



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – December 28, 2020

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	56.28	1	Stephen Nantes	20.25	1	Suzanne Edwards	17.44
2	Robert Griffiths	41.39	2	Brian Kirkconnell	19.77	2	Barbara Arthur	15.46
3	Cindy Mahn	38.35	3	Sandy Graham	16.36	3	Shelley Metcalfe	13.56
4	Mike Peng	28.86	4	Brian Silva	14.64	4	John Kip	11.32
4	Margot Stockie	28.86	5	Kathy Russell	14.54	5	Mary Lynn Benjamins	9.42
6	Moira Hollingsworth	25.31	6	Cheryl Kip	13.01	6	Susan Kerrigan	8.51
7	Edith Ferber	23.75	7	Dave Leitch	12.83	7	Martin Jones	8.23
8	Colin Harrington	23.52	7	Janet Howell	12.83	8	Salvatore Pace	7.65
9	David Longstaff	22.56	9	Sue Voll	12.49	9	Andy Martinek	7.45
10	Stephen Young	20.72	10	Ron Lawrence	11.92	10	Renate Boucher	7.21
11	Adrian Record	20.32	11	Fred Young	11.69	11	Molly Worden	7.13
12	Liz McDowell	18.66	12	Kevin Latter	11.37	12	Christine Kelly	7.11
13	Malkin Howes	17.63	13	John Hanemaayer	10.96	13	Noah Pace	7.05
14	Tom Ramsay	17.56	14	Tony Verhoeven	10.17	14	Nanci Phelan	6.99
15	Bruce Roberts	17.13	15	Jim Dalgliesh	10.04	15	Connie Green	6.78
16	Ted Boyd	16.74	16	Sherry Benenati	9.68	16	Jim Fox	6.72
17	Steve Carpenter	16.70	17	Jim Veitch	9.54	17	Steven Allen	6.24
18	Dianne Aves	16.02	18	Patricia McLaughlin	8.93	17	Joe Blake	6.24
19	John Vandergrift	15.95	18	Patrick McLaughlin	8.93	19	Elinor Girouard	6.08
20	Diane Bourdeau	13.34	20	Karen Whitworth	8.86	20	Casey Baron	6.06
21	Mary McClelland	12.95	21	David Embury	8.78	21	Elisabeth Graham	5.68
22	David Wilson	11.74	21	Roy Dandyk	8.78	22	Marlene Dopko	5.09
23	Wayne Jordan	11.47	23	Paul Latimer	8.71	23	Joan Slover	5.00
24	Peggy Pearson	9.98	24	Jim Hardy	8.61	24	Susan McDonald	4.96
25	John Moser	9.61	25	Laurence Dean	8.48	25	Edward Murphy	4.96
25	Neil Jeffrey	9.61						



Dear David

Lucky Number 13

Most players habitually count their high-card points and use that number to determine how high they should compete. As you have seen many times, distribution and fit are more relevant in bidding a hand than the number of points you hold. Using your ability to count the opponent's distribution is *much* more important.

	W	N	E	S
				P
	P	1♠	X	P
	2♥	3♣	3NT	P
	4♥	P	P	P

W West	E East
♠ 965	♠ AQ2
♥ QJ732	♥ K4
♦ K1052	♦ AQ74
♣ 6	♣ A874

Your jobs on this hand are to draw trumps, pick up the diamond suit, and finesse in spades. North has shown at least five spades and four clubs. Your opponents have 15 high-card points between them, with North holding most if not all of them.

- Trick 1: ♣K A 5 6
- Trick 2: ♥K 5 2 A
- Trick 3: ♣Q 4 10 ♥3
- Trick 4: ♥Q 9 4 6
- Trick 5: ♥J 10 ♦4 8
- Trick 6: ♦2 ♠4 Q 3

Here are the cards that remain.

