



## *Upcoming Events*

### **Today, Wednesday April 9th**

#### **8:45 AM**

- Morning Bracketed Knockout Teams (First Session)
- Morning Side Game Series (second of five sessions)

#### **1:00 PM**

- Stratified Open Pairs (first session)
- Stratified Senior Pairs (first session)
- 199er pairs (one session)
- Midweek Side Game Series (third of five sessions)

#### **7:00 PM**

- Stratified Open Pairs (second session)
- Stratified Senior Pairs (second session)
- 199er pairs (one session)
- Midweek Side Game Series (fourth of five sessions)

### **Tomorrow, Thursday April 10<sup>th</sup>**

#### **8:45 AM**

- Morning Bracketed Knockout Teams (second session)
- Morning Side Game Series (third of five sessions)

#### **1:00 PM**

- Stratified Open Swiss Teams (first session)
- Stratified Senior Swiss Teams (first session)
- 199er Swiss Teams (one session)
- Midweek Side Game Series (fifth of five sessions)

**NOTE: At 5:00 PM this afternoon there will be a 199er Reception. Bring your hand records for an informal discussion of interesting and troublesome hands. The directors will announce the location for this reception.**

#### **7:00 PM**

- Stratified Open Swiss Teams (second session)
- Stratified Senior Swiss Teams (second session)
- 199er Swiss Teams (one session)
- Weekend Side Game Series (first of five sessions)

## *GNT Top Flight Comes to Lethbridge*

As many of you were planning your trip to Lethbridge and perhaps some of you were already on the road, 18 of Alberta's top players were vying for a trip to Las Vegas to compete in the Grand National Teams. While most bridge players slept in on Sunday morning, 4 teams all from Alberta started a marathon competition. The competition involved a set of 3 round robin matches each of 32 boards. The final 2 teams of that round moved on to yet another 32 board final on Monday afternoon.

The teams were made up of:

1. Barry and Faith Prichard, Ray Grace, and Garry Karst all from the Edmonton area
2. Abdul Fakhri, Bernie Lambert, Steve Lawrence, Jim Bergland, Terri Bedard, and Dave Johnson from the Calgary area.
3. Nick and Judy Gartaganis, Dan Bertrand and Al Simon also from Calgary
4. Peter Jones, Doug Deschner, Chris Buchanan, Tom Gandolfo

After the 96 boards, the two finalists, the Gartaganis Team and the Jones Boys met in the head to head final. After 128 boards, the Edmonton Team of Jones, Buchanan, Gandolfo (with a Red Deer import in Doug Deschner) reached a huge superiority of 4 IMPS.

According to rumours, there was some muttering about demanding a recount, but, of course, the Gartaganis team, good sports all, simply accepted the result of the cards.

But we suspect that Nick is, once again, looking to re-jig this perennial powerhouse team.

Good luck to the Jones Boys as they journey to Las Vegas to represent District 18.

And a final note, good show to Ken Scott, the Alberta Rep on the District 18 Board of Directors. He noticed that all four of the top flight teams competing for the GNTs were, in fact, from Alberta, but were slated to be forced to drive down to Great Falls for the qualifying event. With Lethbridge's Regional scheduled in exactly the right spot, Ken pushed for a change in venue (while Flights B and C will still go in Great Falls) and was successful. It speaks well of Ken's commitment to Alberta Bridge and Alberta Bridge players.

## *Stories, I Need Stories*

Sitting around just after midnight trying to dream up stories to inform and entertain can be a frustrating experience. Surely over the past couple of days you have run across a hand that you found particularly interesting or a funny situation (usually when you are the butt of the joke).

If you have a story from the tourney that you think might be of interest to other players, write down the details and get them to me. People at partnerships, at the hospitality desk and the directors all know me and they will facilitate getting your story ideas and facts to me. Without your help, this will be a very boring bulletin. Keep me in the loop.

## *Smile!*

Won an event? Reached a milestone (Life Master, Bronze, Silver, Gold, etc.)? We want you! Or at least we want your picture.



Carolla Christie with her big SLR digital rig will be set up to take pictures of all event winners and all milestone achievers in the corner furthest away from

the Directors Table immediately after the afternoon session starting today.

We will also want to get correct spellings, home location, and, for milestones, the milestone reached and the event during which it was reached. These photos are required by ACBL head office in Memphis and we would like to use them in a future

bulletin. Trust us, it will only take a few seconds of your time.

