



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

[Our Website](#)

ALERT – January 16, 2023

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

Of Note This Week

- The bad news is that our **online games will cost an extra \$2** during the week of January 9-15. The good news is that double points will be awarded to those who do well. The additional proceeds from these games will go to support junior bridge.
 - During the week of January 16-20, our **face-to-face games will be rated club championship games** – extra master points with no extra cost.
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Congratulations

to the following local players who did well at last weekend's tournaments.

Toronto 0-750 Non-Life Master Winter Regional

- **Martin Jones and Judy Beauchamp**, 4th in A, Friday Gold Rush Pairs
- **Anita Hanson and Barb Neibert**, 2nd in A, Friday 199er Pairs
- **Debbie Miethig and Audrey Cook**, 1st in A, Saturday 199er Pairs
- **Al Pengelly**, Jill Gray, Betty McIver, and **Muzaffar Husain**, 3rd in A, Sunday Swiss Teams
- **Rosemary Newkirk and Valirie Binkle**, 3rd in A, Sunday 199er Pairs
- **Barb Neibert and Anita Hanson**, 3rd in A, Sunday 199er Pairs

Toronto January Sectional

- **Peter Peng** and Gabriel Sitarenios, 1st in A, Saturday Open Pairs

Cleveland Rock and Roll Regional

- **David Wilson, Edith Ferber, Diane Bourdeau, and Robert Griffiths**, 3rd, Wed-Thurs KO, Bracket 1

- **Mike Peng, Adrian Record, Ted Boyd, and David Baker, 4th, Wed-Thurs KO, Bracket 1**
- **Thea Davis, Mary McClelland, Sharon King, and Margot Stockie, 2nd, Wed-Thurs KO Bracket 2**
- **Diane Bourdeau, Robert Griffiths, Thea Davis, and Margot Stockie, 1st, Friday Swiss Bracket 2**
- **Adrian Record, Sharon King, Mary McClelland, and Mike Peng, 3rd, Friday Swiss Bracket 2**
- **David Baker, Ted Boyd, Diane Bourdeau, and Robert Griffiths, 1st in A, Saturday Single Swiss**
- **Margot Stockie, Mike Peng, Adrian Record, and Thea Davis, 2nd in A, Saturday Single Swiss**
- **Jennifer Verdam-Woodward, Hazel Hewitt, Hilary Mahon, and Cheryl Kreger, 5th in A, Saturday Single Swiss**



Here's a photo of the Cleveland group enjoying dinner at their hotel last week. Lots of fun and laughter was had by all, and of course much rehashing of the plays of the day. The tournament was held in a hotel and conference center which served free breakfast (including made-to order-omelettes) and a complimentary happy hour after each day's sessions. This also put the group in a good mood.

Mentoring Virtually

Contributed by Joan Slover, Membership Lead

Stuck at home? Stuck in your bridge game? We can help!

Please let me know by February 1 if you would like some help in your bidding (or play of the hand). You would still play in your virtual game with your partner, after which both of you could benefit from the expertise of a more advanced player who would look at your game and make suggestions on how to improve. We need players on both sides of this equation.

So, if you would like to be on the receiving end of such advice or conversely are willing to be on the giving side, kindly let me know (rxjoan@rogers.com) and I will try and play match-maker!



Candid Camera

Remember cameras? Time was when it was a big deal to have a cameraperson on hand to immortalize important happenings. No more though.

Now that everyone has a cell phone camera, the Alert editor would be grateful if all of our players would consider themselves roving photographers and be on the Alert for photo ops that might interest other people in our club. Like for example, the arrival of our new refrigerator.....



Please send your snaps to [Malkin Howes](#) and see your name in lights.

NOW THAT WE'RE OUT OF LOCKDOWN, EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN PERSONAL BOUNDARIES.



SOME FOLK ARE HAPPY TO BE IN CROWDS WITH NO MASKS OR SOCIAL DISTANCING.

I AM TRYING TO DIP MY TOE INTO THE "NEW NORMAL", BUT I FEEL CONFLICTED ON PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING.





Alert Archives

Did you know that our newsletter is archived back to September 2020? Even better, we have just added a description to recent newsletters of what our various columnists have written about. You can view our archives [here](#).
If you like this feature, hit reply and our archivist will go to work on additional back newsletters. Five likes and Bob's your uncle!

