



Kingston Duplicate Bridge Club & Seaway Bridge Club December 2021



December is the month for sharing and remembering and celebrating.

We have adjusted smoothly to a new normal of online bridge with the promise of combining F2F in 2022.

We remember and celebrate the lives of people we have lost this year, including Flo Berard, Ruth Blacklock, Jerry MacDonald and Ginny Williams.

I feel blessed and delighted to share the passion we have for this amazing game. Thank you to all and let us look forward to another great year of bridge while being mindful of the challenges that people less fortunate than us face every day.

Sincerely,

Jock Devonshire
KDBC President

On behalf of the Cornwall players, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you in Kingston a wonderful Christmas and offer our best wishes for the coming year.

We appreciate the camaraderie and quality of competition that we have found with the Kingston bridge club members. And though few of us have met in person, we have, to some extent, developed a virtual relationship that is quite special.

Warmest regards,

Diane Lafrance
The Seaway Bridge Club





Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow!

These KDBC BBO Special Holiday Games will be only **\$3.00 BBO!**

Sunday, Dec 26 @ 6:30 pm (open)

Monday, Dec 27 @ 1:15 pm (open)

Tuesday, Dec 28 @ 1:05 pm (0-300 MP) & @ 1:15 pm (open)

Wednesday, Dec 29 @ 7:00 pm (open)

Thursday, Dec 30 @ 10:15 am (open)

Friday, Dec 31 @ 6:30 pm (Special Robot Partner Game)

New Year's Eve Robot Gala with Voice Chat!

Friday, Dec 31 @ 6:30 pm

This will be a robot game, so no need to find a partner.

We will have the voice chat feature turned on, so you can converse with your human opponent across the table after the round!

Feel free to chat about your partner even, since the robots have never been known to listen or care about what their partner thinks.

Special price: \$3.00 BBO!



House of Cards? Bridge in the Time of COVID

As editor, I don't usually write a piece in the club newsletter, but this year's final edition is special in many ways. In early 2019, we never imagined that we'd still be coping with COVID, and would not yet be playing in our clubhouse. Whether it's social games at home, club games or tournaments, we are all feeling the loss of playing bridge like we used to. We long to get back to playing F2F bridge and seeing our friends at the table. But, as needs must in these times, we have been finding ways to cope.

Terry Demers had the idea of asking some members to share their stories.

For some, playing on-line on BBO or other platforms has been wonderful. We've explored playing with robot partners and with our own and other clubs. We've played against people from all over the world, at all hours of the day or night. For others, on-line play has been a way to keep casual games going with friends close to home or far-flung, or to reach out to a new, younger generation of players. Others have not embraced on-line play, but have kept bridge alive and in their lives in other ways. Sincere appreciation to Bill Forbes, Greg McKellar, Judy Prince, Doris Waddell and Marlene Young for contributing.

We also are taking some time in this edition to catch up on the good club events which have been taking

place, albeit off-site or on-line; charity giving, newcomer lessons at the Senior Centre, programs for I/N players, club races, new members, to name a few. Thanks to Sharon Boal, John Finucan, Anne Herfst, Tammy Gauvin, John Gerretsen, Kathy McDonald, Carol Anne Ralph, Suzanne Ryan and Charlie Waddell for all they do that we don't always see. Also thanks to Chris Caswell and Brian Moorby for behind-the-scenes work on Tournaments in Kingston which, as of publication, may, or may not, happen in 2022.

And lastly, and certainly not leastly, many thanks to our KDBC Board, Club Manager, our Seaway Club friends, and our 3 Fabulous Directors for everything they do that is so seamless that we are starting to take the "new normal" as, well, normal! We couldn't do it without you. Hats off to Terry Demers, Jock Devonshire, Don Kersey and Brian Moorby. *BTW, let's all try to help the Directors help us, by using good BBO etiquette (see the last page!)*

We are quite a club, everybody. We should find ways to celebrate!

Best wishes for a very happy holiday to everyone, and may you all have good health and good fortune in the new year. And, as I am sure someone would add, good cards!

