



Alberta Summer Regional

Going Green, Getting Gold

Monday, August 8, 2011

Issue 1

Greetings from the Chair

Hi all!! This year, I am in the somewhat enviable position of getting all of the credit for our success while that credit needs to be shared by so many. If things go wrong, you can blame me. If things go well, look to a huge section of the Edmonton Duplicate Bridge community. I anticipate a great week thanks to these people... some who have helped financially and others who have volunteered their time and their expertise. As I survey the past two years, I am amazed at how many people I often meet only at the bridge table and who have, in fact, contributed both time AND money.

We have chosen the environment as this year's theme. So many of us have children and grandchildren, and more and more we are thinking about what kind of world we are leaving for them. Most of us are at a loss as to what we can do to protect our world for future generations. This year, in our own small way, we hope to make a difference.

Just because we are going to try and put the environment first, however, is no reason to walk around with solemn faces. This is a party after all!! The Edmonton contingent has worked hard to put together a war chest that will allow us to continue the well-earned reputation of the Edmonton Regional as having the best parties. After all, there are people who get through most of the week without spending a lot on meals

Bridge Schedule through Wednesday

Monday August 8

7:30 pm

The Sue Schwann Kickoff KO's
(continues Tues 8:45, 1:00 and 7:30)
Charity Open Pairs - one session
Charity 199er Pairs - one session

Tuesday August 9

8:45 am

Morning Side Game Series - first of five sessions

1:00 pm

Tuesday Open Pairs - first session sessions
Compact Knockout Teams (continues Tuesday 7:30)
199er Pairs - one session
Midweek Side Game Series - first of five sessions

7:30 pm

Tuesday Open Pairs - second session
199er Pairs - one session
Midweek Side Game Series - second of five sessions
Swiss Teams - one session

Wednesday August 10

8:45 am

Morning Knockout Teams (con't 8:45 Thurs, Fri, Sat)
Morning Side Game Series - second of five sessions

1:00 pm

Stratiflighted Open Pairs - first session
(A/X - IMPs, B/C - matchpoints)
199er Pairs - one session
Midweek Side Game Series - third of five sessions

7:30 pm

Stratiflighted Open Pairs - second session
199er Pairs - one session
Midweek Side Game Series - fourth of five sessions

Social Events through Wednesday

Monday August 8

Before the game: Presentation to the Canadian Paraplegic Association

After the game: Snacks at the Edmonton Bridge Centre (east across the parking lot)

Novice reception hosted by Liz Horcica - in the Red Deer Room at the Ramada

Tuesday August 9

6:30 PM in the playing area: A talk by Maurice De La Salle and Susan Culham "Your partner- For Better or For Worse"

After the evening session: Hospitality at the Edmonton Bridge Centre (east across the parking lot)

Wednesday, August 10

Between sessions: Barbeque (See story elsewhere) at the Edmonton Bridge Centre (east across the parking lot) – buy tickets at the Hospitality Desk

since the snacks at the Edmonton Regional are AWESOME.

Prepare yourselves to have a wonderful week of friendly competition, renewal of friendships, and a full week in a party atmosphere. We may not have the biggest Regional in the west, but we like to think you won't find a better party anywhere. Most of all, I would like to welcome everyone and thank you for coming to our fabulous city. As you will see elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin there are many exciting events taking place in what is often called the Festival City. In addition, the Hospitality Desk run by Paula Nowlan and Val Tom will have lots of info on our City. We have hospitality planned every day - much of it at the Edmonton Bridge Center just east across the parking lot, so please join us. Have fun, play well and remember - treat your caddies with respect and kindness. Only people who have run a Regional have any appreciation for the essential but often invisible work the caddies do to make the event run smoothly. Ask someone what the caddies do and I bet a dollar they cannot list half of the matters the caddies look after to ensure smooth operation.



Finally, if you find something that needs to be improved, PLEASE do not let the gripes fester. Look up any member of the Organizing Committee

and let us know what we could do to make things better. We will move mountains to make it right.

