



Hello Josee ,

It is so good to be back although I had to check outside my window this morning to see where I was writing from! I have had a summer of back and forth between the city and the cottage to meet commitments in both places. It is all good overall but the 3 hour drive each way (sometimes in the span of 36 hours) is starting to take its toll on my body and mental health. However, when I allow myself to stop, look around and be grateful for all I have, everything is well with the world. High on my gratitude list is all of you my readership which keeps on growing. I so appreciate your support!

During Covid, it felt like we had been sent a message from the universe to slow down, and live in the moment. We couldn't go anywhere so our "places to be, things to do" list was almost non-existent. But how quickly we forget !

Let's fast forward to Summer 2023 - wildfires in my country and most recently deadly ones in Maui, oppressive heat in Texas and other states (as of 3 days ago, Austin, Texas had seen highs in the triple digits for 35 consecutive days with no cooling in sight), and there is more. What happens when it is all so hot? You got it, we must slow down! What happens when we slow down? We give ourselves a chance to actually observe what is in front of us and appreciate it.

How does that relate to bridge ? Think about that when you play a hand. Treasure your partner, appreciate the cards in front of you; think how they can help you make your contract or defeat the opponents. Pretty profound stuff isn't it :)

Speaking of this - a book recommendation from my summer bookclub. The Yamas & Niyamas - Exploring Yoga's Ethical Practice by Deborah Adele. I have been listening to the audiobook. It is beautifully read, and I am finding it most helpful with dealing with the challenges of this summer.

Oh.....here I go again digressing from Bridge which is why you subscribed to this newsletter! Let's dive in !

Before we look at all the amazing bridge opportunities offered to you in person and online, let's pause a moment to remember Eric Kokish whom we lost on June 10th. There is a

beautiful obituary in the August ACBL bulletin, and Luis has posted below the one published in the Globe and Mail (Canada's national newspaper). I had the honour of meeting Mr. Kokish back in 2013 in Reno. My partner Jill and I had gone to the Reno NABC. I am a huge bridge groupie. I have been known to "chase" the top world players for a picture or an autograph. Don't snicker! Anyhow, I spotted Mr Kokish across the room and grabbed Jill. I ran over to him, and said "Mr. Kokish, we are Canadians, brand new Life Masters , and today we used your Kokish Relay ". He beamed a huge smile, chuckled a little, and said "So did it work?" then I asked for a picture, and he graciously obliged. What a gentleman! He will be so missed.

What follows is all things bridge. yes I know FINALLY!

My lessons - Note that I have now started a waiting list for the October 17 Bid and Play session. Please do not wait any longer if you are entertaining the idea of joining so that you can be added to the waiting list! I suspect some spots will open up but it's first come, first serve! If you are thinking of signing up for **Two Over One** on November 16th, that is another one that is going fast! I hate to instill this sense of urgency (wasn't I just writing about slowing things down) but I don't want you to miss out on anything.

Next - Where and when to play. In person, if you are in the early stages of duplicate play, look at Cyndy's two games below. Those are such a great introduction to duplicate play! I highly recommend them. Cyndy took over my gentle bridge game in March and I have been so grateful to her for her enthusiasm and how much she cares about her players.

You will also find the list of in person games in and around Toronto.

For online games, give some thought to playing in the Muskoka Bridge Club. Details Below. When Covid hit, I merged my Bigwin Bridge Club with two local bridge clubs - Huntsville and Bracebridge. We have been going on strong for 3 full years, with 2 games a week - Monday and Tuesday night. Can't beat the price! The ACBL has removed any restrictions as to whom can play where (no more visitors policy), so jump in! I would love to see you support this really nice game, and perhaps play against you one of these evenings.

What to do when you are not playing Bridge? Then you can hone your defence skills by purchasing Barbara Seagram's latest book - The Magic of Defense! It is a pure gem!

Finally, have you purchased your 2024 daytimer, and blocked off July 18-28? I have already narrowed down the special gift that all of you between 0 and 750 MP will be receiving when

you attend. Plus there will be door prizes, just for the fun of it!

Can you help? An hour here and there, see below and reach out to Glenna. If you have fewer than 750MP, tell Glenna you are “mine” 😊

Whew.....hope you took speed reading in school. I am less than three weeks away from departure for my trip hiking Hadrian's Wall. I have some jitters about not being trained enough but with the support of my hiking buddies, I know it will be an unforgettable experience. I will be back on September 18th so best to reach out to me before Labour Day to make sure that I get to your email. Enjoy the last few weeks of summer!

