



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – January 18, 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 December 2020.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	39.94	1	Brian Kirkconnell	18.98	1	Suzanne Edwards	14.55
2	Robert Griffiths	27.88	1	Stephen Nantes	18.98	2	Barbara Arthur	14.34
3	Cindy Mahn	23.92	3	Kathy Russell	12.88	3	Andy Martinek	9.12
4	Mike Peng	23.01	4	Janet Howell	12.11	4	Casey Baron	8.05
5	Maira Hollingsworth	21.84	5	Sandy Graham	11.63	5	John Kip	7.86
6	Edith Ferber	21.65	6	Tony Verhoeven	11.05	6	Salvatore Pace	7.79
7	Colin Harrington	21.30	7	Brian Silva	9.85	7	Shelley Metcalfe	7.50
8	Margot Stockie	21.20	8	Sue Voll	9.85	8	Elinor Girouard	7.25
9	Bruce Roberts	19.91	9	Sandy Lee	9.78	9	Robert Gillick	7.15
10	Dianne Aves	17.58	10	Cheryl Kip	8.69	10	Marlene Dopko	6.98
11	Liz McDowell	17.02	11	Sherry Benenati	8.63	11	Renate Boucher	6.22
12	Tom Ramsay	16.56	12	Ron Lawrence	8.43	12	Susan Kerrigan	5.85
13	Adrian Record	15.34	13	Dave Leitch	7.95	13	Trent Robinson	5.69
14	Dave Longstaff	14.94	14	Donna Angst	7.70	13	Carol Robinson	5.69
15	Ted Boyd	13.60	15	Adriaan Kempe	7.42	15	Christine Kelly	5.58
16	Steve Carpenter	11.26	16	Fred Young	6.91	16	Mary Lynn Benjamins	5.55
17	David Wilson	10.60	17	Judy Widdecombe	6.67	17	Noah Pace	5.40
18	Stephen Young	10.56	18	Jim Dalglish	5.82	18	Steven Allen	5.35
19	Neil Jeffrey	9.92	19	Vivian Zochowski	5.60	18	Joe Blake	5.35
20	Malkin Howes	9.76	20	Karen Whitworth	5.55	20	Anita Hanson	5.31
21	Diane Bourdeau	9.65	21	Grant Roberts	5.41	21	Liz Graham	5.12
22	John Vandergrift	9.47	22	Mildred McQuillin	5.39	22	Molly Worden	5.11
23	Wayne Jordan	9.06	23	Jim Veitch	5.38	23	Audrey Cook	5.04
24	John Moser	8.91	24	Roy Dandyk	5.36	24	Barb Neibert	4.87
25	William Christian	7.48	24	David Embury	5.36	25	Nanci Phelan	4.84

Summary of Updates to ACBL Alert Procedures - effective January 1, 2021

Contributed by Mike Peng

In response to the online nature of its games, the ACBL has introduced the following changes to its Alert procedures. The following is a summary: click [here](#) for a fuller treatment.

Pre-Alerts

The first changes are at the beginning of the round. As before, you must pre-Alert if you play systems that vary depending on seat or vulnerability. Additionally, you are now required to pre-Alert if you play a system that includes at least one one-level opening bid that is not natural or that is forcing. This can be as simple as “We play a strong club” or “1♣ could be short.”

Alert Changes

The new Alert policy starts from the principle that natural calls are not Alerted and that artificial calls are Alerted. The most common calls with their Alertability changed are as follows.

- In an uncontested auction, no natural jump shift requires an Alert.
- A direct cuebid that is not Michaels requires an Alert.
- Support doubles and redoubles no longer require an Alert.
- An opening 2♣ bid that isn't very strong requires an Alert.

Announcement Changes

The biggest change is for transfers. Instead of saying the word “transfer,” the announcement is now the name of the suit being transferred to. For example, in the auction 1NT–2♥, where partner's 2♥ shows spades, instead of Announcing “transfer,” he will now Announce “spades”.

Delayed Alerts

The rules for delayed Alerts have changed slightly, with the main difference being that at the end of the auction the declaring side should explain any delayed Alerts and point out any control bids that were made during the auction without prompting by the opponents.

An End Play



A warm welcome to these two new club members

- John Aldridge
 - Bonnie O'Connell
-

My Week to Make Mistakes, Part 2

Contributed by John Moser

Continuing from last week, here's the other board I didn't get right.

