




PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

[Our Website](#)

## ALERT – March 27, 2023

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

### Looking Ahead

- ♥ 499ers, don't forget our new **f2f 499er game on Thursday afternoons.** 
- ♥ **No more Monday afternoon 99er online game or Wednesday evening 199er online game.**
- ♥ Today's (Friday's) f2f games are **Membership Games**. Membership games award extra masterpoints at no extra cost – but only to paid-up ACBL members (membership in our club is irrelevant). Please note that *both* partners need to be paid-up ACBL members. If you are not already an ACBL member, you can remedy that [here](#) (please be sure to mention our club so that we can earn more upgraded club championship games for our members).
- ♥ All of our f2f games during the week of March 27-April 2 will be **Royal STaC games** (extra masterpoints [25% each **black**, **silver**, **red**, and **gold**], \$2 surcharge).
- ♥ [Spring Sectional – Buffalo Bridge Center, Amherst, NY](#). Friday, March 31 – Sunday, April 2
- ♥ [Toronto Easter Regional](#). Tuesday, April 4 – Sunday, April 9
- ♥ **Our club's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday party** will be held on Tuesday, April 11.
- ♥ **Barbara Seagram** will be at our club on Wednesday, May 3. Hold this date!



A warm welcome to our latest new member, **Nancy Kennedy**.

### Gmailers

A few months ago, Google changed its gmail algorithm with the result that many of our gmail members are no longer getting their Alerts delivered to their inboxes – but rather to an obscure folder that no one thinks to look in. If someone happens to mention to you that they're not getting their Alerts any more, please tell them to look carefully through their various folders. In addition to past Alerts, they will likely find lots of other misdirected emails.



## The Bean Counter

*Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer*

We have now passed the third anniversary of Corona Virus #19's arrival in the K/W region. The GRBC shut down for a whole month, but it got itself "up and limping" with online games. It wasn't exactly "running" - if you were playing in those early months, you'd recall:

- Having to start tournaments earlier than 1:00 pm to guarantee our game actually happened;
- Spending BBO dollars and how \$5 looked like a great deal until we discovered it was \$US;
- Flakey and slow response times (or was your partner just thinking longer online?);
- Frequent disconnections (Americans laugh at Canadians saying a-boot but we don't, eh?); and
- A foreign way to play the game we love (and how our mouse skills resulted in 0% scores).

Players were unaware of the challenges for our beloved bridge directors. It was different from directing F2F games. Directors' tools sucked. There were so many manual tasks to create the illusion of a mature product. And they had to deal with us...

- Players would call them at home just before game time, asking how they go about registering to play in the game. ☹️
- Some players would register ahead of time for the game (thank you!) and then wander away and lose track of time and not be online at game time (ugggh!). ☹️
- You thought that you were dummy and wandered away to do something... returning later to discover three angry stalled players. ☹️
- Remember when you would call the director because the cards were playing themselves (and not the card they wanted to play!). It turned out your partner was actually the declarer ... our directors still laugh at that. 😊

Needless to say, the BBO experience matured quickly in its first Covid year. GRBC was thankful that members & visitors stayed with us through the pandemic. Online revenue kept us alive. Actually, it was more than alive ... our profits ballooned. People played more to remain sane and our expenses declined. More about that next week!

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## Important Rules

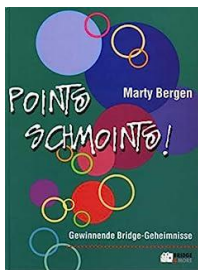
- **Rule of Eleven:** the number of tricks you will take when you bid a small slam
- **Eight Ever, Nine Never:** what always happens whenever you raise two no trump to three no trump
- **Rule of Fifteen:** the number of points your partner has when he opens one no trump

