



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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## ALERT – April 26, 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 March.*

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	50.67	1	Suzanne Edwards	19.65	1	Salvatore Pace	19.99
2	Mike Peng	31.33	2	John Hanemaayer	17.57	2	Ginny Scott	11.75
3	Cindy Mahn	29.26	3	Barbara Arthur	16.62	3	Isabel Hetherington	10.72
4	Bruce Roberts	26.80	4	Stephen Nantes	16.46	4	Noah Pace	9.95
5	Margot Stockie	26.78	5	Casey Baron	15.50	5	Martin Jones	9.02
6	Robert Griffiths	26.36	6	Brian Kirkconnell	15.00	6	Susan Kerrigan	8.68
7	David Longstaff	24.14	7	Paul Latimer	14.15	7	Nancy Cattanach	8.56
8	Liz McDowell	22.34	8	Sue Voll	13.40	8	Mary Lynn Benjamins	8.22
9	Moira Hollingsworth	22.16	9	Janet Howell	12.31	9	Kathleen Burns	7.63
10	Edith Ferber	19.92	10	Brian Silva	11.91	10	Virginia Alviano	7.45
11	Colin Harrington	19.36	11	Lori Cole	11.78	11	Susan Durance	7.44
12	Kandis Smith	17.40	12	Kathy Russell	10.99	12	Kathy Chandler	7.12
13	David Wilson	16.93	13	Jake Liu	10.54	13	Elinor Girouard	7.10
14	Dianne Aves	16.27	14	Judy Widdecombe	10.30	14	Barb Neibert	6.85
15	Ted Boyd	14.78	14	Vivian McLellan	10.30	15	Margaret Sanderson	6.81
16	Sandy Graham	13.52	16	Lynda Burnett	10.01	16	Anita Hanson	6.79
17	Tom Ramsay	13.37	17	Jim Dalgliesh	9.47	17	Joe Blake	6.62
18	Mary McClelland	13.21	18	Cheryl Kip	9.19	17	Steven Allen	6.62
19	Neil Jeffrey	13.02	19	Shelley Metcalfe	9.19	19	Janet Roberts	6.53
20	Susan Lawton	12.98	20	Sue Moses	9.03	20	Ginny Marshall	6.27
21	Malkin Howes	10.95	20	Brenda Semple	9.03	20	Bob Somerville	6.27
22	Pat McMillan	10.25	22	Karen Whitworth	8.98	20	Belinda Burt	6.27
23	John Moser	9.46	23	Vivian Zochowski	8.63	23	Patricia Malvern	6.16
24	Neil Coburn	7.36	24	Rebecca Kalbfleisch	8.56	24	Julia Prendiville	5.98
25	Thea Davis	7.00	25	John Kip	8.35	25	Reinhold Kauk	5.90
						25	Elaine Doyle	5.90

# Update, Canadian National Team Championships

*Contributed by Ted Boyd and Mike Peng*

The Canadian Bridge Championships (CBC), formerly known as Bridge Week, is an annual tournament that is usually held during the month of May and features multiple national competitions.

CBF members from across Canada, and of all levels, gather to compete for a chance to become Canadian Champions in one or more of the following team competitions.

- Canadian National Team Championship – Flight A (CNTC-A) – Open to all
- Canadian National Team Championship – Flight B (CNTC-B) – Limited to those participants with fewer than 3,500 masterpoints
- Canadian National Team Championship – Flight C (CNTC-C) - Limited to those participants with fewer than 1,000 masterpoints
- Canadian Women Team Championship (CWTC)
- Canadian Senior Team Championship (CSTC) – Limited to those age 62 or older
- Canadian Mixed Team Championship (CMTC)

During the Covid 19 Pandemic, the 2021 Canadian National Team Championships have been running from January of 2021 and operated more like an online team league with weekly round robin games, followed by playoff rounds. GRBC had a total of four teams entered in three of the six contests.

## Flight B Teams

Two teams from our club entered, and after the round robin stage of seven weeks both teams qualified for the semi-final round, 64 boards to be played in four segments of 16 boards.

The Peng Team (Mike Peng, Peter Peng, Bob Griffith, Adrian Record, Gill Sitarenios and Jorry Chu) qualified in first place after the round robin stage, and met a team from Quebec that had previously won the event, dispatching them, 135 to 115, with a margin of victory of 20 IMPs.

The Boyd Team (Ted Boyd, Bruce Roberts, Dianne Aves and Moira Hollingsworth) qualified in 4th place and met a team from Alberta, winning by a margin of victory of 32 IMPs, 161 to 129.

That meant that the two GRBC teams faced each other in the 64-board final. The match was hard fought with each team winning two of the four sessions, but a dominant second session saw the Peng Team the winners and Canadian B Level Champions, by a score of 179 to 133.

