



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – February 8, 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 from December 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	58.06	1	Stephen Nantes	27.86	1	Suzanne Edwards	24.18
2	Robert Griffiths	42.63	2	Brian Kirkconnell	26.17	2	Barbara Arthur	19.98
3	Mike Peng	38.52	3	Sandy Graham	20.16	3	Casey Baron	16.50
4	Cindy Mahn	34.93	4	Kathy Russell	20.01	4	Shelley Metcalfe	15.76
5	Moira Hollingsworth	34.20	5	Sandy Lee	17.35	5	John Kip	14.44
6	Bruce Roberts	32.80	6	Brian Silva	15.67	6	Robert Gillick	13.24
7	Colin Harrington	27.53	7	Cheryl Kip	15.27	7	Salvatore Pace	12.99
8	Margot Stockie	26.62	8	Janet Howell	15.19	8	Renate Boucher	11.27
9	Liz McDowell	26.18	9	Sue Voll	14.35	9	Andy Martinek	11.23
10	Edith Ferber	25.22	10	Tony Verhoeven	14.29	10	Nanci Phelan	11.03
11	Dianne Aves	23.19	11	Ron Lawrence	12.59	11	Anita Hanson	9.96
12	Adrian Record	23.14	12	Adriaan Kempe	12.46	12	Marlene Dopko	9.84
13	David Longstaff	21.40	13	Sherry Benenati	12.40	13	Barb Neibert	9.52
14	Ted Boyd	20.81	14	Jim Dalgliesh	12.31	14	Mary Lynn Benjamins	9.36
15	David Wilson	20.14	15	Roy Dandyk	11.82	15	Susan Kerrigan	9.31
16	Tom Ramsay	19.64	15	David Embury	11.82	16	Steve Allen	9.26
17	Neil Jeffrey	16.73	17	John Hanemaayer	10.27	16	Joe Blake	9.26
18	Malkin Howes	16.40	18	Jim Veitch	10.11	18	Judy Beauchamp	9.14
19	Stephen Young	14.48	19	Dave Leitch	9.96	19	Elinor Girouard	9.00
20	Steve Carpenter	14.16	20	Donna Angst	9.80	20	Noah Pace	8.47
21	John Vandergrift	13/25	21	David Dennis	8.87	21	Trent Robinson	8.12
22	Diane Bourdeau	13.05	21	Karen Whitworth	8.87	21	Carol Robinson	8.12
23	John Moser	12.02	23	Kevin Latter	8.67	21	Joan Slover	8.12
24	William Christian	11.51	24	Fred Young	8.37	24	Susan McDonald	7.83
25	Peggy Pearson	9.69	25	Lynda Burnett	8.18	25	Molly Worden	7.60

Welcome

A warm welcome to the following new club members.

- **Rick Arthur**
 - **Angela Asadoorian**
 - **Louise Dixon**
-



Tournament Report

Contributed by Ted Boyd

The Unit 249 Board met on January 30, nine of the ten members present. President Tom Ramsay reported that the ACBL is now financially stable after the influx of online games and the reduced cost of not having directors jetting around the country.

Treasurer Jed Drew reported that our unit is financially stable with minimal expenses and a bank balance of approximately \$36,000.

Membership is declining, but slowly, and District 2 is the only ACBL District that is stable.

The Board voted to cancel all tournaments for the year 2021. After discussion with Committee Chairs and members, no-one wanted to risk bringing together our members until we are absolutely sure the pandemic is under control.

However, the Board noted that the ACBL is able to include all members of the unit in a game if a club wanted to hold a two-session or Swiss Game. The other unit members would be allowed to play in that club for that day only, meaning a club will not have its membership expanded to the whole unit except for that day. The board voted to let all of the proceeds from such a game flow to the host club.

President Tom has asked Guelph if they wish to run a two-session game on the Sunday of the cancelled Guelph/Puslinch Tournament. GRBC has agreed to help since we have already run a successful trial Swiss game.

Requests for volunteers to serve on the Board for 2021/22 will be sent to clubs in the near future. The unit's audited financial statements for 2020 and the statements for 2021 as at January 29, 2021 are available on request from [Jennifer Verdam-Woodward](#).

TCG - The Common Game: Fast Results Analysis, Part 1

Contributed by Jack Cole

We continue with the *Personal Common Game Home Page* link in your Common Game email, on the “**Attendance**” tab (for this month), and the “**Prior Games**” tab (for previous months). (Reminder that some TCG results may not be available until later in the day.)

