



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – December 4, 2023

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

Looking Ahead

- ♥ **First Three-Chip 99er Game, Saturday, December 2, 9:00 am**
 - ♥ **Royal STaC Week for our F2F games, Tuesday to Saturday, December 5-9**
 - ♥ Lynda Burnett will be giving a **mini-lesson on counting winners in no trump** at the bridge club on Monday morning, December 4.
 - ♥ **Upgraded Club Championships**, week starting December 10
 - ♥ Malkin Howes will be giving a **mini-lesson on re-evaluating your hand after partner bids** at the bridge club on Monday morning, December 11.
 - ♥ **Christmas Parties:** Tuesday afternoon, December 12; Wednesday afternoon, December 13; and Friday afternoon, December 15.
- The Friday night open game on December 15 has been cancelled. There will be no bridge labs on Christmas Day, December 25 and New Year's Day, January 1, 2024. There will be no games on Christmas Day.**
- ♥ **New Year's Day 8 is Enough Game**
 - ♥ **[Cleveland Rock and Roll Regional](#)**, January 3-7, 2024
 - ♥ **[Toronto Non-Life Master Regional](#)**, January 5-7, 2024
 - ♥ **[Toronto January Sectional](#)**, January 5-7, 2024
-

First Three-Chip Saturday Morning 99er Game

Last week's Alert erroneously (gasp) reported that players with more than 99 masterpoints can play in this game. **They cannot.** Abject apologies for the error!

However, it was and is true that Al Pengelly will be there for the next few Saturdays with a bunch of poker chips. Each player will be able to spend his or her poker chips to ask Al for advice about a bidding or play problem.

If you would like to play in this game but lack a partner, email the game director [Joe Blake](#) and he will see what he can do.

This game promises to be lots of fun and you may learn a few things while you're at it!

Royal STaC Week

All of next week's F2F games will be **Royal STaC games**: the Tuesday afternoon open game; the Wednesday afternoon 299er game; the Wednesday afternoon 649er game (which will be changed to a 749er game for that day only in order to qualify); the Thursday afternoon open game; the Friday afternoon 499er game; the Friday night open game; and the Saturday morning 99er game. The masterpoints earned at Royal STaC games are 25% each of gold, red, silver, and black points. There will be a \$2 surcharge.

Local Sectional at our Club

We were very pleased to see a bunch of new or newish faces at our club last weekend. Roving photographer Susan Lawton captured some of them. Click [here](#) for the results.



Judy Johnston and Carol Gerber



Milly McQuillin



Jim Hardy and Tony Verhoeven



Pat Pietrek and Wally Smith



Sal and Noah Pace



David Dennis



Sue Moses, Joan Lawson,
Brenda Semple, and Jasia McKeague



Smooth Payment and Registration



Terrific food as always



Kathy Russell was our game director extraordinaire. With caddy Alex's able assistance on Sunday, all of the games ran smoothly and on time and everyone had a great time! Payment and registration were also very smooth, thanks to Diane Jamieson and Adriaan Kempe. And tournament chair Adriaan Kempe, assisted by Dave Quarrie, did a fabulous job!



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.

Each week as the Answer Lady I attempt to respond to questions posed by newer players. I research the topic, so any response I provide is backed up by literature such as an article. My hope is that in some small way, I can contribute to the learning of our readers. In this process, I have become the student as I reinforce my own concepts and learn new strategies.

Bridge of course is about choices. Sometimes we make the right choice for a particular hand, while other times we do not. As I write the column, I typically select one line of thinking or one choice, but there are often others.

Last week's column, prompted another line of thinking as a reader wrote in with an alternate choice. I always welcome these comments, it encourages dialogue and increases learning. The column now becomes not just a question/answer format, but a forum where different views are considered.

Just to refresh our memories, here is last week's hand and underneath that alternate choice. Thank you, reader, for suggesting another line of thinking.

<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> 6 D </div>		N		W	N	E	S
		♠ A97 ♥ Q97 ♦ AK74 ♣ 942		P 1♦ P 1♠ P 1NT P 2♠ P 3♠ P P P			
W				E			
♠ K106 ♥ K105 ♦ 1032 ♣ AJ73				♠ J4 ♥ A8432 ♦ 965 ♣ Q85			
		S					
		♠ Q8532 ♥ J6 ♦ QJ8 ♣ K106					
				3♠ S		NS: 0 EW: 0	

While I agree with your analysis, North had another 'out' after South erroneously bid 2♠. South is a passed hand. North has only 13 HCP and a balanced hand, as reflected in their 1 minor opening and 1NT rebid. So even with nice three-card support of spades, North KNOWS that game is not 'in the cards' (pardon the pun). North can simply pass 2♠, presumably making.

Partner Finder is for Open Players Too!

