

The Bridge Buzz



ACBL Unit 431 Newsletter



March 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to welcome our new board members: Nancy Adrian, Mike Black, Barb Boisvert and Gloria Dorrance. I would also like to thank the departing board members for their service: Deb Carnes – who did a lot work behind the scenes and was responsible for the much appreciated pre-ordered sandwiches at the Fall Sectional; Tony Farr – who for four years has negotiated the dates, space, and directors for all our sanctioned games; Ele Gibson – who spent six years on the Board, the last three as President, chairing several successful Sectionals and other Unit events; and finally, Judy Stewart – who spent hours lugging the various trophies back and forth to the tournaments and made sure they were engraved correctly.

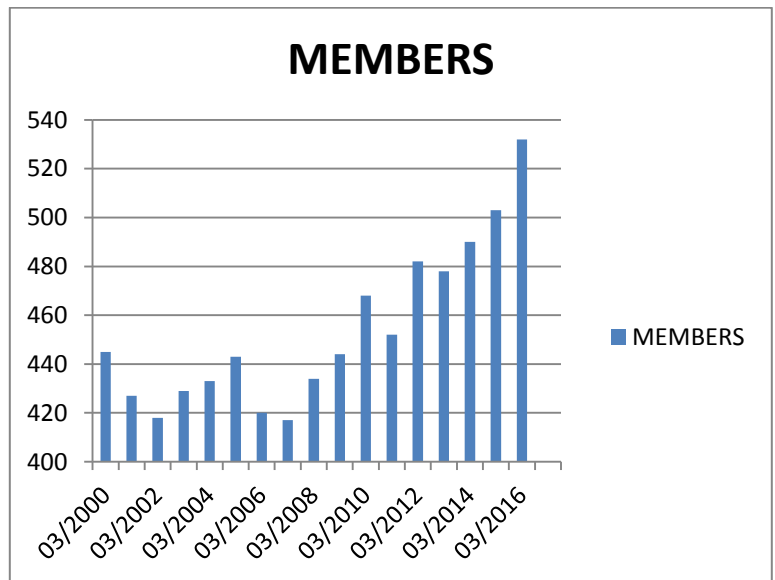
It was good to see a near record turnout attend our February 28 AGM. Comments raised about the Mentor Game will be discussed at our first board meeting. As a board, we would like to thank Chris Cookson from Nanaimo, our new D19 representative, for taking the time to attend the meeting.

I am very pleased to say our membership continues to grow. The recent spike is largely due to the efforts of our Membership Coordinator, Jill Stainforth, who spearheaded the D-light games last year.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone that our board minutes are available on the Unit website. It is not necessary to wait until the AGM to bring matters to our attention. If you have any comments, suggestions or complaints, please feel free to contact me at any time and I will ensure they are put on the agenda of the next board meeting. I am only a phone call or email away.

Leslie Wood,
President, Unit 431

250 727-6762 or leslie.wood@shaw.ca



UNIT 431

2015 AGM

We had 11 full tables playing the individual movement game at our AGM on February 28. Congratulations to Terry Foster, the overall winner with 69.44%. He is shown here being presented with the Victoria Duplicate Bridge Individual City Championship trophy (aka the Rose Bowl).



Ele Gibson, President and Terry Foster

New Life Masters

Congratulations to the 2015 Life Masters:
Nev Hircock, Ann Mazuruk, Reta Morrison and Jill Stainforth.

In Memoriam

Sadly, we lost both Dawn Hueston and John Moynan last year.

MASTERPOINT RACES FOR 2015

The Ace of Clubs is a certificate given to the players in each Unit, one per ranking level, who earn the most master points in club games during the calendar year. Only black points are counted; points earned in STaCs and other special games paying "pigmented" points don't count.

The Mini-McKenney medallions are given to the players in each Unit, one per ranking level, who earn the most total master points during the previous year. All points are counted: black, red, silver, gold, platinum (you should be so good) and on-line points

The awards are not mutually exclusive; it's possible to win either or both in the same year. The ranking level you compete in is the one within which you started the year.

UNIT 431 ACE OF CLUBS STANDINGS		UNIT 431 MINI MCKENNEY STANDINGS	
Point Range	Name	Point Range	Name
0-5	Denis Johnston	0-5	Gina Curran
5-20	Louise Smith	5-20	Susan Breiddal
20-50	Bob MacDonald	20-50	Bob MacDonald
50-100	Joanna Daam	50-100	Joanna Daam
100-200	Kathreen Este	100-200	JP Weber
200-300	Russ Etherington	200-300	Russ Page
300-500	Bob Cheeseman	300-500	Karen Wood
500-1000	David Reid	500-1000	David Reid
1000-2500	Tony Farr	1000-2500	Tony Farr
2500-5000	Bela G Hirczy	2500-5000	Ernie H Tradewell
5000-7500	Brian Fraser	5000-7500	Brian Fraser
7500-10,000	Michael J Roche	7500-10,000	Michael J Roche
Over 10,000	Duncan Smith	Over 10,000	Gerry W McCully

A RETROSPECTIVE LOOK AT UNIT 431 and BRIDGE in VICTORIA

By Leslie Wood

[The history of organized bridge in Canada is linked inextricably with the evolution of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL). After the invention of contract bridge in 1925, players in Canada organized themselves into regional entities which eventually coalesced with larger organizations centered south of the border. Eastern-Central and Western Canada followed different paths. The former was always aligned with the ACBL, even before that organization became predominant in North America. Western Canada, on the other hand, was originally a part of the Pacific Bridge League which amalgamated with the ACBL in 1956.] – Canadian Bridge Federation website

Our story begins in the early 50's when Dr. Jack Patterson along with Sam and Dora Duprau, were instrumental in starting the Victoria Bridge Club. A number of the original members of the club instilled their love of bridge in their children: Dr. and Mrs. Paul Smith (Duncan, Matt and Louise), Mr. and Mrs. McAvoy (Jim) and Mr. and Mrs. Dye (Doreen McOrmond).

