THE

Grapevine!

we're so glad you're here!



DAY TO REMEMBER OUR VETERANS
NOVEMBER 11TH

What is the significance of Remembrance Days? It signifies the signing of the Armistice in 1918 (WWI) on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th months. This is why 2 minutes of silence is observed at 11:00AM on the 11th.

No longer a public holiday, but observed, people often wear "Poppies" and there are wreath laying ceremonies for those who lost their lives in the wars.





F2F SPECIAL EVENTS

There is a Go Local – Stardust Gold (33%) in November. Only ONE Game is eligible and it is Saturday November 28th! Mark your calendars.

As a sneak peak of Go Local Stardust Gold (33%) – see below for the summary.

There is **NO ADDED** cost to the players! ACBL doesn't charge the face-to-face clubs for the Go Local games, you'll be happy to know we can afford 'no added costs'

Now, get your calendars out, mark it on your wall, in your phone, write it on your arm, there are sparkling colours coming in November and December!

GO LOCAL SUMMARY

Saturday November 28th = 33% Gold
Thursday December 3rd = 33% Gold
Saturday December 5th = 33% Gold

For the 2027 schedule of special games, please visit our website.
https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwx/bw.cgi?club=richmondhill&pid=display_home

Now, ACBL offers clubs 'Stardust' games; players can earn gold points, **BUT they are not free**, they come with an added cost to the club. In order for our club to host these games everyone would have to pay $1.00 more (and that still would not cover the additional fee in US$), the club would pick up the difference.

In the past Izhar tried running a few, but when he tried to charge the extra $1, players balked at it (I actually had one person turn and leave when they were asked for an extra $1), so Izhar stopped.

Is this something you would like? Willing to pay for?

A CHANGE IS COMING, FOR THE BETTER!



Many of you know we run limited games (0-299) and supervised on Monday and Wednesday mornings at the R.H. Presbyterian Church (10066 Yonge Street). The players need more competition and are ready to 'flex their wings' so we are changing the Wednesday Game to a 0-500 game. Also changing is the start time, 9:30AM on Wednesday Only! Monday is still 10:00AM.

Why? We are going to play 24 boards (or try) and want to be done by 12:45PM

If you want to come and join us, please let Susan know, we pre-register for these games so we know how many to expect.

Registration Link: https://forms.gle/6EmKqu5B3GidZJq69



Another month and several changes. No one moved into the realm of Life Master (or other masters), but we have players moving on up

Club Master – Howard McNamara, Steven Traub

NABC Master – Daniel Chui, Andrey Kosynskyy, Irina Kosynskyy

Regional Master – Carol Nerling

Sectional Master – Ozzie Pfeiffer, Derek Leung



REMINDER, F2F HOLIDAY HOURS

DEC 24TH AND DEC 31ST



GAME START TIME: 12:15PM
GAME STOP TIME: 3:15PM

BUILDING VACATED: 3:45PM

The above is not 'subject to discussion', they are hard and fast rules by the Town. The young men who setup and tear down our room, want to get out of the building for the holidays as well and we need to be considerate of them!

ARRIVE EARLY, NOT AT GAME TIME

To help us **PLEASE ARRIVE at least 10 minutes before** start time (12:45), please be play ready by 12:35. This allows us to shut down registration and get the game setup and boards distributed. REMEMBER we have to wait until start time before we can setup the game, we don't know how many tables there will be, if there is a sitout, what type of movement we need. In order to do this, we need you checked in and play ready.

If you know you are late, please let Claude or Susan know so we can get you assigned and you are ready to walk in and play!

NO LATER THAN 12:35



MESSAGE FROM SUSAN
PLEASE STAY SEATED UNTIL ROUND IS CALLED

I've asked you, I've written to you, but I realize that some of you cannot hear well, so I'm putting it in writing again. **PLEASE DO NOT MOVE** until the round is called. I admit you are getting much better, but still a few who insist on moving.
If you want to –



A) Go to the front foyer = **Perfect**
B) Go to a corner in the room and wait = **That Works**
C) Use the restroom, get a beverage = **All Good**
D) Moving to the next table = **NOT FINE, DOESN'T WORK, NOT GOOD**
E) Asking the next table for a board so you can start = **REALLY NOT GOOD**

I need the aisles clear to allow free movement between tables. If the pair in front of you leave the table for whatever reason it doesn't mean "oh I can go grab the chair". No, you should not, they might want to return. A novel idea? Chat with your ops, you never know what you might learn!

