



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

[Website](#)

ALERT – December 19, 2022

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

Of Note This Week at Our Club

- Monday, December 19 will be the last intermediate bridge lab until Liz returns from Arizona in April.
 - This week's face-to-face games will be club championship games: extra masterpoints at no extra cost. That's **Tuesday afternoon** (December 20), **Thursday afternoon** (December 22), **Friday afternoon** (December 23), and **Friday night** (December 23).
 - There will be no games on Saturday, December 24, and Sunday, December 25, for obvious reasons.
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Tuesday Afternoon Open Christmas Party

Contributed by Susan Lawton



The food, as always, was delicious. Our members really know how to put on a fabulous spread. It was a lovely afternoon!



Sharon Boyd showed us how to display a cheese board.



Dave Quarrie, Liz McDowell, and Cindy Mahn did a terrific job of organizing the event. Several members were fortunate to win LCBO and Tim Horton's gift certificates.



Margot wore her gorgeous sweater that she herself knit.



The Bean Counter

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer

The GRBC's primary piggy bank for money is a TD Canada Trust chequing account. Revenue gets deposited into it and bills get paid from it. The Bean Counter calls it "mad money", not because it handles the day to day needs of the club, but because he gets angry if he has to pay it out.

When we get *ample* excess cash, we put it into guaranteed investments. We cannot and will not take the risk of investments that involve market value volatility.

The GRBC recently took advantage of the high interest rates on guaranteed interest certificates, or GICs. Rates have not been this high in a very long time! Our strategy is to have GICs mature at different dates so that cash becomes available down the road at appropriate intervals. We purchased a short term GIC (100 days @ 3.5%) that is cashable at any time, should we urgently need more funds. We purchased a longer term GIC (18 months @ 4.6%) that is non-cashable, locking in our money until maturity. In both cases, the GIC will be reinvested at maturity into another GIC at the current rate in effect.

You wouldn't have made it if you had played it right.....





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

I have some questions around the hand and your column that appeared in the Alert on November 14, 2022. On that hand, Opener, sitting in North, opened the bidding with 1♦. Responder then bid 1♠. I can see why that 1♠ bid was made. Then opponents came in with an overcall of 2♥. Now, we are back to the opening bidder. Partner has bid a different suit and yes there was an interfering bid, but isn't that 1♠ bid by Responder a **forcing** bid and North must bid something? The partner in South could very well be sitting with a strong hand. I am always confused as to when the opening bidder is actually off the hook from having to rebid when her partner has not passed initially and changed the suit. Is the opener off the hook because there is still an opportunity for the responder to bid?

Answer

Thank you, reader, for providing several very thoughtful questions in relation to the hand and bidding that appeared in the November 14th column. I am including that hand below for all to see.

D 24	N North	W N E S
	♠ K63 ♥ A97 ♦ Q982 ♣ QJ6	P 1♦ P 1♠ 2♥ P P 3♦ P P 3♥ 4♦ P P P
W West		E East
♠ AQ2 ♥ QJ854 ♦ J43 ♣ 82		♠ J104 ♥ K32 ♦ 1065 ♣ A954
	S South	
	♠ 9875 ♥ 106 ♦ AK7 ♣ K1073	4♦ N NS: 0 EW: 0

As I indicated in last week's column, several readers including the reader above have written in requesting clarification on **Forcing vs Non Forcing** bids. So, a little review is in order. What exactly is a forcing bid versus one that is non-forcing?

The discussion below is based on the assumption that most beginning players who might read this column will have knowledge of the Standard American bidding system. Other bidding systems such as 2 over 1 have different requirements for forcing bids. Partnership agreements, where different bidding systems come into play, may also influence what are considered forcing versus non-forcing bids.

While a difficult concept to grasp, it is important to recognise whether your partner's bid is forcing or non-forcing. Forcing bids require your partner to bid, while a non-forcing bid entitles partner to pass. The fact that a bid is non-forcing doesn't mean that partner *can't* bid. They can bid on if they have a suitable hand, but they are not obliged to do so.

In general, non-forcing bids limit the strength of a player's hand, that is they show a defined maximum point count. If partner opens 1♥, then a 2♥ response from you would be non-forcing. That bid shows six to nine total points and partner is entitled to pass if they have a hand where they don't want to try for game.

If partner opens 1♥, then a 1♠ response from you would be forcing. Your bid shows six-plus high card points. Partner is obliged to keep the bidding open because you have introduced a new suit and you may have enough to make game or even slam.

Examples of forcing bids include bidding a new suit, for example 1♥-1♠; Opener bidding a new suit at the three level, for example 1♦-1♠-3♣ (by partnership agreement); Opener bidding a suit at the two level that is a higher-ranking suit than the original bid, for example 1♣-1♠-2♥ (a reverse); and bidding the fourth suit (by partnership agreement). Conventional bids such as Stayman or Jacoby transfers are also considered forcing, as are other artificial bids such as strong 2♣ bids. In general, forcing bids ask partner to continue to describe their hand further.

Some examples of non-forcing bids include: raising partner's opening bid (that is, raising opener's 1♥ to 2♥ or to 3♥); responding 1NT to partner's opening bid; opener's 1NT rebid after opening one of a suit; and rebidding your suit at the lowest level, for example 1♥-1♠-2♥.

On the hand above, Opener bid 1♦ and Responder bid 1♠. Yes, you are absolutely correct that 1♠ is a forcing bid. However, the minute the opponents overcall with a 2♥ bid, Opener is off the hook and does not need to bid. In fact, North really has *no rebid*.

- They can't bid 1NT with only three hearts and one stopper in hearts.
- They can't rebid the diamonds at the two level as there is insufficient strength and length in that suit.
- They can't bid 2♣ as that also shows a stronger hand.
- They can't support Responder's spades with only three spades.

With their minimal values, Opener is forced to pass.

That forcing bid comes off the table when opponents interfere - not because Responder has another bid, but rather because of the interference by the opponents. Responder can of course continue the bidding should they choose to do so, but they too are not obliged to bid further once Opener has passed and defined the shape and strength of his/her hand. If the opponents hadn't overcalled 2♥, then North would have been forced to bid and would likely bid 1NT, showing minimal values.

References

1. *Bridge with Bells and Whistles*, M.A. Dufresne and M. Ellingsen, 2011
 2. [Adventures in Bridge](#)
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Intermediate Bridge Labs

Contributed by Liz McDowell

Monday, December 19 will be our last lab this year. It will return Monday April 3, 2023. The number of players attending each week has been fantastic.

It has been my pleasure to have such an enthusiastic and delightful group. All have improved their bridge skills and are definitely ready for more.



TIME YOU LEARNED OUR LESSONS!

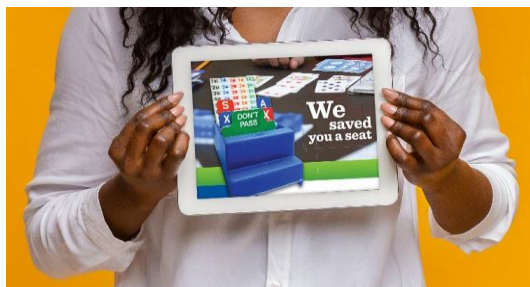
The Alert is a very effective tool for reaching local bridge players, and most of our ongoing lesson registrations come from this marketing tool. Unfortunately, however, the Alert doesn't go to not-yet-bridge-players.

This is where you come in. Assuming you like to play bridge, why not turn your friends and relatives on to our game? You will be giving them a wonderful gift!

In fact, our beginner lessons make a wonderful Christmas present. At only \$85 (includes the textbook and HST), our lessons are a real bargain.

Do you have a hard-to-give-to person on your list? A gift of beginner lessons can solve your problem! Not only are bridge lessons a great present in and of themselves, but also bridge lessons may start your giftee off on a lifelong journey of fun and camaraderie – not to mention helping to stave off Alzheimer's....

We can give you the textbook in advance so you have something to wrap and put under the tree.



Beginners 1

This five-lesson course is offered twice a year on Saturday mornings from 9:30 am until 12:30 pm. The next set of lessons will begin on January 14, 2023. This course will be offered in person in the teaching room of our club.

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.