Elaine McDougall

The History of a "Heavy" BBO User

Was it really 10 years ago, that I first got hooked on BBO? My profile tells me it is so. Do I really have 5000+ logins? I am so relieved they stop counting after 5000!

Let me explain myself. When my late husband and I started spending our winters in Florida, the local bridge club held but two games per week....not nearly enough to satisfy a person with a serious habit, used to playing with people five or six days a week.

Somehow, I discovered BBO and after installing it in my computer, I was hooked. At first it was the 25 cent robot games. You could win BBO points and in no time I had 100s of them. Then, I plucked up my courage and tackled the ACBL games, which were \$1 at the time. The nice thing about playing with robots was the lack of criticism or displays of contempt when I invariably "goofed" up.

Little did I know that 9 years later, I not only am back to playing bridge on-line, but now I have the pleasure of playing with and against many of our wonderful KDBC friends. What a treat!

This Covid pandemic has certainly affected our lives in so many ways. The loss of social contact, limited

entertainment opportunities and masking are but a few of the negatives in our new normal. There is a bright spot, however, in spite of all of these inconveniences. It is BBO.

I personally enjoy the contact with old friends and adversaries, the friendly banter and the competition of playing duplicate bridge. Yes, we miss those friendly faces, we miss the people who have not felt comfortable in joining us and we miss those dear friends whom we have lost.

I am still thankful for this game of bridge, our competent KDBC directors and executive, and BBO.

Doris Waddell

Friends, Games and Laughter

A group of us (Bobbi Douglas, Gail Potts, Flo Berard, Cathy Cook and I) started playing after about the first three months of COVID. We rotate hosting at our homes with snacks and desserts (...oh yes, we have nibbles while we play!). Sometimes we play a board game at the end of bridge, or poker, and actual money is involved. This week (early Dec 2021), bridge continued face to face, at Bobbi Douglas's home. The COVID sisters were at it again, and at least one sister was out of control as you can see from our attempt at a selfie! We are all enjoying our time together, good friends and bridge - what could be better? Hopefully we will soon be able to all be together at the table.

Marlene Young



Paying it Forward — Getting Your Grandkids into Bridge!

ACBL's BridgeWhiz: Bridge for Kids Lessons

Brian and I are helping our 9-year old granddaughter, Fiona Prince, learn the ins and outs of our great game. Fiona is currently participating in ACBL's BridgeWhiz, a free digital program which aims to introduce students in grades 4 through 12 to the fabulous game of bridge.

Tuesday evenings (Fiona's bridge lesson evening) has become a grumpa-granddaughter date night, as I am in Perth caring for my 92-year old mother Tuesdays to Wednesdays. Every Tuesday, Brian (aka "Grumpa") picks up Fiona after school, gives her dinner (of her choice!), then Fiona participates in her bridge lesson and Grumpa drops her home afterwards. Having her lesson at our home enables Fiona to participate in the lessons without the commotion usually provided by her very active 2 1/2 year-old little brother. Being able to have this type of family time is why Brian and I moved to Kingston.

According to the ACBL, "The BridgeWhiz Course is designed to teach young people the essentials of this fascinating game whose benefits, intellectual stimulation, and adventure will last a lifetime. BridgeWhiz is

free to all students with each graduate receiving a free, one-year Junior Membership in the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL). Students are allowed to graduate into more advanced classes throughout their middle and high school years. The BridgeWhiz Course consists of twenty 90-minute online classes. Taught by experienced bridge teachers, weekly classes are offered at different times in multiple time zones to accommodate busy schedules."

Judy Prince



L—R: Judy, Fiona and Brian Prince. Many thanks to Gaylia Ohlman for donating the T-shirt to Fiona.

Do you have young people in your life who might like to learn Bridge? Registration for the January 2022 BridgeWhiz program is now open. Click on the link below for info.

<https://www.acbleducationalfoundation.org/page/bridgewhiz-online-bridge-lessons-for-grades-4-12-44.html>

Game Revived...

