



ISPA INFO



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<http://www.skatcanada.ca>

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From the President

Dear Skat friends,

Like most of you, I am looking forward to spring. The only advantage this long and cold winter had for us was that we could play more Skat. Skat is a brain sport, which activates and trains our brain cells. During this process, the human body creates heat, and properly keeps us warmer too.

Here is some interesting statistics showing this years (2014) average age of ISPA members in our Canadian and US clubs as of March 15th.

ISPA Members	2014 Club ranking by average age	
8	USA - CLEVELAND	48.0
8	USA-DELAWARE	59.9
11	RED DEER	61.3
23	SKAT CLUB SASKATOON	61.8
45	EDMONTON, SPREE ASSE	62.0
13	WINNIPEG SKAT CLUB	65.4
53	SKAT MONTREAL	66.3
5	USA - OMAHA	67.4
12	CALGARY JUNGS	67.7
13	HAMILTON	68.6
11	USA- CALIFORNIA	70.0
9	USA-TEXAS	70.7
20	INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS	71.8
12	KELOWNA, OGOPOGO	72.3
17	OTTAWA, ALMRAUSCH	74.0
18	VANCOUVER	74.1
9	KITCHENER-WATERLOO	75.7
11	TORONTO, BERLINER	76.6
19	NEWMARKET	78.5
317		67.4

For those of you thinking to participate at the World Championship in Paraguay I can only urge you to register with me as soon as possible by sending me your registration and a down payment of \$350. The final payment amount for the World Championship Program is due no later than June 30, 2014. We would like to participate with as many members as possible in Paraguay.

Some of our members did ask the question: “What are my advantages of being an ISPA member?”. I believe this is a wrong question to ask. It should be more like “What can I do to support the best Skat organization on this planet”.

Here are just a few reasons why we should support ISPA. There are more facts at:

<http://www.skatcanada.ca/canada/membership.html>

ISPA conveys friendships throughout the country and around the world and brings the generations together again.

ISPA is open for the Skat-woman and the Skat family. The Federal Charter of ISPA Canada legally protects our Skat Clubs.

Skat Clubs can buy original Skat playing cards from ISPA Canada.

ISPA members pay reduced start fees on all ISPA tournaments and receive 3 times yearly the ISPA INFO.

Our head referees will answer rule questions free of charge.

ISPA Canada-USA maintains an extensive home page including monthly club results and a central register of all game results of ISPA Canada and US players.

Our home page "[SKATCANADA.CA](http://www.skatcanada.ca)" shows tournament dates, results, Skat club activities, photos and much more.

Our Executive enjoys the privilege of serving you!
Being a member with ISPA is a privilege!

From the Editor

The year 2014 is now upon us and with it comes another great year of skat. I hope that everyone had a relaxing holiday with friends and family and also the chance to play some skat along the way. The coming year is again filled with great tournaments not only throughout Canada, but also in the United States, which began on January 11th and throughout 12th in Las Vegas. The traditional week of skat in the west has also changed slightly with Edmonton having its tournament in March and Red Deer becoming the new edition to the skat triangle. The North American Championship will also take place in Kelowna this year, and the major event in eastern Canada will again be the annual Canadian Championship at the end of April. I invite you to check out the link at the end of this article for more information about this year's tournament circuit by clicking on the 2014 tournament schedule.

Every year we get together in different cities across our two countries to play our beloved game. However, there is no way to get around the fact that the average age within ISPA Canada and ISPA USA continues to rise while the influx of new members slows. It is imperative that we do our very best to try to increase the number of new members in order to keep ISPA alive. There are clubs, which are enjoying success in this area, but none more than the club in Edmonton, which on its current pace will have the largest number of IPISA members within 1-2 years. The game of skat is catching like wild fire in the city of skat champions. Spearheaded by the ISPA Vice-President West, Ron Link, the club continues to grow by leaps and bounds attracting players of all age groups from within Canada.

