



The Bridge Buzz



ACBL Unit 431 Newsletter April 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to introduce myself as the Unit 431 President, having been elected after the most recent AGM. I have been on the Board of Directors for three years and also act as Tournament Coordinator. The Board welcomes our newest members, Madeleine Tremblay and Al Romanchuk. Special thanks to Ann Brydon and Lionel Traverse for their many contributions to the board for the last two years.

We are all impacted by the current COVID-19 situation. Most importantly, I hope our members and their loved ones are safe and healthy. With all local club games and tournaments cancelled indefinitely, many of our players are experimenting with online games. There are a number of options available, including ACBL/BBO "Support Your Club Games" at the [ACBL website](#). If playing online is not for you, check out the [Unit 431 Bridge Victoria](#) site and JP's monthly It's Your Call game.

We are fortunate to have a large and social bridge community in Victoria and I encourage our members to reach out and stay connected during this time.

I look forward to connecting with you soon!

Shelley Burnham

Unit 431 President

president@bridgevictoria.ca

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

Audrey Mactier and Dolores Johnson are calling everyone in the Unit 431 directory to do a thorough updating of the information in it. If anyone would like their name added in the next edition, please phone Jill at 250-686-4747 or email her at membership@bridgevictoria.ca. Thank you, Audrey and Dolores!

CLUB CORNER

[Island Bridge Club](#) – Roy Stefaniec

250-812-1615, islandbridgeclub@gmail.com

[Monterey Bridge Club](#) – Nicole Dupuis

250-884-5414, benicha@gmail.com

[Victoria Bridge Centre](#) – Bill Wastle

250-382-2913, victoriabridgecentre@gmail.com

Your directors are working hard together registering the Victoria clubs on BBO Virtual games. Please join us. Look at our Club Home pages – we are updating the information daily. We are having daily Zoom training meetings to be of service to you. The number of games will increase as we see the demand increasing. We're hoping that Mentor Games will also be introduced via BBO before long.

With the support of the website Bridge Base Online (BBO) and the ACBL, Bill, Nicole and Roy

are offering Virtual online games that are restricted to those ACBL members who have played at Victoria clubs.

Games are presently starting at 12:15pm Monday to Saturday. Check the Club homepages for other scheduled games.

You will be able to find these games in the Competitive category on BBO under ACBL Virtual Clubs. Search for "Victoria Clubs". Partners must be online at the same time to register and each game costs US\$5 per player. Please be seated 10 minutes before the start of the game.

Here are the days each of our clubs is offering a Virtual game on BBO.

- Monday - Island Bridge Club
- Tuesday - Victoria Bridge Centre
- Wednesday - Island Bridge Club
- Thursday - Monterey Bridge Club
- Friday - Victoria Bridge Centre
- Saturday - Monterey Bridge Club

In addition to the Virtual games, you can play Support Your Local Club games where most of the fees go to our local clubs. These games are daily at 10:30 am, 2:10 pm and 4:30 pm PST.

At both the Virtual and Support Your Local Club games, you can earn master points.

Please see Webmaster JP's piece on playing on BBO below.

ISLAND BRIDGE CLUB

This is a tough time for our incredible bridge community that we have here in Victoria and I encourage you all to stay home as much as possible and to keep healthy. I encourage people with access to a computer to play online

at www.bridgebase.com. Feel free to ask me to play as well!

While we cannot give a reopen date at this time, as it will depend on our government and also St Aidan's Church, I will let you know that during the closure Justine and I will try and think of some fun and exciting new things for the future. If you have any suggestions or ideas please feel free to email me. So far we are planning a big Halloween contest and with permission from the church Justine may be selling some goodies in the future. We both send sincere thanks for your support.

MONTEREY BRIDGE CLUB

I hope you are all safe and healthy in spite of this COVID19 pandemic.

