



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – November 9, 2020

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 in September and October.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	57.38	1	Sandy Graham	18.97	1	Suzanne Edwards	22.70
2	Margot Stockie	39.83	2	Sue Moses	15.98	2	Brian Silva	14.11
3	Mike Peng	39.24	2	Brenda Semple	15.98	3	Nanci Phelan	13.76
4	Cindy Mahn	38.93	4	Stephen Nantes	14.95	4	Noah Pace	11.82
5	Colin Harrington	29.76	5	Ron Lawrence	14.78	5	Barbara Arthur	11.23
6	Edith Ferber	29.09	6	Brian Kirkconnell	14.43	6	Salvatore Pace	11.22
7	Robert Griffiths	27.60	7	Mary McClelland	14.06	7	Andy Martinek	10.54
8	David Longstaff	22.64	8	Keith Prosser	13.45	8	Joan Slover	10.04
9	Moira Hollingsworth	21.88	9	Janet Howell	13.05	9	Steven Allen	9.87
10	Dianne Aves	21.06	10	Lori Cole	12.55	9	Joe Blake	9.87
11	Liz McDowell	20.71	11	Kathy Russell	12.40	11	Marlene Dopko	8.41
12	Bruce Roberts	18.60	12	Sandy Lee	11.18	12	Marion Allan	7.58
13	Malkin Howes	17.88	13	Jack Cole	10.73	13	Shelley Metcalfe	7.28
14	Diane Bourdeau	17.84	14	Roy Dandyk	10.56	14	Casey Baron	7.13
15	Ted Boyd	17.35	14	David Embury	10.56	15	Susan McDonald	6.93
16	Stephen Young	17.07	16	Judy Widdecombe	9.98	16	Susan Durance	6.71
17	Neil Jeffrey	17.03	17	Adriaan Kempe	9.97	17	Susan Kerrigan	6.16
18	Pat McMillan	16.18	18	Kevin Latter	9.60	18	Virginia Alviano	5.90
19	Tom Ramsay	16.04	19	David Dennis	9.28	19	Barb Neibert	5.79
20	Wayne Jordan	13.93	20	Allen Pengelly	9.21	19	Anita Hanson	5.79
21	John Moser	13.50	21	John Hanemaayer	9.12	21	Judy Bailey	5.70
22	Adrian Record	11.84	22	Jim Veitch	9.05	22	Robert Giilck	5.65
23	William Christian	11.91	23	Vivian McLellan	8.96	23	Mary Lynn Benjamins	5.26
24	Stephen Carpenter	11.72	24	Sue Peterson	8.60	24	Nancy Cattanach	5.08
25	Peter Hannak	11.04	25	Jim Dalglish	7.61	25	Joan Lawson	4.89



Congratulations to the following local players who have advanced to the next ACBL level.

Junior Master

- **Philip L. Fiess**

Club Master

- **Steven R. Allen**
- **Joe Blake**
- **Anita Hanson**
- **Noah Place**
- **Salvatore Pace**
- **Carol Robinson**
- **Jane Rushby**

Regional Master

- **David Dennis**

And a warm welcome to the following new ACBL member.

- **Frank J. Henigman**
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New Club Member

A very warm welcome to new club member **Sudesh Rayner**. Sudesh will be taking our Beginner 2 course starting next week.



87% of gym members don't even know their gym is closed

Are Four Points Enough?

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

I am often asked in the bidding how many points am I promising when I interfere with the opponents' 1NT opening. There is no answer to this question: bidding might show points, or it might have nuisance value.

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

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

On this hand, every West passed and most Norths opened 1NT (15-17). Every East player stuck his or her nose into the auction, usually showing a two-suited major hand. Without the interference, N/S will most likely find a no trump contract – either a game or a slam. There are 12 easy tricks to be had in no trump---five clubs, four spades, two diamonds, and a slow heart. But with E/W making noise during the auction, it gets easy for N/S to lose their way. After East mentioned the majors, both North and South were concerned that the heart suit might be a problem in no trump. Some N/S pairs settled into a happy club contract, some into a not-so happy diamond game. One E/W pair managed to buy the contract for 3♥ doubled for a very happy E/W score of +530, losing just one trick in each suit, in spite of having only 7 HCP between the two E/W hands.

