



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – July 3, 2023

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

Looking Ahead

- ♥ The Saturday afternoon BBO game, which used to be a 299er game, has been **changed to a 499er game**, effective immediately.
- ♥ **Tonight's open game (Friday, June 30) has been cancelled.**
- ♥ There will be **no bridge lab on Monday**, July 3 (statutory holiday for Canada Day).
- ♥ **[Kitchener Regional Tournament, Tuesday, July 4 – Sunday, July 9](#)**
- ♥ During the Regional tournament Tuesday July 4 – Sunday, July 9, **the only GRBC game that will be offered is the 999er Thursday night BBO game.** The Monday games will proceed as normal.
- ♥ **[Instant Matchpoint Game, F2F at the Guelph Bridge Club, Monday, July 10, 1:00 pm](#)**
- ♥ During the week of July 16, all F2F games will be **club championship games** = extra masterpoints, no extra cost).
- ♥ During the week of July 23, all 499er and up games will be **NAP Games** (extra masterpoints, \$2 surcharge).

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

- Ben Cornell
- Sandra Kendall



The Guelph Bridge Club is participating in the ACBL Instant Matchpoint Game on Monday, July 10 (for face-to-face clubs only). There will be a \$3.00 surcharge.

Instant Matchpoint Games are made up of deals that are scored in advance, and all participating clubs play the same deals. Because the deals have already been scored, players get the instant gratification (or not) of seeing their matchpoint result at the conclusion of every deal from the travelling score slip that accompanies each board.

And if that's not enough incentive, the Summer IMG will award one gold masterpoint to each N/S and E/W pair that tops their section with additional masterpoints being 50% red/black.

All GRBC players are welcome to participate.

Membership Matters

An email went out last week to all of our players asking them to renew their membership, but the email should have gone only to those who still hadn't renewed their membership. Our apologies. Don't worry! Mr. Bean is keeping very good track of your renewals. And there are a lot of them!

As of this writing, we have 176 members who are standing proud for 2023-2024.

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

Partners at the Regional

Contributed by Pat McMillan

GRBC members, we are SO happy that many of you are planning to play in our regional tournament. The GRBC is closed July 4-9, so it provides a great opportunity to challenge yourself. Thank you all who also volunteered to be spares in case an "out-of-towner" needs a partner. Please be aware that all GRBC members are expected to get their own partner. Take a risk and ask someone with whom you don't usually play. You could practise online first to get comfortable with each other. Pianola is another way to find your own partner.

Tournament Masterclass

Contributed by Susan Lawton

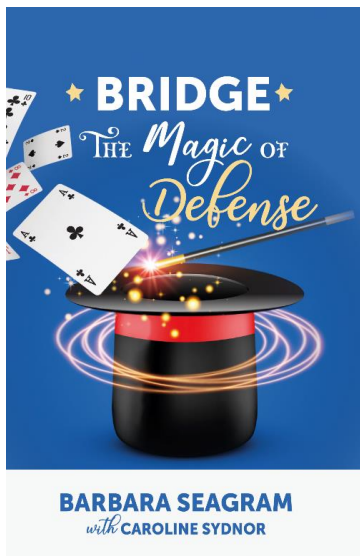
Several players attended the Tournament Masterclass workshop on Friday morning in the GRBC teaching room, where they had an opportunity to prepare for the upcoming regional tournament.

Part of the lesson included a brief team game where participants learned the intricacies of playing and scoring in a team event. Team 1 prevailed over team 2.

A surprising but rewarding outcome was the formation of a team from the participants. They are now ready to play in the tournament's Sunday Swiss event.

Special thanks for Elaine Doyle, one of the participants and a newly-minted director, who responded to participant questions where director knowledge was beneficial. Good luck to all who will play in the tournament.





Contributed by Barbara Seagram

My newest book is Book # 38. It has JUST hit the bookstands.

Here is what one reviewer (Tom Anderson) said about it.

“You've put together a tremendous book - this will take a newer player quickly up to an intermediate skill level, and an intermediate player to an advanced intermediate level, with all of the tools needed to progress even further, provided they make even the slightest effort to absorb the lessons and tips you've provided.

