



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – January 22, 2024

Click [here](#) to access our regular game schedule.

Looking Ahead

- ♥ Our BBO games on Saturday (January 20) and Sunday (January 21) will be **Silver Linings games** = 1½ times silver points, BBO\$1 surcharge
- ♥ **First Beginners 1 lesson**, Saturday, January 20, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
- ♥ **CPR and AED Training, Saturday, January 20, 1:00 pm**
- ♥ Stephen Carpenter will be giving a mini-lesson on **Responding to Pre-empts** at the Monday morning bridge lab on January 22.
- ♥ Our BBO games during the week of January 28 - February 3 will be **Junior Fund Charity games** = double black points, BBO\$1 surcharge
- ♥ Malkin Howes will be giving a mini-lesson on **Filling Out Your Convention Card** at the Monday morning bridge lab on January 29.
- ♥ **Starting Signals – Attitude** workshop by Neil Jeffrey, Tuesday, January 30, 6:00 pm
- ♥ Dave Quarrie will be giving a mini-lesson on **No Trump Declarer Play** at the Monday morning bridge lab on February 5.
- ♥ **Online Swiss Teams game**, 7:10 pm Tuesday, February 6
- ♥ **The Friday night open games on February 9 and February 16 are cancelled.**
- ♥ **Niagara Sectional**, February 9-11, St Catharines
- ♥ **Both BBO games on Sunday, February 11 are cancelled.**
- ♥ **Pop-Up 499er F2F Pairs Game**, Sunday, February 11, 1:00 pm, \$1 surcharge
- ♥ **Royal STaC Week**, Tuesday, February 13 – Friday, February 16

A warm Welcome to the following new members.

- John Hutchison
- Tania St-Denis



Congratulations...

to the the following local players who earned master points at the Cleveland Regional Tournament but were unaccountably omitted in last week's Alert.

- **David Wilson, Edith Ferber, Dianne Aves, and Bruce Roberts**, 1st in Friday BRK Teams
 - **Adrian Record, Sharon King, Mike Peng, and Mary McClelland**, 2nd in Friday BRK Teams
 - **Sharon Boyd, Kathy Russell, Margot Stockie, and Moira Hollingsworth**, 3rd in Friday BRK Teams
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2023 Masterpoint Races

The ACBL keeps track of everyone's masterpoint winnings and reports them in terms of masterpoints earned solely in club play (Ace of Clubs) and masterpoints earned in club play *and* at tournaments (Mini-McKenney). Congratulations to the following local players who were among the top 12 in their category in our unit (Unit 249) last year.

Ace of Clubs	Mini-McKenney	Mini-McKenney
<u>0-5</u>	<u>0-5</u>	<u>1000-1500</u>
5. Sharon Nesbitt	6. Sharon Nesbitt	1. Jennifer Verdam
8. Randall DeKraker	7. Russel Kerr	3. Neil Jeffrey
11. Mark Sherwood	8. Ben Cornell	<u>1500-2500</u>
12. Doug Fickling	9. Randall DeKraker	3. Neil Coburn
<u>20-50</u>	<u>20-50</u>	4. William Christian
12. Debbie Miethig	3. Debbie Miethig	8. Wayne Jordan
<u>50-100</u>	<u>50-100</u>	<u>2500-3500</u>
6. Rick Arthur	3. Rick Arthur	1. Diane Bourdeau
<u>200-300</u>	5. Molly Worden	2. Mike Peng
3. Dianne James	8. Elaine Doyle	3. Margot Stockie
11. Robert Gilck	10. Brian Gaber	6. Thea Davis
<u>500-1000</u>	11. Audrey Cook	7. Ted Boyd
11. Kathy Russell	<u>100-200</u>	8. Dianne Aves
<u>1500-2500</u>	3. Noah Pace	10. Moira Hollingsworth
4. Wayne Jordan	6. Martin Jones	11. Bruce Roberts
10. Bonnie Kains	8. Barb Neibert	12. Peggy Pearson
11. Neil Coburn	12. Joan Slover	<u>3000-5000</u>
<u>2500-3500</u>	<u>200-300</u>	1. Bob Griffiths
4. Mike Peng	3. Salvatore Pace	2. Adrian Record
7. Ted Boyd	6. Jack Cole	3. Stephen Young
8. Diane Bourdeau	7. Dianne James	4. David Longstaff
11. Margot Stockie	12. John Kip	5. Edith Ferber
<u>3500-5000</u>	<u>300-500</u>	<u>5000-7500</u>
1. Bob Griffiths	3. Suzanne Edwards	1. Liz McDowell
2. Adrian Record	4. Shelley Metcalfe	<u>7500-10000</u>
5. Edith Ferber	5. Barbara Arthur	1. Cindy Mahn
7. Stephen Young	6. Roy Dandyk	2. Tom Ramsay
11. David Longstaff	8. Lynda Burnett	5. Colin Harrington
<u>5000-7500</u>	9. Jim Hardy	<u>Over 10000</u>
6. Liz McDowell	10. Jim Dalgliesh	1. David Baker
<u>7500-10000</u>	11. Lori Cole	
1. Tom Ramsay	<u>500-1000</u>	
3. Cindy Mahn	1. Kathy Russell	
4. Colin Harrington	5. John Hanemaayer	
<u>Over 10000</u>	6. Sharon Boyd	
3. Dave Baker	7. Scott Hills	
	10. Mary McClelland	

