

Diana's Fun With Bridge

December 2025



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

This has been a wonderful year for the Let's Play Bridge Club. Our membership totals 245. We have now surpassed pre Covid membership numbers by 61 members. A wonderful testament to the efforts of so many club members. Peggy's beginner lessons have added many new enthusiastic players to this wonderful game who are honing their bridge skills and learning in our Chat Bridge game.

Wendy's 0-299 game is regularly hosting 15+ tables and Chat Bridge 8+ tables.

Our Unit Game November 30 was a great success with 16 tables in the open and 9 ½ tables in the 0-249.

If you are not on my email list and would like to receive updates on my lessons and games, please contact me at: dknowles9@icloud.com or phone 250 491 4704, landline. I teach both in-person and online.

**Upcoming lessons on page 14.
Gift of learning page 15.**

Let's take a look at inference and the clues you are given when the opponents lead.
In order to receive the benefits of inferences you must be paying
attention to the cards.

Part of the following comes from a session Barbara Seagram gave to the ABTA bridge teachers.

West K led	North J32	West leads the K. How many tricks will south make? The lead of the king promises the queen which you must assume. You will make two tricks, win the ace and play the four to the jack. If you are in a suit contract you will probably take out the trumps before playing to the jack.
	South A54	

West 10 led	North KJ8	This is a NT contract. West leads the ten. If west has the nine (which he often will have) you should cover with the jack. If east play the Q, you win with the A. Later you should lead the 2 towards the 8 in dummy to get a third trick in the suit.
	South A32	

West 9 led	North J32	The lead of the 9 is a 'top of nothing' lead. Cover with the J. East will have to play the Q and you the A. You know east holds the 10 so when next you are in dummy lead the 2 towards the 8. You will make three tricks.
	South AK8	



CHAT BRIDGE – HOW DID CHAT BRIDGE GET ITS NAME AND WHY DO WE HOLD A CHAT BRIDGE GAME.

Sometime last year I participated in an American Bridge Teachers meeting when one of the participants talked about a new game they were holding called Chat Bridge and how successful it was.

The person talked about the fact that the name, Chat Bridge, was friendly, non-intimidating and welcoming. This very much resonated with me and the board of the Let's Play Bridge Club and so Chat Bridge was born.

Chat Bridge was created to help new and players not so new to the game with their bidding and play in a gently way. Chat Bridge welcomes not only new players to the game but those who many have been playing for quite some time and would like to upgrade their skills.

Please do not hesitate to drop in Thursday morning around 9:15 at the Let's Play Bridge Club, in the Seniors Activity Centre, 1353 Richter Street, Kelowna. You do not need to come with a partner. The cost is \$5.00 and includes not only, the help you need but tea, coffee and cookies. For more information call me at: 250 491 4704 (land line) or email dknowles9@icloud.com

Chat Bridge is run by volunteers who give their time and talents in order to assist players in their enjoyment of this wonderful game. They are: Wendy Webb, Paul Jackson, Amber Garon and Diana Knowles.

A FEW COMMENTS BY CHAT GROUP PLAYERS

1. Chat bridge has helped me enjoy playing as it takes away the nerves of playing "on my own". I appreciate it very much. Judy Brydon
2. Chat Bridge: FUN Lovely to meet so many new nice people! Diana a very calm and generous teacher - very helpful to us all !!!! Chat Bridge has welcomed me to Kelowna after my recent move here. Love it! Brenda Krawchuk
3. Love it. Learned lots. Had fun. Made new friends. Heather & Rene
4. Chat bridge is the highlight of my week! It reminds me of how little I know, how much I need to learn and how much I love learning! Thank you. Dawn P
5. Chat Bridge is a nice warm welcoming to the game of Bridge, I'm hooked
6. Diana, Just wanted you to know that Chat Bridge is a fun way to play bridge and has brought me lots of laughs, great feedback, and new friends.

Continued next page.

CHAT BRIDGE

What is Chat Bridge?

Chat Bridge is a fun game for new and advancing newer bridge players who are interested in improving their game.

Chat Bridge is a relaxed game where you can talk about your hands to each other; discuss your best line of play and defense and how you might have bid your hands differently.

Experienced players will be there to guide you.

CHAT BRIDGE is held weekly.

Location: Seniors' Activity Centre, 1353 Richter St., Kelowna.

