



ISPA INFO

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Message from the President:

Dear ISPA Skat members,

We are ready to embark on a new year of Skat. The last few years have been tough and year by year our aging membership is getting lower and lower. I believe the time has come to re-evaluate and restructure our ISPA Clubs. Last year we elected a new executive, that did a fantastic job in hosting the WM in Edmonton and again I would like to thank all those that participated. The WM event was successful, and we even made a few dollars, so financially ISPA Canada is in a good position.

The future of Skat and ISPA Canada must now look at ways to grow again. Skat players now need ISPA more than ever. We have gone 40 years of organized Skat in Canada and that is mainly thanks to all the ISPA members that have donated their time, money, and friendships. We have developed a strong bond between all the clubs in Canada and the USA. If not for ISPA and their Skat members, Skat would have died 15 years ago alongside many of the German clubs.

We no longer can depend on recruiting new Skat players from the German clubs, nor can we recruit Skat players from German Immigration, as the new immigrants don't even know what Skat is. Our new goal must change from recruiting to developing. The clubs that are still doing well are those that dedicate an effort to teaching and training, promoting and public awareness. These clubs consist of 100% ISPA members and at least 50% or more of their

membership is club-taught players. We need to follow suit and work in that direction.

ISPA Canada, its executive, presidents, members, and myself plan on developing new programs, ideas, and support to help clubs work together in this direction. We understand it takes time, patience, and money to teach a new generation of Skat players "how to play". But we believe it's possible, and our efforts will be rewarded. The way our clubs operate, and function may change. But the game of Skat and its fellowship will last forever.

Best of Cards,

Ron Link

President, ISPA Canada

From the Editor:

Greetings to the Skat Community in North America!

Spring has finally sprung, or so we hope here in Alberta. One is never sure as to how much of the white precipitation will return before the May long weekend, but things are starting to move upwards on the mercury scale. We as Skat lovers are naturally way ahead of mother nature in the wakeup phase, long before the first crocuses are blooming. Some clubs

even skip the Skat hibernation altogether, even the ISPA tournaments got an early head start with the 2023 North American Championship and Master's already in the bag.

The year 2023 will definitely bring some changes to our organization, maybe more so than in previous years. At the AGM a few days ago in Montréal, Ron planned to announce that after 38 years of the Canadian Championship being held in Quebec, the venue of this prestigious event, whose title many Skat players are eager to call their own, is moving to Western Canada. The reason for the change is the aging Skat population which seems to affect many Skat Clubs, but in particular also the Montréal club. The editor has yet to understand how Skat can one day, after decades of playing, not be one's primary interest anymore, but some people just seem to have indeed other enjoyable things to do with their lives. After a refreshingly increasing attendance in Montréal, Jutta however agreed to host the CC one more year and after that decide year by year on whether the CC will continue in Montréal or move to a different venue.

With this, one cannot but reflect on the history of the KM (Kanadische Meisterschaft) or CC (Canadian Championship) as the English-speaking folk refer to. With the editor having been in Montréal for the CC only twice now, and not knowing about the early days and history of this tournament, the information on our statistics page for the Canadian Championship may assist in this review (www.skatcanada.ca/stats).

The CC started in 1984 in Ste-Marguerite Station in Quebec. The competition was held there for eight years, with the venue changing to Montréal for one year in 1990. Starting 1993, the tournament was moved to Sainte-Adele, which served as the top Canadian Skat venue for 19 years in a row, before moving "permanently" to Montréal. Since 2012, the Canadian Champions were crowned in Montréal until this year. Some of the more seasoned players in Red Deer and other locations still dream of those large Skat outings with participants from around the globe.

Under the longstanding and very generous sponsorships of the Hagen family, Quebec hosted 38

of the finest Canadian Skat Championships in North America! It was even heard that for the 1992 Skat World Championship held in the Laurentians, the championship winner was awarded a brand-new Cadillac as the first prize, courtesy of the Hagen brothers! Needless to say, those days will be cherished and admired by the participants and non-participants for years to come. A big thank you to the Hagen family for supporting our beloved game for four decades!

Please join me in wishing Jutta the continued success next year, so that the tradition of the Canadian Championship in Quebec may continue for a little while longer. Should the venue eventually move, we wish to express the same feelings for success wherever this prestigious tournament moves to, with the goal to keep the comradery of the Skat players in North America and their families, which the ultimate card game continues to nourish, alive.

