



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – November 27, 2023

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

Looking Ahead

- ♥ This afternoon's (Friday) F2F 499er game will be a **Club Championship games** = extra masterpoints, no extra charge.
- ♥ Dave Quarrie will be giving a **mini-lesson on declarer play in suit contracts** at the bridge club on Monday morning, November 27.
- ♥ **Local Sectional at our Club**, Saturday, November 25 and Sunday, November 26
- ♥ **Tonight's (November 24) Friday night open F2F game, tomorrow's (November 25) Saturday morning 99er game and 499er Saturday morning BBO game, and both of the November 26 Sunday morning BBO games have been cancelled because of the local sectional.**
- ♥ **Royal STaC Week**, Monday to Saturday, December 3-9
- ♥ Lynda Burnett will be giving a **mini-lesson on counting winners in no trump** at the bridge club on Monday morning, December 4.
- ♥ **Upgraded Club Championships**, week starting December 10
- ♥ Malkin Howes will be giving a **mini-lesson on re-evaluating your hand after partner bids** at the bridge club on Monday morning, December 11.
- ♥ **Christmas Parties**, Tuesday afternoon, December 12; Wednesday afternoon, December 13; and Friday afternoon, December 15.

The Friday night open game on December 15 has been cancelled.

There will be no bridge labs on Christmas Day, December 25 and New Year's Day, January 1, 2024. There will be no games on Christmas Day.

Local Sectional Update (November 25/26)

We currently have **44** registered pairs (out of 48 available spots) for the Saturday morning game, **42** pairs (out of 48) for the Saturday afternoon game, and **17** teams (out of 24) for the Sunday Swiss.

Registration has been closed for all three games, but if you would still like to register, send an email to GRBCSectional@gmail.com.

Each of Saturday's games costs \$12.50 per person, and the Sunday team game costs \$25 per person. The optional lunch costs \$12 on both days.

Just a reminder that bridge players are always very hungry and greatly appreciate

NUT-FREE home baking! Please show our visitors how hospitable we are.



Player Profile – John Paul Fraresso

Contributed by Anita Hanson

For today's profile, please meet (relative) newcomer, JP Fraresso.

Although new to GRBC, JP is not new to bridge. Like many of us, he grew up in a home where his parents played and, always hungry for knowledge, even as a child, figures he made it about halfway through Charles Gordon's *The Fundamentals of Contract Bridge* before packing it in.

Even with all that background knowledge, though, he did not start playing regularly until 1973, while living in a construction camp in Nanticoke. There, he played two nights a week, and has played casually ever since. His connection with GRBC began when it was still on Gage Street - the mother of a friend of his came visiting from out of town, looking for both a duplicate game and a partner. JP obliged, then five years later, obliged a second time when she came visiting again. That second visit, which coincided with the club's membership drive last summer, was enough to convince him to join. This has been his first foray into a duplicate club and he is very much enjoying the learning process.

JP was born in Toronto, studied engineering at Queen's, then spent most of his working life in Kingston (with a two-year break to travel the Americas - North, South, and everything in between - with his wife.) After retirement, he continued to take on contract work which took him to live all over the world, including Hanoi. Obviously an adventurer! He has twin boys, now 44, one in Toronto and one in San Francisco.

His first wife sadly passed away some time ago, and it was marriage to his second wife, Ellen, that brought him to the K/W area seven years ago. (He has been working on getting Ellen to play too, with moderate success. With luck, we'll soon have another new member.)

Outside of bridge, JP likes to get physical, with cycling, skiing, swimming, and golfing. He has, however, now given up marathons and triathlons(!) While still in Kingston, he also somehow found time to do volunteer tutoring in English and math, primarily to recent immigrants.

He feels that bridge is a good complement to these activities, as it is something that can be continued well into advancing years. (One of his inspirations was Althea, a fellow Kingston player who played until she was 100!)

JP's favourite tip is one of great value to all relatively new players: "It's all about minimizing your mistakes!"

Royal STaC Week

All of our club's F2F games during the first week of December will be Royal STaC games: the Tuesday afternoon open game; the Wednesday afternoon 299er game; the Wednesday afternoon 649er game (which will be changed to a 749er game for that day only in order to qualify); the Thursday afternoon open game; the Friday afternoon 499er game; the Friday night open game; and the Saturday morning 99er game. The masterpoints earned at Royal STaC games are 25% each of gold, red, silver, and black points. There will be a \$2 surcharge.



Here is the Monday morning bridge lab hard at work learning about initial hand valuation.





