



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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## ALERT – September 20, 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 August.*

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	36.30	1	Salvatore Pace	14.97	1	Aggie Udvari	6.91
2	Colin Harrington	17.19	2	Suzanne Edwards	12.74	2	Anita Hanson	6.48
3	Cindy Mahn	15.40	3	Brian Kirkconnell	12.39	3	Charlene Schell	5.73
4	Mike Peng	15.24	4	Barbara Arthur	12.23	4	Marg Sanderson	5.44
5	Margot Stockie	14.66	5	Shelley Metcalfe	10.08	5	Barb Neibert	5.42
6	Bob Griffiths	13.62	6	Ron Lawrence	10.06	6	Elinor Girouard	4.60
7	Ted Boyd	12.57	7	Roy Dandyk	9.04	7	Joani Horvath	4.20
8	Neil Jeffrey	11.60	8	Barbara Lindsay	8.87	8	Reinhold Kauk	4.05
9	Moira Hollingsworth	11.50	9	Kathy Russell	8.30	9	Noah Pace	3.98
10	John Vandergrift	10.02	10	John Kip	7.53	10	Nancy Cattanach	3.78
11	Tom Ramsay	9.65	11	Cheryl Kip	7.39	11	Belinda Burt	3.49
12	Liz McDowell	9.31	12	David Embury	6.76	12	Audrey Cook	3.36
12	Bruce Roberts	9.31	13	Vivian McLellan	6.18	13	Joe Blake	3.31
14	David Longstaff	8.80	13	Judy Widdecombe	6.18	14	Brian Gaber	2.89
15	John Hanemaayer	8.44	15	Jim Dalgliesh	5.85	14	Rick Arthur	2.89
16	Sandy Graham	7.99	16	Sue Voll	5.79	16	Molly Worden	2.84
17	Stephen Young	7.76	17	Bev Hitchman	5.29	17	Pamela Knight	2.82
18	Ronald Sayle	7.23	18	Laurence Dean	4.86	18	Steven Allen	2.63
19	Malkin Howes	7.06	19	Kevin Latter	4.72	19	Richard Wehrle	2.53
20	Adrian Record	6.51	20	Andy Wilson	4.71	19	Don O'Bright	2.53
10	Edith Ferber	6.51	21	Patricia McLaughlin	4.58	21	Gordon Hunter	2.40
22	Neil Coburn	6.42	21	Patrick McLaughlin	4.58	22	Susan Durance	2.36
23	Kandis Smith	6.02	23	Stephen Nantes	4.53	23	David Ward	2.32
24	Dianne Aves	5.84	24	Nanci Phelan	4.50	24	Michel Lalonde	2.32
25	Scott Hills	5.80	25	Lori Cole	4.40	25	Elaine Doyle	2.29

# Our Picnic Last Sunday

Sixteen GRBC friends gathered outside our club today for our annual picnic, did lots of chatting, and munched on some delicious cookies home made by Mike Peng. Although it was a small group, it was great to see some old acquaintances and also to meet some new bridge friends. Hopefully we can choose a sunnier day next year but at least the rain held off!



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## Rookie Ramblings (Continued)

### **Anecdotes from Early Bridge in Adulthood** *Recalled by George Pepall*

In that same cottage community, The Bridge Lesson took place one summer, about 1958. This was an agreed-upon session at a card table where my younger brother and I were to be introduced to the niceties of bridge - a social skill in our parents' view. Dad was the experienced teacher in our foursome, we two brothers bemused by the mysteries of shuffling, dealing and sorting hands and our Mum tense but willing to be a good sport as a fourth. I think we lasted a 58-minute hour.

Do you remember when Milos ran a Sunday evening game at the ARC? Sundays are the days of the week when large numbers of the teaching fraternity get much of their prep done and wade through significant piles of marking. I know that it was rare for me to play Sundays, but the game had a dedicated following.

One silly hand sticks in my mind till this day. I was always open to a coincidence or an oddity. Call it a game of Eights within a game of Bridge. East led an eight, South ruffed with an eight and West pitched a third eight. It was up to me sitting North to take the trick with my high trump, BUT I held the fourth eight and played it instead. My partner didn't look too kindly at my momentary slip into poker. He reminded me we were playing for a tenth of a cent per point. No sense of humour, that guy.

OK. Here's one that takes the cake for bizarre. Not a word of a lie. My LHO opens one spade but I end up winning the contract in 3NT. I count nine sure tricks if I can bring in the whole spade suit. Between dummy and me I hold seven, including all the face cards except the jack. I take the marked finesse through LHO and .....what? RHO produced the jack!?! You gotta be kidding!?! Down one! That incident happened 35 years ago. I still run into that character. Of course, I call him the Jack of Spades. If I have occasion to send him mail, I always enclose ...you guessed it ...a knave of spades!

