



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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ALERT – May 3, 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	61.98	1	Suzanne Edwards	21.74	1	Salvatore Pace	24.08
2	Cindy Mahn	39.26	2	John Hanemaayer	20.09	2	Ginny Scott	13.64
3	Mike Peng	34.98	3	Casey Baron	19.79	3	Martin Jones	11.71
4	Margot Stockie	33.35	4	Stephen Nantes	19.69	4	Noah Pace	11.38
5	Robert Griffiths	32.64	5	Barbara Arthur	19.23	5	Isabel Hetherington	11.22
6	Bruce Roberts	31.06	6	Brian Kirkconnell	18.23	6	Nancy Cattanach	9.19
7	Liz McDowell	28.55	7	Paul Latimer	16.67	7	Mary Lynn Benjamins	9.10
8	Moira Hollingsworth	28.43	8	Sue Voll	15.18	8	Virginia Alviano	8.78
9	David Longstaff	25.94	9	Janet Howell	13.90	9	Susan Kerrigan	8.68
10	Edith Ferber	24.36	10	Kathy Russell	13.55	10	Elinor Girouard	8.56
11	Colin Harrington	23.73	11	Lori Cole	12.72	11	Margaret Sanderson	8.49
12	Kandis Smith	20.65	12	Brian Silva	12.46	12	Susan Durance	8.36
13	David Wilson	19.66	13	Shelley Metcalfe	12.42	13	Kathleen Burns	8.15
14	Dianne Aves	18.54	14	Judy Widdecombe	12.36	14	Barb Neibert	8.08
15	Ted Boyd	18.34	14	Vivian McLellan	12.36	15	Anita Hanson	8.02
16	Tom Ramsay	15.84	16	Jake Liu	12.22	16	Patricia Malvern	8.00
17	Sandy Graham	15.80	17	Cheryl Kip	11.20	17	Belinda Burt	7.60
18	Neil Jeffrey	15.57	17	Lynda Burnett	11.20	18	Janet Roberts	7.48
19	Pat McMillan	14.97	19	Sue Moses	10.99	19	Kathy Chandler	7.33
20	Mary McClelland	14.15	19	Brenda Semple	10.99	20	Aggie Udvari	7.06
21	Susan Lawton	13.34	21	David Dennis	10.70	21	Jeannie Leforge	6.94
22	Stephen Young	12.86	22	Karen Whitworth	10.58	22	Joe Blake	6.92
23	Malkin Howes	12.66	23	John Kip	10.36	22	Steven Allen	6.92
24	John Moser	11.85	24	Jim Dalgliesh	9.47	24	Elaine Doyle	6.70
25	Neil Coburn	7.86	25	Rebecca Kalbfleisch	9.40	24	Reinhold Kauk	6.70



Rookie Ramblings – Non-Forcing Bids

Contributed by Jane Lemke

I had the pleasure, along with 19 others, of attending Stephen Carpenter's recent workshop, *Opener and Responder Re-Bids – After 1 of a Suit*. As the title suggests, we learned the differences among opener's and responder's minimum, medium, and maximum re-bids. So much to learn!

One of my key take-aways from this workshop, among many, was the difference between forcing and non-forcing bids. I previously thought that any bid of a new suit was always forcing but discovered this is not necessarily correct. I therefore decided that some further reading was required. I plan to explore this topic, along with my 'discoveries', further in subsequent Alert articles. Many thanks to Stephen Carpenter and Malkin Howes for reviewing the content for accuracy.

A good place to begin is with a very basic definition of the term 'forcing bid'. The [Bridge Terminology Section](#) of the American Contract Bridge League website provides the following definition of a forcing bid: "A bid that, because of system or convention, requires partner to keep the bidding open by making some call other than a pass if there is no intervening call." Of course, a new bridge player soon discovers that what appears to be simple is often not!

I then decided to learn the basics of when a responding bid is *not* required – in other words, non-forcing. Re-reading the above definition indicates that a response is not required if your partner's bid was immediately followed by a bid by one of the opponents. In other words, an "intervening call".

Barbara Seagram kindly provided me with these three examples of non-forcing bids.

a) An "Old Suit" (a suit that has been bid before) is not forcing.

Opener Responder

1 heart 1 spade

2 hearts

Opener's second bid of 2 hearts is non-forcing and indicates the opener has at least 6 hearts.

b) A NT by either opener or responder is non-forcing (ignoring some conventions).

