



The Bridge Buzz



ACBL Unit 431 Newsletter

December 2014

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As usual it has been a busy year with many Unit sponsored events. With the end of the term of at least one board member, we are looking for volunteers who would be willing to be on the board. As many of our events are quite labour intensive, we are seeking individuals who would step forward to assist. One such person/s is needed to do the purchasing of items for the snack table and to assist at the snack table during the Sectional. If you could be available to do that, please call or email Ele at (250) 391-5511, egibson@dragonhearth.com.

The last two Sectionals have been very ably organised and run by Jan Soutar. We wish to thank her



for putting systems in place that have made planning future events easier. At the Fall Sectional, she was there, performing her duties even though her first grandchild was born in the early hours of Friday

morning. She spent time at the tournament rather than with her daughter and her grandson. Thanks Jan.

As you will notice the 2015 phone directory has been alphabetized by first name rather than last name as in the past. The Unit board would like your feedback.

In conclusion, I wish you all the very best for Christmas and all of 2015.

Ele Gibson

BIG GAMES

74.58%	Brian Fraser & Kim Imada	Oct. 19 VBC Mentor Game
73.72%	Larry Margetish & Delma Murray	Sept. 4, VBC
73.72%	Gail Richardson & Danielle Goulet	Oct. 13, Leaders
71.76%	Mike Ainsley & Pete Wollner	Oct. 15, VBC
71.63%	Debbie Mineault & Jill Stokes	Oct. 18, Monterey
70.99%	Connie Setterington & Donald Berry	Oct. 27, Leaders
70.75%	Bob Macdonald & Jon Punnett	Oct. 21, VBC
70.14%	Raye Bell & Wanda Nunan	Nov. 18, Monterey
70.00%	Mike Ainsley & Merv Adey	Nov. 26, VBC

Congratulations to Jim and Connie McAvoy for winning the Open Pairs at the 13th International Bridge Festival in Havana, Cuba.

DISTRICT 19 UPDATE

Effective immediately, D19 Regionals are all "Scent Free" zones now.

The District is implementing the use of credit cards and debit cards for players to use to pay their entry fees at Regional tournaments. The system will be in use for our Victoria Regional in April.

Vivian Thicket
D19 Liaison for Units 429 and 431

DUNCAN SAYS

When not to bid 1 Spade

When partner opens 1 Heart & you have 6-9 points with 3 Hearts, don't bid 1 Spade. eg.

1H P ? AJxx Jxx Jxxx xx Bid 2H, not 1S. If you bid 1S & next give preference to Hearts, you show specifically 2 Hearts, not 3. eg. 1H P 1S P
2C P ? AKxx Jx xxxxx xx Bid 2 Hearts, showing preference, not support.

CLUB CORNER

Capital City Bridge Club News

Ewa and Rita would like to extend **Best Wishes for the Holiday Season** to all our players and thank them for their patronage over the past year.

December 17th, 18th & 19th will be our special holiday games with free coffee, cookies and door prizes.

We will be closed on December 24th, 25th, 26th, 31st, and Jan. 1st. January 2nd will be the first game of 2015.

J.P. Webber has been hard at work on our website: Capitalcitybridgeclub.com. Please join us in thanking him for making our game results more meaningful and useful, especially when trying to improve upon our partnership's performance.

We look forward to seeing you across the table in 2015!

Out with Leaders, In with Island Bridge Club

I would like to wish Roy Sadd all the best as he embarks on his career and his future as a bridge club owner. I am sure he will embrace all of the enjoyment and frustration that it brings and deliver a quality product to the bridge players of Victoria. I know I will always remember the fond memories from the great people who play bridge and those who choose to play at my club.



Loren Leader, Justine Stefaniec, Roy Sadd

I never intended to own a bridge club. It was just a thing that kind of happened. While assisting my old friend Mike Champion around his club he asked if I would get my directors accreditation so that he could go on a bridge trip with Anna. That was the start. From there the immersion into directing and club management and then ownership progressed. It was never a "career choice".

