



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – February 26, 2024

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

Looking Ahead

- ♥ Lynda Burnett will be giving a mini-lesson on **Play of the Hand (No Trump)** at the Monday morning bridge lab on February 26.
- ♥ **The Thursday night online 999 game has been discontinued**, effective immediately.
- ♥ **Local Sectional Tournament at the Barrie Club**, March 2-3
- ♥ **Club Championships**, week of March 3 = extra masterpoints, no extra charge
- ♥ **Pop-up 499 game on Friday afternoon, March 1, and all games on Sunday, March 3 will be pop-up games. RED POINTS \$1 surcharge**
- ♥ Diane Bourdeau will be giving a mini-lesson on **Responses to 1NT** at the Monday morning bridge lab on March 4.
- ♥ **Beginner 2** lessons begin, Saturday, March 9.
- ♥ Ted Boyd will be giving a mini-lesson on **Playing in our F2F Games** at the Monday morning bridge lab on March 11.
- ♥ **Sectional Tournament at Guelph Club**, March 16-17
- ♥ Ron Van Der Zwaag Will be giving a mini-lesson on **Bid One More?** at the Monday morning bridge lab on March 18.

A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Member

- Wendy Duff



Congratulations.....

to these local players who won extra master points in last week's STaC games.

- **Adriaan Kempe and Wayne Schroeder, Tuesday Afternoon Open, 2.63 MP**
- **Randall DeKraker and Bob Darby, Wednesday Afternoon 299, 1.56 MP**
- **Adriaan Kempe and George Pepall, Wednesday Afternoon 749, 1.28 MP**
- **Dave Embury and Jim Dalgliesh, Wednesday Afternoon 749, .96 MP**
- **Sue Durance and Malene Dopko, Wednesday Afternoon 749, .92 MP**
- **John Snowden and Ken Hundert, Thursday Afternoon Open, 2.44 MP**
- **Wayne Schroeder and Neil Jeffrey, Thursday Afternoon Open, 1.83 MP**
- **Keith and Sharon Schnarr, Friday Afternoon 499, 3.28 MP**
- **Kathy Burns and Joe Blake, Friday Afternoon 499, 2.46 MP**

Expanded March Pop-Ups - More Opportunities for Red Points!

The ACBL has ramped up production in the red masterpoint mine! The 499er Friday March 1 game will be a pop-up game - 50% more red points for an extra \$1. In addition, all of our games on Sunday, March 3 will be pop-up games with 50% more red points for just an extra \$1. (We are adding a Sunday, March 3, 1:00 pm 499er F2F game in addition to the usual BBO games.)

Sun, Sea, and Slams: The Sequel

Contributed by Jennifer Verdam

A group of us had experienced the Barbados tournament in 2023. We then responded by reserving a block of rooms before we left the island and selling them out within fifteen nanoseconds of our return last year. So the joke went, Ted and Sharon Boyd dropped a convention card in the airport, bent down to pick it up and missed their chance, at least at first. I am privately convinced that they set up Dianne Aves and Bruce Roberts as a romantic pair who would stay in the same room – freeing up a room for them.

We went earlier this year than last, arriving on Friday, and there were 30 of us including a couple of non-playing friends/spouses. We spent a couple of days enjoying the sun and the ocean – and the food and the alcohol and the entertainment - before beginning the tournament on Monday morning. Adrian and I decided that definitely the thing to do when you first arrive in paradise to spend the week playing bridge inside a building is to go inside a building and play more bridge, so we went to the Barbados Bridge League's regular Saturday game. Their club has been around since 1965 and the Barbados Bridge League is the result of the amalgamation of several local clubs into one group back in 1990. They have a very nice building and were extremely welcoming to those of us who came to play.

During the tournament our group did really well, despite the presence of Boye Brogeland, the Norwegian professional, and his family, all of whom are very good bridge players and really nice people. Several years ago, Boye exposed the cheating scandal by the Israeli pair of Schwartz and Fisher (click [here](#) for more information). Incidentally Adrian and I won our section Tuesday night and were fortunate enough to come up against Boye and his wife Tonje in the last round. I went down one in 2♥ against perfect defense, a move which netted us 14%. On the second hand, we (Adrian) managed to pull off a top for being in 4♠ and miraculously making six. Then came Board 12. Unheralded. No scary music. No two-headed calves. Not even a simple plague of locusts. The fact that I innocently picked up my hand and did not simply claim an illness and flee the table proves indisputably that I have no hint of psychic ability, or at the very least, that any tendencies I have in that direction do not involve precognition.

