



London  
Bridge Centre

Newsletter

November 24, 2024

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**President's Message**

A great place to play. A great place to grow.

There is plenty of good news to share upon the completion of our first quarter. Financial results are ahead of budget largely because of the enthusiastic return to face-to-face games. Our table counts are well above last year and budget.

A significant driver of this growth is a robust pipeline of new players. This month 26 students completed the Bridge Basics 1 course with many ready to sign up for Bridge Basics 2 in January. Thank you to Jane King and Barb O'Brien for igniting a love of the game among their students.

Our early-stage players often practice and play on Tuesday and/or Saturday. New players are encouraged to join the 0-50 game on Saturday. Adele Woolfe and Peter Tuttle and their team of dedicated volunteers create a welcoming environment that fosters learning among similarly skilled pairs. It gets really exciting when players advance to the 0-500 games, where table counts are rapidly rising.

The board is looking at adding more games - both face-to-face and virtual. We will be undertaking a survey of our membership to ensure we meet the needs of our early-stage, intermediate, and advanced players.

The next social will include a practice and play section, in addition to the open game. We hope participation reaches new heights.

Membership is still behind last year. If you haven't done so already, I hope you will support the London Bridge Centre, and benefit from discounted game tickets (only available to members).

A priority for the board is to foster a welcoming, respectful, friendly, and caring community at the London Bridge Centre. We all get frustrated at times while playing bridge; during those moments remember to be kind to both your partner and your opponents. Stay tuned for some articles on the topic. Bridge offers a great opportunity for personal growth.

Angie

**Virtual Club Games**  
**Wednesday, 9:15 Open**

**Tillsonburg DBC**  
**Tuesday 7:00 Open**  
**LBC members welcome**

## DECEMBER 1 SUNDAY SOCIAL GAME RECYCLE/GIVEAWAY

What do you have in your house that someone would definitely want but you don't? Think fancy foodstuff, never-worn clothing or accessories, cosmetics, tools, kitchen appliances, décor items. This might be something received as a gift, but it could also be something you bought and later regretted or realized it didn't fit you or your home.

At our December Sunday social game, bring a wrapped gift with no identification. These will be randomly distributed to each person at the game. The recipient may choose to keep the item or can try to swap it for something they think is better with whomever else is then at or later comes to their table. Hopefully, by the end of the day, everyone will have had some fun discussing these gifts and everyone will go home with something of value to them.



The intention is not gag gifts but rather to find a home with someone who appreciates the item you don't.

The fun starts at 1:00. For those who want to play social bridge, there will be non-duplicate tables available for you.

## NEW RANK ACHIEVEMENTS

To check out all new rank achievements, click [here](#).



New Junior Master	Bhama Rajgopal
New Sectional Master	Quentin Rogers
New Regional Master	David Aston
New Regional Master	Lorna Graham
New NABC Master	Brian Silva
New Sapphire Life Master	Ross Driedger

**Please note:** There can be a delay of about two months before rank achievements are confirmed by ACBL and reported to LBC.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY AT LBC



### Fire Procedures for Members

If you discover a fire - **Yell FIRE, then call 911** after exiting the building.

Take directions from the director or teacher.

Remain CALM. IMMEDIATELY proceed to the nearest exit. Close the door when everyone has exited.

Three exits are located as follows:

- a) in the far east corner by the library. Open by turning the latch on the door.
- b) in the middle east alcove by the accessible washroom. Open by turning the latch on the door.
- c) the main entrance.

Ensure members requiring assistance are helped to the closest exit door. There is a wheelchair at the back of the room, located by the AED.

#### **IMPORTANT INFO**

Never fight a fire with the fire extinguisher unless the fire is small and you think the extinguisher will put the fire out. It is located on the column near the name tags.

The extinguisher is located on the column near the name tags.

