



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

ALERT – March 25, 2024

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

Looking Ahead

- ♥ Jack Cole will be giving a mini-lesson on **Playing in our Online Games** at the Monday morning bridge lab on March 25. **PLEASE BRING YOUR LAPTOP OR IPAD TO THE CLUB SO THAT YOU CAN FOLLOW ALONG.**
- ♥ **GRBC Online Swiss teams game**, Tuesday, March 26, 7:00 pm
- ♥ [Toronto Easter Regional](#), March 26-31
- ♥ Upgraded Club Championship game, **F2F 299 game on Wednesday, March 27 – extra masterpoints**, no extra charge. *Upgraded club championships are awarded to clubs by the ACBL every time ten of their players join the ACBL. The reason this upgrade has been awarded to our 299ers is that they are the source of most of our new ACBL members.*
- ♥ **Our club will be open on Good Friday, March 29** (every Friday that we play bridge is a good Friday).
- ♥ Dave Quarrie will be giving a mini-lesson on **Play of the Hand in No Trump** at the Monday morning bridge lab on April 1.
- ♥ **BCON Online Swiss teams game**, Tuesday, April 2, 7:10 pm (to register, search for the Bridge Centre of Niagara)
- ♥ **Club Championships for F2F games**, Week of April 7
- ♥ Barbara Arthur will be giving a mini-lesson on **DONT (Disturbing Opponents' No Trump)** at the Monday morning bridge lab on April 8.
- ♥ **Online Swiss teams game**, Tuesday, April 9, 7:00 pm
- ♥ **The April 19 Friday night game is cancelled due to the Gatlinburg tournament.**
- ♥ 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

New Members

A warm welcome to new members

- **Greg Schott**
 - **Linda Schott**
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Congratulations to the following local players

who did well at last weekend's local sectional at the Guelph Club....

- **Steve Allen and Joe Blake**, 1/2 in B, Saturday morning B/C/D Pairs
 - **Neil Jeffrey and Sharon Boyd**, 1/2 in B, Saturday morning B/C/D Pairs
 - **Noah Pace and Salvadore Pace**, 2nd in D, Saturday morning B/C/D Pairs
 - **Andrew Widdis and Sheila Charters**, 6th in D, Saturday morning B/C/D Pairs
 - **Ted Boyd and Tom Ramsay**, 3rd in A, Saturday morning A/X Pairs
 - **David Baker and Dave Longstaff**, 5th in A, Saturday morning A/X Pairs
 - **Larry Woods** and Patrice Baker, 3rd in X, Saturday morning A/X Pairs
 - **Sharon Boyd and Neil Jeffrey**, 1st in B, Saturday afternoon B/C/D Pairs
 - **Salvatore and Noah Pace**, 2nd in B, Saturday afternoon B/C/D Pairs
 - Rob MacKinnon and **John Hanemaayer**, 3rd in B, Saturday afternoon B/C/D Pairs
 - **Greg Leppington and Phil DeMontigny**, 4th in D, Saturday afternoon B/C/D Pairs
 - **Valirie Binkle and Mary-Lynn Benjamins**, 5/6 in D, Saturday afternoon B/C/D Pairs
 - **Mike and Peter Peng**, 1st in A, Saturday afternoon A/X Pairs
 - Pat Fung and **Thea Davis**, 2nd in A, Saturday afternoon A/X Pairs
 - **Tom Ramsay and Ted Boyd**, 3rd in A, Saturday afternoon A/X Pairs
 - **Adrian Record and Jenn Verdam**, 4th in A, Saturday afternoon A/X Pairs
 - **Neil Jeffrey, Sharon Boyd, Dave Quarrie, and Roy Dandyk**, 2nd in B, Sunday B/C/D Swiss
 - **Ted Boyd, Diane Bourdeau, Robert Griffiths, and Tom Ramsay**, 2nd in A, Sunday A/X Swiss
 - **David Baker, Dave Longstaff, David Cohen, and Andrew Risman**, 4th in A, Sunday A/X Swiss
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Player Profile – Fumiyo Kawamura

Contributed by Louise Dawdy

This week we are pleased to profile Fumiyo Kawamura. Fumiyo began playing bridge over 45 years ago when living in Toronto with her family. Her family moved around a lot due to her husband's work (President and CEO of Toyota Manufacturing Canada as well as founding project member for the launch of Lexus). Due to visa restrictions, Fumiyo was unable to work while they lived abroad.

