



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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ALERT – August 23, 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 July.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	43.15	1	Stephen Nantes	21.68	1	Anita Hanson	6.46
2	Colin Harrington	24.26	2	Brian Kirkconnell	21.29	2	Charlene Schell	6.45
3	Mike Peng	22.08	3	Barbara Arthur	15.59	3	Joani Horvath	6.35
4	Liz McDowell	20.21	4	Shelley Metcalfe	15.53	4	Reinhold Kauk	5.75
5	Margot Stockie	19.58	5	Suzanne Edwards	13.93	4	Barb Neibert	5.75
6	Ted Boyd	19.23	6	Ted Kennedy	13.00	6	Noah Pace	5.07
7	Moira Hollingsworth	18.97	7	Ron Lawrence	12.39	7	Joe Blake	4.87
8	Cindy Mahn	18.27	8	Salvatore Pace	12.31	7	Steven Allen	4.87
9	David Longstaff	16.04	9	Casey Baron	10.60	9	Susan Durance	4.86
10	Neil Jeffrey	14.33	10	Jim Dalgliesh	9.49	10	Sue McDonald	4.85
11	Tom Ramsay	13.20	11	Kathy Russell	9.19	11	Molly Worden	4.66
12	Dianne Aves	13.02	12	Roy Dandyk	8.85	12	Kim Wakeford	4.62
13	Bruce Roberts	12.70	13	Sue Voll	7.58	13	Elinor Girouard	4.56
14	Rob Griffiths	12.64	14	John Kip	7.41	14	Belinda Burt	4.36
15	John Moser	11.70	15	Joan Slover	7.24	15	ML Benjamins	3.91
16	Pat McMillan	9.42	16	David Embury	6.98	15	Jim Fox	3.79
17	Peggy Pearson	9.16	17	Barbara Lindsay	6.81	17	Debbie Miethig	3.71
18	John Vandergrift	8.87	18	Lynda Burnett	6.72	18	Audrey Cook	3.64
19	Malkin Howes	8.29	19	Robert Gilck	6.65	18	Valirie Binkle	3.58
20	Adrian Record	8.10	20	Jack Cole	6.56	20	Pat McDonald	3.53
21	John Hanemaayer	8.01	21	Renate Boucher	6.50	21	Aggie Udvari	3.50
22	Scott Hills	7.77	22	Kevin Latter	6.33	21	Nancy Cattanach	3.50
23	Sandy Graham	7.76	23	Jackie Logie	6.11	23	John Aldridge	3.03
24	Neil Coburn	7.44	24	Cheryl Kip	5.99	24	Brian Gaber	2.89
25	Kandis Smith	7.03	25	Karen Whitworth	5.77	24	Rick Arthur	2.89



Congratulations

To the following local players who have advanced to the next level.

Club Masters

- **Tong Chen**
- **Marianne Dziarski**
- **Mary Anne Lenio**
- **Jane Wilson**

Regional Masters

- **Suzanne Edwards**
- **Shelley Metcalfe**

NABC Masters

- **Lori Cole**
- **Sue Moses**
- **Grant Roberts**
- **Brenda Semple**

Advanced NABC Master

- **Ted Kennedy**

Bronze Life Masters

- **John Hanemaayer**
- **Rebecca Kalbfleisch**

And a warm welcome to this latest member of our club.

- **Ethel Craig**



Ads Against Littering in Toronto



Flowers That Bloom Unseen – David Dennis

Contributed by Louise Dawdy and Kathy Chandler

This week we are highlighting David Dennis. David has been a GRBC member for almost 10 years.

Over this time, he has volunteered in many different capacities, his most memorable being the painting and prep of our interim and new club locations.

David, like so many of us, grew up playing cards at home and with high school friends. First euchre, then hearts, but once he started playing bridge he never looked back.

David shares his volunteer time with many other organizations. He volunteers in Emmanuel Church's soup kitchen, making fruit and vegetable salads. In the past, when his boys were involved, he was the Group Chair for the local Boy Scouts organization.

As David is now retired (David worked in IT with both Grant Roberts and Jim Hardy), he has more time to enjoy his many other interests, including exercise, music (especially live music!!!), gardening, and travelling.

David is a huge cricket fan (shout out to England and Yorkshire). For a number of years, he played for the Inverhaugh Cricket Club (position: bowler/batsman). His cricket playing years took him on tours throughout the Caribbean (Jamaica, St. Maarten, Dominica, Barbados, Barbuda, and Trinidad). David has also travelled to South Africa, India, England, and Sri Lanka to watch cricket and tour those countries. David finds that the cultural experience is much more immersive when viewed through the cricket lens. In the photo, David is being interviewed for TV on a visit to Leeds to watch the cricket match between England and the West Indies.

