



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

[Website](#)

ALERT – October 17, 2022

Top 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 September.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	28.45	1	Suzanne Edwards	9.62	1	Steven Allen	5.60
2	Cindy Mahn	17.18	2	John Kip	9.32	2	Joe Blake	5.49
3	Mike Peng	14.65	3	Brian Kirkconnell	8.19	3	Anita Hanson	4.07
4	Margot Stockie	14.31	4	Cheryl Kip	7.40	4	Barb Neibert	3.82
5	Edith Ferber	13.06	5	Stephen Nantes	7.29	5	Nancy Cattanach	3.65
6	Stephen Young	12.85	6	Roy Dandyk	5.92	6	Belinda Burt	2.82
7	Neil Jeffrey	11.07	7	Ted Kennedy	5.16	7	Valirie Binkle	2.66
8	David Longstaff	10.60	8	Shelley Metcalfe	5.12	8	Rick Arthur	2.58
9	Liz McDowell	9.88	9	Cheryl White	4.90	9	Virginia Alviano	2.54
10	Kathy Russell	7.71	10	Nanci Phelan	4.83	10	Reinhold Kauk	2.39
11	Colin Harrington	6.85	11	Andy Wilson	4.78	11	Noah Pace	2.35
12	Neil Coburn	6.76	12	David Dennis	4.65	12	Sue McDonald	2.30
13	Steve Carpenter	6.70	13	Bev Hitchman	4.64	13	Elinor Girouard	2.25
14	Ted Boyd	6.60	14	Robert Walker	4.52	14	Denise Ontonovich	2.03
15	Bonnie Kains	6.28	15	Lynda Burnett	4.18	15	Shirley Clarke	2.02
16	Dianne Aves	6.09	16	Joan Slover	4.05	16	Brian Gaber	1.93
17	Dave Quarrie	6.00	17	ML Benjamins	3.98	17	Debbie Miethig	1.92
18	Robert Griffiths	5.44	18	Sue Peterson	3.88	18	Joani Horvath	1.85
19	Malkin Howes	5.26	19	Jim Dalgliesh	3.81	19	Audrey Cook	1.79
20	Adrian Record	5.15	29	Nancy Millward	3.80	20	J J Girard	1.60
21	Sandy Graham	5.01	21	Renate Boucher	3.39	21	Louise Dawdy	1.58
22	Mary McClelland	3.50	22	William Sherman	3.34	22	Ginny Scott	1.56
23	Wayne Jordan	3.31	23	Jean White	3.21	23	MJ Hartleib	1.49
24	John Hanemaayer	3.20	24	Dave Embury	3.18	23	Elaine Doyle	1.49
25	Pat McMillan	2.78	25	Ron Lawrence	3.03	25	Jane Wilson	1.40

ALL GAMES ARE ONLINE UNLESS DESIGNATED **FACE-TO-FACE.**

Coming Events

- Friday, October 14, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) **FACE TO FACE****
- Friday, October 14, 7:00 pm, **Open game (24 boards) (\$8 members/\$10 non-members) **FACE TO FACE****
- Saturday, October 15, **11th Annual Ray Millie Memorial Tournament, \$25 members/ \$30 non-members **FACE TO FACE AT THE GUELPH BRIDGE CLUB****
- ~~Saturday, October 15, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5 CANCELLED**~~
- Sunday, October 16, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, October 17, 9:00 am, **Bridge Lab (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) **FACE TO FACE****
- Monday, October 17, 10:00 am, **Intermediate Bridge Lab (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members **FACE TO FACE****
- Monday, October 17, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, October 17, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, October 17, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Tuesday, October 18, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Tuesday, October 18, 1:00 pm, **Open game (24-28 boards) (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) **FACE TO FACE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP GAME – EXTRA MASTERPOINTS****
- Wednesday, October 19, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Wednesday, October 19, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Wednesday, October 12, 7:00 pm, **Open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, October 20, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, October 20, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, October 20, 6:30 pm, **Beginners 1 Course **FACE TO FACE****
- Thursday, October 20, 6:30 pm, **19er game (18 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, October 20, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**

Ray Millie Memorial Tournament

Our members are encouraged to play in the [Ray Millie Memorial Tournament](#) at the Guelph Bridge Club on Saturday. There is still room for a few more pairs. Please note that our regular Saturday afternoon 199er game has been cancelled that day.

Club Championship Game

Please note that the Tuesday afternoon open game will be a club championship game – extra masterpoints, no extra charge.

