

Diana's June/July 2018 Newsletter

Fun With Bridge



It has been awhile since my last newsletter. Time flies when one is busy.

Since February I have held two successful Beginner series, as well as a Beginner 2 series and a double session on Doubles.

It is delightful to see how many of the new players are coming out to my fun Monday afternoon game as well as joining various bridge clubs and playing in some of the open games at the Let's Play Bridge Club, Brad's Saturday game at the Parkinson Senior Centre, Ashok's Tuesday game at the Parkinson Senior Centre and the Westside Bridge Club.

I plan on doing a few two session classes this summer, possibly on Slam bidding and Preempts. Let me know if you are interested in either or any other lessons you would like me to focus on.



What do I mean when I say 'he or she who knows goes'?

It simply means that once one of the partners has explained their hand then their partner is now the captain and can set the contract.

E.g. Your partner opened 1NT 15-17 HCP and you hold a balanced 10-14 HCP. Partner has told you what they hold, you are now the captain and must bid 3NT. If you wishy washy and bid 2NT to invite, your partner with 15-16 points will pass.

Playing duplicate bridge if the top score is 8 you will receive a 0. Playing at home bridge you will score 150 if you make 3 instead of 400 non-vulnerable or 600 vulnerable. In both cases you will have an unhappy partner.



Sam Says:

For those of you who are not familiar with Sam, Sam is my companion who loves to give bridge advice.

His advice today is: if you perceive your partner has made a mistake DO NOT criticize them, discuss the reason they played or bid the way they did. You will, no doubt, find they had a very valid reason for their bid or play.

To criticize causes your partner unhappiness, stress and will probably cause them to make more errors.

Sam has found that those that criticize are usually 85% + in error and are usually the one making the most mistakes.

Another example: Partner opened say 1♥ or 1♠ and you hold 3+ card support and 12-15 points. Bid 4 of the suit. This tells partner you have support and opening points. If they hold a big hand they can now explore for slam. Holding a minimum hand, they will pass.



An area where I find most newer players have a problem bidding is a rebid of 1NT on their second bid.

Problems you will encounter if you don't rebid 1 or 2NT.

1. ♠65 ♥AK1087 ♦K32 ♣A109

You opened 1♥, partner bid 1♠. You can't rebid your hearts with only 5, you can't support partner with only a doubleton. You can't bid ♣'s or ♦'s holding only a 3-card suit. Your rebid must be 1NT telling partner you hold a minimum hand with 5 hearts.

2. ♠AK1097 ♥87 ♦A32 ♣QJ10

You opened 1♠ and partner bid 2♥ - same as above.

3. ♠K109 ♥J8 ♦AK32 ♣QJ10

You opened 1♦ and partner bid 1♥ - your bid? You can't bid 1♠ holding a 3-card suit. You can't support partner's hearts holding a doubleton. Your rebid is 1NT.

4. ♠AK10 ♥87 ♦632 ♣KQJ10

You opened 1♣ and partner bid 1♥ - your bid? Same as above.

On all of the above you have no accurate rebid unless your rebid is 1NT.

What I hear players saying is 'I don't want to have to play in NT'. They forget bridge is a partnership game and what you must do is to describe your hand to partner to the best of your ability.

By rebidding 1NT does not mean you will be playing there. What it means is you have told partner your count, shape and holding, now partner is the Captain and will place the contract.



Overcalls

What do you need to overcall?

What are the advantages of overcalling?

Should you be playing bridge if you don't overcall?

NO.

There are several advantages to overcalling.

1. It interferes w/the opponents.
2. Often it locates a fit w/partner.
3. Even if your suit does not fit with partner they can now bid their suit w/the appropriate hand.
4. It is lead directing for your partner.



NOTICE RE: MY FUN MONDAY GAME.

No game Monday June 11 due to the Penticton tournament.

There will be no games at the Let's Play Bridge Club June 11 - 17.

My Monday game will resume Monday June 18th.

TIP

If the HCP are almost equally divided and bidding 1NT is at all logical based on distribution and stoppers, bid it before your opponent gets a chance to bid it.

NEVER, NEVER, UNDERLEAD AN ACE IN A SUIT CONTRACT ONLY DO SO IN A NT CONTRACT.

