

The Bridge Buzz



ACBL Unit 431 Newsletter



December 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year we did not distribute the Unit phone books at the Christmas party. We decided that it would be better to wait until after the AGM in February when we can then supply up-to-date information on the new Unit board members. We did distribute the calendars at the party as usual.

The tickets for the Christmas party completely sold out this year. Although the costs rose considerably, the Unit increased the subsidy to ensure our members were able to enjoy the dinner and bridge game for the same price as last year.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and hope you have a successful and happy new year.

Ele Gibson,
Unit 431 President

UNIT 431

Tournament Results

Christmas Party



Kirk Homis, Ele Gibson and Virginia Youens

A good time was had by all at the Unit Christmas party on December 5th. Congratulations to the overall winners – Virginia Youens and Kirk Homis with an impressive 70.25% game.

More pictures can be found at <http://bridgevictoria.ca/photo-gallery/>

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Fall Sectional



Alan Kotila, Gina Curran, Susan Breiddal and Jim Alexander

Gina Curran and Susan Breiddal came first in the Newcomer Game pairs game on Thursday afternoon with 66.67%. They went on to join Alan Kotila and Jim Alexander in the Under 300 Swiss Teams on Saturday winning both the morning and afternoon games. Congratulations!



Ron Smith, with 46.73 MP, received the Madeline Anderson Trophy as the overall Individual winner at the Fall Sectional. Congratulations.

The Fall Sectional was held at the Mary Winspear Centre for the first time and was a tremendous success. Attendance was the highest in recent memory. After listening to the feedback from the Unit members, our spring sectional will also be held at the Mary Winspear Centre.

Ace of Spades



Brenda Wilson and Madeleine Tremblay

Overall winners at the Ace of Spades tournament were Brenda Wilson and Madeleine Tremblay with the Anna Boivin Memorial Trophy

Upcoming Awards

As we celebrate Christmas and the New Year we have three events for which trophies, awards and medals are awarded.

On Dec. 5 we held our Christmas Party and many achievements were recognized. Following the dinner, the New Life Masters for 2015 were awarded \$20 minted coins.

President Ele Gibson announced the inaugural winner of the new Dawn Hueston Memorial Award (est. 2015) is Guy Van Uytven. This annual award will be presented to the Unit 431 member who starts the calendar year with fewer than 20 masterpoints, and earns the greatest number of points in the four unit sectionals. The winner has the choice of a memorial wine glass or beer mug.

Each year the overall winners at the Christmas bridge game are awarded The Sam Duprau Trophy (est. 1963). The winners this year were Kirk Homis and Virginia Youens.

On February 20, 2016 we hold the Ace of Hearts Sectional for players who have under 200 points. The Margaret Hinton Memorial Trophy (est. 2000) will be presented to the overall winners who have participated in both morning pairs and afternoon

Swiss Teams. Medals are awarded for the morning winners in each category: 0-20, 20-100 and 100-199.

February 28, 2016 is the date of our AGM. There is bridge following the meeting and the member who earns the most points (this game is an individual movement game) will be presented with the Rose Bowl (est. 1956). Following the AGM, Mini-McKenney Medals are awarded to players who have earned the most points (any colour) in the past calendar year. There are ten categories: 0-5, 5-20, 20-50, 50-100, 100-200, 200-300, 300-500, 500-1000, 1000-2500 and 2500-5000.

Ace of Clubs Certificate are also awarded in the same categories as above. Points (any colour) must be earned in the past calendar year but at club games only.

Good Bridge and Good Luck!

Judy Stewart,
Awards Coordinator

bridgevictoria.ca: Your link to all things bridge in Victoria.

Our website would like to be your go-to resource for all Victoria area bridge queries.

Whether it's finding a club, looking for a tournament or a special game, searching for a teacher, you'll access it easily on our user-friendly site.

The members' area tracks activities of particular interest to Victoria players, of which Unit Races (Mini McKenney and Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs) and monthly Masterpoint Milestones.

Unit 431 (covering Victoria and Gulf Islands) matters can be found under Governance. You can learn about board members, read their job descriptions and even see what they look like. Also available are minutes of board meetings and our constitution.

A link is provided to the current and past issues of our newsletter the *Bridge Buzz*.

