



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

## ALERT – December 14, 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 November.*

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	41.03	1	Stephen Nantes	12.68	1	Suzanne Edwards	12.48
2	Cindy Mahn	29.92	2	Brian Kirkconnell	12.20	2	Shelley Metcalfe	12.24
3	Robert Griffiths	28.54	3	Kathy Russell	11.76	3	Barbara Arthur	11.49
4	Mike Peng	23.63	4	Brian Silva	11.27	4	John Kip	7.06
5	Margot Stockie	21.26	5	Mary McClelland	10.97	5	Martin Jones	6.34
6	David Longstaff	17.87	6	Sandy Graham	10.58	6	Mary Lynn Benjamins	6.26
7	Moira Hollingsworth	16.36	7	Ron Lawrence	9.79	7	Noah Pace	6.02
8	Colin Harrington	16.32	8	John Hanemaayer	9.61	7	Salvatore Pace	6.02
9	Liz McDowell	13.80	9	Tony Verhoeven	9.26	9	Susan Kerrigan	5.82
10	Adrian Record	13.09	10	Kevin Latter	8.86	10	Connie Green	5.22
11	Stephen Young	12.74	11	Cheryl Kip	8.75	11	Casey Baron	5.10
12	Bruce Roberts	11.58	12	Sue Voll	8.72	12	Nanci Phelan	5.04
13	John Vandergrift	11.47	13	Dave Leitch	8.61	13	Elinor Girouard	5.00
14	Ted Boyd	11.06	14	Jim Dalgliesh	8.02	14	Steven Allen	4.86
15	Malkin Howes	9.86	15	Janet Howell	7.90	14	Joe Blake	4.86
16	Stephen Carpenter	9.77	16	Fred Young	7.89	16	Renate Boucher	4.65
17	Tom Ramsay	9.19	17	Paul Latimer	7.36	17	Molly Worden	4.50
18	Edith Ferber	9.16	18	Jim Veitch	6.82	18	Jim Fox	4.29
19	Neil Jeffrey	9.11	19	Laurence Dean	6.61	19	Christine Kelly	4.16
20	Dianne Aves	8.53	20	Jim Hardy	6.18	20	Marion Allan	4.03
21	Sharon King	8.24	21	Judy Widdecombe	6.02	21	Marianne Dziarski	3.88
22	Wayne Jordan	8.12	21	Vivian McLellan	6.02	21	Patricia Pietrek	3.88
23	David Wilson	6.58	23	Sue Peterson	6.00	21	Susan McDonald	3.88
24	Thea Davis	6.31	24	Patrick McLaughlin	5.96	24	Mary Joan Hartleib	3.79
25	Peggy Pearson	6.19	24	Patricia McLaughlin	5.96	25	Joan Slover	3.64

## Our Facebook Facelift

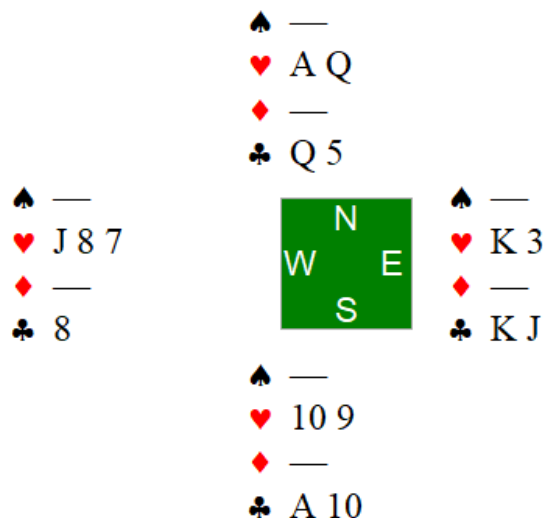
Thanks to Sue Peterson and Jake Liu, our club's Facebook page is getting a facelift! Right now, our page is a work in progress, with new photos and news and features being added as we write. You can access it at [www.facebook.com/GrandRiverBridgeClub](http://www.facebook.com/GrandRiverBridgeClub).

One of the great things about Facebook is the option to set up private groups away from the public. To give GRBC players another way to find partners, Jake Liu has created a Facebook group called PARTNERS. The members of the Partners group will be able to "chat" with each other. If, for example, you are looking for someone to play with you in the open game on Thursday afternoon, you would just post "I am looking for someone to play with me this coming Thursday afternoon". An interested party could then post his or her acceptance.

In order to join the Partners group, there are two or three steps, depending on whether or not you already have a Facebook page.

1. If you don't already belong to Facebook, you must create your own personal Facebook page.
2. Once you are a member of Facebook, you must become Facebook "friends" with one of the following members of the Partners group (Sue Peterson, Malkin Dare, or Jake Liu).
3. Once you are the friend of one of these three people, post a comment to this new person asking him or her to bring you into the Partners group. Once this has been done, you can stop being friends if you want.

As an added incentive to visit our Facebook page, Jake Liu has issued the following challenge. In the bidding, East had overcalled one spade and North/South have ended up in 3 no trump. This was the situation after nine tricks had been played.



I have the lead in the South hand. If I play my cards properly, I can take three more tricks and make my contract. In fact, there are two ways to accomplish this. Can you see them?