In 1963, a group of graduates from UWO moved to Toronto to begin their careers. Many of them had played some bridge at university, so they started a bridge club. For some reason, they called their group the Yarborough Club, after everyone's favourite hand! When I joined in 1965, the club included a lawyer, a few actuaries and accountants, and others who worked for investment management firms. Games were every 3 weeks or so on weeknights at a member's home. The host provided food, but as most players were single, the meals were not a highlight. Much alcohol (mostly beer) was consumed.

Our seasons ran from September to June. The club ended each season with a weekend of golf, tennis, bridge and poker at The Briars at Jackson's Point on Lake Simcoe. For many years, we showed up on Friday for 9 holes of golf, a warm-up for an 18-hole handicapped tournament on Saturday, with more than a few dollars wagered on the outcome. Even with a handicap, I was never able to win.

After dinner on Saturday, the winner of the golf tournament was announced and bets were settled. As well, the Yarborough Trophy was presented to the bridge player with the most points during the season. As I write this, I am looking at the trophy, a modest wooden plaque with the names of each winner on small brass plates. The names go from 1963-64 to 1979-80, at which point a new trophy replaced the original to honour a member who had passed away. I was presented with the original trophy as a keepsake since I had won more years (4) than anyone else. This did not necessarily reflect my bridge skills, as there was a large element of luck involved.

The calibre of bridge was uneven. While some members enjoyed competitive bridge, others never took the game seriously. At least five became life masters. In the early days, bridge etiquette was not always observed; one or two of the better players were known to point out mistakes in a vigorous manner. But, for the most part, we were reasonably civil.

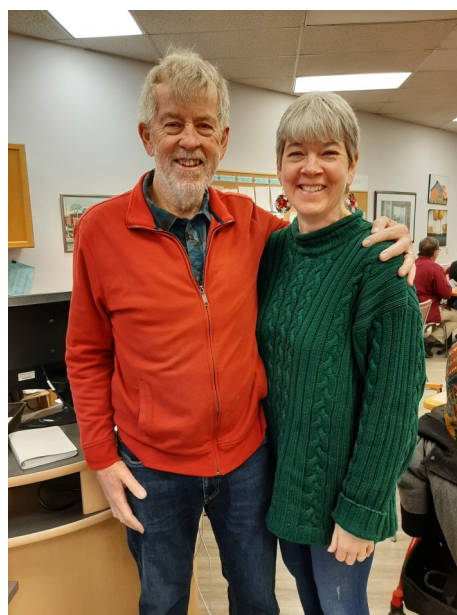
Members and spouses developed close friendships within the larger group. Jays games, the Queen's Plate at Woodbine and a Christmas party rounded

out the year's social events. In the fall of 1991, I took a job at Queen's and moved to Kingston. I still found time to get to Toronto for many of the bridge games. Members living in Belleville, Collingwood and Southampton were also making the trek.

To date, nine players have passed away, and only one of the original members from 1963 is still active. As members retired, games moved to afternoons, and we met less frequently in the winters. We still tried to get to The Briars each June, and while some golf was played, less alcohol was consumed, and the evenings usually ended before midnight. On our 40th anniversary in 2006, we each received an engraved souvenir from The Briars in recognition of our loyalty to the resort and of the friendship that we had developed with the owner.

The 2019-20 season was the 58th for the Yarborough Bridge Club – a strange one, as no in-person games had been played since January of 2019 due to COVID. June 2020 saw no weekend at The Briars. Could the Club continue? Well, I have been able to persuade the group to try BBO. We play in the casual section, setting up our own tables, and played our first team game on July 9th, 2020. We now play every two or three weeks (still in the afternoons!) Given the deep friendships that have developed, and the enjoyment we continue to have as a group, I believe we will keep the Yarborough Club going.

Bill Forbes



Bill & Sarah Forbes at KDBC in 2019

PS – Having successfully launched the Yarborough Club on BBO, I am helping my daughter Sarah get used to the platform. She has recently retired and announced that she now has time for bridge again!