Josée

MOURNING THE LOSS OF ERIC KOKISH

Eric Kokish was a world-class bridge player who took home medals at four World Bridge Championships, won two North American titles and went on to become a top coach in the world of elite competitive bridge. Mr. Kokish, who died on June 10 at the age of 76, was also a prolific writer of books and articles about the cerebral game.



“He was the Leonardo da Vinci of bridge. He was a master of every part of the game, from playing to writing,” his friend and fellow bridge enthusiast John Carruthers said. “In my opinion he was the best bridge coach in the world.”

Eric Kokish was born in Montreal on May 19, 1947, and spent his early years in the St. Urbain Street area made famous in Mordecai Richler's novels. His father, Hugo Kokish, was a Holocaust survivor, born in Vienna. He escaped to Britain just before the war and was held in a camp on the Isle of Man before being sent to Canada. He had been a baker in the internment camp and for a time operated a bakery in the inner suburb of Montreal West. Mr. Kokish's mother, Lucy (née Feinstein), had escaped from Eastern Europe with her family just before the war and they settled in Montreal, where she met her future husband.

The Kokish family moved to Montreal's Notre-Dame-de-Grâce district. Eric taught himself how to play bridge reading a book on a train trip from New York to Montreal, he later said. He went to Monkland High School.

“We started playing bridge in high school,” his wife, Beverly Kraft, said. “We were in the same class for four years.” Eric became president of their high-school bridge club.

The pair went on to McGill University and they both played bridge at the McGill Bridge Club, on Sherbrooke Street. Mr. Kokish planned to be an architect, he said, but he switched from science to arts when bridge got in the way. In his first year at McGill he met Joey Silver.

“I was his first serious partner back in the late 1960s,” said Mr. Silver, who was a few years older. “You could see that Eric had talent. He was very bright and personable. We were quite successful; we played and won

international tournaments. We actually won the North American tournament together in 1974, the Vanderbilt.”

Winning a tournament at that level marked Mr. Kokish as a serious international bridge star.

“We were the youngest team ever to win the event,” Mr. Kokish said in an interview with the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) in 2012. “And we did it in Vancouver, in Canada, so it was sort of a special moment.” He said many years later that one crucial hand in that game was his favourite in all his years of playing and coaching bridge.

Mr. Kokish had studied law at McGill, but didn’t take the bar exams. Even in law school he was playing bridge for money. For a while he ran a bridge club, which is a small business, and worked for several years as a research analyst for a British mining company at its office in Montreal.

“I knew nothing about mining. I got the job only because the guy who hired me was interested in learning how to play bridge,” Mr. Kokish said in the ACBL interview. “My boss and I had a wager whether he would learn how to play bridge before I mastered the mining business and I think he lost.”

Mr. Kokish went on to partner with Peter Nagy, in what he described as his best run ever, from the late 1970s to the early 80s. They won silver at the 1978 World Open Pairs and bronze at the Rosenblum Cup in 1982. (Mr. Kokish won bronze again at the Rosenblum Cup in 1990 with a different partner.)

One of his first coaching jobs was with the Brazilian international team in the mid-1980s. Mr. Kokish and his partner had come second to the Brazilians in an international championship, and they were impressed by his play. He worked training the team in Brazil. It was not easy. He recalled that the Brazilian players, though successful, would often yell at their partners if they thought they had made a mistake in bidding or play.

In the simplest terms, bridge is a card game where two partners play against another pair. In tournament play the team that runs up the highest score wins. Each player starts with 13 cards and there are 635 billion possible hands. The hands are almost always different but players learn to see patterns. Partners bid for how many tricks they will take, using a strict bidding code. It helps to be good at mental math.

Though he excelled as a player, Mr. Kokish spent most of the past two decades as a coach for the best bridge teams in the world.

In 1995, Mr. Kokish, Joey Silver and the rest of the Canadian team came second in the Bermuda Bowl, the most prestigious tournament in the world of bridge, losing to the Nickell Team, led by Frank (Nick) Nickell, who runs a Wall Street private equity firm when he isn’t playing bridge.

Soon afterward Mr. Nickell hired Mr. Kokish as his team’s coach. Mr. Nickell paid his players and his coach well and Mr. Kokish travelled with the team wherever they played.

