



ISPA INFO



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32 JAHRE ISPA SEKTION USA

Als wir am 4. Dezember 1977 die ISPA Sektion USA in Anaheim, Kalifornien gründeten, war dies ein vielversprechender Anfang. Schon 4 Monate später war unsere US National Mannschaft auf Europa Reise und spielte in den neuen ISPA Sektionen Belgien, Frankreich, Österreich und Deutschland. Auf dieser Reise gab es viel Höhepunkte.

Das erste „Dreiländer Turnier“ USA-Belgien-Deutschland, wurde im Skat-Express Stuttgart Villingen und zurück ausgetragen. Danach Regelkongress in Aachen und vieles mehr. Der absolute Höhepunkt war jedoch die Einladung vom Bundestag. Die Vizepräsidentin Annemarie Renger, selbst auch Skatspielerin, hatte uns persönlich eingeladen. Danach ging es nach München. Der damaligen Präsident der Sektion Deutschland, Hans Peter Bendel, veranstaltete für uns ein Skatturnier auf der Zugspitze. Viel zu schnell vergingen die zwei Wochen in Deutschland und wir erinnern uns auch heute noch gern an diese ersten Abenteuer.

Zurück in Californian begannen wir sofort die Vorbereitungen für die erste ISPA Skat Weltmeisterschaft. Diese fand am 4. November 1978 in Anaheim statt. Hunderte freiwillige Helfer/ -innen und fast 600 Skatspieler/-Innen machten die erste Skat WM zu einem großen Erfolg. Anschließend an die WM fanden dann regelmäßig Turniere in den Skat Clubs entlang der Westküste statt. San Diego, Santa Monica, Anaheim, San Francisco, Portland, Las Vegas, und auch Seattle begannen jährliche Turniere zu veranstalten. Später kam dann noch das Texas Turnier hinzu. Verbindungen zur Ostküste gab es kaum. Es fehlte immer wieder an Nachwuchs und auch etwas an organisatorisches Engagement und so wurde die Anzahl der Teilnehmer von Jahr zu Jahr geringer. Zur 3. Nordamerikanischen Meisterschaft waren es nur noch 234 Skatfreunde. Natürlich wurden auch Fehler gemacht: Als wir 1978 auf dem „Regel Kongress“ mit Belgien und Frankreich zusammen Veränderungen durchsetzten (Verlorene Spiele mit doppelten, statt einfachen Punktverlust, Null ouvert auf 69 zu erhöhen, Null-Hand

abzuschaffen und das Seeger-Fabian Punkt System einzuführen), war dies dem sehr traditionellen Deutschen Skatverband zu progressive und die erwünschte Partnerschaft mit dem DSKV kam leider nicht zustande. Aber es ergaben sich auch positive Seiten: Der Drang nach Erneuerung wurde stärker und der DSKV musste sich besser organisieren um mit der ISPA mit zu halten. Es dauerte noch viele Jahre bevor sich die beiden Verbände wieder näher kämen. Es ist heute nicht mehr verboten für DSKV an ISPA Turnieren teilzunehmen. Der Turnierplan des DSKV ist im ISPA Skat Magazin abgedruckt, ebenfalls findet man im Skatfreund des DSKV ISPA Daten. Im Hinblick auf die Zukunft wäre es angebracht einige Verbesserungen vorzunehmen um das Skat spielen etwas Senioren freundlicher zu gestalten, sollte die Spielzeit der Liste um 10 Minuten verlängert werden. Das Einpassen sollte ganz wegfallen.

Vor 12 Jahren wäre es mir lächerlich erscheinen, wenn mir jemand gesagt hätte, dass ich im Jahr 2008 nur noch 12 Spieler für unsere Nationalmannschaft zusammen bekomme. So erscheint es mir wichtig auch weiterhin den Mut zu haben mit der Zeit zu gehen, und Änderungen zu schaffen, wenn solche nötig sind.

Horst Bertsch



32 YEARS ISPA SECTION U.S.

When on December 4, 1977 the U.S. ISPA Section in Anaheim, California was founded, it was a promising beginning. Only 4 months later our U.S. National team went on a European tour and played in the new ISPA sections Belgium, France, Germany and Austria. On this trip there were a lot of highlights. The first " Dreiländer Tournament " USA, Belgium and Germany, took place in the roundtrip Skat-Express train Stuttgart - Villingen. We took an active part in the skat rule Congress in Aachen, and other functions. The

