

THE

Grapevine!

we're so glad you're here!



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

October is the month we celebrate our Thanksgiving, in Canada at least! We celebrate on Monday October 12th!

The holiday reflects on the harvest and giving thanks, centering on gratitude for nature's bounty, sharing large meals, and family gatherings; usually with Turkey!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!





**** IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR BBO PLAYERS ****

As you will see if you continue to read the Grapevine, the numbers on BBO are not good. All games are experiencing a drop. Players are going to the ACBL and BBO games and abandoning the club games. RHBC is no different. We host two open games a week now (Sat and Sun @ 12:30) down from 11 when we first started.

It makes no sense to continue sending the Grapevine to the roughly 700 players who started the journey with us. This is the last one you will receive. All F2F players will continue to receive the Grapevine.

The distribution lists will be deleted in October for the online, so if you wish to continue to receive the grapevine you will need to send Susan an email at: sbealsca@rhbc.site.

Thank you all for your support when we started, for joining in our club games and making us the bridge community we became. As the saying goes *"all good things must come to an end"*.

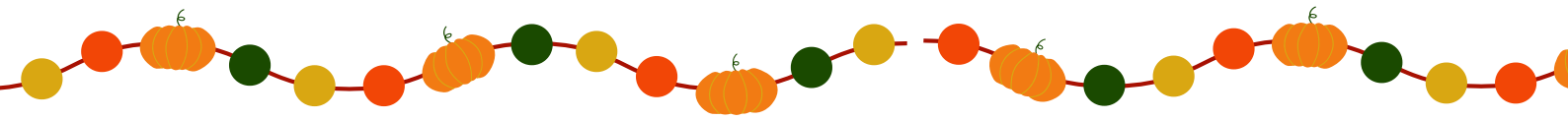
REMINDER!

CLUB CLOSED SAT OCT 24TH

There is no F2F game on Oct 24th, the arena is used as a polling station for the election.

You can join us online, this game will run, just search for RHBC; game is at 12:30PM.





F2F SPECIAL EVENTS

October is Club Appreciation and we will host two games –

CLUB APPRECIATION

Thursday October 8th

Saturday October 10th

There is **NO ADDED** cost to the players! ACBL doesn't charge us the ridiculously high table fees they do for other events!

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

GO LOCAL

Saturday November 28th = 33% Gold

Thursday December 3rd = 33% Gold

Saturday December 5th = 33% Gold

Once again there is **NO ADDED** cost to the players, ACBL 'gifts' it to face-to-face players!

CONGRATULATIONS

Another month and the changes were all players moving into life master categories, well done!!

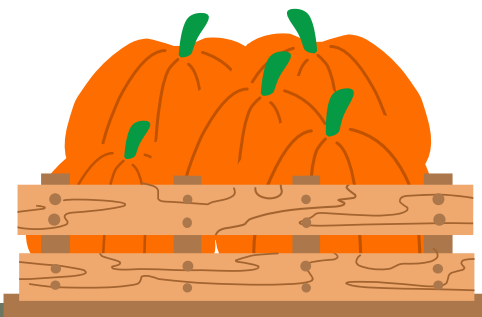
Club Master – Hezi Blachinsky

Club Master – Khalil Haman

NABC Master – Anna Ostapowych

Bronze Life Master – Libby McWilliams

Gold Life Master – Bruce Wachsman





YOU ASKED, WE TRY TO ANSWER

Question: *There are other clubs who are using technology to process payments, such as TAP and take debit and credit cards. Wouldn't it be easier for Richmond Hill to do this?*

Answer: Do you know ANY bank who gives you free money? If you ask for a loan and, oh can you make it interest free, do they do it? NOOOO. The same applies to using credit card/tap machines, they are not free to the vendor (seller)

The 'seller' pays a fee to process credit cards and usually a monthly rental of the machine. Then there are the accounting and reporting. We have coupons that are punched, non-cash, and are handled differently, so they wouldn't be part of the credit/tap machine accounting.

However, if you ever wish to pre-pay for a coupon, you can e-transfer Susan the soon to be \$70 and a coupon will be waiting for you at the club! This may simplify your life!

There is no help for those of you who forget their wallet, and arrive with no coupon and no money! Tapping won't help!

Cash or Coupon
Your Choice!



