



The Kibitzer

Winter 2025 | Volume 72, Number 4

Ontario Bridge Odyssey, Part 2





The Ontario Bridge Odyssey continues with installment number two in this issue. What a treat to get out and visit clubs all around Ontario. Am thinking very seriously about going on a Canadian Bridge Odyssey and visiting as many clubs as possible between Lake Ontario and Victoria, BC. Of course, I will stop in at the new **Sudbury Bridge Club**—you can read all about its transformation on the next page.

Thank you to all our contributors this issue. **Martin Hunter** returns to tell us more from the perspective of ACBL directors. **John Carruthers** reports on a fabulous lead by Danny Miles at the world championships. **Ron Bishop** returns to these pages with a bridge hand played by world class players that you have to read to believe.

New contributor **Laurence Gifford** has a great bridge hand whereby he and Keith Balcombe bid and made a Canadian slam. **Carole Coplea** of St. Thomas has invented a new game called FINESSE. It’s not too late to shop for that special person in your life who needs to learn bridge. **David Ellis** writes about your least favourite bid: Pass. All good, and interesting. **Robert Griffiths** returns with a fascinating hand played at the recently held Niagara Regional. And finally, we have author **Michael Daoust** telling us how he came to write a book about learning to play bridge. Enjoy! See you at the Toronto Sectional?

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

On the cover: Lennox, Chica, Chris Cowan and Debbie Feldman.

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The Sudbury Bridge Club has undergone a fresh new transformation, unveiling updated branding that includes a modernized logo (featuring Sudbury's Big Nickel) and a new colour scheme. As part of its renewal, the Club has also invested in a significant upgrade to its website, taking fuller advantage of the features available on the BridgeWebs platform. Under the guidance of a new website editor, the partnership desk and online registration tools are now being actively used, improving organization and member accessibility. To further strengthen communication, members now receive weekly email updates with news, education, reminders, and upcoming event information.

The Club's efforts to re-energize operations are already producing results. The fall Sectional tournament was the strongest since the pandemic, drawing 90.5 tables over three days. The event also featured a dedicated 99ers section — a welcome return after a long absence — providing a supportive space for newer players to compete.

Sudbury tournaments are known for their warm hospitality, and as several out-of-town players commented, *"We come for the food!"*

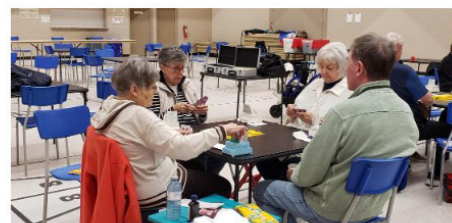
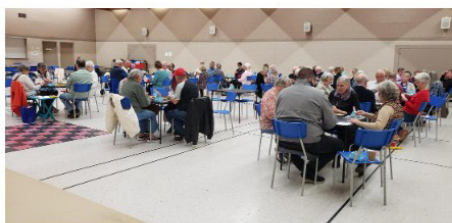
This momentum is the result of a deliberate and coordinated effort by the Board of Directors to revitalize the Club and invest in the member experience. With renewed energy, growing participation, and updated systems in place, the Sudbury Bridge Club is well positioned for the future — including its anticipated role as host of the Regional Tournament to be held Wed., Aug. 26 to Sat., Aug. 29, 2026.



Director Norm Malette



Sectional 2025



TORONTO WINTER NON-LIFE MASTER REGIONAL

JANUARY 3 - 4, 2026

Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel

123 Queen St. West, Toronto ON M5H 2M9

**We are so happy to welcome you back for the 2026 Toronto NLM Regional!!
Rooms - Call 1-888-627-7175 and ask for ACBL Convention Jan 2026 to secure
the group rate of \$175 if booked by December 8, 2025**

Click here>> [Book your group rate for ACBL Convention Jan 2026](#)

OR

if link doesn't work, copy and paste: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1755204301440&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Saturday January 3, 2026

FREE Lesson 9:00 - 9:40

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

Sunday January 4, 2026

Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/100)
10:00 & 2:30

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

Gold Rush Pairs are two session events.

Join us for hospitality after the Saturday games.

Session fees: \$22 CAD (members) +\$4 for non-current members
\$12 Supervised Pairs \$17 Full time Students

Players must have an ACBL number. Guest memberships are currently free.
Contact Darlene if you require one.

Partnerships:
Elizabeth Williams
elizwilliams12345@gmail.com

Tournament Chair:
Darlene Scott
DarleneScott@me.com

ZERO TOLERANCE for unacceptable behaviour!

If someone negatively affects your enjoyment at this tournament, please contact a Director IMMEDIATELY. A fun time is guaranteed for all!

♣ THIS IS A ZERO TOLERANCE TOURNAMENT ♦

♠ Let's *Play* Bridge! ♥

**TORONTO WINTER SECTIONAL
JANUARY 3 - 4, 2026
Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel
123 Queen St. West, Toronto ON M5H 2M9**

**We are so happy to welcome you back for the 2026 Toronto Winter Sectional!
Rooms - Call 1-888-627-7175 and ask for ACBL Convention Jan 2026 to secure
the group rate of \$175 if booked by December 8, 2025**

Click here>> [Book your group rate for ACBL Convention Jan 2026](#)

OR

if link doesn't work, copy and paste: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1755204301440&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Saturday January 3, 2026

Flight A/X Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
Flight B/C Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & 2:30

Sunday January 4, 2026

Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10:00 & TBA
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Stratifications: A/X: 5000+ / 0-5000; B/C: 1500-2500 / 0-1500

Session fees: \$22 CAD (ACBL members) +\$4 for non-current members
\$17 Full-time Students

Players must have an ACBL number. Guest memberships are currently free.
Contact Darlene if you require one.

Single sessions entries are available for pair events

Tournament Chair: Darlene Scott DarleneScott@me.com

Partnership: Elizabeth Williams elizwilliams12345@gmail.com

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Let's Play Bridge!



Niagara Open Sectional

February 13-15, 2026

Holiday Inn & Suites Parkway Conference
327 Ontario St, St Catharines
(QEW take Exit 47 Ontario Street)
905-688-2324



Friday February 13, 2026

Open Pairs	1:00 & 6:00
999 ^{er} Pairs	1:00 & 6:00
299 ^{er} Pairs	1:00 & 6:00

Hospitality will follow afternoon game

Saturday February 14, 2026

Open Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
999 ^{er} Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
299 ^{er} Pairs	10:00 & 2:30

Hospitality will follow afternoon game

Sunday February 15, 2026

Bracketed Swiss 10:00am playthrough

Short break after 3rd Round

For Reservation

1-877-688-2324 Ext 2

Or Click

[Niagara Area Unit 255 Sectional Tournament](https://www.holidayinn.com/stcath)

Or

www.holidayinn.com/stcath

enter NAB as the group code

\$149 (single or double)
if booked before
January 26, 2026

FREE Parking

Fantastic Niagara Hospitality

Tournament Chair:

Cathy Williams 905-979-5063
Email chair@unit255.org

Partnership Chair:

Sheila Langstaff 905-246-3309
Email partnership@unit255.org

Stratification

(Subject to Director's discretion)

Open Pairs	0 to ∞ masterpoints
999 ^{er} Pairs	0 to 1000 masterpoints
299 ^{er} Pairs	0 to 300 masterpoints

General Information

Two single Session entry is available for all pairs
All events will have 3 strata at the Director's discretion.
\$17/player/session. All players **MUST** have an ACBL #.
Guest memberships are currently FREE. Contact
Tournament Chair if you require a number.
Extra \$4 for non-current members
All events stratified by average masterpoint.

Sectional Tournament Sponsored by

Jaclyn Morrison



(905) 937-0962

jac.morrison@iaprivatewealth.ca

Toronto Easter Regional 2026

MARCH 31 - APRIL 5, 2026

We are so happy to welcome you back for the 2026 Toronto Easter Regional!
Book your room early for special rates - limited number of rooms. Don't be disappointed!

