

The Bridge Buzz



ACBL Unit 431 Newsletter



September 2015

98 YEARS YOUNG!



Irene McDonald was born on a farm near Ghost Pine Creek which is northeast of Calgary. The second youngest of seven children, Irene walked a mile to the local rural school and finished Grade 9, the highest grade available. In order for Irene to finish high school, her father had to borrow money so that she could pay for board and room in Calgary.

She received her Teacher's Certificate and taught in rural schools in Alberta where she often taught as many as nine grades at the same time. She was required to do all the janitorial tasks. This included pumping water, building the fire in the stove for heat, plus cleaning the building. Irene went to Business College and the University of Alberta to obtain further credentials.

During World War II, she enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force where she received training in code and ciphering. A smaller version of the famous British Enigma machine was used. While in the service, she met her future husband, Donald, and they married in 1945. Their daughter, Catherine, lives in Victoria. Donald remained in the Air Force until retiring to Victoria and living here until his death.

After retirement, Irene became an active volunteer with the Canadian Cancer society where she met Sheila Macdougall. Sheila convinced Irene to try playing bridge and when Irene and Linda Patton earned master points at Irene's first tournament, Irene was hooked!

Irene's life has been dedicated to serving others wherever she found a need. She received the Governor General's Award in 1992 for her lifetime of volunteer work within Canada. The University of Victoria's Centre on Aging gave her the Valued Elder Recognition Award in 2012. Also in 2012, she received the Queen's Jubilee Award for her lifetime contributions.

Irene continues to live independently in her own home. Recently at the celebration of her 98th birthday at the Monterey Bridge Club, Irene and her partner, Marnie Hueston, came second in the bridge game. Thank you for showing us how to do it, Irene!

UNIT 431

Victoria Fall Sectional in Sidney

September 10, 11, 12



Thursday, September 10, is day one of the Fall Sectional. This year we are holding it at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney, a modern and bright venue with plenty of free parking.

Pairs sessions (Open and Newcomer/199'er) start at 1:00 pm and at 7:00 pm on both Thursday and Friday. All sessions are stratified. Players with fewer

than 5 master points play for free in the Newcomer section. Saturday's schedule is all Swiss Teams with Open and Under 300 sessions. Both sessions of Swiss Teams start at 10:00 am following a complimentary muffin and coffee buffet that begins at 9:30 am. Sandwiches can be pre-ordered on Thursday and Friday for Saturday's lunch.

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 this tournament in return for a free coffee token. If you don't want to bake, make a cash donation and we will do the shopping for you.

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

To see the flyer go to ACBL.org/tournaments or Unit 431's website: bridgevictoria.ca or pick one up at any club.

Jill Stainforth, Chair

Fall Sectional Trophies

Four major trophies await the inscription of your name at the upcoming Sectional. They are:

- the overall individual tournament winner after three days - Madeline Anderson Trophy
- the Strat A winners after two days of pair events - Henry Birks & Sons Trophy
- the Strat B winners after two days of pair events - Yuki Miller Memorial Trophy
- the Strat C winners after two days of pair events - Totem Tournament Trophy

There are also medallions on ribbons to be won by winners of the 199'er and Newcomers events on Thursday and Friday. Please stay on site if you win any of these so we can present the trophies and give you the take-home awards.

Judy Stewart, Awards Coordinator

Rookie 99'er Game

Saturday, September 19,
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Shannon Oaks Senior Home

This is a game for newer bridge players who have fewer than 100 master points. The results will be stratified so anyone can win points. Think of it as a Non-Life Master game where anyone with 100 or more points can't play! The game is only offered twice a year so come on out and give it a try!

Free parking is available at the end of Goldsmith Street behind Oak Bay Rec, one block away. The bridge room is downstairs to the right after passing reception, in a beautiful bright space.

Chair and partnerships: Jill Stainforth,
250-686-4747 or jstainforth@yahoo.ca

Be prepared to be amazed by the baked treats.



Unit 431 invites all players with fewer than 200 master points to play in the Ace of Spades Tournament!

Date: Saturday, October 17, 2015
Time: 9:30 am Pairs Game
Lunch break (bring your own lunch)
1:00 pm Swiss Team (four players)
Place: St. Aidan's Church 3703 St. Aidan's St,

Come with your own partner for the morning game and a team of four for the afternoon game. If you need a partner or a team, please contact the Tournament chair by phone or e-mail (see below). It may be possible to find you a team on the morning of the event.

