



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – November 13, 2023

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

Looking Ahead

- ♥ [Niagara Regional](#), Tuesday, November 7 – Sunday, November 12
- ♥ Cindy Mahn will be giving a **mini-lesson on pre-empts** at the bridge lab on Monday morning, November 13.
- ♥ **The Wednesday night BBO open game has been cancelled, effective immediately.** It is no more, it has ceased to be, it is bereft of life, it rests in peace. This is an ex-game.
- ♥ Saturday, November 11, **Beginner 2 lessons commence**
- ♥ The F2F games during the weeks starting November 12 and 19 will be **Club Championship games** = extra masterpoints, no extra charge.
- ♥ Saturday, November 18, **NAP District 2 Finals**
- ♥ Malkin Howes will be giving a mini-lesson on initial hand evaluation at the bridge lab on Monday morning, November 20.
- ♥ **BBO Team Game**, Tuesday, November 21, 7:00 pm
- ♥ **Local Sectional at our Club**, Saturday, November 25 and Sunday, November 26.
The November 24 Friday night open F2F game, the November 25 Saturday morning 99er game, the November 25 499er Saturday morning BBO game, and both November 26 Sunday morning BBO games have all been cancelled because of the local sectional.
- ♥ **Royal STaC Week**, Monday to Saturday, December 3-9
- ♥ **Upgraded Club Championships**, week starting December 10
- ♥ **Christmas Parties**, Tuesday afternoon, December 12; Wednesday afternoon, December 13; Friday afternoon, December 15; and Saturday morning, December 16

Local Sectional Update

We currently have **28** pairs (out of 48 available spots) for the Saturday morning game, **27** pairs (out of 48) for the Saturday afternoon game, and **12** teams (out of 24) for the Sunday Swiss. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Volunteers are sought for help with lunch on Saturday, November 25. [Adriaan Kempe](#) is looking for one or two people to help from approximately 12:15 pm – 2:15 pm to set out and monitor the self-serve lunch and do some minor clean-up afterwards.

A Warm Welcome to Our Latest New Member

- Jane Cowan
-



Bakers – Start Your Ovens!

Our club is justifiably proud of its reputation for culinary hospitality (just ask anybody who attended one of our sectional tournaments). So, we would be grateful if our bakers would produce their usual tasty bounty for the players at our local sectional on November 25/26. All you need to do is bring it in to the club on the day and set it on the kitchen counter. The hungry locusts will descend.



Congratulations

to the following local players who won masterpoints during the first few days of the Niagara Regional....

- **Pat Pietrek and Marianne Dziarski**, 2nd in A, Tuesday 99er Pairs
- **Peter Peng and Bob Griffiths**, 10th in A, Tuesday Open Pairs
- Doug Elliott and **Ron Van Der Zwaag**, 5th in B, Tuesday Open Pairs
- **Grant Roberts and Jim Hardy**, 3rd in A, Tuesday Gold Rush Pairs and 5th in A, Wednesday Gold Rush Pairs
- **Andy Wilson and William Sherman**, 4th in B, Tuesday Gold Rush Pairs
- David Reed and **Scott Hills**, 5th in A, Wednesday Open Pairs
- **Neil Jeffrey and Wayne Schroeder**, 5th in C, Wednesday Open Pairs
- **Sue Moses and Brenda Semple**, 3rd in A, Wednesday Gold Rush Pairs
- **David Baker, Diane Bourdeau, Edith Ferber, and David Longstaff**, 2nd in A, Wednesday RR Teams
- **Peter Peng, Robert Griffiths, Ron Van Der Zwaag, and Doug Elliott**, 1st in B, Wednesday RR Teams
- **Adrian Record, Irfan Ashraf, Andrew Risman, and Jennifer Verdam**, 4th, Tuesday-Wednesday KO, Bracket 1



- **Kathy Russell, Susan Lawton, Margot Stockie, and Sharon Boyd**, 1st, Tuesday-Wednesday KO, Bracket 2
-



Help Grow our Bridge Club Today!

Contributed by Isabel Hetherington

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

Learn Bridge in a Day (LBIAD) is scheduled for **Saturday, January 13, 2024, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm** at the GRBC club location.

