



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – October 19, 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 between September 1 and October 13.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	39.54	1	Ron Lawrence	12.58	1	Suzanne Edwards	15.73
2	Mike Peng	28.41	2	Stephen Nantes	11.63	2	Nanci Phelan	10.05
3	Margot Stockie	25.81	3	Brian Kirkconnell	11.55	3	Brian Silva	9.48
4	Cindy Mahn	24.62	4	Keith Prosser	10.84	4	Noah Pace	8.30
5	Colin Harrington	21.36	5	Sue Moses	10.75	5	Marlene Dopko	7.32
6	Robert Griffiths	20.03	5	Brenda Semple	10.75	6	Casey Baron	7.13
7	David Longstaff	17.97	7	Janet Howell	10.47	7	Steven Allen	6.85
8	Edith Ferber	15.68	8	Sandy Graham	10.21	7	Joe Blake	6.85
9	Neil Jeffrey	14.70	9	Mary McClelland	9.85	9	Salvatore Pace	6.59
10	Moira Hollingsworth	14.20	10	Adriaan Kempe	9.35	10	Andy Martinek	6.49
11	Dianne Aves	12.80	11	Lori Cole	8.92	10	Barbara Arthur	6.49
12	Malkin Howes	12.64	12	Allen Pengelly	8.09	12	Susan Durance	5.87
13	Wayne Jordan	12.58	13	John Hanemaayer	7.89	13	Joan Slover	5.51
14	Bruce Roberts	12.38	14	Sandy Lee	7.68	14	Marion Allan	5.49
15	Ted Boyd	12.05	15	Kathy Russell	7.51	15	Robert Gilck	4.67
15	Liz McDowell	12.05	16	Jack Cole	7.10	16	Susan McDonald	4.53
17	Stephen Young	10.92	17	Kevin Latter	7.00	17	Judy Bailey	4.45
18	Tom Ramsay	10.78	18	Jim Veitch	6.36	18	Virginia Alviano	4.16
19	John Moser	10.56	19	Charles Walkey	6.34	19	Nancy Cattanach	4.05
20	William Christian	9.86	20	Jim Dalgliesh	5.97	20	Mary Lynn Benjamins	3.83
21	Adrian Record	9.58	21	Donna Angst	5.72	21	Barb Neibert	3.71
22	Pat McMillan	9.24	22	Andy Wilson	5.48	21	Anita Hanson	3.71
23	Stephen Carpenter	7.93	23	Sally Turnbull	4.67	23	Renate Boucher	3.60
24	Diane Bourdeau	7.89	24	Paul Latimer	4.60	24	Daniel Dopko	3.50
25	Peter Hannak	7.50	25	David Embury	4.44	25	Donna McKay	3.45

Players in Good Standing

- Did you know that you don't have to be a member of our club to receive the Alert? If you know of someone who might like to start getting the Alert, just send an email to [the editor](#), including the recipient's name, contact information, and BBO username if known.
 - The same goes for players who are interested in participating in one of our coaching groups. Just send your email to [the coordinator](#).
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**ME WALKING BACK
TO THE CAR**



**CAUSE I FORGOT
MY FREAKING MASK**

ACBL Guest Memberships

If you're not already a member of the ACBL, you can now take out a 120-day guest membership for free. Click [here](#) for more information.

In Praise of Mini-Splinters

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Here's a hand from a recent club game. South generally opened 1♥. After West's pass, if North makes an invitational bid suggesting a heart game. South will always accept the game invitation, thinking that 27-HCP slams don't happen often and are hard to bid.

Two tables easily found the slam. Both of the pairs started the auction with 1♥-P-3♣. North's jump to 3♣ showing heart support with a low singleton or void in clubs.

After this start, the slam is easy to find. South, who has a good hand already, can see that North has no points in clubs or hearts (one doesn't splinter with an honour), so North's points must be in diamonds and spades, where South needs them to be. After the 3♣ bid, one South player jumped immediately to 4NT, found the needed ♠A, and bid the slam.

