



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

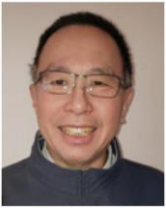
ALERT – March 22, 2021

Top Online Master Point Earners at our Club

Contributed by Allen Pengelly

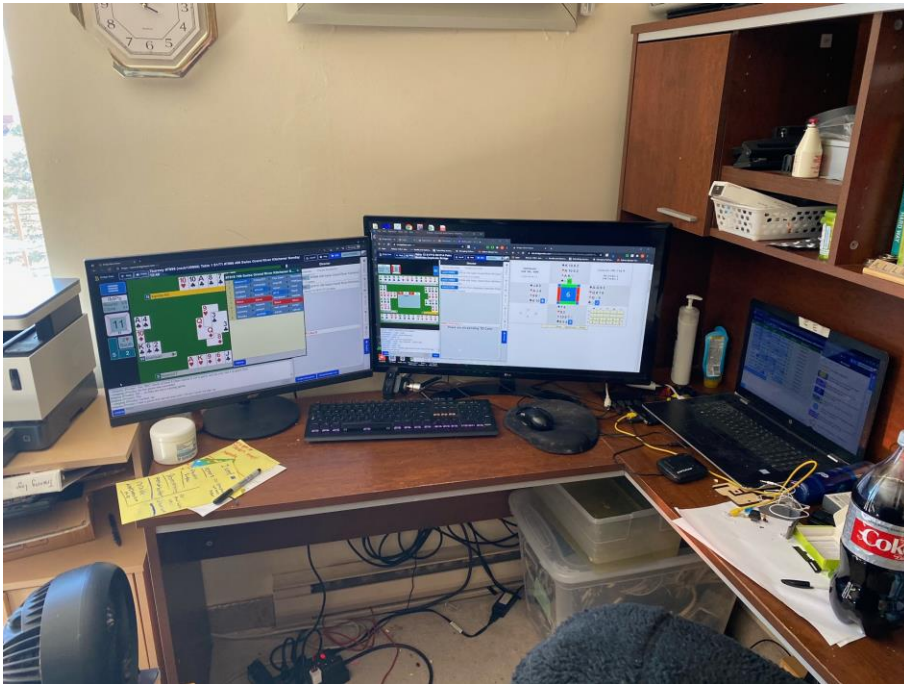
This table lists the individuals who have earned the most master points at our club in each of three master point bands since the beginning of February.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	56.11	1	Suzanne Edwards	21.92	1	Casey Baron	16.64
2	Robert Griffiths	28.28	2	Brian Kirkconnell	19.56	2	Salvatore Pace	16.38
3	Margot Stockie	27.99	2	Stephen Nantes	19.56	3	Ginny Scott	10.01
4	Mike Peng	27.63	4	Janet Howell	18.43	4	Virginia Alviano	9.45
5	Cindy Mahn	25.60	5	Barbara Arthur	16.81	5	Elinor Girouard	8.55
6	Edith Ferber	25.35	6	John Hanemaayer	15.50	6	Renate Boucher	8.48
7	Bruce Roberts	24.71	7	Brian Silva	14.59	7	Nancy Cattanach	8.42
8	David Wilson	24.03	8	Nanci Phelan	13.44	8	Mary Lynn Benjamins	8.28
9	David Longstaff	21.60	9	Shelley Metcalfe	13.12	9	Belinda Burt	8.13
10	Colin Harrington	21.51	10	Kathy Russell	12.76	10	Martin Jones	7.42
11	Moira Hollingsworth	20.95	11	Jake Liu	11.82	10	Noah Pace	7.42
12	Liz McDowell	16.63	11	Roy Dandyk	11.82	12	Jane Wilson	7.33
13	Ted Boyd	16.32	11	David Embury	11.82	13	Isabel Hetherington	7.15
14	Sandy Graham	15.90	14	Cheryl Kip	11.65	14	Kathy Chandler	7.02
15	Dianne Aves	15.89	14	John Kip	11.65	15	Patricia Malvern	6.82
16	John Vandergrift	13.31	16	Paul Latimer	11.51	16	Marion Allan	6.54
17	Neil Jeffrey	12.58	17	Sue Voll	10.86	17	Andy Martinek	6.36
18	Kandis Smith	11.75	18	Sue Peterson	10.11	18	Jane Rushby	6.31
19	Steve Carpenter	11.54	19	Tony Verhoeven	9.95	18	Sue Andersen	6.31
20	Tom Ramsay	11.37	20	Lori Cole	9.82	20	Joe Blake	6.16
21	Scott Hills	10.15	21	Robert Gilck	9.79	20	Steven Allen	6.16
22	Stephen Young	9.70	22	Jim Dalgliesh	8.06	22	Gordon Hunter	6.14
23	John Moser	9.61	23	Donna Angst	7.59	23	Brian Gaber	5.83
24	Wayne Schroeder	8.79	24	Judy Widdecombe	7.21	24	Molly Worden	5.72
25	Susan Lawton	8.67	24	Vivian McLellan	7.21	25	Donald Rieger	5.71



