

Dec 10, 2020

Dear Members of the Edmonton Bridge Centre,

Our Board and I would like to give you an update on our club.

This week is the time when we would usually have our Santas Anonymous and other Christmas parties. In the past, we would share our greetings for the season and collect funds and toys for local charities. It is difficult to not be able to be together this holiday season. We can, however, still share our generosity with local groups. Last year we collected lots of toys and over \$900 for Santas Anonymous, the Bissell Centre, and the Edmonton Food Bank. If you wish to donate food or toys, leave them in the boxes provided at your local store entrances. If you wish to send cash donations to these or any other groups, the easiest way is through www.canadahelps.ca . All these groups use this service, and you can quickly and easily get a tax receipt for your generosity. Thank you for your help.

With your input into the October members' survey, the board has renewed our lease with the landlord for 5 more years. The rent is the same and we have an option to leave after 2 years if necessary.

The Board also discussed club membership. They have agreed to leave membership at \$40 each for 2021. We hope that you see the value in being a member and supporting our club. You can of course wait until we are able to be together, but it would be great if we could collect this as we go into the new year. You can use Interac e-transfer from your bank account to ours at club@edmontonbridge.ca (direct deposit, no passwords). Or, if you wish you can send a cheque by mail to:

Edmonton Bridge Centre
11810 Kingsway Ave NW
Edmonton T5G 0X5

With wage and rent subsidies, and BBO income we have been able to continue our operations, but if you wish to add a donation to our club it would be received with gratitude.

The Board and I continue to discuss when re-opening the club will be feasible. We cannot re-open until Alberta's COVID situation improves and the Board and members feel it is safe to do so. With the advent of vaccines, we hope this will be by spring 2021.

Online bridge, especially Bridgebase Online (BBO), has been popular for many of our members. Our virtual club games offer many benefits including the opportunity to connect with friends and fellow club members. They are inexpensive and fun. More information about our online club, links to calendars, game results and hand records are available at our homepage: www.edmontonbridge.ca .

The Fall Team League is nearing its conclusion. Final matches and playoffs will continue into January. 32 teams are playing in three flights and having lots of fun. Thanks to Don for continuing to organize this event and Virtual bridge.

Thank you, everyone, for your interest and participation in our club. Be sure to stay in touch with other members through this difficult time. We wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season and a hopeful and healthful new year.

Matthew

AND IF YOU HAVE NOT READ NOVEMBER then:

Nov 7, 2020

Dear Members of the Edmonton Bridge Centre,

Our Board and I would like to give you an update on our club.

In late October we sent out a survey to help us decide about the renewal of our club lease. We contacted over 360 people and received 201 responses to the survey. 63% showed an interest in renewing the lease, while 37% did not. The board also read your many comments, concerns and suggestions. The board has subsequently decided to go forward with negotiations to renew the lease. Thanks go to Amanda for organizing the survey and you, the membership, for your great response to the survey and your continued interest in our club.

The Board and I continue to discuss when re-opening the club will be feasible. We cannot re-open until Alberta's COVID situation improves and the Board and members feel it is safe to do so. The Board is also

discussing membership, donations, and upcoming events and schedule changes. We will keep you informed as decisions are made.

Online bridge, especially Bridgebase Online (BBO), has been popular for many of our members. Our virtual club games offer many benefits including the opportunity to connect with friends and fellow club members. They are inexpensive and fun. We have games every afternoon and some evenings. If you have not yet tried it, or want more information about our online club, go to our edmontonbridge.ca homepage. Links to calendars, game results and hand records are there.

Gold Dust Virtual Club Championship week is November 23 – 29. It will cost a few extra dollars but a portion of the masterpoints will be gold.

The Fall Team League is going great. 32 teams are playing in three flights and having lots of fun. Thanks to Don for continuing to organize this event.

Please pass on this info to others who may not have email or are not on our lists.

If you read this from our website and want the next letter sent by email please send a note to club@edmontonbridge.ca so we will have your contact.

Thank you, everyone, for your interest and patience. We hope to be able to be together again as soon as possible.

Matthew

AND IF YOU HAVE NOT READ SEPTEMBER then:

Sept 12, 2020

Dear Members of the Edmonton Bridge Centre,

Our Board and I would like to give you an update on our club. We have met virtually often this summer. We continue to discuss when re-opening will be

feasible, but we cannot re-open until the Board and members feel it is safe to do so.

The Board has seen some changes. Dave Colburn and Jim Davies have resigned. Karen Long has agreed to rejoin. Amanda Atwell, Bonnie Halliday, Kathy Turnbull, David Cooper and Allan Terplawy continue to work and represent you. Please contact them if you have any comments.

For those concerned about the state of our club, let us reassure you that, we are doing okay. We were unable to have the usual Semi-AGM this summer to give you an update. David Cooper has prepared a 6 month financial statement that is available by an email request to club@edmontonbridge.ca . He adds that we were able to receive the Canadian emergency wage subsidy for 3 months, (approx. \$20,000), which has now been received but had not been applied for until after June 30th, so is not reflected in the statement. If you have any questions about the statement, let me know and I will put you in touch with David.

The Board has also developed multiple budgets for various scenarios relating to how we can sustain the club and plan for re-opening. As well, we are negotiating the upcoming renewal of our lease. With continuing uncertainty about the virus and re-opening, it has been difficult to make any firm decisions. We are trying to limit our expenses and are also fortunate to have income from virtual bridge and some donations.

Online bridge, especially Bridgebase Online (BBO), has been popular for many of our members. Our virtual club games offer many benefits including the opportunity to connect with friends and fellow club members. They are inexpensive and fun. We have games every afternoon and some evenings. If you have not yet tried it, or want more information about our online club, go to our edmontonbridge.ca homepage. Links to calendars, game results and hand records are there. Also, that is where you can find any changes to the game schedule. Championship week is September 21 – 27.

The Summer Team League is almost complete. 18 teams played in two flights and had lots of fun. We are looking to start a Fall Team League beginning in late September. We again plan to have two separate flights, Open and Intermediate. Conditions of contest and other information will be on our homepage.

Please pass on this info to others who may not have email or are not on our lists.

Thank you, everyone, for your interest and patience. We hope to be able to be together again as soon as possible.

Matthew