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MENT

PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRON-

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ALERT – December 20, 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	39.51	1	Suzanne Edwards	14.72	1	Virginia Alviano	6.89
2	Margot Stockie	25.16	2	Stephen Nantes	11.93	1	Belinda Burt	6.89
3	Cindy Mahn	25.12	3	Kathy Russell	11.69	3	Steven Allen	6.25
4	Moira Hollingsworth	21.63	4	Jim Dalglish	10.74	3	Joe Blake	6.25
5	Colin Harrington	20.55	5	Kevin Latter	9.84	5	Elinor Girouard	6.00
6	Mike Peng	18.17	6	Shelley Metcalfe	9.81	5	Reinhold Kauk	6.00
7	David Wilson	16.51	7	Brian Kirkconnell	9.37	7	Molly Worden	4.91
8	Edith Ferber	15.84	8	Lynda Burnett	9.23	8	Kathleen Burns	4.52
9	Liz McDowell	15.33	9	ML Benjamins	9.19	9	Donna McKay	4.49
10	Ted Boyd	14.13	10	Tony Verhoeven	7.56	10	Martin Jones	3.91
11	Dianne Aves	13.89	11	Andy Wilson	5.71	11	Sue McDonald	3.89
12	Tom Ramsay	13.70	12	Roy Dandyk	6.62	12	Pat McDonald	3.78
13	Stephen Young	12.80	13	Joan Slover	6.60	13	MJ Hartleib	3.68
14	Malkin Howes	10.13	14	Barbara Arthur	6.55	14	Susan Durance	3.64
15	Robert Griffiths	9.57	15	Jim Hardy	6.31	15	Nancy Cattanach	3.58
16	Neil Jeffrey	9.42	16	Susan Kerrigan	6.24	16	Kim Hauley	3.54
17	David Longstaff	9.40	17	Aggie Udvari	6.13	17	Ginny Scott	3.23
18	Sandy Graham	8.73	18	Cheryl Kip	5.87	18	Liz Graham	3.14
19	Bruce Roberts	8.51	19	Renate Boucher	5.60	19	Marg Sanderson	3.08
20	Mary McClelland	8.35	20	Judy Beauchamp	5.37	20	Shirley Clarke	3.02
21	John Vandergrift	7.93	21	Barbara Lindsay	5.34	21	Brian Gaber	2.99
22	Sharon King	7.90	21	John Kip	5.34	22	Carolyn Israel	2.96
23	Neil Coburn	7.56	23	Ted Kennedy	5.15	22	Dona Reinhart	2.96
24	Peter Hannak	5.99	24	Dave Leitch	4.94	24	Elaine Doyle	2.95
25	Pat McMillan	5.98	25	Nanci Phelan	4.82	25	Louise Dawdy	2.92



A Warm Welcome to

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

- **Carole Akazawa**
- **Jenny Baker**

For information on how to renew your membership or join our club for the first time, click [here](#).

Re-Opening Update

The Board continues to be very hopeful that our reopening plans for the week of January 17 will stay in place. However, due to continuing COVID concerns, we have moved up our next board Meeting to January 4 and we will reassess at that time. See the January 10th Alert for updates.



Letter to the Editor

Thank you for recognizing my score of 480 in the Bulletin's It's Your Call contest. Although you said I was the only Canadian to be included, in fact there were two others from BC – Michael Dimich and Dennis Lee. The January questions are really tough: no repeat expected!

Mark Obermeyer

No More Monday Night 999er Game

Due to low turnout, the Monday night 999er game experiment has been declared a non-starter, and this game has been cancelled, effective immediately.

Quickie

Keep the bidding simple. If you have a fit for partner's major, always raise.

(Excerpted from [Karen's Bridge Library](#))



Congratulations to

Kathy Russell who placed 34th in C out of 1046 players in the NABC fall robot individual. Other local players who did well were, in no particular order: John Gilbert, Mark Obermeyer, Neil Jeffrey, Andy Martinek, and Tim Porter.



Christmas Games

Contributed by Liz McDowell

Our annual Christmas party on December 11 was held on BBO. This is the second year that we have been unable to participate at our home club. We truly miss seeing our friends in person and sharing all the festivities that have traditionally been part of the festive season. To all our players who joined us to play from home, it was great to be able at least, to wish you a Merry Christmas. Special thanks to our wonderful directors for giving us the opportunity to play on BBO - not just at our party, but for all of 2021.

Congratulations to the following players who placed first or second in the overalls. Your prize will arrive by mail soon from our special treasurer Bev Pope.

OPEN

1. **Colin Harrington and Ted Boyd**
2. **Steve Young and Liz McDowell**

499ers

1. **Sandra Jonasson and Margie Whyte**
2. **Barbara Arthur and Suzanne Edwards**

199ers

1. **Donna McKay and Susan Kerrigan**
 2. **Belinda Burt and Virginia Alviano**
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Opportunities on the Volunteer Management Team

Contributed by Jim Dalgliesh, Club Manager

The club's management team is responsible for the day-to-day operation of our club and is accountable to the board of directors. The team is comprised of 11 individuals with specific areas of responsibility and meets monthly (currently by Zoom) when there are agenda items warranting a meeting. Currently, there are two vacancies that need to be filled.

- **The Hospitality Lead** is responsible for arranging housekeeping services, refreshments for players, and the purchase of other consumables as required. The Hospitality Lead works with other volunteers, who are responsible for purchasing cookies, coffee, tea, milk, etc. He or she provides overall co-ordination of the volunteers in this area.
- **The Special Events Lead** is responsible for developing an annual special events calendar for the year. This encompasses the Christmas events, Valentines' game, and other events throughout the year. He or she appoints a convenor for each special event, someone who will work with the special events lead as needed to arrange for food,

snacks, etc. The special events lead will also be involved in helping organize prizes as appropriate for certain events.

For more information, please contact [Jim Dalglish](#), Club Manager.

TIME YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSONS!



Tell more! Sell more! Is it going to be a LONG winter? Reach out to family and friends and get them to sign up now for our Learn Bridge in a Day workshop on Saturday, January 8, 2022 to learn new skills, meet like-minded people, and test their memories at the same time!

Level: **Beginner**

Instructor: Sue Peterson

Mode: Online

Dates: Saturday, January 8, 2022, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fee: \$25

BTW, this would make a terrific Christmas present for that hard-to-give-to person on your list. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

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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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Bidding for Intermediate Players, Part 1

This course and its separately-enrolled continuation, Part 2, focus on Standard American bidding. Opening bids, responses, and rebids will be briefly reviewed. Topics covered in more detail will be forcing and non-forcing bids, competitive bidding, doubles, and balancing. Each lesson will conclude with some hands illustrating the lesson's topics, for practice in bidding and play. A few topics regarding play and defence will also be included, but the main goal of the course is to make attendees comfortable and confident with standard bidding conventions. Regular partners may find it advantageous to attend as a pair.

Level: **Intermediate**

Instructor: Neil Jeffrey

Mode: Face-to-Face

Date: Tuesdays from 7:00 pm until 9:30 pm, January 19, 25, February 1, & 8

Fee: \$70 for members/ \$80 for non-members (includes handouts and HST)

THESE DATES MAY CHANGE IF THE CLUB'S RE-OPENING HAS TO BE POSTPONED.

FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS



Oopsies

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Board 12 ♠ 7 3
 South Deals ♥ 6
 E-W Vul ♦ J 10 9 8 3
 ♣ A Q J 9 2

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

♠ 10 9 8 4
 ♥ K Q 8 7 3 2
 ♦ Q
 ♣ 8 7

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			2 ♥
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 N	All pass		

I wrote last week's blurb in the Barbados heat and I may have been distracted. Or something. I overlooked a fine defensive play that South might have made to set the 3NT contract. Several nasty recipients of the blurb pointed this play out to me.

North led the ♥6 and South found himself on lead with the queen. If South had thought, "Why did West duck the heart lead", he might have found the killing defense.

West had advertised a heart stopper in the auction - yet he didn't take it at Trick 1 even though he would then have a sure double stopper in hearts. A clever South player might infer that West needed to keep the heart ace in his hand as a later entry.

There is only one way to knock that heart entry out of West's hand - a small heart lead at Trick 2 would simply be ducked around to dummy. But South can be sure to defeat the contract with the lead of the ♥K at Trick 2.

West's ace will be gone before he has the chance to unblock the top spades from the dummy. Perhaps if I write my blurb before I pour the first daiquiri of the day, I won't miss this kind of play.

Don't drink and write bridge columns.



Dear David

Unblock

The word “unblock” means “get out of the way”. For example, you lead the king from KQJ109 and partner has A2. If partner plays the 2 under the king, he will then be forced to win the next trick with his ace and may not be able to get back to your hand. So, partner should “unblock” by winning the ace right away and leading the 2 back for you to run the entire suit. There is another “expert” way to unblock.

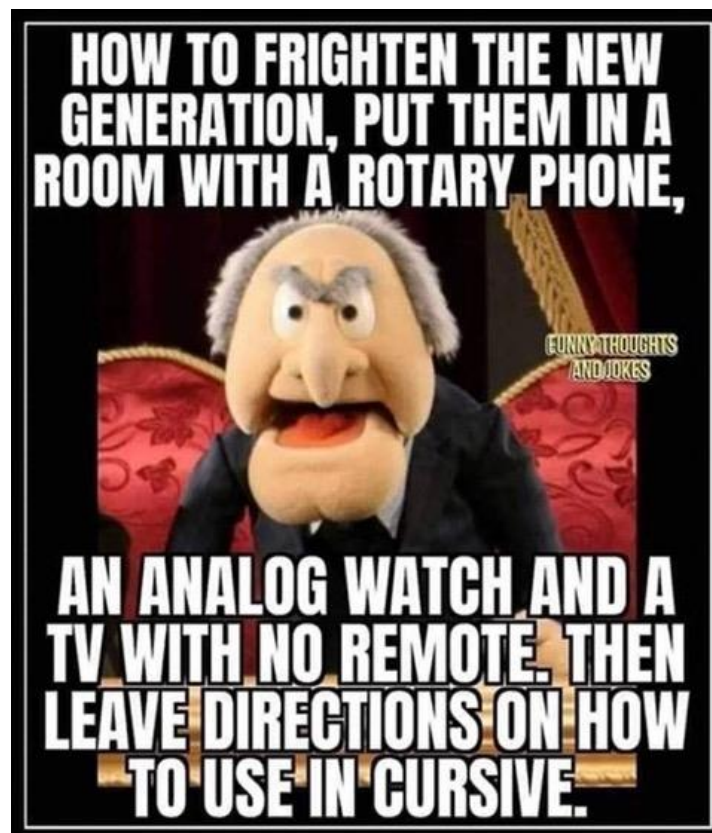
	N North ♠ 98 ♥ 64 ♦ 102 ♣ AKQJ1092	W N E S 1♥ 2♣ P P P 3NT P P P
	W West ♠ AQJ2 ♥ KQ1098 ♦ Q43 ♣ 3	E East ♠ 743 ♥ J7 ♦ AJ976 ♣ 865
	S South ♠ K1065 ♥ A532 ♦ K85 ♣ 74	3NT S NS: 0 EW: 0

The first trick against 3NT is ♥K, 4, 7, 2. It's easy looking at all four hands, but what if South has the ♥J? If you switch to any other suit, declarer may make at least nine tricks. The answer is to lead the ♥Q at Trick 1! That asks partner to drop the ♥J if he has it, or otherwise give count in the suit. From that point onwards, the best declarer can do is eight tricks against best defense. It should occur to you that the queen is a strange lead when you are looking at the jack, so it should be easy to remember what your responsibility should be. You need at least KQ10xx to make this lead. This method also works if you lead the jack from QJ9xx, asking partner to unblock the 10.

Here is another hand from the same game that explores a different use for this treatment.

	N North ♠ 42 ♥ K753 ♦ KJ942 ♣ 86	W N E S P P 1♥ 1♠ 2♣ P 2NT P 3NT P P P
	W West ♠ K85 ♥ 4 ♦ 873 ♣ AKJ943	E East ♠ A107 ♥ AQJ106 ♦ 105 ♣ 1052
	S South ♠ QJ963 ♥ 982 ♦ AQ6 ♣ Q7	3NT E NS: 0 EW: 0

Many would lead fourth-best spade, immediately giving declarer at least 10 tricks. Some would lead the ♠Q and be unclear as to whether they should continue the suit if they regained the lead. That information does not matter on this particular layout, but it may be important on a different hand where South has a choice between continuing the spade attack or switching to a different suit. Lead the ♠J, and when partner fails to drop the ten under your jack, you know to switch.



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

#53

♠ J 6
 ♥ K Q J 10 8 7
 ♦ 6 4
 ♣ A K 10



♠ A 10 5 2
 ♥ A 6 2
 ♦ A K J 9
 ♣ 3 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 N
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	4N	Pass	5♦ ¹
Pass	6♥	All pass	

1. RKCB 1430 - 0 or 3 keycards

You, South, are the declarer in six hearts. West leads the ♠K. Plan the play.

SOLUTION

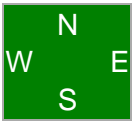
Here's the obvious line of attack. Draw two rounds of trump and cash the ace and king of clubs. Then ruff dummy's remaining club loser (the ♣10) in your hand. If there is still a trump at large, ruff with your ♥A to be on the safe side.

