

Regina Bridge Club

August 2026 Newsletter

Competitions

High Percentage Games & Player of Month for July 2026	
High Percentage in an Open Game	Larry McCormick/Don Norman 69.34
High Percentage in a Restricted Game	Denise Gailing/Edie Slugoski 71.77
Player of the Month	Kenneth Lie 13.91 MP
U100 Player of the Month	Kenneth Lie 13.91 MP

Table Count: 193 (Last Year: 197)

Rank Changes in June

Club Master

Bonnie Krajewski-Riel

Tom Zer

Special Games in August

August 2 – Monday Aft: **North American Pairs Qualifier**

August 10 – 15 All Games are **Club Championship Rated**

August 21 – Friday Afternoon: **North American Pairs Qualifier**

What's New on the Website

- Game Results and Calendar on the Home Page now show 6 of the most recent results and the next 6 games.
- Instructions on How to Register for a Game have been added to the Members Menu
- A link to Pam & Jasons Penticton Story is on the Home Page

Do You Know

Why only some members rank show on the Classic results page.

. The simple answer is it's one of the 'Opt-In' choices a member can make on their 'Member Only' page. Any **"Personal Data"** can only be used when the member has consented to its use and "Opted-In". Members can login to their "Member Only" page to change the 'Opt-In' choices or ask the Web Administrator to change them for you.

"Member Lists" should not generally be available to view by Members, but where available, each Member needs to consent to their information being present.

There are a number of Opt-In fields as follows.

- Show in Lists - The details for this person will not be shown in any Member list.

- Bulk Email - This email will not be included in any Bulk Email. Only applies to bulk emails using Bridgewebs not our own email list used for newsletters and announcements.
- Show Email - The email will not show in any list. Important for the 'Find-a-Partner' feature.
- Show Phone - The phone will not show in any list. Important for the 'Find-a-Partner' feature.
- Show Mobile - The mobile will not show in any list. Important for the 'Find-a-Partner' feature.
- **Show Rank etc.** - The ACBL Rank or Master Points will not show in any list and provides a means of restricting information obtained from the ACBL
- Show in Personal Analysis. - Players will be shown in the Personal Analysis according to "Opt-In Show in Lists", but a Member can Opt-Out of this specifically.

In addition, a member can select which method of communication they want if they use the "Find a Partner/Messages"

- Show Email in "Partner/Messages" - The email will not show in any "Partner/Messages" .
- Show Phone in "Partner/Messages" - The phone will not show in any "Partner/Messages" .
- Show Mobile in "Partner/Messages" - The mobile will not show in any "Partner/Messages" .

What masterpoint total is used to determine eligibility for club games.

Life Master status becomes officially recognized only once the member receives official confirmation from the ACBL.

To determine the masterpoint restrictions at the Club, we use the total in the Club computer. This total is updated after the 6th of the next month for points earned in the previous month from all sources including tournaments and online. It's this total we use for games that have masterpoint restrictions.

MP's earned during the current month are 'pending' and not used by ACBL to determine eligibility in tournaments. A members masterpoint total shown in their MyACBL account is their official MP status not what's in ACBLscore at any given time.

The total shown on our Bridgewebs site is not 100% accurate as it does not include points earned online or at tournaments until the webmaster has updated member files which only happens 2 or 3 times a year.

You have to be a paid-up club member to be declared a Club Champion.

This applies to both partners in a pairs game and all team members in a team game. You have to be a club member before the game starts.



The Art of Play of the Hand

Learn By Doing Bridge Workshops

Sept 12: *Play of the Hand, Think First*

Sept 19: *Developing Tricks, Managing Entries*

Sept 26: *Managing Suit Contracts*

Oct 3: *Managing Danger*

Location: Regina Bridge Club, 1440 Broadway Ave, Regina

Time: 10 am – 12 noon

More Information?

Contact Joyce Butler at 306-540-4003 or joycebutler@accesscomm.ca

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026

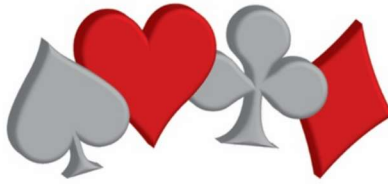
Time: 2 – 4 pm

Bring a friend to our open house to help them get an orientation to bridge. If they subsequently attend the lesson program starting September 22nd, you'll get a free play.

For information contact Tanya

306-570-2998.

Bridge Lessons



Start Tuesday, Sept. 22nd

At 6:30 pm

1440 Broadway Ave.

Our 12-week lesson program is available for \$120

Contact Tanya at 306-570-2998

Search "Regina bridge" for details

Refer a friend- Win a free play!

When your friend mentions your name at the first day of lessons, you will win a free play!

Remembering

Celebration of Life for Dean Allen will be held Saturday August 8th at 2:00 pm in New Hope Lutheran Church, 370 McIntosh St.

DIRECTORS CORNER

PSYCHIC BIDS

RDBC executive minutes from 1996 included the following statement.

“WHEREAS PSYCHIC BIDS ARE PART OF THE GAME, THERE IS NO OTHER PART OF OUR GREAT GAME THAT CAUSES MORE HARD FEELINGS AND DRIVES MORE GOOD PLAYERS FROM OUR CLUB THAN IMPROPER AND FREQUENT PYSCHES”

This is still true today. For several months the board has been reviewing the pros and cons of banning psyches all together or just in some restricted games such as the Master-Non-Master game. This will be on the agenda for the next board meeting.

The Club Manager asked ChatGPT the following question:

Should psych bids be restricted in bridge games designed for novice players, and what evidence supports the best policy?

Response:

A possible thesis

Psych bids should be restricted in games intended for novice players because the primary purpose of those games is education and player retention. Restrictions can be relaxed as players gain experience and understand both the strategic value and ethical limits of psych bidding.

This thesis is debatable, evidence-based, and gives you room to evaluate competing viewpoints before reaching a conclusion.

Here's an overview of the issues surrounding psych bids in beginner bridge games.

1. What is the purpose of allowing psych bids in competitive bridge?

A **psychic bid (psych)** is a deliberate and gross misstatement of a player's hand or suit length, intended to mislead the opponents rather than one's partner.

The reasons bridge allows psychs at higher levels include:

- **Strategic deception.** Bridge is a game of incomplete information, and carefully chosen deception is considered a legitimate skill.
- **Adds tactical depth.** Expert players must distinguish between truthful auctions and possible psychs.
- **Rewards judgment.** Successful psychs require excellent partnership understanding, risk assessment, and table feel.
- **Part of traditional bridge culture.** Psychs have long been accepted in tournament bridge, provided they are not based on undisclosed partnership agreements.

Most bridge organizations permit psychs **only as occasional, unpredictable actions**. Repeated or systematic psyching can become an illegal partnership agreement.

2. What are the educational and social goals of beginner games?

Beginner games generally have very different objectives from open competition.

Educational goals include:

- learning basic bidding systems
- developing declarer play and defense
- building confidence
- encouraging sound bridge habits
- providing a predictable learning environment

Social goals include:

- creating a welcoming atmosphere
- reducing intimidation
- encouraging repeat attendance
- fostering sportsmanship
- helping new players become part of the bridge community

Many teachers believe that beginners learn best when auctions generally reflect the meaning taught in class.

3. What rules do major bridge organizations use for novice events?

The approaches vary.

World Bridge Federation (WBF)

The WBF's Laws of Duplicate Bridge permit psychic bids generally, provided they are not based on undisclosed partnership understandings. The Laws themselves do not create special novice-game restrictions.

American Contract Bridge League (ACBL)

The ACBL also permits psychs under the Laws and its regulations.

However:

- many **club-level newcomer games** have local conditions of contest
- club managers or directors may prohibit psychs in beginner games
- teachers often request "no psych" policies for supervised play

Thus, practice varies considerably from club to club.

English Bridge Union (EBU)

The EBU likewise allows psychic bids under the Laws but permits event organizers to establish special conditions for novice or teaching events.

Bridge Base Online (BBO)

Online platforms often rely on disclosure rules and director oversight. Some teaching clubs or beginner tournaments explicitly discourage or prohibit psychs.

Overall, there is **no universal rule** that beginner events must allow psychs.

4. What evidence exists about the impact of psych bids on new-player retention and enjoyment?

There is surprisingly little formal research.

Available evidence consists mostly of:

- bridge teacher experience
- club manager observations
- player surveys on newcomer experiences
- discussions within bridge organizations

Common themes reported include:

Arguments that psychs discourage beginners

- New players often cannot distinguish a psych from a misunderstanding.

- Beginners may conclude that "the bidding system doesn't work."
- Being fooled by an intentional deception can feel unfair before players understand that psychs are part of advanced bridge.
- Some instructors report that beginners become frustrated or embarrassed after such experiences.

Arguments for allowing psychs

- They expose players to "real bridge."
- Learning to recognize unusual auctions is eventually important.
- Completely sheltering beginners may delay development.

