



# BARBARA & ALEX'S NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2016

BARBARA SEAGRAM  
BRIDGE  
416-487-8321  
barbaraseagram@gmail.com

barbaraseagram@gmail.com www.barbaraseagram.com

LOCATION OF CLASSES: 2737 BAYVIEW AVE (just S of 401)  
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### MINI-SEMINARS WITH BARBARA SEAGRAM

2737 BAYVIEW AVE 9.30-11.30 am  
PRE-REGISTER: 416-487-8321 or email  
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\$20.00 in advance or \$25.00 at door

Thu October 13 @ 9.30 am  
JUDGEMENT AT BRIDGE

TUES NOVEMBER 29 @ 9.30 am  
NOTE: TUESDAY THIS ONE TIME  
Thu December 8 @ 9.30 am JACOBY  
2NT & SPLINTERS

Call Barbara to register 416-487-8321  
Mail cheques to Barbara Seagram.



**TWO OVER ONE CHEAT SHEET**  
At the club or order by emailing Barbara

### DEFENCE: THE MOST EXCITING PART OF THE GAME

**DEFENDERS' BOOT CAMP!!  
THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER**

9.30 am - 3.30 pm

**INSTRUCTOR: BARBARA  
SEAGRAM**

2737 BAYVIEW AVE:  
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Bring a sandwich. There will be  
a break for lunch. COST:  
\$85.00 if registered and paid  
by AUGUST 15th. \$95.00  
after August 15th. NOTES  
ALL INCLUDED.

**REGISTER NOW. SPACE  
LIMITED.**

### FALL BRIDGE AT THE BRIARS

**OCTOBER 14-16, 2016**

with Barbara Seagram & Alex Kornel

FALL BRIARS: OCTOBER 14-16, 2016

\$529.00 per person (dbl occ.)

\$659.00 per person (sgl occ.)

if booked & paid by AUGUST 15<sup>th</sup>

After this date, add \$30.00 each

Wonderful food, lots of bridge tips, great  
bridge & fabulous ambiance. Wine & snacks  
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NOTE THAT WE ARE OFTEN SOLD  
OUT FOR THE BRIARS SO DO  
BOOK EARLY.

### BARBARA'S NEW BOOK ON TWO OVER ONE

Based on Barbara's course on the modern Two Over One system,  
this book simplifies it all and has quizzes to help you learn to play  
this and to understand what's going on when your opponents are  
playing this. \$19.95 + tax = \$20.00

### BARBARA'S NEWEST BOOK (HER 25<sup>th</sup> BOOK)



A brief summary of each of the FIRST 25  
conventions, together with example hands  
which can be dealt out and used to apply  
your new knowledge. Bridge teachers and  
students will find this book invaluable.

### CHEAT SHEETS

Barbara has 25 published books plus her text books but says that the best thing she has  
ever done is the cheat sheets. They are a comprehensive, very detailed summary of all  
the main facts, contained in a fold-out, laminated flyer which is a very easy reference at  
all times. Intermediate: All bidding, leads & play of hand. \$10.00 / Defence: Defensive  
signalling, leads & strategy. \$12.00/ Advanced: Most of the major conventions carefully  
outlined. \$12.00/ NEW Two Over One Cheat sheet. \$12.00 **BUY ALL 4 CHEAT  
SHEETS: \$40.00 TILL JULY 31st**

~~mistakes~~  
Mistakes  
are  
opportunities  
to learn.

"If you want to grow as a bridge player, a huge part of that process will be the experience of playing bridge. Be aware that all bridge players, up to and including world champions, make mistakes every time they play.

What is important about your inevitable errors is how you respond to them. If you allow your mistakes to deflate you, your progress will be delayed. If you vow to learn from your mistakes, you're on your way to success."



Sign on the wall at the Bridge Academy in Durham, NC. Author unknown. Great bridge club so stop in on your drive south!  
[www.bridgeacademync.com](http://www.bridgeacademync.com)

### CARDING/ SIGNALS/ DISCARDS/ LEADS

What do we lead when partner has bid a suit? We lead her suit. Unless she has opened 1C or 1D and we have something else that screams to be led, such as AKx of another suit (against a trump suit contract or KQJxx in another suit against NT). On the hand below, West has nothing better to lead so leads partner's suit.

