

THE KIBITZER

August 2002

Calgary Duplicate Bridge Association: Unit 390

CANADA WINS COMMONWEALTH GOLD!

Congratulations to Gordon Campbell, Judith Gartaganis,

Nicolas Gartaganis, and Keith Balcombe

(see story inside)



North American Open Pairs Unit 390 Qualifying Game

Friday, September 13th

Martinique Bridge Club – 7:30

\$18 per pair

**(please purchase entries early to allow
time to stratify the field)**

This year, District 18 has decided to hold Unit Qualifying Games before the District Final. Unit 390 will hold a single session stratified event.

The top 50% of qualifiers in each of the Flights A, B (0 – 2000) and C (Non-Life master and under 500 pts) will qualify to the District Final, Friday, September 27, Helena MT. Start time for that event will be 1 pm.

The top two pairs in each flight at the District Final will be subsidized to travel to the NAOP Finals at the Spring 2003 Nationals, which will be in Philadelphia in March.

ACBL Wide Instant Matchpoint Game –

Gold Point Awarded to Section Winners, Hand Analysis Booklets

Thursday, September 12th

Martinique Bridge Club – 7:30

Canada Wide Olympiad Fund Game

Thursday, October 3rd

Martinique Bridge Club – 7:30

Given the pride we all have in the recent results of the Canadian international representatives (many of whom are local Albertans) at both the IOC event in Salt Lake City, and the Commonwealth Games in Manchester, we should all make an effort to come out and support this event which helps fund their travels.

Bridge Week 2002 - Edmonton June 18 – 25th

For all of the results and daily bulletin articles, see www.cbf.ca

Calgarians acquitted themselves well in various events, but are still wishing for a few more IMPS here or there!

Congratulations to CNTC bronze medallists **Gordon Campbell, Judy Gartaganis and Nick Gartaganis**, who were attempting the difficult task of defending their 2001 gold medal.

Congratulations also to **Terri Bedard, Janet Dunbar, Delores Hedley and Carol McManus**, who earned CWTC bronze medals (Delores on a team captained by Gordon Sharp)

Bridge Week 2003 – Penticton June 2 – 9th

Start thinking about putting together a team for either the CNTC Flight A (Open), Flight B (Under 1000 as of September 2002), or CWTC events. Club qualifying for the Open event, as well as the COPCs (Cdn Open Pairs) will be held later in the Fall.

Unit 390 will be hosting the Zone V Finals, likely the weekend of April 5 –6th, 2003, so entering a team couldn't get any easier! (Of course, we will also be looking for cookie baking volunteers to help feed the hungry masses!)

On a personal note, Penticton is being held the one week of 2003 that your editor gets a trip to New York City on business! What were the chances?

RECENT EVENT WINNERS at area Sectionals and Regionals:

Special Cheers to Gerry Marshall, who won 4 of the 5 events he entered at the Medicine Hat Sectional. We all wish we could play at 80%!

Anne Primeau	Tina Gokturk	James Brown	Keith Moores
Carol Porter	Gord Sharp	Jim Berglund	Lily Halliday
Don Gladman	Gwenn Brusset	Joan Johnston	Nancy Klym
Don Smith	Hilary Bean	John Ferguson	Naomi Pencer
Elaine McQuitty	Ilya Kuzkin	Karen Kilworth	Roger Stanislow

A Message from Unit 390 President - Steve Lawrence

I'm certain that most Calgary bridge players know me since I've been a fixture of the Alberta bridge scene for the past twenty years and have now lived in Calgary for more than 12 years. I've held a number of

positions on unit and club boards in both Edmonton and Calgary and hope this varied experience will help me to promote the game.

The upcoming year is an important one in the bridge calendar. Next August, we will host the Alberta Regional. Calgary is noted for making a success of our regionals, both from the aspects of bridge and hospitality, but to achieve the high standard set by Delores Hedley and Gordie Sharp in 2000 will not be easy. It will require the efforts of many energetic volunteers to assist the new tournament chairman, John Gilchrist. The date selected is August 11 to 17 but at the moment, John is operating under the handicap of not knowing, with certainty, what the site will be. Many of the ideas discussed at the organizational meeting in June are dependant upon the site selected. However, the latest information indicates that we will likely return to the Radisson.

Calgary has also been selected to host the CNTC zone finals next April. Unlike a regional, this does not involve a large number of participants, but it is important to demonstrate that we can organize an effective and enjoyable competition.