Board 26

East Deals

Both Vul

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♣	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
3 N	Pass	6 ♣	All pass

After I had opened 1♣ and partner responded 1♥, I bid only 2♣ thinking that pard needs a second bid if we're going to go forward. When pard then jumped to 3NT, I decided to compensate for my underbid by bidding 6♣. The opening lead was the ♦A, followed by the ♥7. This discussion is about what to do now.

There are two ways to make 12 tricks.

- Float the ♥7 to your ♥Q and then draw trump and play the ♥J to the king and ace. Now you can ruff hearts twice if you need to and get back to the board with high spades, pitching a spade from your hand.
- OR
- Finesse spades once, hoping for 3-3 spades with the queen onside. It is possible when you run the clubs that South will be squeezed holding the ♥K and 4 spades as you hold the ♥Q.

As you can see from the hand diagram, the first option is the winning line. I chose the losing option because I couldn't bring myself to risk going down at Trick 2. It was a great lead by Joan Lawson because it put pressure on me too early for my liking. Well done, as I would have led the ♥Q later on if I had been able to choose my line of play, and that might have induced South to cover the queen.

Bridge Definition Reimagined

Pre-empt: A bid designed to stop the opponents from making their usual mistakes

Local Leaders

The following local players placed well in three ACBL master point races – the Mini-McKenney race that tracks the top total master point winners in our unit, the Ace of Clubs race that tracks the top master point winners in club games, and the Richmond Trophy race that tracks our unit's top total master point winners in Canada. It is safe to say that our players are doing extremely well!

Click for full results for the first two races and [here](#) for the full results of the Richmond Trophy.

0 to 5

Noah Pace (2nd in MM, 2nd in AoC)

Salvatore Pace (3rd in MM, 3rd in AoC)

5 to 20

Brian Silva (1st in MM, 1st in AoC)

Suzanne Edwards (2nd in MM, 2nd in AoC)

Shelley Metcalfe (3rd in MM, 3rd in AoC)

20 to 50

Brian Kirkconnell (1st in MM, 2nd in AoC)

Stephen Nantes (2nd in MM, 1st in AoC)

Barbara Arthur (3rd in MM, 3rd in AoC)

50 to 100

Allen Pengelly (2nd in MM, 2nd in AoC)

100 to 200

Donna Angst (1st in MM, 1st in AoC)

200 to 300

John Hanemaayer (1st in MM, 1st in AoC, 17th in RT)

500 to 1000

Stephen Carpenter (2nd in MM, 2nd in AoC, 14th in RT)

1500 to 2500

Mike Peng (1st in MM, 2nd in AoC, 4th in RT)

Malkin Howes (2nd in MM, 1st in AoC, 5th in RT)

Dianne Aves (3rd in MM, 11th in RT)

2500 to 3500

Robert Griffiths (1st in MM, 1st in AoC, 2nd in RT)

Margot Stockie (2nd in MM, 2nd in AoC, 6th in RT)

Adrian Record (3rd in MM, 13th in RT)

Moira Hollingsworth (3rd in AoC, 15th in RT)

3500 to 5000

Stephen Young (1st in MM, 1st in AoC)

Edith Ferber (2nd in MM, 2nd in AoC, 9th in RT)

Tony Viidik (3rd in MM)

Joan Viidik (3rd in MM)

5000 to 7500

Cindy Mahn (1st in MM, 1st in AoC, 3rd in RT)

Elizabeth McDowell (2nd in MM, 2nd in AoC, 7th in RT)

Tom Ramsay (3rd in MM, 3rd in AoC, 8th in RT)

7500 to 10000

Colin Harrington (1st in MM, 1st in AoC)

10000+

David Baker (1st in MM, 1st in AoC, 1st in RT)

Learning the Lingo – FIXED!

Contributed by Jean Farhood

I'm sure you have all heard the expression "we were fixed" said very unhappily. What does this mean?

Here's an example. Everyone in the room bid to 3NT and everyone made it BUT YOU. The reason you didn't make your contract was not because you did anything wrong - but rather because your opponents did something unusual that turned out to be a winning action. Perhaps the opening lead was an unusual card that the rest of the field didn't find. Perhaps one of your opponents discarded weirdly and made you guess wrong. It could be anything.

