

#### PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

# **ALERT – July 17, 2023**

Click here to access our regular game schedule.

#### **Looking Ahead**

- During the week of July 17, all F2F games will be club championship games = extra masterpoints, no extra cost.
- During the week of July 24, all 499er and up games will be NAP Games (extra masterpoints, \$2 surcharge).
- ▼ There will be no Monday morning bridge lab on Civic Holiday Monday, August 7.
- <u>Tillsonburg's Golden Leaf Sectional Tournament</u>, Saturday August 12 Sunday, August 13

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

- Doug Fickling
- Mark Sherwood

### **Membership Matters**

#### As of this writing, we have 222 paid-up members.

Just in case you're still not one of them, click <u>here</u> 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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#### **New Brochure**

Contributed by Joan Slover, Membership Lead

Hear ye! Hear ye! We have a new brochure and we need your help to spread the good news about our great club.

Do you belong to a club, a church, a workplace, or somewhere that our brochure will get noticed? It is specifically designed for people who may be thinking of taking up the game or should (like actuaries, accountants, math teachers, IT folk). or those who used to play but have been away from the game for quite a while and are shy about getting back into it.

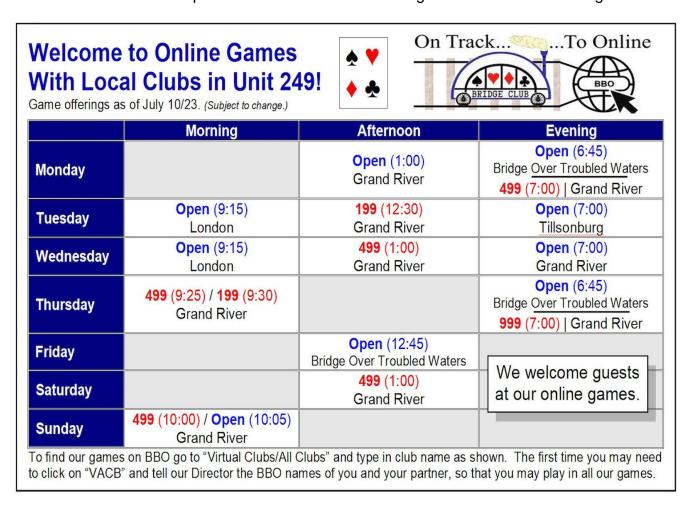
Please let the game director know if you would like a few from the director's desk so you can distribute them, or conversely let me know if you come up with a good place or places to "spread the word" and I will get some brochures to you.

# An EXCITING Development for our Online Players!!

After months of hard work and negotiation, we received word this week that ACBL has approved our request to "pool" our online community with neighbouring clubs in Unit 249! This means that **more local players** have easy access to GRBC online games, and there are **more local games** for our players (GRBC and Guelph) to join with just one click – these local games will all show up in your "ACBL – North America" game list.

The goal is to have bigger games, for both the enjoyment of the players and the bottom lines of the clubs. PLEASE support online games from GRBC and our Unit 249 partners whenever you can. We all win when we buy local!

This was a joint effort with the London, Tillsonburg, and Bridge Over Troubled Waters (Goderich, Owen Sound, Kincardine, and Saugeen Shores) clubs, spearheaded by GRBC's "On Track To Online" team. We are now pooled with all the Unit 249 bridge clubs that offer online games.



Visitors from other clubs are still most welcome to join any of our games. They will need to be either invited by a GRBC member, or else use the "All Clubs" path to find the games and be admitted by the Director.

Thank you for supporting GRBC online games and helping our neighbouring clubs!



# **Our Regional Tournament**

#### Contributed by Ted Boyd, Tournament Convenor

They came, they saw, they conquered.

