



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

[Our Website](#)

## ALERT – March 20, 2023

Click [here](#) to access our regular game schedule.

### Looking Ahead

- ♥ 499ers, don't forget our new **f2f 499er game on Thursday afternoons.** NEW
- ♥ The [Guelph Spring Fling](#) will be held on Saturday, March 18.
- ♥ Starting the week of March 20, **the Monday afternoon 99er online game** and the **Wednesday evening 199er online game** will be **cancelled** due to lack of players.
- ♥ All of our f2f games during the week of March 21-24 will be **Membership Games**. Membership games award extra masterpoints at no extra cost – but only to paid-up ACBL members (membership in our club is irrelevant). Please note that *both* partners need to be paid-up ACBL members. If you are not already an ACBL member, you can remedy that [here](#) (please be sure to mention our club so that we can earn more up-graded club championship games for our members).
- ♥ All of our f2f games during the week of March 27-April 2 will be **Royal STaC games** (extra masterpoints [25% each **black**, **silver**, **red**, and **gold**], \$2 surcharge).
- ♥ [Spring Sectional – Buffalo Bridge Center, Amherst, NY](#). Friday, March 31 – Sunday, April 2
- ♥ [Toronto Easter Regional](#). Tuesday, April 4 – Sunday, April 9
- ♥ **Our club's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday party** will be held on Tuesday, April 11.
- ♥ **Barbara Seagram** will be at our club on Wednesday, May 3. Hold this date!



In case you didn't read the Looking Ahead items carefully, this is to reiterate that the **Monday afternoon 99er game** and the **Wednesday evening 199er game** have been officially cancelled due to low attendance – effective immediately.

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## The Bean Counter

*Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer*

Everyone knows the story of history's most infamous traitor, a dude named Marcus Brutus who killed Julius Caesar Salad in the year 44 BC. That date (March 15) became known as the Ides of March. It was in all the newspapers, you couldn't have missed it. Roman historians failed to mention that they were playing contract bridge at the time of the attack and the murder weapon was a blunt instrument rather than a sharp knife. How do we know this to be true? Conspiracy theorists suggest that Brutus opened a short club and Julius passed quickly.

Exactly 2,066 years later, on the Ides of March 2022, the GRBC opened its doors to F2F duplicate bridge after a two-year absence. The lights and Bridgemates still worked. The first members to relearn how to hold playing cards in their hands undertook a four-table open event. Since then, there have been 1,014 tables of bridge played at our club. Happy Anniversary, GRBC! Lookin' good....

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## Thursday Morning BBO Games are Growing

*Contributed by Kathy Russell, Games Committee Chair*

You spoke, we listened – actually, you emailed, we read. There were requests for 21 boards for the Thursday morning 499er game. The Games Committee did some investigation and decided to tweak both the 199er and 499er games to give 21 boards a try. Starting Thursday March 23, the games will be 21 boards. The 499er game will start earlier at 9:25 am (give or take a couple of BBO minutes). The registration cut-off will be at 9:20 am for both games – in other words, please make sure you and your partner have registered before 9:20 am or you may not get to play.

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## Gender-Neutral Playing Cards

Bridge players are universally known to be very woke, and so it's high time that our game switched to gender-neutral playing cards. Fortunately, Indy Mellink, a forensic psychology graduate, has created a deck of cards that does away with the very outdated notion that women are worth less than men. Instead of kings, queens, and jacks, Mellink's deck has gold bars, silver coins, and bronze shields.

Some players, however, don't think Mellink is playing with a full deck. Piers Morgan, for example, has responded as follows: "Oh, FFS". Others think that Mellink has not gone far enough. Why is it okay that an ace is mightier than a deuce? Why should we be opposed to sexism but not numerism? And why is spades the boss suit? That's suitism!

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## Robots Don't Play Like Humans

This probably won't come as news to bridge players who play with the robots online, but there are lots of differences – and you can do better if you know some of their idiosyncrasies.

Here are some tips regarding declaring against robots.

- Robot defenders always split their lowest honour. So, if you're missing the QJT and lead towards the AK9, if LHO plays the jack you can bet your bottom dollar that RHO has the ten.
- Duck as much as you can in no trump when they've found your weak suit. They will often switch.
- Run the jack when you have a two-way queen finesse. The robot will likely cover.
- If you have the ace in your hand and lead towards the queen, if the robot does not fly king it does not have it.
- In general, reject finesses. Take them only if it is absolutely safe to do so.
- Don't be afraid to reveal your hand by cashing winners. Likely it will encourage the bots to cash their own winners.
- If a robot has an entry to its long suit after you hold up, it will continue playing the suit to clear it. But if it doesn't, it will switch. You can use this knowledge to place other cards.

Excerpted from [greatbridgelinks.com](http://greatbridgelinks.com)

### GRBC - SPRING TEAM LEAGUE - WEEK 3

	BAKER	S. BOYD	T. BOYD	FUNG	HANEMAAYER	JAMIESON	PLAYOFFS	TOTAL
BAKER		20	20	WEEK 5	15	WEEK 4	WEEK 6	55
FUNG	WEEK 5	9	17		WEEK 4	16	WEEK 6	42
HANEMAAYER	5	WEEK 5	10	WEEK 4		12	WEEK 6	27
JAMIESON	WEEK 4	10	WEEK 5	4	8		WEEK 6	22
S. BOYD	0		WEEK 4	11	WEEK 5	10	WEEK 6	21
T. BOYD	0	WEEK 4		3	10	WEEK 5	WEEK 6	13

Prepared by Al Pengelly



## Congratulations....

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

### Junior Master

- **Paul Raymond**

### Regional Master

- **Judy Beauchamp**

# TIME YOU LEARNED OUR LESSONS!

## IN THE CARDS

- **Two Over One Module** (two consecutive lessons). Tuesday mornings, 9:00 am – 11:30 am, March 21 and 28. \$40 members/ \$50 non-members. Instructor: Stephen Carpenter. Level: **Novice/Intermediate**. ONLINE. Current Enrollment: 11.

**NEW: CHANGED FROM IN PERSON TO ONLINE**

- **No Trump Interference (Cappelletti, DONT, and Meckwell)**. \$20 members/ \$25 non-members. Instructor: Malkin Howes. Level: **Intermediate**. ONLINE. Current Enrollment: 6

**NEW DATE: Monday, March 27, 9:30 am – noon**

- **Basic Bidding Five-Week Course**. \$80 members/ \$90 non-members. Tuesday mornings, April 11, 18, 25, May 2, and May 9, 9:00 am – 11:30 am. Instructor: Cindy Mahn. Level: **Novice**. IN-PERSON in our teaching room. Current Enrollment: 2.

**THOSE WHO TAKE THIS COURSE WILL GET UP TO THREE FREE PLAY VOUCHERS FOR OUR LABS AND GAMES.**

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



## Inverted Minors

*A way to reach hard-to-bid games and slams*

You hold:

♠A2  
♥K32  
♦AQ987  
♣Q43

What do you bid when partner opens 1♦?

If 2♦ is 6-9 HCP and 3♦ is a limit raise and 3NT is 13-15 HCP, then you must find another bid. How do you find out if the best contract is 3NT, 5♦, or 6♦? Learn more about inverted minors in this workshop.

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

Date: Thursday, April 13, 9:30 am – noon

Instructor: Tom Ramsay

Level: **Intermediate**

Mode: In person in our teaching room

Cost: \$25 members/ \$25 non-members

Current Enrollment: 2

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



## Dear David

### Perceptions When F2F

There is a list of “legal” actions you can employ during the auction and the play in order to deceive your opponents, as long as your partner is not aware of the deception. There is an even longer list of unethical actions that will cause the sheriff (game director) to come a-knockin’ at yer door. These include failure to play a singleton in tempo (“I was just thinking!”), drawing undue attention to an isolated natural bid, doubling with alacrity, asking an opponent’s partner after the opening lead of a king what they lead from ace-king when you hold the ace yourself, etc. The list of unauthorized actions that are designed to either help partner or lie to your opponents is endless.

