



Patterns Begin to Emerge

As the curtain closes on the 2nd day of play, patterns are beginning to emerge. The team that, initially at least, was to be led by NPC Laurie McIntyre and is now led by John Bowman has come through the half way point slightly in the lead after 9 matches at the supper hour on Wednesday with last year's finalists Maksymetz and Fergani right on their heels. The BC/Alberta contingent led by Peter Herold was nicely into 4th followed by Sinno, Carriere, Kramer, and the Carruthers, Lebi, Mittelman and Silver team (with the late Peter Nagy named as their Non-Playing Captain in memoriam) holding on to the last playoff position.

After the 10th match, Bowman continued to lead with Fergani taking sole possession of 2nd and Maksymetz sliding slightly into 3rd. Kramer moved from 7th to 4th while Sinno held onto 5th. Treble vaulted from the also rans into sole possession of 6th while Herold sagged badly, holding onto a tie for 7th and 8th along with Nowlan who also had a nice round to come into the top 8.

As the night ended and the 11th match concluded, Fergani kept on moving - taking over the top spot with 8 victory points over Bowman who had a disappointing match. Maksymetz held onto 3rd and Sinno moved up into 4th with a really nice match. Herold moved back into a tie for 5th/6th with Kramer. This match is of particular interest since Peter Jones plays for the Herold Team while his long standing partner, Bob Crosby,

toils for Danny Kramer. Treble stayed in the running dropping slightly to 7th and Pocock made its try for the playoffs by holding down 8th. And there are at least 8 more teams that are one good result away from the overalls.

Perhaps Yogi Berra said it best... It ain't over til it's over. Stay tuned. This competitive field will not give up until the last card is turned. Last year, Maksymetz made the playoff by a single victory point and then took it all. A dark horse could easily sneak in and steal the gold.

You Party Goers have Been Missed

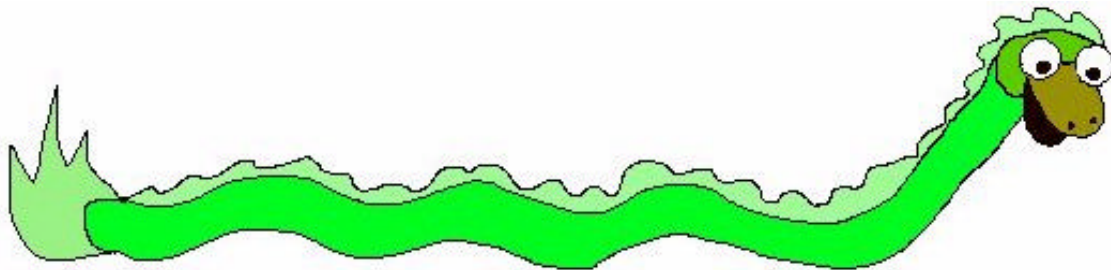
After the game on Tuesday it seems like most people just went to bed. There is fear that this is going to happen on Wednesday. This is entirely UNACCEPTABLE.

The local organizers have arranged for hospitality in Room 201 every night after the last evening board has been played and the last Victory Points have been won or lost.

The organizers tell me that they are prepared to stay open until the last dog is hung, so even though things start at +/- 11:00 pm, if you find your partner hanging from the light fixture it might be time to move towards the exit. Remember, the hospitality room opens every night as long as Bridge Week lasts. Help to make the last Bridge Week in the west for several years a wonderful memory for all of us.