Congratulations to

- **Peter Peng** and his partner Richard Chan who won the Evening Top-Flight Pairs in the ACBL's Winter Wonderland regional tournament (and got their pictures in the latest *Bulletin*).
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Windows Screens

Here's what director Al Pengelly's computer set-up looks like when he is running three games at once (two at GRBC and one in Muskoka).

St. Patrick's Day Results

Contributed by Allen Pengelly

Last Sunday, we held our St. Patrick's Day Swiss Teams Games. Seven teams showed up for the 199er game, and 12 teams showed up for the 499er game. Unfortunately, only four teams registered for the open game, and BBO requires at least five teams to run a game - so it had to be cancelled.

After five rounds of six boards in the 199er game, and six rounds of five boards in the 499er game, the following teams came out at the head of the pack. Congratulations!!!!

199er Game

1. **Christine Baron - Casey Baron - Salvatore Pace - Noah Pace**
2. **Kathy Chandler - Louise Dawdy - Reinhold Kauk - Elaine Doyle**

499er Game

1. **John Hanemaayer - Paul Latimer - Jake Liu - Sandy Graham**
 2. **(tie) Margie Whyte - Betty Wendling - Cheryl Mahaffy - Sandra Jonasson**
 2. **(tie) Cheryl White - David Dennis - Ron Angst - Donna Angst**
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LESSONS NOT YET LEARNED



Managing Entries

It's not too late to sign up for this workshop.

Level: **Novice**

Instructor: Malkin Howes

Date: Wednesday, March 24, 9:30 am – noon



Simple Hand Evaluation

It's not too late to sign up for this workshop.

Level: **Beginner**

Instructor: Jack Cole

Date: Wednesday, March 31, 9:30 am - noon



Simple Squeezes

A squeeze is generally declarer's last resort. He and his partner have bid too much, and now they're short one trick. This elusive trick can't be gained via a finesse or an end play or a ruff, so there is nothing left to try but a squeeze.

You almost never are sure that a squeeze will work, but you have nothing to lose so you might as well try. You are hoping that if you run your long suit(s), one of the opponents will have to guard the other suits such that when you force him to discard, he will have to throw a card that will hand you an extra trick.

This workshop will provide lots of squeeze practice and will explain the mysterious-sounding-but-not-so-difficult need to "rectify the count".

Level: **Intermediate**

Instructor: Malkin Howes

Date: Monday, April 12, 2021, 9:30 am - noon

How to Register and Pay

- Click [here](#) for our workshops for advancing players – including ten workshops for the spring season (\$20 for members, \$25 for non-members).
- Click [here](#) for more information about Beginners 2 and to register.

Click [here](#) for information about how to pay for your lessons (scroll down).

TCG - The Common Game: It's a Wrap!

Contributed by Jack Cole

We've come to the end of my tour of The Common Game. There's a lot of information there, and it's sometimes hard to locate what you want - so I've made a chart of the highlights and how to find them.