When I was last on the board in the early 1990's, the unit's financial situation necessitated the elimination of subsidies paid to players representing us outside Calgary. At that time, the policy was to pay the card fees of all those who qualified to play in events outside the city. This blanket subsidy was expensive and did not take into account the varying levels of financial support that these players were already receiving from other sources. During this year, we plan to introduce a subsidy program that recognizes the varying circumstances of the events being entered and focuses our resources on the players with the largest unsubsidized financial outlays.

The unit board has several issues on the agenda that may benefit from the input of the membership. Among these:

- There have been complaints that it is difficult to remember to use the free plays provided by the unit since they can only be used at sectionals. After many months, people tend to lose them. We are proposing that these free plays be usable at participating clubs. The unit would then reimburse the club. As well as the players, both the clubs and the unit would benefit since the free plays would be redeemed at less than the card fees at the sectional and a service charge would be added to the reimbursement to cover the club's costs. Please encourage your club to participate in this.
- There has been some discussion about revamping the schedule of events at sectionals. We are interested in any ideas that you may have for new events or a different order to the existing schedule. It may enhance interest to add a little variety to the schedule.

Should you wish to contact me about these or any other concerns, I can be reached at Steve.Lawrence@telus.net or 686-3290.

Canada Wins Gold in Manchester

by Judith Gartaganis

The Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship, one of many events making up the Spirit of Friendship Festival leading into the Commonwealth Games, was staged by the English Bridge Union July 15 through July 20, 2002. It was part of the continuing effort to generate publicity for the game (dare we say sport?) of bridge and to seek recognition of the mental and physical stamina required to play the game at top levels.

By virtue of our win (with Gordon Campbell and Keith Balcombe) in the 2001 Canadian National Teams Championship, our team was invited to represent Canada in the competition. Gordon and his spouse, Carol McManus, arrived in England a few days in advance of the event, early enough to make contact with and bring along a pair of devoted kibitzers: Gordon's mother, Faith and his sister, Lesley. Keith and Dianne Bakombe also arrived early and had a chance to recover somewhat from the jet lag associated with the flight. Nick and I spent ten glorious (but hot!) days in Greece before making our way to Manchester.

The playing site, a short 20-minute walk from our hotel, was Whitworth Hall on the University of Manchester campus. It was magnificent! When seeking inspiration, you could gaze at the huge stained glass windows or up at the lofty vaulted ceilings with intricate detailed carving and mouldings. I have never played in so regal a venue!

Twenty-eight nations belonging to the British Commonwealth had accepted invitations to send representatives to the tournament. Two sponsored teams had been added to round out the field. Brigitte Mavromichalis and the Maple Financial Group had both made very generous contributions toward hosting the event. They each were given the opportunity to field a team for the competition, with the proviso that, since neither team would be representing a country, they would be ineligible for medal and prize awards. Mavromichalis drew together Britain's top professional players (Paul Hackett with his twin sons, Jason and Justin, John Armstrong and Britain's #1 internationalist, Tony Forrester). She, herself, was unable to attend due to illness. The Maple Team consisted of six top players from the Manchester area. Several teams emerged as pre-tournament favourites: Canada, India, Australia, England and the Patron Team. Not surprisingly, the countries with relatively large populations from which to draw were expected to field strong teams.

Our hosts (the EBU and innumerable volunteers) had guaranteed that everyone would enjoy the tournament, no matter how they fared at the bridge table. As is traditional in Europe, bridge started early in the day (about 10:00 a.m.) and continued straight through until 7:00 p.m. or so. Having finished for the day, the late-hour fun could begin. No need to skip that glass of wine with dinner to stay alert for the evening session.

The players and their friends were treated to many complementary evening activities, including an Opening Reception (buffet and wine) at Manchester town hall with the mayor in attendance, a spicy but very crowded Thai buffet at the Royal Orchid and an unbelievable 18-course Closing Banquet (with champagne, wine, 25-year old brandy and liqueur) at the Yang Sing Restaurant. Wow! We did not avail ourselves of even more activities: a night at the greyhound races and a tour of Manchester United Museum and Old Trafford Stadium. Perhaps you are wondering whether we played any bridge! Here are a few headlines from the daily bulletins published on site.

Day 1: Warm welcome from the Lord Mayor of Manchester.

