SILVER POINT SECTIONAL

Bridge Tournament

August 30 – September 1, 2025

St. Volodymyr Cultural Centre
1280 Dundas St. W., Oakville ON L6M 4H9

Schedule of Events

Saturday, August 30	Sunday, August 31	Monday, September 1
★ 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. - A/X, B/C/D – 2 Session stratiflighted pairs	★ 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. - A/X, B/C/D – 2 Session stratiflighted pairs.	★ 10:00 a.m. & TBA A/X Swiss Teams – Open to all – Stratified by team average.
★ 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. 0 – 299 Pairs - If numbers warrant.	★ 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. 0 – 299 Pairs - If numbers warrant.	★ 10:00 a.m. & TBA B/C Swiss Teams – Stratified by team average. No player with more than 2000 MP
★ 10:00 a.m. 0 – 20 - Supervised pair game	There will be complimentary lessons by Susan Trumper at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday & Sunday.	

EVENTS ARE STRATIFIED BY AVERAGE MASTER POINTS & FLIGHTS ARE BASED ON HIGHEST MASTER POINTS OF PAIR/TEAM

Stratiflighted event: A: 4000+, X: 0-4000, B: 1500-2500, C: 750-1500, D: 0-750

Single session entries for all Pairs games are welcome.

Session Fees:

\$20 CAD (members) +\$4 for non-current members	\$15 CAD Full-time students up to age 21 (members) +\$4 for non-current members
All players MUST have an ACBL number. Guest memberships are currently free. Contact Glenna if you require one.	

CHAIRPERSON

Glenna Richardson 416-419-3089
glennarichardson549@gmail.com

DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE

Nancy Strachan

PARTNERSHIP CHAIR

Teenie Gibson 416-820-4097
teenie.gibson@yahoo.com

PARKING AT THE SITE IS FREE

NEARBY HOTELS

TOWNEPLACE SUITES MARRIOTT

754 BRONTE ROAD
OAKVILLE, ON L6L 6R8

Aug. 29, Studio King with full kitchen, \$189.00+taxes/night

Aug. 30 & 31 Studio King - \$189+taxes/night,
2 Queens - \$199+taxes/night

One bedroom Suite - 2 Queens - \$204+taxes/night

- **TownePlace Suites Toronto Oakville for 189.00 CAD - 204.00 CAD per night**
- **Last Day to Book: Saturday, July 26, 2025**
- **To book a reservation go to: [UNIT-166 ABCL](#)**

Tel: 905-847-6667

HOLIDAY INN OAKVILLE CENTRE

590 ARGUS ROAD
OAKVILLE, ON L6J 3J3

Aug. 29 – 31, 2025 2 Queens - \$194+taxes /night

Reservations can be made by:

- Calling the hotel directly at 905-842-5000,
- Calling the main reservations line at 1-855-914-9607,
- emailing reservations@hioakville.com,
- on-line at www.hioakville.com – your group code is **AB5**

Here is a hyper link that will take you directly to the website with the information populated:

[American Contract Bridge League](#)

FOOD IS AVAILABLE AT THE SITE

St. Volodymyr Cultural Centre

You must place your order before the game starts.

Cash only is accepted.

MENU

Combo 1	\$20	Perogies (4), Chicken Cutlet or Ukrainian Sausage & Sauerkraut, Buns, Soft Drink or Coffee
Combo 2	\$10	Perogies (6) Potato with Cheddar Cheese or Potato with Spinach & Feta
Combo 3	\$10	Sweet Perogies (6) Blueberries or Cherry with Chocolate or Berry Syrup
Combo 4	\$5	Sausage on a Bun with Toppings
	\$5	Soup of the Day with a Bun
	\$5	Cabbage Roll
	\$5	Assorted Sweets
	\$2	Coffee, Tea, Soft Drink

BARRIE REGIONAL

Tuesday, September 9 – Sunday, September 14, 2025

Please join us for fun, bridge, ***GOLD*** points
and great hospitality at the
Barrie Curling Club
175 Essa Road, Barrie, L4N 3L2

Entry Fee: *Payment can be cash, debit or credit card*
\$20 per session (*includes HST*) – single session entries for pair games only.
\$4 extra for unpaid ACBL members.

