

THE KIBITZER

CALGARY DUPLICATE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



APRIL 2009

Editors: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

President's Message

This year has been a rather interesting and challenging one. When I took on the job as president, I expected a smooth-sailing year with not too much to do. Need I say that this has not been the case. My phone has not quit ringing all year! Our Unit is growing steadily with a membership of over 700 people. Of course these seven hundred people do not unanimously agree on everything that takes place in the bridge world. We have tried our best to keep everyone happy. Please keep in mind that the members serving on the Unit Board are all volunteers.

Our membership has increased this year, and it is great to see the number of new players coming out to play at the club level. The various bridge teachers throughout the city have done a fabulous job of teaching and encouraging new players to try duplicate bridge. Thank you to all the teachers who are inspiring these people.

The Unit is delighted that we now have a bridge education committee, coordinated by Freda Nychkalo - nychka@shaw.ca and a promotions committee headed by Merle Hickey - m.hickey@shaw.ca

A project is underway to update the Unit website with additional information to inform new players and current members about the role and activities of Unit 390, which encompasses Calgary and area. The Project Manager is Merle Hickey. Although still a work-in-progress, Merle has agreed to make the updated website available on an "as is" basis and encourages constructive feedback. The prototype website can be accessed at www.acblunit390.org

When ready to go live, the Home Page at this site is expected to replace the one at www.calgarybridge.com. During the interim, both sites may be used to access existing club news and results, masterpoint listings and tournaments.

Our thanks to Simon Farrer who continues as our webmaster. Simon has generously donated many hours to develop and maintain the existing website. It is a terrific source of information with all the club results as well as a wealth of links to other bridge sites. I urge you to take some time to browse through all the material that can be found on the site.

Have you clicked on the link to members photos recently? Jo-Ann Horne has been busy taking pictures of all the bridge players in our unit. Today there are 607 pictures posted on our website. If Jo-Anne has missed you, please contact her, and she will gladly take your picture. Our thanks to Jo-Anne for all her work and effort with the pictures.

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President's Message (continued)

Our Unit is now the proud owner of 60 card tables, bridge supplies for a sectional and a trailer in which to carry and store this equipment. It has been a great investment, as it has meant that card tables can be kept in the trailer with no need to haul them in and out of a storage place. As well, we generated some revenue by renting the tables to the Lethbridge Regional.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have worked hard to make bridge fun and enjoyable. Bridge is truly a game that we can play all our lives. With that, I remind you of the Vision and Mission Statement of Unit 390:

- Vision: "Challenge the Mind - Experience the Passion", while participating in the game of competitive bridge.
- Mission: To provide a positive environment for competitive bridge to flourish.

Marlene Lenstra
President



Annual General Meeting **Calgary Duplicate Bridge Association** **(ACBL Unit 390)**

When: Friday, May 29, 2009
Where: Martinique Bridge Studio
Time: Meeting: 6:00 pm
Pairs game to follow

If you are interested in joining the Unit Board, please contact Marlene Lenstra (president@calgarybridge.com 249-9614).

Walter Brock Appointed to Goodwill Committee

The ACBL Board of Directors has appointed Unit 390's Walter P. Brock as a lifetime member of the ACBL Goodwill Committee. Walter played his initial game of duplicate at the Martinique in 1953 and started playing regularly in 1985. Walter recalls winning his first gold points in 1988, the year Calgary hosted the Winter Olympics. Walter became a Life Master in 1989 and a Silver Life Master in 2002. Walter was presented with a Goodwill Committee lapel pin in recognition of his new honorary role.

The ACBL Goodwill Committee pursues a number of endeavours, such as promoting active ethics, making bridge available to those with disabilities and supporting junior programs. The ACBL's Top 10 goodwill actions are:

- Greet and welcome opponents
- Always say, "Director, please"
- Lead or place dummy before you write
- Mentor a new player
- Say, "Thank you, Partner"
- Compliment opponent's play
- Discuss hands after the game
- Accept defeat and victory with grace
- Leave a tidy table
- Smile often!

Goodwill Day is celebrated the Monday of each North American Bridge Championship (NABC), most recently March 16th in Houston.

Nominations are made by the ACBL District 18 Board members based on input from Units within the District. Previous appointees to the Goodwill Committee from Unit 390 include Delores Hedley (2006), Jacky Ross (1991), Pat Smolensky (1989), William Brown (1984), Linda Thierman (1975), and Mrs. R.E. Davis (1970).



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Calgary White Hat Regional A Retrospective

by Ken Scott

In the 1950s, interest in bridge surged world wide and bridge leaders in Calgary started thinking about hosting a Regional tournament. A number of intrepid bridge aficionados gained sanction for the inaugural 'Northern Rocky Mountain Regional' to be held July 16-22, 1962 at the Palliser. The Regional achieved over 1,200 tables; one game alone hosted 130 tables and raised over \$2,500 to benefit a local charity.

Charles Goren (1901-1991) was the invited special guest with his fees sponsored jointly by Unit 390 and Sick's Brewery in Lethbridge. Goren participated in three days of the Regional (often partnering Hattie Joffe). Goren was initiated into the Blackfoot tribe as 'Chief Deer Horn', a designation derived from the original significance of his family name (and perhaps because of his many points!). Pat Smolensky served as host for Goren and recalls him as brilliant, frugal, and an amazing sports statistician.

A feature of that tournament was a bridge symposium held at the Jubilee Auditorium with Goren lecturing and his 'girl Friday' (Pat) assisting by writing the demonstrated hands on a blackboard. For one hand, Pat listed a 14th card and, when an audience member pointed it out, Goren quickly and smoothly quipped, 'I work my side of the room and my caddy works the other side'. After the Regional, Goren sent a 'thank you' letter to Pat on his custom stationery, simply and elegantly headed with Charles H. Goren • 111 East 56th Street • New York 22, N.Y. and signed "Charlie".

Numerous other superstars of bridge attended the 1962 Regional, including Oswald Jacoby (1902-1984) who was also initiated into the Blackfoot tribe, as 'Chief Morning Plume'. One of the many highlights of the Regional was the between sessions marriage of then promising Director, Harry Morrison.

