

Stories * Information
Tips * Results



It's Your Bid Problems

The *Matchpointer* is designed to look better without this strip. Cut the strip off, do the problems sometime, and send your answers (brief comments or suggestions for future problems 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: _____

Flight: A B C

(Name and flight are required)

What to Wish For

by Greg Morse

You have two wishes left with the Bridge Fairy when you pick up this hand...

♠ A7 ♥ AKQ9 ♦ K95 ♣ AQ85

...and soon find yourself in 6NT (the only pair in the field to do so). The opening lead is a low diamond, and this is your dummy:

♠ KQ32 ♥ 654 ♦ A734 ♣ J4

small ♦ led vs 6NT

♠ A7 ♥ AKQ9 ♦ K95 ♣ AQ85

You play low from dummy, the queen shows up on your right and you win the king.

You have two wishes, what are they? What do you play at trick two?

(answer, page 9)

FALL 2001 HIGHLIGHTS:

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1. (IMPS, N-S vulnerable.)

♠ 3 ♥ Q865432 ♦ A8732 ♣ —

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1NT	Pass	???

2. (Matchpoints, they're vul.)

♠ KQ962 ♥ KQ832 ♦ K7 ♣ 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♣
2NT	4♣	5♦	???

3. (Matchpoints, both vul.)

♠ T9863 ♥ 3 ♦ KT984 ♣ Q9

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♦	2♣	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	???

4. (Matchpoints, N-S vul.)

♠ 65 ♥ QJ5 ♦ AQ972 ♣ T52

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		Pass	Pass
2♦	2♣	3♦	???

5. (Rubber Bridge, none vul.)

♠ KQJ9875 ♥ K962 ♦ T ♣ 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♦	3♣
Pass	4♣	5♣	5♣
Double	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Deadline: December 7, 2001.



- The "It's Your Bid" System (from the International Bidder's Club, a monthly on-line bidding contest at www.bridgespace.com) (some questions may depart from system)
- Natural, five-card majors. Limit raises.
- Over 1 in a major, 2 NT is game-forcing 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♠, 2♥, 2♠: 6-card suit, 5-11.
- 2 NT=forcing, game try.
- Opening 1NT=15-17, 2NT=20-22, 3NT=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.
- 2♠=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), SNT asks specific kings.

- Support doubles and redoubles.
- Over overcalls cuebid is limit raise+, or any game-force.
- Negative, competitive and responsive doubles through 4♦, 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 mcbuce1@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!



Opening Lead via e-mail (see page 25)

Dear Bruce:

Thank you for your efforts to produce a successful Charity game on behalf of the American Red Cross Relief effort. You've described an enjoyable bridge event, but more importantly, one that was instrumental in providing both monetary and emotional support for those who were so deeply affected by the tragic events of September 11th.

Please extend our heartfelt thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped you make this event possible, and for making it so much fun for our members. It's people like you and those in your group who make the ACBL so great. Thanks again for a job well done!

Sincerely,

Wayne Hascall, CEO

American Contract Bridge League

Matchpointer

...is a publication of ACBL Unit 430, printed four times each year, distributed free to its members at local clubs and Unit events. Opinions are those of the authors; unattributed material is written by the editor, with help from various sources. Editor's notes do not necessarily represent the views of the Unit Board.

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Subscriptions to the *Matchpointer* are available, and are

tied to current copying and postal rates. For a small extra fee, a large-print version is available by mail. For the current rates, contact Julien Lévesque (254-1334).

Unit 430 clubs requiring more copies for their players may request them from the editor.

2001 Advertising Rates

Business Card.....	\$15 per issue
Half Page.....	\$40 per issue
Full Page.....	\$65 per issue
Full Year (5 issues):	15% off

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President's Message

by Bruce McIntyre

Quite the busy month or two since the sun was often out, and quite the busy *Matchpointer* issue to collect all the news and results. Especially since I missed a Board Meeting last month and everyone keeps telling me that nothing happened. (Maybe they're hiding something. Maybe I shouldn't be writing in this space...)

September's sectional at the new Cloverdale site went well, considering the geographic novelty. It was fantastic to see almost everyone dressed up on Friday evening, and wonderful to see that our attendance did not drop too much compared to previous years, even in a site so far from our usual sectional venues. We're looking at booking the site again if possible.

So many people are going to Las Vegas for the Nationals, that we thought that the Unit Christmas Party would be better held over to some time in the spring. Not as a permanent move, but because no other suitable dates were available at short notice.

I thank all Unit Members who attended the Special Charity Game on September 25, and especially Julien Lévesque who organized it virtually single-handedly. Thanks to your generosity we raised well over \$2000 for the Disaster Relief Fund.

I have a new e-mail address (the old one will expire soon); it's ooga@shaw.ca. Yes, I chose it myself. Say it aloud, without the @ or the "dot" three times fast and you'll never forget it. Ahhhhhh, hooked on a feeling!

—McBruce

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Fall 2001

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Winter 2001 *Matchpointer*

Deadline for submissions:
Friday, December 7, 2001.

Dates covered:
December 14, 2001-March 29, 2002.



SPECIAL ALERT! *Entertainment 2002* books are now available! The coupons inside can be used immediately and do not expire until the end of next year. 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 sell less each year. Please make an effort this year to help local bridge by purchasing your book from *Unit 430*. 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:

Jennifer Ballantyne	438-3095	jaballantyne@hotmail.com
Isabel Chernoff	531-6828	isabel.chernoff@telus.com
Louis Landau	984-8309	llandau@telus.net

Books will be available at the Round-Up Sectional. Order now!

Prognosticatorial A

by Sources Unknown

This year's Flight A IMP league will be a treat to commentate. Not only does this commentator have the honour of your audience, but perhaps one of the most intriguing rosters in history. There has not been as much roster movement in at least ten years! This is also one of the strongest fields making Flight A truly a SUPER-flight. Who will take away the glory?

DIVINSKY (7-2, 1st overall)

(Gord Davis, Nathan Divinsky, Dan Jacob, Don Brazeau, Larry Hicks)

Strongest Link: Hicks-Jacob

Weakest Link: Aging Professor

Last year's runners up, these guys are back again with the taste for blood. It was predicted that Ballan-

tyne's bold career move would cripple the team, but it would turn out that this team would prove them all wrong.

This team remains a five-bagger, officially captained by Davis, but named in honour of Divinsky, the great professor. What can we say about these guys in a field like this? They are ready and steady, with the bloodlust to take the maximal plus.

LINDSAY (6-3, 2nd overall)

(Cam Lindsay, Ron Borg, Paul Hagen, David Waterman, Martin O'Reilly, Cam Doner)

Strongest Link: Doner

Weakest Link: Doner

As Steve Vincent moves out of town to his new job, Lindsay picks up Doner. An excellent technical player and bridge professional, Doner has been known to cost himself more points by grilling his partner than he wins himself through superior play. All in

Flt. A Final: The Big Deal

by Gray McMullin

In the Flight A Final, held just a few weeks ago after time ran out on the participants before summer attracted vacationers, the GOLDSTONE team (Bill Goldstone, Mike Wilson, Peter Maclean, Steve Clements, Marylou Bert) defeated the DIVINSKY team (Nathan Divinsky, Gord Davis, Dan Jacob, Don Brazeau, Larry Hicks, Gord McOrmond). *Matchpointer* headquarters received this report on the turning point in the big match from Gray McMullin.)

Hey Bruce;

Well, we did it, won Flight A of the IMP League! Shows all them blighters that had us rated sixth and eighth.

While Mike and Peter played in the first half (leaving us 11 IMPS ahead), Mary-Lou and I played in the second. The second hand out of the box was quite interesting:

Board 10	Dir: East Vul: Both	NORTH	Flight A IMP League Final
		♠ — ♥ A876543 ♦ J98632 ♣ —	
		SOUTH	EAST
		♠ K6 ♥ QJ ♦ KQT7 ♣ T9643	♠ AT975 ♥ T9 ♦ 5 ♣ AQ852
		WEST	
		♠ QJ8432 ♥ K2 ♦ A4 ♣ KJ7	

At our table, Marylou opened the East hand 1♣. Don Brazeau passed and I responded 1♠. Gord Davis told me later he had never held an all-red hand—until now. He chose to bid 2NT, and Marylou jumped to 4♣. Don Brazeau bid 5♦.

Was 4♣ some sort of fast arrival, or a strong hand? I decided Marylou must have a good hand or something oddly distributional, like six clubs with four or even five spades. We might even have a grand opposite magic cards, but how to get there? I chose to play it safe and bid 6♣. Gord pushed on to 7♦. Marylou doubled this and we beat it for +200. Later on, Marylou cracked that I was "very clever, taking the advance save of 6♣," which would be down one or two against the cold diamond slam.

The auction was quite different at the other table. Larry Hicks began with a 1♠ opener from the East hand and Dan Jacob responded 2NT. Billy Goldstone held the all-red hand and bid a simple 3♥. Larry bid 4♣, and this was passed around to Billy, who now bid 5♦. This was passed around to Dan Jacob, who doubled. Everyone passed and Billy made twelve tricks for +950 and 15 IMPS to our side.

Billy's intention was to bid on to 6♦ if Dan chose to compete to 5♣, which would be even better for us: if that were doubled. The final margin was 34 IMPS, so a different decision or two on this hand would have made it a real nail-biter! (*Matchpointer* investigators have discovered that Marylou's 1♣ opener was based on the belief that she held 5-6 in the black suits, not 5-5, and that her normal opening bid with this hand would be 1♣.) It was an exciting final with great bridge by both sides!

all, Lindsay has made a good choice for a sixth.

Of all of the teams that were rated 6-3, Lindsay's team has the edge. They have the right balance of steadiness, experience and killer instinct, plus they won last year's round robin. Game on!

FOSTER (6-3, 3rd overall)

(Rhonda Foster, Marcia Christie, Gerry McCully, Richard Christie, Greg Arbour)

Strongest Link: Experienced rubber bridge lineup.

Weakest Link: Can I get you a beer, Gerry?

Last year, they fired Remedios and added the Christies, this year they fired Hernandez. Will Foster ever set down her magic wand that makes the unfavoured go "POOF!" and disappear? Watch out McCully! You may be next.

Routinely finishing in the top four, this team stands to do it again.

BALLANTYNE (6-3, 4th overall)

(Aidan Ballantyne, Katrin Litwin, Mike Wilson, Peter MacLean, Felipe Hernandez)

Strongest Link: Canadian Champion, Mexican Superstar and Two Members of Last Year's Champion Squad

Weakest Link: Short fuses.

Ballantyne's previous team has all but dissolved, save the anchor pair. Why does everyone abandon this guy? Is it his temperament? This year, we see the addition of MacLean and Wilson, members of last year's champion squad, and Hernandez, another player of questionable temperament. Will the strength of its members be enough to win the league, or will moxie and fire consume them?

GOLDSTONE (6-3 or F, 5th overall or DQ)

(Bill Goldstone, Steve Clements, Gray McMullin, Marylou Bert)

Strongest Link: They're four members of last year's championship squad!

Weakest Link: They're missing the other two members!

Even though this team is technically sound, MacLean and The Foot were instrumental in last year's championship. It is doubtful that McMullin and Bert can pick up enough slack to finish first again, if they even finish!

Rumour has it that Goldstone left in the middle of an event at the 2000 Richmond Regional! Leaving partner Clements and teammates MacLean and The Foot high and dry to complete the event, we might ask ourselves two questions:

1) Did MacLean and The Foot migrate to Ballan-

tyne to get back at Goldstone?

2) Will Goldstone finish the round robin?

The rumour mill is watching you, Goldstone.

HOUSE (5-4, 6th overall)

(David House, Lawrence Betts, Ron Ohmart, Martin Henneberger, Paul Waters, Carol Waters)

Strongest Link: The Waters.

Weakest Link: Hey man, are those really funny cigarettes?

This year, House fires Pocock and Sontag. Pocock fine, but Sontag? Bad policy to fire your best player. No matter. The Waters can certainly fill their shoes. With recent sectional wins and NABC placings, The Waters stand to be the hottest pair in the unit. Let's hope that House doesn't mellow them out too much.

TAKEMORI (4-5, 7th overall)

(Mike Takemori, Ben Takemori, Mike Dimich, Bob Gerrie, Dennis Dohl, John Bryden)

Strongest Link: Brute force.

Weakest Link: Too much rust.

What happened to last year's Bart squad? Bart has flown to B, Barszcz is in X, and Remedios and Diamond are nowhere to be found. That leaves the Takemori brothers. But where is their CNTC Zone Finalists team? Doner has gone with Lindsay and the Pockos are also nowhere to be found.

This year, the Takemori brothers enter their team: "A Blast From The Past". Dimich is back, Bryden is back, and Dohl is back, Gerrie partnering Mr. Dohl. Can these guys pull it off? Perhaps Mike Takemori can lend Dimich, Bryden and Dohl some steel wool and oil to clear out the rust.

This team is the value bet to show, not win.

MAKSYMETZ (3-6, 8th overall)

(Bryan Maksymetz, Don Sache, Gord McOrmond, Doreen McOrmond, Jean Groome, Doug Hansford)

Strongest Link: Championship attitude.

Weakest Link: Weird results.

This is the strangest team of all, at least on paper. Two recent Canadian champions team up with recently unsuccessful locals Sache and Groome. Can this really produce a winning team? They might get some good results, but it will be luck, not consistency, that will divine their success.

(continued on page 8)

Prognosticatorial X

not quite by Vince McMahon

It looks like the Unit Board will need to buy a new trophy. A WWF mail-reader sent us the sad news that, as appropriate as it may seem, the XFL trophy is *not* for sale to Unit 430 for its new X Flight. As a concession, he did offer to let us "borrow" the names of major wrestling shows for these predictions.

There are nine teams in the new 0-5000 MP Flight X, and there is no clear choice for any position. Anything can and probably will happen, in and out of the "squared circle." Here is the pre-season blind guess as to where they may finish in seven months:

1. BODLAK (6-2, 153 VP) (Team "King of The Ring": Stan Bodlak, Pearl Minkoff, Sandi White, David Walker, Cheryl Brander, Christina Jacob)

Best Tag-Team: The White-Walkers.

Most Dangerous Competitor: Stone Cold Stan Bodlak.

Belts Won: Baddest of the "Bad" Division last year, before the playoff upset.

This team was *virtually unbeatable* for the first six months of the season last year in Flight B. Was it the law of averages, gravity (what goes up must come down) or just a few errant steel chairs that brought them crashing down at the Royal Rumble? We expect them to dominate this year's round-robin but we're happy we don't have to predict the result of the playoffs!

2. MORSE (5-3, 140 VP) (Team "Tough Enough": Peter Morse, Claire Burns, Al and Bernice French, John Demeulemeester)

Best Tag-Team: Hard to say: probably any of the three (four? five?) regular partnerships here are competitive.

Most Dangerous Competitor: Two strong partnerships need a fifth wheel to apply surprise submission holds, and Demeulemeester fits in very well.

Belts Won: Morse and Burns won the B League last year with different teammates. Morse holds the *light heavyweight title, due to the constant transport* of Unit supplies to and from tournaments. Al and Bernice may as well be named Eli and Josephine—few married couples can take them on and survive.

This retroed Morse squad should emerge in the playoff hunt, but in a close league there isn't time for a prolonged slump. Luckily, most of the other teams are more likely to experience consecutive bumps in the road.

3. SACHE (5-3, 138 VP) (Team "SmackDown!": Sheila Sache, Gilbert Lambert, Ron Fox, Sherman Kwan, Terry and Fran Gould)

Best Tag-Team: The Goulds took a floundering Kwan squad to the top last year after being signed at Christmas.

Most Dangerous Competitor: "Mad-Dog" Lambert will greet you cordially and then squeeze the life out of you when you're not looking.

Belts Won: Lambert was on a team that took the Intercontinental Light Heavyweight Championship a year ago, but the other members are elsewhere.

This is a compression of two teams into one, and both did very well last year. They'll be in the running all season long.

4. SKOROPADA (4-4, 127 VP)

(Team "No Mercy": Garry Skoropada, Dan Webster, Brad Fletcher, Flora Tereposky)

Best Tag-Team: Dan "The Man" Webster, no matter who tags him in.

Most Dangerous Competitor: Just when you think you may have gotten away with the slightest of mistakes, the roof caves in, leaving only Flora Tereposky to say "I wonder how that happened?" She knows how it happened. She caused it.

Belts Won: Almost everyone on the team has held various championship belts multiple times, but that is ancient history, and this is payback for their loss in the final after defeating the heavy favorites in the semis last year.

The team predicted for the final playoff spot will probably not end up there: there are pitfalls below and opportunities above, not to mention a grueling road schedule. We think they'll make the playoffs, *but check back in six months.*

5. MOFFATT (4-4, 125 VP)

(Team "Heat": Mike Moffatt, Vicki Croome, John Horne, Debbie Williams)

Best Tag-Team: "JD" is a first-class unit, proving that great teamwork can stifle any offense by the opponents.

Most Dangerous Competitor: Iron Mike has been known to give prognosticators "The Look" when predictions are not to his liking. "The Look" is usually followed by "The Unexpected Win." We'll be laying low.

Belts Won: Moffatt was a Lambert teammate in the Intercontinental Light Heavyweight win last year. Or maybe Lambert was a Moffatt teammate.

