



History of ISPA Canada, (2016)

ISPA Canada currently consists of 13 skat clubs with 331 active members of which 246 members are over 65.

The club Skat Montréal, is the most easterly club, and is 2295 miles (3694 km) away from the most westerly club on the Pacific Ocean, which is Vancouver. However, for the past 31 years, once a year members from all 13 clubs met for the annual meeting of the board of directors and, of course, for the Canadian Championship in Saint Adele, Québec in the Laurentian Mountains and since 2012 this event is held in Montreal, Québec. Many skat friends from all over Europe and North America took part in this championship.

Kitchener, which was Berlin until 1916, is the birthplace of ISPA Canada. According to the skat club registration certificate in Kitchener from March 23-1981, skat friends Harald Lang, Gottfried Ruge, Klaus Patommel and Günter Baur were the founding members. In 1982 Kitchener hosted the ISPA World Skat Championship. Unfortunately the expected stampede of skat players from around the globe from the expected participant numbers was somewhat lagging, and the young ISPA Canada finished with a hefty deficit in 1983.

In 1985, with the financial and logistical help of Rolf C. Hagen, an arrangement was made with creditors. With that the building blocks for a debt free beginning were laid.

A new board with President Arthur Kreklau started to guide the story of ISPA Canada in 1985. Some important papers were lost, which resulted in a new contract having to be re-drafted (Canada Corporations Act) on March 31, 1990. On March 31, 1991 ISPA Canada obtained a nationwide charter to become International Skat Players Association (ISPA) Canada Inc. (e.V.). At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on July 9, 1992 at the Le Chantecler Resort Hotel in Saint Adele, Québec Arthur Kreklau no longer put his name forward for the office of president. With Hans-Jürgen Steinmetz as president a new board was voted in. After 24 years of service H-J Steinmetz announced that he would not run for a board position again. A new board was elected with Ron Link as president in 2016.

3rd Skat World Championship: July 2-11, 1982 in Kitchener Ont., Canada

At this time the final games of the soccer World Championships were also taking place. Our ISPA Canada put up a huge screen to watch Germany beat France 5:4 in penalty shots. For a few hours even the skat cooled off when Italy beat Germany 3-1 and Dieter Honsel from Germany won the skat World Championship. All in all despite the huge deficit, the Skat World Championship was full of diversity.

8th skat World Championship: June 26- July 12, 1992 in Montréal, Qué., Canada

This event was an exquisite affair. The first half was played in the Sheraton Centre Montréal and the second in the Laurentians, Le Chantecler. Detlef Plewnia from Dortmund played himself to the top of 272 participants. The Hagen brothers donated a 1992 Cadillac, which Detlef was unable to take back to Germany, and so he sold the white Caddi to a Canadian skat friend. Sponsor Rolf Hagen ensured that the tournament went off without a hitch. An abundance of amusement, such as: a barbecue with dancing at Mont Tremblant, a folklore evening, a trip to Canada's capital city for a quick tournament, and a city tour and dance for the fans and supporters was organized. The highpoint was the going away party which had 500 people and had a spaceship with ISPA WORLD in blinking lights slowly floating through the room of the Palais de Congress; it was a great party and a very successful and unforgettable skat World Championship.

Canadian National teams' World Champion

During the World championships in Nassau in the Bahamas in 2006 the Canadians became world champions for the first time ever. It was an accomplishment which the national team was able to repeat again in 2008 in Calpe Spain and in 2016 in Las Vegas.

Canadian Skat Championship

The annual Canadian skat championship was generously sponsored by Rolf C. Hagen for 25 years. Up to 210 skat friends took part at a time. Since 2012 ISPA has been managing ISPA Canada and Skat Montréal for this five series tournament. The organizers have been organizing tournaments from long distances for decades. A few of these people have been there since the very first Canadian championship. As well the quality of the previous tournaments is kept intact.

The official ISPA Canada Homepage www.Skatcanada.ca/