In a similar manner I asked Roy if he could get his directors accreditation so that he could help me around Leaders Bridge Club. As life has continued and I have turned my focus to things outside of bridge it required Roy to do more and more around the club. I finally came to the realization that the bridge club was more important to Roy, as he builds a life, than to me. It is with this background that I made the decision to move on and turn the club over to Roy.

So in closing. I would like to thank all of you for your patronage, and for the friendships I have been able to enjoy in my time as a director and club owner. I ask all of you to give Roy all of the same support you have shown to me over the years and I know you will.

See you at the bridge table!

PS: December 18th is my last day directing, therefore anyone who decides to come to that game plays for 2 bucks, as my parting gift to you. Enjoy!

Loren Leader

A New Bridge Club at an Old Location

Before I mention anything else, I need to send a huge thank you to Loren Leader. He has been a mentor and friend ever since he came back into the bridge scene. I can truthfully say that without him, I would not be in the position I am today. He encouraged me to become involved in Leaders Bridge Club first as a standby and then as an assistant director. He has patiently watched me develop from a nervous rookie director into an experienced club director dealing with my many mistakes which are part of ruling the game. Now he has given me an incredible opportunity, a chance to be a club manager and turn my passion into a career. I will continue to count on Loren's experience and support as he enjoys his third retirement.

I'd like to thank all the regular attendees of my Monday and Wednesday games who have been so supportive of me as I have grown as a director. I hope to continue to have your support as I transition into my role as the club manager. I'd like to thank the bridge community in general for nourishing my passion for the game over the years. I have grown up playing bridge since I was a teen and I am grateful that I have this chance to make a living doing what I truly love. I hope to see both familiar and new faces at my new club in the years to come.

I will be making gradual changes to the club as I get my feet under me as a manager. First off, the club located at Saint Aidan's United will no longer be called Leaders Bridge Club but will instead be Island Bridge Club. One change has been made already as all games except the monthly team game have hand records available now. All game times will remain the same: Monday and Thursday afternoons at 12:15 pm and Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am. Card fees will stay the same at \$8 and the location will still be Saint Aidan's United Church right by UVic and the end of Richmond.

There will be a new website that is currently under construction found at www.islandbridgeclub.com. The old website will remain active for a few months and will automatically redirect to the new site but please update your bookmarks. Expect more special events in the future like the upcoming December STaC game, with a chance to win sectionally rated silver points being held on December 8th and 10th. Lastly, there

will be a special Christmas/Thank You party for Loren on his last day on the 18th of December.

I'd like to thank you all for your contributions and support in the past and I hope to see you at the table in the future.

Roy Sadd
Club Owner
Island Bridge Club

Monterey



Peggy Mylrea – Monterey Bridge Personality

Born in southern Saskatchewan 95 years ago, Peggy is an avid bridge player who consistently does well with different partners. Known as the feisty, attractive woman who bought a red sports car when she turned 90, she is still driving to bridge.

Peggy remembers when their only mode of transportation at the farm was horse and buggy or sleigh. Wrapped in blankets for a sleigh ride, they would be toasty warm with an oven-heated rock at their feet.

Peggy and her childhood sweetheart, Reg, met in Regina when she was in Grade 9. Reg knew he wanted Peggy for his wife from the beginning. After Peggy graduated from high school at only 16 years of age, Peggy's parents separated the two by moving back to Vancouver. Peggy went to business school and worked in offices.

Reg joined the navy and was stationed in Esquimalt. He found Peggy again and they dated whenever he could get over to see her. They married after war broke out in 1939 when she was 20 years old. He immediately returned to Halifax and she didn't see him again for a year.

She moved to Halifax, but of course, his work took him away. Their only daughter was six months old before he met her. Peggy decided to go back to office work. Because she relished challenges, she was often given extra duties that made her jobs interesting.

They moved several times and while Reg was stationed in Ottawa, Peggy was introduced to President and Mamie Eisenhower. Reg and Peggy were able retire to Victoria in 1963. Peggy's passions included golf, bowling and travelling. Home bridge was enjoyed, but not taken seriously. When Reg died in 1997, Peggy started playing duplicate bridge and taking lessons.

Peggy continues to enjoy bridge, friends and family that now include two great-great grandchildren!

