



# ISPA INFO

Herausgegeben vom Vorstand der ISPA-Canada Published  
by the Executive of ISPA-Canada

30.06. 2024, 95. Ausgabe / Edition 2 – 2024



[www.Skatcanada.ca](http://www.Skatcanada.ca)

CAN President  
Ron Link  
Edmonton, Alberta  
[Skatlink@shaw.ca](mailto:Skatlink@shaw.ca)  
☎ 780-477-1305

Vice-President East  
Scott McCormick  
Ottawa, Ontario  
[Skat3111@gmail.com](mailto:Skat3111@gmail.com)  
☎ 819-230-2294

Vice-President West  
Peter Ridder  
Edmonton, Alberta  
[peter@scorpiomasonry.com](mailto:peter@scorpiomasonry.com)  
☎ 780-699-1948

Secretary / ISPA Editor  
Gerd Reiner  
Lacombe, Alberta  
[ispa@Skatcanada.ca](mailto:ispa@Skatcanada.ca)  
☎ 403-835-6813

Treasurer  
Dinah Kunst  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
[dkunst60@yahoo.com](mailto:dkunst60@yahoo.com)  
☎ 204-453-7766

USA President  
William Thompson  
Olmsted Falls, Ohio  
[clevelandSkatclub@gmail.com](mailto:clevelandSkatclub@gmail.com)  
☎ 440-724-5189

## Message from the President:

Dear ISPA Members,

So far, our year is going well, and we are seeing many new members enjoying tournaments. We are happy to announce that Winnipeg is ready to host a tournament again, they have not had one since Covid. They are planning to start with a big one (the North American and Masters). They are also planning to host another referee course prior to their tournament. We recommend that even if you do not plan on being a referee it is a course well worth going to. Just knowing the rules well will help your game.

We also found the NA trophies and have exciting new banners, so check out the updated ISPA web site and make plans to attend the NA championships. It should be a lot of fun.

We wish you all a great summer and some luck at cards.

*Ron Link*

President, ISPA Canada

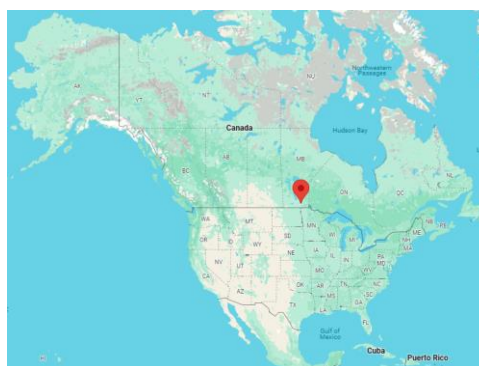
## Message from the Editor:

As Spring Turns into Summer

It is hard to believe that the year is half over! To the editor, it sure feels like the earth seems to be rotating around the sun much faster these days. We have, by the time you read this, played half of the scheduled ISPA tournaments of 2024. How is this possible? In all fairness, we do enjoy our get-togethers quite a bit, so the time spent is quality time for sure. The memories we

are making in the process will last an eternity, so there is a bit of comfort in that.

**The big news** in this edition is that we have a location for the 35<sup>th</sup> North American Skat Championship and Masters! If you are watching Fountain Tire TV commercials, you will know where it is when I say “go to gate 31B” at your airport. You guessed it: We are going to Winnipeg! With this great city located pretty much smack dab in the middle of the North American continent, it is a great location with the best chance to expect players from all over the continent:



So much so that during the recent tournament in Red Deer, a suggestion was made that we perhaps should consider playing the Canadian Championship in the future in Winnipeg on a permanent basis, similar to how it is currently being done in Montréal. That is of course under the assumption that Montréal would agree to relinquish the hosting privilege of the Canadian after an amazing run of 40 years doing it. From a player's travel

perspective, this idea certainly has merit. Then again, the US model by Bill Thompson has merit as well, where the US Open is hosted in a different city every year, thus exposing the maximum amount of Skat clubs to the traveling Skat community throughout the country. Both ideas have pros and cons, nothing has been decided, these are just ideas and at this time. This is, however, certainly a topic we should put on the 2025 AGM agenda though. So, stay tuned and keep reading the newsletter, because you read it here first of course.

In the meantime, we hope to see you all at the remaining 2024 tournaments as much as possible, the editor is full of excitement playing his first Winnipeg tournament beginning of September! Make sure you check out the flyer that is posted here for details:

[Tournaments 2024 | ISPA North America | Edmonton \(skatcanada.ca\)](#)

Gut Blatt!

*Gerd Reiner*

Secretary and Editor, ISPA Canada

## Tournament Results

The last tournament covered in the Spring Edition was Ottawa. Subsequently, the Skat travelers suffered from a full month of ISPA tournament withdrawal, as the next tournament on the calendar was SaSKAToon. It is a good thing that we have weekly Club Skat, otherwise we would have not known, what to do with ourselves 😊.

## Saskatoon Tournament

Saskatoon holds a special place in the editor's heart as the people there are truly amazing. Not that other places don't have amazing people as well, but for some reason, Saskatoon feels like a home away from home. It could have to do with the fact that is within driving distance from Central Alberta (note that no animals were killed on this year's trip by the editor), but more than likely there are other attracting factors, such as the super delicious desserts that are baked in Saskatoon by Shelley and her team, who really know how to run a fantastic weekend.

Contrary to last year (please use the 2023 fall newsletter for reference), no duck pictures were taken, which was a good thing.

33 players competed this year and given the beautiful artwork in some of the prizes, some players were not even shooting for the top spots, but rather what came right after the ninth place. Danny Ridder won the tournament with 6313 points, followed by Dinah Kunst (5971) in second place. Third place was Kristina Huisman with 5749 points.



Now we also know why Danny likes to win...

The successful team was called Saskatoon Win (good prediction in the team's name) with 19296 total points amassed by Al Bobowski, Rudy Laprell, Barry Neufeld and Dinah Kunst.



Four Seriensieger won the top spot in the five series: Kristina (series 1), Sigfried (series 2), Danny (series 3 and 4) and Helmut (series 5):





Congratulations to all Saskatoon winners. Saskatoon always amazes with their non-monetary prize selection, and due to lack of attention by one Mr. Ron Link, the editor managed to get his hands on the prize that he wanted after reviewing the prize table setup in the morning:



Diane Neufeld is the artist of this beautifully hand painted and hand-crafted wine box! Thank you, Diane, we love it! And it came with a gallon of wine in it, too, Ron.

The Saskatoon organizers also managed to get some Skat history displayed, which brought a special touch to the tournament as well:



Here the full Saskatoon results:

### 31st Saskatchewan SKAT Tournament in Sports on Tap

#### Evaluation INDIVIDUAL

Platz	Name, Club or Location	2024-05-26
		Gesamt
1	Ridder Danny, Edmonton Spree Asse	6313
2	Kunsti Dinah, Winnipeg Skat Club	5971
3	Huisman Kristina, Edmonton Spree Asse	5749
4	Bork Helmut, Winnipeg Skat Club	5709
5	Fahr Siegfried, Saskatoon Skat Club	5573
6	Verhaeghe Geria, Edmonton Spree Asse	5385
7	Steinmetz Hans-Juergen, Kelowna Ogopogo Skat Club	5364
8	Bobowski AI, Saskatoon Skat Club	5289
9	Laprell Rudi, Saskatoon Skat Club	5253
10	Ridder Peter, Edmonton Spree Asse	5077
11	Buro Michael, Edmonton Spree Asse	5024
12	Bobowski Marsha, Saskatoon Skat Club	4920
13	Link Ron, Edmonton Spree Asse	4861
14	Reiner Gerd, Red Deer Skat Club	4673
15	Huebler Peter, Red Deer Skat Club	4368
16	Hungness Shelley, Saskatoon Skat Club	4292
17	Belanger Monika, Edmonton Spree Asse	4211
18	Millar Craig, Smithers	4187
19	Young Mark, Saskatoon Skat Club	4113
20	Koronko Keith, Saskatoon Skat Club	3925
21	Roewekamp Werner, Saskatoon Skat Club	3906
22	Erickson Donna, Red Deer Skat Club	3900
23	Weber Paul, Edmonton Spree Asse	3785
24	Yakimoski David, Saskatoon	3611
25	Roewekamp Monika, Saskatoon Skat Club	3606
26	Smith Tami, Edmonton Spree Asse	3581
27	Thompson Henrietta, Red Deer Skat Club	3517
28	Weis Uwe, Edmonton Spree Asse	3323
29	Rohrer Joe, Red Deer Skat Club	3325
30	Contini Michael, Edmonton Spree Asse	3210
31	Neufeld Diane, Saskatoon Skat Club	2815
32	Neufeld Barry, Saskatoon Skat Club	2783
33	Kucher Colin, Edmonton Spree Asse	2691

### Red Deer Tournament

A bit of a tradition has established itself with Red Deer following Saskatoon, so it is no surprise that the following weekend, Skat players assembled in Central Alberta to compete. Red Deer enjoyed 32 players with one player coming from as far as Germany. While in Saskatoon, the team was drawn randomly after

assigning eight team captains, Red Deer did allow for teams to form themselves, as Red Deer was chosen to be the Alberta tournament of 2024. As a result, Red Deer chose to draw a Random Tandem, where all players paid in, and the tandem partners were chosen by drawing out of the ice bucket.

After the five rounds, Kurt Wehr was crowned the 2024 Red Deer champion. Kurt enjoyed a significant number of horseshoes on his way to this title with 6556 points, passing the likes of Danny (2<sup>nd</sup> place, 6389 points) and Rolf Naumann from Germany (3<sup>rd</sup> place, 6286 points).



With the Red Deer tournament also having been declared the Alberta Championship, Kurt is also the 2024 Alberta Skat Champion:



After an admiring pin winning victory dance from Danny, a brief announcement of Ron was overheard, stating: Oh well, I am fourth then. This was disproven by the editor pipping Ron's score by five points. A score review

can certainly be provided, Ron, with the contribution of a small administration fee 😊.

The 2024 Alberta Team Championship went to "The Professors and Maryanne", the team formed by Michael Buro, Ron Link, Kristina Huisman and David McLaughlin. Total combined score of 19858 points.



These four did not have the combined highest team score however, but the highest team score contained Rolf Naumann, a non-Albertan, which made them ineligible for the Alberta Teams trophy. Here the winning team with 23799 points.





The Random Tandem competition was won by Danny and Gerd with a combined 12366 points:



Finally, Red Deer also produced two pin winners: Monika Belanger (Bronze) and Danny for his fourth Gold:



Full scoring results from Red Deer:

**2024 Red Deer Skat Tournament in German Club Red Deer**

Evaluation INDIVIDUAL 02.06.2024  
 show onlysort by overall-placement 22:56:51

Platz	Name, Club or Location	Gesamt
1	Wehr Kurt, Edmonton Spree Asse	6556
2	Ridder Danny, Edmonton Spree Asse	6389
3	Naumann Rolf, DSKV	6286
4	Reiner Gerd, Red Deer Skat Club	5977
5	Link Ron, Edmonton Spree Asse	5972
6	Bork Helmut, Red Deer Skat Club	5437
7	McGaughey Fred, Calgary Skat Club	5284
8	Buro Michael, Edmonton Spree Asse	5225
9	Weiner Berthold, Red Deer Skat Club	5207
10	Kunst Dinah, Winnipeg Skat Club	5075
11	Weber Paul, Edmonton Spree Asse	4990
12	Belanger Monica, Edmonton Spree Asse	4916
13	Huisman Kristina, Edmonton Spree Asse	4778
14	Huckfeld Klaus, Edmonton Spree Asse	4713
15	Ridder Peter, Edmonton Spree Asse	4568
16	Tanke Horst, Vancouver	4545
17	Paech Wolfgang, Edmonton Spree Asse	4362
18	Koronko Keith, Saskatoon Skat Club	4224
19	Millar Craig, Red Deer Skat Club	4222
20	Rohrer Margrit, Red Deer Skat Club	4216
21	Thompson Henrietta, Red Deer Skat Club	4069
22	Buro Karen, Edmonton Spree Asse	4041
23	Erickson Donna, Red Deer Skat Club	3959
24	McLaughlin David, Edmonton Spree Asse	3883
25	Smith Tami, Edmonton Spree Asse	3860
26	Hungness Shelley, Saskatoon Skat Club	3846
27	Roewekamp Werner, Saskatoon Skat Club	3795
28	Huebler Peter, Red Deer Skat Club	3361
29	Rohrer Josef, Red Deer Skat Club	3261
30	Weiner Anja, Red Deer Skat Club	3005
31	Kucher Colin, Edmonton Spree Asse	2777
32	Schuetz Rita, Red Deer Skat Club	2450

**Edmonton Tournament**

42 players assembled in Edmonton for the annual ISPA tournament with players traveling from Omaha, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Calgary and Red Deer, besides the 25 players from Alberta's capital. Needless to say, the computer was not able to set the tables apart by clubs with such an imbalance of club representation. Edmonton's start time of 6pm for the Friday warmup made it really tough for the remote working folks to be on time, the scorekeeper included. Perhaps this start time should be reviewed for next year.

As for the main tournament, the traditional tardiness of one player created rework, Edmonton needs to seriously consider abiding by a pre-defined registration closure time 30 minutes before the set start time in the future. Actually, all clubs should have a registration closure of 30 minutes before start time.

After five rounds in an increasingly hot room due to lack of air conditioning, Ron Link emerged as the winner of the tournament with 6316 points, followed by Ottawa's Scott McCormick (5864) and Kristina Huisman (5792). The team competition was won by Skatlink with 22606 points. Congratulations to all winners!

Below are the full results of the tournament.



**2024 Edmonton ISPA Tournament in 8310 Roper Road**

Evaluation INDIVIDUAL 23.06.2024  
*show onlysort by overall-placement* 23:35:36

Platz	Name, Club or Location	Gesamt
1	Link Ron, Edmonton Spree Asse	6316
2	McCormick Scott, Ottawa Skat Club	5864
3	Huisman Kristina, Edmonton Spree Asse	5792
4	Luz Eric, Calgary Skat Club	5656
5	Wehr Kurt, Edmonton Spree Asse	5626
6	McLaughlin David, Edmonton Spree Asse	5515
7	Roewekamp Werner, Saskatoon Skat Club	5432
8	Weber Paul, Edmonton Spree Asse	5342
9	Ridder Danny, Edmonton Spree Asse	5320
10	Pokrandt George, Edmonton Spree Asse	5278
11	Reiner Gerd, Red Deer Skat Club	5254
12	Hacht von Arno, Winnipeg Skat Club	5212
13	Buro Karen, Edmonton Spree Asse	5160
14	Buro Michael, Edmonton Spree Asse	5149
15	Weis Uwe, Edmonton Spree Asse	5120
16	Grimes Steve, Omaha	4975
17	Belanger Monica, Edmonton Spree Asse	4948
18	Neufeld Diane, Saskatoon Skat Club	4897
19	Ridder Peter, Edmonton Spree Asse	4858
20	Prins Heather, Edmonton Spree Asse	4826
21	Paech Wolfgang, Edmonton Spree Asse	4692
22	Koronko Keith, Saskatoon Skat Club	4638
23	McLachlan Kayla, Edmonton Spree Asse	4634
24	Lohmeier Egon, Edmonton Spree Asse	4550
25	Dee Donna, Edmonton Spree Asse	4498
26	Erickson Donna, Red Deer Skat Club	4288
27	Verhaeghe Geria, Edmonton Spree Asse	4240
28	Schwartz Brett, Edmonton Spree Asse	4153
29	Smith Tami, Edmonton Spree Asse	4090
30	Thompson Henrietta, Red Deer Skat Club	4088
31	Schultz Walter, Edmonton Spree Asse	4075
32	Luz Fern, Calgary Skat Club	4028
33	Schaeufele James, Edmonton Spree Asse	4017
34	Huebler Peter, Red Deer Skat Club	3868
35	Hungness Shelley, Saskatoon Skat Club	3809
36	Rohrer Margrit, Red Deer Skat Club	3712

Platz	Name, Club or Location	Gesamt
37	Contini Mike, Edmonton Spree Asse	3611
38	Rohrer Josef, Red Deer Skat Club	3171
39	Yakimoski David, Saskatoon Skat Club	3086
40	Kucher Colin, Edmonton Spree Asse	2939
41	Link Trezia, Edmonton Spree Asse	2726
42	Neufeld Barry, Saskatoon Skat Club	2475

Another observation in Edmonton was that this club does not appear to be following ISPA guidelines for price awards. It is common knowledge that 25% of players share the price money. In Edmonton, that number for 2024 is 23.8%. Word on the street is that the professors will take over scorekeeping next year, and when that happens, there may be a chance of the math improving, assuming this is not directed by the club's board.

The activities surrounding the Edmonton tournament were very enjoyable though, a big thank you again to Sindy and Paul Weber for their generosity and hospitality, which are second to none.





## Club Reports

This section of the newsletter intends to update how the different Skat clubs in North America are doing.

### SaSKAToon

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.

June 15<sup>th</sup> the Saskatchewan German Council invited the Saskatoon SKAT Club to put on a workshop at their annual Treffpunkt – AGM. We had a little over 1.5 hours to introduce people to the game and garner interest. Out of the two different options to choose from (the other was a visit to the University of Saskatchewan for a tour of German archives), the SKAT option attracted 27 of the 29 attendees. There was great interest shown by people from the Regina German Club. We will set a date in September to have a school in Regina! A special shout out to the volunteers who made this a success – Diane Neufeld, Becky and Terrance Trail, Keith Koronko and Sigi Fahr!



The Saskatoon SKAT Club has been active in remaining visible in the community by participating in events such as the Saskatoon 3-day Folkfest which will take place August 15, 16 and 17<sup>th</sup> of this year. The Club will host a booth with people playing the game and volunteer SKAT members to explain the game and sign up interested parties. A draw for all the SKAT items (cards, score sheets, reference cards, etc.) complete with a bottle of Jägermeister and Jägermeister shot glasses will hopefully bring people in for a conversation. All of this along with members of our club attending various tournaments will keep us busy!

Submitted by Shelley Hungness

### Red Deer

The Red Deer Skat Club is doing well overall. Most of the time we are playing four or five tables on Monday nights for our club Skat. As for the ISPA tournament, this year was again a lot of fun, despite a somewhat reduced participation, as the Calgary Skat Club seems to be experiencing a non-traveling year. In Saskatoon, nobody from Calgary was present, while in Red Deer, the city of clear water was represented only by Fred McGaughey. Thanks for coming out, Fred. Some constructive feedback was received on Red Deer foregoing the Friday night warm-up rounds in favour of playing the first tournament round that night. Naturally this means that either one additional night of accommodation or one additional drive to Red Deer was



needed, which may have caused some players not to be able to attend. On the flip side, the Saturday with playing only two rounds left the opportunity for some Après-Skat, which seems to have been very enjoyable. Paul was moderating activities, especially the impromptu Karaoke session, as shown here:



So, the question for Red Deer's next tournament is: Do we go back to Friday warm-up rounds, or do we choose to have some fun on Saturday night? Montréal has for quite a while now chosen to only play two tournament rounds per day, which helps with the participation of some more experienced player groups for sure. The Red Deer Club commits to listening to more feedback on the topic, so please do send your comments to the editor, so that we can make more informed decisions for future tournaments.

Hamilton

Willi Koenen sends us the Hamilton Skat round updates regularly, which is very much appreciated. Here the latest results, the Hamilton half year results we received:

Germania Klub - Skat Gruppe Tournaments 2024 Season										Date: 22-Jun-24		No: 25	
Weekly Results (Members and Guests)										Year-to-date Results (Members only)			
Rank	Name (# = Guest)	Start #	Paid	First Round	Second Round	Total	Prizes	Rank	Name	Start #	Year-to-date Total	No. of Weeks Played	Running 25 week Avs.
1	Polap, Adolf	14	10.00	529	1,830	2,459	45.00	2	Rausch, Thomas	12	44,160	23	1,843
2	Koenen, Willi	11	10.00	1,078	956	2,034	30.00	2	Reinke, Fred	7	41,550	25	1,667
3	Kampa, Hermann	15	10.00	1,253	730	1,983	16.00	3	Koenen, Willi	11	41,179	23	1,647
4	Dietrich, Horst	5	10.00	1,181	703	1,884	-	4	Kampa, Hermann	15	40,407	24	1,618
5	Rausch, Thomas	12	10.00	518	1,013	1,531	-	5	Dietrich, Horst	5	39,690	21	1,588
6	Reinke, Fred	7	10.00	308	931	1,239	-	6	Carl, Erwin	4	38,517	22	1,541
7	Kampa, Thomas	10	10.00	614	490	1,104	-	7	Eggers, Barbara	1	34,696	17	1,388
8	Carl, Erwin	4	10.00	849	238	1,087	-	8	Riesche, Harry	16	31,946	22	1,278
9	Feld, Manfred	8	10.00	774	103	877	-	9	Barta, Sigfrid	3	30,538	18	1,222
10	Eggers, Barbara	1	-	-	-	-	-	10	Kampa, Thomas	10	29,812	16	1,150
11	Asbury, Mandi	2	-	-	-	-	-	11	Feld, Manfred	8	28,524	24	1,145
12	Barta, Sigfrid	3	-	-	-	-	-	12	Polap, Adolf	14	22,470	16	899
13	Klamer, Lance	6	-	-	-	-	-	13	Mandi, Sabine	13	16,762	12	670
14	Frank, Heidemarie	9	-	-	-	-	-	14	Frank, Heidemarie	9	6,894	4	276
15	Mandi, Sabine	13	-	-	-	-	-	15	Asbury, Mandi	2	6,812	3	272
16	Riesche, Harry	16	-	-	-	-	-	16	Schmitz, Miranda	19	4,156	2	166
17	Bremer, Mandi	17	-	-	-	-	-	17	Klamer, Lance	8	868	1	40
18	Bremer, Matthias	18	-	-	-	-	-						
19	Schmitz, Miranda	19	-	-	-	-	-						
20	Ziemann, Hans	20	-	-	-	-	-						
21	Speckner, Siggli	21	-	-	-	-	-						
22	Brinck, Konrad	22	-	-	-	-	-						
23	Bremer, Jürgen	23	-	-	-	-	-						

Willi further writes us this:

We now have played now in our 2024 season 25 times, so I like to highlight two issues:

On the GOOD side: Fred Reinke, having played each of our 25 games will now start to improve his "Running 25 weeks Ave." with his next-week's task being replacing his present lowest score of 720 by a higher number thus improving that score. A lower score will not change his present one. So, to all, don't forget, the more often you play, the better your chance for a higher year-end standing. Just for your information: This rule setup, basically to entice people to play more often, was invented by Bernd Erbrecht when he was president of the TOR club, – may he rest in peace –, who was one of the best Canadian Skat Players. It was immediately adopted by HAM.

It forced me to develop our workbook as calculating this score would have been too work-intensive and error-prone to do manually.

On the POOR side: We have 4 members who have not yet played the minimum number of games needed to receive a year-end prize, noting 1,2,3 & 4 games only having been played. ... I know the "4-games" player spends most of her time now on Vancouver Island, preventing participation, but I believe the other 3 are in Hamilton. Come on; we love you to come and play. Your next drink is on me!

From the May update from Willi, he mentioned that Fred Reinke had his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday in May. The editor wishes Fred a very happy belated birthday!