The new divisional alignment of the IMP League means less matches for everyone, so four person teams are making a comeback. There is something to

be said for knowing all the time who your partner will be. In an eight-match league, this may be worth enough VPs to vault them up a place or two.

6. ISFELD (3-4-1, 116 VP)

(Team "Invasion": Dianne Isfeld, Jeremy Crowhurst, Tove Chen, Gus Axen, Nigel Fullbrook, Diane Ayukawa)

Best Tag-Team: Ayukawa and Chen. The rest are going to have trouble figuring out which corner to straggle to when they get tired.

Most Dangerous Competitor: Junior Crow without a doubt, especially if an Appeal Committee is involved.

Belts Won: half a belt for Junior Crow from two years ago in the Light Heavyweight Decision, following a belt the season before for Isfeld and "the Crow." We've heard an urban legend that while filling a half-table, Nigel "The Big Show" Fullbrook once won a ladies event.

We have predicted this team to tie the team we chose for last place. We also expect to see a 120 IMP win, a 130 IMP loss, and at least one match where the total score exceeds 300 IMPs. In short, this team is completely unpredictable. Basically, we decided on won-lost records and VP totals for the other eight teams and worked it out by subtraction.

7. DANIELSEN (3-5, 105 VP)

(Team "Judgment Day": Ken Danielsen, Elaine Levins, Isabel Chernoff, Pat Wotherspoon, Chris Maylin, Chris Robbins)

Best Tag-Team: Chris Times Two.

Most Dangerous Competitor: Danielsen will look at last year's 6-6 record, and conclude that a little action is necessary this season to avoid being left in the middle. Watch out!

Belts Won: Chris Times Two have finished just fractions of a matchpoint out of the money at the NAOP District Final several times.

This is year two for this team, who finished just out of the playoffs last year in a tough division, despite winning more VPs than they lost. However, the new X league is a step up in class. If they get to the playoffs, they'll have done very well.

8. JEZ (3-5, 98 VP)

(Team "Rebellion": Waldemar Jez, Ewa Wroblewicz, Andrej Zorawski, Gregorz Barszcz)

Best Tag-Team: unpronounceable. It will be a rare night when this team exceeds in IMPs the total score of its four names at Scrabble. We figure this is why they chose the "X" league.

Most Dangerous Competitor: Zorowski keeps

changing the final letter of his first name, but the true dangerous man is Greg "Triple Z" Barszcz, because the last four letters of his name seem to change every week!

Belts Won: none, unless you count belts of the mysterious liquid that Jez brings in a paper bag.

Team Poland will have a tough go of it—most Flight X players are not spooked by the 1♣ that "could be short, long, weak, strong, balanced, unbalanced, or something from the Ukraine." Perhaps changing to a uniquely Polish style of Standard American would be a key surprise move to steal a few wins.

9. PREDIGER (2-5-1, 78 VP)

(Team "No Way Out": Tom Prediger, Ken Lochang, Arun Chopra, Fred Brown)

Best Tag-Team: yet to be determined. Any four person team including Ken "Tuna" Lochang will have to find a fifth or sixth...or seventh, or eighth, or ninth...

Most Dangerous Competitor: No question about this one, he is so dangerous he has his own Web site: www.fredbrowntheartist.com. We suggest that you not stage the match near one of his huge hypnotic works currently displayed at the Bridge Centre.

Belts Won: none that we know of, but another legend says that the Tuna came within a single win of taking the A League title several years ago.

The fortunes of this team will depend on who they get to play when the Tuna is on the boat. Until we find out, we're reserving judgment. Look around you: you may see the Tuna perusing this very article in search of players who have not yet signed contracts. Prediger may be the team captain, but Lochang is the general manager, and if he makes some shrewd signings this team could easily contend.

Central Richmond Bridge Club

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

Albert Yallouz 321-1891

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm sharp

November 14: Club Championship

December 12: Christmas/Chanukah Party

Big Game: Les Fouks/Ashley Krisman, Sept 5, 67.47%

Prognosticatorial B

by "Bottom Board"

As anyone does who tries to fill this role, I find myself with a lack of knowledge concerning some of the players, but that never stopped any of the predictors in past years. So here goes.

Several teams have a shot at first place in the B League and a couple will battle it out for the cellar, but it appears that there are going to be some mismatches during the season, with first and last separated by many Victory Points.

1. BALDYS (Les Baldys, Don Sharp, Patti Adams, Sandra Robson, Betty Jackson). 161 VP.

It is surprising to find that all members of this team fit under the 1500 MP limit for the B League. Four members of the team have played in the A League within the last two years, albeit with limited success. But there is lots of experience here, and two partnerships who know each other. They will be tough in the playoffs.

2. ANGUS (Monica Angus, Kathy Bye, Clare Way, Kenny Chan, H.K. Ho, Julia Barsef). 159 VP.

Another team that must be scratching the 1500 MP limit, as it contains a lot of experienced players. Should be in a fight for first place all season, and the mid-season match with the Baldys team may prove to be decisive. But the possibility of an occasional upset lurks, as last year's team (with three different but very competent players) managed to lose two matches decisively against an otherwise winless team. This left them out of the playoff picture by a few points.

(Prognosticatorial A continued from page 5)

STREBINGER (2-7, 9th overall)

(Jenny Ballantyne, Judy Strebinger, Duane Tilden, Jim Lenobel, Dan Watson, Gary Phelan)

Strongest Link: Steadiness.

Weakest Link: Lack of excellence.

This is one of the hardest teams to predict this year. This collage brings Strebinger-Ballantyne, Tilden-Lenobel and Watson-Phelan together, remnants of last year's Strebinger, Laudan and Watson squads. All pairs have good, practiced, steady players, but there are no excellent players. This team could easily win more matches than predicted here, but on paper, this team rates to win only two.

3. MEYER (Larry Meyer, Rod Coote, Jim McKenzie, Dick Simpson, Bob Takishita, Ted Trerise). 145 VP.

This team of perennial B league contenders (and two-time winners) has played together for a long time and now has added experience in Ted Trerise, which should help. Last year's team won six of twelve matches, but those they lost were usually by much greater margins than were their wins. They should finish in the top four and make the playoffs this year, if they maintain their past consistency.

4. MORSE (Greg Morse, Andy Hellqvist, Bruce McIntyre, Richard Dunn, Bachan Buttar). 130 VP.

This team is virtually the same as one that won only four matches (of twelve) last year in the B League (which also included the equivalent of this year's X League), but the addition of Bachan Buttar enables Captain Morse to schedule matches on nights when Unit President McBruce is otherwise tied up with Unit Board activities. It is rumoured that he has already asked for a list of Unit Board meeting dates.

5. TJEBBES (Martin Tjebbes, Jim Kerr, Gary Gilraine, Faye Gilraine) 125 VP.

Another team with a considerable amount of experience, although not in the IMP League recently. Should get off to a fast start as their early schedule includes teams ranked below them, and they could capture a playoff spot, but will need to have good match results against the four teams listed above to do so.

6. CROSS (Brian Cross, Peggy Ross, Karin Dunlop, Carol-Ann Halliday) 105 VP.

Four promising players who (with Eda Kadar) finished second in the C League last year, and then swept to victory in the C playoffs. They will find it

RUSSELL (0-9, 10th overall)

(Brian Russell, Andrew Ross, Samantha Nystrom, Mark Eddy)

Strongest Link: Exuberance and energy.

Weakest Link: These guys are outgunned.

This team looks completely out of place in such an excellent field. The composition? A former Flight B pro, turned director, a former tournament director, turned Flight B club pro, a teenager with no Flight A experience, and a good club player. Perhaps this team has youth, energy and tenacity on their side. Perhaps also this team will win a match and prove me wrong.

This team is just cutting their teeth for future years. I hope they know what they are in for.

tougher at this level, but could easily surprise some teams ranked above them. Their dreams may include a playoff match, but that may be the only place they will play it.

7. BART (Brad Bart, David Breton, Victor Finberg, Ross Lam, Philippe Westreich, Yi Yang) 100 VP.

It is probably madness to select a team led by IMP League Commissioner Brad Bart this low in the standings, as his experience and ability will manage to steal a couple of matches. It is also never a good idea to underrate the combination of youthful energy and smarts. However, some of the wily veterans on the teams listed above will give this team trouble. *While there is a potential upside, they will likely have trouble making the playoffs.*

8. LAI (Samuel Lai, Kam Tang, Andrew Nalos, Hsiang Li) 90 VP.

Last year's B League Prognosticator picked this team to finish 7th and last in their division of the B League, but suggested that it was in part because he

didn't know them. But it seemed the other teams didn't either, as they stormed out of the gate to second place in their division at the halfway mark, leaving the Prognosticator with a little egg on his face. However, the eggs ended up in the omelette as the rest of the league caught up with them in the second-half rematches. Six straight losses (and only 51 of a possible 180 VPs) in the second half, bounced them down to sixth place in the final standings. That experience should help this year, and the lack of rematches this year may help too, but they appear to be in tough in the race for a playoff spot.

9. FETTERLEY (Geoff Fetterley, Joan Stuart, Linda Bell, Brenda Cameron) 65 VP.

This team of mostly newcomers to the IMP League may find it tough going, particularly in their first three matches. They will keep some of the matches close however and could pull off an upset of a team looking past them.

(What To Wish For answer, from page 1)

Your first wish is of course for four heart tricks. For your second wish, did you wish for the club finesse to win? How is that going to help you? You still only get two club tricks. No, to make this hand you have to wish for the club king to be *behind* the queen.

After winning the opening lead in hand, play a low club towards the jack. If LHO flies with the king, you have twelve tricks: three

spades, four hearts, two diamonds, and three clubs. LHO ducks and the jack wins. You continue with a low heart to hand.

Now you must hope to squeeze LHO in the minors. From the lead it looks like LHO has four diamonds, so...

Diamond *nine*, and duck it no matter what LHO plays. As it happens, RHO wins the ten, and a club comes back. Rise with the ace. Then run off the ace, king, and queen of spades, pitching your low

club, and then play the hearts.

The end position is:

♠8 ♦A7

♦J8 ♣K

♠JT ♣T

♥9 ♦5 ♣Q

On the lead of the 9♥, LHO is squeezed in the minors. If she keeps the club King, you score the BEER Card!

No one else in the room makes 6NT, everyone is in 3NT making five.

Alert: Non-Life Masters!

Flight C IMP League starts soon

The Flight C IMP League will begin in November. All team members must have been non-Life Masters below 500 masterpoints on Sept. 1. Teams where all members have less than 100 points will be in a different strat, with separate playoffs.

By the time this issue comes out, you'll have very little time to sign up, so form your teams as soon as possible and get your entry to Commissioner Brad Bart (604/299-7750). If you have Internet access, you can signup online by sending Brad an e-mail at bbart@cs.sfu.ca, or by downloading an entry form

from the IMP League Web Page at this address:

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

The entry fee for each team in Flight C is \$24. Matches are a bit shorter in Flight C (26 boards as opposed to 28 in the other divisions), and Flight C captains will receive as part of the package the Hideous Hog (In Training)'s guide to playing IMPs.

We expect 5-8 matches in the C League this year, about one every three weeks, with breaks in the schedule at Christmas and during the Vancouver Regional in January.

One thing to mention: the *Matchpointer* tradition of prognostications that poke fun at the participants does not apply to Flight C: we require our Flight C pundits to be as kind as possible.

Losing Trick Count (LTC)

by Greg Morse

Bidding consists of a way to find the answers to two important questions:

1. What should be trump?
2. How high should we go?

Along with high card points and the Law of Total Tricks and other evaluation methods, there is another that many players are unfamiliar with. Losing Trick Count, as detailed in Ron Klinger's book *The Modern Losing Trick Count*, is very accurate in predicting #2 once you've found an answer to #1. Here's how it works:

What it is: Losing Trick Count (LTC) is a method of hand evaluation like High Card Points (HCP). In cases where an 8 or 9 card trump fit exists it is usually more accurate than HCP at deciding whether to stop in partscore, bid game or bid slam. Like any method of hand evaluation it assumes 'normal' splits, that half your finesses will work, etc.

How to Count Losers in a single suit: The ace, king, and queen in a suit are 'winners'. For every ace, king, or queen you are *missing* in a suit you count one loser.

For example:

Axx or Qx 2 losers

Kx or K 1 loser

Qxxxx 2 losers

(This is a bit optimistic: it is closer to 2½ losers, as explained later. But QJxxx is 2 losers.)

A, or AK 0 Losers

AQxxxx 1 loser

(But AQJx is ½ a loser)

xxx(xx) 3 losers

x, K or Q 1 loser.

Singleton kings count as one loser. Doubleton queens (except KQ) count as two losers. Even QJ or Qx: two losers.

Each suit therefore has a possibility of three losers, so a flat 4333 hand with no ace, king, or queen would count to 12 losers, not 13 losers as you might expect!

e.g. ♠ JT9 3 losers

♥ JT9 3 losers

♦ JT9 3 losers

♣ JT9x 3 losers

But a hand like ♠ JT9xxxx ♥ - ♦ - ♣ JT9xxx only counts to 6 losers; thus you see that shape

counts for something!

Counting Losers in the Two Hands: While you are counting losers in your hand, partner is also counting losers. If he has a 4333 Yarborough also, he too will count to 12 losers. Between the two of you, you will have 24 losers.

With 24 losers you would expect to take NO tricks. If you have fewer than 12 losers, either because of high cards or distribution, you expect to take some tricks. If partner also has fewer than 12 losers he will take some tricks. To find out how many, subtract your losers from 24. If you have seven losers and partner has eight losers, between you, you expect to take 24 - 7 - 8 = 9 tricks. So you can make three of something.

Always assuming you have an 8 or 9 card fit.

An Example: LTC versus HCP:

You	Partner	Total
♠ AJxxx (2 losers)	♠ Kxx (2 losers)	4 losers
♥ Jx (2 losers)	♥ Axx (2 losers)	4 losers
♦ KQxx (1 loser)	♦ xxx (3 losers)	4 losers
♣ Kx (1 loser)	♣ Jxx (3 losers)	4 losers
6 losers	+ 10 losers	= 16 losers

So we see that the LTC predicts that the above two hands can make 24 - 16 = 8 Tricks.

Your hand is actually a bit better than a minimum because of its nice shape. Partner has no shape though. But look at this:

You	Partner	Total
♠ AJxxx (2 losers)	♠ Kxx (2 losers)	4 losers
♥ Jx (2 losers)	♥ Axxxx (2 losers)	4 losers
♦ KQxx (1 loser)	♦ xxx (3 losers)	4 losers
♣ Kx (1 loser)	♣ J (1 losers)	4 losers
6 losers	+ 8 losers	= 14 losers

LTC now predicts that you can make 24 - 14 = 10 tricks. Partner has the same HCP but now the LTC says you can make game! In terms of adjusted HCP, partner's hand has improved from 8 to 9 "points" (counting 3 for the stiff and -1 for only 3 trumps). Your hand is still worth 14 or 15.

Game is still pretty thin though, so the LTC has some adjustments for when you only have eight trumps.

Notice in the above hands that you have only an eight-card fit and no spots. You would feel quite good about game if you had another trump between you or if partner's hearts were, say, AT98x. The LTC recommends that when you have only an eight-card fit that you be conservative unless you have some 'extras' in the form of working jacks or spots.

Using LTC as a Guide to Bidding: You can count your losers, but how do you know how many

losers partner has? Much the same as when using HCP! When partner opens 1♥ and then makes a minimum rebid you "know" he has 12 to 15 HCP. But in fact he might have only 10 HCP and shapely distribution (♠ x ♥ AKxxx ♦ xx ♣ Kxxx). When he opens 1♣ and later reverses you "know" he has a much better hand, at least 16 HCP.

The same goes for the LTC. When partner opens the bidding with a one bid you "know" that he has seven losers. (He might have eight or he might have six but seven is average.) You can see how this works out, if partner opens (13 HCP, seven losers) and you have an opening hand (13 HCP and seven losers) then you have 26 HCP and in LTC you have:

24 - 7 - 7 = 10 tricks—so you belong in game. As a rule of thumb, every 2-3 extra points means one fewer loser.

So if 13 HCP is seven losers, then 11 HCP is eight losers, 9 HCP is nine losers, 15 HCP is six losers, 17 HCP is five losers and so on. Here is a table:

To Bid	HCP Needed	Losers Needed
Opening 1 of a suit	13	7 or fewer
Open 1NT	15-17	6 or 5
Raise	6-9	8 or 9
		(sometimes 10, alas)
Limit raise	9-11	8
1♠-4♠ or 1♥-4♥	10 and 5 trumps	7

(e.g. ♠ K7643 ♥ 8 ♦ 72 ♣ A7432 is OK, even opposite ♠ AQxxx ♥ AQx ♦ xxx ♣ xx.)

Jump Shift	19+	4 or fewer
2C	22+ (or 9½ tricks)	3 or fewer
Weak 2	6-10	8 or 7
Takeout Double	10	7

(e.g. ♠ Kxxx ♥ KQxx ♦ Qxxx ♣ x is worth a takeout double of 1♣.)

Overcall	7-17	6 to 8
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(Nine losers is too weak, five losers too strong regardless of HCP.)