In 1956 Dr. Patterson became the first President of what would become Unit 431. This was the same year the Pacific Bridge League amalgamated with the ACBL.

Roger Allen states, "My first recollection of bridge in Victoria in 1964 was playing in the basement of Paul Smith's house in Gordon Head. That was the forerunner of the Victoria Bridge Club which first started as a regular club on Douglas St. above Richardson's Securities near Broughton St."

For a very long time, the Unit rented space at 1012 Douglas Street and ran at least three games a week (Tuesday evening, Wednesday evening novice, Saturday evening). Other people ran private games and rented space from the Unit at various times (Eric Goodwin, Mike Champion, Don McLeod, Kal Kaleem, and later Matt Smith). Yet others ran games/clubs at separate premises through the sixties and seventies (e.g. Paul Smith with Duncan, Mike Champion).

The first Victoria Regional was held in 1963. A young Duncan Smith took a week off school to be a caddy. One of the biggest names in bridge, Oswald Jacoby, attended the tournament. To show how things have changed, at that time Regionals had smoking and non-smoking events.

The first Victoria Unit Constitution on file with the ACBL is dated 1965 with the last update in 1988. It was filed under the "Societies Act" (R.S.B.C. 1960, Chapter 362) "Constitution of the Victoria Unit of the American Contract Bridge League." An interesting read, it allowed that "Any person of good moral character and residing within the playing area of the unit is eligible for membership." The next Constitution was not filed with the ACBL until 2006. A copy can be found on the Unit website.

The original charter for Unit 431 was issued in 1971 by the ACBL.



Matt Smith began running games for the Unit on Douglas Street in 1980. The next year he took over Don McLeod's games in the same location. Eric Goodwin was also renting space there for his own games. By that time, the only open sanctioned games in town were being run in space leased by the Unit. Over the next few years Matt gradually took over Eric's games and the Unit decided to get out of the bridge club business (largely at the behest of John Keech). The club location moved to Johnson Street in 1983, at which time the Unit allowed Matt to put the lease in his name and the Victoria Duplicate Bridge

Club became a full time club completely separate from the Unit. Matt ran the club until the summer of 1994 when he was about to go full time with the ACBL. Frank Ayer took over at that point.

By the time Merv Adey purchased the club in 2000 it had become the Victoria Bridge Centre and was located on Head Street. Merv was the first to post game results on the web back in 2004. Merv also initiated a Rookie-Master game which ultimately became the Unit Mentor Game. Merv says, "When I took it over the Bridge Centre was struggling. Without Rita Beny and her Easybridge lesson programs... without a truly astonishing and forever memorable coming together of support from the bridge community at large, it would not have survived. I'll always be grateful on both counts." Bill and Debbie Wastle purchased the club in 2007 and moved it to its current location on Esquimalt Road in 2011.

The Unit has been busy over the past 16 years developing new special games and tournaments. Although we no longer run regular games, we still run 2 three-day tournaments each year (the Spring and Fall Sectionals). In addition, there are 2 one-day tournaments for players with fewer than 200 MP (the Ace of Hearts and the Ace of Spades). The first Ace of Hearts was held in 2000; the first Ace of Spades in 2011.

In addition to the four sectional tournaments, there is a monthly mentor game. The first mentor game was held in 2002 at the Victoria Bridge Centre. Although the Unit sponsored the first game, the VBC (Merv Adey) picked up most of the costs for the following year. The late Anna Boivin is credited with setting up the initial mentoring program.

The first New Member Game was held in 2001 at the Victoria Bridge Centre. The Unit supplied the food, but VBC sponsored the entries and donated the space. The game has been held annually since then as the Newcomer Game and last year was renamed the 99'er Rookie Game and is now being held twice a year. The latest initiative of the board is the D-light games started in January 2015. This program has proved to be a huge success. We anticipate having more exciting news later this year for the newer players.

There have been a number of changes over the years. Bidding boxes came into use in 1988. Smoking was gradually phased out at the clubs. The first attempt designated every second table a non-smoking table. Finally smoking was banned completely at all clubs and tournaments in Victoria. In the early days, although it was not overt, it was not uncommon for some players to carry a hidden flask.

Axie Millar has been playing in Victoria since the early 70's and says, "Zero Tolerance has improved the game. The bidding has improved over the years; the play, not so much. The attitude has generally improved, but there are still some thorns amongst the roses."

Roger Allen says, "The attitude at the table in the 60's was friendlier than today with far fewer director calls and if a defender pulled out two cards by mistake, declarer would tell him not to worry about it and put the other card back in his hand. There was less emphasis on winning and more emphasis on camaraderie. There is a possibility that I am viewing the 'old times' through rose tinted glasses but I don't really think so."

