

Nov. 98

4S	N	420		3
5H	W	150		1-
3N	S	430		4
3H	W		140	0
4C	N	150		P

the Matchpointer



NABC NEWS!

- 4 **Doug Cowan** brings us up to date on what's going on.
- 4 **Dave House on the Bidding Box** Avoid unnecessary director calls at the Big Event.
- 5 **Name-A-Game** Corporate and personal sponsorships of the event.

IMP LEAGUE COVERAGE

- 3 **Commissioner Bart Lays Down the Law.**
- 12 **MC Master Kool Glaze D chickens out,** picks a four-way tie in Flight A.
- 12 **Roster Moves for Flight B.**
- 13 **Famed Astrophysicist Dr. J. Friedman-Hubble** ranks Flight B.

Other Features

- 1 **Upcoming Events.** Club Xmas Parties, championships, and other special events.
- 2-3 **From the Unit Board.** President's Message • **Dianne Isfeld** wins this year's Don Fraser Active Ethics Award.
- 6 **Meet the Players.** Dave Schmidt interviews Vancouver Bridge Centre manager **Eugene Chan.**
- 7-10 **Matchpointer Yellow Players**
- 11 **Sectional Trophy & MUG Races**
- 14-15 **The Play's the Thing.** Dave House plays the Nine of Diamonds... and regrets it • **Landau's Lesson** • **Brad Bart** has a question after class.
- 16 **Dr. Kent Bidwell's** closing thoughts.

From the Editor

There is a scene in the 1996 movie *Blowup*, by Michelangelo Antonioni, where the hero goes to a rock concert, and catches a broken guitar that the band throws into the audience at the end of their set. He is immediately swarmed and surrounded by a dozen frenzied, screaming teenage girls, all of whom are trying to take it away from him. He flees, running out of the club with the girls in hot pursuit. He dashes this way and that, up an alley and down a street, until he eventually outruns them and is left alone with his prize. Then, he looks at it, and on realizing that it is little more than a broken piece of wood, he throws it into a nearby trash can.

The scene serves to remind us that the forces of supply and demand often overpower the forces of utility and common sense. When a person decides that he wants something that has no intrinsic value, be it a broken guitar, Bre-X shares, or what have you, that person and those around him will often do some very strange things. This past summer, some of these forces were made manifest when, for the first time in ten years, there were actually more people who wanted to be on the Unit Board than there were seats available!! It seemed that nobody quite knew what to do about that, except one or two people who kept their knowledge to themselves. So in the end, some people were elected, some weren't, feelings got

hurt, and a couple of people gave up their seats in protest. That left a void at the *Matchpointer*, which is where I came in.

Everybody in the Unit knows what a great job Bruce McIntyre has done over the last few years editing the *Matchpointer*, running the IMP leagues, and, most notably, playing Christmas carols on his saxophone at the December sectional. He has left some big shoes behind which I don't pretend to be able to fill. (Of course, if at the Christmas Party you want to hear my Jimi Hendrix-inspired rendition of the gangsta rap classic "Santa Ain't Comin' Cuz We Capped Him", I'll be happy to oblige.)

In all seriousness, we all owe Bruce a great debt for all the work he has done. In the meantime, however, you're stuck with me, so I'll ask you all for the following:

1. Contributions. I encourage shameless self-promotion, whether it be from clubs, pros, teachers, or normal folks who just want to write. Not everything will get printed, but it will be considered, and it will be appreciated.
2. Feedback. Let me know what works and what doesn't. (Don't worry about hurting my feelings. I'm a lawyer. I have none.)
3. Patience. I'm new at this.

Jeremy Crowhurst

Contributors (Thanks!)

Patti Adams

Brad Bart

MC Master Kool Glaze D

Dr. J. Friedman-Hubble

Dave House

Louis Landau

Dave Schmidt

Aidan Ballantyne

Eugene Chan

Doug Cowan

Harry Friedman

Dianne Isfeld

June Pocock

Finn Schultz

Caffeine by Dr. Pepper.

Special thanks to the Vancouver Bridge Centre for their loan of a computer and continued technical support. If not for them, the entire magazine would look alot like this.

MATCHPOINTER

is a publication of ACBL Unit 430, printed five times each year, and distributed free to its members at local clubs and at Unit events. Opinions are those of the authors; unattributed material is written by the author, with help from various sources. Conspicuous blank space generally represents information that was expected but not received, and a conscious decision by the editor not to simply make something up. Articles or material that looks suspiciously like it was made up generally represents information that was expected but not received, and a conscious decision by the editor to improvise with something that looks like it might be true. Be warned. Editor's notes do not necessarily represent the views of the Unit Board.

Editor: Jeremy Crowhurst
1460 E. 61st Ave.
Vancouver, B.C.
V5H 3C9

e-mail: rulegal@direct.ca
fax: 926-9206

Matchpointer subscriptions are available and help to offset costs. Subscription costs are tied to postal rates and the current cost of Dr. Pepper. For the current rates contact:

Mail Dan Webster
Distribution: 8415 Draper Str.
Mission, B.C.
V2V 6S3

Unit 430 clubs requiring more copies for their players may request them from Unit President **June Pocock**, at 939-0711.

Advertising Encouraged!

We welcome and thank all prepaid advertisers. Each *Matchpointer* issue reaches over one thousand local readers. We encourage all readers to patronize *Matchpointer* advertisers. The revenue from advertising helps to offset the production and printing costs.

Advertising Rates 1999
Business Card \$15/issue
Half Page \$40/issue
Full Page \$65/issue
Full Year (5 issues) 15% off

Special Events Around the Unit

November 15, 1998 - January 31, 1999

15 Nov.	1:00 VBC CNTC Qualifier	13	1:00 E.R. Club Champ.
16	7:30 TSW C.O.P.C.	14	10:00 VAN Xmas Party
17	10:45 VBC Tues Club Champ.		7:15 SRY Xmas Party
	7:30 NSW Club Champ.		7:30 CHW Xmas/Champ
18	10:00 VAN Club Champ.	15	11:00 S-W Xmas Party
	7:30 C.R Club Champ.		7:30 NSW Xmas Party
19	7:30 VBC Thurs. Club Champ.	16	10:30 HAS Xmas Party
22	1:00 E.R. Memb. Game		7:15 VAN Xmas/Champ.
23	7:15 SRY Charity Game		7:30 C.R Xmas Party
	7:30 VBC ACBL-wide Charity		7:30 M-R Xmas/Champ
24	11:00 S-W Club Champ.	17	7:30 MIS Xmas/Champ
	7:30 BBY Club Champ.		7:15 F.V Xmas Party
25	10:30 HAS Charity	18	7:30 ABB Xmas/Champ
	7:30 C.R Memb. Game		7:30 S-D Xmas Party
26	7:15 F.V Club Champ.	20	1 pm E.R Xmas
27	7:30 S-D Club Champ.	21	10:45 BBY Xmas
			HBN Closed
29	6:00 UNIT XMAS PARTY See ad on inside back cover, or ask any Unit Board member.	22	7:30 BBY Xmas
		24	F.V, HBN, VBC Closed
30	7:30 VBC 0-200 Club Champ.	25	S-D, VBC Closed
	7:30 TSW Memb. Game	27	6:30 VBC IMP Pairs Championship
1 Dec.	11:00 S-W Memb. Game	28	HBN Closed
2	7:15 WRK Xmas Party	31	7:30 VBC New Years Eve Game
5	7:30 VBC Monthly Unit Game		F.V, HBN Closed
6	E.R Closed	1 Jan	12:00 VAN Trophy Game
7	7:30 CHW Charity Game		7:30 VBC Business as usual
	7:30 VBC CNTC Club Qualifier	2	7:30 VBC Monthly Unit Game
10	F.V Closed	3	6:30 VBC Tournament of Champions
11	7:30 S-D STAC	9	Noon VBC CNTC Club Qual.
	7:30 VBC Xmas Party/Char. Champ.	22-24	Winter Sectional

Unit Board Directory

President	June Pocock	939-0711	pocock@home.com
Vice President	Patti Adams	275-1531	pgadams@globalserve.net
Past President	Jennifer Ballantyne	438-3095	tlr@istar.ca
Secretary	Jude Goodwin-Hanson	465-2933	jude@cbf.ca
		465-2979	(fax)
Treasurer	Pete Walton	584-2980	pwalton@axion.net
Tournaments	Sandra Hawk	464-2792	sghawk@home.com
STaC	Anne-Marie Bullis	525-5669	ambullis@direct.ca
Unit Games	Gladys Mackie	526-0687	74507.1762@compuserve.com
Club Liason	Harry Friedman	276-9993	friedman@webtv.net
IMP League	Brad Bart	931-8339	bbart@cs.sfu.ca
Tournaments	Dan Webster	826-8927	danweb@direct.ca
Matchpointer	Jeremy Crowhurst	301-0589	rulegal@direct.ca
		926-9206	(fax)

SIC

There are several things that the attentive reader will not find in this issue of the Matchpointer. I have included no results from recent tournaments, for example, not so much because there haven't been any recent tournaments (after all, "recent" takes on a new meaning when there hasn't been a Matchpointer since June) but because I don't have the information, and I didn't know who to ask for it. So goes the first issue of a new editor. Also, there is no preview for the valley IMP league. Again, nothing was submitted.

