

Diane Campbell

New ACBL Gold Life Master

Diane's husband made her learn bridge when she was 19. She said bridge was for old people. He said we needed to have something to do when we retired. Diane said do we have to do everything together? Anyway, she learned bridge and played socially for 30 years or so and enjoyed it every time she played. Now Diane plays bridge and her husband plays poker!

A friend retired and asked if Diane would like to try duplicate. She said no thank you, I'm not competitive. Her friend said would you try it just once for me. So off they went to a novice game and Diane thought she was going to throw up, she was so nervous. Their goal was not to come in last and they came in second last! Some kind people showed them how to use the bidding boxes but they soon learned that the bids people made were nothing like the ones they knew. They decided that the people were fairly friendly and they would try again. Soon, they were adding another game and another game and Diane was playing more than five times a week! Every game she added she eliminated one exercise session! They were taking classes and learning conventions and getting better. Then they discovered tournaments and that brought a whole new dimension to the game. Guess what? DIANE IS competitive after all!

Diane has the absolute best partners! Her favourite part of bridge is getting to know other players. Diane has learned that if you are kind and respectful at the table, people are generally kind and respectful in return. She sees how wonderful bridge can be for those who otherwise might not have a chance to interact with people during the day, especially those who are on their own. If you take an interest they often open up. Calgary has a terrific mentorship program and Diane loves mentoring novices. Novices are so keen to improve their game and it is a really good way to step back and try to remember where you were not that long ago.

Diane does get upset when bad behaviour is exhibited at the table. She has no problem requesting that the behaviour be stopped but she is sure newer players are very uncomfortable. She wants them to come back! Diane knows we have zero tolerance rules in effect but she would really like to see this more strictly enforced.

So many people work very hard to make our bridge world fun and interesting. Diane believes we are very lucky!