When they returned to Japan, Fumiyo joined the JCBL and started playing bridge more seriously. A few years later, when she and her husband Takao landed back in Los Angeles, Fumiyo volunteered at a nursing home for Nikkei people. She well remembers an older gentleman who would cry as he repeated "wonderful, wonderful" when they sang old popular Japanese's children's songs. Fumiyo now realizes that she is the very same age as that older gentleman and reflects on how quickly time flies!

From LA, Fumiyo and her husband moved to Waterloo. Despite knowing about the harsh Canadian winters ahead of time, Fumiyo truly missed the warm Californian weather. Nonetheless, after recovering from an illness Fumiyo eagerly joined a local bridge club, known as Milos' Club. Fumiyo feels that Milos taught her the true essence of duplicate bridge, and within a few years she achieved ACBL's life master title.

When Fumiyo and her husband returned once again to Tokyo for his work, Fumiyo immersed herself in the local bridge community, playing in teams in the morning, pairs in the afternoon, and tournaments on weekends across four different clubs.

After her husband's retirement, he enjoyed playing golf and was commissioned to write a book about Toyota's overseas expansion. Sadly, Takao passed away just after completing the book. Over the years, Fumiyo had kept in touch with Milos, sending him birthday cards every year. Several years after arriving in Tokyo, Fumiyo received a call from Milos, inviting her to visit Canada. As she was feeling a little low, she took Milos up on his kind offer. Fumiyo enjoyed the fine Canadian September weather, - finding that it, golf, and Milos' company were definitely lifting her spirits. She accepted Milos' invitation and moved to Canada.

As with many of us, the pandemic put a damper on Fumiyo's ability to play bridge and led to a long break in play. Despite her age, Fumiyo reflects that while memories seem fresh, forgetting can happen quickly.

Fumiyo has very fond memories of the exciting atmosphere at tournaments and the camaraderie of winning as well as the shared disappointment of losing. She feels that she was indeed lucky to have taken part in and been successful at so many different tournaments, including in Las Vegas, Kentucky, Gatlinburg, Detroit, Orlando, and so many others.

Fumiyo has three children; two sons (one in LA, the other in Tokyo) and a daughter (in Tokyo as well).

Fumiyo's friend, Milos, had a stroke last year and has not been able to play bridge since. His career included many European victories while playing for the Czechoslovakian National Team from 1959 to 1968. Following Russia's invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, Milos escaped to Canada. Milos founded a bridge club in K/W, offering regular games five times a week, often with 20 tables. Milos also offered lessons at many different places (Westmount Golf Course, Guelph Golf Course, and the like) as well as publishing three books and several booklets on bridge.



Eric Murray, pictured with one of his famous cigars

Contributed by Lissa Lowes

This is the first in a series about famous names in bridge.

Eric Murray is one of the most famous Canadian bridge players. He is in the ACBL Hall of Fame and the Canadian Bridge Federation Hall of Fame. With his long time and regular partner, Sami Kehela, another Canadian, they were the most winningest pair in our history,

Here is a list of Murray's wins. It doesn't include the many times he came second, in the hunt until the last card was played.

- North American Bridge Championships – 14 times
- von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs – 1
- Rockwell Mixed Pairs – 1
- Wemher Open Pairs – 2
- Nail Life Master Open Pairs – 1
- Vanderbilt – 2
- Marcus Cup – 1
- Mitchell Board-a-Match Teams – 1
- Chicago Mixed Board-A-Match -2
- Spingold - 3

Murray was a total character, and there are lots of funny stories about the things he said. During the Bermuda Bowl scandal of 1975 when two Italian players were caught passing information by tapping toes, Murray sent a telegram to the USA team saying he was available to play. And he noted, "I wear a size 13 shoe."

