



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT245

ALERT – April 24, 2023

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

Looking Ahead

- ♥ **Tonight's game (April 21) has been** cancelled because so many of the regulars are in Gatlinburg.
 - ♥ All of our virtual games during the week of April 24-30 will be **Silver Linings Games**, 150% silver points, \$7BBO.
 - ♥ The Tuesday, April 25 open F2F game will be an **ACBL/CBF charity game (\$2 surcharge)** while the Friday, April 28 499er F2F game will be a **local charity game (\$2 surcharge)**, the proceeds of which will go to the Waterloo Food Bank.
 - ♥ **Barbara Seagram** will be at our club on Wednesday, May 3. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. Number of spots remaining: **24**.
 - ♥ During the first week of May, all of our F2F games will be **club championship games** (extra masterpoints, no extra cost).
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Barbara Seagram

We now have only 24 spots left in Barbara's fun day on Wednesday, May 3. Registration will close this coming Wednesday, April 26. So if you're planning to attend, there is no time to lose! Click [here](#) for more information and to register and prepay.

Our Club's Management Team

Although (hopefully) our club appears to operate smoothly and effortlessly – you know, you show up for a game and it runs and you have fun; you show up for your lesson and your teacher appears and you learn a lot – in fact it takes a huge amount of work behind the scenes to make it all appear so effortless. And virtually all of this work is performed by volunteers.

So, this is the first in a series profiling the current members of our club's management team and thanking them and their predecessors for their stellar work. We will start with our marketing lead for no particular reason except that the current incumbent, Bob Livermore, is the newest addition to our club's management team.

However, we should start by thanking Bob's predecessors **Sue Peterson** and **Isabel Hetherington** who so ably brought us through the pandemic. Their work on such things as updating our website and Learn Bridge in a Day sessions and strategic planning sessions and reaching out to our members was invaluable and helped to keep our club afloat during a period when many bridge clubs went under. Although Sue and Isabel have stepped down from their marketing roles, both of them continue to volunteer in other capacities at our club, and we are very grateful to them.

And now we bring you **Bob Livermore**, in his own words.

"I am pleased to accept the position of marketing lead with the objective of increasing our membership and helping to ensure that our players have a satisfying and enjoyable bridge experience at our club.

"I have been a member of GRBC for the 11 years since its creation on Gage Street. My interest in bridge was renewed by my cousin Frank Fischer who recommended I join. A terrific learning experience with many great mentors continues to make bridge enjoyable for me. I have seen our club grow from just a few players to approximately 260 members today.

"What can we do to continue to make your experience more exciting and pleasurable? More competitive games within our club? Prizes? More games focusing our different stratospheres? I welcome your suggestions. Please feel free to talk to me if you see me at the club or telephone me at 519-748-0136 or email me at hey.you.bob@hotmail.com. Your input is not only important but also is welcomed!

"I am now approaching 40 years in Kitchener, previously employed by Kaufman Footwear as the sales manager/marketing director for the SOREL winter boot division worldwide. I travelled extensively to promote our branded products and worked with many successful people to ensure growth and stability.

"I look forward to this challenge."



April 21, 1-9pm • April 22, 10am-6pm • April 23, 12-4pm

K/Weavers' and Spinners' Sale

Rebecca Kalbfleisch would like you to know about this event coming up this weekend. Everyone is welcome!



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. I have a “small” library of prepared questions, but I would welcome additional questions to build up that library and keep this column viable.

Question

My partner and I decided to play in one of GRBC's online open games even though we are relatively newer players. It was a very humbling experience.

We had some questions around one particular hand: Board 13. We were sitting E/W and ended up in a 2NT contract going down two for a bottom board. One other pair was also in 2NT and made the contract, while another pair sitting N/S bid 2♠ and went down three, and the last two pairs bid and made 4♥,

I was West and opened 1♦ in fourth seat after three passes. North passed and my partner (East) bid 1♥. I then bid 1♠ and my partner passed. At that point, South overcalled 2♣ and I bid 2NT since I had what I considered a big hand with 19 points.

D 13	N North	W	N	E	S
	♠ 1074 ♥ AQ4 ♦ QJ743 ♣ 92			P P P 1♦ P 1♥ P 1♠ P P 2♣ 2NT P P P	
W West		E East			
♠ AJ85 ♥ 9 ♦ AK105 ♣ AK85		♠ 96 ♥ K1086532 ♦ 62 ♣ 106			
	S South				
	♠ KQ32 ♥ J7 ♦ 98 ♣ QJ743				2NT W NS: 0 EW: 0

Question 1:

Shouldn't East have opened 3♥ with seven hearts?

