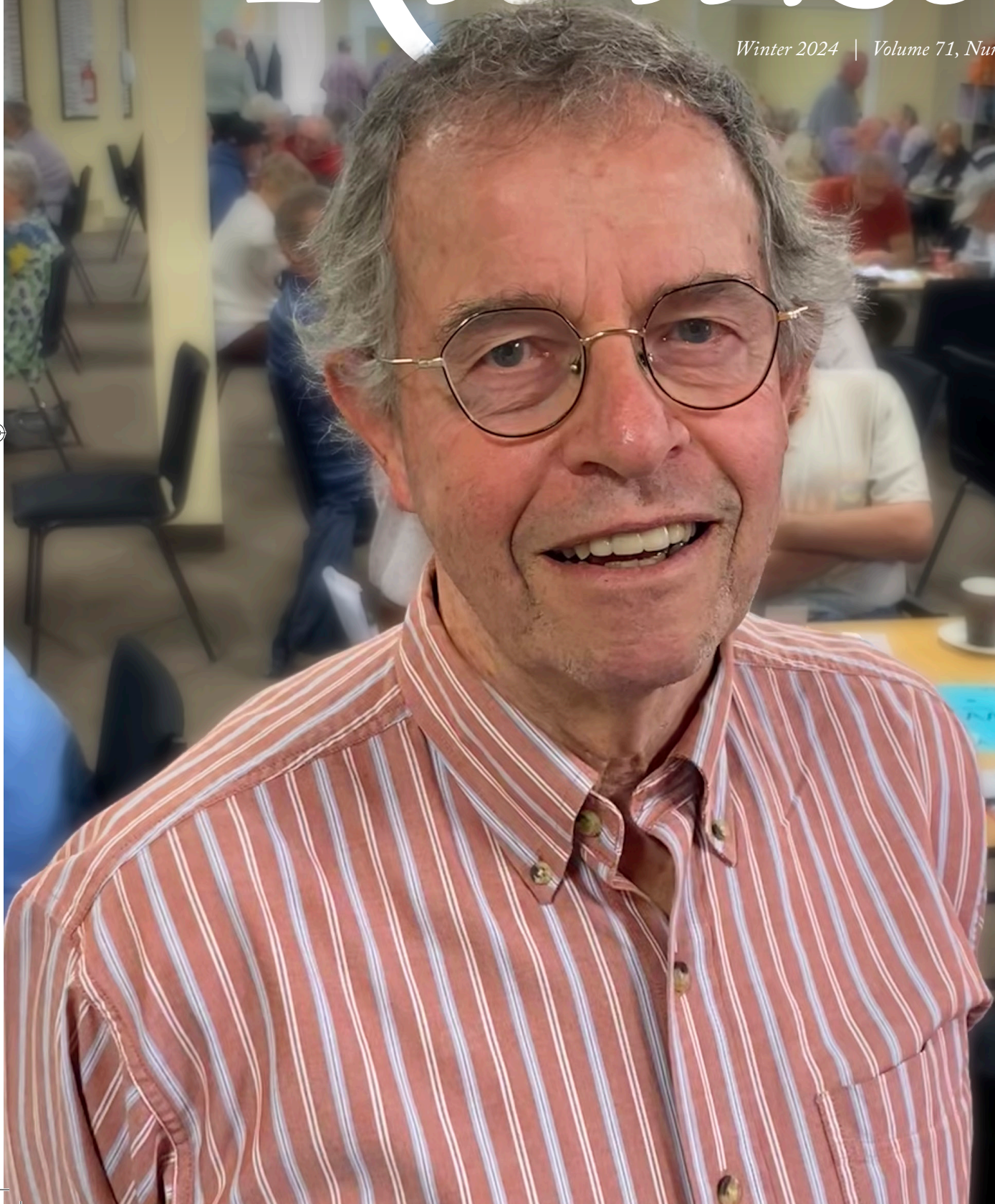


The Kibitzer



Winter 2024 | Volume 71, Number 4





ACBL
SANCTIONED

Bridge Weekend

MAY 2-4, 2025 AND OCTOBER 3-5, 2025
— 2 NIGHT ALL-INCLUSIVE GETAWAY PACKAGES —

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE WORLD'S GREATEST CARD GAME

Join husband & wife team, Martin Hunter and Danielle Gosselin while you enjoy Fern Resort's classic hospitality, great food and lakeside setting for a memorable weekend in the heart of cottage country. Martin is an Expert player and ACBL Tournament Director, while Danielle is an ACBL Accredited Bridge Teacher.

BOOK IN ADVANCE - THIS EVENT WILL SELL OUT!



OVER 9 HOURS OF DUPLICATE BRIDGE PLAY

- Optional casual bridge game - Friday at 3:00pm
- 4 sessions of ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge
- 4 Mini Lessons and one workshop
- Meet & Greet with complimentary wine & cheese
- Awards, prizes, and more!

2-NIGHT ALL-INCLUSIVE GETAWAY PACKAGE AT BEAUTIFUL FERN RESORT

Package includes accommodation, 6 meals per person (dinner on Friday, 3 Meals Saturday, Breakfast & Lunch Sunday), wine & cheese event, all Bridge activities and access to seasonal facilities.

Starting from \$547 per person*

*Price based on double occupancy, plus HST

Reserve online at fernresort.com,
call 1-800-567-3376 or email us at
getaway@fernresort.com to book
your stay today.

Fern Resort | 4432 Fern Resort Road | Ramara, ON L3V 0Z1 | 1.800.567.3376 | getaway@fernresort.com | fernresort.com



Congrats to a couple west end guys: first, **Martin Hunter** for becoming a Platinum Life Master. Please see the blurb on page 9 about a special game at MOBridge on Jan. 11 to commemorate Martin's achievement.

And second, congrats to **Andy Firko** for acquiring his 100th Blue Ribbon Pairs qualification recently at the Oakville Regional. To earn a qualification for arguably the world's most prestigious pair event, one must win or come second in a Regional, so 100 of those puppies is something!

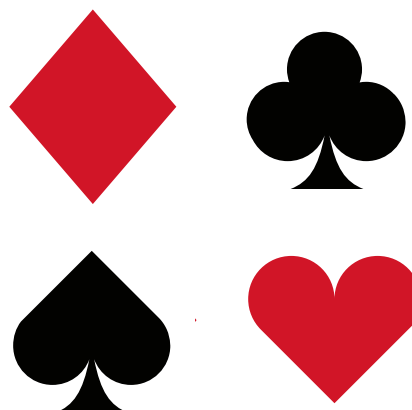
Thanks to **Mel Norton** for letting us know about these achievements. Which brings me to your annual reminder that the Kibitzer is your Kibitzer and we are still upholding the motto and modus operandi of longtime Kib editor John Armstrong: **you send, we print; you no send, we no print.**

This issue is jammed with many interesting deals and stories. Thanks to regular contributors **Robert Griffiths, David Turner, and Howard Laufer.** And thanks to a couple newbies: **Tom Rajnovich** and **Howard Little.** Cheers and welcome to the Kib.

On a sad note, by the time you read this, the Tuesday evening Toronto Lawn Tennis Club (often recognized as just 'the Lawn') will be shutting down to the general public, and, from what we hear, even downsizing for its regular members. The last game is Nov. 19. So all you city slickers looking for a game on a Tuesday night, now you should check out the game at the venerable Hart House. Bring extra flashlights because you are literally playing in the dark at some tables. But oh the history! Plus you feel like you're at Hogwarts. Game time is 6:30 pm. Hope to see you there sometime.

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

On the cover:
The Kib's Robert Griffiths at the recent London Sectional



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.

District 2 has a new webpage!

Please visit <https://www.d2acbl.org>
to read all about the latest happenings with District 2.

The Unit 166 financial statements for the year 2023 are ready for viewing.

Please visit www.unit166.ca

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Nominations Please!

For Unit 166 members only

Kate Buckman Award

Do you know someone who contributes to others' enjoyment of the game of bridge? Do you know someone who should be honoured by the Board of Unit 166? We're looking for nominations for the Kate Buckman Award for 2025. If you don't nominate someone, then we can't honour them and we really want to celebrate this kind of person and the contributions they make to the game of bridge.

Audrey Grant Award

Do you know a bridge teacher who exemplifies the best of the profession? Do you know someone who should be feted by the Board? Submit the nominations for the Audrey Grant Award for 2025. Again, if you don't nominate then we can't celebrate the excellence of this teacher's skill and dedication.