New developments within the local bridge scene are featured in the "What's New" page.

To make it easier for players to keep abreast of changes, you can now subscribe to automatic email updates. Whenever a new item is posted in "What's New," you will receive it by email. Since we only

update the website a couple of times a month, you don't have to be worried about being swamped.

To subscribe to this free and secure service, just navigate to "Email notification" on any page of the site, and enter your email address.

We welcome your comments and suggestions which you can send by clicking on a "Contact Us" button on the site or sending an email to bridgevictoria.unit431@gmail.com

JP Weber
Webmaster

www.bridgevictoria.ca

ACBL Achievements

Congratulations to all our Unit 431 members who have recently achieved new levels of mastery.

Silver Life Master (1000)

Claire Ward

Bronze Life Master (500)

Diane Moffatt
Mitra Shojania

Advanced NABC Master (300)

Russell Page
Esther Wiebe

Regional Master (100)

Janice Closson
Doug Smith

Sectional Master (50)

Hanne Banister
Edwina Bauer
Alan Filmer
Margaret Filmer
Daniel Lyder
Natalie Williams

Club Master (20)

Barb Boisvert
Audrey Mactier

Junior Master (5)

Gail Byers
Bob Coutts
Gina Curran
Rosalie Heschuk
Denis Johnston
Jill Plasteras
Nigel Williamson

CLUB CORNER

Membership initiatives

Just wondering how much fun it would be for a bridge player new to duplicate to drop in on an Open or even a non-life-master game. Hmm. Our D-light games are drawing an enthusiastic core of players who are beginning to feel at home with duplicate and to join in some regular games. No doubt creating friendly games that take new players from "kindergarten" through to the big league will help.

Ideas in the works are a game with a more experienced player at North and all players at E-S-W in coachable mode. It's clear that the more we make the path into duplicate a pleasant and smooth one, the more our game will grow.

We are compiling a full list of all the unsanctioned duplicate and public rubber games in town played at rec and senior centres. Our plan is to visit these games and connect with players who might like to know more about D-light and the four clubs.

D-light schedule change

D-light is a gentle game of duplicate for bridge players new to duplicate.

Two games a month are now being offered, both at Lakehill (Capital City Bridge Club – www.bridgewebs.com/capitalcity) on the second and fourth Friday mornings of each month. Registration starts at 9:00 am and the D-light section starts at 9:30 am. The fee for D-light players is \$5.50 (recently increased due to the exchange rate for ACBL fees). Thanks to the Unit this fee is subsidized by \$3 per player. Non D-light players are paying \$8.50 a session. One of each pair of D-light players should have five or fewer master points.

The Lakehill Bowling Clubhouse is at 3930 Lasalle Street. Parking is at the north end of Prestwood Drive, off Union Road that runs off Quadra below McKenzie.

Name Tags

Please let me know if you'd like a name tag. They are \$8.50 each and can have a magnet or a pin on the back. Reach me at 250-595-4747 or jstainforth@yahoo.ca and supply your first name, surname, place of residence and the game you play regularly so I can get it delivered to you.

Jill Stainforth

Ben-Hir Bridge

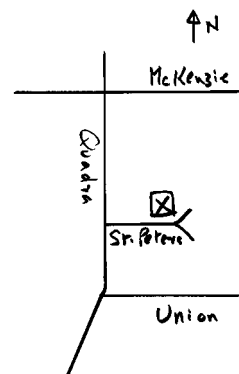
Rita Beny and Nev Hircocock are pleased to inform you that starting **October 19** we will be running the Monday Morning Supervised Bid and Play Bridge (SBP) under the name "Ben-Hir Bridge" and moving the location to St Peter's Church Hall on St Peter's Road.

The hall is bright and airy. There is paved parking for 45 cars plus several handicap spots. Access is all at ground level with direct hall access only yards away from one of the handicap parking spots. There are also four bike racks for our "bikers". Washrooms and kitchen facilities are excellent. All chairs are comfortable 'armchair' style.

St Peters Road is a quiet cul-de-sac off Quadra just north of Union Road and ½ km south of McKenzie. The #6, 6A and 6B busses run up and down Quadra so the nearest bus stop is within 100 yards of the Church Hall. The Hall is at the far left of the photo.