The players ... prepared for the battles to come ...

Day 2: Canada and Australia head the groups and look set for the semi-finals. Both patron teams look well placed.

Day 3: Canada, Wales and the two Patron teams qualify for the semi-finals. Australia falls at the final hurdle in a tense finish.

In an exciting last round a determined Wales team beat Malaysia heavily and had to hope that Australia slipped up against Pakistan. When the Australians were defeated 23-7 a jubilant Welsh team had qualified to play against the all-conquering Canadians. The two Patron teams also qualified in some comfort and will lock horns tomorrow.

Day 4: Patron vs Canada in the final – Brave Welsh comeback fails narrowly; Maple team overwhelmed by Patron.

It turned out to be the Gold Medal for Canada and Silver for Wales after today's enthralling semi-finals. In an exciting finish Canada beat Wales by the narrow margin of 7 IMPs. ... Since Patron teams are not eligible for a medal the final tomorrow will not be for the Gold and Silver positions. Canada has the Gold, Wales the Silver and the Bronze will go to the Commonwealth team finishing highest in the Manchester 2002 Bridge Challenge.

Day 5: Patron takes the Maple Trophy, beating Canada by 27 IMPs. India takes the bronze medal.

I have always had fun asking this question after any bridge tournament: "So...what was your favourite hand of the tournament?" I posed this question to Nicholas and Gordon as I was preparing to write this article. Here is Gordon's favourite hand of the event.

Match 9, Board 10 Canada vs Trinidad & Tobago

Dealer: East	♠ A8432		
Vulnerable: All	♥ KQ3		
	♦ K8		
	♣ Q92		
♠ J1096	N	♠ ---	
♥ J109	W □ E	♥ A62	
♦ 97543	S	♦ AQJ1062	
♣ 8		♣ AKJ3	
	♠ KQ75		
	♥ 8754		
	♦ ---		
	♣ 107654		

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
Campbell	Innis	Balcombe	Seeterram
---	---	1♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
1♥ ⁽²⁾	1♠	2♦ ⁽³⁾	2♠
4♣ ⁽⁴⁾	Pass	4♠ ⁽⁵⁾	Pass
4NT ⁽⁶⁾	Pass	6♦ ⁽⁷⁾	All Pass

- (1) strong, 16+ HCP
 (2) 0-4 hcp (but not an Ace)
 (3) natural and very strong (because we can open 1♦ with as many as 20 HCP)
 (4) singleton ♣, 4 or more ♦'s in support
 (5) general slam try
 (6) extras, I really like my hand but don't quite have enough to bid slam!!!
 (6) I do!

The Daily Bulletin titled the hand "Ambitious". No kidding! Always an optimist, Gordon believed that he had a "massive" hand for the auction. His extremely powerful (?) J109 holdings could easily have been crucial. As it happened, all reasonable lines of play led to success. Keith guessed the trumps correctly, ruffing a club to get to dummy and then finessing the ♦K. He didn't need any of Gordon's "extras".

You might also be interested to hear Gordon's favourite quote from the Daily Bulletins (see page 6 of the July 19th edition). "...Campbell made a *disciplined* Pass..."!!!! This is hardly consistent with his reputation!

Nicholas took no time at all to identify the next hand as his favourite:

With five boards to go in the gold medal match, Canada's lead over Wales had dwindled from a high of 64 IMPs to just 19 IMPs. As North, you hold ♠1094 ♥8762 ♦J843 ♣J6 and hear the opponents conduct this auction:

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
	NicholasG		JudithG
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♠	Pass	7♣	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

This is not the kind of auction you want to hear when it feels (wrongly!) as if the match is under control. To lead safely or aggressively, that is the question! Leading a trump against a grand slam has long been touted as the "safe" lead but occasionally there are reasons to consider doing something different. On the auction, it seems unlikely that any club trick will disappear and a club lead just might ruin the combined defensive holding. It certainly sounds as if dummy will produce two high diamond cards, but it might be right to attack those entries early before declarer can get the clubs going. Still, partner passed up two chances to double diamond cuebids. A heart lead will run into declarer's cuebid and the "free finesse", if that is the layout, might be all declarer needs. After considerable thought Nicholas led the ♥8. Awesome lead...anything else is disastrous! Here are the opponents' hands:

West ♠ AKQJ872 ♥ Q ♦ 97 ♣ A72 **East** ♠ --- ♥ 953 ♦ AK1052 ♣ KQ983

My claim has always been that I am the better leader in the Gartaganis partnership. I hereby relinquish that title to Nicholas. This is the second time in recent competitions that Nicholas has been on the hot seat (leading against a grand slam) and has found the only lead to defeat the contract. Remember the spade lead against 7♣ in Salt Lake City -- he gained 20 IMPs for Canada! In Manchester, Nicholas gained 11 IMPs for Canada (Gordon and Keith stopped in 5♠). The real IMP effect was much larger (Wales would have won 14 IMPs on any other lead — a 25 IMP swing), not to mention the psychological blow dealt to the Welsh pair.

Here is my favourite hand of the tournament. It occurred in the exhibition match — Canada vs Patron — held the day after Canada had captured the gold medal. We faced Armstrong/Forrester on Vugraph.

Dealer: West	♠ J986	
Vulnerable: None	♥ Q76	
	♦ AQ4	
	♣ 1073	
♠ K532	N	♠ AQ104
♥ AJ108	W □ E	♥ 432
♦ K72	S	♦ 1086
♣ K9		♣ A42
	♠ 7	
	♥ K95	
	♦ J953	
	♣ QJ865	

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
NicholasG	Forrester	JudithG	Armstrong
1♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠ ⁽²⁾	Pass	2NT ⁽³⁾	Pass
3♠ ⁽⁴⁾	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

- (1) 11-16 HCP, could be short in ♦
- (2) 4 spades with a balanced 14-16 HCP or 11-14 HCP with shortness somewhere
- (3) what hand type do you have?
- (4) balanced 14-16 HCP

At the other table, the auction was a simple 1NT – 3NT that made nine tricks after the lead of a spade. Here is how the Daily Bulletin reported the play at our table:

“South led a club, won by the ♣K and declarer played a spade to hand to lead a heart. Armstrong found the fine entry-destroying play of the ♥K and now the hand is difficult. Declarer took the ♠K to discover the 4-1 break and now played the ♥J. If Forrester ducked he could be later end-played so he carefully won with ♥Q and played another heart. More fine defence. It appears that dummy's last winning heart is inaccessible to declarer and that she must rely on the ♦A being onside. Declarer was up to the task, however. A spade to the 10, the ♣A, a club ruff and the winning heart. North ruffed with his last trump but declarer threw off a losing diamond. This left North on play with only diamonds left and he had to concede the last trick to dummy's ♦K.”

What made the hand even more fun was the remarks made by the Vugraph commentators. The Vugraph team was headed by Eric Kokish who needs no introduction to Canadians. Eric was ably assisted by Simon Cochemé, a British journalist and writer, and John Collings, an aging but cantankerous British internationalist. All week, Collings had a difficult time remembering to refer to females as "she" (I guess that, in his day, women didn't

play on Vugraph). Earlier in the set, I was declaring a club partial when a cow flew by. The opening lead had made the contract cold but I just didn't see it. It was reported by Canadian spies that Collings had quipped something to the effect of "... spending too much time in the kitchen and not enough time at the bridge table ...".

At the stage where a heart had been played to the ♥Q and Forrester had made the good return of a heart to cut me off from dummy, the commentators were heard to say "... no way to make the hand now. Excellent defense by Armstrong and Forrester." But ... that little diamond pitch to endplay Forrester when he ruffed the ♥8 made them all sit up. Cochemé said quickly "Maybe too much time at the bridge table rather than in the kitchen...." 1 IMP never felt so good!

MEMBERSHIP DESK

Anne Thompson

Welcome to the following new ACBL Members: Patricia Biggs, Robert Biggs, Heather Boywer, Helen Foster, Mary Hess, Bill Klym, Rhona Kocsis, Joan Mackasey, Eva Nagan, Ronald Price, Carolyn Saucier, Allen White.

