

GUELPH BRIDGE CLUB INC.

OUR STORY:

In the beginning...

In January, 2009 David Estill, Peter Gifford, Ian Sirett and Isabelle Spencer visualized having a centralized Guelph location for all bridge associated activities – games, lessons, tournaments, etc. A seed was planted and the search for a location began.

James Estill, then CEO of SYNEX Canada Limited (and an avid bridge player), helped us forge a lease with SYNEX.

Peter Gifford, with the generosity of Miller Thomson law firm, established us as an incorporated, not-for-profit organization.

We would be member based with a Board of Directors and several working committees.

Others soon joined in – Ken Moen, Ray Millie, Muriel Nickols, Jim Rife, Joan Henry, John Liefeld, Adrian Record, John Vandergrift, Joan Stepinac, Dave Baker and Deaun Moulton – bringing great amounts of enthusiasm, knowledge and experience with them. Everyone pitched in and the Guelph Bridge Club Inc. was officially formed.

To help offset our initial start-up costs, several people generously loaned money and others donated supplies and their time to our growing club. Over the months a website was set up, computer and telephone lines installed, data bank programmed, schedules drawn up, game directors found, courses outlined and facility renovations undertaken. Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009 was set as our opening. That night over 50 players attended our first official bridge game.

On Wednesday, September 2, 2009 after an afternoon of bridge more than 90 players and guests attended our official opening and ribbon cutting ceremony. By the end of September Guelph Bridge Club Inc. had grown to over 125 members and we were on our way!

In the winter of 2010, SYNEX was growing at a rapid pace and needed the space occupied by the Guelph Bridge Club.

After examining many locations, we were happy to be settled at our new home at 644 Imperial Road. This location had a longterm lease and we were excited to have a space that we could call home.

On Feb. 1, 2020, the club moved to its new location at 23 Victoria Rd N in the Victoria/Grange Plaza.

When the pandemic hit in March 2020, the club began offering games online on BBO.

OUR FOUNDERS

Board of Directors:

David Estill

John Liefeld

Ray Millie

Ken Moen

Adrian Record

Ian Sirett

Isabelle Spencer

Joan Stepinac

John Vandergrift

Officers:

President: Isabelle Spencer

Vice-President: Joan Stepinac

Secretary: John Liefeld

Treasurer: David Estill

Legal Counsel: Peter Gifford

Game Directors:

Ray Millie, Head Director

Jim Rife

David Baker