



## ACBL Unit 431 Victoria & the Islands

### *Bill Wastle is Retiring!*



Bill Wastle, owner of the Victoria Bridge Club/Centre, is retiring after 18 years of hosting ACBL sanctioned bridge games. The bridge players gathered at the Strawberry Vale Hall to play a last game together in honour of Bill's service to our local bridge community.



There was a big turnout of 24 tables on Thursday, October 23, 2025 to send Bill off in style.



Barbara Boisvert organized a beautiful big cake, a gift basket for Bill and decorations to set the party mood.



Barb recounted Bill's achievements over the years, referring to him as "dependable, progressive and a director that knows his rules"!



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Many will remember that the Victoria Bridge Club was located in Esquimalt when Bill took over in 2007 with his sister, Debbie Wastle, as business partner.



*Aug 10, 2013 at Victoria Bridge Club Head St*

Bill's club continued to display the Unit trophies and memorabilia in addition to holding regular and mentor games both day and evening until it was forced to close during the COVID pandemic. During COVID, the club offered 2 online games per week on Bridge Base Online (BBO) which were well attended once players got the hang of it.

In 2020, when face to face bridge was allowed again, Bill managed to secure some time slots for his games at the Strawberry Vale Community Hall but the dedicated club space was no longer available for Sunday mentor and special games, trophy displays and ACBL Unit 431 (Victoria and the Islands) board meetings. Adjustments have been required by us all but we have to thank Bill for getting some of our face-to-face games back!

In the early 2010's, as a result of Bill's introduction of the web movement (which ensures that all pairs play the same boards), the Unit 431 purchased a card sorter to reduce the effort required to duplicate the necessary game boards. Bill graciously offered his boards for the local tournaments put on by the Unit. Then came the purchase of the Bridgemate handheld scoring devices which has improved the timeliness and accuracy of the game results.



*Spring Sectional 2017 Strat A Winners  
Duncan Smith James McAvoy*

Bill leaves a legacy of bridge players that honed their skills at the Victoria Bridge Club, became champions and made enduring friendships.

As Bill put it: "the best part was all of the people!"

**Thank You, Bill, for your contributions to our vibrant duplicate bridge community! You made Victoria Bridge Club a fun place to be!**

## ***Victoria Bridge Club Changes Ownership***

**Never fear, Mike Ainsley is here! Thankfully the Victoria Bridge Club will live on!**



*Mike Ainsley and wife, Nelda, at the NYE Party VBC 2013*

**Mike Ainsley is taking over as owner/ director of the club and plans to continue the regular Tuesday and Thursday games, much to our relief. Mike will be helped by the existing game directors Jon Preston, Maureen Trappe and occasionally, Bill Wastle. Debbie Wastle will continue to give her pre-game lessons and help will still be needed from all of you for setup and takedown.**

**Mike is looking forward to his new adventure and to welcoming you all to his club!**

**By**



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