Ben-Hir....putting horsepower into **YOUR** game



Capital City Bridge Club

I am very sad to have lost Rita as a partner in Capital City Bridge Club, where we have been partners for the last 7 years. Rita said that she has always been happiest in the rubber bridge environment, where she began her career in bridge. Now she has decided to return to that and is running rubber bridge games and teaching rubber bridge together with her husband, Nev. I wish them both success and much enjoyment in their new venture.

Capital City Bridge Club has lost their Monday morning rubber bridge game, but all the duplicate bridge games are going on with no change of schedule.

What I have changed is the website. I am now using the more comprehensive site hosted by bridgewebs. The e-mail address is www.bridgewebs.com/capitalcity

I'd like to take this opportunity to warmly thank all those who are continuing to support my bridge club. It is you, the players, who create the very pleasant atmosphere we all like to enjoy. Thank you for that.

Like every year, there will be special Christmas games, with club championship masterpoint awards, free coffee and goodies and prizes. This year the games will fall on Dec. 16th, 17th and 18th.

A Merry Christmas to you all.

Ewa Zwicky
ezwicky@shaw.ca

Island Bridge Club

First, I'd like to thank the bridge community for their overwhelming support in my first year of business and I'd like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas this year. I'd like to remind everyone that the monthly team game will be on December 10th at St. Aidan's starting at 12:15pm and in the spirit of the holiday season, there will be a potluck starting at noon and continuing through the game in lieu of a lesson from Duncan that day. The following games on December 14th and 16th will be club championships with extra masterpoints at no extra cost.

After Christmas the church and hall are being painted so there will be changes in the schedule for two weeks which I will announce at a later date in an email and on the website. I am always available to answer any questions on bridge and club matters either by phone or email and again I thank you for your support and wish you all the best.

Roy Sadd

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

Monterey Bridge Club

As the new Director/Manager at the Monterey Bridge Club, I would like to thank all the players for continuing to support the Club. Your kindness and sense of humour contribute greatly to the Club's friendly atmosphere.

Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STaCs) provide bridge players with the opportunity to win Silver Points at the club. I will be running a STaC game on Saturday December 12, at **no additional charge**, as a Christmas present to all those who attend that day.

The Monterey Bridge Club has a capacity for thirty or more tables. We have two sanctioned games per week with hand records and score summaries. The results are posted online before you get home from the game. The play rooms are bright, clean and well ventilated. The club features plenty of parking, handicap ramps, and the Fern Café restaurant. Many players come early on Tuesdays to have lunch before the game.

Check out our Bridge Lessons on the Monterey website at www.bridgewebs.com/monterey.

The Monterey Bridge Club will be closed Boxing Day, Saturday, December 26th, 2015 and on Saturday, February 27th, 2016.



Congratulations to our top 12 Masterpoint Leaders for the year 2015 are:

1	Bela Hirczy	69.70
2	Russ Etherington	49.57
3	Peggy Wright	49.36
4	Tom Pelton	42.11
5	Russell Page	36.61
6	Paul D'Orban	32.28
7	Dan Sunstrum	32.18
8	Kaye Farmer	32.08
9	Eve Hoare	31.87
10	Joan Davis	28.80
11	Virginia Youens	28.20
12	Douglas Smith	27.68

I can be reached by phone or text at 250-884-5414 or by email at montereybridgeclub@shaw.ca.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2016.

Keep calm and bridge on,

Nicole Dupuis

www.bridgewebs.com/monterey

Victoria Bridge Centre

Annual Victoria Bridge Centre New Year's Eve Bash

Join us for a fabulous New Year's Eve Party, December 31! A potluck dinner will be served at 6 pm, followed by bridge beginning around 7 pm. Turkey, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, and bubbly will be provided by the VBC and party-goers are asked to bring a potluck contribution of their choice. No dress code but it might be fun to get out your best bib and tucker.

This is always a fun evening which ends early enough to toast the New Year at home in your pjamas!

Intermediate Bridge Lessons

Deb Wastle will be offering two sessions of Intermediate Bridge lessons this winter:

Defense: January 14, 21, 28, and February 4

2/1: February 18 and 25, March 3, and 10

Thursdays, 7 – 9 pm, \$ 60.00 for each four-session class.

