



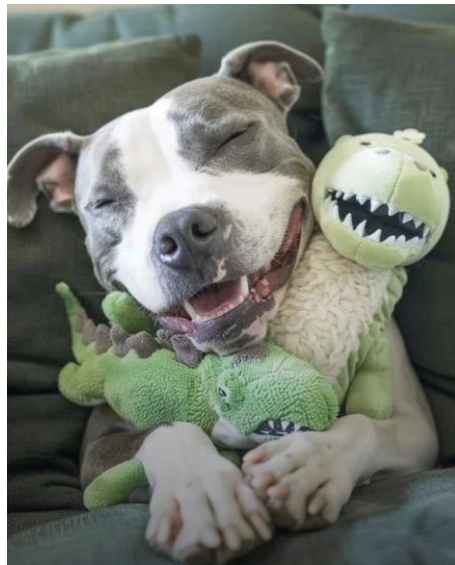
PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

## ALERT – August 12, 2024

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

### Looking Ahead

- August 9: **Tonight's open game is cancelled** due to the Tillsonburg Tourney.
  - ♥ August 10: The 1:00 pm BBO 499er game will be an **NAP game**, \$1 surcharge
  - ♥ August 10-11: **Tillsonburg Golden Leaf Sectional Tournament**
  - August 11; **Both Sunday morning BBO games are cancelled.**
  - ♥ August 12-17: All F2F games will be **club championship games** – extra master points at no extra cost
  - ♥ **Effective August 18: The Sunday morning 749 game will change to a 499 game.**
  - ♥ August 19-23: All F2F open games will be **NAP games**, \$1 surcharge
  - ♥ August 30: The Friday afternoon 749 game will be a **pop-up game**.
  - ♥ September 1: **BBO Pop-Up Game**
  - ♥ September 2: **All games will proceed as usual** on Labour Day (but no bridge lab).
  - ♥ September 7-8: **St. Thomas Jumbo Tournament**
  - ♥ September 9-15: All BBO games will be **charity games**, \$1 surcharge
  - ♥ September 9: **Bridge Labs resume (Improving with Best-E-Bridge, Sonja Miner)**
  - ♥ September 9-13: All F2F games (except for Wednesday, September 11) will be **STaC games**, \$2 surcharge
  - ♥ September 11: **Barbara Seagram** will be at our club.
  - ♥ September 14: **Learn Bridge in a Day**
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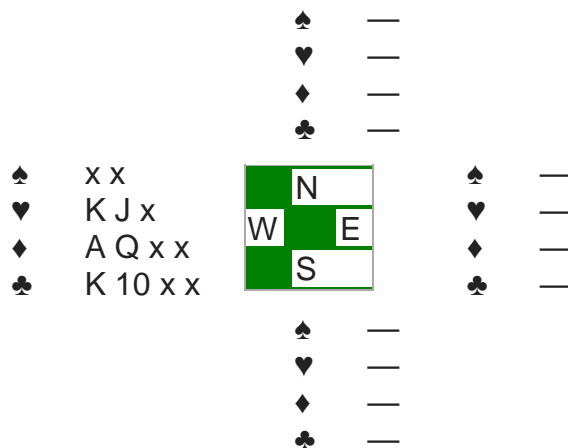
## My Summer Vacation, Part 2

*Contributed by Jenn Verdam*

The Toronto NABC was wonderful. They finished with 9560½ tables, which I believe is the most since before COVID, and all the hotel rooms sold out. The bridge rate was \$200/night, which is unheard of for those hotels in downtown Toronto in July (trust me – I used to have a lot of Ontario Mining Association meetings in downtown Toronto and did not have a bridge rate for those). If you were a CBF member and a Canadian resident, you got a credit of \$28 for a two-session event, and I believe if you were staying in the host hotel, you got a credit of \$20 for the two-session events.

We had wonderful volunteers. The ACBL worked diligently to ensure that everything went smoothly, and the only complaints I heard were about parking for people who weren't staying at the hotels, as well as the timing and number of the hotel shuttles - which was a fair complaint as the ACBL had failed to take Toronto rush hour traffic into consideration.