Article	TCG Feature	How to get to it (links from your email shown in blue)
1 Jan. 25/21	Big Field % and Big Field Rank. <i>How you scored versus the big field.</i>	Personal Common Game Home Page , Attendance tab. The current month is shown. Use Prior Games tab for older games.
2 Feb. 1/21	Declarer, dummy & lead percentages. Play versus Double Dummy bar chart. <i>How you performed personally.</i>	Personal Common Game Home Page , then click Positional Results tab for percentages, Declarer Play vs. Double Dummy for the bar chart. (Some games do not appear here. See note with Article 3.)
3 Feb. 8/21	Fast Results Analysis: Double Dummy Contract & Trick analysis, Team Score. <i>Game performance, board-by-board.</i>	Personal Common Game Home Page , Attendance or Prior Games tab, then press FRA button.
4 Feb. 15/21	Fast Results Analysis: Replay any board, with or without GIB assist. <i>Replay a board that FRA highlights.</i>	Personal Common Game Home Page , Attendance or Prior Games tab, then press FRA button, then click on the board number .
5 Feb. 22/21	Top scores in the Big Field for matches. <i>How many players; who scored what.</i>	The Common Game ClubWebResults Page , locate the session of interest, then click Leaderboard .
6 Mar. 1/21	All boards with some Expert Analysis. <i>Discussion of bid and play of hands.</i>	The Common Game ClubWebResults Page , locate the session of interest, then click Leaderboard , then scroll down.
7 Mar. 8/21	All hand results scored in the Big Field. <i>Pairs who made all scores for all hands.</i>	The Common Game ClubWebResults Page , locate the session of interest, then click Leaderboard , then scroll down even further.
8 Mar. 15/21	Club results, hand records. Replay any board as played by <u>any pair</u> , or from scratch, with or without GIB assistance. <i>See how you or others worked a hand.</i>	The Common Game ClubWebResults Page , locate the session of interest, click on the session name, scroll down to boards, click on any pair .

Of all these, I find the last one to be the most instructive. It works for *any* BBO club game (whether it used Common Game deals or not), and you can watch *anyone* play an interesting hand and see how it was made or went astray.

The Common Game offers many benefits to players looking to analyse and improve their games. It's entirely free to the club and offers the club itself one more benefit: players wanting to compare their outcomes to a bigger field can do so, while still supporting **our club's games** on BBO.

I hope these articles have been helpful and have added some new tools to your Bridge toolkit!

A Few More Paraprosookians

- If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
- Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut and still think they are sexy.
- I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS



What is This Hand Worth?

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Your hand is: ♠Q103 ♥A87 ♦Q10 ♣QJ862. What are your first thoughts? Is this an opening bid? I hope you don't think so. You are West with this hand, and East deals and opens 1♥. While you are mulling over whether to treat your hand as simple single raise or a more-encouraging limit raise, South comes in with a 2♦ overcall.

Has your hand gotten better, worse, or stayed in the murky zone between a single raise and a limit raise?

While Kx in diamonds might be an asset (with the ace presumably on your right), Q10 is very unlikely to be. The diamond bid has decreased your hand's value from a soft 11-HCP hand to a less-than-10-point hand. So, even though you can see 11 HCP and a doubleton, this hand is not worth more than a single raise; 2♥ is enough.

