



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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ALERT – August 16, 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 the beginning of July.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	37.94	1	Stephen Nantes	20.04	1	Joan Slover	6.85
2	Mike Peng	21.16	2	Brian Kirkconnell	19.65	2	Reinhold Kauk	5.75
3	Colin Harrington	20.38	3	Ted Kennedy	13.00	3	Anita Hanson	5.34
4	Liz McDowell	18.72	4	Barbara Arthur	12.78	4	Charlene Schell	5.24
5	Margot Stockie	17.71	5	Shelley Metcalfe	12.70	5	Joani Horvath	4.85
6	Cindy Mahn	17.43	6	Ron Lawrence	12.07	6	Susan Durance	4.65
7	Ted Boyd	17.12	7	Suzanne Edwards	12.00	6	Barb Neibert	4.63
8	Moira Hollingsworth	16.39	8	Salvatore Pace	10.83	8	Noah Pace	4.22
9	David Longstaff	14.16	9	Casey Baron	10.60	9	Sue McDonald	4.20
10	Dianne Aves	13.02	10	Jim Dalgliesh	8.17	10	Kim Wakeford	4.18
11	Tom Ramsay	11.75	11	John Hanemaayer	7.61	11	Elinor Girouard	3.93
12	Bruce Roberts	11.21	12	Roy Dandyk	7.45	12	Molly Worden	3.92
13	Robert Griffiths	10.10	13	Kathy Russell	7.28	13	Jim Fox	3.79
14	Neil Jeffrey	9.78	14	Lynda Burnett	6.28	14	ML Benjamins	3.56
15	Peggy Pearson	9.16	15	Sue Voll	6.13	15	Pat McDonald	3.53
16	John Moser	8.66	16	Jackie Logie	6.11	15	Belinda Burt	3.39
17	Pat McMillan	8.36	17	Barbara Lindsay	5.99	17	Debbie Miethig	3.34
18	John Vandergrift	7.46	18	Robert Walker	5.70	18	Joe Blake	3.31
19	Neil Coburn	7.02	19	Kevin Latter	5.66	18	Steven Allen	3.31
20	Scott Hills	6.98	20	Renate Boucher	5.64	20	Nancy Cattanach	3.20
21	Adrian Record	6.61	21	David Embury	5.58	21	Valirie Binkle	3.14
22	Kandis Smith	6.58	22	Robert Gilck	5.36	22	Audrey Cook	3.06
23	Sandy Graham	6.27	23	John Kip	5.21	23	Julia Prendiville	2.86
24	Mary McClelland	5.76	24	Marlene Dopko	4.99	24	Elisabeth Graham	2.80
25	Steve Carpenter	5.74	25	Jack Cole	4.89	25	Susan Kerrigan	2.68



Rookie Ramblings – Bonehead Mistakes

Contributed by Sue Peterson

When asked to do a short column for Rookie Ramblings, I was surprised that the topic chosen for me was bonehead mistakes. At first, I was just a tad insulted (just kidding). However, the more I thought about it, the more I realized that the biggest difference between a rookie and a master is the bonehead mistakes. These are the ones when after you perpetrate them you say “I can’t believe I just did that!”. We all want to learn the fancy conventions, and that is all very well and good, but it is these boobos that keep us from winning hands and getting master points. Here are a few common errors.

Playing the wrong card. I wish I could say this happens only on BBO, but it also happens in face-to-face games. Last week, I was in NT and working on the club suit. I knew I had five tricks cold and was very excited - but did I play the king of clubs to cover the jack? No! Why? I think subconsciously I felt I had clubs all wrapped up (with a bow even) and by mistake played the ♣4. I had already begun thinking about the following trick. Well, that didn’t work out very well. It is so important to take a breath, look at the dummy one more time, decide if you want to be in your hand or in the dummy, and *then* play. There is also an option in BBO settings to “confirm cards”. You can’t play the card until you double click. Something to consider!

So, getting back to **playing too fast**. You have seven minutes to bid and play a hand. Plenty of time even if there is complex bidding. No need to rush....

One of the best things I learned was to “**make a plan**”. When the opening lead has been made and the dummy has come down, it’s time to consider the bidding – for example, did your opponents bid? If so, it is usually best to stay away from their suit. Also, don’t forget to count your winners in NT and your losers in a suit contract. It takes a bit of practice, but it’s well worth it. We’re lucky in BBO in that we can click the contract icon to see how the bidding went. Helps in making your plan.