The answer is posted on our Facebook home page. Thumbs up and comments are welcomed.

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# Dear David

What can go wrong?

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		Select cards to play for all 4 players																																		
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Against 1NT by North, the opponents led a spade to the ace and the jack of spades back to the queen and king. A third spade was won by the ten, leaving the not-greyed-out cards in the diagram.

Now you can lead the diamond 10, picking up five diamond tricks. When you then play the ace and king of clubs, the queen drops and you can finesse the 9 to get four club tricks. As a result, you make 11 tricks.

Now I am going to change the hand so that West has the 2 of diamonds and East has the 2 of spades. Now when you lead the diamond 10, the West hand has 9652 of diamonds and a stopper in that suit. Since you have lots of entries to the North hand, why not lead a small diamond to the jack the first time? If it wins, you can lead a club to the ace and lead the 10 the next time.

Whether you are bidding, defending, or declaring, "What could go wrong?" should always occupy your thoughts.

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## Missed an Alert?

As of September 2020, we started archiving our newsletters. Click [here](#) if you want to look back at a newsletter from this period. (You can also get to this page by clicking on ALERT (EMAIL NEWSLETTER) on the menu on the left-hand side of [our home page](#).)

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## With a Little Help from a Friend...

*Contributed by Cheryl Kip*

Sometimes you just can't figure out where you're going wrong and want to improve your game. A few coaching sessions with an experienced player could be the answer.

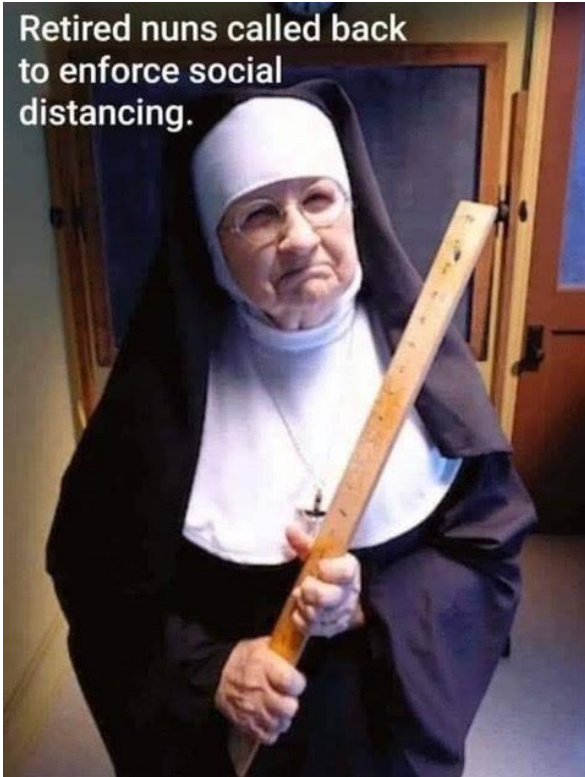
Thanks to Debbie Miethig who initiated the practice sessions and outlined the procedure and to Malkin Howes who found some great coaches, we now have nine groups who are involved in coaching sessions (some have finished).

Coaching sessions usually last for four weeks, each session being about two hours. Here's how it works - four players and a coach determine a time when they can play. One of the participants sets up a teaching table, invites the players to the table, and initiates a conference call. The coach can see all four hands; of course, players can only see their own. After the hand has been played, the coach can discuss the hand with players and offer bidding and playing suggestions. It's like having your own personal bridge trainer!

If you would like to be involved in a coaching session and have not previously participated - or you would like to volunteer as a coach, please e-mail me at [ckip1636@rogers.com](mailto:ckip1636@rogers.com).

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Retired nuns called back  
to enforce social  
distancing.



## Making Declarer's Life Easy

*Contributed by Robert Griffiths*

Singleton leads are popular - opening leader is often rewarded with an instant ruff. But there is a danger. When you lead your short suit, you risk helping the other side set up their long suit.

**Board 6**  
East Deals  
E-W Vul

	♠ Q 10 8 5										
	♥ Q 9 6 3										
	♦ 5										
	♣ J 10 7 4										
♠ K J 7 6 4	<table style="border: 1px solid green; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 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		♠ A 9 3
	N										
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	S										
♥ 10 7		♥ A K 4 2									
♦ A Q 10 3		♦ 9 8 7 6 2									
♣ K Q		♣ 6									
	♠ 2										
	♥ J 8 5										
	♦ K J 4										
	♣ A 9 8 5 3 2										
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>								
		1 ♦	Pass								
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass								
4 ♠	All pass										

East dealt and opened 1♦, West replied 1♠, East raised to 2♠, and West jumped to 4♠. N/S passed throughout.

North chose to lead the ♦5. Dummy played low and Declarer won South's king with his ace.

When Declarer next led a spade to the ace and a spade back towards his hand, he saw that North had two sure spade tricks.

But the contract was safe. North's singleton diamond lead had given the show away. After the first trick, West could reasonably presume that North had led either the singleton ♦5 or that the ♦5 was the top of a doubleton. In either case, South had the ♦J, and a lead towards the Q10 in West's hand would bring in the whole suit without losing a trick.

This is a case where North should not want a diamond ruff. With four good trumps, he is likely to get his spade tricks either way. He does not need to take the risk of helping Declarer play the diamond suit. If North starts with a more neutral lead like the ♣J, then West will have to tackle diamonds without any hints. Missing KJ54 in the suit, West's best play for no losers is to lead low to the queen, playing South for Kx or Kxx. A first-round finesse of the 10 is against the odds.

Without the diamond lead, Declarer will probably lose two spades, one club, and one diamond. With the diamond lead, North lets him get away with just the three black losers.

 **Don't lead your singleton when you have four trumps.**

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## Learning the Lingo – BLOCKED

*Contributed by Jean Farhood*

What does it mean when we say a suit is “blocked”?

You are in 3NT and dummy tables ♣AK5432. You are happy to count SIX club tricks, until you realize that you hold ♣10987 in your hand. Your high cards mean that once you cash the ♣AK, your ♣109 will take the next two tricks (as long as the opponents’ clubs don’t split 3-0). As a result, you will score only four club tricks unless dummy has an outside entry.

It’s always great to have a 10-card fit with partner. But sometimes the high cards in your hand will “block” the extra winners in dummy.

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## Our Christmas Party

Just a reminder that on Saturday, December 12, we will be holding our annual Christmas party. The fee will be the usual \$5 per game, but extra masterpoints and prizes will be available for those who do well in their flight. There will be two sessions, morning and afternoon, but single-session entries are welcomed. There will be three flights, as follows.

0-99	Session #1	Starting time 10:15 am
	Session #2	Starting time 2:00 pm
0-499	Session #1	Starting time 9:45 am
	Session #2	Starting time 1:30 pm
Open	Session #1	Starting time 10:00 am
	Session #2	Starting time 1:45 pm

There are two things you need to do right now, aside from writing the date on your calendar.

- Find a partner (although you can also use the BBO partnership desk at the last minute).
  - Sign up for the Zoom party after your second session so you can see and talk to your fellow players. Just send an email to [DearDavidBridge@hotmail.com](mailto:DearDavidBridge@hotmail.com) by Friday, December 11 to sign-up for the Zoom link in advance.
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## Our Directors Need Your Help!

*Contributed by Cindy Mahn, President*

Our online directors continue to need your help in order to make our virtual games run more smoothly.

- Please remember to register no later than 15 minutes before game time, and be back online at least 10 minutes before the game starts.
- Bid and play in tempo. When you hesitate and pass or hesitate before playing a card, you are giving your partner unauthorized information. If you have hesitated because you just spilled your coffee in your lap, let the opponents know.
- Please remember to self alert: it will save a lot of time if your opponents don’t have to stop and ask what your bids mean. Example, if your 1NT response to your partner’s opener is forcing, type in “forcing”.

The fact that these announcements are all repeats means we can do better!

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## Strategic Planning Exercise

*Contributed by Grant Roberts*

In early November, the Board of Directors had a half day Zoom planning session. This session was facilitated by Sue Peterson who invested a lot of time and talent in preparing for this meeting and making it a success. Thanks, Sue!

The objective of the meeting was to identify the key areas we needed to focus on to ensure that our club continues to be successful over the next year or two. We might normally focus on a longer time-frame, but in COVID-land a year is a long time.

The Key Result Areas we identified are summarized below. For each one, the team or teams who is or are responsible to “make it so” are shown in parentheses. The Board will be working with the Management Team and the individual teams to ensure we are successful in all these areas.

### Key Result Areas

#### Player Growth and Retention

- To attract new players, retain existing players, and re-engage former players in an online environment (Membership and Player Development, Teaching Team)

#### Virtual Club Growth

- To maintain a strong and expanding Virtual Club (Virtual Club Committee)

#### Personnel and Volunteers

- To ensure we have an adequate team of volunteers to support the club and that we have plans in place for succession and back-up of key positions (Volunteer Coordinator, Board of Directors)

#### Streamline the Organizational Structure

- Reduce organizational “red tape” that complicates approvals (Board of Directors)

#### Reopening Plans

- Defer until more imminent (Board of Directors)
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## LESSONS NOT YET LEARNED



### 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

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## 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 for them.**

### Coming Virtual Activities

- Friday, December 11, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards)**
- Friday, December 11, 7:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards)**
- ~~Saturday, December 12, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards)** CANCELLED~~
- Saturday, December 12, GRBC **Christmas Party**
- Sunday, December 13, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards)** 
- Monday, December 14, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes)**
- Monday, December 14, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards)**
- Monday, December 14, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards)**
- Tuesday, December 15, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards)**
- Tuesday, December 15, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards)**
- Wednesday, December 16, 9:30 am, **Declarer Puzzles intermediate workshop**
- Wednesday, December 16, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards)**
- Wednesday, December 16, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards)** 
- Wednesday, December 16, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards)**
- Thursday, December 17, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards)**
- Thursday, December 17, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards)**

We have fun in **spades**.  
We play with all our **hearts**.  
We treat our members like **diamonds**.  
We like to help our game directors at our **club**.