Sitting north, I picked up

J5
J732
A9832
32

West (Boye) was the dealer, and we were red against white. Innocuous, right? I sat back placidly, as is my wont, and prepared to pass at my every available opportunity. It doesn't matter what Baker says. I know how to pass with aplomb. Stop laughing like that, Dave. It's rude and you might choke.

Boye opened 1♦ and I passed. Tonje bid 1♥. Adrian doubled and Boye passed. Foiled in my ardent desire to remain a passed hand, I reluctantly bid 1NT and Tonje doubled. Adrian passed, Boye passed, and I considered whether I want to be in 1N doubled against a guy who has multiple World, European, and North American championships. I decided in the fervent negative, but rather than redoubling ("Hey partner, you got us into this! You pick a black suit now please, with

the certain knowledge that I have no more than two spades and no more than three clubs!”), I bid 2♦, which Tonje also doubled, because of course Adrian came down with a singleton diamond. A few dark moments ensued, during which I was cross-ruffed to within an inch of my life. When the smoke cleared, I was down 1400, a score I have not seen written down in some years. I walked up to Tonje after the game, laughed, and said, “You gave us our only bottom!” She told me the next day that Adrian’s 4♠+2 was their only bottom that night as well. Small wins 😊. The full hand was

♠ K Q 9 3	♠ J 5	♠ 6 2
♥ K 4	♥ J 7 3 2	♥ A 10 8 6
♦ Q 7 6 4	♦ A 9 8 3 2	♦ K J 10
♣ A 7 4	♣ 3 2	♣ K J 9 8
	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W S E S </div>	
	♠ A 10 8 7 4	
	♥ Q 9 5	
	♦ 5	
	♣ Q 10 6 5	

Incidentally, we played Boye and his son Anders on Friday afternoon. That was also a new experience: Adrian said he had never actually been squeezed as declarer before.

Two people in the group made life master during the week. Lissa Lowes earned her final fraction of a silver point when the team of Kathy Russell, Mary McLelland, Malkin Howes, and Lissa Lowes won their first round in the team game on Thursday by 33 IMPs, and Roy Dandyk got his final silver playing with Suzanne Edwards, when they won sixth in B Monday morning. Roy and Suzanne then went on to have an incredible week, particularly considering the field included the aforementioned Norwegian professional family, two Canadian grand life masters, a platinum life master (yes, ours), Barbara Seagram and Alex Kornel, a British professional named Simon Cope, a Columbian professional named Alejandro Rivas, Kip Rotchell, and some very talented Barbadians. Well done to them!

The venue was spectacular, the weather was unrelentingly gorgeous, the Atlantic was only slightly scary, the bridge was fun, the group did extremely well, we finished bridge too late on Tuesday evening for Dave Baker to sing karaoke, and I danced a LOT almost every night (ask anyone). We’ll be back!

Monday morning single session open

- David Baker and Ted Boyd** – 1st
- Bruce Roberts and Dianne Aves** – 5th
- Bob Griffiths and Kathy Russell** – 6th
- David Longstaff and Mary Stricker** – 7th
- Adrian Record and Jennifer Verdam** – 9th
- Margot Stockie and Sharon Boyd** – 11th
- Roy Dandyk and Suzanne Edwards** – 6th in B

Monday morning single session 0 – 300

- Barb Neibert and Anita Hansen** 6th

Monday evening single session 0 – 300

- Beverly Hitchman and Laurie McNally** – 6th in B

Monday and Tuesday Double Session Pelau Pairs

Bruce Roberts and Dianne Aves – 3rd
Kathy Russell and David Longstaff – 6th
Bob Griffiths and Diane Bourdeau – 11th
Adrian Record and Jennifer Verdam – 13th
Roy Dandyk and Suzanne Edwards – 8th in B, 3rd in C

Wednesday morning single session open

Bruce Roberts and Dianne Aves – 3rd
Roy Dandyk and Suzanne Edwards – 4th in A, 2nd in B, 2nd in C
Adrian Record and Jennifer Verdam – 6th
Kathy Russell and David Longstaff – 9th
Lynda Burnett and Dave Quarrie – 5th in C

Wednesday afternoon single session open Rum Pairs

Roy Dandyk and Suzanne Edwards – 2nd in A, 2nd in B, 1st in C
Ted Boyd and Margot Stockie – 4th
Sharon Boyd and David Longstaff – 6th
Adrian Record and Jennifer Verdam – 7th (and 3rd E/W – hence the rum!)

