



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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## ALERT – January 24, 2022

### 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.*

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	39.31	1	Suzanne Edwards	15.05	1	Joe Blake	7.84
2	Cindy Mahn	24.15	2	Lynda Burnett	13.55	2	Steven Allen	7.54
3	Edith Ferber	23.35	3	Jim Hardy	11.69	3	Brian Gaber	7.45
4	Robert Griffiths	21.25	3	Grant Roberts	11.69	4	Virginia Alviano	7.08
5	Margot Stockie	19.13	5	Roy Dandyk	10.54	5	Belinda Burt	7.08
6	Colin Harrington	17.67	6	Barbara Arthur	9.96	6	Rick Arthur	6.69
7	Moira Hollingsworth	16.55	7	Tony Verhoeven	9.55	7	Reinhold Kauk	6.44
8	Liz McDowell	15.24	8	Brian Kirkconnell	9.23	8	Martin Jones	6.10
9	Bruce Roberts	14.78	9	Robert Gilck	9.15	9	Louise Dawdy	5.97
10	David Wilson	14.27	10	Jim Dalgliesh	8.33	10	Marilyn Rootham	5.53
11	Sandy Graham	12.56	11	Kathy Russell	8.30	10	Lynn Campbell	5.53
12	Mike Peng	12.48	12	Joan Slover	8.06	12	Kim Wakeford	5.47
13	John Vandergrift	12.47	13	Kevin Latter	7.76	12	Gordon Hunter	4.25
14	Ted Boyd	12.41	14	ML Benjamins	6.28	13	Nancy Cattanach	5.29
15	Mary McClelland	11.81	15	Paul Latimer	7.21	14	Gordon Hunter	4.92
16	Stephen Young	11.61	16	Stephen Nantes	7.09	16	Jane Wilson	4.60
17	Tom Ramsay	11.11	17	Judy Beauchamp	6.82	17	Andy Martinek	4.57
18	Neil Jeffrey	10.01	18	Carolyn Baechler	6.45	18	Joan Lawson	4.52
19	Dianne Aves	9.37	19	ML Benjamins	6.28	19	Sue McDonald	4.50
20	Peggy Pearson	8.24	20	Shelley Metcalfe	6.15	20	Linda Rush	3.98
21	Susan Lawton	8.11	21	Cheryl White	6.10	21	Molly Worden	3.69
22	David Longstaff	7.60	23	Nanci Phelan	6.04	22	J. Lewis Corbin	3.66
23	Neil Coburn	6.98	23	Brenda Semple	5.80	23	Carol Robinson	3.66
24	Steve Carpenter	6.72	24	Sue Moses	5.80	23	Trent Robinson	3.66
25	William Christian	6.60	25	Lissa Lowes	5.60	25	Elinor Girouard	3.49



## A Warm Welcome to

*the following new club members.*

- **Beth Jewkes**
- **Jay Michela**
- **Jim Weir**

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

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## Sheila Charters

*Contributed by Louise Dawdy*

This week we are highlighting new member Sheila Charters.

For those GRBC members who have been around for a while, they may remember Sheila's father, Al Charters, an avid bridge player and charter member (☺) of our club. Al made efforts to teach Sheila bridge as a teenager but, as she wasn't the best student, she found it quite confusing, and so they gave up.

In the years since then, Al would periodically suggest to Sheila that she take up bridge, but her life always seemed too busy. When Sheila's Manulife job was made redundant toward the end of 2018 and she opted for early retirement, she found that she had run out of excuses and enrolled in Beginner 1 and 2 with Raina King in January 2019. At first, she found it both confusing and challenging, but by the end she felt that she had enough basic knowledge to try out the bridge labs. And the rest, as they say, is history. Although Al has since passed, Sheila was able to share the news of her first partial MPs with him.

Sheila currently works part-time as an actuary for Deloitte's and belongs to a weekly knitting group (favourite current project is knitting shawls). Sheila is also on the board of directors at Parents for Community Living (PCL). PCL provides group living, supported independent living, employment, and day supports for children, youth, and adults living with developmental disabilities in Waterloo Region.

