

## Welcome to NABC Las Vegas!

Can you justify your presence by making 6 NT?
It happens to every bridge player. You go to Vegas for a little bridge, a little poker, a little blackjack, and invariably the best hand you hold the whole time is the one that you pick up when there is no money available to win:
\& A63 $\vee ~ A K Q ~ \diamond ~ J T 5 ~ A K T 9 ~$
You hegin by picking up a vibe - was partner actually thinking about opening in first chair? RHO passes and you open 2NT. LHO passes and partner still doesn't know what to do. Finally he bids 3 sh and you deny a four-card major. This makes partner happy, who places the 6 NT card on the table with an air of relief. All pass and LHO leads the 60 , and this is what you see:

$$
\perp \text { Q95 } \vee 9753 \bigcirc A K 7 \vee Q J 3
$$

## 60 led vs 6 NT

- A63 $\vee \mathrm{AKQ} \diamond$ JT5 AKT9

Plan the play carefully. How do you think making 6 NT will score (in matchpoints)? Tum to Peter Morse's article on page 12

## WINTER 2001 HIGHLIGHTS:

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## It's Your Bid Problems

The Matchpointer is designed to look better without this strip. Cut the strip off, answer the problems, and send your solutions (brief comments, or suggestions for future problems are strongly encouraged) to the editor, or drop them off at a club. You lose nothing and gain a detailed table of contents, viewable from the cover. Try it; it works!

Name: $\qquad$
Flight: A B C
(Name and flight are required)

| 1. (Matchpoints, E-W vul) |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\& 43$ | $\vee$ AJ984 | 0 KJ642 \& A |  |
| WEST | NORTH | McBroct | SOUTH |
| Pass | 30 | 34 | 18 |
| 4 | Pass | Pass | $? ? ?$ |

2. (Matchpoints, both vul.)

-     - T3 ○ QJ8752 \&9652

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $1 \&$ | Double | Pass | $2 \diamond$ |
| Pass | 20 | $2 \triangleq$ | $3 \triangleq$ |
| $3 \&$ | Double | Pass | $? ? ?$ |

3. (Matchpoints, none vul.)
\& 753 - K975 $\circ 62$ \& A732

| West | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Pass | 10 | 14 | Pass |

*You "forgot" to double. What now?
4. (IMPS, none vul.)
-T $\vee$ K6 $\diamond$ KQ943 * AKT94

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 39 | $3 \&$ | Pass ??? |  |

5. (IMPs, E-W vul.)
\&QJT53 $\vee 4 \diamond 76$ QT962

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 30 | Double | $3 N T$ | 44 |

Pass Pass 4NT Pass
Pass Double All Pass What is your opening lead?
Deadline: March 22, 2002.

The "It's Your Bid" System (from the lnternational Bidder's Club, a monthly on-line bidding contest since discontinued.)
(some questions may depart from system)

- Natural, five-card majors. Limit raises.
- Over 1 in a major, 2 NT is gameforcing and shows 4 card support.
- Splinter bids: all double-jump shifts, by responder as well by opener.
- 2 over 1 promises a rebid; not game forcing.
- Strong jump shifts.
- After a reverse, responder's 2NT or fourth suit is negative.
- Opening $2 \leqslant, 20,20$ : 6-card suit, 5-11. $2 \mathrm{NT}=$ forcing, game try.
- Opening $1 \mathrm{NT}=15-17, \quad 2 \mathrm{NT}=20-22$, $3 \mathrm{NT}=$ gambling. Over NT openings or overcalls: Stayman, Jacoby transfers, Texas, Gerber. Lebensohl after 2 -level overcalls (fast 3NT denies a stopper).
- Opening 2 artificial, strong. $20=$ waiting bid. Natural responses.
- Over opponent's take-out double, new suit is forcing at one level, 2NT-limit raise, jump shift is pre-emptive.
Roman Keycard Blackwood (0314), 5NT asks specific kings.
- Support doubles and redoubles.
- Over overcalls cuebid is limit raise+, or any game-force.
- Negative, competitive and responsive doubles through 40 , higher than that: value-showing.
- Weak jump overcalls.
- Direct jump cue-bid asks stopper.
- Common sense.

To enter: clip this portion of the cover and e-mail to mcbruce1@home.com, leave with your local club, or phone in your answers to 438-9735. Your name and flight is mandatory. Good luck! Send us your problems for future issues!



 anssi jad SI\$..... prej ssautsng
səjey gu!s!uวapv zooz



 ' ( $\varepsilon$ ว̊ed uo panunuoa)



 pue 'әunjos inoyim sandsip asjos of paau siopand pue siakeןd :ן000 dazy of St 'Tensn se 'uopnjos ayl yeq yooi of juem t,uop









 'Yoq se awos 'roנ!pa наииоd

 page three. The original idea was to have a few words from the edi-
tor here, and a few words from the President over there, but now I this page two space and I plan to continue this across the fold, on
 pest gunuedo |eqqueplsend enfo
;(Presidential Opening Lead continued from page 2)
my three, said "hmmm" and then calmly instructed dummy to play ; the four. Partner chuckled as he found a discard and the "finesse" of i ; the four on the first round won! "I've always wanted to do that," isaid Ken with a smile. "I never thought I'd actually get it to hap-; ! pen." Ken was able to find humour in every game. It was just like ; 'him to be able to laugh at a play like this without causing me embarrassment. I'll miss him.

Ric Sumner was the 1993 Phil Wood Under 200 Trophy winner, ia player who learned bridge at the Haida Club and Pemberton Club !99er and 199er games in the eighties with me. Oddly enough, we only played as partners a handful of times, and I doubt we ever broke ¡average, or even came close! It became a running joke with us, and ithe final time was at last year's New Year's get-together, when we ! drew one another and in good humour gave up just enough for another team to pass us and win the informal contest. "It's our fault for ; playing together," he joked.

Ric went into hospital in mid-September, after surprising us all by ! playing on Saturday at the Evergreen Sectional just days after he had ; suffered a stroke. On December 5 he didn't wake up.

The size of this issue (and my inability to get it out on schedule) i shows how much is actually happening in bridge here in Unit 430 . ! The detachable (please, do detach it and keep it somewhere handy); ! insert will serve as a calendar of 2002 Unit events and contains useful
(continued on page 13)


SPECIAL ALERT! Entortainment 2002 books are still available! The coupons inside can be used immediately and do not expire until the end of 2002. Unit 430 relies on income from Entertainment books to help fund local bridge players of all levels competing in multi-level events. Jennifer Ballantyne has been organizing this unique, win-win fundraiser for two decades, and because we are no longer the only group selling these books, we had been selling less each year. This year many players have made an effort to help local bridge by purchasing their book (s) from Unit 430. We thank them all and remind those who don't have one yet that they make great Chirstmas gifts! For $\$ 46.00$, you get a book of coupons that pays for itself in a few weeks, and the money raised goes directly into the Unit's subsidy fund (not into Unit profits). Books may be ordered from:

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text { Iennifer Ballantyne } & 438-3095 & \text { jaballantyne@hotmail.com } \\
\text { Isabel Chernoff } & 531-6828 & \text { isabel.chernof@telus.com } \\
\text { Louis Landau } & 984-8309 & \text { llandau@telus.net }
\end{array}
$$

Books will be available at the Richmond Regional. Order now!

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## NEXT ISSUE: <br> Spring 2002 Matchpointer

Deadline for submissions:
Friday, March 22, 2002.

## The Round-Up Roundup

## by Bruce McIntyre

The Unit 430 Sectional Trophy races were decided at the four-day November Round-Up Sectional, but before we get to them, a happy piece of news. The Unit Special Events Co-Ordinator, Larry Meyer, sent this note along with his It's Your Bid solutions:
"At the Round-Up, my teammates carried me into a bracketed knockout winner's circle, which ended my non-Life Master career. If you could somehow mention that fact in the next Matchpointer, it would help me justify my frequent absences to my family. Thanks."

Larry, Larry, Larry-you should have mentioned it to me at the time: I was idle on Saturday night and would have loved to kibbitz your big moment. Larry's heroic teammates were Jim McKenzie, Dick Simpson, and Rick Hoggarth, and we congratulate all four. Those of you in the 100-300 point range take note: another player becomes a Life Master while a member of the Unit Board of Directors. The list is endless and we'll be looking for nominations in a few months.

The Phil Wood Trophy was a two-man race, with Mike Hargreaves leading Gord McOrmond by $41 / 2$ points going in, and a gap of thirty-six points to third place. I caught up with Gord on Friday evening and

## 2001 Sectional Trophy Race Final Standings

Phil Wood Trophy

1. Mike Hargreaves ..... 108.37
2. Gord McOrmond ..... 91.23
3. Dan Jacob ..... 68.50
4. Gerry McCully ..... 61.22
5. Bryan Maksymetz ..... 52.45
6. Doug Fraser ..... 49.12
7. Larry Hicks ..... 48.00
8. Greg Arbour ..... 47.93
9. Ben Takemori ..... 47.20
10. Larry Pocock ..... 46.70
11. Cam Doner ..... 44.80
12. Aidan Ballantyne. ..... 42.22
13. John Hurdle ..... 41.44
14. Trudy Hurdle ..... 41.44
15. Waldemar Jez ..... 40.54
16. Martin Henneberger ..... 39.18
17. Kenny Chan ..... 37.08
18. Katrin Litwin ..... 35.63
19. Sandra Fraser ..... 34.62
20. Harold Hansen ..... 33.09
21. Ron Fox ..... 32.96
22. Ken Lochang ..... 32.41
23. Mike Takemori ..... 31.46
24. Rhonda Foster ..... 31.14
25. Audrey Norman ..... 30.43
26. Jim Norman ..... 29.22
27. Rhoda Tafler. ..... 28.47
28. Marcia Christie ..... 28.25
29. Greg Barszcs ..... 27.72
30. Andrew Zorawski ..... 27.65
4748.66 silver points were won by 616 players(a further 100 played but did not win any) atthe four open Sectionals in Unit 430 in 2001.

## Edie Bonnell Trophy

1. Trudy Hurdle. ..... 41.44
2. Katrin Litwin. ..... 35.63
3. Sandra Fraser ..... 34.62
4. Rhonda Foster ..... 31.14
5. Audrey Norman ..... 30.43
6. Rhoda Tafler ..... 28.47
7. Marcia Christie ..... 28.25
8. Gay Parrish ..... 27.14
9. Christina Jacob ..... 25.14
10. Ewa Wroblewicz ..... 24.01
11. Elaine Ryan ..... 23.75
12. Lenora Awram ..... 22.99
13. Carol Waters ..... 22.05
14. Kathy Bye ..... 21.88
15. Sandra Robson ..... 21.53
Phil Wood Under 200 Trophy
16. Greg Barszcs ..... 27.72
17. Andrew Zorawski ..... 27.65
18. David Breton ..... 23.37
19. Wink Andres ..... 18.63
20. Ann Andres ..... 18.63
21. Debbie Williams ..... 16.94
22. Wuyen Ni ..... 15.78
23. Gary Thomas ..... 13.30
24. Alice Thomas ..... 13.30
25. Stuart Carr ..... 13.04
26. Joseph Idczak ..... 12.12
27. Samantha Nystrom ..... 12.00
28. Victor Finberg ..... 11.77
29. Julia Barsel ..... 11.23
30. Joan Steuart ..... 11.18
(You're eligible for the 2002 race if you're an
Leo Steil Trophy
31. Harold Hansen ..... 33.09
32. Andrew Zorawski ..... 27.65
33. H. K. Ho ..... 27.02
34. Joerg Schneider. ..... 24.15
35. Pat Landau ..... 20.70
36. Peter Morse ..... 20.05
37. Haiderali Nazak ..... 19.54
38. Claire Burns ..... 19.42
39. Kathy Adachi ..... 17.92
40. Ina Andersen ..... 16.77
41. Louis Landau ..... 16.61
42. Richard Christie ..... 16.35
43. Ron Borg ..... 15.76
44. Phyllis Gerber ..... 14.48
45. Pat Stapff ..... 12.79
(Harold Hansen has it unless I hear from oneof the top 19 in the Phil Wood race before theend of the Regional. To be eligible you mustbe an ACBL member born before 1946.)
Round-Up Sectional Top 10
46. Dan Jacob. ..... 35.80
47. Mike Hargreaves ..... 28.24
48. Sandra Fraser ..... 25.94
49. Doug Fraser ..... 25.94
50. Gerry McCully ..... 21.49
51. Bryan Maksymetz. ..... 19.30
52. Lenora Awram ..... 16.81
53. Greg Arbour ..... 15.81
54. Larry Hicks ..... 15.50
55. Gord McOrmond ..... 15.43
1358.65 silver points were won by 356 players(a further 75 played but did not win any) at the2001 Round-Up Sectional.
found out that the leaders were playing together on Monday in the teams, so the race finale would effectively be the Flight A pairs on Sunday. "Mike kept calling to ask if I was free for more sessions in this toumament," said Gord, "until I realized that the more times I played with him, the less chance I had to pass him!"

Playing with Bryan Maksymetz, McOrmond finished sixth in the Sunday Flight A Pairs, but Dan Jacob and Mike Hargreaves won the event, and the only thing left was the victory lap on Monday: McOrmond and Hargreaves finished second (playing with Doug and Sandra Fraser of Victoria) in the Swiss Teams, and we believe that if Hargreaves's 2001 total of 108.37 masterpoints is not quite an all-time Unit 430 record, the second place total of 91.23 for McOrmond must be!

In the Edie Bonnell race, Trudy Hurdle was $21 / 2$ points ahead of Audrey Norman in second place, but there were eight ladies within ten points. Trudy and John Hurdle won the Saturday Afternoon Stratified Pairs to increase the lead, and this was enough to win the trophy, although there were late heroic charges by Katrin Litwin (second with Aidan Ballantyne in the Sunday Flight A Pairs), Lenora Awram (Sunday Flight B Pairs winner with Nigel Fullbrook), and Sandra Fraser, who won almost 26 points at the tournament with Doug Fraser, behind only McOrmond and Hargreaves.

As usual, I am not $100 \%$ sure whether Harold Hansen is the highest ranked player born before 1946. Of the nineteen players ahead of his total there may well be one or two that may suddenly claim eligibility. Of those we knew to be eligible, Harold Hansen finished second in the Friday afternoon Seniors Pairs to add to his three-point lead over Andrew Zorawski,

## A Las Vegas Anecdote by Doug Cowan

Every tournament has its share of stories; this is my favorite one from the recent NABC in Las Vegas:

Steve Beaton and I, playing in the Senior Pairs, arrived at a table occupied by two quite elderly ladies, one of whom had a walker beside the table with some medicine and other things piled onto the walker's shelf. When we arrived she told us that she had very poor eyesight and could not use a bidding box. When we asked if we should use them, her partner replied as follows:
"Oh yes, you must: I'm DEAF!"
who was unable to catch him.
Speaking of which...
In the Under 200 race, Greg Barszcs finished second in the top bracket of the knockouts (with the Takemori brothers and Waldemar Jez), to move three points ahead of Andrew Zorawski on Saturday evening. A few fractionals put Andrew about a point and a half back with one day to go, and Waldemar probably made a tactical error in employing me to help get Andrew (playing with Ewa Wroblewicz) past Greg on the last day. (I haven't asked any questions about why Greg was not playing on the final day to protect a small lead, but I suspect Waldemar-and perhaps that potent Polish brew he always seems to have with him-played a vital role.)

There is always a danger in calculating the trophy race standings by hand. I thought we had put Andrew past Greg when we got our fifth win, but the final record shows that I made a mistake somewhere. Sadly for Andrew, who finished second in two trophy races in 2001, we came 0.07 short, and Greg Barszcs is the winner in a photofinish. Just another two VPs would have been enough to get us the final overall spot and a different result.

David Breton finished third and Wink and Ann Andres came from off the chart to finish joint fourth with a Friday Afternoon win in Flights B and C, and a third-bracket knockout win.

I should mention that Arun Chopra was listed in the Under 200 race last time, and by Sunday had amassed several overalls to challenge for the lead. But although technically eligible, he agreed that his experience in India (as you'll see in his excellent article on page 9) made a voluntary withdrawal from the Under 200 race the gentlemanly course of action.

## 2001 Open Sectional Veterans:

27 sessions (out of 28): Charlotte Alekson, Diane Ayukawa, Joerg Schneider, Ted Worsfold.

26 sessions: Kathy Bye, Kenny Chan, Peter Morse, Toyo Nunoda, Santokh Sian.

25 sessions: John Horne, Beverly Kanee, Sandra Robson.

24 sessions: Claire Burns, Bachan Buttar, Al French, Carol-Ann Halliday, Thelma Hofstede, Gerry McCully, Daisy Neilson, Ben Takemori, Judi Wilson.

Thanks for your support!
Congratulations to all trophy winners and good luck next year to everyone!

## Ken Robertson

by Mike Dorn Wiss

On Sunday, November 4, 2001, the bridge world lost one of its most talented characters, and I lost a dear friend. Kenneth James 'Ken Hog' Robertson was out walking in a park, enjoying one his favourite Old Port cigars, when he collapsed suddenly. Rising to his feet, he told passersby coming to help that he was fine-then he collapsed again, and attempts to revive him were fruitless.

Ken, originally from Saskatoon, was a top rubber bridge player (in the bridge world, the term 'Hog' is one of respect) who preferred to play for money more than for masterpoints. I had the pleasure of knowing him for almost forty-five years, of knowing his family, and of watching his three sons-the three 'little piggies'grow into fine young men, the oldest of whom proudly gave him a grandson only months ago.

Ken was a man of many talents, both of mind and of body. He had the most talented hands-
hands that floated basketballs to the net when he played center for his high school team, that could make a cue ball dance on a pool table, that shaped the flight of a golf ball on any course he could find, hands that held a fountain pen like a wand and wrote letters and words of the most perfect shapes. They kneaded homemade bread dough with unmatched thoroughness, and lifted fresh bread from the oven to a waiting line that always succumbed to his threats to let the loaves cool. Most especially, his hands were masters of wood of all kinds, as he built with top quality everything from bookshelves to decks to rooms. Never in a hurry, Ken spent an hour in the company of his own mind, smoking a cigar, for every hour he spent shaping wood.

Ken was a tough and imaginative bridge player (who loved to invent a notrump stopper at appropriate moments). He loved the track, and was an excellent handicapper of the horses (who usually spent his winnings on the first races trying to hit the elusive jackpot of the triacta on the last three). He loved old jazz, and Ella Fitzgerald,
and his three sons. And he loved to laugh, for he possessed a wit as delicious as his bread or his curried chicken, and an eye for the ludicrous that could crack up those close to him. When he left Saskatoon and moved to Vancouver I made my home his for a few weeks, and about a hundred or so weeks later he moved out. It didn't take me long to miss his wit, and his companionship, and his cooking. And 'though when he left I experienced a certain relief we who knew him well all understand, his moving also left a hole in my life.

