



The Kibitzer

April 2018

Editors: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

President's Message

Hello bridge players,

Happily, after a very snowy winter we can now look forward to warmer weather.

The overall attendance at the Spring Sectional was up by 6% compared with Spring 2017, 287 tables versus 270. The largest increase was in the future masters' category with a 14% increase, 77.5 tables compared with 68. This is very encouraging and bodes well for the future of bridge in Calgary. It also suggests that the new venue at the Clarion is acceptable to the majority despite a few drawbacks that will be present at every venue.

Steve Lawrence achieved a milestone at the Sectional reaching the 10,000 masterpoint level. He joins Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis and Gerry Marshall in that very select category. Congratulations.

At the Special Meeting of the membership held on Saturday March 24th a special resolution to replace the existing Bylaws was approved. The special resolution will become effective immediately, but the Bylaws do not come into effect unless and until the Alberta Corporate Registry completes its assessment process following the approval of the special resolution and issues a certificate evidencing the adoption by the Unit of the new Bylaws.

There were two main reasons for the revisions to the Bylaws. Firstly, the number of directors was fixed at nine (9). The Unit has not been in compliance with this requirement owing to the resignation of a director and our inability to find a replacement. Secondly the officers, i.e. President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, are elected by the membership, not the board, so the directors do not have the authority to appoint a successor following the resignation or removal of an officer during their term. The new Bylaws have changed the number of directors to between seven (7) and twelve (12), and the election of officers is now a board responsibility. In addition a number of minor revisions have been made to improve clarity.

A new cell phone policy has been implemented, effective immediately. The intent of the policy is to eliminate the use of cell phones during a session of play, but it also applies to

audible pagers or similar equipment. Health-related equipment is exempt from the regulations. Although the penalties are not as harsh as those implemented by the ACBL at National events, they are still severe, including disqualification for repeat offenders. This policy will be in effect at Unit-sponsored events.

Please make a note of the following Unit events:

- the District 18 GNT online finals will take place May 11th and 12th
- the AGM will be held June 9th at the Kerby Centre

Thank you,
John Sharpe
President, Calgary Unit 390

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Bridge Is Easy If You Can Count to Twelve

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

We recently visited Australia and played in the Gold Coast Congress. Bridge seems to be a completely different game down under. For example:

- In the tournament, instead of using bidding boxes, players wrote their bids on a little paper pad placed in the middle of the table.
- All conventions and systems were allowed. We played against a pair that opened 1♥ to show 4+ spades. All opening two-bids were unusual - natural weak twos were almost non-existent.
- Team and pair assignments for the next round were projected on a screen within minutes of the end of the current round.
- In team games, your team number also became your home table for the entire event.
- Even in huge team games, all boards were duplicated across the field.

The events in which we played were exceptionally well-organized. All the unusual conventions and systems we encountered were somewhat discomfiting, but it was fun trying to understand and cope.

One pleasant surprise was the wrap-up dinner and dance organized at the end of the Gold Coast Congress. For the price of AU\$20 (on par with the CDN\$) each attendee was served unlimited drinks (alcoholic or otherwise) plus a three-course sit-down meal. If you are ever considering attending a foreign bridge tournament for the first time, the Gold Coast Congress should be on your list. Australians are friendly, the Gold Coast is a beautiful region, and an added bonus is the nice break from Canadian winter.

The Open Teams event at the Gold Coast Congress attracted 226 entries. After a 12-round Swiss (14 boards per round) the top six teams advanced to the playoffs, with 1st and 2nd place earning a bye to the semi-finals. We finished the Swiss in 2nd place, but lost in the semi-finals.

Early in the semi-final match Nicholas held this collection:

♠KQ10975 ♥842 ♦9832 ♣---

Judith opened a nebulous 1♦ (11-16 HCP with possibly a void in diamonds) and RHO overcalled 1♥. Nicholas bid 2♠, showing a 6-card suit with 3-7 HCP. After Judith enquired as to range, and Nicholas chose to show his hand as a maximum, Judith bid 4♠. The lead was the ♥3 and now Nicholas had to justify his rose-coloured view. Let's see how you do.

Contract: 4♠

Lead: ♥3

♠ 432
♥ A1095
♦ A5
♣ AK54



♠ KQ10975
♥ 842
♦ 9832
♣ ---

Judith's hand is almost perfect. If spades split 2-2, it should be relatively easy to take 10 tricks. There is no advantage to ducking the opening heart lead so you win the ♥A and pitch two hearts on the ♣AK (RHO plays the ♣10 and ♣9 – upside down signals). Now you continue with ♦A and ♦5, RHO playing the ♦4 and ♦K while LHO plays ♦6 and ♦10.

As expected, RHO continues with the ♥K. You know RHO has five hearts for his overcall (the lead of the ♥3 can only be a singleton), and he has followed to two clubs and two diamonds. Your options are to ruff high, medium or low. At this juncture high or medium seems the best choice. When you ruff with the ♠K LHO pitches the ♦Q. Now, when you lead a low diamond LHO ruffs in front of dummy with the ♠6 and continues with a low club to partner's Queen which you ruff.

One piece of advice that Judith always remembers was from a helpful Edmonton player who remarked that "bridge is easy if you can count to twelve". Judith was never sure if that player was just trying to be humorous or simply didn't realize what she had said. However that piece of advice seems to apply for this hand. An almost complete count of the hand is available. You know that RHO has five hearts, four diamonds and three clubs. Only one of his cards is unknown. If RHO is void in spades the contract cannot be made (you will have two more trump losers) so you have to assume that his thirteenth card is a trump. If RHO's singleton trump is the ♠A, he will be able to promote his partner's Jack by leading hearts through you when he wins the Ace. You have to hope that RHO holds some other singleton. Accordingly, you lay down the ♠Q, and low and behold, RHO produces the Jack.

[continued next page]

Bridge Is Easy ... (continued)

However, the result would have been the same if RHO had held the singleton ♠8, since only the Ace, Jack and 8 are outstanding once LHO has ruffed with the ♠6.

The full hand was:

Contract: 4♠

Lead: ♥3

♠ 432	♠ J
♥ A1095	♥ KQJ76
♦ A5	♦ KJ74
♣ AK54	♣ Q109

♠ A86	♠ KQ10975
♥ 3	♥ 842
♦ Q106	♦ 9832
♣ J87632	♣ --

N		E
W	■	
	S	

The same contract was bid and made at the other table.

The moral of the story is that working out the distribution of cards in the opponents' hands is useful ... whether you count to 12 or 13!

Many thanks to our hard-working team of proof-readers: Delores Hedley, Janet and Chris Galbraith, Janet and John Sharpe.

2017 Alberta Sectionals Masterpoint Race

Final Standings

1	207.04	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB
2	194.53	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB
3	178.70	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB
4	159.05	Allan Simon	Calgary AB
5	151.92	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB
6	118.78	Chris Galbraith	Calgary AB
7	85.93	Lee Barton	Edmonton AB
8	85.93	Lucille Barton	Edmonton AB
9	82.87	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB
10	82.46	Doug Mann	Calgary AB
11	78.68	Steve Lawrence	Calgary AB
12	58.83	Dale Bercov	Calgary AB
13	58.18	Jean Ward	Calgary AB
14	56.07	Fi Nadir	Calgary AB
15	50.74	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB
16	50.68	Perry Khakhar	Calgary AB
17	50.05	Victoria Koroleva	Calgary AB
18	50.05	Ilya Kuzkin	Calgary AB
19	48.88	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB
20	47.53	Don Gladman	Calgary AB
21	46.90	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB
22	44.90	Cindy Cossey	Innisfail AB
23	44.90	Glenn Cossey	Innisfail AB
24	41.00	Dick Yuen	Calgary AB
25	40.92	Vince Nowlan	Edmonton AB
26	39.16	Barry Pritchard	Edmonton AB
27	38.87	Frank Ayer	Calgary AB
28	38.62	Rod Hilderman	Calgary AB
29	38.12	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB
30	37.72	Richard Piette	Calgary AB



Mr. Boffo - Unclear on the Concept, 1989

Campbell Rule of 3

By Gordon Campbell

Bridge has many "rules" - the rule of 11, of 15, of 20, etc. Here is another. **The rule of 3.**

It states, "the fewer 3-card suits you hold, the better". In other words, any hand that contains a 3-card suit would be better without it!

Your longest suit is 4 cards

The worst hand in bridge includes 3 x 3-card suits, any 4-3-3-3, known as a 4-triple-3. Mike Chomyn, a Canadian champion and one of Alberta's greatest players, suggested partners subtract 2 HCPs for any 4-3-3-3, as those hands always hold so many losers. The most common hand, a 4-4-3-2, is better without the 3-card suit, when switched to a 4-4-4-1.

