



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

## ALERT – February 1, 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 December 2020.*

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	54.71	1	Stephen Nantes	27.50	1	Suzanne Edwards	22.81
2	Robert Griffiths	40.00	2	Brian Kirkconnell	25.81	2	Barbara Arthur	18.63
3	Mike Peng	35.11	3	Kathy Russell	19.17	3	Casey Baron	15.77
4	Cindy Mahn	34.35	4	Sandy Graham	16.79	4	Shelley Metcalfe	14.38
5	Moira Hollingsworth	31.92	5	Brian Silva	15.17	5	John Kip	12.56
6	Bruce Roberts	28.44	6	Sandy Lee	14.83	6	Salvatore Pace	12.55
7	Margot Stockie	26.62	7	Janet Howell	13.79	7	Robert Gilck	11.44
8	Colin Harrington	26.37	8	Sue Voll	13.44	8	Andy Martinek	10.86
9	Edith Ferber	24.80	9	Cheryl Kip	13.39	9	Renate Boucher	10.32
10	Liz McDowell	23.25	10	Ron Lawrence	12.59	10	Marlene Dopko	9.84
11	Dianne Aves	22.60	11	Tony Verhoeven	12.49	11	Nanci Phelan	8.91
12	Ted Boyd	20.24	12	Adriaan Kempe	11.69	12	Steve Allen	8.38
13	Adrian Record	20.02	13	Sherry Benenati	11.49	12	Joe Blake	8.38
14	David Longstaff	19.84	14	David Embury	10.81	14	Elinor Girouard	8.18
15	Tom Ramsay	19.06	14	Roy Dandyk	10.81	15	Mary Lynn Benjamins	8.16
16	David Wilson	17.05	16	Jim Dalgliesh	10.69	16	Trent Robinson	8.12
17	Malkin Howes	16.40	17	John Hanemaayer	9.55	16	Carol Robinson	8.12
18	Stephen Young	14.48	18	Jim Veitch	9.16	18	Noah Pace	8.03
19	Steve Carpenter	14.16	19	Dave Leitch	8.58	19	Susan Kerrigan	7.93
20	Neil Jeffrey	14.07	20	Fred Young	8.37	20	Anita Hanson	7.90
21	Diane Bourdeau	13.05	21	Kevin Latter	8.31	21	Judy Beauchamp	7.88
22	John Vandergrift	12.83	22	Donna Angst	7.70	22	Susan McDonald	7.83
23	William Christian	11.51	23	Karen Whitworth	7.67	23	Molly Worden	7.60
24	John Moser	10.59	24	Judy Widdecombe	7.50	24	Barb Neibert	7.46
25	Wayne Jordan	9.06	25	Lynda Burnett	7.46	25	Joan Slover	7.30



A warm welcome to the following new club members.

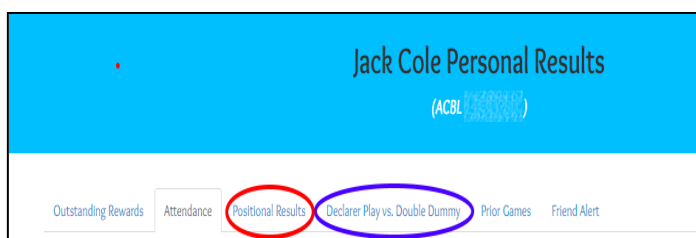
- Judy Gardi
- Lissa Lowes
- Bernadette Wall
- Jane Wilson

## TCG - The Common Game: Your Declarer, Dummy, and Lead Percentages

*Contributed by Lori and Jack Cole*

THESE RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE ONLY AFTER ALL DAILY ACTIVITY IS OVER – USUALLY AFTER 7 PM.

Using your TCG Results email that you receive shortly after the game, click again on the *Personal Common Game Home Page* link.



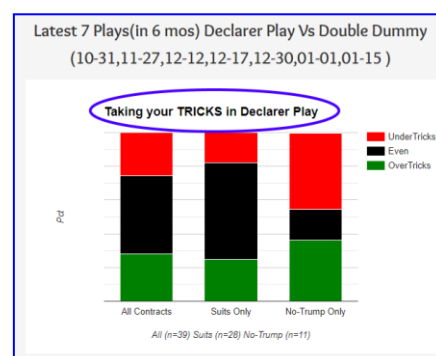
You are viewing data under the “Attendance” tab which contains your Field Percentage and Field Rank that you learned about in our previous article.

