



## President's Message

The attendance at the New Year Sectional was a very promising 257 tables and the Unit made a substantial profit of \$1,563. Although 257 tables are still significantly less than pre-COVID attendance, when in excess of 300 tables was the norm, it is a step up from recent sectionals. For example, last year, the January 2023 Sectional had 191.5 tables, the Spring Sectional, 195.5 tables and the September Sectional, 200 tables. We are heading in the right direction. Thanks are due to Lois Matton, the event organizer, and her very capable assistants.

The next Sectional will be held at one of our old locations, the DoubleTree by Hilton (which used to be called the Clarion). The dates are May 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>. The hotel has undergone renovations since our last visit and also has the advantage that the playing area is larger than that at the Royal Wyndham. We are hoping that all the available space will be filled.

This year's Rookie Master Swiss Teams event was held on February 24<sup>th</sup> at the Bridge Centre. Nineteen tables had a very enjoyable event with hand records and lunch provided. Setting up Swiss Teams with pre-dealt hands is quite a challenge, but it was overcome successfully and the participants benefited from having hand records to review how they fared. Many thanks to Brad Bowyer, the event organizer.

Delores Hedley and Karen Mitchell will be hosting a supervised bid and play for players with less than 50 masterpoints on Wednesday and Thursday mornings from April 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 27<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. There is no need to sign up, just come along when you can. Cost is \$3.

Over the next few months Unit members will have the opportunity to play in several tournaments in Calgary. The first is the Calgary Spring Sectional (see above), The next is the Calgary Regional August 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> followed by the Fall Sectional September 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. If those tournaments are not enough for you, there are the following ones out of town: Red Deer Sectional April 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, Edmonton Sectional May 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, Penticton Regional and Canadian Championships June 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> and the Lethbridge Sectional and concurrent Non-Life Master Regional September 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. The District 18 North American Pairs Final will be played online in November. I hope that will meet the requirements of all players.

The ACBL has got itself into a bit of a predicament. In order to ensure that rooms are available at the host hotels for tournaments organized by the ACBL, they pre-booked a significant number of rooms. If those rooms are not utilized the ACBL still has to pay for them. This means that the ACBL could be on the hook for several hundred thousand dollars. To mitigate against this possibility, the ACBL is

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## President's Message (continued)

offering a discount in card fees of \$10 per session if you are staying at a host hotel and book using Entry Express. It is to be hoped that Entry Express is working, since it has been having problems recently, most notably at the last NABC in Louisville, where (*as reported on Bridge Winners*), for at least one day, all entries had to be sold at the discounted price, hotel guest or not.

If you are planning to go to the North American Bridge Championships in Toronto in July, there is an even bigger "Maple Leaf Discount" for Canadian Bridge Federation members who reside in Canada. Even if you are not staying at a host hotel, if you book using Entry Express, your discount will be \$14 per session. To be eligible, you must be a CBF member (at June 1, 2024) and your ACBL membership must also be current.

John Sharpe  
President, Calgary ACBL Unit 390  
April 2024



## Fun Bridge Questions

1. Which is more likely to occur?
  - a) Holding all thirteen cards of any suit
  - b) Holding thirty-seven high card points
  - c) Holding no card higher than a five spot
  
2. If you bid a slam requiring three finesses to work, what are your chances of success?
  - a) 30%
  - b) 12.5%
  - c) 33.33%
  
3. How many club symbols are there in total on the two and three of clubs?
  - a) Five
  - b) Seven
  - c) Nine

You can find these questions and 33 more at Mike Lawrence's website:

<http://michaelslawrence.com/play/36-fun-questions/>

Please turn to page 19 for the answers.

## 2023 Alberta Sectionals Masterpoint Race

### Final Standings

1/2	112.24	<b>Christopher Galbraith</b>	Calgary AB
1/2	112.24	<b>Janet Galbraith</b>	Calgary AB
3/4	85.79	Robert Pratt	Edmonton AB
3/4	85.79	Kevin Strangway	Grande Prairie AB
5	81.23	Terri Bedard	Calgary AB
6	76.67	Yi Peng (Mark) Mai	Calgary AB
7	74.15	David Johnson	Calgary AB
8	67.13	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB
9	62.78	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB
11/10	58.92	Cindy Cossey	Innisfail AB
10/11	58.92	Glenn Cossey	Innisfail AB
12	55.82	Douglas Mann	Calgary AB
13	51.10	Howard Coren	Calgary AB
14	50.60	Bernie Lambert	Acme AB
15	47.53	Perry Khakhar	Edmonton AB
16	45.80	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB
17	45.65	Steve Bates	Edmonton AB
18	45.57	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB
19	45.24	Laurie Shapka	Red Deer AB
20	44.42	Adam Thiel	Red Deer AB
21	43.28	Abdul Fahih	Calgary AB
22/23	41.15	Keith Wallace	Calgary AB
22/23	41.15	Pam Wallace	Calgary AB
24	38.64	Gerene Albrecht	Red Deer AB
25	37.72	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB
26	36.37	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB
27	34.89	Frank Ayer	Calgary AB
28	34.82	Ian Gatenby	Red Deer AB
29	34.68	Keith Falkenberg	Calgary AB
30	34.66	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB
31	34.21	Peter Jones	Edmonton AB
32	33.70	Marcia Andreychuk	Calgary AB
33	33.45	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB
34	33.32	Qi Ju	Calgary AB
35	32.98	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB
36	32.50	Mike D Aguiar	Calgary AB
37	32.26	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB
38	32.13	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB
39	30.79	Dave Kilworth	Devon AB
40	29.36	Xiaodong (Jeff) Zhao	Edmonton AB
41	26.54	Hans Folkinga	Edmonton AB
42	25.81	Shuo Shi	Calgary AB
43	25.77	Michael Covey	Calgary AB
44	24.95	Allan Terplawy	Edmonton AB
45	22.75	Ray Grace	Sherwood Park AB

## Just Doing What I Love!

By Delores Hedley, PR Chair

Last September we held the first trial session of Supervised Bid & Play. A total of forty-eight individuals participated in the sessions which ran two times per week for 11 weeks. Considering that the clubs are now seeing these new players playing in beginner games, restricted games and at least a dozen or so braving the open games, the program was a definite success.

The second session of Supervised Bid & Play is now in progress (April through June). Drop in times are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., every Wednesday and Thursday. We are seeing unfamiliar faces as well as some returning participants. These first-session "graduates" are not just expanding their own skills ... they are also helping our new inexperienced players.

I **absolutely love** hosting Supervised Bid & Play. I love watching people have fun learning and practicing what teachers have initiated. I love when they catch on to something and then relay it to someone else. I love watching their confidence grow enough to play in club games. I love when I hear a burst of laughter from a table. I love that they mix and mingle during a session and I love watching friendships and partnerships develop. I love that they call me about a hand they played. And - most of all – I love making new friends.

By no means can I take all the credit. I have a whole roster of wonderful people helping me: Karen Mitchell, Christa Simmonds, Dave Ross, Agnes Maze, Sandra Stewart, Olga Williams, Gerry Marchant, Michele Hyndman, Paulette McWilliam, Freda Nychkalo and Susan McMahon. These fantastic volunteers come down when they can to offer their help and I would like to invite other members of our Unit to consider giving half an hour before a game, an hour or two when convenient, a morning even just once between now and the end of June. I guarantee that you will enjoy the experience.

On average, we play 30 to 40 boards a session. There are no duplicated boards - players just come in, sit down, shuffle, deal and play. I frequently move people around based on their knowledge of bridge.

Let me tell you about a recent morning. By the time I got to the Bridge Centre at 10:20 a.m. [and accidently set the alarm off when I entered the wrong code, I might add], there were already four cars waiting for me. So while Bid & Play is scheduled to start at 11:00 a.m., I had two tables going before 11! Once they start playing, three hours of continuous playing, no calls for the next round ... it is pretty easy to get through a lot of hands.



Today I had a first-time volunteer drop by to help. She plans to come back every other week.

People really are amazing!



## Member Milestones

The following members have reached new masterpoint milestones from the beginning of October 2023 to the end of March 2024. Congratulations to all on their achievements.



