

PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT245

ALERT – June 5, 2023

Click here to access our regular game schedule.

Looking Ahead

- ▼ The 499er F2F game on Thursday afternoons has been cancelled effective June 1.
- Spring Niagara-on-the-Lake Sectional, June 2-4, 0-750 tournament
- Sarnia Local Sectional, June 3-4
- We will be offering a brand-new online open game at 10:05 am on Sunday mornings, starting Sunday, June 4.
- June 5-11 will be NAP games at our club (extra red/black points, extra \$2) for all open and 499er games, both F2F and online. The Thursday evening game (June 8) will be a 2499er game in order to be eligible to be an NAP game.
- ▼ The F2F games during the week of June 19 will be club championship games = extra masterpoints, no extra cost).
- ▼ It will be Volunteer Appreciation Day on Tuesday, June 20, with a potluck lunch and both an open and a 199er game in the afternoon.

New Sunday Morning Open Game

Based on your feedback in our recent survey, we are pleased to offer a new BBO open game on Sunday mornings starting this coming Sunday, June 4.

The game will start at 10:05 am and consist of 18 boards at seven minutes per board, such that it will finish at around noon. Hope to see you all out there!



Congratulations

to the following local players who have advanced to the next ACBL level.

Club Master

Blake Hull

Sectional Masters

- Nancy Cattanach
- Judith Charbonneau

Regional Masters

- Martin Jones
- Andy Martinek
- Barb Neibert

NABC Masters

- Barbara Arthur
- Jim Dalgliesh
- Shelley Metcalfe

Life Master

Kathy Russell

Bronze Life Master

• Wayne Schroeder

Sapphire Life Master

• Diane Bourdeau

Diamond Life Master

Stephen Young

And a warm welcome to our newest ACBL member.

Carla Laubach



The Bean Counter

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer

It may not seem like it to you, but June is the last month of the year. Well, our accounting year anyway. The Bean Counter has a favour to ask of you. Please submit any expense claims as soon as possible (especially if you've been saving them up for months). He wants to issue cheques and have them clear the bank before we sing Auld Lang Syne on June 30.





June is Membership Month at GRBC

Our membership year runs from July 1 through June 30. That means that those of you who are currently members in good standing will be members in bad standing on July 1 if you haven't renewed your membership before then. It also means that it would be an excellent time for our non-member players to join our club. This year's fee is our usual low price of \$70.

If you are now or ever have been a member of our club, all you need to do is give us \$70. You can do this in one of three ways.

- Mail a cheque payable to Grand River Bridge Club (not GRBC) to Steve Allen, 75 Lorilee Crescent, Kitchener N2N 2J3.
- During the month of June, look for the Membership sign to find a kindly membership clerk who will help you renew and make payment.
- As a last resort (each etransfer costs our club \$1.25), send an etransfer to <u>grandriver-bridgeclubtreasurer@gmail.com</u>. Please indicate in the etransfer comments entry section your name, your email address, and what your payment is for.

If you have never been a member of our club, you need to make payment in one of the ways indicated above PLUS you need to fill out a New Member Form. You can do this electronically here or if you're at the club, get the form from the aforesaid kindly membership clerk.

NEW

- If you are a lapsed member of our club or if you have never been a member of our club, you can renew/join now and get all the benefits of membership immediately (in other words, you will get an extra month or so of membership).
- Fully-paid-up members of our club can earn two free games for each new member they recruit and/or each long-lapsed member (pre-Covid) they persuade to renew.
- Fully-paid-up members can bring their non-member friends to play free at our club (two per non-member).

The GRBC Board needs You!

In preparation for our upcoming Annual General Meeting this September, there are several board vacancies to fill. So, what does the club's board of directors do?

- According to our club's bylaw, the board sets the policies and administers the affairs of the club.
- It establishes the committees that carry out the day-to-day activities of the club, both in person and online.
- It is responsible for the financial oversight of the club's operations.
- Finally, it keeps the membership informed of important developments.

We are a non-profit organization, and we need capable volunteers to step up and help run our club going forward. If you are interested and need more information, please contact a member of our Nominating Committee.

- Mike Peng (michael.peng@rogers.com) or
- Mary McClelland (<u>mjm4bridge@gmail.com</u>) or
- Douglass Grant (<u>douglass_grant@cbu.ca</u>).

Our Club's Management Team

This is the seventh in a series profiling the current members of our club's management team and thanking them and their predecessors for their stellar work. Next up is our hospitality lead, **Dave Quarrie**.

