

THE KIBITZER

CALGARY DUPLICATE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



OCTOBER 2009

Editors: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Editorial

Membership in the ACBL and the Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) has been on a steady decline for many years. At one time, the ACBL had over 180,000 members. Currently, there are just 161,000 (the membership count had dropped as low as 156,000 in 2005). The failure of bridge organizations to make the game popular with a significant number of young people suggests that we will face the same problems that veterans' organizations are struggling with today. The average age of ACBL members is almost 69 years and steadily rising. Bridge is fast becoming a game for old rich people. But, is that outcome inevitable?

How does bridge fare elsewhere? To sensibly compare bridge membership in countries around the world, the country's population has to be taken into account. Using a ratio of members per thousand people, this table gives an idea of bridge participation in 11 countries:

| Country | # Members ¹ | Members/Thousand |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Netherlands | 88,641 | 5.30 |
| Denmark | 22,740 | 4.13 |
| New Zealand | 14,235 | 3.38 |
| Sweden | 19,957 | 2.20 |
| Norway | 9,203 | 1.97 |
| France | 104,097 | 1.63 |
| Australia | 32,707 | 1.54 |
| Canada | 17,960 | 0.52 |
| Italy | 29,928 | 0.51 |
| United States | 142,592 | 0.46 |
| England | 23,631 | 0.46 |

¹ World Bridge Federation - 2009 membership

Bridge organizations in other countries face the same issues as do the ACBL and the CBF. Yet it appears that many of these groups have been considerably, and in some cases spectacularly, more successful than their North American counterparts. We need to study what they are doing right.

Over the years the ACBL has concentrated on keeping its current members happy by making modifications such as awarding more masterpoints and stratifying and/or restricting events. From a marketing perspective, it is also critical to identify the factors deterring non-members from making bridge a preferred pastime.

It is essential to get the message out that contract bridge, as a leisure activity, is as beneficial as any of the physical sports. We all understand the importance of getting and remaining physically fit. However, finding a vehicle to achieve lifelong mental fitness is every bit as important.

Strategies to increase membership can be geared toward three distinct groups: young people, the working population and retirees.

We must keep up efforts to introduce bridge to young people through school or community programs. Tangible benefits to young people include better concentration and greater ability to sustain focus, enhanced problem-solving skills, and improved social skills since they ...

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Editorial (continued)

... learn to participate and succeed in the company of mature adults.

Today, young people have crowded schedules and there is a lot of competition for their attention. In the card game arena alone, bridge is running way behind poker with its lure of excitement, lucrative payoffs and unstructured life-style.

What can we do? We need to create an atmosphere that appeals to young people. It is awkward for young people to be around adults so we must foster a friendly, non-intimidating generation mix with tolerance for experimentation. Kids love to mix it up! It is important to find a balance between allowing complete freedom on one hand and tight system restrictions on the other.

Schools may be persuaded to permit us to offer short after-school introductory courses, free of charge. We could look into running vacation day camps at community centres or providing a program stream within existing camps.

For the working population, we need to adapt to their schedules. Adjust starting and ending times; offer shorter games more appropriate for weeknights.

To promote the integration of new players into the regular bridge community, we might try Pro-Am team games with more emphasis on more social aspects (fewer boards, coaching time and discussion between matches, and so on).

Perhaps the lack of success in recruiting new members is primarily an implementation problem. Local units can't be expected to take on the responsibility for reversing the downward membership trend without greater leadership from the ACBL. That leadership needs to come in the form of new ideas, better information sharing, detailed step by step how-to's for launching new initiatives, and enhanced funding.

The ACBL could have 1.6 million members if we were able to match the performance of the Netherlands. We need to reach for that goal and, in so doing, revitalize bridge in North America.

Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis
Co-Editors

District 18 NAOP

Unit 390 players performed well in the District 18 Final of the North American Open Pairs held in Saskatoon on October 4, 2009.

Flight A

2nd Pam Peard - Dann Kramer
3rd Ken Penton - Gerry Marshall

Flight B

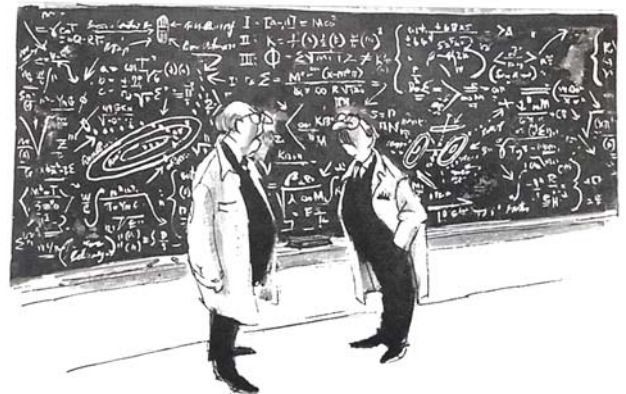
3rd Diane Campbell - Janet Sharpe

The top three finishers in each category are eligible to represent the District at the North American Finals to be held during the Spring NABC in Reno (March 2010)

♣♦♠♥♣♦♠♥♣♦♠♥

Partner Appreciation ...

"Partner, every day you play worse than the day before. Today you are playing as if it is tomorrow already."



"You're crazy! These calculations don't prove that Transfers are any better than Forcing Stayman."

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by Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

For some time, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell have, arguably, been the most formidable pair in the world. Recently their team (USA2) won the Bermuda Bowl in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Besides possessing superlative skill as declarers and defenders, Meckstroth and Rodwell are constantly in the auction, interfering with their opponents' communication and making it very difficult for their foes to reach the best spot. However, even bridge giants stumble on occasion ...

2009 Bermuda Bowl - Semi-Final - USA vs China

Dealer: North

Vulnerable: E/W

♠ Q109753
♥ 5
♦ 97
♣ AK32

♠ K
♥ AK1098764
♦ 85
♣ J5

♠ 82
♥ Q32
♦ J10642
♣ Q86

♠ AJ64
♥ J
♦ AKQ3
♣ 10974

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Zhao | Rodwell | Fu | Meckstroth |
| <u>West</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> |
| | 1♠ | 1NT | Pass |
| 4♦ | Pass | 4♥ | Pass |
| 4NT | Pass | 5♥ | Pass |
| 6♥ | Double | All Pass | |

Lead: 6


Result: +1660 E/W

Rodwell's double said "don't lead a spade" but that still left Meckstroth with a 50-50 guess. At the other table the North player also opened 1♠, but Bob Hamman passed the East hand and Zia closed the auction with a jump to 4♥, making 11 tricks after North cashed the ♣A and ♣K. The Chinese picked up 14 IMPs on this board.

2009 Bermuda Bowl Final – USA vs Italy

Dealer: West

Vulnerable: All

| | | |
|--------|---|---------|
| ♠ KQ5 | ♠ 7432 | ♠ J108 |
| ♥ 1093 | ♥ Q8752 | ♥ AK64 |
| ♦ Q862 | ♦ 5 | ♦ 94 |
| ♣ 986 | ♣ K43 | ♣ AQ102 |
| |  | |
| | ♠ A96 | |
| | ♥ J | |
| | ♦ AKJ1073 | |
| | ♣ J75 | |

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Versece | Rodwell | Lauria | Meckstroth |
| <u>West</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> |
| Pass | Pass | 1NT ¹ | Double ² |
| Pass ³ | Pass ⁴ | Redouble | 2♦ |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 3♦ |
| Pass | Pass | Double ⁵ | All Pass |

- 1 14-16 HCP
- 2 Good hand
- 3 Partner please redouble (usually the start of a
runout sequence - but not in this case!)
- 4 Shows some values
- 5 Takeout (showed excellent table presence to
recognize that the opponents might be in trouble)

Lead: ♥ 3

Result: +800 E/W

Meckstroth was able to take just 6 tricks. At the other table South quietly played in 1♦ after overcalling East's 1♣ opening. Italy picked up 13 IMPs.

It is comforting somehow to think "See ... it happens to them, too!" But let's face it. Unlike the rest of us, Meckstroth and Rodwell don't stay down for long.

Meckstroth/Rodwell played every board of the final against Italy. Here is one of their many triumphs ...

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2009 Bermuda Bowl Final - USA vs Italy

Dealer: South

Vulnerable: All

| | | |
|----------|--|----------|
| ♠ AJ3 | | |
| ♥ J | | |
| ♦ KJ1076 | | |
| ♣ KJ87 | | |
| ♠ 10842 | | ♠ Q97 |
| ♥ 862 | | ♥ Q9753 |
| ♦ Q85 | | ♦ -- |
| ♣ 642 | | ♣ AQ1053 |
| | | ♠ K65 |
| | | ♥ AK104 |
| | | ♦ A9432 |
| | | ♣ 9 |

| Versace | Rodwell | Lauria | Meckstroth |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <u>West</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> |
| Pass | 2♦ ² | 2♥ | 1♦ ¹ |
| Pass | 5♣ | Double | 4♥ ³ |
| All Pass | | | 6♦ |

¹ Precision - could be short

² Natural and forcing one round

³ Keycard Blackwood

Lead: ♣2 (3rd from even, low from odd)

Result: +1370 N/S

On this deal, Meckstroth demonstrated the magic that makes the duo so feared. He played low from the dummy on the opening lead and East won the ♣10. When East returned the ♥7 he won with the ♥A. Meckstroth knew from the lead that the clubs were divided either 5-3 or 3-5 and that East, for his double, was almost certain to have the ♣Q. Backing his analysis he played the ♦A (since East was known to be long in hearts and possibly in clubs) and took the marked finesse against the ♦Q. After pulling trumps, Meckstroth led the ♠K, covered by the ♠A and ruffed. He ruffed a low heart to re-enter dummy and led the ♠J. When East covered with the ♠Q, declarer had to ruff but the ♠8 was now established. The ♥K provided a parking spot for dummy's spade loser and Meckstroth claimed 12 tricks.

At the other table, his Italian counterpart was also in the diamond slam, but he failed to make 12 tricks. The USA won 16 IMPs on this board and went on to win the gold medal by 36 IMPs.

Barbara Seagram Fund Raising Event

by Lamy Abougoush

Fundraising Chair, Calgary Bridge Center Project Team

The Calgary Bridge Center fundraising kickoff event also turned out to be a "fun raiser" and a "friend raiser". The event combined learning better bridge with enjoying a lot of laughter. More than \$25,000 was raised for the proposed Calgary Bridge Center while having fun. Barbara Seagram's three teaching sessions held on September 18 and 19 were sold out, with over 180 bridge enthusiasts eager to absorb bridge tips.



Barbara's dynamic and interactive teaching style prompted one participant to say "I have had quite a few Aha moments! And I get it!" After the event concluded, another person remarked "I want to do this again next weekend!"

Barbara encouraged her students to continue taking lessons in Calgary and to play at the club level in sanctioned games. She explained that those who are relatively new to the game shouldn't be afraid to play competitively. It's a great opportunity to learn from the better players.

Barbara also applauded the better players in attendance for their motivation and continued desire to learn and to improve their bridge skills. For those participants, she reinforced old rules and taught several new ones.

Barbara's teaching style and her material helped everyone gain confidence in their bridge ability at whatever their level. We must now all be on the "alert" for the many new faces we are sure to see at Calgary's bridge clubs and we should also be mindful of those better bridge players who have learned new tricks.

Thank you to all who, for the love of bridge, promoted and participated in helping to raise the profile of the game in Calgary. Because of you, bridge has gained many more enthusiastic participants. See you all at the bridge table!



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2009 Mentorship Program Report

by Carol Lee Bellam

Getting Underway

In May 2009, a volunteer committee was created to organize and oversee the mentorship program. The Committee, chaired by Carol Lee Bellam, included bridge teachers, club directors and several other interested persons. We established a Vision for the Mentoring Program and set up guidelines for both mentors and mentees.

Registration

As a sign of their interest and commitment, mentees were asked to fill out application forms which included their bridge backgrounds (past bridge teachers, where they most often played, number of masterpoints, what they hoped to get out of the program, past mentors, and so on). Mentees were also asked whether they preferred a mentor who played SAYC or 2 over 1.

Applications opened in May and closed on June 30. All of the introductory information was sent out to the membership and folders containing the information were also made available to Calgary clubs.

Self-established mentor/mentee arrangements were permitted. However, the Committee strongly encouraged people to sign up using the official protocol so that the Committee could make the pairings. The goal was to protect advanced players from being put on the spot by too many requests to mentor.

During the two-month application period, Committee members contacted many people in the unit, asking if they would like a mentor or if they would like to be a mentor. The number of personal contacts that were made during the application period was amazing! In June, a final reminder was sent to all members.

Matchmaking

Diane Campbell set up a spreadsheet and, gradually, the Committee filled in recommendations for match ups. Diane deserves special recognition for the hours that she devoted to this endeavour and for the significant contribution she has made to the Unit. The Committee had their final meeting on the first Friday in July, at which time the matches were fine-tuned and ratified.

Notifying Participants

In order to continue the personalized approach, the list of participants was divided and each Committee member phoned the people on their list. Explanatory notes were prepared and made available to Committee members so that everyone received the same "message".

We have requested that the mentee/mentor partnership play at least six games (of course they can play more if they choose). Although the program officially runs from September to December, we are not concerned that some people began during the summer. Nor are we concerned if some go into January to finish their games.

We are proud to report that over 180 people are involved in the 2009 Mentorship Program!

I would personally like to thank the entire Committee for its contribution to the bridge players in Unit 390. Having a Committee which was familiar with all of the people involved helped enormously when matching mentors and mentees. The personal contacts have also proven to be a very powerful tool. At the time of this report, there hasn't been a single complaint about the administration of the program. No one who requested a mentor failed to receive one and no mentor has been asked to mentor more than two people.

Important Recommendations for Next Year

- That a Committee, rather than one individual, continues to oversee the Mentorship Program.
- That the Program limits the people requesting mentors to those with under 500 masterpoints. We feel that players with more than 500 mps are capable of approaching more advanced players to set up a few games on their own. The emphasis of the program should be on keeping and growing our beginners and our beginner-plus players. Teaching programs and unofficial mentorships should be encouraged for intermediate players.

Committee Members

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Carol Lee Bellam | Caroline Colliver | Ken Scott |
| Brenda Bertrand | Janet Gent | Janet Sharpe |
| Dan Bertrand | Marilyn Haggins | Lorna Smith |
| Diane Campbell | Freda Nychkalo | |

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Why Do You Direct for Short Pay?

by Ken Scott

... and tell me

Why do you ride for your money

Why do you rope for short pay

You ain't gettin' nowhere and you're losin' your share

Boy you must have gone crazy out there

('Night Rider's Lament' by Mike Burton)

Find a great Director and you've found a great game! We are fortunate to have a roster of outstanding Directors running the games in our area. How did they get started and, more interestingly, why do they direct?

Club and Cruise Directors

For Maureen Bailey the answer has changed over time. She "kind of drifted into it" at a time when the role fit her life circumstances. She quickly realized that she thoroughly enjoyed it. "Once you've directed for a fair bit of time, it doesn't require a lot of prep and after the game, no follow up. Directing a game is like a social occasion. Everyone visits as they register, and then there are the visits with sit outs and early finishers. I see 90% of players as my friends. Considering a 'real job' would be giving up too much."

Pat Purvis took the Director's course in Singapore about 1983 when she had accumulated fewer than 5 MPs. She'd played a lot of kitchen bridge all over the world (what else does one do for entertainment when living in Libya?) and after the course, she directed a bit in Singapore. When she settled in Calgary around 1995, the Martinique owners got her into it in a bigger way. Pat likes directing mainly for its social aspect. "And you quickly realize not worry about making a mistake as Director. On one hand, the Director probably knows more than those playing, and secondly, even if you make a mistake, it's not a life threatening one."

Elaine Stewart has been directing since 1987. She likes the challenge - in setting the game up, in helping players to feel comfortable, and in building the game. "In summary, the challenge of organizing and that plays to a personal strength. I particularly enjoy working with novices."

Joy Saville's initial assignment as a director was a new 199'ers game at the Bow River Bridge Club. The game started with just 3 tables and, after hundreds of calls,

Joy grew it to an average of 9 tables. "I find trying to run a good game and directing very challenging and it is a wonderful way to give something back to the game that has had such a huge impact on our lives." When Brian and Joy retired, they started directing for a cruise line, not only as a hobby but also because it was a good way to travel. They enjoy interacting with the bridge players whom they have come to consider friends and part of their extended family.

Barry Pashak, who has been directing for about 5 years, "kind of stumbled into it". He was a beginner bridge player and the rules seemed complicated, so he took the Director's course. The Martinique was looking for a Director for their novice game and he got the call. He liked the role, the people and giving something back to the bridge community. Later he wanted more challenge and accepted the invitation to run an Open game. "Another aspect - it keeps me busy."

Michael Farebrother finds directing interesting and a good way to give back to the bridge community. There's always been a bit of a lawyer in Michael who directs in clubs (10 years now) as well as tournaments (5 or 6 years). He sees common threads of legal, organizational, and social aspects in both, with tournaments higher on the organizational aspect and club directing focused more on the social.

Bob Vanwart has been directing for 10 years now, and he finds directing "a fun thing to do when one can no longer golf". He enjoys the game and the director's role; it keeps him busy. "Providing guidance and encouragement to those trying to learn the game is very satisfying".

Martin McDonald replies "Why do I direct for low pay? ... So everyone sees an example of camaraderie and sportsmanship in the Grand Game. So we don't have one fouled board. With all these newcomers, that is our number #1 achievement - statistically speaking of course. Filling the room with happiness and laughter is second and priceless."

Brenda Bertrand started directing in 1979 and her motivation was to try to be helpful to novices. "Small games (3 or 4 tables) are an excellent way to teach bridge, especially by providing good information at the table."

Ron Carswell and Helen Scott really enjoyed cruises so

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directing was a great fit. "We get to go where the ship goes so we often go places we would otherwise never see. We quickly realized that we play two roles - when we're working we're 'crew' and when we're not, we're customers. The rest of the crew understands this, but other passengers tend to see us as 'crew' all the time."

John (mid 1980's) and Ruth Gilchrist (2007) also like to direct on cruises. "You meet a lot of wonderful people and the cruise has all the amenities of home (including the food!). After a couple of days, the atmosphere is so welcoming - kind of like stepping in to a bridge club anywhere in the world. The nature of cruises make it especially critical to keep the game and lessons light and airy. The Directors are part of the entertainment and need to keep everyone happy."

Paula and Jack Sisko have been directing on cruises for over 10 years. "Directing on cruises is a lot of fun - especially the people you meet. It is a bit of a challenge - there's so much going on that many games are limited to 2 hours. With the short game and mobility restrictions of many players, directors learn to run a lot of relay and by-stand games. Another challenge is that the physical space is multi-purpose. We quickly learned, for example, that mahjong and bridge don't mix; the noisy clicking of the mahjong tiles is not a good fit with bridge!"

Tournament Directors

Vince Lambert starting directing about 5 years ago. He likes the social aspect. "You meet a lot of people. Directors enjoy bridge to start with and directing gives them more time to be around bridge players. Directing at clubs is a way to give back. It's mostly people management, perhaps a bit like bar keeping."

Doug Rankin, a thirty year veteran, comments "what other job can you find that pays you money for having so much fun! The people you meet are great."

Fun Recollections of Directors

(MB) Getting a call with the caller explaining so intently "Look at this, I led my Ace of Hearts and LHO has one too!"

(VL) One of my earliest calls was a situation where dummy took only 8 cards out of the pocket, bid the hand with those cards and displayed dummy. I was only called after a few tricks had been played and dummy had become very sparse.

(ES) A 'Double' of partner's bid is one that gets a Director to run for the book.

(PP) It's interesting when one side declares and the other side puts down their cards, with each opponent believing they're dummy.

(Savilles) Probably the funniest call was on one of our cruises. A lady opened the bidding with a 'Double'. The opponents kindly told her to pick up her bid but she called me over to explain that she didn't want to change her call, since it simply told her partner that she had an opening hand with no long suit. She assured us that the double would not be passed out because her partner would always pull the double.

(BV) Some time ago I got called to a table over a hesitation. The opponents enquired as to whether the hesitator could still bid. I asked to see the person's hand and quickly commented "you mean to tell me that you might bid holding this!!!" My approach is to inject some lightness with humour and teasing - and I get away with it!

(BB) My favourite ruling is "everybody has to go and stand in the corner", mainly because it gives me time to search the book for the correct ruling!

Advice to Someone Considering Directing

(ES) I think there will be a big demand for club directors in the coming years as current directors retire. It's not an easy role, but it's very rewarding.

(Steve Bates) For anyone considering the tournament circuit, a big consideration is that there's a lot of travel. One is away from home a lot. Also, in the early years, it's tough getting a lot of games, so a second income source might be important for awhile

Wrap Up

Calgary area bridge players enjoy a fabulous cadre of Directors wherever they play. At your next opportunity, thank your Director for her skills, and always call for the Director with a smile and 'Director, please!'

Many thanks for contributions from directors Maureen Bailey, Steve Bates, Brenda Bertrand, Ron Carswell, Michael Farebrother, John & Ruth Gilchrist, Vince Lambert, Martin McDonald, Barry Pashak, Pat Purvis, Doug Rankin, Brian & Joy Saville, Paula & Jack Sisko, Elaine Stewart and Bob Vanwart

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS About the Calgary Bridge Society

Note: This article is endorsed by the current Board of Directors of ACBL Unit 390

| |
|--|
| Q: What is the Calgary Bridge Society (CBS)? |
| A: It is the <i>name</i> the Unit Board has selected to replace the previous society name "The Calgary Duplicate Bridge Association (CDBA)". |
| Q: Do you mean that Unit 390 is already a Society? |
| A: Yes, it has been since the CDBA was voted into existence at the 2001 AGM. |
| Q: Am I a member? |
| A: Yes. |
| Q: Does that mean that I'm liable for something? |
| A: The Unit is registered as a corporation. As such, the members have no greater liability than any shareholder of a corporation. |
| Q: Why do we need a society? |
| A: The 2001 Board that instituted it stated that the benefits are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. To protect the members financially. A member of the society cannot be held responsible for a debt of the society.ii. The society may hold title to property and contract in its own name.iii. The society has a more definite and permanent status.iv. To be eligible for government grants including bingos and casinos. |
| Q: What is the reason for renaming it? |
| A: The current name does not conform to the rules of the Alberta Societies Act and restricts us from obtaining casino funds. In particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. The name cannot have "The" in it.ii. The Board wants to include other bridge games - not just "Duplicate" |
| Q: Why hasn't the CDBA been renamed already? It doesn't seem to be such a big deal... |
| A: The Board presented a motion at the 2009 AGM for the members' approval, but because an appropriate time had not been allowed between the notice of the AGM and the meeting itself, the motion was ruled out of order. Now we have to wait for a special meeting to introduce it again. |

| |
|--|
| Q: What's this about Casino Funding? |
| A: The Board wants to make it possible for the CBS to obtain funds from the Alberta Gaming Commission. For example, in the last month or so, the Edmonton Bridge Centre received \$78,000 from a casino. |
| Q: Are any of our clubs eligible for a casino? |
| A: The majority are private clubs, run for profit. In contrast, the Edmonton Bridge Centre is members-owned and not-for-profit. |
| Q: Is the CBS trying to build a centrally-located, members-owned bridge centre - like the Saskatoon or Red Deer Bridge Centres? |
| A: The Board would like this to happen, eventually. Currently we have asked for and received support from the members at the 2008 AGM to explore the feasibility of such a centre, and to start a fund-raising committee to get some planning activities started. |
| Q: Why do you want a Bridge Center? |
| A: There are four main reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. To grow the game. We want a facility that can hold Sectionals - or two concurrent games. We need a larger centre with adequate parking and access to transportation.ii. To improve players' skill levels. We'd like to have a no-cost teaching facility. For example, in Saskatoon, they are able to offer the first four beginners lessons for free.iii. To add to the enjoyment of the game - provide extra services - food, lounge, TV - a 'home away from home' for members.iv. To combat inflation. The Edmonton Bridge Centre premises are leased, not owned. The lease came up for renewal and they had to reduce their square footage significantly. Bridge in Toronto costs \$7 to \$9 and fees are higher (up to \$25) in other large cities without members-owned clubs. In Red Deer, the cost per game is just \$5 and their games are almost as big as those we have here - with a tenth of the population. |

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (continued) About the Calgary Bridge Society

Q: How much have you raised?

A: The Barbara Seagram Teaching Event brought in approximately \$25,000. We need about \$3,175,000 more to begin construction - but only if the membership votes in favour. We expect to get much of the total cost from various levels of government.

Q: If we get a Bridge Centre, will the CBS run games?

A: The CBS (Unit 390) is not permitted to run games in competition with other clubs. A new organization, separate from the CBS, with its own board of directors will have to be established to operate/manage the bridge centre. The space will be rented to whoever wants to run games. Current clubs will have 'first right of refusal' to operate their games out of the centre if they choose to do so, but there will be no obligation to do so.

Q: What if no club wants to hold games at the proposed Bridge Center?

A: The Bridge Center board would likely hire a manager, who would, himself, direct or hire directors to promote and run games at viable times.

Q: Will the Calgary Bridge Center put other clubs out of business?

A: The intention of the Board is to provide an environment where clubs can operate larger games at competitive costs with less effort, thus becoming more successful. Our first objective is to grow the game through better promotion and education. This should result in **more people playing bridge**. This could have a positive impact on every club's bottom line.

Only one response was received when we asked the clubs whether they thought they would be put out of business by a bridge centre, as described above. The response we received indicated that the owners did not have enough detailed information to respond.

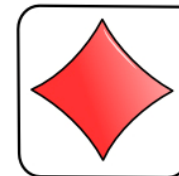
Q: What if the Calgary Bridge Center cannot operate without losing money?

A: The rules set up by the Bridge Center board to deal with this eventuality would be invoked. Typically, the building would be sold. Any outstanding commitments would be paid off, and the remainder would be donated to charity. Our financial pro-forma indicates that **if the Bridge Center is owned (as opposed to rented)**, it will be self-sufficient - even running small games. Casino funding will actually be a bonus and can be used to pay for management services, maintenance, improvements, etc.



Upcoming Unit 390 Tournament Dates

Calgary.....November 13 - 15, 2009
Calgary.....January 8 - 10, 2010
Calgary.....March 19 - 21, 2010



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2009 Hattie Joffe Race

Gerry Marshall captured the 2009 Hattie Joffe trophy by accumulating more than 92 masterpoints during the week of the Calgary regional.

The Hattie Joffe Memorial Trophy is awarded each year to the Albertan winning the most masterpoints during the annual Alberta Regional Bridge Tournament. The trophy was donated by Hattie's son, Jay, in memory of his mother.

Hattie Joffe (1903 - 1982) was a prominent Calgary bridge player in the 1950's, 60's and 70's. She was the first ACBL Life Master from Alberta.



Focus on Future Masters

WELCOME to all the new duplicate bridge players and ACBL members in Unit 390. Many of you are involved in the mentorship program and I do hope the experience has been both educational and fun. Always remember that bridge is a game ... it's meant to be fun. The most important person at the table is your partner. If you make sure he/she has fun, you will too, and, as an added bonus you will both play better! Don't forget to save a kind word for your opponents - tomorrow one of them may be your partner!

A regional and a sectional tournament have taken place since the last edition of the Kibitzer. Congratulations to all who participated. For those of you who have not yet experienced a tournament - don't wait any longer. No masterpoints are required - come simply for the joy of competing against your peers. The next sectionals are scheduled for November, January and March.

Congratulations to Joanne Sharpe, the 2009 Calgary Regional 199er event winner. Joanne earned 8.5 masterpoints at the tournament.

There was a tie for the President's Trophy at the last sectional tournament.

Calgary September 2009 290 participants

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| President's Trophy: | Jacqui Chin & Shirley King (6.10 masterpoints) |
| D (100 - 200 pts) | Jenny Bererton (5.81 masterpoints) |
| E (50 - 100 pts) | Jacqui Chin & Shirley King (6.10 masterpoints) |
| F (0 - 50 pts) | Gordon Vance (3.73 masterpoints) |

Lessons

Students report that they are enjoying the lessons, meeting different people, learning new techniques, conventions and tips. They also find the classroom to be a great place to find partners. Join a class and let the good times roll!

Make sure that Jim Berglund has your correct email address so that you will get all information about future lessons, upcoming events and other activities in the Calgary area. The new Unit web site is another great source of information. Notices are also posted at the clubs.

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

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

All current bridge teachers and assistants deserve a huge "Thank you". They make bridge more fun for us all and they have been invaluable in providing encouragement and support for new and aspiring bridge players. Anyone interested in becoming a teacher or an assistant, please contact me.

Jan

THE KIBITZER

Club Corner

Bridgejoy Duplicate Bridge Club

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

Directors: Brian & Joy Saville
403-239-2768 or 403-464-4455 (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.acblunit390.org>

Coming Events:

Club Appreciation Games

Thursday, October 15 7:30 pm

Friday, October 16 12:15 pm

Unit Championship Game

Thursday, November 19 7:30 pm

North Calgary Ladies Bridge Club

Varsity Community Hall
4303 Varsity Drive N.W.

Contact: Carol Lee Bellam, President
403-270-7438

Tuesday 12:15 pm Invitational Pairs

Newcomers play for free for their initial game

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



Aurora Bridge Club

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

Managers: Debbie & Lorne Hanson
403-239-2806 or 403-860-7079 (cell)

Monday 12:15 pm Open Pairs Stratified

Wednesday 12:15 pm Open Pairs Stratified

- Please refrain from wearing any scents or perfumes



Bob's Bridge Club

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

Director: Bob Van Wart
403-277-8001 or 403-560-3344 (cell)

Sunday 1:00 pm Open Pairs Stratified



"That last tournament win really moved me up the list."

THE KIBITZER

Martinique Bridge Club

Knights of Columbus Hall

2419 - 54 Ave. S.W.

Bridge Club 403-243-4353

email: martinique@shaw.ca

Game Schedule

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Monday | 7:00 pm.....Invitational Swiss Teams |
| Tuesday | 12:15 pm..... Open Pairs |
| | 7:30 pm..... Open Pairs |
| Wednesday | 12:00 pm.....Non-Life Master Pairs |
| | 7:30 pm..... Open Pairs |
| Thursday | 12:15 pm..... Open Pairs |
| | 7:00 pm..... Novice Pairs |
| Friday | 10:30 pm.....Open Pairs and Lunch |
| | 7:30 pm..... Open Pairs |
| Saturday | 12:30 pm..... Open Pairs |
| | 7:30 pm.....Open Swiss Teams |



Bow River Bridge Club

West Hillhurst Community Centre

1940 6th Ave. N.W.

403-481-3488

Game Schedule

Wednesday 7:00 pm..... Flighted Swiss Teams

For partners call Elaine Stewart 403-246-8691

Coming Events:

Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Night

(Sectional rating, black points, 5% gold for overalls)

Wednesday, October 14.....7:00 pm

Education Foundation Games

(Sectional rating)

Wednesday, November 18.....7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 16.....7:00 pm

CNTC Qualifying Games

TBA

Bidwell Duplicate Bridge Club

Calgary Canoe Club, North Glenmore Park

7100 Crowchild Trail S.W.

Directors: Brian & Joy Saville

403-239-2768 or 403-464-4455 (cell)

email: bridgejoy@gmail.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.acblunit390.org>

Coming Events:

Club Appreciation Game

Monday, October 1212:15 pm

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

www.acblunit390.org



Bridgejoy/Bidwell Christmas Party

Bowness Sportsplex

7904 - 43rd Avenue N.W.

Friday, December 18 @ 11:15 a.m.

Lunch & Bridge - \$10

Thanks for all your support during 2009

*** Please do not wear any perfume or cologne ***



by Jim Berglund

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THE KIBITZER

Elegant Solutions

by Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Once the opening lead has been made, declarer has an opportunity to assess the contract and decide upon an approach to be taken. It is rewarding to discover a line of play that guarantees the contract. Suppose that, on the layout below, the contract is 4♥ and LHO leads the ♣K, having overcalled 2♣ after your 1♥ opener.

Lead: ♣K

Contract: 4♥

♠ KJ75
♥ A1086
♦ 873
♣ AJ



♠ A103
♥ KQ9743
♦ K64
♣ 8

Counting tricks, you see that there are six hearts, two spades and one club off the top. For the tenth trick it might be possible to score the ♦K, but the 2♣ overcall suggests the ♦A will be sitting over the ♦K. Another potential source for the tenth trick is the spade suit. On a good day, you may even score eleven tricks by correctly guessing the location of the ♠Q. The danger to avoid is losing a trick to East, who will surely play diamonds through your unprotected king.

The simple avoidance play involves drawing trumps ending in dummy and leading a small spade to your ten. Even if LHO wins the ♠Q, there is nothing he can do to threaten your contract and you are sure to score the ♠J for your tenth trick.

Now suppose that, instead of A103 of spades, you have A32. Is there a way to guarantee the contract against any distribution? This time, the solution involves recognizing the power held by the ♣J. Once again, you begin by drawing trumps (in two rounds). Now continue with the ♠A and ♠K ending in dummy. If the ♠Q drops your problems are over. Assuming nothing good happens, your next play should be the ♣J on which you

discard your last spade. LHO must win the trick and finds himself endplayed. The position, with LHO to lead, is:

♠ J7
♥ A10
♦ 873
♣ --



♠ --
♥ 9743
♦ K64
♣ --

What are LHO's options? If he leads a club, you can ruff in dummy while pitching a diamond loser. If he leads a diamond you score your ♦K. If LHO leads the ♠Q you can ruff and travel to dummy with a trump to ditch a diamond loser on the established ♠J. And, finally, if LHO leads some other spade (only the ♠Q and one other are outstanding) you play the ♠J. The ♠J might win but if RHO covers with the ♠Q you can ruff and once again travel to dummy to ditch a diamond loser on the thirteenth spade (♠7). On the actual deal, it turns out that LHO has no more spades. However, this line of play ensures the contract against any distribution. The four hands:

♠ KJ75
♥ A1086
♦ 873
♣ AJ

♠ 86
♥ J
♦ A1052
♣ KQ10763



♠ A32
♥ KQ9743
♦ K64
♣ 8

♠ Q1094
♥ 52
♦ QJ9
♣ 9542

Avoidance and loser-on-loser plays arise more frequently than most people realize. Try to force your opponents to win tricks when they least desire to do so. They won't be happy ... but you will be!