Call 250-882-4824 for more details or to register. Sign-up sheets also available at the Club.

Web Movements

All Tuesday and Friday afternoon games now ensure an optimum level of fairness by using a web movement when required so that all pairs play the same 27 boards. This really helps the post-mortem game analysis since no one can say: "Oh, we didn't play that board!"

Owner-operator Bill Wastle and the Club's other knowledgeable directors: Duncan Smith, Debbie Wastle, Mike Ainsley, Ele Gibson, Merv Adey, and Nicole Dupuis provide a friendly but competitive atmosphere and insightful lessons before most games. Call ahead (250-382-2913) and leave a message if you need a partner and we'll do our best to ensure that you play!

There are two Non-life Master games for newer players and four challenging open sessions a week, plus a weekly Swiss Team game. As well there are regular special monthly events: the VBC mentor game and the Duncan Smith Team game where you come with a partner and Duncan assigns and balances the teams. You never know who will be your teammates or which group will win!

Visit Our Website

<http://www.bridgewebs.com/vbc/> for more information about our almost-everyday-of-the-week games, match results, upcoming events, competition statistics, and links to bridge resources. Or call us at: 250-382-2913 and leave a message. The VBC may also be rented for private functions; call to inquire.

Save These Dates:

<u>Duncan Team Games</u>	<u>VBC Mentor Game</u>
December 12	December 12
January 16	January 24
February 27	February 14
March 26	March 20

DUNCAN SAYS

When does responding 1 of a major to partner's 1 of a minor promise 5 cards? Look at the following sequences.

- a. 1C/D - P - 1H/S
- b. 1C/D - X - 1H/SS
- c. 1C - 1D - 1H/S

In each of these sequences, responder promises 4 or more cards in the bid major.

The only exception (promising 5 cards) is

- d. 1C/D - 1H - 1S

Because a double of 1H shows specifically 4 spades; 1S guarantees 5 cards.

D19 UPDATE

As most of you already know, effective January 1st, 2016, I am resigning from my position on the D19 Board.

Chris Cookson from Nanaimo is taking over my position as Unit 429 and Unit 431 representative. Chris is firmly dedicated to the future of the Victoria Regional. I am sure you will be pleased with his representation on the D19 Board.

In the meantime, I have been appointed the D19 Intermediate/Novice Hospitality Chairperson. (INHC) This means that I will be welcoming new Regional masters to attend our regional tournaments with 2 complimentary free plays to any D19 regional tournament within the coming year. I am pleased with this appointment as "grass roots" stuff is what I want to be promoting.

Thank you all and we will see you at the tables.

Vivian Thicket
D19 Liaison for Units 429 and 431

MISCELLANEOUS



Jill Stainforth, Dan Sunstrum, Nicole Dupuis, Lainey Clark and Ernie Tradewell.



Winner of the Halloween costume contest at Monterey was Lainey Clark.

42nd World Bridge Teams Championships in Chennai, India

Sandra Fraser, Michael Roche and Tim Ayers of Victoria all competed in Chennai in September and early October. Matt Smith was a Director there. Sandra said the playing conditions and the hotel were superb. She and Francine played well but were disappointed not to get into the final eight out of 22 teams but they finished in the top half. Michael, on the other hand, had thoughts to share about the isolation of the hotel from reasonably priced restaurants and about the chaotic (understatement) traffic that hampered their access to affordable food

and drink. Tim's contribution, besides playing Swiss Pairs with Michael, was to find one-dollar lunches and two-dollar dinners rather than the eighty-dollar meals in the hotel. Michael and John Rayner had an "Ouch" moment when a poor slam bid led to a 20-point swing and a resulting exit into the Transnational Team event. They got into the round robin placing 8th out of 146 but were then knocked out by a 1 IMP decision. Karma? They had won the Canadian championships by 1 IMP. Both Sandra and Michael expressed thanks to the Unit for a financial gift toward their participation in Chennai.

Jill Stainforth

Featured Bridge Personality

Alison Campbell

Alison Campbell was born in Vancouver to bridge-playing parents. At 18 years, she hopped on a train to cross Canada in 3 days and nights. She then adventured to Glasgow, Britain, to relatives. It was in London that she met her husband, Morgan Campbell. Morgan was a teacher and since his job took him various places in Britain, Alison was able to find various kinds of work in the schools.