Gerd Reiner

Secretary and Editor, ISPA Canada

Tournament Results

The 2022 ISPA Skat tournament year ended in Cleveland, Ohio with the locals Roger Beckerman and Kevin Thompson taking first and second place respectively followed by Scott McCormick from Ottawa to provide Canadian representation on the winner's podium.

Cleveland started a new tradition by singing the first line of the French national anthem, every time a player gets to "crawl out of the basement," meaning, as all Skat players know, transitioning from negative points to positive ones on the score sheet. We got to hear the first line of La Marseillaise quite a few times from Kevin in the second round in Cleveland. It is actually quite catchy and may become an entertaining addition to future tournaments in other places, too. To the music professional from Cleveland, we say:

Allons enfants de la Patrie, le jour de gloire est arrivé!

North American Championship and Master's, Las Vegas, NV

The 2023 ISPA Skat opener was held in Las Vegas in January, which was welcome to many players, as the last tournament there was held in June, which was a shock to many players' bodies due to the high temperatures then. Las Vegas in January is much more tolerable.

On Friday afternoon, the Master's tournament started with the typical category A and B. It was Joe Fellner from Baltimore who took the crown in the A category with 4238 points, ahead of Frank Dankemeyer (who as of late is often referred to as Frank Denkemeyer) (3591) and Michael Huhn from Germany (3497):



Seriensieger in Master's A were Jochen Pfeiffer, Joe Fellner and Arno von Hacht.

Master's B was dominated by Hans Weirich (3852) Eve Denkemeyer (sorry, Dankemeyer) (3243), and John Daub (3088):



with Seriensieger Tricia Link, Hans Weirich and John Daub.

As for the North American Championship, by many considered the main event, the highest scorer was Axel Schulz from Germany with 6153 pints followed by the 2023 North American Champion Kurt Wehr (5965) and Frank Reuter from Germany (5931):



Seriensieger honours went to Frank Reuter, Donna Dee, Ron Link, Bill Thompson, and Ewald Apel.

Besides the team competition, this year there was also a Tandem competition, which was won by the Germans Jochen Pfeiffer and Michael Huhn:



The winning team of the competition was comprised of all German players: Frank Reuter, Jochen Pfeiffer, Peter Hoffmann and Michael Huhn with a total of 21657 points.



As North American Teams Champion however were crowned Dinah Kunst, Shawn Snyder, Arno von Hacht and Hans Rasing.



In addition, the 2023 NAM also produced a Grand Ouvert, which was played by Tami Smith, congratulated by Eve, who ran the tournament as organizer:



At the end of the competition, two announcements were made. The first one spoke about the fact that this was the last year that we could afford playing in the Hotel California, as prices have increased drastically there, which leaves ISPA with no other option but to look for a different venue.

The second announcement came from Jim Leissner from Texas, announcing his very likely retirement from offline Skat, meaning he will not be seen in person at ISPA Skat tournaments anymore. Jim has over many years significantly contributed to the Skat community in North America, always advocating for fair play, wherever the game brought him to. He is an excellent Skat player with six tournament wins (1999 and 2015 in Calgary, 2004, 2009 and 2018 in Texas, and the 2019 US Open Championship in Florida. We wish him always Gut Blatt in his online games, where fair play comes as a given.

Lone Star Tournament, Houston, TX

The second tournament of the year was held at the Liederkranz in Houston. 21 players got together to compete for the title in five rounds. Who is Ursula Winzer-Serhan, you may ask. Well, this lady demonstrated that the great state of Texas still has a lot of surprises in store. Ursula won the Lone Star tournament with 6030 points ahead of Frank Dankemeyer (5742) and Kevin Thompson (5441):



By the way, Houston is where Frank got his new nickname, courtesy in all likelihood of Conway Waak (you may check the results page of that tournament).

Congratulations to Ursula, defeating these two and all the other players takes a lot of knowledge and a bit of luck, perhaps too. Plus, maybe a couple of instances of La Marseillaise from Kevin.

As for the Seriensieger in Houston, they were 1. Frank, 2. + 5. Ursula Winzer-Serhan, 3. Bob Ewald and 4. Karsten Dorawa.