Earn silver master points by winning your strat in either the Pairs or Swiss events—or both. The strats tend to be grouped 0 to 20 MPs, 20 to 100 MPs, and 100 to 200 MPs; although these may be adjusted to balance the game.

This is a wonderful opportunity to play in a friendly, relaxed tournament format with your bridge peers.

See you at the table!

Peggy Pepper, Tournament Chair



D-Light (Introduction to duplicate) New Schedule

Our D-Light games will have new dates from September. There is a new weekly game on Sunday evenings and only the Friday monthly game is being kept.

The new Sunday evening game will hopefully be interesting for people with jobs. It starts at 6:45 pm at St Aidan's church hall at 3703 St Aidan's Street. The first Sunday game will be on September 13. The D-Light section will run alongside a new regular Open game directed by Roy Sadd. For information contact Roy at 250-812-1615 or info@islandbridgeclub.com.

Each pair playing in a D-Light game should have one player with under 5 master points. The partner can have the same or more. This is a gentle introduction to the choreography and other unique features of duplicate. About 18 hands are played during the game to give the new duplicate player time to feel comfortable.

Victoria's ACBL Unit 431 subsidizes D-Light players so the entry fee is only \$5 (\$8/8.50 regular).

The Friday morning game at Capital City Bridge Club (Lakehill Lawn Bowling clubhouse) will continue every fourth Friday of the month at 9:00 am. Call Capital for information (250-661-3666 or 250-388-7000) or email at info@capitalcitybridgeclub.com.

Unit 431 Christmas Party

Unit 431 invites you to join us for our annual Christmas dinner and game at Monterey Centre on Saturday, December 5th. Tickets will be available at the local clubs shortly.



DUNCAN SAYS

Lead Directing Doubles

Be eager to make lead directing doubles of artificial bids when you know you want partner to lead that suit.

eg. 1NT P 2C ? xx xxx xx KJ109x

Double, as you know a club lead is good for your side.

1NT P 2C ? Q10x Kx xx Q10xxx

Pass. Your clubs are too weak and you have help in 2 other suits.

eg. 1H P 3H P 4NT P 5D ? xxx Qx KQ109x xxx

Double. A diamond must be best.

1H P 3H P 4NT P 5D ? xxx Qx Q10xxx xxx

Pass, your diamonds are far too weak to suggest a lead.

Duncan Smith

MISCELLANEOUS

Mike Lawrence

Mike Lawrence is coming to Victoria on November 15 and 16 to host a two-day bridge workshop at Westin Bear Mountain Resort.

Mike is a 3-time World Champion, 18-time American Champion, and was a member of the renowned Dallas Aces, considered by many as the greatest bridge team ever. Mike is an author of numerous books on bridge and considered one of the leading bridge theorists/teachers ever. Mike has contributed more than 1,000 articles to the ACBL Bridge Bulletin.

The 2 day workshop will be between 9:30 am to 4:30 pm each day. The first day will feature lessons on 'Responding to a Takeout Double' and on day two

'Bidding when RHO opens with a pre-empt.' Mike will share remarkable information to assist in improving the bidding and play of bridge. Each morning and afternoon of each day will feature opportunities to play hands covering the subject of his lessons.

The cost of the event is Ca\$150.00 + GST = \$157.50. We recommend you register now as space is limited. Payment by cheque can be made to the Westin Bear Mountain Resort, 1999 Country Club Way, Victoria, BC V9B6R3, or registration by credit card can be made online at bearmountain.ca/bridge

The event is being organized by Bob Flitton and other local players, with the cooperation of the Unit and local bridge clubs, strictly for the betterment of bridge. This is a rare opportunity to participate in lessons by one of the all-time bridge greats. Contact Bob Flitton at bobflitton@telus.net or 250-361-7125 for further information, or special requests.

Celebrate Our Excellent Bridge Players

Victoria bridge players Sandra Fraser and Michael Roche have qualified to represent Canada in the 42nd World Bridge Teams Championships to be held in Chennai (former Madras), India this fall.

Sandra was a member of the winning Canadian Women's Open Championship team in Toronto in June. Sandra Fraser and Rhonda Foster are two of the top ten ranked women in Canada. Doug Fraser, Victoria's top ranked bridge player, and Sandra are considered one of the top ranked husband and wife teams in North America.

