

May 28th 2019 BOTE Education Report

Many thanks to *Alice Collins* and *Marilyn Walbourne*, fellow committee members, and the Board who fully supported our work.

Milton Berle says: A committee is a group that keeps minutes and loses hours. - That does not apply to us this year.

We set our goals and worked tirelessly to make things happen.

Why is having an education program important?

Lifelong Learning
Knowledge and Skills Autonomy
Personal Enrichment and Development
Community Building - Meet Potential Partners with Shared Interests
Game Improvement

The first priority for this past year's Education committee was trying to get a group of new players to the club.

- We decided that Monday night would be a good time for lessons. It might appeal to those working or are otherwise busy on mornings and cannot attend daytime lessons.
- We applied for a grant for advertising and we received 50% back up to a limit of \$500 for \$1000 spent.
- We advertised through The Telegram in print and online. It worked and we got 48 coming for the lessons back in September, 2018.

The real job is getting those people to play at the club level. That will be the task placed on the new board as they move forward.

Courses

We have initiated a vast number of classes for people of all abilities. Our hope was to give members and others the opportunity to advance their knowledge and skills and by extension improve the overall game for our club.

May 2018 -May 2019

Under this current board, we offered to our membership and others a total of **18 courses**. Only one course was cancelled due to lack of numbers.

For the purposes of this report, we included courses after the election May 2018 up to and including courses offered up to today, May 28, 2019. Approximate numbers tending to be under not over the average.

Date	Course Name	#	Duration
June 2018	Beyond Beginner Plus	65+	2 weeks
	Lunch and Learn	20+	2 weeks
July 2018	Supervised Play	13+	3 weeks
September 2018	Beginners 1	48	7 weeks
	Supervised Play	20	3 weeks
October	Slam Bidding	40	3 weeks (1 in July)
Nov.-Dec. 2018	Beginners 2	16	7 weeks
	Encyclopedia of No Trump	20	3 classes
January 2019	Supervised Play	22+	3 classes
	Complimentary Game for Beginners	27	1 game
	Convention Card	Cancelled	
Late Jan-Feb 2019	Play of the Hand	21+	5 classes
	Supervised Play	21	4 classes
	Bridge Quiz	11	2 classes
Late Feb-March	Bid and Play	10	5 classes
Late March-April	Jacoby 2NT and Bergen	16+	4 classes
April-May-June	3-4 Teacher Supervised Play	47+	5 classes (1 in June)
	Bridge Refresher	13+	3 weeks (3 in June)
June - July	Big Hands		2 classes
	Carding		3 classes
	Loser Trick Count		1 class
	Slam 4 th Class		1 class
	Bid and Play		1 class

Amazing stats show the great effort and resources teachers, hand in hand with the committee, have contributed to the offerings this past year.

18 Courses during the mandate of the current Board and 5 more into the Summer.

23 courses. It has been a successful year.

64 classes for a total of 126 hours+(minimum)

Total participants – 1710

We thank the teachers: Anne, Brian C., Cecily, Deirdre, Gloria, Janet H, Joan F, Marilyn B, Randy, Richard, Roy, Tom for their hard work and dedication in bringing the level of bridge to a much higher standard.

NB: June 4th ***Four Teacher Supervised Play*** (47+) and June 3rd, 10th, 17th ***Bridge Refresher*** will go to the next Board's report as well as the set of four courses for June and July.

Alternate Initiatives

Tournament Mini Lesson

We offered a Tournament Mini Lesson with Roy Perry, Richard Lash, Janet Parsons, and Tom Dale. This was in preparation for many who were going to The Can-At in Halifax last July, 2018.

IMPS Mini Lesson

There was much discussion about Imps last winter. We advertised for member to present a short 1-1 1/2 hour workshop for members. Our intention was to clarify for our members how the game was scored and how bidding is affected. We were disappointed when we didn't receive any applications. Maybe next year.

Complimentary Game for Beginners – Bid and Play

Alice, Marilyn and I planned this as an opportunity for our beginners class of September 2018 to have a free practice session along with lots of tea buns, Christmas Cake and other goodies. 16-20 boards were constructed by Alice, Gloria and Janet with adherence to topics covered by beginners in 14 weeks of lessons. Anne Hughes and Sandra Tobin joined us in helping the group with the bidding, play of the hand, and defense. We each took a turn playing with the three-person table to round out the experience for all who attended.

Mentoring

Started in September 2017

29 members have availed of the guidance of **16 mentors**

This past year, the club supported **11 M2M** partnerships

We received wide support from those who participated in this venture. At the time of its creation, we were supporting players with limited experience in the competitive section and saw that mentoring was a way to give newer players confidence. It is a known fact that the level of play has improved substantially and the need for mentors is not as critical as it was in our fledgling year.

We had much discussion at the board level about the free game for the mentor.

