



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

[Website](#)

## ALERT – November 21, 2022

### 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 October.*

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	25.67	1	Suzanne Edwards	7.25	1	Nancy Cattanach	5.48
2	Cindy Mahn	18.03	2	Roy Dandyk	6.49	2	Chris Beck	4.01
3	Margot Stockie	15.13	3	Brian Kirkconnell	6.48	3	Louise Dawdy	3.56
4	Mike Peng	14.91	4	Stephen Nantes	6.29	4	Molly Worden	3.13
5	Liz McDowell	10.17	5	ML Benjamins	6.08	5	M J Hartleib	3.08
6	Stephen Young	10.15	6	Martin Jones	6.06	6	Elaine Doyle	2.98
7	David Longstaff	9.13	7	Kevin Latter	6.00	7	Debbie Miethig	2.75
8	Edith Ferber	8.86	8	David Dennis	5.97	8	Jane Wilson	2.33
9	Moira Hollingsworth	8.37	9	Bev Hitchman	5.91	9	Belinda Burt	2.26
10	Malkin Howes	7.74	10	Douglass Grant	5.58	10	Susan Murray	2.11
11	Kathy Russell	7.52	11	Joe Blake	5.11	10	Ellen Libertini	2.11
12	Dianne Aves	6.98	12	Sue Peterson	5.10	12	Ruth Veder	1.95
13	Steve Carpenter	6.67	13	Bob Livermore	4.97	12	Sandra Willoughby	1.95
14	Jen V-Woodward	6.29	14	Jim Dalgliesh	4.85	14	Audrey Cook	1.94
15	Colin Harrington	6.19	15	Robert Gilck	4.84	15	Carol Gerber	1.82
16	Wayne Schroeder	6.17	16	Lissa Lowes	4.62	15	Judy Johnston	1.82
17	Bob Griffiths	6.10	17	John Kip	4.54	17	Trent Robinson	1.79
18	John Vandergrift	5.89	18	Karen Whitworth	4.36	17	Carol Robinson	1.79
19	Sharon King	5.53	18	Joan Slover	4.36	19	Joan Hartviksen	1.69
20	Bonnie Kains	5.50	20	Ginny Scott	4.35	20	Valirie Binkle	1.62
21	Ted Boyd	5.05	21	Andy Martinek	4.26	21	Joan Stroud	1.56
22	Diane Jamieson	4.99	22	Steven Allen	4.21	22	Rick Arthur	1.55
23	Bruce Roberts	4.64	23	Marlene Dopko	4.10	23	Donna McKay	1.49
24	Paul Stillman	4.51	23	Renate Boucher	4.10	24	Philip Fiess	1.35
25	Ronald Sayle	4.51	25	Elinor Girouard	4.06	25	Richard Wehrle	1.22

## ALL GAMES ARE ONLINE UNLESS DESIGNATED **F2F**.

### Coming Events

- Friday, November 18, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) **F2F** UPGRADED CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP**
  - Friday, November 18, 7:00 pm, **Open game (24 boards) (\$8 members/\$10 non-members) **F2F** UPGRADED CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP**
  - Saturday, November 19, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
  - Sunday, November 20, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) BBO\$5**
  - Monday, November 21, 9:00 am, **Bridge Lab (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) **F2F****
  - Monday, November 21, 10:00 am, **Intermediate Bridge Lab (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) **F2F****
  - Monday, November 21, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
  - Monday, November 21, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
  - Monday, November 21, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
  - Tuesday, November 22, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
  - Tuesday, November 22, 1:00 pm, **Open game (24-28 boards) (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) **F2F****
  - Wednesday, November 23, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
  - Wednesday, November 23, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
  - Wednesday, November 23, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
  - Thursday, November 24, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
  - Thursday, November 24, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$8 members/ \$10 non-members **F2F****
  - Thursday, November 24, 6:30 pm, **Beginners 2 Course **F2F****
  - Thursday, November 24, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- 

### **Upgraded Club Championship Games**

The ACBL has authorized all face-to-face games from November 7 through November 20 to be upgraded club championship games. Extra masterpoints at no extra cost.

