



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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ALERT – December 13, 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 November.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	34.20	1	Suzanne Edwards	11.78	1	ML Benjamins	6.84
2	Margot Stockie	21.24	2	Kathy Russell	10.14	2	Reinhold Kauk	5.70
3	Cindy Mahn	20.71	3	Stephen Nantes	10.03	3	Elinor Girouard	5.22
4	Moira Hollingsworth	17.41	4	Kevin Latter	8.86	4	Virginia Alviano	5.13
5	Mike Peng	15.80	5	Brian Kirkconnell	8.77	4	Belinda Burt	5.13
6	David Wilson	15.01	6	Jim Dalgliesh	8.66	6	Steven Allen	4.89
6	Colin Harrington	15.01	7	Shelley Metcalfe	8.13	6	Joe Blake	4.89
8	Edith Ferber	12.18	8	Lynda Burnett	5.99	8	Kathleen Burns	4.52
9	Liz McDowell	11.26	9	Joan Slover	5.73	9	Molly Worden	3.83
10	Dianne Aves	10.46	10	Andy Wilson	5.59	10	MJ Hartleib	3.24
11	Stephen Young	10.08	11	Aggie Udvari	5.43	11	Donna McKay	3.23
12	Tom Ramsay	9.89	12	Ted Kennedy	5.15	12	Marg Sanderson	3.08
13	Malkin Howes	8.66	13	Cheryl Kip	5.03	13	Susan Durance	3.03
14	Ted Boyd	8.34	14	Barbara Lindsay	4.96	14	Susan McDonald	3.02
15	Robert Griffiths	8.16	15	Renate Boucher	4.84	15	Kim Hauley	2.94
15	Neil Jeffrey	8.16	16	Barbara Arthur	4.64	16	Pat McDonald	2.91
17	David Longstaff	7.52	16	Judy Beauchamp	4.64	17	Don O'Bright	2.83
18	John Vandergriff	7.27	18	John Kip	4.50	17	Richard Wehrle	2.83
19	Sharon King	6.40	19	Tony Verhoeven	4.45	19	David Ward	2.79
20	Peter Hannak	5.99	20	Susan Kerrigan	4.43	19	Michel Lalonde	2.79
21	Mary McClelland	5.81	21	Dave Leitch	4.39	21	Dona Reinhart	2.70
22	Pat McMillan	5.57	22	Jim Hardy	3.91	21	Carolyn Israel	2.70
23	Ronald Dayle	5.05	23	Sue Peterson	3.86	23	Carol Robinson	2.69
23	Paul Stillman	5.05	24	Edward Murphy	3.78	23	Trent Robinson	2.69
25	Neil Coburn	4.96	25	Carolyn Baechler	2.71	25	Elaine Doyle	2.65



A Warm Welcome to

the following new club members. Their memberships will take effect on January 1, 2022.

- **Bob Darby**
 - **Susan Marchiori**
 - **Greg Seale**
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Letter to the Editor

After seeing the Alert today, specifically the "mug" shot near the end, I was reminded of a chat I had with a friend recently when I said more or less the last part to him. Quick as you like his rejoinder was " Why the hell are they letting you play then?" I had no comeback but to laugh. Reminiscent of the bridge table when self congratulating on a brilliant strategy, only to get tripped up and left feeling humbled. I can envisage husband and wife mugs with such quips written on them.

Kevin Latter

Monday Night 999er Game

Our new Monday night 999er game scraped up three tables and managed to run. The board will be meeting on Tuesday morning, and one of the items on the agenda will be whether or not to continue to offer this game. This is a case of use it or lose it.

Quickie

"When a pre-emptor leads a side suit, it is usually a singleton." (*Excerpted from Larry Cohen's column "The Real Deal" in this month's ACBL Bulletin*)

Congratulations to **Mark Obermeyer** who scored 480 in the "It's Your Call" contest in the *Bulletin*, the only Canadian to be recognized!

Counting! Counting! Counting!

Paul Thurston in his *National Post* column gives a wonderful plug both to **Dianne Aves'** new book *Counting at Bridge* as well as to our club, saying "The main club in Dianne's part of the world is the Grand River Bridge Club and, if and when face-to-face bridge ever returns and you're in the K-W area, be sure to pay that club a visit: nice facility with warm and welcoming people."



New Player Profiles

Contributed by Louise Dawdy

Today, we are profiling new member **Bill MacGregor**.

After many years of his mother-in-law's (GRBC member Jane Lemke) encouragement to learn duplicate bridge, Bill finally took up bridge last winter. Bill learned how to play through GRBC's online lessons. While Jane gave Bill the encouragement, it was the pandemic that provided the impetus for Bill to try and do something somewhat social (Zoom) during winter evenings. Other than bridge, Bill's career as an immigration lawyer takes up most of his time, as well as a cottage on the Bruce Peninsula - which Bill would like to have take up more of his time! Bill is also a curler with the Granite Club in Waterloo and a Slo-Pitch player in the Waterloo Men's Recreation League at Waterloo Park.

