



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – April 5, 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 February.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	67.79	1	Suzanne Edwards	26.12	1	Salvatore Pace	21.48
2	Mike Peng	39.56	2	Janet Howell	23.34	2	Casey Baron	20.28
3	Cindy Mahn	39.28	3	Barbara Arthur	22.35	3	Ginny Scott	12.31
4	Robert Griffiths	36.06	4	Brian Kirkconnell	21.68	4	Nancy Cattanach	11.83
5	Bruce Roberts	34.19	4	Stephen Nantes	21.68	5	Martin Jones	10.81
6	Margot Stockie	32.96	6	John Hanemaayer	19.10	6	Renate Boucher	9.91
7	Colin Harrington	29.81	7	Shelley Metcalfe	18.73	7	Mary Lynn Benjamins	9.80
8	Edith Ferber	27.54	8	Brian Silva	16.87	7	Elinor Girouard	8.80
9	David Wilson	26.86	9	Kathy Russell	15.38	9	Virginia Alviano	9.73
10	David Longstaff	25.65	10	Lori Cole	14.86	10	Isabel Hetherington	9.37
11	Moira Hollingsworth	25.18	11	Sue Voll	14.54	11	Noah Pace	8.95
12	Ted Boyd	22.96	12	Cheryl Kip	14.50	12	Steven Allen	8.89
13	Liz McDowell	21.43	13	Paul Latimer	14.39	12	Joe Blake	8.89
14	Dianne Aves	21.37	14	David Embury	14.11	14	Belinda Burt	8.85
15	Sandy Graham	17.16	14	Roy Dandyk	14.11	15	Marion Allan	8.83
16	Neil Jeffrey	15.66	16	Nanci Phelan	13.88	16	Jane Wilson	8.63
17	John Vandergriff	14.98	17	John Kip	13.66	17	Kathy Chandler	8.31
18	Tom Ramsay	14.59	18	Jake Liu	13.62	18	Molly Worden	8.15
19	Kandis Smith	14.00	19	Sue Peterson	13.01	19	Janet Roberts	8.02
20	Stephen Young	12.90	20	Judy Widdecombe	12.84	20	Susan Kerrigan	7.85
21	Steve Carpenter	12.89	20	Vivian McLellan	12.84	21	Patricia Malvern	7.81
22	Susan Lawton	12.88	22	Rebecca Kalbfleisch	12.27	22	Andy Martinek	7.58
23	Mary McClelland	11.24	23	Jim Dalgliesh	11.66	23	Marlene Dopko	7.49
24	John Moser	10.96	24	Robert Gilck	10.91	24	Jane Rushby	7.18
25	Wayne Schroeder	10.33	25	Tony Verhoeven	10.79	24	Susan Durance	7.18
						24	Sue Andersen	7.18

Coach and Four

Contributed by Lissa Lowes

I was recently fortunate to participate in a series of four coaching sessions for 499ers. My fellow coachees were partner Rebecca Kalbfleisch, Cheryl White, and Adriaan Kempe. Our amazing coach was **Mike Peng**.

I wasn't sure what to expect, but I had a feeling that there might be a few things left that I needed to learn....! The format was to use a teaching table in the Casual Bridge section of BBO and Zoom audio. Mike did all the arranging of this and sent us a Zoom link before each session.

