

## *Unit President's Message - Spring 2015*

Bridge in the Vancouver area is flourishing and your Unit 430 Board (UB) is working hard to present events which are both enjoyable and also serve to present learning opportunities for some of our new and less experienced players.

### *Mentor-Mentee Games*

One of our successful initiatives in the past two years has been the [Mentor-Mentee](#) games which are held four times a year. Since the M-M program recommenced at the beginning of 2013, the nine games held have drawn a total of nearly 250 tables (almost 500 pairs, each comprising a Mentor, volunteering their time, and a Mentee, less experienced but keen to learn).

These games have been successfully managed by UB members Kathryn Shannon and Maryellen Gallo, who handle most of the the work involved in registration, partnerships, hospitality and recruitment of Mentors. They are aided by other UB members in various roles and by the Directing Team of Cathy Miller and Bruce McIntyre, who keep the large field moving along. If you haven't been out to one of these games yet, come out to one or more of this year's remaining games to be held on Saturday afternoons, **May 9, August 8, and November 21, usually commencing at noon**. There is usually a post-game discussion as well, led by a local expert, going through a few of the problem hands of the day. Sign-up occurs on the Unit website (please see below for more information regarding the sign-up process).

### *Sectional Tournaments*

We continue to hold four **Sectional tournaments** each year. The table count in our January Sectional was down a bit, perhaps because of the timing shortly after the commencement of the New Year. However there has been an steady upward trend in Sectional attendance, with 2014 total attendance up about 4% over that in 2013. A similar increase was experienced in 2013 (over 2012 totals), as well.

The remaining 2015 Sectionals will take place on the following dates: **May 15 - 18, September 4 - 6, and November 6 - 8**. The May and September tournaments will be held at the **Queensborough Community Centre**, a site we have used in the past and which has been recently remodelled. The November tournament will be held at the Engineers' Hall in Burnaby. A lot of work goes into the operation of these tournaments, under the leadership of Tournament Coordinators Angela Fenton and Jim McKenzie, along with the Supplies team (led by Gray McMullin) who transport all our tables and other bridge supplies to and from the tournament site, the Catering team (led by Corrine Tapley), the Partnership Coordinator, Frances Corney, and the Caddy Coordinator, Rhoda Tafler.

### *Next Annual General Meeting is May 16 - Consider Running for the Board*

During the May Sectional, the Unit 430 Annual General Meeting will be held between sessions on Saturday May 16. All local players are invited to attend this meeting, which usually lasts less than 30 minutes. As well as covering necessary general business matters and any new topics raised from the audience, the list of nominees for the Unit Board for the upcoming Board years will be announced. Additional nominations may be made from the audience. There will be a couple of the current Unit Board members who will be leaving the Board, so if you are interested in becoming part of the Unit Board, please contact Angela Fenton ([angelagf@telus.net](mailto:angelagf@telus.net)) in advance.

### *Future Stars Sectionals*

In addition to the Sectional tournaments mentioned above, Unit 430 also sponsors two **Future Stars Sectionals**, for non-Life Masters with less than 500 masterpoints. These are also well organized by the team of Maryellen Gallo and Kathryn Shannon, with a lot of work also done by Director Bruce McIntyre. The FS Sectional held in March was well attended with a record number of tables on Saturday afternoon. The next Future Stars Sectional in 2015 will be held on **October 24 - 25, at the Vancouver Bridge Centre**, at 2776 East Broadway, Vancouver. This represents an excellent opportunity to earn some of those hard-to-find silver points for those players seeking to become a Life Master.

### *One day Bridge Workshop is being Planned*

While recent Future Stars Sectionals have also involved a lesson component, we expect to be moving the lessons to a one day workshop, separate from the FS Sectional, as the combination of a lengthy lesson, together with two games, proved to be too much bridge in one day for most players. More information on this will be available later this year.

### *Resources on the Website*

**Our Unit 430 Website** ([www.vancouverbridge.com](http://www.vancouverbridge.com)) has been significantly improved in recent months by Tom Anderson, a Unit Board member and our Webmaster. There is a wealth of easily accessible bridge information there, starting from the HomePage, and proceeding through the many links thereon. You will be able to find:  
information concerning addresses and game times for local Bridge Clubs,  
access to Club game results from many of the clubs,  
upcoming local and nearby tournaments,  
Unit 430 tournament results both present and past,  
colourful charts and facts concerning the IMP League,  
a wealth of information for New and Intermediate Players, as well as  
recent editions of our regular publication, The Matchpointer, which contain many bridge related articles.

### *New Canadian Bridge Federation Website*

While I am on the subject of websites, I also suggest that you look at the new website of the Canadian Bridge Federation ([www.cbf.ca](http://www.cbf.ca)). There are still some changes being made, but there is a lot of good information on Bridge in Canada, and a very good online bridge bulletin published at regular intervals.

Everything your Unit Board is doing takes time and effort and I would like to thank all the UB members, not only those mentioned herein, for all their efforts during the past two years. We also have a number of other volunteers who perform certain jobs for the UB, and their help is much appreciated.

### *Interested in Volunteering or Need more Information?*

We are always looking for additional volunteers. If you would like to get involved, please contact me (by e-mail at [pamorse@shaw.ca](mailto:pamorse@shaw.ca)) or any other Unit Board member.

In addition, please feel free to contact me (at the above e-mail address) if you feel that there are things

that the Unit or the Unit Board could be doing better. But I suggest taking a long look at the Unit 430 website, as there is a lot of information on there, some of which may not be immediately obvious.

Peter Morse  
President, ACBL Unit 430