



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

[Website](#)

ALERT – November 7, 2022

Top 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 October.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	20.71	1	Suzanne Edwards	5.36	1	Nancy Cattanach	3.54
2	Cindy Mahn	15.30	2	Brian Kirkconnell	5.17	2	Louise Dawdy	2.96
3	Margot Stockie	12.08	3	Stephen Nantes	4.98	3	Debbie Miethig	2.75
4	Stephen Young	10.15	4	Bev Hitchman	4.82	4	Chris Beck	2.57
5	Mike Peng	8.56	5	David Dennis	4.81	5	Molly Worden	2.29
6	Edith Ferber	7.69	6	ML Benjamins	4.40	6	Elaine Doyle	2.03
7	Liz McDowell	7.35	7	Roy Dandyk	4.34	7	MJ Hartleib	1.98
8	Malkin Howes	6.62	8	Sue Peterson	4.20	8	Ruth Veder	1.95
9	Moira Hollingsworth	6.55	9	Kevin Latter	4.13	8	Sandra Willoughby	1.95
10	Kathy Russell	6.51	10	Elinor Girouard	4.06	10	Audrey Cook	1.94
11	David Longstaff	6.43	11	Lissa Lowes	3.93	11	Jane Wilson	1.75
12	Colin Harrington	6.19	12	Andy Martinek	3.84	12	Valirie Binkle	1.62
13	Dianne Aves	5.55	13	Robert Gilck	3.68	13	Belinda Burt	1.56
13	Robert Griffiths	5.55	14	Cheryl White	3.61	14	Susan Murray	1.41
15	Sharon King	5.53	15	Martin Jones	3.40	14	Ellen Libertini	1.41
16	Bonnie Kains	5.50	16	Joe Blake	3.34	16	Donna McKay	1.28
17	Jen V-Woodward	5.09	17	Joan Slover	3.21	17	Don O'Bright	1.22
18	Diane Bourdeau	4.31	18	Reinhold Kauk	3.17	17	Richard Wehrle	1.22
19	Ted Boyd	4.30	19	Jim Dalgliesh	3.16	19	Philip Fiess	1.18
19	Bruce Roberts	4.30	20	John Kip	3.14	20	Blake Hull	1.06
21	Paul Stillman	4.05	21	Shelley Metcalfe	3.05	21	Joan Stroud	1.04
21	Ronald Sayle	4.05	22	Salvatore Pace	3.00	22	Brian Gaber	0.92
23	Pat McMillan	3.74	23	Nanci Phelan	2.97	23	Rick Arthur	0.90
24	Adrian Record	3.63	24	Karen Whitworth	2.96	23	D Ontonovich	0.89
25	Steve Carpenter	3.62	25	Renate Boucher	2.74	25	Carol Gerber	0.87

ALL GAMES ARE ONLINE UNLESS DESIGNATED **F2F**.

Coming Events

- Friday, November 4, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) **F2F****
- Friday, November 4, 7:00 pm, **Open game (24 boards) (\$8 members/\$10 non-members) **F2F****
- Saturday, November 5, 10:30 am and 3:00 pm, **District 2 NAP Finals (online)**
- Saturday, November 5, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Sunday, November 6, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, November 7, 9:00 am, **Bridge Lab (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) **F2F****
- Monday, November 7, 10:00 am, **Intermediate Bridge Lab (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) **F2F****
- Monday, November 7, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, November 7, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, November 7, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Tuesday, November 8, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Tuesday, November 8, 1:00 pm, **Open game (24-28 boards) (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) **F2F****
- Tuesday, November 8 – Sunday, November 13, [Niagara Regional](#)
- Wednesday, November 9, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Wednesday, November 9, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Wednesday, November 9, 7:00 pm, **Open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, November 10, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, November 10, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, November 10, 6:30 pm, **Beginners 1 Course **F2F****
- ~~Thursday, November 10, 6:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards) BBO\$5 CANCELLED**~~
- Thursday, November 10, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**



- **The November 11 Friday night F2F game has been cancelled because it conflicts with the regional tournament in Niagara.**

No Thursday Night 19/49er Game

Last week only one pair showed up for this game. Accordingly, the Thursday night 19er/49er game has been cancelled until further notice.





Congratulations.....

to the following local players who have ascended to the next ACBL rank...

Junior Master

- **Jaye Stief**

Sectional Master

- **Tong Chen**

Regional Master

- **Mary Lynn Benjamins**

NABC Master

John Kip

Life Master

- **Ted Kennedy**

and to the following local players who earned extra masterpoints in last week's STaC games at our club.