Monday Morning Bridge Labs

Contributed by Sue Moses

As we are limited in our face-to-face games, at present Monday morning's lab is the only place where beginners or people just returning to bridge can go and get help with their skills. It is the only opportunity people have to meet partners who are at their level and develop partnerships. These labs provide lots of hands-on playing experience while allowing you the chance to ask coaches for explanations and clarification. We have a lot of fun sharing our hands with each other and many great friendships have developed by attending the Monday Bridge labs. Our labs are run completely by volunteers who get up early and, in some cases, travel long distances to help you, the participants. Since November, the numbers have dwindled and sometimes the coaches have been very disappointed to find no one attending. Unless this changes soon, the lab will have to close its doors. Please contact Sue Moses at suemos-es49@gmail.com for more information - and especially if you have any suggestions as to how we can better accommodate your needs as a lab participant.





The Bean Counter

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer

The bean counter is off on vacation. Where? Everyone – do you remember the Bangles from the 1980's? Join in on the oh whey oh's...

... All the old paintings on the tombs
They do the sand dance don't you know?
If they move too quick (oh whey oh)
They're falling down like a domino
... All the bazaar men by the Nile
They got the money on a bet
Gold crocodiles (oh whey oh)
They snap their teeth on your cigarette
... Foreign types with the hookah pipes say
(Whey oh whey oh, ay oh whey oh)
Walk like an Egyptian

Saying Au Revoir to Jim

Jim Dalglish chaired his last management team meeting last week. In this photo, you see Joan Slover presenting Jim with a gift certificate to Casa Rugantino along with our hearty thanks for his many years of service to the club. As Jim points out, he's not going anywhere. So, you can still say hello and thank you to him when you encounter him at a game.





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

My partner and I encountered a very interesting hand in a recent 0-199 game. My partner sitting in South had a hand with 28 points which she opened with 2♣. I responded 2♦ waiting, followed by 3NT from my partner. We ended up making 7NT. We did receive a top board for this hand even though we didn’t bid the slam but wondered if a more experienced pair would have reached the grand. Answer Lady do you have any suggestions for us? Thank you for your help.

Signed, A pair of 0-199 players

D	N North	W N E S
13	♠ K9874 ♥ 43 ♦ ♣ 1098432	P P 2♣ P 2♦ P 3NT P P P
W West		E East
♠ QJ5 ♥ 987 ♦ KQ943 ♣ J7		♠ 10632 ♥ 10652 ♦ 8765 ♣ 6
	S South	
	♠ A ♥ AKQJ ♦ AJ102 ♣ AKQ5	
		3NT S NS: 0 EW: 0

Answer

Wow, what a wonderful hand! I really can't remember the last time I picked up my cards and it contained 28 HCPs. The Answer Lady sought some expert advice on this hand and bidding to ensure the correct response was provided. Here is the "expert" advice.

In the sequence outlined, South rebid 3NT after her partner's waiting bid, but 3NT shows a range of only 25-27, not the good 28-HCP count in South's hand. That 3NT is also not a forcing bid and thus ends the discussion and the bidding on this hand. South's second bid can't be in no trump, but rather she must rather bid hearts - a temporizing bid that allows South to start further describing her hand. Her partner can't pass 2♥, as an opening bid of 2♣ (as was described in last week's column) is forcing to game.

In developing a sensible sequence to reach the grand slam, one needs to know if a pair has a way to show a bust hand (less than a king).

- If the pair has a 2♥ bust bid that denies an ace or king, then the suggested sequence would be: 2♣-2♦-2♥-3♣-7NT. Here is the thinking behind that 7NT bid. South should reason carefully: my partner didn't bid 2♥; therefore, she has a king. That king must be in either diamonds or spades. Also, my partner must have long clubs to bid them and, since I have the top three club honours, it's highly likely my partner has six clubs. Now South can count six club tricks, one or two diamond tricks, four heart tricks, and one or two spade tricks = 13 tricks. South based on that thinking can comfortably bid 7NT.
- For the pairs who use a double negative (2♦ followed by 3♣) to show a bust hand, here is the suggested approach. After North's 3♣ double negative bid, South can bid 4NT (Blackwood). North will show no aces or keycards. Then South can bid 5NT, asking about kings. When North shows one king, South can comfortably bid the grand slam.



Carl Lucas says this is how his daughter sees our bridge club.

TIME YOU LEARNED OUR LESSONS!

