



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – April 19, 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	46.67	1	Suzanne Edwards	18.57	1	Salvatore Pace	11.81
2	Mike Peng	30.33	2	John Hanemaayer	17.57	2	Ginny Scott	10.60
3	Margot Stockie	25.90	3	Barbara Arthur	15.12	3	Isabel Hetherington	9.99
4	Cindy Mahn	25.66	4	Brian Kirkconnell	15.00	4	Martin Jones	9.02
5	Bruce Roberts	25.04	4	Stephen Nantes	15.00	5	Nancy Cattanach	8.56
6	Robert Griffiths	23.42	6	Paul Latimer	14.15	6	Mary Lynn Benjamins	7.24
7	Moira Hollingsworth	21.63	7	Casey Baron	12.70	7	Barb Neibert	6.85
8	Liz McDowell	20.41	8	Sue Voll	11.90	8	Anita Hanson	6.79
9	David Longstaff	19.74	9	Lori Cole	11.78	9	Susan Durance	6.56
10	Colin Harrington	18.66	10	Brian Silva	10.45	10	Janet Roberts	6.53
11	Kandis Smith	17.40	11	Janet Howell	10.39	11	Virginia Alviano	6.49
12	Edith Ferber	16.92	12	Judy Widdecombe	9.72	12	Joe Blake	6.30
13	Dianne Aves	16.27	12	Vivian McLellan	9.72	12	Steve Allen	6.30
14	David Wilson	15.17	14	Lynda Burnett	9.60	14	Elinor Girouard	6.27
15	Ted Boyd	14.78	15	Kathy Russell	9.59	15	Margaret Sanderson	5.97
16	Sandy Graham	12.29	16	Jim Dalglish	9.47	16	Jane Wilson	5.81
17	Neil Jeffrey	12.08	17	Cheryl Kip	9.19	17	Noah Pace	5.56
18	Tom Ramsay	11.37	18	Jake Liu	9.14	17	Kathy Chandler	5.56
19	Susan Lawton	11.20	19	Rebecca Kalbfleisch	8.56	19	Kathleen Burns	5.48
20	Malkin Howes	10.95	20	John Kip	8.35	20	Belinda Burt	5.31
21	Mary McClelland	9.98	21	David Dennis	8.20	21	Patricia Malvern	5.28
22	John Moser	9.46	22	Shelley Metcalfe	8.15	22	Diana Spearn	5.16
23	Pat McMillan	8.25	23	Karen Whitworth	7.87	23	Louise Dawdy	5.07
24	Dave Quarrie	6.97	24	Jasia McKeague	7.31	24	Joan Slover	5.06
25	Neil Coburn	6.80	25	Cheryl White	6.97	25	Susan Kerrigan	5.06



Congratulations...

To the following local players who have advanced to their next ACBL rank.

Junior Master

- **Mary Anne Lenio**

Club Masters

- **Belinda Burt**
- **Nancy Cattanach**

NABC Masters

- **Jim Hardy**

Gold Life Masters

- **Ted Boyd**
- **Colin Lafferty**

Diamond Life Master

- **John Gilbert**

Welcome to the newest local ACBL member.

- **Susan Cruikshank**

Something to Celebrate



Contributed by Paul Latimer

Last week, John Hanemaayer and I had a very good game (72%) in the 0-999er game at GRBC. That, in itself, while good, is not outstanding – I suspect that someone has a 70%+ game at our club every week.

But the hands used for this were from The Common Game, and our TCG result was #1/629 pairs! This is the first time that I've achieved a #1 result at TCG.

PS OOPS, we did it again (almost)!

We had another 70%+ game last night (first time that we've had two in a row!), but even so, we did NOT achieve #1 (4th out of 579 pairs). I think that this just illustrates how hard it is to be #1 in such a large and diverse field such as The Common Game.

	Game Date (FRA) *	Club Website	Your Partner	Field Pct	Field Rank	CG Points	Section Pct	ACBL MPs
N	2021-04-12  *	Grand River Bridge Club	John Hanemaayer	70.08	4 / 579	2.19	72.42	1.92
N	2021-04-08  *	Grand River Bridge Club	John Hanemaayer	71.74	1 / 629	12.64	72.02	1.80

Unit 249 Elections

If you would like to stand for the Board of Directors in the June 21 Unit 249 elections, email [Jennifer Verdam-Woodward](mailto:Jennifer.Verdam-Woodward) and ask her to send you the nomination form.



Rookie Ramblings

Contributed by Jane Lemke

I love a good quiz. These are often interesting and challenging brain workouts. Google “bridge quizzes” and you might be amazed at the number of websites listed in the result.

Unfortunately, many of these websites do not indicate the level of bridge competency required. For example, the title of one quiz I noticed was “Opener's Rebid with a Minimum Hand After a 1-Level Response”. Just what I need! However, the answer to the very first question mentioned a reverse bid which may be unfamiliar vocabulary for a very new bridge player.

