



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – September 7, 2020

Top Online Master Point Earners at our Club

Contributed by Allen Pengelly

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

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	29.96	1	Kathy Russell	11.54	1	Ron Lawrence	11.07
2	Margot Stockie	16.91	2	Allen Pengelly	10.25	2	Brian Silva	9.19
3	Mike Peng	15.81	3	Sue Moses	8.01	3	Shelley Metcalfe	8.83
4	Colin Harrington	13.57	3	Brenda Semple	8.01	4	Barbara Arthur	7.17
5	Cindy Mahn	13.14	5	John Hanemaayer	6.70	5	Noah Pace	7.04
6	Liz McDowell	10.58	6	Lori Cole	6.63	6	Suzanne Edwards	6.63
7	Ted Boyd	9.63	7	Sandy Graham	5.37	7	Robert Gillick	6.45
8	Tom Ramsay	9.03	8	George Pepall	5.33	8	Salvatore Pace	6.23
9	Moira Hollingsworth	8.99	9	Paul Latimer	4.49	9	Nanci Phelan	4.60
10	Edith Ferber	7.98	10	Kevin Latter	4.17	10	Stephen Nantes	4.57
11	Robert Griffiths	7.38	11	Charles Walkey	3.69	11	Brian Kirkconnell	3.89
12	Dianne Aves	7.19	12	Fred Young	3.63	12	Judy Bailey	3.83
13	William Christian	7.15	13	Sue Voll	3.60	13	Virginia Alviano	3.50
14	Stephen Young	5.99	14	Judy Widdecombe	3.46	14	Edward Murphy	3.09
15	Diane Bourdeau	5.56	15	Janet Howell	3.21	15	Elinor Girouard	2.92
16	Thea Davis	5.44	16	Adriaan Kempe	3.16	16	Susan Kerrigan	2.58
17	Peggy Pearson	5.21	17	John Hayward	3.15	17	Marion Allan	2.56
18	Wayne Schroeder	4.53	18	Rebecca Kalbfleisch	3.14	18	Barb Neibert	2.48
19	Stephen Carpenter	4.12	19	David Dennis	2.99	19	Marlene Dopko	1.95
20	Bruce Roberts	4.00	20	Jack Cole	2.90	19	Susan Durance	1.95
20	Kandis Smith	4.00	21	Jim Hardy	2.79	21	Belinda Burt	1.94
22	David Longstaff	3.71	22	Loretta Molodecki	2.78	22	Susan McDonald	1.81
23	Wayne Jordan	3.68	23	Cheryl White	2.73	23	Shirley Clairmont	1.80
24	Adrian Record	3.60	24	Laurence Dean	2.67	24	Anita Hanson	1.67
25	Malkin Howes	3.25	25	Andy Wilson	2.60	25	Stephen Allen	1.66
			25	William Sherman	2.60	25	Joe Blake	1.66

Online Overachievers

Congratulations to the following local players who stacked up well in last weekend's ACBL online tournament.

- **Casey Vandeputte** and Jacob Freeman, 2/116 pairs in the Firefly Side Game
 - **John Hanemaayer and Paul Latimer**, 21/452 pairs in the Golden Sands Super Gold Rush Pairs
 - **Jim Burgess** and Michael Dimond, 28th in A in the Friday Early Bird Gold Rush
 - **Colin Lafferty and Casey Vandeputte**, 24/228 pairs in the High Tide Top-Flight Pairs
 - **Robert Gilck and Ron Lawrence**, 6/74 pairs in the Ferris Wheel 99er Pairs
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**This isn't the mask you wore
to school this morning.**



**No, this one is way cooler.
I traded mine to Taylor
who traded with Hunter.**

Be Careful What You Wish For

Contributed by Bev Hitchman

On Friday I was sitting in my Nook Shed way back in the bush near Parry Sound. I was playing bridge on BBO, but BBO kept dropping me. Every time, I calmly signed back on.

After the seventh time, I ran out to ask my husband to check our Internet. He found my sister playing Solitaire on BBO. After five more drops, I again asked for help. My six-year-old grandson Lewis was playing on Bridge Baron. The drops continued even though they stopped.

Finally, Lewis came to watch me play bridge. I asked him to go back to his iPad and his aunt's phone and turn off the power. Ahhh! The drops stopped. Lewis returned to ask why I play out in the shed.

My partner, David Dennis, was trying to hold our game together. By the time the problem was fixed, he very gracefully reminded me "It's only a game." Lots more to learn about bridge and our internet!



Mask not what your country can do for you. Mask what you can do for your country.

Bridge Jargon

Contributed by Jackie Williams

As I was reading a free daily bridge column today, playing its sample hand, once again I was confused by the language. I have been playing bridge for over three years now and I still struggle with the jargon and expressions used. I often have to read the comments over several times to understand exactly what they are saying. And I don't always figure it out, even after playing out the sample hand.

Here are just a few examples from this morning's column. Most of these I figured out, but a beginner would not — and this is the sample beginner hand.

- “Suppose you win the first Club and return a Spade. Declarer will win with the ♠K and establish the Clubs.” **What exactly does “establish the clubs” mean?**
- “Declarer runs this to dummy's Jack of Hearts”. **What does “runs this” mean?**
- “The Ace of Diamonds will be the entry to the established Clubs.” **What does “established clubs” mean?**
- “Hold up on the first round to kill the Club suit.” **What does “kill the Club suit” mean?**
- “You win the round and exit with a spade.” **What does “exit with a Spade” mean?**

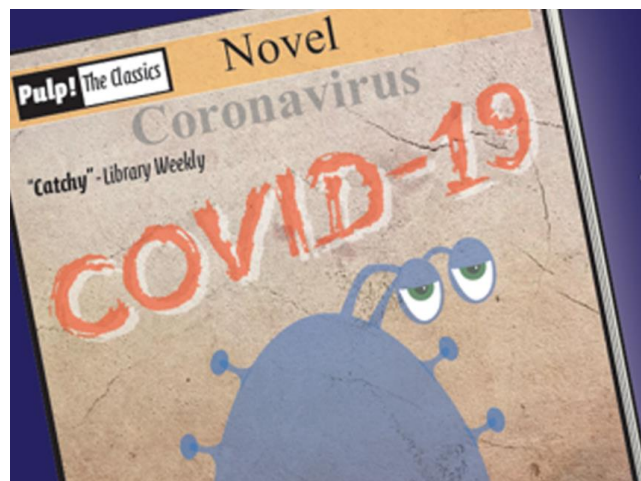
The language also varies with the author, so the examples are endless. One example that drives me crazy is the “take the Ace” expression which means exactly the opposite (that the Ace takes the trick). Or the expressions that describe hands like “King third”, or “Ace high” (which means no other top honors — go figure!). And, common language like “ruffing” and “crossruffing,” “unblocking a suit”, etc.

Perhaps an experienced club member could include a short blurb each newsletter about bridge vocabulary/jargon and language/expressions — there is no shortage of source material! We could even solicit ideas from the membership each week/month of confusing or particularly “interesting” bridge language. It might also increase awareness amongst our experienced players about how confusing their language is when explaining things to a new (or even not-so-new) player. Just an idea ...

Would one of our more experienced players like to take on this project? Kindly apply to [the Editor](#).

Coronacoaster

noun: the ups and downs of a pandemic. One day you're loving your bubble, doing work outs, baking banana bread and going for long walks and the next you're crying, drinking gin for breakfast and missing people you don't even like.



Playing Against the Field

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Here is a hand from a seven-table club game.

Board 17
North Deals
None Vul

	♠ 9 8 7 3 2		
	♥ 9 4 3 2		
	♦ K 10 3		
	♣ 9		
♠ J 10 6	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A K	
♥ 6 5		♥ A K Q J 8 7	
♦ J 9 6 4		♦ 8 7	
♣ K Q 8 4		♣ J 7 2	
	♠ Q 5 4		
	♥ 10		
	♦ A Q 5 2		
	♣ A 10 6 5 3		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	1 ♥	?

At every table, North passed and East bid 1♥. South has a tough call now; nothing is perfect. At three tables, South doubled – a reasonable bid but he'd like to have better spades. At two tables, South overcalled 2♣ - a reasonable bid but he'd like to have better clubs. One South player chose to pass – a reasonable bid but he'd like to have fewer points. One South player tried the unusual two no trump - an unreasonable bid given that he had 5-4 in the minors and spade tolerance.

After the 2♣ overcall, every West passed, likely planning to pass again if East should make a reopening double. North of course had nothing to say, and now East had his own tough choice: 2♥ is too weak and 3♥ might be too strong opposite a partner who has promised nothing. Both East players in this game chose 2♥ which was passed out.

When South chose a take-out double of 1♥, the E/W pairs all settled into heart part-scores, except at one table where the bidding went P-1♥-Dbl-1NT-P-3NT. A reasonable auction.

The one East player who ran up against the unusual no trump bidder jumped to 4♥ after North's 3♦ reply. A bit aggressive, but it could have been a winner.

And how did it all work out? There were five heart part-score contracts, one 4♥ contract, and one 3NT contract.

Looking at all of the cards, it is apparent that N/S can easily win the first five tricks in the heart contracts if the opening lead is the club ace, followed by a club ruff, a diamond to the queen, another club ruff, and one more diamond trick. Meaning that proper defence will defeat four hearts. However, at the one table where E/W reached four hearts, the declarer was given a chance to make his contract because he got a neutral lead. However, he slipped up when he tried to set up his clubs before drawing all of the trumps. Not a good plan as he learned when North got an undeserved club ruff and four hearts went down. All of the heart part-score declarers made either 10 or 11 tricks.

Defending 3NT, N/S can cash four diamond tricks and one club: 3NT should not make. But those are just the tricks the defence *can* cash if they defend properly. I have sympathy for the East player who landed in 3NT. He got a fourth-best spade lead from North and could count eight easy tricks. He naturally went after his ninth trick by leading a small club from the East hand towards his king and South ducked! Now West had his nine tricks.

But on winning the ♠K, West decided not to cash out his nine tricks. He did not know that of the seven tables, five pairs failed to bid game with their 25 points. He did not know that the one pair that reached the obvious 4♥ game, misplayed the contract, and went down. So, this ambitious East player decided that 3NT just making nine tricks would make a poor score of only +400 when +420 would be easily available for the 4♥ bidders. And so, he tried to steal a second club trick, boldly going for a score of +430. Wrong! South belatedly took his ♣A and found the diamond switch enabling his side to take a total of five tricks and defeat the 3NT contract. So, this E/W was tied for last when they could have had a clear top by merely cashing their nine tricks.

👉 **In a small club game, it can be hazardous to play “against the field” on the assumption that you know what the field will do. The smaller the field, the more random the results tend to be.**

And another day in quarantine, somebody was feeling creative or maybe just losing their mind



Day 12 of lockdown. I still can't find the other sock!



New Changes to Stratification in the Virtual Games

Contributed by Al Pengelly

Very early Tuesday morning, the ACBL changed the stratification formula for the virtual games. Previously, stratification was calculated by sorting the MPs of the player with the *most* MPs in the pair. The new formula is to sort by the *average* MPs of the pair.

So now, if you have one player with 300 MPs and another with 100 MPs, using the new method the pair's stratification is set at 200 (the average) as opposed to the former stratification of 300 (the higher of the two).

Also, it used to be that the "A" strat had the most players in it (sometimes ridiculously so). Now, the "C" strat should be the largest when the strats are not the same size. This means that more players should qualify for the stratification points.

This is excellent news for those players who wish to try a game at a higher level than their current MPs allow. It provides even more opportunities for them to possibly earn MPs in the higher MP fields.

There is one red flag. Anyone who is a substitute player or anyone who does not have an ACBL number (only players in our 49er game currently) will always be placed in the "A" strat and thus will not be eligible for the extra points available through stratification.



Back to School

Our summer is drawing to a close and it's time to start thinking about fall lessons. All of them will be online lessons, of course.

- On Saturday, September 12, we will be offering Learn Bridge in a Day – a one-day taste of bridge for newbies and those who have been away from the game for a long time. Please tell all your friends and relations. Click [here](#) for more information.
- The following week, Beginners lessons will commence on Thursday nights from 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm. Click [here](#) for more information.
- The first lesson for non-beginners will be offered on Wednesday, September 23 from 9:30 am until noon. Click [here](#) for more information.

In addition to registering using our handy-dandy online registration feature, you need to arrange payment. Click [here](#) for more information.



Just a reminder that if you play in any of our Labour Day games, you will be awarded 2x masterpoints instead of the usual 1.5x. The entry fee is unchanged.

Gold Nuggets

Contributed by Grant Roberts

There is a unique opportunity coming up to **earn gold points** in Virtual Club games. The ACBL has announced a full week of Upgraded Club Championship games that will run from Monday, September 21 to Sunday, September 27. All Virtual Club games in this week will be included. These games will award 2x master points instead of the usual 1.5x. But the big news is that the points awards will be $\frac{1}{4}$ gold points and $\frac{3}{4}$ black points. Game fees for this week will be \$7.

Because of the gold point awards we are expecting a strong turnout for this week. We have decided to add three extra games for the week.

- A Wednesday evening 199er game at 6:45PM
- A Saturday afternoon 749er game at 12:30PM
- A Sunday morning 499er game at 10AM. This game will have 18 boards.

Please come out and enjoy these shiny rewards!

Activities at our club this coming week....

- Friday, September 4, 12:45 pm, **499er game** (26-28 boards)
- Friday, September 4, 7:00 pm, **open game** (26-28 boards)
- Saturday, September 5, 12:45 pm, **199er game** (20-22 boards)
- Monday, September 7, 12:30 pm, **49er game** (18 boards @ 8 minutes) **NEW X2 MP**
- Monday, September 7, 12:45 pm, **open game** (26-28 boards) **X2 MP**
- Monday, September 7, 7:00 pm, **499er game** (24 boards) **X2 MP**
- Tuesday, September 8, 12:30 pm, **199er game** (20-22 boards) **NEW**
- Tuesday, September 8, 12:45 pm, **open game** (26-28 boards)
- Wednesday, September 9, 12:45 pm, **499er game** (26-28 boards)
- Wednesday, September 9, 7:00 pm, **open game** (24 boards)
- Thursday, September 10, 9:30 am, **99er game** (20-22 boards)
- Thursday, September 10, 12:45 pm, **open game** (26-28 boards)
- Monday, September 14, 11:00 am, **Annual General Meeting**

We have fun in **spades**.

We play with all our **hearts**.

We treat our members like **diamonds**.

You can earn lots of master points at our **club**.