



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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ALERT – June 7, 2021

Top Online 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	Mike Peng	33.75	1	Shelley Metcalfe	15.75	1	Mary Lynn Benjamins	6.98
2	David Baker	32.76	2	Stephen Nantes	14.81	2	Nancy Cattanach	6.84
3	Cindy Mahn	24.46	3	Brian Kirkconnell	14.48	3	Virginia Alviano	6.69
4	Robert Griffiths	23.24	4	Suzanne Edwards	13.25	4	Aggie Udvari	6.43
5	David Longstaff	22.43	5	Ron Lawrence	12.85	5	Noah Pace	5.86
6	Margot Stockie	19.63	6	Barbara Arthur	12.48	6	Martin Jones	5.77
7	Steve Carpenter	18.29	7	Salvatore Pace	10.34	7	Sue McDonald	5.62
8	Colin Harrington	17.51	8	John Kip	9.27	8	Christine Kelly	5.53
9	Bruce Roberts	17.48	8	Cheryl Kip	9.27	9	Belinda Burt	5.40
10	Ted Boyd	16.99	10	Margie Whyte	9.17	10	Marg Sanderson	5.24
11	Moira Hollingsworth	15.27	11	Karen Whitworth	9.02	11	Patricia Malvern	4.77
12	Tom Ramsay	14.06	12	David Embury	8.62	12	Anita Hanson	4.76
13	Liz McDowell	12.92	12	Roy Dandyk	8.62	13	Audrey Cook	4.64
14	Edith Ferber	11.08	14	Lynda Burnett	7.99	14	Joan Lawson	4.58
15	Dianne Aves	11.03	15	Kathy Russell	7.58	15	Isabel Hetherington	4.46
16	Neil Jeffrey	10.99	16	Cheryl White	7.20	16	Jane Rushby	4.34
17	John Vandergrift	10.59	17	Nanci Phelan	7.19	16	Sue Andersen	4.34
18	Adrian Record	10.54	18	Sandy Lee	7.03	18	Jane Wilson	4.27
19	Pat McMillan	9.77	19	Kevin Latter	6.82	19	Joan Slover	4.25
20	Malkin Howes	9.28	20	Janet Howell	6.78	20	Joani Horvath	4.23
21	Sandy Graham	9.08	21	Donna Angst	6.65	21	Elinor Girouard	4.22
22	David Wilson	8.64	22	Casey Baron	6.45	22	Brian Gaber	4.01
23	Ronna Hoy	7.33	23	Lori Cole	6.29	22	Rick Arthur	4.01
24	Jim Burgess	5.94	24	John Hanemaayer	6.10	24	Christine Baron	3.83
25	Kandis Smith	5.92	25	Fred Young	6.05	24	Carol Filipowitsch	3.69



Congratulations

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

Junior Master

- **Bill Mcnaughton**
- **Patty McKenty**

Club Master

- **Audrey Cook**

Sectional Master

- **Jean Girard**

Regional Master

- **Brian Kirkconnell**
- **Stephen Nantes**

NABC Master

- **Ron Angst**

Advanced NABC Master

- **Jake Liu**

Gold Life Master

- **Mike Peng**

And to the following Unit 249 players who won their flight in last weekend's tournament.

Saturday Pairs

1. **Mike Peng and Stephen Carpenter**, Open Game (both sessions)
2. Andrew Firko and Mel Norton, Open Game (single session)
3. Larry Norman and Marilyn Ellis, 999er Game (both sessions)
4. **Wayne Schroeder and Adriaan Kempe**, 999er Game (single session)
5. **John and Cheryl Kip**, 299er Game (both sessions)
6. **Lori and Jack Cole**, 299er Game (single session)

Sunday Swiss

1. **Cindy Mahn, Tom Ramsay**, and Maria and David Deaves, Open Game
2. **Ronna Hoy, Diane Jamieson, and Patrick and Patricia McLachlan**, 999er Game
3. Betty Jane Grant, Carol Zettel, and Anne and Art Vandecoevering, 299er Game

We had a great turnout: 58 tables on Saturday and 28 (all-day) tables on Sunday.

