



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – January 8, 2024

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

Looking Ahead

- ♥ [Cleveland Rock and Roll Regional](#), January 3-7, 2024
 - ♥ [Toronto Non-Life Master Regional](#), January 5-7, 2024
 - ♥ [Toronto January Sectional](#), January 5-7, 2024
 - ♥ **The Friday night open game on January 5 (tonight) has been cancelled.**
 - ♥ Dave Quarrie will be giving a **mini-lesson on Play of the Hand (Suits)** at the Monday morning bridge lab on January 8.
 - ♥ Our BBO games during the week of January 8 – 14 will be **NABC Louisville fundraiser games** = double black points, BBO\$1 surcharge
 - ♥ Saturday, January 13, [Learn Bridge in a Day](#)
 - ♥ Barbara Arthur will be giving a **mini-lesson on Counting Trump** at the Monday morning bridge lab on January 15.
 - ♥ Our BBO games during the week of January 15-21 will be **Silver Linings games** = 1.5 times silver points, BBO\$1 surcharge
 - ♥ **First Beginners 1 lesson**, Saturday, January 20, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm.
 - ♥ Stephen Carpenter will be giving a mini-lesson on **Responding to Pre-empts** at the Monday morning bridge lab on January 22.
 - ♥ Our BBO games during the week of January 28 - February 3 will be **Junior Fund Charity games** = double black points, BBO\$1 surcharge
 - ♥ **Starting Signals – Attitude** workshop by Neil Jeffrey, Tuesday, January 30, 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm
 - ♥ [Niagara Sectional](#), February 9-11, St Catharines
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New Club Members

- A warm welcome to **Mary Nickel, Firouzeh Sharifi, and Sandra Stone!**

New ACBL Members

- **Becky Blake**
 - **John Hutchison**
 - **Mary Nickel**
 - **Bruno Richter**
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Congratulations....

to the following local players who have advanced to the next ACBL level.

Junior Master

- **Steve Cameron**

Club Masters

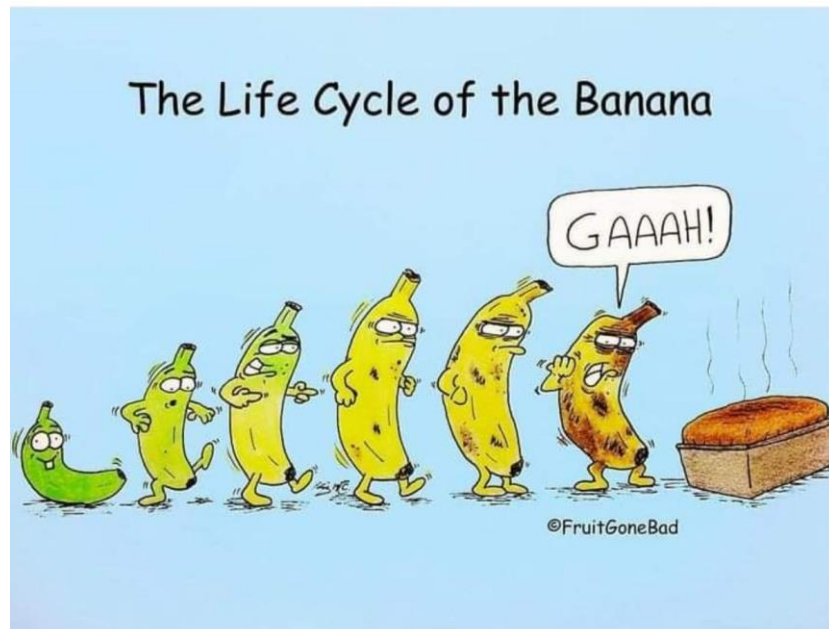
- **Hilary Kekanovich**
- **Sharon Nesbitt**
- **Pat Northey**