Click [here](#) for a link to the results of each segment.

The second set was highlighted by the following board. East/West bid and made four hearts on 21 points, resulting in an 11-IMP swing.

11		N ROBERTSBRU		W N E S	
D		♠ J954		1NT	
		♥ 6		2♦ P 2♥ P	
		♦ 98753		4♥ P P P	
		♣ QJ6			
W Gill		S boydst		E unique_88	
♠ 10		♠ AK2		♠ Q8763	
♥ A10983		♥ QJ54		♥ K72	
♦ 2		♦ KQ10		♦ AJ64	
♣ AK9743		♣ 852		♣ 10	
				4♥ E NS: 0 EW: 0	

Congratulations to the Peng Team!

### Mixed Teams

A total of 22 teams entered this event and played 10 matches of 16 boards to set the eight teams which entered the play-offs. The GRBC Bourdeau Team (Diane Bourdeau, Dave Baker, Edith Ferber, Dave Longstaff, Tom Ramsay, and Cindy Mahn) won 7 of their 10 matches but were unable to reach the playoffs. The team was unfortunate to win matches by low scores and lose matches by high scores, finishing seventh place in their round robin pool play.

### Seniors Teams

The Seniors Championship had 16 entries from the best in Canada. Representing GRBC were Dave Baker and Peter Peng, playing with Paul Janicki and Richard Chan. The team qualified first after a round robin of seven matches and entered the playoffs. In their quarter final 64-board match, the team completed a stunning comeback winning the match by 3 IMPs after out-scoring the opponents by 40 IMPs in the final segment. The semi final was not so successful, when they played against a team that included four players from Canadian national team. All in all, a very successful winter for GRBC teams.

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### Blacklisted!

Click [here](#) for a clip from a TV series called Blacklist in which the main bad guy (James Spader) is studying Barbara Seagram's *25 Bridge Conventions* in an effort to get better at the game.

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## OBVIOUS SIGNS THAT HUMANITY IS DOOMED



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*This artwork on our Rank Changes report in last week's Alert attracted the following letter to the editor.*

## **The V Sign or Churchill – Who Knew?**

The meaning of the V sign is partially dependent on the manner in which the hand is positioned. If the palm of the hand faces the signer (i.e., the back of the hand faces the observer), the sign can mean an insulting gesture in Australia, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

William Christian

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## **Rookie Ramblings – A Teacher First Website**

*Contributed by Jane Lemke*

Last week, I mentioned a website that includes bridge lessons and quizzes and described what I consider the attributes of a 'good' bridge quiz website.

I recently discovered another website "*A teacher first*" ([www.ateacherfirst.com](http://www.ateacherfirst.com), cited with permission) that includes numerous bridge lessons and quizzes. The column on the right of the website's home page includes "Bridge – Step 1 for Beginners" and "Bridge – Step 2 for Beginners." Both of these provide links to five lessons, all of which include a quiz, along with answers to the quiz questions.

You might find it interesting if I critique this website using the attributes that I listed last week. These bridge lessons are somewhat informative, 'readable', and user-friendly. Navigating the lessons, quizzes, and answers necessitates returning each time to the previous webpage to access the quiz rather than continuing at the end of each lesson. The hands in the quizzes could be more visibly 'appealing', while the correct answers are presented in a very brief table format with minimum explanation of the rationale for the correct / incorrect responses.

*This is the second in a continuing series of Alert articles specific to the interests of beginner /early- intermediate bridge players. Beginners to the game of bridge can easily become overwhelmed, and perhaps even intimidated, by the breadth and nuances of bridge learning. Initial article ideas include a description of interesting websites (such as this article), YouTube bridge videos, and perhaps a brief discussion of a bridge topic followed by links to relevant websites. Ideally, some article topics might evolve from readers' interests, feedback, and suggestions. So, please feel free to forward these to Jane ([cjlemke@sympatico.ca](mailto:cjlemke@sympatico.ca)).*

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# LESSONS NOT YET LEARNED



## Weak Twos

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

Level: **Novice**

Instructor: Malkin Howes

Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 9:30 am - noon

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## Practising Basic Bridge Conventions

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

Level: **Beginner**

Instructor: Stephen Carpenter

Date: Wednesday, May 5, 2021, 9:30 am - noon

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## Inferences

There are lots of inferences around the bridge table - including inferences derived from breaks in tempo, inferences made on the basis of bids not made and cards not played, inferences taken from prior knowledge of the opponents' proclivities, and so forth. But in this lesson, we will focus on inferences available from the bidding - specifically the location of the opponents' high cards and how the suits are splitting, as well as inferences that are available from the opening lead.

Of course, inferences are just educated guesses, and sometimes an inference is wrong for whatever reason. However, looking out for inferences will give you better results than just the 50% odds available from guessing. The participants will declare up to 15 hands, all of which are makeable IF the declarer takes the time to absorb the available inferences and play accordingly.

Level: **Intermediate**

Instructor: Malkin Howes

Date: Monday, May 10, 2021, 9:30 am - noon

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## 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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## The Most Important Card in Your Hand

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

**Board 12**  
South Deals  
None Vul

<p>♠ 8 4 3 2 ♥ J 10 9 8 6 2 ♦ K 3 ♣ J</p>	<p>♠ Q 5 ♥ A ♦ Q 9 8 7 5 4 2 ♣ A Q 7</p>	<p>♠ J 9 6 ♥ K Q 4 ♦ J 10 ♣ K 8 6 5 2</p>	
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">             N W     E S         </div>		
	<p>♠ A K 10 7 ♥ 7 5 3 ♦ A 6 ♣ 10 9 4 3</p>		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♣
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 N
Pass	3 N	All pass	

South figured that two aces and a king were enough to open the bidding, so he started proceedings with 1♣. West passed and North replied 1♦. When East passed, South continued with 1NT, bypassing his spade suit with his flat hand.

North jumped right to 3NT, hoping that the diamond suit would work out and that the hearts wouldn't behave too badly.

West, of course, led the ♥J, won by dummy's ace. East squirmed before playing the ♥4 on this trick.

Declarer played two rounds of diamonds and West found himself on lead with the ♦K. Of course, he now led another heart. East took his king and queen of hearts, but then had to give the lead back to Declarer who now could win the rest of the tricks. East's hearts were all set up but he couldn't get in to cash them.

East had wasted the most important card in his hand - the ♥4. He needed to save it at Trick 1 by playing the king or queen under dummy's ♥A.

East knew that South didn't have a five-card major suit because he opened 1♣ and rebid 1NT. That left his partner with at least five hearts, and the lead of the jack promised at least the JT8. East could have won the second heart trick with his queen and returned that vital ♥4 through Declarer's remaining (fewer-than-three) hearts to set the contract.

Playing the ♥K at Trick 1 lets partner know where the queen is\* and keeps the ♥4 as the link back to the West hand.

\*The king cannot be singleton. That would leave declarer with way too many hearts. With two or more hearts including the king but not the queen, it would not be reasonable to throw the king, given that partner's lead of the jack denies the queen. Playing the king lets partner know that if he gets in, he can lead low to your other honour.

**Plan Ahead**



# Dear David

## Learning to Read

There are a great many inferences to be gleaned from the auction, the defense, and the declarer play. There are many more inferences available from body language at the club (pre-Covid). Playing online has negated the live inferences - or has it? On the hand below, all of these inferences were in play. Team game. E/W was vulnerable and N/S was not vulnerable. N/S were experts and always played quickly.

W West	W N E S	E East
♠AJ85 ♥K106 ♦K1074 ♣A6	Pass Pass 1♣ 1NT 3♣ 3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass Pass Pass	♠K72 ♥Q97532 ♦9853 ♣

The 3♥ bid is aggressive, but it doesn't "pay" to let the opponents steal from you. West has an easy raise because it is a team game. South led the ♦A and then the ♦J after a protracted hesitation. Since the only worry declarer has is avoiding two heart losers (the ♠2 is thrown on the ♣A and declarer will give up the ♦Q), he is left with finding the ♥J.

**Inference #1** It looks as if South had a doubleton diamond and is looking for a diamond ruff. Generally, people with potentially natural trump tricks lead passively rather than aggressively.

The appearance of dummy made it look as if his lead helped declarer but, after a lot of thought, he could think of nothing better to do than another diamond. A heart went to the queen and ace. After an even longer hesitation, the ♠J was led. Declarer ruffed it and led the ♥3 with South playing the ♥8, leaving what you see below.

W West		E East
♠AJ85 ♥K106 ♦K1074 ♣A6	♥3 ♥8	♠K72 ♥Q97532 ♦9853 ♣

**Inference #2** NS have an 11-card club fit and the vulnerability is right for a 5♣ sacrifice. If North had a singleton heart, he might have decided to make a cheap sacrifice in 5♣.

**Inference #3** This inference is the one that happens during face-to-face bridge. When there is a hesitation at the table, you can "feel" the indecision. When it occurs online, your opponent might have answered the phone or talked to his wife or made a quick trip to get a drink. South uncharacteristically hesitated even longer when the 4♥ bid came back to him, obviously thinking about a sacrifice. Would he be thinking that long if he had two potential heart tricks with AJ8? Would he be so worried about how to beat this hand with two potential trump tricks in his hand?

Now that I have pointed you in the right direction, you play the ♥K and drop the ♥J for +620. The sad news is that my partner did not get the inferences and finessed the 10. The happy news is that they were in 3NT down one at the other table for a push board.

**FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS**

**Jake's Challenges (#19)**

♠ K J 5 2  
 ♥ A 6 2  
 ♦ A Q J 3 2  
 ♣ 2

	N		
W		E	
	S		

♠ A 4 3  
 ♥ K Q  
 ♦ 7 6 5  
 ♣ A Q 8 5 4

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

I was South on this hand and opened 1NT (15-17 HCP). West passed and my partner bid 2 clubs (Stayman). East passed and I bid 2 diamonds, denying a four-card major. My partner, presumably in love with his diamond suit, shot straight to 6NT. West led the ♥J. I played a small heart from Dummy, East followed with a small heart, and I took the trick with my ♥Q. At Trick 2, I led a diamond and inserted the board's jack, the finesse winning as East followed with the ♦9. I then came back to my hand with a heart, everyone following. At Trick 4, I finessed Dummy's queen again, whereupon East discarded a small heart - showing that West had started with four diamonds to the king and making it impossible for me to capture his king. So, at Trick 5, I cashed the ♦A and discarded a small club from my hand, while East threw another heart. At this point, five tricks had been played and this was our situation.

♠ K J 5 2  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ 3 2  
 ♣ 2

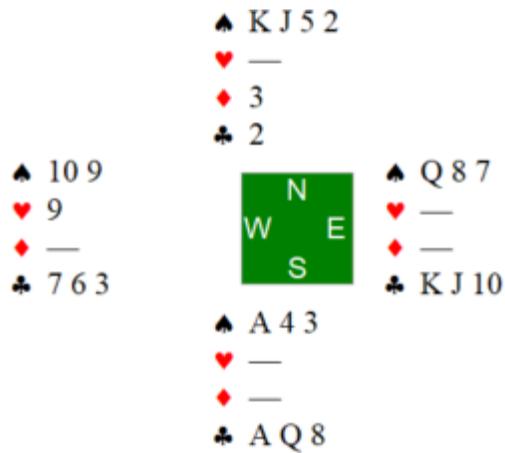
	N		
W		E	
	S		

♠ A 4 3  
 ♥ —  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ A Q 8 5 4

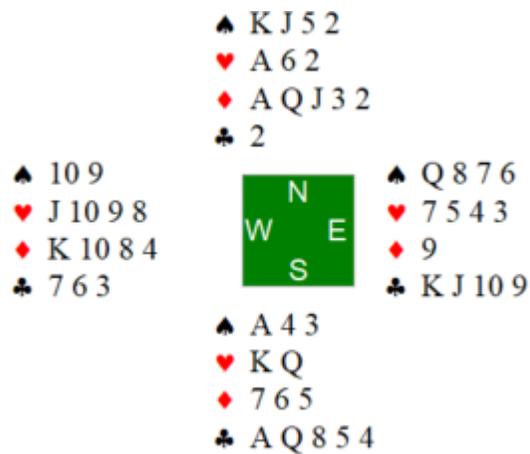
What would you do now?

**SOLUTION**

East has played a diamond and four small hearts, suggesting that the ♥T9 are most likely in the West hand. It thus seems very likely that East started with eight cards in the black suits. If this analysis is true, East probably has to guard both the spade and the club suits, and that means he can be squeezed. Play the last diamond and keep an eye on East's discard. You have to do exactly the opposite of what the East does. In other words, if East discards a spade, you should discard a club from your hand - while if East discards a club, you should discard a spade from your hand. Here is the situation after seven tricks have been played.



As you can see, when you lead the ♦3 squeeze card, East has no safe discard. If he throws a spade, all of your remaining spades will be good, while if East discards a club all of your clubs will be good. Here is the full hand.



## Stay@Home, Play@Home

The ACBL is holding a regionally-rated (gold and red points) tournament from Thursday April 22 through Sunday, April 25. Click [here](#) for more information.

*Another joke regular is Lissa Lowes. Here's an example of what Lissa sends in.*



## Coming Virtual Activities

- Friday, April 23, 12:30 pm, **99er game, (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Friday, April 23, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Friday, April 23, 7:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Saturday, April 24, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Sunday, April 25, 10:00 am, **499er game, (18 boards) \$5**
- Monday, April 26, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$5**
- Monday, April 26, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Monday, April 26, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, April 27, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, April 27, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, April 28, 9:30 am, **Weak Twos Workshop**
- Wednesday, April 28, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, April 28, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, April 28, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, April 29, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, April 29, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, April 29, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) \$5**

We have fun in **spades**.

We play with all our **hearts**.

We treat our members like **diamonds**.

Our **club** rocked it at the Canadian Championships.