- **Bob Giilck and David Dennis**, 5th in A, Friday afternoon 499er game
- **Kathy Burns and Isabel Hetherington**, 2nd in A, Friday afternoon 499er game
- **Rick Arthur and Pat McDonald**, 3rd in C, Friday afternoon 499er game
- **Jonay Souder and Elinor Girouard**, 4th in C, Friday afternoon 499er game
- **Dianne Aves and Suzanne Edwards**, 1st in A, Friday night open game
- **Ted Boyd and Jennifer Verdam-Woodward**, 2nd in A, Friday night open game
- **Dave Baker and Cindy Mahn**, 3rd in A, Friday night open game
- **Mike Peng and Neil Jeffrey**, 4th in A, Friday night open game
- **Kathy Russell and Edith Ferber**, 5th in A, Friday night open game

Click [here](#) for the full report.

And a warm welcome to the following new club members.

- **Stephen Mercer**
- **Jennifer Verdam-Woodward**

A Spooktacular Intermediate Bridge Lab

Contributed by Liz McDowell

The participants at the morning Intermediate Bridge Lab on October 31 were ready for Hal-lowe'en in orange and black attire. We had a mini-lesson, then tricked some bridge hands afterwards. What a treat these folks are! They are very keen, fast learners, and it is a pleasure to be their coach.



Strategy Session

Led by Sue Peterson, the members of the club's board of directors and management team met last Saturday to talk about our financial situation and make plans for the future. A number of excellent action plans were developed, all of which will delight our players. Stay tuned!



The Bean Counter

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer

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When you play an online game (BBO), the only way to pay is via your credit card (VISA, MC, AMEX, etc.). As mentioned in a previous ALERT, BBO makes GRBC pay the credit card company's transaction fee.

When you play a face-to-face (F2F) game, there are five methods of paying: cash, personal cheque, convenience card, debit card, or a free play. On very rare occasions, there is a sixth method: we will accept a credit card – typically only in months that end in Q, and we'll make you sing to the room.

Each payment method comes with a different transaction cost to the club. So ... **POP QUIZ** time! List the above six payment types in ascending order by the transaction fees that GRBC must pay. Did you get it right? The answer can be found later in this ALERT. No peeking.....



The Answer Lady

Contributed by Susan Lawton


As the "The Answer Lady", I have been responding to questions from "newer" players over the past several weeks. A request has been made to share those players' questions and my responses in the Alert, essentially a column for the beginner player!

If you have a question, please write to me at suzan2420@yahoo.ca. You don't need to send me the actual deal – just tell me the game date and board number and I can take care of the rest.

**JUST A REMINDER TO OUR NEWER PLAYERS:
THE ANSWER LADY WILL BE GOING "ON VACATION" SOON –
UNLESS SHE RECEIVES MORE MATERIAL FOR HER COLUMN.
SO SEND IN THOSE QUESTIONS PRONTO!**

Question

My partner and I played this hand in a recent GRBC 99 game. As you can see by the bidding, I was sitting in East and opened 1♠. My partner in West bid 3NT. I knew that West was showing a hand with 15-17 points and thought slam was a possibility - so asked for aces by bidding 4♣ (Gerber). My partner responded with 4♠ indicating two aces, and I bid 6♠. Unfortunately, we ended up going down two. What did we do wrong, Answer Lady? Please help us solve this bidding dilemma.

		N North	W N E S
		♠ 5 ♥ K652 ♦ Q10652 ♣ 873	1♠ P 3NT P 4♣ P 4♠ P 6♠ P P P
W West		E East	
♠ 4 ♥ Q103 ♦ AK987 ♣ AQ96		♠ AKJ87632 ♥ 97 ♦ ♣ J104	
		S South	
		♠ Q109 ♥ AJ84 ♦ J43 ♣ K52	
		6♠ E NS: 0 EW: 0	

Answer

Thank you, 99 players, for sharing this hand. Several incorrect assumptions occurred during the bidding of this hand, and you ended up in 6♠ going down two.

East began the bidding by opening with 1♠ with only nine HCP and eight spades, and West responded with a bid of 3NT. That bid *denies* support for East's spades (unless you have an agreement to the contrary), shows stoppers in the other suits, and promises either 13-15 HCP (most pairs) or 15-17 HCP (pairs who are using the ACBL's Yellow Card). Either way, that response of 3NT exactly describes West's hand. The key words here are *denies support for East's spades*. In other words, East cannot count on West to support spades in any fashion. At this point, East needs to think about where the tricks will come from in her/his hand and the shape and potential tricks in West's hand. Granted East has eight spades, but it is important to remember that there are only nine HCP in East's hand. The ♠Q is missing, and East has several losers in both clubs and hearts. East should not exhibit any excitement and think that slam is a possibility. Instead, East must now make a decision, either leave the contract in 3NT or else correct to 4♠, based on the spade length and the diamond void. The latter is what East should do.

