

The Bridge Buzz



ACBL Unit 431 Newsletter



December 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As another year draws to a close, it gives us time to reflect on the past year and look forward to what lies ahead. We had a busy and successful year with the Ace of Hearts, Ace of Spades, two Rookie games and the Spring and Fall sectionals. Next year we will be replacing one of the Rookie Games with the Ace of Diamonds. This is a new sectional tournament restricted to players with fewer than 100 masterpoints. Mark your calendars for June 24 – Silver points awarded.

Sadly we have lost a number of our members this year, most recently Marie Greeniaus, Bette Andreas and Bela Hirczy, reminding us that life is short and unpredictable. Don't wait until tomorrow to ask someone to play, do it now, whether it is someone new or maybe a former partner.

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for February 26. There is a brief meeting (free) followed by an individual movement bridge game for only \$5.00. After the game the Unit provides free pizza for all the players. Not only is this a fun afternoon and the only opportunity to play an individual movement game, but it is the time you get to elect your new board members. The nominating committee is seeking interested members to sit on the 2017 Board of Directors. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the meeting. I urge you to get involved. Even if you do not have the time to commit to a two year term, there are always opportunities to volunteer at various functions whether it be to set up for a sectional, act as a standby, be on a phone committee, etc. Volunteering at the events gives you an opportunity to get to know your fellow bridge players better and strengthens the Unit.

As the year ends I would be remiss in not thanking all the people who have contributed to the Bridge Buzz over the past five years. I would particularly like to thank Duncan Smith who has so willingly shared his expertise with a "tip" each edition; Karen Billett who has spent countless hours interviewing subjects and writing the player profiles; all the members of the 'expert panel' who have shared their thoughts on different problems; and, of course to the club owners for their support.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow board members for their support over the past year. I just hope everyone appreciates the tremendous amount of work they do.

On behalf of Unit 431 I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season and all the best for 2017.

Leslie Wood
President, Unit 431

BIG GAMES

Victory at Seaside



Congratulations to David Reid, Ele Gibson, Danielle Goulet and Tony Farr winning over 60 points at the Seaside Regional. They won two out of 3 knock outs and won their bracket of the Swiss teams.

Recent Big Games

78.19%	Daniel Lyder and Duncan Smith	Nov. 11, VBC
76.50%	Susan Breiddal and Jill Plasteras	Sep. 22, VBC
76.39%	Van Buchanan and Donald Berry	Sep. 15, Capital City
74.31%	John Miller and Robert Mackinnon	Nov. 24, IBC
72.60%	Doug Drew and Andrea Miller	Oct. 13, Capital City
72.27%	Doug Fraser and Karen Turner	Sep. 27, VBC
71.79%	Kaye Farmer and Beth Brathwaite	Sep. 6, Monterey
71.33%	Ian Kimmerly and Denis Hanson	Oct. 25, Monterey
71.25%	Alison Campbell and Coreen Hamilton	Sep. 24 VBC
70.83%	Mark Raymond and Joyce Scott	Sep. 13, VBC

The top three games of the past year were: Daniel Lyder and Duncan Smith with 78.19% last month, Susan Breiddal and Jill Plasteras with 76.50% in September and Van Buchanan and Donald Berry with 76.39% also in September.

Duncan Smith made the "Big Games" list four times over the past year. Brian Fraser, Doug Fraser, Ernie Tradewell and Ewa Zwicky each made the list three times.

DISTRICT 19 UPDATE

Greetings and Happy Holidays to all. If you didn't get a chance to get to the Whistler Regional, I have good news. Recently the ACBL awarded our District a 5th annual Regional and it looks like it will be in Whistler in early November on an annual basis. Although this will follow on the heels of the existing Eastern Washington Regional (most recently held in Leavenworth last year), there is not a lot of crossover between the two areas of our region. That is to say that not a lot of players from the coast attend the eastern Washington Regionals and vice versa so the impact on existing tournaments should be minimal. This means we will have THREE Regionals per year in

BC. With the disparity in the dollar this is indeed good news.

The playing site in Whistler is fabulous and because it is low season, between the ski opening and the summer holidays, room rates are quite reasonable. Watch this column for further news.

The NAP (North American Pairs) and GNT (Grand National Teams) District qualifiers continue to grow and this year the district will spend over \$8,000 in team and pair awards to see our local players play at the NABCs. We have been looking at more ways to increase attendance including having the Unit finals held remotely at several locations simultaneously. There are still some hoops to jump through but we want to create more opportunities for those from further afield to play in the qualifying events. I should have more word on this for your next newsletter.

