

# The Bridge Buzz



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope this finds our Unit 431 members and their loved ones happy and well.

Usually at this time of year, the Unit 431 Board of Directors and a team of volunteers are preparing for our holiday dinner and bridge game – selling tickets, decorating, and planning food and entertainment. We sincerely hope that at this time next year, we will be getting ready for a holiday party, and that we can all be together to celebrate and enjoy!

This is also the time to look back on the year and acknowledge the achievements of our members. See the Membership Milestones section at the end of this newsletter. Congratulations to everyone who has reached a new rank this year!

ACBL has cancelled face-to-face tournaments until at least the end of February 2021. Chris Cookson, our ACBL District 19 (Vancouver Island and Powell River) President, provides an update on regional tournaments on page 2.

Finally, please read News from the Board about an upcoming Annual General Meeting. We will need at least two new Board members next year. You can get in

touch with any of the [Board members](#) for more information.

Best wishes for a warm holiday season and a happy new year,

Shelley Burnham  
Unit 431 President



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## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

The Board of Directors continues to meet by Zoom each quarter and communicates regularly. Copies of all approved minutes are available on the [website](#).

### Finances

Unit 431 finances remain in good shape with an expected year-end balance of approximately \$11,400. We have seen a minor financial loss this year, as we continue to have some operational expenses, such as storage and small administrative costs, with no income from tournaments. We have reduced costs where possible, for example, by temporarily moving some assets to board members' homes. The Unit will be in good shape to return to business when we are able to do so.

### Board

Nev Hircock has resigned from the Board as he and Rita Beny recently moved to the Qualicum Beach area. Nev has been the Bridge Buzz Editor for the last 3 ½ years. His good humour and willingness to pitch in whenever needed will be missed. All the best to Rita and Nev and we look forward to meeting at island events in the future!

As a non-profit society, the Unit must hold an Annual General Meeting by February each year. This coming year, we will be meeting virtually – the Board will send more details to our members in the new year.

Board elections are held at the AGM. The Board is made up of 10 members and meets at least four times a year. A nominating committee, led by Jill Stainforth, will be looking for members to stand for election in February. If you are interested in working with the Board, please contact [Jill](#) or any of our members. For more information, here is a link to Board [Job Descriptions](#).

## CLUBS

There are no face-to-face ACBL sanctioned games in Victoria at this time. As you may have read on our website, Bill Wastle closed the Head Street location of the Victoria Bridge Centre at the end of August. Roy Stefaniec has also let us know that St. Aidan's Church will no longer be available for duplicate bridge. Both Bill and Roy have stored their bridge equipment and hope to reopen elsewhere when able. Monterey Recreation Centre is not offering duplicate bridge at this time. In the meantime, our local club operators continue to run virtual club games on BBO. [Click here](#) for a complete list of local BBO games. Mentor games are held most Sundays – please contact Terry Foster and Heather Erskine at [mentorgame@bridgevictoria.ca](mailto:mentorgame@bridgevictoria.ca)

Your support of our local clubs is appreciated!

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## D19 UPDATE



Holiday Greetings One and All,

I googled the expression “May you live in Interesting times.” I had always thought this was a blessing from Confucius. As it turns out, it apparently has its origins in English, is much more modern ... and is indeed a curse.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/May\\_you\\_live\\_in\\_interesting\\_times](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/May_you_live_in_interesting_times)

Whatever the origins, we certainly find ourselves in “interesting times.”

Your District Board continues to meet regularly online and I have news to share with all of you.

### **Regionals**

If you picture a Regional bridge tournament, it is very hard to think of anything that is less like “social distancing” than a bridge game. Four of us are sitting around a 36 or 42 inch square table, all sharing and handling cards, bid boxes, Bridgemates and boards. On top of that, our primary demographic are the same people most susceptible to severe complications from Covid-19.