Bill's most useful tip is learning to keep track of trump and transportation. Like all of us, he would like to do it more consistently!

Included in Bill's post-pandemic wish list: simply moving about without having to think about masks, proof of vaccination, and general health risks.

Having learned how to play bridge online during the pandemic, Bill looks forward to figuring out "in-person" bridge etiquette.

Bill - Welcome to Grand River Bridge Club! You will be in very good company with many/all members of GRBC who are either learning "in-person" etiquette or have completely forgotten all of it (!!!) over the course of the pandemic, and then, of course, those who are always challenged by it. 😊

EDITOR'S NOTE: On the Saturday before we re-open, our club will be offering a FREE workshop on how to play face to face. It will start at 10:00 am, and instructor Ted Boyd promises to get the participants home in time for the afternoon's important sports events. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

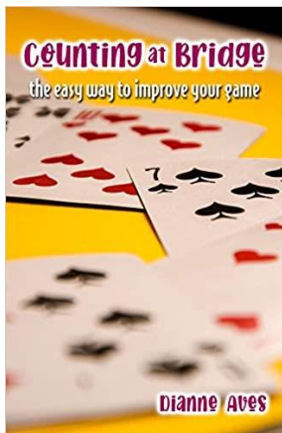


Christmas Day Game

For those who like to plan ahead, there will be no game at our club on Christmas Day, December 25.

We're Number 31!

The ACBL ranks its clubs, inter alia, in terms of how many tables they host in a year. Out of 1814 clubs in the league, our club ranks 31st! Click [here](#) for the full rankings.



Famous Author at Our Club!

Dianne Aves, one of our teachers, has written a book on counting, and now it is available from Amazon! Dianne's book is written for intermediate players, and it would be the perfect Christmas gift for your partner. Dianne will be teaching a counting course sometime in 2022, using her book as the basis.

Time You Learned Your Lessons!

Registration for the winter beginners' lessons has now been enabled. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

All of our lessons for advancing players will start after our re-opening. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

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Play of the Hand (Suits)

In an 18-board club game, you are likely to be declarer on four or five boards. You need to learn techniques to help you become a better declarer. First, you need to be aware of your goal. Second, you must learn how to make a plan. And third, you must learn how to implement your plan. In this course, you will learn how to make a plan right after the opening lead has been made, and you will also learn how to minimize your losers so that you can make your contract and maybe even make overtricks. A second course, Play of the Hand (No Trump) will be offered in the spring.

Level: **Novice**

Instructor: Dianne Aves

Mode: Face-to-Face

Dates: Tuesday, January 18, 25, February 1, 8, & 15, 9:30 am - noon

Fee: \$75 for members, \$85 for non-members, plus \$20 for the text

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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).

Bridge Jokes

Contributed by Dave Quarrie

- When your partner is playing even worse than usual, you might say: "You know, you may not be the worst player in the world but if that person should die.... "
 - We had a partnership misunderstanding. I assumed my partner knew what she was doing.
 - A married couple are not speaking to each other after a horrible game and are driving home from a distant bridge tournament. They pass by a field where there are many donkeys. The husband breaks the silence by asking his wife: "Relations of yours"? "Yes", she says, "In-laws".
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An Important 9

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Board 12		♠ A K
South Deals		♥ A J
E-W Vul		♦ Q J 10 9 3
		♣ 9 6 4 2
♠ Q 9 7	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J 10 8 6
♥ 8 7 5 4		♥ 10 9 3 2
♦ A		♦ 8 5 4
♣ Q 10 8 7 3		♣ K J
		♠ 5 4 3 2
		♥ K Q 6
		♦ K 7 6 2
		♣ A 5
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
		<i>South</i>
		1 N
Pass	3 N	All pass

South opened a weak (11/13 HCP) 1NT, and North jumped to 3NT. West started out with the ♣7, East playing the king. South has six top tricks and has to lose the lead in diamonds in order to set up his winners. His first decision is whether or not to win or duck the club lead.

Let's talk about the clubs. If they split 4-3, nothing can possibly go wrong. The defence will get in with the ♦A, EW will cash three clubs and the contract will be made. With a 4-3 split, the hand is so simple that I am going to assume that clubs do not split 4-3 and go from there.

We have decided to play as if the club split is 5-2. Assuming that the ♣7 is fourth-best, by the rule of 11 we know that East has two clubs, both higher than the 7. Now, declarer has to try to avoid losing four club tricks and one diamond trick.

