



Our Face to Face Clubs need help!!

All our Face to Face clubs are competing unfairly with ACBL online clubs and competitions through BBO. There is a place for online bridge through the ACBL but not at the expense of the Face to Face clubs. The ACBL is not doing enough to help our Face to Face clubs!

The Vancouver Bridge Centre may have to fold and the Peace arch Tuesday Club may also have to fold if we do not find a way to support all our Face to Face clubs. Fortunately Duplicate Lite has a reserve fund and we are able to carry on for at least another 2 years at a loss.

The problem is threefold:

1. Face to face clubs like ours and especially the VBC are being penalized because our members are going to other online clubs to play online rather than play live at our clubs. Why? The BBO/ACBL club games are cheaper and more convenient. Consequently, all our Face to Face clubs are operating at a loss. The ACBL needs to increase the fees online, decrease the Masterpoints online, and increase the Masterpoints for Face to face clubs award; and, in addition, invest more of the profits for Face to Face clubs to help with lessons advertising and reducing operating costs. Our Face to face clubs are being penalized for opening in person.

2. The ACBL is committed to BBO and they are not spending enough of the extra profits (an additional 3 million each year for the past 2 years) on helping the clubs. Here is a video of the presentation at the Penticton Regional tournament last month that I sent to the ACBL to lobby for more help.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/tfvaqmgapvde65ly5xiy/h?dl=0&rkey=rom0sm2xwkc518s162uek2gj0>

3. We are still dealing with the fallout from COVID

Duplicate Lite worked with the unit board to operate the Let's Play Bridge program in the Spring. The ACBL offered the previous standard help of 50% for advertising costs provided their logo was front and centre (which cost more for the ad) and NOTHING else. The program cost the unit board approximately \$2300. The costs would have been tripple this amount but we had several volunteers donating their time and the clubs offsetting the costs.

The program had some success but not enough to sustain us.

What can you do?

1. Come play at Face to Face clubs and encourage your friends also. Perhaps think of making a phone call to someone you have not seen and see how they are doing as well as encourage them to come play.

2. Write a letter to the ACBL and express your concerns for our clubs. Or do a group letter with your partners and friends.

Letter to our representative Tim White Region13Director@acbl.org

Letter to the editor Paul Linxwiler editor@acbl.org

3. We will be offering new programs for beginning and social players and you could volunteer to help.

Elgin Hall Needs a New Roof

The city has informed us that there will be a new roof starting in a couple of weeks. We are working with the city to reduce the noise during our games but we cannot guarantee that there will be NO noise annoyance while the roof is being replaced. We will let you know when the work will start. Our plans are to stay open during the roof replacement and ask for your patience and understanding.

5th Chair Program

To encourage our new players to continue to play at our club, the 5Th chair program has started. At each table of beginners on Wednesday, one of our players is assigned to each table to help the beginners with any questions. Please email Linda Palm , palmlinda00@gmail.com, if you or you and your partner could help for 2 hours 10:15 -12:15 am on a Wednesday.

New Programs starting Mid August through the Fall.

We are planning new programs that include the list below.

Please let us know if there are any topics that you would like in September. Could be conventions like Lebensohl, Signally with your partner, 2 over 1 etc.

Annual General Meeting for our Society Status

There will be a meeting Thursday, July 14 directly after the game to elect new officers and dispense with all business related to being a society. Everyone is welcome.