

THE KIBITZER

CALGARY DUPLICATE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



September 2010

Editors: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

President's Message

Much has happened since our AGM on May 8th of this year. We have had three Board meetings and one Sectional!

We have submitted our 2009 and 2010 Annual Reports to the Province and these reports have been approved. Thanks to Janet Dunbar for doing the 2009 Auditors report for us. Thanks also to Doris Fishman and Janet Dunbar for doing the 2010 Auditors report and to Vice President Don Basarsky for submission of the above. Don is also in the process of getting our 2005 by-laws approved by the Province as per the mandate from the members who attended the AGM.

199 Bridgemates have been ordered for virtually all the clubs in Calgary. Some have been delivered and others are due to arrive soon. This is a large undertaking. We are all on a learning curve, but I'm sure that, in time, we will become more efficient. I would like to thank Frank Kelton and Garth Wiggins for taking on the Bridgemate acquisition project.

With the Board's approval, membership chairperson, Brian Willett, and webmaster, Merle Hickey, have been working behind the scenes to build a world-class email messaging system. You will note on the unit website Board of Directors page, that our emails are no longer personal but instead, reflect the position held by the member. This took a lot of computer savvy and I thank Merle and Brian for getting this started. Soon, we will all be able to take advantage of improved email communication with board members.

Ken Penton, President of the Calgary Community Bridge League, has informed me that his group has a registered Society with Alberta Registries. The official name is "The Calgary Community Bridge League". Ken requested in writing that the \$25,000 being held in trust for a bridge centre be released to

his group. At our board meeting on September 2, 2010, the Board unanimously agreed to release those funds to them. Good luck to Ken Penton and his group in their future endeavours to build a bridge centre in Calgary.

As you know, we had our September Sectional on September 10th - 12th. Thanks to Nancy Stewart, our Tournament Coordinator, and her committee of Marilyn Swadron and Byron Lund for doing a wonderful job. It was their first time. A special thanks to Murray Haggins for hauling the trailer to and from the sectional site.

We had 47.5 tables more than at last September's sectional. What does this mean? It was the highest table count for a September Sectional in the past four years! Bridge is growing in Calgary! Thank you all for your support.

It was also the first time that Bridgmates were used at a sectional. We are the first unit in Western Canada to implement this scoring method and we should be very proud of this achievement.

[President's message continues on Page 2]

Inside This Issue...

| | |
|---|-----|
| The Four of Spades Grows Up | 3 |
| District 18 NAP | 4 |
| Playing Against the Best in the World | 5 |
| Our Unit Trophies | 6 |
| Focus on Future Masters | 7 |
| Club Corner | 8-9 |
| From The Membership Desk | 10 |
| Time To Buy A Lotto Ticket When | 11 |
| Crazy People-Dealt Hands | 12 |
| Unit 390 Players Win 2010 CNTC | 13 |
| Calgary Bridge Players Welcome Audrey Grant | 13 |

THE KIBITZER

President's Message (continued)

A big thank you to Brian and Joy Saville for helping the unit set this up for our September Sectional. Also, I appreciate their instruction on the use of this wonderful tool.

I want to send a big thank you to some other people who have helped Unit 390:

- Joanne Horne, our photographer, who puts pictures on our website and in our Kibitzer
- Merle Hickey, who keeps our website up to date
- Carol Lee Bellam and Diane Campbell, who have worked tirelessly over the summer to make the mentorship program a success
- Carol Lee Bellam, who has started up the "Bid and Play" at the Martinique on Wednesday evenings and who also runs a sanctioned game (0 -20) on the same evening
- Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis, editors of the Kibitzer
- Linda Wallace, New Member Liaison, who mails out welcome packages to all new ACBL members
- Martin McDonald, our librarian
- Clarende Duby, our caddymaster
- Allan Simon, for serving as Conduct and Ethics Recorder and for presenting the trophies at the September sectional
- All of our bridge teachers, who help us learn and introduce us to new ideas and conventions
- Marilyn Swadron at the partnership desk
- all of our bridge clubs and their directors in Calgary and surrounding area
- Steve Lawrence, for being a strong leader and helping with the Unit trailer
- Lou Sandmeier, for building the stanchions to add to our tournament equipment, and for hauling the trailer to Red Deer
- Ken Scott for being our voice on the District 18 Board and for keeping us informed
- last year's Board, to whom I often go back with questions
- the entire Executive: Emelie Quennell, Melissa Martin, Don Basarsky, Frank Kelton, Brian Willett, Jan Mcleod, Marlene Lenstra, Garth Wiggins, and Nancy Stewart. I thank all of you for your hard work and support.

- and to anyone I've forgotten, thank you

The most wonderful thing about Calgary is the group of volunteers who has a strong passion for helping others. I am encouraged by the support in Unit 390.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone who has encouraged, supported and advised me in my role as your new President.

Respectfully,

*Jim Murphy
President*



Important Rules

Rule of Eleven - the inevitable trick total whenever you bid a slam.

Eight Ever, Nine Never - the status quo whenever you raise 2NT to 3NT.

Second Hand Low - the easiest way to lose your ace on defense.

Lead Through Strength - a sure-fire way to make your queen disappear.

THE KIBITZER

The Four of Spades Grows Up

by Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Anyone who is an aficionado of bridge books will have read the classic "Right Through The Pack" by Robert Darvas and Norman de V. Hart. Each of the 52 deals tells the story of one card in the deck.

Our opponents in the semi-final of the 2010 Canadian National Team Championship have shown that they, too, have a strong drive to reach the finals and they have no intention of making it an easy match for us. In fact they jumped out to the lead in the first quarter and are still ahead as we begin the third quarter.

Early in the segment you pick up ♠74 ♥AKQJ5 ♦K105 ♣A64 (NV versus V). You start proceedings with 1♣ (artificial, forcing, showing 16+ HCP). LHO overcalls 1♠ which elicits a pass from partner (showing less than 8 HCP) and RHO leaps to 4♠. Now what?

With this collection, perhaps the most sensible action is to pass and hope you can defeat their game contract. There is a small chance that partner might have a distributional hand and will be able to bid knowing that you have a good hand (likely balanced since you have not shown a suit at favourable vulnerability). However, partner is also aware that, holding scattered values, bidding risks going minus when 4♠ is slated for defeat.

In tempo, you decide to risk 5♥. The opponents appear to have found a good fit. Even if partner has no heart support, there may be a useful side suit that can be developed. In addition, it will be difficult for either opponent to double. Why? Because they know you have a strong hand and neither of them has any honours in your trump suit.

The real problem with bidding 5♥ is that partner and team-mates might be tempted to advertise for your replacement, since unilateral lunatic actions often work out badly and you must shoulder the blame alone. No matter how compelling you may feel your logic is, the best justification is a favourable result.

Everyone passes (LHO not smoothly) and you await the dummy with some trepidation. LHO leads the ♠K and to your surprise and delight you have hit the jackpot.

E/W Vulnerable

Contract: 5♥

Lead: ♠K

♠ 98
♥ 1087642
♦ 73
♣ 752



♠ 74
♥ AKQJ5
♦ K105
♣ A64

You see immediately that the opponents have erred. They can take at least 10 tricks in 4♠. Meanwhile, your undoubled 5♥ contract must go down at least three tricks and probably four. -200 against a certain loss of -620 is a very good IMP result, so you are still on the team, at least until your next adventure!

After winning the ♠K (on which you drop the ♠7) LHO leads the ♣Q. You allow that to hold the trick and LHO, perhaps anxious to guarantee the set, cashes the ♦A. Great ... now you are only going minus 150.

LHO continues with the ♦9. To your surprise RHO follows low and your ♦10 wins the trick. Now the damage will be only -100!

When you cash the ♥A, RHO pitches a diamond (and you can see that 4♠ was cold for at least 11 tricks). You pull another round of trumps and play the ♦K throwing dummy's last spade. RHO flinches when his partner drops the ♦J.

At this point you run the remainder of the trumps and on dummy's last heart, you pitch the ♣6, keeping the ♣A and ♣4 as your remaining two cards. On the final trump both opponents jettison their spades. When you play a club to your Ace, the ♠4 wins trick thirteen. The opponents sit in stunned silence as they consider the result while you happily contemplate how good -50 looks on your score card.

[continued next page]

THE KIBITZER

Although there were more spectacular hands during the eight-day tournament (and the 482 hands played), this was undoubtedly a favourite! It was made even more amusing when partner leaned under the screen to ask, "Why didn't you just ruff the ♠4 in the dummy?". At that point both opponents got up and left the table.

The complete deal was:

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| ♠ AKQ103 ♥ 93 ♦ AJ9 ♣ QJ3 |  | ♠ J652 ♥ -- ♦ Q8642 ♣ K1098 | ♠ 98 ♥ 1087642 ♦ 73 ♣ 752 ♠ 74 ♥ AKQJ5 ♦ K105 ♣ A64 |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|

We continued to score heavily on the remaining boards and eventually won the quarter 77-10, thus finishing in a great position to win the match and make the finals.

District 18 NAP

The District 18 Final of the North American Pairs will be held in Missoula, Montana on October 2, 2010. In order to participate at the District final, both you and your partner must have qualified at a club game or unit final.

This event, originally known as the Grand National Pairs, has been a major ACBL pair championship since 1979.

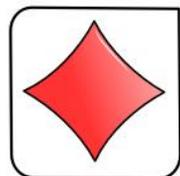
There are three flights (based on masterpoint holding at the June cycle)

Flight A - Open

Flight B - 0 - 2000

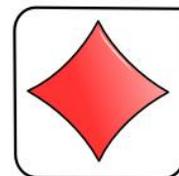
Flight C - 0 - 500, non Life Master

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 Louisville Kentucky (March 2011). The top two in each category receive prize money if they attend the final (\$700 per person for finishing first, \$300 per person for second).



Upcoming Unit 390 Tournament Dates

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Calgary..... | November 12 - 14, 2010 |
| Calgary..... | January 7 - 9, 2011 |
| Calgary..... | March 25 - 27, 2011 |
| Calgary..... | September 9 - 11, 2011 |
| Calgary Regional | August 6 - 12, 2012 |



THE KIBITZER

Playing Against the Best in the World

by Frank Ayers

One of the best parts of duplicate bridge is the opportunity to play against the world's best players. Few, if any, other sports provide this for the recreational player. At the recent Summer NABC in New Orleans, Hash Mohamed and I entered the National Fast Open Pairs. I love this event - 11 minutes per 2-board round, start at 1:00 p.m. and finish two sessions by 7:00 p.m. There is little time to wonder about the last hand; 26 hands are over in less than two and a half hours. And sometimes you get a chance to impress a world-class player...

In the qualifying rounds we played against the Italians Noberto Bocchi and Guido Ferraro, the Germans Sabine Auken and Danelia von Arnim, and probably other champions I didn't recognize. Hash and I qualified for the finals and in the second final session played this hand against Eric Rodwell and Zia (hand rotated for convenience):

| | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------|
| <p>♠ 1063 ♥ AK107542 ♦ 8 ♣ K9</p> | <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W ■ E S </div> | <p>♠ J9 ♥ 983 ♦ K952 ♣ Q1053</p> | |
| | <p>♠ Q8754 ♥ Q6 ♦ A7643 ♣ A</p> | | |
| Hash | Zia | Me | Rodwell |
| <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> | <u>West</u> |
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♠ | 2♥ |
| 3♥ | 4♣ | 4♠ | All Pass |

The opening lead was the ♥A followed by the ♦8, the ♦10 winning in dummy. I played a club to my Ace and ruffed my last heart with dummy's ♠2. The ♠AK came next, and I was pleased the trumps broke 3-2. A club ruff and the ♠Q drew the last trump as Zia, already feeling uncomfortable, discarded a club. The layout now was:

| | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <p>♠ -- ♥ -- ♦ QJ ♣ J87</p> | <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W ■ E S </div> | <p>♠ -- ♥ 9 ♦ K95 ♣ Q</p> | |
| <p>♠ -- ♥ 107542 ♦ -- ♣ --</p> | <p>♠ 8 ♥ -- ♦ A764 ♣ --</p> | | |

I led a diamond to the Queen as Rodwell showed out; Zia won the King and returned the ♥9. If I ruffed this I would lose a diamond and a club so I discarded a diamond from my hand and a club from dummy. [True, if declarer leads Ace and another diamond, but the alternative is to lead a low diamond to dummy, exit a club to East and score the ♦A at trick thirteen on the forced diamond return - Editors]

Rodwell won the heart and returned a heart, dummy coming down to the minor suit Jacks. Zia who now had ♦95 and ♣Q was squeezed on this trick; if he kept both diamonds I would ruff, cross to the ♦J and cash the ♣J (pitching the ♦A) so he kept the ♣Q and one diamond. I ruffed the heart and cashed ♦A and ♦7 (beer card!) for 10 tricks. Making 4♠ on a squeeze against Zia! And Zia said "I thought you played it very well, I was squeezed".

Deep Finesse tells me there are many ways to make 4♠ after the ♦10 wins trick 2 - including playing the ♠Q under the ♠A or allowing Rodwell to ruff a diamond - but I like my line and I will always have the memory of making a contract against the best players in the world on a squeeze.



THE KIBITZER

Our Unit Trophies

by Allan Simon

Our unit currently awards the following trophies:

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

The current holders are Dan Bertrand and Allan Simon. Dan and Allan are no strangers to the winner's circle. At the recent Calgary sectional, they captured the Flight A Pairs handily, posting a strong 62% game in the opening session followed by 55% in the evening.

The Hattie Joffe Trophy commemorates our unit's very first life master. It is awarded to the Albertan who wins the most master points at the annual Alberta Regional.

The current holder is Nicholas Gartaganis. In this, his fifth Hattie Joffe title, he won 110 masterpoints at the Red Deer Regional.

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 Team-of-Four at the annual spring Sectional.

The current holders are Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis, Lorna and Doug Deschner

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 leading master point winner in a calendar year.

The winner in 2009 was Steve Lawrence. Steve is a long-time contributor to bridge in Calgary. He loves to play, amassing 425 masterpoints last year.

At the recent sectional tournament, the trophies were on display and were presented in a short ceremony. Thanks to Terri Bedard for taking photos.

Trophy Presentations



Allan Simon and Dan Bertrand
2010 Edna Lougheed Trophy winners



Allan Simon presents the 2010 Hattie
Joffe trophy to Nicholas Gartaganis



Allan Simon presents the
2010 Ann Waldie trophy to Nicholas and
Judith Gartaganis



Steve Lawrence
2009 Ike Landon trophy winner

THE KIBITZER

Focus on Future Masters

Greetings New Players,
Hope you are enjoying this wonderful game called bridge. We are pleased to have so many new players in Unit 390. Why not share the fun you are having with your friends and invite them to come try our great game.

This year we have had a number of sectional tournaments, all well attended by newer players. At each sectional, the President's Trophy is given to the overall top masterpoint winner in newcomer and novice games. Here are the results since my last report.

November 2009 279 players

President's Trophy: Paulette McWilliam & Gail Bews
(5.44 masterpoints)
D (100 - 200 pts) Jenny Bererton & Helen Dillon
(5.13 masterpoints)
E (50 - 100 pts) Arlene Connell
(5.27 masterpoints)
F (0 - 50 pts) Bryanne Wood
(5.27 masterpoints)
49er Event Michele Fraser & Mary Abel

January 2010 326 players

President's Trophy: Linda Ellsworth & Bill Ellsworth
(6.61 masterpoints)
D (100 - 200 pts) John Sharpe
(6.21 masterpoints)
E (50 - 100 pts) Linda Stevenson
(5.17 masterpoints)
F (0 - 50 pts) Joanne Sharpe
(6.46 masterpoints)

March 2010 294 players

President's Trophy: Linda Legare & Judy McKeague
(6.67 masterpoints)
D (100 - 200 pts) Shelley Quinney
(5.50 masterpoints)
E (50 - 100 pts) Linda Wallace
(4.41 masterpoints)
F (0 - 50 pts) Mardi Oel
(5.50 masterpoints)
49er Event Caenie Pycz & Cindy Ferguson

September 2010 341 players

President's Trophy: Shirley McLeod & Robert McLeod
(5.08 masterpoints)
D (100 - 200 pts) Jacqui Chin & Linda Legare
(4.92 masterpoints)
E (50 - 100 pts) Stephen Paul
(4.79 masterpoints)
F (0 - 50 pts) Juliette Paul
(4.79 masterpoints)

The recent September Sectional set a record for 199er attendance over the past few years!

Mentorship Program

Carol Lee Bellam and her committee have worked very hard again this year setting up the 2010 mentorship program which is in full swing. We sure appreciate their efforts matching up mentors and mentees. I hope everyone is having fun and learning lots.

Lessons

The Unit 390 website has a list of lessons being offered so check it out and try something new. Anyone interested in offering lessons or assisting with lessons please contact me.

PLAY BRIDGE...DON'T WORRY...BE HAPPY...

See you soon at the bridge table,
Jan McLeod
Future Master Coordinator



"I remember when it was the other bridge players who were easy pickings"

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 0-1000 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>



New club opens September 13!

Elbow River Bridge Club
HMCS Tecumseh (north entrance)
1898 24 St. S.W.

Manager: Hazel Skelton

Monday 7:00 pm Stratified Pairs

*** Complimentary cookies and coffee! ***
*** Wheelchair accessible ***



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



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)

Game Schedule

Monday 12:15 pm Open Pairs Stratified
Wednesday 12:15 pm Open Pairs Stratified

- Please refrain from wearing any scents or perfumes

Coming Events:

Club Championships

Wednesday, September 22 12:15 pm

Monday, September 27 12:15 pm

Unit Championship Game

Monday, October 4 12:15 pm

The date of the Aurora Christmas party will be announced soon. Check the unit website for updates.



Bridgejoy/Bidwell Christmas Party

Bowness Sportsplex
7904 - 43rd Avenue N.W.

Friday, December 20
Lunch & Bridge

38 Tables already sold!
Thanks for all your support during 2010

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 Invitational Pairs |
| | 7:30 pm..... Open Pairs |
| Thursday | 12:15 pm..... Open Pairs |
| | 7:00 pm.....Novice 0 - 99 Pairs |
| Friday | 10:30 pm Open Pairs and Lunch |
| | 7:30 pm..... Open Pairs |
| Saturday | 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 and team arrangements, call Elaine Stewart 403-246-8691

Special Events:

CNTC Qualifying Games

Wednesday, October 27 (no extra fee).....7:00 pm

Wednesday, November 17 (no extra fee)....7:00 pm

Club Championship

Wednesday, December 297:00 pm

Players at all levels are welcome.



North Calgary Ladies Bridge Club

Varsity Community Hall

4303 Varsity Drive N.W.

President: Carol Lee Bellam 403-270-7438

Club Manager: Paula Sisko 403-286-7103

Tuesday 12:15 pm..... Invitational Pairs

Coming Events:

Club Championship

Tuesday, September 21.....12:15 pm

Club Appreciation

Tuesday, October 5.....12:15 pm

Charity Game

Tuesday, October 2612:15 pm

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



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>

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

www.acblunit390.org

THE KIBITZER

Time To Buy A Lotto Ticket When...

by Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

One of the most enjoyable bridge experiences is using clues from the bidding to make a contract that seems impossible. It is even more fun when the opponents can do nothing to prevent the outcome once the opening lead has been made.

Playing in the round robin of the 2010 CNTC you come up against a pleasant and very competent pair. After you have opened a marginal hand, partner propels you into 3NT and the ♠7 is led.

Lead: ♠7

♠ AK2
♥ Q1076
♦ 92
♣ KQ95



♠ J965
♥ A
♦ K753
♣ A632

| North | East | South | West |
|--------|----------|-----------------|------|
| -- | -- | 1♦ ¹ | 1♠ |
| Double | Pass | 2♣ | 2♦ |
| 2♠ | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3NT | All pass | | |

¹ Could be short (Precision)

You are reasonably confident running the spade to your hand and the ♠9 wins the first trick. Even if the clubs are breaking, that still leaves you looking for a ninth trick.

If the opponents had been silent one option would be to lead a diamond towards the King hoping to find the ♦A onside. But the bidding tells you that LHO is almost certain to hold the ♦A behind the King and, since he has shown length in two suits, it suggests that the clubs won't be 3-2 either. If clubs are 4-1, you must conjure up two tricks, a seemingly daunting task.

When a contract appears destined to fail, declarer must try his best to envision some layout that would lead to success and play for it.

When you lead a club to the King, both opponents follow. Now you return to hand with the ♥A and play another club to the Queen. This time, LHO discards the ♦4 while RHO follows. As you feared, you have only seven tricks, but it isn't over yet.

You exit a low heart from dummy and, as you hoped, LHO is forced to win the ♥K. You're up to 8 tricks now that the ♥Q is good. LHO gets out with a spade to dummy's King and you cash the ♠A and the ♥Q (discarding a diamond from your hand). This is the end position:

♠ --
♥ 10
♦ 92
♣ 95



♠ J
♥ --
♦ K75
♣ A6

At this point, you travel to hand with the ♣A and exit the ♠J. LHO is forced to win this trick with the ♠Q and can cash one more trick in the suit. But with only diamonds left, LHO has no choice but to give you a trick with the ♦K. That comes to +400 for making 3NT. The four hands were:

♠ AK2
♥ Q1076
♦ 92
♣ KQ95

♠ Q10874
♥ K8
♦ AJ1084
♣ 4



♠ 3
♥ J95432
♦ Q6
♣ J1087

♠ J965
♥ A
♦ K753
♣ A632

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THE KIBITZER

After the opening lead, the opponents were helpless to defeat the contract on your line of play. You prevailed with a little luck despite a bad suit break and a crucial card being offside. One key was to visualize LHO's 5-5 distribution and to go about stripping all his safe exit cards before throwing him in on the 4th round of spades. Another was to place LHO with the doubleton ♥K, virtually the only set up which would promote the ♥Q into a trick without allowing RHO to win the trick and push a diamond through.

Never give up, no matter how hopeless a contract seems. And ... go buy a lotto ticket!



Ten things a bridge player would never say...

(attributed to Marilyn White, Toronto, former CBF Charitable Fund Chair)

- ☆ This club's playing area is always at the right temperature - never too hot or too cold.
- ☆ Free coffee? No thanks.
- ☆ Cool! A four board sit-out.
- ☆ No. I don't think tournament fees are too high.
- ☆ I can always count on my partner to remember every convention on our card.
- ☆ No gossip, please. I'm not interested.
- ☆ Great. More new alerts!
- ☆ One thing I can say about bridge players - they sure know how to dress.
- ☆ No matter which direction we sit, the cards always seem to run our way.
- ☆ I don't feel like bridge today. I'd rather jog and work out.

Crazy People-Dealt Hands

by Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

It's the Swiss Teams at a local sectional and the day hasn't been going very well. Along comes this assortment: ♠ KJ965432 ♥ KJ5 ♦ 7 ♣ 4

At unfavourable vulnerability, partner starts with 1♥ (11-16, could be a 4-card suit, especially if short in spades). RHO, perhaps not unexpectedly, launches to 4NT!

OK, so RHO has lots of minor suit cards. You have an 8-card master suit but you will have to mention it at the five level. Still, suits of this length don't come along often ... about once every 200 hands or so according to the Wikipedia entry for bridge probabilities ... and 8-card suits were meant to be bid!

You try 5♠, but that's not the end of the action. It goes 6♦ on your left, 6♠ by partner (!) and 7♣ by RHO.

Arghh ... now what? At this vulnerability, you play that pass would be forcing, showing no club losers and inviting partner to bid a grand slam. Alternatively, you may double to show at least one club loser, or you could bid on yourself. Is it possible your side should be the one sacrificing? You decide to make the disciplined double and that finishes the auction.

RHO ruffs your ♥K lead, plays a couple of rounds of trump and successfully navigates the diamond suit. Pretty soon, she plunks down her cards claiming all 13 tricks. Here is the full hand:

| | | | | | |
|------------|--|-------------|-------|---|------|
| ♠ A8 | | ♠ -- | | | |
| ♥ AQ76432 | | ♥ -- | | | |
| ♦ Q3 | | ♦ AJ852 | | | |
| ♣ 95 | | ♣ AKQJ10762 | | | |
| ♠ Q107 | <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W ■ E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table> </div> | N | W ■ E | S | ♠ -- |
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| ♥ 1098 | | ♥ -- | | | |
| ♦ K10964 | | ♦ AJ852 | | | |
| ♣ 83 | | ♣ AKQJ10762 | | | |
| ♠ KJ965432 | | | | | |
| ♥ KJ5 | | | | | |
| ♦ 7 | | | | | |
| ♣ 4 | | | | | |

An 8-5 hand comes along only once in 3,200 deals and having one this good would be even rarer! Those darn non-computer hands. Your bad day continues unabated.

THE KIBITZER

Unit 390 Players Win 2010 CNTC



Winners of CNTC-A: Nicholas Gartaganis, Gordon Campbell, Judith Gartaganis, Piotr Klimowicz

Three Unit 390 members were on the winning squad in this year's Flight A Canadian National Team Championship (CNTC). Gordon Campbell, Judith Gartaganis and Nicholas Gartaganis, with Piotr Klimowicz of Edmonton, prevailed over 22 other teams to capture the title. Each year, the Canadian Bridge Federation stages the Canadian Bridge Championship (CBC) to determine the national champions in a number of events. The 2010 CBC was held in Markham, Ontario in early June. The CNTC-A took place over a period of eight days culminating in a two-day 128-board final.

This is the first time an all-Alberta team has won the CNTC. It was the third win for Nicholas (1982, 2001, 2010) and Gordon (1984, 2001, 2010) and the second for Judith (2001, 2010). The CNTC has been won by a four-person team on just six occasions, including all three of Nicholas' championships.

Judith is the only woman to have won this event twice since its official inception in 1980. Sandra Fraser and Mary Paul have each won the event once.



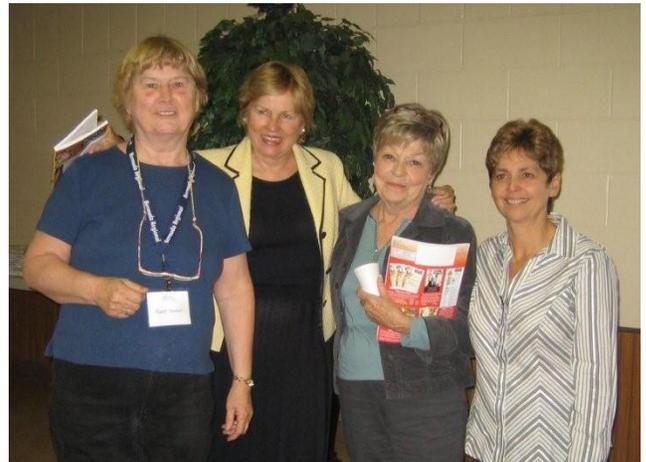
Calgary Bridge Players Welcome

Audrey Grant

by Marlene Lenstra

On Saturday, September 18th, 130 enthusiastic Calgary bridge players met at the Braeside Community Hall where they attended a workshop given by Audrey Grant. Her topic was, "Opening the Bidding and the Impact on the Entire Deal".

Audrey is a Canadian professional educator and contract bridge expert, known for her 'simple and humorous' approach to teaching bridge. She has written the *ACBL Bridge Series*, a series of five books on bridge, published by the American Contract Bridge League. The books are titled *Bidding*, *Play of the Hand*, *Defense*, *Commonly Used Conventions*, and *More Commonly Used Conventions*. She has also written over a dozen other books on bridge. In addition, Grant publishes the bi-monthly *Better Bridge Magazine*. Started in 2004, this magazine includes articles and hints related to bridge.



Audrey Grant (second from left) with organizers Elaine Stewart, Marlene Fuller and Lamy Abougoush

Profits from this event go towards the Calgary Community Bridge League, a registered nonprofit society that was formed in 2010 and is working towards a proposed Bridge Centre in Calgary.

A delicious lunch was provided by Earl's Westhills with all of the proceeds donated back to the Calgary Community Bridge League.

All participants came away from the workshop feeling that they had acquired a few additional skills to make them more proficient at the game. Watch out next time you meet them at the bridge table!

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