



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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ALERT – September 5, 2022

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 July.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	40.61	1	Jake Liu	11.48	1	Molly Worden	6.62
2	Colin Harrington	25.17	2	Suzanne Edwards	8.79	2	Belinda Burt	5.69
3	Ted Boyd	24.07	3	Zaffar Husain	8.48	3	Nancy Cattanach	5.32
4	Cindy Mahn	23.82	4	Cheryl Kip	8.46	4	Steven Allen	5.15
5	Margot Stockie	23.79	5	Jim Dalgliesh	7.90	5	Sue McDonald	4.97
6	Moira Hollingsworth	21.68	6	John Kip	7.81	6	Joe Blake	4.83
7	Edith Ferber	19.16	7	Judy Widdecombe	7.07	7	Noah Pace	4.60
8	Mike Peng	18.99	8	Lori Cole	6.66	8	Reinhold Kauk	4.29
9	Dianne Aves	16.43	9	Barbara Arthur	6.59	9	Judy Johnston	3.92
10	David Longstaff	13.83	10	Vivian McLellan	6.43	9	Carol Gerber	3.92
11	Stephen Young	13.26	11	Bev Hitchman	5.85	11	Anita Hanson	3.68
12	Kathy Russell	13.14	11	Lynda Burnett	5.85	11	Barb Neibert	3.68
13	Neil Jeffrey	12.09	13	Ted Kennedy	5.70	13	Virginia Alviano	3.58
14	Susan Lawton	10.15	14	Andy Wilson	5.60	13	Susan Durance	3.58
15	William Christian	9.90	15	Sue Moses	5.51	15	Elinor Girouard	3.53
16	Liz McDowell	9.89	16	Shelley Metcalfe	5.38	16	Tong Chen	3.00
17	Pat McMillan	9.76	17	Joan Slover	5.34	17	Jeannie Leforge	2.87
18	Sandy Graham	8.56	18	Roy Dandyk	5.31	18	Donna McKay	2.76
19	John Hanemaayer	8.40	19	Sue Peterson	5.30	19	Rick Arthur	2.30
19	Robert Griffiths	8.40	20	Adriaan Kempe	5.12	20	J J Girard	2.18
21	Neil Coburn	8.37	21	Jack Cole	5.11	21	Connie Green	2.16
22	Diane Bourdeau	8.18	22	Donna Coombe	4.87	21	Shirley Clarke	2.16
23	Sharon Boyd	7.54	23	David Dennis	4.83	23	Lori Bailey	2.12
24	Peggy Pearson	7.40	24	Grace Messner	4.81	24	Ginny Scott	1.96
25	Tom Ramsay	7.26	25	Brenda Semple	4.65	25	Pat McDonald	1.78

ALL GAMES ARE ONLINE UNLESS DESIGNATED **FACE-TO-FACE.**

Labour Day

It will be a labour of love at our bridge tables this coming Monday, September 5, with business as usual – except for the morning bridge lab, which will not be offered.

Coming Events

- Friday, September 2, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE****
- Friday, September 2, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) (\$7 members/\$9non-members) **FACE TO FACE****
- Saturday, September 3, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Sunday, September 4, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) BBO\$5**
- ~~Monday, September 5, 9:00 am, **Bridge Lab (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE****~~ **NO BRIDGE LAB THIS THIS LABOUR DAY**
- Monday, September 5, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, September 5, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, September 5, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Tuesday, September 6, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Tuesday, September 6, 1:00 pm, **open game (24-28 boards) (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE****
- Wednesday, September 7, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Wednesday, September 7, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Wednesday, September 7, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, September 8, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, September 8, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, September 8, 6:30 pm, **19er game (18 boards) BBO\$5 ON HIATUS**
- Thursday, September 8, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Saturday, September 10 – Sunday, September 11, [**70th Annual St. Thomas Jumbo Tournament**](#) **FACE TO FACE**

Calling All 19ers

We reluctantly put our Thursday night online 19er game on hiatus for the summer because not enough people were staying in to play. But we really want to give our beginner graduates a place to play and learn with other newer players - so they can get to know each other a little bit, maybe make new partnerships, and have fun in a non-scary environment.