“Eric’s patience and coaching helped make our system better,” said Mr. Nickell in a telephone interview from Maine. “Eric was very good at asking ‘How would you deal with that.’ He was the team’s best cheerleader and coach for 25 years.”

Mr. Kokish also coached other international teams, including those in the Netherlands and Indonesia. The Indonesian experience did not end well.

Soon after the Kokish family moved to Indonesia in 1998, riots broke out, a thousand people were killed in civic unrest.

“We took our son with us when we moved to Indonesia for a while to train their teams and he was just turning 10,” Ms. Kraft recalled. “They had set us up in this big house where we trained the bridge players every day and I was there maybe eight weeks and Eric and Matthew were there another two months or so. I was never happier than to see two people arrive back here. It was really scary.”

Mr. Kokish returned to the competitive bridge table in 2017, playing with Fred Gitelman, a bridge legend and entrepreneur who started Bridge Base Online, the International standard for online bridge play.

“After not having played seriously for about 17 years, he and Fred played the Yei Brothers Cup in China,” Mr. Silver said. “Every year it’s a \$50,000 tournament, huge prizes and it attracts all the best players in the world. All the first-class teams. They won it. That’s how great a player Eric was. He was a player who just didn’t make mistakes. When a great play was called for he would make it.”

As well as coaching and playing, Mr. Kokish wrote books on bridge, newspaper columns and advice in a bridge magazine for elite players. He also invented the Kokish Relay convention, which helps on bidding extremely powerful bridge hands.

Mr. Kokish’s other interests included baseball memorabilia and his giant collection of vinyl records and CDs, his wife said.

“He liked the old fifties and sixties stuff originally and moved on to Motown and to Leonard Cohen, Dylan and Joni. It seemed that these bridge players all liked the same kind of music,” Ms. Kraft said.

Mr. Kokish was a friendly, open man who always seemed to have a smile on his face. Along with being paid well to coach the best teams in the world, he enjoyed coaching junior teams pro bono. He had this advice for one member of a junior team: “Find yourself a partner you enjoy being with and work on the game together. And try and find the best level of competition you can find. Get your brains beaten out for a while. That’s the way to get better.”

Here are some curious facts about Eric:

- Eric Kokish was not only a bridge champion, but also a talented architect. **He graduated from McGill University with a degree in architecture, but decided to pursue his passion for bridge instead.**
 - He was the inventor of the Montreal Relay, a bidding system that uses artificial responses to an opening bid of 1 Club to show various hand types and distributions. **The system is named after his hometown, where he developed it with his partner Peter Nagy.**
 - He was a prolific writer and editor of bridge books and articles. He wrote regularly for The Bridge World, International Popular Bridge Monthly and Bridge Magazine, and was the main contributor to the World Championship books. **He also collaborated on various books, such as The Rabbi’s Rules and Close Encounters.**
 - He was a strong advocate of the properly completed system card, a document that summarizes the bidding agreements and conventions of a partnership. **He wrote detailed explanations and defenses for various tactical opening bids, such as the Multicoloured 2 Diamonds, which he called “the Mysterious Multi”**
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2023 Fall Schedule



*Location: Armour Heights Presbyterian Church,
105 Wilson Avenue*

Basics Beginners Bridge Series ***Learn the Essentials!***

Notice how everyone seems to be learning to play bridge? Well, don't be left behind! Sign up for a gentle introduction to the best card game in the world. Get ready to play bridge during your very first lesson!

Over our eight weeks together, you will be introduced to all the basic concepts of bridge. Small "bridge bites" will be introduced each week allowing you to assimilate the concepts clearly. Great supporting materials included to allow you to deepen your understanding.

Enroll today and begin your journey to master the essentials of bridge!

DATES: Wednesday, September 27th (for 8 weeks), 6:30 to 8:30 pm

PRICE: \$240. Includes taxes, Barbara Seagram Basic Bridge textbook and PDF of PowerPoint presentations.

Intermediate I Bridge Series

Whether you're feeling a bit rusty and need a refresher or have just completed our Bridge Basics lessons, this series is perfect for you! Join our Intermediate I Bridge Series designed to deepen your knowledge and reinforce your bidding and playing foundation.

