



EDITOR'S NOTE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2021 was a rollercoaster ride and we hoped it would end on a positive note; then Omicron showed up and dashed that dream. There is a light shining, this appears to be a much milder strain and there is talk it could move us from pandemic to endemic, but we must still be diligent, wear masks and keep our distance!

CLUB CORNER

The Richmond Hill Bridge Club has operated in Richmond Hill for more than ten years as a not-for-profit club. We are not a 'membership club', there is no fee to join the club, if you play, we consider you part of the RHBC family. Our mission is quite simple *"To provide a friendly and comfortable atmosphere to play sanctioned Duplicate Bridge. We strive to preserve, promote, and stimulate interest in Duplicate Bridge by offering games as laid out by the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL). We encourage and maintain a high standard of conduct and promote the development of Club players in improving their game."*

In 2020, when COVID appeared, we had to adapt to the changing times and the 'new world' we were living in, so we spun off and added online games, which we continue to run.

WE ARE A TEAM!

Izhar Haque: our founding father and head of our F2F games;

Claude Gannon: the glue that holds us all together and supports both online and F2F;

Susan Beals: who wears many hats and heads our online games;

David and Cathy Tubb: our two dedicated online directors who regularly support us and backfill





GAME CHANGER

What's new for 2022? Well, we thought about it, talked about it, mulled it over and decided 'Why fix what we don't think is broken'? So, there are going to be no changes, deletions or additions to the game schedule.

We believe we offer enough variety and game choices and we haven't had any requests for changes. **We will continue to run ALL our games** as they are, visit our website for the game schedules, both Online and F2F

WHAT'S CHANGING FOR ONLINE? ACBL has announced that effective Monday Jan 3rd, the 125% multiplier awarded on BBO will disappear. All games will be at 100% regular club ratings, the same as regular club F2F games.

WHAT'S CHANGING FOR F2F? We are glad you asked! We will be charging for our F2F games in the New Year, whenever we can safely restart. However, we are introducing something new, for the first time in our club's history, **PREPAID GAME COUPONS** for our Rouge Woods F2F game only (these coupons are not valid at Angus Glen).

Prepaid coupons can be purchased at the game for \$40 for 10 plays that is \$4.00 a game OR you can pay \$5 cash at the door on game day.

Cash Only, No Coins, No Expiry Date. Online game fee of 3BB\$ remains the same, except for special games which increase.

WELCOME BACK LUNCH (Deferred)

Our welcome back lunch was planned for Thursday Dec 13th, however, after careful consideration, taking into account the new variant and the primary concern being our players health and safety, we made the responsible decision to defer the lunch until the New Year when numbers stabilize and we know more about Omicron. We were disappointed, we wanted to see as many players as we could and had a positive response, but we'll simply 'try again next year, when it's safe'!

REALBRIDGE IS RETURNING! Izhar is pleased to announce that the game that plays like F2F, RealBridge, is returning in January 2022! Games will run at 10:00AM on Thursdays and Fridays starting Jan 6th and he might add Tuesdays! Remember, this is the bridge game that lets you see players while you play, interact and chat, it's competitive and fun. For more information, please visit our website or call Izhar.

**THE ONLY
THING WE HAVE
TO FEAR
IS FEAR ITSELF
AND 5-0 TRUMP BREAKS**





WHAT'S NEW?

Richmond Hill always hosted mini-lessons before our F2F Thu game. We mentioned last month they are coming back, and sure enough we are restarting them in the New Year, on Thursdays before the game, when we return F2F!

That's not all, just the beginning! We have new hosts, some great lessons and lots to learn! Watch for the news. Mike & Julie hosted lessons pre-COVID and the bees are buzzing that they're returning to host the Thu mini-lesson along with Lorraine Eaglesham and Izhar.

LORRAINE'S TUESDAY TIP! Something new for our Tuesday players, that we can do online! A 20-minute quick zoom tip with Lorraine before the game (11:30 – 11:50) for those who played the week before. Invitation only!

ONLINE ACBL SPECIAL POINT GAMES COMING SOON

ACBL has announced their 'special games', earn extra black points and silver –

Jan 6-9: Junior Fund Games, 2x regular pts, 100% black. Game Fee: \$4.00

Jan 17-23: Silver Linings, 2x regular club pts, 100% silver. Game Fee: TBD



FACE-TO-FACE (F2F) UPDATE

F2F started at Rouge Woods on Nov 25th; we have now run a total of four games and we are averaging about 6 tables. The games are friendly, pleasant and the players are very conscientious about safety protocols.

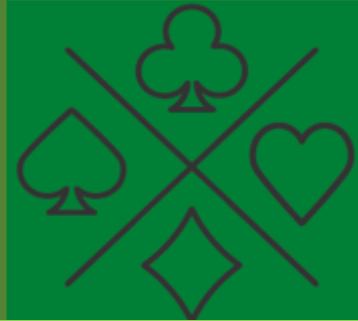
Here are some of the comments from players about Rouge Woods

- *"I love this room; it is so bright and airy; I can see my cards!!"*
- *"There is no problem finding parking and it is easy access into the building"*
- *"Great air circulation; the building is quite new and modern"*

MORE F2F UPDATES

Angus Glen: there were **NO GAMES** between Christmas and New Years at Angus Glen, games will resume in January, we will advise you of the restart date.

Rouge Woods: CLOSED. After our Dec 16th game we closed for the holidays. The government has imposed reductions on indoor gatherings, we do not have a set restart date; we will wait to see what is allowed. Your safety and ours is our #1 priority. More to come!



PLAYER'S CORNER

GUESTS: a reminder to players, you are permitted to bring a guest to any of our games, in fact, we encourage you to bring a guest. Invite your guest and they are a 'club member' for that game.

