



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – September 16, 2024

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

Looking Ahead

- ♥ September 13: Both Friday F2F games are **STaC games**, \$2 surcharge
 - ♥ September 14: [Learn Bridge in a Day](#)
 - ♥ September 16: Bridge Lab Mini-Lesson – **Tournament Play** with Susan Lawton (this will be a two-hour lesson)
 - ♥ September 16-21: **Club Championship F2F Games** (extra masterpoints, no extra charge)
 - ♥ **September 20: The Friday night open game is cancelled.**
 - ♥ September 21: **Beginner Lessons** start
 - ♥ **September 22: BBO games are cancelled.**
 - ♥ September 23: Bridge Lab Mini-Lesson – **DONT** with Sue Moses
 - ♥ Sept(ember 23-29: All BBO games will be **NABC Fundraiser Games** (\$1 surcharge)
 - ♥ **September 24: AGM, Potluck, and (hopefully) Individual Game**
 - ♥ September 28-29: **Local Sectional at our Club (all regular games cancelled)**
 - ♥ September 30: Bridge Lab Mini-Lesson – **Initial Hand Evaluation** with Malkin Howes
 - ♥ September 30 – October 6: **BBO Silver Linings Week** (1.5 SILVER points)
 - ♥ October 7: Bridge Lab Mini-Lesson – **Hand Re-evaluation** with Malkin Howes
 - ♥ October 7 – 12: **F2F Club Appreciation Games** (extra points, no extra charge)
 - ♥ October 14: **No Bridge Lab** - but all games as usual on Thanksgiving Monday
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Our AGM

On Tuesday, September 24, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting. We would like as many people to turn out as possibly can, and to do that we have given you some incentives.

- We will be holding a potluck lunch starting at 11:30 am (please remember that GRBC is a nut-free zone).
- Following a short meeting, we will probably be offering an individual bridge game (depending on numbers and if we can make it work) which will give everyone playing an opportunity to mingle with players with whom they may not normally come in contact. We will review the game sign-up sheet the day before and make an assessment then.
- The best part of all.....**THE GAME IS FREE!!!**

There is no need to sign up for the AGM, but sign-up sheets for both the potluck and the game are posted in the normal spots. Since we expect a large turnout, please remember that parking is always an issue at our club - so after all of our regular spaces are filled, we need to park by the back fence on the Dare side.

BARBARA SEAGRAM – SHE CAME! SHE SAW! SHE CONQUERED!

Contributed by Rita Givlin

As Ray Kroc, founder of MacDonaldds says, "None of us is as good as all of us." Thanks to everyone involved, our Finding the Killing Opening Lead with Barbara Seagram event was a success! Barbara did a great job teaching, Margot and her team organized a fantastic lunch, Kathy ran the afternoon game smoothly, and with so many club members volunteering in myriad ways it was definitely true that many hands make light work.* Adding wonderful players of all abilities to the mix made it a great day!





*Helpers

Food Serving and/or Clean-Up

Pat McMillan, Moira Hollingsworth, Steve Allen, Marlene Dopko, Kathy Russell, Lynda Burnett, Karen Pound, Pat Gascho – carrots, Pat Northey – cucumbers, Barb Arthur – celery, Sonja Miner – grapes, Jane Cowan, Becky Blake, Joe Blake

Baking

Sue Moses, Karen Pound, Rita Givlin, Pat Pietrek, Mary Nickel, Judy Widdecombe

Parking

Becky Blake, Joe Blake

Greeters

Pat Gascho, Pat Northey

Set Up

Joe Blake, Dave Baker, Margot Stockie, Kathy Russell, Rita Givlin



Cynthia secretly regretted her previous unholy union with the Sea Creature, but Baby Catopus was hers and she would love him regardless.



Beginner 1 Bridge Lessons

- **Instructor:** Sue Moses
- **Fee:** \$85 (includes the cost of the text)
- **Current Enrollment:** 12
- **Dates:** Saturdays: Sept. 21, Oct. 12, 19, 26, & Nov. 2, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Beginners 1 provides a hands-on introduction to the game of duplicate bridge, including basic scoring, basic bidding, and basic play of the hand. The third and fourth lessons focus on no trump bidding, while the fifth lesson concentrates on weak two bids.

IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN TAKING OUR LESSONS, PLEASE SEND THEM [THIS LINK](#) TO **BARBARA SEAGRAM'S** HALF-HOUR RECORDING ON TRICKS AND TRUMPS AND FOLLOWING SUIT AND WHY THEY SHOULD LEARN OUR GREAT GAME. BARBARA HAS PROVIDED THIS LINK ABSOLUTELY FREE TO OUR CLUB.

Click [here](#) for more information about our lessons and to register for them.

Local Sectional at our Club (Silver Points)!

Click [here](#) for more information on and to register for this upcoming local sectional tournament at our club on Saturday, September 28 and Sunday, September 29. Attendance is limited to 96 each day (48 pairs and 24 teams), with pre-registration being strongly recommended. Registrations are coming in briskly. At the time of writing, Saturday morning is full, there is room for three pairs on Saturday afternoon, and there is room for six teams for the Sunday Swiss. We do expect to sell out – so register soon to reserve your places!

Annual General Meeting

See above.





Congratulations

to the following local players for doing well at last weekend's Jumbo Tournament in St. Thomas

- **Sheila Charters and Bev Hitchman**, 2nd in A, Saturday 499er Pairs
- **Pat Pietrek** and Wally Smith, 3rd in A, Saturday 499er Pairs
- **Janice and Michael Pengelly**, 4th in A, Saturday 499er Pairs
- **Margot Stockie and David Baker**, 10th in A, Saturday Open Pairs
- **Kathy Russell and Bob Griffiths**, 11th in A, Saturday Open Pairs
- **Liz McDowell and Peggy Pearson**, 12th in A, Saturday Open Pairs
- **Terry Visentin and Paul Latimer**, 4th in B, Saturday Open Pairs
- Brian Silva and **Suzanne Edwards**, 6th in B, Saturday Open Pairs
- **Rosemarie Schmidt, Edwin Penny, Harry Liebrechts, and Frank Cameron**, 1st, Sunday Bracketed Team Game
- Michelle Murphy, Janine Higgins, Brian Silva, and **Suzanne Edwards**, 2nd, Sunday Bracketed Team Game
- Derek Greenwell, Françoise Polec, **Charles Walkey**, and Eleanor Shwaluk, 5th, Sunday Bracketed Team Game
- **Paul Latimer, Terry Visentin, John Hanemaayer, and Ron Van Der Zwaag**, 2nd in X, Sunday A/X Swiss Teams

From the Archives – IMP Scoring

Unlike matchpoint scoring where players are compared to the other pairs, IMP scoring is used mainly in the team games that are offered on Sundays at tournaments. In IMP scoring each team's score is compared to the score of only one other team. Furthermore, while in matchpoint scoring a ten-point spread (the difference, for example, between 100 and 110) could mean the difference between a top and a bottom, in IMPs such a small difference is immaterial. But in IMPs, a large spread (for example the 500-point difference between earning 480 for bidding and making a non-vulnerable major suit game with two overtricks and 980 for bidding and making the slam) is huge. As a result, the recommended strategy in team games differs somewhat from the recommended strategy for pairs events.

Here are a few tips for IMP games.

1. Make your game (don't risk your contract for overtricks).
 2. Take risks to defeat the opponents' contracts, even if you might give them an overtrick.
 3. Bid games aggressively, particularly when vulnerable.
 4. Double rarely, especially when it comes to part scores.
 5. Aim for the safest contract, as opposed to the highest-scoring contract (the scoring difference between the minors and the majors is much less important than in pairs).
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Player Profile – Renate Boucher

Contributed by Anita Hanson

Today we are introducing Regional Master Renate Boucher (Ren8 on BBO).

Though a longtime resident of KW, Renate began life in Germany, coming to settle into a home on Benton St. at the age of two. (At that time, that area of town was still so heavily German that all her little friends played in that language, and she began kindergarten not yet fluent in English!). In true ethnic tradition, Renate learned accordion in elementary school and, though she no longer plays, I'm sure she could pick it up again (in case any of our members are ever in need of an accordion player).