---

### **Mode Change for Thursday Afternoon Open Game**

On November 17, the Thursday afternoon open game changed to a face-to-face game. **There will be no online open game on Thursdays from now on. Do not turn on your computer and expect to play bridge with us – rather, come on down to the club!!!!!!!!!!**

---



**A Warm Welcome to our Newest Member**

- **Ben Cornell**
- 



## **Congratulations.....**

*to the following local players who were in the money during the latter part of the Niagara Regional Tournament last week*

- **Diane Bourdeau**, Ross Driedger, **Edith Ferber**, **David Wilson**, 2<sup>nd</sup> in A, Friday KO Teams 1
  - **Lynda Burnett and Dave Quarrie**, 6/7 in A, Friday Gold Rush Pairs
  - **Mike Peng, Peter Peng, Jennifer Verdam-Woodward, Adrian Record**, 2<sup>nd</sup> in A, NOTL Friday Swiss
  - **Moira Hollingsworth, Dianne Aves, Margot Stockie**, Thea Davis, 3<sup>rd</sup> in A, NOTL Friday Swiss
  - **Kathy Russell, Mary McClelland, Susan Lawton, Sharon Boyd**, 1<sup>st</sup> in B, NOTL Friday Swiss
  - **Ted Kennedy**, Virginia Elliott, **Wayne Schroeder**, Doug Elliott, 2<sup>nd</sup> in B, NOTL Friday Swiss
  - **Noah Pace and Salvatore Pace**, 2<sup>nd</sup> in A, Saturday Gold Rush Pairs
  - **Adrian Record and Jennifer Verdam-Woodward**, 11<sup>th</sup> in A, Saturday Open Pairs
  - **David Baker, David Longstaff**, Andrew Risman, Merryl Chin, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday KO-1
  - Douglas Dolbear, Ken Collins, **Mike Peng, Peter Peng**, 4<sup>th</sup>, Saturday KO-1
  - **Ted Kennedy**, Patricia Barker, Ron Ellis, Bernice Muma, 1<sup>st</sup>, Saturday KO-2 and 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday Swiss Bracket 4
  - **Kathy Russell, Margot Stockie, Mary McClelland**, Thea Davis, 2<sup>nd</sup> in A, Saturday Swiss
  - **David Wilson, Edith Ferber**, Dwight Bender, **Diane Bourdeau**, 4<sup>th</sup> in A, Saturday Swiss
  - **Paul Latimer, John Hanemaayer, Scott Hills, Ed Hills**, 1<sup>st</sup> in C, Saturday Swiss
  - Dwight Bender, Michael Kammermayer, Jack Shinehoft, **David Wilson**, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday Swiss Bracket 1
  - **Moira Hollingsworth, Dianne Aves, William Christian**, Pat Fung, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday Swiss Bracket 3
  - Norman Macdonald, Beryle Patterson, **Ron Lawrence**, Susan Samuels, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday Swiss Bracket 5
-



## The Bean Counter

*Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer*

Beans are a cheap commodity, so to count them is a rather silly thing to do. Maybe the Internet can help me understand.

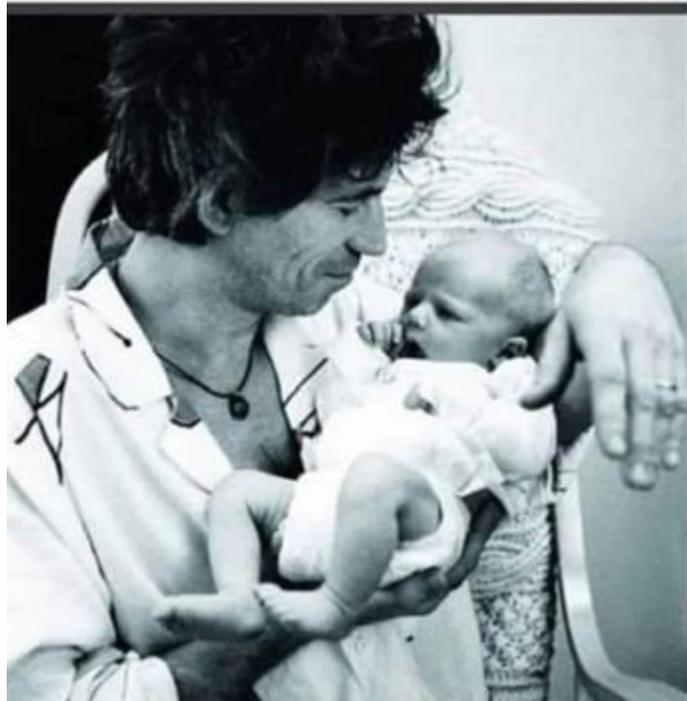
A bean counter is a person, typically an accountant or bureaucrat, perceived as placing excessive emphasis on controlling expenditure and budgets. Or it is used derisively to mean that the person is obsessed with trivial details.

