



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – March 29, 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	60.76	1	Suzanne Edwards	22.79	1	Salvatore Pace	19.00
2	Mike Peng	35.49	2	Janet Howell	20.15	2	Casey Baron	18.45
3	Cindy Mahn	31.73	3	Stephen Nantes	20.03	3	Ginny Scott	10.85
4	Bruce Roberts	31.60	3	Brian Kirkconnell	20.03	4	Nancy Cattanach	10.49
5	Robert Griffiths	30.46	5	Barbara Arthur	19.94	5	Virginia Alviano	9.45
6	Margot Stockie	29.14	6	John Hanemaayer	16.46	6	Renate Boucher	9.43
7	David Wilson	25.50	7	Shelley Metcalfe	15.95	7	Elinor Girouard	9.40
8	Edith Ferber	25.35	8	Brian Silva	15.08	8	Mary Lynn Benjamins	8.60
9	Moira Hollingsworth	24.85	9	Jake Liu	13.62	9	Belinda Burt	8.13
10	Colin Harrington	24.81	10	Nanci Phelan	13.44	10	Janet Roberts	8.02
11	David Longstaff	22.50	11	Kathy Russell	13.24	11	Isabel Hetherington	7.99
12	Dianne Aves	19.85	12	Sue Voll	13.22	12	Jane Wilson	7.96
13	Ted Boyd	19.08	13	Lori Cole	12.62	13	Martin Jones	7.87
14	Sandy Graham	17.16	14	Sue Peterson	12.52	14	Noah Pace	7.86
15	Liz McDowell	16.63	15	Roy Dandyk	12.50	15	Kathy Chandler	7.52
16	John Vandergrift	14.48	15	David Embury	12.50	16	Molly Worden	7.32
17	Neil Jeffrey	13.65	17	Cheryl Kip	12.49	17	Steven Allen	7.29
18	Tom Ramsay	13.32	18	Paul Latimer	12.47	17	Joe Blake	7.29
19	Stephen Young	12.90	19	John Kip	11.65	19	Marion Allan	7.27
20	Steve Carpenter	12.89	20	Judy Widdecombe	11.13	20	Patricia Malvern	7.14
21	Susan Lawton	11.87	20	Vivian McLellan	11.13	21	Marlene Dopko	6.98
22	Kandis Smith	11.75	22	Robert Gilck	10.91	22	Andy Martinek	6.85
23	John Moser	10.96	23	Tony Verhoeven	10.79	23	Sue Andersen	6.81
24	Scott Hills	10.15	24	Vivian Zochowski	8.21	24	Jane Rushby	6.81
25	Wayne Schroeder	9.91	25	Donna Angst	8.18	25	Susan Durance	6.67



Grand River Bridge Club Birthday Message

Contributed by Cindy Mahn, President, and Jim Dalgliesh, Club Manager

April 3, 2021 marks the ninth birthday celebration of the Grand River Bridge Club. April 15, 2021 marks our first anniversary as a Virtual Club. It is hard to believe we have been playing bridge online for almost a year!

The success of our club is due to the willingness of so many members to volunteer their time and skills to make the club a welcoming place to enjoy playing bridge. This past year, in spite of Covid-19, the club has been very successful, measured by the number of games offered per week (currently 16 games a week), the membership number of 259 and the table counts (over 5,000 tables). The ability to play bridge online has provided a welcome activity for many of us, as we all wait our turn to be vaccinated. Hopefully, later on this year we will return to playing face-to-face, although it is likely some online games will continue to be offered.

The success of the past year is due to the efforts of many members; some of these individuals are listed below.

The Board of Directors, who have guided the club in a very challenging time: Cindy Mahn, Mike Peng, Joan Lawson, Grant Roberts, Bev Pope, Lori Cole, and Diane Jamieson

The Virtual Team and game directors, who have worked closely with their counterparts in the Guelph Club and Cambridge Club, to offer so many online games per week: Grant Roberts, Allen Pengelly, Kathy Russell, Dave Baker, Mike Peng, Mary McClelland, Margot Stockie, Ted Boyd, and Jake Liu

The Management Team, who have continued to support the club's operations: Jim Dalgliesh, Dave Baker, Liz McDowell, Sue Peterson, Malkin Howes, Grant Roberts, Adriaan Kempe, Cheryl Kip, Joan Slover, Sue Moses, and Lynda Burnett

The Lesson Instructors, who have continued to offer online classes to new players/members and to individuals wishing to improve: Malkin Howes, Allen Pengelly, Stephen Carpenter, and Jack Cole