Victoria Bridge Centre - December Dates to Save!

Collection for Mustard Seed – until December 20

Once again the Victoria Bridge Centre will be collecting food items to donate to the Mustard Seed. Please bring your contribution to the club by December 20th.

Victoria Bridge Centre Mentor Game - December 14

The new monthly Victoria Bridge Centre Mentor Game, hosted by Mike Ainsley, is proving to be very popular and the next session will be held on December 14 at 7:00 pm. Please contact Mike at meainsley23@gmail.com, or leave a message at 250 385 7256, if you plan to attend and/or require a mentor. Mentors play free and regular card fees apply to mentees. Don't miss this enjoyable opportunity to improve your bridge game.

Duncan Smith Swiss Teams – December 20

The next Duncan Smith team game will be held on December 20 at 7:00 pm. This is a great way for inexperienced players to learn about Swiss Teams, and can help more advanced players sharpen their skills for upcoming competitions without belonging to a regular team. Just come out with a partner and

Duncan will assign teams based on his encyclopedic bridge knowledge. Lots of fun; regular card fees.

New Year's Eve Potluck Dinner – December 31

Plan now to attend the Victoria Bridge Centre's annual New Year's Eve Potluck dinner and evening of bridge. Bring a dish of your choice to share; complimentary bubbly, turkey, stuffing, and gravy provided. Dinner at 6:00 pm; bridge to follow at approximately 7:00 p.m. This event is always well-attended so book a partner soon. A great way to welcome 2015!

The Victoria Bridge will be closed December 25 (Christmas Day) but open for all other regularly scheduled games throughout December.

Don't forget to pick up your complimentary 2015 calendar the next time you play.

For more information contact: Bill Wastle at the Victoria Bridge Centre: 250-382-2913, or visit our website: victoriabridgecentre@shaw.ca

VBC MENTOR GAME REPORT

The Victoria Bridge Club had the 3rd mentor game on the 16th of November. The game parallels the unit mentor game which is typically held on the first Sunday of the month. The difference is that the VBC game is typically held on the 3rd Sunday of the month and the game starts at 7pm with a lesson at 6:30.

Any player under 300 Master Points is eligible to play with any other player. I will obviously try to get a mentor for everyone, but two mentees can play together if they want. Our goal is that the participants have fun and learn at least something new. Also anyone over 300 Master Points is eligible as a mentor.

The game had 10 tables this time out, which I feel is a big success. The first 2 games were at 7 tables. So the game is growing.

One of the differences is that a bridge puzzle is sent out to the mentees every month. Also the lesson notes are going to be available for the mentees that are participating in the game.

September's overall A winners were Duncan and Louise Smith, overall B and C winners were Heather Cozens and Leslie Wood.

October's overall winners were Kim Imada and Brian Fraser, overall B and C winners were Laurence Johnson and Shirley McGill.

In November first overall in A, B and C were Al Schyf and Vivian Rennie. Second overall and first East - West was Christine Seaville and Heather Erskine.

Our next mentor game will be held on December 14th. Game time is at 7pm, with a lesson given at 6:30pm I hope that everyone that comes will have fun and learn something new.

If you need a partner email me at meainsley23@gmail.com or phone 250-385-7256.

Mike Ainsley

MISCELLANEOUS

Thank you to all the people who donated either money or in-kind to the hospitality table at the Fall Sectional. Donations have never been so plentiful.

Handwashing

On behalf of all club owners we would like to remind you to please wash your hands before and after handling the cards particularly if you are eating. Flu and cold season is here and washing your hands is the best way to prevent the spread of germs. As an added bonus it keeps the cards clean (which we all like).

Caddies needed

If you know of reliable youth (12 or older) who would be interested in working a session or two at our spring sectional, please get them to call Ele Gibson at (250) 391-5511. They work from half an hour before the event and must stay till everything is cleaned up. The pay is \$40 a session for all sessions except for the second session on Sunday, where it is \$55 as they have to stay longer until all tables, chairs etc are cleared and the truck loaded.

