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# BRIDGE BUZZ

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Newsletter of Unit 431

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## President's Report

Welcome to the first Bridge Buzz of 2021, thanks to the hard work of our new Communications/Bridge Buzz Coordinator, Madeleine Tremblay. I'm sure you will find it both informative and interesting.



We are all still in the throes of this dreaded Covid-19 with new variants to add to our fight against it. Based on the levels of Covid currently being experienced by Canada and the unfortunately slow implementation of the vaccination program, it appears very unlikely that we will be back to

face-to-face bridge any time soon. In my first message to you, I was optimistic that we might be able to hold a Fall Sectional. That appears unlikely at this time. However, Al Romanchuk, our new Tournament Coordinator, will be keeping a close eye on Covid and vaccination developments in the next few months before the Board together with ACBL make a final decision about having a Fall Sectional. Here's hoping it will happen. We will be sure to contact you as soon as a final decision has been made.

In the meantime, I know that many of our members are playing online bridge, mostly using Bridge Base Online (BBO) and supporting our local bridge clubs by using the Virtual Clubs option. This is a great way to help ensure that our 3 local sanctioned bridge clubs will survive this pandemic. If you have not tried the BBO website and would like to get involved, please refer to our website at [www.bridgevictoria.ca](http://www.bridgevictoria.ca), and you will see BBO in the top menu. Just hover over it and a drop-down menu will appear. One of the options is "Help using BBO". If you need additional help, don't hesitate to get in touch with our Webmaster, JP Weber, at [webmaster@bridgevictoria.ca](mailto:webmaster@bridgevictoria.ca).

If you have any questions or comments about duplicate bridge within Unit 431, please be sure to contact me at [president@bridgevictoria.ca](mailto:president@bridgevictoria.ca). I will do my best to answer your questions or bring them to the Board for their review.

I will end with Dr. Bonnie's words as I find them very inspirational: Be kind, be calm and be safe.

Gail Richardson, President

## A few cards short of a deck....by Madeleine Tremblay

English is my second language, my computer literacy is minimal and I like to write with a fountain pen....so naturally, I am the new editor of your online newsletter! I watched “how to” videos on YouTube about softwares I did not know existed and put my old tablet to the test.....so please be patient as I find my wings.



This edition of the Bridge Buzz features a word from Unit 431 president; a column from Jon Preston on a hand many of us struggled with on BBO; a question for Duncan; an interview with an extraordinary board member; a column by Jill Stainforth dedicated to new players; an update from the clubs; a note from Debbie Wastle and a last laugh from your former editor. I have collected all acronyms I saw used on BBO and created a lexicon for reference below. Send me the ones I've missed. Better still...make one up and make us guess!

My hope is to start a conversation with the Bridge Buzz, so future editions will require your input: submit interesting hands you come across on BBO, questions about bidding, playing or defending and I will pass them on to a number of expert players and teachers who've generously agreed to participate.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this first edition.

Please direct comments, requests and suggestions to [communications@bridgevictoria.ca](mailto:communications@bridgevictoria.ca)

## BBO Jargon

BRB : Be Right Back	NTP : Nice Try Partner
BCP : Bonne Chance Partner	SryP : Sorry Partner
GJP : Good Job Partner	TYP : Thank You Partner
GLP : Good Luck Partner	TY&GL: Thank You and Good Luck
GL2U2: Good Luck To You Too	U2 : You Too
GMTA : Great Mind Think Alike	VWDP : Very Well Done Partner
GTP: Good Try Partner	WDO : Well Done Opps
NDNT : No Double, No Trouble	WDP : Well Done Partner
NPP : Nice Play Partner	WTGP : Way To Go Partner

TTFN!

## BBO Hand Review by Jon Preston

Welcome to my column. The plan is that I'll write about an interesting online hand, using the history and replay that BBO allows – a real benefit of online play. I'll need thick skin to write these, because they'll usually reflect badly on me. So be it. That's one way that we all improve.

2 <sup>D</sup>	<b>N</b> Judy Coulter	<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
	♠ A1053 ♥ A9854 ♦ 8 ♣ 653	1♣ P 2♥ P 3NT	P	1♠ P 2NT P	P P
<b>W</b> Jon Preston			<b>E</b> Debbie Wastle		
♠ J7 ♥ KQJ6 ♦ K5 ♣ KJ1098			♠ Q9864 ♥ 732 ♦ A942 ♣ A		
	<b>S</b> Marlene Howell				
	♠ K2 ♥ 10 ♦ QJ10763 ♣ Q742				
		3NT E			NS: 0 EW: 0

My reverse was an overbid in the auction shown below, Deb W took me seriously, and we got too high. Nothing spectacular there, you'd think. But then the same auction and almost the same hand appeared in It's Your Call in the February Bulletin. Most of the experts bid as I had done, but a vocal group disagreed, in particular Karen Walker in the March Bulletin. Also, many of you chose to reverse in JP's local version of It's Your Call. That's lots to write about.

