

GRAPEVINE - NOVEMBER 2021



EDITORS NOTE

It is at this time of year, the holidays are around the corner and RHBC will start looking at ways to support the community, even though we haven't returned to our former F2F glory, this doesn't mean the community doesn't need our help. Two charities we wish to support this year are the Richmond Hill Foodbank and Hill House Hospice.

We wanted to share something that was published in the local community paper earlier this year; we thought it was excellent and hope you do too. It is of particular interest to those of us who donate directly to any Foodbank

Sharing wisdom from a food bank volunteer (Jun 2021):

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac & Cheese in the box, but it needs milk & butter which is hard to get from food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure. Kids need it for cereal, which they get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. Canned foods should be Pop Tops OR donate a can opener.
5. Oil is a luxury needed for Rice a Roni which they get a lot of.
6. Spices, Salt, Pepper are a real gift.
7. Teabags and coffee are caring gifts.
8. Sugar and Flour are treats.
9. Seeds are great in Spring because growing can be easy for some.
10. Rarely is fresh meat available.
11. Tuna and Crackers make a good lunch.
12. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
13. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but NEED sandwich bread.
14. Butter or Margarine is great.
15. Eggs are a commodity!
16. Cake mixes and Frosting make it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
17. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and always appreciated.
18. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women cry over them.
19. Everyone loves Stovetop Stuffing.

BONUS: CASH makes it possible for the Food Bank to buy what's missing in bulk so it is always welcome!

GRAPEVINE - NOVERMBER 2021



MORE BRIDGE TRIVIA!

1. During bidding, someone suddenly says "Alert!".
What is going on?
 - a. The player is politely asking his partner to pay attention to the game
 - b. The player is notifying the opponents that his partner's last bid has a conventional meaning
 - c. The player is warning everyone that the police are on the way
 - d. The player is informing an opponent that one of his cards has fallen on the table face-up
2. What does the bridge maxim "Eight Ever, Nine Never" mean?
 - a. You can always make 2NT, but never 3NT
 - b. You should always bid 2NT, but never 3NT
 - c. When you have 8-cards in a suit finesse for the Queen, when you have 9-cards in the suit play your Ace and King hoping to drop the Queen
 - d. When you hold both the 8 and 9 in a suit, always lead the 8, never the 9.
3. This basketball star was called "the biggest, tallest player I have ever seen", by Jeff Goldsmith, a CalTech professor, who faced him at his first bridge Tournament. Who is it?
4. In 1931, the best-selling book in the USA was a bridge book written by the first entrepreneur of bridge. What was his/her name?
5. What is a yarborough in bridge?

PLAYERS CORNER – New Names and Faces

Fall is in full swing; Winter is around the corner and we are still seeing new faces and we would like to welcome them all!

Marlene Gage (1940sis)

Wendy Aspinall (W905)

Pat Smith (ella611)

Dennis McFadden

(Dennis757)

Jim Dennis (sinner49)

Judy Valiquette (jvyd)

Veena Pradhan (VP9876)

Roberta Sinyor (MissRKB)





CLUB NEWS AND FACE TO FACE UPDATE

A few months ago, we did a phone survey of over 100 players in our games. We were thrilled to learn that 99% are fully vaccinated and 86% wanted to return F2F, most saying “I’ll be back as soon as the doors open”.

The time was right, the government was allowing activities to start so we restarted F2F at Angus Glen on Monday, October 4th, with a table limitation that has now been lifted. However, our table numbers do not reflect our survey results. We are averaging 3.5 – 4 tables and the players who are playing are all non-BBO players. REMEMBER: You do not need a partner to play F2F, simply come to the game and we will pair you up!

What about Elgin Barrows? We are still working with the city to provide our permits and a rental fee that is more tolerable as we try to rebuild the games. Our goal is to restart F2F at Elgin Barrows as soon as we get the go-ahead from the city. Watch your inbox for an email notification!

We can’t do it without you. If you want F2F to survive we need players to return to the game. The safety protocols are in place and we are ready to go, we just need you to want to return to the game.



GRAPEVINE - NOVERMBER 2021



HILL HOUSE HOSPICE, PALLIATIVE CARE

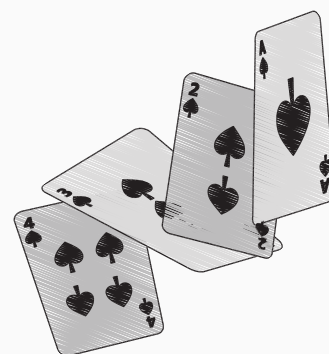
We all hope we don't need a hospice, personally or for a loved one, but when you find yourself in this situation it is comforting to know they are available. The Richmond Hill Hospice, known as "Hill House" is available in our community and relies 100% on donations.

We believe that it is the right of every individual with a life-threatening illness to receive palliative care appropriate to his or her needs. The Mission of Hill House Hospice is:

- To provide palliative care to individuals diagnosed with a terminal illness in a home-like setting;
- To provide support for their families and friends; and
- To ensure that each patient is treated with dignity, respect, and the highest standard of care.

Hill House accepts donations of goods that you may have around the house and they are always looking for:

- Liquid Hand Soap
- Gloves – all sizes
- Dry goods (garbage bags, coffee filters, baking supplies)
- Laundry Soap
- Toilet paper, Paper towels, and Kleenex
- Bounce sheets
- Household Cleaners



NOVEMBER GAMES

There are no holidays in Canada or Ontario in November so we are happy to announce that ALL our online games will run per schedule.

