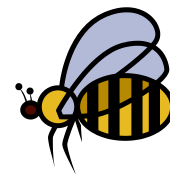


The Bridge Buzz



ACBL Unit 431 Newsletter

June 2014

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope you are all enjoying the summer weather.

We are always striving to make our Unit events as enjoyable as possible. To this end, we are suggesting a possible change in starting times for the Sectionals. Some people suggested a starting time around 10:30am but this was deemed not feasible because of the set up time required on the Friday morning. It would also make it difficult for out of town players to get down on the Friday in time for the game. But, we are suggesting that we start the Friday games at the same times as the Saturday games - that is at 12:00 and 6:00.

We want your feedback. Please email your comments to me at egibson@dragonhearth.com.

Ele Gibson, Unit President

CLUB CORNER

Monterey Bridge Personality: Bela Hirczy



Bela Hirczy, who just turned 81 years old, was born in Orkney, Hungary, 70 km south of Budapest. An only child, he was at university in Sopron in 1956 when the Russian army was about to invade. A representative from Canada spoke to his class of 157 students offering all the students and their professors (plus their families) the option of relocating to Vancouver to continue their education....in Hungarian! Most students accepted this offer. Shortly after the class left Hungary, the Russian tanks moved in. Canada benefited from the excellent engineers they obtained.

Bela graduated as a Forest Engineer. His parents joined him in Canada in 1962. While attending the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, Bela met Judy. In 1973, he convinced her to move to Canada as his wife. They have one daughter.

Bela began playing bridge on the four-day train trip across Canada when he first arrived. He then often played rubber bridge with friends, frequently staying up all night. In 1962, Bela took a job with Macmillan Bloedel in Port Alberni. Since there was a duplicate club, he joined the ACBL.

During his career, Bela had positions in Port Hardy, Sayward, Parksville, Smithers and lastly in Victoria. He continued playing bridge where he could find games, even directing the game if no one else was available.

While in Port Alberni, Bela learned lapidary and loved the process of cutting and polishing stones. He was looking for more of a challenge so he and his wife took two weeks' vacation and went to Vancouver. For two weeks, they took a silversmith course that involved twelve hour days. Judy became extremely skilled as a silversmith and still continues to practice her craft.

Bela was playing in a Regional tournament in Edmonton against two women opponents who tried to use their feminine charms to distract him. One began to stroke his leg and in his confusion, Bela looked down at his convention card. They called the

director to complain about this. Phil Wood, the great director of bridge in the northwest heard Bela's report and chastised the women for their conduct! As a Gold Life Master, Bela continues to be a force in the Victoria bridge world. East-West opponents have been known to ask the director if they can skip Bela's table rather than take a trouncing.

Capital City

The Glittery Affair exceeded all expectations. All the tickets were sold in one week and the waiting list could have filled a much larger room. As people arrived they brought in with them an air of goodwill, fun and expectation.

Anne-Lise Loomer, the Development Officer of CanAssist, showed a short video to which she provided comments and explanations. We were given a glimpse into the day of a very lovely but very handicapped little boy named Ethan, and saw how CanAssist brought a smile into his life. It's true that a picture is worth more than 1,000 words. People were moved to the extent that during the game, several ran up to the front in between rounds and made donations. In the end, we were able to give CanAssist a little over \$5,500.00 - \$1,800 from entries (18 tables at \$100 each) and the rest from donations. This was definitely more than we had expected. Thank you all for your generosity and good hearts.

I think everybody left the event feeling happy. Of the 72 people attending, 40 won door prizes and the overall winners of the game, Sue Foley and Nev Hircock each received an orchid plant. Those who didn't leave with a gift enjoyed a very pleasant game and an abundance of wonderful refreshments.