One point that came to light was that the broader membership was paying for the mentors' games and given that this Board was committed to a fiscal arrangement whereby benefits should apply to the general membership, we will not offer a free game to mentors. \$870 (Value of mentors' free games) divided by 5 = 174 \$5.00 Games. That is 3 more sessions of \$5 games for the general membership.

Mentoring could certainly continue under a different model.

We recommend the new Board/Education Committee apply to the ACBL for a return on fees paid by the mentors. As long as mentors are current ACBL members, the ACBL will refund 50% of the mentor's playing fee, minus \$.50 handling fee. The Education Committee, in hand with the manager, would send the application once per term or per year to the ACBL for the refund.

This year's mentors are: *Anne Hughes, Brian Collins, Bruce Watson, Deirdre Davis, Gloria Stone, Marilyn Bennett, Randy Bennett, Richard Lash.*

This year's mentees are: *Barb Young, Glen Myers, Brenda Conway, Gary Burden, Heidi Janes, Jacinta Wall, Judith Chubbs, Judy Maccallum, Lorraine Moores, Odell Codner, Pauline Mackey.*

Any coupons given to mentees will be honoured when they play their remaining games (4 games outstanding) Mentor/Mentee list on last page.

Options for Mentoring

- Continue with the current model M2M but subsidized by the ACBL
- Group mentoring
- Shuffle Pairs and Teams, (original concept of Tom Dale)
- Prior M2M partnerships could elect to have an occasional game to further the
- Advancement of the mentee

Better minds than ours can pursue the choices to be explored. A new committee will give vigour in rethinking mentoring in the club.

Communications

We depend on **Judy Crewe** to get word out to the teachers for proposals and to members about educational opportunities. Judy carried the lion's share of registering and notifying all the Beginners of 2018 up to about a month ago. As well, Judy managed the waiting list for popular courses. She is a valuable asset and we wanted to show our respect and appreciation. To reduce her workload, we requested that members take ownership of their bookings (both making and cancelling). We further ask that teachers follow the channel of communication the next board chooses- be that of the Education Chair, Secretary of the Board, or other.

Welcome Regina and June to this vital arm of the club.

We recommend that any new class of beginners start with a short review on the use of the BOTE website.

Changes

We have made some changes. They are online under Information- BOTE Operations Compendium of Policies, Decisions, Practices.

- Paid BOTE members have three days to register for classes prior to others
- No wait list
- Participant/Teacher Ratio
- Pay of teachers
- No Top ups

EDUCATION COMMITTEE POLICIES:

The pupil/teacher ratio for each session:

- 1) Minimum: 8 participants Rationale: This is the break-even point for Bridge on the Edge. Baseline for payment for instructors is \$75.00.
- 2) For classes with fewer than 8 participants, the teachers may cancel a class or take the money collected at the class with no top up. 7 participants =\$70. No top up. 6 participants= \$60. No top up. And so on.
- 3) The maximum for all other lessons will be 32/class/teacher. Rationale: Based on feedback on participant satisfaction.
- 4) Multiple teacher classes will not exceed 40 participants and three teachers. One of those teachers will be the lead teacher.
- 5) For the purpose of compensation, the \$75.00 minimum will be guaranteed to one teacher only in any class of 8 or more participants and all monies will be evenly distributed on a 60% for the teacher and 40% for the club split.
- 6) When education sessions are advertised on our web site, BOTE paid up members have three days to register prior to access being opened for other registrations.
- 7) Due to practical administrative reasons, the practice of keeping wait lists for classes will be discontinued. Members are encouraged to keep watching for spaces that become available in heavily subscribed classes.
- 8) Members are encouraged to do their own bookings online. Only in exceptional circumstances should the Communications Director have to register or de-register any participant – member or non-member.

The Future

The committee recommends that Teachers of any Beginners Class follow *Audrey Grant Basics 1* and *2*. (This is purely for reasons of continuity when there may be two or more teachers involved in the first two -three sets of classes. 14-18 weeks)

The current Education Committee recommend that the new Board discuss whether participants in a class should each have a partner. Courses have wide berths and delivery options. This is a difficult dilemma as we clearly promote lifelong learning. What are our obligations to all learners? What remedies to try? What controls to put in place?

The committee recommends that popular classes be repeated.

Possibilities

ACBL has books and offers grants of \$350 US to clubs if they teach groups that fall under 3 categories:

Life Long Learners -50+ College Students School Students

* A permanent morning slot for Practice Play Game (Monday) supervised by teachers of the club on a rotating basis. Keeping a sound teacher/participant ratio 12-16 prepared boards. Pairs only-game

A Newcomers game for participants with 20 points or less

Members forming a group of 12 + to have a tailored class on a topic of their choosing
(contracted by the Education Committee)

Summer Bridge Camps in house or elsewhere

Finally, we are humbly in debt to all of you for supporting the activities of the Education Committee, attending classes in such numbers and sharing in our pride of the club's success.

Best wishes to the incoming Board and their endeavours in the year ahead.

Thank-you,

Janet Hannaford
Alice Collins
Marilyn Walbourne

May 28th, 2019