



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

June 2017 Newsletter

FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The First AGM for Bridge on the Edge Inc. took place at our new premises, Swiler's Club, on May 29, 2017 (see the Minutes on the BOTE Website). The highlight of the meeting was the election of our Administrative Board.

President, Brian Collins

Vice President, Heidi Janes

Treasurer, Roy Perry

Secretary, Tim Summers

Directors at Large: Pramilla Paddock, Mary Lou Martin, and Janet Hannaford



Omitted from the Minutes were special thanks from Heidi Janes, Volunteer Coordinator, "to Joy Hoskins for coordinating the mentors; to the Premises Committee chaired by Anne Hughes for the endless hours they put in finding us a new home, and to Gloria Stone for succeeding Joy as mentor coordinator." Without the support of so many volunteers, our Club would not function as well as it does.

Congratulations to our new Board, and "Thank You" for stepping up to the challenge.

HAPPY 150th BIRTHDAY CANADA



Bridge on the Edge will be celebrating Canada's 150th birthday, on Tuesday, June 27, by charging a \$5 table fee. Come out for a game, bring your friends, and let's celebrate what it means to be Canadian.





ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MINUTES

Minutes of the June 6 Board Meeting are posted on the BOTE website under [Information](#) on the sidebar. Highlights of the meeting are:

- ♣ Table fees will be \$10 for all players effective immediately. The Board hoped that by standardizing fees and increasing education, the use of coins could be eliminated, thereby saving time making deposits and eliminating the coin handling bank fee. Free birthday games will be eliminated.
- ♣ Starting July 1, the Club is required to collect and remit 15% HST on game fees. The Club will absorb the added cost leaving table fees at \$10. This will mean a significant reduction in revenue, so the decision will be reviewed as time goes on.
- ♣ The position of Club Recorder has been set up to receive members' complaints covered by the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations. [Roy Perry](#) is currently holding this position on an interim basis.
- ♣ Score corrections must be made to the [Club Manager](#) within 24 hours of the end of a game, except for Thursday games, where the request can be delayed until the morning of the following Monday.
- ♣ Refresher/upgrade training for Directors will be held in the fall.
- ♣ Directors of evening games will now be paid \$50 less the table fee if they are registered to play.
- ♣ The Education Committee will be formed under the leadership of Janet Hannaford.
- ♣ The Social Committee will be formed under the leadership of Pramila Paddock and Mary Lou Martin.

COMMUNICATIONS

Club members may send their questions, concerns, or suggestions to the Club through the Manager or any Board member. Newsletter items can be submitted to the editor, Shirley Ryan.

Brian Collins, president@bridgeontheedge.ca

Heidi Janes, vp@bridgeontheedge.ca

Tim Summers, info@bridgeontheedge.ca

Roy Perry, treasurer@bridgeontheedge.ca

Janet Hannaford, Mary Lou Martin, Pramila Paddock, atlarge@bridgeontheedge.ca

Rahul Chandra, manager@bridgeontheedge.ca

Shirley Ryan, newsletter@bridgeontheedge.ca.



THE LONGEST DAY

The Longest Day is a successful fundraising partnership between ACBL and the Alzheimer Association in the U.S. (or the Alzheimer Society in Canada). The Longest Day is scheduled throughout North America for Wednesday, June 21, this year. Since this is not a regular bridge day for the Club, it was decided to run a BOTE fundraising event for NL Alzheimer Society in lieu of the Longest Day. The BOTE Alzheimer Fundraising Committee have planned a variety of events during the week of June 19, including a silent auction, cookie and tea/coffee sale, donations, and tickets to Play Bridge With the Stars. We know that the BOTE membership will pull together as a team again this year to make this worthwhile fundraising initiative a success. Thanks to Laura Flynn, Kevin Flynn, Brenda Conway, and Maura Beam for taking on this project.

BOOKING CHANGES

To avoid problems at game time which can result in late starts and sit outs, please confirm with your partner on game day and, if necessary, cancel on a timely basis. If you must make a last minute cancellation, please send an email to the Club Manager (manager@bridgeontheedge.ca) or notify someone who is attending the game to ensure that your change is known about. It also makes directors' jobs much easier if everyone books ahead and does so before 11 AM on the day of the game. Thank you all for your assistance in this.

99ers GAME

The Thursday 99ers Game is a slightly lower level of competition for players with 0-99 master points. The pace is slightly slower, usually 20-21 boards instead of 24-27 boards. For the first few weeks, the Club was averaging 5 tables, which is very encouraging. At the request of some of the newcomers, Deirdre Davis has posted "[Bridge Etiquette Protocol](#)" on our website, providing valuable information to beginners of duplicate bridge and a gentle reminder to those who have been playing for a longer time. She has also offered to give a presentation on this subject at 12:30 on Tuesday, June 27, at the Club. In addition, Anne Hughes has kindly offered to answer any question newcomers may have about their experience at the competitive table. Please speak to Anne at the Club or send your questions by email to [Anne Hughes](#).