Board 2 of the afternoon Common Game on 16 February. West opens 1♣, pass, 1♠. My easy rebids of 1NT or 2♣ got derailed when South overcalled 2♦. It could be important to show the heart suit. East might have four hearts and longer spades or need to know that hearts are stopped. But I'm several points short of reversing values. So the question is: does 2♥ here promise the 16(+) of a full reverse?

The January It's Your Call problems (February Bulletin) asked the same question. Holding ♠2 ♥KQT5 ♦74 ♣AQJ874 you face the same auction: you open 1♣, then pass, 1♠, 2♦ overcall. The problem hand is weaker than mine, 12 HCP compared to 14, and with a sixth club but a weaker suit, so very similar. What did the expert panelists say? Nine chose 2♥, five chose 3♣ and only August Boehm passed. Larry Cohen wrote that there's no consensus on how much this 'in-comp' reverse promises. Zach Grossack said he only recently learned that reverses in competition promise very little extra. Jeff Meckstroth leads the 3♣ bidders: "We may have a heart fit but I'm not strong enough to bid 2♥". All except August Boehm wanted to show good suit or suits by bidding.

The debate continues. Karen Walker, in her column in the next month's Bulletin, seems truly shocked that she had to award 100 points to the majority choice, 2♥. She wrote, "I haven't yet decided if I'm open to the idea [in-comp reversing lacking full values], but bidding theory is always evolving".

JP Weber runs the unit on-line version of It's Your Call. How did all of you vote on this problem? 23 chose 2♥, 18 bid 3♣, 6 passed and 2 doubled. Seems that in Victoria we're partially accepting that it's OK to reverse in competition even without 16 HCP. The doubles were perhaps from those who don't play support doubles because before support doubles became ubiquitous it was normal to double in situations like this to show extra values but no clear direction.

Who am I to add my voice in this expert crowd? Steve Weinstein's definition of a reverse, one that helps us to understand why they can be made only with more than an opening bid, is that a reverse is a bid that forces partner to a higher level to take a preference to your first suit. Since we're willing to go as high as 3♣ with this hand and since showing those hearts could be valuable, reversing with 2♥ is a fine bid if you've agreed with partner that reverses in competition might not be full strength. Without that agreement, disaster looms.

Jon Preston



## Ask Duncan by Duncan Smith

“Always lead partner’s suit”..... “don’t lead to strength”....which is it?

18<sup>p</sup>

N Madogirl 6  
 ♠853  
 ♥J10532  
 ♦9  
 ♣K843

W sloskya 5+  
 ♠A106  
 ♥Q86  
 ♦AKQ63  
 ♣105

W N E S  
 Pass 1♠  
 1NT 2♠ 2NT Pass  
 Pass Pass

E jnaft 5+  
 ♠74  
 ♥A4  
 ♦J108754  
 ♣A96

S SparkMark 5  
 ♠KQJ92  
 ♥K97  
 ♦2  
 ♣QJ72

2NT West  
 0 0

**Q** When is it right NOT to lead partner’s suit in a NT contract? Here, p bid Spades during the auction, so it is a natural lead but it also finesses p.

**A** If you lead your partner’s suit consistently for the rest of your life, you’ll seldom be wrong. Do otherwise in rare cases where you have something like a singleton in partner’s suit and a side suit like QJ1098. Don’t fear finessing partner, as declarer can do that herself.

## Online Lesson

Deb Wastle teaches 2 FREE lessons per week of about 40 minutes each. One [on Thursday @ 10:00 am](#) aimed at Non Life Masters and another [on Tuesday at 10:00](#) with more advanced concepts. All are welcome to either or both. You don’t have to be a NLM to attend on Thursday. These lessons are conducted via Zoom. If you wish to be added to my mail-out list just send me an email: [debwastle@gmail.com](mailto:debwastle@gmail.com) and you will start receiving the Zoom link for both lessons. If you only want one or the other, let me know.