Your longest suit is 5 cards or 6 cards

A 5-3-3-2 with 2 x 3-card suits is very common, but much worse than a 5-4-2-2 that has no 3-card suits. A 6-3-3-1 and 6-3-2-2 are both worse than a 6-4-2-1.

The Rule of 3 applies to almost ALL hand shapes. Sadly, there is one anomaly that I can't reconcile with my rule - a 5-4-3-1 is better than a 5-4-2-2.

Exceptions

A hand with a void is so positive that it over-compensates for the negatives of the 3-card suit, e.g.

5-5-3-0 is better than 5-5-2-1

6-4-3-0 is better than 6-4-2-1

7-3-3-0 is better than 7-3-2-1 but a 7-4-2-0 is better than both.

Summary

Like all bridge rules, this new rule summarizes the intuition that experienced bridge players acquire.

Arithmetically, all bridge hands must include either 1 or 3 suits of odd length (zero cards in a suit counts as "even"). Try to ensure your odd-length suit is not 3! If you can't do that, bid less!

We are so fortunate that ancient bridge civilizations aligned the number of cards in a suit with the number of lunar cycle phases, instead of Gregorian months in a year, i.e., 13 instead of 12 - who would want 3-triple-3?

Editors' note: Just how often do these hand patterns occur?

<u>Hand Shape</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
4-3-3-3	10.5%
4-4-3-2	21.6%
4-4-4-1	3.0%
5-3-3-2	15.5%
5-4-2-2	10.6%
5-4-3-1	12.9%
5-5-3-0	0.9%
5-5-2-1	3.2%
6-3-3-1	3.5%
6-3-2-2	5.6%
6-4-2-1	4.7%
6-4-3-0	1.3%
7-3-3-0	0.3%
7-3-2-1	1.9%
7-4-2-0	0.4%

Adding it all up, you will find that 74% of the time you will be dealt at least one 3-card suit. That makes it difficult to achieve Gordon's objective of avoiding such hands. ☺

Upcoming Unit 390 Tournament Dates



Calgary Sectional	September 7 - 9, 2018
Calgary Sectional	November 2 - 4, 2018
Calgary White Hat Regional	July 16 - 22, 2018
District 18 GNT Final (BBO online)	May 11 - 12, 2018



They Are Not Just X's

By Allan Simon

When talking about a bridge hand, it is very common to replace the spot cards with x's. We do this all the time: we write down a hand like AQxx Kxxxx xx Kx, as if all these x's are identical and irrelevant. But just recently I played several hands where the x's were very important. The first comes from the CNTC qualifier at the Kerby Centre.

Playing with Gordon Campbell, these were our hands:

Gordon		Allan
♠ QJ6		♠ AK7
♥ 105		♥ AK83
♦ J8763		♦ K2
♣ J65		♣ K843


The bidding was short and sweet: I opened 2NT and Gordon raised me to three.

LHO led the ♠2 and Gordon tabled his meager collection. Obviously, the hands did not fit well at all. There were five top tricks, and it was hard to see where four more could be found! I started by winning dummy's ♠Q and called for a small diamond. Things looked up a bit when RHO followed with Queen. I played the ♦K which won the trick. It looked as if RHO started with ♦AQ doubleton!

The trouble was, even if dummy's ♦J could be set up, it was very unlikely I could ever get there. LHO would need to hold precisely ♣AQ or ♣AQx. Instead, I decided to immediately lead a small club from my hand. LHO rose with the ♣Q and played another spade. I won that with my King, and tried another club to the Jack, which won the trick. I played a third round and lo and behold, RHO followed with the 10 and LHO took the ♣A. Darn it! I could have made the hand legitimately with three spades and two tricks each in the other suits. But I still had a chance.


LHO exited with a third round of spades. I won the ♠A and played the 13th club. LHO thought briefly and discarded the ♥6. I threw a diamond from dummy, and RHO pitched the ♥2. The distribution was now clear; LHO had started with four spades, they each had three clubs, the diamonds were 4-2, therefore the hearts were originally 5-2.

These cards were left (rotated to make South declarer):

♠ --		♠ --
♥ 105		♥ J974
♦ J87		♦ A
♣ --		♣ --
♠ 10		♠ --
♥ Q		♥ J974
♦ 1094		♦ A
♣ --		♣ --
♠ --		♠ --
♥ AK83		♥ AK83
♦ 2		♦ 2
♣ --		♣ --

At this point, I cashed the ♥A, dropping West's Queen and continued with a diamond to East's Ace. East played the ♥J to smother dummy's ten but I ducked. That left East with the ♥97 and me with the ♥K8. East exited with the ♥7 and of course I played my eight, and had my nine tricks. Admittedly when first surveying the two hands I did not appreciate how important that ♥8 would be!

This was the full deal:

♠ QJ6		♠ 943
♥ 105		♥ J9742
♦ J8763		♦ AQ
♣ J65		♣ 1097
♠ 10852		♠ 943
♥ Q6		♥ J9742
♦ 10954		♦ AQ
♣ AQ2		♣ 1097
♠ AK7		♠ AK7
♥ AK83		♥ AK83
♦ K2		♦ K2
♣ K843		♣ K843

Author's Note: West erred when he discarded a heart on the 13th club. Had he pitched a spade or diamond instead, the ending would not have worked. There is no doubt that the legitimate line of hoping for ♦AQ doubleton with East and ♣AQ(x) with South was better.

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The President's Award



At each Sectional in the Unit 390 tournament cycle, the recipient of the President's Award is named. With the recent change in stratification at our sectionals, the President's Award is now open to players with 0 – 300 masterpoints and is restricted to Unit 390 members in good standing. The award goes to the eligible player who, over the course of the weekend, accumulates the most masterpoints

in 299'er events. Winners are acknowledged at the annual Unit 390 trophy presentation and their names are engraved on the President's Award plaque.

The 299'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 2017

Congratulations go to Tracy Horan and Rich Piette for capturing the President's Award, each with 12.73 masterpoints. Wow! They broke Rich's previous record of 11.82 points set last year. Here is the full list of results:

Flight D (100 – 300):

1/2	12.73	Rich Piette
1/2	12.73	Tracy Horan
3	10.08	Ryan Clark

Flight E (50 – 100)

1/2	4.23	Danuta Trafford
1/2	4.23	Thomas Trafford
3	3.75	Bob Gagnon

Flight F (0 – 50)

1	7.77	Jim Chunn
2/3	6.21	Yurong (June) Cheng
2/3	6.21	Shuangbing (Frank) Guo

January 2018

Jim Chunn earned the President's Award with 8.11 masterpoints. Congratulations Jim! The full list of results:

Flight D (100 – 300):

1	6.60	Ryan Clark
2	5.15	Andrew Cullen
3/4	5.04	Tracy Horan
3/4	5.04	Rich Piette

Flight E (50 – 100)

1	8.11	Jim Chunn
2	6.17	Bob Gagnon
3	2.08	Margaret Williams

Flight F (0 – 50)

1	5.50	Adel Erian
2/3	3.70	June Cheng
2/3	3.70	Frank Guo

March 2018

The President's Award was won by a father-son team, Andrew and Michael Serafini, with 6.86 mps. Congratulations! Following is the full list of results:

Flight D (100 – 300):

1/2	6.86	Andrew Serafini
1/2	6.86	Michael Serafini
3	3.56	Ryan Clark

Flight E (50 – 100)

1	4.18	Deanna Downton
2	4.00	Derwyn Hughes
3	3.56	Jim Chunn

Flight F (0 – 50)

1/2	5.62	Susan Ongyerth
1/2	5.62	George Ongyerth
3	4.39	Linda Walker

Congratulations to all! Well done.

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.



Don't Hug Me Partner!

By Gordon Campbell

Of course, I mean "don't squeeze me" but "hug" has a better ring to it somehow. As Paul Thurston recently said in one of his excellent columns in the National Post, analyzing low-level contracts is often more interesting than higher-level contracts, because there are usually more possible lines of play or defence.