Finally, after doing up the trophy races page, we realized that several of the people listed under the Leo Steil trophy aren't eligible as they aren't old enough. So here's what we'll do: forget the insult now, and in ten years, when you ARE eligible, we'll say you aren't...

BUY THIS SPACE! Or others like it. Ask us how.

From the Unit Board

President's Message by June Pocock

There is so much I want to talk about but I know "short is sweet", so I will try to adhere to this.

The first thing that comes to my mind, and I must add my thought processes tend to jump all over the place, is how well the sectionals have done in the past year. All of our sectionals made money.

The unit has decided to try and find a new site for at least one sectional, which will meet more of our needs. Perhaps, a hotel downtown or in Richmond. As you know, a few years back we used the Sheraton downtown and we got priced out. We are hoping that with tighter economic times, our budget can cover a similar hotel. Our Tournament Chairwoman, Sandra Hawk, is looking into our options.

We have been using the Surrey Inn (now the Day's Inn) for a couple of years and we are aware of the problems with this site. We are doing everything we can to alleviate them. The main problem seems to be the smoking situation. As you perhaps know, when the hotel rents out the smaller rooms, we can't stop smoking in the hallway. We are trying to rent the whole downstairs so that we can set aside separate smoking areas. Hopefully, this will help for the future tournaments held there.

The other problem is security in the parking lot. We are talking to the Surrey Inn about providing a security guard during our games.

My mind now goes back to the Annual General Meeting held on July 5, 1998. We held an election, the first one in twelve years, in which we elected two new board members: Jude Goodwin-Hanson as Secretary and Peter Walton as Treasurer. I must say we made a few mistakes in running this election. First, we should have had six vacancies as every year half of the twelve positions should be up for re-election. Secondly, we didn't follow the unit's policy regarding nominations.

Our bylaws are a bit confusing. We are going to revise them and hopefully at the next Annual General Meeting we will ratify the changes. We are very lucky because not only is Jeremy Crowhurst our new Matchpoint editor, he is a lawyer and he will help us make the correct adjustments to our bylaws. (*ed. note: sure, for my normal billing rate of \$125 per hour....*)

I would like to welcome our new members and thank them for bringing their many talents to our Unit Board. Our newest member, Brad Bart, who joined in early October, will be our new IMP League Commissioner. Please just look at his IMP League web page to see all the work he had already put in to his new position.

1998/99 UNIT 430 MEMBERS

President:	June Pocock
Vice President & Partnerships:	Patti Adams
Past President & Trophies:	Jennifer Ballantyne
Treasurer:	Peter Walton
Secretary:	Jude Goodwin-Hanson
Sectional Tournament Chair:	Sandra Hawk
Asst. Tourn. Chair & Supplies:	Dan Webster
New Members, Educ. & STAC:	Anne-Marie Bullis
Matchpointer editor:	Jeremy Crowhurst
IMP League Commissioner:	Brad Bart
Club Liason:	Harry Friedman
Monthly Unit Games:	Gladys Mackie

We are all looking forward to working together and having a great year. As I have mentioned we are implementing some changes and hopefully these will add to the enjoyment of all who play bridge. If anyone has any suggestions please put them forth, as we want to represent you the best way we can.

Please help me in saying farewell to last year's outgoing Unit Board Members and thanking them for their contributions. Felipe Hernandez, Jim Burt and Bruce McIntyre... you will be missed.

The Don Fraser Active Ethics Award by Patti Adams

Don Fraser was known among his friends and fellow bridge players as a gentleman; he conducted himself in a manner that enhanced everyone's enjoyment of the game. His friends wanted to make sure we didn't forget Don. They thought it appropriate that we honour his memory by acknowledging others who contribute positively to the atmosphere of the game.

This is the second time that our unit is presenting someone who has exemplified the ideals we think of when we talk about Active Ethics. At a time when Zero Tolerance has become the cry from the pulpit of bridgedom because of so

much boorish behaviour, it is refreshing to look at the number and scope of the people nominated for their Active Ethics.

This year's worthy recipient is **Dianne Isfeld**. Dianne is known throughout the Lower Mainland Bridge arena as a pleasant, amiable partner and opponent. Her friendly demeanor does not diminish her competitive nature. Dianne, and Ev Hodge, last year's recipient, have proved that being competent, competitive, ambitious bridge players can be synonymous with being actively ethical and courteous.

Congratulations Dianne! You are a deserving and commendable receiver of the Don Fraser Award for Active Ethics.

When this award was first suggested, it was

(Continued on next page)

From the Unit Board

An Open Letter to IMP League Participants

Welcome to the 1998-1999 Unit 430 IMP League!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Brad Bart, and I am the newly appointed IMP League Commissioner. If we haven't yet been formally introduced, please make a point of saying hello the next time you see me at a bridge game.

The goal of this letter is to summarize what is expected of every player during the IMP League season. Some players have already expressed some concerns to me about habitually bad behaviour in previous seasons. Thank you for making me aware of these potential problems. As Commissioner, I intend to assess penalties within the bounds of the Conditions of the Contest with a firm (but tolerant) hand. Past transgressions will not be countermanded with excessive penalties.

Also, please note that some portions of the Conditions of Contest have been revised and/or updated.

Welcome to the IMP League and have a good season!

Yours sincerely,

Brad Bart

IMP League Commissioner

acknowledged that this was not a popularity contest, nor would it be appropriate to hand out this award every year if it didn't seem warranted. From the nominees suggested, it will be an annual event for as long as these people are around and setting an example for others on how a truly good bridge player should conduct themselves.

"To recognize players who exhibit a combination of high-level active ethics, exemplary courtesy to partners and opponents, and the kind of general deportment which enhances everyone's enjoyment of bridge." The nominations these year were:

Kathy Adachi	John Barry
Anne-Marie Bullis	Ernie Dietrich
Al French	Terry Gould
Doug Hansford	Gladys Mackie
Myra Morgan	Marina Page
Sheila Sache	David Walker

Nadia Yallouz

IMP League Mission Statement

General

The goal of the IMP League is to provide an opportunity to play long IMP team matches in a non-tournament setting, that is, in preference to the more popular matchpoint club games. The IMP League is run similar to a "sports league," in that match results are cumulative for an entire season, to determine final standings and playoff matches.

Fair play, good sportsmanship and a positive attitude are the top priorities of the IMP League, its Commissioner, and its participants.

Gamesmanship and abusive stretching of the rules are considered bad sportsmanship. Inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated, and should be documented and reported to the Commissioner immediately.

Remember to try and keep the IMP League a social event and when in doubt, be considerate.

Match Reporting

I intend to be firm (but tolerant) with lateness in match reporting this year. With extra time allotted in the schedules for both NABCs and the Christmas holiday season, there should be little excuse for late reporting. Remember that there is no penalty for playing a match ahead of the suggested schedule.

Matches must be reported within 2 weeks of the deadline and by May 1, 1999 or they will be forfeit unless reasonable circumstances have prevented the match from taking place.

Matches whose schedule runs into the next period should be brought to the attention of the Commissioner. Excessive delays of matches by any team will result in a winning forfeit awarded to the non-offending side. Deliberate postponement of matches will result in disciplinary action.

Finally, I request that team captains show compromise and tolerance when scheduling difficulties occur and remember that eight busy lives must agree to a single time to play bridge together.

Check out the Commissioner's
1998-99 IMP League Site on the World Wide Web:
<http://www.cs.sfu.ca/~bbart/personal/IMPS>

More IMP League coverage on page 12

Recent Developments by Doug Cowan

It is now less than six months until our first NABC in 25 years, and the committee is well into the home stretch with its preparations. Everything appears to be on time and on budget and we are convinced that this will be the most memorable bridge event ever held in Vancouver. Much of our effort is directed at our visitors, but you, the local bridge community, also figure prominently in our plans, and indeed your support is critical to the success of the Tournament. The following is an update about some of the things that will be of special interest to you.

ENTRY FEES

This is a popular question, but unfortunately the answer will depend on the exchange rate at tournament time. Although the ACBL is a trans-border organization, its headquarters and most of its expenses are in the U.S. The three NABC's are a major source of its revenue and we cannot expect it to lose money on a tournament just because it's in Canada. However, your committee has lobbied extensively to the Board of Directors to give some relief, especially for Regionally and lower rated events, from the straight conversion of the current U.S. fee of \$11. Negotiations continue. Stay tuned.

PARKING

There is plenty of parking at the Trade & Convention Centre but it is expensive. Currently, day and evening parking is

\$16.50 combined. Thanks to some intensive negotiation by Phil Wood, we have arranged for a rate of \$8 for 24 hours at a garage on Cordova St., just a block away. We intend to sell tickets in blocks of 5 for \$40 at the hospitality desks, and also possibly in advance at local clubs. Single tickets for \$8 will also be available. Final details are being worked out, so you'll hear more about this later. Parking for the evening only is readily available, including on the street, for much less than \$8. We also recommend car-pooling and public transit where practical.