Usually players get "fixed" by less experienced players who make an unusual play because of their inexperience. I remember that when I was a relatively new duplicate player, I innocently led a card against a 6NT contract that I would likely not lead now. (I held ♦AT9xxx and found the diabolical lead of my 4th best diamond. Dummy tabled the ♦KJ and, when declarer called for the ♦J, "knowing" I wouldn't underlead the ♦A against a slam, he was undone when my partner played the ♦Q, returned a low diamond, and we took the first six tricks. He definitely felt he had been "fixed", nor was he happy about it.

If you fail to make your contract because of superior defence by the opponents, that isn't called being fixed – it's called being outplayed!

People start coughing
and worry they have
the coronavirus, I cough
and just pray I don't
pee myself...

Canadian Bridge Federation Annual National Championships

Contributed by Ted Boyd

The Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) has announced their annual National Championships for 2021 - necessarily virtual contests on BBO. Encouraged by the successful online tournament waged by a team from the GRBC, three local teams have entered these National Championships.

The same team that competed in the fall online tournament will compete in the Mixed Pairs: Dave Baker Diane Bourdeau, Edith Ferber, and Dave Longstaff.

In the Canadian National Team Championships B level (0 - 3500 master points), two local teams are throwing their hats in the ring:

- Mike Peng, Adrian Record, Bob Griffith, and Peter Peng (Mike's brother) plus a pair who are friends of Peter's and
- Ted Boyd, Bruce Roberts, Moira Hollingsworth and Dianne Aves.

The round robin competition will start the weekend of February 6 and continue through April of 2021. Please join me in wishing them the best of Canadian luck!

A Bridge Over Troubled Waters

We at the Grand River Bridge Club have always thought of ourselves as a family (or a tribe, as Edith Ferber calls us). And so we have always had someone whose role it is to send a card to express our sympathy when one of our members is going through a rough patch. At first our card sender was Norma Ingram, followed by Raina King. Both Norma and Raina are very caring, empathetic individuals - as is our new person in this role - Cheryl White.

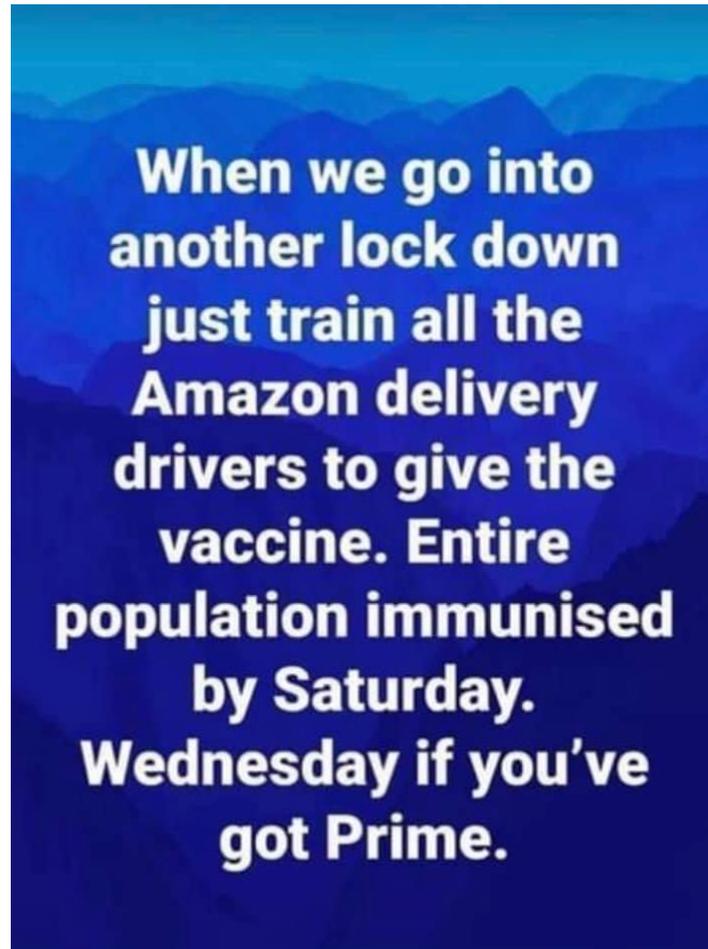
If you know of someone who is sick or sorrowing, please let [Cheryl](#) know and she will send out a card on our behalf. We care.

