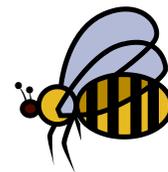


# The Bridge Buzz



ACBL Unit 431 Newsletter

December 2013

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I personally have always believed in supporting the ACBL as without it there would be no continent-wide organized bridge. Recently the ACBL have found that players are opting out of renewing their memberships. (That reminds me – mine is due!)

When you play in a Sectional now, non-ACBL members will pay an additional \$3 per session. This translates into \$18 over the weekend if you play all sessions. If you play at a Regional, the fee will be an additional \$4.

The ACBL have noticed a decline in membership – not a decline in people playing bridge. People are simply opting out of paying the \$38.50 it costs to continue being an ACBL member (the cost is lower for first time enrollment.) Their revenues are taking a hit and they are trying to recover this cost by raising non-member card fees at tournaments.

I believe that this is not aimed at newer payers, who may become ACBL members in the future, or to those who play bridge primarily for social reasons and the enjoyment of the game, or for those who usually play in non-sanctioned clubs. It is aimed at the many people, who join the ACBL as newer players and renew their membership annually till they have attained the rank of Life Master. This is the goal most competitive players strive to attain. They no longer have the need to get points registered once they have their Gold Card and just work towards improving their game.

Apart from not supporting the ACBL, these players have an advantage in that they can qualify to play in lower stratifications than their actual skills merit, taking away the chance of winning the event from those who justly qualify. I have known (this instance is not from Victoria – heavens that we should do such a thing) a person who had been playing competitively for 35 years and hadn't paid ACBL dues for nearly 30 of them. He was rated one of the best players in the Unit, but had only 750 points registered. He didn't, but he could have, played in flight B events.

I encourage all players to join the ACBL. If you play in tournaments, the membership will almost pay for itself. The monthly magazine alone is worth the ACBL fee – it works out to be \$3 an issue – pretty good value. At the same time the Unit will continue to encourage all people to play bridge by offering lessons, Unit games and supporting clubs in the area.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and all the best for 2014

Ele Gibson, Unit President.

## Unit 431 Christmas Party

Congratulations to Keith Dowdal and Brian Fraser, the top scorers at the annual Unit 431 Christmas party with an impressive 69.84% game!



## DUNCAN SAYS

When declaring vs. an opponent who has used the UNT (Unusual No-trump), pay close attention to his opening lead. You are playing 4 Spades after 1S 2NT 4S with Axxx of trump in dummy and KJxxx in hand. If opening lead is a heart, it is probably a singleton, so UNT is likely 2-1-5-5. Play for 2-2 trump break. If opening lead is a minor, UNT is likely 1-2-5-5. With spades 3-1, play Spade A, then Spade to J.

Duncan Smith



Duncan Smith was the top masterpoint scorer with 41.83 MP at the Victoria Fall Sectional. Above, Ele Gibson, Unit 431 President, is shown presenting Duncan with the Madeline Anderson Trophy, awarded to the player who has accumulated the most points throughout the three day tournament. Duncan has now won the cup 14 times!

## CLUB CORNER

### Capital City Bridge Club

Capital City Bridge Club will be holding its traditional Christmas games on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, & 20<sup>th</sup>. As usual, these will be club championship games, with higher masterpoint awards without any additional cost on entrance fees. These are always fun games with free coffee and goodies and door prizes.

We will be closed Christmas and Boxing Day and will reopen on Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>.

A big **THANK YOU** to all players who have supported our club in the past year. We look forward to continued fun in 2014!

<http://www.capitalcitybridgeclub.com>

### Leaders Bridge Club

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

### Monterey Bridge Club

Monterey Bridge Club 2013 Matchpoint Leaders as of November 9th, 2013:

#### Flight A (1000+ MP's)

Peggy Wright	143.84
Bela Hirczy	121.13

#### Flight B (301 – 999 MP's)

Sheila Kaye	68.19
Paul d'Orban	65.28

#### Flight C (0 – 300 MP's)

Peggy Mylrea	53.25
Alan Lapage	52.37

There will be a game on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th.

On New Year's Eve, Tuesday, December 31st, there will be a game. There will be a festive celebration for anyone that attends. Cake will be provided by the director.

[www.members.shaw.ca/MontereyBridgeClub](http://www.members.shaw.ca/MontereyBridgeClub)

### Victoria Bridge Centre

[www.victoriabridgecentre.com](http://www.victoriabridgecentre.com)

## UPDATE FROM DISTRICT 19

Hello Everyone,

In recent weeks, there have been many rumours circulating regarding the future of our April, 2015 Victoria Regional. Some clarification is due. Our Victoria Regional is now scheduled from April 13<sup>th</sup> – April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Pearkes.