In terms of advice, Sheila recalls her father saying that "you have to play at least three times a week if you want to improve". Before the pandemic, Sheila was able to find the time, but at the moment she can manage only two games a week. Post pandemic, it's the in-person get togethers that Sheila is most looking forward to.

She is also very much looking forward to holding her great-niece (born in the fall of 2019) again (she hasn't held her since Christmas 2019). Another great-nephew was born in December 2021, and another is due in April 2022. Sheila looks forward to catching up on all the hugging and spoiling that she and they have all missed out on!

Welcome, Sheila!

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## Number Rules!

*Contributed by Liz McDowell*

*The concepts in today's column, like last week's column about the Rule of 15, are meant to be guidelines. If you have questions about today's rule, please email [Liz](#) and she may put a follow-up blurb in the following week's Alert.*

**The Rule of 20** is a concept attributed to Marty Bergen and is used in first- or second-seat – but not third- or fourth-seat. This rule combines high card points (HCP) with distributional points. How does it work?

You add your HCP to the number of cards you hold in your two longest suits. If the total is 20 or more, you should open the bidding.

### Open this hand.

♠ 108

♥ K10973            10 HCP + 5 hearts + 5 clubs = 20 (open 1♥)

♦ 6

♣ AK865

### Do not open this hand.

♠ AQ9

♥ A1063            11 HCP + 4 hearts + 3 of any other suit = 18 (pass)

♦ J102

♣ 754

Using this rule depends on the following factors.

1. Vulnerability (be more careful if you're vulnerable)
2. Do not count singleton honours
3. Location of honours in the two longest suits (should have two quick tricks)

#### To determine quick tricks

AK = 2

AQ = 1½

A = 1

KQ = 1

Kx = ½

Would you open this hand in first or second seat?

♠ 6

♥ AQ965

♦ A10965

♣ 42

Answer: **Yes!** 10 HCP + 5 hearts + 5 Diamonds = 20 and 2½ quick tricks.

Opener should bid 1♥

Would you open this hand in first or second seat?

♠ Q

♥ QJ

♦ Q6543

♣ QJ643

Answer: **No!** Only 8 HCP (cannot count the singleton queen of spades) +5 diamonds + 5 clubs = 18 and no quick tricks. Opener should pass.

Finally, if you are going to use this rule, please bear in mind that hand evaluation is very important.

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# TIME YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSONS!

For more information and to register for our online lessons for advancing players, click [here](#). Some of the timelines are short – so don't delay – register right away!!



## Hand Evaluation (Suit Contracts)

This workshop will demonstrate that all point counts are not equal, especially in suit contracts. Adding up your high-card points when you pick up your hand is just the start. First, you have to establish whether they are good high-card points or bad high-card points. Furthermore, your hand often gets better (or worse) as the bidding progresses.

The participants in this workshop will play 12 suit-contract hands where they are challenged to bid to the right level.

Regular partners may find it beneficial to attend this workshop as a pair.

Level: **Intermediate**

Instructor: Malkin Howes

Date: Saturday, January 22, 9:30 am - noon

Mode: ONLINE

Current Enrollment: 13

Fee: \$20 for members/ \$25 for non-members

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## Responding to Invitational Bids

This workshop emphasizes the differences between suit contracts and no trump contracts when it comes to using point count. It will build on the concepts taught in the hand evaluation workshop – when to upgrade and when to downgrade your hand, based on your hand's composition and information gleaned from the subsequent bidding. It is thus highly recommended that both workshops be taken as a unit.

The participants will play up to 16 boards (depending on time) that involve an invitational bidding sequence, with the last bidder making the decision about whether or not to go to game.

Then the hand will be played out and the correctness of that decision analyzed.

Regular partners may find it beneficial to attend this workshop as a pair.

