



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

[Website](#)

ALERT – November 14, 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 October.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	23.40	1	ML Benjamins	6.08	1	Nancy Cattanach	4.25
2	Cindy Mahn	18.03	2	Brian Kirkconnell	5.92	2	Louise Dawdy	3.56
3	Mike Peng	14.91	3	Bev Hitchman	5.91	3	Chris Beck	3.45
4	Margot Stockie	13.08	4	Stephen Nantes	5.73	4	Molly Worden	2.85
5	Liz McDowell	10.17	5	Suzanne Edwards	5.64	5	Debbie Miethig	2.75
6	Stephen Young	10.15	6	Kevin Latter	5.40	6	MJ Hartleib	2.66
7	David Longstaff	9.13	7	David Dennis	5.05	7	Elaine Doyle	2.56
8	Edith Ferber	8.11	8	Douglass Grant	4.97	8	Jane Wilson	2.04
9	Moira Hollingsworth	7.62	9	Martin Jones	4.88	9	Ellen Libertini	2.01
10	Malkin Howes	7.35	10	Sue Peterson	4.82	9	Susan Murray	2.01
11	Kathy Russell	6.75	11	Lissa Lowes	4.62	11	Sandra Willoughby	1.95
12	Jen V-Woodward	6.29	12	Roy Dandyk	4.34	11	Ruth Veder	1.95
13	Steve Carpenter	6.28	13	Andy Martinek	4.26	13	Audrey Cook	1.94
14	Dianne Aves	6.23	14	Karen Whitworth	4.08	14	Carol Robinson	1.79
15	Colin Harrington	6.19	14	Joe Blake	4.08	14	Trent Robinson	1.79
16	Wayne Schroeder	5.85	14	Joan Slover	4.08	16	Valirie Binkle	1.62
17	John Vandergrift	5.67	17	Elinor Girouard	4.06	17	Belinda Burt	1.56
18	Robert Griffiths	5.55	18	Reinhold Kauk	4.04	18	Philip Fiess	1.35
19	Sharon King	5.53	19	John Kip	3.98	19	Donna McKay	1.28
20	Bonnie Kains	5.50	20	Robert Gilck	3.92	20	Joan Hartviksen	1.27
21	Diane Jamieson	4.77	21	Cheryl White	3.61	21	Richard Wehrle	1.22
22	Bruce Roberts	4.64	22	Anita Hanson	3.48	21	Don O'Bright	1.22
23	Ronald Sayle	4.51	22	Cheryl Kip	3.48	23	Joan Stroud	1.14
23	Paul Stillman	4.51	24	Don Beck	3.45	24	Ruthanne Erwin	1.12
25	Adrian Record	4.47	25	Jim Dalglish	3.44	25	Carol Gerber	1.11

ALL GAMES ARE ONLINE UNLESS DESIGNATED **F2F**.

Coming Events

- Tuesday, November 8 – Sunday, November 13, [Niagara Regional](#)
 - Friday, November 11, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) F2F UPGRADED CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP**
 - ~~Friday, November 11, 7:00 pm, Open game (24 boards) (\$8 members/\$10 non-members) F2F CANCELLED~~
 - Saturday, November 12, 10:30 am and 3:00 pm, **District 2 NAP Finals (online)**
 - Saturday, November 12, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Sunday, November 13, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) BBO\$5**
 - **Monday, November 14, 9:00 am, Bridge Lab (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) F2F**
 - Monday, November 14, 10:00 am, **Intermediate Bridge Lab (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) F2F**
 - Monday, November 14, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Monday, November 14, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Monday, November 14, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Tuesday, November 15, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Tuesday, November 15, 1:00 pm, **Open game (24-28 boards) (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) F2F**
 - Wednesday, November 16, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Wednesday, November 16, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Wednesday, November 16, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Thursday, November 17, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Thursday, November 17, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$8 members/ \$10 non-members F2F**
 - Thursday, November 17, 6:30 pm, **Beginners 1 Course F2F**
 - Thursday, November 17, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
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Upgraded Club Championship Games

The ACBL has authorized all face-to-face games from November 7 through November 20 to be upgraded club championship games. Extra masterpoints at no extra cost.

