



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – May 27, 2024

Click [here](#) to access our regular game schedule.

Looking Ahead

May 24: There will be **no Friday night game**

May 25 and 26: **All of our games are cancelled because of.....**

- ♥ **May 25-26:** [The Grand River \(Cambridge\) Sectional](#)
- ♥ **May 27:** Roy Dandyk will be leading a bridge lab **mini-lesson analyzing the hand records** from the previous Saturday 99er game
- ♥ **May 27–June 1:** All F2F games will be **Club Championship games** – extra black points, no extra cost
- ♥ **May 31–June 2:** [Niagara Sectional 0-750 Tournament](#)
- ♥ **June 3:** Dave Quarrie will be teaching a bridge lab **mini-lesson on card combinations** in Play of the Hand (Suits)
- ♥ **June 3-9:** all BBO games are **NAP games** – extra half red points, \$1 surcharge
- ♥ **June 8-9:** [Toronto 0-500 Sectional Tournament](#)
- ♥ **June 8-9:** [Goderich \(Seaforth\) Sectional](#)
- ♥ **June 10:** Jack Cole will be teaching a bridge lab **mini-lesson on scoring** via Zoom
- ♥ **June 10-15:** All F2F games will be **Membership games** – extra black points, no extra cost. Non-ACBL members can play in these games but will not be eligible for masterpoints...
- ♥ **June 10-16:** all BBO games will be **Silver Linings games**. \$1 surcharge, extra **silver** points
- ♥ **June 17-21:** all open games will be **NAP games**, \$1 surcharge
- ♥ **June 22-23:** **BBO Charity games**, extra masterpoints, \$1 surcharge

A warm Welcome to the Following New Members

- **Sandra Fickling**
- **Karen Pound**

Sandra and Karen took advantage of our early-bird special and bought their 2024-2025 memberships for the regular price of \$70, and now they can save \$2 on every game until June 30, 2025. Not to forget the savings on lesson fees.....

Congratulations

to the following local players who were in the money at last weekend's Kingston Regional.

- **Noah and Sal Pace**, 3rd in A, Thursday Gold Rush Pairs, 2nd in A, Friday Gold Rush Pairs, and 5/6 in B, Sunday Gold Rush Pairs
- **David Baker, Adrian Record, Thea Davis, and Margot Stockie**, 4th, Thursday-Friday KO-1
- **Ron Van Der Zwaag, Bruce Roberts, Kathy Russell, and Edith Ferber**, 1st, Thursday-Friday KO-2
- **Ted Boyd and Moira Hollingsworth**, 6th in A, Saturday Open Pairs
- **Adrian Record and Ron Van Der Zwaag**, 9th in A, Sunday Open Pairs
- **Kathy Russell and Thea Davis**, 6th in B, Sunday Open Pairs

Click [here](#) for full results.

Not Playing with a Full Deck?

Contributed by Joan Slover

On a recent visit to Prague's New Town Hall (built between 1451 and 1456, we climbed 221 steps to the top. On the way, several landings featured high school students' artwork. So, if you don't know what to do with that partial deck of cards, here are some suggestions!



Cambridge Sectional Tournament this Weekend

This is just a reminder that our club is sponsoring a tournament this coming Saturday and Sunday and all of our regular games are cancelled therefore. Click [here](#) for more information. Hope to see you there!

Team Games are the Most FUN!

Contributed by Kathy Russell

I well remember the very first game I ever played in. I had taken Beginners lessons and was part way through Intermediate 1 lessons. I was going regularly to the Thursday night bridge labs where Diane Jamieson was often the supervisor. One night, Diane was talking up GRBC's Valentine's Day Swiss Teams game that was coming up soon on a Sunday. She said that team games were the most fun, and "if the team doesn't do well, no big deal - you just blame it on your teammates"! And I could sign up without a partner and they would put me on a team. So, I screwed up my courage and signed up. Diane was right – it was the most fun! I was on a team with my first partner ever (shout out to Glenn Mockford!) and Bill & Marlene Fay. To my great surprise, we ended up winning the C-strat! I was beyond thrilled.

