

Feb. 99

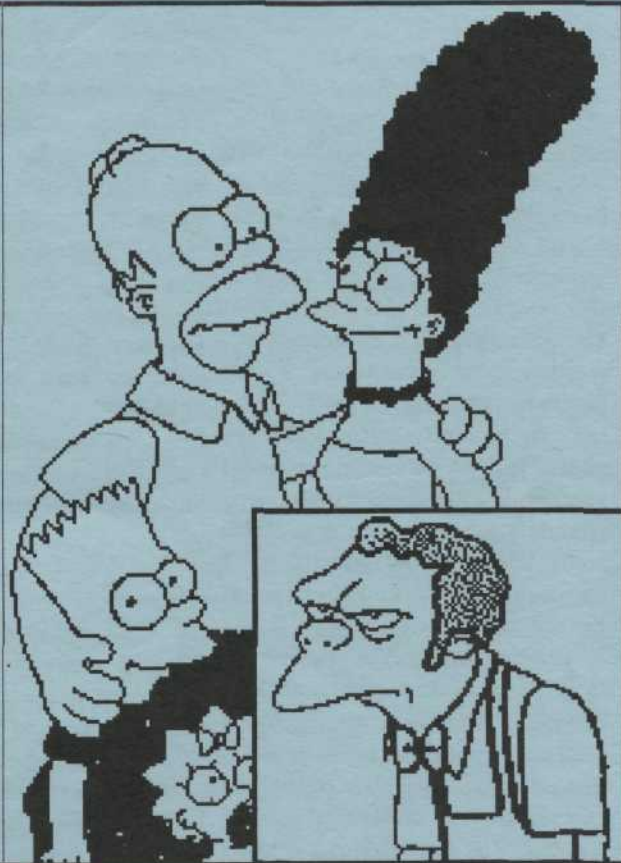
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the Matchpointer

THE WINNERS

- 4** **Ballantyne takes his first Wood.** Foster is babe of the year, Henneberger repeats as top rookie, Davis wins the Steil. (Is he even eligible?)
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Trophy winners Aidan Ballantyne, Rhonda Foster, and Martin Henneberger pose with unidentified baby. (Inset) Leo Steil Trophy winner Gord Davis.



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From the Editor

Bridge is many things to many people - a hobby, an obsession, an occupation, a diversion. It's a way of spending time with one's spouse, a way of spending time away from one's spouse, a way of meeting a potential spouse, and, of course, a primary reason for divorcing one's spouse.

What you might not have considered is that for some, bridge can be therapy. For that perspective, I would direct you all to Julian Levesque's profile on the Vancouver M.P.A., which is sponsoring a two-session event at the NABC. As the single most socially worthwhile sponsor of the name-a-game promotion, I am pleased to give them a plug.

For many others, bridge generally, and bridge tournaments specifically, are about making new friends, and coming away with some happy memories and good stories. I was reminded of that at the January sectional, when to my surprise I saw one of the friends that I had made at the Red Deer Regional last summer. As it happened, she had been to Reno this past December, where she had met somebody from here, and wanted to work on their partnership. (I didn't ask the obvious next question...)

We are on the eve of Vancouver's biggest bridge tournament ever, which will give us

the opportunity to meet lots of new people from all over the world, and to come away with some great memories and, maybe, a good story or two. In that spirit, I have dedicated a few pages of this issue to some of the memories that local players have of the 1974 Nationals, and I thank Rose Miller who gave me the idea, and the first submission. (I was hoping that maybe somebody had got stuck in an elevator with Omar Shariff, and had spent the evening shooting craps with him until the firemen broke them out, but alas, all the stories are about bridge.)

With a little luck, I will be able to fill the next issue with similar stories from the NABC, and that way, I won't actually have to come up with anything original until July at the earliest! (Oh you fools. Ha ha ha ha ha!)

Enjoy the issue, and above all, enjoy the NABC.

Jeremy Crowhurst

P.S. Congratulations to Rita Has-selbach, who won the Membership Game trophy at the South Surrey Club, and also to her son Harold, who won his second consecutive Super Bowl with the Denver Broncos. Would you believe that there are people out there who believe that his trophy is better? It's not even a real bowl, for gosh sakes, it's basically just a football on a stick. When will they learn?

THE 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. We are pleased to announce that we have arranged for the co-ordination of our complaint department by B.C. Transit. Simply put your complaints in writing, and deposit in any of the round, metal bins found at any Lower Mainland bus stop or Skytrain station.

Unattributed material is written by the editor, with help from various sources. Opinions are those of the authors, and sometimes, not even theirs, depending on how much I've been drinking when I type in the articles. Beware. Editorial comments in mid-article or otherwise do not represent the views of the Unit Board.

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Doug Cowan
Dave House
Julian Levesque
Rose Miller
Dave Schmidt
Dan Webster

Jennifer Ballantyne wanted to thank several people, in big, bold letters, for helping sell Entertainment 99 books. They are:

Louis Landau, HARRY FRIEDMAN, LAUREN MILLER

Let me first say Happy New Year and send my best wishes to each member of Unit 430 and their families. 1999 is going to be remembered as one of the most exciting bridge years in our Unit's history. I know you have all been keenly aware that we are hosting the NABC's, March 18-28, 1999. But did you know that without our participation and help it won't be a success?

I was talking to Phil Wood the other day, and he told me we had to do everything humanly possible to get as many of our unit members to participate, because even though thousands of out of towners are expected to come, it isn't enough without us coming out in large numbers. I am on the Nationals board and we have been doing everything possible to ensure that we anticipate and correct any problems that would keep you away. We have acquired cheap downtown parking; we've gotten a fixed rate on the \$US dollar; we've scheduled all kinds of games to ensure a pleasant, even field of your peers; and we are willing to listen and implement any suggestions you might make in order to make this a great experience for you. On a final note, if you

local bridge club. Now to a bit of 1998: the Unit Christmas Party was a great success this past November. Gladys Mackie did an excellent job of organizing and hosting. She also played Santa Claus, handing out a bag full of presents (bah humbug - I didn't get one). Thanks Gladys. I also want to say a special thanks to Bruce McIntyre for the free entertainment he supplied. Without music a Christmas party seems to lose its joy. I hope more of you come out next year, as this is one way the Unit can thank you for your support.

I also want to welcome the Unit Board's two newest members. Mark Eddy has joined, and will be in charge of new members, and Dianne Wilson has joined, and will be in charge of STAC games. Between the two of them, they have taken over Anne-Marie Bullis' duties. Anne-Marie has left us for the sunny skies of Sweden, and we wish her all the best, and thank her for all her hard work over the last several years.

Finally I want to thank you for reading this message and I hope to see you all at the Nationals.

Special Events Around the Unit February 22 - May 31, 1999

February

- 22 BBY 10:45 Seniors Game
- VCR 10 am Seniors Game
- VBC 7:30 GNT Qualifier
- 23 NSW 7:30 Club Champ.
- 24 ABB 11 am Club Champ.
- 27 VBC 1 pm \$CASH PAIR\$

18 - 28 NABC Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre.

Check with your club to see if it's open.

- 31 HAS 10:30 Club Champ.

March

- 5 ABB 7:30 pm Club Champ.
- 6 VBC 7:30 Monthly Unit Game
- 7 RMD 1 pm Club Champ.
- VBC 1 pm GNT Qualifying Swiss Teams
- 9 VBC 7:30 CBF Olympiad Fund
- 10 M-R Charity game;
- VCR 7:15 Club Champ.
- 15 BBY 10:45 Club Champ.;
- TSW 7:15 Club Champ.
- 16 S-W 11 am Club Champ.
- 17 VCR 10 am St. Patrick's Day Fun Pairs

April

- 3 VBC 7:30 Monthly Unit Game
- 5 VCR 10 am Club Champ.
- 5-11 VBC STaC week
- 10-11 VBC CNTC Zone Finals (Pre-Qual)
- 13 VBC 7:30 Tuesday Club Champ.
- 18 RMD 1 pm Charity game
- 19 SRY 7:15 Swiss Teams (!!)
- VBC 7:30 CBF Rookie-Master Game
- 23 VBC 7:30 Friday Club Champ.

May

- 12 C.R 7:30 International Fund Game
- 21-24 Spring Section - Bonsor Rec Centre
- 26 C.R 7:30 Club Champ.
- VCR 10 am Club Champ.

1998 FINAL TROPHY RESULTS

It was down to the wire... (mostly) by "Mac's Whiskey" Ballantyne

Picture yourself sitting in the cheap seats at Hastings Park sipping a diet coke (they don't have mint juleps here in the Great White North). You've paid for parking, admission, program, racing form, and tout sheets. Those expenses have put a serious dent in your wallet but you're ready for action nonetheless. You're here to watch a local stakes race, the Phil Wood Trophy. It's an open mile and sixteenth event. You note the field consists mainly of aging veterans. Front wraps are in abundance. It's pouring rain as usual. The track is rated "muddy".

It's race time. Most money is on CallmeDan, a horse for the course who's already won the event a record 8 times. Of European origin, Dan has been killing the field ever since moving to North America. Other favorites include Mac's Almond, Curly Mac, and Mac's Whiskey, all descendant of an obscure Scottish sire called Mac's Mack ("good mudders," you note to yourself). Two other horses are getting action: Hickster, a younger stallion who's been in and out of racing the last few years; and Flying Phil ("good pedigree, good form, but a tendency to act up in the gate" says your tout sheet).

And they're off! The favorites all get out well. The early pace, led by Curly Mack and Phil, is slow (maybe it's just the track condition). The pack of front runners is tightly knit going into the backstretch. They reach the half and the pace begins to quicken. Suddenly, inexplicably, Flying Phil pulls up and is out of the race. Curly Mac, having inherited the lead, plugs away gamely. Going into the far turn,

CallmeDan and Mac's Whiskey inch by Curly on the outside. It looks to be a 2-horse race now. Rounding the final turn Mac's Whiskey finds another gear and surges ahead. Mac's Whiskey has suddenly opened up a 2 length lead! Down the stretch they come. CallmeDan is fighting back. Mac's Whiskey is beginning to wobble. Inexorably Dan closes the gap. Mac's Whiskey has just plain stopped ("bleeding?" you ask yourself). They hit the wire together. There follows an interminably long photo finish. The stewards request a print. After a long delay Mac's Whiskey is declared the winner by less than a nose. It's the closest finish ever. The exacta pays \$6.40, an all time low. Being a long shot bettor, you rip up your tickets, again.

The Leo Steil Trophy race offered considerably less suspense, but then again, what do you expect from a bunch of old folks? Gord Davis went into the last weekend leading by 13 points, and though his stragglers out-performed him in the final tournament, his lead was ultimately too much to overcome.

The other two trophy races were far less interesting. The Phil Wood Under 200 race was close going into the last event, with three people sitting less than three points apart, the leader, William Sit, chose not to play, while number two, Martin Henneberger, won 17.47 masterpoints (more than anybody else at the sectional) to secure his second consecutive trophy for top Rookie. (We have to do something about those definitions.) Meanwhile, in the Edie Bonnell Trophy race, very little of interest happened. Rhonda Foster led going in, and led by even more at the finish, to win her first Bonnell title since winning them back-to-back in 1983-84.

Phil Wood	Edith Bonnell	Leo Steil	Phil Wood Under 200
1 72.44 Aidan Ballantyne	1 36.17 Rhonda Foster	1 43.03 Gord Davis	1 37.90 Martin Henneberger
2 72.05 Dan Jacob	2 29.01 Jean Groome	2 37.92 Ram Hira	2 30.49 Mark Eddy
3 64.30 Gerald McCully	3 26.18 Claire Burns	3 37.00 Haiderali Nazak	3 23.85 Andrew Faulkner
4 54.48 Gordon McOrmond	4 25.17 Mary Lou Bert	4 25.79 Nurdin Kassam	4 22.06 Waldemar Jez
5 54.33 Bradley Bart	5 23.25 Pauline Lee	5 25.17 Mary Lou Bert	5 21.86 William Sit
6 51.12 Larry Hicks	6 23.02 Rhoda Tafler	6 23.25 Pauline Lee	6 21.25 Sharon Hughes
7 43.03 Gord Davis	7 21.80 June Pocock	7 21.86 William Sit	7 20.80 Barry Kirkham
8 40.21 Felipe Hernandez	8 21.25 Sharon Hughes	8 20.80 Barry Kirkham	8 17.97 Brian Lee
9 38.29 Don Sache	9 20.48 Maureen Newcombe	9 20.48 Maureen Newcombe	9 17.71 Ewa Wroblewicz
10 37.92 Ram Hira	10 20.39 Sandra Jenkins	10 20.35 Joerg Schneider	10 16.18 Michael Hurley
11 37.90 Martin Henneberger	11 17.71 Ewa Wroblewicz	11 20.28 Leszek Baldys	11 16.02 Anne Knowlan
12 37.00 Haiderali Nazak	12 17.28 Gladys Mackie	12 18.15 Nathan Divinsky	12 15.88 Jane Fyfe
13 36.72 Les Fouks	13 17.25 Gloria Prescott	13 17.39 Ernie Dietrich	13 15.02 Greg Morse
14 36.17 Rhonda Foster	14 16.85 Kathy Adachi	14 16.85 Kathy Adachi	13 15.02 Richmond Williams
15 34.91 Peter Harold	15 16.53 Marcia Christie		13 15.02 Andy Hellquist

THE CHAMP SPEAKS...

