



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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ALERT – September 19, 2022

Top 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 August.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	30.06	1	John Kip	9.67	1	Belinda Burt	4.49
2	Cindy Mahn	19.33	2	Jake Liu	7.54	2	Molly Worden	4.30
3	Mike Peng	16.61	3	Lynda Burnett	7.43	3	Steven Allen	4.16
4	Edith Ferber	15.87	4	Cheryl Kip	6.23	4	Joe Blake	3.84
5	Margot Stockie	15.71	5	Brian Kirkconnell	5.39	4	Nancy Cattanach	3.84
6	Colin Harrington	14.51	6	Roy Dandyk	5.10	6	Noah Pace	3.79
7	Ted Boyd	12.85	7	Muzaffar Husain	4.77	7	Elinor Girouard	3.65
8	David Longstaff	12.09	7	Judy Widdecombe	4.77	8	Reinhold Kauk	3.40
9	Neil Coburn	11.21	9	David Dennis	4.73	9	Anita Hanson	2.65
10	Dianne Aves	11.11	10	Sue Moses	4.72	9	Barb Neibert	2.65
11	Moira Hollingsworth	10.97	11	Andy Wilson	4.69	11	Susan Durance	2.42
12	Stephen Young	10.23	12	Ted Kennedy	4.66	12	Virginia Alviano	2.36
13	Kathy Russell	10.15	13	Stephen Nantes	4.44	13	Gordon Hunter	2.25
14	Sandy Graham	8.61	14	Brenda Semple	4.40	14	Judy Johnston	2.13
15	Liz McDowell	7.24	14	Paul Latimer	4.40	14	Carol Gerber	2.13
16	Peggy Pearson	7.08	16	Joan Slover	4.36	16	J J Girard	2.09
17	Robert Griffiths	6.92	17	Suzanne Edwards	4.25	17	Sue McDonald	2.05
18	John Hanemaayer	6.66	18	Bev Hitchman	4.16	18	Donna McKay	2.03
19	Neil Jeffrey	6.25	19	Vivian McLellan	4.13	19	Lori Bailey	1.87
20	Bruce Roberts	6.16	20	Barbara Arthur	3.91	20	Connie Green	1.85
21	Adrian Record	5.48	21	Salvatore Pace	3.79	21	Michel Lalonde	1.68
22	Dave Quarrie	5.43	22	Lori Cole	3.74	21	David Ward	1.68
23	Malkin Howes	5.11	23	Nancy Millward	3.62	21	Ginny Scott	1.68
24	Diane Bourdeau	4.37	24	Dave Embury	3.48	24	Valirie Binkle	1.61
25	William Christian	4.05	25	Adriaan Kempe	3.38	25	MJ Hartleib	1.59

ALL GAMES ARE ONLINE UNLESS DESIGNATED **FACE-TO-FACE.**

Coming Events

- Friday, September 16, 10:00 am – noon, [Barbara Seagram Workshop](#), \$35 **FACE TO FACE AT THE GUELPH CLUB**
 - Friday, September 16, 1:00 pm, 499er game (24 boards) (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE**
 - Friday, September 16, 7:00 pm, open game (24 boards) (\$7 members/\$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE**
 - Saturday, September 17, 1:00 pm, 199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5
 - Sunday, September 18, 10:00 am, 499er game (18 boards) BBO\$5
 - Monday, September 19, 9:00 am, Bridge Lab (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE**
 - Monday, September 19, 12:30 pm, 99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5
 - Monday, September 19, 1:00 pm, open game (24 boards) BBO\$5
 - Monday, September 19, 7:00 pm, 499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5
 - Tuesday, September 20, 12:30 pm, 199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5
 - Tuesday, September 20, 1:00 pm, open game (24-28 boards) (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE**
 - Wednesday, September 21, 1:00 pm, 499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5
 - Wednesday, September 21, 6:45 pm, 199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5
 - Wednesday, September 21, 7:00 pm, open game (24 boards) BBO\$5
 - Thursday, September 22, 9:30 am, 99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5
 - Thursday, September 22, 1:00 pm, open game (24 boards) BBO\$5
 - Thursday, September 22, 6:30 pm, 19er game (18 boards) BBO\$5
 - Thursday, September 23, 7:00 pm, 999er game (24 boards) BBO\$5
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Face to Face (F2F) Game Fee Increase – Effective Oct 1, 2022

Contributed by Mike Peng, Vice-President

Since we re-opened the club in March 2022, F2F game attendance has averaged around 50%-60% of pre-pandemic levels, and our table counts online have dropped significantly. Going forward, we will be managing a hybrid games schedule (offering both F2F and online), while incurring the additional costs of operating our club's premises.

