



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – August 21, 2023

Click [here](#) to access our regular game schedule.

Looking Ahead

- ♥ Our **new 99er game** on Saturday mornings is on hiatus until September 9.
- ♥ Today's 499er and open games (Friday, August 18) and the Saturday BBO 499er game are **NAP games**, as are both online Sunday morning games (Sunday, August 20) = extra masterpoints - 50% red, 50% black, \$2 surcharge.
- ♥ [Niagara-on-the-Lake Sectional 0-750 tournament](#), Friday, August 18 – Sunday, August 20
- ♥ All of our F2F games from Monday, August 21 – Friday August 25 are **club championship games** = extra masterpoints, no extra charge.
- ♥ **The Friday night open game on August 25 has been cancelled** due to the Goderich tournament.
- ♥ [Goderich Sectional](#), Saturday, August 26 – Sunday, August 27
- ♥ [Labour Day Silver Point Sectional Bridge Tournament](#), Toronto, Friday, September 2 – Sunday, September 4
- ♥ **No Monday morning bridge lab** on September 4 (Labour Day)
- ♥ All our F2F games during the week of Monday, September 4 – Saturday, September 9 are **club championship games** = extra masterpoints, no extra charge.
- ♥ [71st Annual St. Thomas Jumbo Tournament](#), Saturday, September 9 - Sunday, September 10
- ♥ [Learn Bridge in a Day](#), Saturday, September 16, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Brother (or Sister), Can You Spare?

The management team would like to experiment with having a dedicated spare on hand for one of our F2F games. The idea is that one of our players would commit to always being available for a particular game – either actually at the club in person or else sitting by his or her phone only a few minutes away.

For those of you who are good at math, probably the dedicated spare would end up playing in each day's game about half of the time. And, of course, he or she would play free when called upon to play. On the other days, he or she would go/stay home.

For more information, contact Bob Livermore (519-748-0316, heyyou.bob@hotmail.com).



Congratulations...

to the following local players who placed first, second, or third in their section at last weekend's Tillsonburg tournament.

- **Dianne Aves** and **Bruce Roberts**, 1st in A, Saturday A/X Pairs
- **Noah Pace** and **Salvatore Pace**, 3rd in D, Saturday B/C/D Pairs
- **Neil Jeffrey**, **Pat McMillan**, **Bonnie Kains**, and **Susan Lawton**, 1st in B, Sunday B/C Swiss Teams
- **Dave Quarrie**, **Sue Moses**, **Brenda Semple**, and **Lynda Burnett**, 1st in C, Sunday B/C Swiss Teams
- Diana May, **Charles Walkey**, Deborah Dujardin, and Eleanor Shwaluk, 2nd in C, Sunday B/C Swiss Teams
- **Tom Ramsay**, **Cindy Mahn**, **Stephen Young**, and Danny Ioannidis, 1st in A, Sunday A/X Swiss Teams
- **Jennifer Verdam**, **Adrian Record**, **Diane Bourdeau**, and **Robert Griffiths**, 3/4 in A, Sunday A/X Swiss Teams
- **Kathy Russell**, **Edith Ferber**, Pat Fung, and **Thea Davis**, 3 / 4 in A, Sunday A/X Swiss Teams



Bean There Done That

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer (GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com)

Hey! Here are some gee whiz, holy cow statistics. GRBC has hosted 43,745 (online/F2F) bridge tables since it was born. That's 174,745 players, some of whom might have been duplicates. How many hands is that? Probably a bazillion.



Mozart



Cinderella





Member Profile – Malkin Howes

Contributed by Louise Dawdy

This week we are featuring a well-known and dedicated GRBC member, Malkin Howes. As GRBC members, we have much to thank her for. Malkin, along with Ted Boyd, Dianne Aves, Liz McDowell, Cindy Mahn, Dave Baker, and Deaun Moulton, were our founding members. When developing the new club's mission statement, they were part of the group that was determined to create the welcoming environment that we so enjoy as club members. They wanted a bridge club that embraced new members, created an environment that supported the general enjoyment of the game, and fostered a welcoming, friendly, as well as non-judgmental, space. They also set in place a founding principle of the importance of providing learning opportunities to get better at the game. GRBC is currently in its 12th year.

Malkin was introduced to bridge as a youngster in Parry Sound. She and her younger brother, aged eight and seven respectively, would often provide a third and fourth person at their parents' bridge table. Over the years, Malkin continued to play with her family and then in the caf while attending the University of Western Ontario (BA, English).

