



# The Kibitzer

## October 2018

Editors: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

### President's Message

Hello bridge players.

After a very smoky summer we can reflect on the successful events held in Calgary, the Regional and the September Sectional. The attendance at the Regional was up 27% from 2015 with 1301 tables. The number of individual players was 652 up from 525, a 24% increase. Fifty players were from out of country and 60 were from out of province. Twelve professionals attended giving Unit 390 players valuable experience against top class opposition. The hospitality was first class and received lots of positive feedback. Thanks to Emelie Quennell, her tournament committee and all the volunteers. Can I have a volunteer to be chairperson for the 2021 Regional?

Attendance at the September Sectional was also a record at 300 tables. On Saturday afternoon there were 60 tables, the entire capacity of the room! If attendance continues to increase we will have to find a larger venue. Does anyone have a suggestion for a reasonably priced location? Thanks to tournament coordinator Carrie Stockman and all the volunteers for this very successful sectional.

At the AGM last June a full complement of twelve directors was acclaimed. It is now the responsibility of the board to elect the officers and I am pleased to report that Lyman Warner is the new Vice-President. The other three officers, President, Secretary and Treasurer are the same as last year, i.e. John Sharpe, Judy Madge and Ed Lamb respectively. Thanks to the two retiring board members, Tracy Horan and Devra Drysdale, for their work during their terms of office. It is much appreciated.

Welcome to the new board members: Susan Korba, Future Masters; Jo Peterson, Assistant Tournament Coordinator; Delores Hedley, Events; Myron Achtman, Youth Education and Marvis Olsen, Special Events.

Finally I wish to recognize the directors who are continuing on the board; Judith Gartaganis, Membership; Carrie Stockman, Tournament Coordinator and Caroleigh Houghton, Information Officer. I am confident that the new board will be able to carry out their responsibilities very effectively.

Unit 390 recently sent out a brochure by e-mail requesting volunteer teachers and mentors for our school bridge program. The response was very good with 21 bridge

enthusiasts saying that they wanted to get involved. There was a meeting in September to brainstorm and gather ideas from everyone regarding the program. The target was to set up bridge classes in three or four schools this year. Ideally there would be classes in various age groups; grades 5/6, grades 7/8 and grades 9/10. Meetings were held in September with the principals of several schools that already expressed an interest in a school bridge program. (See page 4 for the latest news).

The next dates to note are November 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, the Winter Sectional and November 10<sup>th</sup>, the 299er Sectional.

John Sharpe  
President, Unit 390

#### Inside This Issue...

My Favourite (And Not So Favourite) Bridge Books .....	2
2017-18 Grand National Teams .....	3
2018 Alberta Sectionals Race Year-to-Date .....	3
2018 Hattie Joffe Trophy .....	4
2018-19 North American Open Pairs .....	4
Bridge in Calgary Schools Program .....	4
299er Sectional .....	5
Declarer Error Punished! .....	5
Stranded Tricks .....	6
Trivia Fun .....	7
The President's Award .....	7
Extended Use of Bicycle Signals .....	8
Alzheimer's Disease and Bridge .....	9
2018 Ace of Clubs Race Year-to-Date Standings .....	10
2018 Mini-McKenney Race Year-to-Date Standings .....	10
Let's Play a Hand .....	11
Member Milestones .....	12-13
2019 Canadian Bridge Championships .....	13
2018 Youth NABC .....	13
Both Sides Series #6 .....	14-15
Bidding Challenge .....	15
Winning in Competitive Auctions .....	16-17
2018 Canadian Bridge Championships .....	18
Cue Bidding Debacle in Orlando .....	19-20
Trivia Fun Solutions .....	20

## My Favourite (And Not So Favourite) Bridge Books

By Allan Simon

I love bridge and I love books. Most of all, I love bridge books! I have a fairly large collection of bridge books and magazines in my home which will soon outgrow my bridge bookshelf.

About 20 years ago, I wrote an article for The Kibitzer with the same title. Of course hundreds of books have been published since then, so I thought an update wouldn't hurt.

My favourite author is David Bird who I find even funnier than the beloved Victor Mollo. I particularly enjoy Bird's books about the monks of St. Titus and (even more) about the bridge-playing inhabitants of the Republic of Upper Bhumpopo. Many of the stories are familiar to readers of the ACBL Bulletin, but the old books are if anything even better. For example there was a monk who belonged to the Eustachian order and had taken a vow of silence -- he always passed, going on 40 years now. But once he held a 26-point hand and heard the opponents bid a grand slam. He could not help himself and cried "Double", and noticed with surprise that his voice had changed. Of course, the slam was cold.

I have read every word in all WBF World Championship books. It is fascinating reading, and there is no better way to improve your game than to "watch" the top experts, not just for the spectacular hands that make the newspapers, but on one "humdrum" hand after another. I believe my bidding judgment and my opening leads have benefited considerably from these books, although my partners might disagree with this observation!

The best books on defense are *Killing Defense* by Kelsey and the more recent and unfortunately little-known *Natural Therapy for Bidding Disorders* by Lajos Linzmayer.

For advanced declarer play, forget the over-hyped classics *Bridge Squeezes Complete* by Clyde Love and Louis Watson's potboiler *The Play of the Hand*. I find them obtuse and they contain quite a few errors. Instead, try *How To Read Your Opponents' Cards* by Mike Lawrence. Or, if you want an introduction to squeeze play, I once again refer you David Bird and his easy-to-follow *The Simple Squeeze*.

For opening lead theory, I have been very impressed with the two-book set by (yet again!) David Bird and Taf Anthias. The books (one about leads vs suits, the other vs notrump) are based on computer simulations and include many surprising and (mostly) excellent recommendations.

There also many great biographical and autobiographical works on such luminaries as Kehela and Murray (to me, a very disappointing effort), Zia, Sabine Auken, Bob Hamman and many others. In this category, I especially recommend

*Inside the Bermuda Bowl* by John Swanson and *The Lone Wolff* by Bobby Wolff. These books reveal something of the behind-the-scenes politics of our game.

A couple of years ago, our Unit gave away several boxes of old books at a sectional. When I got there, there was only one single uninspiring-looking book left in the very last box. It was called *Bridge with Dora*, written in 1965 by a certain John Brown. I took it, and what a find it was! It is a terrific read, with a special emphasis on squeezes without the count. Brown, like so many other British writers, has a way with words that I find captivating. You may be able to find it on the internet in an antiquarian bookshop. In fact, many of the books I recommend are no longer easy to find. My favourite supplier in Canada is Vince Oddy -- you can easily find his store on the web.

Finally, I find that any serious bridge player really needs to get a subscription to *The Bridge World* magazine. It is no longer as compelling as in the Edgar Kaplan days, but still well worth the cost. I also try to keep current by subscribing to magazines in French and German. If you can read French, try *Le Bridgeur*, which is also available in a less expensive online version.



## 2017-18 Grand National Teams

The Grand National Teams (GNT) is a grass-roots event that begins in local clubs, continues with district playoffs in each of the ACBL's 25 districts and culminates in the North American final played at the summer nationals. There are four separate flights in the GNT: Championship Flight open to anyone; Flight A (under 6000 MP); Flight B (under 2500 MP) and Flight C (non-life master under 500 MP).

In District 18, in part because of the huge geographical area comprising the district, the playoffs are held as an online event. Each participating site arranges to have competitors gather in one location where they are closely monitored to preserve the integrity of the event.

This year's District playoff, held May 11 - 12, saw 10 teams entered in the four flights. The winning team in each flight was eligible to represent District 18 in the National finals held at the Summer NABC in Atlanta, Georgia. Thanks to the connections of our President, John Sharpe, the Calgary contingent played at the Inglewood Golf and Country Club.