Of course the biggest event for OUR corner of the District is the April 17-23 Regional to be held in Victoria at the convention centre. Jan Galenza and her team have been working hard to create an event that will be memorable for all. Please do your part and spread the word. We need to see lots of tables in play if we want to continue to hold this event downtown.

I'd like to close with a note of support and thanks to your local club operators. All of our local clubs have faced challenges with the disparity in the dollar and all sanction fees being in US funds. Most have had to increase their table fees. The district board feels very strongly that the **clubs are the backbone of the entire league** and is lobbying hard for some form of relief. In the meantime please support your local club and if a fee increase has occurred or is around the corner understand it is the last resort for many clubs and is needed for continued operation. A giant thank you to all club operators for all they do to promote this game we all love

See you at the tables

Chris Cookson
D19 Liaison for Units 429 and 431
chriscookson@shaw.ca

DUNCAN SAYS

Asking for Kings

Your hand: Kxx Axx xx KQJ10x

Bidding: Over 5NT you can bid 7NT. You can count at least 6 Spades, a Heart, a Diamond, & 5 Club tricks. The reason we are able to make this bid is as follows. When 4NT is followed by 5NT, the 5NT bidder guarantees the partnership holds all of the key cards & the trump Queen (Or, all 4 Aces if playing straight Blackwood). This makes it wrong to ask for Kings if missing an Ace or a Key Card. Therefore, asking for Kings (Missing an Ace or Key Card) to try for 6NT instead of 6 of a suit, is not an option.

CLUB CORNER

Capital City Bridge Club

This year has been very good to CCBC. I want to thank all the players who support my club. I especially want to thank the large number of volunteers who cheerfully and efficiently help with the set up and take down of tables and chairs. They work so quickly that often, by the time I finish my computer work after the game, the place is clean and empty and I have not had a chance to say thank you. So now I want to say how much I appreciate your help, support and friendship, which has been expressed in so many ways. You bring a good energy to the club and make it a great place to be.

Our Christmas games will be held Wednesday, 21st, Thursday, 22nd and Friday, 23rd December. At the Christmas games we have free refreshments, door prizes and club championship masterpoint awards. Hope you can come and enjoy some Christmas fun. The club will be open between Christmas and New Year, with our regular scheduled games.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Ewa Zwicky

Island Bridge Club

As I'm preparing to go off on my two week honeymoon to Los Angeles, I just wanted to wish you the best this holiday season and to let you know what's going on at Island Bridge Club over the holidays and into the New Year.

I will be away from December 1st to December 18th and Nicole Dupuis will be directing in my absence. Her email address is benicha@gmail.com if you need to contact her about partners or seat reservations. The monthly team game will be the usual second Thursday of the month which is December 8th this month starting at 12:15 pm. Please let Nicole know if you need a partner or a team.

Island Bridge Club will be open during the holidays with a special year-end potluck game on Boxing day with food starting at 11:30 am and bridge starting at 12:15 pm as usual. Starting in January, I will be splitting the Monday game into an Open section and NLM section on a trial basis. NLM players can play in either section and the Open section will receive full masterpoint rewards based on the total tables in both sections.

In the New Year I will be offering lessons in the month of January for those interested in learning how to play bridge. Classes will run on Wednesday and Thursday nights starting at 7:15 pm and ending at 9. Lessons start on January 4th and run till January 26th and cost \$200 in total. The lessons will be in room 2A at St. Aidan's United Church with coffee and cookies available for free.

Please feel free to ask any questions by email or phone... after I get back on the 18th. Justine and I thank you for your continued support and we'll post trip pictures when we return.

Roy Sadd

Monterey Bridge Club



Nicole Dupuis

Monterey Bridge Club holds two sanctioned games per week with **pre-duplicated** boards, hand records and score summaries. The results are posted online immediately after 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. The Club adheres to the Zero Tolerance Policy and the Scent Free Zone Policy.

Mark your calendars, set your goals and book your partners for the upcoming Special Games at the Monterey Bridge Club, 1442 Monterey Avenue:

- Tuesday December 6, 12:30pm District 19 STaC, Silver points, additional \$3.00/pair.
- Saturday December 10, 12:15pm District 19 STaC, Silver points, additional \$3.00/pair.
- Tuesday December 13, 12:30pm Club Championship, extra points, no extra charge.
- Saturday December 17, 12:15pm Club ACBL Membership, extra points, no extra charge.

Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STaCs) provide bridge players with the opportunity to win Silver, 81.8% sectional-rated, points at the club.

Thank you Roy Sadd for taking over my games while I fulfilled another 2 bucket list items.