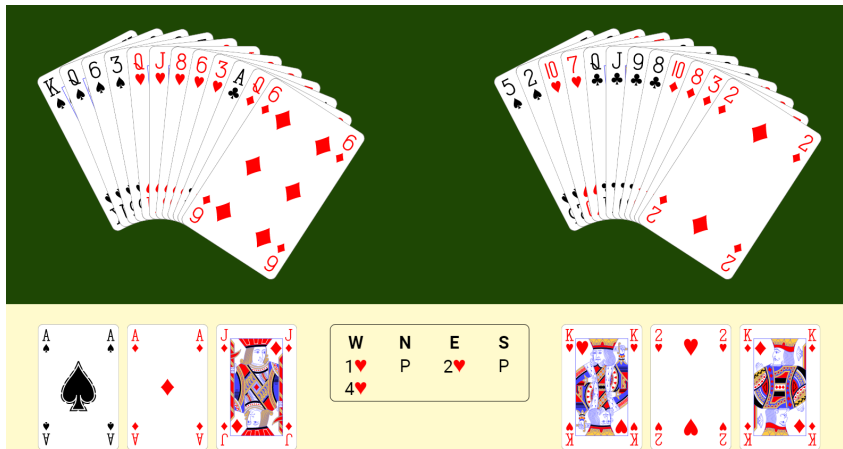
Time & Day: Thursday - 9:30-11:30 approx.

Cost: \$5.00 includes coffee, tea and cookies.

Contact: Diana Knowles dknowles9@icloud.com

**IN ORDER TO MAKE THE CORRECT BID A CARD
WAS DROPPED FROM BOTH HANDS.
CAN YOU FIND THE CARD?**

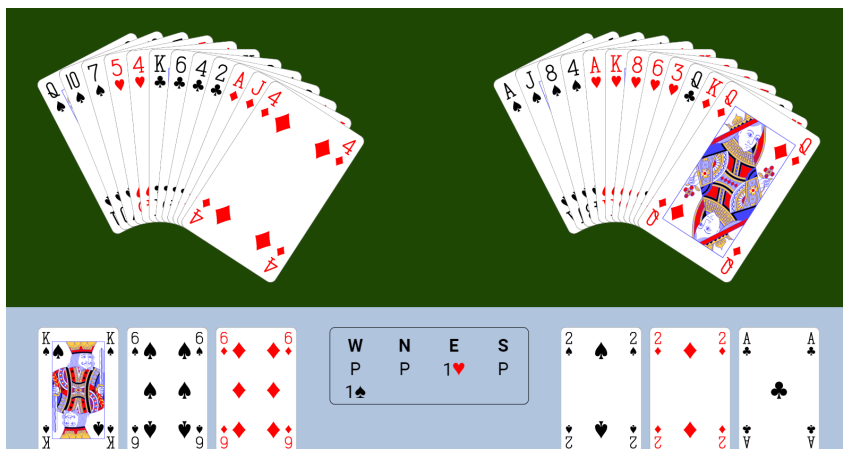
ANSWERS PAGE 5



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

RealBridge

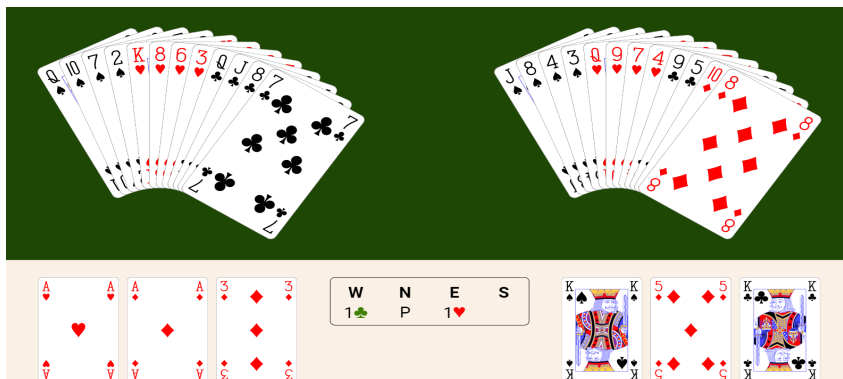
Hand 1: West (K, Q, 6, 3, Q, J, 8, 6, 3, 4, Q, 6, 9) and East (5, 2, 10, 7, Q, J, 9, 8, 10, 8, 3, 2, 2). Bidding table: W (1♥, 4♥), N (P), E (2♥), S (P). Dropped cards: West (A♠, A♦, J♥), East (K♥, 2♥, K♦).



