

**BRIDGE ON THE EDGE, INC.**  
**A NOT FOR PROFIT BRIDGE CLUB OWNED BY ITS MEMBERS**  
**SERVING THE ST. JOHN'S DUPLICATE BRIDGE COMMUNITY**

**January 2018 Newsletter** (Revised)

**MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BRIAN**

BOTE is well into its first year since adopting a constitution and holding the first AGM. It is good that I had grey hair before taking on the president's role!

It has been a lot of fun but quite challenging at times. However, I can comfortably state that the Board has carried out the Club's business and policies capably and diligently on your behalf. The inaugural year of any organization is usually its most challenging, but I believe we have dealt with all issues fairly and have overcome any growing pains we've experienced.

The Club is thriving, not just from a participation point of view and markedly improved caliber of bridge, but also financially as can be seen from our financial statements.

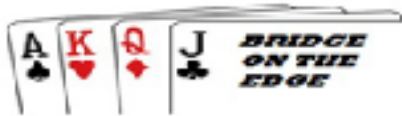
Our greatest challenge, I believe, is providing ample and comfortable space for our growing club. We are currently reaching a full capacity status regarding our playing area, and we need to keep this in the forefront while actively promoting our club to new players. If new players don't enjoy their surroundings, they may not return.

As President, my guiding principle has been keeping players informed, considering their views when addressing issues and Club activities, and having fun at the game we all love. To conclude, may you keep your cards close to your chest and always draw trumps.



BOTE Executive at the Christmas dinner. L-R Tim Summers, Secty, Janet Hannaford, Pramilla Paddock, and Mary Lou Martin, Directors, Heidi Janes, VP, and Brian Collins, President. Missing from photo, Roy Perry, Treasurer.

*Brian*



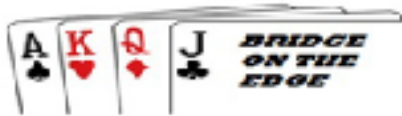
## ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MINUTES

Board Minutes are posted on the [BOTE](#) homepage under *Information* on the sidebar. Highlights of the November 2017 and January 2018 meetings are as follows:

- ♣ The first official financial report will cover from June 1, 2017, when the current Board was elected, to March 31, 2018. Future year-end financial reports will be for the fiscal year, April 1 to March 31, and will be prepared by May or June for members to review before the AGM.
- ♣ The Club will submit its first HST payment to CRA on January 31, 2018.
- ♣ Tuesday evening games will continue for \$5/game in an effort to improve participation rates.
- ♣ The Club Manager is no longer required to pay game fees. As a token of appreciation, Rahul was presented with a Christmas bonus of \$200. An official job description for the Club Manager's position was approved and is posted on the [website](#).
- ♣ Directors may approach Rahul for individual computer-related training sessions.
- ♣ Monthly Cashflow Reports are being posted in the members-only section of BOTE's Website.
- ♣ **Membership Fees.** It was agreed that a nominal membership fee of \$15 per year should be introduced. This will make it possible to keep the membership list up-to-date in terms of currently active members. Non-members would still have access to the booking page on the website. This is not intended to restrict non-members from playing at any game, with the possible exception of occasional members-only games. It is anticipated, however, that some perks such as name tags, free games on specified dates, or subsidization of Christmas dinners will be offered to members as encouragement to join. In addition, only members in good standing will be permitted to vote at Annual General Meetings or Special Meetings of the Club.  
A deadline of May 1, 2018, has been set for registration for all those who wish to be able to vote at the next AGM. A firmer list of benefits and a procedure for registering as a member and paying your \$15 will be announced in early February. It is not necessary to fill out a new registration form for anyone who has already done so. New arrivals at the club for classes or games will continue to need to complete and pass in registration forms for access to the booking functions of the website, whether or not they wish to become members.
- ♣ BOTE Financial Statements for the periods below have been prepared *by Joan FitzGerald* with much appreciation from the Board. These statements may be viewed by clicking the members-only Financial Information tab on the BOTE Website.

- ♣ September 1, 2016, to May 31, 2017 and

- ♣ June 1, 2017, to December 31, 2017



- ♣ The AGM is tentatively scheduled for May 31, 2018, at 10 am.
- ♣ National Volunteer Week (April 15-21, 2018) will be observed at the Club with recognition and thanks to our many volunteers.
- ♣ An Opera entitled “A Hand of Bridge” is being performed by MUN’s School of Music. To assist the cast, Brian Collins gave a workshop on how bridge is played and invited the cast to visit the Club to see a game in action.