Talking with the most experienced players at our club, I notice that almost all of them are playing to have the most fun, not to win the most masterpoints. And if given a choice, they will always prefer to play in a team game rather than pairs. I have to agree - team games are much more fun than pairs. After each match, you compare with your teammates and find out what happened at their table – lots of discussion and excitement. Also, even if your team doesn't do well in the overalls, there are masterpoint awards for each match that you win! So, you have extra opportunities to win masterpoints! If you don't have a team for Sunday's team games at this weekend's Sectional in Cambridge, ask people you play with and against, and you can contact Moira Hollingsworth for help filling out a team. The Team Games are bracketed which means that you will play only teams of a similar level. You will have a blast, I guarantee it.

Letter to the Editor

Last week, Lissa's strange bridge jargon column omitted "strip and end play" from the list. Does the Alert have a G rating? Signed, Edith Ferber

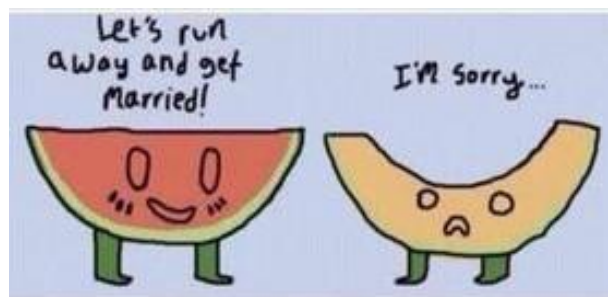
Answers to Last Week's Jargon Quiz

Contributed by Lissa Lowes

I know you are all waiting breathlessly for the answers. How many did you guess?

- Chunky 14 count – 14 HCP with lots of intermediate cards and sequences
- Q third – the queen and two lower cards in the same suit
- Went for a number – went down big time
- Yarborough – 0 HCP, not even a 10
- Moose – big hand
- Not through the Iron Duke - used only in a joking way as a defensive play whereby you take great pleasure in covering a relatively-low card led by declarer with the obvious intention of ruffing it. You say, as you cover the 9, say, with your J, "Not through the Iron Duke!" and everyone laughs.
- Crashing opp's honours – when both opps are induced to play a high card on the same trick
- On the table – the lead is in the dummy
- Tight – can't lose any more tricks and still make the contract
- Seven-bagger – seven cards in the same suit
- The death distribution - 7-2-2-2
- Quacks – queens and jacks
- Split your honours – covering opp's lead with one of your touching honours in second seat
- K and three rags – the king and three little cards in the same suit

Sadly no one sent in their guesses, so the grand prize of an all-expense-paid trip to the Bermuda Bowl in January has been forfeited. Included in the prize was a partnership with David Berkowitz, with Zia Mahmoud and Larry Cohen making up the rest of the team. Also, a mistake-free performance at the table was guaranteed by the bridge gods. So too bad that no one got the prize!





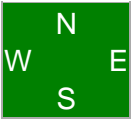
The Answer Lady

Contributed by Susan Lawton

As the "The Answer Lady" I have been responding to questions from "newer" players. A request has been made to share those players' questions and my responses in the Alert, essentially a column for the beginner player! You can write to me at suzan2420@yahoo.ca.

Question

Answer Lady, would you please help my partner and me find the right contract on the hand shown below. It was played in an GRBC 299 game and, while we bid to 5♣, many pairs in the auction were able to bid and make 6NT, 6♣ and 7♣. Several pairs even bid on to 7NT. I was sitting South and wanted to bid 2♠ at the second opportunity, but didn't feel my hand was strong enough. Signed, a pair of 299 players

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---------------------------|
| South Deals E-W Vul | ♠ 9 5 ♥ 8 3 ♦ A K Q 4 ♣ A K Q J 7 | | |
| ♠ J 10 6 3 ♥ Q 9 7 4 ♦ 8 5 2 ♣ 10 4 |  | ♠ Q 7 2 ♥ J 5 ♦ J 10 9 7 3 ♣ 8 6 5 | |
| | ♠ A K 8 4 ♥ A K 10 6 2 ♦ 6 ♣ 9 3 2 | | |
| West Pass Pass | North 2♣ 5♣ | East Pass All pass | South 1♥ 3♣ |