North American Pairs

Please mark your calendars for the North American Pairs qualifying games on Saturday, November 5. This year, they will be held at our club. In order to participate, you need to have already qualified (click [here](#) to check – scroll down to Unit 249). More details to follow.

Adjusting to the World of Hybrid Bridge

Contributed by Lissa Lowes

At the time when COVID hit and changed our world, I was a very happy bridge player, playing once a week at my club. If I wanted to play more than that, I needed to drive to another town, the nearest being almost an hour away. I didn't get around to doing that, as I was okay with the way things were.

I had played on BBO several years earlier but stopped because I thought there was too much rude behaviour. I also didn't like playing with strangers. Now I found out that the ACBL and BBO had joined forces to develop "virtual" clubs, that is your club but on-line. This worked perfectly for me since I knew the people I was playing with. So, I joined GRBC, gained some wonderful partners, and started playing at least four times a week and in several different clubs. I finally started taking on-line lessons. It was great.

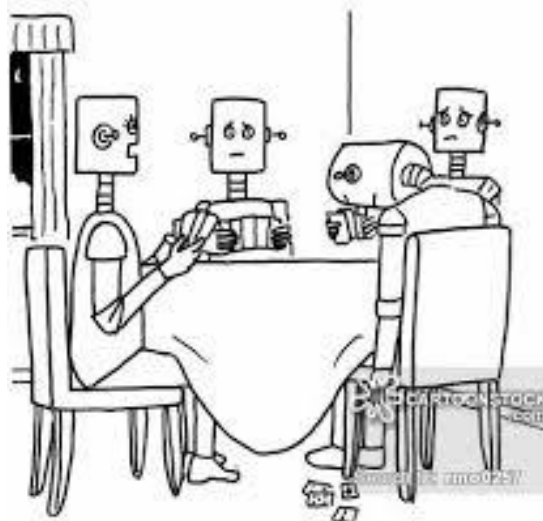
When F2F bridge started becoming a reality again, I thought very hard about what I wanted to do. I am the manager of the local Parry Sound club so I also needed to make a decision about whether or not I would reopen the club. After opening, closing, and reopening, we are back to our face-to-face game, and all the members are super happy about it. Masking is optional and I still mask.

At first, I found that I was extremely distracted by having real people around me. It didn't seem as if I could concentrate as well as I could when I played alone at home. Gradually, I got used to it again and began appreciating the chat, and updates about people and, of course, the ability to sort out a misunderstanding at the table right away.

For me, a mix of the two approaches is working well. It truly is astounding to be able to go on holiday and, when you need your bridge fix, you can either go the local club (always welcoming) and play face to face or play in your own club with your own partner on-line.

Bridge is having a difficult time rebounding from COVID. The bridge club in Sudbury has closed down its virtual club entirely due to lack of support from players. I just read the City of Palms Bridge Club's newsletter (Fort Myers). They are soldiering on in the wake of Hurricane Ian with the resulting power and Internet outages. At the same time, they are planning a move to a new location very soon. So as an incentive for players to play, they are offering a \$1.00 discount at a F2F game if you have played in one of their BBO games. I thought this was a very creative way to encourage both kinds of bridge.

Our bridge clubs are resilient and doing such a good job! I feel lucky to have options and encourage everyone to work out what suits them best, and get back at it! See you at the table!



"He's not much fun in the evenings -- he's solar powered."



The Answer Lady

Contributed by Susan Lawton

As the “The Answer Lady”, I have been responding to questions from “newer” players over the past several weeks. A request has been made to share those players’ questions and my responses in the Alert, essentially a column for the beginner player!

If you have a question, please write to me at suzan2420@yahoo.ca. You don’t need to send me the actual deal – just tell me the game date and board number and I can take care of the rest.

**JUST A REMINDER TO OUR NEWER PLAYERS:
THE ANSWER LADY WILL BE GOING “ON VACATION” SOON –
UNLESS SHE RECEIVES MORE MATERIAL FOR HER COLUMN.
SO SEND IN THOSE QUESTIONS PRONTO!**

Question

As beginning bridge players, I along with three friends have been playing bridge games online and then reviewing the hands after. We struggled with the bidding on this hand and wondered if we could perhaps have handled it in a different way. Other opponents played it in 5♣, making five. Some pairs in our direction bid only 1NT or 2NT and made extra tricks. We ended up in 3NT and went down one along with other players sitting in our direction. We were concerned that no trump wasn't attainable as we each had a singleton in our hands. Answer Lady, can you help us refine our bidding on this hand?