Also please welcome the following players who are now living in Calgary: Michael Farebrother,

Congratulations to the following who have achieved new milestones:

JUNIOR MASTER (5-20): Dave Armstrong, Jan Biggeman, Heather Bowyer, Ron Bullen, Charles Campagne, Jane Clerk, Pat Culham, Jo Anne Horne, Arthur Iwasa, Biddy Jacobs, Satwant Lota, Milt Mansell, Derek Martin, Mary Lou McCormick, William McQuitty, Frannie Mills, Freda Nychkalo, Christopher Tame, Jim Thompson, Lorraine Weller

CLUB MASTER (20 - 50): Gary Abell, Jan Biggeman, Christine Chicoine, Marie Eliot, Garth Gillespie, Gretta Hinton, Evelyn Iwasa, Robert McGregor, Frannie Mills, Debbie Shaikin, Jim Thompson, Brian Willett

SECTIONAL MASTER (50 - 100 including 5 silver points): Bernice Alvey, Graham Alvey, Stuart Baughan, Marek Foff, Ken Green, Jennifer Handel, Joan Johnston, Jean Kerr, Ilya Kukzkin, Gordon McLure, Hash Mohamed, Paul Sackman, Wayne Smith, Donna Stanley, Phyllis Stotts, Lyman Warner,

REGIONAL MASTER (100 - 200 including 15 silver and 5 red or gold): Beverley Cumming, Rita Dodge, Marie Driscoll, Gordon Gair, Wilda Paskak, Millie Shyba, Frank Soloman,

NABC MASTER (200 - Life Master including 25 silver, 5 gold, and 15 red or gold): Sharon Crowle, Tina Gokturk, Naomi Pencer, Barry Robey, Sheldon Spier, Alice Whitty, Minnie Zuckier,

LIFE MASTER (at least 300 including 50 silver, 25 gold and 25 red or gold): Patricia Baughan, Gladys Grant, Gerry Marchant, Anne Primeau

BRONZE LIFE MASTER (Life Master over 500): Annabelle Gurevitch, Shirley Klassen, Vincent Lacoste, Bev Miles, Murray Peterson, Ron Pritchard,

SILVER LIFE MASTER (Life Master over 1000): Patricia Wesley
600 Banff Avenue
(403) 762-4581

Banff Classic Sectional

November 1 – 3rd
Inns of Banff

Friday, November 1st:

2:00 Stratified IMP Pairs

8:00 Stratified Pairs
11:45 Swiss Teams

Saturday, November 2nd:

1:00 Stratified Pairs
(playthrough)
7:30 2nd Session
** Single session pairs are welcome for either session

Sunday, November 3rd:

10:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
TBA: 2nd Session
** Play to be completed by 6:30 pm

Stratification: A: 750+ B: 300 – 750
C: 0-300

Future Masters games will be held if at least three tables are entered. All events will be single sessions.

**The
Aurora
Bridge Club**
(Northern Lights)



**Haven North Community Association
5003 North Haven Drive N.W.**

Manager: Lorne Hanson 239-2806
Director: Joy Saville 239-2768

Coordinators: Connie Studer 239-0212
Elaine Smith 286-5522

Game Time:

Monday 12:15 pm Open Pairs Stratified
Friday 12:15 pm N L M Pairs Stratified

NOTE: *Please No Perfume or Cologne,
some players have severe allergies*



UPCOMING EVENTS:

September:

6-8 Calgary Sectional
12 Instant Matchpoint Game

13 NAOP Unit Final – 1 session
 21-22 Lethbridge Sectional (199ers)
23-29 HELENA Regional
 27 NAOP District Final - Helena
 (2 sessions – 1 pm)

October:

3 Canada-Wide Olympiad Fund Game
 18-20 Edmonton Sectional
 24-27 Regina Sectional

November:

1-3 Banff Sectional
 8-10 Caldwell Sectional
 16-17 Red Deer Sectional (199ers)
 14-17 Saskatoon Sectional
 22-24 Shelby Sectional
 28-
 Dec 8 **Phoenix AZ Nationals**

January 2003: 10-12 Calgary Sectional

UNIT MINI-MCKENNY LEADERS :

(as at July 31st))

Rookie:	Jan Biggeman	20
Junior Master:	Jim Thompson	26
Club Master:	Hash Mohamed	59
Sectional Master:	Marie Driscoll	43
Regional Master:	Tina Gokturk	97

NABC Master:	David Johnson	136
Life Master:	Laura Mooney	108
Bronze LM:	John Ferguson	136
Silver LM:	Ian Boyd	383
Gold LM:	Francesca Walton	266
Diamond LM:	Gerry Marshall	210

Please address all comments, ideas, or criticisms to the Kibitzer editor:

Janet Dunbar
dunbarj@telusplanet.net
 (403) 245-8270