As with the many volunteers that we have interviewed, David looks most forward to travelling again.

David's bridge tip: "Have fun! It's a game. And, play in tournaments - it's a great and different experience."

The next time you find yourself at the club and gazing at the walls around you, wondering what to bid or which card to play next, think of David and his paint brush.

Thanks David!

Alert Others

Do you know someone who isn't currently receiving our newsletter but might be interested in starting to get it? Please email his or her name and email address to [the editor](#).

Unit 249 Annual General Meeting

Our unit's annual general meeting will be held this Saturday (August 21) at 11:00 am and is open to all ACBL members. Anyone who wishes to attend should email [Jennifer Verdam-Woodward](#) for the Zoom link.



Rookie Ramblings – Partnership Agreements

Contributed by Sue Moses

When I was helping some beginners make out their convention cards, quite often I heard myself saying, "That is a partnership agreement." By the end, I had asked them to discuss a large number of bridge areas, and I realized that the most important bridge tip was communicate with your partner.

My partner and I had always talked bridge on our way to and from the club, between hands, when the opponents left the table, and if we ran into bridge players anywhere. We were constantly asking people why, what, and how and then taking their advice and analyzing it to see if we wanted to follow it or not. We had lots of opportunities to talk about what we were doing. Now communication does not mean yelling or putting down or even telling your partner or the opponents what they should have done. Communicating is talking, listening, agreeing, then talking again when one of you forgets and then discussing it many more times as you each forget. Honest, open and clear communication is just as important in bridge as in life. It is also not always done in public. Online it is best to use the private chat to figure out between the two of you what that bid or lead meant.

Then the pandemic hit and we played a lot but in total isolation. The chats were short and often never really read until later or incompletely. A clearly written explanation was often greeted with "permission to chat denied", I hate those words! I started getting into bad habits (as I am writing this, I am going to blame only myself as I have a wonderful, completely-understanding partner whom I would never yell at or blame!). I forgot conventions, totally mixed-up agreements or wasn't sure if I bid something would my partner remember what I meant. You would think with all the playing we were doing that things would improve, but they didn't.

When things opened up, we played at each others' houses. Never cheating, we definitely didn't talk or see each others' cards. Body language was hard to control - one of those bad habits like yelling in the privacy of our own homes (read the Alert a couple of weeks back). Bridge was better because we could talk about hands and we cleared up a lot of our confusion, talked about what bids, discards, and leads meant. It felt normal again. And then locked down again!!

This time, we knew we needed to communicate with each other regularly, so we came up with calling each other before each game. It allows us to talk about issues that came up during the last game and it also reminds us, " You know the game starts in six minutes!" " Are we playing tonight?" The other night, I was blissfully eating supper and watching TV when my partner called and started talking away. Why is she calling so late, I thought? What does she want.....oh my it's Monday. I rushed to my tablet and never even let on that I had forgotten. (Don't tell my partner this story!)

This seems to work for us. We don't get that immediate feedback from in-person play but we can still discuss strategies and plays. Every partnership has to figure out what works for them in this Covid world. As long as you are having discussions - no yelling, bossing, or putdowns - and you remember your agreements, then your bridge should improve and your partnership should be enhanced and maintained.

Time You Learned Your Lessons!

This fall, we will be offering lessons for **beginner**, **novice**, and **intermediate** players. We would also like to offer lessons for **open** players but so far haven't found a teacher.

With the current plan to re-open this fall, we will be offering online lessons in September and expect to be able to offer face-to-face lessons later in the fall.

Click [here](#) for the fall schedule and to register. Click [here](#) for information on how to pay.

The fee for the workshops is \$20 for members/ \$25 for non-members. The fee for the five-week courses is \$75 for members/ \$85 for non-members. The Play of the Hand (Suits) five-week course charges an additional \$20 for the textbook.

Here is information on the first fall lesson (on Monday, September 13, from 9:30 am – noon). This workshop will of course be online.



Hold Up Plays in No Trump

All intermediate players know about hold up plays whereby they don't play their stopper(s) in the opponents' suit until the danger is past. However, there are situations when it's wrong to hold up – the opponents may switch to a scarier suit, the opponents' suit will block, and your trick will vanish if you don't take it right away. Furthermore, sometimes it's right to hold up once but not twice. This workshop will offer its participants the chance to declare 20 hands in Shark Bridge. Sometimes, it will be right to take your winner(s) right away, sometimes it will be right to hold up only once, and sometimes it will be right to hold up twice. As you play each hand, you will be getting immediate feedback about your decision at Trick 1.

