



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

[Website](#)

ALERT – December 5, 2022

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE ONLINE UNLESS DESIGNATED **F2F.**

Coming Events

- Friday, December 2, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) **F2F****
- Friday, December 2, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) (\$8 members/\$10 non-members) **F2F****
- Saturday, December 3, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Sunday, December 4, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, December 5, 9:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) BBO \$5**
- Monday, December 5, 9:00 am, **Bridge Lab (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members **F2F****
- Monday, December 5, 10:00 am, **Intermediate Bridge Lab (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members **F2F****
- Monday, December 5, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, December 5, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, December 5, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Tuesday, December 6, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Tuesday, December 6, 1:00 pm, **open game (24-28 boards) (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) **F2F****
- Wednesday, December 7, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Wednesday, December 7, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, December 8, 9:30 am, **99er game (18 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, December 8, 9:30 am, **499er game (18 boards) BBO \$5 **NEW****
- Thursday, December 8, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$8 members/ \$10 non-members **F2F****
- Thursday, December 8, 6:30 pm, **Beginners 2 Lesson **F2F****
- Thursday, December 8, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**

Last week, some readers felt that our newsletter was too long, so it's quite a bit shorter this week. Please write to [the editor](#) if you have thoughts on the length of the Alert (or anything else for that matter).



Christmas Parties

Please mark your calendars for the following Christmas parties.

- [Saturday, December 10, noon potluck lunch, 1:00 game time, Guelph Bridge Club](#)
- Tuesday, December 13, noon potluck lunch, 1:00 pm open game time, GRBC
- Friday, December 16, noon potluck lunch, 1:00 pm 499er and 199er game time, GRBC

The sign-up sheets for the GRBC parties have been posted at the club. Those who wish to attend either party but can't sign up in person should email [Dave Quarrie](#). Please note that there will be two sections on Friday afternoon – 199er and 499er.

These parties/games are the highlight of our year! Not only delicious food, but lots of fun socializing and catching up with your friends. Also, there will be extra masterpoints at no extra charge. PLUS THERE WILL BE DOOR PRIZES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



A Tale of Two Bridge Labs

On Monday mornings, we have two bridge labs – one for newish players and one for intermediate players. But a funny thing happened on the way to the forum. The players in the newbie bridge lab improved their bridge skills so much that they have graduated into the intermediate players' bridge lab. But now we have no one coming to the newbie bridge lab!

The newbie bridge lab is a place where new players can come without fear and be gently guided along in their bridge journey.

- If you have never played in a duplicate game
- If you are a recent graduate of beginners' lessons
- If you played a long time ago but your skills are very rusty

COME OUT TO OUR MONDAY MORNING BRIDGE LABS.

Our Monday morning bridge labs are the perfect place to get comfortable with playing bridge, learn a lot under the excellent tutelage of some experienced players, get all your questions answered, make new friends and bridge partners, and potentially get good enough that you can graduate to the intermediate bridge lab in due course.

Technically, the newbie bridge labs start at 9:00 am, but you can wander in later and no one will care. If you don't come with a partner, we will find one for you. And the cost is a mere \$8 for members/ \$10 for non-members. (If you have graduated from one of our beginner courses, you can even play free for a while.)



The Bean Counter

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer

Let's talk about how quickly GRBC's bank account actually says "Hello, come on in" to your money.

- F2F cash or cheque ... your \$8 game fee (or your \$75 convenience card) is in our hands instantly but it doesn't get into our bank account for while. We tend to deposit F2F revenue about twice a month. How quick then? Best case → that day. Worst case → about two weeks later.
- F2F debit card ... your \$8 game fee (or your \$75 convenience card) goes directly into our bank account on the next business day. How quick then? Best case → tomorrow. Worst case (that is, weekends) → on Monday.
- BBO ... your \$5US is collected by BBO, who then gives (most of) it to the ACBL. The ACBL does an Ebenezer Scrooge impersonation and we don't get anything until the middle of the next month! How quick then? Best case → two weeks. Worst case → six weeks!!!! Example: GRBC will not receive yesterday's BBO entry fee until January 15.

Got questions? Mister B can be reached at GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com. Just don't ask for money. Bah, humbug!





