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# BRIDGE BUZZ

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Newsletter of Unit 431- Summer 2021

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## President's Report

Welcome to the second Bridge Buzz for 2021. Madeleine Tremblay, our Communications Coordinator, has been busy preparing this for your reading enjoyment. The Bridge Buzz can only be done with the contributions from duplicate bridge players and we thank you very much for your help. I know that Madeleine would be happy if more of you would be willing to contribute, so keep this in mind for future Bridge Buzzes!

Since the last Bridge Buzz, much has happened in our world of Covid-19, especially relating to the new variants and the challenges they bring to fighting this pandemic. However, we have been very lucky here in British Columbia to have Dr. Henry and her hard working team to help us through this awful menace. In addition, we are doing well with respect to vaccinations which has enabled our decision makers to significantly open up our society, although this may be changing soon. I hope that you all have had your 2 vaccinations by now. However, face-to-face bridge still seems a ways off. You may have seen the recent decision by the Monterey Recreation Center that duplicate bridge is not starting until November 2nd, almost 2 months later than their original start date of September 11th. With this and the growing concerns about the Delta virus, the Board, with a heavy heart, has decided to cancel the Fall Sectional. At this time, we don't know if any events will be held by Unit 431 during 2021, but hopefully by 2022 there will be better news about Covid and we can start to hold our usual f2f tournaments.

As mentioned in my previous report, don't hesitate to contact me at [president@bridgevictoria.ca](mailto:president@bridgevictoria.ca) if you have any duplicate bridge-related questions. The Board will do its best to answer them.

Gail Richardson, President

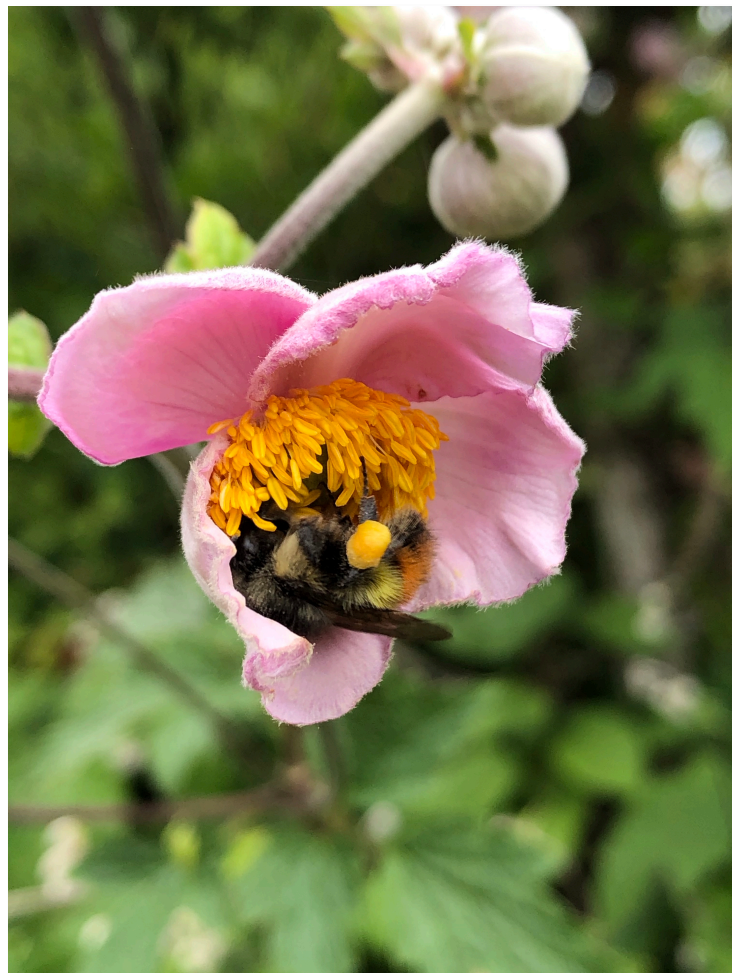


## A few cards short of a deck....still by Madeleine Tremblay

We delayed this summer edition of the BridgeBuzz hoping to have good news to report regarding the return to face-to-face bridge and fall tournaments, but the evolving pandemic dictated otherwise and since days are getting shorter, nights cooler and leaves are turning, we better get on with this summer edition before it, this summer, is over! In this edition, you will find the Unit's President note; Jon Preston's column on costly bridge misadventures and Duncan Smith's wise appraisal of a difficult hand. My second Bridge Buzz interview is with Tony Dason, our membership director. Gloria Dorrance, our Awards coordinator, offers a first instalment on the interesting historic of our trophies and awards.