So, on September 15 we are bringing back our Thursday evening BBO 19er game! In addition to a VERY understanding and helpful game director, we have assembled a team of four experienced players to provide post-game coaching by email! Jack Cole, Susan Lawton, Wayne Schroeder, and Mary McClelland (with help from Joan Slover) will take turns looking over the game results and sending a personalized email to each of the 19ers, with suggestions on improving their bidding and play. Follow-up questions will be welcomed.

Come out to the GRBC picnic on **September 9** to meet the team and give us your thoughts. And mark your calendars!!!!!!!!!!!!!! **September 15!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



Congratulations

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

NABC Master

- Raina King
- Allen Pengally

Life Master

- Dave Quarrie

Bronze Life Master

- Dave Quarrie
 - Sandy Graham
-

Results from the Niagara-On-the-Lake 499er Sectional

- Salvatore and Noah Pace, 1st, Friday 499er Pairs
 - Al Pengelly and Muzaffar Husain, Tied for 3rd/4th, Saturday Morning 499er Pairs
 - Salvatore and Noah Pace, Tied for 3rd/4th, Saturday Morning 499er Pairs
 - Mary Lynn Benjamins and Karen Whitworth, 4th, Saturday Morning 499er Pairs
 - Al Pengelly and Muzaffar Husain, 5th, Saturday Afternoon 499er Pairs
 - Mary Lynn Benjamins and Karen Whitworth, 8th, Saturday Afternoon 499er Pairs
 - Noah and Salvatore Pace, 4th, Sunday Morning 499er Pairs
 - Mary Lynn Benjamins and Karen Whitworth, 2nd/3rd, Sunday Afternoon 499er Pairs
 - Al Pengelly and Muzaffar Husain, Tied for 2nd/3rd, Sunday Afternoon 499er Pairs
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Dealing Error

Contributed by Adriaan Kempe, Dealing Lead

It has come to my attention that a recent 499 game had three boards incorrectly dealt. I believe the cards for Board 9 were in Board 7, while Board 7 was in Board 8, and Board 8 was in Board 9 (or something similar to that). This resulted in some weird results compared to the hand records for these three boards, but the overall game results were not adversely affected as everybody played the same boards.

The obvious culprit is that whoever last played those three boards in the previous 499 game returned them to the basket out of order and our dealer failed to notice when redealing them for the next game.

I apologize for the oversight while advising that this is only the second occurrence in approximately nine years. In fact, kudos are due to our hard-working dealing team. Please help them by being attentive when returning the boards after the game.

Team Leagues

Current registration update - 8 teams (4 open bracket, 4 Intermediate bracket), 1 pair for OPEN bracket, 1 pair for Intermediate bracket.

Ideally, looking for four more teams (that is, two in each bracket).

For more information, contact [Mike Peng](#) asap.

Mentorship

Contributed by Joan Slover, Membership Lead

I just want to say a word about the very successful mentorship blitz that ran this summer. I had 11 people paired with a mentor. Some lasted the four weeks that was intended, but others could do only a couple of weeks, and some mentees took advantage of that.

Unfortunately, there were more people requesting a mentor than I had available, but I still have a "list". This all took place in the Friday afternoon 499er F2F game, except for a couple of open players who were kind enough to offer their expertise to stronger intermediate players on a Tuesday afternoon. In one of the open games, a mentor/mentee pair finished second.

Another option for people still requesting help is to put together a foursome and ask me ([Joan](#)) for an on-line mentor who can give advice via BBO.

Sometimes a mentor is also able to help post game by simply answering "How should I have bid /played this hand"? In order to play in a game on BBO, you need to join ACBL and use that number to get a BBO account. Please join as the magazine they send called *The Bridge Bulletin* is worth every penny for advice and guidance, especially for newer players.

