

## PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

# **ALERT – April 8, 2024**

Click <u>here</u> to access our regular game schedule.

# **Looking Ahead**

- ▼ Club Championships for F2F games, Week of April 7 extra masterpoints, no extra cost. As well, we will be celebrating our 12<sup>th</sup> birthday with cake on April 9, 10, and 12.
- Barbara Arthur will be giving a mini-lesson on DONT (Disturbing Opponents' No Trump) at the Monday morning bridge lab on April 8.
- Our Inaugural online 19er game will launch on Sunday, April 14 at 9:45 am.
- The April 19 Friday night game has been cancelled due to the Gatlinburg tournament.
- Malkin Howes will be giving a mini-lesson on Bid One More? Again? at the Monday morning bridge lab on April 15.
- Cindy Mahn will be giving a mini-lesson on Slam Bidding (Suits) at the Monday morning bridge lab on April 22.
- ▼ Buffalo Spring Sectional, April 26-28
- Lynda Burnett will be giving a mini-lesson on No Trump Declarer Play at the Monday morning bridge lab on April 29.
- As of April 29, the Monday afternoon open game will switch to F2F.
- A new 299er F2F game will be launched on the same afternoon.
- Susan Lawton will be giving a mini-lesson on Opening Leads (Suits) at the Monday morning bridge lab on May 6.
- Barbara Seagram will be giving a workshop at the Guelph Bridge Club on Tuesday, May 21. Mark your calendars.

# Monday Afternoon F2F Game

Contributed by Kathy Russell, Games Committee Chair

As of April 29, the Monday afternoon open game will switch to F2F. Moving the game back to F2F was not an easy decision, especially knowing that some of you play from a distance and will not be able to play in the F2F game. If you choose to continue playing online on Monday afternoons, we ask that if possible you continue to support GRBC by playing in one of the SE Carolina (VACB183376) Monday afternoon games at around 1:00 pm, as a portion of your fee comes back to our club. To remove a barrier to playing in the Monday afternoon F2F open game, I will be acting as matchmaker. If you would like to play but are in need of a partner, email me at kir68@rogers.com and I will see what I can do.

# **Getting Started with our Online Newcomer Game**

Contributed by Jack Cole

Often the hardest part of learning something new is getting started, and playing bridge is a prime example. The friendly folks at GRBC will help you, but when you can't come to the club you might consider joining our online duplicate games. Playing from home is convenient, and online play offers excellent learning tools to improve your bidding and play.

Getting comfortable with online bridge can be challenging, so the GRBC Teaching Team would like to help! **GRBC is introducing a "Newcomer Game" on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM, starting on April 14.** This relaxed and friendly game is for people who are new to bridge, with fewer than 20 masterpoints. There will be 18 hands, with eight minutes allotted per hand, which is one or two more than typical game play.

Before you play you will need an ACBL membership, a BBO (BridgeBase Online) login, and BBO dollars. We have created a 28-minute video that walks you through the steps to play at BBO, and the mechanics of actual game play. The video was shown at a recent Monday morning bridge lab, and can now be watched at any time on YouTube at <a href="https://youtu.be/RI2ESTQrk3Y">https://youtu.be/RI2ESTQrk3Y</a>. The Newcomer Game is a stepping stone to our other in-person and online games (most club members play in both) and may only be around for a short while, so don't miss this opportunity to learn to play online with your GRBC friends. Watch the video, sign up with BBO, find a partner (contact Sue Moses if you need a partner), and then on April 14 join us in our new 19er game. In case you need extra support, I will be online from 9:00 to 9:45 am on April 14 to help. (It's good to sign up at least 30 minutes ahead.) Chat to jhcole on BBO, or call me at 519-578-6298. Then on April 21, directly after the game, I will host a free session via Zoom demonstrating the online tools for replaying your hands, and examining how all the other pairs bid and played the same hands as you.

So, log in and get started with the GRBC Newcomer Game!

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# **Exciting New Volunteer Opportunity**

The Grand River Bridge Club's management team is looking for a new lead teacher.

**Qualifications:** It would be helpful – but not essential – if the applicant had teaching experience (the post is mainly administrative).

