



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – October 16, 2023

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

Looking Ahead

- ♥ **Card Combinations workshop**, Friday, October 13, 9:30 am – noon **ONLINE** There is still lots of room. **IT'S NOT TOO LATE**. Click [here](#) to register.
- ♥ Don't forget our **new 99er game on Saturday mornings** at 9:30 am.
- ♥ Saturday, October 14, [12th Annual Ray Millie Memorial Tournament in Guelph](#)
- ♥ All of our online games during the week of October 15 are **Club Appreciation games** = double black masterpoints, no extra charge
- ♥ The Answer Lady will be giving a **mini-lesson on cue bid responses** at the bridge lab on Monday morning, October 16.
- ♥ [90th Western Ontario Sectional Bridge Tournament](#), London, October 21-22
- ♥ [Spooktacular Buffalo Regional](#), Tuesday, October 24 - Sunday, October 29
- ♥ [Instant Matchpoint Game at the Guelph Club, Wednesday, Oct. 25, 1:00 pm](#)
- ♥ **Intermediate Bridge Lab**, 6:30 pm, Thursday, October 26
- ♥ The F2F games during the week starting October 29 are **Club Championship games** = extra masterpoints, no extra charge.
- ♥ [Niagara Regional](#), Tuesday, November 7 – Sunday, November 12
- ♥ Saturday, November 11, **Beginner 2 lessons commence**
- ♥ The Answer Lady will be giving a **mini-lesson on responding to overcalls** at the bridge lab on Monday, November 6.

New Board of Directors

At our AGM last month, those present elected the following board of directors: Steve Allen, Barbara Arthur, Diane Bourdeau, Paul Latimer, Kevin Latter, and Mary McClelland. The new board met for the first time last week and elected the following officers: **Kevin Latter**, President; **Steve Allen**, Treasurer; and **Mary McClelland**, Secretary.

One of the items on the new board's first agenda was the resignation (effective December 31, 2023) of our current club manager, Doug Grant.

New Opportunity

Doug Grant has resigned as club manager effective the end of this year in order to focus on other pursuits. The Board would like to thank Doug for his contribution over the last year.

We are now looking for a new club manager. Do you have the following attributes?

- Experience leading a team and chairing meetings?
- A passion for the game of bridge?
- The ability to collaboratively resolve issues that arise from the operation of the club?
- The ability to delegate duties and consult with and support others as appropriate?

The club manager chairs the monthly meetings of the management team. He/she also attends the monthly board meetings to share the views of the management team and to provide the management team with direction from the board. The club manager also attends the monthly games committee meeting to ensure communication between the two teams.

The club manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the club which he/she accomplishes through the management team and other volunteers as required.

Does this look like something that you might be interested in? Please contact Mary McClelland (secretary of the board of directors) either by phone or email for a detailed job description, if you have any questions, or if you would like to put forward your name. Mary's contact information – mjm4bridge@gmail.com or 519-504-2270.



AND THE WINNER IS... Week 4 of our **online playing draw** has dealt our next winner, and it is **Joan Hartviksen!** Joan and her partner (plus 8 other pairs) played in our "lucky" 199 game on Tuesday afternoon! We had **115** entries this week, to win a \$30 gift card from places like Timmies or the LCBO. Thanks to everyone who joined our online games and bonus draws. We're

done for now, but we will be back in a few weeks, and then it could be **your** lucky day!



Player Profile - Molly Worden

Contributed by Louise Dawdy

This week we are pleased to profile Molly Worden. Many of you may recognize Molly from her profile picture. She is definitely one of the friendliest people that you will have the pleasure of meeting at GRBC.

Molly first became interested in bridge while on a ski holiday with a friend who had recently discovered the game and played online constantly. A few months later, while hosting a KW Symphony fundraiser Card Party, Molly met Pat Workman. Pat had taught several of Molly's friends on the fundamentals of bridge. The feisty Scotswoman told Molly to gather a few friends and she would teach them.

In 2017, Renate Boucher, one of Molly's enthusiastic bridge partners, convinced her to join GRBC, and thus ensued her love of duplicate bridge. At the time, Molly took lessons and participated in club's bridge labs, which helped her game along, but she was still only able to play once a week. The pandemic freed up her calendar and allowed her to spend more time with the game she had come to love.