During the summer months, the GRBC Board met monthly to review the club's finances which included a financial forecast for the next several years. While we finished our fiscal year June 30, 2022 in very good shape, if nothing changes it is very apparent that the club will generate negative monthly cash income for the foreseeable future.

After much deliberation, the GRBC Board has reached the following decision, effective October 1, 2022.

1. Regular Face to Face game fees will increase to \$8 (up from \$7) for club members and to \$10 for non-members. The surcharge remains unchanged for special games (NAP's, STaC's, etc.).
2. Members may purchase a convenience card (covers 10 F2F games) paid by cash, cheque, or debit card for \$75 (up from \$70). Non-members can purchase a convenience card for \$100. One of the perks of becoming a member of our club is this \$25 discount on convenience cards. Click [here](#) for more information on membership.

We hope you will understand the economic realities that face our club and continue to support our vibrant bridge playing community in the KW Region.



A warm welcome to **Sonja Miner**, our latest new member.

Letter to the Editor

I read through the requests that directors are making of players. They seem very reasonable. Of course, everyone can have a one off and be late once in a while. However, if some people are regularly late, this needs to be addressed.

Sharon Schnarr

St. Thomas Jumbo Tournament Results

Congratulations to the following local players.

- Casey Vandeputte and **Robert Griffiths**, 1st in A, Saturday Stratified Pairs
 - **David Baker, David Longstaff**, Martin Hunter, and Dorin Toma, 1st in A Sunday Swiss Teams, Bracket 1
 - **Mike Peng, Edith Ferber, Robert Griffiths, and Diane Bourdeau**, 2nd in A, Sunday Swiss Teams, Bracket 1
 - **Ted Kennedy, Wayne Schroeder**, Ed Wright, and Louis Bertasson, 1st in A, Sunday Swiss Teams, Bracket 2
 - **Sandy Graham, Mary McClelland, Jake Liu, and John Hanemaayer**, 2nd in A, Sunday Swiss Teams, Bracket 2
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Charity Volunteers Needed

[CanTeach Connections](#) is a Waterloo-based charity that helps with the learning of English in El Salvador. We are looking for volunteer “conversation partners” to meet virtually with Salvadoran English teachers who want to practise their conversational English with a native speaker. Commitment is one hour per week for 10 weeks, beginning this month. No teaching experience is necessary, just patience and the desire to help. In return you’ll learn about El Salvador and make a new friend. Orientation is provided. Contact Betty Ann Colquhoun at 519-747-5381, or by email at bettyann.canada@gmail.com.



We Had a Picnic and These Photos Are Proof



Dave Baker's Hand Analysis



We Had a Total of 21 Tables



**Cindy drew the prizes:
Stephen Carpenter, Susan Lawton
and Margot Stockie won free plays
and Valirie Binkle won Dianne Aves' book**



About 70 people came to the picnic



Our Club Turned 10



There Was Enough Food



People Brought Extra Desserts



Relaxing at the Pub Après

Don't forget our AGM at 12:30 pm on Tuesday, September 27.



The Answer Lady

Contributed by Susan Lawton

As the “The Answer Lady”, I have been responding to questions from “newer” players over the past several weeks. A request has been made to share those players’ questions and my responses in the Alert, essentially a column for the beginner player!

If you have a question, please write to me at suzan2420@yahoo.ca. You don’t need to send me the actual deal – just tell me the game date and board number and I can take care of the rest.