Click [here](#) for the full list.

Thursday Evening 999 Online Game at Risk?

Contributed by Adriaan Kempe

This game originated with six-plus tables and for a while held its own, but attendance has recently dropped to three tables such that we are at risk of losing this game. Such a loss would prove to be untimely for some, as a recent review of our membership revealed several members approaching the 500-point mark and this game could provide them the relief of a game without playing against the “super pros”.

We encourage you to join us Thursday evenings now while you still can. “If you don’t use it, you’ll lose it”!

On Track... ..To Online



AND THE WINNER IS... Week 2 of our **online playing draw** has dealt our next winner, and it is **Elinor Girouard!** Congrats! Elinor (and her partner, plus 23 other pairs) competed for SILVER points in our 499 game on Monday evening, January 15. We had **153** entries this week to win a \$25 gift card. Every time a current

GRBC member plays in one of our online games, their name goes into the draw. Play with us on BBO by Tuesday, and the next winner could be you!



CPR and AED Training

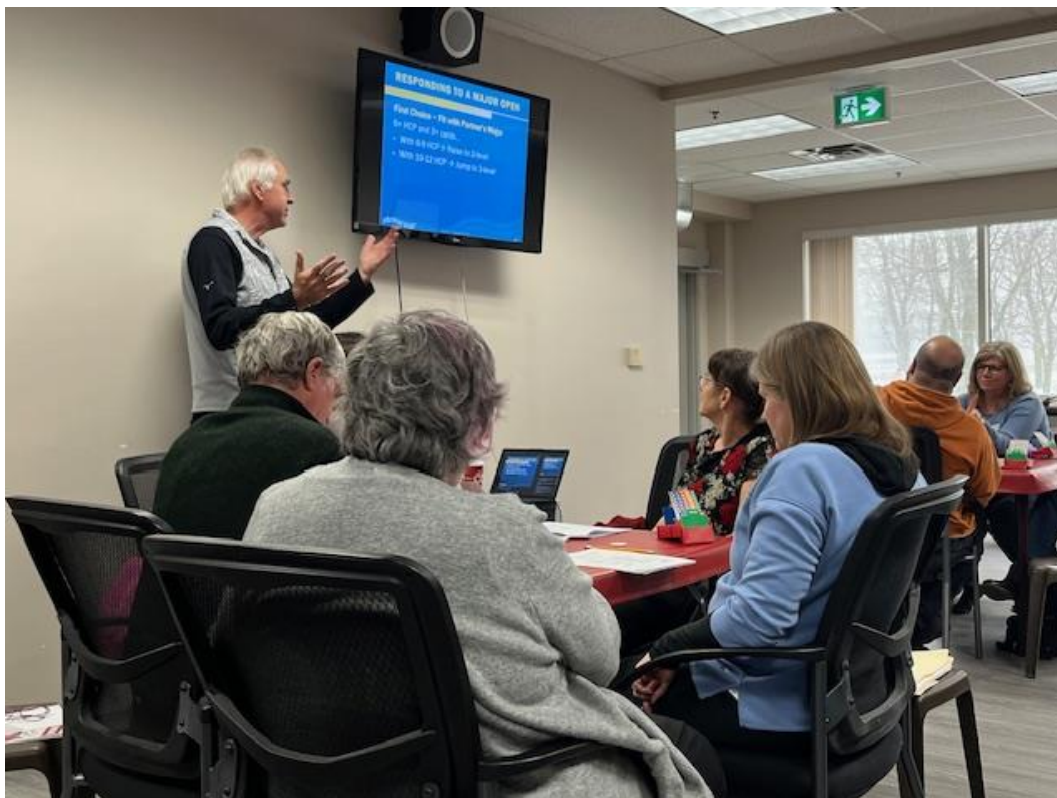
Contributed by Barbara Arthur

Our first training session with five of our club members took place last week. It was very well received. The next training session will take place this coming Saturday, January 20. There is space for one or two more people. For more information and to register, email me at arthur32@bell.net.



They Learned Bridge in a Day?

Twenty-three keen card players assembled at our club last Saturday despite the storm (two even drove from Toronto) to get a taste of bridge. They all report that they had a great time, and six of them signed up for our beginner lessons which start tomorrow (Saturday, January 20). We currently have 16 registrants for beginners, meaning that there is a bit of room left. For more information and to register, click [here](#).



