

Diana's Fun With Bridge

December, 2022



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

A huge thanks to Kelly, our Club Manager, who stepped up to the challenges when Covid hid and steered our club through the rough years by training himself and numerous other directors on how to hold online games. Thanks to him we weathered the storm and are now almost back to normal. Thanks Kelly and all the directors who kept our games going through this difficult period.

My Monday Fun Game has become the Thursday afternoon face to face 0-199 as so many of my students progressed beyond the level of my Monday game. In its place I offer my Friday Real Bridge game. Real Bridge is an app designed in England and is used by most European bridge clubs. It is almost like face to face bridge as it allows players to see and talk to each other.

In this game players can refer to their notes, ask questions and generally have a great time. An added benefit is, it is very simple to use.

If you are interest in my game but not on my email list please contact me at: dknowles9@icloud.com or phone 250 491 4704, landline.

Check out my list of bridge books and supplies for sale on pages 9 & 10.
Upcoming lessons on page 11.
Gift of learning page 8.



Weak Jump Shift by Responder vs. Strong Jump Shifts by Responder

This situation causes many players a lot of head scratching as most of the books for newer players are still teaching Strong Jump Shifts by responder when, in fact, virtually no modern players use them.

The reasons: when was the last time partner opened and you held 18-19+ points. Was it this year, last year or many years ago or can you even recall it happening? The other reason is that Strong Jump Shifts gobble up valuable slam exploration space.

Weak Jump Shifts

Why would you use a Weak Jump Shift?

1. The WJS describes your hand with one bid.
2. It takes up a lot of bidding space which makes it more difficult for the opponents to bid, especially if you bid a WJS into spades. You have now forced the opponents to guess at the three level.
3. You will bid it whether vul or non vul. You know your side holds half the points.
4. They allow you to respond more safely on a weak hand with a long suit.
5. If the opponent's double partner's bid, your WJS forces their partner either to pass or guess at the three level.
6. It is a lot of fun and you will get many good boards using it.



TIPS For Improving Your Bridge Game

When you are bidding:

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.

Consider playing 3NT instead of 5C or 5D when you have the strength for game, but your only fit is in a minor suit.

Keep the bidding simple. If you have a fit for partner's major, always raise.

If you have a fit for partner's suit, "stretch" to raise, especially in a competitive auction. If you have extra trumps (one more than you need for an 8-card fit), feel free to compete to the 3-level if the opponents bid over your 2-level partscore.

Stay low on misfits. When you have a minimum without support for partner and he doesn't show support for your suit, stop bidding as soon as possible. Unless you have game-going strength, don't bid higher just to show yet another suit and don't bid 2NT. Your goal is to stop in a reasonable contract, not a perfect one.

Responder's requirement for making a WJS

As responder, **On Your First Bid**, you use a Weak Jump Shift to tell partner you hold a 6+ card suit and 5 or less points.

E.g., Partner opens 1♥ and you hold: ♠QJ108764 ♥2 ♦654 ♣76

Your bid would be 2♠ telling partner you hold a 6+ card ♠ suit and hold less than 6 points. If you held 6 points you would bid 1♠ and repeat the bid on your re-bid.

Partner opened 1♣ or 1♦ and you hold: ♠32 ♥QJ10765 ♦J87 ♣43. Your bid is 2♥, telling partner you hold 6+ ♥ and less than 6 points.

Partner opened 1♠ and you hold: ♠2 ♥QJ107654 ♦65 ♣432

In order to show your weak hand, you need to go the 3-level. You now need not only weakness but a 7-card suit to bid the WJS, (weak jump shift). You may also hold 6-7 points.

Eg.,

Partner 1♣ and you hold ♦AQJ97432. Holding only 6♦ you would bid 2♦ but now you hold a 7-card suit bid 3♦.

Partner opened 1♥
and you hold:
♠ K97543
♥ 2
♦ 976
♣ 765

Your response is: 2♠.
You have no fit for partner and your WJS has made it very difficult for the opponents to bid.

