

Jane Lamont

New ACBL NABC Life Master

Jane began playing bridge in 1975 while working at an agricultural research station in Ottawa. A threesome was looking for a fourth for lunchtime games. Since her mother and new mother-in-law both played bridge she thought it was the thing to do, so offered to play and learn. After a year of lunchtime play, Jane was hooked.



A couple years later, she began raising a family in the 'burbs. There was a 2-table game that moved around neighbourhood ladies homes every other Thursday evening. Jane played at it for 15 years until she went back to school to re-enter the work force.

In 1999, her goal when moving to Calgary was to join a local Club. She found one at a Church, playing contract and duplicate. Jane began to help out, then being noticed by the Director, an elderly lady who after a game of playing together, stood 6 inches from my nose and told her to go back to bridge lessons, learn duplicate and get moving! That's all it took.

In 2009, Jane joined the ACBL and found Bridgebase.com. She has 150 colourless Masterpoints from BBO. Jane had a busy I.T. career, a divorce, a move, a remarriage, a move so her bridge playing at clubs took a back burner. Her next goal was to retire and play more bridge! At the Church she learnt ACBL!Score, player movements, game setup, etc. Moving to High River outside of Calgary, she took over the setup of the seniors centre non-sanctioned duplicate game using Bridgemates, leading that game for 3 years.

Then in 2015 it was time to take the TAP and Director's course. She retired in 2016 and opened a club January 2017, Okotoks Bridge Club, in Okotoks, a bedroom community between High River and Calgary. The Club attracts 4-5 tables. It's competitor and supporter is down the street at the Seniors Centre running a non-sanctioned \$2 game. Jane also began teaching bridge lessons using Audrey Grant's **BridgeBasics**™ books and curriculum, along with TwoOverOne Game Force in High River, Okotoks, and, Southwest Calgary. Some students have joined the Club. She found Stephanie Threlkeld's help invaluable in branding the Club. In October, 2018, Jane received extra Masterpoints as she had brought in 10 new members. For a year or two, Dave Johnson of District #18 contributed towards my advertising costs of bridge classes as the CAP program continues to provide grants. This summer she began an 'expert in residence' where Clyde D'Arcy will come for 30 minutes before the game for a Q&A of last week's hand record and scores. Players report it being very worthwhile.

Last year she tried a 2-month pilot project of teaching bridge in a local elementary school after-school using Kitty Cooper's curriculum and Minibridge on the ACBL site. The Unit 390 contributed towards my capital supplies. While I couldn't commit to an entire school year and couldn't find a substitute, in Southwest Calgary Myron Achtman is doing a marvellous job in teaching in 4 schools during lunch hours.

Jane is currently opening a 299er game in Southwest Calgary on a trial basis for August/Sept/Oct to gauge commitment for a new Club. During Nov – Apr, Jane snowbirds in Arizona, so if the commitment is good, she'll open a Club in Southwest Calgary in May and either close or not, the Okotoks club. She has received advice, encouragement, loaners and offers to help from the Unit 390 Directors.

Yes, Jane is going to the Red Deer Regional, accommodations are booked and permission received to bring a bridge book and accessories sale to the tournament.

From ACBL she shares links of stories on Facebook to her lessons and club Facebook pages. Jane has received permission from Paul Linxwiler to reproduce his editorials from the **Bridge Bulletin** in emails to the Club. She has sent countless students to the Convention Wisdom web pages to understand how to complete a convention card. Jane has led workshops on Matchpointing to enable new players to understand and analyze their scores.

While in Arizona, outside Phoenix she had a great time playing this past winter partnering 'up' with three different ladies and winning lots of Masterpoints in Clubs and Sectionals. Jane learnt their club tradition for leading games which she will incorporate into my new game: namely, don't have the players line up the door to pay, but invite them inside to sit at the tables with North being the administrator collecting the game fees as I wonder around the tables collecting the exact amount.

Jane's flight is booked to her first ever NABC in San Francisco in December! Jane is working with a partner online on BBO who lives outside of Seattle whom she met at the Penticton Regional three years ago.