



ISPA INFO

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www.Skatcanada.ca

CAN President
Ron Link
Edmonton, Alberta
Skatlink@shaw.ca
☎ 780-477-1305

Vice-President East
Scott McCormick
Ottawa, Ontario
Skat3111@gmail.com
☎ 819-230-2294

Vice-President West
Peter Ridder
Edmonton, Alberta
peter@scorpiomasonry.com
☎ 780-699-1948

Secretary / ISPA Editor
Gerd Reiner
Lacombe, Alberta
ispa@Skatcanada.ca
☎ 403-835-6813

Treasurer
Dinah Kunst
Winnipeg, Manitoba
dkunst60@yahoo.com
☎ 204-453-7766

USA President
William Thompson
Olmsted Falls, Ohio
clevelandSkatclub@gmail.com
☎ 440-724-5189

Message from the President:

Dear ISPA Members,

It was nice to get the 2024 skat season off on a positive note, as both Montréal and Ottawa had really good attendance at their tournaments, and they were both well run and organized.

We also had a very productive AGM, and many clubs were represented. Our main focus was to get clubs to work more as ISPA clubs and help and promote one another. Our future depends on clubs following certain criteria, constitutions, bylaws and common goals and objectives. It is the ISPA executive, and presidents' job to guide and inform all our clubs and members on what our objectives and goals are. And we plan to get that information out to all of you.

We all love the game of skat, but it's the ISPA member that cares and knows we are more than just a card game. We want to learn and teach, we want fun and fellowship, we want fair competition with honest sportsmanship, we like to travel and visit, we are a family that wants to grow and promote the game that has given us so much joy and friendships. Those that have to ask what ISPA does for them, just cannot see what we all can see, a family working together and caring about one another. Thank you all for caring and making a difference. Let's have a fun and exciting Skat year.

Ron Link

President, ISPA Canada

Message from the Editor:

Leaping into 2024

It is time to leap out of hibernation and clearly, some of you have leapt early to attend the first couple of tournaments of the season. Just like spring, Skat, our beloved game, is rebounding. More and more are we hearing new names surfacing into the North American ISPA Skat circus. While the names are new to us, these new folk seem to mostly come preloaded with Skat skills, which is leading to pleasant surprises during the tournaments, how refreshing to see is that!

Goes to show that not all is lost in the Skat clubs, and the constant advertising and coaching of new players in our clubs is paying off. That is clearly the way to go to keep the excitement of the ultimate card game going, that comes by executing the game to perfection, but also by traveling and meeting new characters on the scene.

Speaking of traveling for Skat: 2024 is one of those years that, besides being a leap year (yes, one extra day to play Skat!), also has the potential for massive enjoyment. **The 23rd Open Skat World Championship is being played on a cruise ship!** After tremendous success of the 21st European Championship on the Costa Pacifica in 2019, the sistership, the Costa Diadema will be hosting this year's most prestigious Skat tournament again in and around the Mediterranean Sea. The original plan for Poland to host the 23rd edition of the WM unfortunately fell through, and so the

opportunity was created to enjoy the warmth of the Mediterranean in October once again. Even if you did not go to the European Championship in 2019, rest assured that the experience playing Skat on a cruise ship is worth it. This year, no less than nine harbour excursions are on the plan, and that is not including the start and end location of the cruise in Savona, Italy. Three additional harbours are being included in the trip, those are Cadiz, Fuerteventura and Las Palmas in addition to another location that we did not visit in 2019: Barcelona. So even if you did experience the cruise in 2019, there are a lot of new things to see and enjoy. Besides, why would you not want to participate in the World Championship?

Other highlights naturally are:

- ♣ The US Open, the 10th edition of the highlight of the US calendar takes place in Boston, Massachusetts this year.
- ♣ The 39th Canadian Championship was again being held in Montréal, Quebec. This comes as a welcome surprise, as Horst originally had indicated that he and Jutta wanted to retire from hosting the CC, but a strong attendance in 2023 and convincing by the other clubs changed those plans for the time being.

The true Skat enthusiast however finds every tournament special, as all tournaments are an opportunity to continue to sharpen one's Skat skills and more importantly to reconnect with old and new friends. Here is to hope seeing many of you this Skat season, no matter where the battleground is located.