Partner opened 1♥
and you hold:
♠ K2
♥ 5
♦ KQJ109654
♣ 754

Your response is: 3♦.
You hold a 7-card and 6 points. You need a 7-card suit and a couple more points to jump to the 3-level.

Partner opened 1♥
and you hold:
♠ KJ6543
♥ 8765
♦ 4
♣ 87

Your response is: 2♥.
You hold too many hearts to make a WJS in spades.

Partner opened 1♥
and you hold:
♠ AKJ765
♥ 87
♦ 2
♣ J952

Your response is: 1♠
as your hand is slightly stronger. Your rebid will be 2♠, showing a 6-card suit and a minimum response.



Opening Bidders Rebid

1. Most of the time the opening bidder will pass after a WJS as responder is showing a very weak hand.
2. With a strong hand and a good minor suit, you may try for game in no trump.
3. With a strong hand and support for partner's suit, you may raise partner's bid.
4. With a strong suit of your own and a singleton or void in partner's suit, you might rebid your own suit.

You opened 1♥ & partner bid 2♠ WJS.

You hold:

♠ A54
♥ AK872
♦ AJ5
♣ Q6

Your response is: 3♠.
If partner is near the top of her point count, she will go to game knowing you have support and a great hand.

You opened 1♦ & partner bid 2♥ WJS.

You hold:

♠ AJ102
♥ 2
♦ AKJ1075
♣ AK

Your response is: 3NT. You hold 20 HCP's and know the ♥ suit is covered, so bid your game.

You opened 1♦ & partner bid 2♥ WJS.

You hold:

♠ A76
♥ 6
♦ AKJ10765
♣ A5

Your response is: 3♦.
You hold a singleton in partner's WJS suit but hold a great suit of your own so bid it.

You opened 1♦ & partner bid 2♥ WJS.

You now bid 3♣

You hold:

♠ 2
♥ -----
♦ AKJ1054
♣ KQJ1087

What if opener bids a new suit after responders WJS?

A new suit by opener shows a powerhouse 2-suited hand and is forcing to the responder.

Responder must make a choice of one of partner's two suits. No if's or buts – make a choice.



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

1-Stewart Henderson
3-Edward Aizen
6-Catherine McGowan
8-Francis Phillips
10-Valerie McDermott

5/20 points

2-David Palsat
8-Elizabeth Binnie
10-Linda Miller

20/50 points

5-Paul Jackson

50/100 points

2-Roger Shaw

100/200 points

1-Lorraine Cameron
2-James Hoovey
3-Dave Taylor
5-Alan Broome

200/300 points

2-Jerzy Jankowski
3-Allison Sawyer
5-Bill Holland
9-Chris Mazurkwich
10-Wendy Webb

300/500 points

2-Mary Meenagh
4-Kim Reiger
5-Clive Elkin
10-Peggy Fekete

500/1000 points

4-Judith Harris
6-Andrea Johnson

1000/1500 points

1-Wayne Stann
4-Elaine Hansen Hill
10-Leah Koffski

1500/2500 points

9-Chilton Yang

2500/3500 points

2-Kelly Meenagh
5-Roberta Cronquist
6-Diana Knowles
8-Maureen Barnes

3500/5000 points

3-Alden Edwards
5-Aline Vance
6-Ted Rich

A Matter of Priority

A man has a severe heart attack and is rushed to the hospital emergency room. The admitting nurse says, "I'm sorry, you'll have to wait in line."

"But I might be dying!" says the man.

"Sorry, a doctor will see you when one is available."

Then an ambulance races up with its siren blaring, and a woman is carried in on a stretcher. A paramedic explains, "She was in a terrible accident and has just stopped breathing."

"I'm sorry," says the nurse, "she'll have to wait in line."

Next a guy walks in without assistance, whispers something to the nurse and is taken immediately to the examination room, surrounded by doctors.

"What's this?" says the first man. "How come he goes right in?"

"Oh," explains the nurse, "he's a bridge player and his partner just passed him in a cue-bid."