I will do my best to find anyone who requests help to find it. I do however wish to remind folks that this a membership "perk" - so please be sure to join our club prior to making the request.



Barbara Seagram is Coming to Guelph!

Barbara Seagram, one of Canada's best bridge teachers and author of many bridge books, will be holding a seminar on "How to Improve Your Declarer Play" at the Guelph Bridge Club on Friday, September 16 from 10:00 am until noon. Please mark this date on your calendars. Full details will be available in next Friday's Alert.

Spare Lists for F2F Games

Contributed by Jim Dalgliesh, Club Manager

With the return of face-to-face games at the bridge club, it would be helpful to the game directors to have a list of individuals willing to be called in if the game director needs a "spare" to complete a partnership. Please note that spares are not charged for the game when called in. If you are interested, please contact me at jdalgliesh@rogers.com to note your willingness and include in your email which of the three current F2F games you are willing to be a spare for: Tuesday afternoon open; Friday afternoon 499; and Friday evening open.

GRBC 10th Birthday Party Picnic and Games Event!

Don't forget to sign up here (or on the sign-up sheet at the club) for our September 9th Celebration Day! (Rain date Friday September 16). Enjoy our picnic with hot food provided at 5:00 pm - bring your lawn chair!

Plan to attend one or both bridge sessions which will be Club Championship games with extra master points but no extra cost! Afternoon sessions are 499 and 99. Evening sessions are open and 199. If you attend both sessions, the second one is free.

BridgeWinner Polls. ● Yes!! ○ No ○ What was the question?

Contributed by Jack Cole

Everyone has questions. What should I have bid? How did we miss game? What should I lead? How should I signal? Why did partner play the 10?? Why was partner thinking? **Should I get a new partner?** After your spouse (if they're a bridge player), your current partner (if they're still talking to you), and your mentor at the club, where can you turn?

The answer (surprise!) is Bridge Winners (BW). Ask a question, list some possible answers, and soon you'll have experts and wanna-be's alike, weighing in. They will vote, and they will comment. To repeat an earlier warning: these are pretty advanced players so you may want to tread softly at first with questions and answers, and they may suggest peculiar methods!

Polls show up **everywhere** at BW. They are in the articles and the forums, but they also have their own area, accessed from the *Explore* menu. Pick either *General Polls* or *Bridge Problems* to slide down, down the rabbit hole into poll land. Some polls show up in multiple places.

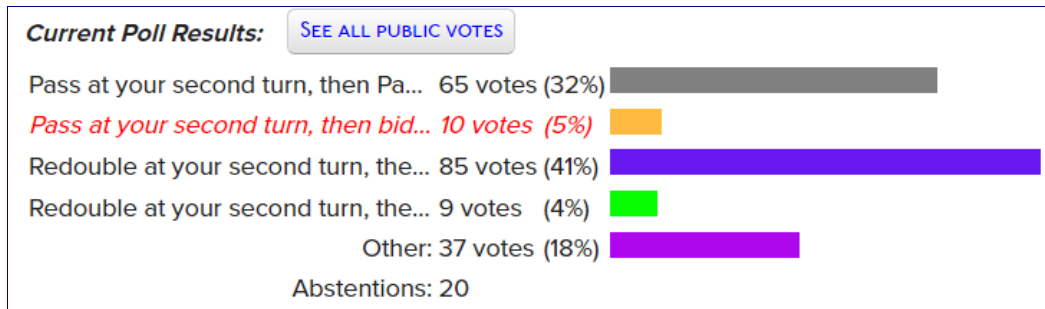
Here's a recent look at the **General Polls** page. Each line is a poll created by a BW member. If the poll is about bidding or leading, then the hand is shown, otherwise there is a title. The small bidding box signifies a bidding poll; the red card indicates a leading problem. The numbers shown above "Votes" and "Comments" tell how many BW members have chimed in.