Percentage of Master Points Awarded in Club Games

Normally (during non-pandemic times), open games award .10 MP per table for first place in each group. The second-place award is 70% of 1st; third is 50% of 1st; fourth is 35%; fifth is 20%; and sixth is 16%.

Fewer master points are awarded for restricted games (games that limit participation based upon the masterpoint holding of the participants). The scale values per master point limitation are as follows: the upper limit multiplier for games restricted to 300 or more masterpoints 0.8; 200 masterpoints 0.7; 50 masterpoints 0.6; 20 masterpoints 0.5; 10 masterpoints 0.4; and 5 masterpoints 0.3.

This may seem unfair at first glance, but the purpose is to prevent newer players from accumulating master points so quickly that they are prematurely forced to play in games with much more experienced players.



How to Replay Interesting Hands and Buy Cheaper BBO Dollars

By Kathy Burns

I am a recent member of Grand River Bridge Club. I thought other members might be interested in this cool way to replay interesting hands on BBO.

1. Log into BBO and go to PRACTICE.
2. Click on START A TEACHING TABLE with three robots and yourself. You probably don't want to allow kibitzers.
3. Click on START TABLE.
4. Click on the seat you wish to occupy and select SIT from the drop-down menu.
5. Click on the other seats. On a PC, you will get a drop-down menu; on an iPad you have to type the word "Robot". You will have to pay for the robots: if you choose the basic robots, it's \$1.00 for three robots for a whole week. Once you pay for your robots, a deal will appear but you can ignore it.
6. Click on the HISTORY tab along the right-hand side of the screen. Click on RECENT HANDS along the top and then click on the hand you're interested in. The hand will materialize in a box in the bottom right-hand corner of your screen.
7. Click on the little blue box with three parallel lines in the deal's upper right-hand corner.
8. Click on EXPORT from the drop-down menu.
9. Click on UPLOAD DEAL TO TABLE from the drop-down menu.
10. Move your cursor to your teaching table and the hand will be there ready to bid and play.

It has also come to my attention - and may be of interest to other members - that BBO dollars are cheaper if you purchase them through the Bridge Base website on your browser as opposed to through the BBO app which is paid via the Apple Store.

If you have any questions about any of this, please do not hesitate to [contact me](#).

ACBL Winter Wonderland Online Regional Tournament

Congratulations to the following local players who did well in the recent ACBL online regional-Thursday Early Bird Gold Rush (based on 538 tables)

- **Laurence Dean and Keith Prosser - 71st place - 2.66 MPs**

Thursday Twilight Gold Rush (based on 179 tables)

- **Paul Latimer and John Hanemaayer - 26th place in B - 1.10 MPs**

Fri 2:00 499er Pairs - 79 tables

- **Sue Moses and Brenda Semple - 3rd place - 5.10 MPs**

Fri Twilight TopFlight - (based on 143 tables)

- **Richard Chan and Peter Peng - 1st place - 32.62 MPs**

Fri Twilight Gold Rush (161 tables)

- **Ron Lawrence and Allen Pengelly - 6th in C - 1.66 MPs**

Fri 17:15 99er Pairs (21 tables)

- **Noah Pace and Salvatore Pace - 3rd in B - 1.06 MPs**

Sat Early Bird Gold Rush (based on 532 tables)

- **Ron Lawrence and Gale Small - 21st in C - 1.14 MPs**

Sun Early Bird Gold Rush (based on 433 tables)

- **Mary McClelland and Janet Howell - 43rd in A - 2.09 MPs**
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Plan A or Plan B

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Suppose you open 1NT with the West hand, partner invites you to game with 2NT, and with your flat hand you decide to pass. North leads the ♥J which rides around your king. After winning the heart, you have seven tricks and need to find one more. You have two choices: the club finesse or setting up a spade trick.

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

When this hand was played in a World championship team game, one pair bid to 3NT and one pair stopped at 2NT. The declarer in 2NT decided that his best chance of making eight tricks was to win the ♥K and drive out the top spades. It looked as if North had heart length and, since South had done nothing to get his heart honours out of the way, this declarer thought (reasonably) that hearts were likely to split 4-3. And if the hearts were split evenly, driving out the top spades would be the safest way of making eight tricks, while losing a club finesse would ensure immediate defeat with three hearts, two spades, and one club trick lost. At the other table in this team game, the bidding went 1NT-3NT. The ♥J was again led and run around to South. Needing nine tricks, this declarer had to find a different solution. Driving out the spades would not work for him, as there would quickly be three heart and two spade losers. This declarer reasonably tried his only hope: good luck in the club suit. He crossed to the board with the ♦Q, and led a club to his jack.

