



MONTHLY

The Month of March, 2023 in Review

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Danielle Gosselin Students Nancy Dahmer and Bill Asselstine After Class

Danielle Gosselin Wins Audrey Grant Award

Danielle Gosselin has won the Unit 166 Audrey Grant Award for 2023. The Audrey Grant Award is given out each year by ACBL Unit 166 (Hamilton, Burlington, Oakville, Peel Region and Metropolitan Toronto) to the person who best embodies excellence, professionalism and dedication to bridge teaching. This is tremendous news for MObridge as Danielle is currently running two sessions per week at MObridge. Each Monday afternoon Danielle teaches “An Introduction to Competitive Bidding” class and each Wednesday afternoon she runs a “Supervised Play” game for new players that have completed earlier courses or are otherwise relative beginners at bridge. More courses from Danielle will follow in the future.

Audrey Grant, based in Toronto, is a very well-known bridge teacher and a prolific author of bridge books. Audrey Grant set the standard for bridge teachers and Danielle has now met that standard. I spoke to several students in the Competitive Bidding class and quickly came to understand why Danielle won this award. Nancy Dahmer described Danielle as a dynamic and natural teacher who makes bridge come alive. Bill Asselstine added that she explains the game of bridge very well and is open to all questions, no matter how many times the same question is asked. Bernadette Jamieson described Danielle as animated and the class as fun. Danielle has found the magic formula for teaching bridge.

Danielle, who has been teaching bridge since about 2016, is not otherwise a teacher and did not set out to become one. She had helped Audrey Grant in one of her seminars and then took the ACBL teaching certification course because it was being offered and a friend ask her to help fill up the class. It was only after Danielle began teaching that she discovered she really enjoyed it. (Continued on page 3)

Top Games of the Month

0 – 500: On March 10 in our BBO 200 game, **Susanne Hynes & Kathy Kitchen** scored 70.83%.
501 – 2500: On March 13 in our BBO 1500 game, **Richard Holzman & Virginia Elliott** scored 72.22%.

Open: On March 15 in our special St. Patrick's Day game, **Andy Firko & Mel Norton** scored 68.61%.

Top Masterpoints Earned in February (latest month available)

| 0 - 500 | 501 - 2500 | Open |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Krystyna Paterson – 8.03 | Paul Inglis – 6.71 | Roman Klein – 0.59 |
| Patricia Basque – 6.67 | Rory Ryan – 6.63 | Wendy Dooley – 0.59 |
| Carolyn Leigh – 3.83 | Jay Hamann – 5.28 | |

Doubling Debacle of the Month Plus Three Grand Slams

The Monday March 20 F2F 1500 game had some spectacular results. In board 6, a non-vulnerable north played a contract of 7 diamonds doubled and went down 6 for minus 1400. The hand belonged to east/west with makeable 4 heart and 4 spade holdings but only the double resulted in the seven-diamond bid not being a great sacrifice. In board 13 in the same game, the pairs of **Luke Wei & Xinshan Zhao** and **Eric Pinto & Ingrid D'Souza** both bid and made 7 heart contracts. On Tuesday March 7 in our BBO 200 game, **Barrie Wilson & Linda Reeser** bid and made 7 NT on board 17. Many months have no Grand Slams so March was special with three. Good play!

Member Profile – Verna Dennis



Verna Dennis has a long history of playing bridge but a shorter history of playing duplicate bridge. Verna learned bridge from her husband's card playing family in the early 1970s in Montreal. In 1977 she and her husband moved to the GTA. To help connect with her new community, Verna joined a Mississauga Newcomers Club and through that club developed a circle of bridge playing friends. Social bridge with this group went on for many years. In about 2017, Verna found her way to a supervised play game at MObridge and really enjoyed the experience. Verna decided it was time to develop a more structured and disciplined bridge game and began to play duplicate at MObridge. This has worked out very well and she has continued to play duplicate bridge at MObridge since then.

Verna played many online games with MObridge during the pandemic and has continued to play online games as that is where she can find the limited games with the 300 or lower level that she is comfortable with. Her bridge ambition is to learn all the rules that are reasonably helpful and forget all the rules that are not.

Verna's first actual duplicate experience was dropping into a local club in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on a rainy day. The club found her a partner and they won the game. A very good start to duplicate.

Verna is now retired from her career as a computer programmer. She has three children, one still at home with Verna and her husband and two living in BC. Verna is originally from Prince Edward Island where she played an eastern Canada card game called Auction 45. In Montreal she learned Whist. These games are ancestors of bridge so Verna has been playing bridge like games almost forever.

Danielle Gosselin Wins Audrey Grant Award (continued from page 1)

COVID did no favours for bridge teachers. During COVID, Danielle continued teaching and worked to keep beginners engaged in the game in many ways including sending out her Friday tips and doing free online supervised play every week. These steps helped to keep beginners connected to the game when all F2F activities were interrupted. This was a valuable contribution by Danielle to bridge in a difficult time and should not go unnoticed.

The best evidence of Danielle's teaching genius is her ability to fill a class. There is no readily available supply of bridge students that can be drawn down on demand. There is no broad-based media advertising the availability of her bridge lessons. Most of her new students in each class are referrals from her prior students. Her students enjoy learning bridge from Danielle, talk about it with friends and family and then that circle reaches out to Danielle for the next set of lessons she offers. Whenever you hear an expression of interest in learning bridge from any friends or family, send them to Danielle!

Danielle Gosselin Teaching Competitive Bidding at Mobridge on March 20, 2023