However, there appears to be **no large, peer-reviewed study** demonstrating that allowing psychs either improves or harms long-term player retention. Most policy decisions are therefore based on educational philosophy and practical experience rather than rigorous empirical evidence.

5. Are there alternatives, such as allowing psychs only above a certain masterpoint or experience level?

Yes. Many clubs adopt graduated policies rather than an all-or-nothing approach.

Examples include:

Policy	Advantages	Disadvantages
No psychs in beginner games	Simplifies learning; reduces frustration	Less exposure to advanced tactics
Allow psychs after a masterpoint threshold	Matches increasing player experience	Requires tracking eligibility
Allow psychs only in open games	Keeps newcomer events instructional	Different rules across events
Teacher discretion in supervised play	Flexible and educational	Less consistency
Permit only natural bidding in lessons	Reinforces system concepts	Doesn't reflect tournament play

Overall

The debate reflects two legitimate goals:

- **Competitive bridge** values psychological judgment and legal deception as part of expert play.
- **Beginner bridge** prioritizes learning, confidence, and enjoyment.

Because there is little empirical research on the effect of psychs on novice retention, bridge organizations generally leave the decision for newcomer events to clubs, tournament organizers, and teachers. Many clubs therefore choose to prohibit psychs in beginner games while allowing them in regular duplicate play, using a gradual transition as players gain experience.

Pam's Thoughts on Psych Bidding

Psychic bidding in duplicate bridge originates from early 20th-century American bridge culture. The person most strongly associated with its creation is **Dorothy Rice Sims**. Sims did not invent the practice of making wildly misleading bids, but she **coined the term “psychic”** and wrote the first book devoted entirely to the subject.

For her time, Sims was an unconventional and adventurous woman—an expert in motorcycle racing, flying, and sculpting. Her personality fit perfectly with the daring, disruptive nature of psychic bidding.

As bridge evolved from whist into a highly competitive, psychological game, psychic bidding developed naturally. Duplicate bridge, with its emphasis on skill over luck, created an environment where:

- Deception could be strategically valuable,
- Opponents could be pushed off good contracts,
- Leads could be influenced,
- Auctions could be disrupted.

This made psychic bidding an attractive—though undeniably risky—tool.

In its simplest form, a psychic bid is defined as a call that **differs from the values promised by the partnership agreement by at least two cards and/or at least three high-card points**.

Psychic bids remind me of a wild horse. Some bridge players—and some bridge clubs—are always trying to confine the horse to a corral, but the horse keeps jumping the fence. Some want the horse to run free; others want it firmly contained.

This tension has existed for decades.

Often, when I hear players at the club talk about psychic bids, or when I read articles written by the board, I see the same refrain:

“Psychic bids are unacceptable for rookie or rookie-master club games.”

Psychic bidding **is legal** under the *ACBL Laws of Duplicate Bridge*. These laws are what directors must follow when making rulings. Psychic bids are not prohibited; they are regulated.

In reviewing board meeting minutes going back to 2005, I see a consistent pattern: **The club has decided that rookies should be protected from psychic bidding.**

But I keep asking myself: **What do the rookies actually want?** Has anyone ever asked them?

Psychic bidding is a legal part of duplicate bridge. Before deciding what is “best” for rookies, should we not at least help them understand what psychic bidding *is*, without bias from our own personal feelings?

Psychic bidding appears to cause emotional stress in some players, creating anxiety in the person who has been psyched against. I have witnessed this several times. In each case, the upset player was **not** a rookie. He or she was a seasoned player—someone who had been playing at our club for twenty years or more.

These players do not qualify as rookies, regardless of their official masterpoint status.

This raises an important question: **If experienced players struggle emotionally with psychic bids, is the issue really about rookies at all?**

I do not believe we should regulate psychic bids based on personal feelings. Psychic bidding is controversial, yes—but it is also intentionally written into the *Laws of Duplicate Bridge* so that directors and players alike have a clear reference point.

The laws acknowledge that psychic bidding exists, that it is part of the game, and that it must be handled consistently—not emotionally.

Psychic bidding has been part of bridge for over a century. It has a colorful origin, a legal foundation, and a long history of debate. Whether one sees it as a wild horse that should run free or a creature that should be corralled, psychic bidding remains a legitimate—and fascinating—part of duplicate bridge.

Before we decide what rookies should be “protected” from, perhaps we should ask them what they want, educate them on what psychic bidding truly is, and ensure that our decisions are based on the laws of the game rather than personal discomfort.

Written by Pamela Keim

Stay tuned for a follow-up in the next newsletter on the Boards decision.