

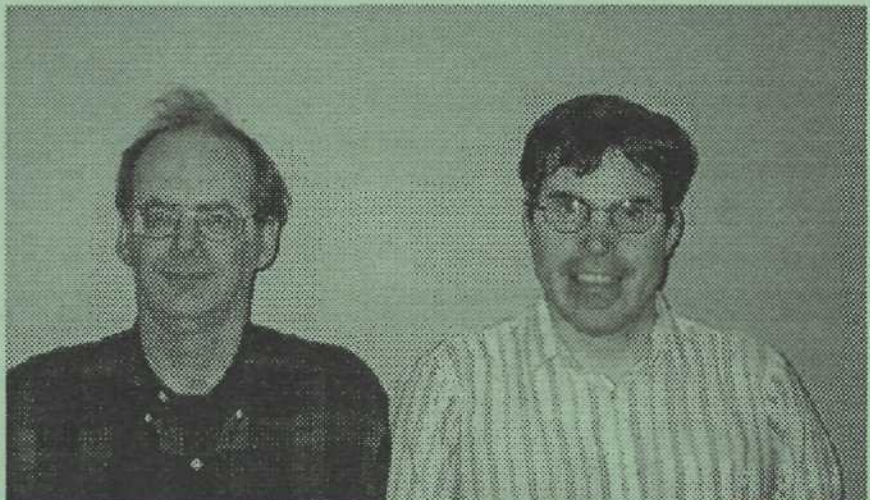
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the Matchpointer

Onwards and Upwards!

- 7 Local guys off to Cincinnati
- 8-9 Preview for the upcoming Regional
- 10 Rookie-Master results



Above, Greg Morse (he's the one who needs a comb) and Andy Hellquist, are off to Cincinnati at the District's expense after finishing 2nd in the NAOP Flight C final.

Intermediate/Novice Section

- 18 **A Useless Bridge Tip**, by Brad Bart. (We think he's too modest.)
- 19 **Opening Leads & Third Hand Play**, by Connie Delisle.
- 20-1 **The Oddsbuster**, by David Grannis. So, you think you know how to shuffle? You ain't seen *nothing* yet.
- 21 **Membership Info. The ACBL "QUIP" report for our Unit.**

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- 11 **Place Your Betts.** Laurence sets his eyes on a new target: the CNTC.
- 12 **Meet the Players.** Garry Skoropada.
- 22 **IMP League Coverage.**
- 24-25 **The Play's the Thing.** Joerg went to Everett, and brought us back more than just a lousy t-shirt, while Louis Landau shows when discretion is the better part of valour.
- 26 **Dr. Bidwell Returns!** We don't know if it's for one issue or more, but his diagnosis is that Blackwood should be euthanized.

From the Editor

Four of the most dreaded words for this editor to hear are, "When is the deadline?" It's always a trick question, because it means the person asking it is thinking about submitting something, but, like a socialite invited to a party, he doesn't want to be first. "Fashionably late", it seems, applies to writers as well as partyhounds. So, like the idiot that I am, I usually give a reasonably honest answer, and as a result, I get bombarded with stuff around the time I had hoped to go to press.

WELL NO MORE, DAMMIT!!! Let this serve as official notice to everybody, the next deadline is "Whenever." We try to put out an issue after one sectional and before the next, since these silly little events are the Unit's *raison d'etre*, but beyond that, publication times will now remain confidential. So there.

Now, does anybody have any questions about why this issue is appearing in the first week of January, instead of the second week of December? I'd like to blame Y2K, but that would only buy me a couple of days. The explanation for Y-No-Mag is far more mundane: illness +

lack of material + new job (word to the wise: if you're gonna commit a crime, do it in Burnaby because they have a brand new prosecutor who's really green...) + holidays. So, while the magazine may be three weeks late, on the brighter side, the skiing at Whistler was really great.

Hmmm... four more column inches to fill. I hate when that happens. I suppose I should try to think of some pithy pearls of wisdom about the significance of the new millennium, about how we should all be respectful to our partners, do more to promote bridge, be kind to rookies, and everything else, but I really can't.

1999 was a great year for bridge: the NABC was a huge success, the Unit and the clubs (in particular the VBC) have done a great job of bringing in, and keeping, new players, and above all, our CNTC teams avoided those awkward ten minute pauses in bidding that result in messy appeals. On the downside, we lost some people who were fixtures on the bridge scene (we'll have a memorial on Shirley Bowers next issue).

So on that note, have a happy new year, and enjoy the Regional.

Jeremy Crowhurst

MATCHPOINTER

is a publication of ACBL Unit 430, printed five times each year, and distributed free to its members at local clubs and at Unit events. Opinions expressed herein do not represent those of the Unit Board, or even of the articles' authors, but are those of my lord and master, Satan. Unattributed material is written by the editor, with help from various sources. Artwork used on the cover and inside is absolutely and positively genuine, for once.

The standards for publication of material are set by the editor. Every once and a while he gets cute and thinks he can actually predict what will come in the next issue. However, any appearance of control by the editor is utterly illusory, so if you ever see a "Coming Next Issue:", just ignore it. It means nothing.

The Editor welcomes feedback, even via anonymous e-mails. While you may get a really snotty response, he'll usually think about it afterwards and decide you were right, and then apologize, but not without following the apology with something even more offensive than the item first complained of. If you don't like it, well, too bad, but I got two more issues to go.

We remind all potential litigants that *the Matchpointer* is a non-profit magazine distributed free, not for any hope of financial gain. Previous reports of President Brad Bart's assets were exaggerated, and he's probably leaving the jurisdiction, so don't bother suing him. There you go Brad, now does that comply with the terms of the court order?

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FROM THE UNIT BOARD

President's Message

by Brad Bart

The end of the millennium marks the end of my tenth year of bridge, which is truly a milestone of my mis-spent youth. I can still remember the first club game I played back in 1990. I played with my dad, and after everyone had got settled in their seats, we had a quick look around the room. I was definitely the youngest player in the room, and my dad was definitely the second youngest. We played East/West and soon we arrived at table two — a pair little old ladies. Stunned by my youth, she asked, "How old are you?" I said that I was seventeen, and she turned to her partner and said, "Edie? I'm SEVENTY YEARS OLDER THAN HE IS!" She was truly tickled.

Many have reacted to my youth in different ways over the years, but the most common remark has been, "It's wonderful to see more young people playing the game." And then there are the never-ending reports from the ACBL: "the average membership age is 89.4"; "the percentage of bridge players in the under 35 years group is 0.01% of total membership"; and, "there are no new players to take up the slack of our tournament players who have given up bridge." One might think that bridge is a dead game, or at least dying

from rapid aging.

But, 'tis the season to be jolly, especially in Vancouver! Vancouver is one of the youngest units in North America, and we have the benefit of a large new player base, which I mentioned in my last President's Message. If we want to keep and add to our quantity of new members, we will need volunteers. Volunteers are what make bridge happen. Period.

I am not the only one who has played bridge for 10 years in a row, and all of us can say that we have got a lot out of the game. It is time everybody gave a little something back to the game. You might already see people giving something back. Some examples might be bringing food to club games, teaching lessons to beginners, helping set up or clean up the game, being a standby partner, or editing the Matchpointer, to name a few. But the best way a volunteer can give back to our newer players is to play bridge with them as a mentor. Mentorship is the greatest investment in the future of bridge.

So this is my millennium wish: I wish for every player in Unit 430 to be a mentor at least once in 2000. (A perfect opportunity would be the rookie-master game in April, 2000.)

Publication Dates for Y2K

The Matchpointer's publication dates are based on Unit 430's sectionals. Ideally, we report one and promote the next. With that in mind, the five issues for 2000 will (hopefully) appear in:

1. Late February
2. Late April
3. July
4. October
5. December

Note, however, that the latter two are beyond my tenure, so stay tuned for changes.

PHIL WOOD TROPHY FINAL STANDINGS

1 66.86 Gord McOrmond	11 39.86 Marcia Christie	21 29.82 Rhonda Foster
2 62.37 Dan Jacob	12 38.56 Dan Watson	22 28.55 David House
3 61.42 Brad Bart	13 35.39 Don Sache	23 27.73 Kenny Chan
4 60.57 Gerry McCully	14 34.60 Mike Wilson	24 26.69 Nathan Divinsky
5 58.90 Mike Hargreaves	15 34.03 Peter Maclean	25 26.68 William Ge
6 54.98 Peter Herold	16 33.34 Ben Takemori	26 26.56 Laurence Betts
7 51.31 Bill Goldstone	17 33.20 Gordon Davis	27 26.53 M. Henneberger
8 51.24 Michael Dimich	18 32.47 Larry Hicks	28 24.78 Ron Borg
9 43.15 Ken Scholes	19 32.46 Mike Roberts	29 24.67 Diane Ayukawa
10 41.38 Kathy Adachi	20 31.67 Steve Clements	30 24.63 William Sit

LEO STEIL TROPHY

1 41.38 Kathy Adachi
2 35.39 Don Sache
3 33.20 Gordon Davis
4 26.69 Nathan Divinsky
5 24.78 Ron Borg
6 24.43 Rangie Sylvestre
7/8 23.53 Claire Burns
7/8 23.53 Peter Morse
9 22.92 Aase Haines
10 22.53 Mary Fines

EDIE BONNELL TROPHY

1 41.38 Kathy Adachi
2 39.86 Marcia Christie
3 29.82 Rhonda Foster
4 24.67 Diane Ayukawa
5 24.43 Rangie Sylvestre
6 23.53 Claire Burns
7 22.92 Aase Haines
8 22.53 Mary Fines
9 21.00 Dianne Isfeld
10 20.88 Ina Andersen

PHIL WOOD UNDER 200

1 27.73 Kenny Chan
2 26.68 William Ge
3 24.63 William Sit
4 14.14 Norma McNamara
5 14.05 Carol-Ann Halliday
6 13.85 Vicki Croome
7 12.57 Anita Morse
8 12.57 Patricia Stickland
9 12.27 Andrew Faulkner
10 11.69 Waldemar Jez

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: A League of Our Own

In the last issue Laurence Betts, in his article on Doug Heron and the CBF, made the comment that "The method of selecting the Canadian International team deserves an article in itself." Could you encourage him to write one? When I was attending the recent Mexico-Canada Bermuda bowl playoff, a couple of people there made comments about the selection (and more important the running) of the Canadian teams over the years that I dare not repeat for fear they might be libelous. Suffice it to say that these people did not have a high opinion of the dedication or team discipline of our Canadian players. It seems as if our NPC's and GM's have a long way to go before they are in Ira Corn's league. Should make for some juicy reading if true.

Greg Morse.

I don't know how juicy it is, but I passed along your request and Laurence's article on the subject appears on page 11.

Re: The October Cover

Regarding your front page of Oct.99 Matchpointer - who is the person or persons who think that "Just in time for Hallowe'en, Bruce McIntyre tells us about the most famous bridge murder since Nicole trumped O.J.'s Ace" is at all humorous. How sick to find humour in such a tragedy.

westmar@[domain name withheld]

That would be me, and I plead guilty on all counts.

Yours was not the only complaint I received about that line, so I canvassed several people about it, and while most thought it was funny, a number felt it was in very poor taste.

I'd like to offer a brief explanation for how that "joke" came to be. My general view of our neighbors to the South, or at least its media, is that they strive to take every tragedy and turn it into a spectacle, be it a celebrity-related murder, a high-school shooting, or an exploding space shuttle, while the rest of the world looks on with macabre fascination. (I often think that the United States is nothing more than the World's Biggest Traffic Accident.) You may recall that during the shooting at Columbine High School, the first student to phone for help phoned not 911, but a local television news hotline. They interviewed him, on live television, for several minutes, and then concluded the interview by telling him that he should now call 911. They didn't suggest that he call 911 first, nor did they make a call while he was on-air. To me, that says a great deal about the media's priorities.

Once a tragedy becomes a spectacle, it tends to become a target for humor and ridicule, which is unfortunate, because the effect is that we lose sight of the pain that continues in the families of the victims. The O.J. case became a spectacle very early, on the day of his arrest, when

100,000,000 people watched on live television as the police chased his Ford Bronco down the freeway. The jokes started flying then, and they have yet to stop.

However, there remains a big difference between making fun of the spectacle (O.J., the trial, the media coverage, etc.) which I suspect nobody would object to, and making fun of the murder itself, which you and others felt "crossed the line". As the editor, I should have been more sensitive to the fact that not everybody in the Unit shares my sense of humor, in particular, my fondness for black humor. Accordingly, I offer you, and all other readers who were offended by that line, my most sincere apologies.

On the brighter side, I did decide not to try to find a place for the line "Payne Stewart: 6 Under"....

Re: "Anniversary", by Bruce McIntyre

I would like to present an alternate analysis of this event, luridly referred to as "Anatomy of a Murder" on the cover of your October tabloid. I make a practice of believing that partner has a good reason for what she does and this habit has served me well through a succession of partners over the summer.

John Bennett thought it was okay to grab Myrtle by the arm and slap her several times after she queried his play of the hand. I wonder how he reacted when they had other, more serious arguments. It seems likely that anyone who would resort to violence over a bridge hand would think it his right to use violence in other disagreements.

Perhaps Myrtle had had enough, especially now that he had physically abused her in front of the Hoffmans. Perhaps the Hoffmans were silent at the trial because they, too, were sick of his ongoing treatment of Myrtle. And perhaps the jury, long before Battered Wife Syndrome became a legal defence, recognized the situation and spared Myrtle the public humiliation of having to recount the systematic cruelty of her husband. In short, perhaps justice was served.

As a long-time volunteer fund-raiser for the transition house run by Vancouver Rape Relief, I realize the extent to which violence against women touches our lives, and I think the odds favour the scenario that I have suggested. After all, if men were regularly killed when they refused to admit they had blown a hand, we'd all be dead by now.

I think Myrtle would be a fine partner. I enjoy playing with someone who takes aggressive, decisive action. When a mistake is pointed out to me I do not quibble about it, and therefore I have no need to fear for my life. Indeed, I wonder if our zero tolerance policy would be more closely adhered to if there were a few Myrtles around today to enforce it!

Brian Cross

Perhaps your analysis of Myrtle's actions is correct, however, I think that the odds favour a simpler scenario: some Americans really like to shoot people.

FROM THE UNIT BOARD

Y2K Sectionals

by Bruce McIntyre

The Richmond Regional in January of 2000 made necessary an alternate schedule for Unit 430 Sectional tournaments. Dan Webster, Mark Eddy and myself filled each others e-mail boxes a few months ago with suggestions received from players we'd talked to, and then we sat down one afternoon and tried to put them all together in a general scheme. Our objective was to please as many people as possible, and in doing so we are sure to have proposed one or two things that strike you as just plain daft. Well, that's tough. We got the Unit Board's approval and that, along with this explanatory piece, is all we needed to disband the Tournament Scheduling Subcommittee and go back to living normal lives.

Dates and sites for 2000 Sectionals are as follows:

**WINTER: March 31—April 2,
Bonsor Community Centre.**

The first sectional of the year has always been called "Winter." Have faith. Maybe it will snow. The Engineer's Hall in Burnaby was our first choice for a site for this tournament, but it was unavailable for this weekend.

**FUTURE STARS (0-200): April 15—16,
site undetermined.**

This date conflicts with the final two days of the Seattle-run STaC, but we think our 0-200 players will prefer to play in this tournament. The Vancouver Bridge Centre is a strong possibility as a site, but we are considering others. Since the NABCs last year, many new players have come to play in local clubs, so we expect a turnaround in the declining attendance at this tournament seen over the past decade.

SPRING: May 19—22, Bonsor Community Centre.

This is again the Victoria Day weekend and we'll have a bracketed knockout teams event, with the big two-session pairs on Sunday and the Swiss Teams on the Monday.

**UNIT-SPONSORED DISTRICT-WIDE STaC,
June 5—11, at your local club.**

STaC stands for Sectional Tournament at Clubs. You play at your club, win silver points, and if your score makes the district wide overalls you might have the club award replaced by a larger award. For example, if you win your club game for 1.63 silver points with a 69% game, you might, a few weeks later discover that nobody in District 19

beat 69% that night, and first place overall might be worth as much as 15 silver points!

**EVERGREEN: September 8—10,
site undetermined.**

Plan on a weekend of bridge after the first week of school. You know the kids are going to be busy getting back into the homework, right?

**ROUND-UP: November 3—5,
site undetermined.**

Starting in 2001 the Everett Regional will move to October and we will try to return to the mid-November date, so as to make use of the frequent long weekends that Remembrance Day creates.

Having decided the dates of these events for 2000, we couldn't stop there. We had to fuse together all of the suggestions we had received and heard into a grandiose yet workable plan. In doing so we went so far that we aren't sure yet that we can keep it workable. It certainly is grandiose. Here are the big issues:

1. In April the Board will discuss the proposal to permanently change the names of the four main sectionals. Too late to make the advance publicity, we recommended these names:
2. The Winter Sectional to be renamed the Trophy Sectional. Most of the trophy events happen at this tournament.
3. The Spring Sectional to be renamed the Victoria Day Knockout Sectional.
4. The Evergreen Sectional to be renamed the Black Tie Sectional in conjunction with our hope that a suitable site can be found so that the Friday evening can be designated "Dressed to the Nines Night," with prizes to the best-dressed pairs. We need your help here. If you know of a site we should consider for this tournament, let us know and we'll look into it.
5. The Round-Up Sectional to be renamed the Year-End Sectional, since this tournament is the final Sectional tournament of the year and decides the trophy race winners.

NEW STRATA MASTERPOINT LIMITS:

Nearly all Swiss team events to be scored in Victory Points. (Two exceptions, May and September in Flight B/C.)

FROM THE UNIT BOARD

Event Type	Flight A	Flight B	Flight C
Stratiflighted 2 session Swiss Teams (top flight separate)	A unlimited X 0—2500	300—1000	0—300
Stratiflighted 2 session pairs (top flight separate)	A unlimited X 0—2500	750—1500	C 300— 750 D 0—300
Single Session Pairs or BAM teams	unlimited	300—1500	0—300
Flighted 2 session Open pairs	unlimited	300—1500	0—300
Future Master Stratified Pairs	50—100	20—50	0—20

NEW EVENTS:

Two Seniors Stratified Pairs on Friday afternoon in May and November

Future Masters games added to Friday afternoon
A two-session playthrough Future Masters Championship game (single session entries accepted) on Saturday afternoon at the Winter/Trophy Sectional, opposite the Open Pairs Qualifying/Final.

A two-session playthrough Flighted Pairs (not stratified; three flights play separately) at the November Sectional.

A new Qualifying/Final Open Pairs opposite the final two rounds of the knockouts at the May Sectional.
IMP scoring in Friday evening pair games, May and November sectionals.

NEW STARTING TIMES:

	First Session	Second Session
First Day	1:30 pm	7:30 pm
2nd of 4 day sectional	noon	7:00 pm
2nd last day	noon	6:30 pm
Final Day	10:30 am	T.B.A. (usually 3:45 or so)

This only seems random; there actually are reasons for each of these changes:

The 1:30 start on Friday afternoon is in response to several suggestions that 1:00 is a little too early to be able to leave work after a half-day. The earlier starts on the weekends were requested by many members for several reasons. Nobody likes to leave a tournament at nearly midnight on Saturday night, especially if there is a 45 minute drive ahead and an early morning start for the Swiss the next day. The 7:00 pm start on the second day

of a 4-day sectional preserves the break for those wishing to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Unit, where election ballots will be handed out. We'll remind you as often as possible about the new times, at Unit events and in the Matchpointer. We hope your club director will help us out with a few announcements to make sure nobody arrives late for the first noon start.

We received numerous complaints that the breaks in between sessions for Swiss Teams are too short. Our tactical response was to make sure the break at the most recent tournament was so long that nobody would remember the far-too-short breaks of the past! OK, just kidding: after further review, we've decided to ask the Directors for 2½ to 2¾ hours (depending on the proximity of restaurants) from the time the matches are posted for the last match of the first session. This will give you enough time to eat as long as you play fast and choose a nearby restaurant.

Another often-heard complaint about Swiss Teams is the dislike of seven-match games. So many people prefer eight matches that we decided to legislate it. If there aren't enough teams (about 20 are needed) to play eight, we'll play six.

Trophies awarded at Sectionals received special attention from the Committee. We decided to put as many trophy events as possible in the Winter Sectional. This placed the Henry Smilie Mixed Board-A-Match Teams, the Adrian and June Budd Hicks Open Pairs, the Willie Weinstein Teams, and the Mary Clarke Teams all at the Winter Sectional. We considered adding the Jean Turnbull Mixed Pairs Trophy too but we figured you'd laugh at us, so we left that one at the September tournament.

One thing we think we did a great job on was in setting up a schedule for presentations. We'll have short pre-game presentations for each trophy, as well as the Ace of Clubs, Mini-McKenney, masterpoint trophy races and the IMP League. We'll keep these short enough to fit into the time you take to shuffle or pre-duplicate the boards.

The complete schedule is available from me (438-9735; I'll fire up my laser printer and print you one). We'll send along a few to each club with their Matchpointer bundles this time. In March we'll send a postable flyer to each club reminding them of the new start times. We think we've done such a great job that our names will live on forever in the annals of Unit history, but perhaps after trying this out a few times you may disagree. If so, call one of the other Unit Board members who voted for it!

Ed. note: But leave the Editor alone; he's got enough things to worry about.

Cincinnati Bound by Dave House

Andy Hellquist and Greg Morse, Vancouver residents and members of Unit 430, will be representing District 19 in the NAOP Flight C at the Spring NABC in Cincinnati in March 2000. They won their free trip by finishing second at the District final, held at the Surrey Sectional in November. Greg and Andy held a one and a half matchpoint lead after the first session of the final, and played steadily in the second session, finishing a half-board behind the winners.

Andy Hellquist is an Electronics Engineer with the Coast Guard. He is 42 years old, and single. Andy's introduction to bridge was a high school bridge club at Eric Hamber. He continued to play some social bridge while attending UBC. A couple of years after graduating, Andy took up competitive bridge at the old Haida Bridge Club at Arbutus & 12th in 1983. He played duplicate for two years, and then quit to pursue healthier outdoor activities. He got into riding horses and focused on western-style riding. He traveled the West Coast competing with his own horse, Master Son. Master Son is a Point (bred) and is a twelve year old gelding. Andy's best finish was at the Reserve World Championship in 1990, where he came in second.

In 1996, Andy decided that he wanted to get back into bridge. He found out about a Surrey Sectional on the internet and decided to check it out and maybe buy a few bridge books to brush up. When he got to the tournament, he was asked to fill in and was paired up with Greg Morse. They enjoyed playing together, exchanged phone numbers, and got together a few months later for some club games.

Since he has returned to bridge, Andy has found that his attitude towards the game has changed: he is more adventurous, more creative in his bidding, and is less hard on himself than he had been in the 80's. Also, he now appreciates the benefits of preparation for big events, which he attributes to his horshowing background.

Although Greg was new to duplicate bridge when he met Andy in 1996, he had played social bridge most of his life. Greg is a 52 year-old Electrical Engineer for Telus, married almost 30 years with one adult son. He was introduced to bridge at his parents' home games when he was a teenager in Ottawa. He continued to play a little through university. When he moved to Winnipeg he played every lunch hour with the guys at work. He says the bidding was pretty sloppy, and he's sure none of them had ever read a bridge book. His first introduction to competitive bridge was in 72 or 73 when the Winnipeg Ballet held a

fundraiser where Greg played his first seven boards of duplicate. When Greg moved to BC to work for BC Tel, he was surprised to find none of his fellow employees played bridge. He had assumed that all engineers were bridge players!