During the Intermediate I Bridge Series, you will be refining your bidding techniques and declarer play. With these two tools, you will be well equipped to navigate the bridge

table with confidence. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to advance your bridge skills.

DATES: Wednesday, September 27th (for 7 weeks), 1 pm to 3 pm

PRICE: \$210. Includes taxes, Barbara Seagram Intermediate I textbook and PDF of PowerPoint presentations.

Bid and Play

Strengthen Your Bridge Skills with Bid and Play Sessions!

For all novice and intermediate bridge enthusiasts who are looking to elevate their bidding and playing foundation! Our dynamic Bid and Play Sessions are tailored to refine your techniques and enhance your overall experience at the bridge table. Whether you've recently completed the Bridge Basics or Intermediate I program, or simply need a refresher, these sessions are perfect for you.

During these hands-on lessons, we'll delve deep into crucial topics such as hand evaluation, supporting partner's suit, No Trump bidding and responses, competitive auctions, and much more! Plus, we'll even share some valuable defence tips to round out your skill set.

The price is an incredible value at just \$30 per session. Sign up and receive a PDF document featuring all the hands, complete with insightful commentary on bidding and responding, opening leads, and declarer's strategy. These sessions are hands-on, allowing you to actively apply your newfound knowledge and make significant progress.

Whether you're aiming to improve your bidding precision, sharpen your declarer play, or enhance your defensive strategies, these sessions are designed to empower you with the skills needed to excel at the bridge table.

DATES: ~~Tuesday, October 17th, 6:30 – 8:30 pm~~ **SOLD OUT - ON WAITING LIST**

Tuesday, November 14th, 6:30-8:30 pm

PRICE: \$30 per session

Lessons will include a PDF of all the hands including commentary on bidding and responding, opening lead and declarer's strategy. These sessions are hands on!

LEARN TO PLAY TWO OVER ONE IN 5 HOURS

The System That Most of North America Now Plays

Unlock the secrets of the system that has taken North America by storm! Join our "Learn to Play Two Over One" workshop and discover the game-changing techniques that will transform your bridge experience. In just 5 hours, you'll gain a deep understanding of this widely adopted system, allowing you to:

- **Secure better contracts effortlessly**
- **Uncover potential slams with fewer values**
- **Determine when a part-score is sufficient**
- **Master the art of the forcing and semi-forcing No Trump bid**

This comprehensive workshop offers a hands-on approach, allowing you to practice the concepts using specially prepared deals.

You will gain the confidence to apply Two Over One techniques in real-world bridge situations. With a combination of theory, practical exercises, and in-person guidance, you'll be amazed at how quickly you'll become proficient in this game-changing system!

DATE: Thursday, November 16th, 10 am to 3 pm

PRICE: \$75. Includes taxes, Barbara Seagram's 2/1 Game Force workbook (updated in 2020), PDF of PowerPoint presentations **AND** a light lunch.

This lesson is hands on with prepared hands to practice the concepts.

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR ALL CLASSES IS REQUIRED

To register, please contact me at mjhammill@rogers.com. For any questions, feel free to reach out via email or call 416-300-9140.

Payment: Send by etransfer to mjhammill@rogers.com or by cheque mailed to 1717 Avenue Road, Suite 418, Toronto, Ontario, M5M0A2.

Website: www.bridgewebs.com/josees

GAMES FOR 0-20 and 0-199 MP PLAYERS!



GENTLE BRIDGE & HAPPY BRIDGE with Cyndy Winkler

Mondays at 12.30 (0-20 master points)
and Tuesdays @ 12 noon (0-199 master
points)

DO COME 15 mins EARLY SO THAT GAME
CAN HAVE A PROMPT START

Duplicate bridge is like going on an
airplane: you cannot arrive late and you

cannot leave early.

BUT, trust me, you won't want to! Cuz everyone is having so much
fun in Cyndy's games on Monday and Tuesday!

Pre-register with Cyndy at cyndywinkler@gmail.com

If you need a partner, let her know. ALWAYS show up if you say
you are coming. You cannot imagine the complexity of running
a duplicate bridge game.

0-199'ers: Face-to face game with Cyndy takes place
on Tuesdays @ 12 noon.

0-20 NEW players: Do come on Mondays, 12:30 start

Need a partner? Contact Cyndy!

647-723-3006 CYNDY

FIRST TIMER ATTENDEES: GET A SPECIAL DISCOUNT.