When will District 19 Regional tournaments resume? The Board has concluded that until we can answer yes to

the following 3 questions, no in person Regional Tournaments will be held.

1. Is it legal? Will social distancing rules prohibit the event?
2. Is it safe? Regardless of what the government bodies say, can we reasonably ensure the safety of our players, volunteers and directors?
3. Will they come? Are we reasonably certain that enough participants will come?

Question 1 is a simple binary option. Either large gatherings will be legal or they won't be. If you have been following Dr. Bonnie Henry's advice, she has said many times that a return to “pre-December 2019” activities is a long way off.

Question 2 is where we listen to the doctors and scientists and not the politicians. If the Covid-19 crisis has taught us anything, it's that situations are constantly changing. It would appear that the best chance for safety will lie in a vaccine. While news on the vaccine front is promising, in order to ensure your safety, a vaccine has to be both proven and widely available.

Question 3 is where we talk to you. Are you ready to return to a Regional Tournament? These tournaments are large and expensive undertakings. As stewards of District financial resources, we have an obligation to ensure we do not put on an event without first ensuring there is sufficient demand. It is likely that we will again write to you when we are ready to resume activities, to ensure you are ready,

willing and able to attend. We are considering the possibility of some form of pre-registration so we know how many of you are ready to return.

So, what does all this mean? While a formal decision will not be made until the January 2021 Board meeting, it would seem highly unlikely that the Victoria Regional will proceed as planned. We will be following the vaccine news closely, and will make a decision on Penticton and future events as time progresses. We will send out an email to all when things are formalized.

In the meantime, I urge you to continue to support the local online club games, and assure you that when it is safe and prudent to do so, regular tournament bridge WILL return.

I wish you all the best of the season.

Warm Regards,

Chris Cookson

District 19 President



## BRIDGE PERSONALITY



### Gail Richardson

*Hi Gail. Where were you born and raised?*

I was born and raised in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

*Do you still have family there?*

I have two older brothers, Sid and Charlie who are 12 and 10 years older than me. Because of the age difference, I felt like I grew up as an only child, as they had left home from the time I can remember.

*Where did you study your post-secondary education? What did you study?*

I studied at Memorial University from 1969 to 1974. I studied Science (Major in Mathematics) and Education (High School) and have a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Education.

*Where did you work?*

I taught school in St. Lawrence, Newfoundland from September 1974 to June 1977. I taught Geometry and Biology Grades 8 to 11. At that time in Newfoundland, Grade 11 was the graduation year, but it changed to Grade 12 a few years later.

*What brought you to Victoria?*

My ex-husband brought me to Victoria where he studied Law at the University of Victoria. While he was studying Law, I decided to go back to school and get my Certified General Accountant (CGA) designation. I had to start working full time in an accounting role while I was studying for my CGA at night. I applied for a job with the newly opened offices of the Auditor General of BC and I was one of the first 12 students hired by the AG's Office.

After my ex obtained his Law degree, we moved to Vancouver for him to do his articling year but thankfully we moved back to Victoria the next year. I began working for the BC Government Ministry of Health in October 1981. In September 1988 I was hired as the Director of Finance for Glendale Lodge (a home for the mentally and physically handicapped, which has since closed), Tillicum Lodge (later rebuilt as The Lodge at Broadmead) and Oak Bay Lodge – the last two were both extended care homes for seniors. I ended my career at The Lodge at Broadmead and enjoyed working in health care for 27 years.

*What got you interested in bridge and when did you start playing?*

One night after dinner, my friends introduced me and Whayne Chappell, my current husband, to bridge. Whayne did not enjoy it, but I was immediately hooked! I started taking lessons in the fall of 1993 but did not finish them. Then, in

the fall of 1994, I began lessons with Margaret Hinton and never looked back!!

