



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

## ALERT – October 23, 2023

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

### Looking Ahead

- ♥ **Tonight's F2F open game (October 20) has been cancelled (London Tourney).**
- ♥ Don't forget our **new 99er game on Saturday mornings** at 9:30 am.
- ♥ The 499er online game on Saturday, October 21 is a **Club Appreciation game** = double black masterpoints, no extra charge.
- ♥ **90<sup>th</sup> Western Ontario Sectional Bridge Tournament**, London, October 21-22
- ♥ **Spooktacular Buffalo Regional**, Tuesday, October 24 - Sunday, October 29
- ♥ **New F2F 649er game starting Wednesday, October 25, 1:00 pm**
- ♥ **Instant Matchpoint Game** at the Guelph Club, Wednesday, Oct. 25, 1:00 pm
- ♥ **Intermediate Bridge Lab**, 6:30 pm, Thursday, October 26
- ♥ The F2F games during the week starting October 29 are **Club Championship games** = extra masterpoints, no extra charge.
- ♥ **Hand (Re)Evaluation and Invitational Bids workshops**, Friday, November 3 and Friday, November 10
- ♥ The Answer Lady will be giving a **mini-lesson on overcalls** at the bridge lab on Monday, November 6.
- ♥ **Niagara Regional**, Tuesday, November 7 – Sunday, November 12
- ♥ **The Swiss Teams game on Tuesday night, November 7; the open game on Wednesday night, November 8; and the open game on Friday, November 10 have all been cancelled** because so many players are going to the Niagara Regional.
- ♥ Saturday, November 11, **Beginner 2 lessons commence**
- ♥ Saturday, November 18, **NAP District 2 Finals**

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### New F2F 649er Game on Wednesday Afternoons

In response to a member-driven proposal, we are happily adding a 649er game at 1:00 pm on Wednesday afternoons to our F2F game schedule. As a 649er game, this game is uniquely positioned to give 499ers a place to continue playing with their friends and partners (who are of course also friends!) who are no longer eligible for the 499er game. Please grab a partner and come out to support this new game and make it thrive!

The first game will take place this coming Wednesday, October 25, and it will be concurrent with our regular F2F 299er game. The regular online 649 will continue as scheduled.

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## **Congratulations.....**

*to the following local players who have advanced to the next ACBL Level*  
Junior Masters

- **Doug Fickling**
- **Greg Leppington**
- **Mark Sherwood**
- **Jim Weir**

Club Master

- **Sheila Charters**

Sectional Master

- **Debbie Miethig**

Regional Master

- **Ross Maddock**

Advanced NABC Master

- **Fern Donaldson**

Sapphire Life Master

- **Margot Stockie**
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## **Mini-Lesson at our Monday Morning Bridge Lab**

The ten participants at last Monday morning's bridge lab were richly rewarded by a free mini-lesson on cuebids given by Susan Lawton.



*Photo Credit: Susan Lawton*

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## Player Profile – Barbara Arthur

Up until very recently, Barbara's volunteer involvement in our club had been minimal. That is because she has already been volunteering with so many other organizations: the Grand Philharmonic Choir, Community Support Connections (as a Fitness Instructor for Seniors), Twin City Women's Probus Club, the Canadian Mental Health Association (providing a Support Group for families of those struggling with an eating disorder) and the Waterloo Wellington Eating Disorder Coalition. (The reason for volunteering with the latter organizations is because Barbara's daughter had a very serious eating disorder for a long time in the past.) In addition to her volunteer work, Barbara enjoys singing with the Grand Philharmonic Choir, hiking, and travel (she and her husband have been to all of the continents except Antarctica, and, interspersed with their other trips, they make sure they go back to Hawaii every year).

As a result of all these other commitments, when Barbara got interested in playing duplicate bridge at our club about six or seven years ago her attitude was: I will show up and play and then go home. However, after a while all of the enjoyment and fulfillment that Barbara got from our club convinced her that it was time to give something back – and so that is why she recently became a member of the club's board of directors.

In terms of her career, Barbara was a consultant with one of the local school boards, providing social and psychological services mainly to teachers. After she and her husband retired, they spent a couple of years on Oahu where Barbara took a job as School Psychologist with the Hawaii Department of Education's Windward District.

Bridge first swam into Barbara's awareness when her parents would invite friends over to play bridge. She would help prepare for the evening and then sometimes be allowed to watch. Barbara's mother was a very good player and teacher, and so Barbara got an initial grounding in the game from her. Then about ten years ago, Barbara met Nanci Phelan, who was giving bridge lessons and organizing social bridge games for large groups of her students and friends. After a while, the two of them decided to make the huge leap of joining the GRBC, which at that time was at its Gage Street location.

