

Editors: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

President's Message

Hello bridge players.

The next main event for ACBL Unit 390 is our Annual General Meeting that will be held at the Kerby Centre on Saturday, May 13th. There will be a light lunch at 11:00 a.m., meeting at 11:45 a.m. followed by an open pairs game. Cost is \$5 including lunch and table money. Please register with Tracy Horan by e-mail at tracyhoran@shaw.ca.

The resignations of Brian Johns, Dorothy Mersereau and Marcel Claeys have left three board director positions to be filled for two-year terms: vice president, tournament coordinator and information officer. Many thanks to Brian, Dorothy and Marcel for their contributions to the running of the Unit. The position of vice president has been taken on by Carrie Stockman and Caroleigh Houghton has agreed to stand for the position of information officer.

That leaves the position of tournament coordinator, which is very important and has the responsibility for confirming venue availability for the four sectional tournaments per year, arranging sanctions, ensuring the supplies in the unit trailer are delivered to the venue, arranging for food services, caddies and the partnership desk. Fortunately, for the next two years the venue has been booked at the Clarion Hotel so that helps matters considerably. If you are interested in this position please contact me (john.sharpe@telus.net) or any board member.

The Spring Sectional was a success attracting a total of 270 tables compared with 265 in 2016. Congratulations to future masters President's Award winner Richard Piette who earned a record 11.82 masterpoints.

It is with great sorrow that I report that David Swadron passed away Sunday, April 9th. He was the Unit 390 webmaster for many years until his illness forced him to retire. David and his wife Marilyn were awarded the Jack Murphy Memorial Trophy last year, in recognition of their lifetime service to the Calgary bridge community. He will be missed.

John Sharpe President, Unit 390

Did you know



The Joker was introduced as the 53rd card in a standard deck in the U.S.A sometime in the late 1800s. The card has since found a place in a host of games that use wild cards.

Many people love to collect jokers. If you'd like to read more, check out Jude Goodwin's wonderful Great Bridge Links article entitled "Collecting the Little Fool" at http://greatbridgelinks.com/collecting-little-fool/

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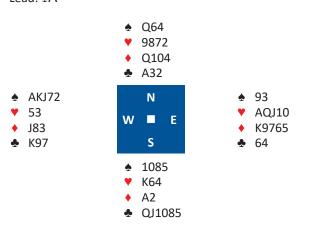
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It's Just a 2♣ Contract!

By Gordon Campbell

Recently, playing in a matchpoint event, I encountered an interesting low-level contract. The thing about matchpoints is that every hand is of equal importance, whether you are playing in 24 or 7NT.

No One Vulnerable Contract: 2♣ Lead: ♠A



<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u> (Gordon)	West
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
DBI	Pass	2♣	All Pass

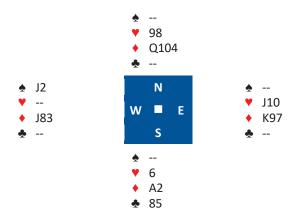
Playing matchpoints induced me to open 1♣ in 3rd seat -- after all I did have the third best hand at the table ⁽¹⁾. My partner's negative double made it hard for East to know what to do with his hand, although redouble seems like a sensible choice. Thus I ended up playing in a lowly 2♣ contract.

West started by cashing the ♠AK and then leading the ♠7 for his partner to ruff. As you can see West played neither his highest nor his lowest remaining spade, the former to suggest a heart return and the latter, to suggest diamonds. The middle spade tells partner that it is up to him to decide what suit to return. Perhaps West should have returned the ♠J to help partner avoid the potentially disastrous diamond return.

After ruffing the spade, East was in the spotlight. His best bet was to lead the ♥Q hoping that declarer might be afraid that

West held the ♥A. Why the ♥Q and not the ♥A? At this early stage of the hand, declarer has no idea who has the minor suit Kings so he might be fooled into thinking the ♥A is offside (if it is doubleton, he can duck twice). Admittedly there is a small risk that declarer has the singleton ♥K, but the positives of leading the ♥Q (not the least of which is maintaining communication between West and East whenever West holds only two hearts) far outweigh that risk.

At the table East led the ♥A, then the ♥Q. After winning the ♥K, I led the ♣Q covered by West's King. That allowed me to return to hand in trumps and pull West's remaining ones, leaving this five-card end position:



When I played my last two trumps, pitching two hearts from dummy, East was caught in a squeeze and I could not be prevented from scoring two of the last three tricks. East couldn't throw two hearts because that would make my ♥6 good. If he threw two diamonds, I would be able to drop his now singleton ◆K. So, when he discarded a diamond and a heart, I could throw him in with a heart to lead away from his ♠V.

Note that if West refuses to cover either the ♣Q or ♣J declarer can still pull trumps, but will be stuck in the dummy. The only quick entry back to hand is a diamond and using the ◆A ruins the squeeze position. Not an easy situation for the defense to spot so early in the play.

Test Your Declarer Play

By Dan Bertrand

Please try the following hands. You are playing from the West seat. You are playing a team event and want to find the best chance to make your contract.

Hand 1:

- ♠ KQJ76
- **♥** K32
- **♦** J3
- ♣ KQ2



- **▲** 10952
- **♥** A74
- ♦ KQ2
- ♣ J53

Contract: 4♠

North leads the ♥Q. South plays the ♥9 (using standard signals).

Hand 2:

- ▲ AQJ106
- AK
- ♦ A762
- **♣** J2
- N W ■ E S
- **▲** K94
- ♥ 642♦ K54
- **9864**

Contract: 4♠

North leads the ♥Q. South plays the ♥9 (using standard signals).

Hand 3:

- ♠ AKJ1076
- **y** J9
- 54
- AK4



- **♠** Q84
- 742KQJ
- **9862**

Contract: 4♠

North leads the ♥A, ♥K and ♥Q. South follows with the ♥3, ♥5 and ♥8. North has only one spade.

Hand 4:

- ♠ AK762
- **y** 10
- **♦** 86
- **4** 105432
- N W ■ E S
- **▲** 103
- **♥** A632
- ♦ AK32
- **\$** 976

Contract: 2♠

North leads the ♥Q. South plays the ♥9 (using standard signals).

Please turn to page 12 for the solutions.

2016 Alberta Sectionals Masterpoint Race

Final Standings

1	136.02	Chris Galbraith	Calgary AB
2	122.10	Dan Bertrand	Calgary AB
3	122.10	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB
4	116.30	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB
5	115.63	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB
6	100.92	Allan Simon	Calgary AB
7	97.67	Perry Khakhar	Calgary AB
8	82.82	Lee Barton	Edmonton AB
9	82.82	Lucille Barton	Edmonton AB
10	81.85	Abdul Fakih	Calgary AB
11	78.45	Ray Grace	Sherwood Park AB
12	74.00	Fi Nadir	Calgary AB
13	73.77	Steve Lawrence	Calgary AB
14	71.14	Doug Mann	Calgary AB
15	68.46	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB
16	66.89	Garry Karst	Edmonton AB
17	60.65	Barry Pritchard	Edmonton AB
18	56.58	Frank Ayer	Calgary AB
19	53.95	Bernie Lambert	Acme AB
20	53.32	Jean Ward	Calgary AB
21	50.90	Hart Leppard	Fernie BC
22	50.90	Bryant Town	Edmonton AB
23	49.89	Elsie Johnson	Calgary AB
24	49.76	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB
25	49.12	Laurie Shapka Thiel	Red Deer AB

"The scientific theory that I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline baggage."