“The mix of ideas presented in the chapters, and then reinforced with such a tremendous selection of hands, perfect for the topic of the chapter, but also carrying forward themes introduced earlier, with gentle repetition of the most important factors, will be a tremendous learning aid for the ambitious player and for those just wanting to up their game. And you've made the text fun, memorable, and an easy guide to best defense, all at the same time.

“I can think of many bridge friends I can't wait to introduce to this book. (I wish this had been available when I was first trying to get all of this in my head!)”

My favourite partner (husband Alex) and I will be playing at the Kitchener Regional which is from July 4 – 9, and I hope to meet all of you there. I will be selling my new book on Thursday, July 6 outside the playing area from 9:00 am until 10:00 am.



ABOUT THE TOURNAMENT: Just a word to those less experienced who think they are “not good enough” to yet play in a bridge tournament. DON'T wait to get better. Use this as a wonderful opportunity to gain more experience. The people will be VERY nice and most of them are the same people you see at the club when you play. There will be games every day (10:00 am and 3:00 pm) for players with 0-199 master points and also Gold Rush Pairs for those with 0-750 master points, also at 10.00 am and 3.00 pm. AND there is a great partnership desk where they will find you a partner if you don't have one or if you wish to trade one in!

And remember: Bridge is a game of mistakes. The more you make, the faster you will learn.



The Bean Counter

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer

June's membership drive is ending this week. I'm sure a few of you are waiting for your OAS and CPP payment before flipping the membership fee over to the club. Next week's ALERT will present our sign-up count.

For those of you who missed renewing (joining) in June, we will accept payments into July. It will be offered at the discounted price of \$70.

Happy New Year! Tomorrow is the start of the 2023-2024 accounting year for the club.



@FunnyCam

Our Club's Board of Directors

This is the second 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 recently-retired board member George Pepall.



Although George was not on the board for very long, he is pleased with the news of the creation of a promotional brochure for the club. In addition, George continues to help with the Monday morning bridge labs. Unfortunately, George was recently diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease which led to lots of tests and treatments that were conflicting with board meetings. As a result, George had to resign from the board. Luckily, the treatments have been quite helpful, and he is stronger and steadier now. Unluckily, his Parkinson's diagnosis meant that George has lost his driving licence, which greatly complicates things. Luckily, people have been kind and offered to give him

rides.

George got introduced to bridge at a young age when he watched his grandmother playing with some of her friends. It came to pass that one time young George was sitting in on a hand and it came his turn to play his king of hearts – which he was confident would win the trick. His grandmother, however, had the ace, and when she captured George's king, he had a minor tantrum. Just the first in a long line of harsh bridge lessons.....

George followed the usual trajectory of playing lots of bridge while at university, and he continued playing social bridge for quite a while afterwards. His eyes were really opened, however, when he discovered duplicate bridge. For George, the concept of competing on the basis of how well you played the same cards that everyone got was revolutionary and fascinating.

Although he had studied Classics in university, the high school teaching job market was soft for Greek and Latin when he graduated. As a result, George added English to his repertoire, and that is what he mostly taught for 38 years.



George's other passion is stamp collecting, so much so that he was the president of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada for several years. He is still involved, but not to the same degree. The photo shows George with Prince Philip at a reception at Rideau Hall where they chatted about the royal family's stamp collection.

George has had a number of other projects and activities over the years, including trying to learn to play the piano, coaching soccer, and playing tennis. Right now, he is trying to improve his conversational French by participating in French Toastmasters – an excellent way to get better at French by the way.

George's bridge tip is borrowed from Tom Ramsay who says that players who don't return their partner's lead either have no cards in that suit or else are looking for a new partner.

Here's an amusing anecdote from George's time at our club. Many years ago, he was playing with Colin Harrington and put him in seven spades even though they were missing the king of spades. His Majesty turned out to be offside but Colin dropped it singleton and made the grand. Ever since then, when Colin sees George he often shakes his head and says "seven spades!" George has a couple of messages for his fellow members.

- There are some very amusing old-time black-and-white videos on YouTube called Championship Bridge with Charles Goren. These videos are an insight into how much bridge has changed over the years. No ladies blowing smoke rings anymore! Click [here](#) for Episode 1, which features Chico Marx and John Gerber.
- Lastly, George would like to give a shout-out to the club's many volunteers who make our operation run like a Swiss clock. He is amazed by how much responsibility they shoulder.

On Track... ..To Online



Visitors are Welcome in our GRBC BBO Games!

