



The Kibitzer

April 2020

Editors: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

President's Message

I am pleased to report that our fourth 299er Sectional on November 9, 2019 was a great success with 38 tables playing during the morning session and 25½ tables during the afternoon session. Thanks to Susan Korba for coordinating this event, to Directors Murray and Marilyn Haggins, and to Clarende Duby for conducting the Supervised Bid and Play.

The New Year's Sectional at our new venue at Mount Royal University was a great start to 2020 and had a turnout of 344 tables. We were and are confident in our choice of venue and we will now have sufficient space for our growing membership.

Based on the comments from participants and the subsequently received e-mails, this year's Rookie-Master event was a great success and was made possible with the help of many enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers. The March 7 event was coordinated by Marvis Olson and Delores Hedley and featured the introduction of Bracketed Swiss Teams. All 28 teams played the same pre-dealt boards with hand records available afterwards. Thanks to Doug Mann for his outstanding direction of this event. Special thanks go out to the chili maestros (Betty Fenton, JoAnn Hanson, Marvis Olson, Delores Hedley), the many Masters for the best-ever salads and desserts, the set-up and tear-down team (Garry and JoAnn Hanson, Barbara Wallat, Stewart Brightman, Milt Mansell, and Darrell Martindale), the caddy Greg Bedard, the registration desk crew (Terri Bedard and Janet Galbraith), and the kitchen and clean-up work by Krissy Hedley.

The 2019/2020 Bridge-in-Schools program coordinated by Myron Achtman culminated in a nine-School tournament at St. Philip Fine Arts School on March 11, 2020. The attendees comprised 120 children in grades 4-6, a number of teachers and Principals, and 30 or more mentors/volunteers from Unit 390. A special thanks is due Murray and Marilyn Haggins for supplying equipment, as well as directing and scoring. I am sure many of you saw the media coverage of this event. Thank you to the 50+ Unit bridge teachers/mentors who gave freely of their time at the nine schools now committed to the Bridge-in-Schools program.

Our bridge community is very fortunate to have an incredible group of volunteers working as executives and associates of the Unit Board, to maintain the unit website, to send out notices of unit and club events, to run our tournaments and special events, to purchase and maintain a large amount of equipment and supplies, and to supervise the mentorship program.

[President's Message continued next page]

Inside This Issue...

Two Rueful Rabbits - A True Story From 25 Years Ago	2
Bad Robot	3
District GNTs Postponed	3
2019 Alberta Sectionals Race Final Standings.....	4
Member Milestones.....	5-6
The Same, Which Ever Way You Look At Them	6
299er Sectional – November 2019	7
The 2020 Youth Trials (And Other Bridge Adventures!)	8-9
2020 Alberta Sectionals Race Year-to-Date	9
Count Your Tricks	10
School Bridge Tournament	11
The Findlay Gambit	12
2019 Zone V Mini-Richmond Races Final Standings	13
Help Partner	14
2019 Ace of Clubs Unit 390 Race Final Standings	15
2019 Mini-McKenney Unit 390 Race Final Standings	15
The President's Award	16
Finesse or Squeeze.....	17
2020 Ace of Clubs Unit 390 Race Year-to-Date.....	18
2020 Mini-McKenney Unit 390 Race Year-to-Date	18
The Best Ever Rookie Master Event	19
A Slam Bidding Tool	20-21
The Three-Way Finesse.....	21
Support Your Clubs	22

President's Message (continued)

Your Unit Board is searching for volunteers to replace retiring Board members and is always in need of volunteers to help in other ways. We urge you to come forward. Please contact myself or Delores Hedley and ask where you can help.

Lastly, given the present situation (Covid-19), all events and programs including the GNTs, the AGM, and the Mentorship Program are postponed until further notice.

Please stay safe and stay tuned to the Unit 390 Website for further notice.

Lyman Warner
President, Calgary ACBL Unit 390

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 2020.

Two Rueful Rabbits A True Story From 25 Years Ago

By Allan Simon

Contract: 4♠

Lead: ♣2

♠ A63		
♥ A104		
♦ K85		
♣ K843		
♠ 1052		♠ 7
♥ KJ853		♥ Q762
♦ QJ106		♦ 932
♣ 2		♣ AQJ106
	N	
	W ■ E	
	S	
	♠ KQJ984	
	♥ 9	
	♦ A74	
	♣ 975	

Barry Emmett <u>North</u>	Gordon Campbell <u>East</u>	John Davison <u>South</u>	Allan Simon <u>West</u>
--	Pass	1♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

In 1995 there was an IMP league in Calgary with weekly matches at the Martinique Bridge Club. One day Gordon and I played against a team that included the late John Davison and his partner Barry Emmett, whom I haven't seen in many years, and the diagrammed hand came up.

You will notice that 3NT by North was 100% iron-clad, but I think we can sympathize with John's 4♠ bid.

I led my singleton ♣2. John ducked in dummy and Gordon's 10 won the trick. However, his ♣A was hidden! He was surprised to win the trick, and he assumed I had underled the Ace. So he returned a small club to my presumed Ace. Note that if he cashes the Ace first he sets up the King for a diamond discard and the hand can no longer be beaten. To Gordon's surprise, I ruffed his club return, and returned the ♦Q. Davison formed his plan: he would eliminate hearts and throw me in with the third round of diamonds. I would be end-played into giving him a ruff-and-sluff while his last little club disappeared.

So Davison won the diamond in hand while Gordon followed small (he really should have played the ♦9 since we had recently switched to upside-down carding, but he forgot). Declarer led his heart. I decided to split my KJ and played the Jack. "No hearts, partner?" asked Gordon. Oops! I had played the ♦J by mistake. I corrected my play and the ♦J became a penalty card. John took the Ace and ruffed a heart, crossed to the ♠A, ruffed dummy's last heart, drew the last trump and led a diamond to dummy. I had to play my penalty card. On the third round of diamonds, Gordon won the ♦9 and I was able to follow with the ♦6, enabling Gordon to cash his ♣A which he had located in the interim, for the setting trick.

Bad Robot

By Janet Galbraith

Like many of you these days, I have been playing some online bridge to avoid the news. I started playing the ACBL World tournaments on BBO, where my partner and opponents are all robots, and most sets are 12 boards each.

My first attempt made the whole thing seem so easy - I had a 77% game! I bid regular 2/1 conventions and could click on any of the other bids to see what they meant. I was hooked and entered the NABC three-day event March 14-16, with 24 boards a day. It was then that I realized that not two, but all THREE of the robots were out to get me - partner and opponents alike. Sadly, this is no different than live bridge, but I had high expectations.

There were simple auctions, such as:

1♠ - 1NT
2♦ - 3♦

I foolishly assumed that my automated partner had a reason for bidding 3♦ instead of passing, so continued on to 3NT with my 14 HCP. Oops - a nice balanced 9 HCP hit in dummy and down I went.

Then there was the time that my partner cuebid, then bid Blackwood, and put me in slam. I whimpered just a little as the opponents cashed the first two tricks. There were over 2,000 entrants in the event and I kept hoping that the other players also had defective robots, but I don't think so! Perhaps my own bidding contributed to the disaster....naahhhh.

One day this auction occurred:

North	East	Me	West
	Pass	1♣	1♠
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

My hand: ♠Kx ♥xx ♦Qxx ♣AQJxxx

Possibly some of you might have rebid 3♣ instead of 3♦. I suspect the end result would have been the same.

My partner's hand was ♠AQ10xxx ♥A ♦AJxxx ♣10x

A nice 11 HCP with a stiff heart - a suit no one had bid. The lead was a heart, knocking out my Ace and I now had to try the club finesse (in Robot tournaments you always declare when your side wins the contract). It failed and I lost five more heart tricks and the ♠A. Sigh.