## BOTE PSYCH BIDDING POLICY

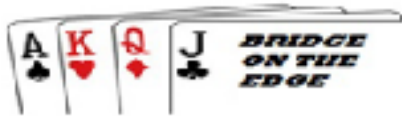
1. Psych bids are legal under ACBL laws and are permitted at the club level. However, the Club, as a regulating authority, has the right to restrict and penalize their usage more so than tournaments can.
2. All regular club games at BOTE will limit only one psych bid per player, per session. More than one is a violation and will result in a penalty. Games at BOTE such as ACBL-wide charity games or international fund games, Unit and STaC games will follow the ACBL policy allowing up to three psyche bids per player, per session.
3. Players who frequently psyche with the same partner will be deemed to be making systemic psych bids. This will be deemed to be illegal and will be banned from our club.
4. Players who use psych bids against C players at all will be given a procedural, unsportsman-like penalty against their score.

## STOP CARD TOSSED FROM BIDDING BOXES



In 2017, the ACBL Board of Directors voted to eliminate the Stop card for any sanctioned tournament that starts after January 1, 2018. In order to provide BOTE players a consistent experience at both tournaments and clubs, we have discarded the Stop cards from all bidding boxes. The onus is now on players to develop the good habit of pausing after their right-hand opponent has made a **skip bid**. A “**skip bid**” occurs when a player makes a bid that skips a level of bidding; for example, jump overcalls, double raises, and splinters. The player following a **skip bid** should pause about 10 seconds, sufficient to make a clear break in the tempo of the auction.

While pausing, players should give the appearance of studying their hand, even if they have a clear pass. Players should not exhibit lack of interest, for example, by keeping their hand folded or verbally counting off the seconds. Slowing down after jumps helps prevent the skip-bidder’s right-hand opponent from receiving unauthorized information via LHO’s tempo.



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Education Committee has been very busy as evidenced by the variety of bridge lessons at our Club. Roy, Janet, and Heidi meet regularly to discuss ideas, and they ensure all policies and programs under their mandate are posted on our Website. Members are encouraged to check the [Homepage](#) regularly to find out about classes, policies, teaching and mentoring opportunities, and other news from the Committee.

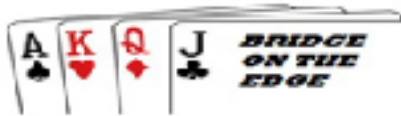
A **Teacher Meeting** was hosted by the Education Committee on January 23 with discussions around program issues and ideas, Learn Bridge in a Day classes, Newcomer classes, schedules, sequencing, and administrative matters. The Committee hopes to announce more educational opportunities in the near future.

**Bridge Lessons** on a variety of topics are scheduled for Winter/Spring 2018 including:

- ☑ ***Practice Makes Perfect*** (Emphasis on Common Conventions) by Gloria Stone and Janet Hannaford (Thursdays, 9:30-11 am)
- ☑ ***More Improved Bidding, Duplicate Decisions & Advanced Concepts*** by Tom Dale (Mondays, 9:30-11 am, January and March only)
- ☑ ***Convention Card Lessons*** by Anne Hughes (Tuesday, February 6 and 13, 9:30-11 am)
- ☑ ***Play of the Hand*** (for advanced and intermediate players) by Richard Lash (Tuesdays, 9:30-11 am, commencing April 3)

**Bridge From A to Z.** On Wednesday evening, January 24, 2018, the Education Committee, in conjunction with A.C. Hunter Library Management, presented a seminar at the Arts & Culture Centre on the merits of playing bridge, in an effort to promote our game to the public in general and patrons of the library in particular. The evening was a huge success, with avid, interactive discussion, a quintessential Power Point Slide Presentation, lively Q & A, and valuable contributions from some of our Club's members who had taken time out of their schedules to come along to assist the Committee. A live model, fully dressed in multicoloured bridge regalia got the evening off to a great start - thank you Maureen! The 30 attendees were then treated to a zesty information seminar that was organized and led by Heidi Janes. Janet Hannaford excelled in the logistical arrangements and contributed to the content. Roy Perry prepared the Power-Point slides, and all three members kept the discussion points topical with background information, personal anecdotes, and timely humour.

The Library staff, who had handled publicity and co-organized the event, were extremely pleased with the turnout, the quality of seminar, and the professionalism of the BOTE Committee, and they are very interested in doing follow-up presentations. The Education Committee was also quite satisfied that the information session met their goals as it certainly helped to



stimulate interest in the game of bridge overall and raised the profile of BOTE within the Library community and the city itself.

