



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – March 11, 2024

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

Looking Ahead

- ♥ **All of our 499 and 649 games are now 749 games, both on BBO and F2F.**
- ♥ **Club Championships**, week of March 3 = extra masterpoints, no extra charge
- ♥ **Beginner 2** lessons begin, Saturday, March 9.
- ♥ Ted Boyd will be giving a mini-lesson on **Playing in F2F Games** at the Monday morning bridge lab on March 11.
- ♥ [Sectional Tournament at Guelph Club](#), March 16-17
- ♥ Ron Van Der Zwaag will be giving a mini-lesson on **Bid One More?** at the Monday morning bridge lab on March 18.
- ♥ **Online Swiss teams game**, Tuesday, March 19, 7:10 pm
- ♥ Jack Cole will be giving a mini-lesson on **Playing in our Online Games** at the Monday morning bridge lab on March 25. **PLEASE BRING YOUR LAPTOP OR IPAD TO THE CLUB SO THAT YOU CAN FOLLOW ALONG.**
- ♥ [Toronto Easter Regional](#), March 26-31
- ♥ Upgraded Club Championship game, **F2F 299 game on Wednesday, March 27 – extra masterpoints**, no extra charge. *Upgraded club championships are awarded to clubs by the ACBL every time ten of their players join the ACBL. The reason this upgrade has been awarded to our 299ers is that they are the source of most of our new ACBL members.*
- ♥ Dave Quarrie will be giving a mini-lesson on **Play of the Hand in No Trump** at the Monday morning bridge lab on April 1.
- ♥ **Club Championships for F2F games**, Week of April 7

2023 Barry Crane Top 500

The latest *Bulletin* includes the names of the ACBL's 500 top masterpoint winners and lo and behold, four of our players are on the list.

- **#129 Robert Griffiths**
- **#193 Cindy Mahn**
- **#198 David Baker**
- **#310 Adrian Record**

Which shows to go you that we have a high level of play at our club – a very good thing for the rest of us, because going up against good players is the best way to get better. We recommend that you play up as much as you dare. You will improve. Your opponents will improve. We will all improve. It's a win win situation (even when you lose).



Congratulations

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

Junior Masters

- **Delores Alexander**
- **Anne Anderson**
- **Bill Holmes**
- **Carla Laubach**
- **Debbie McLean**

Club Masters

- **Susan Cruickshank**
- **Mark Sherwood**

Regional Masters

- **Rick Arthur**
- **Anita Hanson**

Life Master

- **Sal Pace**

And a warm welcome to the following new ACBL members.

- **Joel and Tania St Denis**
-



Congratulations to the local team of

Margot Stockie, William Christian, Bruce Roberts, and Dianne Aves who placed fourth in Swiss teams in the Mexican Nationals.





Bean There Done That

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

February is typically a slow month for the club (not sure why); February 2023 results were worse than 2024 (not sure why).

January 2024 was such a good month that comparisons to February are downright sad. Nevertheless, GRBC made money (\$1,000) thanks to sources of income that are not dependent on games (lessons, labs, GICs and SE Carolina).

Howie Doooin'? (February 2024)	Compared To		Why % Change Since February 2023?
	Last Month	A Year Ago	
BBO table counts	Down 25%	Down 23%	Other sites & special MP compete with GRBC
F2F tables counts	Down 17%	Up 35%	Dunno. Maybe winter happened last year?
Income	Down 26%	Up 18%	F2F games
Expenses	Down 15%	Down 10%	
Current Assets	Same	Up 9%	Income earned July '23 to February '24 😊
Paid up memberships	+3 members	Same	

Which of our game types generated the most **profit** in February?

