



EDITOR'S NOTE

THE LONGEST DAY EVENT

Tuesday June 21st @ Thornhill Golf Club

We are down to the wire; registrations are coming and although we were hoping for a sellout, we are close and it's not too late to happen. We know many are still concerned about returning F2F, there is still room so please **send in your registration** form to come play! If you can't come to the game for whatever reason, please consider **making a donation** to the event to help achieve the very lofty goal Thornhill set!! See below for details. Remember you can also play online. **SO MANY CHOICES!**

Gentle Reminders -

- 100% of fees go to the charity. The event has no overhead, what comes in goes out!
- Safety protocols are in place, our priority is the players and volunteer's health and safety
- For those who can't join us please feel free to **donate generously** on the 'dedicated' donor website: <http://on.alz.to/DayofBridge2022>

HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE...

We were asked about 'the club's amalgamation with Thornhill'. **THIS IS A RUMOUR!**

FACT: we did not amalgamate. We are both separate and distinct clubs. However, what we are doing is working together for the betterment of all clubs, including Aurora, and most importantly for the players. Working together allows players to play freely among the games offered by any of the clubs, everyone is a member, we don't have to worry about the visitor policy or adding you to databases. We can support each others games, Thornhill offers different types of games from Aurora and RHBC, focusing on Swiss Teams, we hope you will give them a try, they are a lot of fun!



FACE TO FACE GAMES

MINI LESSONS ARE BACK!

We have offered lessons online for our players while we struggled with COVID, but now we are back F2F and we restarted our Thursday 'Mini Lessons'. These are geared to the 0-500 players. Our first one, opening a minor, was held on May 12th and they continue to run weekly with handouts and very positive feedback!

FACE TO FACE GAMES

All clubs are struggling to get players back to the F2F games. Players gained a comfort level playing online, add to that the convenience and the elimination of travel time (and cost), the need to get dressed, it has all had a negative impact on F2F numbers at most clubs.

We have our faithful players, but would like to hear from you, so please answer the following for us and send an email to Claude or Susan ***What circumstances are you waiting for before you return to F2F?*** If you have no plans to return, ever, we'd like to hear that too, well we don't want to hear it, but it is a new reality. If you are waiting for games to get bigger, please consider, they will never get bigger if everyone has this same attitude.

ACBL is starting to make changes to online games in an effort to help support F2F games. Online masterpoint awards are decreasing effective July 1, 2022. ***To promote the return of face-to-face club play, there will be a reduction in the maximum VACB club awards from 4.0 to 2.5.***

After offering reduced game prices since the end of 2021, the time has come for us to **increase the price** effective July 1st to \$50 for a coupon of 10 plays or \$6 at the door (no small coins accepted, exact fare appreciated). We have to be able to pay the costs for F2F and that means 'rent'. Sadly, there are a lot more costs for running F2F than online, but online prices are also **INCREASING**, both for RHBC and Aurora on June 1, 2022 to **4BB\$**; we do not want it to be more attractive to play online than it is to play a F2F game.

A thought-provoking quote by one of the ACBL directors whose club is trying to restart F2F games: ***"sadly we can't get people back and one day they are going to want to play F2F and there won't be any clubs who survived to play at"***.



CLUB CORNER

SAD NEWS

JIM FENWICK, after a long hard fight passed away on May 28th. Jim was a regular at our F2F games and was often seen partnering with Ken Sheppard or Bev Candlish. He will be missed by all who knew him.

ONLINE ACBL SPECIAL POINT GAMES

June 18-19th – Longest Day Weekend, in support of Alzheimer's – 2x regular club points, Cost: \$5

This is the last special points virtually for 2022.

THORNHILL C.C. GAMES and MEDHAT

We sent out the announcement, but it's worth repeating, Medhat has joined us as a director for our Thursday online games. Medhat, aka Thornhill CC, are still running games with a focus on team (Swiss Teams) and Face to Face games. The online Swiss team games are done in 2 hours so if you want to put a together a team and play, you'll be done in time for the RHBC game!

Monday: Swiss Team @ 10:00AM

Monday: Face to Face @ 1:00 PM

Tuesday: Face to Face @ 1:00 PM

Tuesday: Online Evening Game @ 7:00PM

Thursday: Swiss Team @ 4:00PM The Monday F2F game is one of the largest in the area, averaging 7 tables / game.

MEMBERSHIPS

Area clubs are collecting annual membership fees and we are asked frequently about memberships.

- *"Can I join RHBC? I'd like to join*
- *How much is your membership?*
- *How can I become a member?*

We are thrilled when we hear players want to join our club, but we charge a game fee to play, not a membership fee.

Since COVID and the 'visitor' policy it is a little more problematic welcoming everyone. However, there is an option to becoming a member and it requires you to play in our Face-to-Face game, **one time**; this makes you a member!

Paying a membership fee **DOES NOT** make you an online club member, you are still considered a visitor.

Yes, we pay rent and have expenses, but with the increase in our online games and setting our F2F game fee back to pre-covid rates we have been able to support our club financially; we do not wish to ask players for more with an annual fee.

We want you to be able to play bridge by creating a nice environment both in person and online at a reasonable price.



CLUB CORNER

ALERTS: Submitted by Nancy Strachan

Clubs, both F2F and Online, may set policies that work in their environment, while still adhering to ACBL policies. Online we've seen clubs make changes to help speed up the games and eliminate the need for players to 'type' explanations.

However, I would like to reiterate that although a club may adopt its own policy this may not be the case if you are playing in a tournament or other ACBL online games. An example of this is announcing transfers; although RHBC has stated you no longer need to alert a transfer to a major, with no interference, you still **MUST** name the suit in other ACBL games. I don't want to see players thinking that it's a 'one size fits all'.