Top honours in Flight A went to a team with three Unit 390 members: Janet and Chris Galbraith, Ilya Kuzkin, all of Calgary along with Tom Walsh of Saskatoon.

Michael Shuster of Banff was a member of the team that won Flight B. His teammates were Marek Foff, Garry Karst and Jason Dufault, all of Edmonton.

Lastly, a team from Calgary was runner-up in Flight C: Richard Piette, Ryan Clark, Jay Newington and Brent Muir.

Congratulations to all!

## 2018 Alberta Sectionals Masterpoint Race

Standings at October 15<sup>th</sup>

1	123.25	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB
2	121.94	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB
3	111.56	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB
4	104.51	Glenn Cossey	Innisfail AB
5	98.93	Cindy Cossey	Innisfail AB
6	89.27	Al Simon	Calgary AB
7	84.79	Ray Grace	Sherwood Park AB
8	84.12	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB
9	77.04	Steve Lawrence	Calgary AB
10	75.30	Bernie Lambert	Acme AB
11	73.58	Garry Karst	Edmonton AB
12	65.54	Lee Barton	Edmonton AB
13	65.54	Lucille Barton	Edmonton AB
14	62.75	Chris Galbraith	Calgary AB
15	55.02	Perry Khakhar	Calgary AB
16	54.28	Peter Jones	Edmonton AB
17	53.95	Bob Pratt	Edmonton AB
18	53.95	Kevin Strangway	Grande Prairie AB
19	45.58	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB
20	44.30	Frank Ayer	Calgary AB
21	43.72	Rolf Saetre	Calgary AB
22	43.66	Keith Wallace	Calgary AB
23	43.66	Pam Wallace	Calgary AB
24	42.84	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB
25	41.87	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB
26	40.06	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB
27	37.55	Ken Penton	Calgary AB
28	35.28	Charlie Lamb	Red Deer AB
29	34.19	Doug Mann	Calgary AB
30	34.16	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB



Source: Mister Boffo: Unclear on the Concept by Joe Martin

## 2018 Hattie Joffe Goes to Gerry Marshall

The Hattie Joffe Memorial Trophy has been won by a Unit 390 player for the second year in a row and the 15<sup>th</sup> time in its 35-year history. The trophy commemorates Hattie Joffe, one of our Unit's first Life Masters. It is awarded to the Albertan who wins the most masterpoints at the annual Alberta Regional.



*Photo courtesy Sharon Mansell*

At the recently concluded 2018 Calgary Regional, Gerry Marshall captured the prize. Gerry had many solid finishes, including a win in the Thursday A/X Swiss teams event, racking up a total of 74.37 masterpoints in the process. This was Gerry's fourth win, his first coming in 1991.

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

### Modern Times

I gave my young nephew a pack of cards.

He spent five minutes looking for the battery slot.

## 2018-19 North American Pairs

The North American Pairs (NAP) is also a grass-roots event ... this one for pairs. It begins in local clubs, continues with district playoffs in each of the ACBL's 25 districts and concludes with the North American final played at the spring nationals. There are three flights in the NAP: Flight A open to anyone, Flight B (under 2500 MP) and Flight C (non-life master under 500 MP).

This year's District playoff was held on September 29, 2018 in conjunction with the Missoula regional. Attendance was underwhelming, to say the least. Just six tables entered Flight A. Flight B and C ended up being combined, with a total of seven tables participating.

Calgary's Emelie Quennell placed second in the Flight B/C (partnering Melissa Martin), while Marilyn and Murray Haggins finished fourth.

The top four eligible pairs in Flights B and C qualify to the national finals, which will be held at the 2019 Spring NABC in Memphis, TN.



## Bridge in Calgary Schools Program

Our school bridge program is well underway! We have 16 students (grades 5/6) at St. Jude School, 16 students (grades 5/6) at Captain John Palliser School, and 18 students (grades 6-9) at Fr. Whelihan School.

Special thanks go out to our instructors: John Finlay, Caroleigh Houghton, Jim Berglund, and Myron Achtman. We also have a dedicated team of mentors who are helping out in the classrooms whenever they're available.

The lessons will continue until March 2019, with a break for the month of December.

Anyone interested in assisting as a mentor is welcome. You'll enjoy seeing how these youngsters are picking up the game! Contact Myron Achtman at (403) 294-8124 or email him at [adita@shaw.ca](mailto:adita@shaw.ca) for more information.

## 299er Sectional

Saturday November 10, 2018

Clarion Hotel  
2120 16 Ave. N.E.  
Calgary, Alberta

Please pre-register by  
Monday October 29 at  
403-249-6508 or  
[susankorba@shaw.ca](mailto:susankorba@shaw.ca)

### Stratification:

D: 100 - 300  
E: 50 - 100  
F: 0 - 50

## All Silver Points!

### Schedule:

10:00 a.m.	299er Stratified Pairs OR Supervised Bid and Play
1:30 p.m.	Lunch
2:00 p.m.	299er Stratified Pairs

### Entry Fees:

ACBL members: \$30  
(includes both sessions plus lunch)  
Unpaid ACBL members: \$35  
(includes both sessions plus lunch)  
Non-members: \$40  
(includes both sessions plus lunch and a  
1-month ACBL membership)  
ACBL members with fewer than 5 MPs: \$10  
(play free, \$10 for lunch)  
ACBL members under 18 years of age: \$10  
(play free, \$10 for lunch)

Tournament Chair & Partnerships:	Susan Korba 403-249-6508 <a href="mailto:susankorba@shaw.ca">susankorba@shaw.ca</a>
Director:	Crystal Mann

Background graphic by Freepik.com

## Declarer Error Punished!

By Gordon Campbell

I am embarrassed to report this hand. So often, errors go unpunished because the opponents don't take advantage or distributions are forgiving. Not this time!

West opened a weak 2♦, and North-South reached a seemingly very comfortable 4♥. West led the ♦K.

Dealer: West

Contract: 4♥

Lead: ♦K

♠ A109xx  
♥ Axx  
♦ x  
♣ J104x

♠ Kx  
♥ KQJ5x  
♦ Axx  
♣ K9x

You are declarer as South. This seems easy. Should you set up spades or ruff diamonds? Usually it is best to set up dummy's suit rather than ruffing, but here dummy has no outside entries, so ruffing your losers is better.

So, let's count tricks: two spades, five hearts (if the suit is not 5-0), one diamond, two diamond ruffs and maybe a club or two. That gets you up to at least 10 tricks.

The problem is entries. If you take two diamond ruffs, you cannot easily return to your hand and will likely go down if trumps split 4-1.

In practice, I ruffed a diamond, returned to the ♠K, and ruffed another diamond. Then I tried a club to the ♣9. West gleefully won the ♣Q, cashed the ♣A, gave his partner a club ruff and received a spade ruff for one down.

Unlucky, but a deserved result.

My error was leading to the ♠K. I should have ruffed one diamond, then finessed the club. I can stand the club ruff but not the spade ruff. If I had followed that line, I would take two spades, five trumps, one diamond, one diamond ruff and the fourth club ... 10 tricks in all.

But what if the defense wins the first club and leads spades? I can afford to lose two clubs and one diamond, so I can simply pull trumps and knock out the other club.

## Stranded Tricks

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Sometimes as declarer, you must delay taking your winners, even if it seems that you lack the entries to cash them later. Maybe the opponents will oblige.

At favourable vulnerability your partner passes and RHO opens 2♥ (standard weak 2-bid). You hold:

♠--- ♥KJ1054 ♦AQ3 ♣KJ1085

You pass hoping that partner will reopen with a double. Partner makes you 50% happy. She does reopen, but with 2♠ rather than double. What now?