Level: **Intermediate**

Instructor; Malkin Howes

Time: Monday, September 13, 9:30 am – noon

Mode: ONLINE

You Can Turn Someone Else On to the Joys of Bridge

Please don't forget to encourage your non-bridge playing friends about our "taste of bridge" session (Learn Bridge in a Day) on Saturday, September 11 from 10 am until 3 pm. The cost is \$25. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

In addition, our beginner lessons start on Thursday, September 16 at 6:30 pm. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

This would make a nice gift for someone!!!!!!

Mode: ONLINE



Stumbling Into Success

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

There are several meanings for a 1 NT bid: it can be a simple opening bid, an overcall, or a balancing bid. The balancing bid comes when an opponent opens any suit which is then followed by two passes. Most partnerships agree that the 1 NT bid in the passout seat shows less than a “normal” 1 NT bid or overcall, usually in the range of 11 to 15 HCP.

I held the East hand, and after North opened 1♦ I considered bidding 1♥, but I don't like to overcall with a suit headed by the Q9 so I passed, thinking I could back into the auction later on. South passed and my partner bid 1 NT. We play that this balancing no trump shows 10-14 HCP.

Now North passed, and I decided that this was a part-score hand so I bid 2♥, intending it as a sign-off. My partner now bid 2♠! Very peculiar, I think. Has partner taken my bid as a transfer? It seems likely, but I'm not going to rebid my Q9xxx suit. If you and your partner play balancing 1NT calls, it is important to resolve whether bids after the 1NT are “systems on” or not. Here, my partner thought that they were on, while I thought they were off.

So, 2♠ was passed out, and the opening lead was the ♥6. North had values in all of the other suits, and he expected that his partner would have very little and was therefore trying to give nothing away with his lead. This would be a recurring problem for North throughout the hand.

Board 12		♠ K Q 6 2										
North Deals		♥ 6 5										
E-W Vul		♦ K 9 7 5										
		♣ A Q 3										
♠ 7 4 3		<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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> </div>		N		W		E		S		♠ A 10 8
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ A K 7 2			♥ Q 9 8 4 3									
♦ Q 8 6			♦ A 4 3									
♣ K J 4			♣ 8 5									
♠ J 9 5 ♥ J 10 ♦ J 10 2 ♣ 10 9 7 6 2												
West	North	East	South									
	1 ♦	Pass	Pass									
1 N	Pass	2 ♥	Pass									
2 ♠	All pass											

My partner won the heart in his hand, thinking that perhaps we might have found a better place to play, and led a spade to the 8, won by South's 9. The best return by South would be a club or a diamond at this point, the suits that North doesn't want to lead himself. But South slipped by returning a heart, his partner's original lead.

Now West won the second heart, played the ace and another spade, and North found himself on lead again. Now anything he led would cost. North tried a club, afraid that the diamonds were all with West given his 1 NT call. He had the same problem when he got in with the last trump.

In the end, West lost three spade tricks, one club, and one diamond to make his contract, +110 to E/W.

At almost every other table, North opened 1♦ and East overcalled 1♥. Every time, West either bid or invited game and South was on lead against three or four hearts. His routine lead was the ♦J which got /NS off on the right foot. Every other E/W pair had a minus score, except at one table where the bidding went 1♦-1♥-P-2♦-P-2♥-P-P-P. The two-diamond bid was a limit raise of hearts, and East declined the invitation.

My partner and I may have played in the wrong contract, but we inadvertently played the contract from the “right” side, putting pressure on North from the start.

And by the way, my partner and I have now resolved the issue of whether or not we play transfers over balancing 1 NT calls. (Transfers are on).

👉 There are always going to be bidding misunderstandings. It is important when you have them to come away with the issue settled.



FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

Look Ma, No Hands! (Transfers)

For the topic of transfers, you don't need hands. Let's try to clear up some misunderstandings about transfers.

There are two types of transfers. After a 1NT opening bid, Jacoby transfers to the majors occur at the two-level and for those who play transfers to three of a minor. Jacoby transfers also occur at the three-level after a 2NT opener or after a 2♣ opener rebids 2NT. A jump to the four-level is called a Texas transfer. If you are not currently playing Texas transfers, my hope is that this article will make you reconsider.

After 1NT, 2♦ is a transfer to hearts and 2♥ is a transfer to spades. Some play 2♠ as a transfer showing a long minor (opener bids 3♣ and responder passes or corrects to diamonds). My recommendation is that 2♠ is a transfer to clubs and 2NT is a transfer to diamonds. Over 2♠, 2NT says you like clubs. Over 2NT, 3♣ says you like diamonds. "You like" usually means at least Ax or Kx (helping responder get to 3NT sometimes). Discuss with your partner what this super-accept shows. Jacoby transfers to the majors also work at the two-level when 2NT is opened or rebid after a 2♣ opener and a 2NT rebid. I would suggest that you do not play transfers to four of a minor after 2NT. 3NT is almost always better.

A Texas transfer occurs when responder jumps to 4♦ (transfer to hearts) or 4♥ (transfer to spades). Why do you need Texas transfers?

What does 1NT-2♦-2♥-3NT mean? It shows the values to be in game with only five hearts. With six hearts, you would jump to 4♥ over 2♥. How do you invite slam with only five hearts? 1NT-2♦-2♥-4NT shows five hearts and invites partner to bid 6♥ or 6NT. This 4NT bid is called quantitative. If he does not want to be in slam, he passes or bids 5♥. How do you bid Blackwood when you have six hearts? 1NT-4♦-4♥-4NT promises six or more hearts and is Blackwood (either regular or keycard Blackwood - your choice).

What do you do if you have six hearts and want to play at the four level? You employ the Texas transfer, which pre-empts the opponents' ability to make low-level competitive bids. What would 1NT-2♦-2♥-4♥ mean? That is a mild slam try with six-plus hearts. If responder has something like Ax KQxxxx Jxx Kx, he wants to be in slam if partner has a maximum opener (Kxx Axx Axxx AQx or KQx Axx Axxx Axx, for example). Take the black queen away from either hand and slam has no chance.

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

#36

♠ 9 8 7 2
 ♥ 7 3
 ♦ A K J 9 5 2
 ♣ 8



♠ K Q J 6 4
 ♥ A J 5 2
 ♦ Q 3
 ♣ 10 9

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♥	Dbl	Pass	2 ♠
3 ♣	4 ♠	All pass	

West led the ♣5 and East took his ♣A. East then led the ♥K. What should you do as declarer?

SOLUTION

The burning question is whether or not to take your ♥A at Trick 2. You've already lost a club and you still have to lose the ♠A for sure, along with a certain heart loser. You can't afford to lose any additional tricks, but that could happen if East were to get a chance to ruff a heart.

To prevent such a ruff, you will need to guess the opponents' high card distribution. Fortunately, the bidding, the opening lead, and the first two tricks tell you everything you need to know.

East opened the bidding, showing at least 12 HCP, and his partner found a bid of two hearts. They have 19 HCP between them, meaning that East must have 12 or 13 HCP, while West must have 6 or 7 HCP.

West must have the ♥Q for his bid, along with the ♠K (East's play of the ♣A at Trick 1 denies the king). That means West couldn't possibly have the ♠A too (since he can't hold 9 HCP).

If the high cards are located according to this analysis, the opponents can put you down if you take your ♥A at Trick 2. Here's how it would unfold. The minute you start drawing trumps, East will win his ♠A and lead a heart to get to his partner's hand. West will then oblige by returning a heart for his partner to ruff. It's true that you can ruff in the dummy, but East will be able to over-ruff assuming he has the ♠10.

To avoid this chain of events, you have to hold up your ♥A until Trick 3 (assuming East continues hearts). Then once East gets in with his ♠A, he won't be able to reach his partner's hand any more because the only bridge between them will have been severed by your duck at Trick 2.

What if East holds the singleton ♥K? If this is the case, then ducking the heart at Trick 2 will cost you an overtrick - but it's rarely worth risking your contract for an overtrick.

Here is the full hand.

♠ 9 8 7 2
 ♥ 7 3

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 10 5 3
 ♥ K 6
 ♦ 7 6 4
 ♣ A Q J 4

♠ K Q J 6 4
 ♥ A J 5 2
 ♦ Q 3
 ♣ 10 9

As you can see, the cards lay as we surmised, and if you had taken your ♥A at Trick 2 you would have gone down.



“Oh no! I’ve broken my nail.”



“You’ve got to start sometime. Why don’t you operate on this one?”



“No, it’s not water. You seem to be retaining food.”



“Is the lady coming back, sir?”

Coming Virtual Events

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

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 [Cheryl Kip](#), our membership lead.

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