Your "On Track To Online" team has been working hard to increase attendance at our online GRBC games that are offered via BBO, and we expect to have some exciting news very soon!

Did you know that ACBL's new rules let us host about 100 visiting online players each week? Even more are allowed, provided they play with, and are invited on BBO by, a GRBC player. More players means a better financial outcome for GRBC, and more fun at the "tables".

So please help us spread the word that visitors are welcome in our online games! We've created a postcard that is a handy reminder of our online games. The cards will be available at the Regional tournament. Please pick one up for yourself, and one for each friend that might like to join us. And if your summer plans include visits to other bridge clubs, take a few with you when you go! Let's all help to get more folks playing in our online games!



when u leave ur dog w/ grandparents





The Answer Lady

Contributed by Susan Lawton

As the “The Answer Lady” I have been responding to questions from “newer” players over the past several weeks. A request has been made to share those players’ questions and my responses in the Alert, essentially a column for the beginner player! You can write to me at suzan2420@yahoo.ca. I have a “small” library of prepared questions, but I would welcome additional questions to build up that library and keep this column viable.

This week, I would like to send a shout out to Jack Cole, this column’s hidden assistant. Every week, I send a hand Jack’s way, some of which are not in the best of shape. He in turn masterfully edits those hands, removing the names and cleaning up the overall appearance. He also provides additional advice on how to deal with the quirks of F2F and BBO games. Thank you, Jack!

Question

The diagram shows a bridge hand with the following cards:

- East (E):** K♠, 8♠, 5♠, 2♠, K♥, 5♥, A♣, 10♣, 6♣, A♦, K♦, 5♦, 3♦
- North (N):** Q♠, 4♠, Q♥, 8♥, 4♥, 3♥, 2♥, K♣, 9♣, 9♦, 8♦, 7♦, 4♦
- South (S):** J♠, 9♠, 3♠, 10♥, 9♥, 7♥, 6♥, 7♣, 4♣, 2♣, J♦, 6♦, 2♦
- West (W):** A♠, 10♠, 7♠, 6♠, A♥, J♥, Q♣, J♣, 8♣, 5♣, 3♣, Q♦, 10♦

A yellow box in the center of the table indicates: **12 Tricks taken +680**

My partner and I were sitting North/South on this hand, and my partner in North opened 1NT, showing 15-17 points, in this case 17 points. I was sitting in South, and after East passed I bid 2♣ asking my partner if they had a four-card major. Needless to say, I was quite excited when my partner bid 2♠, and immediately bid 4♠ to show my 14 points and support for those spades. We ended up making 6♠ and wondered after how we might have achieved that small slam. Is there a particular bidding sequence we could have used to get to 6♠?

A newer player

Answer

Thank you, newer player for sending this hand in my direction.

Last week, the bridge gods were not very kind in ordaining the opponents' distributions. This week, those same bridge gods smiled down and created two hands where everything works.

First, let's examine the bidding: 1NT-P-2♣-P-2♠-P-4♠. I like this bidding sequence as West has shortness in a suit, in this case hearts, a key requirement of using Stayman. Stayman is that 2♣ bid that asks partner to bid a four-card major if they have one. I sometimes see newer players using Stayman at every opportunity. That should not be the case - Stayman should be used only if Responder's hand contains shortness in a suit, potentially allowing for ruffing of that suit to occur. If Responder's hand has a more even distribution, say 4-3-3-3, a jump to 3NT would be the preferred bid rather than the 2♣ Stayman one.

While you wondered if you should bid on and explore a small slam, I think you ended up in the right place: 4♠. Opener has 17 points and Responder only 14. Yes, that is only 31 points, and a good rule of thumb is that you need 33 HCP to bid a slam (unless there is extreme distribution). Thus, if Responder had had 15+ HCP, consideration could be given to bidding on.

The magic of this hand comes from the fact that everything works: the spades split 2/3; the ♣K is in the exact spot to be finessed; and Responder's club suit is an excellent source of tricks. Careful play of the hand resulted in six spades making. Less success would have resulted if the spades had been divided 4-1 or 5-0 and/or the ♣K had been in South's hand. Those challenges would become evident only as the play unfolded - and 6♠ would be unsuccessful.

A thousand words can be generated by just this one picture. This is Tesla's roadside assistance vehicle filling up at the gas pump.



The Journey

Contributed by Bob Gilck

I was asked to write another article for "The Alert".

This isn't as easy as it appears.

The best ideas come to your head at the most inconvenient times.

Every time I am in the shower, I come up with a great idea for the article.

I tried bringing pen and paper in the shower with me.

Who would have known? ... Ink will run when it is wet ... Boy what a mess!

Some people will call this a "Kodak" moment.

My wife prefers to call it a "why did I ever marry you" moment.

I started playing duplicate bridge in 2019 and joined GRBC about six months before the pandemic.

I had a partner with more experience than me and she had to put up with a lot of my growing pains.

I will not name her to protect her innocence (I think I said that right).

At the time, I was a big fan of Charles Goren, and I had a book of his from the 1960's that I quoted from religiously.

You may know the guy and the era.

13 points to open, five-card suits only and must have three honours to open, strong twos etc. etc.

Not a lot of bidding going on with those kinds of restrictions.

My poor partner had to suffer through me saying, well Goren would do this, Goren would do that.

It got to the point that I couldn't finish a sentence without my partner intervening with "don't".

But Goren would ... "don't".

I read that Goren ... "don't".

I swear she invented that convention.

You know, bridge is no different than any other competitive sport.

Players can be eccentric and, for me personally, very superstitious

Ask my wife.

The first month of our marriage she made the error of flipping the month of the calendar a day early.

Nobody does that, right, so I corrected her.

So, for the next 40 years of our marriage, guess who flips the month on the calendar?

I must drive the same way to the club without exception, even though it is five minutes longer,

If I am a little behind, timewise, I refuse to take the shorter route.

Being a little late is far better than a bad day at bridge.

The radio volume is never adjusted to number 13, even though 13 is always the perfect sound level.

If I set it at 12, I can't hear it properly.

If I set it to 14, it is too loud.

So, I just open my car window and everything is good.

Except in the winter, I need an extra sweater, hat, scarf, mitts, and heater on full blast.

Again, that is better than a bad day at bridge.

Ladies in bridge can be ruthless, probably because there are a lot more ladies than men.

I have had my fingers slapped more than once (I have to start wearing gloves now).

Talking too loud.

Talking too much.

Going to the Bridge Club for me, is the same as Tom Sawyer visiting the library

With the room filled with Aunt Pollys.

I am sure it is just a maneuver to throw me off my game.

If the ladies only knew, all they have to do is hide the plate of cookies on the snack counter and my bridge game will fall apart

Shortly after the pandemic began, BBO online bridge was the only way to play bridge
The director on one particular day set up the number of games incorrectly and there
was a delay in starting.

Players at my table chatted about the inconvenience.

Being new to GRBC, and having never met this director in person and not knowing
he can monitor our chats,

My comment was, "it's OK, he is just having a bad hair day".

Well.

Fast forward to March 2022, first day of F2F bridge at the club.

Now. I won't reveal the director's name to protect my innocence (I know I said that right).

There he was preparing to direct the afternoon game.

He was bald.

Not "losing a little hair bald" but "shave your head bald".

And earlier in the year, I said "he was having a bad hair day".

Needless to say, I played bridge that day hiding under the table.

You have no idea how difficult it is to play the dummy from memory.

Another time, this same director was my opponent (he really has it out for me).

Remember

- He doesn't have 100 MPs
- He doesn't have 1,000 MPs
- He doesn't have 10,000 MPs
- He has more MPs than Quaker has oats

I could tell he was bored and only half interested in playing against me

So, I decided half way through my play of the contract, to "claim"

Well.

He sat up straight in his chair, thought for a moment, then suggested to play the hand out.

Of course, he put me down.

Never Ever Poke a Sleeping Bear.

And again, I am hiding under the table for the rest of the afternoon.

But I am actually getting pretty good playing from that location.

Have to go now.

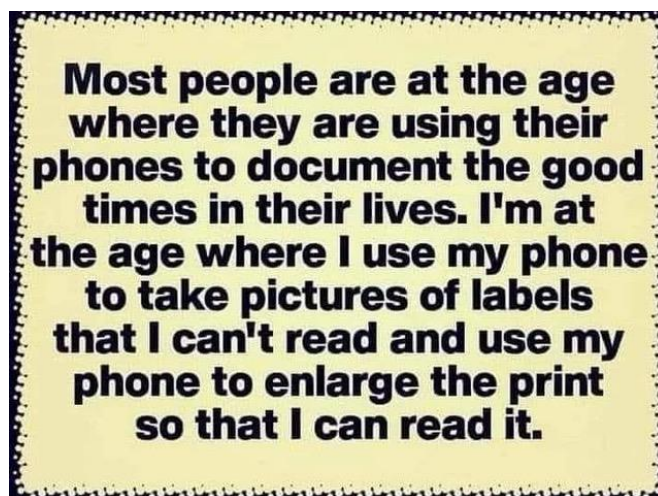
But remember....

Keep your eye on the ball.

If you can't,

Keep your stick on the ice.

But always ... always ... have fun.





Playing Like a Man (or Woman) with the Queen

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Your first hand at the Kitchener Regional tournament is in a team game against a couple of strangers. They seem to know what they are doing.

Board 12					
North Deals	♠ A 9 8				
E-W Vul	♥ 7 3				
	♦ K Q 10 8				
	♣ K J 7 5				
♠ K 6 3	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 2
N					
W E					
S					
♥ A Q 8 2		♥ J 10 9 4			
♦ 6 5 3		♦ 9 4 2			
♣ Q 3 2		♣ A 10 9 8 4			
	♠ Q J 10 7 5 4				
	♥ K 6 5				
	♦ A J 7				
	♣ 6				
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>			
	1 ♦	Pass			
Pass	2 ♠	Pass			
		1 ♠			
		4 ♠			
All pass					

Your partner, North, dealt and opened 1♦. With no interference from E/W, you bid 1♠ and see North raise to 2♠. So, you jump to 4♠. West's opening lead is the ♣2. What is your plan? Counting losers, you can see one club, one or two hearts, and possibly one spade. The contract looks reasonable, but not a sure thing. On the club lead, it seems that East will win Trick 1 and there is the danger of a heart shift, giving you two fast heart losers unless East holds the ace. Every bridge writer since the beginning of time (some time in the 1920's) has stressed that declarer's Trick 1 play is often vital. So, you should consider the club suit. It looks as if West has led from three or four clubs headed by the queen. That leaves four or five clubs with East. The "normal" play in the club suit is the jack from dummy, assuming that West has led from the queen, not the ace. But you now have the opportunity to make a deceptive play at Trick 1. If, instead of the jack from dummy, you play a low club, East may be left wondering. You are acting like a man (or woman) with the ♣Q in his (or her) hand. If the queen is with South, then West's ♣2 lead must have been a singleton. If you can convince East that you have the ♣Q he may feel the obligation to give his (or her) partner a club ruff. But a club return at Trick 2 gives you the chance for six spades, four diamonds, and two clubs for 12 tricks. If you routinely played the ♣J at Trick 1, East would have no better option than to return the ♥J. If he does, you will not only lose two heart tricks but the play of a third heart will force dummy to ruff and West's ♠K will be the setting trick. You are a tricky woman (or man).

Always give the opps a chance to go wrong.



Dear David

Doing the Math

How many points do you need to bid a small slam? The oft-quoted number is 33. But suppose one player has a void opposite no wasted honors in his partner's hand. The opponents have the 10 points in that suit, but they are worth no tricks because the hand with the void will ruff. It is as if your side is playing with only a 30-point deck. Taking the same ratio as 33 out of 40, that means 25 points are sufficient for a small slam. For the math geeks, 33 points of a 40-point deck = 82.5%. Therefore, 82.5% of a 30-point deck is 24.75 points. Rounding up, you need 25 HCP in three suits (if you possess a useful void) in order to consider that slam will be a viable contract. You don't need the math. You just need to remember the magic number of 25. Which brings us to this deal.

Dir: S	
Vul: All	♠ A 6 2
	♥ J 2
10	♦ K Q 8 5 4 3
12 14	♣ 9 6
4	
♠ K Q 9 4	♠ J 7 5
♥ A Q 4	♥ K 8 7 5
♦ J 2	♦ ----
♣ 10 8 7 4	♣ A K Q J 3 2
	♠ 10 8 3
	♥ 10 9 6 3
	♦ A 10 9 7 6
	♣ 5

You are East, in fourth seat, everyone vulnerable. South passes, partner opens 1♣, and North pre-empts 2♦. For now, it seems like there is nothing better to do than to start with a negative double. South surprisingly raises his partner to 3♦, pass, pass to you. What do you know? The vulnerable opponents both thought their hands were worth bidding diamonds. If we start with the assumption that partner has a minimum of 12 HCP OUTSIDE the diamond suit, you and your partner have 26 HCP, surpassing the magic number. It is impossible to construct a hand for West that does not give you at least a reasonable shot at a small slam. It is still an excellent slam, even if opener has ♠KQ94 ♥A4 ♦QJ2 ♣10874 with three worthless points in diamonds. On the actual hand, two pairs played 5♣ and two pairs played 6♣ with 12 tricks made at all four tables.

Two points left for your consideration

1. Just because South has great support for diamonds, telling the opponents about that support when you have no realistic chance of "buying" the contract can only hurt you.
2. Unless you have some super-duper bidding methods that will guide you to your best spot, you will have to rely on your imagination to guide you. Test out (in your head) various hands partner may hold for their previous bidding. If there are more acceptable than unacceptable hands, go for it. Any calculation that gives you at least a 50% chance is worthwhile.

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 May.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	41.84	1	Suzanne Edwards	14.89	1	Rick Arthur	6.67
2	Edith Ferber	33.23	2	Lynda Burnett	12.01	2	Sharon Nesbitt	6.60
3	Cindy Mahn	30.67	3	Jim Dalgliesh	11.98	3	Louise Dawdy	4.65
4	Mike Peng	24.01	4	Lori Cole	11.09	4	Pat Pietrek	4.55
5	Moirra Hollingsworth	21.25	5	Barbara Arthur	9.80	5	Jim Fox	4.24
6	Ted Boyd	19.49	6	Bev Hitchman	8.95	6	Casi Zehr	3.85
7	Stephen Young	18.62	7	Jack Cole	8.78	7	Debbie Miethig	3.83
8	Margot Stockie	18.31	8	David Dennis	8.66	8	Audrey Cook	3.23
9	Bob Griffiths	17.17	9	Joan Slover	8.59	9	Richard Papineau	3.03
10	Kathy Russell	16.37	10	Barbara Lindsay	8.54	10	Pat Gascho	2.91
11	Neil Jeffrey	15.70	11	Sue Moses	8.49	11	Kathy Chandler	2.87
12	Diane Bourdeau	13.54	12	Cheryl White	8.17	12	Joan Hartviksen	2.79
13	Bonnie Kains	13.43	13	Nanci Phelan	7.55	13	Valirie Binkle	2.53
14	Sharon King	12.87	14	Shelley Metcalfe	7.06	14	Pat Northey	2.47
15	Scott Hills	12.79	15	Joe Blake	6.52	15	Jacques Druart	2.43
16	John Hanemaayer	11.80	16	Janice Pengelly	6.39	16	John Aldridge	2.40
17	Neil Coburn	11.40	17	Sue McDonald	6.38	17	Judy Charbonneau	2/36
18	Pat McMillan	11.25	18	Elinor Girouard	6.35	18	Jeannie Leforge	2.27
19	Liz McDowall	10.71	19	Brenda Semple	6.16	19	John Lengyel	2.22
20	Mary McClelland	10.63	20	Bob Livermore	6.07	20	Russel Kerr	2.21
21	Frank Fischer	9.28	21	Andy Wilson	6.05	21	Sonja Miner	2.20
22	William Christian	8.61	22	Douglass Grant	6.01	22	Marianne Dziarski	2.19
23	Colin Harrington	8.57	23	Judy Widdecombe	5.99	23	Brian Gaber	2.14
24	Jennifer Verdam	8.48	24	Anita Hanson	5.89	24	Chris Beck	2.08
25	Dave Quarrie	7.81	25	Steve Allen	5.80	25	Carla Laubach	2.02

If you would like to play in a particular game but lack a partner that day, you can either:

- For both online and f2f games, log on to [Pianola](#), click on Partner Finder, and create a Partner Finder advert. This needs to be done at least a few hours in advance of the game.
- For online games only, log in to the game in question and register yourself on the Partnership Desk tab.

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

We have fun in **spades**.

We play with all our **hearts**.

We treat our members like **diamonds**.

Barbara Seagram will be at our **tournament**.