Earlier in 2013, the D19 board passed a motion allowing Vancouver to host an annual regional tournament. However, the motion did not allot any dates for these annual tournaments. In the past, Vancouver had alternated years with Victoria. Now, with an annual tournament, Vancouver felt April would be the best time for their annual event. As 2013 was the first year in several that all our regionals were financially successful, the board was reluctant to change the tournament schedule to include Vancouver annually in April.

After several months of emails and a 4 hour discussion at our last meeting in Kennewick, the Board was at a stalemate as to how to proceed. I finally made a motion to have both Powell River and Victoria re-schedule their fall sectionals to allow Victoria to host their regional in September, 2015. This was a compromise accepted by everyone on the board. However, Pearkes was not available for us in September. So, we were back to the beginning!

The final solution now is that Vancouver will have its 2015 regional in early March. Victoria will have its regional in April, 2015.

2013 was the first year that we hosted our Victoria regional at Pearkes. Using this venue had many assets. Our rent was lowered by \$20,000 compared to downtown. Free parking was available. The on-site concession was hassle free for the tournament committee. Nearby restaurants and accommodations were suitable and varied. The “ride share” program offering rides to players staying downtown Victoria was a big success. The Victoria regional committee worked exceptionally hard to make this tournament a success. We look forward to 2015!

One of the primary mandates of the D19 board is to try to bring regional bridge tournaments to as many areas of our district as possible. We are the only ACBL district with the challenges of an international border.

If any of you ever have any issues, please feel free to contact me. I will always do my best to address your concerns.

Thank you so much,

Vivian Thickett,  
D19 liaison for Units 429 and 431.

## SOME BASIC RULES TO FOLLOW PLAYING CONTRACT BRIDGE

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.**

### During Play of the Hand

1. At the end of the auction, the person on lead may ask questions about the bidding prior to selecting his card to play. Once the person on lead has put his card face down on the table, his partner may ask questions.
2. The person on lead can only ask for a review of the bidding prior to putting his card on the table. The partner of the person on lead can only ask for a review of the bidding prior to playing to the opening trick.
3. Any player (declarer or defender) can ask the meaning of an opponent's bid when it is their turn to play.
4. If declarer calls for a card from dummy when it is his lead, or if declarer leads from hand when the lead is in dummy, the defenders have the right to accept the lead. The lead is accepted as soon as a defender plays to the trick.
5. If declarer calls for a card from dummy, he can only correct the call if it is a slip of the tongue. The director should be called if declarer wants to make this change.
6. If declarer revokes, but corrects the mistake before his next play, the correct card is played and the incorrect card is put back in declarer's hand as if it were never played. (This is different from a misplayed card by defender, since defender's misplayed card must remain

on the table to be played at the first opportunity.)

7. Dummy shall not indicate what card might be played before declarer calls for it. A hand hovering behind or over the suit dummy expects to hear called is not permitted.
8. Once a player knows exactly what the result of the hand will be, he should claim. The claim should be explained to the opponents. If the player simply puts his cards on the table and says all the tricks are his, the opponents should call the director if they feel the claim is questionable.

(This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final installment in this series. Thanks to Tony Farr for compiling the information.)

## BRIDGE ETIQUETTE - GLOATING

I sat there looking at dummy and trying to work out which way to play a suit to maximize tricks – there were several possibilities. When I made my play and got it right, I heard this “YES!” coming out of my mouth. My pet peeve is gloating at the bridge table and I had just done it. Needless to say, I apologized but it still didn’t excuse me.

Some of the more frequent instances of inappropriate gloating are:

1. When the opponents have made a defensive error, whether by taking the wrong line or by making a mistake to give you a good board.
2. When you and your partner have had a bidding misunderstanding or simply misbid to get you to the perfect spot.
3. When you misplay the hand but it turns out to be the best play but no one else would take as it has the lowest percentage of success.

In other words when your partnership gets a good board when your actions should give you a below average board or a zero. It is bad enough to be “fixed” but when someone giggles and says “Good board for us partner” triumphantly, it rubs salt into the wound.

I have often felt being close to blows when this happens. I resist the urge to tell them what really happened, although telling them might encourage them to learn from their mistakes, and I leave the table as soon as I can to avoid an ugly scene.

What should you do when you have got a good board via a mistake – what most players do – simply apologize and say that you’re sorry that you gave your opponents a bad result through your errors.