Answer

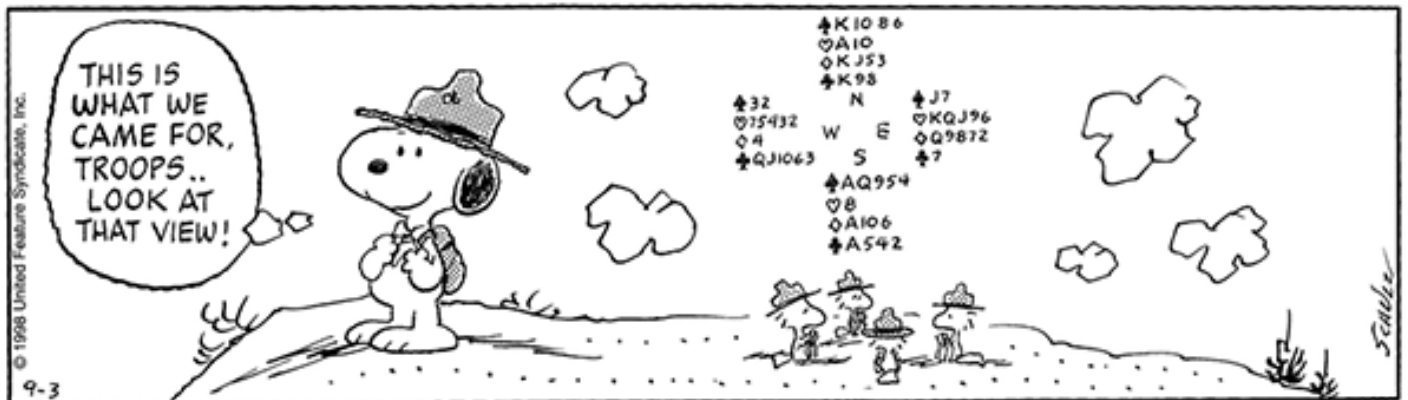
Thank you, 299 players. There sure were some frisky and confident bidders in this game! As you noted, some pairs got to 7NT even though the point count expectation for 7NT is 37 HCP, not the 33 HCP in your combined hands. One pair went down in 7NT as they should (with proper defense 7NT should not make). Now all of those who bid 7NT and made it will feel emboldened to bid like that again.

I would suggest a slight variation in bidding to get to the slam. First, I don't recommend that your partner jump immediately to 5♣ with their hand as it cuts off the communication and ends any further discussion. As was mentioned in last week's column, you should use *slow arrival with big hands*. And your 3♣ bid is not forcing either: your partner could have passed it!

One suggestion would be for South to bid 2♠ rather than 3♣ - yes, a reverse bid. You have 14 HCPs and if you add two more for shortness in diamonds, it gives you 16, sufficient for that reverse bid. As a memory jog, a reverse bid allows players to show their extra-strength hands, i.e., 16-17 HCPs. The bidding involves a first-bid suit, followed by a second-bid suit in a higher-ranking suit, in this case 1♥-2♠.

After your 2♠, your partner will know that you have extras and they should bid 4NT, ace-asking. After your response that shows you have all the aces, your partner can bid 6NT as they know all of your points are in the major suits – probably both of the major-suit ace-kings, but even if you are missing one of those kings you are bound to have some useful queens and jacks because you had enough points to reverse.

As you discovered, 7♣ can be made, but it is much harder to bid in a novice game. I would find that challenging as well.



Tell Me About It - Alerts and Announcements

Last week, we told you about [announceable](#) bids, but it turns out that we made some mistakes. John Hanemaayer kindly wrote in and explained that just last month the ACBL updated its Alert/Announcement procedures. Click [here](#) for the full document.

There are now five situations where an announcement is required.

In club games:

1. If your partner opens 1♣ or 1♦ and he or she might have fewer than three cards in that suit, you must say "could be x" (where x is the minimum length of that suit).
2. If your partner opens 1NT, you must announce your agreed point range (usually 15-17).
3. If your partner opens 1NT and you make a transfer bid (2♦ or 2♥), your partner must say the name of the suit you are transferring to (either "hearts" or "spades").
4. If your partner opens 1♥ or 1♠ and your agreement is that a bid of 1NT is forcing or semi-forcing in that situation, your partner must say "forcing" or "semi-forcing" if you respond 1NT.
5. If you routinely bypass a four-card spade suit in the unopposed auction 1♥-1NT, you must announce "could have four spades".

In online games: The announcements are the same, but the person making the announceable bid has to type the announcement on the line underneath his or her bid.

Next week, the [alertable](#) bids.