Our preference is always to have at least eight students in a class – since that's two full tables – and it would be wonderful if we could pick up a few more students to hit the magic number! **WE NEVER WANT TO BE BEHIND THE EIGHT BALL (or the 12 ball in the case of Beginners 1).**

- **Beginners 1**, Saturday mornings, January 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11. In person. \$85 (includes textbook). Instructor: Sue Moses. Current enrollment: **11**. Level: **Beginner**. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Jack Cole has developed workshops specially targeted at those of our players who are near the start of their bridge journey. Perhaps they recently graduated from our beginners' lessons? Perhaps they have been away from bridge for many years? Perhaps they would like to learn more about playing online? These newer players should run, not walk, to sign up for Jack's workshops.

- ~~**Scoring Matters**, Saturday morning, January 21. Online. \$20 members/ \$25 non-members. Instructor: Jack Cole. Current enrollment: **3**. Level: **Beginner/Novice**. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. **CANCELLED**~~
- **Hand Evaluation**, Saturday morning, February 4. Online. \$20 members/ \$25 non-members. Instructor: Jack Cole. Current enrollment: **5**. Level: **Beginner/Novice**. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



Using the Common Game

After every online game at GRBC, an email arrives linking you to the database at The Common Game. Don't just delete it! This workshop will show you how to use The Common Game to compare and contrast your results with hundreds of other players across the continent. It will guide you to new insights into your bidding and your play of every board, assessing your performance as well as your partner's and your opponents'.

It lets you see how other players arrived at the right contract or managed to make the seemingly unmake-able score. If you want to improve your bridge, The Common Game is a tool that you should definitely have in your kit.

Instructor: Jack Cole

Level: **Beginner/Novice**

Mode: ONLINE

Dates: Saturday morning, February 11, 9:30 am – noon

Cost: \$20 members/ \$25 non-members

Current Enrollment: **4**

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



Bad Slam Bid, Volume 1

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

I was playing with a partner with whom I had not played in quite a while. A few of our bidding tools may have suffered from our memory lapses.

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

I was South and my partner dealt and opened 2♦. We play this as Flannery, promising an opening bid with five hearts and four spades. The Flannery bid took away any aspirations that East may have had to pre-empt in spades. After a Flannery opening, we play a 2NT bid as asking about the shape of the four cards outside of the major suits.

Opener now bids to show his shape: bidding a three-card minor at the three level or a four-card minor at the four level. With 2-2 in the minors, a bid of 3♥ shows a minimum and 3♠ a maximum.

With stars in my eyes, I tried 2NT, hoping to hear a 3♣ or 4♣ bid which would show three or four clubs, leaving one or zero diamonds. I decided that I would treat the heart suit as having no losers. Yes, it was possible that North didn't have the ace and/or king of hearts, but by force of will I would prevent that from happening.

But mean old Mike was sitting West and interrupted with a 3♦ bid! My partner was still obligated to try to answer the question I had asked with the 2NT bid. If her response would have been 3♣, then she must pass. If it would have been 3♦, she should double. All other bids are the same as they would have been without the interference. So, the interference at the 3♦ level should have no effect on our communication.

My partner passed after the 3♦ bid. This pass should show that the North hand would have bid 3♣ and thus has three clubs and only one diamond. But it had been a very long time since we have played together and I didn't know if we had previously agreed to play this method of overcoming the interference. Note that her "correct" bid would be 3♥, showing her 2-2 minor shape with a minimum opener.

I was not confident enough in our agreement to be sure that she held only one diamond, so after East's pass I reluctantly bid only 4♥. This was passed around to East who finally woke up and bid 5♦.

Well, that does it, I thought. Partner's pass of 3♦ indicated three clubs and only one diamond. West had a bunch of them and East bid them. All the evidence pointed to a singleton diamond in North's hand. Once I had decided that North had a singleton, I surprised everybody by bidding 6♥ over the 5♦ balancing bid – and 6♥ was passed out.

Mean Mike went into a long huddle before leading the ♣J. He was convinced that I had either the diamond ace and queen or a void in diamonds.

So, I made a bad bid and got away with it. Both of dummy's diamonds were pitched on my clubs and we made an overtrick.



Sometimes two wrongs make a right....but don't count on it.

Some Nostalgia Courtesy of Suzanne Edwards



Flight Attendants posing on empty plane in the 60's

FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

The Cleveland Regional Tournament

A large contingent of local players went to this tournament last weekend and enjoyed a large breakfast buffet (including made-to-order omelettes) and as many free drinks you could imbibe for two hours after the game. We usually played with the same partner, but we had different teammates virtually every day.

