

Lorne & Debbie Hanson 239-2806 Brian & Joy Saville 239-2768

North Haven Community Assoc. 5003 North Haven Drive N.W.

Monday 12:30pm Open Pairs Stratified

Thursday 7:15pm Open Pairs Stratified

Friday 12:15pm Non-Life Master Pairs

(Non-Life Master Pairs (Life-Master can play with a partner who has less than 5 master points))

Varsity Community Centre 4303 Varsity Drive N W

Wednesday 12:15pm Open Pairs Stratified

Please do not wear perfume or cologne. Web Site: <http://www.calgarybridge.com>

Emergency phone # 1 hour before to ½ hour after game time 860-7079

The STAC will be held February 16th to February 20th/04 and ACBL-Wide Charity Game will be held on March 24th/04.

The Kibitzer Soap Box

From time to time a concerned player writes an original article for publication in The Kibitzer. We are pleased to edit and reprint these essays with the usual editorial comment that “the views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editor or any unit member”. This article is from Martin McDonald.

WHY DO YOU PLAY BRIDGE ?

There are diverse views on the value of bridge. Since the invention of playing cards circa 1300, war games have been emulated in the pasteboard jungle. Moreover the heroes of our deck are the great Kings and Emperors of ancient times joined with their knights and subalterns. Latter day Sultans play bridge too. Amanullah II gave up his Persian throne rather than the deck's unveiled queens. Trump has become synonymous with power or success. Bridge is played by members of Congress, the business establishment and your golf, petroleum or ranchmen's clubs. Some dilettantes gamble when they play bridge; but real experts invest. The second Earl of Yarborough's hand occurs 1 in 1837 on average. The late Duke aka Charles Anderson Worsley (1809-97) learned to his chagrin that bridge like life does not always conform to probability theory when he is said to have unsuccessfully bet 1,000 to 1 against the occurrence of a yarborough. The nines are the curses of the four United Kingdoms. The diamond nine (“Curse of Scotland”) sealed the fate of Mary, Queen of Scots in the Tower of London. Harold Sterling Vanderbilt; railroad magnate, three times skipper of the America's Cup winning yacht, scion of financier Commodore Vanderbilt's progeny; and his foursome restated the rules of contract bridge aboard the S.S. Finlandia mired in the Panama Canal Zone in 1925. In the era of Lindbergh, bridge was the Grand Game of the New America for royalty, generals and gigolos alike. The Manhattan Regency Whist Club founded in 1936 on E 67th Street in a magnificent old townhouse has earned a well-deserved reputation for exquisite dining. Among its membership to name a few rank Harold Vanderbilt, Baron Von Zedwitz, General Alfred Gruenther, Oswald Jacoby, Charles Goren and Harold Ogust. In Duplicate Bridge it's not a pecking order it's a biting order; but you are welcome, if you can shuffle, deal and play. The odds are the same for peer and peerless pro, Indian Chief and CEO. The real beauty of the game is that the laws and the proprieties emphasize ethics and disclosure. It is against the rules in Duplicate Bridge to lie, cheat and steal. They may be the devil's tickets but the cards do not lie. No matter. The moot point is: Why do you play bridge?