NAME-A-GAME

This is an innovative way to be a recognized supporter of the Tournament. (See the accompanying article).

HOTELS

Although most of you will be commuting from home, if you have friends from out of town who plan to attend, you may be interested to know that the Pan Pacific is sold out already, although cancellations are possible. Other hotels were all still available at last report. If you're looking for good value, I understand the Rosedale, at Smithe & Hamilton, near the new library, offers all suites at \$89 per night. All accommodation should be booked through the ACBL's Official Housing Bureau, Mega Housing Management, 1-800-773-5069.

So, it's time to start talking to your favorite partners and make your dates for this memorable event. It will be something you will remember for a lifetime.

The Bidding Box by Dave House

The bidding box is perhaps the best addition to the game of bridge since the Stayman Convention. It enables us to conduct a silent auction, with no misunderstandings due to language, speech, or hearing problems. It removes the need to review the auction. It is one of the simpler tools in our life; much easier to operate than a can opener or corkscrew. We should take a few minutes to familiarize ourselves with it and make it our best friend.

Most people will have no difficulty with handling the bidding cards. The back part of the box contains the cards for each of the thirty-five bids from one club to seven no-trump. To make a bid, grasp the tab of the card of the bid you wish to make and take out all the cards up to and including the bid and place this pile on your left, facing outwards. Subsequent bids will be placed to the right of the previous bid and a record of the bids, round by round will result. A minute's practise should make this routine for most. The bidding box is designed for right handed people

and seems to pose a problem for many lefties. The result is generally that they play their cards facing toward them from right to left; but, it all works out. Right handers who don't appreciate the problem souhpaws have with the awkward mechanics will gain sympathy and understanding if they try bidding left-handed.

The most important thing to know about using the bidding box is that you should do all your thinking and decision making before you reach for the box. It is most inappropriate to reach for a pass or double card, then switch to the bid cards, or vice-versa. Fakes and feigns are great in basketball, but cause trouble in bridge.

The front of the box contains the colour cards. The first one is the pass card. Note that there are more pass cards than any other card in the box. That's because you are supposed to use them a lot. Some players are noted for their reluctance or inability to use the pass card, almost as though they are allergic to it.

The next card is the double card. Sometimes called the red card, the bright colour of this card screams trouble. Like a sword it can cut both ways and its frequent use, abuse

(Continued on next page)

Name A Game Campaign

The NABC tournament committee has adopted a new and innovative way of raising funds for this year's event: the "Name a Game" Contract Bridge Campaign. For a fee ranging from \$50 to \$200, people, organizations, or companies can "buy" one the 100+ games to be held, and choose a name for that game, such as "the A&B Sound Stratified Pairs". (There are limits, of course. The committee had to reject the "Gino You Loser I'm So Over You, So You and My Former Best Friend Can Burn in Hell Mixed Pairs".)

The campaign offers individuals an opportunity to pay tribute to players past and present, and offers companies some low-cost advertising directed at a highly desirable demographic group: 90% of ACBL players are university educated, and their average yearly income exceeds \$50,000. 24% have an income over \$75,000.

Participating sponsors' names will be included in the tournament's advance publicity, which includes fliers, ads in the Bridge Bulletin, the tournament's internet site (www.cbf.ca/NABC), and advance local mailouts. During the tournament, sponsors will receive publicity in the souvenir program, daily bulletins, and daily schedules of events.

As of October 20, more than 30 games had been sold. Some of the larger companies participating are A&B Sound, Canada Safeway, and Price Waterhouse. However,

many of the premier events are still available to be bought.

For further details, please contact Aidan Ballantyne at 439-9293.

And no, buying an event doesn't get you any automatic top boards if you play in it.

LIST OF SPONSORS AS OF OCT. 20

A.R.M. Management Ltd.	A&B Sound Ltd.
Ecclesiastical Insurance Company	Canada Safeway
Price Waterhouse	Global Merchandising
Masterpoint Press	B.C. Gas Utility
Atkinson & Terry Insurance	Strider Computer Group
Diane Dean - Nikken Distributor	Camrosa Consulting
Great Bridge Links	Comstat Racing Stables
Red Barn Antiques	Concrete Graphics
Team Havoc (Jade Barrett)	Refco Futures Ltd.
Phil and Maureen Wood	Jim Dickie
Jamie and Patsy Davidson	Sweetpea and Lola
Vancouver Bridge Centre	Vancouver Bridge Club
North Shore Winter Club	
In Memory of Don Fraser	
In Memory of Jack Ritch	
In Memory of Colin Collin	

and misuse leads to many colourful bridge stories and lots of disasters and big numbers. In expert circles the double card has many artificial uses. Examples are support, game try, and negative doubles. Some players seem to be as in love with the red card as they are repelled by the green card.

Hidden by the double cards are a couple of rarely seen royal blue redouble cards. This is perhaps the most misunderstood card in the box. Its use by some players creates more confusion and mystery for their partner. It has a few standard meanings and some expert conventional uses, but like a bottle with a poison label on it, the redouble card should generally be avoided. A foul-up involving this card can be very ugly.

At the back of the coloured cards are the alert card and the stop card. The alert card is displayed as you say 'alert' to let your opponents know that partner's bid contains a special agreement or artificial meaning. 'Alert.' is proper. 'Alert. My partner has six diamonds and four hearts and wants me to bid four clubs if I have a fit for diamonds and four diamonds if I have...' will attract a director call.

The stop card is used by a player about to make a bid which skips one or more levels of bidding. The stop card should be placed on the table before the skip bid is made and left on the table for about 8 seconds before being put back in

the bidding box. While the stop card is on the table, the next player should consider his hand and should not make any call. The skip bid (eg an opening pre-empt) may give the next hand a problem and the stop card provides extra time to study the problem. The pre-empt may have caused the next player no problem at all, if he had an easy pass or a clear bid, but the pause required by the stop card evens the tempo of the next seat's actions, and helps prevent unauthorized information.

If a player makes a skip bid without using the stop card, the next player should nonetheless pause as if the stop card had been used. Also, while the use of the stop card is not obligatory, players should be consistent, either always using it when appropriate, or never using it.

One problem with the stop card is that it is a similar red to that of the double card, and players have been known to confuse the two, eg. bidding immediately after the stop card is played, but before the bid, thinking that player doubled. Be careful to avoid this silly mistake.

The bidding box is as valuable as it is easy to use. Take the time to become familiar with it so that you can apply your full concentration on figuring out what to bid. And don't forget to use those pass cards!

MEET THE PLAYERS

Eugene Chan

by David Schmidt

As Vancouver nears looks forward to hosting the Spring North American Bridge Championships, it is fitting to look at the achievements of one of the alumni of the first NAC's held in this city in 1974. At the time, Vancouver Bridge Centre manager Eugene Chan was a simple kitchen bridge player: he had learned bridge a few years earlier after a friend's broken leg forced him and his friends to switch to cards from more active sports. He read a story in the local paper about "a tournament in the Hyatt Regency. I went there with my buddy, followed the crowds, signed up as an ACBL member, got my souvenir dollar (which he still has), and looked at the available games for one I could enter."

Deciding he had insufficient expertise for most of the games, he settled for a side game, placing third. (First went to an out-of-towner named Barry Crane).

The experience was very humbling. "I decided if side games were this tough, other games must be impossible."

For the next seven years, Chan remained an ACBL member (regularly receiving the Match-pointer by mail), but played only in the occasional unit game since "I wasn't affiliated with a club and thought that was the only game I could play in."

Eventually, a co-worker introduced him to some duplicate players (Ken Lochang), and started taking him to the odd club game before the co-worker moved to Toronto. By then Chan had discovered the Haida's Lucky Number Jackpot Game. The lure of a large jackpot finally got Chan to venture out to the club without a partner. He didn't win the jackpot, but it did get his bridge career started.

"Twelve years after I joined the ACBL, I got my first 20 MP's," he recalls.

They were not his last. Even though his recent history marks him as more of a bridge teacher/ director/ manager, he has had his share of successes at the table. He represented the District in the Non-Life-Master North American Open Pairs in Buffalo with Nigel Fulbrook, and represented the Zone in the Canadian Open Pairs Championship in Ottawa with Les Fouks.

His early history may partly explain Chan's personal dedication to new players and his overall philosophy as a bridge club manager.

"A bridge club has to try to be a place where people can come by themselves and find someone to play with,"

Chan says, adding "the biggest problem is everyone's looking for partners, and new players in particular are afraid to ask. The key to success is to make sure players can come alone knowing they have a chance to play."

He believes people go to clubs and tournaments to have people to play with and against. "Bridge is not the product you're selling. The product you're selling is the fact you can bring together more players than they can. The ACBL is bringing people together and bridge is just incidental. It's just one large extended family and we have to treat each other as family. We have to love each other even though we occasionally annoy one another."