REMINDER, F2F HOLIDAY HOURS

DEC 24TH AND DEC 31ST

GAME START TIME: 12:15PM

GAME STOP TIME: 3:15PM

BUILDING VACATED: 3:45PM





DIRECTOR QUANDRIES

Claude and Susan do find our group 'creative'! If there is something 'unusual' you will find a way to do it!

Example 1:

North	East	South	West
1♣	1♥	Pass	Dbl.

Director

Director: West obviously cannot double their partner so they must do something else. If they pass, the partner is barred from bidding. In this case they bid 3NT

Lesson: Watch the auction, make sure you know who bid, you cannot double your partner.

Example 2:

North	East	South	West
1♣	1♣	Director	

Director: All directors HATE insufficient bids, which now need a comparable call and most will disagree on what is considered comparable. Good News, this law is being updated in Jan 2017, it can't get any more difficult so we look forward to how they will handle this

How did we handle it? East, didn't see North's bid, so what can you bid to make it comparable, the only option in our opinion was to double. This shows the majors and an opening hand. When you open 1♣ you likely only have 3 (maybe 2 if you play a short club).

You cannot –

- a) Bid 2♣, Michael's bid showing two suits and usually fewer points (per agreement)
- b) You can't bid NT, that shows 15-17 points
- c) You can't bid a 4-card major (not your agreement)

**SPOOKY
SEASON**



Note: Was this the correct call, ACBL says “a double can’t be a comparable bid”. However, if we ruled the way we did and it was contested, we would likely be supported as our rule was logical. We also asked five (5) directors and you guessed, we got 5 DIFFERENT ANSWERS! See it isn’t always easy.

Example 3:

South is declarer in a 2♠ contract; dummy comes down as follows

♠: J 10 9 3 2

♥: 7 2

♣: A J

♦: J 10 2

After two tricks dummy looks like –

♠: J 10 9 3 2

♥: 7 2

♣:

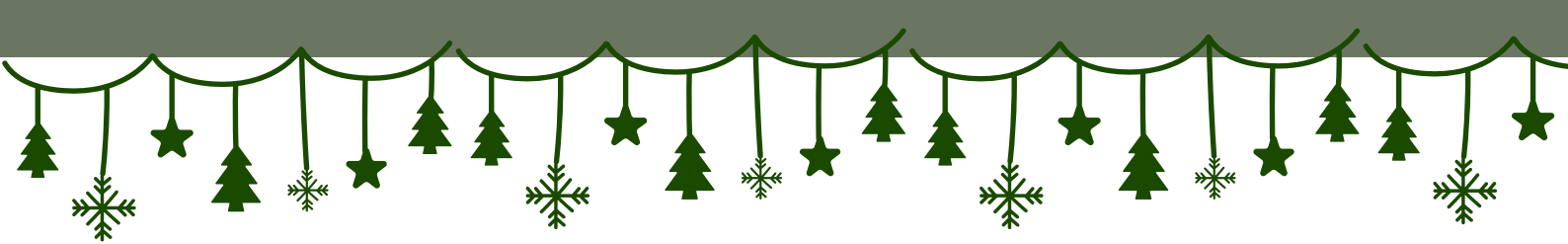
♦: J 10 2

Declarer plays the 8♣, west throws a heart and dummy trumps the club. Now declarer calls for a spade. That’s when the trouble began. The 4♣ was mixed in with the spades and was hidden.

Director: We have an established revoke by dummy (yes declarer can revoke). Since declarer will win another trick, it is an automatic two trick penalty.

Lesson Learned: Declarer, COUNT the cards in dummy. You could only see 12 so you should know something is wrong.





CHRISTMAS / HANUKKAH PARTY

The Christmas Lunch is on **December 10th** and Hanukkah is early this year, with the first day on December 4th, so let's celebrate both holidays!

The elves are working hard and have figured out what the party theme will be; The unanimous decisions made are –

- a) No hot food, too difficult to transport and keep hot
- b) Mini Croissant Sandwiches (club provided)
- c) Sushi (club provided)
- d) Sweets and Treats (club provided)
- e) Samosas (club provided)
- f) Player Contributions



If you would like to bring something to share with the group, please feel free, we love the great chefs we have!

If you would please sign up with Claude or Susan on what you are bringing it would be helpful. Nothing too 'messy', we won't have extra plates or utensils and do not want sticky cards or tables!