### New Junior Masters (5+ MPs):

Kerri Avery	Willie Jurcevic
Anka Bonyai	Bev Krahn
Betty Carrier	Christina Larkins
Michelle Crone	Liz McFetridge
John Dean	Nancy Pohl
Leslie Fiegenwald	Raj Rao
Earle Harris	Valerie Thompson

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

Catherine Brewer	Quentin Krogstad
Nancy Brooks	Patricia McDonald
Lois Clapperton	Genevieve McLean
Lori Conner	Shelata Mehta
Rodger Conner	Cindy Melling
Blair Davies	Diane Morais
Brenda Davies	Ina Podivinsky
Nancy Forbes	Colleen Rogers
Anne Gallagher	Cheryl Whittaker
Kathleen Goodwin	Mary Young

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

Stephanie Howard	Claudine Petrunia
Dmitry Komin	Linda Prenioslo
Barbara McNeil	John Raich

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

Ted Burgoin	Lana McFadden
John Feick	Sheila Morgan
Ginny Hood	

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

Runan Du	Louise Shore
Carmel Robbins	Olga Williams

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

Andrew Melton

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

Susan Stanley

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

Deborah Ambrose	Berny Kahanoff
Cliff Bryanton	Kathleen Malo
Barry Crozier	Shelley Mardiros

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

Karen Chapple	Martine Parent
Judy Madge	Sheila Ross
Dennis Ooms	

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

Paulette McWilliam	John Sharpe
Joy Saville	

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

Dorothy Mersereau	Patrick Murphy
Jim Murphy	

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

Clyde D'Arcy

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

David Johnson

Many thanks to our keen-eyed proof-readers:

John and Janet Sharpe  
Janet Galbraith  
Delores Hedley.



## 2024 Rookie Master Team Game

By Brad Bowyer, Special Events Chair

This past February 24<sup>th</sup> saw the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Unit 390 Rookie/Master game at the Calgary Bridge Centre. In response to feedback from last year's event, the game was moved to earlier in the day and a light lunch supplied by the unit was served in place of the traditional chili/salad/dessert buffet. While certainly our taste buds suffered a loss, it seemed to be a nice fit for a Saturday afternoon event. As in past years, the game was Swiss Teams, with each team made up of two rookies and two masters. Boards were prepared in advance so we could make hand records available for discussion and post-game analysis (for those who were so inclined!).

Thanks to a tremendous push by Delores Hedley to sign up our new players (the Rookie threshold this year was less than 50 points), we saw 19 tables of bridge players participate in a very relaxed, friendly and engaging game. Many thanks to our master director Lois Matton and our rookie, yet very capable, caddy Payton (Lois's granddaughter) who kept the game moving along ... fast board movements and smiles all around.

For the purpose of masterpoint awards, teams were categorized into Strats according to average masterpoint holding:

- Strat A: no masterpoint limit
- Strat B: 1200
- Strat C: 500

Our winners:

Strat A:

Janet Galbraith - Dianne McCubbin - Alex Heron Jr. - Janet Quiring

Strat B: A tie!

Barbara Webster - Aruna Shah - Delores Hedley - Uma Thakor  
and

Tanja Hurlbert - Dale Hurlbert - Paulette McWilliam - Heather Cowie

Strat C:

Martin Hall - Naomi Pickrem - Roger Bolton - Patricia McDonald

The winners all received Unit 390 pens as prizes.

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

The Unit would like to thank everyone who came out to join the fun and, of course, the volunteers who helped with set up, food, photocopying, phone calls and clean up. Keep that mid-winter date in mind for next year!

Caddy Please!



## Opening Lead Options if Leading From an Honour

By Janet Galbraith

Opening leads have a lot of pressure on them -- they can make or break the defense of a hand and set the tone for how many glares you get from partner. There are a few common options which are impacted by whether you are defending suit or NT contracts.

Let's look at a few of these possibilities.

### Fourth Best

Most of us learn to lead 4<sup>th</sup> best and, when in doubt, 2<sup>nd</sup> from our thumb (well, that's what I remember from my lessons!)

Making a 4<sup>th</sup> best lead from strength enables partner to use the Rule of 11 -- take the lead, subtract the number from 11, then look at your own hand and dummy to figure out how many higher cards are in declarer's hand. For example, if the lead is a five, there are six higher cards outstanding. If you see three of them in dummy and one in your own hand, you know declarer has the other two.

You will lead 4<sup>th</sup> best from any four-card or longer suit, but sometimes you will have to make the same lead from a three-card suit. Partner will not be able to tell the difference and the Rule of 11 will be unreliable.

### Third & Fifth

Here, you would lead 3<sup>rd</sup> best from a three or four-card suit and 5<sup>th</sup> best from a five-card (or longer) suit. You would now employ the Rule of 10 (subtract the lead from 10) for a 5<sup>th</sup> best lead and the Rule of 12 (subtract the lead from 12) for a 3<sup>rd</sup> best lead. This ambiguity can introduce some difficulties at Trick One.

Perhaps you see this layout:

	Q83	
<u>Pard</u>		<u>You</u>
4		A1092
	??	

What can declarer have? Of course, it will depend on the auction, but hopefully you will have some clues. If the four is 3<sup>rd</sup> best, then  $12 - 4 = 8$ , and you can see five of those higher cards. Therefore, declarer has three. If dummy plays low, you can afford to duck your Ace. If the four is 5<sup>th</sup> best then  $10 - 4 = 6$ . Since you can see five of the higher cards, declarer has just one, which could be a stiff King or Jack. In this case you might want to play your Ace.

One benefit to leading 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> is that it can help partner figure out suit length -- for example, the lead of a two is always from an odd number of cards. Consider holding these cards: 10865 or 108652. Playing 4<sup>th</sup> best, you would lead the five both times, but playing 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, you would lead the six or two respectively and partner will have more information about the suit distribution around the table.

If you make a 3<sup>rd</sup> best lead from a four-card suit instead of a three-card suit, your second card clarifies the situation. Leading the six from K962 will be followed later by the play of the two to show you started with an even number.

This lead approach has more complexities than standard 4<sup>th</sup> best leads, so if you are a newer player, you may want to delay adopting these leads until you have room in your bridge toolbox to concentrate on the nuances.

Partnerships playing this approach prioritize giving count in suits. Therefore, they usually also lead low from xxx to show count, not promising an honour.

### Third & Low

A modern variation on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> leads is to lead 3<sup>rd</sup> best from even holdings and the lowest card from odd -- this option is now available on the newest ACBL Convention Card, which offers "Length Leads: 4<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>/Low".

Leading 3<sup>rd</sup> and low differs from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> when one holds more than five cards in the suit led. The 3<sup>rd</sup> & ... options are mostly used against suit contracts. One disadvantage to leading 3<sup>rd</sup> best is that sometimes the third highest card is too valuable to part with - for example, leading the nine from KJ93.

### Attitude

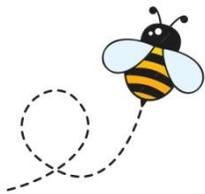
These leads are usually reserved for NT contracts, because leading suits longer than three is beneficial to the defense and because count is usually not as important in NT as it is in suit contracts. The lower the spot card lead, the more the leader would like that suit returned later in the play. There is no "Rule of" to determine how many cards in the suit the leader has -- they would lead the 2 from AJ9842 and from Q1072. If the leader is not interested in having the suit returned, they would lead a high card, such as eight from 10853.

[continued next page]

## Opening Lead Options (continued)

Sometimes, with a bad hand, you will lead low from a poor suit just to prevent partner from switching to something else and giving away the defense.

An advantage when leading low from long suits is that you do not waste a high spot card (such as leading a 4<sup>th</sup> best eight from the AJ9842 example above) and you reduce the risk of blocking a suit if partner is stranded with high cards on their side of the table and you can't overtake. Attitude leads also cause difficulties for declarer (always a win!) since the lead somewhat disguises the count and distribution of the suit led. I have had success leading low from a six-card suit with no side entries because declarer misguessed the distribution, taking their stopper too early so when my partner got in again, they were able to return my suit and I could run all my tricks.



Holding K96432, you would lead various cards depending on your chosen style:

Approach	Card	What you know
4 <sup>th</sup> best	4	Rule of 11 says there are seven higher cards elsewhere
3 <sup>rd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	3	Rule of 12 says there are nine higher cards and the Rule of 10 says there are seven. You will count what else you can see and (hopefully) be able to figure out it is 5 <sup>th</sup> best rather than 3 <sup>rd</sup> best
3 <sup>rd</sup> & low	6	The Rule of 12 says there are six higher cards. There is no "Rule of" if it is a low lead.
Attitude	2	Who knows how many partner has, but you had better return the suit at your first opportunity

There are pros and cons to every lead approach, and you can find examples to support any viewpoint. All that really matters is that you and your partner feel comfortable and have agreements about which card you will lead from each potential suit holding.

## Upcoming Unit 390 Tournament Dates

Be sure to check the official tournament schedule on the ACBL website. Go to <https://www.acbl.org/tournament> and select "Find a Tournament"

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-2024-tournaments/>

- Red Deer Sectional .....April 26 - 28, 2024
- Calgary Spring Sectional ..... May 3 - 5, 2024
- Edmonton Sectional ..... May 24 - 26, 2024
- Calgary Fall Sectional ..... September 20 - 22, 2024
- Lethbridge Sectional and concurrent NLM Regional ..... Sept. 27 - 29, 2024
- District 18 NAP Final - BBO Online (tentative) ..... November 2 and 9, 2024
- Penticton Regional and Canadian Championships** .....June 10 - 16, 2024
- Calgary White Hat Regional** .....August 12 - 18, 2024



## Nasty Preempts

By Gordon Campbell

I preempt a lot. My bidding system seems to be all about preempting. Why? Because I hold weaker hands than everyone else!

On Wednesdays, I often play in a European Team League, with matches arranged and captained by my good friend -- the multi-lingual Allan Simon. He loves emailing the opposing captains each week in a variety of languages. Sadly, for more than two years now, ALS has eliminated Allan's ability to communicate verbally.

Recently, I partnered Dan Bertrand against a team from Athens, Greece. At midway in the 16-board match, things were going quite well. Then this happened! Red versus white I picked up this exciting hand:

♠AK865 ♥9 ♦5 ♣AJ9754

My non-vulnerable LHO preempted 4♥, followed by two passes. Now what?

There are only three reasonable alternatives – Double, 4♠ and 5♣. Any of these could be right.

Double might work if partner were to pass for penalties, but more likely he will bid 5♦, which would be terrible.

Bidding 5♣ is probably the "correct" bid, but having to take 11 tricks is one more than ten.

I choose 4♠. If RHO doubles quickly, I can always run to my longer club suit.

But the auction is not, over ... not by a long shot. RHO competes with 5♥, Dan tries 5♠ in the passout seat and RHO doubles to say we have overstepped.

Here is the full auction:

<u>Dan</u>		<u>Gordon</u>	
<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
5♠	DBL	All Pass	

West leads the ♥J and with much trepidation, I await dummy, knowing I am one or two trumps short of what Dan will expect. Here is the full deal:

IMPs

Contract: 5♠x

Lead: ♥J

♠ 93	♠ 1072	♠ QJ4
♥ J10875432	♥ Q	♥ AK6
♦ KJ8	♦ A9764	♦ Q1032
♣ --	♣ KQ103	♣ 862
	♠ AK865	
	♥ 9	
	♦ 5	
	♣ AJ9754	

Partner has a fabulous hand, including some valuable trump spot cards. East wins the ♥K and shifts to a diamond which I take with dummy's Ace. Making the contract all comes down to the number of trump losers. I expect trumps to be 5-0, but if that is the case, then the contract is probably unmakeable anyway. So I assume trumps are 4-1. I am sure that East holds both the ♠Q and ♠J for his double. I lead the ♠10 to cater to a singleton ♠9 with West. This holds the trick and I end up making an overtrick. East's double was unwise.

It all may have had a different outcome if West had led the ♥2, screaming for a club return. Still, it would be difficult for East to play me for a side 6-bagger!

Had I doubled initially, partner would have bid 4NT, asking me to pick a minor and we would have found 5♣. I can't promise that I wouldn't have bid 5♠ then, if RHO had gone on to 5♥. At our teammates' table, North-South did play 5♣. We won 10 IMPs on this deal.

Every hand is a challenging new adventure, most needing some luck, some more than others!

## An Ill-Advised Double

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Playing in the qualifying round of the 2024 CNTC-A, vulnerable versus not, you pick up:

♠A1082 ♥A83 ♦AQJ6 ♣K3

West passes and partner opens 1♥. RHO bids 2NT showing clubs and diamonds. You bid 3♣ which systemically shows a game-forcing hand with heart support. West passes and partner continues with 3♠. This should be a cue bid (first or second round control) with a non-minimum hand so you decide to launch into Blackwood. Partner shows two key cards without the Queen. Partner probably has the ♠K, no diamond control, the ♣A and reasonable hearts (e.g. KJ10xx or possibly six hearts to the KJ). You choose 6♥, but West expresses his opinion that you have bid too much and doubles. What now? The only basis for the double must be a horrible heart break. Yimei Cao, who faced this decision, bid 6NT. Affronted, West doubled this contract too and led the ♠3.

Let's review the auction:

### Yimei Cao

South	West	North	East
	Pass	1♥	2NT
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	DBL	Pass	Pass
6NT	DBL	All Pass	

Partner tabled dummy and it is obvious his 3♠ bid was overly optimistic to say the least.

IMPs

Contract: 6NTx

Lead: ♠3

♠ K9  
♥ K9654  
♦ 109  
♣ AQ92



♠ A1082  
♥ A83  
♦ AQJ6  
♣ K3

Counting sure tricks there are three clubs, two hearts, three diamonds (East isn't going to cover any diamond lead from dummy and it is possible the finesse may even lose)

and the lead has given you three spades. One more trick is required. Assuming hearts are not breaking, do you see how declarer managed to develop a twelfth trick?

Let's follow the play. Declarer played the ♠9, RHO covered with the ♠J and declarer won the ♠A. She travelled to the ♠K and advanced the ♦10, no cover from East and West followed with the ♦5. Another diamond to the ♦J won (♦3 from East, ♦8 from West). Now declarer switched back to spades, playing the eight to establish the ten. West won the ♠Q and exited with the ♣7. Declarer won the ♣K in hand and the stage was set for a squeeze against East, who was known to hold clubs and diamonds.

East had no problem when declarer cashed the ♠10 and the ♥K (one card from each minor was an easy discard), but he was crushed when declarer led to the ♥A. In the five-card ending, East held ♦K7 ♣J106 and had to give up a guard in one of the suits. He threw the ♦7, establishing the ♦Q as declarer's slam-going trick.

The full deal was:

	♠ K9		
	♥ K9654		
	♦ 109		
	♣ AQ92		
♠ Q643			♠ J75
♥ QJ1072			♥ --
♦ 85			♦ K7432
♣ 75			♣ J10864
	♠ A1082		
	♥ A83		
	♦ AQJ6		
	♣ K3		

Although West's lead made it easier for declarer, as long as she plays East to have a spade honour twelve tricks are always available. Declarer can play the ♠9 through RHO, running it if East does not cover.

At the other table, Gordon Campbell held the West cards and his opponents also reached 6♥. However, he opted to stay silent because he had been there before! Why double the one contract you are happy to defend and virtually sure to defeat? His counterpart should have known better too, but he was greedy. Gordon collected +200 and his team gained a massive 18 IMPs on this deal, the margin of victory in the match.

There is nothing wrong with punishing the opponents when there has been a bidding misunderstanding, but be sure that doubling them does not steer them into a making contract

## 2023 Ace of Clubs Races

### Unit 390 - Final Standings

<b>0 to 5</b>	1	Joyce Melnyk	Calgary AB	26
	2	Nancy Brooks	Calgary AB	22
	3	Elizabeth Livingstone	Calgary AB	11
<b>5 to 20</b>	1	Lois Clapperton	Calgary AB	18
	2	Linda Prenioslo	Canmore AB	18
	3	Catherine Brewer	Calgary AB	16
<b>20 to 50</b>	1	Steve Eastes	Calgary AB	28
	2	Betty Lees	Calgary AB	25
	3	John Raich	Calgary AB	13
<b>50 to 100</b>	1	Eric Gutland	Calgary AB	27
	2	David Pethrick	Calgary AB	22
	3	Julie Bain	Calgary AB	20
<b>100 to 200</b>	1	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	38
	2	Dee-Ann Clark	Calgary AB	37
	3	Susan McMahon	Calgary AB	29
<b>200 to 300</b>	1	Inge French	Okotoks AB	61
	2	David Stephure	Calgary AB	51
	3	Maxine Rystephanick	Calgary AB	47
<b>300 to 500</b>	1	JoAnn Hanson	Calgary AB	62
	2	Dave Brett	Calgary AB	46
	3	Roger Bolton	Calgary AB	40
<b>500 to 1000</b>	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	164
	2	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	117
	3	Richard Wolfe	Calgary AB	72
<b>1000 to 1500</b>	1	Dave Armstrong	Calgary AB	138
	2	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	132
	3	Cynthia Clark	Calgary AB	93
<b>1500 to 2500</b>	1	Mike D Aguiar	Calgary AB	171
	2	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB	131
	3	Patrick Murphy	Calgary AB	114
<b>2500 to 3500</b>	1	Michael Covey	Calgary AB	120
	2	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB	120
	3	Rod Hilderman	Calgary AB	118
<b>3500 to 5000</b>	1	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	136
	2	Maged Wafa	Calgary AB	66
	3	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	61
<b>5000 to 7500</b>	1	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	79
	2	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	16
	3	Ian Findlay	North York ON	8
<b>7500 to 10,000</b>	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	181
	2	Pierre Beaugard	Calgary AB	145
<b>Over 10,000</b>	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	119
	2	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	7