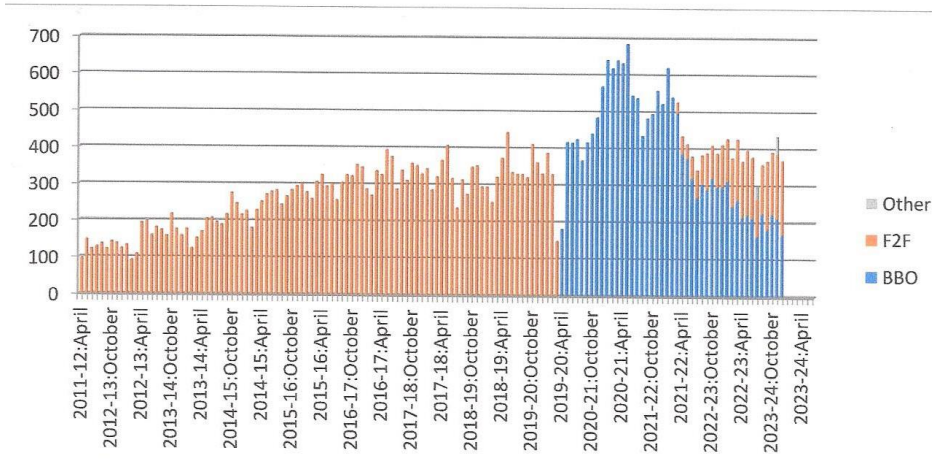
Many thanks to Stephen Carpenter, who taught the lesson; Isabel Hetherington, who administered it; and Sue Moses who assembled the table helpers. Photo credits: Joan Slover



Bean There Done That

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer (GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com)

It's been a while since the Beaner shared a graph showing our table count trends. We are half-way through the year now. Say what? Our accounting year runs July to June, which explains the x axis labels. Data go back to the opening day for the GRBC (April 2011).

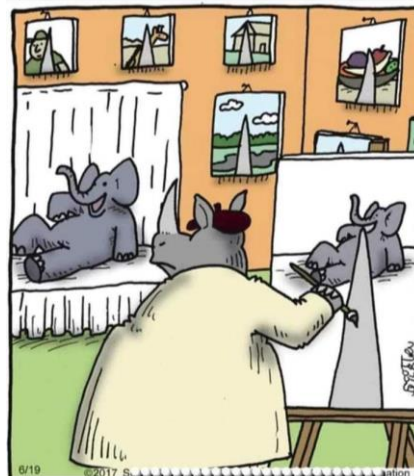


During the Covid19 years, online game revenue kept us alive financially. Afterwards, F2F made a partial recovery, but table counts haven't returned to pre-Covid19 numbers. In spite of BBO games declining post Covid19, our total # of tables has been fairly level for the past two years.



Baby, It's Cold Outside!

This jacket was found in our main room on Saturday afternoon. It is now hanging in our cloak-room.





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! You can write to me at suzan2420@yahoo.ca.

Question

Answer Lady, would you please help my partner and me bid this hand? I was sitting East and my partner, with 16 HCPs, opened the bidding with 1NT. North overcalled 2♠, a natural bid showing a spade suit. I had nine HCP's but was unsure what to do. Without North's interfering bid, I would have used Stayman to show at least eight or nine HCPs and a four-card major suit, but with that 2♠ bid I didn't know what to do so decided to pass. We ended up putting the opponents down one, but my partner felt I should have bid something. What is the best way to handle this hand, Answer Lady?