Malkin then worked briefly as a teacher, followed by a stint as a secretary in the Faculty of Graduate Studies at University of Western Ontario. After that, she became a secretary with the Canadian foreign service, which led to postings in Hong Kong and Barbados, the latter being where she met her husband, Bryan Dare. Bryan was instrumental in helping GRBC secure its current location. For those of you who aren't familiar with the lengthy premises search and the dedicated pursuit team, you will find [Ted Boyd's narrative](#) of great interest.

Like many of us, Malkin stepped away from bridge while raising her family (the photo shows Malkin and Bryan's four grandchildren). When her kids were all grown up and she had some free time, Malkin tried to break into the duplicate bridge scene in K/W but found it very difficult because she didn't have a partner. At that time, the local clubs tended to be somewhat impervious to newcomers, and they rarely attracted new players.

Malkin has served on the club's board of directors, including a stint as treasurer. Currently, Malkin is on the management team as the Alert editor and the lead teacher.

Malkin's bridge tip is: *When dummy chooses to play in declarer's second suit, the opening lead should be a trump. Dummy must be short in declarer's first suit (or else he would have chosen to play in that suit). If the opponents don't lead trump and shorten dummy's trumps, declarer will be able to ruff more of his first suit's losers. The defence should lead trump at every opportunity.*

In the words of fellow GRBC member and former board member, Cindy Mahn says of Malkin: "Malkin has always been the most amazing, often behind-the-scenes, volunteer any organization could ever hope for! I cannot even begin to describe the amount of work that goes into the weekly Alert that she has been in charge of from the get-go. She also organizes all the teaching that goes on at GRBC, continually attracting more people to learn more about the game and become a part of our club. We are so very, very lucky to have her!"

From the many members at GRBC, both new and old: Thank you, Malkin



The Answer Lady

Contributed by Susan Lawton

As the “The Answer Lady” I have been responding to questions from “newer” players over the past several weeks. A request has been made to share those players’ questions and my responses in the Alert, essentially a column for the beginner player! You can write to me at suzan2420@yahoo.ca.

Question

Answer Lady, I read your August 7 column with interest, where you discussed the concept of a **weak freak**. In that hand, Opener bid 1♠ and you suggested that Responder with five or more cards in spades and no more than seven points jump immediately to 4♠.

My partner and I played the following hand in a recent online game and wondered if we should have applied that very principle, although at the same time the situation was slightly different. I was sitting West and with eight points passed in first seat. My partner, East, opened the bidding with 1♥. I was planning on bidding three to show a limit raise in hearts, at least four hearts and 10-12 points. Before I could make that bid, however, South doubled. As it wasn't an overcall, I thought I should still mention my heart support and decided to bid 3♥. Unfortunately, we missed game as my partner made not four but five hearts.

Answer Lady, how should the bidding have gone on this hand? I had more points than the minimal seven you suggested for a weak freak, but I was also thrown off by South's double. How should I have handled this situation?

A Reader

The diagram shows a bridge hand with the following cards:

- North: 10♥, 2♥, 9♠, 7♠, K♦, Q♦, 4♦, 10♣, 8♣, 7♣, 6♣, 5♣, 3♣
- West: K♥, 9♥, 6♥, 5♥, 4♥, K♠, Q♠, 4♠, 3♠, 2♠, 9♦, 3♦, 4♣
- East: A♥, Q♥, J♥, 8♥, 7♥, 3♥, A♦, 10♦, J♦, 6♦, 5♦, 9♣, 2♣
- South: J♠, 8♠, 6♠, 5♠, A♦, 10♦, 8♦, 7♦, 2♦, A♣, K♣, Q♣, J♣

The bidding sequence is as follows:

	W	N	E	S
1	Pass	Pass	1♥	Dbf
2	3♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Additional information from the diagram:

- Contract: 3♥
- Score: 0-0
- Handicap: 8

Answer

Greetings, Reader. I agree that while your situation is slightly different there are similarities worth mentioning. This hand is also a wonderful teaching tool with many concepts that can be repeated and introduced. I am providing them as a list outlined below:

1. First of all, you in West are a passed hand and your bid of 3♥ is not forcing - meaning your partner can pass that 3♥ bid regardless of whether or not the opponents interfere. It is an invitational bid and asks your partner to bid on with maximum values and pass with less strength.
2. Your hand is stronger than the 10-12 estimation given. First, you have five, not four, hearts, and your 3♥ bid promises only four hearts. Secondly, you have a five-card spade side suit, coupled with a singleton club and doubleton diamond. I suggest bidding directly to 4♥. You want to tell your partner about those five hearts in your hand. Not exactly a weak freak, but you initially passed - so bid directly to 4♥.
3. The Opponent in South has doubled indicating a shortness in hearts and potentially sufficient points to head to game in another suit. Looking at the South and North hands together, they have the opportunity to make at least 5♣ or 5♦ if allowed. By bidding directly to 4♥, you are interfering with the opponents' ability to find that game.
4. You are not vulnerable, so even bidding on to the four-level and going down one or two is far less than the opponents might make by bidding a game in another suit.
5. Do you have an agreement with your partner on how to manage interference by opponents, either an overcall or double? Many of my partners and I agree that after any interference from opponents (an overcall or a double), a bid at the three level is weak, showing very few points but support for Opener's suit. It's actually a box ticked on our convention card. Perhaps your partner judged your hand to be a weaker bid than it was and then passed the 3♥. Eliminate any potential confusion by bidding 4♥.
6. There was poor defence on this hand. East/West should make 4♥ not 5♥, losing one club and two diamonds.





Hear Ye, Hear Ye....

Contributed by Joan Slover

Read all about it! Or rather have your potential bridge-playing friends or family read all about our club! We have newly-designed brochures to promote our club, but we need your help to distribute them.

If you belong to a club, a church, a social group, or if you frequent a retirement home, a golf course, or a curling club, a library or a grocery store, just to name a few, please (always) ask permission to post a couple of our brochures on their bulletin board or leave in the lunch room. I treat mine like a Mastercard in that I never leave home without one just in case I come across a great opportunity to "get the word out" about the fabulous game of bridge and our club. Brochures are available at the directors' desk.

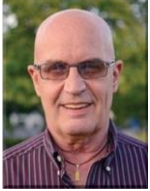
Fall 2023 Lesson Schedule

We will be offering these lessons this fall. More lessons, including additional online lessons, may be added later, subject to demand/interest. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

TITLE	LEVEL	DAY	TIME	DATE	TEACHER
Ongoing Bridge Labs	BEG/NOV	Monday	9:00 - 11:30	Mondays	Roster
Intermediate Bridge Labs	INT	Thursday	6:30 - 9:00	Occasional, Starting Sept. 14	Liz McDowell
Competitive Bidding	NOV/INT	Friday	9:30 - noon	Sept. 15, 22, 29	Stephen Carpenter
LBIAD	BEG	Saturday	10:00 - 3:00	September 16	Sue Peterson
Beginners 1	BEG	Saturday	9:30 - 12:30	Sept. 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14, 21	Sue Moses
Overcalls/Doubles	NOV	Tuesday	9:30 - noon	Sept. 19, 26	Cindy Mahn
POTH (NT)	NOV	Wednesday	9:30 - noon	Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1	Lynda Burnett
*Basic Card Combinations	NOV/INT	Friday	9:30 - noon	Oct. 13	Stephen Carpenter
Hand (Re)Evaluation	INT	Friday	9:30 - noon	November 3	Malkin Howes
Invitational Bids	INT	Friday	9:30 - noon	November 10	Malkin Howes
Beginners 2	BEG	Saturday	9:30 - 12:30	Nov. 11, 18, 25, Dec. 2, 9	Sue Moses
*Scoring Matters	NOV	Tuesday	9:30 - noon	November 14	Jack Cole

*Online





Dear David

Don't Worry, Be Happy

Suppose you hold ♠AK10 ♥KQ2 ♦KQ982 ♣32. Most of us would open this nice 17-point hand with 1NT. But what would you do if right-hand opponent had opened 1♣? You don't have even one four-card major, so double is horribly flawed. You could overcall 1♦, but you are too strong for a simple overcall. You will never be able to convince partner that you have this much strength, so you will be guessing for both of you for the rest of the auction. My recommendation is that you not worry about the lack of a club stopper. Overcall 1NT. Opener does not promise more than two or three clubs, so they may not have enough club tricks to beat you. Also, partner may have a club stopper. Of your three choices, 1NT is the bid that best describes your hand, even though the bid is slightly flawed. Personally, I have frequently overcalled 1NT after a 1♥ or 1♠ opener holding only Qx or Jxx, praying that partner has Jxx or Qx or better or that they won't lead them.

Here is a similar situation.

		N North ♠Q742 ♥1087 ♦K107 ♣875																					
W West ♠K86 ♥J63 ♦Q96542 ♣9	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S				1♣		Pass	1♦	Pass		Pass	3NT	Pass		Pass	Pass	Pass	E East ♠AJ109 ♥Q542 ♦J83 ♣J4	
W	N	E	S																				
			1♣																				
	Pass	1♦	Pass																				
	Pass	3NT	Pass																				
	Pass	Pass	Pass																				
	S South ♠53 ♥AK9 ♦A ♣AKQ10632		3NT South 0 0																				

This hand has at least ten tricks, more than enough for a strong 2♣ opener, but opening with a one-level bid often gives you more information. Happily, my 1♣ bid shows two or more clubs and is forcing for one round. Partner's 1♦ response shows less than six HCP, so slam is off the table. A 5♣ contract would be successful if partner had the ♥Q, but nine tricks is easier than 11, so 3NT was my choice. Fortunately, my opponent led a diamond. I cashed two clubs, won a third round with the ♣8 in dummy and cashed my ♦K. Seven clubs, two diamonds, and two hearts adds up to 11 tricks and a top board. Every other table played this hand in clubs.

Was I simply lucky? Perhaps a little. But it seems to me that in order to beat 3NT, one opponent must have five or more spades, my partner has to have nothing in the suit to stop it from running, and the opening leader has to lead a spade. As you can see, North had a semi-stopper in spades, a spade was not led and, if a spade had been led, the opponents still had to play if correctly to get the four spade tricks they were entitled to. We would still get a tie for top against the one pair who bid and made 5♣.

The next time this kind of hand comes up for you, think about the combination of things that must go wrong in order for your NT contract to fail. It will work out well more often than you might think.

Top Master Point Earners at our Club

Contributed by Allen Pengelly

This table lists the individuals who have earned the most master points at our club in each of three master point bands since the beginning of July.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	26.72	1	Denis Williams	8.35	1	Mark Sherwood	4.19
2	Kathy Russell	15.01	1	Regina Williams	8.35	2	Doug Fickling	4.19
3	Edith Ferber	14.32	3	Suzanne Edwards	7.67	2	Don Slowinski	4.17
4	Cindy Mahn	13.96	4	Lori Cole	7.10	4	Debbie Miethig	3.29
5	Mike Peng	13.31	5	Bev Hitchman	6.66	5	Audrey Cook	3.20
6	Moirra Hollingsworth	11.29	6	Jim Dalgliesh	6.58	6	Joan Stroud	2.88
7	Neil Jeffrey	11.20	7	Lissa Lowes	6.28	7	John Aldridge	2.50
8	Stephen Young	10.46	8	Jack Cole	5.97	8	JP Fraresso	2.43
9	Margot Stockie	10.21	9	Janice Pengelly	5.17	9	Russel Kerr	2.38
10	Steve Carpenter	10.03	10	Sue Peterson	4.78	10	Valirie Binkle	2.35
11	David Longstaff	9.06	11	Barbara Arthur	4.74	11	Ben Cornell	2.23
12	Neil Coburn	7.78	12	Sue Moses	4.55	12	Denis Dolff	2.00
13	Bonnie Kains	7.61	12	Brenda Semple	4.55	13	Peter Gaasenbeek	1.97
14	Dianne Aves	7.29	14	Ginny Scott	4.37	14	Rick Arthur	1.79
15	Roy Dandyk	7.24	15	Lynda Burnett	4.26	15	Randall DeKraker	1.76
16	Pat McMillan	6.32	16	Joe Blake	4.24	16	Pat Gascho	1.64
17	Adrian Record	6.23	17	Shelley Metcalfe	4.15	17	Maureen Logel	1.55
18	Scott Hills	6.18	18	Andy Wilson	4.10	17	Mary Jameson	1.55
19	Wayne Schroeder	5.59	19	Manfred Young	4.08	19	Brian Gaber	1.44
20	Robert Griffiths	5.46	20	Michael Pengelly	4.01	20	Jim Weir	1.23
21	Adriaan Kempe	5.23	21	Steven Allen	3.89	21	Shirley Clairmont	1.20
22	Diane Jamieson	5.17	22	John Kip	3.77	22	Jane Wilson	1.18
23	Thea Davis	4.99	23	Pat McDonald	3.61	23	Jeannie Leforge	1.12
24	Liz McDowell	4.63	24	Nancy Cattanach	3.30	24	Nancy Kennedy	1.11
25	Ed Hills	4.31	25	Milly McQuillin	3.14	25	Susan Murray	1.08

If you would like to play in a particular game but lack a partner that day, you can either:

- For both online and f2f games, log on to [Pianola](#), click on Partner Finder, and create a Partner Finder advert. This needs to be done at least a few hours in advance of the game.
- For online games only, log in to the game in question and register yourself on the Partnership Desk tab (or look to see if someone else has already registered there).

If you are looking for a regular partner, contact [Joan Slover](#), our membership lead. Please let her know what sort of game/partner you are interested in – your playing level, your available time slots, F2F and/or online, and any other pertinent information.

We have fun in **spades**.

We play with all our **hearts**.

We treat our members like **diamonds**.

We are looking for a dedicated spare at our **club**.