



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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ALERT – October 4, 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 August.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	43.29	1	Salvatore Pace	18.97	1	Anita Hanson	8.29
2	Cindy Mahn	24.45	2	Brian Kirkconnell	17.98	2	Charlene Schell	7.68
3	Colin Harrington	24.19	3	Barbara Arthur	17.28	3	Barb Neibert	7.28
4	Margot Stockie	20.88	4	Roy Dandyk	17.22	4	Reinhold Kauk	6.92
5	Mike Peng	20.39	5	Ron Lawrence	15.21	5	Joe Blake	6.58
6	Moira Hollingsworth	19.57	6	Suzanne Edwards	15.00	6	Aggie Udvari	6.51
7	Ted Boyd	19.38	7	Shelley Metcalfe	13.56	7	Steven Allen	5.90
8	Robert Griffiths	19.09	8	Barbara Lindsay	11.63	8	Joani Horvath	5.69
9	Neil Jeffrey	17.12	9	David Embury	11.20	9	Belinda Burt	5.52
10	Bruce Roberts	15.49	10	Kathy Russell	10.18	10	Marg Sanderson	5.04
11	Liz McDowell	13.45	11	Stephen Nantes	10.12	11	Elinor Girouard	4.95
12	Dianne Aves	12.76	12	John Kip	9.50	12	Molly Worden	4.77
13	Neil Coburn	12.45	13	Cheryl Kip	9.36	13	Noah Pace	4.61
14	Sandy Graham	12.24	14	Sue Voll	8.97	14	Susan Durance	4.49
15	Stephen Young	12.19	15	Andy Wilson	6.71	15	Brian Gaber	4.23
16	Tom Ramsay	11.67	16	Lissa Lowes	6.59	15	Rick Arthur	4.23
17	John Vandergrift	11.42	17	Grant Roberts	6.29	17	Nancy Cattanach	4.22
18	John Hanemaayer	9.44	18	Vivian McLellan	6.18	18	Lynn Campbell	4.03
19	Malkin Howes	9.31	18	Judy Widdecombe	6.18	19	Audrey Cook	3.91
20	Ronald Sayle	8.83	20	Margie Whyte	6.14	20	Elaine Doyle	3.74
21	John Moser	8.81	21	Kevin Latter	6.10	21	Marilyn Rootham	3.58
22	David Longstaff	8.80	22	Renate Boucher	6.03	22	Virginia Alviano	3.46
23	Adrian Record	8.66	23	Sue Peterson	5.95	23	Valirie Binkle	3.44
24	Peggy Pearson	7.94	24	Bev Hitchman	5.90	24	Sue McDonald	3.42
25	Scott Hills	7.91	25	Betty Wendling	5.85	25	David Ward	3.19
			25	Jim Dalgliesh	5.85	25	Michel Lalonde	3.19



Congratulations

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

Club Master

- **Richard Wehrle**

Sectional Master

- **Donald Slowinski**

Regional Masters

- **Pat McDonald**
- **Brian Silva**

Gold Life Master

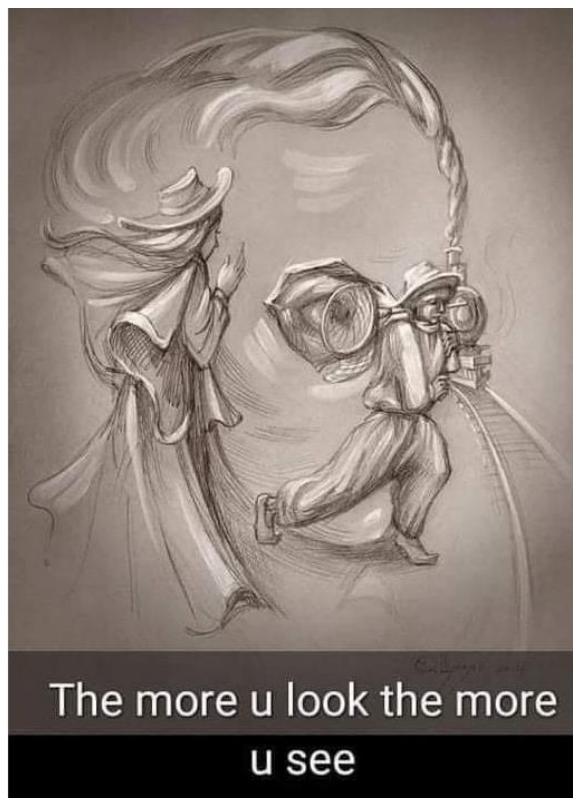
- **Thea Davis**

The ACBL has welcomed the following new members.

