

# Niagara on the Lake

## Bridge Centre Newsletter

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[www.notldbc.ca](http://www.notldbc.ca)

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### Message from the Chair



Our last game of bridge was mid-march. The Coronavirus, Covid 19 had taken hold! We had to suspend all our games till further notice. We have yet to recommence.

As your management committee, we had a Zoom meeting recently and discussed the various options for restarting. A three person committee is looking into various strategies and models that BCON and some other clubs may be advocating. In the meantime, BCONs initiative of the BBO and bridge on the web has been very successful. They deserve our thanks and we should continue and support them wholeheartedly. Some private groups have been innovative too in playing with their bridge friends regularly and we commend their initiative. We would thoroughly encourage more bridge players to start using the bridgeweb and play under BCON or privately, or however you can wherever the opportunities arise. Those who want to start but are dubious or nervous about the technology, please reach out to us. Please visit the NOTLDBC web page where you will find adequate information, tips and assistance. You can also talk to some members who are participating in the program and we are sure they will assist and direct you in starting.

Once the Community Centre is open again, once appropriate restrictions are in place and once we are confident we can play bridge safely again, we will be resuming the game we all love so much. As I mentioned, we have a committee in place working to that end. Hopefully some of the tournaments as well as the social events planned already will take place once we are back up and running. Come then, we will have a lot to celebrate!

In the meantime, please follow the government guidelines and stay safe and happy.

*These comments from Abdul came from his message that appeared lately on our website. To read more of what he had to say, you can read it online.*

## **During this Time of Isolation, you Can Play Bridge with Your Friends in a Virtual Club Game**



I think that we along with many players around the world are missing our friendly, local games with our friends. We are not only missing the challenge of the game but also the social aspect of seeing our friends at the club.

Fortunately there is an option that is being pursued by players all over the world. All you need is a phone, tablet or computer. These are games that are established by a website called BridgeBaseOnline. Even if you do not feel you are that comfortable with a computer, this website is so easy to use. To learn how it all works, just go to our website and follow the directions. There is even a video to help, along with FAQ's - everything you need to get up and running. If, after you go through this process you do have some issues/questions, Muriel has kindly offered to help, so you can email her [muriel@cmtmc.ca](mailto:muriel@cmtmc.ca) or call her 905-468-9349.

### **Virtual Game.**

This involves playing as you would in NOTL but at the Bridge Centre of Niagara (BCON) virtual club. You do not have to be a member of BCON to play. As it is a sanctioned game, you will need a ACBL number. If you normally don't want or care if you have one, you can join ACBL for a month for US\$20.00 to get a number and then you will use this number ongoing for these virtual games. As for any sanctioned game you will qualify for masterpoints. The cost is US\$5.00 and the majority of this fee goes back to BCON which also means too that some monies will help our club through District 255.

### **Other On-Line Games.**

There are several other options you can choose from on the Bridge Base Online menu. One that is popular with players in order to feel more comfortable before playing a sanctioned virtual game is choosing a Casual Game. You can play with or without a partner of your choosing. You can play against 2 other friends. Thus, if you and your partner play a game with 2 other friends, it becomes an even more friendly, social game. If you don't play with friends you are playing against other humans.

Other options include Robot Duplicate, Daylong Duplicate, Individual ACBL and ACBL Speedball. Detailed information is provided with each menu selection.

Although playing bridge online certainly isn't the same as the experience at our club, it is a wonderful way to continue playing with or without your partner. Not only is it fun but it is another way to continue to improve your game. If you haven't tried it, I suggest you start with a casual game which is not sanctioned so no masterpoints are awarded. But it is a gradual way to get involved. Then, when you feel comfortable you can move to a sanctioned game and when you do, we hope you will get involved in the BCON games to play with people whom you know.

*How in the world does a Director work at one of these games you ask? Well, Claude in his column will tell you how.*

## Head Director's Corner

### Directing BBO Games

I would like to share my experience about directing BBO games compared to directing face-to-face in the clubs.

To start the game, you need to make sure that you have players at all the tables and that all players are on line. The game cannot start unless all players are on line. If some of the players are off line, the director will have to override the system to allow the game to start.

At the beginning, the game maybe a bit "frantic" since we need to ensure we play the correct number of boards per round depending on the number of tables. For 16 or 17 tables we must use 3 boards per round since BBO automatically divides



*Claude Tremblay*

the game into two sections. A section of 8-9 tables will play almost all players. For any other number of tables we use 2 boards per round so we can play as many players as possible. This selection of boards per round must be done just before the game starts otherwise it cannot be done after the game has started. The games are usually 18 boards long.