Visitors to Victoria are constantly saying how lucky we are to have so many opportunities to play bridge. In addition to the four open sanctioned bridge clubs which offer a total of 16 regularly scheduled games each week, there are also approximately 38 unsanctioned games offered at 28 different locations each week.

Unit 431 continues to grow. In 1990 we had 447 members – today we have 532. A lot has changed over the years, but much remains the same. As a Unit we thank the club owners and directors, past and present, for all they do to support the increased availability and enjoyment of duplicate bridge in Victoria. In particular we would like to thank the Victoria Bridge Centre for giving a home to the Unit's trophies and plaques and continuing the long standing relationship between the Unit and the VBC.



Current VBC owner, Bill Wastle, with the original Victoria Bridge Club brass plate

If you have any stories (funny, nostalgic, poignant, or romantic) to tell about bridge or bridge players please send them to leslie.wood@shaw.ca for publication in future editions of the *Bridge Buzz*.

Memories of Doug Hawkes

Doug Hawkes played bridge for over 50 years. He was President of Unit 431 twice – once from 1962-63 and again from 1983-84, over 20 years later! After his death, Mike Roberts wrote a tribute to him in the February 2005 *Bridge Buzz*. Part of the tribute read, “An example of how much he loved the game occurred about 10 years ago; he suffered a small stroke in the middle of the afternoon game, but refused to leave, and actually finished the entire session!He had a huge amount of respect for the game, but recognized that it is still a game, and he valued its social nature as much as its card play. Fortunately, he was a master at both.”

Outgoing President's Message

The AGM will be my final duty serving on the Unit Board. They have been most enjoyable years working with a dedicated and enthusiastic group of people. I have served on several boards previously but none has been as efficient as this one. Everyone pulled their weight and pitched in as required. But, it is time to move on and make way for new people with new ideas.

We have achieved many things during these years. We introduced a second under 200 MP Sectional - the Ace of Spades; a second Rookie game in the Fall; D-light - an introduction to duplicate bridge; the Dawn

Hueston Memorial Award for the player who starts the year with under 20 points; bought Bridgemates for use in the clubs and at tournaments; introduced pre-duplicated boards at tournaments; and found a venue in the Mary Winspear Centre that suits us well for our Sectionals. There have also been improvements in the procedures with which we operate. Thank you to all the other Board members I have served with and good luck to all the incoming new members. May they enjoy the experience as much as I did.

Ele Gibson

Meet the New Board Members:

Nancy Adrian – Member at Large: Nancy has been playing bridge for fifteen years. She loves bicycle riding, classical guitar, reading and bridge (most of the time).

Mike Black – Member at Large: Mike is an Electrical Engineer who spent 35+ years in the computer systems business before retiring in Victoria in 2002. He grew up in Regina, worked in the oil patch in Calgary for 22 years during which his family spent 3 years in North Africa (Algeria). They moved to Victoria in '92 where he worked with BC Systems and a couple of Ministries before retiring in 2002. They have two sons, one in Victoria the other in Berkeley, CA and two grandchildren.

Mike joined the unit in 2001 and in addition to bridge he spends his time gardening, golfing, woodworking and from time to time dabbles at painting.

Barb Boisvert – Tournament Coordinator: Barb retired from a 36 year career as charge nurse in operating room nursing. She joined Unit 431 three years ago when she took up bridge and golf....both daunting tasks. She loves spending time with her granddaughter, travelling, power walking, skiing and curling.

Gloria Dorrance – Awards Coordinator: Gloria was a teacher by profession specializing in the teaching of reading but was mostly a stay-at-home mom. She moved to Victoria in 1991 with her late husband and daughter for a welcome relief from Montreal winters. Learning to play bridge continues to be challenging.

The full list of the new Executive can be found on our website at <http://bridgevictoria.ca/governance/board/>

and will be in the 2016 telephone directory coming soon to a club near you.

Membership Report

At the AGM, I was able to report a growth in our membership of 34 members since this time last year. Sixty per cent of that growth, or 22 members, are in the under 50 MP categories. Most of these new members have connected with duplicate through D-light.

We are contacting the weekly rubber bridge games played around the city at rec centres and such and letting them have our Unit brochure and information about D-light. There are over 40 weekly games at 28 venues throughout the city.

With the number of new players we are encountering in all our games, there is ever more reason to "Say hello with a name tag." I can order them for you with a pin or magnet back for \$8.50. Thanks for wearing them, even you players who "everyone knows."

Jill Stainforth
Membership Coordinator
jstainforth@yahoo.ca, 250-686-4747

Ace of Hearts



The Ace of Hearts tournament was great fun for all thanks to the efforts of Peggy Pepper and Judy Stewart, and of course, Director Merv Adey. The Swiss Team winners were Heather Cozens, Tom Halford, Brenda George and Lorne Bulmer shown above.

Jon Punnett and Bob MacDonald were the overall winners of the Margaret Hinton Memorial Trophy for the second year in a row.

D-light One Year On

After trying out various clubs and times for our introduction to duplicate, D-light games, we have now settled into a weekly game on Friday mornings at Capital City Bridge Club.

About 80 people have tried D-light and most mornings we have at least five tables of D-light players. Ewa runs the game as a side section to her Open game and our D-light players are earning ACBL master points. As soon as both partners have reached 5 MPs, they graduate to regular duplicate.

