

## CBC NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2020



### Labor Day Event for Virtual Club Games

On Monday, September 7, players have the opportunity to earn **2X masterpoints** in Virtual Games at the CBC. This is for both the 12:55 PM 0-300 Pairs game and the 1:05 PM Open Pairs Game!



See Regional Schedule Below

## 2020-2021

### CBC Board

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### Stratification Made Simple

By Jack Self

Stratification at the bridge table is often misunderstood, especially by the C players. In this article I will try to clear up some of those misunderstandings. I advise you to read the entire article and if you have further questions, please feel free to email me and I will do my best to give you answers.

Let's take two pairs entering a game. Suzie Trumpwell and her partner have 47 masterpoints each and are listed as C players since they have under 750 points. George Downtu and his partner also enter the game holding 920 and 970 masterpoints, respectively, and are listed, of course, as B players. Suzie and her partner have a really good game scoring 61% and George and his partner have a 52% game. The director announces that Suzy finished 2nd in A and George was 2nd in B. Suzy wants to know why she is listed as an A player. She notices that her score is higher than any of the other C players and feels like she should be listed as first. George wants to know why he is not first in B since his score is higher than any of the other B pairs.

The confusion comes from not understanding what stratification is all about. There are 3 strats (sometimes mistakenly called "flights"). Strat A includes everyone. That means that Suzy and George are in Strat A along with ALL the other players.

Strat B includes only those under 2000 masterpoints. Therefore, Suzie and George are also members of Strat B along with all the other players who have not yet earned 2000 masterpoints.

Strat C includes only those under 750 masterpoints. Thus, Suzie is a member of Strat C but George is not.

So, Suzie is a member of Strat A and Strat B and Strat C. George is a member of Strat A and Strat B (Note that anyone over 2000 masterpoints belongs only to Strat A).

When the game is over, the director reads the names of the pairs who finished highest in strat A. Since Suzie had the second highest score of ALL the pairs, she is 2nd in Strat A. Since George was not among the highest scores in Strat A, his name is not called out.

Now the director reads the names of the pairs who finished highest in Strat B. Since Suzie is also a member of Strat B and had the highest of all the other Strat B pairs, she is also first in Strat B. George, whose 52% score is lower than Suzie's 61% score, finished 2nd in Strat B.

Now the director reads the names of the pairs who finished highest in Strat C. Since Suzie is also a member of Strat C and her score was higher than all of the other Strat C pairs, she finishes first in Strat C. Note that George (who is a Strat B player) is not eligible to earn Strat C points.

So, Suzie placed overall in all three strats and is eligible for the masterpoints in all three strats. She was 2nd in A, 1st in B, and 1st in C. However, she cannot accept all three sets of masterpoints. She can only accept the highest of the three. The computer will decide which one is highest and, on her scoring summary sheet, the points she earns will be printed along with the strat that gave her the most points.

George did not place overall in Strat A but did place 2nd in Strat B (remember Suzy finished first in Strat B), so he earns the masterpoints from Strat B.

It is important to remember that those players under 750 points that we call C players belong to all three strats and have the opportunity to place overall in all three. Those who are B players have the opportunity to place overall in both Strat A and Strat B. And those with over 2000 masterpoints can only earn points by placing overall in Strat A.

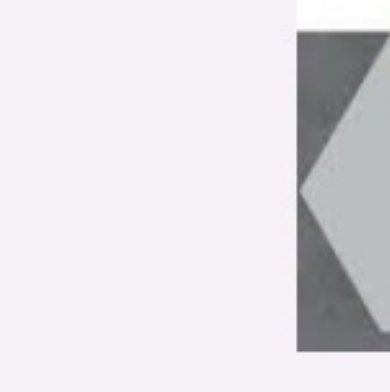
There are a couple of flies in the ointment, though. Since we are forced to play online instead of in person, Bridgebase has a couple of rules that we do not have at the Club. Any game that has fewer than 5 tables has not stratified. There is only one strat and everyone belongs in it. That is because there has to be three pairs in each strat to earn points and that is not possible in a 4-table game since there are only eight pairs.

The second fly in that ointment is the fact that Bridgebase does not follow the masterpoint holdings ACBL uses to divide the players up among the three strats. Bridgebase divides all the pairs into three equal groups by masterpoints (or as equally as is possible). Strat C will be all those pairs in the lowest masterpoint group, Strat B will be those in the middle masterpoint group, Strat A will, of course include everyone. Bridgebase does this to make sure that there is always at least three Strat C pairs, and thus SOMEONE will win masterpoints.

