

The Bridge Buzz



ACBL Unit 431 Newsletter



June 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Who are these people we play bridge against? How little do we know about any of them except for their ability to play the game and how tough/easy they are as opponents?

Sometimes we may learn of their profession or ex-profession. Sometimes we know about how many children/grandchildren they have and even what they do or have accomplished. But sometimes we hear of something very special about a member of our community. Such an instance is one that was reported in the Times Colonist in the last week of April.

Bruce Mackenzie, a regular in the Tuesday night game at Victoria Bridge Centre and in his nineties, was awarded the French Legion of Honour for service during the Second World War. He served in France and Britain and flew a Spitfire during the D Day landings. He had already been awarded the Croix de Guerre at the end of the war.

It's my pleasure to honour such a wonderful man and war hero.

We all have other lives away from the bridge table - hard though it may be to imagine that sometimes when we are concentrating so hard on the cards at hand and see only opponents not people. There must be other people like Bruce who have a good story to tell - try to find them!

Ele Gibson, President Unit 431

UNIT 431

Thursday Start to Fall Sectional in Sidney



September 10 - 12, 2015
Mary Winspear Centre
2243 Beacon Avenue West
Sidney, BC

A new schedule and a new location are on offer at the Fall Sectional. We hope mainland travellers will appreciate the proximity of the new venue to the ferry terminals and everyone will enjoy discovering the charm, shops and waterfront of Sidney-by-the-Sea.

At 1 pm and 7 pm on Thursday, there will be single Open Pairs sessions. The evening game is a Charity Game to support the CBF Charitable Fund and is a regionally rated silver point game awarding 40% more master points at no extra charge.

Also at the same start times, 1 pm and 7 pm, there will be single sessions of "Newcomers/199ers Pairs." Entries are free in these two sessions for any player with fewer than 5 master points.

The schedule on day two, Friday, is largely the same as Thursday except for the addition of single Open Pairs Side Games at both 1 pm and 7pm. The Open Pairs sessions on Friday are a double session. Saturday, day three, is Swiss Team day. The Unit offers complimentary coffee and muffins at 9:30 am but please bring your own lunch. The full day, two-session event starts at 10 am. We will have 7 rounds of 7 boards, ending in time to catch ferries home.

For players with fewer than 300 master points, single Swiss Team sessions will be offered at 10 am and at 2 pm.

Thank you for bringing delicious snacks and baked goods in exchange for a free coffee token. We are also very grateful for cash contributions that we can use to enhance our buffet.

Need a partner??? No problem. Please call Leslie Wood: (250) 727-6762 or email: Leslie.Wood@shaw.ca.

For details about stratification and cost, please see our flyer on our new website.

Looking forward to seeing you in Sidney!

Jill Stainforth, Chair

Unit 431 has a new website!

Check out our new website at a new address: bridgevictoria.ca

We have tried to give it a cleaner look and simplified the menu structure which we hope you will find intuitive and easy to navigate.

When accessing the website, you will land on the "Welcome" page which gives an overview of Unit 431, including its mission and organization. However you will probably want to navigate to the other sections shown in the top menu.

Start with "What's New" to see what has changed since your last visit.

Hovering your mouse on other top menu items will reveal pop up submenus. You might find it faster to go directly to the website and find out what's there, but in any case, here is what you will see:

- Under "Tournaments and Events", you can download a one-page summary of 2015 events, or alternatively use the interactive month-by-month calendar. Also featured are results from past tournaments and a photo gallery.
- Clicking on "Bridge Buzz" gives you access to the current, as well as past issues of our Unit newsletter.

- "Members" leads to items of particular interest to members, including Unit Races, Mentor Games and Lifetime Achievement Awards.
- "Resources" unfurls to reveal Clubs, Teachers, Links and our Duplicate Bridge Brochure.
- "Governance" lists Board Members and their job descriptions, Unit Board Minutes, our Privacy Policy and our Constitution.

If you're looking for something specific, please use the Search box, found on most pages.

To send Unit 431 comments, questions or suggestions, just click on a "Contact Us" button.