Click over to the “Positional Results” tab, which shows how you fared as Declarer, Dummy, Defender on Lead, and Defender not on Lead for individual games and overall Matches-To-Date (called MTD - that’s the one to look at!) displayed on the first line.

POSITIONAL RESULTS - % AGAINST FIELD (# OF BOARDS)					
Date	Partner	Declarer	On-Lead	Dummy	Not On-Lead
MTD	Average	51% (83)	54% (90)	58% (80)	59% (86)
2021-01-15	Lori Cole	53% (7)	43% (8)	66% (7)	45% (6)
2021-01-01	Lori Cole	54% (12)	40% (5)	82% (3)	56% (7)
2020-12-30	Lori Cole	57% (9)	50% (7)	59% (5)	66% (7)

As shown, Jack was the Declarer for 83 hands, and on those hands we scored 51%. We fared better when Lori declared, at 58%. The same is true when it came to choosing a lead – 54% versus 59%. Notice that these numbers are affected by not only how well the hands were played, but also by the contracts that were reached.

The next tab is “Declarer Play vs. Double Dummy”. It repeats the stats from the Positional Results tab, and below shows how you did versus a perfect double dummy player – one who can see all four hands. The red part of each bar shows the times you made fewer tricks than were possible. No one can match Double Dummy, but you can use this information to watch your progress over time and identify weaknesses. For example, this person can see that they need to work on their play of no trump hands!



There is still much more to be discovered at The Common Game; to be continued!

## Learning the Lingo – Continuing the Pre-Empt

*Contributed by Jean Farhood*

When we bid, we frequently are (and should be) trying to disrupt the ability of the opponents to reach their optimum contract by means of pre-empting.

Let's say that your RHO (right-hand opponent) is the dealer, he is vulnerable (red), and he passes. You are not vulnerable (white) and hold ♠KQJ10xx, ♥xx, ♦QJx ♣xxx. This is a great time to pre-empt (they're vulnerable and you aren't), so you open 2♠. Your LHO then doubles for take-out.

What should your partner do holding ♠xxxx, ♥Jxx, ♦xxx ♣KQx? Now is not the time to pass. Instead, your partner should continue your pre-empt by bidding 3♠! This is NOT an invitation to your partner to bid again - merely an effort to prevent the opponents from comfortably finding their heart fit at the three level. Instead, by continuing the pre-empt, our side has made it scarier for our opponents to bid their suit because now they will have to do it at the four level.

Of course, we don't expect to make our contract, but if we go down only one non-vulnerable, our penalty will be just 50 (100 if they double us), while they probably could have made 3♥ for 140 or even 620 for making 4♥. We have succeeded in our goal of disrupting their bidding.

As you continue on your bridge journey, more and more you will realize the importance of making life difficult for the opposition!! Always being mindful of the vulnerability, you should take advantage by continuing your partner's pre-empts whenever possible.

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### HIGHER POWER

**A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But there is a higher Power. Can anyone tell me what it is?"**

**One child blurted out, "Aces!"**

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### Mark Your Calendar - February 14

We will be running additional virtual games on Valentine's Day (Sunday, February 14). Right now, we are confirming with ACBL regarding the readiness of the software for Swiss Teams. (You may recall that we ran a successful test game on January 17).

Please plan to join us on February 14. We will announce the format of the game in the next edition of the Alert. Stay tuned!

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# Shouldn't Down Six Vulnerable be a Bottom?

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

## Board 13

West Deals

Both Vul

<p>♠ 9 7 4 2 ♥ J 10 9 7 ♦ Q 9 3 ♣ 7 2</p>	<p>♠ Q J 10 8 ♥ 8 5 ♦ K J 10 8 4 ♣ 8 4</p>	<p>♠ A K 6 3 ♥ K 3 2 ♦ A 7 6 2 ♣ 9 5</p>	
<p>♠ 5 ♥ A Q 6 4 ♦ 5 ♣ A K Q J 10 6 3</p>			

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	4♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
4♦	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Rdbl	Pass	4♠	All pass

I was West and dealt and passed. North passed, and my partner opened 1♦. South threw a monkey wrench into the works with a bid of 4♣. Who knew she'd have 16 HCP as well as a big bag of clubs?