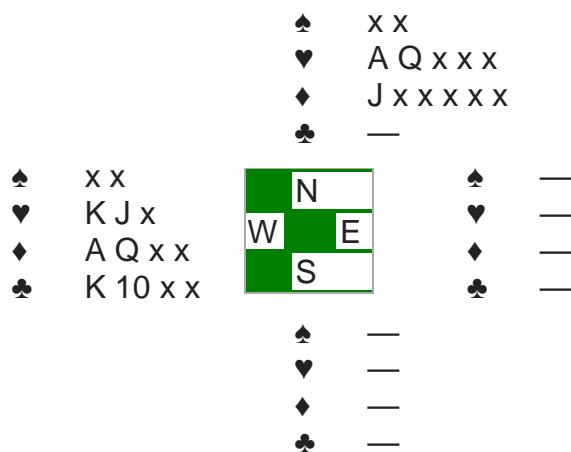
Not everything was positive though. In the Top Flight Swiss on Wednesday, playing a band of psychopa...er....professionals from the Netherlands, I innocently pick up this hand and the bidding goes like this.



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 N!
Pass	4 ♣	4 ♠	6 ♥
Dbf	All pass		

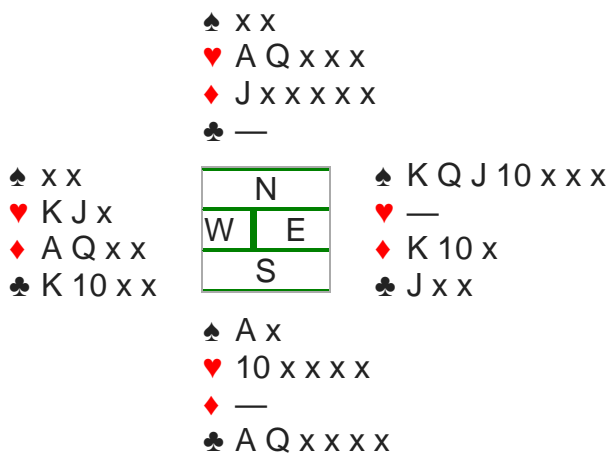
As you see, North opens 1♥, Adrian overcalls 1♠ and South bids 2N, which is alerted. I ask, and North explains that it shows exactly four hearts and 15-17 balanced or 16-18 unbalanced. I look at my hand and add my 13 points to South's advertised points, North's opening hand, and Adrian's overcall. I add it again and it still comes to way more than the 40 points I thought were available...

I mentally shrug and pass, and North bids 4♣. This is not alerted as it is over 3N, but on the auction everyone except me has a void somewhere and clearly North's is in clubs.  
 Adrian bids 4♠. As a style note, if he had absolutely nothing, he would have bid 4♠ in the first place. Therefore, he is not broke and does have points and great spades.  
 My abacus explodes. Clearly someone (or someones) is lying, and I don't think it's Adrian. He has been known to bend the truth, but he is not insane. South thinks for a minute and then bids 6♥, at which point my credulity runs dry and I double.  
 I ask what the 4♣ bid is and am told it's shortness, as I had suspected. I lead my top spade, and Dummy comes down with this.



Declarer wins the ♠A in his hand and plays the ♣A, pitching the other spade on the board. He plays a small heart and I play the ♥4. He covers with the ♥5, and Adrian shows out. I say, "No hearts?" incredulously, since I have three hearts, there are five on the board, and Dude to my right has made a bid that shows exactly four hearts. "No hearts," says Adrian, and I look accusingly at Declarer. The rest of the play is pretty easy and he wraps up 12 tricks. I say, very quietly, "I thought the alert was that South's hand showed EXACTLY four hearts?" South shrugs guiltily and says that their agreement is that it shows four hearts. He says he actually misplayed it – there is a trump coup available that would have let him make seven if he didn't draw any trump. I laughed and told him to be satisfied with +1,660. His partner was a bit embarrassed – not only had he lied about the fifth heart, he should not have bid six since they needed so much for it to make.

We went back to our teammates' table and discovered they had had a bidding misunderstanding, got doubled, and went for 1100. -1100 and -1660 = 21 IMPs lost on a single hand. We all died laughing. When North came over to confirm their win, he said, "Us by a small margin?" This was the full deal.



As a postscript, I went to Bridgemia on Wednesday night and told this story to a guy who said that he was playing in the Roth Open Teams a couple of years ago (that's the game where the people who get knocked out of the Spingold go to console themselves; this year, that included every single major North American team including Jeff Meckstroth's team and Eric Rodwell's team). At his table, the opponents easily bid their vulnerable 7NT. At the other table, his (described-as-arrogant) teammates bid 4♣ on their way to slam, got doubled, and decided to punish their opponents by redoubling and playing it there. He said, "It sounds really good when you say that you had 2210 at one table and 2200 at the other, until you realize that they were both negative!" That's -24 IMPs on one board, which is the maximum you can lose.