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

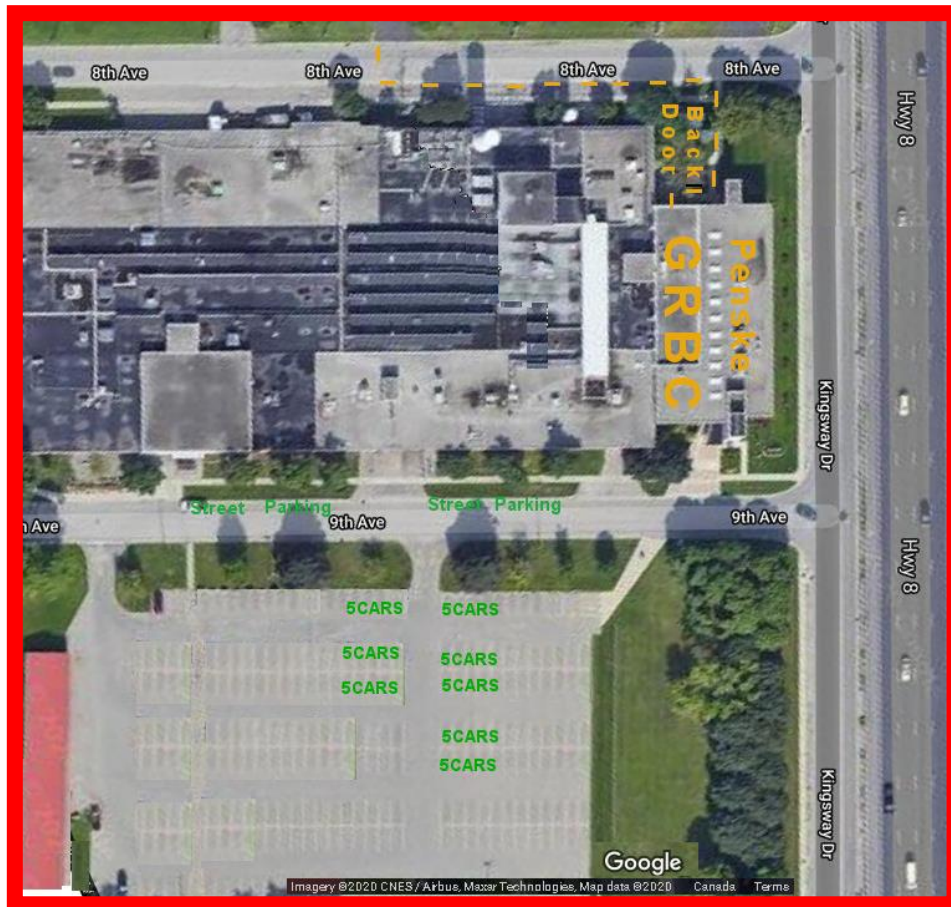
Questions? Need a poster? Contact Isabel at i.hetherington@outlook.com

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

* Oh, and best of all – Beginner lessons follow this one-day course.

** It is not necessary to be a member of our club to take these lessons.

Current Enrollment: **2**



Where to Park

In last week’s Alert, Mrs. Kravitz forgot to mention where you should park if all the GRBC spaces are filled up.

There is always space at the back of the parking lot along the fence and you’re most welcome to park back there – but **ONLY ON THE WEST (DARE) SIDE** (lower left of the photo).

And the walk will probably do you good....



The Game of Bridge Offers Riveting Contracts and Robust Contacts

Contributed by Jim Fox

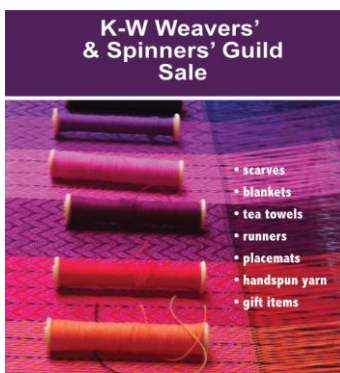
Life certainly has its twists and turns. At times, circumstances create unexpected opportunities that can last a lifetime. My formative years were spent in a very modest home in east London, Ontario, where I could look out of kitchen window at the farm fields across the road. It was a 30-minute walk to the closest bus stop to access the Saturday movie matinee in London's downtown. When I was ten, my grandmother, who had health issues, moved in with my family which created an unexpected opportunity for me. My dad and mother both enjoyed the game of bridge and with my grandmother now living in our home, a fourth player was needed. I became that fourth. To increase my math skills, Dad had taught me to play cribbage at age five. He was just as patient teaching me some of the basic conventions of bridge so I could play with them. My grandmother passed away when I was thirteen and after her passing, I did not play bridge consistently until my post-secondary years at the University of Guelph. Too much of my time was spent in the coffee shop in the basement of the Massey Hall Library playing for bus money. Unfortunately, I walked home on a frequent basis.

