

Diana's Fun With Bridge

March – April 2020



I hope this newsletter finds you well and playing bridge with BBO.

If you are looking for a partner or team and do not have a players contact information please let me know and I, with their permission, will send it to you if I have it. Wendy Webb has put together a great presentation on how to access BBO with or without a partner. As well it is great if four of you wish to create a table. Instruction on pages 7, 8 & 9.

Apologies: I had a Facebook page almost completed several days ago for you. The one glitch concerned my birthday which showed up when I hovered over my picture. I followed the instructions on how to fix the problem but nothing worked. Now comes **the big mistake**. I changed my birthday to 01, 01, 2020 and immediately was locked out.

I have contacted Facebook to have the lock removed but as they are so busy, it may take a bit of time.

My March beginner's class was full and naturally had to be cancelled. Just as soon as we are back to normal it will resume. Most of the content will be new, with more concentration on bidding as well as play.

I am spending part of this time putting together some new and great lessons for you.

Level 1 Defence will be a repeat

Level 1 Play of the Hand will be a repeat.

Level 2 Defence new, will cover many topics such as: Unblocking, covering an honor with an honor, mastering signals, attacking dummy's entries, trump promotion plays, mastering the hold up play. The final lesson will be a fun class on deception.

Level 2 Play of the Hand new. Each lesson will cover only one subject. Possible subjects are: dummy reversal, throw in plays, squeezes, full and partial cross ruffs, falsecarding. Let me know what you would like. Each lesson may also contain a bit of deception for added fun.

Slams – two informative lessons on how and when to bid your slams.

Leads are a problem for many players, whether new or experienced so I would like cover a bit on the subject.

Leads Against No Trump

One of the most popular choices for leading against a notrump contract is to lead the fourth highest from your longest and strongest suit.

This is good advice, but like most good advice, it works best if used at the right time and place.

When defending against a notrump contract, it is often a good idea to try to develop the longest suit in the defenders' combined hands.

You are on lead against a notrump contract.

♠ 109762

♥ 86

♦ A943

♣ KQ

- 1) The contract is 3NT and your partner overcalled in hearts during the auction.
- 2) The contract is 1NT with no bidding from your side.
- 3) The contract is 3NT after one of the opponents opened the bidding 1♠.
- 4) The contract is 6NT.

1. ♥ 8 – start to show your doubleton.
2. ♠ 6 – 4th highest from your longest and strongest.
3. ♦ 3 – 4th highest from your longest and strongest, excluding opponents bid suit.
- 4 ♣ King – if the opponents ducks then play your ace of diamonds.

b. Leading the Top of a Sequence

If your partner hasn't bid and you have no information about the opponents' suits, you choose your longest suit.

If this suit has a three-card or longer sequence, lead the top card. A sequence has wonderful potential to promote winners, (especially in NT).

♥ 862
♥ KQJ9 ♥ 43
♥ A105

What are the Ace of Clubs and Mini McKenney?

The Ace of Clubs shows the top ten masterpoint winners of players who participate in sanctioned club games.

The Mini McKenney shows the top ten masterpoint winners of players who participate in sanctioned club games as well as any tournaments in NA.

Congratulations to our February winners.

Milestones From 0 – 200

<u>A of ♣</u>	<u>MiniMcKenney</u>
<u>0-5</u>	<u>0-5</u>
4 – Pat Bechard	7 – Pat Bechard
8 – James Hoovy	8 – James Hooley

<u>5-20</u>	<u>5-20</u>
2 – Pirjo Holt	1 – Pirjo Holt
3 – Wendy Webb	2 – Wendy Web
4 – Mike Kwasnek	4 – MikeK

<u>20-50</u>	<u>20-50</u>
3 – Jerry Jankowski	2 – Jerry J
4 – Alisan Sawyer	4 – Allisan S
<u>50-100</u>	<u>50-100</u>

Congratulations to our March winners.

<u>0-5</u>	<u>0-5</u>
2 – David Cameron	1 – David C
4 – Dawn Hill	4 – Dawn Hill
9 – Adele Joorisity	9 Adele J

<u>0-20</u>	<u>0-20</u>
2 - Lorraine Cameron	3 – Lorraine C
3 – Charlene Hodgson	7 Charlene H
5 – Cecilla Buckley	10 Cecilla B

<u>20-50</u>	<u>20-50</u>
5 – Pat Bechard	9- Pat Bechard

<u>50-100</u>	<u>50-100</u>
6 – Wendy Webb	3 – Wendy W
10 – Pirjo Holt	

<u>100-200</u>	<u>100-200</u>
4 - Ellen Loucks	5 - Ellen L
8 – Carol Drury	10 Elaine Beyler

You can see that if West leads a low card, declarer would win a trick with the ♥10 since partner has no high cards in the suit.

