

*April 28, 2024*



*London  
Bridge Centre*

*Newsletter*

**Inside this Issue:**

**Victoria Day Games  
Congratulations Lydia!**  
Page 2

**May Sunday Social  
Save the Date**  
Page 3

**New Rank Achievements  
Thank You Volunteers  
Check it Out**  
Page 4

**Rookie- Master  
Extravaganza**  
Page 5

**Judy Stirling Volunteer  
Appreciation Event**  
Page 6

**Education**  
Page 7

**Taking Pride**  
Page 10

***President's Message***

*London Bridge Centre: A great place to play. A great place to grow.*

Early in the year, the board developed a work plan to set the stage for a robust bridge community and a return to a sustainable business model. The board has activated the ideas that were identified during the brainstorming session with members last fall. We are building momentum, highlights include:

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- strong table counts
- well attended special events
- strong participation in Taste of Bridge, and Bridge Basics 1 courses
- rising membership
- higher rental income
- reintroduction of virtual bridge games
- lively participation in Rookie/Mentor, Tuesday Lab, and Saturday Practice and Play 0-50 games
- new social media sites
- increased communication frequency with members

Next month, the board will begin budget planning for the new year. While we are energized by the surge in momentum, we will be reporting an operating loss again this year. We are taking steps to hold operating costs and aim to return to pre-COVID numbers for membership and games.

I want to acknowledge a cash gift from Ruthanne & Bob Frise. I paraphrase Ruthanne, 'We want to show our appreciation and help foster the great learning environment at the London Bridge Centre.'

On behalf of the board, we are grateful to our members and our many volunteers for their continued support.

*Angie Francolini*

**Virtual Club Games**  
**Wednesday, 9:15 Open**  
**Wednesday, 6:30 Open**

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



On May 20, before heading out to see the fireworks why not join the fun at the club?

If you're not usually available for Monday games why not give them a try?

**Our regular Monday games will be taking place at the usual times:**

- 9:15 a.m. 0-500
- 1 p.m. Open

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Lydia Lee for coming first in the Mini-McKenney competition, for those in the 50-100 master point range, for both Unit 249 and District 2. Individuals who earn the most total pigmented masterpoints during the year, in their respective masterpoint category, win their Mini-McKenney masterpoint race.

Unit 249 is comprised of all bridge clubs in southwestern Ontario and District 2 includes all bridge clubs in Ontario east of Kingston plus Manitoba bridge clubs. Except for Eastern Ontario, Lydia came first in her category for all of Ontario and Manitoba by earning a total of 116.47 master points in 2023.

Well done Lydia!



## SUNDAY SOCIAL, MAY 5 - WEAR AND WIN RED AND BLACK

Please put **Sunday, May 5** in your calendar. The game will start at 1 p.m. but come a few minutes early to chat and enjoy a light snack. This is a special ACBL pop-up game and offers red and black points (an equal mix of both colours). It is a rare opportunity to get coloured points at a club game. Remember that some C players always get points since the games are stratified.

In keeping with ACBL's theme, we ask that you **wear red and black**. A prize will be awarded to the player who best embodies this theme.

Veggies and dip will be our refreshments. Please bring your own plate.

If you are looking for a partner, add your name to the sheet at the club front desk.

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



- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| May 5     | Social Open Pairs Game – 50% Red, 50% Black (Popup)      |
| May 8     | Grass Roots – 200% Black (Virtual Club Game)             |
| May 6-10  | District 2 STaC  |
| May 13-18 | Club Championship (All F2F games)                        |
| May 15    | NABC Fundraiser – 200% Black (Virtual Club Game)         |
| May 22    | Barbara Seagram Event – Morning Seminar / Afternoon Game |
| May 25-26 | Cambridge Sectional Tournament                           |
| June 2    | Social and TEAM Game, Club Championship Points           |

## NEW RANK ACHIEVEMENTS

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



New Junior Master	Janet Clark
New Club Master	Mary Lou Greenwood
New Club Master	William Handler
New Club Master	Coral Lamport
New Regional Master	Ann Lapchinski

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



In our initiative to create a secondary source of income, a new ‘rental committee’ has been set up to oversee and organize the rental of our premises to outside groups. Thank you to Tom Jolliffe, Deb Ellison, Danielle Galbraith, Don Hambley, and Adam Witoslawski.

