



The Kibitzer

October 2022

Editors: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

President's Message

The first meeting of the new Unit board took place on October 24th. At the meeting I was appointed President, Richard Cripps was appointed Vice President, Ed Lamb and Olga Williams continue as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. The remaining Board members are Judith Gartaganis, Delores Hedley, Carrie Stockman, Pam Sterling, Sandra Stewart and Past President, Lyman Warner. We are still looking for one more volunteer to serve as Sectional Tournament Chair. If you or someone you know is willing to tackle this job, please contact me.

The past two years have been a significant challenge for all bridge players. COVID restrictions shut down all face-to-face bridge for quite a long time and it has been terribly slow in returning. I am pleased to say that the Calgary Bridge Centre now hosts face-to-face games every day of the week and the number of tables is slowly increasing. There are games to suit all levels of experience so please make plans to play in one soon.

Of course, the huge change over the same period has been the introduction of ACBL-sanctioned virtual clubs and ACBL-run online tournaments. For many this was a saviour especially during the lockdowns. The website Bridge Base Online frequently hosts games with several hundred tables in play so that only goes to show that bridge players will take the opportunity to play regardless of the format. Playing online does have the disadvantage of eliminating the social aspect of face-to-face bridge, but if you cannot get out to the Bridge Centre it is a good fallback option.

As outlined in the article, "Survey Says...", the majority of players in our Unit (57%) are 299ers. Consequently, in order to grow the game the Unit needs to focus on this group. The first sectional in a long while devoted to 299ers will take place at the Calgary Bridge Centre on Saturday, November 26th. On the Friday evening before, we will host a social gathering for this group featuring information on all aspects of Sectional tournaments, including use of the Bridgemates, the Alert procedure, scoring and any other topic that you wish to learn about. Snacks will be provided. The games will be stratified based on masterpoint holdings -- Flight F: 0-50, Flight E: 50-100, and Flight D: 100-300 -- so you will be evaluated against your peers. All points awarded at a sectional are silver and you need at least 5 silver points to

achieve the rank of Sectional Master (50+ masterpoints with at least 10 black and 5 silver). *All players with less than 5 masterpoints play for free.* Keep a lookout for further information coming soon.

The mentorship program will resume this year after a gap of two years. This program matches mentees with mentors who have significantly more masterpoints than they do. For mentees with up to 50 masterpoints their mentor will have at least 100 masterpoints. For mentees with between 50 and 100 masterpoints their mentor will have at least 200 masterpoints. If the numbers permit, mentees with 100 to 300 masterpoints will be matched with mentors with 500+ masterpoints. To be included in this latter category, the mentee must also be prepared to be a mentor. A survey will be issued soon and for those wishing to participate, please make sure to fill in the survey and return it as soon as possible.

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President's Message (continued)

As of September 30th there were 921 active members in Unit 390. This is a decline of 4% compared with one year ago. The ACBL number is 134,112, which is a decline of 6.4% year over year, so Unit 390 is slightly better than overall. In new member gains, the Unit again exceeds the ACBL overall, 4.4% compared with 3.5%. However, the losses over the past few years have resulted in our membership now being similar to what it was in 2017!

On a more positive note, the membership of Unit 390 comprises 28% of the entire District, in which there are 22 Units, so we are by far and away the dominant Unit in District 18 in terms of the number of members.

John Sharpe
President, Unit 390



2022 - 23 North American Pairs District 18 Final

The North American Pairs (NAP) is a grass-roots event for pairs. Club qualifying games are held in June, July and August. Both in-person and online VACB virtual clubs may hold qualifying games.

The competition continues with (optional) unit playoffs followed by district playoffs in each of the ACBL's 25 districts and culminates with the North American final played at the spring nationals. There are three flights in the NAP: Flight A open to anyone, Flight B (under 2500 MP) and Flight C (non-life master under 500 MP).

This year's District playoff was held on September 10, 2022 in conjunction with the Great Falls regional. With only 12 pairs in attendance, the game could not be split into standalone flights so the participants played in a six-table two-session playthrough.

Congratulations to **Cynthia Clark** and **Patrick Murphy**, both of Calgary, who placed third in Flight A and first in Flight B. That makes them eligible to play in the national finals, which will be held at the Spring NABC, March 9 - 19, 2023 in New Orleans, LA

Bridge Trivia Quiz

By Allan Simon

Everyone enjoys a trivia quiz. See how well you do.

1. Which card is known as the "beer card" and why?
2. Which card is known as the "Curse of Scotland" and why?
3. Which was the first pair from Calgary to place in the top ten in a world championship?
4. In bridge, what score is known as the "kiss of death"?
5. And what score is known as "sticks and wheels"?
6. What is the highest positive score (from a successful contract, not from a penalty)?
7. Suppose you're told your next match is against The Shoe, The Pickle, The Hog and The Foot. What are their real names? Score ¼ points for each correct answer.
8. What is the only city in Canada that has hosted a bridge world championship?
9. What is a "dream trick"?
10. Who is the only person who ranks in the top 20 in Calgary at bridge and at Scrabble?

(Please turn to page 18 for the answers)

Wouldn't it be great
if we could put ourselves
in the dryer for 10 minutes
and come out wrinkle free
and three sizes smaller?

CoolFunnyQuotes.com

Secrets to Winning the BBO Bidder's Challenge

By Ian Findlay

The BBO Bidder's Challenge began in January 2021. Each month you are given eight hands to bid, and you receive a score out of 10 on each hand. Each month's winner is awarded 50 BB\$ and the yearly winner (based on your top nine scores out of 12) gets 200 BB\$. The contest is open to anyone and it is easy to find. Sign on to BBO, select the Messages tab and scroll down the News items. The first month of the event had a few hundred entries, but the last challenge (October 2022) had a record 3,244 entries.

This competition has grown thanks to the marvellous work of International British player Marc Smith. Marc has authored many bridge books and has made it to the finals of the World Mixed Pairs Championship with his wife Charlotte. Every month, Marc presents eight very interesting hands and then he has the task of assigning scores. Marc is very fair and uses mainly the voting of the panel to decide scores, but he also uses his common sense. The star-studded panel includes celebrities such as Zia, Bocchi, Brock, Brink, Klukowski, Larry Cohen, Robson, Bilde and Canadian Daniel Lavee who got the first perfect score by a panelist last month.

I was lucky enough to tie for first place one month last year. This year, I have not won, but I am currently in second place in the overall standings. If you spend time on it and read the comments, it should improve your bidding while also providing a lot of entertainment. Marc does a YouTube video every month previewing the hands with Chilean player Hanoi Randon, but he is careful not to give too much away. The hands are hard and often Marc receives over ten different bids for each one!

Here are my secrets.

1. Be Flexible

IMPs, None Vulnerable, as West you hold:

♠KJ6 ♥72 ♦AQ7643 ♣KQ (Hand 5 in October 2022 set)

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
?			

¹ natural, game forcing

What is your call?

Most of the competitors bid a simple 3NT (76%). Yet 16 out of 24 panelists bid 3♣. One must remember that 2NT by partner tends to be stronger than 3NT. You have far more than a minimum and slam may be possible in clubs or

diamonds. Offering 3♣ also avoids 3NT when partner holds weak hearts such as ♥Qxx. 3♣ goes nice and slow and is *flexible*. Here are a couple of panelist comments.

ZIA: 3♣. Looking to hear 3♦ from partner. This is a big hand with the right fit.

ROBSON: 3♣. This is cheap and allows for the likely continuation of 3♦-3♠, which adequately expresses my collection.

Here are the marks:	<u>Bid</u>	<u>Score</u>
	3♣	10
	3♠	6
	3NT	5
	4NT	4
	Other Bids	0

2. Be Aggressive at IMPs

IMPs, EW Vulnerable, as West you hold:

♠K5 ♥AK1075 ♦K9 ♣AKQ9 (Hand 7 in October 2022 set)

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	2♠ ¹
DBL	3♠	Pass	Pass
DBL	Pass	4♣	Pass
?			

¹ natural, weak

What is your call?

Although partner rates to have nothing and 4♣ may be the last plus, 18 of 24 panelists voted for 4♥. Only 21% of the competitors bid 4♥ while 49% bid 5♣ (as did four panelists). My guess is that the competitors did not understand that 4♥ should be a choice of games. Some comments from the panelists:

COHEN: 4♥. A good partner will produce three of them.

KLUKOWSKI: 4♥. This now shows hearts and some other place to play.

Here are the marks:	<u>Bid</u>	<u>Score</u>
	4♥	10
	5♣	6
	4♠	5
	Pass	4
	Other Bids	0

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Secrets to Winning the BBO Bidder's Challenge (continued)

What I love is that partner held:

♠xxx ♥xx ♦Qxx ♣J10xxx

4♣ is the last plus but only scores 4 points! Marc does not allow the best result to influence the marks!

3. Be Conservative at Matchpoints

Matchpoints, None Vulnerable, as West you hold:

♠A853 ♥QJ74 ♦AQ82 ♣5 (Hand 8 in October 2022 set)

West	North	East	South
--	--	1♣	Pass
1♦	1♠	2♣	2♠
DBL	Pass	3♣	Pass
?			

What is your call?

Ten of the 24 panelists chose to pass, whereas 65% of competitors bid 3NT. Clearly, they have not read my tips! As Marc says "The days when an opening bid facing an opening bid meant you should always bid game seem to have long gone. On this deal, we have a 13-count, but the largest group of panelists are happy to give up right here, and a number of others make one more try intending to pass 4♣ if that's all partner can bid. Only a handful of panelists committed to game, hence the marking, which means that the 60%+ of competitors who essayed 3NT, a contract ruled out by most of our experts, collect only 5 marks out of 10." Don't feel bad if you bid on. Zia bid 5♣, but he might have made it! Partner held:

♠x ♥Kxx ♦KJ ♣AJ9xxxx

The normal result is 9 or 10 tricks in clubs. The panelists say...

BIRD: Pass. Good luck, partner!
DE WIJS: Pass. For 3NT to be right, I would need a small miracle, and 11 tricks is always a lot. Let's try to go plus here.
WANG: Pass. Because it's matchpoints.

Here are the marks:	Bid	Score
	Pass	10
	3♥	8
	3♠	8
	4♣	7
	5♣	6
	3NT	5
	Other Bids	0

4. Be Logical

IMPs, Not Vulnerable vs Vulnerable, as West you hold:

♠QJ3 ♥AKQ85 ♦Q7 ♣Q54 (Hand 2 in September 2022 set)

West	North	East	South
--	--	1♣	2♦ ¹
2♥	3♦	4♦	Pass
?			

¹ natural, weak

What is your call?

Most of the competitors bid the pedestrian 4♥. It is true that you have nothing to cue bid, but partner, who opened the bidding, cue bid 4♦ missing the AKQ of trumps. Surely there must be a slam unless partner has two losing diamonds. How do we ask? 5♥ of course is the classic way of asking for 2nd round diamond control. Partner's 4♦ bid is ambiguous, and he may or may not have a diamond control. If partner bids 6♦, I hope you would now bid 7♥, but that is not part of the challenge. Fifteen of 22 panelists bid 5♥, whereas only 7% of competitors bid 5♥. This is what the experts say:

COHEN: 5♥. My hearts are too good for a sign-off. Yes, I see all the "junk", but some of that (especially the ♣Q) rates to be useful. Since 3♥ would have been non-forcing, partner has not promised a diamond control, just a strong heart raise (maybe something like A/J10xx/xx/AKJxxx).

BOCCHI: 5♥. Nothing to cue, and all the points in hearts. The perfect bid ☺.

Here are the marks:

Here are the marks:	Bid	Score
	5♥	10
	4NT	7
	6♥	4
	4♥	2
	Other Bids	0

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Secrets to Winning the BBO Bidder's Challenge (continued)

5. Be Creative

IMPs, Vulnerable vs Not Vulnerable, as West you hold:

♠A10 ♥Q865 ♦7 ♣K107642 (Hand 2 in September 2022 set)

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	2♦ ¹
Pass	3♦	DBL	Pass
?			

¹ natural, weak

What is your call?

You are not sure if it is best to play in hearts or clubs. Clearly 3♥ is not enough and 4♥ is a shutout bid, hence be creative and bid 4♦! If partner bids 4♥, then pass. If he bids 4♠, correct to 5♣. Here are a couple of panelist comments:

ROBSON: 4♦. Two places to play, pulling 4♠ to 5♣. I expect a big majority here ...

DE WIJS: 4♦. Choice of games. Happy to bid 5♣ over 4♠.

Of course, most competitors bid 4♥, but 20 of 22 panelists bid 4♦.

Here are the marks:	Bid	Score
	4♦	10
	4♥	5
	5♣	4
	3♥	2
	4♣	2
	Other Bids	0

Keep in mind that you get to see what over 20 panelists, who are the best in the game, say on each hand. It is nice to know that they often disagree. Finally, I would like to say it is often best to trust your first instinct. I have changed my bid and often scored less than my original bid. However, I have also scored more. When in doubt, I try to think how the experts would bid. I also watch Marc's YouTube video, which sometimes gives you a different perspective.

I encourage everyone to try this challenge at least once. If you do well, please do not give away my secrets. As my wife says, "I can keep a secret. It is the people I tell who cannot keep a secret". Good luck!



Winner's Circle ...



Congratulations!

The first Penticton Regional Tournament of the decade was held this past June. Although attendance was well below pre-COVID levels, there were over 1,600 total tables in play over the six and one-half days of the tournament.

The Sunday Flight B Bracketed Swiss Teams (Bracket 1) was captured by a team hailing from Unit 390. Pictured L to R are:

Jim Murphy, Chris Murphy, Rick Boyd and Naushad Dada, all of Calgary.

Before you marry a person,
you should first make them use
a computer with slow internet
to see who they really are.

Will Ferrell

Survey Says ...

The current Unit 390 membership count stands at 917. Of those, 521 are 299ers and an additional 95 are non-Life Masters. That's 57% of our members with under 300 masterpoints and 67% who are not yet Life Masters.

This is more significant than any old bunch of numbers. It means that the ongoing success of Unit 390 ventures lies with this large group of members. Yet sometimes we conduct events with the primary focus on experienced players rather than the up-and-comers.

In late September, a short survey was designed to gather feedback from this important segment of our membership. Although over 70% opened the email which contained the link to the survey, fewer than 20% responded. Clearly, then, the vast majority of this group of players is either not interested in influencing future Unit 390 initiatives or believes that they can have little effect.

What we did find out is broadly summarized below.

The majority of players (52.8%) are playing some online and some face-to-face games, while one-third are playing online only.

Most play a few times a week (64.8%), with a small number playing once a week. There are players who play several times a day (5.6%)!

The vast majority have played in an open Sectional Tournament and over 90% of those said they enjoyed the experience. Many mentioned that they enjoyed the

challenge, the pressure and the competitive environment, but they also cited the chance to connect with old friends, others of their calibre and out-of-towners.

Still, only three quarters of respondents anticipate participating in future open Sectional Tournaments. The good news is that, overwhelmingly (91.7%), this group would consider participating in a Sectional tournament exclusively for 299ers.

As for potential 299er initiatives that could be continued or started, the highest votes went to the Mentorship program, Supervised Bid and Play programs, Rookie-Master games and Advanced Beginner Lesson programs.

We received many valuable suggestions for ways Unit 390 could help. Many would appreciate something along the lines of a partnership brokerage where players looking for partners at their level could connect. In addition, many stated that they wished for a choice of game times, especially evening or weekend options. There was also a call for educational information such as an overview of the sectional process (how to use the Bridgemates, the Alert procedure, how and when to ask questions, etc.).

The Unit 390 Board of Directors is committed to fostering the satisfaction of all its members, but especially to encouraging 299ers. This is the only way to grow the game. In the upcoming plans is a 299er Sectional for later this year. Watch for news about this event!



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Plan B

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Entering the penultimate round of the Swiss qualifying stage of the Open Transnational Teams at the 2022 World Bridge Championships in Wroclaw, Poland your team finds itself in a precarious position. It lies 31st by the skin of its teeth and only 32 teams will make the playoffs. In the prior round your team had been crushed by a U.S.-Netherlands combination, causing a precipitous plummet from 13th spot to your current position. Now, you must face a Swedish-English squad of world class players.

With one board to go, your estimate of the match is that you have several positive results so you are somewhat optimistic about a victory. On the last board you as South are dealt:

♠ Q95 ♥ A643 ♦ KQ7654 ♣ ---

East, the dealer, passes and with everyone vulnerable you open 1♦. West leaps to 4♠, partner bids 4NT and East doubles. Although your partnership is relatively new, amazingly you have discussed this sequence!

As an unpassed hand partner is showing a big two-suiter. Can he have clubs and diamonds? Yes, that is one of the possibilities although it is less likely since with a strong hand and a big diamond fit he might simply have shown the known fit. East must have a lot of clubs to double (not surprising since you have none). LHO's 4♠ bid has diminished the value of your hand, but you do have four hearts so you offer 5♥. LHO passes, partner cue bids 5♠ and you beat a hasty retreat to 6♥. West leads the ♠K after no one has anything else to say. The bidding has been:

You			
South	West	North	East
			Pass
1♦	4♠	4NT*	DBL
5♥	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

When you see dummy, you immediately realize that your choices have landed your team in hot water. However, this is not the first, nor will it be the last, time you need to try to avert disaster.

IMPs

Contract: 6♥

Lead: ♠K

♠ --
♥ KQ1095
♦ 9
♣ AK109875

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

♠ Q95
♥ A643
♦ KQ7654
♣ --

One thought is to discard dummy's diamond rather than ruffing and hope that West's continuation will be of benefit in some way. However if West were to shift to a diamond, you would be forced to decide then and there who has the ♦A. And, West probably would have doubled 6♥ holding both the ♠A and the ♦A (given that East doubled 4NT). Therefore you reject the notion of discarding a diamond and ruff the opening spade lead in dummy.

Can a 4-0 heart break be managed? It seems possible, but the clubs would need to be developed for no losers and you still have to be able to pull trumps. Since dummy entries are at a premium, one scenario would be to lead the ♥10 and take a first round finesse against East's hoped for ♥J. If the hearts turn out to be 4-0 proceed by cashing the Ace and King of clubs hoping that West holds a singleton or doubleton club honour.

That seems risky, so you decide to play the ♥K from dummy rather than play East to have all four hearts. East follows with the ♥2 and West with the ♥7. Now what? West's ♠K asked for count and East's ♠8 suggested an even number. Therefore West inferentially has eight spades and is known to have one heart. The probabilities strongly point to a 3-1 split in hearts so you switch attention to the club suit.

When you cash the ♣A and ♣K discarding both your remaining spades, East follows with the ♣2 and ♣5 while West plays the ♣4 and the ♠2.

[continued next page]

Plan B (continued)

The good news is that you were right to assume hearts broke 3-1. The bad news is that clubs cannot be set up. Although one of East's ♣Q and ♣J can be ruffed out, you don't have the dummy entries to both set up clubs and pull trumps.

Nevertheless a viable Plan B has materialized. A count of the distribution now tells you that diamonds should be breaking 3-3 so regardless of who holds the ♦A the diamond suit can be set up for five winners. Here is the situation:

♠	--
♥	Q109
♦	9
♣	109875

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

♠	--
♥	A64
♦	KQ7654
♣	--

You lead the ♦9 from dummy and East rises with the ♦A and returns a heart. Making the rest of the tricks is trivial now. Even if East ducked the ♦A you would win the ♦K, ruff a diamond in dummy, draw trumps and exit a diamond claiming 12 tricks.

The full deal:

♠	--		♠	--
♥	KQ1095		♥	87
♦	9		♥	J82
♣	AK109875		♦	A102

♠	AKJ106432	♠	87
♥	7	♥	J82
♦	J83	♦	A102
♣	4	♣	QJ652

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

♠	Q95
♥	A643
♦	KQ7654
♣	--

Your team scores 17 IMPs, wins the match handily, and vaults into 18th spot with one round robin match remaining. You start the final match hoping no more Plan Bs are needed!

Unit 390 Sectional Tournaments Resume

After the two-year COVID-19 lockdown, Calgary Unit 390 staged the Stampede Sectional this past July -- its first such tournament since January 2020, and the second held at the Mount Royal University (MRU) campus. MRU is a wonderful venue, one big negative being the lack of food and beverage service close to the playing site. Unfortunately, the other big negative -- the skyrocketing cost to rent not just the playing space but the parking lot as well -- means returning to MRU is impossible for the foreseeable future.

The ACBL has defined compulsory COVID-19 protocols to be in effect for National, Regional and Sectional tournaments. Although these may change, currently all attendees must be vaccinated and masks are recommended but not required.

The Stampede Sectional turned out to be a pleasant surprise. There was a lot of uncertainty about attendance: Would players be willing to participate face-to-face? Had the online bridge craze eroded the interest of our audience? Had a significant number of members given up playing bridge altogether? In fact, the sectional drew a total of 156 tables, 45 of those in the 0-500 non-Life Master games. That translated into a modest monetary loss of just over \$1,000.

For the traditional Labour Day sectional, it was decided to try the Calgary Bridge Centre (CBC) as the venue. The CBC is not without problems: parking, capacity and less than optimal conditions on the lower level. However, the cost to rent the facility is extremely reasonable and the CBC Management Committee members and many volunteers deserve our thanks. They worked extremely hard to help ensure a successful tournament. Attendance was up over July, with 204 tables in play over the six sessions (on average, 34 tables per session). The 299er games accounted for 33½ of those tables.

So what does the future hold for Unit 390 sectionals? No doubt it will be many years before tournament attendance climbs to pre-pandemic levels, if ever. The average table count for last four tournament held in 2019-2020 was nearly 320 tables. An event of that size requires a large playing area, much larger than is available at the Calgary Bridge Centre. With even a modest recovery in attendance, we will soon outgrow the capacity at CBC.

Any pick-up in attendance will be driven by the support of all Unit 390 members, but especially by the support and participation of the large group of players with under 300 masterpoints. The Unit Board of Directors is anxious to receive your input. Please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Board with feedback and suggestions. You can find a list of email addresses for Board members on the Unit 390 Directors page of the Unit website.

Member Milestones

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



New Junior Masters (5+ MPs):

Barb Atnikov	Shashi Lota
Richard Bourassa	Katy McCowan
Anne Gallagher	Cindy Melling
Patrick Guo	Di Vosburgh
Judy Hamilton	Diane Wilkinson
Qi Ju	Lee Wright
Sheila Lenes	Ann Zitaruk

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

Peter Charlton	Anna Maier
Steve Eastes	Rick Palmer
Betty Lees	Barbara Vallance
Eric Lomore	

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

Murrell Adam	Adiel Rautenbach
Carol McNabb	Dave Ross
Dana Pyke/Dedeluk	Mary Tourigny

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

Nancy Hughes	Ray Nance
Art LeMaistre	Robert Ronca
Doreen Lewis	David Stephure

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

Mickey Abougoush	George Ongyerth
Don Bacon	Carla Watson
Theresa Joan Crowther	Heide Wissner
Karen Hagg	

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

Dave Brett	Terry Kaufman
Osama Elshafey	Dennis Ooms
Beverly Erickson	Thomas To

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

Richard Cripps

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

Phyllis Nield	Thomas Trafford
Martine Parent	

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

Zul Abbany	Antara Keelor
Cathy Bird	Joan Shedden
Robert Boissain	Anne Stang
Cynthia Clark	John Taillon
Don Copeland	Danuta Trafford
Bob Gagnon	Marilyn Warne

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

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

Hazel Skelton	Grant Wharry
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New Emerald Life Masters (7500+ MPs; a Life Master with at least 750 gold or platinum and 750 additional pigmented points)

Gordon Campbell



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 April 2023.

Calgary Bridge Centre COME BACK LIVE

By Keith Falkenberg

The Calgary Community Bridge League (CCBL) opened its Calgary Bridge Centre in late February 2022. There are now bridge games happening at the Centre every day of the week! This is a wonderful development for Calgary duplicate bridge. Located in the central community of Ramsay, just east of the Stampede Grounds, the Bridge Centre is easily accessible from all areas of the city. There are several restaurants within walking distance and the vibrant inner city "village" of Inglewood is nearby.



The CCBL is a not-for-profit organization with a vested interest in the future of bridge in Calgary. Our primary purpose is to provide a friendly, viable, and accessible facility for playing and learning the game of bridge. After over 10 years of fundraising and searching for a suitable location, the opening of the Calgary Bridge Centre in Ramsay is a dream come true.

We are promoting face-to-face bridge where the Calgary Bridge Centre will become the focal point of learning and playing bridge in Calgary. We are fortunate to have a very reasonable long-term lease with the City of Calgary for the Ramsay Civic Building (now known as the Calgary Bridge Centre). This gives us the opportunity to provide club owners and tournament sponsors with a high-quality facility at a very economical rate.

Our participating bridge club owners can hold their games in the Bridge Centre without worrying about set up and take down of tables, chairs, bidding boxes, etc. every game. Everything is in place for twenty or more tables almost as soon as the Club Manager or Director walks in the door. There is ample parking in the back lot and nearby on the street. We have also set up additional handicap parking for mobility-impaired players in the lot.

Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and soft drinks are available at a modest cost. The upstairs playing area is bright and cheerful with state-of-the-art audio-visual display capability.

Our current line-up of games is:

Monday: EndsInY with Bidwell/Bridgejoy	Noon	Open and 399ers
Tuesday: Partners	11:45 am	Open and 299ers
Wednesday: Partners	11:45 am	Open Pairs
Thursday: Partners	11:45 am	Open and 299ers
Friday: Bidwell/Bridgejoy	11:45 am	0-5500 MP Pairs
Saturday: TBA	Evenings	Hot Dog Pairs
Sunday: Partners	1:00 pm	Open Pairs

Unit 390 held the Labour Day Sectional from September 2-4, 2022, at the Calgary Bridge Centre. The tournament was a big success with over 200 tables in play for the weekend! We are available to host future sectional tournaments, novice and intermediate player tournaments, Rookie-Master games, and special bridge events. Recently, Unit 390 held its first post-COVID AGM in our upstairs hall.



The Bridge Centre is also a place for Calgarians to learn and improve their bridge playing skills. Bridge lessons started on September 17 and 18, with beginner lessons being taught by Sandra Evans and advanced beginner lessons by Freda Nychkalo. Additional educational programs are being planned.

We hope to see you soon at the Calgary Bridge Centre! For more information, including directions on how to find us and game times and results, visit: www.calgarybridgecentre.ca

We would like to hear from you with any questions or suggestions you might have (email address is office@calgarybridgecentre.ca).

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.

We had not had a Sectional in Unit 390 since January 2020. The COVID-19 lockdown and subsequent abundance of caution led to the cancellation of all remaining tournaments that year and all tournaments for the following 18 months.

In July 2022, Calgary finally hosted its first Sectional in more than two years.

July 2022

Calgary had not held a summer Stampede Sectional for decades. For the July tournament, because attendance was uncertain, it was decided to run 499er games for newer players and the President's Award was given to the 299er player(s) who accumulated the most masterpoints in these events.

The five sessions of non-Life Master 499er events at the July sectional attracted a total of 45 tables. Seventy-six players participated over the course of the weekend. The biggest game was Friday morning with a total of 13 tables in play. Results from the Bracketed Swiss on Sunday were not counted when determining this award.

Players from Flight F swept the President's Award race, with Eric Gutland and Dennis Quick in a tie for the top spot (each with 5.56 masterpoints). Here is the full list of results:

Flight D (100 - 300):

1.	4.14	David Stephure
2.	2.75	Robert Stothers
3.	1.44	Tim Stevenson

Flight E (50 - 100):

1.	2.73	David Marchant
2.	2.36	Ken Miller
3/4.	2.02	Edward Lamb
3/4.	2.02	Susan McMahon

Flight F (0 - 50):

1/2.	5.56	Eric Gutland
1/2.	5.56	Dennis Quick
3/4.	5.31	Patrick Guo
3/4.	5.31	Frank Guo

September 2022

Attendance at the 299er events in September was somewhat disappointing, with just 33½ tables in play over the four sessions. Fifty-nine players participated over the course of the weekend. Saturday morning was the biggest game, with a total of 11 tables in play.

There was a tie for the President's Award between Rob Ronca and David Stephure, each with 3.99 masterpoints. Here is the full list of results:

Flight D (100 - 300):

1/2.	2.33	George Ongyerth
1/2.	2.33	Susan Ongyerth
3.	1.55	Brent Gough

Flight E (50 - 100):

1/2.	3.99	David Stephure
1/2.	3.99	Rob Ronca
3/4.	3.33	Ed Lamb
3/4.	3.33	Susan McMahon

Flight F (0 - 50):

1/2.	2.04	Gary Croxton
1/2.	2.04	Ted Burgoin
3/4.	1.90	Dennis Quick
3/4.	1.90	Eric Gutland

Congratulations to everyone! Well done.

Thank you to all the 299er players who continue to support the Unit 390 sectionals. Our tournaments cannot succeed without you!



The Kibitzer - October 2022

Meet Your 2022 - 23 Unit 390 Board of Directors



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Do Not Give Up

By Daniel Bertrand

I am playing face-to-face in a team game when I pick up the following hand with everyone vulnerable:

♠AJ105 ♥10 ♦AJ83 ♣A953

My partner opens 1♥ and I bid 1♠. Partner continues with 2♥ as the opponents remain silent. I bid a simple 3NT.

LHO leads the ♦4.

IMPs
Dealer North
Contract: 3NT
Lead: ♦4

♠ --
♥ AQ87532
♦ K106
♣ J72

N		
W	♠	E
	S	

♠ AJ105
♥ 10
♦ AJ83
♣ A953

The opponents lead 4th best against notrump. I play a small diamond from dummy and RHO plays the ♦Q which I win with the ♦A. I have seven top tricks: four diamonds and three Aces. I need two more tricks; hopefully I can set up a few extra heart tricks. But when I play the ♥10, my LHO starts to think. Then, he finally discards the ♣4!

I will not get any extra heart tricks. I win dummy's ♥A. Where can I get two more tricks? Should I just give up?

What was my LHO thinking about? Since he has a void, he must have a 5-card suit, probably diamonds since he is missing all the top honours and still led the suit. If he had another 5-card suit, he probably would have led it instead and would have had no problem discarding from it. I decide that he must have started with five diamonds, four spades, and four clubs. I play a small club from dummy and when RHO plays the ♣10, I put in the ♣3 and LHO, the ♣6. My RHO shifts to the ♠9, I cover with the ♠10 and LHO wins the ♠Q. LHO continues with the ♦2 (he did have five diamonds), and dummy wins the ♦K as RHO discards a heart.

I have reached this position:

♠ --
♥ Q8753
♦ 10
♣ J7

N		
W	♠	E
	S	

♠ AJ5
♥ --
♦ J8
♣ A95

I think that my LHO still has three spades, three diamonds, and two clubs. If I am right, do you see how I can get six more tricks? My RHO should have only one club remaining, and I can get a second club trick after letting my opponents win one. Also, I need to endplay my LHO to force him to play a spade into my tenace. Think about it! What would you do?

I need to remove my LHO's exit cards to force him to play a spade. So, I win the ♦10, return to my hand with the ♣A (RHO follows with the ♣K and LHO, with the ♣8) and cash my ♦J. I have reached the following ending:

♠ --
♥ Q875
♦ --
♣ 7

N		
W	♠	E
	S	

♠ AJ5
♥ --
♦ --
♣ 95

I play the ♣5 and LHO wins the ♣Q! As I hoped, my LHO started with 4-4 in the black suits. After winning the ♣Q, he plays the last diamond and I discard my small spade. But then, he must play a spade and I win two spade tricks and my good club. I take nine tricks: two spades, one heart, four diamonds, and two clubs.

[continued next page]

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The Kibitzer - October 2022

2022 Ace of Clubs Awards

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

0 to 5	1	Claudine Petrunia	Calgary AB	19
	2	Judy Hamilton	High River AB	12
	3	Ann Zitaruk	High River AB	12
5 to 20	1	Betty Lees	Calgary AB	14
	2	Steve Eastes	Calgary AB	13
	3	Rick Palmer	Calgary AB	9
20 to 50	1	David Mellor	Calgary AB	54
	2/3	Sheila Morgan	Wheatland County	34
	2/3	Jerry Malone	Wheatland County	34
50 to 100	1	Art Marche	Calgary AB	26
	2	Dave Ross	Calgary AB	23
	3	Michele Hyndman	Calgary AB	23
100 to 200	1	Harihara Mahadevan	Calgary AB	48
	2	David Stephure	Calgary AB	44
	3	Keith Barry	Priddis Greens AB	38
200 to 300	1	Matt Bootle	Calgary AB	97
	2	Sandee Crepin	Red Cliff AB	44
	3	Atsuko McDonald	Calgary AB	41
300 to 500	1	Terry Kaufman	Calgary AB	124
	2	Allan Tough	Calgary AB	95
	3	Theresa Joan Crowther	Calgary AB	73
500 to 1000	1	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	152
	2	Barry Crozier	Cochrane AB	112
	3	Danuta Trafford	Calgary AB	104
1000 to 1500	1	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	108
	2	Linda Martin	Calgary AB	90
	3	Naushad Dada	Calgary AB	83
1500 to 2500	1	Andy McKaig	Calgary AB	124
	2	Mary Ross	Calgary AB	124
	3	Michael Covey	Calgary AB	111
2500 to 3500	1	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB	92
	2	Lois Dunsmore	Calgary AB	72
	3	Jean Ward	Calgary AB	70
3500 to 5000	1	Stephanie McAdam	Calgary AB	137
	2	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	66
	3	Paula Sisko	Calgary AB	45
5000 to 7500	1	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	119
	2	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	107
	3	Elaine Stewart	Calgary AB	87
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	115
	2	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB	23
	3	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	2
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	79
	2	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	41

2022 Mini-McKenney Awards

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

0 to 5	1	Claudine Petrunia	Calgary AB	21
	2	Qi Ju	Calgary AB	16
	3	Judy Hamilton	High River AB	12
5 to 20	1	Hai Hu	Calgary AB	36
	2	Betty Lees	Calgary AB	20
	3	Joy Crawford	Calgary AB	15
20 to 50	1	David Mellor	Calgary AB	55
	2	Sheila Morgan	Wheatland County	35
	3	Jerry Malone	Wheatland County	34
50 to 100	1	Art Marche	Calgary AB	30
	2	Ron Licht	Calgary AB	28
	3	Dave Ross	Calgary AB	24
100 to 200	1	David Stephure	Calgary AB	54
	2	Harihara Mahadevan	Calgary AB	48
	3	Robert Ronca	Calgary AB	41
200 to 300	1	Matt Bootle	Calgary AB	101
	2	Maxine Rystephanick	Calgary AB	52
	3	Dave Brett	Calgary AB	52
300 to 500	1	Terry Kaufman	Calgary AB	149
	2	Allan Tough	Calgary AB	95
	3	Thomas To	Calgary AB	87
500 to 1000	1	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	181
	2	Cynthia Clark	Calgary AB	165
	3	Barry Crozier	Cochrane AB	133
1000 to 1500	1	John D Aguiar	Calgary AB	151
	2	Naushad Dada	Calgary AB	121
	3	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	119
1500 to 2500	1	Keith Falkenberg	Calgary AB	197
	2	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB	168
	3	Patrick Murphy	Calgary AB	142
2500 to 3500	1	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB	190
	2	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB	135
	3	Douglas Mann	Calgary AB	125
3500 to 5000	1	David Johnson	Calgary AB	258
	2	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	197
	3	Stephanie McAdam	Calgary AB	139
5000 to 7500	1	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	220
	2	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	160
	3	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	139
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	289
	2	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB	113
	3	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	6
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	406
	2	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	251
	3/4	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	39
	3/4	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	39

A funny thing happened on the way to the slam...

By Janet Galbraith

We all know that bridge is a game of "coulda, woulda, shoulda" and that, in the postmortem, we suddenly see what needed to be done to reach the optimal result, whether in bidding, defending or declaring.

In the two hands below, my partner and I got to be both heroes and goats (does anyone else find it weird that being a goat is bad, yet being the g.o.a.t. is fantastic? Maybe we were gerbils?)

Hand #1:

♠ K103
♥ J
♦ AKQ2
♣ AK952



♠ AQJ8765
♥ 1072
♦ 93
♣ 10

20 HCP opposite 7.

Unopposed, our auction was:

North	South
1♣	1♠
2♦	2♠
3♠	5♠
6♠	Pass

The opponents led the ♥A and that was it ...+980.

Over a reverse, 2♠ is 100% forcing, so 2♠ was all that was needed to get the ball rolling. Over 3♠, South did not have anything to cue bid but bidding 4♠ might have ended the auction. There were two choices available at that point. First - 4NT to ask for keycards, which wasn't appealing given the weakness in both hearts and diamonds. Or... Second - 5♠ to indicate slam interest and ask North to evaluate their hand and make an intelligent decision (always risky to ask partner to do all of that!). North, with 20 HCP (more than necessary for a reverse) and excellent controls, had no hesitation bidding slam.

However, there were all sorts of other auctions generated by players holding the same cards, with some examples below:

North	South
1♣	1♠
2♦	4♠

North	South
1♣	1♠
3♠	4♠

North	South
1♣	1♠
3♦	4♠

North	South
2NT	3♥
4♠	Pass

What do you notice when you examine these auctions? I see uncertainty about what is forcing, and I see some bidders relying too much on HCP and not enough on hand evaluation. The South hand does only have 7 HCP, but it also has only seven losers, more than enough to keep investigating slam. Do not panic and think you need to bid game immediately - the theory of fast arrival says that by doing so, you are taking up space that could be used for slam bidding, and that therefore you are not interested in bidding further. If a forcing auction is established early, such as with a reverse, you can take your time to be as descriptive as possible.

Moving on to the Gerbil hand:

Hand #2:

♠ AQ4
♥ AQ875
♦ KQ
♣ KQ3



♠ 8
♥ K10
♦ 1098763
♣ AJ103

22 HCP opposite 8.

Unopposed once again, our auction was:

North	South
2♣	2♦ ¹
2NT	3♣ ²
3NT	4♠ ³
4NT ⁴	6♦

Pass

¹ waiting

² partner, please bid 3NT. I may or may not have something further to say

³ I have shortness in spades and am interested in a minor suit slam

⁴ I am not!

This all went badly, as one defender held AJx of trump, so down we went!

[continued next page]

A funny thing happened on the way to the slam... (continued)

The 4NT bid by North said that they did not have a minor suit fit and would rather play in NT. Holding AQ in both majors, North wanted to declare the hand to protect those two tenaces. When South bid 6♦, they indicated 6-4, perhaps even 7-4, in the minors and asked North to decide what slam to play - 6♦ or 6NT. What should North choose?

They had already bid 4NT to deny four cards in a minor and a preference for NT. But they do have the ♦KQ - surely that is a pretty good trump holding opposite partner's 6-card suit and any self-respecting partner should have either the Ace or Jack of trumps if they are pushing for slam!

This hand netted us a stone cold zero, but if South happened to have the ♦J, or if the ♦J had fallen singleton or doubleton under the ♦KQ, the slam makes.

What if North chooses to bid 6NT? Well, miracles need to happen. Since the diamonds do not set up, you must score all five heart tricks - which means on the layout of this particular hand, you will have to lead low toward the ♥K10, inserting the ♥10. Now you would score four clubs and five hearts, the ♦K and the ♠A = 11. So you would also need to take the spade finesse, which is on, et voilà - 12 tricks. All that combines to make for a very low percentage line of play, yet it works.

We did not feel too badly about our auction and would likely do it again, although South did mention that they might have passed 4NT instead of bidding 6♦.

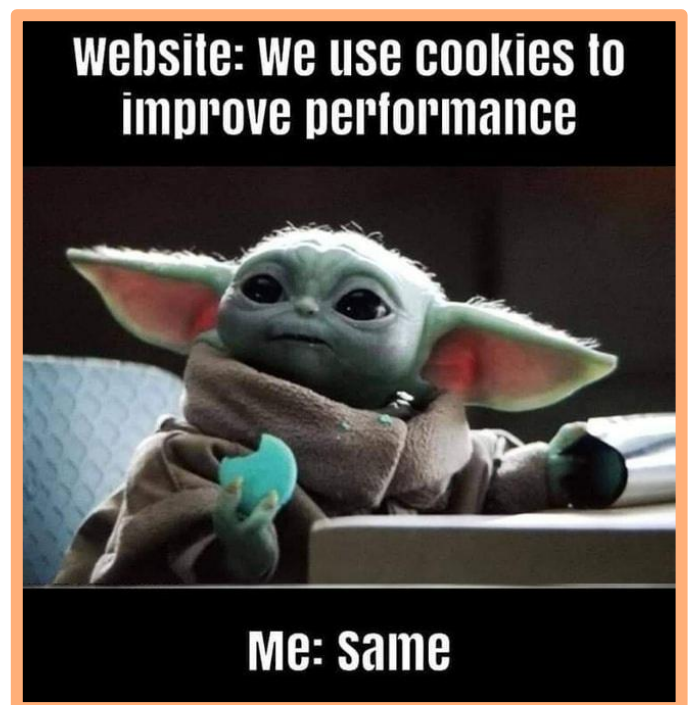
But what kinds of auctions were perpetrated at other tables?

North	South
2♣	2♦
2NT	3NT
North	South
2♣	2♦
2♥	3♣
3NT	Pass
North	South
2♣	2♠ (7-9 HCP)
3♥	4♥
North	South
2♣	2♦
2♥	3♦
3NT	4♥

I would like to suggest that the North hand, with a balanced 3-5-2-3 distribution, should not rebid 2♥, which ought to show a more single-suited hand (partner should expect you to have six or more hearts or possibly five hearts with a singleton or weak doubleton). If North makes a standard rebid of 2NT, usually showing 22-24 HCP, South can see 30-32 HCPs with a long diamond suit and slam potential.

The question is, does your partnership have any tools to move past 3NT? While that bid often seems like the end of the line and a safe landing spot, there are many minor suit slams that get missed, with players not wanting to end up in five of a minor instead of 3NT. Remember, you can still play in 4NT or 5NT, and there is a lot of fun in trying out new bids.

Our auctions were outliers in these two examples. However, on both occasions, we bid according to our system agreements and tried to seek out the potential of each hand, with rainbows and unicorns dancing in our heads. As always, we win some and lose some!



Answers to Bridge Trivia Quiz

(see questions on page 2)

1. The ♦7. Some people play that if anyone wins the last trick with that card, every other player at the table must buy that person a beer. Dann Kramer is a master at this, even gladly sacrificing the contract to play the beer card.



2. The ♦9. According to legend, the execution order of Mary Stuart Queen of the Scots was written on the back of this card.



3. Maddie McGill and Pat Smolensky. They placed 8th in the Women's Pairs at the 1966 world championship in Amsterdam.



4. A score of -200 on a part-score deal. Because it is worse than any likely part-score result like -110 or -140, it is usually close to a bottom result.
5. A score of 1100. For obvious reasons.
6. 3360, for 1NT redoubled with 6 overtricks. Take extra credit if you answered 3510 (i.e. add 150 honours at rubber bridge Chicago-style).
7. Mike Schoenborn (Toronto), Alex Knox (Calgary), Earl Knipfel (Moose Jaw) and Mike Wilson (Vancouver). A very tough draw.
8. Montreal in 2002.
9. A trick consisting of the 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the same suit.
10. Modesty forbids!

Editors' Note: Allan may be too modest, but he is Calgary's champion player at both Bridge and Scrabble!



Upcoming Unit 390 Tournament Dates

Face-to-face tournaments have resumed across the ACBL.
Be sure to check the official tournament schedule at
<https://tournaments.acbl.org/>
before finalizing your plans to attend any tournament.

Calgary New Year's Sectional	January 6 - 8, 2023
Calgary Spring Sectional	April 14 - 16, 2023
Calgary Summer Sectional	June 30 - July 2, 2023
Calgary Fall Sectional	September 1 - 3, 2023



Can You Read Minds?

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Playing IMPs in the 2022 Canadian National Team Championship with no one vulnerable, you as West hold this collection:

♠J75 ♥K ♦A84 ♣AKJ1094

The auction is a simple one:

South	You West	North	East
1♦	2♣	DBL	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass

You lead the ♣K (asking for upside-down count) and dummy is tabled:

IMPs

Contract: 4♥

Lead: ♣K

♠ J75	♠ AK98
♥ K	♥ QJ53
♦ A84	♦ 92
♣ AKJ1094	♣ 765
	N
	W ■ E
	S

Partner contributes the ♣8 (surely an odd number with the ♣Q32 missing) and declarer follows with the Queen. Based on the auction declarer must have all the remaining HCPs. You appear to have three defensive tricks (one club, one diamond and probably one heart). Does the defense have any prospect for a fourth?

You are fairly certain that partner holds four hearts but no HCPs to assist the defense. You can also see that declarer has several ways to make his contract, including dropping your ♥K.

However, declarer's knowledge of the distribution and division of honour cards is imperfect. Can you be a mind reader? Is there some way to create a problem for declarer, either real or imaginary?

Think about the play if you continue clubs. Declarer ruffs and will have several lines open to him, including this one: lay down the ♥A, travel to dummy's ♠A, ruff the last club and then play a second round of hearts to drive out the ♥K. This line succeeds whenever hearts are 3-2 (68%) and also when the ♥K is singleton.

You aren't sure of declarer's exact distribution (he could be 4-4-4-1, 3-4-5-1 or 2-4-6-1), but you can make it awkward for him if you attack spades, his communication suit. With that in mind you lead the ♠J (just in case declarer later decides to finesse you for the ♠10 once he finds you short in hearts).

Declarer wins the ♠A in dummy (partner discourages, as predicted), ruffs a club and leads the ♥9 to your King and partner's four. You know partner cannot have the ♥A, so why didn't declarer lay down the ♥A? Declarer must be trying to maintain trump control and is counting on a 3-2 heart break. You forge ahead with your attack on spades. Declarer wins the ♠K and ruffs dummy's last club with the ♥A. He continues with the ♥10 and gets the bad news when you show out. You know pretty much what the layout must be (although you are still unsure whether declarer started with ♠Qxx or ♠Qxxx). The layout should be something along these lines:

♠ 98	♠ 7	♠ (?)
♥ QJ	♥ ---	♥ 87
♦ 92	♦ A84	♦ xxx(?)
♣	♣ KJ	♣ --
		N
		W ■ E
		S
		♠ Q(?)
		♥ ---
		♦ KQJx(?)
		♣ --

Declarer tries the ♦K from hand, which you duck (partner indicates an odd number of diamonds so you can infer now that declarer's distribution is indeed 3-4-5-1). When you win the next round of diamonds with the Ace, you can lead anything! Partner has two small trumps and dummy has no entry to draw them, so one of his small trumps is guaranteed to score.

Think about the hand from declarer's point of view. After trick one, dummy has three potential side losers (two clubs and a spade) along with the certain ♦A loser and a possible trump loser. If declarer is able to ruff both of dummy's small clubs, then he doesn't have to rely on a 3-3 diamond split since only one pitch for the spade loser is needed. But if declarer plays diamonds too soon and they do break 4-2, there may be a trump promotion.

[continued next page]

Can You Read Minds? (continued)

If you had played clubs at trick two, you would only be helping declarer.

This deal was played 14 times. Ten times the contract was 4♥ and it was defeated only twice. By visualizing that the club losers in dummy would pose an awkward problem for declarer you were able to devise the most promising line of defense and win 11 IMPs for your team. It's true that the contract can easily be made if declarer starts with the ♥A rather than the ♥9 at trick three, but he was trying to maintain trump control and in so doing found a losing line of play.

The full deal:

♠ AK98		
♥ QJ53		
♦ 92		
♣ 765		
♠ J75	♠ N	♠ 1043
♥ K	♥ W	♥ 8764
♦ A84	♦ E	♦ 1053
♣ AKJ1094	♣ S	♣ 832
♠ Q62		
♥ A1092		
♦ KQJ76		
♣ Q		



2023 Canadian Bridge Championships



The Canadian Bridge Federation has announced that the 2023 Canadian Bridge Championships (CBC) will be held using a hybrid model -- primarily live play with some online components.

The event is scheduled for May 10th - May 19th, 2023 in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

The round robins of the Canadian Women's Teams Championship and the Canadian Senior Teams Championship will be played online in January. This has been planned in order to reduce the overlap of the many events running face-to-face.

A regional tournament open to all players will be held in conjunction with the 2023 CBC.

Additional details will be available at a later date.

You can read more at <https://cbf.ca/2023-canadian-championships/>



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 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/cbf-membership-and-benefits/>

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

ACBL Alert Procedure - A Brief Overview

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

The objective of an Alert is to indicate to the opponents that the meaning of a call is *unexpected*, that is, it is not "natural" or "standard". The Alert gives the opponents (each at their own turn to call) an opportunity to inquire as to the meaning of the alerted bid.

Bridge is not meant to be a game based on a bidding language that contains secrets known only to the bidding side. Alerting unusual bids is one way to help ensure fairness and support the enjoyment of all who play.

What constitutes an unusual bid is fuzzy, but, in general, if a bid's meaning is not what it sounds like, then it should be alerted. Typically, this would include bids such as the following:

- a bid that has an unexpected HCP range (for example, a two bid that is not a weak two or a jump raise in a non-competitive auction that is weak rather than invitational)
- a suit bid that does not show length in that suit (for example, a transfer bid showing the suit above or a splinter bid showing shortness in the bid suit)
- bidding notrump when it is not an offer to play in notrump (for example, bidding 2NT in response to partner's one of a major opening to show a forcing raise)

The Alert system is for the benefit of the opponents, not to help you and your partner recognize when one of you has forgotten your system. It's not proper to take inference from incorrect alerts. Reminding your partner to alert your bid is not allowed.

When and How to Alert

Alerts must be made verbally by saying the word "Alert" and visually by tapping the Alert strip or showing the Alert card. Alerts when playing face-to-face are different than when playing online. Face-to-face, a player alerts his partner's unusual bid as soon as it is made (never his own). In contrast, online, you alert your own bid before making it.

When you alert a bid, you utter just that one word ... "Alert" ... and say no more. Explain a bid's meaning only if an opponent asks.

If you are not sure whether to alert a call, err on the side of alerting it. But you should try very hard not to alert any call that is classified as not alertable. You should alert a call that requires an Alert even if you can't remember its meaning.

The default rule for natural bids and passes is that they should not be alerted.

The default rule for artificial bids is that they should be alerted. However, some common conventions do not require an Alert during the auction: Stayman, Ace-asking bids, most cue-bids, strong, artificial, forcing 2♣ openings and any 2♦ response to strong 2♣.

Most doubles and redoubles do not have to be alerted, unless they are highly artificial (for example, if they show a specific suit).

When and How to Ask About an Alerted Bid

If an opponent alerts a call and you'd like further information, wait until it's your turn to call and then ask the person who alerted to explain. You may not ask about an alerted call until it is your turn in the auction.

The preferred form of the question is a simple "Please explain." It's not proper to ask leading questions like: "Is that natural?", "Is that weak?", "Does that show hearts?", etc. These kinds of questions might pass unauthorized information to partner (for example, asking if a bid is natural might hint that you have length in that suit). The same applies to asking "Is that Flannery?", "Is that Drury?", and so on.

Furthermore, when you phrase questions this way, the person who alerted would be quite right to answer "No". Then, where would you be?

If you ask for an explanation and the reply is simply the name of the convention (e.g. You say "Please explain" and the response is "Cappelletti"), you should ask your opponent to explain exactly what it shows if you aren't sure. In fact, just giving the name of a convention is not the proper way to respond in the first place.

Of course, you are entitled to ask for explanations any time it is your turn to call. But there are several sensitive junctures in an auction when asking questions may create complications. When there have been several alerts, it is usually better to wait and ask for a full summary and explanation of the auction when it is over, especially if the meaning of various bids has no bearing on your action.

Don't ask questions in the pass-out seat unless you are planning a bid. You may be unknowingly influencing your partner about what to lead or conveying other information. You will always have a chance to ask your questions once partner has made his lead face down.

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ACBL Alert Procedure - A Brief Overview (continued)

Then, you can ask "Please explain the auction and the alerted bids". You shouldn't ask about any one specific alerted bid when there have been several alerts (e.g. "what was 2♣?") because that may pass unauthorized information to your partner (that you are interested in clubs).

Alerts are not the only mechanism that provides the opponents access to information. Upon the request of an opponent, a player must fully explain the meaning of any of partner's calls, even unalerted ones. However, if a call was not alerted, you can assume that the meaning is what it sounds like logically.

When and How to Explain an Alerted Bid

Your opponents are entitled to know your bidding and carding agreements (during the bidding and during the play), and in the spirit of fairness, you should fully disclose everything you and your partner have agreed upon. However, you only need to explain your system agreement. You don't have to speculate on what partner may have, especially if looking at your own hand has given you clues.

If an opponent asks about an unalerted bid that is not part of your system or about which you have no prior agreement, it is OK to say "we don't have an agreement " or "undiscussed".

If an opponent asks about one of partner's bids and you can't remember what it means (even if you correctly alerted the bid), it's best to just tell the opponent that ... "I forget". If necessary, call the director to help the table sort things out. One thing the director may do is take you away from the table while the opponents ask your partner.

Remember that just saying the name of a convention when asked about an alerted bid is not sufficient; you must explain what the bid actually means.

What to Do About a Failure to Alert or Errors in Explanation

If you realize you have made an error in explanation or have missed alerting one of partner's bids, you should correct it immediately. You may call the director to help.

If partner fails to alert one of your bids or alerts a bid you did not intend as alertable, you must keep a straight face and remain silent ... for now. Show no surprise! The same is true if partner is asked about one of your bids and misexplains.

There are two different rules that kick in at different times, depending on whether your side is declaring or defending.

When your side is declaring:

At the end of the auction and before the opening lead is made, you must tell the defenders about any alerts that were missed and about any errors in explanation. It is usually a good idea to first call the director over to supervise proceedings.

When your side is defending:

After the play of the hand is completed, you must explain any failures to alert or misinformation given by your partner. Again, the director should be summoned to help sort things out. Remember, you must say nothing until the hand is over.

Announcements

An announcement is a form of Alert that explains a bid at the time it is made, without the opponents asking.

Announcements apply in common situations that can be explained with a word or a short phrase that describes the meaning of partner's call. There are four basic things that must be announced:

1. the HCP range of any natural 1NT opening. Say "15 to 17", or whatever your partnership agreement is.
2. the minimum length of any non-forcing minor suit opening that could be fewer than a three-card suit. For example, say "could be two", if you might open 1♣ with two clubs.
3. a 1NT response to a 1-level major suit opening that is forcing or semi-forcing. Say "forcing" or "semi-forcing". If, over 1♥, partner's 1NT response is forcing or semi-forcing and might contain four spades, you should add that to the announcement. Say "forcing, could have four spades".
4. the name of the suit being shown, if an artificial bid, double or redouble shows length in exactly one different suit. (This used to be announced "transfer"). For example:
If, after a 1NT opening, 2♦ shows hearts, say "hearts".
If, after a 1NT opening, 2NT shows clubs, say "clubs".
If a 4♦ opening bid shows hearts, say "hearts".

What to Do If Partner's Alert or Explanation Gives You Information

Oops! Your partner alerts one of your bids that you didn't think was alertable. Or, your partner is asked and explains something different than what you thought you were showing. Now what?

The key thing to remember in situations like these is that the Alert system is for the benefit of the opponents. It is not meant to help you and your partner "keep things straight". It is tricky.

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ACBL Alert Procedure - A Brief Overview (continued)

On one hand, you must listen to partner's explanation to make sure he doesn't give misinformation; on the other, you must pretend you didn't hear it!

If partner has made the mistake, you must continue bidding as if partner has explained or alerted correctly. If your side ends up declaring, you will tell the opponents at the end of the auction and before the opening lead. If your side ends up defending, you will tell the opponents at the end of the hand.

For example, partner opens 1NT, and you bid 2♠ which you play as Minor Suit Stayman. Partner announces "clubs" and bids 3♣. What should you do? You must bid as if partner has shown 4+ clubs in response.

Another example: partner opens 2♣ strong, and you bid 2♥ which you play as natural with at least enough points for game. Partner alerts and explains that 2♥ is an immediate negative showing a bust hand. Partner now bids 2NT. What should you do? The one thing you must not do now is transfer to hearts ... remember, as far as you are concerned, partner already knows you have 5+ hearts.

What should you do if your partner alerts or gives an explanation and you realize that partner is right, but your bid was wrong. The rule is that you must carry on the bidding as though you never heard your partner's information. The regulations do not require you to tell the opponents you made a mistake and you certainly do not have to tell them what you actually have. However, in the interest of fair play, you should advise the opponents before the opening lead is made without saying anything more. You could say something simple like "I've forgotten our system".

What's Alertable?

Over the years, the Alert procedure and the rules for what should and should not be alerted have undergone many revisions. The latest document outlining the process in great detail was posted in April 2022 and can be found [HERE](#).

In Closing

Remember, you should not hesitate to call the director to help straighten out any problems. Summoning the director is not an accusation against your opponents, and if the opponents call the director, don't get embarrassed or angry. Directors are knowledgeable professionals who are on duty to help. That's why we pay them the big bucks ☺

In preparing this article, information from several sources was used as reference:

*ACBL Alert Procedure (acbl.org)
All About Alerts (bridgewebs.com)
Knowing the Rules (larryco.com)*

2022 Alberta Sectionals Masterpoint Race

Year-to-Date Standings - October 6th
(based on all five Alberta sectionals held so far in 2022)

1	81.03	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB
2	69.64	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB
3	52.09	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB
4	49.98	Douglas Mann	Calgary AB
5	47.00	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB
6	38.95	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB
7	38.95	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB
8	38.82	Steve Bates	Edmonton AB
9	31.20	Bernie Lambert	Acme AB
10	29.98	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB
11	29.86	Keith Wallace	Calgary AB
12	29.86	Pam Wallace	Calgary AB
13	28.80	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB
14	28.48	Ian Findlay	Banff AB
15	28.41	David Johnson	Calgary AB
16	27.54	Gerry Marshall	Nayarit MX
17	27.28	Laurie Shapka	Red Deer AB
18	26.39	Tom Nault	Calgary AB
19	24.90	Peter Jones	Edmonton AB
20	23.27	Bryant Town	Edmonton AB
21	22.64	Terri Bedard	Calgary AB
22	21.74	Ken Penton	Calgary AB
23	21.67	Dinesh Agrawal	Calgary AB
24	21.53	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB
25	21.33	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB
26	21.15	David Boushy	Calgary AB
27	20.98	Rajendra Agrawal	Calgary AB
28	20.86	Ian Gatenby	Red Deer AB
29	20.11	Thomas To	Calgary AB
30	20.00	Alex Knox	Calgary AB
31	19.89	Frank Ayer	Calgary AB
32	19.57	Ross Armour	Edmonton AB
33	19.44	Jason Dufault	Edmonton AB
34	19.43	Hans Folkinga	Edmonton AB
35	19.43	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB
36	19.39	Clarence Duby	Calgary AB
37	19.39	John Prance	Calgary AB
38	19.14	Chris Buchanan	Edmonton AB
39	18.79	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB
40	18.68	Yi Peng (Mark) Mai	Calgary AB
41	18.52	Roberta McIlwain	Invermere BC
42	18.52	Sandy McIlwain	Invermere BC
43	18.40	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB
44	18.02	K Fung	Edmonton AB
45	17.90	Nicole Beauregard	Calgary AB