



President's Message

Director!! We have all heard that call at the table. It can cause trepidation for a new player or simple resolve for an experienced veteran ... and a myriad of everything in between to the rest of us. Calling the director to rule on inconsistencies is just part of the game. We have all heard "the director is your friend" and one such friendly encounter took place at my table not too long ago.

At a local club game, my partner and I were up against a pair of novice players. In this situation, we make the effort to be as kind and fair as possible.

I was declarer in a 4♥ contract and left-hand opponent (LHO) led the ♦K. I took the trick with the ♦A and proceeded to pull trumps by laying down the ♥A. LHO played the ♦3. Oh-oh, a 5-0 split in trumps. After re-evaluating my hand, I played another trump from dummy and RHO followed. LHO excitedly said, "oh, hearts were led, I have a heart".

Director!

Arriving at the table, the kindly director can easily see the situation and LHO's hand. He tells LHO to play a heart and leave the ♦3 on the table, explaining that is a penalty card and must be played at the first available, legal opportunity.

We have reached trick three and I play another trump, the ♥K. LHO lays down the ♣2. The director, who is still present, says "no, you must play the diamond", so LHO plops down the ♦9. The director says "NO, not that diamond", and before you know it, a frantic LHO, in the blink of an eye, lays down the ♦Q. The director says "STOP, Stop, Stop". Then the director tells everyone, "take a deep breath" (and he does too). He instructs LHO to put his hand face down on the table and not to play another card unless specifically told to do so.

At trick three, there are a lot of cards exposed on the table! Declarer's ♥K and LHO's ♦3, ♣2, ♦9, ♦Q.

The director instructs LHO to "play the ♦3".

I play two more rounds of trump, clearing RHO of the suit and taking the ♣2 and ♦9 from LHO. This leaves LHO with just the ♦Q as the remaining penalty card.

What should I do next? Obviously LHO was hoping to set up his ♦Q by leading the ♦K at trick one. So, I generously play a small diamond, giving LHO his deserved trick.

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President's Message (continued)

I make my contract with one overtrick for an average board. Yes, I had a way to make two overtricks for a top by forcing LHO to discard his ♦Q, but it made me happier showing leniency to my LHO, who was, after all, just learning the game.

Additionally, the director has a little story to tell now about the number of penalty cards that were on the table by trick three. It's always fun when you can show kindness and at the same time entertain and challenge the director.

Cynthia Clark
President, ACBL Unit 390
May 2025



COUNTING THE CARDS

from "The Fireside Book of Cards" (pg 16)

Among the many remarkable coincidences recorded in connection with the standard deck of playing cards, none is more remarkable than this: The number of letters in the names of the cards is exactly 52, the same as the number of cards in the deck, not only in English but in many other languages as well:

English		French		Dutch		Swedish		German	
ace	3	as	2	aas	3	ess	3	as	2
two	3	deux	4	twee	4	tvaa	4	zwei	4
three	5	trois	5	drie	4	trea	4	drei	4
four	4	quatre	6	vier	4	fyra	4	vier	4
five	4	cing	4	vyf	3	fem	5	funf	4
six	3	six	3	zes	3	sexa	4	sechs	4
seven	5	sept	4	zeven	5	ajua	4	sieben	6
eight	5	huit	4	acht	4	atta	4	acht	3
nine	4	neuf	4	negen	5	nia	3	neun	4
ten	3	dix	3	tien	4	tia	3	zehn	4
jack	4	valet	5	boer	4	knekt	5	Bube	4
queen	5	reine	5	vrouw	5	dam	3	Dame	4
king	4	roi	3	heer	4	konung	6	Konig	5
TOTAL	52		52		52		52		52

Note that in French the queen must be reine (whereas she is most often referred to as la dame) and that, in German, the count is correct only if the digraph ch is counted as a single letter.

The Fireside Book of Cards, Oswald Jacoby and Albert Morehead, ed., Simon and Schuster, New York 1957

2024 Alberta Sectionals Masterpoint Race

Final Standings

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	33.53	Dan Dover	Calgary AB
29	33.36	Qi (Quincy) Ju	Calgary AB
30	32.27	Kathleen Harvey	Edmonton 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

Supervised Bid & Play Program

By Delores Hedley, PR Chair

Everyone involved with the Supervised Bid & Play program is absolutely bursting with pride at our success. On any given Thursday you will see 40 to 50 wannabe bridge players having a great time learning, playing, practicing and ... most importantly ... giving duplicate bridge a try and venturing into the 299er games, both at the Bridge Centre and at Unit sectionals.

So far, we have signed up 32 new ACBL members and we have nine more with guest memberships.

Supervised Bid & Play will continue to run indefinitely, Thursdays 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please note that we are going to take a two-week break before and during Stampede.

We feel it is important to keep the momentum going, and we also believe it very important to have the program available anytime lessons are in progress. Many thanks to bridge teachers Antara Keeler, Jane Lamont and Freda Nychkalo for promoting the program.

The program is 100% dependent on volunteers. Karen Mitchell and I first had the idea of starting a Supervised Bid & Play program, but it is the volunteers who are making it work. And more volunteers are badly needed to keep the program working.

As a volunteer mentor, a commitment to a particular day, time or duration is not necessary. Just drop in when you have a day or even an hour or two available. The people who come to the Bid & Play are beginners. They need help with the basics (Standard Yellow Card). If you are a duplicate bridge player, you have something to offer.

Karen and I ... and all the participants ... can't adequately convey our appreciation to these volunteers who come when they can. Thank you!



May 1 Action



Dan Dover	Michele Hyndman	Ted Lobley
Gerry Marchant	Dave Marchant	Agnes Maze
Jan McLeod	Susan McMahon	Paulette McWilliam
Jim Murphy	Freda Nychkalo	John Prance
Dave Ross	Corliss Ward	Barbara Webster
Richard Weinberger		Garth Wiggins

Volunteers, pat yourselves on the back!

Delores

Member Milestones

The following members have reached new masterpoint milestones from the beginning of October 2024 to the end of March 2025. Congratulations to all on their achievements.



New Junior Masters (5+ MPs):

Felix Boucher	Theresa Palser
Gray Graves	Nancy Penner
Rosalie Howard	Leslie Randell
Christine McGovern	Joann Schwager
Larry McGovern	Karen Serafini
Myrna Michieli	Sergii Shapovalov
Jennifer Munn	Les Sherwood
Pamela Nugent	John Spence

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

Betty Carrier	Nok Yin (Jim) Lee
Michelle Crone	Helen Miles
Kendra Evans	Carol Poland
Elaine Ford	Elizabeth Schweighardt
Earle Harris	Charles (Tony) Teare
Hai Hu	Diane Wilkinson
Christina Larkins	Liz Williamson

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

Louis Auger	Stephanie Martinez
Anka Bonyai	Genevieve McLean
Catherine Brewer	Andrea McManus
Nancy Brooks	Donna Michael
Blair Davies	Janet Quiring
Brenda Davies	Susan Ruf
Celia Gaudet	Judith Smith
Anna Liu	Cheryl Whittaker
Jerry Malone	

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

John Frank	Colleen Rogers
Zhengshan Li	Christa Simmonds
David Marchant	David Spence
Lee Misura	Jennifer Teare
Linda Prenioslo	Cheryl Whittaker

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

Vincenzo Botha	Qi (Quincy) Ju
Brad Bowyer	Dmitry Komin
Craig Bowyer	Sylvia Nazar
Patrick Butler	Robert Scott

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

Qi (Quincy) Ju	David Stepature
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New Life Masters (500+ MPs with at least 75 black, 75 silver, 50 gold or platinum and 50 additional red, gold or platinum):

Dave Brett	Norman Webb
Yi Peng (Mark) Mai	

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

Ken Anderson	Yi Peng (Mark) Mai
Sharon Dalton	

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

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

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

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

Stephanie McAdam

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

The next edition is scheduled to be out in October 2025.

2025 Rookie Master Team Game

By Brad Bowyer, Special Events Chair

"Bridging the Gap!"



This year's Rookie-Master event was a great opportunity for newer and more experienced players to come together in a relaxed and supportive setting. Each team consisted of two pairs, each containing a "rookie" (under 50 masterpoints) and a more seasoned "master".

While it's common for rookies to feel a bit hesitant about partnering with much more experienced players, this event proved -- once again -- that it's a fun, friendly experience where a mutual love of the game of bridge helps players relax. Masters are not only happy to share their knowledge, but genuinely enjoy the chance to meet and play with others who are just starting out.

Because rookies and masters typically play in different sections, it is rare for them to have a chance to interact at the table. This event helps "bridge that gap", and it's always encouraging to see some familiar faces at future tournaments as a result.

On to the results. An unexpected highlight occurred when it turned out that two rookies had inadvertently been left off the registration list. It was a panic to put together a last-minute team and two masters were desperately needed. A big thank you goes to Gail Godwin for stepping in to join yours truly on the master side.

A total of 21 teams participated. The event was stratified with a team's flight being determined according to the average masterpoints for the four players.

It was meant to be! The "last-minute team" ... Sandy Fletcher and Gail Godwin paired with Kathy Goodwin and Brad Bowyer ... claimed the top of the podium!

Special thanks to Delores Hedley for all her help with the event, and to everyone -- rookies and masters -- who took part. We appreciate your enthusiasm and support, and we're already looking forward to next year's Rookie-Master!



"Time to find your places!"

Overall Results

FLT A	FLT B	FLT C	
1	1		Gail Godwin, Kathy Goodwin, Brad Bowyer, Sandy Fletcher
2	2		Brian Saville, Andrea McManus, Joy Saville, Jodie Winquist
3			Keith Falkenberg, Les Sherwood, Janice Eliasson, Valerie Sherwood
6	3		Jo-Ann Horne, Miriam Daniel, Marilyn Warne, Stephanie Martinez
	4	1	Dave Marchant, Ross Galway, Dave Ross, Don Ross
	5	2	Audrey Mactier, Donna Michael, Susan Stanley, Mel Tegtmeyer
		3/4	Pat Anderson, Jennifer Munn, Ken Anderson, Myrna Michieli
		3/4	Betty Fenton, Bev Krahn, Larry Fenton, Leslie Randall

Intuition Can Be a Good Thing

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Playing in a Swiss team event, at equal non-vulnerable, you pick up:

♠AJ986 ♥AQ8543 ♦87 ♣---

This hand has nice potential, but you are disappointed when RHO opens 1NT (12-14) in first seat. You overcall 2♦ showing spades plus another suit (Astro!). Your overcall agreements are even older than you are and were popular when everyone played strong 2-bids. LHO bids 2NT (Lebensohl – his partner must bid 3♣ and then LHO will describe his hand). Partner passes, RHO bids 3♣ (as requested) and you introduce your second suit with 3♥. LHO passes and partner bids 3NT. This is an unwelcome development. You have no intention of letting partner play 3NT when you hold 11 cards in the majors. When you bid 4♥, everyone passes and LHO leads the ♦3.