Wednesday afternoon single session 0-500

Beverly Hitchman and Laurie McNally – 1st in A, 1st in B

Thursday two-session open Swiss

David Baker, David Longstaff, Ted Boyd, Bob Griffiths - 5th
Kathy Russell, Mary McLelland, Malkin Howes, Lissa Lowes – 7th in A, 2nd in B
Roy Dandyk, Suzanne Edwards, Lynda Burnett, Dave Quarrie – 4th in C

Thursday two-session 0-500 Swiss

Barry Stevenson, Deborah Stevenson, **Anita Hansen, Barb Neibert** – 2nd in A, 1st in B

Friday morning single session open

David Longstaff and Kathy Russell - 1st
Roy Dandyk and Suzanne Edwards – 2nd in A, 1st in B
David Baker and Margot Stockie – 3rd
Bob Griffiths and Diane Bourdeau – 5th

Friday morning single session 0-500

Beverly Hitchman and Laurie McNally - 6th in A, 4th in B

Friday afternoon single session 0-500

Beverly Hitchman and Laurie McNally – 3rd in A
Barb Neibert and Anita Hansen – 5th in A

Friday afternoon/Saturday morning/Saturday afternoon Lady Burton Pairs three session open

Mary McLelland and Kathy Russell – 8th in A, 2nd in B
David Longstaff and Dave Baker – 9th
Lynda Burnett and Diane Jamieson – 11th in A, 3rd in B, 2nd in C
Diane Bourdeau and Bob Griffiths – 12th
Roy Dandyk and Suzanne Edwards – 4th in B, 3rd in C
Sharon Boyd and Ted Boyd – 6th in B

In terms of total master points won, Roy and Suzanne were fourth/fifth overall, with 41.62 MP. Close behind were Bruce and Dianne at six/seventh with 35.17. Eighth was David Longstaff with 34.65 and ninth was David Baker with 33.90. I could go on, but for sure our local contingent did us proud!

The following photos were judiciously selected from the thousands of photographs taken. Photo credits: Dave Quarrie, Mary McClelland, Adrian Record, and Suzanne Edwards.



26 of the approximately 30 local players who came to Barbados



The Big Winners



Bev Hitchman Getting Boye Brogeland's autograph





Bean There Done That

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

Should one play competitive contract bridge when suffering from severe jet lag? After all, wouldn't there be a distinct advantage in being several hours mentally ahead of everyone else in the room? One would know the contract bids that are guaranteed to be made, which hands have bad trump splits, which finesses will work and how to put down the opponent contracts with detailed precision.

Canadian Bridge Federation

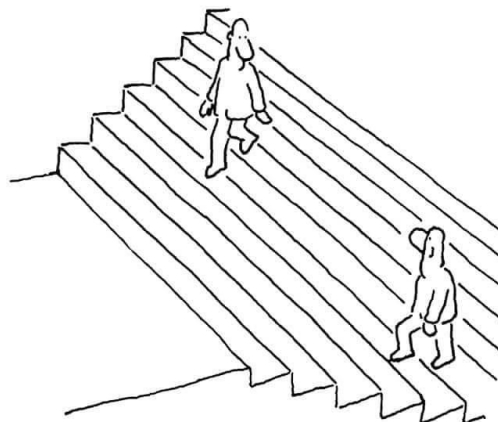
Contributed by Tom Ramsay, Guelph Bridge Club President

Most of you will have received an email from the Canadian Bridge Federation (www.cbf.ca) encouraging you to become a member and listing all of the benefits thereof. In addition, the CBF hosts and supports Two Rookie/Master games per year with hand analysis; a Canada-Wide STaC week, Junior Bridge – developing and mentoring junior players, and Canadian charities. It also holds annual Canadian championships with the winners going to the World Bridge Championships in open women's, seniors', and mixed team events. Some travel costs for the winners are subsidized by the CBF.

As a special bonus: You are entitled to the **Maple Leaf Discount** at the 2024 Toronto NABC! **\$14 off the entry fee per daytime session**, \$4 off for evening events. Some conditions apply.