absolute highlight was an invitation to the Bundestag (i.e. German Parliament). The Bundestag Vice President Anne Marie Renger, a skat player herself had invited us personally. Then we went to Munich. The former president of ISPA section Germany, Hans Peter Bendel, organized a Skat tournament for us on the Zugspitze at almost 3000 metres i.e. 10000 ft., the Zugspitze is Germany's highest mountain). Two weeks in Germany passed much too quickly, we still remember fondly our first ISPA USA adventures. Back in California, we began immediately preparations for the first ISPA World Skat Championship which was to take place November 4th 1978 in Anaheim Cal. hundreds of volunteers and nearly 600 Skat players made the first **Skat World Cup** a great success. Following the Skat World Championship, regular Skat tournaments sprung up in clubs along the west coast like San Diego, Santa Monica, Anaheim, San Francisco, Portland, Las Vegas and Seattle, Texas soon followed the trend in New Braunfels. There were hardly any connections to east coast skat clubs. Sourly missing was and is young players and people with some organizational talent and commitment. Consequently the number of participants dwindled from year to year. The 3.Nord American championship attracted only 234 Skatfriends. Of course mistakes were made: When in 1978 at the "Rule Congress" we, together with Belgium and France combined changes like lost Games with a double, instead of simple point loss, null overt to increase to 69, null-hand to be abolished and to institute the Seeger Fabian point system, but this seemed to much of progression for the very traditional German Skatverband (DSkV) and the desired partnership ISPA- DSkV did not materialize. But there were also positive sides: the urge for renewal has been strong within the DSkV to and also to cope with the ISPA. It took many years before the two organizations finally came closer. No longer is it frowned upon for ISPA members to play in DSkV tournaments and DSkV members to take part in an ISPA tournament. The DSkV tournament schedule can be found now in the ISPA Skat Magazine and visa versa in the Skatfreund of the DSkV. needed improvements to accommodate our seniors are to extend the play time by 10 minutes, thus minimizing pressure and create a friendlier stress free atmosphere. Twelve years ago, it would seem ridiculous to me, if someone predicted to me that I in 2008 I would be able to sign up only 12 players for our National Team. I think it is important to have the courage to go with the times and to look at changes when such are obviously needed.

Horst Bertsch

Laurentian Cup 2009

17. April

Le Chantecler Resort Hotel, St. Agathe, P.Q.

Einzelwertung / Single results 104 PLAYERS

1	LINK, RON	EDM	3140
2	FELLNER, JOE	BAL	3061
3	SCHURMANN, JURGEN	TOR	2858
4	LANG, THOMAS	OTT	2758
5	EHRlich, FOLKER	GER	2746
6	GORIS, Klemens	GER	2739
7	DAHLKE, Lothar	KIT	2653
8	RADKE, HELMUT	TOR	2559
9	CHRISTEN, WALTER	BAH	2517
10	EGGERS, BARB	HAM	2492
11	BAUR, GUNTER	KIT	2457
12	PENZENDORFER, BERT	KIT	2452
13	LEWRICK, PETER	GER	2421
14	PESCHLOW, WOLFGANG	MTL	2397
15	MUEHLING, STEPHEN	MTL	2396
16	TEMPLIN, ROLF	MTL	2370
17	HAGEN, ROLF C.	MTL	2351
18	MAYER, RICHARD	KIT	2348
19	KUNST, DINAH	WIN	2329
20	LOHMEIER, Egon	EDM	2326
21	RIDDER, DANNY	EDM	2310
22	SCHNEIDERS, Bernd	GER	2303
23	SCHINDLER, ACHIM	GER	2276
24	FEES, HERBERT	GER	2267
25	NEUBERT, HANS-JURGEN	GER	2266
26	HEUVELMANS, FRANK	OTT	2257

26. KANADISCHE SKAT MEISTERSCHAFT.

18+19. April 2009

Le Chantecler Resort Hotel, St. Agathe, P.Q.

Herzlich begrüßte Schirmherr Rolf C. Hagen die 172 Skatenthusiasten aus aller Welt und wünschte jedem das nötige Kartenglück und angenehme Turniertage. Herr Hartmut Scheer, Generalkonsul der BRD, der neue ISPA World Präsident Rainer Grunert und ISPA Canada Präsident H.-Jürgen Steinmetz begrüßten ebenfalls die Spieler und schlossen sich mit guten Wünschen an die des Schirmherrn an. Auch hier machte sich die allgemeine schlechte Weltwirtschaftslage bemerkbar. Erstmals fiel die Teilnehmerezahl auf unter 200. Doch trübte das die gute Stimmung des beliebten Turniers nicht im mindesten. Wie immer war alles bestens organisiert. Reichhaltiges, geschmackvolles Essen trug zur allgemeinen Zufriedenheit bei. Dafür sei hier ein Lob dem Montrealer Skatclub ausgesprochen, der erstmals dieses Turnier durchführte. Wer nicht "im Geld" war, hatte dank der Großzügigkeit der Gebrüder Hagen ein paar schöne unterhaltsame Tage. Die Siegerehrung und Preisverteilung wurde von Zeremonienmeister Horst Hagen, assistiert von Bruder Dieter

humorvoll und zügig durchgeführt. Turniersiegerin und beste Dame wurde Roswitha Koerper (BRD) mit 6871 Punkten, gefolgt von ISPA-World Präsidenten Rainer Grunert mit 6636 Punkten. Als dritter folgte Richard Ridder aus Ottawa. Richard wurde mit 6567 Punkten zum dritten Mal Kanadischer Skatmeister. Amelie Leibl (MON) wurde mit 5933 Punkten kanadische Skatmeisterin. Das Team ISPA WORLD mit H.-J. Neubert, Rosita Rodehueser, Folker Ehrlich und Rainer Grunert (alle BRD) wurde mit 23.629 Punkten Turniersieger. Frank Heuvelmans (OTT), Thomas Lang (OTT), Ron Link (EDM), Eric Luz (CAL) im Team Canadian Champions dürften zum zweiten mal mit 23.334 Punkten den kanadischen Teampokal in Empfang nehmen. Durch die Residenzklausel kommen Geldpreise rangmässig zur Auszahlung. Die kanadischen Meistertitel bleiben jedoch den in Kanada sesshaften ISPA Mitgliedern vorbehalten.

