



# The Kibitzer

## October 2016

Editors: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

### President's Message

Hello bridge players,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome to the Unit board three new members: Ed Lamb, treasurer; Tracy Horan, special events; and Devra Drysdale, information officer. It is thanks to all the volunteers that the Unit is able to operate successfully.

I also wish to thank our retiring board members, Larry Fenton and Ken Anderson, for their support over the past years. The retiring President, Delores Hedley, will continue on the board in the position of past president. Her knowledge and experience is invaluable.

The September Sectional was very well attended with over 280 tables. The main increase in attendance was amongst the 199ers, which is very encouraging. The November Sectional will be at the Clarion Hotel on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE from November 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see you all there. Since this is a new location for sectionals your feedback on the playing area will be appreciated. Please contact any board member with your comments.

On October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> there will be an Audrey Grant Better Bridge Festival at the Glamorgan Community Association, 4207, 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW. This is sponsored by the Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) and is a countrywide event at locations in Saskatoon, Vancouver, Calgary, Charlottetown, Halifax and Moncton. The focus is to promote the growth of the game of bridge in Canada. If you are a member of the CBF you can become an accredited teacher at no charge by attending all three sessions. The Thursday afternoon session is for all levels of bridge players to improve their game. The Friday morning session is for absolute beginners. Since most new bridge players have not heard of Audrey Grant, it is difficult to attract new bridge players to this event. Your assistance in spreading the word about this session and Audrey Grant's reputation as author and teacher will be very much appreciated. Detailed information can be found on the CBF website – [www.cbf.ca](http://www.cbf.ca).

Congratulations to Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis who again qualified to represent Canada at the World Bridge Games, which were held in Poland in September. There were 53 entries in the open event and Canada made it to the

quarter-finals before being beaten by Monaco, which ended up losing to the Netherlands in the final.

There are two boot camps upcoming, one on October 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> and one on November 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>. Nancy Klym and Bev Mason make a fine teaching team and their past camps have received glowing reports. Currently there are two spaces left for the October camp and eight for the November one.

Bridge lessons are also being offered by Linda Walker, Jane Lamont and Rae Haaland. Details can be found on the website.

I look forward to working with the new board during the coming year and hope that all bridge players will have an enjoyable and successful year.

John Sharpe  
President, Unit 390

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## Opening Lead Challenge

By Allan Simon

Assume you are playing IMPs and you are on lead with the following hands. Decide on your opening lead and then turn to page 10 for the answers. You may be surprised!

Hand 1:	You	LHO	Pard	RHO
♠ J42	---	---	---	1♠
♥ A2	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
♦ K9	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♣ 1098642				

Hand 2:	You	LHO	Pard	RHO
♠ 742	---	---	---	1♠
♥ KJ97	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
♦ Q109	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♣ 1052				

Hand 3:	You	LHO	Pard	RHO
♠ 1084	---	---	---	1♠
♥ K7	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
♦ Q6	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♣ K107632				

Hand 4:	You	LHO	Pard	RHO
♠ 742	---	---	---	1NT
♥ 7652	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
♦ A875	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
♣ K7	Pass			

Hand 5:	You	LHO	Pard	RHO
♠ J65	---	---	---	1♠
♥ 5	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
♦ 10842	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
♣ Q6432	Pass			



The Editors would like to thank everyone who contributed material for this edition of the Kibitzer.

Submissions for future issues of The Kibitzer are always welcome. Email your articles and news items to [390kibitzer@acblunit390.org](mailto:390kibitzer@acblunit390.org)

The next edition is scheduled to be out in late April.

## New Location for Calgary Winter Sectional

The Calgary Winter Sectional, scheduled for November 4 - 6



will be held at a new location. It will be at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Centre, 2120 16 Avenue N.E. Some of you will recall playing there when it was the Radisson Hotel and those of us whose memories go back even farther will

know it as the old Crossroads Hotel.

As usual, the Friday games will be at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The Saturday game times are 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and the Sunday Swiss Teams commence at 10:00 a.m. There will be a short break for lunch on Sunday. We will again be selling lunch tickets for \$10, lunch to be prepared by the Clarion. Those playing in the Future Masters Swiss on Sunday will have the option of playing either one or two sessions.

We are very pleased that Michael Farebrother, ACBL Tournament Director, will be our guest speaker on Saturday between the morning and afternoon sessions. All players are invited to attend.



"What would you recommend for the bridge partner who never makes mistakes?"

## Italian Cooking

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

We travelled to Poland for the 2016 World Championship hoping to perform well, but knowing that the competition would be strong. The world championship is always an amazing experience. You have to prepare for unfamiliar defensive methods as well as many unusual conventions (for example, a 2♣ opening is "Multi" -- either a weak two in diamonds OR 22-24 balanced OR any strong unbalanced hand without a diamond suit!). In general, the standard of card play is high and slip-ups by the opponents are uncommon.

Fifty-three countries entered teams in the Open event, and those teams were divided into three groups. Sixteen teams would qualify for the playoffs. Prior to the start of the world championship, players from the German, Irish and US teams, among others, used social media to express their displeasure about how "unbalanced" the groups were in terms of relative strength. Canada was in Group C, supposedly the weakest group. Just before the event began Indonesia withdrew and the Irish team was moved to Group C while Lebanon was moved out of Group C to take Ireland's place. By the time the event was reduced to 8 teams, 5 of those still vying for the title were from Group C! Neither the Germans nor the Irish made the playoffs and the US were eliminated in the round of 16 (by a Group C team). Netherlands, a Group C team, won the gold medal. The outcome was a valuable reminder that in any sporting event it is unwise to underestimate an opponent.



Hala Stulecia, Wroclaw Poland  
Playing Site for the 2016 World Bridge Games

Although thrilled to make the playoffs, our reward was to face Italy in the round of 16. Italy, one of the top teams in the event, had exercised its option of picking Canada as its opponent.

Early in the first of six playoff segments, Vul vs NVul, you pick up ♠ KJ85 ♥ AJ109 ♦ -- ♣ AQ863. You commence proceedings

with 2♣ (11-16 HCP, 5 or more clubs). Partner raises to 5♣ and you bid one more for the road. The auction has proceeded as follows:

<u>Partner</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>You</u>	<u>East</u>
--	--	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass

<sup>1</sup> Precision - 11-16HCP, 5 or more clubs

LHO leads the ♦K and you have to decide how to take 12 tricks on this layout:

Contract: 6♣ (diagram rotated to make South declarer)

Lead: ♦K

♠ 102  
♥ K  
♦ A98742  
♣ KJ104



♠ KJ85  
♥ AJ109  
♦ ---  
♣ AQ863

Option 1 is to try to make dummy good by setting up diamonds, pitching one of dummy's spades on the ♥A along the way. You need to keep the ♥K as a dummy entry to allow you to ruff diamonds.