After Lochang convinced Chan to join him and Tony Remedios in buying the Haida Club, Chan went to the Indianapolis NAC's to take the I/N (intermediate/ novice teacher/ director) course. Although he initially dropped out of the partnership when the VBC was started, he was soon back in, eventually taking over full management, including the new player program.

"In August 96, I started the Wednesday morning novice game. It has taken awhile but it has finally blossomed to a 9-10 table game."

Buoyed by that success, he started another beginner game/lesson on Thursday evenings, drawing 5 tables on the night of this interview. He believes the novice program is critical, saying "it takes a long time for students to advance from classes to even something as simple as a

"A bridge club has to try to be a place where people can come by themselves and find someone to play with. The key to success is to make sure players can come alone knowing they have a chance to play."

novice game."

In the past, novice meant "two to five years of kitchen bridge experience," but that core "doesn't exist anymore. Now the novices really are novices."

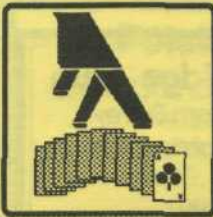
While Chan claims not to know why he is successful at recruiting novices, his success is clear, as evidenced by the VBC's record in the Canadian Rookie-Master game.

"We had more tables in the last four Rookie-Master games than any other club in the country (37, 37, 28.5 and 25). That's a record we're proud of. We would have even more but we can't get enough masters."

Chan is legendary for his unconventional bidding. If that is the case, what does he teach his students? "I play aces beat kings and my favourite carding system is by guess and bygolly. That's what I teach them. Bid lots and avoid asking for aces," are two other maxims. Most important is to teach novices "you can't make everything you bid. If you do, you're not bidding enough."

His final maxim: *Play with confidence.*

"Bridge is a self-fulfilling prophecy. If you think you're good enough, you are. If you think you're no good, the results will speak for themselves."



MATCHPOINTER YELLOW PAGES

MONDAY		
10:00	VCR	stratified
10:45	BBY	open
7:15	SRV	open; str. 1st
7:30	CWK	str. last
	SQU	1st hcp; 3d trph. race
	TSW	7:15 as of December
	HBN	invite; open Nov 30
	VBC	0-200 MP

TUESDAY		
10:45	VBC	stratified
11:00	S-W	open
7:30	NSW	open
	BBY	open
	VBC	stratified

WEDNESDAY		
10:00	VCR	stratified
10:30	HAS	open
10:45	VBC	0-50 MP
11:00	ABB	open
7:15	WRK	stratified
	VCR	stratified
7:30	C.R	open
	M-R	open
	VBC	stratified

THURSDAY		
10:30	DTA	open
11:00	JCC	open
7:15	F.V	open
7:30	MIS	open
	VBC	0-20
	VBC	stratified

FRIDAY		
1:00	VBC	New Price! \$3.00!
7:30	ABB	open
	PKB	see ad for dates
	S-D	open
	VBC	open; TGIF party last
	NSW	1st Fri/month only (team game)

SATURDAY		
1:00	VBC	Rubber bridge
7:30	VBC	MUG 1st Sat/month

SUNDAY		
1:00	RMD	open
6:30	VBC	strat. IMP pairs

Sunshine Coast Bridge Club
 5653 Wharf Road, Suite 202, Sechelt
Rudy Notzl 885-5552 Partners Guaranteed

Monday 7:00 pm teams	Wednesday 1:00 pm open	Thursday 7:00 pm open
----------------------------	------------------------------	-----------------------------

Social Bridge/Bridge Plus/Seminars

Jewish Community Centre Bridge Club
 950 W. 41st Ave, Vancouver
 Thursdays at 11 am
All players welcome!
Connie Delisle 263-9196

Entertainment '99 acquaintances.

The Entertainment '99 books are currently available! They contain hundreds of discounts and two-fers. You'll save on food, accommodation and more, in Vancouver, Victoria, Washington, and beyond. Best of all, the proceeds from sales of these books help support bridge subsidy funding! It's an excellent holiday gift for friends and

The cost (including GST) is \$46 per book.

To reserve your copy call:
Jennifer Ballantyne
438-3095

Delta Bridge Club

St. Cuthbert Anglican
Church
11601 82nd Ave, Delta

Pat Stapff 588-6794
Thursdays at 10:30 am
(don't be late!)

Central Richmond Bridge Club

7891 Cambie Road, Rmd.
(Richmond Rod & Gun Club)

coffee & goodies
computer scoring

Albert Yallouz 321-1891
Wednesdays at 7:30 sharp

South Surrey Bridge Club

1284 184th Street, South Surrey
(Semlahmoo Fish & Game Club)

Director/Manager:
Arlene Browning 1-604-870-9300

Mondays at 7:15 pm
Stratified first Monday each month
Computer Scoring Partners Guaranteed

White Rock Bridge Club

Sunnyside Community Centre
1854 154th Street, White Rock
Arlene Browning 870-9300

Wednesdays at 7:15 pm
Stratified game every last Wednesday

Dec. 2 Xmas Party Pre-sold dinner tickets

Big Game: 71.88% Rae See & Bachan Buttar

Hastings Bridge Club

1950 Windermere St. (at 4th Ave), Vancouver
sandwiches, cookies, tea & coffee

Marianne Scott 298-3932
Wednesdays at 10:30 am sharp

Club Abbreviations and Contacts

Abbr.	Club Name	Club Contact	Phone No.	Page
ABB	Abbotsford DBC	Bob Percher	792-4389	10
ARB	Arbutus Village BC (By invitation only)	Shirley Bowers	732-3252	10
BBY	Burnaby DBC	Hazel Dressler	524-4445	10
C.R.	Central Richmond BC	Albert Yallouz	321-1891	8
CWK	Chilliwack DBC	Bob Percher	792-4389	10
DTA	Delta BC	Pat Stapff	588-6794	8
F.V.	Fraser Valley BC	Gilbert Lambert	526-1240	10
HAS	Hastings BC	Marianne Scott	298-3932	8
HBN	Hollyburn BC	Louis Landau	984-8309	9
JCC	Jewish Comm. Ctr. DBC	Connie Delisle	263-9196	7
MIS	Mission DBC	Bob Percher	792-4389	10
M-R	Maple Ridge DBC	Bob Percher	792-4389	10
NSW	North Shore Winter Club	Bernice Mulock	987-8289	10
PKB	Polish Bridge Club*	Waldemar Jez	527-8854	9
RMD	East Richmond BC	Ernie Dietrich	936-2298	9
S-D	Sur-Del BC	Gilbert Lambert	526-1240	10
S-W	South-West DBC	Finn Schultz	534-5025	10
SRV	South Surrey BC	Arlene Browning	870-9300	8
SQU	Squamish DBC	Lorraine Hurren	898-2702	10
SUN	Sunshine Coast BC*	Rudy Notzi	885-5552	7
TSW	Tsawassen BC	Finn Schultz	534-5025	10
VBC	Vancouver Bridge Centre	Club line:	255-2564	9
VCR	Vancouver BC	Louis Landau	984-8309	9
WRK	White Rock BC	Arlene Browning	870-9300	8

SERVICES

Colter Design

CUSTOM WOODWORK

Colin Wells 644-8004
Vancouver, B.C.

ICBC Claims
Personal Injury Cases
Commercial Litigation

Gregory J. Arbour Barrister & Solicitor

1620-808 Nelson St.
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2H2
Tel (604) 688-5001
Fax (604) 685-5006

PDI BRIDGE SUPPLIES

35116 Spencer St., Abbotsford BC, V3G 2E3
Call 1-888-852-5187

Baron-Barclay distributor

Books and supplies for
players, clubs, Units

Bridge accessory rentals: tables, bid boxes, boards, etc.

Polski Klub Brydzowy

Polish Combatant Centre, 1134 Kingsway
Waldemar Jez 527-8854
Alternate Fridays, 7:30 pm invitation only
Nov. 13, 27 Dec. 11, 18 Jan. 8, 22
Xmas Party Dec. 18
Games free with \$15 yearly membership
(non ACBL affiliated)

Hollyburn Bridge Club

Hollyburn Country Club
950 Cross Creek, West Vancouver
Mon. 7:30 pm, Thur. 9:30 am, invitation only
Louis Landau 984-8309
Nov. 16 Mort Ferguson Trophy Nov. 30 Open to all
Xmas Party Dec. 14 (pm game), Dec. 17 (am game)
Closed Dec. 21-31 Reopens Jan. 4, 7.

East Richmond Bridge Club

7891 Cambie at River Rd
(Richmond Rod and Gun Club)
Ernie Dietrich 936-2298 Important Dates
\$5.00 entry incl. lunch Nov. 22 Memb. Game
Sundays at 1:00 pm Dec. 13 Club Champ.
Congrats Club Champs Dec. 20 Xmas Party
Martin Henneberger Mar. 7 Club Champ.
and Dianne Isfeld Closed Nov. 8, Dec. 6
Jan. 24, Mar. 21 & 28

Vancouver Bridge Club

St. David's Church, NW corner of
Taylor Way and Hwy 1, West Vancouver

Louis Landau 984-8309

All games non-smoking. Computer scoring.

