



The Kibitzer

October 2019

Editors: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

President's Message

I am pleased to report that the September Sectional was once again very successful, with a table count of 354½, up 50 over last year. Thanks to Tournament Coordinator Carrie Stockman, Assistant Tournament Coordinator Jo Peterson, and the many volunteers who facilitated the event. There was positive feedback regarding the Knockout games and the time changes.

Subsequent to the June 2019 AGM, we have a full complement of 12 Directors. Olga Williams is the new Secretary, replacing retiring Secretary Judy Madge, and we thank Judy for her work during her term of office. I want to recognize and thank the Directors continuing on the Board.

John Sharpe	Past President
Ed Lamb	Treasurer
Judith Gartaganis	Membership
Susan Korba	Future Masters
Carrie Stockman	Tournament Coordinator
Jo Peterson	Assistant Tournament Coordinator
Caroleigh Houghton	Information Officer
Marvis Olson	Special Events
Delores Hedley	Events
Myron Achtman	Youth Education

The Unit 390 School Bridge Program for 2019 - 2020 is underway. Please check the Unit 390 website for details and the contact information if you are willing to help as a Teacher or Mentor. Thanks to current teachers Myron Achtman, Peter Weir, John Finlay, Jim Berglund, Margaret Nielsen, Lois Matton and Joan Shannon, and to the many mentors on our roster.

The first Calgary 0-750 NLM Regional (awarding Gold Points) was held June 28 - 30, 2019 and was a great success. Thanks to Doug Mann, who served as Tournament Chair, and to his right hand "Mann", Crystal. We look forward to more such events in our District.

The schedule for the upcoming Calgary Winter Sectional is available on the Unit 390 website. It will be held October 25 - 27, 2019. Note the special 299er events.

We have our fourth 299er Sectional coming up on November 9, 2019 (the flyer can be found on page five). More than 50% of our Unit membership has fewer than 300 masterpoints. The growth in our membership is credited to the many Calgary and area clubs offering bridge lessons and restricted games (such as 0 - 100, 0 - 200, 0 - 750 masterpoints).

Thanks to Brian Johns and Sandra Evans for heading up this year's mentorship program. Mentors were found for 62 mentees and Brian and Sandra are willing to help anyone looking for a mentor for the balance of 2019.

Lyman Warner
President, Unit 390

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Terror at the Table

By Janet Galbraith

How many times have you wished you could read your partner's mind? That you could ask for telepathic instructions on what to do? When your partner is your spouse, people seem to think this already happens, thereby raising the stakes and the stress level when you are winging it.

Playing the final board of the National IMP Pairs, using bidding screens, both sides vulnerable, you hold:

♠ J753 ♥ QJ108 ♦ AQ2 ♣ 97

LHO opens 1NT (15-17) and your partner bids 2♣. This shows a hand with either a diamond one-suiter or a major/minor combination. If RHO passes, you intend to bid 2♦ so partner can clarify his holding. However, RHO bids 2NT, alerted as Lebensohl, asking opener to bid 3♣.

You consider your options. If partner has a diamond suit, your ♦ AQ2 is great support. If partner has a major-minor combination, your four-card support for either major is also great. It seems quite likely that RHO has a club suit and will pass his partner's 3♣ forced response to the Lebensohl bid. Supposing that does happen, you could then balance with 3♦. However you want to bid right away to tell partner you have some good stuff and a guaranteed place to play, so you bid 3♦. The auction thus far:

<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>Me</u>
1NT	2♣ ¹	2NT ²	3♦

¹ diamonds or major + minor

² relay to 3♣

You are feeling pretty good about your choice as you send the tray under the screen. When it reappears there is a red card on your left and your partner has passed. RHO also passes. Your heart rate soars as you stare at the table. Why has LHO doubled? Does he have a diamond stack? Why would he make a penalty double when his partner could have very little? Why did partner pass 3♦ doubled? Does he think YOU have a long diamond suit? Maybe he has a major and a long club suit. Are you on the same page about what is going on?

You also think about the long day you have had – not doing too badly in a big event – sitting in the top 10 at the half. The event is IMP pairs, so going for a number will be a big loss. Is this how you want to end the day – with some disaster that will require getting separate hotel rooms?

Your mind is whirling. You are not sure what partner has, and the only way to ask him is to redouble. You desperately want him to do something intelligent – "if you don't have a diamond suit, please, please, please bid a major". When the tray comes back, 3♦ redoubled is passed out and you are declarer. You feel slightly sick and your brain is paralyzed with fear. LHO leads the ♠A and partner tables his hand – the moment of truth ...

The full deal was:

♠ A1064	♠ 2	♠ KQ98
♥ A43	♥ K7652	♥ 9
♦ J9	♦ K107654	♦ 83
♣ AK63	♣ J	♣ Q108542
	♠ J753	
	♥ QJ108	
	♦ AQ2	
	♣ 97	

The defense played the ♠A followed by another spade, so you lost just three Aces, making 3♦ redoubled with an overtrick for +1240 and 16 IMPs. LHO could have defeated your contract by giving his partner two heart ruffs. The other interesting point to note is that the opponents can make game in spades.

Thank goodness my next decision was easier. My hand was reaching for a glass of wine and I had only to choose red or white!

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 April 2020.

Little Cards – Big Impact!

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

The 2019 World Championships took place in Wuhan, China from September 14-29. The competition featured four major team events: the Bermuda Bowl (open), the Venice Cup (women), the D'Orsi Trophy (seniors) and the Wuhan Cup (mixed). As always, the BBO vugraph schedule provided plenty of kibitzing opportunities.

The following hand caught our attention. With no opposition bidding the normal contract was 4♠ on the lead of the ♦J.

Scoring: IMPs

Contract: 4♠

Lead: ♦J

♠ 7
♥ 10874
♦ AKQ63
♣ 985

W

♠ AJ10954
♥ AQJ
♦ 82
♣ A4

The ♦A wins the first trick and declarer must decide how to proceed. There are two possible spade losers, one possible heart loser and one club loser. The successful declarers continued with a heart to the Queen, reasoning that it was important to determine the location of the ♥K and that trumps could be played from hand. The ♥Q held the trick and now it was time to play trumps. At the table we were following, declarer continued with ♠A and ♠10, won by LHO with the ♠K.

LHO persisted with another diamond which RHO ruffed with the ♠Q. At this point it seemed inevitable that the contract would fail, but good declarers never give up. RHO played the ♣K, declarer winning the Ace while LHO followed with an encouraging club. Now declarer ran his remaining spades pitching low diamonds and hearts from dummy.

This was the situation before the last trump was played:

♠ ---
♥ 7
♦ A
♣ 98

♠ ---
♥ 5
♦ 9
♣ J6

N
W ■ E
S

♠ 4
♥ AJ
♦ ---
♣ 4

♠ ---
♥ K9
♦ ---
♣ Q10

On the lead of the last trump West has an easy discard of a diamond or heart and dummy's small heart is thrown. What can East do? If he discards a heart declarer plays the ♥A dropping the King. If East discards the ♣10 declarer exits with a club and East is endplayed into giving declarer another heart finesse. In the event East discards the ♣Q, declarer exits in clubs and West has to give dummy the last two tricks with the ♦A and ♣9 (or lead into declarer's heart tenace, if he has kept a heart).