So when you open 1♣ and partner raises to 2♣ you are showing seven losers and partner is showing nine. You expect to make 24 - 7 - 9 = 8 tricks.

With limit raises, 1♣—3♣ shows seven losers with opener, and eight with responder. 24 - 7 - 8 is nine tricks. That is why some nine point hands are worth a limit raise, and some 10 point hands are only worth a single raise.

If responder has say 9 HCP with a five-card major

and opener rebids 1NT, then assuming an eight-card fit, opener has six losers with 15 HCP or five losers with 17 HCP, responder has nine so you will make 24 - 5 - 9 = 10 tricks if opener has a maximum, as you would expect with 17 HCP opposite 9 HCP. Better use New Minor Forcing to find out if you have a fit!

With six losers opposite six you would expect to make a slam, even with fewer than 33 HCP:

♠ AKxx	♣ Qxxx
♥ x	♥ Ax
♦ AQJxx	♦ Kx
♣ Qxx	♣ Kxxxx

The hands only total 28 HCP but slam is on, given a 3-2 trump break. As you would expect, with 5½ losers opposite 6½.

If you open 1♣ and get a raise to 2♣ then you base your next bid NOT on HCP but on loser count:

With 7 losers PASS; with 6 losers invite game, and with 5 losers try to force game.

Adjustments

Like HCP Loser Trick count is not perfect. It does a better job than HCP of ignoring wasted queens and jacks in short suits, and so forth, but people have found that the following adjustments are useful in close decisions.

Qxx is usually counted as 2½ losers. QJx is only 2 losers. AQJ is counted as only half a loser.

With an eight-card fit, add a loser if you are feeling conservative. This allows for bad breaks (5-0 or 4-1) which happen about 25% of the time. With a nine-card fit you will only get a 4-0 break about 10% of the time.

But if there is a 4-4 fit and a ruffing value, then do not add an extra loser. If you are 5-3, but your trump support has good intangibles such as the JT, then you do not need to feel conservative.

Be conservative when you have no extras like jacks and tens, or when you know that the adverse strength is sitting over you.

You DO NOT use LTC to decide if you are going to open the bidding; in that case use HCP as usual.

♠ Axx ♥ Axxx ♦ Axx ♣ Axx.

This counts to eight losers; LTC says expect seven losers from an opening bid, and five or six from a 1NT opening. But this hand is clearly worth a 1NT bid.

To find out more about the Losing Trick Count, consult *Modern Losing Trick Count* by Ron Klinger.

Give Me A Hand

by Joerg Schneider

The recent Sectional had its usual moments of interest. For obvious reasons the contingent south of the border was small, but it was nice to greet as many as did turn up.

The fix of the tournament? This story has made the rounds, but is worth recording in print: RHO opens 1♠ and LHO bids 2NT, invitational (and alerted as it should be). All pass, and then a gasp from LHO who moaned that she had just given us an early Christmas present! She did not see partner's 1♠ opener and had (so she thought) opened 2NT! Well, eleven tricks were made and (you guessed it) eleven tricks was the limit of the hand. +210 was worth seven IMPs to the "giftgivers" when the more normal auction at the other table was 1NT (12-14) - 6NT, down one!

Board 17 Saturday afternoon had this layout:

Board 17 Dir: North Vul: None	NORTH ♠ 2 ♥ Q762 ♦ Q92 ♣ JT862	Evergreen Sectional, Sat. Aft.
WEST	SOUTH	EAST
♠ AK73 ♥ AK ♦ AKJT85 ♣ 3	♠ 86 ♥ JT98543 ♦ 73 ♣ Q9	♠ QJT954 ♥ - ♦ 64 ♣ AK754

Everyone and their uncle (including Ernie Dietrich, who also wrote about declaring this hand from the West cards below—McB) got to 7♣, which

is of course against the wall—pull trumps and ruff the third round of diamonds. One pair in Flight A and several in Flight B reached for the moon by bidding 7NT and could have brought home the bacon! They all went minus and we assume that they relied on the diamond finesse—tough luck! But 13 tricks are nevertheless there.

Let's assume South is on lead and leads the J♥. You win the A♥, the AK♣, the A♦, and run all the spades but one. Since the heart position is clear (East showed out at trick one) they will throw those as long as they can, so when North starts throwing clubs he is known to hold one spade and four hearts. The position is now:

Board 17 Dir: North Vul: None	NORTH ♠ - ♥ - ♦ 5 minor ♣ suit cards	7NT by East East on lead
WEST	SOUTH	EAST
♠ - ♥ - ♦ KJT8 ♣ 3	♠ - ♥ T9 ♦ 3 minor ♣ suit cards	♠ 4 ♥ - ♦ 6 ♣ AK7

Now play AK♣ and then lead the last spade. South tosses a heart, you pitch a diamond from dummy, and North is squeezed in the minors. If in this final position North has three diamonds and South has the J♣, the hand cannot be made, so you must play North to have the J♣ and only two diamonds left. So, if the J♣ does not make an appearance when the spade is played do not take the diamond finesse, but go up with the king!

(See below for Ernie Dietrich's story on Board 17.)

Again Board 17!

by Ernie Dietrich

I was sitting West and holding 22 HCP I saw my partner open 1♠!

I checked for controls and after finding partner had the A♣, after some thought of possibly bidding 7NT I decided on a safe 7♣ which was easy.

Now suppose I did bid 7NT and got the J♣ lead.

I win the A♣ and

Board 17 Dir: North Vul: None	NORTH ♠ - ♥ - ♦ Q92 ♣ T8	7NT by East East on lead
WEST	SOUTH	EAST
♠ - ♥ - ♦ AKJT8 ♣ -	♠ - ♥ JT ♦ 73 ♣ Q	♠ Q ♥ - ♦ 64 ♣ K7

go to my hand with the A♣ and cash the high hearts, pitching two clubs from dummy. Now when I run the spades, this is the ending:

When I cash the last spade, I pitch a diamond from my hand and North is finished. A club pitch sets up dummy's club and a diamond pitch makes the diamonds in my hand good!

Too bad I wasn't put to the test.

Matchpointer Mailbag

"Could be short." Enough already!

From Doug Cowan:

I think it's time you printed a reminder of what is and isn't "announcable." The only spoken words during bidding (assuming using bidding boxes) are "alert", "forcing" (after 1 NT), "transfer" or stating a notrump range other than within 15-18. "Could be short" after 1♣ is not announcable, just say "alert" and wait to see if opponents ask. Volunteering what an alert means until asked is also a no-no. I realize that these things are done in innocence as many people never were clear about what is alertable & what is announcable (blame the ACBL for constantly changing its mind), so I think we're overdue for a reminder. One more thing not universally known is that Blackwood, Gerber, and all their variations are not alertable, but are required to be explained at the end of the auction.

This struck a nerve with me. Here are some of the announcements I have heard in the past few weeks:

"Could be short." This comes after Polish Clubs, Precision Clubs, Roman Clubs, minor suit rebids following forcing notrump responses, and thousands of other possible auctions, it seems. This is *not* an announcement condoned by the ACBL alert regulations, and never has been. Most of these should be alerted instead: and if your 1♣ opener could be a big hand, you gotta say more than "could be short" when someone asks.

"Negative." Negative doubles at low levels have been deemed natural (finally). They are not alertable; they are not announcable. Leave them be. The only auction where you might hear the N-word is this one:

Opener: (plays 1♣ card).

Overcaller: (plays 1♣ card).

Responder: "They just made a fresh pot of coffee, good buddy (plays red card); do you want me to get you one?"

Opener: "Negative."

Now, strictly speaking, this would be okay if the opener and responder had beamed in from the 70s after spending too much time on their CB radios. But otherwise it's time to stop drawing attention to your negative doubles.

"Waiting." When you open 2♣ and partner responds 2♦, no announcement is required. You alert only if 2♦ confirms enough values that it is game forcing. If 2♦ is negative or temporizing (which is what people mean here when they say "waiting"), it is not alertable. You would usually

alert 2♦ when playing that a 2♥ response denies values, since now 2♦ implies enough values that game should be reached. But when playing "cheaper minor second negative," the 2♦ bid is temporizing—you tell opener at your next bid if you have a bad hand—so no alert is necessary. In all cases, don't say "waiting"—you're not: partner has already bid. If RHO thinks for ten minutes you might try it.

"Forcing." Did partner just respond 1NT? If not, don't say "forcing." This is one of the three announcement situations, but many players do not understand the limits, and, hearing an opponent's announcements, they decide that it all sounds cool enough for them, so let's do it too. Not so fast!

These are the *only* announcement situations:

1) If partner's 1NT opener or overcall has a range that falls outside or partly outside the range of 15-18, you **announce the range**, saying "twelve to fourteen," or "thirteen to fifteen," or whatever. Do *not* announce 15-17 or 16-18 or 15-18. At least not yet—there are rumours of changes coming.

2) If partner bids a red suit after you opened or overcalled notrump at any level, and the bid is a transfer, you announce **"transfer."** Not "Jacoby" or "Texas." Just "transfer."

3) If you open 1♥ or 1♠, the next player passes, and partner bids a forcing notrump, you announce simply **"forcing."** Not "forcing for one round," just "forcing." Note that it must be an uncontested auction (most people don't play a forcing notrump in contested auctions: if you do, don't announce: alert it!). If the opener can pass the "forcing" notrump with a certain type of hand (such as a sub-minimum third or fourth seat opener), this is a "semi-forcing" notrump, and you announce **"semi-forcing."**

That's **all**. Nothing else is announced; not "could be short," not "negative," not "ace-asking," not "unusual" (which is good because my partners would be announcing most of my bids then), not "splinter," not "Smolen," not "relay," not anything else you might think of. That is **all**.

When you make an announcement, tap the alert strip or show the alert card as you do so. It's a good and proper habit to get into, in case you meet an opponent who cannot hear your announcement.

And could we stop the explanations without being asked? I used to think this was because I turned my head about a tenth of a degree to the alerter, as though I were making a bid in a silent auction—but it appears that people just love to tell everyone about their pet systems. Wait until someone says "please explain." Please. Otherwise we don't want to know.

(No doubt before the next issue we will have new regulations requiring a new article...)

directorplease@shaw.ca

by "Play On"

Questions to the Director answered here. You may include this e-mail address in the *Matchpointer*. All questions answered. Some may make it to the *Matchpointer*.

—"Play On"

(This e-mail arrived in my box some time ago, and I thought I would put "Play On," an experienced ACBL Director, to the test. This is the problem North posed in the second case of the "Stirring The Pot?" article on page 15-16.)

Play On: Case #1

Board 6	Dir: East Vul: E-W	NORTH	Recent club charity game.
WEST		♠ xx ♥ AJTxxx ♦ A ♣ AKJx	EAST
♠ AKQx ♥ Kx ♦ xxx ♣ xxxx		SOUTH	♠ xx ♥ xxx ♦ KQxxx ♣ Qxx
		♠ Jxxxx ♥ Qx ♦ Jxxx ♣ xx	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Double	Pass	2♥*
Pass	Pass	3♦	Double
End			

* — announced as a transfer

East West were playing a 12-14 notrump. North's agreement was Hamilton vs all one notrump openers, i.e. the double was for penalties, but when West asked South after the 2♥ bid, South replied that it was "an equal hand." North chose to pass the transfer and East bid 3♦. This was doubled by South, who led the Q♥ and North-South collected 500 for down two.

At the end of the play, West asked to see North's hand, and then called the Director. The Director said,

"I don't know what I'll do, I'll probably give you both average." North expressed some dissatisfaction with this ruling, over the protests of the opponents, but nothing else was done until the end of the game.

North now asked the Director to set up an Appeal Committee, and the Director refused to do so. North asked another player in the game to urge the Director to allow the Appeal and both West (who directs at another local club) and the Director argued loudly with North to drop it. After hearing the other player's opinion, the Director decided to restore the original table result, but North left without ensuring that this was done. North was upset at the apparent bullying by the Director and by West, and wants to know:

- What the correct ruling should be,
- Whether a club is obligated to hear an appeal when requested,
- What the proper procedure for appealing a ruling is.

a) First ascertain what the N-S agreement is. Do they in fact have one? It seems that South thought that transfers are on in this situation, why? Find out who filled out their convention cards, both together, or did one player fill out both of them in which case they don't have an agreement. Law 16 covers misinformation, it clearly states that damage to one side must be caused directly by that misinformation. East's bid caused their sides bad result. Move a minor suit ace to the south hand, giving North the values South reported, and 3♦ would fare worse. Given the facts as represented I would give E-W their deserved -500. As for N-S, they need to get their act together also. I would assign them the score for a 2♥ contract, +200.

b) A club is under no obligation to hear an appeal.
c) Given that an appeal is feasible, both time and space being available, a committee of at least three (flight A) players should be gathered. The director would present the information to the committee and they would then ask questions of the players involved. The committee would then deliver their judgment. More practical is for the director to poll some good players who have already played the board and ask their opinion before giving a ruling.

(Send your questions to directorplease@shaw.ca)

Unit DINO Rep

Nominations, anyone?

The three-year term of one of Unit 430's two representatives to the

14 District Nineteen (DINO)

Board comes to an end on Dec 31, 2001. Before that date the Board will have to decide who to nominate for the new term, thru the end of 2004. A strong nominee would be a player who attends most DINO Regionals and has experi-

ence in bridge organization.

It is not known, but strongly suspected, that the incumbent, Jennifer Ballantyne, will accept the nomination to continue, but the position is open to any Unit members interested.

Stirring the Pot?

by Bruce McIntyre

Many people talked to me about the *Opening Lead* article by Barry Yamanouchi (page 2, Summer 2001 issue). The Directors who discussed it with me either began with variation one ("was that me?") or variation two ("that couldn't have been me"). I also received this e-mail from Doug Cowan:

"I don't believe I know Barry Yamanouchi but I must take issue with his comments both about local players and especially our hard-working core of directors. Admittedly I now play club bridge mainly on the North Shore with an occasional foray to the VBC on Friday nights, but I do play all the tournaments and thus know the vast majority of local players, and I reiterate what I have said before. Bridge players in this area are among the best behaved anywhere. In fact I would go so far as to extend this to all of the Pacific Northwest. I credit our superb directing staff, led for years by Phil Wood and ably continued by Roger Putnam, Matt Smith and their fine associates with promoting and indeed insisting that unacceptable conduct is not to be tolerated.

"I don't know which directors his remarks were directed toward. Of course, the quality of direction will be higher at tournaments. Tournament Directors are professionals, in some cases it's their full time job, but my experience with our club directors also gives me no cause for complaint. In most cases they are also the club owners, so it behooves them to stay on the right side of the clientele to ensure that they return. No doubt there will be an occasional incident with an irate player who objects to a ruling, but overall I find the standard of both player conduct and direction to be of the highest order making my duplicate bridge an enjoyable experience win or lose."

Barry's piece was quite clear in pointing the hesitant finger at club directors, so it appears that Doug and Barry agree that our tournament directors do a very good job. The problem that Barry specified was that club directors are too often "confrontational," getting "angry at the simplest of errors on the player's part." Doug disagrees, holding that club directors do not deserve the criticism that Barry gave. The difference here is that Doug has played for many years and Barry is a newcomer. Behavior that seems normal to Doug may not seem so—yet—to Barry. My opinion is that tournament veterans are, sadly, nearly hopeless at seeing this basic truth: the biggest hurdle to newcomers to duplicate is in getting used to the aggressively competitive attitudes of bridge players as a

whole. We're happy to accept the few determined newcomers who weather the storm until they don't notice it anymore, but we miss the chance to show off our wonderful game to the majority of new players, because they find that it is just too serious.

The thing that seems to have bothered most of the people who commented about the article is that Barry gave no examples of poor behavior from club directors. I thought that this was a smart move; we frown on including complaints with names in the *Matchpointer*. But make no mistake: these incidents *do* happen, and to show you that this sort of thing does happen, let me recount two incidents from local club games, without using names or places.

Case 1: South opens 1♥ as dealer and North responds 2♦. South alerts this. East passes and South rebids 2♥.

West asks South what the alert of 2♦ shows. South says that it is Drury, which of course is quite wrong as South opened in first chair. West says nothing and asks North what the rebid of 2♥ promised.

You can see that North has a problem here, because almost any answer North gives will give away the fact that South has goofed. Luckily for North, East comes to the rescue with a comment: "He can't answer because it wasn't Drury in the first place!" All have a good laugh and the auction continues with a pass from West, but after North rebids 2♠ and East passes, South is unsure what he is entitled to do after all the table-talk, so the playing Director is called to sort it out.

Upon being given the facts, the Director admonishes West! "If you don't ask questions that can be answered by looking at the convention card, you won't get into trouble like this!"

And walks away. This ruling, against the non-offending side (!), was all the Director would say. That and "play the hand."

Why the rudeness? Why the attitude?

Case 2: West opens a weak notrump in third seat, vulnerable against not. North doubles and East passes. South bids 2♥ and this is announced as a transfer. At this point, West asks for the meaning of the double, and is told that the double shows an "equal hand." This was slightly mistaken since the agreement was that the double showed an equal *or better* hand. West passes and North elects to pass the transfer. East now bids 3♦ with this hand...