NOTE: All players must have an ACBL number. Free Guest Memberships are available for those players who have never been an ACBL member. If you need a Guest membership, please contact your local Club Manager, or Linda Lord at 905-713-9141.

Free Registration Gifts and *free parking!* Early start times!

Great Location – South end of Barrie, close to Hwy 400.

Where to Stay: The Allure Hotel, 20 Fairview Road (off Essa Road, 5 minutes from the site) offers rooms with 1 king, or 1 queen, or 2 twin beds and free breakfast. The rates are \$129 for dates between Mon., Sept. 8 and Thursday, Sept. 11 and \$149 for Friday and Saturday. Call 1-888-252-6447 and mention Barrie Regional Bridge Tournament for the special offer. These rates are only available if you book by August 25th.

Where to visit: Lots of restaurants and visitor attractions including cruises on Lake Simcoe.

******Special GOLD RUSH games******

If you have 750 masterpoints or less, win gold in these events if you place in A.
Stratification is as follows: A = 400 – 750, B = 200 – 400, C = 0 - 200.
See Schedule for dates.

Tournament Chair – Linda Lord, lindaleelord@hotmail.com, 905-713-9141.

Partnership Chair – Janice Upenieks, janice.upenieks@outlook.com, 416-435-3870.

Please help us start on time by arriving at least 15 minutes before game time.

SCHEDULE

Game start times are: **Tuesday only** **12 pm & 4:30 pm.**
Wednesday, Thurs., Fri. & Saturday: 10:30 am & 3:00 pm. Sunday Swiss: 10:30 am & TBD.

Tuesday, Sept. 9

Afternoon & Evening: *Special start time 12 noon
 . **GOLD RUSH** Pairs (200/400/750) *two sessions*
 . Open Stratified Pairs (1500/2500/open)
 . 299er pairs
 . Mini-Soloway Knockouts, Tues. & Wed.
sessions 1 & 2 of 4.

Wednesday, Sept. 10

Morning & Afternoon:
 . **GOLD RUSH** Pairs (200/400/750) *two sessions*
 . Open Stratified Pairs – (1500/2500/open)
 . 299er pairs
 . Mini-Soloway Knockouts, Tues. & Wed.
sessions 3 & 4
 . Bracketed Teams, 2 sessions.

Thursday, Sept. 11

Morning & Afternoon:
 . Open Stratified Pairs – (1500/2500/open)
 . 299er pairs
 . **GOLD RUSH** Swiss teams
 . Mini-Soloway Knockouts, Thursday & Friday,
sessions 1 & 2 of 4.

Friday, Sept. 12

Morning & Afternoon:
 . **GOLD RUSH** Pairs – (200/400/750) *two sessions*
 . Open Stratified Pairs – (1500/2500/open).
 . 299er pairs
 . Mini-Soloway Knockouts, Thursday & Friday
sessions 3 & 4.
 . Bracketed Teams, 2 sessions.

Saturday, Sept. 13

Morning & Afternoon:
 . **GOLD RUSH** Pairs – (200/400/750) *two sessions*
 . Open Stratified Pairs – (1500/2500/open).
 . 299er pairs
 . Bracketed Teams, *two sessions.*

Sunday, Sept 14

A/X Open Swiss Teams
 A = Open, X = 0 – 5000. A/X plays separately

 0-4000 Bracketed Teams (no players with more than 4000 masterpoints)

GOLD RUSH Bracketed Teams

***Mini-Soloway Knockouts** - All teams will play a Swiss team event for the first 2 sessions; then top 4 teams in each group advance to Day 2. Top team will choose from 3rd and 4th place teams for first round of KO on Day 2.