Lessons and lots of play ensued, and since then Barbara has greatly improved her bridge skills. At an early lesson, Dave Quarrie told his class that if they played only once a week, they would be 'weak' players – and Barbara has taken this advice to heart. Now she plays about five times a week!

Barbara would like to clear up the following misconception: She and Rick Arthur are not married to each other. Barbara's husband's name is Dave, and the way that they stay married to each other is that they rarely play bridge together as partners.

Barbara's main bridge tip is to urge players to be forgiving of their own and their partners' mistakes. Mistakes, after all, are opportunities to learn. A case in point is Barbara's early-on propensity to double, even without very many points. Luckily, she had a very forgiving partner who explained to her the finer points of when to double and when not to double.

Barbara encourages advancing players to play in the club's open games, especially the F2F ones. She and one of her regular partners have been doing this lately. Their very first time they came first, and the second time they tied for first. But a veil needs to be drawn over their subsequent sorties (suffice it to say that they know what it feels like to come last). Playing in the open games is uncomfortable and challenging and exciting. And instructive and sometimes even fun!

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## BBO Players – We Need Your Help!

Please register 20-30 minutes before game time. Even better – register even earlier! If you can register early, it will help attract more people to our games.

The bigger a game looks, the more players it will attract – making the game even bigger. You can register up to two hours ahead of time and then come back ten minutes before game time and be ready to play.

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Joan Slover sent this in as an entry in our it's-a-tough-job-but-somebody-has-to-do-it category.

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### **Barbara Seagram and Alex Kornel**

When Barbara came to our club last spring, the team of convenors presented her with a bridge-themed carry-all that Debbie Miethig quilted (Debbie's on the right in the photo). Barbara liked it so much that she asked for another one, and last Tuesday Barbara came back to pick it up. It was a fun afternoon, with homemade egg salad sandwiches and 12 full tables. A great day all around!

*Photo credit: Dave Quarrie*

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## 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](mailto:suzan2420@yahoo.ca).

This week’s column continues the discussion started last week around minor suit opening bids.

### Question

Hello Answer Lady, I played this hand in a recent GRBC 299 game and things certainly didn't go as planned. I was seated South. My partner and I are using the following bidding agreements: with 15-17 HCP points we open 1NT; with a five-card major and opening points, that major will be bid; and when our hands don't meet the above requirements but contain opening points, we will bid the “better minor”.

With four clubs and four diamonds, we always open 1♦. Our teachings suggest that if we have three clubs and three diamonds we should make a 1♣ opening bid. On this hand as you can see, I had 18 HCP, four clubs, and four diamonds. I opened 1♦, planning to jump to 2NT to show that big 18-point hand after my partner responded. With just five HCP, but with a four-card heart suit, my partner passed. With that contract of 1♦, it is easy to see I have a big problem. An opening bid of 1♣ would have been a lot better on this board. Obviously, I did not make my contract. Is there anything we could have done better? Should my partner have bid 1♥? Should I have opened 1♣?

Signed, a GRBC 299 player

	N		W	N	E	S
	♠ J8					P 1♦
	♥ Q853			P	P	P
	♦ Q9					
	♣ 108432					
W			E			
♠ KQ1096			♠ 5432			
♥ J4			♥ K1062			
♦ 1073			♦ A862			
♣ J65			♣ K			
	S					
	♠ A7					
	♥ A97					
	♦ KJ54					
	♣ AQ97					
						1♦ S NS: 0 EW: 0

## Answer

Hello GRBC 299 player. Ouch, I feel your pain. I don't think there is anything wrong with your reasoning. Reflecting on last week's column: *Using the Standard American bidding system, those balanced hands lacking a five-card major such as a 4-3-3-3 shape or a 4-4-3-2 shape, or similar shape variations, and insufficient points to open 1NT, but opening points, will always open one in a minor. The range for a minor opening bid of 1♣ or 1♦ could be 12-14 HCPs or even 18-19 HCPs.* That is the shape and point count for your hand in South, 18-19 HCPs. With four clubs and four diamonds, open 1♦; while with three clubs and three diamonds, open 1♣. Even those pairs that use short club opening bids, would open this hand with 1♦ not 1♣, promising four diamonds.

A great deal of the results on this hand depended upon the choice of opening bid and what the opponents did in response to 1♦.