If West had held the following cards in partner's suit against a NT contract (these are all different scenarios with the suggested lead in that suit underlined)

- K62
- Q83
- A952 bottom of something
- 952 top of nothing
- 93 top of nothing and always lead high-low when you have a doubleton.

So you see, it was only back in 1939 that we would lead the top of partner's bid suit. That is NOT the case now. We lead pretty much the same as what we would lead when leading partner's suit against a suit contract but we do not underlead an Ace on opening lead against a suit contract. Thus with A952, we would lead the Ace if partner bid the suit and we chose to lead that suit.

There is one exception to leading top of nothing and that is when partner has bid the suit and we have NOT raised her.

When we have 952 in partner's suit and we have raised partner's suit, we lead the 9. Partner will KNOW this cannot be a doubleton as we would never have raised her with a doubleton.

BUT when we have 952 in partner's suit and we have not raised, now we must lead a small one. It is more important for partner to know that we have 3 or more cards in her suit than for her to know whether we have an honour or not.

So with three or four small cards in partner's suit and you have NOT raised, lead small.

		A76	
		932	
		QJ8	
		QJ64	
9543			J82
<u>8</u> 4			QJ10765
K54			A7
10932			K7
E S W N		KQ10	
1H 1N P 3N		AK	
All Pass		109632	
		A85	

Opening lead: Heart 8.

Declarer now takes the time at trick one to make a plan. She counts her sure winners:

3 spade winners

2 heart winners

1 club winner

0 diamond winner (no ace, no winner)

South knows that she needs 3 more winners to make this contract. She determines that diamonds are her project suit. She wins the first trick with Heart King and leads a small diamond.

It is now that West has to be on his toes.

We have all heard of second hand low. BUT if West woodenly plays the Diamond 4, declarer plays the D Q from dummy and East is forced to win the Diamond Ace. That is East's hand entry GONE with the wind.

Now East can set up the Hearts (by leading another Heart. The Hearts will now be good but East has no entry)

It is mandatory that West hop up with the Diamond King and lead his final Heart. This will drive out declarer's last Heart stopper. Now South has to lead another Diamond. East will win with D Ace and now run his long Heart suit. EW scores 4 Heart winners and Diamond Ace and King. Down 2.

Now let's look at another hand:

		643			
		52			
		AJ10974			
		K6			
A72				KJ109	
974				AQ1063	
52				8	
J10843				Q72	
E	S	W	N	Q85	
1H	1N	2H	3N	KJ8	
All Pass				KQ63	
				A95	

West dutifully leads partner's suit. Top of Nothing because he has raised partner's Hearts. East KNOWS that West cannot have an honour or he would have led a small card (Bottom of Something). East wins H Ace. East knows that if she leads back a Heart, then South will win the H Jack and also the H King.

East also knows that West cannot have much in his hand at all. North and South have 24 HCP at least between them and East has 12 HCP. West is marked with approximately 4 HCP.

Pursuing Hearts is quite futile. Time to shift gears. East leads the Spade J (top of an interior sequence). If South covers, West wins and returns another Spade. If South does not cover, West encourages with Spade 7. East continues. If South ducks again, West must unblock the suit and play the Spade Ace and now lead back another Spade. East's King drops South's Queen and it is a happy day for EW. Down one!

East used the RULE OF 40 to determine how many points West could possibly hold. Add the number of points known in declarer and dummy and add your own; this leaves x number of points for partner. Defend accordingly.

**ENID ROITMAN WILL BE TEACHING HER FALL SERIES COMMENCING IN SEPTEMBER  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT HER AT 416-960-1642 enidr@sympatico.ca**

## ABOUT OUR LAOS FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

From Barbara Seagram & Patti Lee



Thank you to all of you for your generous support of our Laos project. Thanks to the generosity of so many of you in Toronto, Collingwood, across Canada and USA, we have now raised \$12,093.00 to date for our water filter project in Laos. Each water filter costs \$100.00 at this point (going up very soon). Some of the cost included in that price is the need to transport these water filters by trucks over mountainous terrain into the remote villages in Laos.

