

25 January, 2021

Hi everyone,

Every day gets better. I still have all my hair. I remember that my mother always used to say : " If you're bald in the front, you're a thinker. If you're bald at the back, you're sexy. And if you're bald all over, you just think you're sexy." I reckon I shall be in the latter group! And Alex has been a member of that group for many moons so we will make a great pair.

I was advised to not eat my favourite foods on the day of chemo or I would lose my appetite for them. So I figured out how to pave the way for a slim future and took chocolate and cheese and crackers (my two biggest weaknesses) with me for the lunchtime snack. Alas, this was a myth. I am here to tell you the strategy did not work; they are still my passion.

I implore you to click on this link below and listen to this wonderful message from Warren Buffett. It is so special.

The Meaning of Life according to Warren Buffett

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXP-5cmXzvo>

After my last newsletter, I received several stories of dogs and how amazing they are. My friend and wonderful bridge teacher, Marti Ronemus from US had this to say:

About the dog... are you aware that there are dogs that are specially trained to sniff out cancer? This is a Real Thing!! My own wretched little girl does a thing that never fails to amuse/impress me. I have terrible arthritis in one knee. On bad days, when we are in our recliner, she will not sit in her regular spot on my lap. She digs through the lap robe and insists on lying on the bad knee. The warmth of her little body is better than a heating pad. She will not lie there on good days. Figure THAT out! Now if she were only completely house-broken. We rescued her. She was a breeder in a puppy mill, had NEVER been on the ground, only in a cage, had never been held, had never been ANYWHERE except that cage. We think she was 5 years old when we got her, almost starved to death as she was useless as a breeder. Anyway, we have struggled with the housebreaking, achieving only about 70% success. Considering her background, that's pretty good. We have wood floors, and that's what Swiffers are for.

Enough. We have no children or grandchildren, so our two little rescues fill that spot. And we never have to worry about a college fund, expensive sneakers or bail money.

ALEX'S BRIDGE TIP # 1

Do not lead a singleton against a small slam in a suit contract if you also have a side Ace in your hand. The opponents did not get to 6 missing two aces so partner cannot have the Ace in your singleton and cannot give you a ruff. AND by leading that singleton, you may be now showing declarer where all the missing honours are in that suit.

BUT do lead a singleton vs a small slam if you do not have an Ace, in hopes that partner has that Ace and can give you a ruff.

ALEX'S BRIDGE TIP # 2

If partner does not lead your suit, you can assume that partner

- a) may be void in your suit
- b) may be leading a singleton
- c) may be leading top of a sequence
- d) has forgotten the bidding!

QUIZ THIS WEEK: Scroll down. The answers are at the bottom of each newsletter. Not only that: **I am providing a write-up for you on the topic of the quiz** so you can print it out and go over this carefully later.

TO FINESSE OR NOT TO FINESSE? : Scroll down to below quiz and find an interesting write up by Phillip Alder. **I AM SO EXCITED ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THIS ARTICLE. IT WILL HELP YOU SO MUCH. PLEASE READ IT!!!!**

DO YOU HAVE 0-199 MASTER POINTS? A special new game just for you is on TUESDAYS 3.30 - 5.30 pm every week. See below (scroll down) to find out about the Durham games. To find out directions to access the club online on BBO, contact keith.balcombe@bell.net

Keith can find you a partner also.

0-100 MASTER POINTS? Thursdays @ 10.30 am: Also at Durham Bridge Club online. see ad below.

AND take note of **Stephen's and Wayne's games** every week for players with less experience.

Alex is now in charge of answering questions about any specific hands or bidding sequences. Please email him at akornel@sympatico.ca

Orders for books or cheat sheets: Please keep sending. Alex is at the post office every day.

Orders for books or cheat sheets for pick up at our home (220 Lawrence Ave East, Toronto). Also easy. All book orders will be autographed and come with my new laminated card with my Quick Tips.

Problems with your "account" or inability to access your recordings? I will forward these immediately to Stephanie, our webmaster, who handles these for us and is wonderful. You will hear from her directly. Please check your spam box for replies about passwords.

