

## BRIDGE TIPS FROM ALEX & BARBARA

1. Your RHO opens with 1D. You hold this hand:

S AK107  
H 76  
D K86  
C K1084

Do you bid a) Pass b) Double or c) 1S

**ANSWER:** Double will be the wrong bid (the very worst!) and we will send you back to Beginners 101.

To make a takeout double with only 13-17 points, you must have adequate trump support for ALL the unbid suits (at least three in unbid suits). The reason is that partner may respond to your double with 1H. She has been forced to bid with:

S 543  
H J754  
D 876  
C 854

If you have a minimum double, you are forced to now pass when you promised partner a decent dummy with support for ANYTHING that she bid. If you were to now bid 1NT, you will be promising 18-19 HCP. If you don't understand this, send me an email and Barbara will send you a write-up on takeout doubles.

**ANSWER:** Pass would be the legal bid BUT if you have a burning need to bid, bid 1S. Yes, you have promised to have five Spades but this is a very good suit and you really want partner to lead a Spade if he should find himself on lead so just do it. It messes with your opponents and makes it tougher for them to bid cheaply.

2. Partner has overcalled Diamonds and your RHO is in 4H. You hold Diamonds A62. Since a) you must lead partner's suit when she has made an overcall, guaranteeing good quality Diamonds and b) you must not underlead an Ace against a trump suit contract, you lead the Diamond Ace. Partner plays the Diamond 2. Dummy has two small Diamonds. Do you continue with leading Diamonds?

**ANSWER:** Just because partner has bid the suit, it does not mean she wishes the suit continued. Partner may have Clubs AQ10 sitting over Dummy's Clubs (on her right) KJ9 and she wants a Club led through Dummy's Clubs so she can score two Clubs (at least) as well as two Diamonds.

Remember to watch partner's signals for instructions on what to do next. i.e. Continue? Or Switch?

3. You must lead differently when you are defending against 3NT than when you are defending against 6NT.

Let's say you have  
S K10853  
H Q62  
D Q82  
C 92

Against 3NT, by all means lead your fourth best Spade. Against 6NT, remember to always do the Rule of 40. The opponents must have approximately 33 HCP to have bid to 6NT. You have 7 HCP. How many does that leave partner with? Zero is the correct answer. So, we only lead fourth best if there is hope that partner has some stuff. If partner is a pointless partner, then leading fourth best will give Declarer an extra trick. In this case, always make a passive lead. Lead the Club 9. If you get in again, lead another Club. Make Declarer work for her extra tricks; do not just donate them to her.

Remember to always do Rule of 40 before ever making an opening lead against any contract.

**PAMELA NISBET: Take your time when the hand goes down, put the bidding in your head again, try and understand what their lead is ... you've got to pull everything you've heard together before you play to that first card.**

### **MORE about ALERTS & MIS-ALERTS from Grand River Bridge Club (Kitchener/Waterloo)**

Even if your hearing is excellent (not always the case for bridge players), you are not allowed to hear your partner's Announcements and Alerts. This is a hard concept to wrap your mind around, but please try – because it's an important part of bridge ethics. Unlike, say, tennis, where you are allowed to yell at your partner not to hit the ball because it's going out, in bridge your communication with your partner is confined to the use of the cards in the bidding box – the numbers 1 to 7, the four suits and no trump, double, pass, and redouble.

Any other communication with your partner – such as slamming down the double card to make it clear it's for penalty or hesitating for a long time before bidding to convey your possession of extra values – is Unauthorized Information.

Into this category fall your partner's Announcements and Alerts. They are strictly for the ears of the opponents, and you must pretend that you didn't hear them: even if - indeed especially if - they alert you to the fact that your partnership is having a bidding misunderstanding. It is simply not ethical to be "woken up" to the true meaning of your bids/your partner's interpretation of them. Next Week: What is Unauthorized.

## DECISIONS, DECISIONS

This deal from Bridge Master, a free, interactive declarer-play program on Bridge Base Online, will test your knowledge of probabilities:

Barbara & Alex HIGHLY recommend practicing play on Bridge Master, now free on BBO. Always go to SHOW SOLUTION after playing the hand.

[www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com) . It will walk you through the whole hand

Dlr: South ♠ 5 4 3  
Vul: None ♥ 4 3 2  
♦ A K 5 4 3  
♣ 3 2

♠ A K Q 2  
♥ A Q  
♦ 2  
♣ A K Q J 10 9

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	7NT
All Pass			

Playing 1430 Key Card Blackwood, North would have responded 5C. 5D was regular Blackwood.

The lead is the D Q and you are in dummy for the first and last time. You have 12 top tricks; where will your 13th trick come from? The two options are a finesse against the H K in the East hand or hoping that spades split 3–3 and the S 2 becomes a trick.