> Mark Russell Writer

Both Sides Series #3

by Dick Yuen

Bridge players can reap huge rewards by applying Sherlock Holmes' famous logic regarding "the dog that did not bark" [See below - Eds]. The bids partner has not made or has bypassed carry crucial information.

Side A:

You are North in 3rd seat holding

♠ K76 ♥ 76 ♦ K76 ♣ AQJ76

The auction has proceeded:

<u>South</u>	West	North (You)	<u>East</u>
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	??	Pass

What comes to mind?

First of all, 3NT is <u>not</u> a signoff once a double fit is confirmed. In general it should be shape and honour showing. The initial message imparted by 3NT is that opener has no singletons or voids. The second message implies honour(s) in the red suits.

What do you know so far?

- Partner has five spades and club support. With only three clubs, partner must have an honour, in this case the King.
 With three small clubs, he might have tried 2♠ or 2NT.
- Partner elected to bid 3♣ rather than an immediate 2♠.
 This choice suggests a full opening since you have agreed that, with marginal values, you bid 2♠ to slow down the auction -- ergo "the dog that didn't bark".

What should you bid next?

- 4♠ or 5♠ gives no new information to partner and is a signoff.
- 4* is forward going, giving partner room to cue bid one
 of the red suits. The drawback is that no new information
 has been provided to partner.
- 4• shows a diamond control, theoretically 1st round control. It tells partner that you have slam interest.
 [The Italian Blue Team was highly successful bidding slams because of their flexible 1st or 2nd round control approach to cue bidding Eds].

You decide to lie and bid 4♦. LHO doubles and partner cooperates by cue bidding 4♥, showing the ♥A (definitely not a void otherwise his 3NT bid makes no sense).

What is next? You can smell a slam now assuming normal breaks i.e. you hope for 10 tricks in the black suits plus the ♥A. Other important cards are the red Queens. You suspect your LHO's double shows diamond high cards. You know it is likely the ♦A and maybe the ♦Q, but your partner does not.

Everything hinges on your agreements regarding 4NT when two suits have been bid and raised. What is 4NT?

- regular Blackwood for the number of Aces?
- Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKCB) for clubs?
- RKCB for spades?

Does the response include the already-shown ♥A? The following table summarizes partner's possible responses assuming 1430 responses to RKCB (you can see his hand in the Side B section):

Blackwood Type	▼ A counts	▼ A doesn't count
Regular Ace-asking	5♥ = 2 Aces	5♦ = 1 additional Ace
RKCB - Clubs	5♥ = 3 Keycards	5♥ = 2 Keycards
RKCB - Spades	5♠ = 2 Kevcards + ♠Q	5♣ = 1 Kevcard*

* ♣K, ♠Q cannot be confirmed

The above table highlights the importance of having firm partnership agreements.

My suggestion is to use Dick's Keycard asking (DKC) as described in Both Sides Series #2 which appeared in the October 2016 issue of The Kibitzer. It covers the situation when two suits have been bid and raised.

DKC is a combination of exclusion Blackwood and RKCB with four key cards (KC) along with two Queens in the two suits. For the time being, aces and kings in the other two suits are ignored. The responses are:

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)

Playing 4NT DKC partner responds 5♣, the 4th step. In this case you know exactly which key cards partner has (♠AQ and ♠K). Together with the ♥A this accounts for 13 HCP in partner's hand. Partner's bidding implies 5233, 5323 or 5224 distribution with no void or singleton, but he has guaranteed eight or nine cards in the black suits. Partner is likely to have some other honour, but definitely not the ◆A. The DKC 5NT inquiry (to ask for key cards in the other suits that have not already been shown) does not fare well here since the 6♣ (0) or 6♦ (1) responses leave you poorly placed. In the first case

Both Sides Series #3 (continued)

you still aren't sure whether partner has a red queen; in the second, partner's ♥K forces you to the wrong-sided contract of 6♠.

What should you do? You definitely want to be in slam but the lead-directing double of your 4♦ cue bid should steer you away from 6♠. Still, partner might have the ♦Q or the ♥Q, which gives you additional chances for 12 tricks. You bid 6♠ and leave it to partner.

Side B:

As South in 1st seat you open 1♠ holding:

♠ AQ1098 ▼ A32 ◆ Q2 ♣ K98

The auction continues:

South (You)	West	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
1♠	Pass	2.	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	DBL 1
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6 ♣ ²	Pass
??			Pass

What should you do - pass or correct to the higher-scoring 6♠ contract. The clues are:

- 1 The dog barked here -- East doubled for a diamond lead and partner's choice of 6♣ suggests he may be worried about that lead
- 2 The dog didn't bark here Partner did not follow up with 5NT after your 5♣ response. If partner knew your side had all the key cards and he had the ◆A as well, he had a risk-free continuation of 5NT. If you had additional kings in the red suits a grand slam would be possible assuming normal breaks in the black suits.

Therefore North must have only the ◆K. Since you have the ◆Q bidding 6♠ becomes a no-brainer.

Further challenge:

If you had opened 1NT instead of 1♠ can your partnership reach slam in either black suit? I leave this to the readers.

The non-barking dog refers to an incident from Conan Doyle's short story "Silver Blaze" which contains the following exchange between the famous sleuth and a Scotland Yard detective:

Gregory (Scotland Yard detective): "Is there any other point to which you would wish to draw my attention?"

Holmes: "To the curious incident of the dog in the night-time."

Gregory: "The dog did nothing in the night-time."

Holmes: "That was the curious incident."

Holmes reasons that the dog knew the intruder and goes on to solve the case.

2016 Zone V Mini-Richmond Races

Final Standings

The Mini-Richmond awards were introduced in 2012. The awards recognize Canadian Bridge

Federation members who win the most masterpoints in the calendar year in each of the masterpoint categories, up to and

including Diamond Life Master (5000 to

7500 MP). Each category winner in each of the six CBF zones receives a special pin. In addition, overall national winners receive a certificate recognizing their achievement.

Calgary Unit 390 is part of Zone V, which encompasses Alberta, Saskatchewan and Northern Manitoba. For 2016, Unit 390 players were winners in 11 of 13 masterpoint categories and others placed in the top three positions. In categories not appearing below, the top three positions went to players from outside Unit 390.

Brent Muir was the overall national winner in the 50 to 100 category. Congratulations Brent!