Player Profile – Tony Verhoeven

Contributed by Lissa Lowes

Please meet Tony Verhoeven (pronounced ver who ve), a GRBC player from Gage St. times. Tony has been playing bridge since the early 1970's when a group of fellow teachers at his school in Iroquois, Ontario, started a lunchtime game in the staff room. Later in 2013, Moira Hollingsworth persuaded him to try duplicate, and was his partner to help get him started. And another bridge addict was soon created!

Tony was born in the very small village of Elsendorp, near Eindhoven, in the Netherlands, and came to Prescott, Canada, with his parents, a sister and a brother in 1953, with Tony being the oldest. After they arrived, two more sisters and one more brother were born. They live mostly in Ontario, with one sister in BC, where his son, a structural engineer, and his granddaughter also live in Vancouver. His daughter lives in Ottawa where she is the assistant to Senator Bernadette Clement.

He has been a teacher for most of his career, math, science, phys ed, and counselling. This includes a 25-year career in Cambridge when he came to the area with a significant other. He has now been retired for 19 years.

Tony's other passion is golf. In the summer he is not to be found at a bridge table but on the golf course. He plays on average five or six times a week at Deer Ridge and this is his 33rd season there – 3,000 rounds of golf! His handicap is 9, and he is clearly a very good player. As one of Tony's bridge partners, I have been cast off for the golf season! The photo in this article was taken just after Tony shot a Hole in One!!

Tony has many hobbies and interests such as bird watching, crosswords, Sudoku and sometimes cryptic crosswords. He loves feeding the wild birds and sees them as his pets. He is not much of a traveller, but has been back to the Netherlands four times for visits. Tony tells me that he is very accident prone, always spraining wrists, ankles, and shoulders, and has had 10 operations, including a knee replacement. But apparently this is no impediment to golfing as much as possible lol.

Perhaps that is due to his physical condition, as he was a phys ed teacher and also a competitor in the Decathlon in the 1978 Commonwealth Games! Tony spent a lot of time training for the Decathlon and finished 10th for Canada. What an amazing accomplishment!

Tony is also a supplier of jokes for the Alert (second-hand because they are forwarded by me). He saves up all the best jokes that he receives, and then sends them out to friends. He really does have the very best jokes – I am a much-respected joke sender among my own distribution list thanks to Tony. He says he got his nickname and BBO handle maddogtony when on a bus trip to a University Track and Field Meet with teammates during his time at Queen's. Tony was studying for his MA in Biomechanics (unsuccessfully) as he was having far too much fun being single and training for Track and Field. Everyone got a nickname and somehow his became maddogtony, and he has come to appreciate it over the years.

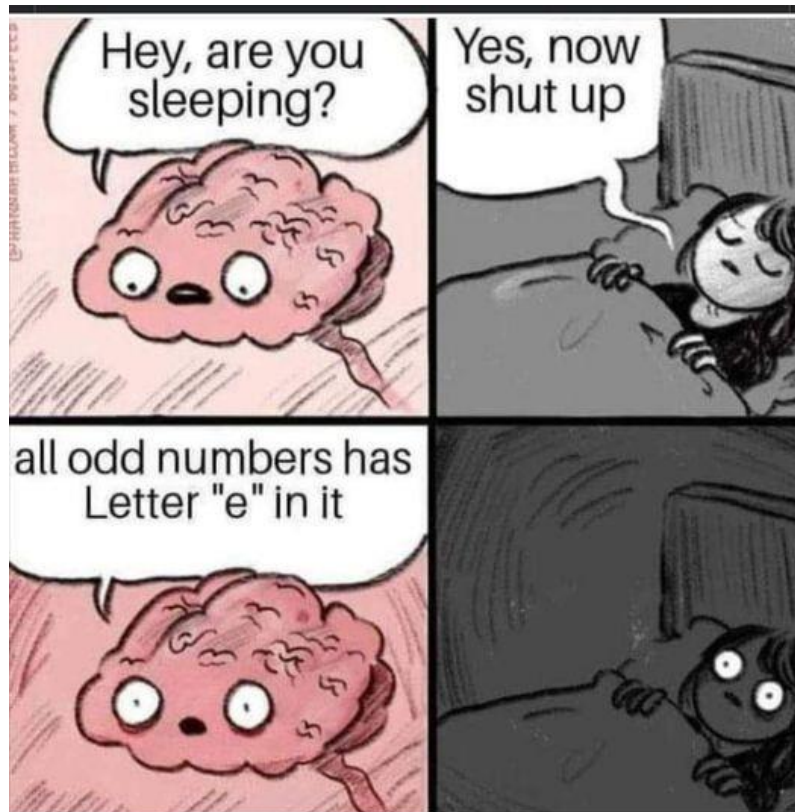
Tony's favourite bridge tip is don't use too many conventions. It is so easy to get mixed up or forget them, better to use the KISS principle. Valuable advice!