Points to consider:

1. The length of your suit.
2. Your suit strength.
3. General strength of your hand.
4. Vulnerability.
5. Level of the bid you will be making.

Requirements for 1 level overcalls

1. Five card suits or longer.
2. 8+ points up to 16-17.

I am suggesting a minimum of 8 HCP; however, you will see the more experienced players overcalling w/as little as 6HCP and sometimes w/5HCP.

	You Hold		♠ AKJ76	
			♥ 1042	
Opponents opens:			♦ K4	
1♣			♣ AJ8	
	What is your choice?			
	a. pass	b. 1NT	c. 1♠	d. dbl.

1♠ this is close to a maximum overcall. If partner raises spades consider going to four.

	You Hold		♠ 42	
			♥ 865	
Opponents open:			♦ AKJ103	
1♣			♣ 1075	
	What is your choice?			
	a. pass	b. 1NT	c. 1♦	d. dbl.

1♦. You have 8HCP and a nice diamond suit.

Responding to partner's overcall.

One of the reasons to overcall is to take away bidding space from the opponents.

This means you should raise partner's overcall when you have a fit.

QUIZ

1. In a competitive auction how high should you bid with 8 trump.

A. You should go to the two level in a competitive auction.

2. In a competitive auction how high should you bid with 9 trump?

A. In a competitive auction with 9 trump you should compete to the three level.

3. In a competitive auction how high should you bid with 10 trump?

A. With 10 trump you can compete to the 4 level.

TIP

Don't Lead A Singleton If You Have A Natural Trump Trick



LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♦	1♠	pass	?
What action will you take with these hands.			

A

♠ K63
♥ J65
♦ 10654
♣ Q65

Not much of a hand but raise to 2♠. This deprives the opponents of a whole level of bidding.

B

♠ A103
♥ KQ76
♦ 87
♣ Q654

A much stronger hand, make a cue bid of 2♦ telling partner you have support and 10+ points.

C

♠ K1063
♥ 2
♦ 1032
♣ J7654

Wow – almost a bust but w/great ♠ support & a singleton. Bid 3♠, make life difficult for the opponents.

Responses w/out support.

Unfortunately, this happens but you have options.

5. Pass.
6. W/7-10 (or 11) HCP & a stopper in the opponents suit bid 1NT.
7. Bid a suit of your own.

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♥	1♠	pass	?
What action will you take with this hand.			

♠ J3
♥ KJ43
♦ K103
♣ J1084

1NT – you have enough strength w/2 possible ♥ stoppers.



PLEASE – PLEASE – PLEASE

When partner bids a suit and you are on lead lead her suit unless you have a very good reason not to.

If you are holding an honor eg. Q43 – lead the 3 – this tells partner you have an honor.

If you do not hold an honor eg. 875 – lead the 8 – this tells partner you do not hold an honor.

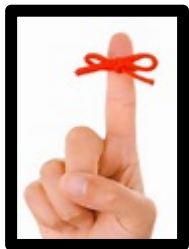
♠ AK85
♥ 743
♦ 9652
♣ K6

♠ QJ10942	♠ 7
♥ A	♥ 1062
♦ K84	♦ QJ10
♣ Q75	♣ J109832

♠ 63
♥ KQJ985
♦ A73
♣ A4

North	East	South	West
		1♥	1♠
1NT	pass	3♥	pass
4♥	all pass		

South opens one heart, west overcalls one spade and north bids 1NT telling partner she has points and one and probably two spade controls. South now can jump to three hearts and north bids four. West leads the queen of spades, you win with the ace, play a heart which west wins. West leads the jack of spades and now you must duck the spade as you are aware that west may hold a six-card suit for his overcall. West wins the jack and leads another spade, again you must duck and ruff in your hand. Now take out the rest of the trumps, play the ace of clubs, over to the king. Now play the king of spades discarding a losing diamond. You lose one spade, one heart and one diamond. If you play the king of spades on the third trick you will go down as you will not be able to discard a diamond.



REMINDER – My fun Monday afternoon game for newer players. The games are meant to assist newer players in their bidding and play. They may bring their notes, ask questions and most important have a lot of fun. A partner is not required, I will partner you up with another player.
Time: Monday 1:00 – 3:30
Location: St. Aidan’s Church, 380 Leathead Rd. Kelowna
Cost: \$5.00, includes, coffee, tea and goodies.

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.