Thanks for playing!

A warm welcome to the following new ACBL members.

- **Margaret Fannon**
 - **Judi Gardi**
 - **Janis Mauch**
 - **Don O'Bright**
 - **Nadine Parsons**
 - **Nancy Webb**
-

Membership Information

As we announced last week, the 2021-2022 cost of a membership in our club is only \$50 – a bargain at the price!

- In order to *renew* your membership, all you need to do is send in payment.
- In order to *take out a membership for the first time*, you need to fill out [our membership form](#) and send in your payment.

Memberships are valid from July 1 – June 30 each year.

Pay by cheque: Payable to Grand River Bridge Club and mail to: Bev Pope, 40 Piccadilly Square, New Hamburg ON, N3A 0C7

OR

Pay by e-transfer: Recipient: Grand River Bridge Club

Email: clubmanager@grandriverbridgeclub.com

A warm welcome to the following players who have recently joined our club for the first time.

- **John Aldridge**
- **Stephanie Hirano**
- **Monica Hirano**
- **Colin Lafferty**
- **Nancy Webb**



One Ringa Dingy, Two Ringa Dingys

Not that you're likely to be calling our club's phone any time soon, but we have a new telephone number. Our new number is **519-893-4595**.





Rookie Ramblings – Bridge Friendships

Contributed by Debbie Miethig, aka Dulcimer D

When Malkin asked me to consider writing this week's Alert message for Rookies, and offered up the subject of "Bridge Friendships", I jumped at the chance! Here are my phases of bridge friendships over the last four years.

Phase I—Bridge Lessons, Fall of 2017

We joined with one other couple. Date night. Expectation was to play a new game together. I still get together with these friends - just not over bridge!

Phase II—Bridge Labs

No partner required! Just show up and the friendly club members would find you someone to play with. It was like that "Cheers" sitcom years ago, where the people at the bar cheered when you walked in. But in this case, they were looking for a fourth at a table or a partner for someone!

Thank you to Bill and Bev Pope and Jean Farhood, and their team of volunteers. You were awesome at making all of us feel welcomed and there were NO stupid questions!

Phase III—Fun Games

A few of us took our lab learning to our homes for weekly meetings. Thank you to Ellen, Sue, Cheryl, Bobby, Fern, and Barbara for including me. We became our own experts, spouting out what to do in various situations. LOL. During the Summer of 2018, Jean F talked Bobby and me into attending a tournament at Bingeman's. She said we would get free muffins and have some great experience playing in this "Swiss Tournament". Bobby and I are still laughing about that experience. Where was the prize for coming in last?!

Barbara is my partner these days, and her husband Blake wanted to get in on some bridge playing hoping for a weekly evening event with both Mike and me. Weekly? Week night? Who has time for that? So, we started playing once or twice a month.

THEN ALONG CAME COVID!

Phase IV—Online Fun Games

I remember being asked if I wanted to play a weekly fun game with a group of women prior to COVID. Weekly I said?! Oh dear, I don't have time for that what with all my other commitments. LOL.

Meeting new people via conference calling, ZOOM and SKYPE. We keep our videos on initially for a visual greeting and then turn them off and enjoy everyone's voices and conversation. It feels like being at a card table with them. We missed our bridge labs where we could ask for help. So, we devised a way to engage a coach/mentor. Thank you to George Pepall and Bev Pope for their willingness to step in for a few games to keep us on track. And thank you to all our workshop leaders who managed to figure out a way to provide us with some online instruction...so greatly appreciated.

Now I am playing at least three fun games a week and sometimes more — my lifeline to friendships. Something to look forward to Can't wait to see these people in person so I can hug each one Thank you Barb Neibert, Anita Hanson, Barbara Hull, Gay Booth, Rosemary Newkirk, Helen Tompa.