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

♠ 7 5 4 3
♥ J 10
♦ 8 7 6 5 4
♣ 10 9

♠ A K 8
♥ A Q 9 4 2
♦ 9 3
♣ Q 7 4

How did it all work out? The declarer playing in the part score was unhappy to find the hearts splitting 5-2 (with South, not North, having the long hearts). He quickly lost four hearts and two spades, going down one in 2NT. Playing in 3NT, the declarer whose only option was to try the club finesse was happier when five club tricks fell into his lap and he made 10 tricks.

The best play in 2NT is not necessarily the best play in 3NT. And making the 'best' play does not guarantee you the best result. And if your hand is as barren as North's, it is often a good idea to try to lead your partner's best suit instead of your own best suit (as both of these defenders did).

There is a lot of luck in bridge (although not as much as in, say, Old Maid).

ACBL/BBO FAQs

Contributed by Allen Pengelly

Here are my responses to a series of questions sent in by A. Player.

Often when we are looking to see how other tables performed on a hand, we randomly get the LOADING ERROR message. Does BBO know about this and will it be fixed?

We, as an ACBL Virtual Game club, do not have any direct communication with BBO. What we do have is access to an ACBL Director round table meeting on Monday nights where we can express any concerns and receive information from the ACBL directly. The "Loading Error" message problem has been expressed to BBO, but there have been higher priorities for their programming team to handle. (The "Loading Error" itself is usually due to requesting information from BBO at the same time as many other people, thus overloading the servers).

Why is the "Live for Clubs" email not sent immediately following the tournament?

It is not as simple as what you are portraying in your request. BBO posts their version of the results right away, but those standings are not final as the game director still has between 15 and 20 minutes to make any adjustments before the final standings are locked in. The results posted by BBO do not even count the automated adjustments that BBO does to hands that run out of time on the last hand of the game. Once BBO finishes its version of the standings, then the results are sent on to the ACBL. The ACBL calculates the proper MPs for each pair and then sends out the emails.

Sometimes the BBO online MP results will differ from the email! I understand that there is a "master point markup" algorithm for ACBL purposes. Why? Was there markup when we played on Ninth Ave?

Yes, there will be a difference between the BBO MP result and the actual ACBL result for pretty well every game. There are many reasons for this.

- As stated, there is a "master point markup" for the online games. To encourage people to play online, the ACBL agreed to give out 1.5x the normal number of MPs for every Virtual Game, as opposed to the points usually given out at clubs.
- There is also a difference for games below the 499er level, since BBO uses a multiplier factor of 0.8 for every game below the Open level (in an Open game the reward for 1st place is usually 0.1 MPs for every table. For a 499er game this moves to 0.08 MPs/table). Keeping this value at 0.08 MPs per table over-inflates the actual MPs for 199er, 99er and 49er games.

Recently BBO indicated that we were not awarded any MP (boo hoo!) ... yet the email gave us some (smile) and the ACBL subsequently recognized the points. Zero times the markup is still zero!

While BBO does try to calculate what would happen as far as who receives MPs, they are not always correct. The official MPs are not calculated until the ACBL receives the final results from BBO. Thus, there may be some differences between the results provided by BBO and the MPs calculated by BBO.

We recently received a poll regarding "hands from The Common Game". The poll failed to explain why we were being asked. Apart from getting the extra email for The Common Games (which I never read), is there anything different or better than the BBO deals?

I will start off by saying that not everyone is going to believe my response. Some players have the belief that the hands from the Common Game are more "skewed" than what should be expected. I personally scraped the hands played for over a month in Common Game games as well as the BBO hands. Both the Common Game deals and the BBO deals were very close to expectation for all hand shapes.

Although I could not find documentation for the process that BBO goes through for creating their deals, the Common Game does have its methodology published, which goes above and beyond in ensuring that hands are fully random. Random number generation (or pseudo-random number generation) with computers is an esoteric concept that I don't want to take up much more room with in the Alert, people who want more information can click [here](#).

How often is Pianola still getting updated with our MP?

