

The Bridge Buzz



ACBL Unit 431 Newsletter

October 2017



BB on the BB

Welcome to the fall/winter season of bridge in Victoria. It has been a busy summer. The first ever Ace of Diamonds Sectional (under 99MP) was held. It was very successful and will continue to occur. Hoping to encourage new players to duplicate bridge we currently hold four specific venues per year to this end. As well, the board has donated a set of boards and cards to SMUS via Jordan Tessarolo who teaches there and has started a bridge class.

In August the board paid for a breakfast held at VBC for a lecture from Matt Smith to all the directors on the new rules of duplicate bridge. We want to thank Nicole Dupuis for organizing this event.

As a board, we want to give notice that at NLM sectionals, players that enter without an ACBL membership cannot qualify to win the events.

The Fall Sectional was a success, though our numbers were down we did not go into the red – chiefly because of donated kitchen time and a generous donation from a current member; Dr. R. Robinson.

The BridgeSorter has been purchased with ten sets of boards and cards. The unit now duplicates the boards for all 20 of their venues per year. At our most recent meeting the board passed a motion to follow in the steps of the Regional. At our Spring and Fall Sectionals there will be no food on the first two days of the event. The Swiss Team Day brunch will still occur. Coffee, tea and water will be provided for all three days at the same price of \$1.00.

I want to thank the members of my board for all the hard work and dedication to Unit 431. I also want to thank Dave Ward for chairing the fall sectional. I want to thank the anonymous donator for the gift of \$2,500 towards the purchase of the BridgeSorter and to Jill Stainforth for her \$200 donation. Finally to the members who attend our events.....thank you for your support. See you at the bridge table!

Barb Boisvert

CLUB CORNER

ISLAND BRIDGE CLUB: Things are changing at Island Bridge Club. First off, I would like to thank the bridge community for all their support during these trying times for me and my family. It means so much when I hear kind and supportive words both at the table and by email.

In June (Irene's Birthday Game) and August (Thursday 17) Island Bridge Club held special games that allowed pairs who scored high enough to enter the North American Open Pairs District qualifier in Olympia.

On Monday, October 30 I invite you all to come up with creative costumes as that game will be Island Bridge Club's annual Halloween party. There will be prizes for the winners and for the best costumes and

you are all invited to bring your favourite dish to share as there will be a Potluck starting at 11:30 am with the usual game time of 12:15 pm.

There has been a major update to the Bridgemate scoring machines that allows me to provide real-time scorecards via a free app that is available on the Apple Store or the Android Playstore. Anyone who is interested in signing up for this program can add Island Bridge Club in the app and anyone who needs technical help is free to call or email me for assistance. Another feature of this update is that there is now a TD call button on the Bridgemate display that you can press if I am either playing or just not paying attention. This shows up on my monitor and is another neat tool that allows me to serve you better and to run a smoother faster game.

Thank you again for your support and we'll see you at the table!

ASK THE EXPERTS

This quarter **BB** has asked the "Experts" their opinions on the Bergen Raise. Responses came in from Delma Murray, Ernie Tradewell and Roy Sadd and provide an insight into the pros and cons of this Convention.

DM: The short answer is I do not recommend playing Bergen Raises at all. There are more important conventions that give players a real advantage. My philosophy of conventions is to use only those that are tools that allow players to find a contract that would be difficult to reach otherwise or to solve a problem. Bergen Raises do neither.

ET: Normal Bergen is:- 3c=6-10 in support and 4-card support; 3d=11-12 in support (limit raise) and 4-card support; 3-of-the-major (raise) = 0-5 and 4-card support.

Bergen is normally not used when opps enter auction or partner has passed. Jordan/Truscott is the normal convention when opps dbl.

I don't like the one major three of a major part especially when red against white. The vulnerability is important. The 1s 3c with six points red against white can lead to -200. Ugh! I think the convention is abused and used without thinking. A balanced hand 4333 with 5 points is not a three of major bid. 6 points and no shape is not a three club bid.

RS: I am neutral when it comes to the question of Bergen raises. If I'm playing with a partner that likes it, I will add it to the card but I won't jump at the chance to play it. I find that you have to be very disciplined in using the 6-9 point raise and I have even come to the agreement with a regular partner to bump that range up a point on either end.

DIRECTOR PLEASE

HESITATIONS.....BB thanks Ele Gibson for this article.

We all know that when there is a long hesitation during the bidding, that there may be penalties- an adjusted score, partner being unable to bid what he/she wanted etc but there are no penalties assigned for hesitation during play. You have to have time to think about the hand.

BUT there are some occasions where your hesitation could be considered misdirecting or cheating.

Example 1: you are going to follow declarer's lead with a small card on the second round of the suit. You hesitate and then follow low. Partner now knows you have another card in that suit – unauthorised information.

Example 2: You play from your hand and opp hesitates. It turns out that he has a singleton. You then play for the drop rather than a finesse.

Example 3: you are leading toward the KQ ten of a suit. Opponent hesitates – he has no reason to hesitate if he does not have the ace. You now play the K and then try a finesse of the jack. It loses as does the next trick to the ace.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

You are allowed to take your time to make a picture of the hands. If you do this during play, you should say. "I have no problem with this trick. I just need time to think about the hand."

If this happens call the director. It may be a simple case of lack of attention, but if it is a recurring pattern, penalties may be incurred.

UPCOMING:

Ace of Spades; Oct 21; St Aidan's; Contact Doug Smith 250-385-0079

Rookie Game (< 100MP); Nov 12; VBC; Contact Gloria Dorrance 250-595-0534

Unit 431 Xmas Party; Dec 2; Monterey Centre; Contact Barb Boisvert 250-477-9730

Congratulations

Ace of Diamonds Open Pairs winners: NS Sheila Collier and Sharon Salinsky
EW Gillian Mouat and Jo Albinati.

Swiss Team Winners: Audrey Mactier; Aimeé Botje; Bakh Dhillon and Doug Beard.

The Mentor Games



The board recognizes Alison Campbell's many years of organizing the mentor games.