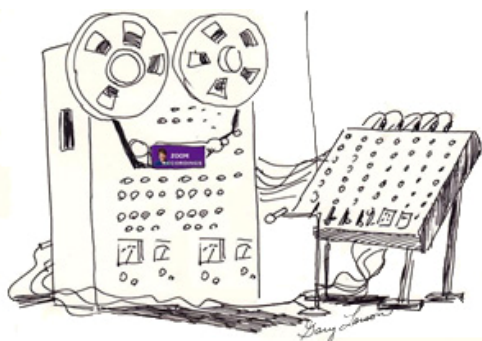
MARCH 2021: I will be doing a lesson on Zoom on **Opening Leads**. Sign ups will be soon but not just yet.

MY NEW BOOK, BARBARA'S BRIDGE TIPS, IS STILL AVAILABLE! This is my first solo book (other than my text books).

"Barbara's Bridge Tips" is on special for \$22.00 in Canada (Retail price is \$24.95 + tax) or \$20.00 USD. Postage extra. You can pick up from our house at 220 Lawrence Ave East anytime (email ahead of time please and it will be ready for you) or we can postal mail to anywhere for you. Just send your postal mailing address. The chapters are bite-sized and it is an easy-read. Almost 1000 sold in the last 8 weeks.

FINANCIAL ADVICE? ASK ROSS TAYLOR: Alex and I have known Ross Taylor for many, many years. He is a very fine bridge player and a delightful person. He is an expert in the financial industry and you may be interested in what he has to offer. Do scroll down for his write-up.

EMAIL USERS: For some reason gmail often shortens long newsletters and sometimes you cannot read the whole thing. IF that is the case for you, go to the end of the newsletter and you will see a message that says that this email has been clipped (or words to that effect, I do not remember how they word it). You will have an option to Click here to see full email or something like that. e.g. Sometimes the quiz is not even visible. In that case, click at bottom of email where there is a note from Gmail.



ALL RECORDINGS LISTED BELOW

SCROLL DOWN FOR DETAILS

**UNLIMITED ACCESS TO
RECORDINGS & HANDOUTS
WHEN YOU PURCHASE ANY OF
THESE**

WATCH ANY OF THESE RECORDINGS WHENEVER IT SUITS YOU

DEFENSIVE THINKING with BARBARA

TWO HOURS EACH. Click below:

<https://barbaraseagram.clickfunnels.com/defensive-thinking-lessons>

\$50.00 CAD (approx. \$40.00 USD) includes H.S.T.

THE MOST exciting part of the game AND the MOST challenging.

Become a Feared Opponent!

The material is all brand new and lots of new and exciting hands will be used to illustrate the concepts. Count, attitude, suit preference signals. Common errors to avoid, Tapping the Declarer, Killing Opening leads and shifts. Whether to return partner's opening lead or not? Do we lead partner's suit or not? Use the bidding clues to help you formulate a winning defensive strategy. And much, much more.

Each lesson will have some theory presented at the beginning of the lesson and then Barbara will play hands which you watch and all the defensive tips you have learned will be illustrated.



IMPROVE YOUR DECLARER PLAY IN NOTRUMP & SUIT CONTRACTS

Purchase by clicking on this link

<https://barbaraseagram.clickfunnels.com/5-week-course-info>

\$119.00 CAD (approx. \$90.00 USD)

A FIVE LESSON COURSE AND YOU CAN VIEW ENTIRE COURSE ANYTIME
FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD

TAKE MORE TRICKS

BECOME A BRILLIANT DECLARER

with Barbara Seagram on ZOOM

All 5 lessons are available on recordings along with extensive student notes. You also get a digital copy of "Planning the Play of a Bridge Hand" or "25 Ways to Take More Tricks as Declarer" if you already have that book.

OTHER RECORDINGS

May & June Bundle: 9 lessons for \$89.00 CAD: (\$66.00 USD)

<https://barbaraseagram.clickfunnels.com/virtual-training>

- Lesson 1: All About No Trump
- Lesson 2: All About Doubles
- Lesson 3: Negative Doubles
- Lesson 4: Major Suit Raises
- Lesson 5: Killing Defence
- Lesson 6: Play of The Hand
- Lesson 7: Control Bidding in Slams
- Lesson 8: To Strip and Conquer
- Lesson 9: Practice Your Slam Bidding and Play

July Bundle: 5 lessons for \$49.00 CAD (\$36.00 USD).

<https://barbaraseagram.clickfunnels.com/july-recordings>

- Lesson 1: Defense Against No Trump Contracts
- Lesson 2: Weak Two's
- Lesson 3: Introduction to Two Over One
- Lesson 4: Locating Opponents' Honour Cards
- Lesson 5: Common Errors To Avoid

August Bundle: 4 lessons for \$39.00 CAD (\$29.00 USD).