Over a decade passed before Greg got the itch again. He phoned around to look at getting back into the game and ended up at the Vancouver Bridge Centre. He met a new partner there whom he played with for one session on a Saturday at a sectional. He went back Sunday without a partner and fortuitously was paired with Andy. He liked Andy's competitiveness and found that he could discuss things with his new partner without him taking criticism personally.

Whether it was coincidence or fate that threw this partnership together, it worked. They've played together once a week since meeting in 1996. They play at the Vancouver Bridge Centre and at New Westminster. Their basic approach is 2 over 1 Game Force with lots of gadgets and agreements. They have a good set of notes, are competitive bidders and students of the Law of Total Tricks. They play standard count and attitude, Lavinthal discards for suit preference, and coded 9's and 10's on opening lead. They played a few local sectionals and had several second overalls in single session events.

Last year they were spares on a flight C IMP league team, and this year they moved to flight B in the IMP league, on a team with Waldemar Jez, Ewa Wroblewicz, Julie Breserb, and Andrej Atremenow.

Fate threw two electrical engineers together at the partnership desk, and now three years later they're off to represent our district in the NAOP. We wish them all the best.

NA OPEN PAIRS FLIGHT A

- 1 Bryan Maksymetz, Gregory Arbour
- 2 Dan Jacob, Lawrence Hicks
- 3 Aidan Ballantyne, Bradley Bart
- 4 G Gard Hays, WA; David Corn, WA
- 5 Ole Godefroy - Julie Godefroy, WA

NA OPEN PAIRS FLIGHT B

- 1 Craig Zastera, Thomas Sartor, WA
- 2 Dell Berg, WA; Michael Hughes III, WA
- 3/4 John Reay, Dennis McMahon
- 3/4 Alison Carter, WA; Judith Hyde, WA
- 5 Art Semple, WA; Leroy Abinanti, WA
- 6 Peter Morse, Claire Burns
- 7 Aban Gerrie, Robert Gerrie

NA OPEN PAIRS FLIGHT C

- 1 Christopher Jarvis, WA; Greg Fleming, WA
- 2 Andy Hellquist, Greg Morse
- 3 Chris Robbins, Christopher Maylin
- 4 Stanley Pietrewicz, WA; Gerald Abhold, WA

A Game for Everyone

by Bruce McIntyre

The big show is returning to the Vancouver area, from January 17 to 23, 2000, with the first Regional to be held in the Vancouver area in four years. Bigger than a Sectional and smaller than an NABC, Regionals feature a Monday to Sunday schedule, with all of the best features of the NABC last March—knockouts, gold points, intermediate and newcomer games, hospitality, and lots of fun.

The event takes place at the Delta Pacific Resort and Conference Centre, which despite the name is in Richmond. It's the same location as before but it's been four years so I grabbed a map off the www.mapquest.com site. Veterans will remember the odd meandering course that St. Edwards Drive takes in its route past several hotels from Bridgeport Road to Cambie Road. Newcomers will want to give plenty of extra time the first day to get to the

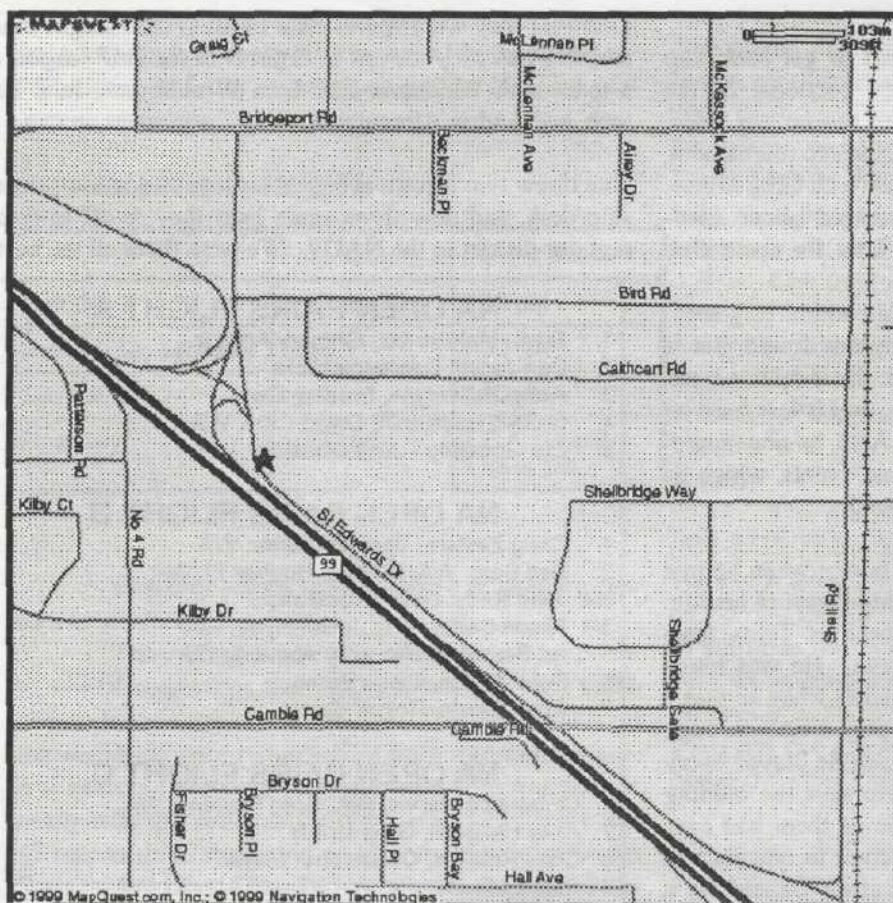
site, in case the Richmond mazes throw them astray. A special arrangement with the hotel has allowed \$5.00 per day parking passes, which will save you money compared with the normal parking rates at the hotel. Check with Waldemar Jez or Dianne Isfeld, the tournament co-chairs, about how to obtain these passes.

The site is a short walk away from two transit bus routes: the 420 and 421 are shuttles between Richmond Exchange (Cook and #3 Road) and the transfer point at Knight St and Marine Drive. Route 420 goes along Bridgeport Road; route 421 goes along Cambie Road. You'll need to ask the driver to let off at St. Edwards Drive; from there it will be about a three block walk to the tournament site.

The playing area is in three main rooms, a large ballroom, a side ballroom, and the quaint "round room." This has traditionally been the home of the 99er and 199er games. If you're eligible for these games, don't miss this—it's like playing bridge in a planetarium! Link-

ing the three rooms will be the usual assortment of hospitality, partnership, bridge merchandise, and entry-purchasing booths, and the hotel usually has a few booths where they sell snacks to those who forgot to eat beforehand. I will be coming out of desktop publishing retirement to try my hand at producing (in the wee small hours of the morning) Daily Bulletins for the tournament. This means that there will be a great chance of getting a top out of me every time you see me at the table, as I'll be only semi-conscious.

The schedule has a game for every level and every taste. There are knockout teams starting Monday night and continuing with two sessions on



VANCOUVER REGIONAL

Tuesday and one on Wednesday afternoon, a morning KO starting on Wednesday and continuing through to Saturday, a Friday—Saturday weekend knockout, and a Saturday—Sunday seniors knockout. The main events are the usual Charity Pairs on Monday night, a pair of two-session pairs games on Tuesday—Wednesday set up so that you can play afternoons or evenings, Open and Seniors Swiss Teams all day Thursday, Stratified Open and Seniors Pairs on Friday, StratiFlighted Pairs on Saturday, and more Swiss Teams on Sunday. There's a Zip Swiss on Saturday Morning, a Board-A-Match Teams on Friday evening, and a two-session Fast Pairs on the final day for those wishing to leave early. Of course, there are Afternoon and Evening Continuous Pairs from Tuesday thru Saturday, a series of side games which pays big points to any individual who can put together two high-percentage games.

The round room events are all stratified. 199er pairs games are Monday evening, Wednesday all day (a 2-session event, but you can play only one session if you prefer), and Thursday (two single sessions). 99ers games are Tuesday and Friday (two single sessions), and Saturday (again, a 2-session event, but you can play only one session if you prefer). Those who have just passed 100 points will be pleased to note that there are non-Life Master strats in the open events, giving you the chance to "play up" in the main event. As at previous tournaments, a program of speakers is being organized to give entertaining and instructive talks before most of the evening sessions.

Hospitality at the Regional will be almost as lavish as at the NABC's last March. Hospitality committee chair Kathy Adachi has arranged for lots of free goodies, some nice door prizes, including free plays at clubs, dinner coupons which will be awarded throughout the tournament to lucky players. The lunch on Sunday between sessions of the

The Vancouver Regional by Dave House

The NABC in Vancouver in 1999 was a roaring success, but one of the prices for hosting it was the tremendous amount of work done by local players. To help focus energy and resources, the last two years went without a local regional. Well, the long drought is over, and the year 2000 is kicking off with a Vancouver Regional, from January 17-23 at the Delta Pacific Conference Centre. This is a lovely facility just across the Oak Street Bridge in Richmond. There could be quite a crowd as the tremendous response to Vancouver's Spring NABC last year should draw back some of the players who 'discovered' Vancouver and had so much fun here in March.

By the middle of January, there will be a great relief that Y2K is finally behind us; but the committee has assured us that they're prepared for any Y2K problems. They have cases of candles, coal oil lamps, and propane heaters. Vancouver will host one of the first regionals of the new millenium, and it will be one of the best.

The schedule features something for everyone. There is a full schedule of Under 200 events, mostly single session, and also trophies and workshops. There are four senior events and four knock-out events for the team players. There are two Swiss Tema events—Thursday and Sunday and a Lucky Draw Zip Swiss Teams at 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning. One of the features of the Vancouver Regional is two horizontal events, running Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons and Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. This is great for people who have to work during the day, but have the evening free to play, or for those who can play in the afternoon but can't drive after dark. Something for everyone, plus our famous hospitality and world-class mountain skyline. Spread the word and make your plans to kick off Year 2000 with bridge in Vancouver.

See you there!

Swiss Teams will be subsidized by the Hospitality fund so that players get a great lunch for a nice price. Also, the Hospitality folks are planning an Ice Cream Night and a Pizza Night. Which days? We suspect Friday and Saturday, but check your Daily Bulletins to be sure not to miss it! Don't miss the raffle to help support the hospitality fund—you might get lucky! More volunteers are needed to cover the hospitality desk, and the committee could always use more donations of prizes to hand out. If you can help, call Kathy Adachi at 591-9113.

See you there!

SFU Rookie Carries "Master" to Victory

by Brad Bart



On October 28, the Vancouver Bridge Centre hosted 18 tables of rookies and masters for a game of duplicate bridge. What happened was this: a rookie (a newer player with less than 20 masterpoints) was partnered with a master (a player with a pleasant disposition) to play an evening of bridge. The purpose of the game was to encourage newer players to play more duplicate bridge. Masters were there to be supportive role models of bridge, not to teach lessons. Fun was the main aim of the game.

This time, I played with Chris Seltenrich, who is one of the players from my club at Simon Fraser University. Chris is from Terrace, B.C. He learned bridge in high school with regular partner Jason Yamashita and also Norm Dreger (who was one of my previous rookie partners). The three of them now play together on a team in this year's Flight C IMP League.

Instead of doing my usual thing of selecting and writing about a hand that I found interesting, I asked Chris to select the hand that he found most interesting.

"Wasn't there a hand where you held,
 ♠AKxxxx ♥Qx ♦Q ♣xxxx

and they opened 3 clubs on your left, I made a takeout double, and they raised to 4 clubs? I remember that you were pretty surprised by my dummy."

"Well, I reasoned that even at favourable vulnerability, they would have a nine-card fit at the four level, so I put you on a club void based on my club length. Now I was certain that my red suit queens would be useful, so I bid 6 spades. How wrong I was."

	<i>Chris</i>	
	♠ QJT5	
	♥ AJ94	
	♦ K852	
	♣ J	
<i>Master</i>		<i>Rookie</i>
♠ 7		♠ 93
♥ T82		♥ K653
♦ J9		♦ AT7643
♣ AQT8653		♣ K
	<i>Brad</i>	
	♠ AK8642	
	♥ Q7	
	♦ Q	
	♣ 9742	

"We... well, YOU, got victimized (See diagram.) They led the Ace of clubs, pinning the King, and then shifted to a heart. The King was offside, of course, and we finished down two."

"The rookie who raised to 4 clubs really did a number on me. He had the singleton K of clubs, which made for one incredible raise."

In spite of this board that Chris reported, his excellent play and good partnership led him to a well-deserved first place finish. Chris is one of Vancouver's up-and-coming young players, and I am looking forward to seeing his name in the winner's circle again soon.

The Canada-wide Rookie-Master game is a semi-annual event which happens in April and October. The same hands are played across Canada and analyses are provided afterwards. This event can't run without masters! Give back to the game of bridge and sponsor a rookie next April!

Final Standings

North-South

1. Brad Bart, Chris Seltenrich 65.7%
2. Mary Fines, Pat Adams 58.9
3. Katrin Litwin, Linda Lee 58.66
4. D. Sache, Carrie Beavington 55.83
5. M. Chiarenza, Julia Brown 55.7
6. A. Ballantyne, Susan Mitchell 55.3
7. C. Halliday, Colin Ransom 55.11

East-West

1. Noorali Dhanani, Aziz Jamal 63.6
2. K. Adachi, Ture Erickson 63.55
3. Dave House, Ed Kim 58.16
4. K. Piotrowska, A. Zorawski 56.73
5. C. Diamond, D. Longmuir 56.63
6. John Berry, Stephen Brown 54.36
7. Linda Bell, Yvonne Drane 49.62

As I Was Saying....

by Laurence Betts

I have long held the view that bridge is a "sunset" activity in which my generation will be the last to participate in great numbers and the game will recede in societal consciousness to the realm of the obscure. For the first time, I have cause to question this fatalism. Bill Gates of Microsoft fame was spotted playing a two-session pair game at the Everett Regional. Apparently he was quite pleased with the 64% game he scored in one of the sessions. It would take more imagination and creative minds than mine to visualize the potential impact of his involvement but to me he represents the possibility of revitalization.

Kudos to Dave Waterman for an excellent example of active ethics. In a rematch of last year's IMP league finals Dave was playing with Steve Vincent; he made a bid intended to be a splinter bid but Steve did not alert and raised the splinter suit. The combination of the failure to alert along with the raise indicated values in Dave's singleton suit, thus he was "duplicated" and should sign off. Only Dave knew he was not entitled to this information as it was gleaned from the failure to alert. Thus he took the high road and pretended Steve's bid was a further cue-bid and pushed on. As a result he was down one and lost 6 IMPs on the deal. Fittingly, perhaps, his team prevailed narrowly in the match. It was a class move from a member of the championship team.

In my last article I wrote how, in an apparent fit of pique over shabby treatment from the ACBL, our CBF board voted to look into secession from the ACBL. Really, though, that aspect of the article was tongue-in-cheek as the resolution itself was mere sabre-rattling. I wrote the article because I believe the Matchpointer is an appropriate forum for the discussion of serious issues and was expecting some reaction. Surprisingly, no one spoke to me in defence of the CBF Board action, and all I heard was positive. (Ed. Note: HA! Consider yourself lucky. I heard from those in support of the CBF position — at the Unit Board meeting following publication, where I got the Custer-at-Little-Big-Horn treatment. A few people even threatened to write articles in response, but as is always the case, many talk, few write, and fewer write in time for deadline. Not that I'm bitter, or anything.) I was specifically asked to follow up my suggestion that I could write an article about CBF-run events, with emphasis on the decline at the CNTC. So, here it goes.

The core function of the CBF is to select players to represent Canada to play internationally. Open teams is the premier event and with the Olympiad, Bermuda Bowl, and Rosenbloom Cup competed for quadrennially, we need at least one international team three years out of four. The mechanism to do that is the CNTC (Canadian National Team Championship). The national final is usually held in June in Central Canada. The field has grown from 13 to 22 or more teams with all regions of Canada represented. It is a three day round robin, followed by three days of knockouts to produce a champion. I have competed in the national final several times with varying success and I can say that I have enjoyed it as much or more than any event I have played in. Under the able direction of Stan Tench of Ottawa, it is a good test of bridge; if you don't play well you lose. In fact, until recently only the top four teams qualified for knockouts, thus it was truly possible to play well but still not qualify. Anyway, it is my favorite event and anyone I know who has participated gives it positive reviews.

Participation in the CNTC in our Unit is down to six teams and there has not been a full 16 teams for the Zone (Provincial) final for years. Why is that? Possibilities include aging membership, too large a gap between expert and participant, too many events, lack of publicity or emphasis, and high card fees. All these factors are relevant, but for me there is one overriding reason not to play: the qualifying procedure is a joke. At the time the conditions of contest were written, the ACBL had just introduced the Grand National Teams, which had a multi-strata format and was initially successful. The CBF adopted that strategy for the CNTC so we have a club stage, a Unit stage, and a Zone stage. This approach presupposes mass interest as the grass roots club level, followed by the best of all the clubs at a Unit final, and a competitive Provincial final. There is no grass roots interest in the CNTC locally, thus only the Bridge Centre has qualifying events. Because the turnout is so low, the card fees are high as our Zone remits an amount per table to the National organization who turns around and sends some (or more?) back in the form of travel subsidies. (Hands up all of you who thought of Federal Transfer Payments to the Province; you have passed Political Science 101.) The players form six player teams to qualify as many players as possible for the least money. For those individuals who don't qualify the first time at the club stage, the Bridge Centre will hold another qualifying event until everyone who wants to be eligible has qualified.

(Continued on page 17)

MEET THE PLAYERS

Garry Skoropada by Dave Schmidt

"I'm going to fish, play a little bridge, and look after Dodie (his wife who suffers from MS)," says Garry Skoropada, who recently took early retirement from his job as captain of the Albion ferry.

As a young man, Skoropada lived on the eastern edge of Maple Ridge and worked in the sawmills on the south side of the Fraser, quickly rising to sawyer, the top labour job in the mills. "We were prima donnas, well-paid for the time," he recalls. However, he developed cedar asthma, now recognized as a disease by WCB, but at the time it simply meant losing your job.

Since he had been taking the Albion ferry to and from work every day and since the senior ferry captain lived nearby, he asked about a job on the ferry.

"When an opening came up, the captain hired me. I started as a deckhand, worked as a mate for ten years, then got my certificate and became a captain."

After 28 years, Skoropada has docked his last ferry to enjoy the rest of his life.

"The main thing is to enjoy your health and your life."

It is an attitude he brings with him to the bridge table. While recognizing "competition is the heart of duplicate bridge," Skoropada is more interested in the social aspect.

"I've played online bridge but it doesn't have the social aspect of a live game," he says, noting "I've made a lot of friends over the years through bridge."

"I have a different attitude. You win by getting a regular partner and playing a lot with that partner. Right now, I have only one steady partner, John Richoux, whom I play with in Maple Ridge every week."

Maple Ridge is where Skoropada got his first taste of bridge.

"Jean Adams had a son who was playing hockey with my son, Kevin, and I was refereeing. She was an avid duplicate player, knew I played bridge at home, and kept urging me to come out to the club."

One day he did, doffing his skates at 7:15, and sitting down opposite Frankie Gorman at 7:30.

"We came third East-West (out of about 14 tables) and I thought this was easy," Skoropada recalls. He soon found out it wasn't quite that easy, noting "I didn't place again for six months."

Skoropada plays both precision and 2/1. While he prefers precision because of the weak no trump, he recognizes the value of 2/1, pointing out "everyone plays it so you're not going against the rest of the field."

Skoropada prefers teams to matchpoints, noting most of his success has come in team events.

"I could play teams every day of the year but after two days of matchpoints I'm tired out."

"I'm a chronic overbidder and teams fits into that style better. It also forces me to bear down a little more because more people are depending on me. I have three other people instead of just one relying on me."

In addition to Richoux, Skoropada counts Brad Fletcher and Flora Tereposky among his favoured partners.

"Flora is both a tremendous player and a tremendous person. She's very strong as a person and a good friend of mine."

However he has stopped playing with his "favourite partner," his son Kevin, who was becoming a familiar face at local tournaments until he moved to New Zealand in the 80's. Kevin has now moved back to Ontario so there is a chance we could see the two of them together again in the future.

Given his background as a referee and a commitment to ethical play, it is no surprise Skoropada accepted the job as unit C, D & E (conduct, deportment and ethics) chair a few years ago.

"It's been a great job because I haven't had to do anything," he says, crediting the unit board for keeping peace at the bridge table.

"It's like a union grievance. Nobody wants to take it to court, and going to a C, D & E hearing is like going to court. Everyone wants to settle it before it gets that far and (the unit board) has done a great job of handling situations before they get to me."

"You win by getting a regular partner and playing alot with that partner."



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
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	N-W	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
1:00	VBC	Stratified Open

South Surrey Bridge Club

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

Director: Arlene Browning 1-604-870-9300
Partnerships: Dot Carenegie 535-8286

Mondays at 7:15 pm
First Monday of month Stratified
Computer Scoring Partners Guaranteed

Champs: Doug Hansford & Ken Danielson
Memb. Trophy: Isabell Chernoff & Gil Lambert
Charity Winners: Roman Wonoluk & Insa Fricker

Big Game: Brian & Joni Johnston 68.98%

Feb. 21, April 10: Swiss Teams
Mar. 13: Quarterly Club Champ.

Jewish Community Centre Bridge Club

950 W. 41st Ave, Vancouver

Thursdays at 11 am, Mondays 6:30 pm
All players welcome!

Connie Delisle 263-9196

Partnerships: Marge Groberman 266-7722
Computer Scoring

phone Connie at 671-3884 (cel.)
for info on lesson series

Polski Klub Brydzowy

Polish Combatant Centre, 1134 Kingsway
Waldemar Jez 527-8854

Alternate Fridays, 7:30 pm invitation only
<http://members.home.net/polishbridge>

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

Club Championship February 16

Club Champs: A - Pat Stapff & Joerg Schneider
B - Gail Watson & Gloria Prescott
C - Wanda Stephen & Jerry Shapiro

Hastings Bridge Club

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

Marianne Scott 298-3932

Wednesdays at 10:30 am sharp

Jan. 12 C.C. Jan. 19 Closed for Regional

Club Champs Eleanor Kaufmann & Myra Morgan
Char. Game: Phyllis Gerber & Delphine Tablotney

White Rock Bridge Club

Sunnyside Community Centre
1854 154th Street, White Rock
Arlene Browning 870-9300
Partnerships Pat Wotherspoon 535-1964

Wednesdays at 7:15 pm

Stratified game every last Wednesday

Next Club Championship Feb 16

Swiss Teams Feb. 9, March 22

Current Champs Joni Johnston, Greg Morse

Charity: Isabell Chernoff & Lottie Elias

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

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)	Anne Nagy	271-0720	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
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
N-W	New West Bridge Club	Gilbert Lambert	535-8286	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	535-8286	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	14
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

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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

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

Club Championship: March 5

Closed for Regional January 23rd

Vancouver Bridge Centre

2776 E. Broadway,

Vancouver, B.C.

255-2564

Lessons, Books, Seminars

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Mon	7:30	0-100
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	1:00	Strat. Open

**Call the Club for info
on special events,
IMP league, etc.**

Vancouver Bridge Club

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

Louis Landau 984-8309

All games non-smoking. Computer scoring.

Monday 10:00 am stratified

Wednesday 10:00 am stratified

Wednesday 7:15 pm stratified

Both Wednesday games are jackpot games.

*All holiday Mondays are PARTY DAYS with
door prizes, goodies, etc.*

UPCOMING SPECIAL GAMES

Club Championships

Mon. a.m.	Wed.a.m.	Wed. p.m.
Jan. 10	Feb. 16	Mar. 8

Year 2000 Calendar

Mon. Feb. 14th Valentine's Day Holiday Pairs

Mon. Feb. 28th ACBL Wide Seniors Game

Wed. Feb 15 pm ACBL Wide Charity Game

Mon. Apr. 24th Easter Holiday Pairs

Mon. May 22nd Victoria Day Holiday Pairs

Mon. June 5th STAC

Wed. June 7 STAC (both am & pm)

Sat. July 1/10 am Annual St. David's Swiss Teams

Note special day & time

Mon. July 3rd Canada Day Holiday Pairs

Mon. Aug. 7th BC Day Ambleside Open Pairs

Wed. Aug 9 (pm) ACBL-wide International Fund

Mon. Sept. 4th Labour Day Pairs

Mon. Oct. 9th Thanksgiving Handicap Pairs

Mon. Nov. 13th Remembrance Day Pairs

Wed. Nov. 22 (am) ACBL Membership Game

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

Burnaby Duplicate Bridge Club

1491 Carleton Ave, Burnaby
Hazel Dressler 524-4445

Mondays
10:45 am

Tuesdays
7:30 pm

Important Dates

Club Championships Mon. Feb. 14 Tues Feb. 8
Seniors Game Mon. Feb. 28 Olympic Fund Tues Mar. 7

Current Club Champions
Mary Fines & Monica Angus

North Shore Winter Bridge Club

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

Louis Landau 984-8309

Arbutus Village Bridge Club

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

Anne Nagy 271-0720 coffee, tea, cookies
Thursdays at 7:30 pm sharp

The Valley Clubs

Partners guaranteed

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

Bob Percher 792-4389

Chilliwack

Senior Recreation Centre
9400 College Street

Mondays at 7:30 pm
Stratified last Monday/month

C.C. Feb. 14

Dec. Club Champs:
Ken Cowherd &
Dennis Huber

Maple Ridge

Ridge Meadows Seniors
Centre, 12148 224th Street

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

CC: March 15

Dec. Club Champs:
Garry Skoropada &
John Richoux

Mission

Memorial Centre
33070 5th Avenue

Thursdays at 7:30 pm

CC: February 24

Club Champs:
Walter Schmidt &
Dan Webster

Abbotsford

McCallum Activity Centre
2478 McCallum Road

Fridays 7:30pm

CC: March 24

Xmas Champs:
Bob Percher &
Dave Schmidt

Tsawassen Bridge Club

South Delta Rec Centre
1720 56th Str. Delta

Finn Shultz 534-5025

Mondays 7:15 pm

South-West Duplicate Bridge Club

White Rock Elks Club

1469 George Street, White Rock

Finn Schultz 534-5025

Tuesdays at 11 am

SUBURBIA CLUBS

Gilbert Lambert 535-8286

New Westminster Bridge Club

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

Feb. 17: Swiss Teams
& Club Championship

Jan. 20th Closed
for Regional

Sur-Del Bridge Club

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

Mar. 10: Swiss Teams
& Club Championship

Jan. 21st: Closed
for Regional

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2000 SCHEDULE • Saturdays

January 8, 7:30 pm

February 5, 7:30 pm

March 4, 7:30 pm

April 8, 7:30 pm

May 6, 7:30 pm

June 3, 7:30 pm

Unit Game Commissioner Gladys Mackie

Unit Game Director Louis Landau

Rotating Stand-bys



(Continued from page 11)

While this fund raiser posing as a qualifier is possibly excusable, what happens next is not. The next fundraiser is called the "Unit qualifying stage". The same players who played in the club "qualifier" at the Bridge Centre meet again at the Bridge Centre for another six-table turnout, card fees are paid, and the result is totally irrelevant. Everyone who wants to do so qualifies for the Provincial final as only the Island participates, leaving a dozen or so teams in the Provincial finals. Thus, to reach the Provincial final one must donate a minimum of two weekend sessions in small fields with high card fees the outcomes of which are totally irrelevant. I am not totally in jest when I suggest that since the ultimate goal is to represent Canada, the idea that only the most dedicated single-minded individuals need apply would be applicable given the conditions of contest. This view might be supported by the recent successes of BC teams at the CNTC led by Gordon McOrmond and Mike Hargreaves.

However, I've found a way to beat the system. Turning to page 8 of the September, 1999, Bridge Canada, a treasure trove of delight, I found the annual changes to the Conditions of Contest for the CNTC. They allow my partner and I to play in only one half of the Unit Final, skip the Pro-

vincial Final, then, providing the other four members of the team are successful at the Provincial final, they can withdraw and I can add four Ontario members to the BC team and my partner and I will still be eligible for subsidy money. Yeah! Go team go!

Obviously it's easy to criticize and solutions are hard to find. Here is mine. Scrap the club and unit stages. Hold an open Provincial final one Easter Weekend. Assuming approximately 16 teams to begin with hold a two-day round robin on Friday and Saturday. Cut the field to 8 teams for a further round-robin on Sunday with carry-over similar to NABC Swiss. Charge \$10 per session or \$160 per team for Friday and Saturday and a further \$80 per team for Sunday's returnees. Assuming 16 teams gross revenues would be \$3,200. After expenses, some airfares could be subsidized. With strong CBF support on the Vancouver Unit Board and probably in Victoria, it could be promoted as the highlight event of the year—the BC Team Championship. I have discussed this concept with CBF types, but was told it was contrary to CBF regulations. Red tape regulations drawn up in Central Canada to suit conditions there and changed annually to accommodate individual whim has reduced what should be the premier event of the bridge year to an insiders' joke. Fix it.

INTERMEDIATE/NOVICE SECTION

A Useless Bridge Tip by Brad Bart

I have contended for years that bridge is a constant learning experience for all players, which was probably the 'hook' which addicted all of us to the game. None of us have forgotten the good feeling we got from our first successful finesse, the one which turned all of us into finesse-aholics; or the first slam we bid and made, the one which made us feel invincible. The addiction never ends because the learning never ends. Quite a game this bridge.

Mistakes are what make us stand up and take notice of what we need to learn. Mistakes occur at all levels of the game. Nobody plays perfectly. Here is an example hand where the final mistake was the one which cost the board. It was played in my student group at SFU.

Sitting South, I held:

♠KQJT8 ♥QJT98 ♦A ♣AK

This was a beautiful three loser hand, but I opened 1♠ instead of 2♣. There were two reasons. First, two suited hands are hard to bid after a 2♣ opening, although (in this case) both majors might have been handleable. Second, I was unsure how my partner might respond to 2♣, which would have made our auction awkward. These things considered, I decided to take the simpler route of 1♠.

Partner raised to 2♠! My partner was familiar with side-suit game tries, so I bid 3♥. Partner bid 4♠, which made me feel certain he held a heart honour. All I needed to know about now were aces. I bid 4NT, and partner responded 5♦.

Hmph. Only one ace. If it's the Ace of spades, then 6♠ is cold except on a heart ruff. If it's the Ace of hearts, then 6♠ is at worst on a finesse in hearts. So, I bid 6♠, ending the auction. West thought awhile, and eventually tracked the ♥K. This was dummy:

♠A92 ♥63 ♦KT5 ♣QT742

I dropped the Queen under his King, but he remembered the bidding. He cashed the ♥A, and I claimed down one.

In the post-mortem, I found that the clubs broke 3-3. This was somewhat disappointing because if West had fallen for my cheeky ♥Q, and shifted, I would have 12 tricks if spades broke 3-2: five spades, two diamonds, and five clubs.

I should note that partner did not have what I expected for his 4♠ bid. He reasoned that since he held a maximum hand that we should be in game opposite my game try. I felt he should have bid 3NT to show a maximum raise with all of his high cards outside hearts.

Oh well, 6♠ down 1.

On my sit-out round, I watched the same hand played at another table. The auction was incredible! The player holding my cards opened a strong 2♥, and responder bid 2NT. Of course, it would have been better to open 2♠ and rebid 3♥ to keep the auction low and show both suits all in one go. Opener rebid 3♥, and responder rebid 3NT. Next, opener bid their hearts for the third time — 4♥! Responder tried 4NT, and opener showed two Aces with 5♥. Responder tried 5NT, and opener showed two kings with 6♥. This must have been the most number of times that hearts and notrump have ever been called in a single auction!

But the fun was yet to come! West, who, if you remembered, held the ♥AK, passed 6♥. Of course, the next bid was 6NT, which ended the auction making North declarer. How was poor East supposed to find a heart lead after South had bid hearts five times? East led a diamond and declarer had no choice but to go after the clubs, which split 3-3.

6NT making 6.

In conclusion, I present my useless bridge tip: **If the opponents bid a slam and you hold the AK of trumps, then DOUBLE!**

A Less Useless Bridge Tip: 2♣ or not 2♣?

When deciding whether or not to open 2 or 1 "banana", a good rule of thumb is to open 2 if you think 1 banana will be passed out.

1. ♠AKxxx ♥x ♦AKx ♣AKxx
2. ♠x ♥AKxxx ♦AKJ ♣KQJx

Hand #1 should be opened 2♣, as it will likely be passed out, and game is cold opposite as little as Qxx of spades and nothing else. Hand #2, with the same point count, can be opened 1♥, as *somebody* will likely bid 1♠.

INTERMEDIATE/NOVICE SECTION

Opening Leads and Third Hand Play by Connie Delisle

Choosing the right opening lead is not always easy. Try to listen to the bidding and make a mental picture of the information they are transmitting.

Do they really have a fit or was it just a preference back to openers suit?

Not a good time to lead trump. Its a misfit. Try and shorten declarers trump. Lead length.

Are they playing in openers' second suit?

Lead trump, save your high cards to get in and lead more trump.

Does your partner have some high cards?

If they are in game (assume 26) therefore your side has approx.14 points. What you dont have, your partner has. Subtract your total from 14. If the HCPS are evenly divided, lead from values, build tricks before they vanish.

Are they sacrificing rather than trying to make?

You have the HCPS, lead trump, use your Aces and Kings to get in and lead more trump. Their tricks will come from ruffing losers, not high cards.

Did your partner make a lead directing double?

Double of an artificial bid at low level shows length and strength, at a high level - strength only (A's & K's). A lightner double (all Nt contracts all levels, or any slam) demanding you lead the first suit bid by dummy.

Did partner bid?

An overcall shows length and strength, lead pards suit (low from 3 or more if unsupported, may lead top of 3 only if you have supported or hold the ace). An opening bid does not promise strength and is not necessarily always the right lead.

Is there an unbid suit?

Did the opponents bid all around and not play NT, the unbid suit may be a good choice.

Are they in slam?

Vs 6, do not lead trump. Never a stiff trump. Lead from a value, you only need 2 tricks. Vs. Grand slam, lead trump. The reason they are playing 7 of a suit, and not NT is to ruff their losers.

Did partner have an opportunity to double an artificial bid and didn't?

Look around for another suit.

The opening lead therefore shows:

- strength (honor leads)
- sequence (top of 3 or more touching)

- length, 4th best (does not promise an honor at trick 1)
- trump to reduce ruffing
- unbid suit
- partners suit

THIRD HAND PLAY

If the opening lead will be held by opener (lead of ace or king), the card you play will be an ATTITUDE signal (you want partner to continue the suit, play HIGH, or play lowest card asking for pard to find something else to lead. Should dummy have Qxx or longer, your partner knows your signal can not be attitude since the queen is in dummy, your signal is now a COUNT (High for even, Low for odd number of cards, play the highest you can safely spare). If the dummy contains a singleton, or a solid holding e.g. KQJx and pard led the ace, the card you play is a SUIT PREFERENCE signal. High requests pard to play higher of the two remaining suits, low the lower of the two remaining suits. A middle card, don't particularly care.

When the QJ is held in your hand, and pard leads the king, the play of the queen guarantees the jack, or its a singleton. It requests pard to underlead his ace to your jack or now void. Therefore we do not High-Lo with Qx and Jx when pard leads the king, unless pard can see the jack or the ten in the dummy. The play of the jack shows the ten/nine so pard can wait for you to obtain the lead and return it (it denies the queen).

The primary signal when partner leads is to tell partner to continue the suit (high card) or discontinue the suit (low card). Give count when the Qxx or longer appears in dummy. Suit preference when pard will hold the lead and there is a stiff or strength in dummy.

SIGNALS IN MID HAND

When declarer leads a suit, you can help your partner by giving count (hi-lo even number of cards, and lo-hi for odd). This will help pard to know when he should win the trick. Do not signal unless it will help partner and he needs to know.

Either side leading in mid hand, a low card tends to show an honor and a high card tends to deny one.

Connie Delisle is the "Big Mama" at the Jewish Community Centre Bridge Club, which meets twice weekly and offers the following series of lessons to new and intermediate players:

- 1) Common sense bidding - 6 wks. starts Jan. Tues mornings
- 2) Declarer play - February 6 weeks Tues morning
- 3) Defense - February Tues evening
- 4) Heart Series - Jan. Tues evening
- 5) Play and Learn every Friday 11-2 Drop-in

For further info call her at 671-3884

Duplicate games at the JCC:

Monday 7-10:30 (new time), & Thursday 11-3.

INTERMEDIATE/NOVICE SECTION

The Oddsbuster by David Grannis

No sooner had I hung up my shingle when my first client walked in the door.

"Oddsbuster," he said, "you're not going to believe this, but last night I dealt a perfect set of hands. You know, all four hands thirteen triple zip. What are the odds against that?"

"Actually," I replied, "they aren't as long as you might think."

"What do you mean? I thought they were something like two and a half billion to one?"

"Yes," I continued, "but only if the cards are totally randomized."

"Well I randomized them. Shuffled the spots off. I'm a fanatic about that. Must have done it eight or nine times."

"Must have done it ten, actually."

"How do you know that?" he queried.

"And it was a new deck, right?"

"Yes, right out of the box."

"And you are a careful shuffler? Usually alternating a single card from each hand?"

"Maybe usually," he concurred, "but not always."

"Okay, but let's see what would happen if you alternated single cards. Lets start with the deck right out of the box, suits separated by colour and in order deuce to ace. Sound like your deck?"

"Yes, that's it."

"So with the deck face down, the top card is the diamond deuce and the bottom the Ace of spades. This is what you would get if you didn't shuffle them at all." I worked the mouse and keyboard as I talked, and punched up the following:

♠ Q84	
♥ K95	
♦ J73	
♣ AT62	
♠ J73	♠ K95
♥ Q84	♥ AT62
♦ AT62	♦ Q84
♣ K95	♣ J73
♠ AT62	
♥ J73	
♦ K95	
♣ Q84	

"Obviously, from a playing perspective this hand is a snorer. A very adventurous East might open it in fourth seat, but more likely would be passed out in a flash. However, the Oddsbuster finds it interesting because discounting the suits, the four hands are

identical, and each contains one card of each denomination. It would be a statistical long-shot for such a hand to be dealt at random, but from a deck in perfect order it's pretty much what one would expect.

"Now let's see what would happen if

you did a perfect shuffle on this deck. That is, twenty-six cards in each hand falling alternately one at a time. Here's the deal that would result.

♠ KJ9753	
♥ AQT8642	
♦	
♣	
♠	♠
♥	♥
♦ AQT8642	♦ KJ9753
♣ KJ9753	♣ AQT8642
♠ AQT8642	
♥ KJ9753	
♦	
♣	

one shuffle

"This hand is a lot more interesting to play than the last (or rather to bid, since it's a laydown), but it is clearly just as freakish. The shuffle didn't 'randomize' the cards at all."

"But I did it ten times," he pointed out.

"Right. But suppose you had shuffled only twice, exactly as described above, and then dealt.

♠	
♥	
♦	
♣ AKQJT98765432	
♠	♠
♥	♥
♦ AKQJT98765432	♦ AKQJT98765432
♣	♣
♠ AKQJT98765432	
♥	
♦	
♣	

two shuffles

Here's the resulting hand:

"Look familiar?"

"That's it!" he exclaimed, "That's amazing. But I shuffled ten times, not twice."

"I don't doubt it. The point I'm trying to make is that a perfect shuffle doesn't randomize the cards, no matter how many times you do it."

"Well obviously shuffling twice didn't. In fact it put them in perfect order. But surely if you keep on shuffling they'll get more random."

"Okay, let's keep going. Here's the hand that would result if you did that same shuffle three times instead of two:

♠	
♥ AKQJT988	
♦ AKQJT9	
♣	
♠	♠ 765432
♥ 765432	♥
♦ 8765432	♦
♣	♣ 8765432
♠ AKQJT98	
♥	
♦	
♣ AKQJT9	

three shuffles

"And here's four times."

"They looking any more random to you?" I asked.

"Not really. They are all total freaks. And I wouldn't want to be sitting east west."

"Right. Let's keep

♠ 765	
♥ 765	
♦ 876	
♣ 8765	
♠ T98	
♥ JT98	
♦ JT9	
♣ JT9	
♠ AKQJ	
♥ AKQ	
♦ AKQ	
♣ AKQ	

four shuffles

INTERMEDIATE/NOVICE SECTION

going. Here's the five shuffle hand:

♠ Q96	
♥ Q963	
♦ K63	
♣ 963	
♠ J852	♠ KT3
♥ 852	♥ KT7
♦ Q92	♦ T74
♣ Q52	♣ KT74
♠ A74	
♥ AJ4	
♦ AJ85	
♣ AJ8	

six shuffles

♠ KT52	
♥ T72	
♦ Q94	
♣ Q74	
♠ J83	♠ Q74
♥ K85	♥ Q94
♦ T72	♦ AJ63
♣ KT52	♣ A96
♠ A96	
♥ AJ63	
♦ K85	
♣ J83	

seven shuffles

vice versa. You aren't going to see that very often. But let's move on. Here is the eight shuffle deal:

"Wait a minute," he said, "that's the same deal we got if we didn't shuffle the cards at all."

"That's right, because eight perfect shuffles returns the deck to its original order, in this case the way it came out of the box."

"No."

"I'm afraid so."

"So much for randomization."

"And ten perfect shuffles produces the same hand as two. The first eight would be a waste of time."

"Okay, but I didn't do perfect shuffles. There's no way the cards consistently alternated one at a time from each hand."

♠ T43	
♥ JT4	
♦ JT54	
♣ JT4	
♠ 982	♠ QJ65
♥ 9832	♥ Q65
♦ 932	♦ KQ6
♣ 932	♣ Q65
♠ AK7	
♥ AK7	
♦ A87	
♣ AK87	

five shuffles

"And here's the six:"

"Okay," said my client. Now they are starting to look more random."

"You figure? Well, let's keep going. Here's the seven shuffle deal."

"You're not going to tell me that isn't random," said my guest.

"You're not looking closely enough. Every player's minor suit holdings match an opponent's major suit holdings, and

♠ Q84	
♥ K95	
♦ J73	
♣ AT62	
♠ J73	♠ K95
♥ Q84	♥ AT62
♦ AT62	♦ Q84
♣ K95	♣ J73
♠ AT62	
♥ J73	
♦ K95	
♣ Q84	

eight shuffles

"Right. But this is how you have to look at it. All possible bridge deals can be grouped into sets of the eight that can be generated using perfect shuffles from an original deck order. The thirteen-triple-zip you dealt happens to be one of the eight resulting from the out-of-the-box deck order. A slightly imperfect shuffle will get you into some slightly different set of eight hands, but another slightly imperfect shuffle could get you back into the original set. Probably your first nine shuffles each got you into a different set, but the tenth got you back to the original. Obviously, it's still a longshot for that to happen, but not nearly as long as getting that deal generated at random."

"So how can I be sure to get random hands?"

"Make your shuffle as imperfect as possible; cut lots; mix them the way you did when you were a kid, before you learned to shuffle. Do this especially with a new deck; once the cards are well mixed it's not likely to be a problem."

"Well thanks, Oddsbuster. This has been very informative."

"Don't mention it," said I. "I'll send you my bill."

QUIP REPORT

Every 3 months we are sent the QUIP Report (Quarterly Unit Information Package) which gives all sorts of statistical data on our membership numbers. No, no, nothing to do with sex, income or political leanings so don't panic! But you may still find some of this information interesting—I'll encapsulate it here for your reading pleasure.

Membership Trends

Vancouver Unit 430 has 1055 Current Active Members. This makes us the 3rd most active unit in District 19, and the 15th most active in the ACBL. We have become 11.52% more active in the last 12 months. What does active mean? I expect it refers to being paid up-to-date.

We have enjoyed 206 new members in the last 3 years, of these we have been able to retain an average of 44.66%. In other words, more than half of our new members leave within the first 3 years. This performance is 19th best in D19 and 253rd best in the ACBL.

Over the last year we have lost 2.74% of our membership (26), which includes those that have died and have gained 12.61% of our membership (133).

Average Years of Membership in our unit is 11.07. That places us 9th in District 19 and 184th in the ACBL.

The Average Age of our unit is 61.21 years. That places us the 6th youngest in District 19 and the 28th youngest in the ACBL.

Flight A Review by Babycheeks

Here in Hollywood North, we are following the progress of our newest movie releases. As you will recall, our earlier predictions were based on the number of weeks each will last in the theatre, as well as guesstimates for box office gross. We do not have the exact dollar amounts made to date (estimated approximations are made as of Dec. 6, 1999), following is a revision of our original predictions along with a short critique of each movie. Remember, this is early in the season and sometimes a sleeper movie can come to life.

1. Predator (Bill Goldstone, dir)

Science fiction seems to be what the viewers want this season as this hit leads the parade. A strong cast and an exciting plot have captured the audiences, but can this ruthless alien movie hold its position?

\$Estimation: 95M

2. Chautauqua (N. Divinsky, dir)

This cast of high priced stars have inspired an early good showing. The plot, which was designed to spread culture, has fallen short of its goal but outstanding performances by individual actors will surely ensure success.

\$Estimation: 90M

3. Species 3: the Bloodfest (Nicci Charleson, dir)

This movie has opened to only limited engagements due to censorship hassles and production delays. Amazingly, this cast seems to experience this with every movie they make and yet always produce a winner.

\$Estimation: 84M (pro rated)

4. Tora! Tora! Tora! (Mike Dimich, dir)

Although based on a historical event, perhaps the audiences were hoping that the Japanese would lose the battle but win the war this time. The way

Bye-bye Bye, Hello Tai by Larry Meyer

When the schedule for Flight B was first put together, it looked like there would be nine teams, which would require each team to have a bye. At the last moment, Tai Eng entered a team, so each bye was replaced with a Tai.

At the winter break, Tai's team is leading the B Flight, scoring a consistent 25 VPs in each of the three matches they have played so far. The only other undefeated Flight B team is Bruce McIntyre's with an average of 22 VPs. Two teams are currently tied for third spot - Patti Adams and Waldemar Jez with an average of 16.7 VPs.

Even Flight C is no different. The Seltnerich team took the bye spots at the last moment, and is currently well above average with 24 VPs. There is a two-way tie for first place in Flight C - both the Samuel Lai team and the Jerzy Mazur teams have 28 VPs.