I've heard many compliments about the game as it gives people a chance to both try duplicate and breathe. They play fewer than 20 boards in a very friendly and supportive atmosphere. Hopefully they'll meet the same sweetness when they get into regular games... One player, Gina Curran, recently said about it, "D-light opened up a whole new world of bridge - it was like falling down the rabbit hole and discovering there was another way to breathe. Duplicate is so totally fun -- now I can't get enough."

Games are held at the Lakehill Lawn Bowling clubhouse, 3930 Lasalle Street, parking at the top of Prestwood Drive. Registration is from 8:45 am on Fridays and play starts at 9:15 after a little coaching about duplicate.

Jill Stainforth

DUNCAN SAYS

Leading the Ace

When we lead Ace from Ace King, this applies to only the opening lead. Anytime after trick one, the King is the correct card to lead, holding AKx (xx etc.). Partner will encourage holding the Queen. Leading the Ace (after trick one) denies the King. In this situation, partner will encourage when holding the King.

BIG GAMES

76.19%	Natalie Williams and David Simon	Feb. 18 VBC
73.61%	Ernie Tradewell and Nicole Dupuis	Jan. 13, VBC
71.60%	Ron Smith and Duncan Smith	Jan. 12, VBC
71.50%	Steve Konarzewski and Jim Nesbitt	Jan. 12, Monterey
71.38%	Doug Fraser and Karen Billett	Jan. 1, VBC
71.15%	Axie Millar and Erie Tradewell	Feb. 18, IBC
70.67%	Tom Coward and Doug Scott	Feb. 4, Capital City
70.35%	Harry Sadd and Hans Adloch	Jan. 19, IBC
70.25%	Kirk Homis and Virginia Youens	Dec. 5, Unit Christmas Party
70.14%	Jon Gage and Bob Cheeseman	Dec. 2, VBC
70.12%	Deb Carnes and David Reid	Feb. 6, Monterey
70.05%	Ev Goedhart and Bryan Grover	Jan. 9, Monterey
70.00%	Eddie Crews and Holly Boudreau	Dec. 11, Capital City

CLUB CORNER

Capital City

Capital City Bridge Club held a well attended Canada-wide STAC, and an impressive number of our players placed across Canada. Congratulations to all of them.

As a result of requests coming from participants, D-light games are now being held every Friday.

Ewa Zwicky

Island Bridge Club

Hello fellow bridge players, I'd like to thank you all for your continued support of Island Bridge Club and I'd like to remind you all that I am always open to feedback concerning club matters by email or by phone. First off, I'd like to congratulate the highest percentage games from each of the three days that the club ran Can-Wide STaC games. Those pairs were: Danielle Goulet and David Reid who placed 2nd in B across Canada with a 64.42 % game; Doug Scott and Tom Coward who placed fourth in A overall on Wednesday morning with a 63.66 % game; and Ernie Tradewell and Axie Millar who won the Thursday afternoon game across the country with a 71.15 % game. Many other players fared well in the overall categories with full details available on the ACBL tournament page under the STaC category.

There are a few events coming up in the next quarter which I'd like to remind you about. I will be holding a St. Patrick's week Club Championship at St. Aidan's on March 14, 16, and 17th. The Thursday game will start at 12:15 pm but players are encouraged to come early and bring a dish to share. Come out for extra masterpoints at no extra cost and show off your best green attire on Thursday along with your favourite potluck dish.



The April team game falls on the 14th and will be a Charity game in support of the CBF Fund. Stay tuned to the website for news on a potential May STaC and the grassroots North American Open Pair qualifiers coming in the summer.

Lastly, I'd like to note that I use a new layout for results and would welcome any feedback concerning the layout in particular or the website in general. Thank you all for your support and I'll see you at the table.

Roy Sadd

Monterey Bridge Club

Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STaCs) provide bridge players with the opportunity to win Silver Points at the club.

The January Canada-Wide STaC week was a great success. The summary of results for the Victoria players can be found at [Monterey Bridge Club Competitions](#).



The next STaC games at Monterey will be on the following dates: Tuesday afternoon May 3rd, Saturday afternoon May 7th, Tuesday afternoon June 7th and Saturday afternoon June 11th, 2016.

The NAP's (North American Pairs) will take place in June, July and August. The 2015 Condition of Contest Rules are available on the [Monterey Bridge Club site](#). The 2015 NAP Finals will be held in March at the Reno Nationals. Monterey and Island Bridge Clubs are planning to offer 2016 NAP's at the club level in June, July and August.

Players will soon benefit from a new seating plan in the Bridge room. We will accommodate 25 tables comfortably.

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. Tuesday players come early to have lunch before the game.

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

Keep calm and bridge on,

Nicole Dupuis

www.bridgewebs.com/monterey

Victoria Bridge Centre

*****NEW***** The Victoria Bridge Centre has now added a Wednesday afternoon Open game, directed by Ele Gibson, to its weekly schedule. Game time is 12:15 pm and regular game fees apply.

Owner-operator Bill Wastle and the Club's other knowledgeable directors: Duncan Smith, Debbie Wastle, Mike Ainsley, Ele Gibson, and Merv Adey 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 five 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!

Please note: New records are being set at VBC for attendance! Please arrive 15 minutes before the Tuesday and Friday games to ensure a table. Allow time for parking. There are more spots **behind** A&W.