<https://barbaraseagram.clickfunnels.com/august-recordings>

- Lesson 1: Fourth Suit Forcing
- Lesson 2: My Kingdom For An Entry
- Lesson 3: Thinking Ahead
- Lesson 4: Defensive Signalling

September Bundle: 2 lessons for \$39.00 CAD (\$29.00 USD)

<https://barbaraseagram.clickfunnels.com/sept-recordings>

- Lesson 1: Preempt Your Way To Success
- Lesson 2: Winning Bridge Techniques (Support Doubles & Puppet Stayman)



OR ALL SUMMER RECORDINGS BUNDLE

ALL RECORDINGS (20 lessons with notes) \$216.00 CAD

(approx \$161.00 USD) May, June, July, August, September

<https://barbaraseagram.clickfunnels.com/summer-bundle>

If you have not purchased any of our Bundles of recordings, do consider buying all of them at once.

This is a special package. TWENTY lessons: 2 hours each

Extensive student notes are included for each lesson

\$216.00 CAD for the entire bundle of May, June, July, August & September classes

(converts to approx. **\$161.00 USD**)

TOPICS:

- Lesson 1: All About No Trump
- Lesson 2: All About Doubles
- Lesson 3: Negative Doubles
- Lesson 4: Major Suit Raises
- Lesson 5: Killing Defence
- Lesson 6: Play of The Hand
- Lesson 7: Control Bidding in Slams
- Lesson 8: To Strip and Conquer
- Lesson 9: Practice Your Slam Bidding and Play
- Lesson 10: Defense Against No Trump Contracts
- Lesson 11: Weak Two's
- Lesson 12: Introduction to Two Over One
- Lesson 13: Locating Opponents' Honour Cards
- Lesson 14: Common Errors To Avoid
- Lesson 15: Fourth Suit Forcing
- Lesson 16: My Kingdom For An Entry
- Lesson 17: Thinking Ahead
- Lesson 18: Defensive Signalling
- Lesson 19: Preempt Your Way To Success
- Lesson 20: Winning Bridge Techniques (**Support Doubles & Puppet Stayman**)



TWO ONE HOUR RECORDINGS AVAILABLE

1: BALANCING

2: MICHAELS CUEBID & UNUSUAL NOTRUMP

\$25.00 TOTAL for the two recordings

CLICK on LINK BELOW TO BUY THESE RECORDINGS

barbaraseagram.clickfunnels.com/mini-lessons

There is also an introductory recording that is about 16 minutes long, discussing bidding, play and defence on a hand. You can listen to that prior to or after purchasing, if you wish. That is free. Artwork for the intro lesson by my friend, Keith Dawson, who is a wonderful bridge teacher in Chatham, ON.

ROSS TAYLOR: FINANCIAL SERVICES

Ross is a highly-skilled veteran of the financial services industry with more than 30 years of experience, who has been repeatedly recognized as a leading expert by his peers. He is most proud to have been honored with the Mortgage Professionals Canada Financial Literacy Leadership award, and has published over 600 articles and e-guides. You can learn more about Ross below <https://askross.ca/about-ross-taylor/>

Fun fact - many years ago, Ross put himself through university teaching bridge in Hamilton and Waterloo Ontario.

Helping Your Loved Ones

Have you ever thought about helping out your family with a living inheritance? If you are a Canadian retiree, there is a simple way to tap into your home's equity and help your loved ones now.

A reverse mortgage will give you access to as much as 55% of the value of your home tax-free. The best part? No monthly mortgage payments, no gift tax, and you don't have to sell your home!

If you would like to learn more about how a reverse mortgage can benefit you, please call or email me at info@askross.ca I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