Sectional Master

- **Audrey Cook**

Silver Life Master

- **Scott Hills**

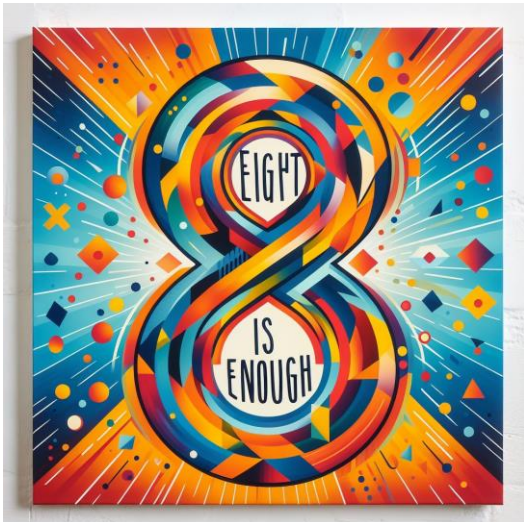


On Track...  ...To Online



REMINDER: L-OTTO Is Back!!

Our gift card contest for online players began January 3, and Week 1 will conclude on Tuesday with a lucky winner! GRBC members in good standing are automatically entered in the random draw each time they play online. There's still time to join Week 1, with three more weeks to go. Please join any of our online games (including the Swiss Teams) and Play to Win!



Eight Was Enough

Contributed by Dave Quarrie and Lynda Burnett, Co-Convenors

New Year's Day saw eleven teams take part in a fun, very competitive match at the club. Team Shantz edged out Team Jeffrey, an outcome that was far from certain with six teams being within fifteen victory points going into the last round. The teams played six sessions of six boards with a fine lunch planned by co-convenor Lynda with some assistance from our friends at Subway.

The format for the match had more experienced players partnering with the less so, and once more we convenors heard from several players how much they appreciated the thoughtful, educational tips that they had received from others. We hope that if you did not play this time round that you will consider doing so in the future.

Many thanks to "Team Pengelly" for selecting the teams and doing their usual high-quality cad-dying... oh, and Dad did some fine directing as well.





Photo credits: Dave Quarrie and Joan Slover



Bean There Done That

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

Our financial roller coaster ride continues...

How Ya dooin'? (@December 2023)	Compared To		Main Reason Why?
	Nov 2023	Dec 2022	
F2F + BBO tables counts	Down 15%	Down 10%	Games cancelled, players 'xmas-busy'
Income	Down 31%	Up 5%	November 2023 had sectional income
Expenses	Down 6%	Up 12%	Usual end of year expenses
Money in the bank	Down 1%	Up 8%	
Paid up memberships	Up 5	Down 11	50% off Boxing Day red tag sale
Dealt bad bridge hands	Same	Same	Probably feels like up

Games making most \$ as a percentage of total profit □ 499er (46%), Open (24%) and 299er (13%)

When you can't find your reading glasses



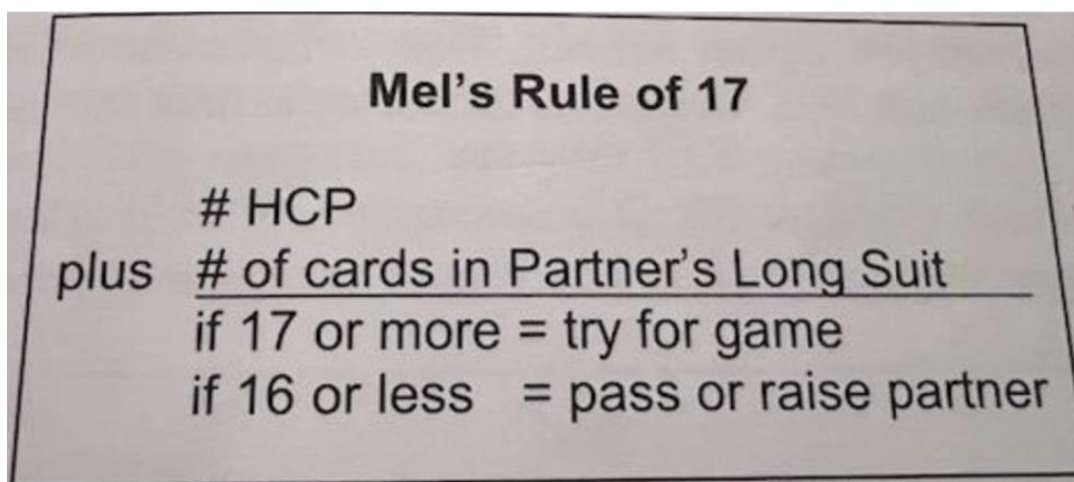


The Answer Lady

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.