Her musical early school years were followed by St. Mary's High School, which at that time was still an all-girls school (and where in 1969 she was voted "Girl of the Year"!). This was followed in turn by WLU (then Waterloo Lutheran, not Wilfrid Laurier — Renate goes way back) where she earned a degree in English and German. A year of doing books for a construction company taught her that she did not want to spend her working life doing books, so she enrolled in teachers' college in Hamilton. Fortunately, she decided to return to our area, got a job with the Waterloo Catholic District School Board, and taught there for 30+ years, retiring in 2005.

It was there she met husband Paul, to whom she has been married for 39 years. They have no children, deciding instead to go with cats, and currently share their home with felines Dash and Zoe.

Renate's bridge career started with "smatterings" in the late 70s when she and some other work colleagues were taught by their school principal. It didn't really take off though — just until 2016 when she took some lessons along with Molly Worden, a longtime friend and now regular partner. They joined GRBC in 2017 and loved it right from the start — the game of duplicate itself, and also the welcoming atmosphere of the club. She now plays five-ish times per week, a mix of online and F2F.

When not playing bridge, Renate walks... a lot. Once a jogger doing 10K runs, and a cyclist with the Easy Rider bike club, she now walks an hour to an hour and a half four or five days a week with a neighbour. And still bikes a bit. And works in her garden. And plays golf. And travels.

The travel part is great fun. Paul is a sports enthusiast, who early on decided his life's goal was to go to every major sporting event in the world. Together they have been to four Olympics, Wimbledon, Iron Man, the Kentucky Derby, America's Cup (sailing), and the World Cup of Soccer, to name just a few. And, because one of Renate's passions is animals, they also threw in an African safari and trips to the Galapagos and Australia. Wow!

We finish up with some wise words — Renate's two favourite bridge tips.

1. Keep it simple. Limit yourself to just the conventions you feel comfortable with.
 2. Be kind to your partner.
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Bean There Done That

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer GrandRiverBridgeClubTreasurer@gmail.com)

What a difference a year makes. Consider the following income source % splits for two Augusts.

Income Source	August 2023	August 2024
BBO games	39%	13%
F2F games	35%	52%
Membership	9%	12%
Lessons	6%	5%
Special Events	5%	13%
GIC interest	4%	4%
Labs	2%	0%
Other	0%	0%

Two things worth noting

A year ago, BBO games were our biggest income source. Include F2F game income and they combined to bring in a whopping 74% of our total income (39%+35%). In the last 12 months, the steep decline in BBO game income could have spelled disaster for us. Thankfully, it was partially offset by an increase in F2F game income. Today, games bring in 65% (13%+52%) of our total income.

Membership renewals and special events/tournaments bring in a significant percentage of our total income. It would great if we could count on having these money makers every month, but we do not. Spoiler alert! That income source is going to dry up after this month.

Looking ahead to October, F2F/BBO games will probably not pull enough \$\$\$ to cover our expected expenses. That spells I-o-s-s. But we shouldn't panic ... we can absorb it comfortably. You can help by playing more of our games.





The Answer Lady

Contributed by Susan Lawton

As the "The Answer Lady" I have been responding to questions from "newer" players. 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.

Question

I was sitting North, and with 17 HCPs was preparing to open 1NT with the hand below when it was my turn to bid. Unfortunately, before I had that chance, third-seat West opened the bidding with 1♣ and only nine HCPs. Other N/S pairs who were not faced with that 1♣ opening bid were able to get to a spade contract, some even bidding on to 4♠. How should the bidding have gone, Answer Lady?

Signed, a befuddled reader

East Deals	♠ Q 9 3											
Both Vul	♥ A K J 10 5											
	♦ Q 3											
	♣ K Q 8											
♠ K 10 2	♥ Q 8 6 2	♦ A 10	♣ 9 5 4 3									
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N												
W	E											
S												
		♠ J	♥ 9 7 3									
			♦ J 9 6 5 2									
			♣ A 10 7 6									
		♠ A 8 7 6 5 4										
		♥ 4										
		♦ K 8 7 4										
		♣ J 2										
West	North	East	South									
		Pass	Pass									
1♣	1♥	2♣	Pass									
Pass	Dbl	Pass	2♠									
All pass												

Answer

North's bidding choices would have been simplified considerably if South, like several other pairs on this hand, were to have opened the bidding with a 2♠ bid (a weak two, six spades and 6-10 HCPs). North would immediately go to 4♠ and that is where the contract would remain.

As you note, on this hand, West, after two passes, entered the bidding, albeit in third seat, likely anticipating North's potential strong hand and the possibility of a N/S game.

I find this type of bidding dilemma often presents itself after the opponents open the bidding and you need to make a subsequent bid to describe your hand as accurately as possible. Do you overcall to show a five-card suit, double to show support for the other three suits, or perhaps bid 1NT?

On this hand you chose to overcall 1♥. Unfortunately, your partner with only eight HCPs and a singleton heart was unable to support your heart suit and passed. North doesn't want to double and then bid again as that would show a bigger hand (18+ HCPs). North also doesn't want to double and force South to bid, as that shows tolerance for the other suits and, based on my experience, one's partner inevitably will bid diamonds, your suit with only two cards. That said, that 1♥ overcall also doesn't accurately reflect the strength of North's hand.

Given that South has passed, the best line of thinking would be for North to ask themselves what they would have done without West's club bid? Since North was planning to open with 1NT, a 1NT overcall bid is still available – and it does accurately describe North's hand. With an agreement that systems are on after a 1NT overcall, South can now transfer North to spades by bidding 2♥. North would accept the transfer. South with six, not just five, spades and shortness in hearts and clubs would invite with 3♠ and North would close it out by bidding 4♠.

The bidding would thus go like this.

<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>
P	P	1♣	1NT
2♣	2♥	P	2♠
P	3♠	P	4♠

Should South choose not to open the bidding and make North's life easier, that 1NT overcall describes North's hand exactly, a balanced or semi-balanced hand, 15-18 HCPs depending upon partnership agreement and one and a half stoppers in the opponents' suit. The lesson learned: don't be intimidated by the opponents' bidding. Instead, use your bidding toolbox to describe your hands. You will be rewarded more favourably when you describe your hand accurately. Better yet, when you have the opportunity to open with a weak two bid, seize it. Not only will you interfere with the opponents' bidding, but also with the right card combination you might actually make a game in that suit.



Flight attendants posing on an empty plane in the 60's



Dear David

A Tired Old Truism

As children, we were admonished on multiple occasions to look both ways before you cross the street. As adults, we would tell our children the same thing. As grandparents, we tell our children to tell their children the same thing. It will continue that way until our sun burns itself out in a few billion years. Where that useful warning goes after “going in one ear and out the other” is anyone’s guess.

♠ 10 2
♥ 10 8 3 2
♦ A K 10 7 6 3
♣ 9

With everyone vulnerable, this hand in first seat opened a weak 2♦. Partner bid 2NT asking for a side-suit ace or king, and opener rebid 3♦. After some long, difficult thought, it was passed out. Declarer made 11 tricks for an above-average score. Well done, right? WRONGWRONGWRONGWRONG!

Dir: E

Vul: All

6

17 7

10

♠ A J 7 3
♥ A K J 6
♦ 2
♣ A 4 3 2

♠ Q 5 4
♥ 5 4
♦ Q J 9 4
♣ J 10 8 7

♠ 10 2
♥ 10 8 3 2
♦ A K 10 7 6 3
♣ 9

♠ K 9 8 6
♥ Q 9 7
♦ 8 5
♣ K Q 6 5

2 The admonition should read: “Look both ways before you cross the street *and* never open a weak two-bid with a viable four-card major on the side”. The reason that this pair got a good score was that three of the six tables got to 3NT (failing by a trick) and the other two tables made 10 and 11 tricks in 4♥. My best guess is that the NT tables also opened 2♦ and their partners were more aggressive with their good 17-point hand. If East follows the “rule”, they will always get to 4♥. Your goal at match-points is to get to NT or a major because they score better. East has an excellent hand for a heart contract, so he should pass in first or second seat. If you are in third seat, it is a great 2♦ opener because your opponents have more points than your side. I must admit that I sometimes “violate” the rule when I have a really good six-card major and a weak four-card major. (Switch the diamonds and hearts on the East hand).