Then there was the time when our incoming opponents settled into their East/West chairs, unremarkably, but with West calmly depositing a small juice glass beside his convention card. Next time I looked up from my hand, I could tell that a good stiff shot of some odoriferous and eye-watering liquid had been poured for imminent consumption. Man, I find this game plenty tough enough to play stone cold sober. My scoring record where spiritous beverages are involved is not good.

Sometimes when daydreaming as dummy, I think about how poorly we used to play the game. Don't lead from unsupported aces..... count opponents' points played..... avoid finesses whenever possible.....follow suit with a consistent tempo.....We've all learned through experience the value of these precepts, but we also know that exceptions truly do prove the rule. The game is so obsessively fascinating that some students lose a whole year of schooling through neglect of studies.

The real trick (pun intended) is that you'll have a successful life if you play it the way you would play a hand of bridge.

*(The photo shows George reprising his jack of spades astonishment and horror at the table where bridge was played and most of the family's Christmas presents were wrapped.)*

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## BridgeWhiz

BridgeWhiz is a free online course designed to teach children in grades 4 through 12 the essentials of our game. Twenty 90-minute online classes with class sizes of 20-40 students will begin in October at four different times in all times zones. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

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**I don't  
understand  
why people  
have to "get  
ready" for bed.  
I'm always  
ready for bed.**

**I don't know  
how to use TikTok,  
but I can write in cursive,  
do long division  
and tell time on clocks  
with hands...  
so there's that.**

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## Notice of Annual General Meeting

Just a reminder that our AGM will be held via Zoom on Monday, September 27 at 11:00 am. Pre-registration is required. Email [Joan Lawson](#) for the link.

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## Membership List

If you would like a recent membership list (you might be looking for a partner for a game or you might just want to contact someone to say "hi"), please send a request to [Jim Dalgliesh](#).

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## A Joke for Bridge Players

A guy goes into a video game arcade in Times Square (I said this was long ago) and sees a new computer game. He asks the attendant how it works and is told that you just enter your IQ and it will have a conversation with you. So, the guy puts his quarter in the slot, enters his IQ as 150 and the computer starts conversing with him about physics for 5 minutes. The guy thinks this is great! He puts in another quarter, enters his IQ as 100, and has a 5-minute conversation about sports and the weather. He decides to try it once more. He puts in a quarter, enters his IQ as 50, and the computer says "you hold AKxxx, Qxx....."

*Recounted by Steve Zlotnick on [Bridge Winners](#)*

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# Time You Learned Your Lessons!

The GRBC board of directors met earlier this week and decided to postpone our re-opening indefinitely.

This has important implications for our fall lesson schedule because we have only a handful of teachers who can teach online – namely, Allen Pengelly, Stephen Carpenter, Malkin Howes, and Jack Cole.

The good news is that we had a very successful Learn Bridge in a Day session last Saturday (thanks, Sue and Isabel) and now have about 11 students in Al's online Beginner 1 lessons.

Here are the changes.

- Jack Cole's Playing Face to Face workshop has been postponed.
- Cindy Mahn's Basic Bidding course has been postponed.
- Dianne Aves' Play of the Hand (Suits) course has been postponed.
- Susan Lawton's Opening Leads workshop may be postponed.
- Neil Jeffrey's Bidding for Intermediate Players course may be postponed.
- Dianne Aves' Counting workshop may be postponed.

We have added a few online workshops, but there is only so much we can ask of our over-worked online teachers. Click here for more information about our [non-beginner](#) workshops. Click [here](#) for information on how to pay.

The next scheduled lesson (online perforce) is



## The Law of Total Tricks

### *The Most Effective Tool in Competitive Bidding*

The opponents open 1♠, your partner overcalls 2♥, then 2♠ by the other opponent. You have support for your partner's hearts. Do you let them play in 2♠ or do you compete to 3♥ or even to game in 4♥? The Law of Total Tricks helps you decide when to bid higher even with a very weak hand. You may not make your contract but you will score better than if the opponents make their contract. But what if I have a strong hand and support my partner? How can I tell my partner we have a chance for game? The companion to the "Law" is cue bidding of the opponents' suit. This shows a strong hand and prevents the opponents from competing by taking away their bid. No bridge player can be successful without these two concepts. This Zoom workshop will include lots of bidding practice using Shark Bridge. Regular partners may find it beneficial to take this workshop as a pair.

#### Novice

Wednesday, September 22, 9:30 am – noon

Current Enrollment: 6

Instructor: Stephen Carpenter

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**FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS**



**You Think YOU Have Made a Bad Lead?**

*Contributed by Robert Griffiths*

This hand is from a world championship from almost 60 years ago.