- **Ethel Craig**
- **Fred Heimbecker**

And a warm welcome to new club member

- **Gerry Hooper**
-





Paying for Master Points

Contributed by Lissa Lowes

I once met a guy at the partnership desk of a regional tournament while we were both searching for a partner. The game was beginning in about 15 minutes and the pressure was on. He had several hundred MPs while I had fewer than 50. He grudgingly agreed to play with me, and off we raced to the room.

In that short space of time, he told me that he had only coloured points, wanted only coloured points, played only in tournaments, and then outlined at least five conventions I had never heard of and advised me we would be playing them. I felt very tense.

So, this man had paid travel, hotel, and food costs in order to be at a tournament where he could earn the MPs he so clearly wanted. An early introduction to the "addicted to MP players" and the concept of buying points! There is a big range in players' attitudes to master point acquisition: some players don't care at all and others care way too much.

There are so many tournaments in Canada and the US during non-Covid times. They range from small (sectionals) to much bigger (regionals) to absolutely enormous (nationals). Some are held by the same clubs every year – for example, K/W, Stratford, Toronto, and Gatlinburg, Bermuda and the Nationals move around from wonderful location to wonderful location, for example, Austin, Reno, and Providence. The *Bridge Bulletin* and the ACBL website have all the details you need to register and go!

In this world of Virtual Bridge, it is much cheaper to chase those points because it can be done from the comfort of home. And the ACBL has been awarding increased MPs since the virtual clubs were established, so if you win 1 MP you are awarded 1.5 MP. This was an enticement to play. With face-to-face bridge on the horizon (in fact, 1,300 US clubs are already holding f2f games), the ACBL is reducing that bump to 1.25X with the goal of eliminating it completely. They want us to go back to our clubs and support them. Online bridge is here to stay, but it will parallel the clubs.

A luxury way to win MPs is to take a bridge cruise. Many well-known experts host cruises all over the world. That way you can enjoy daily bridge games and lessons, and benefit from the experience of the top names in bridge such as Barbara Seagram and Alex Kornel, Larry Cohen, Silvana Morici and many more, as well as see the world. The *Bridge Bulletin* is full of ads for these cruises. Please note that you do have to pay for travel, accommodation, and some meals. But such a fun way to spend money!

There are also bridge weekends/weeks at resorts like The Briars and Fern. A lovely chance to enjoy lovely surroundings, and play lots, learn lots, and possibly earn some MPs. Again, you must pay. You can hire a professional to play with and increase your chances greatly, again \$ is spent.

So, there is something to the saying that you end up buying your points (some points being more expensive than others). But I think most of the money is being spent on entertainment, being with others who share your passion for the game, keeping that brain sharp. Can't think of a better way to do it. And no matter what, you have to play well no matter how much you spend.

BTW, I played brilliantly with the coloured points addict, who also shared with me his passion for intimidating the opponents, resulting in MPs and a graceful exit stage left by me.....

This is the last in the Rookie Ramblings series unless either a) some volunteers come forward to write a column or else b) some rookies come forward with requests for column topics.

Excerpt from a New Yorker Book Review of *Turning Tricks* by David Owen

"A passion for bridge is hard to explain to someone who doesn't share it. One attraction is the sense of endlessly unfolding complexity: the more you learn, the less you feel you know. Computers have been able to beat the world's chess players for a decade, but - as Edward McPherson writes in a lively new book, *The Backwash Squeeze & Other Improbable Feats* (Harper Collins) - they 'still stink at bridge'.

"There are 635 billion possible bridge hands and a vast catalogue of approaches and techniques and stratagems for playing them. (A backwash squeeze, by the way, is an obscure offensive tactic whereby a player, facing a certain arrangement of cards, forces an opponent to make a certain kind of self-defeating discard.)

"One player told McPherson, 'For people who enjoy puzzles, this is one they will never solve'."

Contributed by George Pepall



Time You Learned Your Lessons!

For the foreseeable future, pending that wonderful day when we can re-open our club, all of our lessons are online.

We are adding a few online workshops, but there is only so much we can ask of our over-worked online teachers. Click [here](#) for more information about our fall workshops and to register. Click [here](#) for information on how to pay.

The currently-scheduled lessons (online performance) for October are as follows.