At least you will end up in a better-scoring strain (a major instead of a minor). One final point – a 2♠ opener pre-empts three suits, whereas a 2♦ opener pre-empts only clubs. That is precisely the reason I have found another use for the 2♦ bid. Your choice.

Although the “rules” of pre-emption say you need a seven-card suit to pre-empt at the three-level, I often open 3♣ or 3♦ with a decent six-card suit. The opponents will rarely be able to make a penalty double, and taking up their bidding space (which is the whole purpose of pre-emption) is well worth the small risk. If one of hearts on this hand was a small black card, I would open 3♦.



No. 149

♠ KQ862
♥ KJ109
♦ A9
♣ A7



♠ AJ
♥ AQ
♦ K43
♣ QJ9643

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	6♣	All pass	

Note:

1. Game forcing

I was South, declaring a 6♣ contract. West led the ♥5 to dummy's ♥9, East's small, and my ♥A.

At Trick 2, I led a small club to dummy's ♣A, West ♣2, East ♣5.

At Trick 3, I called for dummy's ♣7. East followed with the ♣8, I played my ♣J, and West discarded a heart 🤔. At this point, I realized that I was in the wrong contract - 6NT would have been a piece of cake - but unfortunately the rules don't allow for take-backs. If you were in my shoes, what would you do now?

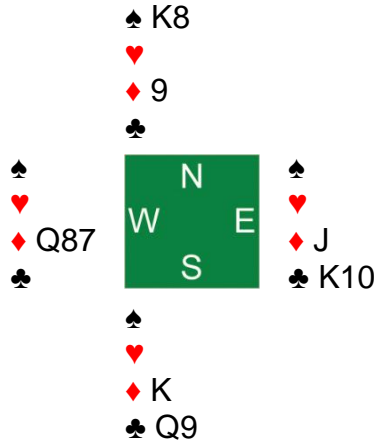
SOLUTION

Now that you know that the East still has the ♣KT, is there anything you can do about it? As it happens there is - but only because it's West with the long trumps. Enter the trump coup! In order to pull off a trump coup, you need to reduce your hand's trump length to be the same as that of your opponent's - meaning that you must reduce your trump length to two. How to do it? You are going to have to trump two of dummy's cards, even though they are good! So, here is the correct play.

- At Trick 4, lead the ♥Q and overtake with dummy's ♥K (to preserve entries to dummy). East will follow suit.
- At Trick 5, lead the ♥10 from dummy and discard a diamond loser from your hand. East will follow suit.

- At Trick 6, lead the ♥J, and now it's time to embark your ruffing campaign. East will discard a diamond and you will ruff the good heart in your hand!
- At Trick 7, cash your ♠A. Everyone will follow.
- At Trick 8, lead the ♠J from your hand and overtake it with dummy's ♠Q. East will follow suit.
- At Trick 9, lead a spade from dummy. East will follow suit, and you must ruff in your hand again! Now you and East have the same number of trump cards - namely two.
- At Trick 10, lead a small diamond to dummy's ♦A. East will follow suit.

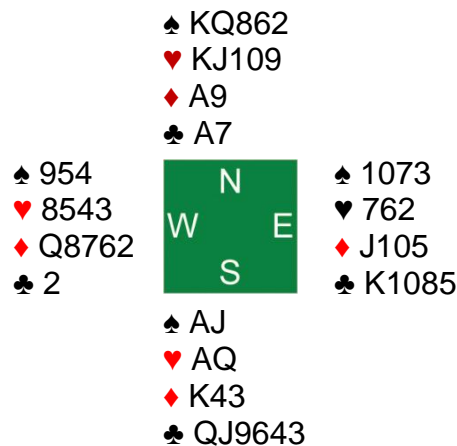
Here is the situation after 10 tricks.



