



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

## ALERT – February 19, 2024

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

### Looking Ahead

- ♥ Today's F2F game is a STaC game, silver points, \$1 surcharge
  - ♥ **Tonight's open game (February 16) is cancelled.**
  - ♥ Contrary to previous information, there will be a **bridge lab on Family Day, Monday, February 19**
  - ♥ **Online Swiss Teams game**, 7:10 pm Tuesday, February 20
  - ♥ Lynda Burnett will be giving a mini-lesson on **Play of the Hand (No Trump)** at the Monday morning bridge lab on February 26.
  - ♥ **Club Championships**, week of March 3 = extra masterpoints, no extra charge
  - ♥ Diane Bourdeau will be giving a mini-lesson on **Responses to 1NT** at the Monday morning bridge lab on March 4.
  - ♥ **Beginner 2** lessons begin, Saturday, March 9.
  - ♥ Ted Boyd will be giving a mini-lesson on **Playing in our F2F Games** at the Monday morning bridge lab on March 11.
  - ♥ [Sectional Tournament at Guelph Club](#), March 16-17
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### Congratulations.....

To these local players who were in the money at last weekend's sectional tournament in St. Catharines

- **Andrew Widdis and Phil de Montigny**, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Friday 199er pairs, and 4<sup>th</sup> in A, Saturday 199er Pairs
  - Danielle Gosselin, **Sharon King**, Josee Hamill, and Elizabeth Williams, 3/4 Sunday Open Bracketed Teams 2
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## Bean There Done That

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer ([GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com))

Do you ever lie awake at night wondering how we fared on our special tournaments this year? This should put you to sleep.

**Regional (July 2023):** \$1,235 net profit (although this event at Bingemans was not ours per se, we were the host club and received income from the Unit to compensate us for equipment rentals, dealing and cancelled game revenue)

**Golden Horseshoe (October 2023):** \$1,128 net profit

**Local Sectional (November 2023):** \$2,132 net profit

**Eight is Enough (January 2024):** \$226 net profit

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## Player Profile – Sandra Kendall

*Contributed by Anita Hanson*

This week, we introduce one of our club's newer members, Sandra Kendall (Vanlolo on BBO). And we are lucky she can find time for us — she might just be the busiest woman ever. More later.

Sandra began playing bridge in high school - because of a bus. She and her older brother lived on a farm near West Montrose, and transportation for after school activities was an issue. Her brother was already in the school bridge club, and Sandra was encouraged to join him there because it made sense for both to take the same late bus. They must have liked it, because they continued, even though that bus dropped them four full km. from home! She has played off and on since then, but it was only in the spring of 2023 that she joined GRBC, usually playing in the Wednesday 299er F2F game — please say hello if you see her there.

Sandra graduated from the Conestoga College nursing program in 1977, worked for a while in New Brunswick, then came to K/W Hospital (now Grand River). Must have liked that too, as she stayed there for 33 years. She also did part time work at the Health Services at WLU.

One of the things that has kept her in our area is her husband John, whom she met, appropriately, through bridge. One day she walked into her parents' kitchen and found her brother playing there with some friends. One of them seemed particularly fun and, not patient enough to wait for him to make the first move, she asked him out. They have now been married (and having fun!) for 42 years. They have three children — two nearby, one in Vancouver — and four grandchildren.

Sandra loves learning new things, but new bridge conventions aren't quite enough, so in 2016 she bought a thrift store clarinet and took lessons. Even that wasn't enough, so last year she got an oboe too, is taking more lessons, and playing in two separate bands.

She and John love to travel, most often to Vancouver, as well as to Scotland, where they have relatives. One of their favourite ways to see another country is on a hiking holiday, hiking for as many as 18 days straight. Last year saw them on extended trips to both Iceland and Ireland, and this year's destination will be Scotland.

When not travelling, playing clarinet, playing oboe, visiting family, or playing bridge, Sandra also enjoys watercolour painting, knitting, multiple other crafts, entertaining, wine tasting, and hosting friends at their cottage. She makes me tired.

And finally, favourite bridge tip time... Sandra's wise words came out of Barbara Seagram's visit to GRBC last spring: always take plenty of time to form a plan before beginning play!

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*Photo Credits: Allen Pengelly*

These players popped up at last Sunday's game and earned red points. Although they may look as if they aren't having a good time, the reverse is true. Although bridge is serious, it is also lots of fun.

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**Procrastination is totally a good thing. You always have something to do tomorrow, plus you have nothing to do today.**

This helpful tip just in from John Hanemaayer

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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

One reader writes as follows: “I have been told one should always try to use Stayman after partner opens 1NT. Is this the correct thinking or are there situations where a Jacoby transfer is preferred? I’ve seen wide variations, some hands successful and others not.

