



## MONTHLY

The Month of February, 2023 in Review

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## MObridge News

Things have changed. In the three-year period 2017 – 2019 at the Winston Churchill premises, MObridge averaged more than 120 tables per week of F2F bridge. During the next two years, the pandemic stopped all F2F bridge and the lease expired at Winston Churchill. MObridge moved to BBO where activity soared to levels never seen before. In 2022, with the pandemic retreating, MObridge rebooted with new premises at Sherwood Village and a mid-March return to F2F bridge. The expectation at the time was for a growing return to F2F play accompanied by a declining level of MObridge BBO play. No one knew exactly where we were going but something approaching the pre-pandemic period was anticipated. A survey of members largely confirmed this expectation. Unfortunately, the estimates of getting to F2F table counts close to pre-pandemic levels has not come to fruition as we have come in at about 20%. This is not sustainable. The board continues to look for ways to maintain the club and will provide a plan for the future soon. In the meantime, please come out and support the club.

Playing Bridge at the Duncan Bridge Center in Palm Springs, California  
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## Top Games of the Month

**0 – 500:** On February 10 in our BBO 200 game, **Linda Quinn & Cheryl Davidson** scored 72.22%.

**501 – 2500:** On February 13 in our BBO 1500 game, **Gail Andrews & Rita Rocys** scored 68.89%.

**Open:** On February 28 in our F2F Open game, **Phyllis Jones & Mohammed Nulla** scored 76%.

## Top Masterpoints Earned in January (latest month available)

0 - 500	501 - 2500	Open
<b>Katherine Jones – 6.2</b>	<b>Bruce Cameron – 8.52</b>	<b>Bev Ross – 1.9</b>
<b>Riley Jones – 6.02</b>	<b>David Hawkins – 7.53</b>	<b>Nancy Strachan – 1.9</b>
<b>Krystyna Paterson – 5.99</b>	<b>S. Bonnar – 7.09</b>	<b>Barbara Sims – 1.43</b>

## Debacle of the Month Plus a Grand Slam

This month's featured debacle occurred in hand 8 of our BBO 200 game on February 24<sup>th</sup>. West opened 2 Hearts and East, holding 18 HCPs and 2 hearts raised to 4 Hearts. South, with 14 HCPs and a strong 5 card club holding, bid 5 clubs. After two more passes, East (non-vulnerable) doubled. While East may have been furthering a preempt, East may also have had a strong hand. In this case, the latter. The 5-club contract went down 5 for minus -1100. On a more positive note, in the February 9 F2F 2500 game, **Steve Gural** and **Adele Pick** bid and made a contract of 7 hearts. While all North/South teams made 7 hearts, only Gural and Pick bid it. Good work!

## Member Profile – Rory Ryan



*Trader Rory Ryan on Cover of Stock Sticker Board Game*

When Rory Ryan went off to university in Detroit, he had played a lot of cards but never bridge. Luckily for him, he fell in with a fairly serious group of bridge players in his dormitory. Rory took up the game with enough enthusiasm to venture into local duplicate games. After university, life interfered and there was a long interruption in Rory's bridge playing. About 6 or 7 years ago he found his way to MObridge and took the rusty bridge player course with John Rayner. That set him back on the bridge path and he began playing regularly at MObridge and at some local sectional and regional tournaments. Rory now qualifies as a professional bridge player as he once won a flashlight at a regional tournament. During the Covid interruption, Rory

played online MObridge games. With the return of F2F bridge, Rory has returned to the club playing F2F about two times per week and only rarely plays online.

Away from the bridge table Rory is overactive in golf, tennis, curling and pickleball. During his long interruption from bridge playing, Rory was a stock and options trader. He did his stock trading on a "F2F" trading floor with lots of yelling and arm waving. He famously made the cover of the Stock Ticker Board Game – see picture above. Rory enjoyed the bustle of the trading floor just as he now enjoys the interaction of F2F bridge.

## Playing Bridge in Palm Springs

By Peter Milligan



*Anne Vanmaele and Peter Milligan at Duncan Bridge Center*

There is no need to let a winter vacation in the sun interrupt your bridge playing. In late February, my wife and I visited Palm Springs, California for a week to stay with friends and attend modernism week. I decided that I would play at least one game of F2F bridge while away to both enjoy a F2F bridge game and explore another bridge club.

Before leaving I went to the ACBL website to find the bridge clubs located in the Palm Springs area. From those available (there were several) I selected the Duncan Bridge Center as it was the largest club and, in my view, the club most likely to be able to accommodate a player without a partner looking to play one game. I was correct.

The website for the Duncan Bridge Center provided a contact email for Sean Lui, who turned out to also be the club manager and the director of the game I played in. Sean was very responsive and arranged a playing partner for me in a 0-750 game on the day of my choice. I arrived at Duncan a half hour before the game to get the lay of the land and compare notes with my new partner. On arrival, I was able to look at a large computer screen showing the different partnerships and their assigned tables. Because the players were pre-registered and payment for the game was made using envelopes provided on the tables, there was no pre-game line up. Players went directly to their tables on arrival+.

My partner, Anne Vanmaele (in the photo above with me), turned out to be a wonderful relaxed partner to play with, especially for a first game with minimal time to prepare. We agreed to play a very basic SAYC. The game itself was excellent as there were 15 tables in the 0-750 game and 16 tables in the open game played at the same time. The games were held on opposite halves of the space. It was encouraging to be in a club game with 31 tables! Each game was 24 boards. We finished first in the C flight of the 0-750 game and earned a fraction of a masterpoint. A good result for me.

Like MObridge, the Duncan Bridge Center is a not-for profit corporation owned by its members. It operates out of a stand-alone building owed by the club and dedicated to the playing of bridge. The Center, located at Palm Desert's eastern outskirts, is a single large hall with high ceilings. See photo on page 1. As you might expect, a building purpose-built for bridge is a perfect place to play bridge. The building is surrounded by ample parking, including numerous handicap spots. Pre-packaged snacks, water and beverages were readily available in an alcove removed from the playing area. There are large washrooms easily accessed. The bridge director sits in the middle of the room with quick access to all parts of the playing area. There were separate large digital clocks displaying the time available in each round - 14 minutes for two boards for both the open and the 0-750 games.

My afternoon of bridge at the Duncan Bridge Center was a great success. If and when I return to Palm Springs, I would certainly arrange to play again.