- In rap music, bean can sometimes be used to reference someone who is being stupid.
- A bean is a synthetic pill on the streets (MDMA), possessing both stimulant and mild hallucinogenic properties.
- Bean TikTok is sub-genre of TikTok that features 15-second clips of talking beans and relatable content.
- To bean someone is to hit them in the head.
- If you are called a bean, it can mean you are fit, good looking, and sexy.
- In England, an old bean is a term of address akin to old chap.

Eating beans will make you fart.

---

A rare photo of Keith Richards holding Betty White.



---

## Letters to the Editor

We're Back! My partner Rosemary and I enjoyed our first IN-PERSON bridge afternoon at the club since ....well, you know.

As much as I love my social bridge friends, I'd forgotten what a rich and enjoyable learning experience it is to share a bridge table with a variety of bridge players, each of who brings something unique to the game. Directors and players alike were absolutely lovely!

Did I learn anything? Heck, yes! A support double! Who knew? I love it! Was it super fun to see the range of expressions on the faces around the table when I opened 2♣? You bet! Was there a brief re-learning curve? Yes, like when I dropped a handful of cards from my bidding box on to the floor; just another opportunity to laugh.

The word "sorry" slipped out in true Canadian fashion a couple of times, but only a couple of times, because each time a gracious opponent or director gently insisted there was no place for "sorry" here.

There will be no hesitation in resuming my club membership. And if there was, even fleetingly, I'll just remember what my good friend Sue P said when I hesitated the last time: "...So take out a mortgage, Hennie". Yes, she actually said that (LOL) - and yes, it instantly put into perspective for me how little financial support is actually required to create a venue that promotes social engagement and mental acuity in such an enjoyable way!

So, WE'RE BACK! (And I'm not talking about our grandkids' dinosaur movie - some days I may feel like it, but not on bridge days 😊)

**Hennie Stork**

---



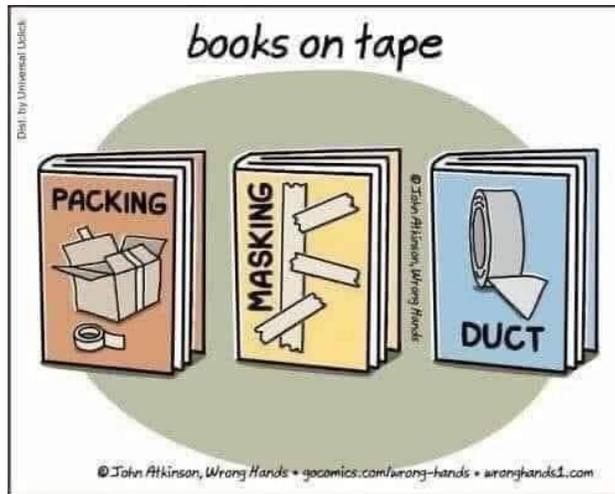
I am now back in Delhi and enjoying bridge at our club.

Yesterday, Barbara Seagram and her husband Alex visited our club and played in a team event. My partner and I played one round against them, and it was a very nice experience. I told Barbara and Alex about my playing bridge in Waterloo, and they knew all about the Grand River Bridge club and spoke highly of you.

It certainly is a small bridge world!

**Jiten Pandey**

---



It was bound to happen.