Phase V—Online Tournaments

Now playing one to two tournaments a week. We will need to put our aka names on our name tags when we return to the club so we can put a face to our BBO names. The chatting after the round while waiting for the next couple to join has been fun. Some more willing to engage than others. Reminiscing about having to count cards before playing, holding those cards back so people can't look into your hand. New players not really knowing how to use the bidding boxes, and then the accidental knock-overs with cards everywhere on the floor! And for sure don't be loud when you are enjoying yourself because you will get shhhhhhhed! And then there is that oddness of someone welcoming you to their table on BBO, when we all haven't even changed the chair we are sitting on!

Who are these people? Pseudo names. Some list their real name on their profile while others choose to keep you guessing. But regularly playing with them you begin to get a genuine feeling that they remember you when they say hello to you using your real names.

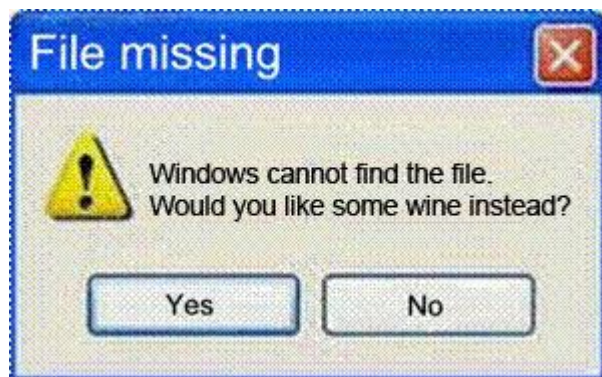
Can't wait to meet up with Rhiney & dgolfr, Worke & Valirie8, Sunnydai & Ginnyplay, PLT47 with his smiling face and his partner Jacyuu with her friendly wave, along with math lover and Monika0902, pattymck, and her partner Cattty and her aka name of Xxx Xxx!

I remember my first game with playing against Fiddle27 and fmac20 in a tournament. My partner's name is harperh, and mine is Dulcimer D. We joked in the chat line that we were practically a band!

Of course, honorable mention to Muskoka100 and vernonawalk, pfc2020 and jml2020, rxjoan and Cagney60, ppietrek and mdziarski2, Kindy1, and sue_anders, and let's not forget our tournament host vacb129866! Even though we are not close friends in the true sense of the word, believe it or not you are my bridge friends and it is fun to recognize your names when we play in these tournaments.

When did I realize these friendships were so important? Just before Christmas during a fun weekly game, we paused our playing and shared our stories about how we were going to celebrate the holiday. Each sharing how she was going to make the most of it. Some sharing that they weren't going to be able to see or touch anyone. COVID has been so mean! It was my turn, and all I wanted to do was just say "Thank you for being part of my weekly activities" when I found myself choking back my emotions. In that moment, I realized how important these bridge friendships had truly been to me over the course of all these months. You have kept me sane, engaged, motivated, and the promise of a better time to come has kept me going.

Thank you all!



LESSONS NOT YET LEARNED

There are now only two lessons left between now and September. You have been warned!



Overcalls – The first step in competitive bidding

It's not too late to sign up for this workshop.

Level: **Novice**

Instructor: Stephen Carpenter

Date: Wednesday, June 9, 2021, 9:30 am - noon



Balancing

It's not too late to sign up for this workshop.

Level: **Intermediate**

Instructor: Malkin Howes

Date: Monday, June 14, 2021, 9:30 am - noon

How to Register and Pay

- Click [here](#) for more information about and to register for our workshops (\$20 for members, \$25 for non-members).
 - Click [here](#) for information about how to pay for your lessons (scroll down).
-



Is This Six Diamond Tricks???? Or Four?