Mode Change for Thursday Afternoon Open Game

On November 17, the Thursday afternoon open game will change to a face-to-face game. **There will be no online open game on Thursdays from now on. Come on down to the club!!!!!!!!!!!!**



Congratulations.....

to the following local players who placed in last Saturday's District 2 NAP Finals

Flight A

- **David Longstaff and David Baker**, 7th, 6.4 gold
- **Dianne Aves and Moira Hollingsworth**, 9th, 5.12 gold

Flight B

- **Neil Coburn and Neil Jeffrey**, 6th, 5.14 gold

Flight C

- **Barbara Arthur and Suzanne Edwards**, 2nd, 9 gold
- **Tong Chen and Jake Liu**, 3rd, 6.75 gold

Click [here](#) for the full report.

and to the following local players who were in the money during the early part of the Niagara Regional Tournament last week

- **Patricia Pietrek** and Wally Smith, 2/3 in A, Tuesday 99er Pairs and Wednesday Morning 99er Pairs
- **Andy Wilson** and William Sherman, 1st in A, Tuesday Gold Rush Pairs
- **Lynda Burnett and Dave Quarrie**, 8th in A, Wednesday Gold Rush Pairs
- **David Baker, David Longstaff, Edith Ferber, and Diane Bourdeau**, 2nd in A, Wednesday Swiss
- **Bruce Roberts and William Christian**, 5th in A, Wednesday St. Catharines Open Pairs
- Dwight Bender, **David Longstaff, David Baker, Ewoud Van Goch**, 1st in A, Thursday Swiss
- **Tom Ramsay, Stephen Young, Cindy Mahn, Liz McDowell**, 2nd in A, Thursday Swiss
- **Diane Bourdeau, Edith Ferber, David Wilson, Ross Driedger**, 3/4 in A, Thursday Swiss
- **Moira Hollingsworth, Dianne Aves, Margot Stockie, Thea Davis**, 3/4 in A, Thursday Swiss

GRBC TEAM LEAGUE - TOP DIVISION STANDINGS							
Team	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	AVG
Woods	15	14	8	■		37	12.33
Fung	■	16	8			24	12.00
Baker	12	6	12		■	30	10.00
Peng	8	■	12			20	10.00
Vandergrift	5	4	■			9	4.50

Contributed by Allen Pengelly

GRBC has been running a team league on Sunday afternoons where the schedule allows. So far, three of the planned six weeks have run. The chart shows the current standings (20 VP format).

The league will continue in a round robin format until November 27. On December 4 there will be a playoff in a format to be determined once the number of teams in contention is known.



The Bean Counter

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer

Harmonized Sales Tax. It seems like HST has been around for a very long time, but it came into effect only 12¼ years ago in Ontario.

As a business, we are obligated to collect HST on every dollar we receive (except for donations). Fortunately for you, we build HST into the prices we charge. For example,

- Your \$8 F2F game is actually \$7.08 + HST
- Your \$75 lesson is actually \$66.37 + HST
- Your \$5US BBO game is actually \$4.42US + HST
- Your \$70 annual membership fee is actually \$61.95 + HST

Just like you, we have to pay HST on almost everything we spend money on: rent, insurance, Internet, cleaning, decks of cards, coffee, toilet paper, Pianola, ACBL game fees, etc.

But unlike you, the HST that we pay is offset by the HST that we collect. The net result is the amount that we pay to the CRA every year. Last year, it was \$8000.

Marketing and IT volunteer needed

Contributed by Sue Peterson

If you have an interest or previous background in marketing or IT, you may be just the person we need! A couple of hours a month would be an amazing help to the Marketing Committee. To keep growing our players and members, we need to get the word out to the community about the wonderful game of bridge.

Interested? Email Sue at petersons@sympatico.ca.