Round Robin Results CNTC Flight A

Round #	Team Name and Number																					
	1 Sinno	2 Gartaganis	3 McAvoy	4 Herold	5 Maksymetz	6 Priebe	7 Flock	8 Gillespie	9 Barton	10 Nowlan	11 Nagy (NPC)	12 Bart	13 Fergani	14 MacKay	15 Treble	16 Thurston	17 Bowman	18 Poccock	19 Rayner	20 Carrière	21 Todd	22 Kramer
1	17	13	21	20	23	14	15	7	8	18	12	0	25	18	12	22	23	15	16	7	10	9
2	19	17	11	13	17	24	19	6	17	6	20	19	21	9	11	10	24	13	24	11	6	13
3	9	11	12	21	18	19	10	13	6	20	18	1	20	15	15	10	25	12	10	24	17	20
4	2	11	15	19	25	11	15	19	14	13	10	9	20	14	19	11	16	10	21	20	17	16
5	25	16	15	7	16	1	14	23	15	14	22	12	14	25	16	4	25	14	4	16	18	8
6	17	8	22	23	25	21	13	9	4	7	8	22	5	8	16	18	8	22	12	14	22	25
7	20	25	10	20	15	4	25	10	5	25	15	10	20	1	14	14	19	15	15	11	16	16
8	14	16	16	25	14	14	13	13	16	17	17	16	16	4	14	14	10	16	8	22	14	20
9	19	16	11	1	12	23	6	11	16	11	14	19	24	7	18	25	19	14	16	16	14	14
10	19	18	11	7	8	17	7	24	7	25	11	5	23	6	23	13	22	23	19	12	6	24
11	25	16	7	23	20	15	23	15	15	9	12	2	18	21	15	15	7	15	10	7	23	14
12																						
13																						
14																						
15																						
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18																						
19																						
20																						
21																						
Total	186	167	151	179	193	163	160	150	123	165	159	115	206	128	173	156	198	169	155	160	163	179
Rank	4			5/6	3								1		7		2	8				5/6



Round Robin Results CNTC Flight B									
Round #	Team Name and Number								
	1 Custead	2 Bedard	3 Ge	4 Thompson	5 Soderstrom	6 Agrwal	7 Chan	8 Cook	9 Zillman
1	7	23	X	6	8	16	14	22	24
2	12	24	18	6	X	16	19	11	14
3	15	13	16	15	14	17	X	15	15
4	10	23	21	10	20	20	9	7	X
5	20	X	25	2	23	10	7	25	4
6	18	6	24	X	13	7	12	23	17
7						X			
8								X	
9	X								
Total	82*	89	104	39	78	87*	61**	103*	73
Rank		3	1			4		2	



* No sit out as yet ** Corrected total

Round Robin Results CWTC

Round #	1 Arblaster	2 Campbell	3 Richardson	4 Nowlan	6 Gordon	7 Foster	8 Taylor	9 Metcalfe	10 Adachi	11 Blackett	12 Neate	13 Connell	14 Isfeld
1	12	18	19	8	21	20	22	8	10	9	X	22	11
2	13	9	17	21	10	21	10	13	17	20	9	20	X
3	15	1	X	15	25	25	13	8	16	14	22	17	5
4	X	8	12	8	22	18	22	25	15	8	22	15	2
5	10	1	10	15	20	X	15	20	25	23	11	19	7
6	4	17	9	15	14	25	16	X	15	21	13	12	18
7	10	15	20	17	11	23	20	7	19	X	13	10	15
8	15	14	16	9	24	20	21	15	9	10	0	X	21
9	9	X	16	14	19	20	1	0	21	25	25	10	11
10				X									
11					X								
12							X						
13									X				
Total	88	83	119	122	167	172	140	96	147	130	115	125	90
Rank					2*	1	4*		3*				

* Teams positioned in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place have not had their sit out yet.

There is No Free Lunch...

But there is a free breakfast. As has become tradition, the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Bridge Federation will, once again, be held during Canada Bridge Week.

This year the AGM is scheduled for Saturday, June 7th at 9:00 AM in Room 203 of the Executive Inn.

Any member of the CBF (and that means all Canadians who are members of the ACBL since a portion of your fees go to support the CBF) is welcome to attend. Some important issues are on the agenda including:

- By-Law Changes.
- Highlights of the 2003 Board of Directors Meeting.

As an incentive to attend, juice, coffee, muffins, etc. will be served to all in attendance.



Your Board of Directors who came to Penticton early and worked a long three days to chart the course of the organization.

L to R they are: Doug Frazer, Mary Moulton, Jim Priebe (President), Bill Treble, Jan Anderson (Executive Director), Doug Heron, Dick Anderson (ex officio – representing ACBL) Claire Jones, George Retek (ex officio – representing WBF)

In the B - Too Close to Call

As they say in target shooting, you could cover the group with a quarter. The difference between 1st and 4th going into the evening match was 3 Victory Points.