Gut Blatt!

Gerd Reiner

Secretary and Editor, ISPA Canada

Tournament Results

At the time of writing this spring edition of the newsletter, only two tournaments had been played on the calendar and to keep with tradition, Las Vegas was the first event.

Las Vegas Tournament

While the tradition of position #1 of the calendar for the Las Vegas tournament continued, the traditional venue of the Hotel California did not. It appears that we as a Skat group did not leave enough money there, which is why the price for the room rental at the California had been raised to the point where this location was no longer feasible. The US Skat Executive therefore got busy finding a new location and the German American Social Club of Nevada stepped up to hosting the tournament. The tournament continues to be called Las Vegas tournament, that is because the German American Social Club of Nevada resides within the Las Vegas city boundaries.

The tournament attracted 54 players from Germany, Canada, the United States as well as one player from Australia! Wolfgang Stillger won the prize for the greatest travel distance.

Germany's Detlef Schwarzer and Sven-Oliver Krack controlled the tournament early on throughout the first two series respectively, but then Canada's Danny Ridder took over the lead after round three. In round four, Brendan Hunt moved himself up into the lead, which he did not relinquish anymore, winning the tournament with 6326 points. Sven-Oliver Krack came in second place with 5960 points, followed by Danny Ridder in third (5781).



Worth mentioning is Eve Dankemeyer's monstrous comeback after only 1778 points in the first three rounds to win best lady with a total of 5198 points out of the five rounds played.

The five series winners were Detlef Schwarzer (Germany), Baldur Hirschberger (Canada), Danny Ridder (Canada), Eric Schuler (Canada), and Eve Dankemeyer (USA).



In the team competition, the pure German team called the SODAS won with 21542 points.



Congratulations to Coach Beard (aka Brendan Hunt) and all winners.

Houston Tournament

Conway Waak sends us the report from the Houston Tournament:

The 2024 LoneStar ISPA Skat Tournament is now history. There were 22 players. Mr. and Ms. Horst Gebert did a fantastic job hosting the tournament and providing 2 wonderful lunches. Horst plans on hosting the next tournament in 2025, the first weekend after the

Super Bowl. Make plans to attend. Below are the tournament results.

As a side note, demonstrating how peculiar lady luck can be, Milton went from a low player in session 2 to a high player in session 3. Greg posted a disastrous -670 match points in session four to come roaring back in session 5 posting 1720 match points, what a turn! I played with Alex at table 3 in session 5. On the first page, Alex had two plays. The page was turned, and in the last two rounds of the session, Alex played back-to-back five huge grand plays and one big club play. This was a jump from 10th to second place overall. Goes to show you just never know when lightning will strike.



The winner with 6035 points was Reinhard Gross, followed by Alexander Anders (5498) and Raymond Kipp (5400). Series winners were Raymond Kipp, Conway Waak, Milton Seim, Ursula Winzer-Serhan and Alexander Anders:



Team winners were Raymond and Alex with a combined 10898 points:



39th Canadian Championship Montréal

The 39th Canadian Skat Championship was held at the Brasserie Residence in Pierrefonds after the annual general meeting of ISPA Canada. 66 players made it to Quebec. With the growing number of players interested in also playing the pre-tournament, Horst and Jutta decided to do that also at the Brasserie. Over 50 people played this sponsored event, a big thanks to Horst and Jutta for their repeated generosity, paying for everyone's tab, which not only included the drinks but also the food!

The lunch on Saturday during the main tournament was also sponsored, Carsten Schmid fed the crowds with a delicious catered buffet lunch. A big thank you to Carsten as well for his generosity!

In line with tradition, the game competition ran over six rounds, split into three times two rounds. The year 2024 was the year of Scott McCormick, winning the title of Canadian Champion 2024, narrowly outperforming Steve Muehling by 83 points, with a total of 7307 points. In third place came Jutta, the tournament organizer with 7147, and therefore also winning the title Female Canadian Champion 2024 and best lady.



Six different players made up the series winners this year: Frank Heuvelmans, Gerd Reiner, Ewald Apel, Wolfgang Stillger, Amelie Leibl, and Roger Beckerman. It should be noted here that the player to travel the furthest to Montréal was the Tasmanian Wolfgang Stillger. With this island south of Australia being pretty much on the other side of the world, it appears that Wolfgang handles jet lag pretty good!