Visit our website at:

<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.

Duncan Team Games

March 26

April 23

May 28

June 25

VBC Mentor Game:

March 20

April 17

May 22

June 12

So, What is a WEB Movement Anyway?

By Debbie Wastle

The Victoria Bridge Centre has now committed to WEB movements on Tuesday and Friday afternoons, and at other games as numbers warrant. Many people find this confusing. It may seem unusual, but there is a good reason for this movement.

WEB movements are true to the spirit of duplicate bridge: comparing your scores against as many other players as possible, who have played the same hands as you.

The WEB is a perfect duplicate movement, where every player plays every board. Note that you may not necessarily play every pair, but you will always play all the available boards. The scoring is the best possible: if there are 16 tables, the TOP (see *TOP* below) on each board is 15, if there are 12 tables, the TOP is 11 etc.

How many times have you gone to dinner or the bar after a session with a group of players and wanted to discuss the boards? You compare Boards 1, 2, 3, then one pair in your group didn't play the next set of boards, so you skip them and soon enough there is a set that another pair didn't play – it's a bit frustrating. That will never happen with a WEB movement. Also, we all know that some boards are boringly average across the field while others are wildly bid with many options in the play and defence. If you play only some of the available boards, the boards you missed can and do affect your score one way or the other. The WEB movement is fairer, since you are scored against every available board in play, the wild and the boring.

A WEB movement is based on multiple GROUPS within a section, each with its own set of identically duplicated boards. E/W pairs move normally around the room except that there is never a SKIP in a WEB movement. The mechanics are a bit messy (even for the director!) but ultimately every pair plays every board.

The worst movement is a 12-table Mitchell, where there are 36 boards in play and each pair plays only 27 – simple subtraction tells us that there are 9 boards that each player did not play. This makes for a poor duplicate movement: a TOP of only 8 on a 12-table movement. If it were a WEB movement, there would be 27 boards in play, in each GROUP, and a TOP of 11.

So, WEB movements have been introduced at the Victoria Bridge Centre to increase equity and player enjoyment. Drop by and see how it works. It's the way of the future.

**TOP* How is a top on a board calculated and why is it important? Each pair who played the same board in the same direction gets one matchpoint for every pair whose score is lower, half a matchpoint for each tie, and no matchpoints for each pair whose score is higher. If the board is played 12 times, as in a 12-table WEB movement, the TOP is 11, because you are one of those 12 pairs, so there are 11 pairs against whom you are scored. If you beat all 11 pairs you will get a top board: 11 matchpoints. If that same board is played only 9 times, as in a 12-table Mitchell movement, there are only 8 pairs against whom your score is compared, therefore the TOP on each board is only 8. The more pairs who play the same board, the more fair the score will be across the field.*

MISCELLANEOUS

Sheila Macdougall Memorial Mentor Game



David Reid, Maureen Trappe, Russ Etherington, Joanna Daam, Jill Stainforth, Mike Ainsley (centre front)

It was quite an exciting finish to the Sheila J. Macdougall Memorial Mentor game on December 13th. Joanna Daam and Jill Stainforth tied Maureen Trappe and David Reid. A mere 1.50 matchpoints back was Louise Edwards with Harry Sadd. The winning score was 58.04% Even our defending champion, Russ Etherington, now a mentor with Kathreen Este were close. They were another 3.5 matchpoints back. He presented this year's award to the new champions and is also featured in the photo with this year's winners.

My main goal is that everyone is having fun and this seemed to be the case. It is hard to miss Harry's laugh.

I hope everyone is benefitting from their mentor and the lessons. If you have a question send it on to me and I will give an answer.

Mike Ainsley

Question to Panel

When you have a minimum hand, 4/4 in the minors, and partner answers with your three card major, do you bid 1NT hoping they will use New Minor Forcing, do you support the major with only three cards or should you bid your 4 card club suit? Do you have any guidelines to determine the best action?

Example hand:

Qx J32 KQxx KQxx

Bidding:

1D – P – 1H – P – ?

Merv Adey

I think the choice is actually between 1N and a raise to 2H. I would not consider 2C.

On your sample hand, the Qx of spades argues for 1N, as does the silence of the opponents.

A couple of things are likely. 1) Given no spade overcall or double, partner likely has some help in spades. 2) Partner has a decent responding hand (also suggested by ops silence)

If I put my hand in the well defined box of 12-14 balanced points, partner will make an informed decision on where to play

Karen Billett

Make the bid that best describes your hand. In this case, 1NT does that. You don't guarantee a stopper in all unbid suits. It has nothing to do with what partner might next do. If you are more distributional, raising partner's suit with only three is often the best alternative.

Brian Fraser

I always rebid 1NT with a flat minimum with either 2 or 3 card support for partners major. Unless over 1H I have 4 spades, then I bid 1S. In the example you show I rebid 1NT.

Delma Murray

I will bid 1 NT to show my balanced hand with fewer than 4 hearts, fewer than 4 spades, and not enough points to open 1NT. Since I did not support the major, partner will know for certain that I have 4 diamonds.

Two clubs would show an unbalanced hand and 2 hearts would show 4 hearts.

Duncan Smith

My preference is to rebid 1NT. Not a fan of 2H, but would choose that over 2C. 1NT does the best job of getting the general nature of the hand across. To bid 1D then 2C with 4-4 is inviting trouble. A diamond preference (not support) is unwelcomed, as we need a much better hand to correct to 2H.