In closing, I wish all of you the very best for 2014, safe travels as you make your way to the tournaments in which you play this year, and Gut Blatt!

<http://www.skatcanada.ca/canada>.

Do you have something to contribute? All submissions are greatly welcomed and appreciated. Kindly have anything you wish to have added sent to me no later than June 30th, 2014 to atchisondonald@hotmail.com for publication in the fall edition of the ISPA Info.

**ZUM GEBURTSTAG WÜNSCHEN WIR
ALL UNSEREN MITGLIEDERN
RECHT VIELE JAHRE IN GUTER
GESUNDHEIT UND NATÜRLICH
ALLZEIT EIN "GUT BLATT".**



**WE WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS ON
YOUR BIRTHDAY MANY MORE
YEARS OF GOOD HEALTH AND
NATURALLY ALWAYS "GOOD
CARDS".**

Las Vegas

The 2014 Las Vegas Tournament could register another increase in attendance. A total of 117 players participated, 85 players for the pre-tournament on Friday and 112 for the main event. The group included players from Germany (8), Austria (2) and Chile (1) as well as 28 participants from Canada, spanning from Montreal to Vancouver with the greatest contingent being from Edmonton/Red Deer (16).

The US was represented by players from coast to coast i.e. from Boston/Baltimore, the Midwest through Texas to California. The winners were K. Wehr (6499) from Edmonton, A. Constable (6192) from Texas and U. Heilig (6069) from Austria. The series winners D.Kroos (1782), W.Tewitz (1815), B.Weiner (1882), U.Heilig (1562) and A.Constable (1988).

Gunter Pauly



The Las Vegas tournament is one of the most well attended ISPA events in all of North America, drawing players from NA and always a dedicated contingent from Germany. The mood of the tournament is relaxed and friendly and all of the players enjoy the many Las Vegas attractions while not playing cards. This year's tournament was attended by three ISPA Section Presidents: Hans-Jürgen Steinmetz, ISPA Canada President, Bill Thompson, ISPA USA President, and Ulrich Heilig, ISPA Austria President. As has become tradition, the tournament was played at the Ohana Room in the California Hotel in Downtown LV. Attendance is again growing each year, as had 117 players in our 2014 event, and we expect even more in 2015.

Bill Thompson



The winners (l-r): Kurt Wehr, (1), Aubrey Constable (2), Ulrich Heilig (3) and Gunter Pauly.



The series winners (l-r): Dieter Kroos (rd. 1 1789), Wolfgang Tewitz (rd. 2 1815), Bert Weiner (rd. § 1882), Ulrich Heilig (rd.4 1562), Aubrey Constable (rd.5 1988).



Winner of the two round warm up tournament Hubert Wirges, left, with Gunter Pauly, right.



**WIR TRAUERN UM UNSEREN SKATFREUND -
WE MOURN THE LOSS OF OUR SKATFRIEND**

Siegfried Naser
October 5, 1934 - December 7, 2013
Newmarket, ON

Mike Scholz
March 22, 1943 - January 10, 2014
California, USA

Hans Stutzke
September 24, 1924 - February 24, 2014
Winnipeg, MN

	Name	Club	Total
1	Wehr, Kurt	EDM	6499
2	Constable, Aubrey		6192
3	Heilig, Ulrich	AU	6069
4	Butze, Horst		5950
5	Schachenreiter, Jürgen	AU	5926
6	Steinmetz, Hans Jürgen	SK	5921
7	Stewin, Hans	USA-CA	5741
8	Jankevicius, Joe	USA-CA	5734
9	Birker, Werner	CAN	5694
10	Steinebel, Bert		5616
11	Kroos, Dieter	MTL	5572
12	Dankemeyer, Frank		5552
13	Weirich, Hans	VAN	5465
14	Link, Ron	EDM	5432
15	Schuler, Eric		5369
16	Liedtke, Manfred	USA	5340
17	Wirges, Hubert		5302
18	Brinkmann, Helmut	USA-CA	5286
19	Roewekamp, Werner	SK	5283
20	Maxwell, Bob	USA-TX	5257
21	Hoffmann, Ina		5162
22	Kivlin, Mike	USA-TX	5111
23	Zscheck, Larry	USA-TX	5079
24	Treske, Gustav		5072
25	Fritz, Erwin		5069
26	Alberts, Bernd	MTL	5038
27	Gipner, Gerhard		5016
28	Weiner, Bert	RD	5016