This has been the auction:

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

¹ spades plus another suit

² Lebensohl

³ as requested by partner

You finally get to see dummy:

IMPs

Contract: 4♥

Lead: ♦3

♠ 54
♥ 72
♦ AK942
♣ Q985

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

♠ AJ986
♥ AQ8543
♦ 87
♣ --

Partner's 3NT bid was entirely reasonable and you are grateful that she passed 4♥ rather than correcting to 4♠. It's clear that LHO's Lebensohl bid was predicated on a long minor. He could have long clubs and be short in diamonds or long clubs and some length in diamonds. It's too early to tell.

You have to develop tricks in both majors so you win the diamond and start by leading the ♠4 to your nine. LHO wins the ♠K and continues the ♦5. On the first round RHO played the ♦6 and followed with the ♦10 on the second round. Diamonds appear to be 3-3. You are in the dummy, quite possibly for the last time, and you need to decide what to do.

Assuming LHO has six clubs and three diamonds, then he has only four cards in the majors. How are those four cards distributed?

Let's examine the possibilities (remember, LHO has already shown up with one spade):

- three spades plus one heart
- two spades plus two hearts
- one spade plus three hearts

In possibility #1, if you finesse in spades again, then you are certainly going to lose three heart tricks (in this case, RHO will be known to have three spades, three diamonds and three clubs, so must hold four hearts).

On the other hand, if you take a winning heart finesse now and then play on spades, one of three things can happen:

- You play ♠A and ruff a spade, all following (possibility #1). Hearts must be split 1-4 and you will lose only two trump tricks to RHO
- You play ♠A, but when you try to ruff a spade, LHO ruffs in front of dummy (possibility #2). LHO must be 2-2 in the majors and he will not have another heart to return, so you will have time to ruff another spade to set them up, and will lose only one more trump trick to RHO
- Your ♠A gets ruffed (possibility #3) and LHO leads his last heart to remove dummy's trump. You don't lose any more trump tricks, but will have to lose two spades tricks to RHO

You can't see any way to make the contract if possibility #3 exists.

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Intuition Can Be a Good Thing (continued)

In the scenario for possibility #2, if you time the play incorrectly (i.e. try to ruff a spade before taking the heart finesse) then LHO might be able to ruff the third round of spades in front of dummy and exit a minor, leaving himself with his second trump. There will be no path to 10 tricks unless LHO's remaining heart cannot beat dummy's ♥7.

Backing your analysis you play a heart to the queen (♥J from LHO) and continue with the ♠A and another spade, ruffing in dummy, both opponents following. You ruff a club to hand and cash the ♥A. LHO shows out and you have to give up two heart tricks; however, the defense gets only two hearts and one spade so the contract is made.

The full deal was:

♠ K72	♥ J	♦ Q53	♣ J76432	♠ 54	♥ 72	♦ AK942	♣ Q985	♠ Q103	♥ K1096	♦ J106	♣ AK10
				<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 80px; 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				
N											
W E											
S											
				♠ AJ986	♥ AQ8543	♦ 87	♣ --				

You congratulate partner on making the winning decision to pass 4♥, but are curious as to her reasoning. She smiles, and answers "intuition".

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-2025-tournaments/>

Calgary 299er Sectional	May 10, 2025
Edmonton Sectional	May 23 - 25, 2025
Calgary Labour Day Sectional	August 29 - 31, 2025
Lethbridge Sectional and concurrent NLM Regional	Sept. 19 - 21, 2025
Edmonton Sectional	October 17 - 19, 2025
Penticton Regional	June 10 - 15, 2025
Saskatoon Regional	July 7 - 13, 2025
Red Deer Regional	August 11 - 17, 2025



A Self-Destructive Weak Two

By Gordon Campbell (and Allan Simon)

Allan Simon emailed me this hand a couple of weeks ago with an electronic grin. Allan has difficulty using a keyboard, so we collaborated for this article, though it is hard for me to convey his great sense of humour. Allan was playing with Daniel Bertrand.

Let's begin by looking at all four hands.

IMPs
East/West vulnerable
Dealer: West
Contract: 2♦
Lead: ♠2

♠ 1072 ♥ A1096 ♦ KJ53 ♣ K10	<table border="1" style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; width: 80px; height: 80px; 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	♠ AKQ54 ♥ 8742 ♦ -- ♣ Q987	♠ 863 ♥ QJ ♦ A107 ♣ A5432
N						
W ■ E						
S						

The auction was dull:

Simon		Bertrand	
<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
	2♦	All Pass	

West, with his chunky diamond suit (!), opened 2♦, a poor choice given the unfavourable vulnerability. Everybody else passed (as West should have!).

It is understandable why neither Allan nor Dan competed over the 2♦ pre-empt. With minimum values, length in diamonds and relative shortness in the majors staying quiet was the best option.

East obviously didn't like 2♦ but, although there is some argument for East to bid 2♠, bidding risked getting into a worse mess. There is a popular saying in bridge ... "don't dig the hole you are in any deeper".

Dan led the ♠2. Declarer won in dummy (not the ♠J in hand). Rather than try for an immediate pitch (the lead had convinced him that spades were not breaking 3-3),

declarer decided to lead a club towards his jack. This turned out to be an ill-conceived line of play. Allan hopped up with the ♣A and made the obvious shift to the ♥Q.

From there, let's examine how the defense ended up taking 11 tricks!

Trick 3: Allan's ♥Q held the trick

Trick 4: Allan continued with the ♥J, covered by the ♥K and won by the ♥A

Trick 5: Dan cashed the ♥10 while Allan pitched the ♠6

Trick 6: Dan cashed the ♥9 as Allan pitched his last spade and declarer ruffed with the ♦2

Trick 7: At this point declarer knew he was in trouble and, hoping to extract two of the opponents' diamonds for one of his, he led the ♦9. Dan played low and Allan won the ♦10

Trick 8: Allan led a club over to Dan's ♣K

Trick 9: Allan ruffed Dan's continuation of the ♠7 with the ♦7 as declarer helplessly followed with the ♠J

Trick 10: Allan continued club, declarer sending just the ♦4 to do the trumping job, and Dan was able to over-ruff with the ♦5

Trick 11: Now Dan led his last spade and Allan ruffed with the ♦A. Declarer had to under-ruff!

This left Dan sitting with the ♦KJ over declarer's ♦Q8 for tricks 12 and 13.

Declarer managed to take only two tricks. Down six meant the good guys scored +600. West scored just one trump trick while the defense took six! Admittedly declarer's line of play could not have been worse! Had it been a face-to-face encounter, Dan and Allan would have had difficulty avoiding a chuckle. Sometimes online bridge has its benefits.

Post-Mortem:

Aggressive preempts can put considerable pressure on the opponents and deflect them from reaching their best contract. However, at unfavourable vulnerability, suit quality should be paramount. Note that J109876 has only 1 HCP but is guaranteed to take three trump tricks. If you want to open a weak 2-bid with a bad suit, you must accept the fact that the opponents might just leave you there and have a good chuckle at the end.

Exclusion Keycard Blackwood (What is it and why use it?)

By Janet Galbraith

Many of us use various versions of the Blackwood convention to ask for aces or key cards, and to show various responses. Some of you are familiar with answering 5NT or 6♣/6♦ to show your key cards plus a void. But what if you are the person who has the void? We have all been taught that we cannot (well, should not) ask for aces if we have a void or two small in a suit. Enter Exclusion Keycard Blackwood.

What is Exclusion Keycard Blackwood?

This convention is an advanced bidding tool, developed as an extension of the traditional Blackwood convention. It allows players to ask for key cards while excluding the ace of a specific suit, typically because you have a void in that suit and do not want to get confused by a standard 4NT Keycard ask. This method was created to address situations where the presence of a void could skew the counting of key cards and lead to disasters in slam bidding.

When employing this convention, a player bypasses asking for the ace of the void suit and instead focuses on the remaining aces and key cards. Responses to this convention are usually (0 - 3)/(1 - 4), since it is most likely that your less than helpful partner will have zero key cards. However, you can also use 1430 responses -- (1 - 4)/(0 - 3) -- and you can use it with regular Blackwood responses as well, just showing aces. When filling out a Convention Card with your partner, if you agree to play Exclusion, make sure you ask what version of responses they play – getting this backward at such a high level of bidding will inevitably lead to disaster!

How do you bid Exclusion Keycard Blackwood?

Exclusion Keycard most often involves a double jump in a suit higher than your agreed trump suit and is above the game level in your suit. You will make this jump into the suit in which you have a void, and partner will respond with the number of key cards they have outside that suit. For players just learning the game, be aware that an Exclusion jump can look like a splinter (which is a bid that showing shortness but made below game) except it is a level higher than your game.

For example, 1♠ - 2♠ - 4♥ is a splinter, but 1♠ - 2♠ - 5♥ is Exclusion.

There are other times Exclusion can be used. If a jump to the 5-level is made, and is above your agreed upon trump suit, it is Exclusion. Even if you have not agreed upon a trump suit, such a jump should be considered Exclusion. If you make a Texas transfer, and then bid 4♠ or 5 of a minor, it is Exclusion.

Some Examples of Exclusion Keycard Auctions

Example #1

1♦ - 1♥

2♥ - ?

4♠ shows a void in spades and asks for key cards

5♣ shows a void in clubs and asks for key cards

5♦ shows depends on partnership agreement. It is partner's opening suit, but it could also be showing a void in diamonds.

What are opener's responses over 4♠?

Responses are in steps and include NT, so:

4NT = 0 or 3 key cards outside of the spade suit

5♣ = 1 or 4 key cards outside the spade suit

5♦ = 2 key cards outside the spade suit, without the trump queen

5♥ = 2 key cards outside the spade suit, with the trump queen

If you had bid 5♣, steps would begin with 5♦ to show 0 or 3 key cards, and so on up the line.