In a team game in first seat I opened 1♠ with

♠QJ1062 ♥95 ♦K4 ♣AK62

and the opponents landed in 2NT after the following auction:

(Gordon)

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

Contract: 2NT

Lead: ♣4

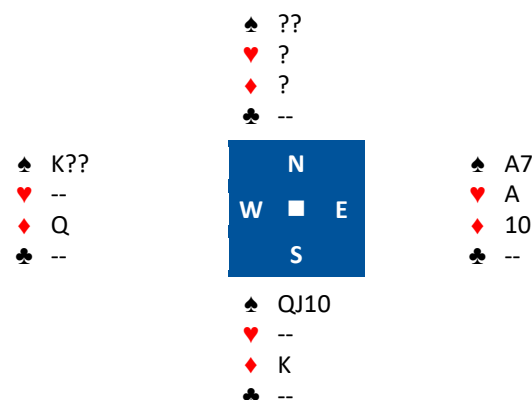


♠ QJ1062
♥ 95
♦ K4
♣ AK62

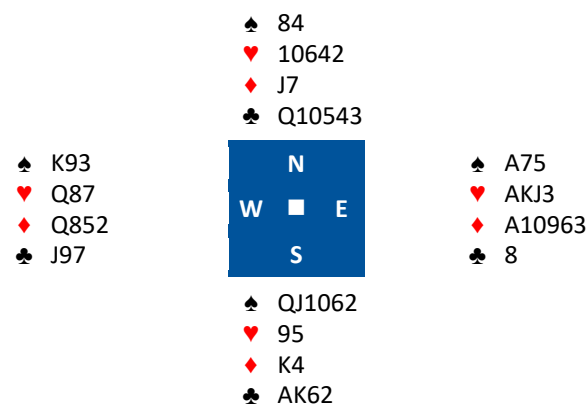
♠ A75
♥ AKJ3
♦ A10963
♣ 8

Partner led the ♣4. This was likely from a 5-card suit, otherwise he would probably have led a spade. Without giving the situation sufficient consideration, I won the ♣K, cashed the ♣A and continued a club. As expected, partner had five clubs (declarer originally holding ♣J97) and he cashed his club winners before leading the ♦J. Declarer won and played three rounds of hearts. By now it was fairly clear that the West hand had both the ♦Q and ♠K, but my realization came too late to save me. I am squeezed as I cannot pitch anything safely on the fourth round of hearts.

This was the four-card ending:



If I throw a spade, declarer's third spade will be good, and I can't let the ♦K go! The four hands were:



I was too lazy to work it out at trick one. Partner squeezed me to the point that I had no spare pitches. He could have seen that after the third round of clubs, but it was much easier for me to see at trick one. That's where most mistakes are made. I needed to assume partner held ♣Qxxxx and if that were so, there was no hurry to cash our club tricks since I could see declarer had a maximum of seven top tricks. I should exit the ♠Q. If declarer tries to rectify the count by playing a club himself, I can win and play the ♠J. Now declarer has no hope because the entries he needs for the squeeze have been knocked out.

In fact, the article title should be "don't be suicide-squeezed by partner". ☺

Editors' Note: Technically, a suicide squeeze is when your partner squeezes you out of a winner or stopper as she cashes her tricks. On this hand, partner forced you to deplete your idle cards and set you up to be squeezed later by declarer.

2017 Ace of Clubs Awards

Unit 390 Final Standings

0 to 5	1	Robert Stothers	Calgary AB	42
	2	Brian Kinder	Calgary AB	29
	3	Adel Erian	Calgary AB	26
5 to 20	1	Michael Serafini	Calgary AB	57
	2	Richard Wolfe	Calgary AB	32
	3	Kathleen Malo	Calgary AB	32
20 to 50	1	Thomas Trafford	Calgary AB	56
	2	Danuta Trafford	Calgary AB	55
	3	Deanna Downton	Calgary AB	48
50 to 100	1	Katie Trafford	Calgary AB	59
	2	Devra Drysdale	Calgary AB	50
	3	Bob Gagnon	Calgary AB	39
100 to 200	1	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	80
	2	Richard Piette	Calgary AB	60
	3	Jay Newington	Calgary AB	58
200 to 300	1	Mary Anne Crookes	Calgary AB	74
	2	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	68
	3	Judy Madge	Calgary AB	63
300 to 500	1	Pat Anderson	Calgary AB	76
	2	Andy McKaig	Calgary AB	70
	3	Ann Slattery	Calgary AB	55
500 to 1000	1	Dale Bercov	Calgary AB	141
	2	Victoria Haines	Calgary AB	113
	3	Elizabeth Sprague	Calgary AB	98
1000 to 1500	1	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	107
	2	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB	97
	3	Patrick Murphy	Calgary AB	86
1500 to 2500	1	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	155
	3	Jean Ward	Calgary AB	153
	2	Pauline Huculak	Calgary AB	122
2500 to 3500	1	Maged Wafa	Calgary AB	155
	2	Tina Gokturk	Calgary AB	143
	3	Paula Sisko	Calgary AB	115
3500 to 5000	1	Keith Moores	Calgary AB	127
	2	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	113
	3	Elaine Stewart	Calgary AB	110
5000 to 7500	1	Abdul Fakih	Calgary AB	186
	2	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	170
	3	Donald Gladman	Calgary AB	109
7500 to 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	89
	2	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	7
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	11
	2	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	4

2017 Mini-McKenney Awards

Unit 390 Final Standings

0 to 5	1	Robert Stothers	Calgary AB	50
	2	Brian Kinder	Calgary AB	33
	3	Adel Erian	Calgary AB	31
5 to 20	1	Michael Serafini	Calgary AB	89
	2	Peter Serafini	Calgary AB	54
	3	Richard Cripps	Calgary AB	49
20 to 50	1	Danuta Trafford	Calgary AB	93
	2	Thomas Trafford	Calgary AB	91
	3	Andrew Serafini	Calgary AB	78
50 to 100	1	Devra Drysdale	Calgary AB	96
	2	Ryan Clark	Calgary AB	91
	3	Katie Trafford	Calgary AB	90
100 to 200	1	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	155
	2	Jay Newington	Calgary AB	129
	3	Richard Piette	Calgary AB	128
200 to 300	1	Mary Anne Crookes	Calgary AB	177
	2	Shelley Mardiros	Banff AB	133
	3	Andrea Killackey	Calgary AB	116
300 to 500	1	Andy McKaig	Calgary AB	144
	2	Pat Anderson	Calgary AB	129
	3	Lorraine Somerville	Calgary AB	106
500 to 1000	1	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB	289
	2	Victoria Haines	Calgary AB	267
	3	Dale Bercov	Calgary AB	210
1000 to 1500	1	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	287
	2	Patrick Murphy	Calgary AB	214
	3	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB	183
1500 to 2500	1	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	264
	2	Gamil Tadros	Calgary AB	254
	3	Jean Ward	Calgary AB	226
2500 to 3500	1	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	245
	2	Diane Campbell	Calgary AB	221
	3	David Johnson	Calgary AB	206
3500 to 5000	1	Perry Khakhar	Calgary AB	214
	2	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	212
	3	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	199
5000 to 7500	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	469
	2	Allan Simon	Calgary AB	427
	3	Abdul Fakih	Calgary AB	418
7500 to 10,000	1	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	526
	2	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	429
	3	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	46
Over 10,000	1	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	536
	2	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	520

What Are They Doing?

By Daniel Bertrand

You are playing a club game. You pick up the following hand with everyone non-vulnerable:

♠QJ105 ♥AJ1093 ♦J96 ♣J

Your RHO passes, you pass, LHO passes and partner opens 1♣. You respond 1♥ (the opponents continue to pass throughout) and partner bids 2♣. You have a few choices and decide to bid 2NT (Partner, look at all those tens and nines!). Partner raises to 3NT. LHO leads the ♦7 and you get your first look at dummy.

Contract: 3NT

Lead: ♦7

♠ 97
♥ Q2
♦ Q42
♣ AKQ1032

N
W ■ E
S

♠ QJ105
♥ AJ1093
♦ J96
♣ J

You have a diamond stopper!

RHO wins the King and returns the ♦3. LHO wins the Ace and returns the ♦5. You take the ♦Q in dummy as RHO discards the ♠4. Now you can count eight top tricks if clubs behave (six clubs, one diamond and one heart). If RHO has the ♥K, you can easily make your contract. With LHO having five diamonds versus RHO's two, the finesse is a slight favourite. On the other hand, the field might not reach this contract. You decide that making 3NT will give you a good score and are not worried about overtricks.

At this point, you must cash your six club tricks (if clubs do not behave, you will need four heart tricks). You play the ♣A and ♣K pitching the ♠5 from your hand. Both opponents follow. You cash all your clubs and discard the ♥3, ♥9, ♥10 and ♠10 from your hand. You carefully watch your opponents' discards. Clubs broke 3-3.

RHO discards ♠2, ♥4 and ♥5. LHO discards ♠3, ♦8 and ♠6. Your LHO took a few seconds before playing that second spade.

What is happening? Why did LHO pitch a good diamond but no heart? Surely LHO has some hearts. RHO would probably have bid with six hearts, and LHO would pitch another small spade instead of her good diamond if her original distribution were 5-0-5-3. You know that LHO has one good diamond and three major suit cards.