## GRBC - SPRING TEAM LEAGUE - WEEK 4

	BAKER	S. BOYD	T. BOYD	FUNG	HANEMAAYER	JAMIESON	PLAYOFFS	TOTAL
<b>BAKER</b>		20	20	WEEK 5	15	15	WEEK 6	70
<b>FUNG</b>	WEEK 5	9	17		9	16	WEEK 6	51
<b>HANEMAAYER</b>	5	WEEK 5	10	11		12	WEEK 6	38
<b>JAMIESON</b>	5	10	WEEK 5	4	8		WEEK 6	27
<b>S. BOYD</b>	0		6	11	WEEK 5	10	WEEK 6	27
<b>T. BOYD</b>	0	14		3	10	WEEK 5	WEEK 6	27

Prepared by Al Pengelly

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### Books Matters

If you have recently read a book that you really liked or found valuable (it doesn't have to be a bridge book), please send [our editor](#) a book review! Not only will you get your name in lights (although anonymity will be granted on request), but also you may make someone else happy – someone who would never have found out about that book if you hadn't told them about it! Also, we would love to get more book donations for our library. Elaine Doyle, for example, is hoping that someone will bring in *Points Schmoints* one of these fine days.

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# Breaking Up is Hard to Do

By Tihana Brkljacic

One of the commentators from my last column asked for advice on how to gracefully exit a longstanding partnership when it becomes clear that the partnership has become stale. In almost all long-term partnerships, emotions are involved. Building a partnership requires mutual understanding and adjustment, and I'm not talking about the bidding methods here - but rather about general preferences, attitudes and perspectives.

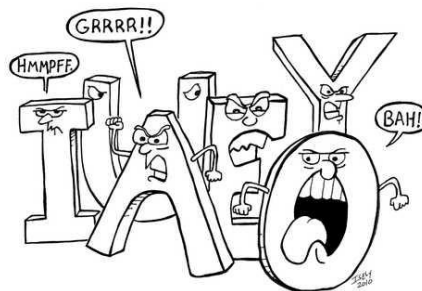
Breaking up from my first bridge partnership was harder than any romantic break-up I'd ever had. We had been playing together for a couple of years, but I wanted to form a serious partnership with another player. I thought it would be best to cut to the chase and make a quick, clean break. It ended up taking me six months to muster up the courage to have that conversation!

So, maybe I'm not exactly the best person to be giving advice on how to break-up a partnership. Or maybe I am, given I know exactly how much of a nightmare it can be. You can make your own mind up on this score, as below I have listed the different ways that you can approach this sticky problem.!)

1. *The fight.* Maybe this is the easiest way to break up. Something goes wrong at the table, you both get upset, start to blame each other, and then one of you blurts out: "I can't stand it anymore. I give up!"
2. *A temporary split.* This is another partnership break-up strategy that is borrowed from a romantic relationship. It can indeed be an appropriate decision if you're not really sure about the partnership.
3. *Letting it fade.* I believe most partnerships die this way. Partners just start to find more and more excuses for not playing, stop planning future events together, maybe change a club or playing schedule to avoid each other.
4. *Finding someone else.* If we want to end a partnership but still want to play bridge, it's only logical that we have to find someone else to play with. It's not considered immoral if you occasionally play with someone else.
5. *Talking it through.* By far the best way to gracefully exit a longstanding partnership is to tell your soon-to-be-ex-partner that you would like to split. People may say it's a cliché, but being (politely) honest in a social relationship is the way to go. To make things easier, here are a few more suggestions you might consider, but please use them only if they are true for you.
  - a) You have changed, and your perspective regarding bridge is not the same as it was while you were building the partnership.
  - b) You want to experience new things, whether it's a new system, a new club, or a new style.
  - c) Your personal life styles do not fit any more – maybe you have more or fewer family obligations, maybe you have moved or changed jobs, or even started another hobby.

If your decision to leave a partnership is firm and final, please don't hesitate to talk to your partner. Remember the good times you have had together, and don't let those memories vanish under a cloud of break-up bitterness. Be happy when your ex finds a new partner, support them, and celebrate their successes. Break up on good terms and you will both be proud to say "We were a partnership once".

