

Diana's Fun With Bridge

December, 2023.

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**A very, very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
May all your bridge games be fun, challenging and wonderful learning experiences.**

A huge thank you to the Board, Directors and all the wonderful helpers. Without all of you we would not have a club.

Without Kelly stepping up when Covid hit and organizing our online games and directors we would not be in the financial position we are in today.

I want to welcome our two new board members, Paul Jackson and Dawn Hill.

Paul has already put together our winter newsletter and Dawn is the inspiration for making certain the newer players feel confident playing in our open party game by introducing several fun party hands to the game.

Due to health reasons Charlene Hodgson has had to step down from the board. Charlene, you will be greatly missed on the board and at the table. Our hope is you will be returning to the club before much longer.

Thank you for all you have done Charlene. You are one of the most amazing persons I have ever had the honor of knowing.

Thanks to Peggy Fekete's teaching of a new class of beginners we now have several new very keen members to the club.

Peggy, Gerald Paul and myself are mentoring these new keeners and any other newer players who feel the need of some extra tutoring every Thursday separate from Wendy's 0-199 game. The last session for the year is over, however, we expect to start up again in early January. Let me know if you would like to join in.

Don't Forget – As declarer, when you can take a trick with one of equal honors, take the trick with the higher equal. It is far more deceptive.

E.g., playing in NT w/♠KQx. If a low ♠ is led and RHO plays the J and assuming you wish to take the trick play the K. West may assume partner has the Q as she would play the J from QJ.

Do the same w/AQJ. If a low card is played and RHO plays the 10 play the Q. LHO will probably assume her partner has the J as she would play the 10 from J10.



Is Bridge Really Difficult

If you were complaining to a non-bridge player about how difficult the game of bridge was and you told them that there were only 15 words in the bridge vocabulary do you think they may think you are a bit of a dunce or a complainer?

Those 15 words are: pass, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, spades, hearts, diamonds, clubs, double, redouble and notrump.



“It is important to understand why we learn conventions. They are tools to help us better communicate with partner. But we must become a craftsman and learn to use our tools effectively. Until we do, we will not be able to get the most out of them.

The process of learning to use a new convention can be a difficult one. We will often take one step back (make mistakes or have bidding mix-ups) in an effort to move forward. It is important for us to recognize this and realize that adopting a new convention and learning to use it effectively is a long-term investment in improving our game.”

— Robert S. Todd

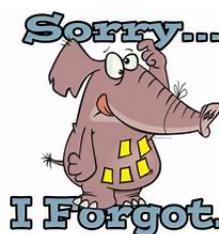


Sam says:

My favorite chuckle is when the opponent under-leads his ace in a suit contract, right into my singleton king

Don't Forget

When giving partner a ruff, the card you lead is **Suit Preference Signal** telling partner which suit to return after the ruff.



The following bids are where I find newer players resisting the most. I have heard almost every excuse in the book for not using them.

Why? I have no idea. They are extremely simple and convey a ton of information with responder's single bid. Once you use one of them opener knows exactly what you, as responder, hold. They are:

If partner opens a major and you hold two-card support with 6-9 HCP your bid is 1NT. That is unless partner opened 1♥ and you held 4♠, then, of course, you would respond 1♠.

This is a very precise bid and tells partner exactly what you hold. E.g.,

♠AJ432	♠109
♥KQ4	♥J32
♦A32	♦QJ54
♣983	♣AJ107

If partner opens major and you hold two-card support and 10-12 HCP your bid is 2NT. Unless you hold a five-card suit of your own. If partner had opened 1♥ and you held a four-card ♠ suit, you of course, would bid 1♠.

This is a very precise bid and tells partner exactly what you hold. E.g.,

♠AJ432	♠Q9
♥KQ4	♥J32
♦A32	♦OJ54



If partner opens a minor and you hold 6-9 HCP and no four card major your bid is 1NT.

♠AJ43	♠Q109
♥KQ4	♥1032
♦A32	♦Q54
♣983	♣AJ107

If partner opens a minor and you hold 10-12 HCP and no four card major your bid is 2NT.

This is a very precise bid and tells partner exactly what you hold. E.g.,

♠AJ43	♠Q109
♥KQ4	♥J32
♦A32	♦QJ54
♣983	♣AJ107

Partner opens a minor and you hold 13-15 HCP and no four card major your bid is 3NT.

This is a very precise bid and tells partner exactly what you hold. E.g.,

♠AJ43	♠Q109
♥KQ4	♥J32
♦A32	♦KQJ54
♣983	♣AJ107

When you resist using these responses you must always remember:

Bidding is a conversation between you and your partner. The more precise your bidding is the more accurate will be your contracts.

One advantage of bad bidding is that you get practice at playing atrocious contracts.
Alfred Sheinwold

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9. When it comes to who recommended you eg., **Teacher, enter Diana Knowles and when asked for my information, enter my ACBL number, 2344149.**
10. If you are a student of Peggy's please contact her for her ACBL number and join with her name and number.