Our website aims to be a central resource for all things Bridge in Victoria. Your input and feedback will be crucial in helping us attain that goal.

JP Weber
Unit 431 Webmaster

99'er Rookie Game

Saturday, September 19, 2015, 1-4 pm

Shannon Oaks Senior Living
2000 Goldsmith Street
Oak Bay

A special duplicate game for pairs is offered twice a year for newer players. Anyone with fewer than 100 points is warmly welcomed. Shannon Oaks is a new venue for this event and it's very lovely. Snacks, awards, cards - come give the 99'er Rookie game a try. The cost is only \$2.00 for ACBL members.

If you need a partner please get in touch (jstainforth@yahoo.ca / 250-686-4747).

DUNCAN SAYS

My advice is to never put down the dummy in 1 No Trump after partner has opened 1 No Trump when you hold a 5 card major or a 6 card minor.

e.g. 1NT P ? xxxxx Kx Qxx Qxx

or

xxxxx xx xxx xxx

Transfer to spades , then Pass.

e.g. 1NT P ? Kx Qxx Qx xxxxxx

or

xx xxx xx KJxxxx

Whatever your methods , **make sure your side plays in 3C , not 1NT.**

Duncan Smith

BIG GAMES

76.12%	Axie Millar & Ernie Tradewell	Mar. 19, IBC
74.84%	Denise McColl & Peggy Wright	Mar. 7, Monterey
74.04%	Virginia Youens & Kirk Homis	Apr. 6, IBC
73.61%	Virginia Youens & Kirk Homis	Apr. 4, Monterey
71.31%	Debbie Mineault & Jill Stokes	Mar. 7, Monterey
70.83%	Tom Coward & Lorraine Hayne	Mar. 7, Monterey
70.83%	Kathreen Este & Paul O'Brien	May 3 Unit 431 Mentor Game
70.64%	David Simon & Natalie Williams	Mar. 12, VBC
70.48%	Gerry McCully & Rhonda Foster	May 22, VBC
70.27%	Jon Punnett & Bob Macdonald	May 26, VBC
70.14%	Karen Turner & Duncan Smith	Apr. 24, VBC

Victoria was well represented at the 28th Central American and Caribbean Bridge Federation Zonal Championships in Barbados, May 15 – 23, 2015. Connie and Jim McAvoy won the Zonal Mixed Pairs, and then teamed up with Debbie and Mike Hargreaves to win the Transnational Teams event. Congratulations!!



Karen Billett and Karen Turner

At the Victoria Spring Sectional in March Karen Billett and Karen Turner won the Henry Birks and Sons Trophy. This trophy is awarded to the top pair in the two open pair sessions held on the second day of the Sectional. Brian Fraser, with 39.15 MP, won the Madeline Anderson Overall Trophy.

Doug Fraser, with a whopping 119.41 MP, was the top scorer at the Victoria Regional in April.

D19 UPDATE

Thank you so much to Jan Galenza and her hard-working committee for the great job they all did for the Victoria Regional.

A lot of effort is required to co-ordinate such an event for a whole week.

Even though the table count was slightly down, financially the tournament ended up on the right side of the line.

Throughout the week, many positive comments were heard and received.

Thanks again for a job well done. See you all in Penticton!

Vivian Thicket
D19 Liaison for Units 429 and 431

CLUB CORNER

Capital City

Capital City Bridge Club is pleased to announce that players are now able to access hand records with "Double Dummy" analysis after all our games via our website [Capitalcitybridgeclub.com](http://www.capitalcitybridgeclub.com). We appreciate the willingness of players to participate in this endeavour by entering the hands on the Bridgemates after the first time they are played.

Announcement: District 19 STAC games: June 10th, 11th, & 12th. Cost: extra \$2.25/player. Here's your chance to win Silver points while playing at your local club. When surveyed, our players overwhelmingly supported our club holding such events. We look forward to seeing you there and wish you the best of luck.

Rita and Ewa

<http://www.capitalcitybridgeclub.com>

Island Bridge Club

I am happy to report the Monday afternoon games are continuing to grow with an average of 17 tables each week for the month of May. I appreciate my customers taking the time to enter the hands after the first round – it has saved me a considerable amount of time while still allowing hand records to be available.