This is the four-card ending with the lead in dummy:

♠ 97
♥ Q2
♦ --
♣ --

N
W ■ E
S

♠ QJ
♥ AJ
♦ --
♣ --

What do you do? LHO must have the ♥K so the heart finesse will not work. You lead a spade from dummy. RHO tries to stop his partner from being endplayed by rising with the ♠A and returning the ♥6. But LHO had to play the ♠K under her partner's Ace!

So you win your ♥A and cash your good ♠Q. LHO wins the last trick with the ♥K, but you have nine tricks and score 15½ on a 16 top.

This was the complete four-card ending.

♠ 97
♥ Q2
♦ --
♣ --

♠ K
♥ K7
♦ 10
♣ --

N
W ■ E
S

♠ QJ
♥ AJ
♦ --
♣ --

♠ A8
♥ 86
♦ --
♣ --

[continued next page]

What Are They Doing? (continued)

At the point when you played a spade from dummy, the defense had no chance. If RHO had followed with the ♠8, LHO would win the ♠K and cash the good ♦10, but would have to lead from her ♥K into your ♥AJ, giving you two heart tricks.

The defense could have succeeded by discarding differently. But had you not paid attention and asked yourself a few questions, you would simply take the heart finesse and be an unlucky player. Below is the full hand rotated to make South the declarer.

♠ 97			
♥ Q2			
♦ Q42			
♣ AKQ1032			
♠ K63			
♥ K7			
♦ A10875			
♣ 874			
	N		
	W	■	E
	S		
♠ QJ105			
♥ AJ1093			
♦ J96			
♣ J			
♠ A842			
♥ 8654			
♦ K3			
♣ 965			



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Questions?
Emelie Quennell
equennell@gmail.com
Tournament Flyer on acbl.org

A university professor set an examination question in which he asked "What is the difference between ignorance and apathy?" The professor had to give an A+ to a student who answered "I don't know and I don't care."

Anonymous

ACBL Grandfathers Life Master Requirements

Reaching the rank of ACBL Life Master is no small thing and it is something we who are not there yet strive to achieve. The ACBL specifies the number and colour of masterpoints needed to fulfill the requirements for Life Master status.



On January 1, 2010, the ACBL introduced revised requirements for Life Master status.

If you joined the ACBL prior to January 1, 2010 and maintained continuous membership after that date, here is what you need to become a Life Master:

300 points, at least 50 are black, at least 50 are silver, at least 50 are red/gold/platinum and at least 25 are gold/platinum

If you joined the ACBL after January 1, 2010, the requirements to become a Life Master are more demanding:

500 points, at least 75 are black, at least 75 are silver, at least 100 are red/gold/platinum, at least 50 are gold/platinum

Anyone who allowed their membership to lapse was governed by the regulations in place when they reinstated their membership, even if they had originally joined before January 1, 2010.

But no longer! Late last year, the ACBL decided to make it easier for lapsed members to re-join and achieve Life Master status.

Any member who originally joined the ACBL prior to January 1, 2010 and whose membership has lapsed, may have the Life Master rank requirements existing for members who joined prior to January 1, 2010 applied to them if:

- Their membership is reinstated prior to July 1, 2018
OR
- Their membership is reinstated on or after July 1, 2018 upon payment of a one-time fee of \$50 to ACBL.



This grandfathering process will happen automatically provided the reinstated member renewed under their old ACBL number. If, for some reason, a lapsed member re-joined and was assigned a new ACBL number,

they **must** contact Membership Services at the ACBL (Customerservice@acbl.org) to see if it is possible to track down their old ACBL number and merge the two records.

2018 Alberta Sectionals Masterpoint Race

Year-to-Date -- April 7th

1	62.68	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB
2	62.30	Steve Lawrence	Calgary AB
3	61.34	Cindy Cossey	Innisfail AB
4	61.34	Glenn Cossey	Innisfail AB
5	58.74	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB
6	58.29	Ray Grace	Sherwood Park AB
7	57.70	Garry Karst	Edmonton AB
8	53.80	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB
9	51.74	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB
10	41.21	Rolf Saetre	Calgary AB
11	39.70	Al Simon	Calgary AB
12	39.22	Bernie Lambert	Acme AB
13	36.01	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB
14	34.81	Bob Pratt	Edmonton AB
15	34.81	Kevin Strangway	Grande Prairie AB
16	33.33	Runan Du	Calgary AB
17	33.33	Yi Peng Mai	Calgary AB
18	32.81	Frank Ayer	Calgary AB
19	31.56	Chris Galbraith	Calgary AB
20	30.45	Perry Khakhar	Calgary AB
21	29.84	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB
22	29.70	Lee Barton	Edmonton AB
23	29.70	Lucille Barton	Edmonton AB
24	28.15	Doug Mann	Calgary AB
25	27.91	Charlie Lamb	Red Deer AB
26	27.52	Fi Nadir	Calgary AB
27	24.89	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB
28	24.64	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB
29	22.95	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB
30	22.09	Ed Flett	Red Deer AB

"Airplane travel is nature's way of making you look like your passport photo."

Al Gore

Member Milestones

The following members have reached new masterpoint milestones from the beginning of October 2017 to the end of March 2018. Congratulations to all on their achievements.



New Junior Masters (5+ MPs):

Ross Beatty	Margaret Ludwick
Ian Beddis	Ken Maclean
Stanley Bobrow	Amal Macphail
Dianne Clark	Yi Peng Mai
Bharat Diwanji	Rita McGillivray
Jane Downey	Andrea McManus
Sabrina Fayerman	Carol McNabb
Ernest Hanchar	Brian Moriarty
Hank Heerema	Gwendolyn Moriarty
Mavis Holder	Pamela Oldfield
Patricia Hrudko	Martine Parent
Carolyn Hyndman	Barbara Rackham
Lyn Jessee	Shelagh Ricketts
Janis Kelman	Ron Smith
Irina Knechtel	Sherry Smith
Marika Kohut	Joan Taras
Linda Legate	Bill Trafford
Doreen Lewis	Richard Weinberger
Barry Litchinsky	Lorraine Winslade

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

Roger Bolton	Ken Miller
Stewart Brightman	Marvis Olson
Yurong Cheng (June)	George Ongyerth
Marie Collins	Susan Ongyerth
Philip Coppard	Linda Pavey
Deborah Cripps	John Prance
Carolanne DeBiasio	Graham Sadoway
Adel Erian	Lynn Sinclair
Beverley Erickson	Ken Steele
Shuangbing Guo (Frank)	Cindy Watt
Scott Haggins	Jamie Watt
Conrad Kathol	Peter Weir
Brian Kinder	

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

Myron Achtman	Derwyn Hughes
Kathy Antonchuk	William Ingelson
Sheila Bailey	Edward Lamb
Houria Chraibi	Kathleen Malo
Jim Chunn	Carl Ringdahl
Richard Cripps	Robert Ronca
Deanna Downton	Debbie Shaikin
John Finlay	Robert Stothers
Tom Flanagan	Sherri Swystun
Inge French	Hailong Yu

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

Jean Barron	Melinda Price
Simona Costin	Andrew Serafini
Raymond Dickinson	Michael Serafini
Nan Douglas	Maureen Stanley
Sandra Evans	Danuta Trafford
JoAnn Hanson	Thomas Trafford

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

Charlene Delcourt	Jay Newington
Devra Drysdale	Stephen Paul
Julie Larsen	Bruce Petrie
Milt Mansell	Susan Stanley
Sharon Mansell	Carol Thompson

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

Brent Muir

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

Pat Anderson	Cynthia Clark
Jan Brawn	Blake Fleming
Christopher Chalcraft	

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

Richard Bickley	Rolf Saetre
Pauline Boyd	Michael Shuster
Arlene Connell	

[continued next page]

Member Milestones (continued)

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

Laura Farrer	John Sharpe
Mark Manzer	Barbara Webster
Dorothy Mersereau	Chris Wuerscher

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

Hal Jones	Grant Wharry
Pushpa Satinder	Robert Wright
Marilyn Swadron	

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

Carol McManus	Jean Ward
Janet Sharpe	

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

Linda Harrison	Paula Sisko
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Annual General Meeting

The Calgary Duplicate Bridge Association UNIT 390

When: Saturday, June 9, 2018
Where: Kerby Centre
Time: Light Lunch: 11:00 a.m.
Meeting: 11:45 a.m.
Pairs Game: to follow

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome and Introduction
3. Confirmation of Quorum
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes from 2017 AGM
6. President's Report
7. Treasurer's Report - Approval of Financial Statements
8. Appointment of Auditor for 2018/2019
9. Election of Directors
10. Presentation of Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney Awards
11. Questions from the floor
12. Termination

If you are planning to attend, please RSVP by June 2, 2018.
Contact Tracy Horan at 403-554-3434 or tracyhoran@shaw.ca

An estimate of attendance is needed to finalize the catering arrangements.



District 18 GNT On-line Finals

Calgary participants will play at the
Inglewood Golf and Country Club.

Session 1: May 11th at 7:30 pm
Session 2: May 12th at 9:00 am
Session 3: May 12th at 1:30 pm
Session 4: May 12th at 7:30 pm

Please plan to arrive 30 minutes before game time to set up and test the connectivity. Don't forget to bring your laptop and power cords!

BBO kibitzers welcome! Look for players whose IDs start with "d18".

299er Sectionals Are Big Hits!

By Dev Drysdale, Future Masters Coordinator

Your Unit 390 Board is constantly discussing ways to achieve growth in our bridge community. We decided to try offering an Intermediate/Novice Sectional for players with fewer than 300 masterpoints, one that would help them feel welcome and comfortable with tournament bridge.

In November 2017, Unit 390 staged its first-ever 299er Sectional Tournament. It was such a big hit that another 299er Sectional Tournament was held in early April 2018.

Participation in the tournaments was restricted to players with fewer than 300 masterpoints, and the games were flighted (D: 100 - 300; E: 50 - 100; F: 0 - 50). All points awarded were silver points. Silver points are crucial for players hoping to move up the ACBL ranks ladder, since all ranks at Sectional Master and above require some number of silver points won at sectional tournaments to go along with black points won playing in club games.

The turnout for both tournaments was amazing! In November, we had two separate one-session pairs events with a total of 71.5 tables. That translates into roughly 144 participants!



Scene from the November 2017 299er Sectional at Kerby Centre
Photo courtesy Susan Julius

The April attendance nearly matched that of November, with approximately 140 participants playing a two-session pairs event. We had six out-of-town pairs: three from Lethbridge and one each from Edmonton, Medicine Hat and Airdrie.

The interesting fact is that of the 70 or so pairs who played in April, 26 were in the Flight F (0 - 50) and several of those started with no masterpoints at all! Another 12 pairs were in Flight E (50 - 100) and, of course the rest were in Flight D (100 - 300).

Here is a list of the top 10 masterpoint winners for each Sectional.

November

A total of 118.02 silver points were awarded to 94 players:

1/2	5.21	Tracy Horan
1/2	5.21	Richard Piette
3/4	4.74	Sunil Verma
3/4	4.74	Ken Miller
5/6	4.18	Philip Magee
5/6	4.18	Georgia Black
7/8	4.14	Joan Pourbaix
7/8	4.14	Chris Legault
9/10	4.07	Peter Weir
9/10	4.07	Deanna Downton

March

A total of 105.20 silver points were earned by 92 players:

1/2	6.65	Philip Coppard
1/2	6.65	Patricia Mitchell
3/4	4.99	Jamie Watt
3/4	4.99	Cindy Watt
5/6	3.74	Terry Schreder
5/6	3.74	Hailong Yu
7/8	2.89	Joseph Au
7/8	2.89	Constance Au
9/10	2.54	Richard Cripps
9/10	2.54	Deborah Cripps

Well done everyone!

The Board is pleased with the number of future masters who have been introduced to the world of duplicate bridge. Comments from participants have been overwhelmingly positive. Bridge teachers report that the 299er Sectionals have provided their students with much-needed opportunities to practice their new skills in an enjoyable setting.

Given the success of these initial tournaments, the Board is planning to continue to host 299er Sectionals in the future.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all of the volunteers who made these Sectionals a reality. The two tournaments were successful due to the combined efforts of many wonderful people. *Thank you all very much!*

Both Sides Series #5

By Dick Yuen

Side A:

As dealer sitting North you hold:

♠K10xx ♥Axx ♦AQJxx ♣x

You open 1♦ in first seat and LHO overcalls 1♥

The auction proceeds as follows:

North (You)	East	South	West
1♦	1♥	1♠	2♥
??			

What is your call?

Facts/Assumptions

- Partner made a free bid so should have 8+ HCP.
- Partner didn't make a negative double so should be showing 5+ spades.

The two obvious choices are 3♥ and 4♣ ... 3♥ ASKS while 4♣ TELLS.

3♥ is either a Western cue-bid asking partner for a heart stopper OR a cue-bid agreeing spades and showing first round heart control (you will clarify later which it is).

Pros:

- The 3♥ bid stays low and leaves room to find out about missing key cards. Primary cards are ♣A, ♦K and ♠A. Secondary cards are ♠Q and ♥K (or a singleton).

Cons:

- Partner is not sure which hand type you have. You may have a solid diamond suit hoping for 3NT or a strong spade raise.

4♣ is a splinter showing club shortness with a 4-card spade fit and a good hand.

Pros:

- A spade contract destination is clear to both partners.

Cons:

- How does partner evaluate the ♣A which is GOLD opposite a singleton, but wasted opposite a void?
- The ♥A is concealed from partner who will have trouble making a positive move without holding a heart control.

Side B:

Switch to the South seat. Examples of hands that South might hold include:

Hand B1: ♠AQJxx ♥x ♦10xx ♣Axxx

Hand B2: ♠AQJxx ♥xx ♦Kxx ♣Jxx

Hand B3: ♠AQJxx ♥Kx ♦10xx ♣Jxx

Hand B4: ♠AQJxxx ♥Jx ♦10x ♣Kxx

Hand B5: ♠AQxxx ♥x ♦Kxx ♣Axxx

The auction proceeds as follows:

North	East	South (You)	West
1♦	1♥	1♠	2♥
3♥/4♣	Pass	??	

What is your response to 3♥ or 4♣ for hands B1 to B5?

South's possible bids over 3♥

- 3♠ - no ♥ stopper and the weakest bid
- 3NT - yes, I have a ♥ stopper
- 4♣ - cue-bid, 1st round control (Ace or void), denies ♥ stopper
- 4♦ - shows ♦ support
More important message: ♣A and ♥ stopper denied!
As a rule of thumb, if you bypass a bid, partner can safely assume you do not have the hand to make that bid.
- 4♥ - super cue-bid (needs prior partnership agreement). Shows 1st round ♥ control, ♦A or ♦K and good spades but denies 1st round ♣ control
- 4♠ - signoff
- 4NT - RKC for spades
- 5♣ - super cue-bid (needs prior partnership agreement). Shows 1st round ♣ control, ♦A or ♦K and good spades, usually denies 1st round ♥ control
- 5♦ - (very unlikely) signoff, delayed 4-card ♦ raise and only a weak 4-card ♠ suit

Answers: B1 - 4♣; B2 - 4♦, B3 - 3NT, B4 - 3♠, B5 - 5♣

What is a super cue-bid? A super cue-bid is defined as showing 1st round control in the bid suit plus A or K in partner's suit plus a good suit of your own while denying 1st round control in the 4th suit. The above table of responses describes two different super cue-bids: 4♥ and 5♣.

[continued next page]

Both Sides Series #5 (continued)

Q&A

1. What should I do if I happen to have 1st round controls in both ♥ and ♠ plus extras?
With such a good hand you should take captaincy by using RKC.

2. Can I use a super cue-bid lacking a top honour in partner's suit?

No. One has to stick to agreements. The nature of a super cue-bid is to show/tell -- having more than a normal cue-bid can be revealing. Partner is still the captain even though you end up as declarer.

3. Can I have a super cue-bid in ♦ and ♠?

No. Super cue-bids are only made in the two side suits.

South's possible bids over 4♣

- 4♦ - shows ♦ support. ♦A or ♦K with 3+ ♦ support
- 4♥ - cue-bid. Shows 1st round ♥ control
- 4♠ - signoff
- 4NT - RKC for spades
- 5♣ - super cue-bid (needs prior partnership agreement). Shows 1st round ♣ control, ♦A or ♦K and good spades, usually denies 1st round ♥ control
- 5♦ - (very unlikely) signoff, delayed 4-card ♦ raise and only a weak 4-card ♠ suit

Answers: B1 - 4NT; B2 - 4♦, B3 - 4♠, B4 - 4♠, B5 - 5♣

Let's examine further both auctions for Hand B1, the magic hand.

North: ♠K10xx ♥Axx ♦AQJxx ♣x
South (B1): ♠AQJxx ♥x ♦10xx ♣Axxx

Suppose North bids 3♥

North	East	South	West
1♦	1♥	1♠	2♥
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣ (2KCs+Q)	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Alternatively:

North	East	South	West
1♦	1♥	1♠	2♥
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦ ¹	Pass	4♥ ²	Pass
?? ³	All Pass		

¹ In Both Sides Series 2, I suggested using this bid as Dick's Keycard Blackwood (DKC). The responses are in steps and the two "trump" suits here are spades and diamonds:

² 4♥ shows 1 KC in spades/diamonds and 0 or 1 Queens

³ North's follow-ups would be

4♠ signoff

4NT sliding suit to ask for keycards in the other two suits excluding the ♠A already shown

5♣ to ask for clarification about the Queens (step 1 = 0 queens; step 2 = lower ranking queen; step 3 = higher ranking queen)

5♥ to ask about heart control as 4♣ theoretically denied a heart stopper (step 1 = no 1st or 2nd round control; step 2 = 2nd round control; step 3 = 1st round control)

If North opts for 5♣, he will hear that partner has the ♠Q and may bid the slam knowing it will be on the diamond finesse if there is a heart loser.