0 to 5	1	Thomas Trafford	Calgary AB	41
	2	Danuta Trafford	Calgary AB	39
	3	Deanna Downton	Calgary AB	19
5 to 20	1	Katie Trafford	Calgary AB	69
	3	Margaret Williams	Calgary AB	46
20 to 50	1	Susan Wigmore	Calgary AB	49
	3	Terry Schreder	Calgary AB	37
50 to 100	1 3	Brent Muir Richard Piette	Calgary AB Calgary AB	116 77
100 to 200	1	Judy Madge	Calgary AB	91
	2	Mary Anne Crookes	Calgary AB	84
	3	Sharon Mansell	Calgary AB	66
200 to 300	1	Richard Bickley	Calgary AB	151
	3	Andy McKaig	Calgary AB	96
300 to 500	1	Michael Shuster	Banff AB	170
500 to 1000	1	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB	212
	3	Dale Bercov	Calgary AB	171
1000 to 1500	1	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	269
	2	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	247
1500 to 2500	2	Jean Ward David Johnson	Calgary AB Calgary AB	268 231
3500 to 5000	1	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	276
5000 to 7500	1	Abdul Fakih Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB Calgary AB	488 341

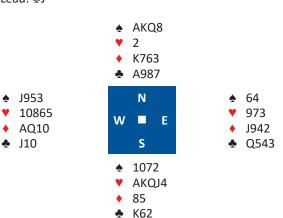
High Stakes Poker, Wait ... I Mean Bridge

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Entering the last match of a Swiss Team event our team was leading the field, but our closest competitor had a relatively easy match while our opponents were strong and fancied their chances to overtake both teams. As you can imagine, this scenario had all the ingredients to generate unusual outcomes.

At our table the match had been rather uneventful, but generally positive. The situation at the other table was unclear for our partners "the Vinnies" (Vince Lambert and Vince Nowlan). The last board hit the table and, with both sides looking to score a knockout blow, the following auction arose:

Both Vulnerable Contract: 2◆xx Lead: ♣J



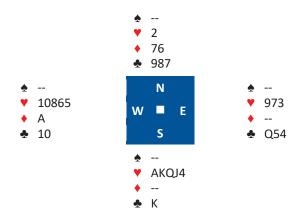
<u>Vince</u> <u>Nowlan</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>Vince</u> <u>Lambert</u>	West
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2 • ¹	DBL^2
RDBL	Pass	Pass ³	Pass

- (1) 4th suit artificial and game forcing
- (2) I am going to help partner find the best lead
- (3) I have lots of points -- maybe I can make this

Nowlan-Lambert typically open 1♣ holding 4-4 in the minors when an easy rebid of 1♠ is available. When Vince Lambert

chose to bid the fourth suit as an artificial game force West saw an opportunity to intervene. Vince Nowlan had a perfect hand to redouble. Both West's double and Vince Lambert's pass were eccentric at best and potentially suicidal at worst. Suffice to say that the outcome would determine the winner of the event.

West led the ♣J won in dummy with the Ace. Three top spades followed, East ruffing the third spade with the ◆2. The ◆4 was returned to the ten and King. A spade was now played (declarer hoped to sneak his ◆8 in), but East foiled this attempt by ruffing with the ◆9 while Lambert pitched the ♣6. East now led her last diamond (◆J). West won the trick, but there was nothing the defense could do at that point, the remaining cards being:



Whether West cashed his •A or saved it for later, the defense could only muster one more trick.

With best defense declarer can be held to nine tricks for +760. As you can see both 3NT and 4♥ are cold so +760 is worth 4 IMPs. However, the actual overtrick made the total +1160 which was worth 12 IMPs. Those additional 8 IMPs gave our team two more Victory Points (VP) for the match and enough to win the event by one VP!

If 2♦xx had failed, we will never know how Vince Lambert might have explained his gambling pass to his partner and teammates (imagine if West had held 5 or 6 diamonds for his double). Perhaps, "We're playing bridge? I was sure the game was poker!"

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.

In this Kibitzer, we have three Sectionals on which to report.

November 2016

In a close race, the President's Award was captured by Peter Serafini who won 6.37 masterpoints. Here is the full list of results:

Flight D (100 - 200):

1/2	6.21	Morris Streich
1/2	6.21	Barry Rogerson
3	3.96	Jay Newington

Flight E (50 - 100):

1/2	3.90	Brian Johns
1/2	3.90	Devra Drysale
3	2.20	Zan Aycock

Flight F (0 - 50):

1	6.37	Peter Serafin
2/3	3.27	Jenny Miller
2/3	3.27	Sheila Bailey

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

The next edition is scheduled to be out in October.

January 2017

Two players tied for the President's Award - Jamie Watt and Richard Cripps, each with 6.32 masterpoints. Here is the full list of results:

Flight D (100 - 200):

1/2	3.02	Ron Evans
1/2	3.02	Lois Evan
3	2.24	Richard Piette

Flight E (50 - 100):

1	3.03	Anne Olthof
2	2.85	Devra Drysdale
3	2 50	Susan Wigmore

Flight F (0 - 50):

1/2	6.32	Jamie Watt
1/2	6.32	Richard Cripps
3/4	5.31	Andrew Serafini
3/4	5.31	Peter Serafini

April 2017

Last but not least, at the recently concluded Sectional, Richard Piette set a new record in winning the President's Award with 11.82 masterpoints! The complete results:

Flight D (100 - 200):

_	•	•
1	11.82	Richard Piette
2	4.29	Devra Drysdale
3	2.61	Patricia Mitchell

Flight E (50 - 100):

1	8.79	Ryan Clark
2/3	2.72	Marguerite Paulsen
2/3	2 72	Linda Snow

Flight F (0 - 50):

1	5.46	Andrew Serafini
2	4.29	Michael Serafini
3/4	3.90	Deborah Cripps
3/4	3.90	Richard Cripps

Congratulations to all! Well done.









Oh to be Young Again - An Interview with Michael Serafini

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

At just 13 years of age, Michael Serafini is certainly an oddity at the bridge table. After all, bridge is a game for stodgy old people, right? In fact, the average age of Unit 390 members is

68, and we are youngsters compared to the ACBL as a whole, where the average is 72 years.

Regardless of his youth, one mustn't underestimate Michael's talent. He and his team won their section of the Rookie-Master Team game this past February (see page 16) and at the recently concluded Calgary sectional, Michael's team claimed victory in both the morning and afternoon 199'ers Swiss Teams games.



Your editors caught up with Michael to ask him a few questions about his experiences:

How long have you been playing bridge and how did you get started?

My family has always played lots of different card games (like cribbage, rummy, hearts, and so on) and eventually we turned to bridge. My grandma and grandpa got us going and now everyone plays. Last spring my parents and two of my uncles hired Rae Haaland to teach us, along with some of my siblings ... now it's pretty easy to get a foursome to play.

What is your favourite thing about the game ... why do you play?

Generally, I find all the various aspects of bridge fascinating. I like working out distributions and high card location. I don't usually count all the cards yet, just trumps.