Alison convinced Morgan that a better life awaited them so they arrived in Canada in the Fraser Valley where Morgan had found work. After two more moves, they arrived in Vanderhoof, but the marriage didn't last. Alison became a single parent of two children. She trained to drive a school bus, drove taxis and planted trees. Then she borrowed a typewriter and typing manual and began to learn to type. Once she was proficient in typing, she became a receptionist at a law firm.

Alison excelled at whatever jobs she was given and was soon gaining more training and experience. At 39 years old, she successfully passed law entrance exams. After 3 years of study at the University of Victoria plus 1 year to article, Alison went into private general practice. She recently fully retired.

Kitchen bridge wasn't enough for Alison. She found Margaret Hinton's Club and became a regular Friday night player. Alison would come to the game thinking intensely of her law practice, but was soon absorbed in studying bridge puzzles. She is a Silver Life Master.

Alison admits that her three loves are bridge, travel and singing. She sings with the Goward House Singles in a group and as a soloist. She recently took professional lessons from a voice coach.

For eight years, Alison has stick-handled the monthly Unit 431 Mentor Game. She has ensured that directors show up; that partners, both Mentor and Mentee, are found; that the boards are made. Thank you, Alison, for your contribution to Victoria Bridge.

Written by Karen Billett

Lessons

Bridge Classes with Delma Murray

When you sit down with your partner to fill out your convention card, don't forget that on the average you will be defending half of all the hands you play, and you will be using defensive signals much more often than your responses to a 2 club opener of whatever variety of ace asking bids you agree upon. So discussing your defense is important, and you and your partner need to understand what information you are conveying with the cards you lead, the ones you play in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th seat, and the signals you give to indicate attitude, count and suit preference.

What is your defensive system? If you and your partner can't answer that clearly, you might consider taking my Defense Course on Tuesday mornings at Monterey Centre in the new year.

Pick up a brochure at Monterey Centre, or contact me for a full list of courses in beginner, intermediate, and advanced bidding, play of the hand, and, of course, defence. Classes start the second week of January.

Delma Murray
delmabridge@live.ca (250) 388-9784

Intermediate Bridge Lessons

Debbie Wastle will be presenting two courses of intermediate bridge lessons starting in January. All classes will be at the Victoria Bridge Centre, 880D Esquimalt Road on Thursday evenings, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Each course will consist of four two-hour sessions (complete with free handouts)

The cost for each course is \$60.

Defence: Basic and Beyond

Jan 14, 21, 28 & Feb 4 -

2/1 Game Force

Feb 18, 25, Mar 3, 10 -

To register, sign the registration form at VBC or call Debbie: 250-882-4824

Debbie Wastle has been teaching for over 8 years, playing duplicate for over 18 years and playing bridge since a teenager. She has been a Silver Life Master for nearly 10 years and expects to achieve Gold Life Master within a year or two. She has done extensive reading of Eddie Kantar, Mike Lawrence and various other bridge authors. Her Defence course is taken from Eddie Kantar's "Defense Complete," which is indeed comprehensive, but difficult to read. She has made an easy to assimilate course from it. The 2/1 Game Force material comes from various sources including Duncan Smith checking her practice hands to ensure that they are appropriate for the concept being taught.

A Bargain for New Members

If you are not yet a member of ACBL and have been thinking about joining, you have an opportunity to get a bargain this month.

Every January, ACBL sends every club a supply of instant memberships, which allow you to get your ACBL number instantly, and mail the application. The amount you pay is the Canadian equivalent of the US first year dues of \$29, but it is calculated at the exchange rate that existed on January 1st. So if you join by way of an instant membership, it will cost you \$31.35.

You can also join online but if you do that you will pay the current exchange rate, which is considerably higher.

If your club manager is out of instant memberships, give me a call and I will try to track one down for you, but act now if you want the bargain, as it will disappear on January 1st, 2016, when a new calculation is made.

Delma Murray

delmabridge@live.ca (250) 388-9784

Mike Lawrence Workshop



Mike Lawrence and Nicole Dupuis

Eighty-five local bridge players gathered at the Westin Bear Mountain hotel this week to witness why Mike Lawrence is considered number one on the theory of bridge. His extensive bridge knowledge was quickly evident and all left the seminar knowing their future play will be improved.

Lawrence and his wife Karen travelled from Nashville, Tennessee and left impressed with those in attendance. He commented repeatedly how nice people were, and was impressed with their desire to learn. Lawrence said it was the first time in fifty years of attendance at such seminars that he never heard a single complaint. The attendees in a post-seminar questionnaire indicated the event was solid success and they loved the venue.

A Black Press story on the event is available at this web site:

http://www.goldstreamgazette.com/community/35080302_1.html

Discussion is already in progress for an event next year, hopefully with an outstanding Canadian bridge teacher. Please stay tuned.

As the person who originated this event, I would like to thank Ecoasis Bear Mountain, Victoria Bridge

Unit 431, bridge club operators and a number of local players for their support and assistance. There is a lot to organizing such an event, more than I think some realize, and such wide support is the key to success. The ultimate result will be an increased level of bridge enjoyment for all.

Bob Flitton

Lost and Found



The brooch show above was found at the Mike Lawrence workshop. If this is yours, please call Jill Stainforth at 250-686-4747.

Summary of forcing and non-forcing bids:

I'm just going to list some of the auctions people get wrong in my experience. Much of "standard" is widely accepted practice, and subject to adjustment via partnership agreement.

1) New suit bids after preempts...Forcing

Example:

2H (weak) - pass - 2S....

The mantra that a preempter doesn't ever bid again does not apply here...

Those who want 2S to be non-forcing are arguing for a big parlay:

- a) 2S will play better than 2H
- b) 2S is not better used for all the forcing hands that might play well in any contract from 2N through 7N.

2) Jumps in new suits are forcing to game (except those agreed by a partnership as weak jumps or some other meaning)

Example:

1D - 1H

2Sforcing to game... Something like KQJx, Axx, AKxxxx void

(perhaps with the above we can find out if we need to play a 5-3 heart fit, or a 6-3 diamond fit, at game or slam level.)

1H - 1N

3C forcing to game. The range for a simple rebid of 2C is 12-17 approximately, and responder with a "good 1N" bid, should strain to keep the auction alive if in doubt

3) Three level bids in 'Old Suits' are not forcing, merely invitational, unless a game force has been established...

1H - 1S

3H16 HCP or so... good 6 card suit (at least) ... responder is allowed to pass with a minimum misfit.

1D 1H

1S 3DInvitational... not forcing.

4) New suit bids by unpassed responders are always forcing at least one round...(the exception below)

1H - (2S interference) - 3C... 3C is game forcing

1H - (1S) - 2D 2D is forcing, but not game forcing in my book.

1D - (2H) - 2S 2S is forcing, but not game forcing for me.

A guideline to decide between forcing one round and game forcing I find useful is the level....3 level or higher? New suit is game forcing. Two level and lower? In competition a new suit is forcing one round only.

Partnerships should discuss this and do what works for them!

The exception: The sequence

1X (1N) 2Y

Where the 1N is natural and strong, 2Y is non-forcing – something like a poor weak 2 if third hand had been in opening chair.

All stronger hands in third chair begin with double (for penalty) to confirm the opening side has the balance of power.

5) A 2 club opening (strong) forces responder to bid twice...with one exception and that is if the 2C bidder rebids 2N showing exactly 22-24 HCP.

2C - 2H (negative, bad hand)

2Sresponder cannot pass 2S, no matter how weak.

2C - 2H (negative)

3Hresponder cannot pass. Let's keep the 2C openings honest. We open 2C because we may be able to make a game opposite many hands which will pass a one-level opening. If we aren't a balanced 22-24, we must be full of tricks!

6) If we bid naturally to 3N and one of us pulls to 4 of a minor...that is slammish! and forcing.

Example:

1D - 1H

2N - 3D

3N - 4DTwo things...

A: It's best to play every bid by responder over the jump 2N rebid as forcing, so you can find fits and bid good games and slams...

B: Secondly, 4D is a slam try here not an attempt to leave the game bonus behind to play a part score!

If as responder your hand had no interest in slam but lots of shape and diamonds, the correct bid to "shut er down" would be 5D, not 4.

