

The Bridge Buzz



ACBL Unit 431 Newsletter

February 2018



BB on the BB

Welcome to spring! It has been a long winter with a surprise snowfall just when we thought we were done with winter. Thank goodness for bridge!

Since the last Bridge Buzz, the Unit has held its annual AGM and The Ace of Hearts Sectional for 199'rs. We have two new board members, Ann Brydon and Lionel Traverse and we look forward to working with them for the next two years. The Ace of Hearts had 17 tables for the open pairs and 9 tables for the Swiss Event. In attendance this year were six young juniors from Jordan Tessarolo's bridge class. We gave them a warm welcome and hope to see them again. The unit wants to thank Jordan for his noteworthy contribution to promoting bridge.

The board wants to remind all members that the upcoming Spring Sectional (March 23-25th) will have the web movement for the open pairs event. There will be NO food provided on Friday and Saturday. The Sunday Brunch will still be held on the 25th and coffee, tea and water for all three days.

I look forward to another successful year with the unit and to seeing each of you at the bridge table.

Barb Boisvert

CLUB CORNER

ISLAND BRIDGE CLUB:

Hello Victoria bridge players, the holiday season was busy for Island Bridge Club with record numbers turning out for Monday afternoon games (25 tables on the November Holiday, a new high!). The club also hosted two successful charity events; one in support of Debbie Wastle who will be helping rebuild houses for impoverished families in the Dominican Republic and the other being Reta Morrison's baking table that was bountifully supplied with home baking over the holidays. Debbie managed to raise over \$600 for her cause and Reta raised \$845 for Jeneece Place, a home for parents of sick children who need to travel to Victoria.

Things to look forward to in the near future include April's Charity month with proceeds going to either the CBF charity fund or a local charity, more details will be available sooner to the date. Thank you for your ongoing support and we'll see you at the table!

Roy Sadd

ASK THE EXPERTS

This quarter **BB** has asked the “Experts” their opinions on ‘Preferred Defensive Signals’. Responses came in from Delma Murray, Ernie Tradewell, Roy Sadd and Mike Ainsley. Upside Down Count and Attitude (UDCA) came out tops.

DM: I recommend that players learn standard signals thoroughly and don't consider anything else until they know standard so well that it becomes instinctive. After that they can consider adding on enhancements, but not until then. Taking a Defense course will improve a player's game more than any other course, as you defend half of the hands you play.

ET: I prefer UDCA, fourth best leads against NT and coded 9s and 10s against NT. Signalling methods seldom make a difference to the defence. I would suggest that newer players play standard methods. It is too much work and hard on the memory to play complex carding when you first start the game. I am not a big fan of dual meaning carding e.g. high card in suit is suit preference and don't lead this suit. Odd even is very hard because you don't always have the right card and requires more concentration to play. Talk to your partner about signals you both MUST agree.

RS: I will go on record as being a supporter of Upside Down discards due to their versatility and ease of use. You rarely end up wasting a good card to signal a suit and can throw a medium card to show no preference. I recommended pairing this discard system with the Reverse Smith Echo which indicates attitude towards the opening lead when defending NT. A reverse Smith echo is a signaling system used when declarer starts running a suit in NT after winning the opening lead. Playing up the line indicates that you liked the opening lead and playing high low says you didn't like the lead.

MA: Not sure if I have a favorite or least favorite. I have used most of them. Not much of Laventhal or Upside -down. I have used odd -even for quite a while and standard quite of bit as well. The time I used upside - down I could see many benefits though larger cards to discourage in a suit I don't have anything in it, seems good to me. I always like upside - down count and attitude, I think they pair well. More important is that you and your partner agree to a system of signals including count. And that as a defender to give the right signal and for you to pay attention to your partner's signals. If you give the wrong signal you may fool the declarer but you may also fool your partner. To fool declarer is good, your partner not so good if he gets in.

One fact we should recognise in regard to our “Experts” is that, although Victoria ranks #12 in terms of City Population in Canada, we are **#2** in regard to our ACBL qualified Teachers – behind Toronto – whose population outnumbers us x12 ! Accredited ACBL Teachers include:

Delma Murray (#); Debbie Wastle; Rita Beny; Jim Brackenbury; Ewa Zwicky; Nicole Dupuis; Roy Sadd and yours truly (# indicates ABTA Board member).and this list doesn't include *many excellent unlisted* teachers and mentors. Add the fact that the Unit grew some 5% last year and you can tell your Postie that ‘Victoria BC’ stands for ‘Victoria Bridge Central’. Editor's quiz for this month:- Why are there so many single, intelligent seniors on Van Island? (1) This is the farthest you can get away from your ex without actually drowning. (2) Our diet is influenced by our Asian immigrants who eat healthy stuff and live longer. (3) Canada's good Bridge players retire here.

On touring the US West Coast this winter intrepid dog sniffed out this one in here.....?



in search of new Bridge Clubs, your Editor's Corvallis Oregon.....obviously no retirees



We would like to extend a very warm welcome to Ann Brydon and Lionel Traverse on their appointment to the Board.

DIRECTOR PLEASE

Just one brief comment for this issue.....the key word is "PLEASE". We don't want to scare our new players away by calling the Director over as though he were Darth Vader.....

UPCOMING:

Victoria Sectional March 23 – 25.

Congratulations



Terry Foster on winning the Single Person Tournament hosted at VBC.

Ace of Hearts Open Pairs:-

EW - Dennis Hanson and Ian Kimmerley.



NS – Jane and Bill Worobets