Molly has been retired for over 20 years from teaching (primary and junior grades) with the Waterloo Catholic District School Board and has been volunteering for the KW Symphony for over 30 years. Molly was heart-broken about the recent KW Symphony news, but her Volunteer Committee is still active and looking for more volunteers. They are currently helping out the local classical musicians as well as the KW Youth Orchestra.

Molly and her husband, Tom Slomke (retired city planner) share babysitting duties for their three grandchildren (ages 13, 4, and 4), who fortunately live nearby. They are also care-givers to Molly's 98-year-old mother-in-law, who still lives in her own home. They are truly part of the "Sandwich Generation", caring for family from ages 4 to 98. Both Molly and Tom are accomplished musicians too! Tom plays bass and guitar, while Molly plays cello and French horn.

Molly and Tom as well as Ron VanDerZwaag are in the same Easy Riders Cycle Club and have taken a few European bike and barge trips together. Their favourite destination is NYC because of the bike friendliness of Manhattanites, but their most memorable trip was cycling along the Danube River, through Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary - approximately 900 km!

Molly has been in different choirs for most of her life and still sings in the Waterloo Teachers Choir. Last April was a true highlight for Molly as she was part of the Canada National Concerts Program that invited 250 Canadian singers to participate in an all-Canadian repertoire. They sang on the main stage at Carnegie Hall. What a thrill Molly found it to be, standing on that stage, representing Canada, and being surrounded by beautiful voices.

Molly's Bridge Tip: Don't add too many tools to your toolbox. It can be difficult to remember all the rules and conventions.



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.

Several readers have written in requesting direction around opening one-level minor bids. Their hands hold 13 HCP but do not possess a five-card major to be able to bid 1♥ or 1♠. All those questions got me thinking on how those hands should be bid and in a broader sense how best to tackle this topic. There is considerable information available regarding minor openings at the one-level. I have used personal communication and course notes, along with Barbara Seagram and Larry Cohen as information sources. Today’s column and question begins the discussion around minor suit openings.

Question

Good morning, Answer Lady. I play with several partners, online, F2F, and in tournaments, and recently the discussion has come up on what to open when you do not have a five-card major and only three each of a minor, or three and two of the minors, but you have 13 HCP. In yesterday’s game, there were a couple of hands where one player had 13 HCP but only three diamonds and three clubs, and the hand below also with 13 HCP but only three diamonds and two clubs.

	N	W N E S
	♠ KQ ♥ K932 ♦ 753 ♣ A1094	1♦ P P P
W		E
♠ 9863 ♥ 1054 ♦ J1098 ♣ K3		♠ AJ52 ♥ AJ76 ♦ K62 ♣ 86
	S	
	♠ 1074 ♥ Q8 ♦ AQ4 ♣ QJ752	1♦ E NS: 0 EW: 0

Is it better to open with a short club, telling partner that you do not have four diamonds? Or better to open with the better minor even if you only have three of them? In the hand below, I opened 1♦ with 13 HCP, three diamonds, and two clubs. I was fearful that if my partner was going to leave me in something, I was happier with the diamonds. Everyone else passed. While I ended up going down one, in the end we scored 80%.

Answer

Using the Standard American bidding system, those balanced hands lacking a five-card major such as a 4-3-3-3 shape or a 4-4-3-2 shape, or similar shape variations, and insufficient points to open 1NT but opening points, will always open one in a minor. The range for a minor opening bid of 1♣ or 1♦ could be 12-14 HCP or even 18-19 HCP.

The better minor or a short club? Personal preference and partnership agreement is the guiding principle here. Several players in our club use the short club approach. That agreement guarantees at least four diamonds when a 1♦ bid is made. Using the short club, responder must announce the 1♣ bid as *could be short*. That bid also needs to be recorded on one's convention card under Minor Openings. Opener may have no intention of playing in clubs, and it's only when the club suit is repeated does responder know it is actually a real club suit.