I looked at my measly queen and jack and thought: "Three HCP in my hand, passed hand on my left, and pre-empt on my right - my partner must have a very good hand." I passed anyway, North passed, and my partner thought: "passed hand on my right, pre-empt on my left, my partner must have a few values." So he doubled, giving me a chance to show where my values lay.

What should I bid over 4♣ doubled? I'd like to get partner to bid his better major, but there's no room for that. I decided that 4♦ was least likely to lead to big trouble. I was thinking that if I bid a major and the opponents competed to 5♣, I wouldn't want my partner going on to five of the major.

North doubled my 4♦ bid, which was passed back to me. If I thought we were making 4♦, I would have happily passed and enjoyed a big plus score (+710). Instead, I redoubled – saying to partner "get us out of here!" It's unusual to make an SOS redouble of your own bid, but I tried it anyway, assuming that my partner would understand and bid his major. He did understand and bid 4♠, which was passed out.

Four spades was not a fun contract to play. South cashed two clubs and then shifted to the ♦5, covered by the 9, jack, and ace. Partner had a tiny glimmer of hope: 4♠ was not doubled, so perhaps the spades were going to split 3-2. So he cashed the spade ace and king, discovered the 4-1 split, and exited with a diamond.

North won and drew all of our trumps, but then North and South had a bit of an accident playing out all of their winners allowing my partner to take the 13th trick with his ♥K. This was our fourth trick, meaning that we were down just six, scoring -600.

We didn't think the fourth trick would matter until we noticed that many of the N/S pairs had bid and made 3NT with overtricks, making our -600 for down six vulnerable fit in neatly between the pairs that defended 3NT with overtricks (-630 or -660) and those who defended part scores (-130).

**An unusual pre-empt disrupts the bidding of both sides: the opponents and the pre-emptors.**



# Dear David

## C'est La Vie

My partner and I had the following auction in a recent game. We looked at the auctions by some of the more experienced players, but they were varied – some Souths didn't even open 2C. North's 2D waiting bid is game forcing, so we cannot pass below game and can go slow.

<b>D</b> <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">25</span>		<b>N North</b> ♠ 64 ♥ A1052 ♦ Q32 ♣ KJ65	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P 2♦</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	P 2♦	P	2♣	P	3♥	P	3♠	P	4♣	P	4♠	P	5♦	P	P
W	N	E	S																				
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P	3♥	P	3♠																				
P	4♣	P	4♠																				
P	5♦	P	P																				
<b>W West</b> ♠ 109832 ♥ KJ4 ♦ 8 ♣ A984		<b>E East</b> ♠ 7 ♥ 98763 ♦ J76 ♣ 10732																					
	<b>S South</b> ♠ AKQJ5 ♥ Q ♦ AK10954 ♣ Q	5♦ N      NS: 0 EW: 0																					

I have two questions.

- Is South correct to bid the six-card diamond suit before the five-card major?
- Should we have got to the 6♦ slam? If so, how?

## DAVE REPLIES

This hand generates a number of different lessons. First of all, suppose you hold 13 points with six diamonds and five hearts and you decide to open 1♥ because you were taught that a major-suit fit is better than a minor-suit fit. This question remains: "How do I convince partner I have longer diamonds when there is no heart fit?"

My solution is to always open your higher-ranking suit with equal length and your longer suit when you have unequal length. A reverse (showing a strong hand) occurs when your second suit has a higher rank than the first. So, with ♠x ♥AKQx ♦AKQxx ♣xxx, you could open 1♦ and if your partner bids 1♠, you would bid 2♥. With ♠x ♥AQJxx ♦AQxxx ♣x, I would bid the same way. This hand does not have the high-card requirements to reverse, but it does have the powerful 6-5 distribution. If you use this treatment, then the 2♥ bid is either a reverse, or it is a hand with five hearts and longer diamonds. When partner responds to the forcing-for-one-round 2♥ bid, you rebid hearts to show the 6-5 hand. Using this method, you will always be able to show your longer suit first and hopefully get to the correct contract. On the above hand, following the same logic, bidding your longer suit first and hoping to have room to show your second suit gives you your best shot at finding a fit. This strategy would immediately strike gold. South was able to show five spades by bidding the suit twice.