Example #2

1NT - 4♥ (transfer to spades)

4♠ - 5♥ this is Exclusion showing a heart void. It is not "sorry partner I forgot transfers".

Example #3

1♥ - 3♥

4♠ this is Exclusion showing a spade void. ** Note that this is not a double jump, nor is it at the 5-level. Surprise! It still asks for key cards outside the spade suit, since it is above game in your suit.

Example #4

The opponents can be in the auction and the convention can still be used.

1♥ - (Pass) - 2♣ - (2♠)

3♥ - (Pass) - 4♠ (Exclusion showing a spade void)

[continued next page]

Exclusion Keycard Blackwood (continued)

<i>Example #5</i>	
2♣ - 2♦ ¹	¹ waiting
2♠ - 3♠	
5♣ ² - 5♦ ³	² Exclusion
	³ 0 or 3 key cards outside of clubs
5♥ ⁴ - 5♠ ⁵	⁴ Do you have the ♠Q?
	⁵ Nope
6♠	

<i>Example #6</i>	
1♣ - 1♦	
2♥ ¹ - 3♣	¹ strong jump shift
4♠ ² - 5♦ ³	² Exclusion
	³ 3 rd step showing 2 KCs without the ♣Q
6♣	

Why Use Exclusion Keycard?

The Exclusion Keycard Blackwood convention offers several strategic benefits, so give it a try and add it to your weapons arsenal:

- Precision in slam bidding: By excluding the void suit ace, players can more accurately assess the strength of their hands, including distribution, and decide on the potential for a slam.
- Enhanced communication: It provides clear communication between partners, reducing the chances of errors. It can be used instead of cue bidding, which can sometimes be misinterpreted.
- Flexibility in bidding: Allows for a more nuanced approach to slam exploration, catering to hands with void suits.

Unit 390 "Trophy Room" Revamped

Over the years, Unit 390 has amassed a collection of trophies and awards honouring well-known and popular members of our bridge community. Almost all these trophies were donated by family and friends of the players for whom they are named.

In 2023, after years of storing these trophies in cardboard boxes in someone's garage and struggling to bring them out once a year after polishing them up for the annual general meeting, it was decided to go virtual. Now, when you visit the Trophy Room page of the Unit website [HERE](#), you are able to peruse photos of all the trophies, read stories about the honourees and review lists of past winners.

Recently, in order to update the award criteria while still honouring the legacy they represent, the Unit Board elected to re-dedicate some of these trophies. Here is a brief list of the changes:

- **Ann Waldie Memorial Trophy** (no change): Awarded to the winners of the A/X Swiss Teams at the Unit 390 Spring Sectional.
- **John Davison Memorial Swiss Team Trophy** (re-dedicated): Awarded to the winners of the B/C Swiss Teams at the Unit 390 Spring Sectional (formerly to the winners of the A/X Swiss Teams at the annual Alberta Regional)

- **Edna Lougheed Memorial Trophy** (no change): Awarded to the winners of the A/X Pairs at the Unit 390 Fall Sectional.
- **Hattie Joffe Memorial Award** (updated): Awarded to the Unit 390 member winning the most masterpoints at the annual Alberta Summer Regional (formerly to the player winning the most masterpoints at the annual Alberta Regional)
- **Ike Landon Memorial Trophy** (no change): Awarded to the Unit 390 member winning the most masterpoints in a calendar year.
- **Jack Murphy Memorial Award** (no change): Awarded ad hoc to a deserving Unit 390 member for lifetime service to the Calgary bridge community.

In addition, the President's Award has been retired after 30 years (see note on page 22).

Two new Unit 390 masterpoint races have been established to recognize outstanding performances by members at Unit 390 sectionals. You can read more about these new awards on page 23.



2024 Ace of Clubs Races

Unit 390 Final Standings

0 to 5	1	Cheryl Whittaker	Calgary AB	20
	2	Colleen Rogers	Calgary AB	19
	3	Susan Ruf	Calgary AB	18
5 to 20	1	Anka Bonyai	Calgary AB	30
	2	Genevieve McLean	Calgary AB	21
	3/4	Brenda Davies	Okotoks AB	16
	3/4	Blair Davies	Okotoks AB	16
20 to 50	1	Quentin Krogstad	Calgary AB	38
	2	Janet Quiring	Calgary AB	30
	3	Lois Clapperton	Calgary AB	30
50 to 100	1	Dan Dover	Calgary AB	54
	2	Eric Gutland	Calgary AB	47
	3	Corliss Ward	Calgary AB	44
100 to 200	1	Sandy Shuler	Calgary AB	49
	2	Sherry Goldenberg	Calgary AB	48
	3	Sheila Morgan	Wheatland Cty AB	47
200 to 300	1	Inge French	Okotoks AB	74
	2	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	37
	3	Garry Hanson	Calgary AB	36
300 to 500	1	Dave Brett	Calgary AB	92
	2	Robert Ronca	Calgary AB	57
	3	David Stephure	Calgary AB	57
500 to 1000	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	183
	2	John Prance	Calgary AB	80
	3	Richard Wolfe	Calgary AB	73
1000 to 1500	1	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	106
	2	Ellen Kuiper	Calgary AB	88
	3	Barry Crozier	Calgary AB	88
1500 to 2500	1	Mike D Aguiar	Calgary AB	229
	2	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	152
	3	Rick Boyd	Calgary AB	103
2500 to 3500	1	Rod Hilderman	Calgary AB	169
	2	Patrick Murphy	Calgary AB	127
	3	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB	111
3500 to 5000	1	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	71
	2	Frank Ayer	Calgary AB	58
	3	Margaret Nielsen	Calgary AB	55
5000 to 7500	1	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	180
	2	David Johnson	Calgary AB	41
	3	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	22
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	170
	2	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	126
Over 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	145
	2	Gerry Marshall	Calgary	14
	3/4	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary	4
	3/4	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary	4

2024 Ace of Virtual Clubs Races

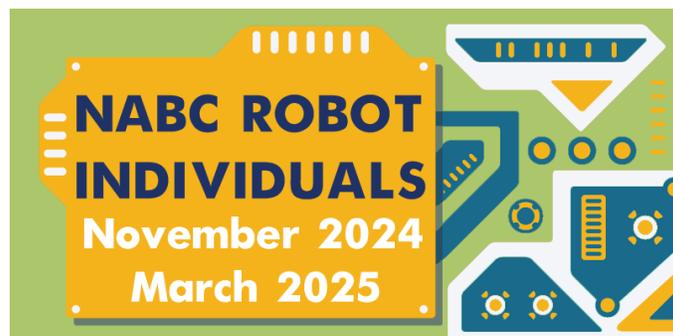
Unit 390 Final Standings

0 to 5	1/2	Rodger Conner	Canmore AB	8
	1/2	Lori Conner	Canmore AB	8
	3	Cheryl Whittaker	Calgary AB	5
5 to 20	1	Kerri Gallup	Longview AB	14
	2	Anka Bonyai	Calgary AB	4
	3	Earle Harris	Calgary AB	4
20 to 50	1	Joyce Gibson	Calgary AB	10
	2	Diane Morais	Calgary AB	7
	3	Barbara McNeil	Banff AB	6
50 to 100	1	Celia Gaudet	Calgary AB	12
	2	Linda Prenioslo	Canmore AB	8
	3	Marjory Sword	Canmore AB	5
100 to 200	1	Christine Stephure	Calgary AB	58
	2	Lana McFadden	Calgary AB	9
	3	Sherry Goldenberg	Calgary AB	7
200 to 300	1	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	42
	2	Kevin Trickett	Calgary AB	29
	3	Nadarajah Paskaran	Calgary AB	17
300 to 500	1	Philip Coppard	Calgary AB	76
	2	David Stephure	Calgary AB	63
	3	Matt Bootle	Calgary AB	44
500 to 1000	1	Morris Streich	Calgary AB	91
	2	Harvey Wiehler	Calgary AB	73
	3	Judy Madge	Calgary AB	67
1000 to 1500	1	Martine Parent	Calgary AB	110
	2	Barry Crozier	Calgary AB	96
	3	Hailong Yu	Calgary AB	76
1500 to 2500	1	Andy McKaig	Calgary AB	107
	2	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	96
	3	Tom Nault	Calgary AB	58
2500 to 3500	1	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	105
	2	Dmitry Komin	Calgary AB	76
	3	Gamil Tadros	Calgary AB	50
3500 to 5000	1	Margaret Nielsen	Calgary AB	118
	2	Stephanie McAdam	Calgary AB	97
	3	Michael Broadhurst	Calgary AB	68
5000 to 7500	1	Allan Simon	Calgary AB	42
	2	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	33
	3	David Johnson	Calgary AB	24
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	29
	2	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	24
	3	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	19
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	60
	2/3	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	1
	2/3	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	1

2024 Mini-McKenney Races

Unit 390 Final Standings

0 to 5	1	Cheryl Whittaker	Calgary AB	48
	2	Colleen Rogers	Calgary AB	44
	3	Susan Ruf	Calgary AB	27
5 to 20	1	Anka Bonyai	Calgary AB	47
	2/3	Brenda Davies	Okotoks AB	43
	2/3	Blair Davies	Okotoks AB	43
20 to 50	1	Quentin Krogstad	Calgary AB	63
	2	Barbara McNeil	Banff AB	39
	3	Janet Quiring	Calgary AB	38
50 to 100	1	Dan Dover	Calgary AB	115
	2	Eric Gutland	Calgary AB	59.
	3	Marjory Sword	Canmore AB	59
100 to 200	1	Sherry Goldenberg	Calgary AB	71
	2	Sheila Morgan	Wheatland Cty AB	68
	3	Sandy Shuler	Calgary AB	67
200 to 300	1	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	79
	2	Shuangbing (Frank) Guo	Calgary AB	76
	3	Inge French	Okotoks AB	74
300 to 500	1	David Stephure	Calgary AB	153
	2	Dave Brett	Calgary AB	112
	3	Matt Bootle	Calgary AB	94
500 to 1000	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	225
	2	John Prance	Calgary AB	179
	3	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB	157
1000 to 1500	1	Barry Crozier	Calgary AB	222
	2	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	210
	3	Cynthia Clark	Calgary AB	143
1500 to 2500	1	Mike D Aguiar	Calgary AB	526
	2	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	318
	3	Andy McKaig	Calgary AB	190
2500 to 3500	1	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB	280
	2	Terri Bedard	Calgary AB	256
	3	Rod Hilderman	Calgary AB	249
3500 to 5000	1	Yi Peng (Mark) Mai	Calgary AB	457
	2	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	300
	3	Margaret Nielsen	Calgary AB	175
5000 to 7500	1	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	353
	2	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	321
	3	David Johnson	Calgary AB	258
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	516
	2	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	244
	3	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	101
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	489
	2	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	449
	3/4	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	196
	3/4	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	196



Fall 2024 and Spring 2025

Richard Bickley Tops in Spring Flight B!

The popularity of the online NABC Robot Individuals staged by the ACBL just prior to each of the three NABC tournaments remains strong. The Robot Individual is a three-day, three-session robot duplicate event hosted by BBO.

First conducted in the Summer of 2017, there have been 24 Robot Individuals since that time. This report covers the 23rd and 24th iterations.

In Fall 2024, the event ran November 23 - 25, a few days ahead of the Las Vegas NABC. Nearly 1,990 players completed all three sessions. The winning percentage -- by a meagre 0.01% -- was 70.13%. Fifteen members from Unit 390 participated in the Fall event. **Richard Bickley** once again scored the highest percentage among Unit 390 players with an average score for the three sessions of just over 60%.

The Spring Robot Individual (which was held in advance of the Memphis NABC on March 8 - 10, 2025) reported 1,796 participants finishing the tournament and it took 68.26% to win the event. Seventeen players from Unit 390 competed.



Richard Bickley outdid his Fall performance, topping all Unit 390 participants with a three-session average score of 65.67%. That earned him 1st place in Flight B and 14th in Flight A. Richard produced two solid games (65.01% and 67.34%) to sit fourth in Flight B with one session to go. In the third and final session, he scored 64.65% to take the lead.

Congratulations, Richard, on a stellar performance.

The next Robot Individual is scheduled for July 19 - 21, 2025 just ahead of the Philadelphia NABC.

A Conundrum

By Allan Simon

Playing in the CNTC Unit Final at the Martinique (February 1991) I held this collection:

♠752 ♥A10743 ♦K10 ♣AJ5

I opened 1♥ at unfavourable vulnerability. Gord Sharp (my LHO) doubled and Juan Alvarez (my partner) bid 2♠. This showed a 4+ card fit in hearts, 8-11 HCP and shortness somewhere. Alex Knox (my RHO) joined the festivities with a 3♣ bid. Although it was unclear where partner's shortness was, it seemed likely to be clubs. I leaped to 4♥ and after two passes Alex expressed his opinion that I had overbid.

This had been the auction:

<u>Me</u>	<u>G. Sharp</u>	<u>J. Alvarez</u>	<u>A. Knox</u>
1♥	DBL	2♠ ¹	3♣
4♥	Pass	Pass	DBL

All Pass

¹ heart fit, 8-11 HCP, shortness somewhere

IMPs

Contract: 4♥x

Lead: ♣3

♠	AK83
♥	J982
♦	8643
♣	7

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

♠	752
♥	A10743
♦	K10
♣	AJ5

My partner's 2♠ bid was in range, but my prospects looked dim. I won Alex's ♣K with my ace and ruffed a club. When I led the ♥J from dummy Alex covered and I won. After ruffing another club I exited a heart. Gord took this with the King (Alex following) and continued with the ♣Q. Thus far I had lost only one trick, but how was I to avoid losing three more?

I ducked a spade, hoping for one of three possibilities:

- 1) that spades were 3-3 (as long as the defense failed to find the diamond shift through the King)
- 2) that the ♦A was onside
- 3) that my RHO (Alex) would win the initial spade trick and continue clubs, leaving the above possibilities alive with the additional chance that the club might squeeze Gord if he held four spades and the ♦A

The third chance is, in fact, the one that materialized. When I played a low spade to dummy's eight, Alex won his nine. He returned a club, not giving sufficient thought to the danger for the defense of this passive continuation. I ruffed with my penultimate trump leaving this position:

♠	AK3
♥	--
♦	86
♣	-

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

♠	75
♥	10
♦	K10
♣	--

When I ruffed, Gord seemed annoyed as he parted with the ♦9. What did I know about the hand at this point? Gord had made a takeout double and so far had shown up with one spade, two hearts, four clubs, and the one diamond he had discarded. For high cards, he had shown only the ♥K and the ♣Q. I was virtually certain that Gord had the ♦A to justify his double.

I played my last trump, Gord discarding the ♦Q.

My conundrum was whether to follow my instincts and play for a squeeze without the count (by throwing a spade and, simultaneously, insulting Alex Knox) or to play for the spade break and throw a diamond. Finally I threw dummy's low spade and led the ♦10 from my hand thus making the contract.

[continued next page]

A Conundrum (continued)

The full deal was:

♠ AK83 ♥ J982 ♦ 8643 ♣ 7	<table border="1" style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; width: 80px; height: 80px; 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	♠ J9 ♥ Q6 ♦ J752 ♣ K9642	♠ 752 ♥ A10743 ♦ K10 ♣ AJ5
N						
W E						
S						

This earned me a "well-played" from kibitzer, Joe Kerger. Although the outcome was immensely satisfying, my team only placed a close second and did not qualify for the Zone Final. We later found out that we could enter the Zone Final, but were forced to withdraw because of other commitments.



Test Your Play #2

By Daniel Bertrand

Please try the following hands. You are playing from the West seat and, on each of the hands, you find yourself in 3NT. You are playing a team event and want to find the best chance to make your contract.

Hand 1:

♠ KQ6 ♥ KQ8 ♦ A86 ♣ K1092	<table border="1" style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; width: 80px; height: 80px; 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	♠ 75 ♥ A54 ♦ K732 ♣ AJ84
N					
W E					
S					

North leads the ♠J and South follows with the ♠3. Plan the play.

Hand 2:

♠ AK10 ♥ K98 ♦ 109 ♣ AJ1097	<table border="1" style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; width: 80px; height: 80px; 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	♠ Q32 ♥ Q43 ♦ A852 ♣ Q84
N					
W E					
S					

After South opens 1♥, you overcall 1NT which partner raises to 3NT. North leads the ♥7. Plan the play.

Hand 3:

♠ K54 ♥ QJ6 ♦ 987 ♣ KQJ9	<table border="1" style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; width: 80px; height: 80px; 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	♠ AQJ10 ♥ K ♦ QJ1052 ♣ 764
N					
W E					
S					

North leads the ♥3 (4th best). You play the ♥K from dummy and it wins. Plan the play.

Hand 4:

♠ AKQ4 ♥ AK10 ♦ 1087 ♣ AK6	<table border="1" style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; width: 80px; height: 80px; 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	♠ 65 ♥ J43 ♦ A9642 ♣ 754
N					
W E					
S					

North leads the ♣Q. Should you duck this trick? Where will you get your 9th trick? Plan the play.

Please turn to page 21 for the problem solutions.



Unit 390 Tournament Report

By Lois Matton, Tournament Chair

There have been two great Calgary tournaments in 2025 - the New Year's Sectional and the Spring Sectional.

The New Year's tournament continues to be very popular with great attendance (271½ tables). The April sectional typically attracts fewer people, most likely due to the crowded springtime tournament schedule. Still, it was well-attended (219 tables) and proved to be an overall fun event.

It has been wonderful to see so many new players coming out to the sectionals, many for the first time. In April, we had 10 full tables of players, each with under 50 masterpoints, playing in the 49er Pairs event on Sunday!

Top point winners in January were Robert Pratt of Edmonton and Kevin Strangway of Grande Prairie, each with 49.06 MPs. The President's award for the most masterpoints in 299er events went to Gray Graves and Dee-Ann Clark, each with 5.67 MPs. Congratulations!

In April, the top masterpoint winners were Janet and Christopher Galbraith, each earning 29.26 MPs. The virtual Ann Waldie Memorial Trophy was awarded to the top A/X Swiss team comprised of Nicholas and Judith Gartaganis, Daniel Bertrand and Gordon Campbell. Winning the virtual John Davison Memorial Swiss Team Trophy for the winners of the B/C Swiss were Terry and Sylvia Nazar, Stephen Paul and Lois Matton. Congratulations!



Be sure to mark your calendars for upcoming sectional tournaments in Calgary. May 10 will be a one day 299er tournament to be held at the Bridge Centre, and the Labour Day sectional is scheduled for August 29 - 31.

Free coffee each morning!
New 199er Pairs game on Sunday morning.



A/X Winners of the Ann Waldie Memorial Trophy:
(L to R) Nicholas Gartaganis, Gordon Campbell, Judith Gartaganis and Daniel Bertrand



B/C Winners of the John Davison Memorial Swiss Team Trophy:
(L to R) Terry and Sylvia Nazar, Lois Matton and Stephen Paul



299er SPRING SECTIONAL

SATURDAY, MAY 10th, 2025

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

Pre-registration requested.
Please visit the Unit 390
website to access the
registration form OR
contact Delores Hedley

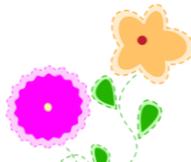


All Silver
Points!

Stratification:

D: 150 - 299
E: 50 - 149
F: 0 - 49

Welcome
Spring!



Schedule:

10:00 am - 1:00 pmStratified Pairs
1:00 pmLunch Break
1:45 pmGuest Speaker
2:30 pm - 5:30 pmStratified Pairs

Entry Fees (two single sessions) CASH ONLY!
Entry fee \$15 per person per session
Youth under 18 years FREE

All players must have an ACBL number.
Guest memberships are available at no cost.

Tournament Chair: Roger Bolton
403-217-4765
Partnerships: Delores Hedley
403-254-4995
dollyd@telus.net
Directors: Clarende Duby
John Prance

Complementary
coffee, pop and
snacks.

Annual General Meeting

The Calgary Duplicate Bridge Association UNIT 390

When: Sunday, June 1, 2025
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 2024 AGM
6. President's Report
7. Treasurer's Report - Approval of Financial Statements
8. Appointment of Auditor for 2025/2026
9. Presentation of Awards
10. Election of Directors
11. Questions from the floor
12. Termination

Please RSVP no later than **May 28** 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.

Questions? You may contact Special Events Chair,
Brad Bowyer, at 390events@acblunit390.org.

When did you learn to play? I
know it was today, but what
time today?

