

# The Bridge Buzz



ACBL Unit 431 Newsletter

April 2019



## President's Message

As the new president of Unit 431, I am pleased to welcome three new board members who were elected at the AGM: Maureen Trappe as Secretary, Jill Stainforth as Membership Coordinator and Ernie Tradewell as Bridge Hand Coordinator. They join a great team of dedicated volunteers who do their best to ensure bridge is alive and well in Victoria. The complete list of board members as well as their job descriptions can be found on our website, [bridgevictoria.ca](http://bridgevictoria.ca), under [Governance](#).

One of the main mandates of the board is to organize Sectional tournaments. We host two open Sectionals each year, one in the spring, the other in the fall. In addition, our Ace of Hearts and Ace of Spades tournaments, restricted to players with fewer than 200 masterpoints, are designed to allow advancing players to compete amongst each other. And for newer players (below 100 MPs), the Ace of Diamonds is an ideal first Sectional.

We recognize that new players are essential to maintaining a vibrant bridge scene in Victoria and will be making a special effort to integrate them within our community, whether through our monthly mentor game, or other special events.

The recently held Victoria Regional was a great success thanks to the unstinting efforts of Jan Galenza, the tournament chair and her terrific team. Fun tournament fact: 200 pounds of candy were served at the hospitality desk. Hope you got yours.

If you have any questions or comments regarding bridge in Victoria, I'll be happy to try to address your concerns. Just email me at [jeanphilippe.weber@gmail.com](mailto:jeanphilippe.weber@gmail.com).

JP

## CLUB CORNER

### Roy Stefaniec:-

Hi. I'd like to share with you all an exciting development in the history of **Island Bridge Club**. Ewa Zwicky is retiring and I we have made arrangements to transfer the Capital City Bridge Club over to St. Aidan's at the end of July. As long as there is space in the church, I plan on holding the games at St. Aidan's on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Times are yet to be determined but I would like to start

all of my afternoon games at noon and the Friday morning game at 9:30 am. I plan on pre-duplicating boards using The Common Game hands and running regular pair games as well as one non-lifemaster section on Thursday afternoons. The non-lifemaster game will run concurrently with an open pair game and the limited game will have an upper masterpoint limit of 500. I'd like to thank Ewa for this opportunity and wish her the very best in the future. For the bridge community, I am open to questions and suggestions by email, phone, or in person and hope to see you all soon!

### **Ewa Zwicky:-**

Good bye to ***Capital City Bridge Club.***

July 31st I'll be saying goodbye to Capital City Bridge Club, but I'm already experiencing conflicting emotions. On the one hand I'm happy that my time will be freed up to pursue other pastimes and play rather than direct games, on the other hand, I feel I have invested a lot of myself in this venture and feel reluctant to let it go. But one truth I have learned is that there is always a right time for everything, and this feels like the right time for a change.

I have drawn so much out of my experience as bridge club owner, and my musings lead me to the thought that when we first take up bridge we learn the basic rules of the game, then we progress to conventions and tactics and later learn about other players, our partners and the whole machine that runs the bridge community. Finally, we learn about ourselves and our place in that community. These reflections lead me to the thought that I have been exceptionally lucky to have found myself surrounded by a bunch of uncommonly nice people. I will never take for granted the kindness, unquestioning helpfulness and cheerful support I have received from the players at my club, many of whom have become personal friends.

For example, the challenges particular to my club were the tight time slots, lack of good storage, and having to put up and take down tables and chairs and other equipment. I would not be able to do this myself, but had to ask for help only once, and a number of players immediately took it upon themselves to get the job done, and did it cheerfully for years. There were other people who helped in other ways. Without their help I could not have run the club, and I hope I have let them know how much I appreciated their support. But I can't say thank you often enough, so here's another big THANK YOU to you all.

I have often come across the comment that there is a good atmosphere at the club. That, of course is created by the players themselves, so here's a thank you to you. I have enjoyed being around you and soaking up this good atmosphere and letting it rub off on me. I will be leaving the club filled and gratified, and therefore expecting more good things to come way. I'm counting on you to remember this when you meet me at the bridge table as opponents.

