



The Bridge Buzz



ACBL Unit 431 Newsletter



September 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Christmas Gift to You from Unit 431

This year's Christmas party will be held in the usual venue, the Monterey Seniors' Centre on December 7th. As usual, there will be an excellent buffet (I particularly like the salads and desserts.) It will be followed by a casual game of bridge.

BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!

In these days of rising costs where everything goes up in price each year, the Unit Board is going against this trend and **DECREASING** the price of a Christmas party ticket from \$35 to \$30. Where else can you get a meal, drinks at cost and a game of bridge for that price?

How can we do it? We can do it because of your tremendous support for our Unit events. Many of the costs of these events are fixed – venue costs, director's fees etc. and the only real variable is how many people come out to play and thereby how much income is generated. For example, the Mentor Game now attracts about 13 tables and is no longer running at a loss.

The Unit is a not-for-profit enterprise so we don't want to keep any more than we need in our bank account - we want to share it with our membership. Last year we bought Bridge Mates and this year we are going to subsidise the Christmas party even more than in previous years. We hope that this will be reflected in an increase in attendance.

Happy bridging.

Ele Gibson, Unit President

CONGRATULATIONS

Unit 431 has two new club directors in its midst – Mike Ainsley and Nicole Dupuis. Mike recently became a Gold Life Master (2,500 MP).

Although Nicole (pictured here with Bill Wastle) has only been playing bridge for slightly over four years, she has already become a Certified ACBL Teacher and most recently became a Silver Life Master (1,000 MP) and club director. She has accomplished all this while still working full time. In addition, she is working with the Unit 431 "Building Bridge in Victoria" initiative to recruit high school students.

"Nicole has worked at the Victoria Bridge Centre for several months and has put in hundreds of hours, creating the wonderful new website and reorganizing the email list. She has also done many projects, too many to mention and will continue to be helpful and involved.

"I would like to publicly thank her for all she has done for the Bridge Centre and for all who play here."



Bill Wastle
Owner, VBC

BRIDGE ETIQUETTE

Self Announcement

A player is not allowed to announce that he or she is out of a suit. It is not just etiquette; it is simply not permitted by law. Players should be strongly discouraged from doing so since it alerts partner to something they might not otherwise notice. Violations could lead to score adjustments, and repeated violations by a player who knows better could easily result in a procedural penalty. Law 61 refers to who may ask whom whether they are out of a suit, but nowhere is the right to announce mentioned. Law 16B refers to how a "remark" can pass unauthorized information to partner, and how that information may restrict partner's freedom of action.

TIPS FROM A PRO

If you make a splinter raise, and don't feel comfortable passing partner's signoff, then look for an alternative to splintering

(A) e.g. KQ109 KQJx KQJx x

After 1D P 1H P

?

A splinter bid of 4 Clubs is fine. If partner bids 4 Hearts, you have a comfortable Pass.

(B) e.g. KQ109 Axxx AQxx A

After 1D P 1H P

?

To bid 4 Clubs with this hand is not a good idea, as partner will bid 4 Hearts with many hands that will produce a slam. With this hand, bid 2 Spades (game forcing) over 1 Heart. When you bid 4 hearts at your next turn, you have inferred at most 1 Club and a hand too big to splinter. My advice is to reject a splinter bid if respecting partner's signoff is difficult. To splinter and bid over signoff is bulky and ineffective.

Duncan Smith

SOME BASIC RULES TO FOLLOW PLAYING CONTRACT BRIDGE (PART 2)

This primer covers rules people should know, but often don't. Observing these rules will result in a much more enjoyable game for you, as well as for your partner and opponents. **If in doubt, call the director.**

Mistakes During the Auction

1. If a player alerting or explaining a bid (or failing to alert a bid) realizes they made a mistake, they shall notify all players at the table as soon as they realize the mistake.
2. If a person fails to alert a bid, their partner must continue bidding **as if** partner had alerted the bid. To do otherwise is to use unauthorized information.
3. If an alertable bid by declarer or dummy is not alerted, the person making the bid shall notify the opponents of the failure to alert at the end of the auction, but before defenders make their opening lead. This also applies to a bid that is explained incorrectly.
4. If a bid by a defender is not alerted, or if it is explained incorrectly, the defender who made the bid should summon the director and correct the error in the director's presence.
5. If a player describes their agreement properly, but partner has bid differently from their agreement (i.e., has made a mistake), there is no penalty or score adjustment.
6. If a player provides a correct explanation of their agreement, but the player making the bid has bid incorrectly, the person making the incorrect bid is not obliged to explain the error at the end of the auction. (At the end of the auction, some players will acknowledge to the opponents that they mis-bid, but it is not required.)
7. If the person making the bid feels partner's explanation is incorrect (i.e., contrary to their agreement), and if his side is declaring the contract, he must correct the explanation.
8. When asked, the bidding side must give a full explanation of the agreement. Stating the common or popular name of the convention is not sufficient.
9. When an Alert is given, ASK, do not ASSUME.

