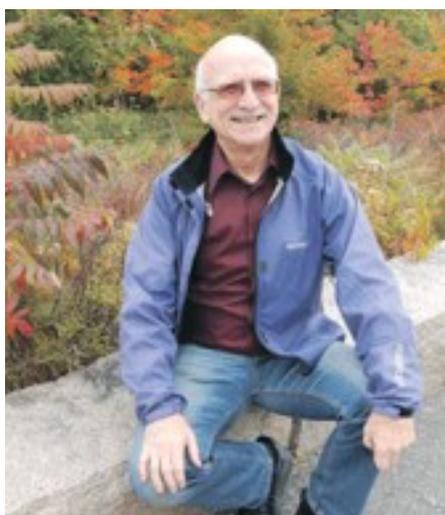


Jim Brackenbury, Duplicate and Virtual Bridge Coordinator, Goward House

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Jim is a retired teacher and provincial civil servant who started playing bridge in his university days in the 1960's. He played with friends in Grande Prairie for a few years, but quit playing for about twenty years after a family move to Edmonton.

Jim and wife Mary retired to Victoria in 2002. Mary quickly became involved with art activities at Goward House, and slowly enticed Jim to give bridge a try again. He started with the Friday afternoon "progressive" group, and eventually found his way to the Wednesday Duplicate games.

In 2009, Jan Joslin, the bridge coordinator, asked Jim to cover for her while she went south for her annual holiday. Jan passed away that year, so Jim has been doing this for about twelve years, watching the table count grow slowly from three to fifteen, until COVID-19 struck. Over that time, Jim has offered a continuing series of lessons to aspiring bridge players, with increasing popularity each year. Jim became a certified duplicate bridge Director and Teacher. He has received tremendous help and cooperation from the enthusiastic group of duplicate bridge players at Goward House. Jim has introduced many innovations, including the use of Bidding Boxes, Bridgemates, computerized scoring, and on-line reporting of results.

Like so many other activities, Goward House bridge stopped completely in mid March. After two months, Jim started up weekly on-line Team Matches for the Goward House bridge players. These now involve forty members per week in virtual Team Matches. Every effort is made to provide a different set of opponents each week. This has turned into a popular Wednesday afternoon activity for many of our members. Jim is proud of the willingness of the bridge players to learn and apply what for many are new-found computer skills. He is also grateful for the great assistance provided by the Official Scorer, Joane Berube (who posts the detailed results on the Goward House Bridgewebs website), and to the other weekly hosts Judi Woytack, Nancy Fauteux, and Jane Fogh- Dohmsmidt.

Jim is also appreciative for the continuing support he and the bridge group have received from the board, staff, front desk volunteers, and kitchen volunteers at Goward House. From old records, he learned that initially bridge was not viewed as an altogether suitable pastime for Goward House members. How times have changed!