The Alert Editor, who provides interesting articles, each and every week: Malkin Howes

The COVID-19 Working Group, which has monitored the evolving Covid-19 situation and developed a possible re-opening plan: Mike Peng, Lori Cole, Jim Dalgliesh, Bev Pope, Adriaan Kempe, Cheryl Kip, Margot Stockie, Lynda Burnett, and Ted Boyd

We will be **celebrating our birthday online this year**, over two days, to ensure that many of our members can participate. On Thursday, April 1 and Friday, April 2, all BBO Virtual Games will be provided at a cost of \$3:00 US. After each session, you will be sent a Zoom link so those you wish to, can join your friends online to say hello. Your hosts for these calls will be; Thursday morning 0-99 Grant Roberts, Thursday afternoon Open Kathy Russell, Thursday evening 0-999 Lori and Jack Cole, Friday afternoon 0-499 Mike Peng and Friday evening Open - Kathy Russell. We leave you with our hopes that next year we all will be able to celebrate our tenth anniversary in style and visit with our friends at the bridge club.





Recap from Canadian National Team Championships as at March 21 *Contributed by Ted Boyd*

Four teams with members from our club(s) entered the Canadian Team Championships which started in early February. It has been a good two months for our players.

The Seniors Team Championships team, which includes **Dave Baker** and **Peter Peng** playing with Paul Janicki (District 2 rep to the ACBL) and Richard Chan, is the runaway leader in Group 2 and will enter the playoffs this week. A total of 16 teams entered from among the best in Canadian bridge.

The Canadian Mixed Team Championships team of **Dave Baker** and **Diane Bourdeau**, **Edith Ferber** and **Dave Longstaff**, and **Cindy Mahn** playing with **Tom Ramsay** are currently fourth in their group of eleven and have three more weeks until the playoffs begin. A total of 22 teams entered the event.

In the Canadian National Championships, B level (up to 3,500 points), both our teams qualified for the playoffs from the eight teams entered. **Mike Peng**, **Peter Peng**, **Adrian Record** and **Bob Griffiths** with Jorry Chu and Gil Sitarenois were the runaway winners of the round robin finishing with six wins out of seven matches. The team of **Ted Boyd**, **Bruce Roberts**, **Moira Hollingsworth**, and **Dianne Aves** finished fourth in the event. Playoffs start this week with four 16-board sessions to be completed by April 3.

It says a lot about the quality of the game at our club(s) that all four of our teams handled themselves so credibly in these national events.

Barry Crane 500

Two of our players (and columnists) have made the 2020 Barry Crane list of the top 500 master point winners in all of ACBL land and got their names published in the *Bulletin*. Congratulations to **Dave Baker** and **Bob Griffiths**!

LESSONS NOT YET LEARNED



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



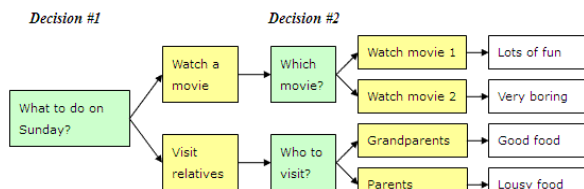
Simple Squeezes

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

Level: **Intermediate**

Instructor: Malkin Howes

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



Opener and Responder Rebids:

When to stay and when to go (to game)

Re-bids are among the most challenging aspects of bidding. Should I bid game, invite, or just pass? Is partner's bid forcing? The opponents have interfered – should we bid on or pass?

We don't seem to have a fit – should we keep trying to find our best contract or just pass?

This workshop is for beginner/novice players who want to improve their bidding skills. Topics covered include revising hand evaluation as the bidding proceeds, forcing bids, invitational bids, and negative doubles. The workshop will focus on hands when your side has opened the bidding with 1 of a suit.

The workshop will include lots of practice in bidding hands. Regular partners may find it beneficial to attend as a pair.

Level: **Beginner**

Instructor: Stephen Carpenter

Date: Wednesday, April 21, 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).

FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS



Only the Shadow Knows

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

There are just too many things labelled points in duplicate bridge. There are points for scoring each hand, high card points, matchpoints for scoring pair games, masterpoints awarded for winning games, International Match Points (IMP's) for scoring team games (as well as some pairs games), and Victory points given to teams that have won matches. This blurb involves a hand from a team game and is concerned with IMP's.