Bedard holds the lead by a scant 3 VPs but we count Ge in 2nd since they have had their sitout and have 80 VPs. Agrwal and Cook still have their sitout to come - each have 80 VPs. You can't count Soderstrom or Zillman out yet with 65 each, since they have suffered the 0 of the sitout already. At supper it looked like Chan had a chance as well, but a clerical error was corrected at the end of the evening and it now looks like they are in next year country. As we waited for the final tally, we knew that Cook and Agrwal were taking each other on while Bedard and Ge faced each other in a test for the leadership.

Once again, as the evening matches ended and with only 3 matches to go (with both Agrwal and Cook having to sit out 1 of the 3 matches), things started to get really hairy. Ge tied a licking on Bedard (24-6), taking over 1st place and putting Bedard down to 3rd. Cook put almost as decisive a rout on Agrwal (23-7), taking over 2nd place and leaving Agrwal in 4th. It looks like Custead and Soderstrom still have a chance. So does Zillman, who has already had their sitout. A couple of good results could change the picture once again.

Tomorrow, Cook is in tough with Custead first and Ge last, and a sitout in between. Bedard faces Chan, Soderstrom and Zillman. Ge, in addition to Cook who can be tough as the results show, faces Thompson and Agrwal. Agrwal plays Soderstrom as well as Ge and also has a sitout.

I should confess that I have a soft spot for the Cook team. For months my partner and I were part of this 6 person team, but the 4 remaining made the good choice of cutting the deadwood and moving forward with 4. As a journalist, I must be objective, but, while I will strive to treat everyone equally, I will treat Nancy and her crew just a little more equally than others.

Theos – Great Greek!

Theos is one of those businesses that's heavily involved in the community. They sponsor film festivals and hold book readings. This week they hosted the local high school play. Next week, they'll be holding their 26th annual art auction to benefit the Art Gallery of the South Okanagan. More than 60 works of art will be up for sale June 10. There will also be 8 raffle prizes including a weekend package for two at the Middle Beach Lodge on Vancouver Island. If you're interested, the auction includes dinner (for \$47.50 – reserve tickets at 493-2928).

If you're just interested in dinner, however, and love Greek food – Theos is great... and a great favourite with the bridge crowd.

We had:

Dolmathes (stuffed grape leaves)	Prawns baked with feta cheese and tomatoes
Mousaka (eggplant, zucchini, potato and spiced ground beef)	Roasted Rosemary Chicken
Baklava	Ravani (orange cake with whipped cream)

Price: \$40.00 (plus tax).

Comments:

- Dolmathes – really nice with honest to goodness grape leaves.

- Prawns – good wine sauce and the shrimp was done just right.
- Mousaka – ok, you have to like eggplant... but this was great anyway. It was topped with a fluffy, nutmeggy, béchamel sauce – yum!
- Roasted Rosemary Chicken – ok, where are you going to get a quarter chicken this good – with rice, roasted potato, and grilled veggies?
- The deserts – let's just say the Greeks know how to make a great desert (don't even mention the word, 'diet').

Service: very nice and friendly (one of the happiest waitresses we've ever had!). You can have dinner in about an hour, but the food is worth savouring for longer.

Price range: Entrees from \$6.95 to \$11.95.

Reservations: 492-4019

To get there (driving): 687 Main Street. Go South from the playing site on Martin to Eckhardt. Turn left and take the almost immediate turn left that snakes back down to Main (if you miss it, you'll be going the wrong way on Main – just turn around and you'll be fine). In the next block North from Eckhardt is Theos (on the left). There's parking behind if the street parking is full.



A Photo Finish?

As with horse racing, the fillies may have the most interesting photo finish. The CWTC Round Robin closes out with 9 of the 13 matches finished - and it is turning into quite a finish. The fact that every team has one sit out makes the final results even more in doubt. This is particularly true since at the supper hour on Wednesday with 2 more matches to run in the evening, 3 of the 4 top finishers had not yet had their sit out. They are going to get one 0 for sure and only time will tell what difference that will make. At supper (after 7 matches,) only the Foster team was in the top 4 AFTER their sit out and they were sitting in 1st place. This is a BC team with members from the silver medal Adachi Team of last year. In fact, the teams sitting 1st, 3rd and 4th after 7 all have members from the Adachi squad of last year. I don't know what kind of vitamins these ladies are taking, but I want some.

After 8 matches, none of the leaders had changed but it was significant that the ever dangerous Gordon team were a scant 4 Victory Points behind the leaders. Two good matches could vault Adachi from 4th to 1st.

When the 9th match was posted, all you could say was WOW!! The leaders put on some distance from the rest of the field, except for Taylor dropping into 4th with a really disastrous match against Neate who looked to be out of contention at supper. Of course Adachi, solid as ever, out-pointed Arblaster 21-9 to move into 3rd.

While it looks like 1 of these 4 will be playing to go to Monaco, 3 of the 4 still have to factor a sit out 0 into their Round Robin total. Blackett, Connell, Neate and Richardson have all had their 0 and are certainly within striking distance.

I plan on doubling my money in this race. I am going to fold it in half and put it right back in my pocket. By nightfall tomorrow we will know for sure.

From the Other Side... ...The Book Shop

5,000 square feet of books!!! If you love books, you'll be in heaven. If you're looking for a particular book, you'll likely find it. If you want to get lost for several hours worth of browsing, this is the place.

They have thousands of new, used and out-of-print books covering almost every subject imaginable. In addition to a vast selection of art, architecture, photography, literature and literary criticism/biography, and music books, there are large sections covering military history, nature, gardening, history, cooking, philosophy, sports, religion, archaeology, children's books, automotive and home improvement how-to's, hunting and fishing, health, business, exploration and travel, and the sciences. The Book Shop also maintains an extensive quantity of trade and mass-market paperback stock covering the genres of best-sellers, mystery, science fiction, westerns, and children's books.

Bruce Stevenson, an ex-teacher, started the bookstore in 1974. His philosophy is to stock the store so you can keep coming back and always find something new.

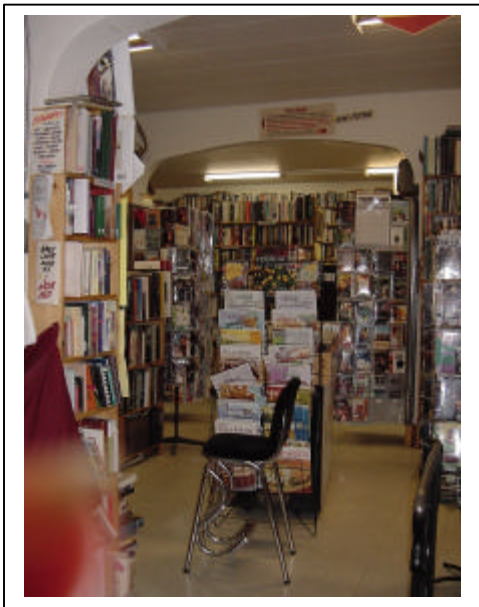
They're also on the Internet (www.bookspenticton.com), so you can do searches of their holdings and email your order.

Comments:

I always go to this bookstore when I'm in town. It's funky, friendly and I always come away with some interesting books – either for myself or for friends and family.

Their selection is so large, you can spend hours just looking through a single section.

To get there (walking): 242 Main Street, Penticton. Go out of the playing site, turn left down the alley to the street. Turn right and go 1.5 blocks to Main Street. Cross to the East side of Main. Turn left (North) and walk half a block.



Bridge Base to Host Finals on VuGraph

Compliments of Fred Gitelman's Bridge Base Online, several of the final matches in this week's Canada Bridge Week will find themselves on the Internet. Fred himself would love to be in Penticton, but he will be competing in the US Team Trials in Memphis early in the week. The better he does, the less likely he will get to Penticton. While we wish him well in the Team Trials, even his availability to serve as a commentator will be doubtful if he does too well. So... we wish him well, but not too well.

In any case, a cadre of amateurs will attempt to work through the technology and press some local commentators into service. At

the same time, Fred promises to get some international luminaries to assist with the commentary even if he is not available himself.

Actual times for the various matches are still to be determined at press time, but before the week is out, we will have the times for each of the matches scheduled for Monday, June 9th for the Flight A CNTC final.

Similarly, we hope to bring you all 128 boards in the Bermuda Bowl qualifying event, featuring the winner of the event from this week against last year's winning team of Bryan Maksymetz, Allan Graves, Dan Jacob, and Gord McOrmond. I have no idea what they will do if Team Maksymetz repeats this year.

Watch these pages later in the week for a full schedule of VuGraph timings so you can let your local players know. We will also provide step by step instructions as to how to get to Fred Gitelman's wonderful site.