Murray was also a very good lawyer, a QC, (Queen's Counsel). In one unusual case, Mr. Murray acted as an expert witness, rather than a lawyer, when the defence called upon him to share his deep knowledge of the game. In 1966, the Toronto police raided the North York Bridge and Social Club expecting to find an illegal poker game. Instead, the attendees were playing bridge. The owner was charged with running a game of chance. Mr. Murray testified that bridge was a game of skill, not chance. The lower court ruled, however, that bridge was a game of chance because the cards were dealt randomly. The case went all the way to the Supreme Court, which upheld the verdict.

After the judgment, Mr. Murray quipped: "If I played bridge like those judges I would agree it was a game of chance."

I really like this quote from Bob Hamman: "You never really beat Murray and Kehela; you were just temporarily ahead of them".

Be sure to google Eric Murray and read all about his interesting life and impact on bridge. For example, he was one of the players who developed the Drury convention (to manage Sami Kehela's propensity to open light in third seat).



Beating the Contract

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Playing in an online team game, in second seat, East opened 1NT. N/S passed throughout as E/W used a puppet Stayman auction to land in 4♥.

The auction and play for the first six tricks were the same at both tables. South led the ♣Q, won by East's ace. East then drew trumps in three rounds and then played the diamonds wrong, leading the ♦K and losing a finesse to North's ♦Q.

Board 13	♠ A K 9 4 2																
North Deals	♥ 9 7																
Both Vul	♦ Q 8 2																
	♣ 7 6 2																
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">♠ J 10 6</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">♠ 8 7 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ K 8 3</td> <td>♥ A Q J 5 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ A J 9 7 5</td> <td>♦ K 10 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ 10 5</td> <td>♣ A K</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♠ Q 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♥ 10 6 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♦ 6 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣ Q J 9 8 4 3</td> </tr> </table>		♠ J 10 6	♠ 8 7 3	♥ K 8 3	♥ A Q J 5 2	♦ A J 9 7 5	♦ K 10 3	♣ 10 5	♣ A K		♠ Q 5		♥ 10 6 4		♦ 6 4		♣ Q J 9 8 4 3
♠ J 10 6	♠ 8 7 3																
♥ K 8 3	♥ A Q J 5 2																
♦ A J 9 7 5	♦ K 10 3																
♣ 10 5	♣ A K																
	♠ Q 5																
	♥ 10 6 4																
	♦ 6 4																
	♣ Q J 9 8 4 3																

At this point, North, in with the ♦Q, was left with ♠AK94 ♦2 ♣62. N/S had just one trick in and needed three more to beat the contract.

At my table, my partner Mike Peng held the North hand and found two good reasons to lead a low spade at Trick 7. First, in a team game beating the contract is the only thing that matters, and to beat this contract we needed to win three spade tricks, not two. We could win three spades only if I (South) held exactly the doubleton ♠Q, leaving three losing spades in both the East and the West hands.

If underleading the top two spades seems a bit of a stretch, consider that the other good reason to lead a low spade was that I was almost certain to hold the ♠Q. Declarer had shown up with ♥AQJ, ♦K, and ♣AK (at Trick 1, I wouldn't have led the queen if I held the king). That makes 17 HCP that East is already known to have started with, making me the heavy favourite to have the missing queen.

At the other table, faced with the same situation when in with the ♦Q, North sighed and then cashed the ♠A and ♠K. When South's ♠Q fell under his king, the hand was over: Dummy's ♠J was Declarer's tenth trick.

Mike did face the slight risk of the embarrassment of winning zero tricks with his ace and king if East had miscounted his hand and held 19 HCP for his 1NT opener or if I had pulled the wrong card from a club suit headed by the king and queen. Sometimes you need to take a tiny risk to get a big reward.

In team games it's worth taking risks trying to put the contract down.



Bean There Done That

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

Years ago, we asked players in our BBO games to show up 20 minutes before the scheduled start of a game. This enabled our directors to set up the game without the chaos of last-minute changes to the number of entry pairs.

