



The Kibitzer

April 2019

Editors: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

President's Message

This year's Rookie-Master Swiss teams event took place on March 2nd at Haysboro Community Centre. Fortunately the weather co-operated, not like last year! There were 24 tables in play. The winners in section A and B were: Grant Wharry, Andy Melton, Richard Bickley and Bob Constantin. In section C the winners were: Devra Drysdale, Ron Licht, Deanna Downton and Peter Weir. Congratulations to all.

This event takes a lot of organizing and special thanks to Marvis Olson and Delores Hedley who were the main organizers. However, there were many more who contributed to the success of this event including the chili makers and the masters who provided the desserts. The boards were made up by Barbara Webster, the directors were Dan Bertrand and Michael Farebrother.

The Spring Sectional was held on April 5th -7th at the Clarion. The table count was 275.5, down 11.5 tables from last year, but still a very good attendance. The main reduction was on Sunday when there was a conflict with the Regional in Victoria. This Sectional marked a milestone event. Steve Bates, our main tournament director for many years, is retiring. This was his last sectional in Calgary. Best wishes for your retirement Steve.

On Friday April 12th a tournament was held at Nellie McClung School for the students who have been participating in bridge lessons at five schools since last October. The tournament was masterfully directed by Murray and Marilyn Haggins. There were 16 tables in play and the event received lots of media coverage. You can see the video that was broadcast on CTV at <https://www.adita.com/ctv-news-coverage-of-nellie-mcclung-bridge-tournament.mp4>.

The event concluded with a PIZZA BANK pizza party courtesy of Vijay Thankey of RE/MAX Realty Professionals. The participating schools and their teachers were as follows:

- St. Jude John Finlay and Caroleigh Houghton
- Father James Whelihan Myron Achtman
- St. Philip Myron Achtman
- Captain John Palliser Jim Berglund
- Nellie McClung Margaret Nielsen

Special thanks are extended to these teachers and their many assistants who have been successful at initiating bridge in Calgary schools. It is hoped that the program can be expanded next year, but in order to do so more teachers and

assistants will be required. If you are prepared to volunteer your time to a most worthwhile cause, please contact Myron Achtman at adita@shaw.ca or 403-295-8124.

The membership of Unit 390 continues to increase. I believe that this is thanks to the many bridge teachers in Calgary who are doing an excellent job. Recent additions to the teaching fraternity are Abdul Fakh and Diane Campbell. They are teaching on behalf of the Calgary Community Bridge League (CCBL) at the Westgate Community Centre.

[President's Message continued next page]

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President's Message (continued)

The AGM will be held on Sunday June 2nd at Haysboro Community Centre. Please mark this date in your diary. There will be vacancies on the Board so if you wish to stand for election please notify any of the existing Board members.

Other events to note are the Canadian Bridge Championships in Burnaby on May 4th -12th and the District final of the Grand National Teams (GNT) which will be held online at the Westgate Community Centre on May 31st - June 1st.

District 18 will be holding a non-life master regional (0-750 masterpoints) at the Clarion on June 28th - 30th. This is the first such event to be held in Calgary and will provide the opportunity to earn gold points. I hope that it will be well supported.

John Sharpe
President, Unit 390



Thank You to Airdrie Bridge Club!

When the Airdrie Bridge Club closed its doors on October 25, 2018, the members voted to donate the club's residual funds to Unit 390.

"We want to see the money used wherever it is most needed" said manager Carolyn Graham. Nearly \$1000 was given to Unit 390 to use for bridge initiatives.



It was very late in the duplicate, with its usual wild results, and the Director called for order. "Ladies and gentlemen, we have a new record. Someone has scored minus 3400." As the triumphant declarer took his bow, a tipsy voice came from a far corner -- "Could he have made it on a different line of play?"

Unit 390 Excels

The ACBL issues a statistical report every quarter, based on data about membership numbers across the entire ACBL. The data is broken down by District and then by Unit. The latest report contained some interesting facts, and confirmed that the teachers, club owners and, in fact, all members of Unit 390 must be doing something right! Now, if only ...

The ACBL is divided into 25 geographical districts. Alberta is part of District 18, fondly known as WASUMI (for Wyoming, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Utah, Montana and Idaho).

There are 22 units in District 18, Calgary Unit 390 being one of them. The entire ACBL is comprised of 295 units.

According to the QUIP¹ for the first quarter of 2019:

- District 18 ranked 1st among all districts in terms of Active Membership Trends with a gain of 1.34% over the last 12 months.
- Only four districts showed positive gains in that category, and all four of those districts are either wholly in Canada or partly made up of Canadian units. All other districts were in the red, and none included any Canadian units.
- There were 162,688 ACBL members on March 31, 2019, representing a drop of 1.23% over the last 12 months.
- Calgary Unit 390 ranked 2nd among the units in District 18 (and 14th in the entire ACBL) in terms of Active Membership Trends with a gain of 6.12% over the last 12 months.
- The average age of ACBL members is 72.5 years. District 18 ranked 4th youngest among all districts, with an average age of 71.27 years (younger is rated better). Calgary is the second youngest unit in District 18 with an average age of 69.17 years (only Red Deer Unit 248 is younger).

¹ QUIP stands for Quarterly Unit Information Packet

How to Proceed to Slam

By Gordon Campbell

You hold ♠KQJ106x ♥Axx ♦Kx ♣Qx

Partner (North) opens 1♣, you (South) bid 1♠, and surprisingly, North jumps to 3NT.

What is 3NT here?

2NT would have shown a balanced 18-19 HCP so North's hand can't be anything like that. Most players use 3NT to show a strong hand with a solid or nearly-solid long minor suit and a stopper in at least one of the unbid suits. Basically, the 3NT bidder is saying, "if the opponents don't cash the first five tricks then I have nine tricks on the fly". Frequently, opener will hold shortness in responder's suit, and will expect you to hold a stopper there.

What a wonderful hand I have! The ♠Q is surely worth an Ace as it fills in partner's "nearly-solid" suit. I must set trumps as clubs, so I bid 4♣.

Please don't play this as Gerber. In my opinion way too much Gerber and Minorwood abound. I believe these should only be jumps, otherwise one can't use the bid naturally, as we need to here.

Over my 4♣, North bids 4♦ as a cuebid showing the ♦A or ♦K (clubs have been agreed, and usually once a suit has been agreed, all new suits are cuebids). I bid 4NT as 1430 Keycard and North jumps to 6♣.

Here is the auction so far:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>You South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	??	

What is the jump to 6♣? Everyone would play that it shows a void in a higher-ranking suit than the trump suit, but there is inconsistency as to how many keycards it shows. Luckily, my partner and I had previously agreed that 5NT would have shown a void somewhere with an even number of keycards. So here, partner is showing an odd number (1 or 3) - it surely must be 3 - with a useful void. One can argue whether a void in spades is useful or not, but based on partner's 3NT bid, it clearly can't be a void in a red suit, so a spade void it is. Now, let's construct his hand.

Partner could hold something like

♠void ♥Kxx ♦Axx ♣AKJ107xx

This looks like an absolute minimum and many would rebid 3♣ with that hand, rather than 3NT. So, partner should hold something more - maybe an extra club or a red queen. With any of those there should be an excellent play for 7♣, either by ruffing a diamond or, as a last resort, by ruffing out the ♠A.

Normally I would bid 7♣ but I didn't want to risk having no play for the contract and losing the match. I settled for the small slam.

At the other table during this past January's Calgary Sectional, our unnamed teammate was rather unsporting, doubling 7NT (!) when he realized he was on lead with the ♠A.

Partner's hand was ♠void ♥Kx ♦Axx ♣AKJ1098xx so 7♣ would have been an easy make.

Would you and your partner have reached it?

Caddies Needed

Unit 390 is currently seeking young people to work as caddies at future bridge tournaments.

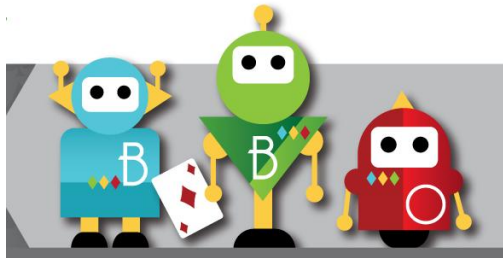
Must be 12 years of age or older! Training provided.

If you would like to put your name forward or to learn more, please contact Delores Hedley at dollyd@telus.net or 403-254-4995

Earn extra cash!

Memphis NABC Robot Individual High Finish for Hailong Yu

The NABC Robot Individual is a three-day, three-session robot duplicate event hosted by Bridge Base Online (BBO). It is a nationally-rated contest held prior to the start of every NABC, the first running in Summer 2017. This spring the event was held March 16 - 18, 2019 and drew an incredible number of entries ... 1799 to be exact!



Congratulations to Hailong Yu, of Calgary, who had an outstanding tournament, finishing 41st overall (10th in the under 2000 category and 3rd in the under 500 group)! Hailong recorded sessions of 64.56%, 58.09% and 63.49% for an overall average score of 62.05%.