The second Regional was held at the Calgary Inn (Westin), July 17-23, 1967. By then, a very active bridge community had evolved in Calgary. There were about 8,300 Life Masters in the world and 9 lived in Calgary - the most in Alberta! This second 'White Hat' Regional achieved 1,555 tables, which bettered the 1962 count by 28% and set a District 18 record.

The panel show alone (with featured guests Marilyn Johnson, Peter Rank, Mary Jane Farrell, Hermine Baron and Phil Wood) attracted a capacity crowd of over 300.

Eric Murray and Sami Kehela were invited guests for Calgary's third Regional (July 20-26, 1970) at the Calgary Inn. They, too, were initiated into the Blackfoot Nation; Murray as 'Chief Ermine Horn' because he was a Toronto Barrister (and wore robes in his profession), and Kehela as 'Chief Running Rabbit'. About 500 attended the brunch at which Murray and Kehela received their honorary designations. That 'White Hat' Regional achieved 2,195 tables, a 40% increase over 1967 and, once again broke the District 18 record.

A newspaper account of the 1970 tournament mentions several factors as contributing to the fabulous turnout:

- 1) Tremendous program staged by the Unit headed by Tournament Coordinator Jack Murphy. The Unit spent more than \$2,000 of its own funds on the Regional.
- 2) The sumptuous playing area of the venue.
- 3) Coinciding meeting of the Canadian Bridge Federation.
- 4) Tremendous promotion by the Unit, the Western Conference, and the Canadian Tourist Bureau.

In following years, the 'every third year' White Hat Regional tried a number of venues including the Marlborough and more recently the Crossroads Radisson. At one time Red Deer was included in Unit 390, but with growth, it emerged as its own Unit (248) and host to Alberta Regionals. Now Regionals in Alberta rotate amongst Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton, with Lethbridge hosting an extra Alberta Regional every third year. The game has changed a lot - smoke free venues, zero tolerance play, bidding boxes and bidding more and more with less and less, but no Calgary Regional ever surpassed the 2,195 tables of 1970.

(With thanks for recollections from Pat Smolensky and Sami Kehela)

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Photo of 1962 Regional Planning Committee
(Standing L to R) Jack Cherkow, Arlin Smith,
Marg Gardner, Frank Kettner, Charles Goren,
Sophie Kettner, (unidentified man), Wally Luthy.
(Seated) Betty Katzin, Ted Smith, Pat
Smolensky, Pat Sanford, Jean Davis.
(In front) Jack Martin.



Unit 390 Mentorship Program

Very soon, you will be seeing information about the Mentor/Mentee Program which is scheduled to begin September 1, 2009 and end December 31, 2009. Approximately 20 volunteers have agreed to help organize the Mentorship Program. I would also like to thank everyone who has provided feedback to help us make this year's program even better than last year's.

Our Vision for the Mentorship Program is to improve the quality of bridge so that Calgary and area players can compete confidently at North American events. The program has proven very successful and we want it to continue flourishing.

There is an application form for anyone who would like to request a mentor. If you are interested, please fill out this form and leave it at the club at which you play.

The lack of advanced players who are willing to serve as mentors remains a concern. There will be Sign-up Sheets at the clubs for those who are willing to mentor a less experienced player. We certainly encourage people to sign up as mentors.

The program will be tiered. Less experienced players will be matched up with people with a few more points than they have (or players that are somewhat more skillful). Many bridge players with 200 to 300 masterpoints have great skill and are more than capable of acting as mentors.

We have great faith in our bridge community and are confident that most players will consider becoming a mentor. The requirement is that the pair play a minimum of six games together. In addition, they will establish goals for the mentee and measure progress toward achieving those goals.

We recognize that not all bridge players are ready for participation in the Mentorship Program and we also know that we may not be able to find matches for everyone. However, we promise to do our best to make this program succeed.

We are all looking forward to this year's Mentorship Program.

Carol Lee Bellam
Program Coordinator

Upcoming Unit 390 Tournament Dates

Calgary September 11 - 13, 2009

Calgary November 6 - 8, 2009

White Hat Regional August 10 - 16, 2009

Calgary September 11 - 13, 2009
Calgary November 6 - 8, 2009
White Hat Regional August 10 - 16, 2009

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Unit 390 Trophy Cabinet

by Allan Simon

Unit 390 currently awards the following trophies:

The Edna Lougheed Trophy is awarded to the winners of the Masters Pairs event at Calgary's Fall Sectional. It is named for one of our Unit's first Life Masters. Recently, Edna's son, former premier the Honourable Peter Lougheed, made a generous donation which enabled the Unit to refurbish this beautiful trophy.

Current holders: Janet Dunbar and Pam Peard

The Hattie Joffe Trophy commemorates Unit 390's very first Life Master. It is awarded to the Albertan who wins the most masterpoints at the annual Alberta Regional.

Current holder (for the fourth time!): Nicholas Gartaganis.

The Tropicana Trophy was donated by the Tropicana restaurant at the corner of 14th St. and 34th Ave. SW. This restaurant was formerly very popular with bridge players. The trophy is awarded to the winners of the Unit's IMP League. The IMP League has just been revived and the current holders are:

Flight A: Ilya Kuzkin, Victoria Koroleva,
Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Flight B: Fred Klein, Bev Mason, Olga and Bob Wright

The Anne Waldie Trophy was donated by Alan Waldie in memory of his wife, a popular player and former owner of the Valley Ridge Bridge Club. The trophy is given to the winners of Flight A Swiss Teams at the annual Spring Sectional.

Current holders: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis,
Vince Lambert and Vince Nowlan

The Ike Landon Trophy is named for one of Calgary's leading players of the 1950's and 1960's. It has recently been rededicated to honour the Unit's "Ace of Clubs", the individual who has won the most masterpoints at clubs, regardless of his or her masterpoint classification.

The winner in 2008 was Abdul Fakh.