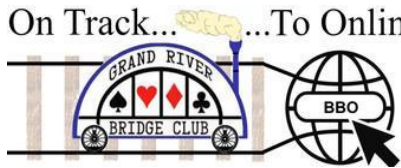
Open Players: Did you know that there is a partner finder function inside Pianola (our website platform)? Did you know that our non-open players use it all the time? Typically, someone places an ad for a partner and gets one within five or ten minutes. It's very slick!

But for some reason our club's open players aren't yet taking advantage of this very convenient and efficient service. They should try it. They'll like it.

Just log into Pianola (pianola.net). If it's your first time for logging in, you will have to create a password, but from then on it's un morceau de gâteau. Once you're logged in, click on [Partner finder](#) along the top. Then click on [Create a Partner Finder advert](#) and follow the breadcrumbs. Of course, it won't work unless lots of open players start using Partner Finder.....

So now cocaine is legal in Oregon, but straws aren't. That must be frustrating!

On Track... To Online

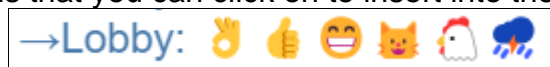


😊 **GM & TY 4 RDNG! ♥ : BBO Chats Part 2b – MORE Emojis**

Contributed by **J♠ck♣ale**

Last week's list of smilies had a typo. The "blushing face" emoji is colon+dollar sign. Also look out for a BBO bug when displaying different types of smilies in the same line. Some will work, and some will not be replaced with the emoji symbol.

Now for something completely nuts. Using Windows 10 and 11, there is an "Emoji Picker" that can insert wild and crazy symbols into any place! Put your cursor in the BBO chat area, then hold down the **Windows key** (the one with four window panes) and press the **period key**. Up pop hundreds of little symbols that you can click on to insert into the chat, like these:



Insert as many as you like before closing the Emoji Picker and pressing Enter. BUT please be aware that it is **NOT OKAY** to hold up the game while you compose a chat, and especially not while you search for "that fingers crossed" emoji! If you do that you will be a



It's best if you choose favourite emojis in some other program first (Windows+period works everywhere), and that will place them at the top of your pop-up list for quicker access.

There is apparently also an Apple version of the Emoji Picker (Command+Control+Space maybe?) for you Mac and iPad users. Next time, I'll conclude this series with saving and reusing your favourite chats. Meanwhile I'll be watching your chats for emojis!

Bulletin Boards R Us

Contributed by Sharon Boyd

I have agreed to be our club's Bulletin Board Boss (BBB) and, as such, I am trying to make our bulletin boards more dynamic and informative. But I can't do it all by myself. I would be very grateful if you would help me by making suggestions and contributing items.

In particular, I am planning to make one of our boards a "community bulletin board". By that I mean a place where our members can post information about their non-bridge interests and causes. For example, you might belong to an association that is planning an event. Or perhaps you support a worthy cause that is looking for additional support. Maybe you are looking for recommendations about a good plumber or need a ride to a tournament. Everything is on the table (well, bulletin board)!

Please write to me at tedandsharonboyd@gmail.com.



Teacher for a Day?

Our lead teacher is looking for volunteers to teach mini-lessons at the start of our Monday morning bridge labs. The gig would be only for a half-hour, after which you would be free to leave or stay for the rest of the session.

To learn more, contact Malkin at malkindare@gmail.com.

It's weird being the same age as old people.

Time You Learned our Lessons!

Continuing

- **Newcomer bridge labs** every Monday morning, 9:00 am – 11:30 am, except on holiday Mondays. Upcoming mini-lessons on **Counting Winners in No Trump** with Lynda Burnett on December 4 and **Re-evaluating Your Hand After Partner Bids** with Malkin Howes
-

Recorded Lessons

- **Get That Extra Trick by Playing Card Combinations Correctly**, two-hour digital workshop by Stephen Carpenter.
- **Scoring Matters**, two-hour digital workshop by Jack Cole.

Pay \$10 in any of the [usual ways](#), and ask [Malkin](#) to send you the link.



Learn Bridge in a Day?

Please tell all your friends and relatives about our Learn Bridge in a Day event on Saturday, January 13 and encourage them to sign up.

Instructor: Stephen Carpenter

Date: Saturday, January 13, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Cost: \$35

Venue: In the teaching room at our club

Current Enrollment: 2

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



Beginner 1 Lessons

Beginners 1 provides a hands-on introduction to the game of duplicate bridge, including basic scoring, basic bidding, and basic play of the hand. The third and fourth lessons focus on no trump bidding, while the fifth lesson concentrates on weak two bids.