38th Canadian Championship, Montréal

Summary Annual General Meeting (AGM)

First order of business in Montréal was the AGM for ISPA Canada/USA. To summarize the salient points from the meeting:

- ♣ Clarification was provided for the Newcomer Tournament for the CC and the NAM
- ♣ Instead of the “Wanderpokal” (keeper trophy) needing to be shipped from one venue to another a motion was made to purchase three 3x5 banners (Winner, Best Opposite Gender, and Team Winners) that gets patches sewn onto them for tournaments and the banner gets shipped from venue to venue. The winners get a tournament patch for themselves. The motion was unanimously voted on and carried.
- ♣ The Las Vegas venue (Hotel California) is no longer viable due to price increases. The goal is to find a

new venue before the 2024 tournament in that area.

- ♣ The 9th US Open will take place in Seattle on the second weekend in September. The 2024 US Open is planned for Boston.
- ♣ The Great Lakes round of tournaments in August will be Hamilton, Cleveland, and Catskill Mountains. (See tournament schedule on the website).
- ♣ After the Hamilton tournament, a referee refresher course is held to recertify the existing referees and potentially new ones.
- ♣ The Cleveland Skat Club is applying for the 2026 World Championship, the venue has lots to offer. Fundraising needs support and ideas were shared including government grants and donation categories. Bill shared that he is inviting the ISPA World delegation to assess the viability of Cleveland as the venue.
- ♣ The books were audited and to be found in order by Marianne, who unfortunately can no longer perform the audit in future years. Kristina volunteered to adopt the audit role.
- ♣ After a previous announcement of Montréal no longer being available to host the Canadian Championship, we discussed options and as a result (by in large triggered by returning membership arriving in Montréal in sufficient numbers), Jutta agrees to continue with the 2024 CC / KM and decide year by year going forward with the assistance of John, Gerd, and others.
- ♣ For the 2024 NAM, Ryan is looking into Winnipeg hosting this tournament, if that cannot be achieved (decision by the 2023 September long weekend), Gerd has suggested to run the NAM in Red Deer in 2024.
- ♣ Ron distributes a list of suggestions for club restructuring, which he discusses with the executives. Promotion of the game, coaching and training need to be at the forefront together with running the Skat clubs properly with meetings, minutes, and voting.
- ♣ Dinah reminds that ISPA memberships are due on by February 28 each year, clubs are required to send their member’s ISPA fees no later than that

date. On the topic reminders, Ron repeats that **club updates** must be sent to Gerd (ISPA Secretary, ispa@skatcanada.ca) timely (at the latest two weeks before quarter end (March, June, September, and December). Scores and pictures from each tournament are required to be sent immediately following the tournament.

Preceding the Canadian Championship was an Invitational held at the Hagen residence, where 39 players (yes, no typo!) attended for a two-rounder surrounded by great food before and between the games. A big thanks to Jutta and Horst for their generosity that started even before the CC.

The 38th Canadian Championship was very much so a success and a great rebound from lower post-covid attendance numbers. 71 players had registered for the event originally and 69 players ended up competing for the title. The tournament was controlled very early on by Ottawa's Frank Heuvelmans. Starting with an average of 1456 points in the first three rounds he never looked back and finished with a total of 8093 points, 397 points ahead of second place Shawn Snyder from Delaware. In third place Kevin Thompson managed to collect 7325 points.



Klaus Wehrenberg won the first series with 1712 points and in doing so had to buy Gerd a beer who predicted Table 1 Seat 1 for the second round for him. The second series was won with a devastating score of 2102 by Kevin Thompson, no singing of La Marseillaise

in that round by Kevin. Round three (2017) and round six went to Eric Luz (1867), while Kristina won round four (1839) and Ron round five (1859).



The winning team's name got carved when Scott asked Frank for the office keys just after Frank inquired about what their team's name should be.

"Gimme the keys" (Frank Heuvelmans, Shawn Snyder, Scott McCormick, and Hans Schirmer) won the team competition with a total of 26,076 points.



The newly introduced newcomer trophy was won by Monica Belanger with a total of 5712 points, which is an impressive average score of 952 points per round.



Best opposite gender was awarded to Kristina Huisman, last year's Canadian Champion, with a score of 6419 points. Congratulations to Frank and all winners.



The very creative team name "Give me the keys again" with Frank, Shawn, Scott, and Hans" was the successful team with a total of 21737 points.



