



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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## ALERT – November 22, 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 October.*

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	44.58	1	Suzanne Edwards	14.75	1	Reinhold Kauk	8.56
2	Margot Stockie	29.37	2	Kathy Russell	12.60	2	Joe Blake	6.84
3	Cindy Mahn	28.22	3	Stephen Nantes	9.41	3	Elinor Girouard	6.49
4	Moira Hollingsworth	22.19	4	Shelley Metcalfe	8.51	4	Steven Allen	6.34
5	Colin Harrington	18.02	5	Kevin Latter	7.93	5	Donald Rieger	6.12
6	Bruce Roberts	17.90	6	Jim Dalgliesh	7.90	6	Marg Sanderson	5.68
7	Edith Ferber	16.63	6	Barbara Lindsay	7.90	7	Nancy Cattanach	5.68
8	Mike Peng	16.35	8	Brian Kirkconnell	7.83	8	Donna McKay	5.18
9	Robert Griffiths	14.78	9	Joan Slover	7.66	9	Martin Jones	4.70
10	Liz McDowell	13.99	10	Sue Voll	7.43	10	Sandra Hennessey	4.61
11	Ted Boyd	12.85	11	Aggie Udvari	7.29	10	Steven Reinhart	4.61
12	Tom Ramsay	12.59	12	Renate Boucher	7.20	12	ML Benjamins	4.38
13	Neil Jeffrey	12.10	13	Nanci Phelan	6.66	13	Belinda Burt	4.31
14	David Wilson	11.65	14	Andy Wilson	6.62	14	Kathleen Burns	4.29
15	Malkin Howes	11.22	15	Ted Kennedy	6.49	15	Elisabeth Graham	4.10
16	Stephen Young	9.68	16	Roy Dandyk	6.27	16	Joani Horvath	4.01
17	David Longstaff	9.48	17	Judy Beauchamp	6.04	17	Virginia Alviano	3.89
18	Dianne Aves	9.25	18	Robert Gilck	5.82	18	Ginny Scott	3.83
19	Ronald Sayle	8.24	19	Adriaan Kempe	5.56	19	Susan Durance	3.82
19	Paul Stillman	8.24	20	Marlene Dopko	5.55	19	Molly Worden	3.82
21	Sharon King	7.98	21	Sue Peterson	5.42	21	Pat McDonald	3.67
22	Sandy Graham	7.76	22	Susan Kerrigan	5.41	22	MJ Hartleib	3.56
23	John Moser	7.65	23	Lynda Burnett	5.32	23	Richard Wehrle	3.55
24	John Vandergrift	7.45	24	Jake Liu	5.26	24	Kim Hauley	3.53
25	Thea Davis	7.19	25	Jim Veitch	5.15	25	Jane Wilson	3.51

## Our Re-Opening Date

The club's board of directors is planning to re-open some of our face-to-face games beginning the week of January 17, 2022. As of that week, the following bridge games and labs will switch from online to face-to-face.

- Monday morning bridge labs
- Tuesday afternoon open games
- Wednesday morning 99er games
- Friday afternoon 499er games

The January 8, 2022 Learn Bridge in a Day workshop will be online. Beginner 1 lessons, starting January 13, will be online. Covid willing, there will be some lessons for advancing players in our teaching room. They will be announced in forthcoming Alerts.

Covid willing, Beginner 2 lessons, starting March 10, will be in our teaching room.

Please stay tuned for further announcements closer to the re-opening date regarding the club's safety protocols which will include (but not be limited to) wearing masks, providing proof of vaccination, and pre-registering for the in-club games.

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## Save the Date for Christmas Games

We will be holding our Christmas games (online perforce) on **Saturday, December 11**. There will be morning and afternoon sessions for each of the following flights: 199er, 499er, and open. Prizes will be awarded to those who finish the best in their flights, based on aggregating the two sessions. Please find a partner and plan to join us on this date.

The start times are:

199er – 9:45 am and 1:30 pm – 21 boards per session

499er – 10:00 am and 1:45 pm – 24 boards per session

Open – 10:15 am and 2:00 pm – 24 boards per session

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## Guelph Club Re-Opening

*Contributed by Tom Ramsay*

The Guelph Club held a reopening party for its members on November 6 with champagne and snacks, followed by our first face-to-face game on November 8. After 19 months of only online play, it was great to be back at the table - sorting cards, using bidding boxes, and seeing our partners (and opponents) in person. Everyone who played had a great time.