As usual, we will be moving to the cooler basement for the summer months. I look forward to seeing you at the table and appreciate all suggestions and comments.

Roy Sadd, Owner

<http://www.islandbridgeclub.com/>

Monterey Bridge Club

We are very pleased with our new website at <http://www.bridgewebs.com/monterey/>. All feedback is welcome.

Victoria Bridge Centre

DUNCAN TEAM GAME - June 13, 2015 at 7PM.
Come with a partner and Duncan will form teams.

www.victoriabridgecentre.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Adventures in Gambling 3NT

Some people like to play a convention called Gambling 3NT, showing a long stand alone minor suit and nothing outside. Partner can pass if they have an entry and stoppers in the other suits. Otherwise they bid 4 clubs and the opener will pass or correct to diamonds. I have seen some great results and some horrible results. Here are three memorable hands from many years ago.

Marnie Hueston likes Gambling 3NT. A few years ago, on the drive to the Penticton Regional, Marnie and her partner, who will remain nameless, discussed the convention and decided to play it. The first evening, I was one of their opponents. Marnie picked up a hand with a great 8 card diamond suit and confidently opened 3NT. After I passed, her partner tanked for a long time and finally passed. I led and a dummy with 16 HCP and a diamond void was tabled. We took the first 9 tricks and Marnie never did get to her hand. Lesson learned.

A couple of days later at the same tournament, Marnie was playing with a different partner, who also will remain nameless. This time Marnie had a great 8 card club suit and confidently opened 3NT. LHO passed and partner bid 4 clubs like she was supposed to. RHO bid 4 hearts. Marnie passed. LHO passed. Partner tanked and for some reason decided that Marnie must have diamonds, not clubs, and bid 5 diamonds. So Marnie now had to correct to 6 clubs, and went down a few.

The third hand is one that I played. I was playing with Debbie Hargreaves for the first time. She likes to play Gambling 3NT a little differently, showing 0-11 points and 6-5 in the minors. I agreed easily, confident that it would never come up. But it did. As dealer, I picked up:

x x QT8xx 9xxxxx

OMG! That's the hand! So I bid 3NT. Debbie alerted. LHO asked for an explanation and Debbie responded "6-5 in the minors, 0-11 points, but probably closer to 11 because we are vulnerable." Yikes!

LHO thought for a while and doubled. Debbie redoubled. RHO asked me to explain the redouble and I had to respond that it was undiscussed. He passed. I pondered what the redouble might mean

and decided that I had better show my 6 card suit, so I bid 4 clubs. LHO doubled, Debbie redoubled, all pass.

LHO led the A of diamonds and the dummy was:
Axxxx Axxx Q9 AK
LHO switched to a club, won by the A in dummy, RHO followed.

I now led the K of clubs and both opponents followed, then the Q of diamonds won by LHO with the K. I claimed, conceding one trick to the high trump. Making 4 clubs redoubled. But this was not an illustration of my skill; merely that I got a lucky split and had a partner with more faith in me than I deserved.

The morale of these three stories is that if you are going to play a convention with a partner, you should know the convention thoroughly, and not just the first bid or two. At the table, I see far too many players who only half know many of the conventions they have on their card. How many of the conventions on your card do you know thoroughly?

Delma Murray

VBC Mentor Game



Cole Phillip Ainsley

Our son, Cole Phillip was born on April 14th, 2015. He weighed in at 7lbs. 6oz. He is now six weeks old and has come to supervise the mentor game once. He left with a favorable opinion – seven tables on a long weekend. He was able to assist my wife in taking the payments for the game. He is planning on returning June 28th for the next mentor game.

Cole also wants to congratulate the winners of the game that night: (1st) George Laing and Gloria Dorrance, (2nd) Russ Etherington and Christine Seaville, and (3rd) Brian Fraser and Cynthia Thomson.

He would also like to congratulate Paul O'Brien who on April 26th at the VBC mentor game became a Gold Life Master.