A newer player just learning the ropes

### Answer

Thank you, newer player. There are definitely players who like to find that four-four major card suit fit and prefer to use Stayman over a Jacoby transfer, even with minimal values in Responder’s hand. This approach does have some merits but should be used judiciously, especially when Responder has those minimal values. Responder needs to find a way to limit their hand as Opener may anticipate Responder holds at least 8+ HCPs when using Stayman. The key is still HCPs as disaster can strike when less restraint is shown.

The hand below was played in a GRBC F2F open game by a pair that likes to use Stayman over a 1NT opening. As with all F2F games, we do not have the luxury of viewing the bidding sequence. East opened the bidding with 1NT, South overcalled 2♣ (a natural club suit), West doubled (a stolen bid double, i.e. I was going to bid 2♣ and I have one or two four-card majors), North passed, East bid 2♠ to show their four-card spade suit, West then raised the spades to 3♠, showing invitational values (8 or 9 HCPs), and East went to 4♠ (I have maximal values and think game is a good possibility). The bidding looked like this.

*1NT (East)- 2♣ (South) - X (double by West) - P (North) - 2♠ (East) - P -3♠ (West) – P - 4♠ (East)*

There are a number of key teaching points on this hand: Stayman vs Jacoby transfer; hand evaluation by both Responder and Opener; and hand re-evaluation after interference by opponents. If West had chosen to bid 2♥ immediately after South’s 2♣ as a transfer to spades, some of these issues would have been minimized. West has exactly 6 HCPs, not the 8 or 9 HCPs required for Stayman. As a reminder, once Opener has denied a four-card major by bidding 2♦, Responder can’t leave them there and the only possible rebid would be 2NT. That would be a challenging contract with essentially no club stoppers.

West should also not invite by bidding 3♠, as their hand lacks the required 8 or 9 HCPs. And even if West were to invite by bidding 3♠, East should not bid on to 4♠, but rather downgrade their hand because it no longer looks as if their ♣K will take a trick (given South’s 2♣ bid). In addition, East’s hand is a flat aceless 16-pointer with poor intermediates.

D 9	N ♠ J73 ♥ 8652 ♦ AQ74 ♣ J2	W N E S P P 4♠ P P P
W ♠ A10542 ♥ Q1093 ♦ 5 ♣ 1065		E ♠ KQ96 ♥ KJ4 ♦ KJ63 ♣ K9
	S ♠ 8 ♥ A7 ♦ 10982 ♣ AQ8743	4♠ E NS: 0 EW: 0

Surprisingly, East managed to go down only one in 4♠, but even so their side got a bottom board. Other N/S pairs bid on to 3♣, which also went down one. The East/West pairs who played the hand in 2♠ were the most successful, making three spades.



George Pepall drew a big group of 15 for the Monday morning lab on quantitative NT slam bidding.

"Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what happened." - Jennifer Yane

# Time You Learned our Mini-Lessons!

**Newcomer bridge labs** most Monday mornings, 9:00 am – 11:30 am, except on holiday Mondays. Upcoming mini-lessons include more **No Trump Play of the Hand** with Lynda Burnett on February 26, **Responses to One No Trump** by Diane Bourdeau on March 4, and **Playing in our F2F Games** with Ted Boyd on March 11. NO EXTRA CHARGE

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## Beginners 2

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.

Beginners 2 is suitable for players who have either graduated from Beginners 1, or have been playing social bridge for a while, or have been away from duplicate bridge for some time.

Instructor: Sue Moses

Dates: March 9, 16, 23, April 6 & 13, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Cost: \$75 with the textbook (same as for Beginners 1)

Venue: in our teaching room

Current Enrollment: 1

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Jennifer Verdam sent in this photo of some of the Barbados contingent. More next week.

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## Conventional Wisdom

This is the third in a series of columns on convention cards. Today, we will look at the top rectangle entitled **GENERAL APPROACH**.

GENERAL APPROACH	
<b>Two Over One:</b> Game Forcing <input type="checkbox"/>	Game Forcing Except When Suit Rebid <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>VERY LIGHT:</b> Openings <input type="checkbox"/>	3rd Hand <input type="checkbox"/> Overcalls <input type="checkbox"/> Preempts <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>FORCING OPENING:</b> 1  <input type="checkbox"/>	2  <input type="checkbox"/> Natural 2 Bids <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> _____

Most people use the General Approach rectangle only to communicate whether or not they play Two Over One (2/1).

Newer players tend to play Standard American (SA) which is what they are taught in our beginner classes.

2/1 is a relatively new bidding approach, one that is considered superior by most (but by no means all) good players. There is a fair bit to learn if you wish to switch to 2/1. Click [here](#) to start learning from Larry Cohen.

From time to time, we offer a mini-course on 2/1 at our club. If you might be interested in taking this course, please email [Malkin Howes](#), our teaching lead.

Returning to the rectangle above,

- If you and your partner use the Standard American bidding system, simply write SA on the top line.
- If you and your partner use 2/1, just write 2/1 on the top line and/or check the Two Over One Game Forcing box.

You don't really need to do anything else with this rectangle, although some people check the appropriate "Forcing Opening" box.

