



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – August 7, 2023

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

Looking Ahead

- ♥ Don't forget our **new 99er game** on Saturday mornings. See below for photos from the inaugural game on July 29.
 - ♥ There will be **no Monday morning bridge lab** on Monday, August 7.
 - ♥ The week of August 7-13 will be **Silver Linings Week on BBO**. 150% regular club points (silver points). Extra BBO\$2 charge.
 - ♥ [Tillsonburg's Golden Leaf Sectional Tournament](#), Saturday August 12 – Sunday, August 13
 - ♥ The 499er and open games during the week of August 14-20 will be **NAP games** (extra masterpoints - 50% red, 50% black, \$2 surcharge). The Thursday night game will be 2499er.
 - ♥ All of our F2F games during the week of August 20 will be **club championship games** – extra masterpoints, no extra charge.
 - ♥ **The Friday night open game on August 26 has been cancelled** due to the Goderich tournament.
 - ♥ [Goderich Sectional](#), Saturday, August 26 – Sunday, August 27
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Congratulations...

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

Junior Masters

- **Denise Dolff**
- **Sandra Kendall**

Club Masters

- **April Halbert**
- **Patrick Kennedy**

NABC Master

- **Noah Pace**

And a warm welcome to the following new ACBL members.

- **Doug Fickling**
 - **Mark Sherwood**
-

Inaugural 99er Game



Here are a couple of photos from our first F2F 99er game. Everyone had a great time. You all come back again, hear? And congratulations to Joe Blake on his first (very successful) game directing gig.

Photo credits: Sue Moses and Joan Slover



Bean There Done That

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

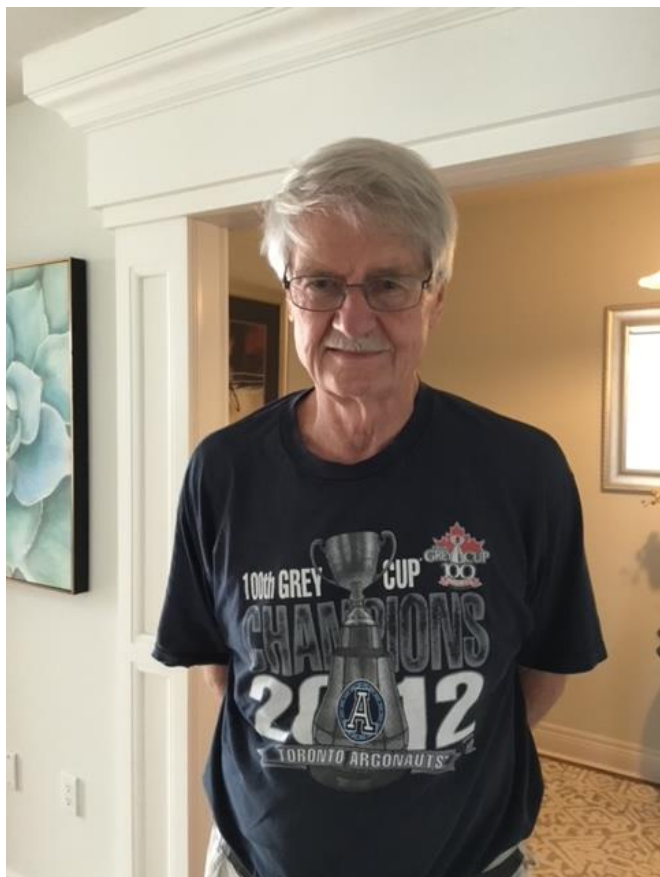
It's tax time for the GRBC treasurer. First comes HST tax filing. Growl.

In a few months, it will be income tax filing. More growl.

Returned to Sender

The following bridge players are no longer getting the Alert because their email addresses changed but they forgot to let us know. If you happen to know one or more of these people, it would be great if you would ask them if they want to resume getting the Alert. If they do, please let us know their new email addresses by hitting reply. Thanks.