<b>Board 12</b>	♠ 9 7												
South Deals	♥ 8 4												
E-W Vul	♦ Q J 9 7 2												
	♣ A 9 7 2												
♠ J 5 4		♠ 6 3 2											
♥ A Q 9		♥ J 10 7 6 3 2											
♦ 10 8 3		♦ 6 5											
♣ Q J 10 4		♣ K 3											
	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0 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> </div>		N		W		E		S				
	N												
W		E											
	S												
	♠ A K Q 10 8												
	♥ K 5												
	♦ A K 4												
	♣ 8 6 5												
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>										
			1 ♦										
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♠										
Pass	6 ♦	All pass											

At one table, South, playing the Roman Club system, dealt and opened a forcing 1♦. With E/W passing throughout, North bid 2♦, whereupon South jumped to 3♠. This odd sequence showed that South had a strong hand with diamonds but much better spades. North then jumped to 6♦ which was passed out.

What does West need to lead for his side to take two tricks on the hand? Anything but a heart. Declarer has 11 tricks and no hope of a twelfth unless there is a Heart lead. West led the ♥A, handing South his twelfth trick with the ♥K.

Accidents happen.

At the other table, South opened a more pedestrian 1♠. North bid 1NT, South jumped to 3NT, and all passed.

East was on opening lead and no doubt was debating between the top of sequence ♥J and the fourth best ♥6, when West put the ♣Q on the table! Back in the olden days of face-to-face bridge, out-of-turn leads happened from time to time.

In this situation, Declarer has several options, one of which is that he can accept the lead from the wrong hand, which of course he did (wasting no time) and proceeded to win the first 11 tricks. Note that a heart lead from East would give E/W the first six tricks before the dust had a chance to settle, setting the contract two tricks.

**🦉 When you make an unfortunate lead and it gives an extra trick to declarer, remember it happens at every level of bridge, even world championships. And bad leads can cost more than an overtrick. They can make or break games or slams.**

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# Dear David

## Another Hateful Pre-Empt

The hand below shows a nice route to 4♥ taken by Latimer/Hanemaayer, making six, for which they got a clear top.

	<b>N North</b> ♠ K96 ♥ J9 ♦ KJ875 ♣ 863	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>4♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S			P	1♣	1♠	1NT	2♥	3♣	3♥	P	P	4♣	4♥	P	P	P
	W	N	E	S																		
		P	1♣																			
1♠	1NT	2♥	3♣																			
3♥	P	P	4♣																			
4♥	P	P	P																			
<b>W West</b> ♠ A1087532 ♥ AQ63 ♦ 10 ♣ 5	<b>E East</b> ♠ 4 ♥ K8742 ♦ Q6432 ♣ A9																					
	<b>S South</b> ♠ QJ ♥ 105 ♦ A9 ♣ KQJ10742	4♥ E      NS: 0 EW: 0																				

The 2-2 heart split and 3-2 spade split gave declarer time to set up the spade suit and only a diamond trick was lost. The other seven tables played in clubs, spades, and NT, mostly with unhappy outcomes. The question is “Why did everyone have such a hard time getting to their nine-card major suit fit?” I won’t relate to you what others did, but I can tell you about my own tale of woe, which involves another hateful pre-empt.

	<b>N North</b> ♠ K96 ♥ J9 ♦ KJ875 ♣ 863	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>4♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♣</td> <td>5♣</td> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S			P	4♣	4♣	5♣	X	P	P	P		
	W	N	E	S														
		P	4♣															
4♣	5♣	X	P															
P	P																	
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	<b>S South</b> ♠ QJ ♥ 105 ♦ A9 ♣ KQJ10742	5♣ S      NS: 0 EW: 0																

I cannot say what fiendish plan South had for pre-empting with 13 HCP opposite a partner who had not yet bid, but it did push me into the wrong suit. If her intention was to irritate me - well done! You will have to contact the intrepid editor of this publication for further information. The good news is that although -500 should have been a good score for them when every other table made +680 in hearts, the vagaries of bridge gave us a second top. I believe I won the irritation contest.

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

**#40**

♠ 8 4  
 ♥ K Q 10 9 3  
 ♦ A K J 10 4  
 ♣ 5



♠ A Q J 9 3 2  
 ♥ 5 2  
 ♦ 2  
 ♣ J 9 8 6

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			2 ♠
Pass	2 N <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3 ♠ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

1. =OGUST (asking opener's hand quality)
2. =Good hand, good spades

West led the ♥7 and I played dummy's ♥Q. East took the trick with his ♥A and returned the ♠6. I inserted my ♠J, which held the trick with West contributing the ♠5. At Trick 3, I led the ♣9 from my hand and West took the trick with his ♣10, leading back the ♣K, which I ruffed in dummy. East followed with a small club. Now what? I will let you take over.