That's all there is to it, you will receive a free membership for 120 days. You will also receive weekly bridge tips, have digital access to the Bridge Bulletin with all its great information for players. Once you have the guest membership you will receive special pricing of \$29.00 for a regular membership after your 120 has expired. To receive this, you must be a guest member first. As well, you can earn up to 20 MP under the guest membership.

Call me if you have any difficulties.
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MAKING A PLAN

Suit Contract

Don't play to the first trick too quickly. **STOP** and think when dummy comes down. **LOOK** ahead and plan your play to at least the next few tricks.

Concentrate on the opening lead for a few seconds. Decide what it tells you about the leader's length or strength in that suit.

Mentally review the bidding. If one of your opponents has bid, try to come up with a general picture of his point-count and his length in the suit bid.

For most suit contracts, your **PLAN** should be:

1 - Count your losers. Which ones can be disposed of or turned into winners (by trumping, finessing or discarding them on a side suit).

2 - Look at each suit and estimate how many tricks it offers -- top tricks and tricks that will be good after you establish the suit.

3 - If your plan calls for trumping one or more of your losers in the short-trump hand (usually dummy), do that before you lead trumps -- even if you have to give up tricks to set up the trumping position.

4 - Next, lead trumps, counting as the opponents follow to each trick. Pulling trumps will usually be your best plan if you have good honor strength and/or length in one or more of the outside suits.

5 - After you've collected all the opponents' trumps, lead your longest side suit. Give up your losers early.

6 - Last, cash honors in your short suits. Continued page 8.

TIPS

You cannot defend properly unless you remember the bidding.

You cannot defend properly if you make faces or show other signs of disapproval.

You cannot defend or play properly unless you count.

If partner makes a nice play please compliment her/him.

Consider your opening lead. The fate of many contracts is determined by that one card. Use the bidding as a guide.

Take your time before playing third hand to the first trick it is often times the most important play you will make in the entire hand.

Kantor bridge tips



For your fun Real Bridge has offered these great hands for you to figure out which card or cards are missing. The answers are not given. Discuss with your partners if you don't know the answer. Have Fun.

West and East each dropped a card.
Can you find the missing cards?

RealBridge

West and East each dropped a card.
Can you find the missing cards?

RealBridge

West and East each dropped a card.
Can you find the missing cards?

RealBridge

Don't Forget

I hold a Fun Game Friday mornings 9:00 a.m. – 11:a.m. PST for newer and advancing players on Real Bridge.

You can ask questions on your bidding and play. Refer to your notes and generally have a great time. A partner is not required, there will always be a one for you.

Real Bridge is almost like face to face bridge in that you can see and talk to your partner and the opponents.

Call me: Diana 250-491-4704, land line or email dknowles9@icloud.com Cell: 778 214 5212

A great time is guaranteed.

Mini-McKenney Awards

This award is for the accumulation of all points won during a calendar year and includes club points as well as tournament points. The Mini-McKenney competition is divided into several categories: from Rookie (0/5 MPs) through to over 10,000 MPs in District 19. Showing are the Let's Play Bridge Club members.

0/5 points

Charles Lund

50/100 points

Paul Jackson
Amber Garon

300/500 points

Lorraine Cameron

1500/2500 points

Wayne Stann

2500-3500 points

Kelly Meenagh

3500/5000 points

Aline Vance
Don Bell

District 19 Top Gold Point Winners

Ted Rich 906.73 Gold
Diana Knowles 768.28 Gold
Maureen Barnes 767.90 Gold
Aline Vance 743.10 Gold
Kelly Meeghan 725.11 Gold
Al Edwards 722.01 Gold
Roberta Cronquist 632.21 Gold
Bill Voth 404.02 Gold
Jen Edwards 393.68 Gold

Ace Of Club Winners

This award is given to recognize player's achievement at the club level in District 19. All points won at the club level are counted in this contest with the exception of those won in STaCs. There are several categories: from Rookie (0-5MP's) through to over 10,000 MP's. Showing are the Let's Play Bridge Club members only.

0/5 points

Charles Lund

100/200 points

Paul Jackson

500/1000 points

Danny Zaitoff

Ace Of Clubs Virtual

0/5 Points

Sue Andres
Charles Lund

5/20 Points

Karen Naumann

300/500 Points

Lorraine Cameron

1000/1500 Points

Andrea Johnson

1500/2500 Points

Wayne Stann
Chilton Yang
Jane Wilkinson
Elaine Hansen-Hill

2500/3500 Points

Kelly Meenagh
Roberta Cronquist

3500/5000 Points

Al Edwards
Aline Vance
Don Bell
Maureen Barnes
Ted Rich

THURSDAY MENTORING SESSIONS

The Let's Play Bridge Club is offering mentoring sessions for newer and upcoming players, or players feeling a little rusty.

Mentoring will restart in the new year, Thursday, January 4, 2024, from 12:30-3:30 and be held for an indefinite period of time. Cost is \$5.00.

Location: Kelowna Senior Citizen's Society, 1353 Richter Street.