So, assuming the 5-2 clubs split has West with five clubs (a reasonable assumption because it looks as if he led his fourth-best club), what could East have? The missing top clubs are KQJ108. East has shown up with the king (denying the queen). West would not lead the 7 from QJ107 (he would lead the queen), so East's second club must be either the jack or 10.

We are getting to the exciting part here. South should see that if he ducks the first club, East will continue clubs, knocking out South's ace. Now, if West can get in with the ♦A, his top club honours will swallow up North's last two clubs and his fifth club will set the contract.

But if South wins Trick 1 with the ♣A, the defence will get tangled up (block). West can win his ♦A but cannot run clubs from the top without setting up Dummy's 9. If he underleads his queen to East's honour, East will have no club to return.

By winning the first club trick, Declarer has ensured that, in the event of a 5-2 club split, dummy's ♣9 will stop the run of the club suit. It's a lot to think about before playing to Trick 1 but worth the effort on this hand.

🦉 Most of the time it's right to hold up, but not if the opponents' suit will block.



Dear David

An Extra Chance for an Overtrick

W West	W N E S	E East
♠AJ964	1♥ Pass	♠3
♥A52	4NT Pass 5♠ Pass	♥KQ943
♦A64	6♥ Pass Pass Pass	♦5
♣K3		♣AQ9874

The hand above is not the same as the one I played, nor is the auction the same. I changed it up in order to reinforce a point.

Every hand that you declare requires you to make a plan at Trick 1. This hand is relatively easy to plan. You need to draw some trumps (hoping that they are splitting 3-2) and run the clubs. With your plan in place, you draw two rounds of trump, and the opponents both follow suit. So, you draw the last trump and shortly afterwards concede a club trick. This is a good plan, but it can be improved upon.

W West	W N E S	E East
♠AJ964	1♥ Pass	♠3
♥A52	4NT Pass 5♠ Pass	♥KQ943
♦A64	6♥ Pass Pass Pass	♦5
♣K3		♣AQ9874

N North	S South
♠Q1085	♠K72
♥107	♥J86
♦KQ10832	♦J97
♣10	♣J652

6♥ East
0 0

Many would be afraid to leave a trump outstanding lest someone trump one of their club winners. But if you leave one trump out, you can check whether the clubs split 3-2. If the second round of clubs tells you that clubs are 3-2, you can immediately draw the last trump and claim 13 tricks. But if clubs split 4-1 (as in the hand above), you can ruff the fourth round of clubs, return to your hand with a diamond or spade ruff, and draw the last trump. You might ask "What if they trump the second round of clubs?" That just means you were always going to lose one trick. You can still trump a club after that to set up your suit. The advantage comes when the hand with three hearts also has four clubs, as shown in the hand above. Having a good plan for the entire hand is important. It is, however, even more important to be able to modify your plan as the play proceeds.

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

#52

♠ Q 3
 ♥ 8 7 2
 ♦ A J 9 7 5
 ♣ 6 5 3



♠ A K J 10 7 2
 ♥ A K 9
 ♦ 10 4
 ♣ Q 4

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 N	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

West cashed his ♣A and ♣K and then led a small trump at Trick 3. East followed suit to all three tricks. What should you do after you take your ♠T?

SOLUTION

You've already lost two club tricks, plus there is a potential loser in both red suits = four losers in total. If you're going to make your contract, you have to eliminate one of these losers.

Obviously, the diamond suit is your best bet, what with its good intermediates and the shortness in your hand. You hope that the ♦K and ♦Q are either separated or else both in West's hand. (You have an additional very small chance that East has the doubleton ♦KQ *and you guess right.*) But basically, you have about a 75% chance.

