



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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ALERT – July 26, 2021

Top Online 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 June.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	45.31	1	Stephen Nantes	20.28	1	Nancy Cattanach	9.54
2	Mike Peng	32.79	2	Brian Kirkconnell	18.37	2	Joan Slover	8.92
3	Margot Stockie	27.13	3	Barbara Arthur	17.58	3	Belinda Burt	7.51
4	Liz McDowell	27.13	4	Shelley Metcalfe	16.10	4	Molly Worden	7.22
5	Moira Hollingsworth	24.49	5	Suzanne Edwards	13.79	5	Anita Hanson	7.19
6	Bruce Roberts	23.81	6	Salvatore Pace	13.47	6	Martin Jones	7.15
7	Cindy Mahn	22.93	7	Ron Lawrence	11.02	7	Susan McDonald	7.08
8	Colin Harrington	22.17	8	Roy Dandyk	10.60	8	Susan Durance	6.95
9	Ted Boyd	21.63	9	David Embury	10.25	9	Patricia Pietrek	6.47
10	John Vandergrift	17.90	10	Lori Cole	10.03	10	Mary Lynn Benjamins	6.28
11	Dianne Aves	17.46	11	Kathy Russell	9.95	11	Susan Kerrigan	6.19
12	Neil Jeffrey	15.73	12	Renate Boucher	9.74	12	Virginia Alviano	5.96
13	David Longstaff	15.45	13	Casey Baron	9.46	13	Barb Neibert	5.95
14	Tom Ramsay	14.14	14	Marlene Dopko	9.23	14	Reinhold Kauk	5.17
15	Robert Griffiths	13.55	15	John Hanemaayer	8.92	15	Noah Pace	5.03
16	John Moser	13.25	16	Ted Kennedy	8.56	16	Marianne Dziarski	4.99
17	Pat McMillan	11.91	17	Karen Whitworth	8.30	17	Jim Fox	4.67
18	Scott Hills	11.44	18	Cheryl Kip	7.92	18	Elinor Girouard	4.58
19	Sandy Graham	11.37	19	Nanci Phelan	7.59	19	Jane Wilson	3.93
20	Edith Ferber	10.26	20	Lynda Burnett	7.09	20	Brian Gaber	3.79
21	Susan Lawton	9.72	21	John Kip	7.06	29	Audrey Cook	3.79
22	Wayne Schroeder	9.38	22	Jim Veitch	7.05	20	Rick Arthur	3.79
23	Janet Howell	9.16	23	Sue Peterson	6.89	22	Kim Wakeford	3.76
24	Adrian Record	9.08	24	Vivian McLellan	6.79	24	Valirie Binkle	3.60
25	Malkin Howes	8.98	25	Jackie Logie	6.50	25	Steven Allen	3.59
						25	Joe Blake	3.59



Re-Opening Plans

Contributed by Cindy Mahn, President, and Jim Dalgliesh, Club Manager

Over the last few months, the Board of Directors has been spending time at each meeting discussing the conditions that need to be met prior to resuming face-to-face play in a safe manner.

The board has set the following pre-conditions.

1. Those players who wish to return to face-to-face play are required to be fully vaccinated. Players will need to provide proof of full vaccination before entering the bridge club for the first time.
2. The club will not reopen until the relevant health authorities allow for:
 - a) minimum indoor gatherings of up to 50 people with at least 50% capacity (allows for up to 12 tables, plus game director and assistant);
 - b) **no** requirement for wearing masks indoors (although it is optional for those who wish to wear a mask); and
 - c) **no** requirement to be physically distanced by two meters.

The board has also approved the concept of having players sign a liability release/waiver form. We will be working with Guelph club representatives to develop a standard form.

Planned Initial Face-to-Face Game Scheduling

1. Bridge Lab - Monday mornings
2. Open game - Tuesday afternoon
3. 0-99 game - Wednesday or Thursday morning
4. 0-499 game - Friday afternoon

Online games will continue to be offered, but the weekly game line-up needs to be sorted out in co-ordination with Guelph club representatives. Currently the two clubs share game directors, and we believe this is likely to continue for on-line games.

Other Board Activities

Two operational working groups have also been meeting.

- The Covid-19 working group has met a number of times and ensures the Board members and the Management Team are kept apprised of the current health requirements, as set by the province, the Region of Waterloo, and the Region of Waterloo Public Health.
- A financial/documentation working group is looking at options to reduce the use of cash and how to track proof of vaccination, liability waiver sign-off, and contact tracing needs.

Projected Re-Opening Date

The working date for re-opening is on or around October 1, similar to the Guelph Club's plans at present, presuming the conditions set by the Board are in place by this date. There is much to do before this date, but progress towards a safe and successful re-opening is being made. We appreciate your continued support for our virtual games, lessons, and membership renewals, and we look forward to seeing everyone again in early October. Periodic updates will be provided to keep our members and guest players informed, as we move closer to re-opening for face-to-face play.



Financial Update

Contributed by Bev Pope, Treasurer

Most of us will be happy to have 2020 and the first six months of 2021 behind us. The time is getting closer to when the club will reopen and we can all enjoy a game of face-to-face bridge again. For the club, the last fiscal year ended up being our most successful year yet. What an amazing turnaround! In early 2020, we were concerned about our club's very survival and look where we are now.

For fiscal 2021, the club is showing a net income of \$29,987, which is a far cry from the projected net loss of almost \$14,000. The establishment of our virtual club was very successful, and our table counts grew to an all-time high of 6,447.5 for the year. We saw an increase in the number of games offered as we progressed through the year, ending up with 17 games per week. The online lessons were just as well received and we were able to offer Learn Bridge in a Day and Beginner lessons in both September and January. Many of those students continued to play in coaching sessions and quite a few have become members. Membership is at 238 and is expected to exceed last year's total of 259. As always, donations of \$6,102 played a significant part in helping the club have a remarkable year.

The coming year will have its own challenges as the Board prepares to reopen the club. We will be introducing some new procedures to reduce the handling of cash, increase cleaning, and improve air quality. The opening will be gradual with only a few games being offered at the club at first. As members become more comfortable playing at the club, additional games will be added and some online games will be dropped. Expenses will increase dramatically when we reopen, and there will likely be other hurdles. I am confident our members will meet those challenges and there will be good news to report at the end of the current fiscal year.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our success over the past year.

Masterpoint Races

Here are our unit's leaders in the Mini-McKenney races (total points won at clubs and in tournaments) at the halfway point of the year. Click [here](#) for the full list.

0-5 MPs

4. Jane Wilson
9. Brian Gaber
8. Don O'Bright

5-20 MPs

1. Nancy Cattanach
2. Belinda Burt
5. J. Gregory Seale
7. Audrey Cook
8. Kathy Chandler
9. Carol Filipowitsch

25-50 MPs

1. Sal Pace
2. Noah Pace
3. Mary Lynn Benjamins
4. Barb Neibert
6. Martin Jones
9. Virginia Alviano

50-100 MPs

1. Shelley Metcalfe
2. Casey Baron
5. Brian Barrett
5. Mary Barrett
8. Robert Gilck

100-200 MPs

1. Stephen Nantes
2. Brian Kirkconnell
3. Suzanne Edwards
4. Grant Roberts
5. Brian Silva
6. Jim Hardy
7. Barbara Arthur
9. Margie Whyte

200-300 MPs

1. Ted Kennedy
2. Ron Angst
4. Karen Whitworth
5. David Embury

300-500 MPs

1. Donna Angst
2. Sandy Graham
6. John Hanemaayer

500-1000 MPs

7. John Vandergrift
8. Neil Jeffrey

1000-1500 MPs

3. Stephen Carpenter
4. David Wilson

1500-2500 MPs

1. Mike Peng
2. Malkin Howes
4. Bruce Roberts
7. Ted Boyd
9. William Christian
10. Pat McMillan

2500-3500 MPs

1. Robert Griffiths
2. Margot Stockie
4. Moira Hollingsworth
5. Peggy Pearson
7. Adrian Record
9. Dianne Aves

3500-5000 MPs

2. Stephen Young
4. David Longstaff
5. Edith Ferber
9. Peter Hannak

5000-7500 MPs

1. Cindy Mahn
2. Liz McDowell
3. Tom Ramsay
5. Norma Ingram
9. Jeanne Colton

7500-10,000 MPs

2. Colin Harrington

Over 10,000 MPs

2. David Baker

Our unit encompasses all of south-west Ontario, from Windsor to Owen Sound to Guelph to Hamilton.

Proof of Vaccination

You can get an official-looking proof of vaccination that you can print out and laminate at covid19.ontariohealth.ca.

- Check the box that you have read and understand the terms of use.
- Click CONTINUE.
- Fill in the required information on the Identity Verification page (you will need your health card).
- Click CONTINUE.
- Click on VACCINATION RECEIPTS.



Rookie Ramblings

Contributed by Susan Lawton

It's been a challenging year and a half! We humans are social beings, and all of us have been restricted in our ability to gather with family and friends and play bridge face to face at the Grand River Bridge Club on Kingsway Drive.

Kudos to our club Board of Directors, management team, game directors, and all the other amazing volunteers who have done a remarkable job allowing us to play bridge online with many more games than we thought possible. Some players have participated in Zoom classes learning new skills and concepts with online coaching to support further learning. One group of dedicated players has even met online on Sunday afternoons with a non-competitive team game and break-out Zoom rooms where conversation and socialization are actually part of the game. However, no amount of online learning, games, coaching, telephone calls, and socially-distancing videos can replace the real thing: face-to-face bridge in our own Grand River Bridge Club.

Now there is a glimmer of hope, a light at the end of the tunnel so to speak, with the Board of Directors announcing a plan to open our bridge club on or around October 1, 2021 (see above). Things will undoubtedly look a little different with health and safety guidelines in place to ensure the safety of all our members. Some of our newer members who may have never played face-to-face bridge or even entered our club on Kingsway Drive may be wondering why we are so hopeful.

Bridge is more than just a game, it's a social event, and those connections at the club play an important part in many of our lives: we share our news with our bridge buddies; make new friends and acquaintances; honour achievements and events, individually and as a club; and we just converse and enjoy each other's company with our shared interest. We also like to 'party' for celebratory times. There's a positive upbeat feeling within our walls, a joie de vivre. Fingers crossed that we will have that chance to reunite in October. I am looking forward to no more 'misclicks' and typing everything in that chat line on BBO. I'm also looking forward to seeing familiar faces and new ones. Things will likely be quite different - what the heck we may all look a little different as well. Gathering will also bring its own challenges, so we will need to be patient and kind with each other and ourselves.

For me, who now has longer and curlier hair, I hope to reprise my role as the Learning Ambassador, helping newer players move forward in their bridge path. In the meantime, I am still available for help for the newer players around challenging hands. Send me your questions at suzan2420@yahoo.ca.



A Queen for the Taking

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

This was a flat board from a small pairs game.

- At every table, West opened 1♠, North doubled and, after East's pass, South drove to 4♥, normally with a simple jump.
- And, showing the same lack of diversity, every West led a spade, either the queen or a small spade.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board 4 West Deals Both Vul 	♠ A 8 ♥ A K 6 5 ♦ 5 4 3 ♣ K 9 5 3	
♠ Q J 6 5 4 3 ♥ 8 ♦ A Q 6 2 ♣ Q 7		♠ 10 7 2 ♥ 4 3 ♦ K J 10 9 8 ♣ 10 4 2
	♠ K 9 ♥ Q J 10 9 7 2 ♦ 7 ♣ A J 8 6	

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	Dbl	Pass	4 ♥

All pass

The contract was safe. South could for sure win six heart tricks, two spade tricks, and two club tricks. The only question is whether Declarer would make two, three, or four club tricks. What clues does South have? West opened the bidding and East couldn't find a response after North's takeout double. West led a Spade from a topless suit.

There are only 15 HCP between the two defenders, and for his bid West ought to have 11 or more of them. Is it likely that West has both the ace and king of diamonds?

No, it is very unlikely. Almost every defender would prefer to lead from an AK combination as opposed to from a QJ combination. And if West doesn't have both the ace and king of diamonds, then East must have one of them. And if East has a top diamond, say the king, is he likely to have the ♣Q as well? That would give East five HCP and West only 10 HCP. It is possible - opponents have been known to make misleading bids or even psychic bids. But the ♣Q is far more likely to be with West than East.

If South is convinced that West is the likely possessor of the queen, Declarer has two options to capture it. The easy way is to play the ace and king of clubs, hoping the queen falls. The slightly-messier way is to lead his ♣J on the first club lead, playing low if West doesn't cover and winning Dummy's king if West covers with the queen. Then, after winning Dummy's king, Declarer can lead a low club from the board towards his 8, playing East for the 10.

As the cards sit, either of the above methods brings the entire club suit home for 12 tricks - which on this hand, this day, would be a top board. In this game, however, every South declarer simply finessed the club queen, making 11 tricks for a totally-flat board.

When you play bridge, it frequently helps to think!



Dear David

Simple is as Simple Does

Many up-and-coming bridgers believe that they will never be able to squeeze their opponents for an extra trick because it is just too complicated. But sometimes a squeeze will develop just by running your winners and watching the discards.

W	N	E	S
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Hand details:

- North (Declarer):** ♠J92, ♥7653, ♦74, ♣9832
- West:** ♠K107643, ♥K9, ♦A8, ♣J104
- East:** ♠AQ85, ♥A82, ♦KQ62, ♣A6
- South:** ♠, ♥QJ104, ♦J10953, ♣KQ75

Contract: 6♠ West. Score: 0-0.

East/West quickly bid to 6♠. They have six spade tricks, two heart tricks, three diamond tricks, and one club tricks for a total of 12 tricks. There is no real chance of making an extra trick unless South pitches two diamonds. But let's see what happens when Declarer simply takes all his winners.

Hand details after trick 1:

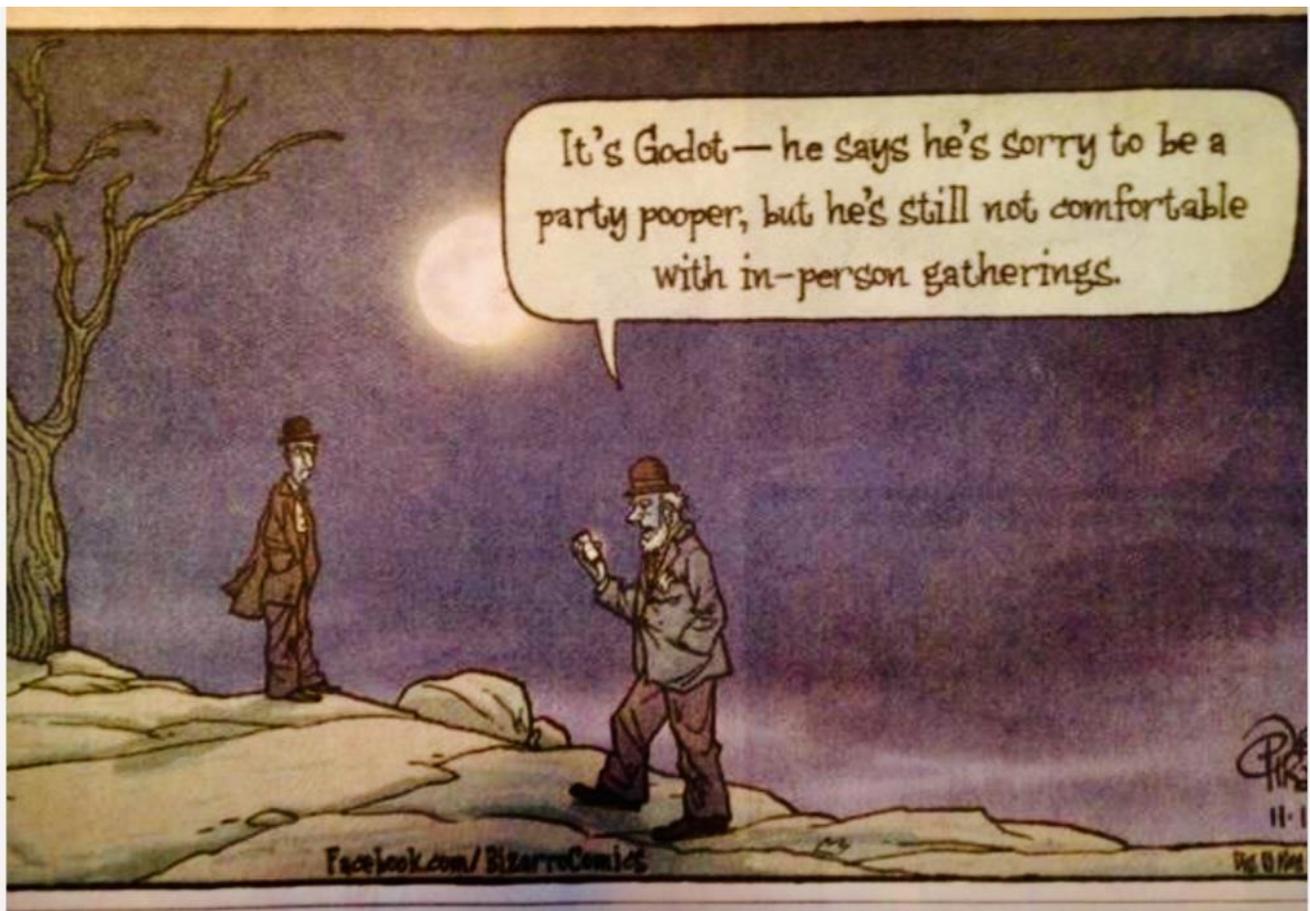
- North (Declarer):** ♠J92, ♥7653, ♦74, ♣9832
- West:** ♠K107643, ♥K9, ♦A8, ♣J104
- East:** ♠AQ85, ♥A82, ♦KQ62, ♣A6
- South:** ♠, ♥QJ104, ♦J10953, ♣KQ75

Contract: 6♠ West. Score: 0-5. A 'Claim' button is present.

On this trick, whatever South plays will give West an extra trick because South is the only one who can guard all three side suits. However, let us pretend for a moment that North has a heart guard so that it safe for South to abandon that suit.



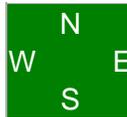
Once again, whichever minor South discards on this trick will cost him a trick. The only thing you need to do to execute this type of squeeze is to cash your side-suit winners before you try your long suit (diamonds, in this case) and WATCH the opponents' discards in the other suits.



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

#32

♠ A J 9
 ♥ K 8 2
 ♦ A K Q 6
 ♣ Q 8 4



♠ K 10 5
 ♥ A Q J 9 6 5
 ♦ 10 7
 ♣ A 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♥
Pass	4 N	Pass	5 ♠ ¹
Pass	5 N	Pass	6 ♦ ²
Pass	7 ♥	All pass	

1. 2 keycards + queen
2. one king

My partner mistakenly thought I had bid 6♥ (showing two kings in addition to the king of trumps) not 6♦, and so he went to 7♥. West led the ♣J. I covered with the board's ♣Q hoping to win the trick, but unfortunately East produced the ♣K - which of course I had to take with my ♣A as I couldn't afford to lose any tricks. Now I had a potential club loser, plus I still had to find the ♠Q.

I continued with the ♥Q and ♥J, both East and West following suit. When I led the ♦10 from my hand, West covered with the ♦J, and dummy's ♦Q took the trick, East following suit. I continued with the ♦K and ♦A from dummy, East and West still following suit, but unfortunately the ♦9 didn't fall. I discarded a club from my hand on the ♦A, and then I played the board's fourth diamond ruffing it with a small heart in my hand, while East discarded a small club. Here is the situation at Trick 8.

♠ A J 9
 ♥ K
 ♦ —
 ♣ 8 4



♠ K 10 5
 ♥ A 9 6
 ♦ —
 ♣ —

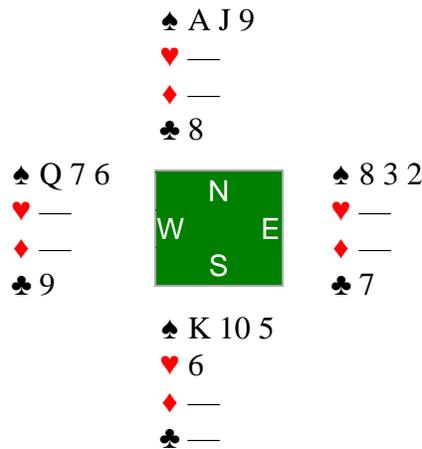
I proceeded to play the ♥A, on which West discarded a small spade, while East discarded a small club. I continued with the ♥9, West discarding the ♣10. If you were declarer, what would you do at this point?

SOLUTION

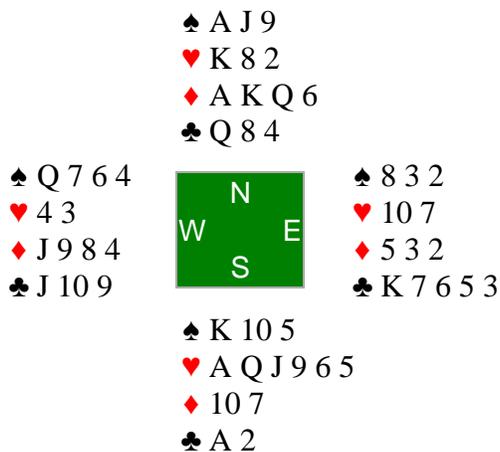
You have no doubt noticed that you have available a two-way finesse in spades (in other words, you can finesse either opponent for the queen of spades). All you have to do is figure out who has that queen. 😊

West's discard of the ♣10 suggested that he might have the queen of spades (because he was not willing to throw another spade). However, you don't have to commit yourself in spades quite yet. At Trick 10, play your last trump and watch to see what the opponents discard.

- If West discards the ♣9, pitch a small spade from the board, cash your ♠K, go to the board with the ♠A, and cash the ♣8.
- If instead West discards a spade, pitch the board's ♣8, cross your fingers and play the ♠K and then lead to the board's ♠A expecting the ♠Q to fall - which it does - making your ♠A9 a winner.



When you played your last trump, you squeezed West into parting with a card he desperately wanted to keep. The rules of bridge are merciless that way. Here is the full hand.



STARDUST WEEK

A VIRTUAL CLUB EVENT JULY 26 - AUG 1

From Monday, July 26 to Sunday, August 1, all of our games will be Stardust games, meaning they will award **double** regular club rating masterpoints and awards will be 25% **gold**, 75% black. There will be a \$BBO2 surcharge.

Coming Virtual Events

- Friday, July 23, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Friday, July 23, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Friday, July 23, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Saturday, July 24, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Sunday, July 25, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) \$5**
- Monday, July 26, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$7**
- Monday, July 26, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7**
- Monday, July 26, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$7**
- Tuesday, July 27, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Tuesday, July 27, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7**
- Wednesday, July 28, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$7**
- Wednesday, July 28, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Wednesday, July 28, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, July 29, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, July 29, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7**
- Thursday, July 29, 6:30 pm, **19er game \$7**
- Thursday, July 29, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) \$7**

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 [Cheryl Kip](#), our membership lead.

We have fun in **spades**.
We play with all our **hearts**.
We treat our members like **diamonds**.
We're looking forward to re-opening our **club**.