East Deals
N-S Vul

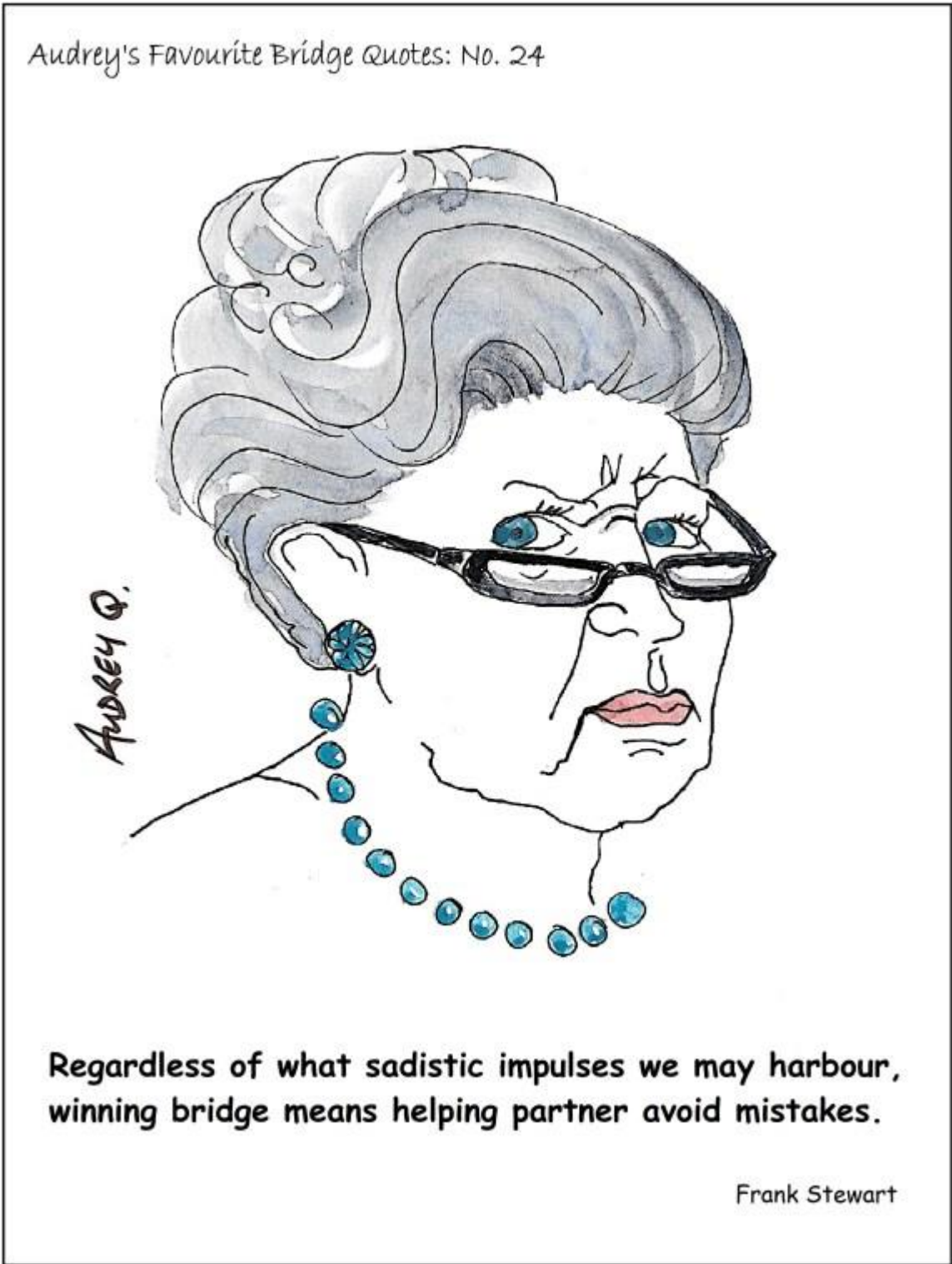
	♠ J 7 4 2 ♥ Q 10 4 ♦ K J 8 ♣ 5 4 3		
♠ Q 10 3 ♥ A 8 7 ♦ Q 10 ♣ Q J 8 6 2	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A K 8 6 ♥ J 9 6 5 3 ♦ 6 5 ♣ A 9	
	♠ 9 5 ♥ K 2 ♦ A 9 7 4 3 2 ♣ K 10 7		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♥	2♦
2♥	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♥	All pass		

I played this hand. I was South, making the 2♦ overcall. West made his single raise, my partner raised me to 3♦, which was passed back to West. Having taken a conservative view the first round, West felt safe in competing to 3♥; his partner would not be tempted to overbid after this sequence.

As it turned out, even 3♥ was too much on this hand. East had to lose two hearts, two diamonds, and a club. But down one in 3♥ gave E/W a very good score, as many of the E/W pairs found their way to 4♥, going down two. Too often, players with hands like West's will count their points and make the "automatic" invitational bid that gets their side into deeper water than they should be.

I asked West why he had bid the hand so gently. He said: "holding only three trumps made me sad, the three queens made me sadder, and the Q10 doubleton in your suit made me saddest of all." In the end, however, the score made him happy.
Roughly half of the field played in 4♥; -100 got them roughly 33% of the matchpoints. The half that stopped short of game got about 66%.

🗨 The value of your hand is dynamic, changing as the bidding progresses.





Dear David

Charmin Squeezes

Here is the first hand for your perusal.

As we saw last time, when partner makes a 15-17 1NT bid and partner has 18 HCP, the magic number of 33-35 HCP has been fulfilled. Since two aces and a king would give you an excellent shot at 7NT, you choose a 4♣ Gerber bid to ask for aces. Alas, you are one ace short and you settle for 6NT. After the ♠9 lead, you have 12 top tricks. Take all your diamonds and finish your spades to arrive at this position.

What can North throw on the last spade? A pitch from either suit is fatal to the defense. The only thing you need to do is watch for the ♣A.

Later in the same session, a similar hand arose.

