



The Kibitzer

October 2024

Editors: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

President's Message

Greetings Bridge Players,

As I begin my term as an Officer of the Unit, I have reviewed the guidelines and duties of the President. One theme that is repeated throughout is promoting fun and enjoyment for all players.

So, I asked myself "What makes the game fun, besides good cards?" My conclusion: a friendly congenial partner is essential.

After all, my partner controls 13 of the 26 cards being used to bid or defend a contract. If partner is not happy, comfortable and confident, those 13 cards will not help me. Partner needs me to see the game from their viewpoint. And I need to value partner as making the best choice their knowledge, skill level and reasoning can provide.

In my early bridge experience, I played with a duplicate player in a social setting. After I had made my lead, partner asked "Why did you lead that card?" Totally intimidated by partner's knowledge and expertise, I froze until I came up with a solid answer. "I have no idea," I said. Partner replied "Well, okay, but if you had a reason, I might be able to help you." This simple question and acceptance of my answer taught me that every lead needs reasoning and purpose.

Recently after a hand on which partner was on lead, I asked "Why did you lead an unsupported king?" The response was immediate: "Because I wanted to see dummy." Hmm! I can't fault partner for not having a legitimate explanation. But since declarer held the ace, partner did not give that big, fat king a chance. I later provided partner with a list of the worst leads in bridge ☺.

I had my own lead opportunity against bidding that proceeded 1♥ - 3♥, with our side silent. After the play, my partner asked "Was that ♠8 from a doubleton?" I said yes, that it was my best lead. Partner believed that the lead of a doubleton is not a good lead. I agreed in general, but explained my thinking. This was my hand:

♠ 86 ♥ 9873 ♦ A9xx ♣ A10x

Thoughtfully, I had evaluated the best lead guidelines as I understood them to be:

- Lead of a club or diamond - Do not underlead an ace or lead an unsupported ace.
- Lead of a heart - Do not lead trump with trump length (four or more trumps).

So, the doubleton spade looked good to me. In retrospect, I think the best lead would have been a lead out of turn by partner to get me off the hook.

[President's Message continues next page]

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President's Message (continued)

I encourage players not to criticize or use condescending remarks or gestures at the table. In my experience, partner's negative body language turns my thoughts away from what I know and can deduce from the play to "What does partner want me to do?" This is a hopeless strategy for staying on track. Don't make partner second guess every card they play.

We all try our best at the table and that should be respected and appreciated by everyone. Enjoy and be considerate of partner's play including mistakes and misplays. Maybe partner will pretend not to notice yours!

Cynthia Clark
President, ACBL Unit 390

2024 Annual General Meeting Calgary Duplicate Bridge Association

The Annual General Meeting of Unit 390 was held Sunday, June 2nd at the Calgary Bridge Centre with over 60 Unit members present.

Attendees enjoyed a light lunch from Subway before the meeting commenced at noon. President John Sharpe chaired the meeting.

Unit 390 donation to the CCBL

John presented the President's Report for 2023-24, outlining Unit activities for the year. The highlight was the announcement that, on behalf of its members, Unit 390 was donating \$5,000 to the Calgary Community Bridge League in recognition and support of the work that organization does to operate the Calgary Bridge Centre. The CBC is the hub for face-to-face bridge in Calgary.

You can read President Sharpe's full report on the Unit 390 website [HERE](#).

Unit Board of Directors and Associate Directors for 2024-25

Thanks were extended to Sandra Stewart, who served two years on the Unit 390 Board and retired this year.

Three directors were entering the second year of their terms and the remaining six directors agreed to stand for re-election for another two-year term.

There being no additional nominations from the floor, the 2024-25 Unit Board was instated:

Roger Bolton	Ed Lamb
Brad Bowyer	Lois Matton
Cynthia Clark	Paulette McWilliam
Judith Gartaganis	John Sharpe
Delores Hedley	

The entire unit membership owes a vote of thanks to these volunteers, who work tirelessly toward the success and health of bridge operations within Unit 390.

In addition, a large roster of Associate Directors play an important role in Unit activities: Bob and Shirley McLeod (New Member Liaison), Terri Bedard (Notices), Daniel Bertrand (Web Master), Barbara Webster (Equipment and Assets Manager), Jim Murphy (Trailer Maintenance), Nancy Stewart and Janet Sharpe (Mentorship Program) and Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis (Kibitzer).

Now Let's Play Bridge!

Following the meeting, the AGM Pairs game was held, with 15 tables participating. You can check out the game results using this [LINK](#).

Thank you to Joy and Brian Saville

Directing a game such as this can be a thankless job: lots of last-minute organization and, what's more, you have to sacrifice your own opportunity to play.

This year's AGM Pairs was ably directed by the Savilles, long-time club owners and directors on the Calgary bridge scene. Brian and Joy refused to take any payment for this work ... they donated their time to run this year's game and the Unit sends a big "Thank You" their way!



Listen to the Auction (Still!)

By Daniel Bertrand

Playing in a Swiss Team event, at favourable vulnerability, you are dealer and pick up:

♠1086 ♥7 ♦A75 ♣AKQ1064

You open 1♣, LHO passes, partner bids 1♦, and RHO comes in with 1♥. You continue with 2♣, LHO raises her partner to 2♥, your partner bids 3♥, and RHO goes on to 4♥. You decide to pass. LHO passes, partner bids 6♣ and everyone passes.

The auction:

You

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

LHO leads the ♥2 and dummy appears.

IMPs

Contract: 6♣

Lead: ♥2

♠	AKQ
♥	J63
♦	KJ4
♣	9752

N		
W	♠	E
	S	

♠	1086
♥	7
♦	A75
♣	AKQ1064

The vulnerable opponents bid a lot; they probably have distributional hands. Your partner also was quite aggressive, but the slam seems to depend on little more than the diamond finesse. You call for a small heart from dummy and RHO wins the ♥Q and continues with the ♥A; you ruff as LHO follows with the ♥5. You pull trumps in three rounds. RHO has no clubs and discards two small hearts and one diamond. Before trying the diamond finesse, you play on spades; RHO follows once and discards a second diamond!

What do you know? Think about RHO's hand. He has one spade, no clubs and 12 red cards.

What about LHO's hand? She has six spades (RHO only has one), three clubs, and at least three hearts (she supported

hearts and led the ♥2 and followed with the ♥5). How do you like your chances? Think about it! LHO has zero or one diamond. Do you need a singleton ♦Q? What should you do?

You know that RHO still has the ♥K. He won the ♥Q and then played the ♥A. RHO is the only opponent with stoppers in hearts and diamonds! You can squeeze him!

You have reached the following position.

♠	Q
♥	J
♦	KJ4
♣	9

N		
W	♠	E
	S	

♠	10
♥	--
♦	A75
♣	106

Plan the play! Think! (There is more than just one winning line). You can win the ♦K to see if LHO has a singleton ♦Q. (But it turns out LHO has no diamonds.) Now overtake dummy's ♣9 with your ♣10 and play your last club discarding a diamond from dummy. Then get back to dummy with a spade. This is the position as you lead to dummy's ♠Q:

♠	Q
♥	J
♦	J
♣	--

N		
W	♠	E
	S	

♠	10
♥	--
♦	A7
♣	--

♠	--
♥	K
♦	Q10
♣	--

What can RHO discard? If he discards the ♥K, dummy's ♥J is a winner. If he discards a diamond, you play a diamond to your Ace and your ♦7 is a winner! (And you get a well-deserved beer!)

[See next page for the full deal]

Listen to the Auction (Still!) (continued)

In fact, declarer did not listen to the auction and was only able to take 11 tricks! This was the full deal:

The full deal:

♠ J97432 ♥ 10852 ♦ -- ♣ J83	♠ AKQ ♥ J63 ♦ KJ4 ♣ 9752	<table border="1" style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 5 ♥ AKQ94 ♦ Q1098632 ♣ --
N						
W E						
S						
	♠ 1086 ♥ 7 ♦ A75 ♣ AKQ1064					

Traffic Cam Adventure

I was driving when I saw the flash of a traffic camera. I figured that my picture had been taken for exceeding the limit even though I knew that I was not speeding.

Just to be sure, I went around the block and passed the same spot, driving even more slowly, but again the camera flashed. I began to think that this was quite weird, so I drove even slower as I passed the area once more, but the traffic camera flashed again.