The other successful slam bidders went through an asking sequence after the club jump and also bid 6♥.

Board 19

South Deals

E-W Vul

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

The play in 6♥ is easy: five hearts, five diamonds and two spades off the top - no need to even ruff a club.

The jump to 3♣ is a mini-splinter, a variation on the old splinter bid. Splinters began life as a double jump in another suit, eg 1♠-P-4♣. The old splinters were game-forcing, showed shortness in the bid suit, and almost never happened.

Mini-splinters pop up regularly and are a very useful tool for hands like this one. The subsequent asking bids are straightforward.

One South player lost his way on this hand by opening 1NT, ending up in 3NT going down one on a club lead. Opening 1NT with five of one major and a singleton in the other gives you too much chance of finding yourself in the wrong contract.

 **Mini-splinters are superior to old-fashioned splinters.**



BBO Bonuses

In face-to-face play at the club, certain actions are not permitted because they might give your partner unauthorized information. They include: asking for a review of the auction after the first trick; asking to see the previous trick after all the cards have been turned down; and looking at your convention card.

On BBO, however, none of these actions gives your partner unauthorized information. Therefore, it is okay to do these things on BBO.

- **To Review the Auction:** Click on the final contract in the box under the board number
 - **To See the Previous Trick:** Click on the number of the last trick
 - **To Look at Your Convention Card:** Either have a paper copy handy or else call up your BBO convention card and use the up arrow to enlarge it in a tab beside the game.
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The Great Coffee Sell Off

Contributed by Jim Dalgliesh, Club Manager

This event was a success in that it raised money for the club and helped out people in need in our community!

Thanks to Adriaan Kempe for initiating the idea and being present at the bridge club to help sell the coffee. There were five members who bought coffee, with special thanks to Suzanne Edwards who purchased 18 cans. We raised \$211 which will be turned over to our treasurer. I also thank Betty Wendling for her idea of donating cans of coffee to the Soup Kitchen on Victoria North. The staff of the Soup Kitchen were very thankful for the donation of 26 cans of coffee.

Learning the Lingo - RUFFING

Contributed by Jean Farhood

Ruffing means the same as trumping a trick. You can ruff only when you are playing in a suit contract, whether you are declaring or defending, if you are void in a suit that is led.

To ruff, you play a trump to win the trick. For example, partner has bid hearts and the opponents win the contract with a bid of four spades. Partner leads the ace and king of hearts and, having started with only one heart, you discard on the second heart. Partner then continues with another heart for you to ruff (trump) with a spade.



Dear David

Support with Support

I was taught that if I had a minimal responder hand and support for my partner's opening major, then I should show that support rather than bidding my own suit. Recently I saw a reasonably-proficient open player, who was a passed hand with five HCP, a couple of tens, a small doubleton, and three-card support for his partner's opening hearts, bid his spades instead of supporting his partner. What is the right thing to do?

D 20	N ♠ KQ753 ♥ 1032 ♦ 1085 ♣ 85	W P P P P N P 1♠ 4♥ E P P S P 1♥ 3♥
	W ♠ J98 ♥ 985 ♦ K94 ♣ Q1093	E ♠ 1042 ♥ 76 ♦ QJ3 ♣ AK762
	S ♠ A6 ♥ AKQJ4 ♦ A762 ♣ J4	4♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0

This hand is an exception to the "rule". North has a minimum raise to 2♥. Many would pass with this hand in order to prevent partner from blasting to game. The 1♠ bid keeps the auction alive without encouraging partner to bid too much. The plan is to "reluctantly" support hearts on the next round. Things take a turn, however, when South jumps to three hearts. You might say that this bid is a game changer.

North's assets are: touching honours in a five-card suit, unexpected three-card support, and a ruffing value in clubs. This sub-minimum has grown into a maximum-minimum and is worth a raise to four hearts – which is a favourite to make.