Opener Responder

1 heart 1 no trump

Responder's bid is non-forcing and indicates 6 to 9 points with no 4-card major.

c) A new suit by *opener* (but not a new suit by responder) is non-forcing,

Opener Responder

1 heart 1 spade

2 diamonds

Opener's re-bid is non-forcing and indicates a minimum hand (12 – 14 points) with at least 4 diamonds.



Flowers Who Are Born to Blush Unseen

Contributed by Kathy Chandler and Louise Dawdy

Our volunteer profile this week highlights GRBC member **Jake Liu**, who joined us in January 2019. Jake has devoted many hours to the success of GRBC, and his time and efforts are greatly appreciated. Jake manages the GRBC Facebook page; assisted with the move to our current space at 2481 Kingsway; and is the Friday evening game director. And, as readers of this newsletter know, Jake has written numerous articles about bridge and contributes a regular column named “Jake’s Challenges”.

Jake was encouraged to enroll in bridge classes by one of his chess-playing friends in Seoul, Korea back in 1999. Although not overly enthused to learn the game, he agreed to sign up as a favour to a friend. It certainly was not his intention to love the game as much as he does, or to become so accomplished. But Jake was often dragged to competitions by his friends, and thus the desire to learn more and improve began.

Jake attended Hanyang University in Seoul, Korea, and moved to Kitchener/Waterloo from Toronto back in 2007. He taught his wife to play bridge and they regularly play on Saturdays at the Wing 404 Duplicate Bridge Club. Jake also founded a Chinese bridge club, offering free lessons to the community. When asked if he has any memorable best or worst bridge stories, he noted a hand that was published in the April 5, 2021 Alert in Jake’s Challenge #16. The other is included below. He has never forgotten it!

East Deals
N-S Vul

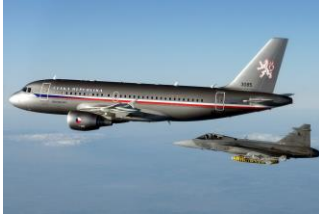
		♠ 10 6										
		♥ K 4 3										
		♦ 10 9 7 6 5 3 2										
		♣ 6										
♠ Q J 8 4		<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 9 3
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ 9 8 7 6 5 2			♥ A J 10									
♦ Q 8 4			♦ A K J									
♣ —			♣ 10 9 8 2									
		♠ A 7 5 2										
		♥ Q										
		♦ —										
		♣ A K Q J 7 5 4 3										
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>									
		1 N	Pass									
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	4 ♣									
Dbl	All pass											

Jake was sitting South and, as you can see, he entered the bidding at his second opportunity with a 4 clubs bid! The opponents were a bit flummoxed and chose to double. But Jake actually made five because he was allowed to ruff a spade with Dummy’s mighty six. Just about everyone else was playing in 5 clubs going down, so Jake and his partner got a top board.

Jake has three pieces of advice for bridge players:

- Read, read, read as many bridge books and columns as you can;
- Review the hands you have played; and
- Be sure to count. Count the number of cards in each suit, as well as high card points in each suit including your partner's.

Great advice Jake, thanks so much for all of your GRBC contributions.



SOS

An Airbus 380 is on its way across the Atlantic. It flies consistently at 800 km/h in 30,000 feet, when suddenly a Eurofighter with Tempo Mach 2 appears.

The pilot of the fighter jet slows down, flies alongside the Airbus and greets the pilot of the passenger plane by radio: "Airbus flight, boring flight, isn't it? Take care and have a look here!" He rolls his jet on its back, accelerates, breaks through the sound barrier, rises rapidly to a dizzying height, only to swoop down almost to sea level in a breathtaking dive. He loops back next to the Airbus and asks, "Well, how was that?"

The Airbus pilot answers: "Very impressive, but now have a look here!" The jet pilot watches the Airbus, but nothing happens. It continues to fly stubbornly straight, with the same speed. After five minutes, the Airbus pilot radioed, "Well, what are you saying now?" The jet pilot asks confused: "What did you do?" The other laughs and says, "I got up, stretched my legs, went to the back of the flight to the bathroom, got a cup of coffee and a cinnamon cake.

The moral of the story is: When you are young, speed and adrenaline seem to be great. But as you get older and wiser, comfort and peace are not to be despised either.

This is called S.O.S.: Slower, Older, Smarter.

Bridge Etiquette – Tell Me About It

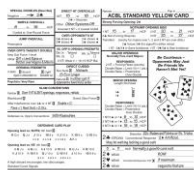
When you or your partner Alert a bid, you must at the same time provide an explanation of the bid's meaning. After all, the reason for alerts is that these bids risk misleading the opponents. For example, let's say you open the bidding with one spade and your partner bids two no trump (Jacoby, showing four spades and opening points or better). This bid must be alerted, because otherwise the opponents might think your partner's bid shows 10-12 HCP and only a couple of spades.