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## Photos Wanted

*Contributed by Sharon Boyd*

I am our club's Bulletin Board Boss, and I would like to liven up the Members Bulletin Board (the one you see as you walk into the club). For this I need your help.

I would like to post photos of you and/or your bridge friends either playing bridge, possibly at tournaments, or participating in other non-bridge activities, such as fairs, concerts, fundraisers, etc. If you wish to advertise one of these upcoming events, please send that information along as well. You can convey this material to me either by email ([boydst1945@gmail.com](mailto:boydst1945@gmail.com)) or in person, perhaps by leaving it in the pick-up drawer for me.

Also, if you have a photo of yourself as a baby or young child, I would love to post it under a GUESS WHO label.

Let's try to fill the board with fun photos of our members doing what they love!

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## A Funny Bridge Story by Matthew Mallory

I was playing in a knockout teams match against Bill Gates and Warren Buffett.

At my table, Gates was partnered by Bob Hamman (I guess you know who he is), while at the other table Buffett was partnered by Sharon Osberg (a pro player who is involved with Bridge Base Online).



**Bob Hamman**

At our table, Hamman opened 2NT (vulnerable), and Gates passed with  $\spadesuit$ KJxxx!!

At the other table, my teammate bid 3NT with Bill's cards, Osberg led a fourth-best spade into declarer's  $\spadesuit$ AQ, and nine tricks were taken without risking the diamond finesse for 600.

At my table, partner led a top-of-nothing heart from three to my  $\heartsuit$ KQJ10xx.

Hamman now couldn't risk the diamond finesse and took his eight tricks for 120.



**Sharon Osberg**

After the hand, Hamman asked about the  $\spadesuit$ Q and found it was onside. He silently cursed his partner and penciled in an almost certain minus 10 IMPs.

Before we could start the next hand, Gates asked in a very shy voice: "Would *some* people have bid with my hand?"

We can't respond, of course, and Hamman is thinking about exactly how to say to the richest man in the world, "Of course, you...! This is IMPs and I'm a pretty good declarer."

But Gates is a very smart fellow. After a few moments of silence, he says: "Well, would *everybody* have bid with my hand?"

This broke the tension. We all laughed and Hamman responded, "Yes, but we know one player who wouldn't."

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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. 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).

Last week's column focused on Weak Jump Shifts (WJS) by Responder after Opener initiated the bidding with one of a suit. This week, a reader seeks clarification around the HCP requirements when opponents use a Weak Jump Overcall (WJO).

### Question

Answer Lady, I played this hand in a F2F GRBC game. After my partner sitting North opened with 1♦, East overcalled 2♠, a Weak Jump Overcall (WJO). I bid 3♣, and then West jumped to 4♠. With five spades in my hand, including the AKJ82, I doubled that 4♠ contract. Reflecting on the hand later, I realized East had only four HCPs - the ♠Q and the ♣Q. Answer Lady, was East's WJO bid legitimate? How many points are required for a WJO overcall?

North Deals		♠	—				
N-S Vul		♥	Q J 6 2				
		♦	A Q J 9 6 4				
		♣	9 8 2				
♠	10 7 6	♥	A 10 8 7 5	♦	K 8	♣	A 7 4
		♠	Q 9 5 4 3			♥	9 3
		♦	10 7 5 2			♣	Q 3
		♠	A K J 8 2			♥	K 4
		♦	3			♣	K J 10 6 5
West	North	East	South				
	1♦	2♠	3♣				
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl				
All pass							

Thank you, reader, for sharing this hand and the ensuing questions. Like WJSs by Responder, WJOs at any level are weak bids. How weak?

Robert Todd outlined in 2016 his requirements for a Weak Jump Overcall. "We can use a jump in a new suit as a weak bid, showing a long suit with minimum values (a pre-emptive-type hand). A WJO shows about 5-10 HCP and a long, usually decent suit. The exact requirements vary depending upon vulnerability and position."

Other bridge experts are more liberal in their WJO requirements. One author writes “I want to be able to use my pre-emptive bids as much as possible as I get more weak hands than strong. When vulnerable I am more cautious, but non-vulnerable I throw caution to the wind and overcall with less than five HCPs.”

East must have read about the approach suggested in the latter comment! East’s bid on this hand would be considered an acceptable bid with two queens (four HCPs). However, bidding WJOs with very few points, while legitimate, even non-vulnerable comes with its own risks as East/West discovered. 4♠ doubled down three, resulted in +500 for North/South and a bottom board for East/West who were punished for that poor decision. Other North/South pairs bid 4♣ making five (+150), and 4♦ making four (+130).