Lessons

Registration started December 1st for classes at Monterey Centre. I am offering 7 different classes there this season, so there is something for everyone including 4 different convention classes for intermediate plus to advanced players. Pick up a brochure at any Oak Bay Rec Centre (Bridge is on page 42) or view the listings online at <https://onlineca.activecommunities.com/recoakbay/Start/Start.asp>

- Classes start the week of January 12th.
- Bidding Brush Up Monday mornings
- Beginner Tuesday afternoons
- Play of the Hand Wednesday mornings and Tuesday evenings
- Defense Tuesday mornings
- Conventions I Thursday evenings
- Conventions III Thursday mornings.

To keep up to date on new classes get some bridge tips, or ask questions search for Delma Murray Bridge Teacher on Facebook to find my page and click Like to get updates in your feed. If you want more information about course content or to discuss what course might work best for you, please feel free to contact me by phone at 250 388 9784 or by email at delmabridge@live.ca

Delma Murray

DIRECTOR PLEASE

Directors' calls at clubs vs. tournaments

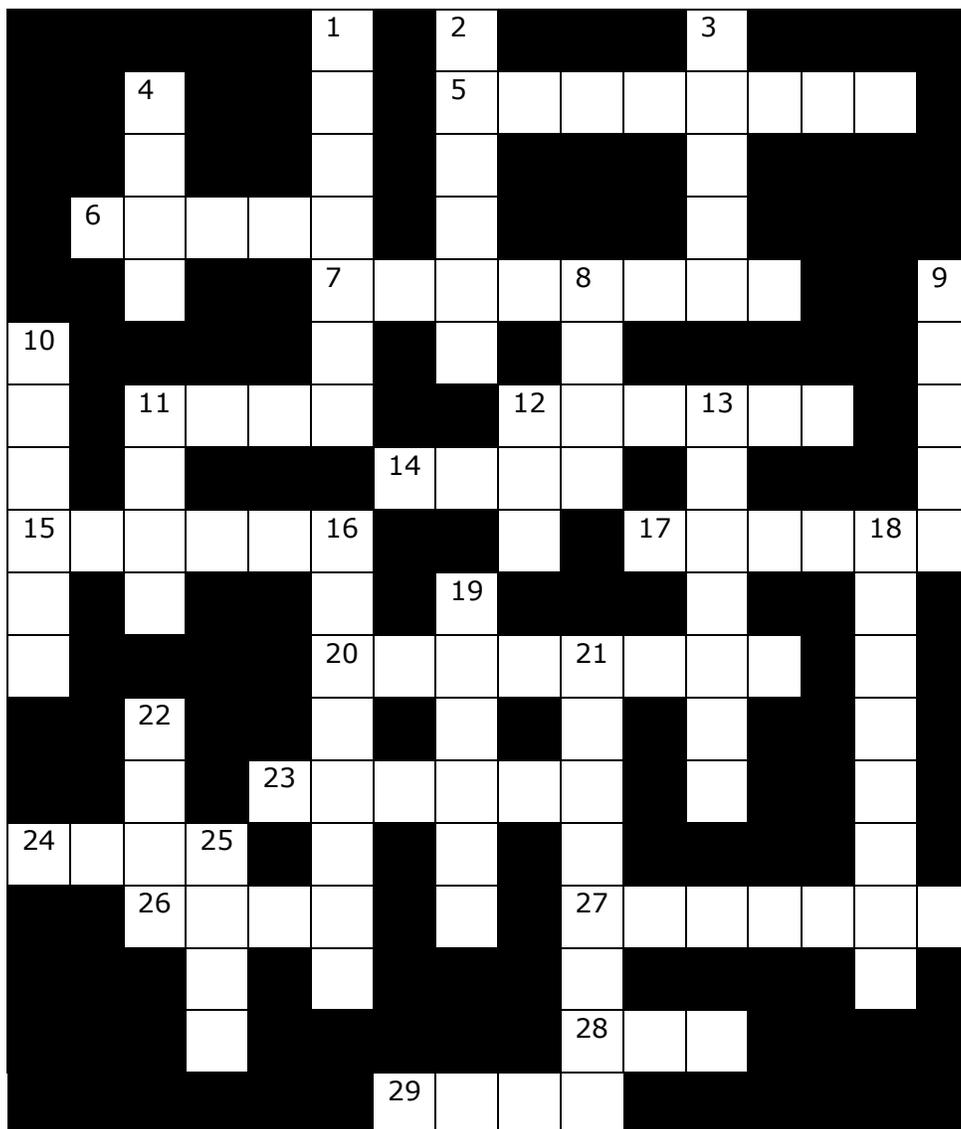
"You want them coming back," says Merv Adey, a Victoria-based ACBL Director, about making calls at clubs. He says the calls at clubs are more educative and seek to create understanding by both sides as well as compassion for each other. He's clear about the law though – it doesn't vary. Players at clubs and at tournaments expect the law to be applied fairly and interpreted correctly.