Monday	10:00 am	stratified
Wednesday	10:00 am	stratified
Wednesday	7:15 pm	stratified

Both Wednesday games are jackpot games.
All holiday Mondays are PARTY DAYS with
door prizes, goodies, etc.

UPCOMING SPECIAL GAMES

Club Championships

Mon. a.m.	Wed. a.m.	Wed. p.m.
Jan. 11	Nov. 18	Dec. 16

Next Handicap Game Wed. Jan. 20, 10:00 am
Wed, Nov. 11, 10:00 am Remembrance Day Char. Pairs
Wed, Nov. 25, 10:00 am Annual Membership Game
Mon., Dec. 14, 10:00 am Day Game Christmas Party
Wed, Dec. 16, 7:15 pm Eve. Game Christmas Party
Fri, Jan. 1, 12:00 noon - John Reeve Individual Trophy
Mon, Feb. 22, 10:00 am ACBL Wide Seniors Game

Vancouver Bridge Centre

2776 E. Broadway, Vancouver, B.C.
255-2564 Lessons, Books, Seminars

Upcoming Special Events

CNTC Qualifiers at the VBC:

Sun. Nov 15 1pm Mon. Dec. 7 7:30pm Sat. Jan 9 noon.
Nov. 15 event is master/nonmaster teams. Each team must have 2 master + nonmaster
partnerships. (Master is defined as 200 MPs)
Each event one session, except Jan. 9 event will be two sessions if 5+ teams.

Club Championships

Tues am: Nov. 17	Thur pm: Nov. 19	Mon 0-200: Nov 30
Tues pm: Dec. 1	Fri pm: Dec. 11	Sun IMPs: Dec. 27

Christmas Party 7:30 pm Fri. Dec. 11

Monthly Unit Games: 7:30 pm Sat. Dec. 5, Jan. 2
New Years Eve Party Game 7:30 pm Thur. Dec. 31

Monthly \$1.49 day! All day Tuesday Nov. 10, Dec. 8, Jan. 12, bring a friend who
has not played at the VBC for 30 days and play for \$1.49.

Friday Afternoons now only \$3.00. 1pm, no longer "classic card" only.

T.G.I.F. Bidding Contest last Friday of each month, challenge the Bulletin's bidding
gurus. Extra beer in the fridge.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Mon	7:30	0-200
Tues	10:45	Strat. Open
	7:30	Strat. Open
Wed	10:45	Newplicate: 0-50
	7:30	Strat. by # of LM's
Thur	7:30	Strat. Open
	7:30	Rookie (0-20) Game
Fri	1:00	new time Strat Open
	7:30	Lucky Number Open
Sat	—	aft. & eve. rubber
Sun	6:30	open IMP pairs

All your favorite books are
available at the Bridge Centre!

Win the Friday Jackpot and buy them all!
Most recent winners split \$703 on Oct. 23.

Burnaby Duplicate Bridge Club

1491 Carleton Ave, Burnaby
Hazel Dressler 524-4445

Mondays
10:45 am

Tuesdays
7:30 pm

Important Dates

Nov. 2	Club Championship	Nov. 24
Dec. 21	Christmas Party	Dec. 22

Current Club Champions
Mary Fines and Hobert Liang

North Shore Winter Bridge Club

1325 E. Keith Road, North Vancouver
Tuesdays at 7:30 pm

Teams Dec. 1 Xmas Party Dec. 15
Club Champ. Nov. 17

Charity Swiss Teams Winners:
Jane Craig, Judy Strebinger, Kathy Bye, Marg Elliott
Bernice Mulock 987-8289

Squamish Bridge Club

1471 Pemberton Str., Squamish 892-1066

Mondays at 7:30 pm
monthly handicap and trophy race games

Lorraine Hurren 898-2702

Tsawassen

Bridge Club

South Delta Rec Centre
1720 56th Str. Delta

Finn Shultz 534-5025

Mondays 7:30 pm
(7:15pm as of December)

Nov. 16 C.O.P.C.
Nov. 30 Membership Game

Arbutus Village Bridge Club

Arbutus Village Recreation Centre
2B - 4255 Arbutus Street, Vancouver
BY INVITATION ONLY

Shirley Bowers 732-3252 coffee, tea, cookies

Thursdays at 7:30 pm sharp

The Valley Clubs

Partners guaranteed

http://www.wutzon.com/chilliwack/clubs/duplicate_bridge/duplicate_bridge.htm

Bob Percher 792-4389

Chilliwack

Senior Recreation Centre
9400 College Street

Mondays at 7:30 pm
Stratified last Monday
of each month

Dec. 7: Milk Bottle Charity
Dec. 14: Xmas/Club Champ

Maple Ridge

Centennial Ctr. Seniors
Complex: 11940 224 Str.

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm
Dec. 16: Xmas/Club Champ

Current Champs:
John Richoux and
Garry Skoropada

Mission

Leisure Centre
7621 Taulbut Avenue

Thursdays at 7:30 pm
Dec. 17: Xmas/Club Champ

Current Champs:
Rosella McRae and
Ken Cowherd

Abbotsford

McCallum Activity Centre
2478 McCallum Road

Wednesdays 11am
Fridays 7:30pm

Dec. 18: Xmas Party/
Club Championship

South-West Duplicate Bridge Club

White Rock Elks Club
1469 George Street, White Rock

Finn Schultz 534-5025

Tuesdays at 11 am

Nov. 24 Club Championship
Nov. 31 Membership Game

I would like to extend a special thanks to Thony Stiennon for all the time he has donated to bridge. Most players do not realize how much work is involved in running a club, but I do, so thank you, Thony, and good luck in your new job!

Finn Schultz

SUBURBIA CLUBS

Gilbert Lambert 526-1240

Fraser Valley Bridge Club

Century House
620 8th Street
New Westminster
Thursdays 7:15 pm

No Game Dec. 10, 24, 31
Club Champ. Nov. 26
Xmas Party Dec. 17

Sur-Del Bridge Club

St. Cuthbert Ang. Church
11601 82nd Ave, Delta
Fridays 7:30 pm

No Game Dec. 25
Club Champ Nov. 27
Xmas Party Dec. 18
STAC Dec. 11

Sectional Masterpoint Trophy Races

<p>Phil Wood Trophy (as of Sept. 29/98)</p> <p>1. Aidan Ballantyne 61.11 2. Dan Jacob 57.47 3. Gerald McCully 48.51 4. Gord McOrmond 48.23 5. Lawrence Hicks 44.94</p>	<p>6. Bradley Bart 44.70 7. Gordon Davis 40.59 8. Felipe Hernandez 40.21 9. Donald Sache 34.61 10. Peter Herold 30.86 11. Michael Neagu 29.08 12. Haiderali Nazak 27.72 13. Larry Pocock 27.03 14. Rhonda Foster 26.01 15. Ram Hira 25.22</p>	<p>16. Ken Scholes 23.79 17. Jean Groome 23.65 18. David Schmidt 22.88 19. Pauline Lee 22.21 20. William Sit 21.86 21. Thiam Ted Lai 21.75 22. Les Fouks 20.72 23. M. Newcombe 20.48 24. Ron Borg 20.44 25. M. Henneberger 20.43</p>
<p>Edith Bonnell Trophy</p> <p>1. Rhonda Foster 26.01 2. Jean Groome 23.65 3. Pauline Lee 22.21 4. Maureen Newcombe 20.48 5. Sandra Jenkins 18.92 6. Lynne Radcliffe 17.86 7. Gloria Prescott 17.25 8. Dot Carnegie 15.62 9. Kathy Adachi 13.75 10. Laureen Holley 13.67 11. June Pocock 13.23 12. Sharon Hughes 12.52 13. Joan Sobieniak 12.52 14. Roselle McRae 12.46 15. Pearl Minkoff 12.37</p>	<p>Phil Wood Under 200</p> <p>1. William Sit 21.86 2. Martin Henneberger 20.43 3. Andrew Faulkner 19.47 4. Brian Lee 16.52 5. Barry Kirkham 14.54 6. Mark Rojewski 14.48 7. Samuel Leong 14.02 8. Richmond Williams 13.72 9. Andy Hellquist 13.27 10. Greg Morse 13.27 11. Waldemar Jez 12.79 12. Sharon Hughes 12.52 13. Joan Sobieniak 12.52 14. Jane Fyfe 12.09</p>	<p>Leo Steil Trophy</p> <p>1. Gord Davis 40.59 2. Haiderali Nazak 27.72 3. Ram Hira 25.22 4. Pauline Lee 22.21 5. William Sit 21.86 6. Maureen Newcombe 20.48 7. Nathan Divinsky 18.15 8. Joerg Schneider 17.43 9. Nurdin Kassam 16.51 10. Ernie Dietrich 15.96 11. Dot Carnegie 15.62 12. Derek Ward 14.62 13. Barry Kirkham 14.54 14. Wilf May 14.15 15. Kathy Adachi 13.75</p>

The tension is so thick

you can cut it with a knife... Will Nick and Janis be happy with a tie for first, or will Janis dump him, grab Mary Fines, and try to win first place all for herself? Or, maybe Mary grabs Mike Manica to go for first place herself, giving Mike a chance to clinch 1st C... Find out on December 5, at the Vancouver Bridge Centre, when the final MUG of the year settles it all!