The Directors Trophy commemorates two of Calgary's longest-serving and most beloved directors, **Stan Matheson** and **John Davison**. Both passed away far too young. The trophy is presented to the winners of the various flights of a special Unit game held annually between Christmas and New Year's day.

Current holders:

299ers: Tom and Dilys Halford

Flight C: John Claydon and Aurel Stefanescu

Flight B: Jean Ward and Gretta Hinton

Flight A: Jean Ward and Gretta Hinton

Open: Terri Bedard and Abdul Fakh



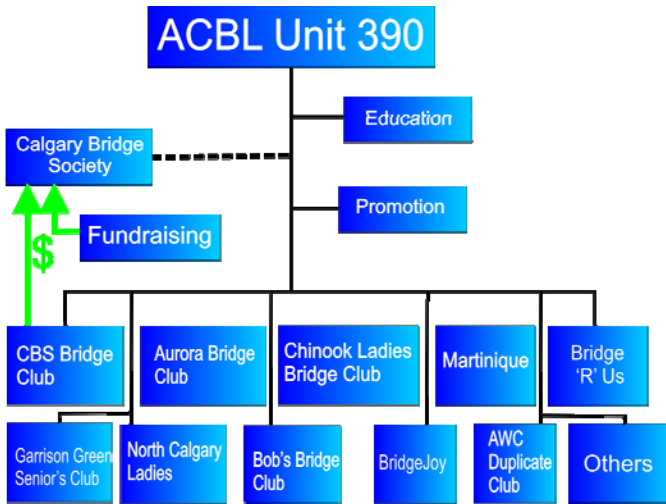
2008 ALBERTA SECTIONALS

MASTERPOINT RACE

Final Standings - Top 20

1	145.2	Judith Gartaganis	Unit 390
2	136.5	Nicholas Gartaganis	Unit 390
3	126.3	Abdul Fakh	Unit 390
4	107.4	Bernie Lambert	
5	92.9	Bob Crosby	
6	82.0	Dan Bertrand	Unit 390
7	73.0	Vince Nowlan	
8	69.5	Steve Lawrence	Unit 390
9	69.5	Perry Khakhar	
10	64.0	Pam Peard	Unit 390
11	62.1	Allan Simon	Unit 390
12	61.5	Dann Kramer	Unit 390
13	55.0	Chris Buchanan	
14	52.9	Dave Johnson	Unit 390
15	51.9	Janet Dunbar	Unit 390
16	49.5	Terri Bedard	Unit 390
17	46.1	Karen Long	
18	44.5	Lucille Barton	
19	42.9	Karen Kilworth	Unit 390
20	41.8	Laurie Shapka	

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We are pleased to share some exciting news for our Unit 390 bridge community. Recently, the Calgary Duplicate Bridge Association, a not-for-profit organization incorporated under the Alberta Societies Act, was renamed the Calgary Bridge Society (CBS). The CBS has its own distinct charter and is comprised of an enthusiastic team of volunteers. With dotted-line reporting to the Unit Board, the society's primary mandate is **'to grow the game of bridge in Calgary'**.

The initial goal is to increase the number of active players by 200 - or 50 tables per week. In order to realize this goal, the CBS has identified the following objectives:

1. Attract new players and develop, challenge and retain existing players by:
 - ✓ increasing the variety and availability of bridge lessons
 - ✓ offering more special events, both social and competitive
2. Establish a members-owned Calgary Bridge Centre to meet the anticipated needs of a growing bridge community by:
 - ✓ exploring the various options for renovating an existing facility or building a new facility
 - ✓ launching a fundraising campaign

Recruiting new duplicate players has been a significant challenge for the Unit. There are numerous players that play in social environments and for various reasons, have chosen not to participate as members of

the ACBL. It is our intention to make these players feel welcome and to offer them more choice of venue as well as a wider range of learning and socializing opportunities.

We are making progress. Last month, the Unit gave approval for the CBS to set up a new, members-owned bridge club in Calgary at the Go-Getters Association, located at the West Hillhurst Community Association, 1940 6th Ave NW. Pam Peard, Carol McManus and Doug Mann have taken on the management of the club as President, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

Over the next year, Stratified Swiss Team games will be held on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. at a price of \$7.00. If additional time slots become available, the club will offer more games. Once start-up and operating costs have been covered, profits, if any, will be used to promote bridge, expand education programs and improve the enjoyment of the game. Additional funds will be passed on to the CBS to be used in the development of a permanent, members-owned Calgary Bridge Centre.

Under the able chairmanship of Lamya Abougoush, an active fundraising plan is in place to raise money toward renovations of an existing site or the development of a new building. Many of you have already registered for the first fundraising event, the three-session Barbara Seagram workshop weekend September 15-17, 2009. Tickets are \$150 and space is limited. If you haven't registered, we recommend you contact Elaine Stewart (403-246-8691) or Cathy Bird (403-251-4977) as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

We have total confidence that our community can and should accommodate bridge players at every level, regardless of age, gender or socioeconomic status. **For the love of bridge**, and the enjoyment of all, let's work together to maximize the potential of our bridge community!

If you are interested in serving on the Board of the Calgary Bridge Society, or any of its associated committees, please contact Ken Penton at 403-239-8095. We welcome your participation.

Marlene Lenstra
President
ACBL Unit 390

Ken Penton
President
Calgary Bridge Society

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Cards On The Table

by Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Sometimes contracts are simple. The opponent leads and you have nine tricks in 3NT. Other times you have to work hard to generate the extra tricks needed to fulfill the contract. The ability to count cards and to visualize end positions is an indispensable technique for any bridge player who wants to be successful.

Against competent opponents in a late-round Swiss team event, you and partner reach 3NT. Partner has shown a 5-card heart suit with 0-7 HCP and you have shown at least 17 HCP. The lead is the ♠6 and you get the chance to make an initial assessment:

Contract: 3NT

Lead: ♠6

♠ K
♥ K10643
♦ 742
♣ J643

N
W ■ E
S

♠ AJ107
♥ A9
♦ K963
♣ AK8

Seven easy tricks are available (3 spades, 2 hearts and 2 clubs). The 8th trick might come from a long club, if the suit splits 3-3 or the ♣Q drops doubleton. The 9th trick will be routine if the ♦A is onside.

Dummy entries (or should we say "entry") are precious, and the ♥K will be needed to cash the long club. You win dummy's ♠K perforce and play a low club from dummy, ♣9 from East, ♣K, and surprisingly West discards a spade. Plans A (long club) and B (doubleton ♣Q) have to be scrapped! Still, East will have to keep three clubs. Maybe if you muck around a bit, something good will occur.

South's long diamond might set up for the 9th trick, providing diamonds split 3-3 and the ♦A is onside. To prepare for this chance, you lead a low diamond from hand towards dummy's 742, ♦8 from West. East quickly overtakes with the ♦10 and plays ♦A and ♦Q (West discards another spade). Now the cat is out of the bag in that suit too. You win your ♦K and can see that the rest is going to be easy. The ♣J will be the 9th trick after all! The ♦9 will serve as a precious throw-in card to force a club lead from East.

East is known to have 6 clubs and 4 diamonds and has already followed to the initial spade lead. Therefore he can have no more than two hearts. It is time to concede a spade to the ♠Q (East shows out ... no surprise) and you win the continuation (which must be a major as West has shown out of both minor suits). It's "cards on the table" now ... cash two hearts ending in the South hand (this strips East of exit cards and puts you in the proper hand to throw East in with the fourth diamond). East has no choice but to lead a club around to dummy's ♣J and the ♣A makes nine.

Here is the full layout:

♠ K
♥ K10643
♦ 742
♣ J643

♠ Q986542
♥ Q852
♦ 85
♣ --

N
W ■ E
S

♠ 3
♥ J7
♦ AQJ10
♣ Q109752

♠ AJ107
♥ A9
♦ K963
♣ AK8

Your approach results in a gain of 12 IMPs on the hand and, more importantly, impresses your team-mates. You tell them it's routine, but you enjoy the glory anyway ☺.



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IMP League Wrap Up

by Janet Dunbar

This year Unit 390 decided to resurrect the IMP team league concept after a hiatus of many years. Fifteen teams signed up, and two brackets were created, based on the average number of masterpoints per person on each team.

After a season-long round robin format, playoffs were held and in March, the winners were decided. On April 6, the Unit team trophy was awarded and prize money was handed out.

In Bracket One, the winning team was captained by Judith **Gartaganis** and included Nicholas Gartaganis, Victoria Koraleva and Ilya Kuzkin. In the final they defeated a team stacked with Unit Board members - Steve **Lawrence**, Jim Berglund, Abdul Fakhri, Carol McManus and Hash Mohammed. Third place went to Janice Eliasson, Keith Falkenberg, Keith Moores, Chris Wuerscher, Tanja Hurlbert and Rod Hilderman, who defeated Terri and Greg **Bedard**, Chris Galbraith and Janet Dunbar.

In Bracket Two, the victorious team was Olga and Bob **Wright**, Doug and Trish Biggs, Fred Klein and Bev Mason. In a 26-board final, they bested the team of Linda **Wallace**, Jim and Chris Murphy and Mary Vlooswyk. Congratulations to everyone!

The Unit would like to run this team event again beginning in the Fall, so please start thinking about entering a 4 to 6 person team for next season. Participating is a lot of fun and a great experience. For those of you who think that you need a bucketful of masterpoints in order to be competitive, it should be noted that Linda Wallace's team had the fewest masterpoints per person, but won money in their bracket. It's teamwork, not points, that matter!

Later in the summer there will be more information sent out about the League ... the more teams we have, the better it will be for everyone. You would be expected to play approximately two matches per month, to be arranged at a time and place convenient to both teams.

If you have any questions or comments about the League, please contact any Unit board member, or Janet Dunbar at rebelangel@shaw.ca.



Linda Wallace takes home some money
IMP League Bracket B



Imp League Bracket A Winners:
Nicholas Gartaganis, Judith Gartaganis
Victoria Koraleva, Ilya Kuzkin



"It all started when my bridge partner made me agree to play transfer pre-empts."

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How to Win at Bridge

by Frank Ayer

The way to win at bridge is to **Stop Making So Many Mistakes!** Bridge is a game of mistakes. Whoever makes the fewest mistakes wins.

Bidding Mistakes

Bidding is the most important aspect of the game.

[Successful bridge players need to be effective declarers, defenders and bidders - Editors].

Unless you consistently reach good contracts you have little chance of winning. Good bidding is not difficult if you avoid some common pitfalls.

Not Supporting Partner at the earliest opportunity is by far the most common bidding mistake and probably the costliest; even experts make this one. Fortunately it is also the easiest to fix.

You hold ♠AKxxx ♥xxx ♦xxx ♣xx and partner opens 1♥, Pass to you. The only correct call now is 2♥ (unless you play destructive, I mean constructive, raises). The simple raise shows 6-9 points and at least 3 hearts, which is exactly what you have. Do not bid 1♠, which shows 4 or more spades and 6 or more points and is forcing for one round. Yes you can bid 2♥ over partner's rebid of 1NT, 2♣, or 2♦ but that is merely a simple preference. You will probably survive if partner has 4 spades but if not she will play you for some kind of misfit instead of a minimum hand with heart support. Don't worry! The AKxxx of spades will prove useful in partner's heart contract.

You hold ♠AKJxxx ♥x ♦Kxx ♣Qxx and open 1♠. Partner bids 2♣. The proper rebid is 3♣ not 2♠. Your side should have a 5-3 club fit and if partner really has spade support you will hear about it. It's true you have 6 good spades but tell partner you like her club suit or, if you prefer, tell her about 8 cards in your hand instead of 6.

I watched two BBO "stars" who have represented their country internationally perpetrate this auction:

♠x
♥KQxxx
♦AJxx
♣Axx



♠10xxxx
♥AJxx
♦x
♣Kxx

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
1♥	pass	1♠!	pass
2♦	pass	2♥	pass
pass	3♣	3♥	pass
pass	pass		

The result was making 5. Opener could not imagine such great Heart support and probably devalued his hand after partner's 1♠ response. But responder made the key mistake which was not raising to (at least) 2♥ instead of making that ridiculous 1♠ bid. I personally consider the hand good enough for a limit raise.

