



The Bridge Buzz



ACBL Unit 431 Newsletter

March 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A belated Happy New Year to all of you. I hope it will bring you happiness, prosperity and lots of enjoyable good bridge.

We have three members leaving the board, Emyrs Evans, Danielle Goulet and Karen Wood. We thank them for their contribution to our meetings and our events. I welcome the three new members, Pat Fullerton, Peggy Pepper and Jan Soutar and look forward to working with them. I hope it is as positive an experience for them as my terms have been for me. We continue to work towards building strong Sectionals and other events and try to put in place activities which encourage the growth of bridge in Victoria, while ensuring that we are fiscally responsible.

I attained the rank of Silver Life Master at the January Mentor game – almost certainly the highest rank I will achieve. I just won't live that long. It was a pretty exciting last few months as I inched my way there. Much more exciting than when I attained my Life Master's rank, the rank that all bridge players aim to achieve.

I had more than enough black and silver points and only needed about 5 gold when I went to play at the Penticton Regional in a Matchpoints Game with a partner from my club in Edmonton. He had forgotten and had a team for the KO's. They let me join it. I hastily rejoined the ACBL and played half of the rounds. We thought we had lost our first match and settled down to eat supper and drink copious amounts of wine with other Edmonton players when someone's phone rang and we found we had won!

We played the rest of the rounds against the worst teams I have ever played against – one team played strong two's and only played 2 conventions, Stayman and Blackwood. We won each match handily and when we won the last, gaining me much more than the 5 points I needed, it was a total let down. It had been too easy. I didn't feel I had earned it. I had had more satisfaction coming in third in a club game.

Congratulations to all of you who achieved new status in 2012 and good luck to all of you who hope to achieve it in 2013.

Ele Gibson, Unit 431 President

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Ele Gibson and Gail Richardson

Forty people stayed to play bridge after the AGM. Gail Richardson won the event with a 61.06% game. President Ele Gibson presented Gail with flowers and the "Victoria Duplicate Bridge Individual City Championship", or more commonly known as "the Rosebowl" trophy. It has been awarded since 1956 and, for those who like trivia, both of Duncan Smith's parents have won it.

UNIT 431 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Ele Gibson

Ele Gibson worked as a teacher in Scotland and immigrated to Canada in 1981. She retired to Victoria after years of child raising and as a fundraiser for a charitable organisation supporting people living in poverty in Edmonton, Alberta. If not playing bridge, she can be found camping, in her garden or volunteering in an MP's office.

Vice President and Asset Inventory Coordinator – Diane Moffatt

Having played bridge for 50 years, and worked as a Registered Nurse for 40 of those years I discovered the joys of duplicate bridge. I am still trying to unlearn the bad habits of "kitchen bridge".

Treasurer – Gail Richardson

Gail Richardson has been a Board Member of ACBL Unit 431 for one year and is enjoying the Treasurer duties. She is originally from St. John's, Newfoundland but has lived in Victoria since 1977, with the exception of one in Vancouver. Gail was a CGA and retired in 2008 from the position of Director of Finance for The Lodge at Broadmead. Besides playing too much Bridge (is that possible??), she enjoys practising Taoist Tai Chi, walking, reading and travelling.

Secretary – Peggy Pepper

Peggy Pepper was thrown into duplicate by her friend Margaret Hinton. For many years she played just once a week and remembers being told: "Once-a-week player, always a weak player." Now as a retiree she has more time for bridge and feels it is about time she gave something back to the organization she has enjoyed benefitting from for so long.

Membership Secretary – Ted Eisner

Ted Eisner has been a member of the Unit 431 Board of Directors since 2006 and served as President from 2009 to 2012. Ted is a retired teacher who taught in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and British Columbia. Ted enjoys travelling so if you don't see him at bridge that is what he is probably doing.

Tournament Coordinator – Tony Farr

Tony Farr has been a Board member since early 2012. He is responsible for coordinating the Unit's bridge tournaments. He survived 30 years in the provincial government before retiring to play bridge about seven years ago. He is sometimes seen at Gorge Vale Golf Club, where he's a long-time member. Two kids have almost flown the nest.

Webmaster and Editor of Bridge Buzz – Leslie Wood

Leslie joined the board in 2011 after retiring from the University of Victoria where she spent 17 years as Assistant to the Director of the School of Health Information Science. Prior to joining the University she spent several years as an Executive Secretary for the Provincial Government, was the Manager of the Canada Service Bureau, and spent 8 years as a customer service rep for Otis Canada, Inc. When not playing bridge, Leslie can usually be found working in her garden or walking her dog.