The update of master points from ACBL to Pianola is supposed to happen once a month but there have been some technical issues with this. At this point, the master points in Pianola have been updated to about the beginning of November. We have a request into Pianola but do not know when the issues will be resolved and we will get current masterpoints on a timely basis.



Pre-Dealt Hands from The Common Game (TCG)

Contributed by Mike Peng

Last August, our club switched to using pre-dealt hands from The Common Game and a number of our members have asked why we made this decision. There are many benefits from using TCG pre-dealt hands, and over the coming few weeks we will highlight some of these advantages.

Some of our members have complained that TCG hands appear to have a higher frequency of unusual distributions, but TCG uses the industry standard Bridge Composer which does not provide any options for attenuating or manipulating hand distributions. Typical shuffle and deal games tend to feature relatively flat hands due to less-than-thorough shuffling, and it may be that many bridge players are not used to the truly random deals that a computer generates.

Click [here](#) for the Common Game's FAQ on hand generation.

Given the concerns expressed regarding TCG hands, we conducted a survey of our members in the first week of January regarding whether there was a preference to use random deals from TCG versus random deals from BBO. Out of our 35 members who had an opinion on this matter, we had 20 responses in favour of keeping TCG and 15 in favour of using BBO deals. As a result, the Board agreed with the recommendation of the Virtual Games Committee to continue with the pre-dealt hands from TCG.

In the survey feedback, some members expressed they did not know how to use the game results from TCG portal. Over the next few weeks, Lori and Jack Cole will be highlighting the features/benefits of the TCG portal.

Jake's Challenge #6

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

♠ 9 7 5 2	♠ A Q J 4 3	♠ K 8									
♥ 3	♥ K	♥ J 10 2									
♦ A 10 8 6 5	♦ K 4	♦ Q J 9 2									
♣ 5 4 3	♣ A Q 9 6 2	♣ K J 10 8									
<table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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										
♠ 10 6	♠ 10 6	♠ 10 6									
♥ A Q 9 8 7 6 5 4	♥ A Q 9 8 7 6 5 4	♥ A Q 9 8 7 6 5 4									
♦ 7 3	♦ 7 3	♦ 7 3									
♣ 7	♣ 7	♣ 7									

Sitting South I opened this ugly collection with a bid of four hearts and my partner excitedly raised me to six hearts. West led the ace of diamonds and when the dummy appeared, I saw that we were missing two kings. At this point I wished I hadn't overbid, but unfortunately it was too late to do anything about the bidding now. After his ace of diamonds held the trick, West thought for a while and then led the five of clubs at Trick 2. I breathed a sigh of relief, as now I had a chance of making my contract. What was this glimmer of hope?

THE SOLUTION

- Take Trick 2 with the board's ace of clubs and then ruff a club in your hand.
- Lead a small heart to dummy's king, and you will be rewarded when both opponents follow suit.
- Lead another small club from dummy and ruff in your hand.
- Draw the outstanding trumps with the ace and queen of hearts, discarding spades from dummy.
- Enter dummy with the king of diamonds and ruff another club, felling the king.
- Back to dummy with the ace of spades and cash your good club, pitching the losing spade in your hand.

Success!

If it turns out that you can't set up your fifth club, you can always fall back on the spade finesse at the end. The odds of the finesse succeeding are of course 50%, while the chances of setting up a long club are 62% - meaning that you should try the club caper first.

As to why you breathed a sigh of relief when West led a club at Trick 2, any other lead would have left you one short of the dummy entry cards that you needed to develop the club suit and be able to get back to the board to cash your winning fifth club.

This week, Jake has a new challenge (#7) for you. The answer can be found on [our Facebook page](#).

<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ 8 7</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ K Q 10 3</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ J 9 6 5 4 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♥ K 2</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♥ J 9 3</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♥ 10 8 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♦ 10 9 6 4 2</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♦ A 3</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♦ J 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♣ K J 9 2</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♣ A 8 7 5</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♣ 6 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center; padding: 10px 0;"> <table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ A</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ A</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ A</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♥ A Q 6 5 4</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♥ A Q 6 5 4</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♥ A Q 6 5 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♦ K Q 8 7</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♦ K Q 8 7</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♦ K Q 8 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♣ Q 10 3</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♣ Q 10 3</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♣ Q 10 3</td> </tr> </table>	♠ 8 7	♠ K Q 10 3	♠ J 9 6 5 4 2	♥ K 2	♥ J 9 3	♥ 10 8 7	♦ 10 9 6 4 2	♦ A 3	♦ J 5	♣ K J 9 2	♣ A 8 7 5	♣ 6 4	<table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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	♠ A	♠ A	♥ A Q 6 5 4	♥ A Q 6 5 4	♥ A Q 6 5 4	♦ K Q 8 7	♦ K Q 8 7	♦ K Q 8 7	♣ Q 10 3	♣ Q 10 3	♣ Q 10 3	<p>Sitting South, I opened one heart and my partner responded one no trump, forcing. I bid two diamonds, whereupon my partner jumped to four hearts. Feeling a little greedy, I bid four no trump asking about keycards and, upon learning that we were missing one of five keycards, I bid six hearts anyway.</p> <p>West led the ♠8 to Dummy's three, East's two, and my ace. At Trick 2, I led a small diamond to Dummy's ace and then led the ♥3 from Dummy at Trick 3. East followed low and my queen lost to West's king. West then exited with the ♥2 at Trick 4. The contract is at stake. Can you make it?</p>
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LESSONS NOT YET LEARNED



The Gift of Bridge

We had a great turnout for Learn Bridge in a Day (31 registrants) and almost half of them (15) elected to sign up for our Beginner 1 lessons and along with 16 others yielding a class of 31. Thanks to organizer Isabel Hetherington and instructor Sue Peterson for such a great result!



Opening Leads for Beginners

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

Level: Post-Beginner

Instructor: Stephen Carpenter

Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 9:30 am - noon



Reverses – Forcing One Round

Some people say that they don't play reverses. But they do, whether they like it or not. Reverses just are. That's because reverses propel the bidding to a higher level - meaning that the reverser must have extra values.

Marty Bergen apparently advises his students to pray that reverses don't come up. But, you know, sometimes prayers aren't answered. This workshop will help you know what to do when that happens.

The instructor will explain what reverses are and when to use them. The students will start by participating in a bidding exercise and then bid and play up to 16 hands, depending on time. Regular partners may find it beneficial to attend this workshop as a pair.

Level: Intermediate

Instructor: Malkin Howes

Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021, 9:30 am - noon

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

- Click [here](#) for information about our Beginner 2 course (Beginners 1 is now underway).
- Click [here](#) for the workshops for advancing players.

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

Do Tables Count?

Thanks to the strong support of players at our club, our table counts in 2020 (in club and virtual games) were excellent – so much so that we are the 69th club in all of ACBL land when it comes to table counts. Click [here](#) to see the rankings. Even more impressive, if you filter in District 2 (which includes Ontario, Manitoba, and Bermuda), we are in the top five - and in our local Unit 249 we are #1.



Silver Linings Week

Just a reminder that starting on Monday, it's Silver Linings Week. In exchange for an extra dollar game fee (7 BBO\$), our players who do well can earn DOUBLE regular club masterpoints instead of the usual 1.5x master points - and the points will be SILVER instead of black. During this special week, our club is offering two extra games to give you more chances to win these extra points.

- Thursday, January 21, 7:00 pm, 99er game (18 boards)
- Friday, January 22, 12:30 pm, 999er game (20-22 boards)
**THIS 999er GAME IS A NEW LEVEL OF GAME FOR US
AND WE HOPE IT WILL GENERATE A LOT OF INTEREST.**

Coming Virtual Activities

- Friday, January 15, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$6**
- Friday, January 15, 7:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$6**
- Saturday, January 16, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$6**
- Sunday, January 17, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) \$6**
- Sunday, January 17, 2:00 pm, **Trial Swiss Team game (24 boards) \$3**
- Monday, January 18, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$7**
- Monday, January 18, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Monday, January 18, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$7**
- Tuesday, January 19, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Tuesday, January 19, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Wednesday, January 20, 9:30 am, **Opening Leads for Beginners workshop**
- Wednesday, January 20, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Wednesday, January 20, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Wednesday, January 20, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, January 21, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, January 21, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, January 21, 6:30 pm, **Beginner 1 lessons begin \$7**
- Thursday, January 21, 7:00 pm, **999er game (18 boards) \$7**



We have fun in **spades**.
We play with all our **hearts**.
We treat our members like **diamonds**.
It's Silver Linings Week at our **club**.