♠ xx ♥ xxx ♦ KQxxx ♣ Qxx

...and goes for 500 and a bottom. West asks to

(continued on page 16)

see the North hand and finds a 2-6-1-4 17 count. West calls the Director and claims damage based on the lax explanation of the double. The Director decides to give both sides average, but North objects, saying that it was illogical for East-West, especially as they play the same convention against notrump openers, to assume from the faulty explanation that a hand stronger than 12-14 would have to take some other action than double.

When North, after the game ended, asked the Director to convene an Appeal Committee, the Director and West (another club director) argued at length with North, and from North's point of view the situation was very uncomfortable. North asked another player to look at the deal and take up her case with the Director, and this caused even more unpleasantness. In the end North left not knowing what the final score on the hand would be and frustrated enough to send me a detailed report of the incident.

Despite that I have only the story from the North player's point of view, this incident is very troubling to me, for several reasons. I'll leave the ruling, suspect as it is, to those who know better. (See page 14.) But the saddest part here is the Director's refusal to listen to a player's concerns, and the stonewalling against the idea of listening to other opinions on the situation. The club director may own the game but does not own the right to judge personalities first and instances second. It sounds like that may be what happened here.

Directors work hard. They are entitled to respect from players. But it works both ways. In the same way that some players quite wrongly treat a call for the Director as an accusation, some Directors treat a request for an appeal as an accusation that they've goofed. Neither is true. A call for the Director is simply a request for assistance when something has happened that requires an arbiter. A request for an appeal, if it is based on the Director's judgment (as Case 2 was) is not an accusation that the Director has goofed; it is simply a request for a second opinion from a committee of experienced players. I have appealed the judgment calls of Nationally-rated Directors, and won, and discussed the issue with the Director afterwards, without frustration or rancour or "I told you so" from either side. It can be done.

But it can't be done with emotion. Players must refrain from angrily disputing a ruling on the spot. Give it some time, play a few rounds, and then think it through from the start. If you still feel that you should appeal, ask the Director—nicely—to

convene an Appeal Committee (as North did in Case 2), or to consult some other players who have already played the deal. Write the hands down, and all of the facts. If the matter is not resolved to your satisfaction, you may bring it to the attention of the Unit Board or the Unit Recorder.

If you are a Director, I ask that you treat each call with respect—even if you don't think it deserves any! Be especially aware that when you have to make a judgment call, it is not a situation like a lead out of turn that we've all seen before—you should make some effort to explain what Laws guided your thinking in coming to a ruling. You should especially be aware that most infractions causing damage are not deliberate actions, and in explaining you need to let the offending side know that the ruling is an attempt to restore equity, not an attempt to penalize for some deliberate misdeed.

My intention in writing this is *not* to stir the pot (as the article's title implies). Instead, I want players and Directors to learn to recognize the types of incidents I think led to the *Opening Lead* article last issue, because everyone seems to think they happen elsewhere, or not at all. Doug may well be correct in saying that we have the best-behaved players anywhere. But that is not the issue here. However favourably we compare with the players in other regions, there is still cause for concern if incidents like the ones described take place.

South Surrey Bridge Club

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

Director: Arlene Browning 1-604-870-9300

Partnerships: Dot Carnegie 535-8286

Mondays at 7:15 pm

First Monday of each month Stratified
Computer Scoring Partners Guaranteed

Coming Events:

November 19: ACBL Charity Game

November 26: Membership Trophy Game

Winners:

Swiss Teams(tie):

Liz Stoneman, Rekha Shah, John Horne, Rita Hasselbach;
Terry & Frances Gould, Dot Carnegie, Gilbert Lambert

Big Game: Kathy Adachi/Ina Andersen, 73.38%!

Regional Event Picker

Find the event that suits you best!

Here is the January Richmond Regional schedule, sorted into events by type, so that you can circle the ones you want to play and see which sessions are still left. The tournament takes place January 7-13, 2002, at the Delta Pacific Resort and Conference Centre in Richmond.

Each square, circle, or star denotes a session of an event. Multi-session events are connected so that you can see where they begin and end. The Continuous Pairs, connected with a dotted line, is the only multi-session event that you can play the sessions you wish. The others require you to be free for all of the sessions that are scheduled, although in the knockouts you may not survive that far.

(If you want the text-based schedule, flyers with the events listed in the normal way have been distrib-

uted throughout District 19.)

In the next *Matchpointer*, we'll look at the parking situation, how a new satellite tracking system may help you get to the site faster by transit, and we'll report on the last-minute news from the Regional planning Committee. Until then, you can address any questions to the tournament organizers:

Leslie Gold, tournament co-chair
604/271-0776, e-mail: thegolds@home.com

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: rmdunn@dccnet.com

(NOTE: Diane's e-mail address on the tournament flyer has changed since it was first printed)

Day	Time	Bracketed Knockouts	Swiss Teams	Open Pairs	Senior Pairs	Women's Pairs	Continuous Pairs	99er 199er Pairs
7th—Monday	8:00 pm	⊕		○				☆
8th—Tuesday	9:00 am	⊕		○	○			
	1:00 pm	⊕		○	○	○	○	◇
	7:30 pm							◇
9th—Wednesday	9:00 am	⊕		○	○			
	1:00 pm			○		○	○	☆
	7:30 pm					○	○	☆
10th—Thursday	9:00 am	⊕						
	1:00 pm		□				○	★
	7:30 pm		□				○	★
11th—Friday	9:00 am	⊕						
	1:00 pm	⊕		○	○			◇
	7:30 pm	⊕					○	◇
12th—Saturday	9:00 am	⊕	○					
	1:00 pm	⊕		□			○	◇
	7:30 pm	⊕		□			○	◇
13th—Sunday	10:00 am		□		○		○	
	TBA		□		○			

⊕ Bracketed Knockouts. ◇ 99er Pair Games. ☆ 199er Pair Games. ★ 199er Swiss Teams.

○ Stratified Games (1500+, 500-1500, 0-500). □ StratiFlighted (A/X: 3000+, 0-3000),

Solid lines indicate multi-session events.

(B/C/D: 1000-1500, 500-1000, 0-500 NLM).

Dotted lines indicate Continuous Pairs, play in as many as you like with different partners.

What's missing?

by Doug Cowan

Something new all the time. This hand came up at the North Shore Winter Club Game on September 4:

Board 1	Dir: North Vul: None	NORTH ♠ J 9 4 2 ♥ K T 7 6 ♦ — ♣ A K T 8 7	Sept. 4, NSWC 4♥ by South
WEST		SOUTH ♠ A 8 6 ♥ A J 9 2 ♦ K T 3 2 ♣ 4 3	EAST ♠ T 5 3 ♥ 5 3 ♦ A 9 8 7 5 ♣ J 9 6

The bidding was straightforward. I opened the North hand 1♣ (rule of 20). When partner responded

1♥, I raised to 2♥. Partner bid 4♥ and that ended the auction with the opponents silent throughout, making me dummy. So what's the oddity? Watch!

West led the K♣ around to South's ace. A heart to the ten held, and South cashed the ace and king of clubs and ruffed one in hand, both defenders following as the suit split 3-3. South now led the J♥ from hand, West covered with the marked queen, and the K♥ won the trick, East contributing the 5♥. A low heart from dummy to the ace drew the last trump from the West hand as East pitched the 5♣. Remembering the K♣ opening lead, South now played a small spade through West, who took his Q♣, East following with the T♣. The dummy was completely set up now and South claimed the rest.

Do you see the oddity yet?

Holding the North hand, I *never saw a diamond throughout the whole bidding and play!* I don't know why East didn't throw a diamond instead of a spade at trick seven but I'm glad she did, because otherwise there's no story!

Polski Klub Brydzowy
Polish Combatant Centre
1134 Kingsway, Vancouver
Waldemar Jez 527-8854
Alternate Fridays at 7:30pm
BY INVITATION ONLY



North Shore Winter Club Bridge

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

Louis Landau 984-8309 Bernice Mulock 987-8289

Special Game: Sunday, December 2, 11am and TBA
Two-session Charity Swiss Teams—Marge Murray Trophy
Proceeds to Canadian Bridge Federation Charitable Fund,
and the Canadian Arthritic Society

Vancouver Bridge Centre

2776 East Broadway, Vancouver, ph. 255-2564
lessons, books, seminars

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday	10:30am	Improve Your Duplicate, 0-50 MP
	7:15pm	Non-Life Masters Stratified
Tuesday	10:30am	Open Day-Time Stratified
	7:30pm	Open Stratified (Optional Jackpot)
Wednesday	10:30 am	Intermediate, 0-300 MP
	7:00 pm	Open Stratified (by # of LMs)
Thursday	7:00 pm	Novice/Beginner Game 0-20 MP
	7:30 pm	Open Stratified
Friday	10:30 am	Open Day-Time Stratified
	7:30 pm	Lucky Number Jackpot Open
Saturday	7:00 pm	Monthly Individual Game!
Sunday	1:00 pm	Open Stratified, occasionally Teams

Weekday Afternoon Games Include Optional Inexpensive Lunch
Masterpoint-limited Games include per-game Mini-Lesson

Bridge Centre Special Event Highlights

Last Friday each month: TGIF Party Game & bidding contest
First Overall in a Strat at the Round-Up Sectional? Come and enjoy a game on the house at Sectional Winners Free Play Night, Tuesday November 13.

Won A Game at the Bridge Centre? Play in our Monthly Winners Game, free for winners in the previous month. Nov. 4 for October winners, Dec. 2 for November winners.

Aidan Ballantyne Advanced Workshops: Two left: Nov. 3, and Dec. 8. Contact the club for registration details.

Monthly Individual Games: Club Championship Nov. 3.

Monthly Mish-Mash Swiss Teams: Come with or without a partner for a fun Sunday Afternoon. Nov. 25, Dec. 30.

Monthly Hand Record Games: Wednesday evenings once a month; November 7 and December 5.

"Red, White and Blue" ACBL-Wide Charity Game: Monday evening, December 10, open to all players.

Holiday Bash Charity Club Championship: December 15 (a Saturday). 6PM Dinner, 7:30 Bridge. Pre-register please.

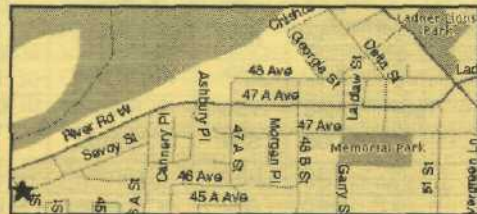
New Ladner Day Game

Twice a month starting November 16

Tswwassen Bridge is pleased to announce a new Friday morning duplicate game to be held twice per month. The inaugural game at our Ladner facility will be held on November 16. Other games will follow on November 30, December 14, December 28, January 4, and January 18.

The 24-board game will start at 10:30 am and should be finished by 2:00 pm. There will be a short break for a light lunch at about noon. Entry fee is \$5.00. Lunch is an extra \$3.00 or feel free to bring your own if you wish.

To cater accurately we need to know by Wednesday morning how many people will require lunch. A message from you (phone 604/940-9809, fax 604/940-9806, or e-mail rmdunn@dccnet.com) would be very helpful.



FISHERMAN'S HALL, 4481 SAVOY ST., LADNER

The Hall is no more than ten minutes from the Massey Tunnel and the start/finish times will ensure that traffic problems will be non-existent. Here's how to get there. Drive west on Ladner Trunk and after the traffic light at Arthur Drive look for River West condos on the right (0.7k). Pass these and look for a tiny park on your left (0.7k), corner of Weare and River Rd. Left on Weare, left on Savoy. BINGO.

Hope to see you there on November 16!

—Richard Dunn

TSAWWASSEN BRIDGE CLUB

South Delta Rec. Centre, 1720 56th Street.

Richard Dunn: 940-9809

e-mail: rmdunn@dccnet.com

Mondays at 7:15 pm

OPEN STRATIFIED PAIRS

November 12: Closed for Sectional

November 19: Closed (see you in Las Vegas)

December 3: Christmas Party

December 10: Club Championship

December 17: Last Game of 2001

Club reopens January 7, 2002.

The first team game in Tswwassen in many years on October 15 attracted eleven teams, and ten of them won GOLD points in the Club Appreciation Game!

Look for more team games in 2002!

South-West Duplicate Bridge Club

White Rock Elks Club, 1469 George Street

Finn Schultz, 534-5025 Tuesdays at 11:00 am

Charity Game, November 6

Membership Game, December 4

Christmas Party, December 11

September masterpoint race winner: Arlene Browning

East Richmond Bridge Club

7891 Cambie (at River Road), Richmond
(Richmond Rod & Gun Club)

Ernie Dietrich 604-936-2298

\$5.00 entry includes lunch *Sundays at 1:00 pm*

All special games stratified, most with hand records

November 4: Membership Game

November 11: Closed for Sectional

November 25: ACBL-wide Charity Game

December 2: Closed (building unavailable)

December 9: Club Championship

December 23: Christmas Party

Recent Winners:

Club Championship: Debbie Williams/John Horne

New Masterpoint Race Leader: John Horne

Big Game: Al French/Peter Morse, 69.21%

A REAL Winning Margin

by Marshall Smiles

Talk about a winning margin!

At a recent club game, Sandi and I were second with fifty-four percent, beaten by our IMP League teammates Pearl and David who had a seventy-four percent game. How's that for a winning margin?!

CLUB NEWS YELLOW PAGES

Unit 430 Weekly Duplicate Game List

Most recent update: October 25, 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	<i>Improve Your Duplicate: 0-50 MP, stratified</i>
	10:45	BBY	H. Dressler	Hazel Dressler 524-4445	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	SRV	A. Browning	Arlene Browning 870-9300	Open (1st Monday stratified)
	7:15	VBC	E. Chan	Club telephone 255-2564	<i>Non Life Masters Stratified (to 500 MP)</i>
	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	B. Russell	Club telephone 255-2564	<i>Open Day-time Stratified: optional \$2 lunch</i>
	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	H. Dressler	Hazel Dressler 524-4445	Open
	7:30	VBC	A. Ballantyne	Club telephone 255-2564	<i>Opt. Winner-Take-All Jackpot: Open stratified</i>
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	<i>Intermediate: 0-300 MP, stratified</i>
	7:00	VBC	E. Chan	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	<i>Novice/Beginner: 0-20 MP</i>
	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 <i>Opt. \$2 Soup & Bun</i>
	10:30	LAD	R. Dunn	Richard Dunn 940-9809	NEW GAME starting Nov. 16 (details, p. ??)
	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	<i>Lucky # Jackpot Open (last Friday: TGIF Party)</i>
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	VBC	R. Dunn	Monthly Unit Game (see p. 37)	Open stratified

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

CLUB NEWS YELLOW PAGES

Special Events at Clubs

October 29—December 31, 2001

Date	Time	Club	What's Happening
29 Oct	10:30	VBC	Club Championship Game (0-50)
29 Oct	7:15	SRY	Monthly Stratified Game
29 Oct	7:30	CWK	Monthly Stratified Game
29 Oct	7:30	VBC	CNTC Qualifying Game: Flight A unlimited, Flight B 0-1000 (plus a side non-Life Master Swiss Teams)
30 Oct	10:30	VBC	Club Appreciation Game
31 Oct	7:15	WRK	Monthly Stratified Game
1 Nov	7:00	VBC	Club Championship Game (0-20)
1 Nov	7:30	VBC	Club Championship Game (open)
2 Nov	—	S-D	Closed (building unavailable)
3 Nov	1:00	VBC	Aidan Ballantyne Workshop #2

Club Abbreviations and Ad Locations

Abbr	Club Name	Page
ARB	Arbutus Village BC	24
BBY	Burnaby DBC	32
C.R	Central Richmond BC	7
CWK	Chilliwack DBC	23
HAS	Hastings BC	23
HBN	Hollyburn BC	30
JCC	Jewish Comm. Ctr. DBC	24
LAD	Tswassen BC (Ladner location)	19
MIS	Mission DBC	23
M-R	Maple Ridge DBC	23
NWR	New-West BC	32
NSW	North Shore Winter Club	18
PKB	Polish Bridge Club (non-ACBL)	18
RMD	East Richmond BC	19
S-D	Sur-Del BC	32
S-W	South-West DBC	19
SRY	South Surrey BC	16
SQU	Squamish DBC	22
TSW	Tswassen BC	19
VBC	Vancouver Bridge Centre	18
VCR	Vancouver Bridge Club	22
WRK	White Rock BC	23

Date	Time	Club	What's Happening
3 Nov	7:00	VBC	Monthly Individual Game
4 Nov	1:00	RMD	Membership Game
4 Nov	1:00	VBC	Monthly Winners Free Play Game
4 Nov	7:00	VBC	November Monthly Unit Game (proceeds to ACBL Charity)
5 Nov	7:00	SQU	Monthly Handicap Game
5 Nov	7:15	SRY	Monthly Stratified Game
5 Nov	7:15	VBC	Club Championship Game (NLM)
6 Nov	11:00	S-W	Charity Game
7 Nov	7:00	VBC	Monthly Hand Records Game
7 Nov	7:15	WRK	Swiss Teams
8 Nov	7:30	MIS	Club Championship Game
9-12 Nov			Round-Up Sectional at Engineer's Hall in Burnaby. Most clubs closed.
12 Nov	10:00	VCR	Remembrance Day Holiday Pairs
12 Nov	7:30	CWK	Club Championship Game
13 Nov	10:30	VBC	Club Championship Game
13 Nov	7:30	VBC	Round-Up Sectional Winners Free Play Game
14 Nov	7:15	C.R	Club Championship Game
14 Nov	7:30	VBC	COPC (Canadian Open Pairs Championship) Qualifying Game
16 Nov	10:30	LAD	New Bi-weekly game (see p. 19)
19 Nov	10:45	BBY	Club Championship Game
19 Nov	7:00	SQU	Trophy Race Game
19 Nov	7:15	SRY	ACBL-wide Charity Game with hand records
19 Nov	—	TSW	Club Closed (Vegas beckons!)
19 Nov	7:30	VBC	ACBL-wide Charity Game (open)
20 Nov	7:30	BBY	Club Championship Game
21 Nov	10:00	VCR	Club Championship Game
21 Nov	10:30	HAS	Membership Game
21 Nov	10:30	VBC	Club Championship (0-200)
21 Nov	7:15	WRK	Charity Game
22 Nov	7:15	NWR	Membership Game
23 Nov	10:30	VBC	Club Championship
23 Nov	7:30	PKB	Bi-weekly Game
24 Nov	—		ALERT: Unit Christmas Party Cancelled Due To Conflict With Las Vegas NABC. A Unit Party Game Will Be Held In Early 2002. Details Next Issue.
25 Nov	1:00	RMD	ACBL-wide Charity Game
25 Nov	1:00	VBC	Monthly Mish-Mash Swiss Teams
26 Nov	10:00	VCR	Handicap Game
26 Nov	7:15	TSW	Membership Game
26 Nov	7:15	SRY	Membership Trophy Game
26 Nov	7:30	CWK	Stratified Game
28 Nov	7:15	WRK	Stratified Game
29 Nov	7:30	VBC	COPC (Canadian Open Pairs Championship) Qualifying Game

(continued on page 22)

CLUB NEWS YELLOW PAGES

(Special Events at Clubs, continued from page 21)

Date	Time	Club	What's Happening
30 Nov	10:30	LAD	Bi-weekly Game
30 Nov	7:30	VBC	TGIF Party Game
2 Dec	11:00	NSW	Annual Charity Swiss Teams (2nd session TBA). Details, p. ??.
2 Dec	—	RMD	Closed (building unavailable)
2 Dec	1:00	VBC	Monthly Winners Free Play Game
3 Dec	10:30	VBC	Club Championship (0-50)

As you make plans to attend the various holiday games and parties held at clubs, please remember that many clubs rely on volunteers and on pre-registration to ensure that their event is a success. Please contact the club manager in advance to see whether pre-registration is required, and consider volunteering your time to help make the event a memorable one.