Michael played on the winning team in the Canadian Senior Teams Championships in Montreal in May. Victoria players Gerry McCully and James Galand were on the team which were close runners-up, losing by the narrowest possible margin of one IMP. Michael and Victoria teammates Mike Hargreaves and James McAvoy won the Open Team championships four years ago.

Duncan Smith, Doug Fraser and Rhonda Foster are among only ten Canadian Grand Life Masters. This is the highest rank in the ACBL. It requires 10,000 masterpoints and one victory in a North American Bridge Championship with no upper masterpoint restriction. Duncan is the only Victoria-born player to reach that pinnacle.

Victoria is unique in having the highest level per-capita in Canada of duplicate bridge players by ranking or recent results in international competitive play. Duncan Smith says "Aside from the per-capita aspect, take the four best players from any Canadian city and pit them against Victoria's four best, and Victoria wins."

Question for the Experts

How do you determine whether to open one of a major or 1NT when you hold a balanced hand, 15 – 17 points, and a five card major?

Merv Adey

My answer is, I open 1N with all hands so described. It immediately solves the problem which comes up on the 2nd and 3rd round of bidding to open 1N and let the chips fall, having described a balanced hand in a very specific point range.

Karen Billett

I rarely open 1NT with five in a major. I've been told by some expert players that they open 1NT with anything resembling a strong no-trump, but it doesn't usually work out for me. Therefore, my guideline is that I will open 1NT with a poor major and the other major well-stopped. e.g. J9xxx AQ10 Kx AQx

If I have a hand with something like AQ10xx Kx J9x AQx I will open 1S, usually partner responds 1NT, I will then bid 2C. Partners rarely pass two of a minor. Now I find out what partner has and can bid again to show a strong no-trump with 2NT. I don't move with only 15 HCP's nor a poor 16 HCP's.

Brian Fraser

With 15-16 high HCP and a balanced hand and no good rebid i.e. no second suit, I open 1NT. With 17 HCP and a good 5 card suit (not just a major) I open one of my suit (I value the hand as an 18 point hand.)

Delma Murray

If the hand is 5332 I will always open 1NT, even if the 5 card suit is a major, because otherwise I will have a rebid problem.

Duncan Smith

For me, the only time it is necessary to open 1NT with a 5 card major is, if having opened 1 heart, I don't have a good rebid over a 1 spade response by partner. eg. 1H P 1S P ? Ax KJ10xx KJx K10x I don't have an accurate rebid, so I'd open 1NT. This decision has nothing to do with the strength of the heart suit. Holding Ax KJ10xx KJ K10xx I would open 1 heart, because I have an easy 2 club rebid over 1 spade.

Ernie Tradewell

The short answer is to always open one of the major when you have a five card major. Some players do this. The problem is what do you do with 16 point hands?

Debbie Wastle

If I have 5 spades I would open 1 spade. If I have 5 hearts I open 1NT. The reason is that when you open 1 heart and partner replies 1 spade you have no good rebid. 1NT is too weak 2NT is too strong and anything else skews your shape. If you bid 1 spade and partner responds 1NT (assuming you play 2/1) you can bid a minor without promising shape and clarify your strength later if necessary.

I might open 1 heart with 5-3-3-2 shape if all my points are in hearts, planning to raise spades with good 3-card support or rebid an excellent 3-card minor. But I would not be thrilled about it.

Ewa Zwicky

The debate on this subject never stops. A few years ago this question was put to 48 top experts and the consensus was that you should always open your 5 card major rather than 1NT, with the exception being a 16 HCP hand with 5 unimpressive hearts, in which case it was a good idea to open 1NT. I can't say why 16 HCP would be the only number for this, but I certainly would not argue with 48 of the world's best players.

Personally, I would hate to open 1NT with a 5 card major and be passed by a partner holding 6 or 7 HCP and 3 or 4 of my major, when 2 or 3 of the major would make easily, but the NT contract would be a struggle or even go down if opponents held a long suit, and without trump control in declarer's hand, were able to run it unhampered.

CLUB CORNER

Capital City Bridge Club



Ewa and Rita would like to congratulate the following players for placing in our Great Western STAC games - all points won are silver points.

Wed evening: Claire & David Ward (9th overall in A = 1.93); Delma Murray & Larry Margetish (15th overall in B = 1.88) and Andrea Pite & Carol Harrison (7th overall in C = 1.32)

Thursday afternoon: Ted Heck & Andrea Miller (15th overall in A = 2.16); Dolf Daam & Kathreen Este (6th overall in C = 2.48); Russell Page & Esther Wiebe (10th overall in C = 1.51); Eddie Crews & Peggy Wright (26th overall in B = 1.08); and Jim Brackenbury & Jan Galenza (27th overall in B = 1.51.)