Before we tell you about Dave, however, we need to thank and praise his predecessor, **Lynda Burnett.** Lynda either supervised or executed herself the myriad invisible services that make our club welcoming. For example, did you ever wonder what happens to our garbage? Our dirty laundry? Where our toilet paper comes from? Who fixes things when they break? Who sends out sympathy cards? Who takes care of the library? Where all that cheese comes from? These are all part of our club's hospitality service, and now they are the responsibility of Dave Quarrie (especially the cheese, as you will see).



Dave Quarrie (take a close look at Dave's shirt)

Our club's welcoming environment is partly the responsibility of its hospitality lead – things like the provision of snacks and beverages, the cleaning, the library, and much more. In Dave's own words.....

"These responsibilities are carried out by a wonderful group of around ten volunteers from our GRBC membership. Personally, I tend to look after coffee, tea, cookies, crackers, and snacks. The editor asked if I would include the story behind the "Cheese Board" that has become a fixture in our F2F games Tuesday, Friday, and just recently Thursday afternoon games at the club.

When I became a game director for the club, then located on Gage Street, the first game that I ran was the Friday afternoon 499er. I tried to make the game similar to a "relaxed game" that I was familiar with at the Tillsonburg Bridge Club. A favourite aspect of that game was that members would often bring homemade goodies to be enjoyed by the players. Starting out at Gage, I began bringing cheese and crackers to augment the cookies provided by the club. This turned out to be quite popular, so I continued. Along the way I tried to present a wide variety of cheeses to keep things interesting. This had a personal benefit for me as I became more knowledgeable about the incredible variety of cheeses. My family, over the years had seen cheddar as the only variety of consequence. I began to seek out stores other than our local supermarkets to see what was available. Some have become favourites.

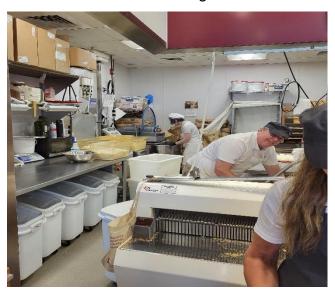
Costco	Asiago, Brie, Balderson's Cheddar, Goat Cheese Rolls			
Vincenzo's	5 Counties, Blue, Caramelized Onion, Cream Cheeses with Artichoke/Chive/etc.			
Italo Foods/ Centreville Chicopee	5 Counties, Gorgonzola, Grana Padano			
St. Jacob's Market/ Mickey McGuires	Ocelli al Barolo, Ocelli di Castagno			
La Fromagerie/ on Lexington	Mancheggo plus incredible variety			
Mountain Oak/ New Hamburg	Gouda with Black Truffles/Wild Nettle/Horseradish			
C'est Cheese Please/ Galt	Variety, plus I like their name and it is in my old hometown			

If readers have any favourites not listed above, please let me know.

I left directing the Friday game so that I could be at home to help my wife, Janet, who was starting to require increased assistance to deal with dementia and related issues. Later, I was able to return to play in the Friday afternoon game, and people (idea presented by Cheryl White) wondered about starting a "Cheese Kitty" whereby players would make donations and yours truly would buy the cheeses to be enjoyed by the Friday players. This process continued when we moved to the Dare building, so we have the Cheese Tray Tuesday and now Thursday when I play, as well as on Friday afternoon when I direct the 499 Game. Mainstays with the cheese are a wide variety of Dare crackers and a favourite baguette from Cob's Bakery, Pane Di Casa.

Here are some of the crew I have put together to provide the most excellent baguettes.





BRIDGE BACKGROUND

Euchre was the card game of choice in my family which I enjoyed watching and playing as I got older. I learned a valuable lesson in my early years, a quote from my mother: "Don't cheat at cards, it spoils the game." Like many others, it was at university where my introduction to bridge took place - at the kitchen table of best friends Murray and Jane Deathe, along with fellow student and hockey teammate Bob McGuinn. Many fun times except perhaps that Murray was often too critical of Jane's play. One of the good things that evolved out the Covid pandemic was that Murray, Bob, and I along with local Brian Krulicki began playing a social game on BBO every Monday night. I didn't really play much until I was asked to sub in a two-table social game when Janet and I lived in Tillsonburg. Eventually, I was asked to be a regular member and enjoyed this group for several years playing every couple of weeks except for extended breaks from early spring to early fall. The group eventually disbanded, but I along with one other, John Gofton, decided to give the Tillsonburg Bridge Club a try. We played regularly there until Janet and I moved to Waterloo. The game director in Tillsonburg had given me the phone number of Liz McDowell as a person to contact if I was interested in continuing to play bridge. At Liz and Cindy Mahn's Club, I met up with Brian Irvine who asked me if I would like to be a sub in a social game that he ran. Once more, I eventually became a regular member of a bridge group and enjoyed tremendously the social interaction with some great folks. After Brian's untimely passing from cancer, I took over the running of that game for a few years.