## 2023 Ace of Virtual Clubs Races

### Unit 390 - Final Standings

<b>0 to 5</b>	1/2	Linda Vowell	Calgary AB	2
	1/2	Linda Rogers	Calgary AB	2
	3/4	Rodger Conner	Canmore AB	2
	3/4	Lori Conner	Canmore AB	2
<b>5 to 20</b>	1	Barbara McNeil	Banff AB	4
	2	Diane Morais	Calgary AB	4
	3	Di Vosburgh	Calgary AB	33
<b>20 to 50</b>	1	Carl Whicher	Calgary AB	17
	2	Celia Gaudet	Calgary AB	16
	3	Stephanie Howard	Calgary AB	10
<b>50 to 100</b>	1	Christine Stephure	Calgary AB	22
	2	Judy Peacock	Calgary AB	6
	3/4	Sheila Wares	Calgary AB	6
	3/4	Deborah Waddell	Calgary AB	6
<b>100 to 200</b>	1	Nadarajah Paskaran	Calgary AB	35
	2	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	31
	3	Normal Miller	Calgary AB	21
<b>200 to 300</b>	1	Bhavany Paskaran	Calgary AB	50
	2	David Stephure	Calgary AB	40
	3	Ann Miller	Calgary AB	21
<b>300 to 500</b>	1	Philip Coppard	Calgary AB	55
	2	Margaret Williams	Calgary AB	46
	3	Atsuko McDonald	Calgary AB	45
<b>500 to 1000</b>	1	Hailong Yu	Calgary AB	97
	2	Morris Streich	Calgary AB	76
	3	Harvey Wiehler	Calgary AB	65
<b>1000 to 1500</b>	1	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	105
	2	Linda Martin	Calgary AB	72
	3	Barry Crozier	Calgary AB	56
<b>1500 to 2500</b>	1	Brigitte Tetzner	Calgary AB	93
	2	Gerry Marchant	Calgary AB	92
	3	Andy McKaig	Calgary AB	67
<b>2500 to 3500</b>	1	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	77
	2	Gamil Tadros	Calgary AB	52
	3	Ray Kittlitz	Calgary AB	43
<b>3500 to 5000</b>	1	Stephanie McAdam	Calgary AB	67
	2	Michael Broadhurst	Calgary AB	54
	3	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB	21
<b>5000 to 7500</b>	1	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	84
	2	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	49
	3	Allan Simon	Calgary AB	38
<b>7500 to 10,000</b>	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	44
	2	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	16
	3	Pierre Beaugard	Calgary AB	3
<b>Over 10,000</b>	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	41
	2	Francesca Walton	Calgary AB	2

## 2023 Mini-McKenney Races

### Unit 390 - Final Standings

0 to 5	1	Joyce Melnyk	Calgary AB	27
	2	Nancy Brooks	Calgary AB	27
	3	Blair Davies	Okotoks AB	15
5 to 20	1	Linda Prenioslo	Canmore AB	26
	2	Barbara McNeil	Banff AB	22
	3	Lois Clapperton	Calgary AB	20
20 to 50	1	Betty Lees	Calgary AB	32
	2	Steve Eastes	Calgary AB	25
	3	Margaret Graham	Calgary AB	19
50 to 100	1	Eric Gutland	Calgary AB	34
	2	Lana McFadden	Calgary AB	32
	3	Brad Bowyer	Calgary AB	30
100 to 200	1	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	74
	2	Qi Ju	Calgary AB	69
	3	Frank Guo	Calgary AB	54
200 to 300	1	David Stephure	Calgary AB	123
	2	Robert Ronca	Calgary AB	67
	3	Inge French	Okotoks AB	64
300 to 500	1	Thomas To	Scottsdale AZ	104
	2	Matt Bootle	Calgary AB	82
	3	Lynn Dover	Calgary AB	72
500 to 1000	1	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	215
	2	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	180
	3	Richard Wolfe	Calgary AB	175
1000 to 1500	1	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	358
	2	Barry Crozier	Calgary AB	178
	3	Dave Armstrong	Calgary AB	166
1500 to 2500	1	Mike D Aguiar	Calgary AB	337
	2	Tom Nault	Calgary AB	229
	3	Andy McKaig	Calgary AB	217
2500 to 3500	1	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB	244
	2	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB	240
	3	Keith Falkenberg	Calgary AB	206
3500 to 5000	1	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	297
	2	David Johnson	Calgary AB	240
	3	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	149
5000 to 7500	1	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	282
	2	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	231
	3	Ian Findlay	North York ON	177
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	486
	2	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB	183
	3	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	85
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	494
	2	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	328
	3	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	240

## Annual General Meeting

### The Calgary Duplicate Bridge Association UNIT 390

**When:** Sunday, June 2, 2024  
**Where:** Calgary Bridge Centre  
**Time:** Light Lunch: 11:15 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 2023 AGM
6. President's Report
7. Treasurer's Report - Approval of Financial Statements
8. Appointment of Auditor for 2024/2025
9. Presentation of Awards
10. Election of Directors
11. Questions from the floor
12. Termination

**Please RSVP** no later than **May 30** 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 ([HERE](#)) or by emailing [390events@acblunit390.org](mailto:390events@acblunit390.org).

Questions? You may contact Special Events Chair, Brad Bowyer, at [390events@acblunit390.org](mailto:390events@acblunit390.org).

Dear auto-correct,

That's not what I was trying to say. I'm getting tired of your shirt.

CoolFunnyQuotes.com

## RIP to Three Friends

By Allan Simon

In the past twelve months I have had to say goodbye to three of my closest friends in the bridge world: Eric Kokish, Ken Penton and Brad Boyle. All three loved bridge, they never uttered an unfriendly word and each one of them had a wonderful sense of humour. I would like to share some memories with you.

### **Eric Kokish (1947 - 2023)**

Eric was my first partner. We met in the McGill Bridge Club in 1965 and we played together regularly for three years until I graduated and work and family became more important for me. Also, by then it was clear to both of us that Eric's ability was superior to mine and he deserved to play with stronger partners. He won the 1974 Vanderbilt teams with Joey Silver, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the World Open Pairs with Peter Nagy in 1978 and won five Canadian Team Championships with George Mittelman. In the last 20 years, Eric stopped playing and left his imprint as a creator of several conventions which have become standard, like the Kokish two-way game tries and the 2♣-2♦-2♥ sequence (forcing responder to bid 2♠) to show a very strong balanced hand (follow with 2NT) or natural hearts (follow with 3♥). He also served as coach to the famed Nickell team, and to several national teams including Brazil and Indonesia.

Although he achieved these lofty heights we stayed in close touch. We shared a love for baseball, for the music of the Golden era and for gourmet food. Eric was Best Man at my wedding to Meredith, he visited me in Calgary and whenever we met up at a CNTC or a Nationals we would make a point to go out for dinner together.

I remember an amusing anecdote from our early years. We played a club duplicate at the Chateau Bridge Studio in Côte Saint Luc. Eric opened 1NT and I raised to 3NT. At his next turn Eric did not bid. Instead he turned to his LHO and said "It's your lead". "But you haven't bid yet", LHO objected. "What do you think I'm going to bid? 7NT?" Eric retorted. The Director André Pauzé was called. "The young gentleman wishes to be foolish" M. Pauzé ruled (in retrospect I love the ruling!). Eric played the hand well for 11 tricks but 7NT down two was a bottom of course.

### **Ken Penton (1944 - 2023)**

Ken was always cheerful, even though he suffered many family tragedies in his personal life. He was my teammate in many tournaments. We once tried to form a partnership but

our approach to the game was too incompatible. Whereas I enjoy working on partnership agreements (not necessarily a lot of conventions, but defining agreements on forcing/non-forcing, takeout/penalty, etc.), Ken loved bridge, but he was a seat-of-the-pants type. For instance I asked him the meaning of 1♣ - 2NT - 3♣, forcing or bailout? Both approaches are reasonable. Ken would shrug his shoulders and say something like "I don't know, it depends" which would drive me crazy.

I remember a hand from a Regional knockout, where I played with Dan Bertrand teamed with Ken and Gerry Marshall. At our table, with the opponents vulnerable, Dan opened 1♠ and I held:

♠xx ♥AQxx ♦KJ109 ♣Qxx

My right-hand opponent doubled, I redoubled and left-hand opponent ran to 2♦. When that came around to me I doubled for penalty. Dummy (the take-out doubler) tabled:

♠xx ♥KJxx ♦Qxx ♣Axxx

This was a risky double in my opinion. We defeated 2♦x by four tricks for +1100. When we compared with our teammates after the match, it transpired that Ken had made the same awful double and they had had the same bidding, but they only went for 800. Maybe Gerry Marshall played the hand better or the defense slipped a trick. I said something to the effect that I disagreed with the takeout double. Ken retorted "There's nothing wrong with the double, we won 7 IMPs!"

### **Brad Boyle (1961 - 2024)**

Brad was perhaps the smartest person I ever met. He hailed from London ON and he enrolled at Western, where he earned two postgraduate degrees: an MBA and a Bachelor of Laws. Yet he found the time to play high-level bridge. In the early 90's, he was hired by Encana as Treasurer, so he moved to Calgary with his young family. We established a partnership and played together at several Nationals. Tragically Brad contracted severe Parkinson's Disease at a young age. His speech was hard to understand, he could no longer drive and, at age 38, he had to take early retirement. At least that left Brad more time for his family -- Brad took his wife and children for a nine-month trip around the world -- and for bridge of course!

*[continued next page]*

## RIP to Three Friends (continued)

Here is a hand from the 2010 Canadian Team Championship:

IMPs  
Contract: 6NT  
Lead: ♦K

♠ KQ983	♠ N	♠ 1072
♥ 1092	W ■ E	♥ 864
♦ KQJ5	S	♦ 63
♣ 6		♣ J10972
	♠ A5	
	♥ QJ	
	♦ A108	
	♣ AK8543	

partscore for +200 and a near-top. Brad excused himself and shuffled off to the washroom. The lady, who had just gone down, turned to me and asked in an irritated manner "what's he got?" I innocently replied "the doubleton King of spades, six little clubs..." "No!" she interrupted me "What's wrong with him?" When I later told Brad, he found it hilarious. To end on a melodramatic note, Brad's courage and cheerful acceptance of his disease have inspired me, now that I have been diagnosed with ALS.



We got to 6 NT by Brad, sitting South. Brad ducked the ♦K opening lead and won the diamond continuation. He cashed the ♥QJ, crossed to the ♣Q and ran dummy's hearts pitching one diamond and two clubs. West discarded two spades. East could spare one club, but on the last heart he had to pitch a spade. Next, Brad crossed to his ♠A and played the ♣A (West threw his small diamond). This left:

♠ QJ	♠ N	♠ 10
♥ --	W ■ E	♥ --
♦ J	S	♦ --
♣ --		♣ J10
	♠ 5	
	♥ --	
	♦ 10	
	♣ K	

When Brad next played the ♣K, West was squeezed. He threw a spade, Brad threw dummy's diamond, and took the last two tricks with dummy's K6 of spades. This play is called a non-simultaneous double squeeze. It takes a lot of card sense to pull this off.

Finally a story from a National Pair game in Reno: we had just completed two boards against an unknown-to-us pair and, on the last hand, we got an excellent result by beating a doubled

Based the success of the Calgary New Year's Sectional Tournament, it is clear. Bridge players are coming back!

The total table count in January was 257, with 242 players participating. These numbers are getting close to pre-pandemic levels. It is very exciting to see so many people returning to face-to-face bridge, and so many new players joining in!

Top masterpoint winners in January were:

1. Dan Bertrand 38.81 masterpoints
- 2/3. Blake Fleming 25.73 masterpoints
- 2/3. Bernie Lambert 25.73 masterpoints

Winning the President's award for the most masterpoints earned in 299er games were Barbara McNeil of Banff and Linda Prenioslo of Canmore, each with 5.79 masterpoints. Congratulations!

Mark your calendars for the next Calgary tournament -- the Spring Sectional to be held May 3 - 5, 2024 at the DoubleTree by Hilton on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. The venue is a familiar location, but the hotel has been vastly improved since our last tournament there! The tournament flyer is available on the Unit 390 website [HERE](#).



**Free coffee each morning!**  
**New 49er Pairs game on Sunday morning.**



## 2023 - 24 North American Pairs National Final

In the October 2023 Kibitzer, we reported that three Unit 390 pairs had earned spots to play in the National Final of the Flight B North American Pairs. The event was to be held during the 2024 Spring NABC in Louisville, KY.

Two of the pairs made the trek to Kentucky for the National Final:

June Cheng and Frank Guo  
Richard Wolfe and Thomas To

The field of 88 pairs played two qualifying sessions to determine 52 pairs who would participate in the final. Both pairs made it to the final day ... way to go!

Neither pair had a particularly good carryover going into the final day, so they were battling from behind. June and Frank played solidly and their total (55%) plus their carryover put them in 10<sup>th</sup> place overall ... good enough to earn them 16 gold points!

Things did not go as well for Richard and Thomas, but there's always next year.

The District has decided to hold the Final for the 2024 - 2025 North American Pairs online on BBO. The tentative schedule is:

Saturday, November 2, 2024: Flights A and C (2 sessions)  
Saturday, November 9, 2024: Flight B (2 sessions)

More details will be coming soon. The National Final will be held in March 2025 during the Memphis NABC.



## Future Masters News

By Sandra Stewart, Future Masters Chair

It is wonderful to see the number of 299ers playing duplicate bridge in Calgary continue to increase. At the January sectional, 299ers made up a total of 23 tables on each of Friday and Saturday. This support contributed significantly to the overall success of the tournament (46 of 257 tables)! Congratulations to everyone who attended, and especially to those who were playing in their first sectional.

### Upcoming at the May Sectional

There are some special events designed for 299ers happening at the upcoming sectional May 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>. Please join us to hear the **guest speaker**, Jim Berglund, on Saturday at 2 p.m. Jim will share some tips on ways to improve your bridge play. Secondly, there will be a **new 0-49 MP game** held Sunday at 10 a.m. This is a perfect opportunity for newer players to come out, have some fun and experience a sectional tournament.

Those 299ers with over 49 MP are encouraged to play in the stratified Swiss Teams games on Sunday morning and afternoon.

If you need a partner for any of the games, please don't hesitate to contact Delores Hedley at [dollyd@telus.net](mailto:dollyd@telus.net).

## Thank You!

The Editors would like to thank all the contributors to this edition of the Kibitzer.

Material for future issues of The Kibitzer is always welcome. Email your articles and news items to [390kibitzer@acblunit390.org](mailto:390kibitzer@acblunit390.org)

The next edition is scheduled to be out in October 2024.

## Listen to the Auction (Again!)

By Daniel Bertrand

I am playing a Swiss Team event. Both sides are non-vulnerable, and I pick up the following hand:

♠A10632 ♥A973 ♦J64 ♣8

My LHO opens with a weak 2♥; my partner doubles and RHO passes. I have a fifth spade and no wastage in hearts; I decide to bid 4♠. LHO and partner pass but RHO doubles! We all pass. The auction has been:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>Me</u> <u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
DBL	Pass	4♠	2♥
Pass	DBL	All Pass	Pass

LHO leads the ♥K and dummy appears:

IMPs  
Contract: 4♠x  
Lead: ♥K

♠ KQ84  
♥ 8  
♦ K85  
♣ QJ1063

N
W ■ E
S

♠ A10632  
♥ A973  
♦ J64  
♣ 8

I win the first trick with the ♥A as RHO follows with the ♥2. (opponents signal upside-down). When I play a small spade to dummy's ♠K, both opponents follow with small spades (thankfully trumps are not 4-0!). RHO covers dummy's ♣Q with the ♣K (LHO plays the ♣5) and returns the ♥4; LHO covers my ♥7 with the ♥10 and I ruff in dummy.

I now play dummy's ♣J and ruff when RHO plays the ♣A (LHO follows with the ♣2). I cross to dummy with the ♠Q, but LHO discards a small heart. (RHO still has the ♠J). I win dummy's ♣10 as both opponents follow (I discard a small heart from my hand).

I have reached this position with the lead in dummy:

♠ 8  
♥ --  
♦ K85  
♣ 63

N
W ■ E
S

♠ A10  
♥ 9  
♦ J64  
♣ --

The ♣9 is still out, probably with RHO. Do you have a plan? Think about it! Who has the ♦A? RHO must have it for his double. Given that, what is your plan?

I ruff dummy's ♣3 as RHO follows with the ♣9 (LHO discards another heart). How can I get to dummy to use my club winner? RHO has five cards remaining; he has four diamonds including the Ace and the ♠J. Think about it!

I ruff my last heart with dummy's ♠8; RHO overruffs with the ♠J, but he is endplayed! He has only diamonds left. He cashes his ♦A and must play another diamond. I try the ♦J from my hand, LHO covers with the ♦Q and dummy wins the ♦K. I discard my third diamond on dummy's good club and take the last trick with the trump Ace. This was the full deal:

♠ 7	♠ KQ84	♠ J95
♥ KQJ1065	♥ 8	♥ 42
♦ Q93	♦ K85	♦ A1072
♣ 752	♣ QJ1063	♣ AK94

N
W ■ E
S

♠ A10632  
♥ A973  
♦ J64  
♣ 8

## 2023 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 2023, Unit 390 players were Zone V winners in five 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 2023 was Richard Chan of Markham ON. In a repeat of his 2022 victory, Richard won total of 1,524 points.

**Daniel Bertrand** was the highest placing Unit 390 member in the 2023 Richmond Trophy Race (as he was in 2021 and 2022). He won 486 masterpoints over the course of the year to finish in 19<sup>th</sup> position.

<b>5 to 20</b>	1	Barbara McNeil	Banff AB	22
	3	Catherine Brewer	Calgary AB	16
<b>100 to 200</b>	1	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	74
	2	Ron Licht	Calgary AB	46
<b>300 to 500</b>	3	Philip Coppard	Calgary AB	61
<b>500 to 1000</b>	1	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	215
	2	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	180
	3	Richard Wolfe	Calgary AB	175
<b>1000 to 1500</b>	2	Cynthia Clark	Calgary AB	156
<b>1500 to 2500</b>	1	Andy McKaig	Calgary AB	217
<b>2500 to 3500</b>	2	Chris Galbraith	Calgary AB	244
<b>3500 to 5000</b>	1	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	297
	2	David Johnson	Calgary AB	240
<b>5000 to 7500</b>	2	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	282
	3	Abdul Fakhir	Calgary AB	231



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 quarterly 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 \$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.

## Happy Anniversary

By Ian Findlay

This marks the one-year anniversary since I left Banff to return to my home in Toronto. While I love the warmer weather and my life-long golf course, Cedarbrae, I do miss the mountains, my Alberta friends and of course my bridge partner, Gordon Campbell. This deal occurred on the first day of a bracketed team event.

I apologize for the spot card x's, but since the hands were "shuffle, deal and play", there were no hand records. At unfavourable vulnerability I picked up:

♠A95 ♥Axx ♦AK87xx ♣Q

I opened 1♦ and ended up in 3NT after the following auction

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>Me</u> <u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1♦	Pass
1♥	3♠	3NT	All Pass

The lead was the ♠K and partner tabled his hand.

IMPs

Contract: 3NT

Lead: ♠K

♠ x  
♥ J109xx  
♦ 6  
♣ AKJ8xx

N
W ■ E
S

♠ A9x  
♥ Axx  
♦ AK87xx  
♣ Q

I would have much preferred to be in 4♥, but the 3♠ preempt put me on the spot and so now I have to find a way to make nine tricks. It looks like one spade, two diamonds and six clubs are available provided the club suit breaks 3-3, but matters are probably not that simple because East's preempt suggests otherwise. I duck the first spade and have to decide what to pitch from dummy when West continues with a spade at trick two. Although it may look strange, I discard a club from dummy!

If clubs are 3-3 then I have thrown away a winner, but I still have nine tricks for my contract. After winning the ♠A (praying that East did not pre-empt with only six spades) I overtake my ♣Q with dummy's Ace and continue the ♣K. East pitches a spade and so do I. How to continue?

My best bet is to hope that East's distribution is 7-2-3-1 so I play the ♥J. East covers with the ♥K and I win the Ace. When I continue a heart to the Jack, West must duck so I'm back in dummy (East follows). This confirms that East began with the hoped-for distribution. I play dummy's ♦6 intending to duck the trick to West, but East plays the Queen forcing me to win the ♦A (otherwise East runs his remaining spades). That puts West in trouble now unless East holds specifically ♦QJ10 or ♦QJ9. When I exit with a heart West wins the ♥Q and plays the ♦10 which I let hold.

West has no good options. If he continues a diamond I have ten tricks (one spade, two hearts, five diamonds and two clubs). He tries the ♣10 which I duck again and West is done. Another club puts me in dummy for nine tricks (three clubs, four hearts, one spade and one diamond) and a diamond puts me in hand, also for nine tricks (two clubs, two hearts, one spade and four diamonds).

The full deal:

IMPs

Contract: 3NT

Lead: ♠K

♠ x  
♥ J109xx  
♦ 6  
♣ AKJ8xx

♠ Kx  
♥ Qxx  
♦ 109x  
♣ 1097xx

N
W ■ E
S

♠ QJ10xxxx  
♥ Kx  
♦ QJx  
♣ x

♠ A9x  
♥ Axx  
♦ AK87xx  
♣ Q

Note that it does the defense no good for East to play the ♦J when West leads the ♦10. I can win and endplay West with a diamond.



## District 18 GNT Results

Playoffs for all flights of the Grand National Teams took place online on April 19 - 20, 2024. Compared to 2023, registration in all flights held steady. The best news was that four teams turned out for Flight C (under 500 masterpoints) whereas last year, the Flight C event had been cancelled due to lack of entries.

Championship Flight (no MP limit) - two teams entered  
Flight A (under 6000 MPs) - two teams entered  
Flight B (under 2500 MPs) - eight teams entered  
Flight C (under 500 MPs) - four teams entered

Unit 390 members made up the rosters of over half the teams (8¼ teams, to be precise).

In the flights with just two teams entered, head-to-head finals of 48 boards were played.

In Flight B, a complete round-robin of seven-board matches was held on the evening of Friday, April 19 and the morning

of April 20, with the top four teams moving on to the playoffs. Saturday was a marathon for the eventual finalists. Not only did they play the last 21 boards of the round robin, they played a 24-board semi-final and then a 24-board final!

In Flight C, the four teams played a round robin of 18-board matches, half on Friday evening and half on Saturday morning. The top two teams advanced to the 24-board final.

And the results:

### District 18 Grand National Teams - Flight A

1. Yi Peng (Mark) Mai - Qi Ju, both Calgary - Xiaodong Zhao, Edmonton AB - Philip Blackburn, Red Deer AB

### District 18 Grand National Teams - Flight B

1. Elizabeth Sprague, Calgary AB- Aldon Boreson, Kalispell MT - Gary Stephens - Linda Peterson, both Whitefish MT
2. Richard Piette - Ryan Clark - Ellen Kuiper - Michael Farebrother, all Calgary AB
- 3/4. Jim Murphy - Chris Murphy - Clarende Duby - John Prance, all Calgary AB

### District 18 Grand National Teams - Flight C

1. David Stephure - Keith Barry - Susan Ongyerth - George Ongyerth, all Calgary AB

In the Championship Flight, our team of Unit 390 players (Steve Lawrence, Abdul Fakh, Mike D Aguiar and Jadwiga Polujan) fell to a team from Utah.

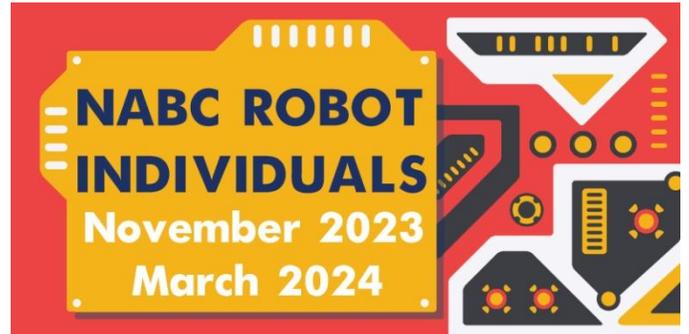
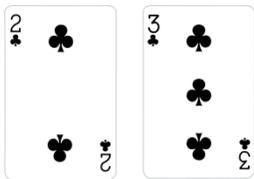
The winners in all flights are eligible to represent District 18 at the GNT North American Final to be held at the Toronto NABC in July.



Mr. Boffo by Joe Martin  
Dist. by Neatly Chiseled Features

## Answers to Fun Bridge Questions

- Which is more likely to occur?
  - Holding all thirteen cards of any suit (Four possibilities)
  - Holding thirty seven high card points (Four possibilities)
  - Holding no card higher than a five spot**  
There are 560 possibilities. You might enjoy working out the possible combinations. For starters, there are four possible hands that have the 2-3-4 of each suit and one of the four fives.
- If you bid a slam requiring three finesses to work, what are your chances of success?
  - 30%
  - 12.5%**  
50% of the time, the first finesse will work. Half of that time, or 25%, the second finesse will work. And half of that time, or 12.5%, the third finesse will work too.
  - 33.33%
- How many club symbols are there in total on the two and three of clubs?
  - Five
  - Seven
  - Nine**



## Fall 2023 and Spring 2024

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).

The first Robot Individual was conducted in the Summer of 2017 and, at last count, there have been 20 such events held since then.

In the fall of 2023, the event ran November 18 - 20, a few days prior to the Atlanta NABC. Nearly 1,930 competitors completed all three sessions. The winning percentage was 69.44%, just a fraction more than Fall 2022. Seventeen members from Unit 390 participated in the Fall event. **Richard Bickley** scored the highest percentage among Unit 390 players with nearly 62%.

The Spring Robot Individual (which was held in advance of the Louisville NABC on March 9 - 11, 2024) reported 2,056 participants finishing the tournament and it took 69.35% to win the event. Twenty-two players from Unit 390 participated. **Richard Bickley** once again out-performed all other Unit 390 participants and his 64.07% was good enough to place 31<sup>st</sup> overall.

The next Robot Individual is scheduled for July 13 - 15, 2024 just ahead of the Toronto NABC.



## Let the Odds Be Your Friend

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Playing IMPs you end up in game after opening 1NT in 4<sup>th</sup> seat and hearing partner raise to 3NT.

♠AKJ7 ♥K103 ♦104 ♣AQ63

LHO leads the ♠3 and partner tables the dummy.

IMPs

Contract: 3NT

Lead: ♠3

♠ 1095  
♥ 763  
♦ AKQ53  
♣ 94



♠ AKJ7  
♥ K108  
♦ 104  
♣ AQ63

When you play the ♠10 it holds. Counting sure tricks there are three spades, three diamonds, and one club. So you are looking for two more tricks for your game.

What line of play gives the best odds of scoring nine tricks? If diamonds break then nine tricks are easy. Diamonds will divide 3-3 approximately 36% of the time, giving you five diamond tricks, and 4-2 about 48% of the time. Knowing this gives you a clue as to how to proceed. Rather than cashing three rounds of diamonds, praying that they are 3-3, you try a low diamond from dummy. The odds indicate that your trick total now will be eight, with four diamond tricks to go along with your four black-suit winners. Your plan for a ninth is to either finesse for the ♣K or lead to the ♥K depending on how the opponents discard.

LHO wins your ♦10 with the ♦J and continues a diamond to dummy's Ace, RHO following. The continuation of any other suit would have solved all your problems, but LHO has decided to give you no more help. When you run the diamonds, RHO shows up with four diamonds and discards the ♥5. You, meanwhile, pitch two clubs and one heart from hand, while LHO discards the ♣2, ♣7 and the ♥2.

You are down to ♠AKJ ♥K10 ♦--- ♣AQ. Do you lead a club or a heart to score your ninth trick? The opponents haven't given you much information so either could be the winning line. The odds for either finesse winning are 50%.

While contemplating which option you ought to pursue, it occurs to you that a third alternative is available. If LHO has only four spades (or, on a good day, maybe even three!) an endplay is possible. This seems more attractive (and more fun!) than guessing hearts versus clubs, so you play a spade to your Ace. RHO follows so you know the spades are at worst 4-2. You cash the ♠K and exit the ♠J. West is forced to win the trick and must lead a heart or a club, giving you your ninth trick.

The full deal was:

♠ 1095		♠ 62
♥ 763		♥ AQJ95
♦ AKQ53		♦ 9872
♣ 94		♣ 105
♠ Q843		
♥ 42		
♦ J6		
♣ KJ872		

♠ AKJ7		
♥ K108		
♦ 104		
♣ AQ63		

LHO made an unusual lead and both opponents discarded in such a way as to give no clue about how to proceed after cashing the diamond winners. At least knowing the odds helped you avoid the losing line -- trying to take all five diamond tricks.

Remembering the odds can be a challenge, but it will make you a more successful player if you do.

A simple rule-of-thumb is this: missing an even number of cards, you can expect that the suit will not divide evenly and, missing an odd number of cards, the suit is more likely to break evenly (a one-card disparity in the opponents' hands).



## 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.

There has been just one sectional since the last Kibitzer was published in October 2023.

### January 2024

The New Year's sectional held this past January showed a tremendous improvement in attendance at 299er games! A total of 46 tables played in the four 299er pairs sessions held on Friday and Saturday, more than double the September table count of 19 tables. All told, 81 different players participated in 299er events over three days of the tournament.

Based on past attendance at the Sunday 299er Swiss Teams, it was decided not to hold that event. Instead, players interested in teams were merged into the B/C Swiss Teams and a casual Bid & Play session geared toward new players was held in the morning. For the latter, experienced players were on hand to supervise and answer questions.

The President's Award was swept by a Flight F pair. Barbara McNeil of Banff and Linda Prenioslo of Canmore topped the field with 5.79 masterpoints each. Here is a full list of results:

### Flight D (150 - 300):

1.	Edward Lamb	2.37 masterpoints
2/3.	Agnes Maze	2.08 masterpoints
2/3.	Christa Simmonds	2.08 masterpoints

### Flight E (50 - 150):

1/2.	Andrea McManus	2.30 masterpoints
1/2.	Martin Hall	2.30 masterpoints
3/4.	Adiel Rautenbach	1.47 masterpoints
3/4.	Dave Ross	1.47 masterpoints

### Flight F (0 - 50):

1/2.	<b>Barbara McNeil</b>	5.79 masterpoints
1/2.	<b>Linda Prenioslo</b>	5.79 masterpoints
3/4.	Claudine Petrunia	2.90 masterpoints
3/4.	Willie Jurcevic	2.90 masterpoints

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!

We hope many eligible players will come out to play in the new 49er pairs game on Sunday, May 5 at the upcoming Spring Sectional. Why not give tournament play a try ... you'll have a great time!



## Congratulations Drina. Ninety-five years young!

Unit 390 members in good standing with the ACBL and reaching the age of ninety-five, are recognized with Unit-reimbursed free plays for face-to-face play at all participating clubs.

You can read the entire "90s Plus" policy [HERE](#).



Drina Barton

# The Kibitzer - April 2024

## 2024 Ace of Clubs Races

### Unit 390 Year-to-Date Standings - April 6<sup>th</sup>

<b>0 to 5</b>	1	Susan Ruf	Calgary AB	4
	2	Barbara Waskiewich	Calgary AB	4
	3	Betty Carrier	Canmore AB	3
<b>5 to 20</b>	1/2	Brenda Davies	Okotoks AB	16
	1/2	Blair Davies	Okotoks AB	16
	3	Robert Penner	Calgary AB	13
<b>20 to 50</b>	1	Quentin Krogstad	Calgary AB	10
	2	Janet Quiring	Calgary AB	9
	3	Lois Clapperton	Calgary AB	9
<b>50 to 100</b>	1	Corliss Ward	Calgary AB	12
	2	Eric Gutland	Calgary AB	12
	3	Dan Dover	Calgary AB	9
<b>100 to 200</b>	1	Sherry Goldenberg	Calgary AB	12
	2	Lana McFadden	Calgary AB	12
	3	Christa Simmonds	Calgary AB	11
<b>200 to 300</b>	1	Inge French	Okotoks AB	12
	2	Dee-Ann Clark	Calgary AB	7
	3	Mickey Abougoush	Calgary AB	7
<b>300 to 500</b>	1	Andrew Melton	Calgary AB	23
	2	Dave Brett	Calgary AB	17
	3	David Stephure	Calgary AB	17
<b>500 to 1000</b>	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	69
	2	Jamie Watt	Calgary AB	20
	3	John Prance	Calgary AB	16
<b>1000 to 1500</b>	1	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	39
	2	Cynthia Clark	Calgary AB	31
	3	Paulette McWilliam	Calgary AB	23
<b>1500 to 2500</b>	1	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	54
	2	Mike D Aguiar	Calgary AB	50
	3	Rick Boyd	Calgary AB	24
<b>2500 to 3500</b>	1	Rod Hilderman	Calgary AB	39
	2	Patrick Murphy	Calgary AB	34
	3	Michael Covey	Calgary AB	19
<b>3500 to 5000</b>	1	Doran Flock	Calgary AB	10
	2	Maged Wafa	Calgary AB	8
	3	Frank Ayer	Calgary AB	7
<b>5000 to 7500</b>	1	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	52
	2	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	4
	3	David Johnson	Calgary AB	2
<b>7500 to 10,000</b>	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	40
	2	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB	10
<b>Over 10,000</b>	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	31

## 2024 Ace of Virtual Clubs Races

### Unit 390 Year-to-Date Standings - April 6<sup>th</sup>

<b>0 to 5</b>	1/2	Rodger Conner	Canmore AB	5
	1/2	Lori Conner	Canmore AB	5
	3	Barb Binkley	Longview AB	1
<b>5 to 20</b>	1	Dmitry Komin	Calgary AB	17
	2	Kerri Gallup	Longview AB	6
	3	Earle Harris	Calgary AB	3
<b>20 to 50</b>	1	Quentin Krogstad	Calgary AB	2
	2	Barbara McNeil	Banff AB	1
	3	Diane Morais	Calgary AB	1
<b>50 to 100</b>	1	Celia Gaudet	Calgary AB	5
	2	Stephanie Howard	Calgary AB	3
	3	Marjory Sword		3
<b>100 to 200</b>	1	Christine Stephure	Calgary AB	15
	2	Lana McFadden	Calgary AB	5
	3	Toni D'Arcy	Okotoks AB	2
<b>200 to 300</b>	1	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	15
	2	Nadarajah Paskaran	Calgary AB	10
	3	Kevin Trickett	Calgary AB	8
<b>300 to 500</b>	1	Philip Coppard	Calgary AB	19
	2	Atsuko McDonald	Calgary AB	17
	3	Matt Bootle	Calgary AB	15
<b>500 to 1000</b>	1	Harvey Wiehler	Calgary AB	24
	2	Morris Streich	Calgary AB	20
	3	Judy Madge	Calgary AB	17
<b>1000 to 1500</b>	1	Barry Crozier	Calgary AB	38
	2	Hailong Yu	Calgary AB	31
	3	Martine Parent	Calgary AB	18
<b>1500 to 2500</b>	1	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	31
	2	Andy McKaig	Calgary AB	23
	3	Tom Nault	Calgary AB	20
<b>2500 to 3500</b>	1	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	30
	2	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB	22
	3	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB	14
<b>3500 to 5000</b>	1	Margaret Nielsen	Calgary AB	35
	2	Stephanie McAdam	Calgary AB	26
	3	Pauline Huculak	Calgary AB	19
<b>5000 to 7500</b>	1	David Johnson	Calgary AB	13
	2	Allan Simon	Calgary AB	10
	3	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	9
<b>7500 to 10,000</b>	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	7
	2	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	3
	3	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	1
<b>Over 10,000</b>	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	10

## 2024 Mini-McKenney Races

### Unit 390 Year-to-Date Standings - April 6<sup>th</sup>

0 to 5	1/2	Cheryl Whittaker	Calgary AB	6
	1/2	Colleen Rogers	Calgary AB	6
	3	Betty Carrier	Canmore AB	6
5 to 20	1	Dmitry Komin	Calgary AB	40
	2/3	Brenda Davies	Okotoks AB	28
	2/3	Blair Davies	Okotoks AB	28
20 to 50	1	Quentin Krogstad	Calgary AB	23
	2	Claudine Petrunia	Calgary AB	15
	3	Barbara McNeil	Banff AB	13
50 to 100	1	Marjory Sword		20
	2	Dan Dover	Calgary AB	20
	3	Corliss Ward	Calgary AB	14
100 to 200	1	Lana McFadden	Calgary AB	24
	2	Sherry Goldenberg	Calgary AB	18
	3	Christine Stephure	Calgary AB	16
200 to 300	1	Kevin Trickett	Calgary AB	18
	2/3	Frank Guo	Calgary AB	16
	2/3	June Cheng	Calgary AB	16
300 to 500	1	David Stephure	Calgary AB	36
	2	Andrew Melton	Calgary AB	27
	3	Dave Brett	Calgary AB	24
500 to 1000	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	81
	2	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB	43
	3	Charlene Delcourt	Calgary AB	41
1000 to 1500	1	Barry Crozier	Calgary AB	67
	2	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	60
	3	Hailong Yu	Calgary AB	42
1500 to 2500	1	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	106
	2	Mike D Aguiar	Calgary AB	61
	3	Rick Boyd	Calgary AB	48
2500 to 3500	1	Rod Hilderman	Calgary AB	65
	2	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB	55
	3	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	50
3500 to 5000	1	Margaret Nielsen	Calgary AB	41
	2	Stephanie McAdam	Calgary AB	26
	3	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	26
5000 to 7500	1	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	60
	2	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	23
	3	David Johnson	Calgary AB	23
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	101
	2	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB	40
	3	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	25
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	56
	2	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	43
	3/4	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	15
	3/4	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	15

## 2024 Alberta Sectionals Masterpoint Race

Year-to-Date Standings - at April 8

(Based on the three face-to-face sectionals of 2024)

1	38.91	<b>Howard Coren</b>	Calgary AB
2	38.81	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB
3	36.92	Steve Bates	Edmonton AB
	36.92	Douglas Mann	Calgary AB
5	25.73	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB
	25.73	Bernie Lambert	Acme AB
7	24.04	Chris Wuerscher	Calgary AB
8	22.34	Hans Folkinga	Edmonton AB
	22.34	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB
10	22.22	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB
11	21.51	Rod Hilderman	Calgary AB
12	20.97	Xiaodong Zhao	Edmonton AB
13	19.91	Terry Nazar	Vernon BC
14	19.72	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB
	19.72	Gamil Tadros	Calgary AB
16	18.96	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB
17	16.84	Kathleen Harvey	Edmonton AB
18	16.34	Ross Armour	Edmonton AB
19	15.61	Robert Pratt	Edmonton AB
	15.61	Kevin Strangway	Grande Prairie AB
21	15.19	Gerene Albrecht	Red Deer AB
	15.19	Adam Thiel	Red Deer AB
23	15.13	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB
	15.13	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB
25	14.88	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB
26	13.50	Garry Ramsden-Wood	Calgary AB
27	13.32	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB
	13.32	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB
29	13.24	Jason Dufault	Edmonton AB
30	13.24	Bryant Town	Edmonton AB
31	13.20	Emelie Quennell	Calgary AB
	13.20	Sandy Jean Robinson	Calgary AB
33	13.19	Louise Klimowicz	Edmonton AB
34	13.06	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB
35	12.90	Dmitry Komin	Calgary AB
36	12.68	Dave Kilworth	Devon AB
37	12.23	Janet Gangl	Red Deer AB
	12.23	Travis Gangl	Red Deer AB
	12.23	Janet Sharpe	Calgary AB
	12.23	John Sharpe	Calgary AB
41	12.05	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB
42	11.27	Yi Peng (Mark) Mai	Calgary AB
43	9.72	Doug Riopelle	St Albert AB
44	9.70	Qi Ju	Calgary AB
45	9.69	David Cooper	Edmonton AB

## Unit 390 Membership Report for 2023

Interest in bridge in Calgary seems to be on the rise and membership numbers for Unit 390 are slowly recovering. Our 2024 New Year's Sectional drew 257 tables, a substantial increase over the Fall 2023 sectional which had 200 tables!

Thanks to the many initiatives to attract newer players back to the tables, there is some hope that the re-build will continue. Club managers and directors, teachers providing lessons, and volunteers who are leading Unit-sponsored programs such as the Rookie-Master Game and the Bid & Play all deserve credit for our new member growth.

In 2023, membership across the ACBL declined by 2.09% for the 12 months ending December 31, 2023, leaving 129,131 active members. Membership in District 18, which includes our Unit, held steady with an insignificant increase of 0.09%. Unit 390 outperformed the ACBL-wide average, with an increase in membership of 3.67%. Of the 289 units in the ACBL, Unit 390 ranked 35th in this regard.

Unit 390 recruited 56 new members over the 12 months of 2023 (6.12%) as compared to the overall ACBL number of 5.15%. 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 55.17% (compared to 47.96% within District 18 and 45.78% ACBL-wide). We ranked 42nd out of the ACBL's 289 units.

Six members of Unit 390 achieved the rank of Life Master over the 12 months of 2023. Congratulations!

The Guest Membership program continued in 2023. It is a free way for players to try the benefits of ACBL membership. Guest Memberships last for 120 days and are available only to brand-new members. After the trial period, the first year of Regular ACBL Membership is at a significantly discounted price. The ACBL no longer shares Guest Membership information with units so we have no record of the number of guest members in Unit 390 for 2023.

The average age of Calgary Unit players continues to be about three years less than the ACBL-wide average: 71.62 years old compared to 74.45 ACBL-wide. Our average player is about four months older than Red Deer's average player.

Unit 390 started with 899 members on January 1, 2023. That number included eight Snowbirds who had temporarily transferred out of the unit in favour of warmer climes.

899 members at January 1, 2023

590 non-Life Masters

294 paid Life Masters

7 unpaid Life Members

8 Snowbirds

### Total Gains = 158

New members 56

Members transferred into Unit 390 12

Lapsed members reinstated 90

### Total Losses = 125

Members transferred out of Unit 390 10

Deceased members 7

Inactive Life Members 2

Members failed to renew 106

Unit 390 ended 2023 with a total of 932 members:

627 non-Life Masters

290 paid Life Masters

7 unpaid Life Members

8 Snowbirds



### Legend

1 - Rookie (0-5)

2 - Junior Master (5-20)

3 - Club Master (20-50)

4 - Sectional Master (50-100)

5 - Regional Master (100-200)

6 - NABC Master (200+)

7 - Advanced NABC Master

8 - Life Master

9 - Bronze LM

10 - Silver LM

11 - Ruby LM

12 - Gold LM

13 - Sapphire LM

14 - Diamond LM

15 - Emerald LM

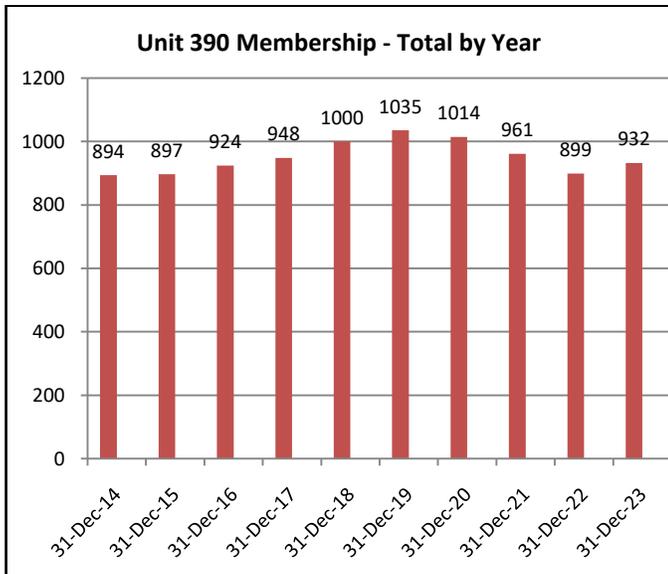
16 - Platinum LM

17 - Grand LM

631 Non-Life Masters

301 Life Masters

**Unit 390 Membership Stats  
2014 - 2023**



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HAT REGIONAL**

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Questions?  
Emelie Quennell  
equennell@hotmail.com  
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The Regional Flyer is available on the Unit 390 website [HERE](#).