Ele Gibson

## BIG GAMES

76.92%	Debbie Mineault and Duncan Smith	Sept. 5 Leaders
73.52%	Peggy Wright and Denise McColl	Nov. 19 Monterey
72.50%	Donald grey and Karen Billett	Sept. 7 Monterey
71.08%	Halldora Hampton and Eddie Crews	Nov. 14 Capital City
71.06%	Tom Pelton and Bela Hirczy	Sept. 17 Monterey

## MISCELLANEOUS



The Unit 431 website now contains a Photo Gallery. This new addition can be found at

[http://d19.org/victoria/?page\\_id=599](http://d19.org/victoria/?page_id=599)

Pictures taken at Unit events can be found there as well as some “never before seen” pictures from the 2013 Victoria Regional tournament.

## Combining Travel and Bridge



Angus McDonald, Director

I recently travelled to Ireland and Scotland and took the opportunity to play bridge in a foreign environment. If you have access to the Internet, this is easy to plan in advance. Unfortunately, the ACBL is only helpful if you are travelling in North America, including Hawaii and maybe Mexico. I search for Clubs anywhere I travel to these days, even when my purpose for travelling is not bridge.

I was very pleased with the hospitality in the clubs of Eire, Northern Ireland and Glasgow, Scotland. Because I contacted them ahead of time, each of them ensured that we were picked up and returned to our hotel, as we did not have a vehicle. Only in Dublin were they unable to pick us up and that was only because they had a committee meeting scheduled immediately before the game, which the ride provider was required to attend. The Club in Dublin was in a different part of town than our hotel, but the gentleman who drove us home, insisted it was no trouble, although it took him far out of his way as he lived only a few streets away from the Club.

Be prepared for the fact that they play different systems than we do. In all three clubs, most pairs played 4 card majors and 12 – 14 No-trump range. They were quick to advise us of this immediately upon our sitting at the table and to ask us about ours. No other convention was mentioned. There were no convention cards in evidence anywhere, much to my surprise! It seems that that is only for tournaments. I did acquire a convention card as used in Scotland, and it is significantly different than ours. All three clubs also had north record the opening lead as well as the

other information we record. I find this very useful when hand records are available for review after the game. They also do not have the same rules with respect to alerts or skip bids. They alert Stayman and Transfers and it is mandatory to use the Stop card for all jump bids. I never heard any bid announced as we do with Transfers. We did come across one pair who played 2 over 1. They considered themselves more modern than their fellow players.

All three of these Clubs were sanctioned, but points won are not transferable to the ACBL. If I ever wanted to join the European Bridge Union, the points would be recorded there.

Contrary to information given me by others before I went, none of these clubs served alcohol or even had it available. None of them take a break during the game, as we do. There is coffee, tea and water available, but you just catch it as you can, when you're dummy or there is a sit out. Even without a break the games seemed to take the same length of time, with, in two clubs, fewer boards. I guess they just take it at a slower pace.

Alison Campbell

## Lessons

Delma Murray is offering a wide range of classes ranging from beginner to intermediate-advanced levels at Monterey Centre and Greenglade Centre. This includes a series of intermediate plus classes that take players beyond the basics, in conventions, declarer play, defence and two over one bidding. For details contact Delma by email at [delmabridge@live.ca](mailto:delmabridge@live.ca), by phone at (250)388-9784, or at the bridge table.

## Striving for “Zero Tolerance” in Ourselves

I was recently asked by my intermediate students in a class on defense about the ethics of playing bridge. They had heard many rules about this and that, and had a few interesting war stories to tell. So I offered them the following, after covering some of the usual guidelines for bidding and play.

When you are reviewing your performance at the end of the game, do you look beyond the final results? Perhaps we need to add our own measure of personal accountability for helping others enjoy the game as much as we do.

Did our opponents leave the table feeling that we had treated them with respect and dignity, regardless of the actual results at the table? Did we compliment them when they bid and played well (not gratuitous compliments for lucky results)?

Did we leave our partner feeling that she enjoyed the experience of playing together, even, or especially, if we did not have a great day in terms of results?

Did we carefully avoid judgmental remarks and body language at the table, unless specifically asked for feedback?

None of us is perfect at the table, but in reflecting on our performance at the end of each day, perhaps the foregoing might be worth adding to our criteria for success.

Jim Brackenbury

## Annual General Meeting

Be sure to mark your calendar to attend the Unit 431 Annual General meeting on February 23, 2014 at the Victoria Bridge Centre.

## Ace of Spades



Kimberley Lobb, Jordan Tessarolo

The Ace of Spades tournament in October was a great success with 18 tables in the morning, an increase over last year.