On Track... To Online



AND THE WINNER IS... Week 4 of our latest **online playing draw** had **58** entries to win a \$25 gift card from Timmies. And our latest winner is **DAVID DENNIS!** Congratulations! David and his partner Bev were Victorious (not to mention Happy and Glorious) in our Victoria Day **749er game** on Monday May 20, when they competed with 11 other pairs.

Will they Reign over us again next Monday? Will there be fireworks? Join us then, or at any GRBC BBO game before, and the next winner could be you! (Every time a **current GRBC member plays in one of our online games**, their name goes into the L'OTTO draw.)



From the Archives - A Message from Your Mother

Although we are aware that most of our members are lucky enough to have husbands and wives who uncomplainingly pick up after them at home, unfortunately these accommodating spouses rarely come out to our club. That means that any debris, including crumbs, coffee stains, and dirty mugs, left behind at each table must be cleaned up by either the game director or else another volunteer. As it is a bit much to ask your fellow members to clean up after you, we ask that before leaving the table you ensure that you push your chair in and relocate all of your flotsam and jetsam to the appropriate spot. On a related subject, it would also be very helpful to the game director if everyone were to move their last boards to the basket table on their way out.

Volunteer Sought

[Sharon Gravelle](#), who has been faithfully posting the Alert to [our archives](#) every week, would like to pass the torch to another member. The job takes only about ten minutes once a week. If you would be willing to take it on, please email Sharon.

From the Archives – Who's on First?

During the auction and before the final pass, any player may request **at his own turn to call** an explanation of any of the opponents' bids. After the final pass and throughout the play period, either defender **at his own turn to play** may request an explanation of any of the opponents' bids.

Jim Weir wants to know what happens if someone asks a question when it's **not** their turn to bid or play. (The trouble with doing this is that the question might influence their partner's bid or play by drawing to their attention to information that they might not be considering.)

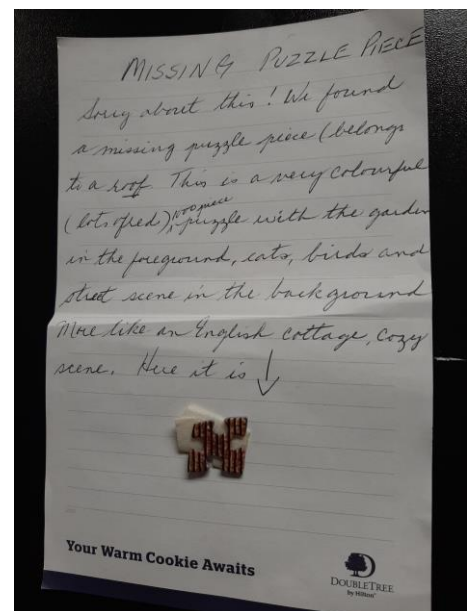
Jim's question is above the Alert's pay grade. We really don't know what the director might do, because the circumstances will vary. But here's our best shot.

- Technically, the possibly-wronged opponents would be within their rights to call the game director if someone asks a question when it's not their turn to bid or play. The game director would then have the unenviable task of trying to figure out whether the opponents were damaged by the untimely question and, if so, how to rectify the situation. This might happen in the Bermuda Bowl or the Spingold Playoffs.
- In the context of a friendly club game, though, the wronged opponents should just forgive the faux-pas (albeit cordially reminding the miscreant that it wasn't their turn to bid or play), and the miscreant's partner should refrain from taking advantage of any available inferences.

The bottom line? We suggest that you save everyone these headaches and just be sure to wait your turn before you ask your questions.

Jigsaw Puzzles Destash Pile

We have many jigsaw puzzlers at our club and we do a roaring business at our jigsaw puzzle trading centre. However – while all of our puzzlers take the greatest care not to mislay any of the pieces – every once in a while, it does happen. The photos below are being presented in the hopes that some of these orphan bits can be reunited with their parents. In addition to the ones shown below, [Malkin](#) is unhappily holding a piece for the clockmaker's puzzle which went walkabout before she could return it to its mother.



