



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – July 31, 2023

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

Looking Ahead

- ♥ Both of today's games (Friday, July 28), tomorrow's (Saturday, July 29) 499er game, and both of Sunday's (July 30) games will be **NAP Games** – F2F and online. Extra masterpoints, \$2 surcharge.
 - ♥ Our first **F2F 99er game** on Saturday mornings will be offered tomorrow (Saturday, 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.
 - ♥ **Goderich Sectional**, Saturday, August 26 – Sunday, August 27
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NEW

Saturday Morning F2F 99er Game (Starting July 29)

In response to a grass-roots initiative by the 0-100 players, GRBC is thrilled to begin offering an in-person 99er game on Saturday mornings at 9:30am, starting tomorrow, July 29. This is an 18-board game, allowing more time per board and expecting to finish between 11:30 am and noon. Players with more than 100 masterpoints are welcome, but they and their partner will not be eligible for masterpoint awards. This ACBL-sanctioned game will ease you into the duplicate game that we all love. It will also be a lot of FUN! We hope you will come out to support this new game!

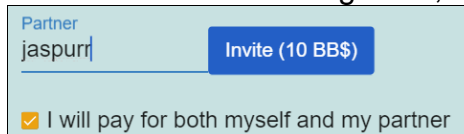
A Warm Welcome to the Following New Member

- Charles Leguerrier
-

Bring a Friend to Online

Did you know that you can bring a new partner to an online GRBC game and they can play for free? Not just once, but **twice**? Well, you can, and here's how it works.

Your partner needs to log into BBO of course, and should have an ACBL number (otherwise BBO assumes they are an A level Open player!). Then invite them to one of our games, and



Partner
jaspurri

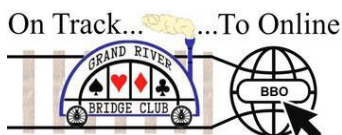
I will pay for both myself and my partner

check the box that says that you will pay for both of you.

Once per quarter, our Bean Counter (aka Steve) will surf the online games for new visitors. He will contact you by email to confirm the details, and you will subsequently receive BB\$ into your BBO account.

So, reconnect with Uncle Hans in Munich, Aunt Bea in Mayberry, Cousin Itt in Galt, and ex-roommate Joey at UW, and introduce them to online bridge with your "old" friends at Grand River!

The Fine Print: Your partner must be new to online play with GRBC. They can play two times for free, be it with you or someone else, but only two times in total. There is no limit on how many new partners you may bring!



Bridge Snobbery

Many years ago, in the Los Angeles area Malvine Klausner was the reigning queen. Her husband, Siegfried had invented Kem Cards, plastic cards that could be washed and used over and over again. The Klausners were not hurting financially. Malvine played the majority of her bridge at the legendary Ardmore Bridge Club. Duplicate games were held downstairs and money (rubber) bridge games as well as the restrooms (soon to become important) were upstairs.

The money bridge players would have nothing to do with the duplicate players, feeling that they were afraid to risk hard cash on their skill. As a result, when they walked into the club they looked neither left nor right at the duplicate players before going up the stairs. The duplicate players, for their part, displayed equal contempt for the rubber bridge players feeling that they were afraid to venture downstairs and play a game of skill that did not depend upon who got more aces and kings to win. As a result, they NEVER went upstairs unless it was an emergency. Enter the rest rooms.

And so it came to pass one afternoon after the duplicate game there was a giant migration upstairs to the lady's room. By the time Malvine got there it was already a full house. As this was an emergency she went across the hall into the men's room! Malvine was the last person on earth one would suspect of doing something like this. When she emerged several minutes later, one of her friends saw her and asked if she knew where she had been. "Yes", she said. "Well", her friend continued, "was anyone in there?"

"Yes", said Malvine, "a couple of guys, but they were only rubber bridge players."

(from [Eddie Kantar's More Bridge Humor Stories](#))



Bean There Done That.

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

The incentive program has been running for two months now. **My goal is to pay out the incentive rewards to this point in time before August 11!**

Definitions: **You** must be a paid-up GRBC member at the time of the event to receive incentive payment; **Friend** must have had their GRBC membership lapse before 2020-2021, or has never been a member.

Incentive	How it works	Complications
BBO Bring-a-Friend	You invite a friend to play in our GRBC game. You must pay for both players (=10 BBO\$); you will be reimbursed for their entry fee (=5 BBO\$). There is no reimbursement for your entry fee. 😊	We cannot tell if you actually paid for the friend as described on the left. We will assume you did and give out the reward! 😊
F2F Bring-a-Friend	You bring a friend to play at the club. You must pay for your entry fee. 😊 The director will give the friend a free play. 😊	None
Lapsed member renewal	For GRBC members whose membership lapsed prior to July 2020 and now they've come back this new year ... if you 'recruited' them, you have earned the incentive payment 😊	We do not always receive the recruiter's name. So, we will ask the recruit for it.
Brand new members	For new members ... if you 'recruited' them, you have earned the incentive payment 😊	We do not always receive the recruiter's name. So, we will ask the recruit for it.