Option 2 is to embark on a crossruff, reserving the possibility of switching tactics depending on how the play proceeds. In that scenario you need to cash the ♥K before the first diamond ruff.

There is also the issue of how trumps divide. Either line might be scuttled by a 4-0 break and even a 3-1 break is awkward.

Choosing Option 2, you win the ♦A pitching a spade, cash the ♥K and ruff a diamond (LHO follows with the ♦Q, somewhat meaningless given that the diamond layout is known to the defenders). Next you cash the ♥A, pitching a spade from dummy, and continue with the ♥9, West contributing the ♥6.

[continued next page]

## Italian Cooking (continued)

Hmm ... this presents you with the additional option of discarding the ♠10. Even if East wins the Queen and returns a trump you can revert to trying to set up diamonds. Surprisingly the ♥9 wins the trick. Now what?

The first step is to count your tricks. So far you have scored two diamonds (the Ace and a ruff) and three hearts. If you can score seven trump tricks your contract is secure and, if only you had the ♣9, the contract would be a lock. Oh well! You ruff a spade with the ♣4 and lead a diamond, East following with the ♦6.

If you carelessly ruff with the ♣6, West overruffs with the ♣7 and returns a trump. No matter how you twist and turn, there is no longer a path to 12 tricks.

However, if you take the precaution of ruffing with the ♣8, it holds the trick and you are home free since you can make the next five tricks on a high crossruff. The entire hand is:

Contract: 6♣

Lead: ♦K

♠ 102		
♥ K		
♦ A98742		
♣ KJ104		
♠ A743	♠ N	♠ Q96
♥ Q653	♥ W ■ E	♥ 8742
♦ KQ	♦ S	♦ J10653
♣ 752		♣ 9
	♠ KJ85	
	♥ AJ109	
	♦ ---	
	♣ AQ863	

Your counterpart at the other table failed to make 6♣ so Canada gained an important 16-IMP swing. This hand illustrates how crucial it is to make a plan, but stay flexible depending upon how matters develop. Furthermore, when your line of play is going smoothly try to play in a way that minimizes risk.

Against Italy we fell behind by 42 IMPs after two segments, but eventually clawed back those IMPs and more, winning by 36 to advance to the quarter-finals. There, we faced Monaco, a pro team that included Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness, the two top players on the World Bridge Federation masterpoint list. Sadly we failed to make the quarter-final match close and Canada retired at the end of five sets.

**Save the Date!**



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Rookie - Master Duplicate Swiss Teams

You're invited to a Valentine's Pot Luck Bridge Evening

**February 4, 2017, at 5:30 pm  
at Kerby Centre**

Plan to come out and join other Rookie players\* in a friendly and supportive environment. This event will give you an opportunity to experience the fun of Swiss Teams, a pleasant alternative to Pairs.

All you have to do is register and you will be paired with an experienced team player on a team of four (two Rookies and two Masters).

Watch the web site for final details, including information on how to register.

\* A Rookie is defined as a player having 100 or fewer Masterpoints who has never played in an A or X game.



P.S. Last year's event was a huge success with 28 teams participating.

"In those days he was wiser than he is now; he used to frequently take my advice."

Sir Winston Churchill

## Both Sides Series #2

By Dick Yuen

### Side A:

Consider your options as North holding these four hands:

Hand 1: ♠AK2 ♥QJ2 ♦A65 ♣K432

Hand 2: ♠AK2 ♥QJ2 ♦K65 ♣KJ32

Hand 3: ♠AK2 ♥QJ2 ♦Q65 ♣KQ32

Hand 4: ♠AK2 ♥QJ2 ♦J65 ♣KQJ2

Your opening bid is not a problem ... 1NT (15-17). East passes and your partner bids 2♣ Stayman. Now West overcalls 2♦. What do you bid on each of these hands?

If you are thinking of bidding 2NT with all of them, you have just wasted the golden opportunity presented to you by West! How is partner to know which of these hands you hold?

Your first priority is to answer partner's inquiry about any 4-card major. Without the overcall, you have to bid 2♦ to deny any 4-card major. With the overcall, you can actually tell partner much more about your hand!

With a 4-card major, just ignore the overcall and bid your major. Anything else denies a 4-card major.

Without a 4-card major, my suggestion is (from strongest to weakest):

- cue bid 3♦ to show ♦A
- bid 2NT to show ♦K
- double to show ♦Q with nothing higher (*not* penalty!)
- pass to show none of the top three diamond honours (should be treated as forcing one round)

Armed with this additional info, partner can better visualize how to proceed.

### Side B:

You as South, in third seat, hold the following:

♠Q109874 ♥AK109 ♦74 ♣A

The auction transpires 1NT by partner, pass by RHO to you. How do you proceed?

One possibility is to bid 2♥ (transfer to spades, showing 5+ spades). Then when partner bids 2♠ what will you do? Will you bid 3♥ to show your second suit? How many of each suit should you have for that sequence?

My suggestion is that **you** should take charge! The obvious clue is your singleton ♣A. It has become a 34 HCP deck. Furthermore, with your hand shape, you can count tricks much easier than partner.

Start with 2♣ Stayman to ask partner for a 4-card major. Who knows ... an unexpected windfall might follow.

The auction proceeds 1NT - Pass - 2♣ - 2♦ (by West).

Now, if your partner passes or doubles, showing no ♦A or ♦K, you can just bid 4♠. With 2 diamond losers, game is your limit.

If partner bids 2NT, showing ♦K, the prospect of a 6♠ contract is quite good (the ♦A is very likely to be onside).

If partner bids 3♦, showing ♦A, a spade grand slam becomes realistic!

But how should one investigate?

Introducing Dicks-Key-Cards (DKC), a combination of Exclusion Blackwood and Roman Key Card Blackwood.

In the above auctions where partner bids either 2NT or 3♦, 4NT is DKC asking.

Of course bidding Stayman does not always promise even one 4-card major. But launching DKC promises **both** majors or a self-sufficient major.

Respond to DKC in 7 steps while treating both majors as trumps! Ignore minors in your response (since ♦A/♦K have already been disclosed). Thus there are four key cards (the major Aces and Kings) and two critical queens in total:

- 5♣ = 1 key card + 0 or 1 queen
- 5♦ = 1 key card + 2 queens
- 5♥ = 2 key cards + 0 queens
- 5♠ = 2 key cards + 1 queen
- 5NT = 2 key cards + 2 queens
- 6♣ = 3 key cards + 0 queen
- 6♦ = 3 key cards + 1 queen (or better)

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# The Kibitzer - October 2016

As always, the captain decides the final contract!