As far as the winning team goes, the Hagen Champions took the honors this year (Horst, Jutta, Thomas, and Carsten):



The Canadian Championship for the last few years now also has a focus on newcomers to the game. Seeing the player community aging, getting new talent into the clubs must be one of our most important duties. This year's newcomer winner was Johann Geissler from Montréal:



No less than three pins were awarded in Montréal, two of which went to the young guns of the game: Johann Geissler and James Schmitz, both winning the bronze pin. The third pin (also bronze) went to Ewald Apel from Boston:



For the total results, please check the tournaments page.

We are looking forward to the next Canadian Championship in Pierrefond, which will mark the 40th edition of this prestigious tournament. Our beloved game has a long history, and we thoroughly plan on continuing to contribute to this history of the Canadian Championship.

Ottawa Tournament

Traditionally following the Canadian Championship is Ottawa. Fifty players made the drive to Ontario from Quebec this year. The Maple Leaf Almrausch Club played host again and the hospitality of this club under the lead of Richard is exemplary.

After random seating in round one, the pecking list among the players established itself quickly. Wolfgang, our Aussie connection, managed to stay at the top table throughout the tournament, and so was the other long-distance traveler: Jürgen Steiner from Germany. By Tuesday afternoon, Jürgen won with a commanding total of 7546 points, relegating local Skat hero Scott McCormick to second place (6659) and Ron Link to third (6263). Wolfgang finished fourth overall with 5865 points. Congratulations to all winners!

Ottawa Winners:

1. Jürgen Steiner, 2. Scott McCormick, 3. Ron Link



Series Winners: Wolfgang Stillger, Shawn Snyder, Stephan Weiss, Jürgen Steiner, Helmut Gieseler



Team Winners: Kristina Huisman, Wolfgang Stillger, Mandi Asbury, Ron Link



Club Reports

This section of the newsletter intends to update how the different Skat clubs in North America are doing. A big thank you to all who sent us the reports in a timely manner, it is very much appreciated. The editor feels that it should be mentioned that the Skat Enthusiast who is always very timely with his report is Willi Koenen, who reports for the Hamilton Skat Club, since the Toronto Hansa Club folded. And Willi is not even a member of

the Hamilton Skat Club board of directors. What makes Willi's contribution so special is that he is about to turn 90! Providing detailed updates, the way he does is mind blowing really, and an attestation of the deep love and care Willi has for our game. Feel free to drop him a note of appreciation!

Hamilton Germania Skat Club

Willi reports that Mandi resigned her position as president at the end of 2023. The current board members therefore are as follows:

- ♣ President — to be determined.
- ♣ Treasurer: Erwin Carl
- ♣ Directors: Thomas Rausch, Adolf Polap

As for the weekly play, Hamilton does have 17 members playing, occasional visits from up to three guest players. Play occurs at the Hamilton club on Saturdays, where two rounds are being played starting 11 am. Here the latest result from Hamilton:

Date: 13-Apr-24 No: 15					
Year-to-date Results (Members only)					
Rank	Name	Start #	Year-to-date Totals	No. of Weeks Played	Running 25 week Ave.
1	Rausch, Thomas	12	28,528	14	1,141
2	Dietrich, Horst	5	28,404	14	1,136
3	Kamps, Hermann	15	27,633	15	1,105
4	Barta, Sigfrid	3	25,527	15	1,021
5	Koenen, Willi	11	25,414	15	1,017
6	Reinke, Fred	7	25,078	15	1,003
7	Carl, Erwin	4	23,474	13	939
8	Rischke, Harry	16	22,788	15	912
9	Eggers, Barbara	1	21,274	10	851
10	Feld, Manfred	8	20,812	14	832
11	Kamps, Thomas	10	15,322	9	613
12	Mandi, Sabine	13	14,266	10	571
13	Polap, Adolf	14	7,444	7	298
14	Asbury, Mandi	2	6,812	3	272
15	Schmitz, Miranda	19	4,156	2	166
16	Frank, Heidemarie	9	1,701	1	68
17	Klamer, Lance	6	988	1	40

MLA Skat Club Ottawa

Scott McCormick writes us the following:

Ottawa Skat Club Report 2024

We play cards on Monday nights at 7:30 pm at The Maple Leaf-Almrausch German Club, which is located at 3928 Farmers Way, Carlsbad Springs, ON. The cost

is \$5 to play plus lost game money per ISPA rules. The entry fee money goes back out in prizes. Our group is financially sound, and the Executive consists of Scott McCormick (President), Frank Heuvelmans (Vice-President) and Holger Ridder (Treasurer).