Awards Coordinator – Gayle Good

Gayle Good is an island girl - born and raised up-island in Port Alberni and Nanaimo. She worked for the provincial government for twenty-six years in the Ministry of Education until she retired in 2002. Prior to that she taught elementary school in several locations in the province, including Kamloops and Prince George. Gayle has no hobbies other than travel, and says that bridge is her passion. She has been a member of the Unit 431 Board of Directors for four years.

Members at Large – Pat Fullerton and Jan Soutar

Pat Fullerton has been a keen duplicate bridge player for 4 years. She moved to Victoria with her young family in the late 70's to escape the Alberta winters. After retiring from a career as a Health Care Administrator 15 years ago, she now enjoys traveling, gardening, reading and family.

Jan Soutar started bridge lessons with Rita Beny in 2005 and has been a member of Unit 431 ever since. She worked for 22 years as an Intensive Care Nurse before retiring. As well as discovering her passion for bridge, she is also a very active gardener and volunteer at the local Belfry Theatre here in Victoria.

MASTERPOINT RACES:

<u>Point Bracket</u>	<u>Ace of Clubs</u>	<u>Mini-McKenney</u>
0-5	Terry Foster	Terry Foster
5-20	Andrea Pite	Andrea Pite
20-50	Kim Imada	Kim Imada
50-100	Maureen Stanley	Jim Alexander
100-200	Karen Wood	Karen Wood
200-300	Diane Moffatt	Diane Moffatt
300-500	David Reid	David Reid
500-1000	Tony Farr	Tony Farr
1000-2500	Bela Hirczy	Karen Turner
2500-5000	Ernie Tradewell	Ernie Tradewell
5000-7500	Brian Fraser	Brian Fraser
7500-10000	Gerry McCully	Gerry McCully
10000+	Duncan Smith	Rhonda Foster

TIPS FROM A PRO

A direct 2NT overcall of 1 of a major is commonly played as “Unusual” for the minors.

When in balancing seat, this bid is much less useful (because you're not looking for a “sacrifice”). After 1Major passed around to us, with xx x AQ10xx KQJxx we can bid 2 diamonds, introducing clubs later, if appropriate.

A better use of a balancing 2NT bid is to use it to show a hand with which you would have opened 2NT.

e.g. 1 of any suit P P ? AQx KQJ AJx QJ10x Balance with this shows a 2NT opening bid.

1x p p 2NT

p ? Responder bids as though partner had opened 2NT. System on: Stayman, Transfers, etc.

Duncan Smith

IN MEMORIAM:

Sarah Cole
Douglas H. Munro
Marni Patterson
Shirley Phelps
Dan Sidhu
Al Smith, January 2012

MISCELLANEOUS

Any ACBL member who would like a name tag, please contact Gayle at gaylegood@telus.net. The cost is \$8.50 for a gold-plated tag with a magnet holder.

The next edition of the Bridge Buzz will be out in mid-June. If you have anything to contribute, or have any suggestions or comments, please send them to Leslie.Wood@shaw.ca

BIG GAMES

73.84%	John Moyan - Tom Coward	Feb. 4, Leaders
71.30%	Duncan Smith - Ron Smith	Feb. 5, VBC
70.37%	John Broderick - Tom Pelton	Feb. 4, Leaders
70.37%	Karen Turner - Duncan Smith	Feb. 8, VBC
70.04%	Mike Ainsley - Merv Adey	Feb. 6, VBC



VICTORIA REGIONAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT UPDATE

Your Regional Committee has been hard at work to ensure you have an excellent experience at the Victoria Regional Bridge Tournament from April 8 - 14th, 2013.

We have signed a contract with a caterer who will provide, at a reasonable cost, concessions throughout the event.

We will have comfortable chairs for the event – similar to those at the Victoria Bridge Centre.

We will be hosting the first Gold Rush Pairs for players with fewer than 750MP. You must sign up for both afternoon and evening sessions to qualify for gold points.

We would like to thank the Capital City Bridge Club, Leaders Bridge Club and Victoria Bridge Centre for cancelling their games during the tournament week, so that you and they can support the Regional.

We would like to thank all our sponsors again for their generosity, hereby allowing us to support a splendid hospitality with useful and sometimes edible table gifts and with treats following two of the evening games.

Get your partners lined up or head for the partnership desk!! And don't forget to participate in our Rideshare thereby ensuring our visitors have safe rides to and from the event; plus you get a chance to make some new friends!

