



The Kibitzer

October 2023

Editors: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

A Message From the Unit 390 Board of Directors

At the last Unit Board meeting a motion to hold the January Sectional at the Bridge Centre was soundly defeated. This resulted in the resignation of the President, Richard Cripps, who felt that his position in support of using the Bridge Centre was untenable. His resignation has been accepted and the Board thanks him for his service.

So why is the Board so strongly in favour of holding Sectionals at a hotel? There are many reasons but perhaps the main one is the capability to have all the tables on one level and have room to expand from our current numbers. Over the course of the last few Sectionals the numbers have been growing. Admittedly not as rapidly as we would like, but nevertheless attendance seems to be moving in the right direction. The Sectionals are running at a small loss, but an increase of just a few tables will result in a profit. We believe that this will happen very soon.

The advantage of the Bridge Centre is the lower rental cost. That would enable the Sectionals to be profitable right away, but is profit the main objective of holding a Sectional? The Board believes that the Unit can tolerate the risk of small losses for some time yet and so profit is not the main driving force. What we are striving for is a location that can accommodate growth and will distinguish a Sectional from an everyday club game so that, three times per year, you can enjoy the additional space, lounge areas, room to discuss the hands, on-site restaurant and plenty of parking space. It also enables out-of-town participants to have on-site accommodation if they so desire.

At the last AGM several people questioned why Calgary cannot hold the Sectional at the Bridge Centre when other Units are holding their Sectionals in clubs. Well, let us examine the attendance at Sectionals over the past two years in this area. Lethbridge has held two Sectionals with the largest session being 18 tables. Saskatoon has held two Sectionals with the largest session being 26.5 tables. Edmonton has held two Sectionals with the largest session being 27 tables. Red Deer has held four Sectionals with the largest session being 20.5 tables. Calgary has held five Sectionals with the largest session being 39.5 tables.

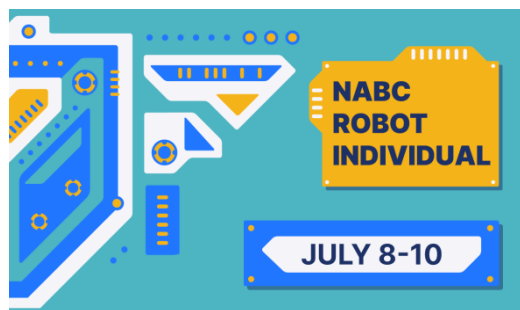
Therefore, with the exception of Calgary, these units could all have held their Sectionals on the top floor of the Calgary Bridge Centre. However, the Calgary Unit would have to use

both floors and that is a significant disadvantage. It presents a challenge for the directors to split the three sections, (open, B/C and 299er's) onto two floors. Stairs between the two floors are difficult for some. While the main level of the Bridge Centre provides an excellent environment for bridge, the lower floor is not comparable. It lacks warmth, daylight and a carpeted floor.

The Unit wants the Bridge Centre to succeed. All the smaller events hosted by the Unit, such as the 299er Sectionals, special Mentorship Program games and the Rookie Master Team Game, are held at the Bridge Centre. In addition, the Annual General Meeting and all Board meetings are held there. The Board is actively supporting the Bridge Centre by using the facilities whenever it is practical to do so.

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Summer 2023

The Summer Robot Individual was held July 8 - 10, 2023 in the days leading up to the Chicago NABC. Over 2,300 participants completed the tournament. This was the 19th iteration, the first Robot Individual being conducted in Summer 2017.

The NABC Robot Individual is a 3-day stratified online event hosted on Bridge Base Online (BBO). Players can win gold and red masterpoints - even an NABC title!

Contestants play 24 boards per day for three days, with a robot partner and two robot opponents. They can choose their own start times and have until midnight each day to complete their daily set of 24 boards. Scores from the three days are averaged to determine a player's percentage.

The winning percentage in Summer 2023 was 69.61%. Seventeen members from Unit 390 competed in the event. **Richard Bickley** was the top performer from Unit 390, racking up a score of 58.71%.

The robots used are GIB bots playing a modified 2/1 system. They use "Total Points" for hand evaluation: traditional High Card Points (HCP) plus points for shortness. The event is played best-hand style: the human player is always dealt the hand with the most HCP at the table. It is also played human-declarer style: the live player always declares when his side wins the contract, switching seats with his robot partner if necessary.

But humans beware! A GIB robot partner does not cooperate on defence. In fact, it doesn't even watch your signals! Nor does it use any signals when it discards, it just tries to make safe discards. Instead, it simulates hands based on the auction and uses double dummy analysis to choose the theoretically best defensive play, regardless of any signals you give. If you are interested in reading more about the GIB bot system, you can click [HERE](#).

The next NABC Robot Individual is planned for November 18 - 20, 2023, ahead of the Atlanta NABC.

There are free practice tournaments scheduled for the weekends before the event. Follow [THIS LINK](#) to read more.

Supervised Bid and Play

In an effort to help our newer players "get into the game", Delores Hedley initiated a Supervised Bid and Play program in late summer. Sessions were offered twice a week (Wednesdays and Thursdays), for six weeks commencing August 23rd. The program was then extended for the first two weeks in October.



Thirty-eight newcomers attended these sessions, not all at one time of course, but as their schedules allowed. They visited and laughed as they learned and just generally had fun. The program was deemed a success and will probably be held again next summer.

Wholehearted thanks are extended to Olga Williams, Karen Mitchell, Christa Simmonds, Agnes Maze, Dave Ross, Adiel Rautenbach, Gerry Marchant, Freda Nychkalo, and Sandra Stewart for their time, patience, and willingness to help our newcomers.



[Editors Note: Delores deserves recognition for jump-starting the Bid and Play program. This is her typical MO ... imagine some way to help bridge along and then make it happen.]

Listen to the Auction

By Daniel Bertrand

I am playing in a Swiss team event at the Penticton regional.
Both sides are vulnerable and I pick up a decent hand:

♠ KQ3 ♥ K9 ♦ Q ♣ KQ98642

My partner opens 1♥ and I respond 2♣, natural and game forcing. My LHO bids 2♦ and partner raises to 3♣. After a few more bids I find myself in 6♣. LHO leads the ♠J and partner takes dummy.

IMPs

Contract: 6♣

Lead: ♠J

♠ A4
♥ 87642
♦ A10
♣ AJ103

N		E
W	♠	
	S	

♠ KQ3
♥ K9
♦ Q
♣ KQ98642

I count my tricks: three spades, one diamond and seven clubs. That adds up to only 11 tricks and I need 12. How can I get another one? I could lead a heart from dummy (after pulling trumps) and hope that RHO has the ♥A, or I could play the ♥9 from my hand and hope that LHO has the singleton ♥A. Neither scenario seems likely. Do you see a better line? Dummy and I have 28 HCP. LHO should have most, if not all, of the remaining high cards for her vulnerable 2♦ bid. Think about it!

I decide to put pressure on my LHO by cashing my winners. After winning the ♠A I cash seven clubs and one more spade. LHO has no clubs and discards four small diamonds, the ♥Q5 and the ♠102. This is the end position (see top of next column):



♠ --
♥ 87
♦ A10
♣ --

N		E
W	♠	
	S	

Irrelevant

♠ Q
♥ K9
♦ Q
♣ --

When I cash my ♠Q LHO has no good discard. If she discards a diamond I will pitch a heart from dummy and win two diamond tricks. LHO thinks for a while and discards the ♥J. Having played for this exact ending I am not about to make a mistake now and so I discard the ♦10 from dummy and exit the ♥9 from hand. LHO is forced to win the ♥A and I take the last two tricks. My opponent tried to fool me by discarding the ♥Q earlier in the hand, but the ♦J proved to be her undoing. This was the full deal:

♠ A4
♥ 87642
♦ A10
♣ AJ103

N		E
W	♠	
	S	

♠ J102
♥ AQJ5
♦ KJ8753
♣ --

♠ 98765
♥ 103
♦ 9642
♣ 75

♠ KQ3
♥ K9
♦ Q
♣ KQ98642

I should thank my partner for the ♦10. It was a big card.

When planning the play of the hand always remember the bidding. Had the opponents been silent, the best line of play would have been to hope RHO had the ♥A. After LHO bids you know that you need a different plan. My teammates defended 5♣ and held the contract to 11 tricks when declarer played for the ♥A to be onside. Do you see the double dummy lead from West to defeat 6♣?

Answer: ♦K (check it out). This breaks up the squeeze position. If the opponent finds this lead you should check the back of the cards!

