



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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ALERT – May 17, 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 April.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	41.67	1	Stephen Nantes	21.06	1	Noah Pace	10.65
2	Margot Stockie	28.69	2	Brian Kirkconnell	19.27	2	Susan Kerrigan	8.82
3	Cindy Mahn	28.21	3	Salvatore Pace	16.39	3	Virginia Alviano	8.65
4	Robert Griffiths	26.55	4	Casey Baron	13.03	4	Margaret Sanderson	7.49
5	Liz McDowell	22.66	5	Kathy Russell	12.94	5	Belinda Burt	7.35
6	Mike Peng	20.84	6	Barbara Arthur	12.46	6	Mary Lynn Benjamins	7.16
7	Bruce Roberts	20.33	7	Suzanne Edwards	11.90	7	Joan Slover	7.10
8	Edith Ferber	19.80	8	John Hanemaayer	11.70	8	Aggie Udvari	6.69
9	Moira Hollingsworth	17.92	9	Brenda Semple	11.52	9	Ginny Scott	6.48
10	Colin Harrington	17.52	9	Sue Moses	11.52	10	Kathleen Burns	6.25
11	Dianne Aves	15.85	11	Shelley Metcalfe	10.65	11	Patricia Malvern	6.13
12	David Wilson	15.78	12	Paul Latimer	10.43	12	Martin Jones	5.95
13	David Longstaff	14.78	13	Karen Whitworth	8.89	13	Isabel Hetherington	5.78
14	Kandis Smith	13.72	14	Roy Dandyk	8.85	14	Nancy Cattanach	5.47
15	Tom Ramsay	13.29	14	David Embury	8.86	15	Sue McDonald	5.27
16	Ted Boyd	13.05	16	David Dennis	8.51	16	Elinor Girouard	5.19
17	Pat McMillan	11.13	17	Lynda Burnett	8.50	17	Ginny Marshall	5.11
18	Sandy Graham	10.78	18	Janet Howell	8.46	17	Bob Somerville	5.11
19	Malkin Howes	10.64	19	Kevin Latter	8.45	19	Christine Baron	4.81
20	John Moser	10.45	20	John Kip	8.17	20	Sue Andersen	4.77
21	Neil Jeffrey	10.01	20	Cheryl Kip	8.17	20	Jane Rushby	4.77
22	Stephen Young	9.67	22	Jim Veitch	7.03	22	Diana Spearn	4.73
23	Mary McClelland	9.19	23	Jake Liu	6.92	23	Barb Neibert	4.72
24	Susan Lawton	8.86	24	Dave Leitch	6.78	24	Julia Prendiville	4.59
25	Peggy Pearson	8.13	25	Ted Kennedy	6.74	25	Reinhold Kauk	4.51



Rookie Ramblings – Invitational Bids by Responder

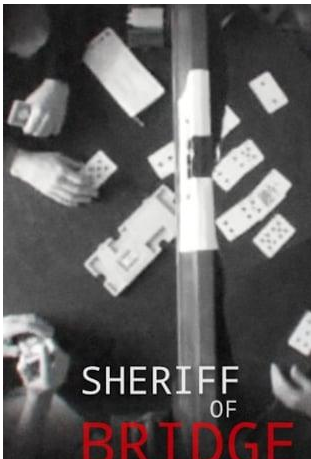
Contributed by Cindy Mahn

Last week we looked at some different ways to invite partner to game when you have opened the bidding and have extra values. This week we are going to look at some different ways that responder can invite his partner, the opening bidder, to game.

An **invitational bid** by responder shows between 10-12 points (except when partner opens in 1 NT). Here are some examples of invitational bids by responder.

1. Jump re-bid of your own suit (promises a 6+-card suit) (Example: 1♣ – 1♦ – 1♥ – 3♦)
2. Jump raise of partner's suit (Example: 1♣ – 1♦ – 1♥ – 3♥)
3. Free raise to 3 in an agreed suit (Example: 1♣ – 1♥ – 2♥ – 3♥)
4. Almost any bid of 2NT at any time in the auction (Example: 1♣ – 2 NT)
 - a. 1♦ – 1♥ – 1♠ – 2 NT
 - b. 1NT – 2NT (shows a good 8-9 points with no 4-card major)
 - c. Delayed 2NT rebid at your second or third turn (Examples: 1♣ – 1♥ – 1♠ – 2 NT OR 1♦ – 1♥ – 2♣ – 2NT)
 - d. 2 NT over an opponent's overcall (you must have a stopper in the overcalled suit) (Examples: 1♣ – 1♠ by RHO – 2NT OR 1♦ – 2♣ by RHO – 2NT)

If RESPONDER makes an invitational bid, then as OPENER your response will depend on your hand strength. As opener, you should pass an invitational bid with a minimum hand and bid game with extra values.



The Sheriff of Bridge

Click [here](#) for a link to information about another documentary about the bridge cheating scandal. It focuses on Boye Brogeland, the Norwegian bridge player who blew the whistle. The film follows Boye from the time before he played in the fateful Chicago tournament where he started suspecting that top-ranked players were cheating right up until the cheating cases were settled in 2016.

Thanks to Mark Obermeyer for another tip.

When you can't find your reading glasses!



ON NO! - I'VE MOVED UP A LEVEL!

Contributed by Cheryl Kip, Membership Lead

The good news is that you've played well, earned points, and have advanced to the next level of play. The bad news is that you've played well, earned points, and have advanced to the next level of play.

That can be a little scary: now you're going to have to play with players who have more points than you. You'll soon find out that they make mistakes just as you do. If you're not comfortable jumping right in to the fray, there are players at your new game level who would be happy to partner with you for three or four weeks to get you started.

Please contact Cheryl Kip, Membership Lead, at ckip1636@rogers.com.

Why We Still Need to Socially Distance



LESSONS NOT YET LEARNED

There are now only three more lessons between now and September. You have been warned.



Locating the Opponents' Queens

It's not too late to sign up for this workshop. **Right now there are only six students signed up!**

Level: **Novice**

Instructor: Malkin Howes

Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 9:30 am - noon



Overcalls – *The first step in*

competitive bidding

The opponents have opened the bidding. It looks as if this may be their hand, but we don't want to make the bidding easy for them. We want to compete! Interrupting their bidding and even going down one may be a good board for us. Enter overcalls.

With an overcall, we can open the bidding for our side with as few as eight HCP! This workshop will cover the requirements for overcalls at the one and two levels, how partner should respond to your potentially-weak bid, and the use of overcalls versus pre-empts.

The attendees will be given lots of opportunities to practise bidding and responding to overcalls. Don't miss out on this very effective defensive bidding tool!

Level: **Novice**

Instructor: Stephen Carpenter

Date: Wednesday, June 9, 2021, 9:30 am - noon

How to Register and Pay

- Click [here](#) for more information about and to register for our workshops (\$20 for members, \$25 for non-members).
 - Click [here](#) for information about how to pay for your lessons (scroll down).
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Finding Partner's Entry

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

At every table, East opened 1♥ but from there the variations began.

Board 25	♠ Q 9 5										
East Deals	♥ 7										
E-W Vul	♦ 9 6 4 3										
	♣ A K 10 6 3										
♠ 6 4		♠ 7									
♥ K J 9		♥ A Q 8 4 3 2									
♦ K Q J 8 5	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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> </div>		N		W		E		S		♦ A
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♣ 9 5 2		♣ Q J 8 7 4									
	♠ A K J 10 8 3 2										
	♥ 10 6 5										
	♦ 10 7 2										
	♣ —										

At my table, my partner made a non-vulnerable jump to 4♠. West passed, sitting with a limit raise in hearts but unwilling to push to 5♥.

Sitting North, I had a very nice hand for my partner with a singleton in the opponents' suit, a filler in his spades, and an outside AK. I could picture hands where 12 tricks are easy our way, if partner has short diamonds and club fillers. But there's no way to explore for this after this auction, so I passed. Now, East bid 5♣ unwilling to give up with his 6/5 distribution. South passed, and West of course corrected to 5♥.

Back to me. If East or West had simply bid 5♥, I would have very likely bid 5♠ - hoping that it would be a good sacrifice or that we could make 11 tricks. But East's 5♣ bid has convinced me that I have good defence against my vulnerable opponents.

Surely East won't be able to ruff all of his clubs in the dummy. I thought. I was so sure that I had tricks that I doubled 5♥ and this was passed out. My partner started the defence with two rounds of spades and from there it was smooth sailing for East: he quickly cashed six hearts and five diamonds, losing just one trick in each black suit. None of us had expected a monster diamond suit in the dummy.

After the play, we teased my partner for not finding the killing lead: the ♠2! This is the only start that could win us the first four tricks: one spade, two clubs, and a club ruff. It is not out of the question to underlead a strong holding, hoping to get to partner's hand to get a ruff. The lead of the two would be suit preference, requesting the lower outside suit, namely clubs. If his void had been in diamonds, the lead of a higher card would request the higher suit.

Oddly, the same tactic could work for the other side as well. About half of the tables played the hand in spades by N/S. Only one E/W pair found the defence to take four tricks. At that table, West's opening lead was the ♦K, won by East's ace. He then switched to the ♥8, underleading his ace and queen. West won this trick and cashed two diamond tricks to beat the game. With another defence, South can ruff two heart losers in the dummy and throw two diamond losers on the top clubs, losing only two red tricks.

👉 Distributional hands are really tough to bid and lead against.

FOR ADVANCED PLAYERS



Dear David

Director! Can I help? My opponent passed!!!

Many pairs opened 2♠ with the West hand. That allowed N/S to bid and make four hearts. Is there anything you can do about that?

		N North ♠ 8 ♥ AKQ84 ♦ J5 ♣ AKQ93	W N E S P P P P P 1♥ P P P P
W West ♠ AQJ953 ♥ 107 ♦ 106 ♣ 1072			E East ♠ 10642 ♥ 52 ♦ AKQ32 ♣ J4
	S South ♠ K7 ♥ J963 ♦ 9874 ♣ 865		1♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0

My first thought was to report West's egregious behaviour to the Conduct and Ethics Committee, but I didn't want to lose my standing as the nicest (and handsomest) man you have ever known, so I decided murder would be the appropriate response.

On to the solution. What would you do if your opponent opened the bidding? If your upper limit for a simple overcall is 15 points, you would have to start with a double and then bid your suit. It makes no difference if your opponent bids 1♠ or 2♠ - double is still the right call. It actually helps you when your opponent opens the bidding and you have a hand that is not-quite-good-enough-to-open 2♣. So, the auction might go p-p-2♠-dbl-p-?. South may now bid 3♥ which will be raised to 4♥, or 3♦-3♥ (hearts with a strong hand)-4♥, or if you play the lebensohl convention, 2NT (relay to 3♣, usually showing a not-very-good hand)-3♣-3♥ (hearts with a strong hand)-4♥ (I think I have enough). None of these things deals with the problem as presented. What to do?

When you open the bidding at the one level, your partner is not required to bid with fewer than six points. On this hand, South's obvious pass did not turn out well. How can North force partner to bid? The only forcing opening bid is 2♣.

Some people have strict requirements for a 2♣ opener. Some say 22+ since they can show 20-21 with a 2NT opener. Some say 20+ with an unbalanced hand. Here, North has only 19 HCP, so she immediately ruled out 2♣. As I have said many times to anyone who will listen — count your points when you pick up your hand and then forget about them so you can concentrate on the value of your hand.

Try this method for your 2♣ opening bids: 2♣ shows 20+ HCP or 8½ tricks. Kx is a half trick. Extra length in suits is worth tricks. So AKQxx is usually worth four or five tricks (let's say 4½). 4½ & 4½ = 9 tricks. So, 2♣-2♦-2♥-4♥.

I am not saying you should open 2♣ with x x xx AKQxxxxx because you have nine club tricks. I am saying that you need to evaluate the trick-taking potential of your hand, irrespective of high-card points.



FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS

Jake's Challenges (#22)

♠ A 8 6
♥ K 6 4
♦ A 5 4 3
♣ A 6 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K Q 3
♥ Q J 10 8 3
♦ Q 6
♣ Q J 9

If you were in the South seat declaring four hearts and received the ♣8 opening lead, what would you do?

SOLUTION

There are two inescapable losers - the trump ace and the king of diamonds - and there is another potential loser, the king of clubs. Does the opening lead present you with the opportunity of taking a free finesse and give you the chance of making an overtrick?

There are several reasons why you should not finesse in clubs.

1. Because you have at most three losers counting the king of clubs, your contract is solid unless something really unexpected happens.
2. It's unlikely that the opening leader would underlead his king, especially given that his card is a highish card.
3. It's possible that West's ♣8 is a singleton, in which case West will be able to ruff his partner's club return. Ouch. And even if West's ♣8 is from a doubleton and he doesn't ruff his partner's first club return, when you draw trumps and East takes his ace, he will lose no time returning another club for his partner to ruff. Also ouch.
4. It's also possible that the ♣8 is the second-highest of five clubs, meaning that East is the opponent with a club doubleton. If this is the case, West can win his king of clubs at Trick 1 and return his last club for you to win. Then, as soon as you start drawing trumps, West can hop up with his ace and lead a third club for his partner to ruff. Ouch again.

So, forget about your "free lunch" and take the ace of clubs at Trick 1. Here is the full hand.

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

As you can see, this is the scenario set out in the fourth bullet above. If you took the bait and finessed in clubs at Trick 1, you would end up going down in a perfectly-makeable contract. If, however, you controlled your greed and took the first trick with the ace, West could get in with his ace of trumps all right - but his club lead would hit a dead end in his partner's hand because East wouldn't be able to lead a club back. It's usually wrong to risk your contract for the sake of a possible overtrick.

Inaugural 19er Game

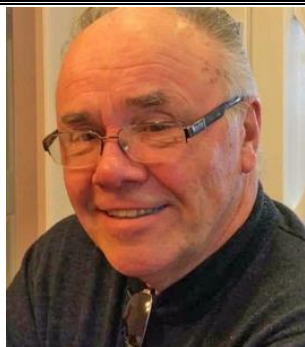
Last night, 24 new players attended Jack Cole's workshop on how to play in our online duplicate games for rookies. This coming Thursday, they (along with any other interested players with fewer than 20 master points) are invited to play in our club's inaugural 19er game. Teacher Allen Pengelly has agreed to sit in on the first few games and provide help.

If you know of someone who hasn't played at our club before but might be interested in playing in a low-stress duplicate game, please encourage him or her to give it a whirl. Interested parties should contact [Grant Roberts](#) in advance.



Unit 249 Virtual Tournament

On Saturday, May 29 and Sunday, May 30, our club will be hosting a unit-wide online tournament that will yield silver master points and BBO\$ prizes. There will be three flights (0-299, 0-999, and open). More details are available on [the flier attached to the same](#) email that conveyed this newsletter. The tournament organizers would be grateful if you would forward this flier to anyone in our unit who might be interested. The bigger these games, the bigger the master point awards....



Greg Krulicki

We regret to inform you that former GRBC member Greg Krulicki recently passed away at the age of 74. A celebration of Greg's life will be held at a later date. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Click [here](#) for more information.

Grass Roots Weekend

Win DOUBLE black points when you play this weekend. The \$2 surcharge will go to support a variety of events, including Grand National Teams and North American Pairs. Additional amounts raised will be sent back to each club's home district. No registration is required. Simply play in your usual weekend games to participate.

Coming Virtual Activities

- Friday, May 14, 12:30 pm, **99er game, (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Friday, May 14, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Friday, May 14, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Saturday, May 15, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Sunday, May 16, 10:00 am, **499er game, (18 boards) \$7**
- Monday, May 17, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$5**
- Monday, May 17, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Monday, May 17, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, May 18, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, May 18, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, May 19, 9:30 am, **Locating the Opponents' Queens Workshop**
- Wednesday, May 19, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, May 19, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, May 19, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, May 20, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, May 20, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, May 20, 6:30 pm, **19er game \$5** 
- Thursday, May 20, 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're starting a 19er game at our **club**