Question

My partner and I played this hand in a recent GRBC game. As you can see, South opened the bidding with a 2♠ bid, and then West, my partner, bid 3♦. After that bid of 3♦, sitting in East I wasn’t sure what to do. Should I have bid 5♦ or perhaps something else? We had a poor score after the contract was played in 3♦. West has quite a big hand but we seemed to have “missed the boat” on this one.

14 D	N North	W N E S
	♠ 9 ♥ 876 ♦ 983 ♣ K98764	P 2♠ 3♦ P P P
W West		E East
♠ A3 ♥ A ♦ AQ1062 ♣ AQ532		♠ 10875 ♥ KQ92 ♦ KJ4 ♣ J10
	S South	
	♠ KQJ642 ♥ J10543 ♦ 75 ♣	3♦ W NS: 0 EW: 0

Answer

You are correct that West has a “big” hand with 20 points and that frisky South decided to interfere with a 2♠ bid. In reviewing the bids on this hand at other tables, I saw that some players, like your partner, bid 3♦, a simple overcall, and they ended up being left in 3♦. That 3♦ bid doesn’t reflect the true value and strength of West’s hand. It also, as you discovered, left East unsure of what to do next.

Others chose to bid 2NT. Although this bid may have been intended to show the two lowest suits, in this case, clubs and diamonds, in fact it is a real no trump bid that promises 16-18 HCP (an underbid, given that West had 20 HCP) and a spade stopper. In any case, 2NT didn't work out well. Whatever East responded, it was very hard for West to know what to do next. Some chose to bid 5♦ and were successful, but others were not.

With a hand like West's, I would instead suggest a power double to show that big hand (promising 17+ HCP). East will be forced to bid. On this hand, East will bid 3♥ and then West can comfortably bid 3NT. The pair that followed this line of bidding got a top board.

I think 3NT is the right contract to be in. First, with 3NT you need to take only nine tricks while in 5♦ you need to take 11, a much harder task. West does have a spade stopper and you know the opening lead will be a spade! When I first started playing bridge someone told me that you need a note from your doctor or mother to play in a minor suit game. Meaning it's a last resort - so bid the 3NT and play it there.

PS Although you didn't ask about it, I feel compelled to point out that South's 2♠ pre-empt, although it worked brilliantly on this particular hand, is not a winning action in the long run. The problem is that bidding spades conceals South's five-card heart suit – making it virtually certain that N/S can never find their heart fit if they have one.

Conventional Wisdom

This column has now covered all 12 of Larry Cohen's most useful conventions. For the next few weeks, this column will answer a couple of questions posed by Suzanne Edwards. After that, we will go into hiatus – unless more questions are sent in.

Today, we will talk about the [Precision bidding system](#). This is one of the “big club” bidding systems, whereby a 1♣ opening bid promises 16+ HCP and the responses are highly artificial. You will usually hear “Alert” “Alert” “Alert” in the course of a Precision auction. There are quite a few open pairs currently playing Precision at our club, albeit all slightly-different versions given bridge players' propensity to come up with variations. The memory load for Precision is significant.

If you are playing against a Precision pair, your best defence is to interfere with their bidding and try to find a fit with your partner. The most popular interference system is called [CRASH](#). If you would like lessons on Precision and how to defend against it, write to [Malkin Howes](#) specifying your lesson mode preference and possible time lines.



TIME YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSONS!

Our fall lesson schedule has now been posted to our website. Click [here](#) to view the Learn Bridge in a Day session and the beginners' lessons and [here](#) to view the ongoing learning lessons. Registration has been enabled.

The **Counting** course is now underway but the **Basic Bidding** course has been postponed due to low enrollment.

The Intermediate Bridge Lab on Monday, September 19 currently has four registrants. It will go ahead even if it doesn't get any more participants - but more would be nice! 😊



Opening Leads

The bidding is over and your opponents have reached a contract of four hearts. You're on lead. What card should you play?

Opening leads are the only card played while the dummy is still concealed, but it is the one advantage defenders have over declarers. This workshop is for post-beginners and will help the participants decide which card in which suit is the preferred lead. Leads for both suit and no trump contracts will be provided.