3 Dec	10:45	BBY	Christmas Party Pot Luck Game
3 Dec	7:00	SQU	Monthly Handicap Game
3 Dec	7:15	SRY	Monthly Stratified Game
3 Dec	7:15	TSW	Christmas Party Game
4 Dec	11:00	S-W	Membership Game
4 Dec	7:30	BBY	Christmas Party Pot Luck Game
4 Dec	7:30	VBC	Club Championship Game
5 Dec	7:00	VBC	Monthly Hand Records
6 Dec	7:15	NWR	Christmas Party Pot Luck Club Championship Game
6 Dec	7:30	VBC	Canadian Open Pairs Championship Qualifying Game (last chance)
7 Dec	7:30	PKB	Turniej Co 2 Tygodnie
7 Dec	7:30	S-D	Ken Holland Memorial Membership Game
7 Dec	7:30	VBC	Club Championship Game
8 Dec	1:00	VBC	Aidan Ballantyne Workshop #3
9 Dec	1:00	VBC	Club Championship Game
9 Dec	7:00	VBC	December Monthly Unit Game Proceeds to ACBL Charity
10 Dec	7:15	TSW	Club Championship Game
10 Dec	7:15	VBC	"Red, White and Blue" Charity Game (open)

Squamish Bridge Club

1471 Pemberton Street, Squamish
Mondays at 7:00 pm, reopens Sept 10
Monthly Handicap & Trophy Race Games
Don Lecky 892-9027

Date	Time	Club	What's Happening
10 Dec	7:30	CWK	Milk Bottle Fund Charity Game
11 Dec	11:00	S-W	Christmas Party Game
12 Dec	10:30	HAS	Christmas Party Game
12 Dec	7:30	C.R.	Christmas/Channukah Party Game
13 Dec	7:15	NWR	Final game of 2001
14 Dec	10:30	LAD	Bi-weekly game
14 Dec	7:30	S-D	Christmas Party Pot Luck Club Championship Game
15 Dec	6:00	VBC	Holiday Bash Charity Club Championship. (Dinner 6:00, Bridge 7:30)
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	7:00	VBC	Club Championship Game
19 Dec	7:15	VCR	Christmas Party Game
21 Dec	7:30	PKB	Turniej Co 2 Tygodnie
23 Dec	1:00	RMD	Christmas Party Game
24 Dec	10:00	VCR	Christmas Eve Regular Game
24-25 Dec			Most Clubs closed.
26 Dec	10:00	VCR	Boxing Day Holiday Pairs
27 Dec	—	NWR	Closed
28 Dec	10:30	LAD	Bi-weekly Game
30 Dec	1:00	VBC	Monthly Mish-Mash Swiss Teams
31 Dec	10:00	VCR	New Year's Eve Regular Game
31 Dec-1 Jan			Most Clubs Closed
1 Jan	10:30	VBC	New Year's Extravaganza (details TBA)
1 Jan	noon	VCR	John Reeve Individual Game
4 Jan	10:30	LAD	Bi-weekly Game
4 Jan	7:30	PKB	Turniej Co 2 Tygodnie
5 Jan	1:00	VBC	CNTC (Canadian National Teams Championship) Qualifying Game; Flights A and B (last chance).
7-13 Jan			2002 Richmond Regional at the Delta Pacific Resort and Convention Centre in Richmond. Most Clubs Closed.

Vancouver Bridge Club

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

Louis Landau 984-8309

All games non-smoking.
Computer scoring.

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

Wednesday games are jackpot games

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

Club Championship Games:

Wednesday, November 21 (am)
Wednesday December 19 (pm)

Holiday Monday Party Games:

Nov. 12: Remembrance Day Pairs
Dec. 26: Boxing Day Pairs

Handicap Games:

Monday, November 26

Club Christmas Party Games:

Monday, December 17
Wednesday, December 19 (pm)

John Reeve Individual Game:

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

(Only Yesterday, continued from page 26)

tember issue that the R.W. Dufour trophy, awarded to the player traveling to an out-of-town tournament winning the fewest masterpoints, went to **Terry Gould**. This is followed by a form to fill out to get in on a deal, \$120 return airfare to Reno for the year-end Regional.

The Unit By-Laws, in limbo for a year as the Unit board struggled to amend them to get the required 60% support, finally passed at the 1976 Annual General Meeting and are largely the same today. The President's Report announcing this drew some reaction: "Many comments have been made about **Ted Trites**'s comments about the 'previous incompetent.' It should be noted that Ted was the previous treasurer and was giving himself a 'cheap shot!'"

In a Kelowna game, **Syd Minkoff** held this hand and opened 1♣:

♠ Kxxx ♥ AKQx ♦ x ♣ J9xx

His partner responded a strong 2♦, and this made

Syd sit up and take notice. He noticed that his hand was mis-sorted and actually was:

♠ Kxxxx ♥ AKQx ♦ x ♣ J9x

He tried to "catch up about his spades" (1♣-2♦, 2♠-3♦, 3♠-4♦, 4♠-5♠) but to no avail. Syd expected the worst when dummy hit the table:

♠ — ♥ x ♦ AKJTxxxx ♣ Kxxx

Syd won the opening heart lead and ran the nine of clubs to RHO's queen. He won the heart return and led a trump towards dummy, and LHO went up with the ace. The spade return was ruffed in dummy and Syd led the K♣ and closed his eyes. Both followed, and the Q♦ later dropped. It's an easy game!

Old copies of the *Matchpointer*, back to the early 70s, 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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November 8: Club Championship

District-wide Charity Game Winners:

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September Club Champions:

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Thanks To Everyone

The Disaster Relief Charity Game

(Shortly after I sent this out to Unit and DINO people on the day after the event, I started getting kind responses back from people who got it via the "forward to..." button on somebody's computer. I'm no hacker, but the evidence on page 2 clearly indicates that it got at least as far as Memphis.)

The charity game held for the American Red Cross Relief Effort on Saturday, September 25, drew 15 tables for the afternoon session and 16 tables for the evening session. The **Vancouver Bridge Centre** donated the site free of rental charge and our regular Unit Game Director, **Richard Dunn**, worked two sessions for free. Players brought enough food for everyone and there was even musical entertainment during the break between sessions. Local merchants were canvassed and several players made donations to a fine collection of door prizes (there's a funny story about this: ask me the next time you see me), including free plays to Unit events and other goodies. A representative from the local Red Cross attended the beginning of the second session to thank the players for their generosity and discuss the various efforts and the unprecedented level of support from communities throughout North America.

Since there were virtually no Unit costs in running this event and since I am told that 75% of the sanction fee goes through Memphis directly, I can report that (one way or another), well over 95% of the entry fees will be donated to the American Red Cross Relief Fund, a total of CDN \$1,240. Before the second session, we held an auction, as seven local experts kindly donated two sessions at a future DINO Regional. DINO's offer of waiving the entry fee for any players going for more than \$100 was a key factor, and all seven stars went for \$100 or more, for an additional fund of \$760. In addition, a jar for extra donations was kept at the front desk and garnered over \$170, so the grand total came to well over two thousand Canadian dollars.

One Board Member deserves the vast majority of the credit for handling the organization of this event from start to finish: soliciting and collecting door prizes, asking local stars to agree to be auctioned, making sure there was enough food for everyone, getting the required sanctions as quickly as possible, and ensuring that a hastily-organized event (just six days after a local sectional) was run smoothly. His name is **Julien Lévesque**.

Here is a list of the players that were auctioned off and their buyers (and the prices). A mysterious telephone bidder placed bids for **Cam Doner** up to about the \$100 mark through **Brian Russell**—we expect it was Cam himself but we cannot prove it...

Kathy Adachi bought by **Dianne Isfeld** for \$100

Greg Arbour bought by **Harry Greenhut** for \$100

Ron Borg bought by **Bruno Moras** for \$100

Cam Doner bought by **Sandra Robson** for \$110

Dan Jacob bought by **Paul Waters** (who was first overall in both games, with **Mike Dorn Wiss** and **Ken Robertson**) for \$100

Larry Hicks bought by **Bruce Partridge** for \$150

Brian Russell bought by **Kathy Bye** for \$100

We were told by **Julien Lévesque** that all entry fees would be waived for both sessions for any players who went in the auction for more than \$100, and in conducting the auction I mentioned this fact, which effectively doubled the donations, as there were several "pre-emptive bids" of \$100 when the level reached \$60 or so, so we owe DINO a big thank you for that very clever idea.

One very interesting note: during the afternoon game, director Richard Dunn received two phone calls, one from an American visitor to Vancouver, who saw the VBC ad in the Yellow Pages and called to see if there was a game that night. When told there was a special benefit game for the Disaster Relief Fund and that we could certainly match him up with a partner, he wanted very much to attend. The visitor's name was **John Kirk**, and he rose and thanked everyone when we saw to it that he won a door prize (actually, without prompting my computer saw to it that table 8 South was picked for a door prize—proving that computers don't always screw up—but I made sure it was one of the nicer ones). I helped collect pick-up slips and our visitor was very polite and friendly to everyone. We called a cab afterwards and he thanked most of the people who had helped organize the game. I shook his hand and watched him leave and when I checked the scores later I found that our courteous and polite visitor had had a 37% game, yet wanted us to know that he had had a wonderful evening.

The second call Richard received that afternoon was from an aide to General John Kirk, U.S. Army (Retired), who asked us not to make mention of his military rank during his visit, and to treat him just as we would any out-of-town visitor.

(Charity Game winners are listed on page 37.)

though the original says only "L."), **Dave Glen, Brian Russell, and Cam Doner**. That team would get pretty low odds in the A League today.

In the August issue, the Flight C champions were listed: **Fred Powell, Peter Wong, Rod Coote, Perry Chan, and Tai Eng**.

An interesting (to me, at least) article from **Colin Sabiston** showed how he had entered the results of thousands of deals into two computers. (In 1986 this would have been far more complicated than it would be today.) A table showed, for each possible contract, the frequency, and the matchpoint averages when declaring and when defending.

The October 1986 issue featured a long article reprinted from the Kootenay Unit newsletter. Fifteen years ago, the Canadian Bridge Federation relied on membership funds to come from Units, not added to Canadian players' ACBL memberships, as they are today. Units were urged to pay the memberships on behalf of their players, but "David and Goliath" recounted the struggles of the Kootenay Unit, which had a problem with the CBF's takeover of the Grand National Teams, among other regrettable tactics the CBF used then to get funds. Today there are CBF executives studying the possibility of a separate Canadian league. They would be advised to read the article from 1986 and take note.

Oddly enough, I found no mention of Expo '86 in any of these issues. I played at the Haida Club (Cambie & Broadway, a few blocks from the site of the World's Fair) one evening in the summer of 1986 and had to defend with thirteen penalty cards shortly after ten o'clock, having not been warned of the new strategy. For six months in 1986, players had to hold their cards tightly during the last few rounds lest they lose them when the nightly fireworks began.

20 years ago in the *Matchpointer*

(June, August 1981, **Aidan Ballantyne**, editor)

Not much in the *Matchpointer* is ever new—the writing is original, of course, but anything "new" an editor tries is likely to have been tried before. In June 1981, **Aidan Ballantyne** invited players under 100 masterpoints to submit entries in a special competition (stratified was not a bridge word twenty years ago) for a free play to a Unit Game, so there goes another *Matchpointer* innovation I might have taken credit for! **Helen Donison** was the winner, with a fine score of 45 out of 50, just two points behind the veteran leaders.

Classified ad, 1981: "**Bow Liu** is looking for someone to play Sharples weak no-trump with

him, since his regular partner, **Andy Pendrigh**, left him some time ago for France and a wife. Applicants must own a large butterfly net and hold a valid diver's licence." Ask Aidan if the penultimate word was a mistype.

"The Longest IMP" was **Lauren Miller's** account of how a BC squad (**Duncan Smith, Dan Jacob, Gord McOrmond, Lauren Miller, and Peter Herold**) came from 57 IMPs down with 16 boards left in the National semi-final of the CNTC, to tie it with four boards left! Two pushes and a swing each way in the final four boards left Ottawa ahead by one IMP based only on being vulnerable at the right time. One of the pushes came when both teams went down two in 7NT, trying an "esoteric squeeze" rather than conceding a spade for down one!" Arrgh.

In October, **Aidan Ballantyne** spoofed the famous *Bols Bridge Tips* with a new *Matchpointer* series: the "Balls" Bridge Tips. Tip #1 was this:

"At matchpoints, don't overly concern yourself with stoppers: It's always right to play notrump!"

There followed a great collection of hands where bidding notrump without a stopper in an unbid or opponent's suit worked out, either because the opponents believed the notrump bidder, or ducked strategically and won no more tricks. Each time the advice was to commiserate: "not unreasonable" was the suggested phrase. This was the wrap-up:

"If the opponents are in the auction, don't let that deter you. Don't think, bid notrump at matchpoints, stopper or no stopper. Not only does it confuse the enemy, it enables you to play a lot of the hands! But when you get away with it, don't gloat. You might be mysteriously struck down by a passing car one night. Then even your partners might say: 'Not unreasonable!'"

25 years ago in the *Matchpointer*

(Sept. & Oct. 1976, **Gary Harper**, editor)

Unit members renewing their membership were urged to send their new *postal code* to Memphis.

The second year of the IMP League came to an end with **Ron Borg, Jim Andrews, Jim Donaldson, Paul Hagen, Bob Connop, and Buddy Crapko** the winners. IMP League "Co-Ordinator" ("Commish" came later) **Jim McCully** hoped that there would be enough entries to run a non-Life Master Division, and there were! In 1976 the playoffs were ladder based: the top four teams of ten made the playoffs, and the third-place team played the fourth-place team for the right to face the second-place team in a match for the right to play the first-place team in the final.

I suspect this is a joke, but it is listed in the Sep-

(continued on page 23)

It's Your Bid

Responses and Scores

Your *Matchpointer* editor found the time to visit a few more clubs as the deadline approached, and the result is 53 responses to the questions from last issue, and we all know that the game works best with a full deck! (We'll call the Hideous Hog In Training's entry the joker.) I thank all of the people who responded, and the club directors who took the time to make announcements that worked very well! I'll have to make another tour of several clubs to get as many responses as I can for next time. The more responses we get, the more we can believe the consensus.

One thing we didn't get very much of was comments. Let's hear some reasons next time, bidders! The people who did comment

seemed to do rather well this time!

Of the 53 responses, 17 were in Flight A, 22 in Flight B, and 14 in Flight C. Two of the problems were easier than I thought they would be, but the others were close enough to be in doubt down to the final entries. I heard from one critic that these "weren't really problems." It seems he was right—so this time I am using some problems from other sources.

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 according to their relative popularity with the consensus choice. In the first question the second best option attracted 100 voting points, compared to 150 voting points for the consensus bid. 100 is about 67% of 150, so 67 out

of a possible 100 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, or 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 what is right in theory may not always work in practice!