Today, however, I want to talk about inferences. The Laws of Duplicate Bridge allow you to take inferences from an opponent’s hesitation “AT YOUR OWN RISK.” Although BBO has been a boon to us during our hiatus from F2F, it has also prevented us from “reading” our opponents much the same way poker players try to read their opponents. After long thought, your opponent makes a bid. Conclusions: 1) They had a tough decision. 2) The phone rang. 3) “Nana, I hurted myself!” 4) The bathroom needs me. Now that we are trickling back to the club, reading the situation is once more seen to be an integral part of the game. Sometimes you can gather a lot of useful information when your opponent looks as if they are passing a kidney stone before they bid. The flip side is when they quickly and gleefully make their bid.

	<b>N</b> North ♠ Q9 ♥ AK1085 ♦ 987 ♣ J42	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>X</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>5♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	P	X	2♥	2♣	3♥	4♣	5♥	X	P	P	P			
	W	N	E	S																	
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<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>West</th> </tr> <tr> <td>♠ KJ85</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ 2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ 1032</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ K9875</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	West	♠ KJ85		♥ 2		♦ 1032		♣ K9875		<table border="1"> <tr> <th>E</th> <th>East</th> </tr> <tr> <td>♠ A10742</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ KQJ</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ AQ1063</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	E	East	♠ A10742		♥		♦ KQJ		♣ AQ1063	
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	<b>S</b> South ♠ 63 ♥ QJ97643 ♦ A654 ♣	5♥x S      NS: 0 EW: 0																			

South's 2♥ bid with seven hearts is a bit of an underbid, especially with such great shape. North should probably raise to 3♥ in order to give us more trouble, because that is the main purpose of pre-emption. Systemically, my 2♠ bid showed less than 10 HCP. North finally joined the fray and partner flew to 4♠. Since I might have had xxx xxxx xxx xxx when I was forced to bid, my hand is much more useful than I first thought it was. I had a tough decision over 5♥. It seemed as if we should beat 5♥ at least three tricks (+800) for a top board. Alas, +500 was all we could get, with 680 (or 1430!) available, except on an unlikely club opening lead. What I failed to mention was that South took only a nanosecond to bid 5♥. That should have been my clue. Lazy? Overconfident? Old-timer? Close to bedtime? Dreaming about beer at the pub after the game? All of the above? Take your pick.

Watch. Listen. Read. Win.

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

No. 109

♠ J87  
 ♥ 10952  
 ♦ AQ  
 ♣ 7652



♠ AK9543  
 ♥ A4  
 ♦ J7  
 ♣ AQ4

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All pass			

I was South declaring a 4♠ contract. West led the ♥K, and I took the trick with my ♥A, East following suit. Eight ever nine never, I banged down the ♠A and ♠K. This rule of thumb worked perfectly on this hand, with West reluctantly dropping the ♠Q. Next, I tried finessing the ♦K but lost to East. In nanoseconds, East had the ♣9 on the table. If you were in my shoes, what would you do now?

**SOLUTION**

Here is what you see at this point.

♠ J  
 ♥ 1095  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ 7652

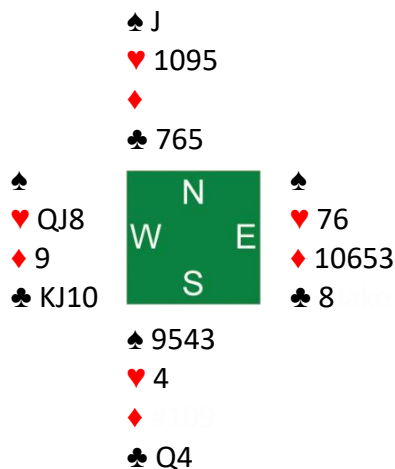


♠ 9543  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ AQ4

You've lost a diamond, and there remains a sure loser in hearts. So, you can't lose more than one club. It's time to take stock.

So far, West has shown up with the ♠Q plus, given the opening lead, it looks as if he originally held ♥KQJ = 8 HCP in total. You also know that West has no diamond honour cards. Given that West made an opening bid in first seat, it is highly likely that the missing face cards - the ♣K and the ♣J - are hiding in his hand. So, the club finesse is doomed, and it's time for Plan B - an end-play.