It was after my retirement in 1999 that new opportunities to play bridge more frequently presented themselves. In addition to one-four table outings in homes or rented facilities, I learned about the Grand River Bridge Club (GRBC) on Gage Street in Kitchener and was invited to join. As the club's popularity grew, more space was needed and the club moved to its present location at 2481 Kingsway Drive, Kitchener.

Associated with the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL), the GRBC now offers a weekly schedule of duplicate bridge games and teaching labs, both onsite and online. Online games were a necessity during COVID-19 and still remain popular. The club currently has a membership of over 200 people, including members from many RTOERO affiliates. It offers a clean, friendly environment for those wishing to play bridge or for those honing their skills to the highest levels. We often hear comments such as "Why would I want to learn bridge?" or "Isn't it hard to learn?" or "I haven't played in decades" and/or "I don't have a partner".

I learned to play bridge socially with my parents and grandmother and that is still my focus today. I have met new friends and enjoyed the social interactions the game provides. At this stage in my life, I do not have to worry about playing for bus money.

Reprinted from the Retired Teachers of Ontario newsletter with permission



Hello friends,

It's almost that time of year again. We'll be at RIM Park next weekend, November 17, 18, 19. The hours are Friday 1:00 to 9:00, Saturday 10:00 to 6:00, and Sunday 11:30 to 4:00.

Please let everyone know!

Thanks,

Rebecca Kalbfleisch

RIM Park, Waterloo
Friday, Nov. 17, 1pm-9pm
Saturday, Nov. 18, 10am-6pm
Sunday, Nov. 19, 11:30am-4pm



Please Bring Your Own Bags



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.



The Answer Lady was in the teaching room at GRBC giving a lesson on simple overcalls this week. Several readers had written in seeking guidance on that exact topic. There were 11 keen participants, and the lesson stimulated lots of questions and further discussion. One participant even described these lessons as *cappuccino for the brain*. Included is a photo of the group with this author (who usually takes the photos). Thank you to the one player who kindly agreed to snap the shot and to the group as a whole. So, for those unable to attend Monday's session, here is a brief summary.

Overcalls are any bid by your side after opponents open the bidding: $1\clubsuit-1\heartsuit$ or $1\clubsuit-1\spadesuit$ or $1\clubsuit-P-1\diamond-1\heartsuit/1\spadesuit$ are all examples of simple overcalls (an overcall at the one level).

Overcalls occur frequently and interfere with the opponent's exchange of information. Why overcall? You and your partner may have a fit and be able to play in a part score and sometimes find a game contract. If no fit is available, your partner will know what to lead. As we discovered this morning, overcalls take away the opponents' bidding space and sometimes push them higher into territory where they will not make the contract.

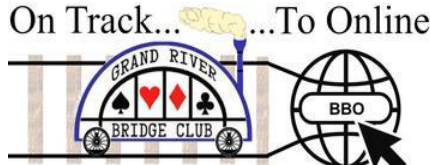
Requirements for an overcall at the one level include: a five-card good suit or a good hand. If your partner is on lead, he is expecting you to be able to take a trick or two. Depending on partnership agreement, a minimum of seven or eight HCPs are needed to make a simple overcall.

The hands shown below are two of the examples used in the lesson to show a simple overcall after opponents open 1♣. An overcall of 1♠ might be bid on the first hand and an overcall of 1♥ on the second hand.

♠ A Q 10 7 4
♥ 8 6 3
♦ K 7 3
♣ 5 3

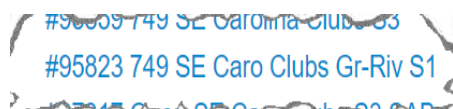
♠ J 7 5
♥ K J 9 5 4
♦ K J 4 3
♣ 7

On Track... ..To Online



Grand River's New Step Child!

Contributed by Jack Cole



At 9:30am on Saturday, November 4, 2023, Grand River Bridge Club and the SE Carolina Club of Clubs delivered "749 SE Caro Clubs Gr-Riv", a healthy addition to Grand River's virtual family. The delivery, completely managed and funded by SE Carolina, was attended by 88 participants from around the world, each of whom will have contributed to GRBC's coffers.

