



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – April 12, 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	37.42	1	Suzanne Edwards	15.21	1	Salvatore Pace	11.81
2	Mike Peng	24.68	2	John Hanemaayer	13.85	2	Casey Baron	11.01
3	Margot Stockie	21.60	3	Barbara Arthur	12.44	3	Martin Jones	8.65
4	Cindy Mahn	21.31	4	Lori Cole	11.78	4	Isabel Hetherington	8.56
5	Bruce Roberts	21.10	5	Sue Voll	10.82	5	Ginny Scott	8.48
6	Moira Hollingsworth	18.63	6	Paul Latimer	10.43	6	Nancy Cattanach	6.35
7	Robert Griffiths	18.58	7	Janet Howell	9.84	7	Janet Roberts	5.87
8	David Longstaff	15.79	8	Vivian McLellan	9.72	8	Kathy Chandler	5.56
9	Liz McDowell	14.58	8	Judy Widdecombe	9.72	9	Elinor Girouard	5.28
10	Edith Ferber	14.52	10	Brian Kirkconnell	9.53	10	Anita Hanson	5.26
11	Colin Harrington	14.30	10	Stephen Nantes	9.53	11	Steven Allen	5.25
12	David Wilson	13.97	12	Cheryl Kip	8.72	11	Joe Blake	5.25
13	Dianne Aves	13.27	13	Brian Silva	8.50	13	Susan Durance	5.22
14	Kandis Smith	12.70	14	John Kip	7.88	13	Marlene Dopko	5.22
15	Neil Jeffrey	11.72	15	Jim Dalgliesh	7.83	15	Mary Lynn Benjamins	5.18
16	Ted Boyd	9.52	16	Shelley Metcalfe	7.57	16	Jane Wilson	5.10
17	Susan Lawton	9.51	17	Kathy Russell	7.13	17	Margaret Sanderson	5.09
18	Sandy Graham	9.41	18	Jake Liu	7.10	18	Susan Kerrigan	5.06
19	Mary McClelland	8.13	19	Rebecca Kalbfleisch	6.94	19	Marion Allan	4.98
20	Malkin Howes	8.12	20	Lynda Burnett	6.84	20	Kathleen Burns	4.76
21	John Moser	7.96	21	Dave Quarrie	6.49	21	Patricia Malvern	4.69
22	Tom Ramsay	7.92	22	Jasia McKeague	6.22	22	Virginia Alviano	4.46
23	Wayne Schroeder	6.76	23	Tony Verhoeven	6.14	23	Belinda Burt	4.09
24	Neil Coburn	6.44	24	Jack Cole	6.10	24	Barb Neibert	4.06
25	John Vandergrift	5.97	25	Vivian Zochowski	6.00	25	Noah Pace	3.98

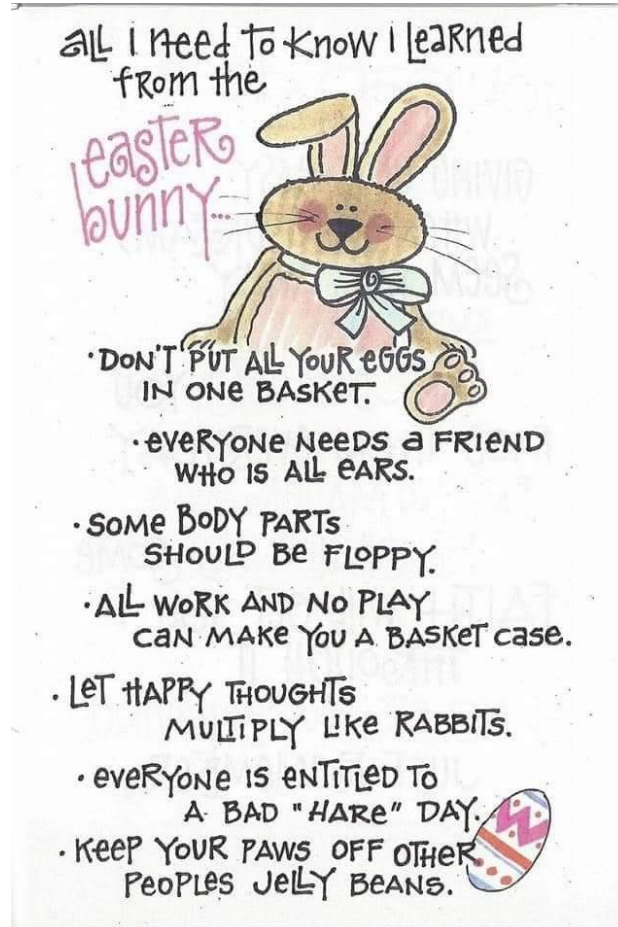
Here is a picture of the zoom gathering after the Friday afternoon 499 birthday party game that Mike Peng took. Although attendance was small, we had a nice visit.