New Braunfels

The Texas Week of Skat, held every February in the New Braunfels area, culminates in the ISPA tournament at the Elk's Lodge in downtown New Braunfels. Players have the opportunity to compete for up to nine consecutive days in events held all around the area. On Friday night, two single-round Vorturniere (warm-up tournaments) were held, and ISPA USA President Bill Thompson and Johannes Eggers prevailed. The weekend main tournament saw Wisconsin native, Don Schmitz, put up an amazing 6000+ the last four rounds after a shaky start to win the event easily over Houston resident Johannes Eggers and Clevelander, Roger Beckerman, who earned his Bronze ISPA pin on his way to finishing third. The Seriensiieger were Guenter Pauly (1), Bill Thompson (2), Don Schmitz (3 and 4) and Robert Maxwell (5). The Elk's Club once again proved to be fantastic hosts and the 41 participants agreed that the event was a great success.



The winners (l-r): Roger Beckerman (3), Don Schmitz (1), Johannes Eggers (2).

Do you have a question for a referee?

Here's one! Herbert, Bernd and Walter are having a nice round of skat when it is suddenly discovered that there is a problem with the order of dealing and a question arises as to whose turn it is to deal. It is game 19 of the sheet, the cards have been dealt and Herbert has won the bid. He has picked up the skat and put two cards back down. This is when Walter notices the problem. Bernd says that the previous block needs to be played again, as they all agree that

the mistake happened on game 16. Herbert and Bernd both protest insisting that the block is complete and it is too late to correct any mistake which has happened in previous blocks. A referee is called. What is the correct decision?

ANSWER:

A block is considered finished when the first game of the following block has been announced. As this is a table of three, an announcement of games 4, 7, 10 etc. closes the previous block; on a table of 4 it would be games 5, 9, 13 and so on. This rule can be found in International Skat Rulebook (Internationale Skatordnung) under paragraph 3.2.11. Therefore, the referee came to the correct decision that the list is to be corrected, and the players must replay games 16, 17 and 18 over again. It can be frustrating to have to do this, and it is, therefore, recommended that all players at the table keep an eye on and pay attention to the correct order of dealing so as to avoid such a situation.



The series winners (l-r): Gunter Pauly (rd. 1, 1630), Bill Thompson (rd. 2, 1631), Don Schmitz (rds. 3/4, 1552/1750), Robert Maxwell (rd. 5, 1782)

	Name	Club	Total
1	Schmitz, Don	WI-TX	6388
2	Eggers, Johannes	TX	5916
3	Beckerman, Roger	CLE	5642
4	Leeder, Arlen	TX	5462
5	Rowekamp, Werner	CAN-SKT	5331
6	Maxwell, Robert	IN-TX	5324
7	Zschech, Larry	TX	5282
8	Langhoff, John	TX	5221
9	Thompson, Bill	CLE	5160
10	Rohrer, Joe	CAN-RD	5106
11	Constable, Aubrey	TX	5093

Skat: How to keep it alive!

by Ron Link

Why are the membership, the talent, and excitement continuing to grow in Edmonton? How have they changed to bring in younger members and create a tournament atmosphere into a weekly event? What has Edmonton done that differs from many other clubs in North America?

“Yes” Edmonton is doing very well. They won 9 tournament and 6 seconds last year. Their club has over 40 ISPA members and grows each year, with over half of the membership being under the age of 55.

We average over 30 players a week. We had to change and continue to do so! We realized about 5 yrs. ago that the club was growing old and for the last 10 years it was always the same people and every year we were losing 1 or 2 to illness and death. The other problem is a common problem in a lot of clubs: we all have those players that cause conflict among the members, and a player like this can lose a lot of people for your club.