Roy Stefaniec will be taking over my games and I'm sure he will announce all the details himself. I wish him good luck and hope he derives as much satisfaction as I did out of this venture.

## Victoria Bridge Club.



We celebrated John Brodrick's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with panache – not to mention cake and other stuff. It's good to see people keeping the Unit members' average age above the 70 mark.....

### Nicole Dupuis:-

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual March Memorial Open Pairs Game was well attended again this year. We had family members and friends honoring us with their presence.

Our next big event is the [Day of Bridge in support of Alzheimer's Society of BC](#). Last year we raised over \$4200. I am soliciting your feedback and suggestions on how to improve over last year. I am also recruiting volunteers to help collect pledges, sponsors and organize a silent auction of goods and services. The main event will still be the auctioning of the services of our esteemed Bridge colleagues, experts, mentors and teachers. The after-shock of last year's adventure can still be felt today. It was truly an enriching experience for all participants.

As of Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, Monterey Bridge Club will be offering a Thursday afternoon Open Pairs Game at 12:15 PM. As usual, the Fern Café will be open for lunch. Come early and enjoy Chef's specials.

As of Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, the Tuesday afternoon Open Pairs Game will begin at **12:15PM instead of 12:30PM**.

Monterey is now using the [Common Games Hands](#). Please ensure ACBL has your current email address in order to receive your scores and Common Game benefits. There is a link on the home page to all Common game results. Also ensure that Unit 431 has your contact information for the 2020 Directory.

The following is an update of the upcoming events over the next eight months. Mark your calendars, book your partners and come join us at [Monterey Bridge Club](#) for more red, silver and black masterpoints!! Also note closure dates, Sectionals, Regionals, Bazaar and Holidays.

- Saturday April 27, 12:15PM, Club Championship, 81% black, **no additional cost**
- Tuesday May 7, 12:30PM, D19 [STaC](#), Silver points, additional \$
- Saturday May 11, 12:15PM, D19 [STaC](#), Silver points, additional \$
- Mid-May, letters go out to [experts, teachers/mentors for Auction benefitting Alzheimer's Society of BC](#)
- Saturday June 1 or 8, 12:15PM, TBA, [Worldwide Pairs Contest](#), additional \$
- Saturday June 22, 12:15PM, [Day of Bridge/Silent Auction \(Alzheimers\)](#), donations \$
- Tuesday July 23, 12:30PM, [North American Pairs](#), Red points, additional \$
- Saturday July 27, 12:15PM, [North American Pairs](#), Red points, additional \$
- **Thursday August 1, 12:15PM, Club Championship, 81% black, no additional cost**

- Tuesday August 20, 12:15PM District 19 [STaC](#), Silver points, additional \$
- Thursday August 22, 12:15PM District 19 STaC, Silver points, additional \$
- Saturday August 24, 12:15PM District 19 STaC, Silver points, additional \$
- Saturday September 14, CLOSED due to [Sidney Sectional](#)
- Tuesday September 24, 12:15PM, [Club Championship](#), 81% black, **no additional cost**
- Saturday September 28, 12:15PM, Club Championship, 81% black, **no additional cost**
- Saturday October 26, CLOSED due to Bazaar
- Another Club Championship week in last quarter TBA
- Tuesday December 24, CLOSED due to Christmas Eve
- Tuesday December 31, CLOSED due to New Year's Eve

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

North American Pairs offer 50/50 Red/Black, 81.8% sectional-rated points; 25% Gold for overalls. The 2018-2019 NAP Condition of Contest Rules are available on the ACBL site.

I can be reached by phone or text at 250-884-5414 or by email at [benicha@gmail.com](mailto:benicha@gmail.com).