In contrast, using better minor partners agree that one-level minor openings will contain a minimum of three cards in any 1♣ or 1♦ bid. Barbara Seagram in her text *Intermediate 1, 2008, p. 10* suggests the following approach with no five-card major: "Bid your longer minor. With 4-4 in the minors bid 1♦, with 3-3 in the minors bid 1♣,"

So in the hand above sent by the reader and using better minor, Opener bid 1♦, their longest minor, with a 4-4-3-2 shape, three diamonds but only two clubs. Pairs using the short club approach, with no four-card diamond suit, would have opened the bidding with 1♣. The reader was hoping partner would be able to bid one of their four-card majors and they would be in a position to respond accordingly. Unfortunately, with minimal points, Responder passed, leaving the contract in 1♦.

As a result, the opponents with the majority of points, 23 HCP between them, lay down and let Opener play in 1♦. Yes, East went down one - but achieved a result of 80%. Other North/South pairs "balanced" and played the hand in 2♣, making three.

You usually shouldn't let your opponents play a contract at the one level. But that's a topic for another Answer Lady column.





Bean There Done That

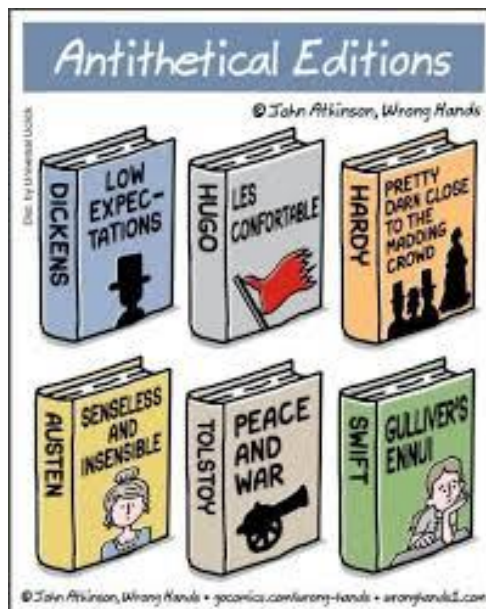
Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer (GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com)

SquareUp is the name of the company that provides the Point Of Sale (POS) instrument sitting on the F2F's director table. We call that a "square box", even though it is rectangular. You may have noticed that the director pushes different buttons on the box. This identifies what you purchased (membership? lesson? game? more high trump cards?) and the payment type (debit card? credit card?).

Interac recently increased the fee for using their money transfer system. SquareUp has passed the increase along to the GRBC. In our cash-free post-Covid19 society, we encourage payment via your debit card. So we are not passing the extra transaction cost to you at this time. Here's what it means for Mister Bean though.

Card Type	Previous e-Transaction Fee	New e-Transaction Fee
Debit card swipe or tap	10¢ regardless of the actual \$amount	7¢ plus 0.75% of the actual \$amount
<i>Fee Examples</i>	\$75 convenience card ... 10¢ \$8 game ... 10¢	\$75 convenience card ... 63¢ \$8 game ... 13¢
VISA/MC/AMEX swipe or tap	2.65% of the actual \$amount	2.65% of the actual \$amount
<i>Fee Examples</i>	\$75 convenience card ... \$1.99 \$8 game ... 21¢	\$75 convenience card ... \$1.99 \$8 game ... 21¢

We discourage credit card payments since the transaction fee sucks. By the way, cash purchases are totally free of Interac transaction fees. Nudge nudge, wink wink.



Time You Learned our Lessons!

Still in the Cards

- **Hand Evaluation** workshop, Friday, November 3, 9:30 am – noon. Instructor: Malkin Howes. In our teaching room. Cost: \$20 members/ \$25 non-members. Current Enrollment: 2 **INTERMEDIATE**
- **Responding to Invitational Bids**, Friday, November 10, 9:30 am – noon. Instructor: Malkin Howes. In our teaching room. Cost: \$20 members/ \$25 non-members. Current Enrollment: 1 **INTERMEDIATE**

Click [here](#) to register.

Continuing

- **Newcomer bridge labs** every Monday morning, 9:00 am – 11:30 am, except on holiday Mondays (no lab on Thanksgiving Day, October 9). Mini-lesson on **cue bid responses** by The Answer Lady on Monday, October 16 – no extra charge! \$8 members/ \$10 non-members.