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 in a Wednesday 0-50 online game through another club and encountered two hands for which we would appreciate your input. On this first hand, Board 10, shown below, we ended up in 3♦ and made 6♦. Was the bid there and how could we have got there?

Board 10

Par Score: -1700
Par: NS 7♥x-6

3+ 3+ 3

W N E S

2♠ Pass 1♦ Pass
Pass Pass 3♦ Pass

3+ 3+ 3+

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	0	7	3	1
S	3	0	7	3	1
E	9	13	6	10	12
W	9	13	6	10	12

3♦ East
0 0

Answer

Thank you both for sharing this interesting hand and bidding sequence.

This column has presented earlier discussion around the use of weak jump shifts to show weak hands, namely a long suit and few points. Some pairs, however, prefer to use a jump shift as a strong bid, whereby Responder will jump shift after Opener bids to show that strong hand. That technique can be effective when used appropriately. Sometimes, however, partners "forget" that a jump shift shows a strong hand. Yes, been there, done that! Other times, it can backfire and prevent pairs from reaching the right contract. Perhaps that is what happened in the bidding here?

On this hand, East opened the bidding with 1♦ and West made a jump shift, jumping over 1♠ and bidding 2♠ to show an opening hand, a *strong* jump shift. Then East rebid diamonds at the three-level and West passed. The final contract was 3♦ and, as reported, the pair made 6♦.

I wonder if the 2♠ bid took up too much bidding room and you ended up too high, too soon. West has 11 only HCP, a singleton ♥A, and yes five spades. However, those spades aren't all that solid, headed only by the king. And because all that room was taken up by that 2♠ bid, East wasn't able to show the strength of her hand and was forced to bid 3♦. I don't think West should pass the 3♦ with four diamond cards of his own, but rather could invite by bidding 4♦ and East would then bid 5♦.

That said, if the bidding had gone 1♦-1♠-3♦, West would know that East has an intermediate-strength hand, roughly 16-17 points, with at least six diamonds, and thus could bid 5♦ after the 3♦ bid.

West too could re-evaluate her hand after the 3♦ bid. Now West's hand becomes more powerful with length in diamonds and a singleton ♥A. West can anticipate that with East's six diamonds (actually East has seven diamonds) and four in West's hand, the opponents would hold at most three diamonds.

West could reasonably ask for aces after 3♦ by bidding 4NT. East would show two aces if you are playing regular Blackwood or two keycards and the trump queen if you are using 1430 keycard Blackwood. So, then West would know you are missing no aces/ only one keycard and could comfortably bid 6♦. This last bidding sequence is a bit more sophisticated and it would be perfectly acceptable for you to just get to 5♦ as most players in a 0-50 game would.

So, a word to the wise: *Sometimes it is a better strategy to go slow and take your time when a game or even a slam is in the offing. You should also bear in mind that the value of your hand can change in the course of the bidding.*



TIME YOU LEARNED OUR LESSONS!

Our 2023 Winter/Spring lessons have been mostly scheduled, as outlined below, although some details are yet to be worked out and some lessons may still be added.

For more information and to register for beginner lessons, click [here](#).

For more information and to register for lessons for ongoing players, click [here](#).