I can be reached by phone or text at [250-884-5414](tel:250-884-5414) or by email at montereybridgeclub@shaw.ca.

Keep calm and bridge on,

Nicole Dupuis

www.bridgewebs.com/monterey

Victoria Bridge Centre

Annual Victoria Bridge Centre New Year's Eve Party

Join us for a fun-filled New Year's Eve Party, December 31! A potluck dinner will be served at 5:30 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. Due to last year's overwhelming demand, participation this year will be limited to fourteen tables. To avoid disappointment, please call the club to reserve your place.

Ticket cost is the regular card fee for members/non-members.

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

Intermediate Bridge Lessons

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

Doubles: January 11, 18, 25, and February 1

Declarer Play: March 8, 15, 22 and 29

Each class will include a one-hour lecture and one hour of play.

Wednesdays, 1:30 - 3:30 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 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.

Save these dates:

<u>Duncan Team Games</u>	<u>VBC Mentor Games:</u>
December 10	December 18
January 14	January 22
February 11	February 19
March 11	March 19

Bill Wastle

UNIT 431

Fall Sectional Tournament Winners

At both the Spring and Fall Sectional Tournaments, there are three trophies awarded at the end of the evening of the second day to the top pairs after the two open pair sessions held that day.

At the Fall Sectional, held September 8-10, Karen Turner and Duncan Smith were the winners of the Henry Birks & Sons Trophy (est. 1957). This trophy is awarded to the top pair in Strat A.



Daniel Lyder and Jordan Tessarolo were the top pair in both Strats B and C. The Yuki Miller Memorial Trophy (est. 1979) is awarded to the top pair in Strat B and the Totem Tournament Trophy (est. 1964) is awarded to the top pair in Strat C.

At the end of the tournament the player who accumulated the most points is awarded the Madeline Anderson Trophy (est. 1960) which is a beautiful silver trophy with a miniature totem pole at the top. Karen Turner won this award.

As well as having their names engraved on the trophies, the winning pairs may request a small trophy - called a 'keeper' - with the name of the event that they won.

Gloria Dorrance,
Awards Coordinator

It's Your Call, Victoria!

If you enjoy "It's Your Call" in the Bridge Bulletin, here's a way to compete against fellow Victoria area bridge players.

It works almost exactly as does the Bridge Bulletin version (which you can access via MyACBL on ACBL.org). The difference is that you submit your results on our Unit's website, in the Members section. After the awards charts are published in the Bridge Bulletin, we compile and rank results from Victoria Unit 431 players only (as determined by your ACBL number).

The list of participants and their scores is then posted on the website. You can choose to remain anonymous if you wish. If you participate more than once in a given month, only the last set of results will be used.

Our first series of problems in November attracted 51 participants. Tied for first place with a perfect score of 500 were Matt Smith and Bill Van Sickle.

Scoring criteria, as well as the opinions of experts can be found in the Bridge Bulletin (page 40).

The December problems are currently available on our website. Deadline for submissions is Saturday December 17, 2016 at 11:59 pm. The winner will receive a free play from Capital City Bridge Club which can be used at any of the three weekly games. Thanks, Ewa!

Note: In the event of a tie for first place, a publicly-held draw will determine who gets the prize.

To play It's Your Call, go to bridgevictoria.ca. From the top menu, hover over "Members" and click on "It's Your Call, Victoria!" as it pops up. Detailed instructions are provided. And if you make a mistake, no problem, just try again, as many times as you want. Only your last submission will be kept.

JP Weber
Unit 431 Webmaster

Ace of Spades Tournament



The Ace of Spades Tournament is held each fall for players with fewer than 200 masterpoints. The overall winners at the end of the day are awarded the Anna Boivin Memorial Trophy (est. 2011) along with 'keepers'.

This year's winners on October 22nd were Gina Curran and Susan Breiddal (above).

Christmas Party



A good time was had by all as usual at the Unit Christmas party. Congratulations to the winners of the Sam Duprau Trophy (highest overall score) Donald Gray and Karen Billett with 65.37%.

New Trophy Shelf



Shown above is the new shelf that holds the Unit 431 trophies at the Victoria Bridge Centre.

Hans Adlhoch, cabinet maker and bridge player, designed and built this shelf which has a guard rail to prevent the trophies from falling onto a player in the event of an earthquake.

A special thanks to Hans for donating his time in this wonderful effort.

2017 Unit Board Nominations

Do you have *finesse* with people? Can you squeeze a little time for the bridge community?