ALL POLLS			
	You hold: ♠AJ42 ♥A85 ♦K ♣Q9752 Tom Furness 3 hours ago		12 Votes, 2 Comments
	Your lead: ♠QT74 ♥--- ♦JT9642 ♣T63 Kurt Schneider 4 hours ago		9 Votes, 1 Comment
	You hold: ♠Jx ♥A9 ♦Axxx ♣Q9xxx Pierre Bedouet 4 hours ago		13 Votes, 1 Comment
	You hold: ♠AK9872 ♥T642 ♦K83 ♣--- Ronald Vickery 8 hours ago		19 Votes, 1 Comment
	Your lead: ♠KQ9864 ♥86 ♦T4 ♣K42 Rafael Sacramento 8 hours ago		12 Votes, 1 Comment
	You hold: ♠K2 ♥--- ♦JT743 ♣J76432 Mike Heymann 9 hours ago		21 Votes, 6 Comments
	Use of X after Overcall and Responder's 1NT Bill Seagraves 11 hours ago		86 Votes, 14 Comments
	You hold: ♠Ax ♥AQTxxxx ♦Jx ♣Ax Carl Mathiesen 13 hours ago		24 Votes, 2 Comments
	Result With Time Expiring Hank Youngerman 19 hours ago		77 Votes, 26 Comments
	Competing for partscores at IMPs Karen Walker 19 hours ago		182 Votes, 28 Comments

Let's look at the bottom one first (which as of today is up to 237 votes and 49 comments). This post by **Karen Walker** (of kwbridge.com and *Bridge Bulletin* fame) asks about South's second- and third-round bids, given the hand and other bids shown. Karen sets up the problem before asking for our opinions.

<p>South</p> <p>♠ Q843</p> <p>♥ AK5</p> <p>♦ A8</p> <p>♣ K632</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">W</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">N</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">E</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">S</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">P</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1♦</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">X</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">X</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">P</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1♥</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">X</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">?</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	1♦	X	X	P	1♥	X	?	<p>Maybe you would have overcalled 1NT at your first turn, but assume you started with a takeout double. West huddles for 30 seconds before passing. What is your best action at your second turn?</p> <p>If you pass or redouble, the auction will continue:</p> <p>Below are the four main possibilities for how the auction will develop. Do you ignore the information suggested by West's tempo or does it affect your choices?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Pass at your second turn, then Pass West's 2D bid. <input type="radio"/> Pass at your second turn, then bid 2H over West's 2D bid. <input type="radio"/> Redouble at your second turn, then pass West's 2D bid. <input type="radio"/> Redouble at your second turn, then bid 2H over West's 2D bid. <input type="radio"/> Other 				
W	N	E	S														
P	1♦	X	X														
P	1♥	X	?														
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">W</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">N</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">E</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">S</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">P</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1♦</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">X</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">X</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">P</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1♥</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">X</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">?</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">2♦</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">P</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">P</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">?</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	1♦	X	X	P	1♥	X	?	2♦	P	P	?	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vote publicly ? What's this? </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> ANSWER ABSTAIN </div>
W	N	E	S														
P	1♦	X	X														
P	1♥	X	?														
2♦	P	P	?														

Select one of the poll options, and click *ANSWER*. If you leave “*Vote publicly*” checked, then others can see your vote, but you also immediately see the results, which (as I write this) are:



Abstaining lets you see the voting without casting one yourself. In a different bidding poll I abstained so I could see what the results are (sure, yeah, that’s why I abstained!).

You hold: ♠73 ♥AKJ7 ♦Q54 ♣K876
by Kyle Rockoff Aug. 23

IMPs (Knockout), E/W vulnerable

W N E S
1♣
P 1♠ 2♦ P
P X 3♦ ?

♠ 73
♥ AKJ7
♦ Q54
♣ K876

You play support doubles, so your earlier pass of 2♦ implies 0-2♠.

What's your call?

