



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

[Website](#)

**ALERT – January 2, 2023**

**HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR**

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

### Of Note This Week

- There will be **no bridge lab** on Monday morning, January 2.
  - There will be **no Friday night game** on January 6 due to the number of players going to the Cleveland tourney.
  - There is a [regional tournament in Cleveland](#), January 4-8.
  - There is a [sectional tournament in Toronto](#), January 6-8.
  - There is a [NLM Regional tournament in Toronto](#), January 6-8.
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### The Bean Counter

*Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer*

For many bean counters, Sunday is the end of their accounting year and a very busy time. GRBC's accounting year ends in June, so I'll just be drinking when the NYC ball drops. Happy 2023 Year!

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# 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](mailto:suzan2420@yahoo.ca).

## Question

My partner and I have recently started using cue bids of the opponents’ suit to show a limit raise in our partner’s suit. We have found this technique effective in allowing us to find a fit in a suit. Recently though, we had some miscommunication about how best to bid a hand. Unfortunately, I am unable to show the hand record, but the bidding was initiated by Opener with a 1♣ bid, I passed, and Responder bid 1♦. My partner then bid 1♥ and Opener bid 1NT. Although I had initially passed, I did have three hearts and 10 points to raise my partner’s heart suit, so I bid 2♣ - which I assumed was a cue bid of the opponents’ suit, i.e., a limit raise in hearts. This confused my partner who thought I had a solid club suit and passed. We ended up being soundly trounced as the opponents wisely didn’t intervene and let us play in clubs at the two-level

Answer Lady, where did we go wrong? How should we have bid this hand? We had a heart fit and could have played in 2♥ successfully. Thank you for your input.

Signed, A Rookie Player

## Answer

Dear Rookie Player,

Thank you for sharing an interesting bidding dilemma. I can certainly see why those opponents were more than willing to let you play in 2♣. Here are my thoughts: I like that you have begun to incorporate opponents’ suit cue bids into your bidding toolbox. As you have noted, cue bids of the opponents’ suit can be very effective in communicating support for partner’s bid suit, while disrupting opponents’ ability to extend their auction.

The bidding typically follows a format such as: 1♦-1♥-P-2♦. That 2♦ bid is artificial, shows a limit raise in hearts with three hearts and 10+ points, and is forcing for one round. Your partner now knows the strength of your hand and, based on their own hand strength, can decide where to place the auction (leave it in 2♥, bid 3♥, 4♥, or potentially further). Opponent cue bids also interfere with the opponents’ ability to find their right level. For instance, in the hand above, Opener would need to bid his diamond suit at the three-level to continue in the auction. As an example, I’m showing a hand below taken from BBO that shows this technique.

West	North	East	South									
			1♦	Good support in S -- 3+ ♠; 10+ total points								
1♠	Pass	2♦										
Pass	2	3	4	5	6	7						
Dbl												
A	10	7	4	K	A	10	5	K	J	9	8	7
♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦

That said, I think a little clarification is required to fine-tune your approach. In the hand you describe, the opponents had bid not one but two suits - clubs and diamonds - before you were given the opportunity to show that limit raise in hearts. So which suit shows that limit raise? Clubs or diamonds? The answer: neither one does. Opponent cue bids do not apply unless only one suit has been bid, so on this hand you will need to find another way to show your heart support and those 10 points.

That said, further contemplation is warranted about what's going on in the hand you describe. First, we know that Opener who bid 1♣ has an opening hand. Responder has at least 6-9 points and you have 10 points. So, your partner (who only overcalled, after all) can't have very much and certainly not game-going values. In addition, Opener bid 1NT after the 1♥ bid, suggesting stoppers in hearts. They didn't raise their partner's diamonds or repeat their clubs or double to show four spades - so what's going on? Now I have seen some players bid 1NT without a stopper in the overcalled suit, but you can't count on it and must assume they do have at least one stopper, probably two.

You also need to think about the distribution of points. Opener has opening points, Responder has promised at least 6-9, you have 10. How many points does partner have? Remember that 1♥ bid was just an overcall. Certainly not game-going values.

So in this situation, I think it makes sense to take a more cautious approach, namely a simple raise to 2♥. You know that your partner has five hearts in all likelihood, you have three, and Opener's 1NT bid suggests that they may have four hearts. So, if you end in 2♥, your partner is already going to have to work extra hard to make the contract. Who knows what other surprises this hand might hold?

I hope this helps you fine-tune cue bids of opponents' suit.

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When pressed, the tailor, a material witness in the suit, came apart at the seams. His altered testimony completely unraveled. The tale he had woven had been a complete fabrication.

# TIME YOU LEARNED OUR LESSONS!

With 2023 coming up fast, here is a reminder of our two January five-week courses and a half-day workshop.

- **Basics of Bridge Defence**, Wednesday mornings, January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8. Online. \$75 members/ \$85 non-members. Instructor: Stephen Carpenter. Current enrollment: 2. Level: **Novice/Intermediate**. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.
- **Beginners 1**, Saturday mornings, January 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11. In person. \$85 (includes textbook). Instructor: Sue Moses. Current enrollment: 3. Level: **Beginner**. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.
- **Playing Online**, Saturday morning, January 21. Online. \$20 members/ \$25 non-members. Instructor: Jack Cole. Current enrollment: 1. Level: **Beginner/Novice**. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



## Scoring Matters

Starting in January, on selected Saturday mornings Jack Cole will be offering ONLINE workshops designed for newer players who are wondering what to do next. This second workshop will teach the principles of scoring individual hands, starting with rubber and Chicago bridge played around the kitchen table, through regular pairs games at the club, and culminating with Swiss Team events.

Attention will be paid to vulnerability, doubles, and some simple strategies to improve your scores. Several hands will be examined to illustrate the lessons.

Subsequent workshops are: Simple Hand Evaluation and Using the Common Game.

Instructor: Jack Cole

Level: **Beginner/Novice**

Mode: ONLINE

Dates: Saturday morning, January 21, 9:30 am – noon

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

Current Enrollment: 2

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

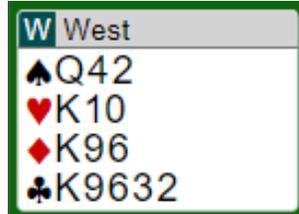
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Dear David

### A Conundrum

Everybody is vulnerable and you are the dealer.



You could open 1♣ with this aceless mess, but you would spend the rest of the auction with both feet firmly pressing on the brake pedal. Pass is probably best. Partner opens 1♥ in third seat, passed back to you. Now you have a bigger problem. Bidding 2♣ seems like a gross misrepresentation of your values. Your hand seems more no trump-oriented than suit-oriented because you have values in every suit. You could bid 1NT, but you have 11 points with one ten and two nines. How about 2NT? That is about right for this hand. However, some players play 2NT in this situation as a forcing raise or a limit raise, neither of which you have. Here is my solution to the problem.

When partner opens 1♥ or 1♠ in third or fourth seat, a response of 2♣ is the Drury convention, promising three-card-plus support for the major and 10 or 11 HCP. If opener has a bad 13 points or less, he rebids his major and you are done. If he has a good opener, he will bid something else (it doesn't have to be a real suit). Now you can decide how high to bid in your agreed suit. So, how does this help with the current problem?

If you play Drury, you no longer need to play 2NT as a limit raise. You can play 2NT as 10/11 HCP with less than three-card support. Partner can pass; raise to 3NT; rebid three or four of his major if he has six or more cards in his suit; or bid a second suit.



Partner bids 3♣ and you happily pass. The results on this hand were 3♣ making, 3♣ making five, and 4♥ down two. A NT contract would produce no more than seven tricks on a spade lead.

So, the question remains: Why should I play this convention? I could just bid a natural 2♣ and partner will bid 3♣. The trouble with this sequence is that you will have a hard time deciding whether or not you should take a bid over 3♣. If partner has extras, you may have a game. By strictly defining your hand as 10/11 HCP, you can leave the decision to your partner.

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## 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	25.64	1	Suzanne Edwards	12.73	1	Nancy Cattanach	7.37
2	David Baker	25.12	2	Martin Jones	12.33	2	Rick Arthur	6.39
3	Mike Peng	24.65	3	David Dennis	9.67	3	Belinda Burt	5.55
4	Colin Harrington	22.06	4	Barbara Arthur	9.57	4	Brian Gaber	4.59
5	Moira Hollingsworth	19.95	5	John Kip	9.49	5	Chris Beck	4.22
6	Cindy Mahn	18.28	6	Cheryl Kip	8.65	6	Jane Wilson	4.00
7	Margot Stockie	16.68	7	Shelley Metcalfe	8.49	7	Molly Worden	3.95
8	Liz McDowell	14.53	8	Kevin Latter	8.27	8	Louise Dawdy	3.51
9	Edith Ferber	14.12	9	Bev Hitchman	7.30	9	Randall DeKraker	3.38
10	Bob Griffiths	13.82	10	Renate Boucher	7.25	9	Robert Darby	3.38
11	Dianne Aves	12.97	11	Brian Kirkconnell	7.05	11	M J Hartleib	3.17
12	Neil Coburn	12.03	12	Stephen Nantes	6.99	12	Elaine Doyle	3.15
13	David Longstaff	11.23	13	Jim Dalgliesh	6.96	13	Audrey Cook	2.90
14	Neil Jeffrey	10.48	14	Robert Gilck	6.74	14	Debbie Miethig	2.78
15	Sandy Graham	9.44	15	Lori Cole	6.55	15	Don O'Bright	2.66
16	Sharon King	8.20	16	Douglass Grant	6.28	15	Richard Wehrle	2.66
17	Stephen Young	7.95	17	Bob Livermore	6.25	17	Joan Stroud	2.50
18	Wayne Schroeder	7.13	18	Steve Allen	5.50	18	Ellen Libertini	2.14
19	Adrian Record	6.85	19	Patricia McLaughlin	5.49	18	Susan Murray	2.14
20	Mary McClelland	6.84	19	Patrick McLaughlin	5.49	20	Carol Gerber	2.12
21	Bonnie Kains	6.35	21	Loretta Molodecki	5.45	20	Judy Johnston	2.12
22	John Vandergrift	6.18	22	Roy Dandyk	5.31	22	Donna McKay	1.93
23	Steve Carpenter	5.92	23	Joan Slover	5.16	23	Ginny Marshall	1.91
24	Diane Jamieson	5.61	24	Gordon Hunter	5.10	24	Donald Slowinski	1.79
25	Scott Hills	5.45	25	Lynda Burnett	5.07	25	Ruthanne Erwin	1.77

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**.  
 Happy New Year from our **club**.