



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – September 21, 2020

Top Online Master Point Earners at our Club

Contributed by Allen Pengelly

This table lists the individuals who earned the most master points at our club in each of three master point bands since August 1.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	39.62	1	Kathy Russell	14.44	1	Ron Lawrence	15.14
2	Margot Stockie	26.91	2	Allen Pengelly	13.94	2	Brian Silva	12.75
3	Mike Peng	26.18	3	Brenda Semple	10.48	3	Noah Pace	11.97
4	Cindy Mahn	21.53	3	Sue Moses	10.48	4	Suzanne Edwards	11.83
5	Colin Harrington	19.67	5	Lori Cole	8.90	5	Shelley Metcalfe	9.69
6	Robert Griffiths	15.92	6	John Hanemaayer	7.94	6	Salvatore Pace	9.38
7	Moira Hollingsworth	14.93	7	Sandy Graham	7.07	7	Barbara Arthur	9.34
7	Ted Boyd	14.93	8	Adriaan Kempe	6.27	8	Nanci Phelan	8.71
9	Dianne Aves	14.52	9	George Pepall	5.99	9	Brian Kirkconnell	7.43
10	Edith Ferber	13.90	10	Janet Howell	5.91	10	Stephen Nantes	6.65
11	Liz McDowell	12.95	11	Kevin Latter	5.73	11	Robert Gilck	6.45
12	Tom Ramsay	10.70	12	Sue Voll	5.72	12	Virginia Alviano	5.99
13	David Longstaff	10.30	13	Fred Young	5.32	13	Judy Bailey	5.33
14	Stephen Young	9.00	14	Rebecca Kalbfleisch	5.30	14	Marlene Dopko	5.12
15	Adrian Record	8.65	15	Paul Latimer	5.25	15	Susan Durance	4.68
16	Diane Bourdeau	8.56	16	Charles Walkey	5.13	16	Edward Murphy	4.53
17	William Christian	7.75	17	John Hayward	4.59	17	Marion Allan	4.08
18	Stephen Carpenter	7.15	18	Jack Cole	4.52	18	Barb Neibert	3.89
18	Neil Jeffrey	7.15	19	Judy Widdecombe	4.48	19	Elinor Girouard	3.72
20	Peggy Pearson	6.89	20	Sally Turnball	4.47	20	Joe Blake	3.68
21	Bruce Roberts	6.57	21	Jim Veitch	4.39	20	Steven Allen	3.68
22	Wayne Schroeder	6.35	22	Sandy Lee	4.35	22	Susan Kerrigan	3.51
23	Thea Davis	5.86	23	Keith Prosser	4.28	23	Anita Hanson	3.08
24	Malkin Howes	5.50	24	David Embury	4.27	24	Shirley Clairmont	2.82
25	Wayne Jordan	5.39	24	Roy Dandyk	4.27	25	Sarah Pace	2.59

Learning the Lingo: EXIT

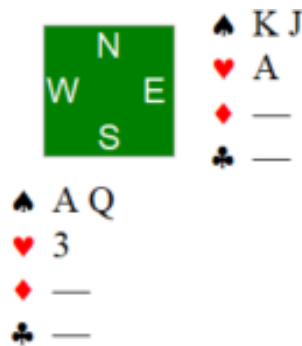
By Allen Pengelly

This week, I will explain the use of the word “exit” when describing the play of the hand. When we first start playing bridge, we imagine that we always want to be leading from our hand. After all, when we are leading to a trick, that means we won the previous trick! After some experience, however, we learn that it is not always an advantage to be on lead. There are many situations where we can get another trick in a suit if we can arrange for our partner or even our opponents to lead the suit instead.

This is where the concept of “exit” comes into play. As the word itself describes, we are trying to get the lead out of our hand and make someone else hold the lead. In most writings that use the word “exit”, there is a specific reason why someone wants to “exit” his or her hand.

Simple Example

You are sitting South and playing in a contract of 3NT. Ten tricks have been played and you have taken seven of them. Your remaining cards are the A and Q of spades and the 3 of hearts. You know that both your left-hand opponent and the dummy are out of spades and hearts. You also know that the K and J of spades and the A of hearts are still out. Using your deduction skills, you know your right-hand opponent must have all three. The situation looks like this.



You could play the ace of spades, but then you will have a problem. Your opponent will still have the king of spades and the ace of hearts, and now no matter what you do he will take the last two tricks and put your contract down one.