Sandy Delamère, Keith Prosser, Sandra Levman, Martin Levman, Vinnie Green, Veronika Fehr, Diane Eastham, Jennifer Edwards, Maeve Connell, Susan Bloomfield, Karen Boothroyd, Donald Rieger, Bill MacGregor, Leander Wigboldus, Margaret Fannon, Alan Chan, Sara Budworth, Chuck Chapman, Chris Meyer, David Campbell, Barbara Lindsay, Marilyn Mackenzie, Devin Hu, Frank Zhang, Brian Bloomfield, Bruce Richmond, Emily McLean, Helen MacDonald, David Koehn, Neil Hendry, Roger Green, Sandy Clyne, Liona Butivant



Member Profile – Tom Ramsay

Contributed by Anita Hanson

Tom Ramsay, a long-time familiar face at our open games, began his bridge career early, starting at the tender age of 12 playing with parents and grandparents. There later came a stretch when life (and a lack of available partners) got in the way... but nothing can keep an avid bridge player down, and in 1986 things got serious. That was when he joined the Milton bridge club and began playing duplicate. (It was there he first met and played with GRBC's Dave Baker, Larry Woods, and Colin Harrington. That bunch goes back a long way!) Now living in Guelph, Tom is a member of both the Guelph Bridge Club and GRBC, playing multiple times a week.

And his involvement with the game doesn't end with playing — after retiring in 2005, Tom used his extra time to become active on the boards of his local clubs, as well as the District 2 and Unit 249 boards, including terms as president. We all owe him big thanks for those many volunteer hours!

Tom was born in Montreal but left there at an early age, and has spent most of his subsequent life in southwestern Ontario. Graduating from Queen's 50 years ago with a degree in engineering, he had a long career in the tire business, working mostly in sales. He and his wife Linda who have a son living in Welland, ON, are enormously proud of their two grown grandchildren and have just celebrated 45 happy years of marriage!

Tom also finds time for other pursuits. Since he is (in his own words) too old for rugby, he enjoys following Canadian football, and keeps fit with a walking regimen. He and Linda love to travel, have done many cruises in the past, and this October are headed for London and Paris. Quiet moments find him reading, mostly books on history, as well as "no-brainer" detective fiction for a bit of mental rest time.

When asked for his favourite bridge tip, Tom doesn't even have to take time to think. It came from Charles Goren many years ago: "Play bridge for fun, and for no other reason!"

Tom is known for his many bridge adages, and it seems appropriate to end with one that could apply not just to bridge, but to life in general: "If a decision has only two chances for success — slim or none — always choose slim."



Call your friends today!

Our plea to you last month paid off in spades (and hearts, clubs, and diamonds)! We already have ten people signed up for Learn Bridge in a Day, eight people signed up for Beginners 1, and five people signed up for Beginners 2. This is a record number for this time of year. And we have you, our members, to thank!

But let's not stop now. Let all your friends, family, and organizations you belong to know that the best way to learn bridge is to start with our beginners' classes. You can pick up flyers for Learn Bridge in a Day at our club or [download it from our website](#) to post at your golf club, store, or anywhere there's a bulletin board.



Soda truth was revealed. Dr Pepper only had a doctorate in theoretical Fizz-ics.



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.

Question

We are four friends who continue to play online, using the hands for further discussion and review. Over the last few weeks, we have noticed we have considerable difficulty knowing when to bid to game and often miss those opportunities. We try to re-evaluate our hands, but still lack success. The hand below is one such example.

On this hand, South opened 1♠ with 12 points and I, sitting North, bid 2♠, showing spade support and six-nine HCPs. Even when I gave myself two extra points for the singleton heart, I still arrived at a total of only nine points. However, we made 4♠ with the opponents taking only three tricks: the ♥A and the ♦AK. In the play, West started out by cashing ♦AK and then, seeing the singleton heart, cashed her ♥A before leading a spade.