As much as these hands pain me, there are compensating opportunities for good boards from the opponent robots.

Another day I declared 1♣, holding Kxx opposite xxx of spades. My RHO got in, and played the ♠Q through my King, which I ducked. Instead of continuing with the ♠J10 for two more tricks, it switched to diamonds, underleading its King and giving me a free finesse through my AQ. Later, I was in a doomed game contract and about to concede, when out of nowhere the opponent gave me a ruff sluff to succeed!

Playing robot tournaments is quick and fun, and most of the time you are the declarer so it is good practice, but as you deal the cards out to R2-D2, Optimus Prime and HAL, don't expect them to play like Zia, Meckstroth or Rodwell!



District GNTs Postponed

The District 18 Board of Directors has made the decision to postpone the district final of the Grand National Teams to a later unspecified date. The event was scheduled to take place online on May 8 - 9, 2020. Be sure to watch for updates on the Unit 390 website.

Unit 390 Keeps Rollin' Along ...

The QUIP¹ for the first quarter of 2020 has been received. 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 ACBL is divided into 25 geographical districts. Alberta is part of District 18 (which includes Wyoming, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Utah, Montana and Idaho) - WASUMI for short.

There are 22 units in District 18, Calgary Unit 390 being by far the largest in terms of membership. At March 31, 2020, Unit 390 had 1054 members. The entire ACBL is comprised of 294 units, a decrease of one unit since last year's March report.

According to the QUIP for the quarter ending March 31, 2020:

- District 18 ranked 3rd among all districts in terms of Active Membership Trends with a marginal gain of 0.1% over the last 12 months.
- Only three districts showed positive gains in that category: District 2 (Ontario and most of Manitoba), District 21 (Northern California and Reno) and ours, District 18. All other districts were in the red.
- There were 160,600 ACBL members on March 31, 2020, compared to 162,688 at this time last year. That is a drop of 1.24%.
- Calgary Unit 390 ranked 6th among the units in District 18 (and 24th in the entire ACBL) in terms of Active Membership Trends with a gain of 4.77% over the last 12 months. We had a whopping 108 new members in the period April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020!
- The average age of ACBL members continues to rise (72.8 years). District 18 ranked 6th youngest among all districts, with an average age of 71.57 years (younger is rated better). Calgary has overtaken Red Deer as the youngest unit in District 18 with an average age of 69.16 years!

¹ QUIP stands for Quarterly Unit Information Packet

"A committee is a *cul de sac* down which ideas are lured and then quietly strangled."

Sir Barnett Cocks

2019 Alberta Sectionals Masterpoint Race

Final Standings

1	156.22	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB
2	146.95	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB
3	142.57	Ian Findlay	Banff AB
4	141.67	Allan Simon	Calgary AB
5	124.27	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB
6	122.78	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB
7	116.83	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB
8	105.24	Doug Mann	Calgary AB
9	103.18	Perry Khakhar	Calgary AB
10	79.40	Ken Penton	Calgary AB
11	75.24	Laurie Shapka	Red Deer AB
12	69.84	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB
13	68.58	Marek Foff	Edmonton AB
14	67.08	Alex Heron	Calgary AB
15	64.93	Steve Lawrence	Calgary AB
16	62.77	Cindy Cossey	Innisfail AB
17	62.77	Glenn Cossey	Innisfail AB
18	61.59	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB
19	54.52	Ian Gatenby	Red Deer AB
20	48.69	Helene Grace	Sherwood Park AB
21	48.69	Ray Grace	Sherwood Park AB
22	47.76	Ilya Kuzkin	Calgary AB
23	42.88	Bernie Lambert	Acme AB
24	42.28	Lee Barton	Edmonton AB
25	42.28	Lucille Barton	Edmonton AB
26	41.47	Michael Serafini	Calgary AB
27	40.46	Bryant Town	Edmonton AB
28	39.18	Gerry Marshall	Mexico
29	38.55	Sandy McIlwain	Invermere BC
30	38.51	Nancy Klym	Calgary AB
31	34.69	Jean Ward	Calgary AB
32	33.84	Don Gladman	Calgary AB
33	33.77	Don Carson	Edmonton AB
34	33.76	Elsie Johnson	Calgary AB
35	33.56	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB
36	33.46	Andrew Serafini	Calgary AB
37	33.20	Delores Hedley	Calgary AB
38	32.61	Vince Nowlan	Edmonton AB
39	32.37	Ryan Clark	Calgary AB
40	31.70	Terri Bedard	Calgary AB
41	30.93	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB
42	30.66	Heather Cookson-Hills	Bentley AB
43	30.66	Rick Cookson-Hills	Bentley AB
44	30.38	Nicole Beauregard	Calgary AB
45	30.38	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB

Member Milestones

The following members have reached new masterpoint milestones from the beginning of October 2019 to the end of March 2020. Congratulations to all on their achievements.



New Junior Masters (5+ MPs):

Joan Bourassa	Lynn Marshall
Lyle Brown	Lana McFadden
Wendy Bursey	Barbara McNeil
James Clayton	Deirdre Melton
Joy Crawford	Ran Mo
Graham Duff	Judy Peacock
Phyllis Dunphy	Trish Peebles
Steve Eastes	Robert Penner
Dianne Ferguson	Linda Prenioslo
Paul Forestell	Harry Rankin
Louise Heggerud	Dave Ross
Murray Howland	Lori Russell
Hai Hu	Jean Shannon
Margriet Huisman	Charles Stedman
Michele Hyndman	Christine Stedman
Margerie Kaytor	Guangren Wang
Shail Kumar	Donna West
Betty Lees	Josephine Wiggins
Xiaoying Liu	Mary Young
You Yuan Lu	Simon Zhang
Lorraine Mansell	Tony Zhou

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

Asha Acharya	Leanne Mackinnon
Carolyn Bamsey	Bonnie Macleod
Ted Burgoin	Evan Meikleham
Gary Croxton	Rita McGillivray
Barry Crozier	Matthew Page-Hanify
Brian Davis	Dennis Quick
Eric Gutland	John Raich
Carol Hales	Ian Richmond
Robert (Bob) Hemmingway	Betty Roberts
Corinne Kirker	Gregory Waskiewich
Ron Licht	

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

Keith Barry	Ken Krug
Stanley Bobrow	Barry Litchinsky
Craig Bowyer	Andrew Melton
Bob Constantin	Marvis Olson
Philip Coppard	Julie Short
Kate Forsyth	Christa Simmonds
Sherry Goldenberg	Lynn Sinclair
Karen Gurevitch	Linton Swanson
Robert Jacobs	Olga Williams
Lyn Jessee	Jennifer Williams
Terry Kaufman	

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

Don Bacon	Susan McMahon
Roger Bolton	Moira Misselbrook
Howard Coren	Judith Muir
Jim Corley	Martine Parent
Gilbert Fagnou	Sandra Stewart
Gwen Fagnou	Kim Rahme
Derwyn Hughes	Graham Sadoway
Susan Korba	John Taylor
Linda Legate	Kevin Trickett
Atsuko McDonald	Sunil Verma

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

Myron Achtman	Sherri Swystun
Wayne Gillis	Jamie Watt
Linda Peacock	Richard Weinberger

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

David Ho	John Prance
----------	-------------

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

Devra Drysdale	Peter Serafini
Tricia Flanagan	Danuta Trafford
Jay Newington	Thomas Trafford
Michael Serafini	

Member Milestones (continued)

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

Mike Blancher	Milt Mansell
Nadine Bouckhout	Sharon Mansell
Kim Cohos	Paul Scott
Bob Gagnon	Ann Slattery
Linda Heidemann	Lorraine Somerville
David Madge	

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

Bill Brand	Janet Gent
Marcel Claeys	Linda Martin
Cindy Ferguson	Paulette McWilliam

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

Clarende Duby	Byron Lund
Caroleigh Houghton	Dorothy Mersereau
Fred Klein	Elizabeth Pineo

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

Dave Adelman	Pauline Huculak
Dinesh Agrawal	Anne Primeau
Helen Dillen	Marilyn Swadron
Lois Dunsmore	

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

Diane Campbell	Jadwiga Polujan
David Johnson	

The Same, Which Ever Way You Look at Them

Bridge playing cards used in serious events have long had backs that are symmetrical (they look the same regardless of which way round the card is facing). Yet the faces of the cards are not uniformly symmetrical. There is no problem with the court cards (the kings, queens and jacks). However, most of the pip cards look different, depending which way up they are oriented. For example, the ♥7 has an extra symbol on one half of the card.

The diamond suit is OK for the most part, because the diamond symbol is perfectly symmetrical. Even then, if you check out a standard deck, you will notice that the ♦7 suffers a lack of symmetry in the same way as does the ♥7.

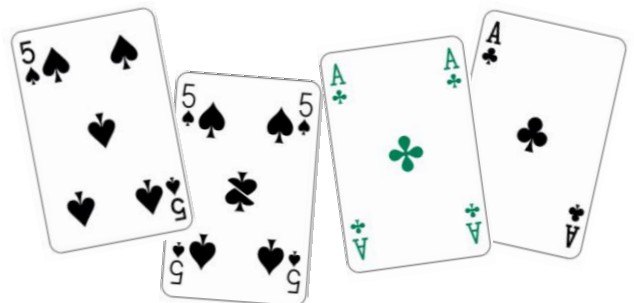


However, the problem is much more noticeable in the case of the other three suits. Only the twos, fours and 10s are truly symmetrical - everything else is not (although the problem is easily rectified in the case of the sixes and eights).

Enter the symmetrical playing cards, which were first used at the 2001 World Championships in Paris. Those centre symbols that point in one direction ... they have been redesigned so they don't point anywhere specific. The symbols have been "cut in half" so to speak, and then joined to create new versions. Clubs feature a four-leaf clover symbol; you will feel broken-hearted looking at the heart suit. To make things even clearer, the clubs have been made green (and later, grey) and the diamonds, orange rather than red.

Why all the hoopla, you may be thinking? Well, nefarious players who want to find an easy way to cheat can do so by having illicit agreements that pointing cards specific ways means something hidden. For example, if I play the ♠5 with the point of the centre symbol toward me, it means I have an honour in hearts!!! Seriously, it happens.

The symmetrical cards have become standard in all world championships, but have not become popular at local bridge clubs! Maybe one day we'll see that green club and orange diamond.



299'er Sectional - November 2019

The fourth 299er sectional tournament hosted by Unit 390 was held on Saturday, November 9, 2019 at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Centre. The event was organized as two standalone single-session pair games. Given that Mother Nature had decided to challenge the participants with nasty winter weather, attendance was very good: a total of 63½ tables in play, 38 in the morning and 25½ in the afternoon session.

Participation in the tournament was open 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.

Murray and Marilyn Haggins served as Directors-in-Charge for the day.

The Supervised Bid and Play session ran alongside the morning game under the guidance of Clarende Duby. Fifteen players took advantage of this opportunity to refresh their skills and learn a few new ones.

A total of 154 individuals played in the tournament and the distribution among the flights for these participants was:

- 70 Flight F players (0 - 50 masterpoints)
- 26 Flight E players (50 - 100 masterpoints)
- 58 Flight D players (100 - 300 masterpoints)

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.

In all, 112.38 silver points were awarded to 97 players. Here is a list of the session winners and the top 20 overall masterpoint winners.

Morning Session winners:

Flight D: Philip Coppard - Terry Schreder
Flight E: Andrew Melton - Deidre Melton
Flight F: Brendan Clark - John Grove

Afternoon Session winners:

Flight D: Betty Teare - Linda Peacock
Flight E: Stanley Bobrow - Martine Parent
Flight F: Brendan Clark - John Grove

Overall masterpoint winners:

1/2	5.80 Kim Rahme, Calgary AB
	5.80 Joanne Anson, Calgary AB
3/4	4.95 Terry Schreder, Windermere BC
	4.95 Philip Coppard, Calgary AB
5/6	3.97 Ron Licht, Calgary AB
	3.97 Maxine Rystephanick, Calgary AB
7/8	3.71 Linda Peacock, Calgary AB
	3.71 Betty Teare, Canmore AB
9/10	2.78 Mark Kryzan, Calgary AB
	2.78 Jim Muma, Calgary AB
11/12	2.57 Deidre Melton, Calgary AB
	2.57 Andrew Melton, Calgary AB
13/14	2.30 Stanley Bobrow, Calgary AB
	2.30 Martine Parent, Calgary AB
15/16	2.20 John Grove, De Winton AB
	2.20 Brendan Clark, Calgary AB
17/18	2.09 Sandy Lough, Calgary AB
	2.09 Lisa O'Hara, Calgary AB
19/20	1.93 Karen Gurevitch, Calgary AB
	1.93 Joan Taras, Calgary AB

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

The Board has tentatively set November 7, 2020 as the date for the next 299er Sectional. Don't forget to mark your calendars!



"Let me just make a quick note of that new convention you described."

The 2020 Youth Trials (And Other Bridge Adventures!)

by Michael Serafini

The 2020 Canadian Youth Trials were held in mid-March at Hazel's Bridge Club in Toronto. I competed with my partner, Jasmine Xiong, for the first time. Many out-of-town competitors chose not to attend due to COVID-19 concerns,

so there were only six pairs in the Under 21 (U21) and seven in Under 16 (U16). After a somewhat shaky first day, Jasmine and I made it to the finals where we competed round-robin style

against the other three remaining pairs, Jacob Freeman-Martin Zhao, Olivia Laufer-Albena Vassileva, and Max Cheng-Cindy He. Jasmine and I played better in the finals, but we weren't quite able to get into the top two spots which qualified for the team.



Congratulations to Jacob, Martin, Olivia, and Albena for qualifying for the U21 team. It's also worth noting that Darwin Li, one of my regular Summer NABC partners, qualified with Rachel Sun for the U16 team. Also qualifying for the U16 team were the pairs of Samuel Li-Han Wu and Katherine Yang-Yolanda Ling. Hopefully the Worlds will take place this summer in one form or another despite the current pandemic.



On to other adventures ... here is one of my favourite hands from when I was a younger, less experienced, and far more wildly aggressive bidder. I played this hand in a sectional knockout with my ever-patient mentor, Dave Johnson, a man who always manages to produce the perfect dummy.

My hand:

♠ J10987 ♥ 4 ♦ A532 ♣ J103

At favourable vulnerability, East (RHO) opened 3♦. Forgive young Michael, for he knew not better than to bid 3♠. West bid 4♦, Dave bid 4♠, and that was that. After an opening lead of the ♦8, the dummy came down:

Me

♠ J10987
♥ 4
♦ A532
♣ J103



Dave

♠ A62
♥ KJ65
♦ 6
♣ K7542

Perhaps young Michael had bitten off more than he could chew. Perhaps this would be a lesson to bid a little less like a Junior. Perhaps. After a most gracious "Thank you partner", I took East's ♦J with my Ace.

I then realized that I must act while the deck still had fifty points in it and led the ♠7, which held. From there I led the ♥4 to the King, which also held. Despite this fortunate start, this was still far from a good contract. I realized my only chance was to get away with just one club loser, and the only way to do this was to again take advantage of the fact that they both still thought I had more points than I did. So, I led a low club from board to the ♣J which was won by West's ace.

West had an awkward return, not knowing where all my points were and desperate not to give up any more tricks. He chose a club which was followed by the King and Queen! I then played a heart from board which I ruffed with the ♠8, both defenders following low. I then realized that West couldn't possibly have the ♥Q, otherwise he would've won the first trick with the Ace. Then I counted East's hand and realized this meant that he must have six diamonds and the ♥Q left. Armed with this information, I played the ♣10, West following and East discarding a diamond. I played a diamond, on which West was happy enough to pitch a heart as I ruffed in dummy. Now in dummy, I played a club and pitched a diamond from hand, which West ruffed with the ♠4.

[continued next page]

Count Your Tricks

by Stephen Paul

At the January 2020 Calgary sectional, David Rafter and I played Board 13 against Vivian Winestock and Freda Nychkalo. I was declarer in 2♠ after this auction (no opposition bidding):

Stephen **David**

1♦ 1♥
1♠ 2♠
Pass

Freda led the ♠K and David tabled a nice dummy.

Stephen

♠ 10943
♥ KJ6
♦ A1083
♣ AQ



David

♠ A876
♥ A974
♦ 2
♣ 10752

I count top tricks and predict two spades, two hearts, one diamond and one club. Two more tricks are needed and a quick decision is made to find them via the heart and club finesses. After winning the ♠A I lead the ♣2 to the Queen, losing to Freda's King. Freda cashes the ♠Q (Vivian follows with the ♠5) and continues with the ♣4 to my Ace.

With a bit more effort, I manage to make 2♠ and am happy with the result until I see our matchpoint result is 1 on a 17 top.

The mistakes started before I played to the opening lead.

- The correct trick count should have included four diamonds (the Ace and three ruffs), two clubs (including one ruff), two hearts and one spade for a total of nine tricks.
- The danger of losing the club finesse was not recognized because the count was made too quickly and was incorrect.
- My opponents are good players and I needed to respect that and consider why Freda would lead a trump, often an attempt to reduce the ability of declarer to ruff.

The full hand is shown at the top of the next column (hand rotated to make South the declarer).

The play of this hand taught me a lesson on the value of respecting your opponents.

Matchpoints

Contract: 2♠

Lead: ♠K

♠ A876
♥ A975
♦ 2
♣ 10752

♠ KQ
♥ Q82
♦ 9764
♣ KJ84



♠ J52
♥ 1043
♦ KQJ5
♣ 963

♠ 10943
♥ KJ6
♦ A1083
♣ AQ

Editors' note:

Freda made the best lead for the defense. Once Stephen loses the club finesse he still has a path to nine tricks knowing that the ♠J is in Vivian's hand. Win the ♣A, cash the ♦A, ruff a diamond and finesse the ♥J. Freda will win the ♥Q and return a heart or a diamond. In both cases declarer ends up ruffing two diamonds in dummy and pitching a third diamond on the 13th heart (thus losing only two spades, one club and one heart). Even after all this effort Stephen would only improve his score to 4 matchpoints, showing how a good lead can wreck declarer's chances.

After the lead of the ♠K only Deep Finesse will navigate the path to ten tricks. Even seeing all four hands it is not immediately obvious how to achieve that goal. Win the ♠A, cash the ♦A, ruff a diamond, heart to the King, ruff a diamond, club to the Ace, ruff a diamond. Now exit with a spade or a club. Freda is endplayed and has to yield the 10th trick in hearts or clubs (after Freda wins the ♣K, trying to cash the ♣J will set up dummy's ♣10 and leading hearts allows declarer to run it around to his ♥J).



School Bridge Tournament

By Myron Achtman

On March 11, 120 students from nine Calgary schools came together to compete in the second annual School Bridge Program Tournament. The event was held at St. Philip Fine Arts School with five Public schools (Nellie McClung, Captain John Palliser, Griffith Woods, Louis Riel and Briar Hill) and four Catholic schools (St. Jude, Father Whelihan, St. Phillip and St. Augustine) participating. All the students came from grades four, five and six.



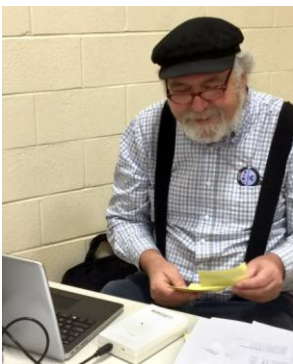
Tournament action from St. Philip's gym

Special thanks go to our nine Unit instructors -- John Finlay, Jim Berglund, Margaret Nielsen, Myron Achtman, Gail Godwin, Lois Matton, Peter Weir, Joan Shannon, Pankaj Asharya -- each of whom volunteered to teach once a week during the school lunch hour with groups of 10 to 20 students.

In addition, we had dozens of mentors from Unit 390 who assisted in the classrooms.

There were 30 tables in action, and 8 boards were played in the two-hour tournament. There was a mentor at every table to assure that bids were sufficient and that the students properly followed suit during play.

Both CTV and CBC news covered the event. You can view their news stories at www.adita.com/bridge.mp4 (the video is a little over 8 minutes in length).



Murray and Marilyn Haggins were superb in directing the event and the results were determined immediately upon conclusion of play.

Every student received a souvenir button pin to commemorate their participation. The top three winning pairs received trophies. During the awards presentations, the 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.



Over 30 mentors volunteered to monitor the bidding and play.



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

The Findlay Gambit

By Ian Findlay

In chess, there are hundreds of gambits that occur mostly in the openings, where white or black will typically sacrifice a pawn for the initiative or long-term compensation. These gambits are generally named after the individual who first played them (Evan's Gambit) or the location where they were played (Volga Gambit). Some are sound and some have been refuted in practice. In bridge, there is the occasionally named gambit (e.g. Grosvenor Gambit where a defender deliberately gives declarer an opportunity to succeed in an unmakeable contract), but typically brilliant plays are called coups (e.g. sacrificing an unsupported King to kill dummy's only entry -- the Merrimac Coup). I seem to have stumbled onto a defensive gambit, where I gave up a trick to score more in return. Some may attribute my result more to Sylvia than Garozzo (Sylvia being Becker's heroine bridge player who achieves spectacular success because of fate rather than technical expertise).

In the Bridge Winners online knockout game, I was dealt as East with nobody vulnerable:

♠ Q874 ♥ A1032 ♦ A108 ♣ 32

West was the dealer and the bidding proceeded thusly:

West	North	Me	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♠	Double	2NT*	4♥
All Pass			

* 4-card limit raise

Partner led the ♦4 of diamonds (3rd best from even, lowest from odd) and dummy hit. Declarer played the ♦5.

♠ K63	♠ Q874
♥ J975	♥ A1032
♦ J53	♦ A108
♣ Q104	♣ 32

N

W ■ E

S

Before you make the obvious play of the ♦A, stop to think about what is going on. It would appear that partner most likely started with five or six spades to the AJ, probably one heart, and from the lead, four or five diamonds (but he did not Michael's, so either five bad diamonds or four small), and probably three clubs to the King. I reasoned that to beat the hand, we had to score one spade, one diamond and two hearts or maybe no spades, two hearts, one diamond and one club.

I placed declarer with KQx of diamonds and I did not want to give him an extra entry to dummy for the finesses he might want to take (in clubs and hearts, when they did not break). I always remember my late father's advice, "Aces are meant to capture Kings", but I should have remembered "third hand high". Anyway, I put in the ♦10 and declarer won with the King. To my amazement, he next played a small heart, won by my partner's Queen. Partner continued the ♦9 and when I put up the Ace, declarer ruffed! So my partner must have had only four spades, one heart and six diamonds. I do not blame him for not leading his 3rd best diamond, since I would never have guessed he had six.

Play continued, a small heart to the Jack and my Ace, with my partner pitching a diamond. I cleared the diamond suit, declarer ruffing with the ♥K, his last trump. Declarer then played two rounds of clubs and a spade towards dummy. Partner rose with the ♠A and played another diamond. Declarer ruffed in dummy but I declined to overruff. Now declarer exited with a heart to my ten, and I knocked out the ♠K. That allowed our side to get the last two tricks to beat 4♥ three tricks. At the other table my hand opened 1♠ in 3rd position and, after a 2♣ overcall, our hands bid to 4♠ down one for -50. Combined with our result, that gave us 5 IMPs.

The full deal:

♠ K63	♠ Q874
♥ J975	♥ A1032
♦ J53	♦ A108
♣ Q104	♣ 32

N

W ■ E

S

♠ AJ105	♠ 92
♥ Q	♥ K864
♦ Q97642	♦ K
♣ J9	♣ AK8765

In thinking about the hand, if I had risen with the ♦A at trick one and declarer had dropped the King, I would be worried that he had doubleton ♦KQ and that a spade would be going away. I would have quickly shifted to a spade, and after two rounds of spades, if declarer had been wise enough to play a heart to the King, he could then just play clubs and go down only two, losing one spade, three hearts and one diamond. The Findlay gambit had prevailed!

2019 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 2019, Unit 390 players were Zone V winners in nine of the 13 masterpoint categories and many others placed in the top three positions. In categories not appearing below, the top three positions went to players from outside Unit 390.

Three of the overall national winners were from Unit 390. Special congratulations to:

- Jamie Watt in the 50 to 100 category
- Peter Serafini in the 100 to 200 category
- Michael Serafini in the 200 to 300 category

0 to 5	2	Ron Licht	Calgary AB	37
5 to 20	2	Carol McNabb	Calgary AB	18

20 to 50	1	Moir Misselbrook	Calgary AB	55
	2	Mark Kryzan	Calgary AB	48
	3	Ken Miller	Calgary AB	39
50 to 100	1	Jamie Watt	Calgary AB	123
	2	Cindy Watt	Calgary AB	80
	3	Deborah Cripps	Calgary AB	72
100 to 200	1	Peter Serafini	Calgary AB	147
	2	John Prance	Calgary AB	135
200 to 300	1	Michael Serafini	Calgary AB	221
	2	Andrew Serafini	Calgary AB	188
	3	Ryan Clark	Calgary AB	178
300 to 500	2	Richard Piette	Calgary AB	192
500 to 1000	1	Cynthia Clark	Calgary AB	192
	2	Marc Maes	Calgary AB	147
	3	Mary Anne Crookes	Calgary AB	146
1000 to 1500	1	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB	298
	3	Mark Manzer	Calgary AB	198
1500 to 2500	1	Ian Findlay	Banff AB	366
	2	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	352
2500 to 3500	1	David Johnson	Calgary AB	361
	2	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	348
	3	Gamil Tadros	Calgary AB	301
5000 to 7500	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	639
	2	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	501
	3	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	422



The Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) is the national bridge organization responsible for promoting and protecting the rights and interests of Canadian bridge players both domestically as well as at the international level.

A one-year membership in the Canadian Bridge Federation costs just \$20. Please consider joining.

To read about the benefits of CBF membership, or to join/renew, please visit <https://cbf.ca/membership-and-benefits/>

You can also pay CBF dues when you pay your ACBL dues.

Help Partner

By Gordon Campbell

Here is a recent defensive problem from a match in the Canadian Online Teams Championship.

South dealt and opened 1NT. North used a Texas Transfer so South could declare in 4♠.

North	East	South	West
--	--	1NT ¹	Pass
4♥ ²	Pass	4♠	All Pass

¹ 15-17 HCP

² Transfer to spades

Partner leads the ♦J and North tables the dummy:

♠ AJ107xxx	
♥ xx	
♦ Q9x	
♣ x	
	♠ x
	♥ 10xxx
	♦ AK5xx
	♣ Kxx

You mentally thank partner for an excellent lead and then consider your options. If West's ♦J is a singleton then you need to overtake, cash the other high diamond and give partner a ruff. It is a slight guess, but let's say you go with the odds and assume the ♦J is not a singleton. So you duck.

West continues with the ♦10. Declarer again plays low from dummy and you overtake to win with the ♦K. Now what? Think very carefully.

East did that, but got it wrong. He switched to a heart, to loud guffaws from the online kibitzers. East could have cashed a third diamond and West would still have his ♥A for down one. This was the full hand:

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

Contract: 4♠

Lead: ♦J

♠ xx	♠ AJ107xxx	♠ x
♥ Axxx	♥ xx	♥ 10xxx
♦ J10	♦ Q9x	♦ AK5xx
♣ J105xx	♣ x	♣ Kxx
		♠ KQx
		♥ KQJ
		♦ xxx
		♣ AQxx

West found the only lead to beat 4♠, but East blew it. But, are things always that simple? What if this is the layout?

♠ xx	♠ AJ107xxx	♠ x
♥ AQxx	♥ xx	♥ 10xxx
♦ J10x	♦ Q9x	♦ AK5xx
♣ J105x	♣ x	♣ Kxx
		♠ KQx
		♥ KJx
		♦ xx
		♣ AQxxx

West leads the ♦J. Declarer plays low from dummy. West continues with the ♦10, and East overtakes. Now East must play a heart. Otherwise, Declarer ruffs the next round of diamonds, and later finesses the ♣Q to pitch a heart.

How can East tell which hand Declarer holds? The answer is he can't, BUT West knows, and he should help his partner. If he holds the first hand he should cash the ♥A before playing the second round of diamonds. East will then realize there is no future in hearts and try to cash another diamond. Note that if West holds the ♣A instead of the ♥A, he should still cash that Ace first.

Moral: Remember to anticipate partner's possible dilemma. Help him through the darkness if you can see the light.

2019 Ace of Clubs Awards

Unit 390 Final Standings

0 to 5	1	Andrew Melton	Calgary AB	38
	2	Ron Licht	Calgary AB	31
	3	Ted Burgoin	Calgary AB	29
5 to 20	1	Keith Barry	Priddis Green AB	49
	2	Ken Krug	Calgary AB	37
	3	Barbara Litchinsky	Calgary AB	24
20 to 50	1	Moir Misselbrook	Calgary AB	43
	2	Peter Weir	Calgary AB	41
	3	Terry Kaufman	Calgary AB	32
50 to 100	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	102
	2	Jamie Watt	Calgary AB	72
	3	Martine Parent	Calgary AB	53
100 to 200	1	John Prance	Calgary AB	85
	2	Robert Stothers	Calgary AB	66
	3	Peter Serafini	Calgary AB	54
200 to 300	1	Bob Gagnon	Calgary AB	174
	2	Devra Drysdale	Calgary AB	98
	3	Stephen Paul	Calgary AB	86
300 to 500	1	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	171
	2	Lois Matton	Calgary AB	84
	3	Richard Piette	Calgary AB	74
500 to 1000	1	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	113
	2	Paulette McWilliam	Calgary AB	93
	3	Mary Anne Crookes	Calgary AB	82
1000 to 1500	1	Mark Manzer	Calgary AB	156
	2	Dale Bercov	Calgary AB	128
	3	Gail Godwin	Calgary AB	120
1500 to 2500	1	Pauline Huculak	Calgary AB	228
	2	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	191
	3	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	156
2500 to 3500	1	Maged Wafa	Calgary AB	210
	2	Jean Ward	Calgary AB	195
	3	Ronald Kupchanko	Calgary AB	117
3500 to 5000	1	Elaine Stewart	Calgary AB	205
	2	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	195
	3	Paula Sisko	Calgary AB	136
5000 to 7500	1	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	222
	2	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	198
	3	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB	123
Over 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	142
	2	Gerry Marshall	Mexico	27
	3	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	9

2019 Mini-McKenney Awards

Unit 390 Final Standings

0 to 5	1	Andrew Melton	Calgary AB	55
	2	Ron Licht	Calgary AB	37
	3	Ted Burgoin	Calgary AB	35
5 to 20	1	Keith Barry	Priddis Green AB	58
	2	Ken Krug	Calgary AB	44
	3	Barbara Litchinsky	Calgary AB	34
20 to 50	1	Moir Misselbrook	Calgary AB	55
	2	Peter Weir	Calgary AB	52
	3	Mark Kryzan	Calgary AB	48
50 to 100	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	164
	2	Jamie Watt	Calgary AB	123
	3	Cindy Watt	Calgary AB	80
100 to 200	1	Peter Serafini	Calgary AB	144
	2	John Prance	Calgary AB	135
	3	Hailong Yu	Calgary AB	98
200 to 300	1	Bob Gagnon	Calgary AB	269
	2	Devra Drysdale	Calgary AB	226
	3	Michael Serafini	Calgary AB	222
300 to 500	1	Richard Piette	Calgary AB	192
	2	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	191
	3	Lois Matton	Calgary AB	118
500 to 1000	1	Cynthia Clark	Calgary AB	192
	2	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	166
	3	Marc Maes	Calgary AB	147
1000 to 1500	1	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB	298
	2	Mark Manzer	Calgary AB	198
	3	Elizabeth Sprague	Calgary AB	195
1500 to 2500	1	Ian Findlay	Banff AB	366
	2	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	352
	3	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	287
2500 to 3500	1	David Johnson	Calgary AB	361
	2	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	348
	3	Gamil Tadros	Calgary AB	301
3500 to 5000	1	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	245
	2	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	239
	3	Elaine Stewart	Calgary AB	235
5000 to 7500	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	639
	2	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	501
	3	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	422
7500 to 10,000	1	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	16
	2	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	448
	3	Gerry Marshall	Mexico	444
Over 10,000	1	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	436

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 two sectionals.

October 2019

The winter sectional is usually the smallest, in part due to the early departure of the snowbirds for warmer climes. Still, the count for October was 80½ tables. Harvey Wiehler handily captured the President's Award with 5.25 masterpoints. Here are the standings:

Flight D (100 - 300):

- | | | |
|----|------|----------------|
| 1. | 5.25 | Harvey Wiehler |
| 2. | 4.96 | Sunil Verma |
| 3. | 3.45 | Jim Griffeth |

Flight E (50 - 100):

- | | | |
|----|------|----------------|
| 1. | 4.96 | Ken Miller |
| 2. | 4.71 | Ken Steele |
| 3. | 3.97 | Philip Coppard |

Flight F (0 - 50):

- | | | |
|----|------|-------------------|
| 1. | 4.71 | Robert Hemmingway |
| 2. | 3.14 | Doreen Lewis |
| 3. | 2.68 | Marie Nogier |

January 2020

Attendance at the 299er events in January set a new record with 113½ tables in play over the six sessions. The biggest game was Saturday morning when there were two sections with a total of 25 tables! There was a tie for the President's Award between Georgia Black and Phillip Magee, each with 8.33 masterpoints. Here is the full list of results:

Flight D (100 - 300):

- | | | |
|------|------|---------------|
| 1/2. | 8.33 | Georgia Black |
| 1/2. | 8.33 | Phillip Magee |
| 3. | 7.61 | Kevin Tricket |

Flight E (50 - 100):

- | | | |
|----|------|---------------|
| 1. | 6.28 | Keith Barry |
| 2. | 5.67 | Derwyn Hughes |
| 3. | 4.51 | Ken Miller |

Flight F (0 - 50):

- | | | |
|----|------|---------------|
| 1. | 5.81 | Olga Williams |
| 2. | 5.70 | Lynn Marshall |
| 3. | 4.67 | Art Marche |

Congratulations to everyone! Well done.

Thank you to all the 299er players who continue to show amazing support for the Unit 390 sectionals.



The biggest name in bridge, Charles Goren, once remarked, "The game of contract bridge creates more arguments than any other card game in history. I believe this is part of the game's fascination."

Think about it. Think about any other card game¹ you have played in your life from fish or war or canasta to cribbage, gin rummy, pinochle, hearts or even poker. Can you recall any intense involved conversations and arguments about what happened at the card table that went on long after the hand was played? Of course not.

Source: Jared Johnson, in the Denver Post, December 2015

¹ Editors' Note: All you Saskatchewan natives know Kaiser would be a close runner-up.

Finesse or Squeeze

by Daniel Bertrand

I am playing in a team game. With everyone vulnerable I pick up:

♠AQ1064 ♥K4 ♦J106 ♣K86

RHO opens with 2♥ (weak, 6-11 HCP). I overcall 2♠ which partner raises to 4♠, ending the auction. LHO leads the ♥2 and partner tables the dummy.

Me

♠ AQ1064
♥ K4
♦ J106
♣ K86



Partner

♠ K75
♥ 10953
♦ AK8
♣ Q103

The lead is an obvious singleton. I have three top losers: ♥A, a heart ruff and ♣A. I might also lose a second club and a diamond. Maybe my partner and I should have bid to 3NT, but I am not in that contract and must take 10 tricks with spades as trumps. I play low from dummy. RHO wins the ♥A and returns the ♥8. As expected, LHO ruffs my ♥K with the ♠2 and continues with ♣A (♣7 from RHO) and a small club. When I play the ♣Q from dummy RHO follows with the ♣J.

No second club loser anymore. If trumps behave I just need to avoid a diamond loser. I pull trumps in three rounds (remember, LHO ruffed once). RHO follows to the first round and discards two hearts on the next two rounds. I cash the

♣K to get more information and RHO discards a small diamond. This is the position:

Me

♠ 106
♥ ---
♦ J106
♣ ---



Partner

♠ ---
♥ 109
♦ AK8
♣ ---

I could just take the diamond finesse but first I count out the hand. RHO started with one spade, six hearts and two clubs so must have four diamonds. Thus far she has shown up with seven points in hearts and one in clubs so she has room for the ♦Q. RHO also returned the ♥8, the highest she could afford. Maybe she was trying to suggest a diamond return from partner. It is a close decision, but I decide to play for the trump squeeze. I cash the ♠10 and discard the ♦8 from dummy.

RHO must keep two hearts. Otherwise I will cross to dummy to ruff a heart and dummy will take the last two tricks. RHO performs discards another diamond leaving her with only two. I cash the ♦AK and, as I hoped, the ♦Q appears from RHO. I ruff a heart and cash my now good ♦J.

I had another reason to play for the trump squeeze -- it would give me material for an article. After all, who would be interested in a hand that involved a simple finesse?

Upcoming Unit 390 Tournament Dates

Due to the recent global coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, many event organizers are cancelling upcoming tournaments. Be sure to check before you go at <https://www.acbl.org/check-before/>

District 18 GNT Final (online) **POSTPONED - NEW DATE TBD** ... May 8 - 9, 2020

Canadian Bridge Championship (Niagara Falls)..... May 28 - June 8, 2020

Edmonton Regional August 10 - 16, 2020

Calgary Fall Sectional September 4 - 6, 2020

Calgary Winter Sectional..... October 30 - November 1, 2020

Calgary 299er Sectional November 7, 2020

Calgary New Year's Sectional January 8 - 10, 2021

Calgary Spring Sectional..... March 26 - 28, 2021

Calgary Regional August 9 - 15, 2021



2020 Ace of Clubs Awards

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

0 to 5	1/2	Sherry Krause	Calgary AB	4
		Sheila McAlpine	Calgary AB	4
	3/4	Joan Bourassa	Calgary AB	4
		Robert Penner	Calgary AB	4
5 to 20	1	Barry Crozier	Cochrane AB	9
	2	Andrew Bout	Calgary AB	7
	3	Leanne Mackinnon	Calgary AB	6
20 to 50	1	John Raich	Calgary AB	10
	2	Lyn Jessee	Calgary AB	9
	3	Ron Licht	Calgary AB	8
50 to 100	1	Moira Misselbrook	Calgary AB	19
	2	Keith Barry	Priddis Green AB	12
	3	Andrew Melton	Calgary AB	11
100 to 200	1	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	27
	2	Martine Parent	Calgary AB	22
	3	Richard Wolfe	Calgary AB	20
200 to 300	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	30
	2	Jamie Watt	Calgary AB	26
	3	Susan Korba	Calgary AB	12
300 to 500	1	Ryan Clark	Calgary AB	19
	2	Lois Matton	Calgary AB	19
	3	Stephen Paul	Calgary AB	15
500 to 1000	1	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	39
	2	Bob Gagnon	Calgary AB	30
	3	Devra Drysdale	Calgary AB	24
1000 to 1500	1	Mark Manzer	Calgary AB	30
	2	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB	27
	3	Rosalyn Martin	Calgary AB	26
1500 to 2500	1	Ruth Gilchrist	Calgary AB	36
	2	Terri Bedard	Calgary AB	33
	3	Garth Wiggins	Calgary AB	25
2500 to 3500	1	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	38
	2	Maged Wafa	Calgary AB	30
	3	Pauline Huculak	Calgary AB	27
3500 to 5000	1	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	40
	2	Elaine Stewart	Calgary AB	32
	3	Diane Campbell	Calgary AB	32
5000 to 7500	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	21
	2	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	13
	3	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB	10
Over 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	30

2020 Mini-McKenney Awards

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

0 to 5	1	Simon Zhang	Calgary AB	6
	2	Lynn Marshall	Turner Valley AB	6
	3	Sandra Fiell	Calgary AB	5
5 to 20	1	Evan Meikleham	Calgary AB	13
	2	Betty Lees	Calgary AB	10
	3	Brian Davis	Calgary AB	10
20 to 50	1	John Raich	Calgary AB	15
	2	Lyn Jessee	Calgary AB	11
	3/4	Zengfu Liu	Calgary AB	11
		Shuo Shi	Calgary AB	11
50 to 100	1	Moira Misselbrook	Calgary AB	26
	2	Keith Barry	Priddis Green AB	18
	3	Andrew Melton	Calgary AB	15
100 to 200	1	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	41
	2	Richard Wolfe	Calgary AB	38
	3	Martine Parent	Calgary AB	26
200 to 300	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	38
	2	Jamie Watt	Calgary AB	33
	3	Jane Lamont	Calgary AB	24
300 to 500	1	Tom Trafford	Calgary AB	23
	2	Nadine Bouckhout	Calgary AB	22
	3	Lois Matton	Calgary AB	20
500 to 1000	1	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	43
	2	Bob Gagnon	Calgary AB	39
	3	Marc Maes	Calgary AB	37
1000 to 1500	1	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB	48
	2	Rick Boyd	Calgary AB	39
	3	Chris Wuerscher	Calgary AB	37
1500 to 2500	1	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	97
	2	Ian Findlay	Banff AB	48
	3	Crystal Mann	Calgary AB	47
2500 to 3500	1	Gamil Tadros	Calgary AB	73
	2	Doug Mann	Calgary AB	69
	3	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	56
3500 to 5000	1	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	63
	2	David Johnson	Calgary AB	47
	3	Perry Khakhar	Calgary AB	43
5000 to 7500	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	82
	2	Allan Simon	Calgary AB	71
	3	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	48
7500 to 10,000	1	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	9
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Mexico	84
	2	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	61
	3/4	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	29
		Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	29

The Best Ever Rookie Master Event!

By Delores Hedley & Marvis Olson

The sixth annual Rookie Master Team Game was held on March 7, 2020 at Haysboro Community Centre. Little did we know that our timing was perfect! Had the event been scheduled for even one week later, the health threat associated with the COVID-19 outbreak would have forced cancellation.

Unit 390 has been sponsoring this event since 2014, with the inaugural game taking place in November of that year. The Unit's goal is to provide a friendly and supportive environment where Rookie players can experience the fun of Swiss Teams as well as meet and play with (and against) more advanced players.

Based on all the wonderful emails we have received, it is obvious that this year's Rookie Master Game was a positive, effective and successful event. While the Unit achieved its goal, it was only made possible with the help of a multitude of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers. So we want to send a big shout-out of thanks to all the helpers and specifically to:

- Betty Fenton and JoAnn Hanson for their chili
- The Masters for the incredible salads and desserts. They really were the best ever.
- Garry and JoAnn Hanson and Barbara Wallat for help in setting up
- Terri Bedard and Janet Galbraith for manning the registration desk
- Krissy Hedley for kitchen and cleanup work (wasn't it nice to pick up clean dishes when it was time to go home)

- Garry and JoAnn Hanson, Barbara Wallat, Stewart Brightman, Milt Mansell and Darrell Martindale for tear down
- Greg Bedard for his outstanding caddying

Please forgive us if we have missed you.

And thanks are hardly enough to the Directing staff, Doug Mann (DIC) and Caroleigh Houghton (Assistant). Doug set up the brackets for the actual game and had to make several adjustments to the set-up because of no-shows. He still got the game going on time!

A total of 28 teams participated, each team consisting of two rookie-master pairs. Teams were divided into five brackets of six teams each. They played a round-robin of five matches and everyone played duplicated boards so that hand records were available after the session. Bracket 5 had fewer teams and played three longer matches. The winners of each bracket are listed below.

On another note, we want to remind everyone that the purpose of the Rookie Master event is to enable the newer players to have a positive, enjoyable evening. The Masters need to smile and say "nice try". The purpose of the game is not to point out mistakes or show frustration over strange bids or badly played hands. Yet every year we have one or two Masters who just can't help themselves. Please try to remember how you felt when you were just starting out!

Congratulations to the winners of the five brackets:

Bracket	MPs	Bracket Winners	IMP Score
1	1.20	Sherry Krause - Mark Manzer - Sheila McAlpine - Lois Dunsmore	70
2	1.20	Lisa Halcrow - Bill Ellsworth - Michele Hyndman - Delores Hedley	68
3	1.20	Bob Constantin - Elizabeth Sprague - Florence Fam - David Ho	66
4	1.20	John Raich - Linda Martin - Clement Chan - Edward Lamb	62
5	1.04	Joanne Anson - Barbara Wallat - Margerie Kaytor - David Marchant	42



A Slam Bidding Tool

By Stephen Paul

At the October 2019 Calgary Sectional Pairs event an interesting bidding hand came up.

♠ QJ987		♠ AK1032
♥ AQ1095		♥ KJ72
♦ A106		♦ 5
♣ --		♣ AJ6



East is the opening bidder. In the B/C game, 11 of 12 pairs bid 6♠, including my partnership. The 12th pair bid only game. In the A/X section 10 pairs bid 6♠, three pairs bid 7♠ and one pair defended 7♣ doubled.