**Time Commitment:** The hours vary depending on the time of year, but usually less than one hour per week.

**Remuneration:** The thanks of a grateful nation

**Starting Date:** At your convenience. A transition period, working in tandem with the current lead teacher can be as long as desired. For more information, contact <u>Malkin</u>, 519-884-3166. All inquiries will be enthusiastically welcomed.





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

- David Bell
- Louise Bell

### Club Masters

- Robert Darby
- Doug Fickling
- Greg Leppington
- George Rybiak

## **Sectional Masters**

- Kathy Burns
- Greg Seale

#### Advanced NABC Masters

- Lynda Burnett
- Jim Dalgliesh

#### Life Master

Roy Dandyk

#### AND

to the following local players who were in the money at last weekend's tournaments in Toronto...

- Peter Peng, Bob Griffiths, Tom Ramsay, and David Longstaff, 1<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday Brk Teams-1
- Mike Peng, David Longstaff, Peter Peng, and Bob Griffiths, 1st, Thursday Afternoon Side Swiss Teams
- Tong Chen, Lingyun Cao, Xinshan Zhao, and Jake Liu, 1st, District 2 Flight B Saturday Finals Event and Sunday District 2 Flight B GNT Finals
- Paul Latimer, Jenny Mercer, John Hanemaayer, and Pat Fung, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Wednesday Brk Teams-2

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# From Eddie Kantor

Helen Sobel, probably the greatest woman player of all time, was a chorus girl before taking up bridge. Not forgetting her roots, she used this little ploy when she was missing an important queen in a slam or grand slam contract playing against two men: she raised her skirt a little above her knees before playing. It never failed that the fellow without the queen would look and the one with the queen was so intent on taking a trick with that card that he didn't. Helen always found the queen. When I tell this story to my classes, I tell the ladies that if they are playing against me in a tournament not to pull that one on me. Whether I have the queen or not, I always look.



# **Coping with Simon Cope**

# Contributed by Lissa Lowes

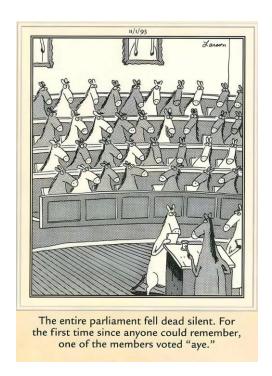
As I have been researching background for the articles about famous bridge players, I have been paying more attention to the championships that the champions are winning. And I have been wondering what exactly are they??

For example, what is the Silodor Open Pairs? Well, this is a four-session event consisting of two qualifying and two final sessions. The winners' names are engraved on the Silodor Trophy, presented in memory of Sidney Silodor, winner of the Bermuda Bowl, the McKenney Trophy, and more than 30 North American championships.

Silodor, a member of the team that won the first <u>Bermuda Bowl World Championship</u> in 1950, won the <u>Vanderbilt</u> eight times, the <u>Reisinger</u> six times, the <u>Spingold</u> (the Open Pairs and the Master Mixed Teams three times each and the Mixed Pairs five times --- a record). Silodor was an original member of the ACBL Hall of Fame, elected in the Sixties.

The trophy was presented in 1963 in memory of Silodor and made retroactive to include winners of the event, which began in 1958.

As you can see, this is a bit of a rabbit hole - but very interesting. I looked back at past winners and saw that <u>Simon Cope</u> won in 2018. Simon Cope was at the recent Barbados Bridge Tournament and many GRBC members played against him, including me. He is charming and fun to play against, even though he beats the pants off you........





# Player Profile – Barb Neibert

## Contributed by Anita Hanson

Today we are introducing Regional Master Barb (not Barbara!) Neibert (bapsley on BBO).

Barb first learned to play bridge as a young stay-at-home-mom, with a group of other women in the same situation. All were looking for an inexpensive way to socialize and get out of the house, so alternated homes in the early evenings while their husbands watched the children. She has played socially since then, making the switch to duplicate and GRBC five or six years ago.

Barb has deep roots in the K/W area. Born, raised, and educated here, she even went to Suddaby and KCI, the same public school and high school as both her father and his father before him.