Behind the scenes a big difference for directors at tournaments is the increased complexity of the technical and computer side, he notes.

Bill Wastle, also a Victoria-based ACBL Director, is newer to tournament directing and admits he is in his element directing at the club. There, his priority is to interpret the rules in a nice and fair manner with real sensitivity to the less experienced player. At tournaments the majority of calls are the same as at the club but the experience can be more demanding. Bill says that the issues around Zero Tolerance come up more frequently at the club than at tournaments. While at the club you're on your own, says Bill, but the support of the directing team at tournaments is excellent.

Crossword Puzzle

by Katie Cross-Stitch



ACROSS

- 5. Archangel's name shows two long suits.
- 6. Increase your partner's suit bid.
- 7. First bid after opponent's opening.
- 11. Armani? No - one of four.
- 12. Our game.
- 14. Absence.
- 15. Baby food convention
- 17. Inventive New Yorker with more than one convention named for him.
- 20. Game referee and organizer
- 23. Noted brother or town on V.I.
- 24. Swiss playing group.
- 26. Distribute the cards.
- 27. Back up to show strength.
- 28. Repeat opponent's bid.
- 29. Brother of 22 across.

DOWN

1. Fast food bid requires a response.
2. Jump bid after no-trump opener showing shape of majors.
3. One of many brands that used to be lit up by bridge players.
4. A jump shift can be this.
8. One of a baker's dozen in your hand.
9. Bid after first passing if you like partner's major.
10. These raises sound Norwegian.
11. Put cards in order.
12. Participate in the auction.

13. A girl's best friend.
16. State emphatically you're up to the challenge.
18. A "reverse flow" squeeze.
19. Grand if you make 13 of these.
21. In Sicily it's a hit, we have a politer name for our plan.
22. First card played.
25. Victoria director who previously owned the Victoria Bridge Centre.

[The answers are on page 12]

UNIT 431

Facebook/Website

Be sure to "like" the Unit Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ACBLUnit431>

Thanks to J.P. Weber the results from recent events are on our Unit website along with detailed information about the boards. Check out the Xmas party results at www.d19.org/victoria

Ace of Spades



Riley Breiddal, Judy Stewart, Jordan Tessarolo

The annual Ace of Spades was held at St. Aidan's Church on Saturday, Oct 18th, 2014. We had 20 tables for the Pairs game in the morning and 14 tables for the afternoon Team game. There were players from Gabriola Island, Duncan/Ladysmith, Sidney, and of course the ever faithful Sooke. The majority of attendees were local club players. Congratulations to the overall winners, Jordan Tessarolo and Riley Breiddal.

The spontaneous feedback was very good regarding the games and the relaxed atmosphere amongst the players.

Again, it was a delight to work with Merv Adey as Director. He is so patient with novice players and he takes the fear out of hearing someone call "DIRECTOR"! We set up for 18 tables and two sections and there are always surprises. Too many players and needing two or three more tables or two few players for two sections and needing to consolidate to one section. He gets us all organized without a fuss.

Volunteers J.P. Weber and Doug Smith were invaluable. They were there at 8:00 am to help set up the chairs and tables, played in the tournament all day, and stayed until 5:30 pm helping to take down the tables and stack the chairs assisted by Keith Hibbert, Tom Dodge and Russell Page.