In all seriousness, this SE Carolina sponsored 749er game will run every Saturday morning on BBO, and a portion of every player's entry fee is passed along to us! And don't forget that when you play in any SE Carolina BBO game, GRBC will get some money.

PLEASE SUPPORT our GRBC GAMES as your first priority, as our club receives all the proceeds; then those of SE Carolina. Check the [GRBC schedule](#) for both our online and in-person games.

SE Carolina currently offers 12 games per day ([schedule here](#)), and in November you will be personally refunded \$1.50 BBO dollars if you register 45 minutes or more before the game starts. Type SE in the BBO search bar to easily find their games.

GRBC has laboured hard on our game family. Let's keep all the kids healthy!





Player Profile – Marion Allan

Contributed by Anita Hanson

For today's profile, please meet Sectional Master Marion Allan.

Bridge has been a constant in Marion's life ever since her university days at Western. (In fact, back then it was a little too constant, creating enough distractions and skipped classes that she almost flunked out.)

Fortunately, that didn't happen, and she went on to teach High School Business Studies in Toronto. Marriage brought her back to this area (she is originally from Guelph) a short time later, and she brought her enthusiasm for bridge with her.

Unlike many of us who took a break from playing during the busy middle years, Marion carried on playing socially while continuing to work and raising her two children, forming many bridge-based friendships that have lasted to this day. It was about 10 years ago that she began playing with GRBC and fell in love with duplicate (and also with her fellow duplicate players, of course). Retirement in 2000 gave her more time to play, and she has taken full advantage — now playing every day! Some F2F, some online, some competitive, some simply social. This woman loves bridge.

And it's a good thing. Complications from back surgery in 2019 caused nerve damage that forced her to give up most of her regular activities. No longer able to garden, knit, or play piano, she was left with travel (China, Jordan, Egypt, British Isles — an enthusiastic traveller!) and bridge. Then Covid pulled the plug on travel. Even more than most of us, Marion believes that bridge has saved her sanity through this time.

Marion is still able to go visit her children and four teen/young adult grandchildren, one family in Seattle and one in Montreal, and right now is kept busy decorating a new home that she moved into just a few months ago. (Which is in a building where five of her bridge-playing friends also live. Good choice.) She is also an avid reader, having worked for 20 years in the library of Southwood Secondary in Cambridge.

Favourite tip? Short and to the point: if you can do five clubs, you can do three no trump.

In summing up her approach to the game, Marion says one thing she has learned is... that there is just too much to learn. The best plan for her is to give up trying to master it all and just enjoy. As she has been doing for the last 40-odd years.



Bean There Done That

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

Wimpy never had any money to buy a hamburger and if Popeye would cover the cost, he'd gladly repay Popeye next week. Tuesday at the latest.

Maybe you have an online partner who frantically searches through her purse for the money to buy some BBO dollars. Let's call her Freda Loader. Week after week, Freda comes up with some flimsy excuse for why she can't figure it out. Being the kind and generous person you are, you pay for her BBO entry fee week after week. Finally, Freda's seven-year-old grandson shows her how to add BBO\$ to her account! Freda can transfer BBO dollars from her account into your account. Here's how:

- Sign into BBO;
- Click on the blue "BB\$" button in the upper right corner;
- Click on the "Transfer BB\$"; and
- Fill in the information and click "Transfer".

Life cannot get any simpler. There are three constraints though:

1. You need to have BBO\$ in your BBO account or a seven-year-old grandson;
 2. The maximum transfer amount is 100 BBO\$; and
 3. You can transfer only once every six months (Wimpy designed their transfer system).
-

Three Sheets to the Wind

Meaning: Extremely inebriated.

Historical Context: "Three sheets to the wind" comes from sailing lingo but surprisingly doesn't originate with drunken sailors nor the sails themselves (which look, to many of us, like sheets). The sheets are actually ropes that hold the lower corners of the sails on a ship in place. If one is unfortunate enough to have three sheets loose and flailing in the wind, the sails and the boat will also flail about, much like someone who's had one too many at the bar.

In the 1800s, sailors might refer to someone as anywhere from one to three sheets to the wind, depending on how drunk they were.



Time You Learned our Lessons!