D 12	N	W	N	E	S
	♠ AK8543 ♥ 864 ♦ Q3 ♣ A5	P 2♠ P	P	P	P
W	E				
♠ Q107 ♥ Q7 ♦ AK42 ♣ KQ64	♠ 9 ♥ AKJ10 ♦ 987 ♣ J9873				
S					
♠ J62 ♥ 9532 ♦ J1065 ♣ 102					
		2♠ N NS: 0 EW: 0			

Answer

That 2♠ overcall certainly put pressure on you in Responder's seat. Of course, that's exactly what it was intended to do. You can't use Stayman now to show those four hearts and you can't bid 2NT with a singleton spade. What you do have however is points - nine to be exact - and your partner has 16. So together you have 25 HCPs, more than the opponents and, in the best-case scenario, sufficient for game. However, it's difficult to find game after that overcall, especially with a singleton spade in your hand and only one sketchy spade stopper in West's hand.

This hand came from a GRBC 299 F2F game so we can't see the bidding. I was able to review the results online for all pairs. One frisky pair actually got to 5♣ and made it. Another pair sitting N/S made the 2♠. Your result of 2♠ going down one wasn't the worst score. Some tried NT, unsuccessfully I might add. It's not a great option, for the reasons listed above.

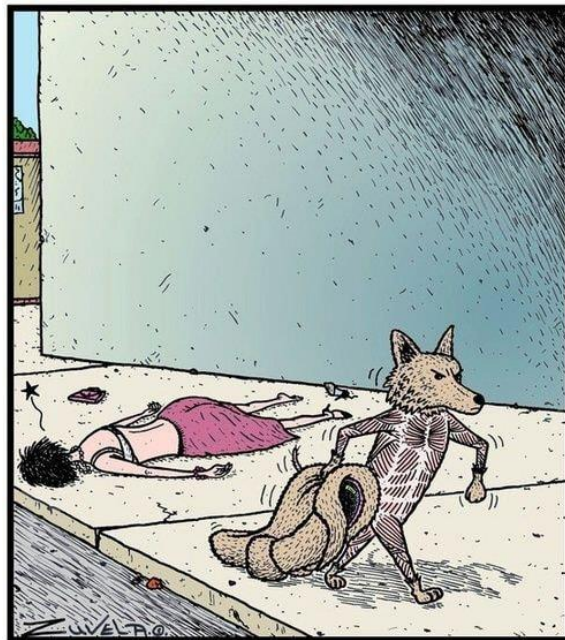
I think you need some type of strategy or approach to deal with 1NT interference. There are several options out there (most notably lebensohl), but most require a great deal of work and memory capacity. Way back a long time ago, in the July 18, 2022 Alert, I provided a basic strategy using Larry Cohen's simple guidelines for dealing with NT interference. I am attaching the link below. The July 18, 2022 article had this even more barebones approach.

1. If the interference is double or 2♣, just ignore the interference and bid whatever you would have bid without the interference. If you double the 2♣ interference, that would be Stayman, a stolen bid double. Most open players at our club play this way.
2. If the interference is 2♦ or higher, just ignore the interference and bid naturally. A double would show values but no clear-cut bid.

Using Larry's approach, you would double here - essentially a negative double. It tells partner that you have tolerance for the other suits, but that you can't bid no trump because you don't have a stopper in spades. It also tells your partner that you have some points and that you think that the hand belongs to your side (that is, you or your partner should be either declaring the contract or else doubling the opponents).

Your partner can decide where to best place the contract. West doesn't have four hearts so can't bid hearts, and with just one stopper in spades not a great fit for NT either. West would likely make a decision around playing this hand in a minor - clubs or diamonds. You would likely pass that bid with your minimal values.

<https://www.larryco.com/bridge-articles/notrump-interference-intermediate>



New BBO Game Directors

Audrey Craig from the London Club and Maureen Knowler from the Goderich club have kindly agreed to take over directing some of our BBO games.



Player Profile – Nanci Phelan

Contributed by Nanci Phelan and Anita Hanson

If you're ever needing a shot of enthusiasm for your bridge habit, look no further than this week's passionate profilee, Nanci Phelan!