On the left, beside each session, there are buttons labelled **FRA**. These provide a “Fast Results Analysis”, which is a great resource for the player who is trying to understand how they got the score that they did. TCG has a video explanation of this page, but here’s the “Cole’s Notes” (get it?) version.



In the figure below, I’ve shown my own FRA for the first three boards of our January 1 game. I was East, and ended up as *Dummy* for boards 1 and 3, and *Declarer* for Board 2. The Table Results (contract and outcome) are shown, along with the scores, and the leads; then it gets more interesting.

VENUE: GRAND RIVER BRIDGE CLUB DATE: 01-01A

Date	Board*	Your Position	Table Result	Extra Tricks*	Your Score	Lead	Field Pct	Optimal* Contract	Optimal* Score	Bidding_Commentary	Team Scoring
01-01A	01	E: Dummy	3♣ W +1	1	170	♦Q	81.82	4♦X-NS-1;	+100	They missed sacrifice	2
01-01A	02	E: Declarer	3N E -2	1	-100	♣3	4.55	3♠EW	+140	They missed double	-6
01-01A	03	E: Dummy	2N W +1	3	150	♣3	90.91	2NX-NS-1;	+100	Optimum Contract Bid	2
01-01A	04	E: On Lead	4♥ N +1	-	-650	♣3	40.91	3♥NS	-660	They Bid Wrong Game	-

The “Extra Tricks” column compares our play to Double Dummy’s, highlighted in **Green** if we made more than we should and in **Red** if we made less. On Board 3, Lori made three tricks more than she should! The “Field Percentages” (our score compared to the big Common Game field) are 81.82, 4.55, and 90.91, showing clearly that Lori should play more of the hands!

The “Optimal Contract” and “Optimal Score” are also from Double Dummy analysis. They may be “optimal”, but they are not always what you might expect (TCG has a disclaimer that they may not be achievable using reasonable bids and lines of play, and should be used “as a guide”). Hovering your cursor over the Optimal Contract pops up **all** of the Double Dummy makeable contracts, as shown to the right, for Board 1.

Optimal* Contract	Optimal* Score	Bidding_Commentary
4♦X-NS-1;	+100	They missed
3♠EW	NS:1N 3♥3♦ EW:3♣3♠	missed
2NX-NS-1;	+100	Optimum C

The “Bidding Commentary” is just the software editorializing on our contract versus Double Dummy. Ah, but the last column, “Team Scoring” is interesting: it shows how our result would have scored in a team event (Swiss Pairs, for example), if the other table had bid and made the optimal contract.

All in all, the FRA is a great tool for seeing where you might improve your score. But wait, there’s more to FRA.....next week!

P.S. Since writing last week’s article, I’ve learned that not all sessions show up in the “Positional Results” area of TCG because of the heavy computations that are required. TCG suggests another tool, which I will evaluate and report on in the future.



After years of wanting to give my house a thorough clean but lacking the time, this week I discovered that wasn’t the reason...

Learning the Lingo – Trust Your Partner

Contributed by Jean Farhood

One of the most important aspects of bridge is trust. You need to know that when partner bids, she has her values. If I open 1♠ and my partner responds 2♦, I need to trust that my partner has at least 10 HCP and at least 4♦. What a surprise it is when the dummy is tabled and partner lays down ♦QJ109xx and only 8 HCP!

Another example is when I open 1♣ and partner responds 1NT showing 6-9 HCP but has failed to bid her four-card major!

We all have hands where we learned that valuable lesson – mine came many years ago when I was a newbie and did just that! I had ♠6543 and bid 1NT rather than 1♠. When Dummy tabled ♠KQJx and the scores were posted, I realized that the quality of the suit didn't matter, it's the quantity that counts!! I made my 1NT for 90, but everyone else was in 2♠ making 110 - and I got the big fat zero that I deserved!

Has your partner ever tried to rescue you from a 1♣ opening bid with fewer than six points - explaining afterward "I couldn't pass 1♣ because it could be short". This was typical in the home bridge games that our parents used to play but we've come a long way with bridge bidding since then! Thank goodness!

With the lessons we are promoting at GRBC, we are trying to teach you a consistent bidding system as well as good fundamentals for leading, declaring, and defending. Your bridge experience and harmony with your partner will be greatly improved once you can communicate effectively with each other.



Mark Your Calendar - February 14

We will be running Valentine's Day Swiss games. The format will be as follows.