RESERVATIONS: We are open to take reservations for the luncheon; we are capping at 24 (maybe 25 tables). A few have already reserved so to make sure you have a 'seat at the table', send Susan an email so you're added to the list.



ONLINE CORNER



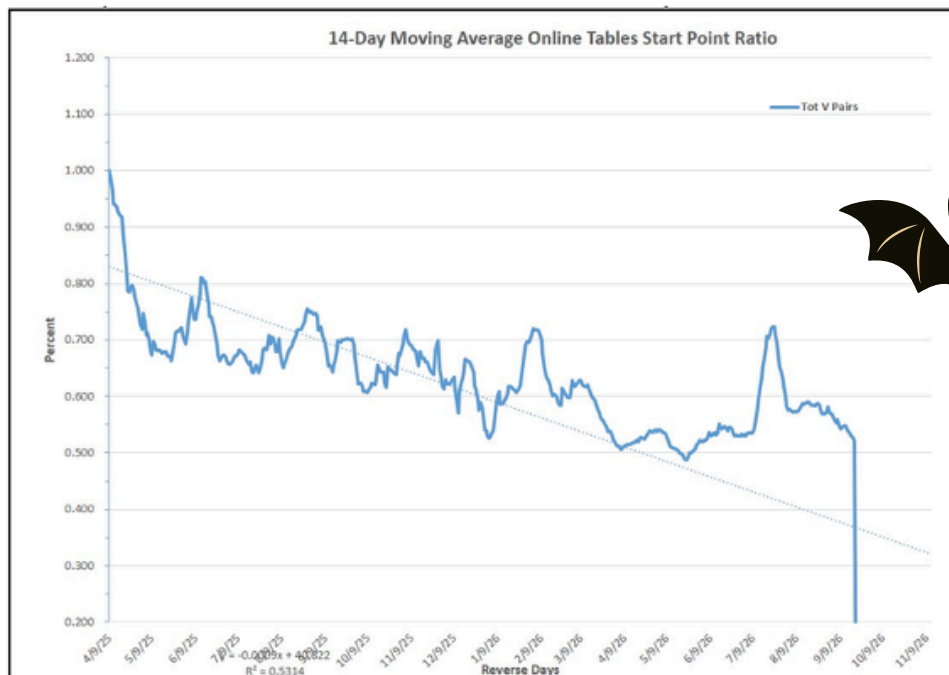
There are a few things to share with you about online, first all about us and our club! We cancelled the Thu open game on BBO. It's funny, this used to be one of the biggest games, then it dwindled to nothingness so we canceled it.

However, many of the limited players have been asking for an online game, so we are repurposing this slot to a **0-750 game**. It **started on Sept 24th** and we'll see how it goes. It will be an 18-board game, \$6BB. Our director will be Sonny Bessant.

And, that's not all!!! We are also going to **restart the 0-500 game on Sundays at 12:15**. It was a popular game and several have asked, we just hope enough will play and join us! It will be an 18-board game, \$6BB so you'll be done in 2H 6M

Now for some interesting facts that have been pulled together -

The amount of online play on BBO continues to decrease. The following is a graph of the 14-day moving average of the level of play in VACBs plus ACBL Clubhouse for about the last 15 months. As you can see, it has decreased significantly. We expect that trend to continue.



The amount of play on RealBridge has picked up a small amount and there doesn't seem to any traction with the Canadian clubs.

We have no idea what the impact of the BBO Subscription business model will have on BBO (discussed in last months Grapevine). It will take several months to see the impact, but infrequent BBO player's free premium memberships have started expiring.

There have been rumors that 52 Entertainment, the parent company of BBO and Fun Bridge, is up for sale again. What the impact will be is unknown.

What we do know is that 2027 will be a major test for online bridge and ACBL. We can hope for the best, but right now, we aren't optimistic for the club games. We believe that BBO and ACBL will continue to squeeze the life out of the clubs, leaving more money for themselves, splitting two ways is better than three!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT ABOVE NEW (and) COMING BACK TO BBO

It may seem odd to talk about how BBO is on the decline, to be adding a new game and repurposing an existing, but we are going to.