Systems can be designed many ways, but systems that help your side achieve accuracy at higher levels are worth giving up a little bit of ability to compete for down one at lower levels!

That's worth thinking about.

Merv Adey

Question to Panel

This is the question I was asked to pose to the local experts for this edition of the *Bridge Buzz*:

How do you deal with two-suit interference when one is unknown? For example, 1NT – 2C alerted as Clubs and a higher suit, or 1H – 2H showing spades and an unknown minor.

Merv Adey

My answer is to apply whatever form of Lebensohl we use for a known one suiter, and use the known suit as a guide...It does matter what they are showing though...

Example 1

1N - 2C (clubs and another suit)...??

Simplest Lebensohl.... (you can get more complex than this, showing and denying stoppers, but this will do)

- Double is penalty for clubs.
- 2 level bids are natural (not transfers) and weak/competitive.
- 2N is a relay to 3C, after which I will show an invitational hand somewhere (otherwise I would have bid my suit at the two level)....
- A direct suit bid at the three level is natural and forcing....
- 3C is Stayman

Example 2

1N - 2D (diamonds and a major)

- Double is penalty for diamonds
- 2 H/S are natural and weak/competitive
- 2N forces 3C by opener which may be passed or changed to an invitational bid in a major
- 3 level suit bids are natural and forcing except
- 3D is Stayman.

The Lebensohl theorists use 2N as a relay to the three level with non-forcing hands because the loss of a 2N bid as natural is small in their view compared to the advantage of being able to double for penalty, and bid all forcing and non-forcing hands pretty much. They are right.

Karen Billett

A good way to handle this is to bid as if the known suit has been bid. The two examples provided are somewhat different.

1) 1NT – 2C showing clubs + another suit: action must be taken immediately if warranted because 2 clubs may be passed. 3C is a cuebid asking partner to bid. Double is penalty and says that this is our hand. Usually this means that they can't play at the two-level without being doubled. A bid at the two-level is to play. Lebensohl applies.

2) 1H – 2H (showing spades and an unknown minor):

- **Double** indicates a willingness to defend at least one suit. 2 spades is a cuebid indicating at least a limit raise in hearts.
- A **Single Raise** in opener's suit is equivalent to a normal constructive raise in partner's suit and is merely competitive. Although such a raise takes the partnership one level beyond a normal constructive raise, it has pre-emptive value on the assumption that the opponents have a fit which they would otherwise more easily find.

Example: You hold: XX QXXX AXXXX JX

1H "2H" ???

- Bid 3H. A **Bid in a New Suit at the 2-level** is natural and non-forcing, and a **Bid of a New Suit at the 3-level** is forcing to game.
- A Bid of **2NT** is natural with invitational values and at least one stopper in spades.

Delma Murray

There is a huge range of options depending on what my hand is. Do we have enough for game? Do I have a suit of my own? Do I have defensive values? The answers to those questions will result in different bids from me. Bottom line is I need to see my hand to answer.

If the question was about what systems I would use rather than what I would do, I use Lebensohl after interference and recommend that players that don't know Lebensohl yet just play systems off. I do not recommend stolen bid doubles.

Duncan Smith

1NT – P– 2C (C+ unknown) I prefer to have penalty doubles + Stayman available, so X = penalty, not takeout. To use Stayman, I'd bid 3C. No transfers, 2 level bids to play, 3 level bids natural & forcing. Lebensohl applies.

1H – 2H – ? It's important to be able to show different types of Heart raises. I prefer

- 3H = maximum single raise.
- 2S = Limit raise + in Hearts.
- 3 level bids natural & forcing.

An improvement would be to use 2NT (an otherwise useless bid) to show a heart raise. ie, 2NT = limit raise, & 2S to show a forcing raise.

Ernie Tradewell

The issue is not easy to answer. Vulnerability plays a huge factor and you should not be willing to defend at low level Vul vs Not if you can make a game.

Over the following auction.