Yes, some pairs in South did open 1♣ and were handsomely rewarded. Your teachings suggested your approach of the 1♦ bid was the correct bid. Some players in West decided to overcall 1♠ which in turn was raised to 2♠ by East and successfully made. Other players in East did not raise West's spade overcall, giving South the opportunity to bid 1NT, showing that 18-19 HCP hand after partners' pass of 1♠.

At your table, you ended up playing the hand in 1♦ also going down. Why would East jump in to the fray and make a balancing bid or double with four diamonds in their hand headed by the ♦A? They can already anticipate a contract that will not succeed and your vulnerability will hurt you even more.

You ask if North should have bid 1♥ with five points in their hand. Expert advice was sought, and yes it would be appropriate for North to bid 1♥ in this situation, only because the prospect of South being left to play in 1♦ is not a favourable outcome, with North holding only two diamonds in their hand. You in South, anticipating game, would then have bid 2NT after North's 1♥ bid. North would of course put the brakes on and pass that 2NT bid. That 2NT will require considerable effort, although one pair was successful for a top score.

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## Bean There Done That

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer ([GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com))

Important! This article was previously published in September 18 ALERT. Please read Mr Bean's article again: [CLICK HERE](#) and scroll down to page 4. I'll wait for you to finish. Do do do do ... can you hear the Jeopardy tune?

On the night of October 31, ghosts and goblins will make the old Club Manager email address go to the same place where Jimmy Hoffa can be found. You will not be able to e-transfer money to it. Lessons, memberships, etc. You should use [GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com) instead.

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IF YOUR EYES HURT AFTER YOU DRINK  
COFFEE, YOU NEED TO TAKE THE  
SPOON OUT OF THE CUP.

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## What's On Your Mind?

Did you know that we have a suggestion box in our cloakroom? If you have any ideas on how our club can improve, please feel free to drop a note into our suggestion box.

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For Intermediate *Jake's*  
**Play a Bad Hand Well**

**No. 124**

♠ K42  
 ♥ 954  
 ♦ 10943  
 ♣ Q96



♠ A98653  
 ♥ K3  
 ♦ A7  
 ♣ A87

West	North	East	South
		1♦	1♠
2♥	2♠	3♥	3♠
All pass			

As soon as dummy came down, I saw that my success was going to rise and fall on the club suit. Luckily, West led his partner's suit, the ♦8, which I covered with, dummy ♦9, to East's ♦J and my ♦A. I say luckily because it's usually best to leave your problem suit(s) until later.

- I then banged down my ♠A, with everyone following suit. East dropped the ♠J.
- Next, I played the ♦7 from my hand and let it float to East's ♦Q.
- East switched to the ♥J, and my ♥K lost to West's ♥A.
- West cashed his ♥Q and East followed suit.
- West then led a diamond (pew, he didn't find the club switch). I played a small diamond from dummy, East played the ♦6, and I ruffed with my ♠5 (NOTA BENE: NOT MY ♠3!)
- At Trick 7, I led my ♠6 to dummy's ♠K and both opponents followed suit. Trump was now officially drawn.

If you were in my shoes, what would you do now?

**SOLUTION**

You have eight tricks (six trumps and the two minor-suit aces), meaning that you need one more trick to make your contract. The question is where can it come from? Dummy's fourth diamond, the ♦10, is hopeless as East will for sure hang on to his ♦K. Your only hope is dummy's ♣Q. Of course, if West has the ♣K, your problems are over, but East must have that card given the bidding\*.

That leaves an end play. If you can force East to take the lead and then lead a club away from his hand, you can eke out your ninth trick. To make this happen, you need to strip all of East's safe-exit cards (cards in non-club suits) from his hand. So, what non-club cards does East have left? Let's take stock.

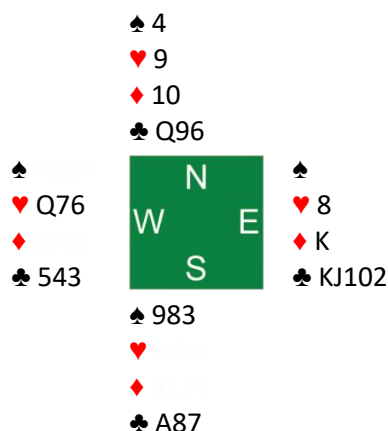
SPADES: East has showed up with two spades and has **no spades** left.

HEARTS: West's overcall promised at least five hearts, meaning that East has at most three hearts. East has showed up with two hearts so far, and East might have **one more heart**.

DIAMONDS: East is marked with the only missing diamond, the ♦K, meaning that East still has **one diamond card**.