The robots used are GIB robots (Ginsberg's Intelligent Bridgeplayer Robots) playing a modified 2/1 system. The player sits South, with robots at the other three seats at the table. The event is played best-hand style: the player always receives the hand with the most high-card points at the table (or tied for the most high-card points). Distribution is not counted when determining "best hand". The player declares for his robot partner when their side wins the contract. Who wouldn't love it! You always have the best hand, and most times, you get to play the contract.

It can be tricky navigating "robot logic", though. A robot opponent might sacrifice, but if you double, your robot partner is virtually sure to pull!

When it is a player's turn to bid, the player can see what robots think a bid means before making the bid. If the bid is not highlighted, it means the robots have no special understanding or definition for that particular bid.

Thirteen players from Unit 390 played in the event.



2018 Alberta Sectionals Masterpoint Race

Final Standings

1	157.38	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB
2	147.00	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB
3	123.25	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB
4	120.17	Glenn Cossey	Innisfail AB
5	114.59	Cindy Cossey	Innisfail AB
6	98.71	Ray Grace	Sherwood Park AB
7	92.01	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB
8	91.28	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB
9	90.45	Steve Lawrence	Calgary AB
10	89.27	Al Simon	Calgary AB
11	78.53	Lee Barton	Edmonton AB
12	78.53	Lucille Barton	Edmonton AB
13	76.28	Ian Findlay	Banff AB
14	75.30	Bernie Lambert	Acme AB
15	73.58	Garry Karst	Edmonton AB
16	69.91	Chris Galbraith	Calgary AB
17	68.83	Ken Penton	Calgary AB
18	67.76	Perry Khakhar	Calgary AB
19	64.01	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB
20	62.75	Bob Pratt	Edmonton AB
21	62.75	Kevin Strangway	Grande Prairie AB
22	60.28	Don Gladman	Calgary AB
23	58.35	Frank Ayer	Calgary AB
24	54.28	Peter Jones	Edmonton AB
25	49.74	Doug Mann	Calgary AB
26	49.38	Keith Wallace	Calgary AB
27	49.38	Pam Wallace	Calgary AB
28	47.37	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB
29	46.65	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB
30	45.86	Rolf Saetre	Calgary AB
31	44.86	Fi Nadir	Calgary AB
32	43.03	Alvin Baragar	Edmonton AB
33	42.76	Dick Yuen	Calgary AB
34	41.70	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB
35	39.02	Vince Nowlan	Edmonton AB
36	36.95	Clarende Duby	Calgary AB
37	36.01	Runan Du	Calgary AB
38	36.01	Yi Peng Mai	Calgary AB
39	35.40	Richard Sochacki	Edmonton AB
40	35.28	Charlie Lamb	Red Deer AB
41	34.46	Andrew Proczkowski	Edmonton AB
42	34.27	Marek Foff	Edmonton AB
43	34.19	Bev Mason	Calgary AB
44	32.24	Lloyda Jones	Edmonton AB
45	31.51	Ian Gatenby	Red Deer AB

Keep Bridge Alive



The University of Stirling in Scotland has launched a global 'Keep Bridge Alive' campaign to communicate messages about the benefits of bridge beyond the bridge world. The key goals of this project are to transform the image of bridge, to increase participation in and enhance the sustainability of the mind sport. The campaign is the brainchild of Samantha Punch who, in addition to playing bridge for Scotland, is Professor of Sociology at the University of Stirling.



Punch says that "Keep Bridge Alive is about taking action to share best practice, pool resources and develop an evidence base to rebrand and grow the bridge world. This is an excellent opportunity to do something different and create momentum for change within the bridge community."

In February of this year, a Crowdfund page for the Keep Bridge Alive initiative was established to help fund the campaign, with the money raised going towards research. One of the projects the research team would like to conduct is an academic study which demonstrates the skills that

children develop when they learn bridge. This would include teaching bridge to one class of children and having a control group of another class of similar abilities and backgrounds who do not learn bridge. This research could be carried out at two different schools using contrasting socio-economic locations.

The children would be tested for various skills at the start of the year and again at the end of a year of learning bridge (or not having learned it). Interviews with the children, teachers and parents would also be conducted to explore their perspectives of the impacts of learning bridge across a range of benefits, including life and transferable skills. As a three-year doctoral research project it would provide robust evidence of the skills gained (partnership, team and individual skills) as well as the improved test results that we predict are possible. The findings would be used to encourage schools and governments to invest in bridge.

To learn more about the Keep Bridge Alive campaign, you may follow [this link](#).

You can also read more about the campaign objectives and some of the commentary surrounding the project in this post on Bridge Winners:

<https://bridgewinners.com/article/view/whats-the-point-of-keep-bridge-alive/>

You can read an interview with Samantha Punch on the Great Bridge Links site:

<http://greatbridgelinks.com/how-one-campaign-intends-to-transform-the-game-of-bridge/>

**"If you Keep Bridge Alive, it will do the same for you."
(David Burn, British international player)**

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 2019.

Save
the
Date!

299er Sectional at the Clarion Hotel

Saturday November 9, 2019

Stratified Pairs

Three Flights!

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

All Silver Points!

Morning and
Afternoon Games

Speakers!

Prizes!

Supervised
Bid 'N' Play

If you have any questions, comments or
would like to volunteer, please contact:

Sue Korba
Tournament Organizer and
Future Masters Director
Calgary Duplicate Bridge Association
390masters@acblunit390.org
403-827-2126

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

Test Your Declarer Play

By Dan Bertrand

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

Hand 1:

♠ J106432
♥ A
♦ 762
♣ AJ3



♠ AKQ7
♥ 642
♦ J54
♣ K102

Contract: 4♠

North leads the ♥Q. South plays the ♥9 (using standard signals).
Trumps break 3-0 (North has three).

Hand 2:

♠ AQ2
♥ A76
♦ J432
♣ AQ2



♠ 874
♥ 852
♦ AKQ105
♣ J5

Contract: 3NT

North leads the ♥4 (fourth best). South plays the ♥Q which you duck. South continues with ♥10. You have eight tricks. Which finesse do you take?

Hand 3:

♠ J743
♥ KJ9
♦ 765
♣ Q64



♠ Q6
♥ Q3
♦ AKQJ84
♣ A102

Contract: 3NT

North leads the ♥2. South follows with ♥10 and you win the ♥K. You cash the ♦A and ♦K. North shows out on the second round (diamonds are 3-1). You have eight sure tricks.

Hand 4:

♠ AK762
♥ 105
♦ K109
♣ AK5



♠ QJ98
♥ A2
♦ Q75
♣ J432

Contract: 4♠

North leads the ♥Q. South plays the ♥9 (using standard signals).
Trumps break 3-1 (North has three).

Please turn to page 18 for the solutions.

Calgary School Bridge Program

On Friday, April 12, Calgary Unit 390 celebrated the successful conclusion of the 2019 school bridge program by hosting a wind-up tournament at Nellie McClung School. More than 60 students from five Calgary schools -- St. Jude, Father Whelihan, St. Philip, Nellie McClung and Captain John Palliser -- gathered to compete. Students from the visiting schools were bussed to the tournament site.

The road to the April 12th event was not simple.

Myron Achtman, Unit 390 director for Youth Education, has spearheaded the "Bridge in Schools" program and it is thanks to his tireless efforts that the project got off the ground.

In 2017, Myron Achtman contacted a friend of his who also happened to be the Chief Superintendent of the Catholic School Board. Myron asked his friend to consider introducing bridge into the school system, and he provided links to three YouTube videos that showcased how bridge was being developed in Toronto, Edmonton, and the United States.

Shortly thereafter, Myron was contacted by the principal of St. Jude School who was interested in giving bridge a try over the lunch period, once a week. He had 14 students from grades five and six ready to get started.

And so it was that Myron set up a pilot program at St. Jude. From the fall of 2017 to the spring of 2018, Myron conducted 16 bridge sessions. Since the lunch period was only 40 minutes, this amounted to about ten hours of actual instruction.

Delores Hedley offered to assist Myron as a mentor for the latter part of the program. She was very impressed by how well the students were playing, given the small amount of time they had had to learn the game.

The program at St. Jude was a big success, and the principal wanted to continue the bridge school program in 2018-19. Additionally, through word-of-mouth and referrals from Unit 390 members, specifically John Sharpe and Asha Acharya, the program expanded to four more schools.

In the fall of 2018, Unit 390 issued a notice asking for instructors and mentors to volunteer for the school bridge program and the response was positive. Teaching and mentoring assignments were made at an organizational meeting held at Myron's home.

Myron taught at St. Philip and Fr. Whelihan. Jim Berglund worked with the students at Captain John Palliser. John Finlay and Caroleigh Houghton taught at St. Jude. Margaret Nielsen took on the biggest group at Nellie McClung.