*When did you achieve Life Master?*

My good friend, Marnie Hueston, and I went to New Orleans, Louisiana, in 2003 to attend the NABC. We had been playing bridge together for a number of years and had a similar number of masterpoints. We knew that if we did fairly well in New Orleans, there was a chance that we would earn our Life Masters. As it happens, we made it to 3rd place in one knockout and 2nd place in two knockouts and both of us earned our Life Masters together!! It was a wonderful visit to New Orleans and earning our Life Masters was the ultimate icing on the cake!!

*What do you like about playing bridge?*

My other passion in life was tennis. Martina Navratilova was a top tennis player in the 1990s and 2000s. I had read that she also played bridge and considered it one of the best activities to keep your mind active and alert – another reason why I was hooked on bridge. I love the game, the competition, meeting lots of people and making so many friends. I also enjoy travelling to bridge tournaments, especially on the Island, and to Penticton and Seaside, Oregon. In addition to New Orleans, I have played in some far-off places, including Beijing, China. A former Victoria bridge teacher, Anna Boivin, organized a number of bridge trips and cruises and I went on two of her trips – one to China and one to Eastern Europe. We played bridge in a number of cities while on these trips.

*How often did you play face to face per week? And now that we are online?*

Prior to Covid, I played bridge on average four times a week, so it was a huge part of my life. Since Covid and the BBO Virtual Club games, I still play almost four games a week on average! Even though I enjoy playing face-to-face better than online bridge, I must admit that online bridge has its advantages. I can sleep in longer, don't have to worry about what I wear, and it goes much quicker, so I still have time after the game to do some errands and extra time for making dinner!

*You are our Unit 431 Treasurer. How long have you been doing this?*

I have been Treasurer since 2012 so will be going into my 10th year as Treasurer in 2021. I can hardly believe it's been that long, but I do enjoy the challenge and am glad to contribute to the success of our Unit.

*Thank you from all of us, Gail!*

*Anything else that you'd like to share?*

I just want to thank all of the wonderful bridge partners I have had over the years! I am so thankful to have found bridge as it is definitely a passion for me. It has brought me many hours of enjoyment and many dear friends and acquaintances. Thanks!



## FREE BEGINNER ONLINE LESSONS

Free Zoom bridge lessons are starting January 5, 2021, Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 pm Eastern Standard Time. The course includes 12 one-hour lessons covering the ACBL "Bidding in the 21st Century" course for beginning players and is being offered by Al Smith, an ACBL certified instructor from North Carolina.

Registration is free and participants may attend as many or as few as wanted. Each lesson will last about one hour followed by a brief Q&A session.

Schedule:

- 5 January General Concepts
- 12 January Opening Bids
- 19 January Responses to 1NT Open
- 26 January Responses to Suit Open
- 2 February Rebids by Opener
- 9 February Rebids by Responder
- 16 February Overcalls
- 23 February Takeout Doubles
- 2 March Stayman, Jacoby Transfer, 2S Minor Suit Transfer
- 9 March Reverses and Splinters
- 16 March Strong 2C with 2D Waiting, Traditional Weak 2s and Pre-empts
- 23 March Gerber and Blackwood

Self-register using the eForm link below. Participant information will be sent to your local bridge clubs to connect you with events and news in your community.

<http://eepurl.com/hfh-BX>

If you need help, call Al at 910-457-6674.

*A few bits of advice from earlier editions of*

## **DUNCAN SAYS ...**

*When does responding 1 of a major to partner's 1 of a minor promise 5 cards?*

Look at the following sequences.

- a. 1C/D - P - 1H/S
- b. 1C/D - X - 1H/S
- c. 1C - 1D - 1H/S

In each of these sequences, responder promises 4 or more cards in the bid major.

The only exception (promising 5 cards) is

- d. 1C/D - 1H - 1S Because a double of 1H shows specifically 4 spades, 1S guarantees 5 cards.

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### *Lead Directing Doubles*

Be eager to make lead directing doubles of **artificial bids** when you know you want partner to lead that suit.