## It's Masking Time Again

*Contributed by Mike Peng, President*

Ontario's chief medical officer of health is "strongly recommending" residents mask in all indoor public settings in order to protect children from a triple threat of respiratory viruses, but warned a mandate remains on the table. Dr. Kieran Moore made the recommendation as part of an update on the paediatric respiratory virus season, which has seen kids' hospitals overwhelmed in recent weeks by a massive influx of very sick patients.

While masking is optional at our club, it's recommended to wear masks as we enter the fall and winter seasons to reduce the risk of transmitting respiratory viruses. For our members who interact with their children/grandchildren this is strongly recommended. Also, a reminder to wear a mask without hesitation and out of kindness if others at your table request that you do so.

---





## 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!*

*If you have a question, please write to me at [suzan2420@yahoo.ca](mailto:suzan2420@yahoo.ca). You don’t need to send me the actual deal – just tell me the game date and board number and I can take care of the rest.*

**JUST A REMINDER TO OUR NEWER PLAYERS:  
THE ANSWER LADY WILL BE GOING “ON VACATION” SOON –  
UNLESS SHE RECEIVES MORE MATERIAL FOR HER COLUMN.  
SO SEND IN THOSE QUESTIONS PRONTO!**

Last week, the Answer Lady was away, no not “*on vacation*”, but rather playing in a bridge tournament, the Niagara Regional Bridge Tournament to be exact. So, with no particular question and answer ready for publication, I’m taking the opportunity to put in a plug for bridge tournaments.

Tournaments offer bridge players another venue to sharpen their skills and compete in different formats with both pairs and team games available. One has an opportunity to meet players from other regions, learn some new skills and socialize with friends away from the bridge table. Bridge tournaments also allow players to earn pigmented Master points: silver, red, gold and sometimes platinum points for those that are attempting to earn their Life Master status and other designations.

Why I am suggesting tournaments for the newer player? Actually, bridge tournaments are for all bridge players. Even the beginning player can often find a game where they can compete against players of their own skill level.

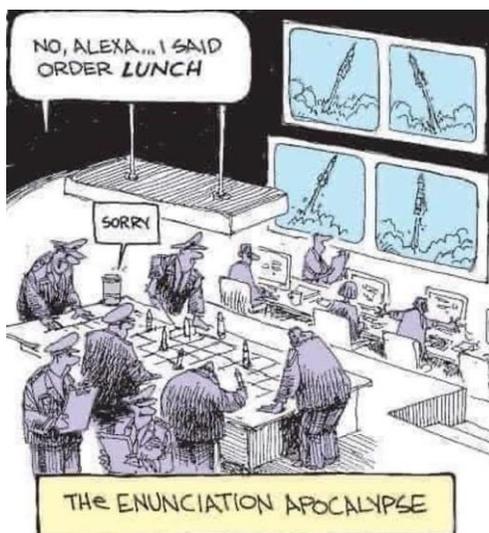
That said, you do sometimes end up playing against bridge players with many more points. A case in point occurred at the Niagara Tournament during the Friday afternoon Swiss team event with surprising results. An afternoon Swiss event contains teams who are hoping to redeem themselves after failing to advance in the morning events. It was a tough group containing several high-level players with many overall master points and designations. One known team even contained two Platinum Life Masters!

The key take away is to not be intimidated by these high-powered teams, but rather to play the cards and your game, not the players you are facing at the bridge table. The Russell team of Kathy Russell, Sharon Boyd, Mary McClelland, and the Answer Lady has cut their teeth in the Open games at Grand River Bridge Club and knew anything was possible even when intimidation tactics were used, a suggestion we would be “crushed”.

Yes, we played a high-level team in the first round but lost only by three, and yes, we lost the second round as well. However, in rounds 3 and 4 we handily won by significant amounts, allowing the Russell team to receive a final score of 68, good enough for fifth overall and first place in B and first place in C with 3.14 red points. I present the final result below. There was no “crushing”.