1	1	8.98	Nick Parker
1	1	8.98	Janis Parker
3	3	7.93	Leonard Feeny
4		7.86	Mary Fines
5		7.59	Eugene Chan
6		7.19	Joerg Schneider
7		7.19	Bonnie Anderson

Monthly Unit Game

8	4	7.01	Pirtpal Gill	22	12	5	4.19	Mark Rojewski
9		6.53	Pat Landau	23			3.79	Elliott Netto
10		5.92	Andrew Ross	24	13		3.64	Pauline Lee
11	5	1	5.88	Mike Manica	25		3.60	Ev Hodge
12	6		5.55	Leszek Baldys	14	6	3.46	Eva Wroblewicz
13			5.37	Joni Johnston	15	7	3.40	Jon Shulman
14			5.37	Donna Morrison	8		2.97	Vicki Croome
15	7		5.37	Brian Johnston	9		1.77	Kristina Bohdanowicz
16	8	2	5.22	Waldemar Jez	10		1.11	Marti J. Oppenheimer
17	9	3	4.99	Tove Chen	11		1.06	Julien Levesque
18	10		4.99	Tony Remedios	12		1.06	Harry Greenhut
19			4.96	Sheila Dickie	13		1.01	Gloria Prescott
20	11	4	4.93	Martin Henneberger	14		.99	Anita Morse
21			4.82	Wilf May	15		.88	Bill Henning

IMP LEAGUE PREVIEW

Flight A Roundup

by MC Master Kool Glaze D.

1. **Foster**, 7-4. These cats came first last year, so they get top seed. A three-way deal got them Hernandez from the Wilson squad, so Maks got dropped.

2. **Charleston**, 7-4. Came second last year, and won the year before, and still have flash-in-the-pan reps. Another strong showing may quiet the skeptics. A change in captaincy could have a calming influence.

3. **Ballantyne**, 7-4. It has all been said before about this team: always tough, and always in the post-season hunt. They've stumbled in recent years, but a rigorous off-season training regimen may put them back on top.

4. **Lindsay**, 7-4. They disappointed a little last year in the playoffs, but again they're always strong, and you can't ever count this squad out. However, tee-times could be too much of a distraction again this year.

5. **Dimich**, 6-5. This year, team captain Wilson had an entrance exam: explain this bidding sequence:

-	-	p	1c
1s	3N	p	4c
p	5c	p	5d
p	5s	p	6h
p	7c	all pass.	

Hernandez had no answer, and was immediately gone. The others' explanations were deemed to be unsatisfactory, so there was a total house cleaning. Goldstone was added, the Takemori terrors were

brought from retirement, and Wilson gives up his C to the Mad Russian. These guys are giving the field notice, "Look out, here we come."

6. **Sache**, 6-5. Back to give it another go with the same basic team as last year. They have the ability to slam dunk, but the timing isn't always right: the ball sometimes gets jammed against the rim and goes straight back in their face.

7. **Thomas**, 5-6. This team had a great run a few years ago

but haven't been a force since. Getting Marshall back could be the spark needed. You can't take them lightly, or bad things will happen. Real bad things.

8. **House**, 5-6. Don't recognize these names? Don't be fooled, they're not playing up, just brushing off the dust after a few seasons rest. (Ed. note: Huh?) If it is dust they will be dangerous but if it's rust, well, they may need some WD-40. (Oh, well NOW it makes sense. ???)

9. **McMullin**, 5-6. Could be captain in name only. The wiley Tuna pulls the strings here, having brought together the young guns for a run at the vets. This team will be a handful, as long as they hold their sacrifices to under 2000. (Rates to be a year or two away still.)

10. **Danielson**, 4-7. Looks like they have another player back after some years off. They'll win some but it will take some real artistry for them to make it to the post-season.

11. **Laudan**, 4-7. Always a master at putting underdog teams together, they've done it again. They've got the right mix to leave some of the top teams shaking their heads, muttering "shoulda coulda woulda".

12. **Robson**, 3-8. Didn't think it was fair to rate the sisters at the bottom, but the chauvinist in me came out in full force saying, "Show me the money." They may yet get the last laugh.

Good luck to all. This looks like the most balanced field in flight A in years. The final rankings this year, I believe, will be determined by margin of VP's. So, if a 5-6 squad blitzes, they could easily oust a 6-5 or even a 7-4 team if they are just eking out their wins. Due to the lockout, no basketball analogies could be used; there are too many NFL teams, too few CFL, way too many hockey, curling is too cold, horseracing is a losing bet, and I hate soccer. You get the idea. Again, good luck to all, and don't revoke.

(Ed. note: word up, Glaze D.)

Flight B Roster Moves

Last year's winner, Team Isfeld, got its priorities straight from the outset: President Isfeld hired former Canuck coach and GM Pat Quinn to ensure that all key free agents would return for the 1998-99 season. However, Quinn's hardball negotiating tactics cost the

team its marquee player Henneberger.

It was not to be. What Quinn "He was a complete jerk." said didn't know was that the NHL's new Henneberger's agent, Brad Bart. "We collective bargaining agreement doesn't were asking for a small signing bonus, apply to bridge, and when he discovered and a contract based solely on he couldn't match the offer from Team performance incentives. Quinn just Remedios of the major leagues, he was laughed at us. He said Martin could stunned. "I didn't know." he said. That easily be replaced by a free agent, and if forced President Isfeld's hand. he had to, he'd just match whatever offer we got." (see next page)

IMP LEAGUE PREVIEW

"I fired his ass," she said. "He was a disaster. We lost the Kid, his father retired, and there was no way in hell I was playing with those two Crowhursts again. They're just nuts. So, I folded the franchise."

Quinn was understandably bitter. "That's it," he said, "I'm never coming back to Vancouver again. I hate this city."

Two teams return largely intact from last season. The Meyer squad, **Jim McKenzie, Bob Takashita, Dick Simpson, Rod Coote,** and El Jefe **Larry Meyer** is the same. The Jackson team has Commander **Ruby, Sandra Hawk, Semiral Tuncer, H.K. Ho,** and **Mark Eddy** replaces the departed **Kenny Chan.**

Last year's Flight C champion **Brown** team has adopted the "divide and conquer" strategy. Prime Minister **Priscilla Brown** and **Adele Mackay** picked up **Gordon Devlin** and **Jane Fyfe** to terrorize one half of the field, while former teammates **Christa Mead** and **Marylou Varga** grabbed **Andrew Lee** and **David Zack** off the waiver wire to beat up on the other half of the field.

The pressures of success took its toll on one team. Last year's bad beat story was team **Croome.** Sitting on the verge of the playoffs at 6-3, they could only be ousted by a 61 IMP loss in the last round, which they achieved when **Ram Hira** took an 1100 point "sacrifice" on the last board. Observers noted a very high level of tension and conflict among all members of the team that went with the instability in the play. (One match ended 116-113.) Former chief **Vicki Croome** and **Brian Badger** this year opted for relative peace and tranquility by joining Vice Admiral **Catriona Henning** and hubby **Bill.** **Ruth Ableman** and **Dee Kerr** fill out the roster.

Chancellor **Pauline Lee,** ever the Spice Girls fan, decided that "girl power" was the order of the day, and recruited **Shirley Fetterman, Jeanett Greenhut,** and **Diane Ayukawa** to join herself and **Shirley Bower.** Former teammate **Peter Morse** was unwilling to undergo the procedures necessary to remain on the team, so he and **Ginger Spice Claire Burns** recruited **Sky Williamson** and **Amir**

Alibhai to prove that the Spice Girls were a one-hit wonder.

Emperor **Tai Eng** and **Insa Fricker** return again with new blood in the form of **Nick Parker** and his better half **Janis.** New this year is Squad **Sumner,** headed by **Premier Rick,** with a batting lineup of **Pat Jones, Bob Beattie, Thelma Hofstede, John Horne,** and Eng escapee **Tom Cotton.**

A very late entry into the field is **Team Phoenix,** arising from the ashes of unit champs (chumps?) **Isfeld** team. **Jeremy** and **Marion Crowhurst** convinced **Dianne Isfeld** to return and play with **Eugene Chan.** The name of the team was up in the air as of presstime due to litigation arising out of the old team's summer collapse, and the litigation arising from **Pat Quinn's** summary termination. After extensive negotiation, **Junior Crow** lost a coin toss to **Isfeld,** and thereby inherited the Presidency, the litigation, and the impeachment proceedings commenced by **Senator Chan** when **Isfeld** refused to raise his suit with **AKQxxxx** support. **Junior Crow** is appealing the decision, but as he put it, "I'm not hopeful. My lawyer is a hack."