CATEGORY	START/EST. FINISH TIME	FORMAT
199er	9:30 am 3:15 pm	42 boards over 6-7 rounds with a break of 40-50 mins (midway through session)
499er	10:00 am 4:15 pm	48-49 boards over 6-8 rounds with a break of 40-50 mins (midway through session)
Open	10:30 am 4:45 pm	49 boards over 7 rounds with a break of 40-50 mins (after Round 3)

Please sign up as a team (or as a pair) at least 20-30 minutes prior to game time.

- If you register as a pair you will automatically be assigned another pair to make a team when the game starts.
- You **must** be online five minutes prior to game time.
- The cost is \$10 BBO per person.
- Click [here](#) for additional information about BBO's Swiss teams.
- If you can spare/sub, please contact [Allen Pengelly](#) who is the Director in Charge for this event.

The masterpoints will be double (half red/half black) as part of the ACBL's Valentine's Day event. Prizes will be awarded to the top team in each of the three categories.

Pre-Empting Our Way into Trouble

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Here's an interesting hand from a small club game.

Board 22

East Deals

E-W Vul

<p>♠ A Q 8 5 ♥ A Q 8 3 ♦ J 6 5 ♣ 10 7</p>	<p>♠ 10 6 ♥ 6 4 ♦ A K 9 7 3 ♣ J 8 6 3</p>	<p>♠ K 7 3 2 ♥ K J 9 ♦ Q 10 8 4 2 ♣ 2</p>										
	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <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			
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	<p>♠ J 9 4 ♥ 10 7 5 2 ♦ — ♣ A K Q 9 5 4</p>											
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>									
		Pass	2 ♣									
Dbl	4 ♣	4 ♠	5 ♣									
Dbl	All pass											

After East's pass, as South I opened 2♣. This is a precision opening bid promising 11-16 HCP and at least five clubs. The bid is intended to be mildly pre-emptive, showing partner my values and making it harder for the opponents to enter the fray.

West was not impressed. He simply doubled, just as he would have if I had bid 1♣. My partner, knowing that our side had at least nine clubs and that the opponents likely had a major-suit fit, bid 4♣, hoping to make it harder for the opponents to find their major.

After this start, East chose to believe his opponents. Although he didn't really have the values to bid over 4♣, he assumed that if we were trying to talk him out of bidding, he should bid. He tried 4♠.

Back to me. I've opened the hand light with no values outside of clubs, and my partner has pre-empted in clubs, indicating limited values outside. It seems to me that 4♠ will likely be a success for the opponents, so I choose to bid 5♣, sacrificing against their game.

The contract was doubled of course, and we went down two, losing two spade tricks and two heart tricks - but it turned out that it made no difference what I did once they bid 4♠. As soon as we pushed our opponents into their game, we were going to get a poor score no matter what. The rest of the N/S pairs simply competed to three or four clubs for small positive or negative scores. Our -300 stood out, just as much as the -420 would have if we had let E/W play their contract.

Readers with eagle eyes may notice that we can actually defeat 4♠, but it takes a very special defence. The contract will go down if I lead the ♣4. My partner will win his jack, cash the ♦A and ♦K before giving me the setting trick with a diamond ruff. That wasn't going to happen. I've tried underleading holdings like AKQxxx before; those are the times when I find Dummy with the singleton jack and partner with 10xxxx.

Pre-empts are a two-edged sword.



Flowers Who Are Born to Blush Unseen

Contributed by Kathy Chandler and Louise Dawdy

Our volunteer profile this week is Robert Griffiths, whose name you may recognize as a regular contributor to this newsletter! We are enormously grateful for Bob's literary contributions that are informative, challenging, and witty! Bob also directs a weekly novice game at the Guelph Duplicate Bridge Club. He became a member there after a 20-year hiatus from bridge while he was busy raising his children, and he has met many GRBC members as a result.

Like many of us, Bob started playing bridge in high school, and continued while at university. While working in Charlottetown in 1974, he started playing competitive bridge joining the Charlottetown duplicate bridge club. Many Maritime tournaments followed - with respectable results.

