

Creating A Bridge Partnership, You Will Love!

Just as Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers danced magically together on stage, great bridge partners are usually in perfect sync at the table. In the same way Fred and Ginger communicated seemingly effortlessly on the dance floor, we need to communicate with our partners in our bidding, as well as defending, and even after the game while going over the hands. There is a lot we can do to help our partners feel comfortable at the table and play their best.

“Getting your partner to play well is just as important as playing well yourself,” according to American Champion, Zach Grossack. “The ability to bring out your partner’s best game is definitely part of being a good bridge player.” (Quoted from the Sorry Partner podcast December 29, 2022.)



The experts agree: Being a good bridge partner is one of the keys to success at the table. Of course, we all want to possess excellent card play and bidding skills, but what else does it take to be a good partner and what should we look for when searching for partners?



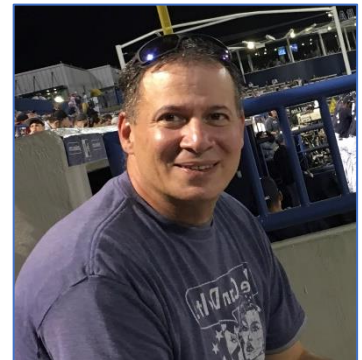
Grand Life Master, four-time National Champion and 2015 North American Bridge Teacher of the Year, Jeff Schuett offers these helpful suggestions for to being a good partner. Be reasonable in your expectations of your partner and do things that will bring out his/her best such as the following:

- ◆ *Be nice, be kind, and smile! Greet the opponents warmly as well.*
- ◆ *Don't push partner to play any convention or agreement he or she seems reluctant to play. As the partnership continues, you can add complexities to your system, but early in the partnership, it is best to keep your agreements simple.*
- ◆ *Try not to discuss hands at the table in the presence of opponents, especially right after a bad result. Bridge can be very emotional, and you want to be very even tempered in any discussion of poor results. Additionally, discussions of hands can also slow down the proper pace of play, which can put even more pressure on partner.*

- ◆ *Don't be offended when any player calls the director. As the director tries to gather information, try to be respectful of each player's account of what happened. Don't interrupt another player; wait your turn.*
- ◆ *In discussing hands later, try to offer words of encouragement and own up to the hands where you might have been primarily responsible for a poor result.*
- ◆ *As the play progresses, keep score and make brief notes or circle hands that you might want to discuss later, after the play of all hands is completed. Once the scores come in, focus on your lower scores, and try to assign the cause as bidding, play, or defensive in nature.*
- ◆ *Don't forget to try to find a hand on which to compliment partner. Always try to leave the session with a positive word so partner leaves with a good feeling and wants to play with you again soon!*

Grand Life Master and National Recorder for the ACBL Jeff Edelstein says that, in addition to being a good partner, it is important to choose a partner with whom you have some chemistry.

"People want to play with better players, but if you can't stand the idea of having coffee with someone for a couple of hours, you probably shouldn't try to sit across the table with that person for three-and-a-half hours on a regular basis."



Once you have found your Fred or Ginger, that partner with whom you love playing *and* with whom you can enjoy a glass of wine after the game, ask him or her to go to one of our Florida Regional Tournaments with you! The two of you will surely have lots of fun, regardless of the score. If you win red or gold, so much the better!

For a list of D9's upcoming Regional Tournaments go to: <https://district9acbl.org/tournaments/>

Let's Play Bridge!

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