A better way to bid this hand would have been for East to open the bidding with a 4♠ bid. That bid shows a hand with eight spades and a range of 6-10 points (no outside aces). That is this hand, nothing more. West would pass 4♠ and that is where the contract would rest.

There are several advantages to that line of bidding: it shuts the opponents out of the bidding; it makes it hard for them to know whether or not to make a penalty double; and it also hinders their defence.

Other pairs were successful using this strategy and made 4♠ for a top board.



The Bean Counter Again

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer

Pop quiz answer: For each transaction, here is the transaction fee that GRBC must pay.

1. Free play: no fee
2. Cash: no fee
3. Cheque: no fee
4. Convenience Card: no fee as you use it; however, the transaction fee to buy it depends on the method of payment – see 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6
5. Debit Card: a flat 10¢ (yes ... only ten copper pennies), regardless of how much you spent
6. Credit Card: 2.65% of the paid amount regardless of the credit card type (VISA, MC, AMEX)

Needless to say, the frugal (~~cheap~~) bean counter does not want you to pay with a credit card.

Officially Official

Our new board of directors has met and elected the following officers.

- **Mike Peng**, President
- **Lori Cole**, (Acting Vice-President)
- ***Mary McClelland**, Secretary
- **Steve Allen**, Treasurer

*Mary was voted onto the board on Oct.21 and accepted the role of board secretary.

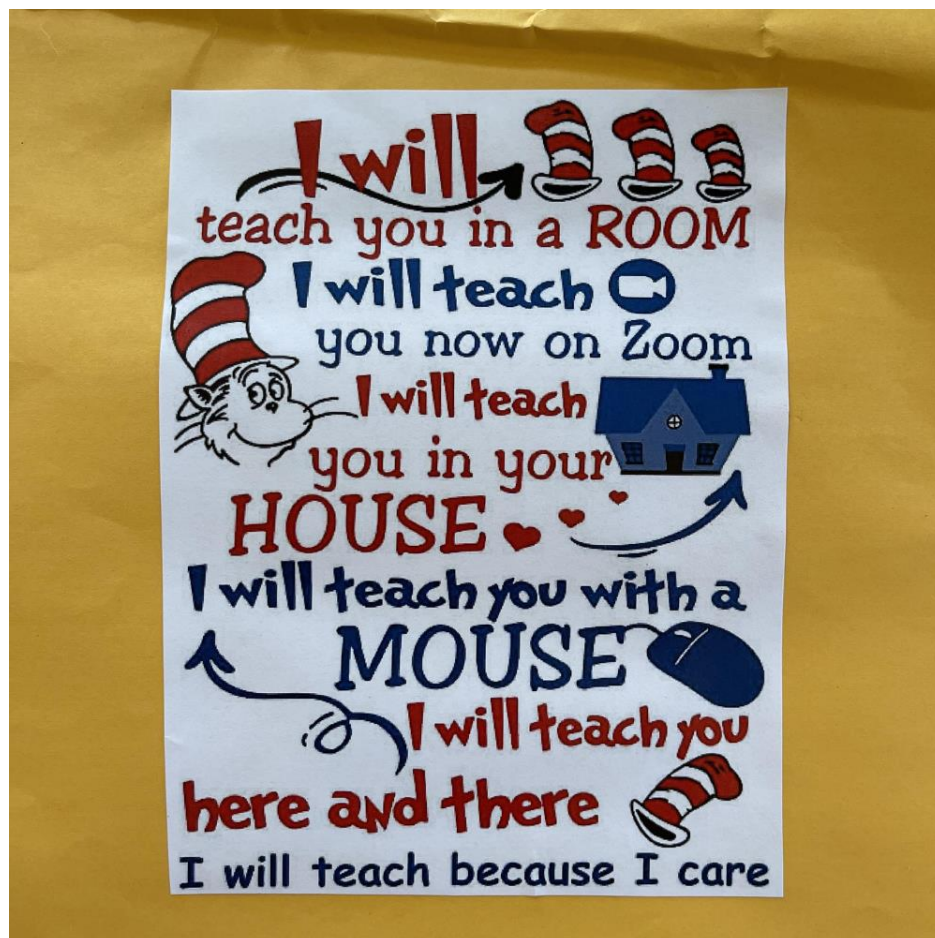
TIME YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSONS!