Submitted by Lori Cole



We're #44!

Thanks to your robust attendance at our virtual games, our club is now 44th in the ACBL's ranking of clubs on the basis of their table counts. That's 5th in all of Canada! Click [here](#) for the full list.





Flowers Who Are Born to Blush Unseen

Contributed by Louise Dawdy and Kathy Chandler

This week we are highlighting Cindy Mahn. It is hard to know where to begin! Not only is Cindy to credit for the establishment of GRBC but, as many of us know, she has also served in a multitude of roles since then.

Like many other addicted bridge players, Cindy has always loved games and cards, grew up watching her parents play bridge, and then learned the game herself in her early twenties. After retiring from teaching elementary school, Cindy started Partners Bridge Club with her good friend and regular bridge partner, Liz McDowell. They ran games twice a week for about nine years, at which point, some local bridge players began to talk about starting a non-profit club. Along with Dave Baker, who was also running a game or two a week, Cindy and Liz agreed to donate the assets of their clubs (like cards and tables and chairs) to the new club. And so began the Grand River Bridge Club! All three were on the original GRBC Board. Through the years, Cindy has transitioned from Board Member to Management Team (Head of Teaching Program) and back to Board Member. Currently, Cindy is serving as GRBC President (past two years). Cindy finds joy in helping people learn this awesome game as well as being involved in GRBC decision-making.

Aside from bridge, Cindy's pastimes include reading, long walks, knitting/crocheting, and spending time with friends and family (grandchildren: 18 years, 16 years, 12 years). Not surprisingly, Cindy also loves to play poker. 😊

Once the pandemic is over, Cindy is looking forward to heading back to Florida (Naples) for a few winter months. That being said, she is especially looking forward to teaching in-person bridge lessons at GRBC as well as going to bridge tournaments - and shopping!!!

When asked about the early years of GRBC, Cindy shared the following. "Our first spot for Partners Bridge Club was Forest Hill United Church and then we relocated to The Coach House behind St. John's Lutheran Church in Waterloo. We sure needed 1-800-Got-Junk to clean it out. But, with a fresh coat of paint and some new blinds, we made it our home."

"One of the biggest reliefs for Liz and me came when we moved to Gage Street and became The Grand River Bridge Club, and we no longer had to set up and tear down the tables and chairs after every use."

Cindy's favourite bridge memories: "Many, many wonderful bridge memories. Liz and I have been to the Nationals in Vegas, Phoenix, and Louisville and lots of regionals and sectionals. Just as much fun as the bridge tournaments are the after-game times shared in hospitality with other bridge friends!"

Cindy's best bridge tip: Always look forward to a new game and try to forget about what happened the last time, unless of course it was all good!

Like many, Cindy has found bridge and her great partners to be a blessing over the past year. Thank you Cindy for sharing a fun piece of GRBC history with us, and thank for everything you have done and continue to do to make GRBC such a wonderful, warm, welcoming, good-naturedly competitive place (both physical and virtual) for us - to weather this current storm and look forward to returning to in the year ahead. Many, many thanks!

LESSONS NOT YET LEARNED



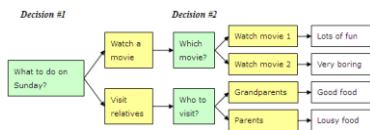
Simple Squeezes

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

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

Beginner 2 Grads

Twenty-four newly-minted bridge players have just graduated from Allen Pengelly's beginner classes. They will now be invited to participate in four once-a-week coaching sessions (organized by Sue Moses), followed by a workshop on May 13 with Jack Cole on how to play in our beginner games. Then, on Thursday, May 20, our club will offer its first 19er game. Teacher Allen Pengelly has kindly offered to sit in on this game and provide some support while our new players find their feet.

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



Ignoring Partner's Wishes – The Sequel

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Last week's column suggested that one might occasionally pass partner's Michaels bid. This week, in a hand played twice both East players found a reason to shock their partners with by passing.

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

<p>♠ J 10 9 ♥ 6 ♦ A K 10 8 7 6 2 ♣ 8 7</p>		<p>♠ A 7 4 3 ♥ 10 ♦ Q J 9 4 3 ♣ A 9 2</p>		<p>♠ K Q ♥ A Q 8 7 5 ♦ — ♣ K Q J 6 5 4</p>									
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	N												
W		E											
	S												
		<p>♠ 8 6 5 2 ♥ K J 9 4 3 2 ♦ 5 ♣ 10 3</p>											
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>										
	1 ♦	?											