We have been asked by many "are you going to keep the Tuesday Ladies game"? The answer is YES! We will continue running it as long as there is an interest and many of us 'love this game'; 18 boards and we are done by 5:50 with a mixed field of players.

GRAPEVINE - NOVERMBER 2021



TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. (B) The player is notifying the opponents that his partner's last bid has a conventional meaning. However, we like (A) too, but alas it's not correct!!
2. (C) When you have 8-cards in a suit finesse for the Queen, when you have 9-cards in the suit play your Ace and King hoping to drop the Queen.
3. WILT CHAMBERLAIN - In his account of the match, Goldsmith wrote, 'It turns out that he has been playing for only six weeks. Now he is thrown into the shark pool.' A bit more of the commentary gives a glimpse into the obsessive world of competitive bridge: 'West leads the Jack of Clubs and Wilt wins the King. Studiously, he returns his other club and West runs the clubs. Declarer pitches all four hearts from dummy and two diamonds and a heart from his hand. Wilt can spare a heart and two diamonds, but what can he pitch on the last club? Nothing at all; he is suicide progressive squeezed. If he pitches a diamond, declarer can win the spade return (best) in dummy and cash three diamonds, squeezing him in the majors. If he pitches a heart or a spade, declarer has seven tricks immediately.

He pitches a diamond, then squirms again, only to concede defeat in the end as declarer chalks up seven tricks. In order to beat 1NT, Wilt needed to shift to the King of Hearts at trick two. That seems to be a very difficult play for anyone, not just someone playing in his first tournament. It is not good enough for West to abandon clubs since the declarer can just simply set up two heart tricks to make his contract. All at the table were amazed by the hand; none of us had seen one of these before. Imagine my partner, all 135 pounds of him, squeezing Wilt Chamberlain to death. Isn't bridge great?' Now, if you can understand any of that, you are on your way to being a good bridge player!

4. CULBERTSON'S BLUE BOOK - Ely Culbertson, though not a great player himself, managed to convince the public via his salesmanship, that he was the world's leading authority on the game. Many of the ideas he espoused were those of his wife Josephine (who was a great player) or other professionals he hired to play on his team.

(answers continue on next page)

GRAPEVINE - NOVERMBER 2021



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHAT IS WRONG WITH MY ROBOT? IT DOESN'T KNOW MUCH OF ANYTHING.

Answer: Robots do not know conventions; they are programmed to play naturally. If your bot opens 1NT and you bid 2-hearts as a transfer to spades your bot may pass or raise your heart suit, but it will not transfer you. Solution: Bid the suit you want, keep it simple and natural.

WE HAD 51%, ANOTHER PAIR HAD 48% THEY GOT POINTS, WE DIDN'T. WHY?

Answer: STRATIFICATION. If you remember BBO divides players into thirds, one-third "A", one-third "B" and one-third "C". If you are classed as "A" and the pair who had a lower percentage than you are classed as "C" it is quite possible, even likely, they will get points and you may not or they will get more points than you did. BBO doesn't award all the MPS to the "A" players.

REMEMBER: Your stratification can change depending on the game. If you are in a limited game, you might be an "A" player, move to an open game and you may be a "C" player. It all depends on how many combined MPS you and partner have and the strength of the field.

TRIVIA ANSWERS continued

5. A HAND WITH NO CARD HIGHER THAN A NINE (almost worthless) - This expression has a very nice story behind it. Back in the days of whist (the ancestor of bridge) the Earl of Yarborough was well aware that picking up a hand without any aces, face cards or tens was extremely rare (the actual chance is around 1400 to 1). Thus, the Earl placed a constant bet, that whenever he was dealt a non-yarborough hand he would win 1 pound, but whenever he picked up a yarborough hand, he would pay 1000 pounds. The Earl won many thousands of pounds over the years, using this bet.



GRAPEVINE - NOVERMBER 2021



A LOT OF COMMENTS, SO MORE ON UNDOS

We recently announced that ACBL is allowing UNDOS in club games at the director's discretion. More on this...

- UNDOS are not automatically allowed, the director will decide
- They are advantageous for our Limited games with newer players
- Requesting an UNDO should be IMMEDIATE, ask players at the table to stop bidding, a MISCLICK has been made
- If an opponent has bid and the bid gives unauthorized information (they would have made a different bid over the intended bid) the UNDO may not be permitted
- The player requesting the UNDO must not have made a 2nd bid and then ask for their original bid to be UNDONE
- The UNDO process is time consuming and directors are not going to slow down the game, so this new functionality will be used SPARINGLY
- ACBL has given us this new functionality, but we don't have to use it, we are going to try it and hopefully it will add a positive element to our games, if not, we simply will cease allowing UNDOS.

What should you do if you MISCLICK?

- Ask the table to stop bidding
- Call the director
- Director will assess and determine if the UNDO should be permitted

We have been playing on BBO now for over 18 months and we have managed without UNDOS. We will use them only when the bid is truly harmful to the opponents or glaringly obvious to all and no harm is done. There are mixed feelings on allowing UNDOS, but we felt this could be a 'useful' tool in the right circumstances, but we will discontinue them if they become too cumbersome.

Please continue to use care when bidding and playing so you don't MISCLICK or enable the 'double' click for bid and play in your Profile Settings!