

Niagara-on-the-Lake Duplicate Bridge Centre Newsletter

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Recent Rookie Master Game- Wow! A Big Success!

Please enjoy reading a full report submitted by Muriel Tremblay

The NOTL Duplicate Bridge Centre proudly hosted a very successful Rookie-Master Game on June 17, 2025, welcoming an enthusiastic group of 80 players — 40 masters and 40 rookies. With the excellent support of Peggy Sue Verkerk, Al Utz, Selina Volpatti, and dedicated members from both local bridge clubs, every master was paired with a rookie, allowing us to fill 20 full tables — with no sit-outs required.

Thanks to streamlined registration and prompt arrivals, only two last-minute adjustments were necessary due to player no-shows. Players received their table assignments efficiently, and the game began close to the scheduled start time.

Muriel Tremblay, event organizer and President of both the NOTL Club and Unit 255, warmly welcomed everyone. She thanked all participants for making the event possible and highlighted the spirit of the game — offering rookies a chance to experience duplicate bridge in an open and friendly environment. She gently reminded masters to refrain from giving unsolicited advice, and encouraged rookies to be kind to their masters. Muriel also noted the scheduled ten-minute break after four rounds to allow time for refreshments and socializing, and invited everyone to stay for a post-game reception in the Mori Room.

The game was ably directed by Claude Tremblay, who ensured smooth play across all 20 tables while maintaining a fun and relaxed atmosphere. The mid-game break, with refreshments provided by Donna, was very well received, and players promptly returned to their tables to resume play.

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A full house with 20 tables



Partners Getting to Know Each Other



Following the game, players gathered for a welcome reception featuring delicious food and beverages, again thanks to Donna Williams. The reception provided a wonderful opportunity for players to connect further and share their bridge experiences. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many players expressing appreciation for the friendly atmosphere and already asking when the next Rookie-Master event will be held.

A wonderful assortment of delicious food and beverages. Many thanks to those members who provided all the sandwiches.





Congratulations to the Big Winners! Some with Amazing Scores!

The overall winners were Kathy Morrison and Rick Schat with an impressive 68.15% game. Doug Newman and Steve Hartman secured second place overall with a 64.58% game.



Rick & Kathy



Steve & Doug

Section Results:

Section A

North/South: Susan Hawes & Gloria Szylak – 58.33%

East/West: Cathy Williams & Margo Fraser – 57.74%



Gloria & Susan



Margo & Cathy

Section B

North/South: Rod Sumner & Jim Scolick – 58.04%

East/West: Kathy Morrison & Rick Schat – 68.15%



Rod & Jim



Kathy & Rick

These top winners enjoyed their prizes

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event such a resounding success. As captured in the photos, the energy and turnout made it feel more like a sectional tournament than a rookie-master game — a true testament to the growing enthusiasm for bridge in our community.

A BIG thank you to Niagara Area Bridge, Unit 255 for hosting our Reception, providing players from both clubs opportunities to participate in a very successful event. We hope that many of the Rookies will play in more of our club games.

Don't Miss Our Next Fun Social Event!

Lunch, Wine & Beer before the Game on July 15.

Perhaps tell your Rookie Partner about it so he/she can attend.

Summer Party

HOT LUNCH



Let's Have A Great Summer

It's Summer Party time at the NOTL Duplicate Bridge Club.

All of this will served in the Mori Room & Patio commencing at 11:45 on Tuesday July 15.

Join us for lunch, beer & wine and socialize with your bridge-playing friends.

Move to the auditorium at 1:00 p.m. for the bridge game.

*All this for \$25!
(Non-members \$30)
(Game only \$5/\$7)*

Ticket required. Please see Donna Williams.

Purchase by Friday July 11