So, East's safe-exit cards are one diamond for sure and possibly one heart. You need to strip these from his hand if you're going to end play him in clubs.

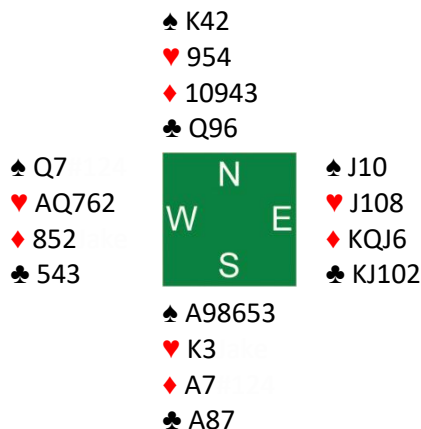
Here is the full hand after seven tricks have been played.



As you can see, the correct play is as follows.

- At Trick 8, lead dummy's ♥9 and ruff high (not your ♠3!).
- At Trick 9, lead your carefully-preserved ♠3 to dummy's ♠4! You needed that entry!
- At Trick 10, lead dummy's ♦10 and ruff in your hand.
- You have now stripped East down to the ♣KJ10. Time to throw him in.
- At Trick 11, lead the ♣7 from your hand and if it is covered by West's ♠10 or the ♣J (unlikely), play dummy's ♠Q; otherwise float it around to East. In the event, West will not cover the ♣7, and East will be forced to take it and then must lead away from his ♣KJ into your ♣AQ.

Here is the full hand.



**Your end play means curtains for the opponents.**

\* The opponents have 20 HCP between them, and West has already shown up with eight of them (the ♠Q, the ♥A, and the ♥Q), meaning that East, who opened the bidding after all, must have all of the remaining high-card points.

# 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 September.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	37.90	1	Lynda Burnett	12.07	1	Russel Kerr	7.16
2	Cindy Mahn	24.06	2	Cheryl White	9.73	2	Sharon Nesbitt	6.71
3	Mike Peng	21.57	3	Janice Pengelly	8.81	3	Randall DeKraker	6.44
4	Edith Ferber	20.69	4	Jim Dalgliesh	8.80	4	Jane Wilson	5.10
5	Ted Boyd	17.55	5	Nancy Cattanach	8.65	5	Mark Sherwood	4.72
6	Scott Hills	16.17	6	Lori Cole	8.13	6	Doug Fickling	4.33
7	Bob Griffiths	14.95	7	David Dennis	7.76	7	Pat Northey	3.88
8	Roy Dandyk	12.74	8	Elinor Girouard	7.71	8	Audrey Cook	3.64
9	Stephen Young	12.54	9	Sue Moses	6.82	9	George Rybiak	3.30
10	Moirra Hollingsworth	11.35	10	Bob Giilck	6.23	10	Paul Raymond	3.27
11	Neil Jeffrey	10.88	11	Barbara Arthur	6.05	11	Brian Gaber	3.11
12	Kathy Russell	10.30	12	Judy Beauchamp	5.68	12	Louise Dawdy	2.92
13	Margot Stockie	10.17	13	Jack Cole	5.59	13	Richard Rybiak	2.91
14	Neil Coburn	9.53	14	Andy Wilson	5.40	14	Ben Cornell	2.86
15	Liz McDowell	8.62	15	Renate Boucher	4.74	14	Don Slowinski	2.86
16	Bonnie Kains	8.34	16	Bev Hitchman	4.69	16	Peter Gaasenbeek	2.69
17	Suzanne Edwards	8.01	17	Kim Wakeford	4.66	17	John Aldridge	2.68
18	Steve Carpenter	7.64	17	Janusz Poniatoski	4.66	18	Andrew McNaught	2.56
19	Ed Hills	7.55	19	Rich Arthur	4.65	19	Joan Stroud	2.45
20	John Hanemaayer	7.40	20	John Kip	4.62	20	Judy Johnston	2.43
21	Malkin Howes	7.00	21	Anita Hanson	4.55	10	Carol Gerber	2.43
22	Wayne Schroeder	6.17	22	Donald Rieger	4.32	22	Sonja Miner	2.41
23	Thea Davis	5.94	22	Peggi Rieger	4.32	22	Debbie Miethig	2.41
24	Susan Lawton	5.43	24	Molly Worden	4.22	24	Pat Pietrek	2.39
25	Dave Embury	5.07	25	Martin Jones	4.15	25	Casi Zehr	2.00

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**.  
 Barbara and Alex were at our **club**.