One U.S. expert didn't appreciate the importance of the ♣98 and discarded a club on the run of the spades thus missing the chance to squeeze the opponents.

These were the four hands:

♠ 7
♥ 10874
♦ AKQ63
♣ 985

♠ K83
♥ 65
♦ J10975
♣ J63

N
W ■ E
S

♠ AJ10954
♥ AQJ
♦ 82
♣ A4

♠ Q62
♥ K932
♦ 4
♣ KQ1072

At the start of the hand who could have known how important that little ♣9 would be. It became a big card! A very unusual, but beautiful hand demonstrating how experts visualize ways to make a contract while the rest of us would simply concede down one.

2019 Alberta Sectionals Masterpoint Race

Year-to-Date Standings - October 8th

1	156.22	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB
2	120.79	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB
3	116.41	Ian Findlay	Banff AB
4	106.84	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB
5	98.11	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB
6	96.62	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB
7	91.89	Allan Simon	Calgary AB
8	85.48	Doug Mann	Calgary AB
9	68.05	Ken Penton	Calgary AB
10	66.37	Perry Khakhar	Calgary AB
11	61.04	Cindy Cossey	Innisfail AB
12	61.04	Glenn Cossey	Innisfail AB
13	60.20	Chris Galbraith	Calgary AB
14	59.56	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB
15	58.42	Laurie Shapka	Red Deer AB
16	56.70	Marek Foff	Edmonton AB
17	51.53	Steve Lawrence	Calgary AB
18	48.69	Helene Grace	Sherwood Park AB
19	48.69	Ray Grace	Sherwood Park AB
20	48.14	Ian Gatenby	Red Deer AB
21	44.21	Alex Heron	Calgary AB
22	42.88	Bernie Lambert	Acme AB
23	40.46	Bryant Town	Edmonton AB
24	39.18	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB
25	38.55	Sandy McIlwain	Invermere BC
26	33.84	Don Gladman	Calgary AB
27	33.71	Lee Barton	Edmonton AB
28	33.71	Lucille Barton	Edmonton AB
29	32.29	Delores Hedley	Calgary AB
30	31.45	Michael Serafini	Calgary AB

2019-20 North American Pairs

The North American Pairs (NAP) is a grass-roots event for pairs. Club qualifying games are held in June, July and August. The competition continues with (optional) unit playoffs followed by district playoffs in each of the ACBL's 25 districts and culminates 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 21, 2019 in conjunction with the Butte regional. With only 16 pairs in attendance, there were too few tables to run separate games for each of the Flights so all participants had to play in an eight-table two-session playthrough. Calgary's Barbara Webster was the lone participant from Unit 390.

Unit 390 School Bridge Program



Our expanded 2019-2020 School Bridge program is underway, and there are eight schools participating. Four of these are Separate schools and four are Public. The majority of the students are from grades five and six.

The bridge sessions run once per week at each school, during the lunch hour. There will be four classes per month over the winter (except December) for a total of 16 sessions. A big wind-up bridge tournament for all the students is planned for March 2020.

As we engage more schools, the need for additional teachers and mentors is greater than ever. Anyone interested in helping with the School Bridge Program is encouraged to phone Myron Achtman at (403) 294-8124 or email him at adita@shaw.ca.

Thank you to the volunteer teachers and mentors who have already signed up.



2018-19 Grand National Teams

The Grand National Teams (GNT) is a grass-roots event that begins with qualification games in local clubs. Each of the ACBL's 25 districts then holds playoffs to name district champions who become eligible to compete in the North American final held 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, 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 was held May 31 - June 1. Sixteen teams entered in the four flights, and 10 of those teams were from Calgary! The Calgary contingent played at the Westgate Community Centre. The room was cluttered with laptops and power bars and extension cords, but under the watchful eye of the monitors, one could hear a pin drop.

Two teams, both representing Unit 390, played in the Open Flight. Top honours went to Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis, Gordon Campbell, all of Calgary, and Ian Findlay who participated from Banff.

There were seven teams in Flight B, four of those from Unit 390. The winners were Richard Piette, Tracy Horan, Ryan Clark and Bob Gagnon.

Lastly, all four teams in Flight C hailed from Calgary. Capturing first place was the team of Andrew Serafini, Michael Serafini, Jay Newton and Brent Muir.

The winning team in each flight was eligible to represent District 18 in the National finals held at the Summer NABC in Las Vegas.

Unit 390's Open Team qualified handily for the knockout phase, but lost in the round of 16.

The second place team in Flight B - Doug Mann, Alex Heron, Gamil Tadros and Helen Dillen - ventured to Vegas when the winners were unable to make the trip. They also made it past the Swiss qualifying, only to exit in the first round of the knockouts.

Players from the first and second place teams in Flight C (Andrew and Michael Serafini, David Ho, John Prance, Tom and Danuta Trafford) combined to pit their skills at the National final. They just missed qualifying for the knockout phase.

299er Sectional

Saturday November 9, 2019

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

Please pre-register by
Monday October 28 at
403-249-6508 or
susankorba@shaw.ca

**BID AND PLAY IS
BACK THIS YEAR!**

All Silver Points!

Schedule:

10:00 a.m.	299er Stratified Pairs
	OR
	Supervised Bid and Play
1:30 p.m.	Lunch
3:00 p.m.	299er Stratified Pairs

New Stratification:

D: 100 - 300
E: 20 - 100
F: 0 - 20

Entry Fees:

ACBL members: \$12 per session
ACBL members with fewer than 5 MPs play free!
Unpaid ACBL members: \$16 per session
Unpaid ACBL members with fewer than 5 MPs: \$4 per session
Participants under 18 years of age play free!
Bid and Play participants play free!

Non-members must purchase either a 1-month temporary membership or a 1-year regular membership. Please contact the Tournament Chair for details and pricing.

Tournament Chair Susan Korba
& Partnerships: 403-249-6508

susankorba@shaw.ca

Director: Murray & Marilyn Haggins

Background graphic by Freepik.com

The Mind of Gordon Campbell

By Allan Simon

The last couple of years I have had the opportunity to play semi-regularly with Gordon Campbell and it has been a very enjoyable and challenging experience. Gordon has won several Canadian championships, a North American Open Pairs title, the "Olympic Gold Medal" in Salt Lake City and many other honours that I can only dream about.

With Gordon, there is never a dull moment. One of his greatest assets is his imaginative and creative bidding. I must say it keeps me on my toes. Occasionally we end up in some terrible contract, but we have hit a few home runs. Here is a brilliancy from a recent club game. Gordon held:

♠Q8 ♥AKJ53 ♦J53 ♣872

<u>West</u>	<u>Allan</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>Gordon</u>
---	1♠	Pass	1NT ¹
2♦	3♠	Pass	?

¹ Forcing

Gordon felt he was a bit too strong to just raise to 4♠. After all he almost had a 2 over 1 at his first turn.

His first thought was to cue bid 4♥. But he discarded the idea, since that bid would be ambiguous. Might I not play him for something like ♠x ♥KQJxxx ♦xx ♣xxx? We play 1♠-4♥ as void-showing, so he would have had no other way to show a heart one-suiter.