You should lead the top card of the sequence, the ♥K, rather than the ♥Q or ♥J. While it does not make any difference to you, remember you are trying to give partner information through the specific cards that you play. By leading the top of touching honors, you tell partner you do not have the next higher-ranking card but you do have the next lower-ranking card.

If you play the queen you deny the king and if you play the jack you deny the king and queen.

Holding KQJ lead the king, if you lead the Q you deny the K, if you lead the J you deny the K & Q.

Holding QJ98 – this is called a broken sequence as you are missing the ten. Lead the Q, if you lead the J you deny the Q. if you lead the 9 or 8 you deny holding any honours. That is called a ‘top of nothing lead,’ meaning you have no interest in the suit.

Holding J109, lead the J, if you lead the 10 you deny the J. if you lead the 9 that is top of nothing.

Interior Sequence.

What is an interior sequence?

When you hold three honours with the lower two touching (including the ‘10’), you should lead the higher of the touching cards – i.e. the top of the ‘interior’ sequence. eg. KJ1052; AQJ54

♥ 86
♥ KJ1075 ♥ A43
 ♥ Q92

This time West holds what is called an interior sequence, a sequence of two or more cards with a higher-ranking card in the suit.

West does not want to lead a low card when holding three high cards for the reasons we have seen earlier.

Leading the ♥K, however, does not seem to be the answer. Instead, declarer leads the top of touching cards (sequence), the ♥J. How can East help partner take all of the tricks in the suit once the ♥J is led?

East can win the trick with the ♥A and lead the suit back, trapping declarer’s ♥Q.

How does East know declarer has the ♥Q? (West has led the top of touching high cards.) East wins the first trick to prevent declarer from winning a trick with the queen.

Bridge Tips

Counting your points:
You hold a nice 13 HCP’s and a void. What is your void worth?

It can be worth a lot providing partner is holding no high card points in the suit.

However, now that void is partner’s suit.
What is it worth now?

ZERO – NOTHING –
NADA.

Tip from Larry Cohen

It is dangerous to count extra points for short or long suits before the bidding starts.

If partner bids your short suit, that reduces, not increases, the value of your hand. If one of the opponents bids your long suit, that decreases, not increases, the value of your hand. If you let the bidding develop, you will see whether your long or short suits are working for or against you.

♥ 642
♥ K8 ♥ AQ973
♥ J105

You are defending a 3NT and partner in the course of bidding bid hearts.

What is your lead and why do you lead it?

♥K – from a doubleton. If you lead low partner wins and returns a heart, however, you can't return the suit.

♥ K42
♥ J104 ♥ AQ973
♥ 86

You are defending a 3NT and partner in the course of bidding bid hearts.

What is your lead and why do you lead it?

♥J – from a touching sequence. In the above case you have trapped declarers king and will make five heart tricks.

♥ 53
♥ K94 ♥ AJ1072
♥ Q86

You are defending a 3NT and partner in the course of bidding bid hearts.

What is your lead and why do you lead it?

♥4 – You hold three hearts with an honor – play the four which tells partner you hold an honor. Partner wins the ace, plays the jack and now declarers queen is trapped.

Leading the correct card in your long suit against NT.

♦ 1084
♦ KJ752 ♦ A6
♦ Q93

Leading a Low Card

When you look at your longest suit, there may not be a sequence although the suit may contain one or two honors. You likely will need some help from partner to establish winners in the suit, so lead a low card, the 5, fourth highest from your longest and strongest, over to partner's hoped-for high card(s). East wins the first trick with the ♦A and leads a diamond back, trapping declarer's ♦Q.

What would happen if you started by leading the ♦K instead? Declarer would get a trick with the ♦Q.

QUIZ

1. In a competitive auction how high should you bid with 8 trump.

A. You should go to the two level in a competitive auction.

2. In a competitive auction how high should you bid with 9 trump?

A. In a competitive auction with 9 trump you should compete to the three level.

3. In a competitive auction how high should you bid with 10 trump?

A. With 10 trump you can compete to the 4 level.

TIPS

Don't lead unsupported aces (Ax, Axx, Axxx) unless it's the suit partner has bid.