Filling Out a Convention Card

Novice

Saturday, October 2, 9:30 am – noon
Instructor: John Hanemaayer
Fee: \$20 for members/ \$25 for non-members



Hold Up Plays in No Trump

Intermediate

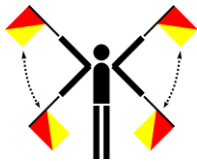
Monday, October 4, 9:30 am – noon
Instructor: Malkin Howes
Fee: \$20 for members/ \$25 for non-members



When to Lead Trump

Intermediate

Monday, October 25, 9:30 am – noon
Instructor: Malkin Howes
Fee: \$20 for members/ \$25 for non-members



Signalling for Killer Defence

Novice

Wednesday, October 27, 9:30 am – noon
Instructor: Stephen Carpenter
Fee: \$20 for members/ \$25 for non-members



Taking Your Ten Tricks

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Board 12		
South Deals	♠ K J 3	
E-W Vul	♥ A K 4 3	
	♦ 4 3 2	
	♣ 9 6 4	
♠ 9 5		♠ 10 8 7 6
♥ J 10 8 7 6	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> N W E S </div>	♥ 5
♦ Q J 10 9 5		♦ A K 8 7
♣ 8		♣ J 10 7 3
	♠ A Q 4 2	
	♥ Q 9 2	
	♦ 6	
	♣ A K Q 5 2	

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

South dealt and opened 1♣. After West's pass, North replied 1♥. East passed and South mulled over a three-card raise to 2♥ but decided on a 1♠ bid.

North wanted to try 2NT, but his diamond “stopper” was a wee bit sketchy. He settled on 2♠, ready to explain that he had a club mixed in with his spades. South jumped to 4♠. West led the ♦Q and continued the suit after East encouraged.

South has an easy ten tricks – four spades, three hearts and three clubs - but if he ruffs a diamond in his hand, he will be able to take all of his tricks only if the spade split is 3-3 (which is less likely than a 4-2 split).

But South can make sure of his contract by discarding a club on both the second and third rounds of diamonds. Now, another diamond can be ruffed in dummy, and South has the 10 tricks that he counted at the start.

👉 When you're short of trump, often it's right to hold off trumping in until the board can do the ruffing.

FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

Do the Math

Whenever your opponent opens (or overcalls) with a NT bid, you are given a huge advantage. Let's say the NT opener (assume 15-17 HCP) becomes the declarer. If you add your points to 15-17, the total will give you a point range for the other two hands. Once you make your opening lead, you add the dummy's points to the previous total and you have an EXACT point range for your partner's hand. This will help you with your subsequent defence. Here is an example of a no trump bid that pinpoints the opponents' HCP.

W	N	E	S
		P	2♣
2♥	P	P	2NT
P	3♣	P	3♦
P	3NT	P	P
P			

North's first pass is alerted as game-forcing, denoting some worthwhile values, and 2NT shows 22-23 HCP.

W	West
♠	Q108
♥	AQ7543
♦	J103
♣	A

South has at least 22 HCP, you have 13 HCP, and North has something because of his game-forcing pass. It looks as if the heart suit is your only chance, so you lead the ♥5.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 6 D </div>	N North ♠ 93 ♥ 9 ♦ K8754 ♣ J10532	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white;">W</th> <th style="background-color: #0000ff; color: white;">N</th> <th style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white;">E</th> <th style="background-color: #0000ff; color: white;">S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">P</td> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">3♣</td> <td>P</td> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S			P	2♣	2♥	P	P	2NT	P	3♣	P	3♦	P	3NT	P	P
	W	N	E	S																		
		P	2♣																			
2♥	P	P	2NT																			
P	3♣	P	3♦																			
P	3NT	P	P																			
W West ♠ Q108 ♥ AQ7543 ♦ J103 ♣ A	E East ♠ J7542 ♥ 82 ♦ 96 ♣ 9876																					

You now add dummy's 4 HCP to the previous total of 35 and you **know** partner can have at most one HCP. Furthermore, if he has a point, it has to be the ♠J (you can see the ♣J and the ♦J and partner would have played the ♥J at Trick 1 if he had it). The ♥9 wins the first trick and declarer leads a club to the king. Counting declarer's tricks, he has four club tricks, five diamond tricks, one heart trick, and two spade tricks = 12 tricks - unless you cash your ♥A NOW!