H.K.



Canadian Championship winners from left: Richard Ridder (3rd and Canadian Champion), Roswitha Koerper (1st) and Rainer Grunert (2nd).

Einzelwertung / Single results 172 PLAYERS

1	KOERPER, Roswitha	GER	6871
2	GRUNERT, RAINER	GER	6636
3	RIDDER, RICHARD	OTT	6567
4	LINK, RON	EDM	6348
5	BRINCK, Konrad	TOR	6332
6	SCHINDLER, ACHIM	GER	6312
7	PAULY, GUENTER	CAL	6132
8	EHRlich, FOLKER	GER	6023
9	FELLNER, JOE	BAL	5952
10	LEIBL, AMELIE	MTL	5933
11	DANNER, LUTZ	BAH	5879

12	LUZ, ERIC	CAL	5739
13	PESCHLOW, WOLFGANG	MTL	5727
14	NEUBERT, HANS-JURGEN	GER	5725
15	MUNDRY, JOE	NEW	5675
16	KAMPNER, Peter	GER	5652
17	LANG, THOMAS	OTT	5644
18	HEUVELMANS, FRANK	OTT	5603
19	LOHMEIER, Egon	EDM	5584
20	LEISSNER, James	USA	5576
21	FRANK, HEIDI	HAM	5553
22	EHRET JR., GEORGE	MTL	5547
23	WEBER, BRUNO	CON	5513
24	VOIGT, ROLF	MTL	5506
25	LUZ, BERND	CAL	5501
26	KHALIL, JUTTA	MTL	5493
27	OSTERHUES, GEORGE	OT	5480
28	MEIER, ALFRED	CON	5393
28	BURO, MICHAEL	EDM	5365
30	WESTPHALEN, MAX	OTT	5321
31	EISENKOLB, BERND	GER	5289
32	RODEHUESER, ROSITA	GER	5241
33	SCHMID, CARSTEN	MTL	5241
34	PENZENDORFER, BERT	KIT	5213
35	KREMER SR, HANS	MTL	5178
36	KOENEN, WILLI	TOR	5163
37	KLUGER, HELENE	GER	5139
38	KREMER JR, Hans	GER	5126
39	FIENE, HUBERT	MTL	5119
40	KRETSCHMANN, JOHN	MTL	5112
41	SCHLOESSER, Erwin	GER	5089
42	STOPS, Jan	OTT	5083
43	DIETRICH, HORST	HAM	5073

Mannschaften / Teams

1. ISPA WORLD		23.629
H.-J. Neubert ; Rosita Rodehueser,	GER	
Folker Ehrlich; Rainer Grunert,	GER	

2. Canadian Champions		23.334
Frank Heuvelmans, Thomas Lang,	OTT	
Ron Link	EDM	
Eric Luz	CAL	

3. Alt & Jung Ottawa		22.203
Richard Ridder; Scott McCormick		
Georg Osterhues, Frank Heuvelmans		



Team winners ISPA World from left: Hans-Jürgen Neubert, Rosita Rodehueser, Folker Ehrlich und Rainer Grunert.

Seriensieger/Round winners

1	Hanni Gnadl	GER	1,859
2	George Osterhues	OTT	2,200
3	Carsten Schmid	MTL	1,591
4	Richard Ridder	OTT	2,027
5	Rolf Held	GER	1,851

ALLES GUTE ZUM GEBURSTAG IN 2009

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN 2009

90 years and over: Albert Hoefel MTL, Ernst Schmolke EDM, Dr. Sepp Froeschel MTL, Thomas Schmidt NM, Kurt Munkelt MTL,

Between 80 and 89 years: Fritz Zimmermann NM, Walter Basner TOR, Joe Froehlich EDM, Heinz Werner TOR, Tony Grecn HAM, Hans Stutzke WPG, Trudi Kunst WPG, Oswald Radtke KW, Heinz Scheelisch NM, Herman Zauner OTT, Joe Mundry NM, Siegfried Watzlawek KEL, Bruno Mettel NM, Conrad Duemler EDM, Gunter Ludwig CAL, Arthur Fleck KEL, Gerhard Nitsch VAN, Joseph Land NM, Georg Osterhues OTT, Erich Nitschmann OTT, Robert Knebel HAM, Willi Halt SK, Fritz Ziebenhaus NM, Leo Mettel NM.

And a happy birthday to the rest of our membership.

The Executive of ISPA Canada-USA & ISPA INFO

26th CANADIAN SKAT CHAMPIONSHIP 2009

April 18+19 2009

Le Chantecler Resort Hotel, St. Agathe, P.Q

Our Canadian Skat Tournament patron Rolf C. Hagen in a short welcome address greeted 172 Skat enthusiasts from around the world, and wished them all good cards and pleasant tournament days. Consul General of Germany Hartmut Scheer, Rainer Grunert,

the new ISPA World President as well as ISPA Canada President Hans-Jürgen Steinmetz also addressed the players and wished all an enjoyable tournament. The overall bad global economic situation was noticeable here as well. For the first time the attendance dropped below 200 players. But that did not cloud in the least the spirit of this internationally popular tournament. As always, everything was perfectly organized.