I would like to thank Judy Stewart who helped me set up the trophy table and the hospitality centre, and Kim Imada for assisting in setting up the equipment for the tables. Judy and Kim made up a pair to fill a table which was much appreciated.

Pat Fullerton, Chair

Christmas party



President Ele Gibson presenting the Sam Duprau Trophy to overall winners J.P. Weber and Keith Hibbert.

The Unit 431 Christmas party was a great success. We would like to thank all those who contributed to making the evening so enjoyable. The overall winners were J.P. Weber and Keith Hibbert with a 66.49% game. Congratulations!

Ace of Hearts

The annual Ace of Hearts will take place on Saturday, February 21, 2015, at St. Aidan's Church. This is a silver point tournament for players with fewer than 200 points. Pick up a flyer at any of the local clubs or download from the Unit website. If you need a partner, contact Gayle Good at (250) 595-4742 or gaylegood@telus.net.

Spring Sectional

Get your partners and bring yourself to the Sectional on March 27 to 29. As usual Friday night is a Charity Game with extra Masterpoints available for no additional cost. Unit 431 pays the extra dollar that is charged by the ACBL. There also 2 Newcomers' games on Friday which are offered at no charge to players with under 5 Masterpoints.

Also remember to bring goodies for the hospitality table (cash donations will do instead if you don't want to shop). Please be environmentally friendly and bring your own coffee cup and/or water bottle.

Annual General Meeting

The Unit 431 annual general meeting will take place on Sunday, February 22nd at the Victoria Bridge Centre. The meeting will start at 12:45 pm.

Membership Report

ACBL Advancements

Bronze Life Master (500)

Donald Berry
Evelyn Goedhart
Suzanne Reed
Lou Sandmaier
Merle Wall

Life Master (300/500)

Suzanne Reed

Advanced NABC Master (300)

Bob Cheeseman

Regional Master (100)

Paul Flanagan
Keith Hibbert

Sectional Master (50)

Ryley Breiddal
Ann Brydon
Janice Closson
Kathy Gaudry
Margot Northey
Kenneth Putt
Douglas Smith
Daniel Sunstrum
Glendda Thorp

Club Master (20)

Heather Plavins
Jordan Tessarolo

Junior Master (5)

Barbara Boisvert
Alec Czap
Louise Smith
Guy Van Uytven

Welcome ACBL members who have moved here --

Frances Attwood from Parksville
Hanne Banister from abroad
Gordon Corns from Parksville
Noreen Corns from Parksville
Clara Halpern from Ontario
Jordan Tessarolo from Vancouver
Bill Van Sickle from Saskatchewan
Linda Van Sickle from Saskatchewan
Lois Zolyniak from Parksville

Name tags

Please contact Jill at 250-595-4747 or jstainforth@yahoo.ca. The cost is \$8.50.

D-Light: Introduce friends to duplicate

Starting in January there will be three games a month for bridge players new to duplicate. The games will be very welcoming and gentle with a few fewer hands played than in a regular session of duplicate. These games welcome social bridge players with a curiosity about duplicate. The entry fee will be \$5 per player. Refreshments will be available.

Each pair must have one person with no – or no more than 5 – master points. The other person in the pair can have any number of points. Please arrive with a partner if possible. If you're looking for a partner, please call Jill at 250-595-4747.

Schedule of D-Light games

<u>2nd Monday</u>	<u>3rd Wednesday</u>	<u>4th Friday</u>
1:00 pm	9:15 am	9:00 am
Victoria Bridge Centre	Island Bridge Club	Capital City Bridge Club
Upstairs behind Tim Horton's	St. Aidan's Church Hall	Lakehill Bowling Club
880D Esquimalt Road	3703 St Aidan's Street	3930 Lasalle Street
Director: Debbie Wastle	Director: Roy Sadd	Director: Ewa Zwicky

Please invite your social bridge friends to these games.

SQUEEZE PLAY

There are many types of squeezes and I only want to focus on the process of imagining one for this hand below.

The contract is 7N: The lead is the 10 of diamonds.

Dummy is: AKQxx - Jx - KJxx - Qx

Your hand:.. - xx - AKxx, - Ax, - AKJxx

First the thought process about when to go for a squeeze, then the conditions for its success. Squeezes are normally worth playing for when several things are true.