When partner opens with a weak two bid, Responder has a number of choices. With support for partner's suit, Responder determines where best to place the contract in that suit. Last week's column provided the option when Responder has trump support and a strong hand. Game is a good possibility and Responder can apply Mel's Rule of 17 in making that decision.



Responder would comfortably bid directly to 4♠ with the following hand - Q974 AKQ7 6 KQ85 - after Opener bids 2♠. Responder has Mel's Rule of 17.

On other occasions, Responder has support for Opener's suit but doesn't have enough points to meet the threshold for Mel's Rule, namely Responder has 16 or less Mel's points. Let's say Opener begins the bidding in first seat with 2♠ and Responder's hand looks like this: Q9752 A5 76542 52.

What to do after the opponent on Responder's right passes? Clearly, Responder's weak hand with only six HCPs doesn't meet the requirements for Mel's Rule of 17. What Responder does have is five spades, (really **excellent** trump support) matching up with Opener's six spades. Barbara Seagram in *Beginning Bridge, 2008, pp184-185*, suggests an immediate bid of 4♠ despite that weak hand. In all likelihood, the opponent on Responder's left has a good hand with the potential to find a game and possibly even a slam. If Responder immediately bids 4♠, the opponents won't know whether Responder has the Rule of 17 or is bidding on to make their life difficult. This strategy can be especially effective when opponents are vulnerable and you are not vulnerable.

You and your partner are not expecting to make this contract of 4♠ with potentially only 12-16 HCPs between you, possibly scoring -100 or even -300. But that would be a better score than the opponents' score of 420 (non-vulnerable) or 620 (vulnerable) if they have a game.

Time You Learned our Lessons!

Continuing

- **Newcomer bridge labs** most Monday mornings, 9:00 am – 11:30 am, except on holiday Mondays. Upcoming mini-lessons include **Play of the Hand (Suits) Part 2** with Dave Quarrie on January 8, **Counting Trumps** with Barbara Arthur on January 15, **Responding to Pre-Empts** with Stephen Carpenter on January 22 and **Filling Out Your Convention Card** with Malkin Howes on January 29. NO EXTRA CHARGE
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Learn Bridge in a Day?

Instructor: Stephen Carpenter

Date: Saturday, January 13, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Cost: \$35

Current Enrollment: 24 **FULL**

Click [here](#) for more information and to put your name on the waiting list.

Beginner 1 Lessons

Instructor: Sue Moses

Dates: Saturday, January 20, 27, February 3, 10, & 17 Cost: \$85 (includes the cost of the text)

Current Enrollment: 7

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

Starting Signals – Attitude

Instructor: Neil Jeffrey

Cost: \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members

Level: **Novice**

Date & Time: Tuesday, January 30, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

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



Pre-Emptive (Weak) Twos – Including the Responses

Pre-emptive bids are a great way to disrupt your opponents' bidding - and often land you in a good contract of your own. This two-part module focuses on weak two bids.

It covers when to open a weak two and when to make a different bid, overcalling with a weak two, and partner's responses to a weak two bid. Many examples will be given.

Regular partners may find it advantageous to attend as a pair.

Instructor: Jack Cole

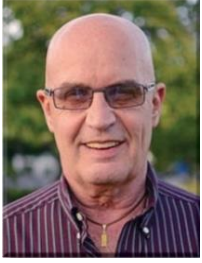
Cost: \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members

Level: **Novice**

Dates & Time: 9:00 am – 11:30 am, Friday, March 1 and Friday, March 8

ONLINE

NB: We must have received eight registrations by January 31 for this module to proceed.



Dear David

What's Goin' On?

Sometimes partner's bids ask you a specific question and your answer is an unqualified yes. Then partner goes in an entirely different direction. What the heck is going on?