1. Gold medal: 499er (33%)
2. Silver medal: 299er (23%)
3. Bronze medal: Open (16%)



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 **Playing in our F2F Games** with Ted Boyd on March 11, **Bid One More?** with Ron Van Der Zwaag on March 18, **Playing in our Online Games** with Jack Cole on March 25 and **More Play of the Hand (No Trump)** with Dave Quarrie on April 1. NO EXTRA CHARGE



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: 16

Gatlinburg Regional - April 15 to April 21, 2024

Contributed by Moira Hollingsworth

A group of players from GRBC (24 so far) are planning their annual trip to the Gatlinburg Regional which is the largest annual ACBL regional tournament (pre-Covid, it had as many as 10,000 tables for the seven-day event). The table numbers have been a lot lower during the last two years, but this is still a well-attended event that attracts top players from all over the world.

The large attendance makes for a great variety of team and pairs games and also means more players at every level from beginners to world-class. It is a welcoming environment for all.

Gatlinburg is a lively town situated close to the Smoky Mountain National Park. If you like walking/hiking, you can take advantage of this beautiful park and skip a day or two of bridge. Traveling costs are low, as you can car-pool for the 12-hour drive. Many of us stay at the Baskins Creek Condos, but there are plenty of other options in this popular tourist area.

We hope you feel inspired to get together with your bridge friends and plan the trip south this April. I can guarantee a fun week of bridge and camaraderie.

You can get more information at www.gatlinburgregional.org or by writing to moi.

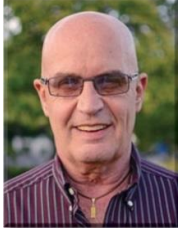
Conventional Wisdom

This is the sixth in a series of columns on convention cards. Today, we will look at the rectangle entitled MINOR OPENING.

MINOR OPENING				
Expected Min. Length	4	3	0-2	Conv.
			NF	
1 ♣	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 ♦	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RESPONSES				
Double Raise: Force	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inv.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weak <input type="checkbox"/>
After Overcall: Force	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inv.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weak <input type="checkbox"/>
Forcing Raise: J/S in other minor	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Single raise	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	_____	
Frequently bypass 4+♦	<input type="checkbox"/>			
1NT/1 ♣	_____ to _____			
2NT Forcing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inv.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____ to _____
3NT:	_____ to _____			
Other	_____			

- Check the **3** boxes for both clubs and diamonds - unless you play a short club, in which case on the club line you check the **0-2** box under **NF** and check the **4** box for diamond length.
- Check the **Invitational** box for Double Raise - showing a "limit raise" with 10-12 HCP and at least five cards in the suit in question.
- Check the **Weak** box for Double Raise After Overcall (not many points but at least five cards in the suit in question).
- Leave the Forcing Raise and **Single raise** boxes unticked.
- Tick the **Frequently bypass 4+♦** box (this just means that if you have a weakish hand – only one bid – you will prefer to show a four-card major over a five-card diamond suit).
- Write **6 to 9** on the 1NT/1♣ line.
- Tick the **Inv** (invitational) box and write **10 to 12** on the 2NT line.
- Write **13 to 15** on the 3NT line.
- Leave the **Other** line blank.





Dear David

A Forcing Pass

Everyone knows that in many instances where you have made a bid, partner is forced to respond. For example: 1♠ 2NT (game-forcing spade raise) 3♣ (shortness – forcing) 3♠ (still forcing) 4♦ (forcing cuebid) etc. When you are in the middle of a forcing auction and your opponents venture an interfering bid, a pass by your partner is still forcing, often saying he has nothing to say at this point, so he is letting you tell him more. You may often discover that when you are interfering with the opponents in a forcing auction with little hope of being successful, you give them more room to explore. Even a lead-directing double allows them to have more options to communicate.

Today's hand comes from an online pairs game.

East Deals	♠ Q9653		
EW Vul	♥ 642		
	♦ 952		
	♣ 109		
♠		♠ A8	
♥ K10873		♥ AQ5	
♦ KQ1064		♦ A87	
♣ AJ4		♣ KQ732	
	♠ KJ10742		
	♥ J9		
	♦ J3		
	♣ 865		



Only one pair stayed out of the small slam. One pair was in 6NT, scoring better than the heart slam. If we had been allowed to play 6♥, we would have been average. Rarely would you get a below average score for being in slam. It will often be well above average. Since I had a pretty good hand, even though it was only 13 HCP, I decided that we were in a happy place and I passed. North, with no defence against the slam, decided to take one more kick at the can and bid 6♠.