	Abstain	Double	Pass	Redouble
3NT	3♠	3♥	3♠	3♣
4NT	4♠	4♥	4♦	4♣
5NT	5♠	5♥	5♦	5♣
6NT	6♠	6♥	6♦	6♣
7NT	7♠	7♥	7♦	7♣

Answer publicly ? [What's this?](#)

Current Poll Results:
[SEE ALL PUBLIC ANSWERS](#)

3♥: 18 votes (42%)
DBL: 3 votes (7%)
Pass: 22 votes (51%)
Abstentions: 2

CREATE **SHOP**

- Bidding Problem
- Lead Problem
- General Poll
- Ranked Answers Poll
- Multiple Answers Poll
- Article

The comments may offer insight into the voting if you know the lingo. The first comment on this poll reads: “*A partnership issue relevant to this poll is whether responder's rebid of 2♥ after 2♦ would have been forcing. For us (in a non-Precision UMJODOO context) it would not be, so good hands that are 5-4 start with a double. (I would expect that without discussion, "new suits by responder are F1".)*” OK.... I Googled “UMJODOO” and Google hung up. It and me both!

To **create a poll** simply select from the *Create* menu – shown above, right. You will be presented with guidelines and instructions, and a form to set up the problem. Once submitted, your problem will appear on the home page and in your personal profile page, and everyone who *follows* your posts will be notified! People will begin to vote and comment, and soon you will have followers of your own, critiquing your every move! FAME!!?

There are some other features (and interesting videos) at BridgeWinners that I encourage you to discover on your own. I’ll wrap this series up next week with an article about a pretty spiffy tool that BW helped me find. Stay tuned - and happy polling!

Now I know: *UMJODOO* = *Unusual Major Suit Jumps Opposite One Diamond Openers*. Of course!!

Conventional Wisdom

This column has now covered all 12 of Larry Cohen's most useful conventions. For the next few weeks, this column will answer some questions posed by Suzanne Edwards. After that, we will go into hiatus – unless more questions are sent in.

Today, we will talk about the **two-over-one (2/1) bidding system**. Most good bridge players (but not all) use 2/1 and believe that it is much superior to and easier than Standard American. Two-over-one (2/1) is a fairly recent bidding system that is actually very similar to Standard American (SA). Auctions beginning in with one of a minor or one no trump are identical, and many auctions beginning with one of a major are also identical. The only real difference between the two systems is when responder bids at the two level over an opening bid of 1♥ or 1♠. In the 2/1 game force system, this establishes a game-forcing auction and the partnership may not pass until a game contract has been reached.

Alert readers will be wondering what responder does when his or her partner opens one of a major and responder has an invitational but not game-forcing hand. In order to handle this problem, the 2/1 system modifies how the 1NT response works over one of a major. In SA, 1NT shows 6-10 and can be passed. In 2/1, 1NT can show 6 to a bad 12 points and is a one-round force that opener may not pass. This treatment is known as forcing no trump.

2/1 bids are not alertable, although a forcing 1NT bid must be announced as "forcing".

These are the basic elements of 2/1, but there are still lots of details to learn. If you would like lessons on the 2/1 system, write to [Malkin Howes](#) specifying your lesson mode preference and possible time lines.

Drunkenly Tattooed Inspiration From Nessie



TIME YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSONS!

Our fall lesson schedule has now been posted to our website. Click [here](#) to view the Learn Bridge in a Day session and the beginners' lessons and [here](#) to view the ongoing learning lessons. Registration has been enabled. Here is the second in the line-up.



Basic Bidding

It's hard to get a good result if you're in the wrong contract!

This five-week course is intended for those who have taken beginner lessons or those who have been away from the game for a while. Bridge bidding has changed significantly over the past few decades, and we're definitely not in Kansas anymore!

The course's topics include: opening in a suit, opening in no trump, responding, pre-empting, Stayman and Jacoby, Gerber, and Blackwood.

A binder with lessons and homework sheets is included in the fee.

