

Niagara-on-the-Lake Duplicate Bridge Centre Newsletter



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Message from your Chairwoman



Muriel Tremblay

We are almost there! Ready to re-open our club games to our members and guests. It has taken much longer than we could have ever anticipated for us to be able to think about returning to play bridge together in a social environment. But with the availability of the NOTL Community Centre in mid-September and Ontario Government regulations moving past Stage 3, we hope to be re-starting our club bridge games. I don't know if you remember but we opened our club in September 2012. It will be great to be back together in September this year.

Our Management Committee met last week to discuss conditions under which we would consider re-opening and to prepare a plan to do so. We decided that we would need to contact our members to determine the general interest in returning to club bridge games as well as any concerns they may have. Our decision to re-open our club comes with some constraints and safety protocols. A plan was developed and is subject to change based on feedback we get from our members.

I am so looking forward to seeing everyone and playing bridge the way it is supposed to be played; in a friendly, social environment. Our Communication program has already started and certainly we are getting an excellent response from our members. More than 95% of the people we have called indicated their eagerness to play bridge at the club.

Based on the positive feedback from our members and moving beyond stage 3, we hope to hold our first game on Tuesday, September 14th. We will hold our regular Tuesday and Friday afternoon games going forward. It is our intention to hold a big catered celebration in October after our Annual General Meeting.

You will receive more information as we get closer to the hoped for date. Until then, keep well and enjoy your summer.

Plans for Reopening

At a recent Board meeting the discussion focused on how we can all return safely to the bridge table. It was a very positive and constructive discussion and here are the decisions that were made:

1. We will target to re-open Tuesday, September 14. Further information will be sent to you when we get closer to this date. This is dependent on the Ontario Government regulations moving past stage 3 and on regulations in place at the Community Centre.
2. All protocols put in place will be adhered to.
4. Those who want to play must have had both vaccinations with the 14 day requirement and will be required to complete a form confirming their vaccinations.
6. Masks will be optional since everyone will have been vaccinated.
8. The tables will be spaced according to government requirements.
10. Sanitizers and wipes will be placed at every table to be used at the beginning of each round.
12. Table fees will be handled as they always have been, but the Director will be wearing gloves.
14. There will not be any refreshments offered, but you can always get what you want from the cafe

It goes without saying that we will do everything possible to make everyone safe while having a fun time.

Bring a Friend

To celebrate our reopening and to encourage those who would like to play and experience what a fun and friendly club we are, when you bring a person, new to the club, that person's first game will be free.

Membership

The annual membership will be renewed in October and the cost will remain at \$20.00

Stay Connected

As we have a communication plan in place it is important for you to stay abreast of all the decisions made before our reopening. So please look out for emails coming your way. As well, it is important that you check our Website regularly.

Director's Corner



**Claude
Tremblay**

We have been under lockdown restrictions for the past 18 months and now, at last, just around the corner we are getting ready to play bridge at the club again. During the month of July, the Management Committee has been calling our members to see how they are doing and to discuss and address any potential concerns that our members may have.

From all the calls made to our members, more than 95% of our players are anxious and have a great desire to come back and finally see their friends and partners. So, our bridge club is getting ready to re-open its doors to face to face duplicate bridge.

It is time to dust off your convention card with your partner or to discuss more exhaustively your conventions with a new partner. I know some of you have been playing online and others have not played since COVID restrictions came into effect.

For those who have been playing online, we need to remember that lead out of turn, bid out of rotation, insufficient bid, revokes, etc. are not possible online. However, they are back in play for face to face bridge. In addition, access to your convention card during the bidding is only available to your opponents.

For our directors it is refresher time. Indeed, we have taken a hiatus for 18 months so now we need to brush up on our Laws of Duplicate Bridge. To that end, ACBL has provided a 3-hour video on how to rule the game. I have reviewed the video along with its PowerPoint presentation and it is excellent. All our directors will be requested to go through this video prior to resuming their activities. As usual I will be there to assist any director who may require a second opinion on ruling the game.

As you know our directors are not infallible, however, we promise to do our very best to bring back the enjoyable experience you are used to at our tables in a very friendly environment.