2023 Alberta Sectionals Masterpoint Race

Year-to-Date Standings - as of September 15

1/2	112.24	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB
1/2	112.24	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB
3	76.67	Yi Peng (Mark) Mai	Calgary AB
4	74.15	David Johnson	Calgary AB
5	67.13	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB
6	65.71	Terri Bedard	Calgary AB
7/8	65.30	Robert Pratt	Edmonton AB
7/8	65.30	Kevin Strangway	Grande Prairie AB
9	62.78	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB
10	55.82	Douglas Mann	Calgary AB
11/12	54.66	Cindy Cossey	Innisfail AB
11/12	54.66	Glenn Cossey	Innisfail AB
13	51.10	Howard Coren	Calgary AB
14	50.60	Bernie Lambert	Acme AB
15	45.80	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB
16	45.57	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB
17	43.28	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB
18/19	41.15	Keith Wallace	Calgary AB
18/19	41.15	Pam Wallace	Calgary AB
20	41.08	Adam Thiel	Red Deer AB
21	41.04	Perry Khakhar	Edmonton AB
22	38.75	Laurie Shapka	Red Deer AB
23	37.72	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB
24	36.37	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB
25	36.17	Steve Bates	Edmonton AB
26	35.30	Gerene Albrecht	Red Deer AB
27	34.89	Frank Ayer	Calgary AB
28	34.68	Keith Falkenberg	Calgary AB
29	34.66	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB
30	33.70	Marcia Andreychuk	Calgary AB
31	33.45	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB
32	33.32	Qi Ju	Calgary AB
33	32.98	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB
34	32.26	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB
35	32.13	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB
36	26.54	Hans Folkinga	Edmonton AB
37	25.81	Shuo Shi	Calgary AB
38	25.77	Michael Covey	Calgary AB
39	25.36	Xiaodong (Jeff) Zhao	Edmonton AB
40	22.20	Stephen Paul	Calgary AB
41	22.18	Chris Wuerschler	Calgary AB
42	20.42	Alex Knox	Calgary AB
43	20.23	Emelie Quennell	Calgary AB
44	20.04	Richard Wolfe	Calgary AB
45	19.99	Tom Nault	Calgary AB

299er SECTIONAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28th, 2023

All Silver Points!

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

Schedule:

10:00 am - 1:00 pm 299er Stratified Pairs
1:00 pm Lunch Break
1:45 pm Guest Speaker
2:30 pm - 5:30 pm 299er Stratified Pairs

Pre-registration requested
Please email or call Sandra Stewart.



Entry Fees (all games are single sessions): **CASH ONLY!**

ACBL members: \$15 per person per session
ACBL members under 18 years: FREE
Guest Membership: FREE (good for 120 days)

Tournament Chair: Sandra Stewart 403-993-3019

sandra.stewart@shaw.ca

Partnerships: Delores Hedley 403-254-4995

dollyd@telus.net

Director: Lois Matton

Happy
Halloween!

Complementary coffee,
pop and snacks!

Bring your lunch!
There will be a short lunch
break between games ... a
chance to visit and learn.

1:45 pm: Guest Speaker
Paulette McWilliam
"All About Leads"

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 in the Kibitzer and in the Virtual Trophy Room on the Unit 390 website (<https://www.acblunit390.org/trophy-room/>)

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.

Two Sectionals have been held since the last Kibitzer was published in April.

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 fold 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 (100 - 300):

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

Flight E (50 - 100):

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

Flight F (0 - 50):

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

September 2023

Attendance at 299er games at the recent Labour Day sectional was disappointing. A total of 19 tables played 299er pairs sessions (10 on Friday, 9 on Saturday), fewer than half of the April table count. No separate 299er Swiss Teams game was held. Just forty players participated in 299er games at the tournament.

The President's Award was shared by a Flight E pair -- Carolyn and Margaret Graham -- who won 4.71 masterpoints playing together. Here is the full list of results:

Flight D (150 - 300):

1/2.	Art LeMaistre	2.99 masterpoints
1/2.	Tim Stevenson	2.99 masterpoints
3/4.	Margriet Huisman	1.87 masterpoints
3/4.	Dawn Thrasher	1.87 masterpoints

Flight E (50 - 150):

1/2.	Carolyn Graham	4.71 masterpoints
1/2.	Margaret Graham	4.71 masterpoints
3.	Ginny Hood	1.98 masterpoints

Flight F (0 - 50):

1.	Barrie Pomerance	3.25 masterpoints
2/3/4.	Patrick Guo	2.53 masterpoints
2/3/4.	Robert Penner	2.53 masterpoints
2/3/4.	Eason Wang	2.53 masterpoints

Congratulations to everyone! Well done.

Thank you to all the 299er players who continue to support the Unit 390 sectionals. It seems clear that separate games for 299ers will not remain viable unless attendance improves. The Board is anxious to hear your suggestions for attracting more players to the 299er games. Please don't hesitate to contact the Future Masters Chair, Sandra Stewart (or any board member, for that matter) if you have ideas. Our tournaments cannot succeed without you!

Sitting In the Bushes

By Allan Simon

In the early 1990s the Red Deer Bridge Club hosted a Calcutta on the weekend prior to the annual Alberta Regional. The event attracted players from across Western Canada and occasionally the United States and so the field tended to be quite strong. A Calcutta is an IMP Pairs game with large cash prizes and an even larger auction pool; participants and spectators can bid on the pairs they think will win and, in return, receive a share of the auction proceeds.

One year I entered the event with Gordon Campbell, a regular partner of mine. When we faced Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis I picked up the following hand:

♠AQ103 ♥97 ♦Q9852 ♣64

With both sides vulnerable, Gordon as dealer opened 1NT (15-17). Nicholas on my right passed. I considered passing, but at IMPs it has to be right to stretch a bit to reach game so I bid 2♣. Gordon responded 2♦ and again I thought of passing, but I bravely bid 2NT and Gordon raised to 3NT. To my surprise, Nicholas suddenly emerged with a double. What now? I had to pass and hope that the carnage would not be too severe.

But the fun was just starting -- Gordon redoubled and Nicholas calmly passed! Obviously Gordon was confident of making the contract (he might have been showing doubt, but that is not Gordon's style), yet Nicholas seemed unperturbed. Who should I believe? In the end I couldn't stand the pressure and bailed to 4♦. Gordon raised to 5♦ and took 11 tricks after Nicholas cashed two clubs.

The auction and the full deal was:

Allan North	Judith East	Gordon South	Nicholas West
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	DBL
Pass	Pass	RDBL	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

IMPs

Contract: 5♦

Lead: ♣A

♠ 642	♠ AQ103	♠ 987									
♥ J8	♥ 97	♥ Q106543									
♦ 3	♦ Q9852	♦ J7									
♣ AKQJ732	♣ 64	♣ 98									
	<table><tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>■</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>	N		E	W	■			S		
N		E									
W	■										
	S										
	♠ KJ5										
	♥ AK2										
	♦ AK1064										
	♣ 105										

Nicholas' strategy of passing until we reached 3NT was cunning and it almost worked. In retrospect he should have enjoyed the fruits generated by sitting in the bushes and taken +300 for his efforts. Instead, greed prevailed and his double undid all the good work.

What about Gordon's actions? You probably noticed that he had 18 HCP and based his redouble on his extra strength. Gordon loves to declare -- I am sure with one more HCP he would have opened 2NT. The upshot of all this excitement was no IMPs for either pair! The others holding Gordon's hand opened 1♦, West overcalled 2♣ and the normal contract of 5♦ was reached, but without all the drama. Poor Judith, the only innocent party, was left shaking her head.

My mind is like my web browser: 19 tabs are open, three are frozen and I have no idea where the music is coming from.

CoolFunnyQuotes.com

Partnerships -- A Member Service for Tournaments and Special Events

By Delores Hedley

"Partnerships" is a service provided for Unit members who would like to play at an upcoming tournament or other special event but who don't have a partner lined up. Maybe your usual partner can't play, or you don't have a regular partner yet. It is not always easy to find other players who are also on the lookout to find partners but our volunteers comb through their lists of contacts to see who might be out there.

How It Works

"Partnerships" does not have a standby roster. We list requests in the order they are received and then start the pairing process.

"Partnerships" can't guarantee to find a partner for you, but we do our very best to match you with someone in your masterpoint range with whom we think you might enjoy playing.

Pairing people takes time and, the more time you give us, the better the chance of success. Don't wait until the night before the event to contact us! Such last minute requests are very difficult to fulfill and are seldom successful. In theory, "Partnerships" closes at 8:00 p.m. the evening before the event.

If, after you have put in a request, you manage to find a partner on your own, please let us know as soon as possible. Don't forget, we will still be searching to find a match for you.

Find that perfect partner ...



Sometimes, a person arrives at the event without a partner. On-site match-ups are managed by having you fill out a "Request for Partnership" card, which is then pinned on the *Partnership Bulletin Board*. Don't forget to clearly state for which event or events you need a partner and your masterpoint total. No guarantees, but we will make an honest effort to find someone for you. And don't forget that you need to stay close by or provide a quick way you can be contacted.