Stratifications

GOLD RUSH Pairs: A = 400 – 750, B = 200 – 400, C = 0 - 200.

Open Stratified Pairs: A = open, B = 1500 – 2500, C = 0 - 1500.

Intermediate: A = up to 199; B = 50 - 100; C = 20 - 50; D = less than 20.

GOLD RUSH Swiss Teams: A = 400 - 750, B = 200 – 400, C = 0 – 200.

Strats and Brackets: Based on Average Points. Averaging cannot allow a player to compete in an event which has a maximum number of points less than the player's total points.

Stratifications may change at Director's discretion.



Canada's Capital Regional

23-28 September 2025

EY Centre
4899 Uplands Drive
Ottawa, Canada K1V 2N6



Tournament Features

- 6 days of Open, Swiss Teams, Knockouts, Gold Rush & side games
- 2 supervised/newcomer games
- Daily Chalk Talks by Grand Masters and local bridge experts
- Complimentary morning coffee
- Daily hospitality & lunches for purchase
- Free parking

Host Hotels *(discounted rates)*

- Hilton Garden Inn *(code 900)* 613 288-9001
- Fairfield Inn&Suites *(code NCB)* 613 691-2161

Use code "ORT" for the following 3 hotels

- Hampton Inn by Hilton 613 248-1113
- Holiday Inn Express 613 247-9500
- Homewood Suites *(shuttle)* 613 422-3678

Entry Fees *(CAN\$ per session)*

- ACBL membership required
- ACBL members: \$17 (~\$12 US)
- Unpaid ACBL members: \$21
- Supervised: (0-20 MP): \$5
- Free 120-day guest memberships

Tournament Chair:

Karin Keyes Endemann
613 884-8446

ChairOttawaRegional@gmail.com

Director-in-Charge: Dominique Guay

Partnership:

Reta Murray 613 558-3487

PartnershipOttawaRegional@yahoo.com



Daily start times: 10:00 and 2:30

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Open Pairs (1/2)	Open Pairs (1/2)	Open Pairs (1/2)	Open Pairs (1/2)	Open Pairs (1/2)	Heather Peckett Open Swiss (1/2)
Gold Rush (1/2)	Gold Rush (1/2)	Gold Rush (1/2)	Super Gold Rush (1/2)	Gold Rush (1/2)	
Ottawa KO Teams (1/4)	Ottawa KO Teams (3/4)	Gatineau Stratified Swiss (AX, BCD) (1/2)	Bambrick Bowl KO Teams (1/4)	Bambrick Bowl KO Teams (3/4)	
	Bracketed Swiss (1/2)			Bracketed Swiss (1/2)	
	Supervised Pairs (1/1)		Supervised Pairs (1/1)		
Lunch: sandwich, salad (or chips), drink and dessert available for \$15 (buy in advance)					
Open Pairs (2/2)	Open Pairs (2/2)	Open Pairs (2/2)	Open Pairs (2/2)	Open Pairs (2/2)	Heather Peckett Open Swiss (2/2)
Gold Rush (2/2)	Gold Rush (2/2)	Gold Rush (2/2)	Super Gold Rush (2/2)	Gold Rush (2/2)	
Ottawa KO Teams (2/4)	Ottawa KO Teams (4/4)	Gatineau Stratified Swiss (AX, BCD) (2/2)	Bambrick Bowl KO Teams (2/4)	Bambrick Bowl KO Teams (4/4)	
Side Game (1/1)	Side Game (1/1)	Side Game (1/1)	Side Game (1/1)	Side Game (1/1)	
	Bracketed Swiss (2/2)			Bracketed Swiss (2/2)	

Stratification *(unless otherwise noted)*

- Open 0-1500/3000/3000+ (incl. side games)
Friday 0-2000/3000/3000+
- A/X 0-5000/5000+
- BDC 0-750/1500/3000
- Gold Rush 0-250/500/750 (gold for 750 strat
overalls and section tops)
- Super Gold Rush 0-500/1000/1500
- Supervised Pairs <20

The Ottawa and Bambrick Bowl KOs will be Soloway style: Round Robin Swiss for rounds 1 & 2; with the top 4 teams in each bracket advancing to rounds 3 & 4 for semi-finals and finals.