If North opts for 5♥, he will hear that partner has 2nd round heart control and may bid the slam knowing it will be on the diamond finesse if there is a trump loser.

In all cases, a reasonable slam has been reached.

Now, suppose North bids 4♣

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

¹ 0 or 3 keycards (the auction points to 3)

South can bid the slam hoping that trumps behave and that there is only one diamond loser.

Both of North's options lead to the slam, but in different ways. When North ASKS with 3♥, North remains the captain. When North TELLS with 4♣, South takes over captaincy. In my opinion, 3♥ is the superior choice, leading to a more confident auction.

[continued next page]

Both Sides Series #5 (continued)

Let's have one final look at the potential auctions and the end result for Hand B5.

North: ♠K10xx ♥Axx ♦AQJxx ♣x
South (B5): ♠AQxxx ♥x ♦Kxx ♣Axxx

Suppose North bids 3♥

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

The super cue-bid of 5♣ allows you to reach the grand slam in spades with confidence.

Alternatively:

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

If you don't play super cue-bids the best South can do is bid 4♣, and after RKC and the 5♠ response, North's choices are 5NT (asking for specific Kings) or 6♦ asking for 2nd round diamond control (in this case the ♦K). Both of these bids strike gold!

And with DKC:

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

¹ DKC

² 5♣ shows 2 KC in spades/diamonds and 1 Queen

³ North can be pretty confident bidding the grand slam knowing South has ♠A, ♦K and ♠Q

If North has bid 4♣

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

¹ 0 or 3 keycards (the auction points to 3)

² South needs a way to find out about the ♦Q ... without it, the grand slam is a gamble.

Once again, in my opinion, having North begin with 3♥ has the edge over 4♣.

Conclusion

- In slammish auctions, decide who should be the captain. If you want to take over, use an Asking bid.
- Use keycards rather than HCP to visualize slam possibilities.

Bridge Swifties

Remember Tom Swift? He was the mythical character years ago who always matched the verb or the adverb to the statement he had just made.

Some ACBL staff members were tossing a few around. Our readers might have a little fun with some of the better ones, we opinionated.



"This hand is a dog," Tom muttered.

"Your contract was cold," observed Tom icily.

"We got another goose egg," Tom cackled.

"I prefer team games to pairs," said Tom impishly.

"We don't have enough pairs for a Mitchell," howled Tom.

"I pass," said Tom pointlessly.

"Why do they call it the ACBL?" asked Tom initially.

"Three notrump," Tom bid gamely.

"I had no distributional values," Tom said flatly.

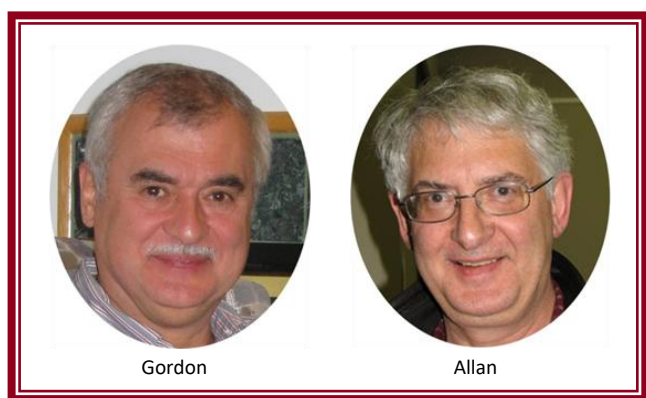
Source: ACBL Bridge Bulletin
Circa 1985

Baldwin North American Pairs - Flight A

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

The Baldwin North American Pairs national final was held in Philadelphia this past March at the Spring Nationals. Allan Simon and Gordon Campbell had a stellar performance in the Flight A category, finishing fourth overall.

In the first qualifying session, Gordon and Allan posted a 66.2% game and they followed with a solid 53.6% session to top the list of qualifiers heading into Day 2.



On the following hand from the first qualifying session (rotated to make declarer South), Gordon was sitting East and Allan, West. The opponents arrived in 4♠ by South after Gordon had opened 1♥ in first seat.

Dealer: East
Contract: 4♠
Lead: ♥2

♠ 9	♠ K1053	♠ J864
♥ 642	♥ 9853	♥ AKQJ107
♦ QJ8	♦ AK2	♦ 10
♣ 876543	♣ KQ	♣ 92

♠ AQ72	♠ N	♠ J864
♥ --	♥ W	♥ AKQJ107
♦ 976543	♦ E	♦ 10
♣ AJ10	♣ S	♣ 92

Declarer ruffed the opening heart lead with the ♠2 and played a diamond to dummy's ♦K. He crossed to the ♠Q and played a second round of diamonds to the ♦A on which Gordon discarded the ♣2. Declarer now tried to cash his club winners, but Gordon ruffed the 2nd round with the ♠6 and continued with the ♥K. Declarer ruffed in hand (leaving himself with the singleton ♠A) and played a third round of clubs pitching the ♦2 from dummy. Gordon was able to ruff that with the ♠8 and play yet another high heart, forcing declarer to ruff with the ♠A.

This was the four-card ending, with South on lead:

♠ --	♠ K105	♠ J
♥ --	♥ 9	♥ J107
♦ Q	♦ --	♦ --
♣ 876	♣ --	♣ --

♠ --	♠ N	♠ J
♥ --	♥ W	♥ J107
♦ 9765	♦ E	♦ --
♣ --	♣ S	♣ --

With only diamonds left in hand, declarer has no way to get to dummy to draw Gordon's last trump. The defense scored three trump tricks plus the ♥J, earning 69% of the matchpoints on the board.

Note that 6♦ is an easy contract for North-South. And 4♠ could have been made several different ways. When Gordon thoughtfully discarded the ♣2 instead of ruffing the second round of diamonds, declarer would have had to take a complex and counter-intuitive line of play to make the contract. Ruff a heart with the ♠A, not the ♠7! Then exit a diamond. If another heart comes back, declarer ruffs with the ♠7 and leads a good diamond to pitch dummy's last heart. If Allan gives Gordon a club ruff when he wins the diamond, Gordon has no option but to let Declarer ruff a heart with the ♠7 (a trump lead would be into dummy's ♠K105). Note that if Declarer first ruffs with the ♠7, Gordon can safely return a trump to lock declarer in his hand while dummy still has two heart losers.

2017 District 18 Masterpoint Races

Final Standings

Unit 390 players were winners in eight 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	1	Robert Stothers	Calgary AB	50
	2	Brian Kinder	Calgary AB	33
5 to 20	1	Michael Serafini	Calgary AB	89
	3	Peter Serafini	Calgary AB	54
20 to 50	1	Danuta Trafford	Calgary AB	93
	2	Thomas Trafford	Calgary AB	91
	3	Andrew Serafini	Calgary AB	78
50 to 100	3	Devra Drysdale	Calgary AB	96
100 to 200	1	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	155
	2	Jay Newington	Calgary AB	129
	3	Richard Piette	Calgary AB	128
200 to 300	1	Mary Anne Crookes	Calgary AB	177
	2	Shelley Mardiros	Banff AB	133
500 to 1000	1	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB	289
	3	Victoria Haines	Calgary AB	267
1000 to 1500	1	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	287
	2	Patrick Murphy	Calgary AB	214
1500 to 2500	3	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	264
5000 to 7500	3	Dan Bertrand	Calgary AB	469
7500 to 10,000	2	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	526
	1	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	536
Over 10,000	2	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	520

If one morning I walked on the top of the water across the Potomac River, the headline that afternoon would read:

"PRESIDENT CAN'T SWIM"

Lyndon B. Johnson

ACBL Membership Renewal Options and the New Temporary Membership

The ACBL has implemented a number of changes to the membership fee structure that may be of interest.

The reduced fee for new members has been eliminated. A new member now pays the same amount as a regular member.

The two-year membership has been discontinued. Members may choose between a one-year and a three-year membership, with a savings of about \$35 if you opt for the latter.

The Household membership option can save you money. A household membership is available to two members residing at the same address, and includes one copy of the monthly ACBL Bridge Bulletin. A one-year household membership costs roughly \$20 less than two single memberships.