A Wobbly Finish by "Mac's Whiskey" Ballantyne

It's BAM teams. I'm playing with my wife, Jenny. Our good friends, Jim and Audrey Norman, who are visiting Vancouver from Powell River, are at the other table. We've been lurching along with mixed results. We have several clear losses but we've also bid and made two impossible slams (so impossible, in fact, that during the comparison you find out that your partners defeated game on both those deals!). Near the end of the session, I play 1NT with the following layout:

Dlr: South	K432
Vul.: Both	65
	10432
	873
	A75
	K1072
	A5
	AKJ6

The auction:

Mac's Whiskey	Gladys	Jenny	Dan Watson
1C	Db1	P	1H
1NT	all pass		

Gladys leads a low heart. You play low from dummy and Danny plays the Q. Let's say you win with the K. What's your general plan? What do you play at trick 2?

At the time it seemed to me there were two lines: (1) Play off two top clubs and eventually lead up to the J (after a take-out double on the left this would yield 3 club tricks almost always but would give up on four club tricks); (2) duck a spade and hope for a 3-3 spade division and later take a club finesse for the Q hoping to take 3 or 4 club winners.

The wobbly horse elected Door No. 2 and ducked a spade! RHO won and returned 9 hearts. I had placed four hearts on my right so I played a low heart from hand expecting to block the suit. The 9 won and another heart was returned. LHO won and cashed a 4th heart. Danny had bid a 3-card suit! On the hearts, dummy pitched a diamond and a club, Danny pitched a diamond. Gladys shifted to K diamonds. I ducked. She continued with Q diamonds. Danny followed twice with low diamonds. I won with the Ace and cashed a

high club. 10 on my left! I tried spades but they were 4-2. On the 3rd spade Danny pitched a low club. My thinking so far was that Danny had bid a 3-card heart suit because he had no other alternative, meaning he had club length. At that point I pictured him with 2-3-3-5 distribution. That meant Gladys had a stiff club. I finessed the J with confidence. Gladys took her now stiff Q and claimed. Minus 200!

Danny had tricked me. He had 2-3-4-4 distribution and could have bid 1 diamond. He'd bid 1H for lead directing value, a good tactic at BAM and Matchpoints. Well done by him but I missed two key inferences. I should have got it right. First, with 2-3-3-5 distribution, Danny's first discard (on the 3rd spade) would have been a low club, not a diamond. Second, if Danny did have 2-3-3-5 distribution, then Gladys would have been 4-4-4-1 and she surely would have bid 2H over my 1NT, especially at BAM. The worst part of all that is if I'd followed my instinct and elected Door No. 1 of cashing two top clubs (spades rated to be 4-2 on the take-out double), I would have felled the Q-10 clubs offside and later been able to finesse Danny's 9 for +120! That Mac Whiskey horse was truly wobbling down the lane.

The full deal:

	K432	
	65	
	10432	
	873	
QJ86		109
AJ83		Q94
KQ6		J987
Q10		9542
	A75	
	K1072	
	A5	
	AKJ6	

Did you do better?

The trophies are awarded to the players, in four categories, who win the most silver points at Unit 430 sectionals in each calendar year. The Phil Wood trophy is for the overall winner, and carries with it free plays at all local sectionals for the following year. The Edith Bonnell trophy is for the top woman point-getter, while the Leo Steil trophy is for top senior. The Phil Wood Under 200 is self-explanatory. Each of these last three trophies come with a certain number (unknown to me) of free plays at 430 sections for the next year.

Eligibility for each trophy depends on players' status at the start of the calendar year. "Senior" means 55 or over, but since membership lists don't come with birthdates, we often have to guess. So, old-but-very-well-preserved players often get left off the list, while young-but-look-like-hell players accidentally find themselves on it. (Some of the players below have been on that list since they were 35.) You'll note the list below is missing #15. I had to decide whether Derek Ward is old, or just looks like... uh, anyway, Derek, if you're eligible, let me know.

SPOTLIGHT ON A SPONSOR

The Vancouver MPA

by Julian Levesque

In 1971, the Vancouver Mental Patient's Association was founded and chartered as a non-profit society. Its main goal was to give a voice and a supporting environment to local mental health consumers. The membership started with approximately 30 people, and now is comprised of over 2600 consumers. Our long-time executive director, Barry Miles, oversees the day-to-day operations. He is himself a longtime mental health consumer, and makes no secret of it.

Some of the MPA's activities include systematic advocacy for Riverview Hospital patients, and patients at large; housing arrangements for patients released from Riverview and the Psychiatric Assessment Unit; and legal outreach in Vancouver and Surrey, to ensure that members who go afoul of the law have a full understanding of the legal process.

The MPA operates several group homes designed to prepare patients for reintegration into society at large. They recently purchased the Hampton Hotel on Powell Street, which houses approximately 50 mental health consumers, and another facility, Phoenix House, is a final stage preparation facility for consumers to re-enter society on an outpatient basis.

The MPA also operates a program called Supported Independent Living, which provides consumers with subsidies for apartment living while keeping them in contact with available support systems. The Super S.I.L. program is aimed at lower functioning consumers, and provides a more frequent contact with the support system network.

The MPA's Community Resource Centre is a multipurpose drop-in centre aimed at providing a safe place for consumers to go and socialize with others. It provides a month-to-month diversity of programmes and outings, computers, showers, free clothing from donations, two meals a day at a cost of 25 cents each. They average 120 meals per day, done with no budget, on donations alone. It runs a food bank the first three Thursdays of each month.

The MPA is also involved in lobbying for changes in governmental policy, and for more services — not only for its membership but for the mental health community at large.

On a more personal note, I am now in my third year as a member of the Board of Directors of the MPA. I too am a mental health consumer, as I have a condition called Chronic Refractory Depression.

What few people know is that approximately 15% of the population will suffer from a mental health disorder at some point in their life. Some may be of short duration, while others may be permanent. Some are brought about by a severe trauma, others are a result of illnesses such as Parkinson's Disease or Lupus. Some are caused by a chemical imbalance in the body or brain, which can be present from birth, while others are a result of aging.

It is important to understand that the bridge community is not immune from such concerns. However, experience has proven that an active mind is of great help in stabilizing, if not actually mending, such conditions, and serves as great proactive therapy.

In my case, bridge is my mental exercise. Since having resumed playing bridge two years ago, I have met some wonderful folks, and also I have seen a number of people who themselves are dealing with sources of mental illness. Given the fact that a number of these conditions are permanent and progressing, the benefits of socializing and playing bridge are incalculable. In sports, soccer is considered the most beautiful game, and at cards, bridge is it. So, the next time you see some experienced players whose skills are in decline, be kind, for it could, and may eventually, happen to you.

The Vancouver Mental Patients Association is very proud to announce that it is sponsoring a two session event at the N.A.B.C. to promote mental health awareness.

For more information about the MPA, please feel free to call its office at 738-2811, or the CRC at 738-1422.

Entertainment '99

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 acquaintances.

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

To reserve your copy call:

*Jennifer Ballantyne
438-3095*

Last Minute Tips for the NABC by Dave House

The Nationals are coming and I hope you are starting to get excited as March approaches. These special ten-day tournaments are only held three times a year, usually in distant American cities. The advantage this spring is a huge one for lower mainlanders: no travel costs, no hotel costs, not forced to convert our loonies into American dollars, the comfort of sleeping in your own bed and eating home-cooked meals, or dinners at your local favorite restaurant. Being at home means you will be more comfortable and relaxed. Another big benefit is not having to fly across several time zones. This can take several days to adjust to.

If you've never been to a Nationals prepare to be overwhelmed by the number of people and the size of the playing areas. Arrive early for your first day, or visit the playing site Thursday, March 18th, and check out the layout while it's empty. It will help you to find your way around when the crowds are moving in every direction at ten minutes to game time. Get lots of rest in the days before the tournament and eat well. Ten days of non-stop bridge can be very exhausting. This is an experience you will remember for a lifetime. Be prepared.

The tournament schedule offers an almost bewildering choice of events to play in every day. Make sure you enter into one or more of the premiere events. The top players in North America will all be here, as well as some fine international pairs. I would recommend you enter the OPEN PAIRS I on Friday, March 19th. This should be the strongest field you'll play in as it runs the two days before the Vanderbilt starts. Once the Vanderbilt gets underway you won't have another opportunity to play against many top players. On the first day of the OPEN PAIRS I you will certainly play against several pairs you've read about and if you qualify for the two final sessions on Saturday, it will be like having centre ice seats for the All-Star Game. (*Ed. note: or perhaps even like playing in the All-Star Game.*)

Although there will be a lot of pros and experts here, there will also be a lot of regular players like you and me, so get out and have fun. You will meet many great people and make some new friends. If you have an open day drop in at the Partnership Desk and find a partner from far, far, away. The Vugraph presentation, post-session hospitality, entertainment, and midnite Swiss events offer more opportunities to make new acquaintances. This can be one of the richest rewards of your National experience.

Most players will play with several partners and many of them will be first-time or pick-up partnerships. Here are a

few tips to make that first session a sixty percenter:

1. Keep it simple when filling out the card. Pick-up partnerships often have only a few minutes to discuss their bidding methods. When your new partner suggests Flannery, or Smolen transfers, or inverted minor raises, just tell him that you don't know those conventions. Though you may play one of these conventions with a regular partner, this new partner's version may differ from yours, and you haven't got time for a five-minute discussion on continuations after a Flannery opening. Without the convention, you will probably stumble to a normal contract. If you use the convention, and have a mix-up, you will not only get a poor score, but you will also undermine the partnership confidence (such as it is). Forget your favorite pet convention; five minutes to game time is no time to be teaching something new to your partner. He'll just be nervous for the next 26 boards fearing he'll forget it and mess it up.

2. Remember the fundamentals. Keep your opening bids sound in first or second position, or when vulnerable. Don't bid on junk just because it's your turn. Bid suits that you want partner to lead (AKQx of hearts is as good as a five card suit), and give some thought to your rebid. Pay attention to vulnerability, remember what your partner has bid, and lead his suit. Above all, count, count, count!

3. Each board is worth up to 12 matchpoints. Don't let a zero out of 12 become a zero out of 24. When I played in my first Nationals, in Miami, I often had to say something to snap my partner out of a hand-induced trance as we moved from table to table. Usually, a "Hey partner, they play two-way reverse Drury, remember that." That usually worked. Then, after a particularly puzzling hand, we came to the table of two older guys, and they didn't play anything that I could draw his attention to, that would bring him back to the present. Fortunately, I noticed that one of our opponents was the legendary Sam Stayman. "Hey partner," I said, "they play stayman!" "Yes," said Mr. Stayman, "but only over notrump." That got my partner relaxed for the balance of the event, and gave me a story that I've told everybody I know. (*Ed. note: everybody you know? And then some. House will randomly stop people on the street: "Hey buddy... I was playing at the Nationals in Miami...."*)

4. Above all else, have fun. Be polite to your partner at all times, and chances are he'll be polite back. Don't blame him for the things that go wrong. Like they say in the famous country of Pig Latinia, "Itshay Appens-hay". When everything has just hit the fan, smile, shrug your shoulders, say "Oops", and move on.

See you at the partnership desk!

Remembering 1974

Rosie the Rabbit?

By Rose Miller

Twenty-five years ago, when last this event was held in Vancouver, we called it the Nationals — I still think of it that way. Whatever the name, it is a big event and we are lucky to have it held in our city. There is a lot of work involved in bringing the NABC to Vancouver. A committee was formed over two years ago for this purpose and much has already been done. We need the help of each and every bridge player, not only at the time of the tournament but right now, to promote this event. We live in a world class city and plan to put on a world-class tournament. For this to happen, we need promotion and participation. Plan to promote, and plan to play.

I have played a lot of bridge and gone to a lot of tournaments in the last twenty-five years, but the Nationals remain in my mind more vividly than any of the others. I even remember one hand! In those days the events were different than today - nothing was stratified or stratiflighted, no novice or intermediate separation. There was one 49'ers event for people under 50 masterpoints (I qualified for this, having about 10) but the rest of the time it was open pairs - for novices like us, much like being thrown in a pool with sharks!

A couple of days into the tournament, my partner and I decided to brave the open pairs. A few tables into it, we sat down against the late, great Barry Crane, partnered with Kerri Shuman - a formidable pair indeed. Now for the hand I remember. With no opposition bidding (we would have been too scared anyway) our opponents reached the contract of four hearts, with Barry Crane on my right as declarer. I was on lead. I was petrified. I can't remember the exact holding, but I led a spade. This was very good - for the opposition. Barry now drew trumps in two rounds and then led a small diamond

from his hand toward the stiff King in the dummy. By this time I had regained my composure and was able to think clearly. With my razor-sharp mind it only took me a moment to realize what was going on. I didn't just fall off the turnip truck. Somehow, Barry had figured out that I had the Ace of diamonds (I did) and he wanted me on lead again because I had been so good to him the last time I led. Well, I was up to that challenge. Without a moment's hesitation I ducked my Ace. Now, if I had been the Rueful Rabbit, this play would have been highly successful, bringing back the lost trick one hundredfold and resulting in a top board for us. I am not the Rueful Rabbit, however, and the only parallel was the top board part - it wasn't for us, though, it was for them. I like to laugh at myself, thinking back to this hand. I learned something from it - I no longer duck Aces to singleton Kings, although I still make bad leads. Incidentally, Kerri and Barry went on to win the event.