The reason for this special bonus is that the ACBL is losing money at the nationals due to contracts signed with the host hotels. Apparently, they are not close to meeting their room commitments, so in order to encourage players to stay at the host hotels, the ACBL has boosted its entry prices by \$10 (US) per session and is giving a \$10 rebate to people staying in host hotels. As local people don't stay in hotels, the NABC committee is offering a \$14 (Cdn) discount to all CBF members.

The details are on the NABC website. To get the discount you have to be a CBF member and pre-register online. (Apparently, you can do this onsite if necessary.) The prices are on the website too. NABC event prices are about \$64 per session, \$50 with the rebate. Regional events are \$38, \$24 with the rebate.





The Answer Lady

Contributed by Susan Lawton

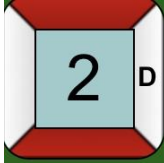
As the "The Answer Lady" I have been responding to questions from "newer" players over the past several weeks. A request has been made to share those players' questions and my responses in the Alert, essentially a column for the beginner player! You can write to me at suzan2420@yahoo.ca.

Question

The interest continues this week around responses to 1NT opening bids with several readers requesting bidding guidance when Responder has five/five in the majors.

Question

Answer Lady, I played this hand in an online game. My partner sitting South began the bidding with a 1NT bid. In North, my hand had five hearts and five spades but only six HCPs. I decided to transfer to hearts and thus bid 2♦. My partner accepted the transfer, and I passed. We ended up in 2♥ and made 3♥. Answer Lady, did I bid this hand correctly? Or perhaps I should have transferred to spades, the higher-ranking suit? Does my hand have extra values with five cards in both majors? Signed, An online player

		N North ♠ K9732 ♥ J10942 ♦ 6 ♣ Q10	<table border="1"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td></td></tr> </table>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	Pass	
		West	North	East	South														
		Pass	1NT																
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥																
Pass	Pass	Pass																	
W West ♠ AJ5 ♥ 853 ♦ Q975 ♣ K42	E East ♠ 104 ♥ 7 ♦ KJ1042 ♣ AJ973																		
		S South ♠ Q86 ♥ AKQ6 ♦ A83 ♣ 865	<table border="1"> <tr><td>2♥</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>South</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> </table>	2♥		South		0	0										
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Answer

Thank you, online player for sharing this hand. There are various options proposed by bridge experts with five/five in the majors after a 1NT opening. These unbalanced hands usually don't lend themselves well to a NT contract. As with all varied choices, considerable discussion and a *clear partnership agreement* is necessary.

The hand above would be described as a weak hand with no additional values despite the five/five distribution. Your approach is often used with weaker hands. With AKQx in hearts, Opener might "super-accept" the hearts by bidding 3♥, and Responder with that weak hand would pass.

Another option, also very simple, is for Responder to pick his preferred major based on honour content. On this hand, it's a toss-up really, but hearts is probably better because of the strong intermediates in that suit. On a different day, if Responder happened to prefer his spades – perhaps he had KQJxx – then he would transfer his partner to spades and pass.

A more-sophisticated approach is suggested by Robert Todd, *Adventures in Bridge*, and other bridge experts. Robert recommends using **Drop Dead Stayman** to force partner to choose between playing 2♥ or 2♠. Clearly you do not have the necessary 8/9 HCPs as required in regular Stayman. What this bidding sequence does allow is to find a fit if Opener has a four-card major and show those five/five major suits if no four-card major exists in Opener's hand.

Robert's Drop Dead Stayman goes like this: **1NT-2♣-2♦-2♥ (Partner, I want to play in 2♥ or 2♠, you chose). Responder will pass at the first opportunity.**

In this hand, the bidding sequence would go: 1NT-2♣-2♥-P. The partnership has found that heart fit. The final contract would be 2♥ played by Opener. If Opener did not have that four-card heart suit and bid 2♦, Responder would bid 2♥ = *Partner, I have five hearts and five spades. Where would you like to play?*

These bidding sequences are tricky and can be open to interpretation, so plan ahead, carefully consider the options, discuss with your partner, and reach an agreement to ensure success.

In response to your last question as to whether your hand has extra values with five cards in both majors, the answer is yes. But your ratty suits and scattered honours detract from those extra values, and so your hand is still not strong enough to invite. If your ♣Q were in a major suit, that would be a different story.