I am grateful to all who contributed to this edition. Special thanks to my husband for all those bees photos.

In the next few weeks, look out for interesting/challenging hands on BBO and send them to me... you could be the one getting an answer from our experts! Please direct comments, requests and suggestions to [communications@bridgevictoria.ca](mailto:communications@bridgevictoria.ca)



## -1400 is not my favourite number by Jon Preston

-1400 on consecutive days! Few weeks start that badly. The two boards were quite different, so let's look at them.

<div>18 D</div>		<b>N Bill Worobets</b> ♠ A6 ♥ Q5 ♦ A764 ♣ AK1083	<table> <tr> <th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td><td>3♣</td><td>P</td><td>1♥</td></tr> <tr> <td>P</td><td>X</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr> <td>P</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	2♠	3♣	P	1♥	P	X	P	P	P			
W	N	E	S																
2♠	3♣	P	1♥																
P	X	P	P																
P																			
<b>W Jon Preston</b> ♠ J109542 ♥ 832 ♦ 108 ♣ 54			<b>E Caroline Preston</b> ♠ Q873 ♥ J107 ♦ Q2 ♣ J976																
	<b>S Janet Worobets</b> ♠ K ♥ AK964 ♦ KJ953 ♣ Q2		4♠x W      NS: 0 EW: 0																

Island Bridge Club on a Monday afternoon. White vs. red. Partner deals and passes, RHO opens 1♥. I have one jack only, so no defence, white vs. red, and partner's a passed hand.

Maybe a good time to steal their bidding room with a jump to 2♠. 3♣ on my left.

Partner, not in on my little joke and also with no defence, jumps to 4♠. Their double was slow, but they were quick to take the first seven tricks, with the trump ace and king still to come.

That's down six, -1400. But wait, that shouldn't be so bad. NS have 13 top tricks in notrump or diamonds or hearts. They're vulnerable, so our -1400 is less than any grand and less than 6NT + 1 and 6♦ + 1. Played 14 times, only Bob Mackinnon and Farhad Rohani got to a grand, six made 6♦ + 1, and five were only in game. We had company at -1400 - Ron Grove and Deb Wastle had bid similarly. So we got 1½ matchpoints. What doesn't seem fair is that 6♦ + 1 scores 1390 - so close. We're all accustomed to, for example, 120 getting all the matchpoints over a slew of 110's. That's what matchpoint scoring is all about. But 120 against 110 is 9%, whereas the difference between 1390 and 1400 is only 0.7%. Shouldn't we share some of their matchpoints if we're within 1%? Seems fair, doesn't it?

<div>D</div> <div>13</div>		<div>N</div> jprest		<div>W</div> <div>N</div> <div>E</div> <div>S</div>			
		♠ 9 ♥ AK9532 ♦ 2 ♣ 108653		2♥ X P P 3♣ P 3♦ X P P P			
<div>W</div> furnemont				<div>E</div> macbob			
♠ AK102 ♥ Q10864 ♦ A9 ♣ A4				♠ QJ765 ♥ J7 ♦ KJ3 ♣ K97			
		<div>S</div> wastledeb					
		♠ 843 ♥ ♦ Q1087654 ♣ QJ2					
				3♦x S NS: 0 EW: 0			

Casual team game, the next evening, both vul. I pick up a 6-5 hand

open the obvious 2♥. Double on my left and two passes. Should I rescue myself? It seems partner has at least 12 cards that are not hearts, so maybe clubs would be better. But we'd be a level higher and the doubler would be over me with at least three clubs, probably big ones.

Nevertheless, I decided to run to clubs. Deb W then ran to her seven-bagger. Even online, we could almost hear Marc's red double card hitting the table. She managed only four tricks.

(It seems we'd have made one more in clubs.) That was -1400, again. Bob Mackinnon couldn't restrain himself. He typed "Was that the year the printing press was developed?"

The real question is whether to sit for 2♥X. Bob Cheeseman had opened the same 2♥, followed by the same double and two passes. He decided to stay where he was, perhaps for the reasons above and also knowing that the heart strength was on his right. He took six tricks, so that was 14 IMPs away.