10. An announcement is one word or a short phrase which tells the opponents directly the meaning of partner's call.

HOW TO ALERT

Using bidding boxes, an Alert is made by tapping an Alert card on the table or by tapping the Alert strip on the side of the bid box. *In addition, the Alerter must say "Alert."* **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ALERTER TO ENSURE THAT THE OPPONENTS ARE AWARE THAT AN ALERT HAS BEEN MADE.** (No explanation of the alert may be made unless the opponents request the information.)

CLUB CORNER

Leaders Bridge Club

Upcoming Club Championships.

September is Championship month at Leaders Bridge Club. Mark your calendars, the 12th of September is the monthly Team Game but is also a Club Championship. Monday the 16th and Wednesday the 25th are also Club Championships with additional Master Points.

Beginners Bridge.

In an attempt to promote our great game of bridge to new players, Leaders Bridge Club is starting a new beginners game every Wednesday night commencing September 11th. Our new game is hosted by Roy Sadd. This is a non sanctioned game that will include lessons and training for new or beginning players prior to the game followed by a shortened limited game with instruction. ***The best part is the free slice of Pizza and an entry fee of only \$5.*** The lessons commence at 6:30 every Wednesday evening. Please tell all your friends who would like to get into the game and learn the basics. For further information, please call 250-812-1615 or email us at info@leadersbridgeclub.com.

Customer appreciation day.

As a thank you to all the players who play bridge at Leaders Bridge Club, we are having a customer appreciation game Wednesday Oct 16th. All players will receive a reduced game admission price of \$6. Time to get up early and come to the game commencing at 9:30am.

Halloween.

October 31st is on a Thursday this year. Any excuse for a party right? This game ***with pre dealt hands*** will be a Pot Luck costume party, Club Championship. We will be giving prizes for the best costume and the best costumed pair. There will be goodies provided. Get dressed up, use your imagination and bring something to eat or drink and join in the fun.

www.leadersbridgeclub.com

Victoria Bridge Centre

"A note to comment on how much more vibrant and informative the web site for the Bridge Centre has become." H

"Thanks for the photos...great party, good upbeat energy, fun bridge. I like our club and look forward to our bridge games..." K

VBC loves hosting birthday parties and private functions. Plan to have your parties here at your Club. Let us know what event and we can work with you to make it happen.



Robin Lawn's Birthday Party on July 24th.



We held our yearly VBC Membership Appreciation Open Pairs Party on July 27th.

For complete photo coverage of our many festive events, please see our [VBC People page](#) or visit [our page on Facebook](#).



At VBC, Ernie Tradewell continues to use advanced audiovisual technology to give his lectures at the Unit 431 Mentor Game.



VBC has adopted Vania, a 6 year old girl from Paraguay, through the Christian Children Fund of Canada and we hope to make a difference in her life. \$38.00/month. We have a Piggy Bank for Vania.

September is a busy month for us at VBC in spite of being closed for the Sectional September 6, 7 & 8.

September is VBC Membership Month. An annual fee of \$50 gets you \$1.00 off each game and access to our club library.

Keep checking our VBC Schedule on the website for any changes. Continue to email us or phone 250-382-2913 when the site, schedules or results need some tweaking or clarification. Please email us or phone ahead to reserve parking near the door. Otherwise, there is plenty of 4 hour parking near Timmy's or behind A&W.

Have a great Sectional at Pearkes Recreation Centre.

See you at the table,

Bill Wastle

www.victoriabridgecentre.com

Fundraising

Friends of the Victoria Bridge Centre are fundraising for the Bridge Club. Don't miss out on a chance to win these great prizes while supporting your Bridge Club. The VBC Appreciation Raffle License Number is 56823.

Draw Date: October 14, 2013, 2:30PM (Holiday Charity Open Pairs)

1st Prize: Kitchen Aid 10pc Stainless Steel Cookware (Stockli Maytag)

2nd Prize: Italian Buffet for 4 people (Bear Mountain Golf Resort/Spa)

3rd Prize: The Cellar Wine Tasting for 2 (Bear Mountain Golf Resort/Spa)

Winners need not be present to win. Tickets: \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. All proceeds go to the Victoria Bridge Club to enhance the quality of our bridge experience. For more information or to help distribute tickets, contact VBC.

Thank you to Debbie Mineault (Stockli) and Bear Mountain Golf Resort and Spa for the generous contributions.