The Unit 166 Board of Directors should consider

for the Kate Buckman/Audrey Grant (circle one or both) Award. The reason that this person deserves your consideration is:

Please submit to David Ellis
ellis2106@gmail.com

Deadline: December 31, 2024

PRESIDENT / TREASURER: [ANDREW RISMAN](#)

Toronto tel. (647) 286-1576

VICE PRESIDENT / TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR:

[DARLENE SCOTT](#) Oakville tel. (905) 257-0304

TREASURER: [ANDREW RISMAN](#)

PUBLICITY / KIBITZER LIAISON: [DAVID McCRADY](#)

Toronto tel. (416) 293-1837

EDUCATION LIAISON: [GLENNA RICHARDSON](#)

Toronto tel. (416) 317-5898

ELECTIONS / NOMINATIONS: [DAVID McCRADY](#)

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Scarborough tel. (647) 818-1516

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OTHER OFFICIALS

SECRETARY / ELECTRONIC CONTACT: [DEBRA KESTENBERG](#)

Toronto tel. (647) 514-3221

TOURNAMENT SANCTIONS / MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

[MARTIN HUNTER](#)

Mississauga tel. (905) 510-0411

I/N CO-ORDINATOR: [STEVE OVERHOLT](#)

Etobicoke tel. (416) 621-0315

INVENTORY CONTROL: [STEVE NORRIS](#)

Palgrave tel. (905) 880-5942

ACCOUNTANT: [GARY WESTFALL](#)

Brampton tel. (905) 791-4239

KIBITZER EDITOR: [ANDY STARK](#)

Toronto tel. (647) 530-1360

WEBMASTER: [MARTIN HUNTER](#)

Mississauga tel. (905) 510-0411

REGIONAL DIRECTOR (ACBL): [JONATHAN STEINBERG](#)

Toronto tel. (416) 733-9941

Effective Jan 1, 2025 [DARLENE SCOTT](#)

Oakville tel. (905) 257-0304

**The Board of Director meeting continuation from November 9th will be
Thursday December 12, 2024 at 7pm by video conference.**

The January Board meeting is scheduled for 9am Sunday, January 26, 2025 by video conference.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will follow at 11am also by video conference.

We encourage attendance by members of Unit 166 at the AGM. To be added to the guest list,
kindly send an email with the header "Attend Unit 166 AGM" to Andy Risman at arismanca@rogers.com
Be sure to include your name and ACBL number. In January you will be sent attendance instructions via email.

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

BRONTE BRIDGE CLUB

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

- Wed 12:30 pm Open
- Wed 12:30 pm 0-299*

*(\$5 games for the month of June)

ETOBICOKE BRIDGE CENTRE

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

- Mon 12:00 pm Open
- Mon 12:00 pm Shuffle & Play
- Mon 12:00 pm Lessons
- Wed 12:00 pm 0 - 750
- Wed 12:00 pm 0 - 20
(supervised lesson at 11:15)

UNIT 166 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

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

HALTON BRIDGE CLUB

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

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 12:30 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 7.00pm 0-1500
- Mon 7.00pm 0-99
- Tue 12.30pm Strat Open
- Wed 12.30pm Shuffle & Play
- Wed 7.00pm 0-499
- Thu 12.30pm Strat Open
- Fri 12.30pm 0-750

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
jackisye@gmail.com

- Fri 12:30 pm Open

STEPHEN'S BRIDGE CLUB

*LEE'S BRIDGE CLUB STARTS SEPT. 9

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

- Mon 12:30 pm Open

Lunch served at 12 noon

STEPPING STONE BRIDGE CLUB

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

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

TORONTO BRIDGE

Leaside Memorial Gardens
1073 Millwood Road, Toronto, ON
Rob Drummond 647-629-3408
info@torontobridge.ca

- Thur 9:00 am Limited (0-500)
- Thur 12:00 pm Open
- Wed 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 7:00 pm Open and 0-20
- Wed 12:30 pm Open and 0-20

Ontario Unit No. 166 Nominations For Board Of Directors

Directors are elected to the Board for a term of office of two years. Nominations are invited for these positions. Nominees must be members of Unit 166. If there are more candidates than available positions, elections will be held Thursday through Saturday at the Toronto Easter Regional and at advance polls to be held in the period between the close of nominations and the beginning of the Regional. Nomination Forms must be signed by two members, be accepted by the nominee, and be received by the Unit 166 Election Coordinator by 21 days prior to the election. The Spring issue of the Kibitzer will publish a picture and short resume (50 words or less) for candidates who submit this information, together with their nomination form to the Nomination Coordinator by December 10, 2024. The schedule and locations of advance polls will be published in the Spring Kibitzer. The voting booth will be open at the Toronto Regional for one hour and will close 15 minutes prior to game time of morning and afternoon sessions on election days.

Unit 166 Nomination Form

NAME: _____

ACBL #: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ PHONE: _____

Is hereby nominated as a candidate for the Board of Directors of ACBL Unit 166.

SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR: _____

ACBL #: _____

SIGNATURE OF SECONDER: _____

ACBL #: _____

SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE: _____

ACBL #: _____

**Please send nominations and resumé
to the Nominations Coordinator:**

David McCrady
202-65 Spring Garden Avenue
North York, ON M2N 6H9
or email to davemccr@sympatico.ca
For information phone (416-985-1837)



Martin Hunter

Platinum Life Master celebration game!

Sat., Jan. 11, 2025

Come out to roast and toast Martin Hunter (player, director, raconteur) in this special club championship game offering extra masterpoints.

6:00 pm Toast

7:00 pm Game (Open stratified)

Pre-registration is required!

Please email the club at mail@mobridge.club

BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNIT 238

PRESIDENT: Millie Wood Colton
tel. (705) 674-3677, cell. (705) 662-8813
email. milliewoodcolton@gmail.com

VICE-PRESIDENT: John Biondi
tel. (705) 478-7781
email. dymondace1@yahoo.com

TREASURER: Cheryl Mahaffy
email. jc.mahaffy@fibrep.ca

SECRETARY: Fiona Christensen
tel. (705) 673-8478
email. fionamchristensen@gmail.com

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR: Marc Langevin
email. marc.langevin@fibrep.ca

I/N COORDINATOR: Sue Hemmerling
email. hestia@eastlink.ca

BOARD MEMBER NORTH BAY: Paul Bourassa
tel. (705) 493-1148
email. paul.bourassa200@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBER SUDBURY: Chantal Barnhart
tel. (705) 562-4829
email. pokerjunkie7@hotmail.com

BOARD MEMBER TIMMINS: Bob Pawson
tel. (705) 268-2610
email. bobpawson1@yahoo.ca

BOARD MEMBER NEW LISKEARD: Alan Young
tel. (705) 563-2996
email. youngalan1234@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNIT 246

PRESIDENT: Linda Lord
5930 17th Sideroad RR 1, Schomberg, ON, L0G 1T0
tel. (905) 939-8409 email. lindaleelord@hotmail.com

TREASURER: Susan Beals
34 Falling River Dr., Richmond Hill, ON, L4S 2R1
tel. (416) 433-2292

SECRETARY: Phil Smith
99 Oakwood Cres., Peterborough, ON, K9J 1N2
tel. (705) 749-9307 email. philsmith.99oak@gmail.com

EDUCATION COORDINATOR: Lorraine Eaglesham
114 Main, Unionville, ON, L3R 2G2
tel. (647) 335-4177 email. lmeaglesham@aol.com

REGIONAL CHAIR: Linda Lord
5930 17th Sideroad RR 1, Schomberg, ON, L0G 1T0
tel. (905) 939-8409 email. lindaleelord@hotmail.com

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR: Linda Lord
5930 17th Sideroad RR 1, Schomberg, ON, L0G 1T0
tel. (905) 939-8409 email. lindaleelord@hotmail.com

SPECIAL EVENTS: Paul Campbell
47 Herrell Ave., Barrie, ON, L4N 6T7
tel. (705) 734-0287 email. pacam1947@hotmail.com

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

Irfan Ashraf
email. Nasreen.ashraf01@gmail.com

Doug Darnley
1525 Sandhurst Cres., Pickering, ON, L1V 6Y5
tel. (416) 258-1331 email. ddarnley@rogers.com

Medhat Fawzy
18 Price St., Richmond Hill, ON, L4S 1C8
tel. (416) 428-9034 email. medhatfawzy@hotmail.com

Janice Upenieks,
17 Maple Dr., Orillia L3V 3W3,
tel. (416) 435-3870 email. janice.upenieks@outlook.com

Jean Belfour, 438 Bay St., Orillia L3V 3X6,
tel. (705) 323-4944 email. jeanbelfour@sympatico.ca

Ken Collins, 338 Murray Dr., Aurora, ON L4G 6B2,
tel. (416) 471-5699 email. ken.collins@solution-integrity.com

RECORDER: Paul Thurston
18 Mount Grove Crescent, Wellington, ON, K0K 3L0
email. tweedguy@gmail.com

SUPPLY MANAGER: Paul Campbell
47 Herrell Ave., Barrie, ON L4N 6T7
email. pacam1947@hotmail.com

UNIT 246 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

AJAX BRIDGE CLUB

46 Exeter Rd., Ajax ON

Sonia Ostroff

905-419-0870

- Tues 7:15 pm Open

AURORA BRIDGE CLUB

406 Millard Ave, Newmarket, ON 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, ON

705-721-9233

Jane Foster janekf74@hotmail.com

- Mon 1:00 pm 299er
- Tues 1:00 pm Open
- Wed 7:00 pm Open
- Fri 12:00 pm Open

BELLEVILLE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Belleville Masonic Temple, 132 Foster Avenue
Belleville, ON, 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, ON