It was during this time GRBC was formed and set up on Gage Street, and I was a very willing volunteer doing some painting, moving of furniture, and sundry odd jobs to help ready our new space. It was at this time that I decided that I would like to become a game director. That being accomplished, I was put in charge of the Friday afternoon 499 game. That game became very popular (much to the dismay of our fellow tenants on Gage) and, if memory serves, I believe we once had a 22-table game!

After the move to our present location, as I mentioned earlier, I stepped away from directing for some time, but now find myself back with a great group of folks Friday afternoon.

BACKGROUND

- BSc Cornell 1967, BPE Waterloo 1968
- High school teacher (Paid Informer) for Tillsonburg & District School Board, Oxford County School Board, and Thames Valley District School Board. Taught Physical Education and Business Courses 1968-2002. Taught mainly at Glendale High School, with stops at Norwich District High School and Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute.
- Janet and I were married in June of 1968 and have two children Carolyn and Drew, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.
- Main hobbies are bridge, reading, puzzles, card magic, Raptors, Blue Jays, and looking for interesting varieties of cheese.

FAVOURITE BRIDGE TIP

As you know there are many pointers and "Rules" about bridge play that we encounter on our trip along (up?) the Bridge Learning Curve. The only agreement that you absolutely MUST FOLLOW in F2F play is that if your partner offers you a breath mint you must take it.



A FAVOURITE RECIPE - PIMENTO CHEESE DIP

4 OZ CREAM CHEESE (SOFTENED TO ROOM TEMPERATURE)

34 CUPS MAYO

1/4 CUP ROASTED RED PEPPER, DICED

½ TSP SALT

1/2 TSP BLACK PEPPER

2 TSP HOT SAUCE

2 LBS MIXED WHITE AND ORANGE SHARP CHEDDAR (SHREDDED WHEN COLD MIXES BEST)

- . BREAK DOWN CREAM CHEESE WITH A WOODEN SPOON
- . COMBINE WITH MAYO...NO LUMPS
- . ADD REMAINING INGREDIENTS EXCEPT CHEDDAR AND STIR
- . ADD CHEDDAR IN HANDFULS, USING SPOON OR SPATULA TO MASH AND STIR. START FOLDING IT OVER AND UNDER...HAVE SOME FUN...DON'T GO FOR SMOOTH...SHOULD BE THICK AND LUMPY

CHILL FOR 30 MINUTES BEFORE SERVING

MAKES ABOUT 8 CUPS

WORKS AS A BALL, DIP, ON BURGERS, GRILLED CHEESE, OMELETTES

BON APPETIT!



On the Tournament Trail, Part 1

Contributed by Ted Boyd, Tournament Coordinator for Unit 249

This is the first of a series of articles about bridge tournaments. Did you know that next month we will be hosting a regional tournament here in Kitchener? This is a wonderful opportunity for you!

The ACBL has four levels of tournaments that are sanctioned by the ACBL: **Nationals** (three times per year, paying platinum, gold, and red points); **Regionals** (at least three or four every week somewhere in ACBL-land, paying gold and red points); **Sectionals** (lots of them, paying

silver points); and Local Tournaments at Clubs (run by individual clubs and paying silver points).

Most master points earned in club play are black, but in order to achieve life master status and to advance to the subsequent levels you need coloured points of each of silver, red, and gold. Virtually the only place you can earn these coloured points is at tournaments. And as pointed out above, the only tournaments that offer the hardest-to-get (red and gold) points are regional tournaments and national tournaments.

This is by way of explaining why having a regional tournament in our backyard is huge. Our district (Manitoba, Ontario, and Bermuda) is allocated only five regional tournaments each year. And we are fortunate enough to be allowed one regional tournament every other year (as of now in 2023, 2025, and 2027).