Instead, though, you can “exit” your hand by playing the 3 of hearts. Your right-hand opponent must take it with the ace of hearts, and now he is in a pickle. If he leads his *king* of spades, you will take it with your ace and then capture his jack of spades with your queen. Alternatively, if he leads his *jack* you will take it with your queen, and then take his king with your ace. Contract made!

Annual General Meeting

Our club’s annual general meeting was held on Zoom on Monday, September 14 with 24 members in attendance. Thanks to Grant Roberts for setting it up.

The current board of directors is: Cindy Mahn, President; Mike Peng, Vice-President; Moira Hollingsworth, Secretary; Bev Pope, Treasurer; and members at large Lori Cole, Sue Moses, and Grant Roberts.

Moira and Sue are leaving the board after five and four years respectively, with the hearty thanks of all the club’s members for their service.

The two new directors elected at the meeting are Diane Jamieson and Joan Lawson. Joan will take over as secretary. Welcome aboard!

Cindy would like to thank all those who attended our AGM.



82.27% Game

Last Saturday afternoon, this obscure pair scored an 82.27% game in our virtual game, the highest score ever recorded at our club. The previous record was 78.43%. The Alert thought its readers might be interested in the pair's background.

Salvatore Pace (father)

Card playing was taught to me at a young age. My parents had their regular poker night with family friends, and I enjoyed playing all kinds of card games with my own friends. I learned to play solitaire, hearts, spades, rummy, crazy 8's, bloody knuckles, and euchre. When we went to Italy for the first time when I was six, I learned to play a host of new Italian card games with their unique deck (Italian cards have only 40 cards, so there are not as many to keep track of). On my second co-op term at university, I rented a room from a senior named Catherine, who was the director of an adult recreation club. That club hosted regular bridge nights, and Catherine was determined to teach me bridge. There I was sitting in her kitchen, being taught kitchen bridge! I did write down some notes on the basics of bidding and I even went home and shared the notes with my brother. But when I returned to university, my friends were more interested in playing euchre and hearts, and not interested in playing bridge.

I graduated, began working, and got married. My wife was not a card player, as her parents grew up in households where card playing was not allowed. At work, there was a group of colleagues who would meet over lunch and play rubber bridge, and I would join them on occasion to kibbitz. Eventually, some members of the unofficial lunch rubber bridge club retired and were looking for new members. I was approached and recruited to join them, such that I began playing bridge at lunch. Eventually, the group would take turns hosting a bridge night as well. By now, I had definitely been bitten by the "bridge bug", and I started to play on occasion at the Adult Rec Centre in town on the odd Friday night, with a host of different partners. I signed up as an ACBL member as well. I believe I earned my first points through the Adult Rec Bridge Club.

About this time, my wife and I started our family, and three children later my bridge playing fell off as I did not have as much spare time. Instead, I became a soccer coach, a T-ball coach, a curling coach, and an unofficial cab driver (taking our kids to their various sporting functions). When my son was old enough, I decided to teach him the basics of bridge (since the basics were all I knew).

Noah Pace (son)

So there I was playing bridge at the home with my dad and having a lot of fun learning the basics and just getting the hang of the game. Then one day, my dad said we were going to go to the bridge club! I didn't think I was ready, but the next thing I knew we were at the Friday night open game playing against the experts - while we knew just the basics!

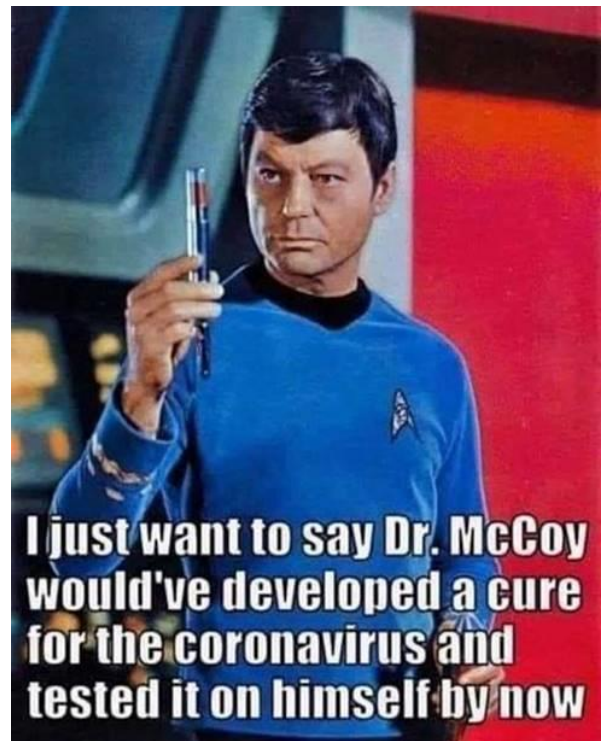
Since our family was so busy, Friday night open became our regular bridge night and, needless to say, we learned many lessons. But for me, it was all good fun. Things were fine, but

then the club ended up moving to the south of Kitchener. This was farther away, so we weren't able to attend as often.