Answer 1:

I don't think West should open 3♥. While it is true that that bid shows seven hearts, it also promises 6-10 points. West has only three points.

Question 2: Doesn't East have to bid after I bid 1♠?

Answer 2: No, East does not have to bid after West bids 1♠. A **declarer's** bid of a new suit is not forcing - it is only a **responder's** bid of a new suit that is forcing. That said, I am not sure I would leave my partner in 1♠ with only two spades in my hand. I think I might just rebid my hearts.

Question 3: How should the bidding have gone? How did some E/W pairs manage to get to 4♥ and actually make it?

Answer 3: I think that you were correct to open 1♦ with your 19 points. East now has a choice to make. Bidding 1♥ promises six-nine points, but there are only three measly points in West's hand. What to do? Many people have the partnership agreement that a bid of 2♥ (rather than 1♥) would show a long heart suit and fewer than five points. This is a "weak jump shift" and is typically to play. (The 2♥ bid also makes it harder for South to overcall as they would need to bid at the 3♣ level.)

After that bid, West could show the strength in their hand by bidding 2NT, meaning "I don't have heart support but I do have a nice hand and all the other suits covered". East could now repeat hearts with a 3♥ bid, saying "Yes I know you have a big hand and initially I promised six hearts and fewer than five points, but I am now promising seven hearts". West can now bid 4♥ as two pairs did. That line of bidding is shown in the hand below.

D 13	N North ♠ 1074 ♥ AQ4 ♦ QJ743 ♣ 92	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S		P	P	P	1♦	P	2♥	P	2NT	P	3♥	P	4♥	P	P	P
W	N	E	S																			
	P	P	P																			
1♦	P	2♥	P																			
2NT	P	3♥	P																			
4♥	P	P	P																			
W West ♠ AJ85 ♥ 9 ♦ AK105 ♣ AK85		E East ♠ 96 ♥ K1086532 ♦ 62 ♣ 106																				
	S South ♠ KQ32 ♥ J7 ♦ 98 ♣ QJ743	4♥ E NS: 0 EW: 0																				

Another way for East to think about this hand is to imagine how the play would unfold if they ended up in 2NT. West would have no opportunity to get over to East's hand and set up the heart suit and would need to rely on the power in their own hand. A potential for disaster!



The Bean Counter

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer

Dear Mister Bean,

Do you have a first name? I think you are handsome. I enjoy your money stories every week. I think they are better than Baker's stories. My mother would like to know the breakeven point for online games, F2F games, lessons, etc.

Signed Bean Counter Groupie

Dear BCG,

Tell your mama to ask the question herself! I will answer your question anyway, because it's a good one.

Event	Breakeven Point	Comments
Bridge Lessons	Depends	Several classes require a multiple of 2 or 4 students to simulate bridge games. Anything less than 4 students and the class is cancelled in advance. Online courses may use "Shark" ... a minimal extra cost of \$2 each. Some teachers seek reimbursement for their time or a portion of their time. Novice course students are usually non-members and pay more than members do. Intermediate course students are usually members.
Bridge Labs	3 (lab rats)	GRBC will run a Bridge Lab with three or more attendees. The labs are run by volunteers who share their wealth of bridge knowledge for free
F2F games	3 full tables (12 players)	If there is multiple game concurrency (one director running two or more games), two full tables are profitable. But two tables would not be much fun for the players. The same might be true for three tables? Often a small 499er game will get merged into the concurrent open game.
BBO games	4 full tables (16 players)	If there is multiple game concurrency (one director running two games), 3 full tables is profitable. But 3 tables would not be much fun for the players.
Pub afterwards	2 people	It's more fun to drink away last-place percentages with someone who doesn't give a crap about masterpoints.



Bike Stand

Here is Glenn Mockford showing off our newly-positioned bike stand at the exit from the parking lot. Why not ride your bike to bridge and exercise your body and your brain at the same time?

Small Acts of Kindness and of Love

Here are a few things that individual players can do to show consideration to their fellow players.

- Arrive at least 15 minutes before game time. If everyone would do this, it would give the game director some much-appreciated breathing space.
 - Don't wear perfume or after-shave lotion. Some players are allergic to scents.
 - By all means, bring in your delicious baking – but hold the nuts.
 - Mute your cell phone. If you're expecting an important call, give your phone to the game director to babysit.
 - Stop talking while the director is making announcements. You might actually learn something!
 - If you're on lead, make your lead *before* you write down the contract in your personal record and/or enter it into the Bridgemate. The declarer is dying to see his or her dummy.
 - Refrain from snapping your cards. The sound is distressing to players who wear hearing aids.
 - Clean up your coffee spills and crumbs and dispose of all the dirty dishes and other debris at your table before you head for home. It's the maid's day off.
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TIME YOU LEARNED OUR LESSONS!



The Precision Bidding System

Have you played against pairs who play Precision? Have you been curious? Befuddled? Do you want to expand your knowledge of other bidding systems or just understand how the Precision Bidding System works? **Then this course is for you!**

To quote Larry Cohen: *"Precision is a wonderful (and in my opinion easier than 'Standard') bidding system. If I were teaching beginners, I would want to start them with Precision – the easiest-to-learn bidding system."*

Precision can be as complex or as simple as you want to make it - and you don't have to give up your favourite conventions!

Over the course of two sessions, you will:

- Learn the basics of the Precision System;
- Learn the similarities to Standard American and 2/1 - and understand the differences;
- Learn how to customize the system to your needs or style;
- Learn how to defend against the Precision bidders - and as a Precision player, learn the defence to the defence; and
- Practise what you learn.

Regular partners may find it beneficial to attend this module as a pair.

Instructor: John Hanemaayer

Level: **Novice/Intermediate**

Venue: Face to Face in our Teaching Room

Fee: \$40 for members/ \$50 for non-members

Dates: Saturday mornings, May 6 and 13, 9:30 am – noon

Current Enrollment: **2**

DATING IN 2022:





Dear David

The Sounds of Silence

♪ Hello darkness, my old friend, I've come to talk with you again ♪

There is a problem that frequently arises when you have many different partners. Each partner wants to play conventions that they like and you want to play what you like. So, you both compromise and play a hybrid card. The problem with that decision is that you must remember what you are playing with today's partner. A review of your card before the game is helpful, but even that is subject to forgetfulness. Since you are not allowed to consult your convention card during the auction or play of the hand, sometimes you must guess and hope. Here is a related issue – Alerts and non-Alerts.

The Alert procedure is designed to help your opponents understand the meaning of your unnatural bids. For example, if your opponent opens 1NT and your partner overcalls 2♥ showing a heart suit, no Alert is necessary, because it is a “natural” call. However, if your partner's 2♥ bid shows hearts and spades, you must Alert the opponents so that they will know to ask for the meaning of the bid, if they so desire. The Alert procedure is solely for the benefit of your opponents. If your partner does not Alert an Alertable call, you must pretend that he Alerted and bid accordingly. If your partner Alerts a natural bid, you must pretend that he did not Alert and bid accordingly. These things come under the heading of “Unauthorized Information (UI).” Acting on UI is not only illegal and subject to score corrections, but it is an unethical practice. We all want to win, but we also want to win by using Active Ethics.

Here is an example.

W West	W	N	E	S	E East
♠AKJ962	1NT	2♥	Pass	♠54	
♥42	2♠	Pass	Pass	♥KQ1063	
♦654				♦K87	
♣64				♣A75	

North opens a strong NT and you make a natural 2♥ overcall. Partner thinks spades is better than hearts and tries 2♠. You have no reason to take another bid.

Would it change things if your partner Alerted 2♥ and explained that 2♥ shows hearts and spades? As East, your ethical obligation is to pass unless your hand strongly suggests that hearts would be better, because you must not take advantage of UI by retreating to 3♥. In fact, if you did bid 3♥, partner might think it is a game try and jump to 4♠, making a bad situation worse.

- If you expect your partner to Alert, pretend you heard it and bid accordingly.
- If your partner does Alert and you didn't expect to hear an Alert, banish the Alert from your mind.

The sounds of silence.

Top Master Point Earners at our Club

Contributed by Allen Pengelly

WILL RETURN



themoonmothwrites [Follow](#)

My 4yo: *points to the label on my tea bag*
what does that say?

Me: it says "over 300 years of experience". It
means the people at twinings have been making
tea for 300 hundred years.

Her: *dramatic gasp* they haven't even died?!

Me: *whispering* tea vampires...



lynati [Follow](#)

Immortalitea.



necarion

You may live forever, but there is a steep cost.

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.

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**.
Barbara Seagram is coming to our **club**.