After DKC, 5♥, 5♠, 6♥ or 6♠ is signoff. 5NT, if available, is additional minor-suit key card asking (A or K only). Do not include previously-shown diamond key cards.

Responses are in steps:

- 1<sup>st</sup> step = nothing additional
- 2<sup>nd</sup> step = 1 unshown key card
- etc.

If 5NT is unavailable, 6♣ is substituted.

Let us review the auctions for Hands 1 and 2:

## Hand 1:

♠ AK2  
♥ QJ2  
♦ A65  
♣ K432



♠ Q109874  
♥ AK109  
♦ 74  
♣ A

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2♣	2♦
3♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♦	Pass	7♠	All Pass

7♠ isn't cold but it is a high percentage slam.

## Hand 2:

♠ AK2  
♥ QJ2  
♦ K65  
♣ K432



♠ Q109874  
♥ AK109  
♦ 74  
♣ A

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2♣	2♦
2NT	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Without West's overcall, you might still reach a small slam, but with less confidence. Arriving in a grand slam would be difficult! One possible auction could be:

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♦	Pass	??	

3♥ = 2<sup>nd</sup> suit

3♠ = delayed preference

4♣, 4♦ = cue bids

4NT = your preferred Key Card ask

5♦ = 3 Key Cards

5NT = asks for Kings

6♦ = 1 King

This still leaves you uncertain about the ♥Q (you know the minor suits are all covered). I bet most will settle in 6♠.

With the ill-advised overcall, you can make West pay dearly, reaching a grand slam with confidence on Hand 1 using the suggestions as described.

In case of interference over 4NT:

- DBL (or RDBL) = 1<sup>st</sup> step
- pass = 2<sup>nd</sup> step
- then up the line for each subsequent step

## DKC Extension:

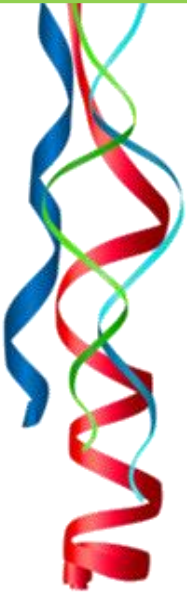
DKC can be applied after a Flannery 2♦ opening or if you play a 3♠ response to 1NT (15-17) to show a strong 5-5 in the majors. DKC is especially designed for known or implied two-suiters -- hands where there are two key suits.

## Upcoming Unit 390 Tournament Dates



Calgary Sectional (Clarion Hotel and Conference Centre) ....November 4 - 6, 2016  
Calgary Sectional .....January 6 - 8, 2017  
Calgary Sectional .....March 31 - April 2, 2017  
  
Edmonton Regional..... August 14 - 20, 2017  
Calgary Regional White Hat Regional..... July 16 - 20, 2018





Win, who continues to play a couple of times a week, is a Silver Life Master

## Winnifred Dolsen – 100 Years Young!

The Calgary bridge community paid homage to Centenarian Winnifred (Win) Dolsen at a luncheon on August 29th at the Bidwell Duplicate Bridge Club. A second tribute and luncheon was held at the South Calgary Ladies Bridge Club on September 9th.

Coming together to celebrate and pay tribute to a life well lived for 100 years is a monumental occasion that very few get to enjoy. On both occasions Win's multitude of bridge friends enjoyed being part of the experience. Not only is Win a living link to our history, but she exemplifies graceful aging and serves as an inspiration to all of us to remain engaged in life.



On display at both events were framed certificates of congratulations from Queen Elizabeth II and government officials from all across Canada.

*Photos courtesy Susan Julius, Unit 390 Photographer*

"An economist is an expert who will know tomorrow why the things he predicted yesterday didn't happen today."

Laurence J Peter  
Author of *The Peter Principle*

"An expert is a man who has made all the mistakes that can be made ... "

Niels Bohr  
Physicist

## A Routine 4♥?

By Gordon Campbell

An interesting hand arose at the Chinook Bridge Club Tuesday afternoon game. In a 19-table two-section game, this was Board 10, with the directions switched to make South declarer.

Contract: 4♥

Lead: ♦3

♠ J985	♠ 10764	♠ A2
♥ 10743	♥ AQ982	♥ 6
♦ K963	♦ J	♦ 108754
♣ K	♣ A43	♣ Q10852

♠ KQ3	♠ 10764	♠ A2
♥ KJ5	♥ AQ982	♥ 6
♦ AQ2	♦ J	♦ 108754
♣ J976	♣ A43	♣ Q10852

North	East	South	West
--	--	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4♥	All Pass

<sup>1</sup> Smolen showing 4 in the bid major and 5 in the other major

The Smolen convention can be a useful gadget to have in your bidding toolbox. When partner opens 1NT and responder has a 5-card major, the common treatment is to transfer to the major so that, if your side ends up playing in that denomination, the strong hand will be declarer. But what if responder also has 4 cards in the other major? It would make sense to use Stayman to try to locate a 4-4 fit. Smolen is a combination of both. Responder begins with Stayman and will immediately learn whether a 4-4 major fit exists (or even better, a 5-4 fit!). When partner bids 2♦, responder jumps in the shorter major as a game-forcing "optional transfer" to the longer major. Partner chooses the final contract.

Here, because South had 3-card support for partner's 5-card major, the major suit game was reached.

West led the ♦3 - not unreasonable, but not the best choice on this hand. Dummy's ♦J won and declarer took stock. Obviously something must be done with the spade suit, probably before trumps are drawn, in case dummy's fourth spade isn't a winner. Accordingly, declarer led the ♠4 toward his hand, and played the King which won the trick.

Although the King and Queen are equals one should always play the King to try to ferret out the position of the Ace. West is unlikely to duck holding the ♠A.

When the ♠K holds, it is reasonable to assume that East holds the ♠A. If spades are 3-3 or the ♠J is doubleton, you will lose just one trick in the suit. In all other situations, you'll have to ruff dummy's last spade to avoid two losers. But that runs the risk that one of the opponents will obtain their own third-round ruff.

Playing IMPs you are virtually guaranteed to take 10 tricks by simply drawing trumps and leading a spade toward your Queen. Matchpoints, however, encourages a player to be greedy.

Declarer balanced safety against greed by playing two rounds of trumps ending in dummy in order to lead another spade. If the opponents had been able to negotiate a third-round ruff with the outstanding trump (assuming trumps split 3-2), declarer would still have a trump left to ruff the fourth round.

The bad news in trumps was revealed when East discarded on the second round. At this point, declarer can play it safe for 10 tricks by pulling trumps, taking a club pitch on the ♦A and leading up to the ♠K. He will lose only three tricks. If declarer leads a spade and West can ruff the third round, the defender will be able to exit his last trump and declarer can no longer ruff the fourth round.

However, declarer took the risky line. He led a spade. East played the ♠A and returned a diamond to declarer's Ace (a club was pitched from the dummy). This was the position with seven cards to go:

♠ J9	♠ 107	♠ --
♥ 107	♥ Q98	♥ --
♦ K9	♦ --	♦ 1087
♣ K	♣ A4	♣ Q1085

♠ Q	♠ 107	♠ --
♥ J	♥ Q98	♥ --
♦ Q	♦ --	♦ 1087
♣ J976	♣ A4	♣ Q1085

[continued next page]



## A Routine 4♥? (continued)

There is still danger if the spades are not 3-3. If West has only two, East has erred by not giving West his ruff. Even if it is West who has four spades, the 4-1 trump break means that ruffing the fourth round of spades will promote West's ♥10.

But declarer spotted a line of play to neutralize West's trumps. He cashed the ♠K (breathing a sigh of relief when West followed) and ruffed the ♦Q to reduce dummy's trump length to match West's. Then he ruffed a spade with the ♥J, played a club to the Ace and exited with a club. In the two-card end position, North held the ♥Q9 over West's ♥107, and took the last two tricks.

The satisfying reward for visualizing the ending ... and risking the contract to achieve it ... was a score of 16 on a top of 17.



## 2015 Alberta Sectionals Masterpoint Race

Standings at September 18

1	92.46	Chris Galbraith	Calgary AB
2	85.85	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB
3	82.86	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB
4	80.34	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB
5	78.45	Ray Grace	Sherwood Park AB
6	73.29	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB
7	71.76	Perry Khakhar	Edmonton AB
8	71.25	Steve Lawrence	Calgary AB
9	65.66	Garry Karst	Edmonton AB
10	65.16	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB
11	63.30	Allan Simon	Calgary AB
12	59.32	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB
13	56.58	Frank Ayer	Calgary AB
14	56.50	Fi Nadir	Calgary AB
15	53.95	Bernie Lambert	Acme AB
16	50.90	Hart Leppard	Fernie BC
17	50.40	Bryant Town	Edmonton AB
18	48.97	Doug Mann	Calgary AB
19	48.66	Elsie Johnson	Calgary AB
20	47.97	Lee Barton	Edmonton AB
21	47.97	Lucille Barton	Edmonton AB
22	47.57	Gerry Marshall	Las Varas MX
23	46.28	Laurie Shapka Thiel	Red Deer AB
24	40.10	Warren Watson	Trail BC
25	37.73	Delores Hedley	Calgary AB

## John Hinde Retires as Unit 390 Journalist

After three years amusing us with his newsy, sometimes quirky, bi-monthly columns about the Calgary bridge scene, John Hinde has stepped down from his position as Unit Journalist.

John started writing "The Hinde Quarters" in September 2013, and has generated over 80 articles since then. He rarely writes about bridge conventions or hands. Instead, he reports about the people that keep Calgary's bridge community vibrant -- their comings and goings, their good deeds, whatever strikes his fancy.

And now, in John's words

*Finally ran out of stuff to go mumbling on about. It's all my fault, not playing as much bridge these days and not surprisingly, am not picking up on the gossip. ...*

*Why am I not playing so much as I used to? Six months ago Kathleen and I moved into a retirement home, Bonavista Village and now we find we have so many things to do that bridge has to take a back seat.*

Thank you John, for all the stories and anecdotes. You can check out "The Hinde Quarters" archive on the Unit 390 website by clicking on the "Bridge Café" link at the top of the page.

If you are interested in taking on the role of Unit Journalist, please contact the Unit President, John Sharpe.



## The President's Award



At each Sectional in the Unit 390 tournament cycle, the recipient of the President's Award is named. The award goes to the player who, over the course of the weekend, accumulates the most masterpoints in 199'er events. Winners are acknowledged at the annual Unit 390 trophy presentation and their names are engraved on the President's Award plaque.

The 199'er events are flighted. The President's Award can go to a player in any one of the flights.

Here is the report for the September sectional.

### September 2016

Two players tied for the President's Award - Morris Streich and Barry Rogerson, each with 5.90 masterpoints. Here is the full list of results:

#### Flight D (100 - 200):

1/2.	5.90	Morris Streich
1/2.	5.90	Barry Rogerson
3/4.	5.57	Richard Piette
3/4.	5.57	Tracy Horan

#### Flight E (50 - 100):

1.	3.76	Lisa O'Hara
2.	3.59	Brian Johns
3.	2.79	Harvey Wiehler

#### Flight F (0 - 50):

1/2.	3.50	Shehlata Mehta
1/2.	3.50	Pradip Mehta
3/4.	3.12	Joanna Zinter
3/4.	3.12	Sandra Evans

Congratulations to all! Well done.

Many thanks to our hard-working proof-readers: Janet and John Sharpe, Delores Hedley and Daniel Bertrand.

## Answers to Opening Lead Challenge

By Allan Simon

These problems were all lifted from the book "Winning Suit Contract Leads" by David Bird and Taf Anthias. The authors ran computer simulations on these and hundreds of other hands, to discover which leads are objectively the most successful. Here is what they found:

- Hand 1: By far your best chance is to lead the ♥A. This beats the contract over 30% of the time. The "safe" club lead works in just 20% of the cases.
- Hand 2: Your best hope is the ♠2 which will work over 18% of the time. The aggressive red suit leads rank much lower, even behind the passive club lead.
- Hand 3: No lead is likely to work, but the ♦Q is the only lead that gives you more than a 10% chance.
- Hand 4: The ♦A is a clear winner with a rate of success of over 20%. The super-aggressive ♣K comes in second, at 15%.
- Hand 5: The singleton ♥5 is by far your best lead at over 33%, although hearts are declarer's second suit! Nothing else comes close.

If you were as surprised by these results as I was, you should read this book and its companion volume "Winning Notrump Leads".

"It's not enough to win the tricks that belong to you. Try also for some that belong to the opponents."

Alfred Sheinwold

## It is Better to Be Lucky

By Daniel Bertrand

You are playing in a team game (seven boards, 20-point victory scale). You are vulnerable against non-vulnerable opponents. You pick up the following hand:

♠AJ ♥973 ♦AQJ8743 ♣9

Your left-hand opponent opens with 5♣. Your partner doubles. You are definitely beating 5♣ but you get a bonus for making a slam, so you bid 6♦. But your partner knows that there is a bigger bonus for a grand slam, so you end up in 7♦. You anxiously wait for the lead. Your left-hand opponent thinks for about 30 seconds and decides to lead a trump. You finally see the dummy:

Contract: 7♦

Lead: ♦5

♠ K862  
♥ AKJ8  
♦ K10962  
♣ ---

N
W ■ E
S

♠ AJ  
♥ 973  
♦ AQJ8743  
♣ 9

Good news, you have no fast loser. But you only have 12 tricks including a club ruff. You call for a small diamond from dummy as your right-hand opponent plays a club; you win in your hand. Well this takes care of trumps (You had 12 diamonds between your two hands). It is time to find your 13<sup>th</sup> trick.

You decide to play a small heart from your hand towards the dummy. On a good day, your LHO will play the ♥Q. But today, LHO shows out discarding a club. LHO started with 12 black cards!

There are now two ways to try to make this contract. Think about it.

The first way is to finesse a spade. Lead a spade from dummy to your ♠J. If this wins, cash the ♠A, ruff your club and pitch a heart on the ♠K. You have 13 tricks.

If you assume that your LHO started with fewer than four spades to open with 5♣, you have a 100% line to take 13 tricks. Think about it.

If LHO has fewer than four spades, then your RHO is the only one who has control of the fourth round of spades. And RHO is also the only opponent with control of hearts. So he can be put under pressure. Think about how you would do that.

You start by crossing to your hand in trumps and ruffing your small club. Then you play four more rounds of trumps. Watch how many hearts your RHO has left. (Hint: he started with six) Come down to the following position:

♠ K862  
♥ K  
♦ ---  
♣ ---

N
W ■ E
S

♠ AJ  
♥ 97  
♦ Q  
♣ ---

At this point, if your RHO has kept fewer than two hearts, cash the ♥K and the ♥9 is your 13<sup>th</sup> trick. If your RHO still has two hearts, then he must be down to three spades and had to discard one or two of them as you played some trumps. Cash the ♠A, then the ♠K and ruff the ♣6 with your last trump. Then cross to ♥K to cash your 13<sup>th</sup> trick: the ♠8. This was the full hand:

♠ K862  
♥ AKJ8  
♦ K10962  
♣ ---

♠ 975  
♥ ---  
♦ 5  
♣ AQJ1076432

N
W ■ E
S

♠ Q1043  
♥ Q106542  
♦ ---  
♣ K85

♠ AJ  
♥ 973  
♦ AQJ8743  
♣ 9

You have performed a trump squeeze. When I played this hand, I just finesse the ♠J. Hence the title of this article.

# The Kibitzer - October 2016

## 2016 Ace of Clubs Awards

### Unit 390 Race as of October 6th

<b>0 to 5</b>	1	Thomas Trafford	Calgary AB	30
	2	Danuta Trafford	Calgary AB	25
	3	Douglas Biles	Calgary AB	13
<b>5 to 20</b>	1	Katie Trafford	Calgary AB	35
	2	Margaret Willilams	Calgary AB	26
	3	Jacquelyn Lanz	Calgary AB	19
<b>20 to 50</b>	1	Raymond Dickinson	Calgary AB	52
	2	Inge French	Okotoks AB	23
	3	Tom Flanagan	Calgary AB	19
<b>50 to 100</b>	1	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	60
	2	Richard Piette	Calgary AB	42
	3	Jay Newtington	Calgary AB	37
<b>100 to 200</b>	1	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	64
	2	Judy Madge	Calgary AB	42
	3	Mary Anne Crookes	Calgary AB	34
<b>200 to 300</b>	1	Richard Bickley	Calgary AB	69
	2	Lorraine Somerville	Calgary AB	47
	3	Carol Thompson	Calgary AB	39
<b>300 to 500</b>	1	Linda Ellsworth	Calgary AB	32
	2	Bill Ellsworth	Calgary AB	32
	3	John Grubb	Calgary AB	30
<b>500 to 1000</b>	1	Dale Bercov	Calgary AB	80
	2	Judy McKeague	Bragg Creek AB	66
	3	Rosalyn Martin	Calgary AB	66
<b>1000 to 1500</b>	1	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	100
	2	Judy Elson	Calgary AB	72
	3	Gail Bews	Calgary AB	64
<b>1500 to 2500</b>	1	Jean Ward	Calgary AB	113
	2	Maged Wafa	Calgary AB	102
	3	Pauline Huculak	Calgary AB	101
<b>2500 to 3500</b>	1	Diane Campbell	Calgary AB	166
	2	Keith Moores	Calgary AB	118
	3	Tina Gokturk	Calgary AB	114
<b>3500 to 5000</b>	1	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	131
	2	Elaine Stewart	Calgary AB	120
	3	Perry Khakhar	Calgary AB	39
<b>5000 to 7500</b>	1	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	112
	2	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	60
	3	Donald Gladman	Calgary AB	55
<b>7500 to 10,000</b>	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	107
	2	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	8
	3	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	3
<b>Over 10,000</b>	1	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	8

## 2016 Mini-McKenney Awards

### Unit 390 Race as of October 6th

<b>0 to 5</b>	1	Thomas Trafford	Calgary AB	33
	2	Danuta Trafford	Calgary AB	28
	3	Douglas Biles	Calgary AB	16
<b>5 to 20</b>	1	Katie Trafford	Calgary AB	46
	2	Margaret Willilams	Calgary AB	29
	3	Catharine Moore	Calgary AB	25
<b>20 to 50</b>	1	Raymond Dickinson	Calgary AB	59
	2	Susan Wigmore	Calgary AB	40
	3	Terry Schreder	Calgary AB	37
<b>50 to 100</b>	1	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	91
	2	Richard Piette	Calgary AB	60
	3	Julie Larsen	Calgary AB	50
<b>100 to 200</b>	1	Shelley Mardiros	Banff AB	146
	2	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	76
	3	Judy Madge	Calgary AB	66
<b>200 to 300</b>	1	Richard Bickley	Calgary AB	131
	2	Marcia Andreychuk	Calgary AB	97
	3	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB	77
<b>300 to 500</b>	1	Michael Shuster	Banff AB	146
	2	Carole Kirk	Banff AB	93
	3	Keith Wallace	Calgary AB	90
		Pam Wallace	Calgary AB	90
<b>500 to 1000</b>	1	Shirley McLeod	Calgary AB	139
	2	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB	136
	3	Rolf Saetre	Calgary AB	128
<b>1000 to 1500</b>	1	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	232
	2	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	213
	3	Patrick Murphy	Calgary AB	156
<b>1500 to 2500</b>	1	Gamil Tadros	Calgary AB	192
	2	Jean Ward	Calgary AB	168
	3	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB	152
<b>2500 to 3500</b>	1	Diane Campbell	Calgary AB	174
	2	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	137
	3	Keith Moores	Calgary AB	129
<b>3500 to 5000</b>	1	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	222
	2	Frank Ayer	Calgary AB	159
	3	Elaine Stewart	Calgary AB	153
<b>5000 to 7500</b>	1	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	345
	2	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	231
	3	Donald Gladman	Calgary AB	185
<b>7500 to 10,000</b>	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	397
	2	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	371
	3	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	14
<b>Over 10,000</b>	1	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	381

## The Best Chance

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

"What is my best chance?" ... to make or defeat a contract ... is a question frequently faced during a competition. Sometimes the best chance involves factors beyond strictly technical considerations.

You pick up ♠KQ83 ♥5 ♦AQJ9 ♣QJ53 and partner surprises you by opening 1♣ (16+ HCP, artificial). The auction proceeds as follows:

South	West	North	East
--	--	1♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass
5NT <sup>4</sup>	Pass	6♦	All Pass

<sup>1</sup> Precision - strong (16+ HCP), forcing, artificial

<sup>2</sup> 4441 - 8 or more HCP with a singleton heart

<sup>3</sup> Wasted values in hearts with a minimum

<sup>4</sup> Pick a slam

LHO leads the ♥6 and you have to decide how to take 12 tricks:

Contract: 6♦

Lead: ♥6

♠	A65
♥	KQ873
♦	K542
♣	A

N		E
W	■	
	S	

♠	KQ83
♥	5
♦	AQJ9
♣	QJ53

There are several issues to consider. You have a sure heart loser so you will need some luck in terms of how trumps and side suits are splitting. One plan is to establish the dummy, playing for hearts to divide 4-3. However, it looks preferable to use the dummy's small trumps to ruff clubs rather than using your big trumps to ruff hearts. How might you fare trying to set up your own hand? One black suit loser can be discarded on the ♥Q. However, if you discard a spade on the ♥Q, you have an issue with hand entries to ruff all three of your club losers and return to draw trumps. Still, if the ♠K is doubleton or tripleton then you'll only need to ruff two clubs.

Alternatively, spades might split 3-3, in which case you can discard one of your club losers on the ♥Q and ruff two.

The opponents lead 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> (you might also see this described as 3<sup>rd</sup> from even, low from odd). We all know about the rule of 11 (subtract the spot card led from 11 and that tells you how many higher cards there are in the hands of the other three players), but few people understand how to adjust for a different lead system. When the opponents lead 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, you use the rule of 10 or 12. In essence if you think that the opponent has led third-best, you use the rule of 12 and if you think the lead was fifth-best, you use the rule of 10. You may well ask why this is true. The rule of 11 works because there are exactly three cards higher in opening leader's hand. If an opponent leads third-best then there are only two cards higher in opening leader's hand therefore you use the rule of 12. Conversely use the rule of 10 (because there are four cards higher in opening leader's hand) when you suspect he/she has led fifth-best.

There seems to be too many snags associated with setting up your hand, so you opt to play for hearts to split 4-3. You can put pressure on RHO while embarking on this plan. Instead of playing the ♥K, you play low from dummy. It is almost impossible that LHO has underled the ♥A knowing you have a singleton. If RHO wins the first trick cheaply, you can take a ruffing finesse against the ♥A later.

The spotlight is now on RHO, an experienced and successful competitor. After five minutes of thought RHO plays the ♥A and noticeably slumps in his chair when you produce the ♥5. The rest of the play is trivial, the four hands being:

Contract: 6♦

Lead: ♥6

♠	A65
♥	KQ873
♦	K542
♣	A

♠	J97
♥	J962
♦	863
♣	942

N		E
W	■	
	S	

♠	KQ83
♥	5
♦	AQJ9
♣	QJ53

♠	1042
♥	A104
♦	107
♣	K10876

[continued next page]



There are several points of interest:

- by losing a heart trick immediately, it will be relatively safe to establish the suit by taking a ruffing finesse against East on the second round of hearts (before drawing all the trumps)
- putting pressure on the opponents occasionally causes them to err thus making your task easier
- if the opponents had been playing 4<sup>th</sup> best leads, West would lead the ♥2 and East would have no way of knowing whether or not to play the ♥A (11-2 = 9 and East can only see eight higher cards)
- in this case, because East knows his partner has exactly 4 hearts and has therefore led 3<sup>rd</sup> best, using the rule of 12 makes it clear that playing the ♥10 is correct (12-6 = 6)
- even the most experienced players have trouble regaining their focus after an unsettling result (RHO could not be sure that declarer would have succeeded had he played the ♥10 and fretted about his play for several hands)

Making 6♦ was worth 14 IMPs because our counterparts landed in a hopeless 6NT contract. The swing helped us establish a commanding lead in the 2016 Canadian National Team Championship final.

During the same match you as East hold

♠9 ♥K74 ♦Q95 ♣A86432

and you are silent while the opponents produce this auction:

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

<sup>1</sup> 0 or 3 keycards

Partner leads the ♣J and West tables the dummy:

Contract: 5♥

Lead: ♣J

♠ KJ7	
♥ Q2	
♦ J86	
♣ KQ975	
	♠ 9
	♥ K74
	♦ Q95
	♣ A86432

Declarer plays the ♣K and follows with the ♣10 when you win the Ace. Now what?

If you return a club for partner to ruff then she can take whichever side Ace she has. But given the auction, is she

really likely to have an Ace? Furthermore, declarer, having lost two tricks already, will have to take desperate measures to make his contract. He'll need to take the trump finesse, but he may not have the required two spade entries to dummy ... one to play trumps and one to return for pitches. This might steer him to the winning line: finesse partner for the ♠Q in order to finesse you for the ♥K.

Instead of giving your partner a club ruff you could return the ♠9. But declarer may play Ace and another heart to prevent a spade ruff. You will score the ♥K, but partner likely won't have a trump remaining so the club ruff is lost.

After thinking through all the possibilities you choose to return a low diamond. Declarer wins the ♦A and plays a low heart to the ♥Q and your ♥K. Now you finally return a club and declarer's ♥9 is overruffed by partner's ♥10. You collect +100.