So, what makes a good quiz website? Ideally, these include a concise, informative overview of the topic and several quiz questions each with an explanation of the correct and incorrect responses. Of course, these need to be user-friendly, with a readable font size, easy to navigate, and visually ‘appealing’.

One of my favourite bridge quiz websites is *Fifth Chair* (<https://www.fifthchair.org/school.html>, cited with permission). According to the website, a Fifth Chair is a kibitzer, someone who observes a bridge game in progress to watch and learn. The website includes 16 lessons and quizzes. Some lessons may be a tad basic, so perhaps for a quick review you might just go directly to the quiz which you will find at the bottom of each lesson. Alternatively, you can skip some of the basic lessons and select the topic and quiz of interest.

This is the first installment of a series of Alert articles specific to the interests of beginner/early-intermediate bridge players. Beginners to the game of bridge can easily become overwhelmed, and perhaps even intimidated, by the breadth and nuances of bridge learning. Initial article ideas include a description of interesting websites (such as this article), YouTube bridge videos, and perhaps a brief discussion of a bridge topic followed by links to relevant websites. Ideally, some article topics might evolve from readers' interests, feedback, and suggestions. So, please feel free to forward these to Jane (cjlemke@sympatico.ca).



First the Bird Flu, then the Swine Flu, Mad Cow Disease, the Asian Hornet, the Ebola Virus, the Coronavirus and now the Asian moth. When are these invasions going to end?

Message from the ACBL

Unfortunately, the ACBL has once again been notified that some members have been solicited by a “phishing” scam. We take all cyber threats seriously and work hard to keep our sites safe. After any notification of a possible scam, we check all our systems for security breaches and ensure your private information is safe.

“Phishing” is the most common type of cyber-attack that affects organizations like ours. Phishing attacks can take many forms, but they all share a common goal – getting you to share sensitive information, such as login credentials, credit card information or bank account details, or to simply send money or gift cards.

Please know that if you receive a phishing email in your inbox, it does NOT mean your computer has been infected with a virus or malware. However, you should be careful to not reply to the email. Phishers might send emails to thousands of addresses every day, and if you reply to one of their messages, it confirms your email address is active. This will make you a target for future scams.

The specific email scam we were made aware of this time is an example of “spoofing.”

“Spoofing” is when a spammer makes an email appear as though it was sent from someone you would trust or even from your own email address.

Spoofing is part of a popular ploy aimed at getting you to transfer money or send sensitive information to an attacker via email by **impersonating a real company executive or representative.** (This is known as “whaling.”)

Using a fake domain (the last part of an email address) that appears similar to the ACBL’s, these emails may look like real messages from a high-level official of the company, typically members of the Executive Team and/or Board Members. **No member of the ACBL’s staff or Board of Directors will ever ask for sensitive information or funds in an email. Do not trust an email that does this.**

Although we maintain controls to help protect our networks and computers from cyber threats, we rely on you to be our first line of defense. If you ever receive a phishing email, please notify us right away. We all must be on constant alert to scams.

More information on phishing and possible scams can be found at www.acbl.org/scamalert.

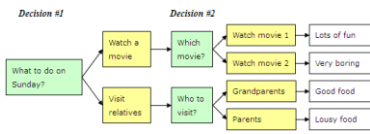
Audrey's Favourite Bridge Quotes: No. 22



**Be an expert!
Never take a finesse to make your contract
when you can go down on a squeeze play.**

Pattaya Bridge Club

LESSONS NOT YET LEARNED



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



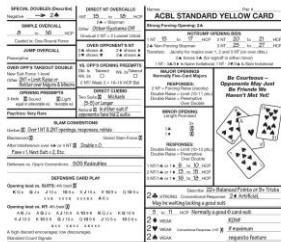
Weak Twos

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



Practising Basic Bridge Conventions

This workshop follows on from Beginner lessons 1 and 2. Some of the most basic bridge conventions will be reviewed, including when to use them and how to handle unique situations.

Conventions covered include Stayman/transfers (in response to partner's one no trump opening), take-out and negative doubles, and Blackwood/Gerber.

The attendees will be given lots of opportunities to practise basic bridge conventions and become comfortable with using them. Regular partners may find it beneficial to attend as a pair.

Level: **Beginner**

Instructor: Stephen Carpenter

Date: Wednesday, May 5, 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).
-



A Well-Rewarded Phantom Sacrifice

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Not everybody agreed on how West should treat this hand. Outside of the spade suit, there is not much to be happy about. Doubleton queens often amount to nothing.

Board 12
South Deals
E-W Vul

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



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

At one table, West opened 1♠, and East bid 2♣ after North's pass. Looking at the vulnerability, South jumped to 3♥ and West plodded along to 3♠. North could see very little defence in his hand. It looked as if the ♣K was on his left and his hearts would probably be wasted opposite a pre-empt in his partner's hand. But he passed for now, waiting for the expected bid of 4♠ from the opponents.