BIG GAMES

73.24%	Douglas Scott & Tom Coward	July 25 Capital City
71.53%	Karen Turner & Duncan Smith	July 26 VBC
70.83%	Tom Pelton & Bela Hirczy	July 16 Monterey

LESSONS



Bridge Lessons with Delma Murray

Delma Murray has been teaching bridge in the Victoria area for 15 years and holds the following qualifications:

- ACBL Accredited Bridge Teacher
- ACBL 4 Star Teacher
- Better Bridge (Audrey Grant) Accredited Bridge Teacher
- Easy Bridge Accredited Presenter
- ACBL Club Director
- ABTA Professional Member

She has been a member of the ABTA (American Bridge Teachers Association) which provides professional development for bridge teachers since 1999 and is a member of the board of directors. As the Regional Director for Western Canada she has responsibility for all teacher members in BC, Alberta, and Saskatchewan.

Delma offers a full range of bridge classes, from beginner to advanced levels, with regular classes at Monterey Centre and Greenglade Centre (Panorama Rec), as well as individualized courses for private groups.

To receive a complete listing of courses or additional information: email Delma at delmabridge@live.ca; phone her at (250)388-9784; or, pick up a [flyer](#) at the Victoria Sectional. Information is also posted on the Delma Murray Bridge Teacher Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Delma-Murray-Bridge-Teacher/178809588817004?fref=ts>

Victoria Bridge Academy

Victoria Bridge Academy is a FREE, non-profit after school program, open to all students Grades 4 to 12, and to teachers of Grades 4 to 12 interested in learning and promoting bridge in private and public schools from Districts 61, 62, 63, and École Brodeur. Your introduction to bridge will be on Thursday September 12th, at 3:45pm ending with PIZZA at 5pm. Nicole Dupuis, who is an ACBL accredited bridge teacher, will be running this program with the support of Unit 431 and volunteers from the bridge community. Come join the fun! Register as a participant or volunteer by emailing Nicole at dupuisbridge@gmail.com. Location: Victoria Bridge Centre, 880D Esquimalt Road, Victoria, BC.



Bridge for Intermediate to Advanced Players

Sept 14, 21, 28, Oct 5, 12 and 19th, 2013

Time: 9:45 to 11:45

Cost: \$110

Location: [Victoria Bridge Centre, 880D Esquimalt Road.](#)



This course will build on your knowledge of 2/1. Explore and learn more about 4th suit forcing, one NT forcing, New Minor Forcing and other more advanced 2/1 sequences. Competitive bidding, signalling, and opening leads will also be discussed. Learn when to go against the odds as declarer.

Each lesson will introduce a new topic. The time will be split between lecture and practice hands. There will be a full analysis of each hand played in the practice sessions.

Contact: Ernie Tradewell ernie.tradewell@telus.net



Two Over One Game Force

Wednesday September 18, 2013

Time: 1 - 2:30PM

4 weeks, \$60.00

Location: [Victoria Bridge Centre, 880D Esquimalt Road.](#)

Contact: Debbie Wastle. debwastle@gmail.com

Bridge Lessons for Beginners (Audrey Grant)

Thursday September 19, 2013

Time: 7 - 8:30PM

8 weeks, \$95.00

Location: [Victoria Bridge Centre, 880D Esquimalt Road.](#)

Contact: Debbie Wastle. debwastle@gmail.com

ACE OF SPADES

Unit 431's Silver Point Sectional Tournament – Restricted to Players with fewer than 200 Master Points.

Where: St. Aidan's Church, 3703 St. Aidan's Street, Victoria, BC

When: Saturday, October 19th, 2013

9:30 AM Stratified Pairs Games Start

2:00 PM Stratified Swiss Team Game Start

Complimentary coffee, tea and muffins will be served at 9:00 a.m.

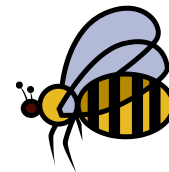
See the [flyer](#) for full details

Tournament Chair: Ted Eisner (250) 888-4207;

e-mail: tedeisner@aim.com

UPCOMING EVENTS 2013

- Sept. 15 Mentor Game – Victoria Bridge Centre
- Sept. 20 – 22 Powell River Sectional
- Sept. 30 – Oct. 6 Seaside Regional
- Oct. 6 Mentor Game – Victoria Bridge Centre
- Oct. 19 Ace of Spades – St. Aidan's Church
- Oct. 25 – 27 Courtenay Sectional
- Nov. 3 Mentor Game – Victoria Bridge Centre
- Nov. 7 – 10 Burnaby Sectional
- Dec. 1 Mentor Game – Victoria Bridge Centre
- Dec. 7 Unit 431 Christmas Party



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