

Hi everyone, here is your fall newsletter with some upcoming happenings and some bridge articles for you to expand your horizons. Hope to see you soon.

If you should find this version difficult to print, go to [www.barbaraseagram.com](http://www.barbaraseagram.com) and look for FALL NEWSLETTER. It will be up in printable format in two days.

Play lots; it is THE WAY to get better!

Barbara Seagram & Alex Kornel  
[www.barbaraseagram.com](http://www.barbaraseagram.com)



### DO NOT PREEMPT IN PASS OUT SEAT

|                            |   |   |   |        |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|--------|
| What do you do with this S | W | N | E | KQJ754 |
| hand after P-P-P to you? P | P | P | ? | 76     |
| Do you bid                 |   |   |   | 763    |
| a) Pass b) 2S c) 1S        |   |   |   | J76    |

Never open 2S or 3S or 4S in pass out seat intending it to show 6-10 HCP and a weak hand with a long suit (6 card - 7 card or 8 card respectively).

You only preempt in order to stop your opponents from bidding easily to the right contract. You jump in and steal their space making it very tough for them.

BUT when both opponents have already passed, there is no longer a reason to preempt. If you now bid 2S after P-P-P, instead of losing NO POINTS for your side, you may now lose 50 or 100 or more if you go down. Simply pass with this hand and get NO points for your side but no points for the bad guys either.

So, what will it mean if you do have this auction?

P-P-P-2S?

You must not have a bid lying around in your toolbox unused.

This bid of 2 in the pass out seat will mean that you have 13-15 points and a good 6 card suit. Yes, you could have bid 1S BUT you have missed a golden opportunity to tell partner EXACTLY what you have. A six card suit and 13-15 points (including distribution).

AND it will give your opponents a much tougher time if they now wanted to get into the auction.

The same applies for 3 level bids after P-P-P. This will show a 7 card suit and 13-15 points.

**DISCLOSURE**  
**by BRENT MANLEY**  
Former Editor of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin

When I was Editor of the Bridge Bulletin, it was not unusual for me to receive letters and emails from readers who consider the principle of full disclosure to be nonsensical. Many cite the game of football to make their arguments. "The quarterback doesn't tell the opposing team he is about to throw a pass," they say. "One team doesn't give the other team its game plan."

It's fine for the Green Bay Packers to play that way but not for you and me as a bridge partnership. If we and everyone else could play anything we wanted to with no requirement to tell anyone the meanings of our calls, we could create all kinds of havoc at the bridge table - that is, until players moved on to gin rummy, hearts or Monopoly. Bridge would die.

Okay, we have established that the opponents are entitled to know what you and your partner are playing. How, you might ask, do they acquire that knowledge?

One handy tool is the ACBL convention card. The laws require that each member of a partnership have convention cards that are filled out identically. These cards exist for the benefit of the opponents, not the owners. You do not refer to your own card from the start of the auction to the end of play.

Alerts and Announcements are two other ways to comply with the requirement for full disclosure. All calls that require an Alert are listed on the convention card in red. Announcements (such as transfer) are listed in blue.

An important point is that when **partner** makes a call that requires an alert, it is improper to say anything but that one word. Do not explain the call unless asked to do so by an opponent.

Further, in making your explanation, do not simply give the name of the convention you are playing. e.g. Do not say "It is a Bergen Raise". Say: "It shows 6-9 points and 4 trumps."

If you have a question about an opponent's action, you can ask **when it is YOUR turn to call**. In general, unless you intend to take action, depending on the meaning of the call, it is best to ask your questions at the conclusion of the auction. You are entitled to full explanations of all calls.

**Ed Note: It is the partner of the person making the funny bid that needs to do the explaining when asked. Not the person who has made the bid.**

## Is Your King Pulling Its Weight?

If you were running a business and paying an employee good wages to work, how would you feel if you found him slacking off and not fulfilling his duties?

So if you hold a King (let's say the King of Spades), you would want him to carry his weight i.e. take a trick! After all, we assign him 3 points!

Now, if the person to your left has overcalled Spades and you have the K3 of Spades, know this...that person, your LHO (left hand opponent), unless they are new to the game, will never lead his Ace in that suit because he most likely has AQxxx. He is going to wait till his partner is on lead and then when his partner (your RHO) leads the suit, he will now win two tricks instead of one.

After all, aces were put on this earth to capture Kings and Queens.

So, if you have Kx in this situation, **it's not a happy king**. We can say that this is not a "working king".



**BUT** if RHO has overcalled Spades (or bid Spades) and you have Kx, it is much more likely to win a trick. **It is a happy king!** You must assume in bridge. Assume that when they bid the suit, that they have some HCP in it.



Remember this when you are bidding and deciding whether to push on...in deciding how high to go. Because your hand either goes up in value or down in value based on opponents bidding.

Have a look at the following three hands to see **which one you like the best**, based on the bidding: You are south on all hands.

S    W    N    E  
1S   2D   2S   3C

*Yes, I would have opened  
# 3 with 1NT but humour  
me and read along.*

1.

S KJ7532  
H AK  
D K54  
C J6

2.

S KQ8542  
H AK  
D 76  
C K92

3.

S K7432  
H AQ7  
D QJ  
C QJ7

Some of the things you should look for in a "good hand" versus a "bad hand" are:

Are your honour cards located in long suits or are they in your short suits?  
e.g. K singleton is not as good as Kxx

Axxxx is better than Ax.

Are your honour cards in suits with other honour cards in that same suit? Touching honours are happier than scattered honours.

KQxx in one suit is better than Kxx and Qxx in two different suits.

QJ as a doubleton are ugly and unhappy. Definitely not worth 3 points.

With all that in mind, let's now look at the above hands.

Hand # 2 is the best. Your King of Clubs is favourably placed and odds are higher that it will win a trick. Your S suit is strong and long and you have no wasted cards in Diamonds. Bid 4S on your rebid.

Hand # 1: Your K Diamonds does not rate to win a trick. It is not a "working King". Bid 3S on your rebid.

Hand # 3 is the worst hand. Six of your Your High Card Points are located in opponents' suits. You will be very lucky to win any tricks in C or in D. Your hand went downhill in view of opponents' bidding D and C. You should Pass on your rebid.

### MATH PROBLEM

If you had 4 apples and 5 oranges in one hand and 6 apples and 7 oranges in the other, what would you have?

Answer:

Very big hands