*Addendum to last week’s column: Last week’s column asserted that weak jump shifts in competition were not alertable but that weak jump shifts not in competition were alertable. An Alert reader noted as a result of recent ACBL revisions in December 2023, WJOs are no longer alertable, in competition or not.*

Convention cards available at GRBC and on BBO do not reflect these recent changes.

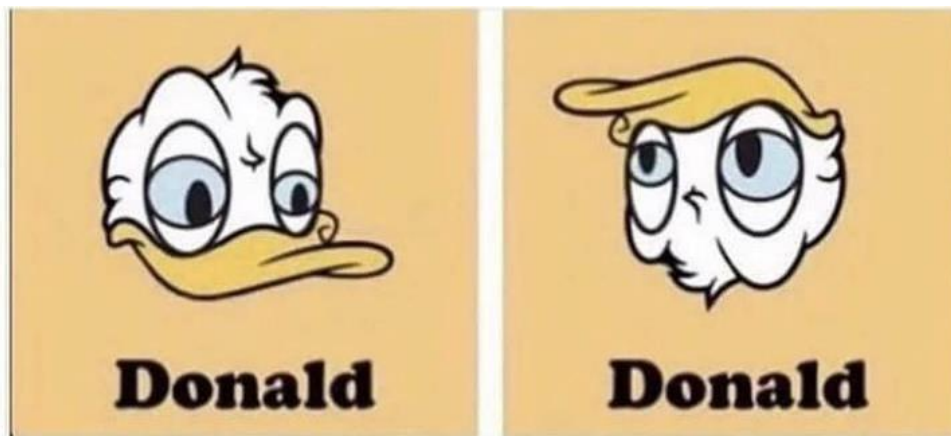


## Bean There Done That

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

First month of a new fiscal year!

Howie Doooin’? (July 2024)	Compared To		Why % Change Since July 2023?
	June 2024	July 2023	
BBO table counts	Up 2%	Down 47%	Members/visitors going elsewhere to have fun
F2F tables counts	Down 5%	Up 120%	July 2023 sucked
Income	Up 8%	Down 2%	
Expenses	Down 13%	Down 18%	Lower costs is a good thing
Current Assets	Down 2%	Up 7%	
Paid up Memberships	+32	-12	



## From the Archives – Duplicate? Bridge

When can you look at your own convention card?	Not until the auction is over
When can you look at your partner's convention card?	Not until the auction is over
When can you look at your opponents' convention cards?	When it's your right-hand opponent's or your turn to bid

In other words, you may look at the opponents' convention cards only after your partner has made his bid. That's so that you don't tip your partner off that there may be more to the opponents' bidding than meets the eye.

This all may seem kind of nitpicky, but the name of our beloved game is **duplicate** bridge, don't you know? All of the rules are designed to standardize playing conditions and ensure that everyone has the same chance to do well. If, for example, Maisie is allowed to look at her convention card during the auction but Alphonso isn't, then Maisie has an unfair advantage over Alphonso and it's unduplicate bridge.

These rules especially apply to the open games and tournaments. Most club directors give newer players some leeway when it comes to the strict application of some of the rules. Especially in our newcomers' games, the players are allowed to check their convention cards and cheat sheets for a brief (so as not to slow down the game) time. In our Saturday morning game for our newest players, the game director will give advice when asked.

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## Dear David

### Surround Sound

Remember when that was a big deal – a gazillion speakers located around your living room? Nowadays, if you go to the theatre to see a war movie, the sound is likely to knock the fillings out of your teeth. Today’s hand will show you an example of a *sound surround* play. (I purloined the name and the hand from *The Bulletin*).

		West	North	East	South
West Deals	♠	10 2			
E-W Vul	♥	K 2	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♥
	♦	A J 8 7	Pass	2 ♣	3 N
	♣	A Q 8 6 5	All pass		
♠ A 8 3 ♥ 10 8 7 6 ♦ 6 5 ♣ 9 7 3 2	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;">                     N W E S                 </div>	♠ K J 9 7 6 ♥ J 9 5 ♦ K 9 4 ♣ J 4	♠ Q 5 4 ♥ A Q 4 3 ♦ Q 10 3 2 ♣ K 10		

There are two parts to this article – a lesson and a suggestion. After a fairly standard auction, West has to make an unappetizing lead – the ♦6. It very much looks like a top-of-nothing lead. Since declarer is deathly afraid of spades, he goes up with the ♦A and tries for 3-3 clubs, which would give five spades, three hearts, and one diamond. When clubs don’t cooperate, he gives up a diamond and prays. Lesson time.