Mention Josée's discount

Armour Heights Presbyterian Church
105 Wilson Ave.

Parking on side streets and on both sides of Wilson

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/steppingstones/>

FACE TO FACE GAMES IN OR NEAR TORONTO

ROB DRUMMOND HAS **THREE** FACE-TO FACE GAMES PER WEEK:
Leaside Memorial Arena in Toronto

rob@torontobridge.ca or call (647) 629-3408

NEW: Wednesday afternoon (Open game): 12 noon till 3 pm

Thursday at 9.00 am: 0-500 master points

Thursday at 12 noon: OPEN GAME

HART HOUSE: FACE-TO-FACE GAMES

Tuesdays at 6.30 pm me@emma-knight.ca

Toronto Lawn Bridge Club
Ron Bishop: 416-922-1105
44 Price Street

OPEN: Tue 6:30 PM *No Game in August*
EASY GOING: Tue 6:30 PM *No Game in August*

TORONTO EAST BRIDGE CLUB (FACE-TO-FACE)

Mondays @ 7 pm and Wednesdays 12.30 pm

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/torontoeast/home.html>

RICHARD ROSS HAS TWO FACE-TO-FACE GAMES

On Monday & Wednesday afternoon at 1.00 pm:
stratified game LIVE at St. John's York Mills Church.
In Toronto. Yonge and York Mills
Richard at 416-816-7115

RICHMOND HILL BRIDGE CLUB

Richmond Hill has Face-to-Face games on Thursdays and Saturdays.
Contact Susan Beals at 416-433-2292 Elgin Barrow Area 43 Church St S,
Richmond Hill sbealsca@yahoo.co.uk

WEST END OF CITY

Etobicoke Olympium & MO Bridge Club also have face to face games.

GET BACK TO THE REAL BRIDGE TABLES, PLEASE!!!

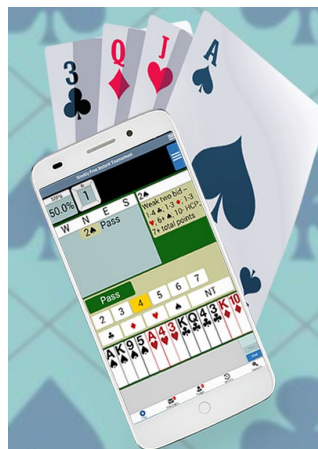
**OR at least play in games on BBO which are part of YOUR club.
ACBL BBO games only help BBO, NOT the clubs**

ONLINE GAMES ON BBO

Although nothing can beat playing bridge in person, Muskoka Bridge (comprising of members from Huntsville, Bracebridge and Bigwin) is still offering two online games on BBO each week all year long.

The games are on Monday and Tuesday evenings at 7pm. The cost is \$4 per game.

We look forward to seeing you online.



ONLINE BRIDGE GAMES WITH LEE

LEE'S ONLINE GAMES ARE NOW ONLY \$3.99 USD on BBO



Open games

Tue, Wed @ 12.10 pm & Sat @ 10.00 am
Wed evenings at 7.00 pm

0-1200 master points

Tue & Wed @ 12 noon

0-1500 master points

Thu @ 12 noon

0-50 master points: Wed eve @ 6.45 pm

When you play in Lee's open games online, if there are 10 tables in the Open and 15 in the 0-1100 section, you receive master points for playing in a 25 table game which is LOTS!

Lee's 0-1200 Tuesday Pairs 12:00 PM

Lee's Tuesday OPEN Pairs 12:10 PM

Lee's 0-1200 Wednesday Pairs 12:00 PM

Lee's Wednesday OPEN Pairs 12:10 PM

Josee and Lee's 0-50 Wednesday Pairs 6:45 PM

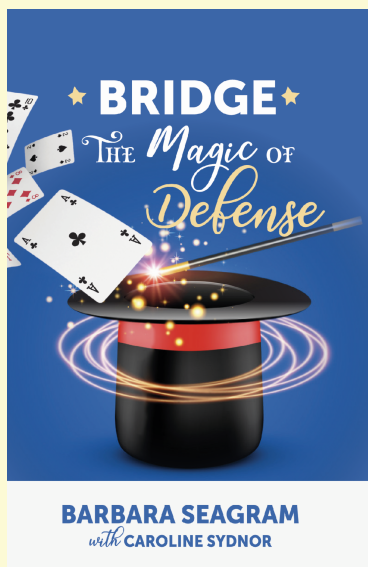
Lee's Wednesday Evening OPEN Pairs 7:00 PM

Lee's 0-1500 Thursday Pairs 12:00 PM

Lee's Saturday OPEN Pairs 10:00 AM [NOTE: the Saturday game starts earlier than other days]

calendar@interlog.com

BARBARA SEAGRAM'S NEW BOOK IS NOW OUT!