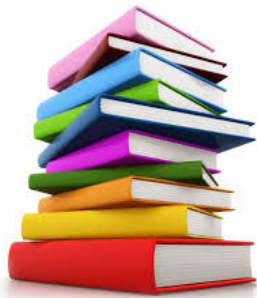


Ross Taylor & Associates

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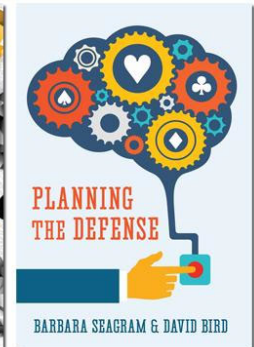
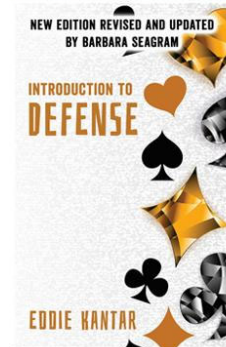
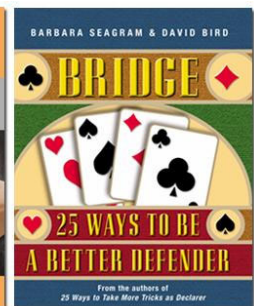
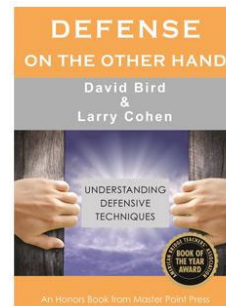
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**THESE BOOKS ARE
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
ADDITIONS TO YOUR
BRIDGE LIBRARY FOR
IMPROVING YOUR
DEFENSE**

See more information about them below!

AVAILABLE BY EMAILING BARBARA



DEFENSE ON THE OTHER HAND BY LARRY COHEN & DAVID BIRD

\$22.00 CAD (reg. 22.95 + tax) or \$20.00 USD

100 pairs of deals are shown — one described by David and the other by Larry. The deals look similar but an entirely different line of play is necessary to defeat each of the contracts. The deals are most interesting and you would enjoy reading this book.

EDDIE KANTAR INTRODUCTION TO DEFENSE

THERE IS ALSO THE SISTER BOOK: INTRODUCTION TO DECLARER PLAY

\$18.00 CAD each (\$34.00 CAD for both) or \$14.00 USD (\$26.00 USD for both)

The classic introductory books on card play at bridge, covering all topics with clarity, skill and humor. More than fifty years after first publication, these books have been revised and updated by Barbara Seagram, one of North America's best-known bridge teachers, to bring them into line with modern methods of play and bridge education.

In my opinion, these are the two best bridge books ever written. A very gentle approach and SO readable. Eddie is the very best.

25 WAYS TO BE A BETTER DEFENDER

by BARBARA SEAGRAM & DAVID BIRD

\$22.00 CAD or \$20.00 USD

Defense is the hardest part of playing bridge, but that doesn't mean that it's impossible to learn. In the final book of the bestselling '25' series, the authors explain how to make a plan as a defender: how to work out from the auction and play what declarer probably has, and which of the strategies available to defenders is likely to be successful. Opening leads, signaling and discarding are all covered in this basic guide to a vitally important topic.

PLANNING THE DEFENSE

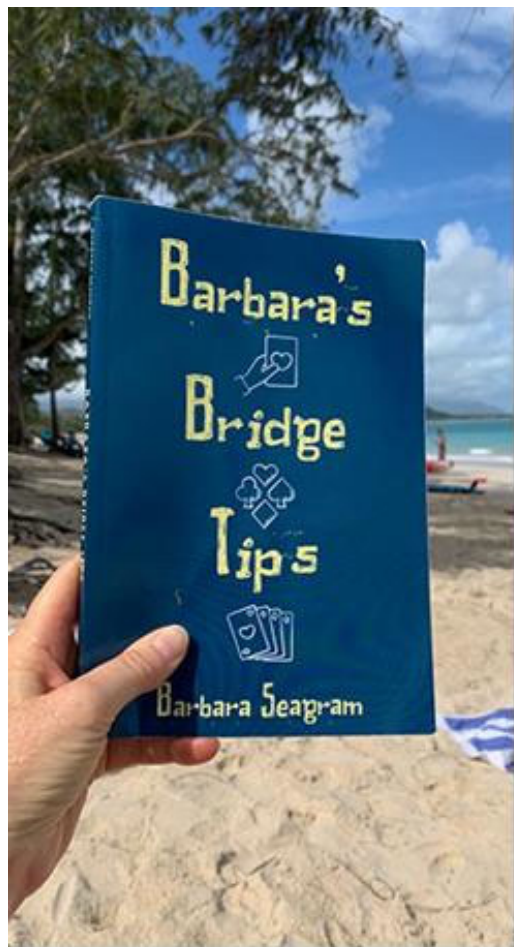
by BARBARA SEAGRAM & DAVID BIRD

\$22.00 CAD (retail price: \$24.95 + tax) or \$20.00 USD

Ten years after their award-winning *Planning the Play of a Bridge Hand*, Seagram & Bird tackle the hardest part of the game: defense. Using the same step-by-step approach, they guide the reader through the minefields of signaling, making a defensive plan and, above all, counting — points, tricks and distribution.