This means that we have purchased just over 120 water filters this year. 120 families (approximately 840 people) will now have clean water for the first time in their lives, thanks to all of you. Each family typically consists of 6-8 people, often three generations living in one small home.

Without clean water, everyone suffers from diarrhea on an ongoing basis. WHAT a difference you have made to SO many lives. Imagine how productivity also increases when good health exists.

To get a real sense of what goes on in a village on a daily basis, one of our volunteers, Massimo, who comes each year from Italy to help on the ground in Laos, produced this video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1GQ4r19j\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1GQ4r19j_4) **Do hope you can take the time to watch this.**

The remote villages of Laos have never recovered from the "secret war" of the 1960's and early 70's. Laos is the most bombed country (per capita) on earth. Up to 30% of the UXO's (unexploded ordnances) did not explode and remain in the ground, making much of the land untillable for agriculture. This causes endless hardships and also injuries when children or adults happen upon these UXO's inadvertently. It will take countless years to remove all the UXO's. While rich in culture and tradition, their education, healthcare and hygiene conditions are severely lacking in Laos. The average lifespan is only 56 years and average age is only in the upper 20's, caused by poor quality water, poor hygiene and general poverty. **BUT with your help**, a positive difference has been made in the lives of thousands of villagers. Adopt A Village in Laos, the NGO that we work through, founded by Steve Rutledge, has completed over a dozen school projects, 8 water projects bringing water to several villages and a hospital (imagine a hospital with no water!) and they have completed over 20 toilet banks for schools and villages. They have also provided over 2734 water filter systems (almost 20,000 people!).

**OUR FUNDRAISING EFFORTS FOR CAMBODIA AND LAOS NEVER END...** If

you are interested in helping, we are always so grateful to receive your donations.

**FOR CAMBODIA DONATIONS:** Please make cheques out to A MINE FREE WORLD. This is our registered charity.

We have four schools in Cambodia which we have developed and are committed to sustaining.

**FOR LAOS DONATIONS:** Please make cheques out to ADOPT A VILLAGE IN LAOS. Also a registered charity.

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations. Please mail cheques to:

Barbara Seagram, 220 Lawrence Ave East, Toronto ON M4N 1T2 Canada





# BRIDGE AT THE BRIARS FALL 2016

with BARBARA SEAGRAM & ALEX KORNEL  
OCT 14 - OCT 16, 2016

SPECIAL PRICES  
FOR FALL 2016  
IF YOU REGISTER BY AUG 15th  
AFTER AUG 15th  
ADD \$30.00 per person

On the shores of Lake Simcoe, lies a grand 1840 Regency-style Manor House with beautifully decorated rooms, stunning architectural features & 200 acres of land for strolling. The Briars is recognized by the Ontario Heritage foundation. A par 71 championship golf course is on site as well as a wonderful spa. Tennis courts also on site.

FOR OUR FALL BRIDGE AT THE BRIARS  
The BRIARS...JACKSON'S POINT LAKE SIMCOE  
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4 star luxury property, famous for all their spa, accommodation & cuisine  
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\$ 659.00 per person (sgl. occ.) H: 416-487-8321  
B:416-487-8321 FAX: 416-487-8890  
email: [barbaraseagram@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraseagram@gmail.com) [www.barbaraseagram.com](http://www.barbaraseagram.com)

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- ◆ ALL TAXES & GRATUITIES
- ◆ NOVICE / INTERMEDIATE LESSONS BEFORE EACH GAME
- ◆ 5 SESSIONS OF BRIDGE (Bridge optional...play as little or as much as you wish)
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- ◆ PRIZES, LUCKY DRAWS & MASTER POINTS



NOTE: TRANSPORTATION TO BRIARS NOT INCLUDED

IF YOU NEED HELP WITH TRANSPORTATION, CALL BARBARA FAR IN ADVANCE:  
416-487-8321 AND WE WILL TRY TO ARRANGE A RIDE.