Somerset Maugham's attribute is oft quoted but bears repetition: “I would have children taught bridge. It will be useful in the end. When all else fails --- sports, love, ambition --- bridge remains a solace and an entertainment.” C.C. Wei, shipping magnate and the founder of Precision Club, subscribed to the maxim “mens sana in corpore sano” as did Ira Corn who hired Air_Force Lt.-Colonel (Ret.) Joe Musemeci to whip the vaunted Dallas Aces into shape. Dr. James A. Nicholas, founding director of the Institute of Sports Medicine and Athletic Trauma proved the ancient apothegm correct. “What makes bridge a sport is that it is a recreational activity pursued by thousands in their leisure time. Out of twenty-one performance factors, the game of bridge meets some requirement in twelve of those categories....In our opinion a sport does not require physical exertion, since mental and environmental factors are all part of the sport's total demand. However most sports have a combination of all three factors, including bridge. Obviously bridge is the strongest in the mental and psychometric factors having 11 out of a possible 15 demand points.” Even the “Peace through Bridge” slogan of the WBF and Jose Damiani's neighbourly relations with Juan Antonio Samaranch have not been enough to vault bridge from a demonstration sport onto the Olympic calendar. The real beauty of bridge is that the competitors' true regime will keep the sport clean. There is no tetrahydrogestrinone for the brain and no substitute for real brain activity. At this juncture Canada's greatest success to date in World Bridge was our victory in the Salt Lake City Grand Prix 2002 where our disciplined team of amateurs beat the pros. The one imp win by USA I over Italy in the 2003 Bridge World Championships ranks as the most exciting if error-filled Bermuda Bowl of all time. Discipline was sorely tested in the face of fatigue and stress. Kathie Wei-Sender's students on the Chinese women's team playing Precision in the manner in which the Master CC Wei had dreamed almost dethroned USA in the 2003 Venice Cup. Clear eyes and clean veins are the benchmarks for all world-champions. Participants in Duplicate Bridge which is now the world's most popular mind-sport strive for the zone with a sober mien and pleasant demeanour. In the third millennium the world bridge community plays the Grand Game in the global village and watches simultaneous vu-graphs of World Bridge Federation Championships via the internet. Future masters and Grand masters alike earn masterpoints on-line. No worries. The moot point is: Why do you play bridge?

From the dawn of time, homo sapiens sapiens has known innately that you use it or lose it. More recently theories that mind-building hobbies such as bridge help prevent Alzheimer's disease are the norm. The New England Journal of Medicine June 19/03 edition reports: "Participation in leisure activities has been associated with a lower risk of dementia. Among leisure activities reading, playing board games and musical instruments, and dancing were associated with a reduced risk of dementia." Researchers in brain chemistry studied nuns in San Diego because their life-style risks were minimized. Those engaged in psychic endeavours more than menial activities enjoyed seven plus years longer life span on the average. In essence brain neurotransmitters are grown or regenerated while you play. The dopamines created during the game produce a low level feeling of euphoria and enhance the operation of your immune system. So bridge is good for your health. Moreover you can compete against World Champions in bridge at tournaments and test your skills against the best. In no other sport or game will you find as level a playing field. S.J. Simon explained the reasons for the contra-positive in "Why You Lose At Bridge" which he wrote before Roth defined the negative or "Sputnik" double. "Do not redouble. From the glutton the plate is taken away." Rules of Auction Bridge 1899. Rubber Bridge is not for the faint-hearted or impecunious, but corpulence will not disqualify you. Bridge Calcuttas afford you an opportunity to avoid bitter euchres and earn sweet lucre especially when you win and own a percentage of your partnership. The Cavendish in Vegas regularly has a Calcutta pool in excess of \$2 Million CDN with 40% for top spot. The moot point is: Why do you play bridge?

The 2003 ACBL on-line Officials/Teachers survey was responded to by 1505 of 3660 ACBL teachers and officials. Their primary motivators are to encourage others to play the game, to enjoy bridge as hobby, to give back to the game and to be part of a group. As most of the bridge community appreciates earning income is a distant fifth for our stalwart bridge club owners and teachers. However Duplicate Bridge now supports a cadre of professional players who give playing lessons or are hired for tournament success. Marketing drives professional bridge with sponsorship like the 1975 Lancia traveling roadshow with members of the World Champion Italian Blue team augmented by Omar Sharif. Ira Corn founded the Dallas Aces to bring the Bermuda Bowl back to the U.S.A. after ten consecutive World Championship victories by Italy. C.C. Wei sponsored the Precision Team to market the features of his Precision System of bidding. It is not inconceivable that MS might improve the marketing of its Gaming Zone with bridge sponsorship. There is now a Pro Bridge Series which may grow into a money bridge tour. When recruiting for membership in the ACBL, most bridge club owners and teachers posit the main reasons for joining are to have fun, stay mentally active, improve your game and meet new people. On average by far the bulk recruited 1 to 5 new members per year. Their ratings of their level of satisfaction with the service provided at the ACBL departments were: Education 86.1%; Club/Membership 92.7%; Bridge Bulletin 96.1%; Accounting 90.6%; Sales 88.9%; Special Events 88.2%; Tournaments 90.3%; Computer/Internet 88.7%; Customer Services 91.9%. It's hard to argue with those statistics. If every-one of the 165,000 elite in our league recruited one more player per year, we would double our membership annually. It is our respectful submission that there are few bridge players who do not acknowledge the reality of Malthusian economics. No beef. The moot point is: Why do you play bridge?