Instructor: Sue Moses

Dates: Saturday, January 20, 27, February 7, 21, & 28

Cost: \$85 (includes the cost of the text)

Venue: In the teaching room at our club

Current Enrollment: 2

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



Dear David

London Bridge

I have just returned from a delightful London Sectional, which was held at their bridge club. The hand attached to this article was from the Sunday team game. It is a little different than my usual columns, in that it was not played by me and it is not a bidding or play problem. Have a look.

West's 3♣ bid showed a strong hand with at least five hearts and four clubs. East's 3♠ rebid strongly suggests a six-card suit. West's dreams of slam got an immediate boost from this bid, so he cuebid 4♦ with his diamond void. In theory, I suppose that West could have 0544 distribution, but it seems unlikely he would still be trying for a slam or a better place to play on a misfitting hand. However, East thought differently and raised to 5♦. When West scrambled back to 5♠, East should have got the message that his partner must have been cuebidding a diamond control. When East was asked by South at the end of the auction "Was all the bidding natural?", he said yes. South led the ♦A, hoping to give his partner a diamond ruff. That error proved to be just enough to let the contract succeed. A neutral lead would have made it virtually impossible for declarer to make the contract. The director was summoned because East had said (and obviously, believed since he raised the diamond "suit" to 5♦) that the 4♦ bid showed diamonds.

	♠	Q93
South Deals	♥	64
None Vul	♦	109432
	♣	A84
♠		AJ6
♥		AJ1097
♦		---
♣		KQJ97
	♠	K108752
	♥	53
	♦	KJ86
	♣	5
	♠	4
	♥	KQ82
	♦	AQ75
	♣	10632



West

East

- 1♥
- 3♣
- 4♦
- 5♠

- 1♠
- 3♠
- 5♦
- pass

At first, the director ruled that the contract would have failed if South had been given the correct information that 4♦ was a cuebid, not a “natural” bid. After thinking about it a little more, he recognised that South (who was a very experienced player) should have figured out that it was impossible for West to have a diamond suit after he bid two suits of his own and then retreated to his partner’s suit. Ultimately, the director restored the table result to 5♠ making. An incorrect explanation does not always give you a “get out of jail free” card. It must be shown that your choices logically led you to the path you chose.

One more thing. If you are the DECLARING side and your partner has failed to alert an alertable call, or has given an incorrect explanation to any bid you made, you must inform the opponents BEFORE the opening lead so that the director can be summoned, if needed. Cuebids are not alertable, but they are also not natural bids, so West should have corrected his partner’s explanation before South made his opening lead. The director penalised E/W two Victory Points for West’s failure to disclose that 4♦ was not natural. That was of very little comfort to N/S since they lost the match because of the result on this hand.

If you are the DEFENDING side, you should call the director if there was a failure to alert or an incorrect explanation AFTER play has been completed, so that an adjustment can be applied, if necessary. It may be self-defeating to call the cops on yourself, but it’s the honest thing to do.



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

No. 127

♠ Q765
 ♥ A10
 ♦ AJ84
 ♣ K105



♠ AJ109843
 ♥ Q93
 ♦ -
 ♣ AQ2

West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♦	2NT ¹	3♦	5♦ ²
Pass	5♥ ³	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	All pass	

1. Limit raise
2. Exclusion Roman Keycard Blackwood 1430 – show me your non-diamond keycards
3. 1 or 3 non-diamond keycards.

In general, 5♠ is a sign-off in this situation, but my partner had extras so he bid the small slam. As soon as dummy came down, I saw that we were missing three kings!

West led the ♦5 and I inserted dummy's ♦J, which in turn was covered by East's ♦Q and my small trump. I then banged down the ♠A in hopes that the ♠K would fall, but no such luck. West played the ♠2 and East showed out.

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

SOLUTION

You have 11 sure winners: six spades, the two red aces, and three clubs, meaning you have to find another trick somewhere. Given the bidding, West most likely holds both red kings. It would be delightful to endplay West, such that he will be forced to lead a heart away from his king. To do that, however, you would have to eliminate all of West's minor-suit cards without losing the lead. Unfortunately, you can't get to dummy often enough to enable you to ruff all of dummy's diamonds.

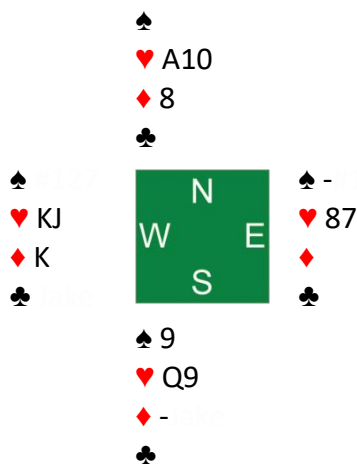
Whenever all hope seems lost, you might as well consider a squeeze. Do you remember the BLUE checklist? If you don't, refer to my article #125. West is **B**usy (he alone needs to guard both of the red suits); you have only one **L**oser; dummy's ♥10 (in combination with the ♥Q) and ♦8 are threat cards in the **U**pper hand; and there is an **E**nter to the dummy. All the lights are BLUE!