This hand did not turn out well for this N/S because North was very short-sighted in her hand evaluation. I believe a jump to 6♦ was warranted. When I (as North) heard my partner open 2♣, I immediately thought about slam. Over 3♦ I bid 4NT, because I wanted to know about the aces and the diamond king. When I found out we were missing only one keycard, I went to slam.

I would like to report that +920 was a fine score on this hand. Unfortunately, I greedily bid 6NT (match-points) which failed when East led the ♥9 and spades did not split well.





## Another BBO Feature

*Contributed by Joan Slover*

This is for students who would like their mentors to comment on a hand they played, without having to describe the whole hand or find it again via Live for Clubs...

After the game is done, go back to the BBO hand that caused you a problem.

- Highlight the hand, then click on the three vertical bars in the upper right-hand corner of the lower box.
- Click on EXPORT in the drop-down menu.
- Click on SEND TO MEMBER in the drop-down menu.
- Type in your mentor's BBO username into the pop-up box, along with an optional message.
- Ask your mentor to look for your message in BBO. It can be found by clicking on the MESSAGES tab along the right-hand side of the screen and then on MAIL at the top.
- Your mentor should then locate the message from you and click on HAND, causing the hand to pop up.
- Your mentor can then see the bidding and the card-by-card progression by clicking on PLAY.



"Gee, did you notice that all the contracts today are in no trump?"


"Yes, we are celebrating !!!"

*Credit: Lori Cole*


## Jake's Challenge #8

Last week, Jake Liu issued the following bidding challenge, and put the answer on our club's revamped Facebook page. For those of you who don't do Facebook, here is the challenge and its solution.

### THE CHALLENGE

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

East opened a standard one no trump (15-17 HCP) and accepted West's invitation, bidding three no trump. I was South and led the ♠J to Dummy's queen and my partner's king, which held the trick. My partner returned a spade which Declarer allowed me to take. I continued attacking spades and Declarer took the third trick with his ace. He then cashed king of diamonds and led a small diamond to Dummy, cashing all five winning diamond tricks. On them he discarded a small heart and two small clubs from his hand. My partner had followed to three diamond tricks and then discarded two small hearts, while I discarded a small heart and a small club. Here is the five-card ending.

♠ —	
♥ 10 7	
♦ —	
♣ 10 9 5	
♠ 9	
♥ K J	
♦ —	
♣ K 7	

Declarer now led the ♣10 from Dummy, my partner covered with his jack, and Declarer took the trick with his ace. If you were in my shoes, how would you defend?

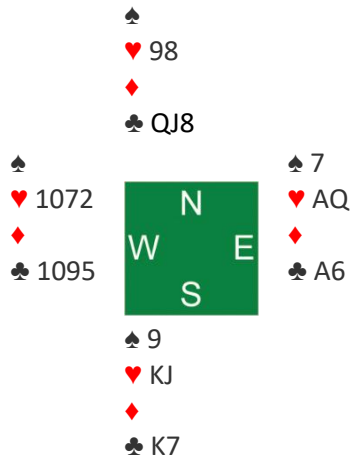
### THE SOLUTION

It's time to make a big decision. The following information can help you get it right.

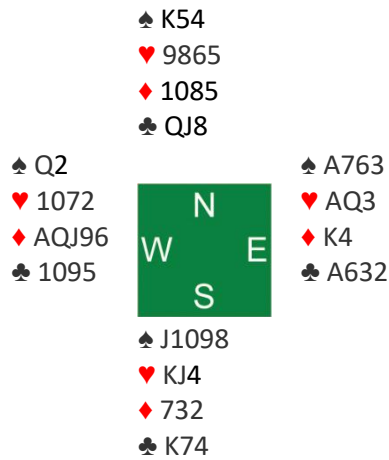
- **Information from the bidding.** Declarer opened one no trump and accepted the game invitation, meaning that he has either 17 HCP or a good 16 HCP.
- **Information from partner.** It seems that my partner originally held both ♣Q and ♣J, since if Declarer had held the queen he would have covered the jack with his queen, not with the ace; and
- **Information from Declarer.** Declarer has shown up with the ♠A, ♦K, and ♣A, 11 HCP in total.