Your mileage may vary.

Four people dodged all five bullets (although as mentioned, two of them were blanks) and scored a perfect 500. Who were they? Let's find out:

1. (Matchpoints, N-S vulnerable.)			
♠ K932 ♥ J ♦ AJ973 ♣ T42			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			Pass
1♦	1♥	1♠	???

Call	A	B	C	Total Votes	Total Points	Award
Pass	10	13	11	34	150	100
1NT	7	9	3	19	100	67

Source: Online bridge. Partner held this hand:

♠ QJ5 ♥ A9542 ♦ T5 ♣ Q73

Pass or 1NT were the options here. Does 1NT warn partner off bidding hearts again or does it promise some tolerance? Does passing allow the opponents too much freedom to figure out what to do, or does it give them the opportunity to get too high?

The Hideous Hog (in Training): 1NT. Might be wrong, but it is more likely that letting the bad guys bid 1NT is wronger.

Mike Hargreaves: Pass—why would anyone bid here?

Harold Hansen: Pass. Looks like misfit city.

Gord McOrmond: Pass. Partner's overcall doesn't promise the world, and besides I should have a second chance to bid (1♠ is normally forcing).

David Breton: Pass—what are the other options?

Phillipe Westriech: Pass and hope the opponents play in one of their poor fits.

Larry Meyer: Pass. We want to defend a misfit deal. Double would suggest clubs with heart tolerance, which we don't have.

The 1NT bidders went for 200 or 300 when everything went horribly wrong. Oddly enough, after a pass by South, the most likely rebid by West was 1NT, and that often went down as well! (Read HHIT's comment again and have a good chuckle.)

2. (Matchpoints, they're vul.)			
♠ 9854 ♥ K3 ♦ 985 ♣ AJ94			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	2♥	Double
Pass	4♥	Pass	???

Ah yes, the old jump cue bid in the opponent's suit. I remember seeing this back in—actually, I don't remember ever seeing anything like this. I won-

der what it means.

Larry Meyer: 4♣. We had our values for our double, but nothing in reserve. With such anemic trumps, don't bid aggressively.

The Hideous Hog (in Training): If partner passes 4♣ he will have at least four of them. If not, some re-reading is required.

Harold Hansen: 4♣—nice clubs, but I only have the values for a negative double with lousy spades.

Gord McOrmond: 4♣—I assume partner splintered in support of my implied suit (spades). No interest in slam with bad trump and second-round trump control.

Mike Hargreaves: 4♣—partner rates to be 4045 and huge. But I have only one working card. If he hasn't got spades, he'll bid.

Call	A	B	C	Total Votes	Total Points	Award
4♣	14	18	9	41	203	100
5♣	3	1	5	9	38	19
Pass	0	2	0	2	6	3
5♠	0	1	0	1	3	1

Source: Online bridge again. Partner held this hand:

♠ AKQ6 ♥ — ♦ AJ64 ♣ KQT72

The club slam requires a guess in diamonds; the spade slam is cold. Maybe the sole 5♣ bidder actually made the best bid here, because few reached the slam.

Leaderboard: 24-way tie at 200.

3. (VP Swiss Teams, N-S vul.)			
♠ AK ♥ AK3 ♦ QJ742 ♣ AK8			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♣	2♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♦	Pass	???
(North holds A-K♦ and Q♣.)			

Over fifty years ago, expert Hal Sims demanded of his teammates that grand slams not be bid in teams unless 13 tricks could be counted during the auction. After all, the opponents may not even get to game. In short matches especially, this advice still has its adherents. Can you count 13 tricks here? Are you sure?

The Hideous Hog (in Training): Responders

alert. I watched McBruce play this one. He went down and spent most of the second half justifying the bid to his partner. I wouldn't be surprised if he rigs the scoring system to penalize 7NT.

Julien Lévesque: My 6♥ bid is looking for either the Q♥ or the J♠, protecting against a bad break in clubs. If partner has either card I expect the grand to be cold.

Gord McOrmond: 7NT—am I missing something?

David Breton: 7NT—I feel like bidding 8 or 9 but my box only has a 7 in it.

Phillipe Westreich: 7NT—Partner's clubs are long enough to get rid of my 3♥.

Larry Meyer: 7NT—13 tricks are very likely in 7♣, 7♦ or 7NT. Notrump avoids the possibility of the defense scoring a ruff on the opening lead.

Harold Hansen: 7NT—squeeze possibilities for the 13th trick.

Mike Hargreaves: 7NT—what's the problem? OK, I go down when RHO has Jxxx♣—not worth worrying about.

Call	A	B	C	Total Votes	Total Points	Award
7NT	14	17	11	42	202	100
7♣	2	2	1	5	27	13
7♦	1	0	1	2	11	5
6NT	0	2	1	3	7	3
6♥	0	1	0	1	3	1

Source: A first round match in the knockouts at the Spring Sectional. Partner's hand was:

♠ Q6 ♥ T42 ♦ AKT ♣ Q7652

...and I claimed 2220 when I saw dummy. Unlucky, RHO had ♣JTxx and I was down one. But all was well, as they bid the grand at the other table as well, and found a way to go two down in an attempt to make magic happen. Why they thought I was likely to be able to summon such magic is a real mystery, but we took the 2 IMPs! Maybe the Lévesque magic 6♥ bid would have saved more.

HHIT is right, I've tried to get the possibility of going down up into the 20-30% range using some hand dealer programs, but no matter how you define the hands described by the auction, 7NT makes well over 95% of the time. Changed the conditions too, from knockouts to Swiss Teams, hoping that some would be wary to bid 7NT in a short match. Oh well.

Leaderboard: Still fifteen people with perfect scores, but the questions are about to get harder.

4. (Matchpoints, none vul.)

♠ QJ973 ♥ 8732 ♦ A9 ♣ Q7

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1♣	1♠	???

In this sequence the normal action is to count up the hearts in your hand and make a blind negative double in case you're missing a heart fit. But this is not the world's greatest heart suit, and there are other options...

The Hideous Hog (in Training): I suspect that double will be the consensus here because the negative double has become a mindless zombie action when holding the other major. But I care not. I want partner to re-open so I can pass and collect the big money. Why be a zombie?

Harold Hansen: 1NT—Looks like the best bid with the weak heart suit.

Mike Hargreaves: Pass—going for blood. Even if partner holds four hearts, no guarantee that a heart contract will outscore 1♠ doubled.

Gord McOrmond: Pass—if partner reopens I hope I can tag them for 500 or cannot make game.

Larry Meyer: Double. Show the four lousy hearts. If partner bids on, we are well placed to bid notrump, denying good hearts, and spades stopped.

Call	A	B	C	Total Votes	Total Points	Award
Double	7	14	8	28	120	100
1NT	5	4	3	12	65	54
Pass	5	3	2	9	61	51
3NT	0	1	0	1	3	3
2♥	0	0	1	1	1	1

Source: Online bridge again. Looking for a big score late in the game, I passed and partner reopened with a double. I was going to pass this and hope for +300, but what I would actually have gotten was +100 or more likely -180. Luckily for me, East was also looking for a big score and tried a 2♣ bid, so I bid 2♥ and this ended the auction, to my surprise, and I made eight tricks. +110 was worth about 60% to North-South. Partner held this:

♠ T6 ♥ KQJ6 ♦ QT8 ♣ A652

Leaderboard: Eight people take perfect scores of 400 into the final question. In Flight A, **Janis Parker, Delphine Tablotney, and Rhoda Tafler** have 400. In Flight B, the only 400 scores belong to **Ron**

Fox and Larry Meyer. In Flight C, **David Breton, Phillippe Westreich, and Barry Yamanouchi** have 400. But...the Flight C trio are also eligible for Flight B (and Flight A).

5. (Matchpoints, none vul.)

♠ QJ754 ♥ KJT87 ♦ - ♣ T97

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♣	Pass	2♥	Double
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

East denied an ace or king.
What is your opening lead?

Lead problems. Do you decide the suit first, and then work out the best card? Or maybe figure out the card least likely to give away a trick and lead that suit? How about checking the psychic vibes to divine where partner's help is?

(Just a quick note here: I'll normally divide the lead problems into eight possible answers, small cards or honours in each suit, using the standard lead. We won't include questions that require you to lead a non-standard card. If you led the seven or the four I changed it to the five of spades; if you started the ten of hearts I changed it to the more standard jack. One person actually tried a "small" heart and this time I felt charitable so I changed that to the jack too.)

Mike Hargreaves: Only real problem of the set. Can make a case for almost anything. I select the Q♣—going for the immediate payoff if correct.

Harold Hansen: T♣. Partner should have some values and they're probably in clubs. Let declarer open the other suits.

Gord McOrmond: 5♣. It's tempting to lead a heart, but this is catering to exactly a stiff A♥ in dummy (partner would probably have doubled 3NT with the A♥); it's possible but seems a low probability. I have a reasonable second suit and will lead it.

Larry Meyer: I'm afraid East has ♥Qxx—let partner lead them. 5♣ should work out if partner has T♣ or better.

Phillippe Westreich: 5♣—East appears to have the Q♥ so leave that suit alone for now.

The Hideous Hog (in Training): I know a diamond cannot be right, but beyond that I have no clue, so I will lead fourth from the left. 5♣.

(continued on page 30)

Special Events Recap

not quite by Larry Meyer

The Special Events Coordinator always expresses surprise that an article appears under his by-line in the *Matchpointer*. I admit it. I write them, but I'd not be able to if Larry Meyer had not done such a superb job in keeping me up to date.

NAOP: The Unit Final was held October 13, and legal aliens from another planet (Poland) won:

A	B	C	NAOP Unit Final, October 13	(17,18 tables)
1	1	1	Greg Barszcs/Waldemar Jez	
2	2		John Lien/Liz Stoneman	
3	3		Dianne Isfeld/Martin Henneberger	
4			Brad Bart/Mike Dimich	
5			Gerry McCully/Rhonda Foster	
6	4		Aban & Bob Gerrie	
	5		Harold Hansen/Gary Phelan	
	6		Gord Davis/Ken Lochang	
	2		Ross Lam/David Breton	
	3		Samantha Nystrom/Catherine McKinnon	
	4		Dominique Baker/Linda Bell	

Two pairs played only the first session due to commitments. 42 individuals qualified for the District Finals in Tacoma on December 1. We expect most found out before they left whether or not their score was good enough, but if there are any doubts, call Larry at the number listed above for confirmation.

The VBC is running qualifying games for the CNTC and COPC:

Mon., Oct. 29: CNTC Qualifying Swiss, 7:30 (with a separate Swiss Teams for players in the regular Monday night game)

Wed., Nov. 14: COPC Qualifying game, 7:00.

Thu., Nov. 29: CNTC Qualifying Swiss, 7:30.

Thu., Dec. 6: COPC Qualifying game, 7:30.

Sat., Jan. 5: CNTC Qualifying Swiss, 1:00.

We are still waiting for DINO to contact us about the arrangements for the Grand National Teams. This appears to be a DINO tradition and your *Matchpointer* editor would not be surprised to find that Seattle clubs have already begun playing qualifying games, as has happened in the past.

Hollyburn Bridge Club

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Thursdays at 9:30 am, by invitation only

(It's Your Bid, continued from page 29)

Lead	A	B	C	Total Votes	Total Points	Award
5♣	6	7	7	20	88	100
Q♣	4	7	1	12	72	82
T♣	4	2	2	8	48	55
J♥	2	6	4	12	42	48

Source: Julien Lévesque faced this problem at the March Individual game at the VBC. He chose to lead the T♣. Declarer tried the king from dummy and Nigel Fulbrook won the ace and returned a heart, leading to two down:

As I've said above regarding actual hands, your mileage may vary.

Leaderboard: To make the top ten

you needed to score 454:

449 Harry Friedman, Waldemar Jez, John Lien

451 Gord McOrmond

454 Greg Barszcz, Kaz Dykstra, Barry Yamanouchi

467 Glenn Ponto, Andrew Zorawski

482 Delphine Tablotney, Rhoda Tafser

500! David Breton, Larry Meyer, Janis Parker, Phillippe Westreich

Our three winners split the Flight A, B, and C prizes, so each gets three-quarters of a free play to a sectional and three-quarters of a free play to a Unit

Game. Hmmm. OK, by presidential decree I am rounding those prizes up to one free play of each type. Congratulations, and thanks again to the 53 people who took the time to respond. Look for me at your local club between now and early December, or send me responses by phone or e-mail!

Board Dir: West
17 Vul: None

WEST

♠ AK9
♥ A94
♦ AKQ97
♣ K6

NORTH

♠ T2
♥ 32
♦ J8532
♣ AJ84

SOUTH

♠ QJ754
♥ KJT87
♦ —
♣ T97

3NT by East
Lead: ???

EAST

♠ 863
♥ Q65
♦ T64
♣ Q532

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	District or Zone Final	National 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 Federation 2002 Bridge Week: <i>Edmonton AB</i> June 18-25	About \$1100 in Unit subsidy fund, also a CBF subsidy.
CNTC Canadian National Team Championship Flight A unlimited Flight B 0-1000	Clubs may run 1 or 2 session qualifying games from Sept. 1—Jan. 7.	none	Mid-Spring 2002 Time and place to be announced.	COPC: June 22-23 CNTC Flight A: June 18-25	\$219 in Unit subsidy fund, also a CBF subsidy.
CWTC Canadian Women's Teams Championship	There are no club or unit qualifying games. Any team of female CBF members may enter the Zone Final.		Late Spring 2002 Time and place to be announced.	CNTC Flight B: June 18-22 CWTC: June 18-22	\$214 in Unit subsidy fund. No CBF subsidy.
GNT Grand National Teams Championship Flight: Unlimited Flight A 0-5000 Flight B 0-2000 Flight C 0-500 NLM	2002 qualifying period starts in fall 2001. Watch for club qualifying games.	none	Two events next spring: Championship Flight and Flight B one weekend, Flights A and C the next weekend. One of these may be held locally.	Summer NABC: Washington DC July 18-28, 2002 (all flights).	\$400/team from DINO, \$168 in Unit subsidy.
NAOP North American Open Pairs Flight A unlimited Flight B 0-2000 Flight C 0-500 NLM	Qualifying period for next year's event begins in June 2002.	Winners list on page 30.	December 1, 2001 Tacoma Sectional. Good luck to all Unit 430 players!	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.

CBF Rookie Master Games: Thursday, April 25 and Wednesday, October 30, 2002.

Unit Game Ideas Wanted

New ideas for 2002 needed

The Unit Board will decide at its final two meetings of the year the way Unit Games will be run in 2002. Our new Unit Game Coordinators are Isabel Chernoff and Pat Wotherspoon. If you have ideas about where, when, how, or even how often Unit Games should be run, let them know your views.

As we looked through the ACBL fine print in preparing for the September charity game for disaster relief, we found that a Unit of our size can actually run sixteen sessions of Unit games each year, they need

not be monthly, and we can even hold extra sessions for charity. There are far more options than the traditional scheme of monthly games. If you have ideas or suggestions, please let us know. Unit Games don't make much money for the Unit at the current level of attendance: they are run primarily as extra opportunities for masterpoints for our players. With your input, we may find a new way to run the games that will improve attendance, increase the masterpoint awards, and make a little bit of money for the Unit. Let us know your views.

Isabel Chernoff 531-6828
Pat Wotherspoon 535-1964

2001 Sectional Trophy Race Standings

Phil Wood Trophy

1. Mike Hargreaves.....	80.13
2. Gord McOrmond.....	75.80
3. Gerry McCully.....	39.73
4. Ben Takemori.....	36.30
5. Larry Pocock.....	33.36
6. Bryan Maksymetz.....	33.15
7. Dan Jacob.....	32.70
8. Larry Hicks.....	32.50
9. Greg Arbour.....	32.12
10. Cam Doner.....	31.76
11. Mike Takemori.....	30.03
12. Aidan Ballantyne.....	29.94
13. John Hurdle.....	29.03
13. Waldemar Jez.....	29.03
13. Trudy Hurdle.....	29.03
16. Harold Hansen.....	28.09
17. Audrey Norman.....	26.56
18. Martin Henneberger.....	26.10
19. Jim Norman.....	25.35
20. Andrew Zorawski.....	24.99
21. Rhoda Tafler.....	24.01
22. Katrin Litwin.....	23.35
23. Doug Fraser.....	23.18
24. Kenny Chan.....	23.05
25. Jim Lenobel.....	22.75
26. Ken Lochang.....	22.40
27. Elaine Ryan.....	22.12
28. Bill Goldstone.....	21.40
29. Ewa Wroblewicz.....	21.35
30. Phil Hernandez.....	21.26

3390.01 silver points were won by 554 players (a further 94 played but did not win any) at Unit 430's first three open sectionals of 2001.