There are many local experts whose personal experiences include traveling in the company of friends to Sectional, Regional and North-American Duplicate tournaments throughout the breadth and depth of this immense continent. Upon your arrival at a bridge club anywhere on the third rock from the sun, there are friends of bridge and bridgeurs who ensure you are welcome and feel right at home. Whether you speak Polish or enjoy Blue Club with canapes, the same 38 calls are at your fingertips. Declaring and bringing home 7 NT redoubled is the ultimate contract for caliphs and captains of industry there too. Most importantly, the camaraderie and esprit de corps are second to none. Every bridge club is replete with fine human beings who are examples of discipline, intellectual and intestinal fortitude, empathy, tolerance and understanding; and they all want to win. You gain credibility by association with such confreres or their conference. You grow in maturity with every passing hand. The opportunities to help other aficionados better enjoy their time at and away from the bridge table are plentiful. When your students win their first gold points you enjoy their success vicariously. Your first Regional win is a triumph that you never forget. Canada's gold medal performance at Salt Lake City Grand Prix 2002 by our own Gartaganis team with its Calgary and Alberta core was a source of personal pride for us all. In each and every bridge career, the journey is its own reward. So when you see your partner or venerable opponents give back to the bridge community, does it inspire you to do your best to grow the Grand Game. No problem. The moot point is: Why do you play bridge?

Bridge has seen an immense rise in popularity since the Culbertsons bested Lenz and Jacoby in the bridge match of the Century at the Waldorf- Astoria in 1931 fortified with Josephine's cunning and Ely's gamesmanship. Moreover bridge bidding systems, defensive carding and declarer play have been developed and refined. Reverse suit preference and upside-down attitude and count are norms for Hamman and Soloway. Meckstroth and Rodwell's convention card and bidding system should be called Rosetta Club instead of Meckwell Precision. The Grand Game continues to grow and mature with the development of zero tolerance for bad behaviour and the insistence on the principles of full disclosure and no unwarranted hesitation. In summation, it is clear that at the start of the third millennia bridge, cruising and golf are the staple recreations of the leisure class. There are no other avocations that emphasize proper decorum and good manners to such an extent as to elevate them to laws and proprieties. There are no other passions that constitute healthy elements of lifestyle choice for amateurs and create lucrative incomes and endorsements for professionals. There are no other sports that resound with the truth that life is a marathon not a sprint. Discipline, demeanour, decency and determination are prerequisites for success over the long run. Winning at all costs is a pyrrhic victory. Living in accordance with a win-win philosophy helps our neighbours and ourselves. Think globally and act locally. The Grand Game continues to evolve and become more civilized. Perhaps life will imitate art and our planet will follow a similar progress towards the light. Bridge is a beacon for humanity. What are you doing to ensure "Peace through bridge" is more than an empty slogan? No argument. Why do you play bridge?

Martin McDonald

Puzzle Corner

This edition of Puzzle Corner has some actual hands from the Red Deer Calcutta. A Calcutta is an event where each pair is auctioned to the highest bidder, a somewhat humbling experience when you find out what other people