The goal was to have at least one mentor at every table in each class, in addition to the class instructor. That's a lot of volunteer mentors! Thanks to the great response from Unit 390 members, the goal was achieved at most of the classes.

The lessons continued into early April 2019, with a break for the month of December. As spring approached, Caroleigh Houghton agreed to coordinate a bridge tournament for all five schools.

At the tournament, the students had the help of about 40 volunteer instructors and mentors from Calgary Unit 390. Every table had at least two volunteers supervising the play to make sure that bids were sufficient and that players were properly following suit. The dedicated support of these volunteers ensured the success of the tournament.

Murray and Marilyn Haggins volunteered their time to serve as directors for the event. They also duplicated all the boards and did an amazing job of compiling the results.

Every student received a souvenir button pin to commemorate the event.

After playing eight hands, trophies were awarded to the top three pairs. First place went to St. Jude students, second place to students from Captain John Palliser and third place to St. Philip Fine Arts School. The tournament was covered by both CTV and CBC news networks.

Once the awards had been given, students were treated to a pizza lunch, courtesy of Vijay Thankey of RE/MAX Realty Professionals, who is also the owner of the Glenmore Landing PIZZA BANK. Unit 390 supplied juice and ice cream bars.

Myron reports that the school Superintendents are keen to see the bridge program expand even further next fall, and in subsequent years. He has already been approached by several schools who want to be included in 2019-20. Of course, to make this happen, more teachers and more mentors will be required. Anyone interested in helping with the school bridge program is invited to call Myron Achtman at (403) 295-8124 or email him at adita@shaw.ca.

Check out the following page for scenes from the tournament!



School Bridge Tournament Action



Lunch courtesy PIZZA BANK



Myron Achtman and Marilyn Haggins with trophy winners.

Photos courtesy Monique Achtman

"Experience is what allows us to repeat our mistakes, only with more finesse."

Derwood Fincher

2018 Zone V Mini-Richmond Races

Final Standings



The Mini-Richmond awards were introduced in 2012. The awards recognize Canadian Bridge Federation members who win the most masterpoints in the calendar year in each of the masterpoint categories, up to and including Diamond Life Master (5000 to 7500 MP). Each category winner in each of the six CBF zones receives a special pin. In addition, overall national winners receive a certificate recognizing their achievement. In order to participate in and receive recognition for achievement in CBF masterpoint races, one must be a paid-up CBF member in good standing.

Calgary Unit 390 is part of Zone V, which encompasses Alberta, Saskatchewan and Northern Manitoba. For 2018, Unit 390 players were Zone V winners in 11 of 13 masterpoint categories and many others placed in the top three positions. That surpassed last year's performance where Unit 390 players took 10 races. In categories not appearing below, the top three positions went to players from outside Unit 390.

John Prance was the overall national winner in the 5 to 20 category. Well done to John!

0 to 5	1	Craig Bowyer	Calgary AB	30
	3	Terry Kaufman	Calgary AB	24
5 to 20	1	John Prance	Calgary AB	149
	3	Cindy Watt	Calgary AB	42

20 to 50	1	Stewart Brightman	Calgary AB	82
	2	Jamie Watt	Calgary AB	52
	3	Betty Teare	Calgary AB	39
50 to 100	1	Peter Serafini	Calgary AB	86
	2	Andrew Serafini	Calgary AB	169
100 to 200	1	Michael Serafini	Calgary AB	177
	2	Danuta Trafford	Calgary AB	155
	3			
200 to 300	1	Richard Piette	Calgary AB	163
	2			
300 to 500	1	Mary Anne Crookes	Calgary AB	201
	2	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	193
	3	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB	148
500 to 1000	1	Rick Boyd	Calgary AB	236
	2	Elizabeth Sprague	Calgary AB	214
	3	Sandy Jean Robinson	Calgary AB	206
1000 to 1500	1	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB	220
	2	Mark Manzer	Calgary AB	192
	3	Chris Murphy	Calgary AB	190
1500 to 2500	1	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	387
	2	Gamil Tadros	Calgary AB	377
2500 to 3500	2	Jadwiga Poluja	Calgary AB	229
	3	Diane Campbell	Calgary AB	228
5000 to 7500	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	412
	2	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	365

Upcoming Unit 390 Tournament Dates



Calgary Sectional	September 6 - 8, 2019
Calgary Sectional	October 25 - 27, 2019
Calgary 299er Sectional	November 9, 2019
Canadian Bridge Championship	May 4 - 12, 2019
District 18 GNT Final (online)	May 31 - June 1, 2019
Unit 390 AGM	June 2, 2019
Calgary NLM Regional (0-750 MPs)	June 28-30, 2019
Red Deer Regional	August 12 - 18, 2019



Computer-Dealt ... Not This Time!

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

This hand arose a few months back and we thought it might be interesting for our readers.

Here was the auction at our table (we were East-West):

North	East	South	West
2♣	Pass	2♦!	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4NT!!	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

Contract: 7♦

Lead: ♦2

♠ ---	♠ AKJ953	♠ 108762
♥ Q6432	♥ ---	♥ AJ1098
♦ 542	♦ AKQJ86	♦ 10
♣ Q10953	♣ 4	♣ 86

♠ Q4	♠ 108762
♥ K75	♥ AJ
♦ 973	♦ ---
♣ AKJ72	♣ ---

South's off-beat "waiting bid" had the effect of right-siding the diamond grand slam because the hand with the spade void was on lead. Had East been on lead, West could have made a Lightner double of the final contract. When the opponents seem to have reached a contract in comfort (usually a slam), an "out-of-the-blue" double ... a Lightner double ... asks for an unusual lead. It usually signifies a void in some suit, often in a side suit shown by the opponents. On this hand, East would have had no trouble finding a spade lead to immediately defeat the grand slam. But alas for the defenders, West was the leader.

You might think that, with the horrendous break, it is impossible to avoid a spade loser. But a little care in the play can overcome the problem, and has zero risk.

If spades are no worse than 4-1, you will always make 13 tricks. But what if they are 5-0 as in the actual layout?

Win the opening trump lead and pull two more rounds. At this point, you could play ♣AK and ruff a club, just in case the ♣Q comes down (but these early club plays are not necessary for success as the cards lie).

You can win the opening trump lead and run the rest of the trumps. Everyone will have seven cards remaining:

♠ ---	♠ AKJ953	♠ 108762
♥ Q643	♥ ---	♥ AJ
♦ ---	♦ ---	♦ ---
♣ Q109	♣ 4	♣ ---

♠ Q4	♠ 108762
♥ K7	♥ AJ
♦ ---	♦ ---
♣ AKJ	♣ ---

Now play off the ♣AK, discarding a small spade from dummy. What is East to do? If he throws a spade hoping partner is not void, you will surprise him. He can discard one heart, but if he throws the ♥A on the ♣K, you will cash your ♥K to discard another small spade from dummy.

The squeeze also works if one opponent has five spades plus the ♣Q. In that case, either the spades will all be good, or the ♣Q will fall when you cash the ♣AK.

You might think that only the computer deals distributional monsters like this. Not so! This hand was dealt by humans in the Sunday team game at Edmonton's October sectional.

Editors' Note:

The Lightner double is named for its creator, American player Theodore Lightner.



Pulling The Goalie

By Ian Findlay

The Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) online championship started with 14 teams and concluded on March 16, 2019 in a 40-board final match that finished in a way no Hollywood scriptwriter could concoct. With time running out the Gordon Campbell team (Ian Findlay, Susan Culham, Peter Jones) had dropped 29 IMPs on three consecutive boards versus team Nader Hanna (John Rayner, Katie Thorpe, Martin Kirr, Joan Eaton, Karen Cumpstone). That left Campbell's team trailing by 20 IMPs with one hand remaining. This is the equivalent of trailing 3-0 in a hockey game with a minute to play. So team Campbell pulled the goalie.

On that final deal, I picked up:

♠4 ♥AJ7432 ♦AQ1084 ♣K

and opened 1♥ in second seat. Gordon Campbell, my partner, responded 2♣. With no interference we arrived in 7♥ after this auction:

West	Gordon	East	Ian
--	--	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣**
Pass	6♦*	Pass	7♥

All Pass

* cue-bid

** ♣K

The lead was the ♥10 and down came the dummy.

All Vulnerable

Contract: 7♥

Lead: ♥10

♠ AQ76
♥ KQ8
♦ 2
♣ AJ863



♠ 4
♥ AJ7432
♦ AQ1084
♣ K

Our decision to bid the grand slam was due in small part to the sense that we were trailing in the match. Textbooks love to say "lead a trump versus a grand slam" and that is exactly the lead I received. On the surface the grand slam looked reasonable, but the lack of spot cards in the trump suit reduced the likelihood of success. Chess is a passion of mine so I treated the play of the hand more like a chess problem than a bridge hand.

I studied the position, er, cards, carefully. The trump lead had taken away my ability to ruff three diamonds in dummy, but did allow me several other options, including setting up clubs with a last-gasp chance of the spade finesse if a 13th trick was needed.