As it turns out declarer didn't take the best line of play, the four hands being:

Contract: 5♥

Lead: ♣J

♠ KJ7			
♥ Q2			
♦ J86			
♣ KQ975			
♠ Q6542			♠ 9
♥ 103			♥ K74
♦ 107432			♦ Q95
♣ J			♣ A86432

With clubs providing two pitches for losing spades, the correct line of play is the ♥A and a low heart. This holds the trump losers to one whenever the hearts are 3-2 or if either the ♥K or ♥10 is singleton. Declarer cannot handle K10xx of trumps with East, and to cater to East holding K10xx requires declarer to finesse against the ♠Q, then advance specifically the ♥Q from dummy (an unrealistic line of play).

As is evident, if you had given partner a club ruff declarer would have been forced to take the winning line of play. Similarly a spade return by you would have given declarer two winning lines of play (finesse for the ♥K or play Ace and another heart). By not alerting declarer that something bad might happen, you ended up with an unexpected plus.

Alas your partners were in 6♥ so it was a push board! Nevertheless it illustrates that everyone makes mistakes and if you give an opponent the opportunity to err, it increases your chances of winning.

## Member Milestones

The following members have reached new masterpoint milestones since the beginning of April 2016. Congratulations to all on their achievements.



### New Junior Masters (5+ MPs):

Beverley Erickson	Pradip Mehta
Philippa Fitzgerald-Finch	Bill Montague
David Gouad	Lynn Sinclair
Lorraine Hanchar	Sunil Verma
Margaret Herron	William Webster
David Ho	Richard Wolfe
Conrad Kathol	

### New Club Masters (20+ MPs with at least 5 black)

Sheila Bailey	Catharine Moore
Sandra Evans	Maxine Rystephanick
John Finlay	Danuta Trafford
Kathryne Foster	Katie Trafford
Joe Lovecky	Thomas Trafford
Michael McDonough	Margaret Williams

### New Sectional Masters (50+ MPs with at least 10 black and 5 silver)

Cheryl Bourne	Barbara Martin
Heather Chamberlain	Bruce Massie
Raymond Dickinson	Anne Olthof
Garry Hanson	Terry Schreder
Carol Lamb	Greg Uchacz
Colin Macqueen	Susan Wigmore

### New Regional Masters (100+ MPs with at least 15 black, 15 silver and 5 red, gold or platinum)

Richard Degroat	Andrea Killackey
Wei Deng	Julie Larsen
Osama Elshafey	Brent Muir
Wayne Gillis	Linda Peacock
Karen Hagg	Helen Webster

### New NABC Masters (200+ MPs with at least 20 black, 25 silver, 5 gold or platinum and 15 additional red, gold or platinum)

Pamela Caravan	Dan Owen-Keith
Mary Anne Crookes	Lorraine Somerville
Shelley Mardiros	Lynn Warner
Patricia Martin	

### New Advanced NABC Masters (300+ MPs with at least 50 black, 50 silver, 25 gold or platinum and 25 additional red, gold or platinum)

Richard Bickley	Pam Wallace
Keith Wallace	

### New Life Masters (500+ MPs with at least 75 black, 75 silver, 50 gold or platinum and 50 additional red, gold or platinum)

Mike Blancher	Rolf Saetre
Lorraine Curr	Michael Shuster
John D Aguiar	Linda Wallace
Janice Gordon	

### New Bronze Life Masters (a Life Master with 750+ MPs; 500+ for members prior to Jan. 1, 2010)

Mark Beduz	Carole Kirk
Joan Dupuis	Caenie Pyrcz

### New Silver Life Masters (1000+ MPs; a Life Master with at least 200 pigmented points)

Caroline Colliver	Valerie Ling
Clarende Duby	Jack Sisko
Donna Gorda	Connie Wignall

### New Ruby Life Masters (1500+ MPs; a Life Master with at least 300 pigmented points)

Dave Adelman	Marilyn Wiggins
Judy Elson	

### New Gold Life Masters (2500+ MPs; a Life Master with at least 500 pigmented points)

Maged Wafa
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### New Sapphire Life Masters (3500+ MPs; a Life Master with at least 350 gold or platinum and 350 additional pigmented points)

Keith Moores
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## **Joint Winners of the Jack Murphy Award Dave and Marilyn Swadron**

The Jack Murphy Builders Award honours Unit members in recognition of their service to the Calgary bridge community. This year it was a privilege to award the trophy to Dave and Marilyn Swadron, our Unit Webmaster and District 18 GNT Coordinator respectively.

On May 19th, at the Bridge Nutz Bridge Club, Jim Murphy and Delores Hedley presented the trophy to Dave (in absentia) and Marilyn Swadron.



As much as those in attendance at the Bridge Nutz Club showed their appreciation, it was also important to spread the word to all Unit members so they too could express their recognition and gratitude. Accordingly, on June 19th, Delores sent the following notice to the membership.

**To: All Unit 390 Members**  
**From: Delores Hedley**

*Dave and Marilyn deserve to be admired, valued and thanked by every member of our Unit. Their countless and unrewarded hours dedicated to creating and maintaining the Unit 390 website are second to none. We take our website for granted when looking for game results, upcoming events, notices, pictures, newsletters, teaching material, etc. Our website stores the working documents of your Unit Board – the bylaws, the meeting minutes, policies, job description, our Kibitzers, etc. This is only made possible by the commitment of Dave and Marilyn.*

*There is also the work Marilyn does as the ACBL District Coordinator of the Grand National Teams. District 18 encompasses Alberta, Saskatchewan, Montana, Idaho, Utah and parts of Wyoming. With Marilyn at the helm, things get done and results are achieved to her exacting standards. Our District's online GNT playoffs have become a model for other districts to follow. Within our own Unit, Marilyn has taught bridge, mentored players and provides a wealth of information related to the workings of the ACBL, the District and our Unit.*

*Dave and Marilyn are genuinely worthy recipients of the Jack Murphy Builders Trophy.*



## Robot Envy

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Computer Bridge - playing bridge using computer programs - is still in its infancy compared to, say, computer chess. The first programs emerged in the early 1990s but it is the last 15 years that have seen major progress.

In his book, *Bridge, My Way* (1992), Zia offered a £1 million bet that no four-person team of his choosing would be beaten by a computer. A few years later the bridge program *GIB (Ginsberg's Intelligent Bridgeplayer)*, brainchild of American computer scientist Matthew Ginsberg, proved capable of amazingly expert declarer plays. In 1996, Zia withdrew his bet.