## *The Bridge Turns 100.*

Those of you who came in from the North may have noticed the railroad bridge – the loooong railroad bridge. In its early days, Lethbridge was a major coal mining centre. Need for rail line access for the mines saw the construction of the bridge. Beginning in August of 1908, the bridge was completed June 22, 1909 and officially opened on November 1, 1909. It cost a whopping \$1,334,525.00 to build.

This bridge is still the longest and highest of its kind in the world reaching 5,327.625 feet long (1.6km) and 314 feet high (96 meters). This CPR rail line has stood the test of time and is still in use today.



Photo by Richard Peat

## *I am Confused!*

I waited in anticipation for a decision as Canadian dollar rose to parity with the US dollar and then, albeit briefly, above it. Despite this rise to parity, the ACBL seemed (and seems) to believe that the long held difference between the two currencies continues to exist. Do they understand the sensitivity of this issue? Of course they do! As evidence, look at virtually every flyer for tournaments scheduled in Canada - the card fees are nowhere to be found. Compare and contrast this to, for example, the May tournament in Salt Lake City, Utah - still in District 18 - and there it is: \$10.00 per session proudly displayed. In fact, the DIC for that Regional is the same Steve Bates who is running this tournament.

I have been concerned about this situation for some time and, in fact, took the time to write to Mr. Jay Baum, CEO of the ACBL. That he chose not to even acknowledge my concern is certainly part of what moves me to make this a public issue, but at the root of

---

my decision today is the principle of fairness.

For many years, all ACBL directors have been paid in US dollars even when the tournament is in Canada and the directors live and work primarily in Canada. Director expenses allocations are paid in US dollars and all sanction fees are paid in US dollars. Of course, we must accept that, at the end of the day, the ACBL is a US based organization and we are a tagged on afterthought. I can live with that. When the Canadian dollar was a long way below parity, we paid a premium for the costs relating to our game, and I accepted that, too.

But now, with the Canadian dollar trading today at just shy of 99¢ US, we have card fees that charge a 15% premium. To be fair, this is a much lower differential than has been the standard until quite recently, but I still call on the ACBL (Board Members or Staff) to answer the question: why so great a premium?

If the question remains hanging in the air, I submit that we are likely to see more and more players, Canadian and American all, opting to reject Canadian sites for the now significantly cheaper US events. They may begin to steer clear of Alberta for Montana, Idaho and Utah, from Victoria, Vancouver and Penticton in favour of places like Spokane. Even during this tournament, I have heard significant concerns about whether to travel north to Edmonton and west to Penticton in favour of equally close US destinations.

I have heard it expressed that space costs are much higher in Canada than in the US, but, while I do not know the exact comparisons between Lethbridge and Salt Lake City, I doubt that Seattle is any less expensive than the Penticton Convention Centre.

Gentlemen, the floor is open. I will publish any responses you care to make.

## *Scent Sense*



More and more these days, tournament fliers contain a gentle reminder that many people have allergies to perfumes and colognes. Please be sensitive to the needs of these folks and try to avoid bathing in your favorite perfume before you head off to the tourney. Remember, perfumes were

originally used as a replacement to bathing. In all honesty, we subscribe to the old adage that Cleanliness is next to Godliness.

## *Table Count is Worrisome*

The table count for the first two days here in Lethbridge is worrying some although it is, perhaps, just a little early to panic. While the Regional comes to Lethbridge every four years, 2004 is a poor barometer since it was scheduled right on top of Easter and players stayed away in droves in favour of family activities.

At the end of Tuesday's play we had 164 tables, up some 8% over 2004.

Unfortunately, this number is down some 13% from the much more successful event in 2000. Of course, it is impossible to force folks to play, but remember, if you do not support events like this one, the events cannot continue to operate.

If we want the Lethbridge Regional in 2012, 2016 and 2020 we MUST play and encourage our partners to come and play. I will keep a running tally of the table count but we are shooting for over 1,000 tables by the end of the week. To meet that target, we need to have an average of 60 tables for each session in the rest of the week.

## *Ric's Grill...*

### **Nice, but not for the faint of heart**

If you walk out to the Mayor Magrath side of the El Rancho Hotel you will see what looks like an old water tower with big holes cut in the tank. Actually, it really IS an old water tank with big holes cut into the tank... but it is much, much more.



Ric's Grill occupies what may be one of the most unique venues anywhere. The old water tower used to provide water pressure for the city, but it had long since outlived its usefulness and the city was looking at costs to tear it down. It turns out that

tearing these things down seems not nearly as easy as building it in the first place. And so, a developer came along with an idea to refurbish the old tower as a locale for a very upscale eatery and lounge. The city liked the idea and now, several years later, Ric's Grill is the proud occupant.