Ottawa Tournament

Right after Montréal, 52 players made their way down to Ottawa for their ISPA tournament. This traditional five-rounder was led by Scott McCormick after round one, however Jürgen Steiner took over after the second round. Scott moved back into the lead after round three and stayed there even after round four was completed. In round five, Roger Beckerman, coming from 13th place after round three, outperformed the rest of the competition to take the title with 5950 points, by a narrow 53-point lead ahead of Eric Luz (5897) and Scott only nine points down from Eric (5888).



Congratulations to Roger and all winners!

Club Updates

Several clubs have been providing updates in time for this newsletter and the editor's thanks goes out to those of you club executives who did provide updates.

Going into the Montréal tournament, the lack of ISPA memberships being forwarded to our treasurer from some clubs did create a bit of a problem, as non-members pay ten dollars more tournament entry fee, which seemed to have surprised some of the players. This meant that Jutta had to explain several times, that the ten dollars could be waived in favour of paying the membership fee, which several players opted to do just before the tournament. As a tournament organizer, this is less than desirable because it creates delay. We would like to appeal to all players to pay

their membership fees early, which prevents re-work and guarantees less delays at the beginning of the Canadian Championship.

At the beginning of the AGM, we took a minute of silence in honour of the members we lost this past year:



As already indicated by our president in his message above, several clubs in North America are challenged by the fact that newcomers are hard to come by and that teaching Skat must be at the forefront of the clubs if they want to continue and eventually thrive again. Investing the amount of time needed to learn and master the game seems to deter younger generations that feel no need for additional social experiences. It is for this reason that we must advertise to grow our Skat clubs again, invest the time to teach new potential

candidates, and equally important, show the newcomers that Skat is first and foremost about having fun and socializing. Of course, the competitive aspect of the game, the bragging rights so to speak, is always a factor, but there has to be a balance. To all Skat enthusiasts out there, make sure you find that balance so that newcomers do feel welcome.

Now to some input from the existing Skat clubs.

SaSKAToon Skat Club

Shelley reports: "The Club meets for regular play every Wednesday evening at Sports on Tap on the Prairieland Exhibition Grounds at 2606 Lorne Ave. Play begins at 6:30 pm.

We have functions planned throughout the year that can be found on the website. Our annual ISPA tournament begins with a warm-up round on Friday May 26th followed by the Tournament on Saturday and Sunday May 27th- 28th. This invite can also be found on the website.

Our club has been lucky in having attendance ranging in size from 12 - 20; depending on where our Snowbirds are and the odd guest from Regina that drops in with their relatives from Germany. We are anticipating new members of 2 - 5 starting SKAT lessons this year. We have developed a banner which will be displayed at our events and German cultural events within our community. The SK German Council publishes our events and the City of Saskatoon has helped support us."

While Saskatoon will host the next ISPA tournament on the 2023 calendar on May 27/28, the club also held a fun three round Easter tournament on April 22.

Hamilton Germania Skat Club

With the Toronto club not being in existence any longer, Willi has been assisting the Hamilton club for the time being. He shares that from the 23 listed players, about 12 players meet weekly, which includes some previously playing in Toronto. Naturally, that involves an hour commute to Hamilton, which is why not all listed players come every week. Here some standings from the club thus far in 2023, as of March 25:

Rank	Name	Start #	Year-to-date Totals	No. of Weeks Played	Running 25 week Ave.
1	z*Dietrich, Horst	5	29,117	14	1,165
2	z*Barta, Sigfrid	25	27,565	15	1,103
3	z*Rausch, Thomas	22	26,881	13	1,075
4	z*Reinke, Fred	7	23,963	15	959
5	z*Rischke, Harry	11	22,146	13	886
6	Koenen, Willi	17	21,408	12	856
7	Carl, Erwin	34	20,726	14	829
8	Kamps, Hermann	15	20,480	11	819
9	Eggers, Barbara	1	19,282	9	771
10	z*Feld, Manfred	19	19,210	14	768
11	z*Polap, Adolf	36	19,188	12	768
12	Kamps, Thomas	27	15,423	8	617
13	z*Mandl, Sabine	12	14,478	11	579
14	z*Klamer, Lance	6	10,473	7	419
15	z*Asbury, Mandi	23	10,007	6	400
16	z*Schmitz, James	21	7,466	4	299
17	Frank, Heidemarie	9	7,429	4	297
18	z*Ludecke, Klaus	16	-	-	-

