

January 2024 Newsletter:

Friday evenings 5-7 at Elijah Smith.

We will continue with the same programming we offered this fall, namely an open round robin, maximum 15 players. We have been offered limited access (only 4 Fridays) prior to April. After that, except for one Friday, we have access until early June.

Saturday afternoons, 2-6 pm at Takhini:

The YPA board had hoped to establish a 2-tiered round-robin on Saturdays. However, it seems that the distinction between the two levels of play for the two time slots was not achieved. What we have ended up with is, essentially, two open round-robins.

Open play (drop-in) is available daily at the CGC. The YPA wants to provide something different from open play on Saturdays. Thus, effective January 20, we will discontinue our original plan of a 2-tiered round robin. Rather, we will offer 6 group bookings, 3 from 2-4 pm and the other 3 from 4-6 pm on Saturdays. A group (4-6 players) should arrange in advance of registering to play and then register as a group. One person can register others in their group. Please do not sign up unless you have pre-arranged a group. To co-ordinate with other players via e-mail, please take advantage of the "Member directory" available at our webpage.

Sundays, 8 am-4 pm at Takhini

Our allotted time has been extended most Sundays during the winter and spring 2024 until 4 pm. This will allow us to have 2 hours for four levels of play: level 1 (advanced), level 2 (strong intermediate), level 3 (intermediate) and level 4 (novice). We will be using the terms levels 1, 2, 3, and 4. Our goal is to have a relatively consistent skill level within each of the four levels. The terms we have previously used may not describe well this goal. For example, there are some relatively new players (novices) who are playing on par with many at level 3. And there are players who have played for some while, and thus should not be labelled novice, but are more suited to play with others at level 4.

On the Sundays when we have access until 4 pm we will offer a facilitated round robin for all four levels. This means there will be a time allotted (25-30 minutes) prior to the round robin for skill development. The drills will be tailored for each of the 4 levels.

The board struggles with a fundamental challenge: everyone wants to play better players. And players generally want to have competitive games, with others at their skill level (or better).

The boundary between each level is not clear. We know it is not always straightforward nor clear what level you are playing at, and so the Board will continue to monitor sign ups for the skill-based RRs to assist players in determining the level where they best fit. What is an appropriate level for each player can certainly change over time and is certainly open to review. In theory about one quarter of our members should qualify for each of the four levels.

Once a month we need to leave at 3 pm. On those Sundays we will revert to the 1 hour 45-minute times we have used this past fall. There will be no facilitated drills on those dates. These Sundays will be clearly indicated on the registration page, and on the calendar of events.

A reminder: if you wish to play this winter or spring indoors at Elijah Smith or Takhini you will need a 2024 YPA membership and have purchased a \$20 winter fee. We currently have 104 members (who have bought their 2024 memberships and 43 winter pass holders).