Team	Player 1	Player 2	Player 3	Player 4	Flt	Overall			Session Score	Adjust	Overall Score	mps	Color
						A	B	C					
10	Jacob Morgan	Owen Lien	Marie-France Benoit	Jacob Freeman	A	1	-	-	88.00		88.00	4.70	Red
7	Mike Peng	Peter Peng	Jennifer Verdam-Woodward	Adrian Record	A	2	-	-	86.00		86.00	3.53	Red
3	Moira Hollingsworth	Dianne Aves	Margot Stockie	Thea Davis	A	3	-	-	75.00		75.00	2.64	Red
11	Cliff Campbell	Mel Norton	Joseph Sauro	Keith Heckley	A	4	-	-	74.00	-3.00	74.00	1.98	Red
2	Kathy Russell	Mary McClelland	Susan Lawton	Sharon Boyd	C	-	1	1	68.00		68.00	3.14	Red
1	Dwight Bender	Ewoud Van Goch	David Longstaff	David Baker	A	-	-	-	65.00		65.00	0.75	Red
6	Ted Kennedy	Virginia Elliott	Wayne Schroeder	Doug Elliott	C	-	2	2	60.00		60.00	2.36	Red
5	Yong Wang	Yuan Li	Susan Samuels	Xiaodong Zhao	C	-	-	-	57.00		57.00	0.50	Red
4	Paul Latimer	John Hanemaayer	Scott Hills	Ed Hills	C	-	-	-	33.00		33.00	0.13	Red
9	Heidi Janes	Nellie Burke	Deirdre Davis	Mary Lou Martin	B	-	-	-	26.00		26.00	0.13	Red
8	Patricia Barker	Ove Lundberg	Barbara Chester	Jackie Logie	C	-	-	-	25.00		25.00	0.25	Red

So, I encourage all players to check out the tournament schedule and see if something attracts your attention. A number of tournaments are available in 2023 for your consideration. The Toronto 0-750 Non-Life Masters Winter Regional from January 6th to the 8th has some games to consider with 49 pairs games on Friday and Saturday and a 0-20 game also on Saturday. If you aren't interested in leaving town, the Southwest Regional Bridge Tournament will be held at Bingemans in Kitchener, from July 4 to July 9. So, take a look at the tournament schedule and see if anything piques your interest.



# TIME YOU LEARNED OUR LESSONS!

A big thank you to those of you who completed our online poll of your lesson needs. We are currently pouring over your responses. It is abundantly clear that there is lots of interest in our lessons – but it is also clear that our members lead very busy lives with all kinds of other activities, including extensive travel, making it very tricky to find a time that suits everyone (including the teachers). To make things worse, some of you can handle only online lessons and some of you can handle only in-person lessons – just like our teachers.

As we develop our 2023 winter/spring lesson schedule, we will do our best to meet everyone's needs. But you need to know that our plan is to just go ahead and offer the most sought-after lessons on the most sought-after dates at the most sought-after times at whatever dates and time slots our teachers can give us in whatever mode the teachers prefer. We hope that you will understand and do your best to accommodate your personal schedule to ours.

---

## Recorded Lessons

We have available digital versions of some of our past lessons: Opening Leads, Third-Seat Play, Killer Signals & Defensive Signals, Second Seat Play, Discards and Strategies (Stephen Carpenter); Convention Card (John Hanemaayer); and Playing in Our Online Games and Scoring Matters (Jack Cole). For the modest fee of \$10, any of these lessons can be yours.

---



**FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS**



## Discreet Passes

*Contributed by Robert Griffiths*

<b>Board 15</b>			
South Deals	♠ A Q 8 2		
N-S Vul	♥ A 6 4		
	♦ 4 2		
	♣ 9 7 6 5		
♠ J 10 5		♠ 6 4 3	
♥ 3 2	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;">             N W     E S           </div>	♥ 10	
♦ A K 8 6 5		♦ Q J 10 7 3	
♣ A 4 2		♣ Q J 10 3	
	♠ K 9 7		
	♥ K Q J 9 8 7 5		
	♦ 9		
	♣ K 8		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♥
2 ♦	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥
All pass			

I was East on this hand. South opened 1♥ and my partner overcalled 2♦. Then North bid 3♦, explained as a limit raise in hearts.

Hmmmm, I thought. Surely the opponents have a heart game and we may want to sacrifice, but I'll pass first to see where the opponents are heading. South simply bid 3♥ which was passed back to me.

