



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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ALERT – March 28, 2022

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	33.82	1	Brian Kirkconnell	17.40	1	Reinhold Kauk	7.48
2	Cindy Mahn	25.30	2	Stephen Nantes	15.76	2	Ginny Scott	6.79
3	Robert Griffiths	23.89	3	Suzanne Edwards	13.43	3	Steven Allen	6.68
4	Margot Stockie	19.89	4	Susan Kerrigan	9.09	4	Nancy Cattanach	6.64
5	Mike Peng	19.88	5	Dave Leitch	8.66	5	Joe Blake	6.52
6	Colin Harrington	17.92	6	Cheryl White	7.64	6	Martin Jones	5.94
7	Stephen Young	16.98	7	Lynda Burnett	7.11	7	Belinda Burt	5.88
8	Edith Ferber	16.68	8	Lori Cole	7.10	8	Jane Wilson	5.61
9	Moira Hollingsworth	14.92	9	Nanci Phelan	7.03	9	Susan Durance	5.24
10	John Vandergrift	14.19	10	Laurence Dean	6.61	10	Barb Neibert	5.02
11	David Longstaff	13.12	11	David Dennis	6.55	10	Anita Hanson	5.02
12	Sandy Graham	13.06	12	Andy Martinek	6.52	12	Molly Worden	4.58
13	Kathy Russell	11.09	13	Judy Bailey	6.25	13	Jeannie Leforge	4.40
14	Dianne Aves	10.41	14	Tony Verhoeven	6.18	14	Pauline Copleston	4.33
15	Malkin Howes	10.38	15	Barbara Arthur	6.17	15	Marilyn Rootham	4.27
16	David Wilson	9.32	16	Marion Allan	6.12	16	Virginia Alviano	4.23
17	Tom Ramsay	9.29	17	Barbara Lindsay	6.07	17	Brian Gaber	4.20
18	Neil Jeffrey	8.15	18	Cheryl Kip	5.97	18	Michel Lalonde	4.11
19	Ted Boyd	7.80	19	John Kip	5.76	18	David Ward	4.11
20	Steve Carpenter	7.41	20	Carolyn Baechler	5.73	20	Gordon Hunter	4.02
21	Wayne Schroeder	7.09	21	Sandra Jonasson	5.71	20	Elinor Girouard	4.02
21	Liz McDowell	7.09	22	Renate Boucher	5.66	22	Lynn Campbell	3.82
23	Pat McMillan	6.74	23	Joan Slover	5.55	23	Rick Arthur	3.81
24	Adrian Record	6.70	24	Kevin Latter	5.46	24	Linda Rush	3.74
25	Neil Coburn	6.38	25	Jim Dalglish	5.41	24	Valirie Binkle	3.74



Congratulations to **Mike Peng and Bob Griffiths** who came first in last weekend's Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) pairs with a 71.1% score. The CBF tournaments are held monthly, usually on the third Saturday afternoon of each month. There are two games (0-444 and Open). Only CBF members are eligible to participate.

From the Archives – Loose Lips Sink Ships

Imagine if, just before you played Board 4, someone came up to you and whispered that you can make six diamonds on this board because the heart king is onside. Obviously, it would be unethical of you to take advantage of this information, and most people wouldn't. Nor would many bridge players knowingly give others inside information of this kind. But surprisingly often players accidentally let the cat out of the bag – perhaps by just talking too loudly or maybe by asking a more-experienced player for his or her opinion about a particular bid or play, forgetting that the more-experienced player may not have yet played the deal in question. It's part of the fun of bridge to do post mortems and try to learn from mistakes – but this kind of analysis is best left to the end of the game.



Renate Boucher Wrote to the Club as Follows

My partner Val Binkle and I played in a 199er game and on BBO it showed us earning 0.48 black points. But when we received the results email, everything was the same except that our masterpoints were only 0.42. Why did our masterpoints drop?

Al Pengelly (Lead Game Director) Wrote Back as Follows

BBO calculates masterpoints using 100% for open games and 80% for non-open (“limited”) games. But the ACBL uses the following formulation.

- Open Games - 0.1 masterpoint per participating pair
- 499er Games – 80% of open games
- 99er and 199er Games – 70% of open games
- 19er Games – 50% of open games

This is also the multiplier when calculating the masterpoints given for stratification based on the average masterpoints of the highest pair in the strat.

Everyone in your game would have been shown an inflated number of points by BBO, because BBO doesn’t take the extra programming time to make sure that things match up with ACBL Live. In order to learn the correct number of masterpoints, you need to wait for the ACBL Live email.

Although this has always been the case, it wasn’t as apparent when the ACBL was boosting the masterpoint awards (by 150% and later by 125%) during earlier periods of the pandemic in order to encourage online play. These multipliers were removed on January 1, 2022.