BRIDGE: THE MAGIC OF DEFENSE

\$24.00 USD / \$28.00 CAD
(REG. \$34.30 CAD including tax)

This book is loaded with practice hands galore, quizzes, tips and many concepts you need to take your game to the next level. Buy one for your partner, since I know you don't need it!

Available in our online store and we will ship

CANADIANS, CLICK ON LINK BELOW

<https://store.barbaraseagram.com/products/new-2023-bridge-book-the-magic-of-defense>

AMERICANS, CLICK ON LINK BELOW

<https://storeus.barbaraseagram.com/products/new-2023-bridge-book-the-magic-of-defense>

AND FOR OTHER BOOKS IN OUR STORE, CLICK ON LINKS BELOW

<https://store.barbaraseagram.com/> CANADA ORDERS

<https://storeus.barbaraseagram.com/> US ORDERS

or order by email to barbaraseagram@gmail.com and we will ship

or you can pick up near Yonge and Lawrence in Toronto

TORONTO NABC SUMMER 2024

Are you looking for an exciting event to attend in the summer of 2024? Look no further than the Toronto NABC Summer 2024!

This event, organized by the American Contract Bridge League, will take place from July 18-28, 2024 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC) in Toronto, Canada.

I'm thrilled to announce that I'll be chairing one of the committees for this event (the Intermediate/Newcomer Program Chair) and we are in need of volunteers.

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Glenna Richardson at glennarichardson@bell.net and if you would like your volunteer efforts to be within the Intermediate/Novice tournament, just let Glenna know.

You can also visit our website at torontonabc.org for more details. This is an incredible opportunity to be a part of a world-renowned bridge event and to work alongside passionate individuals in the bridge community. I hope to see you there! It will be a great event and super fun!



TORONTO LABOUR DAY SECTIONAL

[View Tournament Flyer in PDF](#)

Labour Day SILVER POINT SECTIONAL Bridge Tournament

September 2-4, 2023

Delta Hotels by Marriott Toronto Airport

655 Dixon Road, Toronto M9W 1J3

[Book your group rate for American Contract Bridge League](#)

or Call 1-800-668-365 or 416-244-1711

Ask for code "ACB" Special bridge rate \$139 if booked by August 12, 2023

Schedule of Events

Saturday, September 2

- **10:00 AM & 2:30 PM** - A/X, B/C/D - 2 Session stratiflighted pairs, Single session entries are welcome
- **10:00 AM** - 0 - 199 Pairs - Single session stratified pairs
- **10:00 AM** - 0 - 20 Supervised pair game

Sunday, September 3

- **10:00 AM & 2:30 PM** - A/X, B/C/D - 2 Session stratiflighted pairs, Single session entries are welcome
- **10:00 AM** - 0 - 199 Pairs - Single session stratified pairs

Monday, September 4

- **10:00 AM & TBA** - A/X Swiss Teams - Open to all - Stratified by team average
- **10:00 AM & TBA** - B/C Swiss Teams - Stratified by team average, No player with more than 2000 MP
- **10:00 AM** - 0 - 199 Pairs - Single session stratified pairs
Monday morning 0 - 199 game requires pre-registration. Please contact Steve Overholt: soverholt1@gmail.com

There will be complimentary lessons by Steve Overholt at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

EVENTS ARE STRATIFIED BY AVERAGE MASTER POINTS & FLIGHTS ARE BASED ON HIGHEST MASTER POINTS OF PAIR/TEAM

Stratiflighted event: A: 4000+, X: 0-4000, B: 1500-2500, C: 750-1500, D: 0-750

Single session entries for all Pairs games are welcome.

Session Fees:

\$16 CAD

(members)

+ \$4 for non-current members

All players MUST have an ACBL number. Guest memberships are currently free. Contact Glenna if you require one.

\$10 CAD

Full time students up to age 21 (members)

+ \$4 for non-current members.