W West		E East
♠ 965	♠ 4	♠ AQ2
♥ QJ732	♥ 2 Q	♥ K4
♦ K1052	♦ 3	♦ AQ74
♣ 6		♣ A874

North's discard on the first diamond lead tells you everything. North had three hearts and 10 black cards. North would probably rebid 2♠ with six spades and four clubs. So, North started with five clubs and South had three. If you now ruff a club, only North can protect clubs and only North can protect spades. You finish running diamonds (finessing the 10 along the way) and here is the situation as you lead your last diamond.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">19</div> <div style="background-color: white; padding: 2px;">D</div> </div>	N North ♠ KJ1074 ♥ A109 ♦ ♣ KQJ92	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S				P	P	1♠	X	P	2♥	3♣	3NT	P	4♥	P	P	P
	W	N	E	S																		
			P																			
P	1♠	X	P																			
2♥	3♣	3NT	P																			
4♥	P	P	P																			
W West ♠ 965 ♥ QJ732 ♦ K1052 ♣ 6	<div style="border: 1px solid white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">♦ K</div>	E East ♠ AQ2 ♥ K4 ♦ AQ74 ♣ A874																				
	S South ♠ 83 ♥ 865 ♦ J9863 ♣ 1053	Select cards to play for all 4 players																				
		4♥ W NS: 1 EW: 8																				

If North throws a club, West throws the ♠2 from dummy, finesses the ♠Q, and claims. If, on the other hand, North throws a spade, West throws the club from dummy, finesses the ♠Q, and claims. North was "squeezed" out of protecting both black suits. Even if the ♠K was in the South hand, declarer would still get the ♠A at Trick 13 and make 4♥. Declarer did not need to know that he was performing a squeeze. The only requirement West needed was the ability to count to 13.





New Marketing Lead

We are delighted to announce that **Sue Peterson** is joining the club's management team as our new Marketing Lead. Other members of the committee are **Isabel Hetherington**, **Jake Liu** (Facebook page), and **Sandy Graham** (website).

The Marketing Committee is always looking for new ideas to promote the club. Everyone can help by forwarding this newsletter to friends and family – in particular promoting Learn Bridge in A Day on January 9, 2021. Check out all of our learning opportunities at www.grandriverbridgeclub.com/learning.

It is not necessary to be a member of the club to take our lessons.

Congratulations to our GRBC Team!

Contributed by Ted Boyd

In September, the Canadian Bridge Federation offered an Online Team League to its members to be played over the fall months. The thirty teams that entered from across Canada were sorted into three groups of ten teams to play a round robin of nine matches, winners to qualify for the quarter finals, semi finals, and finals. Local players Dave Baker, Diane Bourdeau, Edith Ferber, and Dave Longstaff entered and played nine matches against the cream of the Canadian bridge world. Last Sunday, they qualified for the quarter finals by winning their last match by 84 IMPs to 18 IMPs, which translates to a victory points blitz of 20 to 0. Congratulations to the team for their impressive accomplishment!

The following hand added 11 IMPs to their total when they found the grand slam.

W dlongstaff	W	N	E	S	E dbaker
♠AJ1032	3♣ Pass	3♦ Pass	3♥ Pass	3♠ Pass	♠KQ84
♥AK9	3♠ Pass	4NT Pass	4♥ Pass	4♠ Pass	♥J6
♦J8752	5♥ Pass	5NT Pass	5♠ Pass	5♥ Pass	♦AKQ4
♣	6♥ Pass	7♠ Pass	7♥ Pass	7♠ Pass	♣Q104

West

1S

3C (0 or 1 club)

3S (0 clubs)

5H (2 keycards)

6H (king of hearts)

East

2NT (3+ spades, 10+ points)

3D (tell me more)

4NT (Roman Keycard Blackwood)

5NT (we have all the keycards and the spade queen, tell me about your kings)

7S (barring a catastrophe, I think we have 13 tricks)

West drew three rounds of trump, ruffed a heart, and claimed. Our heroes won 11 imps on this hand because their opponents at the other table failed to diagnose the crucial club void.

We wish Diane, Edith, and the two Daves all the best in their match this Sunday.

Clawing Our Way Back to Par

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

I was South on this hand. It was our 47th board of the day (that's my excuse for bidding it so badly). In a somewhat convoluted auction, which you don't get to hear because it's my blurb, my partner learned that I had: an opening bid of sorts, a bunch of good clubs and four spades. East had overcalled in hearts. With all of this information, my partner bid 4NT, asking me for keycards in spades.