And now he's gone and left a hole in my heart. It's a hole that won't go away, but neither will my many, many memories of him. I'll think of him whenever I smell fresh bread, or curried chicken, or burning cigars, when I hear Ella sing, when I smell the fresh-mown greens of Waskesiu golf course or the shavings of a wood plank. I'll miss him with the bittersweetness of close friendship, and miss him best when I meet with those few others who knew him so well, and we trade Ken Hog stories, and we toast knowing him.
$-M D W$

## Bridge at the Aviary

## by David Grannis

The evening's duplicate session had just ended at the Aviary Club, and Barney Owl was entering the scores into the computer. On board thirteen he noticed what had to be an error. At every table but one the contract was 3 NT vulnerable by East, making, for 600 points. At table nine, however, the same result was recorded for South instead of East. The North-South pair nine consisted of Tiggy Turkey and Glenda Goose, two of the less swift members of the club, so Barney was hardly surprised by the error. He considered just crediting East with the contract instead of South, but decided he had better talk to Tiggy, who had played North. Perhaps by pointing out her scoring mistakes he could persuade her to redouble her efforts at accu-
a chance.
Much to Barney's surprise, Tiggy insisted that there was no mistake, but that her partner had indeed made three no-trump. "She's very good at declarer play, you know," gobbled Tiggy. "You needn't be surprised."

Barney thanked her, and entered the score as recorded. Nonetheless, it seemed a curious thing, and some of the other players thought so too. When the results were posted, they found the board and spread the hands on the table:
[See hand diagram on next page.I
At every table East had opened 2NT. At the other tables, South had passed and West had raised to 3NT, ending the bidding. South then led the $6 \leqslant$ to the jack, queen and king, and East simply ran off eight more tricks in the red suits, making nine tricks.

However, sitting South, Gilda Goose thought her hand rated a call over 2NT. "5-5-3 distribution is very

## The Famous Ronald Bragman Deal

## by Louis Landau

I recently had a visitor from England who was a friend of a mutual friend from way back when. He was a fine bridge player and enjoyed the game immensely. One day he asked me how many points was the absolute minimum required for a grand slam. I thought that 10 was probably the number provided you had all 13 cards in a suit. He then produced what he called "The Ronald Bragman Deal."

The story is that somehow or other South lands up in a 7 contract! West, for obvious reasons, doubles, and has to find a lead. It seems that his mother had always said "when in doubt lead trumps." On his high card holding, it certainly seemed a good idea to draw trumps at every opportunity to enable him to make all those wonderful tricks. He led his 7 and this was won in dummy by the eight. A small diamond was then played and trumped with the 24. Next declarer played a small club and when west played his nine, dummy won with the ten.


Another small diamond was played from dummy and trumped, and as you have guessed, another club was played towards dummy for the marked finesse. West was now down to the bare K\$, and when South cashed the A in dummy, all that was left was a long string of good diamonds which made all the rest of the tricks!

The contract of 7 doubled was made with exactly six high card points between declarer and dummy. Anyone know a hand with less points that makes a grand slam?
powerful, you know," she explained, "and we do our unusual notrump differently from most people. We use it to show the two higher unbid suits, not the two lower. I mean, why bid low suits when you can bid high ones? It's only sensible. So I bid 3NT."
"And of course I alerted it," continued Tiggy, "so the opposition wouldn't think the bid was based on points alone."
"But then you passed," chided Glenda. "That wasn't right. You should have bid 44."
"I considered it, but then I thought, well you have the major suits and I have the minors, so together we have everything covered. Why not play in the contract that requires us to take one less trick?"


East was not about to double and give them a chance to run, so Glenda played in 3NT undoubled. West led the 74, which Glenda covered with dummy's eight.
"Very good," said Barney. "You counted and realized that if the seven was fourth best, the eight would hold."
"Really?" replied Glenda. "No, actually I just played the lowest card in the tenace, like I always do. I mean, why play a high one when a low one might take the trick?"
"Of course," responded Barney. "It's only sensible."
"Exactly," said Glenda.
"And then what did you do?" enquired the owl.
"I played the $\mathrm{Q} \$$, hoping to catch the king. When West dropped the J\& I knew I had the king trapped and played another spade. Then I just kept on finessing clubs and spades, making nine tricks in the end."
"You see," said Tiggy. "I was right to leave it in notrump. We never would have made 4e, given that East had four to the king."
"Well," muttered Barney as he walked away from the table. "What do I know about bridge? I've only been playing for forty years. What do I know?"

# Give Me A Hand 

by Joerg Schneider

I am indebted to Cam Doner for this deal from the knockouts at the Round-Up Sectional. White vs red you hold this hand (as West):

$$
\text { \& AT86 } \vee \mathrm{A} \diamond \text { J9875 }
$$

This is the auction:

| West | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | 1NT (12-14) |
| Pass | 20 (transfer) | Double | $3 \varnothing$ |
| Pass | 48 | Pass | Pass |
| ??? |  |  |  |

If you bid $5 \diamond$ it costs you 300 , a good sacrifice-if they can make $4 \Upsilon$. But you decide to defend, thinking that you can beat 4 N . Your lead?

Cam found the killing lead of the 6! This was the full deal (with some of the small cards 'invented.')


No, this was not a clever attempt to make declarer misplay the $\uparrow \mathrm{KJx}$ combination in dummy. Cam reasoned, looking at two tricks in his own hand and expecting one from partner (a minor suit ace), that the best chance for a fourth trick was a spade ruff-which indeed materialized. You may argue that A and another would do as well, and on this hand you would

Hastings Bridge Club
1950 Windermere St. (at 4th Ave), Vancouver cookies, tea, coffee
Marianne Scott 604/298-3932
Wednesdays at 10:30 am sharp
Membership Game Winners: Ernie Dietrich/Debbie Williams

## Coming Events:

March 20: Club Championship
be right, but suppose the North-South hand with three spades is shorter in clubs as well. Now, when declarer plays a club to East's ace, only a trump return will beat the
contract, difficult to find. Cam's line makes this brilliancy by East quite unnecessary.

But let's assume you and I, being mere mortals, lead a pedestrian diamond. Can we still beat $4 V$ ? Declarer wins the ace and ruffs a diamond. This is good play as it robs you of one of your exit suits. Declarer now leads a heart to you and you must return a club (if your side breaks spades you will only make one spade trick) to partner's hoped-for ace. Partner returns a club to declarer's king, and after pulling the last trump he continues with another club, then plays a spade to the queen and a spade back...

If East plays the J goose. Declarer will duck-it's his only chance-and providing East is still alive and breathing he'll have to give a ruff-sluff with his return. East must of course throw the jack under the Q -unless partner has the AT you will not beat $4 \nabla$ !

So you had two chances to beat 49 , found them both and doubled to teach them a sharp lesson not to overbid their hands against you!

The fun hand of Las Vegas was this one from the second session of the Blue Ribbon Pairs Final, featuring Zia and Jacek Pszczola against Benito Garozzo and Lea Dupont:


Garrozzo opened 1 and rebid $3 \leqslant$ after the 10 response. Dupont rebid $3 \diamond$ and then leapt to 60 over Garozzo's 3NT call. Garozzo now bid 6NT and Pszczola, on lead with $\$ A K$, couldn't resist doubling. Benito, who has been there before, corrected to 7h, also doubled by North, who led the As. When dummy showed up with a void and one club to ruff the spade, Benito (as reported in the Daily Bulletin) "broke into a smile as wide as that of Georgio Belladonna's in the 1975 Bermuda Bowl." You may remember the hand: 7 making because Eddie Kantar held the KT under the AQ .

By the way, you have worked out that $7 \diamond$ fails on a club lead!

## Mind Reading

## by Arun Chopra

Bridge is a game of many skills. One such skill, though sadly neglected, is the ability to acertain why a declarer or defender has chosen a particular card or line of play. In addition to the information gained from the bidding, opening lead, signals etc., the ability and reputation of the opponent must sometimes be considered while making an assessment.

A few months ago at a major teams tournament in New Delhi, sitting South, I picked up this once-in-alifetime hand:

$$
\text { North: } 6 \vee \mathrm{JT72} 4 \& \mathrm{AQT8542}
$$

$A \subseteq$ led against $6 \diamond$

$$
\text { South: \& AKQJ93 } \vee-\diamond \text { AQJT972 }
$$

Sitting West was my friend Subhash Gupta, a former Canadian International, who is now based in New Delhi and plays for India. East was N. K. Gupta, also a member of the Indian team to the last Bridge Olympiad and my occasional partner in local tournaments when I am in New Delhi.

The bidding was short and sweet-60; pass, pass pass-unscientific, as my partner acidly pointed out, but appropriate as I saw when dummy came down. Subhash led the AY, which I ruffed, and I continued with the $A \diamond$ followed by the $Q \diamond$. Subhash won with the king, with East following to both rounds of trumps. Subhash now shifted to a small club and I played the queen from dummy, which held! I discarded a small spade from hand and took stock...

On the face of it, if the spades broke no worse than 4-2, the slam was a lay-down. However, how likely was that, given the wild distribution of my hand? The other possibility was that I throw my other low spade on the A hoping that the clubs broke no worse than 4-2. Again, what were the chances? What would you have done in my place?

The obvious question was, "Why did Subhash switch to a club?" I reasoned that Subhash would read me for eleven top tricks and try to beat the contract before I could set up the twelfth trick. He could place me with a maximum of eight trumps on the play and I had already shown a heart void; moreover, I didn't cross over to dummy for a trump finesse so I probably didn't have a club either. Therefore, he could see the rest of my tricks coming from spades and there was nothing he could do if the spades were
setup. Alternately, I could have the balance of clubs and therefore did not want to risk a ruff and therefore played trumps off the top. His only hope then would be that East was void in clubs and had another trump left to set the contract.

So where did that leave me? Going along with the second presumption, which seemed more plausible for a club switch from Subhash, I reckoned that having a singleton club and doubleton diamond would also give him a two-suiter in spades and hearts; therefore spades were not likely to break. Hence I should throw my remaining spade loser on the 4 Q . But hold on! If Subhash had led his singleton club, why didn't East cover with the king? No, it didn't make sense.

So I took stock again. If N. K. Gupta (East) had five clubs to the king-jack and three or four spades, he would read me for twelve tricks in diamonds and spades, because he could see the spades breaking. Knowing N. K., he would never cover! That would give me the losing option-I would try to cash my A to get rid of my remaining spade loser, and Subhash would ruff with the outstanding trump. Yes, it made perfect sense.

Or so I thought.
Accordingly, I refused the A option, ruffed a heart high to hand and drew the last trump. When I ran the spades, they broke 5-1. Down one.

The East-West hands:

| West | East |
| :---: | :---: |
| - T8753 | $\pm 4$ |
| $\bigcirc$ AK9 | - Q86543 |
| - K6 | $\bigcirc 853$ |
| +K96 | + J73 |

After the match, I was explaining to my partner my logic for playing as I did when Subhash joined us. I asked him why he played away from the $\mathrm{K} \&$, when he knew the spades were not breaking and he could just play a passive heart. "Well," he said, "if your second suit was spades that would work. But if it was clubs, partner might ruff."
"But you gave me the contract by allowing me a chance to get spade discards on the clubs!" I said.
"No, I didn't," he said. "I knew you would overanalyse."

That's why Subhash plays for India and I never shall.

Alas there were only villains on this hand, both on our side. Our teammate (West) in the closed room defended the same contract but discarded a spade on the run of the diamonds and the opponents made the slam.

# Prognosticatorial C 

## by Finnigan 0'Blarney

[Editor's note: In need of Flight C predictions for the
 IMP League, I turned to Mr. Finnigan O'Blarney, originally from Ineshfree, Ireland. I had misgivings about the decision when I dropped by his place and saw the empty whiskey bottles in rows on the balcony, but after drying out the manuscript and consulting him to check on some interesting ideas in spelling, I'm not sure what effect this will have. The effect of listing teams in alphabetical order combined with the blarney and the booze, make it difficult to tell who is predicted to win the thing-and maybe that's a good thing. Trust me: Mr. O'Blarney is not in a position to do much of anything (including giving offense) deliberately...
$-M c B]$
"Says I" told me the person in charge himself I say, so it is myself and not himself, after out drinkin', and out brawlin' Shawn Thornton himself.

So kindly begins this new chapter in the unpredictable world of prediction. Whiskey barkeep, methinks make it a threefingershot. Mighty fine boy, this barkeep.

Now as for the first party (in alphabetical order) to enter this beach marathon, may I proudly present the captain herself? Mrs. Charlotte Alekson, followed by Mr. Gerald Paul, along with counterparts Mr. Adam Moszczynski and Mr. Greg Kaznowski. A fine pair $o^{\prime}$ twosomes, led by herself she who has hair as fire, this team can make some extremists think twice as the Alekson/Paul duo stand ready to smite interlopers, while Adam \& Greg are the flankers with Polish-made clubs. Out of a perfect 150 sand dunes, they should make it to between 75 and 85 in a fine race.

Barkeep, another one, thank you-but don' chisel me a ha'finger like the last one. There's a good lad!

Up next is the lead runner Stuart Carr, Brian, Colin and Doreen Ransom, Cathy Miller too and a young buckaroo named Barry Yamanouchi. Not set pairs, but set tag team trios running the double triangle formation. Makes me poor head spin; for those who nay understand, it means two pairs, each with an interchangeable third. Poor Stuart may be the lead runner but the whip belongs to Ms Miller for keepin' the team in line. Unless there's another 4th o' July, they'll charge through most things after gettin' good intelligence. Out on the beach they'll be collectin' 85 to 90 sand dunes.

Ah now, what is a good race without a Green

Bonnet Squad (a team o' lasses)? And what a group $o^{\prime}$ ' fine lasses is this, lead runner Mrs Judy Christensen, Susan Mitchell, Janice Barr, Ruth Winkler, Chloe Clark, and closing the ranks Mrs Dawn Smith, good friends they are, nothing fancy but beware-for behind the garrulous smiles, indeed there is guile and wisdom, but the lack of experience can nay be made up by these attributes. Reaching 60 to 70 sand dunes is a fine expectation for this Green Bonnet Squad.

Ha! Me throat's as dry as sand; excuse me while I refresh me drink m'self. Goodness me, I forgot-here barkeep, keep the change. What? I'm a cheap Scot, ye call me? I'll tell you I'm as Irish as they come!

Sorry for the interruption- $t$ 'was a family thing for us Irish only. And coming up next is the Hoeschen squad, lead runner Bernie Hoeschen, and the lone man, poor lad, it must be lonely with all these fine ladies (lucky bugger): Adeline Wong-Chor, Myra Johnston, Yvonne Drane, Marlene Powell, and Gail Heuchart. They had a good first leg in this race but squandered close to half their lead in the second half. Yvonne Drane's no lady-she's this team's killer drake and troop mover. Provided with a fine terrain this team could reach 75 to 80 sand dunes.

East meets West connection, led by Lion-Heart Sandra Poggemiller, the Hong Kong Express Flora So, steeplechase expert Bruce Partridge, our Lady of Poland, Kristina Bohdanowicz, and the singin' duo of Dave Hicks and Brian Wilding, a gutsy little group it is but can the Hong Kong express and Our Lady o' Poland keep this group on the beach? Blood and guts they have but it's experience that counts in this race. A very unpredictable squad, could have anywhere from 50 to 70 sand dunes by the end.

And finally, a triple double trouble-no real lead runners here, they take turns. The Thomas squad, Gary and Alice Thomas the alleged ringleaders, followed by co-founders Anna and Jan Ochnio and, in as enforcers, Bonnie and Gerry Purcell. It makes me heart cry, they break me own first rule o' bridge, spouses playin' as partners. But that be they are and when they meet the Carr squad at the end it'll be for first place, provin' that the exception times three proves the rule. 85 to 95 sand dunes. Could they reach 100? I know not-but if they do, what a good blarney!

But alas, it is time to go home to me lovin' wifebut never before the bottle is empty: barkeep! This is your analyst Finnegan O' Blarney, from Ineshfree Ireland, with trusty barkeep Bartholemy Finley, a.k.a. "Black Bart," at King Boru's tavern by the stone o' Gaal, signin' off.
(One sand dune=1 VP, don't ye know.)

## Ace of Clubs, Mini-McKenney

## The November 1, 2001 Standings

These are the players from Unit 430 who have won the most masterpoints at club games (the Ace of Clubs list, which includes all clubs in the ACBL) and won the most masterpoints anywhere you can get them (the Mini-McKenney list).

Over the years I have developed a set of standard announcements about these lists designed to deflect questions. Please read before you ask, and then ask Memphis (it's free, see below):
-There is no way to tell which results are included in these lists. If you won a 20 -table club championship in late October, it probably won't be reflected
here, since most clubs send in a monthly report at the start of every month. That's assuming they're on time, and some of them quite often aren't. In the past we have dealt with serious problems when clubs have failed to get their year-end masterpoint lists in by the ACBL's liberal deadline. We suggest you check your masterpoints online at www.acbl.org (or have a friend with Net access do so for you.) You'll see right away which club and tournament results have been received, and you can ask the clubs which are late whether they have sent in their results.
-Whichever category you were in on January 1, 2001 is the category you're stuck in for the year 2001 race. There are additional silver, red, and gold point requirements for most ranks up to Life Master, so your total may not quite get you into the rank you expect.
Unit 430 Ace Of ClubsStandings on November 1, 2001(points won at club games only)
Rookie (0-5)

1. Leonard Wild ..... 26.94
2. Maria Gropper ..... 21.95
3. Rosalee Hardin ..... 18.68
Junior Master (5-20)
4. William Gibson ..... 24.48
5. Norma Doucette ..... 14.54
6. David Butler ..... 13.05
Club Master (20-50)
7. Kazuko Koda. ..... 35.87
8. Myra Johnston ..... 22.86
9. Bernard Hoeschen ..... 21.54
Sectional Master (50-100)
10. Richard Smillie ..... 64.38
11. Suzette Behar ..... 44.22
12. Debbie Williams ..... 43.76
Regional Master (100-200)
13. Brian Lee ..... 37.05
14. Sam Nystrom ..... 36.91
15. Betty Reynolds ..... 35.60
NABC Master (200-300)
16. Ewa Wroblewicz ..... 41.43
17. Judith Wilson ..... 33.09
18. Brenda Cameron ..... 32.91
Life Master (300-500)
19. Barry Kirkham ..... 35.61
20. Vicki Croome ..... 31.42
(Sometimes the list includes somebody on the listfrom outside Unit 430. This is one of those times...)
Bronze Life Master (500-1000)
21. Amir Alibhai ..... 76.30
22. Geraldine Lacroix ..... 55.62
23. Harry Friedman. ..... 55.08
Silver Life Master (1000-2500)
24. John Horne ..... 88.69
25. Joerg Schneider ..... 74.73
26. Bonnie Anderson ..... 73.02
Gold Life Master (2500-5000)
27. Ernie Dietrich ..... 103.13
28. Pat Landau ..... 92.05
29. Mary Fines ..... 90.94
Diamond Life Ma ..... 26 .15
30. Aidan Ballantyne ..... 7.36
31. Marylou Bert ..... 3.68
Unit 430 Mini-McKenneyStandings on November 1, 2001(points won from all ACBL sources)
Rookie (0-5)
32. Leonard Wild ..... 35.00
33. Maria Gropper ..... 28.77
34. Peggy Winter ..... 27.57
Junior Master (5-20)
35. Catherine McKinnon ..... 34.04
36. William Gibson ..... 31.70
37. Norma Doucette ..... 24.61
Club Master (20-50)
38. Kazuko Koda ..... 63.67
39. David Breton .....  36.82
40. Beverley Hall ..... 34.61
Sectional Master (50-100)1. Debbie Williams.106.57
41. Richard Smillie. ..... 75.93
42. Roy Bishop ..... 48.07
Regional Master (100-200)
43. Alice Thomas113.37
44. Colin Ransom ..... 106.97
45. Gary Thomas ..... 101.93
NABC Master (200-300)
46. Carol-Ann Halliday ..... 80.34
47. Ewa Wroblewic ..... 79.99
48. Maureen Crompton ..... 73.93
Life Master (300-500)
49. Kenny Chan. ..... 90.23
50. Vicki Croome ..... 79.19
51. Anita Morse. ..... 76.36
Bronze Life Master (500-1000)
52. Peter Morse ..... 205.77
53. Les Baldys. ..... 122.84
54. Harold Hansen ..... 116.48
Silver Life Master (1000-2500)
55. Ben Takemori ..... 201.00
56. Paul Waters ..... 192.61
57. Al French ..... 186.64
Gold Life Master (2500-5000)
58. Bryan Maksymetz ..... 223.98
59. Michael Yuen ..... 206.11
60. Larry Pocock ..... 172.79
Diamond Life Master (5000-10,000)
61. Cam Doner ..... 565.31
62. Dan lacob ..... 155.77
63. Gord McOrmond ..... 139.72

> Questions about these lists? Contact the ACBL Membership Assistance Department at 1-800-467-2623, toll free, or send e-mail to MAD@acbl.org

## Finessing Las Vegas

## by Peter Morse

## Finesse if you must, but only if you must.

The following hand from a StratiFlighted Pairs event in Las Vegas presented an interesting play problem as well as a considerable difference between the results in the Flight A/X game and those in the Flight B/C/D game:


If East opens $1 \diamond$, it will likely take most of the mystery out of the hand as a contract of 6 NT will be reached on an auction of $1 \diamond-2 \leqslant, 2 N T-6 N T$. Given South's spade holding, the lead of the Jeems likely, thereby locating the K \& , and it would seem to be fairly routine to test the hearts before trying the diamond finesse. Then only those who are in love with finesses will try the diamond finesse before testing the hearts and thereby fail to make twelve tricks. From the results detailed below, it seems clear that East did not play the hand very often.