Instructor: Susan Lawton (the Answer Lady)

Level: **Novice**

Date: Friday, September 30, 9:30 am - noon

Mode: Face to Face at our Club

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

Current Enrollment: 0 (we need eight students to go ahead with this workshop)

This workshop will be held at our club in our wonderful teaching room. Our workshops are a terrific way to make new friends and recruit new partners (as well as improve your game). Click [here](#) to register.

We have tried to offer something for everyone at every level. However, if you don't see what you need, please email [Malkin](#), our teaching lead, and she will see what she can do for you.

Also, it would be greatly appreciated if our readers would try to stir up interest among their friends and acquaintances who don't yet play bridge. We have a fun **Learn Bridge in a Day** (LBIAD) session scheduled for October 1 as well as beginner lessons starting the following week. We need your help to spread the word about LBIAD.

Something is working, as we now have five registrants for LBIAD and seven registrants for Beginners 1 lessons. Please keep the momentum building.

If you know of a good place to post a LBIAD, contact [Sue Peterson](#), 519-240-1386.



Losing a Trick the Right Way

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Board 12												
South Deals	♠ J 9											
E-W Vul	♥ 8 7											
	♦ 8 6 4 3 2											
	♣ A 9 3 2											
	<table style="border: 1px solid green; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; color: white;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S			
	N											
W		E										
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♠ 10 8 3			♠ K 7 6 5									
♥ 10 9			♥ 5 4 2									
♦ K 10 9			♦ Q J									
♣ Q J 8 6 4			♣ K 10 7 5									
	♠ A Q 4 2											
	♥ A K Q J 6 3											
	♦ A 7 5											
	♣ —											

West	North	East	South
			2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

South opened 2♣ and soon found himself in 4♥.

West found the best defensive lead of the ♥10. This defence was clearly going to prevent South from ruffing his losing spades in the dummy. His ♣A might go unused and he was in danger of losing two spades and two diamonds.

South considered how the play would go if he led a small spade towards dummy's jack. This would be fine if West held the ♠K. But if East had the king, he would undoubtedly win and return a heart. South would find himself with the same four losers that he had at the start.

However, South found a neat solution: at Trick 2 he led the ♠Q from his hand. East could win this trick and his heart return would stop spade ruffs, but South couldn't be prevented from entering dummy with the ♠J and throwing a loser on the ♣A, losing just three tricks.

East couldn't gain by refusing the ♠Q because South could then play his ♠A, ruff a spade, and throw another loser on dummy's top club - making an overtrick.



Sometimes you need to think outside the box.

FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

Contributed by David Baker

Suit Preference Signals

Sometimes, you have an easy, natural lead (King from KQJ10), or a safe lead (4 from 432 with AKQ in dummy), or a risky lead (2 from K32 with Q105 in dummy on your left). Sometimes, you have to make a critical lead in the correct suit, with no information from partner. Here is an example.

Dir: N	
Vul: EW	
18	♠ K J 10 6 4
5 6	♥ K 6 3
11	♦ K
	♣ A K J 8
♠ 8 3	♠ A 9 7
♥ 7 5	♥ Q 4
♦ A J 9 7 5 3	♦ 10 8 6 4 2
♣ 9 6 3	♣ 5 4 2
	♠ Q 5 2
	♥ A J 10 9 8 2
	♦ Q
	♣ Q 10 7

The opponents quickly arrive in 4♠ by North and your opening lead is the ♥Q. When North wins the king and leads spades, you can see a lot of declarer's losers going away on the heart suit. You need to choose wisely when to take the ♠A. There are two ways for partner to help you out.

There is a box on your convention card for Trump Suit Preference signals. If you are playing TSP signals, a high spade (the ♠8 on this hand) asks for the higher-ranking suit (diamonds) and a low spade (the ♠3 on this hand) asks for the lower-ranking suit (clubs). Since it is often not clear whether partner's first spade is his highest or his lowest, you have to win the second round of spades in order to interpret the signal correctly.