**SOLUTION**

After four tricks, here is the situation.

♠ —  
 ♥ K 10 9 3  
 ♦ A K J 10 4  
 ♣ —



♠ A Q 9 3 2  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ 2  
 ♣ J 8

You've lost two tricks, meaning you can afford to lose only one more trick, but you still have three potential losers – two clubs and the ♠K. If trumps break 4-1, the situation is pretty much hopeless, so you need to assume the trump distribution is 3-2 and plan the play on that basis. You can discard a club loser on the ♦K and then do a ruffing-finesse in diamonds. So, cash the ♦A at Trick 5 and continue with the ♦K at Trick 6, discarding the ♣8 from your hand. At Trick 7, lead the ♦J from dummy and try a ruffing finesse.

1. If East covers the ♦J with ♦Q, you ruff in your hand and draw trump.
2. If East doesn't cover the ♦J, pitch your ♣J, and if your finesse loses to West, all you can do is hope your ♠A will catch the ♠K. If this doesn't work, well - look for a better hand later.

As it turns out, East does hold the ♦Q. His best defense is to cover the ♦J. You ruff with a small trump, and West will follow with a small diamond. Dummy's ♦10 is now a winner, but you can't cash it until you have drawn trumps. Play the ♠A at Trick 8.

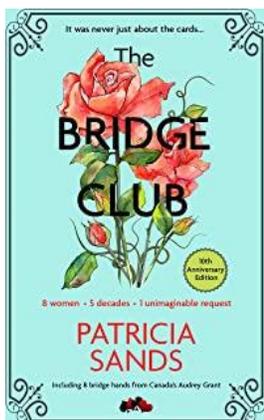
1. If the ♠K falls, bonus! You then continue with ♠Q to draw the last outstanding trump. Now it's time to cash your good ♦10. Enter dummy with the ♥K and discard your last loser, the ♣J, on the ♦10, making an overtrick.
2. If the ♠K doesn't drop, forget about drawing trumps and go to dummy with ♥K so you can lead the ♦10 and discard the ♣J on it. Eventually, you will lose a trick to the ♠K, but that's only your third loser. Your contract is assured.

Here is the full deal.

♠ 10 7 5	♠ 8 4	♠ K 6
♥ 7 6	♥ K Q 10 9 3	♥ A J 8 4
♦ 9 8 6	♦ A K J 10 4	♦ Q 7 5 3
♣ K Q 10 3 2	♣ 5	♣ A 7 4
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;">             N W     E S           </div>	
	♠ A Q J 9 3 2	
	♥ 5 2	
	♦ 2	
	♣ J 9 8 6	

As you can see, the ♠K does fall under your ♠A, allowing you to make an overtrick.

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If you're looking for an enjoyable read about friendship, laughter, and the good things in life that also touches on alcoholism, breast cancer, adoption, face lifts, infidelity, porn addiction, dementia, and grief, this is the book for you.

*The Bridge Club* is a story about eight women who get together every month for 40 years to support each other and – oh yes – to play bridge. There are even eight bridge hands created and annotated by Audrey Grant!

The author is Canadian and most of the action takes place here in Ontario.

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## Silver Linings Week

From Monday, September 20 through Sunday, September 26, it's Silver Linings Week in ACBLland. That means double silver master points ☺ and a \$2 surcharge ☹.

### Coming Virtual Events

- Friday, September 17, 12:30 pm, **99er game, (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Friday, September 17, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Friday, September 17, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Saturday, September 18, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Sunday, September 19, 10:00 am, **499er game, (18 boards) \$5**
- Monday, September 20, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$7 (2X MP)**
- Monday, September 20, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7 (2X MP)**
- Monday, September 20, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$7 (2X MP)**
- Tuesday, September 21, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$7 (2X MP)**
- Tuesday, September 21, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7 (2X MP)**
- Wednesday, September 22, 9:30 am – noon, **Law of Total Tricks workshop**
- Wednesday, September 22, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$7 (2X MP)**
- Wednesday, September 22, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$7 (2X MP)**
- Wednesday, September 22, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7 (2X MP)**
- Thursday, September 23, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$7 (2X MP)**
- Thursday, September 23 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7 (2X MP)**
- Thursday, September 23, 6:30 pm, **19er game \$7 (2X MP)**
- Thursday, September 23, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) \$7 (2X MP)**
- Monday, September 27, 11:00 am, **Annual General Meeting via Zoom**

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 delaying the re-opening of our **club**.