TITLE	MODE	LEVEL	DAY	TIME	DATE	TEACHER
Defence	ONLINE	NOV/INT	Wed	9:00 – 11:30	Jan 11, 18, 25, Feb 1, 8	Steve Carpenter
Beginners 1	F2F	BEG	Sat	9:30 – 12:30	Jan 14, 21, 28, Feb 4, 11	Sue Moses
Precision	F2F	NOV/INT			January	John Hanemaayer
Playing Online	ONLINE	BEG/NOV	Sat	9:30 – noon	January 14	Jack Cole
Scoring	ONLINE	BEG/NOV	Sat	9:30 – noon	January 21	Jack Cole
Hand Evaluation	ONLINE	BEG/NOV	Sat	9:30 – noon	February 4	Jack Cole
Common Game	ONLINE	BEG/NOV	Sat	9:30 – noon	February 11	Jack Cole
NMF	ONLINE	INT	Mon	9:30 – noon	February 6	Malkin Howes
Negative Doubles	ONLINE	INT	Mon	9:30 – noon	February 13	Malkin Howes
NT Interference	ONLINE	INT	Mon	9:30 – noon	February 20	Malkin Howes
Lebensohl	ONLINE	INT	Mon	9:30 – noon	February 27	Malkin Howes
POTH (Suits)	F2F	NOV	Wed	7:00 – 9:30	Feb. 22, Mar 1, 8, 15, 22	Dianne Aves
Beginners 2	F2F	BEG	Sat	9:30 – 12:30	Mar 4, 11, 18, 25, Apr. 1	Sue Moses
2/1	F2F	NOV/INT	Tues	9:00 – 11:30	March 28, April 4	Steve Carpenter
Basic Bidding	F2F	NOV	Tues	9:00 – 11:30	Apr 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9	Cindy Mahn
Inverted Minors	F2F	INT	Thur	9:30 – noon	April 13	Tom Ramsay
Opening Leads	F2F	NOV	Fri	9:30 – noon	April 14	Susan Lawton
Splinters (Mini)	F2F	INT	Thur	9:30 – noon	April 20	Tom Ramsay
Negative Free Bids	F2F	INT	Thur	9:30 – noon	April 27	Tom Ramsay
Counting, Part 2	F2F	INT	Wed	7:00 – 9:30	June	Dianne Aves
Tournaments	F2F	NOV	Fri	9:30 – noon	June 23	Susan Lawton

If you have any questions or comments, please email [our teaching lead](#).





An Unbid Seven-Card Suit

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Board 1		♠ 5	
North Deals		♥ A 8 7 2	
None Vul		♦ K Q 7 6 3	
		♣ K 10 7	
♠ A Q 9 8 7	N	♠ K J 10 6 4	
♥ 4 3	W	♥ Q 10 6	
♦ 10 9 4 2	S	♦ A J 8 5	
♣ 5 4		♣ 6	
		♠ 3 2	
		♥ K J 9 5	
		♦ —	
		♣ A Q J 9 8 3 2	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♦	1 ♠	Dbl
2 ♠	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	5 ♥	All pass	

In a team game, my partner, North, dealt and opened 1♦. East overcalled 1♠, and I had choices. I could bid 2♣ which we play as promising a good club suit but is not a forcing bid. On the other hand, if I doubled and then made a free bid, my partner would treat it as a game force. I was concerned that partner might have short clubs and a diamond suit that looked something like my clubs. In other words, I was afraid of a misfit.

But in a team game, I was willing to take a chance so I doubled, hoping to hear a heart bid from across the table. If he didn't bid hearts, I planned to try to get my club bid in.

West raised his partner to 2♠ which gave my partner room to bid 3♥. My fears about a misfit had been assuaged, but now I was worried about missing a heart slam. If North held the hand he turned out to have but with the ♥Q instead of the ♦Q, then 6♥ (or 6♣) would be unbeatable. But I knew too little about the hand and had to make do with a raise to 4♥. West wasn't finished yet; he tried 4♠ next. (If he had been planning to go there anyway, it might have been more sensible to have made the pre-emptive raise at his first turn to bid.)

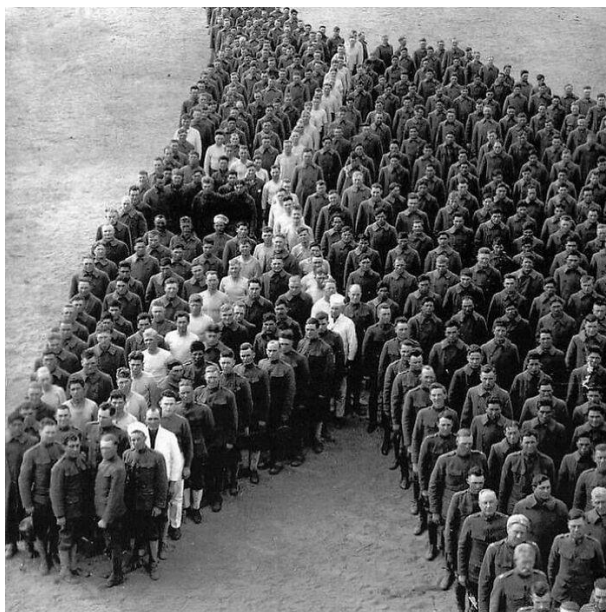
4♠ was passed back to me, and I made the suggestive bid of 5♣ - stronger than a competitive bid of 5♥. North mulled this over and thought that with his 12-HCP hand he wasn't going to be aggressive, bidding 5♥ which was passed out.