	N North ♠K106 ♥K4 ♦AQJ7 ♣AJ84																					
W West ♠9853 ♥Q ♦1054 ♣Q10963	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass 2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass 4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass 6♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S				1♥		Pass 2♦	Pass	2♥		Pass 4NT	Pass	5♥		Pass 6♥	Pass	Pass	E East ♠QJ ♥9876 ♦K9832 ♣K5
W	N	E	S																			
			1♥																			
	Pass 2♦	Pass	2♥																			
	Pass 4NT	Pass	5♥																			
	Pass 6♥	Pass	Pass																			
	S South ♠A742 ♥AJ10532 ♦6 ♣72																					

This is the first hand I recorded because at the time I knew it would likely cause a problem. Normally, you should not open a weak two-bid with four cards in the other major lest you miss a good contract in the other major. With that in mind, I chose to strrrrrretch and open 1♥. Partner could not subsequently be denied. I won the club lead, came to my hand in spades, and lost the diamond finesse. East cashed a club for down one, and I decided to play badly for a little longer to lose yet another trick in a contract I could/should make. A view of things to come.

N North ♠Q ♥A873 ♦KQ42 ♣Q1074	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass 1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>4♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass 5♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass 6♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S				1♣		Pass 1♥	1♠	2♠		4♠	Dbl	Pass 5♣		Pass 6♣	Pass	Pass
W	N	E	S																		
			1♣																		
	Pass 1♥	1♠	2♠																		
	4♠	Dbl	Pass 5♣																		
	Pass 6♣	Pass	Pass																		
S South ♠A5 ♥64 ♦A7 ♣AKJ8653																					

What do we know about this one? South has shown a strong hand with his cue bid of 2♠. West's attempted sacrifice bid of 4♠ must be based on five-card support, since he clearly cannot have many high-card points. South had a problem after North's penalty double. Worried that the double might not produce enough of a penalty to compensate for their cold game, South tried 5♣. North's hand had several pleasant surprises, so he tried 6♣. South happily passed. Should he be happy? North certainly has the heart ace and must have at least another couple of potential winners along with a singleton or void in spades in order to justify a 6♣ bid. I think the lesson here should be when you are happy with what you done and you are ready to close the auction, take another look to see if you could be even happier. A second look might have led to the cold 7♣ contract.

N North				
♠	A2			
♥	AKQ7654			
♦	A2			
♣	A2			
W	N	E	S	
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	
Pass	5NT	Pass	7NT	
S South				
♠	KQ43			
♥	32			
♦	K6543			
♣	43			

The auction (not shown) began with a strong 2♣ bid and a 2♦ (waiting and game forcing) response. The 5♦ response to 4NT (RKC Blackwood) showed zero or three keycards. 5NT asks for kings. Some people play this as asking for the number of kings you hold and others play it as asking partner to bid a side suit in which he holds a king. More than that, your agreement should be that when partner bids 5NT after 4NT, he is promising that your side holds all five keycards (the four aces and the king of the agreed trump suit) plus the queen of the agreed trump suit. On to this hand. If you respond 6♦ showing the diamond king, or 6♥ showing two kings, South is still unable to count to more than 11 or 12 tricks. What South knows is that all three of his honour cards are tricks because North has promised all four aces! Since North has no reason for bidding 5NT unless he is trying to get to a grand slam, your three unexpected tricks should be enough. I was playing against another pair from our group and they responded 6♦ (the ♦K) and stopped in 6NT.

D				
N North				
♠	Q1064			
♥	A743			
♦	A9			
♣	532			
W	N	E	S	
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣	
1♠	Dbl	Pass	2♣	
Pass	2NT	Pass	Pass	
Pass				
E East				
♠	5			
♥	Q95			
♦	KJ1084			
♣	10876			
S South				
♠	J98			
♥	J108			
♦	75			
♣	AKJ94			
2NT North				
0 0				

Herein lies my pathetic excuse for opening 1♣ in third seat VULNERABLE. This was the third-last match of the tournament and we were on the fringe of contention to win the Sunday Swiss. I was trying to create a good score by opening this junkpile. I always imagine I can pass any bid partner makes unless the opponent overcalls and partner doubles. Of course, partner ALWAYS doubles. He needs five club tricks to make seven or eight tricks. The correct safety play is a club to the ace to guard against an unlikely singleton ♣Q in the West hand. If both opponents play small clubs, he can return

to his hand to finesse the jack. Instead, he finessed the jack on the first round and the hand fell apart. Down four was -400. Our partners were +100 at the other table, so we could have at least tied the board if he went down one, or even won five IMPs if he made 2NT. Ultimately, we lost seven IMPs on the board - but won the match easily and it cost only two victory points. I will have to reconsider my ultra-light third-seat opening bids, especially with an aggressive partner.