Next comes the sit out table if we have a half table. We need

to fill the sit out table. It is easier when a "local" player lets you know ahead that they are available as a substitute or better if a pair let you know. If no local player is available we try to find "English" speaking players. It is very rare where we will run a game with a sit out since there are lots of players hanging around BBO. Last resort we'll take "any" player in the World (seriously). Robots are not allowed at ACBL games.

BBO games are **barometer** game style where all tables play the same board during the same round. After each round, BBO posts the results. Partnerships can keep a running total of their scores, so they know how well (or how poorly) they are doing after each round. You essentially have a running score of your results.

While the game is running the director does not enforce the “Laws of Duplicate Bridge” about lead out of turn, bids out of turn or revoke because BBO ensures that these infractions cannot happen. So, you cannot lead out of turn or bid out of turn, etc. The players can still claim and are encourage to do so to save time.

Time is very important because the game is set up to play each board within 7 minutes. When your board is finished BBO deals the next board to play until you play all the boards for that round. If you play 2 boards per round (i.e. 14 minutes), if you do not finish the second board within the 14 minutes BBO will complete the hands as best it can and will make automatically an adjusted score. Some of these automatically adjusted scores may not always be “equitable” however for the most part they stand. The players must keep their eyes on the clock.

New things that a director does: keep a close eye on the clock because at approximately 2-3 minutes left on the clock, we need to check the “Tournament Status” to see how many tables are still in play. If too many

tables are in play then the director has the flexibility to add time to the clock to prevent unnecessary BBO adjusted score. We need to carefully monitor the connection of all the players. If a player is disconnected there is no communication possible so the player needs to log out and log back in very quickly. If a player does not get reconnected within a few minutes, the director will have to find anyone available on BBO to immediately replace a disconnected player so the game can continue. When that player gets reconnected, the director may need to “reseat” the player if BBO does not reseat the player automatically with his original partner.

We still enforce zero tolerance if necessary and we occasionally make the rare adjusted score when required. The player must “self-alert” using the alert button in the bidding box area. The alert is made by the person who bids, not his partner. It is exactly the opposite to face to face bridge. If the director is called for a missed “self-alert” an adjusted score may result. Players cannot undo any of their bids. Contrary to picking up the wrong bid within the same area of the bidding box which can be

corrected with the director present, this is not possible on BBO. If you double, redouble or bid something in the “left field” the bid shall stand. Players must fill identical convention card otherwise BBO defaults to SAYC. Should a director call be made on partnership agreement, SAYC will be the law!

Other things the director no longer does: prepare coffee and associated cookies, collect money, register players, post leader board, print personal results and print final results. Personal results are available to all players at the end of the game and game results are also posted. Within 2 hours, ACBL Live at Clubs sends notification to the players as usual and the game results are available on ACBL website.

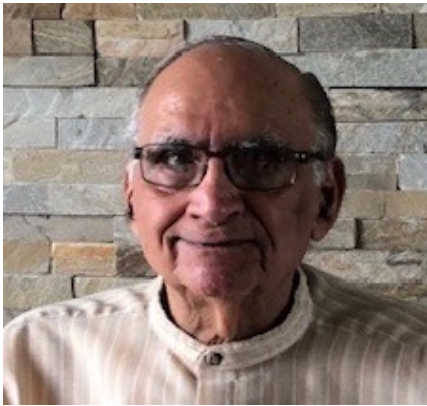
One last thing when you are the dummy you can see your partner’s cards. Your game will be better if you choose not to comment on partner’s choice of line of play. Remember that you can communicate privately with your partner but not while a board is “live”.

As you can see directing BBO games is very different than directing face to face. Still very enjoyable.

## Did You Know?

**The NOTL DBC Management Committee thought it might be fun and interesting to learn a little more about our members than you probably don't know just from conversation at the bridge table. Many have had an interesting journey so we thought we would share some of them with you - starting with a couple of members of our Management Committee.**

**And, certainly in the future we would like to hear your stories and will publish those from any member who would like to share.**



**Abdul Kaderali**, our Management Committee Chair, was born in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, formerly Tanganyika. Dar es Salaam as its name signifies “Heaven of Peace”, was a small beautiful town, on the eastern coast of Africa. Abdul grew up there until he went to England, where he graduated from the Leicester School of Architecture in 1963. He met his wife Lata in England when she came from India to study for her doctorate in Nuclear Chemistry. They met, dated and were married in Horsham, Sussex, England in January 1965.