Taking all this into consideration, it is highly likely that Declarer holds both the ace and queen of hearts. Therefore, you are in danger of being end played when Declarer leads a club at the next trick. You will be forced to take your king of clubs and you will be able to cash your nine of spades, but then you will have to lead away from your king/jack of hearts. To avoid this, you must drop the ♣K under the ♣A and let your partner take the next trick.

To help you with your analysis, here are all the hands for the five-card ending.

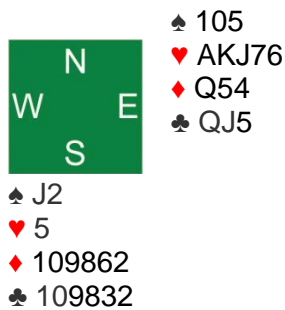


Only if you drop your king of clubs can you set 3NT no matter how Declarer plays the remaining cards. Here is the full hand.



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This week, Jake has a new challenge (#9) for you. The answer can be found on [our Facebook page](#).



Sitting South I dealt and passed. The bidding went West 1♥, 4♠ by my partner, and East's bid of 5♥ ended the auction. My partner led the ace of spades, Dummy played the five, and deuce from me. I didn't want to spend my jack for obvious reasons, but I worried that my partner might misread my two of spades since our carding is Upside-Down Count and Attitude (UD-CA). Sure enough, at Trick 2 my partner led a worryingly-low card, the nine of spades - but surprisingly my jack won the trick! Clearly my partner took a big risk in underleading his king and queen of spades in order to put me on lead. What suit is he so desperate for me to lead back to him?

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# LESSONS NOT YET LEARNED



## Son of Declarer Puzzles

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

**Level:** Intermediate

**Instructor:** Malkin Howes

**Date:** Monday, February 8, 9:30 am – noon

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## Planning the Play in Suit Contracts

So... you won the contract and dummy has been tabled. Now what? This workshop will work through the logic of how to plan the play of the hand in suit contracts.

Topics covered will include counting losers, techniques for eliminating losers, deciding when to draw trump and when to postpone drawing trump, dealing with bad trump splits, and setting up side suits. This workshop is for novice players who want to improve the quality and speed of their play.

The session will include playing some hands using the magic of Shark Bridge.

**Level:** Novice

**Instructor:** Stephen Carpenter

**Date:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 9:30 am - noon

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In an effort to help our learners gauge what level courses to take, we provide the following guideline.

**Beginner** 0-5 MP

**Novice** 5-75 MP

**Intermediate** 75-500 MP

Please note that this is a guideline only, as some players' accumulation of master points is not indicative of their playing level. And, of course, the Intermediate band is very wide.

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The complete schedule for our winter lessons is up on our website now.

- Click [here](#) for information about our Beginner 2 course (Beginners 1 is now underway).
- Click [here](#) for the workshops for advancing players.

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

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## More ways to play!

*Contributed by Grant Roberts*

For this past Silver Week, we added two extra games:

- Thursday 7:00 pm, 0 to 999
- Friday 12:30 pm, 0 to 99

We had a good turnout for these new games, and so we are going to see if we can maintain them as ongoing games.

Margot Stockie and Ted Boyd have agreed to alternate as game directors for Thursday evening. Mike Peng has agreed to direct three games at once on Friday afternoon, meaning that we don't need a new director for the new 99er. Thanks Mike, Ted, and Margot!

All of our game directors are very generous with their time commitments and that is what allows us to offer such an extensive game schedule to our players.

We received numerous requests from players to increase the number of boards on Thursday evening. Consequently, we will change to 24 boards for that game. The Friday 99er will remain at the usual 99er level of 20 to 22 boards

Until further notice, we will be running these two games while we monitor and build attendance.

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## January 17 - Test Swiss Teams Results

The official results from the January 17 Swiss Teams are now in ACBL Live. Here's a link.

[#64890 Swiss Test Grand River Kitchener Sunday 2pm | Grand River Bridge Club](#)

## Coming Virtual Activities

- Friday, January 29, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Friday, January 29, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Friday, January 29, 7:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Saturday, January 30, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Sunday, January 31, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) \$5**
- Monday, February 1, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$5**
- Monday, February 1, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Monday, February 1, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, February 2, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, February 2, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, February 3, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, February 3, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, February 3, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, February 4, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, February 4, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, February 4, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) \$5**

We have fun in **spades**.  
We play with all our **hearts**.  
We treat our members like **diamonds**.  
We now have 16 games a week at our **club**.