Game Postponed...

On Wednesday, March 11, 2020, the National Basketball Association suspended its season in response to concerns emanating from an accelerating pandemic. I remember this date because it was also the last time I played bridge. After over 30 years of playing in NABCs, Canadian championships, regional and sectional tournaments and innumerable club games, I have now gone over 630 days without playing the game I love so dearly. And it's been tough. Not tough in the sense of the genuine hardships faced by so many during this uniquely challenging period in our country's history, but just tough in a personal way. Playing bridge online was not a viable option for me. I have a deteriorating right shoulder injury that is aggravated by prolonged keyboard use; I viscerally abhor the rampant cheating that is prevalent in all levels of online play; and frankly, it's just a form of the game that doesn't interest me. Nevertheless, I'm delighted for those for whom online bridge has been a blessing and am pleased by the remarkable efforts of many in our club in providing myriad online opportunities for our members and other jurisdictions.

So my challenge was to find some way to remain engaged with bridge and ideally, to keep my bridge skills as sharp as possible, pending the resumption of normal play. I found the answer in reading bridge. I have read, and in many cases reread, roughly 25 bridge books during the pandemic. I have been selectively rereading over 30 years of Bridge Bulletins. And perhaps of greatest value, I have been reading old issues of The Bridge World. My parents had been subscribing to this publication since the early 1960s so I had six decades of material available. It is a considerable understatement to assert that The Bridge World is the finest bridge publication in existence and I heartily encourage anyone seeking to become a good player, to subscribe. So I've coped by reading. Every day for roughly 1.5 hours. No exceptions. Usually with coffee in the morning but I've found that there's value in doing it with an extra dry martini or an 18 year-old Glenmorangie. Mind you, I've found there's value in doing anything with an extra dry martini or an 18 year-old Glenmorangie. Just ask my good friend, John Finucan.



Despite all this reading, I have no idea what to expect the next time I play. I might be just fine. I might be terrible. I might do well in analysing complex situations but commit numerous routine or mechanical errors. I really don't know. But I do know that reading has given me my best chance when play resumes. Which I hope is soon. I'm an optimist by nature but it occurs to me that anticipating the return to normal bridge is what it must be like to be a Leaf fan during the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Until then, I will continue to miss the intellectual challenges of a game that can produce 53.65 octillion different deals. I'll miss the competition and the learning inherent in every session. But I will especially continue to miss the people. Many of the finest people I've ever known are members of our club.

I wish each and every member of the Kingston bridge community a safe, healthy, reflective holiday season and a very Merry Christmas.

Greg McKellar

(Cannot wait to see you back at the table, Greg. Sometime soon, we all hope — Ed.)



Ring I/N The New Year with Bridge at KDBC! Intermediate-Newcomers Report



Season's Greetings to all the KDBC I/N members!

As I complete my first year as the KDBC I/N Representative, I must say the thing that I most enjoy is getting calls from people I have never met who want to start to play bridge with our club. It is such a pleasure to offer partnership options, direct callers to the appropriate help site, or encourage them to be brave and give the game a try!

As we head into the winter season, remember that a fun bridge game is just a call away! We have developed a clear 5-Step page on our website (toolbar on left side "Playing Online") to help anyone wanting to start to play in our virtual games. Check it out! If you are still hesitant, call me or anyone on the KDBC Board and we will be delighted to help you!

NEW FOR 2022: We are exploring the idea of holding an I/N Mentor Game to bring together novice and intermediate players. The game would be held Monday evenings at 6:30pm and cost \$3 BBO, start date TBA. We have a number of super Advanced Intermediate players who could be valuable mentors for our new and returning players. We would need 10 Mentors and 10 Mentees minimum to hold this game. If you would be interested in becoming an I/N Mentor or Mentee, please email the club at KDBConBBO@gmail.com.