**The M2M Mentoring** program personifies the spirit of our member-owned Club. Due to the success of our Fall program, the Committee is delighted to offer M2M mentoring again this winter. This fall 11 of our more experienced players formed Mentoring Partnerships with less-experienced players at the Club. So far this Winter, 10 Mentors have stepped up to the plate to volunteer their time, some volunteering both terms. If anyone else would like to volunteer, kindly get in touch with Janet Hannaford, Mentoring Chair

The following is a **brief summary** of the program which was developed by the Education Committee and outlines which members qualify for the M2M program. Detailed parameters are found on the [BOTE Homepage](#).

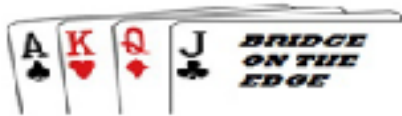
- ☑ Applicants must be BOTE members with fewer than 200 master points
- ☑ For new partnerships only
- ☑ Preference given to members who play regularly at the Club
- ☑ Applicants with 8+ competitive games (including 99ers) considered
- ☑ Once accepted, Mentees must explain to the Mentor their goals
- ☑ Mentors will guide Mentees on one or more specific goal(s) for each game and provide feedback on each game
- ☑ Pairings made only with the agreement of both parties
- ☑ Schedule to be determined by the pair and should include 3 games in 3 months
- ☑ Mentors should apply using the [Application Form](#) submitted to the Janet Hannaford, Mentoring Chair, rather than approach a mentor personally

## MATCHPOINT MILESTONES - 2017

During 2017, several members BOTE reached new Matchpoint Milestones. ***Congratulations*** to the following members!

- ★ *Emerald 5000+ points* - Randy Bennett
- ★ *Ruby 1500+ points* - Deirdre Davis and Pramila Paddock
- ★ *Silver 1000+ points* - Joan FitzGerald and Mike Buist
- ★ *Bronze 500+ points* - Beverly Moore, Judith McIntyre, and Michael Parmenter
- ★ *Life 300+ points* - Gloria Stone, Raye Lundrigan, Beverly Moore, and Gwenda Jablonski





## SHUFFLE BRIDGE GAME

BOTE is dedicated to improving mentoring within our Club, and so decided to provide an opportunity for more skilled players to be paired with less experienced players. So instead of an Open Game on January 11, the Club hosted a “Shuffle Bridge Game.” Members registered individually for the event rather than as pairs. The group was then divided in half at the median number of master points held by all who registered. Each pair was comprised of a player above the median and one below the median on a randomized basis. Members arrived early for the game to find out who their partner was and to complete convention cards before play began. This was a sanctioned game with master points awarded in the normal manner. It was an overwhelming success with great participation. This was a wonderful way to encourage newer players to step up their play and get to know some of the seasoned players. Keep your eye open for another “Shuffle Pairs Game” in the coming months.



## DIRECTOR PLEASE

The two most dreaded words by novice bridge players is “**Director please.**” If spoken in an aggressive manner, it may feel like the Enforcer is in town. This is NOT the way to react to these two words. In fact, the Director is *Everyone’s Friend*.

Bridge on the Edge wants all players to enjoy their games. Because our games are sanctioned by ACBL, the Club abides by their rules. The Director is responsible for handling all law and rule issues, as well as running a smooth and pleasant game. Players should never feel frightened or embarrassed to call for the Director, nor should they attempt to make their own rulings. This is the protocol when calling the Director:

- a. When an irregularity occurs, call the Director politely and hold up a hand for a visual guide.
- b. If you aren’t sure if an irregularity has occurred, call the Director.
- c. The dummy may call the Director, but only after another player has called attention to an irregularity or after play ceases. Remember that every player has an obligation to prevent irregularities.
- d. When the Director arrives, the person who called should explain why the Director was called.





**Thank You** to **Roy Perry, Heidi Janes, and Janet Hannaford**, and the following **Teachers and Volunteer Mentors** for giving us many opportunities to grow our game.

Deirdre Davis  
Tom Dale  
Marilyn Bennett  
Randy Bennett  
Brian Collin

Janet Hannaford  
Gloria Stone  
Anne Hughes  
Richard Lash  
Mary Lou Martin

John Gould  
Judith McIntyre  
Janet Parsons  
Joan FitzGerald

Joan LeDrew  
Bruce Watson  
Raye Lundrigan

## CONTEST WINNER

In October's Newsletter, we had a contest for the best caption for the picture posted on the right. The winner was Heidi Janes who received a free game for her creative caption.