All I can add is that I think we are very lucky to have such a great bridge community in Victoria. Thanks to all from those whose life will be made better as a result of your kindness. To read about this event and see pictures, please go to <http://www.canassist.ca/EN/main/latest-news/2014/canassist-thrilled-to-benefit-from-glittery-bridge-event.html>

Ewa Zwicky



UNIT 431

Membership Report

Name Tags – almost 50 players have ordered name tags since March, thank you. If you'd like to order a name tag, please email Jill (jstainforth@yahoo.ca) or let her know at a game. Name tags cost \$8.50 and take about a week.

New ACBL members in our area are Lynne Urner and Guy Van Uytven. Dan Owen-Keith and Kathy Schaffer have recently moved here from other areas. Welcome!

Several ACBL members in Unit 431 have achieved new levels since March:

Alexis Martfeld – Junior Master
Daniel Sunstrum – Club Master
Brenda Fox – Sectional Master
Russell Page – Regional Master
Cynthia Thomson – Regional Master
Jill Stainforth – NABC Master
Diane Moffatt – LIFE MASTER
Mitra Shojania – LIFE MASTER

Congratulations all!

Please let your friends who are cautious about entering the duplicate world know that there are supervised non-duplicate bid-and-play sessions on Monday mornings (9:15) at Capital City Bridge Club and on Wednesday mornings (9:30) at the Monterey Seniors Centre, all for a drop-in fee.

Newcomer Game

The annual Newcomer Game was held May 25th at the Victoria Bridge Centre. Director Debbie Wastle ensured everyone had a good time and a long enough break to enjoy the special treats. Congratulations to the winners, Janice Closson and Kathleen Este with a 56.92% game, and to runners up Barbara Boisvert and Gail Argatoff.

Victoria Fall Sectional

Sept. 5 – 7th, 2014

Pearkes Recreation Centre
3100 Tillicum Road
Victoria, B.C.



To mark the end of summer, we hope you will come out and join us at the Victoria Fall Sectional. Always a popular event, the weekend starts with Pairs games on Friday at 1pm and 7pm. The evening game is a Charity Game to support the CBF Charitable Fund and is a regionally rated silver point game awarding **40% more masterpoints at no extra charge**. Both Friday newcomer games are free for ACBL members with fewer than 5 masterpoints.

The Saturday Pairs games start at 12:00 and 6pm to allow an earlier end time for those playing again on Sunday.

Sunday is Swiss Team Day. The Unit supplies free coffee and muffins before game time but please bring your own lunch. The all day two-session Team games start at 9:30. For those players with fewer than 300 masterpoints we offer two single session games at 9:30 and 1:30.

Our spring hospitality table was a huge success. Thank you to all that donated!!! We would once again like to ask for food donations for our FALL tournament in return for a free coffee token.

NEED A PARTNER???? No problem. Please call Leslie Wood: (250) 727- 6762 or email: leslie.wood@shaw.ca

I hope to see you there!

Jan Soutar, Chair

BIG GAMES

74.65%	Brian Fraser and Guy Coutanche	Mar. 5, Capital City
72.89%	Bela Hirczy and Nancy Baal	Apr. 14, Leaders
72.67%	Robin Lawn and Bill Bean	Apr. 4, VBC
70.83%	Michael Ainsley and Merv Adey	March 5, VBC
70.55%	Maureen Stanley and Ivy Pye	May 24, Monterey
70.37%	Roger Allen and Debbie Wastle	May 24, VBC
70.24%	Burton and Kinga Voorhees	Mar. 26, VBC
70.00%	Merv Adey and Michael Ainsley	May 7, VBC

Congratulations are in order to Duncan Smith, Gerry McCully and Jim McAvoy. With their teammates Peter Herold (Ladysmith) and Ken Scholes (Bellevue, WA), they played in Calgary in May in the Canadian Senior's (60+) Team Championship. After qualifying for playoffs in 3rd place, they won a very close match (60 boards) against the 2nd place team (from Ontario). They were second overall after losing the final to an Alberta Ontario team that won the round robin. This earned them an impressive 45 MP

DUNCAN SAYS

Lead aggressively vs. 3NT, passively vs. 6NT & 7NT.

Sample hand	Lead against 3NT	Lead against 6NT & 7NT
KJxxx xxx xx Jxx	Lead 4th best spade vs. 3NT	Lead a heart vs. 6 & 7 NT
xx Q1098 xxx Jxxx	Lead heart 10 vs. 3NT	Lead a diamond vs. 6 & 7NT
KJ1098 xx J109 xxx	Lead spade J vs. 3NT	Lead a diamond vs. 6 & 7 NT
xxx QJ109 xxx xxx	Lead heart Q vs. 3NT, 6NT & 7NT	

UPCOMING EVENTS 2014

July 6	Mentor game, Victoria Bridge Centre
Aug. 8 – 10	Nanaimo Sectional
Aug. 17	Mentor game, Victoria Bridge Centre
Aug. 29 – Sept. 1	Burnaby Sectional
Sept. 5 – 7	Victoria Fall Sectional, Pearkes
Sept. 14	Mentor game, Victoria Bridge Centre
Sept. 19 – 21	Powell River Sectional
Sept. 22 – 28	Seaside

For anyone interested in looking further ahead, the complete listing of events for Victoria and vicinity is on the Unit website at http://d19.org/victoria/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/2014_Bridge_Events_Calendar1.pdf

REDESIGNED ACBL WEBSITE.

ACBL unveiled its new online look on June 5. The League's website at www.acbl.org has been redesigned and reorganized with an emphasis on form and function.

Visitors to the new website encounter a streamlined, modern look to the site navigation on the top and bottom of each page. Selecting any of the primary links on the homepage takes the viewer to a "landing" page that uses side menus to explore that particular topic in more detail.

"Breadcrumb" navigation - a visible display of the path taken to arrive at a particular page - enables users to keep track of where they are (and where they've been) without relying on the back arrow.

"Helpful Documents" and "Important Links" pages have been added throughout the site to get you to the information you need faster.

ACBL is interested in your feedback whether it's a matter of appearance, a broken or incorrect link, a search-engine problem or weird formatting issues, please contact ACBL at webfeedback@acbl.org.

ACBL LAUNCHES NEW LEARN TO PLAY BRIDGE WEB APPLICATION SOFTWARE



In 2005, Fred Gitelman developed a Learn to Play Bridge software downloaded over 100,000 times. In 2013, the ACBL updated the software to accommodate advancing technology and new devices.

The ACBL is launching the new version first for teachers, clubs, units and districts. Some of the key new features:

- Instantly start playing bridge with robots powered by BridgeBase
- Test your skills with over a thousand hands on Finesses, Stayman, Fourth Best Leads and more
- Check your ACBL masterpoints with new rank badges and full color masterpoints

Registration and use of the entire site is free, and can be shared with friends and family.

Check out the new web application software at:

<http://learn.acbl.org>

BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

The following question was sent to several local bridge teachers and top players. "With two very popular books published listing 50 bridge conventions they say you should know, could you list what you consider to be the 5 most useful conventions (excluding the ubiquitous Stayman and Jacoby Transfers) for the average bridge player to learn?" Their responses are below.

	Merv Adey	Rhonda Foster	Brian Fraser	Delma Murray	Duncan Smith	Ernie Tradewell	Debbie Wastle	Ewa Zwicky
2H "negative" response to 2C	x							
4 Suit Transfers								x
4th Suit Forcing	x			x	x			
*Blackwood					x	x	x	x
**Drury		x	x	x				x
Gerber					x			x
Jacoby 2NT				x			x	
Jordan				x			x	
Lebensolh	x		x			x	x	x
Meckwell			x					
Modified Cappelletti			x					
Negative Doubles				x	x	x	x	
New Minor Forcing	x	x			x		x	x
Ogust						x		
Splinter Raises	x		x					
Support Doubles						x		

*includes Keycard Blackwood

** Includes reverse and two-way reverse Drury

Rhonda indicated defensive carding and game try agreements as important for partnerships. Thanks to all who contributed.