

The Bridge Buzz



ACBL Unit 431 Newsletter

December 2019



President's Message

As we come to the end of a great bridge year, I'd like to extend Yuletide greetings to all 550 Unit 431 members and their families. I was privileged to work with a dedicated and hard-working group of Board members (see them all at [bridgevictoria.ca/governance/boardmembers](http://www.bridgevictoria.ca/governance/boardmembers)). Our meetings were productive, efficient and marked with comity and shared purpose.

A few highlights of the past year:

- Our five sectional tournaments were well-run and well-attended. See upcoming tournaments here: <http://www.bridgevictoria.ca/tournaments-and-events/upcoming-tournamentsspecial-games-2/>
- Sunday Unit Mentor games were hosted during every month of the year (<http://www.bridgevictoria.ca/tournaments-and-events/mentor-games>).
- The D-light game is going strong, and bringing new blood to the bridge scene thanks to the continuing efforts of our "D-lightful lady" (<http://www.bridgevictoria.ca/tournaments-and-events/duplicate-light/>).
- After a few years of declining attendance, we decided to make a few changes to the Christmas Party format. Talented volunteers stepped in to provide pre-dinner entertainment, including a hilarious skit and brilliant musical performances. See it all on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/bridgevictoriabc>). Attendance was up by about 50% over last year with 120 members and friends participating.
- Six members of our Unit became Life Masters. Seventeen more attained Bronze, Silver, Ruby, Gold, Sapphire or Diamond ranking. See the full list here: <http://www.bridgevictoria.ca/members/masterpoint-milestones/>

If you like to keep abreast of Victoria bridge news, you have several options: this publication (the Bridge Buzz), our Facebook page and our website. We always strive to improve our services to the bridge community, so feel free to send us your comments, questions and suggestions.

JP Weber

CLUB CORNER

Monterey Bridge Club - Nicole Dupuis:-

Monterey Bridge Club now offers a complementary bridge lesson before every game: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 11:45AM. [The Calendar Month](#) displays the teacher/experts giving the lessons. Please visit our [Facebook Photos of the Pre-game Lessons](#). All games begin at 12:15PM.

Please note that our Christmas Eve Open game begins at **10AM**, no game on Boxing Day, and then it's business as usual as per [the Calendar Month](#) on the website. The Calendar Month also displays the Director in charge for the upcoming games. If you have ongoing reservations, please make sure you let us know if you are not coming.

The new Thursday Open Game is doing well. We will continue with this game into the new year. As usual, [the Fern Café](#) will be open for lunch. Come early and enjoy Chef's specials.

The Saturday, February 29th, 2020 game, when Monterey Rec Centre has a Bazaar or Rummage Sale, will be held at [Windsor Park Pavillion](#), 2451 Windsor Road, 850 meters from Monterey. There will be no more Club closures in February and September when there is a Bazaar or Rummage Sale.

Our 4th annual March Memorial Open Pairs Game will be held on **Saturday March 28th, 2020**. I am asking anyone who has pictures of our beloved departed players, to please forward them to me so I can best prepare a power point presentation to honour them at our Club Championship game. See our list of departed Victoria bridge players on the [Unit 431 In Memoriam Page](#).

Our 3rd annual Day of Bridge in support of Alzheimer's Society of BC will be held on **Saturday June 20th, 2020**. We will host 16 hours of bridge playing, sunrise to sundown, 8 x 12 board, 2-hour games from 6 AM to 10 PM... Feel free to read my [notes preparing for this great day](#). I am soliciting your feedback and suggestions on how to improve over last year. The main event will still be the auctioning of the services of our esteemed Bridge colleagues, experts, mentors, teachers. I wish to add more items and services to our auction. Please read [the Donor request letter](#) and start gathering goods and services from friends and businesses. I am also recruiting volunteers to help collect pledges, sponsors and organize a silent auction of goods and services.

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.

I can be reached by phone or text at 250-884-5414 or by email at benicha@gmail.com.

Keep calm and bridge on, Nicole Dupuis

DIRECTOR PLEASE

Due to faultless play and outstanding behavior there were no Director Calls during the past 7 months so we are pleased to note that no-one gets critiqued here this time round.....

ASK THE EXPERTS

This month BB conducted an interview with Ernie Tradewell on the subject of Opening in 1st and 2nd Seats.

BB: In a world of ever more aggressive bidding we would like to hear your opinions on Opening criteria in 1st and 2nd seat.

Ernie Tradewell: Vulnerability and bidding position should be used to determine how light is your opening bid. In vulnerable against non-vulnerable opponents, 1st or 2nd seat should show a full opening. I would open AK432 KT32 J98 x in first seat nv against vul but in 2nd seat at un-favorable I would require AK432/ KT32/ Q98/ x. if your long suit is a minor you should have about one point more...

BB: What about the "Rule of 20"?

ET: Most players use the Rule of 20 to determine opening bid strength. Eg: T9654/ KJ/ KQJT2 2 I would not open but KJT98/ 32/ KQJT2/ 2 I would open because the honours are in long suits. I would open the first hand in third but not first or second seat.