So, if we assume that East passes and West opens 2 NT , the contract will normally be 6 NT played by

West, whether or not East attempts to find a 4-4 heart fit along the way.

Assuming the lead of any suit but spades, declarer can count 10 top tricks ( 1 spade, 3 hearts, 2 diamonds and 4 clubs) with four chances for the other two tricks necessary to secure the contract: the diamond finesse, a 3-3 split in hearts, the J-TV dropping doubleton, or the K onside (in the North hand). There are also some remote squeeze possibilities that may materialize later, but for this analysis they will be ignored.

The key question is: in what order do you try these possibilities? It is surprising how many players got this wrong. Only one of the four options requires giving up the lead to have a successful result and that is the lead of a small spade towards the board. Thus this spade play must be made first, before a play which either surrenders a trick if it loses (the diamond finesse) or possibly sets up a trick in the opponents hands (cashing three high hearts). Also, it is important not to cash your club winners early or else you have a problem as to your discard on the fourth one.

In effect, the diamond finesse is a last resort, almost a 'practice finesse', in that if it wins, it doesn't guarantee success, while if it loses, it defeats what could be a makeable hand, as in the present situation. As for playing hearts before spades, how frustrating it would be to find the $\mathrm{K} \$$ onside and then have that player cash the TV to defeat your makeable contract.

Most West players probably received the opening lead of the JO or a high diamond. On the J® lead, no damage is done by checking for the J-T doubleton by cashing another heart. As this is a remote possibility, it is unlikely to generate a trick, so the order of plays should then be spade toward the queen, and this being successful, the cashing of the third high heart. You now have your twelfth trick sitting in dummy since

| East-West <br> Table Result | Flight B/C/D - Top 90 |  |  | Flight A/X - Top 74 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Frequency | Across-the-field <br> Matchpoints | Percentage <br> Score | Frequency | Across-the-field <br> Matchpoints | Percentage <br> Score |
|  | 34 | $731 / 2$ | $\mathbf{8 2 \%}$ | 40 | 49 | $\mathbf{7 0 \%}$ |
| $\mathbf{+ 1 4 3 0}$ | 2 | $551 / 2$ | $\mathbf{6 2 \%}$ |  |  |  |
| $\mathbf{+ 1 3 7 0}$ | 1 | 54 | $\mathbf{6 0 \%}$ |  |  |  |
| $\mathbf{+ 6 9 0}$ | 4 | $511 / 2$ | $\mathbf{5 7 \%}$ | 3 | 23 | $\mathbf{3 6 \%}$ |
| $+\mathbf{6 6 0}$ | 4 | $471 / 2$ | $\mathbf{5 3 \%}$ | 3 | 20 | $\mathbf{3 1 \%}$ |
| $\mathbf{- 1 0 0}$ | 43 | 24 | $\mathbf{2 7 \%}$ | 19 | 9 | $\mathbf{1 4 \%}$ |
| $\mathbf{- 2 0 0}$ | 3 | 1 | $\mathbf{1 \%}$ |  |  |  |

you do not need (or want to try) the diamond finesse.
The lead of a diamond is more problematic, as there is the temptation to take a first round finesse but, as explained above, this is in effect betting the farm on the opening leader having led from strength. In fact, if the $\mathrm{Q} \diamond$ is on your left at trick one, it isn't going to move later in the play, and you will still have J-T $\diamond$ to take care of it. So the line of play after winning in dummy is to cash two high hearts. However, if you now lead a spade toward the board and find North with the K another diamond before you know whether hearts are breaking 3-3. If the play to the first two hearts suggests that North is not likely to have four of them, say by the fall of a heart honour from the North hand, it is likely necessary to cash the third high heart before leading a spade toward dummy. You will then know if you need the diamond finesse or not. And if North holds the K , the $\mathrm{Q} \diamond$, and throws a high heart on the second round from four to the jack-ten, you will simply have to congratulate her for a good defense.

The range of results across seven sections in the Flight B/C/D game was interesting when compared with those in the five sections of the Flight A/X game. Although neither event was scored across the field, I have done so to illustrate the difference. So the table
reflects a top of 90 in the $B / C / D$ game and a top of 64 in the $\mathrm{A} / \mathrm{X}$ game.

So the table shows, not surprisingly, that the hand was made more frequently in the $A / X$ game, resulting in a smaller score for those making it and a very small score for those who didn't. But it is surprising that one-third of the declarers in the $\mathrm{A} / \mathrm{X}$ game failed to make a contract which is cold based on the lay of the cards. It is also surprising that roughly $10 \%$ of the East-West pairs in each game failed to get to a 33 point slam, off only a king, a queen and two jacks.

Finally, as the scoring was done within each section in the event as played, there was a considerable range in the results from section to section, especially in the $\mathrm{A} / \mathrm{X}$ game. Here, based on a 12 top, making 6 NT was worth as many as 10 matchpoints, and as few as 7, while going down in 6 NT was worth as many as $31 / 2$ matchpoints and as few as 0 (in one section 6 NT was made 11 times and defeated only once).

In the $B / C / D$ game, the range was a little narrower, with 6 NT made being worth as many as 11 matchpoints, and as few as 9 , while going down one in 6NT was worth as many as 4 matchpoints and as few as 2. Scoring across the field eliminates these differences. This is why we take the time to preduplicate boards in games with more than one section.
information on the outside as well. This is due to the hard work of Eda Kadar, Diane Ayukawa, Isabel Chernoff, Pat Wotherspoon and others. We are beginning to see the results of having a full slate of thirteen! ! active and dedicated people on the Unit Board. We expect 2002 to be a fantastic year for local bridge! Get ! i ready to win lots of masterpoints; opportunites are plentiful in the next six months!

One of these is the replacement event for the rescheduled 2001 Unit Christmas Party. We hope to see you? ! at Bonsor Community Centre on February 16. Tickets will be available in January for this Unit-subsidized! ! dinner and bridge extravaganza, for only $\$ 30$ / pair.

The Monthly Unit Games are moving to the Richmond Rod and Gun Club, and moving to the second; i (not first) Sunday of most months (the first is January 20, to avoid conflict with the Regional). By January we ! hope to have some coupon offers in place so that players can play a Sunday afternoon club game, visit a res- ! ! taurant in the vicinity with a small special offer, and then play in the Monthly Unit Game. You'll be home at ; i a decent hour with an early-bird start time of 7:00.

Take A Bow dept. Julien Lévesque has been named to the ACBL Goodwill Committee for his tireless work! ! in organizing the September fundraising charity game for the Disaster Relief Fund.
! Please Print A Retraction dept. Two issues ago, I reprinted in Only Yesterday the funny 1981, article describ-; i ing the Martin O'Reilly team's IMP League win, containing a facetious interview that described Dennis Dohl ; ; "standing with one hand on each of Martin Johnson's shoulders and gradually bringing them together," end-!
! ing with "a dull thud as body hits floor." I thought the satire was broad enough not to fool anyone, and I! ! laughed loudly at a funny message from Martin Johnson on my answering machine that I wish I had saved. ; ¡But now I hear in the grapevine that he was serious. The message was: "Bruce-this is Martin Johnson; ; ; please print a retraction-I'm not deadIf'

OK, done. Who was fooled?
i As Matchpointer editor, as Unit President, as the very worst bridge player ever to be either, let alone both at ; ; once, let me wish all bridge players in Unit 430 the happiest of holidays, and a very happy 2002.
-Bruce McIntyre!

## Bridge vs Poker

## by Bruce McIntyre

In late November, during a week-long working trip to Nanaimo while some of you were in Las Vegas, I played poker in a casino for the first time. In so doing I discovered why I enjoy bridge so much more.

This is not to say that poker itself is a bad game. In the comfort of somebody's comfortable home, with friends, and without the pressure of stakes that are dangerously high, poker, like bridge, is a great way to spend an evening. The learning curve for poker is far less steep than that of bridge: a first-time player can learn the rules quickly and with a little luck can manage to break even or perhaps even win. Even if he loses, the finer points of a friendly poker game are unlikely to baffle him. The finer points of a friendly bridge game-and many of the coarser points tooare going to be incomprehensible to the bridge neophyte, who will leave even the friendliest of games knowing his success depends mostly upon how well his reluctant partner-of-the-moment fared.

So at home, in front of the fire or the stereo or TSN, with a favorite beverage at your side and more in the fridge, poker and bridge are both great fun, although I'd rather play poker if introducing someone new into the group unfamiliar with either game.

Poker and bridge are the two great card games to emerge from the twentieth-century. Both have antecedents in the nineteenth, and the earliest forms of poker may be even older than that. But the development of bridge into a near-science and poker into a generalconcept bluffing game with endless variations has taken place in the century just concluded.

So I have reluctantly decided to follow the rest of the road-trippers into the Nanaimo casino after dinner. They all know that I am a bridge player and that I don't think much of gambling. But it's a fair walk back to the hotel from the restaurant so I agree to go. Inside is the familiar sound of slot machines and the bright lights we've all seen. As usual, I am amazed at the roulette action, players placing the vast majority of chips on single numbers, the longest shot on the board and one where the house's advantage is large. I watch for a while mostly to take in the way the "dealer" handles the multi-coloured chips and the payouts and the ball and the wheel, keeping all of the transactions ver-

## Squamish Bridge Club

1471 Pemberton Street, Squamish Mondays at 7:00 pm
Monthly Handicap \& Trophy Race Games

1. Don Lecky 604/892-9027
calculate. They don't care.
Someone from our group approaches and says we're going to each spend ten dollars on the slots and pool our "winnings." I spend a few minutes feeding a machine quarters until the inevitable end of my ten dollars and then I watch a member of our group go down to defeat after letting an early win of five bucks dwindle to the expected final result.

But the ordeal is not over yet, as two of my coworkers have put together fifty bucks and one of them is playing the most inane version of poker ever invented. You'll see it; it's called Let It Ride.

In Let It Ride you put five-dollar chips (the minimum) into the three squares in front of you, and a dollar chip into a bonus square that pays big-time if you should hit a big hand. The dealer, who does not play, deals you three cards face down and after looking at them you must decide whether to take back the chip in the first square or "let it ride." Having made this decision, the dealer gives you another card face up. Now you need to choose whether to grab back that second five-dollar chip, or whether to "let it ride" as well. Once you make this decision, you get a final card, and the dealer turns your cards face up. You win if you have a pair of tens or better, and the higher your hand is, the more you win, based on the chips you have let ride. (You need a higher hand to win something on the dollar bet.) Whether your hand is the best of the people who play is irrelevant.

Trouble is, to watch the game being played is confusing. Players grab back chips, and make gestures indicating they'll "let it ride," and most of them don't show their cards to kibitzers. Once I realized that even with a bad hand I could only lose $\$ 6$ per deal, I figured I would buy $\$ 40$ of chips and see how far it went. The strategy seemed obvious enough: grab back your chips unless you already have a winning hand; let it ride only on a lock. Early on, I hit trips on the first face-up card and was up about $\$ 40$.

The early win gave me a large enough bankroll to play for a bit, and the other people I work with gathered around behind me to watch. I could not believe that this was interesting in any way, but they stayed, and every time I was dealt a pair they decided that they were good luck charms, whatever that meant. After about five hands I was reasonably sure that I had "mastered" the game, at least as much as it could be mastered. I began watching the other players, and since I was in the last seat, I wondered if it was conceivable that my strategy might change if I could "read" from their actions what they had, or see an exposed card. I turned and discussed how mindless the game was with my coworkers and they were amazed
at my nonchalance. "Keep your eyes on the cards, you might miss something!" I wasn't going to miss something.

After about twenty minutes I was even again and I decided that I would play until I was left with insufficient money to fill the three squares, or until I won a hand with two pairs or better. A cowboy in his sixties with a loud Stetson clamped to his head by string under his chin sat down in seat four and bought $\$ 100$ worth of chips and asked "what do ah do?" A few hands later he let it ride for the first card and then to my surprise changed strategy before the second. I wondered what kind of hand could possibly make that the right move. It turned out he had been dealt the 30 , the 50 , and the 9 . When the first face up card was the $8 \downarrow$, he suddenly decided that this hand was probably not going to win.

This made my day. I tipped the dealer and took my remaining $\$ 10$ to the window and only then burst out laughing. After another excruciating hour of watching people gamble, the rest of my co-workers finally decided to go.

Returning to the hotel, the other guy who played Let It Ride informed me that I was lucky I was such an obvious rookie. Apparently I was slow in releasing my cards on several occasions and had to be reminded that once the second face up card is received, a player must put his cards down on the table. I've no idea why. There was more. I apparently broke several other rules as well in my boredom. Each seemed arcane and nitpicky, but I broke 'em, and to hear my coworker tell it, the young woman dealing the cards was in a constant struggle to try to keep me in line without being offensive.

You could've fooled me, I said.
Well, he concluded, at least you left her a nice tip at the end. Did you enjoy playing? Why not?

We were back at the hotel playing Oh Hell with the freebie casino cards an hour later. "Don't you guys prefer this to the casino games?" I asked. "Every time it's your turn, you have a decision to make, which card to play, how many tricks the hand will win, and the one who makes the most correct choices will win. Isn't that far more interesting than a game where the strategy is obvious and the only hook is that you might win money?"

Nobody agreed with me.
Since that night, I have been wondering if there is much difference between the tournament forms, if you will, of bridge and poker. The tournament form of poker takes place in a casino, and in order for the casino to make money, all the player-to-player interaction, both in the play of the game and in the hidden
secrets, is removed, making the game stultifyingly boring. The question is, have we done the same thing to bridge by taking it out of the home and into the bridge club? Mostly, I think not. Most bridge strategies still exist in the tournament form. You still have to think. You still have to make a decision every minute, many of them not easy.

We do have a lot of rules in tournament bridge that are hard for novices to understand. I got an idea of what a novice feels like when my coworker told me what a goof I was at the Let It Ride table. I guess that's how newer players feel when they have a score adjusted by the Director for some infraction they don't understand.

You can compare tournament bridge's masterpoints with casino poker's dollars. One difference is that deep down, most casino players must know that in the long run they will lose, whereas in bridge everyone knows that they will eventually win masterpoints somehow. A more interesting difference, though, is this: There are a lot of casino games I cannot play because I'm not rich enough to throw my money away. There are almost no bridge games that I don't have enough masterpoints to play in, and I only have about 500 after nearly twenty years. With all the stratification, flighting, and proliferation of events, there is still nothing (other than a trivial entry fee) stopping you from entering the biggest toumament around and playing the top players head-to-head. To get a game with the top poker players you'd need Bill Gates's monthly income just to sit down, and even that might not be enough to escape.

Poker's a good game. Bridge is better. Casino poker is closer to a sham than a game: you trade your money for the experience of playing at the big table with the lights and the sounds of old James Bond movies. Tournament bridge is played in community centres and church basements and occasionally in a nice hotel balliroom, but we substitute the lights and sounds for computer printouts and "this is a skip round for East-West." It shouldn't work, but it has for a century, because tournament bridge is cool. The next time I work on the road I'm going to find out where the bridge clubs are before I leave.

## North Shore Winter Club Bridge

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

Louis Landau 604/984-8309 Bernice Mulock 604/987-8289 Charity Swiss Teams Winners, December 2 (18 teams!): A: Shirley \& Ozzie Isfeld, Pearl Minkoff, Bonnie Anderson B: Judith Wilson, Brenda Cameron, Doreen Ransom, Ann Ecclestone January 15: First game of 2002

## A Game For Everyone

## Richmond Regional, January 7-13

It's bigger than a Sectional and smaller than an NABC, but it features events galore, red and gold points, intermediate and newcomer games, hospitality, and lots of fun. It's the Richmond Regional, and it's less than a month away as I write.

The tournament begins Monday evening, January 7, and continues through to Sunday's playthrough Swiss, ending in lots of time to get home at a reasonable hour. The full schedule is listed on the back page of the pull-out flyer included in the centre of this issue.

The site is the same as before but may look unfamiliar: what used to be called the Delta Pacific Resort and Convention Centre will be under new management on January 1, and the several different towers will be given new names. (Perhaps they finally realized how confusing it was to have a Richmond hotel called the "Delta.") To get there by car, you need to find the elusive St. Edwards Drive, which goes from Bridgeport Road (just east of No. 4 Road), south to the highway, turns south-east and travels past the site and several other hotels alongside Highway 99, then turns east along Cambie Road, joining Cambie Road just east of Shell Road.

Parking passes are available for $\$ 2.00$ /day from the front lobby. You can buy multiple passes on the first day you arrive, and a pass is good all day.

Getting there by bus is a little more difficult. The 402 bus travels between Marine at Knight and Richmond Centre and stops at St Edwards Drive on Bridgeport Road, and the hotel is about 400 yards south. The 405 bus travels between Marine at Knight

and Richmond Centre and stops at St Edwards Drive on Cambie Road, and the hotel is about 600 yards northwest. Both the 402 and 405 buses are best caught by using the new 98 "B-Line" express route between downtown Vancouver and Richmond Centre.

The playing area is in three main rooms, a large ballroom, a side ballroom, and the unique "round room," where the 99er and 199er games are held. If you're eligible, don't miss this, it's like a large version of the original Enterprise bridge! (There is no truth to the rumour that Directors try to use the words "make it so!" when giving Round Room rulings.) The three playing areas are linked together by the hotel restaurant and a large foyer area which will have tables for the partnership department, book-selling, hospitality, and entry-selling, as well as a coffee and snacks booth during the afternoon and evening sessions for midgame attacks of the munchies.