East started with a spade, won by West, who tried a second spade. North won and easily made 12 tricks, taking a heart finesse to draw all of the trumps.

At our teammates' table, the bidding started the same, but South bid his clubs immediately over the spade overcall. The auction continued with E/W bidding spades and N/S clubs until North bought the contract for 4♣, their four-heart fit never having been mentioned. Because the game was missed at the other table, we made a reasonable gain on the hand even though we had missed our slam.

🧐 Most of the time, the answer to the question "What is trump?" is – a seven-card suit.

World War One Soldiers Paying Tribute to the Millions of Donkeys, Horses, and Mules that Died in the War



Congratulations

to the following local players who have advanced to the next ACBL level.

Club Master

- **Joan Stroud**

Regional Master

- **Bob Livermore**

NABC Master

- **Suzanne Edwards**

Sapphire Life Master

- **Larry Woods**

Emerald Life Master

- **Tom Ramsay**

And a warm welcome to the following new ACBL member.

- **Betty Dick**

FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

The Trickster

Players often forget that the opponents cannot “see” their cards. The declarer can often go wrong when the defenders feed him falsecards, but the declarer can also hornswoggle the defenders using the same methods.

The screenshot shows a bridge game interface with the following details:

- North:** ♠3, ♥96432, ♦8632, ♣Q87
- West:** ♠AKQ752, ♥AKQ, ♦4, ♣A94
- East:** ♠964, ♥87, ♦J1097, ♣K1065
- South:** ♠J108, ♥J105, ♦AKQ5, ♣J32

Bidding sequence shown in the center:

	W	N	E	S
1♦				1♦
2♣				
2♦				
2♠				
6♠				
Pass				
Pass				
Pass				
Pass				

Buttons: Pass, HELP!, Explain, 6♠ East, 0 0

Before we start, I would point out that these were expert defenders, proving that even the high-and-mighty make mistakes.

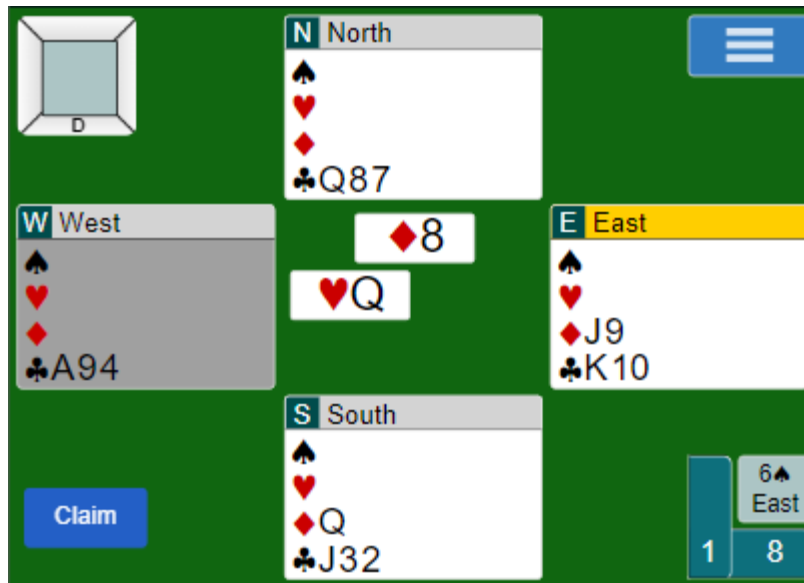
The Auction

In response to partner’s double, I chose to bid my decent club suit because my hand was not good enough (less than eight or nine HCP) to bid 1NT with a diamond stopper. Partner’s 2♦ cuebid left me with an even worse problem. I could now bid 2NT since partner would know I have less than eight or nine HCP, but I didn’t think no trump would play very well, so I improvised with 2♣. Partner knew I didn’t have four spades because I would always choose to bid a major first over the double, even if I had five clubs. Partner now jumped to 6♠! Before I saw the dummy, I typed in the chat line “Was it something I said, partner?”