Beginners 2

Do you like puzzles?

Are you up for new challenges?

Beginners 1 provided 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 focused on no trump bidding, while the fifth lesson concentrated on weak two bids.

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.

Instructor: Sue Moses

Level: **Beginners**

Venue: Our Teaching Room

Dates: Saturday mornings, November 11, 18, 25, Dec. 2, & 9, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Fee: \$75 (assuming the participants have taken the Beginners 1 course and have the text)

Current Enrollment: 14

Click [here](#) to register.



Maggie's Fast King

Maggie and I were playing at a club game recently against a pair of slow experts. She and I passed throughout, while South in third seat opened 1NT. North tried Stayman and was disappointed to see South's 2♦. North now bid 2♠, showing his five-card suit, but South with his maximum jumped to 3NT.

Board 1		
North Deals	♠ A J 10 7 4	
None Vul	♥ 10 8 5 4	
	♦ Q	
	♣ 8 4 2	
♠ K 8 5	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q 9 2
♥ 9 2		♥ Q J 7 6
♦ K 8 6 3		♦ 9 7 5 2
♣ J 10 9 7		♣ A 6
	♠ 6 3	
	♥ A K 3	
	♦ A J 10 4	
	♣ K Q 5 3	

Maggie led the ♣J, which I won with the ace and returned the ♣6. At this point, declarer had two club tricks, two heart tricks, and one diamond trick, but could make two more diamond tricks once he drove out the ♦K. As a result, all he needed was two spade tricks. Declarer thought for quite a while and then led the ♠3, having decided to develop his spade tricks before his diamond tricks.

Maggie didn't hesitate: she quickly played the ♠K which caused declarer to freeze. Playing the king was the right play, but it was not a play that a novice would normally make. Everyone is taught "second hand low", and knowing to sacrifice her king is not what our expert South would have expected from a player who he knew was a beginner.

He decided that Maggie would play her king only if she had both the king and queen, so he ducked this trick, won Maggie's club return, and led his second spade, finessing the jack. This was not a happy result for declarer, who ended up taking no spade tricks with his AJT while the defence made both the king and the queen.

I later asked Maggie how she knew to play the ♠K on the first lead of the suit. She said, "Yesterday, I cornered the market on Mexican cotton faster than he decided what to lead at Trick 3. I was expecting a diamond lead and I had planned to play my king. When he surprised me with a spade, I had the king in my hand before I realized that it was the 'wrong' suit."

Why did Maggie's play of the king work so well? If she makes the "normal" play of a small spade, Declarer will play the jack and I, East, will be faced with the unhappy choice of letting the jack win for declarer's ninth trick – or winning my queen which will let South set up four more spade tricks by finessing the 10 the next time.

Playing the king ruins South's communication with dummy. He could have simply conceded down one by winning dummy's ace and abandoning spades or played as he did, hoping that the novice Maggie hadn't made an expert play and was just protecting her presumed holding of ♠KQ.

If you can't be good, be lucky.



Dear David

Kick ‘Em Up a Notch

Here is the scenario: You have two long suits that you would like to bid – diamonds and clubs. With six diamonds and five clubs, you bid diamonds first and then clubs the second time. Easy enough. But what do you do with six clubs and five diamonds. If you open 1♣ and then bid 2♦ over your partner’s response, it is a “reverse”, showing a strong hand. Not a good idea with only 13 HCP. It’s even worse when you have a weak hand in a competitive auction where your goal is a profitable sacrifice.

	♠ Q10874		
North Deals	♥ AJ653		
Both Vul	♦ 9		
	♣ A4		
♠ 2		♠ A53	
♥		♥ Q1097	
♦ K8542		♦ QJ763	
♣ QJ109862		♣ 3	
	♠ KJ96		
	♥ K842		
	♦ A10		
	♣ K75		



South’s 2NT bid shows a forcing raise of spades (Jacoby 2NT). After West overcalls 3♣, 3♦ shows a singleton or void in diamonds. After South jumps to game, West still wants to find a profitable sacrifice – probably not a good idea with a hand this weak and vulnerable to boot. (Okay. I will admit to being the chronic overbidder).

