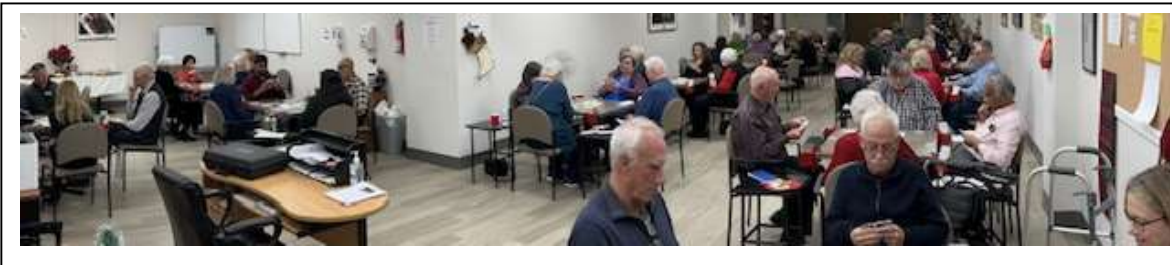




MONTHLY

The Month of December, 2022 in Review



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MObridge News

On Wednesday, December 14, the club held a holiday party and special game. The party and game were very well attended. Members took full advantage of the opportunity to socialize while enjoying the appetizers, desserts and drinks provided by the club and many contributing members. The room was loud with conversation. Lee Stem said a few words of encouragement and thanked members for supporting the club. A cake was presented to Bob Beecroft to celebrate his 90th birthday. See party pictures above and below. On a serious note, Crystal Ingoldsby spoke about the passing of long-time member Wendy Wade. See the memorial on page 4.

After the social, a 13.5 table game was played – the largest at the club since the return of F2F and a very good omen as 2023 approaches. **Gail Lambacher & Nancy Strachan** topped North/South and **Rory Ryan & Bala Balasubramanian** topped East/West.



Top Games of the Month

0 – 500: On December 13 in our BBO 200 game, **William Noble & Sybil Eade** scored 71.76%.
501 – 2500: On December 19 in our BBO 1500 game, **Elayne Thompson & George Thompson** scored 71.76%.
Open: On December 17 in our F2F Open game, **Amy Yin & Wei Jun Chen** scored 69.85%.

Top Masterpoints Earned in November (latest month available)

0 - 500	501 - 2500	Open
Linda Planeta - 6.99	S Bonnar - 11.46	Roman Klein - 5.82
Krystyna Paterson - 4.97	Bruce Cameron - 11.46	Wendy Dooley - 5.27
Peter Milligan - 4.91	Bob Beecroft - 6.63	Bev Ross - 3.08

Debacle of the Month

In Hand 2 of the December 16th BBO 200 game West went down 7 in a 5-diamond doubled contract – luckily, not vulnerable – for minus 1700. The debacle was initiated by an unusual 2NT bid (indicating diamonds and clubs) that was misinterpreted by partner who bid spades. The 2 NT bidder corrected to diamonds but that proved to be a fruitless correction. East/West were in the process of replacing robots on this hand and are blaming the robots!

Member Profile – Bob Beecroft



The Club celebrated Bob Beecroft's 90th birthday at the December 14 Holiday Party with a birthday cake enjoyed by everyone. Bob has been an active bridge player for most of those 90 years. When Bob Beecroft moved to Toronto in the 1950s, Bob and his then future wife Jacqueline were introduced to bridge by Bob's brother and sister-in-law. They relatively quickly moved from kitchen bridge to duplicate bridge and Bob never stopped playing. Bob and Jacqueline played at duplicate bridge clubs in the Huron Park area of

Mississauga, in Oakville and eventually found their way to John Rayner's club. At some point along the way, a club had to abandon a policy of giving a free game to each winner because Bob was winning so many games.

Although Bob was often playing 4 – 5 times per week, he also had a long career in the food industry where he held supervisor positions with a couple of companies before arriving at Kellogg's. Bob enjoyed working at Kellogg's for many years; in Bob's view, an excellent employer.

Bob really enjoyed playing at John Rayner's club which he found to be very social with numerous opportunities to meet all kinds of interesting people. As Bob said to me, "points shmoints": He plays bridge to socialize. Beware, Bob has also been known to play euchre for money. Happy Birthday Bob!