This went on for about a year (being able to attend only once in awhile), so I was forgetting things and then having to relearn them. Through all these times at the club, I was usually the youngest person there. Things stayed busy and bridge was something we played only when we were not busy. Then, around mid-March as things started to close down due to COVID-19, we had more time on our hands. Finally deciding to try bridge online, we signed up and played on a Saturday. I promptly decided I did not like it.

After a few games, however, I discovered playing online wasn't too bad. After that, I started playing more frequently. I continued learning as we practised at home with my brother and sister, who had also taken up bridge. During this time, I read some bridge books and got some practice in.

Bridge has been a lot of fun for me, but I know that I still have a lot of things to learn about the game. I look forward to getting back to the club in order to learn and improve my bridge game.



Online Bridge Coaching

Contributed by Barb Neibert

We had an excellent first session playing at a BBO teaching table with George Pepall as our coach. It worked out really well.

Anita set us all up on a conference call and then we were able to get George at our table as a kibitzer. He was able to see all of our hands as we played, meaning that we were able to ask questions as we went along, just as if we had been at a lab at the club. The best thing of all is that we were able to go into "History" after the play of each hand and thoroughly discuss the bidding and play.

All in all, it was a most successful start.

(Are there other would-be bridge labbers out there? If you might be interested in joining a similar coaching table, please send your name to [Malkin Howes](#), along with any relevant contextual information, and she will see what she can do.)

Cheaters Who Sometimes Prosper

Contributed by Robert Griffiths


Who hasn't found himself on lead with Kx in partner's bid suit and thought: "I have the perfect lead"? It sometimes happens, however, that after his king hits the table, this defender sadly finds the ace with one defender and the queen with the other.

Today's hand came from an online club game. Mostly South would open 1♣, West would compete in spades and diamonds, and North would buy the contract, most often in 3♥. N/S have enough points for game, but most stopped short when they discovered the misfit.

North Deals

E-W Vul

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



The most common lead from East was the ♠10. Given this lead, West would win three spade tricks and East would eventually win his two trump tricks, with the result that 3♥ would go down one.

One unusual result came when South opened 1NT. This is an illegal bid. An opening bid of one no trump with a singleton that isn't the ace, king or queen is not permitted by the ACBL. After the 1NT opener, West bid 2♦, showing diamonds and a major. North now bid 3♥. This bid was explained as forcing, showing hearts. South ran to 3NT, West passed, and North persevered with 4♥. She 'knew' that her partner had two hearts because of the 1NT opening. Now, justice should have prevailed, since 4♥ by North going down two should have given N/S a poor score and the illegal bid would reap no reward. Not in this case. This East chose to lead the ♦K, his partner's suit, and this decision cost his side three tricks. Declarer won the ♦A in Dummy, drew three rounds of trumps and then played five rounds of clubs, throwing all of her spades away before East could ruff. E/W's only tricks were the two trumps. Some mistakes cost more than others.

I ran this scenario past the head director who told me that, because of the illegal one no trump bid, he would have awarded E/W an average plus and N/S an average minus on the hand. But any score adjustments have to be made within 20 minutes of the game, after which they become digitally etched in stone.

🦉 Don't open one no trump with a singleton that isn't one of the top three cards.

Ninth Annual Ray Millie Memorial Tournament

In last week's Alert the wrong email address was provided for indicating your interest in playing in the tournament. It should be tandlramsay@yahoo.com.

Resilience Respect Responsibility

Contributed by Malkin Howes

Two of my grandchildren go to a school whose values are Resilience, Respect, and Responsibility. I am so happy to say that I see these values reflected at our bridge club as well, and I want to thank our members/players for stepping up so impressively to meet our club's current challenges.