Level: **Intermediate**

Instructor: Malkin Howes

Date: Saturday, January 29, 9:30 am - noon

Mode: ONLINE

Current Enrollment: 13

Fee: \$20 for members/ \$25 for non-members

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## The Basics of Bridge Defence

This course presents all the basic concepts of good defensive play. It is intended for players of all levels who have not yet taken a defensive course.

The course focuses on five aspects of defence: opening leads; third seat play; signals; second seat play; and discards. Each lesson covers one aspect of defence for both no trump and suit contracts, and includes playing hands to enhance understanding. Specific topics include Rule of 11 on no trump leads; when to cover an honour; when to play high in second seat; when to play low in third seat; splitting honours; count, attitude, and suit preference signals; and defensive strategies (for example, active versus passive, cutting declarers' communications, and forcing defence). Lesson hand-outs and hand records will be provided.

Although not required for the course, a companion textbook is recommended (*Eddie Kantar Teaches Modern Bridge Defence*, which may be purchased from Amazon: new \$29.95, used from \$12.16)

The Basics of Bridge Defence is designed as a complete five-week course, and students are encouraged to take all five lessons. Nevertheless, it will be possible to take individual lessons on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Level: Beginner/Novice/Intermediate

Mode: ONLINE

Instructor: Stephen Carpenter

Current Enrolment: 10

Course Cost: \$75 for members, \$85 for non-members

Cost for an Individual Lesson: \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members

Dates: Wednesday mornings 9:30 am - noon, February 2, 9, 16, 23, and March 2

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### Recorded Lessons

- 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.
- Jack Cole recorded his novice workshop on **Playing in our Online Games**, and it is available for \$10.

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

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*A lady in my class can remember only by rhymes. These are her favourites.*

1. When the dummy is to your right, lead the weakest suit in sight.
2. When the dummy is to your left, lead through heft.
3. Don't be cute, lead partner's suit.
4. The lead of top of three small is worst of all.
5. The one who knows, goes.
6. You will lose face if you underlead an ace.

Courtesy of [Eddie Kantar](#)

We	They
20	
50	
100	
200	
30	
70	120
240	
60	

## Scoring

Most people start by playing bridge socially using rubber bridge scoring. When they graduate to playing duplicate bridge at clubs, the scoring method is called matchpoint scoring. And when people start playing in tournament team games, the scoring method is called IMPs. Each scoring method rewards different playing strategies.

- For example, in rubber bridge games you sometimes underbid because you already have a score below the line. This would be disastrous at clubs and tournaments.
- For example, at the club you pull in your bidding horns somewhat when you're vulnerable, while in tournament team games being vulnerable should encourage you to shoot for the moon.
- For example, in rubber bridge and club games, you should often double your opponents for penalty, but penalty doubles are generally viewed as unnecessarily risky for tournament team games.

In other words, scoring matters.

This workshop will discuss how our game is scored - and show you how a knowledge of the scoring can/should improve your bidding and play (and results). This workshop will teach the principles of scoring of individual hands, leading to playing around the kitchen table, through duplicate bridge at the club, and culminating with Swiss team events at tournaments. Attention will be given to vulnerability, doubles, and some simple strategies to improve your scores. Several hands will be examined to illustrate the lessons.

Date: Tuesday, February 15, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm



Level: **Novice**

Instructor: Jack Cole

Mode: ONLINE

Current Enrollment: 3

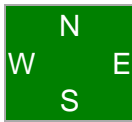
Fee: \$20 for members/ \$25 for non-members

My friend told me she would not eat beef tongue cause it came out of a cows mouth, so I gave her an egg.





**FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS****Talking to Robots***Contributed by Robert Griffiths*

<b>Board 16</b>					
West Deals	♠ 5 3				
E-W Vul	♥ Q J 2				
	♦ Q J 10 9 2				
	♣ J 7 3				
					
♠ Q 9 2				♠ A 10 8 7 6 4	
♥ A K 9 7 6				♥ 8 5 4	
♦ 3				♦ 8	
♣ K Q 10 2				♣ A 8 6	
	♠ K J				
	♥ 10 3				
	♦ A K 7 6 5 4				
	♣ 9 5 4				
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♦	Dbl		
4 ♥	Dbl	All pass			

Is a 3-level double penalty take out or other? Easy question, simple answer: it depends. If the auction were to go 1♣-P-3♣ and the 3♣ bid was reported as pre-emptive or weak, a double from either defender would be for take out. If the auction went 1♠-P-3♦ and the 3♦ bid was reported to be a Bergen raise promising four spades and limit raise values, then the double would normally be to show a strong diamond holding, suggesting that a diamond contract might be a worthwhile sacrifice.

This hand was from a BBO club game. I was West and opened 1♥. My LHO (who happened to be named Robot, filling in for a missing human player) passed. My partner bid 3♦. We play this bid as a mini-splinter showing heart support with zero or one diamond(s). "Hmmm", I thought, "N/S hold 11 or 12 diamonds between them. I wonder if they'll try to sacrifice." South doubled. Of course, he's doubling I thought - he has a big bag full of diamonds.

Then I read the small print of his alerted bid. It said "Take-out double, 16+ total points". But this alert of the human's bid was provided by the robot, not the human. The bids are explained by the robot as the robot sees them. Robot's reading of our alerts is not functional. He does not know that the 3♦ bid was artificial and his alert of East's bid said that robot was going to bid as though East held spades and clubs and a very good hand.

Robot seems to follow the simple rule that a double by an unbid hand at the 3-level is a strong take-out double.

I didn't want N/S to find their huge diamond fit, so I jumped to 4♥, taking away their room. Robot doubled this, his explanation saying "10+ HCP" and this was passed out. Seems that his HCP counting was quite creative.

There were some scary moments in the play. I was afraid that robot's double included four hearts to the QJ but, with the friendly split, 4♥ came home with one loser each in diamonds, hearts, and spades.

Our score for making 4♥ doubled was +790. Good, but not quite as good as the pairs that defended 5♦ doubled - which easily went down four for +800.

South was a bit put off by the 'misunderstanding' he had had with Robot. Put off until he noticed that their score would have been worse if they had found the sacrifice that South had been trying to find.

👉 **Communicating with the robots can be very tricky.**

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## When Canadians Get Bored....







# Dear David

## Imagination

Far too many players look at a new hand, count their meager collection of high-card points and devolve into daydreaming mode, only rousing themselves to contribute their obligatory passes. Even though you may not have a traditionally good hand, circumstances will frequently turn weak hands into gold.

	<b>N</b> North ♠ J8 ♥ QJ6532 ♦ 6 ♣ Q432	<b>W</b> <b>N</b> <b>E</b> <b>S</b> 2♣   P   2♦   P 3♦   P   4NT   P 5♣   P   6♦   P P   P
	<b>W</b> West ♠ 2 ♥ AK10 ♦ AKJ104 ♣ AKJ8	<b>E</b> East ♠ AQ9763 ♥ 8 ♦ 9732 ♣ 106
	<b>S</b> South ♠ K1054 ♥ 974 ♦ Q85 ♣ 975	6♦ E      NS: 0 EW: 0

I was West, playing with Dave Longstaff. 2♦ showed some values and was game-forcing. After I bid 3♦, many would bid their spades. But those who had the foresight to realize that we already had a good fit, would raise my diamond bid.

Dave saw four-card support, potential ruffing values in two different suits, and a great side suit. Once he found out I had four keycards, Dave jumped to 6♦ and made it with careful play.

Many would lose interest once their partner made it clear that spades was not an option. Staying alive to the possibilities when you hold a weak hand will enhance your results.

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

#56

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



♠ A 9 7 5  
 ♥ K 8 3  
 ♦ A 10 8  
 ♣ A 9 3

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 N
Db1 <sup>1</sup>	2♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All pass			

1. Single-suited
2. 5+ spades

West led the ♦K, and I took my ♦A, East following suit. At Trick 2, I led my ♠5 toward dummy's ♠K, and both West and East followed with small spades. At Trick 3, dummy's ♠J was covered by East's ♠Q and I took the trick with my ♠A. West, unsurprisingly, showed out of spades, discarding a diamond. At Trick 4, I banged down my ♣A, which surprisingly captured West's ♣Q. What now?

**SOLUTION**

You have two inevitable club losers and one inevitable spade loser, plus it looks as if you may have to lose a heart. Is there a way to avoid this heart loser? Perhaps you can develop dummy's fourth club and pitch your heart loser on it? Of course, you're missing three club honours, the ♣KQJ, but the good news is that West has already played the ♣Q.

So why did West play the ♣Q on the first round of clubs? Could it be a singleton? Well, we already know that West started with a singleton spade. Surely if West had started with two singletons, he would have bid differently - showing a two-suited hand, for example, or bidding more. So, a reasonable assumption is that he has a doubleton in clubs, either ♣KQ or ♣QJ. So, at Trick 5, lead the ♣3 (not the ♣9!) and see what happens. Here is the full deal.

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

As you can see, your surmise about West's clubs was correct. Here is the situation after five rounds.

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

On lead at Trick 6, West's best defence is to lead a heart: let's say he leads a small heart. You take your ♥K and waste no time leading the ♣9 at Trick 7. East takes his ♣J but now Dummy's ♣10 is good. The best East can do is cash his high spade, the ♠10, at Trick 8 and return a heart at Trick 9. You take this trick with dummy's ♥A and cash dummy's ♣10, pitching your heart loser on it. Cross-ruff.

This line of play also works if West holds the ♣KQJ or if there is 3-3 split in clubs with any high-card distribution.



**Shirley Stoesser**

Shirley Stoesser, a former member of our club, passed away on January 14 at St. Mary's Hospital. A celebration will take place at a later date. Please click [here](#) for more information.

**From Dave Leitch**

I played with Shirley as her partner, and I found her to be a very nice lady – despite some mobility issues and other personal setbacks, like having her beloved winter place in the Florida Keys wiped out by a hurricane. Shirley was always easy-going and very forgiving, no matter how horribly her bridge partner messed up. I hope she gets dealt some better hands in heaven.

**From Paul White**

Shirley and I were bridge buddies at the old adult recreation centre and then at Gage Street with GRBC. Shirley was quiet in some ways, but always upbeat and ready to play bridge, especially three no trump. Shirley overcame adversity after a terrible motorcycle accident, and I think bridge was something she looked forward to and something that kept her mind on the right track. We who knew Shirley will miss her bright spirit!

## 19er and 49er Games

Our club instituted these two games for beginning players as a way of easing them into club play. Unfortunately, both games are poorly attended and even sometimes don't run. We realize that small games are not as much fun as big games – but if all of our newer players were to come out and play in these games, they would become big games.

- **If you have fewer than 50 master points, please consider coming out for this coming Monday afternoon's 49er game, starting at 12:30 pm (January 24).**
- **And if you have fewer than 20 master points, please consider coming out for this coming Thursday night's 19er game, starting at 6:30 pm (January 27).** Last night there were FIVE tables, so it's growing. Please help it grow some more.

The game directors are always Margot or Ted. Both know you're new and will bend over backwards to help you out. And if you need a partner, please contact [Cheryl Kip](#).

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## Silver Linings Week

There is part of a special game week left in January.

- **January 17 – 23: Silver Linings Week (2x regular club points, 100% silver, fees \$7)**

## Coming Virtual Events

- Friday, January 21, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$7 (double silver points)**
- Friday, January 21, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$7 (double silver points)**
- Friday, January 21, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7 (double silver points)**
- Saturday, January 22, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$7 (double silver points)**
- Sunday, January 23, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) \$7 (double silver points)**
- Monday, January 24, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$5**
- Monday, January 24, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Monday, January 24, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, January 25, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, January 25, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, January 26, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, January 26, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, January 26, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, January 27, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, January 27, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, January 27, 6:30 pm, **19er game \$5**
- Thursday, January 27, 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 will miss Shirley Stoesser at our **club**.