PARKING AT THE SITE IS FREE FOR BRIDGE PLAYERS

CHAIRPERSON:

Glenna Richardson 416-419-3089 glennarichardson@bell.net

PARTNERSHIP CHAIR:

Laurie Miller 416-276-6415 laurlemiller333@gmail.com

NOVICE/INTERMEDIATE CHAIR:

Steve Overholt 647-897-6179 soverholt1@gmail.com

DOUBLE DUMMY - A 50 min. documentary video

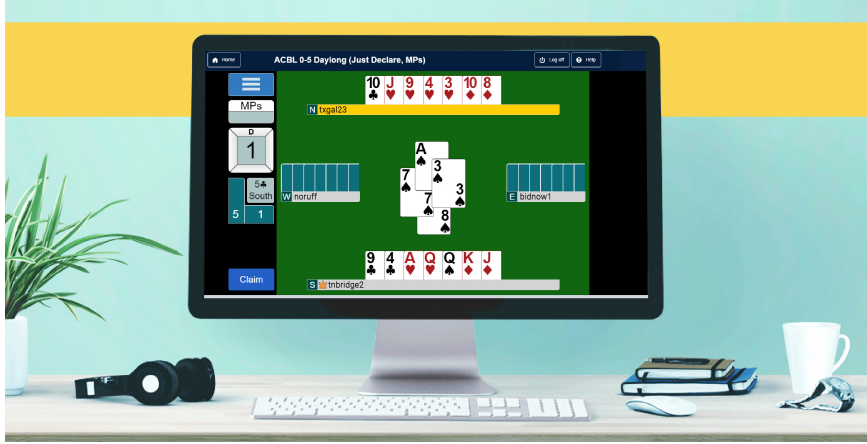
I want to share with you this exciting information I just received from Jon McAllister, the Producer of the film Double Dummy. Please take advantage of it and show it to your students.

"We want to empower you. Our film, *Double Dummy*, is [freely streamable here](#) and on the PBS App. The cast includes 2022 ACBL Player of the Year Zach Grossack and past Kings of Bridge Adam Grossack, Adam Kaplan and Richard Jeng.

People watch the film and they want to play!

We also have a 15 minute version and links to deals featured in the film at doubledummymovie.com/teaching-resources/. Let your students play the same deals we share in the film's climax. It's all free.

ACBL 0-50 Online Community Games are Back!



The ACBL has launched a new event for players with fewer than 50 masterpoints! ACBL Online Community Games are a friendly way to play with others at your skill level and win points. Plus, each game is followed by a mini-lesson on Zoom! [Click here for details.](#)

JOSÉE'S PRE-RECORDED LESSONS

Available for instant delivery! Learn on your own time!

Competitive Bidding - Feb 2023

In this lesson you'll learn how to use takeout doubles, overcalls, jump overcalls, and improve your competitive bidding arsenal.

That means, after you learn the techniques we'll cover, you can open the door to think like a much better player, in just mere hours! It's an incredible valuable skill that anyone can learn and use during all future games.

The hands demonstrated work on the fundamentals of competitive bidding: what you need to interfere, how partner responds to your interference, planning the play after a competitive auction and more!

Avoidance Plays (Dec 2022)

Imagine playing your next hand, and instead of taking a play which gives a 50-percent chance to win, you can correctly guess the play giving you almost 100% chance to make your contract! That's what an expert does every time, in every game, often by using avoidance plays!

Avoidance means just preventing (or avoiding) a particular defender from gaining the lead. And identifying who is the danger and safe opponent.

That means, after you learn this simple technique, you can open the door to think like an expert, in just mere hours! It's an incredible valuable skill that anyone can learn and use during all future games.

No Trump Defence (Sep 2022)

During this lesson, we will play together 12 specially selected hands from prolific writer and accomplished bridge player Eddie Kantar.

Here's just a small sample of the 12 deals that we'll cover in this live lesson:

- Which thinking habits you, as third hand, must have after the opening lead is made?
 - What is a negative discard, and why they are so important at No Trump?
 - Before returning partner's suit, why and how to count declarer's tricks?
 - Holding 4 small cards, when you should lead the top one, and when lead the second highest?
 - When declarer leads a suit, why we give count to partner.
- And sooooo MUCH more...