Dave's Lessons at the Regional

As you know, Dave Baker taught a lesson at our regional. Kathy Russell was on hand to record his lesson and has made these three clips available to anyone who might be interested.

11.5 minutes: **Jacoby 2NT, Fast vs Slow Arrival, Game Forcing Auctions, Hand Evaluation**
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OYL_FxQ-txlq2-ho_SriDdAZ5maMDaqp/view?usp=sharing

8 minutes: **Bidding 18-19 HCP Hand with Interference**
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L1VDGZdPu15UbXFk2zrdZcKCpFKldnn5/view?usp=sharing>

5.5 minutes: **6-5 Come Alive - 8-5 Declarer - at about the four-minute mark you start doing a wiggle/dance**
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NmXkJK76OJuHa6Miup9_-9z7FrsOubvo/view?usp=sharing



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

At several recent GRBC Face to Face games, I have started to notice that the opponents are overcalling in fourth seat and sometimes even after they have passed their hand initially. I don't recall learning about this approach in any of the beginner lessons. Is this a common occurrence? How are the opponents able to overcall in fourth seat after passing initially? What implications does that have on me, the Opener, after my partner has bid a suit? Am I required to bid? Unfortunately, I don't have a hand to represent those bidding sequences.

Can you help clarify what's going on, Answer Lady? Signed, A Beginner Bridge Player

Answer

Thank you, Beginner Bridge Player.

As with all overcalls, the opponents are attempting to interfere with your bidding and subsequent success at the bridge table. They anticipate a game is possible in your direction and are doing all they can to prevent that from happening. Opponents can and frequently do overcall in every seat to disrupt the communication between you and your partner. The overcall may also provide their partner with a suit to lead should that opportunity arise.

A fourth-seat overcall can even occur when that fourth-seat opponent has passed at their initial opportunity. Perhaps they lacked sufficient points to open but have the shape and strength to overcall at the first chance. On occasion, that fourth-seat player might even have a pretty weak hand - but length in a particular suit. A very disruptive and effective strategy. Take the situation below, a hand taken from a GRBC Open Thursday F2F game. Unfortunately, as with all of our F2F games, it is not possible to see the complete line of bidding, only the final contract.

D 5	N David Baker ♠ Q106432 ♥ K42 ♦ 84 ♣ 42	W N E S P 3NT P P P
W Kathy Russe ♠ K7 ♥ J1075 ♦ J76 ♣ A986	S Mike Peng ♠ J8 ♥ Q983 ♦ Q532 ♣ K107	E Susan Lawton ♠ A95 ♥ A6 ♦ AK109 ♣ QJ53
		3NT E NS: 0 EW: 0

On this hand, my partner, Kathy Russell and I were sitting East/West, playing against Dave Baker and Mike Peng in the North/South positions. Dave, North, was the dealer and elected to pass, with six spades but only five points. In the second seat, I opened 1♦ with a balanced hand and 18 points, anticipating that on my subsequent bid I would show the strength of my hand. South also passed and my partner bid 1♥. At this point, Dave in his wisdom bid 2♠, showing a weak hand but length in spades. A fourth-seat overcall after an initial pass. I then bid 2NT, showing that strong hand and a spade stopper, and Kathy took me to game by bidding 3NT. In summary, the bidding went: P 1♦ P 1♥ 2♠ 2NT P 3NT AP.

The contract was just made, but interestingly we did not receive a top score. As a result of Dave's bid, Mike led his ♠J. Other N/S pairs where no interfering spade overcall occurred led a heart. With a heart lead, an overtrick was possible. That weak overcall did its job.

In response to your other question, as Opener you are not required to bid again after interference even though your partner has bid a new suit (because the bidding will still come around to your partner). So, a pass at this point denies support for partner's suit and shows minimal values. Remember 'Pass' is considered a bid, and your partner will have another opportunity to bid and may decide to bid on if they have extra values and/or a long suit.



Margot is celebrating a milestone birthday this week, and her friends wanted her to come to the club wearing her celebratory outfit.