- Even though you can't come to our club and enjoy our fellowship at present, fully 222 of our players have renewed their memberships or joined for the first time. Most of you even made a \$30 donation on top of your \$70 membership fee! Apart from the income memberships and donations bring in (and of course this is not to be sneezed at), your confidence and moral support is very encouraging. (If you haven't yet renewed your membership or wish to join for the first time, click [here](#) for information about how to go about it.)
- When it comes to our online games, you have been similarly supportive – so much so that in terms of table counts, our club is now #73 out of all the 2487 bridge clubs in ACBL land.

Thanks so much for all your resilience, respect, and responsibility!

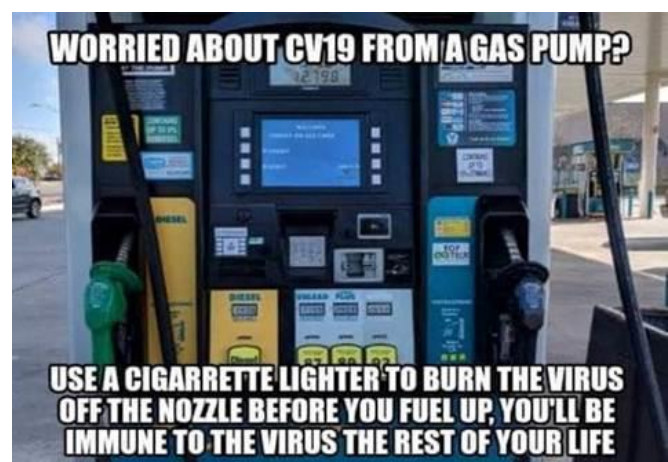


Stardust Week

This is a reminder of the upcoming opportunity to earn **gold points** in virtual club games. The ACBL has announced a full week of Upgraded Club Championship games that will run from Monday, September 21 to Sunday, September 27. All virtual club games in this week will be included. These games will award 2x master points instead of the usual 1.5x. But the big news is that the points awards will be $\frac{1}{4}$ **gold points** and $\frac{3}{4}$ black points. Game fees for this week will be \$7.

Because of the gold point awards, the club is expecting a strong turnout for this week and has decided to add three extra games for the week.

- Wednesday evening, September 23, 199er game, 6:45 pm
 - Saturday afternoon, September 26, 749er game, 12:30 pm
 - Sunday morning, September 27, 499er game, 10:00 am, 18 boards
-



LESSONS NOT YET LEARNED



Planning the Play of the Hand at No Trump

There is still time to sign up for this **novice** workshop on Wednesday, September 12, from 9:30 am until noon. The teacher is Stephen Carpenter.



Drawing Trump

Most of us know the old saying about getting the kiddies off the street, meaning that declarers should rush to draw the opponents' trump lest their good cards get ruffed. But in a surprising number of cases, declarer is likely to take more tricks if he postpones drawing trump.

This workshop looks at some of the situations when declarer should put off drawing trump – too many losers, cross-ruff hands, bad trump splits, and dummy reversals.

The students will play 12 hands, and every student will be seated south such that he or she declares every hand, getting valuable practice playing hands where declarer shouldn't draw trump right away – or not!

Level: **Intermediate**

Instructor: Malkin Howes

Date: Wednesday, September 30, 9:30 am – noon

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

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

Our Club's Activities this coming week....

- Friday, September 18, 12:45 pm, **499er game** (26-28 boards)
- Friday, September 18, 7:00 pm, **open game** (26-28 boards)
- Saturday, September 19, 12:45 pm, **199er game** (20-22 boards)
- Monday, September 21, 12:30 pm, **49er game** (18 boards @ 8 minutes), \$7
- Monday, September 21, 12:45 pm, **open game** (26-28 boards), \$7
- Monday, September 21, 7:00 pm, **499er game** (24 boards), \$7
- Tuesday, September 22, 12:30 pm, **199er game** (20-22 boards), \$7
- Tuesday, September 22, 12:45 pm, **open game** (26-28 boards), \$7
- Wednesday, September 23, 12:45 pm, **499er game** (26-28 boards), \$7
- Wednesday, September 23, 6:45 pm, **199er game** (20-22 boards), \$7 **NEW**
- Wednesday, September 23, 7:00 pm, **open game** (24 boards), \$7
- Thursday, September 24, 9:30 am, **99er game** (20-22 boards), \$7
- Thursday, September 24, 12:45 pm, **open game** (26-28 boards), \$7

We have fun in **spades**.
We play with all our **hearts**.
We treat our members like **diamonds**.
You can earn gold points at our **club**.