Ogopogo Skat Club Kelowna

Manfred Grossmueller from Kelowna sends his greetings to all. He reports that like last year, the Ogopogo Skat Club in Kelowna has seven players of which three to four are actively playing regularly, so not much has changed in terms of activity compared to last year. The Ogopogo Skat Club activities are eventually winding down, even though that last year enjoyed a good turnout with 28 players. It was the traveling Skat players that made this past tournament a success, with Manfred and Hans-Jürgen as the organizers. Not to be forgotten are the lovely ladies that run the kitchen and bar for us. The food in Kelowna is always amazing!

In Manfred's words:

Everything comes to an end, and so are all the good things and fun that all of us had over the years.

With Kelowna being such a nice venue, it is hard to imagine that we eventually will not be going there anymore. Too many good memories make the editor ask the question to the Skat community at large: Should we continue the tradition of playing an ISPA tournament in Kelowna, as long as we have the support of the German Canadian Harmony Club? I think we should...

SaSKAToon Skat Club

Shelley from Saskatoon sends us the most comprehensive club report, demonstrating again how well organized this club is with Shelley and all her helpers:

Saskatoon SKAT Club
April 2, 2024
Club Report for ISPA Canada

We are happy to report that the Club is still playing regularly on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 at Sports on Tap, 2606 Lorne Ave. Saskatoon, SK. We have anywhere between 12 and 20 players depending on the time of year (we take a hit due to holidays and snowbirds!)

Our Club AGM was held on December 20, 2023.

The Executive remains as:

President – Shelley Hungness

Vice-President – Siegfried Fahr

Treasurer – Barry Neufeld

Secretary – Keith Koronko

Various Club Fees were discussed. Annual Club fees will remain at \$10 per individual. The Club will pay the ISPA fees for those who have played 30 games or more during the year. The Club will facilitate the collection and payment of ISPA fees for those who do not qualify but wish to be ISPA members. German Canadian Concordia Club of Saskatoon (GCCC) fees of \$10 per person will be paid for by the Club for all qualifying members as well. We need to keep our membership up in the GCCC due to the sponsorship/grants they provide. Club Membership of \$50 to the SK German Council was also approved for payment (also for the same reason – grants and sponsorships).

This coming year applications have gone into the GCCC, the SK German Council and the City of Saskatoon for grants. If approved these grants total more than \$2500.00 for the club.

The adoption of the new computer program has been a success, especially for tournaments.

Dates for tournaments were decided upon and posted on the ISPA website.

Annual SKAT awards were presented. Best overall in 2023 with 49 games and an average of 1023 was Siegfried Fahr. 2nd Mark Young and 3rd Rudi Laprell. The best attendance with 50 Wednesday nights of play was Ed Eckl.

The Saskatoon SKAT Club has been active in remaining visible in the community by participating in events such as the Saskatoon 3-day Folkfest, and the Christkindl Markt. This June our provincial SK German Council has asked us to put on a workshop at their annual Treffpunkt. This along with attending various Tournaments in 2024 will Keep us Busy!



Red Deer Skat Club

The Red Deer Skat Club is a subgroup of The German-Canadian Club of Red Deer. The Skat Club Executive is comprised of:

President: Gerd Reiner

Vice President: John Moldowan

Treasurer: Rita Schuetz (GCCRD)

Secretary: Marion Furlan (GCCRD)

The Red Deer Skat Club completed another successful year of Skat in 2023. We met on 46 Mondays to compete, with seven two-rounders for a total of 53 rounds or 8900 games dealt. Halfway through the year, we adjusted our start time to 18:30 Mountain time.