You must make a decision at trick one and discard appropriately on dummy's D K.

The odds of a suit breaking 3–3 are about 36%, while the odds of a finesse working are 50%. Therefore, plan to take the heart finesse. Discard the S 2 on the D K and play a low heart to your queen. When East has the H K, you have all 13 tricks.

What if the H K is on your left and spades were 3–3 all along? Take comfort in the fact that you chose the mathematically superior option despite the result. The goal in bridge is to be right most of the time, not to be correct on any one specific deal.

*Thanks to ACBL Education Department for this hand.*

## Rebids by the Responder by Max Hardy

In all of these cases, your partner opened 1C. You responded 1H. Opener has rebid 1S. What is your rebid as responder?

1.	2.	3.	4.
Q93 K1064 8754 J3	Q3 K10764 Q9872 8	Q3 J874 95 KJ873	8 AQJ97654 86 K104
5.	6.	7.	8.
J8 AQ1074 KQ6 J104	108 KQ95 AQ104 852	KJ84 Q1073 5 J763	Q3 KJ10964 AJ5 K4

### ANSWERS

1. Pass. You know that you have reached a 4-3 fit, but with your meagre values, you don't want to get any higher. 1S will be as good a contract as any.

2. 1NT. Not the description you would like to make, but no other call will show your limited values. You cannot rebid hearts with only 5 (on this auction) and you do not have enough points to bid 2D.

3. 2C. This shows your minimum response (6-9 points) and only 4 hearts with longer clubs.

4. 4H. Your heart suit is self-sufficient and your 10 HCP grow up to be enough for game when you factor in your seven card suit.

5. 2D. This is 4th suit forcing. It says nothing about the Diamond suit but makes the auction forcing to game. With your game-going values, you really want to know if partner has a three card fit for your five card suit.

6. 2NT. You have game invitational values (11-12 HCP) and you have a stopper in Diamonds.

7. 2S, A courtesy raise since your minimum is maximum and you do have 4 card support. Responder should never raise opener's second suit holding only 3 card support.

8.2D. once again, this is 4th suit forcing (the convention). You know that game should be reached but do not know what game. You cannot bid 3H as that would only be invitational. NEW suits are forcing...OLD suits are NOT forcing.

NOTE: Do make sure you learn Fourth Suit Forcing (the convention). It is so important. If you want to read about Fourth Suit Forcing, email me and I will send you something.

## NEVER SAY DIE

by Barbara

So often, we are just sitting there, hoping and waiting to be declarer. We get restless and lose focus when we become the defenders, instead of thinking of how we can beat the declarer.

**S 10**  
**H K9854**  
**D KQ2**  
**C 6543**

**S 7543**  
**H AQ102**  
**D 854**  
**C KQ**

**S J92**  
**H 763**  
**D A1073**  
**C 872**

**S AKQ86**  
**H J**  
**D J96**  
**C AJ109**

**South North**  
**1S - 3S**  
**4S**

### Opening lead: D King

West leads D King, East encourages and West continues with D Queen. One more D to East's Ace. What should East do now?

Can West have the C Ace? If he did, he should have cashed it before leading his third D to East.

When it looks as though there are no more legitimate tricks to be taken for your side, look for some illegitimate ones, especially when trumps in dummy are crummy.

East should now lead his thirteenth Diamond. If South discards something, West trumps with the S 10. If South ruffs high with Spade Ace, King or Queen, then East's S Jack is promoted into a trick for down one.

If East had not thought this all through carefully and had returned a Club at trick # 4, declarer will now be able to draw trumps and claim.

## RULE OF 40 by BARBARA

J10  
J987  
A32  
KQJ10

98765  
A3  
8765  
98

432  
KQ102  
K4  
765

AKQ  
654  
QJ109  
A32

### South North

1N - 2C  
2D - 3N

West leads S 9. East plays the S 2 and S wins the trick with the Ace. S leads the D Queen...small, small and East wins with D King. Over to East to do some arithmetic.

West's 9 was top of nothing. Even if W had held Spade 97532, it would still have been right to lead the S 9, showing top of nothing. Don't lead fourth best unless you have at least a Jack in the suit.

Deduction by East: S has Spades: Ace, King and Queen.

If West has the Club Ace, it is never running away and one trick in Clubs will not beat this contract. Thus Clubs are out, Diamonds are out of the question since declarer led this suit ("Confucius say both sides lead same suit, somebody crazy!") That leaves Hearts.

