

..... a short history of the NSRC Duplicate Bridge Club.

According to my limited research (and even more limited memory), and after discussion with the few remaining Charter Members of the Club it appears that the Club was first organized during the 1991-92 season. It morphed from the regular Contract Bridge already being played on Wednesday afternoons. Four of the original organizers were Norm Nelson, Eric Noakes, Jim Ingham, and Peter Warner.

It was first played upstairs in the Pottery area on Thursdays with approximately 3 – 5 tables. Since this inauspicious beginning, the Club has expanded to being played on four different days of the week with attendance at times reaching as many as 18-20 tables on Thursday and Friday afternoons. As our numbers increased we presented quite a challenge to our Coordinators in their attempts to find space to accommodate us. Over the past 25+ years we have moved from the hard wooden chairs above the Heritage Room, to play in Rooms A, B, C, D, and E, Confederation High School next door, Lawn Bowl Clubhouse, Heritage Room, Art Class Studio, Art Classroom, and eventually settled in our present site in Hall F for our Thursday/Friday games and the Heritage Room for our Sunday/Wednesday games. Hall E was our home for many years until our continued expansion had us overflowing the room and setting up tables outside in the hallway. Sunday afternoon games were added approximately 18 years ago. Shortly after that Wednesday evening games commenced when a local Club, which had been renting space in local schools, asked the City to provide space in the Sportsplex. They were invited to join the NSRC and allow all members to participate. Thus making Duplicate Bridge available four days per week.

Our game has become somewhat more sophisticated over the years since our humble beginnings. We progressed to Bidding Boxes many years ago, and to semi-computerized scoring and on to official ACBL scoring by some of our Volunteer Directors.

With our current members of approximately 150, we constitute the largest membership of any of the Centre's various activity groups. It appears that Kay Petterson and Pam Dougan are the last remaining Charter members, with Terry & Lilian Li, Milt Pelley, Jim Shurtliff, Lois Gonyer, and Jackie Nipius, all at or near the 25-year level.

We have enjoyed the privilege of playing our friendly but competitive game of Duplicate thanks to the support of the City of Ottawa through the medium of the Nepean Seniors Recreation Centre and its Coordinator. It could not have prospered without the many hours put in by our various volunteers over the years.

(Researched and compiled by Milt Pelley, June 2017)