Partner passed! This pass actually has a meaning. Partner's pass after we have bid to the six-level promises first-round control of their suit (ace or void) and an interest in bidding 7♥. I can bid the grand slam or double the opponents, based on this new information. Assuming that it was probably the ace, I could throw my small club on it and succeed even if partner had the same distribution without the ♣Q. On this hand, I had 16 tricks and the top score.

East	South	West	North
1♣	2♠	3♥	4♠
6♥	pass	pass	6♠
Pass	pass	7♥	all pass

At the conclusion of the hand, South noted that 6♠ would have failed by six tricks for -1400 a good sacrifice against our 1430 or 1460. However, a 7♠ sacrifice would be -1700 and we would still get a clear top because no one else bid the grand. If you are inclined to try for a sacrifice, bid as much as you can as quickly as you can—perhaps an immediate jump to 5♠ or 6♠ would work out better on this hand. Wisdom tells us that if you have pre-empted to the indicated level as opening bidder, do not bid again. The same holds true for the responder to the pre-emptor - bid once and subside.

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

No. 136

<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <table style="border: none; text-align: center; width: 60px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		N		W		E		S		♠ KQ97
		N								
	W		E							
		S								
♥ 4										
♦ 10954										
♣ AK73										

♠ 854
 ♥ AQ52
 ♦ KJ6
 ♣ Q54

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All pass

I was South, defending against a 3NT contract. My partner led the ♣2, and Declarer called for Dummy's ♣3. I won the trick with my ♣Q while West followed with the ♣8.

At Trick 2. I led my ♣5, which West covered with the ♣9, while my partner played the ♣10 and Dummy won with the ♣K.

At Trick 3. Declarer called for Dummy's ♠7, and my ♠8 was covered by West's ♠10 which won the trick as my partner followed with the ♠6.

At Trick 4. West continued with the ♠J, my partner won the trick with his ♠A and exited with another spade at Trick 5.

Dummy won the trick and continued with a fourth spade at Trick 6. West and I both discarded a heart, while my partner discarded a diamond.

At Trick 7, Declarer led the ♦10 from dummy and I covered with my ♦J. Declarer played the ♦Q, which won the trick as my partner played a small diamond.

At Trick 8. West cashed his ♦A and everyone followed suit.

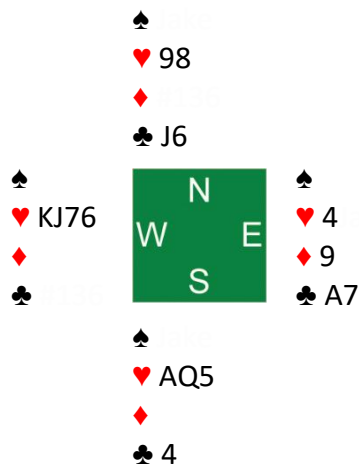
At Trick 9, West exited with the ♦8, on which my partner discarded the ♥10, and I perforce took my ♦K.

If you were in my shoes, what would you do now?

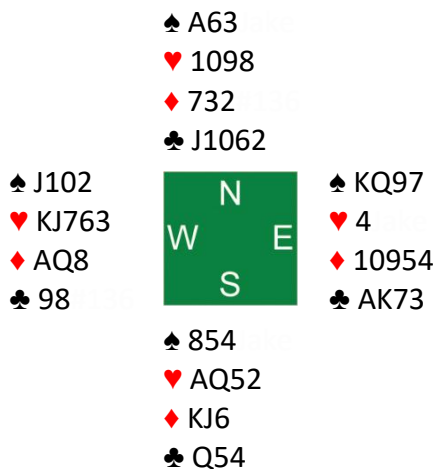
SOLUTION

The trick tally so far is three tricks for the good guys (♠A, ♦K, ♣Q), and six tricks for the bad guys. So far, Declarer has shown up with three spades, three diamonds, and two clubs = eight of his 13 cards. But he opened 1♥ and so we know that he started with at least five hearts. Ergo, he has only hearts left at this point. Declarer is like someone marooned on a small island yearning to get to the far-away mainland which he can see but not reach.