The online world evolved and BBO changed to show all of the North American sanctioned games about to start in the next 2 hours. This resulted in very strange behavior: player pairs watch the entry counters to see which games might possibly sport the largest MP purse. It is kind like watching the odds at a horse race track before making a bet or watching the stock ticker on the stock exchange before investing.

- Some of these player pairs watch the entry counters on game choices without joining any of them (yet). The world of BBO players does not 'see' them as a result. These window shoppers are invisible! Finally, they pay/enter a game and the entry counter rises for the world to 'see' their interest in the game.
- Some of these pairs pay/enter a game (the entry counter "sees" them) and continue to watch the entry counters on other games for a better MP opportunity. When they find one, they leave the current game before it starts (counter goes down) and pay/enter a more lucrative game (counter goes up). It's too bad that BBO will refund your entry fee when the player pair leaves the game before it starts.

It is difficult for GRBC games to compete against the big games. But you can help us to avoid the cancellations that sometimes result because of this behavior. Please! If you can:

- Be loyal to GRBC games (or SE Carolina's games if GRBC doesn't have one that fits your schedule);
 - Pay/enter the game with your partner ("be seen") 20-30 minutes before game time. Having the entry counter increase often encourages other pairs to enter as well. Safety in numbers, so to speak. Plus, you can do whatever you want to do during that wait time (do the dishes, pour some wine, rotate the tires...); and
 - Stay there – don't jump ship! Your exit will affect your fellow GRBC players.
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The Four Apostrophe's' of the
apocalypseses's'



Conventional Wisdom

This is the eighth in a series of columns on convention cards. Today, we will look at the rectangle entitled SPECIAL DOUBLES & NOTRUMP OVERCALLS.

SPECIAL DOUBLES	NOTRUMP OVERCALLS
After Overcall: Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Direct: _____ to _____ Systems on <input type="checkbox"/>
Negative <input type="checkbox"/> thru _____	Conv. <input type="checkbox"/> _____
Responsive <input type="checkbox"/> thru _____ Maximal <input type="checkbox"/>	Balancing: _____ to _____
Support: Dbl. <input type="checkbox"/> thru _____ Redbl <input type="checkbox"/>	Jump to 2NT: 2 Lowest <input type="checkbox"/> Minors <input type="checkbox"/>
Card-showing <input type="checkbox"/> Min. Offshape T/O <input type="checkbox"/>	Conv. <input type="checkbox"/> _____

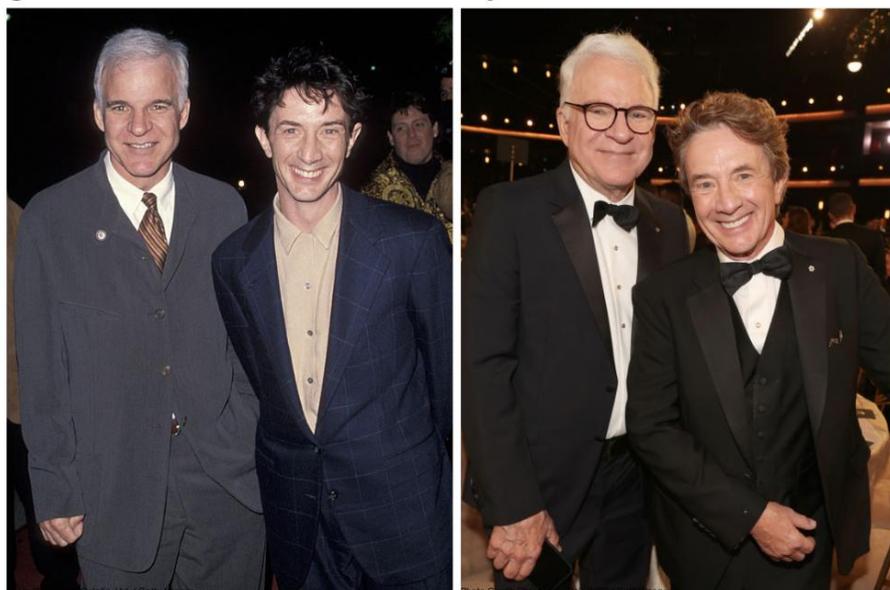
In the SPECIAL DOUBLES box

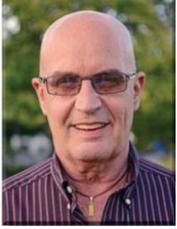
- Check the Negative box and write **3 spades** on the line. This just means that you and your partner use negative doubles and that they are on up to and including the 3 spades level but not above that. If by chance you don't use negative doubles (or indeed any of the other special doubles), do nothing.