Handicaps, as needed, will be determined by the Director in bracketed events (KO and bracketed Swiss).

No player may have more MP than the upper limit in the A/X BCD, Gold Rush, Super Gold Rush and Supervised games.





Western Ontario Sectional Bridge Tournament London, Ontario



American Contract
Bridge League

October 18-19, 2025

**London Bridge Centre
1106 Dearness Drive, Unit 9
London, ON N6E 1N9**

Saturday, October 18, 10:30 am

Strati-flighted Pairs (Play-through)

A/X: 1500, 3000, >3000

B/C/D 0-299, 300-499, 500-750

Novice Pairs: 0-199 (1 Session)

Lunch at nearby local restaurants

Saturday, October 18, 2:45 pm

Strati-flighted Pairs (2nd Session)

Novice Pairs: 0-199 (1 Session)

Pairs will be stratified by average
masterpoint holdings

Entry Fees:

ACBL Members - \$15.00 / person / session

Chairperson: Tom Jolliffe
(519) 639-2206
tom.jolliffe@rogers.com

Partnerships: Graeme Tindale
(519) 878-3740
g_tindale@hotmail.com

Sunday, October 19, 10:30 am

Bracketed Swiss Teams (Play-through)

*Note: Teams will be bracketed by total
team points.*

Teams: \$120 per team

A light lunch will be available on Sunday.

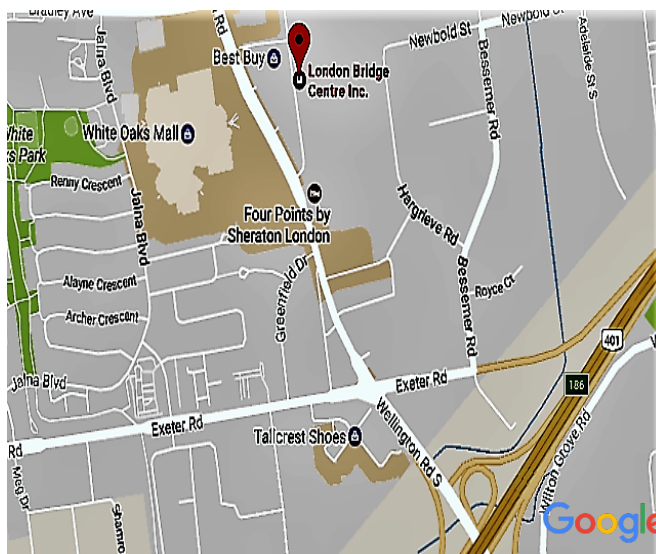
Cost is \$15.

Director-in-charge: Martin Hunter

Participants must be ACBL members.

To join the ACBL go to

**acbl.org/membership for a free 90 day
introductory membership.**



2025 DISTRICT 2 GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS



Open Flight
Flight A
Flight B
Flight C

No Masterpoint limits
Under 6000 Masterpoints
Under 3000 Masterpoints
Non-Life Master under 750 Masterpoints
(as of Sept 6, 2024 masterpoint cycle)

Winners of each Flight will represent District 2 in the North American Final, to be played at the Philadelphia NABC starting on July 23, 2025

Entries at the National Final will be covered by the ACBL or District 2

All players must be paid-up ACBL members and residents of District 2

Teams may consist of 4, 5 or 6 members. Members must play at least ½ the number of matches *or* sessions and ½ the boards of *each* KO matches.

Dates: June 14 and 15 if necessary
Times: 10:00 am & TBA
Cost: \$20 per person per session.
Place: MObridge facilities at 2225 Erin Mills Pkwy, Mississauga, ON L5K 1T9
Unit 155A in Sheridan Mall
Coffee / tea and snacks available on site.

