



## MONTHLY

The Month of January, 2023 in Review

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## MObridge News

Do you have a bridge related New Year's Resolution for 2023? If it is a first or a new masterpoint achievement level, this newsletter contains a guide on how to achieve the levels from beginner up to life master.

While the activity levels at MObridge were not great during December, there is always a seasonal drop during the holiday period. Overall, the club did not have a strong return to F2F bridge in 2022. From the opening of F2F bridge in March to the end of the year there was little growth in F2F bridge and a marked decline in BBO bridge. There are consequences to these trends and the February newsletter will include a report on the impact of these activity levels.

*Bridge Players Hunting for Masterpoints at a Regional and Sectional Tournament. See Story on page 3.*



## Top Games of the Month

**0 – 500:** On January 24 in our BBO 200 game, **Grant Smith & Lyla Smith** scored 73.96%.

**501 – 2500:** On January 27 in our BBO 1000 game, **Marie-Jose Babouder-Mata & Amina Hafez** scored 72.22%.

**Open:** On January 10 in our F2F Open game, **S Bonnar & Bruce Cameron** scored 63.89%.

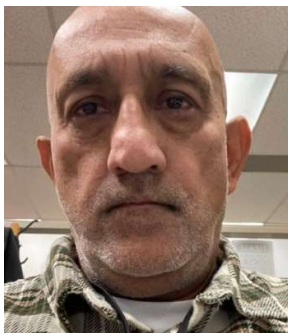
## Top Masterpoints Earned in December (latest month available)

0 - 500	501 - 2500	Open
<b>Ted Suski – 5.21</b>	<b>Bruce Cameron – 7.87</b>	<b>Nancy Strachan – 10.31</b>
<b>Krystyna Paterson – 3.07</b>	<b>Rory Ryan – 7.76</b>	<b>Wendy Dooley – 6.07</b>
<b>Patricia Basque – 2.71</b>	<b>S. Bonnar – 5.73</b>	<b>Bev Ross – 5.09</b>

## Debacle of the Month

In Hand 14 of the January 23 BBO 1500 game West went down 8 in a 3-NT doubled contract – luckily, not vulnerable – for minus 2000. East opened 3 clubs with a 7 card club suit headed by 3 honours. So far so good. After South passed, West bid 3 NT – probably asking for a feature because West had club support and a very unbalanced hand. North doubled and East, with no feature, passed rather than return to 4 clubs. Now not so good. N/S had solid spades and hearts and were on lead to run both suits. Eventually, E/W did take one trick. On the lay of the cards. 4 clubs by E/W makes.

## Member Profile – Aftab Alibhai



Looking for new directions in his life around 2017, Aftab Alibhai developed two new interests. He became an adult swim instructor following up on a life-time interest in swimming. More importantly to us, he acted on a suggestion that he consider playing bridge. Aftab had always enjoyed playing cards but had never played bridge. As he was living in Mississauga, a google search led him to MObridge. Aftab took his first set of lessons from Danielle Gosselin at MObridge and then followed that up with a series of lessons from Pam Husband, also at MObridge.

Unfortunately, just after getting his start, the pandemic arrived and shut down F2F bridge. Aftab tried online bridge but did not take to it. He likes the social and learning aspects of playing F2F with other people at the table. Since F2F bridge returned, Aftab has been playing regularly in whatever night and weekend day games are available. While Aftab finds it challenging to be at the table with players with thousands of games more experience than he has, he does note that there is always an opportunity to learn at a F2F table, which he welcomes. He also notes that even the most experienced players seem to have the occasional disaster which reinforces to Aftab that bridge is a game of perpetual learning.

Aftab continues as an adult swim instructor and looks forward to future bridge progress.

## Hunting for Masterpoints!

Below are two charts showing the masterpoint requirements from Junior Master (5 points) to Life Master (500 points) and the sources of the various colours of points required. Above Life Master there are 9 additional levels from Bronze Life Master to Grand Life Master. We will leave those higher levels for another time.

### Rank Requirements

Master Rank	Total Masterpoints Required	Minimum Black	Minimum Silver	Minimum Red/Gold/Platinum
Junior Master	5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Club Master	20	5	n/a	n/a
Sectional Master	50	10	5	n/a
Regional Master	100	15	15	5
NABC Master	200	20	25	20 (of which 5 or more are gold/platinum)
Advanced NABC Master	300	50	50	50 (of which 25 or more are gold/platinum)
Life Master	500	75	75	100 (of which 50 or more are gold/platinum)

### Sources of Coloured Points

Colour of Point	Principal Source of Points of Each Colour	Other Sources of Points of Each Colour
Black	F2F Club games or Virtual Club games on BBO	Sectional and Regional Tournaments
Silver	Sectional Tournaments	Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STaCs) at MObridge or other clubs
Red	Regional Tournaments	Certain special games at MObridge or other clubs
Gold	Regional Tournaments North American Bridge Championships (NABCs)	Certain special games at MObridge or other clubs
Platinum	North American Bridge Championships (NABCs)	

To move up the Master rankings, a player requires increasing numbers of masterpoints. But it is not enough to just have the total masterpoints required; a player must also have the required minimums of masterpoints of various colours. The colours are black, silver, red, gold and platinum. The colour of a masterpoint depends on the game/tournament where it was earned. See the Sources of Coloured Points chart above.

**Note on unpigmented or online points:** In addition to the coloured or pigmented points referenced in the chart above, there are also unpigmented points earned in online play on BBO (or other online bridge platforms but only BBO will be referred to). While Virtual Club games on BBO (and other Virtual Club games) award black masterpoints, games that are not run by Virtual Clubs award “unpigmented” points. These games include the various types of solitaire games and the BBO-ACBL pairs games.

This article is your roadmap. Set your goal and start a fun and rewarding journey. See the photo on page 1 for a visual on that journey.