As for the Buzz, I would be happy to contribute in any way you think best. I do have a thought though, possibly a Director Please! column where I could either answer questions about director calls or bridge ethics or just shoot off my mouth without anyone asking for it!! Let me know what you think. I think it would be good for most levels of players. If you want to call me to discuss feel free: [250-882-4824](tel:250-882-4824).

## Interview with Maureen Trappe by Madeleine Tremblay

### ***“I wish I had done more”***

Maureen Trappe has been our Unit 431 Board secretary for the past 3 years. This year, she also accepted the post of Vice President. In addition, she has served as the Senior VP of the Juan de Fuca Senior centre for several years, voted the best organized senior centre in Canada for the second year in a row.

At the beginning of our conversation, I asked Maureen what we might be surprised to learn about her and without hesitation she replied *“I was quite adventurous”*. The interview proved this to be an understatement!

#### **BB (Bridge Buzz): Where were you born?**

*MT (Maureen Trappe): “Here on the Coast, in Powell River. But later, after the house burned down, we moved to Edmonton...and later to Kelowna.”*

#### **BB: Where did you go to school?**

*MT: “I love to learn and I’ve gone to school all my life. Every time I find something interesting, I go back to school.”*

So, when she wanted to learn to drive, she took a course in mechanics; when her daughter went to summer camp: *“I took a cooking course and went as a cook”*. She has a degree in Credit Management and worked in that field for several years. *“Computer classes....of course!”*. At 55, she went back to school for a 3 year degree in Adult Education and reinvented herself as a teacher for 14 years. Oh, and she also learned how to build houses and do estimates for building supplies and concrete!

#### **BB: What are you studying now?**

*MT: “A couple of years ago, Nicole offered the Director’s course, I thought that it would be a really neat way to learn more about the game I love. I had no intention of being a director, but I got hooked...now I direct online which I think is a hoot! I am always always studying something”.*

#### **BB: When did you learn bridge?**

*MT: “When I was 10. My father was a professional bridge player, he payed his way thru university playing bridge, and he taught us. My brother was my mom’s partner, and I was my dad’s.”* Maureen has played bridge ever since but only started duplicate in her 60’s when a work colleague, Peggy Pepper, invited her to try it out. Thanks Peggy!  
*“I am fascinated by the game and its intricacies...master points are not really an issue for me”.*

**BB: What are your hobbies?**

*MT: "I like to travel. Tim likes to travel too. We've been to Greece, Italy, of course, all over England, Wales, Scotland. I've been to China with my sister...that was a fabulous trip...I climbed the Great Wall of China!"*

**BB: Next trip?**

*MT: "We're thinking of a river cruise in Europe".*

**BB: Other adventures?**

*MT: "well...I used to do rock climbing on my Harley"*

**BB: Aren't Harleys road bikes?**

*MT: "If that's where you ride them! I used to ride on Turtle Mountain, near Kelowna...off road...it was great fun. I also built and raced stock cars. We raced the circuit in BC mostly but also Washington state. That was a lot of fun too!"*

**BB: Sounds dangerous...any crash?**

*MT: "Only the ones on purpose...because I did demolition derbies too!"*

**BB: What do you drive now?**

*MT: "A Subaru...I need to remind myself that life is an adventure and not to settle down! I wish I had done more!"*

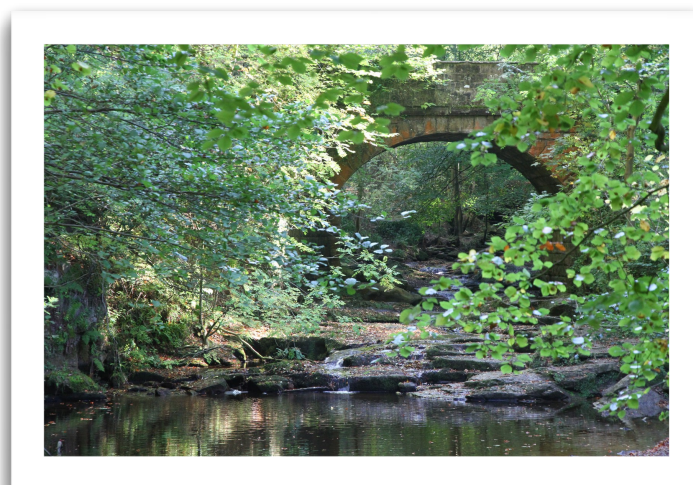
**BB: No more motorcycle?**

*MT: "No...but Harley makes a trike, with 2 wheels at the front, and I'd really like to try that."*

**BB: What do you most look forward to, post-pandemic?**

*MT: "Being back at the (bridge) table and seeing everybody. I am so thankful for bridge this past year. It fulfills my love to learn. We are so fortunate here in Victoria with a great bridge community and so many excellent, world-class players willing to share their expertise and guide us all the time. I am grateful for that."*

...and I am grateful for this conversation! *"It was a hoot!"* Thanks Maureen.