<div>15</div> <div>D</div>		<b>N Janet Worobets</b> ♠ AK94 ♥ A95 ♦ Q ♣ AK1054	<table> <tr> <th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td><td>6♠</td><td>7♦</td><td>1♠</td></tr> <tr> <td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>X</td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	3♦	6♠	7♦	1♠	P	P	P	X
W	N	E	S												
3♦	6♠	7♦	1♠												
P	P	P	X												
<b>W Judy Irwin</b> ♠ 8 ♥ 1062 ♦ KJ109864 ♣ 86			<b>E Caroline Preston</b> ♠ J63 ♥ 874 ♦ A7532 ♣ 32												
	<b>S Bill Worobets</b> ♠ Q10752 ♥ KQJ3 ♦ ♣ QJ97		7♦x W      NS: 0 EW: 0												

And that's not all! Caroline reviewed a draft of this on Thursday, then in the 999 game on Friday held ♠J63 ♥874 ♦A7532 ♣32. She heard 1♠ on her left, 3♦ by her partner, who, unlike me, can be relied on to have her bid, then 6♠ on her right. My dear wife, with her 21 masterpoints, decided that even if Judy couldn't ruff anything in dummy she'd make all her trumps, so bid 7♦. And so it was, doubled down six for another -1400. Another +1400 for the Worobets. This time -1400 was an above average board because the NS slam is in a major.

Four of eight pairs scored 1460 in 6♠+1. A risk to bidding over their small slam is that they might go on to their making grand (and you're not allowed to bid 8♦). The Worobets couldn't really go to seven on this board, though. Janet seems to be looking at a trick-one diamond loser and Bill, who has first-round diamond control, could hardly bid seven with five losers.

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

## ACBL Unit 431 trophies by Gloria Dorrance

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On the first morning of the Spring and Fall Sectional Tournaments N/S and E/W winners with under 200 masterpoints playing in the stratified game are given medals.

Three trophies are awarded at the end of the second day to the top pairs who have played both sessions that day:



The Henry Birks & Sons Trophy (est. 1957) to the top pair in Strat A.



The Yuki Miller Memorial Trophy (est. 2002) to the top pair in Strat B.



The Totem Tournament Trophy (est. 1964) to the top pair in Strat C.



At the end of the tournament the player who accumulates the most points at the tournament is awarded the Madeline Anderson Trophy (est. 1960), a beautiful silver trophy with a miniature totem pole at the top. Duncan Smith is the most frequent winner of this trophy.

Winners of all trophies, as well as having their names engraved on the trophies, are offered a small trophy - called a 'keeper' - indicating their win.

*Information originally provided by Gayle Good and updated by Gloria Dorrance, Awards Coordinator.*

## Ask Duncan by Duncan Smith

W	N	E	S
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Score: 0 - 0 (3NT North)

**Q** JP and I recently came across this hand on BBO. Others managed to find slam but none in a way that we would have chosen....can you tell us how you would have bid this?

**A**

The hands you gave me are truly difficult to bid. JP's 3nt bid misdirected I think. He should be thinking of slam possibilities, making 3S

(forcing) a better choice. I believe your rebid of 3H to be too unilateral. A 2D rebid is better I think. It's often better to save strength showing bids until a fit has been established. A possible sequence : 1H P 1S P 2D P 3C (4th suit game force) P 3D (a 5th D) P 3S P 4H (a 6th H) P 5C (cueing Ace) P 5D P 6D P P P. Auction not a thing of beauty, but gets us to probably the 2nd best slam.

## Interview with Tony Dason by Madeleine Tremblay

### *“Look at the big picture”*

Tony joined the Board of Director of Unit 431 this year, taking over from Jill Stainforth as Membership Director. We met on zoom for this interview. Tony was sitting in his backyard on a sunny summer day, while his Portuguese water dog chased a squirrel.

**MT: When did you start playing bridge Tony?**

**TD:** *“I was a bridge player when I was 17-18 years old. My bridge partner in Singapore University was, in Kuala Lumpur, my first boss. He had graduated from law school before me...I joined his practice (as a junior) and he sponsored my membership in his Social Recreational Club, but only because its soccer team needed badly a mid-fielder, which I was. But we could also renew our duplicate bridge partnership, playing at this Social Club. I only liked Duplicate on a social basis (an opportunity to drink beer and smoke cigarettes), but my partner was more serious...he wanted me to learn a more sophisticated bidding system, (like the ‘Italian Blue Club’), what with bidding practice at my lunch time and going into weekend competitions (with 5, 4 hour duplicate sessions)....it was too intense for me...that’s why I stopped. I came back to it recently, after a nearly 50 year hiatus!”*

**MT: What do you like about bridge?**

**TD:** *“Bridge is a serious game...a partnership game...it’s important to have an understanding with a partner. I tried online bridge with robots and found it extremely annoying, as they make quizzical bids and plays! So I am really looking forward to start face to face bridge again, for the opportunity to find a partner and nurture an intuitive understanding. We have to grow together.”*

