



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – September 9, 2024

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

Looking Ahead

September 6: The Friday night open game is cancelled.

♥ September 7-8: [St. Thomas Jumbo Tournament](#)

September 8: BBO games are cancelled.

♥ 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 16: Bridge Lab Mini-Lesson – **Tournament Play** with Susan Lawton

♥ September 16-21: **Club Championship F2F Games** (extra masterpoints, no extra charge)

September 20: The Friday night open game is cancelled.

♥ September 21: **Beginner Lessons** start

September 22: BBO games are cancelled.

♥ September 23: Bridge Lab Mini-Lesson – **DONT** with Sue Moses

♥ September 23-29: All BBO games will be **NABC Fundraiser Games** (\$1 surcharge)

♥ September 24: **AGM and Potluck**

September 27: The Friday night open game is cancelled.

♥ September 28-29: **Local Sectional at our Club**

September 28-29: All regular games are cancelled.

♥ September 30: Bridge Lab Mini-Lesson – **Initial Hand Evaluation** with Malkin Howes

♥ September 30 – October 6: **BBO Silver Linings Week** (1.5 SILVER points)

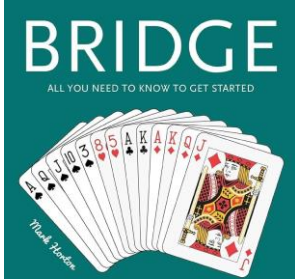
♥ October 7: Bridge Lab Mini-Lesson – **Hand Re-evaluation** with Malkin Howes

♥ October 7 – 12: **F2F Club Appreciation Games** (extra points, no extra charge)

There is a lot going on in September at our club!!!!!!!

Learn Bridge in a Day

Registration has been closed due to full enrollment.



Beginner 1 Bridge Lessons

- **Instructor:** Sue Moses
- **Fee:** \$85 (includes the cost of the text)
- **Current Enrollment:** 12
- **Dates:** Saturdays: Sept. 21, Oct. 12, 19, 26, & Nov. 2, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Beginners 1 provides a hands-on introduction to the game of duplicate bridge, including basic scoring, basic bidding, and basic play of the hand. The third and fourth lessons focus on no trump bidding, while the fifth lesson concentrates on weak two bids.

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

Last Chance to Register for

Barbara Seagram's Finding the Killing Opening Lead!

- **Instructor:** Barbara Seagram
- **Fee:** \$40 members/ \$45 guests
- **Current Enrollment:** 61
- **Date:** Wednesday, September 11, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

More help is needed with nut-free baking and clean up. Click [here](#) to volunteer.

Click [here](#) for more information about the day and to register.

Local Sectional at our Club (Silver Points)!

Click [here](#) for more information on and to register for this upcoming local sectional tournament at our club on Saturday, September 28 and Sunday, September 29. Attendance is limited to 96 each day (48 pairs and 24 teams), with pre-registration being strongly recommended.

Registrations are coming in briskly. At the time of writing, we have room for only three more pairs on Saturday morning, six pairs on Saturday afternoon, and eight teams for the Sunday Swiss. We do expect to sell out – so register soon to reserve your places!

Annual General Meeting

Our annual general meeting will take place at our club on Tuesday, September 24 starting at 12:15 pm. Everyone is welcome, but only members in good standing can vote.

There will be a potluck starting at 11:30 am, followed by the AGM and then the afternoon game (probably an individual game whereby you keep switching partners and opponents). Sign-up sheets for the potluck and game will go up later in the week. See you there!



Congratulations

to the following local players for reaching the next ACBL level...