Special events planned for the week include:
-daily draws for door prizes (if you can donate something, perhaps a free play to a club game, or a restaurant coupon, to the hospitality fund for use as a prize, please contact one of the tournament chairs, listed below)
-an informal lecture series before each evening session in the Round Room
-a special Intermediates and Novices reception between sessions Friday
-free ice cream following one weekend evening session, and free pizza following another (you'll have to attend to find out which)
-a box lunch as a mandatory part of the Sunday Swiss Teams entry, so that the break is minimal and players can be on the road home by dinnertime.

Here are the people to contact with questions, offers to volunteer, etc:

Leslie Gold, tournament co-chair 604/531-1313, e-mail: thegolds@shaw.ca (NOTE: Leslie's phone number and e-mail address have changed since the tournament flyer was printed)

Jennifer Ballantyne, tournament co-chair 604/438-3095, e-mail: jaballantyne@hotmail.com

> Diane Ayukawa, partnerships 604/940-9809, fax 604/940-9806 e-mail: mmdunn@dccnet.com (NOTE: Diane's e-mail address has changed since the tournament flyer was printed)

Make your plans now for the first big tournament of 2002! There truly is a game for everyone!
prompting this response in Sandra's article: "I think we [women] must realize that no help will be forthcoming from the male quarter. Vancouver men must surely hold the North American record for being the most unwilling partners of women in tournaments, team bridge in particular."

One possibility for alternative ways of raising funds was finding a sponsor for the event. The same Matchpointer lists the Canadian National Team Championships as the Rothmans CNTC. Hmmm. Maybe not a suitable solution for 2001, when virtually all games are non-smoking.

## 25 years ago in the Matchpointer <br> (January 1977, Gary Harper, editor)

Has this happened since? In 1976 the winner of the Phil Wood Trophy was the editor of the Matchpointer, Gary Harper, by a point over Laurence Betts. Dennis Dohl won the Under 200 Trophy, which to my surprise predates the Edie Bonnell Trophy, since there is no listed winner. Had there been one, the 1976 winner would have been Sandra Borg.

The Matchpointer in 1977 was, for the first time, distributed through Unit 430 clubs instead of by Canada Post-unless you asked nicely in writing.

The annual contest between Vancouver and Seattle was split in 1976, Seattle winning the master's contest by 256 IMPs, and Vancouver winning the nonmaster's (under 200) contest by 170 IMPs.

The Flight B IMP League debuted in the fall of 1976 with 9 teams. In Flight A there were 12.

The coming Vancouver Regional schedule is the last page of the issue. No stratified events. A twosession Individual on Wednesday and Thursday evening, and Women's and Men's Pairs Wednesday Afternoon. The tournament began Tuesday night, not Monday evening as it now does. Only one knockout teams event, with one bracket, began Tuesday evening and continued Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday moming. The Midnight Swiss was on Thursday night for some reason.

The Saturday Master Pairs was in two flights. To play Flight A one member of the partnership had to have at least 100 MP. No typo-one hundred. To play Flight B neither player could be over 100 but one player had to be over 20. If neither player was over 20 you had to play in the Junior Pairs.

Entries were $\$ 3.50, \$ 3.00$ for side games, and $\$ 2.50$ for junior and novice games. My, my. How things change in a quarter-century.

South-West Duplicate Bridge Club<br>White Rock Elks Club, 1469 George Street<br>Finn Schultz, 604/534-5025 Tuesdays at 11:00 am Club Championship, January 29<br>Charity Game Winners: Gladys Mackie/Bernice Selander Membership Game: Gilbert Lambert/Judty Acheson October masterpoint race winner: Bernice Selander We wish all players a very Happy New Year -Finn

## 35 years ago in the Match Pointer (December 1966, Evelyn Hosgood, editor)

The two-page Christmas 1966 issue had the list of Unit Board members under the masthead. Just under "Match Pointer" (two words) is the position of "Social Chairman." The Social Chairman in 1966 was a woman.

Familiar names:
-Phil Wood, running the Silodor Bridge Club
-Ron Borg, the toumament and special events chairman
-Martin Johnson, on a team with Erik Stark, Eric Beasley, and Bernice Nichol, won the 33 -table YearEnd Christmas Party game, which was held at the PNE Director's Lounge. $\$ 21.00$ was collected and donated to the Salvation Army Harbour Corps. "They gratefully acknowledged this gift and we know this will help to bring happiness to many," leading me to cynically wonder just how much you could buy with twenty-one dollars when I was four years old.
-Finn Schultz, thanking players at the Airport Inn and North Shore Bridge Clubs for their support in 1966.

In the late sixties the Unit Game consisted of twoevents. The winners game, I am told, was limited to players who had won a club game during the past month, and the Monthly Masterpoint Game was the regular Unit Game, paying a full masterpoint to the winner. In December 1966, the winners game drew eleven tables, and the M.M.P. game drew three sections of eight tables!

The Silodor Bridge Club Christmas Party on the 27th advertised special sections for juniors and intermediates, and-I'm not making this up-a special "Ball and Chain" section for married couples!

Old copies of the Matchpointer, back to the early 70 s, are collected and bound by the Vancouver Public Library's Central Branch downtown. The Unit also has a collection of old Matchpointer issues, and donations to this collection of any issues, especially those prior to 1973 are happily accepted: we'll copy them and return them to you.


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> Your Business Card Ad Here?
> Advertising in the Matchpointer is inexpensive and reaches hundreds of bridge players in the Vancouver area. For just $\$ 15.00$ per issue, your business card can be seen by players in the local bridge community and many other readers, four times annually.
> Full details on page 2.

## Vancouver Bridge Club

St. David's Church, NW comer of Taylor Way and Highway 1, West Vancouver
Louis Landau 604/984-8309
All games non-smoking. Computer scoring. Monday $10: 00 \mathrm{am}$ stratified Wednesday $10: 00 \mathrm{am} \quad$ stratified Wednesday $7: 15 \mathrm{pm}$ stratified Wednesday games are jackpot games All holiday Mondays are PARTY DAYS with door prizes, goodies, etc.

Club Championship Games:
Monday, January 21
Wednesday, February 13 (am) Wednesday, March 6 (pm)
Holidav Mondav Partu Games:
Wed., Dec. 26: Boxing Day Pairs Mon., April 1: Easter Pairs (Club Ch.) Handicap Games:
Wed., Jan. 16 (am) and Mon., Feb. 4 Club Christmas Partv Games: December 17 (am) and 19 (pm) John Reeve Individual Game:

Tuesday, January 1, noon
Open Dec. 24, Dec. 26, Dec. 31.

## Silver Points at Clubs!

## Three STaCs in the first half of $\mathbf{2 0 0 2}$

Need more of those elusive silver points? You'll have extra chances to win some at club games in 2002.

For those unfamiliar, a STaC (Sectional Tournament at Clubs) is a designated week of club games, where the points for winning at the club are much higher-and in silver points. But there is also the possibility that a high score at the club, worth $3-4$ silver points, may top the entire region over which the tournament is played, making it worth $10-15$ silver points! At last year's Unit 430 STaC, Bonnie Anderson and Olive Perdue won the Monday Morning Pairs at Louis Landau's Vancouver Bridge Club with a $66.88 \%$ score. When this was the top score of 168 pairs competing throughout District 19 on the Monday morning, this was worth 13.22 silver points!

The Unit 430 -sponsored District-wide Sectional Tournament at Clubs is a few weeks earlier next year, to avoid conflicts with other events. The dates for 2002 are May 6-12. Club managers should be receiving informational packages in the mail from STaC Coordinator Carol-Ann Halliday in the next few weeks.

The Seattle Unit is running it's annual STaC from March 25-30.

The newest STaC is the first annual CBF Sectional Tournament at Clubs. This is a Canada-wide event, divided into two separate STaCs: Canada East and Canada West. The funds raised will go partly back to the participating Units (I will suggest at the next meeting that the $\$ 1 /$ table rebate be applied to the subsidy

## Be An ACBL Star Club!

## Unit Board to Approve Applications

The ACBL has sent to Clubs and Units the details for a new program involving classifying clubs as one-star, two-star and three-star clubs. The program lists qualifications for earning each star, based on running novice or intermediate games or sections, having a Zero Tolerance program in place, arranging partnerships, running ACBL and CBF special events, and several other criteria. It is clear from a review of the qualifications that many Unit 430 clubs are already worthy of consideration; most others could become star clubs with a few simple changes.
funds for CBF events), and mostly to fund Canadian Bridge Federation events. The CBF has increased its activities in the past few years, adding a second flight to the team championships and combining all of the national championships into a CBF Bridge Week event. By participating in the CBF STaC you'll help fund players of all levels who wish to participate in the national championships, and participate in what may be the largest STaC of the three, since all of Western Canada is included!

Unit 430 clubs are invited to participate in all these events and should receive informational packages soon.

> South Surrey Bridge Club
> 1284 184th Street, South Surrey (Semiahmoo Fish \& Game Club) Director: Arlene Browning 1-604-870-9300
> Partherships: Dot Carnegie 535-8286 Mondays at 7:15 pm
> First Monday of each month Stratified Computer Scoring Partners Guaranteed Coming Events: January 14: Club Championship February 11: Junior Fund Development Garme March 11: Swiss Teams Winners: Club Appreciation: Donna \& Al Freeze Club Championship: Sandra Robson/Glenn Ponto Big Game: Jerry Ferguson/Daniel Zezulka, $67.44 \%$ ACBL Charity Game: Terry \& Frances Gould, $65.63 \%$ Membership Trophy: Norm Delaire/Terry Valjean

The Matchpointer will reflect the star status of our member clubs in the Club News Yellow Pages starting with the Spring 2002 issue. Julien Lévesque has been appointed as the Unit Board contact to collect applications for star status. He can also send Club Managers a copy of the program guidelines if you missed the mailout from Memphis. His telephone number is 604/254-1334.

The Unit Board will review the applications and confirm the star status with the ACBL, so that the star status can be reflected in ACBL lists as well as club listings available in print or online. Achieving the goals that get your club star status is a good way to improve the image of your club and a great way to get a little extra publicity at the same time.

# cru <br> <br> Unit 430 Weekly Duplicate Game List 

 <br> <br> Unit 430 Weekly Duplicate Game List}

Most recent update: December 13, 2001. Not including invitation-only clubs.

| Day | Time | club | Director | Club Contact/Phone Number | Game Details |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mon | 10:00 | VCR | L. Landau | Louis Landau 984-8309 | Open stratified |
|  | 10:30 | VBC | E. Chan | Club telephone 255-2564 | Improve Your Duplicate: 0-50 MP, stratified |
|  | 10:45 | BBY | G. Lambert | Gilbert Lambert 535-8286 | Open |
|  | 7:00 | SQU | K. Boothroyd | Don Lecky 892-9027 | Open, monthly handicap and trophy race games. |
|  | 7:15 | TSW | R. Dunn | Richard Dunn 940-9809 | Open stratified, occasional team games |
|  | 7:15 | SRY | A. Browning | Arlene Browning 870-9300 | Open (1st Monday stratified) |
|  | 7:15 | VBC | E. Chan | Club telephone 255-2564 | Non Life Masters Stratified (to 500 MP ) |
|  | 7:30 | HBN | L. Landau | Louis Landau 984-8309 | Open stratified |
|  | 7:30 | CWK | B. Percher | Bob Percher 792-4389 | Open (last Monday stratified) |
| Tue | 10:30 | VBC | E. Chan | Club telephone 255-2564 | Open Day-time Stratified: optional \$2 lunch |
|  | 11:00 | S-W | F. Schultz | Finn Schultz 534.5025 | Open stratified |
|  | 7:30 | NSW | L. Landau | Louis Landau 984-8309 | Open stratified |
|  | 7:30 | BBY | G. Lambert | Gilbert Lambert 535-8286 | Open |
|  | 7:30 | VBC | A. Ballantyne | Club telephone 255-2564 | Opt. Winner-Take-All Jackpot: Open stratified |
| Wed | 10:00 | VCR | L. Landau | Louis Landau 984-8309 | Open stratified |
|  | 10:30 | HAS | M. Scott | Marianne Scott 298-3932 | Open stratified |
|  | 10:30 | VBC | B. Russell | Club telephone 255-2564 | Intermediate: 0-300 MP, stratified |
|  | 7:00 | VBC | B. Russell | Club telephone 255-2564 | Open; Stratified by number of Life Masters |
|  | 7:15 | WRK | A. Browning | Arlene Browning 870-9300 | Open (last Wednesday stratified) |
|  | 7:15 | VCR | L. Landau | Louis Landau 984-8309 | Open stratified |
|  | 7:30 | C.R | A. Yallouz | Albert Yallouz 321-1891 | Open stratified |
|  | 7:30 | M-R | B. Percher | Bob Percher 792-4389 | Open stratified |
| Thu | 11:00 | JCC | C. Delisle | Connie Delisle 263-9196 | Open stratified |
|  | 7:00 | VBC | M. Eddy | Club telephone 255-2564 | Novice/Beginner: 0-20 MP |
|  | 7:15 | NWR | G. Lambert | Gilbert Lambert 535-8286 | Open stratified, occasional team games |
|  | 7:30 | MIS | B. Percher | Bob Percher 792-4389 | Open stratified |
|  | 7:30 | ARB | A. Nagy | Jean Terry 733-2807 | Now open |
|  | 7:30 | VBC | G. Davis | Club telephone 255-2564 | Open stratified |
| Fri | 10:30 | VBC | B. Russell | Club telephone 255-2564 | Open stratified Opt. \$2 Soup \& Bun |
|  | 10:30 | LAD | R. Dunn | Richard Dunn 940-9809 | Bi-weekly: see next page for dates |
|  | 7:30 | PKB | W. Jez | Waldemar Jez 527-8854 | Alternate Fridays, non-ACBL. See next page for dates. |
|  | 7:30 | S-D | G. Lambert | Gilbert Lambert 535-8286 | Open stratified, occasional team games |
|  | 7:30 | VBC | E. Chan | Club telephone 255-2564 | Lucky \# Jackpot Open (last Friday:TGIF Party) |
| Sat | check | VBC | E. Chan | Club telephone 255-2564 | Monthly individuals and other special games. |
| Sun | 1:00 | RMD | E. Dietrich | Ernie Dietrich 936-2298 | Open (special games stratified, hand records) |
|  | 1:00 | VBC | E. Chan | Club telephone 255-2564 | Open stratified, monthly team games |
|  | 7:00 | RMD | R. Dunn | Monthly Unit Game (see p. 37) | Open stratified. New site beginning Jan 20. |

Please check the listings on the next page for special events and club closures before attending club games.

## 2002 Unit 430 Calendar and Information Booklet

Detach and keep this handy schedule for your reference throughout 2002.

## Monthly Unit Games Move To Richmond

## Rod and Gun Club hosts first $\mathbf{2 0 0 2}$ MUG Sunday, January 20

Monthly Unit Cames are moving to the Richmond Rod and Gun Club. 7891 Cambie Road (at River Road) for 2002. Cames will begin at 7:00pm on the second Sunday of most months, except for conflicts with nearby Sectionals or Regionals. The complete schedule is inside this booklet on the calendar pages. What will you find at a Monthly Unit Came?

- Sectionally-rated games for larger masterpoint awards than a club game
- Stratified. with Flight B up to 2000 and Flight C for non-Life Masters (to 500)
- Masterpoint races with annual free play awards to the top player in each flight
- Goodies and coffee provided at the games
- Frequent player rewards: play six MUGs in one year and play the sixth free!
- Early start to get people home earlier on Sunday evening
- Make a day of it: afternoon club game, nearby dinner. Monthly Unit Game!
- partnerships guaranteed to those arriving before game time

Watch for the appearance of the Monthly Unit Game Schedule and Coupon sheet in late December. It will contain special offers for nearby Richmond restaurants and a complete schedule of the games.

## Monthly Unit Game Contacts:

Richard Dunn. Director. 604/940-9809. e-mail rmdunn@dcc.net Isabel Chernoff. co-Producer. 604/531-6828, e-mail Isabel.chernoff@telus.com Pat Wotherspoon. co-Producer. 604/535-1964. e-mail pwotherspoon@telus.net


#### Abstract

Monthly Unit Game Special Events: Saturday, February 16, 5:30pm Dinner, 7:00 Bridge Christmas In February, the rescheduled 2001 Unit Christmas Party, at the Bonsor Community Centre in Burnaby. Dinner. entertainment. cocktail bar. door prizes and a 50-50 raffle, and a Monthly Unit Came (with a separate 0-100 section). Tickets will be available in January. \$30/pair. (note that the regular game is still on February 10th in Richmond.)

Saturday, December 7, 5:30pm Dinner, 7:00 Bridge Unit 430 Christmas Party 2002, at the Bonsor Community Centre in Burnaby. The Monthly Unit Game finale for 2002. Tickets will be available in November.





## RICHMOND REGIONAL SCHEDULE

 January 7-13, 2002Delta Pacific Resort and Conference Centre, 10251 St. Edwards Drive
Monday, January 78:00 Stratified Charity Pairsone sessionStratified Charity 199er Pairsone session
Bracketed Knockout Teamsfirst of four sessions
Tuesday, January 89:00 Bracketed Knockout Teamssecond of four sessions
1:00 Bracketed Knockout Teamssemi-finals
Afternoon Stratified Pairsfirst of two sessionsStratified Senior Pairsfirst of two sessions
Stratified 99er Pairsone session
First Continuous Pairs1st of six optional sessions
7:30 Evening Stratified Pairsfirst of two sessions
Stratified Women's Pairsfirst of two sessions
Stratified 99er Pairsone sessionFirst Continuous Pairs2nd of six optional sessions
Wednesday, January 9
9:00 Morning Bracketed KO Teamsfirst of four sessions
1:00 Bracketed Knockout Teamsfinals
Afternoon Stratified Pairssecond of two sessionsStratified Senior Pairssecond of two sessions
Stratified 199er Pairsfirst of two sessions (single-session entries accepted)
First Continuous Pairs3rd of six optional sessions
Wed., January 9 cont.
7:30 Evening Stratified Pairs second of two sessions
Stratified Women's Pairs second of two sessions
Stratified 199er Pairs final session (single- session entries accepted)

First Continuous Pairs
4th of six optional sessions

## Thursday, January 10

9:00 Morning Bracketed KO Teams second of four sessions
1:00 StratiFlighted Swiss Teams first of two sessions
Stratified 199er Swiss Teams single session
First Continuous Pairs 5th of six optional sessions
7:30 StratiFlighted Swiss Teams second of two sessions
Stratified 199er Swiss Teams single session
First Continuous Pairs 6th of six optional sessions

Friday, January 10
9:00 Morning Bracketed KO Teams semi-finals
1:00 Stratified Open Pairs first of two sessions
Weekend Bracketed KO Teams first of four sessions
Stratified 99er Pairs single session
Second Continuous Pairs 1 st of five optional sessions

StratiFlighted: $\mathrm{A} / \mathrm{X}: 3000+/ 0-3000$ B/C/D: 1000-1500/500-1000/NLM Stratified: $1500+/ 500-1500 / 0-500$ 199er: 100-200/50-100/0-50 99er: $50-100 / 20-50 / 0-20$

Friday, January 10 cont.
7:30 Stratified Open Pairs second of two sessions
Weekend Bracketed KO Teams 2nd of four sessions
Stratified 99er Pairs single session
Second Continuous Pairs 2nd of five optional sessions

## Saturday, January 11

9:00 Morning Bracketed KO Teams finals
Lucky Draw Zip Swiss Teams single session
1:00 StratiFlighted Open Pairs first of two sessions
Weekend Bracketed KO Teams semi-finals
Stratified 99ers Pairs first of two sessions (singlesession entries accepted)
Second Continuous Pairs 3rd of five optional sessions
7:30 StratiFlighted Open Pairs second of two sessions
Weekend Bracketed KO Teams finals
Stratified 99ers Pairs 2nd of two sessions (singlesession entries accepted)
Second Continuous Pairs 4th of five optional sessions

## Sunday, January 13

10:00 StratiFlighted Swiss Teams
Stratified Senior Swiss Teams two sessions, playthrough (lunch included in entry) finsh before 6:30 pm
Second Continuous Pairs 5 th of five optional sessions

More details inside on page 16.