I tried a fourth and fifth time with the same result and I could not keep from laughing as the camera flashed while I rolled past at a snail's pace.

Two weeks later, I got five tickets in the mail for driving without a seat belt!

2024 Alberta Sectionals Masterpoint Race

Year-to-Date Standings - as of October 22

1	85.00	Mike D Aguiar	Calgary AB
2/3	75.16	Hans Folkinga	Edmonton AB
	75.16	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB
4	74.42	Terri Bedard	Calgary AB
5/6	65.29	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB
	65.29	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB
7	63.46	Xiaodong (Jeff) Zhao	Edmonton AB
8	60.84	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB
9	53.49	Perry Khakhar	Edmonton AB
10	49.17	Steve Bates	Edmonton AB
11	48.79	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB
12	48.55	Yi Peng (Mark) Mai	Calgary AB
13	46.16	Howard Coren	Calgary AB
14	45.04	Chris Wuerscher	Calgary AB
15	44.76	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB
16/17	43.74	Roberta Mcllwain	Invermere BC
	43.74	Sandy Mcllwain	Invermere BC
18	43.63	Bernie Lambert	Acme AB
19	43.42	Rod Hilderman	Calgary AB
20	37.80	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB
21	37.69	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB
22	37.33	David Johnson	Calgary AB
23	37.01	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB
24	36.92	Douglas Mann	Calgary AB
25	34.84	Paul Erikson	Edmonton AB
26	34.72	Glenn Cossey	Innisfail AB
27	34.13	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB
28	33.36	Qi (Quincy) Ju	Calgary AB
29	32.27	Kathleen Harvey	Edmonton AB
30	31.38	Dan Dover	Calgary AB
31	31.08	Dave Kilworth	Devon AB
32	28.97	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB
33	28.09	Dmitry Komin	Calgary AB
34	27.44	Robert Pratt	Edmonton AB
35	27.24	Ross Armour	Edmonton AB
36	27.22	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB
37	27.00	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB
38	26.76	Kevin Strangway	Grande Prairie AB
39	25.67	Frank Ayer	Calgary AB
40	25.44	Cindy Cossey	Innisfail AB
41/42	24.14	Keith Wallace	Calgary AB
	24.14	Pam Wallace	Calgary AB
43	23.08	Karen Long	Edmonton AB
44	23.06	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB
45	22.59	Sandy Jean Robinson	Calgary AB

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/#President>)

The 299er events are a great chance for newer players to experience a tournament environment, especially those who haven't been to a sectional before. The 299er pairs play against others at a similar level - fewer than 300 masterpoints - in a separate game, but are still part of the larger event. Why not try a tournament?

There have been two sectionals since the last Kibitzer was published in April 2024.

May 2024

At the Spring sectional which took place this past May, 299er attendance held steady with 40½ tables playing in the five 299er pairs sessions held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (46 tables played at the January sectional).

In all, 76 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 encouraged to play in the B/C Swiss Teams and a 49er pairs game was held Sunday morning.

The President's Award was won by a Flight E pair. **Corliss Ward** and **Genevieve McLean** of Calgary each won 4.04 masterpoints. The top masterpoint winners were:

Flight D (150 - 300):		
1/2.	Gary Croxton	2.17 masterpoints
1/2.	Len Himelfarb	2.17 masterpoints
3/4.	Art LeMaistre	1.22 masterpoints
3/4.	Tim Stevenson	1.22 masterpoints

Flight E (50 - 150):		
1/2.	Corliss Ward	4.04 masterpoints
1/2.	Genevieve McLean	4.04 masterpoints
3/4.	John Dunn	3.56 masterpoints
3/4.	Sergii Shapovalov	3.56 masterpoints

Flight F (0 - 50):		
1/2.	Donna Michael	2.13 masterpoints
1/2.	Melvin Teghtmeyer	2.13 masterpoints
3.	Stephanie Martinez	1.87 masterpoints

September 2024

At the Fall sectional held this past September, 299er attendance was down compared to the Spring sectional. A total of 26 tables played in the four 299er pairs sessions held on Friday and Saturday. There were no games on Sunday.

Forty-four different players participated in 299er events over two days of the tournament.

Based on the attendance, the flights within the game were modified:

Flight E: 0 - 75 masterpoints
Flight D: 75 - 300 masterpoints.

The President's Award was won by **Dianne McCubbin** and **Janet Quiring**, who each won 4.15 masterpoints. The top masterpoint winners were:

Flight D (75 - 300):		
1.	Edward Lamb	3.64 masterpoints
2.	Eric Gutland	2.47 masterpoints
3.	Catherine Brewer	2.40 masterpoints

Flight E (0 - 75):		
1/2.	Dianne McCubbin	4.15 masterpoints
1/2.	Janet Quiring	4.15 masterpoints
3/4.	Stephanie Martinez	2.05 masterpoints
3/4.	Susan Ruf	2.05 masterpoints

Congratulations to everyone! Well done.

Thank you to all the 299er players who continue to support the Unit 390 sectionals. The organizers strive to provide an inviting, competitive yet friendly environment for participants to get a taste of tournament play. Suggestions for attracting more players to the 299er games are always welcome. Please don't hesitate to contact the 299er Chair, Roger Bolton (or any board member) if you have ideas. Our tournaments cannot succeed without you!



Cheating Destiny

By Allan Simon

It was 1990 and I was playing a matchpoint game at the Martinique Bridge Studio. At favourable vulnerability, I picked up this hand:

♠10732 ♥QJ843 ♦AKJ5 ♣---

In first seat I opened 1♥, and with the opponents silent, we quickly reached 4♥ on the following auction:

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Regina Shedd, playing with her husband Stan, led the ♠4 and partner flopped his hand.

♠	95			
♥	AK			
♦	Q102			
♣	A105432			
<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W ■ E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>		N	W ■ E	S
N				
W ■ E				
S				
♠	10732			
♥	QJ843			
♦	AKJ5			
♣	--			

Too bad partner was in a rush during the auction. Had he bid 2♠ over 2♦, the final contract would likely have been 3NT where nine tricks looked easy, perhaps even 10 would materialize. It all depended on how many spade tricks the opponents could cash.

Still, the major suit game also looked easy. In fact, if the hearts broke 3-3, I might be able to ruff a spade and make 11 tricks to beat all the pairs in 3NT. East won the spade King and continued with the Ace and Jack allowing me to ruff in dummy. I thought about buying Stan a drink to thank him for his helpful defense ☺.

I cashed the ♥A, then the ♣A pitching my last spade. I came to hand with the ♦A and the ♥Q revealed the bad news as West threw a club. The contract looked hopeless and a bottom board seemed to be in my future, but the good news was that I no longer owed East a drink.

After further thought, I spotted a line of play that might have a chance. I travelled to dummy's ♦10 and ruffed a club. With

fingers crossed, I overtook my ♦J with dummy's ♦Q, willing East to follow. The long shot line of play was going to come in!

This was the situation with three tricks to come (dummy on lead):

♠	---			
♥	---			
♦	---			
♣	1054			
<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W ■ E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>		N	W ■ E	S
N				
W ■ E				
S				
♠	---			
♥	J8			
♦	K			
♣	---			

I had scored three diamonds, one club, two heart tricks, one spade ruff in dummy and one club ruff in hand, to bring my total up to eight. On the club lead from dummy, East ruffed with the ♥10, but to no avail. I threw my ♦K. East had only trumps left and I held ♥J8 over his ♥97.

If I had overruffed the ♥10, I would have gone down. Here is the full deal:

Contract: 4♥
Lead: ♠4

♠	95			
♥	AK			
♦	Q102			
♣	A105432			
<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W ■ E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>		N	W ■ E	S
N				
W ■ E				
S				
♠	Q864			
♥	2			
♦	973			
♣	KJ876			
♠	10732			
♥	QJ843			
♦	AKJ5			
♣	--			

Our side earned a near-top on our way to a 67% game. Those in 4♥ were unable to find the winning line of play and the ones in 3NT usually scored only +400.

It is always satisfying (and perhaps unfair ☺) when one can take advantage of the lie of the cards to cheat destiny out of a poor result and generate a great one instead.

Barbara Webster Receives Jack Murphy Memorial Award

The Jack Murphy Memorial Award is named to honour a giant in Calgary's bridge history ... Jack Murphy. The trophy is awarded for lifetime service to the Calgary bridge community.



You will find Jack Murphy's name woven throughout the history of Unit 390. He was renowned as a player, of course, but perhaps more significantly, as an enthusiastic and dedicated volunteer for bridge. Jack became interested in bridge in the late '50s when he and his family moved to Calgary.

He served on the Unit Board for nine years, from 1963 to 1972, including a term as President. Outside the realm of our Unit, Jack served a term as the Alberta representative to the ACBL District 18 Board. In addition, he was the Zone V representative to the Canadian Bridge Federation during its formative years and beyond, from 1971 to 1980, serving as CBF President in 1975 - 77. Jack chaired two early Calgary Regionals (in 1967 and 1970) and both were resounding successes.

Barbara Webster is the 2024 recipient of the Jack Murphy Memorial Award, which was presented at this year's AGM.

Barbara has been a tireless volunteer in Unit 390 for a long time. Her service dates back to 1991, when she served as Membership Secretary for Unit 390 for three years, often looking after partnerships for sectionals during this period. She became the director and owner of a bridge club in 1992 and operated that club until 1995.

When Barbara returned to Calgary after 16 years in B.C., she immediately looked for ways to become re-involved in the bridge community, and she took over as Asset Manager in 2016.

The role of the Asset Manager is huge. Our Unit assets include 1 Trailer, 60 Bridge Tables, 72 Sets of Bidding Boxes, 161 Bridgemates, 25 Sets of Duplicate Boards, 82 Tablecloths, 1 Dealing Machine and a host of smaller items essential to tournaments.

Before every tournament, Barbara makes sure all the required supplies and equipment are ready to go. But Barbara's job doesn't end there. After tournaments, it is Barbara who "cleans up". She launders and folds the 82 tablecloths, wipes down all 288 bidding boxes and 161 Bridgemates, examines the 25 sets of boards, replacing any obviously damaged cards, plus checks the paper supplies to see if any need replenishing.

In between times, if the Unit wishes to purchase equipment or other items, Barbara researches suppliers, compares prices and shipping costs and presents the Unit Board with a summary of options. Her "volunteer" job is endless.

Apparently, the needs of Unit 390 aren't enough to keep our Asset Manager busy, for Barbara also lends the same degree of expertise and dedication to the Calgary Bridge Centre.

Barbara manages to get some time to play and is a Ruby Life Master.



Congratulations to Barbara Webster ... the 2024 recipient of the Jack Murphy Award.

Past winners of the Jack Murphy Memorial Award include Delores Hedley, Steve Lawrence, Dave and Marilyn Swadron and Nicholas and Judith Gartaganis.



Hints From the Lead

By Yi Peng (Mark) Mai

Playing in a Knockout event at the recent Calgary White Hat Regional, at equal vulnerability, I pick up this hand:

♠A9863 ♥A1052 ♦Q104 ♣A

In first seat partner opens 1♦ and I respond 1♠. Holding all the first round controls, our side quickly reaches 6♠ on this auction:

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

¹ 4th suit forcing

² 14-15 HCP with three spades, likely 3154 or 3145 distribution (or occasionally 3244)

³ Zero or three keycards

West leads the ♦3 and I see the dummy:

IMPs

Contract: 6♠

Lead: ♦3

♠	K107									
♥	4									
♦	AJ952									
♣	KQ63									
<table border="1"> <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									
♠	A9863									
♥	A1052									
♦	Q104									
♣	A									

Partner's enthusiastic bidding has got us to a contract where 12 tricks is by no means certain. I have a sure trump loser (unless the ♠QJ is doubleton but I can't count on that) so I cannot lose a trick in any other suit.

It looks as though I must find the ♦K onside. But what of this diamond lead? LHO might be leading from the ♦K, hoping I'll reject the working finesse. Although LHO is an accomplished player, I think he is unlikely to have taken this risk. Where does that leave me? Do I have a legitimate path to 12 tricks if East has the ♦K onside? It has taken me only 30 seconds to consider all this information and make my decision.

I see the possibility of proceeding on a cross ruff, particularly if RHO has two or fewer diamonds (if it is ♦Kx, even better). I take the first trick with dummy's ♦A while RHO follows with the ♦8. In rapid succession I play as follows:

Cash the ♣A

Cash the ♥A and ruff the ♥2 in dummy with the ♠7

Cash the ♣KQ, discarding the ♦Q10

Ruff the ♦2 with the ♠3 (East plays the ♦K!)

Ruff the ♥5 in dummy with the ♠10

I have taken eight tricks and this is the position now:

♠	K									
♥	--									
♦	J95									
♣	6									
<table border="1"> <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									
♠	A986									
♥	10									
♦	--									
♣	--									

Based on the cards played by the opponents both hearts and clubs appear to be splitting 4 - 4 and RHO started with ♦K8. That means he should have three trumps, leaving West with two.

If I cash the ♠K and play the established ♦J, I can discard my heart loser when East trumps, ruff the round-suit return and hope that both spade honours fall under my Ace. Alternatively, I can continue my cross ruff by leaving the ♠K in place and leading the ♦J immediately, overruffing whatever trump East plays and ruffing my losing heart with ♠K. I decide on the first line of play.

[Continued next page]

Hints From the Lead (continued)

East ruffs with the ♠5 and I follow my plan, throwing the ♥10. East returns a heart, I ruff and cash the ♠A dropping both spade honours. The contract is home! If East had returned a club the outcome would have been the same.

The full deal was:

♠ K107		♠ J54									
♥ 4		♥ Q986									
♦ AJ952		♦ K8									
♣ KQ63		♣ 10852									
♠ Q2											
♥ KJ73											
♦ 763											
♣ J974											
	<table border="1" style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <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										
♠ A9863											
♥ A1052											
♦ Q104											
♣ A											

Finessing the diamond at trick one leads to failure. On further reflection, although I succeeded in scoring 12 tricks, continuing the cross ruff is superior (that means not cashing the ♠K). As long as East has only two diamonds there is no distribution of the opponents' cards that can defeat me, even if the round suits are 5 - 3 instead of 4 - 4.

2024 Hattie Joffe Trophy

Yet another successful Calgary White Hat Regional was held this summer, the first since 2018. The tournament drew 751 tables and over 4,700 masterpoints were awarded to the 410 players in attendance. Chair Emelie Quennell and Co-chair Sandy Jean Robinson did a marvellous job organizing this event.

The numbers did not come close to matching the 2018 event, when Calgary boasted 1301 tables. The return to live bridge is inching along all across ACBL-land and a return to pre-COVID numbers is a long way off. In general, numbers are down to about 60% of pre-COVID levels.

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. You can read about Hattie Joffe on the Unit 390 website by following this [LINK](#).



The 2024 race for points won at the White Hat Regional was captured by Edmontonian Peter Jones. The last victory for an Edmonton player was 2011, although a Unit 390 player did carry an Edmonton resident to a tie for the win in 2019.

Peter won just over 103 masterpoints for the week, taking the top spot in three events and placing 2nd and 5th in others.

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 2025.

Have you ever noticed that anybody driving slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac?

George Carlin

Member Milestones

The following members have reached new masterpoint milestones in the six months from April 2024 through September 2024. Congratulations to all on their achievements.