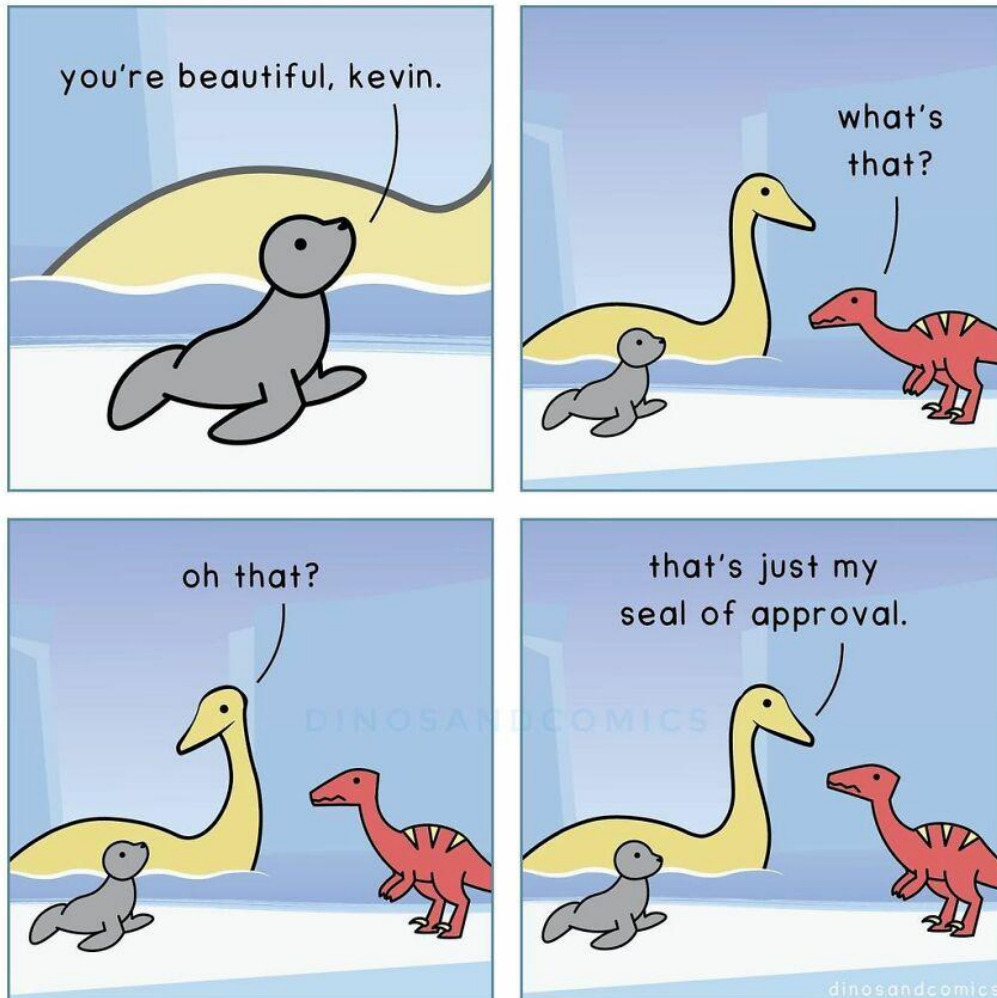
One additional thought: if the diamond honours are split and the opponents defend perfectly, you are going to need an additional entry to dummy - and the ♠Q is all you got, meaning you have to develop the diamonds before you touch trumps. At Trick 4, lead the ♦10.

- If West covers your ♦10, overtake with the ♦A and continue with the ♦9 in order to set up dummy's ♦J.
- If West doesn't cover your ♦10, float it around to the East. In the actual case, the ♦10 will hold the trick and your worries are over.
 - But if East wins Trick 4 with a high diamond, his best defense is to return a trump. In the actual case, East has no more trumps, and so the best he can do is lead back a heart. You go up with your ♥A and finesse in diamonds again, crossing your fingers. As the cards lie, West will cover your ♦10 with his ♦Q, so you overtake it with the ♦A and cash dummy's ♦J pitching a heart.

- o If it should happen that East has another trump to lead back after he takes the first diamond finesse, you should take the trick in your hand and draw the rest of the trump. Then you finesse West in diamonds once again and, as long as this finesse works, dummy's $\heartsuit A$ provides a parking spot for your losing heart.

Now return to your hand by ruffing a club, draw all the outstanding trumps, and claim your contract. Here is the full hand.

\spadesuit Q 3 \heartsuit 8 7 2 \diamondsuit A J 9 7 5 \clubsuit 6 5 3	\spadesuit 9 6 5 4 \heartsuit Q 3 \diamondsuit K Q 3 \clubsuit A K 8 2	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	\spadesuit 8 \heartsuit J 10 6 5 4 \diamondsuit 8 6 2 \clubsuit J 10 9 7
N						
W E						
S						
\spadesuit A K J 10 7 2 \heartsuit A K 9 \diamondsuit 10 4 \clubsuit Q 4						





GRBC Christmas Party, December 11

Just a reminder that our club is holding its annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 11 (see link below).

Coming Virtual Events

- Friday, December 10, 12:30 pm, **99er game, (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Friday, December 10, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Friday, December 10, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- ~~Saturday, December 11, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5 CANCELLED**~~
- Saturday, December 11, [GRBC Christmas Games](#)
- Sunday, December 12, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) \$5**
- Monday, December 13, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$5**
- Monday, December 13, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- **Monday, December 13, 6:45 pm, **999er game (24 boards) \$5**** 
- Monday, December 13, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, December 14, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, December 14, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, December 15, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, December 15, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, December 15, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, December 16, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, December 16, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, December 16, 6:30 pm, **19er game \$5**
- Thursday, December 16, 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 are holding our Christmas games this Saturday at our **club**.