Friday morning: JP Weber & Russell Page (3rd overall in C = 4.39); Dallas & Tom Goodchild (4/5 overall in C = 2.88); Gloria Coady & Allen Lapage (11/12 overall in C = .85) and Nev Hircocock & Barb Boisvert (16th overall in C = 1.18.)

We will be holding our **Club Championship Games** the week of September 23rd to 25th - extra black points available for no extra cost! Hope to see you all there.

www.capitalcitybridgeclub.com

Island Bridge Club

Hi, this is Roy, club manager of the Island Bridge Club and I'm pleased to announce that there will be a new game at the club on Sunday evening at 6:45 pm beginning September 13, 2015. There will be two sections running concurrently at this game, one open section with no masterpoint limit and one duplicate light section with the stipulation that one member of the partnership is under 5 masterpoints. I encourage the members of the bridge community to come out and bring friends that want to learn about duplicate bridge but have been daunted by playing in a full 3-hour session with all the other "sharks." D-light players can expect to play 15-18 boards and are welcome to stay after the game to play socially and examine the hand records.

Both of these games will be sanctioned and will run on a weekly basis with a lesson run by me for the beginners starting at 6pm. I will be teaching a modified version of the Heart Series by Audrey Grant so beginners are encouraged to either download the teachers' manual from acbl.org or buy the paperback students' book and read ahead. The game will be at the usual location at St. Aidan's United Church on St. Aidan's Street, right near the spot where Richmond intersects with Cedar Hill Cross Rd. Thank you all for your feedback regarding this game and I hope to see you and your friends at the table.

Roy Sadd

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



Connect with Unit 431

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ACBLUnit431>

Website: <http://bridgevictoria.ca/>

Monterey Bridge Club

On Saturday, August 29, 2015, a retirement celebration was held for Karen Billett at the Monterey Centre. As director, Karen has drawn many players to Monterey because of her knowledge, dedication, kindness and gracious manner. As testament to her popularity, a record 26.5 tables were in play.

We celebrated her retirement with cake and good wishes for her future adventures. Karen was presented with cards, flowers and a donation of \$575.00 (and still counting) for her beloved Sock Fund. While most of the donations came from the Tuesday and Saturday Monterey players, the whole Victoria bridge community contributed. This fund provides wool for knitters who knit socks for the homeless and needy populations across Canada. Karen has promised to return to play bridge at Monterey and we will welcome her and hope that she plays in the other section.

Judy Stewart



Karen has left the Monterey Bridge Club in the very capable hands of Nicole Dupuis.



<http://www.bridgewebs.com/monterey/>

Victoria Bridge Centre

Thank you to everyone who made the Customer Appreciation event on the August long weekend such a great success!

Stop by the Victoria Bridge Centre one of these beautiful fall days and enjoy the convenience of 'Sit Down and Play' pre-duplicated boards, hand records, and the cool comfort of air-conditioning. Then continue your shoulda/coulda post-game analysis at home on our website!

The Fall session of Beginner Bridge Lessons with Debbie Wastle starts on Thursday, September 17 at 7:00 pm and runs for eight weeks. The registration fee of \$95.00 includes a textbook. These lessons are a great introduction to bridge, as well as a basics refresher for players who have been away from the game for some time or want to improve their skills. For more information, call Debbie at: 250-882-4824.

Owner Bill Wastle and the Club's other knowledgeable directors: Duncan Smith, Debbie Wastle, Mike Ainsley, Ele Gibson, Merv Adey, and Nicole Dupuis provide a friendly but competitive atmosphere and insightful lessons before most games. Call ahead (250-382-2913) and leave a message if you need a partner and we'll do our best to ensure that you play!

There are two Non-life Master games for newer players and four challenging open sessions a week, plus a weekly Swiss Team game. As well there are regular special monthly events: the VBC mentor game and the Duncan Smith Team game where you come with a partner and Duncan assigns and balances the teams. You never know who will be your teammates or which group will win!

See our website <http://www.bridgewebs.com/vbc/> for more information about our almost-everyday-of-the-week games, match results, upcoming events, competition statistics, and links to bridge resources, or call us at 250-382-2913 and leave a message. The VBC may also be rented for private functions; call to inquire.

Save these dates:

<u>Duncan Team Games:</u>	<u>VBC Mentor Game:</u>
September 19	September 27
October 10	October 18
November 21	November 22
December 19	December 13
<u>New Year's Eve Party/Potluck/Game: Thursday, December 31, of course! See you there!</u>	

DISTRICT 19

Leavenworth, Washington, is hosting its first ever regional tournament from October 26th – November 1st, 2015. Leavenworth should be a fun destination as the town itself is a remodelled Bavarian village with all sorts of neat attractions. There are also many accommodation choices.

Upcoming sectional tournaments on our Vancouver Island include:

- Victoria Fall Sectional – September 10th – 12th.
- Courtenay Sectional – October 23rd – 25th.
- Campbell River Sectional – January 8th – 10th, 2016. It is many years since Campbell River hosted a sectional and their club is very excited about it. Please mark it on your 2016 calendar.

There are four candidates running for the D19 ACBL representative. All Unit 429 and 431 board members are eligible to vote. Ballots were issued in the middle of August. The votes need to be in by October 1st. As with any election, it is important to be familiar with what each candidate represents. To me, an important fact is that we need more Canadian representatives on the ACBL Board of Governors.

A D19 meeting was just held in Lynnwood in mid-August and a second one will be held in Leavenworth in October.

Please contact me if you have any concerns or issues you would like me to address.

Thank you.

Vivian Thickett
D19 Liaison for Units 429 and 431
tvthickett@gmail.com

LESSONS

ACBL Accredited 4 Star Bridge Teacher & Director, Delma Murray, will be offering a series of courses throughout the fall at the Monterey Centre, 1442 Monterey Ave. The courses range from a beginner course to an advanced course in play of the hand planning and techniques. A complete list of courses is available at <http://bridgevictoria.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Delma-Murray-Courses-2015-Fall.pdf> The first courses start September 15th. Register in person or by phone at 250 370 7300.

For further information contact Delma Murray at 250 388-9784 or email delmabridge@live.ca.

BIG GAMES

75.00%	Roger Allen and John Miller	June 18, Island Bridge Club
74.54%	Doug Fraser and Karen Turner	Aug. 4, Victoria Bridge Centre
73.61%	Gerry McCully and Rhonda Foster	Aug 7, Victoria Bridge Centre
72.22%	Al Chapelle and Doug Rotchell	July 11, Monterey Bridge Club
71.96%	Karen Turner and Duncan Smith	June 26, Victoria Bridge Centre
71.79%	Paul O'Brien and Ouida McCullough	June 22, Island Bridge Club
71.62%	Brian Fraser and Pete Wollner	Aug. 8, Monterey Bridge Club
71.30%	Yvonne McLean and Mike Couture	Aug. 13, Victoria Bridge Centre
71.30%	Jon Punnett and Bob Macdonald	June 17, Victoria Bridge Centre
71.30%	Tom Pelton and Nancy Baal	Aug. 12, Island Bridge Club
71.25%	Delma Murray and Louise McKay	July 18, Monterey Bridge Club
71.06%	Duncan Smith and Scott Morrison	July 24, Victoria Bridge Centre
70.83%	Mike Ainsley and Ken Wigen	June 28, Victoria Bridge Centre
70.83%	David Simon and Leslie McNeil	July 2, Victoria Bridge Centre
70.67%	Doug Fraser and Duncan Smith	July 7, Victoria Bridge Centre
70.60%	Rita Beny and Ewa Zwicky	June 3, Capital City Bridge Club
70.14%	Kirk Homis and Virginia Youens	June 13, Monterey Bridge Club

UPCOMING EVENTS 2015

Sep. 10 – 12	Victoria Fall Sectional, Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney
Sep. 19	Rookie 99'er Game, Shannon Oaks Retirement Residence
Sep. 20	Unit 431 Mentor Game, Victoria Bridge Centre
Sep. 28 – Oct. 4	Seaside Regional
Oct. 4	Unit 431 Mentor Game, Victoria Bridge Centre
Oct. 17	Ace of Spades, St. Aidan's Church
Oct. 23 – 25	Courtenay Sectional
Oct. 26 – Nov. 1	Leavenworth Regional
Nov. 1	Unit 431 Mentor Game, Victoria Bridge Centre
Dec. 5	Unit 431 Christmas party, Monterey Centre
Dec. 6	Unit 431 Mentor Game, Victoria Bridge Centre



See you at the Victoria Fall Sectional in its bright and airy new venue above!!

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>