As always, the red bids are alertable. 2/1 is not alertable.

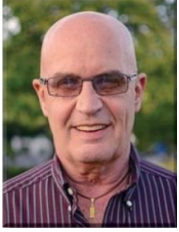
Next week, we will look at the **NO TRUMP OPENING BIDS** rectangle.

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**My cup of coffee reminding me why I shouldn't have a donut to go with it!!! 🍩**







## Dear David

### High-Card Points (Points – Schmoints Revisited)

You start out counting your winners: one club, five spades, and two hearts if hearts split 3-2. Let's assume the hearts split and you have eight tricks. This is the point you begin to think about how to engineer a golden ninth trick. If someone leads away from the ♣K or you can pull off a miracle in diamonds, your ninth trick will appear.

You win the spade opening lead and lead a small diamond to the 10 and queen. West can end this by leading a club, but he has an "easy" trump lead. (Sometimes you don't draw trumps right away because you want to make it easy for them to lead another trump.) You win the second trump lead and lead the ♦8, which West wins with the king and switches to the ♥Q. You rise with the ace and lead the ♦9. If East plays a small diamond, you throw your club loser. If he plays the ace, you ruff, draw the last trump, cash your diamond (throwing a club), and continue setting up a second heart winner = one club, five spades, two hearts, and one diamond.

North Deals NS Vul	♠ AQ10 ♥ A1062 ♦ J986 ♣ A5		
♠ 82 ♥ QJ7 ♦ KQ7 ♣ 98432	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                     N                      W     E                      S                 </div>	♠ 973 ♥ K3 ♦ A532 ♣ KJ107	
	♠ KJ654 ♥ 9854 ♦ 104 ♣ Q6		
<i>East</i>  pass all pass	<i>South</i>  2♥	<i>West</i>  pass	<i>North</i> 1NT 2♠

The process for all bridge players as they begin declaring a hand involves making a plan that hopefully will end in success. Once you have found a reasonable plan with a relatively simple, straightforward hand such as this, look for hidden gems. If you can think of a reasonable layout that will give you a chance at those valuable overtricks, go for it. Matchpoint overtricks are golden. Only after you have gone through this process do you call for a card from dummy at Trick 1.

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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 January.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	22.99	1	Regina Williams	15.23	1	Sharon Nesbitt	8.92
2	Lori Cole	15.78	1	Denis Williams	15.23	2	George Rybiak	8.28
3	Edith Ferber	11.44	3	Jack Cole	12.30	3	Richard Rybiak	7.97
4	Neil Jeffrey	10.67	4	Kevin Latter	10.59	4	Casi Zehr	7.95
5	Mike Peng	9.99	5	John Kip	10.13	5	Doug Fickling	7.91
6	Kathy Russell	9.11	6	Nancy Cattanach	9.51	5	Mark Sherwood	7.91
7	Steve Carpenter	8.80	7	Louise Dawdy	9.27	7	Debbie Miethig	6.28
8	Roy Dandyk	8.38	8	Jim Dalgliesh	9.25	8	Kathy Chandler	6.17
9	Dave Quarrie	8.8	9	David Dennis	9.24	9	Andrew Widdis	6.07
10	Margot Stockie	7.73	10	Carolyn Baechler	9.05	10	Audrey Cook	5.85
11	Moirra Hollingsworth	7.41	11	Cheryl Kip	8.92	11	Russel Kerr	5.71
12	Dianne Aves	6.52	12	Susan Durance	8.75	12	Peter Gaasenbeek	5.26
13	Ted Boyd	6.04	13	Rick Arthur	8.35	13	Brian Gaber	5.15
14	Mary McClelland	5.66	14	Cheryl White	7.93	14	Stu Cowan	4.69
15	Robert Griffiths	5.21	15	Judy Beauchamp	7.92	15	Julia Prendiville	4.45
16	Susan Lawton	5.20	16	Janice Pengelly	7.74	16	Randall DeKraker	4.31
16	Bruce Roberts	5.20	17	Nanci Phelan	7.57	17	Phil de Montigny	4.29
18	Wayne Schroeder	4.98	18	Andy Martinek	7.30	18	Jane Wilson	4.23
19	John Hanemaayer	4.92	19	Brenda Semple	7.06	19	Don O'Bright	4.17
20	Cindy Mahn	4.78	20	Martin Jones	7.04	19	Richard Wehrle	4.17
21	Suzanne Edwards	4.66	21	Kim Wakeford	6.92	21	Robert Darby	4.06
22	David Wilson	4.14	22	Vivian McLellan	6.64	22	Jeannie Leforge	3.42
23	Malkin Howes	4.10	22	Judy Widdecombe	6.64	23	JP Fraresso	3.38
24	Diane Jamieson	3.35	24	Tony Verhoeven	6.59	24	Paul Raymond	3.37
25	William Christian	3.09	25	Elinor Girouard	6.57	25	Pat Northey	3.16

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 offer wonderful mini-lessons at our **club**.