We were asked to reinstate the 'clock' we discussed it and vetoed the idea, why?

a) The clock simply countdowns, it is a repeating timer, when it hits '0' it starts the next round. If there are still 8 tables playing? Director has to intervene.
b) Hearing issues - people in the far corner can't hear it, can't see it and those sitting close, find it too loud.

I call the round when there are four (4) tables playing, I push them to pickup and have a goal of getting the game done in 3 hours (if/when we start on-time). If everyone helps it will make it much easier to achieve the goal.

NORTH/SOUTH – please DO NOT ask for a board when they are playing or the round hasn't been called, be patient. Don't start your round early or you simply cause a back log, a domino affect. Do something unique, TALK TO YOUR OPS, GET TO KNOW THEM. **If the round has been called** and you need a board, then ask!

CHRISTMAS / HANUKKAH PARTY

In Memory of John Chipperfield and Michele Noar

Claude and Susan had an idea; one we have never done in the past. We lost two regular club players in 2026, John Chipperfield (heart attack) and Michele Noar (cancer). We thought we would dedicate our Christmas/Hanukkah Game in their memory. Since we were on a roll with ideas, we are also going to make this game a **Unit Championship, earn more points, no extra cost to you, club is paying, that is our GIFT TO YOU!**

The donations we raise will go to two charities, one that John supported for years, **Holiday Helpers** and the other for Michele, the **Richmond Hill Hospice**. You may make a donation on the day of the event. Cash or cheque payable to Holiday Helpers or Richmond Hill Hospice, whichever you wish to support. Tax receipts will be issued for donations over $25.00
Holiday Helpers: https://holidayhelpers.org/
Richmond Hill Hospice: https://hillhousehospice.com/

The lunch is on **December 10TH**

Players have started to register and are asking "what can I bring"? We are sharing a few ideas, but we need you to let Susan and/or Claude know so we make sure we don't end up with 25 trays of brownies!

a) Meatballs, dumplings, perogies (in a crockpot, you bring); we have outlets
b) Small cheese and cracker tray
c) Small fruit tray
d) Small veggie tray
e) Dips – spinach, hummus, bruschetta, etc. with a 'dipper', crackers, baguette
f) Bite size sweets – brownies, cookies, loaf cake (cut), bars

The club is providing

a) Mini croissants
b) Sushi
c) Samosas

You do not need to bring anything or enough for 'everyone', a sampler is fine. Bring the 'serving' utensil needed and make sure you take them home.

RESERVATIONS: The room filled in the first two days! A wait list is now in place.



ONLINE CORNER

ACBL has introduced a new initiative to help the face-to-face clubs and to promote RealBridge, it is called ***PLAY IT FORWARD.*** This is a new program that gives players Home Club $3 every time a player plays in a Real Deal evening game at 7:15PM EST on RealBridge.

ACBL identified a player's F2F Home Club by where they play the most often. We've offered players the opportunity to change their Home Club, if they wish.

These games are run by real club directors, the games are friendly, the TDs are friendly, and it's truly a F2F club atmosphere. You'll have a great time.

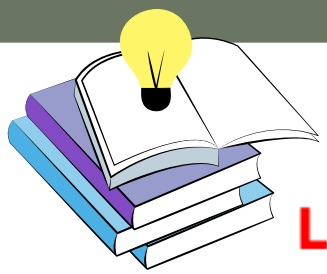
ACBL designed the program to help clubs, we can financially benefit, but it isn't indefinitely, it is only a pilot in November and December.

THEY STARTED WTH A WHIMPER
SADLY, THEY LEFT THE SAME WAY

We tried; we failed. There was simply NO, zero, none, interest in the 0-750 game on Thursday or the 0-500 on Sunday. We had the games available all month, and had to cancel them. We do not want to waste our directors time or energies. They are gone, the way of the dodo bird!



We still have our Sat and Sun games (both open) at 12:30. **DON'T FORGET** our Tuesday Open game at 4:00PM. It's 18 boards, those who play in it LOVE IT, sadly we need more to join us. We are done by 5:45-5:50 (in time for cocktails) so if you have the time, give it a try and join us!