#### HERE IS HOW TO USE THE EXTINGUISHER

- P**ull the pin
- A**im the hose at the base of the fire
- S**queeze the lever
- S**weep the hose from side to side

## HELP SUPPORT ONLINE GAMES IN UNIT 249

Did you know that two other local clubs host online games as well as the London Bridge Centre. Both the Grand River DBC and the Tillsonburg DBC have very successful online games? Our three clubs host the following online games:

- Grand River DBC
  - Monday 7:00 p.m. 0-749
  - Tuesday 12:30 p.m. 0-299
  - Sunday 10:05 a.m. Open
- London Bridge Centre
  - Wednesday 9:15 a.m. Open
- Tillsonburg DBC
  - Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Open



While it is understandable that we mainly prefer the social interaction of face-to-face bridge games, online bridge offers several advantages to our regular face-to-face games:

- takes less time
- no travel time or nighttime driving
- no weather or construction delays
- 20-21 boards
- no revokes, pass-out of turns, insufficient bids, or dropped cards
- don't even need to sort your cards
- a very relaxed dress code

Duplicate bridge has evolved from just play at your local club to a hybrid of face-to-face and online games. While a wide variety of games are now available online please consider supporting your local club.

## 2 GAMES FOR 1 OFFER

Each time an LBC member plays in a Wednesday morning online game from November 27 to December 18 they will receive a free play for an LBC face-to-face game. Earn up to four free plays by joining LBC's Wednesday morning online game. Funding for this special offer is from an anonymous Unit 249 donor.

So don't miss out. Plan to join us online at the London Bridge Centre or our other local clubs.

Hope to see you both in person and virtually.

*Tom Jolliffe*

**EDUCATION**

# Beginner Bridge Lessons

Looking for a new hobby?

Learn to play bridge!



**Bridge Basics One** is an introductory course to the game of bridge that covers basic terminology, bidding, card play and defense.



**COST: \$120 Plus Text**

**Sessions: 8**

**Date: Saturday mornings**

**Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. January 11 – March 1**

**Registration: online at [www.londonbridgecentre.ca](http://www.londonbridgecentre.ca)**

**Questions: Contact Barb O'Brien [barbcanbe@gmail.com](mailto:barbcanbe@gmail.com)**

**Location: London Bridge Centre**

**1106 Dearness Drive, Unit 9**



# Bridge Basics 2:

## Competitive Bidding

A course for advancing players  
taught at the London Bridge Centre.



### Course Topics:

- Preemptive Opening Bids
- Overcalls and Advances
- Takeout Double and Advances
- Competitive Auctions

Play of the hand and good defense will be included in the lessons.

**Sessions: 6**

**Date: Tuesday mornings**

**Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. January 28 – March 4, 2025**

**Registration: online at [www.londonbridgecentre.ca](http://www.londonbridgecentre.ca)**

Registrants should have taken a beginners' course or have equivalent experience.

**Questions: Contact Jane King @[janeking914@yahoo.com](mailto:janeking914@yahoo.com)**

**Location: London Bridge Centre**

**1106 Dearness Drive, Unit 9**



**COST: \$90 Plus Text**



## VOLUNTEER PROFILE – KAREN WILSON - DIRECTOR



**Where were you born?** I was born in Ottawa, Ontario.

**Where did you go to school?** My father's job took us to a number of locations in Atlantic Canada and Ontario. My early education was in Whitby, Ontario; and Halifax, Dartmouth and Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia. I finished elementary and high school in London, took courses at Western and I'm a graduate of Fanshawe College.

**What was your first job?** My first job was working after school as a cashier at the A&P store near our home. In those days, the cash registers didn't tell you how much change to give back and we happily took cheques as payment ... a lot has changed.

**What job did you hold the longest in your working career?** My longest-held position, and the one I found most rewarding, was as a capital campaign fundraiser for the London Health Sciences Centre working to raise \$120 million for the new buildings at the Commissioners Road site. I was fortunate to be recruited by the late Martha Curgin, an inspirational leader and mentor (and bridge player!), who provided me the opportunity to grow and learn in my career and as a person under her inspiring leadership.

**In How Many Cities Have You Lived?** As I said, my father's job took us to a few places, consequently I lived in eight cities in the first eleven years of my life. Since then, my life has been more rooted and I've only lived in two cities.

**What was your best vacation?** In the last twenty years, I've been fortunate to do a lot of travelling. The most memorable for me was my first trip across the Atlantic, a two-week vacation to France with my husband, Dwight, in 2004. We were getting to know each other and for me, it was magical.

**How old were you when you first started playing bridge?** That's an easy question to answer because it was only just over a year ago...and I was 67.

**How did you find LBC?** I think LBC found me! It was 2014 and my husband, Dwight, was discussing ways to facilitate the growth of bridge in London with Al and Sue Edwards. Subsequently, a few other bridge players joined them and work began to launch LBC. I offered to help with administrative tasks and served a year on the first board of directors as the club got underway.

**What motivated you to become a board member?** London Bridge Centre is such a tremendous organization and has done so much for the bridge community. I started taking lessons in the fall of 2023 and I was overwhelmed by the welcoming and supportive members. Now that I am enjoying the game, I really wanted to become more involved. When the opportunity arose to serve the membership, I was very pleased to take on the role.

**What is your favourite part of being a board member?** Although it's early in my tenure, I have enjoyed seeing the collaboration and cooperation of everyone involved at the board. Each director has an area of expertise or responsibility, but everyone works together to ensure the club's success.

**What do you like best about LBC?** Hands down (no pun intended!), it is the people. Everyone is friendly and welcoming. I have met so many terrific people, many of whom I count as good friends.

**Tell us about your hobbies.** I enjoy knitting, sewing, and reading as well as hiking and traveling.

**What would people be surprised to know about you?** I designed and made a wedding dress for a very good friend's daughter and the bride actually wore it for her wedding!

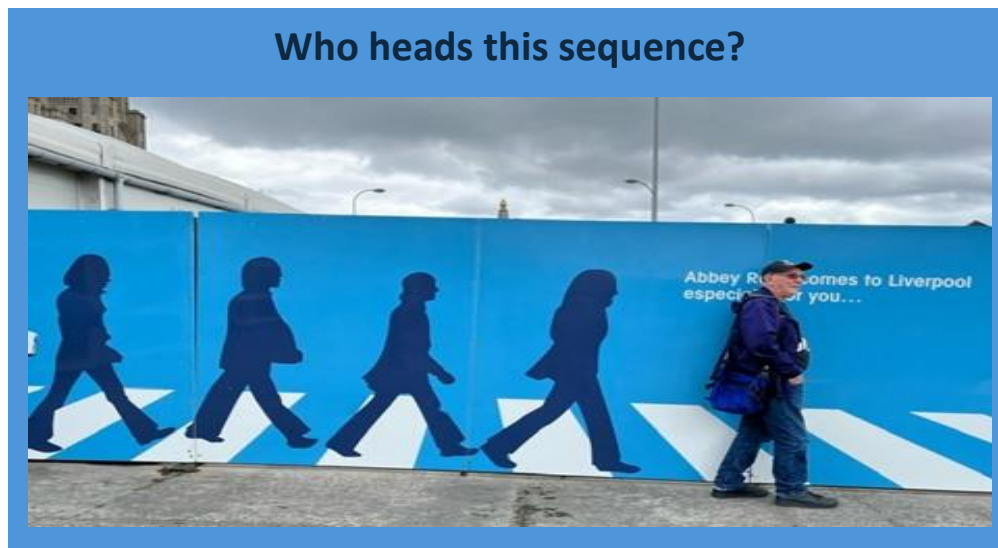
### TO MAKE YOU SMILE





## Leading Against No Trump Contracts

By Judi, Gord & Adele



Whether defending or declaring scoring tricks in No Trump is a race to find the longest suit between your hand and your partner's. If your partner has not bid indicating a possible lead, the following options are likely.

A sequence is **at least three in a row**. This lead provides partner the best insight to your hand's holding.

At the bridge table, however, the choice of fourth best occurs more often than top of a sequence.

Here are some examples, with the lead in **red**.

A Q 7 **6** 5

J T 6 **4** 2

J T 9 4 2

For further reading  
see Grant Standard:

Leading Against No  
Trump Contracts

by David Lindop

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BRIDGE

### LEADING AGAINST A NOTRUMP CONTRACT

PARTNER'S SUIT:

- Lead the top of a doubleton (♠Q-6, ♥8-2).
- Lead the top of touching honors (♦Q-J-3, ♣K-J-10).
- With no sequence, lead low (♠Q-6-3, ♥9-5-2, ♦A-8-5-4).

LONG SUIT:

- Lead top of touching honors from a sequence:
  - A solid sequence (♣K-Q-J-7-3, ♠10-9-8-3)
- Otherwise, lead fourth highest (♥K-J-9-5-2, ♦A-10-5-3).

## COLUMBIA EMPLOYEE STORE INVITATIONS

- London Bridge Centre members are invited to shop at the Employee Store from **November 29 - January 5!**
- **It's Golden Ticket Time - Save 20% off select styles & an additional 10% on your entire purchase!**
- The store is stocked with current season products from our family of brands – Columbia, Mountain Hardwear, SOREL, and prAna – items are marked at Employee Store pricing.
- For store access, please provide your digital invite (printed or shown on your mobile device) and proof of affiliation (your name tag)
- Invitees can bring up to four additional guests with each visit.
- This offer is for store access (not valid online).
- **The store is collecting non-perishable food items to donate to the Food Bank, through December! Items must have labels and must not be expired.**

**Boxing Week Deals (December 26 - January 5):** you are welcome to share the special Friends and Family pass with your social circle, to provide friends and family with access during Boxing Week.



# GOLDEN TICKET

## 10% OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE PLUS 20% OFF SELECT STYLES



### EXCLUSIVE INVITATION TO THE COLUMBIA EMPLOYEE STORE FOR: **London Bridge Club**

ITEMS ARE MARKED WITH EMPLOYEE STORE PRICING

#### VALID DATES

11/29/2024 - 01/05/2025

VALID FOR YOU + 4 GUESTS

#### WHAT TO BRING

THIS INVITATION

PHOTO I.D.

PROOF OF AFFILIATION

business card / membership card /  
company email signature / pay stub /  
original email / other form of affiliation

#### LOCATION & HOURS

1-1425 Main Branch Dr

London, CA

94N 6A2

MON-FRI: 9A - 9P

SAT: 9:30A - 7P SUN: 10A - 6P

12/24 Christmas Eve: 9:30a - 2p

12/25 Christmas: CLOSED

12/31 New Years Eve: 9:30am-2:00pm

01/01 New Years Day: CLOSED

#### YEAR-ROUND ACCESS

MILITARY PERSONNEL & FIRST RESPONDERS: EVERY DAY

SENIORS (65+): FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Questions? Please email: [londonemployee@columbia.com](mailto:londonemployee@columbia.com)

Columbia encourages customers to bring a reusable shopping bag



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# BOXING WEEK



**10% OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE**  
**40% OFF SELECT STYLES**  
DISCOUNTS IN ADDITION TO EMPLOYEE STORE PRICING

BOXING WEEK SALE DEC 28 – JAN 8



## FRIENDS AND FAMILY PASS

Our Employee Stores are always stocked with current season products from our entire Family of Brands Columbia, Mountain Hardware, SOREL and prAna

**VALID DATES**  
12/28/24 – 01/05/25  
Valid for you +4 guests

**WHAT TO BRING**  
This Invitation  
and Photo ID

**LOCATION**  
1426 Max Brose Drive  
London, ON N6M 0A2

**HOURS**  
Mon – Fri: 9am – 8pm  
Saturday: 9:30 am – 7pm  
Sunday: 10am – 6pm  
New Years Eve:  
9:30am – 2pm  
New Years Day: CLOSED



Valid for a single visit to the Employee Store. Limit one pass/visit per day. Must surrender pass at time of entry to store. Columbia reserves the right to modify or cancel this pass at any time. Sale or bartering of pass strictly prohibited. The products purchased are intended solely for the buyer's own personal use, including gifts to others. Resale of products is strictly prohibited. Columbia Sportswear limits the number of items purchased to no more than 30 of the same style. For team and company purchases, please speak to a member of our store management team. Offer may not be combined with any other offer or discount.