Daniel Korbel chose an aggressive 3NT despite knowing that two of the world's best defenders (Meckstroth-Rodwell) would make his life as difficult as possible. Everyone passed and Rodwell led the ♦6.

E/W Vulnerable  
Dealer: North  
Contract: 3NT  
Lead: ♦6

♠ AK975  
♥ 86  
♦ 972  
♣ Q93

---

♥ KJ1054  
♦ AQ3  
♣ KJ1085

Korbel played a hopeful ♦9, but was forced to win with the ♦Q when Meckstroth produced the ♦10. It appears that nine tricks are readily available (four clubs, two diamonds, two spades, one heart), but there are two concerns. The first is knocking out West's entry. Since it looks as though he has diamond length, you can't afford to let East win early and dislodge your last diamond stopper. The second issue is cashing your tricks in the correct order and getting the opponents to help you arrive at nine tricks.

As you can see, if you take both spade winners when you are in dummy before establishing your ninth trick, the opponents will be in a position to score five winners before you get your nine.

Korbel correctly analyzed the situation and played the ♣K after winning the diamond lead. West won the ♣A and continued with the ♦K, East pitching the ♥2. Korbel won the

♦A and took stock. If East has the promised 6-card heart suit, then he must have both the ♥A and ♥Q. Needing only one heart trick, Korbel led the ♥K. East took the trick with the ♥A and returned the ♠3, but declarer had the timing to set up his ♥10 and cross to dummy in clubs to cash the ♠K for his ninth trick.

East could have made declarer's life more difficult by exiting a club upon winning the first heart. Declarer must be careful, winning in dummy and cashing exactly one high spade before leading dummy's last heart. Yes, it looks as though the second spade trick will be stranded, but look what happens.

The ninth trick will come in the form of dummy's other high spade (if East exits in that suit when in with the ♥Q) or the ♥5 (if East staunchly refuses to put declarer back in dummy and persists with hearts).

These were the four hands:

♠ AK975		♠ 10843
♥ 86		♥ AQ9732
♦ 972		♦ 10
♣ Q93		♣ 72
♠ QJ62		
♥ --		
♦ KJ8654		
♣ A64		

♠ ---		
♥ KJ1054		
♦ AQ3		
♣ KJ1085		

Note that Korbel could have crossed to dummy to lead a heart since both the ♣Q and ♣9 were entries, but there was no need, and starting hearts from hand kept communication between the two hands fluid.

Interestingly the defense is powerless to beat 3NT regardless of the lead or subsequent defence.

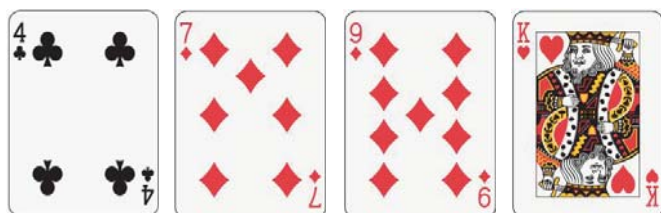
If West leads a spade declarer wins in dummy and leads a heart. East can duck his Ace, allowing the ♥J to win. But declarer then switches to clubs. If West wins and continues spades, declarer can lead another heart for his ninth trick losing just two spades, the ♣A and the ♥A.

This hand occurred during the finals of the 2018 Grand National Teams. Korbel's 3NT resulted in a 6-IMP gain since at the same point in the auction his counterpart chose to bid only 2NT.

## Trivia Fun

The game of bridge is like most other games. Over the years, participants have embraced a rich array of borrowed terms and slang to describe various elements of the game. See how many you know!

Can you identify the slang names for these four playing cards?



Below you will read six terms used to denote various playing cards. Do you know what each of these words means?

<i>Puppy Toe</i>	<i>Bullet</i>
<i>Quack</i>	<i>Kiddie</i>
<i>Tine</i>	<i>Shovel</i>

Each of the terms which follow commonly refers to a hand with a specific distribution. Can you name the distribution?

<i>Swan</i>	<i>Pancake</i>
<i>Ugly Duckling</i>	<i>Rattlesnake</i>

These phrases all describe a duplicate bridge score. Over to you ...

<i>Pajama Game</i>	<i>Bagel</i>
<i>Kiss of Death</i>	<i>Two Sticks and Two Wheels</i>

And finally, just for fun, can you describe these bridge concepts?

<i>Grosvenor</i>	<i>Apricot Sundae</i>
<i>Rabbi's Rule</i>	<i>Congratulatory Jack</i>

Check out page 20 to see how you fared.

## The President's Award



At each Sectional in the Unit 390 tournament cycle, the recipient of the President's Award is named. The President's Award is 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 299er events.

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

The 299er events are flighted. The President's Award can go to a player in any one of the flights.

In this Kibitzer, we have just one sectional upon which to report.

### September 2018

The 299er events in September were well-attended, with 66 tables participating. In a close race, the President's Award went to Jane Lamont with 5.20 masterpoints. Here is the full list of results:

#### Flight D (100 - 300):

1. 5.20 Jane Lamont
2. 4.80 Andrew Serafini
3. 4.18 Michael Serafini

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

- 1/2. 5.00 Ed Lamb
- 1/2. 5.00 John Taylor
3. 3.75 Rick Wolfe

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

1. 3.30 Chrystal Hay
2. 3.17 Christa Simmonds
3. 2.60 Susan Ongyerth

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](mailto:390kibitzer@acblunit390.org)

The next edition is scheduled to be out in April 2019.

## Extended Use of Bicycle Signals

By Dick Yuen

In the October 2017 and April 2018 editions of The Kibitzer, I described how to employ Bicycle signals when defending against no-trump and trump contracts respectively. This is another example showing the Bicycle signal system at work -- guiding the defense to a happy ending.

You are West, holding

♠ 32 ♥ 432 ♦ AK10987 ♣ A3

The auction proceeds as follows:

You	North	East	South
<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
1♦	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

You lead the ♦ A and see this dummy:

	♠ AQJ109
	♥ 1098
	♦ 65
	♣ QJ2
<u>You</u>	
♠ 32	
♥ 432	
♦ AK10987	
♣ A3	

N
W ■ E
S

Your partner plays the ♦ Q. Now what? Assuming two diamonds cash, where is the setting trick?

1. If partner has any trump honor he can over-ruff dummy on the third round of diamonds assuming his Q♦ shows either a singleton or doubleton ♦QJ
2. If partner has the ♣K there are two diamonds and two clubs to take provided declarer has two clubs
3. If partner has the ♠K the defense takes two diamonds, one spade and one club

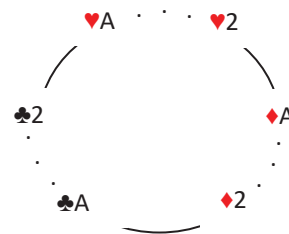
At trick two you cash the ♦ K and partner shows out. Can your current signaling methods clearly indicate which of the three lines of defense you should pursue?

Here is a reminder of how Bicycle signals work.

Suppose declarer is leading the spade suit and you have none.

- If you want a heart switch from partner, the two suits available for your first discard are diamonds and clubs. To ask for a heart switch, you have the option of playing a

high diamond, or a low club. This is where the term 'bicycle' comes from. The three suits other than spades form a circle or 'cycle'.



A high diamond or a low club touches the heart suit! The bicycle signal system employs the 'touching suit' concept to pinpoint the exact suit identity.

- If you want a diamond switch, the two suits available for your first discard are hearts and clubs. You have the option of playing a high club or a low heart.
- If you want a club switch, you can play either a high heart or a low diamond.

In the problem faced on the given hand, the Bicycle signal system comes through with flying colors.