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

My partner and I played this hand in a recent online GRBC game and ended up too high in a 3♠ contract, going down. I have attached the hand and the bidding below. I was sitting North and with 13 HCPs opened the bidding with 1♦. My partner then bid 1♠, which I followed up with 1NT, showing no support for spades and a bare minimum opening hand. South then repeated the spades to show five not just four spades, and I went to 3♠. That is where we ended up. What went wrong and how should the bidding have gone? Signed, a 199er player

	N ♠ A97 ♥ Q97 ♦ AK74 ♣ 942	W N E S P 1♦ P 1♠ P 1NT P 2♠ P 3♠ P P P
	W ♠ K106 ♥ K105 ♦ 1032 ♣ AJ73	E ♠ J4 ♥ A8432 ♦ 965 ♣ Q85
	S ♠ Q8532 ♥ J6 ♦ QJ8 ♣ K106	3♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0

Answer

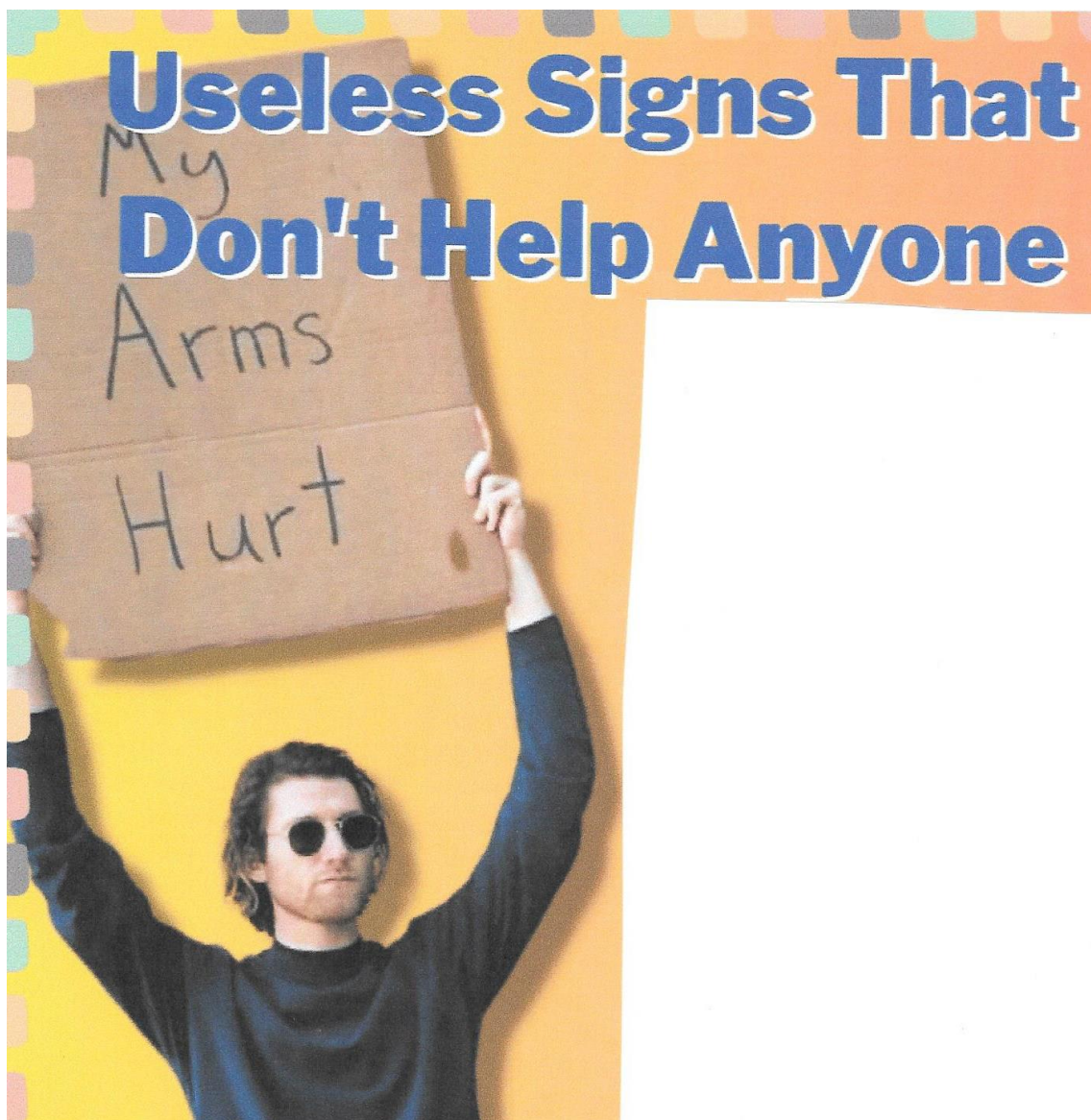
Good morning, 199er player. Thank you for sharing this hand and your bidding dilemma. To review, North opened the bidding with 1♦ and South then bid 1♠ to show their spade suit. North followed up with a bid of 1NT.