This time, South's 2NT bid showed 10-12. 4♣ was Gerber and 4♠ showed two aces. Although the combined hands have only 29-31 points, North determined his six-card heart suit made up for the deficit. Once again, declarer is thrilled to start with 12 probable tricks and sets out on a search for the 13th trick. After the ♦8 lead, declarer runs the hearts and diamonds.

Throwing the ♣A is immediately fatal and throwing a spade will cause the queen to fall under the ace and king. Think about these hands the next time you are in slam and the only thing you have to worry about is an overtrick.

FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS

Jake's Challenges

LAST WEEK'S CHALLENGE (#14)

♠ 1094	
♥ 9764	
♦ 1096	
♣ 1054	
♠ 865	
♥ QJ10	
♦ 743	
♣ AKJ9	

East dealt and opened three no trump, followed by three passes. East's bid showed 25-27 HCP. I, sitting South, led the ♥Q and saw Dummy come down with a near-Yarborough. Declarer played a small heart from Dummy and my partner followed with a small heart as well. East took this trick with his ace. At Tricks 2, 3 and 4, Declarer cashed his ace, king and queen of spades, everyone following, but the ♠J was nowhere in evidence. Declarer cashed his ♥K at Trick 5 and then exited with a small heart at Trick 6. Obviously, I had no choice but to take this trick. Clearly, Declarer gave me the lead for a reason, but why? What should I do now?

SOLUTION

It seemed to me that Declarer chose to put me in for one of two reasons: a) he had at most the queen of clubs and so he didn't want my partner in to lead clubs through him; or b) he would like me to lead diamonds for a free finesse.

If only you could give your partner the lead so he could lead clubs! The only way this could happen, however, would be if your partner had the ace of diamonds. Is there any chance he could have it? Well, we can figure it out. Here's a handy tool.

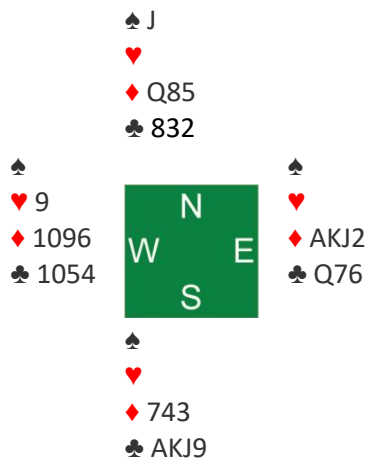
Statistically speaking, bidders who open three no trump with 25-27 are overwhelmingly likely to have 25 HCP. As a result, you can use the following formula. Your partner's HCP = 15 minus your HCP. In other words, if you subtract your HCP from 15, the difference is your partner's HCP. (As with everything to do with bridge, this is likely but not certain - on this hand, Declarer actually had 26 HCP.) I wanted to name my formula "the Rule of 15", but unfortunately there is already a different rule of 15, so I'll name it "**the Rule of 15 for three no trump**" instead.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, can your partner hold the ♦A? Applying the Rule of 15 for three no trump, you have 11 HCP - meaning that your partner holds at most four HCP. But bear in mind that the jack of spades has not showed up yet. Clearly it is in your partner's possession - because Declarer would have already cashed it if he had it. Your partner can't possibly hold the ♦A unless East opened 3NT with less than 25 HCP. Therefore, it is more realistic to assume that your partner has the ♦K or ♦Q.

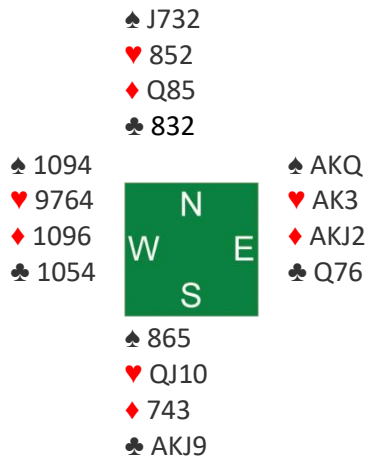
As a result, you must abandon any thought of giving your partner the lead and instead cash the ace and king of clubs at Tricks 7 and 8, and then at Trick 9 exit with the jack of clubs (the jack specifically in order to smother Dummy's ten). East has no choice but to take the club with his queen (if he dumps the queen under your ace or king to avoid being end played, he gives you four club tricks to set the contract that way).