Timing is critical in both chess and bridge, both needing one to visualize as many moves and variations as possible into the future in order to succeed. If the ♣Q is tripleton it doesn't matter whether I ruff a diamond immediately and then start clubs. However, if the ♣Q is fourth then playing a club to the ♣K at trick two is critical, to prepare for ruffing a club when next in dummy.

The sequence I followed was win the ♥K, club to the ♣K, ♦A, diamond ruff, club ruff, diamond ruff, club ruff. When everyone followed to that third round of clubs, it was checkmate! I pulled trumps and travelled to dummy with the ♠A to score the ♠A and the ♠J. My thirteen tricks were ♠A, ♦A, six trump tricks in hand, two diamond ruffs in dummy and the ♣AKJ.

[continued next page]

Pulling The Goalie (continued)

The four hands were:

♠ AQ76		♠ KJ5
♥ KQ8		♥ 96
♦ 2		♦ KJ973
♣ AJ863		♣ 942
♠ 109832	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #005596; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
♥ 105		
♦ 65		
♣ Q1075		
♠ 4		
♥ AJ7432		
♦ AQ1084		
♣ K		

At the other table the same contract was reached, but the lead was the ♠10. This not only took away the option of the spade finesse in the end game, but it also killed dummy's late entry so that clubs could not be enjoyed when the ♣Q was fourth in either defender's hand (i.e. my line). There was still the prospect of ruffing diamonds in dummy ... as many as three times if the ♦K did not drop in three rounds. However the lack of heart intermediates deterred my counterpart from embarking on this line of play. As a result the other declarer tried for the ♣Q to be tripleton and hearts 2-2. There was a last-ditch chance of ♦KJx onside (hook a diamond and ruff a diamond) but not today, so declarer wound up with only 12 tricks.

When the smoke cleared team Campbell picked up 2210 for making the vulnerable grand slam plus 100 for defeating the grand slam for a total of 2310. Even the most seasoned IMP scorer would need to look up that number. It converts into 20 IMPs! The match was a tie.

The conditions of contest provided for a four-board playoff, but given such a dramatic ending, both teams decided to share the championship which seemed like a just result. Only in Canada could one pull the goalie in bridge and end up in a chess game.

Editors' Note:

Both Ian Findlay and Gordon Campbell are accomplished chess players. Ian is a FIDE Chess Master (a ranking awarded by the World Chess Federation) and is the current Canadian Chess Champion in the over 50 category. Gordon is a former British junior chess champion.



District 18 To Host 0-750 (Non-Life Master) Regional Tournament in Calgary

Are you looking for gold points to reach your Life Master designation? Are you working to achieve your next masterpoint milestone? If so, be sure to set aside the last weekend in June when Calgary will be the host site for a Regional tournament that is aimed directly at you. It is the first such tournament to be held in Alberta, District 18 having hosted the inaugural one in Helena, Montana last summer.

The tournament runs June 28 - 30, 2019 at the Clarion Hotel (the same location as the Unit 390 sectional tournaments). Session times are 10:00 am and 3:00 pm Friday and Saturday and 9:30 am and approximately 2:00 pm on Sunday (so out of town players can get on the road a bit quicker).

The tournament features two-session Flighted Gold Rush pairs on Friday and Saturday and a two-session Bracketed Swiss teams on Sunday. All these games will award gold points in varying amounts to players who place in the overalls or who earn a section top in a single session. Additionally, for players with under 50 masterpoints, there will be one-session 49er pairs games Friday and Saturday mornings that will award red points. You can access the complete program [here](#).

Look for special features every day!



How can you help?

Here are some possible ways:

- Sponsor some of the prizes or daily giveaways.
- Volunteer your time to help prepare the giveaway items.
- Help with setup Thursday evening and takedown Sunday afternoon.
- Help during the tournament with hospitality and partnerships.

If you would like to help, please contact Terri Bedard (call or text 403-510-7846) or Doug Mann (call or text 403-969-3225 or email manncd@shaw.ca).

Hope to see you there!

2018 Ace of Clubs Awards

Unit 390 Final Standings

0 to 5	1	Craig Bowyer	Calgary AB	21
	2	Julie Short	Okotoks AB	20
	3	Brian Reinsch	Calgary AB	12
5 to 20	1	John Prance	Calgary AB	87
	2	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	42
	3	Linda Legate	Okotoks AB	32
20 to 50	1	David Ho	Calgary AB	84
	2	Adel Erian	Calgary AB	42
	3	Stewart Brightman	Calgary AB	39
50 to 100	1	Robert Stothers	Calgary AB	86
	2	Deanna Downton	Calgary AB	43
	3	Margaret Williams	Calgary AB	41
100 to 200	1	Bob Gagnon	Calgary AB	86
	2	Danuta Trafford	Calgary AB	72
	3	Andrew Serafini	Calgary AB	71
200 to 300	1	Jay Newington	Calgary AB	68
	2	Richard Piette	Calgary AB	64
	3	Grace Galanti	Calgary AB	52
300 to 500	1	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	121
	2	Mary Anne Crookes	Calgary AB	111
	3	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	98
500 to 1000	1	Elizabeth Sprague	Calgary AB	114
	2	Naushad Dada	Calgary AB	107
	3	Sandy Jean Robinson	Calgary AB	92
1000 to 1500	1	Mark Manzer	Calgary AB	127
	2	Jack Sisko	Calgary AB	95
	3	Connie Wignall	Calgary AB	94
1500 to 2500	1	Jean Ward	Calgary AB	172
	2	Pauline Huculak	Calgary AB	167
	3	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	152
2500 to 3500	1	Maged Wafa	Calgary AB	177
	2	Diane Campbell	Calgary AB	137
	3	Tina Gokturk	Calgary AB	94
3500 to 5000	1	Elaine Stewart	Calgary AB	183
	2	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	172
	3	Paula Sisko	Calgary AB	107
5000 to 7500	1	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	217
	2	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	170
	3	Don Gladman	Calgary AB	83
7500 to 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	79
	2	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	14
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	24
	2	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	5
	3	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	5

2018 Mini-McKenney Awards

Unit 390 Final Standings

0 to 5	1	Runan Du	Calgary AB	44
	2	Craig Bowyer	Calgary AB	30
	3	Julie Short	Okotoks AB	24
5 to 20	1	John Prance	Calgary AB	149
	2	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	50
	3	Ken Steele	Calgary AB	44
20 to 50	1	David Ho	Calgary AB	175
	2	Stewart Brightman	Calgary AB	82
	3	Adel Erian	Calgary AB	59
50 to 100	1	Robert Stothers	Calgary AB	107
	2	Peter Serafini	Calgary AB	86
	3	Deanna Downton	Calgary AB	61
100 to 200	1	Michael Serafini	Calgary AB	177
	2	Andrew Serafini	Calgary AB	169
	3	Bob Gagnon	Calgary AB	161
200 to 300	1	Richard Piette	Calgary AB	163
	2	Jay Newington	Calgary AB	162
	3	Milt Mansell	Calgary AB	140
300 to 500	1	Mary Anne Crookes	Calgary AB	201
	2	Cynthia Clark	Calgary AB	194
	3	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	193
500 to 1000	1	Rick Boyd	Calgary AB	236
	2	Elizabeth Sprague	Calgary AB	214
	3	Sandy Jean Robinson	Calgary AB	206
1000 to 1500	1	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB	220
	2	Mark Manzer	Calgary AB	192
	3	Chris Murphy	Calgary AB	190
1500 to 2500	1	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	387
	2	Gamil Tadros	Calgary AB	377
	3	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	318
2500 to 3500	1	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	229
	2	Diane Campbell	Calgary AB	228
	3	Janet Sharpe	Calgary AB	227
3500 to 5000	1	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	263
	2	Perry Khakhar	Calgary AB	254
	3	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	240
5000 to 7500	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	412
	2	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	365
	3	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	262
7500 to 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	337
	2	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	14
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	509
	2	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	454
	3	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	444

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 reports from three sectionals.

November 2018

Attendance at the 299er events in November was up over the previous sectional by nearly 40% with a whopping 91 tables in play over the course of the weekend. In a neck-and-neck race, Peter Serafini captured the President's Award with 8.32 masterpoints. Here is the full list of results:

Flight D (100 - 300):

- | | | |
|------|------|------------------|
| 1/2. | 4.44 | Andrew Serafini |
| 1/2. | 4.44 | Michael Serafini |
| 3. | 4.35 | Julie Larsen |

Flight E (50 - 100):

- | | | |
|----|------|-------------------|
| 1. | 8.32 | Peter Serafini |
| 2. | 8.28 | Jim Chunn |
| 3. | 6.32 | Stewart Brightman |

Flight F (0 - 50):

- | | | |
|----|------|--------------------|
| 1. | 4.05 | Ken Miller |
| 2. | 3.03 | William Mandolidis |
| 3. | 2.30 | Sabrina Fayerman |

January 2019

It seemed unlikely that 299er events at the January sectional would garner as many tables as the November sectional had done, but it turned out even better ... 93 tables! Jamie Watt took home the President's Award, racking up 7.41 masterpoints.

Flight D (100 - 300):

- | | | |
|----|------|----------------|
| 1. | 5.98 | Bob Gagnon |
| 2. | 5.37 | Martin Hall |
| 3. | 4.43 | Deanna Downton |

Flight E (50 - 100):

- | | | |
|----|------|----------------|
| 1. | 7.41 | Jamie Watt |
| 2. | 4.77 | Derwyn Hughes |
| 3. | 4.42 | Louise Nielsen |

Flight F (0 - 50):

- | | | |
|----|------|------------------|
| 1. | 3.65 | Peter Weir |
| 2. | 3.06 | Moir Misselbrook |
| 3. | 2.86 | Bob Constantin |

April 2019

The Calgary Spring sectional attracted 80 tables of 299ers for four pairs games and two team games. In a very close race, Lyn Jessee emerged victorious with 4.33 masterpoints, just .02 ahead of her closest competitors, which is especially notable since Lyn is a Flight F player. Here is the full list of results:

Flight D (100 - 300):

- | | | |
|------|------|-----------------|
| 1/2. | 4.31 | Hailong Yu |
| 1/2. | 4.31 | Robert Stothers |
| 3. | 4.23 | Jamie Watt |

Flight E (50 - 100):

- | | | |
|------|------|----------------|
| 1. | 4.23 | Cindy Watt |
| 2. | 3.86 | Martine Parent |
| 3/4. | 3.74 | Bill Ingelson |
| 3/4. | 3.74 | Gail Ingelson |

Flight F (0 - 50):

- | | | |
|------|------|------------------|
| 1. | 4.33 | Lyn Jessee |
| 2/3. | 3.21 | Ginny Hood |
| 2/3. | 3.21 | Sabrina Fayerman |

Congratulations to all! Well done.

Student in class has xxx facing AQJ in dummy. He leads low and puts in the jack which holds. He plays the ace next. Teacher asks why he didn't take the finesse again? He says: "You told us that only one of two finesses work."

Source: Eddie Kantar's "Bridge Humour"

Stay Alert

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

A bridge hand is usually multi-dimensional, combining several factors, each of which requires careful consideration. That is part of what keeps the game both interesting and challenging. However, even if you make the right initial decision, it is important to stay alert.

At equal non-vulnerable in a matchpoint game, LHO opens proceedings with 4♠. Both partner and RHO pass. You hold:

♠Q ♥Q732 ♦AKQ1085 ♣95

Should you bid or pass? If you bid what are your options and how will partner respond?

In favour of bidding:

- short in spades so partner may have a good hand that was unsuitable for immediate action
- two places to play (hearts or diamonds)

In favour of passing:

- bidding to the five-level will probably result in a minus score when 4♠ was destined to fail
- even if your initial action (for example, bidding 5♦) leads to a makeable contract, partner may play you for more and raise the level when she holds a good hand

If you decide it's more fun to bid than to pass, you still have to decide what action to take. Choosing to bid 5♦ immediately reduces the probability that RHO will have an easy double (because he won't have high honours in diamonds). Furthermore if the opponents bid to 5♠ partner will know what to lead. On the other hand bidding 5♦ shuts out the heart suit (which scores better when there is a fit).

By agreement you and your partner play double as a three-suited takeout and 4NT as a two-suited takeout. You decide to throw your partner a curve ball and double. Partner bids 5♣ and over RHO's pass, you correct to 5♦. LHO passes and after some thought partner passes as does RHO. You hoped your auction would suggest a two-suiter, but without equal length. It seems partner got the message.

LHO leads the ♠A and you anxiously await the dummy. Partner has excellent values and showed the restraint learned after many years playing with a partner who always needs an Ace or two extra to have a chance to make the contract.

None Vulnerable

Contract: 5♦

Lead: ♠A

♠ 32
♥ K10
♦ 964
♣ AQJ843

♠ Q
♥ Q732
♦ AKQ1085
♣ 95

RHO follows with ♠J and when LHO continues with the ♠K RHO plays the ♠10. You ruff and take stock.

If RHO holds both the ♥A and the ♣K, it is likely that the opponents can make 4♠ so going down one in 5♦ rates to be a good matchpoint score. If the ♣K is inside then making 5♦ is possible for an even better score. You cash the ♦AK. LHO follows with the ♦3 on the first round, then discards the ♠4 on the second round. You can't afford to pull the last trump in case the club finesse wins and LHO holds Kxx. If you do, the only way back to your hand to repeat the club finesse will be the ♥Q, and that squanders the overtrick. There is also the issue of how to proceed if you think RHO ducked the ♣K on the first round.

When you lead a club towards dummy LHO plays the King. What a pleasant surprise! Now you know for sure that RHO has the ♥A. LHO would never open 4♠ holding the ♠AK with length as well as the ♥A and the ♣K. Unfortunately that singleton ♣K is both good news and bad news. You have three club tricks in addition to six diamond tricks and one heart trick. However, RHO holds a stopper in the club suit and there is no way to establish clubs and get back to dummy to run the suit.

What about hearts? If you try to ruff a heart in dummy RHO will surely win the second round and play his last trump. You could hope that RHO holds ♥AJ98, in which case he will be squeezed when you run diamonds. However, LHO appears to have a singleton diamond and a singleton club so holds three hearts and is likely to have at least one if not two of the J, 9 or 8. Another possibility is to play LHO for the ♥J, leading to the ♥10 when you first play the suit. Neither of these options is appealing.

[continued next page]

Stay Alert (continued)

Luckily, there is another one! Since RHO has the ♥A and holds a stopper in clubs you will be able to embark on a squeeze and endplay. You play the ♥10 from dummy to your Queen (RHO must duck, otherwise you easily make 11 tricks via six diamonds, two hearts and three clubs). Now you cash three rounds of diamonds watching what RHO discards. He follows to the first round and then pitches the ♥8 and the ♥J. You are ready to deliver the coup de grâce. But wait. Did you stay alert?

When you led the first round of clubs from hand it had to be the ♣9 otherwise the endplay will not work. RHO simply returns a club after winning the ♥A and either you are stuck in hand with that pesky ♣9 or are forced to overtake in dummy eventually losing a club to RHO.

These were the four hands:

♠ 32		♠ J10
♥ K10		♥ AJ86
♦ 964		♦ J72
♣ AQJ843		♣ 10762
♠ AK987654	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W ■ E S </div>	
♥ 954		
♦ 3		
♣ K		
♠ Q		
♥ Q732		
♦ AKQ1085		
♣ 95		

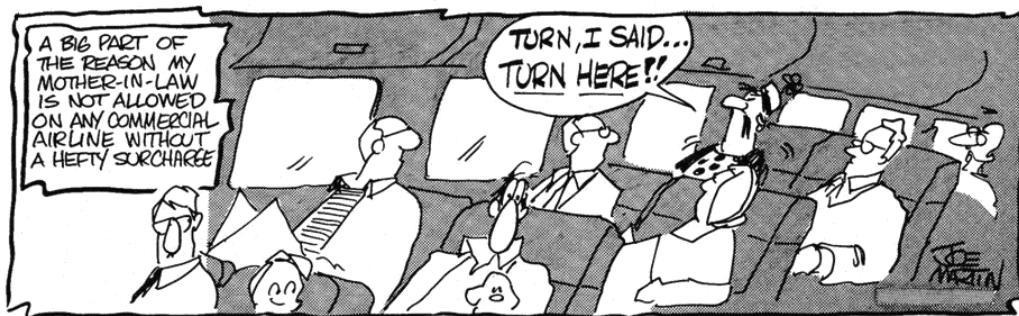
It is wise to get into the habit of unblocking spot cards as you travel back and forth between dummy and your own hand, even if the need to do so is unclear. Later developments may reward your attention to this simple practice.

If you were careless and conceded one down in 5♦ you still scored above-average since most people chose to pass in balancing seat with your cards. However, if you stayed alert your result earned you a top!