Congratulations to Ashok Rao and Susan Johnsen, winners of the pairs competition, Strats A and B, and Kimberley Lobb and Jordan Tessarolo (shown above) winners of Strat C. Myrna Green and Daryl Elaine Krepps, Nanaimo BC, were the winners of the Anna Boivin trophy for the most points earned at the Ace of Spades.

Colleen Sullivan, Joni Smith, Ursula Verstraete and William Verstraete, Ladysmith BC, were the winners of the Swiss Teams competition.

## Memorable Quote

It's not enough to win the tricks that belong to you. Try also for some that belong to the opponents.

Alfred Sheinwold

## **Ace of Hearts Tournament,**

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, at St. Aidan's Church

Unit 431 sponsors this tournament for beginning and intermediate players (fewer than 200 Master Points) to play in a friendly and relaxed pairs game in the morning followed by a Swiss team game in the afternoon.

Come with your own partner/team of four or contact the event chairperson for a partner or team. Silver Master Points are awarded for this event for Strat winners of both the pairs and Swiss team sessions. The Strats tend to be grouped 0 to 20 MP's, 20 to 100 MP's, and 100 to 200 MP's.

This is a wonderful opportunity to play in a tournament format with a related peer group in preparation for the Unit 431 sponsored Spring Sectional later in 2014. Hoping to see you there.

Timely announcements will be at the various Victoria bridge clubs as the event comes closer to the February date.

Pat Fullerton, Chair



## **UPCOMING EVENTS 2014**

January 5	Mentor Game, Victoria Bridge Centre
January 24 – 26	Vancouver area sectional
February 2	Mentor Game, Victoria Bridge Centre
February 22	Ace of Hearts, St. Aidan's Church
February 23	Unit 431 Annual General Meeting, Victoria Bridge Centre
March 7 – 9	Duncan Sectional
March 16	Mentor Game, Victoria Bridge Centre
March 22 – 23	Vancouver area sectional
March 28 – 30	Victoria Spring Sectional, Pearkes Arena

For anyone interested in looking further ahead, the complete listing of events for Victoria and vicinity is on the Unit website [http://d19.org/victoria/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/2014\\_Bridge\\_Events\\_Calendar1.pdf](http://d19.org/victoria/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/2014_Bridge_Events_Calendar1.pdf)

## UNIT 431 TROPHIES



Totem Tournament Trophy, Anna Boivin Memorial Trophy, Margaret Hinton Memorial Trophy, Rose Bowl, Madeline Anderson Trophy, Yuki Miller Memorial Trophy, Henry Birk & Sons Trophy, (not shown) Sam Duprau Trophy

At the Spring and Fall Sectional Tournaments, there are three trophies awarded on the Saturday evening to the top pairs after the two open pair sessions held that day. The Henry Birk & Sons Trophy (est. 1957) is awarded to the top pair in Strat A; the Yuki Miller Memorial Trophy (est. 1979) to the top pair in Strat B; and the Totem Tournament Trophy (est. 1964) to the top pair in Strat C. As well as having their names engraved on the trophies, the winning pairs each receive a small trophy that they may take home called a “keeper”. At the end of the tournament the player who has accumulated the most points is awarded the Madeline Anderson Trophy (est. 1960) which is a beautiful silver trophy with a miniature totem pole at the top. Duncan Smith has won this award 14 times over the many years the trophy has been awarded.

The Unit sponsors two one-day tournaments for players with fewer than 200 masterpoints. At the Ace of Hearts Tournament in the spring the pair with the overall top score are awarded the Margaret Hinton Memorial Trophy (est. 2000) and each are given a “keeper” to take home. The top pairs from the

morning event are awarded medals. At the Ace of Spades Tournament held in the fall, the overall winners at the end of the day are awarded the Anna Boivin Memorial Trophy (est. 2011) along with “keepers”. Again, the top pairs from the morning session are awarded medals.

The Unit has two other trophies it awards at special events. The first one is called the Sam Duprau Trophy (est. 1963) and is awarded to the pair with the highest score at the Christmas Social. The other trophy is the Victoria Duplicate Bridge Individual City Championship trophy, or more commonly called the “Rose Bowl”, which is awarded to the individual with the highest score at the Annual General Meeting in February. It has the distinction of being the oldest trophy as it dates back to 1956.

If you haven’t had a close look at the Unit’s trophies, we would encourage you to do so as each one has a history of past bridge players who excelled at the game and would be forgotten if not for their names engraved on a trophy for posterity. The trophies are displayed at the Victoria Bridge Centre.

Gayle Good

## *MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR*