

New ACBL LIFE Master Lois Matton

Lois took her first bridge lesson 11 years ago this month in Hamilton Ontario and quickly realized it would become her game. Lois joined the ACBL in January 2010 - obviously unaware how much easier it would have been to get her life master status had she joined a couple weeks sooner! Lessons continued and she tried a couple small tournaments in the next couple years.

Lois remembers finding herself playing an afternoon game in Mississauga with Sharon, her partner; obviously in a field of players way above their capability. Then came the announcement that there were 12 players at that game who had written books on how to play bridge. Yup - out of their league! But what an opportunity that presented - it was easy to find lessons from top notch players almost anytime. Lois has been in classes with John Rayner and with Barbara Seagram, just to name a couple internationally recognized players.

Very quickly she found that working full time with intense family responsibilities made it impossible for her to continue to play in the evenings at the local club. Lois was able to rearrange her work schedule somewhat to obtain more flexibility - enough to occasionally attend day time lessons. She started playing in weekend tournaments, which are plentiful in southern Ontario. By the end of 2015 Lois had approximately 300 points - more than enough silver and red, about 20 points short of the gold requirement, some online points, and virtually no black points. And yes, black points are a requirement for life master!

This is when she moved to rural Saskatchewan - where there was essentially no bridge game and certainly no points! Two years ago Lois arrived in Calgary - determined to get that last 200 points and find 20 gold points to go with it, but also concerned that she had forgotten too much and had lost her edge. But the black points came quickly as she regained her confidence at the table. A few gold points came my way as she found a couple local regional tournaments. And then covid struck - leaving her 2.62 gold points short. When the clubs announced they were giving 1/4 gold points last week she started booking games. The last day of gold point week Lois was still short so called Sharon, her first partner in Mississauga. Sharon happily drank many coffees to stay awake til midnight (EST) and helped Lois get the last decimal of a gold points needed. And then they celebrated!

Bridge is a great game; for many reasons. Lois thanks Calgary for maintaining such a strong bridge community.