2019 Alberta Sectionals Masterpoint Race

Year-to-Date Standings - April 8th

1	75.41	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB
2	70.73	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB
3	70.27	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB
4	66.35	Ian Findlay	Banff AB
5	48.38	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB
6	48.38	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB
7	43.97	Abdul Fakih	Calgary AB
8	43.06	Chris Galbraith	Calgary AB
9	38.96	Bernie Lambert	Acme AB
10	38.16	Ken Penton	Calgary AB
11	37.54	Steve Lawrence	Calgary AB
12	36.62	Cindy Cossey	Innisfail AB
13	36.62	Glenn Cossey	Innisfail AB
14	36.56	Helene Grace	Sherwood Park AB
15	36.56	Ray Grace	Sherwood Park AB
16	33.84	Don Gladman	Calgary AB
17	32.06	Al Simon	Calgary AB
18	30.27	Perry Khakhar	Calgary AB
19	25.20	Doug Mann	Calgary AB
20	24.85	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB
21	24.44	Laurie Shapka	Red Deer AB
22	23.10	Bob Pratt	Edmonton AB
23	23.10	Kevin Strangway	Grande Prairie AB
24	20.57	Delores Hedley	Calgary AB
25	20.52	Fi Nadir	Calgary AB
26	20.24	Terri Bedard	Calgary AB
27	19.66	Sandy McIlwain	Invermere BC
28	19.17	Marek Foff	Edmonton AB
29	18.78	Richard Sochacki	Edmonton AB
30	18.28	Michael Newcombe	Kelowna BC
31	18.17	Hans Folkinga	Edmonton AB
32	18.17	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB
33	17.72	Bryant Town	Edmonton AB
34	17.57	Andrew Serafini	Calgary AB
35	17.57	Michael Serafini	Calgary AB



Joe Martin (Mr. Boffo - Unclear On the Concept)

Relative of a Bridge Addict - A Confession

By Janice Arenofsky

Hello. My name is Janice, and I'm the relative of a Bridge Addict. This is my story. I was fine until my sister got engaged to a bridge player. In no time at all it seemed, she went from playing War and Concentration to making bids and contracts. From then on, she was playing with her fiancé-partner at least once, sometimes twice, a week. If you called, she'd talk to you, but you felt her impatience and the stirrings of desire for a good bridge game with accomplished players. Meanwhile I'd sit at home wondering if I, too, would one day give up my sissy card games and grow up to become a bridge player like my older sister.

Once married, my sibling couldn't say no to any bridge-playing opportunity. She'd play any day of the week, with her husband or without. It didn't matter where the game was or what the snacks were, she'd putt-putt there in her old Buick with the vinyl top and broken odometer. Within a few years she and her husband became Life Masters, and I was married and worrying what to do with my free time. Every chance she had, she would try to recruit my husband and me. "Take a course at the high school," she would say while diapering her firstborn. "And read a few books." Meanwhile she was playing bridge so often and with so many better players that she began to improve by leaps and bounds.

Pretty soon she was motoring or flying to local, regional and national bridge tournaments all over the country. One time it was Florida, the next time it would be Las Vegas or Washington DC. I didn't know it at the time, but that was when she started abandoning her family for the quick fix of bridge. She said it was a hobby, stress relief, a way to be competitive without becoming a real estate broker, but I knew better. She was hooked on it. Since she was the first person in our family to become a fully functioning bridge player, no one understood her constant need for the thrills and chills of the sport. I figured she was using it as a way to avoid facing her real problems, whatever they were, since I couldn't actually fathom why a middle-class high-school teacher with a lawyer for a husband and three adorable children (two of whom were unfortunately turned on to bridge at an early age) could be unhappy.

I had now relocated to Phoenix, where oddly enough, my sister never seemed to have a bridge tournament. I checked on the ACBL

web site and found out that, sure enough, there had been a recent tournament in the Valley of the Sun. When I called my sister on this, she stammered and stuttered and finally came up with the excuse that "It was just too hot in Arizona in the summer." But I knew better. After all, not only was it a dry heat, I had a pool. There was another, uglier, reason. If my sister and her husband came to Phoenix, they would feel obliged to spend some quality time with us. And that would take away from my sister's nonstop bridge schedule. That would never do. By then, she really couldn't go more than 24 hours without a bridge fix. Otherwise she'd act edgy and nervous.

Sadly, the situation never got any better. Every time I returned home to visit, she'd be going to play bridge. It didn't matter that she hadn't seen me for months and sometimes years, she still couldn't tear herself away from games in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. I did what I could to help her -- I invited her to dinners at trendy nightclubs and even tried to distract her with tickets to a few Broadway shows -- but nothing helped. Even her two married children tried to entice her away with opportunities to babysit her grandchildren and paint the kitchen. It was hopeless.

The last straw was when I called her from Scottsdale and realized while I was blabbing away, she was at her computer playing online with a fellow addict in South America. What gave it away were all those dings ringing from her PC. She didn't even care enough to muffle the sounds.

So that's my story. Luckily, I did not inherit the "obsessive" gene. I never became enthralled by the coolness, sophistication and intellectual pleasure of bridge. My sister now plays bridge online every night and on weekends, she attends marathon sessions in the tri-state area. I hope I've helped. Perhaps you'll have more luck rehabilitating your relative-addict. Thank you for listening.

Editors' Note:

This article first appeared in the November 19 issue of the 2005 Denver NABC Daily Bulletin.

The author is a freelance writer who lived in Scottsdale AZ at the time.



Test Your Declarer Play - Solutions

By Dan Bertrand

Hand 1:

♠ J106432
♥ A
♦ 762
♣ AJ3



♠ AKQ7
♥ 642
♦ J54
♣ K102

Contract: 4♠

North leads the ♥Q. South plays the ♥9 (using standard signals). Trumps break 3-0 (North has three).

You have three diamond losers. It might seem that you must guess who has the ♣Q. But you can get your opponents to help. Win the ♥A and play a small spade to dummy's ♠A. Ruff a heart with the ♠J, play another small spade to dummy's ♠K. Ruff the last heart with the ♠10 and play another spade to dummy's ♠Q. You have eliminated hearts from dummy and your hand. You have removed the opponents' trumps. You still have a trump in your hand and in dummy. Just play a small diamond. The defence can take their three diamond tricks but then what? They must play a club (solving your ♣Q issue) or give you a ruff and sluff.

Hand 2:

♠ AQ2
♥ A76
♦ J432
♣ AQ2



♠ 874
♥ 852
♦ AKQ105
♣ J5

Contract: 3NT

North leads the ♥4 (fourth best). South plays the ♥Q which you duck. South continues with ♥10. You have eight tricks. Which finesse do you take?

You should not need to finesse. Win the ♥A. Play three rounds of diamonds saving an entry to dummy. Assuming that South had at least one diamond, you have removed all the diamonds from North's hand. Now exit with a small heart. North might be able to win the next three tricks (if she started with five hearts), but then she must play a black card to give you an extra trick. (You will just get rid of your small black cards if you have to make two discards).

Hand 3:

♠ J743
♥ KJ9
♦ 765
♣ Q64



♠ Q6
♥ Q3
♦ AKQJ84
♣ A102

Contract: 3NT

North leads the ♥2. South follows with the ♥10 and you win the ♥K. You cash the ♦A and ♦K. North shows out on the second round (diamonds are 3-1). You have eight sure tricks.

Cash the ♦Q and exit with the ♥Q. The defence can take ♥A, ♠A and ♠K. But then they must play a club to avoid giving you a trick with either major suit jack. However, the club lead will give you a second club trick. You might think that there was no need to cash the ♦Q first. But if you fail to cash it before playing the ♥Q, North might win the ♥A and shift to spades. After taking two spade tricks, South might be able to exit with the last diamond (the one you failed to remove) and force you to play clubs from dummy.

Hand 4:

♠ AK762
♥ 105
♦ K109
♣ AK5



♠ QJ98
♥ A2
♦ Q75
♣ J432

Contract: 4♠

North leads the ♥Q. South plays the ♥9 (using standard signals). Trumps break 3-1 (North has three).

You have eight top tricks and can easily create one more in diamonds. Win the ♥A and pull trumps in three rounds. Cash the ♠A and ♠K (very important step). Exit with a heart. The defenders are helpless. If they play another heart, you can ruff in dummy and discard your small club (then if you guess well in diamonds, you will have an overtrick). If they play a diamond, this will give you two diamond tricks. And if North returns a small club, play the Jack from dummy; either it will win or the clubs are breaking 3-3, creating an extra winner in dummy. This is the reason you took the Ace and King of clubs before exiting in hearts.

All these hands required the unwilling help of your opponents. You eliminated some suits and only then lost a trick to them. Due to this technique of eliminating some suits before effecting a throw-in, you force your opponents to help you.

