



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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ALERT – January 3, 2022

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	49.10	1	Stephen Nantes	17.12	1	Belinda Burt	8.89
2	Margot Stockie	31.48	2	Suzanne Edwards	16.35	2	Reinhold Kauk	8.38
3	Cindy Mahn	28.86	3	Shelley Metcalfe	13.68	3	Steven Allen	8.19
4	Moira Hollingsworth	26.69	4	Kathy Russell	13.21	3	Joe Blake	8.19
5	Edith Ferber	23.23	5	Brian Kirkconnell	13.06	5	Virginia Alviano	7.65
6	Colin Harrington	23.11	6	Jim Dalglish	11.72	6	Elinor Girouard	7.28
7	Liz McDowell	20.76	7	Lynda Burnett	11.46	7	Molly Worden	6.33
8	David Wilson	20.65	8	ML Benjamins	10.78	8	Kathleen Burns	5.79
9	Mike Peng	19.17	9	Kevin Latter	10.37	9	Trent Robinson	5.43
10	Dianne Aves	17.73	10	Jim Hardy	9.08	9	Carol Robinson	5.43
11	Robert Griffiths	17.50	11	Joan Slover	8.76	11	Pat McDonald	5.34
12	Tom Ramsay	16.26	12	Barbara Arthur	8.64	12	Nancy Cattanach	5.00
13	Ted Boyd	14.63	13	Andy Wilson	8.39	13	Donna McKay	4.99
14	Bruce Roberts	14.46	14	Tony Verhoeven	8.36	14	Ginny Scott	4.95
15	Stephen Young	14.14	15	Roy Dandyk	8.24	15	Brian Gaber	4.93
16	Malkin Howes	11.81	16	Cheryl Kip	8.02	16	Martin Jones	4.89
17	Neil Jeffrey	11.80	17	Robert Gilck	7.76	17	Rick Arthur	4.46
18	Mary McClelland	10.91	18	John Kip	7.49	18	Don O'Bright	4.34
19	Sandy Graham	10.86	19	Susan Kerrigan	7.45	18	Richard Wehrle	4.34
20	John Vandergrift	9.71	20	Dave Leitch	6.91	20	Kim Hauley	4.32
21	Neil Coburn	9.47	21	Nanci Phelan	6.74	21	Liz Graham	4.22
22	David Longstaff	9.40	22	Renate Boucher	6.65	22	MJ Hartleib	3.98
23	Sharon King	8.65	23	Barbara Lindsay	6.60	23	Sue McDonald	3.89
24	Peggy Pearson	6.83	24	Aggie Udvari	6.44	24	Shirley Clarke	3.88
25	Pat McMillan	6.48	25	Cheryl White	6.25	25	David Ward	3.84
						25	Michel Lalonde	3.84

Quickie

With eight winners and five losers in three no trumps, play off your long suit early. Most players believe that squeezes occur towards the end of a hand and that you usually need to have the rest of the tricks bar one to exert the necessary pressure. However, where one defender has responsibilities in three suits, the pinch can operate much earlier, even where there is no chance of an endplay.

Patrick Jourdain

Excerpted from [BOLS Expert Tips](#), with contributions from many expert players to suggest ways in which keen players might improve their game

What Most Reduces Your Chances of Dying?

Click [here](#) for a very short video on the factors that are most predictive of living longer. You may be surprised at the role of our favourite game (make sure to watch to the end).

January Virtual Games

Contributed by the Games Committee

For the past while, BBO online players have been receiving 125% of the master points of regular club games, but this multiplier will be disappearing effective January 3. After that all games will be at 100% club rating, the same as regular face-to-face games.

However, there will be some special games in January.

- **January 6 – 9:** Junior Fund (2x regular club points, 100% black, game fees \$7)
 - **January 17 – 23:** Silver Linings Week (2x regular club points, 100% silver, game fees \$7)
-



The Stamp World

Contributed by George Pepall

The Bridge World is the oldest continuously-published magazine about duplicate bridge, having been founded in 1929 by Ely Culbertson. It offers along with what we see in the ACBL's *Bulletin* a Master Solvers Club and a Bridge Hall of Fame.

This airmailed letter bears stamps of Egypt printed in February 1947. The makings are too unclear to spot a date. Don't be concerned about the value of the stamps: they catalogue at 20c apiece and are infinitely more interesting and valuable left on the envelope.

King Farouk of Egypt, shown on these three stamps, was in fact a rabid coin collector. His massive collection was sold in a legendary auction in 1952.

I am a past president and Second Vice-President of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. We are hosting an international exhibit and bourse (CAPEX 22) on June 9th to 12th, 2022 at the Metro Convention Centre in Toronto.

TIME YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSONS!

Given the Omicron situation, it seems almost certain that our planned face-to-face lessons are going to have to be postponed once more. Watch this space. For sure, our **online** lessons will proceed however, and here are the online January ones. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS THE LAST ALERT BEFORE THE FIRST TWO WORKSHOPS AND THAT YOU NEED TO REGISTER **NOW**. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



Playing in Our Online Games

Level: **Beginner**

Instructor: Jack Cole

Mode: Online

Current Enrollment: 5

Date: Thursday, January 6, 2022, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Fee: \$20 for members/ \$25 for non-members

Jack is also planning a special (free) BBO practice game for his class.

Jack asks that you sign up by Sunday so he can make arrangements in advance.



Level: **Beginner**

Instructor: Sue Peterson

Mode: Online

Current Enrollment: 3

Date: Saturday, January 8, 2022, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fee: \$25



Beginners 1

Level: **Beginner**

Instructor: Al Pengelly

Mode: Online

Current Enrollment: 3

Dates: Thursdays, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm, January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 10, 2022

Fee: \$85 (includes the cost of the text)

FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS



Schmoints

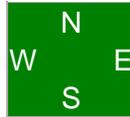
Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Board 11

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 6 4
♥ K 10 5 3
♦ Q J 10 9 6 4 3
♣ —

♠ J 8
♥ J 7
♦ A K 8 5
♣ A K 10 7 3



♠ A 10 5
♥ A 8 6 4 2
♦ —
♣ 8 6 5 4 2

♠ K Q 9 7 3 2
♥ Q 9
♦ 7 2
♣ Q J 9

West	North	East	South
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
5 ♦	Dbf	?	Pass

I sat East on this hand, and watched as the auction quickly went: 2♠ by South, P, 4♠, P, P. Then my partner paused to think.

He hates to be left out of an auction and he felt very left out here. The opponents had bid so quickly and confidently to their game that it seemed to him to be the ideal time for a sacrifice. "Why not?", he thought, and out came a 5♦ bid.

North doubled, of course. I paused to think, wondering where all the hearts were. The winning bid from me would be 5♥, but I wasn't up to it this day.

Partner had to lose two diamonds and one spade for down one doubled. Not bad for our combined 14 HCP. Well, maybe.

If I had boldly bid 5♥, I would surely have been doubled and would easily score +650 for making 11 tricks. Only a club lead from South can stop East from winning all of the tricks.

If we had doubled 4♠ and found the defensive crossruff, we could have made seven tricks for down four and a score of +800.

The hand was played eight times in a pairs game. Six pairs played in 4♠, going down one, two, three, or four. Two E/W pairs 'found' the diamond sacrifice to share a bottom score. No E/W pairs thought to double the hopeless 4♠ game.

Not surprisingly, no E/W pairs bid the cold 14-HCP heart game. It's just one of those hands where distribution carries so much more weight than high card points.



Distribution matters.



Dear David

Roomers*

It is important that your partnership develop a cohesive bidding system that will allow you to fully investigate whether you belong in a part-score contract, game, or slam. In order to accomplish this goal, you need to plan your bidding sequence in a way that will leave you the maximum amount of bidding space.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 6 D </div>	N North ♠ A53 ♥ AK32 ♦ AQ10 ♣ AKJ	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♦</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>3NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>6NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		W	N	E	S	P	2♣	P	2♦		P	2NT	P	3NT		P	4NT	P	6NT		P	P	P	P	
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W West ♠ Q10872 ♥ 1098 ♦ 2 ♣ 10842	E East ♠ K94 ♥ Q76 ♦ 643 ♣ Q976	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td>3NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>6NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>4NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		W	N	E	S	P		3NT	P	P	P	6NT	P	P	4NT	P				P					
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S South ♠ J6 ♥ J54 ♦ KJ9875 ♣ 53	6NT N NS: 0 EW: 0																										

The bidding sequence in the box at the bottom far right was effected by Tom Ramsay and Cindy Mahn. Tom's 3NT showed 25-27 and Cindy's 4NT was "quantitative", asking Tom to bid 6NT if he liked his hand.

My auction in the box at the top with Bob Griffiths was a little different. 2♣ was strong and 2♦ was waiting.

Because we have a way to show a terrible responding hand (2♥), the 2♦ bid is game forcing - a great tool to have if you want to maximize your bidding room. The 2NT bid ostensibly shows 22-24 HCP, but since we were in a game-forcing auction, I felt it was better to save room.

Partner will frequently want to bid Stayman or Puppet Stayman (3♣) or make a transfer to a major over 2NT. This ability will frequently give you vital information to use in deciding the final contract.

On this hand, partner has no interest and signs off in 3NT. At this point, a raise to 4NT must show the next point range (25-27). This was enough for Bob to upgrade his meager point count and bid 6NT, based on his long diamond suit. What if opener had 28-30? Same auction with opener bidding 5NT over 3NT. Both tables made all 13 tricks due to a defensive error. The other two tables were in 3NT.

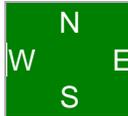
When you are in a game-forcing auction, take the time to decide whether your hand is worth imparting more information. Slow and steady wins the race.

* Roomers are bridge players who make sure they leave room in their auctions for exploration.

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

#54

♠ A 2
 ♥ 5 3
 ♦ 9 8 7 6
 ♣ A J 9 5 4



♠ J 6 5
 ♥ Q J 8 6 4 2
 ♦ A K 4
 ♣ K

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

West led the ♦J which you took with your ♦A. When you cashed the ♣K at Trick 2, everyone followed. Then you entered the dummy with the ♠A and cashed the ♣A, pitching a spade loser from your hand on it. Still, everyone showed in. At Trick 5, you led a heart from dummy to East's ♥7, your ♥J, and West's ♥K. At Trick 6, West led the ♦10, East following with the ♦3, and you took it with your ♦K. What now?

SOLUTION

As of Trick 7, here is the situation.

♠ 2
 ♥ 5
 ♦ 9 8
 ♣ J 9 5



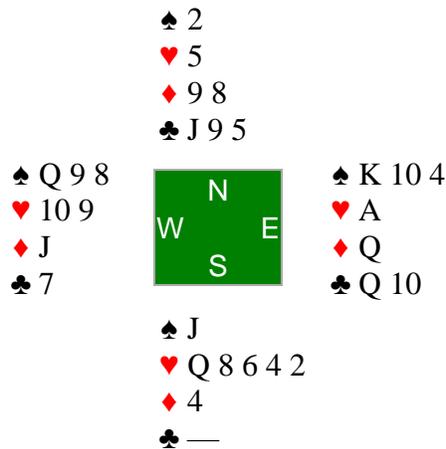
♠ J
 ♥ Q 8 6 4 2
 ♦ 4
 ♣ —

You've already lost a trick to the ♥K, and you have three more sure losers: a spade, a diamond, and the trump ace (♥A). If you're going to make your contract, you can't lose any more tricks.

Knowing which cards are left in the opponents' hands is crucial. Do you remember which trumps are still out? Remembering the spot cards sometimes really matters.

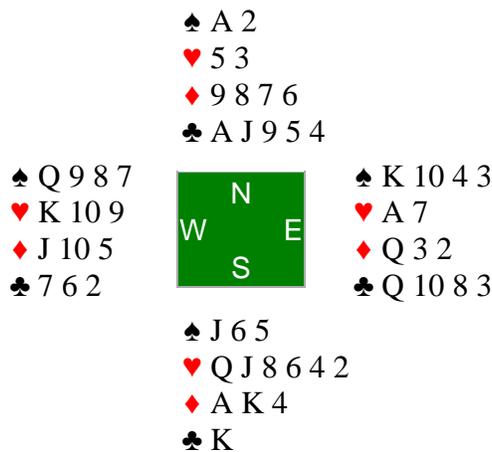
The trumps left in the opponents' hands are the ace, the ten, and the nine. If the player with the ace has even one additional trump card, your contract is doomed no matter what you do. In other words, if you're going to make this contract, one of your opponents has to hold the bare ace of trumps at this point. Since this is your only chance, you should plan the play based on this assumption. (Of course, if you had an entry to dummy, you could play a trump towards your hand and hope for the additional chance that East holds the protected ♥A, but you don't have any dummy entries.) So, you lead a small heart from your hand and hold your breath.

Here again is the position at Trick 7, but this time you can see the East/West hands as well.



As you can see, East does hold the bare ♥A and has to play it at Trick 7. Now the opponents can get a spade trick and a diamond trick, but that's all she wrote. Once they cash their winners, you can always get back in to draw the last trump with your ♥Q and claim your contract.

Here is the full deal.



HAPPY New Year

Coming Virtual Events

- Friday, December 31, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Friday, December 31, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Friday, December 31, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Saturday, January 1, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Sunday, January 2, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) \$5**
- Monday, January 3, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$5**
- Monday, January 3, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Monday, January 3, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, January 4, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, January 4, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, January 5, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, January 5, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, January 5, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**

JUNIOR FUND GAMES

- Thursday, January 6, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$7 (Double MP)**
- Thursday, January 6, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7 (Double MP)**
- Thursday, January 6, 6:30 pm, **19er game \$7 (Double MP)**
- Thursday, January 6, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) \$7 (Double MP)**

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're dreaming of a white Christmas and face-to-face games at our **club**.