East, of course, did bid 4♠, passed back to North who decided the time was right to sacrifice in Hearts, coming out with a 5♥ bid. East doubled 5♥; this was passed out and West led the ♠K. Declarer ruffed this, played the top two hearts to find no losers there, and eventually lost just three diamonds to go down one.

North and South quickly saw that the 4♠ contract that they had sacrificed against should not make since they could cash two heart tricks and two club tricks off the top. But when the scores from the other tables came along, at every table that played the hand in spades, 11 tricks were taken.

It seems that most West players chose to treat their hand as a pre-empt, opening 3♠. The West players generally raised to 4♠ and not a peep was heard from North or South.

On lead, the North players all chose to make a neutral lead (a spade or a diamond), avoiding leading from their AQ or KJx holdings. West was able to cash 11 tricks off the top, avoiding the four fast losers.

Looking at the scores, one would think that the par score would be for E/W making their spade game. In reality, the only game that should be made is 4♥ by N/S, taking 10 tricks with their 17 HCP. The N/S pair that went down one doubled in 5♥ scored a top board, ahead of even the N/S pairs that defended spade part scores.

👉 Sometimes you can't lose for winning.



Dear David

In and Out Valuation

When you pick up a hand, you evaluate your hand according to your high-card strength. This is your “In Valuation”. As the auction progresses, you receive more information about everyone else’s hand. Your impression of the strength or weakness of your hand may have been changed, based on what everyone else has contributed. This is your “Out Valuation”.

Hand editor																																																																																									
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I borrowed this hand from “The Bidding Box” column in *The Bulletin* and made up a plausible bidding sequence that might get you to the excellent 6♦ contract. North has a good (not great) opener and South has an aceless 11 count. However, every bid led them down the path to the top shot of 6♦. One expert pair opened the South hand with 1♦ (!!!) and took six bids apiece to arrive at the optimal spot. The other pair stopped in 5♦. 3NT produces 11 tricks and is the second-best contract. Every bid in this auction led the partnership to re-evaluate the strength of their hands.

The following hand uses the same principles of valuation to arrive at the best spot. I don’t like to use names in my articles, so I will use pseudonyms. West was Batman, East was Robin, North was the Joker and South was the Penguin. Please don’t ask me to reveal their identities.

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The Joker’s 2♦ opening bid shows any three suits (4441 or 4450) with a singleton or void in any suit and 11-15 HCP. Normally, when you have an opening bid opposite your partner’s opener, you end up in game. Since there is no major suit fit, 3NT is the go-to option. However, if the Joker’s singleton is not in clubs, the opponents might easily beat 3NT. So, the Penguin diabolically bid 3♣. The 3♣ bid is to play unless partner has club shortness. If he is short in clubs, the Joker is required to bid 3♦. That was enough to allay the Penguin’s trepidation, and he quickly bid 3NT. His valuation after the 2♦ opener was that he had a scary minimum opener opposite an unknown singleton. His hand improved enormously after he found out what the short suit was.

To be fair, every table was in 3NT, probably with a lot less angst. The evil ones rejoiced and the good guys slunk back to the Batcave.

FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS

Jake's Challenges

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

				♠ 7 4 3 2
				♥ K 2
				♦ A Q J 10 8
				♣ Q J
				♠ 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?

SOLUTION

Was your plan to hold up the ace with the idea of saving it so it can capture the king the next time hearts are led? If so, that would be a big mistake.

The bidding has shown that Declarer has a big hand and, with 13 HCP in Dummy and your 9 HCP, there is nothing left for your partner, certainly not the ♣A or ♣K. If it turns out that Declarer has a third club, he will be able to pitch the board's heart loser on it. It is often said that the most valuable use of an ace is to capture a king, but that doesn't apply here. Even though it feels wasteful to spend an ace "on air", you nevertheless have to take the first trick with your ace or you will lose it. You can exit safely with any suit but a diamond at Trick 2 and then cross your fingers and hope Declarer will try the diamond finesse in due course.

Here is the full hand.

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

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR BBO PLAYERS

If you sign in and register for a BBO game one-half hour before game time, it is important that you either stay active on BBO or log out and come back in about 10 minutes before the scheduled start. If you remain online but inactive, it is possible that BBO will remove you for being inactive. We do not want anyone disappointed!

Charity Week

Just a reminder that the yellow-shaded games below are charity games that cost \$7, yield double black master points, and support the Canadian Bridge Federation.

Coming Virtual Activities

- Friday, April 16, 12:30 pm, **99er game, (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Friday, April 16 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Friday, April 16, 7:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Saturday, April 17, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Sunday, April 18, 10:00 am, **499er game, (18 boards) \$7**
- Monday, April 19, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$7**
- Monday, April 19, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Monday, April 19, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$7**
- Tuesday, April 20, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Tuesday, April 20, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Wednesday, April 21, 9:30 am, **Opener and Responder Rebids Workshop**
- Wednesday, April 21 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Wednesday, April 21, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Wednesday, April 21, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, April 22, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, April 22, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, April 22, 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**.
Congratulations to Paul and John at our **club**.