The screenshot shows a bridge hand interface with the following details:

- Board Number:** 12
- North (N) Hand:** ♠A1085, ♥J5, ♦Q73, ♣8652
- West (W) Hand:** ♠KQJ6, ♥7, ♦A864, ♣AKQ9
- East (E) Hand:** ♠3, ♥K9432, ♦KJ10, ♣J1043
- South (S) Hand:** ♠9742, ♥AQ1086, ♦952, ♣7
- Bidding:**

	W	N	E	S
1♣		Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠		Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT		Pass	Pass	Pass
- Score:** 0 (West), 0 (East)
- Contract:** 3NT East

Answer

Thank you to all of the members of your group for sharing this interesting hand.

I believe you ended up in the right place, namely 3NT. As has been discussed earlier in previous columns: who wants to be playing in a minor when a no trump contract is a good possibility? So, try for 3NT rather than 5♣, it is doable. That said, I think West (the big hand) should be declaring this hand, not East as was the case here. 3NT is much easier to make when it is played by West since West can control the play and use her strength to finesse tricks and make that contract. West can also hide her singleton heart.

West has a big hand with 19 points and needs to find a way to show that big hand. One way to do that after 1♣-1♥-? is to skip over the spades by not bidding 1♠, that's right "hide" that spade suit. Instead, West should bid 2NT after East bids 1♥. That 2NT bid, a jump in no trump, shows that 18/19-point hand. West is not denying a four-card spade suit; rather she is showing the point count in her hand. Once East knows that her partner has 18-19 points, she can comfortably bid 3NT with eight HCP.

East will know that all those non-heart (if West had good cards in hearts, she would be supporting that suit) points in West's hand make it almost certain that some of her points will be in spades. Spades is not the "danger" suit on this hand; rather it is that heart suit – but the opponents are very unlikely to lead hearts given East's heart bid. Instead, you will likely get a spade lead - which will help you considerably.

In playing the hand, you would win the first trick with a high spade, then lead toward dummy's diamonds and finesse the ♦Q by playing the ♦J or ♦10. When the finesse wins, you can come back to your hand with a club and finesse again. Now you can play the ♦K felling the ♦Q. This line of play would afford you four diamond tricks, four club tricks, and at least one spade trick for a minimum of nine tricks.

At some point, the opponents may realize that West is avoiding the heart suit and begin attacking hearts. As a result, you may end up making more than nine tricks depending on how the play unfolds.

In general, the player with the bigger hand should be declaring the contract. In fact, that is why conventions like negative doubles and Smolen and Jacoby transfers were invented. On average, right-siding the contract is worth one additional trick.



120-Day Free ACBL Guest Membership

Contributed by Sue Peterson, Marketing Lead

The [American Contract Bridge League](#) is offering a 120-day free guest membership to new members. Why join?

- Digital access to the *Bridge Bulletin* – I just got my copy of the *Bulletin* this week. It offers lots of tips for novices to experts and introduces you to the world-wide impact of bridge.
- Ability to earn up to 20 masterpoints – When you have an ACBL number and you play in a sanctioned game at the club or BBO, you start to accumulate masterpoints. It's a fun way to see how you are progressing in the game.
- Special pricing of US\$29 for the first year of regular membership if you are a guest member first (regular price US\$49).

What's the downside of something "free"? Nothing.... It's truly another way to get more involved with our game.

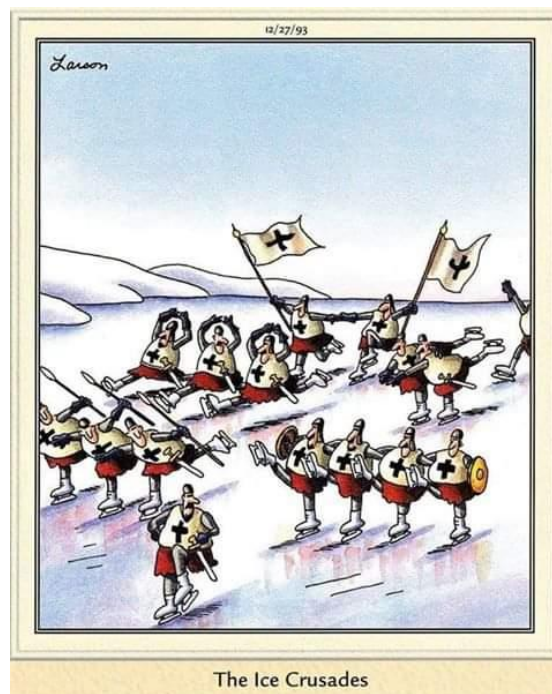


The Bean Counter

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer

My parents named me Steven, but I go by the name Steve. I am your new Club Treasurer. My background is in computers/software, so I may have preferred Geek. Since June, Bev Pope (ex-Treasurer) has been tutoring me in the science/art of accounting. She says I've graduated and that now I'm someone who counts beans. My life is complete, she says.