A special congratulation is in place for the Montreal Skat Club which for the first time hosted the tournament. Good, tasty food contributed to the general satisfaction. The ones who were not in the "in the money", enjoyed a few nice days thanks to the generosity of the Hagen brothers. The award ceremony and prize presentation was performed by master of ceremony Horst Hagen, assisted by his brother Dieter was performed smoothly and with humour. Roswitha Koerper (Germany) claimed two first place positions: with 6871 points she was the overall **tournament winner** and of course **Best Lady** as well. Second was ISPA World president Rainer Grunert with 6636 points, and third placed with 6567 points was Richard Ridder of Ottawa. That gave Richard the third place prize money and of course most important the bragging rights as third time winner of the **Canadian Skat Champion** crown. Amelie Leibl (MON) claimed the **Canadian Ladies Skat Champion** title with 5933 points and second place prize money. Team ISPA World consisting of H.-J. Neubert, Rosita Rodehueser, Folker Ehrlich and Rainer Grunert (all of Germany) won with 23.629 points, 295 points ahead of the "Canadian Champions" consisting of Frank Heuvelmans (OTT), Thomas Lang (OTT), Ron Link (EDM), and Eric Luz (CAL), who claimed the **Canadian Skat Team Champions** trophy for the second time. Cash prizes were paid out in sequence according to placement. First place winners do receive the bounty but the crown always stays with Canadian residents.

Henry Keitel



Canadian Championship winners of the Series from left: (Rolf Templin, Skat Montreal), Rolf Held, Richard Ridder, (The German Ambassador), Georg Osterhues and Hanni Gnadl. Missing is Carsten Schmid.

**DIE NAECHSTE ISPA INFO ERSCHEINT AM 1.12.09
BITTE INSERATE VOR REDAKTIONS SCHLUSS VOR
DEN 15.NOVEMBER EINZUSENDEN.
WIR DANKEN.**

40th ANNIVERSARY TOURNAMENT OTTAWA

20+21.April Maple Leaf-Almrausch Club,Ottawa,ON

40 years ago the Ottawa Skat Club was founded as an independent subgroup of the Maple Leaf Ottawa Almrausch Club. Six of the nine founding members played in today's 40th anniversary tournament: Elfi and Richard Ridder, Walter Henn, Henry Keitel, Rainer Triebe and Hartmut Rosenberg. Oswald Bulau and Rainer Henn unfortunately passed away some time ago. We organized this tournament without speeches and presentations because we believe that the 68 players who did come had listened to enough of those already. To celebrate the day Walter Henn had donated a pig roast. There was plenty of food with tasty fixings. We were somewhat disappointed insofar that we had expected some of the German players, who participated at the Canadian Championships, to join the fray. Later we found out that a number of German players would have liked to participate but knew nothing about our tournament. Despite all the advertising incl. the ISPA magazine and the Internet, the world seemingly was unaware. Nonetheless, the event was great; we were quite satisfied with the overall picture.

The compliment from our Skat friends encourages us to again have the two extra Skat days right after the Canadian Skat Championship in 2010. Walter Henn will once more sponsor a pig roast on the skewer. So please note: the Ottawa Skat Club invites Skat enthusiasts the Monday & Tuesday immediately following the Canadian championships 2010 to the now annual **PIG ON THE SPIT SKAT TOURNAMENT**. Prior to the prize presentation, ISPA Canada president H.-Jürgen Steinmetz presented the MLA Skat Club with a commemorative plaque. *HK*

Einzelwertung / Single results 68 Players

1	LANG, THOMAS	OTT	6975
2	RIDDER, DANNY	EDM	5960
3	KREITZER, HORST	KW	5880
4	SCHULTZ, KARL LUDWIG	USA-CA	5841
5	LEHMANN, LOTHAR	OTT	5783
6	STOPS, JAN	OTT	5604
7	FRANK, HEIDI	HAM	5584
8	KROOS, HARALD	NM	5576
9	BURO, MIKE	EDM	5424
10	OSTERHUES, GEORGE	OTT	5401
11	LUZ, BERND	CAL	5375
12	LINK, RON	EDM	5313
13	FELLNER, JOSEPH	BAL	5307
14	BENTZ, STAN	WPG	5256
15	LEDGER, MARION	OTT	5234
16	ZAUNER, HERMANN	OTT	5203
17	LUZ, ERIC	CAL	5178



The winners in Ottawa from left: Thomas Lang (1), Horst Kreitzer (3) and Danny Ridder (2).

11 Mannschaften / Teams

1 MONSTER IN MY PANTS	21.936
Frank Heuvelmans (OTT), THOMAS LANG (OTT)	
Eric Luz (CAL), Bernie Krebsbach (USA/SK)	

2 EDMONTON SUPERSTARS	21.816
Gerhard Schmidt, Danny Ridder, ,	
Ron Link, Mike Buro	

3 CHIMO	20.372
Bernd Luz (CAL), H.-Jürgen Steinmetz (SK)	
Karl-Ludwig Schultz (USA), Harald Kroos (NM)	



The winning Team: Frank Heuvelmans, Eric Luz, Thomas Lang and Bernie Krebsbach.