- Our **Play of the Hand (Suits)** course has been cancelled due to low registration.
- The November 7, 14, & 21 **Intermediate Bidding, Part 2** course has four registrants and is a go. There is room for more... Click [here](#) for more information on these lessons and to register.
- Our **Beginners 2** lessons currently have four registrants. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

We are currently planning our 2023 Winter and Spring lesson schedule. If you would be interested in a particular workshop or course, please email [Malkin](#), our teaching lead, along with your preferred time slots and mode of delivery (in person or online).

Recorded Lessons

We have available digital versions of some of our past lessons: Opening Leads, Third-Seat Play, Killer Signals & Defensive Signals, Second Seat Play, Discards and Strategies (Stephen Carpenter); Convention Card (John Hanemaayer); and Playing in Our Online Games and Scoring Matters (Jack Cole). For the modest fee of \$10, any of these lessons can be yours.





Worst Overcall Ever

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Board 7					
South Deals		♠ K 2			
Both Vul		♥ K 9 7 5			
		♦ A 8 7 6 4			
		♣ 10 5			
			<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>		
♠ A J 5 3					♠ Q 10 8 4
♥ A Q 2					♥ J 6 3
♦ —					♦ K Q J 10 9 3
♣ A K J 9 6 4					♣ —
		♠ 9 7 6			
		♥ 10 8 4			
		♦ 5 2			
		♣ Q 8 7 3 2			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		
			Pass		
1 ♣	1 ♦	Pass	Pass		
Dbl	All pass				

Playing in a pairs game, West opened 1♣. I was North and idly thought I could squeak in a 1♦ overcall, showing some values and something of a diamond suit.

East passed, as did my partner, and West doubled. With his big hand, he just wanted to hear more from East.

East had no qualms about passing 1♦ doubled. She had a lot of defensive tricks and neither knew nor cared that she and her partner might be missing a game.

The play wasn't fun for me. East led a spade, won by West who returned a spade to my king. I tried a club towards the dummy giving West the chance to win two club tricks while East threw away two of her hearts. Then West played the ♥A and ♥Q of Hearts, and then my ♥K was ruffed out.

East led another spade, so I ruffed to make a second trick. That plus the ♦A was all I could do, so I managed three tricks and a score of -1100. If East had gone right after trumps, I might have been held to two tricks.

Not my finest hour.

What did the 'field' do with this hand? Half of the N/S pairs got plus scores when E/W tried the spade slam which failed with both major kings offside.

The other half scored negatives when E/W stopped in game. No pairs achieved my level of incompetence.



Bridge can be very damaging to one's psyche.

FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

One Little Mistake

When you are playing a matchpoint game, if you make a bad mistake on the very first board, you may get 0% on the board. It is not the end of the world, because you have approximately 26 more boards to recover from your horrible start. The game is often not so forgiving when you are playing in a team game.

You are playing the last round of the first post-Covid team game in Tillsonburg, with a good chance of winning the event. This is the hand that will decide your fate.

The screenshot shows a bridge hand interface with the following details:

- North:** ♠ J853, ♥ AKQ73, ♦ AKQ73, ♣ Q973
- West:** ♠ K42, ♥ K10852, ♦ 65, ♣ 652
- East:** ♠ Q96, ♥ Q764, ♦ 108, ♣ AK108
- South:** ♠ A107, ♥ AJ93, ♦ J942, ♣ J4

Bidding sequence:

W	N	E	S
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Score: 0 (North) vs 0 (South) for 3NT South.

West led the ♥5 against 3NT. I won't bore you with the details, but E/W took four heart tricks, two club tricks, and a spade trick for down three in 3NT. North bid 3NT because he thought that we were losing the match and that a good result was needed to win. At the other table, North properly bid 3♣ over 2NT, and they stopped in 3♦ making 10 tricks.

The scoring is quite different when you play teams. You win (or lose) IMPs (International Match Points) when you play teams. At the end of the match, you add up the IMPs on all the boards. The result is then converted on a Victory Point scale from 0 VPs to 30 VPs. We lost 7 IMPs on this hand and lost the match by 3 IMPs, earning 10 VPs out of 30 VP, finishing third in the event. The team we played on the last round finished first. Had we played 3♦, we would have lost no IMPs on this hand and would have won the match by 4 IMPs. That would give us 21 VPs instead of 10 VPs and we would have won the event.

Playing in a matchpoint pairs game, you play 24 to 28 boards for three-plus hours and then you can see how well you did. Playing in a team game, you play multiple matches (six eight-board matches in this case) and get to see how you did after each match. That's why team games are much more popular than pair games.