Ernie Tradewell

I rebid 1NT. If you are 4-1-4-4 then 2clubs. Make this 12 points I would pass and not open (Take away heart J). If this hand was xx Jxx KQJx KQJx you might bid two clubs but you might find partner on a different page – he will think you have an unbalanced hand.

Debbie Wastle

1NT describes the shape and strength. Any other bid distorts my hand. If partner is also weak, we are at the one level and should be OK. If partner is stronger, s/he cannot expect me to have everything covered, and will try to bid accordingly. You cannot always cover all your bases; mostly you have to show your hand as best as you can knowing that partner is on your side. Often you have to take a bit of a gamble. If we bid 3NT without a spade stopper, so be it. Better to show your hand as well as you can than distort your hand to show a flaw that the opponents are sure to exploit.

I strongly recommend to analyze and bid each hand on its own merit and not to bid by rote. I might consider raising with 3 if they are very good, and the other major is very bad. I dislike rebidding a 4-card club suit (on the given parameters) even more than raising a major with 3-card support, but I try not to summarily rule out anything.

Ewa Zwicky

My partner's bid of 1H tells me nothing about their hand other than they have 4 hearts and a minimum of 6 high card points (could be 5 on occasion). Therefore, I would describe my hand by bidding 2C and wait for mere information from them. Partner's hand could be 6 or could be 16 points with 4 or 6 or 7 hearts. Partner has many options for rebids and I'm not going to mastermind the hand at this point. Bidding 2C does not deny the fact that I could have 3 hearts. My responsibility is to describe my hand and partner, i.e. I have a minimum hand with strength in the minors and with a 2C bid I will not have mischaracterized my hand.

And the final word from Mike Lawrence:

This is a frequent question which always rubs against certain principles. With the hand you give, I would either rebid 1NT or 2H. The heart support is marginal and the high card points are pretty crummy, not really worth the 13 points you view them as.

The reason for 1NT is this.

- It describes your hand almost perfectly. 12-14 balanced points.
- If you rebid 2C, you imply that you have nine (or ten cards) in the minors and your point count is very wide. You could have 11 to 16 high card points. (Really. But that's a different story)
- Now, about 1NT rebid. No one has bid spades so there is a hint that partner has a few spades. Your Qx, while not a real stopper, will become one if your partner has any honor and three cards in spades. A small wish.
- The 1NT bid makes it easier on your partner than any other rebid because it is so well defined.
- So, my strong tendency is to rebid 1NT if it looks even remotely reasonable. Mind you, I'm talking about hands where the opponents haven't bid.
- In my book on Two Over One bidding, and in other places as well, I advocate that you raise partner's major with three cards IF other bids don't feel too hot

Matt Smith – Bridge Player and Tournament Director

By Karen Billett



Matt Smith

The Smith family have been important to bridge in Victoria for 50 years. When Matt was five, the family moved to Victoria from Parksville so that his father could teach math at the University of Victoria. Matt's mother continued teaching part-time at St. Margaret's School while raising her seven children (Matt is the fifth child). Matt's father and mother both played bridge and Matt's father and older brother, Duncan, began to run a part-time bridge club on Gladstone Avenue in 1969. Two years later, Matt was providing janitorial services to the club for spending money. In those days, almost everyone smoked during the game and anyone that complained about the acrid air was considered a wimp. One of Matt's jobs was to clean the ashtray at each table.

At fourteen, Matt was invited by Duncan to try a game of duplicate bridge. In the car on the way to the game, Duncan quickly described how the bidding and play worked. They actually scored just under average that game. Matt began taking bridge lessons from his father and soon played regularly.

In June of 1973, at 16 years of age, Matt became a Certified Bridge Director. He began running a Monday night novice game where he was paid \$8.00 per session! At the time, he thought this was pretty good money. Since Duncan was running the Saturday night Unit game, Matt was soon helping with that. Matt worked briefly for the provincial government, but continued directing. He then started going to university, but in 1981 when he took over directing two more games, he had to make a choice and didn't complete his degree.

In 1983, Matt directed at his first tournament and continued to be encouraged by top directors of the time (e.g. Phil Wood, now deceased). Matt continued with his own bridge club until 1995. After giving up the club, he began directing at more bridge tournaments. His wife, Vicky, initially continued working in Victoria, but when Matt became a full-time tournament director, Vicky stopped her work to travel with Matt. It is difficult to maintain a home life when so much of your time is spent in hotels.

In 2002, Matt was recognized by the ACBL for his service and was assigned the position of Field Supervisor for three districts (18, 19 & 20). Now he had other duties: supervising other tournament directors, training, hiring and staffing tournaments. (We players go to tournaments and never consider the amount of organization required for us to have a well-run tournament.) In 2015, Matt's districts were reorganized and now he has responsibility for Western Canada and Hawaii. Nice work, Matt, to include Hawaii!

Recently, as the director with the overall responsibility for both prestigious events, the Spingold and Vanderbilt, Matt oversaw the beginning of the "Cheating Scandal" that has rocked the bridge world. His biggest concern is seeing how people use public media to express their opinions. The result is that players' reputations are besmirched before irregularities have been proven. He suggests that the proper thing to do is to notify bridge authorities if you have suspicions and then be quiet.