Dad Jokes
@VintageBoyz
@Dadsaysjokes

Laughing
BECAUSE THROAT
Punching Is Frowned Upon

As I handed my Dad his 50th birthday card, he looked at me with tears in his eyes and said,
“You know, one would have been enough.”



Player Profile – Lynda Burnett

Contributed by Louise Dawdy

This week we are pleased to profile Lynda Burnett. Lynda's bridge playing began at an early age, with her father teaching both her and her younger brother on the rules of the game. Her father hailed from a card playing family and had played bridge as well as many bridge-like games well before Lynda's introduction to the game.

Lynda grew up in a small village just outside Tillsonburg, Ontario and continued to play bridge with her family throughout high school. Once in university (University of Guelph, studying English and French), Lynda taught a few roommates how to play rudimentary bridge. Sadly, many did not find joy in the game and none continued on beyond the basics.

Lynda's career with TD Bank took her from Toronto to Western Canada (Regina and Edmonton) for several years. When she finally returned to Ontario (Kitchener), she spent a few years commuting to Toronto as well as helping aging parents. All to say, Lynda had much keeping her away from the bridge table.

Finally, Lynda found herself on a new career path (teaching at Humber College and then running her own business in career consulting). With a little more time on her hands, it seemed like kismet when she met a fellow bridge player at a local church group. The friend volunteered to find Lynda a partner. Once reconnected with the game, she then met a group of women who invited her to join the Canadian Federation of University Women. There were several bridge groups within the organization, and so Lynda was able to play bridge on a more regular basis.

In 2015, Lynda joined GRBC with a friend (a CFUW retired school teacher) as they both wanted to learn how to play duplicate bridge. Lynda herself retired in 2018.

Lynda has volunteered in many capacities at GRBC. She has spent time coaching less experienced players, she has been hospitality lead, she has assisted in the bridge lab, and she has also been a mini-lesson teacher.

Lynda's bridge tip: Take the time to make an explicit plan before you start to play. You may need to make adjustments as cards are playing, but you must start with a plan.

Lynda says that she feels that bridge at all levels is an excellent way to keep your brain working and to enjoy friendship and learning opportunities, adding that "GRBC provides lots of both, and soon you will find yourself addicted! Playing at GRBC prepares you well to play anywhere else. GRBC has a robust membership with many strong players who are willing to share both their time and skill when asked."

Lynda's BBO handle is "laburn". Please be sure to say hello the next time you see her in person or online.

Time You Learned our Mini-Lessons!

Newcomer bridge labs most Monday mornings, 9:00 am – 11:30 am, except on holiday Mondays. Upcoming mini-lessons include more **No Trump Play of the Hand** with Lynda Burnett on February 26, **Responses to One No Trump** by Diane Bourdeau on March 4, and **Playing in our F2F Games** with Ted Boyd on March 11. NO EXTRA CHARGE



Beginners 2

Beginners 2 is a continuation of Beginners 1. All concepts will be reviewed and reinforced. Bidding will be emphasized, including take-out doubles and responses and ace-asking conventions. The principles of declaring no trump and suit contracts will also be covered.

Beginners 2 is suitable for players who have either graduated from Beginners 1, or have been playing social bridge for a while, or have been away from duplicate bridge for some time.