**MT: What motivated you to join the Board of Unit 431?**

**TD:** *“I did this ICD course, Institute of Corporate Directors, run in Vancouver, in 2014. It’s a stripped down business management course, but with the emphasis on teaching you how to act as a board director, understanding and representing stakeholders...to get more inclusive boards, more representative of a given society, to deliver good governance.”*

**MT: How do you see your role as membership chair?**

**TD:** *“The median age of Victoria Duplicate Bridge players according to the ACBL is 72..., my age, sadly a little past their prime...so you need to get more young people in the game. I am wondering how I can recruit people in their 40s or 50s to play duplicate bridge in our Sanctioned Clubs (and inherit the future). In my view, seasoned bridge players (since the onset of Covid 19) have migrated en masse to internet bridge on BBO and may (assuming F2F returns soon), be less drawn to face-to-face bridge in our Clubs, now also diminished by loss of venue. Our only job at Unit 431 is really to grow ACBL membership, but I think we need to look at the big picture. We need a commitment to help the sanctioned clubs. There are all sort of government grants...my idea is to tap into available funding (now for instance available to combat ‘senior loneliness’) and use these to develop new talent to come to bridge, and to have more people graduate to duplicate bridge in sanctioned clubs”*

**MT: Are you someone who looks for challenges...for changes?**



**TD:** *“Yes. Because of my training as a lawyer...my job, in an adversarial system, that is the common law, was partly to look for weaknesses in an argument and exploit it. But I always ask: “What could be better?”...Unless I can tell you what could be improved, I have no right to tear the argument down”.*

With his law background and his ICD training, Tony feels he can join any board, regardless of the domain or field, and focus on the process, the big picture.

*“Boards in Canada invite directors for specific skill sets, connected with a specific need of the corporation, for instance IT or managing Human Resources. But that is a wrong approach. A company can easily employ executive personnel, with even better skills for that particular job. Directors should instead be elected, for the diversity they may bring to the Board, an ability to fight the ‘group think’ in which usually dominant directors wallow and with an ability to see the ‘big picture’ and recognize the needs of every stakeholder (including those outside the corporation).”*

**MT: What type of law did you practice?**

**TD:** *“Corporate law. I’m still a practicing lawyer in Malaysia! I have never worked in Canada but I kept my practicing certificate alive, in Malaysia.”*

After moving to Canada in 2001, Tony went back and forth to Malaysia for work, some times up to 6 times per year, for 4-6 weeks at a time, tapering over time.

**TD:** *“I was spending half the year away...it was getting tiresome. I last went in January 2020, and returned just before Covid closed borders. I still have a small job to finish, then no more work... Just golf and (hopefully) duplicate bridge!”*

**MT: What made you come to Canada?**

**TD:** *“When I was 50, my wife and I adopted our son, at two weeks old. We decided to leave when he was to go to pre-school, because Malaysia has been sinking in racial discrimination, since the race riots in 1969. There was no issue when I was growing up ...everyone was friendly and equal...but racial discrimination has gotten worse over the years, with politicians distorting affirmative action to feather their own nests...we did not want a Country like that for our (adopted) son.”*

They have been in Victoria since. Their son now lives with them, in a suite in their house and is to attend UVic in the fall.

**TD:** *“He is essentially a Canadian...that’s what we wanted for him...but there are huge cultural differences between him and me...Golf is about the only thing we share, not culture and not values, perhaps due to the age divide.”*

**MT: Is golf a passion?**

**TD:** *“Not really a passion...I’ve always been physical sports person, I can’t play tennis or soccer anymore because of my knees, but I need to exercise, so its bicycling and golf!”*

**MT:** You grew up in Malaysia and now live in Canada...have you lived anywhere else?

**TD:** *"No, but (as family) we have travelled everywhere...except South America. We even did a trip to South Africa. When he was in high school, my son had, on his own, raised money for a charity that provides meals for a township school outside Pietermaritzburg. After he graduated, we went to South Africa, to see the impact...my son was treated like royalty in that school!"*

In the course of our conversation, I also learned that Tony had "picked up recreational flying" in Malaysia, learning 'single engine instrument flying' rules.

**MT:** What do you most look forward to, post Covid?

**TD:** *"We like to do one international trip every year and we have ambitiously booked a trip to Thailand for the end of this year and St-Petersburg and Baltic cruise for August 2022. Other than that...just enjoy being here...we are blessed here...it's the best place in the world!"*

Indeed! Thank you Tony for giving us a chance to know you better. The Board is lucky to have someone with your experience and ability to think outside the box.