Dir: E Vul: EW 15 3 10 12 ♠ 7 6 5 ♥ 8 6 4 2 ♦ 8 5 2 ♣ Q J 4	♠ J ♥ A J 3 ♦ A J 10 7 3 ♣ A 8 6 5	 6
	♠ Q ♥ K Q 9 7 5 ♦ K 9 6 ♣ 10 9 7 3	
	♠ A K 10 9 8 4 3 2 ♥ 10 ♦ Q 4 ♣ K 2	

South opens 1♠, North bids 2♦ (natural two over one game force), and East (the troublemaker) bids 2♥. Many players would just jump to 4♠ and be done with it, but this particular South is made of sterner stuff. He bids 3♥, ostensibly asking for a heart stopper. So North bids 3NT, saying "Yep – I got that". Now South bids 4♠. What's going on when partner asks you for a stopper for NT and you reply in the affirmative, and then he pulls 3NT to four of his suit? He is saying that his hand is too good just to jump to game in his own suit.

So, partner is looking for a spade slam. What are your negatives? You have only one spade, but partner doesn't seem to care about your spade holding and your jack is an honour. What are your positives? Three aces. I say again: THREE ACES! How often do you face a partner who is trying for slam opposite a hand which didn't promise a ton of high-card points and you have THREE ACES! Indeed, your spade jack now seems to be a positive and your diamonds and hearts are added value. Jump to 6♠.

At our table, North bid 5♣ over 4♠, but South had too many worries to proceed beyond 5♠ and North thought long and hard but passed. If the ♦K had been onside, declarer would have made 13 tricks.

All of the spade game bidders got 30%. Two pairs did better in 3NT making 12 tricks, and only one pair bid 6♠.

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 December.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	11.87	1	Kevin Latter	7.58	1	Peter Gaasenbeek	5.45
2	Cindy Mahn	11.04	2	John Kip	6.74	2	Louise Dawdy	5.03
3	Mike Peng	10.92	2	Cheryl Kip	6.74	3	Brian Gaber	4.53
4	Edith Ferber	9.17	4	Nancy Cattanach	5.55	4	Stu Cowan	4.02
5	Malkin Howes	9.00	5	Lynda Burnett	4.88	5	Randall DeKraker	3.39
6	Moirra Hollingsworth	8.30	6	Glenn Mockford	4.77	6	Andrew Widdis	3.28
7	Stephen Young	7.75	7	Jim Dalglish	4.56	7	JP Fraresso	3.23
8	Dave Quarrie	7.07	8	Rick Arthur	4.53	8	Jane Wilson	3.09
9	Steve Carpenter	6.29	9	Renate Boucher	4.17	9	Russel Kerr	2.98
10	Neil Coburn	6.18	10	Judy Beauchamp	3.98	10	George Rybiak	2.95
11	Ted Boyd	5.89	11	Regina Williams	3.92	11	George Rybiak	4.17
12	John Hanemaayer	5.44	11	Denis Williams	3.92	12	Robert Darby	2.54
13	Neil Jeffrey	5.41	13	Elinor Girouard	3.85	13	Larry Brooks	2.42
14	Adriaan Kempe	4.30	14	Lori Cole	3.83	14	Audrey Cook	2.31
15	Sharon Boyd	4.28	14	Jack Cole	3.83	15	Paul Raymond	2.25
16	Bob Griffiths	3.98	16	Joe Blake	3.60	16	Debbie Miethig	2.19
16	Dave Embury	3.98	17	Martin Jones	3.14	17	Sharon Nesbitt	2.14
18	Jennifer Verdam	3.71	18	Tony Verhoeven	3.08	18	Richard Rybiak	2.13
19	Roy Dandyk	3.61	19	Cheryl White	2.96	19	Doug Fickling	2.11
20	David Wilson	3.60	20	Molly Worden	2.90	19	Mark Sherwood	2.11
21	Margot Stockie	3.53	21	David Dennis	2.85	21	Pat Northey	1.97
22	Dianne Aves	3.34	22	Lissa Lowes	2.77	22	Phil DeMontigny	1.94
23	Paul Latimer	3.19	23	Jasia McKeague	2.70	23	Pat Gascho	1.86
24	Kathy Russell	2.98	24	Sue Durance	2.60	24	John Stickney	1.79
25	Bonnie Kains	2.63	25	Barbara Arthur	2.58	24	Dianne Stickney	1.79

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**.
 8 was enough at our **club**.