



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRON-

MENT

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## ALERT – November 1, 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 September.*

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	43.40	1	Roy Dandyk	17.38	1	Reinhold Kauk	9.21
2	Cindy Mahn	30.82	2	Brian Kirkconnell	16.63	2	Joe Blake	8.56
3	Margot Stockie	28.77	3	Salvatore Pace	15.94	3	Aggie Udvari	8.44
4	Colin Harrington	24.46	4	Ron Lawrence	14.22	4	Anita Hanson	7.84
5	Moira Hollingsworth	21.62	5	Suzanne Edwards	13.39	5	Belinda Burt	7.39
6	Bruce Roberts	20.24	6	Barbara Arthur	11.27	6	Steven Allen	7.38
7	Mike Peng	18.95	7	David Embury	11.23	7	Elinor Girouard	7.22
8	Ted Boyd	18.61	8	Kathy Russell	10.15	8	Barb Neibert	6.83
9	Robert Griffiths	18.32	9	Stephen Nantes	10.10	9	Marg Sanderson	6.73
10	Neil Jeffrey	17.78	10	Shelley Metcalfe	9.86	10	Nancy Cattanach	6.34
11	Neil Coburn	16.81	11	Barbara Lindsay	9.29	11	Elisabeth Graham	6.30
12	Sandy Graham	16.06	12	Sue Voll	8.62	12	Donald Rieger	5.98
13	Liz McDowell	15.92	13	Sue Peterson	8.02	13	Martin Jones	5.05
14	Stephen Young	14.13	14	Nanci Phelan	7.75	14	Virginia Alviano	4.77
15	Edith Ferber	13.68	15	Renate Boucher	7.62	15	Susan Durance	4.64
16	Dianne Aves	11.50	16	Gale Small	7.48	16	Rick Arthur	4.49
17	Tom Ramsay	10.68	17	Joan Slover	7.22	16	Brian Gaber	4.49
18	Sharon King	9.84	18	Judy Beauchamp	6.95	18	Joani Horvath	4.43
19	John Moser	9.40	18	Jim Veitch	6.95	19	Ginny Scott	4.38
20	Ronald Sayle	9.08	20	George Pepall	6.59	19	Audrey Cook	4.38
20	Paul Stillman	9.08	21	Cheryl Kip	6.51	21	Molly Worden	4.31
22	Scott Hills	8.70	22	Sue Moses	6.45	21	Sue McDonald	4.31
23	Dave Quarrie	8.59	23	Kevin Latter	6.39	23	Charlene Schell	4.03
24	Peggy Pearson	8.55	24	Andy Wilson	6.38	24	Donna McKay	3.96
25	Wayne Schroeder	8.23	25	Marlene Dopko	6.37	25	Jim Fox	3.86

## ***Selected Excerpts from*** **David Owen's "New Yorker" Review of a Bridge Book by Edward McPherson**

"Culbertson, McPherson writes, was "The P.T. Barnum of bridge." He was born in Romania in 1891, and was described by Bertrand Russell as "the most remarkable - or at any rate psychologically-interesting - man it has ever been my good fortune to know." He published two bridge instruction books in 1931, and both became national best-sellers. Later that same year, he arranged a contract bridge "Battle of the Century" in New York, pitting himself and his wife against a pair of competing experts, first in a salon at the Hotel Chatham and then in a wing of the brand-new Waldorf Astoria.

"During the next six weeks,' McPherson writes, 'as many as thirty stenographers at a time would work in the suite. Six Western Union telegraph operators stood on-call twenty-four hours a day. A new pack of cards was used for each deal.'

"The *Times* covered the match hand by hand, often supplying trick-by-trick analysis and keeping a running tally of all the aces and kings held by each side. Results were cabled daily to papers across the Atlantic." Chico Marx was among the many spectators, more than a few of whom wore evening clothes. The Culbertsons won, and the Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company later paid them ten thousand dollars for the right to include a miniature bridge instruction booklet in packs of Chesterfield cigarettes.

"Bridge, despite its rarified pedigree, was an ideal populist pastime for the Depression and war years. It was sociable and challenging, yet the only cost was the price of a deck of cards. Couples took it up by the millions, and in the nineteen-forties, according to the Association of American Playing Card Manufacturers, the game was played in forty-four per cent of American homes.

"During this period, Charles L. Goren, a Philadelphia lawyer who had applied himself to bridge in college after a young woman laughed at his poor play, displaced Culbertson as the nation's pre-eminent authority. He published numerous best-selling instructional books, a monthly column for *McCall's*, a weekly column for *Sports Illustrated*, and a syndicated daily column that ran in nearly two hundred newspapers. His photograph appeared on the cover of *Time* in 1958, and he was host of the television show 'Championship Bridge with Charles Goren', which aired on ABC from 1959 to 1964. Among Goren's readers was Dwight D. Eisenhower, whose bridge-playing friends visited the White House four at a time so that the game could continue when the President had to excuse himself to conduct the nation's business."

*Contributed by George Pepall*

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## **Bridge Primer Video**

Click [here](#) for a cute seven-minute musical video about playing bridge. The best part is the dozens of cameos of bridge players telling how they got started and what the game means to them.

Another video is in the works, this one entitled "Will You Play with Me?", a song about the challenge of finding the right partner. You might be able to be in this video! To find out more, click [here](#).

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# Time You Learned Your Lessons!

Our online Beginner 2 lessons will start on Thursday, November 11 (see below). **If you know anyone who knows a little bit about bridge already (maybe has played social bridge or played the game a long time ago), please encourage him or her to sign up for these lessons.**

Click [here](#) for more information about this course and to register. Click [here](#) for information on how to pay.



## Beginners Part 2

This five-lesson course is offered twice a year on Thursday nights from 6:30 pm until 9:00 pm. The next set of lessons will begin on Thursday, November 11 and end on December 9. Beginners 2 is a continuation of Beginners 1. All concepts are reviewed and reinforced. Bidding is emphasized, including take-out doubles and responses and ace-asking conventions. The principles of declaring no trump and suit contracts will be covered. The cost is \$75 for the students who have already purchased the text for Beginners 1 (the same text is used for all ten lessons). The price for Beginner 2 students who lack the text is \$85.

Level: **Beginner**

Instructor: Al Pengelly

Mode: Online

Current Enrollment: 8

John Hanemaayer succeeded in recording his **novice** workshop on **Filling out your Convention Card**, and it is available for \$10. To order the recording of this workshop, just send in your payment specifying what it is for (click [here](#) for information on how to pay).

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## Quickie

“Against no trump, when you have the KQT9 of a suit, it is useful to lead the queen rather than the king. If partner has the jack, he will play it, and you will know instantly what is going on in this suit. If you lead the king, your partner won’t play the jack. If you can’t tell where the jack is, you won’t be sure how to continue the defence. It’s good to have an agreement on this in advance.”

*Excerpted from Insights on Bridge, Book 2, by Mike Lawrence*

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## Bidding Decisions

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

<b>Board 1</b>			♠ Q 9 8 6								
North Deals			♥ K 9 4 3								
None Vul			♦ 9 6 3								
			♣ K 2								
♠ K	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; 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		♠ A J 10 7 5 3
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 7 2			♥ —								
♦ A K 10 7 4 2			♦ J 5								
♣ 10 8 7 6			♣ A Q 9 5 4								
			♠ 4 2								
			♥ A Q J 10 8 6 5								
			♦ Q 8								
			♣ J 3								

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 ♠	3 ♥
Dbl	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
Pass	4 ♥	4 ♠	All pass

North dealt and passed, I was East and opened 1♠ then South jumped to 3♥. West doubled: this was a negative double, showing the other two suits. North might have muddied the waters with a 4♥ bid but passed.

I was in a quandary about what to bid next. If we have a club fit, my 12 HCP will have a lot of playing strength. I considered a bid of 5♣, but that would be abandoning my wonderful spade suit. So, I made a 4♣ underbid, hoping that wouldn't end the auction. South passed, as did my partner. I was awaiting the opening lead and preparing an excuse for my meek bidding when - in the passout seat - North competed with 4♥.

If I were to make a penalty double here (I never would with this hand), our side would collect +800 as South would be held to seven tricks. Instead, I took the opportunity to bid 4♠, showing the playing strength of my hand and offering partner a choice of games. He decided that a singleton king was adequate support and passed. Playing in a club game when a spade game was making would be a mistake.

South led his ♥A and it was a simple matter to take 12 tricks with the aid of a club finesse, losing only a spade trick. This turned out to be a good result when five of the seven tables in the game played in clubs below the slam level (+460 for making all 13 tricks) and only one other pair made the +480 in spades.

This is a strange hand in that the side with 22 HCP can win 13 tricks in either minor or 12 tricks in spades.

Many of the South players chose to bid only 2♥ at their first chance. Oddly, this usually had the effect of interfering with E/W communications more than the pre-empt. Now, when West made a negative double, North was inclined to get into the auction in a constructive way, raising hearts or making a spade cuebid. Two E/W pairs played in a club partscore after this interference. Most of the pairs who had to contend with a heart pre-empt found the E/W game.

North would likely have pushed us into the “wrong” game if he had raised his partner to 4♥ at his first opportunity. Now, unless I wanted to bid 4♠ like a bull, I would likely try a more sensible 5♣ bid, landing us in an inferior contract. Of course, if he had passed my 4♣ bid, we would have joined the two pairs who shared a bottom by missing the easy game.

 **Bid immediately to the appropriate level when pre-empting.**

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**An aphorism is a short, pointed sentence that expresses a wise or clever observation.**

The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.

Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail.

If you don't have a sense of humor, you probably don't have any sense at all.

Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.

A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.

How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?

Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.

Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?

Stroke a cat and you will have a permanent job.

No one has more driving ambition than the teenage boy who wants to buy a car.

There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.

There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 a.m. For example, it could be the right number. (Think about this one)!!

No one ever says "It's only a game" when their team is winning.

I've reached the age where 'happy hour' is a nap.

Be careful about reading the fine print; there's no way you're going to like it.

The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.

Do you realize that, in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos?

Money can't buy happiness, but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Cadillac than in a Ford.

After 70, if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you're probably dead.

Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

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# Dear David

## May the Force Be with You

19 D	N North	W N E S
	♠ Q6 ♥ A ♦ AQ109853 ♣ AJ2	P 1♦ P 1NT P 6♦ P P P
W West		E East
♠ 98754 ♥ J1054 ♦ 4 ♣ 1094		♠ 102 ♥ K8632 ♦ 76 ♣ KQ76
	S South	6♦ N NS: 0 EW: 0
	♠ AKJ3 ♥ Q97 ♦ KJ2 ♣ 853	

I was playing with an expert partner. We are in the habit of not discussing hands during a game. Discussions occur online after the game, or by email well after the game. Discussing what went wrong during the game will often invoke emotional involvement, which detracts from your ability to play well.

This hand will produce 13 tricks in no trump. How should we bid it? Immediately after the last board, my partner (who knows at least as much about the game as I do) posed the question "How do I make a forcing bid with the North hand?" Good question. 2♣ & 2♦ are not forcing. It looks as if a reverse to a major suit is the only way to keep the bidding low in order to gather information and make a game-forcing bid. Which major "suit" should you choose? 2♠ will cause South to raise and you are back to guessing. 2♥ will cause South to bid 3♦, which leads to Blackwood, which probably leads to 6NT, which is probably what you should bid in the first place.

There is very little advantage to playing this hand in diamonds since South is unlikely to be able to trump anything. This is one of those hands where only a very sophisticated system would allow you to bid 7NT with any confidence. As you can see from the hand above, bidding 2♥ or 2♠ should be treated as a four-card suit during the bidding, but it is the only way to make a forcing bid and thus does not promise a real suit.

There is one other interesting aspect to this hand. Why didn't South bid 1♠ over 1♦? With most partners, I play that 1♦ denies a four-card major unless responder has a four-card major, a longer diamond suit and a game-forcing hand. If he has that, he can bid the major suit over 1NT and we are back in the saddle again. If he does not have that hand, why should I tell the opposition what I have in the majors? They might even lead my undisclosed suit!

For Intermediate *Jake's*  
**Play a Bad Hand Well**

**#46**

♠ J 4 3  
 ♥ 7 6 4 3 2  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ J 8 6 5



♠ 9  
 ♥ A K Q J 9  
 ♦ A Q J 3  
 ♣ A K Q

West	North	East	South
		Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	6 ♥	All pass	

West led the ♠A and continued with the ♠K, which I ruffed with my ♥9. Plan the play.

**SOLUTION**

You've already lost a trick, so you have to score all the rest. Your only problem seems to be in diamonds. You could try a finesse, which might lose (and which can be executed only once in any case), or you could try to ruff three diamonds in dummy, but unless diamonds split 4-4, you'll get over-ruffed at some point. The finesse offers a less than 50% chance, while a 4-4 split offers only a 33% chance. In fact, there's a much better chance. How does 100% sound? It's time for a **dummy reversal!** In a dummy reversal, you play as if the dummy is the master hand - so instead of trying to get rid of your hand's diamond losers, you work on dummy's losers instead. Here is the situation after two tricks have been played.

♠ J  
 ♥ 7 6 4 3 2  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ J 8 6 5

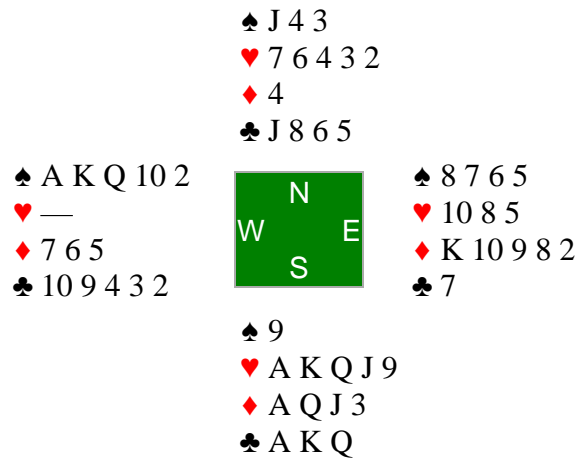


♠ —  
 ♥ A K Q J  
 ♦ A Q J 3  
 ♣ A K Q

When you look at the problem this way, you will quickly see that there is in fact only one loser in dummy - the ♠J. So, all you need to do is draw all of the opponents' trumps (let's say it takes three rounds) and then cash your hand's three top clubs and your ♦A. Here is the four-card ending.



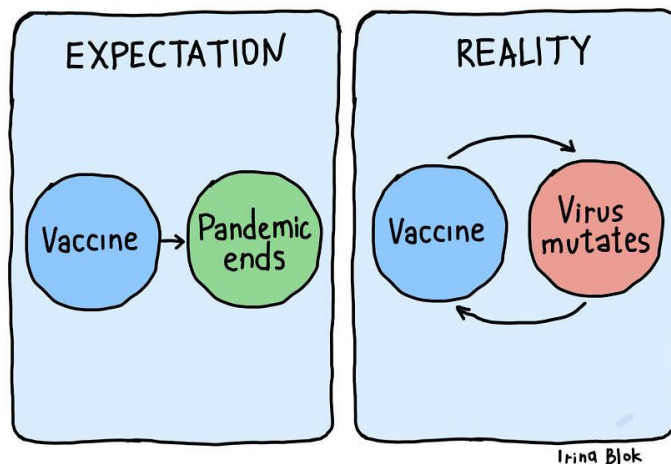
Ruff a diamond on the board and then ruff dummy's ♠J with your hand's last trump. Now dummy's last two cards are good and your hand's two remaining diamond losers evaporate on the ♣J and the last trump. Here is the full deal.



Sometimes it helps to think outside the box.

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## pandemic end



Irina Blok



## North American Pairs District 2 Finals

On Sunday, November 14, qualifying players in Flight B (0-2500 MP) are invited to compete in the District 2 North American Pairs online finals. The finals for Flights A (open) and C (NLM, <500 MP) will be held on Sunday, November 21. The top three eligible pairs in Flight A, and the top four eligible pairs in Flights B & C, will qualify for the finals which will be held at the national tournament in Reno in March 22. Some subsidies to offset the cost of travel to the NABC will be available.

Click [here](#) for the list of qualifying players (please note that the names are alphabetical BY UNIT). Pre-registration is required. Cost \$18 BBO. Click [here](#) for more information.

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## Unit 249 Virtual Tournament

This weekend, the Kincardine Duplicate Bridge Club is hosting a Unit 249-wide tournament. The club will donate 15% of the net proceeds of the first-place winners to the charity of their choice. The strats are 0-299, 0-999, and open. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Coming Virtual Events

- Friday, October 29, 12:30 pm, **99er game, (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Friday, October 29, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Friday, October 29, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- **Saturday, October 30 and Sunday, October 31, Unit 249 Virtual Tournament**
- Saturday, October 30, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Sunday, October 31, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) \$5**
- Monday, November 1, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$5**
- Monday, November 1, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Monday, November 1, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, November 2, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, November 2, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, November 3, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, November 3, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, November 3, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, November 4, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, November 4, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, November 4, 6:30 pm, **19er game \$5**
- Thursday, November 4, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Sunday, November 14, **Flight B NAP District 2 Finals \$18**
- Sunday, November 21, **Flights A and C NAP District 2 Finals \$18**

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're hoping to reopen in January of 2022 at our **club**.