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

RealBridge

Hand 2: West (Q, 10, 7, 5, 4, K, 6, 4, 2, A, J, 4, 4) and East (A, J, 8, 4, A, K, 8, 6, 3, Q, K, Q, 0). Bidding table: W (K♥, 6♠, 6♦, 1♣), N (P), E (1♥), S (P). Dropped cards: West (K♥, 6♠, 6♦), East (2♠, 2♦, A♣).



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

RealBridge

Hand 3: West (Q, 10, 7, 2, K, 8, 6, 3, Q, J, 8, 7, 7) and East (J, 8, 4, 3, Q, 9, 7, 4, 9, 5, 10, 8, 8). Bidding table: W (A♥, 3♦), N (P), E (1♥), S (P). Dropped cards: West (A♥, 3♦), East (K♠, 5♦, K♣).

7. After 50 years of only playing bridge occasionally, we took some lessons at SLR and joined Chat Bridge. The format provides a great way of learning with expert advisers on hand and the willingness of participants to discuss the bidding and play of the hand - thus Chat Bridge. You also get an opportunity to speed up learning with Diana's great lessons. Marion and Graham
8. I would strongly recommend Diana's Beginner Bridge lessons and the following Chat Bridge for all people who are interested in finding new friends and keeping or developing your mental abilities in memorizing, reasoning and strategizing a new and challenging card game. Above all Diana keeps the class a joyful atmosphere to learn in. Chat Bridge is a gathering of like minds and we all feel welcome and involved. The volunteer base of members are helpful and encouraging in every respect. Thank you to all the volunteers for giving me this opportunity to enrich my life in a mindful way!!!

Ace of Club Winners

This award is given to recognize players 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

Dennis Pilon
Phylis Pilon

200/300 points

Paul Jackson
Amber Garon

500/1000 points

Mary Meenagh
Jerzy Jankowski
Lorraine Cameron
Clive Elkin
Matt Bootle

1500/2500 points

Wayne Stann

3500/5000 points

Kelly Meenagh
Aline Vance



ANSWERS

1. West dropped the diamond A. If the dropped card was the spade A west would have opened one spade. If west dropped the diamond J he would not have had enough points to go to game.

East dropped the heart K. East could not have responded two hearts with only a doubleton.

2. West dropped the spade six. If west dropped the spade K he would have opened the hand.

East dropped the diamond two. If the club Ace was dropped east would have opened two clubs. If the spade two was dropped east would open one spade.

3. The diamond Ace was dropped. If the heart Ace was dropped west would open one heart. If the diamond three was dropped west would not have enough points to open.

The club king was dropped. East could not respond without the king as he would only hold three points.

Why can't pirates play bridge?

A. They are always standing on the deck.

How do you know when you are in trouble as a bridge player?

A. When you are declarer and the opponents start drawing trump.

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

Lynne Johnson

500/1000

Mary Meenagh
Jerzy Jankowski
Lorraine Cameron
Clive Elkin
Matt Bootle

1500/2000

Wayne Stann

3500/5000

Kelly Meenagh
Aline Vance

Ace of Clubs Virtual combined w/Helen Shanborom Ace of Clubs

0-5

Bryan Good
Phyllis Pilon
Dennis Pilon

0-20

Judy Hilliby

20-50

Karen Naumann

50-100

Michael Hood

300-500

Edward Aizen
Bill Holland

1000-1500

Andrea Johnson

1500-2500

Wayne Stann
Chilton Yang
Leah Koffski
Jane Wilkinson

2500-3500

Roberta Cronquist
Jan Byers
Dot Door

3500-5000

Aline Vance
Al Edwards
Maureen Barnes
Ted Rich
Kelly Meenagh

5000-7500

Elaine Sorensen

Gold Winners District 19

Mike Newcombe
Elaine Sorensen
Kelly Meenagh
Aline Vance
Diana Knowles
Maureen Barnes
Al Edwards
Dot Dore
Roberta Cronquist
Wesley Anderson
Jen Edwards
David Nagy
Wayne Stann
Wendy Mohamed
Ashok Sil
Bud Craig



MY REAL BRIDGE GAME

When Covid hit 'in person' games became a thing of the past. I had been teaching for several years and was not ready to retire.