Your Warm Cookie Awaits

DOUBLETREE
by Hilton



Dear David

Roman Hands

Why do we make preemptive bids? They certainly describe your hand to your partner within a very narrow range of suit length and HCP strength. That is of great help to your partner who is tasked with finding an appropriate contract. More importantly, it serves or intends to forestall something, especially to prevent an attack by disabling your opponent. One such “pre-empt” is known as a Roman 2♦ bid.

A Roman 2♦ opener originally showed a hand with ANY three suits (4441 or 4450 distribution – no five-card major) and 17-20 HCP. I liked the concept, but strong three-suiters didn’t come along too often, so I adopted the range to 11-15 HCP (weak Roman), recognizing the pre-emptive value of the bid. I have even encountered pairs whose point-count range for that bid as 10-12 (mini-Roman)! Many expert players have abandoned the convention. Our own Daniel Korbel has described it as the worst convention in bridge because it gives up too much information. In my experience, lots of conventions give up too much information. I have played it for many years and I have had mostly positive results. The bid came up on consecutive hands at the club. You be the judge.

Dir: N

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Vul: EW | ♠ A 10 6 5 |
| | ♥ 6 |
| 12 | ♦ Q 8 7 4 |
| 8 8 | ♣ A Q 7 6 |
| 12 | |
| ♠ 7 3 | ♠ K Q 9 8 4 |
| ♥ J 10 7 5 4 3 | ♥ Q 9 8 |
| ♦ A K 10 9 2 | ♦ 6 |
| ♣ ----- | ♣ J 8 4 3 |
| | ♠ J 2 |
| | ♥ A K 2 |
| | ♦ J 5 3 |
| | ♣ K 10 9 5 2 |

North opens 2♦. East is not strong enough to bid a vulnerable 2♠ North (pre-empted), and South has a problem. I have a rule. If I have a hand that I would have opened and partner opens the bidding, we are going to game - even though it sometimes fails. South responds 2NT, a game force asking for partner’s short suit. A vulnerable West wants to bid hearts (pre-empted), but he reasons there is no point since N/S is committed to game. If he does bid 3♥, North will make a “stolen-bid” double, showing heart shortness. If he doesn’t bid, North will bid 3♥, showing heart shortness. South now has a choice of games. 3NT makes, but 5♣ fails. 3♥ by E/W can make. Without going into the play, 4♥ went down one (-200) and two (-500), while 3NT was bid and made only once by N/S (+400). You might get to 3NT without playing Roman 2♦, but the opponents will get in your way.

Dir: N

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Vul: EW | ♠ A K 9 3 |
| | ♥ K 9 7 3 |
| 14 | ♦ J 8 7 3 |
| 13 5 | ♣ K |
| 8 | |
| ♠ 8 7 4 | ♠ 10 6 |
| ♥ A Q 10 5 2 | ♥ J 4 |
| ♦ K 10 | ♦ Q 6 4 2 |
| ♣ A 9 6 | ♣ Q 8 7 3 2 |
| | ♠ Q J 5 2 |
| | ♥ 8 6 |
| | ♦ A 9 5 |
| | ♣ J 10 5 4 |

I opened 2♦ again on the very next hand. FYI – You cannot count HCP for a singleton honour because partner is expecting 11-15 within your three suits. If he has ten “working” (useful) points in your suits, game may easily come home on less-than traditional HCP needs. Opener has 11 HCP in three suits. The ♣K is a bonus that may or may not be worthwhile. South is required to bid his cheaper three-card major when he doesn’t have a game-forcing hand. This often leads you to play in a 4-3 fit. After South responds with a non-forcing 2♠, West has a problem. He may have the best hand at the table, but his side is vulnerable and he would have to bid hearts at the three-level. I will tell you that 2♠ was played five times, making eight or nine tricks. My opponent could not countenance being shut out of the bidding and ventured a 3♥ call. Doubled, down one, +200 for us. There is more to the system than I have imparted to you here, but I find it to be an important tool in my bidding box.