Instructor: Sue Moses

Level: **Beginner**

Mode: In Person

Dates: Saturday mornings, January 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Cost: \$85 (includes the cost of the text)

Current Enrollment: 3

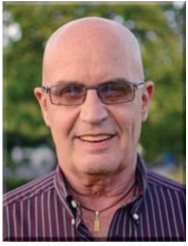
Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

If you have any questions or comments about our lessons, please email [our teaching lead](#).



This page is intentionally left blank to commemorate the demise of Bob Griffith's wonderful bridge columns.

FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

A Matchpoint Safety Play

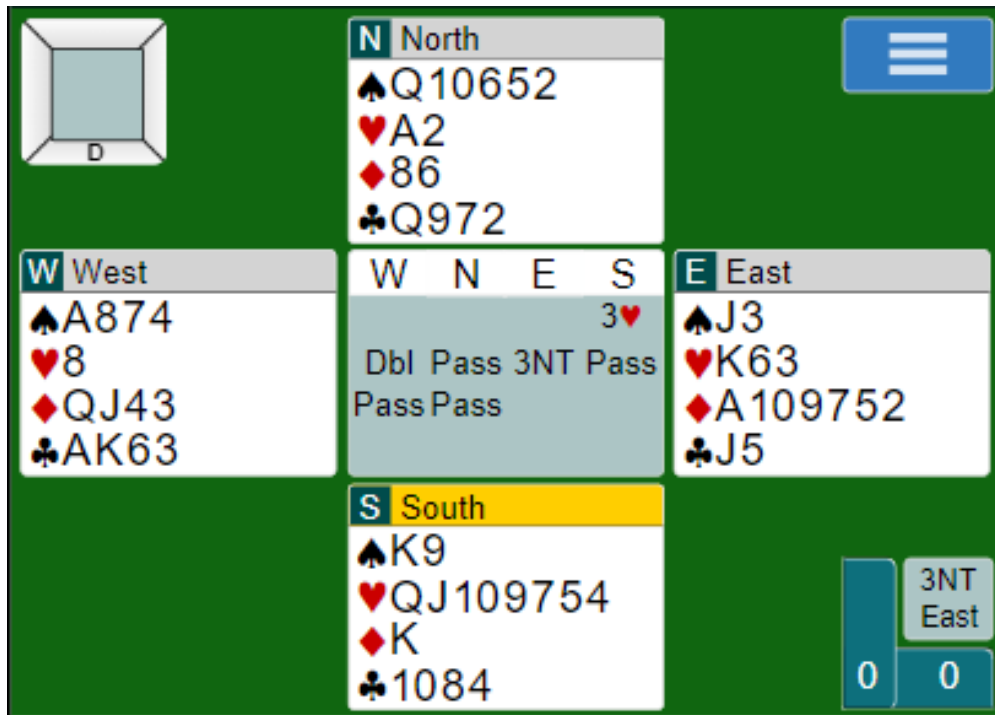
A safety play most often occurs when you are playing team games, because overtricks are not very important. In a pairs game, you can't worry about guarding against horrible distributions, because overtricks are too important to give up on. The following hand is an exception.

W	N	E	S	E East
			3♥	♠J3
Dbl Pass				♥K63
				♦A109752
				♣J5

Your first problem comes when you are forced to make a bid at an uncomfortable level. If partner has as little as Axxx x Kxxx Axxx, you are likely to make 4♦. However, you are also a favourite to make 3NT on a heart lead. In my universe, greed rules!

W West	W N E S	E East
♠A874		♠J3
♥8		♥K63
♦QJ43	3♥	♦A109752
♣AK63	Dbl Pass 3NT Pass	♣J5
	Pass Pass	

South's opening lead is the ♥Q. North wins the ♥A and leads back the ♥2. You win the ♥K. After much deliberation, South follows with the ♥7. I will tell you that your opponents would take this opportunity to make a suit preference signal. The ♥4 would suggest that South likes clubs and the ♥10 would suggest spades. A middle heart would suggest diamonds. Now that I have strongly suggested to you that South has the ♦K, let us proceed. If you finesse in diamonds and are successful, you have 10 tricks. If the finesse loses, your opponents have seven tricks = down three. Before we make our decision, it might be time to think about what will happen at other tables. Will others deem the East hand to be worthy of a 3NT, or will they just make the "safe" bid of 4♦? I will tell you that one pair bid 6♦ (down two) and nobody else bid a game (as expected). If you make 3NT, you get a top board and if you go down three, you get a bottom. If you lead a diamond to the ace and lead a second diamond (North winning the king), you end up with nine tricks, since North has no heart to lead = top score. Since your analysis of what will happen at the other tables leads you believe the making game will be a good result, you choose not to finesse.