She was born a Breithaupt, a name most from the area will recognize, and her great grandfather came to (then) Berlin from Germany in the early 1860s. A prominent industrialist, he was involved in multiple businesses, as well as serving as mayor. One of his ventures was to build the American Hotel, kitty-corner from the Walper Terrace downtown — the building is still standing, now offices. The family ended up owning large tracts of real estate, some of which have since been donated to the city (notably Breithaupt Bush). They also owned property in Georgian Bay, including several islands, one of which is still in Barb's immediate family, where she happily spends time every summer.

In the early '90s, her husband's work took them to the Port Carling area, where they lived and worked for 20-plus years (Barb continued her already-established work in banking there until switching to library services in later years.) Bob's health issues brought them back to K/W's more accessible medical services in 2012, and he sadly left Barb a widow six years ago. Fortunately, her children are fairly close by so she can visit frequently — two sons and two grown grandsons.

Barb is not home much. For her, every friend is a forever friend, and she is continually on the road, going to see besties from way back — from kindergarten through university, every neighborhood, every job. And when not visiting at their homes or hers, she is keeping in touch electronically. It's very time consuming, being so social! (But she still has time to play bridge.) (Though maybe not quite enough to keep her partner happy.) (That would be me.)

One of the highlights of Barb's bridge career has been a trip to this year's tournament in Barbados, where she picked up a few much-coveted silver points — a fabulous experience, if perhaps a slightly less than fabulous hotel. The above photo shows her in the hotel room, which came equipped with a lovely slimline princess phone... with no wires attached to it.

And finally... Barb's favourite bridge tip is one that makes me go "hmm": Pick your partner wisely, and always trust his/her bidding.

Hmm	



# **Bean There Done That**

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

March was unseasonably warm this year. People still flocked to the club or their PC to play in our games!

Howie Doooin'?	Doooin'? Compared To		Miles 0/ Change Cines March 20222
(March 2024)	Last Month	A Year Ago	Why % Change Since March 2023?
BBO table counts	Up 8%	Down 23%	Overall, BBO is down from 2023
F2F table counts	Up 18%	Up 28%	Do you expect me to remember one year ago?
Income	Down 3%	Down 15%	F2F up
Expenses	Same	Down 21%	Most of our expenses are tied to income
Current Assets	Same	Up 7%	Clever treasurer? Unlikely

Some of you have noted that we experience ups and downs. Nothing is predictable except for death, taxes, and your bridge partner screwing up. If you asked me which of these rows best describes our club's financial stance, it would be Current Assets.

Which of our games generated the most profit in March?

1. Gold medal: 749er (52%) < wow! more than half of our profit!!!!

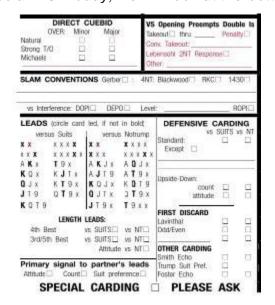
Silver medal: 299er (22%)
 Bronze medal: Open (18%)

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## **Conventional Wisdom**

This is the last in a series of columns. Today, we will look at the bottom section of the card.



## In the DIRECT CUEBID rectangle

Assuming you play Michaels, tick both boxes (Minor and Major) beside the word Michaels.
 Michaels is not alertable. Don't worry about the other boxes for now.

## In the VS Opening Preempts Double Is rectangle

Most people tick the Takeout box and write 4♥ after the word thru. This means that if an
opponent makes an opening bid of 4♠ or higher, double is for penalty; below that it's for
take-out. Leave the other items alone.

#### In the SLAM CONVENTIONS rectangle

- Most people tick the Gerber box (and sometimes they write ONTO Over No Trump Only).
- If you play regular **Blackwood**, tick that box. If you play Keycard Blackwood tick the 1430 box (or if you play 3014, write it on the line below).
- Don't worry about **DOPI** etc. unless you have had this discussion with your partner.

#### In the LEADS rectangle

- Ignore everything for now except for under LENGTH LEADS, where you should tick the 4<sup>th</sup> Best boxes for both **SUITS** and **NT**.
- Your primary signal to partner's leads is Attitude (tick the box).