Who are your regular partners?

I usually play with my Dad (Andrew), but lately Brian Johns has introduced me to a few other people that I sometimes play with.

How's your Dad's game?

It's good. We are at pretty comparable levels and we are both open to criticism and advice so it helps us get better. My Mom and my sister play too, but they play for fun and aren't as interested in competition.

What kind of system do you play? Have you learned any conventions yet? Do you have a favourite one?

My Dad and I play five-card majors and 2 over 1 game force. I like that because it takes a lot of the stress out of the bidding when you have a good hand - you know your partner won't pass you out. For conventions, I play Cappelletti over NT, 1430 Key Card Blackwood and Jacoby 2NT as a forcing major raise. I am finding Jacoby really useful - in a way, it is like Blackwood but at a lower level.

Do your friends at school know you play bridge? What do they think about it?

Actually, I am home schooled, so I don't have classmates right now.

When you aren't playing bridge, what do you like to do? I really enjoy piano. I play and practice at least one hour each day and currently I am studying and practicing chamber music. [Editors' Note: Michael plays grade 10 level piano!]

What goals have you set for yourself when it comes to bridge?

I strive for at least average every session I play. I haven't really set any goals in terms of earning masterpoints.

We understand you plan to attend the Youth NABC in Toronto this summer. Tell us a bit about that. How long will you play each day? Have you arranged a partner?

Yes, I'm excited about that. The Youth NABC runs for three days over the last weekend of the nationals. I don't have a partner yet ... I have registered and I'm waiting to get matched up with someone. Before that, I am hoping to play with my Dad in some team games.

How do you think we could get more kids interested in learning and playing bridge?

I think if there was a group of volunteer mentors that would regularly go to schools and other places to run supervised play and answer questions, it would help.

Have you tried playing online?

I play a bit on BBO with the robots. They can be pretty goofy sometimes!

Are you hooked?

I'm definitely hooked!

[Editors' note: There are only two youth players -- Michael and his sister Teresa -- in our entire District (youth players are 19 years of age or younger).]

2016 Ace of Clubs Awards Unit 390 Final Standings					2016 Mini-McKenney Awards Unit 390 Final Standings				
0 to 5	1 2 3	Thomas Trafford Danuta Trafford Deanna Downton	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	38 35 16	0 to 5	1 2 3	Thomas Trafford Danuta Trafford Deanna Downton	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	41 39 19
5 to 20	1 2 3	Katie Trafford Margaret Williams Maxine Rystephanick	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	54 41 26	5 to 20	1 2 3	Katie Trafford Margaret Williams Catharine Moore	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	69 46 34
20 to 50	1 2 3	Raymond Dickinson Inge French Tom Flanagan	Calgary AB Okotoks AB Calgary AB	70 30 28	20 to 50	1 2 3	Raymond Dickinson Susan Wigmore Cheryl Bourne	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	77 49 39
50 to 100	1 2 3	Brent Muir Richard Piette Jay Newington	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	81 55 48	50 to 100	1 2 3	Brent Muir Richard Piette Julie Larsen	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	116 77 69
100 to 200	1 2 3	Dennis Ooms Judy Madge Myron Achtman	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	94 63 51	100 to 200	1 2 3	Shelley Mardiros Dennis Ooms Judy Madge	Banff AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	170 108 91
200 to 300	1 2 3	Richard Bickley Lorraine Somerville Andy McKaig	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	88 66 59	200 to 300	1 2 3	Richard Bickley Marcia Andreychuk Andy McKaig	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	151 101 96
300 to 500	1 2 3	Linda Ellsworth Jan Mohr Bill Ellsworth	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	48 47 47	300 to 500	1 2 3	Michael Shuster John D Aguiar Pam & Keith Wallace	Banff AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	170 118 104
500 to 1000	1 2 3	Dale Bercov Rosalyn Martin John Sharpe	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	116 92 86	500 to 1000	1 2 3	Dorothy Mersereau Dale Bercov Victoria Haines	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	212 171 170
1000 to 1500	1 2 3	Dave Adelman Judy Elson Helen Dillen	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	138 105 85	1000 to 1500	1 2 3	Dave Adelman Helen Dillen Patrick Murphy	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	269 247 189
1500 to 2500	1 2 3	Jean Ward Maged Wafa Pauline Huculak	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	174 145 138	1500 to 2500	1 2 3	Jean Ward David Johnson Gamil Tadros	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	268 231 219
2500 to 3500	1 2 3		Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	141 140 113	2500 to 3500	1 2 3	Diane Campbell Keith Moores Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	261 174 171
3500 to 5000	1 2 3	Jim Berglund Elaine Stewart Martin McDonald	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	168 156 50	3500 to 5000	1 2 3	Jim Berglund Ken Penton Elaine Stewart	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	276 221 206
5000 to 7500	1 2 3	Abdul Fakih Daniel Bertrand Donald Gladman	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	165 102 71	5000 to 7500	1 2 3	Abdul Fakih Daniel Bertrand Donald Gladman	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	488 341 296
7500 to 10,000	2	Steven Lawrence Judith Gartaganis Francesca Walton	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	134 16 3	7500 to 10,000	1 2 3	Steven Lawrence Judith Gartaganis Francesca Walton	Calgary AB Calgary AB Calgary AB	510 417 35
Over 10,000	1	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	11	Over 10,000	1	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	423

Eugenio Chiaradia (1917-1977), the Forgotten Genius

By Allan Simon

Note: This article is based on one by Christoph Pürstl in the excellent Austrian magazine "Bridge"

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of one of the greatest and most influential players of all time, yet you have probably never heard of him: Eugenio Chiaradia (pronounced Kee-uh-RAH-dee-a).

He was a professor of philosophy in his home town of Naples, hence his nickname was "The Professor".

As a young man interested in bridge, he soon came to the conclusion that the then current Culbertson, Goren and Acol bidding systems were inferior. So in the early 1950s he invented the Neapolitan Club, the first successful and effective strong club system. This later evolved into the Blue Team Club and finally the Blue Club which is still used to great effect by many of the world's leading players, not to mention Calgary's own Alex Knox!

Chiaradia recruited and taught such greats as Benito Garozzo, Pietro Forquet and Giorgio Belladonna, and soon this team was far and away the best in the world. Between 1957 and 1975 the Italian "Blue Team" won no less than 16 world championships. Chiaradia himself left the team and retired from the tournament scene after their sixth world title in 1963 – he was only 46 years old but his health may not have been the best.

Chiaradia then moved to Sao Paulo. Brazil did not have a strong bridge presence at the time (Argentina was the South American powerhouse then). But Eugenio mentored players like the great Gabriel Chagas and in 1976 Brazil succeeded Italy as winners of the Bridge Olympiad. The following year Chiaradia died at the age of only 60.

Chiaradia was far more than a great theoretician and coach. His dummy play was absolutely amazing. Two examples will suffice:



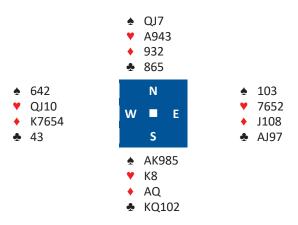
After Siniscalco in North opened 1♣ and East overcalled 1♠, Chiaradia drove the bidding to 7♠.

West led the ♠10, covered by the Queen and King, and ruffed. Eugenio cashed the ♠A and East showed out. He hooked West out of his ♠Q, drew the last trump and tested clubs, only to find East with the 4-card length. He trumped the last club in his hand, which left this 5-card ending:



On the play of the ◆9, West had to pitch a heart. Otherwise Chiaradia would have crossed in hearts to lead the ♠Q from dummy, pinning West's 9 and setting up the ♠8 as the thirteenth trick. Chiaradia discarded dummy's small heart, and now East was also squeezed – he couldn't throw his small spade either, so he also had to discard a heart. Chiaradia cashed dummy's heart honours, ruffed a spade to hand and took trick 13 with his ♥6!

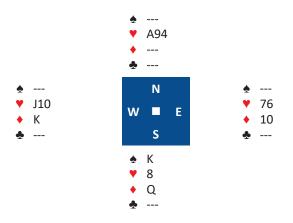
The following hand is from the finals of the 1957 Bermuda Bowl which pitted Italy against the USA:



Chiaradia in South arrived in 6♠ on the lead of the ♥Q. Even looking at all 52 cards, the experts commentating on Vu-Graph

Eugenio Chiaradia (continued)

could not see any way to fulfill this ambitious contract, but Chiaradia took advantage of a defensive slip to make the hand. After winning trick 1 in his hand, he continued by leading the ♣9 (!) to dummy's Queen and played a club to his ♣K. Next came the ♠8 (!!) to the Jack, dropping East's ♠10, and another club. East took his ♣A and could have defeated the slam by giving his partner a club ruff. But West had neglected to show count, so after long thought East shifted to the ◆J. Unerringly, Chiaradia rose with the Ace, crossed to dummy's ♠7 with the carefully preserved ♠5, finessed the ♣10 and cashed the ♣Q and ♠A, which left this position:



Now the play of the $\bigstar K$ squeezed West in hearts and diamonds.

Surely Eugenio Chiaradia deserves to be remembered as one of the all-time greats, if not the greatest ever.

Annual General Meeting

The Calgary Duplicate Bridge Association UNIT 390

When: Saturday, May 13, 2017

Where: Kerby Centre

Time: Light Lunch: 11:00 a.m. Meeting: 11:45 a.m.

Pairs Game: to follow

- Card fees \$5.00
- Unit championship points

Agenda:

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Welcome and Introduction
- 3. Confirmation of Quorum
- I. Approval of Agenda
- 5. Approval of Minutes from 2016 AGM
- 6. President's Report
- 7. Treasurer's Report Approval of Financial Statements
- 8. Appointment of Auditor for 2017/2018
- 9. Election of Directors
- Presentation of Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney Awards
- 11. Questions from the floor
- 12. Adjournment

If you are planning to attend, please RSVP by May 6, 2017. Contact Tracy Horan at 403-554-3434 or tracyhoran@shaw.ca

An attendance estimate is needed to finalize the catering arrangements.



Test Your Declarer Play - Solutions

By Dan Bertrand

Hand 1:

- KQJ76
- K32
- J3
- KQ2
- 10952
- A74
- KQ2
- J53

Contract: 4♠

North leads the ♥Q. South plays the ♥9 (using standard signals).

You have three sure losers (♠A, ♦A and ♣A). Also the opponents might get a heart trick. If you try to pull trumps, they will continue hearts after winning the ♠A and they will have four tricks. So you do not have time to pull trumps yet; you must take care of that possible heart loser. Win the first trick in your hand with the ♥K and play the ◆J, continuing diamonds if the opponents duck. If the opponents continue hearts, you win the ♥A in dummy (that is why you were careful to win the first trick in your hand), and play the diamond winners to get rid of your little heart. Then you can start pulling trumps.

Hand 2:

- AQJ106
- ΑK
- A762
- J2



- K94
 - 642 K54
 - 9864

Contract: 4♠

North leads the ♥Q. South plays the ♥9 (using standard signals).

You have two sure club losers. Also you have two possible diamond losers. If diamonds break 3-3, you have only one loser there; but they might not break 3-3. After winning the ♥A, you can afford to play one round of trumps (small spade to the ♠K). But then you must take care of the diamonds: small diamond to the ♦A, then small to the ♦K, and then small from both hands. If they break 3-3, you can finish pulling trumps when you regain the lead. If they break 4-2, you can ruff your last small diamond with the ♠9. It is true that if diamonds break 5-1, you might go down two; but then you probably had no chance to make your contract.

Hand 3:

- AKJ1076
- J9
- 54
- AK4
- Q84
- 742 KQJ
- 9862

Contract: 4♠

North leads the ♥A, ♥K and ♥Q. South follows with the ♥3, ♥5 and ♥8. North has only one spade.

You have already lost two tricks. You have one diamond loser, so you cannot afford a club loser. You can get rid of that loser on dummy's diamonds, but you have to be careful. After cashing the ♠A and the ♠K, do not pull the last trump; start playing on diamonds. If you pull the last trump (by playing a third round), some mean defender might wait until the second round of diamonds before taking her ◆A. Then you will not have an entry to the good diamond in dummy.

Hand 4:

- AK762
- 10
- 86 105432
- 103
- A632 AK32
- 976

Contract: 2♠

North leads the ♥Q. South plays the ♥9 (using standard signals).

On this one, your goal is to get eight tricks. Win the \A and ruff a heart. Cash the ♠A and ♠K. Cross to Dummy with the ♦A and ruff another heart. Cross to the ◆K and ruff a diamond. Why a diamond? Because a 4-3 diamond break is more likely than a 4-4 heart break and you want to avoid an overruff if possible. If you get all those ruffs with your little trumps, you have your eight tricks.

All these hands have one common theme: sometimes, you should not pull all the trumps right away. Unfortunately, there is no magic recipe to make a contract. You have to make a plan and see whether or not you can pull trumps.

New Bridge Club Opens in Okotoks

By Jane Lamont

After two months of operating the Okotoks Bridge Club, I'd like to tell you about the newest club in Unit 390.

Before retiring last spring, I was an Oracle DBA and database programmer working in a GIS application company in downtown Calgary. I had been planning to become a bridge teacher, director and club owner for five years. Contract bridge had been my game for 30 years and some 10



years ago, I switched to duplicate bridge with encouragement from Vivian Campbell. My husband and I moved to High River in February, 2014 and I immediately checked out the local bridge scene.

The Location



Okotoks United Church

The Okotoks United Church is a great location. We play in the foyer of the sanctuary - a 'great' room which is spacious and bright with permanently-setup 50-inch vinyl tables and comfy, extra-wide sanctuary chairs. As a landlord, they have been very accommodating and I try to be a good renter. The room is handicap accessible and refreshments are available.