2019 Ace of Clubs Race

Unit 390 Year-to-Date Standings - April 6th

0 to 5	1	Andrew Melton	Calgary AB	8
	2	Gary Croxton	Calgary AB	6
	3	Ted Burgoin	Calgary AB	6
5 to 20	1	Keith Barry	Priddis Greens AB	10
	2	Carmel Robbins	Calgary AB	9
	3	Stanley Bobrow	Calgary AB	8
20 to 50	1	Moiria Misselbrook	Calgary AB	11
	2	Jocelyne Drouin	Calgary AB	11
	3	William Newis	Priddis Greens AB	10
50 to 100	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	21
	2	Jamie Watt	Calgary AB	17
	3	Adel Erian	Calgary AB	13
100 to 200	1	Robert Stothers	Calgary AB	21
	2	John Prance	Calgary AB	19
	3	Jacquelyn Lanz	Calgary AB	18
200 to 300	1	Bob Gagnon	Calgary AB	56
	2	Devra Drysdale	Calgary AB	35
	3	Stephen Paul	Calgary AB	21
300 to 500	1	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	38
	2	Richard Piette	Calgary AB	22
	3	Jay Newington	Calgary AB	19
500 to 1000	1	Ellen Kuiper	Calgary AB	29
	2	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	26
	3	Mary Anne Crookes	Calgary AB	21
1000 to 1500	1	Simon Farrer	Airdrie AB	47
	2	Laura Farrer	Airdrie AB	46
	3	Jack Sisko	Calgary AB	43
1500 to 2500	1	Pauline Huculak	Calgary AB	50
	2	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	45
	3	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	40
2500 to 3500	1	Jean Ward	Calgary AB	57
	2	Maged Wafa	Calgary AB	35
	3	Gamil Tadros	Calgary AB	32
3500 to 5000	1	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	40
	2	Paula Sisko	Calgary AB	39
	3	Elaine Stewart	Calgary AB	38
5000 to 7500	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	54
	2	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	49
	3	Donald Gladman	Calgary AB	25
Over 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	41
	2	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	3
	3	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	2

2019 Mini-McKenney Race

Unit 390 Year-to-Date Standings - April 6th

0 to 5	1	Andrew Melton	Calgary AB	8
	2	Judith Smith	Canmore AB	8
	3/4	Gary Croxton	Calgary AB	6
5 to 20	3/4	Ted Burgoin	Calgary AB	6
	1	Keith Barry	Priddis Greens AB	16
	2	Stanley Bobrow	Calgary AB	11
20 to 50	3	Carmel Robbins	Calgary AB	10
	1	Moiria Misselbrook	Calgary AB	16
	2	Jocelyne Drouin	Calgary AB	11
50 to 100	3	Barry Litchinsky	Calgary AB	10
	1	Jamie Watt	Calgary AB	27
	2	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	24
100 to 200	3	Roger Bolton	Calgary AB	17
	1	Jacquelyn Lanz	Calgary AB	29
	2	Robert Stothers	Calgary AB	27
200 to 300	3	Hailong Yu	Calgary AB	26
	1	Bob Gagnon	Calgary AB	73
	2	Devra Drysdale	Calgary AB	50
300 to 500	3	Andrew Serafini	Calgary AB	24
	1	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	40
	2	Judy Madge	Calgary AB	32
500 to 1000	3	Richard Piette	Calgary AB	27
	1	Ellen Kuiper	Calgary AB	40
	2	Pauline Boyd	Calgary AB	35
1000 to 1500	3	Michael Shuster	Banff AB	32
	1	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB	69
	2	Simon Farrer	Airdrie AB	52
1500 to 2500	3	Laura Farrer	Airdrie AB	51
	1	Pauline Huculak	Calgary AB	53
	2	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	51
2500 to 3500	3	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	49
	1	Jean Ward	Calgary AB	69
	2	David Johnson	Calgary AB	58
3500 to 5000	3	Paul Sorensen	Berwyn AB	43
	1	Paula Sisko	Calgary AB	51
	2	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	46
5000 to 7500	3	Linda Harrison	Calgary AB	46
	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	96
	2	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	75
7500 to 10,000	3	Donald Gladman	Calgary AB	60
	1	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	7
Over 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	91
	2	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	53
	3	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	51

November 299'er Sectional

By Susan Korba, Future Masters Coordinator

Unit 390 hosted the Fall 299er Sectional on Saturday, November 10, 2018. The day-long event was held at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Centre, the same venue the Unit uses for its regular sectionals.

As the name suggests, participation in the tournament was restricted to players with fewer than 300 masterpoints, and the games were flighted according to the number of masterpoints held (D: 100 - 300; E: 50 - 100; F: 0 - 50). All points awarded were silver points. Silver points are important 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.

With the game moving to a different venue, there were a few logistical hitches, but eventually everyone settled in to enjoy a challenging day of bridge. The attendance was fantastic! A total of 66 tables played in two single-session pairs games.

The distribution among the flights for the 66 or so pairs who participated looked like this:

- Flight F (0 - 50 masterpoints) - 25 pairs
- Flight E (50 - 100 masterpoints) - 13 pairs
- Flight D (100 - 300 masterpoints) - 28 pairs

For the purpose of determining overall placings, a Flight F pair (both players with fewer than 50 masterpoints) can place, not only in their own flight, but also in both higher flights. Similarly, a Flight E pair can place in Flights E and D. Pairs in Flight D are eligible for awards only in that flight.

For the first time, a Supervised Bid and Play session was offered to coincide with the morning game. Nine players participated, and received expert supervision and guidance from Delores Hedley. One player even "moved up" to sub in the second session regular game.

In all, 128.14 silver points were earned by 102 players. Here is a list of the session winners and the top 20 overall masterpoint winners.

Morning Session winners:

Flight D: Robert Stothers - Hailong Yu
Flights E and F: William Mandolidis - Beverley Erickson

Afternoon Session winners:

Flight D: Tom Flanagan - Myron Achtman
Flights E and F: Jennifer Scott - Graham Duff

Overall masterpoint winners:

1/2	5.01 Tom Flanagan, Calgary AB
	5.01 Myron Achtman, Calgary AB
3/4	4.93 Robert Stothers, Calgary AB
	4.93 Hailong Yu, Calgary AB
5/6	3.55 Eric Gutland, Calgary AB
	3.55 Dennis Quick, Calgary AB
7/10	3.32 William Mandolidis, Calgary AB
	3.32 Martin Hall, Canmore AB
	3.32 Jane Lamont, Apache Junction AZ
	3.32 Beverley Erickson, Calgary AB
11/12	3.25 Ross Beatty, Calgary AB
	3.25 Kathy Kennedy, Calgary AB
13/14	2.93 Thomas Trafford, Calgary AB
	2.93 Danuta Trafford, Calgary AB
15/16	2.66 Jennifer Scott, Calgary AB
	2.66 Graham Duff, Calgary AB
17/18	2.45 Sharana Basappa, Edmonton AB
	2.45 Abdeali Naffar, Edmonton AB
19/20	2.27 Ryan Clark, Calgary AB
	2.27 Joanne Anson, Calgary AB

Well done everyone!

A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers who made this sectional a success.

The Board is already making plans for the next 299er Sectional. Be sure to mark your calendars for November 9, 2019.

Annual General Meeting

The Calgary Duplicate Bridge Association Unit 390

When: Sunday, June 2, 2019
Where: Haysboro Community Centre
1204 89 Ave. SW
Time: Light Lunch: 11:30 a.m.
Meeting: 11:45 a.m.
Pairs Game: to follow

- Card fees \$5.00
- Unit championship points

Please register for the complimentary lunch no later than Thursday, May 30 by contacting John Sharpe at john.sharpe@telus.net or 403-281-9394.

Member Milestones

The following members have reached new masterpoint milestones from the beginning of October 2018 to the end of March 2019. Congratulations to all on their achievements.



New Junior Masters (5+ MPs):

Sharin Adams	Ted Lobley
Julie Bain	Bonnie Macleod
Wendy Bower	Elizabeth McGregor
Eric Gutland	Dennis Quick
Ginny Hood	Shuo Shi
Ken Krug	Judith Smith
Barbara Litchinsky	Minette Stante
Zengfu Liu	

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

Keith Barry	Barbara McKay
Ross Beatty	David Pethrick
Stanley Bobrow	Julie Short
Craig Bowyer	Christa Simmonds
Sabrina Fayerman	Joan Taras
Terry Kaufman	Dawn Thrasher
Valerie Lueke	Bill Trafford
Carol Marshall	

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

Roger Bolton	Susan Ongyerth
Yurong Cheng	Martine Parent
Carolanne DeBiasio	Sharon Rogerson
Shuangbing Guo	Graham Sadoway
Sheila Frank	Marion Synnott
Linda Legate	Richard Weinberger

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

Myron Achtman	Agnes Maze
Stewart Brightman	Godfried Schwering
Jim Chunn	Louise Shore
Martin Hall	Robert Stothers
Jacquelyn Lanz	Sherri Swystun
Kathleen Malo	Jamie Watt
Barbara Martin	

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

Dave Brett	Mary Turley
David Ho	Wayne J P Turley
Terry Nazar	

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

Danuta Trafford

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

Debbie Hunt	Sharon Mansell
Nadine Bouckhout	Shelley Mardiros
Bob Gagnon	Brent Muir
Milt Mansell	

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

Cynthia Clark	Judy Madge
Linda Ellsworth	Eileen McCashew
Blake Fleming	Andy McKaig
Diane Gordon	Claire Strachan

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

Kenneth Baher	Naushad Dada
Mark Beduz	Penny Gair
Pauline Boyd	Michael Shuster

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

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

Christopher Galbraith	Gamil Tadros
Rod Hilderman	



5th Annual Rookie Master Team Game

After last year's emergency cancellation of the Rookie Master event, everyone was on pins and needles waiting to see what weather Mother Nature would produce on the day of the fifth annual Rookie Master Team Game. Luckily, March 2, 2019, while bracing at -20°C, was quite manageable in terms of road conditions.