P.S. Did I mention this committee is lots of fun!



Never rob from the rich while they are out walking their dogs.



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

My partner and I played this hand in a Monday evening GRBC 499 game. We ended up with a very poor score, when we could do nothing after I opened in the North position with 12 points. Several other players in the North seat didn’t open and seemed to benefit when the hand was passed out. That doesn’t seem completely fair that we would be punished for opening and others who passed were rewarded.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> D 24 </div>	N North	W N E S P 1♦ P 1♠ 2♥ P P 3♦ P P 3♥ 4♦ P P P	
	♠ K63 ♥ A97 ♦ Q982 ♣ QJ6	E East	♠ J104 ♥ K32 ♦ 1065 ♣ A954
W West	S South	♠ 9875 ♥ 106 ♦ AK7 ♣ K1073	4♦ N NS: 0 EW: 0
♠ AQ2 ♥ QJ854 ♦ J43 ♣ 82			

Answer

Thank you, Monday evening 499 player for sharing this hand. I can see how you might be discouraged with the bidding on this hand. How is it possible that those players in North who passed with 12 HCP seemed to benefit from that pass, especially when you went to all that trouble of opening and in turn were penalized for that decision? But opening the bidding on a board is no guarantee of a good result, since your score totally depends on what happens at the other tables.

I think a number of issues related to the bidding by you and your partner contributed to your poor score. Let's look at where the problems occurred. You weren't the only ones. At your table, your opening bid of 1♦ and your partner's response of 1♠ opened the door for the opponents to jump into the auction, bidding hearts. If you hadn't opened, East/West would never have found that heart fit. This in turn pushed you up into problem territory. Several others made the same error. Some E/W opponents laid down and let the pairs in your direction make 1NT. Other N/S pairs without the 2♥ bid by West ended up in 2NT and 3NT with even poorer results. The pair that reached 1NT without any interference from West was rewarded along with those pairs, and yes there were several, who passed the hand out.

Surprisingly, there is nothing in the bridge guidelines that say all 12-point hands should be opened and you should not feel any pressure to open a hand like this one for a number of reasons.

- It's a flat hand, with a 4333 shape. Some experts even describe that distribution as the worst in bridge. You have no long suits to establish and no short suits to ruff if you do find a fit. Whether playing in a suit contract or no trump, your points are worth less than you think.
- You have no rebid other than 1NT after partner bids spades, and that's only if West does not bid hearts.
- You do not have the Rule of 20, that is HCP plus the number of cards in your two longest suits.
- You have only limited quick tricks. Quick tricks are those cards that can immediately take tricks like an ace or a king-queen combination. This hand has only one and a half quick tricks. Caution should be observed with hands with fewer than two quick tricks.
- Your bid suit, in this case diamonds, isn't even that stellar headed by only the ♦Q.

That said, things then went off the rails when your partner sitting in South decided to raise your diamonds, not once but twice - remarkably forgetting that more length is required to raise a minor than the paltry three cards in South's hand. So, the next time you encounter a hand with 4333 distribution and only 12 points, take a moment and reflect on some of the points outlined above and try to anticipate what might go wrong. It's quite acceptable to pass.

Reference: Bridge with Bells and Whistles by Mary Ann Dufresne and Marion Ellingsen, 2011

You Should See Her Playing Bridge



TIME YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSONS!

- Our **Play of the Hand (Suits)** course has been cancelled due to low registration.
- The November 7, 14, & 21 **Intermediate Bidding, Part 2** course has four registrants and is a go. There is room for more... Click [here](#) for more information on these lessons and to register.
- Our November 17, 24, December 1, 8, and 15 **Beginners 2** lessons currently have eight registrants and will go ahead. This is the perfect course for rusty people who played years ago and would like an entrée to modern bridge. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

We are currently planning our 2023 Winter and Spring lesson schedule. If you would be interested in a particular workshop or course, please email [Malkin](#), our teaching lead, along with your preferred time slots and mode of delivery (in person or online).