*(Excerpted from BBO. If you would like to make a donation to a worthy cause, you are encouraged to send additional vowels to Tihana for her last name.)*



IRRITABLE VOWEL SYNDROME

# TIME YOU LEARNED OUR LESSONS!

## IN THE CARDS (GET IT?)

- **No Trump Interference (Cappelletti, DONT, and Meckwell).** \$20 members/ \$25 non-members. Instructor: Malkin Howes. Level: **Intermediate**. ONLINE. Current Enrollment: **6**  
**NEW DATE: Monday, March 27, 9:30 am – noon**

- **Basic Bidding Five-Week Course.** \$80 members/ \$90 non-members. Tuesday mornings, April 11, 18, 25, May 2, and May 9, 9:00 am – 11:30 am. Instructor: Cindy Mahn. Level: **Novice**. IN-PERSON in our teaching room. Current Enrollment: **4**.

**THOSE WHO TAKE THIS COURSE WILL RECEIVE UP TO THREE FREE PLAY VOUCHERS.**

- **Inverted Minors.** \$20 members/ \$25 non-members. Thursday morning, April 13. 9:30 am – noon. Instructor: Tom Ramsay. Level: **Intermediate**. IN-PERSON in our teaching room. Current Enrollment: **2**

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



## Opening Leads

The bidding is over and your opponents have reached a contract of four hearts. You're on lead. What card should you play? Opening leads are the only card played while the dummy is still concealed, but it is the one advantage defenders have over declarers.

This workshop is for post-beginners and will help the participants decide which are in which suit is the preferred lead. Leads for both suit and no trump contracts will be provided.

The participants will be provided with up to three free plays for our games and bridge labs.

Date: Friday, April 14, 9:30 am – noon

Instructor: Susan Lawton

Level: **Novice**

Mode: In person in our teaching room

Cost: \$20 members/ \$25 non-members

Current Enrollment: **1**

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

## Don't Be Late for a Very Important Date!

We have to make the go/no go decision on lessons based on enrollment several days ahead of time. But then sometimes we cancel lessons only to have a last-minute flurry of interest from players who had been intending to sign up but only just got around to it. Please help us by registering well in advance. If you wait until the last minute, you risk being disappointed



**FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS**



**Barbados Bellyflop**

*Contributed by Robert Griffiths*

This hand is from a pairs game at the Barbados tournament. North and South were Mary and Eric Balkam, a tough pair from Halifax.

**Board 27**  
 South Deals  
 E-W Vul

♠ —	♠ Q 10 7 3 2
♥ K 6 5 2	♥ —
♦ A 9	♦ K Q 4
♣ K Q 9 7 5 3 2	♣ A 10 8 6 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K J 9 8
♥ A 10 8 7 3
♦ 8 7 6
♣ —

♠ 6 5 4
♥ Q J 9 4
♦ J 10 5 3 2
♣ J

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
1 ♣	1 ♠	Dbl	3 ♠
4 ♥	4 ♠	Dbl	Pass
5 ♣	Pass	5 ♥	All pass

My RHO dealt and passed, and I opened 1♣. North overcalled 1♠ and my partner doubled. At this point, this is only a negative double. If she subsequently makes an aggressive bid, she will be promising a good hand, forcing to game.

South now made a jump to 3♠! This kind of weak jump is gaining in popularity. This is strictly a pre-emptive bid - a foolhardy attempt to interfere with our precise bidding.

I knew only that my partner had enough to make a one-level negative double. But I did not want to defend 3♠. My partner had implied having hearts so I tried 4♥. North competed with 4♠ and my partner doubled, showing her good hand.

Oh dear, I thought. I have shown a good hand, but it is not a good hand unless one of my suits becomes trump. I was very afraid of the opponents having 10 cards in spades, my clubs being worthless, and our side winning only one diamond trick, possibly a heart trick plus whatever my partner could win in spades. My partner will be counting on me for defensive tricks and my only defensive trick may be the ♦A.

I do not like pulling partner's penalty doubles, but this time, I thought that 5♣ or 5♥ might be successful while the opponents could make eight, nine, or ten tricks in spades. So, I bid 5♣, offering partner the choice, and she bid 5♥. I expect that she was considering poisoning my tea before we played again.

When East put the Dummy down, Eric suggested that my partner was being a bit optimistic in thinking that she could defeat 4♠.

I could find only 10 tricks in hearts, meaning that our minus score didn't look good against all the +420's for 4♥ making or the +500's and +800's for setting 4♠ doubled. It seems that sometimes even foolhardy attempts can upset our precise bidding.

 **Everybody makes mistakes, even Bob Griffiths.**

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FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

## Team League Slams

Our recent team competition at the club featured an inordinate number of contracts that produced 12 or 13 tricks. The question was "How many of them could we bid to slam?"

W West	W N E S	E East
♠7642	1♣ 1♥ 1♠ Pass	♠AKQ105
♥K108	2♠ Pass 4NT Pass	♥A
♦A53	5♥ Pass 6♠ Pass	♦J7
♣AQ6	Pass Pass	♣K10985

We play 12 boards against one team, go back to our teammates to compare, and then return to play 12 more. This one occurred in the first half. 5♥ showed two keycards without the ♠Q. Nothing bad happened and 13 tricks rolled home. I suggested to my partner that I could have bid 6♣. A new suit at the six-level asks for third-round control in that suit (the queen or fewer than three clubs), in an attempt to bid a grand slam. Without third-round control, he would bid 6♠. If he had had the queen, he would bid 6NT (perhaps 7NT is biddable). With shortness, he would bid 7♠. Usually, you have these conversations after the game. However..... this next hand came in the second half of the match.

W West	W N E S	E East
♠A9	1♥ Pass 2♠ Pass	♠10
♥AKJ92	3♣ Pass 3NT Pass	♥Q10763
♦K10	4NT Pass 5♠ Pass	♦A654
♣KJ62	6♣ Pass 6NT Pass	♣AQ9

2♠ = 3+♥s, 0♣ or 1♠, 8+ HCP -- 3♣ = tell me more -- 3NT= 1♠ & 12-14 HCP -- 5♠ = two keycards with the ♥Q -- 6♣ asks for third-round control in clubs -- 6NT shows the ♣Q -- 7♥ is the final bid. Glad we had that little talk!

W West	W N E S	E East
♠AKJ763	1♠ Pass 2NT Pass	♠Q52
♥5	3♥ Pass 3NT Pass	♥AQ87
♦K103	4♣ Pass 4♥ Pass	♦QJ72
♣A42	6♠ Pass Pass Pass	♣K8

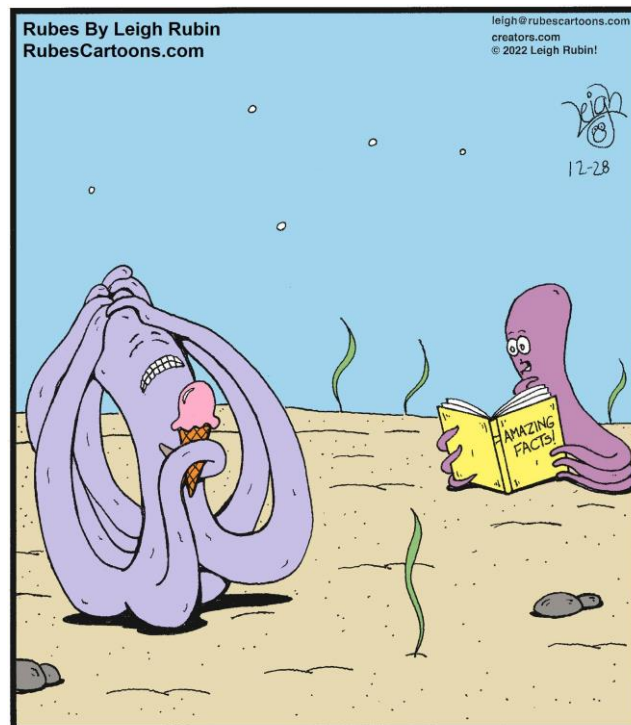
2NT = 3+♠s & 10+ HCP -- 3♥ = 0♥ or 1♥ -- 3NT=12+ HCP & at least 1½ stoppers in hearts -- 4♣ = cuebid (slam try) -- 4♥ = cuebid (I like my hand, I have the ♥A, I don't have the ♦A) -- 6♠ = I've heard enough to try for slam.



D		N North		E East	
		♠32 ♥10 ♦952 ♣AKQ10942		♠9765 ♥J987643 ♦Q ♣6	
W West		W N E S			
♠AKJ84 ♥KQ ♦AK8764 ♣		3♣ Pass Pass Dbl Pass 3♥ Pass 4♦ Pass 4♥ 5♣ Dbl Pass Pass Pass			
		S South			
		♠Q10 ♥A52 ♦J103 ♣J8753		5♣x North 0 0	

This one was not a slam, but it was still noteworthy. I was not unhappy being forced to bid my terrible seven-card heart suit. Partner thought it wiser to escape to his longest suit. Perhaps I should have tried spades, but if partner didn't have four good ones, it would be a mess. I suggested to partner that the best way to find a decent fit is to bid 4♣ over 3♣, showing a strong two-suited hand. I will bid the cheapest suit I am willing to play in and he will pass or correct if he doesn't have the suit I bid. After I retreated to hearts, South could no longer repress his five-card support for his partner's seven-card suit. Down three meant +800 for us, more than compensating us for our game. Or did it? The curious part of this hand is that we can make a slam in spades, hearts, or diamonds!

## I ♥ BRIDGE



**“Whoa, dude...did you know that we have *nine* brains?!”**

## 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 February.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	22.26	1	Shelley Metcalfe	14.04	1	Nancy Cattanach	6.68
2	Edith Ferber	17.24	2	Lynda Burnett	13.37	2	Rick Arthur	6.61
3	Robert Griffiths	17.15	3	John Kip	12.61	3	Debbie Miethig	5.07
4	Mike Peng	16.99	4	Barbara Arthur	12.50	4	Brian Gaber	3.89
5	Ted Boyd	12.53	5	Suzanne Edwards	11.86	5	Molly Worden	3.42
6	Colin Harrington	12.17	6	Cheryl Kip	10.44	6	Belinda Burt	3.36
7	Dave Quarrie	11.36	7	Roy Dandyk	10.03	7	Ben Cornell	3.29
8	Kathy Russell	11.20	8	Cheryl White	10.01	7	Don Slowinski	3.29
9	Neil Jeffrey	9.67	9	Lori Cole	9.18	9	Elaine Doyle	3.22
10	Sharon Boyd	8.20	10	Virginia Alviano	8.70	10	Audrey Cook	2.90
11	David Longstaff	7.85	11	Jack Cole	7.63	11	Valirie Binkle	2.84
12	Stephen Young	8.20	12	Barbara Lindsay	7.18	12	Paul Raymond	2.72
13	Scott Hills	6.96	13	David Dennis	6.94	13	Stu Cowan	2.63
14	Sandy Graham	6.44	14	Jim Dalgliesh	6.88	14	Larry Brooks	2.44
15	Neil Coburn	6.20	15	Adriaan Kempe	6.72	15	Jeannie LeForge	2.13
16	Wayne Jordan	5.94	16	Robert Giilck	6.42	16	Pauline Copleston	2.11
17	John Hanemaayer	5.93	17	Renate Boucher	6.36	17	Pat Northey	2.06
18	Diane Jamieson	5.89	18	Nanci Phelan	6.02	18	Jane Wilson	2.04
19	Rebecca Kalbfleisch	5.62	19	Martin Jones	5.91	19	Joan Stroud	1.93
20	Diane Bourdeau	5.33	20	Susan Durance	5.65	20	MJ Hartleib	1.76
21	Moirra Hollingsworth	4.99	21	Marlene Dopko	5.18	21	Chris Beck	1.75
22	Liz McDowell	4.97	22	Douglass Grant	5.05	22	Philip Fiess	1.66
23	Adrian Record	4.76	23	Kevin Latter	4.95	23	Judy Charbonneau	1.65
24	Ed Hills	4.65	24	Anita Hanson	4.82	24	Nancy Kennedy	1.64
25	Ronna Hoy	4.61	25	Marion Allan	4.64	25	Louise Dawdy	1.54

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**.  
 We welcome new members at our **club**.