So, at Tricks 3, 4 and 5, cash your good clubs ending in dummy. West will contribute a club and discard two diamonds. (Of course, West might ruff in with his ♠K on the second or third club if he wants, but you don't need to worry about it as that's his trick anyway. All he can do is exit with a diamond, which you can ruff, no problem.) East will follow suit.

At Trick 6, cash the ♦A and discard a small heart from your hand.

At Trick 7, it's time to pull the last trump. Lead dummy's ♠Q to West's ♠K. West's best defence is to exit with a diamond, so let's say he plays the ♦10 at Trick 8. And of course, you will ruff.

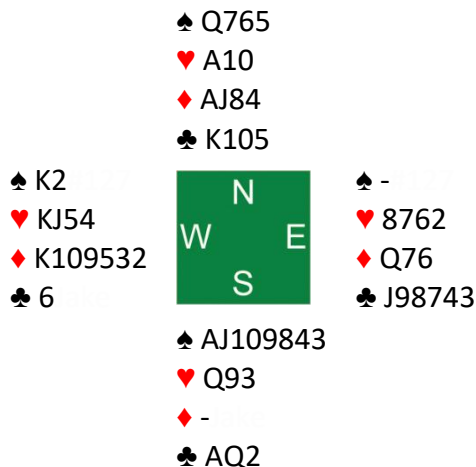
Now, at Tricks 9 and 10, you play high trumps from your hand. East's hand is immaterial, and West can spare two small hearts without breaking a sweat. Here is the three-card ending.



But when you put your last trump, the ♠9, on the table, West has no reply.

- If he discards the ♦K, you discard dummy's ♥10 and dummy's ♦8 is your 12th trick.
- If he discards the ♥J, you discard dummy's ♦8 and your ♥Q is your 12th trick.

Here is the full hand.



This is a great way to squeeze out a victory!

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 October.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	36.94	1	Jim Dalglish	17.11	1	Brian Gaber	7.02
2	Edith Ferber	18.39	2	Martin Jones	13.17	2	Debbie Miethig	5.99
3	Cindy Mahn	18.00	3	Cheryl White	10.00	3	Don Slowinski	5.98
4	Mike Peng	16.92	4	Judy Beauchamp	9.83	4	George Rybiak	5.46
5	Ted Boyd	16.63	5	Andy Martinek	9.48	5	Audrey Cook	5.37
6	Stephen Young	15.86	6	Lynda Burnett	9.31	6	Richard Rybiak	5.07
7	Bob Griffiths	15.50	7	Janice Pengelly	9.14	7	John Aldridge	5.00
8	Margot Stockie	15.11	8	Lori Cole	9.11	8	Ben Cornell	4.72
9	Bonnie Kains	14.14	9	Regina Williams	8.86	9	Jim Fox	4.65
10	Neil Jeffrey	13.15	9	Denis Williams	8.86	10	Russel Kerr	4.58
11	Suzanne Edwards	12.91	11	John Kip	8.41	11	Paul Raymond	4.36
12	Neil Coburn	12.80	12	Cheryl Kip	8.41	12	Pat Northey	4.34
13	Scott Hills	12.64	13	David Dennis	7.75	13	Randall DeKraker	4.12
14	Liz McDowell	12.06	14	Nancy Cattanach	7.71	14	Stu Cowan	3.68
15	Kathy Russell	11.05	15	Elinor Girouard	7.70	15	Sheila Charters	3.64
16	Moirra Hollingsworth	10.53	16	Judy Widdecombe	7.43	16	Robert Darby	3.63
17	Malkin Howes	10.35	17	Barbara Arthur	7.15	17	Sharon Nesbitt	3.23
18	Roy Dandyk	7.59	18	Janusz Poniatowski	7.10	18	Pat Pietrek	3.21
19	Susan Lawton	7.39	19	Bob Giiick	7.08	19	Jane Wilson	3.14
20	Thea Davis	7.14	20	Kevin Latter	6.63	20	Andrew McNaught	2.95
21	Pat McMillan	7.07	21	Rick Arthur	6.43	21	Pat Gascho	2.82
22	Wayne Jordan	7.00	22	Nanci Phelan	6.34	22	Ellen Libertini	2.79
23	Sharon King	6.75	23	Vivian McLellan	6.26	22	Susan Murray	2.79
24	John Hanemaayer	6.22	24	Jack Cole	6.23	24	Louise Dawdy	2.50
25	Dave Quarrie	6.10	25	Bev Hitchman	6.16	25	JP Fraresso	2.22

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 had a very successful local tournament at our **club**.