Don’t forget to send your bridge questions to our Answer Lady Susan Lawton (suzan2420@yahoo.ca). Susan’s free service will help you get better at bridge.



t2e
thinkzevolve



@science.t2e

ALL BLUE-EYED PEOPLE ARE RELATED!

Did you know if you have **blue eyes**, you share an ancestor with all other blue-eyed people on the planet? That’s because blue eyes are a **genetic mutation** that appeared more than 6,000 years ago. All humans originally had brown eyes.

Gerber – Not Necessarily a Baby Food

Contributed by Liz McDowell

A very keen newer player has asked for some columns about slam bidding. This week, a look at the Gerber convention. What is the Gerber convention? It is an immediate 4♣ response to any no trump opening bid or overcall.

Make sure you and your partner agree that Gerber should be used only as a response to a no trump bid. Following opening bids of 1NT, 2NT, or a 2♣ strong bid followed by a rebid of 2NT (showing 22-24 HCP), a bid of 4♣ asks about aces.

This is because 1NT- 4NT is “quantitative”, showing a balanced hand with a good 15 to a poor 17 count. A 4NT quantitative bid asks opener to pass with a minimum and bid six with a maximum.

A good way to help you to remember when to use Gerber is to write ONTO (**O**ver **N**o **T**rump **O**nly) beside Gerber when you tick it off on the back of your convention card (beside SLAM CONVENTIONS).

Responses to 4♣:

- 4♦ 0 or 4 aces
- 4♥ 1 ace
- 4♠ 2 aces
- 4NT 3 aces

After hearing partner’s response, the Gerber bidder can bid 5♣ to ask about kings.

- 5♦ 0 or 4 kings
- 5♥ 1 king
- 5♠ 2 kings
- 5NT 3 kings

Example

Opener bids 1NT (15-17)

Responder’s hand

- ♠K53
- ♥AJ
- ♦K3
- ♣KQJ1073

This hand has 17 HCP, and responder knows they have 32-34 combined points for their side. Use 4♣ to check how many aces partner has. If he shows two aces, bid the small slam (knowing that one ace is missing), and if he shows three aces, bid the grand slam. This hand will play well with a six-card club suit in NT.

Gerber is also used as a rebid after a Stayman sequence or a Jacoby transfer.

Example

Opener bids 2NT (20-21)

Responder’s hand

- ♠K3
- ♥KQJ109
- ♦K103
- ♣Q43

Responder will bid 3♦ (transfer), then bid 4♣ after opener’s response to the transfer. Opener has bid 2NT, so must have some aces. The 4♣ bid will let responder know how many aces he has and thus how high to bid.

Caution: Gerber should not be used with a void.

TIME YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSONS!



Basic Bidding

It's hard to get a good result if you're in the wrong contract!

This five-week course is intended for those who have taken beginner lessons or those who have been away from the game for a while. Bridge bidding has changed significantly over the past few decades, and we're definitely not in Kansas anymore!

The course's topics include: opening in a suit, opening in no trump, responding, pre-empting, Stayman and Jacoby, Gerber, and Blackwood.

A binder with lessons and homework sheets is included in the fee.

Level: **NOVICE**

Instructor: Cindy Mahn

Mode: FACE-TO-FACE

Dates: Tuesday mornings, 9:00 am – 11:30 am, April 19 – May 17

Fee: \$75 for members/ \$85 for non-members

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

If you and your friends have a burning desire to have a two-and-a-half-hour workshop on a particular topic, email [Malkin](#), our lesson lead, and she will see what she can do.

In the meantime, we do have these recorded lessons available.

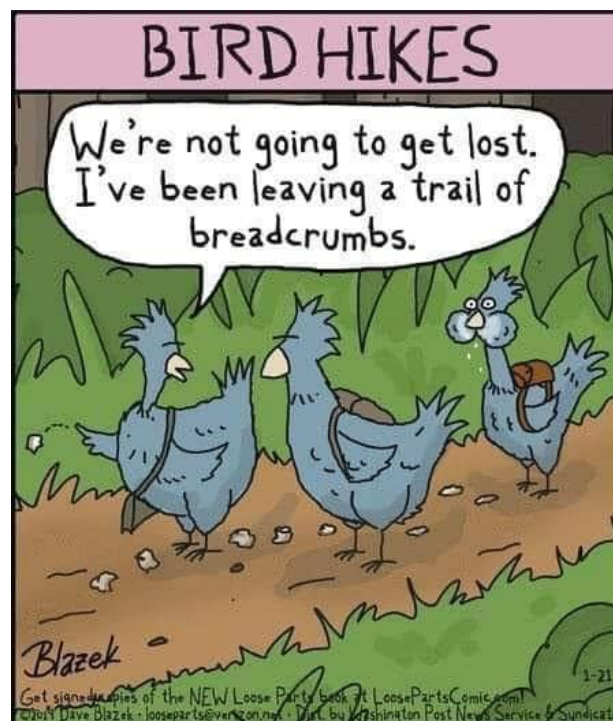
Recorded Lessons

The following recordings are available for \$10. To order one or more of them, send in your payment specifying what it is for (click [here](#) for information on how to pay).

- John Hanemaayer's **novice** workshop on **Filling out your Convention Card**
 - Stephen Carpenter's defence workshop on **Killer Signals**
 - Jack Cole's **novice** workshop on **Playing in our Online Games**
 - Stephen Carpenter's defence workshop on **Opening Leads**
 - Jack Cole's **novice** workshop on **Scoring Matters**
 - Stephen Carpenter's defence workshop on **Third Seat Play**
 - Stephen Carpenter's defence workshop on **Second Seat Play**
 - Stephen Carpenter's defence workshop on **Discards and Strategies**
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Here is a photo of Neil Jeffrey's Intermediate Bidding, Part 1 class in our teaching room. Watch out for these guys from now on – they're on their way to being expert bidders!





Dear David

Too Much to Handle

In yesterday's game we were the only ones NOT in slam. West opened an ultra-weak 2♥ in first seat, vulnerable. I reasoned that nobody would open in front of me with fewer than six points. I didn't want to double in case my partner bid 4♠, and I KNEW he couldn't bid no trump. If I had had a good 14-18 points, I would have bid 2NT, but I have 20. Partner should know I have BETTER than a 2NT bid if I were to jump to 3NT. What can I do?

	N North ♠ AK ♥ AK9 ♦ Q10832 ♣ KJ7	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	2♥	3NT	P	P	P			
	W	N	E	S										
2♥	3NT	P	P											
P														
W West ♠ 1072 ♥ QJ10875 ♦ 7 ♣ 832		E East ♠ QJ64 ♥ 64 ♦ J965 ♣ 1054												
	S South ♠ 9853 ♥ 32 ♦ AK4 ♣ AQ96	3NT N NS: 0 EW: 0												

Pre-empts often do their job, which is making effective communication difficult. Counter-measures are required in order to describe your hand as accurately as possible. This hand is too strong for a 2NT overcall, which most people would play as a balanced 15-18 points. What is your best alternative?

If we return to first principles, your partnership has agreed that a suit overcall of the opponent's one-level opening bid has a maximum point-count limit of somewhere around 15/16 points. What do you do when you have a hand with more than 15/16? You start with a double and then bid your suit or NT (with a balanced hand of more than 18 points) over your partner's response. On this hand, I expect that most players would jump to 4♠ after a double. Since your partner's jump to game signifies opening points, 6NT seems like a reasonable contract. Finally, your jump to 3NT showed extras, so partner "owed" you a bid. Raising 3NT to 4NT shows a good hand with previously-undisclosed values.

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

#65

♠ A K Q 10
 ♥ A 8 4
 ♦ 9
 ♣ A K Q 9 2

N
W E
S

♠ J 8 7 6 2
 ♥ 9 6
 ♦ A J 8 7 5 3
 ♣ —

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

1. 22+ HCP or 9+ tricks
2. Disturbing
3. RKCB 1430 (1 keycard)
4. 0 kings

West led the ♣8. Plan the play.

SOLUTION

In your hand you have six losers: one heart and five diamonds. To make your contract, it looks as if you need to eliminate five of these losers. Superficially, it looks as if you can make the contract by discarding three of your hand's losers under the ♣AKQ and then ruffing two losers in dummy. A closer look, however, reveals that you don't have sufficient entries in your hand to pull this off.

It may be more helpful, therefore, to count dummy's losers instead: two hearts and two clubs = four losers in total. You can make your contract if you can eliminate three of dummy's losers. Let's do a bit more analysis. You have a heart doubleton in your hand, meaning you can ruff one of dummy's heart losers in your hand. Your hand is void in clubs, meaning you can ruff two club losers in your hand. In other words, you can ruff losers in the master hand (the hand with longer trumps) and later use dummy's high trump(s) to extract the opponents' last trumps. This technique is called a dummy reversal.

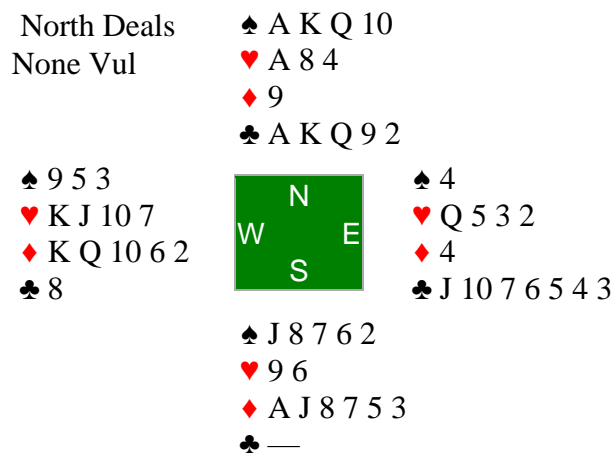
- At Trick 1, you cover the ♣8 with dummy's ♣9 (you are pretty sure it will lose to East but you have nothing to lose). East will cover with his ♣10 or ♣J. You ruff in your hand with a small trump.
- At Trick 2, you lead a small heart to dummy's ♥A. Both West and East will follow.
- At Trick 3, you lead the ♣2 from the board and ruff it with your ♠J. West will discard a heart or a diamond.

- At Trick 4, you lead your last heart (the ♥9). Either West or East will win.
- At Trick 5, West or East will most likely lead a trump (best defence). You take the trick with your ♠10 (all are equivalent).
- At Trick 6, you lead the board's last heart and ruff it in your hand. Happily, both East and West will follow suit.

Here is the situation after six tricks have been played.



As you can see, all of dummy's losers have been eliminated (the small diamond has your ♦A to protect it). Now, all you need to do is extract the outstanding trumps and claim your slam! The complete deal was as follows.



Dummy reversals are easier than they look (but they can be tricky to spot). For a dummy reversal to work, the following three conditions must be met:

- Declarer must have a short suit;
- Dummy must have high trumps; and
- Dummy must have plentiful entries.



Please Adjust Your Sets – Important Information Follows

Wednesday Morning Face-to-Face 199er Game Cancelled

Last week, only one player showed up for the inaugural 0-99 face-to-face game, so we revised the game to a 0-199er game. This week, only two players came to the club for the revised 0-199 game. As a result, the Wednesday morning game has been cancelled until we have had a chance to survey our players in these two masterpoint ranges to ascertain their interest in face-to-face games period.

Special Charity Games to Support Ukraine

This week, from Monday, March 28 through Thursday, March 31, all of our games will be charity games, with the ACBL donating its net proceeds to the United National World Food Program, where the donations will be earmarked for the Ukrainian people. Our online games will cost BBO\$7, while our club games will cost \$9. The masterpoint awards for the online games will be double black points, while the Tuesday afternoon face-to-face open game will get two-three times regular black points.

Guelph Club Spring Fling

Instead of its annual section tournament, the Guelph Bridge Club will be hosting two BBO sessions on Saturday, April 9. Single session players are welcome, but in order to qualify for the prizes you must play in both sessions. The entry fee is BBO\$7 a session. For more information, visit www.guelphbridgeclub.org and scroll down to Spring Fling – April 9.

Our club will be cancelling the two games on that Saturday (April 9) so that our players can participate.

Bridge Labs

Our bridge labs are a terrific place for newer players to get used to our club, find new friends and partners, and – oh yes – learn how to play bridge better.

- You don't need to be a member of our club.
- You don't need to come with a partner (although you can).
- You don't need to register ahead of time.

All you have to do is show up at 9:00 am on Monday mornings with a smile on your face (and \$7 in your pocket if you're a member/ \$9 if you're not a member).

So far, it's been a small but mighty group (two tables last week), so there's lots of room to grow. Lab leaders Bill and Bev Pope will be delighted to see you.



Our Invitational (Capped) Online Games

Our club offers lots of invitational (capped) games for newer players, in the hopes that they will enable you to climb the difficulty ladder as your skills and confidence improve. However, some of these games would be more fun if they had more players, so we are listing here our more poorly-attended games in case they have somehow escaped your notice.

- 0-99 Game, Mondays at 12:30 pm
 - 0-999 Game, Saturdays at 12:30 pm
 - 0-999 Game, Thursdays at 7:00 pm
 - 0-19 Game, Thursdays at 6:30 pm
-

ALL GAMES ARE ONLINE UNLESS DESIGNATED **FACE-TO-FACE.**

Coming Events

- Friday, March 25, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE****
- Friday, March 25, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Saturday, March 26, 12:30 pm, **999er game (24 boards) \$5** 
- Saturday, March 26, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Sunday, March 27, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) \$5**
- Monday, March 28, 9:00 am, **Bridge Lab  (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE****
- Monday, March 28, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Monday, March 28, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7**
- Monday, March 28, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$7**
- Tuesday, March 29, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Tuesday, March 29, 1:00 pm, **open game (24-28 boards) (\$9 members/ \$11 non-members) **FACE TO FACE****
- ~~Wednesday, March 30, 9:00 am, 199er game CANCELLED~~
- Wednesday, March 30, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$7**
- Wednesday, March 30, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, March 31, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, March 31, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, March 31, 6:30 pm, **19er game (18 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, March 31, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) \$7**

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 are proud to support Ukraine at our **club**.