Seriensieger / Round winners

1	Thomas Lang	Ottawa	1,566
2	Thomas Lang	Ottawa	1,722
3	Marion Ledger	Ottawa	1,648
4	Joe Fellner	Baltimore	2,025
5	Danny Ridder	Edmonton	1,831

40 JAEHR. JUBILAEUMS TURNIER IN OTTAWA

20+21.April Maple Leaf-Almrausch Club,Ottawa,ON

Vor 40 Jahren gründeten 9 Spieler den MLA Skatklub als Untergruppe des Maple-Leaf-Almrausch Clubs. Von diesen neun spielten im 40 jährigen Jubiläumsturnier noch sechs mit, nämlich Elfi und Richard Ridder, Walter Henn, Henry Keitel, Rainer Triebe und Hartmut Rosenberg. Rainer Henn und Oswald Bulau sind leider verstorben. Aus Rücksicht auf 68 Spieler und Spielerinnen die schon seit Sonntag keinen Skat mehr gespielt hatten wurde das Turnier ohne lange Reden und präsentationen durchgeführt. Zur Feier des Tages hatte Walter Henn ein Schwein gestiftet, das während des Spielens am Spiess vor sich hin brutzelte. Es ergab ein reichliches und schmackhaftes Essen mit guten Beilagen. Nur waren wir etwas enttäuscht, dass von den deutschen Teilnehmern an der kanadischen Skatmeisterschaft nur Hans Kremer aus Krauchenwies (Baden-Württemberg) teilnahm. Doch erfuhren wir, das etliche Deutsche gern mitgemischt hätten aber leider, trotz breitester Streuung im ISPA Skat Magazin im Internet usw. nichts von unserem Turnier gehoert hatten. Im Allgemeinen waren wir mit der Stimmung zufrieden. Die zahlreichen Komplimente ermutigten uns, in Zukunft unser Jahresturnier direkt im Anschluss an die KM zu verlegen - also bitte merken: Skat wird am Montag und Dienstag nach der KM 2010 fortgesetzt. Walter Henn hat uns auch schon einen Schweinebraten versprochen. Die neue Tradition wird nun als "SCHWEIN AM SPIESS SKAT TURNIER" nach der KM fortgesetzt. Vor der Siegerehrung überreichte H.-Jürgen Steinmetz an den MLA Skat Club eine Erinnerungs Plakette.

HK.



**THE NEXT ISPA INFO APPEARS DECEMBER 1, 2009
PLEASE SUBMITT YOUR CONTRIBUTONS BEFORE
THE NOVEMBER 15 DEADLINE
THANK YOU**

ISPA Canada Tournament 2009, Tepees-Blackfalds

3+4 June

Tepee Campground

Einzelwertung / Single results 46 Players

1	LUZ, Eric	CAL	7346
2	ALBERTS, Bernd	MTL	6332
3	BENTZ, Stan	WPG-USA	6136
4	KHALIL, Jutta	MTL	5825
5	SCHUMACHER, Philipp	EDM	5779
6	RADTKE, Bill	EDM	5728
7	WERNER, Dieter	CAL	5713
8	RIDDER, Danny	EDM	5650
9	HAGEN, Horst	MTL	5604
10	BUCHMANN, Michael	CAL	5376
11	POKRANDT, George	EDM	5321



The winners in Blackfalds from left: Eric Luz (1st and also Alberta Champion), Bernd Alberts (2), Stan Bentz (3) and Jutta Khalil (Best Lady).

Mannschaften / Teams

1. CALGARY	23.078
Eric Luz, Michael Buchmann	
Bernd Luz, Dieter Werner	
2. TEPEE 2009	20.612
Joe Mundry, Bernd Alberts	
H.-J. Steinmetz, Harald Kroos	
3. HAGEN CHAMPIONS	20.372
Horst Hagen, Hubert Fiene	
Jutta Khalil, Dieter Kroos	

Seriensieger / Winners of Round

1	Luz	CAL	1979
2	SCHUMACHER, Philipp	EDM	1722
3	BUCHMANN, Michael	CAL	1962
4	Krebsbach, Bernie	SK-USA	1563
5	Krajns, Martha	KEL	1770
Skatsportabzeichen in Silver			
Philipp Schumacher Congratulations!			



The winners of the Series in Blackfalds from left: Martha Krajns, Mikle Buchmann, Philipp Schumacher, Eric Luz and Bernie Krebsbach.



The winning team and also Alberta Champions in Blackfalds from left: Eric Luz, Bernd Luz, Dieter Werner and Michael Buchmann.

ISPA CANADA / USA APPOINT NEW STATISTICIAN.

We were finally able to fulfill Thomas Lang's wishes to relieve him from his position as ISPA Canada / USA statistician. Michael Buro, a professor with the University of Edmonton, has taken over and is now administrating among other statistical work the evaluation of monthly scores submitted by the ISPA Canada club scorekeepers. Many thanks to Thomas for a job well done and thank you Michael for accepting this important position. Here is his address:

Michael Buro
10728 – 42 Ave.
Edmonton, Alberta T6J 2R1
780 497-7847 Res.
michael.buro@shaw.ca

We created a link from our home page to the statistics site. Click on Statistics/Standings, ISPA Ranking 2009 to look at the new format which now also includes the challenge cup qualification. Please send the club scores dating back to Jan 2009 to Michael.