Edie Bonnell Trophy

1. Trudy Hurdle.....	29.03
2. Audrey Norman.....	26.56
3. Rhoda Tafler.....	24.01
4. Katrin Litwin.....	23.35
5. Elaine Ryan.....	22.12
6. Ewa Wroblewicz.....	21.35
7. Carol Waters.....	21.23
8. Christina Jacob.....	19.80
9. Debbie Hargreaves.....	19.44
10. Rhonda Foster.....	18.36
11. Gay Parrish.....	18.35
12. Mariann Hutton.....	17.33
13. Claire Burns.....	17.23
14. Kathy Bye.....	16.89
15. Sandra Robson.....	16.89

Phil Wood Under 200 Trophy

1. Andrew Zorawski.....	24.99
2. Greg Barszcs.....	18.72
3. David Breton.....	14.85
4. Wuyen Ni.....	14.03
5. Arun Chopra.....	13.23
6. Joseph Idczak.....	12.12
7. Debbie Williams.....	11.30
8. Barry Yamanouchi.....	10.15
9. Samantha Nystrom.....	10.00
10. Gary & Alice Thomas.....	9.12
12. Stuart Carr.....	9.02
13. Betty Jackson.....	8.80
14. Joan Steuart.....	7.13
15. Mary-Jean Young.....	6.62

(Let me know if you should be on this list. You are eligible if you are an ACBL member with less than 200 MP on January 1, 2001.)

Leo Steil Trophy

1. Harold Hansen.....	28.09
2. Andrew Zorawski.....	24.99
3. Haiderali Nazak.....	19.54
4. Peter Morse.....	17.86
5. Claire Burns.....	17.23
6. Louis Landau.....	16.61
7. Ron Borg.....	15.76
8. Joerg Schneider.....	13.92
9. Richard Christie.....	13.34
10. Phyllis Gerber.....	13.26
11. Kathy Adachi.....	13.03
12. Hing Kong Ho.....	12.99
13. Ina Andersen.....	12.66
14. Pat Landau.....	10.44
15. Ernie Dietrich.....	9.82

(To repeat: one of the things I will not do is ask people how old they are. Let me know if your name should be here. To be eligible for you must be an ACBL member born before 1946.)

Evergreen Sectional Top 10

1. Mike Hargreaves.....	29.50
2. Gord McOrmond.....	28.75
3. Aidan Ballantyne.....	15.27
4. Louis Landau.....	15.22
5. Ron Borg.....	15.00
6. Doug Fraser.....	14.50
6. Bryan Maksymetz.....	14.50
8. Ben Takemori.....	13.19
9. Waldemar Jez.....	12.82
10. Larry Pocock.....	12.70

987.21 silver points were won by 289 players (a further 72 played but didn't win any) at the 2001 Evergreen Sectional.

SUBURBIA CLUBS Gilbert Lambert 535-8286

Burnaby (am)

1491 Carleton Ave.
North Burnaby
Mondays, 10:45 am

Nov. 12: Closed (Sectional)
Nov. 19: Club Championship
Dec. 3: Christmas Pot Luck
Closed Dec. 24, Dec. 31

Burnaby (pm)

1491 Carleton Ave.
North Burnaby
Tuesdays, 7:30 pm

Nov. 20: Club Championship
Dec. 4: Christmas Pot Luck
Closed Dec. 25, Jan. 1
Closed Jan. 8 (Regional)

New Westminster

Century House, 620 8th St.
New Westminster
Thursdays, 7:15 pm

Nov. 22: Membership Game
Dec. 6: Club Championship
Christmas Pot Luck
Dec. 27, Jan 10: Closed

Sur-Del

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

Closed Nov. 2, Nov. 9
December 7: Ken Holland
Memorial Membership Game
Dec. 14: Club Championship
Christmas Pot Luck

A salute to a long time friend, bridge teacher and director: Ernie, I congratulate you on your devotion and loyalty to Hazel in running her games. I must express my disappointment that you will not continue to do so.
—“Gladie” Mackie

Membership Notes

by Julien Lévesque

Hello, here I am again. It's been a while since I last wrote something, but I prefer to leave the bridge articles to the experts. This concerns memberships, as you may have guessed already.

Over the past 1½ years our Unit has grown, not lost ground, by close to 5% in membership: a net gain of 48 members. This is not only a result of the ACBL's Membership Retention program, which I have kept in place for the Unit, but also due to good teaching, and our local teachers should be recommended for their work.

However, our 1047 members is nowhere close to the numbers when Unit membership was at its apex of 1400. Yes, people age, but looking around there are a goodly number of LMs who have stopped being members in good standing for various reasons. For even so much as the new players are critical to the

game's growth, so are the LMs critical for the game's stability and it has long ago reached a critical stage. For every new member signed up in Unit 430, we have lost two Life Masters via non-renewal over the last 10 years.

Yes, it is a given that age and other various reasons will account for the attrition among the Life Masters. Let's be generous and say 50%, meaning one by choice for every newcomer recruited. Over the past decade this means over 400 Life Masters have chosen to not renew their membership. Had they remained with us, our membership numbers would be higher than they ever have been.

I would strongly encourage Life Masters not paying their LM fees to contact me and let me know why they choose not to renew their membership. It is my hope that problem areas will be addressed and some sort of strategy and some solutions may be found. Thank you.

Julien Lévesque

310-1869 Frances St., Vancouver, V5L 1Z8

(Only Yesterday, continued from page 36)

book has yet to be written."

This funny piece is believed to be the first **Joerg Schneider Matchpointer** article:

"The recent Nanaimo Geriatric Olympics produced this fascinating hand:"

Board ? Dir: ? ? Vul: ?	NORTH ♠ A ♥ QT9xxxx ♦ J9xxxx ♣ —	6♥ by South Lead: Q♣
WEST ♠ JTxxxx ♥ x ♦ Qx ♣ QJT x	SOUTH ♠ Qxx ♥ AKJ ♦ Axx ♣ AK9x	EAST ♠ Kxx ♥ xx ♦ KT x ♣ xxxxx

(South opened 2NT and after a transfer found himself in 6♥ after only four bids.)

"Best line is to eliminate the black suits and hope for Qx♦ or Kx♦ in either defender's hand. Ruff a club, A♠, A♥, spade ruff, A♦, AK♣, club ruff, small diamond. West must win and give you a ruff-sluff.

"If you play that way, any six-year old would realize the K♦ is a liability (not that there were too many six-year olds at that tournament). So: club ruff, A♠, A♦, etc—use your years of experience to play the A♦ early.

"However, any defender who has been around (this applied to all of them) will realize that slam is

cold if South has the AK♦ (seven hearts, a spade and four minor-suit tricks) and that the only hope is for partner to have the KTx♦, so dropping the queen under the ace is routine and makes you a hero in partner's eye!"

15 years ago in the Matchpointer

(June, Aug & Oct. 1986, Lauren Miller, editor)

The June 1986 issue reports on the first Epsilon World-Wide Pairs event, held at the Haida club. This event was popular for a few years until Epsilon stopped sponsoring it and the entry fees went through the roof. Deals were analyzed and matchpoints for every possible result were pre-printed on the traveling scoreslips. Each participant received a souvenir booklet containing the hands, awards, and some commentary by "compère" Omar Sharif. It is still held each June, but costs have risen, Omar prefers to actually play, and many clubs no longer run it. In 1986 it was deemed necessary to start at the same time everywhere; meaning that some places in the Far East began in the middle of the night. Nowadays there's a Friday night and a Saturday afternoon session, at least in North America. Winners at the Haida Club in 1996 were Peter Herold and Alana Skuce, with a 67.75% score that was third in District 19.

Flight A IMP League winners in 1986 were Aidan Ballantyne, Adrian Hicks, Mike Strebinger, Dave Waterman, Allan Graves, and Joel Martineau. The Flight B winners were Larry Hicks (sorry, Liz, but from the context we are assuming this is Larry even

(continued on page 26)

Winners

Matchpointer

August-October 2001

LOCAL WINNERS

2001 EVERGREEN SECTIONAL
SURREY/CLOVERDALE, SEPTEMBER 14-16
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 287 TABLES

A B C Friday Afternoon Stratified Pairs (37 tables)

1		<i>Kathy Adachi/Ina Andersen</i>
2	1	<i>Andy Hellquist/Greg Morse</i>
3	2	Santokh Sian/Pirtpal Gill
4		Angela Taylor/Allan Ferguson
5	3	Mariann Hutton/Lotte Elias
6	4	Al & Donna Freeze
	5	Jim McEvoy/Carol-Ann Halliday
6	1	<i>Barry Yamanouchi/Stuart Carr</i>
	2	Wink & Ann Andres
	3	Gerry & Bonnie Purcell
	4	Edite Phillipotts/Beverley Hall
	5	Gerald Paul/Charlotte Alekson

D E Friday Afternoon Future Masters (5 tables)

1		<i>Rosalee Hardin/Sharon Chercover</i>
2		Gaby Uranyi/Verna Vass

(not enough 0-50 pairs for overall awards)

Friday Evening Jean Turnbull

A B C Trophy Stratified Mixed Pairs (30 tables)

1		<i>Carol & Paul Waters</i>
2	1	<i>John Horne/Debbie Williams</i>
3		Doreen & Gord McOrmond
4		Gerry McCully/Marcia Christie
5		Bob & Aban Gerrie
6	2	Ewa Wroblewicz/Waldemar Jez
	3	Harold Hansen/Sandra Robson
	4	Tony Remedios/Tove Chen
	5	Mike Moffatt/Vicki Croome
6	1	<i>Jan & Anna Ochnio</i>
	2/3	Wink & Ann Andres
	2/3	Charlotte Alekson/Gerald Paul
	4	Julia Barsel/Andy Artamonov

A B C Friday Evening Side Stratified Pairs (15 tables)

1	1	<i>Andrew Zorawski/Joseph Idczak</i>
2	2	Annerita Hasselbach/Thelma Hofstede
3	3	Garry Scollon/Craig Dunning
4	4	Brad Barton/David Pritchard
5		Donald Sache/Brad Bart
6		Garry Skoropada/Leszek Baldys
	5	Terry Val Jean/Norman Delaire

A B C Friday Evening Side Stratified Pairs (cont.)

6	3	Krystyna Piotrowska/Barbara Jedzejewska
	4	Brian & Colin Ransom

D E Friday Evening Future Masters (3 tables)

1		<i>Gaby Uranyi/Verna Vass</i>
2		Gursharon & Avtar Bawa

(not enough 0-50 pairs for overall awards)

Saturday 2-session

A X Flight A/X Stratified Pairs (18,18 tables)

1		<i>Ron Borg/Mike Hargreaves</i>
2		Aidan Ballantyne/Gord McOrmond
3	1	<i>Ken Lochang/Arun Chopra</i>
4	2	Barry Kirkham/Jim Lenobel
5/6		Larry Pocock/Cam Doner
5/6	3	Ben Takemori/Katrin Litwin
7		June Pocock/Brad Bart
8/9		Gord Davis/Rhonda Foster
8/9	4	Bob & Aban Gerrie
	5	Jay Brandt/Gay Parrish
	6	Greg Barszcs/Waldemar Jez

Saturday 2-session

B C D Flight B/C/D Stratified Pairs (32,33 tables)

1		<i>Louis Landau/Geraldine Lacroix</i>
2	1	<i>Harold Hansen/Julien Lévesque</i>
3		Mike Moffatt/Vicki Croome
4		John Horne/Debbie Williams
5		Dell Berg/Mitsuko Russell
6		Terry & Fran Gould
	2	1 <i>Ross Lam/David Breton</i>
	3	Ted Lai/Kenny Chan
	4	Greg Morse/Andy Hellquist
	5	2 Geoff Fetterley/Joan Steuart
	6	3 Peggy Winter/Marie Cahill
	4	Brian Cross/Victor Finberg
	5	Nizar & Zainool Esmail
	6	Alice & Gary Thomas

A X Sunday Flight A/X Stratified VP Swiss (16 teams)

1		<i>Mike Hargreaves, Gord McOrmond, Bryan Mak-symetz, Doug Fraser</i>
2		Peter Maclean, Mike Wilson, Bill Goldstone, Steve Clements
3		Larry Pocock, Mike Takemori, Ben Takemori, Cam Doner
4	1	<i>Christina Jacob, Debbie Hargreaves, Jim & Audrey Norman</i>
5		Peter Herold, Aidan Ballantyne, Katrin Litwin, Gerry McCully, Rhonda Foster
	2	Louis & Pat Landau, Joerg Schneider, Gary Post
	3	Carol & Paul Waters, Richard & Marcia Christie
	4	Allan Ferguson, Dennis Groden, Angela Taylor, Jennifer Ballantyne

B C D Sunday Flight B/C/D Stratified VP Swiss (32 teams)

1	1	<i>Waldemar Jez, Ewa Wroblewicz, Joseph Idczak, Andrew Zorawski</i>
2		Peter Morse, Claire Burns, Shirley & Ozzie Isfeld
3		Lotte Elias, Mariann Hutton, Thelma Hofstede, Rita Hasselbach
4		Kenny Chan, H.K. Ho, Ted Lai, William Ge
5		Sherman Kwan, Ron Fox, Harold Hansen, Julien Lévesque

B	C	D	Sunday Flight B/C/D Stratified VP Swiss (cont.)
6			Brad Bart, Ross Lam, David Breton, Victor Finberg
2	1		Alice & Gary Thomas, Renee & Warren Sweeney
3			Greg Lam, Nancy Arnold, Rolf Lowinger, Marion Crowhurst
4			Brad Barton, Frances Reynolds, Joan Thornthwaite, David Pritchard
5			Larry Meyer, Jim McKenzie, Rod Coote, James Fan
2			Vincent Ho, Wuyen Ni, Kun Shao, Hsiang Li

OUT-OF-TOWN WINNERS

INDIAN SUMMER POWWOW
OLYMPIA WA, AUG 13-SEPT 3

A	X	Saturday Eve. Fit A/X Pairs	
4/5	3	Larry Chow	
A	B	C	Sunday Stratified W-L Swiss
5/10			Larry Chow

VICTORIA FALL SECTIONAL
VICTORIA BC, SEP 28-30

B	C	Sunday VP Swiss Teams
4		Alice & Gary Thomas

THANKSGIVING SECTIONAL
KELOWNA BC, OCT 5-8

A	B	C	Friday Aftn. Stratified Pairs
1			Bob & Aban Gerrie
2			Les Baldys
A	B	C	Friday Eve. Stratified Pairs
2			Bob & Aban Gerrie
3			Don & Sheila Sache
A	B	C	Friday Evening Senior Pairs
2			Les Baldys
A	B	C	Saturday Stratified Pairs
1			Don & Sheila Sache
4			Bob & Aban Gerrie
A	B	C	Sunday Stratified Swiss
3			Bob & Aban Gerrie
A	B	C	Monday Stratified Pairs
3	2		Sidney Robinson
5/6			Olive Macdonald

Cloverdale Recap

A Wild Weekend for Norma Saltzberg

Norma Saltzberg sought me out as soon as she got to the Sunrise Convention Centre on Friday afternoon. "You're the Unit President," she accused, poking me in the chest. (I'd just helped set up tables and chairs and I had trouble not falling over.) "You made those flyers with the driving directions, too, didn't you?"

Uh oh, I thought.

"It took me ages to get here—I made at least fourteen wrong turns based on your map and ended up in the same place three times." You get the idea. I'm an experienced Unit executive; I kept from laughing, and then when she was forced to breathe several minutes later I welcomed her to the new site.

"Look," she said, "you better make an announcement. A lot of people are going to have a heck of a time getting here based on that map of yours."

"Uh, OK, Norma, so what you're suggesting here is that I make an announcement explaining how to get here, to people who have already arrived?"

Norma managed to get home after the afternoon session and returned in dashing attire that won her the Best-Dressed Lady award. It was a close decision for our strictly anonymous—I could tell you, but then I'd have to kill you, as the saying goes—judge, and Bellingham's Gay Parrish (who left early to beat the

border crowds and missed the photo session) was nearly a double winner, but Norma got the nod, or perhaps I should phrase it a little differently.

The monochrome picture of Norma and our Best-Dressed Gentleman, Todd Schindeler, doesn't do them justice. You had to be there—and you should, next year, if you stayed home this year.

To give you an idea of the difficulty of the judge's task, let me list the people (in no particular order except in the order that the judge saw them) that our judge thought deserved mention.

Best Dressed Lady: Norma Saltzberg. Runner-up: Gay Parrish. Honourable Mention: Julia Barsel, Sandra Robson, Dot Carnegie, Katrin Litwin, Alice Thomas, Anne Smith, Joan Steuart, Grace Jeklin.

Best Dressed Gentleman: Todd Schindeler. Runner-Up: Don Sache and Brad Bart. Honourable Mention: Harold Hanson, Aidan Ballantyne, Jay Brandt, Rae Fee, Waldemar Jez, Ken Lochang.

These were the best of many who dressed up for the occasion.

On Friday afternoon I was killed by a retort from "Deadpan" Dan Webster. He got the opponents to discard the cards that mattered in 6NT,

and it wasn't long before I realized that they'd had no chance. "You had to keep hearts and clubs, and you had to keep hearts and diamonds. You both were squeezed. Dan, you just made a double squeeze!"

"Is that what it's called?" he said, apparently un-

(continued on page 36)



(Continued from page 38)

Opener

1NT (15-17, but 18 this time)
4♥ (as per orders)
5♠ (...or do you want my other major?)

Responder

2♣ (Warrior)
4NT (RKC...?)
5NT
Pass

6NT (no more majors)

Pass

Needless to say, twelve tricks in 6NT was a near top—few pairs found the way to bid or make thirteen in hearts.