And this month, a shout-out to our Bridge Operations team at the heart of all our play. There are a multitude of activities taking place behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of all events. See our website for specific details, but huge thanks to Bruce Moor, Tom Jolliffe, Al Edwards, Sue Edwards, Alison Marr, Deb Ellison, and Kate Brooks.

Special appreciation goes to our present dedicated team of directors - Bruce Moor, Dwight Bender, Audrey Craig, Al Edwards, Tom Jolliffe, Henry Przysieszny, Virginia Przysieszny, Brian Rice and Peter Tuttle.



## Check it Out



We now have available in the library, a practice kit donated by Judy Stirling. A handy carrying case containing four bidding boxes and 18 boards with playing cards.

## Rookie Master Extravaganza!

On April 2, we participated in the Canada-wide Helen Shields Rookie-Master game in place of our regular 0-1500 Tuesday evening game.

We invited Rookies (< 100 MP) from our Tuesday Lab and Saturday Practice & Play to participate. We then recruited Masters (>100 MP), many of our Tuesday regular players, and open players. In total, 19 tables - 38 pairs participated!

It was a wonderful evening with many rookies playing their first sanctioned bridge game.

Our Monday and Friday morning games and Tuesday evening games have since welcomed many new players.

We plan to offer another Rookie-Master event this Fall.





## The Judy Stirling Volunteer Appreciation Event

This was our first named event, honoring Judy Stirling who led by example - sharing her talent, time, and treasure. More than 75 people participated. Many draw prizes were donated and distributed throughout the event. We shared a full tea and coffee service, delicious cake, and punch refreshments.



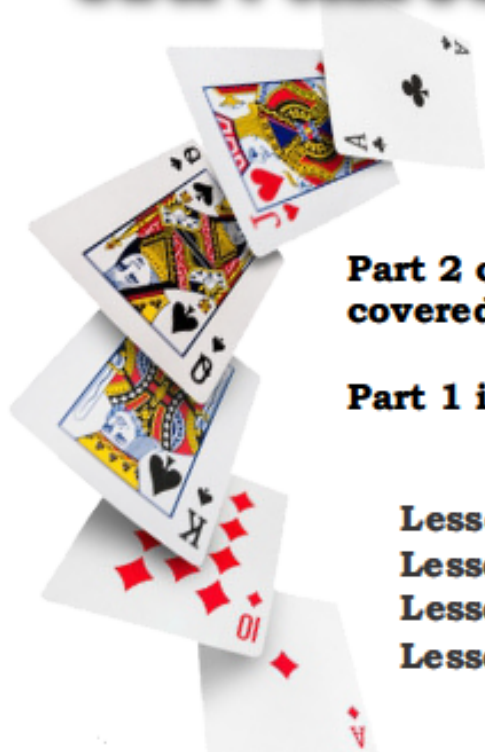
And, 30 pairs played bridge in an upgraded Club Championship Open game.

***All in recognition of our many volunteers ... thank you!***



EDUCATION

# Advancing Your Game Part 2



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

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

**Lesson 5:** Preempts & Strong 2 Club Openers

**Lesson 6:** Overcalls

**Lesson 7:** Doubles, Redoubles & More

**Lesson 8:** Competitive Auctions

## Thursday Mornings 9:30 - 12:00

Part 1: Four weeks already completed

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

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

**Course Instructor:** Mary Howe

**Course cost:** \$60 plus \$15 for the Student Notebook/Text

Register at the London Bridge Centre web page.

*Deadline for registration is May 1, 2024.*

## REMINDER - BARBARA SEAGRAM - May 22, 2024

Have you registered yet for Barbara Seagram's upcoming fifth visit to LBC? Thirty-five of the available seats are already taken!

