

Play Bridge!

By Warren Watson

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Bridge is a passion of mine. I rejoined the ACBL in 2007 and started collecting points with vigor. I had not been a member since 1992. Bridge became the challenge I was not getting as an engineer doing the same thing every day.



Bridge is a fantastic game and at whatever level one is at, one can get enjoyment and challenge. I never stop learning. I also am getting better at keeping track of the small cards.

People often tell me that they will learn the game when they retire. Believe me, it is better late than never, but when one's mind is young, one can remember everything and hence play the game at a higher level.

I have been teaching my nephews since they were young. They will be both in high school starting in September. They play four hands and then back to their video games. I very much liked video games when I was their age, but Space Invaders and Pacman were not near as graphic and violent as the current games.

I am a gold life master and an accredited bridge teacher. I have developed bridge bidding software, and I write a bridge column. I have about 3,500 masterpoints but probably would have a lot more, if I lived in San Antonio or the lower mainland.

I am very much trying to promote and improve the game of bridge in the Trail area. I attempted to bring another sectional to the area in Nelson, but I find it a challenge just to keep the one in Trail going.

Under three hours driving time from Trail, there is only the Trail Sectional in a year. Spokane, Cranbrook and Osoyoos are three hours away, South, East and West respectively.

Of course, I am not the only one to promote the game of bridge in the area, but I do my share. I run my bridge club every Monday at Noon. At 11:30, I have a chalk talk before the game. I also play in Nelson and I give a twoonie talk half an hour before the game.

I have workshops, and I teach online. I mentor and have clients. I still find time to paint and draw as Art is my first love. Bridge is a close second. Engineering is a close third.

I also like to camp and get outdoors. I often camp on the way to a bridge tournament.

When I play with any partner, I do not get mad or try to point out partner's mistakes unless there is a misunderstanding with the bidding that needs to be cleared up.

I do this because that is exactly how I want to be treated. Once a partner blew the defense very badly and said to me "We got all the tricks we could." I did not correct the statement, but it surprised me because he did not realize from my play that I know all the cards early in the play. I see his mistakes, but it is not productive pointing them out unless the person is a client of mine.

When I make a mistake, I do not need to have them pointed out, but I need to concentrate on the next hand. A partner may make a joke and the bad hand is forgotten. I choose my partners fairly carefully and choose not to play with abusive partners. I always will play with any player if they ask. I will usually not say much unless they ask or pay me to play.

I learn a lot playing online at BBO. My favourite bridge books are anything by Mike Lawrence, "Dynamic Declarer Play 1 and 2" by Krzysztof Martens and "Take all your chances 1 and 2" by Eddie Kantar. I also like Bridge Master 2000 software.

My mentors, who I would like to thank very much, have been Stan Greenwood, Hubert Hunchak, Dick Vission and my current mentor, Rashid Khan (a yellow star on BBO) from Toronto.

Iago:

O, beware, my lord, of bad splits;
It is the green-ey'd monster, which doth mock
The meat it feeds on. That cuckold lives in bliss,
Who, certain of his fate, loves not his wronger:
But O, what damnèd minutes tells he o'er
Who dotes, yet doubts, suspects, yet strongly loves!

Othello:

O misery!
Othello Act 3, scene 3, 165-171

The photo above is not my own but came from a promotion for the Redstone golf course, a beautiful top notch course where I caddy for friends.