## Special Events at Clubs

## December 17, 2001-March 31, 2002

Date Time Club What's Happening
17 Dec 10:00 VCR Christmas Party Game
17 Dec 7:00 SQU Trophy Race Game
17 Dec 7:15 TSW Final game of 2001
19 Dec 10:30 HAS Club Championship Game
19 Dec 7:15 VCR Christmas Party Game
21 Dec 7:30 PKB Bi-weekly Came
23 Dec 1:00 RMD Christmas Party Game
24 Dec 10:00 VCR Christmas Eve Regular Game
24-26 Dec Contact Individual Clubs for Closures
26 Dec 10:00 VCR Boxing Day Holiday Pairs
26 Dec 7:15 WRK Stratified Game
27 Dec - NWR Closed

## Club Abbreviations and Ad Locations

| Ablar | (lub) Name | Page |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ARB | Arbutus Village Bridge Club | 22 |
| BBY | Burnaby Duplicate Bridge Club | 23 |
| C.R | Central Richmond Bridge Club | 33 |
| CWK | Chilliwack Duplicate Bridge Club | 23 |
| HAS | Hastings Bridge Club | 8 |
| HBN | Hollyburn Bridge Club | 23 |
| JCC | Jewish Comm. Ctr. DBridge Club | 23 |
| LAD | Tswwassen B. C. (Ladner location) | 24 |
| MIS | Mission Duplicate Bridge Club | 23 |
| M-R | Maple Ridge Duplicate Bridge Club | 23 |
| NWR | New-West Bridge Club | 23 |
| NSW | North Shore Winter Club | 15 |
| PKB | Polish Bridge Club (non-ACBL) | 22 |
| RMD | East Richmond Bridge Club | 24 |
| S-D | Sur-Del Bridge Club | 23 |
| S-W | South-West Duplicate Bridge Club | 17 |
| SRY | South Surrey Bridge Club | 19 |
| SQU | Squamish Duplicate Bridge Club | 14 |
| TSW | Tswwassen Bridge Club | 24 |
| VBC | Vancouver Bridge Centre | 23 |
| VCR | Vancouver Bridge Club | 18 |
| WRK | White Rock Bridge Club | 23 |


| Date Time | Club What's Happening |
| :---: | :---: |
| 28 Dec 10:30 | LAD Bi-weekly Game |
| 29 Dec 7:00 | VBC Year-End Individual |
| 30 Dec 1:00 | VBC Monthly Mish-Mash Sw |
| 31 Dec 10:00 | VCR New Year's Eve Re |
| 31 Dec-1 Jan | lact Individual Clubs |
| 1 Jan 10:30 | VBC New Year's Day Marathon (FIVE sessions!) |
| 1 Jan noon | VCR John Reeve Individual Gam |
| 2 Jan 7:00 | VBC Monthly Hand Records Gam |
| 4 Jan 10:30 | LAD Bi-weekly Game |
| 4 Jan 7:30 | PKB Turniej Co 2 Tygod |
| 5 Jan 1:00 | VBC CNTC (Canadian National Teams Championship) Qualifying Game; |
| 6 Jan 1:00 | VBC Monthly Winners Free P |
| 7-13 Jan | 2002 Richmond Regional at the Delta Pacific Resort and Convention Centre in Richmond. Most Clubs Closed. |
| 7 Jan 10:30 | VBC 0-50 Game Resumes |
| 7 Jan 7:00 | SQU Handicap Game |
| 7 Jan 7:15 | TSW Club Open Des |
| 7 Jan 7:30 | VBC Non-LM Game Resumes |
| 14 Jan 7:15 | SRY Stratified Club Champion |
| 15 Jan 7:30 | NSW First Game of 2002 |
| 15 Jan 7:30 | VBC Tournament Of Champions Upgraded Club Championship Game |
| 16 Jan 10:00 | VCR Handicap Game |
| 17 Jan 7:15 | NWR Swiss Teams Club |
| 18 Jan 10:30 | LAD Bi-Weekly Game |
| 18 Jan 7:30 | PKB Turniej Co 2 Tygodnie |
| 20 Jan 7:00 | RMD January Monthly Unit Game (new site: Richmond Rod \& Gun Club) Details on page 37. |
| 21 Jan 10:00 | VCR Club Championship Game |
| 21 Jan 7:00 | SQU Trophy Race Game |
| 21 Jan 7:15 | TSW Upgraded Club Championship |
| 21 Jan 7:15 | VBC Non-LM Club Championship |
| 23 Jan 7:15 | WRK Stratified Club Champio |
| 28 Jan 7:30 | CWK Club Championship Game |
| 29 Jan 11:00 | S-W Club Championship Game |
| 30 Jan 10:30 | BC Club Championship (0-300) |
| Februa | Watch For Junior Development Fund Games:Extra Masterpoints |
| 1 Feb 10:30 | LAD Bi-weekly Game |
| 1 Feb 10:30 | VBC Club Championship Gan |
| 1 Feb 7:30 | PKB Turniej Co 2 Tygodnie |
| 2 Feb eve | VBC Coofy Pairs Calcutta (Details TBA) |
| 3 Feb 1:00 | VBC Monthly Winners Free Play Game |
| 4 Feb 10:00 | VCR Handicap Game |

(continued on page 22)

| (Special Events at Clubs, continued from page 21) |
| :--- |
| Date Time Club What's Happening |
| Feb 10:45 BBY Junior Development Fund Game |
| 4 Feb 7:00 | SQU Handicap Game

SPECIAL ALERT! Please note that club events are subject to change, especially events on this second page of the listings, which are in some cases scheduled three months or more ahead. Events may be added or deleted from this list at any time. The best action is to call the club manager if you have any questions about the club schedule.
Club contacts' phone numbers are on page 20.
Date Time Club What's Happening
6 Mar 7:30 MIS Club Championship Game 8 Mar 10:30 LAD Bi-weekly Came 8 Mar 7:30 VBC Club Championship Game 9 Mar 1:00 VBC Friends of the Vancouver Public Library Fund-Raising Game
10 Mar 1:00 RMD Club Championship (hand records)
10 Mar 1:00 VBC Monthly Winners Free Play Game
10 Mar 7:00 RMD March Monthly Unit Game (new
site: Richmond Rod \& Gun Club)
11 Mar 7:15 TSW Charity Game
11 Mar 7:15 SRY Swiss Teams
13 Mar 7:00 VBC ACBL-wide Charity Game
13 Mar 7:15 WRK ACBL Charity Game (hand records)
15 Mar 7:30 PKB Turniej Co 2 Tygodnie
17 Mar 1:00 RMD ACBL-wide Charity Game
18 Mar 7:00 SQU Trophy Race Game
20 Mar 10:30 HAS Club Championship Game
20 Mar 7:30 M-R Club Championship Game
21 Mar 7:30 VBC Last Chance Grand National Teams
Qualifying Came (all flights)
22 Mar 10:30 LAD Bi-weekly Game
25 Mar 7:15 TSW Club Championship Game
25 Mar 7:30 CWK Stratified Came
25-31 Mar Seattle-sponsored District-wide STaC
Silver Points At Your Local Club.
Some Clubs Will Run STaC Games.
26 Mar 7:30 VBC CBF International Fund Game
27 Mar 7:15 WRK Stratified Game
29 Mar 7:30 PKB Turniej Co 2 Tygodnie
30 Mar 7:00 VBC Monthly Individual Game
30-31 Mar VBC Canadian National Teams Championship B.C. Zone Final (tentative: details p. 32)

> Polski Klub Brydzowy Polish Combatant Centre 1134 Kingsway, Vancouver Waldemar Jez 604/527-8854 Alternate Fridays at 7:30pm 2.). By INVITATION ONLY


## Arbutus Village Bridge Club

Arbutus Village Recreation Centre 2B-4255 Arbutus Street, Vancouver OPEN TO ALL PLAYERS coffee, tea, cookies

Thursdays at 7:30 pm sharp
Jean Tarry 604/733-2807

| SUBURBIA CLUBS Gilbert Lambert 604/535-8286 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Burnaby |  | New Westminster |  |
| 1491 Carleton Av | 191 Carleton | Century House, 6208 8th St. | Sert Anglican Chu |
|  |  |  | 11601 82nd Ave. N. Delta |
| ndays. |  |  |  |
| Closed Dec. 24. Dec. 31. | Closed Dec 25. Jan I. | Jan 17: Club Championship | Feb 8: Junior fund Game Mar 22: Club Championship |
| Feb 4: Junior fund Game | Closed Jan 8 (Regional) <br> Feb 5: Junior Fund Game | Swiss Teams <br> Feb 7: Junior Fund Game | Mar 22: Club Championship Swiss Teams |


Hollyburn Bridge Club
Hollyburn Country Club "Bridge with a view"
950 Cross Creek, West Vancouver
Louis Landau $604 / 984-830$ a
Mondays at $7: 30$ pm, open to all!
Thursdays at $9: 30$ am, by invitation only

## White Rock Bridge Club

Sunnyside Community Centre, 1854 154th St. , White Rock
Arlene Browning 1-604/870-9300
Partnerships: Dot Carnegie 604/535-8286
Wednesdays at 7:15 pm
Stratified last Wednesday of each month
January 9: Club Closed (redoing floors) Jan. 23. Mar. 6: Club Championship February 6: Swiss Teams February 20: Junior Fund Game March 13: ACBL Charity (hand records) Club Appreciation: Kathy Adachi/Wilf May Club Championship: John Lien/John Horne Teams: Judy Acheson, Maggie Warren, John Horne. Walter Pinkster Charity Game: Judy Acheson/Maggie Warren
(Only Yesterday, continued from page 31)

## 20 years ago in the Matchpointer

(December 1981, Aidan Ballantyne, editor)
Dan Jacob won the Phil Wood Trophy twenty years ago, ten points ahead of Gord McOrmond. Seattle's Mary Ruth Blustein won the Edie Bonnell. Mike Zbozny won the Under 200 Trophy.

The series of "Balls" Bridge Tips (a spoof of the well-known BOLS Bridge Tips contest) continued with Tip \#2: Against experts, mental cruelty, not bridge, is the name of the game. Tipster Cy Koscid was introduced by Aidan Ballantyne as "a wellknown expert many years ago who now works for the Department of National Defense, specializing in psychological warfare." With the advice to use the tactics in the first board of a round, or early on in a match, so that you, not other players, benefit from the effects of them, four ways to confound experts were presented:

1) Play badly, and get away with it. (The expert will spend the next few boards wondering how to get even.)
2) Getting a count, then making the antipercentage play. (Missing a crucial queen and finding that the suit splits $4-2$, "apply 2000 volts of electroshock therapy, by playing for the drop!")
\(\left.\begin{array}{|c|}\hline TSAWWASSEN BRIDGE CLUB <br>
\hline Tsawwassen Location: <br>
South Delta Rec. Centre, 1720 56th Street <br>
Mondays at 7:15 pm <br>
OPEN STRATIFIED PAIRS <br>
December 17: Last Game of 2001 <br>
Club reopens January 7, for players not attending the <br>
opening night of the Richmond Regional. <br>
January 21: Upgraded Club Chmpionship <br>
March 11: Charity Game <br>
March 25: Club Championship <br>
Club Champions, December 10: <br>

Linda Wormsworth/Jackie Phillips\end{array}\right\}\)| (66.15\% in a 101/2 table game with eight 1000+ pairs!) |
| :---: |
| Membership Game, November 26 (101/2 tables): |
| Marguerite Wiggins/Gloria Prescott (60\%) |
| Ladner Location: |
| Fisherman's Hall, 4481 Savoy St., Ladner |
| alternate Fridays at 10:30 am |
| January 4, 18; February 1, 15; Mareh 8, 22. |
| OPEN STRATIFIED PAIRS |

3) The supreme torture, playing out the claimers. (An editor's note was appended about the impropriety of this practice.) The example took in the bidding as well as the play, advising a player who opens 24 and hears $2 \$$ from partner, showing two of the top three honours and a five card suit, to not bid the laydown 7NT immediately, but instead to carefully make a series of "mystifying forcing bids" with a hand such as KJT $\vee \mathrm{A} \bigcirc \mathrm{AKQJT9}$ AK3.
4) On defense, try to find the only play that will give the expert his contract. (Cash the ace of a side suit against a slam and then lead away from a king. With the ace in dummy and the queen in hand, no expert will believe you have done this.)

The It's Your Bid contest was scored in an unusual way: for all of the hands (all were matchpoint questions) the known results of each possible response were ranked and the scores were based on the success of each possible bid. Each respondent's bid was matchpointed against the others. It seemed like such a good idea at the time, but the wrap-up showed otherwise, I think: "Demonstrating the random nature of matchpoint scoring, this edition's winner is Martin O'Reilly with $791 / 2 \ldots$ Congratulations matchpoint fiends. These results will undoubtedly lead to reinstituting the former scoring method." Dick Simpson was the It's Your Bid under 100 winner. The questions for the next issue all assumed IMP scoring.

An article by Sandra Borg promoted the 1984 Ca nadian Women's Team Trials, to be held in Vancouver. BC Units were requested to charge $\$ 1.00$ extra at Women's Pairs events at their Sectionals to raise the required funds, but the Vancouver Unit (eight men and five women at the time...) voted against doing so,
(continued on page 17)

## East Richmond Bridge Club

7891 Cambie (at River Road), Richmond (Richmond Rod \& Gun Club)<br>Ernie Dietrich 604/936-2298

$\$ 5.00$ entry includes lunch Sundays at $1: 00 \mathrm{pm}$
All special games stratified, most with hand records
December 23: Christmas Party
January 13. March 3: Closed for tournaments
March 10: Club Championship (hand records)
March 17: ACBL-wide Charity Game
Recent Winners:
International Fund Game: Mike Moffatt/Gilbert Lambert Club Appreciation: Tony Remedios/Tove Chen ( $70.67 \%$ ) Membership Game: Peter Morse/Al French ACBL-wide Charity Game: Andy Zorawski/Jerzy Mazur Masterpoint Race Leader (1 month to go): John Horne

## It's Your Bid

## Responses and Scores

Difficult month for me at work; not a lot of time to bring entry sheets to clubs near Matchpointer deadline, and the result is less respondents, only 22 this time. Some people sent their answers by e-mail or even by regular mail, some in the envelope at the Round-Up Sec-tional-and I thank all of the people who responded, by whatever method! I'll try to make another tour of several clubs to get as many responses as I can for next time.

Of the 53 responses, 3 were in Flight A, 10 in Flight B, and 9 in Flight C . One snag was that the fifth problem did not include the words "What is your opening lead?" on the cover, and many thought it was a bidding problem
(despite that the auction was over)! I gave the people who were misled an "average-plus" score of 60 (or their average for the first four questions, whichever was greater). In a generous holiday mood, I even gave the unnamed person who made an insufficient bid a score of 40 (average-minus?).

The scoring system for the contest takes Flight A responses as ten points, Flight B as three, and Flight C as one. The response with the most points is given the award of 100 , and the other awards are decided accordingly to their relative popularity with the consensus choice. In the fourth question the second best option attracted 24 voting points, compared to 30 voting points for the consensus bid. 24 is $80 \%$ of 30 , so that is the award.

Why score by popularity (weighted slightly by flighting)?

Because it is objective! In other bidding contests, a judge is hired to collect the votes and decide which answers get how many points. The judge does so partly by popularity, partly by the comments, perhaps a little by the actual result at the table, and sometimes by the responses of those whose opinions he respects.

I think it's better to limit my role as judge to ensuring that the flights are correct and let the formula decide the results. Sometimes this will go against the table result, but we all know that what is right in theory may not always work in practice! Your mileage may vary.

Nobody scored a perfect 500 this time, but there were some close calls and some-let us sayinteresting calls. Who and what were they? Let's find out:

| 1. (IMPs, $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{S}$ vulnerable.) |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 4 3 ® Q865432 $\bigcirc$ A8732 - |  |  |  |
| West | NORTH | EAST | SoUTH |
|  | 1NT | Pass | ??? |

Everyone bid some form of hearts, but with two transfer bids and a natural heart bid available, what choice is best? How strong is this hand, really?

Mike Hargreaves: $4 \diamond$-transfer. Magic cards make six, buit my partners never hold them.

The Hideous Hog (in Training): 2凶. In the eighties we had a saying: $5-5$, come alive. With $6-5$, do the lambada. With $7-5$, you can completely ignore high card points and treat this hand as a slam try.

Pauline Lee: $2 \diamond$ transfer, followed by $3 \diamond$. After partner's next bid cue bid the clubs as a further slam try.

Julien Lévesque: $2 \diamond$. Game is there, but what about a slam? Transfer and see if partner gets excited.

Gord McOrmond: $2 \diamond$ transfer, planning to probe for slam with $3 \diamond$. This hand has enormous possibilities and only requires a few right cards from partner to make 6 or even 7:

## $\pm A x x \vee A K x x \diamond K x \& J x x x$

Unfortunately this type of hand is so rare it is difficult to describe it accurately and partner will assume I
have more points than I do.
Larry Meyer: 20. Transfer to hearts, then raise to four. If partner has...

$$
\leftrightarrow K Q J x \diamond K x \diamond J x x * K Q J x
$$

...then we likely go down, but if he has something like...

## \& Axxx $\vee A K x \diamond K x ~ J x x x$

...then we likely make six, maybe even seven. Aim for the middle.

Harold Hansen: 20, Jacoby transfer. Possible slam or grand slam with the right fit.

| Call | A | B | C | Total <br> Votes | Total <br> Points | Award |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | ---: |
| $2 \diamond$ | 2 | 9 | 5 | 16 | 52 | 100 |
| $4 \diamond$ | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 15 | 29 |
| $3 \diamond$ | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 |

Source: Unknown-submitted without a source. Nor is it known how Larry Meyer and Gord McOrmond imagined almost exactly the same hand! Since the $3 \varnothing$ response is virtually unknown in this day and age, maybe this is the type of hand to apply it to!
(It's Your Bid, continued from page 25)

| 2. (Matchpoints, they're vul.) |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| West | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| 2NT | 44 | $5 \bigcirc$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 14 } \\ & \text { ??? } \end{aligned}$ |

Has partner got enough to justify bidding on? To justify doubling? Or should we pass and let partner decide what to do? And what about that second suit?

The Hideous Hog (in Training): 50. This might not end it, so I'm using a chance to further describe my hand-might be useful information for partner to know if they keep bidding.

Pauline Lee: $5 毋$. Show the second major suit and prepare for a sacrifice.

Gord McOrmond: 54. Maybe I can make it, maybe it's a save. Wouldn't bother to show my hearts as partner is showing a playing strength hand in spades. My big worry is that they bid 60 . Do I save?

Julien Lévesque: Pass. Let partner decide whether to defend or declare; too much to be lost by a unilateral choice.

Larry Meyer: Pass. I'm not eager to bid on with no aces, and partner may have bid on shape alone. The $K \diamond$ is probably more useful on defense than offense. If partner bid 4 on values, he can double.