Instead Gordon invented a phony cue bid of 4♦! This unmistakably agreed spades. He had foreseen what would happen next:

<u>West</u>	<u>Allan</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>Gordon</u>
---	1♠	Pass	1NT ¹
2♦	3♠	Pass	4♦
Dbl	Rdbl	Pass	?

¹ Forcing

West who held ♠xx ♥xx ♦KQ10xxx ♣Kxx could not refrain from doubling Gordon's phony cue bid. However, I held the ♦A

so I redoubled to show first round control and this gave Gordon an opportunity to make a real cue bid without going past the safety of the four level.

The rest of the bidding proceeded:

<u>West</u>	<u>Allan</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>Gordon</u>
---	1♠	Pass	1NT ¹
2♦	3♠	Pass	4♦
Dbl	Rdbl ²	Pass	4♥ ³
Pass	5♣ ³	Pass	5♥ ³
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

¹ Forcing

² First round diamond control

³ Cue bid

My hand was ♠AK9643 ♥974 ♦A ♣A53. I won the expected diamond lead, took the ♠Q and the ♥A, drew trumps and played a heart to the Jack, making seven for a 98% score in the Common Game. Had I held the ♥Q we would have reached 7NT!

The next time you play against us and are fooled by one of Gordon's bids, don't worry -- half the time I don't know what he is doing either. For instance, playing ordinary two over one, what do you suppose Gordon opened as dealer with this hand?

♠K764 ♥KQ105 ♦654 ♣KQ

Did you guess 1♣? You're right! And over my 1♦ response he rebid 1NT!

On another occasion, holding something like

♠Kxxx ♥xx ♦AQxx ♣Axx

he overcalled an opponent's 1♠ with 2♦! I am the straight man, of course, so I raised him to three with three small diamonds and not much more. He played with great skill but went down two for a zero. "You only had four diamonds?" I asked. There may have been a hint of reproach in my voice.

"Well, I can't just sit there", Gordon replied, which pretty well sums up his philosophy.

"The difference between involvement and commitment is like a ham and eggs breakfast. The chicken was involved, the pig was committed."

Anonymous

2019 Hattie Joffe Trophy

The Hattie Joffe Memorial Trophy commemorates our Unit's first Life Master. It is awarded to the Albertan who wins the most masterpoints at the annual Alberta Regional.

This piece about Hattie Joffe appeared in the February 1982 Kibitzer.

FIRST LIFE MASTER IN ALBERTA AND SASKATCHEWAN HATTIE JOFFE 1902 - 1982

Hattie Joffe passed away on January 22, after a lengthy illness. She was one of the foremost Bridge players in Canada, and Hattie Joffe will always be a name that is respected and synonymous with Bridge.

Hattie led a full and interesting life. She was one of the first women detectives in Western Canada and was employed by Pinkertons in Vancouver. Among her many other accomplishments, she was the owner and president of an Insurance Company, from which she retired at age 70.

There are many stories of Hattie Joffe that people will recall for years to come. Her contributions to the game of Bridge were numerous. She was the first Life Master in Alberta and Saskatchewan. She was a perfectionist, and her knowledge of Bridge and her performance were awesome.

Hattie Joffe started to play Duplicate Bridge in 1954. She became a Life Master in January 1961. She won many awards, too numerous to mention here.

As an example, at one Regional Tournament in Great Falls in 1959, she and Pat Smolensky won the women's pairs. She tied for 2nd place in the Team of Four, and placed 3rd in the Mixed Pairs. In 1960, she and Maddie McGill won the Canadian Women's Pairs in Toronto.

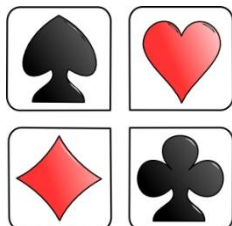
Hattie will be fondly remembered as a great bridge personality and a good friend. We extend to Hattie Joffe's children and grandchildren our deepest sympathy and condolences.

This year's race for points won at the Red Deer Regional ended in a tie between Unit 390's Doran Flock and his partner, David Smith, from Edmonton.



"Flock and Butcher" won two main events (Bracket 1 of the opening Knockout and the Sunday Flight A Swiss Teams), garnering just over 73 masterpoints in the process.

Upcoming Unit 390 Tournament Dates



Calgary Winter Sectional	October 25 - 27, 2019
Calgary 299er Sectional	November 9, 2019
Calgary New Year's Sectional	January 3 - 5, 2020
Calgary Spring Sectional	March 27 - 29, 2020
Lethbridge Regional	April 13 - 19, 2020
District 18 GNT Final (online)	May 8 - 9, 2020
Canadian Bridge Championship (Niagara Falls)	May 28 - June 8, 2020
Edmonton Regional	August 10 - 16, 2020



2019 Canadian Bridge Championships

The Delta Hotels Conference Centre in Burnaby, BC was the site for the 2019 Canadian Bridge Championships (CBC) held May 4 to 12. The CBC is an annual affair that 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 eight events.

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 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.

Participation was a little lower than in 2018 with 17 teams in CNTC-A; 11 in CNTC-B; 12 in CNTC-C and 7 in CSTC. The good news was that 10 teams entered the CWTC, which had been cancelled the previous year due to low attendance.

Unit 390 was well-represented in Burnaby, with 10 players on five different Flight-A teams, another 12 in Flight-B making up three teams and the same number in Flight-C, also comprising three teams.

In the CNTC-B, Team Mann (Doug Mann, Raj and Dinesh Agrawal, Faiz Nadir) led all qualifiers into the knockout phase. They lost their semi-final match by a single IMP! Still, that meant bronze medals for the team. Meanwhile the Maes team (Mark Maes, Helen Dillen, Gamil Tadros, Chris Wuerscher) narrowly missed qualifying for the playoffs, while for Team Sharpe (John Sharpe, Lamya Abougoush, Rod Hilderman, Keith Falkenberg), it just wasn't their week.

A strong contingent of Flight-C teams from BC kept the three Calgary teams - Team Anderson (Ken and Pat Anderson, Lorraine Somerville, Arlene Connell), Team McWilliam (Paulette McWilliam, Tricia Flanagan, Naushad Dada, Mary Anne Crookes) and Team Paul (Stephen Paul, Camille Collver, Tom and Danuta Trafford) - from advancing to the playoffs.

Lastly, in the CNTC-A, Team Gartaganis (Nicholas and Judith Gartaganis along with four players from Ontario) made it all the way to the final, before losing to Team L'Ecuyer of Montreal. Additionally, Michael Serafini was a member of Team Roche, which also qualified for the playoffs but was eliminated by the eventual winners in the quarter-finals.

There were nice success stories for Unit 390 players in the two pairs championships - the CIPC and the COPC.