Tuesday March 31, 2026

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

Wednesday April 1, 2026

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 2, 2026

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
0-20 Pairs Supervised \$12 ***	10:00
199er Pairs	10:00

Friday April 3, 2026

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
FREE LESSON	9:00
0-20 Pairs Supervised \$12 ***	10:00
199er Pairs	10:00

Saturday April 4, 2026

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
FREE LESSON	9:00
199er Pairs	10:00

Sunday April 5, 2026

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



Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel

123 Queen St. West, Toronto ON M5H 2M9

Rooms - Ask for special bridge rate of \$159 plus tax if booked by March 1, 2026

[Book your group rate for American Contract Bridge League 2026](#)

or 1-888-627-7175

Players must have an ACBL number. Guest memberships are currently free. Contact Darlene if you require one.

Session Fees: \$22 CAD (members) +\$4 for non-members.
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

ZERO TOLERANCE for unacceptable behaviour! If someone negatively affects your enjoyment at this tournament, please IMMEDIATELY contact a Director.
A fun time is guaranteed for all!

♣ THIS IS A ♦
♥ ZERO TOLERANCE TOURNAMENT ♠
Let's Play Bridge!

Peterborough Local Sectional Tournament

NEW DATE & NEW LOCATION

Saturday May 2 & Sunday May 3, 2026

**St Catherine Catholic Elementary School
1575 Glenforest Blvd, Peterborough, ON**

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

Tournament Events

Saturday May 2

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 May 3

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

extra \$4 per player per session for non ACBL members

Tournament Chair:

Priscilla Lorne

dlorne@gmail.com

705-772-0510

Partnerships:

Maureen Nichols

mo.nichols13@gmail.com

705-874-6019



Ontario Bridge Odyssey, Part II

When the Ontario Bridge Odyssey (OBO) started way back in April of this year, the Blue Jays were scuffling. So, for us four on the OBO, our car/dinner conversation was not dominated by Jays talk. But if the OBO started (say) in October or November, the Jays are probably all we would talk about. That, and how we dropped the ball on some board or another. As the Kibitzer goes to press, we await management's decisions on which free agents to sign. The suspense is killing me! With some decent signings and a year like last year's why can't the Jays go all the way? We were literally inches away from winning it all this year.

Speaking of going all the way, as part of the OBO, the third leg was to drive all the way to Owen Sound from Kincardine in time for the evening game. Not a problem—it's a lovely drive up along Ontario's left coast. And this is not Toronto. Driving from Kincardine to Owen Sound takes less time than driving from East York to Etobicoke. My intrepid crew of Mel Norton, Chris Cowan and Debbie Feldman jumped back in the Scruff-mobile (Chris's BBO handle is Scruffy, the name of a beloved pet dog) and made a beeline to downtown OS and Casero's Kitchen Table, my favourite restaurant in the Grey-Bruce. It's one of those places where you could keep going back just to work your way through the menu. I'd like to do that some summer, but I am stuck on the nachos—they are by far the best nachos you will ever eat. We got ours topped with hickory smoked beef brisket. And because Casero's layers their nachos, every bit is full of flavour--there is no chintzy lone tortilla chip, without even a speck of cheese, waiting at the end.

Game #3, Owen Sound Duplicate Bridge Club with Chris Cowan

Pretty soon it was near game time, so we made our way to the OSDBC, located about 4 minutes away at the Royal Canadian Legion. Club manager Pat Barker was out of town as was the club's VP, so we were warmly greeted by former Oakvillian Marcia Syer-Poyntz. Many of you would recognize the name Syer because you play in one of Marcia's mother's bridge clubs—mom being Jackie. (And yes, Jackie, you will be part of a future OBO, as I plan to come for the game and stay for your baked goodies!) The club in Owen Sound reminds me of the style of bridge clubs



Camilo, Andy, Debbie and Chris at the 2023 Can-At

they have in England where a libation is available for purchase without having to leave the building. Not that anyone did imbibe on this particular Monday night mind you, as there were masterpoints at stake, but on (say) a party game evening, one would be supporting the Legion, so...a win-win situation.

Owen Sound Duplicate Bridge Club

1450 2nd Ave. W., Owen Sound

Club manager: Patricia Barker

Phone: (519) 372-1922

Email: osduplicatebridgeclubnews@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.bridgewebs.com/owensound/>

Pat Barker tells me the club has been around since the mid-fifties. They have about 75-80 members and for their two games of the week, Monday evenings and Wednesday afternoons, they will get anywhere between 6 and 9 tables. The club does something that many clubs should adopt—they feature a once-per-month game where your results count towards the Scott Cup Trophy. Martin Williams is leading the

2025 race and Michael Edney won in 2024. Points are accrued by finishing in the overalls—the first-place pair each get 7 points, the second-place pair 6 points, and so on down to the 7th place pair who receive one point each. Obviously, it pays to do well, but it also pays to participate regularly. Pat says the trophy is named after a former player who left a generous bequest to the club. She also says, “The competition encourages a good turnout and fun rivalry in our club.”

If you plan on being in the area for a game, here are a couple other options for where to grab a bite to eat, as recommended by Pat: Shanny’s Kitchen and the European Bakery Café. I also noticed a pub called the Topsy Fox just up the hill from the club, and while it’s been a few years, I have fond memories of eating well at Shorty’s. (And no, it’s not named after Shorty of Shorty Sheardown fame.)

A couple fun facts to tell you about, well...what I consider fun: the first time I ever heard about the Owen Sound Bridge Club was in the early 70s. My grandfather owned a cottage a few minutes east in a little village called Leith. The view across the bay is mesmerizing. Occasionally my parents would play bridge in town. My mom told me a story about her first game playing duplicate in Owen Sound. She was at a table with a couple LOLs. The final contract was 1♣. You’re probably curious about the auction, so here it is: 1♣ Pass Pass Pass. My mother, accustomed to playing kitchen bridge and “throwing in” any one-level contract, innocently asked her opponents, “Do we play one-level contracts here?” To which one of the opponents, hair in a bun, all neatly tied back, peered over her reading glasses and slowly drawled, “Here we do.”

Fast forward to 1990 or ’91. I was eager to play my first duplicate game in Owen Sound while visiting the cottage. Not having a partner, my grandmother contacted the bridge club and set me up with a partner. That man is still playing and was in the game in late April: Gord Close. My grandmother sent me



Cheers to Scruff

a clipping from the Owen Sound Sun Times with the duplicate bridge results. Finishing first overall, there we were, listed in print: Gord Close and Andrea Stark. I attribute the victory to my feminine side.

Chris and I took our seats against Mel and Debbie at Table 5 to begin the game. We played four-board rounds that evening and after that first round Chris and I were leading the event with two top boards, an average, and an average minus. Okay, I don't know if we were leading the event at that moment, but I can tell you that we had the best score at the end of the evening. Go Scruff! Here was my favourite board of the evening. I'll give it to you as a problem.

You, West, hold: ♠Q5 ♥9765 ♦Q873 ♣Q104. North is the dealer and opens 1♠. Partner passes and South responds with 1NT. You pass; North rebids 2♠. Partner passes and South rebids 2NT. You pass. North rebids 3♥. Partner passes, South shrugs and bids 3NT. You and North pass but here's the plot twist: partner doubles! That auction once again:

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All pass

Does partner's double call for any specific suit to be led by you? Or does partner just think 3NT is going down and it does not matter what you lead? The answer is more the former and asks for dummy's first bid suit to be led. But this auction is interesting—maybe partner is asking for a heart lead. Given that there are presumably six spades in the dummy, (and declarer never supported spades), perhaps it is better to fall back on the old standard play of leading your top spade from your doubleton ♠Q5. Partner must have length in spades. Dummy probably has four hearts, and declarer probably has two or three, which leaves partner with only two hearts, (since you have four small hearts) so partner is probably not asking for a heart lead—he just does not have enough hearts.



Debbie and my son Camilo fishing in Fredericton

What's your choice?

Scruff chose to lead the ♥6, his third best heart which aligns with our partnership leading agreement of leading third and fifth versus suit contracts and notrump. The heart lead works nicely because it makes declarer use up one of their entries early. The suits are not meshing well, and hearts is the transportation suit. Here is the full deal:

Board 11

Dir: North

Vul: None

♠ A J 10 8 7 3
♥ A K 10 3
♦ 10
♣ 7 3

♠ Q 5
♥ 9 7 6 5
♦ Q 8 7 3
♣ Q 10 4

♠ K 9 6 4 2
♥ 4 2
♦ A K 4
♣ A 8 5

♠ - -
♥ Q J 8
♦ J 9 6 5 2
♣ K J 9 6 2

The heart lead was won in dummy with the 10. Declarer then called for a low club. As East, I played low, and declarer inserted the ♣9. Chris won the ♣10 and switched to his ♠Q. Declarer won the ace in dummy, I encouraged, and declarer showed out! Dummy's ♣7 was now played. I again followed low and declarer tried the ♣J. Chris won his ♣Q and again played a spade. I topped the jack of spades in dummy with the king.