Remember: Aces are meant to take kings, kings are meant to take queens.

Use defensive signals to help partner during the play:

Always search for a major-suit fit if one is possible, even if you've already found a fit in a minor suit. If you have a 4-card major you can show at the one-level, always bid it.

♦ 1084
 ♦ KJ752 ♦ 63
 ♦ AQ9

Leading a Low Card

Leading a low diamond does not look like such a good idea since declarer can win the first trick with the ♦9. If partner can get the lead, however, partner can lead a diamond through declarer's ♦A and ♦Q. How many tricks do the defenders take in the diamond suit? Three.

Even though West 'sacrifices' a trick by leading the suit initially, the defenders are still rewarded by establishing winners in their long suit.

♦ 1084
 ♦ AK752 ♦ Q3
 ♦ J96

Let's see why you want to lead a low card when holding both the ace and the king. What happens if West leads a high diamond first?

The suit is blocked. In this situation lead a low card so if partner only holds two cards in the suit, he will have a card left to return.

	Dummy	
	A2	
You		Partner
Q763		K854
	Declarer	
	J109	

You are on lead your suit against a notrump contract. Which is the best card to lead? How many tricks can your side develop from the suit? What must the defenders do to ensure that they take all of the tricks they have coming?

Lead 3 and you can take three tricks.

Conclusion

When you lead partner's suit, choose the top of a doubleton or the top of touching honors. Otherwise lead low from three or more cards holding an honor.

Holding three cards without an honor lead the middle card. When playing the suit, the next time play your high card and finally your lowest card. This is called MUD – middle, up, down. E.g. 962 – lead the 6.

When leading your long suit against a notrump contract, lead a low card (fourth highest) if you do not have a three-card sequence or a broken or interior sequence. Or partner has not bid

How partners may feel at times.



PLEASE – PLEASE – PLEASE

When partner bids a suit and you are on lead, lead their suit unless you have a very good reason not to.

This is an error so many players make. Partner has bid and their partner leads a different suit. This is how your partner feels.



You under-led your ace in a suit contract and the opponents made their singleton king. Giving you a bottom score and the opponents a top score. Your partner feels:



You have paid attention to the bidding, watched and paid attention to partners signals, counted the cards as they were played and received a top board. This is how you have made your partner feel.

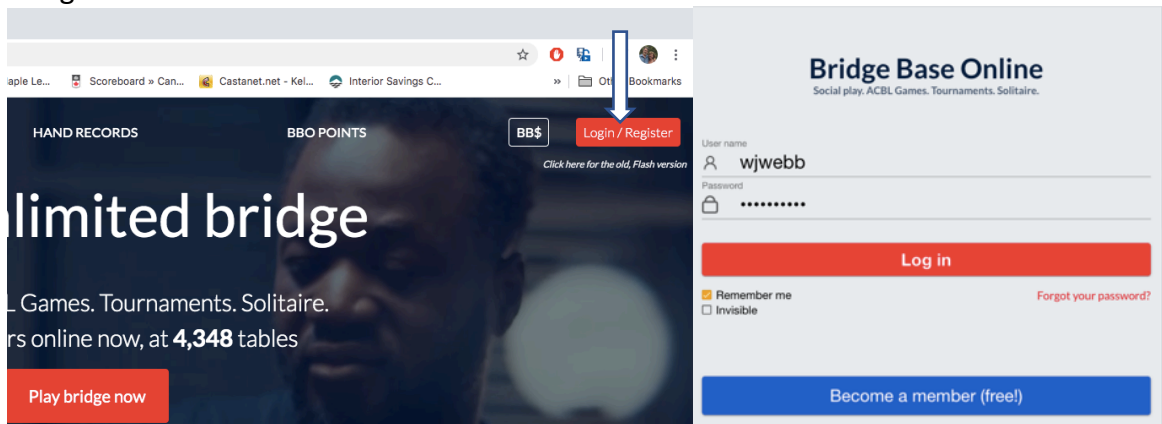


If you do not wish to receive this newsletter please click the ‘forward’ key and say to please delete my name from the list.

