



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – December 7, 2020

Top Online Master Point Earners at our Club

Contributed by Allen Pengelly

This table lists the individuals who have earned the most master points at our club in each of three master point bands since the beginning of October.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	64.16	1	Sandy Graham	20.38	1	Suzanne Edwards	22.48
2	Cindy Mahn	41.43	2	Mary McClelland	19.55	2	Shelley Metcalfe	16.68
3	Margot Stockie	38.32	3	Stephen Nantes	17.00	3	Barbara Arthur	16.22
4	Robert Griffiths	37.54	4	Kathy Russell	14.97	4	Nanci Phelan	10.70
5	Mike Peng	34.98	5	Brian Kirkconnell	14.88	5	Joan Slover	10.19
6	Moira Hollingsworth	27.02	6	Brian Silva	14.40	6	Salvatore Pace	9.92
7	Edith Ferber	25.49	7	Janet Howell	14.20	7	Noah Pace	9.17
8	Colin Harrington	25.26	8	Ron Lawrence	12.69	8	Susan Kerrigan	8.71
9	David Longstaff	22.77	9	Vivian McLellan	12.52	9	John Kip	8.41
10	Liz McDowell	19.86	9	Judy Widdecombe	12.52	10	Connie Green	7.98
11	Dianne Aves	18.46	11	David Embury	12.36	11	Susan McDonald	7.73
12	Malkin Howes	18.35	11	Roy Dandyk	12.36	12	Steven Allen	7.70
13	Stephen Young	18.84	13	Keith Prosser	12.02	12	Joe Blake	7.70
14	Diane Bourdeau	16.67	14	Dave Leitch	11.34	14	Mary Lynn Benjamins	7.30
15	Tom Ramsay	16.44	15	Sue Voll	10.53	15	Marion Allan	7.29
16	Stephen Carpenter	15.57	16	Kevin Latter	10.21	16	Martin Jones	7.19
17	Bruce Roberts	15.52	17	Cheryl Kip	10.10	17	Andy Martinek	6.64
18	Ted Boyd	14.51	18	David Dennis	9.96	18	Jim Fox	6.16
19	Adrian Record	13.79	19	John Hanemaayer	9.83	19	Robert Gillick	6.02
20	Neil Jeffrey	13.36	20	Brenda Semple	9.76	20	Anita Hanson	5.77
21	Peggy Pearson	13.13	20	Sue Moses	9.76	20	Barb Neibert	5.77
22	Sharon King	12.81	22	Jim Dalgliesh	9.75	22	Casey Baron	5.61
23	John Vandergrift	11.98	23	Jim Veitch	9.35	23	Molly Worden	5.46
24	Pat McMillan	11.45	24	Cheryl White	9.30	24	Nancy Cattanach	5.41
25	John Moser	10.17	25	Sue Peterson	9.24	25	Joan Lawson	5.31



Congratulations

to the following local players who have advanced to the next ACBL level.

Junior Masters

- Nancy Cattanach
- Audrey Cook
- Ellen Libertini
- Susan Murray

Club Masters

- Kathleen Burns
- Elaine Doyle
- Barb Neibert
- Trent Robinson

Regional Master

- Allen Pengelly
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Memberships

Memberships in our club run from July 1 through June 30. We currently have 228 members – an amazing number given our online status!

If you are not already a member of our club or if you have allowed your membership to lapse, you can join/renew as of January 1, 2021 at only half the cost of a \$70 regular membership. Because bridge players can count only to 13, for your convenience we will explain that the cost of a membership/renewal on January 1, 2021 will be \$35.

- If you have never been a member, click [here](#) for the membership application.
- If you wish to renew your lapsed membership, you don't need to fill out a membership application but rather just send payment and voilà - magically your membership will get renewed.

Payment can be made either by sending a cheque for \$35 (made payable to Grand River Bridge Club) to Bev Pope, 40 Piccadilly Square, New Hamburg, ON N3A 0C7 or by an e-transfer to clubmanager@grandriverbridgeclub.com.



A Hand That Improved with Age

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

The clock said five minutes left in the round.