Flight B Fearless Forecasts

by **Dr. J. Friedman-Hubble**

(Ed. note: we were fortunate enough to recruit the services of noted astro-physicist J. Friedman-Hubble to make his predictions for this year. Unfortunately, the night before he wrote this, he and Kelvin Raywood hit the Marble Arch, and between the alcohol and astronomy... well, what follows may only be comprehensible if drunk. Thanks alot, Kel.)

1. **The Sun.** **Larry Meyer** and I used to drop acid back in the sixties. His team is going is going to burn up the field to the tune of 190 VP's. The banana man said so.

2. **Pluto.** I'm told that the **Sumner** team lives on the outer edge of the unit galaxy, and will travel great distances. 170 VP's, because of fatigue.

3. **Mars.** The God of War. **Morse, Mars,** or whatever his name is will go all out in every round, winning only 4 matches but finishing third with 170 VP's.

4. **Mercury.** The **Eng** team may be the class of the field, but I see them flying too close to the sun and burning off some of their edge. 160 VP's.

5. **Saturn.** **Ruby Jackson** always had rings circling her head when we dated in the 50's, and it seemed like she had ten satellites orbiting her head, but they have just been flies. 140 VP's.

6. **Jupiter.** The **Crowhurst** team is a great big ball of noxious, combustible, unpredictable gas, surrounding a single red spot of stability floating inside. 140 VP's.

7. **Earth.** Little known fact: **Priscilla Brown** was the "earth" in 70's band *Earth, Wind, and Fire.* Solid, consistent, steady, but in this league, those are liabilities. 130 VP's.

8. **Neptune.** One of the more recent discoveries in the system, the **Mead** team may cause the ocean tides to wash away their opponents, but I think they're still a little "out there". 120 VP's.

9. **Uranus.** Cannot explain why this planet is apropos for the **Henning** team, but it just seems to be. 110 VP's.

10. **Venus.** Who else for the Goddess of Love but the **Lee** team? Their collective beauty could throw off the opposition, or, it could inspire them to play their best. 100 VP's.

(Ed. note: What do you mean, noxious, combustible gas?)

The Nine of Diamonds

by David House

The Penticton Regional 2018 was the most enjoyable tournament I'd been to in years. The hospitality was unprecedented. Late evening performances by the Elvis clone and the Roy Orbison clone were outstanding and the Beatles clones played all our favorites, note for note, just as we remembered them. The free vitamin supplements and free Viagra were especially popular and the high fibre snacks and low-cal wines were delicious. I could only hope that the rest of the month would go as well as the first week.

My team was atop the leader board as we completed the last round of the grueling seven day double repechage Life Master Flight A-XXX Stratum Ultra Teams. First prize for winning this event was a gram of Urano-Selesium for each team member. This would provide enough energy to power a Volks-Ford personal transportation unit for a year. Our team of aging baby boomers were all on limited pensions. We wanted this win.

Things had gone swimmingly well in our final match as the ultimate board hit the table. Partner opened one heart; I bid one spade, and after a raise to two spades, I went straight to four spades and everyone passed. The diamond four was led and North laid down a fine dummy. It looked to be a normal contract, with a chance at an overtrick. I couldn't wait to get this routine hand over with and head off to bask in the winner's circle before the awards ceremony.

I studied the hand for only a moment. The opponents held the Aces of spades and diamonds, but we had all the spot cards and ten tricks looked easy.

I called for the nine of diamonds from dummy and my reverie was instantly shattered by a booming voice and a bright white light. All play ceased in the huge convention centre and all eyes turned to our table. A gleaming stainless stell servo-robot hovered over my head. I was frozen motionless by its paralyzing ray beam, while its blinding spotlight focused on the nine of diamonds. A huge holo-

♠	KJ97
♥	QT86
♦	KJ9
♣	A5
♠	QT86
♥	AK
♦	Q753
♣	862
4 ♠ by South. ♦4 Led.	

screen descended from the ceiling in the middle of the room.

"House, you idiot", thundered across the room from the gold helmeted face in the holo-screen. It was Elliott Netto, captain of the Life Master Police. In full gold armour he looked like a regal cross between Judge Dredd and the Terminator; and, he was angry.

"House you fathead, you've just taken the Portugese Finesse. It is also known as the Free Finesse, the Practise Finesse or the Discovery Finesse. With this finesse you are about to discover that you are going down. Your RHO plays the diamond ten forcing you to win your queen. RHO then wins her trump ace, returns her remaining diamond to her partner's act, ruffs the diamond return and killing your second diamond trick. She now exits with a club and waits for you to concede a club at the end. Down one."

"But, Captain Netto, please" I plead, "if the heart jack drops under ace, king or queen, I'll be able to pitch both of my club pips on the queen and ten of hearts."

"House, you dunderhead," he screamed at me, "of course the heart jack doesn't come down to save your bacon when you've made such a stupid, thoughtless and needless play. No, House, you've messed up good this time; and of all cards, the nine of diamonds! How could you, who speaks so proudly of his Scottish heritage, fail to see the danger in the nine of diamonds, the Curse of Scotland. The nine of diamonds was the card on which William, Duke of Cumberland, wrote the battle order for Culloden Moor, leading to a great massacre of Scots and thus sealing Scotland's fate. Your play has embarrassed Scots and Life Masters and you can not go unpunished. Your card of gold, your life mastership, will be taken from you and you will play the rest of the Regional in the Novice game."

The servo robot levitated the nine of diamonds from the table and with its laser beam melted the card into my forehead to mark me to all. "And as a further penance", Neto continued, "you will spend the two hours between sessions each day, on public display locked in the plexi-cube in the lobby by the partnership desk, where you will play Solitaire. This is to show that you are developing the patience, thoughtfulness, and attention to each and every card that was so obviously lacking in your game."

The servo robot zipped away, the holo-screen folded up into the ceiling and the tables around us resumed their trick taking more carefully than ever. My partner glowered; my opponents gloated; my eyes stung; my ears rang; my forehead burned; and it had started off such a fine week.

Ed. Note: There are several explanations for the origin of the nine of diamonds as the "Curse of Scotland". The most common is indeed the legend that it was the card upon which the "Butcher Duke" wrote his infamous order after the Battle of Culloden. However, the weight of linguistic authority establishes that the term was already in vogue at the time. Another theory, from a 1789 historian, is a reference to the "known fact" that every ninth king of

Scotland was a "tyrant and a curse to the country", from Macbeth to Henry II to James I and so on. As the diamond suit in a deck represented royalty, in the mythology of the time Whatever the true explanation, the slander upon the nine of diamonds is not assisted by the legions of Scottish bridge players who insist on bidding 3NT after deciding that three diamonds to the nine is a stopper. ...

The Play's The Thing

The Lesson

by
Louis
Landau

	♠A8	Dealer W
	♥J95	All vul.
	♦T874	
	♣T984	
♠QJ63		♠KT9752
♥AQ742		♥K
♦6		♦KQJ
♣A75		♣632
	♠4	
	♥T863	
	♦A9532	
	♣KQJ	

	North	East	South	West
				1 ♥
	pass	1 ♠	pass	2 ♠
Lead: ♣ K	pass	4 ♠	All pass	

Some time ago, the ACBL started what they called *Bridge America*. The idea was that there are millions of bridge players that don't play duplicate, and they should be catered to by some organization. The ACBL thought that they were in a good position to be that "caterer".

They published a booklet of interesting hands, and today's hand is quite unashamedly from that booklet. I chose it as one of the more interesting hands from a learning point of view. It has the added attraction that at a duplicate game the contract would almost certainly be the same at nearly all tables, and the ♣K lead is almost automatic.

Declarer can count 4 losers, the two missing aces and two in the club suit, and this is, of course, one too many to make the contract. At first sight this does not look like a problem, as the losing club can easily be discarded on the extra heart winners in dummy. However, the club lead causes entry problems for declarer. If she decides to draw trumps she will be down one before she can stop to count her tricks, losing the two aces and the two trumps. If she takes the first club and plays to her ♥A, there will be no entry into dummy to use those good hearts for club discards.

The secret of happiness with this hand is to recognize that you have 4 quick losers in your hand and unless you can do something about it *before the opposition get in*, you will go down. At the same time you have to recognize that you don't need all those lovely heart winners in dummy. You only need one to make your contract as all you have to do is discard one club for success and happiness. The only way to make the contract is to win the opening lead and immediately play dummy's ♥A, and discard your ♥K on it. Now you are still in dummy and can play ♥Q and discard one of your losing clubs.

The play is quite simple, but not that easy to see. It is a matter of keeping your objective in mind, and taking the only step to making your contract. Any one who does not play this way will only make their contract if the defense makes an error. Surely it is better to guarantee your contract rather than to rely on an error.

	♠JT5	Dealer W
	♥A642	All vul.
	♦T3	
	♣AJ85	
♠K74		♠986
♥Q87		♥JT9
♦J9752		♦K86
♣74		♣K632
	♠AQ32	
	♥K53	
	♦AQ4	
	♣QT9	

A Student Responds

I was just reading the article by Louis Landau in the June Matchpointer called "The Right Finesse". I think his analysis is wrong.

He presented the following hand, and suggested how to make a contract of 3NT after the lead of the 5 of diamonds.

The diamond goes to East's K, which you duck, and win the continuation with the A. Counting your tricks, you have one spade, two hearts, two diamonds, and one club, with the rest to be developed in clubs and spades. To keep the dangerous opponent off lead later in the play, it is imperative to attack spades first, but what is the best way to attack spades?

In Louis' version, he plays a heart to the ace and finesses for the K of spades, leaving for later the club finesse into East, the non-dangerous opponent. The problem is that cashing the heart ace may allow East to become a dangerous opponent.

	♠JT5	Dealer W
	♥A642	All vul.
	♦T3	
	♣AJ85	
♠K74		♠986
♥J8		♥QT97
♦J9752		♦K86
♣742		♣K63
	♠AQ32	
	♥K53	
	♦AQ4	
	♣QT9	

Louis' line is the best line if we know hearts are 3-3, or we know West will continue diamonds after he wins the spade K. But, if West has the K of spades and East has four hearts to the Q, west can continue with hearts, instead of diamonds, and set up two heart tricks for the

defence to set the contract: one spade, two hearts, one diamond and one club.

To make the hand from this point requires tough guessing in a tricky end-position. But is guesswork really necessary? As long as the diamond length is with West, you can always make the hand. Simply play a low spade from hand to knock out the spade K. No matter who wins, the defence cannot set up the hearts in time to enjoy them. Now you are all set to take the club finesse into the non-dangerous opponent!

Bratman

Professor Landau responds: Yeah, so?

In The Face Of Adversity by Dr. Kent Bidwell

Professional athletes and sports organizations recognize the importance of proper mental preparation in order to achieve optimum performance and the sports psychologist is an important member of the team. I am a bridge psychologist with an overloaded patient list. As soaring health care costs are straining the government treasury (and I need a holiday), here is an actual case study that I hope will reduce patient consultations, lessen the public debt, and give me more time to golf.

Bridge is a stressful game and it is common for our attention to lapse. Champions miss important clues in the bidding and play all the time. What separates them from us mere mortals is how they face adversity.

West took a view and passed an opening hand. With 2.5 quick tricks and spades covered, this is a BONA FIDE opener despite only 11 HCP. It is rich in intermediates and the honours are concentrated in two suits. Having had his fun, West re-entered the fray with a takeout double of 2H.

"Oops!" said East sadly. East did not see partner's takeout double and had passed. A VERY GOOD habit to get into at all times is to DELIBERATE whenever you are in the pass-out seat. Pause regardless of whether or not you intend to bid, or whether you will have to ponder balancing. It is akin to skip bids. Fast/slow bids and passes convey UNAUTH-ORIZED INFORMATION to partner and may result in procedural penalties and in extreme cases even disciplinary consequences.

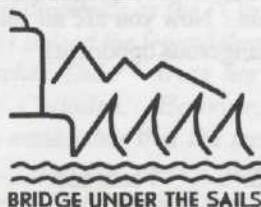
Inadvertently having passed the takeout double, it is time for desperate measures and no time to panic. What does partner's double suggest? He has at worst

		♠ T54	
		♥ AKQJ3	
		♦ Q642	
		♣ 8	
♠ K952			♠ Q863
♥ T2			♥ 954
♦ T83			♦ AK97
♣ AKJ2			♣ 63
		♠ AJ	
		♥ 876	
		♦ J5	
		♣ QT9754	
			Dir: W
			Vul: EW
W	N	E	S
P!	1H	P	2H
dbl	P	P!	P

a maximum passed hand with heart shortage. Looking at your hand you can see that your side possesses half the high cards. The opponent's principle asset is their trumps. In order to protect your assets, you must start removing their trumps! Accordingly, a trump lead and continued trump leads will remove dummy's trumping value. The defence ultimately scores two spades, three diamonds, and a club, to set this contract and salvage a well-earned +100. You will NEVER get a zero for getting +100 in a partscore hand. (Ed. note: not at the Vancouver Bridge Centre... any club that sells beer during the game is bound to see some VERY strange results....) In this case, +100 will be worth 8 on a 12 top.

Say what!?? The analysis is flawed? Against any defence, declarer can always negotiate a spade ruff to make 2H. And, East is not in the passout seat? Whadda ya want? I'm a bridge therapist. I fix people's minds. I don't fix bridge hands. If you want a bridge lesson, buy a book!

To preserve your sanity, here's my prescription. When in doubt - NEVER lead a trump. Lead trumps only when you are sure it is the right thing to do.



Official SPRING NABC T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS

- 100% heavy-cotton Gildan T-shirts \$15.00
- 90/10 Gildan Ultra-cotton 16 oz Sweatshirts \$30.00

LOOK FOR THEM AT LOCAL EVENTS AND CLUBS!



**UNIT 430
CHRISTMAS PARTY
SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 29, 1998**

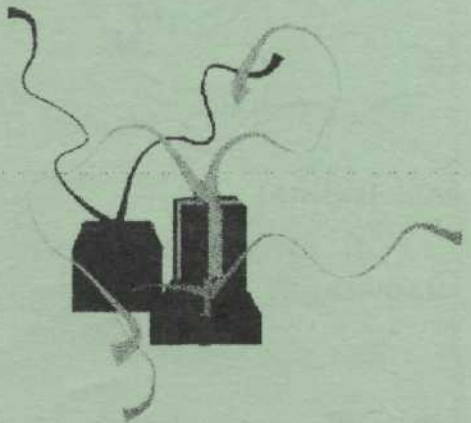
**CATERED TURKEY
DINNER**

DINNER 6:00 PM -SHARP
GAME 7:00 PM

BONSOR REC CENTRE
6550 BONSOR,
BURNABY

LIMITED SEATING
\$12.50 PER PERSON
OBTAIN TICKETS IN ADVANCE
FROM BOARD MEMBERS

GLADYS MACKIE - 526 0687



DOOR
PRIZES !!!

FINAL UNIT GAME
V.B.C.
SATURDAY DEC. 5
1998

PLEASE BRING DONATIONS FOR FOOD BANK



WINTER SECTIONAL

JANUARY 22-24, 1999

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

STRATIFIED PAIRS 1:00
0-300, 300-1250, 1250+

JEAN TURNBULL CHAMPIONSHIP
MIXED PAIRS TROPHY 7:30
OPEN PAIRS SIDE GAME 7:30

STRATIFIED FUTURE STARS 7:30
0-20, 20-50, 50-100
WELCOME TO BRIDGE GAME 7:30
0-5 masterpoints, Entry Free!

PARTNERSHIPS

Patti Adams (604) 275-1531

CHAIRPERSON

Sandra Hawk (604) 464-2792
Dan Webster (604) 826-8927

DIRECTOR

Sandy McCreery

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

ADRIAN AND JUNE BUDD HICKS
OPEN PAIRS TROPHY
Qualifying Session 1:00
Finals & Consolation 7:30
New Entries accepted in Consolation

STRATIFIED FUTURE STARS
0-20, 20-50, 50-100 *Single Sessions* 1:00 & 7:30

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

10:30 AM and 4:00 PM
WILLY WEINSTEIN
FLIGHT A TEAMS TROPHY
Flight A Unlimited Victory Points

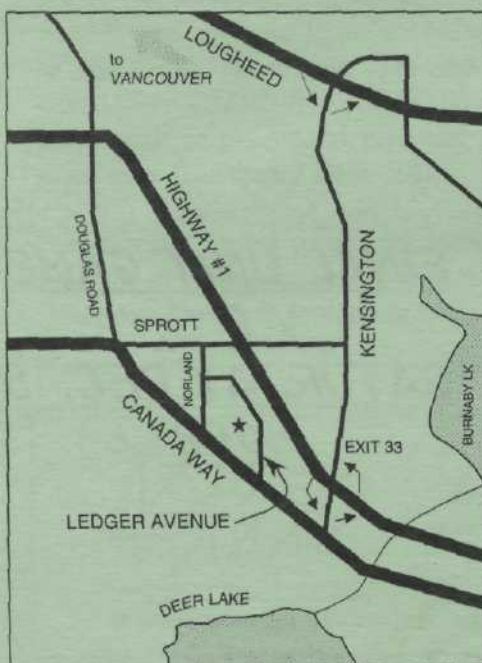
MARY CLARKE MEMORIAL TROPHY
Flight B 0-1250 Win/Loss Swiss

FREE COFFEE ALL WEEKEND
FREE GOODIES SUNDAY MORNING

Entry Fees: \$8/session
(includes 50¢ surcharge in support of the 1999 NABC in Vancouver)

BURNABY ENGINEERS AUDITORIUM

4333 Ledger Ave. Burnaby, BC



A VANCOUVER UNIT 430 SECTIONAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT