



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

[Website](#)
[Facebook Page](#)

ALERT – February 7, 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 January.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	27.92	1	Suzanne Edwards	10.94	1	Brian Gaber	6.00
2	Edith Ferber	19.00	2	Grant Roberts	10.88	2	Marilyn Rootham	5.59
3	Robert Griffiths	16.47	3	Jim Hardy	9.92	3	Lynn Campbell	5.59
4	Margot Stockie	16.33	4	Brian Kirkconnell	8.95	4	J. Lewis Corbin	5.29
5	David Wilson	15.65	5	Lissa Lowes	8.45	5	Louise Dawdy	5.25
6	Cindy Mahn	15.63	6	Lori Cole	8.05	6	Andy Martinek	5.09
7	Mike Peng	13.27	7	Judy Beauchamp	7.72	7	Rick Arthur	4.86
8	Moira Hollingsworth	10.57	8	Isabel Hetherington	7.64	8	Ginny Scott	4.81
9	Mary McClelland	10.32	9	Brenda Semple	7.36	9	Joan Lawson	4.41
10	Stephen Young	10.28	10	Kathy Russell	7.28	10	Barb Neibert	4.14
11	Neil Jeffrey	10.07	11	Barbara Arthur	7.12	10	Anita Hanson	4.14
12	Sandy Graham	8.38	12	Jim Dalgliesh	7.00	12	Joani Horvath	4.03
13	John Vandergrift	8.37	12	Sue Moses	7.00	13	Julia Prendiville	3.95
14	Colin Harrington	8.20	14	Kevin Latter	6.49	14	Virginia Alviano	3.80
15	Susan Lawton	8.16	15	Jack Cole	6.48	15	Elinor Girouard	3.75
16	Tom Ramsay	7.30	16	Paul Latimer	6.28	16	Kim Wakeford	3.65
17	Liz McDowell	7.06	17	Nanci Phelan	6.25	17	Martin Jones	3.64
18	Bruce Roberts	7.02	18	Lynda Burnett	5.94	18	Charlene Schell	3.62
19	Wayne Schroeder	6.99	19	Sue Peterson	5.72	19	Christine Kelly	3.50
20	Neil Coburn	6.65	20	Joan Slover	5.32	20	Sue McDonald	3.47
21	Diane Jamieson	6.12	21	Carolyn Baechler	5.17	21	Cassandra Zehr	3.46
22	Adrian Record	6.05	22	Beverly Hitchman	4.82	22	Richard Prendiville	3.44
23	Ted Boyd	5.86	23	Tony Verhoeven	4.72	23	Linda Rush	3.41
24	Malkin Howes	5.83	24	Susan Marshall	4.58	24	Reinhold Kauk	3.37
25	Janet Howell	5.79	24	Janet Roberts	4.58	25	Carol Robinson	3.27

Congratulations!

to the following local player who has advanced to the next ACBL level
Club Master

- **Debbie Miethig**

And a warm welcome to the following new ACBL members

- **Candice Grimm**
- **Beth Jewkes**
- **Wally Marner**
- **Jay Michela**

And an especially warm welcome to the following new club member

- **Blake Hull**

Our Generation in Pictures



823
K474n

AUTHOR Kersh, Gerald

TITLE Night and the city.

Date Due	Borrower's Name	Date Returned
QC 10'46	Charles Daniel	11/15/45
016'46	J. G. Mitchell	
F37'47	A. Bradley	
AcB'47	Leona R. [unclear]	11-16-47
M15'48	C. Johnson	12-20-48
F4'48	B. Barker	01-15-48
Ac22'49 F	Patricia P. [unclear]	06-20-1949
SE 20'4		

(Form 16)



The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Contributed by Ted Boyd

The Canadian Team Championships for players with fewer than 5,000 points concluded in mid-January. Although our team had sat first at the Christmas break after five matches, we lost our final two matches and failed to qualify for the play-offs.

In our sixth match, we lost 27 IMPs in the first three boards and eventually lost the match by 27 IMPs.

Board 2, was a lesson in hand evaluation:

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

At our table, East passed and I bid 1NT, 2♥ (alerted as hearts and a minor), 2NT (relay to 3♣), pass, 3♣ (forced), pass, 3♥ (spades with a heart stopper), pass, 4♠. Later reflection made me realize that with my 15 points and a handful of jacks, 3♠ is enough and partner can decide what to bid. With a handful of queens, he will likely pass. 3NT has better chances than 4♠ in the play, but I misguessed West's minor and tried to endplay him in clubs, for down two. The other table bid 1♠, 2♥, 2♠, all pass. The opening bid of 1♠ is better for this hand, downgrading it because of the bunch of jacks.

Board 18 (vulnerable against not) gave us solace as the opponents made their only serious mistake.

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

East passed, and I (South) bid 1♦, 2♣, 2♠, 4♣, 4♠, pass, pass, 5♣, pass, pass, double. West misguessed the clubs and rose with the ace, losing a club, diamond, heart, and spade for down two, -300.

At the other table, East (Peter) passed. South passed (?), West (Adam) passed, and fourth-seat North bid 1♠(?). Double, redouble, 3♣, all pass. Making for 130 and 10 IMPs to us.

The seventh match was closer, and we were ahead by 16 IMPs after ten boards. The opponents had diamond trouble, bidding to 6♦ on Board 5 on this hand, after a 1NT opening by East.

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

Our teammates, Peter and Adam, rested in 5♦ after a 1NT, 5♦ auction. The ♦K was offside and the ♠A meant the opponents were down one, sending 10 IMPs our way.

Board 10

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

At our table, East dealt and passed, after which the bidding went pass, 1♠, 2♥, pass, 3♥, double, pass, 4♦ all pass - which rolled home with an overtrick after a heart lead.

At our teammates' table, Peter opened the East hand with 2♦ and Adam bid 2♠ (forcing), 3♥, pass, 4♥, 5♦, which also made = 10 IMPs our way.

And what would you bid on Board 12, vulnerable?

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

Sitting South I opened 2NT, followed by 3♣ (Puppet Stayman), 3♦ (one or both four-card majors), 4♦ (I have both majors), 4♠, pass (after long thought). Of course, Bruce was worried about the texture of the spade suit and the minors. In later discussion, he said he felt 5♥ would have been a better bid, showing interest in slam but fear of the minors and that there shouldn't be any trouble making 5♠ if I didn't like my hand. With these cards, I would convert to 6♠. In the other room, the bidding was identical except that over 4♠ North bid 6♠ - no muss, no fuss, no bother. Twelve IMPs away.

Playing teams from across Canada in a fun tournament was an enjoyable way to meet people and play competitive bridge. I recommend it for all our members.

Number Rules!

Contributed by Liz McDowell

This week Liz looks at the Rule of 11. If you have questions about this rule (or previous rules), please email [Liz](#), and she may put a follow-up blurb in a subsequent Alert.

Rule of 11

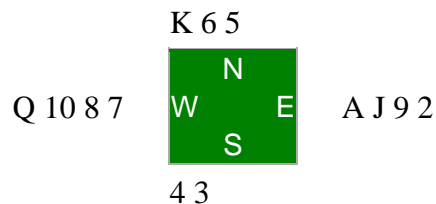
This rule can be used for defence or declarer play at Trick 1. It is most commonly used in a no trump contract as a way to work out how many cards are outstanding that are higher than the opening lead. When partner leads his fourth-best card in a suit, use the Rule of 11 to work out how many cards are higher. Just be sure to remember that this rule is based on the assumption that partner did lead his fourth-best.

How does the rule of 11 work?

1. Subtract the number of the card partner led from 11. As soon as your partner makes his opening lead, you can see 50% of the cards (the dummy and yours), so then you know how many cards are higher than the one your partner led. You know from the lead that partner has at least three cards higher than the original one.
2. Subtract the number of cards in dummy that are higher than the opening lead.
3. Subtract the number of cards in your hand that are higher than the card led.

The final number equals how many higher cards declarer holds in that suit.

Example



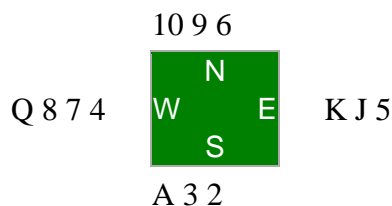
West leads the 7 ($11-7=4$)

East now knows there are four cards higher than the 7 in the other three hands.

East can see all four of these cards, one on the board (the king) and three in his own hand (AJ9). Therefore, the declarer has no card higher than the 7.

East should play his 2 on the opening trick in the full knowledge that South can't beat his partner's 7. When the 7 holds the trick, West should continue with his 8. Whatever South now plays from the dummy, he will lose all of the tricks in the suit (unless he is playing in a suit contract and can trump in at some point).

Let's look at another example.



West leads the 4 ($11-4=7$)

You (East) now know there are seven cards higher than the 4 in the other three hands. Dummy has three higher cards (the 10, 9, and 6). You have three higher cards (the king, jack, and 5). Therefore, declarer has only one card higher than the 4. With this knowledge, you know to play your jack or king. If Declarer follows with his 2, you next lead your remaining honour – which Declarer will likely duck again – and now you lead your 5, setting up a later trick for your partner.

TIME YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSONS!

There are only two online workshops scheduled at present (although it is possible to take individual lessons in Stephen Carpenter's defence course).

We would like more people to sign up for Jack Cole's online scoring workshop (see below), both because we need eight registrants for this workshop to go ahead and also because we want our newer players to learn and get better.

For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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.

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: 6

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



Bidding Big Hands

Most of us have a love-hate relationship with big hands. They're fun and exciting – but they're at the same time kind of like the Chinese word for "crisis" – part opportunity and part danger.

This workshop will give you the tools you need to bid your big hands correctly. You will learn (or reinforce your knowledge of) when to open two clubs, reverse, ask for keycards, jump bid and, most importantly, pass. Up to 12 hands will be played, depending on time.

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

Date: **Monday**, February 21, 9:30 am - noon

Level: **Intermediate**

Instructor: Malkin Howes

Mode: ONLINE

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

FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS



Timing is Everything - Sometimes

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Board 12	♠ A 5 4	
South Deals	♥ 7 5 2	
Both Vul	♦ Q J 3 2	
	♣ A K 3	
♠ 10 9 8 6		♠ K Q 7 3
♥ 9 6 3		♥ 8
♦ A 10 7		♦ K 9 6 5
♣ Q 7 4		♣ J 10 9 2
		♠ J 2
		♥ A K Q J 10 4
		♦ 8 4
		♣ 8 6 5

South plays in a 4♥ contract with the lead of the ♠10. He can count four possible losers: one spade, two diamonds, and one club. South should see that the strategy of this hand will involve a race.

South needs to lead diamonds towards the queen/jack in dummy twice before the defenders can lead clubs twice. For this to succeed, West needs to have at least one of the top two diamond honours.

If South wins the race, his club loser can be pitched on a high diamond before the bad guys can take their club trick.

Along the way, the timing has to be carefully managed. South has to win the opening lead with dummy's ace. If he ducks and the defenders switch to clubs, the race will be lost and four losers will be unavoidable.

But declarer has to be careful because the only entries to his hand are in the trump suit.

So South wins Dummy's ♠A, draws just two rounds of trumps, then leads a diamond towards the board. East can win his ♦K, but South has the timing now to win a club shift in dummy and cross to his hand by leading dummy's last heart. Now he can lead another diamond towards dummy, setting up the ♦Q as a parking spot for his third club.

In summary, to make his contract, South

- Needs to win the first spade lead;
- Must find at least one of the diamond honours with West; and
- Has to delay drawing the last trump because he needs an entry to his hand to lead the second diamond towards the board.



Sometimes contracts involve a race.



Dear David

“Right-Siding” @ NT

The reason most partnerships play transfers is so that the big hand can become declarer and the opening leader has to lead into the strong hand. The same principle applies when it seems as if the hand belongs in NT but you want partner to be declarer so that the lead will come “up” to his stoppers.



<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> D 16 </div>	N North ♠ A73 ♥ KQ6 ♦ Q1083 ♣ Q87	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	1♣	P	1♦	P	1NT	2♣	2NT	P	P	P				
	W	N	E	S																	
P	1♣	P	1♦																		
P	1NT	2♣	2NT																		
P	P	P																			
<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>West</th> </tr> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>1094</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>A10954</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>9765</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>	W	West	♠	1094	♥	A10954	♦	9765	♣	2	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>E</th> <th>East</th> </tr> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>KQJ5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>J</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>KJ10965</td> </tr> </table>	E	East	♠	KQJ5	♥	83	♦	J	♣	KJ10965
W	West																				
♠	1094																				
♥	A10954																				
♦	9765																				
♣	2																				
E	East																				
♠	KQJ5																				
♥	83																				
♦	J																				
♣	KJ10965																				
	S South ♠ 862 ♥ J72 ♦ AK42 ♣ A43	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 2NT N NS: 0 EW: 0 </div>																			

This hand is illustrative of the type of hand I am talking about. South has 3343 distribution (no ruffing values for a suit contract), terrible major-suit holdings, and no secondary cards (10s, 9s, 8s) that might take tricks. In my system, 1♦ promises five+ diamonds and 1♣ shows two+ clubs and it is forcing (not necessarily strong) for one round. The 1♦ response is forcing because it could be many things: <6 HCP, 6+ with diamonds, or waiting. Opener will often bypass a four-card major because the 1♦ response usually denies a four-card major. Partner dutifully bids 1NT (yay!) and now the question is “What now?” Usually, an opener vs an opener means game to me. Even though I would have opened this hand in first seat, the blandness of my hand caused me to only invite my partner, who was known to hold 12-14 HCP. Partner rejected my 2NT invitation with his bland 13, and exactly eight tricks were made for 75% of the matchpoints.

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

#57

♠ 3
 ♥ Q 4
 ♦ K Q 10 9 7 6
 ♣ J 8 7 5



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

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

My partner and I got to 3NT with only 22 HCP! The dummy's long diamonds are a redeeming feature, but will they be enough?

West led the ♠2, whereupon East rose with his ♠A and proceeded to cash his ♠K and ♠Q, West following to all three tricks and dummy sloughing two clubs. East then exited with a spade, I took this fourth trick with my ♠J, while West discarded a heart and I threw another club from dummy. At Trick 5, I cashed the ♦A and both opponents followed. I continued with the ♦5, the ♦J showed up from West, and dummy's ♦K took the trick. East followed suit. I continued with the ♦Q at Trick 7, East following again. I discarded the ♣4 and West discarded a club as well. What now?

SOLUTION

Here we are after seven tricks.

♠ —
 ♥ Q 4
 ♦ 10 9 7
 ♣ J

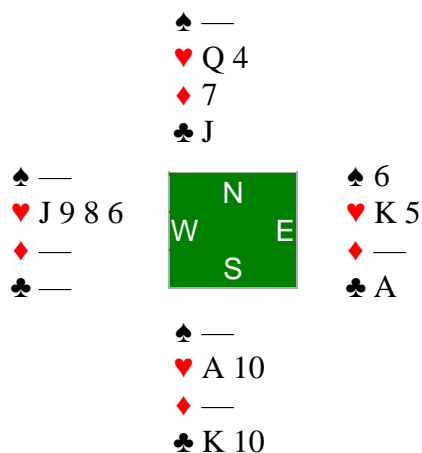


♠ —
 ♥ A 10 7
 ♦ —
 ♣ K Q 10

So far, I had taken four tricks (the ♠J and the ♦AKQ) and needed five more tricks to make my contract. I had four more sure tricks - the ♥A and three diamonds. The problem was how to get that ninth trick. Technically, there were two tricks available in the club suit, but that would work only when West held the ♣A (if East had it, he would cash his winning spade right away to defeat the contract). Could West hold the ♣A?

The bidding showed that East started with a good hand and must have all the remaining key honour cards (♣A and ♥K). Plan A is thus very unlikely to work. What about Plan B (a squeeze)?

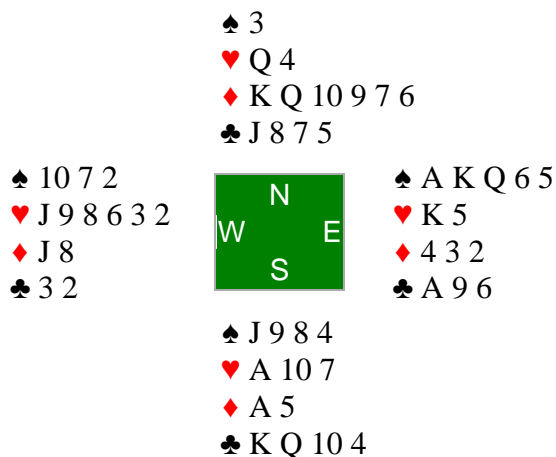
If you keep on playing your winning diamonds and carefully watch East's discards, you can eventually force him to throw away a winning card. When you play dummy's ♦10 and ♦9, East can comfortably discard two little clubs, while you throw away your ♥7 and your ♣Q (hang on to the ♣10 in case you need to enter the dummy later). Here is the four-card ending.



But when you play dummy's ♦7 at Trick 10, East is between a rock and a hard place.

- If East discards the ♠6 (best defence), you can lead dummy's ♣J forcing East to take his ♣A and then lead a heart to you.
- If East discards the ♥5, your hearts are good (you throw a club from your hand).

Here is the full hand.



A squeeze is normally a sign of affection, but in bridge it has a whole other meaning.

Coming Virtual Events

- Friday, February 4, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Friday, February 4, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Friday, February 4, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Saturday, February 5, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Sunday, February 6, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) \$5**
- Monday, February 7, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$5**
- Monday, February 7, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Monday, February 7, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, February 8, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, February 8, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, February 9, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, February 9, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, February 9, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, February 10, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, February 10, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, February 10, 6:30 pm, **19er game \$5**
- Thursday, February 10, 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 love to squeeze our opponents at our **club**.