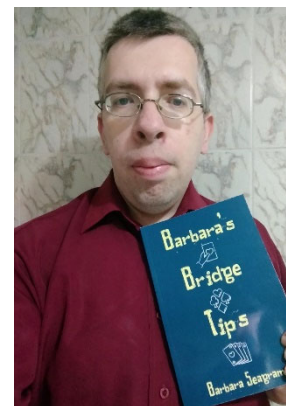


We just received these pictures (below) of my books around the world! Left: Rosiane Read sent my new book to her partner, Melanie Ligh, on the beach in Honolulu. Guler Berkin sent a pic of my books on daughter Defne's bed in Istanbul, along with her childhood doll. And this is Defne's bed in Toronto with all my books displayed!! Fun!

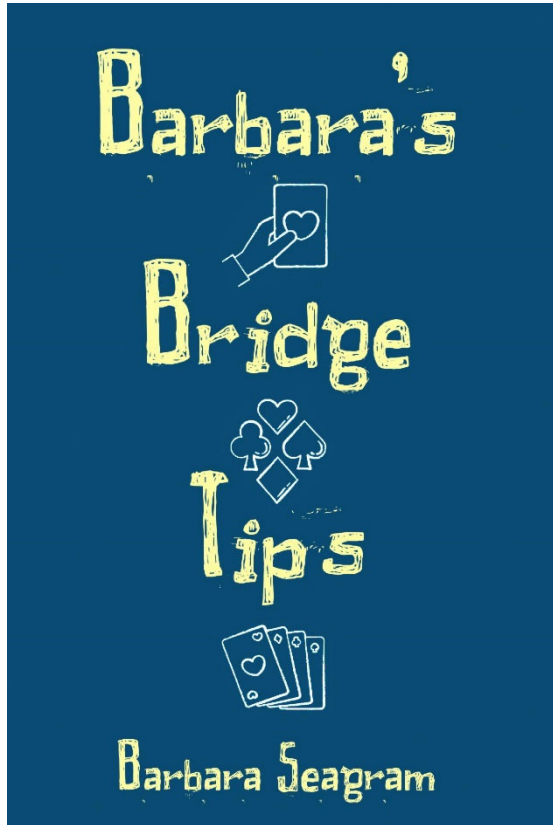


Speaking of around the world, this is our wonderful Luis Nunes in São Paulo, Brazil who has just received his copy of the new book! Luis is one of our students also in our online classes.

Luis has been helping Josee Hammill and me to make our online slide presentations more attractive and colourful! And my handouts also. He is very skilled so if anyone needs some help with creating documents or making them more professional, holler and I will give you his email address. He is a treasure to work with. He is also excellent on website work.



"BARBARA'S BRIDGE TIPS" NEW BOOK



DO YOU HAVE YOURS YET?

We have sold almost 1000 books in seven weeks and we have lots more in stock.

Think gifts for your partner and for your friends!

Whether you have been playing for a while or you're not very experienced, this book will help you to move your game up to the next level. The tips cover all aspects of bridge — bidding, play and defense. Advice and examples are drawn from material Barbara Seagram has developed for her students over the last twenty years — it's like having your own personal bridge coach sitting beside you!

Each chapter is in bite-sized portions and easy to digest.

\$24.95 CAD + tax (**special price: 22.00 CAD with no tax**)

or \$20.00 USD

Plus postage: \$5.75 CAD in Canada or \$8.47 USD to USA

Or pick up from Barbara @ 220 Lawrence Ave East
Between Bayview & Mount Pleasant on North side of Lawrence

A compilation of all you need to know!

CARD PLAY 101

by PHILLIP ALDER former Bridge Columnist for the New York Times

www.bridgeforeveryone.com

Visit Phillip's website where you can join & receive several articles per week from him.

Phillip is a wonderful lecturer, author and player. You can sign up to receive his bridge articles. \$10.00 USD per month. Visit his website.

Occasionally you will be faced with a decision. Do you finesse or play for the drop?

