



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

[Our Website](#)

## ALERT – January 9, 2023

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

### Of Note This Week

- 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.



### Congratulations

*to the following local players who have advanced to the next ACBL level.*

#### Club Master

- **Judy Gardi**

#### Sectional Master

- **Brian Gaber**

#### Advanced NABC Masters

- **Kathy Russell**
- **Andy Wilson**

And a warm welcome to the following new ACBL member.

- **Sonja Miner**

Don't forget – you can now become a member of our club for half price – only \$35 – good until the end of June. Save lots of money on games and lessons!!!!!!!

---

# Four Reasons to Come to Our Club – in Pictures



**You'll never go hungry – just ask Diane Jamieson.**



**You can borrow bridge books.**



**You can borrow a novel in our zebra lounge.**



**You can borrow jigsaw puzzles.**

A big thank you to everyone who brings goodies to our games – and to our library volunteers, Elaine Doyle and Louise Dawdy, who have done a fabulous job as you can see. We do have room for more books.....

---



## The Bean Counter

*Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer*

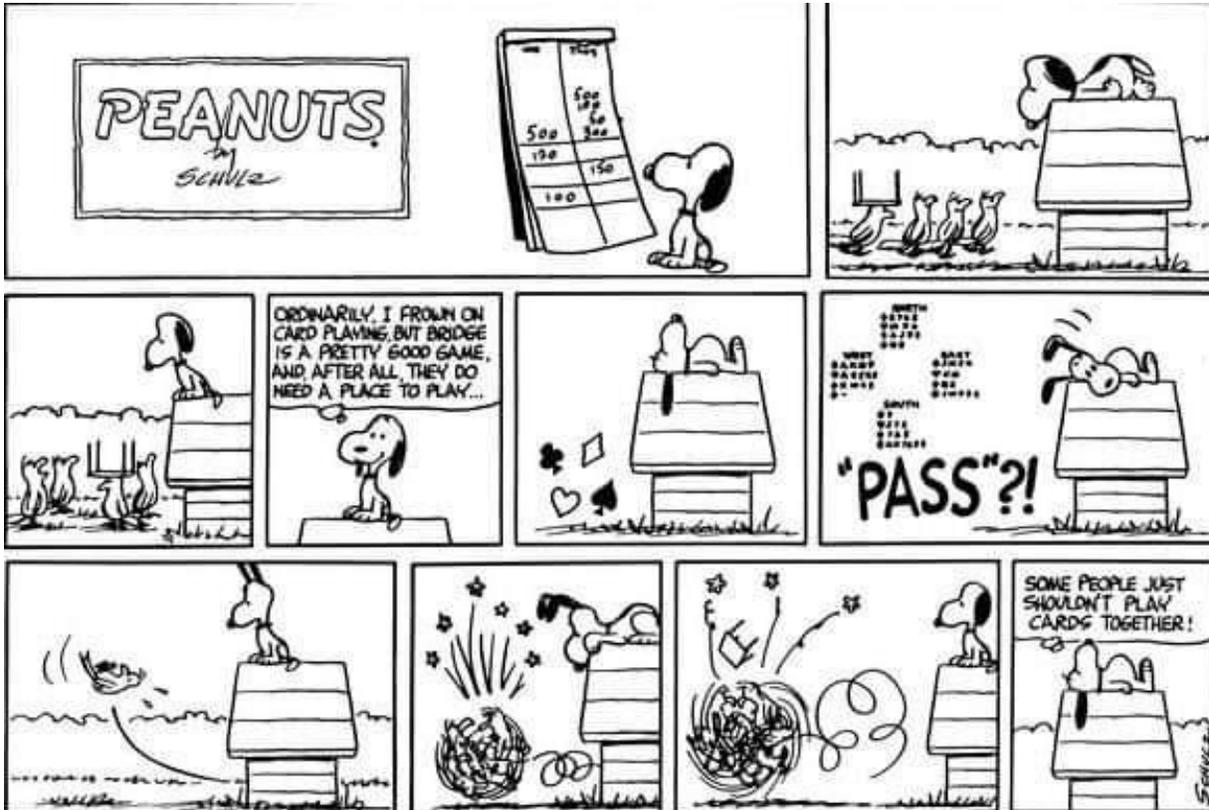
ACBL issues “sanctions” (that’s a synonym for “permissions”) that authorize us to run **duplicate bridge games in which master points are awarded**. There is a ton of rules and regulations that we must follow for a sanctioned game. This is because we are competing on a global scale for the precious master point and there must be consistency amongst all of the bridge clubs.