If you choose not to play TSP signals, you have to wait until partner has a chance to make a standard signal regarding which suit he likes. Trick 2: ♠ 4 7 Q 3. Trick 3: ♠ 2 8 J ? It would have been nice if partner had started with a singleton spade so he could have immediately told you which suit he liked. If you win the second round of spades, you will still have to guess what to switch to. If you choose not to win the second round of spades, declarer can either lead another spade (allowing your partner to signal) or begin to play hearts. When you trump the third round of hearts with your ♠A, partner will tell you he likes diamonds. It may seem silly for you to put yourself in a situation where you have to trump with the ♠A, but it is the only way you can be sure to make the winning switch.

For Intermediate *Jake's*
Play a Bad Hand Well

#90

♠ 952
 ♥ J4
 ♦ Q72
 ♣ AQJ86



♠ Q
 ♥ Q10965
 ♦ AK965
 ♣ 92

West	North	East	South
			1♥
P	1NT	P	2♦
P	3♣	P	3♦
AP			

West led his ♠A against my 3♦ contract and continued with another spade as East encouraged. I ruffed the second spade in my hand. Plan the play.

SOLUTION

One spade loser and two heart losers are unavoidable. So, you can afford to lose only one more trick in the minor suits if you are going to make this contract. There are three scenarios you need to consider.

1. If diamonds are split 5-0, you are unlikely to make your contract regardless of the ♣K's position.
2. If diamonds are split 3-2, you will likely make your contract regardless of the ♣K's position.
3. If diamonds are split 4-1, you will likely make your contract only if the ♣K's position is favourable and if you play carefully.

The third scenario is the only one you can do anything about and thus the only one you need to spend time thinking about. Facing a 4-1 trump split, the key to success is not to lose trump control. And to avoid losing control, you must establish the heart suit (by knocking out the ♥A and ♥K) **before** you tackle trump.

So, at Trick 3 lead a small heart from your hand toward dummy's ♥J. No matter which opponent wins, he will undoubtedly lead another spade. In today's hand layout, West will take the trick with his ♥K, so you play a small heart from dummy and ruff the spade continuation in your hand. Then lead another small heart towards dummy's ♥J. One of the opponents will take this trick with his ♥A and will return something other than spades (since a spade would give you a ruff/sluff). Best defence is to lead a diamond at this point.

After five tricks have been played, here is what you can see.

♠
♥
♦ Q72
♣ AQJ86



♠
♥ Q109
♦ AK9
♣ 92

At Trick 6, when East leads the ♦8, put in your ♦9, West will cover with his ♦10, and you will take the trick with dummy's ♦Q. At Trick 7, lead dummy's ♦2 to your ♦K. East will show out and West will play a small diamond. Sure enough, the trumps split 4-2, but you are ready. Now you stop drawing trumps and start cashing good hearts until West runs out of patience and ruffs in. At this point, all West can do is exit with his last trump (his best defence) or play a club.

1. If he leads his last trump, you take it in hand and keep cashing your good hearts if any. Then, crossing your fingers, you finesse the ♣K.
2. If he leads a club, you are put to the test earlier - but you still have no choice but to finesse. If the finesse is successful, you draw the last trump and claim. If the finesse fails, you were never making this contract.

In this hand layout, the clubs behave and you make your contract. Here is the full hand.

♠ 952
♥ J4
♦ Q72
♣ AQJ86

♠ A104
3
♥ K87
♦ J1043
♣ K7



♠ KJ876
♥ A32
♦ 8
♣ 10543

♠ Q
♥ Q10965
♦ AK965
♣ 92

If you hadn't delayed drawing trump, instead banging down your three top diamonds, West would have gained control of the hand. As soon as he got in with his ♥K, he would draw your last trump and then E/W would proceed to ram two more spades down your throat, not to mention the ♥A.

If you would like to play in a particular game but lack a partner that day, you can either:

- ♠ Log in to [Pianola](#), click on Partner Finder, and create a Partner Finder Advert. This needs to be done at least a few hours in advance of the game. OR
- ♠ Log in to the game in question and register yourself on the Partnership Desk tab.

If you are looking for a regular partner, contact [Joan Slover](#), our membership lead.

We have fun in **spades**.
We play with all our **hearts**.
We treat our members like **diamonds**.
We are planning an AGM at our **club**.