Luckily there were several online teaching programs in the works. Very quickly ACBL was able to offer certification for online teachers. I took the first ACBL online teaching training course and fell in love with the application Shark, which I use to teach all my online classes.

The second program I fell in love with was Real Bridge. This program is used at bridge clubs all over Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, India and numerous other countries. The program allows players to see and talk to each other and perhaps, best of all it is easy to use.

I hold a Friday morning Fun Game from 9:00 – 11:00 PST. Players can bring their notes, ask me questions on bids and play and generally have a great time. It is a relaxed, fun game. You do not need to have a partner as one will be provided. There are no robots.

Please contact me for further information: Phone 250 491 4704 (landline) or email: dknowles9@icloud.com

Here is what players have to say about my Real Bridge game.

Perfect practice makes perfect. The Friday Real Bridge games are a great chance to practice those bridge skills and ask for advice. Perfect practice and highly recommended – Keith

I find whether I am near the top or the bottom of the list at the end of the session I have always learned something new. It is such an accepting environment. Non- threatening Thank you Lynn.

The Friday morning Real Bridge sessions with Diana give all of us an opportunity to play bridge, socialize, and learn while being in our own homes. What a perfect combination. Sharon O.

Kudos to you for running very complicated software and being so calm. You're amazing. Joanne

Comments continued

As someone who has taken many lessons from Diana, as well as others, Diana's Real Bridge sessions is the one place where I can practise without being judged plus have Diana, a Bridge Master Teacher, for instant guidance. I learn best by doing & making mistakes but with Diana's Realbridge, many get corrected when they happen. I have not found this offered anywhere else! Thank you Diana!

I love the Real Bridge game on Friday! Everyone is friendly and I love the fact we can ask what we should do—such a great way to learn bridge. Thank-you J

Friday Fun Bridge is a wonderful, convenient opportunity to improve my bridge game with timely feedback in a friendly, supportive online community. I think it is the best way to become a better bridge player. Arlene

“I have been playing Real Bridge with Diana for two years. In that time my bridge skills have improved considerably because of the ability to: I) ask, in real time, for Diana's expert advice; and ii) compare my bidding and playing abilities to other players (I rarely play duplicate bridge). It is also fun getting to know players from other provinces and countries.”

“Wouldn't miss Diana's Real Bridge sessions each Friday morning even when I was out of country with a six hour time difference. Great group of players, great experience, and Diana keeps helping us to improve our play. Thank you, Diana. Doris H.

Comments continued

Diana, I can't say enough about how much I enjoy these Friday mornings. See you on the 14th. Donna.

The Friday online games have helped me brush up on specific weaknesses in my game. Having the options to get help from the director or discuss the hands with other players is a real asset. Sandra.

Weekly 2 hour Real Bridge sessions with Diana Knowles are an opportunity to practice bidding conventions and strategies in a congenial online environment. When you are unsure of your next step, Diana is ready with suggestions and comments. It is also fun to compare how you bid and played a hand with other tables. Brenda

THE RULE OF 11

When Partner Or The Opponents Lead Their 4th Best Card From A Suit You Simply Subtract The Card Led From 11.

The Difference Represents The Number Of Higher Cards Held By The Other Three Players

West leads ♣6

♠ J82
♥ KJ8
♦ Q85
♣ A1073

♠ AK6
♥ AQ5
♦ 9732
♣ QJ4

6 from 11 = 5. Five cards higher than the 6 in the other 3 hands.

Were you able to figure out that east had no clubs higher than the six so put in your seven?

West leads ♥5

♠ AQJ
♥ 96
♦ J943
♣ K765

♠ 976
♥ QJ82
♦ 105
♣ QJ106

5 from 11 = 6. Six cards higher than the 5 in the other 3 hands.

Partner leads the heart 5. Applying the rule of 11 you can see that south has only one card higher than you. Play your jack, the cheapest of equals.

	♠ K53	
	♥ QJ9	
	♦ Q32	
	♣ K543	
West leads ♠ 7	♠ AJ92	
	♥ A643	
	♦ J98	
	♣ J7	
	♠ K52	
	♥ 987	
	♦ KQJ53	
	♣ J4	
♠ QJ87		♠ A1093
♥ K543		♥ J2
♦ 1076		♦ 42
♣ 107		♣ A9653
	♠ 64	
	♥ AQ106	
	♦ A98	
	♣ KQ82	

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	all pass	1NT

Partner, west, leads the spade 7.