Here is the four-card ending.



As you can see, if you lead your ♣4 at this point, Declarer will be able to reach his Dummy and score the ♣A7 and the ♦9 to make his contract. That leaves hearts. The \$64,000 question therefore is - which heart should you lead? You know that Declarer must have the ♥K and the ♥J for his opening bid. So, you have to lead the ♥5! Declarer must take this trick, presumably with his ♥J, but then he will be endplayed and must lead away from his ♥K76 into your ♥AQ, allowing you to score two more tricks to defeat the contract. But if you lead any other heart, Declarer will be able to score three tricks to make his contract. And here is the full deal.



All you had to do was count to 13. Some people think 13 is an unlucky number - but not in every country. In Italy, 13 is the luckiest number in their football pools. The Italian expression "*fare tredici*" (literally, make thirteen) means to hit the jackpot. Bridge players who can count to 13 frequently hit the jackpot!



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 February.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	14.55	1	Jack Cole	7.73	1	Andrew Widdis	5.44
2	Edith Ferber	10.89	2	Jim Dalgliesh	7.52	2	George Rybiak	5.29
3	Ted Boyd	10.80	3	Cheryl Kip	7.36	3	Richard Rybiak	4.65
4	Robert Griffiths	9.38	3	John Kip	7.36	4	Brian Gaber	4.56
5	Kathy Russell	8.43	5	Judy Beauchamp	7.33	5	Randall DeKraker	4.11
6	Lori Cole	8.32	6	Regina Williams	6.77	6	Sheila Charters	4.07
7	David Wilson	8.21	6	Denis Williams	6.77	7	Kathy Chandler	3.93
8	Neil Jeffrey	7.59	8	Rick Arthur	6.51	8	Sharon Nesbitt	3.84
9	Steve Carpenter	6.71	9	Louise Dawdy	6.14	9	John Aldridge	3.66
10	Roy Dandyk	6.09	10	Kevin Latter	6.06	10	Julia Prendiville	3.57
11	Dave Quarrie	4.86	11	Carolyn Baechler	5.96	11	Debbie Miethig	3.55
12	Mike Peng	4.75	12	Nancy Cattanach	5.51	12	Robert Darby	3.48
13	Scott Hills	4.43	13	Brenda Semple	4.93	13	Mark Sherwood	3.45
14	Moira Hollingsworth	4.38	14	Susan Durance	4.67	13	Doug Fickling	3.45
15	Wayne Schroeder	4.38	15	Renate Boucher	4.42	15	John Snowden	3.10
16	Diane Bourdeau	4.29	16	Doug Grant	4.33	15	Ken Hundert	3.10
17	Stephen Young	4.19	17	Andy Wilson	4.21	17	Paul Raymond	3.06
18	Sharon Boyd	3.84	17	William Sherman	4.21	18	Patricia Gascho	2.73
19	John Hanemaayer	3.75	19	Kim Wakeford	4.14	19	Russel Kerr	2.57
20	Adrian Record	3.45	20	David Dennis	4.11	20	Joan Hartviksen	2.43
21	Margot Stockie	3.42	21	Gordon Hunter	3.89	21	Phil De Montigny	2.41
22	Ed Hills	3.04	22	Elinor Girouard	3.83	22	Jeannie Leforge	2.40
23	Adriaan Kempe	2.74	23	Bob Giilck	3.73	22	Richard Wehrle	2.40
24	Barbara Arthur	2.70	24	Bob Livermore	3.66	22	Don O'Bright	2.40
25	Thea Davis	2.43	25	Sue Moses	3.65	25	Jane Wilson	2.32

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 recruit lots of new ACBL members at our **club**.