In the NOTRUMP OVERCALLS box

- Beside **Direct**: write **15 to 18**. This is not announceable.
- Tick the **Systems on** box if you and your partner have agreed to use Stayman and Jacoby transfers over your partner's 1NT overcall.
- Beside **Balancing**: write **12 to 14**. This means that if you overcall 1NT in the passout seat, you are promising fewer points than if you overcall 1NT in the direct (right after the opponent's bid) seat.
- Beside **Jump to 2NT**: tick the Minors box if your unusual no trump bid promises at least five clubs and five diamonds. Tick the 2 Lowest box if your unusual no trump bid promises at least five-five in the two lowest unbid suits. For what it's worth, the 2 Lowest is more usual.

Martin Short on first meeting Steve Martin: "I walked into his house and it was so beautiful. There were Picassos and Hoppers on the wall and I said to him 'how did you get that rich because I've seen your work?'"





Dear David

Zia Later (get it?)

Zia Mahmood is a Pakistani-American professional bridge player. He is a World Bridge Federation and American Contract Bridge League Grand Life Master. As of April, 2011, he was the 10th-ranked World Grand Master.



About an hour before I wrote this article, I was reminded that my recent series of recollections did not include the two occasions that I played against Zia.

The first time I played against him was (I believe) a Canadian tournament. After I finished wondering why someone of his stature would be playing in the frozen North, I sat down and prepared to show him that we were not afraid of him. At that time (a long, long time ago), his hair most mostly still black. The ladies of the bridge world were all in love with him. At the table, he had two ladies kibitzing behind him on his left, a third lady on his right, and a fourth on the other side of the table (presumably so she could stare lovingly into his eyes as he played). I was determined to show him what Canadians were made of.

On the first board, he doubled me in 3♣. I had all four hands mapped out in my head. I knew how to make it! I couldn't wait to see the light dim in the eyes of his groupies. I got so excited, I forgot what I was doing and went down one, going from a top board to a bottom board. The rest of the round was a blur, as my comeuppance was complete. "Pride goeth before a fall."

Many years later, I was playing in a Life Master pairs at a national tournament. It was a three-day event. The first two days were qualifying events and the third day was the final. In the final, they were using screens. A board is placed diagonally across the table with a cut-out in the bottom. You can see only the board, the bidding, and one opponent. Alerts and explanations are done using paper so that players on the other side can't hear what is being said.

About halfway through the final, my unseen opponent doubled me in 3♣ and butchered the defence, letting me make it. On the next hand, my opponent's incompetence led me to believe that his silly bidding deserved to be punished, so I doubled him in a partscore - which he easily wrapped up. When I got up to leave the table, I peeked around the board and saw you-know-who smiling benignly at me. "Pride goeth before a fall." From that point onwards, I made it a point to look at my opponent on the other side of the screen before I sat down. Lesson learned.



No. 137

♠ KQ75
♥ J76
♦ J654
♣ A3



♠ AJ10864
♥ A432
♦ Q
♣ Q10

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All pass			

I was South declaring a 4♠ contract, and West led the ♦K. As my partner put down his dummy, I realized that he had opened with only 11 HCP. Everyone followed suit.

At Trick 2, West led his ♥10 to dummy's ♥J and East's ♥Q. I ducked.

At Trick 3, East put the ♥5 on the table. If you were in my shoes, what would you do now?