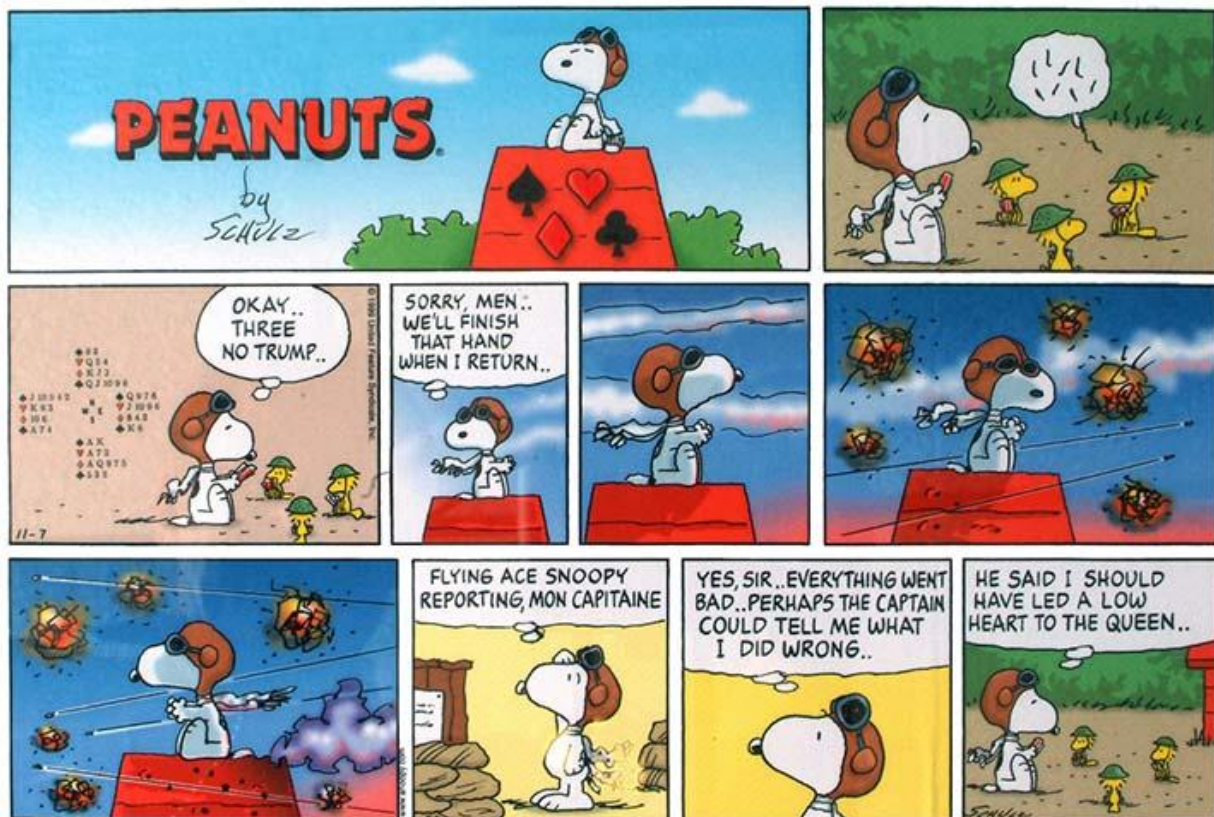
Instructor: Sue Moses

Dates: March 9, 16, 23, April 6 & 13, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Cost: \$75 with the textbook (same as for Beginners 1)

Venue: in our teaching room

Current Enrollment: 1



Conventional Wisdom

This is the fourth in a series of columns on convention cards. Today, we will look at the rectangle entitled **NOTRUMP OPENING BIDS**.

NOTRUMP OPENING BIDS		
1NT _____ to _____	3♣ _____	2NT _____ to _____
_____ to _____	3♦ _____	Puppet Stayman <input type="checkbox"/>
5-card Major common <input type="checkbox"/>	3♥ _____	Transfer Responses:
System on over _____	3♠ _____	Jacoby <input type="checkbox"/> Texas <input type="checkbox"/>
2♣ Stayman <input type="checkbox"/> Puppet <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	3♠ _____
2♦ Transfer to ♥ <input type="checkbox"/>	4♦, 4♥ Transfer <input type="checkbox"/>	3NT _____ to _____
Forcing Stayman <input type="checkbox"/>	Smolen <input type="checkbox"/>	Conventional NT Openings
2♥ Transfer to ♠ <input type="checkbox"/>	Lebensohl <input type="checkbox"/> (____denies)	_____
2♠ _____	Neg. Double <input type="checkbox"/> : _____	_____
2NT _____	Other: _____	_____

Obviously, it is possible to get quite fancy with your no trump bidding, but for now the goal of this column is to outline the basics (you can always add bells and whistles later). If you would like information about some of the fancier conventions, you should ask the [Answer Lady](#). I will plan to double back later on and talk about some of the things we are skipping over on this first pass.

Left-Hand Column

- **Under the blue 1NT**, write "15-17". The reason there are two lines is that some partnerships like to have different ranges depending on their vulnerability.
- **Tick the 5-card major common box.** It is old-fashioned not to bid one no trump with a five-card major and a balanced hand.
- **Tick the 2♣ Stayman box.** Puppet Stayman is for later.
- **Tick the 2♦ Transfer to ♥ box.** Forcing Stayman is for later.
- **Tick the 2♥ Transfer to ♠ box.**
- **Beside 2♠**, write "Transfer to clubs" (correctible to diamonds).
- **Beside 2NT**, write "Invitational" or "8-9 HCP".