The ACBL has also put in place a regulation stating that every participant in an ACBL-sanctioned tournament must have an ACBL membership number. A non-member wishing to play must either join the ACBL as a full-year member or purchase a temporary membership.

The temporary membership allows non-members to try the excitement of playing in a sanctioned



tournament without committing to a full-year membership. It is good for one month, and includes an ACBL number and one issue of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin. The cost is about \$10 CDN.

If, within the 1-month timeframe, a temporary member decides to join the ACBL as a full-year member, the usual membership fee will be reduced by the cost of the temporary membership.

A temporary member keeps the ACBL number assigned to him at the outset, but is permitted to play in an ACBL tournament only if his membership is up-to-date, which may require "renewing" his temporary membership for another month.

Lapsed members do not have to rejoin. They can continue to use their "old" ACBL number and pay the prescribed surcharge to play at a sanctioned tournament.

Non-members are still welcome to play at local clubs and to participate in STaC games.

Basic Recipe for a Squeeze

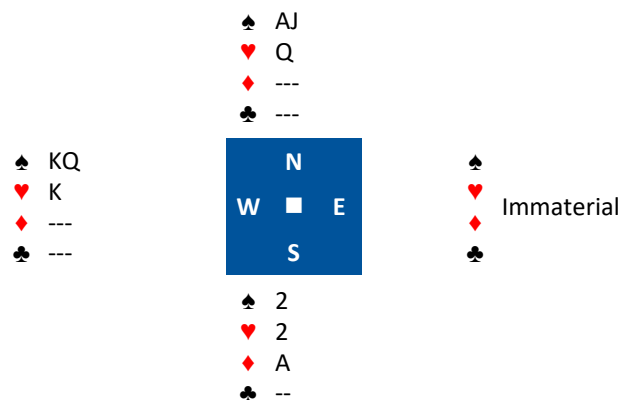
By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

You don't have to play competitive bridge for long before you will hear about lots of plays to help you win extra tricks in a contract: the finesse, the endplay, the trump coup, and, of course, the squeeze. But until you learn how each of them works, it feels more like magic than technique when you succeed.

This article briefly lays out the basic requirements for uncomplicated squeezes. It is really just an appetizer! If you want to move on to the main course, there are plenty of references out there to help.

Let us look at a simple ending, just to give an idea of what is meant by a "squeeze". Suppose you are South playing a no-trump contract and that, near the end of the hand, you have the lead in this 3-card ending:

Example Layout #1:



When you cash your $\heartsuit A$, what can poor West do? If he discards the $\heartsuit K$, you will discard the $\spadesuit J$ and take the last two tricks with the $\clubsuit A$ and $\heartsuit Q$. And, if he discards the $\spadesuit Q$, you will discard the $\heartsuit Q$ and take the last two tricks with the $\clubsuit A$ and $\spadesuit J$. West has been squeezed and there is nothing he can do about it!

A squeeze is a position in which an opponent is forced to discard a winner or a guard (that is, a stopper), thereby creating a winner for declarer.

There are several requirements for a successful simple squeeze:

1. The opponent you hope to squeeze must have no idle cards. A squeeze occurs only when a player is forced to discard an important card ... a busy card. It might be a winner or a stopper. If the opponent has an idle card (that is, a meaningless card), his discard is easy.

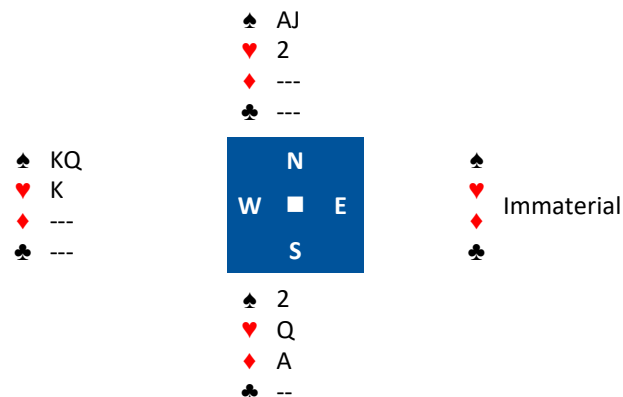
2. To bring about #1, you may have to concede losers, usually just enough so that you have all the remaining tricks but one. There are some squeeze positions that work if you have two, or even three losers, but the common position is one loser remaining.
3. At least one threat card (potential winner) must lie "over" or after the hand with busy cards. This usually happens when you are squeezing in two suits. You need to see what the opponent discards before you decide what you will discard. If the opponent with the busy cards discards after you, they just watch what you throw away and discard accordingly.
4. You must have an entry to the hand with the threat card(s). There is no point in squeezing an opponent if you can't travel to the proper hand to take advantage.

Many different positions exist. The most common is a simple squeeze which works against one opponent as in Example Layout #1.

Note that all the requirements for a squeeze are met:

1. All of LHO's cards are important ... they are "busy". The ♥K is a winner and the ♠KQ represents a stopper or a guard.
2. You have two winners (♦A and ♠A) and one loser (♥)
3. The threat cards are the ♠J and the ♥Q. In this picture, both threat cards are behind the opponent with the busy cards. However the situation would be the same if dummy had a small heart and declarer had the ♥Q as shown in Example Layout #2.

Example Layout #2:



And lastly,

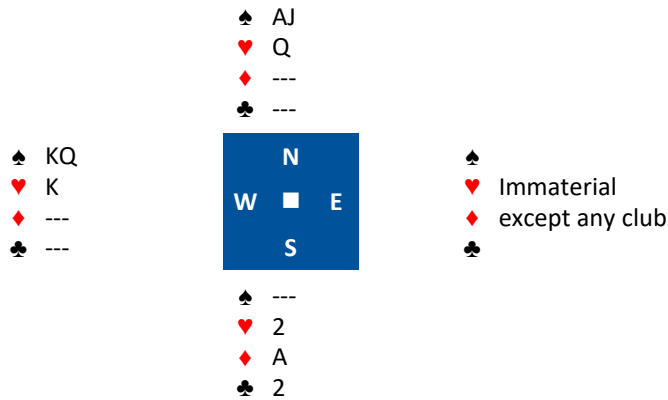
4. You have an entry to dummy with the $\spadesuit A$.

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Basic Recipe for a Squeeze (continued)

Suppose the cards were arranged a bit differently:

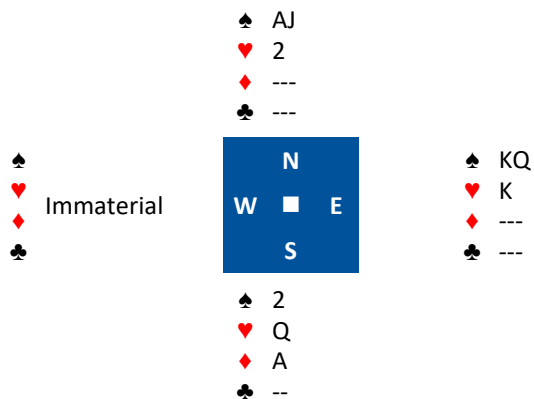
Example Layout #3:



Now, when you play the ♦A, West can painlessly discard his ♠Q. Yes, that makes your ♠J a winner but it does you no good because you have no entry to dummy.

It is also interesting to note that when the threat cards are split (as in Example Layout #2) it doesn't matter which opponent has all the busy cards ... he will be squeezed just the same. That is not true if the threat cards are in the same hand because they will be behind only one of the opponents. To understand, compare these two situations:

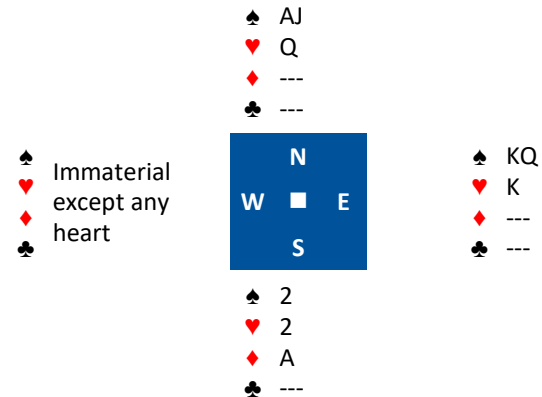
Example Layout #4:



In Example Layout #4, East has all the busy cards. When you play the ♦A and discard the small heart from dummy, there is nothing he can do.

But ...