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 April.

| Open Players | | | 499er Players | | | 99er Players | | |
|--------------|---------------------|-------|---------------|-----------------|-------|--------------|-------------------|-------|
| | Name | MP | | Name | MP | | Name | MP |
| 1 | David Baker | 28.66 | 1 | Cheryl White | 12.11 | 1 | Andrew Widdis | 20.13 |
| 2 | Cindy Mahn | 20.91 | 2 | John Kip | 10.89 | 2 | Mark Sherwood | 16.29 |
| 3 | Ted Boyd | 20.17 | 3 | Jack Cole | 9.80 | 2 | Doug Fickling | 16.29 |
| 4 | Margot Stockie | 17.93 | 4 | Elinor Girouard | 9.60 | 4 | Sheila Charters | 16.11 |
| 5 | Mike Peng | 17.86 | 5 | Brian Gaber | 9.14 | 5 | Randall DeKraker | 12.59 |
| 6 | Roy Dandyk | 16.20 | 6 | Renate Boucher | 9.01 | 6 | Peter Gaasenbeek | 10.40 |
| 7 | Pat McMillan | 13.41 | 7 | Molly Worden | 8.20 | 7 | Paul Raymond | 9.31 |
| 8 | Stephen Young | 12.62 | 8 | David Dennis | 7.77 | 8 | Sharon Nesbitt | 8.67 |
| 9 | Kathy Russell | 12.55 | 9 | ML Benjamins | 7.49 | 9 | Robert Darby | 8.50 |
| 10 | Moira Hollingsworth | 11.33 | 10 | Marlene Dopko | 7.05 | 10 | Russel Kerr | 8.08 |
| 11 | Edith Ferber | 11.06 | 11 | Andy Martinek | 6.90 | 11 | Phil De Montigny | 7.84 |
| 12 | Lori Cole | 10.90 | 12 | Martin Jones | 6.84 | 12 | Pat Pietrek | 7.52 |
| 13 | Suzanne Edwards | 10.21 | 13 | Bev Hitchman | 6.60 | 13 | George Rybiak | 7.16 |
| 14 | Dave Embury | 9.74 | 14 | Susan Durance | 6.35 | 14 | Richard Rybiak | 7.16 |
| 15 | Malkin Howes | 9.60 | 15 | Nanci Phelan | 6.30 | 15 | Debbie Miethig | 6.47 |
| 16 | John Hanemaayer | 9.29 | 16 | Judy Widdecombe | 6.15 | 16 | Pat Northey | 5.73 |
| 17 | Jim Dalgliesh | 8.97 | 16 | Vivian McLellan | 6.15 | 17 | Judy Charbonneau | 4.56 |
| 18 | Barbara Arthur | 8.41 | 18 | Sue Peterson | 6.14 | 18 | Marianne Dziarski | 4.44 |
| 19 | Liz McDowell | 7.68 | 19 | Kim Wakeford | 5.54 | 19 | Carla Laubach | 3.91 |
| 20 | Neil Jeffrey | 7.64 | 20 | Janice Pengelly | 5.38 | 20 | Stu Cowan | 3.71 |
| 21 | Robert Griffiths | 7.63 | 21 | Rick Arthur | 5.37 | 21 | Pat Gascho | 3.68 |
| 22 | Neil Coburn | 7.31 | 22 | Anita Hanson | 5.32 | 22 | Chris Beck | 3.61 |
| 23 | Lynda Burnett | 6.91 | 23 | Audrey Cook | 4.47 | 23 | Louise Bell | 3.59 |
| 24 | Dave Quarrie | 6.60 | 24 | Joe Blake | 4.27 | 23 | David Bell | 3.59 |
| 25 | Diane Bourdeau | 6.47 | 25 | Nancy Cattanach | 4.23 | 25 | Kathy Chandler | 3.47 |

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

- For both online and F2F games, log on 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. *When you use Partner Finder, it will allow folks to see your contact information. If you have posted a Partner Finder ad, kindly remember to check your phone and email and, when you've found a partner, delete your ad. Someone who replied to your ad may be waiting for a response.*
- For online games only, log in to the game in question and register yourself on the Partnership Desk tab (or look to see if someone else has already registered there).

If you are looking for a regular partner, contact [Joan Slover](#), our membership lead. Please let her know what sort of game/partner you are interested in – your playing level, your available time slots, F2F and/or online, and any other pertinent information.

We have fun in **spades**.

We play with all our **hearts**.

We treat our members like **diamonds**.

We have way too many orphan puzzle pieces at our **club**.