



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – August 19, 2024

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

Looking Ahead

- ♥ August 16-17: 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**
 - ♥ September 15: **Team Leagues** begin
 - ♥ September 15: Bridge Lab Mini-Lesson – **Tournament Play with Susan Lawton**
 - ♥ September 16-21: **Club Championship F2F Games** (extra masterpoints, no extra charge)
 - ♥ September 21: **Beginner Lessons** start
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Congratulations...

to the following local players who placed last weekend in Tillsonburg

- **Susan Lawton and Suzanne Edwards**, 4th in B, Saturday B/C/D Pairs
- **John and Cheryl Kip**, 2nd in D, Saturday B/C/D Pairs
- **Sue Moses and Brenda Semple**, 3rd in D, Saturday B/C/D Pairs

- **Liz McDowell and Peggy Pearson**, 1st in A, Saturday A/X Pairs
 - **Dave Baker and Bob Griffiths**, 2nd in A, Saturday A/X Pairs
 - **Tom Ramsay and Cindy Mahn**, 5th in A, Saturday A/X Pairs
 - **Mike Peng and Neil Jeffrey**, 1st in X, Saturday A/X Pairs
 - **Mary McClelland and Thea Davis**, 2nd in X, Saturday A/X Pairs
 - **Roy Dandyk, David Embury, and George and Susan Malon**, 1st in A, B/C/D Swiss Teams
 - **Neil Jeffrey, Neil Coburn, Suzanne Edwards, and Susan Lawton**, 2nd in A, B/C/D Swiss Teams
 - **Dwight Bender, Edith Ferber, Ewoud Van Goch, and Ted Boyd**, 1st in A, A/X Swiss Teams
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Senior Road Warrior
Rock On!

THEBACKPEW.COM JLarson

Did You Know?

BBO started in 2001 as a small venture by married couple Fred Gitelman and Sheri Winestock in an effort to cover the bills. It is based in Las Vegas, Nevada.

They built up their online bridge club with the unexpected support of Warren Buffett, who introduced Bill Gates to join as a player in the early days. By 2007, Fred, Uday Ivatury, Bill Gates, Sharon Osberg, and David Smith were the co-owners of BBO.

BBO was acquired by the digital 52 Entertainment group in December 2018, and Fred Gitelman retired from the company in July 2019.

Player Profile – Tania St-Denis

Contributed by Louise Dawdy

This week we are pleased to profile Tania St-Denis.

Tania is a registered nurse at the Grand River Regional Cancer Center in the Chemotherapy Suite. She very much enjoys her job as well as her devoted coworkers, but she especially adores the wonderful patients that she has come into contact with over the years. Tania feels her career has given her a special perspective on how precious life is.

Tania grew up playing a lot of euchre with family and friends. She later substituted out her euchre skills for poker playing. She and her husband, Joel, have even travelled to Vegas to put their poker skills to the test!

With retirement looming (five years away), Tania began looking for activities to keep her busy once that day arrived and felt that bridge should be at the top of the list. Having always enjoyed card games and the social aspect of game-playing. Tania saw bridge as the perfect fit. In 2023, she and Joel took GRBC's Learn to Play Bridge in a Day session. They went on to take Beginner Bridge I and II courses with Sue Moses. Tania calls herself Sue Moses' biggest fan (and newest bestie! LOL). During the classes, Tania and Joel met several lovely people and have gone on to build great friendships - getting together from time to time to play "kitchen bridge". "Learning and socializing" - two of Tania's favourite things!!!!

At our club, Tania has volunteered to keep our library tidy. Aside from bridge, Tania enjoys pickleball as well as dance lessons. Tania hopes to do a lot of travelling in her retirement too. Tania and Joel often play online (BBO) with Joel's parents. They have a daughter whom they adore and are hoping to be able to reel into the bridge fold soon.

Tania and Joel will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary this year with a trip to the Dominican Republic.

Tania is an avid reader and hopes to dedicate more time to that pursuit once retired.

In the past few years, Tania has taken up the cultivation of indoor plants, mostly succulents. It has proven to be much more difficult than she expected, but terrifically rewarding when her plants thrive.



What a Life!

Some time ago, a fellow bridge player introduced Zia Mahmood to a minister of the cloth in this way: "This is Mr. Mahmood. All he does in life is play bridge and golf and pursue the ladies."

The minister shook his head in disbelief. "That is your whole life?" he asked Zia.

"It's even worse than that," replied Zia.

"How is this possible?" queried the minister in amazement.

"I love every minute of it," replied Zia.

This is apparently a true story, and Zia dines out on it....