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

#97

♠ 732
 ♥ K76
 ♦ 765
 ♣ K1052



♠ KQ9
 ♥ A854
 ♦ AQ92
 ♣ J3

West	North	East	South
	Pass	2♠	Dbl
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All pass			

Here's the challenge: make 3NT with only 22 HCP between you and your partner and no long suit. East played the ♦3 on his partner's opening lead of the ♦J. Because my opponents were playing up-side-down carding, I ducked the trick (playing my ♦2). West persisted with the ♦8, East discarded a small spade, and I won the trick with my ♦9. At Trick 3, I led the ♥4 from my hand. West inserted the ♥10, which I ducked with dummy's ♥6, and East followed with the ♥3. At Trick 4, West broke down and led his partner's suit: his ♠8 went to dummy's ♠2, East's ♠10, and my ♠Q. At Trick 5, I played the ♥5 from my hand. West followed with the ♥2, and I took the trick with dummy's ♥K while East found another a heart, the ♥9. (Sadly, neither the ♥Q or the ♥J showed up 😊)

At Trick 6, I led dummy's ♠3. East took the trick with his ♠A, while I followed with my ♠9 and West discarded the ♦4 (remember this). At Trick 7, East exited with the ♠J, to my ♠K, and West discarded the ♣4 (remember this too). At Trick 8, I banged down the ♥A. One stone, two birds! Both the ♥J and the ♥Q fell. A glimmer of hope appeared. What now?

SOLUTION

After eight tricks, here is what you can see.

♠
 ♥
 ♦ 7
 ♣ K1052

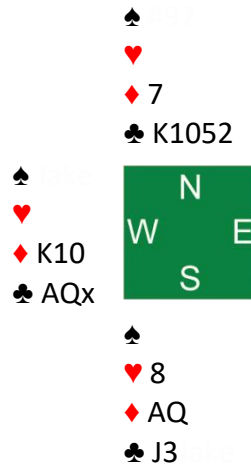


♠
 ♥ 8
 ♦ AQ
 ♣ J3

So far you have lost three tricks, meaning that you have to collect four more tricks from this five-card ending in order to make your contract. In other words, you can afford to lose only one trick. It's time to count out the opponents' hands, especially West's hand because that's whom you must plan to endplay. West had started with a singleton spade and three hearts. And because East started with a singleton diamond, you know that West must have started with five diamonds. Ergo, West started with four clubs and had a 1-3-5-4 shape.

Of course, you have no idea who has the ♣A and the ♣Q, but you can't make your contract unless West has both of them - because if East holds either card, he will be able to get in and cash his established spades. Luckily, there is a decent chance that West has both the ♣A and the ♣Q, given East's 2♠ bid. In any case, you have no better game plan than to assume that West has both cards. (If he doesn't, don't blame me - blame the dealer. 😊)

Do you still remember that West discarded a diamond and a club on the second and third round of spades? Given your assumptions about the club suit, West's remaining cards should be something like ♦K10 and ♣AQx.

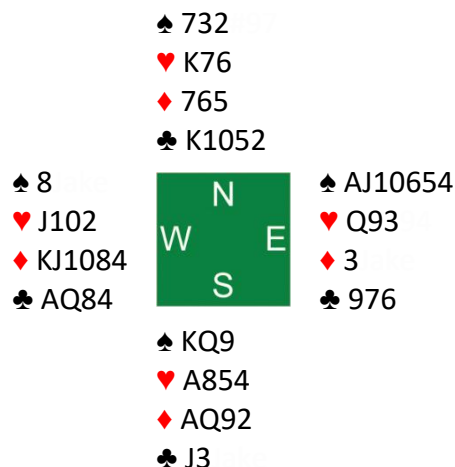


So, at Trick 9, cash your good heart, the ♥8, to put more pressure on West (dummy can discard the ♣2 with no problem).

West now really has no choice. To throw a diamond is not an option since that would allow you to set up your ♦Q for your fourth trick. Nor is the ♣A or the ♣Q an option since that would allow you to set up your clubs for your fourth trick. All West can do is discard a small club.

At Trick 10, lead the ♣J from your hand and enjoy West's agony. If he takes the trick with his ♣A and exits with his ♣Q, dummy's ♣K10 will be good. If he covers the ♣J with his ♣Q, you will overtake with dummy's ♣K and lead another club to return the lead to West. Now he has to lead away from his ♦K10 into your ♦AQ.

Here is the complete deal.



Endplays are possibly the most enjoyable part of bridge. For the endplayer, anyway.

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 [Joan Slover](#), our membership lead.

We have fun in **spades**.
We play with all our **hearts**.
We treat our members like **diamonds**.
We like endplays at our **club**.