On three occasions we had guest player participation, mostly from Edmonton. Instead of charging a membership fee, we take two dollars from the five-dollar entry fee per Monday night game to cover the annual ISPA membership fees as well as to cover food and prizes for the year-end windup.

Outside the Club Skat, we now play three invitational tournaments, for our ISPA tournament beginning of June last year we had 37 contestants.

For the 2024 tournament year, we registered 21 Red Deer ISPA players to Dinah, of which a couple are silent, inactive supporters only.

Our first fun tournament of 2024 was the now already traditional **Luck of the Irish** tournament. 35 players from Alberta and Saskatchewan assembled, all of them starving for some friendly competition of tournament Skat. This year produced a surprise winner, as Red Deer's own Donna Erickson zoomed by the usual suspects comprised of four Canadian Champions to narrowly take the win from table 2. It goes to show that persistent practice of the game makes you a better

player over time, even though it helps to find your share of luck along the way. And participating in tournaments is most valuable to learn different playing styles, thus accelerating the learning.



Red Deer will be participating in this year's 23rd World Championship on the Costa Diadema with a small

contingent of players and Schlachtenbummler or Battle Enthusiasts, as Google translates this word. We hope that we will see many of you there!



Winnipeg Skat Club

Dinah from Winnipeg sends us this update:

The Winnipeg Skat Club meets every Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. at the Prince Edward Legion. We usually have 2 tables, sometimes 3. We currently have 7 ISPA members.

We held our annual meeting on February 7, 2024, and elected the following board:

Dinah Kunst – President
Ryan Bilan – Vice-President
Arno von Hacht – Treasurer
Hans Wieland – Secretary

The winners of our 2023 Club Meisterschaft are as follows:

Club Meister 2023: Hans Wieland with an average score of 1047

2nd Place: Arno von Hacht with an average score of 1039; and

3rd Place: Hans Rasing with an average score of 993.

We have an excellent group of people and look forward to getting together every Wednesday. We also have a Christmas Skat in the winter and a summer Skat in Camp Neustadt or Bird River.

Edmonton Spree Asse

Kristina from Edmonton shares this report:

Good day ISPA members,

I would like to start off by introducing our Edmonton Skat Club and events that have taken place over the last year. We currently have an active membership of 31 people. Every Tuesday and the first Saturday of the month, our members come together to play Skat. Throughout the year, we have a few bingo nights where we can win a prize of Ham or Turkey.

Last year, we had our annual Skat tournament at the German Club on October 21 and 22. We had forty players participate from provinces such as British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and some players from Ohama, Nebraska. It was a great turn-out and our very own player, Trecia Link, received a Grand Ouvert. We had a great time and made lovely memories.

We had our annual Banquet for the club at the Riverbank restaurant. The food was delicious, and our members enjoyed themselves. Club members participated in volunteer events at the Argyll Casino and Heritage Days. We were able to support our community and attract future ISPA members. We hope to see you all this year at the annual tournament in June.

All the best,

Edmonton Skat Club

Cleveland Skat Club

Bill Thompson sends us the Cleveland Skat Club report:

Membership has been flat at around a dozen members, of whom about 7-8 play regularly. We meet for a live game every Thursday (630pm ET) at the Cleveland Maennerchor, as well as first Saturdays of each month at a nearby Panera Bread (930am), and third Friday's each month at Aladdins (630pm). Additionally, we play online on the International Skat Server every Monday at 630pm ET. Kevin Thompson won this year's Club Championship, which is not an infrequent occurrence.

Our ISPA tournament this year is in July (26-28JUL) so that we can group it with the US Championship in Boston

(20-21JUL) and our regular pairing with Hamilton, Ontario (23-24JUL). We are also excited to host a Skat School on 01MAY at our club to attract new players!

Texas Skat

Conway Waak writes us from Houston, Texas with an update on their latest Texas tournament:

The 2024 Neutzler Tournament is now in the books. A big "Thank You" goes out to Larry Clack for supporting Skat and allowing us to play at his restaurant. The same goes for Tina and Robert for taking care of the players at the tables and for a fine noon meal. Karen and Mark, the Neutzler Family (K&M Grocery), and Mike Kivlin, your generous donations were a game-changer for this tournament. Your support not only helped us meet our goals but also exceeded our expectations. We are truly grateful for your contributions. Thank You.