There are various ways of showing two-suited hearts and spades hands over the opponents' 1NT openers. Cappelletti uses 2♦, DONT uses 2♥, other systems start with a double. Two-suited bids are generally safer than simply bidding a single suit – since your partner is more likely to have a fit for at least one of the two suits.

Thanks to Cindy Mahn for sending in this hand. Of course, it was she who she got the +530.

👏 Shapely hands make it much safer to interfere in the bidding.





Dear David

You can't get there from here.....

Many years ago, I played against two ladies who were playing in their first duplicate game. They were experienced players of home bridge games but were a little lost playing in an open duplicate game. I had doubled them in 3♠, but declarer's unorthodox line of play had created six winners in dummy. She would have made two overtricks at this point, except for one small problem. The only entry to dummy was in the trump suit, but she had neglected to save a low-enough trump in her hand to get to the dummy's winners. The look on her face as she sat for three minutes, desperately searching for a way to get to dummy has stuck with me ever since. From that day on, I promised myself I would practise being "fluid" - not just in the trump suit, but in all suits. Your wish to have an easy entry to your hand or the dummy comes up frequently and often unexpectedly. For example, if you have 64 in one hand and 5 in the other, you can lead the 4 to the 5, or the 5 to the 6. I recently defended against this hand.

D 24	N North	W N E S
	♠ AJ5	P 1NT P P
	♥ AJ975	2♣ P 2♦ P
	♦ K3	P 2♥ P P
	♣ A85	3♦ P P 3♥
W West		E East
♠ 1064		♠ K87
♥ 4		♥ K108
♦ A1097654		♦ Q2
♣ Q4		♣ K9762
	S South	
	♠ Q932	
	♥ Q632	
	♦ J8	
	♣ J103	
		3♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0

I watched the declarer play the hand up to the point that the following cards remained, with the lead in the North hand.

N North	S South
♠ AJ5	♠ Q932
♥ AJ975	♥ Q632
♦ K3	♦ J8
♣ A85	♣ J103

If North had kept the ♥5 instead of the ♥7, he would have had one card higher than the ♥6 and one lower. He could then move to either hand any time he wanted. On this hand, he would lead the ♥5 to the ♥6 and cash the 13th spade, throwing a club. Instead, he had to lead clubs from the North hand and thus could not avoid two club losers. going down one. Practise this play until it becomes automatic. You never know when you might need an extra entry.

Do you have a "what-should-I-do" bridge-related question for me? Email me at and I will try to answer all your questions, either privately or in the Alert.



Our Recent Grads

Contributed by Jane Rushby, Sue Andersen, and Sue Moses

GRBC is encouraging our new players! Our latest session of Beginner 1 classes concluded on Thursday October 15. The eager students were invited to two follow-up practice sessions. We had a great turnout of 12 players.

After some initial hiccups with technology and passwords, we were all able to enjoy several hands together. The kibitzers (coaches) watched and lent a helping hand when needed. Both sessions were a great learning opportunity and a fun evening.

An added bonus is that some of our beginners are continuing to meet on their own as they now have the skills to navigate BBO.

Many of these players are eager to start their Beginner 2 lessons this month. Hopefully, they will soon be able to join some beginner games.

Learning the Lingo – ACE HIGH, KING THIRD

Contributed by Jean Farhood

As bridge players, we use shortcuts to describe our holdings.

- Sometimes, you will hear a player say that he held “king third of spades”. This just means that the king was the highest spade he held, along with two little spades, for a total of three cards in the suit.
- Similarly, “ace, jack, fifth of hearts” means the player holds five hearts with the ace and the jack being the highest cards in that suit.
- “Ace high” or “ace empty” just means that the ace was the player’s highest card in the suit, but these expressions do not specify how many other cards were held in that suit.
- A “stiff queen” is a singleton queen.

For sure, bridge terminology can be confusing to newcomers. If you are unsure about the meaning of one of these expressions, you are completely within your rights to ask what the meaning is.



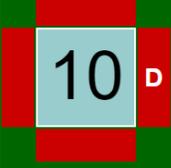
Financial Update

Contributed by Bev Pope, Treasurer

We are four months into the current fiscal year and online play has become the new reality. The last week of October was a Club Appreciation Week where double black points were awarded without having to pay higher game fees. The club had 472 paying players that week, which is a record number for our club. For all those who played and had fun, thanks for your continued support of our virtual club games and for those that earned extra points: CONGRATULATIONS! It was a very successful week as was the whole month of October. For those who were unable to attend the Annual General Meeting in September, I would like to report that the Board was able to negotiate a 15% rent decrease with Dare Foods. This decrease will continue for a year unless we are able to reopen sooner. The long-term debt to Dare Foods has also been paid off in October. This means that what we earn going forward is solely used for the survival of the club. The impact of reduced expenses and steady participation in online games and lessons resulted in a small gain at the end of October. The Board has a positive outlook for our future based on the dedication and commitment of our members.

Planning the Play - Transportation

Contributed by John Moser

	N North ♠ J632 ♥ 8 ♦ 8543 ♣ AJ87	W N E S 3♦ P 1♥ P P P 4♥ P
	W West ♠ Q10987 ♥ A105 ♦ 2 ♣ KQ106	E East ♠ K4 ♥ KQJ742 ♦ KQ9 ♣ 93
	S South ♠ A5 ♥ 963 ♦ AJ1076 ♣ 542	4♥ E NS: 0 EW: 0

We are in four hearts today. It is a good contract. Let's make a plan.

We have to lose three aces, plus there is another potential loser - the ♦9. However, we can ruff the ♦9 with proper timing. The opening lead is the ♥6. Before you play to the first trick, complete your plan.

Did you plan to take the first trick in your hand? If so, your contract is now in peril. Let's look at what would happen if you take the first trick in your hand.

At Trick 2, obviously you will lead the ♦K, expecting to lose the ace of diamonds and get yourself into position to ruff the ♦9. Good defence will take the ♦A and lead another trump.

Now you have to either take this trick in the dummy or else overtake the ♥T in your hand, leaving the ♥A on the board.

- If you take the third trick in the dummy, then you're going to have a tough time getting back to your hand to ruff the ♦9. Whatever you lead, the opponents will take it and lead their last trump. Now you are out of trumps in the dummy and can no longer ruff the ♦9.
- If you take the third trick in your hand by overtaking the ♥T and lead your ♦9 to the board to be ruffed by the ♥A, now you are stuck on the board and have to guess which suit to work on as a way back to your hand. There is still a trump out!

It is true that you can eventually get back to your hand to draw the last trump if you guess to lead the ♣K and play carefully, but the point is that it's a guess. (If you guess to work on spades, good defence can beat you.)

If, however, you win the opening heart lead with dummy's ace and lead a diamond right away, there is no guess. By winning the opening lead with the ♥A, you eliminate the need to guess. You have solved your transportation problems since you can get back to your hand with trumps later on. As with chess, you sometimes have to look a long way ahead before you make your move.

Are You Missing the Bridge Labs?

Contributed by Neil Jeffrey

If you had been attending and enjoying the Bridge Lab sessions before we were locked down, read on. We have a few mentors who are willing to act as coaches for a group of four or five less-experienced players. Here's how it works.

- Emails (or telephone calls ahead of time) organize the names, telephone numbers, and BBO usernames of all the players and the coach, as well as the time for the session(s). [Malkin](#) has the names of some available mentors.
- At least one person needs to know how to organize a telephone conference call, and at least one person needs to know how to set up a teaching table on BBO and how to invite the players.
- At the appointed time, one of them opens a telephone conference call, bringing in all the players, alternates if any, and the coach.
- Finally, one of them organizes the teaching table in BBO, inviting the first four players, and allowing kibitzers.
- The alternate players and the coach locate the table (by knowing the BBO usernames of the players), and ask to join the table.
- At this point, play proceeds almost like a regular Bridge Lab session: the coach (and alternates) can see all the hands while the players can see only their own hand plus the dummy, and everyone can hear everyone else on the conference call. Players can ask for advice on bidding or play. Bids made or cards played can be undone if desired.
- At the end of the hand, everyone can see all of the cards in each hand, and the bidding and/or play can be reviewed and discussed.
- If there are more than four players, after a few hands one of the players can leave the table and the alternate (who has been kibitzing) can sit in his/her place, while the player who has just left, can rejoin as a kibitzer for the next few hands.
- One difference from a regular lab is that you really need to have four players plus the mentor, because if the mentor sits at the table, he will NOT be able to see the other players' hands and provide advice.

Our club is always looking for ways to make it possible for players of all skill levels to mingle and get to know one another, and our online coaching groups are a great way to make this happen.

**The problem
with stealing
quotes off the
Internet is you
never know
if they are
genuine.**

~ Abraham Lincoln

LESSONS NOT YET LEARNED



To Bid One More or Not to Bid One More

The Simplified Law of Total Tricks

There is still time to sign up for this **novice** workshop on Wednesday, November 18, 9:30 am – noon. The teacher is Malkin Howes.

This workshop will help you figure out what to do when your opponents interfere with your bidding – namely, should you pass or bid one more? It's an all-too-familiar dilemma.

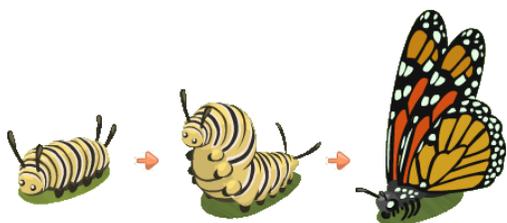
Regular partners may find it beneficial to attend this workshop as a pair.

Level: **Novice**

Instructor: Malkin Howes

Fee: \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members

Date: Wednesday, November 18, 9:30 am - noon



Beginners 2

This five-week course is a continuation of Beginners 1. All concepts are reviewed and reinforced. Bidding is emphasized, including take-out doubles and responses and ace-asking conventions. The principles of declaring no trump and suit contracts will be covered. The same text is used for both beginner courses.

If you know someone who has been away from bridge for a while but might be interested in dipping his or her toes back in the water, please tell him or her about this course

Level: **Beginner**

Instructor: Al Pengelly

Fee: \$75 (& \$10 for text if not already owned)

Dates: Thursday, November 12, 19, 26, December 3, & 10, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Click [here](#) for more information about our lessons and to register and [here](#) for information about paying.

Learn Bridge in a Day?

We had 15 students in our fall Beginner 1 classes, and so far 16 students have signed up for our Beginner 2 classes (which start on November 12). These new players are a great gift to our club – a promise of our renewal and continuation – and we are so grateful to everyone who makes it happen.

Sue Peterson and Isabel Hetherington are already hard at work planning for the next Learn Bridge in a Day (the doorway into our club for new players). The date is Saturday, January 9, 2021, so please tell all your non-bridge-playing friends and relatives to save this date!



Christmas Party!!!!

You will have to stay home for our Christmas party, but we can't not have a party. Liz McDowell and Cindy Mahn have been hosting our Christmas parties for 16 years, and they're not going to make an exception this year! Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 12.

Like always, we will play lots of bridge, get master points, and win prizes. Unlike other years, though, no food will be provided.

There will be three flights (0-99, 0-499, and open). There will be two sessions (single-session entries welcome). The entry fee is \$5 per session. After the second session, people can join their fellow players on Zoom for some socialization.

You are asked to register for the games 30 minutes before game time on the day. If you want to participate in the Zoom session, you will need to sign up ahead of time in order to get the link. You can sign up for the Zoom session by emailing DearDavidBridge@hotmail.com.

Coming Virtual Activities at our Club

- Friday, November 6, 1:00 pm, **499er game** (26-28 boards)
- Friday, November 6, 7:00 pm, **open game** (26-28 boards)
- Saturday, November 7, 1:00 pm, **199er game** (20-22 boards)
- Sunday, November 8, 10:00 am, **499er game** (18 boards) 
- Monday, November 9, 12:30 pm, **49er game** (18 boards @ 8 minutes)
- Monday, November 9, 1:00 pm, **open game** (26-28 boards)
- Monday, November 9, 7:00 pm, **499er game** (24 boards)
- Tuesday, November 10, 12:30 pm, **199er game** (20-22 boards)
- Tuesday, November 10, 1:00 pm, **open game** (26-28 boards)
- Wednesday, November 11, 1:00 pm, **499er game** (26-28 boards)
- Wednesday, November 11, 6:45 pm, **199er game** (20-22 boards) 
- Wednesday, November 11, 7:00 pm, **open game** (24 boards)
- Thursday, November 12, 9:30 am, **99er game** (20-22 boards)
- Thursday, November 12, 1:00 pm, **open game** (26-28 boards)

We have fun in **spades**.
We play with all our **hearts**.
We treat our members like **diamonds**.
We welcome new players at our **club**.