Stay safe everyone, and have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Suzanne Ryan
KDBC I/N Representative
misssryan44@gmail.com

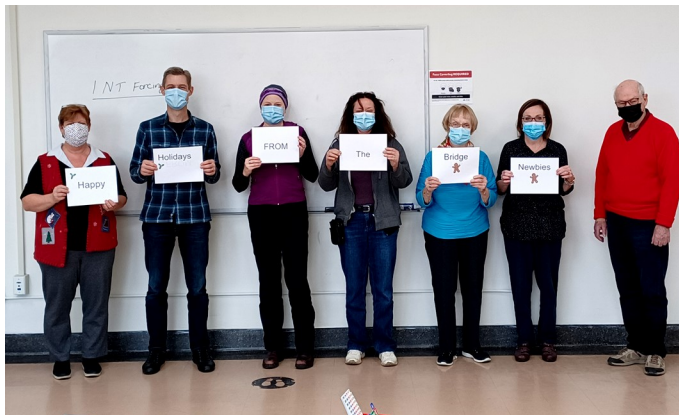


HAVE CARDS...WILL TRAVEL

KDBC I/N partners Gonny Moncur (L) and Suzanne Ryan (R) with KDBC Life Master Rita Menninga (C) enjoying a rare F2F game on a recent day trip by train to Toronto to see the Toronto Symphony!

Happy Holidays from the KDBC Students

Our classes started in September and have been progressing well. We have spent 8 weeks on play of the hand and have learned some opening and responding bids and are currently learning 2/1.



We will be continuing lessons in 2022 and will be adding a new session: Fun Play & Learn

- When?** Every Saturday, starting **Saturday, Jan 8, 2022**
- What?** Lesson (session 1) 9:30 am -10:45 am
Fun Play & Learn (session 2) 10:45 am - 12:00
- Where?** Seniors Centre, 56 Francis Street, Kingston (Champlain Room)
- Cost?** Sliding scale, with a minimum contribution of \$2.50/session
- To enrol** Call Charlie (613-384-1933) or Tammy (613-888-6148)

You can attend one or both sessions. Open to members and non-members of KDBC (to the maximum room-limit allowed).

Tammy Gauvin,
KDBC Education Chair



Supporting our Community

Hi fellow Club members,

Another year in pandemic mode. Hope all of you are well.



The generous spirit of this club remains intact even when our contact is virtual. This club has been very generous in support of our community. The Salvation Army and The Loving Spoonful have expressed their grateful appreciation.

The note from Liz at The Salvation Army states that KDBC has given support to the Salvation Army for the past 27 years. That's remarkable, and translates into a lot of families having a joyous Christmas dinner.

Melanie and Anne from The Loving Spoonful wrote a special "thank you" to KDBC for being part of their "good food family".



We continue to be aware of the pandemic's impact on many individuals and families and our response as a Club is an important part of our community

awareness and participation in building our community.

Thank you! With wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,

Carol Anne Ralph,
KDBC Charity Coordinator

PS. Please send any suggestions to improve our giving agenda to caralph798@gmail.com

Please Continue to Give Generously! Every Gift Helps!



W e l c o m e

Meet some of our new KDBC Members



Helen Johnston (aka **queen of h**) and **Jim Carroll** (aka **lyonsjim**) are celebrating their first wedding anniversary, and are new KDBC members (though they have been bridge experts much longer than that!) Helen and Jim have been very active in our virtual Club for many months, participating in Mentor games and always sending positive feedback about our club. When it was decided that we would open our membership to a few players who have remained supportive throughout the virtual games, Helen and Jim both asked to be included on our 2022 membership list.

Adrian Leitch (aka **fu1e**) is Suzanne Ryan's nephew.