As the play unfolded, South was able to play two rounds of trump to remove all the trump, win additional tricks with the ♦QJ, the ♥K, and the ♣A, and then ruff the remaining tricks for 10 in total, making 4♠ - two over-tricks.

Answer Lady, can you please tell us what went wrong and how we could have bid to game on this hand.

The screenshot shows a bridge hand interface with the following details:

- Trick Count:** A red box in the top left corner shows the number 13.
- North (N):** 3 points. Cards: ♠87632, ♥2, ♦QJ104, ♣A105.
- West (W):** 3 points. Cards: ♠104, ♥A874, ♦AK5, ♣K864.
- East (E):** 3 points. Cards: ♠Q, ♥Q963, ♦963, ♣QJ932.
- South (S):** 4 points. Cards: ♠AKJ95, ♥KJ105, ♦872, ♣7.
- Bidding:** A central table shows the bidding sequence:

	W	N	E	S
		Pass	Pass	1♠
	Dbf	2♠	Pass	Pass
	Pass			
- Trick Count Table:**

	♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	5	8	6	10	6
S	5	8	6	10	6
E	8	5	7	3	6
W	8	5	7	3	6
- Score:** Par Score: 620, Par: NS 4♠.
- Buttons:** A blue button with a menu icon is in the top right. A button with '2♠' and 'South' is in the bottom right. A score display shows '0' and '0'.

Answer

Good morning, Bridge Foursome!

First of all let me congratulate you for thinking through the bidding and re-evaluation of this hand based on the heart shortness once you have identified a trump fit in spades. You are definitely on the right path.

Let's apply a different line of thinking to add to your bidding repertoire. First, you and your partner have a total of 19 HCPs. This means your opponents have 21 HCPs, actually more than you and your partner. This means that given the slightest opportunity they might enter the bidding sequence and challenge your contract. As it turns out, most of those points are held by West who did not have the right shape to overcall and chose not to double.

Secondly, your support for the trump suit is not three, not four, but five spades! Wow! Won't your partner be thrilled when your hand comes down and she sees all those spades. The suggestion here then, would be to immediately bid 4♠, rather than 2♠. Often referred to as a 'weak freak', your hand has lots of trumps but minimal points.

The requirements for a 'weak freak' are five or more cards in support of opener's major, few high card points (no more than seven), and other distribution values such as a singleton or a void. Your partner will know what your bid means and won't get too excited, knowing a slam is not in the works. Another key message: that 4♠ also interferes with the opponents' ability to disrupt your bidding. It becomes almost impossible to bid on to the five level after that 4♠ bid.

The Restaurant of Mistaken Orders

Nothing to do with bridge, but well worth watching, is this two-minute [video from Japan](#). Thanks to Barbara Seagram for finding it.

Who Wore it Best?



Last week we ran the photo on the left showing Margot who came to the club on Thursday dressed in celebratory attire to mark a significant birthday milestone.

The next day, Dave Baker, who as far as we know has nothing to celebrate, got his hands on Margot's outfit and modeled it.

Photo Credits: Susan Lawton and Jennifer Verdam



FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

Christmas in Springtime

On the first board of a three-board round, our opponent opened 4♦, was doubled, and we were +800 = +100%. On the second board, we played 2♥, making four for +170. The opponents made 10 tricks in a black suit at all the other tables = +100%. On the third board, I had to say “sorry partner” twice, but I owed him a few more.