- We had 675 tables at our regional tournament, and we awarded 4626 master points.
- Even Mike Cappelletti (of CAPP fame) was at our tournament. For inquiring minds, he and his partner placed eighth in A in the Saturday Open Pairs, and his team came third in his bracket in the Sunday Swiss. Nobody dared to interfere with his one no trump openings.
- The final-day Swiss was bristling with talent and provided lessons on how to play bridge at the highest levels. The first and second brackets were equally talented and produced very high-quality bridge.
- Ewoud Van Goch (Windsor) and Dwight Bender (London) earned the most master points: 80.3 apiece, mostly gold.
- Dozens of volunteers worked tirelessly to make this, our first tournament in five years, a
  roaring success. Ours was the first tournament in SW Ontario to be entirely cashless –
  making the directors' and tournament committee's jobs much easier. And from this day
  forward, players will be able to pre-register for all ACBL-sanctioned tournaments by going
  to ACBL, MENU, TOURNAMENTS, ENTRY EXPRESS, and following the breadcrumbs.
- The Answer Lady along with three other experienced teachers gave presentations at 9:00 am each day and attracted an audience of 20 or more each day. This shows that our newer players are keen to learn and pick up tips from more experienced club players.
- Barbara Seagram and Alex Kornel played three of the days. Barbara sold (and autographed) her latest book *The Magic of Defense* on Thursday. She was thrilled with the turnout and the sales.
- Adriaan Kempe, our lead dealer, would like you to know the significance of the number 119 808. That is the number of cards dealt in 64 sets of 36 boards for the pairs games. It doesn't include the cards used in the knockouts or the Swiss team games since they are not machine dealt.
- Congratulations to Susan Lawton (the Answer Lady) who achieved Bronze Life Master;
   Judy Widdicombe and Vivian McClellan who achieved Advanced NABC Master; and Jennifer Verdam who became a ruby life master. THESE ARE THE ONES WE KNOW OF!!!
- And finally, a funny anecdote. An out-of-town player who shall remain nameless came rushing into our venue minutes before game time. He approached the partnership desk puffing and breathless. "My partner is lost somewhere on the 401. Can you help me?" He proceeded to tell me a long, convoluted story taking up even more time. It seemed he expected the directors to hold up the game until his partner got there. We had only one person available to play with him, and at first he turned up his nose at the choice. As the game was about to start however, he gave in and Joan Slover graciously agreed to play with this perfect stranger. After two hands, his partner arrived and he dumped Joan and ran off. Joan had already played two hands and was now of course partnerless. Elaine Doyle kindly agreed to play with her and they raced to catch up with the field. Guess what? Joan and Elaine won that game.

Here are a few random photos from the tournament.



Sal Pace and his son Noah



Two young players, Casper and William



Anita Hanson, Barbara Seagram, and Steve Allen (AKA Mr. Bean)



Teachers Dave Quarrie and Susan Lawton (AKA The Answer Lady)

Photo Credits: Sue Peterson and Joan Slover

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

- Elaine Doyle and Joan Slover, 1st in A, Thursday 199er Pairs
- Jeannie Leforge and Pauline Copleston, 1st in B, Thursday 199er Pairs
- Roy Dandyk and David Embury, 1st in A, Thursday Gold Rush Pairs
- Ginny Scott and Pat McDonald, 1st in C, Thursday Gold Rush Pairs
- Sonja Miner and Karin Tamm, 1<sup>st</sup> in A, Friday 199er Pairs
- Tong Chen, Lin Murong, Xiangqian You Lingyun Cao, 1st, Fri/Sat KO Bracket 2
- Robert Griffiths and Mike Peng, 1st in A, Saturday Open Pairs
- Roy Dandyk and David Embury, 1st in A, Saturday Gold Rush Pairs
- **Diane Jamieson, John Vandergrift,** Marcel Villeneuve, and Janet Waters, 1<sup>st</sup>, Sunday Open Bracketed Teams 5

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#### The Bean Counter

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer (<u>GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com</u>)

As indicated in previous ALERTs, our bank gives us 30 free transactions each month, but after that it charges us for each Interac payment received and each cheque we write to cover our expenses (cleaners, directors, etc). In June, we were charged ~\$88. A big bean thank you goes to the ~40 people who paid for their 2023-2024 membership using e-transfer ... with an extra \$1.25 (that is, a \$71.25 payment). That \$50 of surprise income took the sting out of the bank's fee.

You can stop with the buck twenty-five already. July is a slow month and we won't likely be charged any banking fees.

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Do not grow old, no matter how long you live. Never cease to stand like curious children before the great mystery into which we were born.

- Albert Einstein



### Kathy Russell, Local Director

Congratulations to Kathy Russell who has passed the exam and became a higher class of game director (a "local" director). That means that she can now direct a Local Sectional (a downgraded sectional run at a club where there is expected to be no more than 25 tables per section). This will be a way for our players to earn silver points at our club.



# Help Grow our Bridge Club today!

Over the past few years, Grand River Bridge Club has offered a one-day "Introduction to Bridge" course. Over 50% of those taking the course have gone on to take Beginner's bridge and/or join the club. And how did this happen! By our members promoting the course to their friends and posting on bulletin boards where they live or play. Word of mouth is our most trusted friend.

Learn Bridge in a Day (LBIAD) is scheduled for Saturday, September 16, 2023, 10 am - 3 pm at the GRBC club location.

So please help us spread the word! If you can post a flyer, contact us so we can forward you a poster – or we would be happy to drop one off. There are posters available at the club as well.

Questions? Need a poster? Contact Isabel at <u>i.hetherington@outlook.com</u>.

Thanks for sharing the joy of bridge with your family and friends!

- \* Oh, and best of all Beginner Lessons follow this one-day course. Click <u>here</u> for more information and to register.
- \* It is not necessary to be a member of our club to take these lessons.



### Lying Down on the Job

A propos of nothing in particular, here is a photo of Dave Baker and Edith Ferber enjoying the Dali masterpiece, Santiago El Grande, at the Beaverbrook Gallery in Fredericton.

"Images and statues featuring a hero on a rearing horse are countless. But this is simply a view that (as far as I know) had never been seen before. And it's very well done, from a 'horsemen's point of view'. Oh, if one were to be really picky that left hind hoof is questionable, but for the rest. Wow! Which begs the question...how did he achieve this? The only information I've found (so far) is from a wikipedia entry which mentions that 'At some point, Dalí had a glass floor installed in a room near his studio in Lligat. He made extensive use of it to study foreshortening, both from above and from below, incorporating dramatic perspectives of figures and objects into his paintings.' While there's no way Dali could have used a live model using this viewing technique, perhaps a piece of statuary provided the view? It is said that because Dali intended it be mounted behind a church altar, the painting is best viewed from a low perspective. Which might explain why some people view it from floor level." (from the Beaverbrook website)

Photo credit: Robert Griffiths

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# We Can Never Have Enough Volunteers!

Just to bring you up to date, almost every time we ask for someone to volunteer for a job at our club – someone steps up! This is amazing and very gratifying.

- We appealed for an Air Purifier Chief, and Jim Weir came forward.
- We appealed for an assistant profiler, and **Anita Hanson** came forward.
- We still didn't get a volunteer photographer yet, though. (For more information, contact <u>Sue Peterson</u>.)

Now we are asking for a **Bulletin Board Boss**. We are looking for someone to be responsible for keeping our club's bulletin boards current and interesting. For example, the first bulletin board you see when you come into our club is the MEMBERS bulletin board. There are lots of possibilities for this board. For example, this bulletin board might display casual snaps of our players at work and at play. It might feature the photos of recent life masters. It might be a place where our players could tell the others about upcoming events or performances that they have an interest in. The sky's the limit.

The only qualification necessary for this position is a willingness to tend the club's bulletin boards and to spur your fellow players into coming up with ideas and contributions. For more information, contact Malkin Howes.

#### **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 **Mike Peng** in his own words.



Most of you will have "seen" me as a game director both online and more recently at the Tuesday afternoon F2F games. Game directors are part of a larger team of volunteers who facilitate the games offered at our club, including the dealing team that prepares the boards for each F2F game and the hospitality team that gets the supplies for coffee, tea, and snacks and preps for the start of each game and clean-up afterwards.

Since 2019, I've been a member of the GRBC Board, and I have been the President since fall 2022. We have experienced an unusual period with the Pandemic lockdown starting March 2020 and the eventual re-opening of our bridge club in March 2022. Although the Board sets the policies and administers the affairs of the club, it's primarily responsible for the financial oversight of and the long-term viability of the club. The Board and I are committed to providing a hybrid schedule of online and F2F games that allows flexibility for all members to choose how they wish to participate.

I come from a card-playing family, so I was introduced to bridge when I was in grade school. My Dad would arrange bridge games on weekend afternoons, and if missing a fourth would ask me to sit in. During my high school years, I was introduced to duplicate bridge, and played at the Queen of Hearts Club in Peterborough with my dad, my brother Peter, and a high school friend named Chris. Chris and I won a club championship game and received a small trophy and a green slip of paper worth 0.9 masterpoints. That was the hook that got me obsessed with competitive bridge.

During the recent regional at Bingeman's, I was reacquainted with some of the bridge friends from Peterborough who I knew from 40+ years ago.

My family moved to Toronto in 1971 from Taipei, Taiwan, and I started grade school in Toronto. We moved to Peterborough during my high school years. I came to Waterloo as a university student, receiving a Bachelor of Math in the late eighties. During my career, I worked as an actuary at both major life insurers (Sun Life and Manulife) in town before retiring in 2017.

One of my favorite hobbies (besides playing bridge) is playing tennis. There are remarkably a lot of similarities between doubles tennis and bridge in terms of partnership dynamics. Also, I enjoy my birding hikes with my wife Nancy and spending time with our two grown sons, Bryan and Kevin.

My bridge tip for newer players follows this anecdote. Shortly after I started playing in tournaments, my brother Peter and I entered in a Flight B pairs event at the Toronto Regional. I had

just learned the "principle of restricted choice". Along came a board where I was playing in 4♠ with a nine-card fit. I held the AKTxx and dummy had four spots. On the first round of trumps, I played the ace and dropped the queen from my left-hand opponent (LHO). Applying my newfound knowledge, I entered dummy and finessed my RHO for the jack. Unfortunately, my LHO produced that accursed jack, and I went down one. In the scoring recap, we received 20% on that board. To make matters worse, we finished in second place for the event, less than a quarter board behind first place. I was crestfallen! But when Peter checked the scoring recap for the Flight A event, he found that when it came to the more experienced players - down one in 4♠ received 50%. Peter quipped, "We played in the wrong flight!". My advice is to "play up" whenever you have the opportunity. The results will not be immediate, but it will improve your game in the long run.

In retirement, I've found my clan: a great group of friends who share my obsession and passion for the game of bridge. After the Friday evening games, a group of us often go to the pub and rehash the most interesting boards of the evening, along with enjoying good fellowship and planning for upcoming tournaments. At most tournaments, there is usually a travelling pack from the GRBC and Guelph clubs. Like a family, we laugh and we argue, but we thoroughly enjoy ourselves and often get comments from others for our unique camaraderie.

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Monday - Greg Tuesday - Ian Wednesday - Greg Thursday - Ian Friday - Greg Saturday - Ian Sunday - Greg The Gregorian Calendar



# The Answer Lady

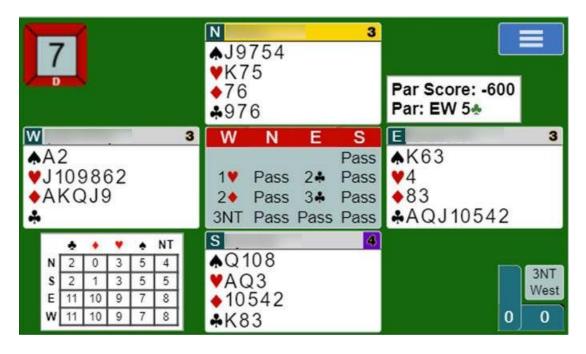
#### Contributed by Susan Lawton

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 <a href="mailto:su-zan2420@yahoo.ca">su-zan2420@yahoo.ca</a>.

#### Question

My partner and I played this hand recently in a 3NT contract, and we ended up going down one. What went wrong, Answer Lady? We have 25 points between us, and we have read that is the necessary point count to succeed in a 3NT contract. What did we do wrong? Where should the contract have ended up and how should the bidding have gone?

A pair of newbies.



#### **Answer**

Thank you for your question, newer players. Oh no! I can see your dilemma immediately! You are correct - you do have 25 points between you and that is *usually* the amount necessary for a 3NT contract. As you discovered however, the issue on this board is the club void in West's hand. West decided to take a risk even after East gave no indication of how to access their hand, and without any clubs in West's hand Declarer was left with an impossible task.

East has denied support for hearts, has not bid spades and, given the diamond holding in West's hand, there will be no entry cards to dummy available there. In other words, it seems likely that there will be at most one entry card to dummy and, unless East's clubs are solid, dummy is not going to be much help in no trump. As it turns out, of course, East's clubs are not solid and thus that suit can contribute only one trick to the cause. Having listened to the bidding, the opponents are likely to lead spades and keep on leading them. As a result, they will be able to set up their spades long before you will be able to set up your hearts (missing the AKQ).

To put it another way, you should not be in no trump. Rather than bidding 3NT, I would suggest that you repeat those hearts by bidding 3♥, showing not just five but six hearts. East can decide whether to leave the contract there by passing, or if they feel strongly about their clubs they can bid 4♣, West would probably then pass 4♣. On this hand, 3♥ makes and, surprisingly, so does 5♣, but that latter result would require considerable skill and finesse on the part of declarer.





Fragrance Free Zone

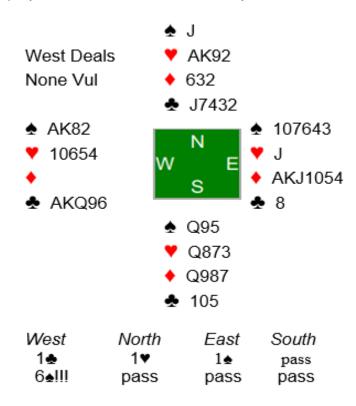
Please help us to accommodate those who are chemically serialive to a scents and get a headache if seated next to someone who is wearing strong fragrance. Please save your perfume for your heavy dates.



# **Dear David**

## Tales from the Kitchener Regional

I love the game, but after a week in Fredericton NB and then a week in Kitchener, I am ready to play online from the comfort of my chair for a while.



It sounded as if East had only one heart (maybe a void) and at least five spades (he would have made a negative double with only four spades). Even ♠KQxxx would give declarer a good chance at making 6♠. Alas, as you can see, the three-one spade break doomed us.

Curiously, East said that if he had had the \$9 instead of the \$7, seeing the \$J drop on the first round he would have come back to his hand and finessed in spades. That kind of play is called "Restricted Choice." (Look it up online if you want to know more.) If you make that play every time you are missing QJxx and an honour drops on the first lead, take the finesse the next time if you can. You will be right more than half the time. It's math – don't ask – trust.

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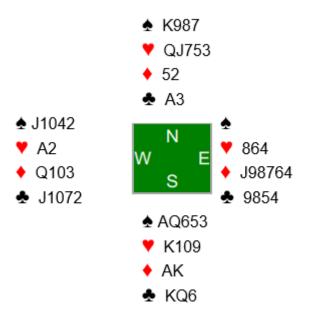
♠ QJ972

What do you call the person who picks up this hand? **DECLARER!!!** The other hands are not important. The miscreant who held this hand bid clubs twice (the second time was at the five-level) but subsided when the opponents bid to 5.

♣ KQJ108763

Curiously, both 5♥ and 5♠ make! You have probably heard the old bridge saying: "Six-Five, come alive." There is no cute saying for 13 cards in only two suits. My advice is to just keep bidding until your opponents get tired.

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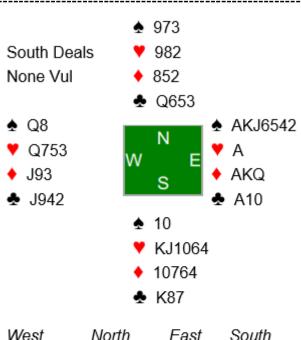


This one is just an oddity. Many found their way to a small slam in their nine-card spade fit or their eight-card heart fit. The four-nothing spade split dooms 6♠, and 6♥ fails if West gives his partner a spade ruff when he gets in with the ♥A.

The only slam that makes is 6NT, a contract which, not surprisedly, no one got to.

Cruelty, thy name is Duplicate Bridge.

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The West hand qualifies (barely) for a gameforcing 2♦ bid, and 2NT was a wait-and-see bid.
After spades was agreed (4♠), Roman Key Card
elicited 5♦ (no key cards). East then guessed to
jump to 6♠, ending West's participation. 6♠ making
was actually a below-average score because
some got to 6NT and everyone got to slam.
In my proposed auction, 5♥ asks for the ♠Q and
6♠ shows the ♠Q with no other kings. If West had
a side king, he would respond in the suit in which
that king resided. Since East can now count 12
tricks off the top, he signs off in 6NT. If West had
bid 6♠ or 6♥ showing the ♠Q and the king of the
suit bid, East would bid 7NT.

-	1101		West	North	East	South
North	East	South		(propos	ed auction	n)
(actual a	auction)				2 <b>♠</b>	pass
pass pass pass	2 <b>♣</b> 2 <b>♠</b> 3 <b>♠</b> 4NT	pass pass pass pass	2∳(GF) 2NT 4♠ 5∳	pass pass pass pass pass	2 <b>.</b> 3 <b>.</b> 4NT 5 <b>∀</b> 6NT	pass pass pass pass all pass
	(actual a	North East  (actual auction)  2♣ pass 2♠ pass 3♠ pass 4NT	North East South  (actual auction)  2♠ pass pass 2♠ pass pass 3♠ pass pass 4NT pass	West  North East South  (actual auction)  2♣ pass 2♠ pass 2NT  pass 3♠ pass 4NT pass 5♠  6♣	West North  North East South  (actual auction)  2♣ pass 2♦(GF) pass  pass 2♠ pass 2NT pass  pass 3♠ pass 4♠ pass  pass 4NT pass 5♦ pass	North         East         South         West         North         East           (actual auction)         2♠         (proposed auction)           2♠         pass         2♦(GF)         pass         2♠           pass         2♠         pass         2♠         2♠           pass         2♠         pass         3♠         pass         4♠         pass         4NT           pass         4NT         pass         5♦         pass         5♥

There were any number of other interesting hands that I had earmarked for this column, but it is already too long, I have forgotten many of the details and it is the evening of the last Sunday of the tournament and I am exhausted. I would like to give a shout-out to Ted Boyd who organised this event, along with the billions of volunteers who helped make this well-run tournament a pleasant experience. The Kitchener Regional will return in two years. It promises to be a great experience for everyone, regardless of their level. See y'all in 2025!

# **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	11.35	1	Sharon Nesbitt	4.14	
2	Edith Ferber	20.18	2	Lori Cole	9.28	2	Rick Arthur	3.82	
3	Cindy Mahn	19.48	3	Jack Cole	8.38	3	JP Fraresso	3.48	
4	Mike Peng	16.52	4	Sue Peterson	8.36	3	Miriam Frascari	3.48	
5	Stephen Young	15.51	5	Sue Moses	6.84	5	Pat Pietrek	3.16	
6	Margot Stockie	14.78	6	Roy Dandyk	6.69	6	Richard Papineau	2.84	
7	Ted Boyd	13.31	7	Ginny Scott	6.36	7	Jacques Druart	2.43	
8	Moira Hollingsworth	10.56	8	Judy Widdecombe	6.26	7	Russel Kerr	2.43	
9	Bonnie Kains	10.49	9	Bev Hitchman	6.15	9	Joan Hartviksen	2.25	
10	Kathy Russell	8.83	10	Nanci Phelan	5.59	10	Debbie Miethig	2.24	
11	Diane Bourdeau	8.81	11	Kevin Latter	5.48	11	Jim Fox	2.06	
12	Mary McClelland	8.17	12	Vivian McLellan	5.20	12	Marianne Dziarski	2.04	
12	Robert Griffiths	8.17	13	Kim Wakeford	4.97	13	Joan Stroud	2.02	
14	Scott Hills	6.96	14	Brenda Semple	4.85	14	Pat Gascho	1.79	
15	Pat McMillan	6.85	15	Lissa Lowes	4.76	15	Casi Zehr	1.77	
16	Dianne Aves	6.77	16	Andy Wilson	4.67	16	Louise Dawdy	1.71	
17	Neil Jeffrey	6.74	17	Joe Blake	4.36	17	John Lengyel	1.60	
18	John Hanemaayer	6.47	17	David Dennis	4.36	18	Kathy Chandler	1.49	
19	William Christian	6.10	19	Joan Slover	4.23	19	Don Slowinski	1.42	
20	Frank Fischer	5.58	20	Suzanne Edwards	4.17	19	Ben Cornell	1.42	
21	Peter Peng	5.54	20	Steve Allen	4.17	21	Sonja Miner	1.25	
22	Jennifer Verdam	5.51	22	Keith Schnarr	4.14	22	Brian Gaber	1.20	
23	Liz McDowell	5.18	22	Sharon Schnarr	4.14	23	Chris Beck	1.18	
24	Neil Coburn	5.00	24	Douglass Grant	4.10	24	Valirie Binkle	1.16	
25	John Vandergrift	4.81	25	William Sherman	4.03	25	Judy Charbonneau	1.12	

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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 <u>Pianola</u>, 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 <u>Joan Slover</u>, our membership lead.

We have fun in **spades**.
We play with all our **hearts**.
We treat our members like **diamonds**.
Mike Cappelletti was at our **tournament**.