



QUARTERLY

The Fourth Quarter of 2023 in Review

Mobridge Newsletter 2.0

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With this issue we are refreshing the Mobridge Newsletter. After a year as a monthly newsletter, we are moving to a quarterly format. This will allow the newsletter to include features on the play of the game in addition to reporting Mobridge events. This first issue in the quarterly format includes what we hope will be two new regular newsletter features. Max Rutherford will be contributing columns on the play of a featured hand and Nancy Strachan will be contributing columns that look at the game from the perspective of the director.

The newsletter will continue to report on significant events at the club. This issue reports on the special Halloween pairs game played at the end of October and the holiday party and game played on December 15. Each issue will continue to feature a profile of one of the club's members. We have a profile of Amy Yin in this quarter.

As always, any contributions and suggestions you may have for your newsletter are appreciated.



Waiting for the Mobridge 2023 Holiday Party Game to Commence

Mobridge Holiday Party

On Friday, February 15, MObridge held its annual holiday party at the Sherwood Village premises. Socializing commenced at 5:30 p.m. with a good crowd in attendance enjoying a wide selection of sandwiches, snack foods and desserts. A thank you to the many members that brought the fantastic desserts. At 6:30, club president **Lee Stem** made a few remarks welcoming everybody to

the social and game. **Linda Planeta** than spoke and announced that the club had received a special gift of \$5,000 from the estate of Wendy Wade. Wendy was a very active and valued member of the club before her unfortunate passing in 2022. Yet one more reason why Wendy will never be forgotten by the club.

Linda Planeta, Dean Hartwell and Lee Stem addressing the MObridge Holiday Party to announce a donation to the Club from the Estate of Wendy Wade.



At 7 p.m. a 14 table open game was played. It was an excellent game for MObridge although perhaps a bit noisier than usual as the social atmosphere at the club continued right through the game. Despite the festive atmosphere and an unfortunate interruption when several players had to leave the tables to move cars for the benefit of trucks trying to get out of the parking lot, several very good scores were achieved. **Steven Mehta & Wendy Dooley** were the East/West open winners with a fantastic score of 73.06%. North/South open was led by **Mehdi Sadeghi**

& **Sima Ghorashysadeh** who scored a 66.67%. At the 1300 stratification level **Cathy Sporich & Crystal Ingoldsby** came first in North/South and **Hui-Zhi Song & Marcia Baker** came first in East/West. At the 500 stratification level, **Raj Inamdar & Jyotsna Inamdar** came first in North/South and **Louis Daigneault & Chris Czerwinski** came first in East/West.

Special thanks to **Linda Planeta** for obtaining the food and beverages for the event and generally organizing the evening. It was a special night for MObridge.

8 is Enough (Halloween) Team Game

by Marcia Baker

On October 31, 2023, MObridge hosted an “Eight is Enough” Swiss Team Event at the club. No, it had nothing to do with the 70’s comedy-drama TV series we all loved starring Dick Van Patten and Betty Buckley.

The Eight is Enough concept refers to the assignment of numbers to individual players based on their masterpoint level, with no team of 4 players having a group total exceeding 8. Max Rutherford put the teams together and for this game, a person with less than 300 MPs was categorized as a #1 player, 300-1250 MPs as a #2 player, and over 1250 MPs as a #3 player. For example, a team could include two #3 players and two #1 players ($2 \times 3 = 6$ plus $2 \times 1 = 2$ for a total of 8) or any other combination thereof, of no more than 8. For a small number of teams, the total was only 7.

The afternoon started with pizza and soft drinks and registration with Nancy Strachan (in a festive clown costume). 4 rounds of 6 boards were played. Individual teams were divided into an A Pair (advanced) and B Pair

(junior). A Pairs from each team played other A Pairs, B Pairs played other B Pairs, so players were reasonably matched in terms of skill level. Verna Dennis assisted as caddy as passing boards to your other team members was strictly forbidden.

The winning team included Gordon Harron, David Hawkins, Patricia Basque and Ted Suski. They became the 2023 MObridge Team Champions and will be recognized on a trophy or plaque at the club.

By all accounts, it was a very successful event, with 17 four-person teams participating. People had fun, got to meet new people, and the event encouraged mixing between players of different skill levels in a relaxed environment.

A survey conducted after the game confirmed the success of this game and the willingness to repeat a similar event. The next Eight is Enough Team Game was played on January 23, 2024 and will be reported on in the next issue.

Member Profile – Amy Yin



While not her main objective, Amy Yin has had a rapid and successful rise through the masterpoint ranks. Amy had a long interest in bridge, but she did not take it up in her youth as bridge

seemed to be a game more suited to scientific brainiacs rather than the more humanities interested Amy.

About five years ago, long after Amy had arrived in Canada, she decided to take up duplicate bridge in anticipation of her eventual retirement. Amy began in the beginner 0-20 game at MObridge and progressed rapidly. Just after she began her bridge journey, she played in an inter-club tournament as part of the 0-100 pairing. In the fall of 2023, she participated in the Golden Horseshoe Inter-Club Challenge as part of the open pairing. A very considerable advancement in just 5 years.

Away from the bridge table, Amy has had a varied and interesting career. Her university

training was in language and one of her first jobs in China was as a sportswriter, focusing more on the writing than the sports. After coming to Canada, Amy took computer courses and switched to the IT area.

Eventually Amy moved into the real estate business by becoming an agent. Now largely retired, Amy keeps her hand in real estate on a part-time basis and occasionally helps out her existing customers.

Despite her fast rise through the masterpoint bridge ranks (Amy now plays in the 1000 - 2500 masterpoint range), Amy's main bridge objective is to encourage interaction between traditional North American bridge as exemplified by MObridge and Chinese centred bridge as played in the Toronto

Chinese community. The Chinese bridge playing community is largely focused on team games while the traditional North American games focuses largely on pairs play. One way Amy pursues her goal of encouraging interaction between the two bridge communities is to bring Chinese teams to MObridge team games and to bring MObridge players to Chinese player-based team tournaments. While the card game is the same, there are always unwritten codes and customs around any group activity that will be specific to the group. Amy works to "bridge" (pun intended) this gap between the traditional North American game environment and the Chinese game environment. Amy has had success in her project and plans to keep at it.

The Director's Call - Bridge is a Timed Event

By Nancy Strachan

Bridge is a timed event. Games should start on time, and the director should keep them moving on schedule. There is nothing more frustrating for a pair than to follow two slow players all evening and never be able to begin a round on time. The guideline for ACBL events is 15 minutes per two boards, 21 minutes per 3 boards. The director has an obligation to players not to allow one or two persons to make the game unpleasant for the majority.

From ACBL Regulations: Chapter 12

1.1 Pairs exceeding the time limit per round are under an obligation to catch up and must bid, play and score hands without extraneous conversation. If a pair fails to make up the time within two rounds, the director shall first issue a warning and thereafter assess penalties for second and successive offenses. Some things to keep in mind:

- 1) No new board may be started after the director has called the round
- 2) Late plays are at the discretion of the director
- 3) It is the responsibility of all players at a table to catch up, if that table started late. Many players are quick to blame the opponents or say "It's not our fault."

The most frequently used option for a director is to pull a board that hasn't been started before the round was called and give each pair a NO PLAY. Their total matchpoint score will be pro-rated up, just as if they had a sit-out. (in other words, the 2 pairs will receive the score of their game for the missed board). A second 'No Play' results in a procedural penalty. (Average minus for the pair involved). Slow Play can sometimes be attributed to difficult hands. However, most slow play is due to bad habits, poor use of time, and general time wasting.

Here are some typical indiscretions:

The Personal Score Card:

- 1) Make sure you are not writing in your Personal Score Card when you are supposed to be bidding or playing a card.
- 2) If you are on lead, place your opening lead face down, ask if partner has any questions, and turn it face up BEFORE you write in your Personal Score Card.
- 3) If you are Dummy, display the dummy BEFORE you write in your Personal Score Card.
- 4) If you are operating the Bridgmate, enter the result at the end of the hand and get EW to OK it BEFORE you write in your Personal Score Card.

Bridgemates / Travelling Score Slips:

Bridgmate Operators / Person scoring

- 1) Do not be typing into the Bridgmate when you are on lead, or about to be Dummy.
- 2) Pay attention to the board numbers that are being played at your table. Directors are called far too frequently to correct a mis-entered board.

Discussion of results:

It is totally inappropriate to read out or comment on results, as they may be overheard at other tables. It is also totally inappropriate to say things like “top board” or “good for us” or “only 1 score better” partner “ This is considered gloating and is covered under Zero Tolerance. The handheld should be offered for any interested player to view QUICKLY and QUIETLY.

Discussion of Hands / Post Mortems

Between hands, discussion should be extremely limited. Any partnership discussion should take place at the end of the round or game - and only if time permits.

The Play of a Hand - Careful Play in No Trump

By Max Rutherford

At a game in a Mississauga shopping mall sitting South with nobody vulnerable I pick up the following hand:

♠ AT83
♥ A6
♦ A732
♣ A76

Partner replies 2♣ to my 1NT opener and when I say 2♠ bids 2NT. 3NT with all aces and spaces doesn't look very attractive so I pass. West leads QC and partner lays down the following hand:

♠ K5
 ♥ KT95
 ♦ QJ65
 ♣ 932

East/West are using standard leads and carding so the Q♣ is either from QJT or from KQT asking East to drop the J♣ if she has it. I have two spade tricks, two heart tricks, two diamond tricks and one club trick and if I can develop another diamond trick everything will be OK. If West has six clubs and a diamond winner I'm in trouble so I duck the first trick to get a better understanding of the club suit - East dutifully deposits the J♣. The K♣ from west is next, East discards a heart and I take it with the A♣ – so it is a six card suit!

I have to assume that East has the K♦ and need to play the diamonds safely to keep West off lead. Although there's a temptation to finesse the K♦ by leading the Q♦ from the table this runs the risk of making the T♦ a winning trick so I play the A♦ from my hand to eliminate the chance of a singleton K♦ in West's hand and then lead up to the Q♦. If West has the K♦ and another diamond we're dead anyway and if East has the KT98 of diamonds we're equally dead. West plays the 4 then the 9, dummy the 5 then the Q and East the 8 and the K and we all live happily ever after.

The full hands were:

	North	
	♠ K5	
	♥ KT85	
	♦ QJ65	
	♣ 932	
West		East
♠ Q94		♠ J762
♥ 7		♥ QJ9432
♦ T94		♦ K8
♣ KQT854		♣ J
	South	
	♠ AT83	
	♥ A6	
	♦ A732	
	♣ A76	

Leading the Q♦ towards the A♦ doubles West's chances of an entry – the K♦ and the T♦ – and doubles your chances of being unlucky.