The Games

The Club has two Monday evening games:

- Open game for all levels beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- Newcomer game for new bridge players starting before the open game at 6:45 p.m.

The open game uses hand records and Bridgemates for scoring. At this point, we are lucky to get three tables out, but I hope the game will grow.

The newcomer game is perfect for anyone who is a novice bridge player who would like to play in a fun, stress-free environment where there are fewer hands to play. We even allow "undos"! Players are able to change their minds during the bidding and/or play. The hands are set up according to practice deals in Audrey Grant's *Introduction to Bridge*. The same textbook is used in the Beginner Lessons so, if they like, players are able to review the bidding and play. This game has really caught on, with a turnout of three newcomer tables each week.

Getting Starting

How has the ACBL helped me to get started? Let me count the ways! Nancy Hale was very helpful in answering my questions and fixing my club application so it best suited my needs. Liza Frisbie, Graphic Design Specialist, has provided individualized graphics based on the ACBL advertising templates (and has done so very quickly, I might add).

Stephanie Threlkeld, Education and Communications Manager, has been instrumental in helping me access funding through the Cooperative Advertising Program (CAP) which has provided grants for advertising my beginner courses and newcomer classes. To date, I have received over US\$500 for newspaper and magazine ads, fliers, cards and social media adverts. In addition, Dave Johnson, Alberta representative to the District 18 Board, has indicated that the District will provide supplemental grants for advertising.

Building the Game

The club has an audience of 100,000 people living in the far southwest and southeast quadrants of Calgary, Dewinton, Okotoks and High River. Still, one has to build up a potential clientele to have a successful club.

Okotoks already has a Seniors Centre offering duplicate bridge on Thursday evenings. The organizer has been most cooperative, displaying my poster and giving me time to inform the seniors about my game and to explain the BridgeMates. She has also passed along the grumblings from her players about the \$8 card fee, so I will be giving a cut-rate of \$5 to registered seniors from the Seniors Centre.

I have given two series of beginner lessons (22 participants in Okotoks and 30 in High River). Initially, I used the ACBL Club series of books; however, I have now switched to Audrey Grant's Better Bridge series. That ties in well with the hands used in the Newcomer game.

In addition, two 'Learn Bridge In A Day?'TM workshops for 25 students were held in Okotoks and High River.

I am currently taking an online course in Facebook advertising and am ready to roll out two campaigns, one directed at the baby boomer population and the other at social bridge players.

New Bridge Club in Okotoks (continued)

The ACBL site is a tremendous source of videos, pdfs and freebies to link from the Facebook advertisements. I have already built up an email list approaching 100 so this list will give me access to a broad representation from across the region.

Upcoming, Doug and Crystal Mann will be directing at the club during April while I am away. To make it worthwhile for them, I plan to rollout the Facebook campaign for a free play during the month of March so there will be lots of new players in April. And the snow birds are returning!

I'd like to invite everyone to come out to Okotoks to give the club a try. Perhaps start with dinner at the new Mexican restaurant in Okotoks, Café Cancun. Please let me know beforehand if you plan to visit so that I can use it as a promo to email our regular players. I have just 49'ers playing so having experts attending will be a draw.

Find Out More

Okotoks Bridge Club - https://www.facebook.com/Okotoks-Bridge-Club-1618367898466654/

Foothills Bridge Lessons -

https://www.facebook.com/Foothills-Bridge-Lessons-310579335954187/

The address of the Okotoks Bridge Club is 43 Riverside Drive, Okotoks. Free parking is available in the East parking lot. Enter by the foyer door.

Postcard From the Other Side of the Room...

By Jay Peers

[Jay and his partner are regulars at the Okotoks Bridge Club Newcomers game]

While I hate to pre-empt Jane's class with a little story, it turns out the classes and the textbook are <u>not</u> a sadistic attempt to befuddle and confuse (although it often feels otherwise!).

I was at the Monday beginners evening game also known as the "Table Talk and Redo Session". My partner, Irene Horner, opened the bidding with 2 which I knew was a pre-emptive bid because I actually read the book <u>and</u> because, contrary to all acceptable bridge etiquette, she told us all so.

Knowing her high card point count to be six (she told us all) and mine not much more, I knew our dastardly opponents were in for a romp at our expense. Imagine my shock when the opponent to my right passed.

Not being able to add enough winners to consider game, I hurriedly passed as well.

My left hand opponent hemmed and hawed to the point where she eventually showed me her cards. (Monday evenings are like that ... learning and fun above all.) In spite of a bevy of points, there was really nothing she could bid at the three level. There is no doubt that had the bidding started at 14, they would have found a suit fit but it was too risky to begin that search at the three level.

As it turned out, I had 4-card heart support and, with a couple of well-placed high cards and short suits, my brilliant partner comfortably made the contract.

So a pre-emptive bid <u>does work</u>! We not only shut out the Dastardly Duo from a sure game, but we actually made the contract with lots of length and next to no strength. Who'd have thought?

Upcoming Unit 390 Tournament Dates























Member Milestones

The following members have reached new masterpoint milestones since October 2016. Congratulations to all on their achievements.



New Junior Masters (5+ MPs):

Carolyn Bamsey Marvis Olson Carolanne DeBiasio George Ongverth Shree Ghatage Susan Ongyerth Libby Jackson Linda Pavev **Scott Haggins** Ina Podivinsky Terry Killackey **Betty Roberts** Mark Kryzan **Graham Sadoway** Marjorie Leslie Sandra Stewart Kathleen Malo **Robert Stothers** Shehlata Mehta Jamie Watt Helen Miles Hailong Yu

Ken Miller

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

Edward Lamb Monique Achtman **Douglas Biles** Pauline Mathezer Jim Chunn William Newis Andrew Serafini Richard Cripps Patricia Culver Michael Serafini Deanna Downton Peter Serafini Sheila Frank Marion Synnott William Ingelson John Taylor David Gough Barbara Wallat **Nancy Hughes Howard Westergard**

New Sectional Masters (50+ MPs with at least 10 black

and 5 silver)

Ardith Bowden Philip Magee Ryan Clark Atsuko McDonald Sandra Evans Catharine Moore Gilbert Fagnou Judith Muir Gwen Fagnou Stanley Prime Barbara Feick **Katie Trafford Bob Gagnon Kevin Trickett** Martin Hall Melissa Wigham Caroline Heck Margaret Williams

Jacquelyn Lanz

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

Lynn Dover Michael Raymont Leon Driscoll Terry Schreder Devra Drysdale Carla Watson **Richard Piette** Heide Wissner

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

platinum)

Jan Brawn Andrea Killackey Claire Strachan Tracy Horan

Debbie Hunt

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

red, gold or platinum)

Marcia Andreychuk **Blake Fleming**

Christopher Chalcraft

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

Heather Bourne Lily Lister

Kim Cohos

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

Dale Bercov Louise Gramlich

John D Aguiar

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

Joan Clark Rosalyn Martin Janice Eliasson **Emelie Quennell**

Victoria Haines

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

Rae Cram Ron Pritchard

Helen Dillen

New Gold Life Master (2500+ MPs; a Life Master with at

least 500 pigmented points)

David Johnson Marlene Lenstra

New Grand Life Master (10,000+ MPs; at least 100 platinum, 900 gold or platinum and 1000 additional pigmented points with at least one NABC, CNTC or WBF championship victory)

Judith Gartaganis









3rd Annual Rookie Master Team Game

On February 4, 2017, Unit 390 played host to the 3rd annual Rookie Master team event. The game was organized under the capable leadership of Tracy Horan, Special Events Director, and Dev Drysdale, Future Masters Director, along with many helpers.