Example Layout #5:

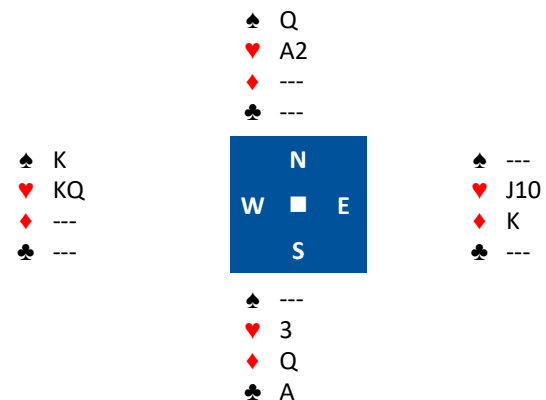


In Example Layout #5, neither of the threat cards lies after East, who is the opponent with all the busy cards. When you play the ♦A, you must decide what to discard from dummy before East has to play.

There is another basic squeeze position that is also common: the double squeeze or automatic squeeze. In this scenario, both opponents get squeezed. Sweet!

Here is a typical position for a double squeeze ending.

Example Layout #6:



When you play the ♣A, what can West do? He must keep the ♠K, so he is forced to discard the ♥Q. Now, you can discard the ♠Q ... it hasn't become a winner but it has done its work. Over to East. He must keep the ♦K, so he has to discard the ♥10. Presto ... you can lead the ♥3 to the ♥A and the ♥2 takes the last trick.

It's a nasty thing to do to your opponents, but it sure is fun!

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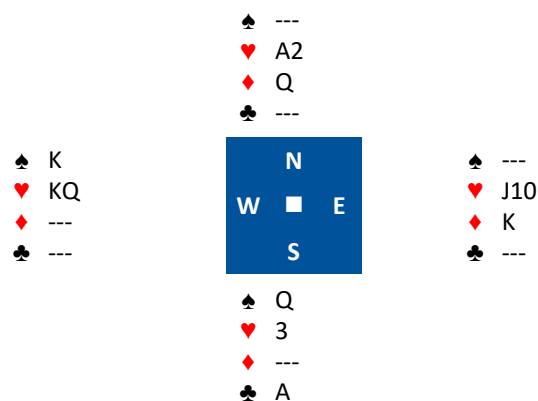
Basic Recipe for a Squeeze (continued)

The requirements for a successful double squeeze are these:

1. Neither opponent has idle cards.
2. As with a simple squeeze, to tighten up the position, you may have to concede losers, usually so that you have all the remaining tricks but one.
3. This position occurs when you are squeezing in three suits: one for sure against your LHO and one for sure against your RHO. What!#? In this situation, each of your opponents must be guarding a different suit, and there is a third "wild card" suit in which you are also interested. The threat card in the suit guarded by LHO must lie behind LHO (i.e. in dummy). The threat card in the suit guarded by RHO must lie behind him (i.e. in hand). The "wild card" threat card is usually in dummy.
4. As always, you must have an entry to the hand with the threat card(s). You need to be able to take advantage.

Note that if the positions of the threat cards in Example Layout #6 are reversed, the squeeze doesn't work.

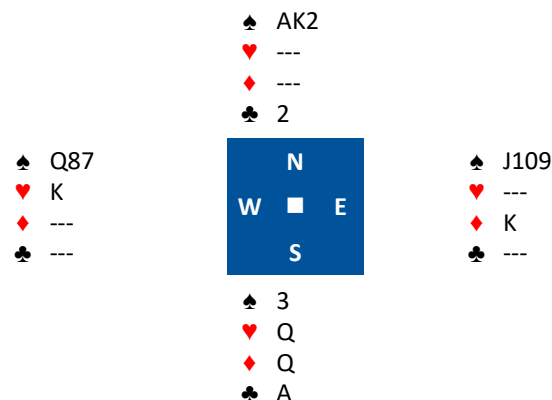
Example Layout #7:



This time, the threat card against LHO does not lie "behind" ... you have the ♠Q. When you lead the ♣A, West must discard the ♥Q, otherwise your ♠Q becomes a winner. Now, what do you discard from dummy? You must make a decision before RHO does, and that destroys the squeeze. If you discard dummy's ♥2, East can also discard a heart. If you discard dummy's ♦Q, East can discard the ♦K.

There are variations on this position.

Example Layout #8:



When South leads the ♠A, West must discard a spade else South's ♥Q becomes good. Dummy follows and East must also discard a spade, else South's ♦Q becomes good. Presto! Declarer leads the ♠3 to dummy's ♠AK and the ♠2 takes the last trick. This squeeze is automatic. Unlike Example Layout #6, it doesn't matter which opponent guards hearts and which opponent guards diamonds, as long as they each guard one of the suits.

The automatic squeeze always works with the separated threats in the same hand as the squeeze card. In this example, the ♥Q and ♦Q are threats and the ♣A is the squeeze card. Then, it doesn't matter which opponent guards which suit, as long as they each guard one of them. Neither will be able to guard the "wild card" suit, which in this case, is spades.

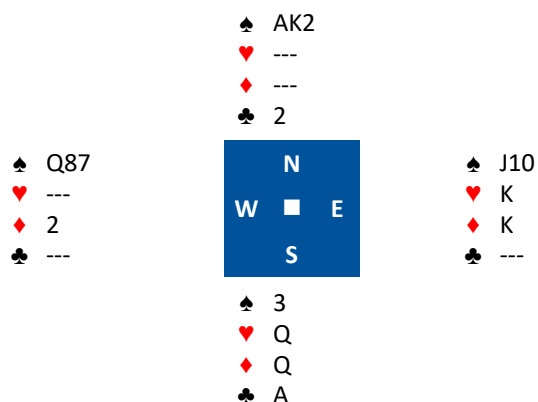
Just imagine the ♥K and ♦K switched in Example Layout #8.
When South leads the ♣A, it doesn't matter which opponent guards hearts and diamonds ... each is forced to make a suicidal discard.

What does put the kibosh into things is if one opponent guards both interesting suits. Consider the scenario shown on the next page.

[continued next page]

Basic Recipe for a Squeeze (continued)

Example Layout #9:



South leads the ♣A and West has no problem ... his small diamond is an idle card so he can easily discard it. Over to East. East obviously cannot discard either the ♥K or the ♦K, so discards the ♠10. Oops! The squeeze does not operate because West does not hold a guard over one of the key threat cards (♥Q and ♦Q). He could easily guard the "wild card" suit.

To illustrate, we've shown all these example layouts with high cards like kings and queens, but as a declarer, you have to visualize the identical scenarios with lower cards.

And that is the important thing ... visualize. If you can "see" a magic ending, then work towards achieving it. Just remember this recipe:

1. Try to identify who holds the "busy" cards ... the guard cards.
2. Lose the proper number of tricks so that you have just one loser remaining.
3. Preserve the entries needed to capitalize.
4. Smile at your opponents and commiserate ... "there was nothing you could have done ... I had you".

Sometimes, you execute a squeeze without knowing what you are doing! "What just happened" you might wonder, and you leave the table convinced that your opponents made a big mistake. But the first time you pull off a squeeze when you actually planned it ... that is exhilarating!



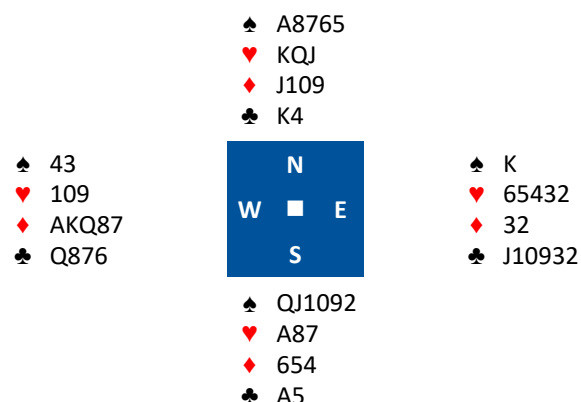
Extended Use of Bicycle Signals

By Dick Yuen

In the October 2017 edition of The Kibitzer I described the use of "bicycle signals" on defense. Here is another example of how these signals can be useful. With silent opponents North-South arrive in 4♠.

Contract: 4♠

Lead: ♦A



West cashes ♦AKQ while East signals to show a doubleton. On the third round of diamonds bicycle signals would work as follows:

- the lowest heart (♥2) or a high club (♣J) asks for a diamond continuation
- if you wanted a heart switch a low club would be played while a high heart asks for a club switch

Editors' note:

Readers will observe that a fourth round of diamonds is required to guarantee the defeat of 4♠. That promotes East's ♠K to a winner. Without the promotion, an astute declarer will surely drop the ♠K because West was silent in the auction and has already shown up with 9 HCP.

Using standard or upside down signals it would be impossible on this hand to give clear direction to partner to continue diamonds because you have only one chance to signal and you need to be able to discourage in two suits. There are, however, other methods that would achieve the same end as bicycle signals. For example, using odd-even discards, there are two ways to encourage in diamonds: discard either the ♥6 or the ♣2 with the latter being the clearer signal.