SOLUTION

You have four potential losers: two hearts, one diamond, and one club. There is nothing you can do about your red suit losers, so you should turn your all thoughts to avoiding a club loser. Realistically, your only chance is to find the missing hearts divided 3-3, which is only about a 35% chance - not great, but better than nothing. So, your plan should be to develop your fourth heart in order to discard a club loser on it later. So you might as well duck again at Trick 3. West will probably take the trick with his ♥9 (as he had led the ♥10 first).

West will probably do one of two things.

1. Exit with another heart if he has one (as indeed he has). East will play his ♥K, as you hoped and prayed! You take the trick with your ♥A. Your fourth heart is good now.
2. Exit with a trump, whereupon you will draw all of the outstanding trumps and then play your ♥A, crossing your fingers that both opponents will follow suit. Yes, they do!

Once trump is drawn, you can cash your good heart and pitch dummy's club loser on it.

Here is the full hand.

	♠ KQ75	
	♥ J76	
	♦ J654	
	♣ A3	
♠ 9		♠ 32
♥ 1098		♥ KQ5
♦ AK873		♦ 1092
♣ K852		♣ J9764
	♠ AJ10864	
	♥ A432	
	♦ Q	
	♣ Q10	

It would be easy to overlook the potential of your A432, but

HAPPINESS IS



*...finding pleasure in the
tiny things in life.*

Of course they do. Their feet can barely touch the pedals. Cut them some slack.



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 February.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	23.70	1	Judy Beauchamp	10.05	1	Brian Gaber	8.44
2	Edith Ferber	17.45	2	John Kip	9.91	2	Andrew Widdis	7.33
3	Ted Boyd	16.67	3	Jack Cole	9.85	3	Mark Sherwood	7.11
4	Kathy Russell	14.20	4	Cheryl Kip	9.51	3	Doug Fickling	7.11
5	Robert Griffiths	13.50	5	Rick Arthur	9.43	5	Paul Raymond	6.94
6	David Wilson	11.89	6	Susan Durance	8.59	6	Sheila Charters	5.79
7	Lori Cole	11.24	7	Jim Dalglish	8.51	7	George Rybiak	5.68
8	Roy Dandyk	10.55	8	Carolyn Baechler	8.04	8	Randall DeKraker	5.37
9	Mike Peng	10.37	9	Denis Williams	7.65	9	Richard Rybiak	5.04
10	Neil Jeffrey	9.57	9	Regina Williams	7.65	10	Sharon Nesbitt	4.65
11	Stephen Young	9.48	11	Louise Dawdy	7.31	11	Russel Kerr	4.58
12	Tony Verhoeven	7.44	12	Kevin Latter	6.90	12	Julia Prendiville	4.29
13	Steve Carpenter	7.40	13	Elinor Girouard	6.44	13	Debbie Miethig	4.22
14	Dave Quarrie	6.77	14	Kim Wakeford	6.11	14	Pat Pietrek	4.16
15	Wayne Schroeder	6.26	15	Nancy Cattanach	5.80	15	Peter Gaasenbeek	4.10
16	Moirra Hollingsworth	6.04	16	Janice Pengelly	5.61	16	Kathy Chandler	3.93
17	Scott Hills	5.66	17	David Dennis	5.48	17	Robert Darby	3.81
18	Malkin Howes	5.49	18	Renate Boucher	5.38	18	Jeannie Leforge	3.38
19	John Hanemaayer	5.40	19	Robert Gilck	5.34	19	Phil De Montigny	3.34
20	Barbara Arthur	4.99	20	Cheryl White	5.05	20	John Snowden	3.10
21	Margot Stockie	4.92	21	Brenda Semple	4.93	20	Ken Hundert	3.10
22	Dave Embury	4.74	22	Doug Grant	4.33	22	Marianne Dziarski	3.01
23	Sharon Boyd	4.68	23	William Sherman	4.21	23	Don O'Bright	2.96
24	Diane Bourdeau	4.29	23	Andy Wilson	4.21	23	Richard Wehrle	2.96
25	Thea Davis	3.87	25	Joe Blake	4.15	25	Joan Hartviksen	2.91

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 have some very interesting people at our **club**.