The Play

South led the ♦A and continued with the “safe” ♦K. Unless a miracle happened, I had no play for this contract. When all hope is lost, chicanery is called for. You ruff the second diamond and follow with the ♦10, implanting the idea that declarer does not have the ♦9. Two rounds of spades reveal the uneven trump split, so you can’t even try to use the ♠9 as an entry to do something with the diamonds.

So, you run all your spades and hearts leading to this position.



When declarer throws the $\heartsuit J$ on this trick, South is convinced that declarer has $\clubsuit K107$ (declarer could easily have started with five clubs on this auction) which would mean his partner started with $\clubsuit Q8$. If this is the case, South must save all of his clubs in order to get another trick. The $\heartsuit 9$ took the slam-fulfilling trick.

The play might have gone the same way had declarer played the diamond suit normally, but South did say afterwards that although his partner in fact gave him the correct count in the diamond suit as per their agreement, my diamond plays reinforced his opinion that his partner had not remembered their agreement in this situation. Sometimes a teensy-weensy falsecard is enough to tilt the outcome in your direction.



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	35.43	1	Suzanne Edwards	12.03	1	Nancy Cattanach	7.50
2	Mike Peng	27.89	2	Martin Jones	10.31	2	Chris Beck	5.21
3	Margot Stockie	24.99	3	Roy Dandyk	9.65	3	Rick Arthur	4.89
4	Cindy Mahn	20.37	4	David Dennis	9.42	4	M J Hartleib	4.59
5	Edith Ferber	15.78	5	Bev Hitchman	8.18	5	Debbie Miethig	4.33
6	Moira Hollingsworth	15.57	6	Brian Kirkconnell	7.93	6	Louise Dawdy	4.24
7	Liz McDowell	15.27	7	Stephen Nantes	7.49	7	Molly Worden	3.97
8	Ted Boyd	14.27	8	Kevin Latter	7.16	8	Jane Wilson	3.92
9	Colin Harrington	14.07	9	Barbara Arthur	7.00	9	Audrey Cook	3.64
10	Bob Griffiths	12.46	10	Douglass Grant	6.93	10	Belinda Burt	3.49
11	Dianne Aves	12.37	11	M L Benjamins	6.90	11	Elaine Doyle	3.46
12	Stephen Young	10.99	12	Robert Giilck	6.84	12	Brian Gaber	3.11
13	Neil Coburn	10.84	13	Sue Peterson	6.80	13	Donna McKay	2.58
14	David Longstaff	9.98	14	Jim Dalglish	6.62	14	Ellen Libertini	2.52
15	Malkin Howes	9.08	15	Renate Boucher	6.52	14	Susan Murray	2.52
16	Neil Jeffrey	8.64	16	Salvatore Pace	6.43	16	Valirie Binkle	2.34
17	Kathy Russell	8.52	17	Bob Livermore	6.41	17	Joan Hartviksen	2.28
18	Bonnie Kains	8.30	18	Joan Slover	6.28	18	Sandra Willoughby	2.26
19	Sharon King	7.53	19	John Kip	6.11	18	Ruth Veder	2.26
20	Steve Carpenter	6.67	20	Shelley Metcalfe	5.95	18	Carol Gerber	2.26
21	Adrian Record	6.66	21	Lissa Lowes	5.80	18	Judy Johnston	2.26
22	Jen V-Woodward	6.29	22	Andy Martinek	5.61	22	Robert Darby	2.24
23	Wayne Schroeder	6.17	22	Cheryl Kip	5.61	22	Randall DeKraker	2.24
24	John Vandergrift	5.89	24	Joe Blake	5.60	24	Trent Robinson	2.23
25	Sandy Graham	5.76	25	Noah Pace	5.45	24	Carol Robinson	2.23

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

- ♣ Log in 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. OR
- ♣ Log in to the game in question and register yourself on the Partnership Desk tab.

If you are looking for a regular partner, contact [Joan Slover](#), our membership lead.

We have fun in **spades**.
 We play with all our **hearts**.
 We treat our members like **diamonds**.
 Our newsletter is now shorter at our **club**.