I decided to give this hand a workover and sort out the bidding in ideal conditions (I can see both hands and have all day). In my dreams the bidding would have proceeded as follows:

West	East
	1♠
2♥	3♥
3♠ ¹	4♣ ²
4♦ ²	4NT ³
5NT ⁴	6♣ ⁵
6♠ ⁶	7♠ ⁷

- 1 West has not used fast arrival so this spade raise shows extra values and is a mild slam try. Since there is a double fit, a grand slam is now possible in hearts or spades
- 2 Cue bid showing 1st or 2nd round control
- 3 1430 Keycard Blackwood
- 4 Two keycards with a void. My hand contains three keycards (♠AK and ♣A). West's two keycards must be ♥A and ♦A so the void is in clubs. We have all the keycards.
- 5 One remaining concern is the ♠Q. 6♣ (next step) asks
- 6 Shows the ♠Q but denies any Kings
- 7 I can now count 13 tricks: five spades, five hearts, the two minor suit Aces and a club ruff.

Editors' note:

The possession of the ♥Q, which guarantees the grand slam, is unknown; however, with a poor heart suit, partner may have chosen to use a forcing 2NT or a splinter bid to show a fit in spades.

This is not the end of the story. West has the following five-loser hand:

♠ QJ987 ♥ AQ1095 ♦ A106 ♣ ---

When partner opens the bidding with 1♠ the combined losing trick count indicates that small slam is likely. West must choose between Jacoby 2NT and a simple 2/1 bid in hearts. Jacoby 2NT would reveal that opener has a maximum hand (16 HCP), or could locate the stiff diamond. Neither of these bids helps locate the extra trick West needs for the grand slam. The heart bid leaves more bidding space and allows the partnership to find the double fit and the grand slam. Isn't hindsight great! Another point of interest is that it is much easier to find the grand slam with the Precision Club system because of the savings in bidding space. West knows the hand is going to slam at the 2-level and this may be why the A players could find the grand.

West	East
	1♠ ¹
1♥ ²	1♠
2♠ ³	?

- 1 16+ HCP
- 2 9+ HCP, natural and game forcing
- 3 suit agreement

This was the full deal:

		♠ 64		
		♥ 83		
		♦ KJ83		
		♣ K10732		
♠ QJ987				♠ AK1032
♥ AQ1095				♥ KJ72
♦ A106				♦ 5
♣ --				♣ AJ6



♠ 5
♥ 64
♦ Q9742
♣ Q9854

Wait -- that's still not all!

[continued next page]

A Slam Bidding Tool (continued)

A number of bridge writers have addressed the notion of a double fit. In particular, Eddie Kantar devotes Chapter 6 to a discussion on accounting for a double fit in his book on Roman Keycard Blackwood. With two agreed suits there are six keycards (four Aces and two Kings), and two Queens. You must have two keycards to make the ask. The responses are the same to the keycard ask for the first two steps. When you have two keycards, the responses change to fold in information about the Queens:

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 5♥ | 2 keycards, no Queen |
| 5♠ | 2 keycards, lower ranking Queen (♥Q on the above hand) |
| 5NT | 2 keycards, higher ranking Queen (♠Q on the above hand) |
| 6♣ | 2 keycards, both Queens |

If you use this approach you give up the ability to show a void with your response.

The Three-Way Finesse

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Quite often declarer must guess which opponent has a critical card, particularly when the available spot cards present the option of playing either opponent for that card.

IMPs

Contract: 4♥

Lead: ♣2

♠	J7
♥	K10987
♦	J97
♣	AQ10

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

♠	A43
♥	AQJ6
♦	Q865
♣	K5

Playing IMPs, 4♥ is the final contract after South opens 1NT and there is no opposition bidding. The opening lead doesn't give you any extra tricks. There is no problem in the trump suit so it appears that if you guess which opponent has the ♦10 the contract is secure. Furthermore, there are additional chances once you decide to lead diamonds. LHO or RHO may rise with the ♦A or ♦K taking away any further problems.

You win the opening lead with the ♣K draw trumps (LHO has three and RHO discards a spade and a club). At this juncture you might consider leading a spade with the idea of getting a better count of the opponents' distribution. After ruffing a spade and cashing two more clubs you will have a very good idea whether one of your opponents has more diamond length than the other. Even if you misguess the position of ♦10, if the diamonds are divided 4-2 the opponents may not be able to cash three diamonds tricks and will be forced to yield a ruff and sluff. This line of play will most likely land you the 10 tricks needed. However, there is a better line.

Draw trumps, cash the ♣A and ♣Q of clubs pitching a spade. Although this appears to provide no benefit (you can always ruff your third spade in dummy), what it does do is set up an endplay. You now cash the ♠A and exit a small spade. No matter which opponent wins the trick, the defensive options are to break diamonds (no more guess for the ♦10) or give you a ruff and sluff.

Since both opponents are in the unenviable position of finessing themselves or partner, you have just taken the finesse a third way ... by not taking it at all!

Being able to guess well is a major advantage, but finding a way to avoid guessing is even better!

Editors' Note: Readers may recall this process outlined in "The ABCs of Endplays" (October 2019). DON'T TOUCH diamonds, STRIP the clubs and THROW IN with a spade ... voilà.

Support Your Clubs

If you need a bridge fix, you can play bridge online any time of the day at Bridge Base Online (BBO for short) at <https://www.bridgebase.com/>. It is free to join, but there are also plenty of bridge activities that you can do anonymously without logging in.

There are many different sections on BBO, including the "Casual" area for individual tables and the "Competitive" area for tournaments and team matches. You can play for free, practice, kibitz, play with robots, create challenges against stars or robots and so on. You can even set up your own table and play with three friends.

The ACBL has provided a few tutorials on how to get started with BBO. You can check it out here: <https://www.acbl.org/bbotutorials/>

For a fee, you can also play in tournaments and earn masterpoints. In order to pay, you'll need to use a credit card or PayPal to purchase BridgeBase bucks.

These days, with clubs closed indefinitely in response to the drive to contain the coronavirus, there is no doubt that bridge clubs (and their patrons) are experiencing tough times. The ACBL and BBO have joined together to create "Support Your Club" games where you can earn ACBL masterpoints online.



The entry fee is US \$5 with the majority of the game fee you pay going to your local club or clubs.

Currently there are three games a day at 8 am, 3:10 pm and 5:30 pm Calgary time. Black points are awarded for overall and section placings. Click the image above or [HERE](#) to visit the ACBL website where you can find more information.

Letter to the Editors

April 2020

Interestingly enough, when the ability to play bridge online started up, I was in my glory. The ability to play my favourite game from the comfort of my easy chair, the ability to have a glass of wine or a bottle of beer during the game, the fact that I did not have to get dressed, be anywhere at a certain time, could log off when I had had enough – what more could I ask? It didn't stop me from going to the bridge clubs but it gave me choices.

Today is a different story. I would like nothing better than to get up, get dressed, and go out to a bridge club. I miss my bridge friends, my partners, my opponents, those I didn't play against, and the Directors.

Feeling isolated in Calgary

♠ ♥ ♣ ♦

Dear Isolated,

Don't despair. Before you know it, you will be back at your usual haunts lamenting that your partner seems incapable of remembering even the simplest conventions and can't avoid going down in cold contracts. Your opponents will continue to annoy you by doing silly things, but constantly landing on their feet. "Zero Tolerance" will, of course, prevent you from doing anything other than gritting your teeth, at which point you might once again begin to think fondly of online bridge where you can curse out loud in your pyjamas!

Your Editors