Now Declarer can't do anything but cash his ace and king of diamonds and then lead away from his jack/two of diamonds. Your partner thus gets a diamond trick and can cash his last winning spade to put Declarer down one (♠J, ♥J, ♦Q, and ♣AK). This is an example of sauce for the goose being sauce for the gander (Declarer tried to end play you and got end played in his turn.)

Here is the full hand after six tricks at the point where you were thrown in.

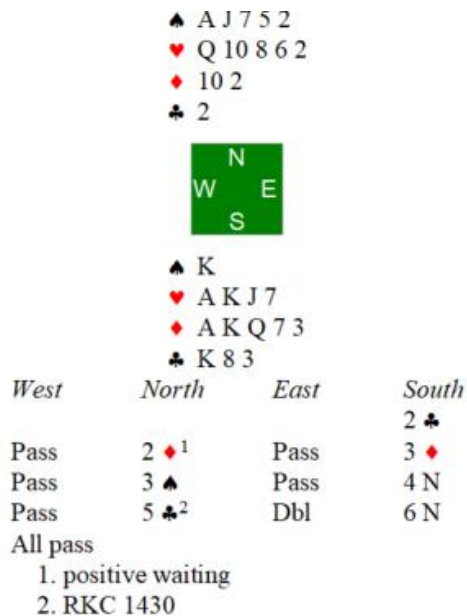


As you can see, if you had led a diamond from your hand at Trick 7, your partner's queen would have been trapped, allowing Declarer to cash four diamond tricks and make his contract (three spades, two hearts, and four diamonds). Here is the full hand.



Here is Jake's latest challenge (#15). The solution can be found on [our Facebook page](#).

CHALLENGE #15



A six-hearts contract would have been much easier than the six no trump contract that my partner and I reached, but I was so enchanted with the extra ten points available in no trump contracts that I didn't seriously look for a suit. Thus, when my partner bid three spades I jumped straight to 4 NT. The 5♣ response showed one ace or the spade king but, as I held the king of spades myself, I knew it meant my partner had one ace. East doubled my partner's 5♣ bid, a lead-directing double.

Because my king of clubs was sitting behind the doubler, I figured it was a sure stopper and that my partner and I had enough HCP to take the rest of the tricks. I thus went straight to six no trump. As I expected, East led a club (the ♣J) to Dummy's deuce, and East's ace. East led the ♣Q at Trick 2, which I took with my king. West followed with a small club and Dummy discarded a small spade. How would you continue?



Not necessarily related to the cartoon, the Region of Waterloo has opened up its pre-registration process to persons 70+ years of age. Click [here](#) to pre-register.

Free Beginner Bridge Lessons

Beginning the first week of April, the ACBL is offering 12 free one-hour Zoom lessons followed by a Question-and-Answer session for those who want to learn to play bridge. Participants can attend as many or as few as they wish. Lesson handouts are emailed to participants before each lesson. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Shout-Out to Brian Silva

This week, I came across a hand that was planned and played really well. The declarer proceeded methodically, step by step, getting the timing exactly right and making the correct decision every time. As a result, he took ten tricks for an absolute top. This fantastic line of play was created by **Brian Silva**! In case you want to check it out, I'm talking about Board 9 in last week's Tuesday afternoon open game at our club. Well done, Brian!

John Moser



During Stardust Week, all of our games will award double master points, and they will be 25% gold, 75% black. The Stardust games are highlighted in black below. Please note that our club has to pass along the ACBL's extra charges to our members, resulting in an extra \$2BBO fee.

Spoiler Alert!

GRBC is turning another year older!

Please stay tuned for our Birthday Celebrations which will be announced in next week's Alert!!

Coming Virtual Activities

- Friday, March 19, **99er game, (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Friday, March 19, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Friday, March 19, 7:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Saturday, March 20, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Sunday, March 21, 10:00 am, **499er game, (18 boards) \$5**
- Monday, March 22, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$7**
- Monday, March 22, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Monday, March 22, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$7**
- Tuesday, March 23, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Tuesday, March 23, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- **Wednesday, March 24, 9:30 am, Managing Entries Workshop**
- Wednesday, March 24, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Wednesday, March 24, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Wednesday, March 24, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, March 25, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, March 25, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, March 25, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) \$7**

We have fun in **spades**.
We play with all our **hearts**.
We treat our members like **diamonds**.
We like to squeeze people at our **club**.