Finally, a bit of history: A yarborough is a hand in bridge in which no card is higher than a nine. It is supposed to be named after the second Earl of Yarborough (1809-1862), who is said to have bet a thousand to one against the occurrence of such a hand. On the fourth-last hand of the five-day tournament. I held: 943 864 754 9832. I think that hand strongly qualifies as a yarborough. Our opponents quickly bid to 6NT but could not quite figure out how to make the overtrick. Our partners at the other table did make all 13 tricks, but they were sadly in only 3NT. Many players at our club suggest that they ALWAYS get yarboroughs. Pants-on-fire.

There were 14 players from our area at the tournament and many came home with a boatload of masterpoints (present company excepted). More than that, the camaraderie we enjoyed while playing our favourite game was worth much more than silly masterpoints.

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	Ted Boyd	18.54	1	Suzanne Edwards	9.97	1	Belinda Burt	5.58
2	Colin Harrington	14.54	2	Shelley Metcalfe	9.15	2	Nancy Cattanach	5.35
3	David Baker	14.59	3	David Dennis	9.07	3	Louise Dawdy	4.69
4	Cindy Mahn	12.73	4	John Kip	7.54	4	Molly Worden	4.66
5	Moira Hollingsworth	11.82	5	Barbara Arthur	7.01	5	Brian Gaber	3.67
6	Mary McClelland	10.38	6	Cheryl Kip	6.70	5	Rick Arthur	3.67
7	Sandy Graham	8.86	7	Renate Boucher	6.36	7	Casi Zehr	2.89
8	Edith Ferber	7.93	8	Kevin Latter	6.29	8	Donald Slowinski	2.67
9	David Longstaff	7.68	9	Stephen Nantes	6.04	8	Elaine Doyle	2.67
10	Robert Griffiths	7.61	10	Bev Hitchman	5.97	10	Kathy Chandler	2.66
11	Dianne Aves	7.28	11	Brian Kirkconnell	5.85	11	Chris Beck	2.62
12	Mike Peng	7.17	12	Nanci Phelan	5.51	12	Douglas Livesey	2.49
13	Liz McDowell	7.06	13	Patrick McLaughlin	5.11	13	Jane Wilson	1.76
14	Stephen Young	6.62	14	Patricia McLaughlin	5.11	14	Charlene Schell	1.75
15	John Hanemaayer	5.80	15	Lori Cole	5.10	15	MJ Hartleib	1.67
16	Sharon King	5.71	16	Lynda Burnett	4.92	15	Joan Stroud	1.67
17	Margot Stockie	5.67	17	Martin Jones	4.83	17	Ginny Marshall	1.62
18	Kathy Russell	5.63	18	Jim Dalgliesh	4.58	18	Susan Murray	1.59
19	Neil Coburn	5.49	19	Robert Gilck	4.54	18	Ellen Libertini	1.59
20	Neil Jeffrey	4.95	20	Roy Dandyk	4.54	20	Don O'Bright	1.54
21	Diane Bourdeau	4.90	21	Virginia Alviano	4.12	20	Richard Wehrle	1.54
22	Adrian Record	4.67	22	Salvatore Pace	4.09	20	Robert Darby	1.54
23	Dave Embury	4.16	23	Liz Graham	3.93	20	Randall Dekraker	1.54
24	Scott Hills	4.06	24	Gordon Hunter	3.91	24	Judy Johnston	1.33
25	William Christian	3.85	25	Noah Pace	3.90	24	Carol Gerber	1.33
			25	ML Benjamins	3.90			



Ann Laubach

We regret to announce the death of former member, Ann Laubach. Ann played at our club when we were still on Gage Avenue. There will be a celebration of life on January 20 from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm at the Erb and Good funeral home. Click [here](#) for more information.

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**.
We have a new fridge at our **club**.