...Patty Metcalfe

Edmonton Goes Green

Edmonton is one of the greenest cities in the country when you consider the huge

ribbon of green that runs through the river valley. However, Alberta is not normally considered very politically correct when it comes to modern environmental thinking. With all the oil and gas activity, particularly with the Athabasca Tar Sand deposits north of Fort McMurray, we are often painted as the environmental bad boy of the country. Of course, one could debate the pros and cons of oil production and the need for sources of energy, but fortunately, that is not why we are here this week. We are here to compete at the bridge table and the game of bridge is not normally thought of as a major polluter. When compared to some hobbies (automotive racing, motorcycle hill climbing, hunting, fishing, and almost anything else that has a significant environmental footprint), bridge is pretty benign. Even with that much said, however, it must be recognized that all of us can do better in everything we undertake. The 2011 Edmonton Regional Organizing Committee has taken our environment under its wing in organizing the theme of this week.

In the spirit of going 'Green', your daily Bulletin has taken the logo of the environmental movement (reduce, replace, recycle) and has rebranded it as the logo of the Edmonton Regional for 2011. We encourage all players to try to help us be as environmentally responsible as possible. Here are some of the ways you can help:

- We have cut the number of daily Bulletins by more than half. To make this work we suggest that:
 - You read the Bulletin online (each issue is up on www.edmontonbridge.ca and on www.wasumi.org on the day of publication).

- If you cannot access the Bulletin online, read a hard copy and then return it to the Bulletin table so that others can read the news and results of the day. If we can get through the week leaving few, if any, leftover Bulletins, that will be a real win for the environment.
- Keeping in mind the several thousands of cups used for drinking water, the Organizing Committee proposes to provide players with a water bottle that can be easily filled at the water stations. Get your water bottle and bring it with you each day. That will dramatically reduce the garbage stream that will be heading for the landfill.
- Rather than going through hundreds, if not thousands, of little pencils for scoring purposes, the Organizing Committee is providing a neat pen to each player. We will NOT be putting all those pencils out on all the tables. Bring your pen with you and keep track of it.
- Since more and more players have completed convention cards, it seems a little silly and certainly wasteful to continue to distribute score sheets where one side is totally useless. There will be blank convention cards available, but if it is score cards you are looking for, look for the ample supply of double sided score sheets... and do use both sides, please.
- When you do have to throw something out, do not just mindlessly throw things into the garbage. Use the right recycle bin - aluminum can bins for aluminum cans, paper bins for recyclable paper, and bins for glass. Our goal should be to send almost nothing to the landfill.

- Even the little garbage bags hanging on the corners of the bridge tables are green. They are made of cornstarch and are biodegradable.

If you have ideas, let a member of the Organizing Committee know about it. Overall, we need to be striving to keep the garbage barrels as empty as possible, reduce the waste, use things that can be used again and again, and, where possible, use things that can be easily recycled... and then RECYCLE THEM.

Being environmentally conscious does not mean we cannot have a great event. Being green means, for the most part, just taking a few seconds to do it the right way instead of doing it the thoughtless way. Let's all endeavour to make environmental unconsciousness the same socially unacceptable practice that we have successfully made drinking and driving, failing to use seatbelts and other things that were just accepted only a few years ago. If all of us take that few seconds to reduce waste, recycle whatever we can, and to reuse things that can be reused, we can make the earth last just a little bit longer for future generations.

Golf Merriment and Mayhem

While the results are certainly not available at press time, most golfers will know that at 10 AM this morning, a Texas Scramble kicked off at the Lewis



Estates Golf Club with prizes provided by Melcor. Who better than a doctor to organize a golf event? Dr. Jim Metcalfe is

the host at the event. There is little doubt that a considerable amount of liquid cheer will have been consumed

and all sorts of mayhem and mischief will have taken place. In previous years, golf carts have been purloined, golf balls have been misappropriated, and score cards have been creatively completed. Our next issue on Wednesday morning will report on at least some of the hijinks - to say nothing of the final results, even though the winners are more of an afterthought and pay slight homage to the few moments where serious golf was undertaken.

Festival City Events

For those in the know, Edmonton is literally filled with festivals all summer long. Between May and September there is always one festival or another in progress. If you get here early or if you can stay a little longer, there is always something to see and do. Here are the major festivals before and after our Regional. Take a few of them in if you can:

- Aug. 4-7: Folk Festival
- Aug. 5-7: Cariwest
- Aug. 11-21: Edmonton Fringe Festival
- Aug. 19-21: Labatts Blues Festival
- Aug. 19-21: Edmonton Dragon Boats

From Your Editor

Since my wife and I retired and moved to Lethbridge, Alberta, I have been continuously amazed that we are still regularly invited back to both Calgary and Edmonton to do the daily Bulletin. It is a labour of love for us. We will do our level best to inform and entertain, but we need your help. If a humorous situation comes up at the table (or away from it for that matter), write it down and get it to me. If you have an interesting hand, write it down and get it to me. If you are aware of someone who has reached a significant milestone, let me know about it. We want to tell

these stories during the week. We want to get the results to you as quickly as possible. We want to be the link between the Committee and the players as new events come up or as things change. Please read your Bulletin every day so you know of last minute changes or last minute scratches from the schedule.

For those of you who know how much of this process involves my wife, Carolla, you may be wondering where she is. Well, good friends, we are trying the first ever Trans Canada bridge bulletin publishing effort. This week my wife is in Glace Bay, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia seeing to the birth of our third grandchild and, if the ultrasound is accurate, our first granddaughter.

Patty Metcalfe booked our services before we knew we were going to have another grandchild, never mind having a granddaughter and so we anguished about possibly cancelling out on one or the other. Clearly grandma wanted (and needed) to be at the birth and equally clearly, I could not do this thing alone.

Finally we hit upon the current schedule. When the play ends every night, I will sit in my hotel room writing stories, collecting photos from the photographers, and getting the results disk from the Director-in-charge (Steve Bates). Sometime before 4 AM I will send an email to Carolla in Nova Scotia. She will arise at 7 AM Atlantic Daylight Time (4 AM our time) and will format and edit the Bulletin. At or before 11 AM Atlantic time, Carolla will send the document to Staples (as well as to Bob Crosby the webmaster for www.edmontonbridge.ca and to Claire Jones the webmaster for www.wasumi.org . Staples will print the hard copy Bulletins and someone will

pick them up soon after they open while Bob and Clair get the electronic versions up on their respective websites. It is unlikely that we will be able to get the hard copies to you before the morning sessions begin, but we do hope to have them no later than midmorning.



With any luck at all, Carolla will be editing with one hand while rocking the cradle with the other, but after 44 years of

marriage I have learned that my wife multitasks very well indeed.

Wow!

Several weeks ago I received a note from Patty Metcalfe (your tournament chair) about a charitable donation being planned for the Regional. "Ho hum", I thought, "Yes, we pay lip service to charity with one lousy game on Monday evening". As a servant of the Organizing Committee I do as I am asked, so I will put in a little article about the charity game and the few paltry dollars that will go to some hard pressed charity to make us feel good. AND THEN I REREAD THE EMAIL!!

It turns out that Ken Scott, the Alberta representative to the District 18 Board of Directors, suggested to Patty that there might be some dollars available to be donated to a charity of the Organizing Committee's choice.

Thinking that this might be a neat idea, they considered what charity might be a good fit for bridge.

For those of you who know and are regularly beat bloody by our own Stan Cabay, it will surprise nobody that the Alberta Chapter of the Canadian Paraplegic Association seemed the logical choice. And so, this evening,

before the game, based on a proposal put together by Stan Cabay himself and carried to the National Board of Directors by Claire Jones, our district representative who quietly lobbied to garner approval, a cheque for \$5,000.00 will be presented to the CPA by Stan and Lisa Cabay, Claire Jones, Ken Scott and Patty Metcalfe. In attendance to receive the funds designated to help the CPA in their important work will be Harvey deCock and his wife, Lois, a CPA board member and Angie Barron, also from the CPA.



I encourage all players to be in their seats just a little early this evening for the

presentation. I know all will want to share in this wonderful news and I am pretty sure I can promise a short presentation if for no reason other than how much our "Stationary Stan" would rather play bridge than speak to large crowds. Please make the folks from the CPA feel welcome and make sure they know how much we value their work in the community and our hope that many more of their members will come wheeling into our clubs and tournaments. I understand that there is considerable interest in the paraplegic community in learning the game that all of us love. Perhaps this might be the link that makes that happen. At the end of the day, there is little more that needs to be said but... WOW!

Yes, We Have No Bananas

In years past, a panel show has been part of the Saturday after game entertainment. While it was initially considered as something to do again, a growing number of players expressed the opinion that this was of limited and

waning interest. People suggested that they would rather have a chance to get together over a cool one or three at the Edmonton Bridge Centre.



I wonder how many have noticed that we meet some of our best friends only at bridge tournaments. Every organized event cuts into our time for reminiscing with long-time friends. So, even though early plans called for a panel show on Saturday evening, a combination of waning interest and the need for players to get a night's sleep before the Swiss on Sunday morning means that there is no panel show this year. For those of you who really miss this event, make your feelings known to a member of the Organizing Committee for consideration in three years' time.

You Want Sponsors??? We Got Sponsors!!!

The Edmonton Regional has, in years gone by, turned away from actively seeking sponsorships from local businesses. The local bridge crowd is so successful at fund raising events that they have deemed that guilt-tripping local merchants is not only unseemly, it is unnecessary. As it happens, however, there are some who feel moved to support an event like this and have expressed displeasure at not being able to sponsor what they see as a valuable community event. As a result, the Organizing Committee has agreed that they will accept sponsorships, but will not actively solicit them.



The following individuals and corporations have dug into their own pockets to give the Organizing Committee just a little more financial support to make sure this event is as perfect as it

can be. The Committee wishes to express heartfelt thanks to:

- Melcor Developments Ltd.
- Gail Taylor Investment Group
- Unit 391
- Edmonton Bridge Centre
- Sue Schwann --Royal LePage Noralta
- Nancy and Hilliard MacBeth
- Jim and Patty Metcalfe
- Lucille and Lee Barton
- Medicalmart West
- Liz Horcica
- Don Hamilton

Wednesday Barbeque

There may not be any free lunches, but on Wednesday evening between sessions there is a next best thing to a free supper. The Organizing Committee invites you to a barbeque (location to be determined) at a giveaway price of \$2.00.

However, folks, there is a catch. There is a limited supply of tickets and you must pick up your ticket no later than noon on



Wednesday at the Hospitality Desk.

And, quite simply, since we need to know how many people are coming, we have to say... no ticket, no supper. Get to the Hospitality Desk early and let's see if we can't sell this event out by tomorrow evening. We are hoping everybody will subscribe to the old mantra, "You snooze...you lose!"

Event Sponsorships

The Edmonton Regional organizers have initiated a neat concept this year. Individuals wishing to show their support have been allowed to act as the sponsor for a particular event. Since this is the first year that this approach has been taken, not all events have

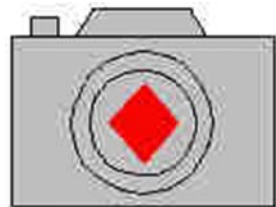
sponsorships, but the response has been quite dramatic. As of this writing, the following events have sponsorships:

- The Kickoff Knockout Teams starting on Monday evening is sponsored by Sue Schwann / Royal Lepage Noralta.
- The Open Swiss Teams starting on Thursday afternoon is sponsored by Lucille and Lee Barton.
- Prime Time Knockout Teams starting on Friday afternoon is sponsored by Jim and Patty Metcalfe.

If this becomes a regular part of the Edmonton Regional, more and more of the signature games will have named sponsors. We may even have a couple of late breaking sponsorship announcements for this edition of the Edmonton Regional.

Winner's Memorabilia

When you win an event at bridge, you get Masterpoints and not a lot more. As one year folds into another, memories fade and we think that is a tragedy. So,



this year, when you win an event, find the picture taking area and locate Lorna MacDonald.

She will take a picture of your partnership or team and put the photo in a frame with "Winner – Edmonton Regional 2011" imprinted on the frame.

This photo can go into your memories box and will forever remind you of your victory. We hope this will be the beginning of a tradition towards remembering our favourite times in bridge.

A Bridge Club To Be Proud Of

Some might wonder why the Edmonton Regional keeps coming back to the Edmonton Inn/Ramada Hotel year after

year. Actually the answer is quite simple. While we get quite good service at a reasonable price and while there really aren't that many places with the same parking facilities and playing area, the most important reason has little to do with the hotel itself. Of course, we could make do at another venue if this host became unwilling to meet our needs. But whenever the choice between this facility and another of the fine facilities in the Edmonton region is even close, we will always come back here because of the proximity to the Edmonton Bridge Centre. Throughout this week you will get lots of opportunity to see the Bridge Centre since we hold most of our social events at this facility.

The Edmonton Bridge Centre is operated by the Edmonton Bridge Society, a non-profit society established some 26 years ago. When the last privately-held bridge club in Edmonton was threatening to close its doors, the late Dr. Steve Willard searched for space and found the current location. This lease has been renewed regularly for some 20 years.



EBC has floor to ceiling windows, and boasts over 4,000 square feet of space. It is fully handicapped accessible and has a teaching room, 26 playing tables, a food service outlet and a fully stocked bar. When you are over, take a look at the Wall of Fame to see our Gold, Diamond and higher life Masters. See the list of stalwarts who purchased debentures to get the society up and

running and later converted their debenture to a life membership. It really is a wonderful place to call a bridge home.

Books and Other Essentials

Serious bridge players almost always have a good bridge book at their elbow, but finding good bridge books in standard bookstores is a herculean task. Fortunately, Canadian Bridge Supplies, a division of Board Games in St. Albert, has agreed to set up at the Edmonton Regional.



While they will have a good supply of books, if you are looking for a special book, you can always fire off an email to

john@boardgames.ca If John can get the book before the end of the tournament, he will get it in for you. If it cannot be accessed in time, John will arrange to ship it to you.

During the week, Canadian Bridge Supplies plans to be open on the following schedule:

- Tuesday Aug 9: 11 – 1 PM
- Thursday Aug 11: 11 AM - 7 PM
- Saturday: 5 PM – 7 PM (tentative)
- Sunday: 10 AM - 11:00 AM

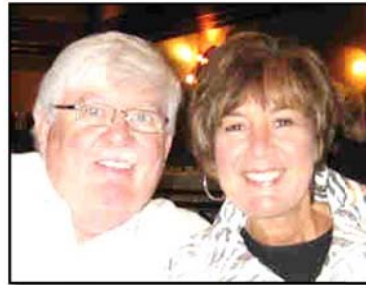
All transactions are cash only - no cheques or credit/debit cards. Times are tentative and subject to change depending on the demand... so get in early and buy everything you need so John and his people stay longer.

Top Flight Competition And World Class Instruction Too!

It has become commonplace to have short seminars after supper but before the beginning of the evening session. The Edmonton Regional is no different, but instead of concentrating on

quantity, the Organizing Committee has concentrated on quality. There are only two seminars - both led by local Edmontonians. In both cases they will be held by people who have many national and international victories in their resumes.

On Tuesday evening between 6:30 and



7:15 PM, Susan Culham and her significant other, Maurice De

La Salle, will address the critical topic with the intriguing title: *Your Partner - For Better or Worse*. If you think it sounds more like marriage counselling than topics leading to better bridge, you may find you are closer than you think.

On Thursday evening also between 6:30



and 7:15 PM, Kizmet Fung will speak on *Building Your*

Partnership Understandings! Kiz and Susan Culham were both members on a long standing team of four ladies who brought home at least one Canadian National Women's Team championship and finished second at least one other year. When you play against the best, you better have your understandings down pat. Kiz is a master at letting her steady partners know exactly what they need to know to get to the right contract or to defeat the contract bid by the opposition. Playing against Kiz can be VERY frustrating, but learning from a master can be equally rewarding. Take in both of these sessions and watch your game improve.