This is a sleeping dog that I didn't want to poke; 3♥ looked like a fine place to play this hand. If South had bid 4♥, I would have gone on to 5♦.

Against 3♥, my partner led a top diamond so 11 tricks were easily made. The only way we might have held South to 10 tricks is if my partner had underled his diamond honours so that I could win and switch to a club.

Very unlikely defence.

-----

**Board 11**      ♠ J 10 7 6  
 South Deals      ♥ J 10 8  
 None Vul        ♦ K 9  
                      ♣ J 9 6 5

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

♠ K 9 4 3  
 ♥ A Q 7 3 2  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ A 8 3

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
Pass	2 ♥	3 ♦	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The next session, I sat West. I saw South open 1♥, I passed, North bid 2♥ and my partner bid 3♦. Quick as a flash, South bid 3♥ and I thought, "Here I am again, waiting for the opponents to bid or not bid their game". So, I passed again, and again 3♥ was passed out.

This time, the opponents make exactly 3♥. My failure to bid 4♦ gave us a bad board because 4♦ goes down only one, either -50 or -100, depending on whether or not we were doubled. That is an improvement on -140, our score after the opponents make 3♥.

On this hand, my discreet passing did not work out so well.

One big difference is that on the first hand my partner had a normal overcall. With a bigger hand, he would have doubled first, then bid his suit.

On the second hand, the simple auction of 1♥-P-2♥ had pre-empted my partner. His hand was strong enough to make a power double but was afraid that more bidding by the opponents would bury his suit or force him to bid at too high a level.

🤔 **You can't always get them right.**



"C'mon, c'mon—it's either one or the other."

FOR OPEN PLAYERS



## Dear David

### Minority Report

Suppose you have the following auction with your partner, with your opponents passing throughout: 1♣-1♠-2♥. When opening bidder's second-bid suit (hearts) is higher-ranking than their first-bid suit (diamonds) AT THE NEXT LEVEL (the diamond bid was at the one-level and the heart bid was at the two-level), it shows a strong hand, usually somewhere around 16-20 high-card points. So, 1♣ shows three-plus clubs, and 2♥ promises four hearts and 16-20 HCP. This sequence of bidding is called a "reverse", a useful tool for getting to the best game or slam. Let's look at a hand.

N	North
♠	A
♥	62
♦	KQ72
♣	KQJ987

You open the bidding with 1♣ and partner responds 1♠. You would like to bid your diamond suit next, but 2♦ is a reverse (a higher-ranking suit at the two-level). You don't quite have the strength for a reverse, so most players would just rebid their club suit. The question remains—how can I show both of my suits without distorting my hand? My experience has led me to believe that in the case where opener has four-plus diamonds and longer clubs, the rules governing reverses should be suspended. Therefore, 1♣-1♠-2♦ shows four-plus diamonds, longer clubs, and enough points to open the bidding. Responder should strive to take another bid, but 2♦ is not forcing. DO NOT use this treatment with your partner without prior agreement. Here is the same hand again, facing a different problem.

<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">D</span> 4         </div>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>North</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>KQ72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>KQJ987</td> </tr> </table>	N	North	♠	A	♥	62	♦	KQ72	♣	KQJ987	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>5♣</td> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	1♠	2♣	2♠	P	4♠	5♣	X	P	P	P		
	N	North																										
♠	A																											
♥	62																											
♦	KQ72																											
♣	KQJ987																											
W	N	E	S																									
1♠	2♣	2♠	P																									
4♠	5♣	X	P																									
P	P																											
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>West</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>KQ8532</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>AJ85</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>A10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </table>	W	West	♠	KQ8532	♥	AJ85	♦	A10	♣	6	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>East</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>J64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>Q97</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>A10532</td> </tr> </table>	E	East	♠	J64	♥	Q97	♦	65	♣	A10532							
W	West																											
♠	KQ8532																											
♥	AJ85																											
♦	A10																											
♣	6																											
E	East																											
♠	J64																											
♥	Q97																											
♦	65																											
♣	A10532																											
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>1097</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>K1043</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>J9843</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table>	S	South	♠	1097	♥	K1043	♦	J9843	♣	4	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">5♣x N</td> <td colspan="2">NS: 0 EW: 0</td> </tr> </table>	5♣x N		NS: 0 EW: 0													
S	South																											
♠	1097																											
♥	K1043																											
♦	J9843																											
♣	4																											
5♣x N		NS: 0 EW: 0																										

North had a difficult decision on this auction.