A different kind of bridge

## Island Bridge Club by Roy Stefaniec

In addition to our regular BBO games on Monday 12:15 and Wednesday 12:15, we now host a Team of 8 game on Wednesday evening at 19:00. It is a Swiss team event similar to the one they used to have at Head street with A: open to 1500, B:1500 to 200 and C: 200 or less. IBC is looking for a new home for when F2F bridge resumes as renovations at St-Aidan's make it no longer accessible for our club. Stay posted.

## Monterey Bridge Club by Nicole Dupuis

The VICTORIA CLUBS will be hosting the fourth Day of Bridge benefiting Alzheimer Society of BC, which equates to the Longest Day in the USA. The Bridge Games and Auction will be held online. All sanction fees, donations, and auction items go directly to the Alzheimer Society of British Columbia.

This year, the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) has dedicated 2 days to DAY OF BRIDGE on Bridge Base Online (BBO): [June 19th](#) and 20th.

There are four ways you can contribute to the Alzheimer Society of BC:

1. Play on these days: [June 19th](#) and [20th](#) (Father's Day) - 18-board games [at 9AM, 12:15PM](#) and [7PM](#)
2. The Day of Bridge Auction 2021 takes place on this website [Day of Bridge Auction](#), [from May 17th to June 17th](#).

3. You can donate directly to our [Alzheimers Society BC fundraising page](#) and receive a tax receipt.

4. You can donate a service or item for the auction by letting me know.

By making a donation, you are helping to transform the lives of individuals and families living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. By supporting the work of the Alzheimer Society of B.C., you are ensuring there is a province-wide organization dedicated to providing services and programs to help families faced with dementia have the confidence and skills to maintain quality of life, to support the search for the cure.

With your help, we are united to support Alzheimer's disease and other dementia in British Columbia - thank you most sincerely.

Nicole Dupuis

[Monterey Bridge Club 240945](#)

[250-884-5414](#) text

[Supporting Alzheimer Society of BC](#)

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## Duplicate Light "Reminders" by Jill Sainforth

At our Duplicate Light games, we are mainly introducing social bridge players to the competitive aspects of duplicate: the movement of the boards and the EW pairs; using bidding boxes, and how the scoring shows your ranking in the room.

Among the bridge questions that pop up after play, a frequent one has to do with the No Trump bidding and transfers.

Partner transferring over a 1NT opening has a very important second bid that shows her/his high card point count. Because a transfer can be done with zero points, it matters a lot to the 1NT opener to learn how strong partner's hand is, after learning about the long suit.

Second bids by responder after a transfer are: Pass with 0-7 high card points; 2NT with 8-9 hcp; and 3N with 10 plus hcp.

With this info, opener can safely place the contract at the right level of NT or the long suit.

## Thank you to the Bridge Community by Deb Wastle

I very much appreciate the support and comfort I received from the bridge community since the loss of my son. It was gratefully received and gave me strength and warmth. I know I will always be sad when I think of Matthew, but life was not kind to him and I strongly believe he is in a better place. I particularly want to thank Roy for initiating and directing the Charity game, Madeleine, Jill S and JP for promoting it, and all the people who attended and/or supported the cause. I also particularly want to thank all of the many people who sent cards, flowers and emotional support either directly to me or through their thoughts and prayers. Much love, Deb

## Outside social groups by Nev Hircock

Following encouraging news regarding "safe social groups of 10 outside" we need to clarify just how this applies to the Bridge community.

A group of ten may indeed socialize outside in someone's garden provided they all come from no more than three original bubbles and provided that they maintain social distancing and there is a breeze of at least 5km/hr blowing and provided all have had at least one shot of a vaccine and that at least four of the ten have had two shots unless at least four have previously recovered from COVID and have also had at least one shot in which case these four must sit upwind of the other six unless the wind exceeds 10 km/hr in which case only two of the 10 need to have either recovered from COVID plus had one shot or have had two shots. None of the above applies if two of the ten are actively involved in sex in which case it is not safe for the other eight to remain nearby under any circumstances.

