

Diana's Fun With Bridge

December, 2021



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

I wish all of you a Wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year with hopefully lots of F2F bridge in 2022.

There is someone I would like to especially thank and that is Kelly Meenagh, the Let's Play Bridge Club Manager. If it were not for Kelly, with all his knowledge and hard work, none of us would be enjoying online bridge to the extent we now enjoy. Thank you Kelly.

My Monday morning Fun Game has started so come on out and enjoy a casual game. You can ask questions, refer to your notes and generally have a good time. George Scotter & Shirley Lipsett donated several books which you may win in a draw, so all the more reason to come on out. If you have any bridge books you would like to DONATE please let me know and I will pick them up. Time: 10:00 – 12:00 – Location: St. Aidan's church, 380 Leathead Rd.

**Beginner Bridge Lessons – I have two offerings one F2F at Parkinson's Senior Centre and the other online. Flyers attached.
For newer and less experienced players there will be Basic Bidding, Defence, Leads & Signals coming up.**



Why Oh, Why Second Hand Low
And Then I Hear Second Hand Not Low

Does that leave you tearing your hair out????? How am I to know?

We are all aware of the saying ‘second hand low’

When you are the second person to play to a trick, your side is in a favourable position.

Your partner is in the enviable position of being the last player to play to the trick. Most of the time, the second player (hand) wants to play low, leaving it up to partner to try to win the trick.

A popular maxim is second hand low, the opposite of third hand high.

Like most guidelines, this maxim is most useful when we understand how it came about and when to apply it.

The general idea is that, if your partner gets to play last, there is no need to waste your high card on one of declarer’s low cards. Wait until declarer plays a high card which you can capture.

Second-hand play is a bit like ‘when in Rome.’ If declarer plays a low card, it is usually a good idea to play low.



For Declarer:

1. **Don’t play to the first trick too quickly.** Force yourself to stop and think when dummy tables. Now make your **PLAN.**
2. **Concentrate on the opening lead** for a moment so you will remember it later. Decide what it tells you about the leader’s length or strength in the suit.
3. **Mentally review the bidding.** If one of the opponents have bid, come up with a general picture of his point-count and the length of his suit.
4. **For most suit contracts,** your general **PLAN** should be:
 - Count your losers and decided which can be disposed of or turned into winners by trumping, finessing or discarding.
 - If your **PLAN** calls for trumping one or more losers in the short hand do that before you pull trump.
 - Then pull trump.
 - Now attack your longest suit and give up your losers early.
 - Remember, to cash the honors in your short suits.

When Declarer leads a low Card

Your high cards are at their most powerful when they not only win a trick but also capture one of the opponents' high cards at the same time.

I repeat an old bridge saying aces are meant to take kings — and kings are meant to take queens and so on.

If declarer plays a low card and you are the second hand to play, most of the time it works out best if you also play a low card. Let's see why this works so well.



Suppose declarer leads the 2 toward dummy and it is your turn to play. You are second hand, looking at the K in the dummy, and might feel that you have to play your A to prevent declarer from winning a trick with dummy's K.

Look what happens if you do this. You win the first trick with the A and declarer plays the 3 from dummy. Declarer can win the next two tricks in the suit with the K and the Q. If you play low instead with the 4, declarer can win the first trick with dummy's K, but then the Q is trapped. Declarer takes only one trick.

Second hand low appears to be good advice in this situation. You save your A to capture one of declarer's high cards, the Q in this case. How low is low? Would it do any harm to play the 10, rather than the 4? (Yes.) If you play the 10, declarer wins the trick with the K and these are the remaining cards:

Next page.



For Defender

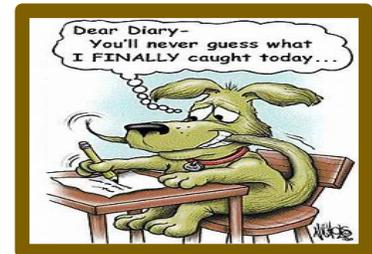
1. **Lead attacking combinations** (suits with touching honors – QJ10, KQ76 etc.)
2. **Do not lead unsupported aces** – A6, A87, A765 unless it is the suit partner bid. Recall: aces are meant to take kings and kings are meant to take queens.
3. **DO NOT** underlead an ace in a suit contract.
4. **When in doubt about what to lead,** lead the 4th highest from your longest and strongest suit. E.g., holding Q876, lead the six.
5. **Most critical – use defensive signals** – when discarding or following suit, signal with the highest card possible, (not an honor), in the suit you want partner to lead. Play a low card if you have no interest in the suit. These are called Standard Signals. If you are playing Upside Down Signals you signal your like with a low card and dislike with a high card.

Dummy
♥73

You Partner
♥A4 ♥J86

Declarer
♥Q9

Can you see what declarer can do now? (Lead a heart from dummy and play the 9 to force out the A, establishing the Q as a second trick.) There is no point in unnecessarily sacrificing your 10 — it may cost you a trick. Play second hand low, the 4.



Dummy
♥Q4

You Partner
♥K1053 ♥A986

Declarer
♥J72

Declarer leads the 2. If you rise with the king you will be giving declarer an undeserved trick. Play second hand low and declarer will not win a trick.

Dummy
♥Q92

You Partner
♥J873 ♥K106

Declarer
♥A54

Declarer plays the two from dummy, if you play the king declarer plays the ace, which he was planning to do and now your king has been captured and dummy's queen is good. Declarer thanks you for giving him an easy trick. 🙄🙄🙄

If you decide to play the ten declarer takes the ace and now can lead low towards dummy finessing the nine and again thanks you for allowing him to make two tricks. 🙄🙄🙄

Instead, just be cool and play low, declarer plays the ace and your side takes the next two tricks.

1. For those of you who have not heard of the Elvis Presley coup. It is when your left-hand opponent leads from his A-Q into you K5: the King is no longer dead.
2. You know you are in trouble when the first thing the opponents decide to do is draw trumps and you are the declarer.
3. Bridge is a great comfort in your old age. It also helps you get there faster.
4. Years ago, there were only two acceptable reasons for not leading partner's suit. First having no cards in the suit and second holding a Death Wish.
5. I think we're all a little masochistic. Otherwise, why would we continue to play bridge?



Bridge is a little like Poker in that you want to, when you can, put declarer to a guess.

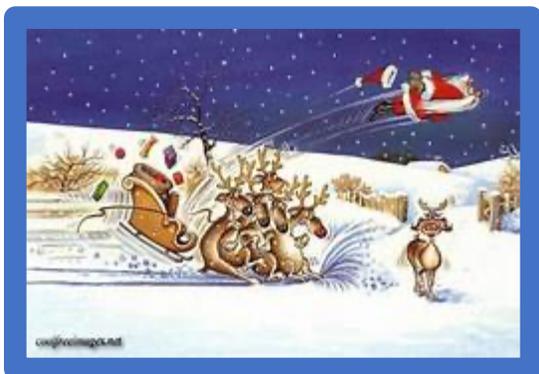
	Dummy	
	♠KJ5	
You		Partner
♠A1073		♠Q962
	Declarer	
	♠84	

Declarer leads the four and now has to guess who has the ace and queen. If you play the ace declarer tries to hide his smug smile as you have eliminated the guess. Play low and give him the opportunity to make the wrong guess.

Cover an honor with an honor – don't be stingy if an honor is led from dummy.

	Dummy	
	♦Q3	
You		Partner
♦98752		♦K106
	Declarer	
	♦AJ4	

If dummy leads the queen you cover an 'honor with an honor', play the king. Declarer wins the ace and jack but you now have a winner with the ten.



More reasons to cover an honor with an honor.

	Dummy	
	♦J5	
You		Partner
♦9432		♦Q76
	Declarer	
	♦AK108	

Declarer plays the jack from dummy. If you don't cover declarer makes four tricks. If you cover the jack with your queen you will eventually set up your partner's nine. You will be surprised how many times, when you cover an honor with an honor, that you set up a trick in partner's hand. This makes a 🤔🤔 partner.

However, and there is always a however in bridge. When dummy holds two or more equal honors and you hold an honor, you cover the last equal honor in dummy.

	Dummy	
	♦QJ9	
You		Partner
♦10876		♦K32
	Declarer	
	♦A54	

Declarer leads the queen from dummy's two equal honors. You must duck the first trick and when declarer plays the jack you cover. You have now set up your partner's ten.

If you covered the queen declarer wins the ace and may now finesse the nine in dummy, making three tricks instead of two tricks.

Another reason to cover the last of dummy's touching honors.

	Dummy	
	♦QJ109	
You		Partner
♦76		♦K842
	Declarer	
	♦A53	

As dummy holds a solid sequence with the ten and nine, in this instance they are treated as honor cards. Declarer plays the queen and you must duck and duck the jack and ten. On the ten you know declarer will have to win with the ace as you have the count. Because you ducked the equal honor cards your king is a winner and declarer does not make a trick with her nine.

If you had played the king on the first or second round declarer would make all four tricks instead of only three tricks.

Only one more item on second hand play, at this time. Splitting your honor cards.

	Dummy	
	♠A104	
You		Partner
♠QJ5		♠873
	Declarer	
	♠K962	

Declarer leads the two and you can tell they will, in all probability, play the ten in dummy. In order for you to make a trick you must split your honor cards, play the jack. By spitting your honor cards, you will

Splitting your honor cards.

	Dummy	
	♠Q95	
You		Partner
♠J104		♠A873
	Declarer	
	♠K62	

In this situation declarer is forced to lead the suit.

Declarer leads the two and due to the poor quality of her suits will probably play the nine from dummy. Don't let that happen, split your honors, force the queen. Partner wins the ace and declarer only wins one trick. If you played low declarer wins two tricks.





Give The Gift Of Learning

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

Put together a table of four and I will come to your home if you prefer face to face or online. Online I will use either Shark or Real Bridge for your session.

Cost: \$75.00 flat fee for 4 players.

Length of session: Two hours

Call: Diana Knowles 250 491 4704 – land line, to arrange a session or sessions.

Stocking Stuffers

All books are discounted 10% and I pay the tax. Postage applies if mailed, otherwise pick up at my place or the Let's Play Bridge Club, 380 Leathead Rd., Kelowna.

FOR NEWER AND ADVANCED NEWER PLAYERS

1. **Bidding Basics** – A fantastic book by David Glandorf most aspects of bidding for the new and advancing new player. \$22.00
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 Bridge Tips** – Barbara's latest book giving advice and examples drawn from material she has presented over the past 20 years on 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
7. **Patty Tucker – Defense Carding & Opening Leads** ~~SOLD OUT~~ – 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.
8. **Planning the Play of a Bridge Hand** - Seagram & Bird – An exception book on planning NT and suit contracts to adding other clever moves to your bridge game. \$20.00.
9. **Declarer Play at Bridge, a Quiz Book** – Seagram & Bird – A must have for newer players. The book is filled with hands on how to discard your losers, ruffing, establishing suit in NT and so much more. \$14.00.

INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED PLAYERS

10. **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.
11. **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.
12. **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.
13. **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 whys of the two you are studying. \$22.00
14. **Eddie Kantar Teaches Advanced Bridge Defense** - Take your defence to another level with this book. One copy only. \$28.00
15. **Barry Rigal - Step-by-Step Deceptive Declarer Play** - Barry teaches everything you always wanted to know about deception. \$15.00. One copy only.
16. **Barbara Seagram's Cheat Sheet on Doubles** - \$10.00.

17. **Barbara Seagram's Cheat Sheet on 2/1** - \$15.75
18. **Planning the Play, The Next Level – Barbara Seagram & David Bird** \$20.00. This wonderful book covers such techniques as avoidance plays, trump control, dummy reversal and endplays.
19. **Bridge Entry Techniques – David Bird** - \$22.00. 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.
20. **Introduction to Defence 2nd Edition** – Edie Kantar and revised & updated by Barbara Seagram. A wealth of information on opening leads, 2nd & 3rd hand play, signals and fantastic tips. One copy only \$16.00.
21. **25 Conventions You Should know** – Seagram & Marc Smith – For those who want to learn the most common conventions, this is the book for you. \$20.00
22. **25 More Conventions You Should Know** – Seagram & Bird – Takes you into some of the more advanced conventions. \$20.00.
23. **25 Steps to Learning 2/1** - Paul Thurston. \$20.00



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.



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.

A few comments by recent attendees: *I have taken beginner bridge a couple of times in the past, in person, and I have to say that the zoom format with Shark Bridge is much more conducive to learning. Having robots as your opponents is far superior to having two warm bodies that know virtually nothing about bridge. I also think that the initial focus of how to play the hands, is much better than starting to focus on how to bid from lesson 1.* **Rosemary H.**

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.**

Dates: The dates are tentative, however, I don't expect them to change. Wednesday, February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6.

Time: 9:30 – 11:30 - Pacific Standard Time - **Location:** Online

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

Email: dknowles9@icloud.com

Cost: \$75.00 + \$20.00 manual. The manual is very much recommended but not required.

Payment by e-transfer, cheque or cash.



BEGINNER BRIDGE LESSONS FACE TO FACE

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 .

Space is limited so please register early.

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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: Thursday February 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31.

Time: 10:00 – 12:00 - **Location:** Parkinson Senior Centre, 1700 Parkinson Way, Kelowna.

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

Email: dknowles9@icloud.com

Cost: \$75.00 + \$20.00 manual. The manual is very much recommended but not required. **Payment for the course:** Parkinson Senior Centre
Payment for the manual: Diana Knowles