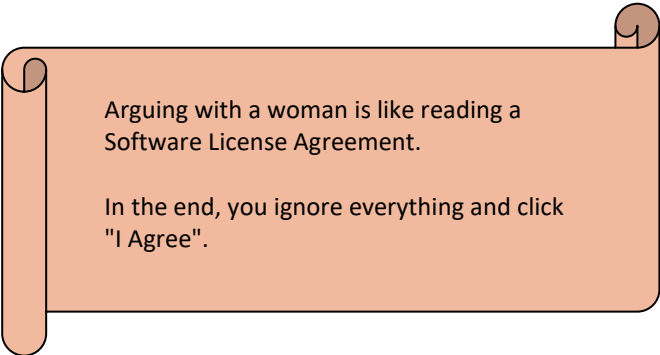
In the CIPC (IMP scoring) Daniel Bertrand and Abdul Fakhir captured the silver medal while Janet and Chris Galbraith placed a respectable fourth.

In the COPC (matchpoint scoring) Dan and Abdul brought home the bronze medal.

Well done by all!

Changes are afoot for next year's CBC which is slated to be held in Niagara Falls on May 27 - June 8, 2020. To allow participants to enter more than one major team event, the schedule has been extended from 9 to 13 days. The CWTC and CSTC begin after the CNTC-B and CNTC-C have concluded. Only the final for CNTC-A overlaps. The CMTC takes place at the end of the championship, after all other events have finished.

You can read more about the 2020 championship at <https://cbf.ca/2020-canadian-championships/>



Arguing with a woman is like reading a Software License Agreement.

In the end, you ignore everything and click "I Agree".

Many thanks to our keen-eyed proof-readers: Janet and John Sharpe, Janet and Chris Galbraith, Delores Hedley and Lyman Warner.

A Double Dose from Lethbridge

By Gordon Campbell

The Lethbridge Unit hosted its annual sectional in late September. The hospitality was wonderful, and everyone was especially friendly. Only the weather was hostile!

Here are a couple of interesting hands from the tournament.

Dealer: West

Vul: North-South

♠ 65		♠ K43
♥ KJ852		♥ A10
♦ 654		♦ KQ109
♣ J65		♣ A983
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> ♠ J9 ♥ Q43 ♦ AJ32 ♣ Q1042 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 80px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W ■ E S </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> ♠ AQ10872 ♥ 976 ♦ 87 ♣ K7 </div> </div>		

After two passes, East opened 1NT (15-17 HCP). Since my partner was a passed hand, I timidly decided not to overcall 2♠ at unfavourable vulnerability. West bid 3NT and it was my lead. As I had no definite entry, I wanted to keep communication with partner, so I led my fourth-best ♠8.

Declarer won the ♠J in dummy, played a few diamonds and led a low club towards the ♠Q. I ducked smoothly but declarer played the ♠Q anyway (!), and then ran a low club back, forcing me to win the ♠K. I could do nothing. Declarer had one spade, one heart, four diamonds and three clubs for nine tricks.

Note that if declarer had played the ♠A before leading to the ♠Q, I could have (if I were not dozing) dropped the ♠K, ensuring that partner would get in with the ♠J to push a spade through.

Meanwhile at the other table, our Sunday team-mates, Glenn and Cindy Cossey, were East-West. After the same auction, the South opponent led the ♠A, and was able to smother dummy's ♠J with the ♠Q. It was inevitable that South would get in with the ♠K to run the spade winners.

We are all still marvelling at the Lethbridge players' declaring skills at one table and defensive skills at the other. Of course, if declarer had held ♠KJx, then a low spade lead is better.

Editors' Note: On the actual layout, the lead of either the ♠A or the ♠Q works. The ♠Q also works if declarer holds ♠KJx, while the ♠A fails.

The purists are going to have a field day with my bidding on this next hand.

Dealer: South

Vul: East-West

♠ J63		♠ AQ74
♥ K10873		♥ 2
♦ KJ975		♦ 43
♣ ---		♣ AK8765
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> ♠ K10985 ♥ A4 ♦ AQ10862 ♣ --- </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 80px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W ■ E S </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> ♠ 2 ♥ QJ965 ♦ --- ♣ QJ109432 </div> </div>		

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
2♠	5♥	6♠	2♥
Dbl	Pass	Pass	7♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	7♥
			All pass

What would you open with South, white against red? I don't mind preempting with a weakish 4-card major on the side, but a reasonable 5-card major seemed a bit much, so I HAPPILY opened 2♥. West (Tom Nault) chose to bid 2♠. (He may not have had 3♥ available as Michaels, since many players now use 3♥ to ask for a heart stopper, and instead use four of a minor as "Leaping Michaels" showing the other major and the bid minor).

My partner, Ian Findlay of Banff, increased the preempt with 5♥ and Doug Mann bid 6♠. Golly gosh! That round of bidding had taken only about 15 seconds. Now what? The vulnerability and apparent confidence of East led me to make another debatable decision. I bid more, ignoring the rule that once you have preempted, you should shut up. I bid 7♦ for the diamond lead in case the opponents bid 7♠.

How exciting! Tom led a spade, and a spade was continued. I made 10 heart tricks on a crossruff for down three and -500. The ♥A lead would have been better for the opponents (or even an early ruff with the ♥A to lead another trump). Then I would have one extra loser for down four and -800. Both would have been good scores if 6♠ were making. But it wasn't!

I am sure there must be a moral or two to this story - but next time I hold this hand, I will bid exactly the same way again, refusing to learn from my experience!

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 playing 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 report on the recent September sectional.

September 2019

Attendance at the 299er events in September was up in comparison to the April sectional by nearly 30 tables! The four pairs games and two team games attracted 109½ tables.

The support of all these up-and-comers is simply amazing. The Board members of Unit 390, and no doubt all unit members, are well aware that this support is a huge part of the ongoing success of bridge in Calgary.

Ken Steele captured the President's Award by a narrow margin, earning 5.79 masterpoints. Here is the full list of results:

Flight D (100 - 300):

1. 4.67 Jamie Watt
2. 3.57 Beverley Erickson
3. 3.45 Deanna Downton

Flight E (50 - 100):