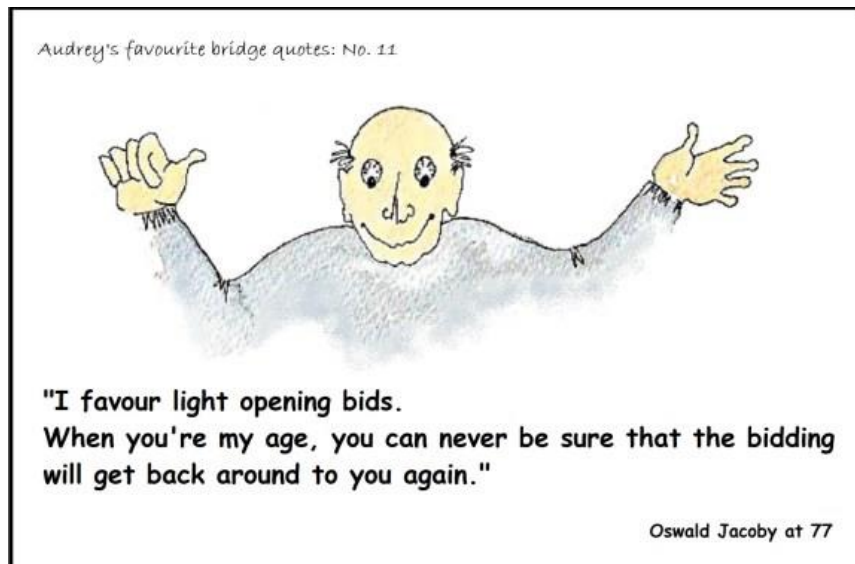
Originally from Toronto, Bob attended the University of Waterloo for first year in 1968. After setting off to see the world, he became an air traffic controller in 1974 and was stationed in numerous places in Canada including Charlottetown, Moncton, Ottawa, Winnipeg, and Toronto. After a successful career he happily retired in 2008.

Bob's one piece of advice to fellow bridge players is to "appreciate your partners. Remember that they are on your side, are trying their hardest, and like to win as much as you do."

Bob's most memorable hand was many years ago. He held ♠AKQJ109xx ♥A ♦A ♣AK2.

RHO opened 2♥ and, knowing there was no real way to determine whether partner had the ♣Q, Bob took a leap of faith and bid 6 NT. LHO then proceeded to double!!! Robert's partner took a long, long time pondering his turn and finally bid 7NT! Needless to say, this bid came as a bit of a surprise! Not only did partner not have ♣Q, he also had numerous useless diamonds. After a lively discussion over a beer after the game, it was mutually agreed that perhaps a redouble might have been more appropriate!

Thanks so much for all your hard work, Bob. We GRBC players greatly appreciate it.





Dear David

You Can't Have Your Cake and Eat It Too.....

Everyone recognizes that having a singleton or void when you are declaring a suit contract is a good thing. However, if you count three points for a singleton king, you cannot add "extra value" for having a singleton. This hand is the reason why.

D	9			W	N	E	S
		N North			P	1♠	P
		♠ 1073			2NT	P	3♠
		♥ AKJ53			3NT	P	P
		♦ 954					
		♣ K7					
W West			E East				
♠ K86			♠ AQ542				
♥ 1072			♥ Q98				
♦ AQ73			♦ K				
♣ A92			♣ J1063				
		S South					
		♠ J9					
		♥ 64					
		♦ J10862					
		♣ Q854					
				3NT W		NS: 0 EW: 0	

East counts all of his high card points (12) to open the bidding. West responds 2NT, which shows three or more spades and 10 or more points and asks partner to show a short suit, if he has one. It's like Jacoby 2NT, but it is not a game force. What should East do now?

If he bids 3♦ (showing diamond shortness), his partner will think he has opening points in the other three suits. Rather than giving his partner false hope about the strength of his hand, East retreats to 3♠, which shows a minimum opener and no SMALL singleton or void.

What should West do now? With an opening bid facing partner's opening bid, he must go to game. With no short suits of his own, he decides to try 3NT. North played three rounds of hearts and South threw his diamond stopper away when declarer cashed his spades = making 11 tricks. If East had shown a singleton diamond, West might have downgraded his hand and stopped in 3♠. Almost every other table played in spades and made only nine tricks after a heart ruff.

So, the lesson to be learned from all this is that high cards are assets and short suits are assets but they cannot be both. You can't have your cake and eat it too.

COVID BIRTHDAY

It was my wife's 69th birthday the other day, so my son sent her a video of our two granddaughters in the bathtub singing happy birthday to her. "Happy Birthday to you. Happy Birthday to you, etc. etc." Then "How old are you? Are you one? No. Are you two? No. Are you three? No." At this point you can hear my son faintly in the background, "This might take a while". Bruce Roberts




You Are Your Partner's Keeper

BBO will unceremoniously boot you out if you do nothing on BBO for what it considers to be too long. To keep BBO from dropping you just before game time due to inactivity, our directors suggest that everyone please chat with their partner five-seven minutes before game time. If your partner does not chat back, please telephone and make sure they do something on BBO (for example, if you can't chat for some reason, moving back and forth between your People and Account tabs or changing something in your Account settings might work). If you or your partner is not showing as online to the game director at five minutes before game time, the director may unregister your partnership from the game to finalize the setup for the pairs that are all online.