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

<p>♠ K 4 ♥ A Q J 7 3 ♦ K Q 6 ♣ Q 9 8</p>		<p>♠ 10 9 ♥ 8 5 ♦ A J 10 9 5 4 2 ♣ 7 6</p> <p>♠ A 6 2 ♥ K 4 2 ♦ 8 3 ♣ A K J 10 4</p> <p>♠ Q J 8 7 5 3 ♥ 10 9 6 ♦ 7 ♣ 5 3 2</p>	
<p><i>West</i></p> <p>3 ♥ 4 N ?</p>	<p><i>North</i></p> <p>2 ♦ Pass Pass</p>	<p><i>East</i></p> <p>Dbl 4 ♥ 5 ♦</p>	<p><i>South</i></p> <p>Pass Pass Dbl</p>

I was West and saw North open a weak 2♦. My partner doubled and South passed. This, I thought, was a critical point in the auction. With 17 HCP and a nice heart suit, I was immediately thinking about slam and how we might best get there. My first thought was to cuebid 3♦ to see where that led. But I could picture my partner next bidding 3♠ (the major I *don't* have, of course) and my subsequent 4♥ bid that wasn't forcing and might end the auction without my partner knowing how good my hand was. An immediate jump to 4♥ would be considered a sign-off and would go nowhere. So, I chose to bid 3♥. This jump bid forced partner to bid again, but he showed little enthusiasm, simply raising me to 4♥. Not yet willing to give up, I bid 4NT, Blackwood for hearts, and my partner showed his 3 (or 0) keycards with a 5♦ bid.

It had to be three keycards and, missing only one key card, I was about to bid 6♥ when South doubled 5♦. Unless South was playing silly games, this double told North that South wants diamonds led – meaning that he probably has a void or singleton in diamonds. South is a reliable guy. If he tells me that a diamond lead will beat 6♥, I am inclined to believe him - so 6♥ is no longer an option.

I was torn between a meek sign-off of 5♥ or a bold bid of 6NT. To make 6NT, I would need East to have the ♥K, the ♠A, and a good club suit headed by the AK. Experience has taught me that if you need too many specific cards in your partner's hand, he probably won't have them.

In the end, I chose the meek option, bidding 5♥. North led the ♦A, gave South his ruff, and I took the rest of the tricks, making my contract.

Of course, we immediately noticed that I would have been able to easily win 12 tricks at no trump; a cold slam had been missed. In a team game, this is a bad thing.

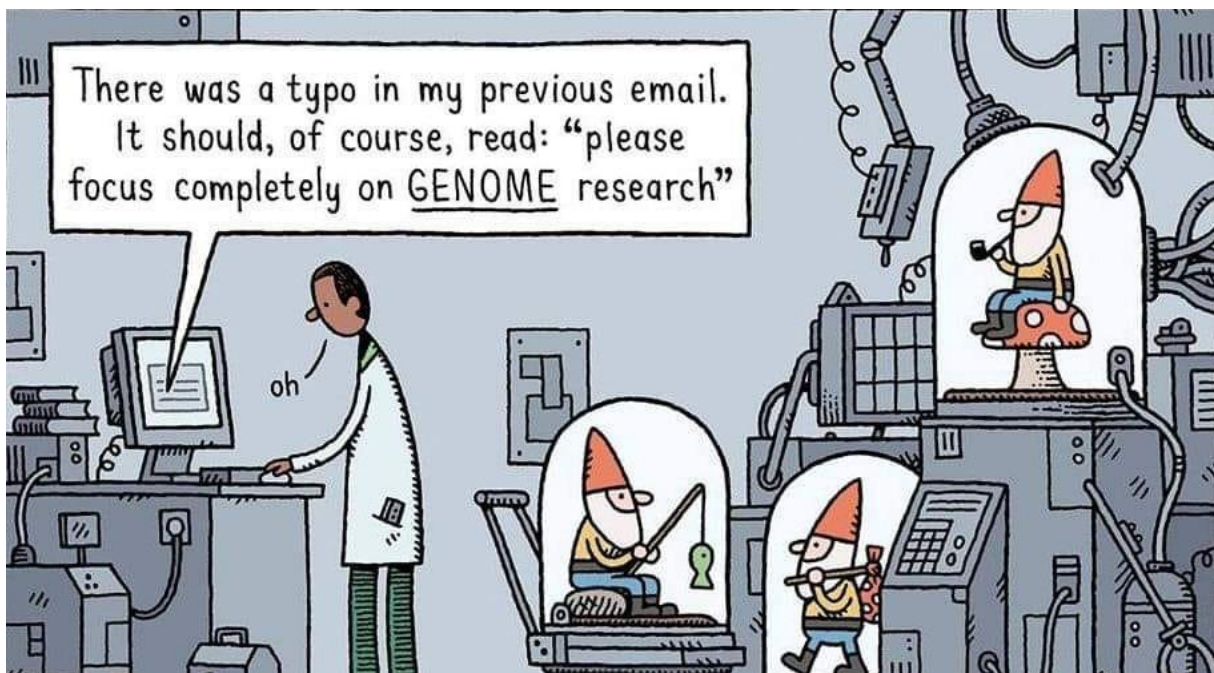
For the rest of the match, we were feeling uneasy about this hand - it could be a big loss; if our opponents bid and make the 6NT contract, the difference in our scores would be $1440 - 650 = 790$ points, or 13 IMPs. When the scores came in, however, we saw that it was 13 IMP's all right - except that it was us who had won that much on the hand.

After a similar start to the auction, at the critical point the West player had chosen to cuebid the diamond suit, meaning that hearts was bid by the East player first, and off they charged to the slam. As a result, South was on lead against 6♥, so of course he felt no need to make a lead-directing double but rather just led his singleton and ruffed the diamond return at Trick 2 to set the contract. Our +650 added to our partners' +100 gave us +750 - or the same 13 IMP's that we had been worried about losing.

In this case, if we had bid 6NT our gain would have been $1440 + 100 = 1540$: that is 17 IMP's instead of 13 IMP's. Our failure to bid the easy slam had cost only four IMP's, the same IMP loss that comes when one non-vulnerable team bids and makes 1 NT while the other team goes down one in the same contract. At the time, it seemed like my meek bid might have cost more. Sometimes, you just can't tell. Until it's over.

 **In bridge, it ain't over till it's over.**

We get cartoons from many people and run as many as possible, but today would like to give particular credit to Carl Lucas whose brand of humour is unique. Here's an example.



FOR ADVANCED PLAYERS



Dear David

Slammin'

		N North ♠109876 ♥KJ93 ♦106 ♣108	
W West ♠43 ♥10 ♦AJ9743 ♣KQJ5	W N E S 2NT Pass 3♣ Pas 3♥ Pass 3♠ Pas 4♣ Pass 4♥ Pas 6♦ Pass Pass Pas	E East ♠AKQ5 ♥A54 ♦K85 ♣973	
		S South ♠J2 ♥Q8762 ♦Q2 ♣A642	6♦ West 0 0

		N North ♠876 ♥K643 ♦J106 ♣Q53	
W West ♠AKJ3 ♥8 ♦K932 ♣J1092	W N E S 1♦ Pass 2♦ 3♥ 3♠ 5♥ 6♦ Pass Pass Pass	E East ♠Q92 ♥Q ♦Q8754 ♣AK87	
		S South ♠1054 ♥AJ109752 ♦A ♣64	6♦ West 0 0

		N North ♠AQJ102 ♥K52 ♦K964 ♣A	
W West ♠76543 ♥74 ♦J107 ♣K75	W N E S Pass 1♥ Pass 1♠ 3♠ Pass Pass 4♣ Pass 4♦ Pass 5NT Pass 6♦	E East ♠8 ♥Q103 ♦A3 ♣J1098432	
		S South ♠K9 ♥AJ986 ♦Q852 ♣Q6	

		N North ♠AKQJ1064 ♥753 ♦A ♣K9	
W West ♠ ♥AKQJ4 ♦J98642 ♣82	W N E S Pass 1♥ 4♠ 5♥ 5♠ 6♥ 6♠ Pass Pass 7♥ Dbl Pass Pass	E East ♠ ♥109862 ♦75 ♣QJ10764	
		S South ♠987532 ♥ ♦KQ103 ♣A53	

All of these hands are from two different team matches. East opened 1NT (not shown). 2NT is a transfer to diamonds & 3♣ says "I like diamonds". A series of cuebids eventually encouraged West to jump to 6♦. Without going into the specifics of the math, I will tell you that more 56% of the time, you will bring the diamond suit home after leading the king. Hence, the old saying "Eight-ever, nine-never". The other table quickly arrived at 3NT and we won 13 IMP's.

This hand is a lesson about the odds. 2♦ was a forcing raise and 3♠ was a cuebid. In 6♦, you need the ♠Q onside and diamonds to come home with only one loser. The auction tells us that South has 6 (or more) hearts. South has 7 unknown cards and North has 9, which makes North more likely to have 3 diamonds. If you cater to South having a singleton A, J or 10 by leading the first diamond from the East hand, you win 13 IMP's again. Alas, we lost 9.


Once again, we are looking at the "unknown spaces" principle. The only way our opponents can make 6♦ is to guess which hand is more likely to hold Ax of diamonds, because that is the only holding that will allow declarer to make it. Since West has 9 or 10 unknown spaces and East has 6 or 7 unknown spaces, West is more likely to hold 3 diamonds. So, lead a diamond towards the queen (winning) and small diamonds from both hands on the next trick. Our opponent didn't see it and lost 16 IMP's.

Now comes the reason we play this silly game. With both sides vulnerable, it took North a nano-second to bid 4♠ over 1♥. Two more nanoseconds elapsed for the 5♥ and 5♠ bids, so I bid 6♥. Another nanosecond brought 6♠ back to me. In for a penny -- 7♥. Now, North began to think and I began to think (uh, oh). North doubled and South began to think and I began to think (uh, uh, uh, oh). 7♥ was 800 vs 6♠ +1 for 1460 at the other table, winning 12 IMP's. I discarded all my apologies to my team for pushing the opps to their cold grand slam (phew!)

FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS

Jake's Challenges

CHALLENGE #15

	♠ A J 7 5 2		
	♥ Q 10 8 6 2		
	♦ 10 2		
	♣ 2		
			
	♠ K		
	♥ A K J 7		
	♦ A K Q 7 3		
	♣ K 8 3		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦ ¹	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 N
Pass	5 ♣ ²	Dbl	6 N
All pass			
	1. positive waiting		
	2. RKC 1430		

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?

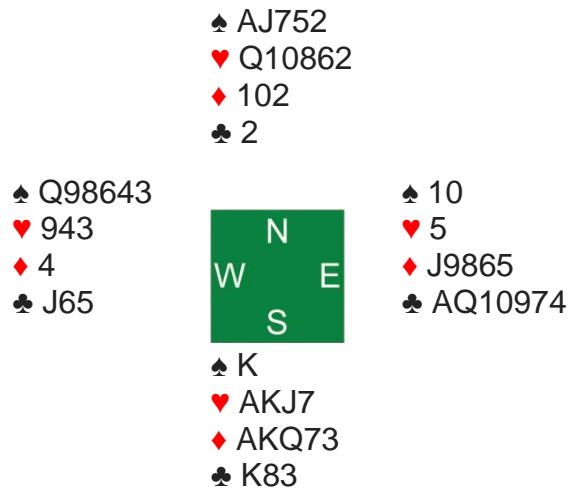
THE SOLUTION

If diamonds were splitting 3-3, it would be as easy as pie, but that happens only 36% of the time. When it comes to two-suited hands like this, your best bet is to run the solid one before the shaky one. On this hand, the heart suit is a sure five-trick suit, and you also have an easy club pitch on the fifth heart (so you won't squeeze yourself while you're trying to torture your opponents).

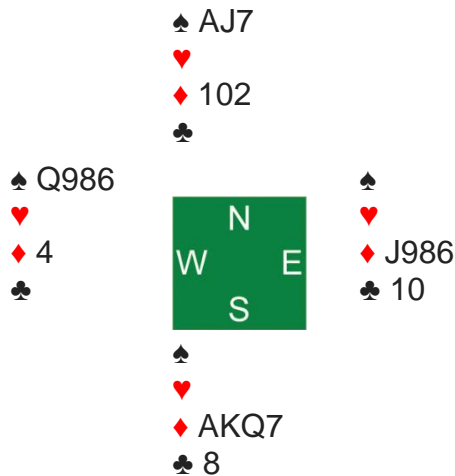
Here is what you should do, in this exact order.

- 1) Unblock the spade;
- 2) Run the hearts;
- 3) Play the ace of spades; and
- 4) Run the diamonds.

At Trick 3, cash the king of spades and start in on the heart suit from high to low in your hand. In other words, at Tricks 4, 5, and 6, play the ♥AKJ, and at Trick 7 lead a small heart to Dummy and cash the fifth heart at Trick 8. Keep an eye on the opponents' discards. Here is the full hand.



When you run the heart suit, West follows three times and can discard two small spades with no difficulty. East follows once and can discard three small clubs and a diamond safely. East has to keep a high club to prevent your ♠8 from getting set up. You should discard your ♣3 on the fifth heart. This is the five-card ending.