When you play the AK of hearts, if they are divided 3-2 then play the AK of spades and trump a spade. You can then return to the dummy with the ten of hearts to enjoy the two good spades. This line only requires hearts to be 3-2 and spades no worse than 4-2. If hearts are 4-1, you will have to draw all the trumps and hope spades are 3-3.

So, the lessons are:

- Don't count your points and pass because you don't have the "magic" six points;
- Don't make an automatic bid without considering the alternatives; and
- Constantly re-evaluate your values based on new information.

Do you have a "what-should-I-do" bridge-related question for me? Email me at DearDavidBridge@hotmail.com and I will try to answer all your questions, either privately or in the Alert.

Bidding a Slam Over a Slam

Contributed by Stephen Carpenter

♠ —		♠ 6 2
♥ K 5		♥ 7
♦ A K Q 9 8 7 5 2		♦ J 10 4
♣ A J 3		♣ K Q 9 7 5 4 2
♠ J 9		
♥ A Q J 10 9 8 4 3 2	W N E	
♦ 6	S	
♣ 8		
♠ A K Q 10 8 7 5 4 3		
♥ 6		
♦ 3		
♣ 10 6		

NS 6♠; N 4N; S 3N; N 4♦; EW 2♥; S 3♦; NS 1♣; 1

The old bridge adage goes “what do you call an eight-card suit? ... Trump!”. But what happens when all four players have a seven+-card suit? The hand below showed up in the Friday night Open game with North as dealer. In most cases North opened 1D, East pre-empted 3C and South seeing an easy game bid 4S. After that, all hell broke loose.

Each side fearing the other had game or slam kept bidding and bidding. Of the eight tables, half ended up in a grand slam (7♠ N/S twice and 7♥ E/W twice). The only team that didn't bid slam made their contract – while the seven others went down.

As Dave Baker said after the hand, “The possibility of extreme distribution should temper one's aggressiveness”. Nevertheless, a fun hand to watch.

People walking around with DIY masks like



Just a reminder - In fairness to your opponents, please describe/alert your bids, including your NT range and whether or not you are playing a short club and transfers. It will save both confusion and unnecessary director calls!

LESSONS NOT YET LEARNED



Introduction to Two Over One

There is still time to sign up for one or two of these **intermediate** workshops on Wednesday, October 28 and Wednesday, November 4, 9:30 am – noon. The teacher is Stephen Carpenter.

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

You Will Be Appreciated!

The week of October 26 – November 1 is Club Appreciation Week in ACBL land. This is the ACBL's way of helping its clubs, the backbone of its operations. During this week, the players will get double black points, while the clubs will get to keep almost all of the game fees. As a result, your club (and your treasurer) will definitely appreciate it if you play early and often all that week. Let's have some BIG games!

Our Club's Activities this coming week....

- Thursday, October 15 – Sunday, October 18, [Fall into Bridge Online Tournament](#)
- Friday, October 16, 12:45 pm, **499er game** (26-28 boards)
- Friday, October 16, 7:00 pm, **open game** (26-28 boards)
- Saturday, October 17, 12:45 pm, **199er game** (20-22 boards)
- Monday, October 19, 12:30 pm, **49er game** (18 boards @ 8 minutes)
- Monday, October 19, 12:45 pm, **open game** (26-28 boards)
- Monday, October 19, 7:00 pm, **499er game** (24 boards)
- Tuesday, October 20, 12:30 pm, **199er game** (20-22 boards)
- Tuesday, October 20, 12:45 pm, **open game** (26-28 boards)
- Wednesday, October 21, 9:30 am – noon, **Control-Showing Cue Bids Workshop**
- Wednesday, October 21, 12:45 pm, **499er game** (26-28 boards)
- Wednesday, October 21, 7:00 pm, **open game** (24 boards)
- Thursday, October 22, 9:30 am, **99er game** (20-22 boards)
- Thursday, October 22, 12:45 pm, **open game** (26-28 boards)

We have fun in **spades**.

We play with all our **hearts**.

We treat our members like **diamonds**.

You don't have to be a member to get the Alert at our **club**.