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

1-Steward Henderson
3-Edward Aizen
6-Catherine McGowan

5/20 points

2-Dave Palsat
8-Elizabeth Binnie

20/50 points

2-Paul Jackson

50/100 points

4-Dawn Hill
6-Gwen Nicholson
7-Roger Shaw

100/200 points

1-Lorraine Cameron
2-James Hooey
3-Dave Taylor
5-Alan Broome

When you're a defender:

Lead attacking combinations -- suits with touching honors such as QJ10x, KQx, AKxx, J109x. Lead the top of an honor sequence.

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

When in doubt about what to lead, lead the fourth-best card in your longest suit. Leading from length is the "standard" lead to a notrump contract, and it's often the safest lead to a suit contract.

200/300 points

2-Bill Holland
4-Jerzy Jankowski
7-Wendy Webb
9-Allison Sawyer

300/500 points

1-Mary Meenagh
4-Clive Elkin
6-Kim Regier
10-Peggy Fekete

500/1000 points

5-Judith Harris

1000/1500 points

1-Wayne Stann
3-Elaine Hansen-Hill
4-Leah Koffski
7-Jennifer Edwards

1500/2500 points

9-Bud Craig

2500-3500 points

1-Kelly Meenagh
7-Diana Knowles
8-Roberta Cronquist

3500/5000 points

3-Alden Edwards
6-Ted Rich

Count cards and points as you play. Use clues from the bidding, the opening lead and the play to try to come up with a mental picture of partner's or declarer's hand.

Think ahead, and be ready for critical plays. Indecision will often tell declarer what you hold in a suit, so try to decide in advance which card you'll play when declarer leads a suit toward or from dummy.

Use defensive signals to help partner during the play.

Thank you Al Edwards for the following interesting information on the many different 2NT bids. Who would have thought the bid could be so versatile.

1. Jacoby 2NT (Showing 4 card Major support and an opening hand.) ALERT

North	East	South	West
1S	P	2NT	

2. As a Response to a 1 Minor opening showing 10-12 and no 4 card major and a balanced hand.

North	East	South	West
1C	p	2NT	

3. As a Response after passing to your partner's 1 Major, showing 10-12, with no 3 card support.

North	East	South	West
P	P	P	1S
P	2N		

4. A strong 2NT showing (19) 20-21 showing no singletons (Maybe 1 Ace or 1 King)

North	East	South	West
2NT			

5. A 2NT bid after the opps open a weak 2, showing a 1NT opener.

North	East	South	West
2S	2NT		

6. A 2NT bid after the opps open 1NT, showing minors or showing =1NT or ? (ALERT)

North	East	South	West
1NT	2NT		

7. Unusual 2NT. An overall of the opps 1 something Open showing the lowest 2 Unbid suits

North	East	South	West
1 something	2NT		

8. Jordan 2NT. (Showing Limit Raise or better after the opps Double your partner's 1 Major bid.)
Alert

North	East	South	West
1H	Dbl	2NT	

9. Spiral 2NT Asks partner to further define his hand. (Alert)

North	East	South	West
1C	P	1H	p
2H	p	2NT	

10. Lebensohl 2NT i.e. Transfer to 3C (Alert)

North	East	South	West
1NT	2H	2N	P





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 teacher;s app, Shark Consul, for your session. You will need the free version of Zoom. If there are only 2 or 3 players the Shark robots are superior to other robots.

Cost: \$75.00 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

Stocking Stuffers

All books are discounted 10% and I pay the tax. Postage applies if mailed.

Bridge Supplies

Plastic playing cards at \$3.50 per deck.

Plastic playing cards. Case of 12 - \$43.00.

A carry case of purple boards all with gently used cards (36 boards) \$125.00.

Eight sets of coloured boards – 4 to a set - \$10.00 per set of four each with new or barely used cards.

Report Covers – bundle of 20 - \$2.00.

20% DISCOUNT – NEW TITLES ADDED

Planning the Play of a Bridge Hand 1 copy - Seagram & Bird – \$22.95 **NOW \$18.35**

An exception book on planning NT and suit contracts to adding other clever moves to your bridge game.