Junior Master

- **Mary Nickel**

Club Master

- **Anne Anderson**
- **Nancy Kennedy**

Sectional Master

- **Andrew Widdis**

NABC Master

- **Tong Chen**

Advanced NABC Master

- **Noah Pace**

Ruby Life Master

- **Neil Coburn**

Sapphire Life Master

- **Mike Peng**

Diamond Life Master

- **David Longstaff**

And a warm welcome to these two new ACBL members

- **Greg and Linda Schott**
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From the Archives – Revokes without Rectification

A revoke is a failure to follow suit when able. If a revoke is corrected before it becomes established (essentially, establishment occurs when the offender or his partner plays to the following trick), there is rectification due and the director should be summoned right away. If a revoke has already become established when discovered, the director should be summoned when the hand is over, and usually there is rectification involving the transfer of one or two tricks to the non-offending side. However, there is no rectification under one or more of the following circumstances:

- If the offending side won neither the revoke trick nor any subsequent trick;
 - If dummy was the revoker;
 - If attention was drawn to the revoke after a member of the non-offending side had made a call on the subsequent board or the round had ended;
 - If it was a revoke on the twelfth trick; and/or
 - If both sides revoked on the same board.
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Bean There Done That

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

Another month, another dollar....

Howie Doooin'? (Aug 2024)	Compared To		Why % Change Since Aug 2023?
	Jul 2024	Aug 2023	
BBO table counts	Down 16%	Down 68%	Slippery slope
F2F tables counts	Up 12%	Up 70%	More game offerings now
Income	Up 14%	Up 3%	Barb Seagram day, late membership renewals
Expenses	Up 7%	Down 24%	Slow month for shopping, I guess
Current Assets	Up 1%	Up 8%	
Paid up memberships	+9	-11	

We currently have 229 paid-up members.



Changing of the Guard

There have been a few changes to our management team of late.

Secretary

After two years of yeoman service, **Jim Fox** has laid down his pen. We heartily thank him for the many minutes he has given our club, as well as his folksy manner and good humour which greatly enhanced the enjoyment of our meetings. Stepping into his shoes is **Debbie Miethig**, and we greatly look forward to Debbie's contributions to the team.

Lead Dealer

We have already reported on **Adriaan Kempe's** resignation from this post and thanked him effusively, so enough already. Replacing Adriaan is **Elinor Girouard** who has quietly taken up Adriaan's mantle and is making sure that our game directors always have the right set of boards in the right place at the right time – not as easy as you might think! Thanks, Elinor.

Lead Director

Al Pengelly stepped into the breach about three years ago when we were desperate to recruit a lead director, and he has served in this position with great distinction. Lead directors do a lot of work behind the scenes which no one notices, and we thank Al for his time and effort – despite having young children at home as well as a full-time job. Our "new" lead director is **Dave Baker**: new is in quotation marks because Dave was our very first lead director and can be just as well described as our "old" lead director (in both senses of the word). Please be sure send your score corrections to [Dave](#) from now on. See more below.

He's Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaack!

Contributed by Dave Baker

I was the head director of GRBC for many years and then decided to resign my position. I no longer directed F2F games after Covid reared its ugly head, but I remained active as an online director and played in as many GRBC games as I could. The reins were handed over to Allen Pengelly. He did some fine work from home in order to keep the games running smoothly. Unfortunately, health and family issues have caused him to resign and I have agreed to step into the breach.

I have noticed that the open players filled most of the management positions on my first go-around. Now, the non-lifemasters seem to be the majority. Well done!

I don't expect there will be any big changes in the way our games are run. The majority of our game directors are a heck of a lot better at figuring things out than I am. If you have any problems that you think may fall under my purview, let me know and I will take a shot at it. If you have a score correction, [send me an email](#). If you think you would make a better head director than I am, my prayers will have been answered





Player Profile – Theresa Dietrich

Contributed by Lissa Lowes

A big welcome to Theresa Dietrich, who is new to bridge and to the Grand River Bridge Club!

Theresa retired a couple of years ago and decided that she needed to do something to keep her brain active and to meet people. Since she liked playing cards, bridge seemed like the answer. She had played a little bit of bridge when she was in her twenties, and her parents had played so she knew a little bit about it. Theresa looked bridge up on the Internet and found GRBC. She attended some of the Monday morning labs but they didn't always have enough people, so she signed up for the beginner lessons and starts in September.

Theresa was born in Toronto and grew up in Georgetown. She went to the University of Waterloo and majored in math. Theresa then became a dental hygienist and worked in the GTA. Twenty-five years later, she went back to math and became a certified financial planner. Clearly, Theresa is good with detail, and this will help with learning bridge.

