



The Kibitzer

April 2022

Editors: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

President's Message

Hello Friends.

Spring is in the air – days are longer – nights are shorter – weather is warmer. The coming of spring is a definite mood booster that just cries out for a big bridge get together to see old friends and to meet new ones. Wouldn't it be nice? Unfortunately, with another wave of COVID mutation strengthening in our area, we are once again on guard.

In our bridge community we now see all clubs opened for face-to-face bridge (F2F). Attendance is low but there are signs of growth. Kudos to these club owners who, at considerable expense, are attempting to host a safe and enjoyable bridge game for participants. From the perspective of club owners as well as the Unit Board, we realize that no amount of time will bring back those who have stopped playing live bridge altogether, but we hope the majority of our members look forward to returning to F2F. Please consider making a date to play in a live game soon.

Attendance at Unit 390 F2F club games and the two upcoming tournaments (Red Deer Sectional in April and the Lethbridge Regional in May), will have a direct bearing on whether we proceed with our scheduled July Sectional (July 8 – 10) at Mount Royal University. It has been a long time since our last tournament and we would love to have it, but the ultimate decision is in your hands. (*ACBL protocols to be in effect – proof of vaccination and masks recommended.*) A final decision must be made by May 27th.

We are asking you to assist us in making a decision by emailing Delores Hedley at dollyd@telus.net to indicate whether you would be likely to attend a July Sectional. Obviously, this would not be a firm commitment, but a general sense of the feelings of our players would be most helpful.

Congratulations to the Ace of Clubs and Mini McKenney winners for 2021 (See separate report on page 16). Well done!!

Take care everyone – I hope we see each other at the tables.

Lyman Warner
President, Calgary ACBL Unit 390
April 2022

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A Personal Tribute to Allan Simon

By Gordon Campbell

Over a span of 40 years, Al Simon has been my acquaintance, my friend, my very good friend, and now, my dear friend. We were all saddened almost three years ago when Al confirmed that he had ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) – the debilitating disease that Lou Gehrig and Stephen Hawking made famous, or infamous, I suppose. Al was, as usual, honest with himself and open when talking about it.

The slower-than-expected advancement and some remission has enabled Al's lifetime of learning, enthusiasm and competitive spirit to still pervade today. I want to share some interesting tidbits and anecdotes from Al and other contributors. I have learned so much about Al that I didn't know.

Al was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1945. He later went to school for a year in Little Rock, Arkansas. Quite a coincidence as I spent much of 10 years in Little Rock myself. More influential though, was when he lived in Vienna, Austria, attending a French school learning French and German. Al's mother remained a resident of Vienna until her death last month at age 103.

Al is truly multilingual. Leaving him a phone message takes forever, as one must tediously wait for the message instructions to play in 5+ different languages. He even learned Esperanto, the hoped-for worldwide universal language, more popular in the days before Google Translate ☺. Al was Vice-President of the Canadian Esperanto Association, and represented Canada in the "Universal Esperanto Association". His wife Meredith also learned Esperanto, and they have travelled together to conferences around the world.

He learned bridge in Austria in his teens when the parents of his best friend needed opponents. He immigrated to Montreal and graduated from McGill University in 1968, where bridge was a major part of the curriculum. There he regularly played with now well-known players like Joey Silver, George Mittelman, Boris Baran, and Eric Kokish. Indeed, Eric Kokish was best man at his wedding. Meredith and Al have two children and two grandchildren, whom he adores.

They then lived in Trois-Rivières, Quebec, where Al managed the university computer centre – in French of course. In 1976, Al moved to Calgary, coincidentally about the time I immigrated to Alberta from England. In Calgary, Al continued working in the computer field, and in 1983 he developed software for computerizing administration in physicians' offices, no doubt with help from his wife, Doctor Meredith Simon.

After 15 years, he sold that business, and changed track completely by becoming a Dealer and Pit Boss at the Silver Dollar Casino for nine years. Over drinks, Al riveted me with stories of players, systems, cheaters, etc.

Surprisingly, Al's first love is not bridge, but a society called Schlaraffia. He joined this German-speaking club in 1987. It seems to me that the purpose of their monthly meetings is to drink and tell stories, drink, tell jokes, and drink some more. Joking aside, this society promotes German culture and is popular in Germany and Austria, making Al's accomplishment in 2019 of being elected as the first non-European world-wide President so impressive. Once again, this gave Al and Meredith another excuse to travel. There are few people who have travelled to more places than Al. Since COVID-19 rules have been relaxed, Al has held several Schlaraffia meetings at his home. This loyalty and camaraderie means much to him.

Al is an expert Scrabble player too, easily ranked in Canada's top-50. His favourite move was, when having CEEILRT on his rack and CITY on the board, he played ELECTRICITY.

Nicholas Gartaganis has an amusing anecdote about Al and Scrabble:

When Al learned that I enjoyed Scrabble immensely he encouraged me to visit the local Calgary Scrabble Club with him. I was immediately alarmed by the prospect that I would be the "baby seal" in the room. However, Allan can be incredibly persuasive and despite my better judgment I agreed. The first thought that struck me as I entered the auditorium was how odd a few of the players seemed. Then it occurred to me that anyone walking into a bridge club might have the same thought!

In an effort to make me comfortable Allan introduced me to "Bob" (or whatever his name was) and said that Bob was one of the best Scrabble players in Alberta. Since Allan is a generous and even-handed soul, he told Bob that I was one of the best bridge players in Alberta. I appreciated Allan's thoughtfulness although I was reasonably sure that my position in the bridge pecking order was considerably higher than Bob's in the Scrabble pecking order. Bob immediately responded "I play bridge and have never heard of you". Poor Allan! He immediately turned pale as he saw his efforts at inclusion go awry. Since one rude remark deserves another, I responded "I play Scrabble and have never heard of you". Allan got even paler and hustled me away before the skirmish broke out into a war.

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A Personal Tribute to Allan Simon (continued)

But let's move on to bridge where most of us have met Al. He has always been a feared and strong player from the early days, with his favourite partners, Alex Orlandini, Geoff Ghitter, Juan Alvarez, and now Dan Bertrand. With Dan, he had his biggest win – the 0-6,000 Bruce Life Master Pairs at the 2017 Toronto Nationals.

Despite his current challenges, in the last two months Al won a Canada-wide pairs event with Dan scoring over 70%, and with me, had 82.9% in an online club game in Calgary. Neither of us had ever scored such a big game!

Early in Al's bridge career, he encountered the jovial Phil Wood – Head ACBL TD for Western Canada and NW USA. Phil alone was worthy of many stories back in the day.

Dan Bertrand reported this story:

At one of his first ACBL tournaments, Allan got himself into some trouble.

Al passed, his LHO also passed, and his partner bid 2H. Al alerted. His RHO asked if this was a strong bid. Allan knew he was expected to simply answer his opponent's question without embellishment. So, he said, "No." His opponent asked if this was Flannery, once again he simply answered "No." His opponent mentioned other possible conventions and Allan kept responding: "No." They were both getting slightly frustrated, and his opponent finally asked what it was. Allan explained that it was a Weak-Two, but his partnership had agreed that it might show just a 5-card suit if they opened in third seat.

His opponent said something to the effect that it was stupid to alert since everyone knew that anything goes in third seat. Allan became upset and told his opponent to "Fxxx Oxx." His opponent called the director, Phil Wood, and told him what Allan said. Allan was worried that he might get ejected from the tournament. He apologized to the opponent and informed the director that he was sorry, but explained his opponent had kept asking him possible meanings to his alert and then said that it was a stupid thing to alert. The TD turned to Allan's opponent and said: "Well, sir, I agree. Fxxx Oxx," then walked away.