I have many memories of the Nationals, at that time held at the Hotel Vancouver. I remember the thrill of seeing some of the famous bridge players I had read about. I remember looking at a huge map of the world that was hanging in the entrance to the playing area. Players were given a coloured pin to indicate their home town and country. There were pins everywhere! And I certainly remember the hand against Barry Crane.

I hope to accumulate some more memories in 1999, and I hope that one of them will be that it was a fantastic tournament. We need to promote the NABC every chance we get - we live in such a beautiful city, it's not hard to be enthusiastic about it. I know that most of you do not need to be encouraged to play in the NABC — you probably have most of your games arranged. If, however, you are hesitating, please don't. Rack up some great memories of Bridge Under the Sails.

Reminiscing on Vancouver 1974

by "Mac's Root Beer" Ballantyne

I was a relative newcomer to duplicate at the time of 1974 NABC. I had retired from the Canadian National Ski Team the year before and was pursuing my studies at SFU. I'd played bridge in high school. In my last year of ski racing I was injured a lot of the time and so played bridge to fill in dead time. I had to teach the game to some of the other skiers so that I could play. I thought the game was tremendously exciting. When I quit skiing, I decided I needed a competitive outlet. Bridge was it. I wanted to become a star and write a bridge column.

There was a strong group of young players at SFU. They hung around in one of the cafeterias whiling away the hours. I became a regular though I made a deal with myself that good grades would come first. Another regular was Doug Thomas. He seemed to be highly motivated and interested. Since we

shared ambitions, we struck up a partnership. Doug was a real natural. I was a bit shy in those days whereas Doug was assertive and bold. My approach was to study hard. I read a lot of books. Doug just had a knack. He was a terrific card player, much better than I was. He won all our bridge arguments. We started playing at duplicate clubs including the North Shore where Gladys Rigg had a club. We became regulars there. The ladies (Margie Neate, Ev Hodge, Mary Fines, Donna Morrison, etc.) put up with us though I'm sure they thought we deserved a good spanking now and again. We tried to mind our manners but we were competitive and probably stirred people up. Luckily, we had some protection because Doug was Donna Morrison's son!

So we'd been at it about a year when the NABC came to town. Doug was keen. Timidity made me reluctant, as usual. Finally, he talked me into playing in a side game. Once we started playing I realized that the field was no stronger than the one we encountered in our weekly games on the North

(Continued on next page)

And Now, the REAL Rabbit by Lawrence Betts

The 1974 Spring Nationals in Vancouver was my first national tournament. At the time, I had, the previous month, become our Unit's youngest Life Master. I ate, slept, and drank the game and was your basic obnoxious young Turk. I was not alone, however, as the "twenty somethings" are today; mine was the last generation to play bridge at university, and there were many others with my appetite for the game which produced an energy and camaraderie missing today. I'm sure I learned as much in the bar at the Devonshire Hotel from Jim Donaldson, Jack Marsh, and the like as I did at the tables. (*Ed. note: no... it just seems like you've learned more when you've got six beers in you.*)

In 1974, our dollar was worth more than the U.S. dollar, hair and outrageous fashion were in plentiful supply, but gasoline was not as the Arab oil crisis hindered many travel plans and ultimately cut into the final table count. This was a time prior to political correctness. Thus, the playing areas were smoke-filled, and ashtrays were a standard table adornment. There were Men's as well as Ladies pairs, and the only "flighting" was to provide a 49'ers game for the beginners. Once you graduated from there, you were expected to swim with the big fish.

A few personal memories: as a member of the unit board, enjoying perks in the pre-tournament week such as a sit-down dinner at the Capilano Golf Club with the National Board of Directors; rubbing shoulders with Edgar Kaplan at a cocktail party at the Hotel Vancouver; playing against Barry Crane for the first time, and the legendary Oswald Jacoby for

the only time; and overseeing it all was the incomparable Phil Wood in all his glory as Head Director.

The feature event was, then as now, the Vanderbilt Knockout teams. Of course, we entered and, although not a seeded team ourselves, we drew a seeded team from the Los Angeles area — one with more experience than inspiration. Thus, we had a chance. Indeed, going into the final 16 board segment at the all-day match, it was still undecided. My partner for the final quarter was one of the most colourful and controversial characters ever to grace the local scene — Jim Andrews, "the Rabbit". Jim was fond of full-length fur coats and ostentatious displays of jewellery. He drove the largest car he could find.

Jim played bridge like he lived his life; never afraid to gamble and always looking for the big score. Life was never dull with the Rabbit around. As the quarter unfolded, Jim jumped to slam off two aces, which the opponents cashed, to my chagrin. A few hands later, Jim bid another slam, but this time he used Blackwood to check for aces. This one made, even though again the opponents had two cashable aces. Jim had bluffed them with his Blackwood bid, and they never suspected it until it was too late. The opponents never recovered from this, and we won the match comfortably. Reality awaited us the next day in the form of Ira Rubin and Fred Hamilton, but that is another story.

I confess to not having the same degree of eagerness as the 1999 NABC approaches, as I view it through my middle-aged jaded eyes, tempered by a subsequent quarter-century in the trenches. Wasn't it Thomas Wolfe who wrote that "you can never go home again"? (*Ed. note: Yes... but that's just because he was so drunk he couldn't find the key to his front door. And so the myth was born....*)

(Continued from previous page)

Shore. I got my confidence, Doug played well and we came 3rd overall!

That was my one and only venture into the Vancouver NABC but Doug played more than once. Also, he kibitzed the Vanderbilt. Some time later, back at SFU, he was telling me he'd been kibitzing a top player. The star had screwed up a hand and gone down. Doug had leaned in and pointed out the right line of play. The player's name: Bob Hamman. Like I said, Doug wasn't intimidated!

Well, a few things changed. Doug and I eventually broke up our partnership. I continued my progress in bridge. Doug went into semi retirement to raise a family. But it's nice to know that Doug still plays and that we will both be at the coming NABC.

25 years ago in the Matchpointer

(January 1974, Anne Nagy, editor)

The Nationals are coming! And the ad fits on one normal-sized page. With white space. There are two novice games in ten days, only a handful of days where the crowds are actually split up into more than two events (except for the elite in the Vanderbilt), and if you mentioned the words "bracketed knockouts" they'd look at you as though you were from Neptune.

In January of 1974 it was possible to list all Unit 430 Life Masters, double spaced in three columns without photoreduction, on a single page. There were 106 of them; a quick count reveals 25 still playing 25 years later.

In a few weeks we will surpass the Vancouver NABC record for total tables, but I doubt the atmosphere will be the same. Imagine being the winning pair out of 528 in the National Men's Pairs! Imagine a 68 table side game! We may have gained more players (or perhaps lost fewer) by offering such a wide range of events in the 80s and 90s, but the excitement of being in such a big field may be lost forever as a result.

McBruce

Helpful Hints for the NABC

by Doug Cowan

Well, we're almost there, and this will be the last Matchpointer before the tournament begins on March 18. The final schedule is now available and I'm sure many of you have already got most of your games arranged. The following are a few things to keep in mind.

Parking and Transportation

A combination of intensive negotiation by Phil Wood and a general slowdown of business in the Downtown Parking Lots have enabled us to come up with much better parking options than we first anticipated.

For those who plan to attend most days, we will have available up to 100 parking passes, good for the entire tournament, which will be sold at the hospitality desks on a first-come, first-serve basis starting on the first day of the tournament for \$54. The prime garage for this pass is on Cordova Street, directly across from the Waterfront Station and only a block away from the Convention Centre. Space in this garage is not guaranteed, but there are two alternate garages, one on Hornby Street and one at Pacific Centre. You will receive a hanger for your mirror which will identify you and allow you full in and out privileges, and it is fully transferable. This is a very good deal for those who expect to play most days, but before you rush out to buy your pass, consider the next option.

The regular rate for the Cordova lot has been reduced to \$8 for 24 hours. (The others are a little more.) This is not a special deal for us, it's available to anyone. Bear in mind also that rates are noticeably cheaper on week-ends and evenings. So, if you don't play to play during the day on most of the 6 full week-days of the tournament, the \$54 pass may not be your best buy. Except perhaps for evenings, DO NOT use the garage under the Convention Centre. It's rates are much higher than the ones we've negotiated for you. Those playing in events which end early really should consider Transit if it is practical for them. Skytrain and Seabus are adjacent to the site as are several city bus routes.

Playing Sites

Each day the Daily Bulletin will list all the events for that day and the next day with locations and starting times. Except for the Opening Thursday when I think all play will be at the Trade and Convention Centre, **senior events will be at the Waterfront Hotel**, which is right across the street and is also accessible by an underground walkway. Intermediate/Novice events at regular times will be held in the Crystal Ballroom of the Pan Pacific Hotel, which is one floor above the main playing area. The I/N area will also have its own Partnership and Hospitality desks nearby. However, the 199er & 299er 9

a.m. events will be in the main playing area.

Incidentally, the I/N players should also consider entering the Bracketed Knock-Outs. The lower brackets will not have anyone with too many masterpoints, and they are an excellent place to pick up Gold points. These games will also be held in the main area.

Starting Times

Most events will start at 1 pm and 7:30 pm, but most senior games (except on the first Friday) will be at 10 am and 3 pm, so all play will be completed before 7 pm. (*Ed. note: you young folks quit snickering. Experience shows that the seniors are the hardest partiers at any tournament. If we don't get them started early, then they're likely to start a riot after last call.*) Non-seniors should also note that there are early two-session regionally rated games on both Sundays and also on Tuesday and the second Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, so on those days you can either play early or at the regular times. There are also games every morning at 9 am, including several KO's, and for the really dedicated, there are late night events starting at 11:30 pm.

Registration & Hospitality

Don't forget to register (once only please), on the first day that you attend. You will receive a registration kit including some nice gifts along with a program and a Restaurant Guide. For hospitality there will be food and entertainment most nights after the evening sessions. Don't miss the "Seattle Bridge Burlesque" on the 1st Saturday or Sunday. If you've seen them before in Reno last year or at a Regional, you'll know how enjoyable they are, and they are preparing a whole new show for this Tournament. There will also be special receptions for Seniors and I/N's plus table give-aways and other goodies.

NABC Events Explained

An NABC is so much bigger than a Regional or a Sectional, encompassing so many different events that it's easy to become quite perplexed when deciding which events to enter. Essentially, an NABC is four tournaments in one, categorized as follows: North American Championships; two (or more) session Regional events; Intermediate and Novice Events; and Single Session Events.

North American Championships are headed by the VANDERBILT TEAMS, the most prestigious event. This is a seeded knock-out event for teams of 4, 5, or 6 players which attracts the finest players from North America and abroad. It is, however, open to all. It starts on the 1st Sunday, and continues until a winner is declared. You play one match a day, over two sessions. Although generally speaking only "name" teams survive to the quarter-finals, there are always upsets along the way. Some teams enter simply for the opportunity to play against a world-class team.

(Continued on next page)

NABC UPDATE

(Continued from previous page)

The SILVER RIBBON PAIRS is the only event which requires pre-qualification. It is restricted to Seniors who have won or placed second at a two-or-more session Regional or higher event. It is a four session event, beginning the first Sunday, with the first two sessions being qualifiers for the final two.

The other North American Championship events follow a similar format — two qualifying sessions followed by two final sessions — and are open to all. They are the OPEN PAIRS I, starting the first Friday, the MIXED PAIRS on Tuesday, the OPEN PAIRS II and WOMEN'S PAIRS on Thursday, and the OPEN and WOMEN'S SWISS TEAMS on the second Saturday. Finally, there is the NABC 49ER PAIRS on Wednesday, a two session event for people with less than 50 MP's.

Regionally Rated Events are the most heavily attended, and almost all are stratified or strati-flighted, which means that the top strata play by themselves, and the rest of the field is stratified. There are also several bracketed knock-outs which are very popular, as they are perhaps the best way to earn Gold points. In a bracketed knock-out, the field is divided into groups of no more than 16 teams (seeded by MP totals), and last no more than four sessions. Winning two matches guarantees an overall finish.

Note also that the "0 - 750" and "0 - 2000" Knockout teams

events mean that no single player cannot have more than those point totals; it does NOT refer to the team's total.

Intermediate and Novice Events are generally restricted to those players with less than 200 points, and will mostly be played in the Crystal Ballroom of the Pan Pacific, one floor above the main playing area. All events are single session, and begin at 1 pm and 7:30 pm. It is a great opportunity for players with limited experience to enjoy the flavour of a large tournament, while playing at their own level in a relaxed atmosphere.

Single Session/Continuous Pairs Events are available every day except the last day, and are at 9 am, 1 pm, 7:30 pm, and 11:30 pm, and provide the answer to the question "What do we do now that we've been knocked out?". The Continuous Pairs events award gold points to high overall finishers in two or more sessions of the same event.

So, if you haven't been to an NABC before, don't let this opportunity slip by. One of the key features of an NABC compared to a Regional or a Sectional is that there are enough people attending to schedule something for everyone. Yes, entry fees will be higher than what you are used to paying, but you can play two sessions a day for all 10 days for under \$400, and you know how far that would go if you were also paying transportation and accommodation. So, whether you have 5 MP's or 5000, come and enjoy the unique atmosphere that a National Championship provides.

...and just in case you're still nervous about playing...

THE BERMUDA REGIONAL

By Linda C. Bell

My partner and I have been playing together for just over a year at Eugene's New-plicate Wednesday afternoon game at the Vancouver Bridge Centre. We do quite well and enjoy it. We thought it would be fun to play in the Vancouver Nationals in March but felt we should at least have a little exposure to tournament bridge first. We began by playing on a Monday evening and decided to go to the Bermuda Regional (why not!!).

I've always wanted to go to Bermuda and was a little apprehensive that it would not meet my expectations - BUT IT WAS BETTER. The slogan "There is no Regional like the Bermuda Regional" must be true. The islands are glorious - no shabby areas, no litter, no graffiti, no unemployment, no begging and no bugs. Everything is totally organized, civilized and pristine.

We keenies played both sessions on the first day and came 3rd both times in the 0-300 side game. It was a little too much, so from then on we only played in the evenings and toured or golfed during the day.

The next evening - side game 0-300 - we came across a pair of opponents - one wearing a salmon pink jacket and the other reading a book! Well, the guy in the jacket had to be a somebody as who else would wear a salmon pink jacket? They turned out to be Lowell Andrews (6,000+) and Gene Simpson (15,000+). If this was the competition in the side game, we might as well switch to the main game. So we did! During the week we chatted to Lowell and Genxe and discovered they were bridge professionals and were hired to play in the tournament. Gene was trying to persuade me to hire him, to which I asked would I get him for half the price as I was half the age! - he laughed.

The banquet was super. Not being part of a group, they slotted us at a table with several others who had space for two more. To our surprise and delight (once we figured out who they were) our table companions were: Eddie Wold, Mike Passell, George Rosenkranz and Mark Molson.

The week was fabulous, total elegance, everyone gracious and friendly and after coming section tops 3 times, 3rd twice and bombing twice we accumulated 5.32 reds each. Oh, by the way did I mention how many points we started off with: myself 16.98 black and my partner 51 black. So it just goes to show, you don't need to be good to have fun at a tournament!!

MEET THE PLAYERS

Martin Henneberger

by David Schmidt

It took a lot of coercion from his father to get him started, but once Martin Henneberger finally picked up a bridge book, he never looked back. "My dad was a bridge player in his day and he was always trying to get me into it. One day I picked up a book and found there was more to it than I thought," he recalls.

After just two years of playing bridge, Henneberger has already left his mark on Vancouver duplicate bridge, as only the second-ever back-to-back winner of the Phil Wood Under 200 Trophy. The trophy is awarded annually for the winner of the most masterpoints at unit sectionals by a player who begins a calendar year with less than 200 points.

After winning the trophy with 25.72 masterpoints in 1997, Henneberger continued with a 37.90 masterpoint performance in 1998 unit sectionals. Add some wins in regionals, clubs and special events and Henneberger admits that 1998 "was a good year for me. I had a few good tournaments." And he is just warming up.

"I want to win the North American Flight B open pairs (with Brad Bart) when the NAOP championships come to Vancouver in March," he says, adding "it's going to be tough because there will be some very good pairs." That does not daunt Henneberger, who prides himself on being a "competitor. I want to win every time I sit down at the table."

While winning comes more often these days, he admits that "it was a struggle when I first started playing."

Rather than let that defeat him, it only strengthened his resolve. "The more I got beat up, the more I read and the more I analyzed results until it all clicked. You have to study the game to improve. If you can come up with an answer as to why things work and why they don't, you will improve."

Besides reading and hand analysis, Henneberger advocates kibbitzing better players. "I went to the CNTC

National finals in Surrey and kibbitzed the whole weekend. You always learn when you sit behind better players."

While his foray into bridge is relatively recent, Henneberger has a long exposure to cards, both through his father and through years of employment in local casinos. "I played a lot of Chinese card games so I didn't have to learn counting when I started bridge."

Henneberger is not rooted to a single system. In fact, he plays a different system with each of his four main partners. He plays a big club system with Tony Remedios, Precision with H.K. Ho, modified Kaplan-Sheinwold with Brad Bart and 2/1 with Dianne Isfeld. He says each has its strengths. "Tony's big club system is very interesting because I just learned it. That's the way to go because you have to have some tools to compete at the higher level."

Despite saying that, he believes the Big Club is more suited to IMP play and Henneberger believes matchpoints is more his forte. "I pride myself on low-level penalty doubles at matchpoints and with the big club system you don't have enough information early enough to be able to double effectively. In matchpoints I prefer an aggressive 2/1: bid aggressively, double aggressively and balance aggressively." To that end, he plays Obar bids with both Bart and Isfeld, which balance with shortness rather than values. "Don't expect values if I double a 1H-2H auction, expect shortness."

He admits the profusion of systems sometimes leads to confusion especially with forcing and non-forcing bids. "Tony plays negative free bids so I have to know which bids are forcing and which are not," he notes.

Outweighing the disadvantages are the advantages of being familiar with different systems. "Even if you don't play it regularly, you're always at an advantage when you have to defend against a system if you know what's going on at the table."

Judging by his results, Henneberger usually has a pretty good idea what's going on at the table and, more importantly, how to use it to his advantage.

What Dave didn't get into was the more interesting aspects of Martin's background. For example, he speaks several languages - English, German, and Portugese - fluently. Though born in Canada, as a son of a German citizen, he had the benefit of dual citizenship which he put to use on his graduation from high school in 1988: he returned to Germany, and served briefly in the German army, as a translator and writer for the base newspaper. However, that didn't last long: after his editor removed a key paragraph from an article comparing German and Soviet military policy, Martin heard that both he and his editor were to be court-martialled for publishing seditious material. It was then that he decided he wanted to visit Brazil. (As he put it, "They don't extradite.") Martin narrowly escaped arrest, only because the authorities went after the editor first, and, using his Canadian passport, he was able to safely get to Sao Paolo.

Once there, Martin got a job teaching English in a small community college. "It was supposed to be English immersion, but basically I had to learn Portugese very quickly to get anything

done. I had taken some Spanish in high school, so that helped alot." Soon he was fluent enough to get another job doing written translation for a left-leaning political activist group called the Movimiento de Izquierda Revolucionaria. "Some of their political pamphlets were pretty radical", he said. "That job ended in December of 1990. One of their units was arrested for kidnapping a local businessman, including my main contact. Eight of them, including two Canadians, were sent to prison."

When doing some work to assist their legal plight, Martin discovered that Canada's extradition treaties with Germany have a funny proviso: the offense must be criminal in both countries for extradition to be possible. Sedition, he discovered, was no longer criminal in Canada, and desertion was a military - but not criminal - offense in Germany. So, he quite happily returned to Canada in mid-1992.

Okay, so I made all that up. But I had extra space, and, well, he really did teach English in Brazil. (Next time, Schmidt, gimme a full page!!!!)



MATCHPOINTER YELLOW PAGES

MONDAY		
10:00	VCR	stratified
10:45	BBY	open
7:15	SRY	open; str. 1st
	TSW	open
7:30	CWK	str. last
	SQU	1st hcp; 3d trph. race
	HBN	open to all
	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	0-100 MP
11:00	ABB	open
7:15	WRK	stratified
	VCR	stratified
7:30	C.R	open
	M-R	open
	VBC	stratified by LMs

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

FRIDAY		
10:45	VBC	Strat. Open
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	Wednesday	Thursday
7:00 pm	1:00 pm	7:00 pm
teams	open	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
 Partnerships: Marge Groberman 266-7722

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

Director: Arlene Browning 1-604-870-9300
 Mondays at 7:15 pm

First Monday of month Stratified Swiss Teams Apr. 19
 Computer Scoring Partners Guaranteed

Membership Trophy: Joyce Rhodes, Rita Hasselbach
 Charity Game Winners: Dot Carnegie, Ron McConnell

Polski Klub Brydzowy
 Polish Combatant Centre, 1134 Kingsway
 Waldemar Jez 527-8854

Alternate Fridays, 7:30 pm
 invitation only

Feb. 12, 26; March 12, 26
 April 9, 23; May 7, 21

Games free with \$15 yearly membership
 (non ACBL affiliated)

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

CLOSED MAR. 24 Club Championship May 26
Int'l Fund Game #2 May 12 (hand records & analysis)

STAC Winners: N/S Tai Eng, Nancy Yoshida
E/W Jerry Shapiro, Wanda Stepien
Club Champs: John Anthony, Bill Osten
Membership: Sandi White, Ida Goodlad
Charity Game: Les Baldys, Marguerite Wiggins

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 Champ. Mar. 31 Closed Mar. 24

Club Champs: Andrew Lee, Eleanor Kaufman
Charity Game: Ione Smith, Beryl Hamilton

Club Abbreviations and Contacts

Abbr.	Club Name	Club Contact	Phone No.	Page
ABB	Abbotsford DBC	Bob Percher	792-4389	16
ARB	Arbutus Village BC (By invitation only)	Shirley Bowers	732-3252	16
BBY	Burnaby DBC	Hazel Dressler	524-4445	16
C.R.	Central Richmond BC	Albert Yallouz	321-1891	14
CWK	Chilliwack DBC	Bob Percher	792-4389	16
F.V.	Fraser Valley BC	Gilbert Lambert	526-1240	16
HAS	Hastings BC	Marianne Scott	298-3932	14
HBN	Hollyburn BC	Louis Landau	984-8309	15
JCC	Jewish Comm. Ctr. DBC	Connie Delisle	263-9196	13
MIS	Mission DBC	Bob Percher	792-4389	16
M-R	Maple Ridge DBC	Bob Percher	792-4389	16
NSW	North Shore Winter Club	Louis Landau	984-8309	16
PKB	Polish Bridge Club*	Waldemar Jez	527-8854	13
RMD	East Richmond BC	Ernie Dietrich	936-2298	15
S-D	Sur-Del BC	Gilbert Lambert	526-1240	16
S-W	South-West DBC	Finn Schultz	534-5025	16
SRV	South Surrey BC	Arlene Browning	870-9300	13
SQU	Squamish DBC	Lorraine Hurren	898-2702	15
SUN	Sunshine Coast BC*	Rudy Notzi	885-5552	13
TSW	Tsawassen BC	Finn Schultz	534-5025	16
VBC	Vancouver Bridge Centre	Club line:	255-2564	15
VCR	Vancouver BC	Louis Landau	984-8309	15
WRK	White Rock BC	Arlene Browning	870-9300	14

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

Big Game: 70.0% Lotte Elias & Joyce Rhodes

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Squamish Bridge Club

1471 Pemberton Str., Squamish 892-1066

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

Lorraine Hurren 898-2702

Hollyburn Bridge Club

Hollyburn Country Club
950 Cross Creek, West Vancouver

Mon. 7:30 pm Open to all
Thur. 9:30 am, invitation only

Louis Landau 984-8309

East Richmond Bridge Club

7891 Cambie at River Rd
(Richmond Rod and Gun Club)

Ernie Dietrich 936-2298

\$5.00 entry includes lunch

Sundays at 1:00 pm

First Sunday of the month is stratified

Next C.C. March 7 Charity Game April 18

Closed March 21, 28 for NABC

Current Champs: Mary Fines, Helen Montgomery
Memb. Game: Barry Wade, Jon Schulman

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.
Apr. 5	May 26	Mar. 10

Feb. 22 10:00 am	ACBL Wide Seniors Game
Mar. 17 10:00 am	St. Patrick's Day Fun Pairs
Apr. 5 10:00 am	Easter Monday Holiday Pairs
May 24 10:00 am	Victoria Day Holiday Pairs

1998 Daytime Club Champ: Amir Alibhai

1998 Evening Champs: Hooshang Vessal, S. Darabi

John Reeve Mem. Individual: Ernie Dietrich

1998 Eve. Player of the Year: Mary Fines

1998 Day Player of the Year: Maria Dabrowski

Vancouver Bridge Centre

2776 E. Broadway, Vancouver, B.C.

255-2564 Lessons, Books, Seminars

Upcoming Special Events

GNT Qualifiers at the VBC:

Feb. 22 Mon 7:30 pm, GNT-Q & concurrent 0-200 Swiss Teams

Mar. 7 Sun 1:00 pm, GNT Qualifying Swiss

Monthly Unit Games: 7:30 pm Sat. Mar. 6, Apr. 3, May 1

CBF Olympiad Fund Tues. Mar. 9, 7:30 pm

St. Patrick's Day Wed. Mar. 17 *All day - \$1 off if wearing green*

Club Closed March 18 - 28 for NABC!

STAC Week April 5 - 11 All sessions.

CBF Helen Shields Rookie-Master Game Mon Apr. 19 7:30 pm

Seniors day! All day Tuesday Seniors get \$1.00 off!

T.G.I.F. Bidding Contest last Friday of each month

New Features at the VBC: Wed. am game is now 0-100 points. Friday day game is now 10:45 am. The Wed. pm game will have hand records the first Wed. of each month. Tuesday is now **Seniors day!** Seniors get \$1 off.

Winners play free first Sunday of the month! Any player who finished first overall in *any session* in the preceding month gets a free play, the first Sunday of the next month, at 6:30 pm.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Mon	7:30	0-200
Tues	10:45	Strat. Open
	7:30	Strat. Open
Wed	10:45	Newplicate: 0-100
	7:30	Strat. by # of LM's
Thur	7:30	Strat. Open
	7:30	Rookie (0-20) Game
Fri	10:45	new time Strat Open
	7:30	Lucky Number Open
Sat	—	aft. & eve. rubber
Sun	6:30	open IMP pairs

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Winner Take All:	Tues Apr. 13 7:30 pm
Lucky # Jackpot:	Fri Apr. 23 7:30 pm
Adv. in Duplicate:	Wed. Apr. 28 10:45am

Burnaby Duplicate Bridge Club

1491 Carleton Ave, Burnaby
Hazel Dressler 524-4445

Mondays
10:45 am

Tuesdays
7:30 pm

Important Dates

Monday, Feb. 22: Seniors Game
Monday, March 15: Club Championship

Current Club Champions

Amir Alibhai/Sky Williamson, Phyllis Gerber/Hazel Stowards

North Shore Winter Bridge Club

1325 E. Keith Road, North Vancouver

Tuesdays at 7:30 pm

Club Championship February 23

Louis Landau 984-8309

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

Bob Percher 792-4389

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

Chilliwack

Senior Recreation Centre
9400 College Street

Mondays at 7:30 pm
Stratified last Monday/month

Brian Lee & Roselle McRae
won everything: Milk Bottle
Charity, & Club Champ.

Maple Ridge

Centennial Ctr. Seniors
Complex: 11940 224 Str.

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm
Mar. 10: ACBL Charity

Current Champs:
Marg Benoit &
Lynn Cartwright

Mission

Leisure Centre
7621 Taulbut Avenue

Thursdays at 7:30 pm
Feb. 18: Club Champ

Current Champs (again):
Rosella McRae and
Ken Cowherd

Abbotsford

McCallum Activity Centre
2478 McCallum Road

Wednesdays 11am
Fridays 7:30pm
Next CC: Feb 24th, Mar 5th.

Current Champs
Lenora Awram, K. Cowherd

Tsawassen Bridge Club

South Delta Rec Centre
1720 56th Str. Delta

Finn Shultz 534-5025 **Mondays 7:15 pm**

Club Championship March 15
Closed March 22 for NABC

Membership Game Winners: Wilf May, Don Sache

South-West Duplicate Bridge Club

White Rock Elks Club
1469 George Street, White Rock

Finn Schultz 534-5025
Tuesdays at 11 am

Quarterly Club Championship: March 16

Membership Game Winners:
Esther Freeman, Rekha Shah

SUBURBIA CLUBS

Gilbert Lambert 526-1240

Fraser Valley Bridge Club

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

No Game March 25
Club Champ. Feb. 18

Current Champs:
Donna Morrison &
Ev Hodge (60.4%)

Sur-Del Bridge Club

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

Closed March 19, 26
and April 30

Club Champ. Feb 19

Current Champs:
Sherman Kwan &
Wilf May (71.3%)

Play with us in

THE VANCOUVER UNIT GAMES

More points. More fun • Snacks. Coffee. Trophy race

VANCOUVER BRIDGE CENTRE • 2776 East Broadway • Vancouver, BC • 255-2564



1999 SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 6 • 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 3 • 7:30 pm

Saturday, May 1 • 7:30 pm

Saturday, June 5 • 7:30 pm

Saturday, July 3 • 7:30 pm
ELECTIONS & AGM @ 6:00 pm

Saturday, Aug 7 • 7:30 pm

Saturday, Sept 4 • 7:30 pm

Saturday, Oct 2 • 7:30 pm

Saturday, Nov 6 • 7:30 pm

Sunday, Dec 5
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



Play in the

BC WOMEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

and be a part of the
Canadian Women's Teams Championships

Trophies for Winners • Teams of 4,5, or 6 members welcome
Top Three Teams will qualify to enter the National Final
Yorkdale Holiday Inn, Toronto, July 12-17, 1999

All Women in BC Welcome

Accommodation for out-of-towners can be arranged!

Entrants must be paid up members of the CBF. This is usually paid along with your ACBL membership but can be paid separately by submitting name, address and \$25 to the CBF Coordinator *prior* to event date.

Coordinator Jude Hanson 604-465-2933 email: jude@cbf.ca

For Conditions of Contest visit the CBF Web site www.cbf.ca

APRIL 24, 1999

VANCOUVER BRIDGE CENTRE
2776 East Broadway
(1 block west of Renfrew)
Vancouver, BC
604 255 2564

12:00 Noon and TBA

Two sessions, snacks provided.

IMP LEAGUE STANDINGS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	VP's	AVG.
1. Dimich	A	6			29	22	22	28			7	6	120	17.1
2. Charleson	24	A	13	14				10	3	5		23	102	14.6
3. Sache		17	A	20				20	22	5	10	26	120	17.1
4. Laudan		6	10	A	6	23		6			11		62	10.3
5. Robson	1			24	A	11	2			2		22	62	10.3
6. Lindsay	8			7	19	A	5		10	5			54	9.0
7. McMullin	8				28	25	A			5	4	22	92	15.3
8. Thomas	2	20	10	24				A	10	9			75	12.5
9. Foster		27	8			20		20	A		12	19	106	17.4
10. Ballantyne		25	25		28	25	25	21		A	9		158	22.6
11. Winter-Ale	23		20	19			26		18	21	A		127	21.2
12. Danielson	24	7	4		8		8		11			A	62	10.3

Team Jockeys & Rosters

1. Mike Dimich, Bill Goldstone, Mike Wilson, Mike Takemori, Ben Takemori, Ben Sauve.
2. Nicci Charleson, Marylou Bart, Cam Doner, Jim Dickie, Tom Devine, Mike Yuen.
3. Don Sache, Doug Hansford, Les Fouks, Larry Pocock, Wilf May, Derek Ward.
4. Leslie Laudan, John Anthony, Jim Lenoble, Bill Osten, Mike Hurley, Barry Kirkham.
5. Sandra Robson, Patti Adams, Sheila Sache, Doreen McOrmond, Jean Grooms, Maureen Newcombe.
6. Cam Lindsay, Ron Borg, Paul Hagen, Dave Waterman, Steve Vincent, Martin O'Reilly.
7. Gray McMullin, Ken Lochang, Fred Brown, Kelvin Raywood, Martin Henneberger, Brad Bart.
8. Doug Thomas, Pete Walton, Dan Watson, Jim Marshall, Grace Jeklin, Gary Phelan.
9. Rhonda Foster, Gerry McCully, Tony Remedios, Martin Johnson, Felipe Hernandez, Duane Tilden.
10. Aidan Ballantyne, Don Brazeau, Gord Davis, Nathan Divinsky, Dan Jacobs, Larry Hicks.
11. Dave House, Paul Sortag, Lawrence Betts, Ron Ohmart.
12. Ken Danielson, Jude Goodwin-Hanson, June Pocock, Sherman Kwan, Don Keith, Brian Russell.

AS THEY ROUND THE FINAL TURN by Juniper Babycheeks

As you recall from the last matchpointer, the race caller MC Master Kool Glaze D predicted the top six horses when they paraded in front of the grandstand. All eyes were on the magnificent animals as they left the gate. Would Kool Glaze's predictions be accurate? Here we are at the half-mile marker and heading down the backstretch. The leader at this point is horse #10 followed closely by #11. Horses 7, 1, 9, 2, 3 and 8 are tightly squeezed, while horses 6, 12, 4 and 5 are bringing up the rear. It may be a photo finish so have your cameras ready.

Foster, riding her great black stallion, has a lot of pressure on her. She won the last IMP league race and has been training hard for this one. Her horse is in great shape and all those who listened to Kool Glaze and put their money on her horse are anxiously watching. She came out of the gate with great speed passing most other horses around the first three furlongs but her stallion has slowed down, perhaps due to the loss of a Columbian gold horseshoe, and is now running in the middle of the pack.

Charleson, taking over as jockey from Doner, is predicted to be a close second. Their handler felt Charleson would have a calming effect on this speedy gelding. Something is having a calming effect all right. This horse was slow coming out of the gate, barely keeping up with the crowd. Perhaps Charleson should stop feeding her horse glazed donuts. Once the sugar is out of the horse's system, perhaps it can pick up its speed coming down the backstretch and win this race.

Ballantyne has had problems in the past winning with this great but inconsistent stallion. However, this year Ballantyne found the right mix — or perhaps he is just

dangling a carrot. But whatever his secret is, he came out of the gate at a tremendous speed. He is passing the half-way marker so far in front of the crowd that he will have to stumble and fall not to finish in front. Kool Glaze predicted this possibility, but we will have to watch the end of the race. There's always a chance of a broken leg.

Lindsay, one of Kool Glaze's favorites, is still in the gate. Nobody told him that a rigorous training season was necessary to win. Kool Glaze predicted Lindsay might have trouble keeping his thoughts off the golf course. Somebody tell him the two games have a different strategy. As all the other horses are racing towards home, Lindsay is talking to his gelding trying to figure out how to get out of the gate. He will need to whip his horse hard if he hopes to catch up with the pack.

Dimich has one of the most exciting horses in the race. Capable of finishing anywhere, this horse has also been described as mysterious. He came out of the gate faltering and almost stumbled and fell. All eyes were on the leaders when out of a cloud of dust came Dimich. There are big bets on this horse, or so a bookie told me, and I'm sure the jockey has a few side bets himself. Kool Glaze gave this horse a good chance to get to the finish line near the front. Let's watch the mystery unfold.

Sache has a hard time holding his horse in check: his well-seasoned horse seems to have a mind of its own. When his horse likes the conditions of the track, watch out — he is capable of anything. Calamity can strike at any time if the horse tries to run too fast. This race, so far, has proven to be a relaxed time for Sache: his horse is running steadily in the middle of the pack. But he cannot let his guard down as he turns down the backstretch. If no unforeseen dangers arise, Sache will ride his horse into a winning position.

(Continued on page 19)

IMP LEAGUE STANDINGS

(Continued from page 18)

Thomas is a jockey with a strong will. If necessary he would drag his horse to the finish line. He has the honor of riding a very unusual horse. It's described as a stallion, which has a feminine side, and Thomas knows this can be a great advantage depending on his horse's mood. With this feminine side and two sure and steady legs and two wild legs working in concert, he can set a great pace. Kool Glaze predicted this horse is capable of winning as it did a few years back. You could see sparks flying but so far it is experiencing the doldrums.

House had been described by Kool Glaze as a jockey just brushing of the dust after a few seasons rest. House as changed the name of his horse twice during this race. First it was Hemp then Winter Ale and now he is looking for a new sponsor. Any ideas? Kool Glaze was right about this horse, an old stallion but still full of spunk. Many may ask, is it natural spunk or is this team on steroids? Perhaps mandatory drug testing should be implemented for the Imp League Derby. Will stimulants help this horse win the race? Only House knows for sure.

McMullin has a lively colt to lead to victory. It has been leaked that the old trainer thinks he is in charge of this horse, but he should know the young know it all. Whenever McMullin rides in a race bizarre happenings occur. When he first left the gate, it looked like Ballantyne's horse ferociously stepped on one his legs. Thankfully, the strong Brown back leg has picked up the slack and kept McMullin in the race.

All legs seem to be on the mend and working well in unison. This may be yet another faulty pick of Kool Glaze.

Danielson, known as stretch jockey, bolted out of the gate, fell, and still hasn't been able to get his horse up. In fact, the crowd is getting quite a show: the horse seems to be running around in circles to avoid him. Hopefully he'll be able to remount the steed soon or else forfeit the race. Kool Glaze suggested in order for this horse to come in some real artistry was needed. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated. It seems the only way for this team to come in the top six is for the other horses to roll over and play dead.

Laudan has many eyes on her. She won the Miss Congeniality of jockeys. Her horse is a temperamental stallion but her feminine wiles should prove capable of getting the best from him. After showing no remorse for Lindsay at the gate, her horse seems to be distracted by a fan with a juicy apple. As she turns the half way marker she can see many horses leaving her behind. Laudan, maybe you should learn to use your whip.

Robson is riding a truly beautiful mare: graceful, agile and highly tuned. When she paraded in front of the grandstand all were in awe but many asked, can a fragile mare compete against the power of so many stallions? Out of the gate she flew, her agility and speed very apparent. Kool Glaze predicted a last place finish, and the ticket booths gave her 99-1 odds. I know I bought a ticket and I hope my long shot comes home.

City B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	VPs	Avg
1. Brown	B	19		16		21		20	7	8	91	15.2
2. Sumner	11	B	10		24	14	16		24	16	125	17.9
3. Lee		20	B	4	24	25	4	2	5	24	108	13.5
4. Morse	14		26	B	28		12	9	25	28	142	20.3
5. Mead		6	6	2	B	26	22	2			64	10.7
6. Henning	9	16	5		4	B	18			9	61	10.2
7. Jackson		4	26	18	8	12	B		13	21	102	14.6
8. Eng	10		28	21	28			B	4	24	115	19.2
9. Crowhurst	23	6	25	5			17	26	B		102	17.0
10. Meyer	22	14	6	2		21	9	6		B	80	11.4

Valley B	1	2	3	4	5	VPs	Avg
1. Webster	B	10	12	7	4	33	8.2
2. Faulkner	20	B	9	27	6	62	15.5
3. Moffat	18	21	B		1	40	13.3
4. Huber	23	3		B		26	13.0
5. Schmidt	26	24	29		B	79	26.3

This is where the write-up for the Valley league's first half of their double round-robin would have gone, (except I would have given it lots more space), except DAN WEBSTER didn't do it. Expect his most sincere apologies to appear next issue....

...AND IN FLIGHT B...

We tried to reach our fearless forecaster Dr. Friedman-Hubble for an update of his pre-season predictions, but unfortunately we were unable to reach him. Once again we dangled the prospect of an all-expense paid trip to Vancouver's best peeler bars before Kelvin Raywood, in the hopes that he would once again use his contacts for our benefit (and hit intoxication), but sadly, as a new parent he now has responsibilities he cannot ignore.

"Kristin and I are trying to teach the baby proper bidding with Lawrencian 2/1, but the little beggar keeps responding at the two level with only ten points. When we try and tell him that's not enough, he cries and wets himself."

Don't worry, Kel, we understand: the same thing happens when Sefton's at the table.

(Continued on page 20)

IMP LEAGUE STANDINGS

The IMP League Gazette by Commissioner Bart

I am happy to report that everything is running smoothly. I hope I haven't just spoken too soon.

At the half-way point, we should note a very strong pace set by some teams. In A the Ballantyne squad (158 VPs) leads the lossless Winter-Ale (127 VPs). This is over 20 VPs per match for each of them! The B division leaders are the very inconsistent Morse team (142 VP's), who despite a 4-3 record, are averaging over 20 VP's per match. Close behind are the Eng team, with 115 VP's in six matches, and the Sumner team, who have more VP's (125), but have played an extra match. Second place should be decided by the match between Eng and Sumner, which is yet to come.

At this point, I would like to clarify two points from the conditions of contest (CoC). The first is seating rights, which have changed since last season. According to the CoC, seating rights shall be determined before the match begins. Failure to do so means that the seating rights for the second half of the match will go to the team trailing at half-

time.

The second is playoff spots. This year, the top six teams from round-robin play will advance from each of the city divisions. The top two teams will get a bye to the semi-finals and the other four will play quarter-final knockouts to decide the other two semi-final positions.

I am happy to say that everyone's matches are up to date in both flights, which is outstanding. Thanks to all teams for being patient with each other in the scheduling, however the worst is about to begin. Winter vacation season has started, and I must ask that captains be extra patient and flexible with match scheduling.

Thanks also to everyone who has visited and commented on my webpages for the IMP League. Your comments are (as always) appreciated! If you haven't visited yet, please come soon!

<http://www.cs.sfu.ca/~bbart/personal/IMPS>

That's all until April!

Commish Bart

Eventually, we were able to reach Dr. Hubble's secretary, who gave us the bad news.

"The doctor is in a near-catatonic state. He suffered a major breakdown when they announced that Pluto is being downgraded from a planet to a trans-Neptunian object. He's very bitter about it. When I try and ask him about bridge, all he says is, 'I hope Ric Sumner gets hit by a truck'."

We think his bitterness towards Mr. Sumner (the captain of team Pluto) is misdirected, especially given the recent announcement by the International Astronomical Union that Pluto will indeed be retaining its planetary status.

We must say, however, that the good doctor's predictions were amazingly accurate — most teams are on pace to finish within ten VP's of their prediction. The most glaring exception is the Meyer squad. Ranked number one in the preseason, they are now on pace to miss the playoffs, after sizeable losses to the Eng and Lee teams. Note that Dr. Hubble did predict that the collective beauty of the Lee team would draw casualties from some all-male teams. Next year, Larry, keep your eyes on the cards.

The other major mis-step in Dr. Hubble's predictions is the Eng team, who were seeded in the middle of the pack. However, they have come on very strong, thrashing two teams by a 28-2 score, and currently sit in first place with a 19.2 VP average. Their only serious defeat came at the hands of the (ahem) Crowhurst team, by a margin of 26-4 VP's.

Recent Promotions

The Matchpointer offers its congratulations to Unit 430's newest Gold Life Masters (2500 points), Pat Landau of North Vancouver, and Larry Pocock of Coquitlam. While Larry could not be reached for comment (specifically, he said "What the hell do you want me to say? Just go make up something good.", obviously taking a page from Pancho Villa, whose dying words were, "Tell them I said something". And who said there's nothing educational in the Matchpointer?) Pat was very generous in her praise. "I owe it all to my husband, Louis. He taught me everything I know." It's nice to see that after all these years, Pat has still retained her sense of humour.

Congratulations also are due to Dennis McMahon of Burnaby, for reaching Silver Life Master (he denies that he hacked into the ACBL mainframe and fudged the numbers), Amir Alibhai of North Vancouver, and Ted Lai of Burnaby, who got Bronzed in December, and Kelvin Raywood of Vancouver, Gail Sharp of Salt Spring Island, and Arthur Ma of West Vancouver, all of whom became Life Masters since we last went to press.

MONTHLY UNIT GAME

1998 FINAL RESULTS

I feel guilty. In our last issue, Nick and Janis Parker led the way, tied for first A/B, and I asked the rhetorical question, "Will Nick and Janis be happy with a tie for first, or will Janis dump him...?" Well, somebody dumped somebody, because Nick gained and Janis didn't. (I must say, though, I do like to see signs of blind faith in my readership. Now if only I could find a way to convert that to cash....)

We have two winners of the annual M.U.G. "Cry Me a River" prize. The first is Mike Manica, who would

have won the flight C trophy, except that he was not an ACBL member for most of the year. The second is George Bell (didn't he used to play for the Blue Jays?) who "led" the race for most of the year, but also was ineligible for the same reason. He finished with 9.77, which would have been a very respectable fourth. Pay your dues, guys.

Congratulations go to **Leszek Baldys**, who finished first overall, in both flight A and B. Because players can only take one trophy, the prize for first B falls to Les's usual partner in crime **Pirtpal Gill**. First C goes to **Tove Chen**, who, by the way, deserves it far more than Mike Manica because she's much better looking than him, or anybody else on the list, for that matter.

FINAL 1998 MONTHLY UNIT GAME TROPHY RACE STANDINGS

1	1	12.68	Leszek Baldys
2		10.87	Donna Morrison
3	2	10.01	Pirtpal Gill
4	3	9.23	Nick Parker
5	4	8.98	Janis Parker
6		8.67	Bonnie Anderson
7		8.67	Joerg Schneider
8		8.17	Joni Johnston
9	5	8.17	Brian Johnston
10	6	8.16	Leonard Feeny
11		8.14	Mary Fines
12		7.59	Eugene Chan
13		6.83	Patricia Landau
14		5.92	Andrew Ross
15	7	5.83	Tony Remedios
16	8	5.83	Tove Chen
17		5.50	Doug Thomas
18	9	5.27	Martin Henneberger
19	10	5.22	Waldemar Jez
20		4.96	Sheila Dickie
21		4.82	Wilf May
22		4.76	Ken Robertson
23	11	4.69	Pauline Lee
24	12	4.65	Mark Rojewski
25	13	3.93	Jon Shulman
	14	3.92	Anne Scott
	15	3.46	Ewa Wroblewicz
	7	2.97	Vicki Croome
	8	2.94	Mark Eddy
	9	1.77	Kristina Bohdanowicz
	10	1.71	Anita Morse
	11	1.65	Marti J Oppenheimer
	12	1.27	David Dong
	13	1.10	Bill Henning
	14	1.06	Julien Levesque
	15	1.06	Harry Greenhut

And they're off... 1999 Standings

Can't somebody stop those two? After two games, Baldys and Gill are at it again, sitting atop first A and B.

Apologies go to those on the list who are in flight B but are not identified as such. (Let me know who you are, and I'll get it fixed for the next issue.)

1	1	4.02	Leszek Baldys
1	1	4.02	Pirtpal Gill
3		3.43	Doug Cowan
3		3.43	Pat Landau
5	3	2.43	Tony Remedios
5	3	2.43	Tove Chen
7		2.35	Doug Hansford
7		2.35	Sherman Kwan
9		2.34	Don Sache
9		2.34	Sheila Sache
	10	1.87	Mary Fines
	5	1.59	Waldemar Jez
	5	1.59	Ewa Wroblewicz
	7	1.32	Martin Henneberger
	4	1.19	Mark Eddy
	5	0.98	Kristina Bohdanowicz
	6	0.74	William Ge

The Monthly Unit Games take place that the overall awards are about the B and C champs get six free plays, plus once each month, usually the first same as a sectional side game. The bragging rights. Players must be ACBL Saturday evening. Each game is annual point races are based on the members for their masterpoint awards to stratified, with boundaries at 300 and category that you are in at the start of the count towards the year-end total. 1000 masterpoints. Although the game calendar year. The player who wins the For more information, see the awards are in black points, the games most points gets the MUG trophy, and MUG ad on page 17 of this issue. carry a sectional rating, which means free plays for the following year. Flight

THE PLAY'S THE THING

An Inference by Aidan Ballantyne

		♠ Ax		
		♥ JT8xx		
		♦ Qxxx		
		♣ xx		
♠ Q9x			♠ JT	
♥ Qx			♥ xxx	
♦ AJxx			♦ KTxx	
♣ Qxxx			♣ AKxx	
		♠ Kxxxxx		
		♥ AKx		
		♦ x	Dir: S	
		♣ Jxx	Vul: NS	
S	W	N	E	
			P	
1S	P	1N	P	
2S				

At Matchpoints, West led a low club and East won the King. East did well to shift to the J of spades to remove my eventual club ruff, which meant that I had to decide how best to tackle hearts.

The play to trick 1 marked East with A-K clubs. It seemed likely West did not have A-K diamonds given the low club lead. So it was easy to place East with J spades, A-K clubs, K or A diamonds = 11 or 12 HCP respectively. Since East had passed in 1st seat the Q hearts had to be with West.

I won the spade in dummy and led a club rather than use my last sure dummy entry to take what looked to be a losing heart hook. East won and continued accurately with spades. I won and played AK hearts dropping the offside doubleton Q. I continued hearts. Unfortunately West ruffed in so I didn't make the overtrick. (*Ed. note: is that all you think about at Matchpoints, overtricks? With all those children starving in India? Sheesh.*)

(*Ed. note: That wasn't really an "Ed note", it was a note from my mother. That's the last time I let her proofread.*)

A Gamble? by McBruce

Board 20, both vulnerable, from the first half of our IMP match, I held:

KJxx A AJT9x KQx

3H was bid by RHO as dealer, I doubled, and my partner Dianne bid 4S. RKC got two key cards without the queen of trumps, and 5NT got the KD. Despite the fact that the Internet Newsgroup "rec.games.bridge" is coming out against the 7S call, I had several reasons for making it:

1. I really don't expect four spades only for a jump to 4S after 3H-X: especially (say) four spades as bad as ATxx. I might have only three spades and have to make some bid. So I expect a decent 5, or 6. At worst it'll be ATxxx and with one player known to hold at least seven hearts the guess (if there is one) is probably way more than 50%.

2. People have it in their heads that you lead trumps against a grand slam. If so, problem solved.

3. So we dump 17 IMPs against our opponent's 6S. What the hell. It's early. 22 boards to play. It's worth a shot now before I start getting cold-woozy.

Anyhow, opposite my KJxx A AJT9x KQx

Dianne held this: ATxxx x Kx AJT9x

She won the AH, played the KS and the JS, and predictably RHO followed low. LHO was the one with the hearts, so she ran the JS for a 30 IMP swing. (Win 13 versus lose 17). We need about a 57% (17/30) line to justify my madman's bidding, but I think with hearts splitting 8-3 (I'd expect a 4H call if RHO had four hearts) this makes four unknown cards in LHOs hand and nine in RHOs, so the QS is with RHO 64% of the time.

Of course, that means that about a third of the time we'd be losing 17 instead of gaining 13, but we'd recover--right?

Welcome to the Unit

Unit 430 would like to welcome (on a better late-than-never basis) the following new members:

Alex Chueng, Joyce Clark, Larry Gillott, Glenna Karl, Amir Kassam, Eric Pan, Christopher Reardon, Joyce Schmidt, Donny Sopkow, and Douglas Waddington.

We'd also like to welcome the following members who,

though not new, are new to us: Sharon Arnold, Elizabeth Michno, Maureen Newcombe, and Doreen Ransom.

If you're a new member, or have recently moved here, and aren't on this list, it means that as far as we're concerned, you can burn in hel... er, that is to say, it means we don't have your names yet, but on behalf of the Unit, please accept are most sincere and warmest greetings.

THE PLAY'S THE THING

The Lesson by Louis Landau

♠ 6	♠ Q9	♠ J7432	
♥ A8543	♥ J2	♥ KT76	
♦ 9643	♦ AQJ875	♦ —	
♣ QT3	♣ 865	♣ KJ42	
	♠ AKT85		
	♥ Q9		
	♦ KT2	Dir: S	
	♣ A97	Vul: —	
S	W	N	E
1S	P	2D	P
3NT	P	P	P

This hand was played at the duplicate game at Hollyburn Country Club on Monday, January 11th, and was "replayed" at the lessons on the following Tuesday morning. Not all of you will bid the hand this way, but in nearly all cases the final contract should be the same. The lead, fourth highest of longest and strongest, will presumably be fairly constant, and even though it seems that East-West have five hearts tricks to make, every declarer on the Monday evening and Tuesday morning made the contract! This made me look more closely at the hand, and even though hindsight makes it fairly easy, it is obvious that unless East-West are very careful, the suit becomes blocked, and this is the reason for the failure of all the defenders to make five tricks.

If East is on the ball, it is not a hard defense to find. Partner leads ♥4, and East knows, from the rule of 11, that there are exactly 7 higher cards outside West's hand. She can see one in dummy, and she has 4. This means that declarer, South, holds exactly 2 higher cards. When East goes up with her K, and declarer puts on the 9, East can suspect South has only two hearts. When she returns a heart she must try to unblock, so she should play her 10. When South plays her Q, both defenders should work out that South has no more hearts. If she had, surely she would have played a low card, keeping her queen as a stopper. West now has to be on the ball. She must play a *low* heart for partner to win with her 10, and so achieve the difficult unblocking of the suit.

Not an easy hand to defend. As I have indicated, not one defender found this play, either on the Monday game, or at the Tuesday lesson. Would you have found it?

Give Me a Hand by Joerg Schneider

♠ xx	♠ J9xxxx	♠ T	
♥ Kxx	♥ Q	♥ T9xxxxx	
♦ Q9xx	♦ xx	♦ Txxx	
♣ Q8xx	♣ JTxx	♣ x	
	♠ AKQ8		
	♥ AJ		
	♦ AKJ	Dir: S	
	♣ AK9x	Vul: NS	
S	W	N	E
1C	P	2S	3H
7NT	P	P	P

Playing a strong club system, North's bid shows 4-7 points and six spades. East's 3H call is typical of the kind of "noise" one hears in a strong club auction. This kind of bid, though, has the same kind of drawback as, for instance, the unusual 2NT — if they buy the contract, declarer has a blueprint of the distribution.

West obediently led a small heart, and though dummy is not what declarer hoped for, the lead — and the 3H bid — give declarer the information he needs to make the contract. Do you see how to make 13 tricks?

The lead gives you a twelfth trick: six spades, two hearts, diamonds and clubs. The bid marks West with the length in both minors, making either finesse a bad bet. But, the Jack of clubs in the north hand, and the KJ of diamonds in the south set up a squeeze play against West. After winning the Q of hearts, cash two top clubs, one top diamond, and the A hearts (pitching a club). Then, run the spades, South pitching two clubs.

On the play of the last spade (see box), West is squeezed. If declarer sees him pitch the Q clubs, then the J clubs is the thirteenth trick. If the Q clubs doesn't materialize, then declarer can (and must) take it on faith that the Q diamonds is now unguarded, and play a diamond to his K. The J becomes trick 13.

♠	♠ x
♥	♥
♦	♦ x
♣	♣ J
♠	
♥	
♦	♦ Q9
♣	♣ Q
♠	
♥	♥
♦	♦ KJ
♣	♣ x

RECENT EVENTS

WINTER SECTIONAL JANUARY 22-24

FRIDAY

- AFT STRATIFIED PAIRS 76 Pairs
- A1B1 James Lenobel/Laureen Holley
 A2B2 Peter Morse/Claire Burns
 A3 Larry Pocock/Mary Lou Bert
 A4 Nathan Divinsky/Michael Dimich
 A5B3 Van Buchanan/Robert Bosley
 A6 Phyllis Gerber/Delphine Tablotney
- B4 Avril Hodson/Lotte Elias
 B5 John Lien/Liz Stoneman
 B6 Aase Haines/Eleanor Webb
- C1 William Sit/Andrew Lee
 C2 Bachan Buttar/Walter Rae Fee
 C3 Patricia Stickland/Anita Morse
 C4 Eve Clark/Joan Campbell
 C5 Anne Smith/Jo Ann Smith
 C6 Mark Eddy/Gina Diamond

JEAN TURNBULL MIXED PAIRS 52 Pairs

- A1 Jeanette Greenhut/Michael Dimich
 A2 Kathy Adachi/Wilf May
 A3B1 Gay Parrish/Jay Brandt
 A4 Ernie Dietrich/Yuko Fujieda
 A5 Gary Phelan/Grace Jeklin
 A6 Doreen McOrmond/Gordon McOrmond
- B2 Tom Cotton/Gail Perrin
 B3 Herby Lum/Dianne Kerr
 B4 Insa Fricker/Tai Eng
 B5C1 Wayne Salter/Carol-Ann Halliday
 B6 John Whittlesey/Patti Adams
- C2 Anne Knowlan/Andrew Faulkner,
 C3 Roy Trask/Patricia Lamb
 C4 Ewa Wroblewicz/Andrew Zorawski

EVE OPEN SIDE PAIRS 42 Pairs

- A1B1 Aase Haines/Eleanor Webb
 A2 Bill Goldstone/Robert Sauve
 A3 Stella Alliston/Donna Morrison
 A4/5 Lotte Elias/Hazel Stowards
 A4/5 Brad Bart/Mike Roberts

- A6B2 Sharon Hughes/Joan Sobieniak
 B3C1 Kathleen Orr/Anne Wallace
 B4/5C2 Priscilla Brown/Roberta Richards
 B4/5 Corrine Tapley/Daisy Neilson
 B6 Kathy Bye/Mona Taylor
 C3 Bachan Buttar/Rae Fee
 C4 Anita Morse/Pat Stickland

EVE FUTURE STARS 12 Pairs

- D1E1F1 Dominique Baker/Theresa Kong
 D2E2F2 Zdzislaw Karpierz/Jerzy Mazur
 D3E3F3 Janice Barr/Chloe Clark
 D4 Grant Fraser/Francoise Olivier

SATURDAY

AFT FUTURE STARS 16 Pairs

- D1 Mike Stickland/Gordon Burns
 D2 Harvey Bridges/Jean Bridges
 D3 James Foster/Edmund Blumenthal
 D4E1 Krystyna Bohdanouiz/Matt Bohdanouiz
 D5E2 Alberto Ilano/Arthur Caza
 E3 David Grannis/Marie Cahill
 E4 Bob Faraci/Jeanne McDonald

A & JB HICKS OPEN PAIRS 56 Pairs

- A1 Doug Hansford/Donald Sache
 A2 Cam Lindsay/Richard Christie
 A3 Gordon McOrmond/Dan Jacob
 A4 Ken Scholes/Peter Herold
 A5 Barry Kirkham/Ram Hira
 A6 Steve Mansfield/Janet Daling
 A7 Gary Phelan/Doug Thomas

EVE CONSOLATION PAIRS 40 Pairs

- A1 James Craig/Hal Gloff
 A2 Harry Friedman/William Sit
 A3 Jean Groome/Dan Watson
 A4 Roman Woroch/Ric Sumner
 A5 Harold Hansen/Brian Sims
 A6 Raymond Morrison/Beryl Hamilton

EVE FUTURE STARS 13 Pairs

- D1E1 Roy Goodman/John Beresford

- D2E2F1 Kristina Bohdanowicz/Matt Bohdanowicz
 D3E3F2 Zozislaw Karpierz/Grzegorz Kaznowski
 D4E4 David Grannis/Marie Cahill
 D5 Michael Stickland/Gordon Burns
 F3 Nizar Esmail/Zainool Esmail

SUNDAY

W WEINSTEIN FLT A SWISS 24 Teams

- A1 Dan Jacob, Larry Hicks, Gordon McOrmond, Mike Hargreaves
 A2 Aidan Ballantyne, Ron Borg, Mike Roberts, Brad Bart
 A3 Peter Herold, Gerry McCully, Ken Scholes, Sandra Jenkins
 A4/5 Michael Dimich, Mike Takemori, David Waterman, Steve Vincent
 A4/5 Alex Knox, Frank Ayer, Ben Takemori, Robert Sauve
 A6/8 Michael Yuen, Mary Lou Bert, Kathy Adachi, June Pocock
 A6/8 Peter Maclean, Mike Wilson, James Dickie, Cameron Doner
 A6/8 Joe Jabon, Randy Corn, Harry Ross, Dave Grubbs
 A9/10 James Marshall, Dan Watson, Doug Thomas, Pete Walton
 A9/10 Rhonda Foster, Don Brazeau, Gregory Arbour, Dick Yarrington

MARY CLARKE FLT B SWISS 39 Teams

- B1 Dan Webster, Santokh Sian, Bob Kiggins, Phillip Awram
 B2/3 Kenny Chan, William Sit, William Ge, Hing Kong Ho
 B2/3 David Huang, Alex Chuang, Xiang Tu, Yinsheng Tu
 B4 Daisy Neilson, Joyce Rhodes, Maggie Warren, Lotte Elias
 B5/7 Pat Lester, Kathy Bye, Albert Yallouz, Nadia Yallouz
 B5/7 Tai Eng, Insa Fricker, Haiderali Nazak, Nurdin Kassam
 B5/7 Beverly Kanee, Gloria Prescott, Toyo Nunoda, Joan O'Flynn

PHIL WOOD TROPHY

1	27.04	Gordon McOrmond	10	14.81	Michael Dimich	20	10.42	Bob Kiggins
2	25.84	Dan Jacob	11	14.75	Donald Sache	21	9.90	Dan Webster
3	17.96	Larry Hicks	12	14.40	Doug Hansford	22	9.56	Phillip Awram
4	17.96	Mike Hargreaves	13	13.54	Gerry McCully	23	9.15	Robert Sauve
5	16.96	Brad Bart	14	13.47	Ron Borg	24	8.90	Mary Lou Bert
6	16.96	Mike Roberts	15	12.17	Sandra Jenkins	25	8.88	Mike Takemori
7	16.01	Ken Scholes	16	10.82	William Sit	26	8.88	Ben Takemori
8	16.01	Peter Herold	17	10.50	Cam Lindsay	27	8.79	Frank Ayer
9	15.05	Aidan Ballantyne	18	10.50	Richard Christie	28	8.79	Alex Knox
			19	10.42	Santokh Sian	29	8.08	Kathy Adachi

RECENT EVENTS

ROUND-UP SECTIONAL NOVEMBER 6-8, 1998

FRIDAY

AFT STRATIFIED PAIRS 70 PAIRS
 A1 Mike Dimich/Les Fouks
 A2 Bill Goldstone/Gerry McCully
 A3 Dave House/Harold Hansen
 A4B1 Bernice Selander/Gladys Mackie
 A5 Donna Morrison/Helen Montgomery
 A6 Mike Takemori/Robert Sauve
 B2 Amy Graham/Marjorie Mason
 B3 John Reay/Jane Fyfe
 B4 Ina Brander/Christine Seaville
 B5C1 Mark Eddy/Marti Oppenheimer
 B6 Brad Bart/Martin Henneberger
 C2 Breda Prestage/Norma McNamara
 C3 Gaby Uranyi/Carole Harris
 C4 Patricia Stickland/Zreen Marzban
 C5 Ghodsi Ahmadi/Tom Markham

EVE STRATIFIED PAIRS 60 Pairs
 A1 Hal Gloff/James Craig
 A2B1 Haiderali Nazak/Nurdim Kassam
 A34B23C1 Joan Brooks/Isabel Chernoff
 A34B23 Ralph Cole/John Whittlesey
 A5 Larry Pocock/Delphine Tablotney
 A6 Jean Groome/Kathy Adachi
 B4 Patti Adams/Angela Fenton
 B56 Mike Moffat/Izzie Anderson
 B56 Anthony Remedios/Tove Chen
 C2 Harold Hansen/Norm Gangnes
 C3 Xiang Tu/Yinsheng Tu
 C4 Bachan Buttar/Kathy Orr
 C5 Peggy Winter/David Grannis
 C6 Anne Knowlan/Andrew Faulkner

HENRY SMILIE MIXED TEAMS 22 Teams

A1/2 Ken Robertson, Gladys Mackie
 Dan Watson, Jeanette Greenhut

A1/2 Gerry McCully, Rhonda Foster
 Bill Goldstone, Mary Lou Bert
 A3/4 Jim & Audrey Norman,
 Aidan & Jennifer Ballantyne
 A3/4B1 Ram Hira, Ruth Abelman
 Dianne Kerr, Thiam Ted Lai
 A5/7 Richard Christie, Marcia Christie
 Jude Goodwin-Hanson, Gord
 Davis
 A5/7B2/3 Ric Sumner, Pat Jones
 John Lien, Liz Stoneman
 A5/7B2/3 Cornel Sawchuk, Sharon Hughes
 Claire Burns, Don Sharp

SATURDAY

STRATIFIED PAIRS 114 Pairs
 A1 Tony Remedios/Martin
 Henneberger
 A2 Ron Borg/Cam Lindsay
 A3 Mike Yuen/Mary Lou Bert
 A4 Bryan Maksymetz/Dan Jacob
 A5 Gerry McCully/Rhonda Foster
 Aidan Ballantyne/Brad Bart
 A6 Cam Doner/Jim Dickie
 A7 Peter Maclean/Mike Wilson
 A8 Ram Hira/Thiam Ted Lai
 B1 Don Keith/Andrew Lee
 B2 Haiderali Nazak/Nurdim Kassam
 B3 Kevin Strangway/William Ge
 B4C1 Anne Knowlan/Andrew Faulkner
 B5C2 Santokh Sian/Bob Kiggins
 C3 Betty Harold/Ghodsi Ahmadi
 C4 Adi Wadia/Judy Murphy
 C5 David Huang/Alex Chuang
 C6 Greg Morse/Andy Hellquist

AFT FUTURE MASTER PAIRS 6 Pairs
 DIE1 Dawn Smith/Marguerite Miller
 D2 Barbara Munro/Tony Whelan
 E2 Gaby Uranyi/Carole Harris

SUNDAY

STRATIFIED SWISS TEAMS 57 Teams
 A1 Leszek Baldys, Pirtpal Gill
 Andrew Ross, Rhoda Taffler
 A2 Kelvin Raywood, Doug Scott
 Gray McMullin, Sefton Levine
 A34 Dan Jacob, Ted Hicks, Greg
 Arbour, Larry Hicks, Bryan
 Maksymetz
 A34 Les Fouks, David House
 Paul Sontag, June Pocock
 A56 Marcia Christie, Richard Christie
 Grace Jeklin, James Sache
 A56 Brad Bart, Mike Hargreaves
 Gord McOrmond, Aidan
 Ballantyne
 A78 Pete Walton, Dan Watson
 Gary Phelan, Doug Thomas
 A78B1C1 Waldemar Jez, Mark Eddy
 Ewa Wroblewicz, David Dong
 B23 Sky Williamson, Amir Alibhai
 Claire Burns, Sharon Hughes
 B23 Barry Kirkham, Michael Hurley
 Shirley Isfeld, E. Isfeld
 B4 Leroy & Marigail Abinanti
 Bob Richardson, Candace Allen
 B5 Thiam Ted Lai, John Currie
 Sandra Robson, Ram Hira
 B69 Bruce McIntyre, John Reay
 Jules Wilkins, Greg Lam
 B69 Dan Webster, Ken Cowherd
 Roselle McRae, Brian Lee
 B69 Sandra Hawk, Ruby Jackson
 Diane Ayukawa, Richard Dunn
 B69 Ric Sumner, Pat Jones
 Insa Fricker, Tai Eng
 C2 Ruby Vanziffle, Nancy Davies
 Roberta Richards, Bobby Wood
 C3 Joan Sobieniak, Judith Wilson
 Maureen Schwartz, Ed Marchuk
 C45 Rae Fee, Norma McNamara
 Breda Prestage, Marlene Barber
 C45 Christa Mead, Andrew Lee
 Marylou Varga, Adele Mackay

EDIE BONNELL TROPHY

1	12.17	Sandra Jenkins
2	8.90	Mary Lou Bert
3	8.08	Kathy Adachi
4	8.05	Claire Burns
5	8.00	Laureen Holley
6	7.35	Lotte Elias
7	5.50	Van Buchanan
8	5.38	Jeanette Greenhut
9	5.34	Rhonda Foster
10	5.22	Aase Haines
11	4.99	Daisy Neilson
12	4.99	Grace Jeklin
13	4.88	June Pocock

PHIL WOOD UNDER 200

1	10.82	William Sit
2	6.82	William Ge
3	6.66	Yinsheng Tu
4	6.66	Xiang Tu
5	6.28	David Huang
6	6.28	Kenny Chan
7	6.28	Alex Chuang
8	3.17	Bachan Buttar
9	3.17	Walter Rae Fee
10	2.99	Joan Sobieniak
11	2.75	Kathleen Orr
12	2.56	Andrew Lee
13	2.50	Flora So

LEO STEIL TROPHY

1	14.75	Donald Sache
2	13.47	Ron Borg
3/4	10.50	Cam Lindsay
3/4	10.50	Richard Christie
5/6	10.42	Santokh Sian
5/6	10.42	Bob Kiggins
7	8.90	Mary Lou Bert
8	8.08	Kathy Adachi
9/10	8.05	Peter Morse
9/10	8.05	Claire Burns
11	7.35	Lotte Elias
12	6.82	Hing Kong Ho
13	5.62	Ram Hira

KRAKATOA!!!

By Dr. Kent Bidwell

Ed. note: Dr. Bidwell has gone on a minor rampage with his prescription pad, turning his digestive system into a minor pharmacy. After two weeks of Lorazepam, Dilaudid, Demerol, Prozac, Percodan, Ativan, Codeine, Morphine, Valium, and (shudder) ex-lax, he ended up in hospital with an ulcer. However, being a kindly sort, I brought him a deck of cards, a bottle of tequila, and a box of depends, and dragged him off to the Vancouver Bridge Club to substitute for Eugene Chan in our IMP league match, who was REALLY sick, due to a local shortage of antibiotics. When the match was over, I gave the good doctor a pen and paper. I think that was a mistake.

Relax, Nurse, those aren't real grizzly bears in the waiting room. The big one is Wilt. Wilt invented the slam-dunk. After years of slam-bang, thank you ma'am, he is now relearning how to make small slams. His buddy, Mike, has just lost millions of dollars. But don't feel too badly for Mike. He has a chance of becoming the world's first Triple B Master; ie. basketball, baseball, and bridge. Please cancel the 2 pm appointment. Big Contract, aka "Fast Ferry" (overweight, over-budget, and slow) had to return to work. And yes Virginia, if you squint hard enough and flip it upside down - PDA does look like NDP. And, no, we don't do MRIs at lunchtime. Not ever.

KRAKATOA!! Tabloid publishers know that loud headlines work. That we have you reading this far is proof of that. The Krakatoa volcanic eruption was heard 2,000 miles away. That's loud! 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 consults, lessen the public debt, and give me more time to golf.

The carnage was swift and devastating. North led a

♠ KQ952			
♥ K5			
♦ KT42			
♣ T8			
♠ J864		♠ AT7	
♥ A		♥ 62	
♦ AQ95		♦ J763	
♣ QJ62		♣ 9743	
♠ 3			
♥ QJT98743			
♦ 8		Dir: S	
♣ AK5		Vul: EW	
S	W	N	E
4H	X(1)	P	4N(2)
P	5H(3)	P	6C
P(4)	P	X	All pass.

trump, won by South's King. South shifted to the Diamond 8, plainly evident to all that it was a singleton. Declarer has no better option than the unsuccessful finesse. A diamond ruff and declarer still had to lose the trump Ace and a spade. Down 4, -1100.

In August, 1883, Krakatoa erupted, and 36,000 people died, not from the volcanic eruption, but from the devastation of subsequent tidal waves

is not a pretty sight, just like the aftermath of a volcanic eruption. Debris and rubble, carnage is everywhere. And that's just the immediate damage. Bigger repercussions are coming, just like Krakatoanian tsunamis rippling in all directions. Better do some damage control, before the next wave hits.

(1) West's takeout double is textbook at lower levels, but is too thin at the four level. With minimal values and a bad spade suit, pass over 4H is the winning action. If E/W is to make anything, East will need to have a good hand. If East has the necessary values, he will surely take some action.

(2) East has a number of choices, pass and convert 4HX for penalties, take a wild stab at 4S in a (hoped for) Moysian fit, or guess which minor to play in at the five level. Obviously, pass is best. With the Spade Ace a probable defensive winner, only 3 more tricks are needed to beat 4HX. Moysian contracts can be winners but should be avoided when bad breaks loom on the horizon. South's opening 4H pre-empt spells imminent doom for the 4S Moysian fit. East tries the UNUSUAL 4NT, hoping to find a good 5 level minor suit fit. Good idea, but wrong hand. To commit the partnership to a five level contract, East should have at least 5-5 distribution in the minors, eg. S xx H x D Jxxxx C Axxxx.

(3) West is unsure of 4NT and lacking specific agreements, defaults to Blackwood. We should always keep in mind that Blackwood applies only if the partnership has established slam interest, by way of an implied trump suit and a source of tricks. Neither condition has been established. Many Flight A partnerships would treat 4NT as natural, to play (especially at matchpoints), and West could pass. Here, East/West has only three winners in 4NT but as a matter of interest -700 is not a disaster on this board!

(4) South does not double despite holding the Ace and King of trumps. At this stage a double may send the opponents scurrying to a better contract. In any event, North smells a dysfunctional auction and puts out the red double card.

Minus 1100 is a big hole to recover from. However, we must avoid desperate measures trying to get it back. We can only hope that your teammates will be able to cover. In fact, this board was a push! At the other table, the opponents suffered a similar disaster landing in 6DX.

There is a marked difference between Flight A and Flight B attitudes. Flight B players typically are very reluctant to defend. Flight A players would pass 4H without much cause for thought and quietly go -420, and win 12 imps. If not, Flight A players would pass 4HX and suffer -590, and win 11 imps. Alternatively, Flight A players might pass 4NT and go -700 ...and still win 9 imps!

We should remember that Krakatoa itself caused no casualties, it was the ensuing tidal waves that spelled disaster. If you suffer a bad board, don't let it affect subsequent boards. Take immediate damage control and minimize any damage. It is easy to be an expert....PASS MORE OFTEN!

caused by the massive eruption. Minus 1100 in an IMP match



CASH PAIRS

**THE UNOFFICIAL
NABC WARM-UP!**

Play a single session of matchpoints

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28, AT 1PM

at the Vancouver Bridge Centre

AND WIN CASH!

Entries are sold as pairs into one of two flights • Flight A: \$40/pair • Flight B: \$20/pair
Dinner provided for the low cost of \$4/person.

\$12 of each entry pays for card fees and the rest goes into the pool
The top four overall scores win a cut of the pool: 50%-25%-15%-10%
A bonus \$50 will be added to each pool (pending turnout)

example:

If there are 7 tables in each Flight

	Pool Total	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Flight A	\$442	\$221	\$110.50	\$66.30	\$44.20
Flight B	\$162	\$81	\$40.50	\$24.30	\$16.20

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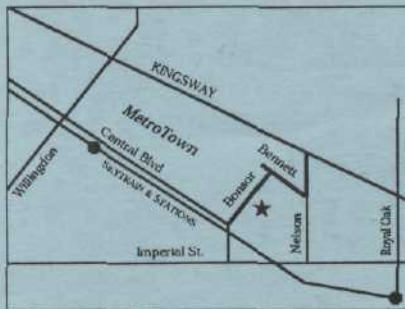
VANCOUVER UNIT 430



SPRING SECTIONAL

May 21-24, 1999

BONSOR RECREATION CENTRE
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2 Bracketed KO Events!



FRIDAY, MAY 21

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS	Single session	1:00
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS	Single session	7:30
FIRST BRACKETED KNOCKOUTS	Round 1	7:30

SATURDAY, MAY 22

OPEN PAIRS QUALIFYING	1st Session	1:00
FIRST BRACKETED KNOCKOUTS	Round 2	1:00
SECOND BRACKETED KNOCKOUTS	Round 1	1:00
OPEN PAIRS FINAL & CONSOLATION <i>New Entries Welcome in Consolation</i>	2nd Session	7:30
FIRST BRACKETED KNOCKOUTS	Final Round	7:30
SECOND BRACKETED KNOCKOUTS	Round 2	7:30

FUTURE STARS UNDER 100 EVENTS

Friday Evening, Saturday Afternoon and Evening,
Sunday Afternoon and Evening
Single Session Stratified Games - 0-20, 20-50, 50-100
0-5 Masterpoints Play for Free!

SUNDAY, MAY 23

SECOND BRACKETED KNOCKOUTS	Final Round	9:00 AM
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS	Two sessions	1:00 & 7:30

MONDAY, MAY 24

STRATIFLIGHTED SWISS TEAMS	Two sessions	10:30 AM & TBA
FLT A: Unlimited, Play Separately (20 PT Victory Point Scale)		
FLT B: Stratified B: 300-1200 C: 0-300, (Win/Loss)		
STRAT B ANDY NAGY MEMORIAL TROPHY		

Masterpoint Ranges for Stratified Events
Stratified Main Events: 0-300; 300-1250; 1250+

CHAIRPERSONS

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

PARTNERSHIPS

Patti Adams (604) 275-1531



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