We have all seen that doubles are not always penalty. Sometimes they are negative, responsive, waiting, asking, a forcing raise, etc. No trump bids are treated in a similar fashion. A balanced point count, waiting, forcing, a two-suiter, etc. In this case, with N/S showing the overwhelming balance of strength, 4NT must have an unusual meaning. It must mean “I have clubs and at least one other place to play. If you hate clubs, bid 5♦ and I will pass with diamonds or bid hearts if that is my second suit”.

West	North	East	South
	1♠	pass	2NT*
3♣	3♦*	pass	4♠
4NT*	pass	5♦	5♠
all pass			

As you can see, we had only two losers in 5♦ on our combined 15 HCP (13 HCP if we discount the ♥Q)! This spirited auction drove the opponents to 5♠, which unluckily (for them) went down one because of the unfortunate heart split. Keep this in your “toolkit.”

The only remaining question is “What does the title of this article have to do with this hand?” Tom Ramsay has a pithy little saying about many bridge situations. If an auction goes: p 1♠ p 2♠ p p, he is likely to balance with 3♣ or 3♦ or 3♥ on some really terrible hands, in the hopes of pushing the opponents to 3♠. When, at the end of the hand, his balance succeeds either by being a profitable sacrifice or beating the opponents one trick in 3♠, his comment is always the same: “Risky -800 to kick ‘em up a notch!”

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 September.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	32.57	1	Lynda Burnett	10.69	1	Russel Kerr	7.16
2	Cindy Mahn	18.17	2	Jim Dalgliesh	8.58	2	Sharon Nesbitt	5.95
3	Ted Boyd	17.55	3	Lori Cole	7.79	3	Randall DeKraker	4.77
4	Mike Peng	16.88	4	Elinor Girouard	7.71	4	Mark Sherwood	4.72
5	Edith Ferber	16.43	5	Janice Pengelly	7.05	5	Doug Fickling	4.33
6	Robert Griffiths	14.59	6	Sue Moses	6.82	6	Rick Arthur	4.12
7	Scott Hills	13.03	7	Cheryl White	6.23	7	Audrey Cook	3.64
8	Roy Dandyk	10.83	8	David Dennis	6.02	8	Jane Wilson	3.18
9	Stephen Young	10.01	9	Bob Gilck	5.61	9	Paul Raymond	2.95
10	Moirra Hollingsworth	9.37	9	Nancy Cattanach	5.61	10	Peter Gaasenbeek	2.69
11	Margot Stockie	8.82	11	Jack Cole	5.59	11	Pat Northey	2.62
12	Suzanne Edwards	7.79	12	Andy Wilson	5.40	12	Brian Gaber	2.58
13	Liz McDowell	7.61	13	Kim Wakeford	4.66	13	Joan Stroud	2.45
14	Bonnie Kains	7.33	14	Molly Worden	4.22	14	Carol Gerber	2.43
15	Ed Hills	6.95	15	Don Rieger	3.98	14	Judy Johnston	2.43
16	Neil Coburn	6.48	15	Peggi Rieger	3.98	16	Debbie Miethig	2.41
17	Malkin Howes	6.10	17	Anita Hanson	3.92	16	Sonja Miner	2.41
18	Kathy Russell	6.09	18	John Kip	3.82	18	John Aldridge	2.34
19	John Hanemaayer	5.96	19	Barbara Arthur	3.66	19	Don Slowinski	1.91
20	Wayne Schroeder	5.78	20	Renate Boucher	3.58	19	Ben Cornell	1.91
21	Steve Carpenter	5.10	21	Steve Allen	3.50	21	Kathy Chandler	1.88
22	Wayne Jordan	4.50	22	Millie McQuillin	3.29	22	Nancy Kennedy	1.82
23	Dave Embury	4.44	23	William Sherman	3.28	23	Sandra Kendall	1.70
24	Neil Jeffrey	4.42	24	Virginia Alviano	3.12	23	Denise Doff	1.70
25	Adrian Record	4.01	25	Nanci Phelan	3.11	25	Sheila Charters	1.68

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**.
 We are looking for a manager at our **club**.