

## ALEX'S MONTHLY BRIDGE TIP

Your partner opens 1C and your RHO (Right Hand Opponent) overcalls 1D. What will you now bid with this hand?

S A7643  
H K1054  
D 54  
C 65

If you bid 1S, you LHO now bids 3D. Pass-Pass back to you and you don't have enough points to now advertise your four-card Heart suit. You will miss your potential eight-card Heart fit.

With 6-10 points therefore, and 5-4 in the majors, just make a negative double.

With 11 or more points, bid the longer major first as you have enough values to later advertise the other major.

Another:

1C by partner and RHO bids 1D. What will you bid with this hand?

S KJ65  
H KJ754  
D 76  
C A8

Bid 1H, showing 4 or more Hearts and 6 or more points. LHO now bids 3D. Pass-Pass back to you. Now what will you bid?

3S is what we suggest. Partner will know that you must have at least five Hearts and four Spades because with only 4-4 in each major, you would have made a negative double. Furthermore, partner knows that you must have 11 or more points as with 6-9 and 5-4, you would have used a negative double first. Opener clearly has a minimum here and cannot bid immediately later 3D by her RHO.

Here's one more: 1C by partner, 1D by RHO and you bid 1S. How many cards are you promising to have in the Spade suit?

It only promises 4 or more Spades. Ditto for if you had bid 1H. . But that is only if there has been that exact bidding sequence: 1C - 1D by RHO and now it is your turn.

This is because 1C by partner - 1D by RHO. If you Double now, it guarantees 4-4 at least in the majors.

So with: 1C by partner and 1D by RHO, you need to now bid 1S.

S A764  
H K54  
D 65  
C 8743

BUT remember that if it goes

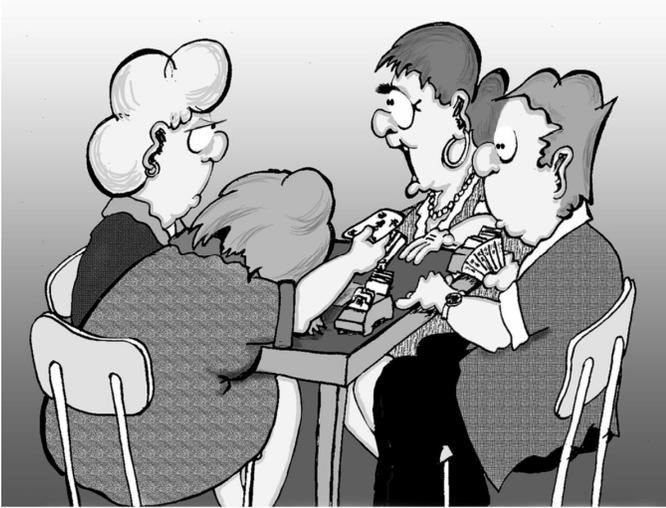
1C by partner 1H by RHO and you now respond 1S, you are guaranteeing a five-card Spade suit as with only a four-card Spade holding, you would have made a negative Double

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# Articles from Grand River Bridge Club, Kitchener

## OUT OF HAND

BY BILL BUTLER



“ Our bridge teacher says you're to make the opening lead face down! “

## FACE DOWN LEADS

The following two articles are from the weekly newsletter of the Grand River Bridge Club in Kitchener, ON. This is a fabulous club.

<http://www.grandriverbridgeclub.com/>

Face-Down Opening Leads take place in Face-to-Face Games The first thing to make clear is that it is the **card** that must be face-down - not the player - on the opening lead.

Now that this important distinction has been made (!!), let's tackle the reasoning behind it. The opening lead is often crucially important. So, the opening leader would very much like to get it right, and of course it would be great

if his or her partner could just tell him what card to lead - but that wouldn't be cricket (or bridge) ! There are sometimes ways and means to get around the rules, however - for example, if the opening leader's partner were to ask some very pointed questions about what the opponents meant when they bid a particular suit, his interest in that suit might tip off the opening leader as to the best lead.