So the first thing that has to be implemented is fellowship and sportsmanship amongst your members. The rules have to be the same for everyone. Everyone had to join ISPA and we wanted a min of 3 Ref's. Now a bad ref can lose members for you too. The ref is supposed to teach the others the rules at your club level; this does not mean to really enforce them always. At club level it's your job as an executive to teach your members proper play and sportsmanship. Keep the flow of the game up and calm your members down. So in a lot of cases the rule was explained and a warning was issued. Funny how most of the time it's not about the win or loss, or even the points, it's about who is right about the rule. When all the players know the rules they control themselves real well.

There were so many things we did as an executive that built our club into a fun and exciting club, and everything that we changed appealed to a different member, and in all made our players stronger and ready for change. We do something different every week: first week we play 2 rds., 2nd week we seat by standings, 3rd week we play for table points and high man on the table wins a prize, 4th week we play for double the entry and prize money, and one

Saturday per month we play for big money (\$20). Many clubs would be surprised that, most people expect to play for \$10 or \$20. A night at the movies

or bingo is going to cost you even more. We still have a \$6 night too. Of which \$1 goes to the club and \$5 towards prizes. Building your clubs funds are important so long as it goes back to the members. We have a fantastic yearend awards night and banquet. A financially strong club can promote and unite your members. The bottle draw works well to raise money for travel. Our last Christmas Skat we had 44 players attend!

So now that we have a good club how do we promote and bring in new ones? This takes the efforts of the whole club and the Edmonton guys have really stepped up. Every club can do this now thanks to all the tools and promotional items Skatlink has.

It starts with being proud of being a Skat player. We have 8 cars in Edmonton that have a Skat sticker on their car. We have 5 stores in Edmonton that sell the games retail, they all sell between 20 & 25, per store, per year. We play Skat as a group publicly 2 times a year and sell games at the event or invite them to join our beginners. We donate 10 games every year to Santa's anonymous. At least 10 to 15 members, take 3 to 5 games a year to give as gifts or sell to friends and co-workers. In the clubs and coffee shops we hang posters. A lot of effort but it's starting to pay off. We get 10 new people a year coming in to learn Skat and know of many that are learning at home and one day may join us, each year it gets easier to recruit, because the public knows about us.

Our final effort has been huge we have a beginners club, and we are so lucky to have a couple of ladies that have the patience to teach and make new people feel welcome. They get a \$500 budget and they learn at their own pace, we have had players that after 6 weeks join our main group, but most take 6 months to a year to advance and we even have a couple that have stayed in the beginners for 3yrs and now help new ones. They just feel that they don't want the harder competition, which is just fine. We are now at a point where we can develop new players at a pace that they are comfortable with. The main objective is to make it fun!

Ron Link

We welcome the newly elected presidents and their executives

**Vancouver: Erich Sedlacek
Edmonton: Victor Lavoie**

ISPA CANADA AND
THE Montreal Skat Club

invite you to join us to play the
31st Canadian Skat Championship in Montreal

Friday, April 25th to Sunday, April 27th, 2014

The Championship Tournament will be played at:

Brasserie Residence
4705 Blvd. St.Jean
Pierrefonds, Quebec H9H 2A9
Canada

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE: On Friday, April 25th 2014, we will play the **Montreal Cup Pre-Tournament**, starting at 6:00pm (18h00). It will be a two round tournament and the entrance fee will be \$50.00. All entrance fees will be distributed in cash prizes.

On Saturday, April 26th, and Sunday, April 27th, 2014, we will play a total of 5 rounds for the Canadian Championship.