No Longer in the Cards

- We have had to cancel Jack Cole's **Scoring Matters workshop** because of too-low enrollment. A video, however, is available (see below).

Still In the Cards

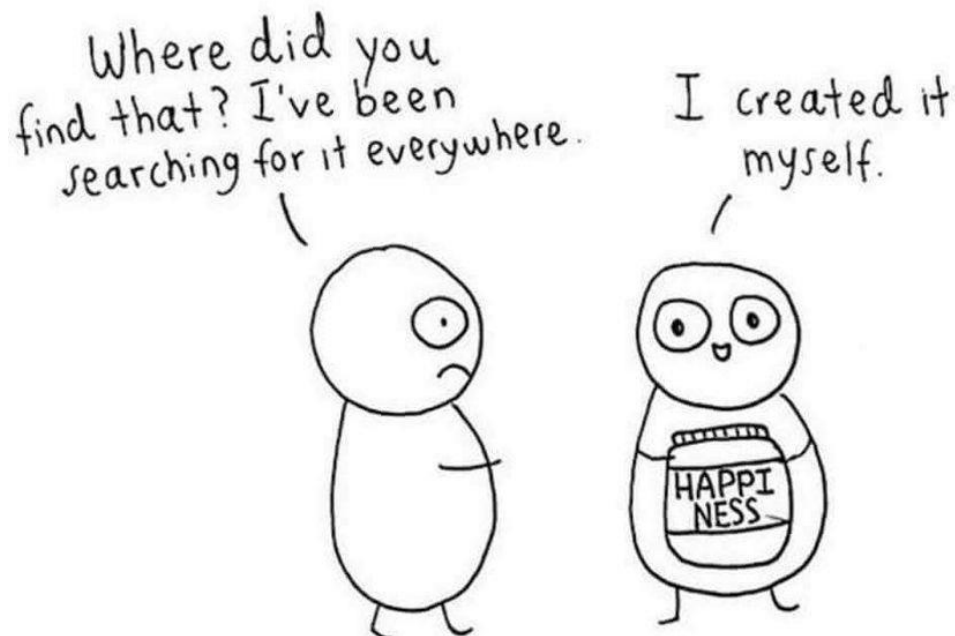
- **Beginner 2 Course**, starting Saturday, November 11, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. Instructor: Sue Moses. In our teaching room. Cost \$75. Current Enrollment **19 BEGINNER**
WARNING: Enrollment is limited to 24 students – only five spots left!
Click [here](#) to register.
-

Continuing

- **Newcomer bridge labs** every Monday morning, 9:00 am – 11:30 am, except on holiday Mondays. Mini-lesson on **one-level overcalls** by Cindy Mahn on Monday, November 13 – no extra charge! \$8 members/ \$10 non-members. Subsequent mini-lessons are as follows: **Initial Hand Evaluation** with Malkin Howes on November 20, and **Planning the Declarer Play in Suit Contracts** with Dave Quarrie.
-

Recorded Lessons

- **Get That Extra Trick by Playing Card Combinations Correctly**, two-hour digital workshop by Stephen Carpenter.
 - **Scoring Matters**, two-hour digital workshop by Jack Cole.
- Pay \$10 in any of the [usual ways](#), and ask [Malkin](#) to send you the link.
-