NEW BEGINNERS COURSE

Marilyn Bennett has offered to put on a course for beginning bridge players this summer at our Club starting Thursday, July 6, at 9:30 am. Classes will cost \$10 and can be booked on the BOTE website like other classes and games. Booking is not required, however and anyone wanting to attend a class is welcome to just show up. Please let your friends and relatives know about this new course which we hope will bring new members into our Club.

CHARITY/SPECIAL GAMES

For members who may not be aware, the last week of each month are charity games where part of the game fees go to charities. For the month of June, our charity games are being held the week of June 19, and our charity is the NL Alzheimer Society (See The Longest Day).

During the summer months each year, two weeks are North American Pairs games, during which red points can be earned and players have an opportunity to qualify for special bridge events if they wish to travel. Because of the charity games scheduled for June 19, we will have only one week in June for the North American Pairs Games and two weeks in July and August. These "special" games are scheduled for the weeks starting Jun 26, Jul 10, Jul 17, Aug 7, and Aug 21.

AUDREY GRANT WORKSHOPS

Audrey Grant presented workshops at our Club on May 12-13. Eleven students attended Bridge for Absolute Beginners, 40 attended the Multi-Level Course on Entries and five BOTE members did the Teacher Training, bringing three new teachers to our ranks. All participants were delighted with this opportunity to learn from such an esteemed bridge author and teacher. The teacher group was filmed for an upcoming promotion by the Canadian Bridge Federation, one of the workshop sponsors. The Audrey Grant Workshops were part of Audrey's pro-bono as a "give back" to the Canadian bridge community. Thanks to Joan FitzGerald and June Hynes for coordinating this event.



BRIDGE 4 YOUTH

Thank you to Virginia Park Elementary Principal, Chris Young and BOTE Inc who supported Joan FitzGerald as she organized and taught Bridge 4 Youth to 19 Grade 5 and 6 students at Virginia Park Elementary from January 1st to March 31, 2017. This program was free for students and the school – paid for by Bill Gates and Warren Buffett.

The students had 18 hours of teaching. Each student got a free textbook and a backpack as well as free lessons. The students used bidding boxes and learned duplicate scoring.

March 29th there was an end of class tournament complete with duplicate scoring on bridgemates (thanks to BOTE Inc) and masterpoints. The winners North/South and East/West got a trophy and everyone got a Bridge 4 Youth T-shirt and a certificate. We also had treats for them.

Joan donated 3 bridge tables to the school so the students could continue with their own bridge club after the lessons ended – which some of them did – with help from some of the volunteers listed below.

A special thank you to volunteers Eva Down, Anne Hughes, Wanda Lundrigan, Pauline Mackey, Shirley Ryan, Ursula Stamp, Brenda Turner, and Marilyn Walbourne who helped out with the program.

A special thank you also to Odell Codner, Regina Clarke, Thomas Dale, Jim Fitz, Susan Follett, Sid Greeley, Anne Hughes, Richard Lash, Joan Ledrew, Marylou Leeman, Gloria Stone, Ursula Stamp, and Lorne Warren who showed up March 22nd and played with 11 youth bridge students.





IMPROVING SLOW PLAY

Slow play which holds up the next table or the pair following is not fair to the other players. Bidding and playing within the time limits are good habits which will make us better bridge players. Here are some ways to speed up play.

- ♣ Arrive 15 minutes early; be at your table ready to play 10 minutes early.
- ♣ Have the correct Table fee ready.
- ♣ Plan bathroom breaks as dummy.
- ♣ Think while others are thinking, so that we efficiently use the table's time. For example, during the bidding, you know you will be lead; plan your lead while opponents are thinking/bidding.
- ♣ When on lead, do so before putting bidding cards away and recording contract. (Gentle reminders help.)
- ♣ As dummy, put your hand down before putting bidding cards away and recording the contract. (Gentle reminders help.)
- ♣ On your turn to play or bid, you should be thinking or playing. Other tasks should be done while the dummy is being put down.
- ♣ Keep reasonable speed to bidding/playing (7.5 min. per board); do not keep opponents waiting.
- ♣ Do not ask what a bid means unless you are intending to bid.
- ♣ Do not discuss (or even think about) the previous board, even while pulling out and sorting your new hand. Discussing the previous board reduces focus, slows down decisions and actions, and distracts your partner and opponents. It slows down everyone at the table.
- ♣ As declarer, claim when you can see that you will definitely win all the remaining tricks. First make a statement as to how you will play the rest of the hand, including a reference to how you will handle any trumps held by the defenders.
- ♣ As defender, claim (or concede) if it's totally obvious that your side will win (or lose) the last two or three tricks.
- ♣ Flip the board as quickly as possible after the hand.
- ♣ Move promptly when End of Round is called.
- ♣ If you are still playing when the next round is called, finish playing the trick then stop. Pass the played boards to the next table before you restart play.
- ♣ Play slowly less often. Gently nudge your partner if s/he is taking too long.
- ♣ Alert the Director if a pair or table keeps holding you up.