If you plan to attend please try to let me know so we have enough tables set up.

Diana: 250 491 4704 land line
Email: dknowles9@icloud.com

I will be mentoring during January and giving a short lesson prior to the session.

We have several other great mentors lined up for the following months.



LESSONS

Stayman & Jacoby Transfers: The two conventions that are an absolute must for modern bridge players. One session only.

Date: Monday, January 15, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. PST
Cost: \$15.00

Doubles: Doubles cause a lot of confusion in bridge due to the fact there is such a multitude of them.

My goal is to simplify the subject so you gain a solid foundation in five of the most common doubles. By the end of the four lessons your comfort level using these wonderful tools will have increased substantially and your winning scores will show the results of your efforts.

The lessons will cover: Negative Doubles, Penalty Doubles, Takeout Doubles, Lead Directing Doubles and Redoubles.

Dates: Monday, February 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. PST
Cost: \$60.00

March: The start of a series of single sessions, **CONVENTIONS** – Puppet Stayman will be the first.

April: Expect the always fun series on **PREEMPTS** all the way from 2, 3, 4 and 5 level openings and overcalls.

You will have the opportunity to play numerous hands. A partner is not required.

The free version of Zoom is required.

Let me know if you have never used Zoom and I will help you.

Contact: Diana Knowles – 250 491 4704 (land line)
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Cell: 778 214 5212

Stocking Stuffers



All books are discounted 10% or more and I pay the tax. Postage applies if mailed.

Bridge Supplies

Plastic playing cards at \$3.50 per deck.

Plastic playing cards. Case of 12 - \$43.00.

Two sets of coloured boards – 4 to a set - \$12.00 per set of four each with new or barely used cards.

Patty Tucker – Conventions 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. \$21.95. 2 copies. **NOW \$17.50**

Bridge Entry Techniques – David Bird - \$24.95. 2 copies. **NOW \$19.95** There are 69 instructive techniques from declares point of view on creating entries, destroying entries, finesse entries, sacrifice entries, ducking, hold up, blocking, unblocking, overtaking, and forcing the defenders to assist you. The second part deals with the defenders using similar techniques on declarers. A must for those wanting to improve their declarer play.

Planning No Trump Contracts – David Bird & Tom Bourke - \$12.95 now **\$10.35**. This is a small book of problems that will test your knowledge of the basic principals of playing notrump contracts.

Tricks with Trumps – David Bird & Marc Smith - \$9.95 **NOW \$8.00**

Deceptive Declarer Play – Barry Rigal - \$15.00

Playing Safely – David Bird \$9.00

Introduction to Defence – Edie Kantor \$ 14.40

25% DISCOUNT

FOR NEWER AND ADVANCED NEWER PLAYERS

Barbara Seagram's Beginning Bridge - \$21.95 **NOW \$16.45** – Barbara, in this amazing book, takes players from a beginning player right up to an advancing newer player. The first 8 chapters deal with bidding and play and then take you into takeout doubles, bidding big hands and preemptive bidding. An absolute must for players wanting to hone up their bidding and playing skills.

I also have one slightly water damaged book for \$14.00.

Jeff Bayone - A Taste of Bridge - Jeff owns the largest bridge club in NA and created this book for beginning players. This is a fantastic book for new players and players wanting to reinforce their playing and bidding skills. \$23.95 **NOW \$17.95**

30% DISCOUNT

Better Slam Bidding With Bergen - \$11.95 - 10 times world champion. **NOW \$8.35**

Negative Doubles – Marty Bergen - \$11.95 - 10 times world champion. **NOW \$8.35**

Mastering Weak 2-Bids – Marty Berger Cheat Sheet – \$9.95 – **NOW \$7.00**

NO DISCOUNT

Barbara Seagram's Cheat Sheet - A super handy reference that most newer players can use at the table. \$10.00 no discount.

Barbara Seagram's Cheat Sheet on 2/1 - \$12.00. No discount

Barbara Seagram's Cheat Sheet on Defence - \$12.00. No discount

Barbara Seagram's Cheat Sheet on Conventions - \$12.00. No discount

PLAN FOR NO TRUMP

(continued from p. 4.)

1 - Count

your winners and potential winners. If you don't have enough top tricks to make your contract, decide which suit offers you the best chance of creating more winners.

2 - Lead that suit first (normally it will be longest side suit). Give up the tricks you have to lose early.

3 - Keep leading the suit until you've established your tricks (count the defenders' cards as you go), then cash your winners in the suit.

When you move to a different suit, start counting again.

4 - Last, cash honors in your short suits.





Give The Gift Of Learning

Are you looking for more of a personal assist to your game?

Put together a table of four for an online private session. I will use my teacher's app, Shark Consul, for your session. You will need the free version of Zoom. If there are only 2 or 3 players the Shark robots are far superior to other robots.

Cost: \$100.00 flat fee.

Length of session: Two hours

Call: Diana Knowles 250 491 4704 – land line, to arrange a session or email me at: dknowles9@icloud.com

Cell: 778 214 5212

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