This week as we go online as a BBO Virtual Club, your input and suggestions as to what times are good for you on our days (Thursday and Saturday) are welcome. Send suggestions to benicha@gmail.com

VICTORIA BRIDGE CENTRE

The club at Head Street is closed until further notice. Check our website and VBC calendar for updates.

LESSONS ON ZOOM

Deb Wastle (debwastle@gmail.com) is offering Non-Life Master lessons on Thursdays at 9:00 am and after the lesson, we all play the same Individual Game on BBO SYC (Support Your Club). More details will be provided once you join the list. She is offering Open level lessons only (no game) on Tuesdays at 11:00 am. If you've never been on BBO before, Deb can provide a quick primer when you sign up.

Once you are on the mailing list, you will receive an email the day before the lesson with a link to the Zoom meeting where the lessons are given. If you haven't experienced Zoom yet, you will have to download the client software when you click on the link. It's free and it only takes a few minutes.

In the meantime, stay safe.

WEBMASTER'S INTRODUCTION TO BBO.

This is a good time to try out online bridge.

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass... It's about learning to dance in the rain."

Local clubs have now been closed for about a month and you're getting antsy. So how can you get your bridge fix?

The obvious way is to play online, of course. If you haven't tried it yet you might think it a bit daunting, but it's not.

While there are a number of free bridge sites, the best one (in my opinion) is BBO (<http://bridgebase.com/>), which allows you to play free games with and against friends, strangers and robots. If you're looking for master points, you can also earn some here by playing ACBL-sanctioned games, starting at a modest US\$1.25 for a 12-board round. And exploring the site will reveal much more. For an easy intro to BBO, Peter Hollands has put together a short video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MldFbBde_a90

Once you're familiar with the site, and have been playing for a while you might like to be able to know when your friends are online, so you can easily invite them to a game. To make things easy, I have set up a page on our Unit website (bridgevictoria.ca) with local player names, and their corresponding BBO usernames (aka handles). To be on the list, you need to

register by going to bridgevictoria.ca/register-BBO and following the simple instructions. I will then send you an email explaining how to access the list. Note that the list is only accessible to registered users.

Some of the sections you might look at once you've logged onto BBO:

- Casual: set up a table and play with your partner against friends or strangers.
- ACBL World: Play a sanctioned game (black points), either by yourself (3 robots) or with a partner against strangers.
- BBO Tournaments: Same idea but you get BBO points which give you some bragging rights.
- Challenges: Challenge a friend! You will both play the same 8 (or more) hands against 3 robots. See who does better.

And, most importantly, you can support your local clubs during these difficult times. The three local clubs have come together and are offering daily online club games at 12:15 pm. These games are restricted to those ACBL members that have played in the past in Victoria-area club games. You will be able to find them in the **ACBL Virtual Clubs** section under **Featured Areas**. Use the search box and look for "Victoria". Game cost US\$5 to play and award black ACBL Masterpoints, just like at the club. BBO also offers Support Your Local Club games where most of the table fees revert to your club:

https://doc.bridgebase.com/Help/About_ACBL_Support_Your_Local_Club_games.html?v3b=web&v3v=5.4.0

Here's hoping you have fun playing on BBO. You can find me there daily as HikerJP.

JP Weber, (webmaster@bridgevictoria.ca)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

KINDNESS IS KEY

Word of mouth and Google searches are probably the main ways people find duplicate in Victoria. We have a standing ad in the Times Colonist online calendar inviting people to our Duplicate Light game but few people connect that way.

Once they step into a club, we have a folded single-page brochure for newcomers that provides data about our three clubs, the weekly schedule of games, and info about Unit 431 and District 19 of the ACBL.

It is easy to play bridge for years and never hear about duplicate if you haven't a family member or friend in the game.

We are not our best promoters.

How many times have I heard social bridge players, when invited to try a game of duplicate, respond adamantly, yes, adamantly, that they will never play duplicate. Often it involves the recounting of the one time they tried and someone was just rude to them.

Thinking about that, and knowing our community, we aren't really rude. What we are is knowledgeable, and sometimes impatient.

Isn't it just so annoying when we want to get on with our skilled games and an opponent is bungling their bidding or playing slowly?

My huge ask would be the following: please can we share our impatience ONLY with players of our own rank or better. If a player has even one point fewer than I have, please can I show only kindness and encouragement. It would make the job of recruiting for duplicate a world easier!

Jill Stainforth,
Membership and Recruitment Coordinator
membership@bridgevictoria.ca

DUPLICATE LIGHT / SWISS LIGHT

On August 1, 2019, we launched Duplicate Light to offer an easy, soft entry to duplicate for social bridge players. It is played weekly on Wednesday afternoons as a side game at Island Bridge Club.

Since the beginning, we have had 80 people try the game and many have become regulars. Our last game was on March 11 and prior to that four of the previous six games featured seven full tables of D-Light players.

The numbers were so good that we were days short of initiating a monthly Swiss Light session, to introduce our players to the ins and outs of Swiss. We will reintroduce the Swiss Light when we're back to playing.

No "joining" pressure is applied but about 20 of the people who have attended the D-Light sessions have joined the ACBL.

DIRECTOR PLEASE

The Buzz asked senior Directors two questions related to some interesting issues which arose at table

1 *Hesitate and Pass.* The bidding proceeds: Pass / Pass / (you) 1NT / pause and Pass by LHO / Pass / **2 Level Bid by RHO who had previously "passed"**. Do you have a case to call the Director?

2 *Correction made by Declarer during play.*

During play of the hand, Declarer calls to Dummy "Play a Spade, I mean the Ace of spades". If the defence request that a small spade be played and director is called, what is the ruling?

We have these rulings from our esteemed Directors:

1 Law 16B2 says this about extraneous information from partner (which includes a hesitation): "When a player considers that an opponent has made such information available and that damage could well result he may

announce . . . that he reserves the right to summon the Director later (the opponents should summon the Director immediately if they dispute the fact that unauthorized information might have been conveyed).”

1 On “hesitation” or making an adjusted score due to Break in Tempo (BIT), we have this:

I try hard to be clear about the process: I poll several players asking what action they would take not knowing about the BIT and adjust the score only if none of them chose what was done at the table. Still, these situations can be unpleasant. These situations really test a director’s relationships with players.

2 Law 45C4(b) says: “Declarer may correct an unintended designation of a card from dummy until he next plays a card from either his own hand or from dummy. A change of designation may be allowed after a slip of the tongue, but not after a loss of concentration or a reconsideration of action.”

2 Law 45C4(b) crux is intent, a non-observable. If declarer, usually away from the table, honestly tells me that he corrected his designation to match his intent I usually accept that. Reinforcement would be that the play as originally voiced would be foolish for a player of his calibre.

PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT

The Buzz asked the Unit Board for some answers to the delicate question of how to “ease out” of a partnership which is not working.....or as Leonard Cohen said: “Hey That’s No Way to Say Goodbye.” We distilled the following suggestions:

The fine art of partnership management can be the toughest part of the game. Harder for some than others. In my experience, there is no one way - sometimes a direct approach is best, sometimes it is kindest to simply change availability and ease out. For me, it depends on the relationship with the person. A few more draconian (tongue-in-cheek) ideas also surfaced.....along with their downsides in parenthesis.....

- Leave town (except you have to return in disguise)
- Divorce (works if your partner is married to you)
- Make lewd suggestions (works if your partner is married to someone else)
- Look under the table every time Dummy comes down (as in “Where the hell are the rest of the points you promised?”)
- Call the Director on your partner, then apologise (saying you thought he was the opposition)
- Play an entire game really badly hoping your partner will notice (so might everyone else, and partner may take pity and decide to coach you next game.....and thereafter)
- Suggest you will play on-line again during the next pandemic (if you can’t see the flaw in that one you **deserve** a dummy for a partner)

Your editor's parting comment on home-schooling your partner.....