Last year, only F2F games required a sanction. Online games did not. ACBL is changing this for 2023: from now on, both F2F and BBO games need one. This will set us back \$182.00 in total. Not too costly.

Whenever we stage a special game/tournament (Swiss Teams, Team Leagues, etc.) that does not fit within the sanctions we hold, we need to obtain an additional sanction for that event. That’s approximately \$15 each.

The club has the option of running any event without obtaining an ACBL sanction - but then no master points can be awarded. Not an enticing thought for those MP addicts out there! ☺

---





# 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 played this hand recently in a Grand River Bridge Club 499 online game. As you can see, I opened with 1♣, my partner bid 1♥, and then I jumped to 3♣ to show my 19-HCP strong hand. My partner left me there and I made 5♣. I wanted to bid 2NT, a jump shift to show my point count, but I did not have a stopper in spades to consider that bid. What should the bidding sequence have been?

Signed, a frustrated 499 player

<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">D</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0 auto;">21</div>	<div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">N</div> <p>♠ 1087 ♥ A10984 ♦ Q10932 ♣</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th style="background-color: red; color: white;">W</th> <th style="background-color: red; color: white;">N</th> <th style="background-color: red; color: white;">E</th> <th style="background-color: red; color: white;">S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td style="background-color: yellow;">1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S		P	P	1♣	P	1♥	P	3♣	P	P	P	
W	N	E	S															
	P	P	1♣															
P	1♥	P	3♣															
P	P	P																
<div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">W</div> <p>♠ QJ952 ♥ Q73 ♦ 84 ♣ J53</p>	<div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">E</div> <p>♠ AK63 ♥ J2 ♦ J75 ♣ 9742</p>	<div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">S</div> <p>♠ 4 ♥ K65 ♦ AK6 ♣ AKQ1086</p>																
		<div style="background-color: lightblue; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">3♣ S    NS: 0    EW: 0</div>																

Dear Frustrated 499 Player,

I can understand your frustration around this hand and you obviously weren't alone. Many other pairs like you ended up being passed at the 3♣ or even 4♣ level. North with a void in clubs and only six HCPs became a reluctant bidder to proceed further. One pair was pushed to 5♣ by the opponents and then were doubled by East, who anticipated that with four clubs he could make a dent in North's armour. That N/S pair made 5♣ and received the top score.

You have identified several challenges with this hand. Yes, you do have a lovely 19-point hand and jumped to 3♣ to show those extra values. That said, a 3♣ bid is not a **forcing bid**. You are also correct that, since the hand is unbalanced with shortness in spades, a bid of 2NT after partner's 1♥ bid (showing 18-19 points and anticipating a game in NT) would be unsuccessful. The opponents would undoubtedly lead spades and down you would go.

How to deal with this strong hand and find that forcing bid allowing you to get to game? That forcing bid can actually come at the very first bid as South can open with 2♣. I know what you are going to say: But Answer Lady I don't have 22 points to open 2♣. Yes, it is true that you don't have 22 points, only 19, but with strong distributional hands like this one, what you do have is 8½ quick tricks, considered sufficiently strong enough to open 2♣.

That 2♣ bid describes South's hand exactly and alerts Responder in North to the strength of your hand. Consideration and subsequent discussion with your partner(s) should occur around what that 2♣ bid means in your partnership agreement. Is it forcing to game or just forcing to the best place to play any hand?

Along with several of my partners, I like to play that a 2♣ bid immediately signals **forcing to game** unless Opener limits their hand by bidding 2NT at their second opportunity. I am including a hand below that my partner and I recently played in a GRBC open online game. We were successful in achieving a top score on this hand as we had previously agreed that 2♣ is forcing to game. Even though I was sitting in South and had only three points, what I did have was support for my partner's spades.

D 4	N	W	N	E	S
	♠ AJ1092 ♥ AKQ7 ♦ K96 ♣ A	P 2♣ P 2♠ P P	P P P	P 2♥ P 4♠ P	
W		E			
♠ 73 ♥ J92 ♦ A432 ♣ 7532		♠ KQ6 ♥ 643 ♦ J85 ♣ KQ94			
	S				
	♠ 854 ♥ 1085 ♦ Q107 ♣ J1086				
					4♠ N NS: 0 EW: 0
					Rewind Previous Next Options GIB Play Bridge Base

With a forcing-to-game 2♣ opening bid, on this hand Responder cannot pass until game is reached and must further describe their hand. In your hand shown, 5♣, 5♦ and 4♥ are all possible successful contracts and can be found with slow, careful, and explicit bidding.

So, the lessons learned on this hand: consider opening 2♣ with distributional hands that have 8½ quick tricks. If you haven't already done so, you will need to show that agreement on your convention card beside 2♣: 22+ points/ 8½ quick tricks. In addition, partnership conversations should occur around what a 2♣ bid means: forcing to game or forcing to the best contract?

---

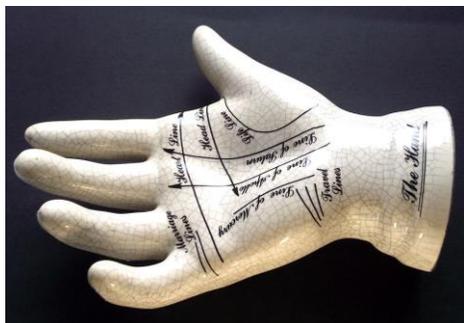
# TIME YOU LEARNED OUR LESSONS!

So far, registration has been disappointing for our January lessons. We have already had to cancel the Playing Online workshop due to low enrollment. 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!!!!**

We especially need your help in finding people to take our **beginner** lessons and our **beginner/novice** lessons since we don't have direct access to them.

So, it's now or never for the following lessons. Try them. You'll like them!!!!!!!!!!

- **Basics of Bridge Defence**, Wednesday mornings, January 11, 18, 25, February 1, & 8. Online. \$75 members/ \$85 non-members. Instructor: Stephen Carpenter. Current enrollment: **8**. 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: **7**. Level: **Beginner**. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.
- **Scoring Matters**, Saturday morning, January 21. Online. \$20 members/ \$25 non-members. Instructor: Jack Cole. Current enrollment: **5**. Level: **Beginner/Novice**. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



## Hand Evaluation

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 third workshop will deal with what you should do after you've counted your high card points and need to figure out how much your hand is worth in terms of playing strength. Learn to assess length and shortness points, when to discount or boost the value of cards, and how to revalue your hand strength as the bidding progresses.

Zoom and practice bidding hands will be used.

Instructor: Jack Cole

Level: **Beginner/Novice**

Mode: ONLINE

Dates: Saturday morning, February 4, 9:30 am – noon

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

Current Enrollment: **4**

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

---



## Dear David

### The Beer Card

The beer card is the seven of diamonds. The agreement amongst avid (too much time on their hands) bridge players is that if your partner wins the very last trick of a hand with seven of diamonds, you have to buy him or her a beer. I have seen many players go out of their way to play a hand strangely, just so they can shout out “BEER CARD!” at Trick 13. I will leave it up to you to research the reasoning behind this application.

The knowledge regarding the beer card has been in my brain for a long time, but I personally have never thought about it when I am playing a hand. I played in a tournament in St. Thomas recently with Mr. Longstaff, who has a gigantic repository of useless trivia in his brain. I was declarer and the lead was in dummy at Trick 12 with the ♣8 and ♦7. I played a little too quickly during the hand. I thought they were both winners, but I wasn’t sure. While I was sitting there in obvious distress, I happened to look up and saw my partner staring at me - a highly-unusual occurrence. I finally decided that the ♣8 was more likely to be a winner than the ♦7, so that was my lead. As I called for the ♣8, Dave made a loud raspberry sound—an even-more-highly-unusual occurrence. It turns out that both of dummy’s cards were winners. When I asked Dave about his behaviour, he informed me that I had inadvertently saved the beer card for Trick 13!

A couple days later at the club...

Dir: S Vul: NS 9 11 13 7 ♠ J 9 4 ♥ A K J 7 ♦ 3 ♣ Q 9 6 5 2	♠ A Q 7 6 ♥ 10 9 6 2 ♦ 10 9 ♣ K 10 4 ♠ 10 8 2 ♥ Q 5 4 3 ♦ A K Q J 2 ♣ J ♠ K 5 3 ♥ 8 ♦ 8 7 6 5 4 ♣ A 8 7 3
--	--

Partner led the ♦8 against the 4♥ contract. During the course of the play, partner found out that her clubs and spades could produce no more tricks. Near the end of the hand, East had only hearts and diamonds left and South had thrown all her remaining black cards away and dutifully followed suit in diamonds. At trick 13, the ♦2 was captured by ♦7. “The beer card!” I shouted. Everyone looked at me as if I was demented. I believe that after I explained the significance of the beer card, they still thought I was demented. You take your little pleasures where you find them.