Thanks for your cooperation,

H.-Juergen



List of abbreviation for ISPA Clubs we use since 1992:

CAL-Calgary; **EDM**-Edmonton; **HAM**-Hamilton; **KEL**-Kelowna
KW-Kitchener-Waterloo; **MTL**-Skat Montreal; **NM**-Newmarket
OTT-Ottawa; **SK**-Saskatoon; **TOR**-Toronto; **VAN**-Vancouver
WPG-Winnipeg;
CAN-all Canadian members with no club affiliation.
USA-SAVE-Pennsylvania; **USA-CA**-California
USA-TX-Texas; **USA-DE**-Delaware; **USA-Omaha**;
USA-all US members with no club affiliation

Saskatoon Skat News

At the end of May the Saskatoon Skat Club held its Annual Skat Tournament which was combined with its 40th Anniversary on June 1st. The attendance was very good; ISPA members had arrived from Vancouver to Montreal and also from the United States. They played at up to 14 tables in the Music Room at the German Canadian Club Concordia.

The warm-up round started on Friday, May 29th with two rounds. The main tournament went on Saturday with three rounds and on Sunday with two rounds. Trophy presentation was on Sunday afternoon.

In the final results for both days was Jens Roewekamp, Saskatoon, with 5602 point at place 7.

The Anniversary tournament started early on June 1st with three rounds. Several of the out-of-town players had stayed for this special tournament, so that ten tables were occupied.

Winner of the first round was Bernie Krebsbach, USA, who is also a member of the Skat Club Saskatoon, with 1399 points. The second round was won by Danny Ridder, Edmonton, with 1488 points. Round 3 was won by Ron Link, Edmonton, with 1657 points.

Overall winner of the Anniversary Skat Tournament was Horst Hagen, Montreal, with 3818 points.



The winners of the Anniversary cup in Saskatoon from left: Bernie Krebsbach (3), Horst Hagen (1) Ron Link (2), here with Hermann Schnackenberg one of the founders of the Skat Club Saskatoon.

Dinner was sponsored by the Skat Club Saskatoon; the trophies were sponsored by the Saskatchewan German Council. ISPA CANADA President Hans-Jürgen Steinmetz was very pleased with the attendance, especially with the participation of our own members. Martina Steinmetz was busy to feed the computer with the results of each round.

A big "thank you" goes to all who made those four days a special event.

Most of the players drove from Saskatoon to Red Deer and then to Calgary for further tournaments.

Always "Gut Blatt" and we hope that more Skat players come out of hiding and take part in the game.

Sigrid Kirmse, Skat Club Saskatoon Secretary

40th Anniversary Tournament SASKATOON

June 01, 2009, GERMAN CANADIAN CLUB CONCORDIA

Einzelwertung / Single results 37 Players

1 HAGEN, Horst	MTL	3818
2 LINK, Ron	EDM	3734
3 KREBSBACH, Bernie	SK-USA	3465
4 KNIPSCHILD, Ron	CAL	3327
5 ECKL, Ed	SK	3307
6 KHALIL, Jutta	MTL	3276
7 BLUMRICH, Gerhard	SK	3246
8 LEISSNER, James	TX	3244
9 BENTZ, Stan	WPG-USA	3197

Seriensieger Winner of Round

1 KREBSBACH, Bernie	SK-USA	1399
2 RIDDER, Danny	EDM	1488
3 LINK, Ron	EDM	1657

18th ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN TOURNAMENT

30+31 May - 54 PLAYERS,

Einzelwertung / Single results

1 LINK, Ron	EDM	6224
2 BENTZ, Stan	WPG-USA	6217
3 LITWINIUK, Marianne	CAL	6042
4 RIDDER, Danny	EDM	5942
5 ECKL, Marie	SK	5694
6 HAGEN, Horst	MTL	5685
7 ROEWKAMP, Jens	SK	5602
8 KREBSBACH, Bernie	SK-USA	5498
9 TEWITZ, Wolfgang	EDM	5437
10 SCHUMACHER, Philipp	EDM	5354
11 Schmidt, Gerhard	EDM	5309
12 RASING, Hans	WPG	5277
13 SCHULTZ, Walter	EDM	5131



The winners in Saskatoon from left: Marianne Litwiniuk (3), Stan Bentz (2) and Ron Link (1).

Seriensieger / Winners of the Rounds

1 SCHULTZ, Walter	EDM	1979
2 ECKL, Marie	SK	1544
3 BUCHMANN, Michael	CAL	1781
4 LINK, Ron	EDM	1368
5 LINK, Ron	EDM	1803



The winners of the Series in Saskatoon from left: Klaus Luz, Hubert Fiene, Marie Eckl and walter Schultz. Missing is Michael Buchmann.



The winning team in Saskatoon from left: Bernie Krebsbach, Ed Eckl, Marianne Litwiniuk and Stan Bentz.