Winnipeg Skat Club

Dinah from Winnipeg shared updates to their club in terms of location and officers. These updates have been posted on the club page of skatcanada.ca, which can be accessed by clicking here:

[Clubs | Ispa North America | Edmonton \(Skatcanada.ca\)](#)

“Based on feedback, we moved the Club page to a separate menu item, so to easier find the clubs on the site. The Winnipeg club is playing at the Price Edward Legion (has been there for a while) under Dinah’s leadership.” Dinah writes further:

“I am pleased to announce that the Winnipeg Skat Club is still around. We meet every Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. at the Prince Edward Legion. We usually have 2 tables, sometimes 3. We currently have 9 ISPA members.

We held our annual meeting on February 15, 2023, and elected the following board: Dinah Kunst, President, Ryan Bilan, Vice-President, Arno von Hacht, Treasurer, Hans Wieland, Secretary.

We have resumed playing for our Club Meisterschaft and I am pleased to announce our 2022 Winners:

Club Meister 2022:

Hans Rasing with an average score of 1060

2nd Place:

Hans Wieland with an average score of 1057;

And 3rd Place:

Dinah Kunst with an average score of 992.

We also held a XMAS Skat. The winners last year were:

Kaela Kunst-Bentz – 2,485 (two rounds)

Phil Klassen – 2,426; and

Dinah Kunst – 2065.

Everyone receives prizes at our XMAS Skat, and we also have a nice Christmas dinner with spouses.

We have also resurrected our Skat training committee. In the past, we have had pretty good success in teaching Skat to newcomers on Saturday mornings in the German Club over breakfast. We are hoping to continue this practice into the future. Unfortunately, the German Club will be closing over the summer, so this endeavor will have to be delayed to the fall.

We have also been attempting to find a location where we will be able to hold tournaments. This has been a challenge, but we are hopeful that we will be successful in the very near future. We, as a club, are doing our best to keep this wonderful game of Skat alive.”

Houston Liederkrantz Skat Club

In addition to the above results from the Houston tournament in February, Horst shared the following:

“Thanks again to everyone who made the trip to our Tournament. After last years disappointing showing we had 22 Players, but only 10 out of the big State of Texas. But the big surprise winner was a total newcomer to our tournament friends, Ursula Winzer-Serhan from College Station, she played only her 2nd Tournament after Houston 2022. A big Thanks again to my two Friends from Carmin, Texas, Conway, and Raymond, for taking care of the registration again. I couldn’t do it without you!”

Texas Club Tournaments

Conway sent us the Texas club tournament list for 2023. This list can be viewed here:

[Club Tournaments](#) | [Isipa North America](#) | [Edmonton \(Skatcanada.ca\)](#)

With five club tournaments listed, it shows that Skat is still alive in Texas, albeit playing with Texas Skat rules. It would be great to see a second ISPA rule tournament in Texas some time again.

Ottawa Skat Club

Scott from Ottawa reports that they have 14 players attending Skat weekly and sometimes additional visitors.

Note from the editor: After the first day of the Ottawa tournament, Scott continued the tradition of hosting the Peggy's Cup at his house, where 28 people were present.



While 27 played across three levels of Scott's house, the man at the bottom right, Steve Grimes from Omaha, amended Scott's very tasty "feeding the crowd" by cooking up a significant amount of beef tenderloin, with mushrooms, onions etc. A big thanks to Scott for having us over and to both, Scott, and Steve for feeding us so well.

Red Deer Skat Club

The Red Deer Skat Club, under new management (Gerd Reiner is the new president after voting at the AGM at the end of 2022 season) has played every

Monday this year since January 10. On Family Day, (February 20) the club played two rounds and enjoyed a lovely Chinese Dinner in between the rounds. Typical attendance for the Monday nights is between 12 – 16, due to the fact that it still is snowbird season at the time of writing of this report. With 18 ISPA members, Red Deer is one of the larger remaining clubs in Canada. The club expects five to six tables for the warmer season each Monday and potentially even more when guest players are present.

The Red Deer players have adopted the electronic scorekeeping well and as a result, fewer errors are observed. Besides this positive argument, having the players entering the data saves measurable time and the data is available right away, compared to the old days, where the points from the list had to be transferred into a spreadsheet, previously allowing for even more human error. Should your club be interested in electronic score keeping, information can be found in links from the Winter 2022 newsletter [here](#) on page 8.