From there it was easy to cash winners: the two top diamonds, the club ace, and then a diamond over to Scruff. That added up to one spade, three diamonds and three clubs for down three, a score of +500 and a tippity top. Poor NS didn't do anything all that wrong in the bidding but got punished. The board was played five other times, all with different results. One EW pair played in 3♦, down two. There were two 2NT contracts by NS, one making, the other down one. And there were two 3NT contracts by NS, one making, the other down one. Symmetry! That result and a few others propelled us to a 66% game and a haul of 3.79 masterpoints.

It's always a pleasure to play with Chris—he's a thoughtful player with over 40 years of experience. The two of us go way back to about 1989 when we both started duplicate at the same time, playing at MOBridge under John Rayner's tutelage. Chris's regular partner was Colin Appleby while I played with a few different partners: Barbara Sims, Anne Marie Bullis, Roy Chowdhury, Martin Hunter, and Bill Ball. (Not that I was a difficult partner, I just preferred to share the love!) Chris and I played on occasion back then. About a year ago CC and I played in a knockout event at the Easter Regional in Toronto. We drew the dynamic duo of David Lindop and Doug Baxter. We were holding our own when I put Chris into a difficult 5♥ contract. He was playing it card-for-card perfectly (one of those delicate contracts where everything needed to be played just so) when I made the critical error of speaking. (See Martin Hunter's column in this issue about being a good dummy.) What I said was just enough to distract Chris from his winning line of play and down he went. Lesson learned: when dummy, shut the hell up! (I may have to learn that lesson again sometime.)



Chris and Debbie started playing together as partners in around 2007 or so. They attended quite a few Ontario Sectionals and over time developed a strong partnership. I was the non-beneficiary of that partnership in 2017, when their team beat my team in the finals of the Mini-Spangold at the Toronto NABCs. It was a real close hard-fought match, but they sealed it in the fourth quarter playing very steady bridge. It's all good; our friendship has flourished. A few years ago, Debbie, Chris, Mel and I drove to Grand Rapids, Michigan for a Regional, and our foursome was all set to play together in North Bay the following summer when COVID scuttled those plans. But we did reunite at the Can-At tournament in Fredericton in 2023 (I played with Howie Huynh) and again just past June (with Mel back in tow). We may not always finish first (*secondplaceitis* and *thirdfourthdisease* are real) but more importantly, we always have fun and share a lot of laughs.

Chris checking the Blue Jays score

Oh, one last anecdote about Chris. The summer I turned 40, John Rayner hosted an Individual party game at his club. There were over 40 players in the field. We re-convened at Barbara Sims's place for dinner and drinks and cake (made by a then 7-year-old Rebecca Rayner!) and prize ceremony. Chris won the first-place prize: a bright yellow tee shirt with a hand drawn message written in black: 'Bridge is a Partnership Game.' And between the word 'is' and 'a' was the word '**NOT**' written in red. Is that a perfect prize for an Individual winner? I think so.

Game #4, Blue Mountain Duplicate Bridge Club with Debbie Feldman



Debbie & Chris at the 2025 Can-At

We had an Air BnB booked in Collingwood that night, so as soon as the game was over, we hightailed it east along Hwy 26 to our two-bedroom condo unit. When booking, I had the place mixed up with our Air BnB rental for a few weeks later in Fredericton, and so

thought it was a three-bedroom unit, but this one was a two-bedroom unit. Being the youngest, I followed the code and volunteered to sleep on the sofa in the living room. It was comfy enough and much better than the dreaded pullout. (I don't care how old you are and how good the pullout is, *never sleep on a pullout.*) The only problem is that I forgot to grab a blanket out of one of the bedrooms. So, my winter coat doubled as my pyjamas that night. Live and learn, right? Game time the next day was 12:30 pm so we had oodles of time to go for a walk along some trails just beneath the 'mountain.' This poses an interesting conundrum: which mountain in Ontario is bigger—the one in Hamilton or the one in Collingwood? Those in Hamilton will say Hamilton and those in Collingwood will say Collingwood, while those in Whistler will say, "Hold my beer."

For the past eight years, the club manager at the Blue Mountain DBC has been Christine Blake; however, she now shares duties with Ruth Eidt. The club itself has been around for over 30 years. They play in a well-lit and spacious community center called the Collingwood Leisure Time Club; I remember playing there years ago at a Sectional. One of the first managers, if not the first, was Peter Phemister. Like Owen Sound, they have about 75-80 members plus many more who show up when they are in the area depending on the season. When I asked Christine for a fun fact about the BMDBC she did not hesitate. They have a 90s Club. There are eight members who regularly play at the club and all of them are between 91 and 98 years young. Amazing!

Blue Mountain Duplicate Bridge Club
100 Minnesota St., Collingwood,
Club managers: Christine Blake & Ruth Eidt
Phone: (705) 446-9592

Email: chrisedb@rogers.com

Website: www.bridgewebs.com/bluemountain/

Christine tells me they have a few ace players who play at the club, but three in particular stand out for their willingness to help others with their game:



Chris & Debbie at the Bruce in Kincardine

Maria Moore, Howard Binsky and Hamish (James) MacGregor. For restaurants nearby, Christine recommends the Iron Skillet as that is within walking distance, but she also lists a few others that are a short drive away: the Bulldog & Beaver, Chuck's Roadhouse, and Duncan's.

Debbie and I talked system on our walk the morning of the game. She and Chris play some fancy overcalls, so I tried to learn those on the fly, and also, we discussed third and fifth leads versus notrump (I'm accustomed to fourth best.) She was eager to play the weak notrump and so we did. (Love the weak notrump!) Unfortunately, the weak notrump did not come up at all and so we did not do well at all. Truth be told, our own bad play was the cause for our up and down results. We really did have a game of tops and bottoms and while a tops and bottoms game will have its share of highs and lows, it is hard to shake the bottoms, and you just end up back around 50%.

We ended up finishing fourth EW with a 53.6% game. Normally, whenever I play with Debbie, good things happen. This is code speak for we usually play better, and we receive our share of luck.

Speaking of luck, here's one of our top boards when declarer lost their way in both the bidding and play.

Board 2

Dlr: East

Vul: NS

♠ Q J 6 5
♥ 7 2
♦ A J 8
♣ K J 7 5

♠ A 10 7
♥ Q 10 6
♦ 3
♣ 10 9 8 4 3 2

♠ 3
♥ 9 8 3
♦ K Q 9 7 6 5 4
♣ Q 6

♠ K 9 8 4 2
♥ A K J 5 4
♦ 10 2
♣ A

At our table, this was the auction:

West	North	East	South
		3♦	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Oh, those pesky pre-empts! In first seat when you hold seven decent diamonds like that you just have to pre-empt and open 3♦. Look at the problem South now has. Is there a way to show both majors? Yes, you can double, but what if partner thinks you have clubs? On this day, a double would have worked because North has a four-card spade suit. Instead of double, what about a cuebid of 4♦—might that be the bid to show both majors? Yes, I think so, but perhaps that should show even greater playing strength?

All good questions and not easy to solve in a few seconds at the table. At our table, after 3♦, South chose to bid her better looking major and over that

North could not find a raise or even a bid of 3NT. Of the ten times the board was played, presumably all Easts opened 3♦. From there, five NS pairs found 4♠, two NS pairs bid to 3NT (both making), one NS pair bid 4♥ and made an overtrick, one NS pair bid 3♥ and made two overtricks, and one NS pair, the pair at our table stopped in 3♥ and went down two!

I told you we got lucky and, as we all know, you need luck to do well in this game. I was West and led my singleton diamond. Declarer ducked in dummy and Debbie (East) won the queen. Seeing the ♦2 from declarer, Debbie could tell that it was I who held the singleton diamond. Quick pause to point out the importance of declarer following with their ♦10. By doing so it obfuscates the location of the ♦2 as the lead of the ♦3 is the standard lead from ♦32. The 3 is never led from an original holding of 103...unless you reside in Poland or Never-Never Land. Serious about

Poland: they lead second and fourth, which includes low from a doubleton. All of this to point out that Debbie could have given me a diamond ruff at this juncture, but she thought a couple tricks in advance (good strategy!) and decided to play me for the spade ace or a top heart.