Middle Column

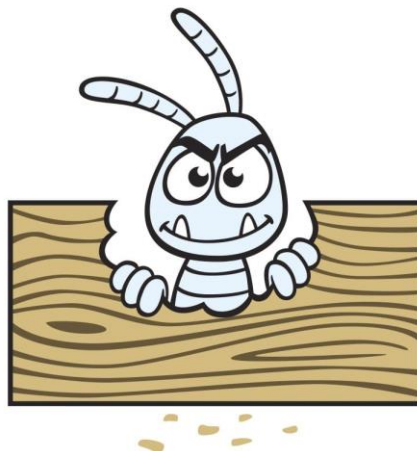
Leave blank for now.

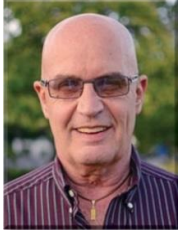
Right-Hand Column

- **Beside 2NT**, write "20-21".
- **Beside 3NT**, write "25-27".

Don't worry about the rest for now.

I have a pet termite. I named him Clint.....Clint eats wood.





Dear David

Active & Passive

Despite the title of this column, please note that this is a “Dear David” article, not a letter to “Dear Abby”.

I have written about this issue before, but I still see too many people trying to create a defence (active) instead of waiting for more information (passive) before choosing a reasonable active form of defence. Whether you are on opening lead or back on lead during the hand, you should strive to match these principles. For example, you hold: ♠432 ♥K32 ♦K32 ♣K432, and the auction goes 1♠ - 2♠ - 4♠. Declarer holds: ♠98765 ♥AQ4 ♦AQ4 ♣AQ. If you lead a spade, you give her nothing. If you lead anything other than a spade, you give declarer a free finesse. Left to her own devices, declarer will have to take three finesses none of which work, and thus go down in 4♠. This is an extreme example, but sometimes giving declarer even one “free” trick could prove to be your downfall. On another hand, leading the ♣K from ♠432 ♥954 ♦KQ10 ♣KQ102 is a perfectly acceptable active (aggressive) lead.

Dir: S	♠ Q 8 3
Vul: EW	♥ K 9
10	♦ Q 10 8 2
8 16	♣ K 9 8 3
6	
♠ 10 7 6 4 2	♠ A 9
♥ Q 4 3	♥ A J 8 6
♦ A 6	♦ K 9 7 5 3
♣ Q 7 6	♣ A 10
	♠ K J 5
	♥ 10 7 5 2
	♦ J 4
	♣ J 5 4 2

This is a random nothing hand that was played in 1NT, 2♠ & 3NT by E/W. With North onlead against NT, he would probably choose a minor. Since a club lead is best only when partner has the ace or queen (two cards) and a diamond lead is best when partner has the ace, king or jack (three cards), you should choose the ♦2. As you can see, if you led a club you gave declarer a cheap club trick. If East is declarer, South has three suits to lead from – hearts, diamonds, and clubs. A word of advice – NEVER lead from J542 unless partner has bid that suit. It will produce only sadness. From J9xx, partners only need have the 10 in order to make it a reasonable lead. A ♦J lead from J4 would be neutral on this hand, but usually it will turn out badly. I would recommend the ♥7 (second-best from a long, ragged suit) as my opening lead. From 10752, lead the 7. From 10952, lead the 10 (top of touching spot-cards). From 9842, lead the 9. Once dummy appears, you may want to continue passive or go active, depending on what you see. Don't hope to guess correctly.

"First you forget names, then you forget faces, then you forget to pull your zipper up, then you forget to pull your zipper down." - Leo Rosenberg

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

No. 135

N	♠ 63
W	♥ K7
E	♦ 8753
S	♣ KJ632
♠ 7	
♥ QJ6532	
♦ A62	
♣ Q94	

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♥
4♠	All pass		

I was South, defending against a 4♠ contract. My partner led the ♥A, and Declarer called for dummy's ♥7. If you were in my shoes, what would you do now?

SOLUTION

Analyzing Declarer's hand provides crucial insights.

1. Declarer likely possesses a solid spade suit, such as AKQxxxx. Expect no tricks in the trump suit.
2. It's likely that Declarer has shortness in hearts, possibly a void or a singleton, as his bid would be too risky otherwise.
3. Declarer probably won't have more than 16 HCP, since with more than that he would have started with a power double. That means that he might well be open to attack in one or both of the minor suits.

