

Diana's Fun With Bridge

September, 2021



Hopefully, soon we will all be back to F2F bridge. In the meantime, thousands continue to love the BBO club and online games and many will continue to play online once we are back to normal. Night games will continue to be popular online, especially in the winter months.

I have some great lessons coming up this month. September 24 offers newer and advancing newer players the opportunity to just play hands with a critique after each hand.

September 29 I will be doing a single session on the subject of Throw-In-Plays and a new Beginner series starting September 28, running for eight weeks.

All lessons are online and flyers attached at the end of this newsletter. Hope you can join me. Please feel free to forward my Newsletter to your friends.

The Dangerous Opponent – Don't Let The Dangerous Opponent In

The acknowledgement of the opponent who can set your contract if you allow him to attain the lead is a concept that so many players have difficulty in ascertaining.

The Danger Hand – Quote from Larry Cohen

‘There are many times when, as declarer, you might be able to choose which side you lose a trick to. You can choose to finesse in one of two suits or choose to play a two-way finesse (like KJ5 opposite A106) so that it would lose to a certain opponent. To make the right choices when you have these options, you need to become aware of the concept of the danger hand. Danger hands are the opponents that you don't want to lose a trick to, because they might be able to run a side suit or because they may be positioned to attack your weakness’.

Typical threats are:

1. The unprotected king. Usually, Kx in either dummy or declarer's hand opposite xxx.
2. Opponent's long suit, which is usually in NT.
3. Opponents getting an early ruff in a trump contract. This is when one opponent appears to be holding a void, singleton or doubleton.

These situations have a strong bearing on the way you plan your playing strategy, especially regarding any finesses you need to take.

Which finesse to take, how to take the finesse or in which order to take them.

Examples of the Dangerous Opponent.

North Dummy
♠ 75

West ♠ AQ963 East ♠ J102

South Declarer
♠ K84

If east gains the lead and leads the jack of spades you are doomed.

If you need to finesse in another suit you will have to finesse into the west hand, the safe hand.

North Dummy
♠ 74

West ♠ KQJ109 East ♠ 832

South Declarer
♠ A65

West leads the spade K against your 3NT. West is the dangerous opponent as once you play your ace, west holds good spades.

You will need to hold up until the third round and if you need to finesse in another suit, finesse into the east hand, the safe hand.

North Dummy
♠ 752

West ♠ A983 East ♠ QJ10

South Declarer
♠ K64

If east gains the lead and leads the queen your king is doomed and the opponents will take four spade tricks.

If you need to finesse you must finesse in another suit, finesse into the west hand, the safe hand.

North Dummy
♠ 72

West ♠ A10853 East ♠ J96

South Declarer
♠ KQ4

West leads the five against your 3 NT contract. If you win with the king, who is the danger hand?

East, if you duck the first trick and west gets in you still have a stopper.

If you need to finesse you have to finesse into the east hand, the safe hand.



The following hands are great examples of clarifying the **Dangers Opponent**.

	♠ 862	
	♥ 973	
	♦ A983	
	♣ AK5	
♠ A10743		♠ J9
♥ J54		♥ Q1062
♦ 52		♦ K64
♣ 873		♣ J1094
	♠ KQ5	
	♥ AK8	
	♦ QJ107	
	♣ Q62	

West	North	East	South
pass	3NT		1NT

West leads the 4♠, 4th highest from his longest and strongest suit.

East plays the J. Do not cover for two reasons: you want to hopefully, run east out of spades so he can't return the suit if he gains the lead. The second reason is that you will have to finesse the diamond king into the east hand which makes east the hand that can set you, the **Danger Hand**.

Duck the first trick, play the Q on the 2nd trick, west wins and plays a third ♠.

You win and finesse the diamond losing to east who is out of ♠. Win whatever east plays and now you will win one ♠, 2♥, 3♦ and 3♣, making your contract, thanks to recognizing who was the **Dangerous Opponent**.

	♠ 862	
	♥ 973	
	♦ QJ107	
	♣ AK5	
♠ A10743		♠ J9
♥ J54		♥ Q1062
♦ K2		♦ 654
♣ 873		♣ J1094
	♠ KQ5	
	♥ AK8	
	♦ A983	
	♣ Q62	

West	North	East	South
pass	3NT		1NT

Almost the same hand but look at the difference in diamonds.

When you finesse the diamond, you will be finessing into the safe hand.

On this hand you will win the first spade trick and now finesse the diamond into the safe hand. It does not matter that west wins and leads spade, you have another stopper when west is on lead. You do not have another stopper if east is on lead.

East is the **Dangerous Opponent**.

♠ A854
 ♥ 8
 ♦ 873
 ♣ AKJ102
 ♠ 6
 ♥ QJ1062
 ♦ A1092
 ♣ 983
 ♠ Q103
 ♥ K9754
 ♦ QJ4
 ♣ 75
 ♠ KJ972
 ♥ A3
 ♦ K65
 ♣ Q64

West	North	East	South
	1♣	pass	1♠
pass	2♠	pass	4♠

South, with opening points, goes to game after partner support her spades.