## In the DEFENSIVE CARDING rectangle

- If you use **standard** (high cards are encouraging) carding, tick both boxes. If you use **Upside-Down** (high cards are discouraging) carding, tick the appropriate boxes. Most beginners just signal their attitude to their partner's lead, while more advanced players also signal how many cards they have in a suit led by an opponent (count).
- Under FIRST DISCARD, tick the Lavinthal or Odd/Even boxes if you use this carding.



#### FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS



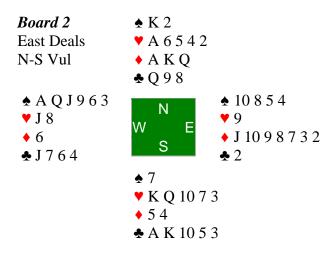
## When Good Advice Turns Bad

## Contributed by Robert Griffiths

This hand is from the recent Toronto Regional Tournament. Our team of four was playing in a Swiss event and were doing fairly well when we ran up against a team of four players each of whom had won more than one Canadian bridge championship. We tried to avoid looking intimidated.

The match was going well and, at our table we felt that we were holding our own. Then came this board. East dealt and opened with 3. This bid is a tad exotic with one HCP and four spades, but not vulnerable against vulnerable it isn't outrageous. In this situation, Dave Baker likes to say that you are promising 13 cards, many of which are diamonds.

I was South, and overcalled 3♥. After West passed, my partner bid 4NT, I showed my two keycards, and my partner settled into 6♥. West cashed his ♠A at Trick 1, and I quickly claimed the rest. The bidding and the play together took all of two minutes.



Since I'm writing about the hand, you know that things went differently at our teammates' table. My teammate sitting East chose to pass and South opened with 1♥. Now West made a preemptive jump to 2♠ and North showed his enthusiasm with a cuebid of 3♠. East considered the hand. The opponents had already found their suit, hearts, and had a good idea of the strength of their hands. He decided to get in the way of any keycard asks by jumping to 5♠.

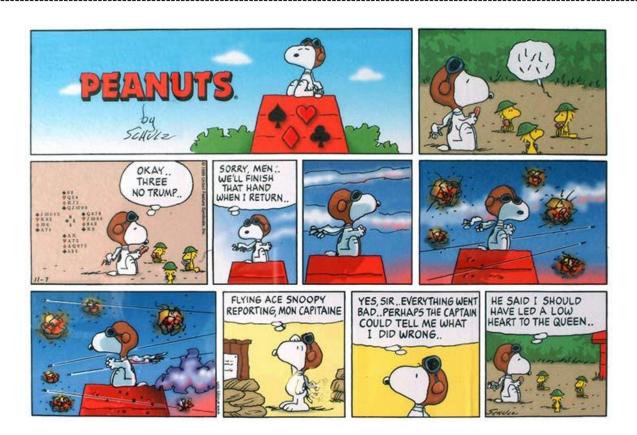
South brushed off this interference with a bid of 6♥, West passed and North huddled. He thought that the opponents had shown a lot of spades between them, perhaps 11. His partner had bid 6♥ as if he didn't have a care in the world. East and West were doing all that they could to prevent N/S from getting to a grand slam. The evidence pointed to South having a spade void and 13 tricks being available in hearts, so he bid the 7♥. This was passed out.

So, West was on lead against 7. A few months ago, he had found himself on lead against a grand slam after a very similar auction. On that occasion, he led his ace. Dummy put down K2 in the suit and Declarer ruffed the lead. The king which was now set up in dummy proved to be the 13th trick. Our teammate had made the only lead to allow the grand slam to be made! His partner in that game was a top national player who advised him that if expert opponents bid to a grand slam, missing the ace of the opponents' bid suit, one opponent will have a void and it will seldom be the correct play to try to cash the ace. This advice was going through West's mind as he picked his lead.

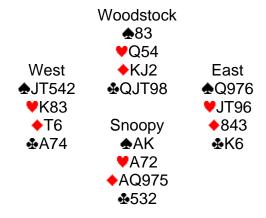
Of course, you know what he did. He did not lead the AA, which this time was the only lead that would defeat the contract. Declarer quickly claimed 13 tricks, throwing his spade on Dummy's third top diamond. So, instead of gaining 17 IMPS on the hand, we lost 13 IMPS and our momentum.