Units may offer as many sectional tournaments as they wish in the year and our unit (Unit 249) has typically run nine sectionals per year, until we were shut down due to Covid. This year, we will run four sectionals - Tillsonburg (August 12/13), Goderich Aug 26/27, St. Thomas (September 9/10), and London (October 21/22) and one Local Tournament at Clubs in Sarnia (June 3/4).

All Regional, Sectional, and Local Tournaments at Clubs are funded by our unit (Unit 249). The game fees are intended to cover the cost of the sites, the game directors, the equipment, and the promotion, but any losses (or gains) are absorbed by the unit. Individual clubs have no skin in the game, although most regionals and sectionals are built around a local club. Our unit encourages tournaments because we like the way that face-to-face tournaments encourage bridge, improve bridge skills, and give local players a chance to compete and socialize with players from across Ontario and the northeastern United States.

This year's regional tournament on July 4 through 9 is your unique opportunity, which occurs only every other year, to join a room full of bridge players (the average table count at the last Kitchener Regional was 170 tables per day), and earn gold and red points close to home. Our club has decided to cancel all of our face-to-face games during the regional week to encourage GRBC members to take advantage of this major bridge tournament.



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 su-zan2420@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.

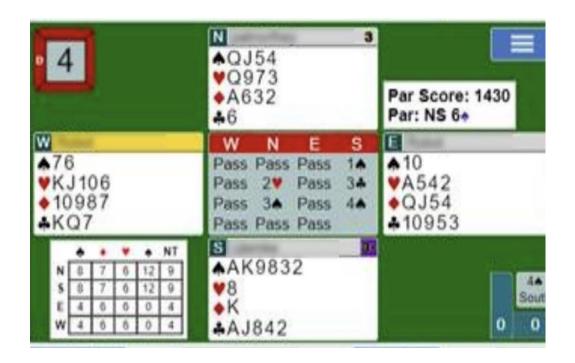
Welcome Alert readers,

Some of you have noticed that several hands in recent columns have been missing the full bidding sequences. For some reason an issue has developed recently where I am unable to access and save the bidding on all hands. Sometimes, I am able to see and save online games through the Common Game link, but not all games and not all boards are available. No Face to Face games are accessible for viewing in this way either. To circumvent this issue, I would like to encourage any player who anticipates sending in a hand/question to take a screenshot or photograph immediately of the particular board and include it with the question. I am hopeful this will resolve the issue of absent bidding sequences. The Answer Lady will thank you.

Question

My partner and I have been playing hands against the robots with varying success. On a recent hand, we bid to 4 and made 6 . Is there any way we could have improved our bidding to reach a small slam on this hand?

Thank you, Answer Lady, Signed A pair of newbies.



Answer

Good morning, Pair of Newbies, what a great way to practise the game of bridge against those robots. That gives you an opportunity to play and discuss the boards with each other immediately after the bidding and play of the hand.

First off, not all hands that make six are actually biddable, especially for the newer player, and that is the case here. (More advanced players might use a splinter bid to get to slam, and if you would like to learn about splinters I would be happy to write about them in a future column.)

North has nine HCP and South has at best 15 HCP, with the •K potentially wasted values. Yes, there is an extra spade in South's hand and a club side suit, but the clubs lack strength. That said, North can assist South in describing their hand more accurately, right from the beginning.

The suggestion would be for North to show support for those spades immediately. *One of the golden rules of bidding!* North should not bid 2♥ at the first opportunity. That bid after 1♠, shows five hearts, not four hearts, and at least 10 points. The 2♥ bid just muddies the waters and adds confusion for South.

A more useful bid would be for North to bid 3 , a limit raise in spades typically showing four spades and 10-12 points. Yes, there are only nine points in North's hand, but there are those wonderful four spades, headed by the QJ, and the singleton club provides additional values making a 3 bid the preferred choice.

South now knows that North has four spades and approximately 10-12 points, and if they had a stronger hand could consider going forward.



"When I'm working, I don't have lunch until I'm certain that every person on set has had a chance to eat first."

—Anne Hathaway
On how she avoids being poisoned

TIME YOU LEARNED OUR LESSONS!

 Just a reminder that the Answer Lady will be teaching two mini-lessons on opening leads to novice players at 9:00 am at our Monday morning bridge labs on June 5 and June 19. No pre-registration required.



Tournament Masterclass

Are you thinking of playing in the upcoming regional bridge tournament at Bingeman's this July?

BUT

Perhaps you have a few questions......

- Do new players actually go to tournaments?
- Do you have doubts, questions, or concerns?
- Maybe you have a little anxiety about tournament play?