Starting times on Saturday April 26th, 2014:

1st Round 10:00am to 12:15pm
Lunch break 12:15pm to 1:15pm (13h15)
2nd Round 1:15pm to 3:30pm (15h30)
3rd Round 4:00pm(16h00) to 6:15pm(18h15)

Starting times on Sunday, April 27th, 2014:

4th Round 9:00am to 11:15am
5th Round 11h45am to 2:00pm (14h)

The entrance fee for **ISPA** members is \$100.00 and for non-**ISPA** members \$110.00

REGISTRATION:

Please use our Online Registration:

<http://www.skatcanada.ca/canada/Registrations/KM/index-2014.html>

Contact: Jutta Khalil -
or

Jutta.Khalil@gmx.de

Waltraut und Manfred Sawitzki -

mqs12@videotron.ca



**The ISPA Canada/USA AGM (Presidents meeting) is at the
Brasserie Residence on Friday April 25th from 4:00 to 5:30pm.
PLEASE BE PUNCTUAL**



25th North American
Skat Championship (NASC)
September 6th & 7th, 2014
2nd Masters Tournament
September 5th, 2014



The Ogopogo Skat Club invites all Skat players to these Skat tournaments which will be held at the "German Canadian Harmony Club" on 1696 Cary Road in Kelowna, BC. We will play by the **International Skat rules**.

IMPORTANT !!!!

Registration deadline for all tournaments is on Wednesday August 27th.

Warm-up round: Thursday Sep. 4th, 06:00 p.m. Two individual rounds.

Masters tournament: Friday Sep. 5th, 11:00 a.m. 1st round begins.
(A League, \$100) **01:15 p.m. Lunch break.**
(B League, \$40) **02:00 p.m. 2nd round begins.**
04:30 p.m. 3rd round begins.

North American Championship: Saturday Sep. 6th, 11:00 a.m. 1st round begins.
01:15 p.m. Lunch break.
02:00 p.m. 2nd round begins.
04:30 p.m. 3rd round begins.
Sunday Sep. 7th, 09:00 a.m. 4th round begins.
11:15 a.m. Lunch break.
12:00 p.m. 5th round begins.

Trophy Presentation will be 15 min. after the last score sheet of the 5th round is handed in (approximately at 2:30 p.m.). All entry fees (100%) will be paid out!

The entry fees for the main tournaments are:

Warm-up rounds \$ 10.00 per round
NASC \$ 100.00 for ISPA members (5 rounds)
\$ 110.00 for Non ISPA members
\$ 60.00 for teams (4 players)

Bump money for lost games:

\$ 1.00 for the first 3 losses
\$ 2.00 for each additional loss

Prizes for all main events:

- 1. Prize 25 % of the reg. fee and Trophy**
- 2. Prize 15 % of the reg. fee and Trophy**
- 3. Prize 10 % of the reg. fee and Trophy**

25% of the top ranking players will receive a prize. Money prizes for the winners of each series.
More and higher money prizes are depending on participation.

Online Registration: <http://skatcanada.ca/canada/Registrations/NAM/index.html>

Manfred Grossmueller, Email: manfredgrossmueller@yahoo.ca Phone: 1 250-768-9982 or
Horst Gonschorek, Email: guidog@telus.net, Phone: 1 250-878-4312

Accommodation:

The Coast Capri Hotel, Tel: 1 250-860-6060 or 1 800-663-1144, Email info@coasthotels.com 2DB/room \$150
Super 8 Kelowna, Tel: 1 250-762-822 or 1 800-5630991, Email: super8kelowna@shaw.ca \$112.40/room incl. breakfast
Sandman Hotel, Tel: 1 250-860-6409, Email: sales_kelowna@sandman.ca 2 Q beds \$129, Gr. block #381061 to Aug 01-2014
Fairfield Inn, Tel: 1 250-763-2800, Email: sarahb@prhotels.ca 2 Q beds \$ 129 incl breakfast
Best Western, Tel: 1 250- 979-6928, Email: ginette@bwkelowna.com 2 beds \$ 160 incl. breakfast
Delta Grand Okanagan, Tel 1 250-868-5615, Email: jillian.wegner@deltahotels.com \$259 excl. breakfast

Please visit our home page: www.skatcanada.ca for news and information