COPC Entry Potential leaves Organizers in a Quandary

With the Canadian Open Pairs Qualifying set to go on Saturday afternoon, the organizers have NO idea whether to plan for 20 tables or 120. Jan Anderson, the Executive Director of the CBF, has suggested that she would be delighted if she had 30 tables, but with people coming from all over the west for next week's Regional, we are pretty sure that a good number will be coming a couple of days early to play in the COPC. The problem is, we just don't know.

As a means of getting something of a handle on what may come through the door on Saturday, Matt Smith has asked anyone who is planning on playing (even if that intention is conditional on your NOT being in a

playoff) please see Matt and pre-register. Moreover, if you know of others who will be coming to play in the COPC who aren't even in town as yet, let him know that, too.

We can handle a pretty good crowd, but doing so at the last minute causes delays, frustrations and annoyances. If you can give us a little advance warning, it will be to everyone's benefit.

Granny Bogner's

If you're looking for good, solid French and German fare in an elegant English-style atmosphere, Granny Bogner's is your choice. It certainly is one of the Penticton standbys that many bridge players 'always' go to.

The restaurant building itself was built by Penticton's second resident doctor in 1915. The rich wood interior has been well looked after since and provides a warm and cozy feel.

We had:

Avocado stuffed with Shrimp and topped with a creamy Russian dressing
Veal Scaloppini Francaise: veal medallions dipped in parmesan and egg, served with spaetzle
Granny Bogner's special ice cream with cherries, cherry liquor, and whipped cream

Scallops, Prawns, Shrimp and Spinach wrapped in phyllo served with a tomato basic sauce
Bavarian Schnitzel Hunter Style: breaded pork loin served in a mushroom sauce
New York cheesecake

Price: \$91.00 (plus tax).

Comments:

- Avocado and shrimp – lots of little shrimp with a nice dressing.

- The entrees – quite nice – served with carrots and broccoli
- Desert: the ice cream was neopolitan – kind of a surprise to have strawberry with all those cherries – but pretty yummy anyway.

Service: decent, but note that this is NOT fast food (allow 2 hours).

Price range: Entrees from \$19.95 to \$59.95.

Reservations: 493-2711

To get there (driving): 302 Eckhardt Avenue. Go South from the playing site on Martin to Eckhardt. Turn right and go 2 blocks to Argyll Street. Granny Bogner's is on your right. Go in the driveway in front of the building and around back - there's parking behind the building.



Bridge Week to Stay in Wine Country

Its official! Paul Thurston of "The National Post" fame, has had his arm sufficiently twisted. Given the stated objective to get Bridge Week back into the Golden Triangle, Bridge Week 2004 is awarded to St. Catharines, Ontario, the heart of Ontario Wine Country. (Any close look at a map of this region and you might wonder at how a single vine survives with one town or city bordering the next all along the lakeshore

from Toronto to Niagara.) That much said, it should be a beautiful venue. Our host promises he and his organizing team will do their best to hold up the high standard delivered by Edmonton last year and Penticton, now well on its way to a successful conclusion.



We really hope that this much more central venue will encourage Atlantic Canada to get back into the fray. Of course, Ontario and Quebec should be able to fill any available empty slots, making a full slate for CNTC-A, CNTC-B, CWTC a foregone conclusion as well as giving a huge population from which the COPC can draw.

Participation from the west will, of course, be a little more difficult. But remember that Westjet now lands in Hamilton, a virtual hop skip and jump from St. Catherines. (Much easier than having to land at Pearson International and undergo the significantly longer commute.)

I am sure that Paul has a lot of things still up in the air. You are encouraged to follow the progress of the host locale on the website and, of course, make sure you keep up to date on the qualifying requirements for your club and your zone.

History of the CNTC

In searching Jude Goodwin-Hanson's wonderful CBF website (cbf.ca) for little pearls of wisdom that I could put before you, I came across a list of winners of the

Canadian National Teams Championship since the first winners were crowned in 1977.

I note that Jude made it clear that last year's winners were from Jude's home region, that Nick Gartaganis was from Calgary while Keith Balcombe was from Oshawa, and that the 2000 champions were all from Quebec except for Darren Wolpert, a token Ontarian. The homes of all other winners are, for some reason lost in the mists of time. If you have authoritative information as to the Province represented by different winners, send Jude an e-mail and blame me.

2002: Bryan Maksymetz (BC), Allan Graves (BC), Dan Jacob (BC), Gord McOrmond (BC)

2001: Judith Gartaganis, Gordon Campbell, Nicholas Gartaganis (Calgary, AB), Keith Balcombe (Oshawa, ON)

2000: Kamel Fergani, Longueuil, PQ, Nicolas L'Ecuyer, Montreal, PQ, Doug Fraser, Mount Royal, PQ, Jeffrey Blond, Cote St. Luc, PQ, Darren Wolpert, Thornhill, ON, Jurek Czyzowicz, Aylmer, PQ

1999: Ted Horning, Honorary Captain, Robert Lebi, Nader Hanna, Drew Cannell, John Carruthers

1998: Gordon McOrmond, Michael Hargreaves, Allan Graves, Joseph Silver, Bryan Maksymetz

1997: Gordon McOrmond, Michael Hargreaves, Allan Graves, Joseph Silver

1996: Nader Hanna, Doug Fraser, Michael Roche, Jim Green, Paul Thurston, Rick Delogu

1995: Joseph Silver, Fred Gitelman, George Mittelman, Mark Molson, Eric Kokish, Boris Baran

1994: Joseph Silver, Fred Gitelman, George Mittelman, Mark Molson, Eric Kokish

1993: Mike Cafferatta, Mike Kenny, Mary Paul, Dave Colbert, Michael Roche, Chris Hough

1992: Jim McAvoy, Duncan Smith, Michael Strebinger, Peter Herold, Jim Dickie, Bruce Ferguson

1991: Ed Bridson, John Gowdy, David Lindop, Geoff Hampson, Boris Baran, Mark Molson

1990: Doug Heron, Ed Zaluski, David Willis, John Valliant, Mike Betts, Randy Bennett

1989: Mark Molson, Boris Baran, George Mittelman, Arno Hobart, Marty Kirr, Billy Cohen

1988: Maurice Larochelle, Jean Bernier, Andre Laliberte, Jacques Laliberte, Raymond Fortin, Kamel Fergani

1987: Mark Molson, Boris Baran, John Guoba, John Carruthers, Eric Murray

1986: Michael Shoenborn, Harmon Edgar, Arno Hobart, Martin Kirr, Greg Carroll, David Turner

1985: Boris Baran, Mark Molson, Eric Kokish
George Mittelman, Pascal Menachi, Mark Stein

1984: Subhash Gupta, Doran Flock, Gordon Campbell, Mike Chomyn, Bryan Maksymetz, Drew Cannell

1983: Mark Molson, Boris Baran, Allan Graves, George Mittelman, John Guoba, John Carruthers

1982: Nick Gartaganis, Zygmunt Marcinski, Gordon Crispin, Voyteck Pomykalski

1981: Allan Graves, George Mittelman, Eric Kokish, Peter Nagy, Eric Murray, Sami Kehela

1980: Allan Graves, George Mittelman, Eric Kokish, Peter Nagy, Eric Murray, Sami Kehela

1977: Mary and Maurice Paul, Don Cowan, Michael Cummings

What a listing of luminaries of whom we can all be proud. I find it interesting that some seem to last longer than others. In particular, I note that Allan Graves was on the winning team the first year this became an annual event (1980) and 22 years later... still winning. I did a quick search and the records show that Mr. Graves took his 6th gold medal home last June. Seems to me that there are the needy and the greedy. You judge which group Allan falls into. Boris Baran also has 6 gold medals with the last in 1995 (his team finished second last year), while Eric Kokish has 5 gold medals. By comparison, Fred Gitelman has a paltry 2 and one of the best Alberta players, Nick Gartaganis, had almost a 20 year drought (1982-2001) between wins. The granddaddy of all winners is, not surprisingly, Mark Molson, who tops the list with 7 wins.

Take the time to go over the list and remember friends now gone and friends still at the tables. Remember Mike Chomyn, a friend to many now playing in God's bridge club and Subhash Gupta, still very much making waves, but now for India. Some have won many times. Many have won once. Some have been bridesmaids many times but never won the big prize. And it can fairly be said that every last one - winners or support cast - have been good for our game. Our hearty congratulations go to them all, back through the mists of time for over a quarter of a century.