Board 20

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ 6 4 3
♥ K J 6
♦ J 9 7 3
♣ K 9 8
8 Length Points
8 Shortage Points
8 Support Points
2 Controls
1 Quick Trick
10 Losers

♠ K Q		♠ A J 10 9 8 7 2
♥ 4 3		♥ A Q 9 2
♦ A 10 5 2		♦ 8
♣ A 7 6 4 3		♣ 2

♠ 5
♥ 10 8 7 5
♦ K Q 6 4
♣ Q J 10 5

	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
	1 N	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
	2 N	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
	6 ♠	All pass		

West was dealer, looked over his 13-point hand, and opened 1♣. As opening bids go, it was so-so - not much in the majors and the KQ doubleton is worth less than KQ in a longer suit. East replied 1♠ while N/S passed throughout.

After East's spade bid, West felt a tiny bit better about his spade KQ (but not that much better because East still might have the 9872). West showed his minimum opener with a 1NT bid.

Now the clock said four minutes left in the round.

East tried 2♦ next. This bid says nothing about diamonds, but is New Minor Forcing, asking West to bid 2♠ if he has three spades or 2♥ if he has four hearts. In spite of his spade stack, East would be happy to play in a 4-4 heart fit, saving the spades as a healthy side suit. West still had no great love for his hand and merely bid 2NT, denying either four hearts or three spades. That was enough for East. Thinking that West had a flat minimum, West lost all interest in slam and bid 4♠ as a sign-off.

But West's hand has been looking better with each bid East make. West now knew that East likely had at least seven spades (since he shouldn't insist on spades with only six of them, especially missing the king and queen). Now, the doubleton spade king and queen look to be very valuable, while the minor suit aces are strong opposite what are likely to be short suits.

There were three minutes left in the round.

As the time was going down, the value of West's hand was going up, but being slow and scientific wasn't an option here. So, West guessed that his vastly-improved hand was worth a 6♠ bid.

Against 6♠, South led the ♣Q. This was won in Dummy with the ace, followed by a successful heart finesse, the ♥A, a heart ruff with the ♠Q, the ♦A, a diamond ruff in Declarer's hand, another heart ruff with the king, and a ruff back to Declarer's hand which was now high, making all of the tricks with their combined 24 HCP.

There is a full minute left in the round. Just enough time for East and West to feel all warm and fuzzy about their fine fast auction!

👉 The valuation of hands can change during the bidding.

Learning the Lingo – FIT/MISFIT

Contributed by Jean Farhood

What does it mean to say we have a “fit” with partner? The term fit refers to a combined holding of at least eight cards in a given suit that can be used as trumps.

If partner opens 1♠ and you hold 6-9 HCP and three spades, you have a guaranteed eight-card fit (it could be more if partner has a six- or seven-card suit). Because you have three spades, you may bid 2♠.

What if partner opens 1♠ and you have only two spades and 6-9 HCP? Now you must bid 1NT. If partner then bids 2♠s, you know she holds a minimum hand with a six-card suit and you may pass knowing that you have an eight-card fit and not enough values for game.

Another example of looking for a fit is Stayman in response to 1NT opening by partner. By bidding 2♣, you are promising partner at least eight HCP and at least one four-card major. You are trying to locate an eight-card fit in either spades or hearts.

What then is a ‘misfit’? Have you ever been dealt a minimum hand with 6-5 in the red suits and heard your partner open 2♠? Alarm bells should ring in your mind immediately that this is a misfit because of your singleton spade. When this happens, you need to pass and hope your red suits may generate some tricks for partner.

The lesson here is bid on with a fit and bow out gracefully with a misfit.

The Original Meaning of a Deck of Playing Cards

The original meaning of a deck of playing cards:

- 52 cards for 52 weeks in the year.
- 2 colours for day and night
- 4 suits for the 4 seasons and 13 weeks per season.
- Twelve court cards representing the 12 months.

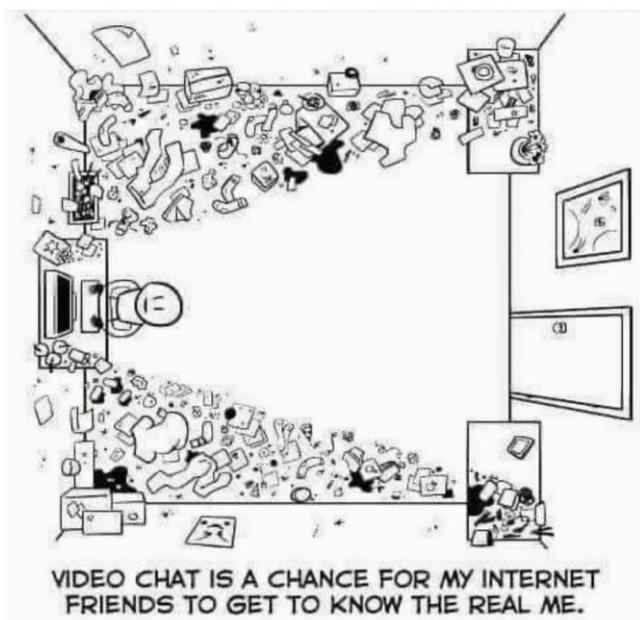
If we add each of the cards (ace + ace + ace + ace + two + two + three + seven + eight ... and etc.) of the game we will get 364.

The card game was an agricultural calendar that told about the weeks and the seasons.

With each new season, it was King's week, followed by Queen's week, Jack's and so on until Ace week changed the seasons and we started over with a new colour.

Jokers were used in leap years.

(Seen on Facebook, don't sue us if it's fake news)



LESSONS NOT YET LEARNED



A Taste of Bridge

Back by popular demand, [Learn Bridge in a Day](#) is being offered on the Zoom platform on Saturday, January 9, 2021. As many retiring/retired people will be looking for new ways to spend their free time in the future, this could be a wonderful opportunity to grow our bridge community! Here are a couple of ways you can help us spread the word.

- Forward this Alert or the [GRBC website URL](#) to your family and friends..... maybe even your whole contact list.
- Like us on Facebook! Our [GRBC Facebook page](#) is undergoing a makeover. Many of you have Facebook accounts already but even if you don't, you can spread the word through Facebook by:
 - Going to the [GRBC Facebook](#) page;
 - Finding Learn Bridge in a Day (either under Upcoming Events or the dropdown menu under MORE);
 - Clicking on Learn Bridge in a Day;
 - Selecting the option INVITE – all of your Facebook friends will show up – and then you can select some or all of your Facebook friends; and
 - Clicking on SEND INVITATIONS.

Your [selected friends then get](#) a notification about Learn Bridge in a Day from Facebook. This is an amazing way to spread the news of our club. But if you are not confident with all this technological stuff, why not ask your children or grandchildren for help!



Declarer Puzzles

It's not too late to register for this ALL PLAY workshop for intermediate players who will be challenged to solve a series of tricky but makeable contracts. This workshop is only for people who like to laugh (and cry) a lot. Your genial host will be Malkin.

Level: **Intermediate**

Instructor: Malkin Howes

Fee: \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members

Date: Wednesday, December 16, 9:30 am - noon



2021 Winter Lessons

The schedule for winter lessons is up on our website now. Click [here](#) for information about Learn Bridge in a Day and the beginner lessons. Click [here](#) for the workshops for advancing players.

Players who sign up for one or more of the intermediate winter lessons will receive a free bonus - Barbara Seagram's fantastic Zoom lesson on the two over one bidding system, along with extensive lesson notes.

Click [here](#) for more information about our lessons and to register and [here](#) for information about paying.

Coming Virtual Activities

- Friday, December 4, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards)**
- Friday, December 4, 7:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards)**
- Saturday, December 5 – Sunday, December 6, [Fall North American Online Bridge Championships](#)
- Saturday, December 5, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards)**
- Sunday, December 6, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards)** 
- Monday, December 7, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes)**
- Monday, December 7, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards)**
- Monday, December 7, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards)**
- Tuesday, December 8, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards)**
- Tuesday, December 8, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards)**
- Wednesday, December 9, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards)**
- Wednesday, December 9, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards)** 
- Wednesday, December 9, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards)**
- Thursday, December 10, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards)**
- Thursday, December 10, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards)**
- Saturday, December 12, **GRBC Christmas Party**

We have fun in **spades**.

We play with all our **hearts**.

We treat our members like **diamonds**.

We'd love to have even more members at our **club**.