Nanci fell into bridge by accident. It was the days of women's lib, so she and a girlfriend tried to sign up for a fix-your-own-car night school course. Sadly, that class was full but bridge had openings and, needing a night out they signed up, knowing only that it was a game played by snobby rich people.

The instructor was bad, and the class was a disaster. But Nanci's husband, Arthur came too and they connected with another couple who were also pregnant. Playing bridge then became a life-line while she was home raising children, later with work friends, and finally as a way to feel empowered and do something she was actually better at than her husband!!

While the Phelan family lived a back-to-the land-lifestyle in Tweed, building their own passive solar home and growing vegetables, Nanci got a job organizing night school classes for Loyalist College. The more classes she got going, the more she got paid. So, with a hippie friend who was keen on the game, they decided to teach bridge to seniors. This instilled a love of teaching bridge that continued when the family moved to Ottawa, Brockville, and then Elmira 18 years ago.

Nanci delights in "giving the gift of bridge". Her students in KW have morphed into a "club" of 55 women who play weekly bridge, but also enjoy birthdays, seasonal parties, and cottage getaways - female bonding at its best. Nanci plays duplicate several times a week but also runs two other social bridge groups where friendships flourish. Her six years with GRBC, along with the opportunities presented by BBO, have turned bridge into more of a personal addiction.

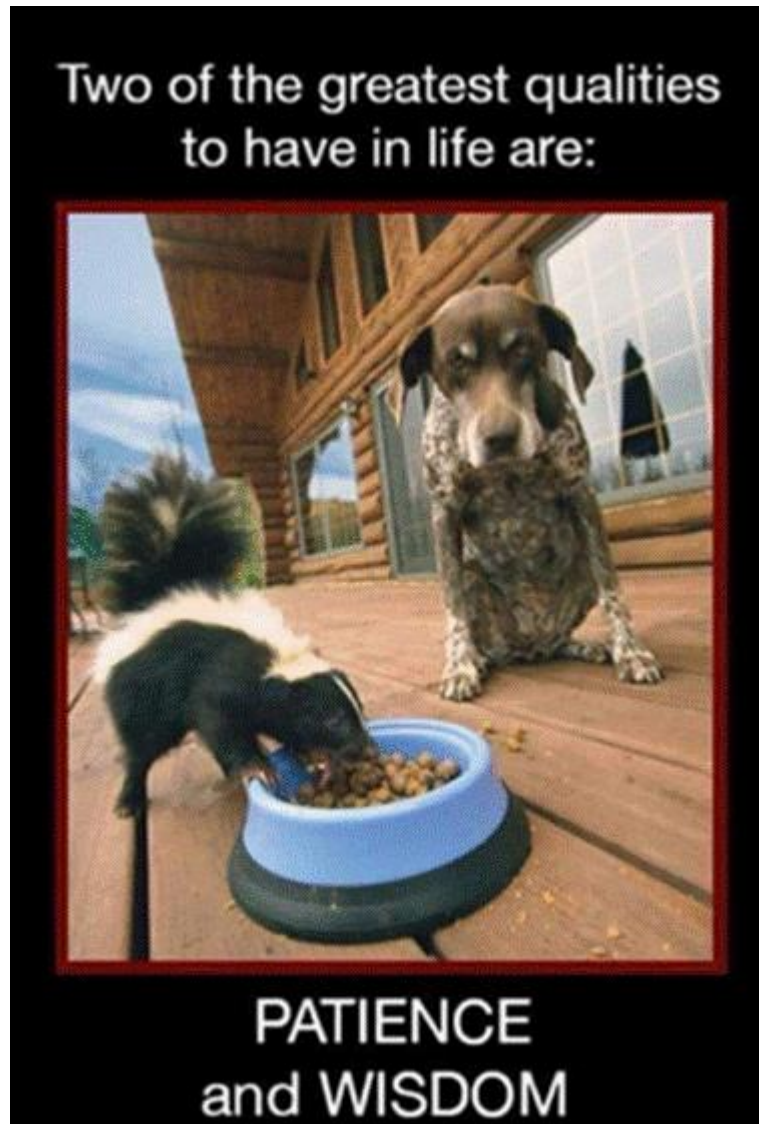
Originally from Peterborough, Nanci graduated from Western University with plans to teach high school English, but there was a surplus of teachers at that time, so she remained home with her children doing daycare while they were young. Later, she had a variety of different jobs, from teacher's aid to supply teacher to administrative assistant.