In a recent ACBL Nationals semi-finals (Spingold or Vanderbilt) 3 of the 4 pairs failed to reach a cold 4♥ game when responder didn't raise immediately; the 4th responder bid 2♥ at once and 4♥ was easily bid. This bidding mistake is made all the time, by players of all abilities and experience. Don't let it happen to you!

Let me put it another way. How do you feel about an auction when partner raises your suit? If you are like me, you feel as if you and partner are on the same wavelength - "this auction is off to a good start". You have a reasonable idea of how to proceed even if the opponents compete. You feel hopeful that you will reach the right contract. Life is good! **Support is good news - tell partner the good news as soon as possible.**

Rebidding the Same Values, sometimes more than once, is another common mistake. This one is not so easy to avoid because it often requires, I think, a declaration of weakness - something none of us like to do.

You hold ♠xx ♥AKJ109 ♦K10xx ♣Qx You open 1♥, partner raises to 2♥, you Pass and then the opponents balance with 2♠. Should you bid 3♥, 3♦, or pass?

Sure you have good Hearts, decent Diamonds, and the ♣Q which may even be useful since the opponents have bid Spades. Nevertheless you should Pass and let partner make the decision. Partner will bid 3♥ if he has

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4 hearts or some other extra values; he may even be able to Double 2♠ for penalty. The point is this: you don't know whether partner has 3 hearts and a 5-count or 4 hearts and an 8-count (or 5 spades and a 9-count for that matter), but he will know you have a minimum opener with 5 hearts.

Bidding in this situation shows extra values (at least a 6th heart in this case). If you don't have them, let partner show his extra values.

Don't be a Point Count Slave

Consider these two hands:

♠Kx		♠Axxxx
♥Kxx		♥Ax
♦Qxxxx		♦KJxxx
♣xxx		♣A

The auction went Pass - 1♠, 1NT - 2♦, 3♦ - Pass. Of course you can see that the hand is practically cold for 6♦ (and declarer made 3 overtricks) but that is how the auction went. Opener's reasoning was this: "I have 16 points, partner has a maximum of 9 points, and we need 28 points for a minor suit game so let's play here".

Opener had much more than the minimum 5 spades, 3 diamonds, and 12 points shown by the bidding and should have taken another bid or rebid 3♦ instead of 2♦ *[Bidding 3♦ is not recommended with minimum values, half of which are in the short suits. Opener should have recognized that partner's diamond raise meant there were likely to be few outside losers in a high-level diamond contract - Editors]*. Later on I'll introduce some good methods for helping you decide when to try for game; for now I just want to introduce the problem and say that Losing Trick Count (LTC) is a powerful tool in these situations.

Failure to Stop Low on Misfit Hands is another common problem. These "Johnnie Cochran" hands ... "without a fit you must (ac)quit"... are a major source of large minus scores ending in "00". When you cannot support partner and he refuses to support you, Pass as soon as possible. At your next turn to bid would be a good time. You hold: ♠x ♥AKJxxx ♦KQxxx ♣x

You open 1♥ and partner bids 1♠. You try 2♦ but partner bids 2♠. You should now Pass; do not bid 3♦. Partner has shown a weak hand with lots of Spades. He does not like either of your suits. You have more

Spades than you promised. If the opponents Double then Pass again; partner is a big boy and you don't need to rescue him - if he wants to be rescued he will Redouble and you can bid 3♦. Yes, he may go for 1100 but its only one hand and at the other table your teammates might collect 1400 against 3♠ Doubled.

Convention Addiction

There is no doubt that bidding conventions can help you and your partner bid to better contracts but a conventional bid means that the natural meaning of the bid is lost. Is the gain worth the loss?

Consider the decision to use "Constructive Raises" where a simple raise of a major promises 8 or 9 points and at least 3 trumps, just short of a limit raise. It seems like a good idea until you examine what you lose. You lose the ability to raise with 5 to 7 points and support. With these hands you have to bid a forcing 1NT first (or perhaps 1♠) and then correct to 2 of opener's major. This is okay if opener has a normal minimum. But if opener has some decent 5-4 he has no idea whether you have 2, 3, 4, or maybe even 5 trumps; the 2-level is high enough with only 2-card support but his hand may be worth at least a game try with real support. It's stressful and causes heart attacks; if you must use constructive raises then figure out some way to show minimum 3 and 4-card raises.

Another common problem with adding a convention to your card is failing to examine all the possibilities. Take "Inverted Minors" for example. What does it mean if you don't use the convention? What happens if the opponents overcall or double? Is it on by a passed hand? What do subsequent bids mean? Is it forcing to game, for one round, maybe only to the 3 or 4-level? All of these questions, and probably more, should be discussed and agreed upon before you and your partner add Inverted Minors to your card.

Always ensure that any new conventions make sense in the context of your complete bidding system. In a later article I will give my recommendations and comments of common conventions.

Your partner is the most important person at the table, be kind to her. If it's no fun why bother?

THE KIBITZER

Focus on Future Masters

WELCOME to all the new duplicate bridge players and ACBL members. New bridge players are the key to the ongoing health and longevity of the game. You might be surprised to learn that non-life masters represent more than 2/3 of the members in our unit.

Three sectionals have been held since the October 2008 Kibitzer was published and we are delighted with the participation in the 199er games. Here are the results for the 199ers:

Banff November 2008 64 participants

President's Trophy:	Caroline Colliver & Connie Wignall (7.02 masterpoints)
D (100 - 200 pts)	Caroline Colliver & Connie Wignall (7.02 masterpoints)
E (50 - 100 pts)	Phil Oldale (2.48 masterpoints)
F (0 - 50 pts)	Camille Colver (5.27 masterpoints)

Calgary January 2009 334 participants

President's Trophy:	Warren Richards & Byron Lund (4.89 masterpoints)
D (100 - 200 pts)	Brenda Bunting (4.25 masterpoints)
E (50 - 100 pts)	Warren Richards & Byron Lund (4.89 masterpoints)
F (0 - 50 pts)	Nancy Stewart (3.92 masterpoints)

Calgary March 2009 194 participants

President's Trophy:	Paulette McWilliam & Linda Wallace (7.19 masterpoints)
D (100 - 200 pts)	Connie Wignall (5.75 masterpoints)
E (50 - 100 pts)	Don Rae (5.74 masterpoints)
F (0 - 50 pts)	Paulette McWilliam & Linda Wallace (7.19 masterpoints)

The March Sectional featured a new game for the 49ers on Saturday afternoon with 12 tables. There were also 9 tables in the 199ers, so 21 tables in total. A new record! Congratulations to the 49er game winners Linda Wallace and Paulette McWilliam who had a 62.3% game!

Lessons

We are hoping to offer a greater variety of lessons in Calgary over the next few years and are looking for more teachers and assistants. Please contact me if you are interested in being involved or if you are offering lessons in the coming months, as I am presently coordinating this information.

Make sure Jim Berglund has your correct email address so that you will get all the information about future lessons, events and other activities in our area. Notices are also posted in the clubs.

Calgary Regional

Calgary holds a week-long bridge fest every 3 years and this is the year! It is similar to a sectional but you can earn gold points. There will be games, prizes, speakers and more for the 199er players. Don't miss your chance to have a great time. The regional will be held August 10-16, 2009.

PLAY BRIDGE...HAVE FUN...SHARE THE PASSION...

Cheers,
Jan McLeod
Future Master Coordinator
jemcleod@shaw.ca



Bridge and Learning

Through the Learning Program at Bridge "R" Us and the Friday morning lessons at Bridgejoy, more than 200 people took lessons this year. The classes were geared to Beginner Plus, Intermediate and Advanced Minus players. I personally am amazed to watch the progress of the bridge students. Their keenness to learn is so evident that we know we must work diligently to offer even more learning opportunities for our intermediate bridge players. Be on the look out for those people that took Slam Bidding course ... they may be able to bid what seems to be an impossible slam! As a follow-up to the 2/1 course, there will a practice seminar on the last Saturday in May. Watch for the announcements.

Carol Lee Bellam
Bridge "R" Us

THE KIBITZER

Club Corner

Bridgejoy Duplicate Bridge Club

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

Owners/Directors: Brian & Joy Saville
 239-2768 or 464-4455 (cell)
 email: bridgejoy@gmail.com

Thursday 7:30 pm Open Pairs Stratified
 Friday 12:15 pm 0-750 Stratified

- Zero tolerance will be strictly enforced
- Bridgejoy has a bidding box policy
- Please do not wear perfume as some players are allergic
- Web site: <http://www.calgarybridge.com>

Coming Events:

Club Championship Games

Thursday, May 14 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 15 12:15 p.m.

North American Pairs Qualifying Games - **Red Points!**

Thursday, June 4 7:30 p.m.

Friday, June 5 12:15 p.m.

Friday, July 30 12:15 p.m.

North Calgary Ladies Bridge Club

Varsity Community Hall
4303 Varsity Drive N.W.

Contact: Carol Lee Bellam, President

Tuesday 12:15 pm Open Pairs Stratified

What's Happening at the NW Ladies Club?

Bridge? Yes!

A relaxing and friendly atmosphere? Most certainly!!!

Random draws and prizes? Every Tuesday!

*** No scents or perfumes permitted! ***



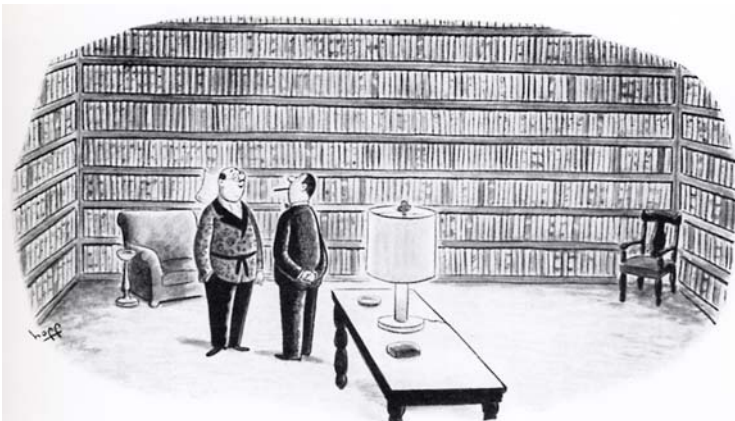
Aurora Bridge Club

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

Managers: Debbie & Lorne Hanson
 239-2806

Monday 12:15 pm Open Pairs Stratified

Wednesday 12:15 pm Open Pairs Stratified



"I'm surrounding myself with bridge books -
 something is bound to sink in!"

Bob's Bridge Club

Calgary Jewish Centre
1607 - 90th Avenue S.W.

Bob Van Wart 277-8001 or 560-3344 (cell)

Sunday 1:00 pm Open Pairs Stratified

THE KIBITZER

Martinique Bridge Club

Knights of Columbus Hall

2419 54 Ave. S.W.

Bridge Club 243-4353

email: martinique@shaw.ca

Game Schedule

Mon	12:15 pm	Open Swiss Teams
	7:00 pm	Invitational Swiss Teams
Tues	12:15 pm	Open Pairs
	7:30 pm	Open Pairs
Wed	12:00 pm	299er Invitational Pairs
	7:30 pm	Open Pairs
Thurs	12:15 pm	Open Pairs
	7:00 pm	Novice Pairs
Fri	10:30 pm	Open Pairs and Brunch
	7:30 pm	Open Pairs
Sat	7:30 pm	Open Swiss Teams



Calgary Bridge Society

West Hillhurst Community Center

1940 6th Ave. S.W.

Game Schedule

Wed	7:00 pm	Open Swiss Teams
		299er Swiss Teams
		Casual Bridge

- No partners required
- Free coffee for all games
- Players at all levels are welcome

Call Pat (403-283-3720) at Go-Getters Association for information on lessons or games



**NW Ladies Club
Holds
Silent Auction**



Bidwell Duplicate Bridge Club

Calgary Canoe Club, North Glenmore Park

7100 Crowchild Trail S.W.

Owners/Directors: Brian & Joy Saville

239-2768 or 464-4455 (cell)

email: bridgejoy@gmail.com

Web site: <http://www.calgarybridge.com>

Monday 12:15 pm Open Pairs Stratified

- Bidwell has a bidding box policy
- Please do not wear perfume as some players are allergic
- Web site: <http://www.calgarybridge.com>

Coming Events:

Club Championship Game

Monday, May 11 12:15 p.m.

North American Pairs Qualifying Games - **Red Points!**

Monday, June 1 12:15 p.m.

Monday, July 27 12:15 p.m.

This Spring the NW Ladies Bridge Club held a Silent Auction to raise money for the Women's Shelter. The participation was superb and we raised over \$700 for the Shelter. Bridge players contributed small treasures from their homes; others made items that were very coveted by the their fellow players. The Silent Auction was accompanied by a Dessert Extravaganza. Everyone had fun and we were all proud of being able to support our community and the efforts put forth by our members. The Silent Auction was so successful that we plan on holding another one next year. So watch for advertisements next year and come and be a part of our work for the community!

Carol Lee Bellam
President, NW Ladies

For a comprehensive list of Calgary and area bridge clubs and current information on games held, visit:

www.calgarybridge.com/clubs.htm

THE KIBITZER

How Jake Lost the Event

by Martin McDonald

As the Judge tabled the dummy for the last hand of the tournament he reflected on his partner's penchant for self-destruction at the most inopportune times. Entering the last round his partner, Jake Bridgeman, had confidently predicted a 70% game. JB had considerable flair for the game, but undermined his partnerships with erratic bidding and an intense desire to declare rather than defend.

On the penultimate board JB had opened the bidding with 2♠. The normal contract of 4♠ was reached, but, since JB had only a five-card suit, the contract was played from the wrong side. In a sense it was a coup ... JB received a favourable lead and an even friendlier switch which meant an almost certain top board. However, as was his wont, JB was so busy preening that he made an elementary error and lost the contract.

The bidding on the last hand was predictably bizarre. The Judge made a forcing bid of 3♠ over JB's opening of 1NT and JB grabbed control of the auction to place the final contract at 6NT with himself as declarer. This is what JB saw on the lead of the ♣Q:

Judge

♠ AJ6532
♥ A54
♦ K72
♣ K



JB

♠ Q10
♥ K32
♦ AJ
♣ AJ10743

Although the contract is not guaranteed, 12 or 13 tricks seem routine. JB won the ♣K and immediately traveled to his hand with the ♦A to lay the ♠Q on the table. The finesse lost to the King and RHO returned a diamond to the Jack, Queen and King.

It should have been a mere formality to take the remainder of the tricks. At this juncture Fate intervened. One of the competitors who had already finished whispered to JB that he was leading the event going into the last round.

JB's face flushed with excitement. He led to the ♥K and played the ♣A. LHO played the ♠7 and JB followed with the ♠J. The Judge hoped that this was just another example of flamboyance on JB's part.

JB continued with the ♠A. "You are in the wrong hand" the Judge tried to say, but LHO immediately accepted the lead. When RHO discarded a diamond the contract could no longer be made. The Judge was stunned. JB sheepishly admitted that he got confused and thought he was playing 6♠ rather than 6NT. The four hands were as follows:

♠ K		♠ Q10
♥ 10876		♥ K32
♦ 1098		♦ AJ
♣ 98652		♣ AJ10743
♠ AJ6532		♠ 9874
♥ A54		♥ QJ9
♦ K72		♦ Q6543
♣ K		♣ Q



JB's antics had cost 70% of the matchpoints that could have been won on the last two boards. As a result, he and the Judge were nipped at the wire by another pair. Such irony thought the Judge. JB's 70% prediction was accurate, but not in the way he intended. "Even Homer nods", reflected the Judge ruefully.

Calgary to Host District 18 GNT Finals

The District Finals for all four flights of the Grand National Teams (GNT) will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Calgary from May 15-17, 2009. The event starts on Friday, May 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Victory point scoring will be used for all flights and all boards will be pre-duplicated. Gold points are available for overall awards in all flights. For more information visit www.calgarybridge.com

THE KIBITZER

Calgary White Hat Regional

**August 10-16
2009**

Radisson Hotel
2120 – 16th Avenue NE
Calgary, Alberta

*Why not make your
first Regional
the White Hat
Regional?*

Calgary, AB August 10-16, 2009

If you are a beginning duplicate player, I really encourage you to come to the Regional. This year we have three special games slated for 0-49 master points (MPs):

- Tuesday evening
- Saturday afternoon
- Saturday evening

Also on Tuesday evening, players with 0-5 MPs will have a no-charge standalone game (numbers permitting).

These 20 board games will be more relaxed and, hopefully, will be the perfect beginning to years of tournament bridge.

Trish Briggs
Regional Chair

Regional Golf Tournament



The Calgary White Hat Regional is soon approaching and the Annual Golf Tournament for bridge players is scheduled for Monday August 10th at Woodside Golf and Country Club in Airdrie.

This beautiful 18 hole course has wide, lush fairways and is beginner friendly! Our fun tournament is a Team Scramble open to players of all levels so don't be afraid to sign up, either as an individual, couple or team! Dinner and prizes are also included



For more information please contact Terri Bedard at (403) 686-0276 or gtbedard@shaw.ca.

THE KIBITZER

Mini-McKenney

Unit 390 Winners for 2008

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR (0 - 5):

1 st	Byron Lund	Calgary AB	95
2 nd	Warren Richards	Calgary AB	82
3 rd	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB	73

JUNIOR MASTER (5 - 20):

1 st	Jenny Bererton	Okotoks AB	62
2 nd	Virginia Jeffries	Calgary AB	47
3 rd	Jane Miller	Calgary AB	43

CLUB MASTER (20 - 50):

1 st	Kelly Flock	Calgary AB	131
2 nd	Murray Haggins	Calgary AB	111
3 rd	Shelley Quinney	Chestermere AB	55

SECTIONAL MASTER (50 - 100):

1 st	Marilyn Haggins	Calgary AB	117
2 nd	Caroline Colliver	Calgary AB	94
3 rd	Connie Wignall	Calgary AB	94

REGIONAL MASTER (100 - 200):

1 st	Patrick Murphy	Calgary AB	100
2 nd	Mary Porter	Calgary AB	98
3 rd	Doris Lange	Calgary AB	74

NABC MASTER (200 - 300):

1 st	Garry Ramsden-Wood	Calgary AB	146
2 nd	Edwin Porter	Calgary AB	126
3 rd	Gretta Hinton	Calgary AB	100

LIFE MASTER (300 - 500):

1 st	Janet Sharpe	Calgary AB	164
2 nd	Diane Campbell	Calgary AB	158
3 rd	Doug Biggs	Calgary AB	127

BRONZE LIFE MASTER (500 - 1,000):

1 st	Maged Wafa	Calgary AB	290
2 nd	Sami Naydani	Calgary AB	263
3 rd	Susan Julius	Calgary AB	180

SILVER LIFE MASTER (1,000 - 2,500):

1 st	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	555
2 nd	Linda Harrison	Calgary AB	296
3 rd	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	270

GOLD LIFE MASTER (2,500 - 5,000):

1 st	Paul Graham	Calgary AB	227
2 nd	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	213
3 rd	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	202

DIAMOND LIFE MASTER (5,000 - 7,500):

1 st	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	415
2 nd	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	362
3 rd	Dann Kramer	Calgary AB	258

EMERALD LIFE MASTER (7,500 - 10,000):

1 st	Gerry Marshall	Las Varas NM	522
2 nd	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	426

Ace of Clubs

Unit 390 Winners for 2008

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR (0 - 5):

1 st	Byron Lund	Calgary AB	54
2 nd	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB	49
3 rd	Marilyn Swadron	Calgary AB	40

JUNIOR MASTER (5 - 20):

1 st	Jenny Bererton	Okotoks AB	35
2 nd	Virginia Jeffries	Calgary AB	31
3 rd	Jane Miller	Calgary AB	31

CLUB MASTER (20 - 50):

1 st	Kelly Flock	Calgary AB	67
2 nd	Dale Bercov	Calgary AB	46
3 rd	Ann Slattery	Calgary AB	42

SECTIONAL MASTER (50 - 100):

1 st	Connie Wignall	Calgary AB	61
2 nd	Caroline Colliver	Calgary AB	48
3 rd	Marilyn Haggins	Calgary AB	46

REGIONAL MASTER (100 - 200):

1 st	Patrick Murphy	Calgary AB	55
2 nd	Robert Boissain	Calgary AB	55
3 rd	Mary Porter	Calgary AB	46

NABC MASTER (200 - 300):

1 st	Janet Gent	Calgary AB	77
2 nd	Garry Ramsden-Wood	Calgary AB	72
3 rd	Marjorie Grubb	Calgary AB	61

LIFE MASTER (300 - 500):

1 st	Janet Sharpe	Calgary AB	118
2 nd	Diane Campbell	Calgary AB	109
3 rd	Joan Johnston	Calgary AB	76

BRONZE LIFE MASTER (500 - 1,000):

1 st	Maged Wafa	Calgary AB	181
2 nd	Sami Naydani	Calgary AB	171
3 rd	Susan Julius	Calgary AB	148

SILVER LIFE MASTER (1,000 - 2,500):

1 st	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	184
2 nd	Tina Gokturk	Calgary AB	143
3 rd	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	111

GOLD LIFE MASTER (2,500 - 5,000):

1 st	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	105
2 nd	Elaine Stewart	Calgary AB	100
3 rd	Jean Kittlitz	Sun Lakes AZ	79

DIAMOND LIFE MASTER (5,000 - 7,500):

1 st	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	76
2 nd	Dann Kramer	Calgary AB	28
3 rd	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	12

EMERALD LIFE MASTER (7,500 - 10,000):

1 st	Gerry Marshall	Las Varas NM	14
2 nd	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	1

Calgary Instructional Sessions

- WHAT** The fundraising team for the Calgary Duplicate Bridge Centre will be kicking off with an outstanding event. Barbara Seagram, Canada's preeminent bridge instructor will be flying to Calgary to present three interactive teaching sessions. These sessions are for all levels of bridge players who wish to improve their skills.
- WHO** Barbara Seagram is the author of many bridge books such as "25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know". She has an excellent comprehensive and fun teaching style.
- WHY** Calgary's Unit 390 Duplicate Bridge Association has determined that Calgary should have its own bridge centre as so many other cities have. All proceeds from this event will go toward this new facility.
- WHEN** Teach & Play sessions: Friday September 18, 2009 - 7pm-10:30
Saturday September 19, 2009 - 9:30am - 12:30pm
Saturday September 19, 2009 - 2pm - 5pm
- WHERE** Braeside Community Centre, 11024 Braeside Drive SW, Calgary T2W 6G5
(Southland Drive & Braeside Drive, just west of 19th St.)
- COST** \$150.00 for all three sessions.
- TICKETS** This event is limited in space so don't leave it too late to order your tickets. Tickets must be ordered by May 15, 2009 to guarantee your spot. Make your cheque payable to **Calgary Duplicate Bridge Association - Unit 390** and mail to Elaine Stewart, 19 Simcoe Crescent SW, Calgary, AB, T3H 4K6. Please include your email address so we can send you a confirmation which you can print as your ticket.
- IN ADDITION** There will be a dinner and bridge evening with the pros on Thursday September 17th for 12 lucky bidders. Contact Cathy Bird at 403-251-4977 if you are interested in tickets to this event.