On March 18, one day after St. Paddy's Day, the club hosted the now traditional Luck of the Irish tournament. 33 players attended from Saskatoon, Edmonton, Calgary, and Red Deer, which all considering is a great turnout. Last year's costume winner was Ms. Frizzle (Kristina) and the Magic School Bus from Edmonton, this year, only these photos could be found on the Editor's phone:



The Red Deer ISPA tournament will again be held the weekend after the Saskatoon tournament, so June 2-4. In listening to the active members, Red Deer is following Montreal's lead to not play three rounds in

one day, meaning that the first round of the tournament will be played Friday night, starting 7:30pm in lieu of the warmup round.

Other than that, Red Deer makes continuous efforts as well to recruit and train inexperienced players. Sometimes attempts are more successful than others, as we do not have dedicated coaches for our Monday nights at this time. Training is mostly done on Saturdays and Sundays. Fresh players often connect with us during our other social events, like Frühlings- or Oktoberfest, where the topic Skat is brought up on a regular basis.

Kelowna Ogopogo Skat Club

Manfred from the Ogopogo Skat Club in Kelowna is one of four remaining active players at the Harmony Club in the Okanagan. These four warriors still play once a week since January, and one can only wish that the tradition continues. Kelowna has not yet announced an entry in the ISPA 2023 tournament calendar. The editor is hopeful that this may still change, since the Okanagan is such a beautiful place to visit and especially since the volunteers at the German Canadian Harmony Club at Cary Road are always so friendly and their food amazing! What do you say, Manfred, right after Seattle, perhaps?

Edmonton Spree Asse

Kristina sent us this update:

“The Edmonton Spree Asse Skat Club is playing on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm at AC pub. We are looking for a permanent home where we can display some Skat memorabilia. We are always working hard to bring in new members and have had success with our two members, Trecia Link and Bella Hanske, putting in the extra time and development into new players before they come up to play with the “professionals”. Every year we offer our members free membership if they bring in one new player, we also advertise in our local German newspaper and have had success with a website called “Meet up group”. We want to send a huge thank you to the Montréal Skat Club and their years of great Canadian tournaments, we have always

enjoyed coming and spending such quality time with all of the members from the East. Merci!”

Note from the Editor:

A number of clubs still have to schedule their 2023 ISPA tournament, the editor is looking forward to obtaining and sharing the flyers on the tournaments page for this year.

The next newsletter will appear at the end of summer. Club reports and information about your club activities must be sent to the editor by August 15, please, to make the cut. Thank you!

Upcoming ISPA Tournaments:

May 26 to 28 – Saskatoon, SK

June 2 to 4 – Red Deer, AB

June 3 to 4 – Santa Monica, CA

August 4-6 – Cleveland, OH

August – 7 to 9 Hamilton, ON

August 11- 13 Catskill Mountains, NY

Club Restructuring Suggestions and ISPA Executive Duties

In addition to the AGM summary above, the ISPA Canada president distributed two documents at the AGM, which talk about two topics:

- ♣ ISPA Clubs Restructure Suggestions
- ♣ ISPA Executive Duties and Goals for Future ISPA Clubs

ISPA Club Restructuring Suggestions

To be an ISPA club in good standing in Canada you need a minimum of 6 ISPA members (2 tables), all players that play on a weekly basis should be ISPA members and shall be entitled to all benefits, local and national. You as an executive have options:

- ♣ You can pay for a member that doesn't want to become an ISPA member out of fund raising

or Abreizgeld and in essence the whole club pays and suffers for that person.

- ♠ Another option is charging 1\$ a week on top of your entry and paying for everyone's membership and having a little left over for club benefits.
- ♠ Or you can make that person a permanent guest, who is not entitled to any of the clubs fundraising or Abreizgeld benefits (I have heard of non-members having to have to pay 1\$ 2\$ or 3\$ extra to play). We allowed 3 free plays a year and then you must become a member or continue paying extra to play
- ♠ You can charge a one-price membership and ISPA dues are included such as Edmonton does (most grant money allows for affiliation dues so you may be able to get subsidized).