Harold Hansen: Pass. Partner has a bid.

| Call | A | B | C | Total <br> Votes | Total <br> Points | Award |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | ---: |
| Pass | 2 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 33 | 100 |
| 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 18 | 55 |
| 50 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 14 | 42 |
| Double | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 9 |

Source: Online bridge. Partner held this hand:

$$
\text { \& AT853 } \vee J T 5 \diamond 64 * K 98
$$

With both minor suit kings onside, East-West are cold for $6 \diamond$ ! North-South can make nine tricks in spades (or hearts) for a decent sacrifice. A good illustration of why the actual hand is not as relevant as the complete set of possible hands partner may have.

Some may have noted that there is one less response for this deal. I gave an "average-minus" score of 40 for the answer of 4 NT , a unique and crafty solution that is likely to get the Director called, but will

Leaderboard: David Hooey, Harold Hansen, Julien Lévesque and Lanty Meyer have 200 each.

| 3. (Matchpoints, both vul.) |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - T9863 ○ 3 - KT984 Q9 |  |  |  |
| West | NORTH | EAST | South |
|  |  | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | $1 \stackrel{ }{ }$ | 24 | Pass |
| Pass | Double | Pass | ??? |

It might be better to have bid $2 \diamond$ here (as mentioned by several) at our first turn, but having passed we now have a new possibility: a potential spade fit to go with the diamond fit! How good can a twicepassed hand get?

The Hideous Hog (in Training): 24. Every time I bid $2 \diamond$ with these hands, partner has opened with 4-4-3-2. I'll take the risk that he has some awkward hand without good spades and try to improve on the predictable diamond contract the field will be in.

Mike Hargreaves: Is this a misprint? Who made me pass 2 ? 3 now, but I hate it.

Harold Hansen: 2\$. I would have bid $2 \diamond$ over 2. Partner should have tolerance for spades. It's matchpoints.

Gord McOrmond: 2 . Good thing I wasn't at the table because I probably would have lost the spade suit.

Pauline Lee: $3 \boldsymbol{\perp}$, inviting game if partner has good spades.

Julien Lévesque: 4 . Should be there, I expect to lose two clubs and one other trick.

Larry Meyer: 24. I'm taking partner's double to indicate extra values and tolerance for other suits. If he raises spades, I would carry on to 4 because of the double fit.

Source: Online bridge again, but in checking the

| Call | A | B | C | Total <br> Votes | Total <br> Points | Award |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | ---: |
| $2 \Delta$ | 2 | 6 | 7 | 15 | 45 | 100 |
| 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 16 | 36 |
| 20 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 11 |
| $4 \Delta$ | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 7 |

records I find that I switched South's minor suits! (Maybe this makes the pass of 24 easier to understand.) The North hand was...

$$
\text { \& } \mathrm{J} 75 \text { ○KQJT } \diamond \text { AK642 } ~=3
$$

... which may be a little lighter than some of us expected, but would you really sell out to 2 with this
hand? At matchpoints?
Leaderboard: David Hooey, Harold Hansen, and Larry Meyer are still perfect at 300 , with Sheila Stanton, Gord McOrmond, and Nick \& Janis Parker (a tag team entry) close behind at 255.

|  |  |  |  |  | 4. | (Matchpoints, N-S vul.) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 65 | ® QJ5 | $\diamond$ AQ972 |  |  |  | T52

What to shoot for, +600 risking -100 if 3 NT cannot be made, or +800 risking +100 or maybe +200 if partner cannot reopen with a double?

Larry Meyer: Double. Not enough strength to consider 3NT, and I don't want partner competing further in spades.

The Hideous Hog (in Training): 3NT. These cards have to be worth something: partner may pass hands where game is on if I touch another green card.

Mike Hargreaves: Pass. Since double is takeout, what else is there?

Harold Hansen: Double. Good chance for a plus score, and warns partner you have a defensive hand with short spades.

Julien Lévesque: Pass. Why give the gig up-if partner reopens with a double I sit it for +800 .

Gord McOrmond: Pass. Hope partner can reopen with a double, if not I will take my plus or raise 36 to 4 . A reopening bid of $3 \triangle$ by partner will give me a problem and I will probably raise to $4 \triangle$ on the theory he has a weakish two-suiter without clubs.

| Call | A | B | C | Total <br> Votes | Total <br> Points | Award |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | ---: |
| Pass | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 30 | 100 |
| Double | 1 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 24 | 80 |
| 3NT | 0 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 15 | 50 |

Source: Online bridge again, and once again I mixed up the minor suits by accident. (I'll have to continue this tactic, it seems to make for interesting problems!) Partner held this hand:

Leaderboard: Larry Meyer and Harold Hansen are the leaders after four questions with 380 . Gord McOrmond is close behind at 355, David Hooey has 350 , and the Parkers have 335.
5. (Rubber Bridge, none vul.)
\& KQJ9875 $\vee$ K962 $\diamond T \geqslant 3$

| West | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 10 | $3 \$$ |
| Pass | 4 | 5 | $5 \$$ |
| Double | Pass | 64 | Pass |
| 60 | Pass | Pass | Pass |

What is your opening lead?
The Hideous Hog (in Training): 3s. At the table anyone might lead a spade if feeling conservative, but I want a good score and in a contest like this the obvious just isn't on.

Julien Lévesque: Somebody is void in spades and it ain't our side. I lead the KY and hope for partner to hold the ace or the queen-jack plus one other trick. Go for timing, then pray to the gods of bridge.

Larry Meyer: To. Reduce dummy's ability to ruff.
Mike Hargreaves: 2ワ. (Guessing.)
Harold Hansen: 20 . Partner could have the ace and a minor suit winner. Declarer is probably void in spades and can discard a singleton heart on the A.

| Lead | A | B | C | Total <br> Votes | Total <br> Points | Award |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | ---: |
| $2 \otimes$ | 2 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 31 | 100 |
| 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 39 |
| K | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 16 |
| T $\diamond$ | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 13 |
| K $\nabla$ | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 10 |

Source: You guessed it, minor suits switched again from an online hand. Not that it matters much when the hand is $1-1$ in the minors. East is $0-2-6-5$ and you must cash two heart tricks before he gets a pitch on the $A \leqslant$.

The Final Tally: Harold Hansen wins two sectional free plays with a score of 480 . Leading Flight B and C for one sectional and one Unit Game free play is David Hooey with a score of 450 . The next highest in Flight C, for a pair of Unit Game free plays, is Ann Turner with 365 . These were the players completing the top 10:

Gord McOrmond (444), Gilbert Lambert (422), Larry Meyer (393), Mike Hargreaves (365), Alice Thomas (354), Waldemar Jez (353) and Nick \& Janis Parker (351). Thanks again to all those who responded; for the problems on the cover this time I'll try to get the suits right!

## Flight A IMP League Standings

Favorites take early lead; no undefeated teams early on except the no-shows.
This report includes all reported matches thru December 10, 2001.
For match scores, schedules, contact information, and current standings, visit Brad Bart's excellent
IMP League Web Page at http://www.cs.sfu.ca/~bbart/personal/IMPS
The ten teams in Flight A play a complete round-robin of nine matches, and the top four teams make the playoffs. There is no masterpoint limit in Flight A.

Nine of the ten teams in Flight A have paid the $\$ 36$ entry fee which (minus the sanction fee) goes into the Unit subsidy fund. Only Goldstone remains unpaid at this point, which is why they are ranked at the bottom. Goldstone and Foster are in danger of being disqualified for allowing late matches to accumulate.

MP Seed rankings are the ranks given by the anonymous Matchpointer prognosticator from the October issue. Octane Level is an indicator of the average margin: lower numbers indicate teams that play a lot of close matches. The probabilities in the rightmost columns were generated by a computer program called Whizbang that simulated the remaining matches in the season 25,000 times, using results so far and the preseason predictions to set predicted team strengths. Whizbang is limited to matches in the regular season and refuses to predict playoff results. Whizbang predicts that 149 VPs will be required in Flight A to make the playoffs.

| TeamCaptain | Record W-L-T | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Total } \\ & \text { VPs } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { VP } \\ \text { Avg. } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { IMP } \\ & \text { Avg. } \end{aligned}$ | Octane Level | Late Matches | $\begin{aligned} & \text { MP } \\ & \text { Seed } \end{aligned}$ | Whizbang's probability of finishing |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1st | Top Two | Playoffs |
| Divinsk | 2-1-0 | 59 | 19.67 | +26.67 | 45.9 | 1 | 1st | 28.699\% | 49.462\% | 78.089\% |
| Maksymetz | 1-1-0 | 38 | 19.00 | +33.50 | 56.5 | 1 | 8th | 13.743\% | 27.595\% | 56.174\% |
| Ballantine | 2-1-0 | 55 | 18.33 | +11.67 | 18.4 | 0 | 4th | 22.211\% | 42.142\% | 73.537\% |
| Lindsar | 2-1-0 | 48 | 16.00 | +0.67 | 44.3 | 1 | 2nd | 17.375\% | 36.635\% | 69.065\% |
| Takemori | 1-2-0 | 44 | 14.67 | +5.00 | 33.6 | 0 | 7th | 1.320\% | 4.372\% | 16.775\% |
| Strebinger | 1-1-0 | 26 | 13.00 | -13.00 | 41.1 | 1 | 9th | 6.276\% | 15.699\% | 40.062\% |
| House | 1-1-0 | 20 | 10.00 | -36.50 | 56.0 | 1 | 6th | 0.860\% | 2.472\% | 9.792\% |
| Russeut | 0-2-0 | 10 | 5.00 | -50.00 | 50.0 | 1 | 10th | 0.096\% | 0.420\% | 2.552\% |
| Foster | 0-0-0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.0 | *3* | 3rd | 4.768\% | 10.732\% | 27.159\% |
| (Goldstone) | 0-0-0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.0 | * 3 * | 5th | 4.648\% | 10.464\% | 26.779\% |

## FLIGHT A TEAM ROSTERS

- Aidan Ballantyne, Katrin Litwin, Mike Wilson, Peter MacLean, Audrey \& Jim Norman.
$\bigcirc$ Nathan Divinsky, Gord Davis, Dan Jacob, Don Brazeau, Larry Hicks, John Hurdle.
$\diamond$ Rhonda Foster, Greg Arbour, Gerry McCully, Marcia \& Richard Christie.
- Bill Goldstone, Steve Clements, Gray McMullin, Marylou Bert.
- Dave House, Laurence Betts, Ron Ohmart, Martin Henneberger, Paul \& Carol Waters.
$\bigcirc$ Cam Lindsay, Ron Borg, Paul Hagen, Dave Waterman, Martin O'Reilly, Cam Doner.
- Bryan Maksymetz, Gord \& Doreen McOrmond, Don Sache, Jean Groome, Doug Hansford.
* Brian Russell, Andrew Ross, Samantha Nystrom, Mark Eddy.
- Judy Strebinger, Jenny Ballantyne, Duane Tilden, Jim Lenobel, Dan Watson, Gary Phelan.
P Mike \& Ben Takemori, Mike Dimich, Bob Gerrie, Dennis Dohl, Larry Pocock.


## Flight X IMP League Standings

## Blitzskis galore as Jez starts in overdrive; Sache and Bodiak also undefeated.

This report includes all reported matches thru December 10, 2001.
For match scores, schedules, contact information, and current standings, visit Brad Bart's excellent IMP League Web Page at http://ww.cs.sfu.ca/~bbart/personal/IMPS

The nine teams in Flight X play a complete round-robin of eight matches, and the top four teams make the playoffs. All players and emergency substitutes in Flight X must be under 5000 MP as of September 1, 2001.

Eight of the nine teams in Flight X have paid the $\$ 36$ entry fee which (minus the sanction fee) goes into the Unit subsidy fund. We have not received the entry fee from Bodlak, but we expect the effect of seeing themselves in last place while undefeated will rectify this in short order. No teams are falling too far behind.

MP Seed rankings are the ranks given by the anonymous Matchpointer prognosticator from the October issue. Octane Level is an indicator of the average margin: lower numbers indicate teams that play a lot of close matches. The probabilities in the rightmost columns were generated by a computer program called Whizbang that simulated the remaining matches in the season 25,000 times, using results so far and the preseason predictions to set predicted team strengths. Whizbang is limited to matches in the regular season and refuses to predict playoff results. Whizbang predicts that 130 VPs will be required in Flight X to make the playoffs.

| Team Captain | Record W-L-T | Total VPs | VP Avg. | IMP Avg. | Octane Level | Late Matches | $\begin{aligned} & \text { MP } \\ & \text { Seed } \end{aligned}$ | Whizbang's probability of finishing 1st Top Two Playoffs |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| JEZ | 3-0-0 | 71 | 23.67 | +42.33 | 54.6 | 0 | 8th | 33.947\% | 60.050\% | 88.600\% |
| Sache | 2-0-0 | 44 | 22.00 | $+22.50$ | 23.2 | 0 | 3rd | 27.815\% | 51.850\% | 84.009\% |
| Morse | 2-1-0 | 52 | 17.33 | +10.33 | 27.1 | 0 | 2nd | 3.160\% | 9.984\% | 36.187\% |
| Prediger | 1-2-0 | 39 | 13.00 | $-6.67$ | 21.6 | 0 | 9th | 2.164\% | 8.640\% | 39.014\% |
| Moffatt | 0-2-0 | 18 | 9.00 | -17.50 | 20.4 | 0 | 5th | 1.332\% | 4.964\% | 25.731\% |
| Skoropada | 0-1-0 | 9 | 9.00 | -18.00 | 18.0 | 1 | 4th | 2.736\% | 8.468\% | 31.171\% |
| Isfeld | 0-3-0 | 22 | 7.33 | -28.33 | 29.6 | 0 | 6th | 0.024\% | 0.180\% | 3.188\% |
| Danielsen | 0-2-0 | 11 | 5.50 | -52.50 | 65.1 | 1 | 7th | 0.116\% | 0.552\% | 4.988\% |
| (BODLAK) | 3-0-0 | 64 | 21.33 | $+20.00$ | 22.0 | 0 | 1st | 28.703\% | 55.306\% | 87.097\% |

## FLIGHT X TEAM ROSTERS

- Stan Bodlak, Pearl Minkoff, Waldemar Jez, Gregorz © Tom Prediger, Ken Lochang, Sandi White, David Walker, Barszcz, Ewa Wroblewicz, Andrej Arun Chopra, Fred Brown. Cheryl Brander, Christina Jacob. Zorawski.
$\nabla$ Ken Danielsen, Isabel Mike Moffatt, John Horne, Chernoff, Pat Wotherspoon, Chris Debbie Williams, Vicki Croome. Maylin, Chris Robbins.
$\diamond$ Dianne Isfeld, Tove Chen, $\vee$ Peter Morse, Claire Burns, Al Nigel Fulbrook, Gus Axen, Diane \& Bernice French, John DemeuleAyukawa, Jeremy Crowhurst. meester.
* Sheila SACHE, Gilbert Lambert, Ron Fox, Sherman Kwan, Terry \& Fran Gould.

Garry Skoropada, Larry Chow, Dan Webster, Brad Fletcher, Flora Tereposky.

# Flight B IMP League Standings 

Results mostly according to form so far; Lai defies predictors with 3-1 start.
This report includes all reported matches thru December 10, 2001.
For match scores, schedules, contact information, and current standings, visit Brad Bart's excellent IMP League Web Page at http://www.cs.sfu.ca/~bbart/persona1/IMPS

The nine teams in Flight B play a complete round-robin of nine matches, and the top four teams make the playoffs. All players and emergency substitutes in Flight B must be under 1500 MP as of September I, 2001.

All teams in Flight B have paid the $\$ 36$ entry fee which (minus the sanction fee) goes into the Unit subsidy fund. So far, no teams are behind schedule.

MP Seed rankings are the ranks given by the anonymous Matchpointer prognosticator from the October issue. Octane Level is an indicator of the average margin: lower numbers indicate teams that play a lot of close matches. The probabilities in the rightmost columns were generated by a computer program called Whizbang that simulated the remaining matches in the season 25,000 times, using results so far and the preseason predictions to set predicted team strengths. Whizbang is limited to matches in the regular season and refuses to predict playoff results. Whizbang predicts that 131 VPs will be required in Flight B to make the playoffs.

| Team <br> Captain | Record <br> W-L-T | Total <br> VPs | VP <br> Avg. | IMP <br> Avg. | Octane <br> Level | Late <br> Matches | MP <br> Seed | Whizbang's probability of finishing <br> 1st <br> Top Two <br> Playoffs |  |  |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| BALDYS | $2-0-0$ | 50 | $\mathbf{2 5 . 0 0}$ | +55.00 | 66.9 | 0 | 1st | $51.038 \%$ | $71.665 \%$ | $91.648 \%$ |
| MEYER | $2-1-0$ | 58 | $\mathbf{1 9 . 3 3}$ | +24.67 | 44.0 | 0 | 3rd | $\mathbf{1 5 . 7 9 1 \%}$ | $37.035 \%$ | $73.625 \%$ |
| ANGUS | $2-1-0$ | 58 | $\mathbf{1 9 . 3 3}$ | +22.33 | 52.4 | 0 | 2nd | $16.211 \%$ | $38.242 \%$ | $74.873 \%$ |
| LAI | $3-1-0$ | 70 | $\mathbf{1 7 . 5 0}$ | +3.75 | 41.9 | 0 | 8th | $6.720 \%$ | $21.699 \%$ | $59.894 \%$ |
| BART | $1-1-0$ | 32 | $\mathbf{1 6 . 0 0}$ | +5.00 | 22.6 | 0 | 7th | $7.824 \%$ | $22.959 \%$ | $54.746 \%$ |
| MORSE | $2-1-0$ | 42 | $\mathbf{1 4 . 0 0}$ | -16.00 | 44.1 | 0 | 4th | $2.144 \%$ | $7.784 \%$ | $31.503 \%$ |
| FETTERLEY | $1-2-0$ | 28 | $\mathbf{9 . 3 3}$ | -36.67 | 58.3 | 0 | 9th | $0.088 \%$ | $0.736 \%$ | $6.280 \%$ |
| CROSS | $0-3-0$ | 27 | $\mathbf{9 . 0 0}$ | -18.00 | 21.1 | 0 | 6th | $0.128 \%$ | $0.580 \%$ | $4.968 \%$ |
| TJEBBES | $0-3-0$ | 25 | $\mathbf{8 . 3 3}$ | $\mathbf{- 2 1 . 3 3}$ | 21.7 | 0 | 5 th | $0.052 \%$ | $0.292 \%$ | $2.448 \%$ |

## FLIGHT B TEAM ROSTERS

Claire Way, Kenny Chan, H.K. Ho, Julia Barsel.
$\vee$ Les Baldys, Don Sharp, Patti Adams, Sandra Robson, Betty Jackson.
$\diamond$ Brad Bart, David Breton, Ross Lam, Victor Finberg, Kelvin Raywood.

- Monica Angus, Kathy Bye, Brian Cross, Peggy Ross, $\stackrel{\text { Larry Meyer, Rod Coote, Jim }}{ }$ Karin Dunlop, Carol-Ann Halliday, David Hooey.
\& Geoff Fetterley, Brenda Cameron, Joan Steuart, Linda Bell. $\%$ Samuel Lai, Kam Tang, An- $\leqslant$ Maarten Tjebiees, Jim Kerr, drew Nalos, Grant Gayman, Gary \& Faye Gilraine.