We have cancelled our Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoon *online* games and replaced them with *live* games. Monday and Friday are 0-499, while Wednesday is open. Our other online games continue. Schedule details on the [Guelph Club website](#).

All players must provide proof of vaccination and wear masks. Capacity is limited to 12 tables. You are encouraged to register online if possible, details on the website. We realise not everyone will be comfortable playing in person until the pandemic and safety protocols are behind us, so attendance will be smaller than usual - about four to seven tables so far- but we have enough online games to keep everyone happy, including a new 0-999 game Tuesday afternoon and a new open game Friday afternoon.

Everyone is welcome. It's definitely worth the drive to Guelph!

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## Quickie

“Be nice to your partner. You’re stuck with each other until the end of the game (maybe longer”!

*Excerpted from Insights on Bridge, Book 2, by Mike Lawrence*

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### ***The Last Selected Excerpt from***

#### **David Owen’s “New Yorker” Review of a Bridge Book by Edward McPherson**

“It’s also possible that bridge will be rejuvenated by one of the putative instruments of its destruction, the Internet. I do most of my playing online, often when I’m supposed to be doing something else, like working. This is more companionable than it sounds, because most bridge sites enable players to ‘chat’ while they play. (Non-scientific observations based on several years’ experience: the rudest players are men from countries where women who commit adultery face imprisonment or worse; Canadians are more likely than others to ask where everyone is from.)

“Computer bridge is a boon to beginners because it enables them to play lots of hands in a hurry and to commit instructive errors behind the cloak of an online pseudonym. It’s also, in my view, a fragment to shore against one’s ruins since it can be played from a bed in a hospital or a nursing home. But I hope that Internet bridge doesn’t entirely displace the old-fashioned kind. One of the social benefits of bridge-playing during its heyday was that it regularly caused people to interact, face to face, for hours at a time, something we tend not to do much anymore, now that so many popular amusements are both solitary and passive. No matter how old you are, it’s good to get out of your house every once in a while and cooperate with a partner in a mentally challenging activity - even if the result, on rare occasions, could be murder.”

*Contributed by George Pepall*

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## Time You Learned Your Lessons!

The winter beginners’ lessons have now been scheduled.

- Our introductory session **Learn Bridge in a Day**, will take place on Saturday, January 8, and it will be ONLINE. Learn Bridge in a Day offers its participants a taste of bridge so they can find out if they would be interested in learning how to play our game.
- **Beginners 1**, a series of five lessons, will be offered on Thursday nights from 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm ONLINE. The first lesson will take place on Thursday, January 13, 2022.
- **Beginners 2**, another series of five lessons, will be offered on Thursday nights from 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm in the teaching room at our club. The first lesson will take place on March 10, 2022.

Registration is not yet enabled on our website, so for now please just mark the dates.

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- John Hanemaayer recorded his **novice** workshop on **Filling out your Convention Card**, and it is available for \$10.
- Stephen Carpenter recorded his **novice** workshop on **Killer Signals**, and it is available for \$10.

To order one or both of these recordings, send in your payment specifying what it is for (click [here](#) for information on how to pay).

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# Dear David

## Between a Rock and a Hard Place

You can come up with solutions to many different situations by using your past experience. During the bidding, you think about all your options and hopefully choose the one that most accurately reflects the cards you hold. Sometimes, you are forced to choose a solution that is well outside your comfort level.

<b>N</b>	North
♠	AK10954
♥	K108
♦	2
♣	AQ7

You are vulnerable and your opponents are not vulnerable. East, on your left, opens 2♠!!! showing five or more spades and 11-14 HCP and the auction continues pass, pass to you. What to do? Double would be for takeout. Since you don't have tolerance for ANY of the other three suits, that seems like a bad idea. Passing will probably get you a small plus for beating the contract some number of tricks, but your compensation would be inadequate if you can make a game. If your partner has some values, 3NT might be makeable, assuming partner has diamonds stopped. The problem is that there is no way to find out any of those things. Here is my own "leap-of-faith" solution. If you cannot bear to let the opponent fail at 50 points per trick, PRETEND you have a diamond stopper and bid 2NT. If the ♠4 were the ♦4, you would bid 2NT without a qualm. You cannot open NT with a small singleton, but there is no stricture against balancing with that hand.