21 Mannschaften / Teams

BESM	22,634
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Marianne Litwiniuk
Ed Eckl
Stan Bentz
Bernie Krebsbach

THE GOOD LOOKING TEAM	21,600
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Jutta Khalil
Marianne Litwiniuk
Eric Luz
Ron Link

WOLFPACK	21,038
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Wolfgang Tewitz
Peter Ridder
Danny Ridder
Egon Lohmeier

Turnier Daten 2 0 0 9 Tournament Dates 8. August – 18. November 2009

8+9 August	<i>Kelowna Tournament</i>	KELOWNA, B.C.
Siegfried Watzlawek,	507-769-6977	siegwatz@telus.net
8-16 August	Ontario Skat Week	Toronto, Hamilton, Kitchener
8+9 August	<i>Toronto Tournament</i>	TORONTO, ON.
Thomas Rausch,	905 632-2482	rauschskat2@yahoo.com
10+11 August	<i>Hamilton Tournament</i>	HAMILTON, ON.
Heidi Frank,	905-389-5976	heidi frank@quickclic.net
15+16 August	<i>Kitchener Tournament</i>	KITCHENER, ON.
Bert Penzendorfer	519 742 7855	Bert@golden.net
15+16 August	<i>Seattle Tournament</i>	SEATTLE, WA. USA
Hans Stewin	B206 244 4978	H-242 8863
14-23 August	<i>16. Europa Skat Meisterschaft</i>	Graz, Austria
H.-Jürgen Steinmetz	306 664 3664	h-j.steinmetz@usask.ca
5+6 September	<i>Edmonton Tournament</i>	Edmonton, AB.
Ron Link	780 477 1305	rtalin@shaw.com
10+11 October	<i>Vancouver Tournament</i>	Vancouver, B.C.
Hans Sigmund	604 434 2747	hans@blaze.ca
17+18 October	<i>Newmarket Tournament</i>	Newmarket, ON
Harald Kroos	905 478 8666	hbokroos@rogers.com

ANNUAL TOURNAMENT CALGARY

06+07 June - 48 Players,

Seriensieger / Winner of the Series

LOHMEIER, Egon	EDM	1548
KNIPSCHILD, Ron	CAL	1695
WEINGART, Horst	KEL	1539
RIDDER, Danny	EDM	1488
LUDWIG, Lucia	CAL	1817



The winners of the Series in Calgary from left: Horst Weingart, Egon Lohmeier, Lucia Ludwig, Danny Ridder and Ron Knipschild.

Einzelwertung / Single results

1	LOHMEIER, Egon	EDM	6317
2	RIDDER, Danny	EDM	5871
3	LINK, Ron	EDM	5704
4	ROEWKAMP, Jens	SK	5671
5	STEINMETZ, H.-Juergen	SK	5458
6	HAGEN, Horst	MTL	5445
7	LUDWIG, Lucia	CAL	5407
8	STAUDT, Hagen	EDM	5384
9	HALT, Willi	SK	5369
10	BENTZ, Stan	WPG-USA	5319
11	LUDWIG, Gunter	CAL	5301
12	KREBSBACH, Bernie	SK-USA	5258

DOOBIE BROTHERS	19,890
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Danny Ridder
Peter Ridder
Eric Luz
Klaus Luz



The winning team in Calgary from left: Egon Lohmeier, Danny Ridder, Peter Ridder and Wolfgang Tewitz.



The winners in Calgary from left: Lucia Ludwig (Best Lady), Ron Link (3), Egon Lohmeier (1) and Danny Ridder (2).

Spieler des Jahres / Player of the year in Western-Canada 2009

16 Mannschaften/Teams

THE WOLFPACK	20,546
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Wolfgang Tewitz
Egon Lohmeier
Danny Ridder
Peter Ridder

A SHOT IN THE DARK	20,187
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Jens Roewekamp
Bernie Krebsbach
Stan Bentz
James Leissner



Player of the year in Western Canada 2009 Stan Bentz (left) here with Eric Luz (tournament director).

Zum 16 Mal wurde in West Canada um den Spieler des Jahres gespielt. Insgesamt muessen 15 serien in 3 Turnieren gespielt werden.

In diesem Jahr wurden diese 15 Serien in Saskatoon (5), Blackfalds (5) und in Calgary (5) gespielt.

Nach Siegen im Jahre 1997, 2001 2006 und 2009 wurde Stan Bentz zum vierten Mal der Spieler des Jahres.

Ron Link aus Edmonton hat diesen Titel scho 5 Mal gewonnen, 1995, 1999, 2004, 2006 und 2008.

Spieler des Jahres 2009 / Player of the year 2009

1 Stan Bentz, WPG-USA	17,672
2 Danny Ridder, EDM	17,463
3 Ron Link, EDM	17,177

ANNUAL TOURNAMENT WINNIPEG

30+31 May - 54 PLAYERS ,



The winning team in Winnipeg from left: Hans Wieland, Bob Ewald, H.-J. Steinmetz and Mike Ruf.

Einzelwertung / Single results 21 Players

1	Koch, Otto	WPG	5698
2	Steinmetz Hans-Jürgen	SK	5395
3	Bentz, Stan	WPG-USA	5207
4	Kasper, Karl	WPG	5113
5	Ewald, Bob	USA	5045

Seriensieger / Winners of the Series

1	Kasper, Karl	1341
2	Kasper, Karl	1390
3	Langmaak, Klaus	1397
4	Gunkel, Fred	1390
5	Kunst, Dinah	1604

7 Mannschaften / Teams

Team IMS	20,083
H.-Juergen Steinmetz, Hans Wieland	
Bob Ewald, Mike Ruf	

Chicken Delight I	19,747
Otto Koch; Kurt Bauer	
Karl Kasper, Fred Gunkel	

Chicken Delight II	19,313
Otto Koch, Kurt Bauer	
Mike Ruf, Fred Gunkel	



The winners in Winnipeg from left: Stan Bentz (3), Otto Koch (1) and Hans-Jürgen Steinmetz (2).