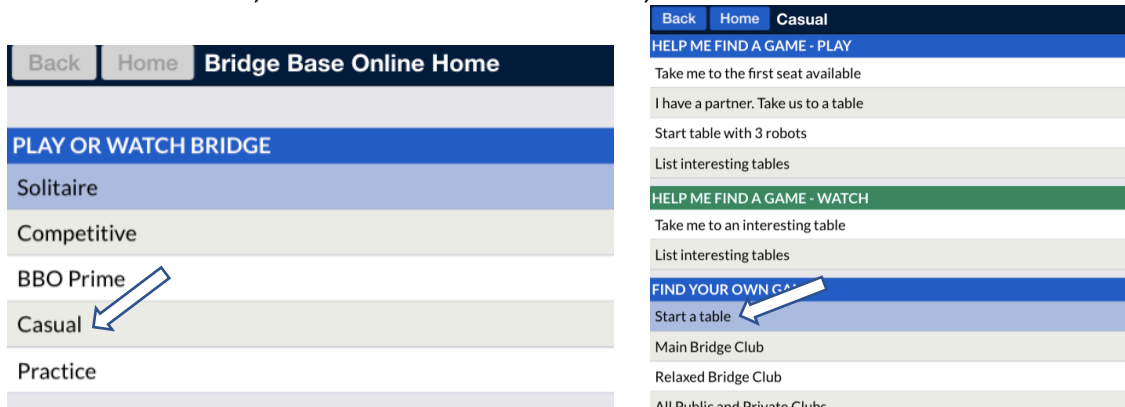
My apologies if you receive the newsletter twice. You are on two different lists.

Set up an online bridge date!

1. Go to www.bridgebase.com, register for a free account and log in. Choose a simple user name. If you are hosting a table, entering long strange names is a slow chore and it is very easy to make a mistake. BBO is free to play and while not as good as being with your friends, it's still fun and better than no bridge!

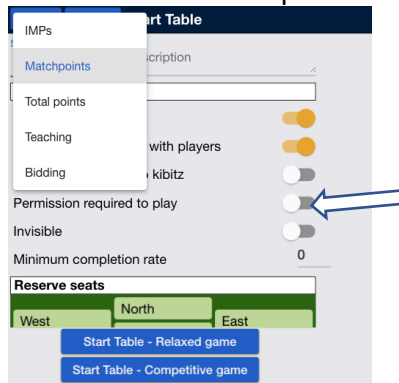


2. On the next screen, click on 'Casual'. Next screen, click on 'Start a table'.

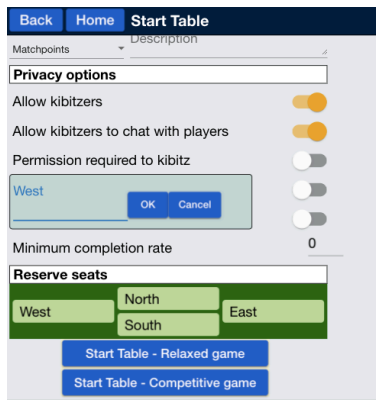


3. Choose your options. Newer players may use Matchpoints as that is what they're used to playing, but most intermediate and advanced players play IMPs, which reward risk much more than MPs. In tournaments at least half of the games are team games with IMP scoring. It is better to train in the same scoring system that is used in tournaments.

Select 'Permission required to play' so random people can't join your table.



4. Enter the user names of the people that are playing by clicking on the different positions on the table.



Click on 'Start Table-Relaxed game'. When your playing partners log in, they will get an invitation to join the table. When everyone is there, the game starts and you can play as long as you like.

5. Your name will be highlighted when it is your turn to bid or play. Normally, you can only see your own cards (plus your partner's if your side is playing the hand). I chose the option to watch a game to get the shot below, so all hands are visible



Click on the blue tab and choose 'Table' so you can chat to the other players.

Choose the 'History' tab on the right of the screen to see the boards that you've played.

1. BBO will give warnings for slow play then it will disconnect you! If you are hosting a table, the disconnected player will have a difficult time to reconnect. The easiest way is for the host to close the table and reopen it. For all players, BBO can sometimes be slow to connect. It could be BBO or your computer/bandwidth. Just be patient after clicking on a selection as there may be a delay.
2. For new BBO players it is better to play with people that you know. However, if you only have 10 minutes to kill, you can play a hand or two and play with strangers just by:
 - 1) Selecting **Casual**
 - 2) Selecting **Take me to the first seat available**

Most players are decent and polite, but....
There are other minor things, but everyone will need to discover them on their own. Experiment with the different options and menus and have fun! If you have any questions, feel free to email or text me. Wendy
778-363-6267 or wawebb84@gmail.com.