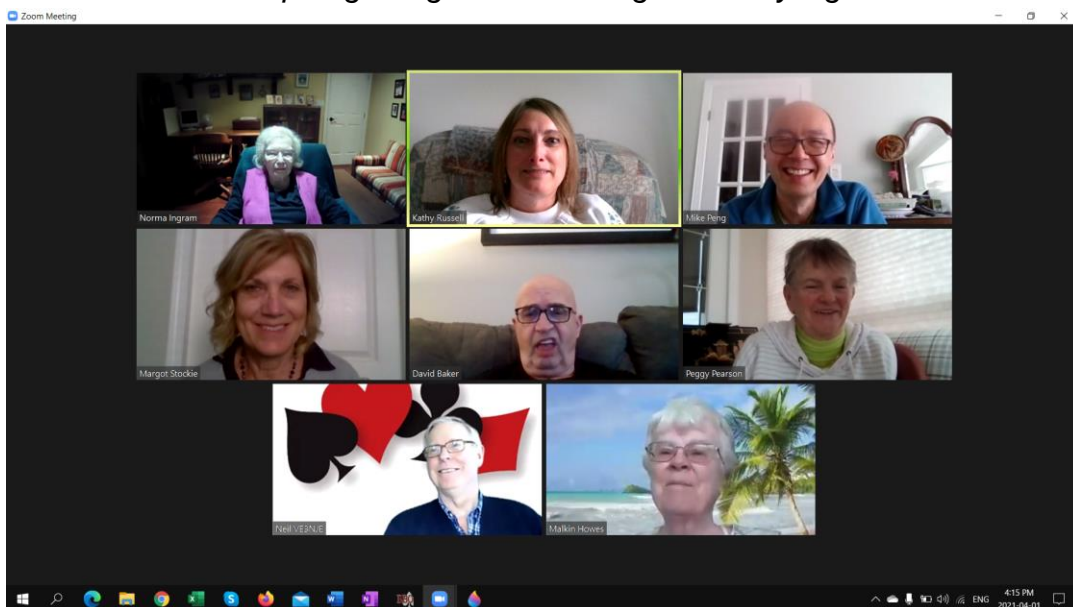
We would play a hand and Mike would comment on the bidding, the lead, and the play of the hand, and then ask for questions. As we progressed, Mike started asking what we were learning from the bidding, and to decide suits and distribution and HCP that were in each hand. This was so we could choose a good lead and, if we were declarer, to help our strategy in determining finesses (who has that queen???), avoid defenders ruffing in, and when to draw trump. He then took us even further into how to signal, give attitude, count, and suit preference, emphasizing how important all of this was to discuss with your partner and to record on your convention card.

The essence of the learning was thinking as you played bridge. Things like analysing the meaning of each bid, which cards were played, counting, and maximizing your chances of making your contract or defeating your opponents. It isn't easy to stay focused for long periods and I certainly felt like my brain was exploding sometimes, but I learned so much and I feel so encouraged to keep trying. There was something magical about the immediacy of getting the answer to the question in my head. So many times, I have been sitting looking at my hand wondering what on earth I should do and, by the time I could ask someone, I had mostly forgotten what I wanted to ask. But with the coaching, the question in your head gets answered immediately - when you are ready to hear the answer. So helpful to the learning process!

This is a wonderful service of the Grand River Bridge Club, and all of us wish to thank Mike for his dedication to helping us learn. He is an excellent tutor. He even sent us handouts and links after the coaching to help expand his explanations and increase our understanding. And I want to thank Cheryl Kip who handled the administrative side of creating the coaching groups and finding us a coach. Thank you!

I encourage others to try the coaching, quoting Rebecca: "I think a lot of my playing was by rote and now I need to think more about all aspects of the game".

Here's a screen shot of the open get-together following Thursday's game. More next week.....



LESSONS NOT YET LEARNED



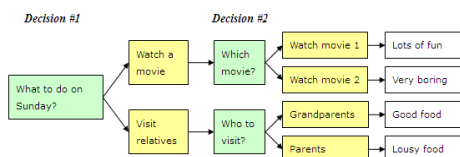
Simple Squeezes

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

Level: **Intermediate**

Instructor: Malkin Howes

Date: Monday, April 12, 2021, 9:30 am - noon



Opener and Responder Rebids:

When to stay and when to go (to game)

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

Level: **Beginner**

Instructor: Stephen Carpenter

Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 9:30 am - noon



Weak Twos

Weak two bids are pre-emptive bids designed primarily to disrupt the opponents' bidding, but they do have other useful functions as well.

This workshop will try to move novice players slightly out of their comfort zones by encouraging them to bid two of their six-card suit even if they have only, say, six HCP. The instructor will show you when it's safe to step out and when you should pull in your horns a little bit.

The participants will bid and play up to 12 hands, depending on time. Regular partners may find it beneficial to attend as a pair.

Level: **Novice**

Instructor: Malkin Howes

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

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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FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS



Michaels Declined

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

North dealt and opened the normal 1♦. East bid 2♦, Michaels, telling partner to pick a major. South liked where this was going and passed. West thought about his choice of singletons, but in the end chose to surprise the table by passing.

Board 12

North Deals

N-S Vul

<p>♠ Q</p> <p>♥ 4</p> <p>♦ A Q J 9 4 2</p> <p>♣ K 10 4 3 2</p>	<p>♠ K 8</p> <p>♥ A 7 6</p> <p>♦ K 10 8 7 3</p> <p>♣ Q J 8</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ A J 10 6 4</p> <p>♥ Q J 10 9 3</p> <p>♦ 6</p> <p>♣ 9 6</p>
<p>♠ 9 7 5 3 2</p> <p>♥ K 8 5 2</p> <p>♦ 5</p> <p>♣ A 7 5</p>	<p><i>West</i></p> <p>1 ♦</p>	<p><i>North</i></p> <p>2 ♦</p>	<p><i>East</i></p> <p>All pass</p>

North had nothing to say so South was on lead against 2♦. He chose the ♦5. North kept getting the lead and finding himself endplayed, and East squeaked home with eight tricks and his contract.

Did West do the right thing? Absolutely! We have to remember that our job during the auction is not simply to describe our hand but also to help guide our side to the best contract. Occasionally, it will involve leaving our partner shocked and appalled and having to declare with a singleton.

When your partner announces a hand with 10+ cards in the majors and you have 11 cards in the minors, your first thought should be, "How can I get the opponents to play this hand?" Here you can't, so get out as cheaply as you can. Imagine if you bid 2♠ and some fool opponent competed with three of a minor. Now your fool partner might raise you to 3♠. Passing the first time around says, "Back off, partner, this hand is trouble!"

That doesn't mean that when your partner opens 2♣ and you hold something like ♠863 ♥542 ♦3 ♣765432 that you should take charge and pass. When your partner says he has an outstanding hand, let him be the boss. But the Michaels hand above is just a messy competitive auction.

👉 A bidder's job is not merely to describe his hand but also to help guide his partner.



Dear David

The Dreaded Two Bites of the Cherry

I have long espoused the theory that you should bid to the level of your combined suit fit with your partner. For example, your partner opens 2♥ and your right-hand opponent doubles. If you have three hearts and want to “crowd” the enemy, you raise to 3♥. However, if you have four hearts, you should immediately bid 4♥. You might think you can bid 3♥, then bid 4♥ at your next turn, if you have to. There is much less room if you bid 4♥ right away. Over 3♥, the opponents have room to investigate. For example: 2♥-dbl- 3♥-3♠-p-p-4♥ might lead to a double or a successful 4♠ contract. After 2♥-dbl-4♥, your opponents may feel they don’t have enough to introduce spades or to double. Here is an example hand.

D		N North		E East	
		♠AK ♥Q43 ♦J7 ♣AKJ1086		♠Q9 ♥A65 ♦AQ963 ♣Q92	
W West		W N E S			
♠6432 ♥K9 ♦K10842 ♣43		1♣ 1♦ Pass 3♦ Dbl Pass 3♠ 4♦ Dbl Pass 4♥ Pass Pass Pass			
		S South			
		♠J10875 ♥J10872 ♦5 ♣75		4♥ South 0 0	

West took his first bite of the cherry by bidding only 3♦. The first double was take-out. Normally, you’d want to have more than five major-suit cards for a double, but North’s hand was very strong. South bid 3♠, the higher-ranking suit with 5-5, hoping to be able to introduce the lower-ranking suit the next time. West took his second bite of the cherry by bidding 4♦. North now had a chance to show his power with a penalty-oriented double, making it easy for South to bid his heart suit. South will usually make 4♥ on this hand, while E/W would be down one doubled in 4♦ for -100. Had West correctly bid 4♦ right away, it would have been very difficult for N/S to get to 4♥.

The rule: With an eight-card fit, bid to the two-level. With nine, the three-level. With 10, the four-level. With 11+, guess what level it would make it hardest for your opponents to bid?

FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS

Jake's Challenges

Last week, Jake issued the following challenge (#16).

	♠ 9 8 7 4 3		
	♥ 7 5 3 2		
	♦ —		
	♣ A Q 9 7		
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>		
	♠ A Q 6 5 2		
	♥ A		
	♦ A 7 4 3		
	♣ K 6 5		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♠
Dbl	4 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
Dbl	All pass		

Sitting South I was aware that my partner's four spades bid was a sign-off, but I ignored him and bid 6♠ anyway, which was promptly doubled. West led the ♥K. Down came the dummy missing both the ♠K and the ♠J, meaning that my prospects of making this contract were pretty bleak. Judging by the bidding, it was almost certain that all three missing trumps, the ♠KJ10, were held by West - behind my honours - rendering a trump finesse almost certain to fail. However, there was still a glimmer of hope if West happened to hold a balanced hand, specifically 3-4-3-3. Given West's take-out and penalty doubles, it was well within the realm of possibility that he had this particular shape. Plan the play.

SOLUTION

Considering West's bidding (take-out and penalty doubles), any attempt to draw trumps would be a suicidal act. Much better to try a cross-ruff followed by an endplay. Take the first trick with your ace (performe).

At Trick 2, lead a small diamond from your hand and ruff it in Dummy, both opponents following, and then lead a small heart from the board and ruff in your hand at Trick 3. Once again, both opponents obligingly follow. Rinse and repeat twice more at Tricks 4, 5, 6, & 7. So far so good, everyone still follows.

Pray and cash the ♣K, ♣Q and ♣A at Tricks 8, 9, & 10, ending on the board. Still no surprises. Wow, what co-operative opponents these are! Ten tricks in the bank now, two tricks to go. After the tenth trick, the three-card ending is as follows.

	♠ 9 8		
	♥ —		
	♦ —		
	♣ 9		
♠ K J 10	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ —	
♥ —		♥ —	
♦ —		♦ Q J 10	
♣ —		♣ —	
	♠ A Q		
	♥ —		
	♦ A		
	♣ —		

When you lead the ♣9 from Dummy and blithely pitch the ♦A from your hand - a rare winner-on-loser manoeuvre - West is forced to take the trick and then lead away from his KJ combination into your AQ tenace, allowing you to make your doubled slam contract!
Here is the full hand.

	♠ 9 8 7 4 3	<table border="1"> <tr><td>7 Length Points</td></tr> <tr><td>9 Shortage Points</td></tr> <tr><td>11 Support Points</td></tr> <tr><td>2 Controls</td></tr> <tr><td>1½ Quick Tricks</td></tr> <tr><td>7 Losers</td></tr> </table>	7 Length Points	9 Shortage Points	11 Support Points	2 Controls	1½ Quick Tricks	7 Losers
7 Length Points								
9 Shortage Points								
11 Support Points								
2 Controls								
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7 Losers								
	♥ 7 5 3 2							
	♦ —							
	♣ A Q 9 7							
♠ K J 10		♠ —						
♥ K Q 9 8		♥ J 10 6 4						
♦ K 8 6		♦ Q J 10 9 5 2						
♣ 8 4 3		♣ J 10 2						
	♠ A Q 6 5 2							
	♥ A							
	♦ A 7 4 3							
	♣ K 6 5							

This hand came up in a Swiss team game at Caledon a few years back. My partner, the dummy, was very fond of critiquing my declarer play and, when he saw me pitch the ♦A, he freaked out - telling me that I was wasting a winning trick, that I should have cashed it earlier and discarded a loser on the board. After the hand was over, West told my partner that his analysis was wrong and that if I had done what he wanted, she would not now be regretting her double. As it turned out, this board was a huge win for our team.