---

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

#103

♠ A1098  
 ♥ 105  
 ♦ Q103  
 ♣ KQ96



♠ QJ43  
 ♥ AQJ82  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ 532

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

You, South, are declaring 4♣. West started out by cashing his ♣A, and then he led his ♦5 to his partner's ♦A. East returned a club and gave his partner a ruff. Next, West led a spade. What to do?

### SOLUTION

You've already lost three tricks and can't lose any more. When West leads the spade, it is crunch time – should you take the finesse or not?

Taking stock, West has shown up with the ♣A and, judging by the fact that he led a small diamond at Trick 2, he is likely to have the ♦K as well. That would give West seven HCP. The remaining 12 HCP must be in East's hand, given his opening bid - meaning that he has the two missing kings (the ♠K and the ♥K). Thus, the spade finesse is doomed and your only chance is that East has the singleton ♠K. Cross your fingers and play the ♠A.

Even if the king doesn't fall, you avoid a second club ruff. Today, though, it's your lucky day: the ♠K falls!

Now you need to play two more rounds of trump to draw all of the outstanding trumps. And then it is time to finesse in hearts (you're pretty sure East has the ♥K). It's important to start out by leading the ♥10 so that you can finesse again if East doesn't cover. If East does cover, you will take it with your ♥A and Bob's your uncle as long as East holds exactly three hearts (or the ♥K9 doubleton).

Here is the complete deal.

	♠ AQ62	
	♥ 105	
	♦ Q103	
	♣ KQ96	
♠ 10985		♠ K
♥ 943		♥ K76
♦ K9752		♦ AJ86
♣ A		♣ J10874
	♠ J743	
	♥ AQJ82	
	♦ 4	
	♣ 532	



Counting sometimes lets you play double dummy (as if you knew the opponents' cards).

---



## 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	17.41	1	Suzanne Edwards	8.66	1	Belinda Burt	4.25
2	Colin Harrington	13.51	2	Shelley Metcalfe	7.47	2	Nancy Cattanach	3.61
3	David Baker	13.26	3	John Kip	7.14	3	Molly Worden	3.11
4	Cindy Mahn	12.75	4	Cheryl Kip	6.30	4	Louise Dawdy	2.29
5	Moira Hollingsworth	9.80	5	David Dennis	5.63	5	Brian Gaber	2.86
6	Mary McClelland	8.95	6	Kevin Latter	5.49	5	Rick Arthur	2.86
7	Edith Ferber	7.93	7	Barbara Arthur	5.36	7	Chris Beck	2.62
8	David Longstaff	7.68	8	Stephen Nantes	4.92	8	Elaine Doyle	2.18
9	Robert Griffiths	7.61	9	Martin Jones	4.83	9	Donald Slowinski	1.79
10	Sandy Graham	7.06	10	Brian Kirkconnell	4.73	10	Joan Stroud	1.67
11	Dianne Aves	6.78	11	Renate Boucher	4.59	11	Jane Wilson	1.59
12	Stephen Young	6.62	12	Jim Dalgliesh	4.58	12	Don O'Bright	1.54
13	Liz McDowell	6.22	13	Lori Cole	4.46	12	Richard Wehrle	1.54
14	Mike Peng	5.49	14	Patricia McLaughlin	6.74	14	Ginny Marshall	1.50
15	Sharon King	5.39	14	Patrick McLaughlin	6.55	15	Kathy Chandler	1.41
16	Margot Stockie	5.00	16	Bev Hitchman	4.21	16	Casi Zehr	1.35
17	Kathy Russell	4.97	17	Robert Gilck	3.98	17	Carol Gerber	1.35
18	Adrian Record	4.67	18	Lynda Burnett	3.95	17	Judy Johnston	1.35
19	Neil Coburn	4.48	19	Nanci Phelan	3.49	19	Pauline Copleston	1.30
20	John Hanemaayer	3.99	20	ML Benjamins	3.28	20	Douglas Livesey	1.26
21	Neil Jeffrey	3.96	21	Elisabeth Graham	2.97	21	Jeannie Leforge	1.20
22	Jen V-Woodward	3.44	22	Barb Neibert	2.89	22	MJ Hartleib	1.19
23	Dave Quarrie	3.01	22	Anita Hanson	2.89	23	Randall Dekraker	1.14
24	Wayne Schroeder	2.95	24	Virginia Alviano	2.84	23	Robert Darby	1.14
25	John Vandergrift	2.61	25	Loretta Molodecki	2.83	25	Susan Murray	1.03

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**.  
 The lessons are fun at our **club**.