Life in Dar es Salaam was quite simple and they enjoyed living there until after Tanganyika became an independent country in 1960. Paradise for his family changed overnight. Tanganyika had changed masters. There would be a difficult future for anybody of non-black colour for unpredictable time. It was a quiet apartheid against the Indians. Abdul's architectural work and professional practice as well as the future of his children seemed uncertain and unsafe. Banks, Insurance companies and his rental properties were nationalized. They left Tanzania in December 1970 with heavy heart under some very difficult circumstances.

It was during these uncertain times, that Lata, who had learned bridge in Bombay, during her teens, taught Abdul to play bridge. He was hooked and later through many years in Pakistan and Toronto, his interest in bridge was solidified

when he retired his Toronto business interests in 2016. With the political turmoil in the newly born nation of Tanzania, Abdul moved his family to Pakistan, from 1971 to 1973 where he pursued his profession in Architecture. Owing to some influential friends of the family, he literally walked into the role of the Chief Architect at the age of 31, to command a busy, prestigious firm of four offices and 100 Architects and Engineers in Karachi. Professionally, he enjoyed his time in Karachi and they also had a comfortable life in an upscale residential area.

But alas, politics followed him and cast a dark shadow when the war between India and Pakistan over East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, created a new reality. Half of the practice and finances were in East Pakistan. With so much political turmoil, Abdul packed up his family and moved to Canada, making



Toronto their new home in 1973, where he was employed by Carruthers Shaw Architects for a number of years as an Associate before starting his own practice in 1979. He rejoined the firm again after ten years and became a partner until he retired in the newly named firm of CSP Architects. His professional career has been very diverse with notable professional and life experiences in four continents; Tanzania, Pakistan, England and Canada.

Abdul and his family are happy in Canada. They has spent more years in Canada than any other country. Abdul plays bridge Tuesday, Thursday and Friday weekly and sometimes on Wednesdays. He feels his bridge play has been very rewarding and actively promotes bridge to his friends in Niagara. They have a son and a daughter, who each have a son but his children live in US. They Face Time with their grandchildren regularly and often visit them in the US.

We would like to congratulate Abdul and Lata for their 55 years of wedded bliss and wish Abdul a belated Happy 80<sup>th</sup> birthday from his friends at the Niagara on the Lake Duplicate Bridge Club.



**Muriel Tremblay**, our Treasurer, was born in Ottawa, Ontario, where she lived for over 55 years. She grew up on a small hobby farm east of Ottawa, daughter of a carpenter and house wife, middle child of 5 children. Muriel always said that she had the best position in the family because she could choose to be part of the older

siblings or one of the younger children based on best advantage to her.

She participated in many different youth organizations such as Explorers, CGIT, 4H and eventually became a leader in some of them. She loved working outside on the farm, driving the tractor, cutting the grass and even weeding the garden. She was a “daddy’s” girl and thrived on doing “what was right” because that is what her father taught her.

Muriel was a very successful business woman. Together, with her partner she grew her

Information Technology Consulting firm from 2 people to 350 consultants and 50 employees over a 25 year period. Muriel and Claude have 6 children and 9 grandchildren between them. Most of their children still live in Ottawa, so get togethers are planned and we try to see everyone while in Ottawa.

After selling her company in 2005 they decided to retire to a place that has a shorter, warmer winter. Niagara on the Lake seemed to be the perfect location. Anywhere that is known as the fruit basket of the country had to be warmer than Ottawa. They were not in NOTL for very long before they made

many new friends, mostly, bridge players.

Travel became a big part of their life over the past 10 years. They travelled around the world for 180 days in 2016 giving them insights into how people live in various parts of the world. They both love to learn more about culture, people and geography. Going on safaris and seeing animals out in the wild has been a truly amazing experience. Their travelling days have slowed down since Holly and Heidi (their two puppies) came into their lives in 2017. They have become stay-at-home parents.

Claude and Muriel started playing duplicate bridge in 1999, the year that they got married. They fell in love with the game and have been involved in bridge organizations since 2002. But bridge is not Muriel's only interests. She loves to paint and garden and in the past 4 years has taken to testing new recipes on Claude. Cooking has become her new passion. Certainly these past two months have given her plenty of time to try new things.

*If you would like to share your story, please call Heather Beckman at a 905-468-1787 or email her at [hbeckman606@gmail.com](mailto:hbeckman606@gmail.com). She would love to hear from you and knows our members would be interested too.*

## Milestones

Since our last Newsletter the following have moved on and deserve our congratulations.

**John Smithman - New Junior Master**

**Brian Jones - New Club Master**

**Sylvia Kemp, Otto Lowas and Cathy Williams - All New Regional Masters.**

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