Keep calm and bridge on,

Nicole Dupuis

[www.bridgewebs.com/monterey](http://www.bridgewebs.com/monterey)

## DIRECTOR PLEASE

Don't forget the key word here is "Please". One of the ways we can disturb our new players is to shout "DIRECTOR!" One of the denizens of our Unit did manage to defuse a situation by going over the top and calling out: "Director – arrest this man!" The victim had a sense of humour – so that was OK....

One recent interesting situation came in from a Director who reminds us that in the case of an "insufficient bid". Call the Director. Don't try to fix it. In a sequence: 1D – 2S – 2D (director please); the 4<sup>th</sup> player has options. Eg: in this case 4<sup>th</sup> player elected to **accept** the insufficient bid so he could bid 2S over **again** thus showing his pre-emptive partner that he had Spade support without bidding to the 3 level.

## ASK THE EXPERTS

This **BB** Issue has asked the "Experts" their opinions: ***Which Hands do I open 1 NT? Please address which hand shapes (if any) where you would prefer to open 1H or 1S and which hand shapes (if any) you might consider opening 1NT holding two doubletons.***

**Ernie Tradewell:** It appears all 5332, 3532, 2362 and 2326 can be opened. My rule is if there is no good rebid then open 1NT. Any hand with 16 pts and five card major and 5332 shape is a good candidate for 1NT. A good 6 card minor is ok. I don't open 1NT with a singleton.

**Delma Murray:** I open 1NT with all balanced hands with 15-17 HCP, including hands with a 5 card major. A balanced hand is one with no void, no singleton, and no more than one doubleton. The exception where I would open 1NT with 2 doubletons is a hand with 4522 distribution where the 5 card suit is lower ranking than the 4 card suit and the hand is too weak for a reverse.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**Jill Stainforth** (250-686-4747)

2019 Player phone directories

The new revised directory is available at clubs for free. It's pink!

Please send any alterations or additions if you want to be in the 2020 directory to [jstainforth@yahoo.ca](mailto:jstainforth@yahoo.ca). All players welcome, not just ACBL members.

Name tags.

As a courtesy to newer players, please consider wearing name tags. You can order them any time at [jstainforth@yahoo.ca](mailto:jstainforth@yahoo.ca) or text 2506864747. They cost \$9 on delivery and are for all players, not just ACBL members.

Masterpoint Milestones.

Since the beginning of 2019 Unit 431 members have achieved the following milestones -- Congratulations!

To see all advancements from 2015, go to <http://www.bridgevictoria.ca> / members / masterpoint milestones

Diamond Life Master (5000) Ted Heck. Silver Life Master (1000) Terry Foster; Evelyn Goedhart; Esther Wiebe. Bronze Life Master (500) Holly Boudreau; Paula Hopwood; Ann Isaac. Life Master (300/500): Marc Furnemont. NABC Master (200): Denis Johnston; Louise Smith. Regional Master (100): Morton Nelson; Madeleine Tremblay. Sectional Master (50): Lorne Bulmer; Dolores Johnson; Gillian Mouat; Sheila Wansbrough. Junior Master (5): Margaret Dow; Lynn Kobierski; Mary-Jo Morin; John R. Tucker; Lynne Upton; Judi Woytack.

Return of duplicate-light

Watch for news of an under-5 points game starting this Fall, possibly alongside one of Roy's games at St. Aidan's. It will be a gentle introduction to duplicate for social players and players new to duplicate.

Year-round partnership desk?

We'd like to come up with a way of connecting players year round, perhaps digitally. All game directors are willing to find you partners given notice but if you have an idea about how to do this or are willing to help with it, please let us know.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to our locals who distinguished themselves:-  
Duncan Smith; Mike Ainsley; Sheldon Spier (well almost local); Gerry McCully; Karen Billet and Karen Turner who made the top 25 (ie top 2%) in points won; to Tony Farr and Gail Richardson who distinguished in Fast Pairs; and also to Rob Cheeseman; Margaret Skinner; Al Romanchuk and Paul Flanagan for distinguished performance in the NLM category.