The Grand River Bridge Club is offering a FREE workshop just for you!

In this session, we will take the mystery out of bridge tournaments while exploring the attractions and benefits. Participants will learn to effectively navigate, play, learn, and have fun at a tournament – both pairs and team games.

Upon completion of the workshop, you'll be armed and ready for our regional tournament in July and, unlike many other tournaments, you don't even have to leave town to attend!

Instructor: Susan Lawton (The Answer Lady)

Level: Players who have never played in a tournament or are wishing to learn more

Date: Friday, June 23, 2023, 9:30 am - noon

Venue: In-person at our club

Current Enrollment: 5

Fee: FREE

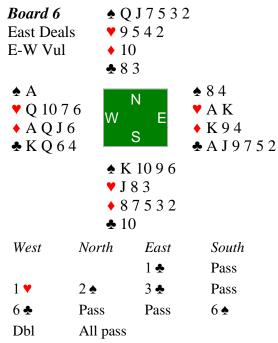
Click <u>here</u> to register.

FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS



Down Five is Good Bridge

Contributed by Robert Griffiths



I was North, playing in an online Swiss team game with Mike. East dealt and opened 1♣. Mike passed and West bid 1♥. My hand looked like roadkill, but we were not vulnerable and they were. This was a good time to throw in a nuisance bid, so I jumped in with 2♠. East quickly showed his good clubs with a 3♣ bid. Mike knew that he was going to get into this auction but passed to see where the opponents were headed. It took West about half a second to jump to 6♣. This was passed back to Mike, who never bids without thinking for 10 seconds. In good time, he bid 6♠. West took half a second to double 6♠ and this was passed out.

Why didn't Mike support my spades right away but rather wait until his next chance to bid? He didn't want the opponents to dwell on the notion that N/S had weak hands with lots of spades while E/W had all the strength except spades. Mike wanted his sacrifice bid to come "out of the blue". He judged well: E/W did not consider trying 7.

East led the ♥A. There was nothing to the play - we lost the obvious six tricks for down five, a score of -1100. Of course, I couldn't get angry at Mike for putting me into the hopeless slam. E/W would have scored 1390 for making all of the tricks if 6♣ had been passed out.

It turned out that our partners took 13 tricks after bidding 6NT with the E/W hands for a score of +1470. Our gain on the board was 370 points for nine IMPs.

The only downside of the sacrifice might have come if our impulsive opponent had taken the push and gone on to bid 7♣ which would have scored 2140. That would have changed our 370-point gain into a loss of 670 or 12 IMPs.

Perhaps over 7♣, either Mike or I would have gone on to 7♠. In that case, our -1400 would make for just a two-IMP gain on our partners' 1470. Some hands are more like poker than bridge.

FOR OPEN PLAYERS



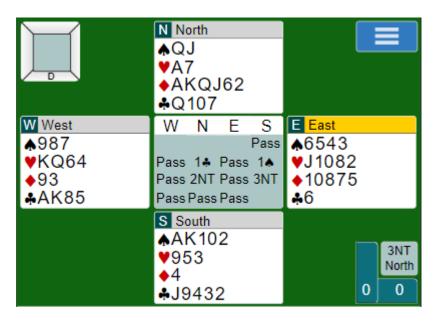
Dear David

Planting Seeds

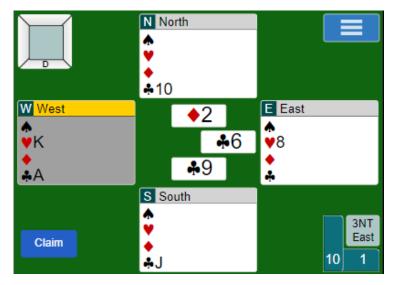
You are in 3NT and the opening lead leads the ♠8. Here is what the spade suit looks like.

You have an easy eight tricks on this hand – three hearts, four diamonds, and the A. You could win the A and go back to dummy to lead the Q in order to develop another spade trick for your ninth trick. The problem with that plan is that when East wins the K, he will be all set up to cash at least four club tricks and defeat you. What can you do about it? Here is an important lesson when you are faced with an impossible problem like this: THE OPPONENTS CANNOT SEE YOUR CARDS. With that in mind, it looks like the 8 is a top-of-nothing lead, which strongly suggests that East has the K109 of spades. If you play the Q at Trick 1, West will undoubtedly play the K. You win the A and scamper home with nine tricks, as you try to prevent a smirk from showing on your face.