Jake's Challenges

Last week, Jake Liu issued the following bidding challenge, and put the answer on our club's revamped Facebook page. For those of you who don't do Facebook, here is the challenge and its solution.


THE CHALLENGE

	♠ 105
	♥ AKJ76
	♦ Q54
	♣ QJ5
♠ J2	
♥ 5	
♦ 109862	
♣ 109832	

Sitting South I dealt and passed. The bidding went West 1♥, 4♠ by my partner, and East's bid of 5♥ ended the auction. My partner led the ace of spades, Dummy played the five, and deuce from me. I didn't want to spend my jack for obvious reasons, but I worried that my partner might misread my two of spades since our carding is Upside-Down Count and Attitude (UD-CA). Sure enough, at Trick 2 my partner led a worryingly-low card, the nine of spades - but surprisingly my jack won the trick! Clearly my partner took a big risk in underleading his king and queen of spades in order to put me on lead. What suit is he so desperate for me to lead back to him?

THE SOLUTION

North must have a very good reason to take this risk. It seems very likely he has a void and wants you to give him a ruff. But a void in which suit? Clearly, you can rule out the two major suits. But which minor could it be? You can't really tell by looking at your and dummy's cards. However, your partner is way ahead of you. He has already told you where his void is! Partner could have led any of his little spades for you to ruff, but he chose to lead the nine of spades. By leading his highest non-honour spade, he is screaming for you to lead the higher-ranking minor - namely diamonds. Here is the full hand.

	♠ AKQ9743	
	♥ 32	
	♦ -	
	♣ K764	
♠ 86		♠ 105
♥ Q10984		♥ AKJ76
♦ AKJ73		♦ Q54
♣ A		♣ QJ5
	♠ J2	
	♥ 5	
	♦ 109862	
	♣ 109832	

As you can see, a diamond return is the only way to beat the contract. This is an example of a suit-preference signal (as opposed to an attitude or a count signal).



This week, Jake has a new challenge (#10) for you. The answer can be found on [our Face-book page](#).

THE CHALLENGE

South was in three no trump and this was the situation after the eighth trick had been played.

	♠ QJ3	
	♥ -	
	♦ -	
	♣ 98	
♠ K8		♠ 109
♥ J		♥ 10
♦ -		♦ -
♣ KJ		♣ 76
	♠ A5	
	♥ Q	
	♦ -	
	♣ AQ	

N
W E
 S

At this point, Declarer has collected five tricks and needs four more tricks to make the contract. You are South and have the lead in your hand. How can you make your contract?



LESSONS NOT YET LEARNED



Son of Declarer Puzzles

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

Level: **Intermediate**

Instructor: Malkin Howes

Date: Monday, February 8, 9:30 am – noon



Planning the Play in Suit Contracts

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

Level: **Novice**

Instructor: Stephen Carpenter

Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 9:30 am - noon



Planning the Play of the Hand in No Trump

This online workshop is for just-starting-out players who want to improve their play of no trump contracts. Topics will include counting quick and slow winners, techniques for generating extra tricks, and developing a plan for the play. The concepts of holding up on the opening lead and when to give up the lead will be introduced. The students will declare several hands that demonstrate the new concepts using the magic of Shark Bridge.

Level: **Beginner**

Instructor: Stephen Carpenter

Date: Wednesday, February 17, 9:30 am - noon

The complete schedule for our winter lessons is up on our website now.

- Click [here](#) for information about our Beginner 2 course (Beginners 1 is now underway).
- Click [here](#) for the workshops for advancing players.

Click [here](#) for information about how to pay for your lessons (scroll down).

The GRBC February 14 Morning 499 Game is Cancelled...
THE GBC February 14 Morning Fast Pairs Game is Cancelled...

Instead of playing in either of these games, why not invite another pair to join you and your partner to play in the GRBC Valentine's Swiss that day?

Coming Virtual Activities

- Friday, February 5, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Friday, February 5, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Friday, February 5, 7:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Saturday, February 6, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Sunday, February 7, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) \$5**
- Monday, February 8, 9:30 am, **Son of Declarer Puzzles Workshop**
- Monday, February 8, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$5**
- Monday, February 8, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Monday, February 8, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, February 9, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, February 9, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, February 10, 9:30 am, **Planning the Play in Suit Contracts Workshop**
- Wednesday, February 10, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, February 10, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, February 10, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, February 11, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, February 11, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, February 11, 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**.
There will be lots of love on Valentine's Day at our **club**.