Mobridge Year-End Update from President Lee Stem



In mid-September, I authored an update to our Mobridge members outlining our current status. I covered club activity for both Face-to-Face

and Virtual (via BBO) play, our financial status going forward, along with our near-term plans for bringing our members back to the club to enjoy the game that we all love. As a reminder, some of the actions that we have implemented include:

- Continuous monitoring of attendance at our games and adjustments to our game schedules to cater to our members needs
- A revised annual membership program which includes new member benefits
- Prize draws for those playing at the club
- Special events which include the opportunity to get to know your fellow members
- Re-starting our in-person education programs
- Publishing a monthly members' newsletter

Your Board of Directors will continue to monitor our progress going forward and will do everything in our power **“To provide a home for friendly, competitive bridge in a community of new to highly skilled players”**.

Since taking over as President, I have been focused on the question **“What will it take for Mobridge to survive and prosper?”**. I wish there were some simple answers to this question, but it is complicated since everyone has their own

motivations for playing bridge and individual views on what it means to them.

For me, the game of bridge was an amazing discovery. Although I grew up in a card-playing family, I was only vaguely aware of a game called “bridge” and lacked the time to take a closer look. Thanks to the support and encouragement of several close friends, my partner Laima (in life and in bridge) began the journey of learning this game which has ended up being a major source of entertainment and satisfaction in our retirement lives.

Bridge has been a natural extension of my interests and drive – highly analytical and highly competitive. As a business consultant, I was used to solving complex problems. In my retirement world, bridge has provided an outlet for my skills in dealing with complex puzzles. Further, as my physical limitations have reduced my ability to be competitive in sports (I played squash 4-5 times a week through most of my adult life), attendance at club games and bridge tournaments have fed my need for competition and camaraderie. Having lived in Mississauga for close to 50 years, my community involvement before retirement was limited as I spent most of my time running a business (downtown) and raising a family. Membership in our bridge club has provided me with a wonderful social outing – an ideal connection to my community.

Together, Laima and I have experienced many significant changes in our lives due to the pandemic. From the bridge perspective, our only outlet to play was BBO. At the beginning, we participated in the virtual club games but found the experience lacking on several fronts. Not only was the social aspect of the game largely gone, but many of the challenges of playing in an in-person setting were

missing. We moved on to playing in the larger games offered through BBO (at a significantly lower cost). In these larger games, I have observed people doing things that they wouldn't try in an in-person game – making the whole thing a bit of a free-for-all. Some would argue that the virtual game is superior since it removes many of the nuances of playing with and against people in a live setting. For me, it helped to improve our game through the facilities to track and review all plays. However, virtual play has not provided the opportunity to get out and experience community life and (reason unknown) does not satisfy the competitive aspect of the game that I thrive on.

From my personal perspective, the success of a local bridge club providing opportunities for face-to-face play is very important. Although I understand that we all have different motivations for playing bridge and have many choices where to spend our time and money playing the game, I am disappointed with the uptake

of our re-opened club. The good news is we have the time to germinate a refreshed club environment at our new location. I believe that the Board has been doing many things right to create an environment for friendly and competitive bridge. However, at the end of the day, we need you, the members, to support the club through your regular attendance and by volunteering to do the many things needed to enhance the club experience. Remember, Mobridge is your club - a member-owned not-for-profit community club.

Please support the club – renew your memberships for 2023, volunteer to help out where you can (especially by supporting the host program and participating in the mentoring program), introduce your friends and family to the great game of bridge. Most of all, come out and participate!

In Memory of Wendy Wade- Bronze Life Master July 25th, 1958- December 11, 2022.



Wendy was an active, participating member of MObridge, she gave of her time limitlessly. When the members took over the club from John Rayner, Wendy was right there, helping to clear out the space, laying floors, running errands, you name it Wendy was there. Wendy's contribution was not limited to the physical hours, she was part of the board at its inception, and when she left the board, she continued to contribute ideas on a weekly basis and gave other bridge players rides to the club, on a continual basis.

When they needed someone to take over the Mentorship Programme, Wendy was there and gave a hundred percent. I don't know if it was her teacher skills or just her great creative persona, but Wendy expanded the Mentorship programme by leaps and bounds. Wendy will be greatly missed by MObridge, her contributions, which also included establishing the book exchange and providing the book case for it, were invaluable. No one will ever forget playing at her table - "Welcome to Table 4". Rest in Peace hope you have already started a heavenly bridge club!
(contributed by Crystal Ingoldsby).