- 1) You are one trick short of your goal
- 2) You have more than one card based on length that can be a threat if you run off so many tricks a defender may have to abandon his stopper in a suit to defend another. (He picks his poison as abandoning either suit is fatal)
- 3) You have adequate entries to apply the squeeze late in the play.

So let's test this for the hand above:

First thoughts.

- a: The player who led the ten of diamonds versus 7N through dummy's KJXX is VERY unlikely to hold the Queen of diamonds. (We are all taught to lead passively vs 7N and not risk a free trick on lead.)
- b: Our trick count in top tricks is 12 as long as clubs are split no worse than 4-2 ...5 clubs, 2 diamonds, 2 hearts, and 3 spades. That meets the condition of being "one trick short of our goal"
- c: If we run the tricks listed above in the right order, there is a reasonable likelihood someone will be squeezed.
- d: Keeping entries to each hand will be important late in the play, We have potential threats in diamonds, hearts and spades to hang onto while we run the clubs

There might be a squeeze on either opponent if he holds 4+ spades and 5+ hearts...

There might be a squeeze on LHO if he holds the Q of diamonds after all, and either 4+ spades or 5+ hearts.

There might be a squeeze on RHO if he holds Qxx(x) of diamonds and either 5 hearts .

So let's start with the clubs, remembering not to panic if clubs are 5-1, because the spades might be 3-3, or there might still be other squeeze possibilities, the Q of diamonds might drop etc.

Trick 1 Ace of Diamonds (Do not waste dummy's jack trying for a miracle!)

Trick 2,3,4,5,6 ClubsEveryone follows twice so there is no problem except to decide what to discard from dummy.

Stop and think while discarding on the clubs. You need one more trick...so there is no need to keep all five spades, or to keep both the J and a small heart, or to keep all of dummy's four diamonds.

You can discard one card from each suit in dummy on the run of the clubs.

IMPORTANT...Watch what the opponents discard on the 5 rounds of clubs. One player who started with 4 clubs made one discard, the other player made three.

The most critical cards to count are spades.

After trick 6 here is the position.

Dummy:... AKQx J KJ void
Declarer: xx AKXX X void

You at this point have three entries to dummy, but only one to your hand. So it is absolutely critical that you not play the AK of hearts yet. Reason 1 is that you blow your last entry to hand before the squeeze has operated fully...

Reason 2 is that you have no idea what to discard from dummy.

Trick 7Play a diamond to the K ...(do not finesse, see the point about how unlikely this finesse is to succeed.)

If the Q of diamonds does not drop, that means an opponent, presumably RHO, has diamonds stopped.

Trick 8,9,10 ...Cash three high spades....Q: How many, if any, spades were discarded on the run of the clubs? You have to know the answer while you are playing in order to know whether dummy's last spade is trick thirteen now.

The position is now:

Dummy: x J J void
Declarer: void AKx void void

The Q of diamonds has not appeared, and we'll assume for the sake of argument that dummy's spade is not yet high.

That means one opponent is holding the Q of diamonds (RHO presumably) and cannot hold 3 hearts.

One opponent (presumably LHO) is holding a spade, and cannot hold three hearts.

Cash the last three tricks in your hand.

You are very likely to have three good hearts at the end if the diamonds and spades fail. But:

(The only time this fails is when RHO's last three cards are specifically: J x Q and LHO's last three cards are QTX of hearts. In this one distribution where RHO began life with the following hand, no squeeze or finesse would ever work. RHO's death hand is: - JTxx xxxx Qxx xx Because RHO was able to match dummy's distribution in the end game, the squeeze doesn't operate.)

The death hand is an ordinary one, but there are many equally ordinary hands RHO can hold where you made the contract on this line, which was based on a very sound inference from the opening lead.

Merv Adey

WHAT TO OPEN?

The following hand has been suggested as a topic for discussion for the *Bridge Buzz*.

Holding x xxxxx AKQJxx x

What do you open and why? Does your position at the table make any difference in your answer?

Merv Adey

This hand and the best opening bid are easier to evaluate after the table result is in.