There are four cards higher than the seven.

You can see one in dummy and you have three - that leaves south with no cards higher than the seven, so play your two.

NS reach a normal 3NT contract.

West leads the ♠7, a normal lead. When dummy tabled east uses the Rule of 11 to see how many cards higher than the seven declarer holds.

Seven from 11 equals 4 cards higher than the seven. There is one card higher in dummy and east holds 3 higher which means south holds no cards higher than the seven.

East plays the 3. West can now play the ♠J trapping north's king. Even if west plays the ♠8 east wins with the nine and plays the ace.

Poor south loses 4♠'s plus the club ace and the heart king. Even if you put the heart king in the north hand, giving north a total of 13 HCP's the hand would be set so long as east uses the Rule of 11. If east plays the spade ace south will make the contract.



My Life as a Bridge Director – Doug Cramen

I never expected to become a bridge director. I was introduced to duplicate bridge when my neighbor got excited to find out I used to play bridge and signed us up to start playing the next week. Having never played in a competitive setting I made mistakes and was quickly introduced to the Directors. Several years later, mistakes mostly behind me, I was asked to consider taking the Director's exam.

With less than two hundred points I was concerned that I had sufficient experience to one, write the exam and two actual direct experienced players. My bridge partner and I were encouraged as there was a course set to begin. We took the course and passed! Both of us worked full time so we were limited to directing on evenings so we took on the 299er Tuesday night session taking turns playing or directing each week.

As I was new and inexperienced I printed off cheat sheets to remind me how to respond to the three most common calls; Reneges, insufficient bids and leads out of turn. For other calls, which were uncommon, I had to review in my handbook.

There is an advantage with taking and reviewing calls as that I understand my own rights when playing in club games or tournaments. Knowing your rights ensures you are not damaged by errors by the opposition.

Twelve years later I am still directing. While some players think the job of the Director is to act as an umpire for the game the greater part is the need to organize and run a smooth timely game. Challenges still exist but I am lucky to have a group of experienced team of Directors in our club I can call on when I run in to a call, I am uncertain of or a challenge of ruffled feathers.

Be nice to your Director and have fun!



I was recently asked if systems were “ON” for a particular 2NT bid. To my chagrin I answered yes; not realizing that I had not queried for all the bidding sequence that had transpired. Days later, the question was still on my mind, so I decided to enumerate some of the various 2NT bidding sequences.

Who would have thought that there are so many different ways in which the 2NT bid can be used. **Al Edwards**

Various 2NT Bids

1. The opener bids 2NT. This open shows 19, 20-21.

Response: Systems are ON. 3NT shows a balanced 4-12 HCP.

N	E	S	W
2N	P	?	P
?			

2. The opener bids 1 Major.

Response: 2NT. (This is called Jacoby 2NT). This shows 4 card support with 12+ HCP. If the opener responds in a new suit, it shows a singleton or void in that suit. If the opener rebids 3 in the same major, it shows 15+. If the opener rebids 4 of the same suit, it shows a 12-14 weakish hand. The value of the Jacoby 2NT is that it sets the suit and it is game forcing, with a slamish possibility.

N	E	S	W
1M	P	2N	P
?			

3. The players DO NOT play Bergen or Jacoby 2NT.

Opener bids 1 Major.

The Responder bids 2NT. This would indicate 10-12 with NO 3 or 4 card support. If the Responder has 3 or 4 card support they should jump bid to 3 of the major with 10-12.

N	E	S	W
1M	P	2N	P
?			

4. The opener bids 1 Minor.

Response: 2NT. This indicates 10-12 HCP and it denies a 4 card Major. Therefore, systems are OFF.

N	E	S	W
1m	P	2N	P
?			

5. The opener bids 1 NT.

Response: 2NT. This is usually an invitational bid, showing 8-9 HCP. It denies a 4+ card major. Therefore, systems are OFF. (Note: Some play this as a transfer to 3D.)

N	E	S	W
1N	P	2N	P
?			

6. The opener Passes.

Response: Partner bids 1 Major.

The Passed seat bids 2NT. This shows 10-12 HCP and it denies 3 card support. Note: With 3 card support, Drury may be in effect, or a Cue bid, or a jump raise.