I've learned a lot and want to share it with you. So, over the next months I intend to explain what's going on here financially by ALERTing interesting (?) topics. For example, next week is "How much \$ does the GRBC make on a game event?". Got questions? I can be reached at GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com ... send chili beans.



The Ice Crusades

TIME YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSONS!

Our fall lesson schedule has now been posted to our website. Click [here](#) to view the Learn Bridge in a Day session and the beginners' lessons and [here](#) to view the ongoing learning lessons. Registration has been enabled.

- Our free Playing in our F2F Games workshop on Saturday, October 29 currently has six registrants. It will go ahead, but there is clearly room for more.
- The November 2, 16, 23, 30, & December 7 Play of the Hand (Suits) course currently has no registrants. This is a very valuable course for newer players. We need eight to go ahead.



Bidding for Intermediate Players, Part 2

This course carries on the key points of Standard American bidding.

Topics covered will include bidding big hands (2♣ openings, Blackwood and 1430), Jacoby 2NT, and splinter bids.

In addition, several systems for interfering with opponents' 1NT opening bids will be discussed. Each class will conclude with some hands illustrating the lesson's topics, for practice in bidding (and play).

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

Instructor: Neil Jeffrey

Level: **Intermediate**

Dates: Mondays, 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm, November 7, 14, & 21

Mode: IN PERSON AT THE CLUB

Fee: \$55 for members/ \$65 for non-members (includes supplementary handouts)

Current Enrollment: 1 (we need six registrants to go ahead with this course)

Click [here](#) to register.

We have tried to offer lessons for everyone at every level. However, if you don't see what you need, please email [Malkin](#), our teaching lead, and she will see what she can do for you.

Our Lessons Are Fun!

If you are hesitating about taking lessons because you think they will be too hard or too dreary, think again. Our lessons are joyful events with terrific camaraderie and mutual helping, and many good friendships and even partnerships are forged therein. Just ask any of our students!



Desperation

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

North Deals None Vul	♠ Q 9 5 4 2 ♥ 7 4 2 ♦ K 7 ♣ 9 3 2		♠ — ♥ J 10 3 ♦ A J 10 9 8 6 4 ♣ A Q 4																
♠ A K 7 6 3 ♥ A K Q 6 ♦ 2 ♣ K J 5	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J 10 8 ♥ 9 8 5 ♦ Q 5 3 ♣ 10 8 7 6								
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6N	All pass																		

After North passed, I was East, opening 1♦. South passed, and my partner quietly bid 1♠. I bid 2♦ and partner, not so quietly this time, bid 6NT. North led a small heart and West didn't like what he saw. There were 10 easy tricks but the only hope of making two more lay in the diamond suit. There are two chances of making additional diamond tricks that don't involve losing two tricks in the suit. One is very unlikely, the other somewhat unlikely. If there were a singleton king or queen in either opponent's hand, then the slam could be made simply by playing the ♦A, giddily watching the lonely honour fall and then driving out the other top diamond. This is the very unlikely possibility. A better chance involves leading the ♦2 from the West hand and finessing the jack, losing the trick to South's queen or king. Then win any return, cross to dummy with a club and play the ♦A. Now you can giddily watch the fall of the other honour and claim your 12 tricks. To make the slam by this line of play, you need to find one of: a singleton king or queen in the North hand; a doubleton king or queen in the North hand; or the doubleton king and queen in the South hand. The odds aren't with you, but it's the only way that you can legitimately make 12 tricks. My partner (of course) did find this line and suffered only a little as the opponents razzed him about his luck. In fact, every pair in the field landed in 6NT and most of them made their slam. Our +1440 was only slightly above average.

🧐 **When you have little or no chance, pick the little chance.**

FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

Blackwood is NOT Always the Answer, Part 2

A previous article suggested that asking for aces when you have a void suit is usually a bad idea. If you need two aces in any of your three suits to make a slam, the odds suggest that one of those aces is in your void suit. For example, you hold ♠AKQJ109876 ♥K2 ♦32 and no clubs. If you ask for aces and partner has two, you are a winner when he has ♥A♦A and a loser when he has ♥A♠A or ♦A♠A. As you can see, you will be unhappy two out of three times.

The hand below is also unsuitable for an ace-asking bid, even though the big hand does not have a void.

W	N	E	S	E East
		1♥	Pass	♠A2
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	♥KJ984
4♦	Pass			♦876
				♣A108

At matchpoints, bypassing 3NT to get to 5♦ is usually a bad idea. Partner must be looking for controls in order to get to a slam. Even though my hand is a minimum opening bid, I think I owe him a 4♣ cuebid.

W	N	E	S	E East
		1♥	Pass	♠A2
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	♥KJ984
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass	♦876
5♦	Pass			♣A108

I dutifully cuebid my ♠A and partner signed off. What gives? Does he really want me to bid again with this junk? I can't imagine staying out of slam when I have two aces and a king, so I am going to bid 6♦ - or am I? In for a penny, in for a pound.

W	N	E	S	E East
		1♥	Pass	♠A2
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	♥KJ984
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass	♦876
5♦	Pass	6♣	Pass	♣A108

If I (correctly) assume that partner wanted me to cuebid in order to get to a diamond slam, maybe the cuebid he was looking for was in clubs, not in spades. I hope he doesn't think I have a huge hand and flies into a grand slam!!!

W West	W	N	E	S	E East
♠KQ10	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	♠A2
♥A	4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass	♥KJ984
♦AKJ5432	5♦	Pass	6♣	Pass	♦876
♣97	7♦	Pass	Pass	Pass	♣A108

Partner drew trumps and threw his club loser on the ♥K - making seven! As you can see, if partner asks for aces (or keycards) and I show one ace, he won't know which black ace I hold. When I cuebid 4♠, it still didn't help with his club problem. If I lazily bid 6♦, he will still be unclear about the ♣A. One pair was in 6♦ after asking for aces, one was in 6NT, one was in 5♦, one was in 3NT, and two were in 3♦!!! All made 13 tricks.

My partner was Mike Peng. Well done, Miiiiiiiiiiiiike.

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

#94

♠ 1086	
♥ QJ95	
♦ A732	
♣ K8	
♠ J754	
	♥ 873
	♦ 4
	♣ A9632

West	North	East	South
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All pass		

I was sitting South defending 3NT. I chose to lead the ♣3, which went to dummy's ♣8, my partner's ♣10, and declarer's ♣J. Declarer then cashed the ♦KQ, throwing two small diamonds from dummy, while my partner followed suit both times and I discarded a heart on the second diamond lead. Declarer then led the ♥10 from his hand and played a small heart from dummy. My partner took this trick with his ♥K and returned the ♣5 at Trick 5. Declarer followed with a small club. What would you do now if you were in my shoes?

SOLUTION

There is a saying in bridge that aces are meant to take kings but it is also true that when you play bridge, you're supposed to think. If you play the ♣A on this trick and continue clubs, it's true that you will set up the suit - but you will never gain the lead again. You may be thinking that you might get in later on with the ♠J, but declarer will know all about your remaining good clubs and make sure you don't get in with it. Or you may be thinking that your partner started with four clubs and will be able to lead them to you when he gets in the next time - but your partner's lead of the ♣5 shows that he has at most one more club (if he had had three clubs left at that point, he would have led back his smallest club, the ♣4).

So, you should duck the club lead at Trick 5. Furthermore, you should duck it with the ♣2! This tells your partner that you started with five clubs (because the ♣2 is smaller than your fourth-best opening lead, the ♣3). As a result, your partner will guard his third club with his life. Can you expect that your partner will get back in? Of course, he will! In terms of **The Rule of 15 for 3NT** that I introduced in a previous column, you and your partner have approximately 15 HCP between you. You have five HCP, meaning that your partner started with around 10 HCP. So far, you have seen only the ♥K from your partner. With all those points still lurking in his hand, your partner is bound to get in sooner or later.

Here is the complete deal.

	♠ Q9	
	♥ AK42	
	♦ 10865	
	♣ 1054	
♠ 1086		♠ AK32
♥ QJ95		♥ 106
♦ A732		♦ KQJ9
♣ K8		♣ QJ7
	♠ J754	
	♥ 873	
	♦ 4	
	♣ A9632	

As you can see, declarer has no choice but to seek his ninth trick in the heart suit. Your partner will get in with the ♥A and practically break his wrist getting his carefully-preserved ♣4 on the table. Five tricks to the good guys (♥AK, ♣A96)!
Patience is a virtue.

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 [Joan Slover](#), our membership lead.

We have fun in **spades**.
 We play with all our **hearts**.
 We treat our members like **diamonds**.
 We can help you improve at our **club**.