Sigh.

# As Louise Hollingsworth would say, in bridge sometimes you're the windshield and sometimes you're the bug.



Snoopy is declaring 3NT and it can be inferred that West has led a low spade. Declarer is confronted with a basic timing problem. Does he have time to establish clubs to make his contract? According to Alan Truscott, the deal was copied from Ely Culbertson's *Gold Book* (1936).



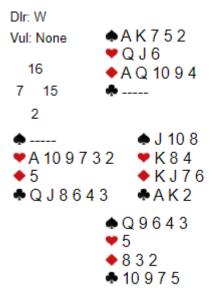
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# **Dear David**

# Just Another Tuesday at the Club - Part 1

I recently played with David Wilson at the club and it seemed as if half the hands that came up warranted a write-up. At first, I thought that remembering the board number would allow me to create a decent article, but there turned out to be so many interesting hands, my brain went dark (screen-saver mode). In the next few weeks, I will try to remember some of them.

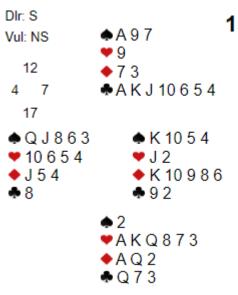


Here is a wild one that Dave Quarrie asked me about a few days later.

In first seat, Dave opened 1♥!!! He said he had never opened a seven-point hand at the one-level before. Mr. Peng informed him that the ACBL requires at least eight HCP to open at the one-level but that exceptions can be made with distributional values. Seems like he has enough distribution to me! In any event, he eventually "sacrificed" in 5♥ and made it. It turns out that two N/S pairs went down in 4♠. With North holding 16 points and East holding 15 points, they both must have thought the other side had gone insane.

The only lesson to be learned here is that high-card strength will frequently be bested by distributional strength.

This next hand requires you to have strength, tools and imagination.



With E/W silent, South opened 1♥ and North bid 2♣. Most Souths would bid an automatic 3♥ to show extra length and strength, but if you want to have a coherent "conversation" with your partner, it might be better to support partner's clubs. As you can see, North knows there is a game, but is not happy that hearts or maybe clubs will be the game. Since South has a really nice hand for clubs, he might be better off starting with a raise. He can always fall back to hearts later.

1♥-2♣-4♣ (jump raise=great hand)-4NT(Roman Keycard Blackwood)-5♠ (two keycards and the ♣Q)-5NT(we have all the keycards) At this point, South can count five clubs, three hearts, one diamond, one spade, and two spade ruffs, plus he can make a couple more heart tricks by setting up the heart suit. You can count at least 14 tricks, even if North has a minimum (and he probably has more than a minimum

based on his strong bidding). You don't need a fancy bidding system to bid this one. You just need some planning and some imagination.

One pair bid 7♣, two pairs bid 6♣, two pairs bid 4♥, and the last pair bid 5♣. I will leave it to you to figure out which idiot stopped in 5♣.



## No. 138



West	North	East	South
			1♣
4♠	5♣	All pass	

I was South, declaring a 5♣ contract. West led the ♠K which held as everyone followed suit. West continued with the ♠A and dummy's ♠2 won the trick as East followed with another spade. At Trick 3, I led dummy's ♠5 to my ♠K, and both opponents followed suit.

At Trick 4, I led my ♣3 to dummy's ♣Q. Unfortunately, West discarded a spade while East followed with the ♣6.

At Trick 5, I called for dummy's ♦2, and East played the ♦J. If you were in my shoes, what would you do now?

#### SOLUTION

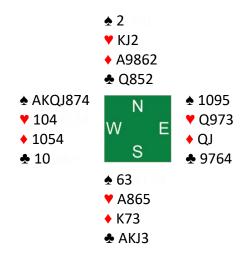
Counting your sure tricks, you have five clubs (four plus a spade ruff), two hearts (♥AK), and two diamonds (♦AK) = nine tricks in total. To make your contract, you need two more tricks. If the heart finesse works, you will need only one extra trick from the diamond suit, which seems quite easy, but what if the finesse fails? At that point it would be too late to develop the diamonds. So, you'd better not rely on the 50% chance but rather try the 68% chance (diamonds 3-2 distribution) first. If this fails, you always can fall back on the heart finesse later.

So, the right play at Trick 5 is to duck! The opponents can't harm you even if they keep attacking the spade suit because there is still a trump in dummy. East's best defence at Trick 6 is to exit with a trump. Let's say he plays the ♣9, which you take with your high trump. At Trick 7, draw the last trump.

At Trick 8, cross your fingers and play your ◆K, hoping that both opponents follow. They do! West will play a small diamond, and the ◆Q will fall from East's hand.

Cash three more diamonds and discard your hand's two heart losers. Now you can cash the ♥AK and claim your contract.

Here is the full deal.



You had the 68% chance that diamonds would be divided 3-2, plus the 50% chance that the heart finesse would work. On this hand you could combine both chances and, presuming you took them in the right order, you would end up with an 84% chance of making your contract. Two chances can be much better than one!

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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 March.

Open Players		749er Players			99er Players			
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	19.91	1	Roy Dandyk	10.58	1	Brian Gaber	7.09
2	Edith Ferber	14.14	2	Lori Cole	8.17	2	Paul Raymond	7.07
3	Ted Boyd	12.72	3	Suzanne Edwards	7.08	3	Andrew Widdis	6.85
4	Stephen Young	12.59	4	Susan Durance	6.50	4	Mark Sherwood	6.29
5	David Wilson	11.11	5	Kim Wakeford	645	4	Doug Fickling	6.29
6	Mike Peng	10.57	6	Tony Verhoeven	6.18	6	Randall DeKraker	5.88
7	Bob Griffiths	10.40	7	Judy Beauchamp	5.98	7	Sheila Charters	5.13
8	Kathy Russell	10.36	8	Jack Cole	5.91	8	Pat Pietrek	4.01
9	Malkin Howes	8.91	9	Rick Arthur	5.89	9	Robert Darby	3.67
10	Steve Carpenter	7.98	10	John Kip	5.46	10	Debbie Miethig	3.17
11	Neil Jeffrey	7.47	10	Louise Dawdy	5.46	11	Phil De Montigny	3.07
12	Sharon Boyd	7.33	12	Barbara Arthur	5.43	12	Chris Beck	2.74
13	Thea Davis	6.92	13	Cheryl Kip	5.06	13	Russel Kerr	2.70
14	John Hanemaayer	4.34	14	Bob Giilck	4.95	14	Marianne Dziarski	2.69
15	Ron VanDerZwaag	3.41	15	Dave Quarrie	4.65	15	Sharon Nesbitt	2.68
16	Cindy Mahn	2.55	16	Kevin Latter	4.48	16	Wendy Duff	2.67
17	David Longstaff	2.53	17	Dave Embury	4.47	17	Jacques Druart	2.33
18	Wayne Schroeder	2.51	18	Paul White	4.28	18	Peter Gaasenbeek	2.21
19	Moira Hollingsworth	2.38	19	Shelley Metcalfe	4.18	19	George Rybiak	2.15
20	Ronna Hoy	2.33	20	Martin Jones	4.10	19	Richard Rybiak	2.15
21	Bonnie Kains	2.09	21	David Dennis	3.99	21	Stu Cowan	1.95
22	Pat McMillan	2.04	22	Joe Blake	3.91	22	Pat Northey	1.87
23	Scott Hills	1.98	23	Elinor Girouard	3.69	23	Anne Anderson	1.47
24	Tom Ramsay	1.69	24	Carolyn Baechler	3.65	24	Sandra Stone	1.44
25	Margot Stockie	1.50	25	Jim Dalgliesh	3.64	25	Judy Charbonneau	1.34

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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 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).

If you are looking for a regular partner, contact <u>Joan Slover</u>, our membership lead. Please let her know what sort of game/partner you are interested in – your playing level, your available time slots, F2F and/or online, and any other pertinent information.

We have fun in **spades**.

We play with all our **hearts**.

We treat our members like **diamonds**.

We changed the middle stratum at our **club**.