West leads the queen of hearts from his sequence.

When dummy tables south can see as possible losers: 1 each in spade and hearts + 3 potential diamond losers. This makes east the **Danger Hand** if he gets in and leads a diamond.

Normally holding a 9 card fit with the AK, missing the Q you play the AK and hope the Q drops. You can't afford to take the chance of east holding 3 to the Q.

Win the heart, ruff a heart, play the spade A and now finesse the queen into the safe hand. It wins and now you easily make the contract.

Take out the last trump, play the club queen from the short side and run the club suit. You can discard two losing diamonds on the good clubs.



You cannot defend properly unless you member the bidding.



As declarer when leading a suit that has equal honors, lead the highest honor if you want it covered and lead the second highest if you don't want it covered. Works like a charm. A nice bit of deception.



You know you are in trouble when the first thing the opponents decided to do is draw trump, and you are the declarer.



What is a 'ruff' and 'sluff'?

Answer: A ruff and sluff is when the opponents lead a card and you can discard a loser in one hand and ruff their card in your other hand. It is something you 🤔🤔🤔 them to do.

? When is a duck not a duck?



A “duck” is when you lead a low card from one hand and deliberately play a low card in the other hand, instead of a high card in the hand which might have won the trick.

You are therefore deliberately giving the lead to the opponents. You use the duck technique for a variety of purposes, the most important being:

1. To preserve entry to a long suit, usually in dummy.
2. To maintain trump control.
3. To drop an honor card of the opponents.
4. To develop an extra trick or tricks in the suit.

Why Do We Play Bridge?

It's incredible? Hundreds of thousands of us playing, cutting across all ages, occupations, sizes, races, sexes, physical characteristics, temperaments and incomes.

Bridge! The sport without requirements for physical skill, strength or mobility. The activity where, at minimal cost, we can play with friends and strangers in their homes, where we can meet on a personal basis people from any city and country in the world just by going to a bridge club or tournament!

It's hard to believe that bridge can do so many good things for us. It's not immoral, fattening or illegal. Doctors agree that the brain needs daily exercise just like the rest of the body. The game begets brilliance; creates challenge; and fosters loyalty, truth, honesty, kindness and a host of other virtues.

Bridge Trivia

The first President of the United States, George Washington, enjoyed Bridge. In fact, he enjoyed small wagers on the game, apparently to make it more exciting

Then in 1925, the American multi-millionaire Harold Vanderbilt, introduced exciting scoring bonuses in Bridge (while on a cruise ship). With this change, auction Bridge became known as "contract bridge".

In 1931, Ely Culbertson wrote the number one and two book seller of any book, titled The Culbertson Summary and the Blue Book.

Early accounts indicate that in 1903, some of the British civil servants stationed in India created a method of bidding the trump suit, coined "auction bridge." A later account dates auction bridge back to 1894, with Turkish or Russian origin from Plevna during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878.

One Session

Play Hands – Play Hands – Play Hands

Would you like the opportunity to, not only play hands but have each hand replayed and critiqued so you have a complete understanding to how the hand should be played and bid.

This allows you the opportunity to rectify your possible errors in a safe playing environment and also have a lot of fun in the process.

You get to play every hand – how much fun is that?

You do not need a partner.

All the hands will be played in Shark Bridge and I would like you to come into the session via Zoom. You will need the free version of Zoom. If you don't have it let me know and I will help you. You do not need Shark Bridge.

Location: Online

Date: Friday September 24th.

Time: 9:30 – 11:30 Pacific Standard Time

Cost: \$15.00 – payment by e-transfer, cheque or cash.

Contact: Diana Knowles – dknowles9@icloud.com or call my landline – 250 491 4704





BEGINNER BRIDGE LESSONS ON LINE

Now is your opportunity to not only enhance your brain cells with a great new learning experience but also join a group of like-minded individuals in learning the amazing game of Bridge.

The lessons are meant for brand new players as well as those who played in the distant past.

A partner is not required, simply enjoy the joy of learning. Once you have completed the lessons, I will arrange a mentor for you to practice your new skills online. You will have to download the free version of Zoom and I will walk you through the learning process prior to the start of your lessons.

Space is limited so please register early.

A few comments by recent attendees: *My motivation for taking the beginners bridge lessons was to give my brain a much needed workout and what a workout it gets! I had no idea what I was getting myself into but in a good way. Following the lessons, you have the opportunity to attend fun bridge Monday If you are looking for a challenge and are interested in meeting new friends this is the perfect start. Lynn C.*

Diana's lessons gave me a good grounding in the basics of bridge. Now I play regularly- it's great for mental stimulation as you never stop learning. There's a thriving bridge community in Kelowna and I've met lots of new people and made some great friends. Wendy W.

Fitness classes look after my physical health. Bridge takes care of my mental and social health. I took the beginner lessons and have enjoyed the challenge of the play and the camaraderie of the bridge clubs ever since. Pat B.

Dates: September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 2, 9 & 16th.

Time: 10:00 – 12:00 - Pacific Standard Time

Location: Online

For information contact: Diana Knowles - 250-491-4704 – land line.

Email: dknowles9@icloud.com

Cost: \$75.00 + \$20.00 + postage, manual. The manual is very much recommended but not required. Payment by e-transfer, cheque or cash.

Single Session

Throw-in Plays

Are you finding finesses that work less than 50% of the time frustrating?

Would you like a solution, that in many situations, eliminates the need to finesse?

Situations like: Dummy N. - AKJ – a 50-50 chance with a finesse, however, if you can force East to lead the suit the percentage of winning three tricks is 100%.

Or everyone's favorite: Dummy J76 – Declarer Q43. If you have to play the suit chances are you will lose all three tricks, however, if you can force the either opponent to lead the suit, you will always win a trick.

A real headache situation: Dummy N 876 – Declarer K43 – if you play the suit you will only make the K if East holds the ace, however, if you can force West to play the suit it will not matter who holds the ace, you will always make the king, a 100% play.

All this and much, much more. You do not need a partner.

An added bonus: You will play up to 10 hands in the lesson, (as time permits). All the hands and commentary are thanks to Eddie Kantar.

Date: Wednesday, September 29.

Time: 9:30 – 11:30 Pacific Standard Time

Location: Online – you will need to have the free version of Zoom. Let me know if you don't have it.

Cost: \$15.00 – payment by e-transfer, cheque or cash.

Contact: Diana Knowles – dknowles9@icloud.com or phone my land line 250 491 4704.

The lesson will be held on Zoom, Power Point and Shark Bridge. Shark is where you will play the hands. Participants do not need Power Point or Shark Bridge, only Zoom.

If you have not used Zoom and Shark let me know and I will hold a free practice session for you.

I have several books for sale from new to advanced players. They are discounted 10% and I look after the taxes. What could be better? For pick up I could meet you at the front door of the club, 380 Leathead Rd. Another great bonus: I have a few Aloe Vera plants looking for homes. If you are looking for a great plant to go along with your book, I am happy to give you one, while supplies last.

FOR NEWER AND ADVANCED NEWER PLAYERS

1. **Barbara Seagram's - Beginning Bridge** - This books takes players from bidding right up to several more advanced techniques like, the takeout double, bidding bid hands, and pre-emptive bidding. A fantastic book. \$20.00
2. **Barbara Seagram's Cheat Sheet** - A super handy reference that most newer players can use at the table. \$10.00
3. **Barbara Seagram's Cheat Sheet** – on Doubles
4. **Barbara Seagram's** – Barbara's new book, Barbara's Bridge Tips – this book will help you move your game to the next level. The tips cover all aspect of bridge, bidding, play and defence. One copy only. \$23.00
5. **Jeff Bayone - A Taste of Bridge** - Jeff owns the largest bridge club in NA and created this book for beginning players. A great book. \$20.00
6. **Patty Tucker - Defense Carding & Opening Leads** - A must for players struggling with their opening leads, signals, count, Rule of 11, as well as 2nd and 3rd hand play. Numerous hands to play. \$15.00 One copy only
7. **David Glandorf** – Bidding Basics – A fantastic book for those struggling with their bidding and responses. \$22.00.

INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED PLAYERS

8. **Patty Tucker - After a Notrump Opening** - Patty's book not only teaches Stayman & Jacoby but several additional conventions, Texas transfers, Smolen, four suit transfers, 3 level responses to 1NT openers, 3 spades over 2NT and Lebensohl. \$18.00
9. **Audrey Grant - Five Steps to Simplify the Endplay** - this little book simplifies the mysteries of the end play and will greatly improve your playing skills. \$8.00
10. **Joan Anderson - Hands on Weak Two Bids** - Joan's book was the ABTA (American Bridge Teachers Association) book of the year in 2008. It teaches you a disciplined approach to opening weak two bids in all four seats. \$12.00
11. **David Bird & Larry Cohen - On The Other Hand - This** amazing book has 100 pairs of deals that look very similar; however, different techniques are required for each deal. Don't go onto the next deal until you have mastered the why's of the two you are studying. \$22.00
12. **Eddie Kantar Teaches Advanced Bridge Defense** - Take your defence to another level with this book. One copy only. \$28.00
13. **Barry Rigal - Step-by-Step Deceptive Declarer Play** - Barry teaches everything you always wanted to know about deception. \$15.00. One copy only.
14. **David Bird** – Bridge Entry Techniques. The book is packed with techniques and tips on the subject of entry management, both for declarer and defender. A clear understanding is vital when dummy tables and you stop to make your plan. \$23.00. One copy.
15. **Marty Bergen** – 10-time National Champion, Bergen's Bevy of Bridge Secrets. One Autographed copy of many of his numerous secrets to winning bridge. \$15.00.
16. **Marty Bergen** – Better Slam Bidding with Bergen. \$9.00. Autographed.
17. **Marty Bergen** – Negative Doubles. \$10.00. Autographed.

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My apologies if you receive the newsletter twice. You are on two different lists.