If you are a single looking to join three others on a team or if you and your partner need a pair for teams, please try to put your request in as early as possible.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Calgary Unit 390 is seeking volunteers to serve on the Unit Board. If you are interested in helping, please contact Delores Hedley at dollyd@telus.net or get in touch with any current Board member.

2023 Hattie Joffe Trophy

The first Alberta Regional since the COVID-19 lockdown was held August 8 - 13, 2023 in Edmonton. The tournament drew 488 tables and just over 3,000 masterpoints were earned by the 274 players in attendance.

Those numbers were a far cry from the previous Alberta Regional -- Red Deer in 2019 -- which attracted 848 tables. But the comeback to live bridge has been slow and it is unlikely that we see the pre-COVID-19 numbers any time soon.

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

This year's race for points won at the Edmonton Regional ended in a tie between two of Unit 390's top players -- Daniel Bertrand and Gerry Marshall. Playing together for the week, they won almost 67 masterpoints with top five finishes in every event in which they participated, including a victory in Sunday's John Davison Memorial A/X Swiss Teams.



For years, Simon Farrer has added to and updated this popular source of information on the Unit 390 website. Simon assembled the material in the early days when the Unit was establishing an online presence. Simon's Conventions pages get lots of hits and he reports that he receives emails from all over the world.

Emails come from bridge teachers asking questions and thanking him for the easy-to-read content. Others come from pros and bridge writers, commenting on articles of theirs that are included in the pages. Simon says people email when they find mistakes and that he gets a lot of bidding questions. In his words "People seem to think that because I put together these Convention pages, I have all the answers."

There are nearly 300 bridge conventions listed, with links to detailed descriptions. In addition, you will find over 45 articles on various topics. If you've never visited Simon's page, give it a try:

<https://www.acblunit390.org/Simon/alpha.htm>

Simon is seeking to enlist someone to learn the ropes - things like posting new conventions, making updates and fixing errors, responding to emails and so on. That way, there will be a back-up which will help ensure that these pages continue to evolve and draw traffic from people interested in bridge.

If this is something of interest for you, please don't hesitate to email Simon for more information at conventions@acblunit390.org

Member Milestones

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



New Junior Masters (5+ MPs):

Catherine Brewer	Carol Poland
Susan Cameron	Patricia Rice
Deirdre Churchill-Smith	Linda Rogers
Kendra Evans	Margie Ronca
Howard Crone	Don Ross
Elaine Ford	Elizabeth Schweighardt
Melanie Gnyp	Nilima Sonpal-Valias
Kathryn Goyer	Lynda Vowell
Murray Knechtel	Eason Wang
Quentin Krogstad	Liz Williamson
Elizabeth Livingstone	

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

Betty Chapman	Barbara McNeil
Qi Ju	Pradip Mehta

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

Trudy Allan	Betty Lees
Jayne Border	Dianne McCubbin
Runan Du	Sheila Morgan
Margaret Graham	David Pethrick
Terry Killackey	Barrie Pomerance

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

Toni D'Arcy	Carolyn Graham
Tom Flanagan	Margriet Huisman

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

June Cheng	Marny Simpson
Frank Guo	David Stephure
Derwyn Hughes	Sunil Verma
Mark Mai	Margaret Williams
Susan Piercy	

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

Charlene Delcourt	Jamie Watt
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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):

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

Bill McAdam	John Prance
Dennis Ooms	

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

Howard Coren	Keith Wallace
Pam Wallace	

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

Dave Armstrong	Cindy Ferguson
Michael Broadhurst	Linda Martin
Camille Collver	Bob McLeod
Howard Coren	Brent Muir

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

Delores Hedley	Nancy Klym
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New Diamond Life Masters (5000+ MPs; a Life Master with at least 500 gold or platinum and 500 additional pigmented points):

Jim Berglund

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

Abdul Fakih



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 2024.

The Kibitzer - October 2023

Gather the Clues

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Playing IMPs against expert opponents with no one vulnerable, you as East hold:

♠ 104 ♥ KJ10865 ♦ 52 ♣ Q108

The auction progresses as follows:

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>You</u> <u>East</u>
		1♦	2♥
3♣	4♥	Pass	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Partner leads the ♥3 and this dummy is tabled.

IMPs

Contract: 6♣

Lead: ♥3

♠ 865	♠ 104
♥ A7	♥ KJ10865
♦ AQJ964	♦ 52
♣ 65	♣ Q108

N		
W	■	E
	S	

Declarer wins the ♥A discarding the ♠3 and cashes the ♣AK, partner following the first time and discarding the ♥2 on the second round. Since you play "odd-even" discards, partner's even heart suggests something in diamonds. Declarer plays a third round of clubs to your Queen while partner pitches another heart.

Let's assess. You know declarer started with seven clubs and no hearts. Partner had the opportunity to signal for spades and did not do so. If declarer has two diamonds there is no way to beat this slam. Why? Because, with the aid of two diamond finesses, declarer will be able to score six clubs, one heart and five diamonds (partner's ♦K will fall under the ♦A on the third round). If partner has the ♠A surely he would have signalled vigorously for spades. He might even have signalled for spades holding the ♠K. Of course whenever declarer has two or more diamonds and the ♠A, it matters not what you do. When does it matter?

Suppose that declarer has seven clubs and five spades headed by the AK, leaving him with only one diamond. If that is his hand and you exit a safe spade, then your partner will come under severe pressure when declarer runs clubs. The position will be as follows when declarer leads his last club:

♠ 86	♠ 4
♥ --	♥ KJ
♦ AQJ	♦ 52
♣ --	♣ --

♠ Q9	N	♠ 4
♥ --	W ■ E	♥ KJ
♦ K107		♦ 52
♣ --	S	♣ --

♠ AJ7
♥ --
♦ 8
♣ 2

West needs to pitch the ♠9 to guard against giving declarer three diamond tricks. The ♠6 is played from dummy and East's hand is irrelevant. If declarer reads the cards right, even if unsure of the spade position, he will arrive at the winning line. He can finesse the ♦Q (if you had the ♦K along with the HCP already known, you would have more likely overcalled 1♥ rather than 2♥) and cash the ♦A. When the King does not fall (and you follow twice), he will know to drop partner's ♠Q having a strong inferential count on your hand i.e. six hearts, three clubs, two diamonds and two spades.

Can you do anything to help your partner? Yes! When you win the ♣Q you must return a diamond. Declarer can no longer execute his squeeze against partner and must fall back on the spade finesse for his twelfth trick.

Is it easy to work this out at the table? Absolutely not, but all the clues are there to enable you to embark on the correct defence.

The full deal:

♠ 865	♠ 104
♥ A7	♥ KJ10865
♦ AQJ964	♦ 52
♣ 65	♣ Q108

♠ Q92	N	♠ 104
♥ Q9432	W ■ E	♥ KJ10865
♦ K1073		♦ 52
♣ 4	S	♣ Q108

♠ AKJ73
♥ --
♦ 8
♣ AKJ9732

299'er News

By Sandra Stewart, Unit 390 Future Masters Chair

May 299er Sectional

On Saturday, May 13, 2023 the Unit hosted a 299er Sectional tournament at the Bridge Centre. It was an ACBL-sanctioned Sectional so all masterpoints awarded were silver points - important to players looking to reach their next masterpoint ranking. The games were also flighted based on average masterpoints of each partnership so everyone had a chance to earn some silver!

Two games were held during the day and the event was wrapped up on time in the late afternoon. Altogether, 28 tables attended this two-session event.

A total of 50.36 silver masterpoints were awarded to 38 players in the May 299er event. Our top 10 masterpoint winners were as follows:

- | | | |
|-------|------|------------------------------|
| 1/2. | 3.80 | Marjory Sword, Canmore AB |
| | 3.80 | Barbara McNeil, Banff AB |
| 3/4. | 3.22 | Yi Peng Mai, Calgary AB |
| | 3.22 | Shuo Shi, Calgary AB |
| 5/6. | 2.82 | John Bargman, Calgary AB |
| | 2.82 | Ginny Hood, Calgary AB |
| 7/8. | 2.40 | Genevieve McLean, Calgary AB |
| | 2.40 | Corliss Ward, Calgary AB |
| 9/10. | 2.26 | Tony Teare, Canmore AB |
| | 2.26 | Jennifer Teare, Canmore AB |

Congratulations to all players who participated in the 299er tournament and a special shout out to those who were attending their first Sectional or face-to-face game! Also, a sincere thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this tournament a success.

299er Team Game

During the summer, the Unit planned a 299er Swiss Team tournament to be held on Saturday, August 19th. Swiss Teams has a different scoring system and is a fun, social game in which you compare scores with your teammates. We hoped this tournament would provide new players the opportunity to try it out! Unfortunately, the registration numbers were extremely low, and as a result, the event was cancelled. The Unit is considering re-offering this Swiss Team event if there is sufficient interest.

October 299er Sectional

The Unit will be hosting another 299er Sectional pairs tournament on Saturday October 28th at the Bridge Centre.

All ACBL members with under 300 MP are eligible to play. There will be two games – 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Bring your lunch, visit with your bridge friends and learn about Leads from our guest speaker, Paulette McWilliam. Details can be found in the 299er Tournament flyer on page 4 and also posted on the Unit 390 website.

Please come out and play, have fun, meet some other players and support your bridge community! At this tournament, we will also be enquiring about the interest level for rescheduling the 299er Swiss Team event. Your support is greatly appreciated and is critical to keep these 299er Sectionals viable.



Can You Recover?

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Playing IMPs against experienced opponents with no one vulnerable, you as South hold:

♠ J1075 ♥ A2 ♦ K86 ♣ KQ98

You start the auction with 1NT (11-13) and eventually arrive in 6♠

After some thought West leads the ♠8 and partner tables the dummy.

IMPs

Contract: 6♠

Lead: ♠8

♠	AKQ93									
♥	J									
♦	Q1072									
♣	A75									
<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									
♠	J1075									
♥	A2									
♦	K86									
♣	KQ98									

It's a decent slam, but you will need to hold the diamond losers to one to bring it home. Before deciding how to tackle the diamonds you must try to gather information about the opponents' hands.

You win the ♠A, East following with the ♠4 and play ♥A and ruff the ♥2 with the ♠K. Both opponents indicate an odd number in hearts. Now you play a spade to your Jack and both opponents follow. You continue with the ♣9, LHO plays the ♣10, dummy the ♣A and RHO the ♣2. When you cash two more top clubs, East plays the ♣3 and pitches the ♥6 on the third round.

What do you know? West has two spades and four clubs. Thus far the opponents seem to be signalling honestly so it is likely that West also holds five hearts. It's possible that West has only three hearts while East has seven, but that seems unlikely. Assuming that the distribution is as described, West is 2-5-2-4 and the standard play of a diamond to the King and a later finesse against West for the Jack would be against the odds.

If West has ♦Ax, you can lead to dummy's ♦Q (which presumably holds) and duck a diamond on the way back. If East has both the ♦A and ♦J, you can lead to dummy's ♦Q (presumably losing to the ♦A) and duck the (forced) diamond return around to dummy's ♦10.

Backing your judgement about the best way to start the diamond suit, you lead the ♦6 to dummy's Queen. West plays the ♦9 and East wins with the ♦A. If East returns a heart then you can pitch the ♦8 and the rest of the tricks are yours, so East, after a short thought, exits with the ♦3. If you have constructed the opponents' hands correctly East is favoured to hold the ♦J since she started with four diamonds versus West's two.

But wait! It's time to review your plan. As you ponder what to do, you reflect that the opponents have been giving honest count signals (upside down in this case) on earlier hands. If that ♦9 is an honest part of West's doubleton, then he can't have ♦9x. He must have started with ♦J9. Can the ♦9 be a singleton? It's possible, but unlikely since surely he would have selected that card as his lead rather than the ♠8.

With fingers crossed you play the ♦K and down comes West's ♦J!

Of course partner says, "That was an odd way to play the contract". Against an expert opponent it would have been difficult to infer the ♦J was dropping, so you are glad not to have to explain to your teammates how you failed in a contract that most everyone else would routinely make.

The full deal:

♠	82		♠	64									
♥	KQ954		♥	108763									
♦	J9		♦	A543									
♣	J1064		♣	32									
		<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												
♠	J1075												
♥	A2												
♦	K86												
♣	KQ98												

The Kibitzer - October 2023

2023 Ace of Clubs Races

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

0 to 5	1	Joyce Melnyk	Calgary AB	23
	2	Nancy Brooks	Calgary AB	15
	3	Elizabeth Livingstone	Calgary AB	6
5 to 20	1	Lee Wright	Calgary AB	11
	2	Quentin Krogstad	Calgary AB	10
	3	Lois Clapperton	Calgary AB	8
20 to 50	1	Steve Eastes	Calgary AB	21
	2	Betty Lees	Calgary AB	14
	3	Dianne McCubbin	Calgary AB	9
50 to 100	1	David Pethrick	Calgary AB	18
	2/3	Eric Gutland	Calgary AB	18
	2/3	Dennis Quick	Calgary AB	18
100 to 200	1	Dee-Ann Clark	Calgary AB	28
	2	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	28
	3	Louise Shore	Canmore AB	22
200 to 300	1	Inge French	Okotoks AB	41
	2	David Stephure	Calgary AB	35
	3	Robert Ronca	Calgary AB	32
300 to 500	1	JoAnn Hanson	Calgary AB	44
	2	Dave Brett	Calgary AB	38
	3	Roger Bolton	Calgary AB	25
500 to 1000	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	103
	2	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	87
	3	Charlene Delcourt	Calgary AB	52
1000 to 1500	1	Dave Armstrong	Calgary AB	103
	2	Cynthia Clark	Calgary AB	69
	3	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	66
1500 to 2500	1	John (Mike) D Aguiar	Calgary AB	134
	2	Patrick Murphy	Calgary AB	85
	3	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB	83
2500 to 3500	1	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB	98
	2	Michael Covey	Calgary AB	88
	3	Rod Hilderman	Calgary AB	75
3500 to 5000	1	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	89
	2	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	46
	3	Maged Wafa	Calgary AB	41
5000 to 7500	1	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	62
	2	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	12
	3	Ian Findlay	North York ON	8
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	137
	2	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB	130
Over 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	82
	2	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	7

2023 Ace of Virtual Clubs Races

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

0 to 5	1/2	Lynda Vowell	Calgary AB	2
	1/2	Linda Rogers	Calgary AB	2
	3	Sandy Bruce	Foothills AB	2
5 to 20	1	Barbara McNeil	Banff AB	4
	2	Linda Prenioslo	Canmore AB	3
	3	Diane Morais	Calgary AB	3
20 to 50	1	Celia Gaudet	Calgary AB	12
	2	Stephanie Howard	Calgary AB	9
	3	Ida Switzer	Calgary AB	6
50 to 100	1	Christine Stephure	Calgary AB	13
	2	Judy Peacock	Calgary AB	6
	3	Sheila Wares	Calgary AB	6
100 to 200	1	Nadarajah Paskaran	Calgary AB	30
	2	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	18
	3	Norman Miller	Calgary AB	18
200 to 300	1	Bhavany Paskaran	Calgary AB	42
	2	David Stephure	Calgary AB	27
	3	Elizabeth Miller	Calgary AB	18
300 to 500	1	Philip Coppard	Calgary AB	46
	2	Margaret Williams	Calgary AB	35
	3	Lynn Dover	Calgary AB	32
500 to 1000	1	Hailong Yu	Calgary AB	69
	2	Morris Streich	Calgary AB	55
	3	Judy Madge	Calgary AB	52
1000 to 1500	1	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	82
	2	Linda Martin	Calgary AB	59
	3	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	45
1500 to 2500	1	Brigitte Tetzner	Calgary AB	85
	2	Gerry Marchant	Calgary AB	75
	3	Andy McKaig	Calgary AB	49
2500 to 3500	1	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	55
	2	Gamil Tadros	Calgary AB	41
	3	Ray Kittlitz	Calgary AB	32
3500 to 5000	1	Stephanie McAdam	Calgary AB	54
	2	Michael Broadhurst	Calgary AB	40
	3	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB	18
5000 to 7500	1	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	68
	2	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	39
	3	Allan Simon	Calgary AB	28
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	31
	2	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	13
	3	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB	3
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	33
	2	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	2

The Kibitzer - October 2023

2023 Mini-McKenney Races

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

0 to 5	1	Joyce Melnyk	Calgary AB	23
	2	Nancy Brooks	Calgary AB	17
	3	Eason Wang	Calgary AB	9
5 to 20	1	Patrick Guo	Calgary AB	16
	2	Barbara McNeil	Banff AB	16
	3	Linda Prenioslo	Canmore AB	13
20 to 50	1	Steve Eastes	Calgary AB	21
	2	Betty Lees	Calgary AB	21
	3	Dianne McCubbin	Calgary AB	12
50 to 100	1	Lana McFadden	Calgary AB	27
	2	Shuo Shi	Calgary AB	26
	3/4	Eric Gutland	Calgary AB	24
	3/4	Dennis Quick	Calgary AB	24
100 to 200	1	Qi Ju	Calgary AB	69
	2	Frank Guo	Calgary AB	54
	3	June Cheng	Calgary AB	50
200 to 300	1	David Stephure	Calgary AB	88
	2	Robert Ronca	Calgary AB	47
	3	Maxine Rystephanick	Calgary AB	46
300 to 500	1	Thomas To	Scottsdale AZ	87
	2	Lynn Dover	Calgary AB	61
	3	Andrew Melton	Calgary AB	58
500 to 1000	1	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	185
	2	Richard Wolfe	Calgary AB	136
	3	John Prance	Calgary AB	126
1000 to 1500	1	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	278
	2	Dave Armstrong	Calgary AB	124
	3	Barry Crozier	Calgary AB	118
1500 to 2500	1	John (Mike) D Aguiar	Calgary AB	300
	2	Tom Nault	Calgary AB	193
	3	Andy McKaig	Calgary AB	169
2500 to 3500	1	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB	216
	2	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB	176
	3	Keith Falkenberg	Calgary AB	152
3500 to 5000	1	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	231
	2	David Johnson	Calgary AB	204
	3	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	103
5000 to 7500	1	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	226
	2	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	203
	3	Ian Findlay	North York ON	151
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	390
	2	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB	168
	3	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	81
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	357
	2	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	254
	3	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	240

2023 - 24 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).

The District 18 Finals were held Friday September 22, 2023 in conjunction with the Glacier Regional in Kalispell MT. Finals for all three flights were combined into a stratified event with participants playing a 2-session, play-through game. events. Fourteen pairs competed, including three pairs from Unit 390.

Hearty congratulations go out to **June Cheng** and **Frank Guo**, both of Calgary, who won Flight B, earning them 22.5 gold points. The win makes them eligible to play in the National Finals, which will be held at the 2024 Spring NABC in Louisville, KY.



Frank Guo



June Cheng

The other two Unit 390 pairs also qualified to play in Louisville. **Thomas To** and **Richard Wolfe** tied for second in Flight B, while **Cynthia Clark** and **Patrick Murphy** came fourth, earning their spot in the National Finals.



How to Conjure Up a Rabbit

By Gordon Campbell

In Europe, the Multi 2♦ convention is permitted and is popular at all levels. This convention shows a weak two bid in either major or a strong balanced hand. Using 2♦ to cover major suit weak two bids allows pairs to use 2♥ and 2♠ for other meanings, such as a 5-card specified major and four or more in an unknown minor with 6-10 HCP.

In North America, the ACBL is more protective and does not permit Multi 2♦, except in high level team games. This policy backfires when players travel to national or international tournaments, where their lack of experience in defending against (or even using) Multi 2♦ is often exposed.

In late September I was playing on BBO with one of my favourite partners, Allan Simon, in the first round of a European tournament that had quite a few strong pairs competing. Our opponents were from Skopje, the capital of North Macedonia.

One hand produced a simple auction:

<u>RHO</u>	<u>Me</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Allan</u>
2♠*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

* With no restrictions on the use of Multi 2♦, RHO opened 2♠ showing five spades and four or more in an unknown minor.

This was my hand:

♠J7 ♥KJ84 ♦KQJ106 ♣64

After the above auction, I led the obvious ♦K and saw this dummy:

♠AK83 ♥AQ10763 ♦73 ♣10

Partner played an encouraging ♦2. Now what? Things looked a little hopeless. Even if two diamond tricks cashed and partner held the ♣A, where would the defence find the fourth trick? Spades were breaking 2-2 and the heart honours were onside.

Instead of lamely cashing another diamond, I switched to the ♥4 and declarer played the Queen. Now that was a surprise! Declarer obviously held two hearts while my partner had the singleton. Declarer had to be either 5-2-2-4 or 5-2-1-5. Feeling confident, declarer cashed the ♠A and it was clear to me that he was about to play a second round of trumps.

He would get the good news that spades were 2-2 and 10 tricks would be in sight (declarer could proceed to establish hearts). Declarer needed to be dissuaded from following this plan, so I dropped the ♠J on the first round of trumps, hoping to create the illusion that trumps were 3-1. That might convince declarer to consider a different line of play to cater to that distribution. (With trumps 3-1, declarer cannot draw all three rounds of trumps. There will be insufficient dummy entries to establish and run the hearts and one club ruff will not be enough to come to 10 tricks).

Declarer thought for a long time and eventually led a club from dummy. Partner won his ♣A, underled his ♦A to my ♦Q, and received a heart ruff for down one.

Yes, declarer erred, but he did not take a completely unreasonable line of play. When defending, always be alert to the possibility of offering declarer a losing option. Like a magician, you just might conjure up a rabbit out of the hat for the defence.

This was the complete deal:

♠ 62		
♥ 5		
♦ A942		
♣ AJ9752		
♠ AK83	♠ N	♠ Q10954
♥ AQ10763	♥ W	♥ 92
♦ 73	♦ E	♦ 85
♣ 10	♣ S	♣ KQ83
♠ J7		
♥ KJ84		
♦ KQJ106		
♣ 64		



ACBL Management Report on Club and Tournament Activity

The Virtual Club table count continued to decline in recent months, even in April when the Virtual Clubs were allowed to run a Silver Linings Week.

Year-over-year club activity from March to May:

- Face-to-face table counts increased and so did the number of clubs running face-to-face games
- Virtual table counts decreased as did the number of clubs running virtual games
- BBO table counts decreased

Club Activity	March		April		May	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
F2F Clubs (ACBL)	62,051	92,472	59,263	79,220	62,688	87,798
Virtual Clubs (ACBL)	58,013	29,951	53,807	32,630	47,786	28,455
Total Tables (ACBL)	120,064	122,423	113,060	111,850	110,474	116,253
BBO Tables	216,019	184,618	205,840	174,951	205,496	177,016
# ACBL Clubs running						
F2F games	1368	1626	1440	1629	1471	1620
Virtual Games	439	319	413	304	395	283

Year-over-year tournament activity from January to June:

- Tournaments have continued to grow in 2023
- In the first six months of the year, over 100 more tournaments were held compared to last year
- Table counts across all tournament increased by 50%

Tournament Activity	January - June 2022		January - June 2023		Change Year over Year	
	# Tournaments	# Tables	# Tournaments	# Tables	# Tournaments	# Tables per Tournament
Open Regional	35	24,170.0	45	34,184.0	+10	+69.1
NLM Regional	9	1,169.5	12	1,407.0	+3	-12.7
Open Sectional	144	14,591.0	203	24,208.0	+59	+17.9
NLM Sectional	31	891.0	51	1,601.0	+20	+2.7
Local Sectional	12	849.0	32	2,393.5	+20	+4.0
Total	231	41,670.5	342	63,793.5	112	

Source: Summer 2023 ACBL Management Report (Chicago)



Charles M. Schulz

Don't Panic On Defence

By Janet Galbraith

We've all seen it (and done it!) – defenders start to sweat and get twitchy in their seats, then cash out all their winners as soon as possible because they are afraid that the tricks will disappear. If this approach defeats the contract, great, but often it just helps declarer set up the rest of the hand so they can succeed in their contract. As defenders, it is our duty to make life as miserable as possible for declarer, but how can we know which is the right thing to do?

I'm sure you've heard the saying "*The best defence is a good offense*". The thought is that by being proactive rather than passive, you will gain a strategic advantage over your opponent. The quote is attributed to Sun Tzu, who wrote in his book The Art of War that "*Attack is the secret of defence; defence is the planning of an attack*".

Sometimes, the plan for an attack is to choose to wait, and in bridge, we have options in our approach to defence.

When we think about the big picture of defending a hand, we must ask ourselves an important question: Do we need to get our tricks by setting them up as quickly as possible or do we need to be careful not to help declarer? The answer to this question will determine our general approach. If we feel that the hand is a race where we need to get our tricks before declarer sets up their tricks or pitches their losers, then we need to make aggressive, slightly riskier attacking plays, known as active defence.

On the other hand, if we think that declarer is likely to struggle to make the contract without help from us, then we must try our best to not give declarer any help and we need to lead suits that we think are safe. This is passive defence. Sometimes we can tell which approach is needed by listening to the auction, but sometimes we don't know until we see dummy.

Here are some examples of active defence:

Leading a singleton to try for a ruff

This will work in some situations, such as partner having the Ace, partner having a trump control to get in quickly and give you a ruff, or you having a trump control and then getting back to partner in a side suit to get your ruff. Getting the ruff is often the setting trick. However, this is not a good lead if you will be ruffing with a potentially natural trump trick (for example, from holdings such as QJ9, or JTxx). The plan might also backfire when the opponents have bid the suit and your lead finesses your partner out of their holding.

If the opponents are in a small slam, and you have an Ace, do not lead a singleton – your partner is never getting in to give you a ruff. However, if you do not have the missing keycard, your partner's Ace might be in your short suit (or in trump), so there is a much better chance of the play succeeding.

Underleading an honour to try to set up winners

This can work very well when the auction indicates that the suit is not well covered by the declaring side, or if your side has bid the suit (that's an easy one), but can also be disastrous. Raise your hand if you have fallen victim to this layout:

Dummy	Declarer
Qx	Axx

Partner leads x from Kxxx and you hold Jxxx. Zero tricks for you in that suit. ☹️ One general approach for underleading an Ace or King is to only have a 3-card suit – if it is wrong the first time, the trick might still come back since declarer may have more length themselves.

Leading unsupported Aces

Banging down Aces, especially against slams, is very popular, and can be a winning play, especially if declarer can make losers go away if you don't, but overall it is not the best approach. It can often promote an honour in declarer's hand, or it can be ruffed and set up pitches for declarer.

For example, defending 6♠, you are on lead as West in this layout.

♠ J106		
♥ AK4		
♦ Q732		
♣ Q82		
♠ 9	♠ N	♠ 843
♥ QJ10853	♥ W	♥ 972
♦ A8	♦ E	♦ J964
♣ K1073	♣ S	♣ J94
	♠ AKQ752	
	♥ 6	
	♦ K105	
	♣ A65	

If you lead the ♦ A, and continue diamonds, declarer will be able to pitch both clubs from their hand on the 4th diamond in dummy and the ♥ K. However, if you lead a heart, declarer has to figure out the diamond suit themselves and be in great difficulty.

[continued next page]

Don't Panic On Defence (continued)

Leading trump

This can be an active defence if you are trying to cut down on ruffing values, but it can also be a passive defence if you are trying to avoid breaking suits for declarer. In an auction such as 1♥ - 3♥ - 4♥, you don't want to underlead a side suit honour as you have no idea what the side suit layouts will be, so a trump lead is probably safest.

A different example of an active defence where you would want to lead trump might arise after an auction like this:

1♠ 1NT (forcing)
2♣ 3♣
All Pass

You hold ♠AJ1073 - you know declarer will try to ruff their spade losers in dummy, so you lead trumps and continue to do so at every opportunity in order to promote your own spade holding into winners. When trumps are led, partner usually understands and will continue trumps from their side to help you if they get in. If you have a singleton trump and the opponents have not shown a massive fit (i.e. 10+ cards), don't lead it as you are likely finessing your partner and will have to buy them drinks later on.

Other times when a trump lead is recommended are:

- When the opponents are sacrificing with fewer high card points than your side. Sacrifices are usually based on distribution - if the opponents don't have much distribution, they will usually just let you play your contract. Therefore, when the opponents do sacrifice, it is crucial to lead trumps early to cut down their ruffing potential.
- When the opponents have bid three or four suits and wind up playing in one of them. If they can't get to notrump and can't find a fit, they usually plan to crossruff the hand.
- When partner has doubled the opponents' part-score for penalty. Low-level penalty doubles usually indicate a big trump stack and it is nearly mandatory to lead a trump when partner has shown such a hand. This also helps keep partner off future endplay scenarios if they are stuck with their trumps near the end and have to lead them out of their own hand.

Sometimes, you need to listen to the auction to make an inspired lead that is not in the regular playbook. Consider this Precision auction:

2♣¹ 2♦²
2♥³ 3NT
All Pass

¹ 11-15, 6+ clubs or 5+ clubs and a 4-card major

² Artificial, asking for a 4-card major

³ I have 4 hearts

What do we know?

Dummy will have at least five clubs and four hearts. Declarer was looking for a major suit fit so likely has four spades, plus diamonds stopped and has no more than three hearts. Since dummy could have as few as 11 HCP, declarer will likely have at least 13 HCP.

Here is your hand:

♠Qxxxx ♥Qxx ♦xx ♣Kxx

Counting up the points, partner should have 3-9 HCP.

What do you lead?

- The standard lead is a 4th best spade – not likely to get you anywhere since you have no entries and it will give up a trick if declarer has all the honours.
- The passive lead is the top of your doubleton diamond – not costing you anything, might help partner's hand if they get in later, but might also finesse them out of an honour.
- There is no point to leading a club since dummy has at least five and you will be giving declarer an opening lead free finesse and (possibly) the timing to establish the long suit.
- The best lead is a heart. Many people will lead dummy's 2nd bid suit as a good opening salvo on defence - leading through strength. At worst, the layout will be 4-3-3-3 and dummy will get four heart tricks. But since declarer is likely weak in hearts, and your Queen can be finessed, you are banking on partner having something in the suit. At the same time, you are not costing yourself a trick in another suit.

[continued next page]



Don't Panic On Defence (continued)

The entire hand was:

♠ Jx		♠ 109
♥ K9xx		♥ AJ10x
♦ Kx		♦ Axxxx
♣ AJ1098		♣ xx
♠ Qxxxx	<div style="display: inline-block; width: 40px; height: 40px; background-color: #000080; color: white; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;"> N W ■ E S </div>	
♥ Qxx		
♦ xx		
♣ Kxx		
♠ AKxx		
♥ xx		
♦ QJ10x		
♣ Qxx		

The winning lead is the ♥Q, not low. If you lead low, partner will be in, and how can they get back to your hand? They will only get two heart tricks (♥10 and ♥A). Therefore, lead high out of your hand through dummy's suit. They might duck and you can continue, or if they cover, partner has three tricks. In this case, because dummy has the ♥9, the defence can get no more than three heart tricks, whether declarer ducks the lead or not, plus the ♦A for -400.

Consider what happens on a spade lead – the ♠J will win, declarer will knock out the ♦A and the defence will never get in to lead through the ♥K so declarer scores +460. On a diamond lead, declarer will get five clubs, three diamonds and two spades for +430.

*** Author's note – I was NOT inspired enough to find the ♥Q lead in real time.*



Eddie Kantar said that when dummy hits with a balanced hand, the defenders should go into their shells and play the passive game, waiting for declarer to go wrong.

Examples of times to be passive are:

- When you have cards in the opponents' bid suits - leading those suits only gives away the position and helps declarer.
- When there is no long suit against you – you don't need to rush to cash out and so can hope to collect slow tricks in unexpected places.
- When the opponents have bid tentatively and might be too high – declarer will have some work to do to find enough tricks, so be patient until you see what their plan is.
- When dummy is weak, but declarer is strong – you can't see what is going on and need to wait for declarer to play out of their hand, which will give you extra tricks. Don't play suits for them since they cannot get to dummy to take any finesses.
- When defending a grand slam or 6NT – don't underlead honours since there could be a two-way finesse that declarer might have to figure out. Your partner will likely have little to help you so it is best to lead from nothing.

Defence is hard and there are a lot of "rules" to remember, but perhaps the most important thing is to try to see the hand from declarer's perspective – if you can see what they want to do, you can see how to prevent it to the best of your ability. Don't make it easy on them!



Joe Martin
Mr. Boffo - Unclear On the Concept

Unit 390 Tournament Report

By Lois Matton, Tournament Chair

Another successful tournament was held on Labour Day weekend, September 1 - 3, 2023. Two hundred tables of bridge were played over the three days, with 191 players in total. Guiding us through the weekend were Directors, Michael Farebrother and Doug Mann.

The top masterpoint winners were:

1. Gerry Marshall 32 masterpoints
2. Bernie Lambert 29 masterpoints
3. Dan Bertrand 26 masterpoints

Capturing the President's award for the most masterpoints earned in 299er games were Carolyn and Margaret Graham, who tied with 4.71 points. Congratulations!



Be sure to mark your calendars for the next Sectional tournament in Calgary -- our New Year's Sectional scheduled for January 5 - 7, 2024. More details to come.



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

Upcoming Unit 390 Tournament Dates

Be sure to check the official tournament schedule on the ACBL website before finalizing your plans to attend any tournament. Go to acbl.org/tournament and select "Find a Tournament"

Calgary 299er Sectional	October 28, 2023
Calgary New Year's Sectional	January 5 - 7, 2024
Lethbridge Regional	April 8 - 14, 2024
Penticton Regional	June 10 - 16, 2024
Calgary Regional	August 12 - 18, 2024





2023 Canadian Bridge Championships



The 2023 Canadian Bridge Championships (CBC) were held May 10 - 19, 2023 in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

The round robins of the Canadian Women's Teams Championship (CWTC) and the Canadian Senior Teams Championship (CSTC) had been played online in advance of the face-to-face event, with the top four teams in each category advancing to the playoffs.

Just a handful of players from Unit 390 made the trip. The Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF), like most if not all bridge organizations, is struggling to keep its national championship viable. It has come under criticism for using online platforms instead of running the entire tournament face-to-face. Yet without increased support from players all across Canada, it is becoming increasingly difficult to stick with a live model. The other major problem facing the CBF is the dramatically increased cost of holding a live event, not dissimilar to the challenges facing Unit 390.

Unit 390 players fared well in Niagara Falls. In the CSTC, Gordon Campbell partnered by Ian Finlay, and separately, Nicholas Gartaganis had all qualified for the playoff round and finished in a tie for 3rd/4th. In the CWTC, Susan Culham, a new import to Unit 390, was a member of the winning team.

Fifteen teams entered the Canadian National Team Championship - Flight A event (CNTC-A), which was played

entirely face-to-face. After two days of round robin play, eight teams advanced to the playoffs including teams with Campbell/Findlay and Nicholas Gartaganis. Campbell and Findlay's team lost in the first round while Nicholas made it all the way to the final, eventually settling for the silver medal.

The Canadian Mixed Team Championship (CMTC) saw a field of 12 squads. Here, the playoff round began with semi-finals. Susan Culham was on a team that finished tied 3rd/4th while Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis defended their 2022 title, taking the gold alongside their teammates Marc-Andre Fourcaudot, Sondra Blank, Kamel Fergani and Louise Berthiaume.

Unfortunately, a trip to the World Championship in Morocco was not in the cards for the CMTC winners, since both Blank and Berthiaume were also members of the winning CWTC team and elected to play in that world event.

The dates and location for the 2024 Canadian Bridge Championships have been announced. The CBC will be held in Penticton, B.C. from June 10 to 18 in parallel with the Penticton Regional. All round robin team qualifiers will be held online in January and February.

You can read more at <https://cbf.ca/2024-canadian-championships/> including registration deadlines and dates for the round robin events.



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 game on BBO as well as various other CBF events.

A one-year membership in the Canadian Bridge Federation costs just \$25. 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.

So You Want to Make a Game Try A Catalogue of Possibilities

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

In today's modern bridge game, the concept of solid bidding has flown out the window in favour of a more aggressive approach, certainly in the area of opening bids and simple raises of partner's opening. The focus has turned to making it more difficult for the opponents to enter the auction and bid effectively.

Opening bids and raises aren't always light, of course, but the days of a solid opening bid and a solid simple raise are gone. To avoid always getting a level or more too high while still bidding makeable games, bridge players have come up with a variety of game tries.

In this article, the focus is on the second round of bidding after a major suit opening is raised to the two level:

1M - P - 2M - P where M stands for either hearts or spades.

It is assumed the partnership is playing 5-card majors with 2-over-1 game forcing.

After this start to the auction, opener passes with an ordinary hand and jumps to game with a great hand. The in-between hand calls for a game try and solicits partner's help in making a decision about whether or not to bid game.

First, let's get a couple of "non-theoretical" game tries out of the way.

The "What the heck?" game try (also called the **IMPs** game try)

In a nutshell, this approach says "Bid game and try to make it." It's not such bad advice, particularly at IMP scoring. As we have seen in many articles appearing in this and past Kibitzers, the game bonus is so important at IMPs that it is worth the gamble to bid game that has a low percentage chance of success, even less than 50-50. Forget the game try!

The "Transfer the blame" game try

You may disagree with our name for this bid. Basically, it goes like this:

1M - 2M
3M ??

where 3M says nothing except "Maybe we have a game partner, what do you think?"

It puts responder in the hot seat with very little information to go on (except that opener has neither a minimum nor a maximum). Responder has to wonder whether his important cards are working or wasted. What does opener want ...

a maximum raise? It is largely a guess and if responder guesses incorrectly, well ... who's the goat (and we don't mean "greatest of all time")?

At one time, this approach was the typical way to invite a game. As bidding evolved, advancing players figured out that there were better ways to invite, and better uses for the 1-2-3 sequence.

OK, with those out of the way, let's examine other game tries further. To make a game try, opener needs a decent hand, certainly something more than a minimum. What are the important areas in which opener needs partner's help to decide whether or not to proceed to game? The list is short:

- Partner, I have length in a side suit ... can you help to set it up?
- Partner, I have holes in a side suit ... can you fill them?
- Partner, I have a short side suit ... do you have wasted high cards there?
- Partner, I have a bad trump suit ... can you help limit the trump losers?

With the exception of the last question, the bidding sequence to try for game in each of these situations is straightforward.

The Long Suit game try (LSGT)

Your question:

Partner, I have length in a side suit ... You might have a 4-card or 5-card side suit that will help win the tricks needed to make game ... if you can set it up.

Action:

Bid your side suit.

Partner will get the message to place particular value on honours in your long suit and in the trump suit.

As for the other two suits, that is the issue. A long suit game try says nothing about the other suits, although the fit in those suits may also be crucial.

The Help Suit game try (HSGT)

Your question:

Partner, I have holes in a side suit ... This game try is quite similar to the long suit game try, but the help suit length can be shorter, as few as three cards. You want to ask if partner has fillers so you can avoid losing too many tricks in the suit.

Action:

Bid your help suit.

[continued next page]

So You Want to Make a Game Try(continued)

Partner will focus on his holding to see if he can contribute help in the form of strength or shortness. Obviously, several small cards would be the worst possible holding. As responder, if that is your holding, close your eyes and simply return to 3M. Partner hasn't asked if you have a maximum nor if you have trump honours. (More to come on this later)

The Short Suit game try (SSGT)

Your question:

Partner, I have a short side suit ... You should have a singleton (rarely, a void) but not more than that.

Action:

Bid your short suit.

Partner will assess his holding and devalue honours in your stated short suit. Only the Ace carries full value; secondary honours have doubtful value and are wasted. Even then, the Ace would pull more weight if it were in a different suit, since it could contribute to establishing extra tricks there. You can think of a SSGT like a HSGT in two suits simultaneously, and an Ace in a help suit is golden.

The Trump Suit game try

Your question:

Partner, I have bad trumps ... You might have something like Jxxxx or Qxxxx. You need some high trumps from partner.

Action:

In this situation, what to bid is not well-defined. Some partnerships use the 1-2-3 sequence for this game try, so you would bid 3M. Others might use 2NT to make a trump suit game try, and preserve the 1-2-3 sequence to be a "semi-preemptive" bid, to make it more difficult for the opponents to enter the auction.

Over the years, the long suit and help suit game tries have morphed into one. The key thing to remember is that this "universal" help suit game try only needs to show a suit with a minimum length of three cards.

In all these game try sequences, responder retreats to 3M to decline the game try and bids game to accept. Pretty simple, right?

But what if responder is still in doubt? This is where the re-try comes in, and it usually (but not necessarily) occurs after a help suit game try. Space permitting, responder may bid a suit between the help suit bid and 3M. It sends this message to opener: "Partner, I'm not sure about accepting your game try, but I too have game interest, and I have chunky stuff in this other suit".

The 2-Way Game Try

Opener doesn't always have a hand that fits perfectly into one of the main choices (help suit or short suit). Sometimes, one is desperate to make the other type of game try (instead of what you and your partner actually play) ... for example, a SSGT would work best, but you have agreed to play HSGTs.

Luckily, the 2-way game try arrived to solve this problem. It is a method that puts two different game tries in your arsenal.

The 2-way game try allows you to make either a short suit game try or a help suit game try, depending on your hand.

To make a HSGT, opener bids the next suit up after 2M (i.e. 2♠ over a raise to 2♥, 2NT over a raise to 2♣). This relay says "partner, I'd like to make a HSGT. Please bid the next step so I can do that".

1♥ - 2♥

2♠ - 2NT¹

3♣, 3♦ = help suit game try

3♥ = help suit game try in spades (not 3♠ because it would go past 3♥)

¹ OK partner, make your game try

1♠ - 2♠

2NT - 3♣¹

3♦, 3♥ = help suit game try

3♠ = help suit game try in clubs (not 4♣ because it would go past 3♠)

¹ OK partner, make your game try

Any direct suit bid is a SSGT with one exception.

When hearts are trump, 2♠ is the relay so 2NT substitutes as a short suit game try in spades.

When spades are trump, all 3-level suit bids below 3♠ are SSGTs.

Does responder have any options after opener asks him to bid the relay step? Yes indeed. If he would accept a help suit game try in all the side suits, he can break the relay and bid game. If he would reject any HSGT, he can also break the relay and retreat to 3M. Otherwise, he will accept the relay and await developments.

Two-way game tries provide the best of both worlds and opener can select the most suitable approach for his particular hand.

You may have observed that all these game tries are "telling" ... opener tells something about his hand to help responder better decide whether game should be bid. The drawback, of course, is that opener isn't just talking to responder.

[continued next page]

So You Want to Make a Game Try(continued)

The opponents are all ears! Sometimes the information divulged will help the opponents find the best defence when they might not have done so without the information.

The 2-Way Asking/Telling Game Try - aka Kokish Game Try

Never satisfied to accept potential weaknesses in a bidding system, bridge theoreticians came up with "asking" game tries. Eric Kokish is frequently credited with devising the scheme outlined here, but others have also contributed to and refined the ideas.

This approach is in keeping with the notion of having two different game tries available to opener and is very similar to 2-way game tries described above. However, the big difference is that the game try involving a help suit is an asking game try as opposed to a telling game try.

Opener bids the next suit up to ask responder "in what suit, if any, would you accept a help suit game try?". Responder bids game if he would accept a HSGT in any of the side suits. If he would reject any HSGT, he can bid 3M. Otherwise, he bids the lowest ranking suit where he would accept a help suit game try.

1♥ - 2♥

2♠¹ ¹ Partner, where would you accept a HSGT?

2NT = would accept in spades, possibly other suits as well

3♣ = would accept in clubs, not in spades but possibly in diamonds

3♦ = would accept in diamonds only

3♥ = would reject them all

4♥ = would accept them all

1♠ - 2♠

2NT¹ ¹ Partner, where would you accept a HSGT?

3♣ = would accept in clubs, possibly in diamonds or hearts

3♦ = would accept in diamonds, not in clubs but possibly in hearts

3♥ = would accept in hearts only

3♠ = would reject them all

4♠ = would accept them all

As with the simple 2-way telling game try, any direct suit bid is a SSGT and 2NT substitutes as the spades SSGT try when hearts are trump.

Kokish advocates using the 1-2-3 sequence as a trump suit game try.

Using this scheme, the procedure to follow when you would have liked to make your own HSGT, is to ask responder where he would accept. If he responds in your help-suit, you've got your answer (yes!). If he responds above your help-suit, you've also got your answer (no!). If he responds in a suit lower than your help-suit, you can ask further by bidding your help-suit (which says "OK, I heard you but what about help in this suit"?).

Marty Bergen suggests always using the 2NT bid as the asking game try over a single major suit raise, whether hearts or spades. Unlike Kokish's game try where the relay bid is used to ask, "where is your stuff", Bergen's game try bid of 2NT primarily asks "where is your shortness" (there are a variety of responses when responder has no shortness). Opener's direct suit bids are natural, not to be interpreted as help suit or short suit tries.

Wow! This is a lot of information to process. Think of this article as a catalogue of possibilities. There is plenty of information out there on the internet if you wish to learn more.

Follow-Up Issues - some things to think about

- A meaning for the 1-2-3 sequence must be agreed upon. Remember, the two choices are:
 1. trump suit game try or
 2. semi-preemptive re-raise, not a game try
- What kind of suit should be the basis to make a HSGT? What is the worst holding? Do you permit a HSGT on three small, for example? What would be the best holding? Do you permit a HSGT on QJx, for example? What about KJx? Traditionally, the requirement is for opener to have three or more cards in the suit with at least one high honour. It is usually a suit with at least two losers.

Some kind of agreement is necessary to guide responder in the decision-making process. Responder's Qxx won't help much opposite xxx!
- When does a game try convert to a slam try? Suppose opener makes a game try and then continues on to game when responder rejects. What does that mean? A change of heart? Not at all! It means that opener's "game try" was fake ... it was actually a slam try. Responder should bid accordingly.

[continued next page]

So You Want to Make a Game Try(continued)

- Responder has multiple options when opener makes a game try:
 1. Reject by retreating to 3M.
 2. Accept by jumping to 4M.
 3. Show an excellent accepting hand by bidding above 3M (this should be concentrated strength or a control).
 4. Show a tip-top maximum but not where opener might need it by bidding 3NT.
 5. Show something between rejecting and accepting by bidding below 3M if possible. This should be interpreted as responder's own "help suit game try" essentially saying "I'm not confident about my holding where you said you need it but I do have a good holding in this suit ... does that help you?"

Let us look at a few examples to clarify some of the preceding material. Room does not permit showing examples for all situations. In these example cases, it is assumed that the game-try options are one of help-suit or short-suit. If playing some form of 2-way game tries, both options will be available, the HSGT being via relay.

First, a couple of typical help-suit game try hands:

♠AQ1054	♥8	♦AK65	♣K98
After	1♠	2♠	
	??		Make a HSGT in clubs

Responder's actions with:

- ♠K98 ♥10964 ♦J103 ♣A103 Bid 4♠ - you have a really good club holding
- ♠K98 ♥Q109 ♦J874 ♣743 Bid 3♠ - your club holding is awful
- ♠K98 ♥KQ1072 ♦84 ♣J73 Bid 3♥ - you have a little help in clubs (not very good, though), but you have great hearts, enough to make your own "game try" response

♠87	♥A109765	♦AJ94	♣A
After	1♥	2♥	
	??		Make a HSGT in diamonds

Responder's actions:

- ♠10932 ♥KJ3 ♦KQ32 ♣98 Bid 4♥ - you have great diamonds!
- ♠Q103 ♥K83 ♦876 ♣QJ87 Bid 3♥ - you cannot help in diamonds

- ♠A109 ♥KQ32 ♦87 ♣10943 Bid 4♥ - your diamond help is so-so but your fourth trump covers for that

Here is a typical short-suit game try hand:

♠AK1093	♥KJ8	♦AJ95	♣4
After	1♠	2♠	
	??		Make a SSGT in clubs

Responder's actions:

- ♠QJ6 ♥Q943 ♦K3 ♣J1094 Bid 4♠ - your honours in hearts and diamonds are high value
- ♠QJ6 ♥10943 ♦874 ♣KJ7 Bid 3♠ - your clubs are wasted
- ♠J762 ♥Q4 ♦Q108 ♣A1094 Bid 4♠ - your club ace is working and your red suit queens should help

Unfortunately, not all hands fit into a tidy little compartment. Sometimes, opener will have a choice of game tries to make. Consider the following hand for responder:

♠ Q62 ♥952 ♦K1062 ♣Q107

Suppose after 1♠ - 2♠, opener makes a HSGT in clubs. With help in clubs, values in trumps and a side king, responder should be happy to bid 4♠.

Now let's examine at two possible hands for opener. Note that the hands contain identical cards, just in different locations:

Responder

♠ Q62
♥ 952
♦ K1062
♣ Q107

Hand 1

♠ KJ1075
♥ AQ8
♦ 4
♣ AJ43

Hand 2

♠ KJ1075
♥ 4
♦ AQ8
♣ AJ43

[continued next page]

So You Want to Make a Game Try ... (cont.)

Opposite Hand 1, 4♠ is pretty bad. Even if the ♦K turns out to be a trick, there may be no entry to cash it. And without an entry, we can't take the club finesse. We'd have to concede a club and use the entry to discard a heart on the ♦K and then cross our fingers and take the heart finesse. It turns out the ♦K is nearly worthless.

Yet opposite Hand 2, 4♠ is odds on to make, losing a trump, a heart and at most one club. The ♦K is a sure entry and the fourth diamond may prove useful too.

On these two hands, the most important card really is that ♦K and how it fits into opener's hand. The HSGT in clubs does not take this into account.

On both these example hands, it turns out that a SSGT would have been the best option but who knew?

Responder would reject a SSGT in diamonds with the ♦K wasted, but would accept a SSGT in hearts, with helpful honours elsewhere. Remember, when opener makes a SSGT, it really gives information about both other side suits ... it is like a double HSGT.

Hindsight is so easy.

One last thought ...

Deciding whether your hand is worth some kind of game try can be a conundrum. Our motto is this:

Aggressive tries, solid acceptances.

If you wait for a solid hand before making a try, you will often languish in a partscore while partner sits with a tip-top response.

It is important to agree that both partners cannot be aggressive ... that would lead to lots of poor/impossible contracts, and who wants that?

In preparing this article, information and examples from several sources were used as reference including:

Pete Matthews Jr. (<https://3nt.xyz>)

Larry Matheny (Northern Colorado Unit 363)

Doing nothing is hard. You
never know when you're done.

CoolFunnyQuotes.com



National Final Results

In the April Kibitzer, we reported the results of the District 18 playoffs for all flights of the Grand National Teams. The winners in each flight became eligible to represent District 18 at the GNT North American Final which was held at the Chicago NABC in July.

In the Championship Flight National Final, Gordon Campbell of Calgary and Ian Findlay of Banff were joined by Peter Jones and Kismet Fung, both of Edmonton, the latter two players replacing Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis who were part of the team winning the District playoff.

The District 18 representatives missed qualifying for the Knock Out phase by 2 VPs.

In Flight A, three original team members -- Yi Peng (Mark) Mai and Qi Ju, both Calgary, along with Xiaodong (Jeff) Zhao, of Edmonton AB -- added Runan Du of Calgary to replace their fourth team member.

They handily qualified for the Knock Out phase, finishing 7th out of 24 teams in the preliminary Swiss. They lost their head-to-head match in the round of 16.

The 2023-24 Grand National Teams will get underway soon. There are no club qualifying events nor unit qualifying events in District 18. To play in the District 18 Final a team needs only complete the registration form and pay the required entry fee.

The District 18 Finals for all flights will be played online on April 20 - 21, 2024. Please watch for further information to become available.