In case 1 partner can discard a high(est) club or a low(est) spade to pinpoint the ability to over-ruff dummy. All you need to do is to cash the ♣A (just to help partner) before delivering a ruff in diamonds.

In case 2, partner can discard a high(est) spade, asking for a club switch. You just follow East's signal to set the 4♥ contract.

In case 3, partner can discard a low(est) club to ask for a spade switch. At trick 3 you need to honour partner's signal before releasing your club control.

What if partner has none of the above hands? Partner plays a middle spade or club and you know to cash the ♣A to avoid giving declarer an overtrick.



## Alzheimer's Disease and Bridge

[The Editors would like to thank Nancy Klym, whose longer article formed the basis for this short note.]

At the present time, there are over 500,000 people in Canada who have been diagnosed with some form of dementia, and it is expected that another 25,000 people will join their numbers this year. The most alarming statistic is that by 2031, the number of yearly diagnoses will rise by 66%. This places a tremendous burden, not just on the individuals suffering from the disease but also on their caregivers and the health system.

Several years ago, the Canadian Bridge Federation and the American Contract Bridge League joined with the Alzheimer's Society to raise funds to fight this disease. June 21<sup>st</sup>, the longest day of the year, is the primary date in the fundraising campaign ... The Longest Day of Bridge. It is an opportunity for bridge players across North America to show their support.

Why is Alzheimer's disease of such significance to bridge players? It is because age is the greatest risk factor for Alzheimer's and the majority of bridge players are over 50. Age is a risk factor we cannot change, but there are many positive influences associated with the game of bridge.

Logic, reasoning, patience, concentration and partnership skills are all required when playing bridge. While there is no

direct evidence to suggest that bridge prevents dementia, there is soft data to suggest that it might delay the onset of symptoms. Furthermore, it is not just the intellectual stimulation, but also the social engagement that helps keep one's brain sharp.

A study in 2000 at the University of California found evidence that the area of the brain used in playing bridge stimulates the immune system. Research suggests that this is because bridge players must use memory, visualization and sequencing. For each hand, they must remember the bidding sequences and the cards played. Over the course of an afternoon of bridge this means that the short-term memory portion of the brain is in constant use.

A study in Bordeaux, France concentrated on the importance of playing games with others and found that people who did so were 15% less likely to develop dementia. The study also postulated that the social interaction helps to stave off depression and social isolation, both contributing factors in dementia. Since bridge requires four people to play, the social aspect of playing bridge is unmistakable.

Bridge is a very complicated game that can be played at both social and competitive levels. Although mastery improves with experience, there is no finite end to learning bridge. It is one of the activities suggested as a means of improving short-term memory and overall brain health. It is a journey!

### South Calgary Ladies Bridge Club Inn from the Cold Fundraiser



On October 12<sup>th</sup>, Yvette Tapuska, Linda Walker and Olga Williams organized a fundraiser for **Inn from the Cold**. This year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> time the South Calgary Ladies have hosted a game in support of this worthy charity. Thanks to their efforts, \$6500 was raised and a wonderful afternoon of bridge was enjoyed by all.

**Inn from the Cold** is a Calgary charity which helps homeless families find shelter. This is an especially important support system in Calgary where last winter temperatures dropped to -30°C for several weeks. Over half the clientele are children and this organization ensures that these children receive shelter, food and schooling.

Thanks to all the ladies for their generous contributions and to the Directors of the South Calgary Ladies bridge club for hosting this enjoyable afternoon.

# The Kibitzer - October 2018

## 2018 Ace of Clubs Race

### Unit 390 Year-to-Date Standings - October 6<sup>th</sup>

<b>0 to 5</b>	1	Craig Bowyer	Calgary AB	12
	2	Julie Short	Okotoks AB	10
	3	Brian Reinsch	Calgary AB	9
<b>5 to 20</b>	1	John Prance	Calgary AB	52
	2	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	31
	3	Linda Legate	Okotoks AB	22
<b>20 to 50</b>	1	David Ho	Calgary AB	64
	2	Adel Erian	Calgary AB	33
	3	Stewart Brightman	Calgary AB	33
<b>50 to 100</b>	1	Robert Stothers	Calgary AB	62
	2	Deanna Downton	Calgary AB	35
	3	Margaret Williams	Calgary AB	32
<b>100 to 200</b>	1	Michael Serafini	Calgary AB	56
	2	Bob Gagnon	Calgary AB	55
	3	Stephen Paul	Calgary AB	54
<b>200 to 300</b>	1	Jay Newington	Calgary AB	50
	2	Pamela Caravan	Calgary AB	41
	3	Richard Piette	Calgary AB	39
<b>300 to 500</b>	1	Mary Anne Crookes	Calgary AB	81
	2	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	77
	3	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	72
<b>500 to 1000</b>	1	Elizabeth Sprague	Calgary AB	89
	2	Dale Bercov	Calgary AB	69
	3	Sandy Jean Robinson	Calgary AB	59
<b>1000 to 1500</b>	1	Mark Manzer	Calgary AB	98
	2	Jack Sisko	Calgary AB	73
	3	Connie Wignall	Calgary AB	70
<b>1500 to 2500</b>	1	Jean Ward	Calgary AB	128
	2	Pauline Huculak	Calgary AB	119
	3	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	111
<b>2500 to 3500</b>	1	Maged Wafa	Calgary AB	132
	2	Diane Campbell	Calgary AB	102
	3	Janet Sharpe	Calgary AB	63
<b>3500 to 5000</b>	1	Elaine Stewart	Calgary AB	142
	2	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	115
	3	Paula Sisko	Calgary AB	75
<b>5000 to 7500</b>	1	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	154
	2	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	136
	3	Dann Kramer	Calgary AB	55
<b>7500 to 10,000</b>	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	59
	2	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	23

## 2018 Mini-McKenney Race

### Unit 390 Year-to-Date Standings - October 6<sup>th</sup>

<b>0 to 5</b>	1	Runan Du	Calgary AB	41
	2	Jocelyne Drouin	Calgary AB	18
	3	Terry Kaufman	Calgary AB	16
<b>5 to 20</b>	1	John Prance	Calgary AB	103
	2	Cindy Watt	Calgary AB	39
	3	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	36
<b>20 to 50</b>	1	David Ho	Calgary AB	110
	2	Yi Peng Mai	Calgary AB	51
	3	Stewart Brightman	Calgary AB	50
<b>50 to 100</b>	1	Robert Stothers	Calgary AB	75
	2	Deanna Downton	Calgary AB	53
	3	Peter Serafini	Calgary AB	46
<b>100 to 200</b>	1	Michael Serafini	Calgary AB	159
	2	Andrew Serafini	Calgary AB	139
	3	Bob Gagnon	Calgary AB	130
<b>200 to 300</b>	1	Jay Newington	Calgary AB	138
	2	Richard Piette	Calgary AB	133
	3	Tracy Horan	Calgary AB	87
<b>300 to 500</b>	1	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	164
	2	Cynthia Clark	Calgary AB	144
	3	Mary Anne Crookes	Calgary AB	139
<b>500 to 1000</b>	1	Rick Boyd	Calgary AB	169
	2	Dale Bercov	Calgary AB	150
	3	Elizabeth Sprague	Calgary AB	147
<b>1000 to 1500</b>	1	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB	184
	2	Chris Murphy	Calgary AB	159
	3	Mark Manzer	Calgary AB	155
<b>1500 to 2500</b>	1	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	318
	2	Gami Tadros	Calgary AB	314
	3	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	256
<b>2500 to 3000</b>	1	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	191
	2	Maged Wafa	Calgary AB	166
	3	Janet Sharpe	Calgary AB	149
<b>3500 to 5000</b>	1	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	233
	2	Perry Khakhar	Calgary AB	216
	3	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	177
<b>5000 to 7500</b>	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	363
	2	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	290
	3	Allan Simon	Calgary AB	173
<b>7500 to 10,000</b>	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	283
	2	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	9
<b>Over 10,000</b>	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	438
	2	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	401
	3	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	390

## Let's Play a Hand

By Daniel Bertrand

I am playing a team game and pick up the following hand with neither side vulnerable:

♠KJ5 ♥AJ103 ♦AJ8 ♣AQ2

My RHO opens 1♥. My hand is too good to overcall 1NT so I start with double. LHO bids 2♠ (weak), partner and RHO both pass and it is my turn to bid. Since I have both spades and hearts well stopped, I bid 2NT. Partner decides that we did not drive all the way to Lethbridge to play in a part-score and raises to 3NT.