Pre-registration deadline is June 8.

Teams are required to Pre-register with the **DISTRICT CO-ORDINATOR, who may be able to help Individuals / Pairs looking for Partners / Teammates**

DISTRICT CO-ORDINATOR

Edmund Fok d2.gnt.nap@gmail.com 416-678-7911

Link to District 2 Condition of Contest.

<https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/coc/gnt/02.pdf>

Correspondence



I am a club manager, running both online and F2F games. Like all clubs we are struggling to survive—to keep our players playing so we can keep bridge alive and pay the rent. EDGAR is now fully implemented, and I am seeing emails about players who have been sanctioned for online cheating.

I certainly understand the logic of not allowing players who are believed to have cheated to play online, but it escapes me as to **why they cannot play face to face?**

Their actions were online, in a media most were (and still are) not familiar with given the demographics, so not letting them play in this arena makes sense. However, not letting them play at a F2F game hurts EVERYONE!! The clubs and tournaments need the players and the revenue. We police ourselves, as we have always done: our players police each other, and the director is the 'Chief of Police.'

Everyone navigated COVID in their own way, however everyone is bearing their own scars. Those who had an indiscretion in the early days of online play served their suspensions online as there was no FTF to be barred from. Some of these players are now even representing their country.

I believe that if ACBL had not moved to the online platform, several players would not be in this situation. With the average age of our membership being in their seventies, we don't suddenly become cheaters when we hit 70.

My proposal: when a player is sanctioned for ONLINE cheating, they are prohibited from playing online for whatever their ban is, but they can play F2F if they wish, both in club and at tournaments. We let the players police each other, along with our TDs; perhaps have a 'probation' list in case someone falls out of line.

I have heard from many clubs, and they are now looking at running 'non-sanctioned' games so they can keep these players playing, keep their revenue and interest. This doesn't help ACBL at all and if you want to see bridge die a slow death, then you are doing it right. I hope the ACBL board of directors will reconsider this action and let these players play at face-to-face clubs and at tournaments.

Susan Beals
Richmond Hill, Ontario

Dear Andy,

Over the last several months, the Board of Directors of Unit 249 has received notifications regarding a number of players both in our catchment or close to it who have been convicted of online collusive cheating. These players all learned of their convictions after they had been tried without notice or the opportunity to defend themselves, and were given three options:

- Quit to avoid discipline, understanding that they could never play sanctioned bridge again unless they rejoined and submitted to disciplinary measures such as suspension, barring from all sanctioned games, and loss of masterpoints
- File an appeal, which costs \$900 USD plus the potential requirement to hire a lawyer in the United States, which would be incredibly expensive. In addition, the loss of such an appeal would mean a doubled punishment, and statistics are not readily available on whether anyone has yet won an appeal; or
- Plead guilty, accept fast track discipline which includes suspension of varying lengths, depending on the person's tenure and experience, stripping of some percentage of masterpoints, barring from holding positions such as Director or Club Manager, and barring from sanctioned events.

The Board of Directors of Unit 249 of the American Contract Bridge League would like to express our dismay at this process. We understand that cheating is an issue online (and face to face), and we fully support the American Contract Bridge League's attempt to eradicate it. However, we feel that relying wholly on an algorithm without sufficient review by humans, and refusing to allow the person in question to explain their thought processes before conviction is wrong and is doing immeasurable harm in some cases.

We all know people for whom the bridge world is their only family and only social outlet. The median age of ACBL members is now approximately 73. These are elderly people who may have no one and nothing else in their lives. For them, losing their community could have lasting consequences, up to and including depression and death. There is also inevitably embarrassment and humiliation when the person is required



to admit to something which may not be true, but which people they liked and respected may now believe. The people involved have often worked tirelessly for the benefit of their bridge communities and their discipline is leaving significant gaps.