Photo Credit Susan Lawton



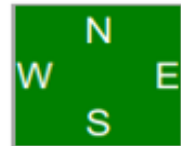
Dear David

If At First (Trick) You Don't Succeed

West	North	East	South
		1♦	dbl
pass	1♥	pass	4♥
pass	pass	pass	

East led the ♦K, Declarer won the ace and drew two rounds of trump (West showed out on the second round), cashed the ♠AK and led the ♦6 to the ♦J and East's ♦Q. East then cashed the ♥Q and led another diamond. North was now forced to play clubs himself and had no chance to hold his club losers to only one trick. Declarer lost one heart, one diamond and two clubs – down one. Unlucky? Let's see how the hand looked at the point where declarer won the third round of diamonds.

♠ J5
♥ 5432
♦ J83
♣ A752



♠ AK
♥ AK976
♦ A106
♣ J103

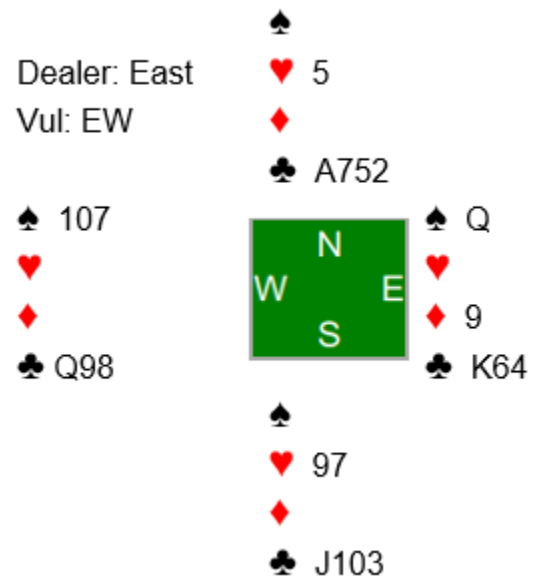
Dealer: East
Vul: EW

♠ 107	♠	♠ Q
♥	♥ 5	♥
♦ 7	♦ 8	♦ 94
♣ Q98	♣ A752	♣ K64

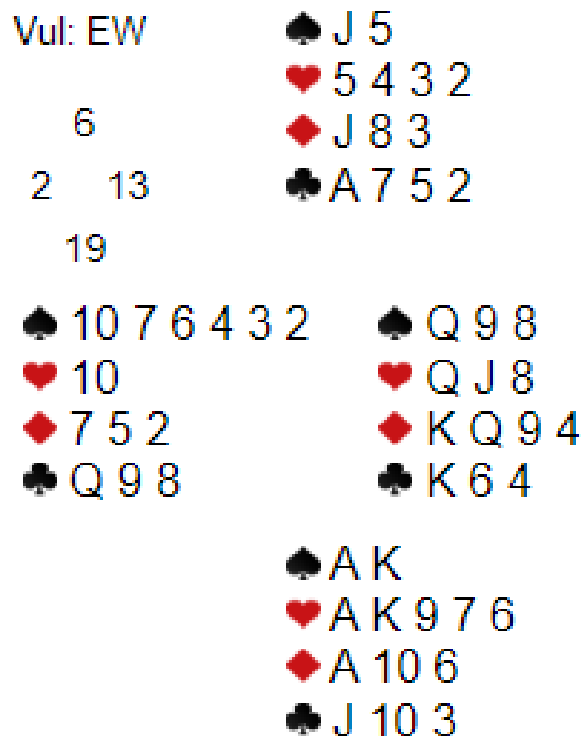
♠	♠
♥ 97	♥
♦ 10	♦
♣ J103	♣

This is the point at which East led the third round of diamonds, giving declarer only what he was entitled to. Wiggle and squirm as he might, there is no way for declarer to avoid two club losers. Is there a way to avoid this problem? Yes, there is a way if you go back to Trick 1. If you assume from the fact that East has opened the bidding (in fact, has opened the bidding with 1♦), that he has the ♦Q AND that he did not rebid 2♦ (which he would probably do with a six-card diamond suit), it must be safe to play small on the opening lead. Let's see what it would look like after eight tricks if declarer had played a small diamond on the opening lead.

If you make the same moves as before (including finessing a diamond yourself if defender did not lead a diamond at Trick 2), this is the position after East cashes the ♥Q. If he leads a diamond or a spade, you will throw the ♣3 and ruff with the ♥5. If he leads a club instead, you play the ♣10, win the ♣Q with the ace and return a club towards the jack – only one club loser.



I have submitted many articles about squeeze plays with a central theme that says you have to lose your tricks early for a squeeze to work. The same holds true for this hand. An endplay occurs when the opponents are stripped of safe exit cards and therefore must lead something that helps declarer. The time to do your thinking occurs at Trick 1.



The technical term for this stratagem is “**Strip** (remove all safe exit cards from your opponent’s hands) **and Endplay** (force opponent to lead a card that will help you take an extra trick)”. Hopefully, the salacious name of this technique will help you remember it when the opportunity arises.