Nanci and Arthur will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year. Sadly, none of their three children will even try to learn bridge. Recently she enticed one of her six grandchildren to spare at the weekly Tuesday Discussion Bridge game. He was much adored by the little old ladies. Hope springs eternal.

Nanci has served on the executive of other clubs such as: Probus, Newcomers, and the Canadian Federation of University Women (organizing bridge groups there as well). Her father instilled a love of sports. Their Kawartha Lake cottage was a playground for swimming, waterskiing, trampolining, ski-Dooing, and playing tennis which continues as another love, though aging has diminished that competitive edge.

And bridge isn't her only passion - over 40 years ago, another looking-for-a-night-out class produced a stained-glass artist at large. Nanci has a home business called Hooked on Glass, and she teaches classes in order to "share the gift of stained glass". Check our members bulletin board for a photo of the stained glass memorial portrait she created of larger-than-life, Maïke Zinabou whom many of you will remember. Or check out her work, along with that of some of her students, at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/21217751@N08/albums/72157603312373598>.

It's now favourite bridge tip time. Nanci's is just one word: Don't forget to ADD. The bidding will tell you the range of points you and your partner have, and adding those numbers will tell you how high you can go. Makes it sound easy, doesn't it?



Do You Want to Play in the Friday Afternoon 499er Game but Lack a Partner? Who Ya Gonna Call?

Dave Quarrie, 226-507-2684 – and he will see what he can do for you.

Time You Learned our Lessons!

Newcomer bridge labs most Monday mornings, 9:00 am – 11:30 am, except on holiday Mondays. Upcoming mini-lessons include **Counting Trumps** with Barbara Arthur on January 15, **Responding to Pre-Empts** with Stephen Carpenter on January 22, **Filling Out Your Convention Card** with Malkin Howes on January 29, and more **Play of the Hand (Suits)** with Dave Quarrie. NO EXTRA CHARGE

Beginner 1 Lessons

Instructor: Sue Moses

Dates: Saturday, January 20, 27, February 3, 10, & 17 Cost: \$85 (includes the cost of the text)

Time: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Current Enrollment: 16

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Starting Signals – Attitude

Instructor: Neil Jeffrey

Cost: \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members

Level: **Novice**

Date & Time: Tuesday, January 30, 6:00 pm - 8:30 p.m. at our club

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Pre-Emptive (Weak) Twos – Including the Responses

Instructor: Jack Cole **ONLINE**

Cost: \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members

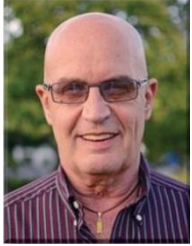
Level: **Novice**

Dates & Time: 9:00 am – 11:30 am, Friday, March 1 and Friday, March 8

NB: We must have received eight registrations by January 31 for this module to proceed.



FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

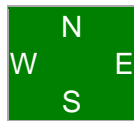
Real Precision

Bidding to the optimum contract requires the partnership to be on the same wavelength. The bids you don't make are often the ones that are most helpful.

West Deals
N-S Vul

♠ K J 5 3
♥ A K 6 3 2
♦ K
♣ A J 8

♠ 6
♥ J 7 5
♦ J 8 7 6 5 3 2
♣ 5 4



♠ 2
♥ Q 10 9 8 4
♦ Q
♣ K 10 7 6 3 2

♠ A Q 10 9 8 7 4
♥ —
♦ A 10 9 4
♣ Q 9

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠ ¹	Pass	4 ♦ ²
Pass	4 ♥ ³	Pass	4 ♠ ⁴
Pass	5 ♣ ⁵	Pass	5 ♥ ⁶
Pass	6 ♦ ⁷	Pass	7 ♠ ⁸

All pass

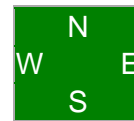
- 1: 17-19
- 2: cue = slam try)
- 3: cue
- 4: club losers
- 5: cue
- 6: cue
- 7: cue
- 8: 👍

This is one possible route to the easy-to-play grand slam. Neither the heart opening bid nor the subsequent heart cuebid were enough to encourage South to keep going with his minimum points and two losers in clubs. Subsequent bids got him back in the game.