18 D	<b>N</b> North	<b>W</b> 10-14 5 plus sp <b>S</b>
	♠ AK10954 ♥ K108 ♦ 2 ♣ AQ7	P P 2♠ P
<b>W</b> West		<b>E</b> East
♠ ♥ 65432 ♦ J43 ♣ 109863		♠ 87632 ♥ AQ7 ♦ AK85 ♣ 5
	<b>S</b> South	2♠ E NS: 0 EW: 0
	♠ QJ ♥ J9 ♦ Q10976 ♣ KJ42	

First, the good news.

- The six Easts who played in one spade took only one trick. Down seven and -350 is not a result you see every day.
- One North balanced with 1NT over the 1♠ opener.
- Two Norths got to 3NT after a 1♠ opener and made nine and ten tricks.

Find a way to announce your assets, even if your solution is uncomfortable.

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

**#49**

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



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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♦	1♠
Pass	2♠	All pass	

West led the ♦10 to East's ♦A. East then cashed the ♠A at Trick 2, West following. East continued with the ♠9 at Trick 3, and I rose with ♠Q, West following suit again. At Trick 4, I led the ♣9 from my hand to dummy's ♣Q - which unfortunately lost to East's ♣K. Now at Trick 5, East led the ♥J. What would you do now?

**SOLUTION**

After four tricks, the situation is as follows.

♠ 7  
 ♥ 5 2  
 ♦ J 7 4  
 ♣ A 8 5



♠ K 8 5  
 ♥ A Q 7 4  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ J 7

The big question is whether or not you should cover the ♥J with your ♥Q. The answer is you should duck. Here's why.

- If East had the last trump in his hand, he would have almost broken his wrist in his haste to get it on the table in order to remove dummy's last trump. And if East had the ♥K, he would be unlikely to lead away from it at this point.

- If this analysis is correct that West has the ♥K and the remaining trump card, if you duck West can't afford to overtake the ♥J with his ♥K since it would set up your ♥Q handing you your contract (four spades, two hearts, and two clubs).
- Another reason for holding up the ♥Q is that West might have only two or three hearts and be forced to play his ♥K before you are forced to play your ♥Q.

So, you lose nothing by letting East keep the lead at Trick 5. When it comes to the sixth trick, you can anticipate the following scenarios.

- East may lead a heart, in which case you can go up with your ♥A and ruff a third heart in dummy.
- East may lead a club, in which case you can take the trick with your ♣J, cash your ♥A, and ruff a third heart in dummy.
- East may lead a diamond, in which case you can ruff in your hand, cash your ♥A, and ruff a third heart in dummy.

Regardless of what East chooses to lead, you can make your contract.

Here is the full hand.

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

As you can see, if you were to cover the ♥J with your ♥Q at Trick 5, West would overtake it with his ♥K and waste no time removing dummy's last trump.  
Lord love a duck!

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## North American Pairs District 2 Finals

This coming Sunday, November 21, qualifying players in Flights A (open) and C (NLM, <500 MP) are invited to compete in District 2's North American Pairs Finals. The top three eligible pairs in Flight A, and the top four eligible pairs in Flight C will qualify for the finals which will be held at the national tournament in Reno in March 22. Some subsidies to offset the cost of travel to the NABC will be available.

Click [here](#) for the list of qualifying players (please note that the names are alphabetical BY UNIT). Pre-registration is required. Cost \$18 BBO. Click [here](#) for more information.

## New 0-999 Game on Monday Evenings Starting at 6:45 pm

As recommended by several members, the viability of a second 0-999 game will be tested beginning on November 29. Those who wish the game to continue should be sure to provide their ongoing support as an early review will be conducted with the game's continuity dependent on sufficient participants.

### Coming Virtual Events

- Friday, November 19, 12:30 pm, **99er game, (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Friday, November 19, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Friday, November 19, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Saturday, November 20, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- **Sunday, November 21, Flights A and C NAP District 2 Finals \$18**
- Sunday, November 21, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) \$5**
- Monday, November 22, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$5**
- Monday, November 22, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Monday, November 22, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, November 23, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, November 23, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, November 24, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, November 24, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, November 24, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, November 25, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, November 25, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, November 25, 6:30 pm, **19er game \$5**
- Thursday, November 25, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) \$5**
- **Monday, November 29, 6:45 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're very nice to our partners at our **club**.