10 years ago in the Matchpointer

(Aug. & Oct. 1991, David Schmidt, editor)

Two quickies from the August 1991 issue:

Ron Borg was the subject of **David Schmidt's** Meet The Players article. The funniest quote was about **Willie Weinstein**, a top player in the Unit in the 60s and 70s. "Willie had a habit of slamming his hand on the table when he was dummy. One day, he went to slam his cards on the table and somehow they all flew out of the third-floor window at the Skyline hotel!"

Gerry McCully told **Liz Hicks** about this one, from a mixed pairs event:

(Recap, continued from page 35)

interested.

"Do you mean that you just improvised this play out of thin air?"

"Well," said Dan, "who would you rather play with, the guy who can make these difficult hands, or the guy who knows what their names are?"

As I said, this killed me.

On Sunday, during the Swiss Norma told me she needed the match awards from just four wins in the Flight B Swiss to become a Life Master. She was playing with **Anne Smith, Joan Stuart** and **Geoff Fetterley**, and at the half they were still three wins short. I watched the leader board and saw that they had won their first after the break. Then they won the second. Imagine the pressure. No, forget that. Imagine **Norma** dealing with the pressure.

How lucky I was to have gotten



WIFE: INT (15-17) 2♠ End

HUSBAND: 2♣ 2NT

Hubby passed 2NT with this hand:

♠ AKxx ♥ Jxxx ♦ Jx ♣ xx

"Dear," wife says, "what were you thinking of?"

"I thought you were going to bid 3NT and then I'd bid 4♠."

In the October 1991 issue, with one sectional left in the year, it might have been the closest race ever for the Phil Wood Trophy. **Marcia Christie** led with 48.19, slightly ahead of **Chaz Khodabandeh** (47.40), **Tony Remedios** (46.49), and **Aidan Ballantyne** (45.79), with several not much further back.

Quotables from the Flight A Prognostications:

"**Aidan Ballantyne** is one of the few local experts who still plays club bridge more than occasionally, thus is one of the few who can still count out a hand...[**Mike**] **Strebinger** only plays when he wins, which can remove a great deal of frustration from the game...What's this? [**Dave**] **House** returns to the IMP League? O-Pee-Chee must be issuing a special 'Unit 430' set...The erudite [**Eugene**] **Chan** brings some original ideas to the table with him. Unfortunately, his partners have not yet read the book, as the

(continued on page 33)

all my colours before I amassed enough black points, so I could play club games in peace until I got the big notification in the mail.

Well, in the third round after lunch my match went very long, and there were a gazillion people in front of the leader board with one round left. But then I saw **Geoff Fetterley** wiping lipstick off his face and, well, that was a pretty major clue.

Norma's team was only 1VP from the Flight C overalls at 4-4 but they got what they came for.

Congratulations, Norma!

[Pictures were taken by **Diane Ayukawa**. On page 35, **Norma Saltzberg** and **Todd Schindeler**. Page 36; above: **Brad Bart, Todd Schindeler** and **Don Sache**. Below: **Sandra Robson** and **Harold Hansen**.]

Monthly Unit Games

Unit Christmas Party Cancelled

The traditional year-end Monthly Unit Game party, originally scheduled for November 24, has been cancelled. The date conflicted with the unusually-late Fall NABC, unforeseen when the event was originally scheduled and the site booked. Since many local pairs will be attending the NABC in Las Vegas, and no other date was available at short notice, the Board decided to cancel the event and instead hold a Unit Party sometime in Spring 2002. No Christmas carols, but otherwise the same type of event. Details will be announced when the time and place are determined.

The final two Monthly Unit Games of 2001, on

A B C September 9 Monthly Unit Game (12 tables)

1	1	Tove Chen/Tony Remedios
2		Dave House/Laurence Betts
3		Al French/Peter Morse
4	2	Dianne Isfeld/Dwayne Dicks
5	3	Harold Hansen/Julien Lévesque
6	4	Diane Ayukawa/Christa Mead
	5	Vicki Croome/Mike Moffatt
	6	Joni & Brian Johnston
	1	Zainool & Nizar Esmail
	2	Jackie Phillips/Kristina Bohdanowicz

A B C October 7 Monthly Unit Game (6 tables)

1		Christina & Dan Jacob
2	1	Dianne Isfeld/Ben Takemori
3	2	Gay Parrish/Jay Brandt
4	3	Joan Steuart/Geoff Fetterley
	4	Harold Hansen/Julien Lévesque

(not enough C pairs for overall awards in Flight C)

September 22 (afternoon) Unit Charity Game

A B C for Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund (15 tables)

1	1	Paul Waters/Mike Dorn Wiss
2	2	Isabel Chernoff/Ken Danielsen
3/4/3/4		Liz Stoneman/John Lien
3/4/3/4		Kathy Bye/Kenny Chan
5	5	Harold Hansen/Julien Lévesque
6	6	Beverly Kanee/Toyo Nunoda
	1	Geoffrey Fetterley/Fred Brown
	2	Nizar & Zainool Esmail
	3	Margaret & Bruno Moras
	4	Jacqueline Phillips/Edward Worsfold

September 22 (evening) Unit Charity Game

A B C for Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund (16 tables)

1	1	Paul Waters/Ken Robertson
2	2	Ken Danielsen/Sherman Kwan
3/4		Judy Strebinge/Don Brazeau
3/4	3	Dianne Isfeld/Eugene Chan
5	4	Pearl Minkoff/David Walker
6	5	1 David Hooey/David Breton
	6	Gay Parrish/Jay Brandt
	2	Nigel Fullbrook/Julien Lévesque
	3	Geoff Fetterley/Fred Brown
	4/5	Carrie Beavington/Ted Drew
	4/5	Waldemar Jez/Andrew Zorawski

November 4 and December 9, will be in support of the ACBL Charitable Fund. In order to run the special two-session Unit Charity Game in support of the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund on , we had to get Memphis's permission to cut a few corners, because strictly speaking, the Board is required to run a session for the ACBL's charity before a session in support of one of our choosing. So a portion of your entry fees will support the ACBL Charity for 2001, National Hospice Foundation. We hope to see you there.

Unless there is a huge turnout for these games, it appears that **Dave House** has the MUG Trophy repeat locked up. The two wild and crazy Polish guys, **Gregorz Barszcz** and **Waldemar Jez** still have the inside track on the Flight B and C races.

A B C MUG Standings after October Game Pts.

1		Dave House	17.90
2		Laurence Betts	12.62
3	1	1 Greg Barszcz	8.82
4	2	2 Waldemar Jez	8.41
5	3	Vicki Croome	6.34
5	3	Mike Moffatt	6.34
7	5	Tove Chen	6.29
7	5	Tony Remedios	6.29
9	7	Eugene Chan	5.95
10	8	Sandra Robson	5.90
11	9	Harold Hansen	5.55
12	10	Ben Takemori	5.23
13	11	Jeanette Greenhut	5.17
14	12	Nigel Fullbrook	4.72
15	13	Julien Lévesque	4.48
15		Dianne Isfeld	4.48
17	14	3 Jackie Phillips	4.18
18	15	William Ge	4.12
18	4	Tony Y. N. Shyu	4.12
20		Dan Jacob	4.10
20		Christina Jacob	4.10
22		Yuko Fujieda	4.05
22	5	Kazuko Koda	4.05
24		Pearl Minkoff	4.01
25		Garry Skoropada	3.85
6		Kristina Bohdanowicz	3.47
7		David Hooey	3.43
8		Samantha Nystrom	3.40
9		Betty Jackson	3.04
10		Stuart Carr	2.91
11		David Breton	2.24
12		Victor Finberg	2.16
13		Geoff Fetterley	2.16
14		Cathy Miller	2.02
15		Veronica Peacock	1.57

274.50 masterpoints have been won by 106 players (a further 42 played but did not win any) so far in Monthly Unit Games of 2001. This list does not include points won at the September 25 Unit Charity Games for the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

Only Yesterday

by Bruce McIntyre

The previous installment of this feature, originally written for the cancelled May-June 2001 *Matchpointer*, covered previous May issues; there was no space to add highlights from the summer issues in the big issue that followed. So we're in catch up mode here, and we'd better get started on our usual trip back through the magazine, and simultaneously back through *Matchpointer* and Unit history:

5 years ago in the *Matchpointer*

(Sept. & Oct. 1996, Bruce McIntyre, editor)

The Final of the Flight A IMP League was the subject of the lead article. The author was **Felipe Hernandez**, the captain of the team which lost in the semis to the team which lost in the final, a volatile combination that made for an article that pulled no punches! "One would expect a team as talented...to play intelligently given their deficit," wrote Felipe with the favorites trailing 41-16 at halftime. But the underdog THOMAS team (**Doug Thomas, Gary Phelan, Pete Walton, Ted Hicks, Dan Watson, Jim Marshall**) "just poured it on...nothing fancy, just solid bidding to normal contracts." Using "simple, but effective systems...THOMAS won this year's IMP League the old fashioned way: they *earned* it!"

In 1996 the ACBL set up a Task Force to look into the Future of Bridge and make suggestions. The Task Force met for several months, completed a report with many suggestions, and, no doubt anticipating that the Memphis bigwigs would choose what they liked and discard what they didn't, they released the report on the Internet so all could check it out. The recommendations were summarized in the September issue, and the ACBL executives were quick to adopt most of the recommendations involving clubs and Units and players, and quicker to shelve the suggestions involving change to the ACBL's political structure. What a surprise.

The **Hideous Hog (in Training)** recounted a new online bridge "strategy" that backfired. Holding this in fourth chair with both sides vulnerable...

♠ — ♥ J85 ♦ AKJT86542 ♣ A

...the Hog heard 1♠ from LHO and 3♦ (!) from RHO. He "coughed up half a truffle" at this development, but of course it was explained as a Bergen raise. The Hog decided to pass and his LHO continued with 3♥. Somehow there was enough left over for his partner to contribute a 4♣ call, and RHO raised to 4♥.

HHIT now began to set the trap with a 4♠ bid!

This was doubled, partner rescued to 5♣,

which also was doubled...so the Hog "raised" himself to 5♠! Another quick double, and this time partner took a different action. The Hog and the two opponents found themselves stuck in the lobby. The Hog's partner, the table "server" had disconnected, and the timing led the Hog to suspect foul play. A quick check of the cards found that 6♥ or 6♠ was cold, but 7♦ was down only 500. On this auction, do you think North-South will find their slam?

The September issue went to the printers just after the death of **Leo Steil**, and the highlight of the September issue was the trio of articles remembering Leo, written by **Aidan Ballantyne**. One recounted the 1976 "Leo Coup" hand we presented in this space last issue. Aidan noted that Leo had amassed over 9,000 masterpoints, playing with dozens of different partners (many who remember fondly that Leo had been their partner when they got their first win). Leo won an Open Stratified Pairs at the Edmonton regional a week before his death, with a 70% game. Aidan also contributed a collection of "Adventures with Leo," beginning with their first game together and culminating in a heroic effort where they won a Qualifying/Final event by two boards with a zero carryover and no "Q!" (One of the qualifying pairs had dropped out.)

The October 1996 issue is the one in which I coined the term "prognosticatorial" to describe that curious cross-breed of prognostication and editorial that IMP League predictors create.

Two very funny articles by **Felipe Hernandez** deserve mention. The first was called "The Strong Drop Shift" and described a rebid of 3♣ after a forcing notrump, which somehow was passed by a responder holding six clubs to the jack! "No questions whatsoever," said Felipe's partner quickly! The declarer found a way to compress twelve tricks into eleven, by claiming "there's no more trump out" when in fact there were two. Of course, the punch line was that all other pairs played 3NT and went down.

The second article was a recap of the 1996 NAOP Unit Final, won by **Aidan Ballantyne** and **Gord McOrmond**. The event was stratified and "all flights were represented: A, B, C, and interstellar." Among several highlights, the funniest was a new convention sprung on **Bill Gamble** and **Eugene Chan** by a novice pair. Felipe called it "Warrior Stayman—apparently it instructs partner to bid a major at the four level. No need to pussyfoot around at the two level for *this* pair." The auction was amazing:

(continued on page 36)

Tournaments & Dates

October 30, 2001 — January 13, 2002

NOVEMBER 2001

- 2-4 Renton Sectional
- 4 Monthly Unit Game
(7:00, VBC) for Charity
- 9-12 Round-Up Sectional at
Engineers Hall, Burnaby
(details, back cover)

18-28 Fall NABC, Las Vegas NV

DECEMBER 2001

- 31-2 Tacoma Sectional (NAOP
Unit Final, Dec. 1)

DECEMBER 2001

7 Matchpointer deadline
(Winter 2001-02 issue cov-
ers events from Dec. 14,
2001—Mar. 29, 2002)

9 Monthly Unit Game
(7:00, VBC) for Charity

14 Matchpointer target release
date: Winter 2001-02 issue

26-31 Reno Regional

JANUARY 2002

7-13 Richmond Regional
(schedule, page 17)

Most dates on this list come from tentative lists of tournaments on CBF, DINO and ACBL Web Pages. Please—check their accuracy before packing up and leaving town!

Unit 430 Main Events

A One Year Planner

2001 Round-Up Sectional
November 9 – 12, 2001, at
the Engineers Hall in Burnaby
(details on back cover)

2001 Unit Christmas Party
Cancelled due to conflict with
the Fall NABC in Las Vegas.
A makeup Unit party will be
scheduled for Spring 2002.
Details next issue.

2002 Trophy Sectional
February 1 – 3, 2002 at the
Engineers Hall, Burnaby

2002 Future Stars Sectional
February 16 – 17, 2002 at the
Vancouver Bridge Centre

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

**2002 Unit 430
Annual General Meeting**
May 18, 2002, at the Victoria
Day Sectional, after the first Sat-
urday session (about 3:45 pm).

**2002 Unit 430-sponsored
District-wide STaC (Sectional
Tournament at Clubs)**
Silver points at your local club!
May 27 – June 2, 2002.

2002 Evergreen Sectional
September 13 – 15, 2002
(site to be confirmed)

Contributors

Thanks for your help!

*Diane Ayukawa
Brad Bart
Doug Cowan
Ernie Dietrich
Richard Dunn
Harry Friedman
Wayne Hascall
Gilbert Lambert
Julien Lévesque
Gray McMullin
Larry Meyer
Greg Morse
"Play On"
Brian Russell
Joerg Schneider
Marshall Smiles*

3 Unnamed Prognosticators

All 53 "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 SOME!)

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"

FALL: mid-October

WINTER: mid-December

SPRING: late March

SUMMER: mid-July

NEXT ISSUE: Winter 2001

Deadline: Friday, Dec. 7, 2001.

**Dates Covered:
December 14, 2001-March 29, 2002.**

Vancouver Unit 430 invites all bridge players to the
Round-Up Sectional

November 9-12, 2001.

Engineer's Hall: 4333 Ledger Ave., Burnaby

Tournament Co-Chairs:

Eda Kadar, 604/733-0042 (edakadar@telus.net)

Diane Ayukawa, 604/940-9809 (rmdunn@dcc.net)

Partnerships:

Joan Richards, 604/926-6354 (r-richards6332@home.com)



Friday Afternoon (1:00 pm)

Open Stratified Pairs (1500+, 300-1500, 0-300)

Senior Stratified Pairs (1500+, 300-1500, 0-300)

Future Master Stratified (50-100, 20-50, 0-20)

Friday Evening (7:00 pm)

Bracketed Knockout Teams (first of 3 sessions)

Stratified IMP Pairs (1500+, 300-1500, 0-300)

Future Master Stratified (50-100, 20-50, 0-20)

FRIDAY

Saturday Afternoon (1:00 pm)

Bracketed Knockout Teams (2nd of 3 sessions)

Open Pairs (1 Session) (1500+, 300-1500, 0-300)

Future Master Stratified (50-100, 20-50, 0-20)

Saturday Evening (7:00 pm)

Bracketed Knockout Teams (final session)

Stratified Pairs (One Session)

(stratified by expertise: 2LMs / 1LM, 1NLM / 2 NLM)

Future Master Stratified (50-100, 20-50, 0-20)

SATURDAY

Sunday Afternoon (1:00 pm)

Flight A Open Pairs (unlimited, first of two sessions)

Flight B Open Pairs (0-1500, first of two sessions)

Flight C Open Pairs (0-300, first of two sessions)

Future Master Stratified Pairs
(one session, 50-100, 20-50, 0-20)

Sunday Evening (7:00 pm)

Flight A Open Pairs (unlimited, second session)

Flight B Open Pairs (0-1500, second session)

Flight C Open Pairs (0-300, second session)

Future Master Stratified Pairs
(one session, 50-100, 20-50, 0-20)

SUNDAY

Monday (10:30 am & TBA)

Open Stratified Swiss Teams
(1500+, 0-1500—Victory Points)

Non-Life Master Stratified Swiss Teams
(100-300, 0-100—Victory Points)

Single session entries will be accepted for all
pairs games on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Note that start times have been changed to
1:00 and 7:00 for all days but the final day.

MONDAY

Entry fees: \$8.00 (paid ACBL members), \$8.50 (non-members, unpaid Life Masters).
\$3.00 discount for junior players.

ACBL members with 0-5 masterpoints play free in the Friday Evening Future Masters game.

**Advance Notice: Trophy Sectional
Feb 1—3, 2002 at the Engineer's Hall in Burnaby**