Example:

Dummy

S AK2

Declarer

S Q1043

You need four spade tricks. You cash the SA; both opponents follow with low cards. You take the SK; again, two low spades appear. You lead the S2, and East contributes the last low spade.

Do you put up the SQ, hoping to drop the SJ, or do you finesse the S10?

Rather than carry all of these "positions" (*as they are called*) around in your head, there is a scheme to help you. It was devised a few decades ago by David Parry, a friend of mine from London.

You divide by two the number of cards held by the opponents, and if you get a half, round up. That is their number.

Then you count up your top tricks in the suit. If your number is less than their number, then you finesse. If your number is not less, do not finesse. (I know it should be fewer, not less, but that doesn't rhyme.)

In this example (above), they have six spades; so their number is three. Since you have three top tricks, your number is not less, so do not finesse – put up your SQ.

Now let's try some others. How would you play each of these combinations for the maximum number of tricks available?

A)

Dummy

H 3

Declarer

H A K Q J 9

B)

Dummy

H K Q 10 3

Declarer

H A 7

C)

Dummy

H K J 7 3

Declarer

H A 4 2

D)

Dummy

H K J 5 3

Declarer

H A 7 6 4

In A, they (opponents) have seven hearts, so their number is four: seven divided by two is 3.5, which you round up to four. You have four top tricks. Since your number is not less, do not finesse; play out your top honors, expecting the 10 to drop.

In B, their number is four: 3.5 rounded up. But your number is only three.

So, cash the HA, then play low to dummy's H10.

In C, their number is three (six divided by two). Your number is only two. Cash the HA, then play low to dummy's jack. If the finesse wins, cash the HK and hope for a 3–3 break.

Combination D is the same. You cash the HA, then play low to dummy's HJ. This is the well-known “eight ever.”

E)

Dummy

H K J 5 3

Declarer

H A 8 7 6 4

In contrast, E is “nine never.” Cash the HA, then play low to the HK. However, remember that the odds are close; do not be shy of finessing on the second round, especially if you know that East has more cards in another suit than West. (*i.e. if the bidding has given you specific clues*).

F)

Dummy

H A J 10 3 2

Declarer

H Q 9 7 6 4

G)

Dummy

H A J 10 3 2

Declarer

H Q 9 7 6 5 4

H)

Dummy

H A J 10 8 3 2

Declarer

H Q 9 7 6 5 4

In F, their number is two and yours is one. Take the finesse. A priori, West will have the king 50% of the time, but East will have the singleton king only 13% of the time. The finesse is almost four times a better play than trying to drop the king offside.

In G, though, the rule tells you to play for the drop. However, start by leading the HQ. Maybe West, holding both missing hearts, will make the bad error— for his side, but not for you – of covering with his HK. Or he will sit and think about it for a while, giving the game away.

H. I imagine you thought the last one (H) was a typo. Not so! I once watched a player in London with this holding. He led his HQ and West showed out. Declarer threw his arms in the air and said, “I am always unlucky.” He played low from the dummy and lost to the singleton king! He thought that he had only 11 cards in the suit.

Finally, here is a declarer-play problem:

		S 4	
		H KQJ	
		D 87543	
		C A652	
S 7632			S J985
H 843			H 7652
D K9			D QJ10
C KQJ10			C 93
	S AKQ10		
	H A109		
	D A63		
	C 874		
S	N		
1N	3N		

Yes, the bidding might have taken a different route. You can make 5 D in the same way as 3NT.

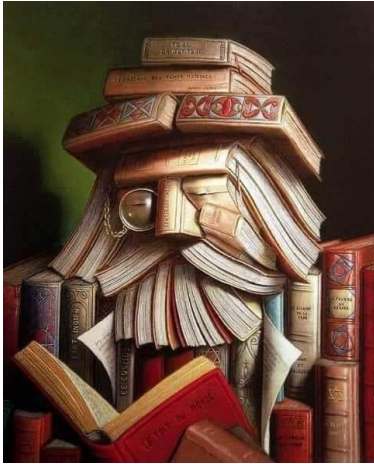
In our favorite game contract, you have five tricks outside of spades: one club, one diamond and three hearts. So, you must take four spade tricks.

You are missing eight spades, so their magic number is four (eight divided by two). Since you have only three top spade tricks, finesse. After winning with dummy's C A, play a spade to your A K Q 10 and finesse.

Remember, bridge isn't a game for cowards.