Can you imagine how many people's names Matt is expected to remember? And if he doesn't get it right, people are offended. Matt enjoys the various people he meets and the camaraderie of the tournament directors. He says that when he first started directing, the most valuable attribute of a director was being able to quickly "add a sheet" of bridge scores so that

people could find out how they did. Now that we have machines for such mechanical work, a bridge director's most important skill is the ability to work with people, something at which Matt excels. Directing has become more complicated because of such scoring systems and all the rules of the game.

Matt works 320 bridge sessions per year. When he isn't travelling, he spends a lot of his time doing the dreaded administrative work. He feels that the future of bridge continues to be bright with more people returning to bridge in their older years. In other parts of the world, huge numbers of young players are excelling e.g. China, Turkey and Europe.

Victoria should be proud to call Matt Smith our own. He is renowned in the ACBL for his even temperament, quick wit and organizational skills. Matt still loves to play bridge when he can, especially with his older brother, Duncan.

Bridge Bust in Thailand

By Mike Dorn Wiss

I have an aversion to winters in non-tropical zones, and partly for that reason spend Canadian winters in Thailand where snow and ice is rather easy to avoid. My reasoning goes much further of course, with such examples as my love of Thai food, the excellent medical and dental facilities, a low cost of living relative to Canuckleville (where I am a trifle impecunious) and of course beautiful ladies who do not mind that I am old, fat and bald. To them a Buddha belly is an attractive physical characteristic. Go figure.

But ironically, it was this last feature that luckily prevented me from getting busted – not for weed as most of you who know me might legitimately presume – but for happening *not* to be playing bridge on a day when no fewer than fifty local cops and a dozen military police raided an afternoon club game in Pattaya! No kidding.

A few of you who subscribe to the excellent bridge site www.bridgewinners.com are already aware of this insane event, one which made international headlines. The rest of you may read all about it at:

<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/fifty-thai-police-raid-bridge-game-in-pattaya/>

I was going to have a game with Jeremy Watson, who runs the Pattaya game, but I had a rare opportunity for dms and a flick with a lovely lady who has little time for dates outside her busy work and family schedule. Hmm...bridge or "boom-boom". What to do, what to do? The choice wasn't hard to make. Jeremy would have to wait to look at my aging countenance across the table. I assumed he would be less disappointed than would I had I played. Hell, I was sure of it, and now doubly so!

So Jeremy got busted, and I didn't. An 84 year old Dutch woman got busted, and I didn't. A few dozen bridge players got busted, and I didn't. Colour me lucky. Considering my dinner date, colour me *very* lucky. All of them got tossed in the local Monkey House for over twelve hours, well into the wee hours of the morning, until they were allowed to post bail. I won't reiterate all the entertaining and amusing happenings here, as the link to Bridgewinners will supply all the details and followups to date.

I had a chat with Jeremy after the fact of course. Since I am returning to Victoria in but four weeks from now – currently the end of February as I write - it is apparent we will have to put our game on hold until I return to the Land of Smiles in October. The bridge fiasco will not be resolved anytime soon, and all local bridge games – including those of a second club which was not busted – have been canceled until the authorities give the green light to resume play. Since somewhere along the line a few Thai official idiots in positions of power are going to "lose face" – an anathema to a Thai – this process will likely take months to be resolved.

I am told, however, that rubber games liberally fuelled by the grape are still occurring. Not only do the Thai officials not know anything about the game, they do not understand the players either, nor their addiction to the pleasures of the pasteboard.

But we know, don't we? ☺

Zero Tolerance Policy

The ultimate purpose of the Z-T policy is to create a much more pleasant atmosphere at the bridge table and to eradicate unacceptable behavior in order to make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all.

Below are some examples of commendable behavior, which, while not required, will significantly contribute to the improved atmosphere:

- Being a good 'host' or 'guest' at the table.
- Greeting others in a friendly manner.
- Praising the bidding and/or play of the opponents.
- Having two clearly completed convention cards readily available to the opponents. (This one is a regulation, not just a nicety.)

The following are examples of behavior that will not be tolerated:

- Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, threats or violence.
- Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding.
- Constant and gratuitous lessons and analyses at the table.
- Loud and disruptive arguing with a director's ruling.

If a player at the table behaves in an unacceptable manner, the director should be called immediately. Annoying behavior, embarrassing remarks, or any other conduct which might interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited by Law 74A. Law 91A gives the director the authority to assess disciplinary penalties.

Lessons

Bridge Classes with Delma Murray

Spring and Summer 2016

ACBL Accredited 4 Star Bridge Teacher & Director -- Better Bridge Accredited Teacher - American Bridge Teachers Association Professional Member

In Oak Bay at Monterey Centre - 1442 Monterey Ave.