N	E	S	W
P	P	1M	P
2N			

7. The opener bids 2C.

Response: 2NT. This can have various meanings depending on a partnership agreement. In the old Standard America system, it means a bust hand. Newer conventions can show a 5 card Heart suit with 8+ HCP including 2 honors. Other usage can show 8+ and a balanced hand, so Systems would be ON. A partnership agreement is required.

N	E	S	W
2C	P	2N	P

8. The opener bids 2C.

Response: 2D waiting. (Shows probably 4+ HCP)
The opener rebids 2NT. Now systems are ON.

N	E	S	W
2C	P	2D	P
2N			

9. The opener bids 1 Major.

The opponent Doubles.

The Responder bids 2NT. (Jordan showing 3 card support and a good 9+. Obviously, Systems are Off.

N	E	S	W
1S	DBL	2N	P
?			

10. The opener bids 1 Minor or 1 Major.

The opponent overcalls at the 2 Level. The suit does not matter. The Responder bids 2NT. This indicates at least 1 control in the Opponent's suit and it essentially denies 3 card major support or 4 card minor support for the opener. It also shows 10+ HCP. It also denies a good 4 card Major if both suits bid were minors as in 1D 2C then 2NT. It assumes that if you have a 4 card Major that you would Double rather than bid 2N.

N	E	S	W
1S	2C	2N	P
?			

11. The opponents Preempt 2 of a suit.

You Overcall 2NT. This bid indicates a 1 NT opening hand. It denies a 4 card major if the preempt was 2H or 2S. This is because the Overcaller should double the preempt to show 4 of the other major and opening points. If the preempt was 2D, then 2N does not deny a 4 card major and Systems are ON.

N	E	S	W
2H	2N	P	?

N	E	S	W
2D	2N	P	?

12. The Unusual 2 NT bid.

The Opps open 1 of a Suit.

You bid 2 NT. This can show the 2 lowest unbid suits (usually 5-5) or it may show the 2 minors. Your partner must choose the better of the suits. Systems are OFF. See your Convention Card. It is not alertable.

N	E	S	W
1S	2N	P	?

13. The opener opens 1NT.

Response: 2C (Stayman)

The opener rebids 2NT. (This indicates no 4+ card major and a minimum 1 NT opener. If the Responder has a 5 card suit with 9+, he should raise to 3NT.

N	E	S	W
1N	P	2C	P
2N			

14. Thanks to Lorraine Cameron for this additional example.

The opponents open 1N. You overcall with 2NT. What does this mean?

Answer: You need a partnership agreement as it depends on the convention that you play.

N	E	S	W
1N	2N	?	?

- i) If there is no agreement then the 2NT will probably mean equal value.
- ii) Several common conventions are Capp, DONT, Meckwell, Landy, etc.
- iii) Systems (Stayman or Jacoby transfers) are not on for South or West as the bid will be affected by the meaning of the 2NT bid.

Note: I am sure that there are other conventions where 2NT has a specific meaning as in Precision, etc.

Why is marriage like bridge?

Answer: It involves two hearts and a diamond.

Why are the rich bad at bridge?

Answer: Because they can't transfer from diamonds to hearts.

ONE LINERS

Bridge players always have a handy excuse.

Bridge: the perfect mix of strategy and fun.

Life's a journey, and I'm on a bridge adventure!

The table is my happy place!

My bridge game is a real grand slam!



Potential Spring Lessons.

In Person

I have booked the Parkinson Senior Society centre for in person lessons Tuesday mornings for the months of February and April.

At this time, I expect to do Slams in February and Level 2 Play of the Hand in April. This could change.

Online

I will repeat the above possibly Tuesday afternoon or Monday morning.

As well for online I will be doing several one and two session lessons.

Possible Subjects:

1. Why you lose at bridge
2. Doubles
3. Michaels
4. Common conventions
5. Etc.
6. **PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE AND I WILL DO MY BEST TO INCLUDE THEM.**

I remember CBC reporting on a Regional Tournament in Vancouver many years ago about a stalker strolling through the ballroom stark naked.

The reporter was awed not because of the stalker but because no one noticed.





Give The Gift Of Learning

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

Put together a table of four for an online private session. I will use my Real Bridge app as you will be able to see and chat with your table mates.

Less than four, I use my Shark Teachers app as the robots are far superior to other programs.

Cost: \$150.00 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



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.