Great food is to be had, but do NOT go for a quick bite before the 7:00 PM start of the evening session. Plan to spend at least a couple of hours and also expect to feel your wallet get measurably lighter. If you are looking for a quick knosh, this is not for you. But if you are wanting to treat your special lady to commemorate an anniversary, birthday, or achievement, you can do a lot worse than Ric's Grill.

The restaurant and lounge is easy to reach. Park in the ample parking lot beneath the legs and go into the center core. There is an elevator that will whisk you to your destination in a matter of seconds.

If price is no object, this option deserves 5 stars.

Ric's is at #200 103 Mayor Magrath Dr. South. Their phone is (403) 317-7427



## Monday Charity Open Pairs

7.0 Tables

	A	B	C		
3.97	1			John Coone, Vernon BC; Jack Triplett, Inkom ID	72.00
2.98	2			Charlene Martindale - Ian Martindale, Boise ID	69.50
2.81	3	1		Larry Boettcher, Conrad MT; James Guthrie, Polson MT	66.50
1.67	4			Paula Nowlan - Vince Nowlan, Edmonton AB	65.50
2.11	5	2	1	Hanna Odland - Lu Gunther, Lethbridge AB	64.50
1.58		3	2	Leon Bator - Helen Bator, Twin Butte AB	61.00
1.19		4		Jean Ainscough - Bette Flannigan, Lethbridge AB	59.00

## Tuesday Morning Side Game

8.0 Tables

	A	B	C		
2.73	1			Jack Triplett, Inkom ID; John Coone, Vernon BC	74.00
2.58	2	1	1	Betty Leicht - Flemming Leicht, Ottawa ON	67.00
1.94	3	2		Vasu Nair - Ian McDermid, Saskatoon SK	65.00
1.45	4	3		Sami Naydani - Tina Gokturk, Calgary AB	64.50
1.70	5/6	4/5	2	Jo Ann Horne - Marilyn Warne, Calgary AB	63.00
1.11	5/6	4/5		Gordon Delf, Kelowna BC; Ron Russell, Raymond AB	63.00
1.12	3/4			Diane Campbell - Evelyn Iwasa, Calgary AB	60.50
1.12	3/4			Karen Chapple - Janet Sharpe, Calgary AB	60.50

## Tuesday Afternoon Side Game

10.0 Tables

	A	B	C		
3.03	1	1		Jean Nelson - William Jorgensen, Kelowna BC	140.00
2.27	2	2		Janet Sheen - Lynne Helmer, Lethbridge AB	126.50
1.70	3			John Coone, Vernon BC; Jack Triplett, Inkom ID	122.50
1.31	4			Willie Zinter - Colin Crawford, Calgary AB	121.00
2.43	5	3	1	Carmen Gallant, Calgary AB; Terrie Matz, Bow Island AB	119.00
0.72	6			Ruby Premdas - Gerry Marchant, Calgary AB	116.50
1.82		4	2	Patricia Downie, Creston BC; Dorothy Hobbs, Canyon BC	115.00
1.37		5	3	Diane Campbell - Evelyn Iwasa, Calgary AB	114.50
1.03			4	Karen Chapple - Janet Sharpe, Calgary AB	110.50

---

## *Tuesday Afternoon 199er Pairs*

5.0 Tables

	D	E	F		
2.00	1			Bernice Alvey, Calgary AB; John Claydon, High River AB	62.00
1.67	2	1		Lorraine Curr - Vesha Labarre, Calgary AB	54.50
1.25	3	2		Christine McKay, Calgary AB; Fraser McKinnon, Surrey BC	54.00
0.94	4	3		Carole Clarke - Mabel Carnaghan, Lethbridge AB	53.50

## *Tuesday Open Pairs*

20.0 Tables / Based on 19 Tables

	A	B	C		
10.15	1			Kash Andreychuk, Yorkton SK; Lorna Nordlinder, Minot ND	538.62
7.61	2			Gerry Marshall, Calgary AB; Bernie Lambert, Acme AB	534.31
5.71	3			Dick Anderson, Regina SK; Linda Webb, Fargo ND	506.57
4.28	4			Andy Anderson - Curley Anderson, Saskatoon SK	498.68
6.47	5	1		Janice Eliasson - Rod Hilderman, Calgary AB	492.41
2.98	6			Charlene Martindale - Ian Martindale, Boise ID	485.96
4.85		2		Sami Naydani - Tina Gokturk, Calgary AB	481.37
3.64		3		Gamil Tadros - Fran Tadros, Calgary AB	476.78
3.53		4		Connie Pflanz - Ben Pflanz, Cochrane AB	462.98
2.30		5		Norma Barber, Fort Qu'Appelle SK; Rosemary Makelki, Regina SK	456.60
3.64		6	1	Mary Dutton, Edmonton AB; Mike Aston, Spruce Grove AB	442.47
2.73			2	James Moore - Graham Wood, Flin Flon MB	436.38
2.05			3	Alexandra Heal - Edward Heal, Creston BC	422.14
1.54			4	Sheila MacDonald - Thelma Pepper, Saskatoon SK	412.57