Which brings us to this hand.



My system requires me to open 1♣ with all balanced (sort-of-balanced?) hands that have 18 or 19 HCP. East leads the ♥J, which I ducked, and continued with the ♥2 to the ♥5, ♥Q, and my ♥A. I then took my four spade tricks, throwing the ♣7 and the ♣Q from my hand on the last two spade winners. Here is what it looked like as I led my last diamond winner.



If East's signalling helps West decide which winner to keep or if West guesses well, the opponents will win the last trick. Can I as declarer do anything to help nudge West in the wrong direction? The answer harkens back to the example at the beginning of this article.



If instead of playing dummy's ♥5 at Trick 2 you were to play the ♥9, you would plant a seed in West's mind that you were trying to force an honour out of him. That would make it easier for him to decide at the end that you must have a heart left. That is precisely what happened on this hand. The seeds of misdirection often reap a mighty reward.

- I once dated a girl with a twin and people always asked me how I could tell them apart. It was simple: Alison painted her nails red and Bob had a beard.
- After that 'Covid thing' these past few years, my 'going out' clothes have missed me so much. I put them on and they hugged me so tightly, I could barely breathe.
- I took my eight-year-old daughter to the office on 'take your kid to work day'. But when we walked into the office she started to cry. As concerned staff gathered around, I asked her what was wrong and she said: "Daddy where are all the clowns you said you worked with?"

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 April.

Open Players				499er Players				99er Players			
	Name	MP			Name	MP			Name	MP	
1	David Baker	33.53		1	Barbara Arthur	18.84		1	Rick Arthur	8.45	
2	Cindy Mahn	29.12		2	Suzanne Edwards	17.84		2	Sharon Nesbitt	7.34	
3	Edith Ferber	19.49		3	Jim Dalgliesh	13.43		3	Debbie Miethig	6.85	
4	Ted Boyd	18.56		4	Shelley Metcalfe	13.01		4	Audrey Cook	5/76	
5	Moira Hollingsworth	16.32		5	Lori Cole	11.13		5	Peter Gaasenbeek	5/63	
6	Mike Peng	16.15		6	Joan Slover	10.73		6	Louise Dawdy	4.52	
7	Neil Jeffrey	15.23		7	Sue Moses	9.56		7	Jim Fox	4.42	
8	Robert Griffiths	13.71		8	Andy Martinek	9.19		8	Pat Pietrek	3.75	
9	Stephen Young	13.64		9	Barbara Lindsay	8.95		9	Alicia Wright	3.65	
10	Colin Harrington	13.51		10	Brenda Semple	8.85		10	Peggi Rieger	3.01	
11	John Hanemaayer	12.98		11	Steve Allen	8.82		11	Patricia Gascho	2.99	
12	Kathy Russell	12.03		12	Nancy Cattanach	8.77		12	Jane Wilson	2.92	
13	Neil Coburn	10.33		13	Jack Cole	8.56		13	John Aldridge	2.76	
14	Scott Hills	10.28		14	Martin Jones	8.49		14	Ruthanne Erwin	2.69	
15	Liz McDowell	9.93		15	Salvatore Pace	8.12		15	Larry Brooks	2.67	
16	Sharon King	9.41		16	Bob Livermore	7.78		16	Kathy Chandler	2.62	
17	Dave Quarrie	9.29		17	Bev Hitchman	7.43		17	Judy Johnston	2.52	
18	Malkin Howes	8.58		18	David Dennis	7.38		18	Russel Kerr	2.51	
19	Adriaan Kempe	8.08		19	Cheryl White	7.07		18	Jeannie Leforge	2.51	
20	Sandy Graham	7.94		20	Elinor Girouard	7.01		20	Steve Cameron	2.46	
21	Diane Jamieson	7.71		21	Sue McDonald	6.75		21	Casi Zehr	2.28	
22	Susan Lawton	7.52		22	Lynda Burnett	6.50		22	Stu Cowan	2.24	
23	Steve Carpenter	7.49		23	Noah Pace	6.36		23	Carol Gerber	2.23	
24	Paul Latimer	7.36		24	Nanci Phelan	6.16		24	Randall DeKraker	2.15	
25	Wayne Schroeder	7.04		25	Anita Hanson	5.78		25	Joan Hartviksen	2.15	

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 Joan Slover, our membership lead.

We have fun in **spades**.
We play with all our **hearts**.
We treat our members like **diamonds**.
We like to eat cheese at our **club**.