1NT - P - 2C - ? xx xxx xxx KJ109x. Double, as you know a club lead is good for your side.

1NT - P - 2C - ? Q10x Kxx xx Q10xxx. Pass. Your clubs are too weak and you have help in 2 other suits.

1H - P - 3H - P / 4NT - P - 5D - ? xxx Qx KQ109x xxx. Double. A diamond must be best.

1H - P - 3H - P / 4NT - P - 5D - ? xxx Qx Q10xxx xxx. Pass. Your diamonds are far too weak to suggest a lead.

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*My advice is to never put down the dummy in 1NT after partner has opened 1NT, when you hold a 5 card major or a 6 card minor.*

e.g. 1NT - P - ?

xxxxx Kx Qxx Qxx or xxxxx xx xxx xxx

Transfer to spades, then Pass.

e.g. 1NT - P - ?

Kx Qxx Qx xxxxxx. or xx xxx xx KJxxxx

Whatever your methods, make sure your side plays in 3C, not 1NT.

### *When not to bid 1S*

When partner opens 1H and you have 6-9 points with 3 hearts, don't bid 1S, even with 4 spades in your hand.

e.g. 1H - P - ? AJxx Jxx Jxxx xx. Bid 2H, not 1S. If you bid 1S and next give preference to hearts, you show specifically 2 hearts, not 3.

e.g. 1H - P - 1S - P / 2C - P - ? AKxx Jx xxxxx xx. Bid 2H, showing preference, not support.

*Thanks to Duncan Smith for the above.*



## MEMBER MILESTONES

*Congratulations to all our  
Unit 431 members who  
achieved new ACBL  
milestones in 2020!*

### **Sapphire Life Master** (3500)

Ewa Zwicky

### **Gold Life Master** (2500)

Alison Campbell

Danielle Goulet

### **Ruby Life Master** (1500)

Jim Brackenbury

Terry Foster

Burt Voorhees

### **Silver Life Master** (1000)

Charlie Christie

Heather Erskine

Sheila Kaye

Kay Kerr

Jon Preston

Bob Sommerhalder

Bree Watts

JP Weber

### **Bronze Life Master**

(500/750\*)

Don Copeland

King Lee

Jennifer McDonell

Al Romanchuk

Sue Schyf

### **Life Master** (300/500\*)

Don Copeland

King Lee

JM Punnett

Sue Schyf

### **Advanced NABC Master**

(300)

David Buckman

Janice Closson

Jill Plasteras

### **NABC Master** (200)

Bakh Dhillon

Catherine Mills

Catherine Mustafa  
Madeleine Tremblay  
Nigel Williamson

### **Regional Master** (100)

Jo Albinati

Heather Duncan

Brenda Fox

Lois Hunt

Susan Jobbins

Ruth McDougall

Gillian Mouat

Caleb Meyer

Farhad Rohani

Victoria Silk

Bettylee Sinclair

Lionel Traverse

### **Sectional Master** (50)

Joan Geber

Janette Magne

Alexis Martfeld

Sheryn Posen

Paul Retallack

Farhad Rohani

### **Club Master** (20)

Tony Dason

Marlene Howell

Judy Irwin

Christine Mokhtare

John Tucker

### **Junior Master** (5)

Phyllis Anderson

Gary Badgley

Larry Burns

Alison Crone

Tony Dason

John Di Tomasso

Ken Downing

Mike Hanwell

Evelyn Herkner

Ken Kelley

Gail Maier

Donna Miller

Norra Mirosevic

Roger Patterson

Del Pengelly  
Caroline Preston  
Irene Rathbone  
Naz Rayani  
Deborah Rodger  
Pam Ryan  
Christie Ulmer



\* Rank requirements vary for members who joined ACBL before or after 2010. <https://www.acbl.org/masterpoints-results/masterpoint-ranks/>

All the best of the season and Happy New Year to you  
and yours from the Board!