FUN GUARANTEED, BOOK EARLY...SPACE IS LIMITED

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Please book me for **BRIDGE AT THE BRIARS WEEKEND OCT 14-OCT 16, 2016**  
Enclose both cheques now: \$100.00 deposit (dated now) & balance by post-dated cheque  
dated **AUGUST 15, 2016**. All cheques payable to Barbara Seagram

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. NO: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ SHARING WITH: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ APT. # \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO BARBARA SEAGRAM, 220 LAWRENCE AVE. EAST, TORONTO, ON M4N 1T2

## CLEVER WORDS

<b>Bernadette</b>	<b>The act of torching a mortgage</b>
<b>Avoidable</b>	<b>What a bullfighter tries to do</b>
<b>Heroes</b>	<b>What a man in a boat does</b>
<b>Relief</b>	<b>What trees do in the summer</b>
<b>Paradox</b>	<b>Two physicians</b>
<b>Eyedropper</b>	<b>Clumsy ophthalmologist</b>
<b>Selfish</b>	<b>What the owner of a seafood store does</b>

## LESLIE SHAFER'S PEARLS OF WISDOM

Bridge partnerships are hard to maintain and might even seem like the last job you held! If your partner wants to stop playing bridge with you, they should have to give you two weeks' notice!

Our motto on Opening Lead should often be the same as the medical profession: "First, do no harm."

Making a plan at the start of a hand is so very important. Leslie's advice: "Even if you don't want to make a plan, just stare and pretend. Maybe you'll spot something!"

When partner makes a mistake, say: "I would have done the same thing, partner."

## DEFENCE: THE MOST EXCITING PART OF THE GAME

**DEFENDERS' BOOT CAMP!! THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER: 9.30 am - 3.30 pm**  
**INSTRUCTOR: BARBARA SEAGRAM**  
**2737 BAYVIEW AVE (just south of 401) TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Bring a sandwich. There will be a break for lunch. COST: \$85.00 if registered and paid by AUGUST 15th. \$95.00 after August 15th. NOTES ALL INCLUDED

REGISTER NOW. SPACE LIMITED. [barbaraseagram@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraseagram@gmail.com)  
Send cheque to: Barbara Seagram, 220 Lawrence Ave East. Toronto ON M4N 1T2

## WHAT IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ATTRIBUTE OF A GOOD BRIDGE PLAYER by ZIA MAHMOOD

A group of experts was once asked this question. There was much less consensus on what was the most important attribute apart from concentration which is always top of the list.

Some voted for **flexibility**: the ability to change your line of play according to new information gleaned or to vary your tactics depending on performance thus far.

Some voted for **toughness**: The ability to play your best under pressure. Eric Rodwell, arguably one of the top 3 bridge players in the world today, was once asked: "What's the most important thing to remember while playing bridge?" His answer was interesting: "Never", said Eric, "give up. Especially on defence. I've seen countless contracts allowed to make that should have been beaten because the defenders gave up. They refused to believe that the contract was beatable, so they refused to work out a line of defence to beat it."

Other experts went for **competitiveness**: the will to win at all times, whatever the odds. Bob Hamman once explained that the secret of his great success at the game derived from an occasion on which he lost a match. As he was leaving the playing area, he heard one of his opponents give a satisfied laugh of triumph. "From then on", said Bob, "I decided that I didn't want ever again to hear that laugh."



**NEW: CHEAT SHEET ON TWO OVER ONE \$12.00**

Everything you need to know about this system, in a nutshell.  
Simply explained:

- Why you need to know the system that has swept North America by storm
- What is the Forcing No Trump
- Questions to agree on with partner
- Recommended conventions you should consider playing
- Opener's rebid after Forcing 1NT
- Rebids by Responder after bidding Forcing 1NT
- Raising Partner's Major, Tips to Help you Learn 2/1
- Semi-Forcing No Trump & an alternative approach
- Fourth Suit Forcing, Quizzes And lots more!

Email Barbara with your POSTAL mailing address & we will send it to you by postal mail  
barbaraseagram@gmail.com



**Intermediate:**  
All the standard bidding

**Advanced:** All the common conventions

**Defence:** Defensive signalling & strategy

**SPECIAL ON ALL 4 TILL JULY 31st**  
\$40.00 for all four  
Regular: \$46.00

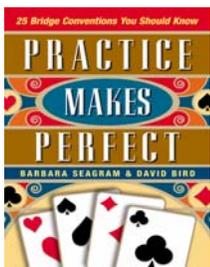
**BARBARA'S NEW TEXT BOOK ON TWO OVER ONE**

Simply explains all you need to know about this system that has swept the world. Quizzes within will make you very comfortable with the system very quickly. And if you don't play Two Over One, at the very least you should understand what your Two Over One opponents are playing.

AVAILABLE BY MAIL BY EMAILING BARBARA barbaraseagram@gmail.com

& AVAILABLE at SCHOOL OR FROM LEE DAUGHERTY

\$19.95 + tax = \$20.00



**BARBARA'S NEWEST BOOK (HER 25<sup>TH</sup>)  
PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT**

A brief summary of each of the FIRST 25 conventions, together with example hands which can be dealt out and used to apply your new knowledge. Bridge teachers and students will find this book invaluable. \$19.95 + tax = \$20

## WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU HAVE 5-4 IN THE MAJORS & PARTNER OPENS 1NT

If you have 0-7 HCP and 5-4 in the majors (five of one and 4 of the other), you should use a Transfer (since most of the time you need 8 or more HCP to use Stayman). After you transfer, you then pass opener's completion of the transfer.

e.g.

1NT - 2D

2H - Pass

or

1NT - 2H

2S - Pass

If you have 8-9 HCP and are 5-4 in the majors, you should use Stayman. The reason is that you never want to miss a 4-4 fit in a major which plays a lot better than a 5-3 fit (given a choice). If opener responds 2D, you now bid 2 of your major. Responder knows that you must have 5 of that suit. Then why did you not just transfer in the first place? Aha! You must have had 5 of that major and 4 of the other.

e.g.

1NT - 2C

2D - 2H (I have 5 Hearts and 4 Spades and 8-9 HCP)

or - 2S (I have 5 Spades and 4 Hearts and 8-9 HCP)

With a minimum NT and not liking the major, opener now bids 2NT.

With a minimum NT and liking the major, he passes 2 of the major.

With a maximum NT and not liking the major, opener now bids 3NT.

With a maximum NT and liking the major, he bids game in the major.

If you have 8-9 HCP and opener instead responds 2 of a major after your Stayman bid, then you now invite her to bid 4 by bidding 3 of the major.

e.g.

1NT - 2C

2H - 3H

Or with great distribution, you may even raise to game now instead of inviting.

If opener happens to answer Stayman by bidding the major in which you have 5 cards, you will now raise her to 4 of that major. It's your partner's lucky day!

If you have 10 or more HCP and are 5-4 in the majors, then you should still use Stayman. If partner responds in a major, then you now jump to game in that major.

If opener bids 2D instead (denying ownership of a 4 card major) then you should now show your major at the THREE level.

e.g. 1NT - 2C

2D - 3H shows five Hearts and 4 Spades and 10 or more HCP

or - 3S shows five Spades and 4 Hearts and 10 or more HCP

Did you know that you can use Stayman with ZERO HCP too!!!

If you have 4-4-4-1 (four spades, four hearts, four diamonds & one club)

or if you have 4-4-5-0 (four spades, four hearts, five diamonds & NO clubs).

Some players even use Stayman with 4-3-5-1 or 3-4-5-1 with a really lousy hand.

Naturally, with these lousy hands, you plan to pass whatever the 1 NT opener bids next.

You should discuss this last part with your partner. It doesn't come up often.

There is a convention called SMOLEN which is designed to help when you are 5-4 in the majors. This is for another day and this write-up assumes you are not playing this.

## CLASSES OUTSIDE TORONTO WITH BARBARA IN 2016 & 2017



Barbara will be teaching a few bridge classes away from Toronto. Do join us if you are anywhere nearby and have some free time.

**BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA**

Wed 3 Aug – Sat 6 Aug: Susan Duke  
[seduke@charter.net](mailto:seduke@charter.net)

**HIGHLANDS, NORTH CAROLINA**

Mon 8 Aug – Tue 10 Aug: Stewart Manning  
[smanning42@frontier.com](mailto:smanning42@frontier.com)

**HALIBURTON, ONTARIO**

Fri 19 Aug Margo Davidson  
[margodavidson@sympatico.ca](mailto:margodavidson@sympatico.ca)

**LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA**

Wed 21 Sep: Los Altos Golf & Country Club  
Brian Samuels [briansamuels@yahoo.com](mailto:briansamuels@yahoo.com)

**MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Thu 22 Sep: Miriam McPhaul  
[mcphaul1313@comcast.net](mailto:mcphaul1313@comcast.net)

Fri 23 Sep: Anne Hollingsworth  
[scootcat@pacbell.net](mailto:scootcat@pacbell.net)

**WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA**

**PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA**

Sat 24 Sep – Sun 25 Sep: Valerie Baldwin  
[valbaldwin@gmail.com](mailto:valbaldwin@gmail.com)

**SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

Thu 29 Sep Metropolitan Club Patty Bono  
[debonopatty@gmail.com](mailto:debonopatty@gmail.com)

**HARRISON HOT SPRINGS RESORT & SPA  
BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Mon 3 Oct – Wed 5 Oct. Carroll Guichon  
[carrollguichon@shaw.ca](mailto:carrollguichon@shaw.ca)

**HOLLYBURN COUNTRY CLUB**

Thu 6 Oct: Nancy MacDonald

**STUART, FLORIDA**

Sat 14 Jan. 2017 Sally Swing  
[swingl@bellsouth.com](mailto:swingl@bellsouth.com)

**THE HILLSBORO CLUB**

Wed-Fri January 18-20, 2017 Private club  
John Rayner will teach here Jan. 16-17

**VERO BEACH BRIDGE CENTER**

Tue 24 Jan. Martha Glassmeyer  
[eglassmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:eglassmeyer@gmail.com)

**ROYAL POINCIANA CLUB  
NAPLES, FLORIDA**

Sat 28 Jan. Private Club

**BONITA BRIDGE @ WIGGINS  
NAPLES, FLORIDA**

Wed 1 Feb. Joellen Blandford  
[bonitabridge@comcast.net](mailto:bonitabridge@comcast.net)

**ST PETERSBURG BRIDGE CLUB**

Fri 3 Feb. Charlie Gill [cfgill@verizon.net](mailto:cfgill@verizon.net)

**THE BRIDGE ACADEMY  
Durham, NC**

Tue 7 Feb. Henry Meguid  
[henry@bridgeacademync.com](mailto:henry@bridgeacademync.com)

**CHARLOTTE COUNTRY CLUB  
Charlotte, NC**

Wed & Thu 8 & 9 Feb PRIVATE CLUB

**CABO SAN LUCAS  
Mexico**

Wed, Thu, Fri 15-17 Feb Jan Coulson  
[janellecoulson@aol.com](mailto:janellecoulson@aol.com)

**PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**

Thu & Fri 23-24 Feb DUNCAN BRIDGE CENTER  
Barbara Hopewell [barbarahopewell@icloud.com](mailto:barbarahopewell@icloud.com)

## **HOW CAN I IMPROVE MY BRIDGE**

This is the BIG question; asked every day by thousands of bridge players the world over, at every level.

The great comedian George Burns, a bridge fanatic, was once asked this question by a young hopeful. "Play every day", said Burns. Three weeks later he met the novice again. "Well," Burns asked, "did you take my advice?" "I did, and I'm getting a lot better. There is just one small problem. My wife told me that if I was going to play bridge every day, she would leave me! I'd have to choose between her and the game." "That's a pity," said Burns sympathetically. "Yes, I'm really going to miss her!" said the student.

But if you seriously want to get better, first the bad news: You cannot become an expert overnight. There is no magic formula for success but here are some suggestions: 1) Play as often as possible and preferably with players who are a bit stronger than you. Ask a better player to have a game with you. 2) ASK good players for advice when you play against them. 3) Go over the hands you did poorly on at the end of the session. Ask good players for help with these. They will be flattered to be asked for their advice. 4) Email an expert or your teacher. 5) Read about the game. There are lots of books out there! 6) Take lessons. You will never stop learning, even if you have played for 50 years. 7) If you cannot get to a live game, play online.