LHO leads the ♣3 and down comes the dummy:

None Vulnerable

Dealer: East

Contract: 3NT

Lead: ♣3

♠ A97  
♥ 952  
♦ 109542  
♣ 75

♠ KJ5  
♥ AJ103  
♦ AJ8  
♣ AQ2

I play small from dummy and RHO plays the ♣10 which I win with the ♣Q. LHO seems to have the ♣K. If so, then RHO should have both red Kings and Queens for her opening bid.

I have six top tricks and can create more in the red suits. But I have only one sure entry to dummy. I want to save that entry, so I decide to lead the ♦J from my hand. LHO plays the ♦7, ♦2 from dummy and RHO wins the ♦Q.

She continues with the ♣J and I duck. She plays another club (the 8) and I win the ♣A as LHO follows with ♣6 and ♣9.

I throw a heart from dummy (I want to save the diamonds -- maybe I can take four more tricks there). I play a spade and LHO produces the ♠10. I win the ♠A, RHO following with the ♠4.

Now I lead the ♦10 from dummy but my RHO does not oblige by covering so I play the ♦8 as LHO follows with the ♦6.

I have reached the ending shown at the top of the next column. I have won four tricks; I have three more sure winners, but with no more entries to dummy, there is no future in diamonds.

♠ 97  
♥ 95  
♦ 954  
♣ ---

♠ KJ  
♥ AJ103  
♦ A  
♣ ---

I lead a small heart from dummy. If my RHO decides to split her heart honours, I can win the ♥A and play another heart to the ♥9, setting up two more heart tricks, enough for my contract. But she plays the ♥4. I win the ♥J as LHO follows with the ♥8.

I am up to eight tricks now (two in each suit). I cash the ♦A as LHO discards the ♠2. This position has been reached:

♠ 97  
♥ 9  
♦ 95  
♣ ---

♠ Q863  
♥ ---  
♦ ---  
♣ K

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

♠ ---  
♥ KQ76  
♦ ---  
♣ 4

♠ KJ  
♥ A103  
♦ ---  
♣ ---

RHO opened 1♥ so she should have all four missing hearts; LHO showed a weak hand with six spades so she should have the four remaining spades. Each opponent should have one club left.

Since I have lost only two tricks, I have reached a winning position. I play a small heart to dummy's ♥9. RHO wins the ♥Q as LHO plays a black card. My RHO produces the ♣4. Since LHO did not throw away the ♣K, I discard my ♥10. LHO wins her ♣K and must lead a spade to give me an extra spade trick.

If my LHO had thrown away her ♣K when I led a small heart, I would have discarded my ♠J when RHO played the ♣4. RHO would still be on lead and would have to play a heart to give me an extra heart trick.

Whoever wins the club trick is endplayed. What a beautiful ending! I wish that I had played this hand properly!

## Member Milestones

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



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

Asha Acharya	Art Marche
Pankaj Acharya	Sheila Morgan
Keith Barry	Erika Pochailo
Wanda Beck	Brian Reinsch
Craig Bowyer	John Roberts
Jocelyne Drouin	Kendall Rogers
Runan Du	Paul Serafini
Margaret Graham	Julie Short
Terry Kaufman	Doug Steil
Jerry Malone	Frank Warshawski

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

Richard Cruse	Barry Litchinsky
Margo Debert	Amal Macphail
Jocelyne Drouin	Bill Madder
Philippa Fitzgerald-Finch	Moirra Misselbrook
Brent Gough	Martine Parent
Carolyn Graham	Sandra Pethrick
James Hennessy	Leslie Rubenok
Margaret Herron	Linton Swanson
Michael Hoare	Frances Taillon
Lyn Jessee	Agnes Thurmeier
Warren Johnston	Cheryl Turley
Irina Knechtel	William Webster
Mark Kryzan	Richard Weinberger
Linda Legate	Olga Williams

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

Mickey Abougoush	Bill Montague
Stewart Brightman	Sylvia Nazar
Deborah Cripps	Louise Nielsen
Patricia Davidson	George Ongyerth
Louise Drouin	Reg Schoffer
Adel Erian	Sandra Stewart
Beverley Erickson	Betty Teare
John Feick	Sunil Verma
Kathryne Foster	Linda Walker
Barry Gurevitch	Cindy Watt
David Ho	Jamie Watt
Brian Kinder	Richard Wolfe
Susan McMahon	

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

Zan Aycock	Catharine Moore
Richard Cripps	Anne Olthof
Deanna Downton	Susan Piercy
Garry Hanson	John Prance
David Ho	Peter Serafini
Antara Keelor	Harvey Wiehler
Rhonda Kerr	Margaret Williams
Barbara MacDougall	Hailong Yu
Philip Magee	

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

Ken Anderson	Dennis Ooms
Ryan Clark	Paul Sackman
Lynn Dover	Carol Saponja
Osama Elshafey	Andrew Serafini
Tricia Flanagan	Michael Serafini
Bob Gagnon	Danuta Trafford
Rae Jordan	Katie Trafford
Phyllis Nield	Thomas Trafford

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

Jay Newington	Lorraine Somerville
---------------	---------------------

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

Pamela Caravan	Tracy Horan
Bill Ellsworth	Andrea Killackey
Linda Ellsworth	Andy McKaig
Lynn Grisack	Richard Piette
Sheila Horan	Alan White

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

Pat Anderson	Arthur Iwasa
Jacqui Chin	Robert MacKinven
Mary Anne Crookes	Marc Maes
Anne Day	

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

Helga Baldwinson	Peter Kroeger
Dale Bercov	Judy McKeague
Rick Boyd	Shirley McLeod
Perry Clark	Sandy Jean Robinson
Marie Driscoll	Elizabeth Sprague
Joan Johnston	Vivian Winestock

## Member Milestones (continued)

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

Michael Farebrother      Maxine Webb  
Tom Nault                  Dick Yuen

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

Ronald Kupchanko

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

Doran Flock

### New Diamond Life Masters (5000+ MPs; a Life Master with at least 500 gold or platinum and 500 additional pigmented points)

Nicole Beauregard

### New Platinum Life Masters (10000+ MPs; a Life Master with at least 100 platinum, 900 gold or platinum and 1000 additional pigmented points)

Steven Lawrence

## 2018 Youth NABC

The tenth annual Youth NABC was held this summer in Atlanta, GA. Each participant must be an ACBL member 19 years old or younger and have fewer than 5000 masterpoints. There is no charge for participants and each receives a T-shirt and a book bag.



Pre-registered players for this year's event were from five countries: Bermuda (16 players), Canada (21), China (23), Mexico (8) and the United States (172).

Calgary's Michael Serafini, playing with Darwin Li from Ontario, placed second in the Friday Open Pairs, scoring 65.57% in the two-session game.

In addition, Michael and Darwin, playing with team-mates from California and Massachusetts, came third in the Saturday National Youth Swiss Teams.

Attendance at the tournament was expected to top 240 players because of pre-registration numbers but fell two short of that number. Still, that was one better than last year's total at the Toronto Youth NABC.



Photo extracted from the ACBL Bulletin, October 2018

Runners-up in the National Youth Open Pairs:  
Darwin Li, Richmond Hill ON - Michael Serafini, Calgary AB



### 2019 CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

May 4 - 12, 2019  
Delta Burnaby Hotel  
4331 Dominion St., Burnaby BC

The 2019 CBC will be held in Burnaby BC, May 4-12. There is a new schedule this year because a new national event has been added — the Mixed Teams Championship!

As usual there is a full Regional alongside. Make plans to attend this great event!

#### Canadian National Teams A

May 4-10 (3-day round robin followed by playoffs)

#### Canadian National Teams B (under 2500 MPs)

May 4-7 (2-day round robin followed by playoffs)

#### Canadian National Teams C (under 1000 MPs)

May 4-7 (2-day round robin followed by playoffs)

#### Canadian Women's Teams

May 4-7 (2-day round robin followed by playoffs)

#### Canadian Senior Teams

May 7-10 (2 day round robin followed by playoffs)

#### Canadian Mixed Teams

May 9-12 (2 day round robin followed by playoffs)

#### Canadian IMP Pairs

May 8

#### Canadian Open Pairs

May 11 (Qualifying) and May 12 (Final)

Visit [cbf.ca](http://cbf.ca) to see complete schedules for the Championship and Regional events.

## Both Sides Series #6

By Dick Yuen

### Side A:

As West you hold:

♠J732 ♥854 ♦876 ♣AK3

With no opposition bidding the opponents reach 4♥ after this straightforward auction:

South	North
1♥	1♠
3♥	4♥
All Pass	

You lead the ♣K asking for count and this dummy appears:

Dealer: South  
Contract: 4♥  
Lead: ♣K

♠ J732	♠ Q1054
♥ 854	♥ 762
♦ 876	♦ AKJ2
♣ AK2	♣ 104
	N
	W ■ E
	S

The opponents play a 2 Over 1 system without Flannery. Partner plays the ♣5 and RHO drops the ♣Q. Your agreement is that partner plays his 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest club to indicate an even number. Plan your defense. What must you **NOT** do?

### Side B:

Switch to the South seat.

♠ Q1054
♥ 762
♦ AKJ2
♣ 104
♠ A96
♥ AKQJ3
♦ 1093
♣ QJ

You arrive in 4♥. West leads the ♣K and cashes the ♣A after giving you an "I don't believe you" look when you play the ♣Q. His partner echoes in clubs showing an even number. West continues with an uninformative ♦7. How do you proceed?

### Side A: Answer

What you must **NOT** do is:

- Remove partner's safe exit i.e. a club
- Give up hope by exiting a trump

It is improbable that partner can contribute two tricks to the defense, but you should never give up hope. If declarer has the ♦Q then partner needs ♠AK with both spades cashing (or an even more unlikely ♥A and ♠A). A more realistic expectation is for partner to hold the ♦Q and one high spade honour. Therefore the best defense is to switch to diamonds at trick two. That way partner will be able to get out in clubs when in the first time. If instead declarer plays a second club then you can exit another diamond establishing partner's Queen (assuming he has ♦Qxx).

### Side B: Answer

You can make West pay for prematurely cashing that second club trick.

When West switches to the ♦7 win the ♦A and cash two trumps (noting that East follows with the ♥9 and ♥10). This is a partial elimination ... you haven't pulled all the trumps but you have (in theory) extracted those held by East.

Now play the ♠A and ♠9, intending to duck in dummy if West does not rise with the ♠K. The opponents have defended in a way that suggests the diamond finesse is losing therefore you need three spade tricks to make your contract.

If spades are divided 3-3 with the King onside and West goes up, you have your three tricks. When spades are 4-2 with East holding the doubleton ♠K you score three spade tricks because East has only losing options:

- give you a ruff sluff by leading a club
- return a diamond into dummy's tenace
- put you back in your hand with a trump (if the ♥9 and ♥10 were false cards), allowing you to take another spade finesse.

When West holds ♠Kxxx and East has ♠Jx, East is endplayed but the ruff sluff yields only the ninth trick while the diamond lead into the tenace is disastrous so the contract should fail.

[continued next page]

## Both Sides Series #6 (continued)

Of course if West is kind enough to switch to a spade at trick three, your problems are over. If you didn't have the ♠9 in your hand it would be a guess what to play from dummy, but on balance it would be correct to play for East to have the ♠K and also possibly the ♠J.

The four hands were:

♠ J732	♠ Q1054	♠ K8
♥ 854	♥ 762	♥ 109
♦ 876	♦ AKJ2	♦ Q54
♣ AK3	♣ 104	♣ 987652

	♠ A96	
	♥ AKQJ3	
	♦ 1093	
	♣ QJ	

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

*Editors' note: Astute readers will note that if declarer draws all three rounds of trumps and leads ♠A and ♠9 intending to play East for the ♠K and West for the ♠J there is nothing the defense can do after cashing two clubs. However, if West switches to a diamond before cashing the second club, then playing ♠A and ♠9 after drawing three rounds of trumps fails because declarer has no way back to his hand to finesse against West's spade Jack. To make the contract after three rounds of trump, declarer must lead the ♠9 without cashing the ♠A, retaining the ♠A as a hand entry.*

*After a diamond switch at trick two, declarer may decide to play spades immediately by leading a spade to his ♠9 or leading the ♠Q from dummy.*



## Bidding Challenge

By Gordon Campbell

Here is a quiz for you. This hand came up at the Aurora Bridge Club game on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

You hold:

♠--- ♥K954 ♦10642 ♣108532

You are North and East (your LHO) opens 1♦. Partner chimes in with 2♦ Michaels (showing the majors).

You

North	East	South	West
	1♦	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	6♥	Pass
??			

What is your call now in this most surprising auction?

Surely partner is bidding 6♥ to make opposite a forced preference to one of the majors. He may optimistically expect you to hold three little hearts, but he surely has no expectation that you hold a keycard in hearts.

You must bid 7♥.

As predicted, partner's hand is awesome:

♠AKQ832 ♥AQJ73 ♦AK ♣---

Wow!

Did you meet the challenge?

A bridge duffer was polishing a lamp and ... poof! Out popped a genie who said, "I will grant you *one* wish."

The duffer unfolded a map of the world and said, "Let all of these countries live in peace and harmony."

"You've got to be kidding! I'm only a genie."

The duffer thought for a while and then suggested, "OK, then make me a winning bridge player."

"Hmm... " the genie pondered. "Let me see that map again."

## Winning In Competitive Auctions

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Declarer and defensive play are usually the focus of bridge articles because correct analysis will often lead to the winning line. Analyzing the best bidding choices in competitive auctions is more difficult because there is less information available and more variables (two opponents and one partner☺).

Successful bidding decisions in competitive auctions are more apt to be lucky rather than skillful. Nevertheless it is possible to increase your "luck rate" through sound analysis. Let's look at some examples that occurred in the 2018 Canadian National Team Championship.

Not vulnerable against vulnerable opponents, you hold

♠10 ♥Q4 ♦A10987642 ♣76

LHO opens 1♠, partner bids 2♠ (hearts plus a minor) and RHO bids 4♠. What is your call? If you choose to pass, the auction proceeds pass by LHO, double by partner and pass by RHO. What now?

The first decision to make is whether or not to pass over 4♠. Eight-card suits do not need a lot of support from partner, but when partner has advertised a two-suited hand you just know the dummy will have ♥s and ♣s. It is entirely possible that partner has a singleton or void in diamonds and that your side has enough to defeat 4♠, making 5♦ a phantom sacrifice. Based on this analysis you choose to pass and now partner doubles. What can you surmise? Partner may have a good hand and believe she can beat 4♠. Another scenario is that she wishes to compete, but is worried you have spade tricks on defense.