The robots used on BBO are GIBs and GIB is widely considered to be one of the best computer bridge programs ever created. According to BBO administrators, it is occasionally capable of brilliance but it is also occasionally capable of some really poor bids and plays and sometimes does something totally crazy. Just like humans! The BBO guys believe that GIB plays at least as well as the average BBO member; in simulations of a duplicate tournament setting, the robots currently average around 55%. As a BBO member, you can play a game with 3 robots. Two BBO members can even play against one another for money! Money Bridge on BBO pits one human-robot partnership against another human-robot partnership -- no chance of illicit collaboration with a robot!

The challenge of creating a bridge-playing program is complicated because bridge is a game of incomplete information. At the start of a deal, the information available to each player is limited to just the 13 cards s/he sees. During the bidding and the subsequent play, more information becomes available via the bidding, the cards exposed when dummy comes down, and the cards played to each trick. However, it is only at the end of the deal that full information is obtained.

Today's top-level bridge programs tackle this problem by randomly generating many sample hands that fit with the available information. Next, a double-dummy solver is used to determine, for each sample hand, the result of different lines of play against optimal defense. The line of play that generates the best score averaged over all samples is selected as the optimal play.

While a double-dummy solver is an integral part of every bridge-playing program, it is a very different beast. The solver analyzes using perfect information - it peeks! Declarer and

both defenders know all the cards in every hand from the start. When the game is simplified that way, many sophisticated game search methods can be used to determine the projected outcome, assuming that the defenders and declarer play as well as possible.

In 1997, the first World Computer Bridge Championship took place at the Albuquerque NABC and the event has been conducted every year since, under the leadership of Al Levy, ACBL Board of Directors member. Bridge Baron won that first championship, and GIB won the next two. Since 2001, Jack, (developed in the Netherlands) has dominated, with 10 victories.

*"For me the most amusing thing is observing the developers watching their creations play. It's like seeing a parent's pride when their child takes their first steps. The anxiety is great and when a good play is made the excitement is unbounded. We have a rule in bridge...no gloating or high-fiving but here we allow it, as well as an occasional explicative when the play goes badly."*

Al Levy commenting on the World Computer Bridge Championship

The 2016 Championship was staged in Wroclaw, Poland, in conjunction with the recently concluded World Bridge Games. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Jack was unable to compete in the Wroclaw event. This year's championship was won by Wbridge5 out of France.

Whether bridge-playing programs will ever reach and sustain world-class level remains to be seen. However, based on the next page's deal as reported in Poland, we wish we played like robots!



Action from the 2016 World Computer Bridge Championship  
Photo from <http://computerbridge.com/>

## Bots Battle to the Last Byte

by Al Levy

extracted from the Daily Bulletin Issue No. 14  
15<sup>th</sup> World Bridge Games, Wroclaw Poland

The 20th Ourgame World Computer Bridge Championship concluded with Wbridge5 (France) defeating Micro Bridge (Japan), 162 - 156, for the bridge-robot world title. All the semi-final and final matches came down to the last few boards with some exciting deals determining the outcome. In the semi-final matches Wbridge5 defeated Shark Bridge (Denmark) by the margin of the carryover, 140.6 - 131. Micro Bridge defeated Bridge Baron (USA) 144 - 138.

One of the best-played deals in the history of the robot championship occurred early in the semi-final round.

Board 4. West. None Vul.

♠ 532	♠ 532	♠ 532	♠ 532
♥ AQJ4	♥ AQJ4	♥ AQJ4	♥ AQJ4
♦ Q3	♦ Q3	♦ Q3	♦ Q3
♣ A653	♣ A653	♣ A653	♣ A653
♠ AQ6	♠ AQ6	♠ AQ6	♠ AQ6
♥ K8732	♥ K8732	♥ K8732	♥ K8732
♦ 10	♦ 10	♦ 10	♦ 10
♣ QJ84	♣ QJ84	♣ QJ84	♣ QJ84
♠ J10984	♠ J10984	♠ J10984	♠ J10984
♥ 105	♥ 105	♥ 105	♥ 105
♦ J74	♦ J74	♦ J74	♦ J74
♣ K107	♣ K107	♣ K107	♣ K107
♠ K7	♠ K7	♠ K7	♠ K7
♥ 96	♥ 96	♥ 96	♥ 96
♦ AK98652	♦ AK98652	♦ AK98652	♦ AK98652
♣ 92	♣ 92	♣ 92	♣ 92

West	North	East	South
Shark	Wb5	Shark	Wb5
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♦
2♠	DBL	Pass	3♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Db1 Strength and 4+ clubs

3♥ Spade stopper, looking for a heart stopper for notrump

5♦ One ace

West led the ♣Q. As the cards lie, there is only one sequence of plays to make 6♦ and the bidding suggests the successful line. With West long in hearts, without the ♠K, therefore the ♠A, a heart - spade squeeze without rectifying the count is the winning line.

Diamonds can be 2-2 or 3-1, and you must decide which, as you will need two entries to hand -- one to take a heart

finesse and one to run the diamonds. Given West's length in hearts and spades, Wbridge5 determined that West holding a singleton diamond honor (jack or 10) was more likely than a 2-2 break.

The play proceeded: ♣A, ♦Q overtaken with the ace, heart finesse, diamond finesse and run diamonds. This was the five-card end position:

♠ 53	♠ 53	♠ 53	♠ 53
♥ AQ4	♥ AQ4	♥ AQ4	♥ AQ4
♦ ---	♦ ---	♦ ---	♦ ---
♣ ---	♣ ---	♣ ---	♣ ---
♠ AQ	♠ AQ	♠ AQ	♠ AQ
♥ K87	♥ K87	♥ K87	♥ K87
♦ ---	♦ ---	♦ ---	♦ ---
♣ ---	♣ ---	♣ ---	♣ ---
♠ J10	♠ J10	♠ J10	♠ J10
♥ 10	♥ 10	♥ 10	♥ 10
♦ ---	♦ ---	♦ ---	♦ ---
♣ K10	♣ K10	♣ K10	♣ K10
♠ K7	♠ K7	♠ K7	♠ K7
♥ 9	♥ 9	♥ 9	♥ 9
♦ 2	♦ 2	♦ 2	♦ 2
♣ 9	♣ 9	♣ 9	♣ 9

When South played the ♦2, West had no good discard. At the table, West discarded the ♠Q, declarer dummy's ♥4. Declarer led a spade to West's ace and the heart return was won by the queen: +1370 and 15 IMPs as Shark Bridge was in 3♦ for +150.

Congratulations to Wbridge5 for a fine victory and to Micro Bridge for a good battle in the final.



Action from the 2016 World Computer Bridge Championship  
Photo from <http://computerbridge.com/>