But most important of all: ENJOY the game. It is a game. Enjoy the camaraderie and the people you will get to know and who will become your friends. We are privileged to have a built in social circle of friends. Enjoy them. Smile a lot so that players are happy that you came to the table, even if they did poorly against you.



### **FALL BRIDGE LESSONS WITH JOSÉE HAMMILL at Trinity Presbyterian Church @ 2737 Bayview Ave**

#### **BASIC BRIDGE LESSONS**

Once a week for 8 weeks: Commences Tues Oct 18: 7 pm - 9.30 pm

For brand new players to the game & for those who have been away from the game for a long time.

\$270.00 includes taxes and text book if registered and paid by Sep 1st \$295.00 after Sep 1st

#### **INTERMEDIATE I**

Once a week for 6 weeks: Commences on Tue Oct 18th 1 pm - 3.30 pm

For those who feel rusty and need a refresher and for those moving up from Basic lessons.

Course covers: Hand evaluation & revaluing, opening the bidding, responder's bids, major suit raises, rebids by opener, reverses, NT bidding & responses including transfers, overcalls, takeout doubles. Play components include: Planning the play of a hand in suit contracts, ruffing losers, disposing of losers by discarding, long suit establishment, finesses, hold up plays and a host of other material. The course is hands-on and you will play hands to practice.

\$198.00 includes taxes and text book if registered and paid by Sep 1st \$220.00 after Sep 1st

#### **INTERMEDIATE II**

Once a week for 6 weeks: Commences on Wed Oct 19th 7 pm - 9.30 pm

Weak Two Bids, Strong 2 Club Bids, Slam Bidding, Blackwood, Gerber, Cue-Bidding First Round Controls, Preempts, Unusual NT, Michaels Cuebids, Competing against preempts, Opening Light in 3rd. seat, Responding as a Passed Hand, Balancing, Safety Plays, End Plays, Cross-Ruff, Loser-on-loser play, Introduction to defence, Opening leads, High-low signalling...and MUCH more!!

\$198.00 includes taxes and text book if registered and paid by Sep 1st \$220.00 after Sep 1st

**LEARN TWO OVER ONE.** Two week course: Wed. Nov 2 and 9: 1.00 - 3.30 pm INSTRUCTOR: JOSÉE HAMMILL

\$85.00 if booked and paid before Sep 1st. \$95.00 if booked after that date. Price includes textbook

Learn the system that most of North America now plays. It makes it much easier to get to a better contract, easier to find slams on fewer points and easier to know when to stop in a part score.

Learn the forcing No Trump bid. This lesson is hands on.

**PRE-REGISTRATION FOR ALL CLASSES IS REQUIRED: Contact Josée Hammill at [mjhammill@rogers.com](mailto:mjhammill@rogers.com) or 416-300-9140 Send cheques to Josée Hammill: 418-1717 Avenue Road Toronto, ON M5M 0A2**

## TEST YOUR PLAY

	J42 84 KQJ764 53		
----		A763 A102 5 98764	
KQJ9653 A93 QJ10			
E S W N P 1S 4H 4S Dbl All Pass	KQ10985 7 1082 AK2		

West leads H King. Over to East who has to find a way to beat this contract now that he has doubled! It seems VERY unlikely that a second round of Hearts will live which means that EW would only get two tricks: Heart Ace and Spade Ace. UNLESS East could get West to lead a Diamond at trick two. Hmm. East could play the Heart 2, discouraging a Heart continuation but then West MIGHT choose to now lead a Club. Let's face it: Partners are not very good guessers.

East cannot count on partner to figure out to lead a Diamond at trick two. East must take the bull by the horns and overtake partner's H King with the Ace. East then leads Diamond 5. West wins it and if West does not continue with a Diamond...you guessed it...you get a new partner! East scores a ruff and NS is down one doubled.

It is true that EW can make 4 Hearts so NS did fine to bid 4S BUT EW could not make 5H (on a C lead by North, N gets a C ruff) so a plus is a plus. The important thing for EW is to beat the NS contract of 4S.

## MINI QUIZ

1. You have this hand

AK43  
J765  
764  
AQ

You open the bidding with 1D. Standard American. With no 5 card suit, you open with your longest minor. Your partner responds 1H. It is your turn to bid. What will it be?

2. You are dealt this hand:

AK76  
754  
762  
43

Your partner opens 1H. Pass on your right. Your bid.

Answers:

1. 2H. You have at least an eight card fit in hearts. Do not bid 1S seeking another fit. This is your one chance to tell partner you like her suit. If you later raise her suit instead, then she knows you cannot have four hearts.

2. 2H. Once again, you have an eight card fit. AND you are a weak hand. You have only 6-9 points and thus are normally permitted only one bid. Tell your story NOW. "I have 6-9 points and three or four hearts."

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	<b>KQ4</b> <b>982</b> <b>84</b> <b>Q10987</b>		
<b>875</b> <b>764</b> <b>Q10652</b> <b>J4</b>		<b>62</b> <b>AKQ53</b> <b>93</b> <b>K632</b>	
	<b>AJ1093</b> <b>J10</b> <b>AKJ7</b> <b>A5</b>		
<b>E S W N</b> <b>1H Dbl P 2C</b> <b>P 2S P 3S</b> <b>P 4S All Pass</b>			<b>Opening lead: Heart 4</b>

Bidding Commentary: As South, with a doubleton in the opener's suit, your takeout double followed by a new suit bid shows 17-18 'working' HCP (don't count the HJ). With a singleton in opener's suit, 16 HCP is enough to double and then bid a new suit.

If your hand is not strong enough to meet these requirements, overcall. As North, you have enough to boost partner to 3S. Your hand has improved on the bidding and partner is sitting over there with some 17-18 points. You are an eyelash away from raising to 4S. As East, you are not strong enough to rebid 2H with only five hearts not to mention a minimum opening, not to mention a silent partner.

Lead Commentary: With three small in partner's unsupported suit, lead low. With three small in partner's supported suit, lead high.

Play Commentary: As South, if the defense starts with three rounds of hearts, trump low. West has shown three hearts by leading low-high. Pay attention to the second card the opening leader plays after having led partner's unsupported suit. There's a world of difference between high-low and low-high.

Play Commentary #2. As South, the plan is to ruff two diamonds in dummy with high trumps. After trumping the third heart, play the AK and ruff a diamond high. If the queen has not appeared, cross to the CA and ruff the DJ high. You remain with four high trumps and a losing club. Making four.

Defensive Commentary: As East, if the CQ is led from dummy, cover. If a low club is led, play low.

*ED NOTE: SLOW DOWN. DO NOT PLAY SO QUICKLY AT TRICK ONE. COUNT YOUR LOSERS IN A TRUMP SUIT CONTRACT & COUNT WINNERS IN NO TRUMPS. TAKE 1 1/2 to 2 MINUTES AT THE START OF EVERY HAND TO MAKE A PLAN.*

*ON ABOVE HAND, FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU DO NOT COUNT 2 DIAMOND LOSERS IN SOUTH HAND, YOU MAY GO AHEAD AND DRAW TRUMPS. THIS WILL BE FATAL. SLOW DOWN!*

*RE. BIDDING ON ABOVE HAND: WE TEACH THAT YOU OVERCALL AT THE ONE LEVEL WITH 8-17 POINTS (INCLUDING DISTRIBUTION) AND A FIVE CARD SUIT. WITH ONLY 8-12, YOUR SUIT MUST BE OF EXCELLENT QUALITY (2 of top 3 honours or 3 of top 5 honours)*

*IF YOU OVERCALL AT THE TWO LEVEL (1S - 2C) YOU NEED CLOSER TO AN OPENING BID. WITH 18 OR MORE POINTS (INCLUDING DISTRIBUTION), YOU DOUBLE FIRST AND THEN BID YOUR SUIT. THAT IS KNOWN AS THE BIG OVERCALL.*