Patty Tucker – Conventions 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. \$21.95. 2 copies. **NOW \$17.50**

Bridge Entry Techniques – David Bird - \$24.95. 2 copies. **NOW \$19.95** 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. A must for those wanting to improve their declarer play.

25 Steps to Learning 2/1 - Paul Thurston. \$21.95. 2 copies. **NOW \$17.50** – Learn everything you ever wanted to know in this comprehensive book on 2/1.

Planning No Trump Contracts – David Bird & Tom Bourke - \$12.95 now **\$10.35**. This is a small book of problems that will test your knowledge of the basic principals of playing notrump contracts.

A Modern Approach to Two-Over-One – Ken Eichenbaum - \$14.95 – **NOW \$11.95**. This book is for players who know the basics of the 2/1 system but who are looking for more comprehensive methods to “glue” the system together.

Larry Teaches 2/1 Game Forcing – Larry Cohen – Cover price \$14.99 US – my price \$14.00 Canadian.

Tricks with Trumps – David Bird & Marc Smith - \$9.95 **NOW \$8.00**

25% DISCOUNT

FOR NEWER AND ADVANCED NEWER PLAYERS

Barbara Seagram's Beginning Bridge - \$21.95 **NOW \$16.45** – Barbara, in this amazing book, takes players from a beginning player right up to an advancing newer player. The first 8 chapters deal with bidding and play and then take you into takeout doubles, bidding bid hands and preemptive bidding. An absolute must for players wanting to hone up their bidding and playing skills.

I also have one slightly water damaged book for \$14.00.

Jeff Bayone - A Taste of Bridge - Jeff owns the largest bridge club in NA and created this book for beginning players. This is a fantastic book for new players and players wanting to reinforce their playing and bidding skills. \$23.95 **NOW \$17.95**

30% DISCOUNT

Better Slam Bidding With Bergen - \$11.95 – 1 copy. 10 times world champion. **NOW \$8.35**

Negative Doubles – Marty Bergen - \$11.95 – 1 copy. 10 times world champion. **NOW \$8.35**

Mastering Weak 2-Bids – Marty Berger Cheat Sheet – \$9.95 – **NOW \$7.00**

NO DISCOUNT

Barbara Seagram's Cheat Sheet - A super handy reference that most newer players can use at the table. \$10.00 no discount.

Barbara Seagram's Cheat Sheet on 2/1 - \$12.00. No discount

Barbara Seagram's Cheat Sheet on Defence - \$12.00. No discount

Barbara Seagram's Cheat Sheet on Conventions - \$12.00. No discount



2023-BASIC BIDDING - ONLINE

Bidding is having a conversation with your partner in code. If you and your partner struggle to convey what your bids mean now is the time to make the corrections and enjoy the joys of easy communication. The added benefits: you will see your scores soar and your games will be a lot more fun.

LESSON 1:

Basic hand evaluation
Opening a five-card major instead of a six-card minor
Counting length and dummy points
One level opening bids
Quick and slow tricks

LESSON 2:

Responding to partner's opener
Bidding your suit in response to partner's opener
You have a fit, now what?
NT responses to partner's opener

LESSON 3:

2/1 Response
Opener's rebid after a 2/1 response
Three level response – weak and strong
Reverses – quick review
Transfer to the minors over partner's opener of 1NT
Partner opens 1NT, opponent's bid, now what?
Never, never underlead an ace in a suit contract.

LESSON 4:

Overcalls
Simple cue bid

Dates: Monday January 16, 23, 30 and Feb. 6 - **Time:** 10:00 – 12:00 am Pacific Standard Time.

Cost: \$60.00 – Payment – e-transfer, cheque or cash

Contact: Diana Knowles – dknowles9@icloud.com – Phone: 250 491 4704 landline.

Lessons are held on Zoom, Power Point and Shark Bridge. You do not need Power Point or Shark Bridge but will require the free version of Zoom . If you do not have it go to: zoom.us and download the free version.

I will hold one or two free sessions on Zoom prior to the lessons for those unfamiliar with the technology.

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.