There were 18 participants, with Horst Gebert (after losing a club play with 4 in the first session) catching on fire in session 2, posting 1,786 match points to win the tournament with 2,728 match points.

The next tournament will be on July 20, at the same time and in the same place. This is the Texas Summer Match Point Skat Tournament, number 3 for 2024. Mark it on your calendar and make plans to attend.

See you in July. Conway. 979.451.1506

Session No.1 Results				Prize Money	Session No.2 Results			
IDNO	Score	Last Name	First Name		IDNO	Score	Last Name	First Name
1047	1758	Kipp	Raymond	\$70	1029	1786	Gebert	Horst
1043	1387	Janes	Jason	\$60	1122	1648	Warmke	B. W.
1059	1301	Krueger	Wm	\$50	1128	1590	Zschech	Larry
1097	1272	Schmidt	Kirk	\$40	1059	1309	Krueger	Wm
1103	1266	Seilheimer	Wayne	\$30	1121	1277	Waak	Conway
1073	1119	Meiners	Curtis	\$20	1043	1224	Janes	Jason
1048	1065	Kivlin	Mike		1073	1066	Meiners	Curtis
1121	993	Waak	Conway		1103	1053	Seilheimer	Wayne
1086	986	Parker	David		1086	1003	Parker	David
1029	942	Gebert	Horst		1065	952	Leonhardt	Bob
1065	882	Leonhardt	Bob		1083	950	Nuetzler	Glenn
1058	840	Krause	David		1048	929	Kivlin	Mike
1083	740	Nuetzler	Glenn		1006	850	Borchardt	Douglas
1104	706	Seim	Milton		1047	812	Kipp	Raymond
1128	694	Zschech	Larry		1097	731	Schmidt	Kirk
1006	667	Borchardt	Douglas		1058	719	Krause	David
1055	640	Kolkhorst	Bobby		1104	673	Seim	Milton
1122	569	Warmke	B. W.		1055	155	Kolkhorst	Bobby

Final Tournament Results

Overall Scores

Last Name	First Name	Session1	Session2	Overall	
Gebert	Horst	942	1786	2728	\$140
Janes	Jason	1387	1224	2611	\$120
Krueger	Wm	1301	1309	2610	\$100
Kipp	Raymond	1758	812	2570	\$80
Seilheimer	Wayne	1266	1053	2319	\$60
Zschech	Larry	694	1590	2284	\$40
Waak	Conway	993	1277	2270	
Warmke	B. W.	569	1648	2217	
Meiners	Curtis	1119	1066	2185	
Schmidt	Kirk	1272	731	2003	
Kivlin	Mike	1065	929	1994	
Parker	David	986	1003	1989	
Leonhardt	Bob	882	952	1834	
Nuetzler	Glenn	740	950	1690	
Krause	David	840	719	1559	
Borchardt	Douglas	667	850	1517	
Seim	Milton	706	673	1379	
Kolkhorst	Bobby	640	155	795	

se say that again

As usual, these club tournaments that are scheduled are posted on Skatcanada.ca under Tournaments – Club Tournaments. We highly suggest checking that section of our website out as well.

Upcoming Tournaments

Now that we are four months and four ISPA tournaments into the new year, let's look at the next upcoming ISPA competitions:

May 25 – SaSKAToon Tournament

May 31 – Red Deer Tournament

June 22 – Edmonton Tournament

June 29 – Calgary Tournament

All these Western tournaments also have warmup rounds the evening before the tournament starts.

For all scheduled ISPA tournaments, please visit our Tournaments 2024 page.

You may be asking yourself: Where are the North American Championship and the Masters being held this year? Those of you who have attended Montréal AGM mid-April have heard that the Winnipeg Skat Club is currently investigating the possibility to host these two events at their current place of play, the Legion. If that is feasible, the NAM and Masters will be played in September at that location. If not, Red Deer has volunteered to be the backup, transforming their scheduled tournament into the NAM and Masters end of May / beginning June. The decision is being finalized in the coming days, so please check back on our home page for news regarding this decision. Should Red Deer be activated for the NAM / Masters, there will be one additional day of play added for the Masters, in all likelihood, that day would be May 30.