McKenzie, Dick Simpson, Bob Takishita, Ted Trerise.

* Greg Morse, Andy Hellqvist, Richard Dunn, Bruce McIntyre.


## FLIGHT C TEAM ROSTERS

- Charlotte Alekson, Gerald Paul, Adam Moszczynski, Greg Kaznowski.
$\%$ Stuart CARR, Brian, Colin \& Doreen Ransom, Barry Yama-
30 nouchi, Cathy Miller.
$\diamond$ Judy Christensen, Dawn Smith, Susan Mitchell, Janice Barr, Ruth Winkler, Chloe Clark.
- Bernie Hoeschen, Adelina Wong-Chor, Myra Johnston, Yvonne Drane, Marlene Powell, Gail Heuchart.
- Sandra Poggemiller, Dave Hicks, Brian Wilding, Flora So, Bruce Partridge, Kristina Bohdanowicz.
$\%$ Alice \& Gary Thomas, Anna \& Jan Ochnio, Bonnie \& Gerry Purcell.


## Flight C IMP League Standings

## Hoeschen, Carr win big; predicted favorite Thomas lose close one to Alekson

This report includes all reported matches thru December 10, 2001.
For match scores, schedules, contact information, and current standings, visit Brad Bart's excellent IMP League Web Page at http://wmw.cs.sfu.ca/~bbart/personal/IMPS

The six teams in Flight C play a complete round-robin of five matches, and the top three teams make the playoffs. All players and emergency substitutes in Flight C must be under 500 MP and non-Life Masters as of September 1, 2001. (There is a second strat for teams with all players under 100 MP (on September 1, 2001) but there may actually be no teams eligible! Three have players over 100 MP in the Unit's January 2001 listing, and the other three have players with over 80 MP who probably reached 100 MP by September 1.)

All teams in Flight C except the Christensen team have paid the $\$ 24$ entry fee which (minus the sanction fee) goes into the Unit subsidy fund. So far, no teams are behind schedule.

MP Seed rankings are the ranks given by the anonymous Matchpointer prognosticator, on page 10. Octane Level is an indicator of the average margin: lower number indicate teams that play a lot of close matches. The probabilities in the rightmost columns were generated by a computer program called Whizbang that simulated the remaining matches in the season 25,000 times, using results so far and the preseason predictions to set predicted team strengths. Whizbang is limited to matches in the regular season and refuses to predict playoff results. Whizbang predicts that 79 VPs will be required in Flight C to make the playoffs. Rosters are on page 30.

| Team Captain | Record W-L-T | Total VPs | VP Avg. | IMP <br> Avg. | Octane Level | Late Matches | MP <br> Seed | Whizbang's probability of finishing1st Top Two Playoffs |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Hoeschen | 1-0-0 | 22 | 22.00 | $+22.00$ | 22.0 | 0 | 4th | 20.983\% | 50.890\% | 71.513\% |
| Carr | 1-0-0 | 21 | 21.00 | $+20.00$ | 20.0 | 0 | 2nd | 54.126\% | 75.389\% | 87.852\% |
| Alekson | 1-0-0 | 18 | 18.00 | +6.00 | 18.0 | 0 | 3rd | 14.827\% | 35.703\% | 58.798\% |
| THOMAS | 0-1-0 | 12 | 12.00 | -6.00 | 12.0 | 0 | 1st | 6.444\% | 21.699\% | 41.670\% |
| (CHRISTENSEN) | 0-1-0 | 9 | 9.00 | -20.00 | 9.0 | 0 | 5th | 0.176\% | 2.580\% | 9.480\% |
| Poggemiluer | 0-1-0 | 8 | 8.00 | -22.00 | 8.0 | 0 | 6th | 3.440\% | 13.731\% | 30.675\% |

(Only Yesterday, continued from page 32)
teams did very well, ending in the top eight of the original 36, but still behind many of the teams that began in the knockout.

Poor attendance at Unit events from JulySeptember 1986 (an effect of Expo perhaps?) caused the Board to put subsidies and hospitality on hold for the rest of 1986-87. For the next five years, the financial situation of Unit 430 was a major priority. The Unit created a subsidy policy instead of deciding who to fund on a case-by-case basis, and there was a push to maximize revenues at tournaments by a slight increase in entry fees and better promotion. (The beginning of stratification probably helped boost attendance a lot in the late eighties and early nineties.) Today the Unit is on a healthy enough financial footing that we can handle the fluctuations in attendance and revenues and costs without too much trouble.

The play of Mike Strebinger in Miami earned him a mention in the bridge column of the New York Times:

| 15 Years Ago in | NORTH | 3NT by South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| the N.Y. Times | - 53 | Lead: 24 |
| Mike Strebinger | ¢ $4 K 3$ 0 Q97642 | Ron Borg |
| QT72 | - Q7 | K984 |
| OJ542 | SOUTH | 5 Q 7 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \hat{0} \text { KT } \\ & 4 \quad \mathrm{~T} 96 \end{aligned}$ | - AJ 6 | - J83 |
|  | \% T986 | $\underline{1} 1843$ |

Mike led the $2 \Phi$ and partner Ron Borg played the king. Declarer won and played the $\mathrm{A} \diamond$. Mike jettisoned the king, creating an entry to his partner's hand, and the result was nine tricks instead of eleven!
(continued on page 24)

## Special Events Recap

## supplied by Larry Meyer

NAOP: The North American Open Pairs District Final was held in Tacoma on December 1. Results are in the winners lists on page 35. If any local pair is invited to attend the Spring NABC in Houston to play in the NABC Final without ACBL subsidy, they may apply for a small Unit subsidy.

GNT: The Grand National Teams District Final is split this year. The Vancouver Bridge Centre will hold the unlimited championship event and the Flight B (0-2000 MP) event, beginning Friday evening, April 5 with a Swiss Teams qualifier, followed by knockouts beginning Saturday evening and concluding Sunday. Two weeks later in Seattle, the Flight A (0-5000 MP) and Flight C ( $0-500 \mathrm{MP}$, non Life Master) will be held. If you do not qualify for the national final (in July in Washington DC) at the VBC, you can attempt to qualify in Seattle!

But to play in the District Final you need to qual-
(Only Yesterday, continued from page 36)
Syd Minkoff was remembered by David Walker in a fond article. One highlight was a Syd coup: bidding 50 to push the opponents to $5 \stackrel{s}{s}$, then finding the only defence to beat it: leading the singleton $A \nabla$, then underleading from $\diamond$ AKQJT97 to get a heart ruff from partner, who luckily had the $8 \diamond$, played it, and then returned a heart!

Seven teams consisting of at least one player under 100 masterpoints, no more than two Life Masters and no more than one player over 1000 masterpoints, won the Andy Nagy Trophy in an interclub team competition. The winning team, representing the East Richmond Bridge Club, was Les Baldys, Madeleine Becker, Ken Cowherd, and Marian Zarychta.

Liz Hicks reported this story about Dave Glen, a former Vancouver player living in California. In the third round of a Midnight Swiss, Dave got up as dummy and visited "the facilities." These included the men's room, and then the bar, and by the time he returned to the table, a kibitzer, rumoured to be Brian Russell, had bid his hand for him. Dave was handed a 16 count with จAQJxx as he sat down.
"Contract is $3 \varnothing$ doubled," said the kibitzer nonchalantly.

This being the third round of the Midnight Swiss, we can assume that Dave was well-known to the bartender by this time. "OK, come and get me," he said defiantly. "I wanna see this dummy, pard!"

Stunned silence. Dave's partner fell off the chair
ify at a club qualifying game. The VBC has scheduled two: Monday, February 25 at 7:30 (Flight C will be separate), and Thursday, March 21 at 7:30 (stratified, all flights). Since two of the four strats District Final are to be held in Vancouver, we encourage all clubs to consider holding a qualifying game, and we hope many teams will compete!

CWTC: A tentative date and place of Saturday, May 4 at the Vancouver Bridge Centre has been set for the B.C. Zone Final. More next time.

CNTC: A tentative date and place of Saturday, March 30-31 at the Vancouver Bridge Centre has been set for the B.C. Zone Final. More next time. Until then, make sure you qualify at the club level, the last chance is January 5 at the VBC.

COPC: The qualifying period is effectively over, although clubs may run a qualifying game until the end of December. If you run a qualifying game, please contact Larry Meyer with the results, since the highest score in Unit 430 in club qualifying games is eligible for a Unit subsidy to attend the national final in Edmonton next June.

laughing. Dave's RHO paled visibly.<br>"Dave," said the kibitzer. "You're on lead."

## 15 years ago in the Matchpointer

(December 1986, Lauren Miller, editor)
In the 1986 Phil Wood race, Dan Jacob held off Dave Waterman's charge by finishing second to Waterman's team in the Swiss Teams finale at the Round-Up, taking the title by three points. Connie Delisle won the Edie Bonnell by five points over Elaine Ryan. Rob Crawford won the Phil Wood Under 200 Trophy by seven points over Peter Hupka.

The highlight of this issue was the diary recorded by Lauren Miller, in Miami for the 1986 World Bridge Federation Olympiad. A four session mixedpairs was followed by a week-long team event for the Rosenblum Cup. 136 seeded teams were placed into the knockouts and 36 also-rans began what sounds like the longest Swiss Teams ever. Teams knocked out of the knockouts entered the Swiss Teams with a score of $75 \%$, and the top five teams in the Swiss, three long days later, advanced to a mini-knockout with the losers of the semifinals and finals in the main knockout. Three teams from this mini-knockout would join the main knockout winner in the final four, while the Swiss Teams went on, and on, and on.

The setup made it next to impossible for the teams which started in the Swiss Teams to win, as every day more teams would enter the event at $75 \%$ of the possible VPs to that point. But the four unseeded local
(continued on page 31)

# Special Events in a Box 

For more information, contact Unit Co-Ordinator Larry Meyer (271-8692) Larry.Meyer@BCHydro.bc.ca

| EVENT | Qualifying Club Level Games | Unit Final | ict or Final | Final | Subsidies Available |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| COPC Canadian Open Pairs Championship | Clubs may run COPC qualifying games from Sept 1-Dec 31. | No Unit or Zone Final. Any two CBF members may play in the National Final, but if you don't qualify at the club level, buy-in fee is $\$ 100$. |  | Canadian Bridge <br> Federation 2002 <br> Bridge Week: <br> Edmonton $A B$ <br> June $18-25$ <br> COPC: <br> June 22-23 <br> CNTC Flight A: <br> June 18-25 <br> CNTC Flight B: <br> June $18-22$ <br> CWTC: <br> June $18-22$ | About \$1100 in Unit subsidy fund, also a CBF subsidy. |
| CNTC <br> Canadian National Ieam Championship <br> Flight A unlimited Flight B 0-1000 | or 2 session qualifying games from Sept. 1-Jan. 7. | none | Tentatively scheduled for March 30-31 at the VBC, Noon/TBA; captain's system discussion, 11am. |  | \$219 in Unit subsidy fund, also a CBF subsidy. |
| CWTC <br> Canadian Women's <br> Teams Championship | There are no club or unit qualifying games. Any team of female CBF members may enter the Zone Final. |  | Tentatively scheduled for Sat. May 4th at the VBC, Noon/TBA; captain's system discussion, 1lam. |  | \$214 in Unit subsidy fund. No CBF subsidy. |
| GNT <br> Grand National Teams <br> Championship <br> Flight:Unlimited <br> Flight A 0-5000 <br> Flight B 0. 2000 <br> flight C $0-500$ NLM | 2002 qualifying period starts in fall 2001. Watch for club qualifying games. |  | Championship Flight and Flight B: April 5-7 at the VBC. Failed to qualify? Try again two weeks later! Flights A and C: April 19-21 in Seattle. | Summer NABC: <br> Washington DC <br> July 18-28, 2002 <br> (all flights). | \$400/team from DINO, \$168 in Unit subsidy. |
| NAOP <br> North American Open Pairs <br> Flight A unlimited <br> filight 80.2000 <br> Flight C $0-500$ NLM | Qualfying period for next year's event begins in June 2002. | Fall 2002 | Held December 1 in Tacoma. See winners list on page 35 . | Spring NABC: Houston TX, Mar. 7-17, 2002. | Teams 3rd in District Final split \$416 Unit subsidy. (ACBL pays top two.) |

Information on CBF events above is based on the 2001 conditions-there may be slight changes for 2002. NEW! CBF Canada West STaC: February 18-24. Silver points at your local club!
CBF Rookie Master Games: Thursday, April 25 and Wednesday, October 30, 2002.

## Central Richmond Bridge Club

7891 Cambie Road, Richmond (Rod \& Gun Club) coffee \& goodies computer scoring

Albert Yallouz 604/321-1891
Wednesdays at 7:30 pm sharp
February 13: Club Championship
Recent Winners:
November 22 Club Championship:
Les Fouks/Ashley Krisman
October 18 Club Appreciation:
Ernie Dietrich/Yuko Fujieda
October 11 District-wide Charity Game: Harry Friedman/Tai Eng

## Unit 430 E-Mail List

## Send your e-mail address!

With more and more people becoming Net-savvy, Carol-Ann Halliday is preparing a list of as many Unit 430 e-mail addresses as possible. She would like local players with Internet access to send their e-mail addresses to her at this address (not by telephone or other means):

## cah@radiant.net

The list of e-mail addresses will not be used to broadcast hourly reports of Unit activities, but the occasional announcement of Unit 430 news may find its way into your mailbox.


## Out-Of-Town Winners

Spring nabc, las Vegas NV November 18-28

| C D | Sunday Evening 50-100 Pairs |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Marla Gropper/Rosalee Hardin |
| A B C | Sunday Afternoon 200/100/50 Pairs |
| 6 | Marla Gropper/Rosalee Hardin |
| A B C | Sunday Morning Side Game |
| 6/73/4 | Alice Thomas |
| A B C | Monday Evening Stratified Swiss |
| 7 | Dot Camegie |
| A B C | 1st Monday Mixed Pairs |
| 4 | Aidan Ballantyne/Katrin Litwin |
| 5 | Grace Jeklin/Doug Hansford |
| 4 | Aban \& Bob Gerrie |
| Rank | Life Master Pairs |
| 14. | Bryan Maksymetz |
| 23. | Dan Jacob |
| 37. | Cam Doner |
| A B C | 1st Monday Fast Open Pairs |
| 51 | Bob Kiggins |
| 6 H | 1st Monday Afternoon 20/10 Pairs |
| 2 | Gail Heuchert |
| A B | 1st Monday Afternoon 300/200 Pairs |
| 52 | Gerry \& Bonnie Purcell |
| A B C | Monday Morning 300/200/50 Pairs |
| 4 | Maria Gropper/Rosalee Hardin |
| Bracket Rank | Bracketed Knockouts I |
| 102 | Alice \& Gary Thomas |
| A 8 | 1st Monday Evening 300/200 Pairs |
| 32 | Gerry \& Bonnie Purcell |
| A B | 1st Monday Evening 100/50 Pairs |
| 2 | Clarence Dodd/Catherine McKinnon |
| Rank | Life Master Womens Pairs |
|  | Kathy Adachi/June Pocock |


| 1 B | Tuesday Evening 5/20 Pairs |
| :---: | :---: |
| 22 | Barb Antonsen/Vema Vass |
| 1 B | Tuesday Evening 50/100 Pairs |
| 22 | Maria Gropper/Rosalee Hardin |
| B C D | Tuesday Stratiflighted Pairs |
| 5 | Greg Morse/Andy Helliqvist |
| A B C | Ist Monday Zip Swiss |
| 2/3 | Dianne Isfeld/Jennifer Ballantyne |
| A B C | Tuesday Morning Side Pairs |
| 2/3 | Alice Thomas |
| A B C | 1st Tuesday Senior Pairs |
| 6 | Bob Kiggins/Don Keith |
| A B | Tuesday Afternoon 100/50 Pairs |
| 11 | Marla Gropper/Rosalee Hardin |
| Rank | Tuesday Morning Bridge + Pair |
| 3. | Barb AntonserNerna Vass |
| A B | Tuesday Atternoon 20/5 Pairs |
| 51 | Scott \& Joan Furness |
| Rank | Open Board-A-Match Teams |
| 10. | Bryan Maksymetz |
| 16. | Greg Arbour |
| 27. | Dan Jacob |


| Rank | Open Board-A-Match Teams (cont) |
| :---: | :---: |
| 31. | Cam Doner |
| 36. | Aidan Ballantyne |
| Bracket Rank Deuces Wild Knockouts |  |
| $113 / 4$ | Alice \& Gary Thomas |
| A B | Wednesday Evening 20/5 Pairs |
| 22 | Maurice Ormon |
| A B C | Wednesday Side Game |
| 6/7 2/3 | Claire Burns/Peter Morse |
| 5 | Kathy Bye |
| A B C | ABA-ACBL Stratified Open Pairs |
| 16 | Larry \& June Pocock |
| B C D | Wednesday StratiFlighted Swiss |
| 5 | Ted Worsfold/lacqueline Phillips |
| A $\times$ | Wednesday StratiFlighted Swiss |
| 16/17 5 | Don Sache/Doug Hansford/Dennis Groden/Danny Lee |
| A 8 | Wednesday Afternoon 20/5 Pairs |
| 2 | Maurice Ormon |
| A B | Wednesday Afternoon 100/50 Pairs |
| 43 | Myra Johnston |
| A B C | Wed. Morning 300/100/50 Pairs |
| $\begin{array}{lll} 211 \\ 4 \end{array}$ | Marla Gropper/Rosalee Hardin Gail Heuchert |
| Bracket Rank | Houston Morning Knockout Teams |
| 32 | Dennis Groden/Sandra Robson |
| A 8 C | Thursday Morning 300/100/50 Pairs |
| 5 | Bonnie \& Gerry Purcell |
| Bracket Rank | Thanksgiving Knockout Teams |
| 32 | Doug Cowan/Terry Scott |
| 41 | John Lien/Liz Stoneman |
| 44 | Peter Morse/Steve Beaton/Anne Scott Claire Burns |
| A B C | Thursday Stratified Swiss |
| 4/5 | Ted Worsfold/lacqueline Phillips |
| A B C | Thursday Evening 50/20/10 Pairs |
| 432 | Maurice Ormon |
| Brackel Rank | Thanksgiving KO Teams Consolation |
| E 2 | Kathy Bye |
| G | Carol-Ann Halliday/Clarence Dodd |
| $J 1$ | Alice \& Gary Thomas |
| A B C | Fri. Evening Board-A-Match Teams |
| 1/2 | Michael Yuen |
| A $X$ | Fridar Stratiflighted Pairs |
| 4 | Gord McOrmond |
| 23 | Jennifer Ballantyne |
| A B | Friday Daylight Open Pairs |
|  | John Lier/Liz Stoneman |
| 5/6 | Greg Morse/Andy Hellqvist |
| A | Friday Evening 300/100 Pairs |
|  | Gina Diamond/Richard Hoffman |
| A B C | Friday Evening 50/20/5 Pairs |
|  | Maurice Ormon |
| Rank | Edgar Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs |
| 23. | Bryan Maksymetz |
| A B C | Sun. Evening Stratified Swiss Teams |
| 5/7 | Michael Yuen |
| A B | Saturday Side Game |
|  | Patricia \& Michael Stickland |


| A B C | Saturday Stratified Open Pairs |
| :---: | :---: |
| 14 | Grace Jeklin/Dennis Groden |
| 12 | Mike \& Ben Takemori |
| A B C | Sat. Afternoon 300/200/100 Pairs |
| 5 | Gerry \& Bonnie Purcell |
| A B C | Saturday Afternoon Side Game |
| 4 | Gloria Allan |
| Bracket Rank | Washginton Knockout Teams |
| $23 / 4$ | Kathy Bye |
| A B | Saturday Morning 300/200/100 Pairs |
| 54 | Gerry \& Bonnie Purcell |
| A B C | 2nd Sunday Early Bird Swiss Teams |
| 3 | Alice Thomas |
| A X | 2nd Sunday Flight AX Pairs |
| 2 | Don Sache Dennis Groden |
| $B C D$ | 2nd Monday B/C/D Pairs |
| 6 | Peter Morse |
| A B C | 2nd Monday Davlight Open Pairs |
| 62 | Gilbert Lambert |
| 4 | Gloria Allan |
| Bracket Rank | Farewell Consolation KO Teams |
| 83 | Alice \& Gary Thomas |
| Bracket Rank | Last Two Days Knockout Teams |
| 2 | Mike \& Ben Takemori |
| Rank | North American Swiss Teams |
| 6. | Gord McOrmond/Dan Jacob |
| B C D | Tuesday Playthrough Swiss Teams |
| 4 | Peter Morse/Claire Burns/Gilbert Lambert |
| 41 | Alice \& Gary Thomas |

## Tacoma Holiday Sectional.

TACOMA WA
November 31-December 2
North American Open Pairs District Final
A3. Brad Bart/Aidan Ballantyne
A4. Bryan Maksymetz/Greg Arbour
B3/4. Bob \& Aban Gerrie
B5. Harold Hansen/Gary Phelan
C2. Chris Maylin/Chris Robbins

| A | X | Sunday Flight AX Swiss Teams |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | Brad Bart, David Breton, Kel Ray- |  |
|  | wood, Ross Lam |  |
| 2 | Kenny Chan, H. K. Ho |  |

In compiling this list I consulted the ACBL Web Page lists of winners at Sectionals, Regionals, and the online NABC Daily Bulletins. (This is much better than the old way of checking results from Daily Bulletins and word of mouth, usually missing the final day entirely.) If you reached the overalls in an Out-Of-Town Sectional or Regional which is not within a day's drive from here, I will miss it unless you let me know the location and date of the tournament.
-McBruce
(Only Yesterday, continued from page 38)
came a Life Master when I earned my silver points playing in a pair game with Dan Watson at the Evergreen Sectional." Still unclear? Read on...