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Board 7	♠ K 8 6										
South Deals	♥ A Q J 5 2										
Both Vul	♦ 2										
	♣ 9 5 4 3										
♠ Q 10 9	♣ 9 5 4 3	♠ 7 5 4 3									
♥ 9 7 3	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♥ K 6
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♦ K J 9 8		♦ A 7 6 5 4 3									
♣ A K Q		♣ 2									
	♠ A J 2										
	♥ 10 8 4										
	♦ Q 10										
	♣ J 10 8 7 6										

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
1 N	Pass	2 N	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 N	All pass

This hand shows some of the aggressive bidding that sometimes comes with team games. Playing in pairs, you would expect E/W to settle into a comfortable part score in diamonds. In a team game, though, after South's pass West opened 1NT, North passed and East bid 2NT. E/W played this as a 'transfer' to diamonds. Now the NT opener had two choices. If he 'liked' diamonds, that is if he held Kxx or better in diamonds, he would bid 3♣. If he didn't like diamonds, he would simply bid 3♦.

Why have this differentiation? Just for hands like this! When West bid 3♣, showing diamond values, East (with high hopes of six diamond tricks) took a shot at NT. Perhaps foolhardy but he wanted an interesting hand to write a blurb about.

North led his fourth-best heart, and Declarer had just one chance to stop the hearts. He played the king. It won and now the contract had a chance.

But Declarer has to be very careful with the diamonds. If they split 2-1, the play of the ace and king will clear the suit, no problem, but with the unfortunate location of all of the smaller diamonds in the dummy and all of the larger ones in declarer's hand, the suit blocks and there is no entry to the dummy to cash the last two diamonds.

The only way to enjoy all of the diamond tricks is for Declarer to win the fourth diamond trick in the dummy with the ace. Ergo, he has to win the first three diamond tricks in his hand.

If he leads the ♦3 from Dummy at Trick 2 and South plays the 10, there are only two layouts that will let West get six diamond tricks.

1. If South has played the 10 from a holding of QT, then West has to play the jack from his hand, then the king, then the 9 and 8, overtaking the 8 with Dummy's ace.
2. If South has played the 10 from a holding of 10 2, then West has to play the king, crashing North's queen, then again playing all of his diamonds before overtaking the fourth diamond with Dummy's ace.

When my partner declared this hand, he took South's play of the 10 as being more likely to be from QT than T2, so he played his jack and it became a happy story (from our point of view). On this hand, the first-round finesse is the only winning play, even though the play of the ace and king would bring the queen down.

Perhaps somewhere in the world (but not in our club, of course) there are players who would recognize they had a problem only *after* winning their ♦K at Trick 2 and try to solve the problem by 'claiming' ten tricks consisting of six diamonds, three clubs, and one heart. For sure, the diamonds all look like winners.

 **It's always a good idea to be careful when accepting claims.**

Audrey's Favourite Bridge Quotes: No. 23



It is not the handling of difficult hands that makes the winning player. There aren't enough of them. It is the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones.

Alan Sontag



Dear David

Singular Success

These example hands are presented in order to help you see that high-card points are not the only route to makeable games and slams. Shortness and length are often more important factors.

N North				
♠	5			
♥	A93			
♦	AKJ9762			
♣	J7			
W	N	E	S	
			Pass	1♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♥	
Pass	Pass	Pass		
S South				
♠	J98			
♥	KQ854			
♦	4			
♣	AQ64			

The standard agreement of the meaning of a jump-shift is that it shows a strong hand. If you play mini-splinters, a jump by either opener or responder shows support for partner's suit and a singleton or void in the suit bid.

North's 2♠ bid on this hand shows a singleton or void in spades, with a least 3-card heart support. South started with 3 potential losers in spades. Now he only has at most one spade loser and he jumps to game, even though he has a minimum opening bid.

In general, when you have a fit (hearts, in this case) with a singleton and your partner also has a singleton, the odds of you making game are strong, even with less than half the high-card strength! Most of the field got to 4♥ on this hand, but the lesson about added strength when you have short suits is still valid.

N North				
♠	K3			
♥	10987			
♦	AQJ87			
♣	97			
W	N	E	S	
			Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass	
Pass				
S South				
♠	A962			
♥	4			
♦	K6542			
♣	A52			

My personal rules for what you need to make an opening bid:

1. Any hand with 13+ high-card points (HCP);
2. Most 12-point hands unless they are flat (4333 distribution);
3. Any 11-point hand with a small singleton;
4. Any 10-point hand with a void;
5. Any 9-point hand with a five-card suit and a six-card suit.

Many would not view South's hand as worth an opening bid, but with 2½ quick tricks (an ace is a quick trick and a king is half a quick trick), it fits my idea of an opener, even though the spot cards are a little threadbare.

Systemically, 1♦ showed five-plus diamonds and North could not bid 3♦ over 1♠ because that would be a mini-splinter (spade support and diamond shortness). North should have bid 4♦ which would get them to the cold 5♦. Live by the sword...

N North				
♠10964				
♥Q32				
♦J9				
♣AK63				
W	N	E	S	
			1♠	
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	
Pass	Pass	Pass		
S South				
♠AJ872				
♥A10854				
♦A102				
♣				

2 NT showed a limit raise or better (10+ HCP) in spades. South's bid of 3♣ showed zero or one clubs, and that made North's club king go down in value, so he tried to sign off in 3♠.

Generally, when there is a signoff in these auctions, it is because the responder's strength has dropped below 10 HCP because of a reduction in the value of his secondary honours in the short suit. The secondary honours in this hand are the ♠K, ♣Q & ♣J.

Normally, when you still have 10+ points after removing the secondaries, you should still proceed to at least a game. So, South has 13 HCP and knows North has fewer than 10 "working" HCP, so the total is at most 22 HCP. Why did he go to game?

Aces are under-rated and the void is a bonus. Spades split 2-2 and West had the ♥K, so declarer made 11 tricks on just 23 HCP.

N North				
♠AJ103				
♥				
♦AJ10863				
♣862				
W	N	E	S	
			1♦ Pass 1♥	
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	
Pass				
S South				
♠KQ74				
♥AKJ42				
♦K2				
♣J7				

The North hand has only 10 HCP, but the two tens that sit alongside the two jacks, the two under-rated aces, the void, and the six-card suit makes this hand easily worth an opening bid at the one-level.

Once North rebid 1♠, South was too strong to just show a strong spade raise, so he temporized with 2♣ (fourth-suit forcing). This particular pair played that bid as a game-forcing spade raise, so North jumped all the way to 4♠.

Rule: When you are in a game-forcing auction, a jump to game shows a weak hand. A simple raise shows more than a minimum opener and allows responder to further describe his hand by cue-bidding. Most tables would get to game anyway even if North passed the first time, but that doesn't detract from North's original assessment. The opponents did not lead a club and the extremely friendly lie of the cards allowed declarer to make 13 tricks!

N North				
♠AQ109				
♥J942				
♦AQ93				
♣8				
W	N	E	S	
			1♦ Pass 1♥	
Pass	3♣	Dbl	4♥	
Pass	Pass	Pass		
S South				
♠KJ				
♥AKQ108				
♦J75				
♣1095				

When North showed club shortness and four hearts with his 3♣ bid, South had a way to ask for a further description of North's hand, but chose to just jump to game. Because hearts split 2-2, declarer threw two diamonds on the spades and cross-ruffed for 12 tricks.

Even if South had asked, North would have shown a singleton club and 11-14 HCP. and South would have stopped in game. So, slam makes with 27 HCP. Actually, since the diamond queen is useless, it is a 25-point slam.

FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS

Jake's Challenges (#25)

♠ K 10 4 2
♥ Q 9 5 4 3
♦ 3
♣ 6 5 3



♠ Q 9 7 3
♥ 8
♦ A K Q 9 8
♣ Q J 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	Pass	1 N	Pass
Pass	2 ♠	All pass	

I was South and declaring 2♠. West led the ♠A and East followed with the ♠J. West continued with the ♠5. I played a small spade from the dummy and West discarded the ♥2 (upside-down carding showing a preference for the heart suit). I took this trick with my ♠7. Plan the play.