1NT– 2X where X=C, D or H

- If the bid is 2C you can treat this as a stolen bid and double as Stayman.
- If it is another bid below 2NT then cue bid of the known suit should be Stayman.
- If you double then this can be treated as penalty for the known suit or just cards (discuss with partner) and let them figure where they belong.
- 3NT should be to play with or without stoppers in the known suit. You must discuss with partner.
- 2NT should not be natural and should be a relay to 3C and partner will pass or correct.
- If you bid another suit than is not known from the auction e.g. 1NT – 2C (clubs and higher) 2H/S should be to play 3H/3S should be forcing. The two level is to play and the three level is forcing. Transfers are off.

Over the following 1X – 2X (two suits) where X= H or S then

- 3X simple raise
- Bid of other major is limit raise of better
- Double = I have their major.

Debbie Wastle

You can often tell what the other suit is, but not always. If you find a fit, you needn't worry about it. The first situation is usually simple, some people play 'systems on' over 1N - 2C. So double is Stayman, 2D X transfer to hearts ... etc. Others play 'systems on' only over a double. Over 2C your partnership agreements apply. I use Lebensohl: double is penalty (of clubs), a two-level bid is to play, 2N is a relay to 3C, 3-level bids are forcing and natural.

The second situation is tricky if you don't have an agreement. If you have support for partner's suit you should show it as soon as possible within your agreed system. I would suggest a system that can show a

limit-raise vs. a game force. I like to use Unusual over Unusual with necessary adjustments for Michaels cue-bid. If no fit, you might double for penalty with a good 8 points and something in spades ... better to let them play in a non-fit than us.

Not knowing the other suit is only an issue if we want to play in NT, although if we can make 3NT isn't it better to double whatever they get into? And if we can't, then any double should be better than our part-score. Only when we're vulnerable le l and they're not might we be wanting to play 3NT for the vulnerable game bonus. We need to have agreements for this. You both need to know if partner's bid shows a stopper or asks for one. Plus, bidding is not an exact science. Sometimes we just have to do what feels right at the time.

BIG GAMES

74.48%	Ron Smith and Donald Gray	Oct. 3, Monterey
72.05%	Belal Hirczy and Tom Pelton	Nov. 17, Monterey
71.30%	Brian Fraser and Larry Margetish	Nov. 3, Victoria Bridge Centre
70.74%	Paul Flannagan and Merv Adey	Nov. 4, Victoria Bridge Centre
70.09%	Ernie Tradewell and Tom Pelton	Oct. 13, Monterey
70.06%	David Todd and Duncan Smith	Nov. 10, Victoria Bridge Centre
70.04%	Debbie Wastle and Roger Allen	Sept. 21, Victoria Bridge Centre

MEMORABLE QUOTES

"Imagination is more important than knowledge."	Albert Einstein
"In the long run, over-bidders outdo under-bidders."	Jerry Helms
"With an independent major suit, don't even consider other contracts."	Marty Bergen

UPCOMING EVENTS 2016

Jan. 8 – 10	Campbell River Sectional
Jan. 17	Unit 431 Mentor Game, Victoria Bridge Centre
Feb. 7	Unit 431 Mentor Game, Victoria Bridge Centre
Feb. 20	Ace of Hearts, St. Aidan's Church
Feb. 28	Unit 431 Annual General Meeting, Victoria Bridge Centre
Mar. 8	Unit 431 Mentor Game, Victoria Bridge Centre
Mar. 11 – 13	Duncan Sectional

For anyone interested in looking further ahead, the complete listing of events for Victoria and vicinity is on the Unit website <http://bridgevictoria.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2016-Bridge-Events-Calendar.png>

WELCOMING AND TRAINING YOUR NEW PUPPY

Marti Ronemus wrote an amusing column for new players at the Las Vegas NABC (*Daily Bulletin*, July 23, 2008, p.3). She spoke of how a pamphlet for puppy training could also apply to the care of bridge partners. See if you don't agree.

- ♣ Treat your new puppy with respect and love if you want an enduring relationship.
- ♣ Catch your puppy doing something RIGHT.
- ♣ Remember, sometimes you need to leave your puppy alone to play.
- ♣ Keep training sessions short, otherwise your puppy will lose interest.
- ♣ Small morsels of food are useful in modeling good behavior.
- ♣ Your puppy cannot learn a new command right away.
- ♣ Never use harsh words. Your puppy is trying to do the right thing. If he isn't learning, it's YOUR fault.



Happy Holidays

Unit 431 Board of Directors