Cole would also like to thank all of the mentors who have come and helped out. He is currently in training to be a bridge caddie, and has plans on becoming a life master. He will see everyone soon at the bridge table and wishes everyone luck.

Mike Ainsley

Victoria Regional Bridge Tournament Review

Thank you to the many people who contributed to a successful 2015 Victoria Regional Tournament!

Special thanks to the following:

- **The Organizing Committee:** Thank you for all your hard work, your brilliant ideas, and your support. We made a great team!
Gail Richardson (Treasurer)
Peg Pepper (Secretary and Rideshare Coordinator)
Pat Fullerton (Hospitality Coordinator)
Alison Campbell (Partnership Coordinator)
Ruth Cain (Caddie Coordinator)
Ele Gibson (Flyer Design)
Karen Billett and Doreen McOrmand (Fabulous Paintings)
- **Volunteers at the Hospitality, Partnership and Rideshare Desks:** Your participation was invaluable and gratefully appreciated by both local and visiting players.
- **Supervisors of the Novice Games:** Van Buchanan and Peggy Pepper. Thank you for your guidance to, and support of, the novices. I have heard nothing but good comments!
- **The Caddies:** You all conducted yourselves very admirably. Thank you for smiling and for running!

- **The Directors:** Matt Smith and his team: Your contributions were invaluable. We could not have managed without you. Thank you and your team for your professionalism.
- **The Sponsors of the Games:** Thank you for your generosity; once again, we had sponsors for all the events. Your contributions supported, among other things, the Monday Evening Meet and Greet Treat, the Evening Ice Cream Treats and almost 200 free plays to be used at local bridge clubs or at this Regional.
- **To all the bridge players who came and played:** Thank you for supporting the Victoria Regional Bridge Tournament—you are the reason the tournament exists!

The 2015 tournament was successful in many ways.

- **Attendance:**
 - **Tables:** Just over 1116 tables were in play over the week (2013=1318; 2011=1684; 2009=1800).
 - **Players:** 687 people played:
 - 275 from Victoria and Area (Unit 431)
 - 117 from Up Island (Unit 429)
 - 82 from Vancouver (Unit 430)
 - 20 from Alberta (Units 390 & 391)
 - 96 from the US
 - 97 from other areas and/or are non-ACBL members
- **Finances:** We made about \$700 (2013=\$12,000; 2009 = loss of over \$10,000). We're still in the black! A big factor this year was the exchange rate; a lot of our expenses were paid in American dollars.
- **Suggestions:** Over 30 suggestions/comments submitted.
 - Location. Many wanting to move downtown; however, we cannot afford to be downtown. Please note that it would cost over \$50,000 to rent the Convention Centre for the week (we pay \$10,000 for Pearkes); and there are no hotels downtown with a large enough area. Also, if we move downtown, then all of us would be paying for parking at \$16.00 per day

- Chairs. With three types of chairs available, many could not find a comfortable one. There are no other options other than bringing a chair from home.
- Caddies and Directors. Many positive comments about the excellent service from the caddies and directors.
- Improvements. A few specific suggestions to be considered for the next Regional.

I am honoured to have represented Victoria at the 2015 Regional and have agreed to Chair our next Regional – April 17-23, 2017.

Thank you again for all your generosity and your support.

Respectfully,

Jan Galenza, Chair

UPCOMING EVENTS 2015

July 5	Unit 431 Mentor Game, Victoria Bridge Centre
July 24	Nanaimo Sectional
Aug. 9	Unit 431 Mentor Game, Victoria Bridge Centre
Sep. 10 – 12	Victoria Fall Sectional, Mary Winspear Theatre, Sidney
Sep. 18 – 20	Powell River Sectional
Sep. 19	Rookie Game, Shannon Oaks, 2000 Goldsmith St., Victoria
Sep. 20	Unit 431 Mentor Game, Victoria Bridge Centre
Sep. 28 – Oct. 4	Seaside

For anyone interested in looking further ahead, the complete listing of events for Victoria and vicinity is on the Unit website <http://bridgevictoria.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/2015-Bridge-Events-Calendar1.pdf>