My answer was 5♣, promising one or four keycards, not enough. Perhaps not even enough for 5♠. At this point, partner had an inspiration. He passed 5♣! Clubs was 'my' suit - so I was going to have to play it. He later claimed that he pictured ruffing the hearts in his hand and giving me an excellent side suit to work with. But I know that he did it out of spite, making me play the hand to punish me for my bad bidding.

Board 23

South Deals

Both Vul

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

West, who had seen the auction, led a heart, won by East with the queen. East took his time leading to Trick 2 and while he was lost in thought, I sadly considered the Dummy. Clearly, we should be in 4♠ - there should be just one heart loser and either one or two spade losers. But here we are stuck in 5♣ with the same losers as in a spade contract. And even if we make 5♣, our score (+600) will be lower than all of the pairs in spades (+620 or +650).

East finally led to Trick 2 - he tried the ♥K. I don't think he heard my sigh of relief through the Internet but I couldn't be sure. Now, I don't want to go down in 5♣, but it's worth risking the contract to make six if I can, since 5♣ making six will give me the chance to tie the pairs who bid and made the normal contract of 4♠ (unless 11 tricks are there in spades - in which case it's hopeless).

After ruffing the heart at Trick 2, there's nothing left to try but to run all of the top diamonds and throw my spades away. I am risking my contract if either opponent has fewer than three diamonds, but it's a risk worth taking. Today, the bridge gods are smiling on the bad bidders--- both opponents follow to four diamond tricks. Now all of my spades are gone and I can ruff a spade to my hand and ruff my last heart on the board, leaving me with nothing but top trumps, making 12 tricks.

Bidding 5♣ and making six scored +620. We tied all of the pairs who played in the more sensible spade game with 61%. Bidding and making just 5♣ would have left us with 19%.

We weren't alone in looking for a slam. Of the 50 pairs in the game, seven went looking for a slam in spades and ended with minus scores. Three losers are unavoidable in spades (two spades and one heart). The slam-seekers scored well below 19%, as we would have done without my partner's excellent decision to pass my Blackwood response. Well thought out, partner!

And poor East could have earned himself an excellent score simply by cashing his ♠A at Trick 2. He didn't do it, likely because he was too hopeful of making two spade tricks with his ace and queen sitting over Dummy's king.

👉 As declarer, you should bear in mind what contract most declarers will be in.

Jake's Challenge

Last week, Jake Liu issued the following bidding challenge, and put the answer on our club's revamped Facebook page. For those of you who don't do Facebook, here is the challenge and its solution.

W	N	E	S
	P	1♣	2♥
X	P	?	

E	biansan
♠	K1072
♥	AK106
♦	K9
♣	Q83

QUESTION

The bidding has progressed as per the diagram (two hearts is a weak two). I was East and everyone was vulnerable. What do you think I should bid?

ANSWER

As East, I had lots of choices - for example, two spades, three spades, two no trump, or even three no trump or four spades. There is a good case to be made for all of these bids. But did it occur to you to consider passing?

Pass was the winning option, as it turned out. By passing my partner's take-out double, I converted it to a penalty double (as in, I don't think you can make two hearts) - and boy was I right! The result was down three, vulnerable, for 800 to the good guys.

This board was played 140 times, and only four Easts passed - meaning that we got most of the matchpoints!

Please note that it would have been possible to open my hand one no trump – but if I had the opponents might not have made the weak two bid and given me the chance to double.

If you click on the link below, you can review the actual hand and its play.

<https://tinyurl.com/yb75ardf>

This week, Jake has a new challenge for you.

♠ J2	
♥ 862	
♦ AKQ865	
♣ J7	
♠ AK63	
♥ K53	
♦ 102	
♣ AK86	

You are declarer at three no trump and receive the ♠9 opening lead. Dummy's jack is covered by the ♠Q and your ♠K. At Trick 2, you lead the ♦10 from your hand and West covers with the ♦J. Which card should you play from the dummy?

The answer can be found on [our Facebook page](#).



Learning the Lingo – SACRIFICING

Contributed by Jean Farhood

Last week we talked about vulnerability. Continuing with this discussion, the next thing you need to learn about is “sacrifice bidding”.

Imagine that N/S are vulnerable (red) and you are non-vulnerable (white), sitting E/W. RHO (right-hand opponent) has opened the bidding 1♥, you overcall 2♣, LHO (left-hand opponent) raises to 2♥, 3♣ by partner, and LHO bids 4♥. What should you do now?