The winners of the Series in Winnipeg from left: Klaus Langmaak, Karl Kasper (2x), Dinah Kunst and Fred Gunkel.

Rectifying an Unfairness in the Seeger-Fabian Scoring System for Skat

By Michael Buro and Jim Leissner

Introduction

To increase the value of small suit games in 1936 the 14-th skat congress adopted a system proposed by Otto Seeger in which the soloist in addition to the game value is awarded 50 points for wins and -50 points for losses. Following an idea by Johannes Faber, at the 18-th skat congress in 1962 the Seeger system was further enhanced by awarding bonus points to the opponents and the dealer at 4-handed tables when the soloist loses. To date, all skat tournament and club scoring is based on the resulting so called "Seeger-Fabian" system.

As we will argue in this note, it is the particular choice of bonus values (30 or 40 points, resp.) proposed by Fabian that creates unfairness in skat events featuring both 3- and 4-player tables. In what follows we will first illustrate the problem by means of simple examples and propose a straight-forward fix. We then present a mathematical analysis which proves that ours is the only fair solution if one insists on rewarding the dealer. Finally, we estimate the impact of the bias of the Seeger-Fabian system based on real game data. For brevity, we refer interested readers to <http://skatgame.net/skat45.pdf> for these details.

The Problem

In the Seeger-Fabian system a 40 point bonus is awarded to each opponent when the soloist loses on a 3-handed table, and 30 points to the dealer and each opponent on a 4-handed table. We are not sure if the history of the 30/40 points choice can be found but we are comfortable with the notion that someone thought that because $30 \cdot 4 = 120$ and $40 \cdot 3 = 120$, the assessment was fair. However, this is not the case. To see this consider a hypothetical one-series tournament played by seven identical players on one 3-handed and one 4-handed table. To simplify the argument we will assume that all players win 10 grand games with 1 and lose two null games. From a fair scoring system we expect all players to end up with identical scores.

The results according to the Seeger-Fabian system are as follows: $10 \cdot 48 - 2 \cdot 46 + 8 \cdot 50 + 4 \cdot 40 = 948$ for each player at the 3-handed table and $10 \cdot 48 - 2 \cdot 46 + 8 \cdot 50 + 6 \cdot 30 = 968$ at the 4-handed table --- a difference of 20 points. If more games are lost, the difference gets bigger: for 9 won grands and 3 lost null games the scores are 834 and 864, and for 8 wins and 4 losses the results are 720 and 760. Note that the score discrepancy arises in any setting where each player plays the same set of 12 games and loses at least one of them. Thus, the players at the 3-handed table have a noticeable disadvantage, and we conclude that the original Seeger-Fabian system is unfair.

One might argue that in tournament settings 3-handed tables are rare --- when using them only at the bottom if necessary --- and therefore the effect of the noticed score bias with respect to winning tournaments is neglectable. However, in tournaments it is common to seat players randomly in the first round. Therefore, good players might end up playing on 3-handed tables at least once and suffer from the bonus disadvantage. In fact, the winner of the 2009 Saskatoon ISPA tournament was decided by the inequity in the Seeger-Fabian system. Had the second winner received a fair

opponent win bonus when playing at a 3-handed table in the first round, he would have won the tournament. Another scenario where the bias negatively affects player performance is in skat clubs which accommodate slower players by seating them at 3-handed tables if possible. In such a setting players suffer repeated scoring losses which can decrease their annual average substantially (see Appendix B).

A Simple Solution

The true inequity of the Seeger-Fabian system is in the fact that at a 4-handed table a player gets a reward for dealing a loss while at a 3-handed table a player only gets rewarded for causing a loss. True justice would be accomplished by rewarding only the defending players for a loss by their opponent. However, the change in the score sheet or a method of accounting with the present sheets may be hard to sell. In fact, this solution has been suggested several times in the past, but got rejected. A simpler solution is to adjust the opponent win boni such that score equality on average is ensured in case of identical players --- which is the minimum requirement for a fair scoring system. Assuming each player loses $k=1,2,\dots$ games in above setting, on 4-handed tables each player receives $3k \cdot 30 = 90k$ bonus points, whereas at 3-handed tables he only receives $2k \cdot 40 = 80k$. Thus, if we changed the 3-handed table bonus from 40 to 45, both scores would be equal and the scoring system would be fair. This is our proposal. In Appendix A we give a mathematical proof that indeed under fairly general assumptions only the 45 point bonus leads to a fair scoring system if the 4 handed table bonus is 30 points.

Conclusion

Straight-forward arguments establish that the original Seeger Fabian scoring system for skat is unfair. We have proposed to fix the problem by increasing the opponent win bonus at 3-handed tables from 40 to 45.

Although not perfect, the resulting scoring system is fair with respect to scores achieved on 3- and 4-handed tables and the proposed change is easy to implement because only one multiplier that is used in the final scoring stage has to be changed.

Appendix A: Mathematical Analysis

Appendix B: Impact Estimate Based On Actual Game Data

Please refer to the original document at

<http://skatgame.net/skat45.pdf> for details.