So WHICH Heart should E lead now??? If E leads the H King, West will have to overtake it with the Ace, in order to unblock the suit. North's H J may develop into a trick. **East has carefully done the RULE OF 40.**

South has 15-17 HCP. Give him an average of 16 HCP. Dummy has 12 HCP. East has 8 HCP. That makes for a total of 36 HCP. West can only have 4 HCP. 4 HCP makes up a what???? "An Ace" I hear you say!! When you need partner to have a specific card to beat the contract, pray a lot and play her to have that card. East leads the H 2 now and West wins it and leads a H back. EW take 4 Heart tricks plus the D King. Down one.

**Use the Rule of 40 every single time you are in third seat after partner has led and you are defending and also BEFORE you make an opening lead. Subtract the total number of points known from the number 40 and that will tell you how many points partner can have.**

## BID THESE HANDS

In all of the following cases, you are Responder to 2C opening bid. Answers are below.

The first 3 questions:

2C - 2D

2NT...continue the auction

D)

2C - 2D

2H...continue the auction

E) and F)

2C - 2D

2S...continue the auction

A)

K1087

Q432

J108

54

B)

63

A10965

K864

54

C)

Q105

A1098

10874

65

D)

K8754

A43

K32

32

E)

95  
6543  
987  
965

F)

952  
6543  
98  
Q652

**In all of the following cases, you are responder to a 1NT opener. Answers are below.**

G)

KJ10763  
K76  
54  
98

H)

KJ10763  
AJ6  
65  
74

I)

KQ  
QJ10764  
AKJ9  
6

## **ANSWERS**

A)

2C - 2D\* Waiting  
2N - 3C\* Stayman

B)

2C - 2D  
2N - 3D\* Transfer



C)  
2C - 2D  
2N - 3C  
3S - 3N

D)  
2C - 2D  
2H - 3H

E)  
2C - 2D  
2S - 3C\*

\*2nd negative NO fit. Bid the cheapest other minor

F)  
2C - 2D  
2S - 4S

Here, you have a fit. That is huge.

G)  
1N - 2H  
2S - 3S\* Inviting game

H)  
1N - 4H\* Texas Transfer  
4S

I)  
1N - 4D  
4H - 4N\*  
Key Card Blackwood, because we have agreed on a suit

## Tip: DO lead from the opposite hand when finessing by Andrew Robson

Take these finesse positions:

(i) K2	(ii) AQ	(iii) Q32
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43	32	A54

In each case you are trying to promote the underlined card (in the top hand). You must lead from the bottom hand intending to play that underlined card in the hope that the missing higher card is in the second player's hand, playing before. A 50-50 chance.

The same principle applies here:

(iv) J2
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AK43

Trying to promote the jack to win a third trick in the suit, you should lead a small card from the opposite hand towards the jack, hoping the queen is in the second player's hand – as here:

<b>(a)</b>  <b>W</b> <b>D Q865</b>	<b>N</b> <b>D J2</b>  <b>S</b> <b>D AK43</b>	<b>E</b> <b>D 1097</b>
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After D 3 lead, West can choose his poison. Rise with D Q and North plays D 2, later scoring D J. Play D 5 and North's D J wins.

Swap D Q over to East...

<b>(b)</b>  <b>W</b> <b>D 865</b>	<b>N</b> <b>D J2</b>  <b>S</b> <b>D AK43</b>	<b>E</b> <b>D Q1097</b>
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...and the trick would go D 3, D 5, D J, D Q and your 50-50 gamble has failed. But in that scenario [(b)], there is no way to promote D J.

Note, crucially, it does not help to make that most common of errors i.e. to lead D J. I repeat it does not help, for if you lead D J, East will cover with D Q and you have achieved nothing. You cannot promote a card by leading it, for the opponents (either one) will simply cover it.

Leading D J here reduces your chances of promoting it from 50-50 to 0.

### South Deals - None Vul

	<b>S K 2</b>	
	<b>H A 7 3</b>	
	<b>D K 5 4</b>	
	<b>C A K 5 4 2</b>	
<b>S J 9 5 4</b>		<b>S 10 8 3</b>
<b>H J 9 6</b>		<b>H 10 5 4 2</b>
<b>D Q J 10 8</b>		<b>D 9 7</b>
<b>C 8 6</b>		<b>C Q 10 9 7</b>
	<b>S A Q 7 6</b>	
	<b>H K Q 8</b>	
	<b>D A 6 3 2</b>	
	<b>C J 3</b>	

### West North East South

1 S  
Pass 2 C Pass 2 NT  
Pass 6 NT Pass Pass  
Pass

6 NT by South  
Lead: D Q

On our 6 NT deal West leads D Q and declarer counts 10 top tricks. Needing to promote C J, he wins D Q with D K to lead C 2 towards C J (key play). Say East rises with C Q and leads D 9. Win D A, cash promoted C J, cross to S K and cash C A K. With the suit splitting no worse than 4-2, he enjoys C 5 long card. 12 tricks and slam made.