



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – February 22, 2021

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 January 1, 2021.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	49.14	1	Suzanne Edwards	22.88	1	Casey Baron	22.28
2	Robert Griffiths	36.65	2	Stephen Nantes	21.00	2	Salvatore Pace	16.24
3	Mike Peng	31.29	3	Janet Howell	10.30	3	Renate Boucher	11.81
4	Cindy Mahn	29.73	4	Brian Kirkconnell	19.31	4	Virginia Alviano	10.71
5	Moira Hollingsworth	26.12	5	Shelley Metcalfe	18.87	5	Nanci Phelan	10.40
6	Bruce Roberts	25.09	6	Kathy Russell	18.66	6	Judy Beauchamp	9.97
7	David Wilson	24.85	7	Sandy Graham	18.10	7	Belinda Burt	8.49
8	Edith Ferber	24.13	8	Barbara Arthur	16.87	8	Susan Kerrigan	8.47
9	Margot Stockie	23.17	9	John Hanemaayer	15.59	9	Noah Pace	8.39
10	Colin Harrington	21.49	10	Brian Silva	14.63	10	Mary Lynn Benjamins	8.14
11	Liz McDowell	20.81	11	Robert Gilck	14.46	11	Joe Blake	8.01
12	Neil Jeffrey	18.95	12	Cheryl Kip	12.97	11	Steven Allen	8.01
13	Dianne Aves	18.61	13	John Kip	12.68	13	Anita Hanson	7.71
14	Ted Boyd	17.14	14	Tony Verhoeven	12.08	14	Ginny Scott	7.63
15	Adrian Record	14.93	15	Sandy Lee	11.37	15	Susan McDonald	7.47
16	David Longstaff	14.64	16	Paul Latimer	11.38	16	Barb Neibert	7.27
17	Steve Carpenter	12.42	17	Adriaan Kempe	10.68	17	Kathy Chandler	7.15
18	John Vandergrift	12.39	18	Sue Peterson	10.42	18	Martin Jones	7.09
19	Susan Lawton	12.07	19	Ron Lawrence	10.28	19	Nancy Cattanach	6.90
20	Tom Ramsay	11.73	20	David Dennis	9.98	20	Marlene Dopko	6.72
21	Stephen Young	10.44	21	Sue Voll	9.85	21	Kathleen Burns	6.50
22	Peggy Pearson	9.13	22	Roy Dandyk	9.47	21	Elinor Girouard	6.50
23	Malkin Howes	8.67	22	David Embury	9.47	23	Marion Allan	6.01
24	Scott Hills	8.03	24	Jim Dalglish	9.43	24	Trent Robinson	6.00
25	Kandis Smith	7.51	25	Rebecca Kalbfleisch	8.64	24	Carol Robinson	6.00

Welcome

A warm welcome to the following new club member.

- **Bob Blowes**
-



Valentine's Day Swiss Game – Results

Contributed by Mike Peng

Many of you will know that the ACBL/BBO have recently enhanced their software to allow for a virtual Swiss game format for clubs. Our club was involved in the testing phase of the software development, and we ran a successful test game on January 17 with 32 tables. Building on this, in keeping with our club's tradition, we decided to run a Swiss game on Valentine's Day.

On February 14, we successfully hosted three Swiss games as follows:

- 199er Game: 10 tables (18 pairs/9 teams)
- 499er Game: 16 tables (30 pairs/15 teams)
- Open Game: 12 tables (21 pairs/11 teams)

A special thank you to Allen Pengelly who was involved in the testing phase. He also directed the three concurrent games and handled calls from 35 tables throughout the day. Thanks to all of you who supported and participated in the Swiss games.

Given the successful turn-out, we are awarding prizes (gift cards) to the top two teams in each of the three games.

199er Game

1. **Sherry Benenati, Sue Voll, Joan Lawson, and Renate Boucher**
2. **Elaine Doyle, Reinhold Kauk, Kathy Chandler, and Louise Dawdy**

499er Game

1. **Jake Liu, Tong Chen, John Hanemaayer, and Sandy Graham**
2. **Ron Angst, Donna Angst, Cheryl White, and David Dennis**

Open Game

1. **Adrian Record, Robert Griffiths, Mike Peng, and David Wilson**
2. **Ted Boyd, Dianne Aves, Edith Ferber, and David Longstaff**

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

Lexophiles

An annual competition is held by the New York Times to see who can create the best original lexophile. This year's submissions were as follows.

- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
 - England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
 - Haunted French pancakes give me the crêpes.
 - This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore.
 - I know a guy who's addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
 - The thief who stole my calendar got twelve months.
 - When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.
 - I recently got some batteries that were given out free of charge.
 - A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
 - A will is really a dead giveaway.
 - With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
 - Police were summoned to a daycare center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
 - Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He's all right now.
 - A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired.
 - The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.
 - He had a photographic memory but it was never fully developed.
 - When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.
 - Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.
 - I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
 - Did you hear about the crossed-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
 - When you get a bladder infection, you know urine trouble.
 - When chemists die, they barium.
 - I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
 - I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
-



". . . and that dumb Mrs. Parker could have figured I had the Ace, King and Jack, but no, she goes ahead bidding in hearts....

Educational Foundation Week

Next week for the ACBL's Educational Foundation Week, the ACBL is offering double black points along with increased table fees, so we'll be charging \$7 (instead of \$5) BBO for our virtual club games during the week that begins February 22.

LESSONS NOT YET LEARNED



Easy End Plays – Curtains for the Opponents!

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

Level: **Intermediate**

Instructor: Malkin Howes

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 9:30 am - noon



Opening Light in Third or Fourth Seat / Drury

The first two bidders have passed, and you have ten high-card points and a long suit. It's looking as if the other hands are pretty balanced and the first side to bid might be able to squeak through making a low-level contract. So, this workshop will deal with opening light in third or fourth seat with as few as eight high card points.

However, when you open the bidding in third or fourth suit, your partner has no idea whether you opened light or have a monster hand. Without agreements, you could easily end up too high and go down. Enter the Drury bidding system.

Using Drury, the responder can ask his or her partner whether it was a light or a full opening bid. With this information, the responder can place the contract accurately. Drury is a tool every partnership needs to compete effectively. The session will include playing some hands using the magic of Shark Bridge.

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

Level: **Novice/Intermediate**

Instructor: Stephen Carpenter

Date: Wednesday, March 10, 9:30 am - noon

-  Click [here](#) for our workshops for advancing players – including nine new workshops for the Spring season.
- Click [here](#) for information about our Beginner 2 course (Beginners 1 is now almost completed) which will start on March 11 and run for five weeks.

Click [here](#) for information about how to pay for your lessons (scroll down).

Two members of our bridge family died on the same day last Friday. As it happens, the two were good friends who enjoyed spending time with one another. We will miss them both terribly.

If any of our readers would like to share a memory of either or both of them in a future Alert, please write to the [Alert editor](#).



Joy Dundas

Bridge players will remember Joy as the very calm and unflappable director of newcomer games at tournaments. She met so many wonderful people this way that she decided to start a new bridge club in Cambridge where she taught bridge to new and intermediate players. Joy directed more than 3,000 games, taught over 1,000 bridge lessons, and directed dozens of bridge-themed cruises.

Joy even inveigled her husband Jim into playing bridge and they got so skilled that they placed third in one instant matchpoint games played all over the world simultaneously.

A little-known fact is that at one time Joy and Jim were fabulous dancers and curlers, and travelled extensively to dance in various dance halls and curl in various bonspiels.

Joy was loving, generous, supportive, and kind. She received a 25-year Cambridge Volunteer Award and was nominated for Cambridge Volunteer of the Year.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Joy's memory may be made to the Cambridge and District Humane Society or to Children's International Summer Villages. If you would like to write to Jim, email jdundas85@gmail.com.

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



Kathleen Grant

Kathy passed away suddenly at Waterloo on Friday, February 12, 2021, aged 75. Born in Hungary on April 22, 1945, she was the only child of Istvan and Elizabeth Moskovsky and escaped with them to Canada in 1952.

A graduate of McMaster University and the Ontario College of Education, Kathy met her husband in Hamilton, then resided in Sydney, Nova Scotia for many years, where she operated a retail store known as Sport Scene. Kathy and Doug relocated to Ontario in 2010.

Travel took them to six continents. Kathy was active in the Resoles and other hiking groups, the Grand River Bridge Club, and the Waterloo and Northfield tennis clubs.

Surviving Kathy are her husband, Douglass; daughter Ingrid, Toronto; son Cordell (Sonia), Vaughan, Ontario; and grandchildren Skye, Kiper, and Bryte, in whom she took particular delight.

In accordance with her wishes, cremation has taken place. A celebration of Kathy's life will be held when circumstances permit. If you would like to write to Doug, his email address is Douglass_Grant@cbu.ca. Donations in Kathy's memory may be made to Innocence Canada, the John Howard Society, or any organization assisting refugees to resettle in Canada.

Coming Virtual Activities

- Friday, February 19, 12:30 pm, **99er game, (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Friday, February 19, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Friday, February 19, 7:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Saturday, February 20, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Sunday, February 21, 10:00 am, **499er game, (18 boards) \$5**
- Monday, February 22, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$7**
- Monday, February 22, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Monday, February 22, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$7**
- Tuesday, February 23, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Tuesday, February 23, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Wednesday, February 24, 9:30 am, **Easy End Plays Workshop**
- Wednesday, February 24, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Wednesday, February 24, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Wednesday, February 24, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, February 25, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, February 25, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, February 25, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) \$7**

We have fun in **spades**.

We play with all our **hearts**.

We treat our members like **diamonds**.

We lost two members of our bridge family this week at our **club**.

TCG - The Common Game: Part 5

Contributed by Jack Cole

Over the past four weeks, we've covered the link from the Common Game email that is labelled "Personal Common Game Home Page". We've seen the Field Percentage, Field Rank, Positional Results, comparison to Double Dummy, and Fast Results Analysis, including being able to replay each hand with help from the robots.

Now it's time to look at the section called "The Common Game ClubWebResults Page". That's where you can find the competition details of recent club matches. Follow the link from your email, and you will see a list of GRBC sessions, like this:

Date	Game_Type	Sections MP	Tables	Top AVG_Pair_MP	MAX_Pair_MP	
Sat, Feb 13, 2021	#54822 199er Grand River Kitchener Sat 1:00pm	299er Leaderboard	8.5	1.26	69	154
Fri, Feb 12, 2021	#44085 OPEN Grand River Kitchener Fri 7:00pm	Open Leaderboard	9.0	1.35	2,575	7,940
	#43899 499er Grand River Kitchener Fri 1:00pm	Open Leaderboard	14.0	1.68	196	362
	#43853 99 Grand River Kitchener Friday 12:30	299er Leaderboard	7.5	0.72	31	65
Thu, Feb 11, 2021	#33312 0-1000 Grand River Kitchener Thurs 7pm	Open Leaderboard	7.0	1.68	380	746

Find the session of interest. Say, it's the third line, where at our club 14.0 tables played, and 1.68 Masterpoints (MPs) were given to the top finishers. This was a 499 game: the average pair had 196 MPs, and the maximum of any pair was 362 MPs.

Then click on the "Leaderboard" link, to see how the rest of the continent did. Results are organized by N/S, E/W, and Howell. In this example the E/W boards were played by **84 clubs and 1093 pairs** (and another 233 in Howell movements). The top E/W percentage was 75.43! If you got a great score that day, you might be in the top 50, and find your name in the scrolling Leader Box.

Scrolling down in the same page reveals the boards. More about them, next week!

#	%	Player1	Player2	Club	ST
1	75.43	Neil Silverman	Irina Kislitsyna	Ft Lauderdale	FL
2	74.51	Charles Zempel	Angela Smith	Club Pelican Bay	FL
3	70.52	Bob Etter	Gary Soules	Contra Costa	CA
4	70.00	Valerie Sokolov	Darrell Elder	Gryphons II	TN
5	69.84	Roshanak Madadinoel	Mehran Safapour	Stephen Bridge	ON
6	69.70	Robert Sagor	Phillippe Galaski	Pembury Bridge Club	MA
7	69.45	Elizabeth Marcus	Joelle Benioff	BAND Online	TX
8	69.23	Cabot Jaffee	David Lundberg	North Orlando Bridge Center	FL
9	68.66	Pamela Van	Barbara	Honors Bridge Club	NY



A One-Person Bidding Misunderstanding

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

South, my partner, dealt and opened 1♥. West passed and I bid 1NT. East passed and partner bid 2♦. I know that the bids are right in front of my nose, but in my mind I clearly "remembered" my partner opening 1♠. After considering a more aggressive bid, I decided I would meekly sign off in his major with a 2♠ bid.

Unknowingly, I have made an unusual bid - since I bypassed 1♠ to bid 1NT, 2♠ can't really show a real suit. My partner probably thinks I have a big diamond fit but am worried about clubs for a NT contract. With no club stopper, he can do nothing but rebid his diamonds, giving me a chance to show why I am bidding so oddly.

Because in my mind I've made a minimum rebid and partner is pushing on, I thought that he was making a forward-going move with 3♦. To rebid his diamonds after I have tried to sign off in spades, he must have a strong hand with 5-5 shape (thought I).

Well, with K5 in hearts, the "unbid" suit, and good values for my attempted "sign-off", I tried 3NT. This was passed out.

Board 12

South Deals

E-W Vul

<p>♠ J 10 9 4 3 ♥ 10 8 6 ♦ A J 10 ♣ A J</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <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		<p>♠ A 6 ♥ K 5 ♦ 8 6 3 ♣ Q 10 9 8 6 4</p> <p>♠ K Q 7 5 2 ♥ Q 7 3 ♦ 7 4 2 ♣ K 7</p>	<p>♠ 8 ♥ A J 9 4 2 ♦ K Q 9 5 ♣ 5 3 2</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>									
Pass	1 N	Pass	1 ♥									
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	2 ♦									
Pass	3 N	All pass	3 ♦									

So there I sat, about to declare a ridiculous contract; I should lose four spades, two clubs and a diamond for down three. And if East had made a normal opening lead, he would have got a great result, but he picked the wrong moment to be creative. Having seen us bid everything except clubs, his opening lead was the ♣K (perhaps imagining that his partner had a club suit like mine).

I looked at East's club lead and then noticed Dummy's singleton spade. It was at that point that I realized that his opening bid had not been 1♠ but rather 1♥ and that my head had been in a cloud for the entire auction. I played low off the Dummy and West considered the club suit.

Perhaps East had a lot of clubs, he thought, headed by the KQ10. To allow for this holding, he won Trick 1 with the ♣A (I played the ♣9) and continued with the ♣J. Five club tricks just dropped into my lap.

After I won Trick 2 with my ♣Q, I could count eight tricks: five clubs, two hearts, and one spade. I ensured my ninth trick by leading a diamond to the king, setting up a trick in that suit before the opponents could knock out my ♠A. I could have played on hearts to make overtricks but I decided that I'd had enough good luck for one hand.

👉 **Some good results are earned with skill and thoughtfulness. Some fall from the sky for no apparent reason.**



Dear David



Gerber, Baby

One of the first lessons that people who are new to bridge learn is how many high-card points are needed to bid a slam. A small slam in no trump is 33 points and a grand slam is 37 points. Some of our open players apparently forgot.

	N North		
	♠ J9853 ♥ 943 ♦ J86 ♣ 104		
W West	W N E S	E East	
♠ 642 ♥ Q105 ♦ AQ4 ♣ AK87	2♦ Pass 2NT Pas 4♣ Pass 4♠ Pas 5♣ Pass 5NT Pas 7NT Pass Pass Pas	♠ AKQ7 ♥ AK7 ♦ K103 ♣ QJ6	
	S South		
	♠ 10 ♥ J862 ♦ 9752 ♣ 9532		7NT East 0 0

East's 2NT rebid showed at least 22 HCP, while West had 15 HCP for a total of at least 37 HCP, the magic number. At the very worst, a king might be missing - making a finesse necessary. On this hand, three jacks were missing and declarer had 13 top tricks even though both hands had the worst distribution: 4-3-3-3. Indeed, it was not even necessary to ask for aces once the magic number was reached, but this pair thought it was better to be safe than sorry and trotted out a Gerber 4♣ bid. 4♠ shows two aces and 5NT shows three kings.

These days, there are multiple meanings for any single bid, depending on the context of the auction. Some would say 4♣ is always Gerber, no matter what. Personally, in order to dispel that belief, I play Gerber only over a NT bid. On my convention card, it says "ONTO", which stands for "Over No Trump Only". Decide when you would like to use Gerber and don't forget to tell your partner.

So, what is the significance of the title and picture at the top of this article? It is the logo and picture of the Gerber baby.

Jake's Challenges

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.

THE CHALLENGE

♠ A64
♥ AK10
♦ 10875432
♣ -



♠ KJ83
♥ 73
♦ AJ
♣ K8532

West North East South

	1D	/	1S
1NT	2D	/	3D
/	3S	/	4S

I was South and bought the contract for four spades. I was inspired to make this pushy bid because a) I expected my partner to hold good diamonds (since he bid them twice) and b) West's one no trump bid suggested that spades would split 3-3. West's opening lead was the king of diamonds. When Dummy came down, I was disappointed and despaired of making the contract. However, the opening lead gave me a glimmer of hope. I played low from Dummy, East played the nine, and I took my ace. Plan the play.

THE SOLUTION

At first glance, it looks as if ruffing club losers with Dummy's trumps is the way to go, but that's a shortcut to disaster. The key to making this contract is to develop Dummy's long diamond suit, making sure that you still have dummy entries once the suit has been established.

After taking the first trick with the ace, lead the jack of diamonds. West's best defence is to duck and let East ruff the trick. East should return a small heart at Trick 3, removing one of Dummy's entries.

Next lead another small diamond from Dummy and ruff in your hand. Now the diamond suit is established.

It's time to draw trump, but you have to be careful not to give the lead to East since he can lead a club and force you to ruff in dummy. If that happens, you will no longer have a safe way back to your hand to continue drawing trump.

So, at Trick 5, lead a small trump to Dummy's ace and then a small trump from Dummy at Trick 6. If the East raises with queen, cover it with the king; otherwise, run it around to West. West will take this trick with his queen, and his best defence is to return a heart. Take it with the ace in Dummy (Trick 7).

At this point, there is only one outstanding trump, most likely in the West hand. But you can't play trump right away because if you do you will be stuck in your hand with no way to get back to Dummy to enjoy your good diamonds. You should start running your good diamonds until West ruffs in - and this way you will still have a trump in Dummy to get back there.

Let's say West ruffs a diamond at Trick 8 and exits with heart. Now you can ruff the heart in your hand, lead a club which you ruff in Dummy, and then cash your remaining good diamonds. If instead West exits with a club, ruff it in Dummy, run the diamonds, and then ruff the last heart in your hand at the end, making the contract!

Here is the full hand.

<p>♠ A64 ♥ AK10 ♦ 10875432 ♣ -</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="margin: 0;">N</p> <p style="margin: 0;">W E</p> <p style="margin: 0;">S</p> </div>	<p>♠ 1075 ♥ J8654 ♦ 9 ♣ J976</p>
<p>♠ Q92 ♥ Q92 ♦ KQ6 ♣ AQ104</p>	<p>♠ KJ83 ♥ 73 ♦ AJ ♣ K8532</p>	



This week, Jake has a new challenge (#12) for you. The answer can be found on [our Face-book page](#).



Planning the Play

Contributed by John Moser

		N North ♠ AQJ97 ♥ AJ865 ♦ KQ3 ♣ KQ3	W N E S P 1♥ P 1♠ P 3♦ P 3♣ P 3NT P P P
		W West ♠ 987654 ♥ K2 ♦ Q102 ♣ 54	E East ♠ K102 ♥ 108543 ♦ K ♣ AJ76
		S South ♠ AQJ3 ♥ 6 ♦ 9743 ♣ 10982	3NT N NS: 0 EW: 0

This week we had a mis-bid sequence that got us into 3NT.

The lead was the 7♣, won by the 8♣. You can finesse in only one suit – hearts or diamonds. Which suit would you finesse? Why?

I think hearts is the better choice because, even though you have nine diamonds, you are missing three honours in the suit. If you finesse in hearts, you will for sure gain a trick with the finesse, while you can get three or possibly four diamonds by force (without finessing).

If the diamonds split 2-2, the 9♦ is an entry cash the ♠A.

The plan should be to finesse the hearts and then cash the ♦A. After that, lead a second diamond and hope they split 2-2, even though you don't believe in your heart of hearts that they will split evenly. If West has the three diamonds, he will probably return a club, which you should win when possible.

Do you know how many spade tricks you need? No. But if you cash the ♥A you will learn the number of spades needed. Depending on how the clubs are played (they can duck the second club), East or West could be on lead after the second diamond and be endplayed.

In this layout, if East has to lead after winning the fourth diamond, his choices are to lead a heart into the J 9 or a spade into the A Q J. If West has the lead (assuming the clubs are cleared) he has to lead into the board's spades.

As you can see, you will get three hearts either way. Depending on who takes the third diamond trick, you will either get three diamonds, two clubs, and four hearts - or else you will get three diamonds, two clubs, three hearts, and one spade. (One spade because you don't have to risk the finesse for nine tricks with the extra heart. Otherwise, you would finesse the spades).

Make sure you don't cash your diamonds, as that is the only way back to your hand after the spades are led.