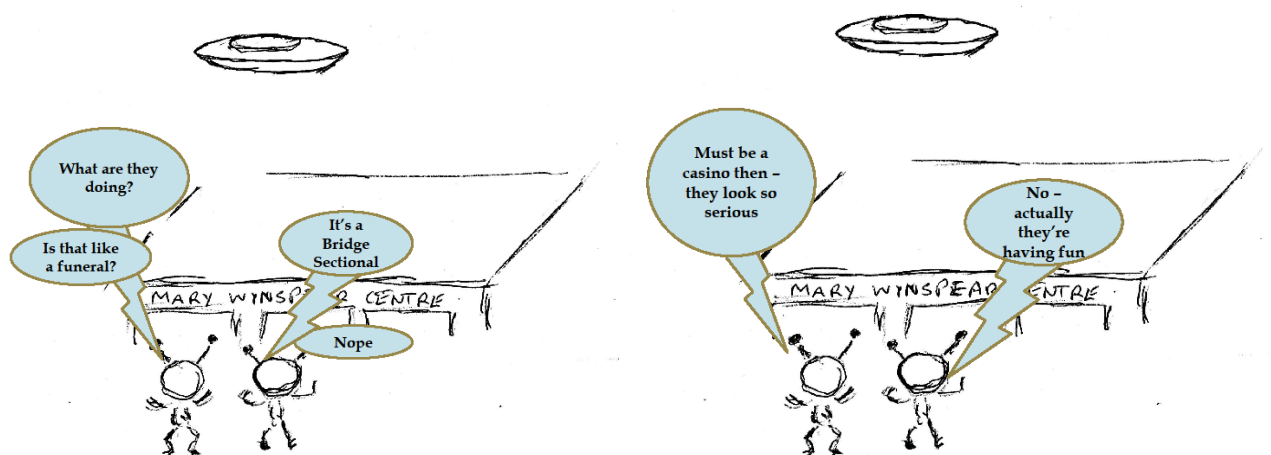
## 2019 VICTORIA REGIONAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT; April 8-14, 2019

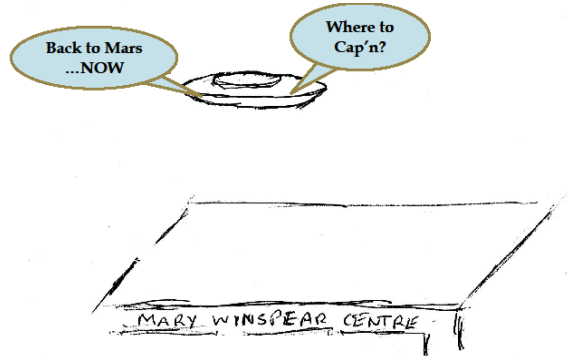
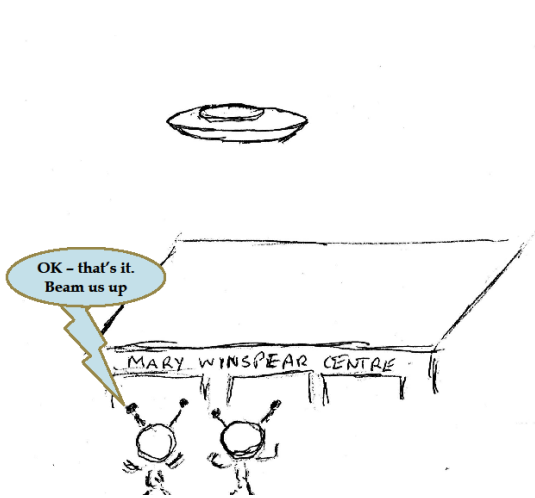
See [www.vicregional.ca](http://www.vicregional.ca) for the Victoria Regional Final Report

## Special Ed

Finally the part where your Editor types really slowly – is that (a) for the benefit of those who can't read fast or (b) because he can't type anyway? I would like to close with a reminder to many of us (self included) who have taken table presence too seriously.....

Two Martians were spotted spying at the Winspear Centre during the Sectional.....





Remember: **If looks could kill, a lot of people would die holding Bridge Cards.**