When you cash the ♠A, East is toast. If he discards a diamond, you will discard your ♣8 and the ♦7 will become your 12th trick. If, on the other hand, East discards the ♣10, you will discard your ♦7 and the ♣8 becomes your 12th trick. You are home!

By the way, did you notice East's fatal mistake? He shouldn't have led his ♣J at Trick 1! If he had led a small club instead and preserved the jack, he would have saved his partner from having to guard two suits, and then there would be no way for you to make 6NT.

So, in fact you made your 6NT contract only because of a defensive error. No defence, however, can defeat six hearts. Greed is a terrible thing, but in this case it paid off.

Here is Jake's latest challenge (#16). The solution can be found on [our Facebook page](#).

♠ 9 8 7 4 3
 ♥ 7 5 3 2
 ♦ —
 ♣ A Q 9 7

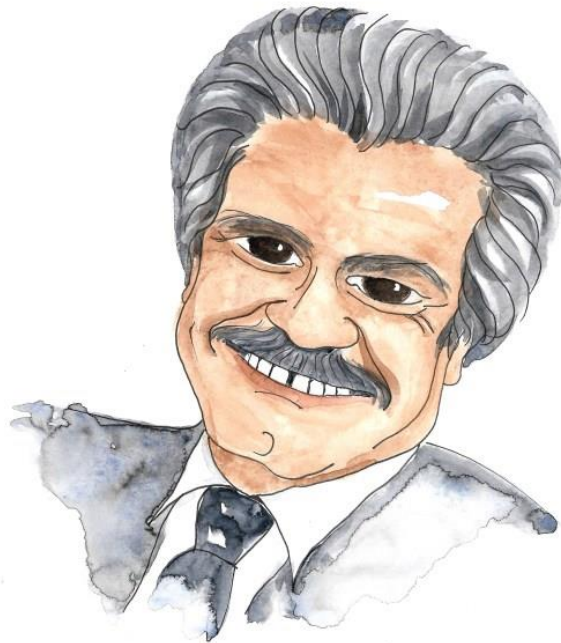


♠ A Q 6 5 2
 ♥ A
 ♦ A 7 4 3
 ♣ K 6 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♠
Dbf	4 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
Dbf	All pass		

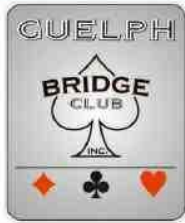
Sitting South I was aware that my partner's 4 spades bid was a sign-off, but I ignored him and bid 6♠ anyway, which was promptly doubled. West led the ♥K. Down came the dummy missing both the ♠K and the ♠J, meaning that my prospects of making this contract were pretty bleak. Judging by the bidding, it was almost certain that all three missing trumps, ♠KJ10, were held by West - behind my honours - rendering a trump finesse almost certain to fail. However, there was still a glimmer of hope if West happened to hold a balanced hand, specifically 3-4-3-3. Given West's take-out and penalty doubles, it was well within the realm of possibility that he had this particular shape. Plan the play.

Audrey's Favourite Bridge Quotes: No. 26



I don't think I could live without a deck of cards in my hands.

Omar Sharif



LEARN, PLAY AND ENJOY BRIDGE

Guelph Bridge Club

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The Guelph Bridge Club will be hosting unit championship games this weekend (Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28). As this is part of ACBL's Stardust week, masterpoint awards will be double the normal and ¼ gold. Everyone who has played in one of our unit's game over the last two years is eligible to play in this tournament. Click [here](#) for more information.



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.

Coming Virtual Activities

- Friday, March 26 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Friday, March 26, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Friday, March 26, 7:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28, **Guelph Bridge Club Online Championship Games (Black/gold points)**
- Saturday, March 27, 1:00 pm, ~~199er game (20-22 boards) CANCELLED~~
- Sunday, March 28, 10:00 am, ~~499er game, (18 boards) CANCELLED~~
- Monday, March 29, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$5**
- Monday, March 29, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Monday, March 29, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, March 30, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, March 30, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, March 31, 9:30 am, **Simple Hand Evaluation**
- Wednesday, March 31, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, March 31, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, March 31, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, April 1, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$3 HAPPY**
- Thursday, April 1, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$3 BIRTHDAY**
- Thursday, April 1, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) \$3 GRBC**

We have fun in **spades**.
We play with all our **hearts**.
We treat our members like **diamonds**.
We're turning nine at our **club**.