It sounds like a good plan, with the odds of success about 97%. Not too shabby. But what about a plan with a 100% chance of success?

For this hand, you might notice that it's more helpful to count dummy's losers than those in your hand, since that way it's easy to see that you need to worry only about a spade loser and a club loser. And given the opening lead, you are now in a position to set up a spade winner that will take care of your club loser.

So, take the ♠K with your ♠A and then draw trump until all outstanding trumps have been extracted (at most four rounds). Then play the ♠J. The opponents will have no choice but to take this trick, because if they don't, they will hand you the contract. Whoever wins this spade trick (almost certainly West) has to give you back the lead. Now you can discard dummy's losing club (the ♣10) on the established spades winner (the ♠10) in your hand.

Here is the full deal.

<p>♠ K Q 9 7 4 ♥ 9 5 3 ♦ Q 8 7 5 ♣ 7</p>		<p>♠ J 6 ♥ K Q J 10 8 7 ♦ 6 4 ♣ A K 10</p> <p>♠ 8 3 ♥ 4 ♦ 10 3 2 ♣ Q J 9 8 6 5 4</p> <p>♠ A 10 5 2 ♥ A 6 2 ♦ A K J 9 ♣ 3 2</p>
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As you can see, West has only one club. If you had chosen the obvious line of play (the one we looked at first), West would have ruffed your ♣K and then cashed a winning spade, putting you down. A 1-7 split is rare, but it happens about 3% of the time. Here's a tip: you should always choose the 100% line of play.

The Language of Bridge

"The English like to sprinkle their conversation and writing with French expressions: they think the inclusion of a *bon mot* or two adds a certain *je ne sais quoi*. Of course, it can be overdone. To write, 'He exhibited his usual *savoir-faire* and *sang-froid* by eliminating clubs *en route* to a *coup de grâce* in spades' might be considered *de trop*.

"What about French phrases that apply to bridge? Here are a couple you should definitely avoid: *cri du coeur* is not a bid in hearts; and *force majeure* does not date back to the days when the French played strong twos in hearts and spades. Nor is *carte blanche* French for a Yarborough, although, confusingly, the Italians do say *mano bianco* (white hand) when they have a Yarborough. The Chinese do something similar, saying 'white skin'.

"Do the French have any interesting bridge expressions? Yes, they do. There is *en passant*, but that has come to us from chess. It happens (in bridge) when you play a card through a defender who has a winning trump. If he ruffs, you discard a loser and your last trump is promoted; if he doesn't ruff, then you make your otherwise-losing trump.

"When the French are in a doubled contract, they say *jouer batonné* (under the cosh?). Instead of our rather clumsy 'ruff with your natural trump trick', they say *couper avec son argent*. I also like *passe Blanche-Neige* (a Snow White pass) where you pass the opponents in a failing contract in the hope that partner will reopen with a double.

"Where an English player might accuse his (male) partner of hogging the contracts, a Frenchman would show his chauvinistic side and say, '*Tu joues en mixte?*'. I say chauvinistic, but maybe they are right. Maybe men do play more than their share of contracts when partnering women. We have a right to know. I will investigate and get back to you.

"I remember being surprised when I learned that the word 'finesse' was not borrowed from the French; they say *impasse* (as do the Germans, the Norwegians, and many others). What an inappropriate word to use, it sounds like a *cul de sac*. But their word for a 'ruffing finesse' is *expanse*. I like it.

"The most puzzling of French expressions is their phrase for a phantom sacrifice – *crème renversée*. My first thought was that this might be their equivalent of spilt milk, but no, the literal translation of *crème renversée* is cream caramel. I am tempted to follow the French on this one; the next time my partner makes an unsuccessful sacrifice I will describe it as a rhubarb crumble and him as a gooseberry fool."

(Excerpted from Bridge with a Twist by Simon Cochemé)



Coming Virtual Events

- Friday, December 17, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
 - Friday, December 17, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
 - Friday, December 17, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
 - Saturday, December 18, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
 - Sunday, December 19, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) \$5**
 - Monday, December 20, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$5**
 - Monday, December 20, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
 - Monday, December 20, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
 - Tuesday, December 21, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
 - Tuesday, December 21, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
 - Wednesday, December 22, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
 - Wednesday, December 22, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
 - Wednesday, December 22, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
 - Thursday, December 23, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
 - Thursday, December 23, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
 - Thursday, December 23, 6:30 pm, **19er game \$5**
 - Thursday, December 23, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) \$5**
- NO GAME ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25**

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 have lots of savoir-faire and sang-froid at our **club**.