She has been married for 33 years and has a son who also lives in Waterloo. She loves to travel and when she was younger, she travelled all over Europe. Nowadays Theresa tends to stay in North America. As an avid golfer, she particularly enjoys Virginia and Hilton Head, South Carolina.

Theresa is also learning to play the piano, which she says is really hard. She is sticking to it though.

She and her husband have a boat and enjoy boating on Georgian Bay. They attend Festival of the Sound performances at the Stockey Centre in Parry Sound and really love the area. Although Theresa already plays euchre online, she hasn't tried bridge but is planning to wait until she knows more. As a newbie player, she doesn't have a particular tip yet, but says she is very aware that bridge has many levels! So true!





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, I played this hand recently and wondered after the play what the requirements are for a 1NT overcall. I have shown the hand below along with the bidding. I was sitting South and opened 1♣. West passed, my partner bid 1♥, and then East – with only 11 HCPs - entered the bidding with 1NT. Is it permissible to overcall 1NT with 11 HCPs?

That overcall threw off our bidding. Other N/S pairs bid on to 3NT. I did bid 2NT, but my partner - despite having 13 HCPs - passed. We made 11 tricks and received a bottom result.

South Deals	♠ 10 6		
Both Vul	♥ K Q 7 2		
	♦ K J 9 3 2		
	♣ A 2		
♠ 9 8 5 2		♠ 7 4 3	
♥ J 9 6 5 3		♥ A 8	
♦ Q 5 4		♦ A 7 6	
♣ 9		♣ Q J 10 7 6	
	♠ A K Q J		
	♥ 10 4		
	♦ 10 8		
	♣ K 8 5 4 3		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♣
Pass	1 ♥	1 NT	2 NT
All pass			

Answer

A 1NT overcall can be a great addition to one's bidding tool box. The best-known examples are likely what you and your partner are most familiar with, namely the ones taught in bridge lessons and written up in bridge books. You pick up a balanced hand with the requisite 15-17 HCPs. You were planning on bidding 1NT, only to hear your right-hand opponent bid one of a suit before you can open. A 1NT overcall then shows the same hand values as a 1NT opener and usually promises at least one-and-a-half stoppers in the opponent's bid suit. AQ would be considered one-and-a-half stoppers.

Those, however, are the more traditional guidelines. Those guidelines are often off the table in today's games. A 1NT overcall is a partnership agreement and should be recorded on one's convention card. One expert player told me *that if you are not frequently mixing it up with borderline hands, you will be left behind in the matchpoint category.*

Here East clearly did not have close to 15-17 HCPs nor did they have one-and-a-half stoppers in the heart suit. East's bid of 1NT did what it was intended to do: it stopped you in your tracks, disrupted your bidding, and prevented you from bidding on to that 3NT contract. North with a void in spades did not feel compelled to raise partner's bid to 3NT, even though they had 13 HCPs.

It is permissible for East to make that bid with only 11 HCPs. As long as East's partner explains the bid correctly according to their partnership agreements, there is no obligation to own up about a bid that doesn't conform to those agreements (unless it constitutes a secret agreement). Furthermore, there is no redress to the opponents if they get a poor result. After East's 1NT bid, South really has no more to say. They have told their whole 13-point story with their 1♣ opening bid. A bid of 2NT at this point would promise extras.

Assuming that South and West both pass, North shouldn't pass with their 13 HCPs, since an opening bid opposite an opening bid generally equals a game. North might bid 3♦ to show those extra values, but that bid is not forcing (partner can pass it). North might bid directly to 3NT, but against that is a legitimate worry about the club suit. There is a better way.

I suggest that instead of choosing 1♥ as their first bid, North start with 1♦ (their five-card suit) and then bid their four-card heart suit at the second opportunity. It is true that most of the time we prefer to start with our four-card major rather than our five-card diamond suit in this situation. That is because most of the time Responder has fewer than, say, 10 HCPs.