West Deals
N-S Vul

♠ K J 5 3
♥ A K 6 3 2
♦ K
♣ A J 8

♠ 6
♥ J 7 5
♦ J 8 7 6 5 3 2
♣ 5 4



♠ 2
♥ Q 10 9 8 4
♦ Q
♣ K 10 7 6 3 2

♠ A Q 10 9 8 7 4
♥ —
♦ A 10 9 4
♣ Q 9

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	7 ♠	All pass	

This auction presents a different path to the optimum spot, requiring partner to have a different level of trust. South signed off in 4♠ because of his two losing clubs. When partner persisted with 5♣, three more cuebids followed. As a rule, if your partnership has enough stuff to cuebid four times, you should be in the slam you were trying to get to, in this case 7♠. North had to trust that her partner had the ♠AQ and the ♦A for his bidding. Even if he had one fewer spade, 13 tricks would be easy.

Kudos to Jennifer Verdam and Dave Longstaff on this hand. Damn you both for doing it to me.

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 December.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	20.62	1	Lori Cole	11.26	1	Peter Gaasenbeek	8.64
2	Mike Peng	15.42	2	Denis Williams	10.55	2	Brian Gaber	6.63
3	Edith Ferber	13.77	2	Regina Williams	10.55	3	Andrew Widdis	6.25
4	Steve Carpenter	12.75	4	Kevin Latter	9.71	4	Sharon Nesbitt	6.24
5	Moirra Hollingsworth	12.50	5	Jack Cole	9.43	5	Stu Cowan	6.08
6	Cindy Mahn	11.89	6	Nancy Cattanach	9.26	6	Russel Kerr	5.70
7	Dave Quarrie	11.27	7	Cheryl Kip	8.52	7	Audrey Cook	5.35
8	Neil Jeffrey	11.08	7	John Kip	8.52	8	Sheila Charters	5.26
9	Malkin Howes	10.80	9	Louise Dawdy	7.70	9	Casi Zehr	5.23
10	John Hanemaayer	8.45	10	Lynda Burnett	6.78	10	JP Fraresso	5.12
11	Neil Coburn	8.19	11	David Dennis	6.67	11	Debbie Miethig	5.10
12	Stephen Young	7.75	12	Rick Arthur	6.63	12	George Rybiak	4.44
13	Roy Dandyk	6.90	13	Elinor Girouard	6.57	13	Paul Raymond	4.30
14	Adriaan Kempe	6.01	14	Renate Boucher	6.27	14	Jane Wilson	4.28
15	Ted Boyd	5.89	15	Cheryl White	6.17	15	Randall DeKraker	4.23
16	Dianne Aves	5.74	16	Susan Durance	6.13	16	Mark Sherwood	3.55
17	Susan Lawton	5.65	17	Jim Dalgliesh	6.12	16	Doug Fickling	3.55
18	Sharon Boyd	5.63	18	Martin Jones	5.82	18	Robert Darby	3.38
19	Margot Stockie	5.59	18	Glenn Mockford	5.82	19	Richard Rybiak	3.31
20	Kathy Russell	4.98	20	Tony Verhoeven	5.71	20	Phil De Montigny	3/37
21	Diane Jamieson	4.38	21	Molly Worden	5.27	21	Joan Stroud	2.74
22	Dave Embury	3.98	22	Bev Hitchman	5.24	22	Pat Northey	2.67
22	Bob Griffiths	3.98	23	Barbara Arthur	5.21	23	Pat Gascho	2.61
24	Wayne Schroeder	3.83	24	Joe Blake	5.15	24	Jeannie Leforge	2.49
25	Mary McClelland	3.72	25	Judy Beauchamp	4.88	25	Larry Brooks	2.42

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

- For both online and f2f games, log on 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. *When you use Partner Finder, it will allow folks to see your contact information. If you have posted a Partner Finder ad, kindly remember to check your phone and email and, when you've found a partner, delete your ad. Someone who replied to your ad may be waiting for a response.*
- For online games only, log in to the game in question and register yourself on the Partnership Desk tab (or look to see if someone else has already registered there).

If you are looking for a regular partner, contact [Joan Slover](#), our membership lead. Please let her know what sort of game/partner you are interested in – your playing level, your available time slots, F2F and/or online, and any other pertinent information.

We have fun in **spades**.

We play with all our **hearts**.

We treat our members like **diamonds**.

We're always looking for volunteers at our **club**.