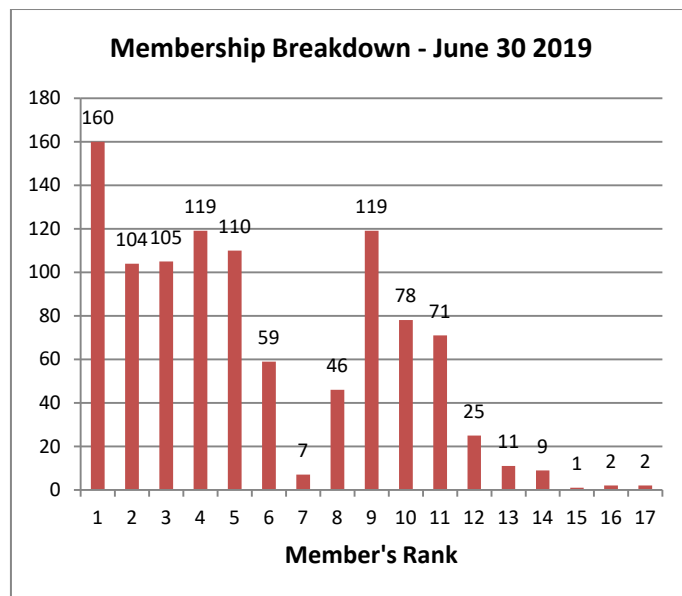
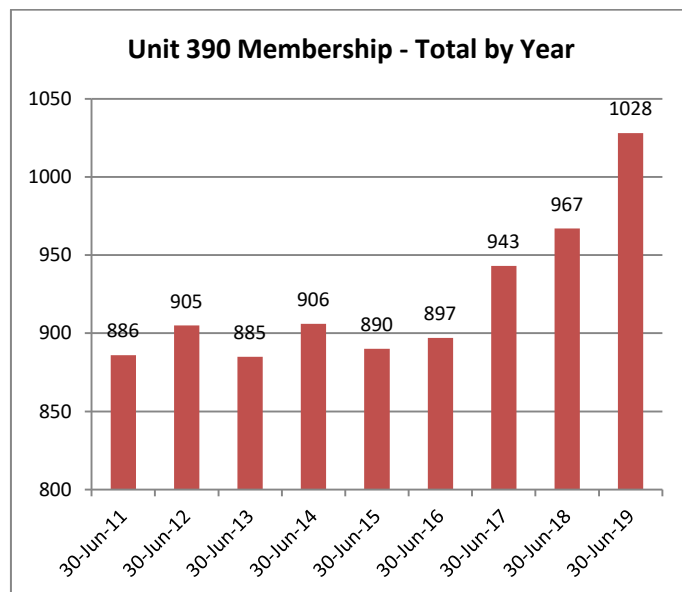
1. 5.79 Ken Steele
- 2/3. 4.37 Sunil Verma
- 2/3. 4.37 Ken Miller

Flight F (0 - 50):

1. 5.37 Robert Hemmingway
- 2/3. 4.36 Lorraine Mansell
- 2/3. 4.36 Phyllis Dunphy

Well done by everyone.

Unit 390 Membership Stats 2011 - 2019



Legend

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 - Rookie (0-5) | 9 - Bronze LM |
| 2 - Junior Master (5-20) | 10 - Silver LM |
| 3 - Club Master (20-50) | 11 - Ruby LM |
| 4 - Sectional Master (50-100) | 12 - Gold LM |
| 5 - Regional Master (100-200) | 13 - Sapphire LM |
| 6 - NABC Master (200+) | 14 - Diamond LM |
| 7 - Advanced NABC Master | 15 - Emerald LM |
| 8 - Life Master | 16 - Platinum LM |
| | 17 - Grand LM |

664 non-Life Masters
364 Life Masters

Snowbound in Lethbridge

By Ian Findlay

Playing in the Swiss teams at the Lethbridge Sectional on September 29th, trying to forget about the 50 centimetres of snow falling outside, with everyone vulnerable I picked up:

♠AQ3 ♥KJ ♦8 ♣AKQJ1032

Some people may open 2♣, but after an auction where it goes 2♣ - 2♦ - 3♣, if partner's second negative is 3♦, who knows where it might be right to play. So our auction proceeded:

Me	Opponent	Gordon	Opponent
1♣	1♦	1♠ ¹	3♥ ²
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

¹ 4⁺ spades

² 7 hearts, weak jump shift

Since partner's 1♠ can be made on as bad a holding as four small I thought it better to bid 5♣ clubs. Even if tapped, I would always score all my clubs and only be down one or two. Partner put down the almost perfect hand:

♠10842 ♥5 ♦A432 ♣8754

The opening lead was the ♥3, won by RHO with the Ace. A low heart was returned. I won the ♥K and, in order to strip the hand, pitched a diamond from dummy. Cashing the ♣A revealed clubs to be 1-1, which enabled me to play a diamond to the ♦A, ruff a diamond high, the ♣2 to dummy's ♣8, ruff the last diamond high and the ♣3 to dummy's ♣7. It appeared that RHO was 2-7-3-1 and LHO was 4-3-5-1 with it being a near certainty that LHO held the ♠K.

This was the end position, after winning the ♣7 in dummy:

♠ 10842
♥ --
♦ --
♣ 5



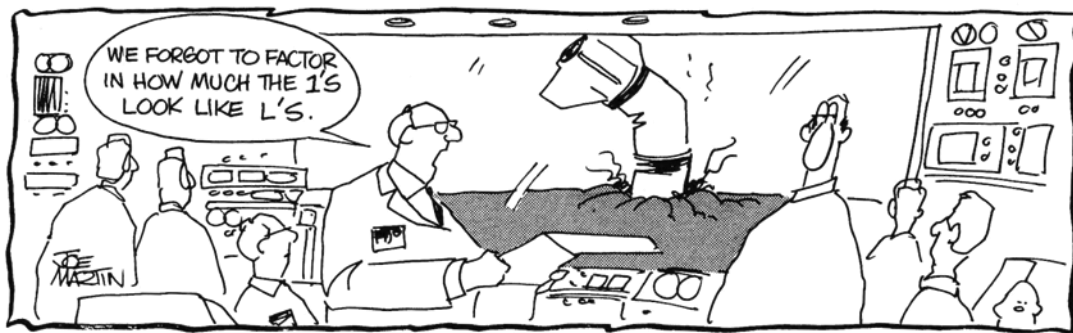
♠ AQ3
♥ --
♦ --
♣ J10

So what is the best card to play to endplay West? **

At the other table my counterpart reached the same position and tried a spade to the Queen. That lost to the ♠K and, when a spade was returned, he played the ♠10 which got covered by the ♠J. His road led to down one as there was still a spade to lose.

I chose to lead the ♠8 and, when RHO did not cover, I ran the trick losing to LHO's ♠9. LHO either had to lead into my ♠AQ or give me a ruff and sluff. Although I was snowbound in Lethbridge one could say my poor opponent was spade-bound!

** If you said the ♠10, I believe that to be just as good as what I played. Only RHO holding specifically ♠J9 defeats your contract.



Joe Martin

Mr. Boffo - Unclear On the Concept

The Kibitzer - October 2019

2019 Ace of Clubs Race

Unit 390 Year-to-Date Standings - October 8th

0 to 5	1	Andrew Melton	Calgary AB	22
	2	Ron Licht	Calgary AB	15
	3	Ted Burgoin	Calgary AB	14
5 to 20	1	Keith Barry	Priddis Greens AB	28
	2	Ken Krug	Calgary AB	28
	3	Barbara Litchinsky	Calgary AB	8
20 to 50	1	Peter Weir	Calgary AB	26
	2	Moiria Misselbrook	Calgary AB	25
	3	Jocelyne Drouin	Calgary AB	22
50 to 100	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	72
	2	Jamie Watt	Calgary AB	42
	3	Martine Parent	Calgary AB	29
100 to 200	1	Robert Stothers	Calgary AB	55
	2	John Prance	Calgary AB	54
	3	Deanna Downton	Calgary AB	34
200 to 300	1	Bob Gagnon	Calgary AB	113
	2	Devra Drysdale	Calgary AB	59
	3	Osama Elshafey	Calgary AB	51
300 to 500	1	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	115
	2	Lois Matton	Calgary AB	57
	3	Richard Piette	Calgary AB	54
500 to 1000	1	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	68
	2	Paulette McWilliams	Calgary AB	62
	3	Dianna Wreford	Calgary AB	62
1000 to 1500	1	Dale Bercov	Calgary AB	89
	2	Mark Manzer	Calgary AB	88
	3	Gail Godwin	Calgary AB	81
1500 to 2500	1	Pauline Huculak	Calgary AB	151
	2	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	127
	3	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	92
2500 to 3500	1	Maged Wafa	Calgary AB	136
	2	Jean Ward	Calgary AB	131
	3	Diane Campbell	Calgary AB	90
3500 to 5000	1	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	156
	2	Elaine Stewart	Calgary AB	128
	3	Paula Sisko	Calgary AB	98
5000 to 7500	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	158
	2	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	148
	3	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB	81
Over 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	87
	2	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	27
	2	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	4

2019 Mini-McKenney Race

Unit 390 Year-to-Date Standings - October 8th

0 to 5	1	Andrew Melton	Calgary AB	24
	2	Judith Smith	Canmore AB	21
	3	Ted Burgoin	Calgary AB	18
5 to 20	1	Keith Barry	Priddis Greens AB	36
	2	Ken Krug	Calgary AB	33
	3	Barbara Litchinsky	Calgary AB	25
20 to 50	1	Mark Kryzan	Calgary AB	36
	2	Peter Weir	Calgary AB	35
	3	Moiria Misselbrook	Calgary AB	34
50 to 100	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	129
	3	Jamie Watt	Calgary AB	80
	2	Deborah Cripps	Calgary AB	53
100 to 200	1	Peter Serafini	Calgary AB	108
	2	John Prance	Calgary AB	98
	3	Robert Stothers	Calgary AB	85
200 to 300	1	Michael Serafini	Calgary AB	193
	2	Bob Gagnon	Calgary AB	178
	3	Devra Drysdale	Calgary AB	158
300 to 500	1	Richard Piette	Calgary AB	149
	2	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	133
	3	Jay Newington	Calgary AB	97
500 to 1000	1	Cynthia Clark	Calgary AB	125
	2	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	119
	3	Mary Anne Crookes	Calgary AB	113
1000 to 1500	1	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB	209
	2	Elizabeth Sprague	Calgary AB	136
	3	Mark Manzer	Calgary AB	129
1500 to 2500	1	Ian Findlay	Banff AB	334
	2	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	284
	3	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	213
2500 to 3500	1	Gamil Tadros	Calgary AB	252
	2	David Johnson	Calgary AB	177
	3	Jean Ward	Calgary AB	156
3500 to 5000	1	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	216
	2	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	189
	3	Elaine Stewart	Calgary AB	156
5000 to 7500	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	529
	2	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	371
	3	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	353
7500 to 10,000	1	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	15
	1	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	386
	2	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	384
Over 10,000	3	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	342

The Kibitzer - October 2019

Member Milestones

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



New Junior Masters (5+ MPs):

John Bargman	Leanne Mackinnon
Andrew Bout	James McMeekin
Ted Burgoin	Evan Meikleham
Carole Conrad	Andrew Melton
Gary Croxton	Marion Misura
Jeffrey Davis	Marie Nogier
Elizabeth Eng	Matthew Page-Hanify
Carol Graham	John Raich
Carol Hales	Connie Rosenstein
Janice Hay	Eric Rosenstein
Robert Hemmingway	Jennifer Scott
Lynnette James	Maggie Studer
Jan Langley	Richard Tummers
Ron Licht	Deborah Waddell
Gary Loftus	Barb Walley

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

Marian Boychuk	Barbara Litchinsky
Michael Collins	William Mandolidis
Margaret Graham	Art Marche
Ginny Hood	Andrea McManus
Dedie Hudson	Carol McNabb
Terry Killackey	Pamela Oldfield
Ken Krug	Brian Reinsch
Doreen Lewis	Carmel Robbins

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

Jill Chambers	Michael McDonough
John Frank	Ken Miller
Carolyn Graham	Moiria Misselbrook
Chrystal Hay	Maxine Rystephanick
Mark Kryzan	Cheryl Turley
Amal Macphail	Peter Weir

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

Deborah Cripps	Edward Lamb
Adel Erian	Sandy Lough
Beverley Erickson	Betty Teare
Darcy Farden	Cindy Watt
John Finlay	Richard Wolfe
Inge French	Colleen Wong
Carol Lamb	

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

Betty Johnson	Peter Serafini
Jane Lamont	Robert Stothers
Anne Olthof	Morris Streich
John Prance	Hailong Yu
Marguerite Paulsen	

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

Ryan Clark	Julie Larsen
Devra Drysdale	Michael Serafini

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

Marcia Andreychuk	Ann Slattery
Robin Beddis	Lorraine Somerville
Andrew Serafini	

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

Bill Ellsworth	Richard Piette
Andrea Killackey	

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

Marion Dizap	Freda Nychkalo
Don Dumka	Millie Shyba
Ellen Kuiper	Lucielle Smith
Bob McLeod	Dianna Wreford

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

Gerry Marchant

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

William Basler	Marilyn Haggins
Brenda Bertrand	Douglas Mann
Margaret Cooke	

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

Tina Gokturk



The Expert Defender

By Daniel Bertrand

Playing in an Open Pairs matchpoint game, as dealer not-vulnerable against vulnerable opponents; I pick up:

♠ KQ6 ♥ A ♦ AQ9652 ♣ J64

I open 1♦, my LHO (a very strong player) bids 1♠. Both remaining players pass. It is my bid. What should I do? I decide to bid 2♦. It goes all pass. LHO leads the ♣A and dummy comes down:

Contract: 2♦

Lead: ♣A

♠ 9752
♥ QJ852
♦ 87
♣ 75



♠ KQ6
♥ A
♦ AQ9652
♣ J64

I should have passed! LHO might not have made 1♠ and my contract seems unlikely to succeed. LHO will certainly shift to a trump at trick two. My losers are two spades, three clubs and at least one diamond.

After we all follow suit, sure enough, LHO plays the ♦10, dummy the ♦7, RHO the ♦4 and I win the ♦Q. To get more information, I return the ♣J. LHO wins the King (it looks as though RHO has the ♣Q) and plays the ♦3, RHO following with the Jack. I win the ♦A and return the ♦9. I want to be able to play more diamonds when I regain the lead.

My LHO discards a small encouraging spade; dummy throws a heart and RHO wins his ♦K and returns the ♠3. I play the ♠K which LHO takes with his Ace. He returns the ♠J to my ♠Q as RHO discards a small club. I play my remaining diamonds, coming down to the 3-card ending shown at the top of the next column.

♠ 9
♥ QJ
♦ ---
♣ ---



♠ 6
♥ A
♦ ---
♣ 6

It seems that I have two more losers. But LHO is an expert defender. He is worried that I will exit with a spade to force him to lead away from his ♥K (he does not know that my ♥A is singleton). I have watched his discards; he got rid of two hearts and has come down to a singleton spade. I am hoping that he has saved a small club to avoid the endplay. I cash the ♥A; LHO follows with the King! Then I play my small club discarding a spade from dummy. RHO wins the ♣Q as expected and sheepishly returns the ♥10 to let dummy win the final trick. Here is the full hand:

♠ 9752
♥ QJ852
♦ 87
♣ 75

♠ AJ1084
♥ K94
♦ 103
♣ AK8



♠ 3
♥ 10763
♦ KJ4
♣ Q10932

♠ KQ6
♥ A
♦ AQ9652
♣ J64

My RHO should have cashed his ♣Q when he was in with his ♦K. But he was worried that he would remove his partner's exit card, allowing me to endplay him.