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 6 D </div>	N North ♠ 93 ♥ 9 ♦ K8754 ♣ J10532	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white;">W</th> <th style="background-color: #0000ff; color: white;">N</th> <th style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white;">E</th> <th style="background-color: #0000ff; color: white;">S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">P</td> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">3♣</td> <td>P</td> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S			P	2♣	2♥	P	P	2NT	P	3♣	P	3♦	P	3NT	P	P
	W	N	E	S																		
		P	2♣																			
2♥	P	P	2NT																			
P	3♣	P	3♦																			
P	3NT	P	P																			
W West ♠ Q108 ♥ AQ7543 ♦ J103 ♣ A	E East ♠ J7542 ♥ 82 ♦ 96 ♣ 9876	S South ♠ AK6 ♥ KJ106 ♦ AQ2 ♣ KQ4																				

3NT S NS: 0 EW: 0

This method of counting and conjuring up an image of what your partner might hold comes up frequently. For example, the opponents may bid 1♣-1♠-1NT. You **know** declarer has 11-14 HCP. You have 10 HCP and dummy has 8 HCP. $11 + 10 + 8 = 29$. Partner has a maximum of 11 HCP. If declarer has the maximum of 14 HCP, your partner has 8 HCP, and so forth. If partner plays an ace, you subtract 4 from his known 8-11. Now he has 4-7 left. If you continue to do the math, at some point during the hand, you may be able to figure out what high cards partner and declarer have left. Just what you needed - more counting!

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

#42

♠ A 9 6 2
 ♥ J 10 7 6 4
 ♦ J 8 5
 ♣ 7



♠ 8 4
 ♥ K 9 5 2
 ♦ A K 9 3
 ♣ A Q J

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 N
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
All pass			

You're South, in four hearts. West leads his ♠Q to dummy's ♠A, East encouraging. When you lead the ♥J from dummy, East rises with the ♥A and West follows with a small heart. At Trick 3, East leads a small diamond. What should you do?

SOLUTION

You've already lost the ♥A, and you have two more sure losers, one in spades and one in diamonds. Furthermore, you may have additional losers in diamonds and hearts - unless you play very carefully.

You should start by thinking about the ♥Q. If West holds Her Majesty, you can't do anything about it. Therefore, you should assume that East holds the ♥Q and plan the play on that basis. Back to the original question of what to do at Trick 3 when East leads a small diamond.

Let's say you play a small diamond from your hand at this point. Even if West wins the queen, you are in control. If West does the best he can by taking the trick with his ♦Q, cashing his ♠J, and leading another spade, you can ruff this third spade in your hand and play the ♣A at Trick 6.

At Trick 7, lead the ♣Q from your hand and ruff in dummy whether or not it is covered (no ruffing-finesse is needed), and then lead the ♥10 from dummy tempting East to cover. If East doesn't cover, cross your fingers and float the ♥10 to West. If East does cover, overtake with your ♥K. Either way, you pick up East's ♥Q, and the rest is silence.

The full deal is as follows.

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

As you can see, ducking the diamond lead at Trick 3 ensures that you lose only one diamond trick and guarantees your contract whenever East holds the ♥Q.

Selected Sayings by and About Politicians

- We hang petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office. **Aesop**
- Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river. **Nikita Khrushchev**
- When I was a boy, I was told that anybody could become president. I'm beginning to believe it. **Clarence Darrow**
- Suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of government. But then I repeat myself. **Mark Twain**
- A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul. **Will Rogers**
- I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle. **Winston Churchill**
- Instead of giving a politician the keys to the city, it might be better to change the locks. **Doug Lawson**
- I offered my opponents a deal: "If they stop telling lies about me, I will stop telling the truth about them". **Adlai Stevenson**

Sent in by Pat McMillan

Coming Virtual Events

- Friday, October 1, 12:30 pm, **99er game, (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Friday, October 1, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Friday, October 1, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- **Saturday, October 1, 9:30 am – noon, Convention Card Workshop**
- Saturday, October 2, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Sunday, October 3, 10:00 am, **499er game, (18 boards) \$5**
- **Monday, October 4, 9:30 am – noon, Holding Up Workshop**
- Monday, October 4, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$5**
- Monday, October 4, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Monday, October 4, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, October 5, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, October 5, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, October 6, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, October 6, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, October 6, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, October 7, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, October 7 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, October 7, 6:30 pm, **19er game \$5**
- Thursday, October 7, 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 play and learn bridge in a welcoming environment at our **club**.