Your partner will have been doing a similar analysis and he might well lead a club at Trick 2 on the assumption that you have the ♣AQ. But as you (but not your partner) well know, a club lead would give Declarer access to the board so that he can cash his good ♥K and discard a losing diamond on it.

How can you induce your partner to lead a diamond at Trick 2? Most of the time, the card played by the opening leader's partner at Trick 1 signals attitude. But your attitude to hearts is already known in light of dummy's ♥K. The other two signaling possibilities are count and suit preference. But once again, your partner already knows that you have several hearts (because Declarer is known to be very short in this suit). Under the circumstances, your play to Trick 1 would most usefully convey suit preference.

So now that we're agreed that you need to play a highish heart (to ask for diamonds), the question becomes which one of your hearts you should choose. You could play the ♥6 - and your partner should read it correctly - but it would be clearer to play the ♥Q. Not only will this signal be unambiguous, but also it is sure to wake up snoozing partners. If your partner makes a mistake at this point, it will not be because he didn't think about his lead!

Here is the full hand.

	♠ J104	
	♥ A984	
	♦ KJ4	
	♣ 875	
♠ AKQ9852	♠ 63	
♥ 10	♥ K7	
♦ Q109	♦ 8753	
♣ A10	♣ KJ632	
	♠ 7	
	♥ QJ6532	
	♦ A62	
	♣ Q94	

That ♥Q was never going to take a trick, but it came in very handy regardless.

Winner of snow plow naming contest in Hamilton.



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 January.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	22.99	1	Regina Williams	16.91	1	Sharon Nesbitt	9.21
2	Lori Cole	17.46	1	Denis Williams	16.91	2	George Rybiak	8.92
3	Neil Jeffrey	13.35	3	Jack Cole	13.91	3	Casi Zehr	8.29
4	Edith Ferber	11.84	4	John Kip	12.74	4	Richard Rybiak	7.97
5	Steve Carpenter	10.43	5	Cheryl Kip	11.53	5	Mark Sherwood	7.91
6	Mike Peng	9.99	6	Nancy Cattanach	11.08	5	Mark Sherwood	7.91
7	Kathy Russell	9.51	7	Kevin Latter	10.59	7	Debbie Miethig	7.26
8	Roy Dandyk	9.34	8	Carolyn Baechler	10.19	8	Andrew Widdis	6.91
9	Dave Quarrie	9.04	9	Jim Dalgliesh	10.16	9	Peter Gaasenbeek	6.48
10	Moira Hollingsworth	8.21	10	Louise Dawdy	9.61	10	Audrey Cook	6.41
11	Margot Stockie	7.73	11	Susan Durance	9.41	11	Kathy Chandler	6.17
12	Wayne Schroeder	7.53	12	David Dennis	9.24	12	Russel Kerr	5.89
13	Ted Boyd	6.76	13	Nanci Phelan	9.17	13	Brian Gaber	5.87
14	Dianne Aves	6.52	14	Rick Arthur	9.07	14	Randall DeKraker	5.51
15	John Hanemaayer	5.72	15	Judy Beauchamp	9.06	15	Robert Darby	5.26
16	Mary McClelland	5.66	16	Cheryl White	8.38	16	Don O'Bright	5.13
17	Robert Griffiths	5.21	17	Janice Pengelly	7.74	16	Richard Wehrle	5.13
18	Susan Lawton	5.20	18	Brenda Semple	7.58	18	Stu Cowan	5.11
18	Bruce Roberts	5.20	19	Andy Martinek	7.30	19	Phil De Montigny	5.08
20	Cindy Mahn	5.18	20	Martin Jones	7.04	20	JP Fraresso	4.60
21	Adriaan Kempe	5.06	21	Kim Wakeford	6.92	21	Julia Prendiville	4.45
22	Suzanne Edwards	4.66	22	Elinor Girouard	6.75	22	Jane Wilson	4.23
23	Scott Hills	4.54	23	Judy Widdecombe	6.64	23	Jeannie Leforge	4.20
24	David Wilson	4.14	24	Vivian McLellan	6.64	24	Paul Raymond	3.85
25	Malkin Howes	4.10	25	Tony Verhoeven	6.59	25	Ken Hundert	3.54

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**.

A bunch of us went to Barbados from our **club**.