

Diana's Fun With Bridge

September/October 2018



Good News - Lessons Coming Up This Fall

September 18 is the start of a new session of beginner lessons. The lessons are structured for those who have never played bridge before or those of played, perhaps, in the far distant past and need to brush up on how the game has changed in the last 20-30 years.

A flyer with all the details is attached.

We have all heard the manta 'second hand low, third hand high.' Well guess what, that's not always true and in a great number of situations and it could be the absolute wrong thing to do. Learn the exceptions in the two fun classes coming up this fall.

Both lessons are single sessions.

Single session one:

Third hand high: Perk up your defense by understanding when third hand high is the worst card you could play. September 10, 2018. Flyer attached.

Single session two:

Second hand low: This may be the correct play to make a great deal of the time, however, you need to know when second hand low is the wrong card to play under certain circumstances. Date: October 1, 2018. Flyer attached.

How to bid your hand: Coming up this fall, dates and times to be arranged.

Be on the lookout to double artificial bids (Stayman, Jacoby Transfers, cue bids, Blackwood responses) to help partner out on opening lead. However, low level doubles of artificial bids require both length and strength (typically five or six card length with 3+ honor cards in the suit). The higher the level of the artificial bid, the shorter your length must be-but you still must have honor strength in the suit (KQx, for example)

Tip from Eddie Kantar

Can you solve the following problems?

W N E S
1♠ P P 2♥ ♠ K 6 4 North
P 3♥ P 4♥ ♥ J 9 2
♦ K 7 2
♣ A 10 8 2

Contract: 4♥ by South

West's lead: ♠Queen

PROBLEM

♠ A 7 5 South
♥ K Q 10 8 6 4
♦ A 3
♣ 6 5

East will get a spade ruff, because N/S have 6 Spades and West has at least 5, possibly 6.
West will get in with the ♥Ace to lead Spades again. How to stop 2 Spade losers?

Contract: 4♥ by South

West's lead: ♦Jack – What is your play. You must be aware of the danger hand.

♠ 7 3 2 North
♥ 7 4 3
♦ A Q J 8
♣ Q 5 3

♠ K 8 4 South
♥ A K 9 6 5 2
♦ K 5 2
♣ A

SOLUTION ONE:

If East has two hearts, she will get a ruff because West will win the first heart lead and lead a spade for East to ruff. However, declarer has one spade to lose anyhow, so she should plan to make East ruff the loser, not her Ace or King.

To do this, declarer must win the first spade in dummy with the ♠ king, to prevent it from being trapped on the second spade lead by West. Then, on the second spade lead, dummy plays low and East ruffs your spade loser, not a winner.

SOLUTION TWO:

Play the ♣ Q on the opening lead to put the idea you have 2 clubs into defenders' minds. (deception that costs nothing). Of course, East must play the ♣ king if holding it.

Then, go to board and lead a small trump, covering anything East plays: East must be kept out of the lead. It's OK to lose a trump trick to West, but not to East, who can lead through your ♠Kxx. East is the danger hand.

“It’s not usually the first mistake that gives you a bad board, it’s the second one. You often make the second mistake because you are still focusing on the first one. Don’t let one mistake cause another!”

— Robert S. Todd

When To Lead A Trump

You should lead a trump when the auction positively suggests a trump lead. Not because you have no idea what to lead.

Situations Where A Trump Lead May Work Well

1. The responder has given preference to opener's second suit, e.g. 1♠- 1NT – 2♦ pass. A ♦ lead may reduce the number of ♠ ruffs that could be taken.
2. Partner passed your take-out double, converting it to a penalty double.
E.g. You double openers 1♦ bid for take-out and partner passes.
Declarer may be relying on ruffing values to score their tricks so you may be able to reduce these by leading trump.
3. On other occasions you may decide to lead a trump because your holdings in the side suits are unattractive.
E.g.
You hold - ♠973 - ♥K762 - ♦J84 - ♣A104 and the bidding has gone:
S 1♠-N 4♠.
4. You and partner have the majority of points and the opponents have sacrificed against a high-level contract. They are obviously relying on ruffing values to score their tricks. You may be able to reduce this by leading trump.
5. Do not lead a trump when the opponents have a misfit.

The Uppercut - What Is It?

It is another play that can destroy declarer's trump holding. The uppercut is a form of trump promotion.

You lead a suit in which **both declarer and partner are void.** You want partner to ruff high forcing out a trump honor from declarer, which hopefully, sets up one of your lower trump cards to be a winner.

Contract: 4♠

♠ 9875		
♥ Q432		
♦ 108		
♣ AQJ		
♠ Q2	♠ J6	
♥ AK987	♥ 65	
♦ 753	♦ QJ642	
♣ 1097	♣ K542	
	♠ AK1043	
	♥ J10	
	♦ AK9	
	♣ 863	

It looks, on the surface that south will only lose two hearts and a club. West leads out the ace, king and another heart. If east ruffs with the spade six the contract is cold. South over-ruffs, takes out trump and loses the club, and makes her contract. However, if east ruffs with the jack of spades the contract cannot be made as south must over-ruff with her ace or king, thus setting up west queen of spades.

Diana's Fun Game is held every Monday afternoon from 1:00 to approximately 3:30 at St. Aidan's church, 380 Leathead Rd., Kelowna. Cost: \$5.00.

This is a game for players who need assistance with their bidding and play. They are allowed to ask questions bring their notes and enjoy a great learning experience.

A partner is not required, you will be partnered up.

For information call: 250 491 4704 or email: knowles8@shaw.ca

"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

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



BEGINNER BRIDGE LESSONS

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 bridge another lifetime ago, in other words a long, long time ago.

You will be playing the game by your second lesson and each subsequent lesson will enhance your enjoyment and wonder of the game.

A partner is not required, come out and enjoy the joy of learning.

Dates: Tuesday September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 16 & 23.

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Parkinson Senior Society, 1700 Parkinson Way

Cost: \$60.00 + \$20.00 for the manual, includes all lessons, coffee, tea and goodies.

To register contact the Parkinson Senior Society – 250 762 4108.

There is a \$15.00 membership fee if you are not a member of the Parkinson Senior Society.

For information contact: Diana Knowles

250 491 4704 - knowles8@shaw.ca

Bridge is a “gym for the mind.” Bridge is a game where you never get to know everything and so it’s a great way to exercise the brain.

TWO SINGLE SESSION LESSONS

We have all heard the saying ‘third hand high, second hand low.’ You will be surprised at how many times this advice will earn you a bottom board and take you, perhaps, out of the winner’s placement.

The two lessons, 2nd hand play and 3rd hand play will fill in the gaps for you.

LESSON ONE – Third hand play. There are over nine reasons not to play 3rd hand high. You will learn the most common situations of when and when not to play 3rd hand high.

Date: September 10, 2018.

LESSON TWO – Second hand low. Second hand low may be right most of the time, however, there are at least five important positions where the second hand should be alert to playing high.

Date: October 1, 2018.

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location: St. Aidan’s Church, 380 Leathead Road.

Cost: \$15.00 each lesson

For information contact: Diana Knowles

250 491 4704

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