LORRAINE'S BEGINNER LESSONS

Lorraine's lessons are coming to an end this month and we are happy to share the positive feedback. Lorraine hosted over 40 players across her 3 lessons and she had 14 in her bridge basics. We really hope to see them join us on Mondays in our supervised play session!

We've already picked up five new players and hopefully they enjoy it and want to continue!



Remember we need players, so if you have friends or family looking to play bridge, tell them about our games.

If your friends or family want to learn bridge, let Susan know and she can make sure that they are directed to Lorraine and 'make it happen'.

THANKSGIVING MONDAY

Thornhill was closed due to the holiday so we stepped up and hosted an open game opposite our limited game, capping tables at 22. It was a great success; we had 12 tables in the 0-299 and 10 in the open. The players all said they enjoyed the game and it was great to welcome some new faces.



The comments we heard –

- Wow what a great room, so bright
- What a great location
- Can you run some more games?

It was nice to hear and we thank you! Next time Thornhill is closed, we'll try to accommodate you!

PLAYER SUBMISSION

By Susan, for Miki

About a month ago, in the limited game, Miki came to me and said “are you trying to tell Krisztina something?” She is his bridge partner and life partner.

I looked at what he was showing me, took a nanosecond to register before I burst out laughing! I’ve never seen this before with all the bidding boxes I have put out and believe me that is a lot!!

Since this happened, I have seen others as well, all making me laugh, I think I pay more attention now!





PS: There was no hidden message to Krisztina, she is lovely!

TEST YOURSELF

MATCH YOUR BID

Match with Marshall Miles (National Champion many times over, and well known for his theories and imaginative bidding) on the following bridge problems from actual play, sitting in the South seat.

Hand #5: Both Side vulnerable:
Your Hand: ♠ KQJ10432 ♥ Q83 ♦ 4 ♣ A9

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	?	

Note: You play strong jump shifts

Hand #6: Neither Side Vulnerable
Your Hand: ♠ AQJ43 ♥ 97 ♦ 1043 ♣ 1054

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	?	

Hand #7: Both sides Vul.
Your Hand: ♠ 53 ♥ K843 ♦ K65 ♣ AJ54

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	3♠	?

Hand #8: North-South vulnerable:
Your Hand: ♠ ♥ AK642 ♦ A1043 ♣ A1043

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			



TEST YOURSELF!

SOLUTIONS

Hand #5: 1♠. No problem. Too much side strength for a pre-empt, not strong enough for a jump shift.

Hand #6: **PASS**. Game is unlikely so I pass in the safest part score contract. (I thought Marshall would bid 2H)

Hand #7: DBL. At this level a double simply shows high cards. If partner has a balanced hand, he should pass. If he is distributional, he can bid knowing I have high card strength.

Hand #8: 2♦. Since I hope to bid all three suits, I do so in the normal order. With a weaker hand I might bid 2C planning not to show the diamonds unless partner bids them first.



TEST YOURSELF

MATCH YOUR BID

Match with Marshall Miles (National Champion many times over, and well known for his theories and imaginative bidding) on the following bridge problems from actual play, sitting in the South seat.

Hand #5: Both Side vulnerable:
Your Hand: ♠ KQJ10432 ♥ Q83 ♦ 4 ♣ A9

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	?	

Note: You play strong jump shifts

Hand #6: Neither Side Vulnerable
Your Hand: ♠ AQJ43 ♥ 97 ♦ 1043 ♣ 1054

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	?	

Hand #7: Both sides Vul.
Your Hand: ♠ 53 ♥ K843 ♦ K65 ♣ AJ54

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	3♠	?

Hand #8: North-South vulnerable:
Your Hand: ♠ ♥ AK642 ♦ A1043 ♣ A1043

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			

TEST YOURSELF!

SOLUTIONS

Hand #5: 1♠. No problem. Too much side strength for a pre-empt, not strong enough for a jump shift.

Hand #6: **PASS**. Game is unlikely so I pass in the safest part score contract. (I thought Marshall would bid 2H)

Hand #7: DBL. At this level a double simply shows high cards. If partner has a balanced hand, he should pass. If he is distributional, he can bid knowing I have high card strength.

Hand #8: 2♦. Since I hope to bid all three suits, I do so in the normal order. With a weaker hand I might bid 2C planning not to show the diamonds unless partner bids them first.