299er Fall Sectional Report

Highlights

On Saturday, October 26, 2024, the annual Unit 390 Fall 299er Sectional was held at the Calgary Bridge Centre. As the name suggests, the tournament was specifically for players with under 300 masterpoints and, for some, this was their first venture beyond the club game. The turnout was fantastic ... 20 tables for the morning session and 14 tables in the afternoon. Thank you to all the 299er players who supported this event. You, and you alone, are key to the growth of bridge in our Unit.



Roger Bolton, Future Masters Chair for Unit 390, was the chief organizer of the event, but he credits the smooth operation and terrific attendance to the generous assistance from others who not only encouraged the 299er players to come out to the tournament but also helped on-site.

Jim Berglund was the guest speaker over the lunch break. His topic was "Finding and Bidding Your Slams". Thanks to Jim for volunteering to take on this task.

Lois Matton and Liz Sprague directed. This was the first time Liz was involved in directing an event of this size. Thanks to Lois and Liz, everything went smoothly and according to schedule ... not always easy with so many tables in play.

Eight players were attending their first ever tournament.

In all, 60.64 silver masterpoints were earned by 55 players.



Morning Session Results

Overall Winners and Top Flight B Pair



Stephanie Martinez - Susan Ruf

Top Flight A Pair:



Gwen and Gilbert Fagnou

Top Flight C Pair:



Claudine Petrunia - Willie Jurcevic

Afternoon Session Results

Overall Winners and Top Flight B Pair



Quentin Krogstad - Lana McFadden

Top Flight A Pair:



Moira Misselbrook - Dee-Ann Clark

Top Flight C Pair:



Carol Poland - Betty Carrier

Spinning the Probability Wheel

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Playing in a Swiss Team event you hold this hand:

♠AK952 ♥K7 ♦K52 ♣Q43

In first seat you open 1NT (15-17). You could choose to start with 1♠, but you would be poorly placed for a rebid if partner responds 1NT (you are too good to make a minimum bid and not strong enough to raise to 2NT).

In practice, partner transfers to hearts and decides his hand is good enough to ask for aces. You respond showing two key cards without the ♥Q and partner settles for 6♥. Most of the time, when he tables the dummy you look for his real hand and sigh knowing that, once again, you will have to be a magician to justify his bidding.

LHO leads the ♦Q and you see the following:

IMPs

Contract: 6♥

Lead: ♦Q

♠ 4
♥ AJ10865
♦ A6
♣ AJ72

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

♠ AK952
♥ K7
♦ K92
♣ Q43

On the surface, it appears that success depends on finding the ♥Q with West, either doubleton or tripleton (singleton in either defender's hand also works). If you do lose a trick to the ♥Q you have an additional chance when the ♣K is doubleton in LHO's hand. The roulette wheel is ready to spin. Is there any way to increase your chance to succeed?

You notice that the spade suit might provide an additional opportunity if the suit divides 4-3. In that event you will still need the ♣K onside, but it won't have to be doubleton, even if you must lose a trump trick. The sequence of plays would be to win the ♦A (to retain the ♦K as a vital entry to your hand), cash the ♠A and ruff a low spade with the ♥5 then cash the ♥A and travel to hand with the ♥K. Assuming both opponents follow to two rounds of hearts, you ruff another

round of spades in dummy. (Note that, because of entry issues, you cannot try for both a spade split and a trump finesse).

If the ♥Q shows up singleton, the hand becomes trivial. Draw four rounds of trumps, using dummy's ♣A as the entry to finish. Then concede a club.

If the ♥Q is doubleton, you can ruff another spade high, draw the last trump and travel to hand with the ♦K. If spades were 4-3, dummy's two low clubs go away and you can finesse for the ♣K, making either 12 or 13 tricks.

What do you give up if you decide to try for spades 4-3 instead of finessing in trumps?

Note that hearts will split 3-2 approximately 68% of the time.

By not finessing for the ♥Q, you lose nothing if hearts are two with West and three with East (either West has Qx or the finesse wasn't working anyway). If hearts are the other way around and you don't try the finesse, you give up on Qxx onside (6 cases), but win whenever the ♥Q is doubleton offside (4 cases).

Now, on the other hand, the chance of spades dividing 4-3 is approximately 62%. Therefore what you lose by not finessing for the ♥Q is more than compensated by the extra chance provided when the spades are 4-3.

Without boring you with the calculations, and just considering the 3-2 heart splits, declining the heart finesse and adding the chance of a 4-3 spade break gives you an overall chance of success equal to 38.6% compared to 20.4% for just the heart finesse option.

Thinking about how to play a hand is hard enough without having to wrestle with the added complication of factoring in percentages. The good news is that you can win without calculating percentages precisely. Having some sense of how suits are likely to divide and when to take a finesse will undoubtedly increase your frequency of winning. Being aware of probabilities is akin to placing your bet and then removing some of the other numbers on the roulette wheel before spinning.

[continued next page]

Spinning the Probability Wheel (continued)

The full deal was:

♠ J76 ♥ 932 ♦ QJ103 ♣ K95	♠ 4 ♥ AJ10865 ♦ A6 ♣ AJ72	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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		♠ Q1083 ♥ Q4 ♦ 8754 ♣ 1086
	N											
W	■	E										
	S											
	♠ AK952 ♥ K7 ♦ K92 ♣ Q43											

You could tell partner he made a good bid, but you don't want to encourage his propensity to put down terrible dummies 😊.

What do you do when your partner puts you into a super-ridiculous contract doubled that you know is going for a bundle?

Turn to RHO and say, "Your lead."



2024 - 25 North American Pairs District 18 and National Finals

The North American Pairs (NAP) is a grass-roots event for pairs. Club qualifying games were held in June, July and August of 2024. Players had to qualify at the club level in order to play in the District Final.

District playoffs are held in each of the 25 ACBL districts and high placed pairs advance to 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).

The District 18 Finals were held online at on BBO, with separate events for each flight:

- Flight A - Sat. Nov. 2, 2024 - five tables
- Flight B - Sat. Nov. 9, 2024 - nine tables
- Flight C - Sat. Nov. 2, 2024 - four and one-half tables

District 18 North American Pairs - Flight A

- 1/2 Dorothy Mersereau - David Johnson, Calgary AB
- 1/2 Robert Pratt, Edmonton AB; Kevin Strangway, Grande Prairie AB
- 3 Yi Peng Mai, Calgary AB; Xiaodong Zhao, Edmonton AB

District 18 North American Pairs - Flight B

- 1 Yinghan Ding, Salt Lake City UT; Xiaobin Sun, Park City UT
- 2 Scott Rosom - James Dulmage, Regina SK
- 3 Andy McKaig - Martine Parent, Calgary AB

District 18 North American Pairs - Flight C

- 1 Laura Bean - Ethel Mathews, Bigfork MT
- 2 Sandra Stewart - Carolanne DeBiasio, Calgary AB
- 3 Kay Hoag - Andy Knutson, Missoula MT

The National Finals took place in conjunction with the Memphis NABC in March of this year. Mersereau - Johnson and Mai - Zhao competed in the Baldwin Flight A NAP while Stewart - DeBiasio entered the President's Cup Flight C NAP. Alas, no players from Unit 390 made the cut to play on Day 2.

2024 CBF Zone V Mini-Richmond Races

Final Standings



The Richmond Trophy is awarded annually to the Canada's top masterpoint winner across all masterpoint categories. The race was established in 1976 and was awarded retroactively to the 1974 and 1975 winners. The trophy was donated by Dave G. Richmond, a well-known Winnipeg bridge figure whose service to bridge spanned over 30 years.

The Richmond Trophy winner for 2024 was, once again, Richard Chan of Markham ON. Chan won even more points than in the previous year, earning a total of 1,719 masterpoints.

The highest placing Unit 390 member in the 2024 Richmond Trophy Race was **Daniel Bertrand**, winning 516 masterpoints during the year. 2024 makes four years in a row that Daniel has achieved this honour.

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 2024, Unit 390 players were Zone V winners in five of the 13 masterpoint categories and many others placed among the top three positions.

0 to 5	1	Colleen Rogers	Calgary AB	44
5 to 20	2	Genevieve McLean	Calgary AB	32
20 to 50	2	Quentin Krogstad	Calgary AB	63
50 to 100	1	Dan Dover	Calgary AB	115
100 to 200	3	Ted Lobley	Calgary AB	45
200 to 300	1	Ray Nance	Calgary AB	79
	2	Frank Guo	Calgary AB	76
	3	June Cheng	Calgary AB	62
300 to 500	2	David Stephure	Calgary AB	153
	3	Philip Coppard	Calgary AB	88
500 to 1000	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	225
	2	John Prance	Calgary AB	179
1000 to 1500	1	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	210
	3	Cynthia Clark	Calgary AB	143
1500 to 2500	3	Andy McKaig	Calgary AB	190
2500 to 3500	2	Rod Hilderman	Calgary AB	249
	3	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB	206
3500 to 5000	2	Mark Mai	Calgary AB	457
	3	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	300
5000 to 7500	2	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	353

At the national level, **Colleen Rogers** placed second in the 0-5 masterpoint category, while Dan Dover and Mark Mai each came fourth in their categories.



The Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) is the national bridge organization responsible for promoting and protecting the rights and interests of Canadian bridge players. This includes supporting Canadians who represent our country internationally.

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/>

Solutions to Test Your Play #2

By Daniel Bertrand

Hand 1:

♠ KQ6		♠ 75
♥ KQ8		♥ A54
♦ A86		♦ K732
♣ K1092		♣ AJ84

North leads the ♠J and South follows with the ♠3. Plan the play.

After winning trick 1, you have eight sure tricks. (one spade, three hearts, two diamonds, two clubs). You can finesse in clubs for your 9th trick. You should finesse through South. South is the danger hand; she can hurt you by playing a spade. If North gains the lead, you still have a sure spade stopper.

Hand 2:

♠ AK10		♠ Q32
♥ K98		♥ Q43
♦ 109		♦ A852
♣ AJ1097		♣ Q84

After South opens 1♥, you overcall 1NT which partner raises to 3NT. North leads the ♥7. Plan the play.

You have five top tricks. (three spades, one diamond, one club) - always count your tricks! You are going to get a heart trick for sure, and you can get four or five club tricks. You know South has at least five hearts and most of the opponents' assets. What can go wrong? If you play a small heart from dummy, South can insert the ♥10. You can win with the ♥K and get to dummy with the ♠Q for the club finesse. But what if the club finesse loses? North might have another heart, and South will take the next four tricks. If you duck when South plays the ♥10, she could switch to diamonds and the opponents might get two diamonds, two hearts and one club! What can you do? Think about it. Play the ♥Q from dummy at trick 1! If South plays small, your ♥K is a second stopper; If South wins the ♥A and continues hearts, LHO will be out of hearts if the club finesse loses. Easy when you think of it!

Hand 3:

♠ K54		♠ AQJ10
♥ QJ6		♥ K
♦ 987		♦ QJ1052
♣ KQJ9		♣ 764

North leads the ♥3 (4th best). You play the ♥K from dummy and it wins. Plan the play.

You have five top tricks after winning trick 1. From the lead, you know that hearts are splitting 5-4. You can only lose the lead once more or the opponents will have three hearts, two diamonds and one club. There is no time to set up diamond tricks. You must play on clubs and hope to get three tricks (the opponents will give you another heart trick when they try to set up their heart suit). Lead a club to your ♣K. If it wins, return to dummy in spades (♠10) and play another club to your ♣Q. If it wins and the ♣10 has not appeared, return to dummy in spades (♠J) and play another club. If South has the ♣A or if the ♣10 is doubleton or if clubs are 3-3, you will get nine tricks. (Note that, if North wins the first or second round of clubs with the ♣A, you might need to guess whether to finesse South for the ♣10.)

Hand 4:

♠ AKQ4		♠ 65
♥ AK10		♥ J43
♦ 1087		♦ A9642
♣ AK6		♣ 754

North leads the ♣Q. Should you duck trick 1? Where will you get your 9th trick? Plan the play.

You should duck the first trick since you are not afraid of any shift and would like to cut the defenders' communication if clubs are 5-2. You should try to set up an extra diamond trick. Win the second club and duck a diamond. If the opponents play another round of clubs, win it and cash the ♥A. If the ♥Q has not appeared, try to duck another diamond; (If North started with five clubs, you cannot let her win the second round of diamonds). If you cannot set up the diamonds (North had five clubs and a second-round entry in diamonds or diamonds do not break 3-2, try the heart finesse).



President's Award Retired



For the past 30 years, the recipient of the President's Award has been named after each sectional in the Unit 390 tournament cycle. Unit 390 members with 0 – 300 masterpoints are eligible, and the award goes to the player who accumulates the most masterpoints

playing in 49er and 299er events during the sectional.

With three or four tournaments each year, that means we've had close to 100 tournaments (96, to be exact, even with the two-year hiatus due to COVID). Over the years, there has almost always been a tie for top honours, and if you check out the list of winners on the Unit website at:

<https://www.acblunit390.org/trophy-room/#President>

you will find the names of the nearly 200 recipients of the President's Award.

Good things often run their course, and so it is that the Unit 390 Board of Directors has decided to retire the President's Award in favour of the Unit 390 Sectionals 299er Masterpoint Race (you can read more about this new award on page 23).

Meanwhile, there has been one sectional since the last Kibitzer was published in October 2024 and here is the very last President's Award report.

January 2025

At the New Year's sectional which took place this past January, 299er attendance was amazing. Four 299er games were held on Friday and Saturday, along with one 49er session on Sunday. A whopping 56 tables showed up to play, including eight tables in Sunday's 49er game! Compare that to the 26 tables at the September 2024 tournament. In all, 81 different players won masterpoints.

Pairs are categorized by flight based on the average masterpoints held by the two players. The flights within the game were:

Flight E: 0 -75 masterpoints

Flight D: 75 - 300 masterpoints.

The winners of the President's Award for January were Dee-Ann Clark and Gray Graves. Here is the list of standings:

Flight D (75 - 300):

1/2.	Dee-Ann Clark	5.67 masterpoints
1/2.	Gray Graves	5.67 masterpoints
3/4.	Corliss Ward	4.94 masterpoints
3/4.	Genevieve McLean	4.94 masterpoints

Flight E (0 - 75):

1/2.	Betty Carrier	3.14 masterpoints
1/2.	Carol Poland	3.14 masterpoints
3/4.	Nancy Brooks	2.17 masterpoints
3/4.	Nancy Penner	2.17 masterpoints

Congratulations to everyone! Well done.



District 18 GNT Results

Playoffs for all flights of the Grand National Teams took place online on March 28 - 29, 2025. This event seems to be dying out in our District. There were no entries in either the Championship Flight (no MP limit) or Flight A (under 6000 MPs). Flight B (under 2500 MPs) had the largest turnout; six teams entered the Round Robin phase, with the top four advancing to the KO playoffs. In Flight C (under 500 MPs), only two teams entered so straightaway they played a head-to-head final.

In Flight C, Calgary's Felix Boucher was a member of the winning squad, alongside five teammates from Edmonton.

In the Flight B event, Unit 390 members outnumbered members of all other units 14 to 10. The results of Flight B:

District 18 Grand National Teams - Flight B

- 1 Xiaobin Sun - Yinghan Ding - Feng Liu - Jacinda Liu, all Utah, U.S.
- 2 Ryan Clark - Richard Piette - Michael Farebrother - Ellen Kuiper, all Calgary AB
- 3 Keith Falkenberg - Dorothy Mersereau - Howard Coren, all Calgary AB - Michael Covey, Cranbrook BC
- 4 Sandy Jean Robinson - Clarende Duby - John Prance, Calgary AB, - Melissa Martin, Whitefish MT

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

Off to the Races ...

As you browse this newsletter, you will come across many reports which show the standings in some masterpoint race or other. Ever wonder what these races are all about?

Each of these masterpoint races has been created to recognize player performances, often further sub-categorized to reflect the masterpoint holdings of participants.

ACBL Masterpoint Races

Let's start with the ACBL-sponsored races.

The ACBL maintains a database to keep track of the masterpoints won by every member ... no small task considering there are over 120,000 active ACBL members. Of course, the process is all computerized so no humans are harmed in the maintenance of said database. The database is updated monthly, usually about the 7th of each month.

Each ACBL member starts the year in one of 15 "categories", based on the number of masterpoints they hold at the beginning of the year. Then their masterpoint winnings for the entire year are tracked. At the end of the year, their amassed points are compared with all the other players who started the year in the same masterpoint category. The ACBL-wide races compare all members in the organization. The Unit 390 races compare the masterpoint winnings of Unit members only.

Sometimes, you will also see District races which, as the name suggests, compare the winnings of members of a particular ACBL District.

But not all masterpoints are treated equally when it comes to ACBL masterpoint races!

The **Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs** race tallies masterpoints won by an individual when playing face-to-face club games.

The **Ace of Virtual Clubs** race tallies points won by an individual when playing in online club games.

The **Mini-McKenney** race tracks the number of points won by an individual in all games at clubs and tournaments, with the exception of online colourless points, such as those from robot games.

The annual ACBL-wide race results are typically published in the ACBL Bulletin every April.

Unit 390 presents a certificate to the winner of the unit race in each masterpoint category. In addition, the Ike Landon Virtual Trophy goes to the Unit member winning the most masterpoints overall (all categories).

CBF Masterpoint Races

The Canadian Bridge Federation established the **Richmond Trophy Race** to acknowledge the bridge achievements of Canadians. The Richmond Trophy is awarded annually to the Canada's top point winner across all masterpoint categories.

The **Mini-Richmond** awards were added in 2012 to recognize CBF members who win the most masterpoints in the calendar year in each of the categories, up to and including the Diamond Life Master category. You can read about the 2024 Mini-Richmond winners on page 20.

Unit 390 Masterpoint Races

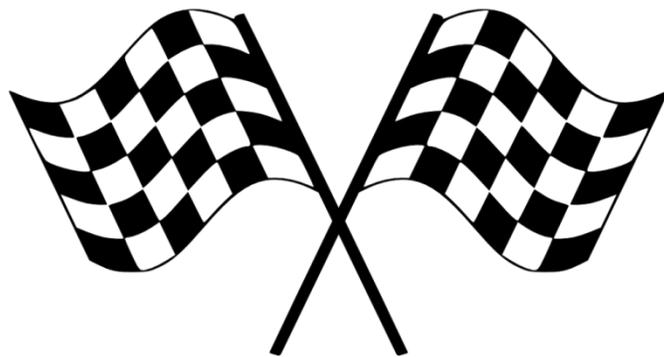
Recently, Unit 390 has created two new masterpoint races to honour members for their performances at Unit sectional tournaments.

The **Unit 390 Sectionals Masterpoints Race** is an annual open race based on masterpoints won across all events at Calgary sectionals throughout the year. All Unit members are eligible to win this race.

The **Unit 390 Sectionals 299er Masterpoints Race** tracks masterpoints won during the year in 49er and 299er events at Calgary sectionals (including 299er sectionals). Only Unit members who begin the year with under 300 masterpoints are eligible to win this race.

The masterpoint database is updated after each sectional to reflect points won during the tournament. Lists of updated standing are posted on the unit website and are published in the Kibitzer (see page 24 for the 2025 standings after our first two sectionals).

So, pedal to the metal, everyone, and best of luck!



2025 Unit 390 Sectionals

Masterpoint Race - Top 40

Year-to-Date Standings - as of April 8, 2025 *
(Based on all events at the two sectionals of 2025)

1	65.17	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB
	65.17	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB
3	36.30	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB
	36.30	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB
5	33.72	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB
	33.72	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB
7	28.91	Dmitry Komin	Calgary AB
8	25.26	Yi Peng (Mark) Mai	Calgary AB
9	23.23	Rod Hilderman	Calgary AB
10	23.00	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB
11	22.79	Shuo Shi	Calgary AB
12	22.29	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB
13	21.33	Chris Wuerscher	Calgary AB
14	19.53	Terri Bedard	Calgary AB
15	18.90	Bob Gagnon	Calgary AB
16	16.44	Howard Coren	Calgary AB
17	16.40	Hai Hu	Calgary AB
18	14.47	Stewart Brightman	Calgary AB
19	13.49	Richard Piette	Calgary AB
20	13.46	Dale Bercov	Calgary AB
21	13.09	Carole Kirk	Banff AB
	13.09	Marjory Sword	Canmore AB
23	12.07	Devra Drysdale	Calgary AB
24	11.70	Gail Godwin	Calgary AB
	11.70	Marilyn Haggins	Calgary AB
	11.70	Murray Haggins	Calgary AB
27	11.66	David Johnson	Calgary AB
	11.66	Qi (Quincy) Ju	Calgary AB
29	11.13	Mike D Aguiar	Calgary AB
30	10.90	Quentin Krogstad	Calgary AB
31	10.50	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB
32	10.43	Brent Muir	Calgary AB
	10.43	Jay Newington	Calgary AB
34	10.15	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB
35	9.66	Donna Badiou	Calgary AB
	9.66	Betty Johnson	Calgary AB
37	9.07	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB
	9.07	Gamil Tadros	Calgary AB
39	9.01	Yurong (June) Cheng	Calgary AB
	9.01	Shuangbing (Frank) Guo	Calgary AB

* For the full list of YTD standings, please visit the Unit website at <https://acblunit390.org/unit-390-info/unit-390-sectionals-masterpoint-race/>

2025 Unit 390 Sectionals

299er Masterpoint Race - Top 40

Year-to-Date Standings - as of April 8, 2025 *
(Based on 299er games at the two sectionals of 2025)

1	8.01	Genevieve McLean	Calgary AB
	8.01	Corliss Ward	Calgary AB
3	6.80	Eric Gutland	Calgary AB
4	6.58	Sherry Goldenberg	Calgary AB
5	6.14	Jerry Malone	Wheatland Cnty AB
	6.14	Sheila Morgan	Wheatland Cnty AB
7	5.98	Nancy Brooks	Calgary AB
	5.98	Nancy Penner	Calgary AB
9	5.67	Dee-Ann Clark	Calgary AB
	5.67	Gray Graves	Calgary AB
11	4.52	Edward Lamb	Calgary AB
	4.52	Ted Lobley	Calgary AB
13	3.98	David Spence	Calgary AB
14	3.94	Charles (Tony) Teare	Canmore AB
	3.94	Jennifer Teare	Canmore AB
	3.94	Sylvia Nazar	Cochrane AB
17	3.88	Dianne McCubbin	Calgary AB
18	3.14	Betty Carrier	Canmore AB
	3.14	Carol Poland	Canmore AB
20	2.94	Colleen Rogers	Calgary AB
	2.94	Cheryl Whittaker	Calgary AB
22	2.92	Sandy Shuler	Calgary AB
23	2.80	Martin Hall	Canmore AB
24	2.70	Christina Larkins	Calgary AB
25	2.60	Anne Gallagher	Canmore AB
	2.60	Rhona Gearty	Calgary AB
27	2.48	Warren Johnston	Calgary AB
28	2.43	Joan Allwarden	Foothills AB
	2.43	Barb Clemes	Calgary AB
	2.43	Kerri Gallup	Longview AB
	2.43	Donna Hayes	Calgary AB
32	2.33	Larry Dick	Calgary AB
	2.33	Michele Dick	Okotoks AB
34	2.27	Christa Simmonds	Calgary AB
	2.27	Jodie Winquist	Calgary AB
36	2.06	Chuck Cherry	Calgary AB
37	2.05	Art Marche	Calgary AB
38	2.02	John Spence	Calgary AB
39	1.97	Gilbert Fagnou	Calgary AB
	1.97	Gwen Fagnou	Calgary AB

* For the full list of YTD standings, please visit the Unit website at <https://acblunit390.org/unit-390-info/unit-390-sectionals-299er-masterpoint-race/>

Unit 390 Membership Report for 2024

The Unit 390 membership roster remained stable during 2024. However, participation in tournaments jumped tremendously over the year, with a 16% increase in the table count for our three regular sectionals. Additionally, one 299er Sectional was held in October, with 34 tables in attendance over the two sessions.

The New Year's Sectional continues to be the largest on the schedule (2023 - 194 tables; 2024 - 257 tables; 2025 - 272 tables).

An amazing high water mark was achieved at the 2025 New Year's tournament, when the number of tables in the Friday morning 299er game outdid the table count in the A/X section. That record was broken at the 2025 Spring sectional, when the Friday morning 299er was the largest section playing!

The Bid & Play program deserves much of the credit for the flourishing newcomer turnouts. In addition to that initiative are the various Unit-sponsored programs such as the Rookie-Master Game and 299er Sectional Tournaments. As well, there have been a variety of lesson programs and games for newer players started by bridge teachers and club managers/directors.

In 2024, membership across the ACBL declined by 2.44% for the 12 months ending December 31, 2024, leaving 125,974 active members (down from 129,131 at the end of 2023). District 18, which includes our Unit, was the only one of the 25 ACBL districts to show an increase in membership, albeit small (0.47%). In the other 24 districts, membership dropped anywhere from 0.5% to 6%. Unit 390 membership held steady, with a marginal increase in membership of 0.11%. Of the 288 units in the ACBL, Unit 390 ranked 76th in terms of membership increase.

Unit 390 recruited 52 new members over the 12 months of 2024 (5.6%) as compared to the overall ACBL number of 4.8%. We seem to do a better job than most units in being able to retain new members (as measured by the number of new members that renew in the second year) with a weighted 3-year average retention rate of 62% (compared to 59% within District 18 and 55% ACBL-wide). We ranked 97th out of the ACBL's 288 units.

The Guest Membership program continued in 2024 and into 2025. 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 discounted price. As of April 1st, 2025, Unit 390 had 23 guest members on its roster.

Of special interest is the ACBL decision to eliminate the membership category of unpaid Life Member. This group consisted of people who became Life Masters prior to 1996 and had not kept their ACBL dues up-to-date. Back then, new Life Masters were promised that they would "never" have to pay membership fees again. But, of course, this turned out to be untenable and a Life Master service fee was introduced, later converted to a Life Master membership fee. Meanwhile, unpaid Life Masters were not removed from the membership roster, but they did not receive the full benefits of paid members (such as the ACBL Bulletin, participation in masterpoint races, etc.). On January 1, 2024, all members of this group were marked as paid members until December 31, 2024. Any who did not renew their paid membership were deleted after the one month grace period. This is not yet reflected in the membership statistics.

The average age of Calgary Unit players continues to be about three years less than the ACBL-wide average: 71.9 years old compared to 74.7 ACBL-wide. Our average player is about fourteen months older than Northern Alberta Unit 391, District 18's youngest unit.

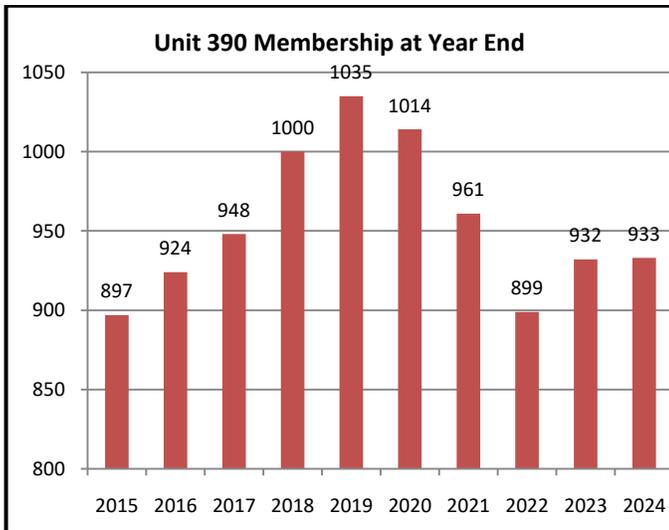
932 members at January 1, 2024
627 non-Life Masters
290 paid Life Masters
7 unpaid Life Members
8 Snowbirds

Total Gains = 88
New members 52
Members transferred into Unit 390 13
Lapsed members reinstated 23

Total Losses = 87
Members transferred out of Unit 390 6
Deceased members 9
Members failed to renew 72

Unit 390 ended 2024 with a total of 933 members
621 non-Life Masters
294 Life Masters
9 unpaid Life Members (due to be removed Jan. 31)
9 Snowbirds

Unit 390 Membership Stats 2015 - 2024



Legend

1 - Rookie (0-5)	10 - Silver LM
2 - Junior Master (5-20)	11 - Ruby LM
3 - Club Master (20-50)	12 - Gold LM
4 - Sectional Master (50-100)	13 - Sapphire LM
5 - Regional Master (100-200)	14 - Diamond LM
6 - NABC Master (200+)	15 - Emerald LM
7 - Advanced NABC Master	16 - Platinum LM
8 - Life Master	17 - Grand LM
9 - Bronze LM	

627 Non-Life Masters
306 Life Masters

2025 Mini-McKenney Races Unit 390 Year-to-date Standings - April 1st

0 to 5	1	John Spence r	Calgary AB	17
	2	Felix Boucher	Calgary AB	12
	3	Gray Graves	Calgary AB	9
5 to 20	1	Bev Krahn i	Calgary AB	5
	2	Wayne Rancier	Calgary AB	5
	3/4	Lori Conner	Canmore	4
	3/4	Rodger Conner	Canmore	4
20 to 50	1	Hai Hu	Calgary AB	21
	2	Julie Jacques	Calgary AB	12
	3	Stephanie Martinez	Calgary AB	10
50 to 100	1	Judith Smith	Canmore AB	30
	2	Quentin Krogstad	Calgary AB	28
	3	Genevieve McLean	Calgary AB	18
100 to 200	1	Corliss Ward	Calgary AB	25
	2	Lana McFadden	Calgary AB	25
	3	Colleen Rogers	Calgary AB	20
200 to 300	1	Sherry Goldenberg	Calgary AB	26
	2	Dee-Ann Clark	Calgary AB	20
	3	Art Marche	Calgary AB	18
300 to 500	1	David Stephure	Calgary AB	32
	2	Atsuko McDonald	Calgary AB	26
	3	Dave Brett	Calgary AB	24
500 to 1000	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	63
	2	Thomas To	Calgary AB	31
	3	Shelley Mardiros	Calgary AB	31
1000 to 1500	1	Pat Anderson	Calgary AB	48
	2	Dale Bercov	Calgary AB	45
	3	Richard Wolfe	Calgary AB	40
1500 to 2500	1	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	85
	2	Mike D Aguiar	Calgary AB	76
	3	Barry Crozier	Calgary AB	56
2500 to 3500	1	Terri Bedard	Calgary AB	70
	2	Rod Hilderman	Calgary AB	50
	3	Garth Wiggins	Calgary AB	48
3500 to 5000	1	Yi Peng (Mark) Mai	Calgary AB	70
	2	Qi (Quincy) Ju	Calgary AB	46
	3	Frank Ayer	Calgary AB	37
5000 to 7500	1	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	38
	2	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	29
	3	David Johnson	Calgary AB	26
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	92
	2	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	41
	3	Abdul Fakhir	Calgary AB	12
Over 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	59
	2	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	26
	3/4	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	15
	3/4	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	15

2025 Ace of Clubs Races

Unit 390 Year-to-date Standings - April 1st

0 to 5	1	John Spence	Calgary AB	11
	2	Leslie Randell	Calgary AB	4
	3	Les Sherwood	Calgary AB	3
5 to 20	1	Wayne Rancier	Calgary AB	5
	2	Bev Krahn	Calgary AB	4
	3	Rosalie Howard	Calgary AB	4
20 to 50	1	Stephanie Martinez	Calgary AB	9
	2	Andrea McManus	Calgary AB	8
	3	Kathleen Goodwin	Calgary AB	7
50 to 100	1	Quentin Krogstad	Calgary AB	21
	2	Lois Clapperton	Calgary AB	15
	3	Genevieve McLean	Calgary AB	12
100 to 200	1	Corliss Ward	Calgary AB	19
	2	Lana McFadden	Calgary AB	16
	3	David Spence	Calgary AB	14
200 to 300	1	Sherry Goldenberg	Calgary AB	19
	2	Dee-Ann Clark	Calgary AB	12
	3	Art Marche	Calgary AB	11
300 to 500	1	Dave Brett	Calgary AB	17
	2	David Stephure	Calgary AB	16
	3	Susan Stanley	Calgary AB	13
500 to 1000	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	54
	2	Ann Slattery	Calgary AB	26
	3	Jamie Watt	Calgary AB	21
1000 to 1500	1	Dale Bercov	Calgary AB	40
	2	Pat Anderson	Calgary AB	28
	3	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	27
1500 to 2500	1	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	64
	2	Mike D Aguiar	Calgary AB	52
	3	Rick Boyd	Calgary AB	35
2500 to 3500	1	Garth Wiggins	Calgary AB	45
	2	Rod Hilderman	Calgary AB	34
	3	Terri Bedard	Calgary AB	32
3500 to 5000	1	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB	29
	2	Doran Flock	Calgary AB	16
	3	Margaret Nielsen	Calgary AB	15
5000 to 7500	1	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	21
	2	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	17
	3	David Johnson	Calgary AB	7
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	41
	2	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	3
	3	Nok Yin (Jim) Lee	Calgary AB	2
Over 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	42

2025 Ace of Virtual Clubs Races

Unit 390 Year-to-date Standings - April 1st

0 to 5	1	Karen Serafini	Calgary AB	2
5 to 20	1/2	Lori Conner	Canmore AB	2
	1/2	Rodger Conner	Canmore AB	2
	3	Gabriela Spineanu	Calgary AB	1
20 to 50	1	Julie Jacques	Calgary AB	11
	2	Kerri Gallup	Longview AB	2
	3	Leslie Dunning	Calgary AB	2
50 to 100	1	Philippa Fitzgerald-Finch	Calgary AB	11
	2	Celia Gaudet	Calgary	2
	3	Quentin Krogstad	Calgary	2
100 to 200	1	Colleen Rogers	Calgary AB	10
	2	Christine Stephure	Calgary AB	5
	3	Cheryl Whittaker	Calgary AB	5
200 to 300	1	Robert Scott	Calgary AB	3
	2	Peter Weir	Calgary AB	2
	3	Sherry Goldenberg	Calgary AB	2
300 to 500	1	Atsuko McDonald	Calgary AB	20
	2	Margriet Huisman	Calgary AB	15
	3	David Stephure	Calgary AB	11
500 to 1000	1	Morris Streich	Calgary AB	19
	2	Harvey Wiehler	Calgary AB	19
	3	Kathleen Malo	Calgary AB	16
1000 to 1500	1	Marny Simpson	Calgary AB	27
	2	Martine Parent	Calgary AB	20
	3	Perry Clark	Calgary AB	14
1500 to 2500	1	Mark Manzer	Calgary AB	50
	2	Barry Crozier	Calgary AB	26
	3	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	14
2500 to 3500	1	William Basler	Calgary AB	24
	2	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	19
	3	Elizabeth Sprague	Calgary AB	17
3500 to 5000	1	Stephanie McAdam	Calgary AB	28
	2	Gamil Tadros	Calgary AB	14
	3	Michael Broadhurst	Calgary AB	14
5000 to 7500	1	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	3
	2	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	3
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	11
	2	Allan Simon	Calgary AB	6
	3	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	2
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	13

Rising From The Ashes

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Knowing how to execute endplays and squeezes is an important part of being a successful player, but an equally important aspect of the game is doing your best to recover from a terrible decision.

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

♠9752 ♥5 ♦Q642 ♣QJ42

LHO passes, partner opens 1♦ and RHO jumps to 2♥. The sensible action is to pass, but you manage to convince yourself that the favourable vulnerability justifies making a negative double. LHO raises to 3♥ which partner doubles, showing a good hand (15-16 HCP) and suggesting we defend. That's not going to happen! You made one bad bid and you don't intend to compound the mistake by passing. Because you are playing a strong club system, partner's 1♦ could have been made with very short diamonds (even zero), so you offer 3♠ hoping to survive the auction. Partner raises to 4♠, RHO passes, you pass, but LHO has heard enough and doubles. You are well aware that your side has only seven spades (partner would never have doubled 3♥ holding four spades), but it's unclear whether there is a better spot and you don't intend to start guessing at the 5-level.

The auction:

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

West leads the ♥2 and partner tables a great dummy, but you see that you've landed yourself in the fire:

IMPs

Contract: 4♠x

Lead: ♥3

♠ AK10
♥ A4
♦ AJ953
♣ 973



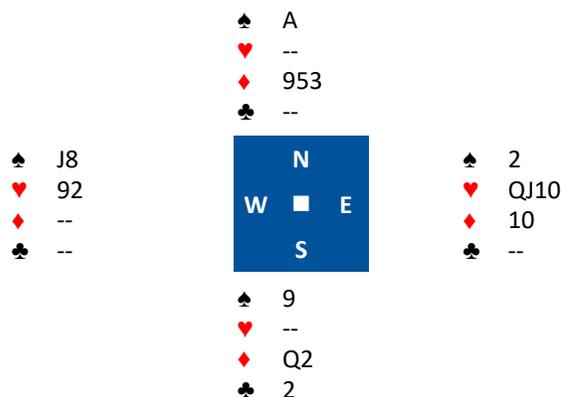
♠ 9752
♥ 5
♦ Q642
♣ QJ42

You immediately note that diamonds would have been a much better trump suit. Unfortunately you have no undos available and you will just have to cope with this terrible 4♠ contract. It's reasonable to assume LHO has five spades. She does not have both the ♣AK since she led a heart and, with only four spades, she may not have doubled. You win the ♥A and ponder how to proceed. There's no point in ruffing a heart at this point ... the opponents will play hearts at their next opportunity. So you lead a club to your Queen. RHO follows with the ♣5; LHO wins the ♣A and continues a heart. You trump with the ♠2 and lead the ♠5. LHO inserts the ♠Q and RHO follows with the ♠3 as you win the ♠K.

You lead another club. RHO takes the ♣K, LHO dropping the ♣8, and returns the ♣10. When you play the ♣J, LHO follows with the ♣6. Your ♣2 is high, but it's not much use at this point. Time to start on the diamonds ...

It looks likely that the ♦K is with LHO since RHO has already shown the ♣K and some high honours in hearts. If he also had the ♦K he probably wouldn't have pre-empted to 2♥.

In isolation it would be correct to lead the ♦Q, but LHO has shown up with three clubs, likely five spades and at least three, if not four, hearts. Using this information you lead the ♦2 toward dummy and LHO plays the ♦K! You back your judgement as to LHO's likely distribution and lead a good diamond from dummy. LHO trumps with the ♠4 and leads the ♠6. You insert dummy's ♠10 which holds, RHO discarding a heart. This is the end position with dummy on lead:



When you lead a diamond to your ♦Q West trumps with the ♠8 and returns a heart. You run this around to ruff with the ♠9 pitching a diamond from dummy. Now you continue with that pesky ♣2. LHO concedes and you manage to take nine tricks.

[continued next page]

Rising From The Ashes (continued)

You kept your focus, but this was a pyrrhic victory (the cost of your bad bid was much worse than any pleasure you had in taking nine tricks).

The full deal:

♠ QJ864 ♥ 9732 ♦ K ♣ A86	<table style="border: 2px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">■</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	■	E		S		♠ AK10 ♥ A4 ♦ AJ953 ♣ 973	♠ 3 ♥ KQJ1086 ♦ 1087 ♣ K105
N												
W	■	E										
	S											
♠ 9752 ♥ 5 ♦ Q642 ♣ QJ42												

At the other table North opened 1NT (15-17) and your partners reached 4♥. South, on a blind lead, led the ♣Q which made it impossible for the defense to safely continue clubs after East won the first trick with the ♣K (If North leads a club, it will trap South's ♠Q and if South leads the suit, declarer can run it around to his ♠10). East was able to establish spades for a club pitch and succeeded in scoring 10 tricks.

This in no way excuses your bidding, but keeping your focus allowed your team to win 11 IMPs and you avoided partner's bad books ... for now. This deal was played in six different matches, and in all cases (except at your table), East-West were in hearts at various levels. Despite the happy outcome, next time you will pass since too many contracts like this 4♠ can lead to cardiac arrest.

How Observant Are You?

from "The Fireside Book of Cards"
 By Gertrude McGiffert
 (pg 46)

How observant are you? The editors of *Games Digest* are all card-players and were very interested in a list of questions submitted by Mrs. McGiffert. No one could answer a single question! Here is a sample of some of the questions on the list.

Recommended scoring (No guessing!):

- 0 - Par!
- 1 - Brilliant.
- 2 - Colossal.
- 3 - You cheat.

1. What king shows his profile?
2. What king has no moustache?
3. What king holds a battle-ax?
4. What queen has a scepter?
5. What queen has a curl of hair next to her face?
6. What queen holds her flower between her first and second fingers?
7. What jack holds a leaf in one hand?
8. What jacks show their full faces?
9. What jack has two rows of curls?

Correct answers may be found in a deck of playing cards (or peek below if you must).

The Fireside Book of Cards, Oswald Jacoby and Albert Morehead, ed., Simon and Schuster, New York 1957



Answers to "How Observant Are You?"

King of ... | Queen of ... | Jack of ...
 1-diamonds, 2-hearts, 3-diamonds. | 4-spades, 5-diamonds, 6-spades. | 7-hearts, 8-clubs and diamonds, 9-spades.