And one last thing. In a 0-500, 0-300 or 0-100 game, the strats will, of course, have different masterpoint divisions, but the idea is still the same.

So, if you are a C player, then stratification gives you THREE opportunities to win masterpoints. You can place overall among all the PAIRES (Strat A), you can place overall among those under 2000 (Strat B), and you can place overall among those under 750 (Strat C). You will, of course, only win whichever masterpoint award that is the highest of the three.

Also, it helps to remember that, in general, 40% of those in each strat earn masterpoints. So the more pairs there are in Strat C, the more pairs earn masterpoints.



### Updated Virtual Game Schedule

**Monday:** 12:55 PM 0-300 Pairs and 1:05 PM Open Pairs

**Wednesday:** 12:55 PM 0-100 Pairs and 1:05 PM Open Pairs

**Thursday:** 12:55 PM 0-300 Pairs and 1:05 PM Open Pairs

**Friday:** 1:05 PM Open Pairs

**Sunday:** 12:55 PM 0-500 Pairs and 1:05 PM Open Pairs

### Support the CBC - Play in Daily ACBL SYC Games

ACBL has partnered with [Bridge Base Online \(BBO\)](#) and The Common Game to give you chances each day to earn black masterpoints online. Additionally, the majority of the game fees you pay will be given to your local club to support them during this difficult time.

**Support Your Club ACBL Black Point Games are pair events.** Games are held on BBO three times a day: 10:00 am, 5:10 pm and 7:30 pm. Registration opens two hours before game time. You can play with any other ACBL member who has a BBO account.

**NEW! Daylong Tournaments are solo events played with robots.** In this game, you have up to 24 hours to complete your game, and it doesn't have to be played all at once. You can even pause in the middle of a hand.



Play a few of the 18 total boards in the morning, some more after lunch and the rest in the evening. Or, play them all in one sitting! Register anytime, and you'll have until midnight Eastern time to finish the boards.

Both events use matchpoint scoring, and masterpoints earned in these games will count towards annual races.

### 0-100 Limited Masterpoint CBC Virtual Game

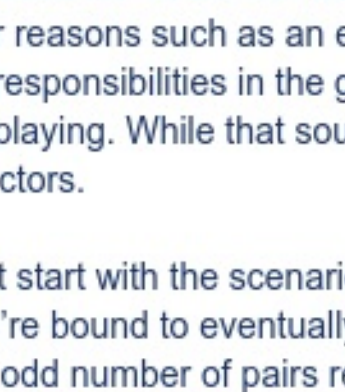
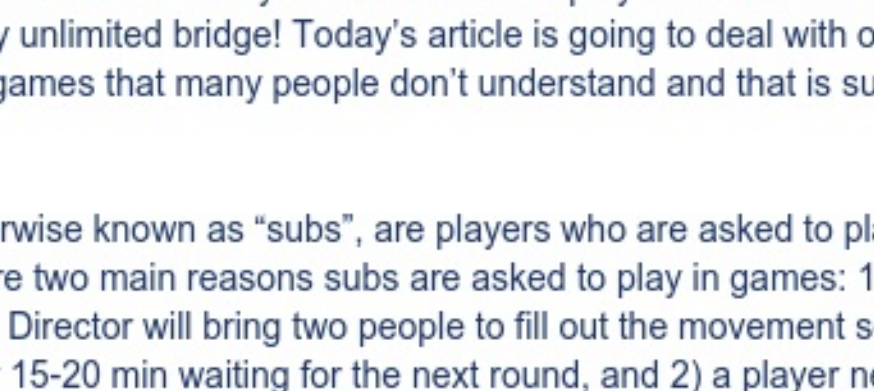
Come join your friends in this new game! Wednesdays: 12:55 PM

Don't have a partner? Put your name on the partnership desk or invite.

Want to see who can play? Check out the 0-100 sub-tab on the CBC Website at Playing Bridge Online.

Need help getting started? [Reply](#) to this email or check out Zoom session, Friday August 21 at 4:00PM - [Check CBC web page for more information](#).