At this point, many East players would hope that their partner had AQx or Axxx and lead their fourth-best spade. As you can see, South would play low and make his nine tricks. A different plan might work. If declarer has the A or AQ, you cannot win. What if he has the holding you see? If you lead the ♠J, declarer is up the creek without the proverbial paddle. You will take five spade tricks no matter what he does. You have “surrounded” the honour you see in dummy. Even if North had one of your small spades, it would make no difference.

654	J32 K98	AQT7	If you lead the 7, declarer can get two tricks by letting it ride to the jack. If you lead the queen, he gets only one trick.
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Part 2 – same hand, different bidding. *The Bulletin’s* columnist showed a distaste for the auction. He suggested opening 1♦ and then bidding clubs (twice, if necessary). That has always struck me as intrinsically wrong. When I was a bridge “baby”, I was taught to open (or overcall) my longest suit first. Eventually, I thought of a different auction that works better. If partner opens 1♥ and rebids 2♠ over your 1NT response, that is called a reverse, denoting a strong hand. Thus, 1♣-1♥-2♦ is also a reverse. However, when I tried to remember when I used that auction to get to the right game or slam, I came up empty. Since that eureka moment, I have convinced my partners to play 1♣-1♥ (or 1♠ or 1NT) -2♦ as four+ diamonds, longer clubs, and 12-19 HCP. You might occasionally be sad if partner passes 2♦ when you have the 19-point hand, but the benefit of your partner knowing you have long clubs, either in fierce competition or constructive bidding, is well worth the loss of this “reverse”.

# 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	Cindy Mahn	24.20	1	John Kip	9.37	1	Randall DeKraker	9.09
2	Edith Ferber	23.35	2	ML Benjamins	6.02	2	Phil DeMontigny	5.10
3	David Baker	23.39	3	Valirie Binkle	5.12	3	Andrew Widdis	5.07
4	Roy Dandyk	16.94	4	Joe Blake	4.92	4	Robert Darby	4.75
5	Kathy Russell	16.16	5	Joan Slover	4.65	5	Nancy Kennedy	4.63
6	Dave Quarrie	14.76	6	Bob Giiick	4.30	6	Sharon Nesbitt	4.09
7	Mike Peng	12.89	7	David Dennis	4.23	7	Sonja Miner	3.88
8	Ted Boyd	11.33	8	Cheryl Kip	4.10	8	Peter Gaasenbeek	3.55
9	Moira Hollingsworth	10.99	9	Renate Boucher	4.04	9	Joan Hartviksen	3.10
10	Suzanne Edwards	10.71	10	Manfred Young	3.99	10	Sheila Charters	2.55
11	Margot Stockie	9.46	11	Molly Worden	3.90	11	Paul Raymond	2.22
12	Neil Jeffrey	9.13	12	Kevin Latter	3.79	12	Joan Stroud	2.03
13	Pat McMillan	8.02	13	Steve Allen	3.63	13	Carla Laubach	1.95
14	David Longstaff	7.39	14	Brian Gaber	3.62	14	Jacques Druart	1.91
15	John Hanemaayer	7.22	15	Kathryn Nolan	3.42	15	Pat Pietrek	1.87
16	Neil Coburn	6.93	15	Mike Maddalena	3.42	16	Pat Northey	1.81
17	Liz McDowell	6.87	17	Judy Widdecombe	3.33	17	Mark Sherwood	1.72
18	Susan Lawton	6.76	17	Vivian McLellan	3.33	18	Pat Gascho	1.69
19	Steve Carpenter	6.62	19	Marlene Dopko	3.32	19	Becky Blake	1.44
20	Dave Embury	6.59	20	Douglass Grant	3.26	20	Carol Gerber	1.35
21	Lynda Burnett	6.13	21	MJ Hartleib	3.10	21	Doug Fickling	1.26
22	Thea Davis	5.95	22	Rick Arthur	2.79	22	Sandra Fickling	1.23
23	Diane Bourdeau	4.51	23	Gordon Hunter	2.62	23	Bruno Richter	1.20
24	Paul Latimer	4.12	24	Ginny Scott	2.48	24	Jeannie Leforge	1.12
25	Sharon Boyd	3.79	25	Sue Peterson	2.33	25	Andrew McNaught	1.00

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).

We have fun in **spades**.

We play with all our **hearts**.

We treat our members like **diamonds**.

We have club championship games at our **club**.