Ducking by Declarer in Suit Contracts (Jun 2022)

You know that, most of the time, the fate of the hand is determined by how you play to the first trick. That's why many contracts can be won or lost because of that first trick.

Some of the things that you will learn in this lesson:

- There's one outstanding difference with ducking plays in suit contracts, you need to know exactly when trumps must be drawn (and what happens if you don't do it!).
- What are the 3 main reasons for making a ducking play in a suit contract.
- Why some hands can be made if you duck the first trick and win the second, while strangely enough the contract cannot be made if you win the first trick.

And much, much more! We'll play each hand twice. One without ducking, and again, the same hand ducking. Then you can easily see what happens in each case.

The 90-minute lesson includes a handout of all the hands (with commentary from Eddie Kantar).

This is an awesome opportunity to get moving towards better declarer play!

Introduction To Defence

Have you noticed that you are defending at bridge 50% of the time? That is right! Did you know that being on Defence is the most fun you can ever have at the bridge table even when you do not have any points in your hand? Let me teach you how to have more fun and to gain respect from all players when you show them you know how to defend!

- *Opening Leads against No Trump and Suit contracts*
- *2nd hand play*
- *3rd hand play*
- *Signaling against No Trump and Suit contracts*
- *And much, much more!!*

Introduction To Declarer Play

Bidding is great and winning the contract even better. But if you do not know how to make a plan to make your contract then what good is that! In this 4 week course you will learn :

- *Counting Losers*
- *Counting Winners*
- *Ruffing losers in the Dummy*
- *Extra Winners in the Dummy or in Declarer's Hand*
- *Long Suit Establishment (aka Taking Tricks with Tiny Cards)*
- *When and How to take a Finesse and much more!*

Thinking Bridge - Plan Your Moves!

Whatever seat you are in, you have to be planning your moves. Let's spend these sessions where we explore what it feels like to sit in any and all 4 seats, and think like an expert. Only time you will be allowed to relax will be when in the dummy's seat. **Complete set of different hands for each of the dates. You will love them!** (3 sessions so far)

Basics Beginners Bridge Series

Learn the basic elements of the game of bridge: how to take tricks, how to work with a partner, how to open the bidding in a suit and in No Trump, how to respond, how to compete and more. An 8 week course includes all recordings, PDF of presentations and practice hands for each week.

Intermediate I Bridge Series

For those who feel rusty and need a refresher and for those moving up from Basic lessons. Opportunities to play and practice online will be provided. Lessons are recorded and can be watched on your own time.

A 7 week course includes all recordings, PDF of presentations and practice hands for each week.

Intermediate 2

Weak Two Bids, Strong 2 Club Bids, Slam Bidding, Cue-Bidding First Round Controls, Preempts, Unusual NT, Michaels Cuebids, Opening Light in 3rd seat, Balancing, End Plays, Cross-Ruff, Loser-on-loser play, Introduction to defence, ...and MUCH more!!

An 8 week course includes all recordings, PDF of presentations and practice hands for each week.

Intermediate 3

Intermediate III is a full course on Defence and Conventions!

DEFENCE: Third Hand Play, Second Hand Play, Suit Preference Signalling, Strategy on Defence, Lead Directing Doubles, Discarding.

CONVENTIONS: Negative Doubles, Jacoby 2 NT as a forcing raise, Jacoby Transfers, Texas Transfers, Splinters, Roman Key Card

Blackwood, Cue Bids, Slam Bidding and lots more!

Learn To Play Two Over One

Learn the system that most of North America now plays. It makes it much easier to get to a better contract, easier to find slams on fewer values and easier to know when to stop in a part score. Learn the forcing No Trump bid.

A two day course + one additional hour of practice hands.

Bid And Play - The Convention Series

Lesson 1 - DONT over 1NT Opening Bid

Lesson 2 - Reverse Drury

Lesson 3 - Jacoby 2NT and Splinters

Lesson 4 - Reverse Bergen/Bergen Raises

Lesson 5 - New Minor Forcing/Checkback Stayman

Lesson 6 - Fourth Suit Forcing

Lesson 7 - Four Way Transfers

All lessons come with recordings and PDF of practice hands.

- Purchase each lesson individually \$20 or
- Buy all 7 lessons for the price of 6 - \$120

Please email me at mjhammill@rogers.com, indicating the course or lesson, and I'll send you all details. If you wish to pay using PayPal I can provide the PayPal link at the time.