ACBL has also changed, you don't have to say 'transfer' (or type it) you just have to name the suit. To help you with your alerting, may I suggest that all you need to do online is type the following, and this will help you stay in the habit of naming your suits when you are transferring:

2D = H

2H = S

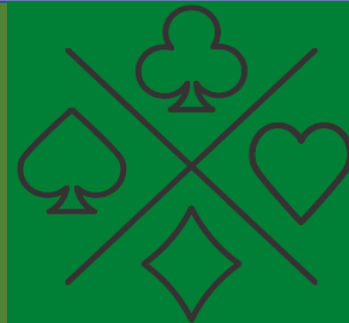
You do not need to type transfer or any variation of the word, simply putting the H (hearts) or S (spades) is sufficient.

GAME CHANGES

PRICE INCREASE: In case you missed it above, Effective Jun 1, 2022, **online** games, both RHBC and Aurora clubs, are increasing to 4BB\$. We told you it would happen, but it cannot be more attractive to play online than F2F.

JUN 21 – LONGEST DAY ONLINE! All proceeds are going to Alzheimer's Ontario so the game fee will be **\$5**. We will run our 'regularly scheduled (0-350) game' and are going to increase the MP limit to 500 so more players can join who can't play in person. Note: Ladies game is **cancelled**

TUESDAY TIP – summer is here and Lorraine is taking well deserved vacation time, so the last Tuesday Tip is Jun 28, restarting Sept 13. **Note:** No tip on the longest day, we are all playing bridge!



PLAYER'S CORNER

CONGRATULATIONS

Another month has come and gone and more players have advanced, it is wonderful to see all of you moving up! Your hard work, commitment and in many cases lessons, have paid off and you are achieving great things!

Club Master

Wihelmine (Hellie) Weller

Junior Master

Laura Baldwin
Sandra McLeod
Betty Rodrigues

Sectional Master

Tania Leeson
Marion Fox

Ruby Life Master

Eva Muir

Gold Life Master

Joy Shapiro

LESSONS

LORRAINE's last two-hour lesson was so popular that she is going to offer another two-hour lesson, the topic: **New Minor Forcing (NMF)**. This is a zoom lesson with discussion and then play of the hands. All materials are made available to attendees after the lesson, including the zoom.

Date: Thursday June 9th

Time: 3:45 – 5:45PM

Cost: \$25

Contact: bridgewithlorraine@gmail.com to register

Note: If you can't attend you can still sign up and receive the lesson so you can replay it when it is





PLAYERS CORNER

HESITATION

What is Hesitation in bridge? What is a reasonable amount of time to allow a player to think on a bid or play a card? This applies to BOTH F2F and Online Games!

We have had calls lately about players “hesitating”, taking too long to play a card or to bid. There are rules governing '**hesitations**' under the provision of authorized and unauthorized information, Law 16 in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. Hesitating does relay information, but it's relayed to everyone at the table, the information has already been passed.

A long hesitation delays the game and gives the hesitator's partner information, but sometimes it takes longer to consider the many possibilities of the hand. What the player's partner **must not** do is take advantage of unauthorized information and act on the hesitation rather than bidding their hand.

In bridge, players are not allowed to vary the tempo of their bids and plays in an effort to mislead the opponents. Players should try to make their bids and plays in an even tempo whenever possible. Of course, there are times when you have to stop and think about what your next action will be, but to purposely pause when you have no problem, nothing to think about is wrong.

It is also considered equally unethical, in many situations, to make a very fast bid or play, indicating that you have no problem at all when you are trying to 'deceive' declarer.

The point is to avoid any chance of a misinterpretation of your intentions so please remember, hesitations put undo pressure on your partner, the opponents and the director. They can also result in score adjustments by the director.

**WHERE'S THE
HAND YOU HELD
IN THE BIDDING?**





MISCELLANEOUS

TEST YOURSELF!

HOW DO YOU RESPOND

N	E	S	W
1♥	P	1♠	P
2♥	P	?	

On each of these hands the auction is the same, now SOUTH, what do you bid?

- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| 1. ♠ A J 8 4 3 | ♥ 4 | ♣ 9 5 | ♦ K J 9 7 4 |
| 2. ♠ A J 9 3 2 | ♥ Q 7 | ♣ 9 8 | ♦ K 7 4 3 |
| 3. ♠ A Q 8 7 | ♥ 2 | ♣ K 8 4 3 | ♦ Q 8 7 3 |
| 4. ♠ A 10 8 3 2 | ♥ K 10 4 | ♣ A Q 9 3 | ♦ 2 |
| 5. ♠ A Q J 10 7 4 | ♥ 2 | ♣ 8 7 4 | ♦ A 9 8 |
| 6. ♠ J 9 5 4 3 2 | ♥ - | ♣ Q 6 5 | ♦ A 9 7 6 |



MISCELLANEOUS

TEST YOURSELF!

ANSWERS TO TEST YOURSELF

1. **PASS.** 2♠ on a five-card suit is out. 3♦ showing opening bid values is also out. What's left is the best bid in bridge, PASS!
2. **3♥.** You have enough to invite. That HQ is a big card.
3. **PASS.** 11 HCP is enough to bid 2NT, but the singleton heart reduces the value of your hand a point or two. This could be wrong, but more often than not you will be right.
4. **4♦.** Slam try splinter showing a singleton diamond, three card heart support and slam inviting values. Perfect!
5. **3♠** Invitational. With one more ♠ and one less ♣, you would jump to 4♠
6. **PASS.** Don't look for trouble with a likely misfit and don't save your partner. There's always the next hand. If your ♠ were stronger, you would bid 2♠