New Players - Want a free four month ACBL membership? [Reply](#) to this email



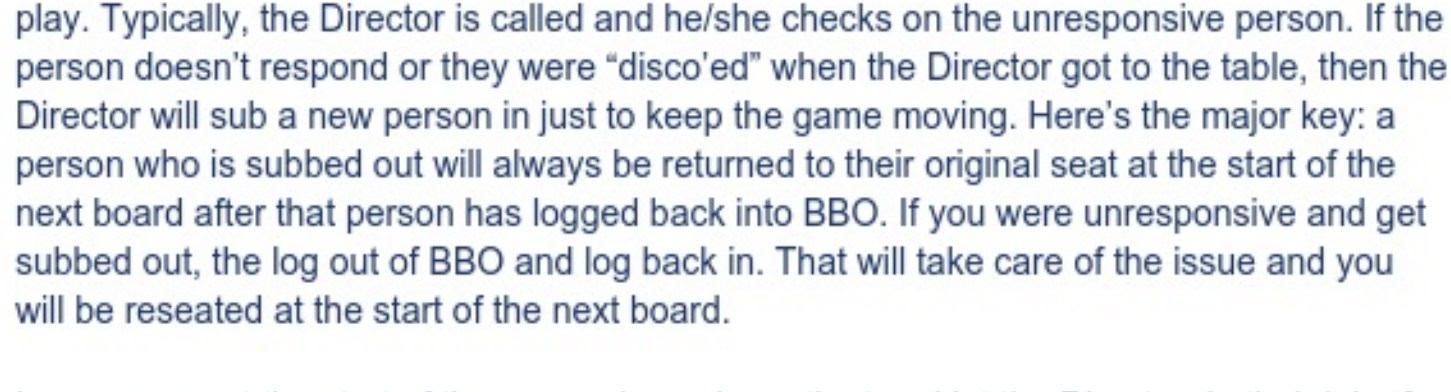
**Congratulations!**

### Masterpoint Milestones

**NABC Master (200+)**  
Richard Swanson

**Regional Master (100+)**  
Em Williams

**Sectional Master (50+)**  
Ellen Brown  
Toni Elkins



Great news from ACBL!!

Beginning Wednesday, August 19, in Virtual Club OPEN games - the masterpoint calculation will include the table count from the limited events. That means the 1:05 PM Open Game will now be receiving the maximum masterpoints available.

For the final masterpoint award for a game, check ACBL Live for Clubs or watch your email.

### Upcoming Special CBC Virtual Club Games and Online Tournaments

#### Special Games and Events at the Virtual CBC

**Sept 7** Labor Day Event 2X Black Points 12:55 PM 0-300 1:05 PM Open  
**Sept 21 - 27** Club Championship Week - Gold & Black Points for Virtual Club Games - See Schedule

#### Area Sectional and Regional Tournaments

**August 27 - 30** Virtual Vacation Online Regional

[Click on Tournament for Flyer](#)

### CBC Memberships 2020-2021



Forms are also available on the CBC webpage under the INFORMATION tab.

This year we are asking that you mail in your dues to the club:

Columbia Bridge Club  
77 Brighton Hill Rd, Columbia 29223

The 2019-2020 membership list is being purged on the CBC Website. Only players who have paid their 2020-2021 membership dues will have access to the Members List, Financial Reports and Minutes.

The CBC membership year begins in June.

Dues are \$20.00. To download a membership form - [CLICK HERE](#).

### BBO Substitutes

It's been several months now that as a bridge club we have been playing online at Bridge Base Online, a.k.a. BBO. For those of you that haven't tried it yet, it's quite an enjoyable place to play bridge. While we don't have the face-to-face camaraderie as we did at 77 Brighton Hill, there's still the ability to chat with other players and catch up on events. Plus, there's effectively unlimited bridge! Today's article is going to deal with one of the aspects of online bridge games that many people don't understand and that is substitutes playing in games.

Substitutes, otherwise known as "subs", are players who are asked to play in a game at no cost. There are two main reasons subs are asked to play in games: 1) a game has half-table, so the Director will bring two people to fill out the movement so players are sitting around for 15-20 min waiting for the next round, and 2) a player needs to leave the game for reasons such as an emergency or internet disconnection. One of the Directors primary responsibilities in the game is to get subs in as needed to keep the players actively playing. While that sounds easy, it can be a frustrating process for both players and Directors.