W dlongstaff 25	W N E S	E dbaker 17
♠ J9	Pass	♠ AQ7543
♥ 5	2NT Pass 4♥ Pass	♥ AQ
♦ AJ542	5♣ Pass 6NT Pass	♦ Q86
♣ QJ1084	Pass Dbl Pass Pass	♣ 52

My partner’s 2NT bid showed at least five-five in the minors with less than opening points or a strong opener with at least five-five in the minors. Imagine my excitement when I thought partner’s 2NT bid showed a balanced 20-21 HCP! I could transfer to 4♠ and then ask for keycards. I was strongly confused (and irritated) by his 5♣ bid, because he ruined my plans. I decided he was super-accepting spades by cue-bidding the ♣A. I decided to try for the top matchpoint spot by bidding 6NT. North doubled with alacrity. I finally awoke from my nap and said “Oh” to the table, by followed by “Sorry”. I thought about converting to 7♦, but I reconciled myself to a bottom. Here is North’s hand.

♠ K82
 ♥ K10983
 ♦ K97
 ♣ AK

He led a heart, the queen winning. The diamond finesse lost. At this point cashing the ♣AK would have led to a sure top score, but North got greedy and led another heart. Dave ran all the diamonds (throwing the two small clubs) and with only the six-card spade suit left in dummy, he led the ♠J, WHICH NORTH DECLINED TO COVER WITH HIS KING!!! Another finesse brought in the rest of the suit. +1230 was our third 100% (totally-undeserved) board. **Cover an honour with an honour.**

When it rains it pours, but when the sun shines, it is undeniably a glorious day.

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 June.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	38.50	1	Lynda Burnett	14.09	1	JP Fraresso	5.45
2	Cindy Mahn	29.95	2	Lori Cole	12.02	2	Don Slowinski	5.24
3	Edith Ferber	26.57	3	Jack Cole	10.67	3	Debbie Miethig	4.46
4	Mike Peng	25.04	4	Sue Moses	9.79	4	Rick Arthur	4.17
5	Stephen Young	23.97	5	Bev Hitchman	9.47	5	Russel Kerr	4.16
6	Kathy Russell	20.20	6	Sue Peterson	9.08	6	Sharon Nesbitt	4.14
7	Margot Stockie	18.26	7	Suzanne Edwards	8.29	7	Joan Stroud	3.80
8	Bonnie Kains	15.78	8	Ginny Scott	8.09	8	Miriam Frascari	3.48
9	Neil Jeffrey	15.34	9	Brenda Semple	7.80	9	Pat Pietrek	3.33
10	Moirra Hollingsworth	14.79	10	Jim Dalgliesh	7.27	10	Ben Cornell	3.30
11	Ted Boyd	13.84	11	Kim Wakeford	7.13	11	Valirie Binkle	3.18
12	Pat McMillan	12.54	12	Lissa Lowes	7.10	12	Jim Fox	3.12
13	Roy Dandyk	12.48	13	Judy Widdecombe	6.82	13	Pat Gascho	3.00
14	Scott Hills	12.24	14	Andy Wilson	6.65	14	Doug Fickling	2.99
15	Robert Griffiths	11.33	15	David Dennis	6.49	14	Mark Sherwood	2.99
16	Diane Bourdeau	10.47	16	Joe Blake	6.45	16	Peter Gaasenbeek	2.50
17	Neil Coburn	9.31	17	Nanci Phelan	6.15	17	Jacques Druart	2.43
18	Dianne Aves	8.71	18	Joan Slover	6.01	18	Audrey Cook	2.41
19	Mary McClelland	8.17	19	Elinor Girouard	5.99	19	John Aldridge	2.30
20	Jennifer Verdam	8.05	20	Sharon Schnarr	5.94	20	Joan Hartviksen	2.25
21	Adrian Record	7.58	20	Keith Schnarr	5.94	21	Marianne Dziarski	2.21
22	Tom Ramsay	7.24	22	Steve Allen	5.91	22	Louise Dawdy	2.10
23	John Hanemaayer	7.15	23	Vivian McLellan	5.76	23	Denise Doff	1.87
24	William Christian	7.08	24	Kevin Latter	5.48	24	Susan Murray	1.80
25	Thea Davis	7.02	25	John Kip	5.25	25	Casi Zehr	1.77

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.
- 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 have memory problems at our **club** too.