



The Kibitzer

April 2023

Editors: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

President's Message

In my last message I asked for a volunteer to take on the position of Tournament Chair. I am delighted to report that Lois Matton has taken on the position and has just successfully completed her first sectional tournament. We wish Lois all the best as she has taken on a challenging assignment. At this time I also wish to thank the outgoing Tournament Co-ordinator, Carrie Stockman, who has held the position for several years and has worked tirelessly to promote the sectionals and ensure that they were run efficiently.

The April tournament had a 196.5 table count. This was four more tables than the January Sectional but it was a smaller increase than I had hoped for. However, owing to the \$2 increase in fees per session (\$13 to \$15) the loss was approximately \$1160 compared with the \$1712 in January. Any mathematician will question why an increase in revenue of \$1772 only reduced the loss by \$552.

The reason is that at the January Sectional there was only one tournament director plus a tournament assistant, whereas at the April Sectional there were two tournament directors. The ACBL charges CDN\$314.16 per session for a tournament director. The charge for a tournament assistant is considerably lower. Therefore it is evident that future sectionals cannot afford two tournament directors.

In light of the significant losses incurred recently and the apparent stagnation of table count, the Board has decided to cancel the July Sectional and so the next Sectional will be at the Royal Hotel on September 1st - 3rd.

The next Unit event is the windup for the Mentorship Program for 2022/2023. This will take place on Thursday, April 27th at 6:30 pm at the Bridge Centre. Everyone is invited to attend this game. The 2022/23 program has been running since December 2022 and each mentor/mentee partnership should have completed six games together. It is hoped that the mentees will have improved their skills through these games and that the mentors will also have benefitted from the experience. I hope that when the next Mentorship program starts in the fourth quarter of 2023 there will be a multitude of applicants.

On Saturday May 13th the Unit will be holding a 299er Sectional at the Bridge Centre. This is a good opportunity to win silver points. Seventy-five silver points are required to achieve the rank of Life Master, which is the rank many bridge players strive to achieve.

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President's Message (continued)

The Unit's Annual General Meeting will be held at the Bridge Centre on Sunday June 4th. Please make a note of this date and keep a look out for further information which will be forthcoming nearer the time. It is an important event because the financial report for the year will be presented and an election of Board members for the next year will take place. Anyone wishing to put their name forward can do so by contacting me at john.sharpe@telus.net or any member of the existing Board, or making their wishes known at the AGM before nominations close.

John Sharpe
President, Calgary ACBL Unit 390
April 2023



Kids in Our Midst

It was quite a sight ... two kids not yet in high school, sorting cards, counting points, declaring and defending ... you know, the kind of stuff all bridge players do. At the recent April Sectional, Patrick (13 years of age) and Eason (10 years of age) played both 299er pairs games on Saturday (after all, they had school on Friday) and then joined with Patrick's parents to play in the B/C Swiss Teams on Sunday.



Patrick



Eason

Their performance in the Sunday teams was remarkable. There were not enough teams to hold a separate 299er event so the Guo team was merged with the B/C Swiss Teams event. After four of six matches, the team – Frank Guo and June Cheng, Patrick and Eason -- was leading the entire event!

Things turned rough for them over the last two matches, but despite losing both matches, the team finished 1st overall in Flight D (for the 299er teams) and 5th in Flight C.



Team Guo

Patrick started learning bridge about 3½ years ago in November 2019 and has been playing bridge for over three years, primarily with his Dad. Patrick and Eason have been playing together for one month, since March 2023.

Patrick really likes the mental challenge.

"I like bridge because I can train my logical and strategic thinking. Counting losers/winners and making a plan with strategies to fulfill the contract will make my brain more active. I find it fun playing as declarer."

Eason has been playing bridge for four years -- he started when he was in Grade 1 at age six!

Eason's Mom tells us that the thing Eason likes most about bridge is team games because it makes playing games more fun. In his own words ...

"When I grow up, I want to be a Bridge player. I like team games because it makes me not feel alone. Playing games alone is nowhere near as fun as playing with a friend. In bridge, you have to work with your partner. It is more fun to work together and win than just playing by yourself. Bridge is also a great game to play. I like playing games because it gives me something to do when I am bored. It is a great way to use your brain in fun and interesting ways. For example, you have to think hard about how your opponent pairs are going to play and race against them. You have to use your memory and think fast to beat your opponent."

Bridge is a great way to make friends, and is a fun game to play when you're trying to find something to do or learn."

Member Milestones

The following members have reached new masterpoint milestones from the beginning of October 2022 to the end of March 2023. Congratulations to all on their achievements.



New Junior Masters (5+ MPs):

Shirley Aldous	Christine Iversen
Deborah Bartlett	Jane Jefferis
Annalisa Bednall	David Macsween
Nancy Brooks	Genevieve McLean
Lois Clapperton	Judith Shaw
Blair Davies	Fiona Swanson
Brenda Davies	Liz Tonken
Kerri Gallup	Jodie Winquist

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

Trudy Allan	Gregory Hollingsworth
James Allard	Jerry Malone
Joyce Melnyk	Sheila Morgan

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

John Abra	Eric Gutland
Brad Bowyer	Deirdre Melton
Margaret Carleton	Adelle Palmer
Carole Conrad	Dennis Quick
Philippa Fitzgerald-Finch	Shuo Shi
Helen Graham	Gregory Waskiewich

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

Vincenzo Botha	Lynn Sinclair
Ron Licht	Guangren Wang
Bob Matheson	

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

Carolanne DeBiasio	Susan Ongyerth
Yi Peng (Mark) Mai	Margaret Suddards

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

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

Howard Coren	Paul Sackman
Michael Lang	Hailong Yu

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

Marcia Andreychuk	Paul Sackman
Howard Coren	Richard Wolfe
Michael Lang	Hailong Yu

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

Donna Lea Anderson	Betty Fenton
Pat Anderson	Alex Heron Jr
Dorothy Brayford	Marc Maes
Stephen Cohen	Joan Shannon
Devra Drysdale	Hailong Yu

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

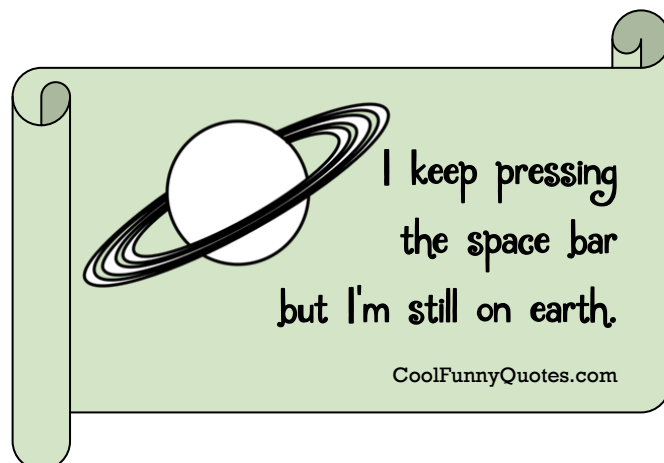
John D Aguiar	Freda Nychkalo
Janice Eliasson	Lorraine Somerville
Karen Mitchell	

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

Elsie Johnson

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

Lamya Abougoush	Murray Haggins
Rajendra Agrawal	Russ Peterson
Michael Covey	Garth Wiggins
Keith Falkenberg	



299er Sectional Tournament - November 2022

By Sandra Stewart, Unit 390 Future Masters Chair

On Saturday, November 26th, 2022 Unit 390 hosted a 299er Sectional Tournament. The tournament was open to all ACBL members with under 300 masterpoints. All the masterpoints awarded at this tournament were silver – an important element for players who have a goal of working their way up the ACBL masterpoint rankings. The games were also flighted based on the average masterpoints of the partnership (D: 100-300; E: 50-100; F: 0-50) so everyone had a chance to earn some silver!

The tournament was the first 299er event to be held since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and also the first such tournament to be held at the Calgary Bridge Centre. It was wonderful to see so many people return to face-to-face bridge. For some players, it was their first ever in-person sectional. The tournament also provided the perfect opportunity to introduce many players to the Bridge Centre -- it is a great location for our city's bridge community to gather and play.

The tournament attracted a total of 32 tables over the two Saturday sessions. The Unit provided a "Welcome Back to F2F Bridge" lunch for all those attending both Saturday games.

On Friday evening prior to the tournament, the Unit hosted a Kickoff Reception at the Bridge Club during which players new to sectionals could learn about tournaments and duplicate play. There was an overview of convention cards, director calls and bridgemates, along with a Q&A session. This was followed by a short bid 'n play game.

Overall, some 65 silver masterpoints were awarded to 48 participants. The top 10 masterpoint winners were:

1	3.83	Ted Burgoin, Calgary AB
2	3.83	Gary Croxton, Calgary AB
3	3.34	Susan McMahon, Calgary AB
4	3.34	Annalisa Bednall, Calgary AB
5	3.22	Jan Langley, Calgary AB
6	3.22	Art Marche, Calgary AB
7	2.98	Michele Hyndman, Calgary AB
8	2.98	Barbara Wallat, Calgary AB
9	1.88	Lynn Sinclair, Calgary AB
10	1.88	Jacquelyn Lanz, Calgary AB

Everyone who came out and played in the 299er tournament deserves hearty congratulations - especially those who were attending a sectional or face-to-face game for the first time! Well done! Also, a sincere thank-you to all the volunteers who helped organize the tournament.

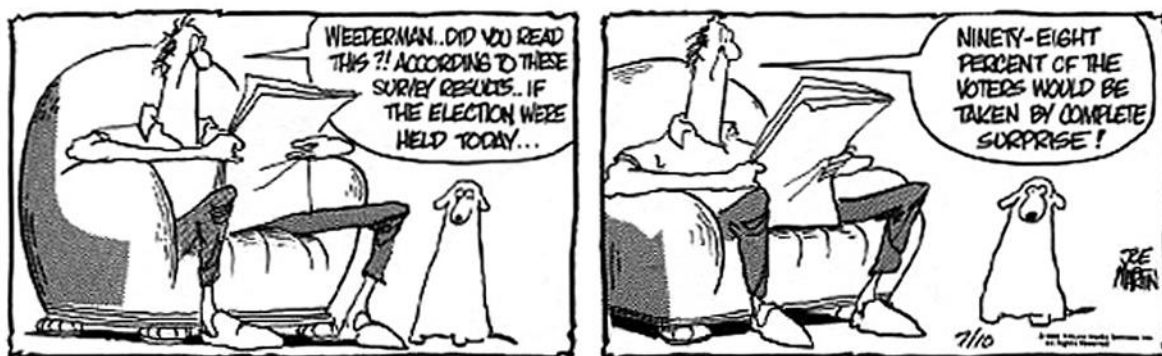


Be sure to mark your calendars for our next 299er tournament. It will be held at the Bridge Centre on Saturday, May 13th.

Why not come out and play – have fun, meet other players, and earn

SILVER points. Let's see if we can fill the main level of the Bridge Centre! Your support

is greatly appreciated as it is critical in keeping these sectionals viable. You can view the flyer on page 8 or on the Unit 390 website. **Please pre-register if you plan to play.**



Joe Martin
Mr. Boffo Archive, July 10, 1986

2023 Rookie Master Team Game

By Pam Sterling, Special Events Chair

On February 25th, 2023, Unit 390 hosted the Rookie - Master Swiss Teams event. This was the sixth time the event has been successfully staged (the first being in 2014) and the first since 2020 when we just made it under the COVID lockdown.

Twenty-one teams attended this year's successful event. The night started with a chili dinner, with a lovely array of salads and desserts supplied by the participating Masters. Many guests commented on how gorgeous the "dessert table" was! Dinner was followed by a brief talk by Judith Gartaganis on the basics of team play. And then the fun started.

Crystal Mann directed the game, ably assisted by Doug Mann, who graciously offered to skip a family anniversary to substitute for a last-minute cancellation.

For this event, a "Rookie" was defined as a player with under 100 masterpoints who had never played in an A/X game. Each Rookie was paired with a Master, and then teams were formed.

Participants played three Swiss matches. The top 3 teams were as follows:

1. Andrea Killackey - Terry Killackey - Amal Macphail - Roger Bolton
2. Ted Lobley - Joy Crawford - Alex Heron Jr - Hazel Skelton
3. Margaret Cooke - Patricia McDonald - Lance Cooke - Pat Culham

As often happens, there was a funny last minute glitch to deal with. Did you know Calgary has not one, but two, Patrick Murphys?

Sandra Millar registered herself and Patrick Murphy (rookie). Then Patrick Murphy (master) said that he would like to register. I asked if he would be willing to play with Sandra Millar and he said sure as that was who he was mentoring. I thought it was a bit strange that he didn't realize that Sandra had already registered him, so I asked him if he knew whether there was another Patrick Murphy and he said, to his knowledge, he was the only one. Then at the game Sandra Millar walks in with Patrick Murphy (rookie) and I immediately called "Help". Not to fret though, we were able to rearrange teams and made sure that there were **two** Patrick Murphys on the same team!

For complete results and the hand record please see <https://acblunit390.org/tournaments/special-events/unit-390-special-events-results/>

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped and to the players who came out and enjoyed the night. Hope to see you all next year.

Upcoming Unit 390 Tournament Dates

Be sure to check the most up-to-date schedule before you go at

<https://tournaments.acbl.org/>

On the Unit 390 website, you will find a list of selected tournaments happening in and around our area at

<https://acblunit390.org/tournaments/selected-2023-tournaments/>

Calgary 299er Sectional May 13, 2023

Calgary Fall Sectional September 1 - 3, 2023

Regina Regional May 1 - 7, 2023

Penticton Regional June 12 - 18, 2023

Calgary Gold Rush Regional (Non-Life Masters) July 28 - 30, 2023

Edmonton Regional August 8 - 13, 2023



Think Before You Leap ... er, Lead

By Gordon Campbell

In hindsight this was an easy lead problem, but I nearly failed.
All I had to do was think, but I almost didn't bother.

You hold:

♠J109 ♥J8732 ♦K43 ♣62

Playing IMPs with everyone vulnerable, LHO opens 3NT
(gambling showing a solid minor). RHO thinks quite a while
before bidding 6♠. In 45+ years of bridge, this is an auction
I have never encountered. Neither, I suspect, have you!

So, what do you lead?

Please ponder a while until you say eureka. The IBM
corporate motto is THINK. So, let's do just that.

A Clue: Only one lead beats the contract. Pressure!

The logic and what we know:

Dummy must have long solid clubs.

Now we have to develop a picture of Declarer's hand.

- He must hold long and fairly solid spades, say AKQxxxx, and you know spades are breaking.
- He must hold the ♥A or ♥K (he surely won't have two top losers there).
- Using the same reasoning, he must hold the ♦A (since you have the King).

Do not read on until you reach your eureka moment! Please
turn to page 17 for the conclusion.



At the recent New Orleans NABC, Calgary's Dorothy Mersereau took top honours in the limerick contest celebrating St. Patrick's Day. This is not Dorothy's first rodeo ... she and her husband, Dave Johnson, have made a habit of winning!

Here is an excerpt from the report
(reprinted from the March 17 New Orleans Daily Bulletin) ...

"Though attendance in New Orleans has been good, running ahead of last year's Spring NABC in Reno, entries to the limerick contest were down. Though there were fewer limericks to judge, the good ones were still good and the bad ones were still bad, so let's carry on.

There were two limericks earning a perfect score, but this entry by Dorothy Mersereau of Calgary AB had something extra."



I arrived in New Orleans to play
As for partner I really can't say
He was knockin' 'em back
Hurricanes, Sazerac
Saying, "Laissez les bon temps rouler."



Table Etiquette or ... How To Be A Good Opponent

By Janet Galbraith

Over the past few years of mainly online bridge play, many of us have forgotten some of the niceties of live bridge, since BBO does most of our thinking for us in that respect. For others who may have only just learned our great game via online lessons and who are just venturing out into the "real" world, they have likely never had the opportunity to learn the whats and whys of table etiquette. While there are numerous lists outlining what makes a good partner, this list identifies some of the basics of being a good opponent.

1. Make your face down lead before doing administrative tasks.

The opening lead is like the bell at the start of a horse race -- everyone is in their starting gate getting antsy for the race to begin. Bridge is a timed event and declarer wants to see the dummy to start planning the play without time being wasted as you search for your pencil and score sheet and start making notes. People on lead often say "I was thinking about my lead" while they write things down. I beg to differ -- it is pretty difficult to give proper thought to the auction and your cards while also scorekeeping. Make your lead and then scorekeep while the dummy is being tabled.

2. Don't fuss with dummy's cards.

Lay the cards out neatly, leaving enough room at the edge for you to put the played cards, and then don't touch them again unless directed by declarer. Many dummies seem full of nervous energy as they are unable to keep their hands still and are constantly touching and rearranging the cards. If a suit is played until it is void, do not move all the other suits around to erase the space created. These actions are very distracting to opponents, who are trying to see the cards on the table and count and remember what cards have been played, which includes thinking about where those cards were on the table originally. You likely don't even realize you are doing it, so try to be mindful of your actions.

3. The Law says you must say "Alert", not "Alert, it means such and such ..."

We are very spoiled by BBO, where you should alert your own bids in the description line before you click on the bid. Players get all sorts of information automatically without asking, and the player making the alert knows their partner cannot read the information. While it is true that you can ask questions when it is your turn to bid, should you? What do you hope to gain?

If you are actively involved in the auction or might be interested in making a lead directing double, then it is of value to you to ask questions and of course you should do so. However, if you are just a bystander while the opponents are bidding their way to a game or slam, you really do not need to ask questions about the auction until it is over. Every time you unnecessarily say "please explain" after an alert, it not only slows down the whole process, it also lets the partner of the person making the alert hear what their partner thinks the bid means. If the explanation is not what they meant, they must struggle to bid ethically as if they have not heard their partner's mistaken explanation. Even if the opponents are playing a system unfamiliar to you, it is much better to wait until the auction is over and your partner makes their face-down lead to then ask "Could you please explain the auction?"

4. Don't ask suit-specific questions before the opening lead.

Chris and I have a few fun gadgets on our card, so we frequently make artificial bids. Our explanations always start with "This bid is artificial and ..." Opponents often specifically ask "so it says nothing about Hearts?" (or Spades or whatever suit we have used). We don't keep track but there is a very high correlation between that question being asked and that suit being led. The same goes for questions being asked in the pass out seat about a specific suit bid during the auction. For example: 1♠ - (P) - 4♣ - (P) - 4♦ - (P) - 4♠ - (P) - P - "What does 4♦ mean?" Pass. Then a diamond is led.

You can see from those examples that a number of issues arise. The partner on lead may be inadvertently influenced by the question. It is possible that they were always going to lead that suit, but it is also possible that they had a number of choices and will now choose to lead the suit mentioned by their partner. Declarer will get anxious before a lead is even made, wondering if it will be that suit. If it is, don't be alarmed if they call the director for protection before the play of the hand in case it turns out that the question and subsequent lead caused them damage. Sometimes the lead of the asked-about suit will damage the person making it. Aha - Karma!

[continued next page]

How To Be A Good Opponent (continued)

Save all of that hassle by either waiting for the opening lead or asking a general question covering all bids so that no one is aware of your interest in one specific suit. The same goes for when you need to ask for a review of the auction -- let the opponents tell you the whole auction instead of stopping them at one particular spot.

5. Explain what your partner's bid means, not what it is called.

When an opponent asks for information, explain what your partnership agreement is, not what it is called in a book. Announcing something by the name of its convention means that you expect your opponent to be able to mindread. They may have never heard of the convention and have no idea what it is -- you make them feel a bit stupid by forcing them to ask more questions. They may be too shy or embarrassed to do so and so are deprived of proper information. Alternatively, they may play something by the same name so they don't ask for more information, but either you or they are playing a modification and incorrect assumptions are made. For example, for an auction like 1♠ - (P) - 2NT (alert), instead of saying "we play Jacoby (or modified Jacoby)," it is more respectful to the opponents to explain "this is an artificial game-forcing bid showing four or more spades" or whatever modification you have made. Even if we know the names of conventions, we should not be expected to remember the finer points of each one nor to know how our opponents have tweaked them.

6. Please pass the boards to the next table!

As indicated in ACBL Law 8, it is the North player who is responsible for moving boards to the next table for the following round. If you are still playing your last board and see that the round is finished, be considerate and pass the completed boards to the next table so they don't have to wait for you to finish.

These are just a few things, but if you find a way to do the above list, your opponents will love you!



Many thanks to our keen-eyed proof-readers:

John and Janet Sharpe
Janet Galbraith
Delores Hedley.

299er Sectional

Saturday May 13, 2023

Calgary Bridge Centre
1140 8 Street S.E.
Calgary, Alberta

Pre-registration requested.
Please visit the Unit 390
website to access the
registration form

Please bring your own
lunch, relax and visit
awhile during the break.

Stratification:

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

All Silver Points!

Schedule:

10:00 a.m. 299er Stratified Pairs
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Lunch Break
2:30 p.m. 299er Stratified Pairs

Entry Fees (all games are single session): Cash Only
ACBL members: \$15 per session
Unpaid ACBL members: \$19
ACBL members with fewer than 5 MPs: FREE
Guest Membership: FREE (good for 120 days)

Free coffee, pop
and snacks.

Tournament Chair: Sandra Stewart
403-993-3019
sandra.stewart@shaw.ca
Partnership Chair: Delores Hedley
403-254-4995
dollyd@telus.net
Director: Lois Matton

Background graphic by Freepik.com

With A Little Help From My Friends

By Allan Simon

Playing rubber bridge is a vanishing type of competition these days. Back in the mid-80s rubber bridge flourished and I often played at the Valley Ridge Bridge Club. It was there I picked up this hand:

♠ KJ74 ♥ A643 ♦ J7 ♣ J96

Joe Kerger on my left opened 1♠ and partner (I can't remember who it was) bid 2♠. In a money rubber bridge game, the only conventions allowed back then were Stayman and Blackwood so partner's bid showed any strong hand. I decided to bid 3♥ rather than 2NT to get more information as to the nature of partner's hand. If he bid 3♠ over 3♥ I would have an easy 3NT rebid. Partner raised to 4♥, ending the auction.

Kerger led the ♣K and partner tabled his hand:

Rubber Bridge

Contract: 4♥

Lead: ♣K

♠ A52
♥ KQJ10
♦ KQ10943
♣ --

N
W E
S

♠ KJ74
♥ A643
♦ J7
♣ J96

4♥ seemed like a good contract, but partner's original 2♠ bid was a bit over the top. Joe had found the best lead of a high club. I ruffed in dummy and led the ♦K to Joe's Ace. He continued a second club, ruffed in dummy. I now confidently played the ♥K and soon picked up my jaw off the floor when Joe discarded the ♠5. With my prospects suddenly dim I played two more high diamonds, both opponents following to the 2nd round. On the 3rd round East (Bill Koski) ruffed in with the ♥9, while I discarded my last club. When Koski returned the ♣8 I ruffed in hand with the ♥4, pitching the ♠2 from dummy. Now I led a spade to the Ace (both opponents followed with low spades), leaving this position:

♠ 5
♥ Q
♦ 1094
♣ ---

N
W E
S

♠ KJ7
♥ A6
♦ ---
♣ ---

At this juncture I had taken six tricks and needed four more. East was known to hold ♥875 and the defence already had two tricks. Leading a diamond would certainly induce RHO to ruff. Whether he ruffed high or low there was no path to taking four tricks. However, since the spade situation was unclear I had a chance to get a little help from my friends by trying to sneak a spade trick. When I led the ♠5 from dummy Koski erred by discarding a club and now I was home free. I won the ♠K, ruffed a spade with dummy's ♥Q and led a diamond. East was cooked. If he ruffed with the ♥8 or ♥7 I would discard and score the last two tricks with the ♥A and ♥6. If he ruffed with the ♥5 then I would score the ♥6 immediately.

The full deal:

♠ A52
♥ KQJ10
♦ KQ10943
♣ --

♠ Q10986
♥ --
♦ A52
♣ KQ1043

N
W E
S

♠ KJ74
♥ A643
♦ J7
♣ J96

♠ 3
♥ 98752
♦ 86
♣ A8752



2022 - 2023 Unit 390 Mentorship Program

The mentorship program for Unit 390 matches up players of different skill levels to play a series of duplicate bridge games. By playing with someone a little more (or possibly much more) advanced, an up-and-coming player has a chance to ask questions and learn from their mentor. Of course, the ultimate goal is to grow bridge in Calgary.



A registration form was sent out in October 2022 and the Mentorship Committee tried to have people matched up by the beginning of December. The plan is to conclude the current mentorship program in April 2023.

This year the Unit held a kickoff event on January 20th at the Bridge Centre. It was very successful and a wind-up celebration game is planned for April 27th.

We encouraged players to play face-to-face at the clubs but a few pairings have been made where it was more convenient for the participants to play online. It is important to include as many people as possible in the program.

We have matched up 24 pairs. Some pairs won't finish and a few people have had to back out for personal reasons. This is unfortunate but there's always next year!

When we were looking to sign up more mentors, we discovered that a lot of mentoring is taking place outside of the program and that is very positive. In the Unit mentorship program, mentees had to have fewer than 300 masterpoints but some mentors wanted to work with people that were more advanced than this. No matter how mentoring happens, it certainly has to be good news for bridge in Calgary.

What the mentorship program has accomplished in previous years is taking root in the community. In order to improve bridge for "graduates" of previous mentorship programs, we need to provide opportunities for these advancing players as well, to continue to learn and improve.

Thank you to all of the participants in this year's program and to all who helped with the organization.

*Submitted by Nancy Stewart
On behalf of the Mentorship Committee*

2022 Alberta Sectionals Masterpoint Race

Final Standings

(Based on the six face-to-face sectionals of 2022)

1	91.23	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB
2	79.84	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB
3	71.16	Douglas Mann	Calgary AB
4	52.09	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB
5	47.57	Tom Nault	Calgary AB
6	47.00	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB
7	45.06	Ian Gatenby	Red Deer AB
8/9	38.95	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB
8/9	38.95	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB
10	38.82	Steve Bates	Edmonton AB
11/12	38.05	Keith Wallace	Calgary AB
11/12	38.05	Pam Wallace	Calgary AB
13	32.00	Hans Folkinga	Edmonton AB
14	32.00	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB
15	31.20	Bernie Lambert	Acme AB
16	29.98	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB
17	28.80	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB
18	28.48	Ian Findlay	Banff AB
19	28.41	David Johnson	Calgary AB
20	27.54	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB
21	27.28	Laurie Shapka	Red Deer AB
22/23	25.51	Janet Gangl	Red Deer AB
22/23	25.51	Travis Gangl	Red Deer AB
24	24.90	Peter Jones	Edmonton AB
25	23.62	Lorna Deschner	Red Deer AB
26	23.27	Bryant Town	Edmonton AB
27	22.64	Terri Bedard	Calgary AB
28	21.74	Ken Penton	Calgary AB
29	21.67	Dinesh Agrawal	Calgary AB
30	21.53	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB
31	21.33	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB
32	21.15	David Boushy	Calgary AB
33	20.98	Rajendra Agrawal	Calgary AB
34	20.11	Thomas To	Calgary AB
35	20.00	Alex Knox	Calgary AB
36	19.89	Frank Ayer	Calgary AB
37	19.57	Ross Armour	Edmonton AB
38	19.44	Jason Dufault	Edmonton AB
39/40	19.39	Clarende Duby	Calgary AB
39/40	19.39	John Prance	Calgary AB
41	19.24	Mike Christensen	Red Deer AB
42	19.14	Chris Buchanan	Edmonton AB
43	19.05	Charles Roberts	Red Deer AB
44	18.79	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB
45	18.68	Yi Peng (Mark) Mai	Calgary AB

2022 Ace of Clubs Awards

Unit 390 Final Standings

0 to 5	1	Claudine Petrunia	Calgary AB	23
	2	Judy Hamilton	High River AB	15
	3	Ann Zitaruk	High River AB	15
5 to 20	1	Steve Eastes	Calgary AB	23
	2	Betty Lees	Calgary AB	18
	3	Rick Palmer	Calgary AB	14
20 to 50	1	David Mellor	Calgary AB	66
	2/3	Sheila Morgan	Wheatland County	34
	2/3	Jerry Malone	Wheatland County	34
50 to 100	1	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	52
	2	Art Marche	Calgary AB	34
	3	Michele Hyndman	Calgary AB	27
100 to 200	1	Harihara Mahadevan	Calgary AB	58
	2	David Stephure	Calgary AB	53
	3	Keith Barry	Priddis Greens	47
200 to 300	1	Matt Bootle	Calgary AB	114
	2	Sandee Crepin	Red Cliff AB	55
	3	Olga Williams	Calgary AB	49
300 to 500	1	Terry Kaufman	Calgary AB	144
	2	Allan Tough	Calgary AB	120
	3	Charlene Delcourt	Calgary AB	83
500 to 1000	1	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	207
	2	Barry Crozier	Calgary AB	143
	3	Hailong Yu	Calgary AB	133
1000 to 1500	1	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	137
	2	John D Aguiar	Calgary AB	124
	3	Linda Martin	Calgary AB	113
1500 to 2500	1	Andy McKaig	Calgary AB	206
	2	Michael Covey	Calgary AB	144
	3	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB	138
2500 to 3500	1	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB	120
	2	Rod Hilderman	Calgary AB	82
	3	Maged Wafa	Calgary AB	74
3500 to 5000	1	Stephanie McAdam	Calgary AB	163
	2	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	98
	3	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	58
5000 to 7500	1	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	158
	2	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	124
	3	Elaine Stewart	St Albert AB	93
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	164
	2	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB	51
	3	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	2
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	96
	2	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	64

2022 Mini-McKenney Awards

Unit 390 Final Standings

0 to 5	1	Claudine Petrunia	Calgary AB	24
	2	Judy Hamilton	High River AB	15
	3	Lee Wright	Calgary AB	15
5 to 20	1	Steve Eastes	Calgary AB	27
	2	Betty Lees	Calgary AB	24
	3	Hai Hu	Calgary AB	18
20 to 50	1	David Mellor	Calgary AB	6
	2	Sheila Morgan	Wheatland County	35
	3	Jerry Malone	Wheatland County	34
50 to 100	1	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	55
	2	Art Marche	Calgary AB	41
	3	Gary Croxton	Calgary AB	32
100 to 200	1	David Stephure	Calgary AB	69
	2	Harihara Mahadevan	Calgary AB	58
	3	Robert Ronca	Calgary AB	51
200 to 300	1	Matt Bootle	Calgary AB	122
	2	Olga Williams	Calgary AB	61
	3	Dave Brett	Calgary AB	60
300 to 500	1	Terry Kaufman	Calgary AB	169
	2	Thomas To	Calgary AB	122
	3	Allan Tough	Calgary AB	120
500 to 1000	1	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	235
	2	Cynthia Clark	Calgary AB	181
	3	Hailong Yu	Calgary AB	157
1000 to 1500	1	John D Aguiar	Calgary AB	256
	2	Naushad Dada	Calgary AB	145
	3	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	144
1500 to 2500	1	Keith Falkenberg	Calgary AB	294
	2	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB	234
	3	Andy McKaig	Calgary AB	214
2500 to 3500	1	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB	179
	2	Douglas Mann	Calgary AB	147
	3	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB	141
3500 to 5000	1	David Johnson	Calgary AB	325
	2	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	262
	3	Stephanie McAdam	Calgary AB	164
5000 to 7500	1	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	213
	2	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	176
	3	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	156
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	364
	2	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB	128
	3	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	9
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	453
	2	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	331
	3	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	48

AED for Calgary Bridge Centre

At the urging of cardiologist and bridge player, Alan White, Calgary Bridge Centre acquired an AED in early April. The device was generously (and anonymously) donated to the Centre.

An AED, or automated external defibrillator, is a medical device used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. Sudden cardiac arrest occurs when the heart malfunctions and stops beating unexpectedly, most commonly due to fibrillation (rapid and unsynchronized heart rhythm). The AED can analyze the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock ("defibrillation") to help the heart re-establish a normal rhythm.

If not treated within minutes, sudden cardiac arrest quickly leads to death. The short of it ... AEDs save lives!

A demonstration and training session was organized by Dr. White at the Bridge Centre with 18 unit members in attendance. Alan provided introductory information, answered questions and demonstrated how "flat man" could be saved using the AED.



Saving "flatman" ...

The AED will have a permanent home at the Bridge Centre, but will be loaned to the Unit for events held at locations that do not have an AED on site.

If sufficient interest is shown, Alan is prepared to run another training session at a future date. If you are interested, please contact Jim Murphy at the Bridge Centre.

A big thank you to Alan for his leadership in this matter.
Here's hoping the AED never gets used!



Test Your Declarer Play

By Daniel Bertrand

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

Hand #1

IMPs

Contract: 6♠

Lead: ♥ Q

♠ K863
♥ K64
♦ Q43
♣ AK4

♠
♥
♦
♣

	N	E
W	□	
S		

♠ A7542
♥ A5
♦ AK7
♣ 872

LHO opens a weak 2♥ and after some slight overbidding you reach 6♠. LHO leads the ♥Q. When you cash the ♠K and ♠A, to your surprise LHO shows up with three spades! You have a sure trump loser; can you avoid a club loser?

Hand #2

IMPs

Contract: 3NT

Lead: K

♠ 975
♥ Q52
♦ 853
♣ QJ105

♠ N
♥ W
♦ E
♣ S

♠ KQJ
♥ AJ43
♦ A764
♣ AK

This time, RHO opens a weak 2♥ and you bid 3NT ending the auction. LHO leads the ♦K, RHO follows with the ♦9 and you duck the first trick. LHO continues with the ♦10 as RHO discards a small club and you win the ♦A. How do you continue?

Please turn to page 21 to read the solutions.

2022 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 2022, Unit 390 players were Zone V winners in eight 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 2022 was Richard Chan of Markham ON, with a total of 1,580 points.

Daniel Bertrand, in a repeat of his 2021 performance, was the highest placing Unit 390 member in the 2022 Richmond Trophy Race. He won 364 masterpoints over the course of the year, good enough to finish in 19th position.

0 to 5	3	Lee Wright	Calgary AB	15
5 to 20	1	Hai Hu	Calgary AB	18
20 to 50	2	Brad Bowyer	Calgary AB	28
50 to 100	1	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	55
300 to 500	1	Terry Kaufman	Calgary AB	169
	2	Allan Tough	Calgary AB	120
	3	Charlene Delcourt	Calgary AB	96
500 to 1000	1	Cynthia Clark	Calgary AB	181
	2	Hailong Yu	Calgary AB	157
	3	Richard Wolfe	Calgary AB	146
1500 to 2500	1	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB	234
	2	Andy McKaig	Calgary AB	214
2500 to 3500	1	Chris Galbraith	Calgary AB	179
	2	Douglas Mann	Calgary AB	147
	3	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB	141
3500 to 5000	1	David Johnson	Calgary AB	325
	2	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	262
5000 to 7500	1	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	213



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.

An Eastern Push

By Ian Findlay

After eight wonderful years of living in Banff, my wife reached the end of her employment contract, and it was time to move back east to our home in Toronto. In addition to the joys of living in a UNESCO National Park, I was also fortunate enough to have some very memorable bridge experiences. My first fortuitous moment came when arranging a BBO online bridge match with fellow captain Gordon Campbell. When Gordon realized I only lived a ninety-minute drive from him, he suggested we play together. This developed into a lasting partnership that still exists seven years later. Not only is Gordon my favourite partner at bridge, but he is also a mentor and a good friend. This friendship led to playing with other pairs such as Allan Simon and Dan Bertrand and occasionally with Nicholas and Judith Gartaganis. I will always cherish these memories and the friendships made.

Before leaving for my 3,600 mile drive home across Canada, I had my last duplicate game at the Banff Club. This was coincidentally their first post COVID-19 face-to-face game. It was held at the luxurious Banff Springs Hotel thanks to hard-working Carole Kirk who runs the Banff Bridge Club. Although only coming second with my regular Banff partner, the savvy Shelley Mardiros, I felt like the winner after receiving a going-away card signed by most of the clubs' regular players with some special messages.

Although gone, "I will not be forgotten", as I plan to visit Alberta often. I will also try to remain a District 18 member as long as possible. Playing online has really made the bridge world a global village. After arriving in Toronto in mid-March, I finally got to play again in one of my most prized tournaments, the Toronto Easter Regional. On April 4th, playing in the first day of the bracketed teams with Peter Wang, against George Mittelman and Ken Bercuson, I picked up this hand

♠A106 ♥AQ43 ♦AKJ64 ♣7

My vulnerable partner opened 2♠ and RHO (Bercuson) bid 4♥ at favourable vulnerability. The auction is shown at the top of the next column.

Me North	Mittelman East	Wang South	Bercuson West
4NT ¹	Pass	2♠	4♥
5♦ ³	Pass	5♣ ²	DBL
Pass	DBL	6♠ ⁴	Pass
		All Pass	

¹ RKC Blackwood

² 1 or 4 keycards

³ Do you have the ♠Q

⁴ Yes, but no Kings

The lead was the ♣J and Peter viewed this collection when I tabled my hand.

IMPs

Contract: 6♠x

Lead: ♣J

♠ A106

♥ AQ43

♦ AKJ64

♣ 7



♠ KQ8543

♥ 72

♦ Q7

♣ 654

After the opening lead, he felt a slight hope since it was obvious East was void in hearts and that suit hadn't been led, but maybe double meant don't lead a heart. Sadly, after East won the ♣K, he switched to a high diamond, and the defence took the next four tricks on a crossruff.

[continued next page]



An Eastern Push (continued)

The full deal:

♠ A106		♠ 92
♥ AQ43		♥ --
♦ AKJ64		♦ 1098532
♣ 7		♣ AK1083
♠ J7		
♥ KJ109865		
♦ --		
♣ QJ92		
	♠ N	
	♥ W	♠ E
	♦ S	
	♣ KQ8543	
	♥ 72	
	♦ Q7	
	♣ 654	

We came back to compare red-faced with our tails between our legs, only to discover that our partners, Richard Chan and Eve Deng**, versus Martin Kirr and John Carruthers, had collected the same result. The bidding there had gone 2♠ - (Pass) - 4NT - (Pass) - 5♣ - (Pass) - 6♠ - (DBL) - All Pass.

Eve led the ♣9, which she later told me should be unusual, so partner would figure out that she wanted a ruff. The first five tricks were taken by the defenders, just as at our table. This is the Eastern Push to which I was referring, in case you thought it was about me moving back to Toronto.

** Eve Deng is a delightful young lady who moved to Vancouver two years ago from China. She has played on the Chinese Women's National team and is destined to be a star in Canadian bridge.



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 2023.



Fall 2022 and Spring 2023

The online NABC Robot Individuals have become fixtures preceding each of the three NABC tournaments staged by the ACBL. The Robot Individual is a three-day, three-session robot duplicate event hosted by Bridge Base Online (BBO).

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 robots used are GIB robots (Ginsberg's Intelligent Bridgeplayer Robots) playing a modified 2/1 system. The player starts out sitting South, with robots at the other three seats at the table. The event is played best-hand style: the live player is always dealt the hand with the most high-card points at the table (or tied for the most high-card points). The player always declares when his side wins the contract, switching seats with his robot partner. What's not to love! You always have the best hand, and most times, you get to play the contract. It only hurts when the robots go on a silly streak. 😊

The first Robot Individual was conducted in the Summer of 2017 and, at last count, there have been 17 such events held since then.

Last fall the event ran November 19 - 21, 2022, a few days prior to the Phoenix NABC. Nearly 1,950 competitors completed all three sessions. The Spring Robot Individual (which was held in advance of the New Orleans NABC on March 4 - 6, 2023) reported 2,255 participants finishing the tournament.

The winning percentage in Fall 2022 was 69.22%, while in Spring 2023, it took a score of 69.42% for first place.

Twelve members from Unit 390 participated in the Fall event and 19 competed in the Spring event. **David Johnson** was the top performer from Unit 390 in both the Fall and Spring events.

Slams Get All The Attention

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Playing in a friendly IMP match against Canadian champions, with everyone vulnerable, this is your hand:

♠ J64 ♥ A10643 ♦ A102 ♣ J6

RHO opens 1♠ and you pass as does LHO. Partner balances with 2♣, RHO bids 2♦ and you compete with 2♥ which buys the contract. LHO kicks off with the ♠10 and partner tables the dummy.

IMPs

Contract: 2♥

Lead: ♠10

♠ 972
♥ KJ
♦ 853
♣ AK1043



♠ J64
♥ A10643
♦ A102
♣ J6

You have been in (many!) worse contracts, but making eight tricks on this hand will be a challenge. RHO cashes the ♠AKQ, LHO discarding the ♦7 on the third round. RHO continues with the ♦K. If East happens to have five diamonds to go with his five spades, ducking will result in West ruffing your Ace on the next round of diamonds. You want to minimize the down tricks should 2♥ fail so you win your Ace and LHO follows with the ♦9.

Now what? There is a serious lack of hand entries, so your options at this point include finessing for either the ♣Q or the ♥Q. What clues has the bidding provided? East is known to have five spades and at least four diamonds. If his distribution were 5-3-4-1 he might have doubled 2♣ for takeout rather than bidding 2♦. This implies that West holds at least four hearts if not five.

Let's think about that heart finesse. If East has either the ♥Q singleton or doubleton you need to run the ♣J first and, if it holds, revert to hearts i.e. ♥K and then ♥J (Plan A).

Plan B is to finesse West for the ♥Q (the hand with four hearts is more likely to have the ♥Q) and then try to score your low hearts by ruffing clubs. Since West appears to have

length in hearts you decide on Plan B. You lead a heart to the Jack, which wins the trick. Should you cash the ♥K? Let's project the play if you do that.

You would play ♣AK and ruff a club. At this point you would be left with ♥A10 and ♦102. West would have ♥Q9 and two clubs, assuming West started with four hearts. When you exit a diamond eventually West will overruff your ♥10 when East plays winners through you.

On the other hand, if you try to cash two high clubs before the second round of trumps and East is 5-2-5-1 then you will lose one of your club tricks. You decide to cash the ♣A in case East has the singleton ♣Q. Both opponents follow low.

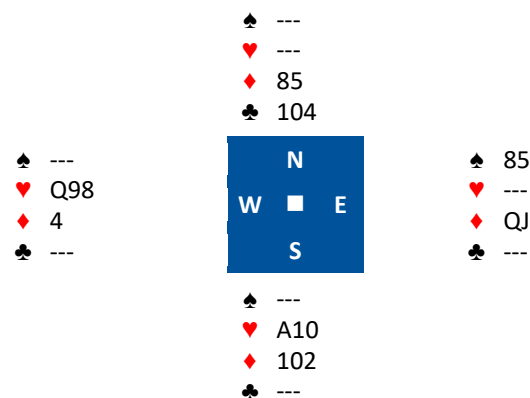
You are at the critical juncture ... ♥K or ♣K. You decide to continue with the ♣K in case East has the doubleton ♣Q. West plays the ♣75 and East follows with the ♣92. At this point you know that East started with either 5-1-5-2 or 5-2-4-2. Your 2♥ contract is guaranteed, but you must avoid cashing the ♥K.

What are the scenarios?

Say East is 5-2-4-2. When you play a third club and East ruffs you will be forced to overruff with the ♥10. No matter, since you still have the ♥K entry so you can travel to dummy and ruff the fourth round of clubs with a small heart for your seventh trick. The trump Ace is your eighth trick.

It's a good plan. But when you lead the third round of clubs East follows! You ruff low, (West playing the ♣Q) and travel to dummy's ♥K.

The opponents' hands are totally revealed but can you take advantage? West started with 5-1-4-3 and East had 2-5-3-3. Here is the layout in the four-card ending with the lead in dummy:



[continued next page]

Slams Get All The Attention (continued)

At this point you can still falter. Why would it be a mistake to play an established club and pitch a diamond? If you did so West would ruff, thus shortening his heart length to the same as yours, travel to his partner's hand with a diamond and then, as East plays his winners, West will overruff when you try to score the ♥10. The solution is to exit a diamond so at some point West will be forced to ruff (remember he will have three hearts to your two). Endplayed! West will have to lead a trump into your ♥A10.

The full deal:

♠ 103	♠ 972	♠ AKQ85
♥ Q9875	♥ KJ	♥ 2
♦ 974	♦ 853	♦ KQJ6
♣ Q92	♣ AK1043	♣ 875

♠ J64	♠ 972	♠ AKQ85
♥ A10643	♥ KJ	♥ 2
♦ A102	♦ 853	♦ KQJ6
♣ J6	♣ AK1043	♣ 875

Slams get all the attention, but even partscores can be fascinating.

I don't mean to brag
but I put together a puzzle
in one day and the box
said 2 - 4 years.

CoolFunnyQuotes.com

Think Before You Leap ... er, Lead - Solution

By Gordon Campbell

The beginning of this article on page 6 posed a problem for you to think about. It is your lead after a short auction:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
3NT ¹	Pass	6♠	All Pass

¹ Shows a long solid minor

You hold: ♠J109 ♥J8732 ♦K43 ♣62

The Answer:

Whatever you lead, Declarer is going to draw trumps, lead to Dummy's solid clubs and claim. Your only hope is to lead a club.

- If Declarer is void, you will look like a complete idiot. That often happens! But would Declarer really bid 6♠ with no entry to dummy?
- If Declarer holds two clubs, there is probably no good lead. But if Declarer has a singleton club, he will be forced to try for pitches while trumps are outstanding, because you have removed his late entry to dummy. So, he is probably toast.

This was the complete hand:

♠ 4	♠ 832	♠ AKQ765
♥ Q9	♥ A106	♥ K54
♦ 96	♦ QJ1075	♦ A82
♣ AKQJ10974	♣ 53	♣ 8

♠ J109	♠ 832	♠ AKQ765
♥ J8732	♥ A106	♥ K54
♦ K43	♦ QJ1075	♦ A82
♣ 62	♣ 53	♣ 8

Amazingly Declarer had only six spades. I wonder if he was concerned about protecting his ♥K, forgetting that it would be protected if he simply bid 6♣.

This deal was played on Real Bridge as part of the Canadian Seniors Round Robin to qualify for the CSTC national final. Leading a club gave your team +300 for defeating 6♠, while your partners scored 1470 in 6NT ... a cool 18 IMPS. Eureka!

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 accumulates the

most masterpoints in 299er events over the course of the sectional weekend. 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. A pair's flight is determined by the average masterpoint holding of the two players. The President's Award can go to a player in any one of the flights.

In this newsletter we have reports for two Sectionals.

January 2023

Attendance at the 299er events in January picked up a bit over the September sectional. There were 40½ tables in play over four sessions (compared to 33½ in September), with the two sessions on Friday far surpassing Saturday's attendance (13½ tables Friday morning and 13 tables Friday afternoon). Sadly, there were insufficient attendees at either of Sunday's sessions to hold a separate 299er game. Sixty-seven players participated over the course of the weekend.

There was a tie for the President's Award between Eric Gutland and Dennis Quick, who each won 5.68 masterpoints. This was a repeat performance for the pair as they also tied for the President's Award at the July 2022 Sectional. Here is the full list of results:

Flight D (100 - 300):

1/2.	4.62	David Stephure
1/2.	4.62	Rob Ronca
3/4.	4.17	Ed Lamb
3/4.	4.17	Brad Bowyer

Flight E (50 - 100):

1/2.	4.72	Patrick Guo
1/2.	4.72	Shuangbing (Frank) Guo
3/4.	2.44	Gary Croxton
3/4.	2.44	Ted Burgoin

Flight F (0 - 50):

1/2.	5.68	Eric Gutland
1/2.	5.68	Dennis Quick
3/4.	2.32	Trudy Allen
3/4.	2.32	Mary Young

April 2023

Unit 390 did not see the hoped-for increase in support from the 299ers at the April sectional, although attendance kept pace with January. A total of 38½ tables played 299er pairs sessions (23½ on Friday, 15 on Saturday). Once again, there were not enough teams entered on Sunday to run a separate 299er Swiss Teams so there was no option but to merge those few teams into the B/C Swiss Teams event. Seventy players participated in the tournament.

There was a tie for the President's Award between Sandy Shuler and Sherry Goldenberg, who each won 4.61 masterpoints. Here is the full list of results:

Flight D:

1/2.	3.45	Ginny Hood
1/2.	3.45	Carolanne DeBiasio
3/4.	2.97	David Stephure
3/4.	2.97	Rob Ronca

Flight E:

1/2.	4.61	Sandy Shuler
1/2.	4.61	Sherry Goldenberg
3/4.	3.88	Carolyn Graham
3/4.	3.88	Margaret Graham

Flight F:

1/2.	2.92	Carol Poland
1/2.	2.92	Betty Carrier
3/4.	2.34	Trudy Allen
3/4.	2.34	Barbara McNeil

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!



2023 Ace of Clubs Races

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

0 to 5	1	Joyce Melnyk	Calgary AB	23
	2	Nancy Brooks	Calgary AB	10
	3/4	Brenda Davies	Okotoks AB	4
	3/4	Blair Davies	Okotoks AB	4
5 to 20	1	Quentin Krogstad	Calgary AB	6
	2	Lois Clapperton	Calgary AB	5
	3	Lee Wright	Calgary AB	4
20 to 50	1	Joy Crawford	Calgary AB	4
	2	Dianne McCubbin	Calgary AB	4
	3	Steve Eastes	Calgary AB	3
50 to 100	1/2	Eric Gutland	Calgary AB	13
	1/2	Dennis Quick	Calgary AB	13
	3	Carol McNabb	Calgary AB	7
100 to 200	1	Donna Dahl	Calgary AB	14
	2	Dee-Ann Clark	Calgary AB	12
	3	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	9
200 to 300	1	Maggie Rogers	Calgary AB	16
	2	Inge French	Okotoks AB	16
	3	Garry Hanson	Calgary AB	13
300 to 500	1	Richard Cripps	Calgary AB	13
	2	Roger Bolton	Calgary AB	13
	3	Andrew Melton	Calgary AB	13
500 to 1000	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	41
	2	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	40
	3	Charlene Delcourt	Calgary AB	26
1000 to 1500	1	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	46
	2	Dave Armstrong	Calgary AB	32
	3	Cynthia Clark	Calgary AB	26
1500 to 2500	1	John (Mike) D Aguiar	Calgary AB	62
	2	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB	33
	3	Patrick Murphy	Calgary AB	32
2500 to 3500	1	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB	43
	2	Michael Covey	Calgary AB	31
	3	Margaret Nielsen	Calgary AB	24
3500 to 5000	1	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	21
	2	Maged Wafa	Calgary AB	16
	3	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	15
5000 to 7500	1	Nicole Beauregard	Calgary AB	7
	2	Ian Findlay	Banff AB	6
	3	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	3
7500 to 10,000	1	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB	58
	2	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	53
Over 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	20

2023 Mini-McKenney Races

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

0 to 5	1	Joyce Melnyk	Calgary AB	23
	2	Nancy Brooks	Calgary AB	11
	3	Blair Davies	Okotoks AB	5
5 to 20	1	Barbara McNeil	Banff AB	8
	2	Linda Prenioslo	Canmore AB	7
	3	Quentin Krogstad	Calgary AB	6
20 to 50	1	Hai Hu	Calgary AB	13
	2	Rick Palmer	Calgary AB	7
	3	Celia Gaudet	Calgary AB	6
50 to 100	1	Shuo Shi	Calgary AB	23
	2/3	Eric Gutland	Calgary AB	19
	2/3	Dennis Quick	Calgary AB	19
100 to 200	1	Qi Ju	Calgary AB	30
	2	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	17
	3	Dawn Thrasher	Calgary AB	14
200 to 300	1	Yi Peng (Mark) Mai	Calgary AB	42
	2	David Stephure	Calgary AB	29
	3	Maggie Rogers	Calgary AB	17
300 to 500	1	Thomas To	Calgary AB	23
	2	Andrew Melton	Calgary AB	23
	3	Matt Bootle	Calgary AB	23
500 to 1000	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	50
	2	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	48
	3	Richard Wolfe	Calgary AB	38
1000 to 1500	1	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	95
	2	Zul Abbany	Calgary AB	47
	3	Dave Armstrong	Calgary AB	37
1500 to 2500	1	John (Mike) D Aguiar	Calgary AB	74
	2	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB	50
	3	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB	42
2500 to 3500	1	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB	68
	2	Michael Covey	Calgary AB	45
	3	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB	39
3500 to 5000	1	David Johnson	Calgary AB	63
	2	Stephanie McAdam	Calgary AB	29
	3	Maged Wafa	Calgary AB	25
5000 to 7500	1	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	41
	2	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	19
	3	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	17
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	84
	2	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB	80
	3	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	3
Over 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	57
	2	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	6
	3	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	5

ACBL Establishes New Masterpoint Race

In November 2022, the ACBL Board of Directors voted to create a third masterpoint race ... The Ace of Virtual Clubs Race ... to take effect in 2023.

The Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Race

All sanctioned games held at face-to-face clubs, with the sole exception of STaCs, are counted in the Ace of Clubs Masterpoint Races. This award was renamed in 2011 in honour of Grand Life Master Helen Shanbrom of Tamarac FL. Shanbrom was one of the most active players in the ACBL for decades and won the top category of the Ace of Clubs more times than any other member in ACBL history.

The Ace of Virtual Clubs Race

Beginning in January of 2023, all sanctioned games held at ACBL Virtual Clubs (VACB), are counted toward the Ace of Virtual Clubs Masterpoint Race but are not counted in the Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Race. The year-to-date standings for the new race were reported at the beginning of April.

2023 Ace of Virtual Clubs Awards

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

0 to 5	1	Lynda Vowell	Calgary AB	1	1000 to 1500	1	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	28
	2/3	Murray Knechtel	Calgary AB	1		2	Zul Abbany	Calgary AB	24
	2/3	Deborah Bartlett	Calgary AB	1		3	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	24
5 to 20	1	Barbara McNeil	Banff AB	4	1500 to 2500	1	Elizabeth Sprague	Calgary AB	31
	2	Linda Prenioslo	Canmore AB	3		2	Gerry Marchant	Calgary AB	28
	3	Sheila Lenes	Canmore AB	3		3	Naushad Dada	Calgary AB	20
20 to 50	1	Celia Gaudet	Calgary AB	6	2500 to 3500	1	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	17
	2	Ida Switzer	Calgary AB	3		2	Pauline Huculak	Calgary AB	15
	3	Judith Smith	Canmore AB	3		3	Gamil Tadros	Calgary AB	13
50 to 100	1	Christine Stephure	Calgary AB	4	3500 to 5000	1	Stephanie McAdam	Calgary AB	28
	2	Lynn Marshall	Turner Valley AB	3		2	Michael Broadhurst	Calgary AB	10
	3	Judy Peacock	Calgary AB	3		3	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB	10
100 to 200	1	Nadarajah Paskaran	Calgary AB	13	5000 to 7500	1	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	18
	2	Dawn Thrasher	Calgary AB	8		2	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	14
	3	Norman Miller	Calgary AB	6		3	Allan Simon	Calgary AB	9
200 to 300	1	Bhavany Paskaran	Calgary AB	17	7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	10
	2	Sandee Crepin	Red Cliff AB	12		2	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	3
	3	David Stephure	Calgary AB	11		3	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB	1
300 to 500	1	Philip Coppard	Calgary AB	15	Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	6
	2	Margaret Williams	Calgary AB	10		2	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	2
	3	Atsuko McDonald	Calgary AB	9					
500 to 1000	1	Terry Kaufman	Calgary AB	33					
	2	Hailong Yu	Calgary AB	21					
	3	Allan Tough	Calgary AB	19					



Test Your Declarer Play - Solutions

By Daniel Bertrand

Two problems were presented on page 12. Did you come up with solutions?

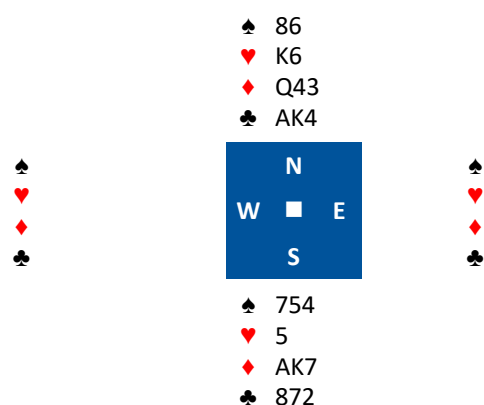
Hand #1

IMPs

Contract: 6♠

Lead: ♥Q

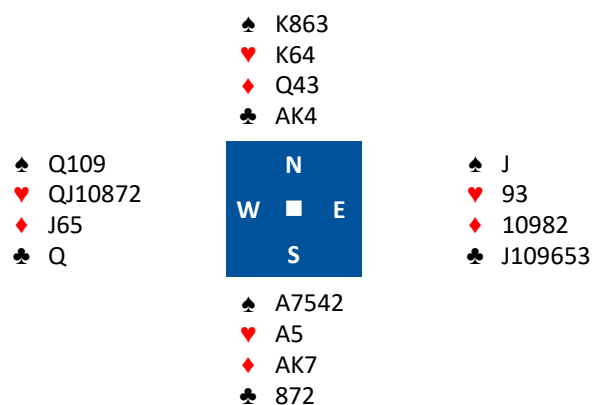
After winning the opening heart lead and playing off the AK of trumps, you have reached this position:



West has a winning trump. Assuming West has fewer than three clubs (very likely on the bidding), do you see how to avoid a club loser? Think about it.

Play a small club from hand towards the ♣AK4. If West ruffs, you can claim. Win a high club and continue with the ♥K and ruff the ♥6 and play another club. If West ruffs you can claim. Win the second high club and play three rounds of diamonds. If West ruffs at any point you can claim. If West continues to discard hearts you are ready to endplay him by exiting a spade. When he wins the spade he is forced to give you a ruff and sluff so your club loser disappears.

The full deal could be something like:



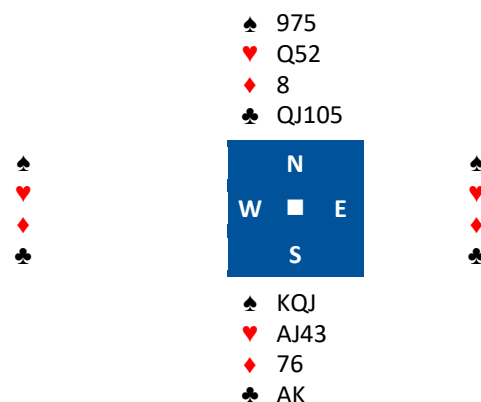
Hand #2

IMPs

Contract: 3NT

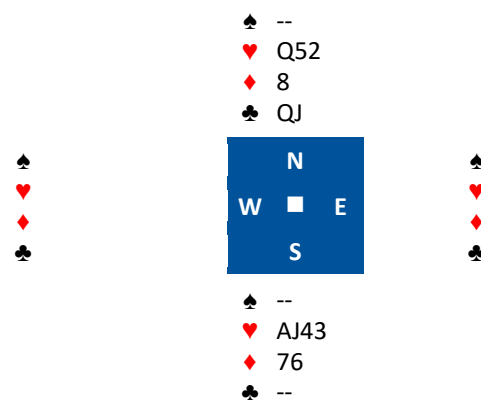
Lead: ♦K

After ducking the opening diamond lead, you win the second with the ♦A. Dummy was a disappointment! You have reached the following position:



West has three winning diamonds and you can't afford to let him in to cash them so you must assume that East has the ♠A. You continue with the ♣A, ♣K, and ♠K. Both opponents follow to the clubs and East wins the first round of spades with the Ace and returns a low spade. When you cash the ♠Q and ♠J everyone follows suit.

This is the position:



You have won five tricks while the opponents have two. How do you continue? East should have all six outstanding hearts for his 2♥ bid. Any ideas?

[continued next page]

Test Your Declarer Play - Solutions (continued)

You could try the ♥J. If East is a good friend, he will win the ♥K and allow you to reach dummy's clubs. But if East thinks about it, he will follow with a small heart and you will be unable to reach those good clubs and make nine tricks. The solution is to force RHO to win the first heart trick by playing the ♥3 from hand and the ♥2 from dummy.

RHO has no choice but to win the trick and will have to return a heart thus granting access to dummy. If he should return a low heart rather than the ♥K you make an overtrick!

The full deal was:

♠ 10642		♠ 975		♠ A83									
♥ --		♥ Q52		♥ K109876									
♦ KQJ102		♦ 853		♦ 9									
♣ 8432		♣ QJ105		♣ 976									
			<table><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>■</td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W	■	E		S		
	N												
W	■	E											
	S												
		♠ KQJ											
		♥ AJ43											
		♦ A764											
		♣ AK											



Jim Unger
The Best of Herman

Capitulation - A Bridge Poem

(An oldie but goodie - author unknown)

I'm giving up bridge
Tonight's my last night
It's amen to Stayman,
I give up the fight.

The insults and huddles
Are giving me troubles
And I can't sleep at night
For thinking of doubles.

I can't stand the hassle
I can't stand the pain
I'm getting those bad cards
Again and again.

My points are not many
And I'm wondering why
Partner keeps bidding
Right up to the sky.

We're in seven spades
I'm not optimistic
When lo and behold,
Partner's play is artistic!

We win all the tricks,
The defenders feel sick.
I have to acknowledge
My partner's quite slick!

All of a sudden
Gone is my sorrow.
For it's only a game.
Sure ... see you tomorrow!

Thank You to Banff Bridge Club!

The Banff Bridge Club has made a cash donation to Unit 390. At the recent April sectional, Carole Kirk, manager of the club, presented a cheque to Treasurer Ed Lamb, on behalf of the Banff club members. The funds may be used wherever needed for promotion and other bridge activities in the Unit.

Unit 390 Membership Report for 2022

With the re-opening of face-to-face in early 2022, bridge in Calgary is slowly coming back to life. Still, we are nowhere close to our heyday ... just before the COVID lockdown (spring 2020), Unit 390 had 1,057 members and our 2020 New Year's Sectional drew 344 tables!

Thanks to the opening of the Calgary Bridge Centre and to the many initiatives to attract newer players back to the game, there is some hope of continuing the recovery. However, it will be quite some time, if ever, before we will be able to say "bridge is flourishing". Club managers and directors, teachers providing lessons, and volunteers who are leading Unit-sponsored programs such as the Mentorship Program, 299er Sectionals and Rookie-Master Games all deserve credit for our new member growth.

2022 saw a 6.68% decline in ACBL membership for the 12 months ending December 31, 2022, leaving 131,815 active members. District 18, which includes our Unit, suffered a decrease in membership of 7.81% in 2022. Unit 390 was in line with the ACBL-wide average, with a drop in membership of 6.60%.

Unit 390 recruited 31 new members over the 12 months of 2022 (3.49%) as compared to the overall ACBL number of 3.66%. We seem to do a better job than most units in the area of new member retention (the number of new members that renew in year two) with a weighted 3-year average retention rate of 58.67% (compared to 49.59% within District 18 and 47.16% ACBL-wide). We improved over 2021 (about 55%), to rank 44th best out of the ACBL's 291 units.

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. After the trial period, the first year of Regular ACBL Membership costs US\$29. In 2022, Unit 390 had 15 guest members sign up for a four-month trial. Of those, five converted to full regular memberships while seven let their guest memberships lapse. Three are still active as guest members.

Happily, we in the Calgary Unit are still spring chickens of a sort - we are nearly three years younger than the average ACBL member (71.17 years old compared to 74.0 ACBL-wide). But we are no longer the youngest unit in District 18. (Ogden Utah Unit has taken over that distinction by about four months).

Unit 390 started with 961 members on January 1, 2022. That number included eight Snowbirds who had temporarily transferred out of the unit in favour of warmer climes.

961 members at January 1, 2022

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

Total Gains = 87

New members	31
Members transferred into Unit 390	18
Lapsed members reinstated	38

Total Losses = 149

Members transferred out of Unit 390	10
Deceased members	14
Inactive Life Members	11
Members failed to renew	114

Unit 390 ended 2022 with a total of 899 members:

590 non-Life Masters
294 paid Life Masters
7 unpaid Life Members
8 Snowbirds

2023 Alberta Sectionals Masterpoint Race

Year-to-Date Standings - at April 17
(Based on the three face-to-face sectionals of 2023)

1/2	69.00	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB
1/2	69.00	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB
3	62.39	Yi Peng (Mark) Mai	Calgary AB
4/5	56.94	Robert Pratt	Edmonton AB
4/5	56.94	Kevin Strangway	Grande Prairie AB
6	49.51	David Johnson	Calgary AB
7/8	43.46	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB
7/8	43.46	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB
9	33.70	Howard Coren	Calgary AB
10	31.27	Terri Bedard	Calgary AB
11	31.04	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB
12	28.05	Qi Ju	Calgary AB
13	27.65	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB
14	25.84	Marcia Andreychuk	Calgary AB
15	25.36	Xiaodong (Jeff) Zhao	Edmonton AB
16/17	24.61	Keith Wallace	Calgary AB
16/17	24.61	Pam Wallace	Calgary AB
18	24.40	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB
19	23.89	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB
20	22.59	Shuo Shi	Calgary AB



District 18 GNT Results

Playoffs for all flights of the Grand National Teams took place online on April 7 - 8, 2023. Sadly, a Flight C playoff was not held due to lack of entries. This flight is restricted to non-Life Masters with under 500 masterpoints. The other three flights saw declining registration, but luckily there were sufficient entries to hold playoffs:

Championship Flight (no MP limit) - two teams entered
Flight A (under 6000 MPs) - two teams entered
Flight B (under 2500 MPs) - eight teams entered

In the flights with just two teams entered, a head-to-head final of 48 boards was held on Saturday, April 8.

In Flight B, a complete round-robin was held on the evening of Friday, April 7 and the morning of April 8, with the top four teams moving on to the playoffs.

Saturday was a marathon for the eventual finalists in Flight B. Not only did they play 21 boards to finish the round robin, they played a 24-board semi-final and then a 24-board final!

District 18 Grand National Teams - Championship Flight

1. Gordon Campbell - Judith Gartaganis - Nicholas Gartaganis, all Calgary AB - Ian Findlay, Banff AB
2. Steve Lawrence - Abdul Fakhri - Pierre Beauregard, all Calgary AB - Steve Bates, Edmonton AB

District 18 Grand National Teams - Flight A

1. Yi Peng (Mark) Mai - Qi Ju, both Calgary - Xiaodong (Jeff) Zhao, Edmonton AB - Philip Blackburn, Red Deer AB
2. Douglas Mann - Crystal Mann, both Calgary AB - Robert Pratt, Edmonton AB - Kevin Strangway, Grande Prairie AB

District 18 Grand National Teams - Flight B

1. Yinghan Ding, Salt Lake City UT - Xiaobin Sun, Park City UT - Feng Liu - Jacinda Liu, both Sandy UT
2. John Prance - Clarende Duby - Michael Farebrother - Ellen Kuiper, all Calgary AB
- 3/4. Gary Stephens - Linda Peterson, both Whitefish MT - Sandy Jean Robinson, Calgary AB - Ann Slattery, Foothills AB
- 3/4. Ray Fink - Ralph Haberfield, both Jackson WY - Rajarshi Roy, Provo UT - Deane Henderson, Tucson AZ

In Flight B, an additional eight players from Unit 390 played on the other four teams that did not make the playoffs.

The winners in all flights are eligible to represent District 18 at the GNT North American Final to be held at the Chicago NABC in July.

Annual General Meeting

The Calgary Duplicate Bridge Association UNIT 390

When: Sunday, June 4, 2023
Where: Calgary Bridge Centre
Time: Light Lunch: 11:00 a.m.
Meeting: 12:00 noon
Pairs Game: to follow

- Card fees \$10.00
- Unit championship points

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome and Introduction
3. Confirmation of Quorum
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes from 2022 AGM
6. President's Report
7. Treasurer's Report - Approval of Financial Statements
8. Appointment of Auditor for 2023/2024
9. Presentation of 2022 Ace of Clubs and 2022 Mini-McKenney Awards
10. Election of Directors
11. Questions from the floor
12. Termination

Please RSVP no later than **June 1** if you are coming.

An attendance estimate is needed to finalize the catering arrangements.

You may register using the Registration Form on the Unit 390 website or by emailing 390events@acblunit390.org.

Questions? You may contact Special Events Chair, Brad Bowyer, at 403-809-2872 or 390events@acblunit390.org.

You Bid Too Much!

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Entering the last round of a sectional Swiss Teams your team is leading the field, but your main opposition is nipping at your heels so you need to win the final match to ensure victory. Although your team has more experience, the opponents at your table have bid two slams and had a bidding misunderstanding that froze your side out of the auction and is likely to cost your side 5 IMPs.

The opponents are vulnerable and you hold:

♠AJ3 ♥AKQ ♦J854 ♣A76

As dealer, LHO opens 2♠ (weak) and it goes two passes to you. You are little too strong for 2NT (which would show 15-18), but there are several negatives. You have 9 HCP in a 3-card suit and the hand has neither good intermediate cards (nines and tens) nor a 5-card suit. Nevertheless, by bidding 2NT, you might miss a game so you choose 3NT. Partner transfers to hearts and 4♥ becomes the final contract. LHO commences proceedings with the ♦A. Partner tables dummy (apologetically) and you have to assess your chances.

IMPs

Contract: 4♥

Lead: ♦ A

♠ 10
♥ J1097654
♦ 73
♣ J105

♠ AJ3
 ♥ AKQ
 ♦ J854
 ♣ A76

You can see nine tricks (seven hearts plus two Aces), but how are you going to generate the tenth?

East plays the $\spadesuit 2$ (playing upside down signals) and LHO continues with the $\spadesuit K$ and then the $\spadesuit 9$. You ruff in dummy with the $\heartsuit 9$ (East follows with the $\spadesuit 10$). It's too bad neither you nor partner holds the $\clubsuit 9$ because the hand would be trivial at this point (if West held both club honours in addition to the $\spadesuit AK$ he surely would have opened $1\spadesuit$). On the auction it seems highly probable that RHO holds both club honours. Can you take advantage of this inference?

If you can manoeuvre to reduce East to only clubs then you can generate the 10th trick through an endplay. With this in mind you play ♠A and ♠3 ruffing in dummy with the ♥4 (East cannot have only one spade). You travel to hand with the ♥Q (West plays the ♥2 and East plays the ♥3) and ruff the ♠J with the ♥10 (in case the vulnerability convinced West to open 2♠ with a 7-card suit).

You re-enter your hand with the ♥A (East follows with the ♥8 and West discards a spade). The ♦J is ruffed in dummy (East playing the ♦Q) and the stage is set. East has only clubs left (unless West opened a vulnerable 2♠ with Queen empty fifth of spades -- a possibility not worth considering especially since you cannot arrange an endplay if that is the case). You lead the ♣J from dummy and East plays the ♣K. You let him hold the trick and now East returns a low club which you let run to dummy's ♣10. Ten tricks in the bag for +420.

You justified your overbid of 3NT! Your team picks up 11 IMPs and a small victory -- just enough to ensure the Swiss Team win.

Although it seemed as though you were fated to fail in this contract you were able to place high cards as the play developed. Were you lucky that both club honours were with East? Absolutely! Nevertheless you needed to strip East of exit cards which was a key element for success. You may ask what would have happened if East held all three hearts? In that case you would draw the last trump ending in hand and then lead a low club to dummy's Jack thus arriving at the same position. East attempted to fool you by playing the ♣K, but this did not deflect you from the winning line of play.

The full deal:

♠ 10
♥ J1097654
♦ 73
♣ J105

♠ Q98765
♥ 3
♦ AK9
♣ 843

♠ AJ3
 ♥ AKQ
 ♦ J854
 ♣ A76

♠ K42
♥ 82
♦ Q1062
♣ KQ92

Remember, one of the keys to setting up a successful endplay is to strip your opponent of safe exit cards, so that at the critical juncture, s/he has no choice but to concede an extra trick.