CRUISE SEPTEMBER 2021: from Vancouver to Alaska, to Russia and Japan, here is the link for information about that trip. It is sold out but you can wait list. . Click on this link below for info about this cruise.

<https://www.barbaraseagram.com/pdf/Japan-2021-Jan-2021.pdf>



BARBARA SEAGRAM BRIDGE STORE

NOW OPEN ONLINE

Buy Books & cheat sheets from our online store and we ship them to you. Great hostess gifts and gifts for partners. Click on the appropriate link below to explore.

Canadian Store: store.barbaraseagram.com

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QUIZ TIME: ANSWERS AT BOTTOM OF THIS NEWSLETTER NOW

From now on, the answers to THIS WEEK'S QUIZ will appear at the bottom of this newsletter.

QUARANTINE QUIZ # 42

1. You are the opening bidder. You open with 1D on this hand. Your LHO bids 1S and partner says Double. Pass by RHO and it is your turn to bid again. What will you bid? This is your hand:

S 87

H A987

D AK865

C A7

a) 2D

b) 1NT

c) 2H

d) 3H

e) Pass

2. Your partner opens the bidding with 1D and your RHO bids 1S. This is your hand. What will you bid?

S 7

H AQ8765

D 8654

C 76

a) 3H

b) 2H

c) Double

d) 2D

e) 3D

3. Your partner opens the bidding with 1D. Your RHO bids 1S. This is your hand. What will you bid?

S AQ1095

H 32

D 432

C KJ3

a) 1NT

b) 2NT

c) Pass

d) Double

4. You are the dealer. You open the bidding with 1C. Your LHO bids 1H. Partner says Double. RHO says Pass. It is your turn to bid again with the following hand. What will you bid?

S AQ87

H 65

D K7

C AKQ76

a) 3C

b) 4S

c) 1S

d) 2S

e) 3S

f) 2H

SCROLL DOWN TO BOTTOM OF NEWSLETTER FOR ANSWERS


GAMES FOR LESS EXPERIENCED PLAYERS

ALL ONLINE ON BBO AT THIS TIME

For games for less-experienced players, contact Wayne Ruttan about his game on Tuesday evening at 7.00 pm wayne.ruttan063@sympatico.ca

And contact Stephen Laufer about his wonderful array of games for novices to intermediates lauferbridge@gmail.com. Stephen has limited games every day of the week, run by Stephen, Robin and Richard.

Durham DBC 99er Game
Thursdays on BBO at 10:30 am
\$4 per person
Maximum 99 masterpoints



Tired of losing to all the sharks in the field with all their strange bidding and director calls.

Join us on Thursday mornings for a *friendly* game with your peers. After the game, Keith Balcombe provides a free video analysis of 1-3 hands.

No partner...no problem. Keith Balcombe handles partnership requests and has a 95% matchup and satisfaction rate.

If you're interested, send an email to one of these gents

Keith Balcombe	Rob Hanly
BBO ID kbalcombe	BBO ID vacb249979
Email keith.balcombe@bell.net	Email: rghanly@gmail.com

A SPECIAL GAME FOR PLAYERS WITH 0-100 MASTER POINTS

Thursday mornings at 10.30 am
at www.bridgebase.com

AND A GAME for players with 0-199 master points
Tuesdays 3.30-5.30 pm

Players with 0-199 master points
email Keith keith.balcombe@bell.net
if you need a partner

If you have never been before, you do need to pre-register

THURSDAY MORNINGS AT 10.30 AM EASTERN

SILVER POINTS THIS WEEK

EVERYONE FROM EVERYWHERE IS WELCOME

EMAIL Keith if you need a partner or if you have never been before so you know how to find the game Club name is Clubvacb249979

See below for more details about the game

keith.balcombe@bell.net

**SEPTEMBER 2021 CRUISE WITH BARBARA & ALEX IS NOW SOLD OUT. BUT
WE ARE TAKING NAMES FOR A WAITLIST.**

Read all about it here

<https://www.barbaraseagram.com/pdf/Japan-2021-Jan-2021.pdf>

DO CONTACT PAOLA SHAW paola.shaw@visiontravel.ca

Telephone numbers: 905-873-8070 or

Toll free at 1-800-263-5575 # 1228

Paola is Barbara's partner in the travel industry & is excellent



ORDER THE CHEAT SHEETS

**Great hostess gifts and partnership
survival gifts!!!**

See below for information

ALSO BARBARA'S TWO OVER ONE TEXT BOOK

has just been revised & re-done

\$20.00 CDN or \$15.00 USD

Why you need to know the system that has swept North America by storm.