How you as an executive decide to make everyone a member is up to you; this is more for the Skat players to realize that we are all part of ISPA and that they belong to a club that is ISPA organized and operated. **ISPA dues must be paid by the end of February each calendar year.** Players not wanting to be ISPA members are more than

welcome to start their own Skat club that is not affiliated with your ISPA club. All our presidents, executives, organizers, and volunteers do a lot of work, and it needs to be understood that without their hard work, you don't have a recognized club.

- ♥ Every Skat club must have an AGM once every year, a minimum of 3 elected executives president, treasurer, and secretary must exist. Directors are optional, but it is nice to have a couple of directors. Elections of these three officers must be held at every AGM.
- ♥ Every Skat club needs a bank account and must have a financial report at the end of the year and approved by their ISPA members.
- ♥ Every Skat club should have a trained official referee.

- ♥ Every Skat club should have someone represented at the AGM at the Canadian championships (our club has a 250\$ travel allowance for this)
- ♥ Each Skat club should host an ISPA tournament (all tournaments to be organized the same way, following ISPA entry fees and format).
- ♥ Each Skat club is to use the ISPA website, update contact persons and tournament dates
- ♥ At least once a year your club must advertise where and when you play Skat and that you welcome new players, also at least once a year you should play in a public venue.
- ♥ Each club also agrees to participate in any National ISPA promotion or functions, e.g., pin program, achievement awards, referee or teaching programs, grants, and fundraising efforts.

I believe once we are complete ISPA clubs all working together and operating on the same levels, we can come up with and organize national promotions, fundraising, the teachings, and development of new Skat players and bring better and new ideas to our Skat clubs. Our focus on keeping the last few members comfortable has run its time, we need our last efforts to concentrate on developing a new breed of Skat players for generations to come.

ISPA Executive Duties and Goals

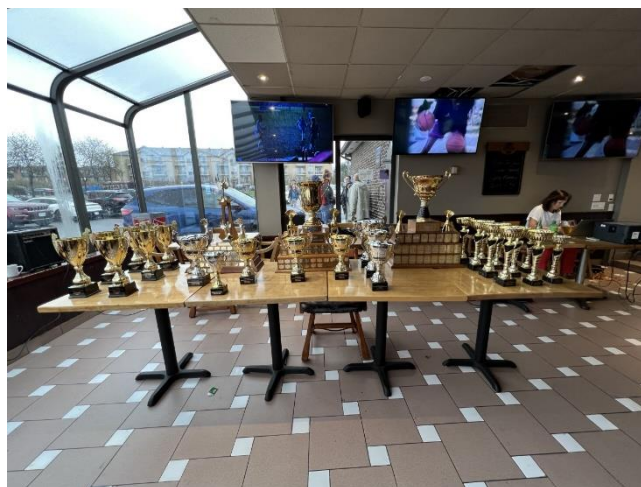
The following is a list of duties for all ISPA executives that have the goal of bringing growth to our Skat clubs and players of the future.

- ◆ Continue to inform and update members of events, tournaments, and other Skat happenings, through website, newsletters, and AGM
- ◆ Continue keeping stats on ISPA Players and Tournaments
- ◆ Continue to help organize, promote, and set up major tournaments, such as NAM, CAM, Masters, USAM, and ISPA club city tournaments.

- ◆ Continue to use, educate, teach, and promote ISPA's constitution, bylaws, sportsmanship, Skat rules and legal aspects of the game of Skat.
- ◆ We plan on scheduling a referee course at least once every 3 years.
- ◆ We plan on introducing an electronic version of score keeping and keeping national statistics.
- ◆ Continue supporting clubs with incentives, achievement awards and Skat programs. With the added effort to the learning aspect of the game and our beginners.
- ◆ We plan to promote the game more on a national level. We have ISS the world's best Skat computer program, we have a Facebook group page called 'Skat the Ultimate Card Game', we have a learning game for people interested in learning.
- ◆ ISPA Canada has now won its 4th world title, proving we can compete at a world level, we plan on finding ways to teach the rest of the players to get better.
 - ◆ We are looking at having seminars and teaching sessions for new players in each city.
 - ◆ We will be looking at clubs AGM minutes to see if we can help with suggestions, concerns, or financing, and share great ideas with other ISPA clubs, also help guide our ISPA presidents in running well organized clubs.
 - ◆ And of course, continue to encourage fellowship and unity between clubs.

Ron Link

Montréal Trophy Presentation 2023



Montreal 2023: 69 players



Ottawa 2023: 52 players