Register in person or by phone at 250 370 7300 after April 1st

Bidding Brushup	A review of bidding in the Standard American System, including reverses, cue bid limit raises, overcalls, takeout doubles, and dealing with interference over Stayman	4 Wednesdays 9:15 to 11:45 am	May 11 - Jun 1
How to Play a Hand Like an Expert	An advanced course in play of the hand planning and techniques including how to avoid the dangerous opponent, counting, and practice setting up and executing end plays. This class has been extended to 5 sessions to allow more time to practice	5 Tuesdays 9:15 to 11:45 am	May 10 - Jun 7
Two Over One Game Forcing	Intensive advanced course for players who are comfortable with the Standard American bidding system and want to upgrade their game. This modern system is used by expert players.	One day 9:15 am to 3:15 pm	Wednesday July 13
Bidding Brushup	A review of bidding in the Standard American System, including reverses, cue bid limit raises, overcalls, takeout doubles, and dealing with interference over Stayman	4 Mornings Mon, Tue, Wed, Thur 9:15 to 11:45 am	Aug 13 - Aug 18

Private classes are also available

For further information contact Delma Murray at 250 388-9784, email delmabridge@live.ca or search for Delma Murray Bridge Teacher on Facebook and click Like to get updates in your news feed.

DIRECTOR PLEASE

We have two new directors in town. Jordan Tessarolo is our newest club director. He got his baptism under fire at the January 17 Unit Mentor Game. Meanwhile Paul O'Brien has been hired by the ACBL as a Tournament Director.

Wireless Scoring Protocols

For ACBL tournaments the policy is that the "traveler scores" or "percentages" functions of the electronic scoring be turned off. It is our opinion that seeing scores from other participants gives the players knowledge of how they're doing and may impact their choices during later rounds. This may lead to "shooting" by out of contention pairs which begins to skew the legitimate results on boards. ACBL maintains that a player should only have their own estimation

based upon their own experience in determining how they're doing for a given session.

Having the "traveler results" function on leads to other problems as well: slower play as players feel the need to discuss all those other results; Unauthorized Information passed around the room as some player announces a strange outcome or contract; The need to adjust scores and assign penalties when a table plays the boards out of order and enters the second board in the first slot and sees results from other tables for a board not yet played.

Clubs, however, may set their own policy as to the use of these functions, and ACBL would not interfere in cases of STaCs unless the Regulating Authority asked that it be added to the conditions of contest for that specific STaC.

From ACBL website

UPCOMING EVENTS 2016

Spring Sectional

April 1-3, 2016 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)
Mary Winspear Centre
2243 Beacon Ave West, Sidney



Last Fall we loved the location and will be back in Sidney next month for the Spring Sectional.

Please, oh please, bring baked goods and snacks for the players: you'll get a free coffee for every offering.

Play starts on Friday at 1:00 pm but an hour earlier on Saturday, at noon.

The evening sessions also start at different times: 7:00 pm on Friday and 6:00 pm on Saturday.

See the flyer on the Unit 431 website (bridgevictoria.ca) under Tournament and Events or on the ACBL website (acbl.org) under Calendar.

Speakers are Sandra Fraser on Friday at 6:20 pm and Duncan Smith on Saturday at 5:20 pm.

For partnerships, please contact Peggy Pepper at 250-727-6228 or pegpepper@shaw.ca.

Pairs games are on offer on Friday and Saturday. Included are Open pairs in single- and two-session events and single 199er and Newcomer (0-5 MPs) pair events. On Sunday, all play is Swiss Teams: a double Open session and two single sessions for 0-300 players.

Hope to see you there.

Jill Stainforth
Tournament Chair
jstainforth@yahoo.ca, 250-686-4747

The 99'er Rookie Game

Be sure to mark your calendars:

1:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 22, 2016

Victoria Bridge Centre, 880D Esquimalt Road

Players with fewer than 100 masterpoints are invited to join us for a fun, relaxed afternoon of bridge. Victoria Unit 431 of the ACBL sponsors this special game to welcome all new members to Victoria.

- ACBL members (or members who join at the door) pay only \$2.00; (Non-ACBL players pay \$8.00)
- Free coffee and special treats!
- Come alone or with a partner – partners are guaranteed

For more information, contact Leslie Wood (250) 727-6762 or leslie.wood@shaw.ca.



2017 Victoria Regional Bridge Tournament

April 17-23, 2017

*****New Venue: Victoria Conference Centre*****

You will be pleased to hear that our venue for the 2017 and 2019 Regional Bridge Tournament is the Victoria Conference Centre in beautiful downtown Victoria.

- Parking: 250 parking spots available on site, on a first-come first-served basis, for \$5 per day, with in-and-out privileges.
- Refreshments: We are working to find reasonably priced coffee and snacks and will have more info in the future.

Currently the Regional Committee consists of Chris Cookson, D19 Liaison; Gail Richardson, Treasurer; Peg Pepper, Secretary; Alison Campbell, Partnership; Jill Stainforth, Publicity and me as Chair. Two more committee members (Caddie Master and Hospitality) are needed, so if you are interested, please let me know.

Please help spread the word that the 2017 Regional is back in beautiful downtown Victoria, and that there is nowhere finer than spring time in Victoria. Please take some flyers with you if you travel to tournaments.

Together we can make Victoria a destination regional once again.

Jan Galenza, Chair
Victoria Regional Bridge Tournament
jangalenza@shaw.ca
250-385-7597

Calendar

April 1 – 3	Spring Sectional, Mary Winspear Centre
April 10	Unit 431 Mentor Game, VBC
April 29 – May 1	Qualicum Sectional
May 15	Unit 431 Mentor Game, VBC
May 22	99'er Rookie Game, VBC
May 20 – 23	New Westminster Sectional
June 5	Unit 431 Mentor Game, VBC
June 13 – 19	Penticton Regional

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

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ACBLUnit431/>