But today Responder has opening points and thus can start by bidding their diamonds first and then showing their hearts later. Not only does this sequence communicate that Responder has more diamonds than hearts, but it also conveys that Responder has a good hand.

The recommended bidding sequence would thus be as follows.

<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
1♣	P	1♦	1NT
P	P	2♥	P
2NT	P	3NT	AP






Those Pesky Big Spades

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

As dealer, South, you open 1♠ and your partner responds 2♦. You've opened your ten-point hand and now you have the choice of rebidding your topless spade suit or going to the three-level in clubs. You try 3♣, and of course partner bids 3NT. Another fine mess. Unhappy to leave it there, you show your two-suiter with a 4♣ bid and partner puts you in 5♣. 4♠ would have been a happier spot but here you are. At least you avoided 3NT.

Board 3	♠ A Q	
South Deals	♥ A 5 2	
E-W Vul	♦ A J 9 7 2	
	♣ J 10 9	
♠ 4		♠ K 6 3 2
♥ K 9 8 7		♥ Q J 10 6 4
♦ K 10 5 3		♦ Q 8 6
♣ 8 7 6 2		♣ 3
	♠ J 10 9 8 7 5	
	♥ 3	
	♦ 4	
	♣ A K Q 5 4	

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	All pass	

West leads the ♥7, so you win dummy's ♥A and then play the ♣J followed by the ♣10. When East shows out, you have a problem. You need to draw trumps, set up the spade suit, and then get back to your hand to play the long spades.

The hand would be easy if NOBODY had the ♠A and ♠Q. In that case, you could simply draw trumps, drive out the ♠K, back to your hand with the last trump, and win spade tricks. But it would be a very unusual distribution to have the ♠A and ♠Q missing.

Your only hope to make your contract would be to play the ♠A and then the ♠Q, hoping that whoever holds the ♠K will make a mistake and play it on the queen. East, of course, should duck the ♠Q. He knows from your bidding that you have plenty of spades. If he ducks the queen, you have only one entry to your hand to drive out his ♠K, but then you won't be able to get back to your hand when the spades are established.

The problem is that you have too many high spades in dummy that are higher than the spades in your hand. But there is a solution. When, at Trick 3, you see the 4-1 club split, you should cash the ♠A, getting it out of the way. Then you play two more rounds of clubs, taking out all of West's trumps.

And then on the last club, you unblock the ♠Q from dummy, getting it out of the way. Now, when all of the high spades (except for the king) are in your hand, you can drive out the ♠K, ruff a red card, and cash the rest of the spades.

Dummy's ♠A and ♠Q are just nuisance cards that prevent you from cashing your long suit.

FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

♫ Help me if you can, I'm feeling down ♫

Good defense at bridge requires the same thing that a good personal relationship requires – good communication. A failure to communicate will eventually lead both of you to search for a new partner.

♠ A Q 5
♥ A J 10 4 2
♦ K 10
♣ 7 6 3

North opens a 15-17 1NT. You have a hand good enough to compete in hearts, but you are vulnerable and going down one or two tricks may be worse for you than them making +90 or +120. Indeed, your defensive prospects, sitting with most of the high-card strength behind opener, are pretty good. 1NT is the contract. Which heart should you lead?

♠ K 9 4 2
♥ 7 6 5
♦ Q 9 8 3
♣ Q 2

The recommended lead from J10xxx is fourth-best because unless partner has some strength in the suit there is no point leading the jack. When you have AQJxx or AJ10xx or KJ10xx or Q19xx, it is usually best to lead the middle honour. These holdings are called “interior sequences”.

When you count the high-card points (which you should ALWAYS do when the range of declarer’s points is known), you come up with 36 to 38 points in the three hands, meaning your partner has two-four HCP.

So, you start with the ♥J and it goes small, small, king. Declarer now plays four high clubs (partner following all the way) and you throw a spade. Declarer next leads a spade and you win your ace. How should you proceed? The high cards you cannot see are: ♠J, ♥Q, ♦A, and ♦J. If your partner has two jacks, you are doomed. If he has the ♥Q, you can take a total of six tricks. If he has the ♦A, you can cash the ♦K, lead a diamond to his ace and his heart return gives you four more heart tricks – down one. CHOOSE!