Bridge can be a strange game. A weaker defender might not find the trump shift at trick two, but he certainly would not bare down to a singleton ♥K to avoid a possible endplay.



Being Deep Finesse ... Here We Go Again

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Deep Finesse is a well-known hand analyzer that plays double-dummy bridge because it "sees" the location of all 52 cards. It is one of the most frequent providers of hand record analyses where the contracts that can be made by North-South and East-West are shown. Human bridge players have to do the best they can with a lot less information than Deep Finesse has.

Scoring: IMPs

Contract: 4♠

Lead: ♥ K

♠ KJ1075

♥ A8

♦ 643

♣ AJ10



♠ AQ983

♥ 2

♦ AQ102

♣ 863

Playing IMPs, 4♠ is the final contract after no opposition bidding. On a good day declarer can take 12 tricks (assuming ♦ KJx is with RHO). This looks like a trivial hand, but a cautious declarer assumes the worst while hoping for the best.

An inexperienced declarer will win the first trick, pull trumps (they are 2-1), and then proceed to take finesses in diamonds and clubs. The probability for success is almost 94%.

The more experienced player knows that it costs nothing to ruff dummy's last heart at trick two, then draw trumps and start taking finesses. This player's chance for success is slightly higher because there is the possibility that West has a void or singleton in clubs and/or East has a void or singleton in diamonds which means one of the opponents will be endplayed even if West has the ♦ KJ and East has the ♣ KQ. (Say you take a diamond finesse first and West returns a club. You finesse that and now, because East had a singleton diamond, s/he will be endplayed into conceding a ruff and sluff or leading into dummy's club tenace. The situation will be similar if you take a club finesse first and West has a singleton club.)

An expert (and Deep Finesse) plans ahead and realizes that the contract is 100%. Take a moment to consider what the expert sees.

The expert initially follows the same line of play as the experienced player i.e. eliminate hearts and pull trumps. At

this juncture the expert ignores all those attractive finessing possibilities and plays ♦ A, then ♦ 2. Let's see what happens.

Suppose West wins the trick cheaply. He switches to clubs and declarer finesses losing to the ♣ Q. If East continues clubs declarer scores his tenth trick. If East continues diamonds declarer covers whatever card East leads. Either declarer scores an immediate trick or (if West has ♦ KJx) the 13th diamond becomes a winner and the second club finesse is unnecessary. A similar scenario occurs if East initially wins the second diamond trick, because leading into dummy's clubs sets up declarer's game-going trick.

Although the expert could not see all the cards, his analysis was as good as anything Deep Finesse could do.

You may wonder "why worry about hands that are almost foolproof". Let's change a few cards and see what happens.

Scoring: IMPs

Contract: 4♠

Lead: ♥ K

♠ KJ1075

♥ A8

♦ 643

♣ AJ4



♠ AQ983

♥ 2

♦ AQ52

♣ 1063

It's the same contract, but significantly less secure for anyone other than the expert. It illustrates how the possession of 9s and 10s as well as their locations can play a major role in determining declarer's options. Most players would finesse for the ♦ K. If that failed then declarer's hopes would rest with either a 3-3 diamond break, both clubs onside, or, finally, a doubleton ♣ K or ♣ Q onside. The probability for success seems much reduced compared to the other hand.

However, the expert's line of play described earlier (play ♦ A, then a low diamond) works just as well in this case. The expert capitalizes by forcing his opponents to break the critical suits.

For most of us visualization -- seeing several moves ahead -- is a difficult process to apply to bridge, but we can all appreciate the elegance demonstrated by a line of play that guarantees the contract.

The ABCs of Simple Endplays

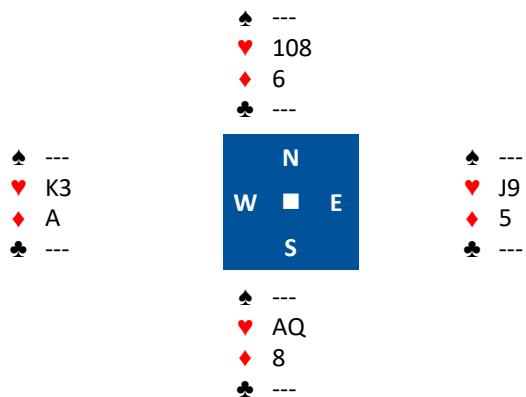
By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

We don't typically specify an overarching theme for articles in a particular Kibitzer. However, you may have noticed that several of the articles in this issue describe positions in which the opponents are endplayed. Most of those examples are fairly complicated and fall outside the parameters of the simple endplay.

But before you can get *there*, you need to be able to recognize situations in which an endplay can be used to advantage, and then be able to plan and execute the endplay successfully.

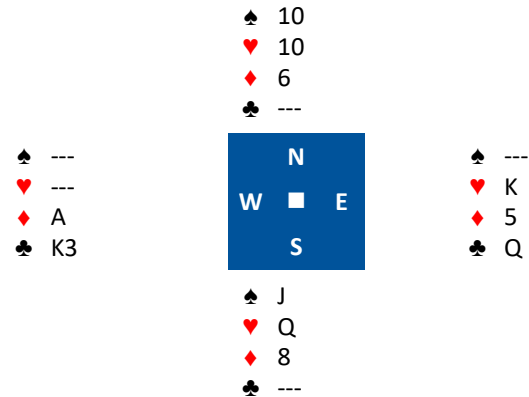
There is plenty of bridge literature describing the simple endplay, and this is an amalgamation of several of those articles along with some additional thoughts.¹

In bridge, an endplay forces a defender to make a lead that helps declarer. You might have heard it called a "strip-and-throw-in" or an elimination play. The most common example involves a defender being forced to lead into a tenace, as in this simple example:



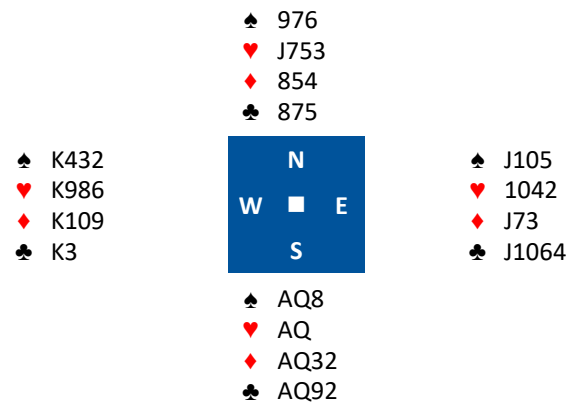
South, as declarer, needs two more tricks and the lead is in dummy. If he takes the heart finesse, West will win and cash the ♦A. Instead, South should "endplay" West by leading dummy's ♦6. When West wins the ♦A, he is forced to lead away from his ♥K into declarer's ♥AQ.