Let's first start with the scenario that many of you have experienced, and if you haven't yet then you're bound to eventually - subs at the start of the game. Half the time a game will have an odd number of pairs register and that will cause a half-table at the start of play. Directors are automatically and immediately aware of the situation and work to get subs for the game. Players from all over the world can put themselves on a "sub list" which the Director can pick from, but the problem lies in that even though the player is on that list they still might not accept to play in our game. It takes time to send the invite out to sub list players, and then a few more seconds to await their response. If they decline, the Director must try again with a different player. Often, we must try several times before finding someone willing to play. During this time, players at the half-table typically become agitated that no one is there to play with but understand that the Director is doing their best to get subs in ASAP.

The other scenario that occurs frequently during games is when a player "disco's" (internet disconnection from BBO), or a player becomes unresponsive by failing to bid or play. Typically, the Director is called and he/she checks on the unresponsive person. If the person doesn't respond or they were "disco'ed" when the Director got to the table, then the Director will sub a new person in just to keep the game moving. Here's the major key: a person who is subbed out will always be returned to their original seat at the start of the next board after that person has logged back into BBO. If you were unresponsive and get subbed out, the log out of BBO and log back in. That will take care of the issue and you will be re-seated at the start of the next board.

In summary, at the start of the game please be patient and let the Director do their job of getting subs in place. Sometimes it goes quick, sometimes not. But all the time the Director knows what's going on and is working on the problem. In cases of unresponsiveness or other quirky issues with BBO such as not being able to see the cards, always log completely out of BBO and log back in. This is as simple as closing your web browser windows, or app if you're using a tablet, and log back into BBO like you would normally.

I'll talk more about becoming a sub in another article.

Be good and play well!

Michael Bitonti  
Head Director - CBC



Stratification for all events is by the average masterpoint holding of the pair. In any event with an upper masterpoint limit, neither player may exceed the limit for the event. Masterpoint awards for all single-session events are red points.

Dear Fellow CBC members,

As of August 1, 2020 I moved from a Vice President position to the President of CBC.

As President I want to tell each and every member how valuable you are to our club, particularly during this time of Covid 19. We are a member owned bridge club depending on each of you for the maintenance, growth and enjoyment of this game of bridge we all love.

We do not know when we will be able to open our club house again, though when we can we will take every precaution to make our facility safe for all those who will join in. Meanwhile, I encourage each of you to join in our club games during the week on BBO which not only help support our club financially but give us an opportunity to play with our own members. In reality, CBC exists as a virtual club until this virus is under control. I am in hopes we can increase our games and provide more restricted games should we have the directors available. I have asked Jack Self to write an article ( and he has agreed) explaining open/sanctioned games in order that we all understand the benefits to all levels of players.

Mike Bitonti and Glenn Mitchell have both offered instruction as to accessing BBO and navigating the sight in order to play bridge. We will continue to assist any player who wants to join us on BBO. Kathy Kimmerling and Susan McFadden as well as Gwynne have helped newcomers to BBO. I am also available to guide you through. There may be others who are helping, and we thank you.

I will be sending out updates for our club and the BBO events as they develop. Kathy Kimmerling is both our club manager and our publicity chair. She has been working diligently during Covid to keep us afloat as has Mike Bitonti. Glenn Mitchell is joining in as IT director of our club and will be a tremendous asset to us.

We welcome our new board members as follows:

Judy Rockwell, VP  
Kathy Belknap, Secretary  
At large members are Jay Shahani, Frances McMeekin and Laura Bro.

My number is 803413 3421 and my email is [shelhybpc@gmail.com](mailto:shelhybpc@gmail.com). I prefer email or a.m. calls if you have a serious issue to discuss.

As a kitchen business, we are going to need someone to head up or interior maintenance, and our kitchen maintenance when we open. If you have interest, please let me know as we have no one to fill these positions.

We are challenged during this time to keep our bridge family together so please come to the table. We miss each and every one of you.

"Man never made any material as resilient as the human spirit" Bernard Williams

Stay well,

Shelby King, President CBC

Have a comment or an article you would like to submit? Reply to this email or send to [cbc.news.sc@gmail.com](mailto:cbc.news.sc@gmail.com). This is your Club newsletter and all suggestions or submissions for future articles are welcome! Please submit articles by the 3rd of the month. All articles are subject to editorial approval and edit.

The CBC Newsletter is published monthly by the Columbia Bridge Club - Columbia, SC