All cheat sheets and books available by emailing

Barbara with your postal address. We will send it to you by postal mail or you can pick up
near to Yonge & Lawrence if you live in Toronto.

OR ORDER FROM OUR NEW ONLINE STORE AT www.barbaraseagram.com

or email Barbara barbaraseagram@gmail.com

If you don't have Barbara's cheat sheets, we will be happy to send these out to you.

Just send us your postal mailing address and we will send. When you receive the package, have a look to see cost of postage on the outside of the packet. Send us a cheque for the cost of the product and add the postage.

INTERMEDIATE CHEAT SHEET: Regular Bidding: \$10.00

DEFENCE CHEAT SHEET: Strategy and Signalling: \$12.00

CONVENTIONS CHEAT SHEET: All the conventions (see below): \$12.00

(Formerly called Advanced)

Takeout double, Support double, Negative double, Responsive, Penalty & Lead-Directing Doubles, Splinter Bids, Jacoby 2NT, Roman Keycard Blackwood, Raising Partner's Overcall (Cue Bid Raises of overcalls and opening bids), Balancing, Texas Transfers, Gerber, Bergen Raises, Cue Bidding First Round Controls, Unusual NT, Michaels Cue Bid, Fourth Suit Forcing to Game

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ANSWERS TO QUIZ # 42

Study the attached write-up carefully. Click on link below.

<https://www.barbaraseagram.com/pdf/NEGATIVE-DOUBLES-FINAL-Student-handout-REVISED-2020.pdf>

1. You are the opening bidder. You open with 1D on this hand. Your LHO bids 1S and partner says Double. Pass by RHO and it is your turn to bid again. What will you bid? This is your hand:

S 87

H A987

D AK865

C A7

a) 2D

b) 1NT

c) 2H

d) 3H

e) Pass

ANSWER: 3H. Your partner has promised to have at least four Hearts by virtue of her Negative Double. If you are the opener with

13-15 points (including distribution): with four Hearts: Bid 2H

16-18 points (including distribution): with four Hearts: Bid 3H

19+ points (including distribution): with four Hearts: Bid 4H

Be sure to count support points as you have found an eight-card fit.

2. Your partner opens the bidding with 1D and your RHO bids 1S. This is your hand. What will you bid?

S 7

H AQ8765

D 8654

C 76

a) 3H

b) 2H

c) Double

d) 2D

e) 3D

ANSWER: Double. This is a bit of an atypical Negative Double. You have to take some action and you do not want to lose a potential Heart fit. i.e. Do not consider raising Diamonds. You make a Negative Double. If partner bids 2C or 2D, you now bid 2H. She now knows you have at least five Hearts. She will know you cannot have 10 or more points or you would have bid 2H instead of making a Negative Double. Do not choose to bid 3H which would be preemptive as this hand is too good for that. 3H would show 2-6 points and you have more including distribution (your long H suit and a good Diamond fit). If opener rebids 1NT instead, now bid 2H, showing 609 and five or more Hearts.

3. Your partner opens the bidding with 1D. Your RHO bids 1S. This is your hand. What will you bid?

a) 1NT

b) 2NT

c) Pass

d) Double

S AQ1095

H 32

D 432

C KJ3

ANSWER: Pass. This is called a Trap Pass. The opening bidder will usually re-open, either with a Double (in which case you will pass, converting her takeout double to a penalty double). That is what you are most hoping for. You cannot bid Double as that will guarantee at least four Hearts.

And don't even think about bidding any number of NT. You wish to defend and make your opponents suffer while playing this contract with Spades as trumps.

4. You are the dealer. You open the bidding with 1C. Your LHO bids 1H. Partner says Double. RHO says Pass. It is your turn to bid again with the following hand. What will you bid?

a) 3C

b) 4S

c) 1S

d) 2S

e) 3S

f) 2H

S AQ87

H 65

D K7

C AKQ76

ANSWER: 4S. You have the big hand.

Your partner has promised to have at least four Spades by virtue of her Negative Double. If you are the opener with

13-15 points (including distribution): with four Spades: Bid 2S

16-18 points (including distribution): with four Spades: Bid 3S

19+ points (including distribution): with four Spades: Bid 4S

Be sure to count support points as you have found an eight-card fit.

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