The event is open to all Calgary and area players regardless of whether they are members of Unit 390 or the ACBL. The game was promoted amongst other bridge groups in the city, most of which had not experienced Swiss Teams play. A total of 38 teams (152 players) came out to enjoy the fun and 29 rookies were non-members of the ACBL. The Directors for the evening were Doug and Crystal Mann.

Once again this year, the sumptuous chili pot luck dinner was complemented by salads and desserts generously contributed by the Master players.

Rules of the event were as follows:

- Any player with fewer than 100 MPs who had not played in an A/X event was considered a "rookie" and any player with greater than 100 MPs was considered a "master".
- A master could register as a pair with any qualifying rookie partner, but could not register as a team of four.
- Players registering as singles were matched with appropriate partners.
- Pairs were then arranged into teams of four.
- Every effort was taken to ensure that the pairings of teams was as fair as possible in terms of team averages.

Teams were divided into two sections and everyone played duplicated boards so that hand records were available after the session.

"Playing bridge reflects intelligence. It's one of the really great pleasures of life. Anybody who's missing bridge is missing so much in life."

Malcolm Forbes Publisher Congratulations to the winners:



Photo courtesy Susan Julius

Section A: Janet Galbraith playing with Devra Drysdale and Pat Slack playing with Sandra Evans (57 VPs)



Photo courtesy Susan Julius

Section B: Caroleigh Houghton playing with Michael Serafini and Joanne Anson playing with Ryan Clark (64 VPs)

Second place in each of the sections went to:

Section A: Tina Gokturk, Anne Olthof, Patrick Murphy and Atsuko McDonald (54 VPs)

Section B: Mark Manzer, Nancy Hughes, Tracy Horan and

Cheryl Bourne (57 VPs)

Many thanks to our hard-working proof-readers: Janet and John Sharpe , along with Janet and Chris Galbraith.

Introducing Dick's 2COATS

01

A "Litmus Test" of a Bidding System

By Dick Yuen

Consider this extreme example:

You have a rock-solid 5♣ contract. Does your bidding system allow you to find out partner's exact club holding?

- If partner has the ♣A then 7♣ is cold (assuming no diamond ruff on opening lead)
- If partner has the ♣K then 6♣ is cold
- If partner has neither, 5♣ is cold and 6♣ is possible if the clubs split 1-1 (I dare you to build a system to solve that!)

For example, the bidding might begin 2 - 2 (no Ace or King). You can settle on 5, money in the bank. If you are a gambler, you might try 6 (1-1 distribution is 52%).

The test comes when partner responds 2♦ showing at least one King. How can you identify the location of partner's honour(s)?

Introducing Dick's 2COATS (2♣ opening and treatments), or simply Dick's 2♣. The key feature of Dick's 2♣ can be summarized as follows:

After a 2♣ opening and an initial 2♦ or 2♥ response, opener names the P-suit. "P" stands for Primary, which corresponds to a <u>real</u> suit of 5+ length. "P" also stands for Phantom, which only happens in two cases:

The sole purpose of a Phantom suit is to allow room for responder to bid out any honour(s). Responder bids his honour(s) up the line, or cheapest NT to deny any more honours. A Jack is <u>not</u> considered an honour for this purpose.

Take these sample hands for responder:

Auctio	n (2)	
2♣	2♦	at least one K
2♥	3♣	2♥ is P-suit, phantom in this case; 3♣
		promises &A or &K and denies any spade
		honour
4NT	5♣	4NT asks number of Aces; 5♣ confirms zero
6♣		To play
Auctio	n (3)	
2♣	2♦	at least one K
2♥	3♣	2♥ is P-suit, phantom in this case; 3♣
		promises ♣A or ♣K and denies any spade
		honour
4NT	5♦	4NT asks number of Aces; 5♦ confirms one
7♣		To play
Auctio	n (4)	
2♣	2•	at least one K
2♥	2♠	2♥ is P-suit, phantom in this case; 2♠
		promises ♠A or ♠K
2NT	3♣	2NT is sliding ask, tell me more;
		3♣ indicates ♣ honour (A/K/Q), but you know
		it is the A or K
4NT	5♣	4NT asks number of Aces; 5♣ confirms zero
6♣	-	To play
		- F - 1

Let's conclude with a real-life example taken from a quarter-final match in the 2016 Vanderbilt.

Here are the two hands:



One possible big-club auction is:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	West
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5NT	Pass	??	

Introducing Dick's 2COATS (continued)

How can the strong hand find out about the two key Queens needed for the cold grand slam? It is a challenge for any bidding system to accomplish the task of reaching this ice-cold grand slam with 100% certainty.

One possible auction is:

2♣ 2♥ 2♣ strong; 2♥ denies A or K 4NT 5♥ 4NT must ask for Queens; 5♥ shows two ??

Now 6NT is almost certain, but the location of the Queens is still unknown. On a bad day partner has the ♠Q and doubleton ♠Q. Even 6NT will fail if the ♠Q is offside.

Dick's 2COATS comes out with flying colours!

2♣ 2♥ 2♣ strong; 2♥ denies A or K
2♠ 3♦ 2♠ is phantom suit; 3♦ shows ♦Q and denies ♠Q
3♥ 3♠ 3♥ sliding bid; 3♠ shows ♠Q
7NT Bingo! No more information required

The full description of Dick's 2COATS is too long for this article. If you are interested in more information or have any feedback please email me at yuendt@gmail.com.









2016 District 18 Masterpoint Races

Final Standings

Unit 390 players were winners in four of the 13 masterpoint categories and placed in the top three in other categories. That is a very solid performance, considering that there are some 26 units in our District. In categories not shown below, the top three positions were captured by players from outside Unit 390. Congratulations to the following:

0 to 5	2	Thomas Trafford Danuta Trafford	Calgary AB Calgary AB	41 39
5 to 20	2	Katie Trafford	Calgary AB	69
20 to 50	1	Raymond Dickinson	Calgary AB	77
50 to 100	1	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	116
100 to 200	3	Shelley Mardiros	Banff AB	170
200 to 300	1	Richard Bickley	Calgary AB	151
300 to 500	2	Michael Shuster	Banff AB	170
500 to 1000	3	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB	212
1000 to 1500	2	Dave Adelman Helen Dillen	Calgary AB Calgary AB	269 247
3500 to 5000	2	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	276
5000 to 7500	2	Abdul Fakih	Calgary AB	488
7500 to 10,000	3	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	510
Over 10,000	1	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	423



Be sure to mark your calendar with the new dates for the Calgary Winter sectional!

New dates: October 27 - 29, 2017 Same location: Clarion Hotel and Suites

Our CCBL Casino Caper

By Martin McDonald

Life's more illuminating passages include the memorable experiences we treasure because of the camaraderie we share with our fellow human beings. Moreover, the team chemistry engendered when you are thrown together in a motley crew is a catalyst for friendship. This esprit de corps in its essence is spiritually uplifting. So it was with anticipation that we joined sixteen fellow volunteers at Cowboys Casino for Day 1 of a two-day event conducted by the Calgary Community Bridge League. The casino was held March 28-29th.

This was not the first time many of us had seen the inside of a casino. However there was one blonde patron who was in a gambling casino for the first time. At the roulette table she said "I have no idea what number to play." A young, good-looking man nearby suggested she play her age. Smiling at the man, she put all of her money on number 32. The wheel was spun, and 41 came up. The smile drifted from the woman's face and she fainted.

This wasn't to be our first emergency. But there was Allan Simon dapper and managerial in a jacket and tie. All he had to do was whisper in her ear that "41 is a good number. Because most of our volunteer crew are over 60, we can't lie about our age for fear of losing our senior's discount."

We had an excellent team in place for the opening shift. Gentleman Jim Berglund was our Banker and Diligent Dale Bercov was our #1 Teller. Our adviser, Greig Wong, told us the blackjack wranglers and high-limit poker stars were outclassed sartorially as well as salubriously since our habit was bridge rather than betting.

It was so slow during that first shift that Allan and Greig played rubber bridge against Dale and Jim (in a manner of speaking as Greig had played once previously, perhaps.) Dale asked Allan "What's your carding?" to which his soberly terse response was "Undiscussed."

Nina Smith and yours truly arrived more than an hour early for the 7:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. shift which was good because one of our volunteer cashiers called in to say there had been a death in the family. Dale agreed to carry on instead, with Diane Campbell waiting for Gordon Campbell as her replacement at Cashier.

It was very quiet except for the casino cowboy at the blackjack table who was bawling like a cow in heat with every

working card. Either he hadn't won so consistently before or it was the beer card that kept surfacing. Our evening chip runners were Perry Chan and Ross MacLean. They were able to spend most of the evening in the well-provisioned Volunteers Room -- at least until the Calgary Hitmen lost to the Saskatoon Blades.

It was so slow we were able to recommend to Allan, Dale and Gordon that they read *Time Bandit* written by Diane's husband Harry. It's a tale of legal shenanigans mixed up with one of the less sordid affairs of the old illicit downtown poker club. A key piece of the plot involves a well-known bridge and former poker player who, in Chapter 22, almost gets defrauded with a cooked deal. The tables get turned when one of the co-conspirators doubtless doesn't deal the doctored deck and the mark miraculously wins the six-figure pot. We won't spoil the surprise ending but you can buy it on Amazon or borrow a copy from us. The next day Nina brought in her autographed copy and it turned out her husband was your narrator's brother's best grade school chum.

By 10:00 p.m. Dale had regaled us with so many good jokes about Rabbis, Priests and Ministers, and Jews and Gentiles that it was clear he should have been a stand-up comic at a Canadian Council of Christians and Jews banquet. We let him go early in self-defence. The count room crew meandered in and it was apparent we were in good hands with Dolly, Elsie, Frank, Lyman, and Elaine, along with John and Ruth Gilchrist. Ken Penton, as our redoubtable Banker, ensured our late shift team balanced to the half dollar and we were home and dry by 4:00 a.m.

Dale and yours truly were on the early shift again and we were volunteering with virtually the same squad. The morning set-up was precise and professional and we were back in business. The soup of the day, which had been a delicious butternut squash puree, had been supplanted by hearty chicken noodle and our whole staff was sufficiently suffonsified with the delectable delights served in the circular centre bar.

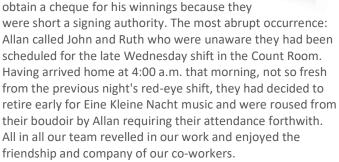
The highlight of the entire casino was the dexterity and deportment of our two new chip runners - Sandy Jean Robinson and Elizabeth Gain. They were full of mischief of the most pleasant kind and proceeded to fill our afternoon with good humour and gay repartee that had the entire side smiling from ear to ear. From their sidelong glances at the buff security guards (and the cerebral comedy that ensued)

Our CCBL Casino Caper (continued)

to their scintillatingly witty skirmishes with the entire casino staff, we were in stitches from start to finish. The Flames game was a huge draw before the puck drop and after the final horn, and the casino swelled to capacity at both times.

The day's best tale was an inveterate gambler's story of sneaking out of the casino in the new Edmonton Rogers Centre with \$129,000 in

cash in his jeans when he couldn't



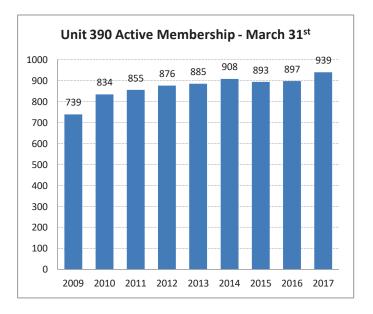
Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work. It all worked for us.











2017 Alberta Sectionals Masterpoint Race Year-to-Date -- April 7th 1 93.39 **Judith Gartaganis** Calgary AB 2 93.39 Nicholas Gartaganis Calgary AB 3 91.11 **Daniel Bertrand** Calgary AB 4 76.23 Janet Galbraith Calgary AB 5 59.94 Chris Galbraith Calgary AB 6 51.04 Allan Simon Calgary AB 7 47.66 Doug Mann Calgary AB 8 42.35 Abdul Fakih Calgary AB 9 37.89 Calgary AB Steve Lawrence 10 35.66 Rod Hilderman Calgary AB 11 31.24 Perry Khakhar Calgary AB **Edmonton AB** 12 31.09 Lee Barton 13 31.09 Lucille Barton Edmonton AB 14 30.07 Jean Ward Calgary AB 15 29.80 Frank Ayer Calgary AB 16 28.61 Keith Falkenberg Calgary AB 17 26.55 Gordon Campbell Calgary AB 18 25.38 Charlie Lamb Red Deer AB 19 25.21 Jim Berglund Calgary AB 20 24.19 **Keith Moores** Calgary AB 21 23.89 **Bryant Town** Edmonton AB 22 22.06 Chris Wuerscher Calgary AB 23 20.40 Martin McDonald Calgary AB 24 20.36 Fi Nadir Calgary AB 25 19.62 Adam Thiel Red Deer AB