SOLUTION

Counting your winners, you have the trump trick that you already won and two more sure trump winners, along with three top diamonds = six tricks in total. To make your contract you need two more tricks. If the diamonds behave, you have no worries at all, but that seems unlikely given the fact that you have only six diamonds and are missing the jack and the ten. Your scattered honours in hearts and clubs might come in handy, but first you should give diamonds a whirl. It would be nice if you could ruff two diamonds, but your clever opponents have already foiled this plan by leading trump. However, you still might be able to ruff one of your diamonds in dummy, as with any luck diamonds will split 4/3 (a 62% chance). And if diamonds turn out not to be your best friend after all, you can always try to develop an extra trick or two in hearts or clubs.

At Trick 3, instead of drawing trump cash your ♦Q and at Trick 4 play a small diamond and ruff it in the dummy with the ♠K! Then lead the ♠10 from the board and overtake it with your ♠Q. Next, draw West's last trump with your last trump. Now cross your fingers and play the ace and king of diamonds: you will be rewarded by the fall of the ♦10. Here is the full hand.

♠ K 10 4 2
♥ Q 9 5 4 3
♦ 3
♣ 6 5 3

♠ A 8 6 5
♥ 10 6
♦ 10 7 5 4
♣ 10 8 7



♠ J
♥ A K J 7 2
♦ J 6 2
♣ A K 9 2

♠ Q 9 7 3
♥ 8
♦ A K Q 9 8
♣ Q J 4

As you see, if you had drawn all the trumps right away you would end up down two. Ruffing that diamond at Trick 4 led to two precious additional tricks - the ruff itself and the established fifth diamond.



North American Pairs Qualifying Games


If you are interested in earning extra red master points, then read on.

Our club will be running special North American Pairs (NAP) Qualifying Games Monday to Friday on the weeks of June 7 to 11 and June 14 to 18. Players who do well can move on to compete at the Unit and National level. Players can qualify at three different levels: open, under 2500, and under 500. Please note that Life Masters cannot qualify in the under 500 games. For those dates, all regularly-scheduled virtual club games that are 499er or higher will be NAP games. Note that the Sunday 499er game will not be a NAP game.

In order to provide NAP qualifying games for the under 2500 category, **we will be changing the Thursday evening 999er games to 2499er games. This change is for these two weeks only.**

Game fees are \$7, and double master points will be awarded, ½ red and ½ black.

Coming Virtual Events

- Friday, June 4, 12:30 pm, **99er game, (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Friday, June 4, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$5**
- Friday, June 4, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$5**
- Saturday, June 5, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Sunday, June 6, 10:00 am, **499er game, (18 boards) \$5**
- Monday, June 7, 12:30 pm, **49er game (18 boards @ 8 minutes) \$5**
- Monday, June 7, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7 NAP**
- Monday, June 7, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$7 NAP**
- Tuesday, June 8, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Tuesday, June 8, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7 NAP**
- Wednesday, June 9, 9:30 am – noon, **Overcalls Workshop**
- Wednesday, June 9, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) \$7 NAP**
- Wednesday, June 9, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Wednesday, June 9, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7 NAP**
- Thursday, June 10, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) \$5**
- Thursday, June 10, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) \$7 NAP**
- Thursday, June 10, 6:30 pm, **19er game \$5**    
- Thursday, June 10, 7:00 pm, **2499er game (24 boards) \$7 NAP**    

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

- ♠ Log in 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. OR
- ♠ Log in to the game in question and register yourself on the Partnership Desk tab.

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

We have fun in **spades**.
We play with all our **hearts**.
We treat our members like **diamonds**.
We have a new telephone number at our **club**.