Another way to indicate your learning needs is to fill out our online survey [here](#) if you haven't already. It would be very helpful to us and greatly appreciated if you would do this.

Recorded Lessons

We have available digital versions of some of our past lessons: Opening Leads, Third-Seat Play, Killer Signals & Defensive Signals, Second Seat Play, Discards and Strategies (Stephen Carpenter); Convention Card (John Hanemaayer); and Playing in Our Online Games and Scoring Matters (Jack Cole). For the modest fee of \$10, any of these lessons can be yours.





A Presidential Hand

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Board 1		♠ A Q 8 5										
North Deals		♥ A K J 9 6 3										
None Vul		♦ Q 9 6										
		♣ —										
♠ K J 10 4	♠ 7	♥ —										
♥ 5 4 2	♦ A K J 8 7 5	♣ A K 8 7 5 4										
♦ 4	♠ 9 6 3 2											
♣ Q 10 9 6 2	♥ Q 10 8 7											
	♦ 10 3 2											
	♣ J 3											
	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S			
	N											
W		E										
	S											
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>									
	1♥	2N	Pass									
4♣	4♥	6♣	Pass									
Pass	?											

Playing in the pairs game at the recent London tournament, I came up against a pair I know well. I won't mention their names. I'll just call them the Presidents of our Local Bridge Clubs or PLBC's. I was North and liked my hand. I opened 1♥. PLBC East quickly bid 2NT, unusual for minors. My partner passed and PLBC West bid 4♣. This is not a constructive bid; West had a bunch of clubs and no interest in defending hearts.

I was not about to defend 4♣, so I tried 4♥. A double might have been a better bid, giving my partner the option of spades, but I did not want any doubles left in. In a nanosecond, PLBC East bid 6♣! This was passed back to me.

Most high-level bids are made with due consideration. When a competent opponent quickly and confidently bids a slam, they likely know what they are doing. This contract was going to be a success. It was passed back to me, and I felt like I was looking at a roulette wheel with just three bids on it: double, pass, and 6♥.

- First, I thought, "so many high cards, I must double".
- Then, "it was bid so confidently, I should pass".
- Then, "if they are making 6♣, I should sacrifice in 6♥. I could go down four doubled for -800 and still show a profit over their 920.

In the end, it seemed that I was neither sure enough of their success to try the sacrifice nor sure enough of their failure to double. So, I meekly passed. To top it all off, I led the ♥A, allowing East to take all 13 tricks. Only the lead of the ♠A would hold them to 12.

In spite of making the wrong bid and the wrong lead, we scored above-average on the hand. Almost half of the field played in 6♣ doubled, most making with an overtrick. Only one pair in the field failed to bid the slam and one N/S pair did find the 6♥ sacrifice.

Oddly, one partner in the pair that found the sacrifice was a former president of both of the aforementioned local bridge clubs, a past PLBC These guys are everywhere!



Don't play against PLBC's.

FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

Hiding Your Assets

Players often reveal their intentions by revealing to the opponents everything they have early in the play of the hand. This makes it easy for the defenders to get all their tricks. It is often necessary to hide your assets in order to give yourself a chance to fulfill a hopeless contract.

Player	Cards	Bidding
North	♠ QJ8532 ♥ AQ ♦ K10532 ♣	
West	♠ K96 ♥ 974 ♦ 9764 ♣ 652	1♠ Pass 2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass 3NT Pass Pass Pass
East	♠ A107 ♥ K652 ♦ A8 ♣ J1074	
South	♠ 4 ♥ J1083 ♦ QJ ♣ AKQ983	3NT South

Since North didn't rebid 2♥, there was no point in bidding anything but 3NT over 2♦. West leads the ♥9. The ♥Q will lose to the ♥K. You have three heart tricks and two diamond tricks, assuming they don't win either of the first two diamond leads. The ♣AKQ gets you to eight tricks, but there is no realistic chance for nine tricks. By the time you have displayed all your assets, they will take the ♠AK, ♥K, ♦A, and ♣J. Chicanery is your only chance.

East wins the ♥K at Trick 1 and leads back the ♥2.

- Hide #1: Play the ♥10 at Trick 2 in order to make East believe his partner has ♥9874. Your hope on the hand is to get three heart tricks, one diamond trick, and five club tricks. So, you win the second heart and lead a diamond to the queen.
- Hide #2: DO NOT let the opponents know you have the ♦J. Now you have your four red-suit winners and you need five club tricks. If you cash the three top clubs and give East the ♣J, he may see that it is time to lead spades. You know that even if clubs split, you have no entry to all your winners. Since your only chance to make this contract is for the opponents to make a mistake, go for it.
- Hide #3: Lead the ♣9! East may believe that there is no hurry to do anything special. This is where Hide #1 comes home to roost. East leads a third round of hearts and nine tricks come rolling home. Note that even if your opponents figure out what's going on, they can take only two spades, one heart, one diamond, and one club, so you are no worse off than when you started.

HIDE!



#98

♠ 874
♥ A75
♦ KJ6
♣ 9863



♠ AKJ32
♥ K92
♦ AQ95
♣ A

	West	North	East	South
				2♣
	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
	Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
	Pass	5♣*	Pass	6♠
	All pass			

* RKCB 1430 – one or four keycard(s)

I, South, was declaring a six spades contract. West led the ♥Q, which I took with dummy's ♥A, East following suit. What now?

SOLUTION

You need to make your plan based on the assumption that trumps will split 3-2, because if they split worse than that you are in big trouble and the play of the hand gets very complicated. So let's start by assuming that trumps will split 3-2 (a 68% chance).

Are you planning to finesse the ♠Q? Of course, if the finesse succeeds, you will easily make your contract. This is a 50% chance. But what if the finesse fails? If that happens, you stand to lose a heart in the fullness of time. (You may be thinking that if the finesse fails, you will be able to discard one of dummy's hearts on the fourth diamond and then ruff your hand's losing heart in the dummy. But this plan requires you to work on diamonds *before* drawing all of the trump, and so it's highly likely that sooner or later one of the opponents will be able to ruff or over-ruff one of your winning diamonds.)

There is a way, however, to increase your chances from 50% to 100%, given a 3-2 trump split. Let's see how.

Cash the ♠AK at Tricks 2 and 3. Given our assumption of a 3-2 trump split, both opponents will follow both times (they do today). Then stop drawing trumps and start running your good diamonds. There are three scenarios.

1. They leave you alone (no ruffs). In this case, you discard one of dummy's hearts on your fourth diamond. Then you cash your ♥K and ruff your hand's losing heart in dummy with dummy's last trump. Eventually you lose the ♠Q, making your contract.
2. An opponent ruffs your third winning diamond with the ♠Q. In this case, you win the return with either your ♥K or your ♣A, cash your good diamond discarding a heart, and then cash your ♥K if necessary and ruff your hand's heart loser in dummy, making your contract.
3. An opponent ruffs your fourth winning diamond. In this case, you discard a heart from dummy. You then win the return with the ♥K or the ♣A, cash your ♥K if necessary, and then ruff your hand's heart loser in dummy, making your contract.

Here is the complete hand.

	♠ 874	
	♥ A75	
	♦ KJ6	
	♣ 9863	
♠ Q95	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 106
♥ QJ10		♥ 8643
♦ 107		♦ 8432
♣ Q10752		♣ KJ4
	♠ AKJ32	
	♥ K92	
	♦ AQ95	
	♣ A	

For those who like math talk, so, as long as trumps are 3-2, you have a 100% chance of making your contract - no matter what the defenders do, no matter who holds the ♠Q.

If trumps are 5-0 (a 4% chance), you will almost certainly go down.

If trumps are 4-1 (a 28% chance), you will probably go down - unless you are very lucky or very skillful or both.

In other words, your chances of making this contract are 68% plus a few percentage points for luck and/or skill. Let's call it 72%.

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're running upgraded club championships at our **club**.