Thank you again for all your support to make your Regional Bridge Tournament a Smashing Success!

Jan Galenza, Chair

BRIDGE ETIQUETE

Surely the most frustrating thing for both directors and players are people who needlessly slow down the game. The two main reasons for slow play are (1) hand discussion and (2) writing when you should be playing bridge. With two major tournaments coming up in Victoria, here is a reminder of bridge etiquette.

1. Hand Discussion

Hands should never be discussed between hands or between rounds. Hand discussion is the #1 reason for slow play. Discuss only agreement clarification during the game. All discussion of the hands whether bidding, declarer play or defensive play should be done after the game.

2. Writing when you should be playing bridge

When you are the opening leader, make your lead first, and then record the contract while everyone else is planning their play. This way the other players will not have to wait while you record the contract. You are personally responsible for slow play if you write on your private score before making the opening lead.

Always attend to the auction. Do not write on your private score card during the auction.

Always lead before writing the contract on the pickup slip.

Always place the dummy on the table following the lead, and then record the contract. If you are declarer or partner of the opening leader, record the contract immediately while the opening lead is being made and the dummy is being placed on the table. Then you will be ready to play without further interruption.

Slow play? We all hate it! Seriously, though, slow play is the most difficult issue we tournament directors have to deal with on a regular basis. We understand that everyone occasionally falls a bit behind when difficult hands are encountered, but we are instructed to have very low tolerance for pairs who are egregiously or chronically slow. One of our directors always tells slow pairs that she is not allowed to let them take time that belongs to other players. I think that is a good way of looking at it. So even if the original slowness was not necessarily your fault, we expect you to be part of the solution and not part of the continuing problem. Late pairs can expect a visit from a director, and those who don't catch up soon can expect a penalty. That is the only tool we have to keep the slowest of us from ruining for the rest of us the enjoyment of playing in a game that moves on schedule. So keep an eye on the clocks we provide and help us to give everyone a pleasant tournament experience.

Matt Smith, Director

MENTOR GAME

The Mentor Game is a monthly game sponsored by Unit 431, our local Unit of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL). Potential mentees (those with fewer than 300 Masterpoints) call me to request a Mentor (a player with over 300 MPs) or, in some cases, find their own. The Unit pays the entry fee for the mentor and I recruit a director to volunteer their time for the afternoon. Victoria Bridge Centre rents their space to us for this game. All games occur on a Sunday afternoon, but which Sunday of the month varies. The schedule is posted at clubs and also on the Unit website. This game has had the added benefit in recent months of a pre-game lesson by Ernie Tradewell.

I am pleased to report the apparent success of this game as reflected in turnouts of at least 10 tables in every month but one over the last 13 months and one month when there were 16 tables. Recently the ACBL has indicated its desire to encourage these games by increasing significantly the masterpoints awarded for successful participants.

For Mentees, this is an opportunity to be exposed to more competitive aspects of duplicate bridge, but in a very supportive, uncritical atmosphere. It is an opportunity to learn generally, or to work on some specific convention, rule or play of the hand situation. You should never be asked to play conventions with which you are unfamiliar or unready and should always feel free to say no.

For Mentors, this is an opportunity to encourage our newer players and to teach them to love the game as much as we do. Without increasing the number of our players, with our aging population, ultimately we will be without competitors. Masterpoints are also included in tallies for all the various “races”. There is no other game available on a Sunday afternoon in Victoria.

As the Co-ordinator of this game for the past 5 years, my biggest difficulty has been recruitment of Mentors. Sometimes this is just the result of success – a mentee asks the mentor themselves to continue to play with them. That mentor is then not available for me to pair with someone else. It would help my job immensely if those available and willing to mentor would call me in advance (10 days or more before the game would be great). This includes those of you who have a regular mentee who happens to be unavailable for a particular game. Any player with more than 300 MPs has knowledge and experience to share with newcomers to our game and you are not expected to know everything! If you get a question you do not have the answer for, ask one of our teachers or directors for the answer.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteer directors and bridge players. Without them this event would not be possible.

Alison Campbell, Mentor Game Co-ordinator

ACE OF HEARTS TOURNAMENT 2013



Ted Eisner, Sheila Snider and Carol-Anne Ebbs

The Ace of Hearts tournament, one of Unit 431’s annual 199er silver point competitions, was held on Saturday February 23rd at St. Aidan’s Church. The event was a great success, drawing 34 tables in two sessions. There were two sections (ten in A and nine in B) for the morning pairs contest and fifteen tables for the afternoon Swiss Teams. Besides our Victoria members we had players from Sooke and from up-Island as far as Qualicum. Over \$1000 was raised and two new ACBL members were recruited. Most importantly, everyone had a good time.