Unless you have specifically discussed this scenario with your partner, you have a total guess as to how to proceed. On balance you believe it to be unlikely that partner is 3-0-5-5 for her double so you bid 5♦ which LHO doubles. Everyone passes.

LHO leads the ♥K and you find that your decision has been a good one (see top of next column).

5♦ doubled scored +550. At the other table South bid 5♦ immediately and West continued on to the unbeatable 5♠ contract for +650 and a 15-IMP gain. Arguably West should have bid 5♠ at both tables, but at our table the delayed 5♦ call convinced West that East had wasted diamond values and so he passed.

Here is the complete layout:

E/W Vulnerable

Contract: 5♦x

Lead: ♥K

♠ ---		♠ ---
♥ J7652		♥ KJ98632
♦ KQ3		♥ 10983
♣ AQJ43		♦ ---
♠ AQ754	♠ N	♠ KJ98632
♥ AK	W ■ E	♥ 10983
♦ J5		♦ ---
♣ K1085	♠ S	♣ 92
	♠ 10	
	♥ Q4	
	♦ A10987642	
	♣ 76	

Next, at favourable vulnerability you pick up this beauty:

♠--- ♥QJ6532 ♦--- ♣AK98765

Partner passes and RHO opens 1♦. Suppose you choose 2NT (hearts and clubs). LHO bids 3♥ showing spades with at least invitational values, partner passes and RHO bids 4♠. What do you do now?

At the table, with much stronger clubs than hearts, Nicholas bid 5♣. Judith corrected to 5♥, the opponents doubled and found that they could muster just the two top trumps +650. The four hands were:

E/W Vulnerable

Contract: 5♥x

Lead: ♥K

♠ ---		♠ ---
♥ QJ6532		♥ AQ10763
♦ ---		♥ 98
♣ AK98765		♦ A96
♠ K94	♠ N	♣ 32
♥ AK	W ■ E	
♦ K87543		
♣ Q10	♠ S	
	♠ J852	
	♥ 1074	
	♦ QJ102	
	♣ J4	

[continued next page]

### ***Winning In Competitive Auctions (continued)***

At the other table West opened 1NT in second seat and the North hand bid 2♦ showing hearts. East bid 4♥ transferring to spades and over 4♠ North introduced his club suit. When South corrected to 5♥ North carried on to 6♣ which got doubled and defeated by a trick. Although the two auctions were quite different, at our table Nicholas took note that Judith did not double 3♥ to suggest a high heart card so he had no inclination to try for slam. His counterpart missed this inference and made the ill-advised bid of 6♣ leading to a 13-IMP loss for his team.

We're not finished yet! You pick up:

♠ J109852   ♥ 10643   ♦ 73   ♣ Q

With both sides vulnerable you pass in first seat and LHO opens 1♦. The auction proceeds as follows:

You

<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>
Pass	1♦	4♥	5♦
?			

With a weak hand and four hearts you elect to pass. LHO also passes and partner surprises you by bidding 5♥. RHO doubles, you pass, LHO opts for 6♦ which comes back to you. What now?

You

<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>
Pass	1♦	4♥	5♦
Pass	Pass	5♥	DBL
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
?			

Can the opponents possibly make 6♦ after they were willing to settle for game? Because of your heart length, chances are good that the defense will not take any heart tricks. More importantly, if you do choose to bid 6♥ is there any chance that the opponents will bid and make 7♦? On balance you think this is a small risk so you opt to try 6♥ rather than defend 6♦. LHO bids 7♦ and partner doubles.

What a revolting development! The opponents were willing to play in 5♦ and now you have to decide whether or not to save over 7♦. Sticking to your guns, you choose to pass. Partner leads the ♠K and that turns out to be the only defensive trick. The four hands were:

Both Vulnerable

Contract: 7♦x

Lead: K♠

♠ Q4  
♥ J2  
♦ J1052  
♣ AK876

♠ AK63  
 ♥ AKQ9875  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ 5



♠ J109852  
♥ 10643  
♦ 73  
♣ Q

♠ 7  
♥ ---  
♦ AKQ984  
♣ J109432

You score +200 (phew!). At the other table South opened 1♦ (4+), West doubled, and North bid 3♣ fit-showing (10+ HCP, 4+♦ and 5+♣ usually headed by two of the top three honours). South raised all the way to 6♣ and poor West was boxed. He passed and North scored all the tricks for +1390 when East led a heart. That gave our team 17 IMPs. Note that even 7♥ turns out to be a profitable save against 5♦.

It's important to note how differently Judith and her counterpart handled the West hand. Despite having a strong hand Judith bid 4♥ initially, willing to give up on the possibility of exploring for slam (unlikely since partner had passed initially), yet fully prepared to bid again. This allowed Nicholas to judge that bidding 6♥ was likely to be the winning decision.



Like a good detective, a bridge player needs to assess all the clues before bidding. The more thorough you are in your analysis the "luckier" you will be.

## 2018 Canadian Bridge Championships

The Canadian Bridge Championships (CBC), formerly known as Bridge Week, is an annual tournament that is usually held in the month of May and features multiple national competitions. Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) members from across Canada, and of all levels, gather to compete for a chance to become Canadian champions in one of the seven (soon to be eight) competitions.

The competitions are:

Canadian National Teams Championship	(CNTC-A, B, C)
Canadian Women's Team Championship	(CWTC)
Canadian Senior Team Championship	(CSTC)
Canadian IMP Pairs Championship	(CIPC)
Canadian Open Pairs Championship	(COPC)
Canadian Mixed Teams Championship	(CMTC)

The CMTC will be played for the first time in 2019.

The CNTC-A, CWTC, CSTC and CMTC offer participants a chance to represent Canada in the corresponding world championship events, while the other events offer cash prizes.

The annual 3-day meeting of the CBF Board of Directors is held just prior to the start of the CBC, with the CBF Annual General Meeting and the CBF Hall of Fame induction ceremony taking place during the CBC.

The 2018 CBC was staged May 26 - June 3 at the McGill University New Residence Hall in Montreal QC. Participation was in line with previous years (22 teams in CNTC-A; 19 in CNTC-B; 12 in CNTC-C and 6 in CSTC). The exception was the

Canadian Women's Teams, which was cancelled due to low registration.

A number of Unit 390 players made the trek to Montreal with hopes of success.

In the CNTC-B, Team Sharpe (John and Janet Sharpe, Helen Dillen, Mark Maes, Gamil Tadros and Chris Wuerscher) qualified second in their pool. They defeated a Quebec team in the first playoff round before succumbing in the semi-finals. That meant bronze medals for the Calgary players! Congratulations.

Two Unit 390 teams participated in the CNTC-C: Team Blancher (Mike Blancher, Richard Bickley, Rick Boyd and Stephen Cohen) and Team Connell (Arlene Connell, Pat Anderson, Mary Anne Crookes and Tricia Flanagan). Both teams missed qualifying for the playoffs. A late change in the conditions of contest saw only four (instead of eight) advance from the round robin, a change that seems quite unfair to the teams in attendance.

In the CSTC, Calgary's Doran Flock was a member of a team that made the playoffs, finishing with a bronze medal.

Lastly, in the CNTC-A, Team Gartaganis (Nicholas and Judith Gartaganis along with four players from Ontario/Quebec) won the gold medal, downing Team Todd from Winnipeg in the 112-board final by a score of 234 to 207. It was a modicum of revenge for Judith and Nicholas, who had come second to Todd in the 2017 championship.

