# The Shuffler

The Newsletter of the Petoskey Bridge Club



Spring 2015

Petoskey, Michigan 2144 Cemetery Road

## The President's Message

I hope everyone had an enjoyable winter. It was not as severe here in northern Michigan as last year but still very cold. Now that it is officially spring we are looking forward to some warmer temperatures.

Independence Village knows how important the bridge club is to some of their residents. In fact, they have made the very generous gesture of providing snacks on the second Wednesday of each month. They described them as snacks but the fare they provided on Wednesday March 11 was more like lunch for a large number of people. It was delicious. The players the next day really enjoyed the leftovers. Thank you

to everyone at Independence Village who made this possible. As if you needed another reason to play bridge, mark your calendar for Wednesday, April 8.

Nationally there is great concern that bridge may die out with the generation currently playing the game. We have had great success attracting new players, but most of them are in that same 65+ age group. In an effort to entice a much younger generation to play the game we plan to provide bridge lessons to Petoskey Middle School students starting late April. We have enlisted the help of the local YMCA in setting a schedule. Bernadette Burkhardt will be our principal instructor and she will be assisted by Allison White and Leslie Allen.



This summer there will be TWO Sectionals held in Petoskey. The first one will be the weekend of June 27 - 28 at the club and will be restricted to Non Life Masters with less than 500 MPs. On September 25-26-27 a Sectional open to all players will be held at the Fairgrounds. This time the Friday and Saturday pair games will be held at 10:30 and 3:00 each with a separate section for 0-100 players. The Sunday Swiss game (in memory of Jean Carpenter) will consist of 7 rounds of 7 boards starting at 10:30. Lunch will be provided each day.

May - September **Spring Schedule Effective** 

Monday - 10:00am - Open game Tuesday - 10:00am - Open game (Strats are 0-50, 50-200, 200 up) Wednesday - 10:00am Open game Thursday - 10:00am Open game

Friday - 10:00am 0-199 er game

(Strats are 0-20, 20-50, 50-199)

Sunday - 1:30pm A Swiss team game will be held on the second Sunday of the month. (Reservations are needed for the Swiss.)

The next Pro-Am game will be held on Friday, June 19. We will gather at 9:00 for a pizza breakfast and to randomly draw partners. The game will start at 10:00. The Pro-Am held last June attracted so many players we almost ran out of tables so this time reservations will be necessary. As last time the split between Pros and Ams will be at 200 MPs.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the club.

Larry

### **Inside the Shuffler**

- PBC Stars
- About our Directors
- Tournaments

# 2014 PETOSKEY BRIDGE CLUB STARS

Top Ten Masterpoints and Score Averages earned playing at the Petoskey Bridge Club in 2014

Position	Name	Total	Position	Name	Average
1	Paul Nelson	139.01	1	Geoff Goldich	56.04
2	Joe Hollis	83.02	2	Tom Kennedy	55.45
3	Geoff Goldich	73.98	3	Pandy Huff	55.18
4	Larry Willis	63.2	4	Paul Nelson	55.05
5	Pamela Ziegel	62.77	5	Mark Hess	54.64
6	Thomas Beukema	61.4	6	Julie Kennedy	54.15
7	Don Burkhardt	55.47	7	Joe Hollis	54.09
8	Edward Kukla	54.57	8	Larry Willis	54.02
9	Clair Waterson	51.98	9	Bill Trimble	54.00
10	Bernadette Burkhardt	50.16	10	John Kreag	53.99

Position	Name	Average
1	Joe Hollis & Kathi Kan	58.28
2	Geoff Goldich & Paul Nelson	57.72
3	Peg Sjoberg & Roy Sjoberg	55.84
4	Julie Kennedy & Tom Kennedy	55.37
5	Linda Roberts & Pamela Ziegel	54.56
6	Jim Stroud & Joel Scheitler	54.55
7	Betsy Howe & Mark Hess	54.50
8	Jerry Kaiser & Thomas Beukema	54.37
9	Bill Trimble & Susan Trimble	53.87
10	Carol Bertschinger & John Kreag	53.70

Congratulations to those who placed in the top ten in the 2014 Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Masterpoint Race and the Mini-McKenney Awards for units 195 & 200 respectively.