The anecdote also illustrates that Al plays by the rules – he is one of the most ethical people I know, both at bridge and otherwise. Al is also one of the wittiest. He manages to criticize in a clever or bitingly sarcastic way, for example "Oh well, Gordon, you did the best you could." Unfortunately, I have been the recipient of this admonishment many times.

Al has some successful mantras:

- if it smells like or tastes like 15-17, then open 1NT
- don't necessarily preempt to the max.
For example, with a heart suit, be wary of preempting to 4♥. It often pushes the opponents to 4♠ which seems to make more often than it should. Try bidding 3♥. Then an opponent has a guess between 3♠ or 4♠.

Al can be very serious, and certainly expects his partners to treat the game seriously too. Indeed, who said "game?" For Al, it is not!! He has been known to display a little grumpiness at excessive social butterfly conversations at the table. However, several have said how kind Al is, and what an excellent mentor.

Al is about the brightest person I have ever met. It is rare for someone to be fluently multi-lingual and yet be a computer-nerdy precise thinker too. He is an avid reader, particularly of non-fiction. If you play trivia with Al, make sure he is on your team – he knows all the answers – and his memory recall is perfect. I greatly admire Al, who is truly a "Renaissance Man" – a wide range of interests and an expert in many areas of endeavour.

Since last summer, I have looked forward to Al's company once a week in his home playing online bridge. Often Meredith prepares an excellent breakfast or a sumptuous evening meal. For over six months Dan Bertrand, Ian Findlay and I have been captained by Al, playing in some English Bridge Union events. This has required Al's considerable organizational skills coordinating eight people, three times a week. Despite his being unable to speak, we have developed more rapport than ever before. He writes on his mini electronic blackboard, and I try to guess on which hand he is criticizing my play or bid 😊.

Al has always been extremely pragmatic about his illness. He said to me, "I am 76. In my life I have travelled to most places in the world. I have done everything I wanted to do. I have a wonderful wife, children, and grandchildren. I need no more."



Member Milestones

The following members have reached new masterpoint milestones from the beginning of October 2021 to the end of March 2022. Congratulations to all on their achievements.



New Junior Masters (5+ MPs):

Olga Brown	Penny Mellor
Nancy Forbes	Claudine Petrunia
Donna Galvin	Gabriela Spineanu
Rhona Gearty	Barbara Vallance
Eric Lomore	Linda Williams
Hugh Lyons	

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

Louise Berlin	Gregory Hollingsworth
Gwenn Boryski	Jerry Malone
Brad Bowyer	Sheila Morgan
Joy Crawford	Janet Quiring
Leslie Dunning	Jennifer Scott
Florence Fam	Ida Switzer
Celia Gaudet	Guangren Wang
Bill Harrison	

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

Julie Bain	Lana McFadden
Randy Elson	David Mellor
Paul Forestell	Marion Misura
Leni Hoffman	Trish Peebles
Dedie Hudson	Christine Stephure
Michele Hyndman	David Stephure
Irene Jackson	

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

Sheila Bailey	Harihara Mahadevan
Matt Bootle	Yi Peng Mai
Lyn Jessee	Dawn Thrasher
Leanne Mackinnon	Linda Walker

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

Garry Hanson	Allan Tough
Beth Little	

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

Robert Boissin	Martine Parent
Philip Coppard	Richard Wolfe
Phyllis Nield	

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

Ryan Clark	Lois Matton
Tricia Flanagan	Alan White
Antara Keelor	

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

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

Naushad Dada	Andy McKaig
Willa Dumka	Chris Wuerscher
Frank Kelton	

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

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

Ian Findlay	Ken Penton
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Thank You!

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 2022.

ACBL Board of Directors Restructured

A planned restructuring of the ACBL Board of Directors became official in 2021. The transition period to complete the changes will conclude in January 2024.

The ACBL Board of Directors has been made up of one Director from each of the 25 ACBL Districts, along with various management and auxiliary personnel. The sheer size of this group was unwieldy and it was very difficult for the Board to operate effectively.

In order to downsize the Board, the 25 Districts were grouped into 13 Regions. The Regions are based along geographical lines and all are very similar in terms of the number of ACBL members residing there. Each Region has one representative elected to the ACBL Board of Directors, replacing the District Directors for districts within the Region. This process has been staggered over a period of two years so, at the present time, the Board still retains some District representatives.

District 18 (WASUMI - Wyoming, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Utah, Montana and Idaho) has been combined with District 19 (Alaska, British Columbia and Washington) to become Region 13. Our elected delegate to the ACBL Board of Directors is Tim White, from the Seattle area.

According to Tim,

"Our region is unique. It's the only one of the thirteen with territory in Canada and the US. It comprises one-third the geographical area of ACBL's regions. It has 46 diverse units - large and small - more than any other region. And our districts operate in two currencies."

The ACBL Districts will continue to function as before, being responsible for scheduling all tournaments within the district, as well as running regionals, district-wide NAP and GNT competitions, and district-wide STaCs. Districts will no longer have direct representation on the ACBL Board of Directors.

ACBL Management Report on Table Counts September 2021 - January 2022

Monthly Table Count

	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>
Virtual Clubs	76,474	66,370	59,141	56,203	87,539
F2F Clubs	47,020	51,378	58,487	46,973	41,831
BBO	208,991	215,853	205,080	217,245	243,769
# Clubs running					
F2F games		1,257	1,369	1,359	1,088

Factoring in normal seasonal trends, Virtual Club Games table count was steady through November/December 2021. January saw a large increase due to the overwhelming success of Silver Linings Week.

The table count for Bridge Base Online (BBO) operating as a club was stable, again factoring in seasonal trends.

Face-to-face tables had been growing steadily, November being our best month since prior to the pandemic, but the arrival of the Omicron coronavirus variant set us back yet again. Almost 30% fewer clubs ran games in January than had run games in November.

Source: Spring 2022 ACBL Management Report (Reno)

Too Easy

By Daniel Bertrand

Playing online, I am South and "pick up" the following hand:

♠ J73 ♥ AQ1096 ♦ 52 ♣ 1063

We are vulnerable against non-vulnerable opponents, and my partner, the dealer, opens with 1♣. RHO passes and I have an easy 1♥ call. LHO passes, and partner bids 1NT. RHO passes, and it is my call. I could bid 2♥ or it could be right to pass. I decide to pass, but LHO bids 2♦. After two passes, it is my call again. Now, I bid 2♥. LHO and partner pass, but RHO bids 3♦! I pass, LHO passes and partner bids 3♥, which becomes the final contract. Maybe I should have bid 2♥ right away to make it more difficult for the opponents to compete.

The complete auction:

Me	West	Partner	East
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass

LHO leads the ♠10.

♠ Q852
♥ K72
♦ KQ6
♣ A54



♠ J73
♥ AQ1096
♦ 52
♣ 1063

RHO wins the ♠K and continues with the ♠A, I false-card with the ♠J as LHO follows with the ♠6. But RHO is not fooled; she continues with the ♠4 which is ruffed by LHO with the ♥5. The opponents have taken the first three tricks. If LHO returns a club, I will go down! Luckily, LHO returns the ♥8. I play a small heart from dummy and RHO contributes the ♥3; I win with the ♥10. This is the position (top of next column):



♠ Q
♥ K7
♦ KQ6
♣ A54



♠ --
♥ AQ96
♦ 52
♣ 1063

I am sure that LHO has the ♦A. I can see nine easy tricks: ♠Q, five hearts, two diamonds and the ♣A. The opponents still have two hearts. Should I pull them? What is your plan? It seems so easy!

I play a small heart to dummy's ♥K and return to my hand with the ♥A (LHO discards two small diamonds). Now I play a small diamond, but LHO also follows with a small one and dummy's ♦Q wins!

I am stuck in dummy! I am unable to get back to my hand to play another diamond. I can discard my losing diamond on the ♠Q, but I must lose two clubs and am down one. There are many reasons not to pull trumps. One of them is to conserve entries.

After winning the ♥10, I could have played the ♥Q to pull one round of trumps and keep the lead but then I had to play a small diamond. Now, if LHO plays small, I can win in dummy and return to my hand with the ♥A to lead a second diamond. Did you find it too easy too?

This was the full deal:

♠ Q852
♥ K72
♦ KQ6
♣ A54

♠ 106
♥ 85
♦ A10973
♣ KJ97



♠ J73
♥ AQ1096
♦ 52
♣ 1063

♠ AK94
♥ J43
♦ J84
♣ Q82

Campfire Tales

By Michael Strafner

(Reprinted with the author's permission, translated from the original German by Allan Simon)

As dusk settled on the prairie and the outlines grew indistinct, only the glow of the campfire could be seen and only the crackling of the logs could be heard. If you looked closely, you could make out the silhouettes of four cowboys, huddled around the fire for warmth while consuming the last of the fried jackrabbit they had bagged earlier. As one cowboy spit out a tough morsel, or perhaps a bone, he muttered "This was quite an adventure today, wasn't it?" "It was nothing compared to my adventure in the bridge club, back in '72" retorted another. "Now we're curious," said the other two, "what happened?"

"I was just a youngster back then", he answered. "I got to play a club game with a famous expert. We had barely five minutes to discuss our system before we began the first board. I picked up:

♠A76 ♥--- ♦AK ♣AKQ97643

After a pass on my left, partner opened the bidding 4♥ and RHO passed. Now what? I wondered. Should I bid 7NT in the hope he had the ♥A and ♠K? I decided to ask for Aces with 4NT – one of the very few bids we had discussed. But my partner wasn't about to tell a raw rookie his Aces. He jumped to 6♥. This had to show solid hearts so I raised him to 7♥ which to my relief nobody doubled.

"My partner held:

♠84 ♥AKQJ104 ♦Q8654 ♣---

He won the spade lead in dummy, ruffed a club (they broke 4-1), and pulled trump in five rounds (they broke 5-2). Then he played a diamond to dummy, and claimed. The curious thing is that no other game contract succeeds. In 5♣ you lose two spades and a club, and in 3NT you lose one club and four spades, since you can't reach dummy. But 7♥ on the 6-0 fit was easy."

"What happened at the other tables?" asked a cowboy.

"That's the amazing thing! We had barely finished the board when the Director came. He told us a late pair had arrived and therefore we were going to play a different movement, so the board we had just played would not count. The board was removed and re-shuffled. So I was the only person to ever hold this hand, a privilege nobody can take from me."

A pensive silence settled upon the prairie, interrupted only by the sounds of the roaring campfire and the occasional lip-smacking. Just then another cowboy spoke up: "Your story reminds me of a hand I held 40 years ago in a 40-board team

match. We had a narrow lead after the first half, and the second half seemed to be going well when we arrived at the last board. I picked up:

♠J1054 ♥QJ108 ♦Q ♣J865

My partner dealt and passed and 1♦ was opened on my right. I don't know what came over me, I think the devil made me do it, but I doubled! Redouble on my left, pass by partner, 3NT on my right. Phew, I thought, everything is alright. But after LHO's pass, partner doubled. Why does he have to do this to me, on the last board? After two more passes, LHO redoubled. Why did I double with 7 points? Why oh why couldn't partner just let them play undoubled, on the last hand?? So I led the ♥Q and this dummy appeared:

♠K32 ♥K76 ♦2 ♣AQ10432

Dummy won with the King and declarer led a diamond to his Jack, which I won with my stiff Queen. I continued with the ♥J to declarer's Ace. He peeled off the ♦AK and his disappointment at having lost to singleton Queen was evident. Next, he led a club to dummy's Queen which my partner won with the King. Partner returned a heart, I overtook, cashed my last heart, on which partner discarded his last club. I then exited with the ♠J. Partner, down to ♠AQ76 and the ♦10, claimed the rest. Down five, redoubled, for -2200. "Amazing! What happened at the other table?" "The normal result, 3NT down 5 for -250."

A chilly gust of wind revived the dying flames. The ensuing silence was broken by the third cowboy. "An interesting story, that. But nothing compared to what happened to me in the 1995 European Championships. We were sitting comfortably behind screens in the Closed Room, and I picked up this hand:

♠A8642 ♥9865 ♦--- ♣7643

"My screenmate on my left opened 1♠ and pushed the tray. I was calm, daydreaming about the pretty waitress I had met just that morning, when the tray came back. Double by partner, redouble on my right! Okay, I thought, I have an Ace, good support for hearts and clubs, a nice diamond void, no reason to choose between my four-card suits, so I passed for now. It went pass on my left, 2♥ by partner, double on my right. That's perfect, I sure hope LHO doesn't pull. No, after tanking forever, he passes and gives the tray a push. Now visions of a large swing for our side accompanied my waitress-daydreams. What's taking so long? I can't wait to

[continued next page]

Campfire Tales (continued)

table my dummy. But what do I see? Partner has pulled the double to 3♦ and RHO has passed. Surely they won't let us play 3♦ undoubled? Who knows? Maybe LHO will bid 3♠? And RHO may raise to 4♠ which I will double. No, LHO places the Double card on the tray and gives it another push. This is followed by two passes. The auction thus far:

South	Partner	North	Me
1♠	DBL	RDBL	Pass
Pass	2♥	DBL	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
DBL	Pass	Pass	?

"Now what? Surely it would be crazy to bid 3♥ after 2♥ got doubled. I forgot all about the waitress. Then I had a thought. 'Director!' I called. 'I have to go to the washroom!' You see, for security reasons you had to be accompanied by a Director to visit the washroom. He nods, I pass, place my hand on the table and leave with the Director. In the washroom I take my time. I wash my hands, then my face. I return to the table just in time to see my opponent enter 3♦x +1, -870 on his scorecard. To this day I have no idea what partner had."

The fire had almost died down when one of the men turned to the fourth cowboy, who had been listening quietly, munching on the last of his rabbit. "What about you? Do you have an exciting story for us?" "I don't play bridge", he replied, "but a few months back I was ambushed by bandits and I escaped death by a miracle." The first cowboy interrupted, "I'm tired, I think I'll turn in now." The other two agreed, "It's getting late."

The fire went out, night descended and silence returned to the endless prairie. In the distance, a coyote howled.

Bridge is so romantic.



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"Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed there are many rewards, if you disgrace yourself you can always write a book."

Ronald Reagan

Cross Your Fingers

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Playing IMPs against expert opponents with everyone vulnerable, you hold:

♠Q7 ♥KQ976 ♦AQ9 ♣A54

This hand has 17 HCP, a 5-card suit and a couple of 9-spots. You decide it is worth an upgrade so rather than open 1NT, you start with 1♥. The opponents are silent and the auction proceeds as follows:

You	Partner
1♥	1♠
2NT	3♠
3NT	Pass

The lead is the ♣3 and partner tables dummy.

IMPs

Contract: 3NT

Lead: ♣3

♠ K10982
♥ 4
♦ 1042
♣ QJ72



♠ Q7
♥ KQ976
♦ AQ9
♣ A54

It's immediately apparent that both you and partner donned your rose-coloured glasses for this deal. You are woefully short of tricks. The auction has already told the opponents you have five hearts and a doubleton spade. Is there any hope of making this contract?

Hearts cannot be developed for many tricks so spades appear to be your best bet. Assuming you can manoeuvre for four spade tricks, you will need a late entry to dummy and the only possibility is in clubs. Therefore you cannot afford to play the ♣Q at trick one. If it holds the trick, West will be able to deny you your much needed dummy entry. Accordingly, you follow with the ♣2 from dummy, East plays the ♣10 and you win the Ace.

You lead the ♠Q, West following with the ♠3 and East, the ♠5. When you continue with the ♠7 West plays the ♠4. Now what? What do you know? Either expert opponent could have the ♠A, since knowing your spade length, they were bound to duck your ♠Q.

When deciding how to play a suit, you should try to eliminate distributions that do not allow the contract to make. No sense pursuing a line that cannot possibly lead to success. For example, in this case, if spades split 5-1 or 4-2 and the long hand holds both the ♠A and ♠J, you have virtually no play for the contract. There's just that one dummy entry and by the time you establish the spades, they will be marooned.

With this in mind you realize that your best play to this trick is the ♠K! The relevant distributions of the spade suit which would give you a chance to make your contract are these:

West	East
♠Axx	♠Jxx
♠Jxx	♠Axx
♠Axxx	♠Jx

(Note that ♠Jx or ♠AJx with West have already been ruled out since West followed with the ♠4 and you have no chance if East has ♠AJx). Playing the ♠K wins in two of the three potentially successful distributions. With fingers crossed you play his majesty, which holds the trick (whew!). Now another spade sees West winning the ♠A as East follows with the ♠J. At this point your contract is almost bullet proof. West has no good return. In practice, he continues with ♦6 into your ♦AQ. When you table the ♣5 West wins the ♣K (he has to hope that you started with a doubleton club). He shifts to the ♥J which East wins with the ♥A to return a diamond. You can claim ten tricks. The full deal:

♠ K10982
♥ 4
♦ 1042
♣ QJ72

♠ A43
♥ J3
♦ K876
♣ K983

♠ J65
♥ A10852
♦ J53
♣ 106

♠ Q7
♥ KQ976
♦ AQ9
♣ A54

This deal illustrates a sound principle:

When you need good things to happen, you should only focus on the distributions and high card locations that would allow you to make your contract. Conversely, when a contract looks ironclad, you should approach the play as though everything were unfavourable.

2021 CBF 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 2021, Unit 390 players were Zone V winners in 11 of the 13 masterpoint categories! Many others placed in the top three positions. In categories not appearing at the right, the top three positions went to players from outside Unit 390.

The Richmond Trophy goes to the CBF member who wins the most masterpoints in the calendar year across all masterpoint categories. The winner for 2021 was Mel Norton of Burlington ON. Mel also won in 2020.

Daniel Bertrand was the highest placing Unit 390 member in the 2021 Richmond Trophy Race. He won 404 masterpoints over the course of the year, good enough to finish in 28th place.

0 to 5	1	Gregory Hollingsworth	Strathmore AB	22
	2	David Sussman	Calgary AB	10
5 to 20	1	Guangren Wang	Calgary AB	56
	2	Boyd Anderson	Calgary AB	34
	3	Michael Mannas	Calgary AB	28
20 to 50	1	Ted Loble	Calgary AB	55
	2	Dedie Hudson	Calgary AB	43
100 to 200	1	Allan Tough	Calgary AB	259
	2	Philip Coppard	Calgary AB	129
	3	Don Bacon	Calgary AB	113
200 to 300	1	Terry Kaufman	Calgary AB	176
	2	Richard Cripps	Calgary AB	83
	3	Nan Douglas	Calgary AB	74
300 to 500	1	Martine Parent	Calgary AB	277
	2	Richard Wolfe	Calgary AB	183
	3	John Prance	Calgary AB	103
500 to 1000	1	Richard Piette	Calgary AB	316
	2	Hailong Yu	Calgary AB	263
1000 to 1500	2	Andy McKaig	Calgary AB	193
1500 to 2500	1	Delores Hedley	Calgary AB	199
	2	Keith Falkenberg	Calgary AB	185
	3	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB	183
2500 to 3500	1	Ian Findlay	Banff AB	212
	3	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB	182
3500 to 5000	1	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	288
	3	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	232
5000 to 7500	1	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	255
	2	Nicole Beauregard	Calgary AB	251
	3	Allan Simon	Calgary AB	230



The Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) is the national bridge organization responsible for promoting and protecting the rights and interests of Canadian bridge players.

As a CBF member, you receive access to the bi-monthly bilingual Bridge Canada magazine and are eligible to participate in the Canada-wide games on BBO as well as various other CBF events.

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.

The Joys of Practicing on BBO

By Ian Findlay

One of the nice features of BBO is that you can play a practice match and select deals from famous events of the past. Practicing for the upcoming CNTC, we chose the hands from a Bermuda Bowl match between USA1 and Bulgaria. This was Board 27, and I was sitting in Rodwell's seat (hand rotated for convenience).

I pick up:

♠AK95 ♥QJ ♦AK ♣Q8743

After 3♦, I have a choice of Double, 3NT or 4♣. I use the Hammond rule of bidding 3NT when possible.

East	Ian	West	North
3♦	3NT	All Pass	

The lead is the ♠Q.

None Vulnerable

Contract: 3NT

Lead: ♠Q

♠ 32
♥ AK932
♦ Q1053
♣ 92

N		
W	■	E
	S	

♠ AK95
♥ QJ
♦ AK
♣ Q8743

When dummy comes down, my first thought is, "What a 3♦ bid by East"! The opponents play Multi 2♦ (weak 2-bid in either major), so a natural 2♦ opening was not available. On the surface, it looks like I have 10 tricks: two spades, five hearts and three diamonds; however, because of communication problems, I can only count eight sure tricks since I will have to overtake the heart to get to dummy. For a ninth trick, I'll need hearts to be 3-3 or the ♥10 to be singleton or doubleton, which seems unlikely from the bidding.

In order to cut the opponents' communication and maybe set up a position in spades (I'll have ♠A9 and LHO ♠108 if he continues with the ♠J), I decide to duck the first spade. East follows with the ♠7. The ♠J comes next, and East pitches

the ♦9 (opponents play upside down signals) as I win my ♠K. I cash the ♦AK and LHO pitches the ♠4. Is there a better chance than to play for four tricks in hearts? I would have to cash my last spade before doing so? What would you do? This was the position:

♠ --
♥ AK932
♦ Q10
♣ 92

♠ 1086	N	♠ --
♥ ?	W ■ E	♥ ?
♦ --		♦ J87
♣ ?	S	♣ ?

♠ A9
♥ QJ
♦ --
♣ Q8743

Despite the fact that West is known to have six spades and East is known to have six diamonds, the hearts still rate to split 4-2 (48%) rather than 3-3 (36%). An easy rule of thumb is that with an even number of cards missing, the odds favour an uneven break while with an odd number of cards missing the odds favour an even break. For example, missing five cards, the odds favour a 3-2 break (68%) versus a 4-1 break (28%).

I decide that I will cash the ♥QJ and then play a low club to the ♣9 (unless, of course, the ♥10 pops up on the first round or West plays that card on the second round). My hope is that the defenders will be obliged to cash their club winners, since a red suit play will put me in dummy to enjoy the hearts. East follows to both rounds of hearts so dummy has four winners in addition to the five tricks I already have taken.

The danger is that, since I have stranded my red suit winners, West will just plug away at spades, hoping to set up an extra trick there to go along with three clubs.

When I play a low club East takes the ♣AK and is forced to play a red card thus giving me my contract.

[continued next page]

The Joys of Practicing on BBO (continued)

The full deal was:

♠ 32			
♥ AK932			
♦ Q1053			
♣ 92			
♠ QJ10864			
♥ 74			
♦ 2			
♣ J1065			
	N		
	W	E	
	S		
♠ AK95			
♥ QJ			
♦ AK			
♣ Q8743			

In the Bermuda Bowl there was no bidding by the opponents. Rodwell opened 2NT and the final contract was 3NT. The opening lead was the ♠J. Rodwell won, cashed the ♦AK, then the ♥QJ, overtaking in dummy and when hearts did not behave, he conceded down one. At the other table the bidding was 1♣-(2♠)-3♥-(Pass)-3NT. Bobby Levin led the ♣6 and declarer decided to set up clubs, thus making nine tricks. I did derive some satisfaction from succeeding where Rodwell failed, but of course the lack of bidding at his table did not forewarn him about the possible bad breaks in the red suits.

So how does my line (cash my red suit winners, then exit a club) stack up against Rodwell's line (unblock diamonds, then overtake the second heart)?

Exiting in clubs is a losing line whenever the defence can:

- cash four club tricks or
- set up a long spade before declarer can establish two club winners.

For those of you who are more mathematically inclined, a rough calculation regarding the alternative lines of play is as follows:

When clubs break 3-3 there are 20 cases:

You lose in three cases i.e. when LHO has AKJ, AK10, AJ10 (the defence establishes spades before declarer can establish clubs).

When clubs break 4-2 (four with LHO) there are 15 cases:

You lose in eight of those cases.

When clubs break 2-4 (two with LHO) there are 15 cases:

You lose in nine of those cases

Playing on the club suit gives declarer a probability of success of 30 out of 50.

What is the probability of success playing on hearts, hoping the ♥10 is tripleton, doubleton or singleton? There are 64 cases. The heart suit behaves 32 of those times.

Of course, by the time you use your calculator to work this out at the table the director would have been called and multiple late play penalties assessed!

Upcoming Unit 390 Tournament Dates

Due to the on-going COVID situation, tournament dates may change. Be sure to check the most up-to-date schedule before you go at <https://tournaments.acbl.org/>

Calgary Summer Sectional **TENTATIVE** July 8 - 10, 2022
Calgary Fall Sectional September 2 - 4, 2022

District 18 GNT Championship, Flight B and C Finals (online) May 7 - 8, 2022

Lethbridge Regional May 9 - 15, 2022

Penticton Regional June 13 - 19, 2022

Great Falls Regional September 5 - 11, 2022

Where Do You Stand?

Have you ever wondered where you stand relative to other bridge players in terms of masterpoints? The ACBL regularly updates member masterpoint holdings and publishes the information at <https://web3.acbl.org/mpholdings>. The latest breakdown is in the table below. For those who prefer visual displays the ACBL also provides the information in the form of a graph [HERE](#).

As of April 13, 2022, the ACBL currently had 141,157 members. The last time we included a similar report in the Kibitzer (May 2015), the ACBL membership stood at 167,765 members. That is quite a change - a drop of nearly 16% in seven years!

It is interesting to note that the masterpoint range with the fewest members is 7,000-7,500 and the range with the most members is the 300-400 category.

Number of Members				Percent of Members	
Masterpoint Range	This Range	This Range and Higher	Below This Range	This Range and Higher	Below This Range
10,000+ (Grand LM)	381	381	140,776	0.27	99.73
10,000+ (Platinum LM)	547	928	140,229	0.66	99.34
9,000 - 10,000	208	1,136	140,021	0.81	99.19
8,000 - 9,000	311	1,447	139,710	1.03	98.97
7,500 - 8,000	204	1,651	139,506	1.17	98.83
7,000 - 7,500	203	1,854	139,303	1.32	98.68
6,000 - 7,000	643	2,497	138,660	1.77	98.23
5,000 - 6,000	1,121	3,618	137,539	2.57	97.43
4,000 - 5,000	1,650	5,268	135,889	3.74	96.26
3,000 - 4,000	3,107	8,375	132,782	5.94	94.06
2,500 - 3,000	2,719	11,094	130,063	7.86	92.14
2,000 - 2,500	3,634	14,728	126,429	10.44	89.56
1,500 - 2,000	5,849	20,577	120,580	14.58	85.42
1,250 - 1,500	4,054	24,631	116,526	17.45	82.55
1,000 - 1,250	5,619	30,250	110,907	21.43	78.57
900 - 1,000	2,657	32,907	108,250	23.32	76.68
800 - 900	3,112	36,019	105,138	25.52	74.48
700 - 800	3,753	39,772	101,385	28.18	71.82
600 - 700	4,519	44,291	96,866	31.38	68.62
500 - 600	5,576	49,867	91,290	35.33	64.67
400 - 500	6,255	56,122	85,035	39.76	60.24
300 - 400	8,055	64,177	76,980	45.47	54.53
275 - 300	2,090	66,267	74,890	46.95	53.05
250 - 275	2,245	68,512	72,645	48.54	51.46
225 - 250	2,483	70,995	70,162	50.30	49.70

Number of Members				Percent of Members	
Masterpoint Range	This Range	This Range and Higher	Below This Range	This Range and Higher	Below This Range
200 - 225	2,767	73,762	67,395	52.26	47.74
175 - 200	3,083	76,845	64,312	54.44	45.56
150 - 175	3,376	80,221	60,936	56.84	43.16
125 - 150	3,977	84,198	56,959	59.65	40.35
100 - 125	4,595	88,793	52,364	62.91	37.09
90 - 100	1,975	90,768	50,389	64.31	35.69
80 - 90	2,172	92,940	48,217	65.85	34.15
70 - 80	2,360	95,300	45,857	67.52	32.48
60 - 70	2,625	97,925	43,232	69.38	30.62
50 - 60	2,785	100,710	40,447	71.35	28.65
40 - 50	3,284	103,994	37,163	73.68	26.32
30 - 40	3,958	107,952	33,205	76.48	23.52
25 - 30	2,286	110,238	30,919	78.10	21.90
20 - 25	2,533	112,771	28,386	79.89	20.11
15 - 20	3,022	115,793	25,364	82.04	17.96
10 - 15	3,825	119,618	21,539	84.75	15.25
9 - 10	852	120,470	20,687	85.35	14.65
8 - 9	960	121,430	19,727	86.03	13.97
7 - 8	994	122,424	18,733	86.73	13.27
6 - 7	1,101	123,525	17,632	87.51	12.49
5 - 6	1,281	124,806	16,351	88.42	11.58
4 - 5	1,302	126,108	15,049	89.34	10.66
3 - 4	1,510	127,618	13,539	90.41	9.59
2 - 3	1,862	129,480	11,677	91.73	8.27
1 - 2	2,365	131,845	9,312	93.41	6.59
.01 - 1	3,105	134,950	6,207	95.61	4.39
0 - 0	6,207	141,157	0	100.00	0.00

Never Underestimate the Power of a Five Spot

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Playing IMPs against world champions with no one vulnerable, you hold this collection:

♠A984 ♥K98 ♦K76532 ♣--

The auction progresses as follows:

You	West	Partner	East
Pass	1NT ¹	2♦ ²	Pass
4♥	DBL	All Pass	3♥ ³

¹ 15-17

² Single-suited major (6+ length)

³ 5+ spades, invitational

There is a reasonable case for doubling in case the opponents are about to land in 3NT, but you decide to bid 4♥ which not surprisingly gets doubled. LHO leads the ♠J. Partner tables dummy and you get to assess whether or not to call the director for some Pepto Bismol.

IMPs

Contract: 4♥x

Lead: ♠J

♠ K5
♥ J107532
♦ Q
♣ 9843



♠ A984
♥ K98
♦ K76532
♣ --

Maybe the opponents would have gone down in 3NT, but there's no sense worrying about that now. Time to focus on your contract. What can you deduce about the distribution of the cards?

- The spades are 2-5, unless the 1NT bidder has a singleton. But East passed originally so almost certainly does not have six spades.
- LHO may have AQ, AQJ, AJ of clubs, but not AK since there's a good chance he would have led a top club from that holding, rather than the ♠J.

- The location of the ♥Q is unknown because the 1NT opener could have enough points without the Queen; however, LHO is a favourite to hold that card (there are 24 outstanding HCP and you have inferred that RHO has ♠Q and ♣K).

Your options are to embark on a cross ruff or set up diamonds. In either case it should be correct to win the ♠K and lead the ♦Q. Not surprisingly LHO wins the ♦A and switches to the ♣2. Hmmm! RHO plays the ♣Q and you ruff with the ♥8. When you cash the ♦K LHO plays the ♦4 and RHO follows with the ♦J.

What additional information have you collected? From the play thus far RHO has the ♠Q, the ♣KQ and the ♦J. LHO must have the ♥AQ. If that ♣2 switch is a true card then LHO's distribution is 2-3-4-4 or 2-4-3-4. Since LHO risked underleading his ♣A hoping that his partner could switch to a heart LHO must be 2-3-4-4 (if he had four hearts, he would know that hoping for a trump through was futile).

The only way to proceed at this point is to cross ruff the hand. Accordingly, you cash your ♠A (remember, take your winners lest the opponents are able to discard the suit). Now you can lead a spade or a diamond to ruff in dummy, but the spade option is not safe. Can you see why?

Sadly declarer did play a spade and LHO grabbed his opportunity to defeat the contract. He ruffed with the ♥Q and played ♥A and ♥4, putting the kibosh on any cross-ruff. Diamonds broke 4-2 so there was no way to make 10 tricks. On the bright side, your team-mates made 3NT so it still translated into a 7 IMP gain.

If declarer instead ruffed diamonds in the dummy (taking care to trump with the ♥7 and ♥10) and clubs in his hand, this end position would have been reached:


♠ --		♠ --
♥ J532		♥ Q
♦ --		♥ 6
♣ --		♦ --
		♣ K7
♠ --		
♥ AQ4		
♦ --		
♣ A		
♠ 84		
♥ --		
♦ 76		
♣ --		

[continued next page]

The Power of a Five Spot (continued)

South finally leads a spade. If LHO pitches the ♣A declarer ruffs with the ♥2 and leads the ♥J, smothering RHO's ♥6. If LHO ruffs with the ♥Q and leads the ♣A then dummy ruffs low and, again, leads the ♥J. That ♥5 turns out to be a critical spot card. Of course LHO might have held the ♥6 rather than the ♥4, but then there would be no story!

The full deal:

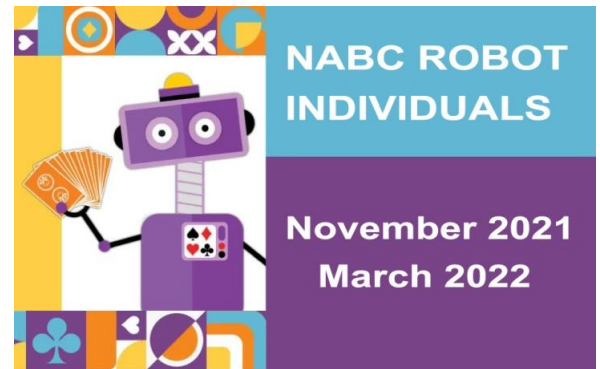
♠ K5		
♥ J107532		
♦ Q		
♣ 9843		
♠ J7		♠ Q10632
♥ AQ4		♥ 6
♦ A1094		♦ J8
♣ AJ102		♣ KQ765
	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W  E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	
		♠ A984
		♥ K98
		♦ K76532
		♣ --

The masterpoint is introduced...

In 1931, the masterpoint award system was first introduced at the World Masters Individual Championship event. All new players today celebrate their first fraction of a point with enthusiasm. Could you imagine the American Contract Bridge League today without the masterpoint?

Old-timers will remember with fondness the masterpoint slip. Computers were pretty much unheard of back then, and certainly had no place in a bridge club. Club directors spent hours filling in paper slips indicating "fractional" points won by players. Getting a slip for .75 masterpoints was a bonanza! When players next visited the club, they would excitedly sort through the slips to see if they had earned any.

Once you had gathered fractionals totalling at least one masterpoint, you could mail them to the ACBL for credit. And the magic happened ...



Fall 2021 and Spring 2022

The NABC Robot Individual is a three-day, three-session robot duplicate event hosted by Bridge Base Online (BBO). The Robot Individual is held in the days leading up to the start of every NABC.

Contestants play 24 boards per day for three days. They can choose their own start times and have until midnight each day to complete their 24 boards. Scores from the three days are averaged to determine a player's percentage.

The Robot Individual was first organized in Summer 2017 and there have been 14 such events held since that time.

Last fall the event was held November 20 - 22, 2021, a few days prior to the Austin NABC (the first face-to-face NABC since Fall of 2019). Just over 2600 competitors completed all three sessions. The Spring Robot Individual (which ran in advance of the Reno NABC on March 5 - 7, 2022) reported 2345 participants who finished the tournament.

The winning percentage in Fall 2021 was 68.10%, while in Spring 2022, the winner posted a score of 69.66%. Twenty-two players from Unit 390 participated in the Fall event and 20 competed in the Spring event.

Nicholas Gartaganis was the top performer from Unit 390 in Fall 2021 event. He placed 26th overall with a score of 64.61%. Hailong Yu's score of 63.41% was good enough for 47th overall and 15th in Flight B.

In the Spring 2022 Robot Individual, Gerry Marshall topped the Unit 390 participants, recording a score of 59.42%.

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

2021 Ace of Clubs Awards

Unit 390 Final Standings

0 to 5	1	Brad Bowyer	Calgary AB	29
	2	Celia Gaudet	Calgary AB	23
	3	Gregory Hollingsworth	Strathmore AB	22
5 to 20	1	Lana McFadden	Calgary AB	50
	2	Babett Valachi	Calgary AB	45
	3	Marion Misura	Foothills AB	43
20 to 50	1	Harihara Mahadevan	Calgary AB	120
	2	John Abra	Calgary AB	82
	3	Jay Peers	High River AB	69
50 to 100	1	Matt Bootle	Calgary AB	141
	2	Robert Hemmingway	Okotoks AB	103
	3	Elizabeth Eng	Victoria BC	86
100 to 200	1	Allan Tough	Calgary AB	256
	2	Barry Crozier	Cochrane AB	240
	3	Don Bacon	Calgary AB	113
200 to 300	1	Terry Kaufman	Calgary AB	169
	2	Sandra Stewart	Calgary AB	84
	3	Thomas To	Calgary AB	82
300 to 500	1	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	317
	2	Martine Parent	Calgary AB	250
	3	Beverley Erickson	Calgary AB	190
500 to 1000	1	Richard Piette	Calgary AB	304
	2	John D Aguiar	Calgary AB	253
	3	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	232
1000 to 1500	1	Brigitte Tetzner	Calgary AB	419
	2	Andy McKaig	Calgary AB	190
	3	Linda Martin	Calgary AB	183
1500 to 2500	1	Michael Covey	Calgary AB	226
	2	Tom Nault	Calgary AB	217
	3	Gerry Marchant	Calgary AB	209
2500 to 3500	1	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	250
	2	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB	180
	3	Lois Dunsmore	Calgary AB	171
3500 to 5000	1	Stephanie McAdam	Calgary AB	337
	2	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	232
	3	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	191
5000 to 7500	1	Nicole Beauregard	Calgary AB	251
	2	Abdul Fakhir	Calgary AB	142
	3	Allan Simon	Calgary AB	139
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	313
	2	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB	271
	3	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	10
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	268
	2	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	23
	3	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	20

2021 Mini-McKenney Awards

Unit 390 Final Standings

0 to 5	1	Brad Bowyer	Calgary AB	29
	2	Celia Gaudet	Calgary AB	23
	3	Gregory Hollingsworth	Strathmore AB	22
5 to 20	1	Guangren Wang	Calgary AB	56
	2	Lana McFadden	Calgary AB	50
	3	Babett Valachi	Calgary AB	45
20 to 50	1	Harihara Mahadevan	Calgary AB	122
	2	John Abra	Calgary AB	86
	3	Jay Peers	High River AB	69
50 to 100	1	Matt Bootle	Calgary AB	141
	2	Robert Hemmingway	Okotoks AB	103
	3	Elizabeth Eng	Victoria BC	86
100 to 200	1	Allan Tough	Calgary AB	259
	2	Barry Crozier	Cochrane AB	241
	3	Philip Coppard	Calgary AB	129
200 to 300	1	Terry Kaufman	Calgary AB	176
	2	Thomas To	Calgary AB	111
	3	Sandra Stewart	Calgary AB	86
300 to 500	1	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	318
	2	Martine Parent	Calgary AB	277
	3	Beverley Erickson	Calgary AB	198
500 to 1000	1	Richard Piette	Calgary AB	316
	2	Hailong Yu	Calgary AB	263
	3	John D Aguiar	Calgary AB	261
1000 to 1500	1	Brigitte Tetzner	Calgary AB	419
	2	Andy McKaig	Calgary AB	193
	3	Linda Martin	Calgary AB	183
1500 to 2500	1	Michael Covey	Calgary AB	231
	2	Mary Ross	Calgary AB	222
	3	Tom Nault	Calgary AB	217
2500 to 3500	1	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	250
	2	Ian Findlay	Banff AB	212
	3	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB	182
3500 to 5000	1	Stephanie McAdam	Calgary AB	337
	2	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	288
	3	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	232
5000 to 7500	1	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	255
	2	Nicole Beauregard	Calgary AB	251
	3	Allan Simon	Calgary AB	230
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	404
	2	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB	271
	3	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	20
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	274
	2	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	110
	3	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	28

Unit 390 Membership Report for 2021

Another year of COVID restrictions and limited face-to-face play certainly hasn't done much for membership numbers across the ACBL. 2021 saw a 7.14% decline in ACBL membership for the 12 months ending December 31, 2021, leaving 141,285 active members. District 18, which includes our Unit, suffered a decrease in membership of 7.66% in 2021.

Things were a little rosier for Unit 390. Our drop in membership was less at 5.36%, but still double what it was in 2020.

In late 2020, the ACBL introduced a Guest Membership option - a free way for players to try the benefits of ACBL membership. Guest Memberships last for 120 days and are only available to brand-new members. So how is the program working?

Unit 390 had 19 guest members at the start of 2021. Over the course of the year, an additional 24 guest members signed up. Out of the grand total of 43, about one-third converted their guest memberships to full regular memberships (14, to be precise). Four still had some time remaining on their trial. But 25 players simply let their guest membership lapse.

Unit 390 started with 1,014 members on January 1, 2021. That number included seven Snowbirds who had temporarily transferred out of the unit in favour of warmer climes.

Even in these times of extremely limited face-to-face bridge, we attracted 44 new members in 2021 compared to 74 for the previous year and 97 the year before that. Unit 390 ranked second among all units in District 18 for new member recruitment.

How many of those new members actually stick with it and renew in year two? In general, Unit 390 averages about 55%, a lot better than many units in the ACBL (we rank 71st out of 292 units for best retention). Still, membership growth depends not just on recruitment of new members, but retention beyond the first year of membership. There are plenty of reasons to focus on new members.

Happily, Calgary Unit has still retained its youthfulness - we are a little over 3 years younger than the average ACBL member (70.6 years old compared to 73.7 ACBL-wide). But we are no longer the youngest unit in District 18. (That distinction belongs to Medicine Hat Unit 393). It is interesting to note that the four ACBL districts which include parts of Canada (Districts 1, 2, 18 and 19) ranked as the second, third, fourth and fifth youngest in terms of the average age of members. Only District 24 (New York City and Long Island) was younger!

Gains

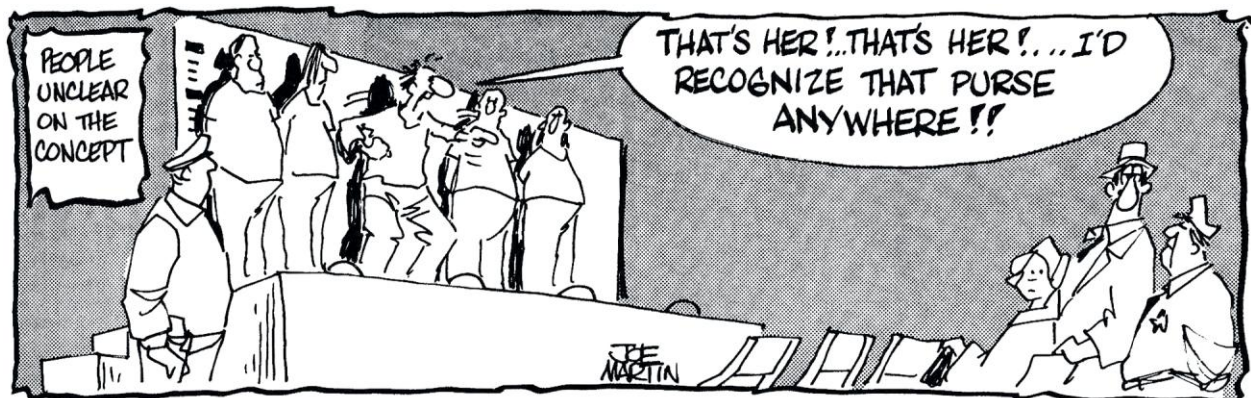
New members	44
Members transferred into Unit 390	8
Lapsed members reinstated	36

Losses

Members transferred out of Unit 390	8
Deceased members	9
Inactive Life Members	7
Members failed to renew	117

Unit 390 ended 2021 with a total of 961 members:

628 non-Life Masters
304 paid Life Masters
21 unpaid Life Members
8 Snowbirds



Joe Martin
Mr. Boffo - Unclear On the Concept

2022 Ace of Clubs Awards

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

0 to 5	1	Claudine Petrunia	Calgary AB	8
	2	Barbara Vallance	Fort Macleod AB	7
	3/4	Penny Mellor	Cochrane AB	4
	3/4	Judy Hamilton	High River AB	4
5 to 20	1	Rick Palmer	Calgary AB	6
	2	Joy Crawford	Calgary AB	4
	3	Lori Russell	Calgary AB	4
20 to 50	1	David Mellor	Calgary AB	21
	2	Brad Bowyer	Calgary AB	15
	3	Carl Whicher	Calgary AB	13
50 to 100	1	Art Marche	Calgary AB	17
	2	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	15
	3	Bonnie Macleod	Calgary AB	14
100 to 200	1	Robert Ronca	Calgary AB	20
	2	David Stephure	Calgary AB	20
	3	Keith Barry	Priddis Green AB	19
200 to 300	1	Matt Bootle	Calgary AB	49
	2	Betty Teare	Calgary AB	21
	3	JoAnn Hanson	Calgary AB	20
300 to 500	1	Allan Tough	Calgary AB	50
	2	Terry Kaufman	Calgary AB	42
	3	Philip Coppard	Calgary AB	29
500 to 1000	1	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	75
	2	Danuta Trafford	Calgary AB	53
	3	Robert Boissain	Calgary AB	47
1000 to 1500	1	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	51
	2	Linda Martin	Calgary AB	39
	3	Naushad Dada	Calgary AB	38
1500 to 2500	1	Mary Ross	Calgary AB	70
	2	Michael Covey	Calgary AB	55
	3	Tom Nault	Calgary AB	48
2500 to 3500	1	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB	43
	2	Jean Ward	Calgary AB	39
	3	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	39
3500 to 5000	1	Stephanie McAdam	Calgary AB	61
	2	Paula Sisko	Calgary AB	18
	3	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	15
5000 to 7500	1	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	46
	2	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	38
	3	Elaine Stewart	Calgary AB	31
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	70
	2	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	1
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	38
	2	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	11

2022 Mini-McKenney Awards

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

0 to 5	1	Claudine Petrunia	Calgary AB	8
	2	Barbara Vallance	Fort Macleod AB	7
	3/4	Penny Mellor	Cochrane AB	4
	3/4	Judy Hamilton	High River AB	4
5 to 20	1	Rick Palmer	Calgary AB	6
	2	Joy Crawford	Calgary AB	4
	3	Lori Russell	Calgary AB	4
20 to 50	1	David Mellor	Calgary AB	21
	2	Brad Bowyer	Calgary AB	15
	3	Carl Whicher	Calgary AB	13
50 to 100	1	Art Marche	Calgary AB	17
	2	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	15
	3	Bonnie Macleod	Calgary AB	14
100 to 200	1	Robert Ronca	Calgary AB	20
	2	David Stephure	Calgary AB	20
	3	Keith Barry	Priddis Green AB	19
200 to 300	1	Matt Bootle	Calgary AB	49
	2	Betty Teare	Calgary AB	21
	3	JoAnn Hanson	Calgary AB	20
300 to 500	1	Allan Tough	Calgary AB	50
	2	Terry Kaufman	Calgary AB	42
	3	Philip Coppard	Calgary AB	29
500 to 1000	1	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	75
	2	Danuta Trafford	Calgary AB	54
	3	Robert Boissain	Calgary AB	47
1000 to 1500	1	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	51
	2	Linda Martin	Calgary AB	39
	3	Naushad Dada	Calgary AB	38
1500 to 2500	1	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB	70
	2	Mary Ross	Calgary AB	70
	3	Michael Covey	Calgary AB	55
2500 to 3500	1	Michael Broadhurst	Calgary AB	44
	2	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB	43
	3	Jean Ward	Calgary AB	39
3500 to 5000	1	Stephanie McAdam	Calgary AB	61
	2	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	58
	3	Ian Findlay	Banff AB	34
5000 to 7500	1	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	46
	2	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	38
	3	Elaine Stewart	Calgary AB	31
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	70
	2	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	3
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	67
	2	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	11

District 18 GNT - Flight A Results

Playoffs for Flight A of the Grand National Teams took place on April 2 - 3, 2022. Four teams entered the district final.

Congratulations to the Flight A winners, who hail from Unit 390:

David Johnson, Jadwiga Polujan, Janet Galbraith and Christopher Galbraith

There's still time to register for Flights B and C and the Championship Flight.





All face-to-face clubs in District 18 are eligible to participate in this District-wide sectionally-rated tournament.

Overall awards are based on all concurrent club sessions at various locations, so masterpoint awards tend to be larger than at a regular club game.

And, you can win coloured points! Any masterpoints you win will be awarded as ¼ gold, ¼ red, ¼ silver and ¼ black.

Many Unit 390 clubs are running STaC sessions during the STaC week. Please check the Unit 390 website for details.


 American Contract Bridge League
Grand National TEAMS

District 18 Final

Flights B, C & Open
Sat. May 7
and
Sun. May 8

Online play on BBO
Video or audio chat
required

Flight A of the GNT was played on April 2 - 3, 2022. There is still time to register for the other flights.

Please visit the Unit 390 website or click [HERE](#) to read more, including playing schedule, cost and how to register.

Registration deadline:
May 2 for Flights B, C & Open

Questions? Contact District 18 GNT Coordinator Melissa Martin at mgmbridge@yahoo.com or 406-570-9614

Act in Haste - Repent at Leisure

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Playing IMPs against expert opponents with only your side vulnerable, you hold:

♠9652 ♥Q763 ♦4 ♣J543

RHO passes as do you. LHO opens with a strong 2♣ and partner surprises you with a 2♠ bid. RHO doubles showing some values (this is opposite to how many partnerships play). There is no point letting the opponents have too much bidding room, but the vulnerability dissuades you from raising to 4♠ so you bump the auction to 3♠. LHO passes (takeout), partner passes and RHO doubles. LHO pulls to 4♣ and RHO raises to 5♣. The auction has been:

North	You	South	Partner
Pass	Pass	2♣	2♠
DBL	3♠	Pass	Pass
DBL	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Partner leads the ♠K and North tables the dummy:

♠ J8	
♥ 1094	
♦ 10986	
♣ A862	
	♠ 9652
	♥ Q763
	♦ 4
	♣ J543

Declarer wins the first trick with the ♠A and lays down the ♣K, partner discarding a small spade (encouraging). After some thought, declarer continues with ♥A, ♥K, and ♥2. Partner follows with ♥J, ♥8 and discards the ♦2 (encouraging). You capture the third round of hearts with the Queen. Time to take stock.

Declarer has five clubs and four hearts. He plans to ruff the fourth round of hearts in dummy and your ♣J can easily be finessed. The defense has one trick and needs two more. Since partner overcalled 2♠ missing both the ♠A and ♠J she almost certainly has a 6-card suit. Therefore declarer's distribution is 1-4-3-5. If partner has the ♦A she can give you a ruff. If partner has both the ♦A and ♦Q you can beat the contract two tricks. But wait a minute. LHO opened 2♣ so the chance that opener holds only ♦KJx is remote. What now?

If you return a spade declarer must ruff and when he draws all your trumps he eventually has to work on diamonds. If partner has only the ♦Q then there is no hope for the defense. But if partner has either the ♦A or the ♦K then declarer is doomed to fail because partner will win the first or second round of diamonds and cash a spade.

The correct defense therefore is to return a spade, forcing declarer to ruff. If declarer tries to play diamonds before drawing all your trumps, then you'll get your diamond ruff. The full deal:

♠ J8		♠ 9652
♥ 1094		♥ Q763
♦ 10986		♦ 4
♣ A862		♣ J543
♠ KQ10743		
♥ J8		
♦ K7532		
♣ --		

If you acted in haste and returned a diamond hoping to get a ruff, you had good company. This deal was played in the 2022 World Bridge Championships held in Italy. In the Open team event 5♣ was defended six times (other contracts included doubled spade contracts and a hopeless 6♣ contract) and three times it was allowed to make. In the Women's team event 5♣ was defended nine times and allowed to make three times. In the Senior's event 5♣ was defended six times and was allowed to make only once.

The "older players" outperformed the rest, defeating the contract over 80% of the time. They not only demonstrated that with age comes wisdom, but they avoided the dreaded "mea culpa" confession!

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