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, ON

pgiannandrea@gmail.com

- Wed 1:00 pm Open

LINDSAY DBC

210 Kent St. W.

Lindsay ON

705-464-9210

Doug Brenner dbrenner@sympatico.ca

- Tues 1:00 pm Open

ORILLIA DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Orillia Masonic Temple

24 James Street E

Orillia, Ontario

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, ON

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 noon Bid Euchre

PETERBOROUGH BRIDGE CLUB

184 Marina Blvd.

Peterborough, ON

705-745-2331

Anne Martens ptbobridge@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, ON

905-883-9555

Medhat Fawzy medhatfawzy@hotmail.com

- Mon 1:00 pm Open
- Tues 1:00 pm Open

President: Ted Boyd
58 St. Andrews St., Cambridge, ON, N1S 1M4
tel. (519) 740-9614 email: boydst1945@gmail.com

Vice President: Jed Drew
55 Fairs Cres., Tillsonburg, ON N4G 5W2
tel. (519) 842-8786 email: jed.drew@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jennifer Verdam
315 Margaret Avenue, Apt 114, Kitchener ON, N2H 6S5
tel. (519) 440-9346 email: jennverdam@gmail.com

Tournament Coordinator: Tom Jolliffe
18 Cadeau Terrace, Unit 10, London, ON, N6K 4Z1
tel. (519) 639-2206 email: tom.jolliffe@rogers.com

Education Liaison: Malkin Dare
335 Marlowe Drive, Waterloo, ON, N2I 5A5
tel. (519) 884-3146 email: mdare@sympatico.ca

Membership Chair : Brian Clark
33 Thomas Ave, Tillsonburg, ON, N4G 5K8
tel. (519) 842-6791 email: brian.clark@sympatico.ca

Director at Large: Hazel Hewitt
PO Box 2461, 84 Church St. South, St. Marys ON, N4X 1A3
tel. (519) 274-9724 email: hazeljhewitt@hotmail.com

Director at Large: Gary Robertson
7839 Talbot Trail, Blenheim, ON NOP1AO
tel. (519) 809-7000 email: garrobert@gmail.com

Director at Large: John Abbott
9185 Blencarn Court, Windsor, ON, N8S 4L3
tel. (519) 944-4911 email: johnabbott@gmail.com

UNIT 249 FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE CLUBS

BREW'S BRIDGE CLUB

770 Maxwell St., Sarnia, ON
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, ON N2C 1A6
519-893-4595
David Baker

Grand River runs a combination of 9 face-to-face and 7 virtual games per week. Please see our website for schedule details.
<https://grandriverbridgeclub.com/club-schedule>

GODERICH BRIDGE CLUB

Trinity Church 245 Mill Road, Goderich, ON
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, ON N1E 5G6
519-400-4053
Thea Davis

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

KINCARDINE CHARITY BRIDGE CLUB

601 Durham Street, Kincardine, ON
226-398-6008
Tom Rajnovich tom.rajnovich@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

LONDON BRIDGE CENTRE

9-1106 Dearness Drive, London, ON

519-601-2582

Angie Francolini afrancolini@rogers.com

The London Bridge Centre runs a combination of 9 face-to-face and 1 virtual game per week. Please see our website for schedule details. <https://site.pianola.net/london-bridge-centre/home>

MAPLE CITY DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

304 St Clair St, Chatham, ON

USB Sports Bar downstairs

519-809-7000

Gary Robertson garrobert@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, ON

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, ON

519-476-3144

Lynn Whalen ldw@execulink.com

SAUGEEN SHORES DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

525 Ivings Dr., Port Elgin, ON

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, ON 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, On 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, ON

519-719-2483

Janette Pedler pedlar99@hay.net

TILLSONBURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Tillsonburg Seniors Centre

45 Hardy Ave., Tillsonburg, ON

519-631-5531

Jim Wright jwr1002393@rogers.com

- Fri 1:00 pm Open

WINDSOR SOCIAL DBC

333 Lancaster Blvd. Tecumseh, ON

Roger Papineau rogerpapineau@sympatico.ca

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

PRESIDENT: Muriel Tremblay
280 Johnson St, Niagara on the Lake
email: muriel@cmtmc.ca

VICE PRESIDENT: Brian Jones
4020 Mountain Rd. Beamsville L3J 2C8
email: bjcanada439@gmail.com

SECRETARY: Tim Butt
41769 Millrace Rd., Wainfleet, L0S 1V0
email: timothy013@gmail.com

TREASURER: Kathy Morrison
17 Laurier Trail, Welland L3C 0H2
email: kmorrison37@icloud.com

TOURNAMENT CO-ORDINATOR: Claude Tremblay
280 Johnson St Niagara-on-the-Lake
email: claudet@cmtmc.ca

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: Brian Jones
4020 Mountain Rd. Beamsville L3J 2C8
email: bjcanada439@gmail.com

I/N CO-ORDINATOR/EDUCATION CHAIR: Steve Williams
6697 Cropp Street, Niagara Falls
email: swilliams@ecng.com

NEWSLETTER/PROMOTIONS: Heather Beckman
309 Nassau St., Niagara on the Lake
email: hbeckman@niagaratreehouse.com

WEBMASTER + BOARD MEMBER: Rod Sumner
email: ressumcons@gmail.com

DISTRICT 2 REPRESENTATIVE: Muriel Tremblay

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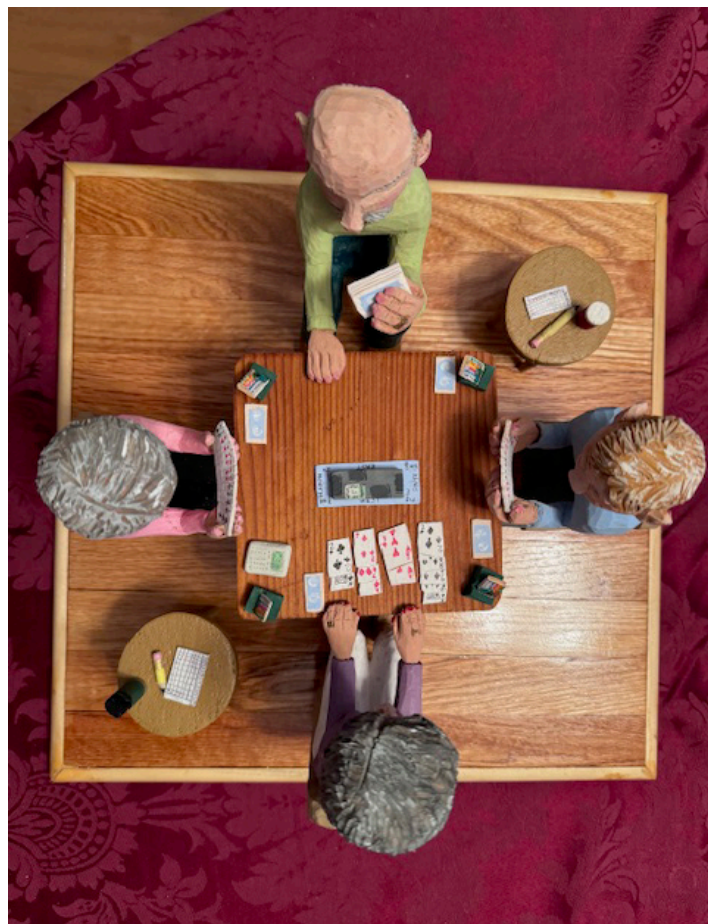
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Bridge in Kincardine

By Tom Rajnovich

The Kincardine Charity Bridge Club (KCBC) started in 1998 as a non-sanction social afternoon bridge club. The primary purposes of the club were to provide a pleasant bridge environment and to raise money to support a local charity – the Women's House of Grey and Bruce counties.



There was another ACBL-sanctioned evening bridge club in Kincardine at the time, but it no longer hosts any games—sadly—another victim of COVID.

Over the next 18 years the KCBC raised \$40,000 for the charity. In 2016 the KCBC became an ACBL-sanctioned club running a Friday afternoon game, and a second charity, the Huron Shores Hospice was added. Participation numbers increased and since 2016 the club has raised over \$50 000 more for the two charities. The club is run entirely by volunteers – all money raised goes to the charities involved.



In addition, in the last few years a total of \$3,000 has been donated to other local charities: the United Way, the Kincardine food bank, and the Davidson Centre recreation complex in Kincardine.

Post COVID, the club has grown, adding a Monday afternoon game, and offering two sets of lessons (intermediate and novice) each week. The club continues to provide a pleasant venue to play bridge.



One of the directors, Steve Jolley, is an avid wood carver. Here are pictures of a tableau he carved to celebrate our club's success. The detail is amazing; the cards are all numbered and have the ACBL logo on the backs. The players are wearing jewellery, and there are duplicate boards, a table card, bidding boxes, scoresheets, pencils, a thermos, a Tim Horton's coffee cup, side tables, and other details.