Players were offered free coffee and other light beverages, muffins and croissants at break times and before sessions. Bridgemates were used in the morning session, making scoring much simpler than in the past.

The Margaret Hinton Trophy (in memory of an outstanding teacher and promoter of bridge in Victoria) was presented to the day’s winners with the most points earned: Sheila Snider and Carol-Anne Ebbs-Canavan, both from Sooke (2.96 total).

Many thanks to Merv Adey for directing and to Gayle Good, Diane Moffatt and Peggy Pepper for helping out in so many ways at the event.

Ted Eisner, Tournament and Partnership Chair

CLUB CORNER

CAPITAL CITY BRIDGE



After the New Year break, Capital City Bridge is back to its usual 190 or so players coming through each week. We are very appreciative of the Thursday morning slot which Lakehill Lawn Bowls Club have allowed us for Bridge Lessons. Some 20 new Bridge players have taken advantage of this so far and another 18 or so will be through the Beginner Courses by April. We added a projector screen before Xmas. This makes for much more viable lesson time for large crowds as seen in the photo.

VICTORIA BRIDGE CENTRE

The Monthly Swiss Team Game (3rd Saturday of each month) is ranked as a Fund Game, thereby earning more masterpoints; so come out and join in the fun!

Thank you to all the bridge players who support the Victoria Bridge Centre.

Bill Wastle, VBC: Your Bridge Club

NEWCOMER GAME – MAY 26, 2013

Unit 431 will once again host its annual Newcomer Game to recognize all new ACBL members in the area. The game will be held Sunday, May 26th (1:00 start time) at the Victoria Bridge Centre, 880D Esquimalt Road. The game is only open to anyone with fewer than 100 masterpoints. ACBL members pay only \$2.00 while non ACBL member pay \$8.00. Anyone wishing to do so may join the ACBL that day and take advantage of the lower entry fee.

This is a fun, relaxed game and is a great way to meet other new players. In addition, we offer lots of special goodies and free coffee. If you need a partner, please contact Leslie Wood by email at Leslie.Wood@shaw.ca or telephone 250-727-6762.

BRIDGE LINKS

Unit 431 (Bridge Victoria)

<http://www.d19.org/victoria/>

American Contract Bridge League

<http://www.acbl.org/>

Canadian Bridge Federation

<http://www.cbf.ca/>

Capital City Bridge Club

<http://www.capitalcitybridgeclub.com>

Leaders Bridge Club

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

Monterey Bridge Club

www.members.shaw.ca/MontereyBridgeClub

Victoria Bridge Centre

<http://www.victoriabridgecentre.com>

VICTORIA SPRING SECTIONAL

May 17 – 19, 2013

Pearkes Rec Centre



Battle for bridge supremacy at the Victoria Spring Sectional at Pearkes Recreation Centre on May 17, 18 and 19. Come out and earn silver points which are awarded only at sectional tournaments. The Friday evening open charity game is a Regionally-rated silver point game awarding 40% more masterpoints at no extra charge. To encourage newer players to come out there are four single session stratified 0 - 200 games. On Friday both Newcomer games are **free** for ACBL members with fewer than 5 masterpoints. Open pairs games start on Friday at 1pm and 7pm and on Saturday at 12pm and 6pm. Only the Victoria Sectionals offer Celebrity speakers on both days. On Sunday the team games start at 9:30 am with free coffee and muffins before the games start. Pick up a flyer at any of the bridge clubs around town and mark your calendar. Don't forget – the parking is plentiful and free! See you all there!

Gayle Good, Chair Spring Sectional

UPCOMING EVENTS 2013

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Apr. 8 – 14	Victoria Regional	Pearkes Rec Centre
Apr. 21	Mentor Game	Victoria Bridge Centre
May 3 – 5	Qualicum Sectional	Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
May 5	Mentor Game	Victoria Bridge Centre
May 9 – 12	Burnaby Sectional	Engineers Hall
May 17 – 19	Victoria Spring Sectional	Pearkes Rec Centre
May 26	Newcomer Game	Victoria Bridge Centre
June 2	Mentor Game	Victoria Bridge Centre
June 10 - 16	Penticton Regional	Penticton Convention Centre

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/2012/09/2013_Bridge_Event_Calendar.pdf