You may have heard guests can't see the game and they should 'just wait' until it starts. This is not quite accurate, guests, like all players on BBO, can see all games, 2 hours prior to start time by logging into: Competitive > All Tournaments; in the top right search field type in RH, our game(s) will 'appear' in the list of pending games. Your guest can open the game and see the entries, the estimated start time and details.



QR CODES: One note of importance, the government is now implementing the QR code on your vaccine certificate. What does this mean? Well, in order for you to enter facilities you will need to download your vaccine certificate **with the QR code**. A QR code consists of black squares arranged in a square grid on a white background, here's what one looks like -



To download your vaccine certificate with the QR code on it you can do so on the Ontario Government website. If you received your booster, you should download the new certificate to show '3 doses'. Here's the link <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/>; you need to scroll down to the section **To download your enhanced...**

MORE SAD NEWS

We had more sad news and to make it worse we didn't know; we couldn't get in touch with a player only to learn that **Marilyn George** (mrst2) passed away on Nov 24th. Marilyn learned she had cancer and she was gone quickly with no immediate family to tell anyone. Marilyn played regularly in the limited games with her partner Jacquie Boyd and loved bridge.

Submitted by Gordon Saul

Richmond Hill is holding a by-election for Mayor on **Jan 24, 2022** and I encourage everyone who can vote to do so, your vote counts.

I have personal experience working with one of the candidates, current Ward 4 Councillor, David West. I wanted to make sure you are aware of the name and I encourage you to review his qualifications for Mayor and consider voting for him.

You can find more information about this man and qualifications on his website <https://votedavidwest.ca/>



MISCELANEOUS

THEY ARE BACK!
ONLINE LESSONS ARE RETURNING

Julie and Mike are ready to restart lessons on Saturday January 22nd and Tuesday January 25th

Saturday's, over 5 lessons, we will explore the world of "**Declarer Play**", one of the most difficult aspects for newer players. Including the critical step of "Making a Plan".

Tuesday's, over 5 lessons, we will uncover the **Joys and Sorrows of "Slam Bidding"**. How to know when you have the values, bidding slowly, getting the information you need

Sessions are 1-hour, 5 lessons for \$75 on zoom, with power point and video recordings. Watch for registration information coming soon!

Lorraine Eaglesham is starting a new class; **Introduction to Defense**; learn about opening leads, when to lead trump, 2nd and 3rd hand play and signals.

Date: Wednesdays, starting Jan 5, 12, 19, 26
Time: 4:00-6:00 PM, for 4 weeks
Cost: \$125 including taxes and materials!
Delivery: Zoom, PDF handouts, video recording and more

Contact Lorraine for more information or to register
Lmeaglesham@aol.com



TRIVIA QUIZ

1. From 1965-1970, this actor played the inept Agent 86 in 'Get Smart.' His role as a bridge player is less well-known although from the 1990s onwards, he ran frequent games at the Playboy Mansion (yes, Hugh Hefner plays bridge too!) Who is he?
2. This Supreme Court justice likes to play bridge in a suit and bow-tie.
3. What former showgirl and partner of "Mr. Bridge" was the first woman to play in the world championships of bridge (the Bermuda Bowl), and is regarded as the greatest female player of all time?
4. Who invented probably the most popular bridge convention in the world, the ace-asking bid of 4NT that bears his name?
5. The #1 world-ranked player from 1985-2005, is often quoted as saying, "If you have a choice of reasonable bids, and one of them is 3NT, bid it."?



TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. **Don Adams** - An anonymous story on a Don Adams fan site said, 'Don Adams (of Get Smart) played a lot of rubber bridge while I was living in L.A. in the early eighties, and for all I know he still does. One day his partner opens 1NT, it goes double, and Don bids 2NT. Don did not play this for the minors, and everyone knew it. The other players looked at him as if to say 'What are you doing?' Don is no dummy, he knew he must have done something screwy. With his best Maxwell Smart imitation, Don says 'There are only five players in the country who know the meaning of my bid. Unfortunately, . . . I am not one of them!' ' Phillip Alder, a bridge columnist, wrote an entire 'Get Smart'-themed series of bridge columns that can be found online.
2. **John Paul Stevens** - He is a Life Master in the ACBL, and his bridge-playing career began at a very young age. His brother Ernest wrote, 'When John was six, he could play better bridge than most adults today'
3. **Helen Sobel Smith** - Helen Sobel learned the game on the set of the Marx Brothers movie "Animal Crackers", where she was a chorus girl. She quickly became one of the best players in the game, partnering with Charles Goren and winning over 30 national championships.

When a spectator watching her and Mr. Goren asked her how it felt to play with a great player, she replied "I don't know. Ask him." Most neutral observers agreed that of the two, she was the better player. Unfortunately, she died at the relatively young age of 59 from cancer.
4. **Easley Blackwood** - Blackwood was a fine player, but his convention became critical for slam bidding and was adopted widely around the world (despite other competitors such as the Culbertson 4-5 NT) due to its simplicity and effectiveness. In fact, it was so widely adopted that Blackwood lamented that if he had a nickel for every time it was used (often incorrectly), he would be a millionaire.

The wrong choices also created popular bidding conventions that are widely in use today, but none quite so much as the Blackwood convention.





5. **Bob Hamman** - Bob Hamman is the most accomplished bridge player in the last quarter of the 20th century. His long run at the top of bridge is comparable to other great sportsmen such as Tiger Woods and Michael Jordan. His saying about 3NT is known as Hamman's Law. When not dominating at the bridge table, he runs SCA Productions, a company that provides insurance for low-probability promotional contests such as hitting a basket from half-court or shooting a hole-in-one.