The last photo is of a wood carving done by Steve to honour the club's long-time manager.





Better Slam Bidding Using Scroll Bids

By Howard Little

Effective slam bidding is important in any contest but is vital in IMP scoring when there are big swings on slam hands. Scroll bids play an effective roll in slam bidding and will help you get better results. Before you add any new convention to your bidding arsenal it should satisfy three criteria (a) it must be an improvement on current bidding, (b) it must occur frequently enough to be of value, and (c) it must not be too complicated so it can be easily remembered. Scroll bids satisfy all above criteria.

Scroll bids can be used whenever you have identified a suit fit and you have shown a short suit (singleton or void). There are other versions of scroll bids and what follows is the one I use. You will have a singleton or a void approximately one out of every three hands so they occur frequently. I do not count a singleton ace as a short suit but do count all other cards. Voids particularly are difficult to identify and the other systems available to identify voids use up a lot of bidding space. Here are some examples of when and how I identify short suits.

1. Inverted Minors – After a bid of $1\clubsuit$ - $2\clubsuit$ or $1\diamond$ - $2\diamond$ any immediate bid by opener at the three-level shows shortness and is a game force
2. Drury – Whether you play ordinary Drury, or 2-way Drury any immediate bid by opener at the three level shows shortness and is a game force
3. Bergen raises – After any Bergen raise a bid of a new suit above the agreed trump suit shows shortness and shows slam interest. If the bidding goes $1\heartsuit$ – ($3\diamond$ or $3\clubsuit$) I play that $3\spadesuit$ club shortness 3NT shows diamond shortness and $4\clubsuit$ shows spade shortness. You could also play

that the suit bid shows shortness in that suit which is easier to remember but uses up more bidding space

4. INT openers – A transfer to a minor suit followed by the bid of a new suit shows shortness and slam interest. (Examples follow later in the article.)
5. Jacoby 2NT – There are many versions. The most commonly used is that the bidding of a suit at the three level by opener shows shortness in that suit.
6. Splinters –
7. Other bidding agreements of a partnership.

How do scroll bids work? After any bid that identifies shortness and is a game force or better, the next higher suit asks for more information. Teller bids the next suit to confirm a singleton. The next four bids are responses to RKC—I430 or whatever key card showing system you use and confirm a void in the short suit.

Suppose the bidding goes $1\diamond$ – $2\diamond$ – $3\heartsuit$ the next higher suit $3\spadesuit$ asks for more information. The next bid 3NT identifies a singleton. If Teller has a heart void, then, using I430 responses, the second step $4\clubsuit$ shows one or four key cards and confirms a heart void. The third step of $4\clubsuit$ shows zero or three key cards and a heart void, $4\heartsuit$ shows two key cards without the queen and a heart void and $4\spadesuit$ shows two key cards and the queen with a heart void.

There is only one adjustment to make. It is important that 3NT be available as a place to play so it is not ever used to ask for information. For example, if the

bidding goes $1\Diamond - 2\Diamond - 3\spadesuit$ then 3NT shows at least a double stopper in spades and a suggestion that 3NT may be the best place to play. Over $1\Diamond - 2\Diamond - 3\spadesuit, 4\clubsuit$ would be used to ask for more information. A later bid of 4NT by opener is also to play.

Notice how compact the convention is. The singleton is identified in only two bidding spaces and a void, and key cards are identified almost always by the four-level leaving extra space for further inquiry. For those of you who use Minorwood or Kickback, follow up bids can be whatever is used for your system.

Following are my suggestions. Say the bidding goes $1\heartsuit - 2NT$ (Jacoby) – $3\Diamond$ (shortness) $3\heartsuit$ (scroll bid, asking $4\clubsuit$ (zero or three key cards and a void - third step after the ask) then the next suit, $4\Diamond$ is a queen ask, and the second suit $4\heartsuit$ shows the queen and asks for kings. It rarely occurs but the third step shows the queen and both outstanding kings (not the trump suit or the void).

Here is an example. Opener bids $1\clubsuit$ with $\spadesuit Axx \heartsuit x \diamond AKxx \clubsuit KJxxx$. A very nice 15-count with shortness. Partner has $\spadesuit KJx \heartsuit Axx \diamond Qx \clubsuit Axxxx$, a nice 14-point hand, bids $2\clubsuit$ inverted minor and hears $3\heartsuit$ from partner. Should Responder bid 3NT or try for slam? He and his partner should have at least 29 playing points and if partner has a small heart or a void the opponents' $\heartsuit KQJ$ are wasted so there are only 34 high card points to consider and slam is likely.

So, with the cards above, Responder (Asker) can bid $3\spadesuit$ to ask for more information and will hear 3NT, confirming a heart singleton. Asker bids the next suit up, $4\clubsuit$ to ask for key cards and hears $4\heartsuit$ showing zero or 3 key cards. Asker bids $4\spadesuit$ to ask about the $\clubsuit Q$ and hears $5\Diamond$ which shows the queen (or 5+ clubs) and the king of diamonds. Asker can count 5 clubs, 3 diamonds 1 heart, 2 heart ruffs and 2 spades so he bids $7\clubsuit$. The best fit opposite a singleton is either the ace with no other honours or a hand with no honours higher than the jack. In the first instance the opponents have six wasted points in the suit. With

34 high card points outstanding, the partnership needs only about 28 HCPs to bid a decent slam. If partner has four cards to the jack, the opponents have 9 wasted points in the suit and the partnership will lose one trick to the ace of the suit so 28 HCPs is again likely to produce a slam.

The best fit opposite a void is a hand with no high honours. If the hand opposite has no honours, then of the 30 other points the partnership should need only about 24 for slam to be likely which is why voids are so powerful when you have a good trump suit.

I have found scroll bids to be a useful tool to investigate slams and highly recommend them.





Murder at the Bridge Table

By Howard Laufer

INTRODUCTION

I wrote this story as a tribute to the most famous detective writers of the 1940s - Raymond Chandler, Dashiell Hammett, and Mickey Spillane. Their genre of pulp fiction created the greatest private investigators of the era, namely: Philip Marlowe, Sam Spade and Mike Hammer. My character, John Archer, is modeled after these cynical, wisecracking, hard-boiled detectives. Archer is a man who lives by his own principles—a man “who can’t be bought, working in a city where everything is for sale.”

Remember, it was the 1940s when “men were men and women were dames.” Is the story sexist? Of course, but my female character, Ruby, has a lot more going for her than sex appeal. No more apologies. Read the story and judge for yourself.

When she walked into the bridge club, every guy in the room followed each step she took as she sashayed her way to the partnership desk. I was no exception. She was an absolute knockout! She was tall with long, blond hair cascading across the corner of her eye and falling gently onto her shoulders. She wore a tight white blouse and an even tighter black skirt. Those spike heels stretched her frame upward accenting her perfect figure. The year was 1947, and Veronica Lake was the “femme fatale” of Hollywood movies. Well, this blond bombshell could give Lake a run for her money. She had the same sultry look and crooked smile that made Veronica famous.

My name is Archer, John Archer; ex-cop and now private detective working out of Las Vegas, Nevada. I like to think of myself as a tough guy—a seasoned veteran of two years fighting overseas in a war that we had to win. Now after one failed marriage and too many nights drinking bourbon until closing time in Sam’s bar along the Strip, I found myself looking for other diversions. Duplicate bridge was my escape. It kept my brain sharp but it also was a great distraction so I wouldn’t have to think about the cases that I was working on—mostly divorce stuff but also the odd missing person. Divorce was easy to understand but people who “go missing” were a lot tougher to figure out. Some just wanted out. That made sense to me, but some disappeared without a reason. It was my job to sort it all out. I demanded and got a good buck for my work. That’s what a solid reputation will do for you. I was a man who was reliable and discreet—the two main ingredients for success as a PI.

The bridge game started at 7 pm sharp. Since I was a nighthawk anyway, the timing of the game fit my schedule to a tee. I preferred not to have a regular partner. The partnership desk was perfect for me, you know: no long-term commitments. I had a hunch this beautiful babe was looking for a partner. She was heading straight towards the director’s desk. I was there first.

“Looking for a partner?” I asked.

She turned slowly and stared at me with those baby blue eyes that twinkled as she spoke. Then in a sultry voice, she purred.

“Definitely. By the way, what’s your name?”

“John,” I sputtered. “What’s yours?”

“Ruby,” she replied.

I thought to myself, what a perfect name. She was like a precious gem. She could have said Sapphire or Opal, or Pearl and I wouldn’t have been surprised. “Let’s set the ground rules before we start the game,” I said.

“Sure,” she replied, “but one thing must be cleared up first. I’m going to call you Jack. You see John was my ex’s name and I can’t see that moniker on you, so Jack it will have to be.”

“Now listen doll, if we partner up, I call the shots. Get it?”

“All right handsome,” she cooed. “As long as I can call you Jack.”

Somehow, she had gotten the upper hand. I had taken control, but she was christening me with a new name. Maybe this was the beginning of a new romantic adventure or maybe I was getting in over my head and just didn’t realize it yet. I thought to myself for a moment. “Wasn’t Jack a common nickname for John? Okay, I could live with that.” Now, I wondered what else she had up her sleeve.

Ruby grabbed a convention card and headed off to table 13. Table number 13 should have been my first clue that she was trouble, but I was blinded by her beauty. Even from the back, she was seductive. Her hips swayed as she glided across the room. It wasn’t hard to follow her. She slid into her chair like a cobra sidling up to its prey. “I’ll play North,” she flatly declared. She had taken control again. I was relegated to playing South. We filled out the card together and surprisingly we agreed on every convention that we should play. Things were looking up.

Ruby looked sexy, even if she wasn’t trying. She pushed her long blond hair away from her face as she perused the convention card. She twirled a pencil deftly in her right hand and every now and then, she put it to her lips and smiled. Maybe there was a chance for us after all?

It didn’t take long to get her life story. Not all the sordid parts but enough to piece it all together. She left a trail of clues that even I could follow. She was from the wrong side of the tracks; got in trouble with the law at an early age but somehow pulled it together enough to get her life back on course. Her good looks and great figure had carried her a long way. She was gorgeous and she knew it. It didn’t take her long to parlay that into bad relationships with bad men and an even worse marriage to some guy named John. She wanted out. She had been around the block more than a few times. She had learned to fend for herself and survive no matter what. After hearing it all, I took a moment to re-group. The more she talked, the more I realized how tough she really was. Maybe that put us on an equal footing. I liked a tough broad with no illusions about life. Still, something inside me kept whispering, maybe this wasn’t the woman of my dreams. Before our opponents arrived, I decided to lay down the law.

“Now listen, sweetheart, I play disciplined when we are vulnerable. I’ve got to be on solid ground when I bid. I just won’t compromise on this point. Get it?”

“Sorry, Jack but I don’t! I’ve been vulnerable all my life, so I won’t let that fact stand in my way when I bid my hand.”

“What about weak twos or pre-empts or even solid strength in your overcalls?”

“Now you listen,” she shot back, “I like to psych bid. I like to play my opponents. I like to win. It’s either first place or no place. Simple as that.”

“Rules are for fools,” she continued. “Count your tricks and not your points. Don’t be a slave to conventions. Use your imagination. Use your intimidation. Don’t ever let your opponents get comfortable. We are here to win and that means steal every trick we can.” Spoken like a true gambler, a real tough cookie. She liked to push the envelope whenever she could.

On the first hand, Ruby chose not to splinter but instead she used Jacoby 2NT. She was right, of course, and we slammed the hand with less than slam points. On the next hand, she opened with a gambling 3NT, and a fortuitous lead gave her the contract. Ruby was on a roll. She played every hand like a pro. No 50/50 finesses for her when she could endplay for a certainty. But when she did finesse, they always worked, even the deep ones. She knew the laws of probability better than a Harvard mathematics professor. Permutations and combinations came naturally to her. Either that or she was clairvoyant and somehow could see right through the backs of the playing cards. It was uncanny how every educated guess worked for her.

Defensively, she was always in our opponents’ face. They could never play in a comfortable fit at the two level; she always pushed them to the three level. On other hands, she chased them to the five level. When they interfered with weak two bids, she countered with Lebensohl. When they played Unusual 2NT, she countered with unusual over unusual. She sacrificed and won every time. They bid 6 Hearts—a sure vulnerable slam, but Ruby sacrificed by bidding 6 Spades and went down five—still a good board for us. She was a wizard at this game. I had never seen a natural talent like her before. Our scores on the tabulation sheet were almost all in the positive column. The ones that weren’t, were all good sacrifices that gave us top boards. We were headed for the highest percentage ever scored in a matchpoint game.

We reached the last board on top of our game. I opened 1NT and Ruby jumped to 4NT. There it was:

a simple question—bottom of my range or top of my range. With 15 points, I pass; with 17 points I bid slam. I held 16 points. I didn’t like the look of my hand and because we were vulnerable, I lost my nerve and passed. I should have trusted Ruby, but I didn’t, and I knew she wouldn’t take it lightly. When the dummy came down, I realized that slam was there. Ruby knew it, too. I could see the look on her face. It wasn’t a pretty sight.

Without hesitation, she pulled a snub-nosed .38 from her purse and pumped three slugs in rapid succession into my chest. The air wheezed out of my lungs as my body hit the floor like a sack of flour. The smoke from the barrel of the gun wafted up, slightly obscuring her face but clear enough for me to see those cruel, steel-blue eyes staring at me with an icy glare. That was the last thing that I saw before the room went black. Time stood still for what seemed like an eternity.

Out of nowhere, I could feel a jab in my side and from a distance I could hear a voice faintly calling to me. “Honey, wake up! Wake up, you’re dreaming again. Is it that same nightmare?” Somehow my wife had a knack for showing up at just the right moment. I was lying there in a cold sweat but conscious enough to realize it was only a dream. I could separate fantasy from reality but in that moment it all seemed real enough. Maybe it was time to find another game to play. Bridge was getting far too serious now. My shrink told me not to worry about the re-occurring nightmare. “As soon as you bid and make your next slam, all this nonsense will disappear.”

He was right, of course!



Correspondence

This letter, written by Michael Roche of Victoria, BC was forwarded to me by the president of the Canadian Bridge Federation, Kathie Macnab, for inclusion in the Kibitzer. (Ed.)

The Canadian Bridge Federation

The history of organized bridge in Canada is linked inextricably with the evolution of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL).

Eastern-Central and Western Canada followed different paths. The former was always aligned with the ACBL, even before that organization became predominant in North America. Western Canada, on the other hand, was originally a part of the Pacific Bridge League which amalgamated with the ACBL in 1956. At the 1965 Nationals (now called North American Bridge Championships) in Chicago, a group of Canadian organizers and enthusiasts, led by Eric Murray, made the historic decision to create the CBF. This would be a voluntary association of Canadian ACBL units where each member unit would decide the level of its financial contribution. Besides Murray, the Chicago group included: Henry Smilie (Vancouver); Doug Cannell (Winnipeg); Chuck Jane (Woodstock); Bill Robinson (Toronto); Al Lando (Toronto); Doug Drew (Toronto); Aaron Goodman (Montreal); and Don Dobson (Halifax). Together, these individuals represented more than 80% of Canadian ACBL members.

Special shout-out to Doug Drew (now of Victoria) who plays frequently at the Monterey Bridge Club. Many people probably aren't aware that Doug was formerly President of the CBF, President of the ACBL, and is a member of the Canadian Bridge Federation's Hall of Fame.

The founders presented a plan for the formation and structure of the CBF, to be approved by unit officials. The latter would provide further direction on policies governing selection of our international teams through national trials, and funding of selected players. The CBF has grown and changed since those early years. The CBF now represents all Canadian players, not just champions vying for international competition, and offers programs that have broader appeal such as fledgling national championships, rookie-master games,

and a magazine tailored to a wider readership. Furthermore, in 1990 the CBF became a membership organization in addition to being a federation of Canadian ACBL units.

The current Canadian membership in the ACBL is roughly 16,000. But the sad fact is that only 4,000 of those players support the CBF. Current membership dues are \$25 annually.

The CBF currently wears many hats, but their initial specific goal was to oversee International representation for the Canadian Bridge teams. This they have done since 1967.

Funding

Every country in the world charges modest mandatory annual membership dues and funds their international teams through those dues. Except for Canada and the USA...

The ACBL requires bridge players to join their organization, but their goal is to run local tournaments and record masterpoints. There is no proviso for supporting their international teams.

In fact, a few years ago the ACBL created the USBF which is now charged with that task. There was no thought of the implications to other ACBL-member countries – Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda. The USBF is fortunate. They have several well-heeled sponsors who provided the necessary seed money to start their organization and continue their selection process.

Canada and its International Fund is in dire straits. The inability to attract corporate sponsorship or healthy donations imperils Canada's future on the international scene.

Due to declining membership and also Covid, the CBF monetary reserves are at an all-time low.

I strongly urge each and every Canadian member of the ACBL to become a member of the CBF to help ensure that our game thrives at the International level.

Thank you,
Michael Roche



Adventures with Bob

By Robert Griffiths

GUESS?

This hand is from the recent Guelph Tournament. The play of the hand is fairly routine—EW will easily make 10 tricks in hearts with no overtricks unless the defense falls flat on their faces.

At most tables, East, the dealer, opened 4♥, the ‘normal’ vulnerable preempt, overbidding what he could win in his hand by two tricks.

Board 22
East Deals
EW/Vul

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

The hand was played 12 times. At 10 of the tables, 4♥ was passed out; EW scored +620, occasionally +650. At two of the tables, North, in the balancing seat, doubled.

This was passed to South, who had seconds to make an intelligent decision. Both of the doublers intended their bids to be ‘take-out’, showing values outside of the heart suit.

South considered: If 4♥ is making, then the double must be pulled, -790 scores don’t make for many matchpoints.

If 4♥ is going down, then the double should be left in. Unless NS can make 4♠, in which case 4♠ must be bid. Unless 4♥ goes down 2 in which case down 2 doubled for +500 will get the matchpoints.

If the par result on the hand were 3♠ making for NS, then bidding 4♠ would change the NS positive score for a negative score, more matchpoint sadness.

The two South players who had to make this decision didn’t have enough information to do anything but guess. One chose to pass and was rewarded with -790, a score of 0 matchpoints for NS.

The other chose to bid 4♠ which was passed out. This was the only time that NS played the hand and oddly, the play of the hand made absolutely no difference to the matchpoint score. No matter how many tricks EW took on defence, EW were going to score less than the +620 or more that all of the other EW pairs made. They ended up with a score of +100 for a score of 0 matchpoints for EW.

South had a mental coin flip for a top or bottom.

TRICKY TIMING

In a regional team game, South dealt and opened 2NT. North took an optimistic view and bid 3♣, Puppet Stayman. South bid 3♠, promising a 5-card spade suit and North raised to the game.

West led the ♥K; South ducked the first heart then won the ♥Q continuation with the ace. South liked what he saw. If spades split 3-2, he could see 5 spades, 1 heart, 2 diamonds, 1 diamond ruff, plus 1 club for 10 tricks.

South considered what might go wrong.

Board 12
South Deals
EW Vul

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

The obvious danger was the possibility of an unfavourable spade split.

He had no chance if West had four spades, but could see a bit of light if East were the player with four. To cater to this possibility, he started with the ♠K, then a small spade towards dummy's ace.

By playing this way, he found himself on the board when West showed out of spades and can see that East had a sure spade trick.

South countered this by first leading a small heart from dummy, ruffing it with one of his small spades. Then, he returned to the board by playing ♦A, ♦K and a diamond ruff on the board.

When dummy's last heart was led, East had no answer: if he ruffed high, South would throw a club loser; if East didn't ruff, South would ruff with his last little trump, and could win his ♣A and two more top spades for 10 tricks.

There were only two entries to the dummy and South had to be careful to make use of them both; to counter East's 4-card spade holding, he needed to ruff two hearts with his small trumps and had to be on the board when he learned about the bad split, after the second spade lead.

AN UNTRUSTWORTHY GENTLEMAN

Four gentlemen from the local bridge club had travelled down the motorway to play in the London Local tournament and soon found themselves as opponents in the pair game. They had all played with and against each other many times, so it was as if they had never left the Greater K-Dub. To protect the guilty, I have cleverly altered their names.

The Joker sat East, examined his magnificent 10 hcp and opened 2♦. This bid was Mini Roman, promising 11-16 hcp and any 3-suited hand, either 4441 or 5440 with a 5-card minor suit.

South, the Phantom, had no easy bid now. A 2♠ overcall would promise more values and he was uncomfortable with a preemptive jump to 3♠, vulnerable with such a weak hand. So he passed.

West, the Big Bear, made the Mini Roman system bid of 3♣. This bid normally shows either a large number of clubs or at least 4-4 in the minor suits, a less than game going hand and no interest in the majors. It asks East to pass or to bid diamonds if clubs should be his short suit.

Board 2
East Deals
N-S Vul

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

North, the Nerd, was finally getting his chance. He had the best hand at the table and the opponents had pushed to the 3♣ level with their weak hands. His only option was to double, hoping that South could bid one of the major suits.

Now the Joker started to scheme. The Big Bear's 3♣ bid had denied a holding of more than three spades and Joker was looking at a void. THE OPPONENTS HELD AT LEAST 10 SPADES! And the Nerd, with a takeout double at the 3-level, was sitting like a man with a good hand.

It was time for a wee bit of subterfuge. The Joker bid 3♦. This was alerted and explained as showing short clubs and 4-4-4 or 4-4-5 in the other suits. Yes, this was an outrageous lie, but he was lying to his partner as well as to the opponents. His partner had already denied having any interest in the majors, so if EW were playing the hand, it would be in a minor. Joker wanted to throw some doubt into NS's minds about the wisdom of playing in spades by claiming that his hand held an opening bid with 4 spades.

Next the Phantom considered. He was still vulnerable, had a 9-loser hand and was facing a 'known' bad spade split. The Nerd's double should have been for takeout but perhaps, since East was short of clubs, the Nerd had been confused and made a penalty double with a stack of clubs. So, Phantom passed, as did the Big West Bear.

The Nerd was not convinced. In the passout seat, he made yet another takeout double of 3♦. The Joker wasn't through with his jokes; now he made a bid of 4♣. By their system, this should have been a belated game try in diamonds, their agreed suit. But the Joker was just trying to push the bidding (and confusion) up a level, raising the stakes for the Phantom and his undoubtedly large spade suit.

By now, the Phantom had given up; he passed. The Big Bear politely declined the Joker's game invite, bidding 4♦, which was passed out. NS never mentioned their 11-card suit despite having the balance of the highcard points in the hand.

Joker (E)	Phantom (S)	Big Bear (W)	Nerd (N)
2♦	Pass	3♣	Dbl
3♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The play in diamonds went smoothly. 11 tricks were easily made. As it happens, NS can make 10 tricks in a spade contract. A third of the field played in 4♠ by NS, making 4. Other tables played partscores in spades, or went overboard, bidding 5♠ and going down, probably

pushed there by other aggressive EW players.

I suspect that the Joker would not have allowed NS to play in 4♠ even if the Phantom had bid it. He would have 'sacrificed' in 5 of a minor. The Nerd would have undoubtedly doubled the minor game with his big hand, giving EW an even better score for making the doubled game.

ANYBODY CAN BE FOOLED

NS were playing a weak NT, so North in fourth seat opened 1♦. East and West passed throughout while South replied 1NT, North raised to 2NT (promising a strong NT hand) and South optimistically bid 3NT.

An opening diamond lead would have quickly put South out of his misery; four diamonds and two clubs for the defence.

But on this hand, West chose to open the ♥3, hoping to find his partner's suit. Declarer tried the ♥J; East won the queen and exited with a spade, won in the dummy. If he had exited with a diamond, East would have put South out of his misery...

Board 21
East Deals
E-W Vul

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

Two tricks in and South is looking at a hopeless 3NT contract. He can win some major suit tricks but without club tricks, the contract has no chance. The honourable move would be to fall on his sword by leading a club, fully expecting to go down in flames when the diamond switch came.

But, South was Zia Mahmoud, who thought about his chances. He could see how hopeless a club lead would be.

So, at trick three, Zia came off the dummy with a small diamond to his Jack. His only hope was to totally fool his opponents, both of whom were world champions. Can world champions be fooled?

Sometimes they can. West won his $\diamond K$ and, picturing South with diamond strength, switched to a low club. East won the $\clubsuit A$ and returned a club to West's king. When West continued with a third club, Zia had his nine tricks, while East and West had egg on their faces.

If you point the defenders in one direction subtly enough, they might go the other way.

A HAND THAT CHANGED THE GAME

This is a hand from the Bermuda Bowl of 1981. Pakistan was playing USA in the final. When this hand came up, Pakistan had a slight lead.

When USA held the NS cards, North opened with a strong $2\clubsuit$ bid, and, after a bit of diamond interference from a frisky Zia Mahmood sitting East, settled into their best contract, $7\heartsuit$ by South.

When Pakistan were NS, they confidently bid to the same grand slam contract in their 5-2 fit. This was passed to West, the 25 year old Jeff Meckstroth, who had been calculating.

Board 12
West Deals
NS Vul

	\spadesuit A K	
	\heartsuit A Q	
	\diamond J 9	
	\clubsuit A K 10 9 6 4 2	
\spadesuit J 9 8 5 2		\spadesuit 10 3
\heartsuit 8 5 4		\heartsuit 9 7 3
\diamond K 4		\diamond Q 8 7 6 3 2
\clubsuit J 5 3		\clubsuit Q 8
	\spadesuit Q 7 6 4	
	\heartsuit K J 10 6 2	
	\diamond A 10 5	
	\clubsuit 7	

In 1981, the penalty for non vulnerable doubled undertricks was 100 for the first trick and 200 for each subsequent undertrick. Meckstroth saw that if he were in a contract of $7\spadesuit$ and took only two tricks, his score for down 11 doubled would be -2100, or a gain of 120 points from the -2210 that he would score if his opponents made their Slam.

Meckstroth was sure of two things. His competent opponents were about to make their grand slam and that he would take at least two tricks in a contract of $7\spadesuit$. So, out of the blue, he 'balanced' with a bid of $7\spadesuit$.

With good defence, NS can take 10 tricks but they pooched a trick, so Meckstroth went down only 9 for a score of -1700. In $7\heartsuit$, his partners scored +2210, so his team made a net gain of 510, for 11 IMPs. The USA took the lead on this hand and kept it until they won the event.

Meckstroth made a very reasonable decision, but after the game he explained that, "I've never been more nervous making a bid in my life."

This hand was one that heavily influenced the bridge world's changing of the official scoring: the penalty for non-vulnerable doubled undertricks was changed to 300 points per trick after the first 3 tricks. On this scale, a declarer would have to hold his $7\spadesuit$ doubled contract to down 8 (-2000) in order to show a profit over the opponents' 2210. Down 9 would score -2300.

So, if you find yourself writing -800 on your scoresheet, Jeff Meckstroth and his courageous bid are partly to blame.



Spingold Surprise

By David Turner

I rarely play in NABCs...the atmosphere always seems a bit frantic compared to the Canadian Championships, and travel and lodging is often difficult. However, with a hometown Summer Nationals in Toronto, it was too good to pass up! I was happy to play in the Spingold Knockout Teams with partner Roy Hughes and long-time friends Irving Litvack of Toronto and Marc-Andre Fourcadot from Montréal. Our draw was daunting but expected given the high-quality field. Unexpected was that both of our first two matches were on VuGraph!

Since more than 64 teams were entered, the first round was short matches to reduce the field size, and Roy and I drew Toronto expat pro Gavin Wolpert and his sponsor partner. Both our pairs played well, and we were able to win the match, giving us the evening off.

I thought my partner made a great bid on this key hand. You hold:

♠ J x x
♥ 10 x x x
♦ x x x
♣ K 9 8

The auction goes 2♦ on your right, pass by you, 3♦ on your left, and partner doubles. You bid a confident 3♥, but partner tortures you further with 4♦. You bid a less-confident 4♥ and partner bids 4♠. Would you consider bidding now? You should if you trust partner. He didn't bid 3♠ or 4♠ over your 3♥, so he's got a *really* good hand! Since he had the unshown ♣K, Roy chanced a raise to 5♠, and I carried on to slam with:

♠ A K Q x x
♥ A J
♦ A
♣ A Q 10 x x

Nice bidding by Roy! On the ♦K lead things looked promising until the weak 2 bidder showed up with only one spade. Could his shape be 1-2-6-4? Should I hook *him* for the ♣J? Since the thought of losing to the singleton or doubleton jack of clubs was too much to bear I played clubs the normal way, and went one down (of course!). This could have cost us the match as they reached the same contract at the other table after RHO bid 4♦ over 2♦. That made the chances of a singleton club in RHO's hand a lot higher, but after agonizing declarer also went one down. Phew!

The round of 64 brought us another powerhouse pro team on VuGraph, and we played Joe Grue, Brad Moss, et al. We played well, and emerged with a 20-IMP lead at the half in large part due to this hand, played by me in a quiet 4♥ and at the other table by Joe Grue. He was in 6♥ after a 1♠ overcall on his left. How would you play it?

Contract: 6♥
Lead: ♠K

♠ 3
♥ K Q 8
♦ A J 10 2
♣ A 6 5 4 3

♠ A 6 5 4
♥ A J 9 7 5
♦ Q 7 6
♣ 2

This is awkward. Even if the diamonds are 3-3 with the K onside (as it rates to be) you only have 11 tricks if you draw trumps. The VuGraph play records are poor, but I believe Grue elected to reverse the dummy, going one down when LHO started with Kx of and only two trumps. Think about it now before reading further.

I'm certainly not going to give Joe Grue any dummy play lessons, but I saw a cool line of play (after much head-scratching) that wins almost all the time there are no singletons out there. The difficulty on this hand is that you need two spade ruffs and three diamond tricks, but you don't have the entries to take them. Try this: win the $\diamond A$ opening lead and ruff a spade low at the second trick (the $\diamond J$ appears on your right), then lead the **diamond Jack** from dummy! If either player wins this trick, you have the $\diamond Q$ as an entry to ruff a second spade and the diamonds are unblocked to pitch your 4th spade after trumps are drawn.

On the final hand of the half, we won another slam swing when I held this hand:

\spadesuit x x
 \heartsuit A x
 \diamond A K Q J x x
 \clubsuit K x x

Just you and partner are bidding.

You	Partner
1 \diamond	2 \clubsuit
3 \diamond	3 \spadesuit
4 \clubsuit	5 \diamond
6 \diamond	all pass

A couple of important bidding points: although 2 \clubsuit was game forcing, it would be false economy to rebid 2 \diamond only: better to let partner know immediately that slam was a good possibility. Also note Roy's 5 \diamond bid: we don't play "fast arrival" - so his jump to 5 \clubsuit showed extra values, no heart control, and equal controls in the black suits (here the aces of both spades and clubs). It was tempting to bid 5 \heartsuit now and hope for 6 \clubsuit with the queen, but I chickened out and bid a quiet 6 \diamond . Roy's hand:

\spadesuit A Q 10 x
 \heartsuit x x
 \diamond x x
 \clubsuit A Q x x x

On a non-spade lead 7 \diamond is pretty good, (clubs were 4-1) but 6 \diamond was fine because the opponents were in 5 \diamond , so no harm done.

The second half of the match put the sponsor on the bench, and they tore us up pretty good. This was an excellent defensive problem we got right against Michael Rosenberg.

You hold:

\spadesuit A 10
 \heartsuit x x
 \diamond 10 9 8 7 6 4 2
 \clubsuit Q x

With neither side vul., you overcall Grossack's 1 \clubsuit with 2 \diamond (do not show this hand to children). The auction continues 2 \heartsuit from Rosenberg, 2 \spadesuit from Roy, 3 \clubsuit from Grossack, 3 \spadesuit from me, 4 \heartsuit from Rosenberg, all pass. The full auction:

West (Roy)	North	East (Turner)	South
	1 \clubsuit	2 \diamond	2 \heartsuit
2 \spadesuit	3 \clubsuit	3 \spadesuit	4 \heartsuit
All pass			

Roy leads a the $\diamond 2$ versus 4 \heartsuit and this dummy appears:

	Grossack	
	\spadesuit K J x	
	\heartsuit x x	
	\diamond J	
	\clubsuit A J 10 9 x x x	
Hughes		Turner
		\spadesuit A 10
		\heartsuit x x
		\diamond 10 9 8 7 x x x
		\clubsuit Q x

Dummy played the diamond jack from dummy, I played the $\diamond 10$, and declarer won the ace. Declarer then cashed the heart ace and exited with the heart 9 to Roy's king. Roy switched to a low spade and declarer flew king as I won the ace. Now what?

My thought was that we needed declarer to have a second spade to have a chance, but the heart play of ace and 9 by declarer suggested he held 7 hearts, $\diamond AK$ (partner didn't underlead KQx), and therefore 7222 shape. If I returned a passive diamond, declarer would lead his second spade towards dummy and then use the $\spadesuit J$ to throw a club away. Accordingly, I gulped and returned a low club!

Roy obligingly played the king (phew!), and declarer ducked! Roy gave it a long think, and then cashed the $\spadesuit Q$ for one down, and a, "Nice defence" from declarer.



The Count Signal

The count signal is not to be confused with the attitude signal. The attitude signal is given between the two defenders when one of them breaks a suit. Count is given between the two defenders *when declarer breaks a suit*. A common question amongst newcomers at this point is, “What does ‘breaks’ mean?” To break a suit is to be the *first player to lead that suit*.

When declarer breaks a suit, it is assumed that our attitude is no longer worth conveying. Logically, if declarer is breaking a suit it is a suit that *they wish to develop*. Therefore, our attitude towards it is irrelevant: we shall just take whatever we can take in the suit that declarer is working on. There is no need to tell partner if we like a suit (or not) that declarer is breaking.

However, our count may be relevant to partner. Partner may need to know exactly how many cards we started with in that suit (the suit that declarer is breaking) in order to know when to take their ace or king.

The count signal is especially important to give (and recognize) when there is a *good suit in the dummy and no entries outside the good suit*. The count signal should be given in both suit contracts and notrump contracts.

When you are giving count, you look at the total number of cards you have in that suit and determine whether you have an even number or an odd number. As soon as declarer plays on this particular suit you show your even or odd count by the size of card you

play. If you have an odd number of cards, play your lowest. If you have an even number of cards, play the highest you can afford. Here’s a mnemonic: **HIGH** and **EVEN** each have **4 letters**. **LOW** and **ODD** each have **3 letters**.

For example, say you hold four cards in diamonds, the 10-8-6-3, and declarer plays on diamonds. Play the 8 if you can, but if it appears the 8 might be important, then play the 6 to show an original holding of an even number, here a total of four. If you hold the 10-8-3 in this suit (a total of three), play the 3 to show an original holding of an odd number. If you hold the 8-3 in this suit, play the 8 first to show an original holding of an even number, here two. And if you hold a singleton 3, play it! When partner sees you play the 3, she will infer you have an odd number in the suit – a total of either 1, 3, or 5.

Partner might be momentarily in the dark or partner will figure it out immediately—it depends on the bidding and the dummy and all the other diamonds around the table. If your 3 was indeed a singleton, partner will figure out it was a singleton when you show out of diamonds on the next round of diamonds.

Here is an example of the count signal in action.

South opened 2NT and North bid 3NT which ended the auction.

You are West.

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

You, West, lead the spade queen versus 3NT. It goes low-low-low. (East's low one on *this* trick, the 5, says, "I can't help you much here, partner." *This is the attitude signal because your side **broke** this suit.* ('broke' = played it first.) You continue with the jack because you can see setting up another trick in spades. Plus, you know by continuing spades that you will be setting up one more spade trick in addition to the queen at trick one. Just because partner signalled that they could not help you in spades does not mean you have to stop playing spades.

Declarer wins the second trick and plays the ♦5. You correctly play the diamond 2 because there is no rush to grab the ace in dummy's best suit. You are eager to see what card partner plays on this trick. Turns out it is the ♦4—clearly their lowest one from an odd holding. If partner's only diamond is the 4, then declarer has a total of four diamonds and there is no stopping declarer from setting up dummy's diamonds. So, you will assume that partner has a total of three diamonds. Now, if East has three diamonds, then declarer has only two. Therefore, when declarer plays another diamond you will grab your ace. Now dummy's diamonds are cut off. Dummy is dead! But

if you ducked another diamond, then that would be declarer's ninth trick. By grabbing the ace at the right time, you defeat 3NT.

Let's look at a similar hand only this time give East a doubleton diamond. Let's watch how you can put it all together with the new information in order to not give any tricks away to declarer.

Again, the bidding goes 2NT-3NT.

West leads the ♠Q.

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

After winning the first or second spade play, declarer once again attacks diamonds. The trick goes 5-2-K-8. You now know that partner has a singleton 8 or a doubleton 8. Partner cannot possibly have three or more diamonds. If partner has an even number, then declarer has an odd number. All signs are pointing to this scenario.

When declarer calls for the diamond queen and partner plays the 4, it is now a 100% certainty that declarer has the 13th diamond—the diamond we can't see. Therefore, you must duck a second time. If West were to grab their ace on the second round, the dummy's diamond suit would be accessible. But by ducking the second diamond, and waiting patiently until the third round, you will be playing expert bridge. South will get two diamond tricks and only two diamond tricks. You will hold declarer to 8 tricks and get a plus score. The whole room will be in 3NT so beating this contract will be a top or tie for top.

Keeping the Right Cards

This seems to come up a lot in the matchpoint game: declarer runs a bunch of tricks at you, and you have to figure out what cards to keep in the endgame.

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

South opens 2♣ and rebids 2♠ after North's 2♦ bid. North raises spades and this excites South who drives to 6♠ after finding out North holds the heart ace. You lead the club king. Partner plays the ♣4 and declarer wins the ace. Declarer proceeds to cash the ace and king of spades. Partner follows with the ♠9 on the first spade trick and discards the ♣5 on the second round of trumps. Assuming declarer has the ♥KQx, you can see 12 tricks. Can you hold them to those 12 tricks and prevent the overtrick?

Declarer plays a spade over to dummy's queen. You pitch the ♣10. Partner pitches the ♣9. Now declarer calls for the heart ace. Partner plays the ♥7, declarer follows with the ♥3, and you play the heart jack. Declarer now plays the ♥2 over to the king in hand as partner plays the lowest heart possible, the 4 while you follow with the ♥8. Under the heart queen, you play the ♥9 and partner the ♥6.

Declarer reverts to trumps and cashes the spade jack. What do you pitch? You can confidently pitch whatever you wish. Partner pitches the ♣8 and now you know the whole hand. If you'd like to test yourself, go back and follow the play up to now. Then answer this question. What is the last card you will keep in order to hold declarer to 12 tricks: the club queen or the diamond king?

Answer: diamond king. Partner dumped all their clubs to help you get a read on that suit. Plus, they showed you how many hearts they had: an even number, here 4.

The full deal:

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

Against a slam – small or grand – it's important to give count so that partner will know what to keep in the endgame. Imagine, say, if declarer's ♦10 was switched with East's ♣8. Then East would signal differently, and you would know to keep a club for the 13th trick. Another good tactic is to void yourself in a suit so that partner, if watching closely, *can see all of your cards in a suit*. Then they'll know declarer's length with certainty. On this hand, East pitched all their clubs away and showed an even number of hearts. East would void themselves in hearts, too, on the run of the spades. So, it's easy for West to keep a diamond and not a club on the deal above.

Once you begin to get a count of one suit around the table, the other suits get easier to count. Once you start doing that, you're on your way to scoring more tricks on defence. And when you score more tricks, you score better. Reason #4,368 why bridge is so captivating: even when you're dealt a bad hand, there's still some thinking and strategizing to be done.

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Saturday January 4, 2025

Open Pairs (Open/5000)	10:00 & 2:30
B/C/D Pairs (4000/2000/1000)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30

Sunday January 5, 2025

Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & TBA
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Session fees: \$20 CAD (ACBL members) +\$4 for non-current members
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Sunday January 5, 2025

199er Pairs 10:00
Bracketed Gold Rush Swiss Teams 10:00 & TBA

Saturday January 4, 2025

FREE Lesson 9:00 - 9:40

0-20 Pairs Supervised* - FREE 10:00
199er Pairs 10:00
Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/100) 10:00 & 2:30

*Supervised game means players can ask bidding questions during the game.

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Hospitality will follow evening game

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Open Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
499 ^{er} Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
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Open Pairs	0 to ∞ masterpoints
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General Information

Events can be Playthrough or Single Session
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Open Pairs (Open/2000/1250)	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/300)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30
199er Pairs	10:00

Wednesday April 16, 2025

Bracketed KO Teams (3&4 of 4)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30
Open Pairs (Open/2000/1250)	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/300)	10:00 & 2:30
199er Pairs	10:00

Thursday April 17, 2025

Sheardown Bracketed KO(1&2 of 4)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30
Open Pairs (Open/2000/1250)	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/300)	10:00 & 2:30
FREE LESSON	9:00
199er Pairs	10:00
0-20 Pairs Supervised ***	10:00

Friday April 18, 2025

Sheardown Bracketed KO (3&4 of 4)	10:00 & 2:30
Open Pairs (Open/2000/1250)	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/300)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30
199er Pairs	10:00

Saturday April 19, 2025

Open Pairs (Open/2000/1250)	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/300)	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30
199er Pairs	10:00
Grand National Teams	10:00 & TBA
(& Sunday April 20 if >5 teams enter)	

Sunday April 20, 2025

Flight A/X Swiss Teams (Open/5000)	10:00 & TBA
Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams (0-4000)	10:00 & TBA
Bracketed Gold Rush Teams (0-750)	10:00 & TBA



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Students \$17

***** Players can ask bidding questions in Pairs Supervised game**

Single session entries are available for all pair events.

All 4 session KO teams use the mini Solway format. Teams are guaranteed sessions of play the 1st day. The top 4 teams in each group advance to the 2nd day's semifinals.

Tournament Chair:

Darlene Scott
DarleneScott@me.com

Partnerships:

Elizabeth Williams
elizwilliams12345@gmail.com

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♥ ZERO TOLERANCE TOURNAMENT ♠

Let's **Play Bridge!**



Janice Upenieks, Darlene Scott, Danny Miles, Birthday Girl Joo-Hee Janicki & Montie Hamblen at the TO NABC



Glenna Richardson, Jonathan Steinberg & Janice Upenieks



Separated at birth? Directors Martin Hunter & Denis Lavoie enjoying a chuckle at the TO NABC



Mike Xue & Ji Jun Geng won the Thursday A/X Pairs at the Can-Am Regional last July

Photos by JS

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.

2024

November

15-17 Niagara-on-the-Lake
28-Dec. 8 Las Vegas NABC

December

16-22 ROYAL Sectional tourneys at clubs

2025

January

3-5 Toronto, p. 31
3-5 Toronto NLM Regional, p. 32
25-31 Bermuda Regional

February

7-9 St. Catharines, p. 33
10-16 Sectional tourneys at clubs

March

8 Brampton I/N
13-23 Memphis NABC
22-23 Guelph (Local)
28-30 Hamburg (Local)

**All tournaments are Sectionals
unless noted.**

April

11-13 North Bay (Local)
14-20 Canadian Bridge Finals, Toronto
15-20 Toronto Easter Regional, p. 34
19 GNT, District 2 finals

May

3-4 Barrie (local)
9-12 Quebec City Regional
24-25 Cambridge
31-June 1 Toronto I/N

June

7-8 Goderich
9-14 Rochester Regional
21-22 Peterborough
25-29 Can-At, Fredericton NB

July

1-6 Waterloo Regional
19-20 Hamilton
24-Aug. 3 Philadelphia NABC

August

9-10 Tillsonburg
15-17 Niagara-on-Lake, I/N

Deadline for the Winter Kibitzer: January 20, 2025

The Kibitzer

Andy Stark

36 Poucher St., Toronto ON M4J 2Y9