The game was organized under the capable leadership of Marvis Olson, Special Events Director, and Delores Hedley, Events Guru, along with many helpers.



(Left) Organizers Marvis Olson & Delores Hedley
(Right) Registration: Terri Bedard & Richard Weinberger

Photos courtesy Marvis Olson and Sharon Mansell

The event was open to all Calgary and area players regardless of whether or not they were members of Unit 390 or the ACBL. A total of 25 teams came out to enjoy the fun. The Head Director for the evening was Dan Bertrand. Michael Farebrother was Assistant Director and Brenda Bertrand served as the roving assistant.

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

Rules of the event were as follows:

- Any player with fewer than 50 MPs who had not played in an A/X event was considered a "rookie" and any player with over 50 MPs was considered a "master".
- A master could register as a pair with any qualifying rookie partner, but could not register as a team of four.
- Players registering as singles were matched with appropriate partners.
- Pairs were arranged into teams of four.
- Every effort was taken to ensure that the pairings of teams was as fair as possible in terms of team averages.

Teams played four matches and everyone played duplicated boards so that hand records were available after the session. The teams were stratified according to the average team masterpoints:

- Flight C (team average under 200 masterpoints)
- Flight B (team average under 500 masterpoints)
- Flight A (unlimited)

Book prizes were awarded to rookies Bob Constantin, Andy Melton, Sherry Goldenberg and Jim Lambert.

Congratulations to the winners:

MPs	A	B	C	Names	IMP Score
4.08	1	1		Grant Wharry - Andy Melton - Richard Bickley - Bob Constantin	63
3.06	2			Tracy Horan - Matthew Page-Hanify - Lois Dunsmore - Richards Tummers	61
2.30	3	2		Janice Eliasson - Pat Culham - Lyman Warner - Bill Trafford	56
1.72	4	3	1	Devra Drysdale - Ron Licht - Deanna Downton - Peter Weir	53
1.29	5	4	2	Dave Brett - Jack McKay - Louise Shore - Barb McKay	50
0.85	6/7			Terri Bedard -- Karen Sanderman - Tanja Hurlbert - Dave Sanderman	49
0.85	6/7			Keith Falkenberg - Donna West - Rod Hilderman - Pippa Fitzgerald-Finch	49
0.52		5		JoAnn Hanson - Carol Hales - Garry Hanson - Dorothy Hammill	44



Reading Between the Lines

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Even good players unintentionally provide information to their opponents in both the auction and on defense. Still, in order to take advantage, one has to be ready to put these scraps of data together and interpret them.

Suppose an opponent passes initially and then bids his suit aggressively (possibly more than once). It is reasonable to deduce that his hand is not only distributional, but likely contains a side suit. That would explain why the individual did not open with a one, two or three-bid. Admittedly some hands do not fit well into any of those options, but such situations are infrequent.

Nevertheless, there are players out there who believe hands must match their opening bid criteria perfectly and so they pass initially and try to catch up later. On the plus side, their partners know exactly what to expect when they do open, but on the minus side, they fail to take advantage of striking first. Opening before the opponents do is a major step toward buying the contract or disrupting their auction.

If you understand the tendencies of your opponents you can draw reasonable conclusions and use them to your benefit.

At equal vulnerability in a matchpoint game you arrive in 3NT after showing a strong hand (20-21 HCP) and denying a major. LHO considers his opening lead for some time and eventually tables the ♦8. Already you know that LHO does not have a sequence like KQJ since there would be no problem what to lead. What could LHO have been thinking about?

- Perhaps LHO has more than one option in terms of which suit to lead
- Perhaps LHO wishes to avoid giving you a trick to which you are not entitled (a critical issue at matchpoints)
- Perhaps LHO has nothing to develop and is trying to find his partner's best suit
- Perhaps LHO is distracted and is not thinking about the lead at all ☺

Contract: 3NT

Lead: ♦8

♠ A84
♥ Q1052
♦ Q7
♣ 10863



♠ KJ
♥ A9
♦ K32
♣ AKQ974

Playing IMPs, this hand is routine. You have 10 tricks guaranteed (six clubs, two spades, one diamond and one heart) and overtricks don't matter much at that form of scoring. At matchpoints, however, you need to be concerned with the extra tricks plus assess what the contract might be at other tables. If any pair stumbles to 5♣, you will outscore them. However, if RHO holds the ♠Q then 6♣ is an excellent contract (finesse for the ♠Q and discard the ♥9 on dummy's ♠A).

Although some pairs may reach 6♣ you believe that 3NT is the normal spot. Furthermore, you have no control over your score in comparison to 6♣. You are in no danger of going down in 3NT, so if 6♣ makes, you lose matchpoints to those pairs, and if 6♣ fails, you win matchpoints, plain and simple. Your real opponents are the pairs in 3NT ... that is who you must outscore.

You start by playing the ♦Q which holds the trick, RHO following with the ♦4. What do you know? LHO holds the ♦A and likely five or more diamonds (the opponents typically lead 4th best). You infer diamond length with LHO since he might have chosen a more passive lead into a strong hand with only a four card suit.

Since you are in dummy you try a spade to your Jack which wins the trick (RHO follows with the ♠2 and LHO, the ♠6). The opponents play standard signals and if they are signaling honestly it appears the spades are 5-3 with RHO holding the length (LHO might have led spades holding five). You are now guaranteed 11 tricks and remember ... your objective is to beat the others pairs in 3NT.

[continued next page]

Reading Between the Lines (continued)

It's time to take your tricks and watch what the opponents discard. You cash the ♠K, ♣A (LHO plays the ♣J), travel to dummy's ♣10 and cash the ♠A. What should you discard from your hand?

One option is to ditch the ♥9, hoping that LHO holds both the ♦A and the ♥K and misreads the end position, coming down to ♦A and ♥Kx. In this scenario you could exit with a low diamond and take the last two tricks with ♦K and ♥A. If RHO signals properly though, LHO should not make this mistake.

That brings up an important point. The opponents are trying to help each other on defense without giving you too much information. It's a fine line, but if you stay attentive you should be able to read what the opponents are doing.

The second option is to discard a diamond. In the three-card end position you will hold ♦K and ♥A9. It now becomes a matter of discerning what three cards LHO holds, again hoping he has both ♦A and ♥K. An expert might leave himself with ♦Ax and ♥K hoping you were not paying attention and decided to attempt an unsuccessful endplay. Convincing you to misguess is his only hope.

Accordingly, you discard the ♦3 on the ♠A, LHO playing the ♠10 and RHO, the ♠5. Now you run your remaining clubs. LHO discards the ♥3 on the second round of clubs and when you run four more, he discards ♥6, ♦59J. Meanwhile, RHO discards ♦6, ♠9Q and ♥4. Now what? Have the opponents' discards given you enough information to read the end position?

You are fairly sure that LHO has the ♥K. RHO's discards make no sense otherwise, as he has pitched all his winning spades when he might have kept ♠x ♥Kx. You are left to decide whether LHO has come down to ♥K ♦Ax or ♥Kx ♦A.

Fortunately, RHO's ♦6 discard gives the show away! Applying the Rule of Eleven to the original lead, you know that RHO has one diamond higher than ♦8 still remaining! RHO could have tested you by tossing his biggest diamond, hanging on to the ♦6. But would he really leave himself with no diamonds? Highly unlikely.

So you have a complete picture of the hand. LHO started with 3-4-5-1 and has discarded down to ♥Kx ♦A while RHO started with 5-3-3-2 and has discarded down to ♥?x ♦10. You exit with the ♦K to LHO's Ace. When he returns the ♥7 you confidently play the ♥Q to score 12 tricks for +690.

These were the four hands:

♠ A84		♠ Q9532
♥ Q1052		♥ J84
♦ Q7		♦ 1064
♣ 10863		♣ 52
♠ 1076	♠ N	
♥ K763	W ■ E	
♦ AJ985		
♣ J	♠ S	
	♠ KJ	
	♥ A9	
	♦ K32	
	♣ AKQ974	

The opponents did nothing wrong. You succeeded because you read what they were doing and drew the correct inferences. Making 12 tricks was worth 80% of the matchpoints losing, as expected, to those pairs who bid and made 6♣.

Wayne was talking to a doctor about his wife. "Doctor, when we play bridge, I think my wife is deaf because she never hears my bid and I always have to repeat things."

"Well," the doctor replied, "The next time you play bridge, bid normally. If she doesn't reply, say it louder and louder. Keep doing this so that we'll get an idea about the severity of her deafness."

Sure enough, the next time they played bridge, he does exactly as instructed. He starts off saying "One Spade". He hears no response. He says it louder "ONE SPADE". Still no reply. And again "ONE SPADE"! He gets fed up and screams at the top of his voice "SHERYL! I'M BIDDING ONE SPADE"!

Sheryl picks up a pen and writes down "For the fourth time, One No Trump".