All these results and more can be accessed at President Brad's website. Just point your browser to:

www.cs.sfu.ca/~bbart/personal/IMPS

For those who are looking ahead to the playoffs, the conditions of contest call for six teams from Flight A, six teams from Flight B, and three teams from Flight C to make the playoffs. In Flights A and B, the top two teams from round-robin play will receive a bye to the semi-final. In Flight C, the top team from round-robin play will receive a bye to the final.

For those who are looking ahead to next year, consideration is being given to adding a new flight in the IMP League. Currently there are three flights - A = open, B = 0-1,500 MPs, C = 0-500 MPs and non-LM. The proposed flights for next year are X = open, A = 0 - 10,000 MPs, B = 0-1,500 MPs, C = 0-500 MPs and non-LM. The advantage to this structure is that it would permit experienced players with high MP totals to participate in the IMP League without having to play against the more cut-throat competitors. The disadvantage is that there may not be enough teams to fill both the X and A flights. Your opinions are welcome - please send them to me at:

Larry.Meyer@BCHydro.bc.ca

this cast is working...one never knows. \$Estimation: 63M

\$Estimation: 74M

5. 4 Men & a Lady (Rhonda Foster, dir)

Despite an old theme and mixed reviews, the chemistry of the characters seems to be catching on. Foster has done a good job in choosing her crew. A strong finish is predicted by the masses.

6. Young Guns (Al French, dir)

This late entry into this years film revue is a pleasant surprise. A sold cast of nice guys fighting the bandeleros has audiences smiling.

\$Estimation: 62.7M

7. Titanic (Cam Lindsay, dir)

Right on queue this ship is sinking. However, this was predicted, as was

IMP LEAGUE

the usual resurrection. It can just be hoped that the ship hasn't collected too much rust.

\$Estimation: 61M

8. Apocalypse Now! (D. SACHE, director)

No one knows where this movie is going, a film with high promise has floundered with an inconsistent plot. The questionable performances of its actors will either catch on and draw out the audiences, or disappear as fast as a bag of weed in Larry Po... never mind.

\$Estimation: 60.8M

9. Absolute Power (S. Bodlak dir)

Another late entry starring Stan Bodlak as an art dealer who steals his own inventory to finance his many escapades. His great supporting actors and a wild plot has produced some good results.

\$Estimation: 56M

10. Return to Walton's Mountain (Pete Walton, dir)

As predicted this film is having problems finding an audience. Perhaps a recall is needed to juice up the plot. A few good sex scenes would do wonders. These actors, surely, would then perform better.

\$Estimation: 53M

11. Noble House (L. Laudan, dir)

Another film that needs juicing up. A great espionage plot, however us everyday folks are having a hard time following it. Could it be the twisted minds of the cast's lawyers?

\$Estimation: 45M

12. Cheech & Chong's Still Up in Smoke (Dave House, dir)

This flick bombed on opening night. Could it be the case of too much "chemistry"? A film of this potential could still rise up and surprise us but time is running out.

\$Estimation: 40M

13. Fly Away Home (Peter Morse, director)

This last late entry looks like it needs a re-write. While the duck-meets-propeller scene got results, the far fetched plot produced too many unintentionally funny scenes.

\$Estimation: 34M

14. Little Women (Pauline McClafferty, dir)

Too much Fried Green Tomatoes and not enough Mary Poppins in this one. Come on ladies, time show your true colors.

\$Estimation: 33.3M

Team Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	Avg.
1. Adams	B	25							20	5	50	16.7
2. Ayukawa	5	B	26							5	36	12.0
3. Jackson		4	B	8		6					18	6.0
4. Jez			22	B	23					5	50	16.7
5. Mead				7	B	21					28	14.0
6. Meyer			24		9	B	11				44	14.7
7. Nystrom						19	B	9	5		33	11.0
8. McIntyre							21	B	23		44	22.0
9. Sumner	10						25	7	B		42	14.0
10. Eng	25	25		25						B	75	25.0

Team Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total	Avg.
1. Bodlak	A						21					10	12	13	56	14.0
2. Charleson		A	21											18	39	19.5
3. Dimich		9	A						10		27	28			74	18.5
4. Divinsky				A	23				23		22			22	90	22.5
5. Foster				7	A					25	23			8	63	15.8
6. Goldstone						A	17	29		24			25		95	23.8
7. House	9					13	A		11			7			40	10.0
8. Laudan						1		A	15				9		25	8.3
9. Lindsay			20	7			19	15	A						61	15.2
10. McClafferty					5	6				A	14				25	8.3
11. Morse			3	8	7					16	A				34	8.5
12. Sache	20		2				23					A	21		66	16.5
13. Walton	18					5		21				9	A		53	13.2
14. French	17	12		8	22									A	59	14.8

THE PLAY'S THE THING

Landau's Lesson

by Louis Landau

Whenever something is too good to be true, it probably is just that. In the same way, whenever a hand is too easy to worry about, that is the time to worry. If you got to 3NT, and there is no real reason why you should not be there, it seems that you have 11 sure tricks and, if the spade finesse is right, you will moan at your partner for not putting you to slam! You could not be more wrong. If you are like most bridge players and relax on this type of hand, you will soon discover how much you should have worried. You will win the lead, and set about playing the diamonds to get the 6 tricks you think you will get. To your horror you find out that West was dealt four of them to the jack and you can't make more than three tricks out of them. Now, as you are on the board for the last time you try the spade finesse, and this is wrong. Wha ever happens next, all you are going to make is 2 clubs, 3 diamonds, 2 hearts and 1 spade and you will go down with a hand that you originally thought might even make a slam.

Dir South		♠ 96		
All Vul.		♥ 953		
		♦ AKQ653		
		♣ 86		
♠ KJ87			♠ T42	
♥ QT86			♥ J74	
♦ 8			♦ JT97	
♣ T943			♣ QJ7	
		♠ AQ53		
		♥ AK2		
		♦ 42		
		♣ AK52		
North	East	South	West	
		1C	pass	
1D	pass	2S	pass	
3D	pass	3NT	all pass	

If you were the worrying type, you would have said, "What can go wrong with this hand?" You would surely realize that if the diamonds break 4-1, and they could well do that, this will be the only reason why you will not be able to play the hand "normally" and still make the contract. The secret of success with this type of hand is the most elementary of "safety plays". Once you work out that the odds of the diamonds breaking either 3-2 or 4-1 are greater than 90%, as opposed to the about a 65% chance that they will break exactly 3-2, it all becomes obvious. You play for those odds being right. All you have to do is win the opening lead and play a small diamond from your hand. Whatever West plays, all you do is play the 3 of diamonds from dummy! You lose that trick, of course, but now when you regain the lead, you will make the next five diamonds and your contract with ease. What you have done, in effect, is give away a trick that you might not have had to lose in exchange for making your contract. Not a bad exchange, when you come to think about it. After all, who wants to go down? Even at duplicate bridge, where every point counts, it nearly always pays to go with the odds.

1999 Monthly Unit Game Final Standings

		A	B			
15.88	Donna Morrison	1		6.66	Stan Bodlak	13/14
11.51	Tony Remedios	2/3	1/2	6.66	Sandi White	13/14
11.51	Tove Chen	2/3	1/2	6.55	Mary Fines	15/16
10.56	Delphine Tablotney	4		6.55	Brad Bart	15/16 7
9.11	Pat Landau	5		5.98	Ken Lochan	8
8.76	June Pocock	6		5.53	Sandra Robson	9
8.63	Patti Adams	7	3	5.02	Mark Eddy	10
8.12	Doug Cowan	8		5.01	Waldemar Jez	1
7.71	Kathy Bye	9	4	4.83	Carol-Ann Halladay	2
7.49	Janis Parker	10/11	5/6	4.52	Gustav Axen	3
7.49	Nick Parker	10/11	5/6	4.17	Ewa Wroblewicz	4
6.71	Dianne Isfeld	12		3.64	Andrew Faulkner	5

THE PLAY'S THE THING

Give Me a Hand

by Joerg Schneider

Here are a couple of fun hands from the Everett Regional. On Saturday Evening, I held:

♠J43 ♥KJT953 ♦62 ♣J3

East opened 1NT, followed by two passes. I doubled, showing a one suited hand. Perhaps this wouldn't be everybody's choice, but after West's pass, partner is marked with a minimum of 12 points sitting over the NT bidder. East passed, and partner bid 2♣, asking me to correct to my suit or pass. West passed, I bid 2♥, followed by two passes. West now asked my partner whether I was promising a six card suit, and partner confirmed that it did. West now bid 2NT! My partner gleefully doubled. He led the ♥A and another, and after taking six heart tricks, I shifted to the ♠J, and partner took five spade tricks and the ♦A. E-W scored only the 13th trick, for down 7. Here was the complete deal:

♠ J43	
♥ KJT953	
♦ 62	
♣ J3	
♠ 72	♠ K85
♥ 842	♥ Q6
♦ KJT9	♦ Q743
♣ T872	♣ AKQ6
♠ AQT96	
♥ A7	
♦ A85	
♣ 954	

As you can see, North-South are cold for either major suit game on a combined 20 count.

On Sunday, during the Swiss Teams, all vulnerable, I held:

♠AQJ7xx ♥x ♦AJxxx ♣x

Partner opened 3, East overcalled 4♥, and I bid 4♣. Partner had a very useful dummy:

♠xxx ♥xx ♦x ♣AQJxxxx

Our teammates' also bid 4♥, and their opponents did not compete further. 4♥ made, for a double game swing in our favour. I think that passing with my had is cutting it too fine, especially in a team game.

On Thursday Afternoon, sitting North, vulnerable against non-vulnerable, I held:

♠— ♥KJ7654 ♦JT86 ♣QJ9

S	W	N	E
1C	P	1H	dbl
2H	P	4H	4S
dbl	P	???	

I decided, rightly or wrongly, that the extra heart length and spade void ruled against passing, so I pulled to 5♥. The full deal:

With the ♦A and ♣K marked in the East hand, you can get an accurate count of the hand after ruffing the 2nd spade, pulling two rounds of trumps, leading a diamond to the King and later ruffing a diamond. East will have shown up with 7-1-3-2, and now the ♣Q and then a small club back to the 9 brings in the 5 contract for +650, while 4 is down 2 (-300) — a close decision!

Everett was a success, and with the easier access there were a lot more players from Vancouver, taking home a good share of the spoils.

Of special note, in the Lynn Blumenthal Memorial Womens Knockout, "our" team of Ev Hodge, Donna Morrison, Helen Montgomery and Mary Fines, made it to the semis where they lost to the eventual winners of the event.

♠ —	
♥ KJ7654	
♦ JT86	
♣ QJ9	
♠ T9	♠ KQ87543
♥ T3	♥ A
♦ Q932	♦ A75
♣ T8752	♣ K4
♠ AJ62	
♥ Q982	
♦ K4	
♣ A63	

NEVERWOOD

By Dr. Kent Bidwell

"The truth is that most players would be better off if they attempted no slams at all. Haphazard bidding methods, faulty judgement and a lack of discipline combine to produce this state of affairs. Points are lost in two ways, by missing good slams and by bidding bad ones."

"Millions of players all over the world use the Blackwood 4NT convention and derive a great deal of pleasure from it. Whether they derive much profit is another matter"

Hugh Kelsey Slam Bidding © 1973

What Kelsey says, to put it bluntly, is that too many bridge players are fixated on asking for aces before bidding a slam. Blackwood and its many variations, are useful. But like all drugs, overuse is bad for you. Asking for controls via 4NT is risky. You might get too high when there is no slam. Hopefully, the following story will help readers to avoid this common trap.

The Sweet Pea and Lola Imp Pairs is on a Thursday night at the Vancouver NABC. Unexpected family matters prevent Sweet Pea from attending. We try to commiserate with Lola, but without success. Bridge players at an NABC are like kids in a candy store. Silently, we share fond memories of a previous NABC.

My candy store partner and myself played against renowned internationalist, Barry Rigal and his partner Matt Ginsberg. Rigal is the analyst for the upcoming June 5th and 6th Millennium Pairs which replaces the Worldwide Pairs this year. Ginsberg is a University of Oregon math professor who developed GIB, a

sophisticated computer bridge program. GIB gets rave reviews but it runs best only on a fast Pentium computer.

Board 24 Dealer: West Vul: None

♠ A6532 ♥ AK ♦ 5 ♣ AK543	♠ Q8 ♥ 532 ♦ J10743 ♣ 87
♠ K109 ♥ QJ94 ♦ AK82 ♣ 1062	♠ J74 ♥ 10876 ♦ Q96 ♣ QJ9

W N E S

Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT (forcing)
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

Rigal asked a nearby kibitzer to turn dummy's cards and left the table, but not before suggesting that jumping to 4♠ already denied slam interest. With 2 trump losers and a diamond loser, 5♠ was down one. When it was over, we asked Ginsberg, "Did Barry leave the table because he couldn't bear to watch?" "Guess so, I'd leave too!"

Conclusion: For improved slam bidding, try NEVERWOOD 4NT. 90% of slams are easily bid without asking for aces. For the remaining 10%, heed Kelsey's advice and don't bid them. The above sequence is a problem for users of forcing NT. Is a jump to 4♠ fast arrival and denies slam interest, or is it a balanced limit raise (a better hand)?

RECENT EVENTS

ROUND-UP SECTIONAL Nov. 4-6, 1999

FRI AFT STRATIFIED PAIRS

- A1 Brad Bart, Michael Dimich
 A2 Martin Henneberger, Les Fouks
 A3B1 Eleanor Kaufmann, John Horn
 A4 Allan Graves, Bryan Maksymetz
 A5 Jay Brandt, Gay Parrish
 A6 Ernie Dietrich, Harry Friedman
 B2 Hing Kong Ho, Kenny Chan
 B3C1 Wynne & Paul Crawford
 B4 Lotte Elias, Elaine Levins
 B5 Thelma Hofstede, Rita Hasselbach
 B6C2 Bobby Wood, Roberta Richards
 C3 Marlene Barber, Norma McNamara
 C4 Kyrs Gordon, Judith Hagelstein
 C5 Eda Kadar, Brian Cross
 C6 Gordon Burns, Michael Stickland

HENRY SMILIE MIXED B-A-M

- A1 Dan Jacob, Christina Jacob, Mike & Debbie Hargreaves
 A2/3 Marcia & Richard Christie, Rhonda Foster, Gerry McCully
 A2/3 June Pocock, Larry Pocock, Wilf May, Kathy Adachi
 A4/5 Katrin Litwin, A. Ballantyne, Mary Lou Bert, Bill Goldstone
 A4/5 Michael Takemori, Pauline McClafferty, Dianne Isfeld, M. Henneberger
 B1 Don Sharp, Susan Bradford, Claire Burns, Peter Morse
 B2 Kenny Chan, Dianne Kerr, Hing Kong Ho, Ella Haylock

FRI EVE STRATIFIED PAIRS

- A1B1 Dell Berg, Michael Hughes III
 A2B2 John Reay, Jane Fyfe
 A3B3C1 Stanley Pietrewicz, Gerald Abhold
 A45B45 Mark Eddy, William Ge
 A45B45 Olive Macdonald, Gladys Mackie
 A6B6 Insa Fricker, Tai Eng
 C2 Anita Morse, Patricia Stickland
 C3 Gordon Devlin, Priscilla Brown

C4 Garry Scollon, Terry Val Jean C5 Kyrs Gordon, Judith Hagelstein

FRIDAY EVE FUTURE MASTERS

- D1 Gaby Uranyi, Verna Vass
 D2 Brian Cross, Eda Kadar
 D3E1 Charlotte Alekson, Stuart Carr
 D4E2 H.S. Furness, Joan Furness
 D5E3 Janice Barr, Chloe Clark
 SAT AFT FUTURE MASTERS
 D1E1F1 Mae Winram, Sachi Yamakami
 D2 Nora Siddall, Keith Siddall
 D34EF23 Jacqueline Phillips, Linda Wormworth
 D34EF23 Lawrence Monte, Bill Mansfield
 D5E4 Gaby Uranyi, Verna Vass
 D6E5 Renee Sweeney, Warren Sweeney
 E6F4 Nadine Adam, Emilie Van de Bogart

SATURDAY STRATIFIED PAIRS

- A1 Dan Watson, Gary Phelan
 A2 Pearl Minkoff, Anne Nagy
 A3 Gerry McCully, Phil Hernandez
 A4 Peter Herold, Ken Scholes
 A5 Michael Takemori, Ben Takemori
 A6B1 Tony Remedios, Robert Sauve
 A7 Gordon McOrmond, Mike Hargreaves
 B2 Sandra Robson, John Currie
 B3 Maureen Newcombe, Doug Strachan
 B4 Duane Tilden, Jeanette Greenhut
 B5 Angela Fenton, Patti Adams
 B6 Don Keith, Andrew Lee
 C1 Kathleen Orr, M. Oppenheimer
 C2 Anita Morse, Patricia Stickland
 C3 Valerie Kennedy, Frances Gunn
 C4 Carol-Ann Halliday, Gene Nagy
 C5 Wynne & Paul Crawford

SAT EVE FUTURE MASTERS

- D1E1F1 Lawrence Monte, William Mansfield
 D2E2 Gaby Uranyi, Verna Vass
 D3E3F2 Jacqueline Phillips, Linda

Wormworth

- D4E4 Stuart Carr, Eda Kadar
 D5E5 Janice Barr, Chloe Clark
 F3 Mae Winram, Sachi Yamakami,
 F4 Mas Yamakami, Sam Yamanouchi

STRATIFIED SWISS TEAMS

- A1 M. Hargreaves, G. McOrmond
 Dan Jacob, Bryan Maksymetz
 A2 Kathy Adachi, Marcia Christie
 Ina Andersen, Grace Jeklin
 A3 Mary Ruth & Maurice Blustein
 Ole Godefroy, Julie Godefroy
 A4/6 Peter Herold, Dick Yarrington
 Rod Caldwell, Ken Scholes
 A4/6 Michael Ainsley, Kirk Homis
 Pete Walton, Dan Watson
 A4/6 John Bryden, Gordon Davis
 Ben Takemori, Chris Diamond
 A7/9 Dianne Isfeld, Dwayne Dicks
 Joan Richards, Doug Cowan
 A7/9 Bradley Bart, Aidan Ballantyne
 Steve Clements, Bill Goldstone
 A7/9 Phil Hernandez, Rhonda Foster
 Gerald McCully, Greg Arbour
 B1 F. M. Pieralli, Diane Ayukawa
 Tove Chen, Rangie Sylvestre
 B2/3 Sandra Robson, John Currie
 Vicki Croome, Patti Adams
 B2/3 Flora So, Julien Levesque
 Rani Shroff, Hoshang Shroff
 B4/5 J Horne, Eleanor Kaufmann
 Brian Badger, Priscilla Brown
 B4/5 Haiderali Nazak, Amir Mirha
 Nurdin Kassam, Ken Lochang
 B6/8 Karen Denton, Linda Morgan
 MOppenheimer, Joan Campbell
 B6/8 Bruce McIntyre, Greg Lam
 Robert Beattie, Thelma Hofstede
 B68C1 Marlene Barber, Holly Boyson
 Norma McNamara, Lila Jay
 C2/3 Gerald Abhold, George Meng
 Stanley Pietrewicz, Helen Chang
 C2/3 Greg Fleming, Gaynor Hills
 Chris Jarvis, Mitsuko Russell
 C4/5 Betty Harold, Betty Reyonlds
 Malcolm & Jeanne McDonald
 C4/5 Carol-Ann Halliday, Gene Nagy
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MONDAY, January 17

Stratified Charity Pairs 8:00 pm
Stratified Charity 1999er Pairs
Bracketed Knockout Teams Round 1

TUESDAY, January 18

Bracketed Knockout Teams Round 2 9:00 am

Bracketed Knockout Teams Round 3 1:00 pm
Stratified Open Pairs 1st Session
Stratified Women's Pairs 1st Session
Stratified 99er Pairs Single Session
Afternoon Continuous Pairs (1st of 5)

Stratified Open Pairs 1st Session 7:30 pm
Flight A: Unlimited, Play Separately
Flight B: Stratified 300-1000, 100-300, 0-100
Stratified Senior Pairs 1st Session
Stratified 99er Pairs Single Session
Evening Continuous Pairs (1st of 5)

WEDNESDAY, January 19

Morning Bracketed KO Teams Round 1 9:00 am

Bracketed Knockout Teams Final Round 1:00 pm
Stratified Open Pairs 2nd Session
Stratified Women's Pairs 2nd Session
Stratified 1999er Pairs Championships 1st Session
Single session entries accepted
Afternoon Continuous Pairs (2nd of 5)

Stratified Open Pairs 2nd Session 7:30 pm
Stratified Senior Pairs 2nd Session
Stratified 1999er Pairs Championships 2nd Session
Single session entries accepted
Evening Continuous Pairs (2nd of 5)

THURSDAY, January 20

Morning Bracketed KO Teams Round 2 9:00 am

Stratified Swiss Teams 1st Session 1:00 pm
Flight A: Unlimited, Play Separately - 20 pt VP Scale
Flight B: Stratified 300-1000, 100-300, 0-100 - Win/Loss
Stratified Senior Swiss Team 1st Session
Stratified 1999er Swiss Teams Single Session
Afternoon Continuous Pairs (3rd of 5)

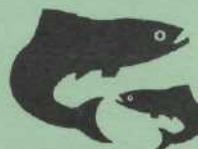
FRIDAY, January 21

Morning Bracketed KO Teams Round 3 9:00 am

Stratified Open Pairs 1st Session 1:00 pm
Stratified Senior Pairs (55+) 1st Session
Weekend Bracketed KO Teams Round 1
Stratified 99er Pairs Single Session
Afternoon Continuous Pairs (4th of 5)

STRATIFIED RANGES

Stratified Main Events
A: 1000+ B: 300-1000 C: 0-300
Stratified 1999er Events
A: 100-200 B: 50-100 C: 0-50
Stratified 99er Events
A: 50-100 B: 20-50 C: 0-20



SATURDAY, January 22

Morning Bracketed KO Teams Final Round 9:00 am
Lucky Draw Zip Swiss Teams Single Session

Open Stratified Pairs 1st Session 1:00 pm
Flight A: Unlimited, Play Separately
Flight B: Stratified 300-1000, 100-300, 0-100
Senior Bracketed KO Teams Round 1
Weekend Bracketed KO Teams Round 3
Stratified 99er Pairs Championships 1st Session
Single session entries accepted
Afternoon Continuous Pairs (5th of 5)

Open Stratified Pairs 2nd Session 7:30 pm
Senior Bracketed KO Teams Round 2
Weekend Bracketed KO Teams Final Round
Stratified 99er Pairs Championships 2nd Session
Single session entries accepted
Evening Continuous Pairs (5th of 5)

SUNDAY, January 23

Playthrough Stratified Swiss Teams 10:00 am
Flight A: Unlimited, Play Separately 20 pt VP Scale
Flight B: Stratified 300-1000, 100-300, 0-100 Win/Loss
Playthrough Stratified Senior Swiss Teams
Win/Loss Scoring
ALL SWISS PLAY FINISHED BEFORE 6:30 PM

Senior Bracketed KO Teams Round 3 10:00 am
Fast Stratified Pairs 1st session 10:00 am
5 min per board

Senior Bracketed KO Teams Round 4 TBA
Fast Stratified Pairs 2nd session TBA
2nd session finished by 4:00 pm