---

## Upcoming Unit 390 Tournament Dates



Calgary Sectional .....	November 2 - 4, 2018
Calgary 299er Sectional.....	November 10, 2018
Calgary Sectional .....	January 4 - 6, 2019
Calgary Sectional .....	April 5 - 7, 2019
Calgary Sectional .....	September 6 - 8, 2019
Calgary Sectional .....	October 25 - 27, 2019
<b>Red Deer Regional</b> .....	August 12 - 18, 2019
<b>Canadian Bridge Championship</b> .....	May 4 - 12, 2019



## Cue Bidding Debacle in Orlando

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

There is no bid in bridge that performs as many functions as the cue bid.

Wikipedia defines "cue bid" as either a bid of the opponents' suit, or a slam-investigating bid made during the later rounds of an auction that shows control of a suit. In fact, the term control bid seems to have become the common way of referring to a slam-seeking cue bid.

Most cue bids are low level cue bids ... made in the first few rounds of the auction. After the opponents have bid a suit, you also bid that same suit.

There are three very different purposes served by a low level cue bid:

- to define your distribution (an immediate or sometimes delayed bid of the opponents' suit to show two other suits)
- to communicate your strength (after partner takes a call, to express that you have a good hand in support)
- to probe for the best contract (to elicit partner's help in deciding how best to proceed)

### Case 1: Cue bidding to show your distribution

This is the well-known Michael's cue bid and it is usually an immediate cue bid. If the opponent opens a major and you cue bid that major, you show at least 5-5 with the other major and an unknown minor. Similarly, if the opponent opens a minor and you cue bid that minor, you show at least 5-5 with both majors.

<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>	
1♥	2♥	An example hand:
		♠KJ1054 ♥32 ♦AQ1098 ♣5

<u>Pard</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>	
Pass	1♣	2♣	An example hand:
			♠KJ1054 ♥ AQ1098 ♦32 ♣5

The cue bid need not be immediate, as in this auction:

<u>LHO</u>	<u>Pard</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>	
1♣	Pass	1NT	2♣	An example hand:
				♠KJ1054 ♥ AQ1098 ♦32 ♣5

### Case 2: Cue bidding to show strength

Sometimes, after partner has opened and an opponent overcalls, or when partner has overcalled the opponent's bid, you have a great hand in support. You want to be able to communicate that information to partner and the way to do it is with a cue bid. Expert modern practice is to use a cue bid to indicate a limit raise or better in support of partner.

<u>Pard</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>	
1♥	2♣	3♣	An example hand:
			♠KJ104 ♥ A1084 ♦QJ3 ♣54
			Or possibly even better:
			♠AKJ10 ♥ A1084 ♦QJ3 ♣54

You can also show a good hand in support of partner's overcall:

<u>LHO</u>	<u>Pard</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>	
1♣	1♥	Pass	2♣	An example hand:
				♠KJ104 ♥ A1084 ♦QJ3 ♣54

### Case 3: Cue bidding to probe for the best contract

This kind of cue bid can be used when you are uncertain how to move forward in the auction. For example, you and your partner are both bidding and you believe you belong in game, but you haven't found a fit yet. You can "stall" with a cue bid. Let's look at a couple of possible scenarios:

You hold:

♠Q ♥AQ96 ♦AQJ97 ♣A98

<u>LHO</u>	<u>Pard</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>
Pass	Pass	1♠	DBL
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠

You have agreed that partner's passed-hand jump shows 8 to 10 HCP. You would like to be in 3NT if partner has a spade stopper, so you cue bid to ask for partner's input.

Perhaps both opponents have bid suits but you still believe that you and your partner may have a game. You would like to probe to see what partner thinks. Consider the previous hand with a slightly different auction:

<u>LHO</u>	<u>Pard</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>
Pass	Pass	1♦	DBL
1♠	3♣	Pass	???

This time, you have diamonds stopped but you wonder if partner has a spade stopper. We know you will use a cue bid, and you and your partner will have to discuss and agree whether you will cue bid the suit you have stopped or the suit in which you need a stopper. As long as you are both on the same wavelength, either strategy will work. However, it is slightly better to bid the stopper you have because bidding what you need makes it easier for an opponent to double for the lead.

[continued next page]

## Cue Bidding Debacle in Orlando (continued)

Playing at the recent World Bridge Championship in Orlando, the above hand and auction did arise.

LHO	Pard	RHO	You
Pass	Pass	1♦	DBL
1♠	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	??		

Partner, with a diamond stopper, was happy to bid 3NT! The lead was the ♠K. Not surprisingly, partner and RHO both scoffed at the dummy on this layout:

	♠ Q	
	♥ AQ96	
	♦ AQJ97	
	♣ A98	
♠ AKJ		♠ 987653
♥ K4		♥ 87532
♦ 10864		♦ 3
♣ J632		♣ 7
	♠ 1042	
	♥ J10	
	♦ K52	
	♣ KQ1054	

West could cash three spade tricks, but that was it! In the end position, it wasn't even necessary to risk the heart finesse, as West was squeezed into abandoning his club stopper or coming down to the stiff ♥K. West laughed good-naturedly as you wiped the egg off your face. +630 netted just over 60% of the matchpoints for the board.

You were lucky to have survived, seeing as how you mixed up your partnership agreement to "bid the stopper you have, not the one you need". Disaster averted!

A married couple is driving home from a distant bridge tournament and is not speaking to one another after a horrible game. They pass by a field where a herd of donkeys is grazing.

The husband breaks the silence by asking the wife: "Relations of yours"?

"Yes" she says, "In-laws".

## Trivia Fun ... Solutions

The ♣4 is often referred to as the Devil's Bedposts. It is believed by many to bring bad luck to any hand into which it is dealt.

The ♦7 has been known for years as the Beer Card. If a player wins the last trick of a hand with this card, his partner must buy him a beer. It is considered an informal side-bet between players, especially amongst Juniors.

The ♦9 is called the Curse of Scotland. There are many theories as to how this name arose. The most widely cited is that John Dalrymple, the Earl of Stair, used the playing card to cryptically authorize the infamous Glencoe Massacre of 1692, which took place in the Scottish highlands.

The ♥K is often labelled the Suicide King because his sword appears to be stabbed into his head

A **puppy toe** is any club.

A **bullet** is any Ace.

A **quack** is any Queen or Jack, used indiscriminately.

A **kiddie** is a small trump. This term is used most often in phrases like "Time to get the kiddies off the street", meaning it is time to pull trump.

A **tine** is any ten or nine, used indiscriminately.

And lastly, a **shovel** is any spade.

A **swan** is any 7-4-1-1 hand (a long neck, a body and two legs?).

A **pancake** is any 4-3-3-3 hand (can't get any flatter!).

An **ugly duckling** is any 5-3-3-2 hand (enough said).

A **rattlesnake** is any 4-4-4-1 hand (often a problem hand).

A **pajama game** is a session where most of your scores seem to be tops or bottoms.

A **bagel** is a zero.

The **kiss of death** is a score of -200 on a hand where the opponents can make only a partscore.

**Two sticks and two wheels?** You guessed it ... a score of 1100 (hopefully in the plus column).

A **Grosvenor** is a play that cannot gain and might lose but is virtually certain to break even because it is so silly and illogical that an opponent will assume no sensible person would ever make it.

An **apricot sundae** is a weak heart-diamond two-suiter, apparently stemming from its similarity to "a red, sticky, unappetizing mess".

The **Rabbi's Rule** states "when the king is singleton, play the ace".

And lastly, a **congratulatory Jack** refers to a defender's unnecessary play of a Jack after a deal's outcome has been decided, to acknowledge partner's superior defense.

[Sources: The Bridge World Bridge Dictionary and many online sites]