At trick two Debbie played her singleton spade. I won the ace and reasoned that there are only two reasons she would switch to a spade: she either had a singleton or an aneurysm. I played her for the former and played back a spade. Which spade you ask? A suit-preference spade, in this case the ♠10 which asks for the higher-ranking side suit, in this case diamonds. She got her ruff and now gave me a diamond ruff. I then gave her another spade ruff. Here we are after five tricks with East, Debbie, on lead:

♠ Q
♥ 7 2
♦ A
♣ K J 7 5

♠ —
♥ Q 10
♦ —
♣ 10 9 8 4 3 2

♠ 3
♥ 9
♦ K 6 5 4
♣ Q 6

♠ K 9
♥ A K J 5 4
♦ —
♣ A

Look at what happens on another diamond from Debbie. The ♥Q gets promoted. If declarer ruffs low, I can overruff. If declarer ruffs with the ace or king, I can pitch a club, and the heart queen grows up. Final result was 3♥ down two, +200 for the out-of-towners.

The key to declaring 3♥ is to recognize the danger of West getting diamond ruffs which declarer can see will happen with that ominous ♦3 lead. It is not the top of a doubleton since declarer can see the ♦2 in her own hand. Also, it is not the lowest of three, as



Debbie & Mel singing Happy Birthday

that would mean $3\spadesuit$ was opened on a five-card suit. All clues point to the $\diamond 3$ being singleton. To prevent ruffs, the best line of play is to hop up with dummy's $\diamond A$ and then play three rounds of trumps. No finessing, no waffling, no passing Go. Just play the ace-king of hearts and exit a heart. Success! West wins the trump queen, (while East follows three times) and East never scores a diamond trick as declarer's diamond loser can disappear on dummy's club king after the club ace is unblocked. Making five for an average+ board. To get a share for a top board, NS must first get to the superior fit in spades, then bid game, and then play $4\spadesuit$ along the same lines as above (winning the $\diamond A$ immediately, drawing trumps, setting up hearts) for two overtricks.

What I like about playing with Debbie is that she tries

hard on every board, on every trick. And, of course, you are never not laughing when you are hanging out with Debbie. She's got a great sense of humour and yes, she gets that from her mother, Carolyn Feldman, a model buby if ever there was one.

This happened about 20 years ago or so, but I can still remember Debbie's telling of a joke and her own laughter afterwards. It goes like this: "Did you hear about the Great Snail Car Race? Well, there were 26 snails competing and they each had little cars they could fit into. Each car had on its side one of the letters of the alphabet. Towards the end of the race, the B-car and the K-car were battling it out for the win when suddenly the S-car blew right past them. The snail in the K-car said to the snail in the B-car, "Wow, look at that S-car go!"

Now if that went over like a led balloon, try repeating it out loud. Still not funny? Okay ask Debbie to tell it next time you see her—she puts the right emphasis and inflection in all the rights spots. And she laughs at the punchline.

At some point during the game, around 3:00 pm, we looked outside to see the trees bent sideways. Dust and debris kicked up and there was an eerie howl. I knew a windstorm was in the forecast, but I didn't think it would be this powerful. I mean, hurricane season is in October, no? My immediate thought was how are we going to get down to the Hart House to play in the 6:30 pm game? It will be a white knuckler of a ride for sure. One storm + Toronto traffic = a 100% chance of arriving late. But during the last round the storm abated a touch. Just in time for Debbie and me to bid a grand slam!

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



Did you hear the one about the snail race?

I was dealer with the West hand and opened 1♣ playing a weak notrump system. Since we open 12-14 balanced hands with 1NT, we now 'reverse' what we do to show a 15-17 balanced hand. We now open our better minor and rebid 1NT. That little switch in ranges leads to many different results. The opponents were silent, so we had the auction to ourselves.

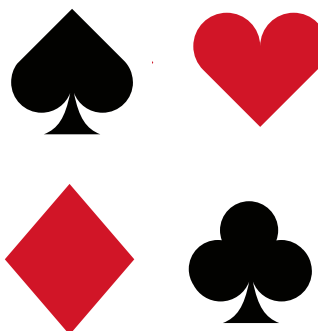
Debbie in the East responded 1♠. I rebid 1NT to deny four spades and show a balanced hand with 15-17 HCPs. Debbie now bid 2♦, which we play as game-forcing and asks for more description. I bid 2♠ to show three-card support. Debbie bid 4NT, Roman Keycard Blackwood for spades and I showed two keys without the trump queen. Debbie bid 5NT to ask for kings but also reveal to me that we had all the aces and the king of trumps and the queen of trumps. (No, we don't technically have the queen of trumps but what we do have is third-round control of the trumps: eight spades + three spades = eleven spades, so we are, in effect, in possession of the queen of trumps.) The bid of 5NT is a general invitation for me to bid a grand slam. So, I did, holding two kings. What else could I have after painting myself into the 15-17 box? 7♠ is a claimer at trick one. Was it a tippity top? No, it was a second top as one pair, Margorie Grime and Karen Eluck, bid the matchpoint top score of 7NT. Well done, ladies! At the other eight tables, five bid to 6♠, one bid to 6NT (for a third top), and two EW pairs bid to 4♠. Why or how did they stop in game with 13 tricks off the top? Not sure, but one of those pairs was playing against Mel and Chris, so they were probably bamboozled by our friends' devastatingly good lucks and dad bods.

George Clooney and Brad Pitt, er—I mean Mel and Chris, ended up with a 59% game, good enough for second place NS. As we walked to the car and the semi-swirling winds I said to the gang, "I'll call Mark Liberman and let him know about the driving conditions and postpone our game tonight." So, we ended up driving back to Oakville at a much slower and safer speed—the OBO was to be continued the following day at the Toronto East Club and a game

with Canadian champ Danny Miles. Stay tuned for more OBO in the February issue.



Scruff!



Seen at the Barrie Regional...



Alex Kornel & Barbara Seagram won the Tuesday Open Pairs



Doug Baxter & David Lindop, winners of the Thursday Open Pairs



Barbara Seagram is not just a pretty face and a world class bridge teacher...she also wins tournaments!



Birte Ayers & Lyn Stevens



Alex Hudson, Keith Heckley, Jonathan Steinberg & Doug Dolbear won the Thursday/Friday KO



Pat Fung & Thea Davis

Photos by JS



Director Please!

By Martin Hunter

This Kibitzer issue's column will be a primer on how to be a 'good,' and 'law-abiding,' Dummy.

We will go over Dummy's rights and responsibilities

1) WHEN the OPENING LEAD is FACED:

- ~ You have ONE (and only one) duty here: Lay out your cards properly
- ~ All 13 cards should be visible and ordered, by suit, from highest to lowest
- ~ Trumps (if not NT) shall be placed on Dummy's right, (Declarer's left)
- ~ DO NOT enter anything into the Bridgmate or your personal scorecard until after you have put your dummy down – you'll have the next 3 - 5 minutes for any bookkeeping

2) DURING the PLAY of the HAND

- ~ Stay quiet (for the most part) and keep your hands **off the table**, until the Declarer directs you to play a card
- ~ Keep track of tricks won and lost, in the usual way
- ~ Keep an eye out for revokes by Defenders
- ~ When the Declarer calls a card from Dummy, move it to the center of the table
- ~ NO comments, eye rolls, or gestures
- ~ If Declarer fails to follow suit on a particular trick, you may say "No clubs?" (or whatever suit was called for)
- ~ You may not ask that of a Defender

WHILE DECLARER is PONDERING their NEXT PLAY:

Stay quiet, hands off the table.

There is nothing more annoying than a table-tapping Dummy or one who keeps telling Declarer which hand they are in while the other three players are thinking and/or counting.

The Laws of Bridge state:

Dummy may not participate in the Play

Players are not entitled to any Memory aid

However, Dummy can try to prevent an irregularity by Declarer:

If the lead is in Dummy and Declarer detaches a card from their hand but doesn't play it; Dummy may say, "You are in Dummy."

If the lead is in Declarer's hand, and they start to point at a card in Dummy, or start to call a card from Dummy, the Dummy may say, "You are in your hand."

If Declarer asks, "Where am I?" then any player, including Dummy, who is trying to prevent an irregularity, may speak up.

If Declarer plays a card from their hand (face up, at or near the table, or in a position indicating it as to be played), or calls a card from Dummy, ***it is played*** – and too late for anyone else to correct.

If the lead was from the wrong hand, then Declarer has 'led from the wrong hand.' This is an irregularity, and the Director should be called.

Too often, Dummy pipes up inappropriately and players make their own ruling.

The Defenders now have the option of accepting the lead from the wrong hand, or having it revert to a lead from the correct hand.

Keep in mind that Declarer cannot have an exposed card.

A bit more:

Dummy may never initiate a Director call, during play, unless an irregularity has already been pointed out by one of the other three players.

Dummy may call the Director at the end of a hand to report an irregularity. This includes revokes by Defenders.

Any questions and/or comments should be directed to martinhunter@rogers.com



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Canada's Leading Man Danny Miles

By John Carruthers

Suppose you are playing in the nineteenth round of a 24-team Round Robin in the Bermuda Bowl. The top eight qualify for knockout play and your team is on life support, a full match adrift of eighth place. Near the end of the match, having had, so far, a good card, raising your hopes, at favourable vulnerability, you pick up:

♠ Q 10 7 4 3 2
♥ Q 9
♦ K 3
♣ 9 4 2

You are the dealer and, taking advantage of the vulnerability, position, and the state of the match, you open three spades. Your left-hand opponent doubles, partner passes and your right-hand opponent produces a majestic leap to six clubs. All pass and it's you to lead.

Nothing looks particularly attractive. With most of the outstanding high cards seemingly on your left, your red-suit honours look vulnerable. Declarer obviously has a big, strong, club suit. Your choice?

Canada's Leading Man, Danny Miles, led the three of diamonds! Here's the full deal:

♠ J
♥ K 8 6 3 2
♦ A Q 10 9 4
♣ 6 5

♠ Q 10 7 4 3 2
♥ Q 9
♦ K 3
♣ 9 4 2

♠ K 9 8
♥ J 10 7 5 4
♦ 8 7 5 2
♣ A

♠ A 6 5
♥ A
♦ J 6
♣ K Q J 10 8 7 3

Look at the contract from declarer's (Ami Zamir of Israel) point of view: the lead is obviously a singleton (East followed to the ace with the two) but, fortunately, we have the king of hearts for a diamond pitch, hopefully losing just the ace of trumps. So, heart to the ace, ace of spades, spade ruff, king of hearts discarding the losing diamond (♥Q from West). Now we have the third spade to take care of, presumably with another ruff in the dummy. The problem is how to return to hand twice: once to ruff the spade and again to start trumps.



Danny Miles

West's play of the heart queen when following to the king is of no account – he could play the queen from any holding at all when declarer is revealed to have no more of the suit. We cannot afford to ruff high twice since that would create a second trump trick for the defence by promoting the nine unless the opening leader held a doubleton ace or was lacking the nine. If West truly held a singleton diamond, his most likely shape is $7=3=1=2$ (or, these days, $6=3=1=3$). He might or might not hold the ace of clubs. If East held only two spades, the nine of clubs would need to be with West, probably doubleton, to prevent East over-ruffing with it.

Zamir decided that the simplest course was to ruff a heart with the eight of trumps, gaining temporarily whenever West held a third heart and, if not, when East held the nine of clubs (along with three spades). If, after a

second successful spade ruff, East followed to the fourth heart, declarer would have to ruff high and hope that West held the club ace, obviating the promotion.

What Zamir couldn't know at that point was that, short of ruffing a diamond with a low club, ruffing his last spade in the dummy, then ruffing a red card high and leading a low club to East's singleton ace, an impossible series of plays, he was going down on the trump promotion with East able to gain entry with the ace of clubs to lead a red card.

When Zamir ruffed the third heart with the eight of clubs, Miles overruffed with the nine and led another trump, leaving declarer with a losing spade for two off, minus 200 and a loss of 13 IMPs. It was the lead of the tournament.



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DISTRICT 7



Alice in Wonderland...

How Do We Get into These Predicaments?

By Ron Bishop

Often artificial systems are great, but once in a while, they can 'get in the way,' and when they combine with complex competitive machinery, the results can be quite comical.

Take a gander at this deal from a recently held Italian Trials featured on BBO.

North
 ♠ 9 6 4 3
 ♥ Q 8 6
 ♦ 9
 ♣ A K 10 3 2

West
 ♠ Q J
 ♥ J 10 4 2
 ♦ A 10 7 6
 ♣ J 7 6

East
 ♠ A K 8 2
 ♥ K 3
 ♦ K Q 4
 ♣ 9 8 5 4

South
 ♠ 10 7 5
 ♥ A 9 7 5
 ♦ J 8 5 3 2
 ♣ Q

At **Table "A"** in our comic opera, the auction went like this:

West	North	East	South
		INT (13-15)	Pass
2♣	Double ¹	Pass ²	Pass
Redouble ³	Pass	2♥ (!) ⁴	Pass
Pass (?) ⁵	Pass		

1. A request for a club lead
2. No ♣ stopper
3. Repeat of Stayman

4. Shows four spades! (a new wave treatment)
5. Having backed himself into a corner, and hoping that opener had three hearts, responder choose to pass. Perhaps we can get out while the getting is 'good'

The play went like this...South led (and was permitted to hold) the ♣Q on which North played the ♣2 (believing it to be 'suit preference') attempting to set up a crossruff scenario. South (flaunting his expertise) switched to a **Spade (!!)**; won in dummy with the queen. Declarer ran the jack of trumps (readers...remember, that's **hearts**) which was allowed to hold the trick; then cashed the ♠J before leading a diamond to his 'hidden' ♦K.

Another high spade allowed him to pitch one of dummy's club losers while the defenders both followed suit, and then East led the last high spade. South ruffed with the trump seven (from his remaining ♥A97), not allowing declarer a no-cost pitch of the last of dummy's clubs, which forced (?) declarer to over-ruff with the 10 of trumps. [Perhaps declarer should have followed their initial instinct... to throw the last club anyways]. Declarer exited from the dummy with the losing ♣J to North's king. At this point...without another card being played... declarer "claimed" making 3 for + 140. **All agreed and the cards were returned to the board** (yes, I know... but hopefully the readers can save their 'cries of anguish' for just a little while).

There followed a break in the action before the next board...top-level European players seem to have more of their number in the ranks of cigarette smokers than we currently have in North American competitions. Even in "Trials" competitions (where the bidding action is often on computer tablets), the players often meet each other in the live "face-to-face" part of the play/defence... so, maybe, the players broke for a smoke. **We can only imagine the conversation that might have taken place between North and South:**

South: “Sort of a lucky layout for them...you with just those two small trumps...”

North: “But I didn’t. **I had Q-8-6**...I know for sure.”

South: “You couldn’t have that, as I had four trumps... **A-9-7-5**.”

North: “So, they were playing their 4-2 fit, and I could have given you a club ruff or two, and I could have taken a diamond ruff or two, myself.”

South: “We had **four** more tricks, not two! And managed to lay claim to just two of them.”

North: “Oh, well...what fools we are...but perhaps the other table will get to 3NT, since they really did have a club stopper...with the blockage...and then just one rounded trick will see them through. And they **do** have fifteen points opposite nine.”

That wish as to the desired contract for the other table [Table “B”] must **not** have been clearly heard as this turned out to be the sequence that occurred there:

West	North	East	South
		1♦ ¹	Pass
1♠ (*!) ²	Pass	INT ³	Pass
2♣ ⁴	Double ⁵	2♦ ⁶	Pass
2♠ (?) ⁷	Pass	4♠ ⁸	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Playing a Strong Club; and with values outside the INT opening range, this was the normal opening
2. **Showed four hearts!**
3. Balanced within a 13-15 range (2 or 3 hearts)
4. Relay to 2♦...to show a variety of shapes/values
5. “Clubs...I’ve got these; please lead them, or we can compete in clubs”
6. Forced response.
7. An artificial raise to 2NT...but pushy
8. Opener (having clearly forgotten what this sequence meant) thought Responder was inviting—aggressively so—with a 4-4 fit; and so, with a maximum, East accepted

Here the 4-2 fit—albeit a different one from that played at Table “A”—was played by **West**; North’s easy ♣ lead, cash and continuation garnered the first 3 tricks with the ♥A still to come. Declarer didn’t thereafter play his best (one hardly ever does in 4-2 fits) and lost an extra trick to go down two for -200.

So, of the four pairs competing, only N/S at Table “B” seem to be from the real world...they are our “**Alice**” pair. N/S at the “A” table are the “**Dormouse**” pair, who fell asleep at the slightest provocation {failing to see the need to stay awake and be aware of their surroundings}. The other two pairs (the E/W declarers) were the “**Mad Hatter**” and “**the March Hare**”... you take your pick as to who is who...both are quite clearly crazy.





A Canadian Slam

By Laurence Gifford

There are several different descriptions of a Canadian slam in the literature, but all involve an American on lead. John Carruthers gives this origin in his wildly entertaining book, *Bridge with Another Perfect Partner*:

‘When we were lads, we played quite frequently with Steve Landen and George Bell, from Ann Arbor, Michigan. Steve was quite dismissive, in a humorous way, of Canadian bidding. He was wont to say, ‘A Canadian slam is one which needs two finesses, a 3-3 break in trumps, and a squeeze. When he heard this, our friend, John Gowdy, a loyal Canuck to the core, replied, “And an American on lead!”’

For the deal that JC associates with this trope, see the link at the end of this article.

This deal is a Canadian slam, needing only clubs no worse than 3-1, a finesse, a pseudo-squeeze...and an American on lead.

Board 19
Vul: E-W
Dir: South

Keith

♠ A 9 7
♥ K 10
♦ 4 3
♣ A K Q 8 7 6

♠ Q J 10 8 5 4
♥ 4 3
♦ A 6
♣ J 4 3

♠ 6 3 2
♥ Q 8 7 6
♦ K 10 9 7 2
♣ 5

Laurence

♠ K
♥ A J 9 5 2
♦ Q J 8 5
♣ 10 9 2

The auction:

West	North	East	South
			1♥
2♠	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All pass	



Keith Balcombe

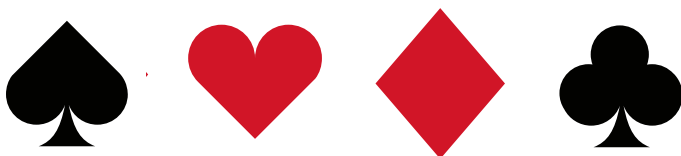
It's a dismal opening bid, but, at these colours, I like to get in their faces. Oh-oh; it's partner who has the big hand. Keith's 3♠ suggested 3NT, which is the right contract, but I nervously pulled to 4♣. Keith now alarmed me with 4NT, playing me for a diamond control as who would not? I showed my one keycard and Keith bid 6♣.

If the American East had led a diamond, there would be no story to tell, but they reasonably led the spade deuce, partner's suit. Dummy's king won. Keith came to hand with a club, ruffed a spade, drew trumps, cashed the

spade ace, and played more trumps. Poor East was pseudo-squeezed. Fearing declarer held the diamond ace she let go a heart. Keith completed the debacle running four heart tricks with the aid of a finesse. Making them all!

Unsurprisingly, no other pair reached slam. (Yes, the pseudo-squeeze was for an overtrick.) For more details on "a Canadian slam," here's an article by John Carruthers:

* <https://intobridge.com/blog/a-canadian-slam/>



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FINESSE

By Carole Coplea

Have you heard about FINESSE? This is a game I invented to help people learn how to play bridge. It is designed with a playing board that represents the bidding system. The board makes the bidding system visual, so it is easy to understand the ranking of suits and levels of bidding and the tricks needed at each level.

I have also simplified the rules and reduced the number of cards from 52 to 40, so each hand has 10 cards instead of 13. This one change alone makes the game a whole lot easier for newcomers. I have also created

Power Points, like high card points, and printed the Power Points on the top three cards in each suit, so people can add up their Power Points more easily.

I have also simplified the scoring system and created a “scoring track” right on the playing board. Players move their team token up one or more spaces on the scoring track until they reach the finish line, which ends the game.

FINESSE is played just like bridge: with a dummy hand, (which I call the Open Hand), and with a trump suit or no trump. There are double and double-double (re-double) cards as well. The strategies for bidding and playing the hand are the same as bridge.

What I have done with this game is to reduce the learning curve for newcomers to the game, and the playing board makes the game more exciting as they can see what is going on. I created custom-coloured cards so the levels of bidding on the playing board are coordinated with the colours of the four different suits. I am using simple symbols on the cards, but players don’t seem to go by symbols, they go by the colour of their suit. You can’t do that with regular playing cards which have only two colours (red and black) and not four.

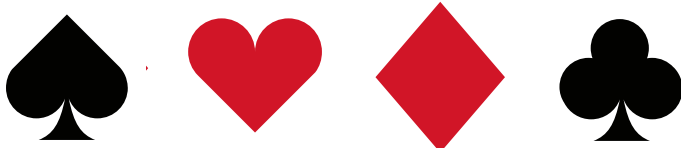
My idea with FINESSE is to use FINESSE as a way to attract new members into bridge clubs by offering FINESSE first... then transitioning people into learning how to play bridge. FINESSE will “bridge the gap,” so to speak, thus making it so much easier to learn bridge.

The people who have tried FINESSE and bought the game from me absolutely love playing it. The last group I met with had never played a trick-taking card game before; they had only ever played poker. So, I had to get over that learning curve, too. Within a couple hours, all four players were enthusiastically playing FINESSE and



two of them bought a game to play with their family. I've seen this happen enough times now to know that the game is a winner with people who have never played bridge.

*Carole Coplea is an enthusiastic bridge player ever since she learned to play with Goren rules at the age of 19. She wrote a mystery novel, *Death in Duplicate* (Masterpoint Press,) about two bridge players who died while playing bridge. The book details the investigation into the bridge club and its members, including some very colourful characters and intriguing twists and turns. Carole is now inventing games, starting with *FINESSE*™. You can see more at her website: candcgames.ca*





Classifying the bid of Pass

By David Ellis

There are 4 types of **GREEN** Passes

1. Classical low HCP Pass
2. "Wait + See" Judgment Pass
3. Trap Pass
4. Forcing Pass

Classification:

1. Classical Low HCP

- Opening in 1st or 2nd seat: If partner did not open in those seats, he must have <12 HCPs as every bridge player should open with 12 HCPs.
2 exceptions: QJxx-QJx-QJx-QJx and a hand with 12 HCPs, 4-3-3-3 shape with no ace
- Responder must pass with 6 HCPs after partner opens, unless forced to bid, eg. over 2♣

2. "Wait + See" Judgment Pass

With this type of Pass, judgment must be used.

Example #1 Opener's rebid "Wait + See"

South	W	N	E	S
♠ KQ7				1♣
♥ K765	P	1♦	2♠	P
♦ K5				
♣ KT98				

In spite of having 14 HCPs, South's rebid must be Pass. If South rebids 2NT, it would show a spade stopper and 18-19 HCPs, but North has 14 HCPs. North would always continue bidding especially with a strong hand. South must have patience and wait. When North makes a forcing bid (new suit by Responder) and RHO interferes, South is no longer forced to bid because partner can still bid.

Example #2 Opener's rebid "Wait + See" Bid

South	W	N	E	S
♠ KQT65				1♠
♥ A5	P	2♥	3♣	P
♦ KJT				
♣ 983				

North responds with a game forcing bid of 2♥ (2/1) to partner's 1♠ bid. East interferes 3♣, probably as a lead directing bid because after a game forcing bid it is unlikely E/W will win the contract. As South has nothing further to add with a 5-3-3-2 balanced hand without a club stopper, South should Pass with nothing new to share. North will continue the auction (maybe by bidding 3NT or 3♠).

Example #3 Overcaller's "Wait + See" Bid

South	W	N	E	S
♠ 32			1♦	P
♥ K54				
♦ AK62				
♣ KJ52				

As South's RHO has bid your only biddable suit and there are no other available choices, with 14 HCPs, South must pass and wait. North will probably bid spades so you will have a misfit and must pass and wait.

If South had 15-18 HCPs, South would bid 1NT with a stopper in diamonds. If West passes and North doubles, South could bid 2NT showing more than 8 HCPs and a stopper in diamonds.

3. Trap Pass

Example #1

South	W	N	E	S
♠ 52		1♠	2♣	P
♥ K84				
♦ 953				
♣ AQJ98				

With 10 HCPs, South's has no biddable suit, so South must pass. Hopefully North will reopen the bidding with a double.

Opener's reopening double will have 12+ HCPs with shortness in the club suit. With this hand, the double should be left in but what are the criteria to leave it in?

South	W	N	E	S
♠ 52		1♠	2♣	P
♥ K84	P	X	P	P
♦ 953	P			
♣ AQJ98				

Use Mel's Law of 9

1. Take the level of the contract.
2. Add the number of the opponent's trump suit you hold.
3. Add the number of honours (including tens) you have in the opponent's suit.
4. If it comes to 9+, leave the double in. According to Mel's Law, on this hand, South can play for penalties with 10 (2+5+3) 'Mel' points.

Example #2

South	W	N	E	S
♠ 32			1♦	P
♥ K54	3♦	X	P	P
♦ AK972				
♣ KJ5				

South, with 14 HCPs, cannot bid because South has significant diamonds. If Partner doubles South can convert the takeout double to a penalty double. E/W are vulnerable.

Mel's law: 3+5+2=9 Leave the double in. Go for 800 points by setting the contract three tricks!

4. Forcing Pass

This is an agreement that this pass call forces the partner to bid, double, or redouble and keep the

South	W	N	E	S
♠ 32			1♦	P
♥ K54	3♦	X	P	P
♦ AK972				
♣ KJ5				

bidding open. The EW opponents have made an obvious sacrifice of 5♦. North's second bid of pass is known as a Forcing Pass asking South to do something intelligent. North knows that South knows that North has a good hand (from the 2NT Jacoby bid), so either NS are bidding on or 5♦ is going to be doubled. There is no rush to double 5♦ here. If North does double here it is because North is not interested in South bidding on.

The “Forcing Pass” occurs:

1. When declarer’s side is in a game-forcing auction with slam potential and has agreed on a trump suit. Here, North’s Jacoby 2NT set spades as trumps.
2. When opponents have made an obvious sacrifice bid: here, West’s bid of 5♦.
3. Bidding is at a high level, eg., above 4♠.
4. A forcing pass is a pass by North in the direct seat after which we know that partner will be forced to bid.
5. North’s has three options after West’s 5♦ bid:
 - Pass is a “Forcing Pass” indicating a strong hand with good trumps and useful for slam.
 - A 5-level bid (5♠) shows no slam interest and is bidding to make it (we do not sacrifice over the opponent’s sacrifice).
 - Double shows a bad hand not suitable for 5♠. May have only two of the opponent’s trumps, not a stack of trump. Opener must do something sensible (DSS) such as leave the double in or bid 5♠ or 6♠.

6. Shortened Version:

- Bid - A vote for “Offence” (no choice for partner).
- **X** - A vote for “Defence” (partner can still overrule).
- Pass - “I’m flexible, Offence or Defence” (leaving it up to partner).

Conclusions:

- With opening HCPs, a player must not pass; they must bid to show their values.
- Understand the various bidding sequences.
- Pass knowing your partner will continue the bidding. You are in a partnership.
- With high level interference bidding by opponents, always try to get a positive score.
- Trap pass situation is powerful, but partner must balance.



Oddball Results

By Robert Griffiths

This hand is from the recent Niagara Regional Tournament, played in Flight A of a team game.

At one table, The first two bids went as one might expect; East, the dealer opened 3♥ and South overcalled 4♠. West raised his partner to 5♥. Next, North thought a bit then bid 5♠. This was passed back to West who had a good long huddle with himself then bid 6♥. North, after considerable thought, pushed on to 6♠. This was doubled by West and passed out.

A 6♠ contract has no chance: there are two clubs and one diamond to lose.

NS wrote -500 in their scorecards, not so happy because 6♥ has no chance, as long as NS take their two aces.

Board 26

Dir: East

Vul: Both

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

On to table 2.

The vulnerable East was more timid. With such a ragged suit, he chose to try only 2♥. South, proud of his suit, bid the same 4♠. Now West got creative, ignored the known nine-card fit and tried a bid of 5♣. This bid frightened North, who was afraid of losing two clubs and at least one heart in a spade contract. He chose to double; this was passed out.

On lead against 5♣ doubled, North played the ♠A then the ♦A. On the ♦A, South played the 9, playing upside down carding. This could either be a singleton, or the start of a high-low showing three diamonds. North reasoned that South likely had only one. He had promised 7 or 8 spades. West had shown no interest in hearts, so the

missing hearts must be in the South hand, leaving little room for diamonds.

So, he tried to cash the setting trick with the ♦K. This was a very happy development for West. He now had 14 top tricks in clubs and hearts, scoring +750 for EW.

West's questionable gamble paid off handsomely. His exotic bid was enough to baffle everybody. Note that NS can easily win the first four tricks if they somehow find the two heart ruffs that South was mentally screaming for. The par contract on the board is 5♠ doubled by NS which will go down one after EW bid their makeable 5♥.

NS ought to have found the defence to beat 5♣. After North had led his ♠A and saw a singleton spade in dummy, South's card on this trick should show suit preference. His play of the ♠K on the ace should do more than mentally scream at his partner; it should very strongly demand the return of the higher ranking suit which could only be hearts. North's play of the ♥2 (again suit preference--this time for diamonds) would be ruffed by South who would return the ♦9 to North for a second heart ruff.

When they compared scores, NS at the first table were astounded to find that their unwise sacrifice was part of a 6-IMP gain on the board, instead of the big loss that they deserved.

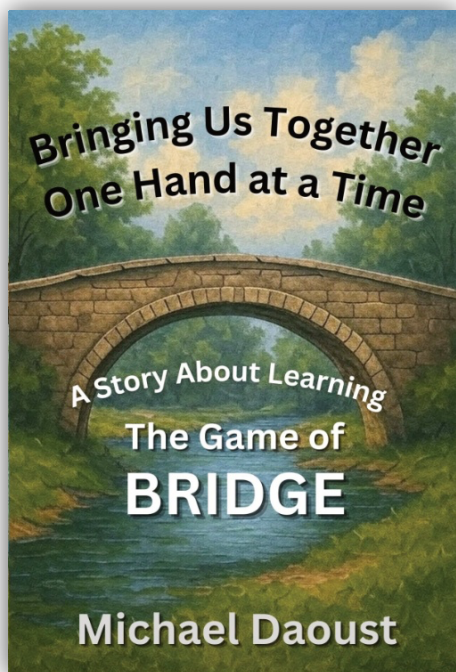
This is a hand that would have been fun to see in a pair game. There would be far more oddball results with oddball explanations. Here it was only played twice with two oddball results.

“ We are on a Regional at Sea this week. Lots of fun. Taught in FLA for 2 weeks and then flew to Houston on Saturday. Plane touched down at 11 am. Alex said to me... I wonder if there is a bridge game in Houston today? I googled and called a club. There was! Game at 12 noon. It would take us a half hour to get there by taxi and we still had to get luggage. I am holding up the line getting off the plane saying... spell the name of that street please, while managing my roller suitcase and purse. I don't travel light. We arrived at 11.55 am at the Bridge Club of Houston. The hospitality was outstanding and they were so kind. SO much fun. They were having a 499'er tournament alongside the Open game and I even fit in a chalk talk to them. Alex needed food around 2 pm (diabetic) and they pulled a fresh lasagna out of the oven... did he want vegetarian or meat lasagna? Plus a salad. Unbelievable. I had heard about Texans but this was all above and beyond. ”



Bringing Us Together – One Hand at Time
A story about learning the game of bridge by Michael Daoust

A retired teacher discovers that the best way to learn bridge might just be through storytelling



The idea for a bridge book came from my daughter Janice, who began playing online during Covid. Around the same time, I was rediscovering bridge myself after retirement from my years as a high school teacher and finally having the opportunity to return to a game I first came to know by watching my parents play when I was growing up.

I would eagerly send Janice bridge newsletters and my own carefully crafted explanations of conventions like Stayman and transfers, complete with charts and diagrams that any teacher would be proud of.

"But Dad," she'd complain, "I don't learn by looking at charts and reading technical books. I need a story."

"What was I thinking?" she grumbled.
"I could barely hold 13 cards, let alone figure out what a trump is."

Kate, the complete beginner in the book.

And she had a point that struck right to the heart of my teaching experience. Stories let us see ourselves in the characters, follow their struggles and triumphs, and remember lessons that might otherwise feel dry or abstract. After decades in the classroom, I knew she was right. Many of us learn best through narrative, not just instruction.

The Challenge: Breaking Down Bridge Barriers

This got me thinking about two persistent myths that keep people away from bridge: first, that it's a pastime only for those who remember when man first walked on the moon; and second, that it's far too complicated and intense for the average card player. What if a story could tackle both of these misconceptions head-on?

I set out to describe the learning curve of four fictional characters as they take up the game of bridge (one of them a complete newcomer to card games). Think of it as "The Breakfast Club" meets the bridge table, where each character brings their own perspective and challenges to learning this fascinating game.

A Humbling Writing Journey

I'll be honest. I'm not a natural writer (or even a bridge expert, for that matter), and my first attempt was an abysmal failure. "*Your dialogue is too stilted,*" "*your characters one-dimensional,*" "*your explanations too formal.*" And those were the gentle comments from my own family members! One astute critic also pointed out that unless the lessons were paired with opportunities to practice on online platforms, younger players wouldn't engage. Point taken.

"You will enjoy this book, and when you've finished reading it, you'll want to find a partner and start playing this wonderful game."

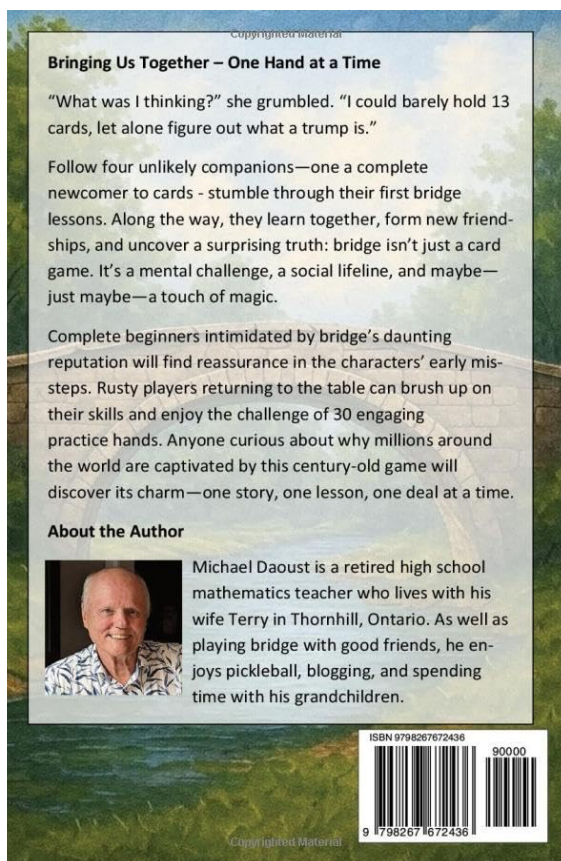
David Colbert, Canadian Bridge Champion 1993

Just when I was ready to shuffle this project into the discard pile, fate dealt me a better hand. Another

writing project for my school's 60th anniversary connected me with Luis Flavio Nunes, an editor from Brazil. When he discovered my bridge book attempts, he offered to help resurrect the project. With his guidance, the manuscript transformed into a 400-page volume that not only demystifies bridge but explores how the game draws people together.

More Than Just Cards

The friendships I built through online play during Covid were far more valuable than any grand slams or perfect games. They shaped my understanding of bridge as something much deeper





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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/Open
- Tues 12:00 pm 0-1000/Open
- Fri 12:00 pm 0-1000

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

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

MARILYN'S BRIDGE CLUB

Flower City Senior Center
8870 McLaughlin Rd S.
Brampton L6Y 5T1
(905) 791-4239
Gary Westfall
gwestfall@rogers.com

- Fri 1:00 pm Open

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

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

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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

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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

**The next Board meeting is
Thurs., Jan. 15, 2026 at 7:00 pm,
via video conference.**

The AGM meeting will follow at 9:00 pm.

**For Board meeting minutes, please check
the website: www.unit166.ca**

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? Help us celebrate their contributions to bridge by nominating them for the 2026 Kate Buchman Award.

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? Help us celebrate the excellence of this teacher's skill and dedication by nominating them for the 2026 Audrey Grant Award.

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 nominations to Denise Donovan

dcdonovan49@gmail.com

Deadline: December 31, 2025

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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.

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Sonia Ostroff
905-419-0870

- Tues 7:15 pm Open

AURORA BRIDGE CLUB

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

Linda Lord lindaleelord@hotmail.com

- Wed & Fri 12:30 pm Open
- Tues 6:45 pm Open
- Thurs 12:30 pm 0-300

BARRIE BRIDGE CLUB

Unit #3, 18 Alliance Blvd., Barrie
705-721-9233

Jane Foster janekf74@hotmail.com

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

- 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

- Tues & Thurs 1:00 pm Open

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 & 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/

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

Donna Earl: fredearl@rogers.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

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184 Marina Blvd., Peterborough
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

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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

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7755 Bayview Ave., Thornhill
905-883-955

Medhat Fawzy medhatfawzy@hotmail.com

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

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Washago, L0K 2B0
Anne Sixsmith
647-528-1170

- Friday 12:00 pm Open

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

- Tues 6:30 pm

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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

- Tues 1:00 pm Open

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

- 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/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

President & District 2 Rep.: Muriel Tremblay

Vice President & Electronic Contact: Brian Jones

Secretary: Sheila Longstaff

Treasurer: Kathy Morrison

Tournament Coordinator: Claude Tremblay

Membership Chair & D2 Rep: Wiebe Hoogland

Education & Intermediate/Novice Coordinator:
Ginger Grant

Non-Board members:

Newsletter/Promotions: Heather Beckman

Webmaster: Dena Jones

All of the above may be contacted by emailing
info@unit255.org

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

The Kibitzer Information

The Kibitzer is available online at www.unit166.ca, every three months: February, May, August, and November. Readers are invited to share their email addresses with the ACBL so that they may receive notification The Kibitzer is ready for viewing.

****Advertisers:** Please proofread your ad to ensure all dates, times, prices, and other important details are to your liking. We will print what you send us and only edit for typos.**

KIBITZER ADVERTISING RATES:

Full Page \$180; 1/2 Page \$110; 1/4 Page \$70; 1/8 Page \$40 (All plus HST)

Please send to Andy Stark, andy.kibitzer@gmail.com

KIBITZER ONLINE: <http://unit166.ca>

IMPORTANT KIBITZER DATES:

Issue:	Deadline:	Posted online by:
Spring	Jan. 20	Feb. 15
Summer	Apr. 20	May 15
Fall	July 20	Aug. 15
Winter	Oct. 20	Nov. 15

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.

2025

December

27-Dec. 7	NABC San Francisco
8-14	ROYAL Sectional at Clubs
15-21	STARDUST week – 25% gold points

2026

January

3-4	Toronto, p. 4
3-4	Toronto NLM Regional, p. 4
24-25	London (Local)
31-Feb 6	Bermuda Regional

February

13-15	St. Catharines, p. 6
25-Mar 8	NABC St. Louis

March

7	Burlington I/N
14-15	St. Catharines I/N
21-22	Guelph (Local)
31-Apr 5	Toronto Easter Regional, p. 7

April

10-12	Callander, Gateway to the North
18-19	GNTs, Mississauga
20-26	Gatlinburg Regional
23-24	Burlington (Local)

May

2-3	Peterborough (Local), p. 8
5-11	Kingston Regional
23-24	Cambridge

June

6-7	Seaforth
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July

8-19	NABC Minneapolis
21-26	Oakville Regional

August

8-9	Tillsonburg
14-16	Niagara-on-the-Lake, I/N
18-23	Sudbury Regional

September

5-7	Oakville Labour Day
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All tournaments are Sectionals unless noted.

Deadline for the Spring Kibitzer: Jan. 20, 2025

The Kibitzer

Andy Stark

36 Poucher St., Toronto ON M4J 2Y9