Mini-McKenney Awards Paul Nelson Linda Roberts Mark Hess Mark Hess Arlene Loca Joseph Hollis NANCY COLBERT • FIRST Joel Scheitler Juris Brants Ann Hart  Marsha Harrison Eva Walker Ginny Braidwood Amelia Musser Dale Thayer Grace Thayer James Stroud Norvin Holm	Helen Shanbrom Ace of ClubsPaul NelsonKatherine KanLinda RobertsJames StroudGeoffrey GoldichEva WalkerMark HessGinny BraidwoodJOSEPH HOLLIS • FIRSTAmelia MusserNANCY COLBERT • FIRSTMargaret SjobergMartha TreiberGrace ThayerLeslie AllenDale ThayerJoel ScheitlerNorvin HolmJuris BrantsNita WidellMarsha Harrison
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### 2014 PETOSKEY BRIDGE CLUB STARS ...continued



Congratulations to Nancy Colbert for placing first in District 12's Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs award for 2014. Nancy earned over 66 points, winning the 20-50 mp section and placing 36th in the Nation. In the Mini-McKenney Award Nancy was first in Unit 195.



Congratulations to Joe Hollis for placing first in Unit 195's Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs awards for 2014. Joe earned over 71 points, winning the 100-200 mp section and placed 181th in the Nation.

#### **BIG GAMES**

Geoff Goldich and Paul Nelson - 75%. Nancy Colbert and Joe Hollis - 75% District 12 STaC game Joe Scheitler & Don Burkhart - 77% silver point game



Mary Voorheis and Barb
Harbaugh had a 68% game,
winning the
District 12 section of a
ACBL wide charity game.
They received a mention
in the
ACBL Bridge Bulletin



SILVER LIFE MASTER Larry Willis



SILVER LIFE MASTER Tom Beukema

BRONZE LIFE MASTER Dave Muzzall SILVER LIFE MASTER Dave Williamson

#### **Lots of Silver!**

Joan Henderson, Nancy Kohler, Sandy Gay, and Barbara Mans, played in a Swiss team at the Silver Sectional in Stuart, Florida in March. They placed first (in A, B and C) in the Non Life Masters section earning 3.99

#### Mike Sears Named to National Goodwill Committee



"One of the most satisfying parts of my job," says our District 12 representative Dennis Carman, "are the appointments of district members to the National Goodwill Committee. These are lifetime appointments. Goodwill members are invited to attend the Goodwill Committee receptions at national tournaments. One of this year's recipients is Mike Sears from Boyne City. Mike has just completed two terms on the Unit 195 Board and was one of the prime architects of the revival

of bridge in Petoskey, culminating in a beautiful new Petoskey Bridge Club. This year Mike is converting his Monday afternoon country club game, where he has instructed for the past six years, to a 20 mp limited game, plus an invitational evening game in June, July, and August. Many of his former students are now playing regularly at the Petoskey Bridge Club. Mike has also chaired or co-chaired two successful regionals in the last two years in Petoskey."

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS Cheryl Lawton Ann Provenz

> Lucia West Duane Lawton Larry Lutjens Ray Wieckert Marcy Shuman

NEW CLUB MASTERS Patricia Grannis Suzann T Sherk Patty Forster

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS
Joel Scheitler
Betsy Willis
Marsha Harrison
Lee Culhane
Jan Coltman
Jane Mullin
Adele K Sjoberg

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS
Joe Hollis
Mary Voorheis
Nancy Colbert
Jonathan Friendly

NEW LIFE MASTER Bob Basch Many years ago I was often told that new players should learn how to play the game before getting involved in every new convention/system that came along. This advice comes up regularly in print, post-mortems, lectures, and other occasions – but the excitement of a new gadget was too hard to resist. My regular partner and I tried out KS, Schenken, MCHOCL, Roth-Stone, and just about every convention we were exposed to that looked like it might provide an answer for a problem/opportunity we just had. In many of these episodes our knowledge was sketchy with lots of accidents. Of course our results were spectacularly inconsistent but at least satisfying to think we had the busiest convention card in the room. It should be noted that during this time my wife and I had much better results playing a straightforward Goren Card than I ever had with my 'regular' guy.

The most common test for whether or not to add a new convention to your card involves answering four questions: 1) How well does it work? 2) How often does it come up? 3) How difficult is it to remember? 4) Does it take the place of a useful bid? To which I would add the always popular notion that you and partner have solid agreements about how and when it should be used.

I have a spread sheet of some conventions evaluated against the 4 questions and yielding a result from 0-4 for each one. You might find it interesting/useful. My answers to the questions are likely different from what yours would be. That's OK . The process of thinking about these issues is what I am proposing – not my particular opinions.

Evaluating Conventions					
	How Well	How Often	How	Does it take	
	Does it	Does it	Difficult	place of a	
	Work	Come up	to Remember	Useful Bid	
Stayman	Good	Frequently	Easy	No	4
Assorted Stayman Modifications	Good	Frequently	tough	No	3
Jacoby Transfers	Good	Frequently	Easy	No	4
Jacoby 2 NT GF	Good	Frequently	Easy	No	4
Flannery	Good	seldom	ok?	yes	2
Lebensohl - after 1N	Good	2-3/year	ok?	no	2
Lebensohl - after weak 2 Bid	Good	often	tough	no	3
Smolen	Good	seldom	????	no	2
Cappeletti/Hamilton/DONT Brozel/Landy/Becker/Astro/	ok	1-2/session	diff	no	2
Meckwell et al					
Muiderburg weak 2 Bids showing Mm	ok	seldom	??	??	1
Drury	good	1/session?	tough for me	no	2
Guoba - after weak NT is D	excellent	2/year	diff	no	2
Transfer Responses to 1 Bids	excellent	frequently	ok	no	4
RKCB	good	1/session ?	depends	no	2

### PETOSKEY NON LIFE MASTER (0-500) SILVER POINT SECTIONAL

When: June 27-28, 2015

Where: Petoskey Bridge Club which is located behind Lowes on Cemetery Road

Saturday, June 27

10:00 am Stratified NLM Pairs - single session 3:00 pm Stratified NLM Pairs - single session

Cost: \$9 per session for ACBL members and \$10

per session for non-ACBL members



Space is limited at the club so please pre-register by emailing or calling:

Chairperson: Joe Hollis

231-437-3096

Riverbluff@aol.com

Partnerships: Nancy Colbert

231-330-1600

colberttampa@aol.com

Sunday, June 28

10:00 am Stratified NLM Swiss Teams-(play through)

Lunch provided midway through the event

Cost: \$20 per person which includes lunch

Stratifications based on average for pairs/team:

A = 200 - 500 NLM

B = 50 - 199

C = 0 - 49

The Petoskey Bridge Club fully embraces and endorses the ACBL policy of Zero Tolerance for discourteous behavior. We have a warm and welcoming club and hope that you have fun and do well. Good Luck!

### PETOSKEY SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

Friday • Saturday • Sunday

September 25, 26, 27, 2015 Hosted by the Petoskey Bridge Club

Location:

**Emmet County Fairgrounds** 

1129 Charlevoix Avenue - US 31

Petoskey, MI 49770

Chairperson: Partnerships: Nancy Colbert Lynne Parker 231 330-1600 310 569-9930

colberttampa@aol.com lynswin1@aol.com

Stratifications:

Open: A=1500+; B=500 - 1500; C=0 - 500 99er: A=50-100, B=20-50, C=0-20

All Games Stratified by Average MPs

• Friday: September 25

10:30 am - Stratified Open Pairs - single session

10:30 am - 99er pairs - single session

lunch provided for purchase between sessions

3:00 pm - Stratified Open Pairs - single session

3:00 pm - 99er pairs - single session

• Saturday: September 26

10:30 am - Stratified Open Pairs - single session

10:30 am - 99er pairs - single session

lunch provided for purchase between sessions

3:00 pm - Stratified Open Pairs - single session

3:00 pm - 99er pairs - single session

• Sunday: September 27

10:30 am - Jean Carpenter Memorial Swiss

Open and 99er Sections play through

Lunch provided midway

A NEW IDEA FROM THE ACBL...Introducing the ACBL Partnership Desk, the newest member benefit, that connects players for club, tournament and online play. From MyACBL, members can post requests and search for partners by club location or tournament. Profiles already contain rank and masterpoint information with options to add a picture, preferred systems and more. Learn more about the Partnership Desk and then see for yourself.

Want to visit a new club? Are you traveling or new to an area? Need some gold masterpoints but your partner isn't available for tournament travel? Log on to acbl.org and check out the ACBL Partnership Desk and never miss a game again!

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Playing in our regional tournament in August, I was deeply impressed with the games' directors. They were always calm and efficient and, as far as I could tell, fair. They reminded me of the directors that keep our games at the Petoskey Bridge Club humming along with minimal acrimony and a constant sense that we are in good hands when we have to seek help with the bidding and play problems that inevitably arise. I talked with four directors (Larry Willis, who directs the Sunday Swiss game, took a pass on this project) and asked them about their lives in and out of bridge and the challenges and satisfactions they find in running our games.

### Here is what they had to say:

### Nancy Colbert -- Mondays

(Nancy elected to tell her story in her own words)

My life's story added a new chapter when I started playing bridge in 2011. I took a beginner's lesson during that summer at Bayview. Even though I was warned that playing at the PBC could be very intimidating for a new player I talked a friend into trying it with me. It was a bit scary but we survived it, even though we were dismayed to discover that we couldn't use our Audrey Grant bidding guidebooks.



By the summer of 2013 I was definitely hooked and so were a number of my Birchwood bridge buddies. There was interest in starting a sanctioned game at Birchwood so I asked Mike Sears to recommend a director for us. Much to my surprise he said he could teach me what I needed to know to pass the director's test. Long story short, and a big thanks to Mike, our first sanctioned game was held in October of last year. This summer our game has gained new players almost every week--our biggest game so far is 12 1/2 tables. It has been tremendously rewarding for all involved.

Last winter Larry and Pam asked me to direct the new Monday game. As a rookie, I was reluctant to do so even though I felt an obligation to repay Mike and the club for helping me become a director. They left me no alternative when they said that Pam would play on Mondays and be there to assist me if I ran into any problems. So the PBC has turned out to be a great gift. I really enjoy the camaraderie that I share with the other directors and my fellow competitors. The founders and contributors created a marvelous facility and I feel lucky to have returned to northern Michigan at just the right time.

I grew up in Big Rapids, MI, got my degree from Rollins College in Winter Park, FL, joined Ernst & Ernst in Orlando and became a CPA. Shortly thereafter I transferred to their Tampa office and remained in Tampa until 2007. I returned to Michigan for many reasons, missing the 4 seasons being one of them. I chose Birchwood after renting there for 6 summers and finding that I loved the golf courses and members. Since I am single and do not have any children, I particularly enjoy the friendliness of the community.

### Mark Hess -- Sunday (non-Swiss)

Mark is a Michigander through and through. He was born and raised in Detroit and went to Michigan State, graduating in 1970 with a degree in mathematics. He married that year and he and wife, Rita, have twin girls and a son.

He went to work in the state legislature, becoming chief of staff for the Senate Environmental Affairs Committee. That encouraged an interest in law, which he pursued by getting his law degree from Thomas Cooley in Lansing in 1984. After graduation he signed on with the Dana Corporation, an automotive parts supplier, working in areas such as making sure their plants were in compliance with Federal laws and state regulations and managing cleanups when they happened.

Mark had played bridge in his mid-20's -- "never anything but duplicate," he said. His textbook, as for many of us, was Charles

Goren's "Contract Bridge Complete." But he was so busy with law school and his family that he took a long break from play. His work kept him in Lansing, then Toledo and two years in Houston before retirement.

Rita's family had come to northwestern Michigan many years ago, and Mark and Rita bought a lot near Norwood and built a home for their retirement in 2000. Eight years later they made it their permanent home.

Mark had amassed about 20 masterpoints before taking his long break from play. Mike Sears lured him back, inviting him to the club on the day it opened. Mark planned to kibbitz but got talked into playing. He's been at it ever since, and last year he became a life master. He has been directing Sunday games since 2010, when he signed on as a volunteer. "When I enjoy something as much as I do this club, I want to give something back," he explained. He has enjoyed the experience, he said, but the role can sometimes be challenging. "A director has to deal with personalities and often with strong views," he noted. "Sometimes the players don't agree with each other -- or with me."

### **Lynne Parker -- Tuesdays**



Lynne was born in Beverly Hills, MI, but she grew up as "an Air Force brat" in Massachusetts, South Dakota, Texas, Puerto Rico and Washington state. She enrolled at Michigan State, intending a career as a clothing buyer, but marriage and children intervened. That took her to the Los Angeles area. When the children were grown, she started a new career in 1990, owning and running an interior design firm for two decades.

She moved to Petoskey in 2011 to be close to her mother, who was living by herself and needed help.

She learned to play bridge when she was 16, under her parents' tutelage, but she didn't pursue it in college or when she was busy with her family and at the start of her design business. She took it up again in 2000 "and learned it had all changed." She played in a Pro-Am event and "my partner and I won. I got my first masterpoints. Then I was hooked on getting my Life Master," a goal she accomplished in 2012. Early this summer, she became a Bronze Life Master by topping the 500 point level.



#### Lynne Parker -- continued

Three years ago the club asked her to think about becoming a director and she took Mike's course. In addition to directing, she ran a modified "Easy Bridge" set of classes for new players this summer, as well as conducting a lesson before her Tuesday morning director duties. She said the challenge for her was "never the people" or the calls she has to make, but more often problems that arise if the game is set up incorrectly. And then there is the computer, which can be extremely finicky. "I don't know why it won't do what it should do."

### Dale Thayer -- Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

Dale, who was born in Detroit and raised in Dearborn, earned his master's degree in chemistry from Wayne State University in 1961 and went to work for General Motors as a materials engineer. It was a good choice of a lifetime career; he retired in 1997 still doing materials research, for Delco Electronics. He and his wife, Grace, have two daughters and two sons. The family had a summer cottage in Indian River and expanded it to be a permanent home after he retired.

His love of bridge began in college in 1958 when he used to watch others play over lunch. "I sort of picked it up," he said. He began duplicate play five years later, when he was working in Midland "and I got a couple of masterpoints." His total now is about 160. He was running a game in Indian River and contacted Mike Sears about the possibility of directing at PBC. He took Mike's course in 2012 and has been at it ever since.

It is the grey areas of the rules that cause him the worst headaches. "Some of the arbitrary calls are nightmares



for me," he said. "How do you apply a rule after a misinterpretation of a call has been alerted? Opponents always say they would have done this or that. Being fair with a ruling is the goal, but it can be hard to achieve."

## **EDUCATION**

What is going on with Gerber?

By Larry Cohen

Edited by Dave Fowler

Maybe once every thousand deals you need to ask for aces after partner's no trump bid. Because a raise to 4NT is usually invitational, you need an ace-asking device.

John Gerber invented his oft-misused convention so that after a 1NT or 2NT bid, a jump to 4C asks for aces. The responses are 4D=0 or 4, 4H=1, 4S=2, 4NT=3. Please read the previous paragraph carefully. Notice the text says: "a jump to 4C". It also says "after a 1NT or 2NT bid." For some reason, many of my students

have gone wild with this convention. Almost every conceivable 4C bid is being used as ace-asking bid. The only way one can ask for aces using Gerber is a jump over no trump.

I know this will fall on many deaf ears. Too many are in love with 4 Clubs as Gerber. For experienced players, Gerber should be baby food. Gerber is not alertable.



The Original Gerber Convention

Joel Scheitler receives a free play for the suggestion of this cartoon.

## **NEWS & NOTES**

### **MAKES SENSE**

Some people have an extreme sensitivity to fragrances (colognes or perfumes). Many ACBL clubs, units and districts have adopted policies that prohibit players from wearing fragrances. The ACBL has not issued an official policy on the matter, preferring instead to appeal to the goodwill of its members to refrain from using fragrances. Because duplicate bridge requires players to be in close proximity to each other, individuals who suffer from fragrance-related reactions cannot avoid those who are wearing them. Among the commonly reported symptoms are intense headaches (indeed, fragrances can frequently be a trigger for migraine sufferers) or breathing-related problems. For these individuals, the issue is much more serious than simply disliking a particular smell — it's a real health problem. The ACBL asks everyone to give this

issue the consideration it deserves. Please, if you're going to play in a club or a tournament, don't wear cologne, perfume or scented lotions.



Area Region	al and Sectional T	Tournamen	ts through October
May 11-17	Farmington Hills	s MI	Regional Open
May 28-30	Kalamazoo	MI	Sectional Open
Jun 14-19	Flint	MI	Regional Open
Jun 25-28	Southfield [Detroi	t]MI	Sectional Open
Jun 27-28	Petoskey	MI	Sectional I/N
Jul 10-12	Toledo	OH	Sectional Open
Jul 11-12	Kalamazoo	MI	Sectional I/N
Jul 13-19	Lansing	MI	Regional Open
Jul 24-26	Freeland [Saginav	v]MI	Sectional Open
Aug 21-23	St. Joseph	MI	Sectional Open
Aug 27-30	Southfield [Detroi	t]MI	Sectional Open
Sep 11-13	Traverse City	MI	Sectional Open
Sep 20-20	Lansing	MI	GNT/NAPNAP
Sep 25-27	Petoskey	MI	Sectional Open
Oct 2-4	Midland	MI	Sectional Open
Oct 10-10	Lansing	MI	Sectional I/N
Oct 12-18	Farmington Hill	s MI	Regional Open
Oct 23-25	Toledo	OH	Sectional Open
Oct 29-315	Grand Haven	MI	Sectional Open

Rank in the Nation	District 12 Rank	Club Name	City	Number of Tables
37	1	The Bridge Connection	Southfield	6151.5
193	2	Bridge Club of GR	Grand Rapids	2456.5
203	3	<b>Lansing Bridge Center</b>	Lansing	2358.0
231	4	Petoskey Bridge Club	Petoskey	2126.5
384	5	Ann Arbor City Club	Ann Arbor	1401.5
484	6	Bridge Central	Bloomfield Hill	1152.5
582	7	Plymouth DBC	Plymouth	987.5
623	8	Saginaw Bridge Club	Saginaw	923.0
632	9	Club 52	Toledo	911.0
653	10	Twin City Bridge Club	St Joseph	887.0

# NEWS & NOTES ... continued



Betsy Willis and Barb Harbaugh just returned from a bridge adventure in the Caribbean. They enjoyed the sites of Guatemala and Honduras along with lots of bridge onboard. Mike Lawrence presented daily lectures on various subjects. Then there were afternoon and evening sessions of duplicate for those who wished to participate. A great opportunity to meet and play with approximately 80 other bridge players from all over the country!

While playing bridge in Arizona this winter, I had just made a 3N contract that I was proud of because I was struggling to find the ninth trick. Tom told me how I could have made an overtrick. I'm sure I must have replied with displeasure, because



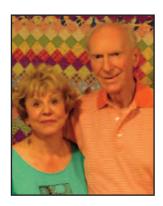
Mr. Perfect

the man to my left cupped his hand around his mouth and said into my ear, "I am a divorce lawyer in Michigan, and I think I can help you in Arizona as well." I said I was delighted to meet him, and would definitely keep him in mind. Tom on the other hand was speechless. PERFECT.

Julie Kennedy

In Memory Nancy Deweese Berta Molasky Walter Bertshinger

When I learned this winter that my friend and "Partner in Bridge", Walter Bertshinger had passed away, my mind was flooded with the early days of Duplicate Bridge. My partner Pandy Huff and I were introduced to the game thanks to Walter and Carol Bertshinger.



I remember seeing the erect stature and gracious continence of Walter the first time we walked into their Bridge game in Harbor Springs. We were nervous and had trepidation about whether or not we'd be accepted among the "high powered duplicate players". I know now that Walter went out of his way to encourage us and make us feel a part of the group.

Over the years we became friends and he was always available for a chuckle or a good golf story. As his health failed, Walter was not at the Bridge table as often as we would have liked, but left a legacy in that he gave me the courage and confidence to play the scary game of Duplicate Bridge. I will always be grateful.....thank you Walter!!

You will be missed....Marcy Rose

Proficiency in whist [a forerunner of bridge] implies capacity for success in all these more important undertakings where mind struggles with mind. - Edgar Allan Poe

#### Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide individuals opportunities to enjoy the competition of an ACBL sanctioned game of duplicate bridge, and opportunities to improve their own skill via play and lessons, while socializing with one another in a welcoming, friendly environment. We recognize the various levels of skill and confidence of our players, and agree that this mission statement applies to the novice/intermediate level players as well as the more experienced.