Dir: N

Vul: EW

16

3 14

7

♠ 10 7 3
♥ K 8
♦ A J 6 2
♣ A K J 9

♠ J 8 6
♥ Q 9 3
♦ 7 5 4
♣ 10 8 5 4

♠ A Q 5
♥ A J 10 4 2
♦ K 10
♣ 7 6 3

♠ K 9 4 2
♥ 7 6 5
♦ Q 9 8 3
♣ Q 2

I chose to lead the ♦K. As you can see from the diagram, my line was not too good: our -180 was a bottom. It had seemed reasonable to me that Declarer would go after diamonds rather than spades with so much diamond potential and so little spade potential. Declarer’s line-of-play on this layout was really poor because we might take a lot of tricks if the ♠A is in the West hand. Is there anything else that would help us find the winning defense?

As I said in the beginning, a defender would not lead the jack without a strong holding – AJ10xx, KJ10xx or J109xx. Therefore, West should play the queen on the jack so that his partner can continue without guessing. Had that happened, declarer would be held to seven tricks and we would have a tie for top. This kind of unblock occurs in many situations. When it comes up for you, you will have to decide whether to unblock or not.

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 August.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	34.13	1	Marlene Dopko	9.36	1	Randall DeKraker	6.16
2	Mike Peng	19.63	2	John Kip	6.55	2	Sharon Nesbitt	4.72
3	Edith Ferber	19.36	3	Judy Widdecombe	5.68	3	Nancy Kennedy	4.06
4	Kathy Russell	16.10	4	Bob Gilck	5.24	4	Sonja Miner	3.71
5	Ted Boyd	15.34	5	Joan Slover	5.20	5	Andrew Widdis	3.57
6	John Hanemaayer	14.47	6	Cheryl Kip	5.06	6	Wendy Duff	3.44
7	Cindy Mahn	13.02	7	Cheryl White	4.74	7	Phil DeMontigny	2.91
8	Pat McMillan	10.69	8	Vivian McLellan	4.36	8	Sheila Charters	2.59
9	Dave Quarrie	10.39	9	Peter Gaasenbeek	4.32	9	Pat Northey	2.46
10	Neil Jeffrey	9.61	10	Elinor Girouard	4.26	10	Joan Stroud	2.45
11	Roy Dandyk	8.96	11	Glenn Mockford	3.95	11	Mark Sherwood	2.26
12	Moira Hollingsworth	8.93	12	Renate Boucher	3.80	11	Doug Fickling	2.26
13	Liz McDowell	8.63	13	Molly Worden	3.77	13	Susan Murray	1.97
14	Neil Coburn	8.02	14	ML Benjamins	3.68	14	Andrew McNaught	1.83
15	Bob Griffiths	7.40	15	Sue Moses	3.55	15	Don Slowinski	1.62
16	Diane Bourdeau	7.19	16	Audrey Cook	3.49	16	Ellen Libertini	1.55
17	Paul Latimer	7.11	17	Brian Gaber	2.92	16	Ben Cornell	1.55
18	Adriaan Kempe	6.50	18	Dave Leitch	2.90	18	Carol Gerber	1.43
19	David Longstaff	6.32	19	Jasia McKeague	2.77	19	JP Fraresso	1.33
20	Tom Ramsay	5.86	20	Brenda Semple	2.69	20	Patricia Leigh	1.32
21	Terry Visentin	5.85	21	Pat Pietrek	2.61	21	Judy Charbonneau	1.31
22	Suzanne Edwards	4.77	22	Janice Pengelly	2.60	22	Marianne Dziarski	1.30
23	Margot Stockie	4.63	23	David Dennis	2.54	23	Mary Jameson	1.14
24	Jim Dalgliesh	4.59	24	Valirie Binkle	2.44	23	Maureen Logel	1.14
25	Barbara Arthur	4.58	24	Pat McDonald	2.44	25	Susan Aspinall	1.05
						25	John Aspinall	1.05

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**.
 September is a busy month at our **club**.