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♥
2 ♣	2 ♥	3 ♣	4 ♥
?			

Do you pass meekly, or do you start thinking about how LHO has shown a minimum raise (maybe just 6-9 points) and partner has supported your ♣ bid with a raise to the three-level. You also have noted the vulnerability. If opponents make 4♥ red, they will score 620, but if you bid on to 5♣ as a sacrifice, even if you are doubled and go down three it will cost you only 500 BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT VULNERABLE.

This is difficult for beginners to wrap their minds around – that you would intentionally bid knowing that you will go down! But sacrifices are a very important bidding concept for you to improve your duplicate scores.



[Don't Let the Old Man In](#)

LESSONS NOT YET LEARNED



Preventing Declarer from Getting Overtricks

It's not too late to sign up for this workshop.

Level: Novice/Intermediate

Instructor: Stephen Carpenter

Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021, 9:30 am - noon



Beginner 1 Lessons

Do you know non-bridge players who enjoy games and puzzles? Why not tell them about the game of bridge and our wonderful lessons? Our next five-lesson (online) course for beginners will begin on Thursday, January 16, 2021 at 6:30 pm. The cost is only \$85 and includes a Barbara Seagram textbook. Click on the link below for more information and to register.

2021 Winter Lessons

The schedule for winter lessons is up on our website now.

- Click [here](#) for information about Learn Bridge in a Day and our beginner lessons.
- Click [here](#) for the workshops for advancing players.

Players who register for one or more of the intermediate winter lessons will receive a free bonus - Barbara Seagram's fantastic Zoom lesson on the two over one bidding system, along with extensive lesson notes.

Registration Information

When you are filling out the online registration form, it is important to fill out all of the required fields. If you miss a required field, there will be an error message (easy to miss) that will make it impossible for you to register – even if you click on SUBMIT.

There is a way to test whether your registration registered. Successful registrations automatically generate a confirmation email. So, if you don't get a confirmation email, you aren't registered – and our treasurer will be wondering why you sent her payment.

Mystery Payments – Help Requested

Our treasurer is currently wondering why **Karen Lee** sent her an etransfer for \$85 and **Pamela McCreary** sent her an etransfer for \$25. No additional information was provided and no registrations have been received. If you know who Karen or Pamela are, please tell [Treasurer Bev](#). At present, we have no way of delivering the services to them that they have paid for.

Payment Information

Click [here](#) for information about paying for lessons (scroll down).

Message from Jan Hayward (widow of John)

A thank you card was sent to our club by Jan Hayward. Jan wrote:

“Thank you all so very much for the kind words and the many tributes you had for John. He truly loved getting together with everyone, not only to play but for the camaraderie as well. John made many friends at the club and spoke of you often. He also enjoyed playing online and was glad to be able to do so.”

Aces & Knaves, The Documentary

Click [here](#) for information about Aces & Knaves, a new documentary about bridge and [here](#) to watch the trailer and register. The ticket cost is \$15US, which allows you to stream the documentary as many times as you wish between December 24 and January 1.

There will also be a free live Zoom Q&A with the director, Jackie Paré and others on Sunday, December 27 at 3pm.

A special stocking suffer is a recording of a recent Zoom with champions Brad Moss, Christina Lund Madsen, Mike McNamara, and whistle-blower Boye Brogeland.

Merry Christmas from the Grand River Bridge Club



Coming Virtual Activities

- Friday, December 25, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards)**
- Friday, December 25, 7:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards)**
- Saturday, December 26, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards)**
- Sunday, December 27, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards)**
- Monday, December 28, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes)**
- Monday, December 28, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards)**
- Monday, December 28, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards)**
- Tuesday, December 29, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards)**
- Tuesday, December 29, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards)**
- Wednesday, December 30, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards)**
- Wednesday, December 30, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards)**
- Wednesday, December 30, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards)**
- Thursday, December 31, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards)**
- Thursday, December 31, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards)**

We have fun in **spades**.

We play with all our **hearts**.

We treat our members like **diamonds**.

We play bridge even on Christmas Day at our **club**.