On this hand, guided by your opponent's suit-preference signal and your realization that making your game will give you a great matchpoint score, your play of the ace will give you 10 tricks and a top board.

I will conclude this hand by informing you that I had a brain-cramp on this hand and finessed the diamond. Stupid is as stupid does.

To err is human,
to forgive is divine,
to moo is bovine,
to bleat is ovine,
to oink is porcine,
to howl is lupine,
to bark is canine,
to purr is feline.
This list is asinine.

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 November.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	Mike Peng	21.81	1	Martin Jones	10.21	1	Nancy Cattanach	5.63
2	Ted Boyd	19.70	2	Suzanne Edwards	9.31	2	Chris Beck	4.22
3	David Baker	19.29	3	Barbara Arthur	6.94	3	Belinda Burt	4.16
4	Colin Harrington	16.24	4	Kevin Latter	5.98	4	Rick Arthur	3.99
5	Margot Stockie	14.85	5	David Dennis	5.86	5	Randall DeKraker	3.01
6	Cindy Mahn	14.76	6	Douglass Grant	5.83	5	Robert Darby	3.01
7	Moira Hollingsworth	14.15	7	John Kip	5.47	7	Jane Wilson	2.70
8	Neil Coburn	11.47	8	Brian Kirkconnell	5.46	8	Elaine Doyle	2.67
9	Edith Ferber	10.39	9	Jim Dalgliesh	5.31	9	M J Hartleib	2.61
10	Liz McDowell	10.32	9	Roy Dandyk	5.31	10	Louise Dawdy	2.56q
11	Bob Griffiths	8.59	11	Stephen Nantes	5.21	11	Brian Gaber	2.19
12	Dianne Aves	8.36	12	Bev Hitchman	5.12	11	Audrey Cook	2.19
13	Neil Jeffrey	7.93	13	Bob Livermore	4.88	13	Debbie Miethig	2.07
14	David Longstaff	7.57	14	Renate Boucher	4.87	14	Joan Stroud	2.02
15	Stephen Young	6.93	15	Patrick McLaughlin	4.82	15	Molly Worden	1.96
16	John Vandergrift	5.79	15	Patricia McLaughlin	4.82	16	Donna McKay	1.93
17	Sharon King	5.59	17	Gordon Hunter	4.65	17	Judy Johnston	1.87
18	Wayne Schroeder	5.26	18	Cheryl Kip	4.63	17	Carol Gerber	1.87
19	Diane Jamieson	5.22	19	Joan Slover	4.50	19	Don O'Bright	1.82
20	Frank Fischer	5.06	20	Lynda Burnett	4.28	19	Richard Wehrle	1.82
21	Steve Carpenter	5.02	21	Robert Gilck	4.25	21	John Aldridge	1.75
22	Bonnie Kains	4.70	22	Don Beck	4.22	22	Carol Robinson	1.67
23	Sandy Graham	4.23	23	Salvatore Pace	4.18	22	Trent Robinson	1.67
24	Scott Hills	3.97	24	Steven Allen	4.05	24	Ginny Marshall	1.50
24	Malkin Howes	3.97	25	Shelley Metcalfe	3.99	25	Ruthanne Erwin	1.53

If you would like to play in a particular game but lack a partner that day, you can either:

- Log in 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. OR
- Log in to the game in question and register yourself on the Partnership Desk tab.

If you are looking for a regular partner, contact [Joan Slover](#), our membership lead.

We have fun in **spades**.

We play with all our **hearts**.

We treat our members like **diamonds**.

Please tell your friends about bridge lessons at our **club**.