Here is Jake's latest challenge (#17).

	♠ A 10 5 4		
	♥ 8 7 5 2		
	♦ 9 4		
	♣ 6 4 2		
♠ —		♠ —	
♥ —		♥ —	
♦ —		♦ —	
♣ —		♣ —	
	♠ K 3		
	♥ A Q		
	♦ Q 8 3 2		
	♣ K Q J 8 7		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		2 ♥	2 N
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 N
All pass			

I was South on this hand and bid 2NT over East's weak-two bid since I had enough points as well as two likely stoppers on the heart suit. West passed, and my partner unfortunately missed East's bid and thought I had **opened** 2NT (showing 20-21 HCP). His 3C bid was Stayman and asked about my four-card majors. East passed, and I was forced to bid 3NT, showing that I had no four-card majors, followed by three passes.

West led the ♦A and Dummy came down with only four HCP - the ace of spades. We were in a combined 21-HCP 3NT contract!

East played the ten of diamonds on the opening lead, causing West to think for a while. At Trick 2, West led the ♥6 to East's king, and I won the trick with my ace. Then I led my high clubs until East took his ace on the third round, while West contributed two clubs and a small diamond. Surprisingly, East didn't lead back a diamond, even though his partner was presumably agog for him to do so. Instead, he led the ♥J. I took this trick with ♥Q, on which West discarded another diamond. At this point, six tricks had been played and this was our side's situation.

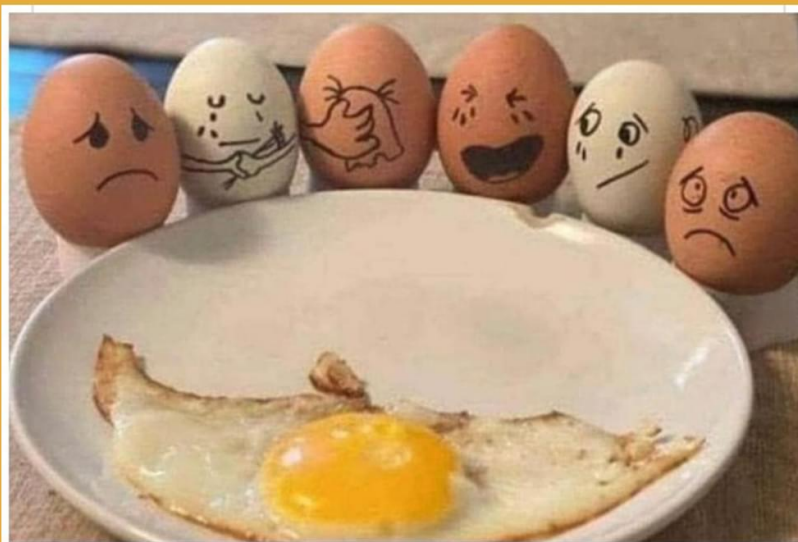
♠ A 10 5 4
♥ 8 7
♦ 9
♣ —

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 3
♥ —
♦ Q 8 3
♣ 8 7

What would you do now? The solution can be found on [our Facebook page](#).

Another joke regular is Sandy Lee. Here is an example of what Sandy sends in.



He died last fry day. Thank God he wasn't beaten. Don't worry, he went over easy. He's now on the sunny side. He's definitely in a better plate.

Coming Virtual Activities

- Friday, April 2, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$3 HAPPY**
- Friday, April 2, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$3 BIRTHDAY**
- Friday, April 2, 7:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$3 GRBC**
- Saturday, April 3, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Sunday, April 4, 10:00 am, **499er game, (18 boards) \$5**
- Monday, April 5, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$5**
- Monday, April 5, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Monday, April 5, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, April 6, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, April 6, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, April 7 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, April 7, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, April, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, April 8, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, April 8, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, April 8, 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**.
We pioneered coaching groups at our **club**.