- If the opponents make 4♠ (-620) and 5♣ doubled fails by only two tricks (-500), N/S would probably get a top board.
- If he failed by three tricks (-800), N/S would probably get a bottom board.

North did get some bad breaks and it was -800.

Upon examination, it looks as if 5♦ is the place to be, but how can you find it? The hand is clearly not good enough to bid 5♦ and a double would be penalty-oriented. What would a bid of 4NT mean? After making a simple overcall of 2♣, which limits his hand to a maximum of about 15 HCP, 4NT couldn't be Blackwood. When a NT bid cannot be natural, it must be a two-suited hand of some kind. On this hand, it shows four-plus diamonds and longer clubs. Partner happily chooses 5♦.

If West leads the ♣6 to the ace and a club is returned, declarer should trump with the ♦J. When West wins his ♦A, he will need to cash his ♥A, or declarer will throw all four heart losers on the clubs (after all the trumps are drawn) and ruff South's two spade losers - MAKING FIVE! Even if declarer plays it badly, down two is the worst that could happen.

There are many examples of this kind of problem. Suffice it to say, when NT cannot realistically be natural, it must be a two-suited hand.

---



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

#99

♠ 976  
 ♥ KQJ  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ AKJ862



♠ AK843  
 ♥ A643  
 ♦ 96  
 ♣ Q7

Bidding 1)

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All pass			

Bidding 2)

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4♠
All pass			

1. Asking bid
2. Maximum values + 3-card support

When I noted down this hand, I didn't include the auction, so I later asked two experienced bridge players how they would bid the hand. The first sequence was suggested by Jennifer Verdam-Woodward and Ted Boyd, and the second sequence was suggested by Jennifer Verdam-Woodward and Adrian Record (it is interesting because of the spiral raises).

I, South, was declaring four spades. West led the ♥7, which I took with dummy's ♥J, East following suit. At Trick 2, I led a small trump from dummy, East inserted the ♠10, and I took the trick with my ♠K, West following with a small trump. What now?

**SOLUTION**

In light of dummy's solid clubs, it would be tempting to bang down the ♠A at Trick 3, planning to discard two diamond losers on them later on for an overtrick or two. If trumps split 3-2, that might work, but what if trumps are 4-1? If that is the case, there are two different bad things that could happen.

1. Let's assume you play your ♠A at Trick 3 and then run your good clubs with the goal of pitching your losing diamonds on them. If the opponent with long trumps has only two clubs, he will ruff in before you can discard the losing diamonds. He will waste no time removing dummy's last trump and then take two diamonds to put you down.
2. Let's assume you play the ♠A at Trick 3 and then lead a diamond at Trick 4 in an effort to set up a diamond ruff. If the opponent with long trumps wins the diamond trick, he will waste no time removing dummy's last trump and then take two diamonds to put you down.

In order to cater to the possibility of a 4-1 trump split, the correct play is to give away a diamond trick right now at Trick 3 (you could have done this at Trick 2 but it's still not too late). Now, even if the opponents try to remove the dummy's trump by playing trump, you still are in control of the trump suit because of your ♠A.

Let's say your opponent leads the ♠J. You take it with your ♠A and ruff your second diamond loser right away. You will lose two trumps in due course, but that is all she wrote.

Here is the complete hand.

♠ 976		
♥ KQJ		
♦ 5		
♣ AKJ862		
♠ QJ52	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;">             N W     E S           </div>	♠ 10
♥ 972		♥ 1085
♦ AJ872		♦ KQ1043
♣ 10		♣ 9543
		♠ AK843
		♥ A643
		♦ 96
		♣ Q7

As you can see, if you had played the ♠AK first, not only would you not make any overtricks but in fact you would have gone down. Greed is a terrible thing.

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 are not greedy at our **club**.