One of the reasons I turned to bridge was to challenge my memory. Bridge is definitely a game where a good memory pays off. Let’s say the opponents take the first two tricks and you trump in on the third and begin to call trump. Will you remember you trumped that first trick? Well, I have made that particular mistake (of forgetting that I spent one of my trumps at Trick 1) and then run into problems later on because I mistakenly thought there was still a trump out. **Calling trump unnecessarily** is a rookie mistake. The opposite is when you think you have called all of the trumps and all of a sudden – out pops a lurker. Oops. Or failing to call trump period.

Here's a tip. If you're declaring a suit contract, one of the things you ought to do when planning the play before Trick 1 is to figure out how many trumps the opponents have between them. Then you just count down as their trumps appear. Typically, there are five trumps out. You can even be wondering if they will split 3/2 or 4/1 and be watching for that. That way, you're less likely to miscount trump.

One last mistake (although there are many more bonehead mistakes) is "**playing your own hand**". It just happened to me last week. I bid 1♣, my partner bid 1♥, I bid 1♠, and my partner bid 2NT. YIKES! I had only one diamond. My first thought was "we can't be in NT". I panicked and went back to 3♠. She passed and we would have made 4 NT. My partner had the diamonds. Hmmmmmm.... Lesson learned – trust your partner.

There are many mistakes you can make in bridge, but try to learn from them. After a while, you will start making a better class of mistakes. ☺

The Grand River Bridge Club is Hiring!

Of course, most of our positions are unpaid (the game directors do get paid). As we gear up for re-opening, there is going to be a need for all kinds of volunteers. As of now, we don't know exactly what jobs we will need to be filled, but there are some things you can be doing right now.

- If you might be willing to join our team, please write to [Sue Moses](#), our volunteer coordinator, indicating your possible interest and availability.
 - We also really need ambassadors for our club to approach friends and relatives who might be interested in learning our game. For more information, write to [Sue Peterson](#) who is leading our Learn Bridge in a Day session on Saturday, September 11.
 - In addition, [Ted Boyd](#) is looking for volunteers to organize and run our face-to-face tournaments next year.
 - As well, you can help our visibility on social media if you were to visit our [Facebook page](#), especially if you could "comment" or "like" or share with friends and colleagues. Another way to share information about our club is to forward this Alert to your family and friends.
 - Lastly, we are going to need more game directors. It's not as hard as it looks, plus a knowledge of the back end of bridge is very helpful in terms of improving your own game. For more information, write to [Dave Baker](#), lead game director.
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FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS



Just Average

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

We were playing in a very small (five-table) pairs game. North dealt, and my partner (East) opened 3♥. South overcalled 3♠, and I considered.

Board 5											
North Deals	♠ Q J 7										
N-S Vul	♥ 9 7 3										
	♦ A 10 8 4										
	♣ A 6 4										
♠ 6 3	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; 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		♠ A 4
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ A K		♥ Q J 10 8 6 5 4									
♦ Q 6 3		♦ 7 5 2									
♣ Q 10 9 8 7 5		♣ 2									
	♠ K 10 9 8 5 2										
	♥ 2										
	♦ K J 9										
	♣ K J 3										
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>								
	Pass	3 ♥	3 ♠								
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass								
5 ♥	Dbl	All pass									

It looked to me as if the opponents would be able to make 4♠, and I had choices to make. I decided that I should probably sacrifice in 5♥ if they bid their spade game and considered jumping immediately to 5♥, since I expected to get there in the end. This tactic would limit the opponents' communications and give them the chance to misguess.

But I chose on this hand to pass the overcall, giving the other side the chance to miss their game. Not this time: North bid 4♠, which was passed back to me. This time, I went for the sacrifice, and my partner played in 5♥ doubled.

The defence slipped a trick, taking one spade, two diamonds and a club for a N/S score of +300. They might have won a third diamond trick to score +500, but in the end it made no difference how many tricks we went down.

Of the five times the hand was played, all five Easts opened with 3♥. Two played it there, going down one for a N/S score of +50. Twice South made the weakish overcall of 3♠, was raised to 4♠ by North, and they made their ten tricks to score +620.

As a result, if our sacrifice had gone down one 2 or 3 tricks our score was going to be average, neatly fitting between the top E/W scores of -50 and the bottom E/W scores of -620.

Perhaps if I had bid 5♥ immediately, North might have misjudged and tried 5♠ to give us the only E/W plus score.....