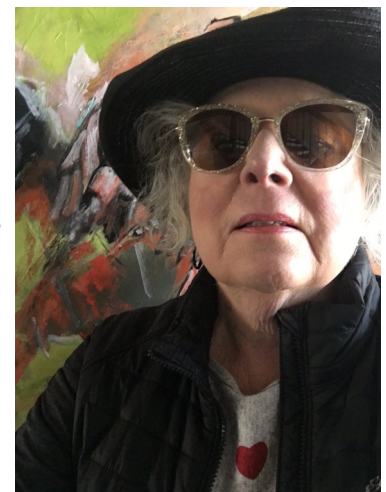
He lives on Salt Spring Island and had never played bridge before taking Al Smith's Free Zoom lessons last year and has since continued to be mentored by Aunt Suzanne. Sometimes she thinks the roles should be reversed! Note Adrian's 2H bid, in third seat after 2 passes, with 5 Hearts at this month's Mentor

Game (Hand 13)!! Everyone agreed it was a super bid!! Way to go Adrian!

Nadine Goulet (aka **brole**) writes "Thank you very much for allowing me to be a member at large of the KDBC group. It has been my pleasure to be able to play online with such an excellent group of players. It has given me an opportunity to rekindle a partnership with my former Belleville partner and friend Wanda Slawinski and to meet so many new players. COVID has certainly impacted all the clubs and many of them are struggling. Although there are many opportunities to play online with players from around the world, it is not as satisfactory as it is to play with a local group. I have really appreciated this.

Wanda and I both lived on Rednersville Road, on the shores of the Bay of Quinte in Prince Edward County, about 10 km apart.

We met when we were both learning to play bridge at the Belleville DBC. We have gone to several tournaments and have spent a lot of money to get royally beat up many times, only to get up and sit down to play again.



When Wanda and her husband moved to Kingston, I lost a regular bridge partner to distance. Over the years we have continued to play in some of the local tournaments and I have occasionally driven to Kingston to play at the KDBC. Wanda and I even went to Florida to play and it was so cold we wore our winter coats, hats and gloves the whole time.

We have remained friends and besides bridge we share a talent for painting, and have had many painting opportunities. While she works in watercolour, I like to throw paint around on large canvases."

A Wish List from our Directors



If the Directors had a Christmas wish that would extend for the whole year, it would be that everyone register at least ten minutes before game time, and login to BBO at least five minutes before game time. The last two minutes before the game starts are often fraught as the Director must decide whether to play 10 rounds of 2 or 7 rounds of 3, try to line up a pair to fill in a possible half-table, and try to get in touch with players who are registered but not online.

Just a note about alerting and explaining bids online. Suppose your partner opens 1 Spade and you respond 3 Clubs. The new ACBL alerting rules say that if 3 Clubs is natural, it is not alertable; but online, when you make the 3 Club bid, while you are not obliged to explain it, it is a good idea to indicate whether it is weak (not forcing), strong (game forcing), or intermediate (invitational to game); if you don't explain and the opponents ask, don't say "natural" or "Clubs", but explain what the strength is. And what if your 3 Club bid is artificial, for example, Bergen? Then click on the Alert button, and explain it as "4-card raise, 10-12 points" or "4-card raise, 8-9 points" (don't just say "Bergen").

Happy Holidays to all!

Don Kersey
KDBC Chief Director

Away to the Races — KDBC 2021 Leaderboards to Date:

70% Open Games (6 table minimum)

Paddy Allan & Don Kersey 78.41% (Feb 3)

70% I/N Games (5 table minimum)

Pat Lennie & William Ward 73.30% (Apr 20)

ABC Winners Open Games (5 table minimum & each player with fewer than 750 MPs)

Anne Herfst & Glenn Torrie 73.17% (Feb 29)

Fun Statistics (if that's not oxymoronic...)

Most wins on a single list

Don Kersey - 6 times (70% open games)

Pat Lennie & William Ward - 2 times (70% I/N games)

Peggy Hutchison, Vicki Lynn Macauley & Glenn Torrie - 3 times (ABC winners open games)

Most winningest partnerships on a single list

Chris Caswell & Don Kersey - 3 times (70% open games)

Pat Lennie & William Ward - 2 times (70% I/N games)

Peggy Hutchison & Vicki Lynn Macauley - 3 times (ABC winners open games)

Most wins on more than one list

Glenn Torrie - 6 times (3 times 70% open games + 3 times ABC winners open games)