That is why only the opening leader is allowed to ask questions about the opponents' bids before selecting his or her lead. But, by the same token it obviously wouldn't be fair to totally bar the other defender from asking questions about the auction.

So, as a compromise, after the opening leader has asked his questions about the auction, he must place his opening lead face-down on the table and say "Do you have any questions, partner?" At this point, the opening leader's partner may ask questions to his heart's content - but the opening lead cannot be changed. Once the opening leader's partner has asked all his questions or indicated that he has no questions, then the opening lead is flipped over and the play of the hand begins.

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## WHAT BIDS ARE ALERTABLE?

“Alertable” means somebody has to do or say something as soon as the alertable bid has been made. You can know a bid is alertable because it is coloured red on both the online and paper convention cards. Essentially, bids are alertable when they represent a special partnership understanding that may not be readily understood and anticipated by a significant number of players.

There is an almost-infinite number of alertable bids. Some common examples are: Jacoby two no trump, splinters, inverted minors, two hearts bust bid following partner's 2 club opener, 2 spades transfers following partner's 1 no trump opener, Ogust, new minor forcing, fourth suit forcing, support doubles and redoubles, DONT and Cappelletti, and Lebensohl. With the exception of

splinters, bids past three no trump by opener are not immediately alertable, but once the bidding is over the opponents are supposed to be notified of any ace-asking or key-card-asking sequences (delayed alerts).

It is important to note that when you're playing online, the person who makes the alertable bid is the same person who must alert his or her own bid. This is done by typing the meaning of the bid on the line underneath the bidding box. The partner of the person who makes an alertable bid does not see his partner's explanation, but the opponents both do.

As an aside, if you are playing online and one of your **opponents** makes an ambiguous bid, you can ask him or her to explain his bid by clicking on that bid. This makes a little box pop up asking the opponent to elaborate.

In Face-to Face bridge games, it's the partner of the person who makes an alertable bid who must say "Alert" and then wait to see if either of the opponents asks for an explanation at their turn to bid.

Furthermore, the person who made the alertable bid must act as if he didn't hear his partner's alert and/or explanation (ethically he must not be "woken up" by his partner's alert/explanation if – perish the thought - it turns out that they are on different pages.

**PLAY THESE HANDS**  
**MORE Hands by Jeff Hand professional player & teacher**  
**Commentary by Barbara**

**North**

S AQ9  
H A532  
D J9  
C AK54

**South**

S KJ1087  
H K84  
D A64  
C Q10

Contract is 6S by South. Opening lead is H Queen.

Plan your play before looking at the answer.

On this hand, you count your losers, as we always do in a trump suit contract.

South has 0 Spade losers; 1 Heart loser, 2 Diamond losers and 0 Club losers. That is 3 losers which is 2 too many in 6S.

If you pull trump first, you will end up with 2 Diamond losers. When dummy has a singleton, doubleton or a void, it is usually right to not draw trump yet. Create a void in the dummy and ruff a loser or two in dummy.

On this hand, win the Heart Ace and play Diamond Ace and concede a Diamond. It only hurts for a little while. They lead back a Heart. You win it in your hand and ruff a Diamond in dummy. Now draw trumps which are solid, overtaking the second trump in your hand and leading a final round of trump. Now play the lopsided Club suit and discard a Heart on the EXTRA Club WINNER in dummy . Remember to always use up the high honour from the short side first whenever you are playing a lopsided suit.

Here's one more:

**North**

S KQ96  
H Q5  
D KQJ102  
C 64

**South**

S AJ102  
H A62  
D 543  
C AJ7

Contract is 4S by South. Opening lead is Club 10. Plan your play before looking at the answer.

When you count your losers, you find that you have:

Spades: 0  
Hearts: 2  
Diamonds: 1  
Clubs: 2

You have a delicious suit in dummy: Diamonds. Draw trumps and hope they divide 3-2. Then attack Diamonds, forcing out the Diamond Ace. You will lose a Diamond and a Club but you can ruff one Club in dummy (with the remaining trump which is there) and discard two Hearts on the EXTRA WINNERS in dummy in the Diamond suit. Making 5.