If the member does not wish to just wash their hands forever of the ACBL, they are left with only one “alternative”; to incur significant expense, which seniors on a fixed income may well be unable to afford, and to be faced with double discipline if they lose. Even if they can bear the cost of the appeal and the lawyer, they are not a demographic that is likely to have the level of technological sophistication required to argue that the algorithm showed a false positive in their case, which might mean hiring experts as well. This doesn't make it probable that many people will try it, and if they do, they are likely desperate to remain in a community which has welcomed them and become an integral part of their lives.

When an expert player considers an opening lead, they take inferences from the bidding, both negative and positive. They think about the potential areas of attack, and what partner needs to have in order for their side to beat the contract. They consider what might create a false picture for Declarer, and how to put them on the scent of various key cards. This can lead to frequent leads that EDGAR will flag as unusual. Sometimes these will work and sometimes they won't but it looks like the process only considers the times these leads have a positive result. If the same unusual lead type is made two hands later but it has a negative impact, it is not considered by the algorithm. These all need to be looked at by human beings who have the same level of expertise as the players flagged by EDGAR, or you risk life-shattering decisions being made by someone who simply cannot understand the thought process involved.

In the United States, people have the right to, “...be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor; and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.” Sixth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. While cheating in an online event is not a crime, there is precedent for the application of similar rights to disputes between private citizens/ organizations. In Canada, the rights of the accused are similar, with the right to a fair trial and the presumption of innocence being among them. We are concerned both with the lack of due process and with the lack of transparency.

We believe that this atmosphere is having a chilling effect on people's willingness to play online or in person in ACBL sanctioned events, whether or not they have cheated. Our

members have expressed concerns to us about practicing new systems or working out issues online, as that can lead to unusual results. The widely accepted criminal triangle is motive, means and opportunity. While everyone has the means and opportunity to cheat online if they wish, most if not all of the people convicted in our area over the last year have not had the motive. These are people who have been in the bridge community for years. They have played for their country, have travelled to tournaments all over North America, have been staunch supporters of their communities, have run clubs, directed games, and volunteered tirelessly for clubs and tournaments. We know them to have integrity and we stand with them.

We also believe that these in absentia rulings are increasingly leading to miscarriages of justice, impacting the lives of members in incredibly disruptive ways, and are causing significant lost revenue for the ACBL and by extension the Districts, Units, and clubs which make up the membership, and tournaments already under pressure from declining membership and post-covid recovery. We would therefore like to request that the ACBL review their policies and procedures with regard to online cheating and allow people who stand accused an opportunity to:

- i Review the evidence brought against them in a virtual or in-person discussion
- ii Defend themselves (i.e. reduce the financial barriers to lodge an appeal of said charges); and
- iii Call witnesses at a hearing to review and rebut evidence as presented before they are convicted.

Sincerely,
The ACBL Unit 249 Board of Directors

Jennifer Verdam, President M543882
Jed Drew, Vice President, NAP Coordinator L053482
Tom Jolliffe, Treasurer, Tournament Coordinator, Webmaster N5465605
John Abbott, Secretary O677282
Brian Clark, Memberships 8556342
Malkin Howes, Education, IN Coordinator P759002
Ted Boyd, Past President, Board Member L952290
Gary Robertson, Board Member N325005
Hazel Hewitt, Board Member L635497

Cc: The Bulletin The Kibitzer The CBF District 2
Darlene Scott ACBL Recorder Sabrina Goley

TOURNAMENT TRAIL

Page numbers (p.) refer to ads in this issue. An asterisk (*) means tournament information was in the previous issue.

Information is subject to change - check www.unit166.ca or www.acbl.org for up-to-date information.

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		2 - 4	Toronto, NLM Regional

All tournaments are Sectionals unless noted.

Deadline for the Fall Kibitzer: July 20, 2025

The Kibitzer

Andy Stark

36 Poucher St., Toronto ON M4J 2Y9