Instructor: Cindy Mahn

Level: **NOVICE**

Dates: Tuesday mornings, September 13, 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11, 9:00 – 11:30 am

Mode: In person at our club

Cost: \$75 for members/ \$85 for non-members

Current Enrollment: 2 (we need 8)

This course will be held at our club in our wonderful teaching room. Our lessons are a terrific way to make new friends and recruit new partners (as well as improve your game). Click [here](#) to register.

We have tried to offer something for everyone at every level. However, if you don't see what you need, please email [Malkin](#), our teaching lead, and she will see what she can do for you. Also, it would be greatly appreciated if our readers would try to stir up interest among their friends and acquaintances who don't yet play bridge. We have a fun Learn Bridge in a Day session scheduled for October 1 as well as beginner lessons starting the next week. Please get the word out!

Lebanese Limerick

There once was a player from Beirut
Who thought he would try to be cute.
He overcalled a spade
And died as he played.
The post mortem: a four-card suit.



To Force or Not to Force: That is the Question

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Board 12					
South Deals					♠ K J 10 5 3
E-W Vul					♥ —
					♦ A Q J 8 5
					♣ Q 9 4
♠ Q 9 7					♠ A 8 6 2
♥ A 10 4 3 2					♥ K J 9 7 6
♦ 10 9 3					♦ K 6
♣ 8 7					♣ 5 3
					♠ 4
					♥ Q 8 5
					♦ 7 4 2
					♣ A K J 10 6 2
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		
					3 ♣
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	?		

South dealt and opened 3♣. West passed, and North wanted to explore. He thought that his hand was good enough to bid 5♣ but decided to temporize with a 3♠ bid. If South's major suit holdings were reversed, then their best spot would be 4♠.

North believed that a new suit bid over his partner's pre-empt was absolutely forcing.

In South's opinion, 3♠ was the last thing he wanted to hear. The bidding screamed "misfit" and he decided to cut his losses and pass.

This was an unhappy result for N/S. Many other pairs found the 5♣ contract which was usually successful, losing just a diamond and a spade.

When I started writing this blurb, I was of the opinion that South had dropped the ball and that the 3♠ bid by North was forcing for one round.

But several people (including some that I play with) have given me their opinion that after their pre-empts, partner is on his own. If partner can find a bid in his hand – all the better - but many people could find no fault with South's pass here.

I think that if you, as a non-passed hand, pre-empt and partner makes a free bid, you owe him at least one response, repeating your original suit if you can find nothing more creative. Otherwise, you are letting your pre-empt jam your own auction, not the opponents'.

In any event, it should be clear between you and your partner whether or not a free bid in response to his three-level pre-empt is forcing.

In the hand above, if North had thought that a pass over 3♠ was possible, he would have simply jumped to what he thought the side could make - 5♣.



It's very important to be on the same page with your partner.



FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

Contributed by David Baker

If at First You Don't Succeed, Lie Lie Again

Our game is replete with legal signals that we use to help partner make decisions when defending a hand. These signals are called: Count, Attitude, and Suit Preference. Even if you use only one of these signalling methods, you will improve your partnership.

However, be aware that declarer too is watching your signals such that you may sometimes be helping declarer more than you are helping your partner, especially when your partner doesn't care.

A case in point.

N North ♠ A5 ♥ AQ ♦ AQ52 ♣ AK862				
W West ♠ 876 ♥ J952 ♦ 106 ♣ 7543	W N E S Pass 2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass 2NT Pass 3♥ Pass 3♠ Pass 3NT Pass Pass Pass	E East ♠ KJ10 ♥ K8743 ♦ 83 ♣ QJ10		
S South ♠ Q9432 ♥ 106 ♦ KJ974 ♣ 9			3NT North 0 0	

2NT=22/23 hcp, 3♥=transfer to spades,
& 3NT shows a five-card spade suit and offers a choice of games.

East led the QJ♣ (ducked twice). Declarer won the third club and cashed two more clubs. Then declarer cashed three rounds of diamonds. East had to make three discards on these winners. If East counted points, he would see that his 10 HCP, dummy's 6 HCP, and declarer's 22/23 HCP totalled 38/39 HCP. He thus would know that his partner has (at most) the ♥Q or ♥J.

Nothing East could tell his partner would dissuade him from keeping his heart asset(s). Meanwhile, back at the ranch East threw the ♥8 (standard attitude signal - I like hearts), the ♥2 and the ♠10 (standard attitude signal - I like spades). Armed with the knowledge that both major suit kings were in the East hand, declarer cashed the ♠A and his two remaining diamonds to leave the following.



If East throws his spade on the good diamond, the ♠Q is high. If East throws a heart, a heart to the ace brings down the (now) singleton king. All this was brought about by East's desire to tell his partner what he had, without considering that his partner had no interest in knowing and that declarer was watching too.

If it had been even remotely unclear near the end of the hand as to whether your assumptions were correct, it should be noted that this hand occurred in a face-to-face game and East squirmed for at least 30 seconds before he threw away a heart, struggling to find an impossible escape. When you are caught, play quickly and smoothly and hope declarer gets it wrong.

Finally, this is what the hand looks like if you don't first cash the ♠A.



Now East can throw the same suit as the North hand does and be guaranteed a trick. By cashing the ♠A, declarer has the "idle" ♠5 to throw away. This is a form of squeeze play called a Vienna Coup.

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

#88

♠ AKJ76
 ♥ 2
 ♦ K83
 ♣ 10542



♠ 10
 ♥ KQ9
 ♦ A1064
 ♣ KQ986

West	NorthEast	South
3♥	3♠ Pass	3NT
All pass		

West led the ♥J and East followed with the ♥7. What would you do as Declarer?

SOLUTION

As so often, your play to the first trick is critically important. You need to think!!!!

What do you know already?

West must have seven hearts for his bid, leaving East with two hearts.

1. The ♥A must be in West's hand, because if East had had the ♥A doubleton he would have unblocked it on the first trick.
2. The ♥10 must also be in the West hand, because West's opening lead of the ♥J promised the ♥10.
3. Declarer's assets total 25 HCP, leaving 15 HCP for the opponents. Because West preempted, he can have no more than 10 of these outstanding HCP. Ergo, East has at least 5 HCP.

The \$64,000 question is who holds the ♣A. If you can work this out, you will have a blueprint for how to make your contract.

- If you take the first trick with your ♥Q and **East** has the ♣A, as soon as he takes that ace he will lead a heart through your ♥K9 - and the rest is silence. In this scenario, you should duck the heart lead at Trick 1.
- If you take the first trick with your ♥Q and **West** has the ♣A, your ♥K represents a second heart stopper. In this scenario, you should take the heart lead at Trick 1.

Who has the ♣A? There is no smoking ♣A gun, but there are some faint whiffs of cordite in the air coming from the direction of East. Usually, three-level pre-empts are made without much in the side suits and if West had had two aces plus a decent long suit headed by AJT, he would most likely have made a different opening bid.

So, it is reasonable to put the ♣A in East's hand and duck the heart at Trick 1. Then, for the sake of argument (nothing is better), let's say West cashes his ♥A and plays another heart to your ♥K. Now when East gets in with his ♣A he can't get to his partner's hand because you have the other suits under good control.

After the heart bridge is severed, the rest of the play is un morceau de gâteau with an easy nine tricks: two spades (♠AK), one heart (♥K), two diamonds (♦AK), and four clubs. Here is the full hand.

	♠ AKJ76				
	♥ 2				
	♦ K83				
	♣ 10542				
♠ 852	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ Q943
N					
W E					
S					
♥ AJ108643		♥ 75			
♦ Q2		♦ J975			
♣ J		♣ A73			
	♠ 10				
	♥ KQ9				
	♦ A1064				
	♣ KQ986				

As you can see, if you take the first trick with your ♥Q, when East gets in with his ♣A and leads a heart through you every one of West's six remaining hearts will burn like acid and scar your soul forever.

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**.
 Our overcalls promise five cards at our **club**.