When North opened 1♦, East had choices. With a strong two-suited hand, he could start by simply bidding his good suits. This is a poor plan if there is a danger of his bid being passed out before he had the chance to show his strength. Or, he could start with an unusual 2NT bid, if the partnership allowed that with a strong hand. In this case, 2NT would show hearts and clubs, the two lower suits. Or he could double, planning to bid his suits after his partner's expected spade bid, showing a strong hand.

At one table, East doubled 1♦, looking forward to lots of action in the auction. His partner shocked him with a pass and North played 1♦ doubled. West's decision was reasonable with his massive diamond suit. North was able to scrape up five tricks, going down two for 500 points to E/W.

At the other table, East tried the unusual 2NT. Over 1♦, he bid 2NT promising a heart/club two-suiter. He planned to show his strength after West bid one of them. But West didn't want to do what he was told. He chose to hijack the auction by passing rather than bidding his doubleton club. West was hoping that his partial spade stopper and wonderful diamonds would be enough - so East found himself declaring 2NT.

South led a spade, North winning his ace and returning another spade. East won his ♠Q, and proceeded to find that playing no trump on a misfit is not fun. He started on clubs. North won the second club and returned the ♥J. This gave East his one chance to win his ♥A and cash out his clubs for at least seven tricks - five clubs, one heart, and one spade. After cashing his winners and exiting with a small heart, East would make his contract by either winning another heart or one of the high cards on the board that he had been cut off from.

Instead, East tried to make his contract immediately by finessing the ♥Q. This cost East the only entry to his hand. South won the ♥K and led a diamond. Declarer took two diamonds and the spade in dummy, then had to give up the lead to North who ran his diamonds while East threw away his club winners. At Trick 12, East was down to the ♣K and the ♥A, misguessed North's last card, and ended up down three for -300.

As a result, one team made +500 at one table and +300 at the other - 800 points makes for a big swing in a team game!

👉 **Beware of playing in no trump with a misfit.**

Another joke regular is Suzanne Edwards. Here is an example of what Suzanne sends in.

Don't Regret growing Old – It is a Privilege Denied to Many!

A lady in The Villages, in Florida (a senior retirement community), was sitting on a bench near another bench where a gentleman was sitting.

She asked him if he was new to the community and he said "No, I have owned a condo here for 20 years".

She said, "I have been here for 15 years and I have never seen you around!"

He said, "I have been in prison for the last 17 years!"

She was stunned, and finally asked him what he had done. He said that he had murdered his first wife!

She was stunned again... and after a long pause she said... "So, you're SINGLE???"

A Convenient Guide to The Common Game

Jack Cole's summary of The Common Game's features is now on our website. Click [here](#).

Charity Week

From Monday, April 12 to Sunday, April 18, it's Charity Week in the ACBL's virtual clubs. You can win double black points all week and your extra game fees help support the Canadian Bridge Federation.

Here's more from Suzanne Edwards....

Actual Ads Seen in a Florida Newspaper

- Sexy, fashion-conscious blue-haired beauty, 80's, slim, 5'4" (used to be 5'6"). Searching for sharp-looking, sharp-dressing companion. Matching white shoes and belt a plus.
 - I am into solitude, long walks, sunrises, the ocean, yoga, and meditation. If you are the silent type, let's get together, take out our hearing aids, and enjoy quiet times.
 - Active grandmother with original teeth, seeking a dedicated flosser to share rare steaks, corn on the cob, and caramel candy.
-



Dear David

Sleight of Hand

We all know this little trick—Your RHO opens 3♥ and you bid 4♠ pass pass pass. LHO leads the ♥3, dummy has KQ4 and you have J2. If you play the 2 after RHO plays the ace, RHO will know his partner led a singleton and he will give his partner a ruff. However, playing the jack on the first trick may convince him that the jack was a singleton and he may switch to something else, allowing you to score two heart tricks later in the hand. It is always important to remember that your opponents cannot “see” your hand.

If North has the ♥A, there is no defense against this aggressive 3NT contract. Your opponents can take at most three spade tricks and one heart trick before you take your nine tricks. What can you do to stop them from leading a heart from the North hand? At Trick 1, North leads the ♠6 to the ♠A, the ♠8 goes to the queen and king, and then the ♠J is cashed. What should declarer throw from his hand in this position?

It looks easy for North to lead a heart because he has a sure heart stopper. If you throw a useless heart, he will assuredly lead a heart and take three more tricks. Make believe that the heart suit is integral to your plans for making 3NT. Keeping all your hearts and throwing the ♣10 will redirect his focus. The subsequent diamond switch goes to the jack and ace. Five diamonds, five clubs, and a spade add up to 11 tricks. Your opponents cannot see your hand.

FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS

Jake's Challenges

Last week, Jake issued the following challenge (#17).

	♠ A 10 5 4										
	♥ 8 7 5 2										
	♦ 9 4										
	♣ 6 4 2										
♠ —	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 60px; height: 60px;"> <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										
♥ —		♥ —									
♦ —		♦ —									
♣ —		♣ —									
	♠ 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									
	♣ —									
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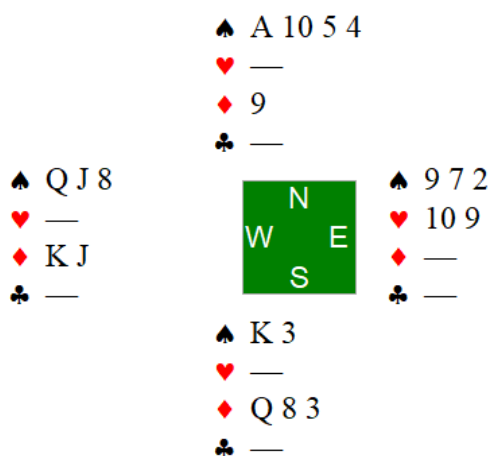
What would you do now?

SOLUTION

By now, you know quite a bit.

1. You have taken four tricks: two tricks in each of hearts and clubs. Plus, you have two sure tricks in clubs and two sure tricks in spades (the ace and king), meaning that you need only one additional trick to make your contract. Obviously, the only possibility for this extra trick is in either spades or diamonds.
2. East has shown up with three clubs and presumably a singleton diamond and six hearts (judging by his opening weak two bid). That means his hand shape is 3-6-1-3. And that means West's hand shape is 4-1-6-2.
3. As West holds four spades, the same as Dummy, he most likely has to guard both the spade and the diamond suits.

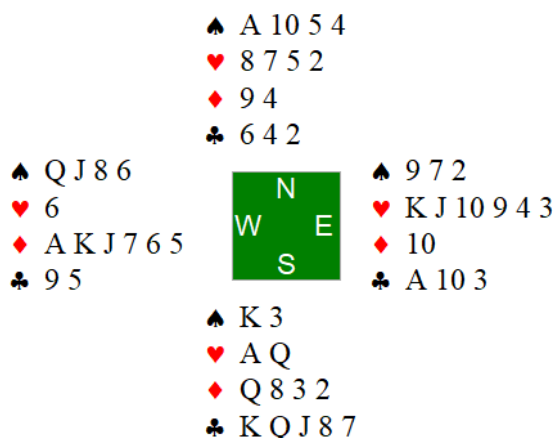
If this analysis is true, West is vulnerable to a squeeze/end play. You should cash your two good clubs at Tricks 7 and 8, discarding two immaterial hearts from the board. West has to keep his top two diamonds (otherwise you can throw him in with his king and then your hand's diamonds are good) and three spades. Here is the full five-card ending.



So far you have taken six tricks; three more are needed. In other words, you need one more trick on top of the ♠AK. If you now cash the ♠K and ♠A and then lead a spade from the board (crossing your fingers), you force West to take his ♠Q and lead away from his ♦KJ - allowing you to take the last trick with your ♦Q and make your contract.

There is no way out for the West. He can't throw away a diamond, as explained above, while if he throws his ♠QJ under your ♠AK in order to escape the end play, he makes dummy's ♠10 good.

After the hand was over, my partner explained that he would not have bid as he did if he hadn't held the ♠10. Here is the full hand.



Here is Jake's latest challenge (#18).



♠ Q 8
 ♥ A 7 5 4
 ♦ K 4 3
 ♣ 9 8 5 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	Pass	2 N ¹	Pass
3 ♠ ²	Pass	4 N	Pass
5 ♣ ³	Pass	6 ♠	All pass

1. Jacoby 2NT (4+ trump support and opening plus points)
2. 16+, slam interest
3. 0 or 3 keycards

East/West have settled in 6S. You are South and your partner has led the ♥J, followed by the ♥2 from the board.

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

Coming Virtual Activities

- Friday, April 9, 12:30 pm, **99er game, (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Friday, April 9 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Friday, April 9, 7:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Saturday, April 10, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Sunday, April 11, 10:00 am, **499er game, (18 boards) \$5**
- Monday, April 12, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$7**
- Monday, April 12, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Monday, April 12, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$7**
- Tuesday, April 13, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Tuesday, April 13, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Wednesday, April 14 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Wednesday, April 14, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Wednesday, April 14, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, April 15, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, April 15, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, April 15, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) \$7**

We have fun in **spades**.
 We play with all our **hearts**.
 We treat our members like **diamonds**.
 We have some brand-new players at our **club**.