Furthermore, your explanation must state the bid's meaning, as opposed to its name. It is NOT acceptable just to say "Jacoby 2 no trump". The alerter must say "four spades and opening points or better".

So, what should you do if the alerter just gives the name of the bid, with no explanation? Ask again (by clicking on the explanation box). If the alerter still doesn't tell you the bid's meaning, call the director.

Without this requirement, partners could deliberately use obscure bidding systems in order to keep their opponents in the dark. And that wouldn't be fair.

LESSONS NOT YET LEARNED



Practising Basic Bridge Conventions

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

Level: **Beginner**

Instructor: Stephen Carpenter

Date: Wednesday, May 5, 2021, 9:30 am - noon



Inferences

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

Level: **Intermediate**

Instructor: Malkin Howes

Date: Monday, May 10, 2021, 9:30 am - noon



Playing in our Newcomer Games

This workshop is for newer players who are in the process of joining our online duplicate community. The additional challenges introduced by duplicate bridge, along with the mechanics of playing duplicate bridge on BBO will be explained and demonstrated. Topics will include: scoring; stratification; registering on BBO; joining the ACBL; our club's 19er and 49er games; and BBO features that are useful for the new player.

Zoom and BBO will be used.

Level: **Beginner**

Instructor: Jack Cole

Date: Thursday, May 13, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

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



Sometimes You Shouldn't Cover

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Board 12
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ K 7 6 3 ♥ 7 3 ♦ A 9 4 ♣ Q 10 5 4		♠ Q ♥ A 4 ♦ J 7 3 ♣ A 9 8 7 6 3 2 ♠ J 10 5 4 2 ♥ Q 8 6 5 ♦ Q 10 8 2 ♣ — ♠ A 9 8 ♥ K J 10 9 2 ♦ K 6 5 ♣ K J	♠ J 10 5 4 2 ♥ Q 8 6 5 ♦ Q 10 8 2 ♣ —
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	3 N	All pass	1 N

Here's a hand from a pairs game where every overtrick is important. The auction is simple. South opens 1NT and North jumps to 3NT. Against 3NT, West gets off to the unhappy (for him) lead of the ♠3 which Dummy's queen wins. Declarer likes what he sees until he comes off the Dummy with the ♣2. When East throws a diamond on this trick, South and West can see the whole club picture. South should be able to see that he needs West to play one of his honours (Q or 10) on one of the first two club tricks. If he can pry one of those cards out of West's hand while there is a heart entry in the Dummy, there will be lots of club tricks available. Suppose South wins his ♣K and leads the jack, what should West do? West should have been counting and know that this is South's last club. If he reflexively covers the jack with his queen, Declarer can win this trick in the Dummy and keep playing clubs until West's 10 is driven out - at which time all of Dummy's clubs will be good. The ♥A will remain as a Dummy entry. But, if West can somehow resist the urge to cover an honour with an honour, then Declarer is stuck. He can get a cheap trick with the jack and later win a trick with the ace, but all of Dummy's other clubs will wither on the vine. South should make his contract either way, likely with an overtrick. But if he makes six club tricks, there is an easy path to winning 11 tricks. When played in a club game, most of the West players got it wrong, giving up one of their club honours too easily. There is no bridge 'rule' that always works---covering an honour with an honour helps only if it increases the total tricks for your side.

Rules Schmules



Dear David

You Be the Judge

There has been a great deal of consternation since the pandemic made us retreat to BBO to alleviate our itch to compete. The problem with *online* bridge is that it is incredibly easy to improve your chances of winning. Here is my story.

I competed in a team game against strong opponents who played very well, rarely making a significant mistake. The conventional wisdom in this type of challenge is that it takes only one or two swing boards to determine a winner between evenly-matched teams. There were two hands that aroused my suspicions early in a very long match. Here are the facts, as I see them, for your perusal.

W West	W N E S	E East
♠A107	Pass 1♠ Pass	♠KQ96432
♥AKQJ	4NT Pass 5♣ Pass	♥5432
♦96	5♦ Pass 6♣ Pass	♦8
♣AQ97	6♠ Pass Pass Pass	♣K

Board #6 East opened 1♠ in second seat, not-vulnerable vs vulnerable. If this is part of their strong club system, it is not posted on their convention card and no pre-alerts were submitted. As West, I would expect partner to have the spade KQ, club K and at least the diamond K to have the semblance of an opening bid. Alternatively, he could have the spade Q(J), club K and diamond A. Either of these hands would usually offer a good chance for the slam to make. What if South opened 3 (or 4) spades as most of the bridge world would do? His partner could easily have KQJxxxx x QJx xx or less for his pre-empt, and 6♠ would go down on a diamond lead. 3♠ 4NT (in case South has two keycards) 5♣ 5♠ seems like a reasonable auction to me. The odds suggest that of the six cards opener would have outside of a pre-emptive 3♠ bid, at least two of them would be diamonds.

My point: If East pre-empts, they cannot legitimately bid slam. The only way to bid it is to change the expectations of what East may hold by having him open 1♠. This was only the sixth board of the match and nothing untoward had occurred so far. (We were up by 6 IMPs at that point, but it felt to me as if we were trailing). There was no legitimate reason to bid an iffy slam. The slam was anti-percentage vs a pre-empt, and virtually guaranteed vs an opener.

Board #8 The following hand came up two boards later.

W West	W N E S	E East
♠6	2♣ Pass 2♦ Pas	♠AK1095
♥Q72	3♣ Pass 4♣ Pas	♥AK98
♦AK5	4♦ Pass 4♥ Pas	♦Q43
♣KJ5432	4♠ Pass 5♣ Pas	♣A

2♣ showed five or more clubs and 10-16 HCP. 2♦ asked for more information and 3♣ showed six clubs, denying a four-card major. Curious that East now chose to ignore his good five-card major and chose a 4♣ slam try with only a singleton ace. He might have bid a forcing 3♣ and then raised clubs. I wonder why? West cuebid twice and, despite his partner's sign-off in 5♣ (after a long hesitation), he quickly bid 6♣ with a mid-range hand (13 HCP). The experts I know have more respect for the decision-making capabilities of their expert partners to bid like this. The slam was successful when the club suit turned out to be friendly. For the record, I will tell you that their bidding judgement was excellent during this event, which to me, makes these two hands stand out. Just in case you think that this is a case of sour grapes, I will tell you that my team recorded a narrow victory in this Knockout event. [DearDavid](#) welcomes your thoughts.

Audrey's Favourite Bridge Quotes: No. 29



**When you are in a bad contract, be an optimist.
When you are in a good contract, be a pessimist.**

Robert S. Todd

FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS

Jake's Challenges (#20)

♠ A J 9 8
♥ A 10 7
♦ A 9 3
♣ 7 6 5



♠ K 7 6 5
♥ 2
♦ K 10 8 2
♣ A K 8 4

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

As always, I was sitting in the South seat. I jumped to four spades after my partner opened one club and then supported spades. Out of the blue West doubled, and four spades doubled was the final contract.

West led the ♣9, Dummy played small, East followed with the ♣2 (encouraging), and I took the trick with my ♣K. Then at Trick 2, I led the ♠K, only to learn that West had five spades (and East none). What now?

SOLUTION

Panicking will not be helpful, so you need to think about your problem calmly and logically and come up with a plan. Drawing trumps is clearly a bad idea because that would mean you would run out of trumps before West would run out of trumps and you would lose control of the hand.

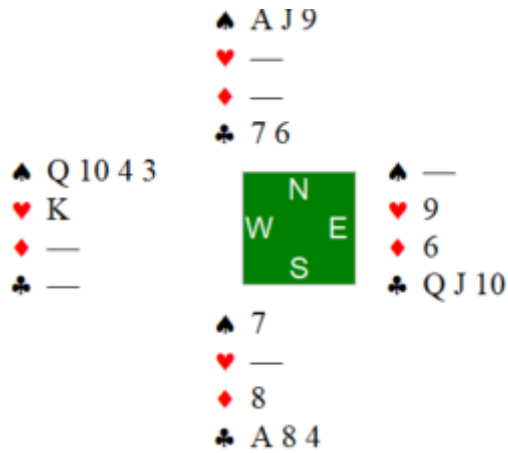
Counting winners in your combined hands, you have the ace and king in both minor suits. However, the ♣9 was presumably a singleton, as East clearly knew he didn't have to cover it in order to force your king. Turning to the diamond suit, it is probably reasonable to assume that West holds at least two diamonds (otherwise one of the opponents would have pre-empted). If this analysis is correct, you probably have at most three tricks in the minors.

You also have the ♠AK and the ♥A, meaning that you have six sure tricks, meaning that you need four more tricks to make your contract. So, where could four more tricks come from?

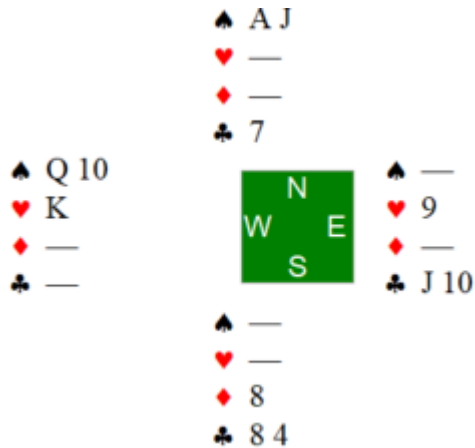
Clearly, your best bet is the trump suit.

At Trick 3, lead the ♥2 from your hand and, when West inserts the ♥J, play Dummy's ♥A. East will follow suit. At Trick 4, lead a heart from Dummy and, when East follows suit, you can ruff with a small trump (knowing that West has to follow a small heart). At Trick 5, lead a small diamond from your hand and take the trick on the board with the ace. Both opponents will follow suit. At Trick 6, lead another heart and ruff in your hand, both opponents following unhappily. So far, you have developed two of the four additional tricks you need.

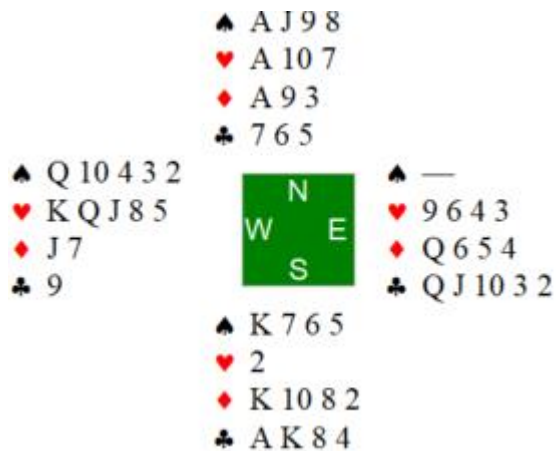
Next, cash the ♦K, both opponents following (the ♦J falls from the West hand while East follows with a small diamond). At Trick 8, lead the ♦10 from your hand, not caring who wins the trick. As it happens, West discards a heart and East takes the trick with his ♦Q. Now you can visualize the opponents' remaining cards as follows.



At Trick 9, East's best lead is the ♣Q, to your ♣A and West's ♠3 (he could discard the ♥K, but that wouldn't change his fate), and Dummy ♣6. At this point, West's best defense would be to exit with a trump (if he instead chose to exit with ♥K, that would give you a ruff-sluff and allow you to make an overtrick). So, let's say he exits with the ♠4 at Trick 10. Dummy's ♠9 takes the trick while East discards the ♦6 and you play your ♠7. Now the three-card ending is as follows.



You need two more tricks from this ending to make your contract. Exit with the board's ♣7. East will win perforce and West will discard the ♥K. Then no matter what East leads, you can take the last two tricks with Dummy's ♠ace-jack combination. You have made a doubled four spades contract!
Here is the full hand.





DONALD OSTRUM

It is with sadness we advise that Don Ostrom of Cambridge passed away on April 17, 2021 from complications of cancer.

Don was a silver life master who enjoyed playing at our club over the past few years. Don leaves his wife, Debbie, five children and eight grandchildren.

Coming Virtual Activities

- Friday, April 30, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Friday, April 30, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Friday, April 30, 7:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Saturday, May 1, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Sunday, May 2, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) \$5**
- Monday, May 3, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$5**
- Monday, May 3, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Monday, May 3, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, May 4, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, May 5, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- **Wednesday, May 5, 9:30 am, Practising Basic Bridge Conventions Workshop**
- Wednesday, May 5, 1:00 pm, **499er game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, May 5, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, May 5, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, May 6, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, May 6, 1:00 pm, **open game (26-28 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, May 6, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) \$5**

If you would like to play in a particular game but lack a partner that day, you can either:

- ♠ Log in to [Pianola](#), click on Partner Finder, and create a Partner Finder Advert. This needs to be done at least a few hours in advance of the game. OR
- ♠ Log in to the game in question and register yourself on the Partnership Desk tab.

If you are looking for a regular partner, contact [Cheryl Kip](#), our membership lead.

We have fun in **spades**.

We play with all our **hearts**.

We treat our members like **diamonds**.

We know all about non-forcing bids at our **club**