If South had passed my partner's pre-empt, we would have tied for a top score. If I had passed the 4♠ bid, we likely would have tied for a bottom score. Instead, we sat in the middle, scoring 50%.

👉 There's a lot of luck in bridge.

FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

International Match Points (IMPs)

When you are playing a matchpoint pairs game, you try to avoid making perilous plays in your eagerness to set the contract. If all tables are in 4♠ making ten tricks and you allow them to make 11 tricks, you change your result from an average board to a bottom board.

In an IMP game however, there is a small loss for an overtrick (1 IMP) and a large gain (up to 13 IMPs) if you defeat 4♠. Thus, your strategy at IMPs should be geared towards whatever it takes to set their games and slams.

W West	W	N	E	S
♠852			Pass	1♦
♥A106542	2♥	3♥	Pass	3♠
♦10542	Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
♣	Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass

Playing IMPs, you are on lead. If North were declarer, you could double – asking for an unusual lead against the opponents’ slam (either dummy’s first bid suit or your longest suit – and definitely NOT the suit partner bid). Bearing in mind the preamble to this article, what is your opening lead? If you lead a high diamond and partner wins the ace (unlikely) and leads back a club (even more unlikely), you are a winner. What other option do you have?

	N North			
	♠AKQJ1093			
	♥9			
	♦6			
	♣A543			
W West	W	N	E	S
♠852			Pass	1♦
♥A106542	2♥	3♥	Pass	3♠
♦10542	Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
♣	Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
	E East			
	♠64			
	♥KQ			
	♦K983			
	♣J8762			
	S South			
	♠7			
	♥J873			
	♦AQJ7			
	♣KQ109			

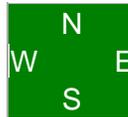
If you underlead your ♥A, partner will be in no doubt as to why he won the first trick. Which heart should West lead? Leading the ♥2 is a suit preference signal for clubs. If West had four clubs and a diamond void, he should lead the ♥10. What happens if partner doesn’t have the King? At worst, it costs you 1 IMP. At best, dummy has KJ and partner has Q7. Which heart do you think declarer will play at Trick 1? Nobody underleads an Ace against a slam.

At the end of the hand, my partner asked me why I didn’t double their 3♥ cuebid. These doubles often help the opponents evaluate their hands better and serve no useful purpose to our side. Except this time. 😞. Who knew? Whether I doubled or not, the ♥2 is the best lead.

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

#35

♠ K 10 8 5 4 2
 ♥ A J 8 7
 ♦ 8 7
 ♣ 6



♠ —
 ♥ 6 5
 ♦ A K Q J 10 6 5 4
 ♣ K J 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♦
Dbl	1 ♠	3 ♣ ¹	4 ♦
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	6 ♦
All pass			

1. weak

Based on the bidding, I assumed that my partner would be void in clubs, so I optimistically barreled into 6♦. As you can see, my partner wasn't void in clubs, and that meant I had an uphill battle if I was going to make six diamonds.

West led the ♣A, which held, and then switched to the ♠Q. I covered with dummy's ♠K hoping against hope that it would win, but East played the ace - which I ruffed with a small diamond. Taking stock, I saw that I would be able to ruff my club loser in dummy, but what about my seemingly-certain heart loser? Leaving hearts alone for the time being, I ruffed the ♣J in dummy and then high-ruffed a small spade in my hand, both following. Then I drew three rounds of trumps. West contributed three trumps, while East discarded a heart and two clubs. I next played the ♣K and pitched a small heart from dummy, both opponents following once more. At this point, my remaining cards were:
 What now?

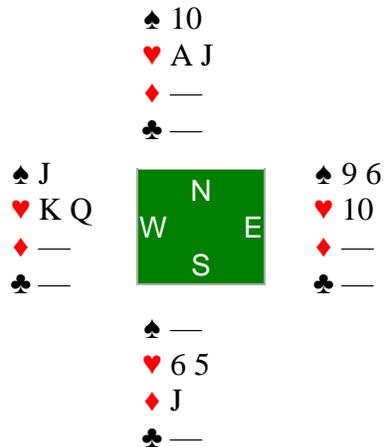
♠ 10 8
 ♥ A J 8
 ♦ —
 ♣ —



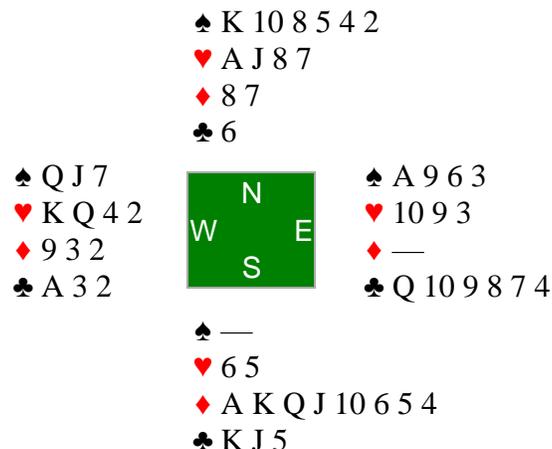
♠ —
 ♥ 6 5
 ♦ J 6 5
 ♣ —

SOLUTION

In the bidding, West had shown an opening hand and East had shown a weak hand - but by this point East had already shown up with the ♠A, plus he had to have ♣Q as well. It is thus almost certain that he had no other high cards - meaning that all the missing high cards (namely, the ♥KQ and the ♠J) must be located in the West hand. If this were true, then West could be squeezed. I proceeded to cash all my trumps, watching West's discards. Here was the situation with three tricks to go.



When I played my last trump, West was done for. If he discarded his ♠J, I would discard the ♥J from dummy and dummy's ♠10 would become my 12th trick, while if he discarded a heart (♥Q or ♥K), I would discard the ♠10 from dummy and dummy's ♥J would become my 11th trick. Here is the full hand.



I finally did it!

Bought a new pair of shoes with memory foam insoles. No more forgetting why I walked into the kitchen.

Jim Dundas

passed away peacefully on July 19, 2021 at the Cambridge Memorial Hospital. Jim was the beloved husband of the late Joy Dundas who passed away earlier this year.

Jim was an active member of the Cambridge/Kitchener/Guelph bridge community for over 30 years. He was always seen alongside Joy, either playing or helping her direct the Cambridge games. He helped with set up, was always available as a spare, and cleaned up afterwards. His sense of humour and friendly, ethical table presence was appreciated by all.

Ross Maddock has this to say about Jim.

Jim was always there like a steady rock driving Joy all the time to direct at duplicate three times a week and mentoring seniors twice a week for over 20 years. He always came in dressed as if he were going somewhere important to him with his tie and hat on and stayed around if Joy needed a spare to fill in. When Joy was directing and Jim was a spare, he never missed an opportunity to talk about his many experiences in life to the other players at the table. Jim was not a quiet talker. Quite often you could hear Joy's clear, forceful voice in the background or right beside him say "JIM, JIM" (she usually had to say it twice), at which Jim would glance up and say "Oh" with that broad grin of his. He usually remembered for a table or two and then started to talk again. I had the good fortune to play with Jim a few times and against Joy and him as well. Everyone who knew them had great admiration for both of them.

Wayne Jordan writes the following tribute to Jim.

A wonderful brain
A wonderful wife
A wonderful family
A wonderful life

More importantly, Jim had a big and wonderful heart ... a keen interest in people from a personal and a bridge standpoint. One bridge incident astounded me.

As a beginner, I decided to go to a huge tournament at the Royal York in Toronto. I was paired with an 85-year-old man in very poor health. We played Standard American, except over 2♣; 2♦ was negative; anything else was positive.

Well, didn't he bid 2♣ late morning? I had four spades and four hearts, both to the ace ten, and so I bid 2♥. A minute later, *I'm* playing 7♥, making, thanks to a spade finesse on the 11th and 12th tricks.

We were fifth at the lunch break, well ahead of the best players on the continent - Bill Gates, etc. My partner declined my offer of lunch, resting instead in a big armchair in the lobby. When I got back, he was too ill to continue. I was re-paired with a player who played every system known to mankind. A disaster.

Anyway, Monday morning I went to the Cambridge Club game and started to tell the story to Jim. He already knew! He had been following me online (don't ask me how) ... because of his keen interest in people and his big heart.

I miss him. And I miss that big heart.

Coming Virtual Events

- Friday, August 13, 12:30 pm, **99er game, (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Friday, August 13, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Friday, August 13, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Saturday, August 14, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Sunday, August 15, 10:00 am, **499er game, (18 boards) \$5**
- Monday, August 16, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$5**
- Monday, August 16, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Monday, August 16, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, August 17, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, August 17, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, August 18, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, August 18, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, August 18, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, August 19, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, August 19 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, August 19, 6:30 pm, **19er game \$5**
- Thursday, August 19, 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 are hiring at our **club**.