At Trick 11, lead the ♠K from dummy.

- If East discards his ♦J, you discard the ♦K from your hand. Now you lead a spade from the board, let say the ♠8. East will get his ♣K, but that's all she wrote.
- If East ruffs with the ♣10, you overruff with your ♣Q and cash the ♦K to make your contract.
- If East ruffs with the ♣K, you discard your ♦K. Then, whatever East plays you can score the last two tricks to make your contract.

Here is the complete deal.



You have executed a Trump Coup. As you saw, in order to prepare for a trump coup, you need to ensure that the number of trumps in your hand is the same as the number of trumps in the defender's hand.

At the post mortem, you may argue that this contract can be easily made by finessing East's ♣10. But that is just a 50% chance. Why take this unnecessary risk when you have the 100% certainty of making your contract via a trump coup?

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 August.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	38.86	1	Marlene Dopko	10.45	1	Randall DeKraker	7.26
2	Edith Ferber	22.83	2	Cheryl White	7.52	2	Sharon Nesbitt	5.61
3	Mike Peng	20.89	3	Bob Giilck	7.09	3	Andrew Widdis	4.62
4	Kathy Russell	18.46	4	John Kip	6.55	4	Nancy Kennedy	4.40
5	Ted Boyd	15.34	5	Judy Widdecombe	5.68	5	Sonja Miner	3.71
6	John Hanemaayer	14.47	6	Joan Slover	5.50	6	Sheila Charters	3.64
7	Cindy Mahn	13.02	7	Cheryl Kip	5.06	7	Wendy Duff	3.44
8	Neil Jeffrey	11.47	8	Elinor Girouard	4.68	8	Pat Northey	3.02
9	Moira Hollingsworth	11.30	9	Peter Gaasenbeek	4.66	9	Phil DeMontigny	2.91
10	Pat McMillan	10.69	10	Glenn Mockford	4.51	10	Andrew McNaught	2.80
11	Dave Quarrie	10.39	11	Vivian McLellan	4.36	11	Joan Stroud	2.45
12	Adriaan Kempe	9.32	12	Renate Boucher	3.80	12	Mark Sherwood	2.26
13	Roy Dandyk	8.96	12	Dave Leitch	3.80	12	Doug Fickling	2.26
14	Liz McDowell	8.63	14	Molly Worden	3.77	14	Susan Murray	1.97
15	Neil Coburn	8.52	15	ML Benjamins	3.68	15	Judy Charbonneau	1.66
16	Paul Latimer	7.91	16	David Dennis	3.59	16	Don Slowinski	1.62
17	Bob Griffiths	7.40	17	Sue Moses	3.55	17	Ellen Libertini	1.55
18	Diane Bourdeau	7.19	18	Carl Lucas	3.54	17	Ben Cornell	1.55
19	David Longstaff	7.09	19	Audrey Cook	3.49	19	Carol Gerber	1.43
20	Margot Stockie	6.66	20	Brian Gaber	3.30	20	JP Fraresso	1.33
21	Jim Dalgliesh	6.00	21	Janice Pengelly	3.11	21	Patricia Leigh	1.32
22	Suzanne Edwards	5.88	22	Sue Peterson	3.00	22	Marianne Dziarski	1.30
23	Steve Carpenter	5.87	23	Jasia McKeague	2.77	22	Larry Brooks	1.30
24	Tom Ramsay	5.86	23	Joe Blake	2.77	24	Mary Jameson	1.14
25	Terry Visentin	5.85	23	Steve Allen	2.77	24	Maureen Logel	1.14

- 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. *When you use Partner Finder, it will allow folks to see your contact information. If you have posted a Partner Finder ad, kindly remember to check your phone and email and, when you've found a partner, delete your ad. Someone who replied to your ad may be waiting for a response.*
 - For online games only, log in to the game in question and register yourself on the Partnership Desk tab (or look to see if someone else has already registered there).

We have fun in **spades**.
 We play with all our **hearts**.
 We treat our members like **diamonds**.
 Barbara Seagram was at our **club**.