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.

Question

Answer Lady, my partner and I played this hand in an online game and wondered how the bidding should have gone. We ended up in 3NT making 7NT, so obviously we failed to reach that slam contract. How should we have bid to reach even 6NT?

Signed, a regular Answer Lady column reader

North Deals None Vul	♠ A 7 ♥ 2 ♦ Q 10 9 8 3 ♣ A K Q J 2		
♠ 10 8 ♥ 10 8 7 6 5 4 ♦ K 7 ♣ 8 4 3	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 9 6 5 4 ♥ Q J 9 3 ♦ J 5 2 ♣ 10 6	
	♠ K Q J 3 2 ♥ A K ♦ A 6 4 ♣ 9 7 5		
<i>West</i> 2♥ All pass	<i>North</i> 1♣ 3♦	<i>East</i> Pass 3♥	<i>South</i> 1♠ 3N

Answer

Thank you, reader, for sharing this hand. This week's column continues the theme of interfering bids initiated last week. Unfortunately for them, North/South are on the receiving end of a ridiculous overbid by West with that 2♥ bid - three HCPs and nary a point in the heart suit in West's hand! Very weak. Of course, North/South have no idea just how weak that 2♥ bid is until after the hand has been played. Like all interfering bids, this one is intended to prevent the opponents from finding the right contract. Interfering bids take up bidding room, preventing pairs from describing their hands and in this case reaching slam.

In my humble opinion, however tempting it is, South should not bid 3NT after East bids 3♥. That 3NT ends any further discussion and further bidding. Instead, South needs to have a long hard think and reflect carefully on the bidding. What is North trying to tell South about their hand? After West bid 2♥, North bid 3♦. With only two spades, they didn't raise South's spades, they didn't bid 2NT to show a stopper in hearts, they didn't rebid their clubs to show minimal values, and they didn't pass. Instead, North did 3♦! To recap: North bid 1♣ at the first opportunity and then bid 3♦ and the next opportunity - a new suit with a higher-ranking (diamonds) than the original suit (clubs). I would interpret that bid to show a reverse: a strong, unbalanced hand with around 16+ points. And North does have the obligatory 16 HCPs.

At this point, South with their 17 HCPs should be thinking about slam and so should bid 4NT, asking North to describe their hand further. North will assume diamonds is the last-bid suit and, using 1430 Blackwood, North should bid 5♠ (Partner, I have the ♦Q and two key cards.) South can readily determine that North's two key cards are either the two black aces or else one of the black aces and the ♦K and thus can now bid 6NT.

As it turns out, North has both black aces and they can comfortably make 7NT. But I'm glad you didn't ask me how to bid to the grand slam! With only 33 HCP between you, that is a much-harder challenge.

Don't wash your hair in the shower

(It's so good to finally get a health warning that is useful)

**IT INVOLVES THE SHAMPOO WHEN IT RUNS
DOWN YOUR
BODY WHEN YOU SHOWER WITH IT A
WARNING TO US ALL!!!**

**I don't know WHY I didn't figure this out sooner!
I use shampoo in the shower! When I wash my
hair,
the shampoo runs down my whole body, and
printed
very clearly on the shampoo label is this
warning,
"FOR EXTRA BODY AND VOLUME."**

**No wonder I have been gaining weight!
Well, I got rid of that shampoo and I am going to
start showering with Dawn dishwashing soap
instead. Its label reads,
"DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE
DIFFICULT TO REMOVE."**

**Problem solved!
If I don't answer the phone I'll be in the shower!!!**



Please join us for Finding the Killing Opening Lead with Barbara Seagram!

Wednesday, September 11, 2024
Grand River Bridge Club

Finding the Killing Opening Lead

The opening lead in bridge is one of the most critical decisions a defender makes. It is the first opportunity to convey information to one's partner. A well-chosen opening lead gives your side a head start. It can disrupt the declarer's plans, establish winners for the defense, and even prevent the declarer from accessing key cards.

Conversely, a poor lead can give away tricks. More contracts are made because of poor opening leads than anything else. Understanding the nuances of when to lead aggressively or passively, whether to lead from strength or weakness, and how to read the clues from the bidding and partner's signals makes the opening lead a fascinating part of the game.

Schedule of the Day

9:00 am Arrival and Welcome

9:30 am Barbara's lesson

12:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm Bridge

Fee includes the lesson, lunch, and game fees

- Members \$40
- Welcome Visitors \$45

Please click on the link below to reserve your spot!

[Defensive Magic with Barbara Seagram Event Registration](#)

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to make the Barbara Seagram Defensive Magic event on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 a success. Please consider lending a hand.

We need:

- Organizers (eg, organizing the lunch) - several hours ahead of the event;
- Parking lot attendants - one hour on the day of the event;
- Set-up – one hour after the previous day's game (on Tuesday, September 10);
- Clean-up (one hour at the end of the event on September 11);
- Nut-Free Baking - ahead of the event, delivered the morning of the event; and
- On call to lend a needed hand the day of the event.

If you are able to help with any of the above, please complete the following Google form.

Thanks in advance for considering this request.

[Volunteer Sign-Up for Barbara Seagram Event at GRBC](#)

From the Archives – What Makes a Bridge Player Stop Turning Tricks?

Sometimes, especially after the first trick, a player will leave his card face up on the table. What's that all about? The rule is that you may ask other people to show you the card they played to the current trick only as long as your own card remains exposed. In other words, the minute you turn your own card over, you forfeit the right to refresh your memory about who just played what. You may, however, take another look at your own face-down card right up until someone leads to the next trick – even if everyone else has already turned his or her card face down.

Very often – especially when a player wants to think about the hand – he or she leaves his just-played card face up on the table. Usually, it's not even so much that he or she expects to ask to see the other players' cards again, but more that he or she is signalling a pause in the action. Typically, when a player leaves his card up like this, the other players – as a courtesy – leave theirs up as well while they wait patiently (and, if they're wise, use the extra time to good advantage themselves).

A corollary to this rule is that as long as there is at least one card face up on the table, that trick is not over. No one may lead to the next trick until all four cards have been turned down.



Congratulations to **Mike Peng** (left) and **Dave Longstaff** (right) for attaining the rank of Sapphire and Diamond Life Master respectively. They are standing in front of our Wall of Heroes.
Photo Credit: Kathy Russell



Bean There Done That

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

I'm sure that you have disregarded all of the calorie information on the packages of Dare Foods nibblies that adorn the food trough at the club. Dave Quarrie regularly goes into the factory next door to buy these snacks at a discounted price. Dare I ask him what the price is?

HOSPITALITY COSTS

<u>COOKIES</u>	<u>DARE</u>	<u>RETAIL</u>
COCONUT STICK	1.50	3.50
WHIPPET BLACK FOREST	1.50	3.60
GENERIC CHOC/VAN	.50	2.49
BREAKTIME	.25	1.60
BEAR PAWS	1.50	3.49 (ON SALE)
CINNAMON	1.50	4.30
<u>CRACKERS</u>	<u>DARE</u>	<u>RETAIL</u>
VITA	1.00	3.29
BRETON	1.00	3.26
<u>CANDY</u>	<u>DARE</u>	<u>RETAIL</u>
JUBE JUBES SMALL	1.00	2.30
JUBE JUBES LARGE	2.00	4.30

Yum Yum! Can you walk into the Dare shop and purchase these employee-discounted goodies? Sorry, only buyers with ice cream restaurant initials are allowed in.



Dear David

Just the Facts, Ma'am

Dear David, I would love some advice about the bidding on both sides. We both thought the other had overbid.

West Deals
None Vul

♠ A98	♠ K53
♥ AKQJ	♥ 1094
♦ AQ2	♦ KJ
♣ K87	♣ Q9432

This is an easy one. Like every other bridge hand that you play, you start examining what you have learned after each bid. 2♣ followed by a 2NT is 22-23 HCP. West has 23 -- or does he? You should always pick up your hand, count your points and then evaluate what your hand is really worth. A 4333 hand is the worst hand you could hold for any contract. In addition, you have very little in secondary cards (10s & 9s). In my opinion, this hand looks more like a 2NT opener showing 20-21 HCP because of these deficits.

West

2♣
6NT!!!

East

2♥ (1 A or 2 K)

Moving on, I would like to say that I abandoned control responses (A=2 controls & K=1 control) a long time ago. They eat up valuable bidding room for no good reason. If you find a fit, you can always use RKCB to find out about aces and kings.

So, what does West know now? If his partner has one ace and no other honours, he has eight tricks and will need a diamond finesse to work just to make 3NT. If instead he has two kings and no other honours, he has nine tricks with a chance for 10 tricks if the ♣K becomes a trick. The positives for the East hand include two other honours (♣Q & ♦J), a five-card club suit, and the ♥109 – a fine hand indeed. An examination of the hand will show you that these two hands will produce only 10 tricks unless someone has a doubleton ♣A and you guess who has it. Perhaps we should blame East for not having the ♣J. 😏 [Sarcasm].

So how should the auction go? A 2NT rebid would show 22-23 HCP and leave room for partner to bid Stayman or transfer. If East raises to 3NT and West really wanted to push for slam (take away the ♠8 and give him the ♠10), he could make a quantitative 4NT bid asking partner to bid 6NT if he liked his hand. Personally, even with the changes I suggested, I don't think this hand is worth it.

In conclusion, it is interesting to note that a great many pairs went to 6NT, all failing by a trick. They received 25% for their egregious overbidding. Justice would say they deserved 0%. Just the facts, Ma'am.

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

No. 147

♠ K2
 ♥ AJ1082
 ♦ A8
 ♣ KQ87

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 96
 ♥ Q975
 ♦ Q743
 ♣ A96

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥ ²	Pass
6♣	All pass		

1. Forcing to game
2. Two keycards, no ♥Q

I am South, defending against a 6♣ contract and it's my lead. As happens so often, I have to find the right lead if we are going to beat the contract. If you were in my shoes, what would you choose?

SOLUTION

Did you find the killing lead? West opened 1♥ in the first seat, meaning that he holds at least five hearts. East supported hearts meaning that he holds at least three hearts. And you have four hearts in your hand. Your partner can have at most a singleton heart! If you lead a heart, let's say the ♥5, declarer will take the first trick and start drawing trump right away. Do you see it? You grab your ♣A right away and practically break your wrist putting a heart on the table for your partner to ruff. Here is the complete hand.

♠ K2 ♥ AJ1082 ♦ A8 ♣ KQ87	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q87543 ♥ 6 ♦ J652 ♣ 32 ♠ AJ10 ♥ K43 ♦ K109 ♣ J1054
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ 96 ♥ Q975 ♦ Q743 ♣ A96											

You may wish to magnanimously concede all the remaining tricks to the opponents..... 😊

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	29.72	1	John Kip	11.63	1	Randall DeKraker	9.98
2	Edith Ferber	27.42	2	ML Benjamins	6.66	2	Peter Gaasenbeek	6.72
3	Cindy Mahn	26.09	3	Judy Widdecombe	5.64	3	Phil DeMontigny	6.61
4	Roy Dandyk	20.16	4	Joan Slover	5.53	4	Andrew Widdis	6.58
5	Dave Quarrie	19.21	5	Valirie Binkle	5.12	5	Robert Darby	5.43
6	Kathy Russell	17.26	6	Joe Blake	4.92	6	Nancy Kennedy	4.63
7	Ted Boyd	14.92	7	Cheryl Kip	4.53	7	Sonja Miner	4.09
8	Liz McDowell	14.68	8	Renate Boucher	4.49	7	Sharon Nesbitt	4.09
9	Pat McMillan	14.16	9	Kevin Latter	4.35	9	Sheila Charters	2.55
10	Mike Peng	14.05	9	Molly Worden	4.35	10	Carol Gerber	2.54
11	Suzanne Edwards	12.93	11	Vivian McLellan	4.32	11	Pat Northey	2.23
12	Moira Hollingsworth	10.99	12	Bob Gilck	4.30	12	Paul Raymond	2.22
13	Neil Jeffrey	10.78	13	David Dennis	4.23	13	Mark Sherwood	2.20
14	Neil Coburn	10.77	14	Elinor Girouard	4.03	14	Marianne Dziarski	2.19
15	Margot Stockie	10.51	15	Manfred Young	3.99	15	Joan Stroud	2.03
16	John Hanemaayer	9.34	15	Pat Pietrek	3.73	16	Carla Laubach	1.95
17	David Longstaff	8.59	17	Rick Arthur	3.67	17	Jacques Druart	1.91
18	Dave Embury	8.49	18	Steve Allen	3.63	18	Wendy Duff	1.84
19	Diane Bourdeau	8.10	19	Brian Gaber	3.62	19	Doug Fickling	1.74
20	Susan Lawton	7.59	20	Marlene Dopko	3.56	20	Pat Gascho	1.69
21	Steve Carpenter	6.62	21	Mike Maddalena	3.42	21	JP Fraresso	1.60
22	Lynda Burnett	6.13	21	Kathryn Nolan	3.42	22	Ben Cornell	1.55
23	Thea Davis	5.95	23	Douglass Grant	3.26	23	Judy Charbonneau	1.54
24	Barbara Arthur	5.18	24	Gordon Hunter	3.18	24	Becky Blake	1.44
25	Sharon Boyd	4.62	25	Ginny Scott	3.15	25	Andrew McNaught	1.42

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 turn lots of tricks at our **club**.