



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

## ALERT – July 10, 2023

**NEWS FLASH – OUR TOURNAMENT MADE THE NEWS! CLICK [HERE](#) TO WATCH THURSDAY'S CTV NEWS.** Thanks to Mircea Giurgeu for his technical help.

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

### Looking Ahead

- ♥ [Kitchener Regional Tournament, Tuesday, July 4 – Sunday, July 9](#)
- ♥ There will be no games at our club on Friday, July 7, Saturday, July 8, and Sunday, July 9, due to the regional tournament.
- ♥ [Instant Matchpoint Game, F2F](#) at the Guelph Bridge Club, Monday, July 10, 1:00 pm
- ♥ During the week of July 16, all F2F games will be **club championship games** = extra masterpoints, no extra cost).
- ♥ During the week of July 23, all 499er and up games will be **NAP Games** (extra masterpoints, \$2 surcharge).

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### A warm welcome to the following new members....

- Morgen Grigg
- Joani Horvath
- Greg Leppington

### And an equally-warm welcome back to the following pre-Covid renewers....

- Judy Charbonneau
- Marianne Dziarski
- Peter Gaasenbeek
- Sharon King
- Carla Laubach
- Ed Murphy



Just a reminder that the Guelph Bridge Club will be offering the ACBL Instant Matchpoint Game on Monday, July 10 at its club. This is a great way to earn gold masterpoints! Click [here](#) for more information.

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## Membership Matters

As of this writing, we have 207 members who are standing proud for 2023-2024.

Just in case you're still not one of them, click [here](#) for renewal/membership information. Reduced or even free memberships are available upon request thanks to the generosity of one of our members.

As of July 1, non-renewers will have to pay \$10 for their F2F games.

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## On Track... ...To Online



### e-Partnering Accomplished

Our partnership drive has been completed, and we are pleased to say that we have done partner match-ups for 14 GRBC players! We had match requests from all master point levels and were able to find at least one partner for all. Some even received two partner suggestions. We wish you well in your partnering and look forward to seeing you playing in our online games!

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**Just try to look at your shoes the  
same way again.....  
You're welcome.**





## Player Profile – Carla Laubach

*Contributed by Louise Dawdy*

This week we are happy to introduce Carla Laubach. Carla was born and raised in Kitchener. She was one of seven children and has four children of her own. Carla's mother-in-law, Ann Laubach, and Ann's good friend, Maike Zinabou, played bridge together at GRBC on Gage Street. When Ann and Maike were together, they would talk bridge. Carla felt as if she was listening to a foreign language....she didn't understand a word.

Once retired from a 40-year career in different departments at J.M. Schneider, in 2018 Carla decided to take beginner bridge lessons at our Gage Street location. She really enjoyed the lessons and the bridge labs there and would play with Ann from time to time. But in 2020, Ann's health began to deteriorate, and Carla took on the role of caregiver as opposed to bridge partner. Once Covid stuck its nose into the mix, Carla found time only for the occasional BBO game. Sadly, Ann passed in January, 2023.

This past spring, Carla noticed that the bridge labs had opened up again, and she decided to reconnect with GRBC and the game. Carla reached out to Glenn Mockford, one of Ann's former partners, and was delighted when he agreed to mentor her.

Aside from bridge, Carla enjoys reading non-fiction and the classics and is currently reading *Anna Karenina*. Carla also volunteers at Emmanuel Church in Waterloo, helping with their Food Bag program. The church runs an outreach program called the Bridgeport Café which is staffed completely by volunteers. From Monday to Friday, a warm meal and a welcoming atmosphere is provided for those on low incomes, with disabilities, addiction, homelessness, or really anyone in need. On Thursdays, in conjunction with the Food Bank, groceries can be obtained. Sadly, Carla has seen the number of people requiring assistance increase dramatically over the last few years. She nonetheless enjoys her time there, as the people are very appreciative of the help. Carla adds that she also enjoys cleaning up our beautiful city and will pick up garbage anywhere she finds it. The photo shows Carla helping the Green Party with their spring cleanup.

Carla finds time to work out a couple of times a week, hitting the gym to lift weights and ride the stationary bike. She is also a big dog lover and spends a good hour a day making sure her dog Charlie, an eight-year-old red miniature poodle, gets his outdoor time. In addition, Carla really enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Carla's favourite bridge tip, as a beginner player, is to focus on enjoying the game. Carla adds that she is grateful for the wonderful people at GRBC who make enjoying the game so easy.

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## 2023 CAN-AT Regional Tournament

Several of our usual suspects, their thirst for regional tournaments unslaked, headed off to Fredericton last week to participate in their 2023 CAN-AT Regional. They did quite well. At the top of the masterpoint winner list were Alex Kornel and Barbara Seagram, with 81.35 masterpoints apiece. Although not technically members of our club, we will count them anyway. Other local players who did very well (out of 302 participants): Bruce Roberts #9; Dianne Aves #10; Diane Bourdeau #11; Robert Griffiths #12; David Baker #30; and David Longstaff #31.

Of course, they all rushed back home on Monday in order to play in our very own regional tournament starting on Tuesday. See the next article.

*Photo credit: Edith Ferber*

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## Our Regional Tournament

A huge amount of preparation goes into a regional tournament. Here are a few photos of our volunteers getting ready for the onslaught (photo credits: Sue Peterson).







If you build it, they will come: more than 65 tables on the first day and even more than that on the second day, which is phenomenal.



Photo credit: Joan Slover



Congratulations to these local players who won their sections in the first two days of the regional tournament.

- **Joe Blake and Steven Allen**, 1<sup>st</sup> in A, Tuesday Morning 199er Pairs
- **Debbie Miethig and Audrey Cook**, 1<sup>st</sup> in B, Tuesday Morning 199er Pairs
- **Jim Dalgliesh and Kevin Latter**, 1<sup>st</sup> in B, Tuesday Gold Rush Pairs
- **Glenn Mockford and Rick Arthur**, 1<sup>st</sup> in C, Tuesday Gold Rush Pairs
- **\*Fiona Macgregor and Anette Happel**, 1<sup>st</sup> in A, Wednesday 199er Pairs
- **Diane Aves, Moira Hollingsworth, Sharon King, and Bruce Roberts**, 1<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday/Wednesday KO Final, Bracket 2

\*Anette and Fiona weren't able to attend the tournament master-class and had never played in a F2F game before. But they attended Liz's lesson on Wednesday and the rest is history.



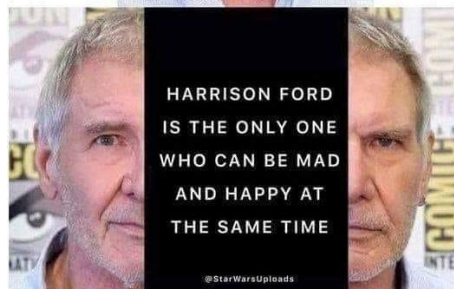
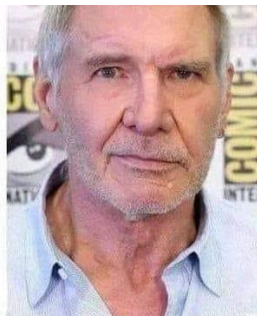
## The Bean Counter

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer ([GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com))

Has anyone seen my socks? I was wearing them last week when the high number of paid-up members for 2023-2024 apparently knocked them off. As of June 30, we had 205 of them. Members ... not socks.

This is significant because we had only 198 members at the end of June a year ago. History showed that we increased by 60 more over the ensuing months with the weakening of PCPS (Post Covid Procrastination Syndrome) and the word getting out about how great it is to play at GRBC. I expect the same growth this year! Watch for us to exceed 260!

To assist in that regard, our incentive program for new member recruitments continues as well as the Bring-a-Friend initiative. Payouts for the incentives might start in July.



## Our Club's Board of Directors

*This is the third in a series profiling the current members of our club's board of directors and thanking them and their predecessors for their stellar work. Next up is **Kevin Latter**.*



Kevin is in the middle of his first two-year term on the board. He describes his current duties as contributing to discussions that mainly concern the management of our club. In addition, Kevin helps with our bridge labs, acts as a mentor, and is a game director.

Kevin was introduced to bridge about 15 years ago by Ed Murphy, a fellow well-known to many of our members. Ed has recently moved to Calgary, and that is why we don't see him around the club any more – although he still plays in some of our club's online games. Kevin and Ed played online at first, and when Kevin moved to Niagara to manage a vineyard, he played a bit at the bridge club there. However, like most of us, Kevin was pretty busy with his family and his various jobs in the hospitality industry, including a stint as sous-chef at the Valhalla, and bridge had to take a back seat for many years.

Those of you who have the pleasure of knowing Kevin will have noticed that he has a bit of an accent. That is the result of living in Kenya from the ages of four to ten as an army brat, and then in the UK until he was 28 – when he came to Canada on a whim.

When it came time to retire, Kevin and his wife decided to locate in Waterloo Region in order to be closer to Barb's parents as well as their 75-acre farm out Goderich way. It was at this point that Kevin's passion for bridge was reignited, and he and Ed started to play at Dave Baker's club – going on to join our club at Gage Street when it was founded.

Apart from bridge, Kevin enjoys gardening – in fact, he loves learning about new foods and drinks, especially wine and beer. He reads a lot and takes long walks with his dog. Kevin is very social and enjoys meeting new people and interacting with them.

Kevin would like to encourage newer players to pre-empt more. He notes that the open players tend to be fairly aggressive with their bidding in general, and newer players should not allow themselves to be intimidated out of competing.

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## The Answer Lady

Contributed by Susan Lawton

As the "The Answer Lady" I have been responding to questions from "newer" players over the past several weeks. 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](mailto:suzan2420@yahoo.ca). I have a "small" library of prepared questions, but I would welcome additional questions to build up that library and keep this column viable.

### Question

My partner and I played this hand recently in an online game, bidding to 1NT and going down two for a very poor score. We had both read recently that in third seat a bidder can consider a "light" opening bid with less than opening points and we wanted to experiment to see if that guideline holds true. Obviously, we weren't successful. Where did we go wrong? Can you actually open light in third suit and if so when?

Thank you, Answer Lady for setting us on the right path, Signed a beginner player

N																	
	A	5	4	K	8	3	8	7	5	4	A	8	2				
	J	10	6										K	9	2		
	A	Q	6										J	10	7	5	2
	A	10	2										J	6	3		
	10	7	6	4										Q	J		
W																	
	Q	8	7	3	9	4	K	Q	9	K	9	5	3				
S																	

W	N	E	S
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			



## Answer

Good morning beginner player, thank you for this interesting bidding question. You are correct, it is possible to open **lighter** in third seat, but it comes with risks and has the potential for disaster if one is not careful (as you discovered). In a recent GRBC Open game, a player in that third seat decided to open with only 10 points and visibly blushed when called out by his partner for opening with such a weak hand. Lesson learned, don't fool your partner.

Based on the Standard American bidding system, here are some guidelines to consider if you are thinking of opening in third seat.

- Never open light with a minor suit. By opening in a minor suit, you open the door for the bidder in fourth seat to overcall with a major suit. Always have a full opening bid in third seat if you open in a minor suit.
- Never open 1NT with a light opening in any position. Reserve that bid for a true 1NT opening. Your partner needs to be confident that your 1NT bid holds true to your agreed-upon range for 1NT.
- Open light with a goal in mind. Generally, you open light to tell your partner what to lead or to interfere with the opponent seated in fourth seat, perhaps in hopes of stealing the contract.
- When you open light in third seat, do not bid again. This is the most important rule of all. Your partner is a passed hand, meaning when you open light, you have to be prepared to pass any bid your partner makes.

Reflecting on these guidelines, your hand is not one that should be opened in any seat, as you discovered to your sorrow. First, South without a major suit is forced to open in a minor suit. Opener also has what is considered one of the worst hands to open, as it is a 4-3-3-3 shape and for that reason should be downgraded rather than upgraded. If you're thinking of stepping out with less than opening points, things like suit quality (high cards and good intermediates in the chosen suit) and distribution (a singleton in a side suit, for example) should tip the balance.

Some partnerships might use bidding systems such as Drury to further explore the strength of that third seat major suit: is it a true opening bid or a less than opening bid? Further bidding can then be considered based on responses by your partner in third seat.

In this scenario, South should have just passed. The hand would have been passed out as the points are evenly distributed across all positions.

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## Why Men Wear Earrings!

Did you ever wonder why earrings became so popular with men?

A man is at work one day when he notices that his co-worker is wearing an earring.

The man knows his co-worker to be a normally conservative fellow, and is curious about his sudden change in "fashion sense".

The man walks up to him and says, "I didn't know you were into earrings."

Don't make such a big deal, it's only an earring," he replies sheepishly.

His friend falls silent for a few minutes, but then his curiosity prods him to ask: "So, how long have you been wearing one?"

"Ever since my wife found it in my truck."

(I always wondered how this trend got started.)

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FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

### The Laws of Duplicate Bridge

“The objective of score adjustment is to redress damage to a non-offending side and to take away any advantage gained by an offending side through its infraction.” (from the Laws of Duplicate Bridge)

One of the most frequent director calls that I would be required to adjudicate was when there was a revoke (failure to follow suit). The non-offending side would usually get one extra trick if the offender didn't win the revoke trick, or two tricks if the offender did win the revoke trick. The non-offenders often get a great result for their unearned extra trick and they often try lobbying for two extra tricks, feeling that the “punishment” of only one trick is insufficient! The purpose of the Laws is to restore equity to participants. The Laws are not designed to punish players who make innocent mistakes.

Dir: S  
 Vul: E-W

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

South	West	North	East
1♣	1♠	2♥	2♠
3♥*	P	P	P

Take this deal in an online game. Declarer made exactly nine tricks, and after the hand was over East asked about the 2♥ bid and was informed that it was natural and non-forcing (around 8-11 HCP with five-plus hearts). East contended to the director that he would have bid 3♠ had he known that it was non-forcing. The director decided that it was too complicated to work out and he gave both sides an average. 3♥ making would have been a tie for top, so E/W wasn't happy with that solution. Let's see if we can do better.



East was well-aware that North usually played 2♥ as non-forcing. Furthermore, if North's bid had been forcing (suggesting at least a minimum opening bid) why did he pass his partner's free raise to 3♥? Change North's ♣9 to the ♣A. Wouldn't that be a minimum opening bid and make it easy for him to bid 4♥? North's pass strongly indicated that he did not have a forcing bid.

East's contention that he was damaged by North's failure to self-alert his 2♥ call has little merit, since the information he needed was self-evident from the auction. Before I move on to the next part, I would like to say that an irregularity is not enough for a director to award an adjusted score. It must be shown to have caused damage. Once East learned of the probable irregularity (when North passed 3♥), he should immediately summon the director. Waiting until after the play is over in order to see if you got a good or bad result is not acceptable. An alternative to allowing the hand to play in a 3♥ contract might have been available.

Let's look at how 3♠ would fare. South would love to double with four sure tricks and a partner with enough to bid 2♥. N/S have six tricks in defense = +500. If they don't double = +200. The only positive chance they would have to hold it to +100 would be if N/S didn't double AND North led away from his ♣Q when he won the ♥A – highly unlikely.

Finally, East contended that N/S would belatedly run to 4♥ over 3♠ as two other pairs might have done. (They might have just been exuberant and bid it without being pushed). The N/S players were experienced enough to know that they did not have the combined values to make game a good prospect.

I hope you learned something about the "Laws" and about the trials and tribulations of being a game director. It's a challenging gig.

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In the end, it was only the Bible class where you could still find 'woke' stuff like bestiality, sodomy, adultery and prostitution





## No. 116

♠ 10753  
 ♥ A53  
 ♦ 52  
 ♣ A1065



♠ AJ984  
 ♥ 62  
 ♦ Q9  
 ♣ KJ92

West	North	East	South
		1♦	1♠
Dbl	3♠	All pass	

Sitting South I was declaring a 3♠ contract. West led the ♥K, I called for the ♥3 from dummy, and East followed suit. West continued with the ♥Q which I took with dummy's ♥A, East following suit again. I then led the ♠10 from dummy, which held as everyone followed small. If you were in my shoes, what would you do now?

### SOLUTION

It seems very likely that East holds the rest of the outstanding trumps, the ♠K and the ♠Q, meaning that you will lose a trump trick for sure. You have already lost a heart, and two diamond losers are unavoidable. Four losers in total, meaning that you can't lose any club tricks. If only you could see through the backs of the cards.....

Of course, you don't have x-ray vision - but you do have a brain. Here's what you have learned thus far.

- East made an opening bid showing 12+ HCP.
- West has already showed up with the ♥KQ and is a favourite to hold the ♥J as well.
- West has at most nine HCP.

If you can determine that West also has either the ♦K or the ♦A, he won't have any room left for any more points, meaning that East has all the rest of the high cards including the ♣Q. And if it turns out that East has both the ♦A and the ♦K, then West probably has the ♣Q.

So it's time to tackle diamonds, but how? Because East has most of the points, you should start by leading a diamond from dummy toward your hand. No time like the present! Lead a diamond from dummy at Trick 3. There are two possibilities.



1. East will play a small diamond (most likely) and you put in the  $\spadesuit Q$ . If West wins with the  $\spadesuit K$  or  $\spadesuit A$ , you have learned that East probably has the  $\clubsuit Q$ . OR
2. East will pop up with the  $\spadesuit A$  and exit with a heart or a trump. In this case, you should win whatever he returns and then play the  $\spadesuit Q$  from your hand. If West takes this trick with the  $\spadesuit K$ , you have learned that East probably has the  $\clubsuit Q$ . If East takes the trick with the  $\spadesuit K$ , you have learned that West probably has the  $\clubsuit Q$ .

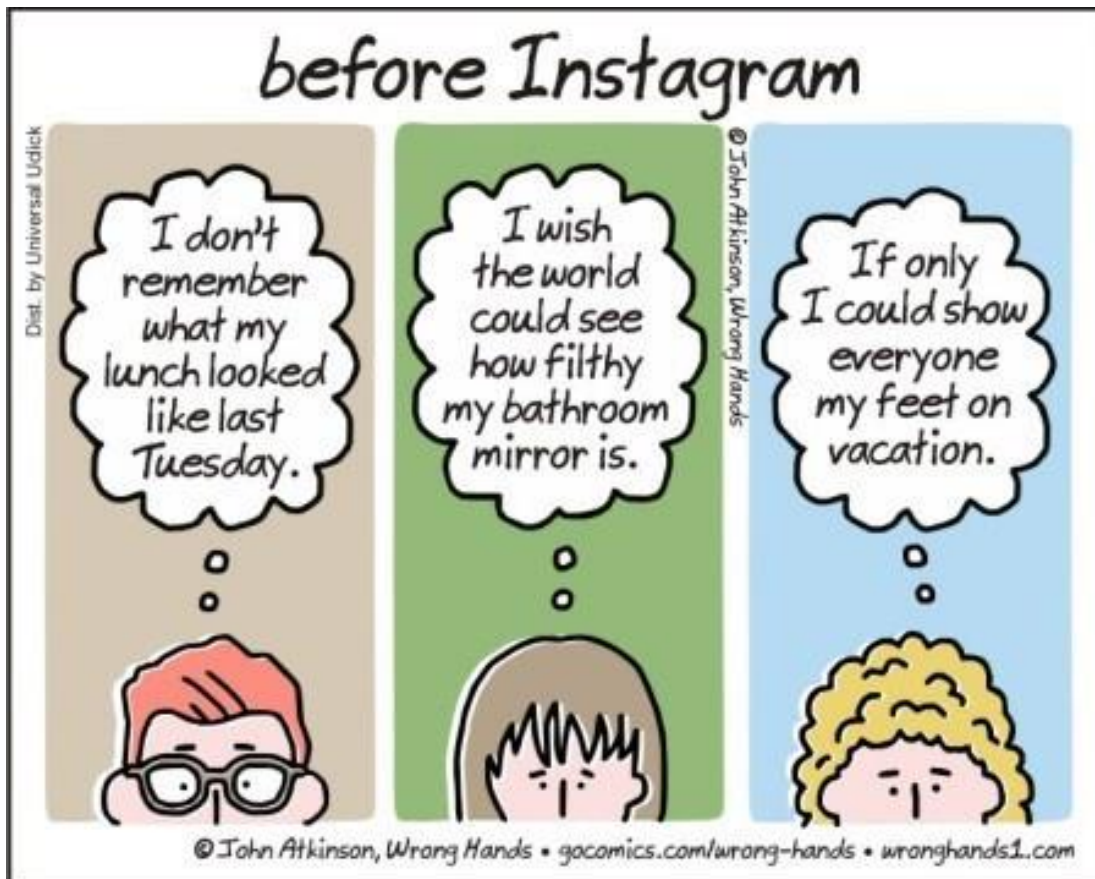
It so happens that West will take the  $\spadesuit Q$  with his  $\spadesuit K$ , and so you can confidently finesse East's  $\clubsuit Q$  in due course to make your contract.

Here is the complete deal.

$\spadesuit$ 6	$\spadesuit$ 10753	$\spadesuit$ KQ2						
$\heartsuit$ KQJ7	$\heartsuit$ A53	$\heartsuit$ 10984						
$\diamondsuit$ K108743	$\diamondsuit$ 52	$\diamondsuit$ AJ6						
$\clubsuit$ 83	$\clubsuit$ A1065	$\clubsuit$ Q74						
	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> </table>		N		W	S	E	
	N							
W	S	E						
	$\spadesuit$ AJ984							
	$\heartsuit$ 62							
	$\diamondsuit$ Q9							
	$\clubsuit$ KJ92							

This technique is called a discovery play.

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# 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 June.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	24.44	1	Lynda Burnett	11.14	1	Sharon Nesbitt	4.14
2	Edith Ferber	18.68	2	Lori Cole	7.47	2	Rick Arthur	3.56
3	Cindy Mahn	16.53	3	Jack Cole	6.57	3	JP Fraresso	2.84
4	Mike Peng	16.30	4	Judy Widdecombe	6.00	4	Miriam Frascari	2.84
5	Margot Stockie	14.78	5	Bev Hitchman	5.67	5	Pat Pietrek	2.82
6	Stephen Young	12.16	6	Nanci Phelan	5.59	6	Jacques Druart	2.43
7	Ted Boyd	11.96	7	Sue Moses	5.38	7	Richard Papineau	2.25
8	Bonnie Kains	10.49	8	Sue Peterson	5.32	8	Debbie Miethig	2.24
9	Moira Hollingsworth	10.14	9	Kim Wakeford	4.97	9	Jim Fox	2.06
10	Kathy Russell	8.83	10	Vivian McLellan	4.94	10	Pat Gascho	1.79
11	Diane Bourdeau	8.81	11	Roy Dandyk	4.85	11	Casi Zehr	1.77
12	Mary McClelland	8.17	12	Andy Wilson	4.39	12	Louise Dawdy	1.71
13	Pat McMillan	6.85	13	David Dennis	4.36	13	Marianne Dziarski	1.70
14	Dianne Aves	6.77	14	Kevin Latter	4.20	14	John Lengyel	1.60
15	Bob Griffiths	6.67	15	Suzanne Edwards	4.17	15	Russel Kerr	1.59
16	William Christian	6.10	16	Ginny Scott	4.12	16	Joan Hartviksen	1.55
17	Scott Hills	6.06	17	Douglass Grant	4.10	17	Kathy Chandler	1.49
18	Neil Jeffrey	5.90	18	Joan Slover	3.81	18	Joan Stroud	1.43
19	Jennifer Verdam	5.51	19	William Sherman	3.75	19	Sonja Miner	1.25
20	John Hanemaayer	5.34	20	Barbara Lindsay	3.74	20	Brian Gaber	1.20
21	Peter Peng	9.28	20	Belinda Burt	3.74	21	Chris Beck	1.18
22	Liz McDowell	5.18	22	Cheryl White	3.52	22	Valirie Binkle	1.16
23	John Vandergrift	4.81	23	Sharon Schnarr	3.50	23	Judy Charbonneau	1.12
24	Frank Fischer	4.69	23	Keith Schnarr	3.50	24	Carla Laubach	1.08
25	Diane Jamieson	4.40	25	Jim Dalgliesh	3.47	25	Don Slowinski	1.07
						25	Ben Cornell	1.07

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.
- For online games only, log in to the game in question and register yourself on the Partnership Desk tab.

If you are looking for a regular partner, contact [Joan Slover](#), our membership lead.

We have fun in **spades**.  
 We play with all our **hearts**.  
 We treat our members like **diamonds**.  
 We open light very judiciously at our **club**.