The Unit Nominating Committee is looking for people to serve a two-year term on the Board of Directors. Check out the job descriptions on the web site <http://bridgevictoria.ca/job-descriptions/>. Several positions are available and your talents will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please e-mail Peggy Pepper pegpepper@shaw.ca



Ace of Hearts

Do you have fewer than 200 masterpoints? If so, mark your calendars for Saturday, February 25, 2017

The Ace of Hearts is Unit 431's Silver Point Sectional Tournament for players with fewer than 200 Master Points!

Tournament Co-Chairs:

Ted Eisner (250)592-8010 tedeisner@netscape.net
Pat Fullerton (250)595-3397 patfullerton@shaw.ca

Annual General Meeting of Unit 431.

Sunday, February 26, 2017 12:45 p.m. at Victoria Bridge Centre (880D Esquimalt Road)

Business Meeting – Any active member of Unit 431 may vote.

- General business
- Election of Unit Board of Directors

Individual Movement Bridge Game: \$5 per person

- No partner required
- Generous masterpoints
- Draws for free games
- Free coffee and cookies
- Free pizza and pop after the game.

Join your fellow bridge players in shaping duplicate bridge in the Victoria area.

Victoria Regional Bridge Tournament

Coming soon: April 17-23, 2017

See you there!

Jan Galenza, Chair
250-385-7597
jangalenza@shaw.ca

MISCELLANEOUS

Victoria Bridge Centre Mentor Game

The VBC Mentor Game is continuing to be a great success; we continue to draw 9 or 10 tables. We have nearly 100 novices receiving puzzles and lessons from myself each month, free of charge. Of course not all the novices play every month but that doesn't matter to the program. Our main hope, firstly, is having fun and then secondly, is to aid novice players by having a mentor play with them and provide them some advice on some hands. Having said this - I look forward to more people joining in on the fun.

Our November winners were Joanna Daam and Brian Fraser who had a 58.46% game, closely followed by Maureen Trappe and David Reid.

The East winners who were third overall, were awarded the Norwex prize provided by my wife Nelda, who is an agent for Norwex. (Amazing cleaning products)

This month's VBC mentor game is the Shelia J. MacDougall Memorial game and is on December 18th at 7 pm with the lesson at 6:30 pm.

Above is a picture of Cole on his first Halloween trick or treating.

Merry Christmas to all.



Mike, Nelda and Cole Ainsley

2017 Bridge Courses with Delma Murray

Delma Murray is a Gold Life Master who has been teaching bridge in Victoria since 1998 and has taught more than 1500 players. She is an ACBL Accredited 4 Star Bridge Teacher, Better Bridge Accredited Teacher, an ACBL Club Director, and Regional Director for Western Canada on the Board of Directors of the American Bridge Teachers Association.

Classes are at Oak Bay at Monterey Centre - 1442 Monterey Ave. 250 370 7300. Registration starts December 1st, 2016 for Winter (Jan- Mar) classes, April 1, 2017 for Spring and Summer classes

Beginner (Club Series)	A course for new bridge players, those who have played bridge but never had lessons, and those who want to sharpen and modernize their foundation in the basics.	8 Wednesdays 9:15 to 11:30 am	Jan 11 - Mar 1
Play of the Hand (Diamond Series)	Basic declarer play for those who have completed a Beginner course and experienced players who want to sharpen their playing technique. This course also includes additional bidding and defence topics.	8 Tuesdays 9:15 to 11:30 am	Jan 10 - Feb 28
Defence (Heart Series)	Learn how to get more tricks when defending. Suitable for experienced intermediate plus players who want to sharpen their defensive skills and improve communication with partners. It is strongly suggested that partners attend this course together.	8 Mondays 9:15 to 11:30 am	Jan 9 - Mar 6
Conventions You Need to Play	Intermediate course covering responses to suit and no trump openings, strong two club openings and pre-emptive openings, including how to deal with interference from opponents.	8 Thursdays 9:15 to 11:30 am	Jan 12 - Mar 2

Private classes can also be arranged. For further information contact Delma Murray at 250 388-9784, email delmabridge@live.ca or go to the Delma Murray Bridge Teacher page on Facebook and click Like to get updates in your news feed.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2017

January 8	Unit 431 Mentor Game, VBC
January 13 – 15	Campbell River Sectional
February 5	Unit 431 Mentor Game, VBC
February 25	Ace of Hearts
February 26	Unit 431 Annual General Meeting
March 5	Unit 431 Mentor Game, VBC
March 10 – 12	Duncan Sectional

For anyone interested in looking further ahead, the complete listing of events for Victoria and vicinity will be on the Unit website shortly.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year