New Junior Masters (5+ MPs):

Bill Clarke	Anne Myles
Heather Cowie	Terence Myles
Paula Ettinger	Allie Peach
Dennis Frayne	Nathan Qin
Patrick Harder	Susan Ruf
Nok Yin (Jim) Lee	Margaret Scobie
Brenda Lucy	Charles Teare
Cheryl Whittaker	Hong Wang
Stephanie Martinez	Barbara Waskiewich

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

Annalisa Bednall	Robert Penner
Anka Bonyai	Lori Russell
Kerri Gallup	Colleen Rogers
Willie Jurcevic	Susan Ruf
Stephanie Martinez	Cheryl Whittaker
Jack McKay	Jodie Winquist

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

Lois Clapperton	Qi (Quincy) Ju
Sandra Fiell	Rick Palmer
Quentin Krogstad	Judy Peacock
Warren Johnston	Colleen Rogers

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

Brad Bowyer	Art Marche
Gary Croxton	Barbara McNeil
Dan Dover	Barrie Pomerance
Sheila Frank	Shuo Shi
Sherry Goldenberg	Sandy Shuler
Karen Gurevitch	Christine Stephure
Eric Gutland	Marjory Sword
Len Himelfarb	Corliss Ward
Dmitry Komin	

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

Joanne Anson	Ken Miller
Keith Barry	Norman Miller
Matt Bootle	Robert Ronca
Leon Driscoll	Tim Stevenson
Ken Krug	Kevin Trickett
Edward Lamb	Helen Webster
Betty Lovecky	Harvey Wiehler
Laurie Mantei	Susan Wigmore

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

Zan Aycock	Carol Saponja
Yi Peng (Mark) Mai	Cindy Watt
Margaret Nielsen	

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

Deborah Cripps	Lisa O'Hara
Lynn Dover	Linda Stevenson
Rae Jordan	Sherri Swystun
Jan Mohr	Jamie Watt

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

Philip Coppard	Jay Newington
Lynn Dover	Lisa O'Hara
Rae Jordan	Linda Stevenson
Jan Mohr	Jamie Watt

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

Ryan Clark	John Prance
Barry Crozier	Sherri Swystun
Terry Nazar	Richard Wolfe
Edwin Porter	

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

Ellen Kuiper	Barbara Webster
Pat Pangracs	Dianna Wreford

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

Tom Nault	Elizabeth Sprague
Marion Pennell	



[continued next page]

Member Milestones (continued)

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

Janet Sharpe

Gamil Tadros

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

Marlene Lenstra

Jadwiga Polujan

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

Allan Simon



Unit 390 Tournament Report

By Lois Matton, Tournament Chair

We've held two sectional tournaments since the last Kibitzer, one in May and one in September, both on budget and showing a slight profit.

There were 235½ tables in May. It was great to see so many people come back to tournament bridge! September had fewer participants at 198 tables, but this was still a good number considering seasonality. The table count was definitely on track with the upward trend in overall attendance.

Top masterpoint winners in May were Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis each with 30.39 masterpoints. Winning the President's Award for the most points in 299er events were Genevieve McLean and Corliss Ward each with 4.04 masterpoints.

The top point winner in September was Terri Bedard earning 29.13 masterpoints, followed by Mike D Aguiar with 24.05 masterpoints. The President's Award for the most masterpoints earned in 299er events went to Dianne McCubbin and Janet Quiring, each with 4.15 masterpoints. Congratulations!

Mark your calendars for the next tournament in Calgary, the New Year's sectional slated for January 3 - 5, 2025 at the Doubletree by Hilton. This is a familiar location (16th Avenue just East of Deerfoot Trail), but the hotel has been vastly improved! The tournament flyer will soon be available on the Unit 390 website.



The Moments in Between

By Ryan Clark

Richard Piette and I have been playing together for 10 years and, despite our love of the game, we aren't able to devote as much time to it as we would like because we both still suffer from full-time employment and have wives who require a modicum of attention and aren't especially fond of bridge. We can go for weeks or months without playing together. However, we know that when we devote our time, attention and focus, we can pull out some pretty good results against some strong opponents.

We decided to focus our attention on competing in the Bean Red Ribbon Pairs event at Toronto's NABC. We ended up winning the title by 3.34 match points. While most people would look back on a specific hand or decision that influenced their results, I attribute most of our victory to the moments between hands, between sessions, and between the games prior to the Red Ribbon event.

Leading up to the Red Ribbon event we probably had our worst showing at an NABC in recent memory, owing to the fact we didn't play together enough before arriving in Toronto. There were several moments where we had to regroup and relearn parts of our system we hadn't used in awhile. We discussed our mistakes, and they likely haunted our dreams each night. The results were so poor that I'd be lying if I said I didn't consider whether an NABC-level event might be too much for us. There was even a moment where I thought we should pick an easier event to get some points. That moment was fleeting because I know Rich's resolve when we have a plan.

As the four-session event began on Saturday, we discussed our strategy and took a moment to quiz ourselves on some of the unique aspects of our system. After the first session we stood 2nd with an above 60% result.

Prior to the second session there was a moment I took to coach myself. When we do well, I sometimes become overconfident, believing I can outplay, outsmart or outbid our opponents. I can't. When we do well, it's because we trust each other, push the opponents to make tough decisions, optimize our play and minimize mistakes.

Speaking of mistakes, this brings me to another major moment that occurred in the second session. At one point, our opponents questioned a pause in our bidding as my partner faced a tough decision. I didn't think anything of it because I planned on passing no matter what partner did, since he already knew everything about my hand. However, on the first hand of the next round, my partner struggled and made a very uncharacteristic mistake.

As we waited for another new pair of opponents, I could see my partner take a moment. He later told me he was trying to snap himself out of the downward spiral brought on by the feeling that the previous opponents thought we might be acting less than honourably.

Everyone has been in my partner's position. Whether it's an opponent saying or doing something, a misplayed card, or a bad choice that gets in your head --- it happens. But not everyone, and I count myself among them, recognizes it in the moment and takes the time to recompose themselves as my partner did, enabling him to finish with a flawless performance. At the end of the second session, we had slipped to 3rd overall but we were generally pleased with our performance and still considered ourselves very much in contention.

As we entered the second day with a little less than half the field eliminated, we had some carryover from the previous day and we felt good. I won't dwell too much on the third session, but you can rest assured outside this article, we are dwelling on it! We posted a below average score and dropped to 10th place which was disappointing. Looking back, I can't pinpoint a specific reason for our decline, but because of this session, I assumed we were out of contention. It was at this moment that we had a decision to make.

When you are behind there are many strategies you can employ. You can experiment a bit --- take the opportunity to see how strong opponents react to different plays with the goal of improving your long-term game. You can play more aggressively and hope for a little bit of luck to win, or you can stick to your game and prove to yourself that you may be able to win a future event if you can post four good session scores instead of three. All these strategies have merit. We went into the 4th session with the goal of proving we can win in the future but without the belief we could win the 2024 Bean Red Ribbon Pairs.

Sometimes you can play a bridge game and have no idea how you are doing. But in this session, after each hand we had a pretty good sense that it was going well. Rich and I have been playing together long enough that we don't need to say much between the hands; a glance can communicate everything from "what was that", "you missed my signal" to "nicely played". As we stood up from each table and moved on to

[Continued next page]

The Moments in Between (continued)

our next opponents we had the same glance: "Okay that went well, let's not screw it up." Between each set of opponents, we had to take a moment to remind ourselves it can fall apart quickly.

The second day was set up so that every pair played every other pair once. It just so happened that we were playing the first and second place pairs in the second session of the day and knew we had to post good results against them to prove we could win in the future. Although we knew we did well against them, when the final results were tallied, we had scored an average of 90.5% and 78.5% respectively against the top pairs.

I feel like I want to take a moment to highlight something else in the 4th session. Since previously in this article, I have been kind enough to point out an error my partner made, I don't want to give the impression that I played perfectly, because I didn't. There were a few errors on my part but the one that stuck out was on the eleventh board in the 4th session where we were on defense against 4♠. Around trick five, I won the lead. Knowing I couldn't get to my partner's hand, I led the Queen from my ♣AQJ8x, into dummy's K9x. I figured declarer was likely 7-0-4-2, but there was also a chance he was 6-0-4-3. I had shamefully even convinced myself that he might be 6-0-3-4, and that I could set him if my partner had mis-signalized in diamonds and held a singleton ♣10. I felt confident I would always get my ♣A and maybe one or two more additional club tricks, and I wanted to get those club tricks set up before declarer could establish dummy's hearts for pitches. But after winning the club, declarer claimed, and I discovered his distribution was 8-0-4-1 and he could take the rest of the tricks in his hand, giving him an overtrick no one else managed. If we had lost by three matchpoints, I probably wouldn't have slept that night, because with all the information I had and the possible distributions, it was still the wrong play.

When the event was over, we looked at the preliminary results and we were in third place. Although the director asked the top three teams to hang around because the race was close, we congratulated ourselves for a good comeback. We resigned ourselves to third place but we had achieved our goal. The director was providing updates as the last couple of tables finished their boards; then we heard "Ryan is in first." As a funny aside, in virtually all the games we play Richard's name is first, (no real reason other than he plays North) so when the director said, "Ryan is in first", we both thought

there must be another Ryan and asked where Richard was positioned, hoping we didn't slip out of the third spot. That was the moment we learned we were winning, and the result held.

In the end, there aren't many hands I remember and reflecting back, most of the boards were unremarkable. But the moments between them --- the self-reflection, the recalibration, and the steady determination --- turned what could have been just another learning experience into a hard-fought victory we will never forget.

Canadians win Bean by a Bit



Ryan Clark and Richard Piette, both of Calgary AB, are the winners of the Bean Red Ribbon Pairs, an event limited to players with less than 2500 masterpoints and at least one red or blue ribbon qualification.

After qualifying in third place, the pair had a below-average first final session and dropped to 10th place. They pulled it together to score 63.11% in the second final and won by a margin of 3.34 matchpoints.

(extract from the July 29 Toronto NABC Daily Bulletin)

The Bean Red Ribbon Pairs event is named after Percy Bean, who represented District 19 on the ACBL Board of Directors for 24 years. Bean served as ACBL president in 1972. Players earn qualification by placing first or second overall in regionally rated events of at least Flight B status.

Fifty two pairs entered the 2024 edition of the event. The field was cut to 28 pairs for Day 2. Ryan and Richard (or should it be Richard and Ryan ☺) earned just over 32 gold points for their efforts.

Congratulations fellows!

Calling Hercule Poirot

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Playing in a Swiss Team event, you pick up at unfavourable vulnerability:

♠K753 ♥KJ1082 ♦K7 ♣K5

In first seat RHO opens 1♣ and you overcall 1♥. LHO passes, partner cue bids 2♣, and RHO finds a 3♣ bid. Your ♣K is well-positioned and you have a decent overcall so you leap to 4♥. Surprisingly this does not end the auction. LHO bids 5♣ and after some reflection, your partner thinks her hand is good enough to jump to 6♥!

The auction:

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

West leads the ♦10 and partner tables a surprising dummy:

IMPs

Contract: 6♥

Lead: ♦10

♠ AQ10864
♥ A753
♦ 2
♣ AJ

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

♠ K753
♥ KJ1082
♦ K7
♣ K5

Partner has bid slam with considerable justification so you had better make 12 tricks. How to avoid a trump loser is your key decision ... in fact, your only decision. RHO wins the first trick with the ♦A and returns the ♦Q. What do you know about the hand and what can you infer?

The opponents have only 12 HCP, yet both of them were active in the auction. From the play to the first two tricks, you know that RHO has the ♦AQJ(+). RHO is unlikely to have five diamonds, since with such a good suit and poor clubs, he would have opened 1♦ planning to bid clubs later in the auction.

How is the club suit divided? LHO would not have bid 5♣ without at least three clubs and RHO must have had six clubs to justify his 3♣ bid with such a weak suit.

Would RHO open 1♣ and bid again with any of the following hands?:

♠--- ♥Q9x ♦AQJx ♣Q108xxx
♠J92 ♥--- ♦AQJx ♣Q108xxx
♠J2 ♥x ♦AQJx ♣Q108xxx

The vulnerability is favourable and RHO is known to bid aggressively in these situations so unfortunately, yes.

What about the decisions made by LHO? Do those actions provide any clues? LHO undoubtedly would have led a singleton spade rather than the ♦10 so you ought to rule out that possibility. But, LHO is almost certainly short in some suit to risk bidding 5♣ with only three clubs. What if LHO is void in spades and has all the missing hearts? Would she really have bid 5♣ rather than defend 4♥? Probably not. So LHO likely has two or more spades, three clubs, six or more diamonds, and therefore her only short suit can be hearts.

Agatha Christie's famous detective Hercule Poirot solved some of the most puzzling crimes using his "little grey cells" and you have done that here. With the information you know and have deduced, you can proceed.

You lead to the ♥A, both opponents following, and when you play a heart towards your King and RHO follows, you insert the ♥10. You breathe a sigh of relief when LHO discards a diamond.

The full deal was:

♠	J9	♠	AQ10864	♠	2
♥	4	♥	A753	♥	Q96
♦	10986543	♦	2	♦	AQJ
♣	964	♣	AJ	♣	Q108732
		♠	K753		
		♥	KJ1082		
		♦	K7		
		♣	K5		

Hercule would be proud.

The Kibitzer - October 2024

2024 Ace of Clubs Races

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

0 to 5	1	Susan Ruf	Calgary AB	13
	2	Cheryl Whittaker	Calgary AB	12
	3	Colleen Rogers	Calgary AB	12
5 to 20	1	Anka Bonyai	Calgary AB	23
	2/3	Brenda Davies	Okotoks AB	16
	2/3	Blair Davies	Okotoks AB	16
20 to 50	1	Quentin Krogstad	Calgary AB	26
	2	Lois Clapperton	Calgary AB	21
	3	Catherine Brewer	Calgary AB	19
50 to 100	1	Jerry Malone	Wheatland Cty AB	37
	2	Corliss Ward	Calgary AB	35
	3	Dan Dover	Calgary AB	34
100 to 200	1	Sheila Morgan	Wheatland Cty AB	43
	2	Sandy Shuler	Calgary AB	32
	3	Gary Croxton	Calgary AB	29
200 to 300	1	Inge French	Okotoks AB	41
	2	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	22
	3	Tim Stevenson	Calgary AB	21
300 to 500	1	Dave Brett	Calgary AB	58
	2	Robert Ronca	Calgary AB	44
	3	David Stephure	Calgary AB	42
500 to 1000	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	137
	2	Richard Wolfe	Calgary AB	49
	3	Charlene Delcourt	Calgary AB	45
1000 to 1500	1	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	71
	2	Cynthia Clark	Calgary AB	68
	3	Ellen Kuiper	Calgary AB	64
1500 to 2500	1	Mike D Aguiar	Calgary AB	151
	2	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	83
	3	Rick Boyd	Calgary AB	76
2500 to 3500	1	Rod Hilderman	Calgary AB	113
	2	Patrick Murphy	Calgary AB	105
	3	Michael Covey	Calgary AB	82
3500 to 5000	1	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	51
	2	Margaret Nielsen	Calgary AB	27
	3	Frank Ayer	Calgary AB	27
5000 to 7500	1	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	127
	2	David Johnson	Calgary AB	12
	3	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	8
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	123
	2	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	68
	3	Pierre Beauregard	Calgary AB	15
Over 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	99
	2	Gerry Marshall	Calgary	11
	3/4	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary	4
	3/4	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary	4

2024 Ace of Virtual Clubs Races

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

0 to 5	1/2	Rodger Conner	Canmore AB	5
	1/2	Lori Conner	Canmore AB	5
	3/4	Cheryl Whittaker	Calgary	4
	3/4	Colleen Rogers	Calgary	4
5 to 20	1	Kerri Gallup	Longview AB	11
	2	Earle Harris	Calgary AB	4
	3	Anka Bonyai	Calgary AB	2
20 to 50	1	Joyce Gibson	Calgary AB	9
	2	Barbara McNeil	Banff AB	6
	3	Diane Morais	Calgary AB	5
50 to 100	1	Celia Gaudet	Calgary AB	8
	2	Linda Prenioslo	Canmore AB	6
	3	Carl Whicher	Calgary AB	5
100 to 200	1	Christine Stephure	Calgary AB	50
	2	Lana McFadden	Calgary AB	9
	3	Sherry Goldenberg	Calgary AB	6
200 to 300	1	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	36
	2	Kevin Trickett	Calgary AB	23
	3	Nadarajah Paskaran	Calgary AB	15
300 to 500	1	Philip Coppard	Calgary AB	60
	2	David Stephure	Calgary AB	52
	3	Atsuko McDonald	Calgary AB	36
500 to 1000	1	Morris Streich	Calgary AB	71
	2	Harvey Wiehler	Calgary AB	56
	3	Judy Madge	Calgary AB	52
1000 to 1500	1	Barry Crozier	Calgary AB	76
	2	Martine Parent	Calgary AB	72
	3	Hailong Yu	Calgary AB	50
1500 to 2500	1	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	76
	2	Andy McKaig	Calgary AB	74
	3	Tom Nault	Calgary AB	43
2500 to 3500	1	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	82
	2	Dmitry Komin	Calgary AB	46
	3	Gamil Tadros	Calgary AB	42
3500 to 5000	1	Margaret Nielsen	Calgary AB	98
	2	Stephanie McAdam	Calgary AB	76
	3	Michael Broadhurst	Calgary AB	40
5000 to 7500	1	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	33
	2	Allan Simon	Calgary AB	28
	3	David Johnson	Calgary AB	16
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	19
	2	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	10
	3	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	9
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	44

2024 Mini-McKenney Races

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

0 to 5	1	Cheryl Whittaker	Calgary AB	34
	2	Colleen Rogers	Calgary AB	32
	3	Susan Ruf	Calgary AB	20
5 to 20	1	Anka Bonyai	Calgary AB	34
	2/3	Brenda Davies	Okotoks AB	31
	2/3	Blair Davies	Okotoks AB	31
20 to 50	1	Quentin Krogstad	Calgary AB	47
	2	Patrick Guo	Calgary AB	35
	3	Barbara McNeil	Banff AB	33
50 to 100	1	Dan Dover	Calgary AB	93
	2	Marjory Sword	Canmore AB	53
	3	Corliss Ward	Calgary AB	46
100 to 200	1	Sheila Morgan	Wheatland Cty AB	59
	2	Christine Stephure	Calgary AB	51
	3	Sandy Shuler	Calgary AB	48
200 to 300	1	Shuanbing (Frank) Guo	Calgary AB	76
	2	Yurong (June) Cheng	Calgary AB	62
	3	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	58
300 to 500	1	David Stephure	Calgary AB	120
	2	Dave Brett	Calgary AB	78
	3	Philip Coppard	Calgary AB	72
500 to 1000	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	178
	2	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB	142
	3	John Prance	Calgary AB	133
1000 to 1500	1	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	176
	2	Barry Crozier	Calgary AB	158
	3	Cynthia Clark	Calgary AB	132
1500 to 2500	1	Mike D Aguiar	Calgary AB	383
	2	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	215
	3	Rick Boyd	Calgary AB	143
2500 to 3500	1	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB	225
	2	Patrick Murphy	Calgary AB	215
	3	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB	206
3500 to 5000	1	Yi Peng (Mark) Mai	Calgary AB	298
	2	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	200
	3	Qi (Quincy) Ju	Calgary AB	140
5000 to 7500	1	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	270
	2	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	268
	3	David Johnson	Calgary AB	152
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	423
	2	Abdul Fakhir	Calgary AB	172
	3	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	91
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	376
	2	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	364
	3/4	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	195
	3/4	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	195



2024 - 25 North American Pairs District 18 Final

The North American Pairs (NAP) is a grass-roots event for pairs. Club qualifying games were held this past June, July and August.

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

Players **must** have qualified at the club level to play in the District Final. Unlike the Grand National Teams event, there is no buy-in option for the NAP District Final.

The District 18 Finals will be held online on BBO. The Finals will be conducted as two-session play-through events, with separate events for each flight:

- Flight A - Sat. Nov. 2, 2024 at 10:15 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. MDT
- Flight B - Sat. Nov. 9, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. MST
- Flight C - Sat. Nov. 2, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. MDT

If eligible, players may enter the District Finals in both Flights A and B, or Flights B and C.

Pre-registration for the D18 Final is required. Pairs must send the following information to the District Coordinator, Ray Fink at Ray.Fink@gmail.com

- both player names
- both player ACBL numbers
- both player BBO usernames
- which Flight the pair is entering

Flight A and Flight C registration deadline:

Thursday, Oct. 31 at 10:00 p.m.

Flight B registration deadline:

Thursday, Nov. 7 at 10:00 p.m.

To check whether you have qualified for the District 18 Final, click [HERE](#)

What Does Partner Want?

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Playing in a team event, you pick up:

♠972 ♥J1093 ♦A1042 ♣98

You are in the East seat. South (LHO) opens 1NT (15-17) and North raises to 3NT. Partner leads the ♠J and you see the following dummy:

♠	543	♠	972
♥	AKQ	♥	J1093
♦	76	♦	A1042
♣	QJ1073	♣	98

N	■	E
W	■	S

You play a discouraging ♠2 (or the ♠9 if playing upside-down signals) and declarer wins with ♠K. She travels to dummy's ♥K and leads the ♣Q. Partner wins the ♣K and continues with the ♦3. You put up your ♦A.

It's time to evaluate the information you have gathered. It appears that declarer has the ♣A so you can count declarer's tricks: four clubs, three hearts and one spade. If declarer has the ♠AK then she must also hold at least the ♦KQ in order to come to enough HCP for the 1NT opener. In this case, there is no hope to defeat the contract.

If partner led from the AJ10 fourth or longer in spades your side can take five or six tricks (three or four spades, one club and one diamond) before declarer can score nine. On the

other hand, declarer could have all three top spades, in which case the defense might be able to take one club and four diamonds. Is it a guess what to do?

Partner knows that you will have a problem if you win the diamond, and her return of the ♦3 is the critical clue. If partner wanted a spade return she would have led a high diamond to encourage you to return spades. Her ♦3 tells you to return a diamond. You comply and defeat the contract.

The full deal was:

♠	543	♠	972
♥	AKQ	♥	J1093
♦	76	♦	A1042
♣	QJ1073	♣	98

N	■	E
W	■	S

♠	J1086	♠	AKQ
♥	854	♥	762
♦	KJ93	♦	Q85
♣	K2	♣	A654

The critical principle to remember, and one that can be applied fairly often, is that partner should always try to help you on defense by playing spot cards that give you a clue as to what she wants. Don't be oblivious!



Joe Martin
Mr. Boffo - Unclear On the Concept

Don't Ruff With a Natural Trump Trick

By Gordon Campbell

Early in October, I was playing with Dan Bertrand in a European Bridge League match against a Polish team. I was not playing sharply and had already tossed 6 IMPs by going down in a simple 2♥ partial.

A bridge player must always shake off a bad result and must not let it linger in the memory absorbing neurons needed for the next problem. Sadly this is easier said than done.

In 4th seat, at equal vulnerability I picked up:

♠J10943 ♥AK872 ♦--- ♣J106

I was looking forward to overbidding(!!) with this nice hand, when the auction surprisingly went 2♠ on my left, 4♠ on my right. "This is going down", I said to myself, but unfortunately, I couldn't double as that would be for takeout.

I should add that 2♠ showed a 5-card major and 4⁺-card minor with 7-11 HCP - a common convention in Europe. To take care of all the 6-card weak major hands, the Multi 2♦ opening is used.

Partner led the ♣2 showing an odd number of cards. Dummy was tabled and this is what I saw:

Contract: 4♠

Lead: ♣2

<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W ■ E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> S </div> </div>	<p>♠ KQ2 ♥ Q3 ♦ AQ1072 ♣ K85</p>
<p>♠ J10943 ♥ AK872 ♦ --- ♣ J106</p>	

I was pleased to see two high spade honours on my right, which guaranteed me two trump tricks. Declarer won the ♣A in hand, led a spade towards dummy, then stopped to consider the bad break. I should also have stopped. I was confidently expecting two heart tricks and two spade tricks. I was still thinking about that 2♥ partial!! Declarer rattled off the top three trump tricks, ending in his hand and led a diamond to the Queen.

I ruffed without thought and cashed two heart tricks. Oops! Only one heart survived! I could no longer beat the contract. I should have pitched something, anything, instead of trumping the ♦Q. Declarer would then be stuck in dummy with no way back to his hand to repeat the finesse other than

shortening his trumps by ruffing a club. My trumps would then outnumber declarer's. The full deal:

<p>♠ A8765 ♥ 10 ♦ J8643 ♣ A4</p>	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W ■ E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> S </div> </div>	<p>♠ KQ2 ♥ Q3 ♦ AQ1072 ♣ K85</p>
<p>♠ J10943 ♥ AK872 ♦ --- ♣ J106</p>		

It is a well-known rule: "Never ruff with a natural trump trick unless declarer's side suit losers are about to disappear." As always, no rule is 100%, but this one is probably 95%. Back to school for me for not taking the time to think about declarer's distribution and the location of high cards.

Declarer misplayed by not leading the ♦J for the finesse (if he had done so, refusing to ruff wouldn't have helped me). This was his third mistake. The first was assuming his contract was an easy make and therefore not planning for bad breaks. The second mistake was not winning the opening club lead with the ♣K to preserve the Ace.

Once the bad trump break is revealed, declarer can't afford to blithely play three rounds of trump and THEN work on diamonds. What if the diamond finesse loses? South will pull all the trumps and the defense can cash their heart tricks at will. Instead, declarer can use the ♣A to enter his hand to take the diamond finesse (and must lead the ♦J).

At the other table a spirited auction led to our partners playing in 4♠x on a heart lead. Declarer ruffed the second round of hearts and, like his counterpart at our table, failed to consider the consequences of a horrible trump break. Once declarer is tapped, he must start on diamonds right away, leading the ♦J for a finesse. The ♠2 in dummy protects declarer from being tapped in hearts a second time, and, if necessary, the ♣A entry can be used to pull the third round of trumps.

This board cost us 16 IMPs. If I had defended properly and our partners had made 4♠x we would have won 13 IMPs! We won the match, which tends to cover up errors, but I thought I should 'fess up.

Ethics at the Bridge Table

By Frank Ayer

I have been a bridge player for most of my life and also a club owner, director, and teacher. I have experienced many situations at the table. My BBO profile says, "If it's no fun, why bother?" In this article, I will not talk about common problems like lead out turn, insufficient bid, or revoke; nor etiquette for the most part. My intent is to discuss some things that occur rarely or that may not have a well known or uncomplicated remedy or ... some things that just bug me.

Failure to alert

The proper procedure corrects the failure without giving partner unauthorized information (UI). If you are declarer or dummy, inform the defenders that there has been a failure to alert after the auction is finished and before the opening lead. Once the auction is over, either player may explain the alert. If you are a defender, announce the failure to alert after the play is finished; do not announce it while your partner still has decisions to make in the hand. **Call the director** if there is any possibility of damage. You can ask about a bid at your turn to bid or play but it is unethical to ask about a non-alerted bid with the possibility of pointing it out to partner. Such information is UI for partner. If it later turns out that the bid should have been alerted, **call the director**.

Incorrect explanation of an alert

Similar to above, avoid unauthorized information: declarer and dummy correct the misinformation after the auction and before the opening lead, defenders after the play is over.

Bridgemates

If you leave the table between rounds, advance the Bridgemate so that no one can see the scores from the previous round.

Scorecards

It is illegal to show other players (except your partner) your contracts and/or scores before the session is over. Turn your scorecard over at the table so the results are not visible.

Talking about boards

Don't do this before the session is over. I only bring this up because at the Toronto Nationals our next round opponents asked us what we did on a board from the previous round. If it happened to me, it could happen to you. I told him I could not discuss any hand before the session was over.

Lessons at the table

Do not tell opponents how they should have played the hand unless they ask. A short comment to partner to clear up a partnership misunderstanding is okay. Partner's declarer play is not a topic for partnership discussion.

Bad behaviour

Zero Tolerance should solve this annoyance but you have to, **call the director**. Do not be afraid to call the director ... people know when they are misbehaving (at least I do).

Non-verbal gestures

Do not show displeasure with partner by scowling or squirming. Do not re-sort your hand in plain view. Do not fold up your hand during the auction and place it face-down on the table to indicate you believe the auction is over. Even if partner notices your actions, he is not allowed to consider them when deciding what to do. If an opponent displays such a performance you are fully justified in calling the director.

Skip bids

Although there are no longer "Stop" cards and players are not expected to announce, "I am about to make a skip bid, please wait", players are still required to pause and consider an action. A quick pass suggests to your partner that your hand is not interested in acting over the skip bid. This pause should happen over any and all skips in the auction even auctions such as 1NT (pass) 3NT.

Maintain an even tempo

A noticeable change in tempo (a break in tempo or BIT), during the auction or on defence, can suggest you had alternate bids or plays available. This information is UI to partner but fair game for the opponents, at their own risk. During the auction, try to plan a course of action so that you can bid in tempo; on defence consider ahead of time whether you will play the Ace or duck with Axx if and when declarer leads toward dummy's KJx.

The Directors' and Caddies' last names are all "Please"

Call the director with "Director Please" and hold up your arm and keep it up until Director Please indicates he is on his way to your table. Call for a caddy by loudly saying "Caddy Please" and holding the boards over your head until Caddy Please retrieves them. Tell Caddy Please if you have special instructions: no boards needed, need board four, etc.

Slow play

Bridge, like chess, is a timed event and there are penalties for failing to complete a round within the allotted time. The penalties are not as severe as in chess (loss of game) and are seldom enforced but players finishing a round late should move quickly for the next round. **Call the director** if the pair ahead of you is continually late finishing a round.

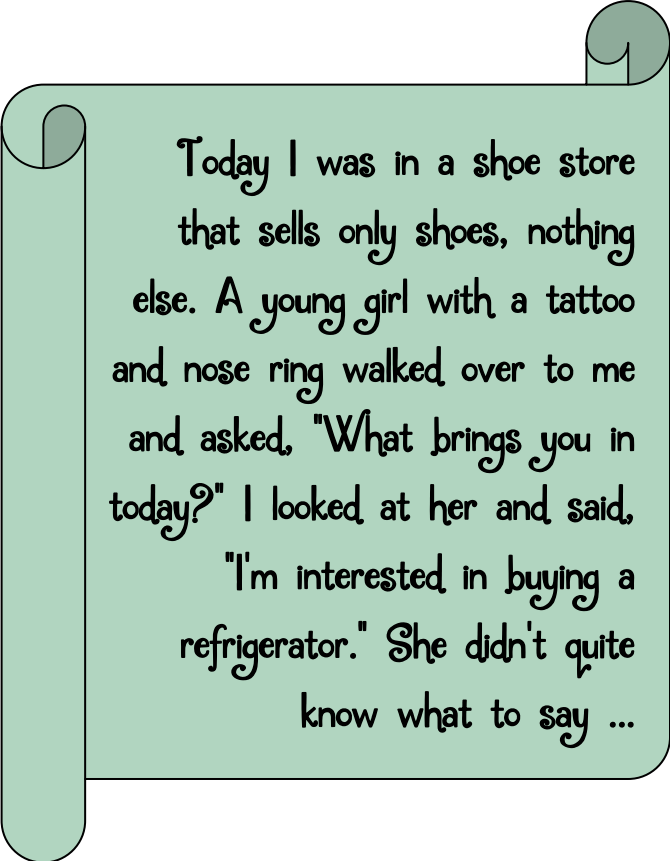
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Ethics at the Bridge Table (continued)

Making a claim

Claiming has been corrupted by online bridge and many face-to-face players have forgotten or don't know the proper procedure. As declarer, unless conceding all the remaining tricks, place your hand face up on the table so that both defenders can see all of the remaining cards. Mention any trumps in the opponents' hands and state which tricks you will take and how you will take them. If the defenders do not agree, the hand may be played out with declarer's hand face up (this is a recent change). If there is still a problem **call the director**. You may claim as a defender, either conceding the remaining tricks or claiming additional trick(s). The procedure is the same as above. Be careful with this one though, as declarer may see a squeeze or endplay after he knows your hand.

Bridge is played for several and varied personal reasons but is, above all, a social activity. Please be kind and nice to other players. It's not difficult and after three hours you can revert to your normal self. **Enjoy your game.**



Today I was in a shoe store that sells only shoes, nothing else. A young girl with a tattoo and nose ring walked over to me and asked, "What brings you in today?" I looked at her and said, "I'm interested in buying a refrigerator." She didn't quite know what to say ...

Fall 2024 Bid 'n Play

By Delores Hedley, PR Chair

The fall session (September, October) Supervised Bid 'n Play is going exceptionally well and is due to wind up on Halloween afternoon. Many new players have participated this time around and the return of those from previous programs has resulted in a consistent turnout of six or seven tables each day.

With a handful of sessions remaining, I am confident we will hit eight or nine tables at least once before we wrap up for the season. This is causing a bit of a problem although it is a great problem to have. I am short of helpers.

In my perfect world, there would be one experienced player at each table to allow them to help with bidding and with play of the hand. Unfortunately, the wonderful volunteers that do come have to run between tables and are unable to help as much as they would like. I am now having some of the more advanced attendees help the less experienced.

I so enjoy Bid 'n Play! To watch friendships develop; to see partnerships being made; to see a new person (nervous, scared ...) talking and laughing before the day is out; to see improvements in their bridge ... and to see 23 of them enter Partner's DBC Erin Berry Rookie Master Game and, what's more, to see nine of them place (thank you Brian Johns, for running this game). All this gives me a deep sense of pride.

The Bid 'n Play program contributes to the growth of bridge in Calgary by helping to increase Unit membership, increase attendance at the clubs (particularly at the one and only 299'er game ... hint, hint) and increase attendance at sectionals. In addition, Bid 'n Play is important to the Bridge Centre which received \$444.00 for the September sessions, and will receive an estimated \$750.00 in October. There is absolutely no downside.

Thank You

A big thank you to all the wonderful volunteers ... I could not do it without you: Karen Mitchell, Jan McLeod,

Thank You

Dave Ross, Paulette McWilliam, Gerry Marchant, Michele Hyndman,

Thank You

Susan McMahan, Nancy Brooks, Cathy Brewer, Agnes Maze, Dave Marchant and Stephen Paul.

Thank you also to teachers Freda Nychkalo, Nancy Klym, Sandra Evans, Jane Lamont and Antara Keelor. You feed the success of Bid 'n Play.

If I run a Spring session (April, May and June), I hope more members will consider helping out.

Delores

Tell No Tales

By Judith Gartaganis

It's an unwritten rule. Stories that begin "You'll never believe what my partner did ..." are best left untold. The same goes for tales about your teammates' exploits. Telling stories on yourself ... that's different. Not only is it OK, it is welcomed!

So ... you'll never believe what happened to me a few months ago. Nicholas and I were in Toronto for the NABC, and we had been added to a "mixed" team for the Roth Open Swiss Teams which ran over the final three days of the tournament. We qualified to Day 2 (Semi-Finals) just barely in the top two-thirds of the field (40 out of 63), and were fighting to make it to the Sunday Finals.

In the next to last match of the day, this deal came along.

Our side was vulnerable versus not and I held:

♠ AKJ ♥ J6 ♦ AK964 ♣ A32

Just your everyday 20 HCPs! The auction started 3♠ by RHO. Nasty opponent! I had no problem bidding 3NT ... to be honest, nothing else crossed my mind. The lead was the ♥A and I anxiously awaited dummy, hoping for at least some heart length there. Even 10xxx would be enough.

Contract: 3NT

Lead: ♥A

♠ 104
♥ 9
♦ QJ10532
♣ QJ84

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

♠ AKJ
♥ J6
♦ AK964
♣ A32

Ouch! The ♥K followed at trick two and RHO showed out. The opening leader was about to cash nine, count 'em, nine tricks. That is the most number of tricks someone has ever taken on opening lead against me!

This fellow looked like the kind of guy who was about to painstakingly take his hearts, one by one. I wanted none of that, so I quickly said "Take your hearts, I have the rest when you are done, I'll keep winners in every suit." That amounted to down five for -500. And cold for 5♦ to boot!

I must have looked crushed, for Nicholas, being a supportive partner, said " Don't worry, Judy. You made the normal bid."

Three boards later it was time to compare with our teammates. Board 18: "-500", we said. "Win 3". "Don't you have 600 scored on the wrong side?" "No, we were +600." "How?"

I can't stand it ... this story is just so good that I have to break the unwritten rule. You'll never believe what our teammates did!

The first two bids in the auction were the same at both tables. But then things took a turn ... in fact, a 180 (or maybe even a 270) turn!

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
3NT	DBL!	4♦!!	3♠
4♥!!!	All Pass		Pass

West, on lead with his nine hearts, doubled 3NT while at the same time whipping out his calculator. North made a natural takeout to 4♦, but South thought it was a transfer. North had no reason to think that South hadn't bid 3NT based on a long running heart suit.

This time around, West came to his senses ... no double! So, the result was 4♥, down six for +600.

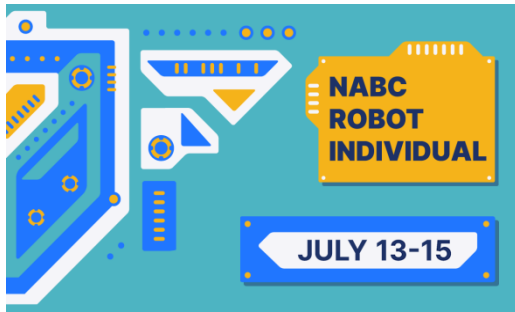
Here is the full hand:

♠ 3	♠ 104	♠ Q987652
♥ AKQ1085432	♥ 9	♥ 7
♦ 8	♦ QJ10532	♦ 7
♣ 76	♣ QJ84	♣ K1095

♠ AKJ	♠ 104	
♥ J6	♥ 9	
♦ AK964	♦ QJ10532	
♣ A32	♣ QJ84	

What is it they say ... some day you're a bug and some days you're the windshield.

The whole team had a good laugh and we went on to qualify for the Day 3 Final.



Summer 2024

The Summer Robot Individual was held July 13 - 15, 2024 as a prelude to the Toronto NABC. The first Robot Individual was held in the Summer of 2017, and the rotation has been Spring-Summer-Fall ever since. This was the 22nd time the event was played.

The NABC Robot Individual is a 3-day stratified online duplicate 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.

Participation was down over 20% compared to Summer 2023, with just over 1,800 participants completing the 2024 tournament. The winner scored over 72%!

Eleven Unit 390 members competed in the event. **Hailong Yu** was the top performer from Unit 390, with a three-day average score of 61.23%.

The robots used are GIB bots playing a modified 2/1 system. 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. The GIBs are not like any human partner you are likely to have (at least we hope not!). 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 23 - 25, 2025, ahead of the Las Vegas NABC.

Be on the lookout for dates of free practice tournaments scheduled for the weekends leading up to the event.

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](https://www.acbl.org/tournament) and select "Find a Tournament"



Calgary 299er Sectional	October 26, 2024
District 18 NAP Final - Flights A and C (online)	November 2, 2024
District 18 NAP Final - Flight B (online)	November 9, 2024
Calgary New Year's Sectional	January 3 - 5, 2025
District 18 GNT Final - all Flights (online)	March 28 - 29, 2025
Calgary Spring Sectional	April 4 - 6, 2025
Victoria Regional	April 7 - 13, 2025
Canadian Bridge Championships (Toronto)	April 14 - 20, 2025
Calgary Fall Sectional	August 29 - 31, 2025

The Kibitzer - October 2024



2024 Canadian Bridge Championships Unit 390 Players Capture CNTC-B Title



The 2024 Canadian Bridge Championships (CBC) playoff rounds were held June 10th - June 16th, 2024 in Penticton B.C., in parallel with the popular Penticton Regional tournament.

Playoffs were held for six national team events:

- Canadian National Teams, Flights A, B and C (CNTC)
- Canadian Senior Teams (CSTC)
- Canadian Women's Teams (CWTC)
- Canadian Mixed Teams (CMTC)

In addition, two national pairs events ... the Canadian Open Pairs (COPC) and the Canadian IMP Pairs (CIPC) ... were scheduled. Registration in those two events was poor. In fact, the CIPC was cancelled due to lack of participation, while just 22 pairs entered the COPC.

The round robins of all the major team events had been played online in advance, with the qualifiers in each category advancing to the face-to-face playoffs.

While Unit 390 was well represented at the Regional, only a handful of players from Unit 390 qualified for competition in the CBC playoffs. However, one team managed to put Calgary in the spotlight.

The team of Yi Peng (Mark) Mai, Qi (Quincy) Ju and Runan Du, all from Calgary, along with Edmonton import Xiaodong (Jeff) Zhao made the trip to play in the Canadian National Teams Flight B playoffs. Three other teams also attended, so the event began with the Semi-Finals.

Team Zhao defeated Team Levesque in the Semi-Finals, leading to an all-Alberta Final, with Team Zhao pitted against Team Klimowicz of Edmonton. Our home town team ran away with the title, winning 170 to 88 in the 56-board Final.

Congratulations to Mark, Quincy, Runan and Jeff on their victory.



(L to R): Runan Du, Mark Mai, Quincy Du and Jeff Zhao

In other news from the CBC, Gordon Campbell, a member of Team Findlay, bowed out in the CNTC-A Quarter-Finals and Steven Lawrence of Team Spier lost in the Semi-Finals of the CSTC.

The knockout stage of the 2025 Canadian Bridge Championships has been scheduled to run in Toronto on April 14th to April 20th, in conjunction with the Toronto Easter Regional. The round robin stages of all team events will be played online in January and February. You can read more at <https://cbf.ca/2025-canadian-bridge-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 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/>