Thursday @ 12:30 is no longer an open game, but is now 18-boards, 0-750
Sunday @ 12:15 we are bringing back our 0-500 game, also 18-boards

These games will both be \$6BB and since they are only 18-boards @ 14-minute rounds, so you're done in just over 2 hours. NOW, if you are playing 3 board rounds, then you will play 18-minute rounds (6 minutes / board)

We hope you will come and join us, this is a great way for those who play on Mon and Wed to expand their games with other games and to add in players who have more points, makes it more challenging!





LORRAINE'S LESSONS

First, we need to congratulate Lorraine on hosting 21 people at her 'Taste of Bridge Session'. It is wonderful to see the new people learning bridge.

There is still time to enrol in Lorraine's lessons, starting in October, I am told there are still a few spots available. All courses are at the Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church; 20 Union Street, Unionville

BRIDGE BASICS

When: Wed, Oct 7 to Nov 25 (8 weeks), from 10:00am to 12:00pm

Fee: \$259 which includes Barbara Seagram's Bridge Basics Textbook

INTERMEDIATE 1

When: Wed, Oct 14 to Nov 25 (7 weeks), 6:30 to 8:30

Fee: \$229, which includes Barbara Seagram's Intermediate 1 Textbook

INTERMEDIATE 2

When: Tues, Oct 20 to Dec 1 (7 weeks), from 1:00 to 3:00

Fee: \$229, which includes Barbara Seagram's Intermediate 2 Textbook

For all courses, students receive pre-recorded videos of the lessons, links to play the hands played in class, a PDF of all hands explaining how to bid and play them, and relevant articles from famous authors.

TO REGISTER for any of the above lessons, go to www.bridgewithlorraine.com and click the appropriate link or contact Lorraine at bridgewithlorraine@gmail.com

TO PAY: send an e-transfer to Lmeaglesham@aol.com or contact Lorraine for other options. For any questions, email: bridgewithlorraine@gmail.com.



PLAYER SUBMISSION

By: David Kerner



EVERY BRIDGE CLUB HAS THESE PLAYERS

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE PEOPLE AT YOUR TABLE



1 THE EXPERT



"I've seen this position before."
"...In 1987."

2 THE CONVENTION COLLECTOR



"We play Reverse Flannery..."
"Transfer Lebensohl..."
"Two-Way Checkback..."
"...and 147 other agreements."

3 THE SOCIAL PLAYER



"Did you hear about Susan?"
"Oh..."
"Was it my lead?"

4 THE SLOW PLAYER



"Hmmm..."
(Long pause.)
"Hmmm..."
"...Small."

5 THE BEGINNER



"Wait..."
"I only have twelve cards."
"Oh."
"I was holding the convention card."

6 THE DIRECTOR



"Director, please."
"What happened?"
"Okay..."
"It depends."

7 THE TEACHER



"Great hand."
"But here's what I would've done..."
"For the next twenty minutes."

8 THE BBO PLAYER



"Can I..."
"...Undo?"
"Oh."
"Right."
"Real bridge."

9 THE KIBITZER



"I would've found that defense."
"...From over here."

10 THE MASTERPOINT HUNTER



"What place are we?"
"Who beat us?"
"How many points is that worth?"

11 THE HOSPITALITY HERO



"I brought cookies."
"Water?"
"Chocolate?"
"Bridge is better when everyone's fed."

12 THE BRIDGE UNLEASHED STUDENT



"Lead first..."
"...then do bookkeeping."



"We play Reverse Flannery!"
"Did you hear about..."
"Hmmm..."
"Lead first, then..."
"Director, please!"
"Can I Undo?"
"What place are we?"

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

AND SOMEHOW...

WE ALL KEEP COMING BACK.

♥

EVERY BRIDGE CLUB NEEDS EVERY PERSONALITY.

Play well. Laugh often. Be kind.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣



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
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1♦	Pass	?	
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Note: You play strong jump shifts

Hand #6: Neither Side Vulnerable

Your Hand: ♠ AQJ43 ♥ 97 ♦ 1043 ♣ 1054

North	East	South	West
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1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
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2♦	Pass	?	
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Hand #7: Both sides Vul.

Your Hand: ♠ 53 ♥ K843 ♦ K65 ♣ AJ54

West	North	East	South
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Pass	1♦	3♠	?
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Hand #8: North-South vulnerable:

Your Hand: ♠ ♥ AK642 ♦ A1043 ♣ A1043

South	West	North	East
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1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
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?





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.