One of my all-time favorite items was pasted onto the Matchpointer mastersheet and photocopied verbatim. The set-up:
"While cleaning up at the Surrey Inn after all the bridge players had left, this pickup slip (along with what was written on the back) was turned in by one of the clean-up crew. We are not sure what this is, but since part of the Matchpointer is meant to be instructive, we thought it would be a good idea to reproduce this anonymous contestant's cheat sheet, as an admonition to developing players. Photo-reduction will render the handwriting illegible, so here are the contents, just in case:"

## !!! SLOW DOWN !!! WHATS YOUR OPENING BID NEXT LISTEN TO OPPONENTS BID SLOW DOWN LISTEN TO PARTNERS BID SLOW DOWN WATCH PARTNERS DISCARD

The punch line: "I must add that the front of the slip records a $50-\mathrm{IMP}$ victory, so..."

The Hideous Hog (in Training) was faced with a difficult problem. Needing five diamond tricks, he had $\diamond$ A8654 in dummy and $\diamond$ KJ72 in hand. He led a small diamond to the ace and LHO played a spade. Your move.

Clue \#4: "After living in Las Vegas for a time, I returned to Vancouver in the fall of 1993, largely giving up the life of a bridge pro. It's pretty tough to make it as a high end bridge player. The Americans don't hand out many green cards to bridge pros." Only one more clue, read on...

HHIT made the same error you did: he looked for the impossible finesse. The "solution" is to play the ace quickly, hoping that LHO has revoked and RHO will follow, establishing the revoke. But if you think that is goofy, wait until you read the whole article and find out how a Director call can be a 'tactical move!' You'll find it on the Web (along with many other fun articles selected by Britain's top Director, David Stevenson) at this site:
http://www.blakjak.demon.co.uk/wrg_vw.htm
Clue \#5: "I decided to start directing and save my energies to go to the Nationals as a player." Surely it must be clear now...

The Matchpointer editor took on the role of Unit Grinch in order to take on the more ugly complaints heard in the grapevine. To the complaints about strat limits, he expressed surprise and amusement that "the very players who place great value on moving up in the masterpoint lists somehow feel penalized when they reach their goal and enter Flight B; you'd never get them to admit that having reached Flight B, they didn't earn it, but this is what their complaints about strata limits imply. You worked so hard to get to the next level but you don't really want to be here? Why the rush then?" Another good reposte responded to the 750 or 1000 point Flight B limits that were normal five years ago, was this: "We are aware that there are some players with four-digit masterpoint holdings who somehow think that exposure to Flight A will damage them. We don't quite understand this."

A new thing in the December Matchpointer in 1996 was Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney lists with a few weeks to go. This idea proved so good we pressed the ACBL to keep the homestretch lists coming.

Enough, McBruce: who was it already! Brian Russell.

## 10 years ago in the Matchpointer (December 1991, David Schmidt, editor)

Marcia Christie won the Phil Wood Trophy for 1991, by ten points over Tony Remedios, with a high overall in the Sunday Swiss at the Round-Up Sectional. She won the Edie Bonnell trophy as well, of course, by 17 points over Joyce Peters. She was a perfect choice for the subject of David Schmidt's Meet The Players feature, where we learned that Marcia became a Life Master at the 1978 Penticton Regional, going 8-0 in a Swiss Teams with Jim Donaldson as partner and teammates Bob Connop and Cam Lindsay. Then there was this quote:
"I moved to Kamloops and went into the bridge club to meet some single guys. I met Gerry McCully, Bob Gerrie and Richard, who were all young, swinging guys."

Marcia Christie's total in the 1991 Edie Bonnell race was the highest in eleven years. She had played in the national final or semi-final of the CWTC four out of the last five years and had organized the Zone Final for most of those years.

At the 1991 Round-Up, the District Final was held on the Saturday again (Vancouver now runs this event once every three years-I'm not sure how 1991 and 1996 fit into the rotation) and the Flight B winners were Chuck and Diane Campbell. Nicci Charleson and Bill Terzianoff won Flight C.
(continued on page 32)

## Monthly Unit Games

## House wins, MUGs move to Richmond

Dave House won the Monthly Unit Game race for the second year in a row, holding onto his five point lead over Laurence Betts. Dave wins free plays to all Monthly Unit games in 2002, and we'll engrave his name on the Monthly Unit Game Trophy again.

Greg Barszcs won the Flight B race, and the Flight C race as well. Greg wins six free plays to Monthly Unit Games in 2002 for the Flight B win. The rules say that you can only win one prize, so the Flight C prize of six free plays to Monthly Unit Games in 2002 goes to the next Flight C player on the list, Greg's usual Polish Club cohort, Waldemar Jez.

Monthly Unit Games are moving to a new site in 2002: the Richmond Rod and Gun Club, the site of Ernie Dietrich's Sunday afternoon game and Albert Yallouz's Wednesday evening game. The first game in 2002 will be Sunday, January 20. The rule of thumb for Monthly Unit Games has changed from "first Sunday" to "second Sunday" to avoid long weekends. (The second Sunday in January is the final day of the Richmond Regional, so the January game will be a week later.) Other games will take place on February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9,
A B C Nov. 4 Monthly Unit Game (for Charity) $(8$ tables)
$\begin{array}{ccc}\text { B } & \text { C } & \text { Nov. } 4 \text { Monthly Unit Game } \\ 1 & 1 & \text { Greg Barszcs/Waldemar Jez }\end{array}$
2 Pat Wotherspoon/Isabel Chernoff
2 Tony Shyu/William Ge
4 Sandra Robson/Jeanette Greenhut
5 Mary Fines/Ev Hodge
5 Gina Diamond/Eugene Chan
3 Patricia Lamb/David Hooey
A B Dec. 9 Monthly Unit Game (for Charity) (9 tables)
11 Dan Webster/Garry Skoropada
Al French/Bob Kiggins
Yuko Fujieda/Ernie Dietrich
2 Janis \& Nick Parker
Dave House/Laurence Betts
3 Sandra Robson/Tai Eng
4 Dianne Isfeld/Ben Takemori
(not enough C pairs for overall awards in Flight C)
A B C Final 2001 MUG Standings ..... Pts.
1 Dave House. ..... 18.90 ..... 13.62
Laurence Betts
Laurence Betts
11 Greg Barszcs ..... 11.82
422 Waldemar Jez ..... 11.41
53 Sandra Robson ..... 8.61
Garry Skoropada ..... 7.02
74 Eugene Chan... ..... 6.76
85 Jeanette Greenhut ..... 6.67
96 Vickl Croome ..... 6.34
96 Mike Moffatt ..... 6.34
118 Tove Chen. ..... 6.29

July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 3, and the 2002 Christmas Party game on Saturday, December 7, at Bonsor Community Centre. The Sunday games will all start at $7: 00 \mathrm{pm}$ so that you can get home at a reasonable time.

Unit Game Coordinators Isabel Chernoff and Pat Wotherspoon are planning a spirited promotion for the new site. They plan to canvas the many nearby Richmond restaurants and try to get special offers and coupons. These will be combined with a calendar showing the dates of all the games, so that you can play Sunday afternoon, visit a participating restaurant for dinner, and come back to play the Monthly Unit Game in the evening. They also plan to institute a "frequent player free play", so your sixth Monthly Unit Game of any calendar year will be free. Games will continue to be stratified, with limits at 2000 MP and non-Life Master (maximum 500 MP ).

The postponed 2001 Unit Christmas Party has been scheduled for Saturday, February 16, at the Bonsor Community Centre. Christmas in February will feature a catered dinner, live music (but not Christmas carols!), bar service, door prizes and a special multi-session Unit Game, all for only $\$ 30$ /pair (single tickets will be available). Tickets will be available at clubs in the next few weeks, and at the Richmond Regional. We hope to see you there!

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## Only Yesterday

## by Bruce McIntyre

The holiday season in the Matchpointer has a special kind of list, lists of leading players in the trophy races. Sometimes there is even a story that goes with them.

## 5 years ago in the Matchpointer <br> (December 1996, Bruce McIntyre, editor)

The Leo Steil Trophy was not introduced until 1997. (Until then your editor had only to contend with figuring out who was female-yes, I have made at least one mistake here!-and who began the year under 200 points. Now I have to gauge people's ages too, and survive the flak when I make a mistake.) In 1996, Dan Jacob won the Phil Wood trophy race by 21 points over Larry Hicks. For the top players, the District Final of the NAOP turned the four day sectional into three days, and the $81 / 2$ point lead Marylou Bert had in the Edie Bonnell race was more than enough. The big Matchpointer story was the fight for the 1996 under 200 trophy, predicted to be a close one after the retirement of two-time champ Michael Neagu the previous year. Kelvin Raywood led by two points going into the sectional, but there was a cast of dozens within striking range. By Friday evening, three sessions into the four day tournament, Sky Williamson had the lead, and after many of the contenders finished play in the NAOP Flight C on Saturday, they discovered that Shirley Fitterman had the lead! Fitterman could not play the Sunday Swiss, leaving Raywood needing mid-overalls to win it, with Williamson a few points further back needing to be first or second. The first match after the break pitted Raywood against Williamson, both on the leader board at 3-1. RAYWOOD won the match and an important losing tie in a later round was just enough to win the trophy by a little more than a point.

The NAOP District Final, held at the sectional, produced winners in Flight A and B. Gord McOrmond and Aidan Ballatyne won Flight A, duplicating their win in the Unit Final. Felipe Hernandez and Michael Neagu won Flight B. In Flight C the winners were from the Seattle area, but Chris Maylin and Chris Robbins narrowly missed a trip to Dallas by 0.06 matchpoints.

Guess this person, interviewed in David Schmidt's Meet The Players feature:

Clue \#1: "We got bumped off the Ping-Pong table at Douglas College and my friend noticed a friend of his from high school playing bridge nearby so we went over and joined in. Two days later, I went to kibitz him at the Fraser

Valley Bridge Club and got thrown into the game when someone needed a partner. We didn't win but I was hooked anyways." Read on..

I don't break many big stories in this gig but in 1996 I got a member of the Seattle Unit Board to tell me how much the Seattle STaC made for the Seattle Unit, and it was 1500 American dollars more than the people running it had admitted-they claimed no significant profit. This forced an apology from me to the VBC, because I had chided the VBC in print for boycotting the Seattle STaC the previous spring. Eugene Chan's original proposal to have the net profits from the annual District-wide STaC was now supported by the Vancouver Unit Board. Seattle's insistence that their administration of the tournament entitled them to all of the profits was met with Vancouver's argument that participation from clubs outside Seattle were the prime reason behind those profits.

Eventually the Vancouver Unit had no choice but to take action. We informed the Seattle Unit that we would not give the necessary permission for our clubs to run the Seattle STaC unless the profits were shared, instead running one of our own with profit sharing. The impasse continued until the Bellingham Sectional in February, and I had a hand in that too. Details next time in this space.

Clue \#2: "I played the community centre circuit: Poco Monday, Burnaby Tuesday, Maple Ridge Wednesday, Fraser Valley Thursday, and Sur-Del Friday, plus a couple of afternoon games every week." Got it yet? Read on...

Joerg Schneider submitted a fascinating hand that requires a world-class play right at the start:

- J72 『AKQJ $\triangle A Q \& A Q J 6$

Th led against 7NT $\triangle$ AQ3 $\vee 853$ - T753 T42
If you play low automatically from dummy, you are going down. East holds the K , but West is 5-1-34 with all of the missing minor-suit honours and will be squeezed out of the intermediate spades as you run the hearts, giving you enough entries in spades to finesse clubs three times. Yes, the 3 wins a trick, if you still have the 2 at trick nine!

John Lien and Liz Stoneman shared the lead in the Monthly Unit Game race with just the Christmas Party Game remaining. As 1996 began John was just under 300 points and therefore eligible for the Flight C race. Would he become the first player to win all three flights since Monthly Unit Game masterpoint races were first stratified in 1994? We'll tell you next time.

Clue \#3: "I won over 300 points in 1990 but only be-
(continued on page 36)

## Tournaments \& Dates

## December 15, 2001 - March 29, 2002

DECEMBER 2001
26-31 Reno Regional
Landary 2002
7.13 Richmond Regional (see insert and page 16)
14-20 Hawaii Regional
18-20 Port Townsend Sectional
20 First Monthly Unit Game at new site: Richmond Rod \& Gun Club (7:00 pm)
25-27 Spokane Sectional
25-27 Portland Sectional
FEBRUARY 2001
30-3 Anchorage Sectional
1-3 Powell River Sectional
10 0-200 Victoria Sectional
10 Monthly Unit Game at Richmond Rod \& Gun Club ( $7: 00 \mathrm{pm}$ )
15-17 Kent Sectional

FEBRUARY 2002 CONT.
16 Christmas In February, the postponed 2001 Unit 430 Christmas Party/dinner, at Bonsor Community Centre. Details, page 37.
18-24 Portland Regional
23-24 Vernon non-LM Sectional
MARCH 2002
1-3 Trophy Sectional at the Engineer's Hall, Burnaby (note corrected date)
7-17 Spring NABC-Houston TX
10 Monthly Unit Game at Richmond Rod and Gun Club (7:00 pm)
22 Matchpointer deadline (Spring issue covers events from March 29-July 31).
29 Matchpointer Spring 2002 issue target release date.

## Unit 430 Main Events

## A One Year Planner

Christmas In February! (rescheduled 2001 Christmas Party) Saturday, February 16, 2002, at the Bonsor Community Centre, Burnaby

Ist annual CBF Canada West STaC (Sectional Tournament at Clubs) Silver points at your local club! February 18 -24, 2002.

2002 Trophy Sectional March 1-3, 2002 at the Engineers Hall, Burnaby (note corrected date)

2002 Future Stars Sectional April 13-14 (note corrected date) at the Vancouver Bridge Centre

2002 Unit 430 -sponsored District-wide STaC (Sectional Toumament at Clubs)
More silver points at local clubs! May 6-12, 2002.

2002 Victoria Day Sectional
May 17-20, 2002 at the Bonsor Community Centre, Burnaby

Unit 430 Annual General Meeting
May 18, 2002, at the Victoria Day Sectional, after the first Saturday session (about $3: 45 \mathrm{pm}$ ).

2002 Evergreen Sectional September $13-15,2002$ at the Engineer's Hall in Burnaby (site to be confirmed)

2002 Round-Up Sectional November 8 - 11, 2002, at the Sunrise Convention Centre in Cloverdale (site to be confirmed)

## 2002 Unit Christmas Party

Saturday, December 7, 2002 at the Bonsor Community

Centre in Burnaby

## Contributors

Thanks for your help!
Jenny Ballantyne
Brad Bart
Isabel Chernoff
Arun Chopra
Doug Cowan
Harry Friedman
David Grannis
Eda Kadar
Louis Landau
Julien Lévesque
Larry Meyer
Peter Morse
Finnigan O'Blarney
Brian Russell
Joerg Schneider
Whizbang
Mike Dorn Wiss
Pat Wotherspoon
All "It's Your Bid" Responders
Unit 430's many Club Managers all Matchpointer advertisers
www.acbl.org www.cbf.ca www.d19.org www.cs.sfu.ca/~bbart/personal/IMPS
...and anyone missed
MATERIAL (SEND SOMEI)
All suggestions and contributions are welcomed. Articles, letters, information, club news, and tournament results may be mailed, or given to any Unit Board Member or dropped off at a Unit 430 club. Most Board members have fax numbers or e-mail addresses. We encourage all members, from beginner to expert, to send bridge-related original material for publication.

## MATCHPOINTER "schedule" <br> SPRING: late March <br> SUMMER: mid-July <br> FALL: mid-October <br> WINTER: mid-December

## NEXT ISSUE: Spring 2002

Deadline: Friday, March 22, 2002.
Dates Covered:
March 29-July 31, 2002.

## VANCOUVER UNIT 430 PRESENTS THE




[^0]:    A B C Final 2001 MUG Standings (cont.) Pts.
    118 Tony Remedios ............................................ 6.29
    1310 Ben Takemori ............................................... 6.14
    1411 Yuko Fujieda................................................. 5.83
    1512 William Ge .................................................... 5. 81
    
    1714 Harold Hansen.............................................. 5.55
    18 Al French.................................................................. 44
    19154 Nigel Fullbrook................................................ 5. 42
    20 Dianne Isfeld.................................................. 5.39
    21 Ev Hodge.......................................................5.18
    215 Julien Lévesque.............................................5.18
    23 Delphine Tablotney.....................................4.51
    246 David Hooey ............................................. 4.29
    257 Jackie Phillips........................................... 4.18
    8 Kazuko Koda ............................................. 4.05
    9 Kristina Bohdanowicz .................................. 3.47
    10 Samantha Nystrom..................................... 3.40
    11 Betty Jackson ............................................ 3.04
    12 Stuart Carr................................................. 2.91
    13 David Breton..............................................2.24
    14 Victor Finberg ............................................ 2.16
    14 Geoff Fetterley............................................ 2.16
    326.52 masterpoints were won by 112 players (a further 50 played but did not win any) in Monthly Unit Games in 2001.
    This list does not include points won at the special Unit Charity Game on September 25 for the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