## *Tuesday Evening Side Game*

12.0 Tables

	A	B	C		
3.34	1	1	1	Robert Loewen - Fraser Brooks, Regina SK	137.50
2.51	2	2		Ron Kupchanko, Edmonton AB; Perry Chan, Calgary AB	135.50
1.88	3			Tove Hansen - Mary Clarke, Saskatoon SK	133.00
1.82	4	3	2	Allan Shore - Brian Shore, Regina SK	124.00
1.06	5			Mary Rose Mrazek - Gwen West, Lethbridge AB	118.00
1.44	6			Julie Adair - Doug Adair, Midvale UT	117.50
1.37		4	3	Carmen Gallant, Calgary AB; Terrie Matz, Bow Island AB	116.50
1.03		5	4	Genie Goodman - Anita Masters, Great Falls MT	113.00

## *Tuesday Evening 199er Pairs*

6.0 Tables

	D	E	F		
2.13	1			Bill Todd - Gwen Todd, Lethbridge AB	75.00
1.60	2			Ally Carlson - Ruby Misak, Lethbridge AB	73.00
1.67	3	1		Christine McKay, Calgary AB; Fraser McKinnon, Surrey BC	67.50
1.25	4	2		Colleen Keating-Brown - Sandra Baker, Lethbridge AB	63.50
0.94		3		Lorraine Curr - Vesha Labarre, Calgary AB	62.00



---

## Kickoff KO Teams - Bracket 1

14 Tables

- |       |     |  |
|-------|-----|--|
| 27.04 | 1   | Steve Lawrence, Calgary AB; Bob Crosby - Tom Gandolfo - Barry Pritchard – Faith Pritchard, Edmonton AB; Rod Paxton, Cataldo ID |
| 18.93 | 2   | Dann Kramer - Pam Peard - Jim Berglund - Abdul Fakhri, Calgary AB  |
| 10.82 | 3/4 | Glenn Cossey, Innisfail AB; Mike Christensen - Ed Flett, Red Deer AB; Don McCarthy, Saskatoon SK                               |
| 10.82 | 3/4 | Peter Jones - Chris Buchanan - Mavis Bergquist - Vince Lambert, Edmonton AB; Lorna McDonald - Bill McDonald, St Albert AB      |

## Kickoff KO Teams - Bracket 2

12 Tables

- |       |     |   |
|-------|-----|---|
| 10.97 | 1   | Larry Pizzezy, Red Deer AB; Gerald Perry, Coaldale AB; Wayne Winter – Jeff Robertson, Lethbridge AB |
| 7.68  | 2   | Valerie Ling - Gladys Grant - Ellen Brown - Elizabeth Pineo, Calgary AB                             |
| 4.39  | 3/4 | Joan Johnston - Franca Matheson - Anne Day - Mary Tebo, Calgary AB                                  |
| 4.39  | 3/4 | Anne Stang - Wilda Pashak - Beth Massie - Barry Pashak, Calgary AB                                  |

## Kickoff KO Teams - Bracket 3

11 Tables

- |      |     |   |
|------|-----|---|
| 7.20 | 1   | Bev Mason - Barb Crookshank - Doris Lange - Barbara Bayer, Calgary AB                     |
| 5.04 | 2   | Gretta Hinton - Jean Ward - Doug Collister - Ken Scott, Calgary AB                        |
| 2.88 | 3/4 | Robert Iverson - Joyce Antoine, Meota SK; Fraser Brooks - Robert Loewen, Regina SK        |
| 2.88 | 3/4 | Nancy Carritt - Laurence Ferguson - Doug Carritt, Red Deer AB; Sheila Gaudreau, Sundre AB |

## Park Place Mall

So where IS Lethbridge's big shopping mall? Here's a map:



The mall has over 100 retailers including Sears, Alia, Cotton Ginny, Michaels, Ricki's, Jysk, Sports Check, a food court, and cinemas (*Leatherheads* and *Nim's Island* are two movies currently showing). The mall is also surrounded by free-standing stores including Toys R Us, Pier 1, and Chapters (with a Starbucks).