Barbara Seagram in her book: *Beginning Bridge*, pp. 43-44 and again on pp. 57-58, provides an excellent review of responses to partner's opening bid with only 6-9 HCPs.

With 6-9 points, you plan on making one bid and one bid only, unless partner pushes you in some way.

You might raise your partner's suit, bid your own suit at the one level (showing a minimum of four cards in that suit), or you might bid 1NT. Those bids are limiting bids and describe your hand accurately. North's bid of 1NT is also a limiting bid and is non-forcing.

South's hand contains exactly 9 HCPs, falling in that 6-9 HCP range, so South has one bid and one bid only. After North bids 1NT, South should pass. While it's tempting to bid on with an extra spade, South is limited by those 9 HCPs. No trump is where the contract will remain. It's a much easier endeavour to find seven tricks in these two hands than the nine required in a 3♠ contract.





Bean There Done That

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

After the May-June 2023 membership drive, we had 204 GRBC members in good standing for the new membership year. Since then, the number has increased and we are now honoured to have 242 members.

Hey visitors! When are you going to become a GRBC member? Well not this month if you are frugal. If you wait until January 2024, the cost will only be 3,500 pennies (January to June 2024).

Hey members! You can be rewarded for enticing someone to renew his or her lapsed-before-2020 membership or to join our club for the first time. Two free F2F plays or 10 BBO\$ would go a long way. Well, two plays anyway.

On Track......To Online



GM & TY 4 RDNG! - BBO Chats Part 2a – Symbols and Emojis





Contributed by Jack Cole

When you chat on BBO, or when you alert your bid, it's possible to include symbols instead of just words. Players do this for fun, but also for clarity and brevity.

The **most useful symbols** are the suits, and they are easy! To put a suit symbol in the chat **or the Alert areas** just include the two-character combination (below) in your message, and press Enter. You can also insert table positions using the same shorthand.

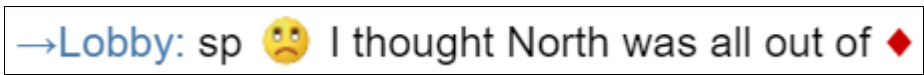
Type	!c	!d	!h	!s	!n	!e	!t (not !s)	!w
Get	♣	♦	♥	♠	North	East	South	West

By far the **most used** symbols are the emoji “smileys”. There are four main ones.

Type	:) (colon bracket)	:((colon bracket)	;) (semi-colon bracket)	;\$ (semi-colon dollar sign)
Get	Smiling face 	Frowning face 	Smiling face and wink 	Blushing face 

Here's an example that also uses an abbreviation from last week. In the Chat, type
sp :(I thought !n was all out of !d

and you will see:



Time You Learned our Lessons!

Continuing

- **Newcomer bridge labs** every Monday morning, 9:00 am – 11:30 am, except on holiday Mondays. Mini-lessons on **Planning the Declarer Play in Suit Contracts** with Dave Quarrie on Monday, November 27; **Counting Winners in No Trump** with Lynda Burnett on December 4; and **Re-evaluating Your Hand After Partner Bids** with Malkin Howes
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Recorded Lessons

- **Get That Extra Trick by Playing Card Combinations Correctly**, two-hour digital workshop by Stephen Carpenter.
 - **Scoring Matters**, two-hour digital workshop by Jack Cole.
- Pay \$10 in any of the [usual ways](#), and ask [Malkin](#) to send you the link.
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Learn Bridge in a Day?

If you are reading this, chances are you know how great our game is – not to mention our club. If you know someone who likes games and who would like to make a whole new group of friends, please tell him or her about our introductory session on Saturday, January 13, 2024 from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. This fun day is perfect for anyone who would like to test the waters before taking formal lessons.

At \$35, it would make a great Christmas present!

Click [here](#) for more information and to register someone.



FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

Do Something Intelligent

If your opponents arrive at a comfortable part-score spot of 2♠ and make exactly eight tricks for a score of +110, it behooves you to examine whether you have a way to undermine that score.

N North				
♠ J8				
♥ J532				
♦ K875				
♣ K107				
W	N	E	S	
				1♣
1♠	Dbl	2♠	Pass	
Pass				

E/W is vulnerable and N/S is not vulnerable. You know from the bidding that your side has about half the HCP. You also know from the auction that your partner has at least one four-card suit outside of spades. What to do? If you double again, it cannot legitimately be a penalty double. It is a DSI (do-something-intelligent) double. Partner will then bid his four+ suit and you will subside (even if he bids clubs). How risky is this? If he bids something and goes down two tricks, -100 is better than -110. It may even encourage the opponents to bid on to 3♠, which might also fail.

With good guesses in both minors you are +110. With bad guesses, -50 or -100. Eight tricks is the limit for E/W. So, 2♠ is -110 for you. If they bid on to 3♠, it is +100 for you. Even if they make 3♠ for -140 for you, you are no worse off than before. To sum up, if you can see a way to either reach a reasonable contract in order to improve your matchpoint result or to push the opponents one level higher, you should actively pursue it.

N North				
♠ J8				
♥ J532				
♦ K875				
♣ K107				
W N E S				
				1♣
1♠	Dbl	2♠	Pass	
Pass	Dbl	Pass	3♣	
E East				
♠ Q92				
♥ Q94				
♦ Q94				
♣ Q942				
S South				
♠ A4				
♥ 1086				
♦ AJ10				
♣ AJ865				

As you can see, bidding on gets you a top or a second top, depending on what the opponents do after that. Passing 2♠ gives you a below-average result.

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 October.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	34.56	1	Jim Dalglish	15.06	1	Brian Gaber	5.77
2	Edith Ferber	17.01	2	Martin Jones	11.75	2	George Rybiak	5.25
3	Mike Peng	15.91	3	Cheryl White	9.28	3	Richard Rybiak	4.86
4	Stephen Young	15.86	4	Judy Beauchamp	8.47	4	Audrey Cook	4.67
5	Cindy Mahn	15.85	5	Denis Williams	8.38	5	Jim Fox	4.65
6	Ted Boyd	14.30	5	Regina Williams	8.38	6	Pat Northey	4.34
7	Margot Stockie	13.74	7	John Kip	8.30	7	Russel Kerr	4.24
8	Scott Hills	12.22	8	Cheryl Kip	8.02	8	Debbie Miethig	4.15
9	Bob Griffiths	12.19	9	Andy Martinek	7.64	9	Randall DeKraker	4/12
10	Suzanne Edwards	11.50	10	Nancy Cattanach	7.47	10	Ben Cornell	3.84
11	Neil Jeffrey	11.49	11	Lynda Burnett	7.38	10	Don Slowinski	3.84
12	Bonnie Kains	11.12	12	David Dennis	7.37	12	Paul Raymond	3.66
13	Kathy Russell	11.05	13	Elinor Girouard	7.36	13	Robert Darby	3.63
14	Neil Coburn	10.40	14	Janusz Poniatowski	7.10	14	John Aldridge	3.53
15	Liz McDowell	10.11	15	Lori Cole	7.03	15	Sharon Nesbitt	3.23
16	Moira Hollingsworth	8.72	16	Judy Widdecombe	6.97	16	Pat Pietrek	3.21
17	Malkin Howes	8.04	17	Barbara Arthur	6.96	17	Andrew McNaught	2.95
18	Roy Dandyk	7.59	18	Janice Pengelly	6.79	18	Jane Wilson	2.90
19	Susan Lawton	7.15	19	Bob Giilck	5.92	19	Stu Cowan	2.75
20	Thea Davis	7.14	20	Vivian McLellan	5.80	20	Louise Dawdy	2.50
21	Wayne Jordan	7.00	21	Nanci Phelan	5.79	21	Pat Gascho	2.37
22	Pat McMillan	6.00	22	Bev Hitchman	5.61	22	Ellen Libertini	2.36
23	Steve Carpenter	5.92	23	Ginny Alviano	5.49	22	Susan Murray	2.36
24	John Hanemaayer	5.82	24	Anita Hanson	5.31	24	JP Fraresso	2.22
25	Peter Peng	5.73	25	Rick Arthur	5.18	25	Steve Cameron	1.82

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. *When you use Partner Finder, it will allow folks to see your contact information. If you have posted a Partner Finder ad, kindly remember to check your phone and email and, when you've found a partner, delete your ad. Someone who replied to your ad may be waiting for a response.*
- 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 have wonderful bridge labs at our **club**.