BB: And the notion of 2 or 3 "Quick Tricks"?

ET: Most hands with three quick tricks should be opened. AKxxx/ Axx/ xxx/ x. I would open 1S in all seats any vulnerability. I would not open xxx/ AKx/ Axx/ xxxx in first or second seat.

BB: Some people are using "Loser Trick Count" to open the bidding even before a fit has been found with Partner?

ET: Loser Trick Count is NOT used when you are deciding whether a hand is worth opening. AKxxx Ax xxx xxx has 8 eight losers but should be opened. QJx Qjxx QJx Kxx has the same 8 losers but should not be Opened.

BB: I see your first example is stacked with Aces and a companion King. The second is full of QJ's (or Quacks). Would you hold with the notion that an Ace is worth a bit more than 4 points but that Q's and J's are barely worth 2 and 1?

ET: The Q's and J's are worth their value when combined with an A or K or when in PARTNER'S bid suit. But hold Qxx or Jxx in the OPPONENT'S suit and you just have 3 losers. In general you should have at 1.5 quick tricks to open in first and second.

BB: Thanks Ernie. There you have it. So, if you're stuck in the alien world of Bridge and you can't phone home, phone ET.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Masterpoint Milestones reached this year – with apologies to anyone I missed:-

Grand LM: Michael Roche

Diamond LM: Ted Heck

Sapphire LM: Rita Beny

Gold LM: Tony Farr, Danielle Goulet, Axie Millar

Ruby LM: Don Berry, Louise McKay

Silver LM: Terry Foster, Ev Goedhart, Esther Wiebe, Russ Page, Rob Cheeseman

Bronze LM: JP Weber, Gord Kristjansen, Ann Isaac, Holly Boudreau, Paula Hopwood

LM: Margaret Skinner, Ian Kimmerly, Al Romanchuk, Marc Furnemont, Don Copeland.

We congratulate the members above who achieved one of the eight levels of Life Master this year. For those of you who joined the Bridge world late in life, do not despair – as there may be a ninth category – the NITLM (Not In This Life Master).

.....but seriously, good milestones congrats to many others who made Club, Sectional, Regional Masters etc.

Return of duplicate-light

Jill Stainforth (250-686-4747)

On August 1 we launched Duplicate Light, offering social bridge players a "shallow pool" where they could get used to the intricacies of duplicate bridge in an easy, friendly setting.

By Christmas we will have run 20 weekly games and hosted 55 players. A dedicated core keep coming back and some are almost ready to play at the required speed in the big game, knowing now about alerts and choreographies.

Recently, with the word getting out, we've had some 5-table and once a 6-table game, so we're going in the right direction. Two of our players even played at the Christmas party.

If you have friends with no master points (or fewer than 20), they are very welcome at our game on Wednesday afternoons at Island Bridge Club at 12:15. Registration is at noon and Duplicate Light players pay \$5.

Congratulations

This year's Ace of Spades winners were Morton Nelson & Paul Retallack.

Coaches' Corner

Delma Murray is a Gold Life Master and accredited bridge teacher, cruise director, and club director, has been on the Board of the American Bridge Teachers Association for 20 years and has taught more than 2500 bridge students in Victoria. Delma offers beginner to advanced level classes at Monterey Centre and in private classes and is teaching 8 courses during winter and early spring 2020. Find a complete list at Monterey Bridge Club lessons page <https://www.bridgewebs.com/monterey/page1.html> Monterey Centre online registration page <https://oakbayrec.perfectmind.com/22950/Clients/BookMe4?widgetId=e711b572-97dc-45c5-896b-815cf7f7d98d&embed=true#> or Oak Bay winter brochure page 47. Follow the Delma Murray Bridge Teacher page on Facebook for updates.

Mentor Games

Terry and Heather continue to have very good attendance at the Unit's monthly mentor games. In 2019, the Program had an average of 10 tables per game, in spite of competing with tournaments and holidays. In 2019, 6 Mentees reached the 300 MP level and "graduated" from the Mentor Program. New players continue to join the Program so that it remains very active. Terry qualified to be a "Director" in the fall and has directed several of our games since then. We thank everyone for their support.....Terry and Heather.

THE Christmas Partywith a surplus King.....



OK – spot the pretty one here.....



Postscript

The Cardturner: A great read and perfect gift

Looking for a way to explain to your sceptical friends and relatives your interest and fascination with bridge? Here is the perfect gift! Make sure to read it first, though, as it reviews some finer points of the game. Written by Louis Sachar, a well-known writer of young adult fiction, including 'Holes' and also a lover of bridge, the book is about Alton, a teenager who is conscripted during his summer holidays to drive his elderly and blind great-uncle Lester to his bridge club and be his cardturner. Alton becomes interested and explains as he learns. Everything is covered, including what the ACBL is, how clubs and tournaments work, the "value" of masterpoints and so on. It is possible to skip those details and go to a summary for those totally not into bridge and wanting to get on with the story. This is great reading for those who might be interested in learning about our great game as well as those who do not understand our attraction to it, however maddening it may sometimes be.

Esther Wiebe