Starting at 9:30 a.m., Barbara will present a seminar on the topics "**Taking Tricks with Tiny Cards**" and "**Hocus Pocus with the Trump Suit**". A light lunch will be served followed by an 18-board, ACBL-sanctioned open game, planned to start at 1:00. We expect to wrap up around 3:30 p.m.

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

ADVANCED REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED as capacity is limited. If spaces remain after May 12, the fees will be \$70 for the whole event, and \$55 for the seminar only. Registration form and further details are available [here](#).

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

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

A few more volunteers are needed to help with greeting participants and setting out food – please contact Al Edwards at [al.edwards@bell.net](mailto:al.edwards@bell.net) if you would be willing to help. Thank you!



# Bridge Basics 2

A beginner bridge course being taught at the London Bridge Centre.

**“Adding more pieces to the bridge puzzle”**



## Course Topics:

- June 6: **Preemptive Opening Bids**
- June 13: **Overcalls and Advances**
- June 20: **Takeout Doubles & Advances**
- June 27: **Competitive Auctions**

The detailed course outline can be found on the London Bridge Centre website.

This 4 week course is designed for players who have completed Bridge Basics 1.

It introduces bidding concepts designed to help partnerships get to their best contract while making it difficult for the opponents to find their best spot.

Play of the hand and good defence will be included in each lesson.

**Thursday Mornings 9:30 - 12:00**

**June 6, 13, 20 and 27.**

**Course Instructor:** Mary Howe

**Course cost:** \$60 (plus purchase of own Student Text)

Register at the London Bridge Centre web page.  
*Deadline for registration is May 30, 2024.*

## Taking Pride

We have a bridge club that we are all proud to call our home.

We have many teachers and volunteers that we are all proud to call our own. We asked Audrey Craig, one of our esteemed teachers, what she teaches about overcalls.

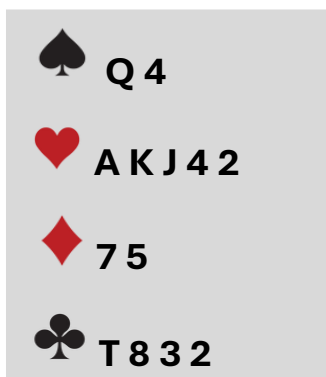
Her reply, ***“An overcall is a suit that you are proud of.”***



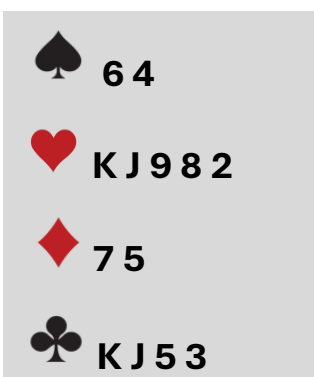
Audrey Craig

An overcall should be a **5 card suit or longer**, with at least two honors. It does not have to have opening values. (7-16 HCP). Partner now has valuable information, should he/she be on lead.

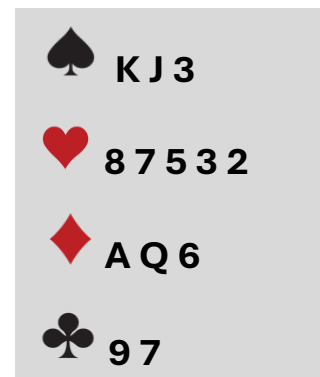
**Typical overcall** - really proud of this 5 card



**Sketchy overcall** - not so proud if this 5 card suit



**Nope!!!!** I don't want hearts led. Not one honor.



Now to the hand that brought about this conversation.

I hold 13 points and some hearts. My left-hand opponent opened one club. My partner overcalled one heart. I know she/he has a 5 card suit with two honors. What should I bid - because I'm really proud of my support for partner's suit?

Stay tuned. Responses to partner's overcalls will be our **next** article.

Yours in bridge,

Judi, Gord, Adele and Audrey