An endplay can also force a defender to concede a ruff and sluff, thus giving declarer a trick he could not win on his own. In the following example, spades are trump and declarer needs two more tricks.



When declarer leads a diamond to West's ♦A, he has no choice but to lead a club. Declarer can ruff in dummy and sluff the ♥Q from his hand.

Endplays do often occur, as the name suggests, near the end of the deal, but that is not a requirement. Sometimes an endplay comes early, perhaps even at Trick One. Here is an exaggerated example:



West is endplayed on opening lead, since he must lead away from a king into one of declarer's tenaces.

There are a number of things to look for when you think about a possible endplay.

There must be a suit that you want to avoid leading yourself ... one in which it will be very beneficial if an opponent (or perhaps one particular opponent) were to lead the suit. This is the DON'T TOUCH suit.

[continued next page]

The ABCs of Simple Endplays (continued)

You usually need to be able to draw trumps and end up with at least one trump in each of declarer's and dummy's hands. This is so you will be able to take advantage of a ruff and sluff. We will see that, in some cases, this is not an absolute necessity, and endplays can certainly be executed in no-trump contracts as well as suit contracts.

There must be a suit that you can eliminate completely from both hands. If you leave a defender with any safe exit cards, he will not be endplayed. This is the STRIP suit or ELIMINATION suit.

Finally, there must be a suit that you use to give the lead to the opponents. Usually, conceding this trick also strips that suit from declarer's hand and dummy. This is the THROW-IN suit.

Let's look at some typical examples of DON'T TOUCH suit layouts:

Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4
KJ2	K92	J85	Q5
---	---	---	---
A103	854	Q42	A10

In Example 1, you could try to guess which way to finesse for the Queen. But if the opponents lead the suit for you ... 😊

In Example 2, you could lead up to the King, hoping the Ace is on your left. But if you can force your RHO to lead the suit, the King is sure to take a trick.

In Example 3, if you lead this suit yourself, you will win a trick only if one opponent has both the Ace and King. If the opponents lead the suit, you will always win a trick. You will almost always have three losers if you lead the suit.

In Example 4, you could cash the Ace, hoping to drop a singleton King so that your Queen will take a trick. However, you have extra chances if the opponents are forced to lead the suit. In particular, if LHO leads, you have a guess whether he was forced to lead away from the King (you fly with dummy's Queen) or the Jack (you play low from dummy and RHO must play his King). If RHO leads the suit, you will play low, hoping he has been forced to lead from the King.

The technique to follow when setting up an end play is fairly straightforward:

1. Pull trumps.
2. In the STRIP suit, void your hand and dummy of that suit (or at the very least, eliminate the suit in the hand of the opponent you intend to throw in).
3. In the THROW-IN suit, cash any sure winners and then surrender the lead.

Let's take a look at a couple of complete examples.

Remember, you are watching for the four key indicators: the DON'T TOUCH suit, the STRIP suit, the THROW-IN suit and the TRUMP suit.

Contract: 4♠ by South

Lead: ♥Q

♠ K7654		♠ ---
♥ A5		♥ K7632
♦ A105		♦ 432
♣ 976		♣ QJ1054
♠ A98		♠ QJ1032
♥ QJ109		♥ 84
♦ Q976		♦ KJ8
♣ 32		♣ AK8

You see that you have one loser in spades, one in hearts, one in clubs and possibly one in diamonds.

- You might be successful in guessing which opponent has the ♦Q. But if you can force the opponents to lead diamonds, the contract is a lock. DON'T TOUCH diamonds!
- You can easily eliminate hearts on this hand. It should be safe to win the ♥A and play trumps. Even if West wins the ♠A and cashes the ♥J, you can still endplay the opponents. If West exits a club without cashing his heart trick, you will finish pulling trumps and concede a heart yourself.
- You have a sure loser in clubs and your little club will serve as the throw-in card. Once trumps have been drawn, hearts have been stripped, and the ♣AK have been cashed, you will exit your small club.
- You have lots of spades in both your hand and dummy, so even after drawing them, you will still have trumps in both hands.

Look what happens. When East wins the club, he will have no choice but to give a ruff and sluff by leading a heart (declarer ruffs in one hand and discards the diamond loser from the other) or to lead a diamond into dummy's ♦A105. If it had happened that West was winning the club, he would have been in a similar predicament ... a ruff and sluff or a diamond into declarer's ♦KJ8.

[continued next page]

The ABCs of Simple Endplays (continued)

Here is another example:

Contract: 4♠ by South

Lead: ♦3

♠ 76	♠ A432	♠ 85
♥ A109	♥ J432	♥ K75
♦ J943	♦ A8	♦ K10765
♣ 10865	♣ KQ4	♣ 732

	♠ KQJ109	
	♥ Q86	
	♦ Q2	
	♣ AJ9	

	N	
W	□	E
	S	

Consider South's thought process as he assesses the hand and makes a plan. No losers in trumps, no losers in clubs, one possible loser in diamonds and three possible losers (yes, three almost certainly!) in hearts.

"Maybe West has made a big mistake, leading a diamond away from his King. If I duck in dummy, my diamond loser is eliminated."

Danger Will Robinson! Look ahead and make a plan. You know you have a heart problem ... you DON'T want to TOUCH that suit. You can definitely STRIP the clubs from both your hand and dummy. You should have plenty of trumps to pull any that the opponents hold and still have leftovers in each hand. What about the THROW-IN suit? The only option is diamonds. You can see that if you exit a diamond after pulling trumps and eliminating clubs that will simultaneously eliminate diamonds and endplay the opponents ... provided you have a losing diamond in your hand! If you duck the lead and East produces the ♦K, your chance for the endplay will be gone.

After this thorough analysis, South rejects the possibility that West has led from the ♦K in favour of the sure endplay.

There are many variations on the basic endplay layout. Sometimes, there won't be a STRIP suit. You will THROW IN with losers in two suits, but after the opponents have taken their winners, they are endplayed.

Other times, the THROW-IN suit will also be the DON'T TOUCH suit. Consider this layout:

Example 4

432



AQ10

With three suits stripped and the lead in dummy, you can lead and simply cover whatever RHO plays. West wins (presumably) and is endplayed.

Sometimes, you won't be able to completely draw trumps. You draw enough to exhaust the opponent you intend to throw in and then execute the endplay. This is called a partial elimination. For example, suppose spades are trumps in this layout and declarer needs to take three more tricks:

♠ 9	♠ Q	♠ ---
♥ ---	♥ ---	♥ 2
♦ 96	♦ KJ	♦ AQ4
♣ Q3	♣ 95	♣ A

	♠ KJ	
	♥ ---	
	♦ 87	
	♣ 10	

	N	
W	□	E
	S	

West still has a trump but if you want to be able to capitalize on a ruff and sluff, you need a trump in both dummy and declarer's hand, so you can't afford to pull another round. Here, when you throw East in with a club, he is endplayed into conceding a ruff and sluff (you will pitch a diamond loser from hand while trumping in dummy) or leading into dummy's ♦KJ.

So the next time you count losers and come up with one too many, look around to see if an endplay might be a guaranteed way to reduce that count. There is nothing better than conceding a trick, then facing your hand to claim the rest while you still have potential losers in your hand. Got you!

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