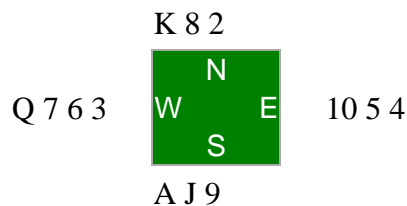




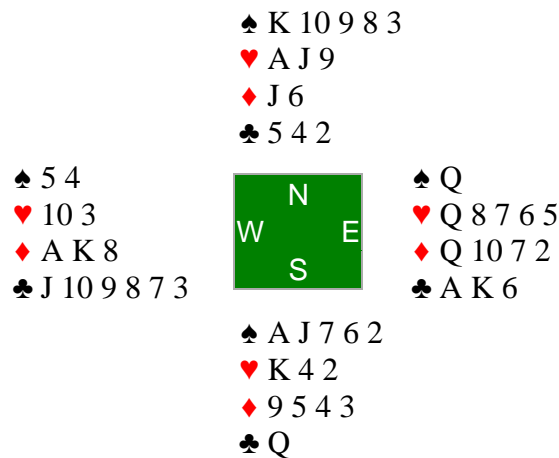
Dear David

A Backward Finesse

I was playing in a local sectional team game and came upon a hand that reminded me of this technique that I encountered many years ago. Let's begin with an illustration. You hold AJ9 and dummy holds K82. In order to garner three tricks in this suit, you would normally lead the 9 to the king and then finesse the jack. What if I told you that you knew that the jack would lose to the queen because that opponent had opened 1NT (15-17 HCP) and was known to have the queen since he had showed only 13 HCP in the other three suits? Now you might say: "In that case, I will hope the queen is doubleton and play the ace on the second round." Nay, nay, I say. The NT bidder has shown exactly two cards in one suit and three cards in another, so he cannot hold a doubleton unless his distribution was 2326. What's left to do?



Since you "know" that West has the queen and it is not doubleton, lead the jack! West must play the queen. You win the king and then lead a second spade to the 9, hoping East has the 10. Below is a hand that further illustrates this concept.



East opened 1♥ and NS ended up in 4♠. After West cashed the ace and king of diamonds, he led the ♣J. East won the ace and tried to cash the king. After drawing two rounds of trump, you note that the only honour card you have not yet seen is the ♥Q. East has shown up with ♣AK, ♦Q & ♠Q = 11 HCP. It would be a horrible-looking 1♥ opening bid if he did not have the ♥Q. Since the normal heart finesse is probably doomed to fail, you must lead the ♥J and hope that West has the ♥10.

If you are anything like me, you live for a moment when something so wonderful happens that you will never forget. Remember this one.

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 October.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	28.60	1	Jim Dalgliesh	11.43	1	George Rybiak	4.44
2	Edith Ferber	16.31	2	Martin Jones	10.96	2	Audrey Cook	4.38
3	Mike Peng	15.63	3	Cheryl White	8.48	3	Brian Gaber	4.25
4	Scott Hills	12.22	4	Andy Martinek	7.64	4	Randall DeKraker	4.12
5	Cindy Mahn	11.55	5	Janusz Poniatowski	7.10	5	Richard Rybiak	4.05
6	Ted Boyd	10.96	6	Lynda Burnett	7.06	6	Don Slowinski	3.84
7	Stephen Young	10.87	7	Judy Beauchamp	6.72	6	Ben Cornell	3.84
8	Bob Griffiths	10.80	8	David Dennis	6.57	8	Pat Northey	3.51
9	Margot Stockie	9.31	9	John Kip	6.17	9	Robert Darby	3.39
10	Neil Jeffrey	8.93	10	Nancy Cattanaach	6.10	10	Russel Kerr	3.29
11	Neil Coburn	8.67	11	Barbara Arthur	5.99	11	Sharon Nesbitt	3.23
12	Liz McDowell	8.58	12	Cheryl Kip	5.89	12	Jim Fox	2.77
13	Bonnie Kains	8.36	13	Bev Hitchman	5.27	13	Pat Pietrek	2.64
14	Suzanne Edwards	8.06	14	Elinor Girouard	5.16	14	Andrew McNaught	2.61
15	Kathy Russell	7.83	15	Janice Pengelly	5.10	15	John Aldridge	2.40
16	Roy Dandyk	7.59	16	Virginia Alviano	4.82	16	Paul Raymond	2.37
17	Moirra Hollingsworth	6.36	17	Nanci Phelan	4.80	17	Debbie Miethig	2.35
18	Steve Carpenter	5.92	18	Denis Williams	4.78	18	Stu Cowan	2.27
19	Peter Peng	5.73	18	Regina Williams	4.78	19	Louise Dawdy	2.25
20	Susan Lawton	5.55	20	Jake Liu	4.70	20	Jane Wilson	2.24
21	Wayne Jordan	5.40	21	Lori Cole	4.41	21	Marianne Dziarski	1.89
22	Malkin Howes	5.08	22	Carl Lucas	4.12	22	Peter Gaasenbeek	1.82
23	Sharon Boyd	4.91	23	Anita Hanson	4.05	23	Sonja Miner	1.69
24	Thea Davis	4.59	24	Kevin Latter	3.98	24	Jacques Druart	1.61
25	John Hanemaayer	4.41	25	Belinda Burt	3.92	25	Carol Gerber	1.55
						25	Judy Johnston	1.55

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 [Joan Slover](#), 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 give mini-lessons at our **club**.