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

No. 118

<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;"></td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td><td style="padding: 2px;"></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E		S		♠ J43 ♥ 6 ♦ J84 ♣ AJ10852
W	N	E					
	S						
	♠ Q765 ♥ Q872 ♦ K92 ♣ K4						

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♠*	Pass
3NT	All pass		

* Clubs

Against West's 3NT contract, my partner led the ♥3, I won the trick with my ♥Q as West ducked. I continued hearts with my ♥8, West covered with his ♥9, and my partner won the trick with his ♥10, dummy discarding a small spade. My partner then exited with the ♠2, to dummy's ♠3, my ♠5, and West's ♠9. Declarer then led the ♦Q from his hand, and I let it win. Next, he led the ♣Q from his hand. If you were in my shoes, what would you do now?

SOLUTION

Declarer is finessing in clubs without any side entries in the dummy, suggesting that he has at least one more club and will probably continue the suit. If he started with three clubs, you can't stop him from making his contract no matter what you do, but what if he originally held only two clubs? If this is the case, you have a chance to defeat the contract by misleading him (you can pretend you don't have the ♣K).

So, play your ♣4 smoothly - in tempo and with a straight face. 😐 You are hoping that declarer will think that your partner has the ♣K and finesse in clubs again. If he does, you will "reluctantly" take your king and thereby sever the bridge between declarer's hand and dummy.

Here is the full hand.

	♠ K82	
	♥ K1043	
	♦ 1073	
	♣ 963	
♠ A109	♠ J43	
♥ AJ95	♥ 6	
♦ AQ65	♦ J84	
♣ Q7	♣ AJ10852	
	♠ Q765	
	♥ Q872	
	♦ K92	
	♣ K4	



It takes nerves of steel to bare a king like this, but when it succeeds the thrill is better than you get on a roller coaster.



And don't forget to enjoy declarer's frown when he realizes that you tricked him.



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. Allen reports from Las Vegas that he went 13-19 during the tournament – fantastically well against the best Scrabble players in the world.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	36.11	1	Lynda Burnett	14.09	1	Don Slowinski	5.24
2	Cindy Mahn	27.84	2	Lori Cole	10.42	2	Rick Arthur	4.17
3	Edith Ferber	24.86	3	Jack Cole	9.18	3	Sharon Nesbitt	4.14
4	Stephen Young	23.97	4	Sue Peterson	8.36	4	Debbie Miethig	3.94
5	Mike Peng	22.41	5	Bev Hitchman	8.31	5	Russel Kerr	3.88
6	Margot Stockie	17.58	6	Sue Moses	7.82	6	Miriam Frascari	3.48
7	Kathy Russell	15.53	7	Ginny Scott	6.98	6	JP Fraresso	3.48
8	Moirra Hollingsworth	14.28	8	Judy Widdecombe	6.82	8	Joan Stroud	3.41
9	Ted Boyd	13.84	9	Kim Wakeford	6.49	9	Pat Pietrek	3.33
10	Bonnie Kains	11.99	10	Lissa Lowes	6.20	10	Ben Cornell	3.30
11	Scott Hills	11.26	11	Nanci Phelan	6.25	11	Jim Fox	3.12
12	Neil Jeffrey	10.79	12	Keith Schnarr	5.94	12	Valirie Binkle	2.50
13	Roy Dandyk	10.53	12	Sharon Schnarr	5.94	13	Jacques Druart	2.43
14	Robert Griffiths	9.67	14	Suzanne Edwards	5.91	14	Audrey Cook	2.41
15	Pat McMillan	9.05	15	Vivian McLellan	5.76	15	Joan Hartviksen	2.25
16	Diane Bourdeau	8.81	16	Elinor Girouard	5.71	16	Marianne Dziarski	2.21
17	Dianne Aves	8.71	17	David Dennis	5.67	17	Louise Dawdy	2.10
18	Mary McClelland	8.17	18	Jim Dalgliesh	5.61	18	Doug Fickling	2.01
19	Neil Coburn	8.12	19	Joan Slover	5.55	18	Mark Sherwood	2.01
20	Jennifer Verdam	7.21	20	Kevin Latter	5.48	20	Susan Murray	1.80
21	William Christian	7.08	21	John Kip	5.25	21	Pat Gascho	1.79
22	Thea Davis	6.56	22	Joe Blake	5.20	22	Caso Zejr	1.77
23	John Hanemaayer	6.47	23	Brenda Semple	5.19	23	Carla Laubach	1.66
24	Diane Jamieson	6.26	24	Barbara Lindsay	4.69	24	John Lengyel	1.60
25	John Vandergrift	6.17	25	Andy Wilson	4.67	25	Ellen Libertini	1.59

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. 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 enjoy stripping and endplaying at our **club**.