Nothing is perfect, and hands like this are often matched by exciting distributions held by other players at the table.

But to answer the question, I'm pretty comfortable opening 1D in first and second seat, and opening 3D in third seat.

I don't intend to reverse into hearts. If partner has a good hand, the hearts may not be lost. If partner has a bad hand, a diamond lead or a diamond sacrifice vs. some number of spades may turn out to be our best option.

Karen Billett

This hand is all about the diamond suit. With most hands containing 5Hs & 6Ds and less than a reverse, I will open 1H. Because your hand is all about diamonds and the hearts are so bad, I treat the heart suit as if it is four cards long. Hopefully partner will bid 1 Heart over 1 Diamond. If partner raises a one heart opening with three hearts, the contact could be in jeopardy on the 5-3 heart fit and you are being forced to ruff. Therefore, in seats 1, 2 & 3, I open one diamond. In 4th seat, I open three diamonds. Yes, even though it doesn't fit the Casino Count of 15, I open, but try to make it difficult for the opponents to come in. Vulnerability nor type of game (matchpoints vs. IMPs) does not change my bids.

Brian Fraser

I would open 1D in 1st, 2nd and 3rd seat, for both shape and lead directing. I would pass in 4th seat; somebody has the spade suit and it's not me.

Duncan Smith

I would open 1 diamond in any seat, & treat the hearts as a four card suit.

Ernie Tradewell

This is a very difficult hand to describe. The vulnerability and seat position makes a difference. There is a lot to be said for passing. If you open in first or second one heart. If you are in 3rd 2 diamonds. Pass in fourth.

No easy answer.

Debbie Wastle

Ok if I must ... I'm opening 1 diamond and see what happens. If the opponents come in and partner passes I will bid 2 or 3 diamonds. If partner bids hearts (Woo Hoo!) then I will raise to 3 or maybe 4?? I'm a bit worried about a forcing defence on this type of hand. If partner bids anything else I will re-bid 2 diamonds. I am willing to risk missing a 5-3 heart fit with these diamonds.

I think I will not get a chance to open 1 diamond in any seat but first. Surely the opponents will open spades or clubs in front of me. If so I will use Michaels or Unusual NT to show this hand. If not I will open 1 diamond in any seat.

Ewa Zwicky

I would open this hand with 1D in 1st, 2nd and 3rd position. I would definitely not bid hearts to open but if partner should happen to bid H in answer to my 1D, we would be very unlucky not to make 4 H. In the event that but if partner had 3 good hearts, we would, of course, be missing an 8 heart fit and probably game, but on the other hand, with something in the remaining 3 suits, we have a good chance of bringing in 3NT. In the 4th position I would bid 3D, which would indicate to partner that I have a very, very good weak 2 opening bid. With 3 people passing before me and armed with this information, partner would look at his hand and decide whether to pass or to bid 3NT.

ANSWERS to Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 5. Michaels
- 6. Raise
- 7. Overcall
- 11. Suit
- 12. Bridge
- 14. Void
- 15. Gerber
- 17. Jacoby
- 20. Director
- 23. Duncan
- 24. Team
- 26. Deal
- 27. Reverse
- 28. Cue
- 29. Matt

DOWN

- 1. Takeout
- 2. Smolen
- 3. Camel
- 4. Weak
- 8. Card
- 9. Drury
- 10. Bergen
- 11. Sort
- 12. Bid
- 13. Diamond
- 16. Redouble
- 18. Backwash
- 19. Tricks
- 21. Contract
- 22. Lead
- 25. Merv

UPCOMING EVENTS 2015

Jan. 2 – 4	Burnaby Sectional
Jan. 11	Mentor Game, VBC
Feb. 8	Mentor Game, VBC
Feb. 21	Ace of Hearts, St. Aidan's, Victoria
Feb. 22	Unit 431 Annual General Meeting, VBC
Mar. 6 – 8	Duncan Sectional
Mar. 15	Mentor Game, VBC
Mar. 27 – 29	Victoria Spring Sectional

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/2014/10/2015-Bridge-Events-Calendar.pdf>

Happy Holidays



Unit 431 Board of Directors