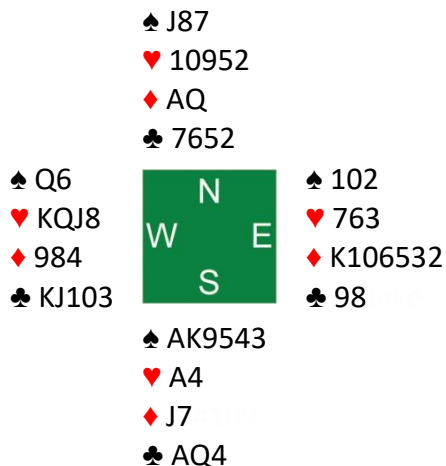
Therefore, you should go up with the ♣A and then go to dummy with the ♦A. When you lead the ♥10 from the dummy (crossing your fingers that West holds both ♥Q and ♥J), you are gratified to see West squirm. Here's why.



West has to play a high heart on this trick (otherwise he would just be handing you your contract). But once he takes it, he is in a bind.

1. If West tries to cash the ♥J, you can ruff in your hand and dummy's ♥9 will be your tenth trick.
2. If West exits with the ♦9, it will give you a ruff-sluff (you play the ♠J in the dummy and pitch the ♣4 in your hand), reducing your club losers to one.
3. If West exits with a club, your ♣Q will become your tenth trick.

Here is the complete hand.



When one door closes, another door opens.



# Top 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 February.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	19.61	1	Shelley Metcalfe	12.28	1	Nancy Cattanach	5.38
2	Mike Peng	15.59	2	Barbara Arthur	11.54	2	Rick Arthur	4.96
3	Robert Griffiths	11.39	3	Suzanne Edwards	11.06	3	Debbie Miethig	3.79
4	Colin Harrington	11.37	4	John Kip	10.96	4	Molly Worden	3.42
5	Ted Boyd	11.20	5	Lynda Burnett	9.84	5	Belinda Burt	3.36
6	Edith Ferber	10.74	6	Roy Dandyk	9.31	6	Audrey Cook	2.90
7	Kathy Russell	9.19	7	Cheryl Kip	8.79	7	Brian Gaber	2.77
8	Dave Quarrie	8.72	8	Cheryl White	8.37	8	Ben Cornell	2.73
9	Neil Jeffrey	8.47	9	Lori Cole	7.69	8	Don Slowinski	2.73
10	Stephen Young	7.26	10	Barbara Lindsay	7.18	10	Stu Cowan	2.63
11	Sharon Boyd	6.94	11	Virginia Alviano	6.96	11	Elaine Doyle	2.60
12	David Longstaff	6.32	12	Jack Cole	6.59	12	Valirie Binkle	2.35
13	Sandy Graham	5.74	13	Adriaan Kempe	6.40	13	Paul Raymond	2.19
14	John Hanemaayer	5.61	14	Jim Dalgliesh	6.01	14	Jeannie Leforge	2.13
15	Neil Coburn	5.48	15	Renate Boucher	5.40	15	Pauline Copleston	2.11
16	Wayne Jordan	5.27	16	Douglass Grant	5.05	16	Patricia Northey	2.06
17	Diane Jamieson	4.81	17	Kevin Latter	4.95	17	Jane Wilson	1.80
18	Rebecca Kalbfleisch	4.73	18	Robert Giilck	4.76	18	Joan Stroud	1.76
19	Ronna Hoy	4.61	19	Martin Jones	4.63	19	Chris Beck	1.75
20	David Wilson	4.44	20	Nanci Phelan	4.62	20	Philip Fiess	1.66
21	Liz McDowell	4.25	21	David Dennis	4.48	21	Nancy Kennedy	1.64
22	Cindy Mahn	3.60	22	Susan Durance	4.45	22	Louise Dawdy	1.54
23	Scott Hills	3.44	22	Jim Fox	4.45	23	Marianne Dziarski	1.42
24	Peter Peng	3.40	24	Marion Allan	4.36	23	Patricia Pietrek	1.42
25	Diane Bourdeau	3.35	25	J. Lewis Corbin	4.31	25	Richard Prendiville	1.27
						25	Ellen Libertini	1.27
						25	Susan Murray	1.27

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 [Joan Slover](#), our membership lead.

We have fun in **spades**.  
 We play with all our **hearts**.  
 We treat our members like **diamonds**.  
 You can learn 2/1 at our **club**.