



The Kibitzer

October 2025

Editors: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

President's Message

Greetings Bridge Players,

"Play anything!" I have heard this instruction given by Declarer on many occasions. It can happen if Declarer loses interest in Dummy's hand, if Dummy has no winning tricks, if Declarer is blocked from Dummy's hand or, out of frustration, when Declarer knows the contract cannot be made.

This occurred at my table a few months ago. Declarer was in an unmakeable 3NT contract, already down one with four tricks yet to be played. The remaining cards in Dummy were ♥2, ♣3 and ♦A6. Declarer held no more diamonds, having unsuccessfully finessed twice toward the ♦A on the board. RHO led a spade, Declarer and LHO following. Declarer, frustrated seeing he could not get to the ♦A, said "play anything". My partner asked, "did you say play anything"? Declarer confirmed, "play anything". My partner then said "I would like you to play the ♦A". Well, this lit the table on fire!

After a brief but lively exchange, the director was called and the ♦A was ruled as the card played. Declarer protested, "I have played bridge all my life and I have never heard of such a rule".

From The Laws of Duplicate Bridge as posted on the ACBL website, Law 46-A states "When calling for a card to be played from dummy declarer should clearly state both the suit and the rank of the desired card." Law 46-B-5 further states "If declarer indicates a play without designating either a suit or a rank (as by saying 'play anything' or words of like meaning) either defender may designate the play from dummy." Clearly the ruling at the table was correct.

As an additional note, Law 43-A-1(c) states "Dummy must not participate in the play, nor may he communicate anything about the play to declarer." Asking Dummy to choose which card is to be played would be a violation of this Law.

The Laws of Duplicate Bridge are 157 pages long and I have neither read the entire document nor claim to be an authority on anything pertaining to bridge. But, if you have an evening where you cannot fall asleep, try reading the Laws of Duplicate Bridge to discover the many things we do during the play that violate the rules.

Cynthia Clark
President, ACBL Unit 390

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2025 Unit 390 Annual General Meeting Calgary Duplicate Bridge Association

The Annual General Meeting of Unit 390 was held Sunday, June 1st at the Calgary Bridge Centre with over 60 Unit members in attendance.

Following a light lunch, the meeting was called to order at noon by President Cynthia Clark.

After opening preliminaries, the first item of business was the presentation of the President's Annual Report for the past year. You can read President Clark's full report on the Unit 390 website [HERE](#).

Unit Board of Directors and Associate Directors for 2025-26

Thanks were extended to Lois Matton who is retiring this year, having joined the Board as Tournament Chairperson in February 2023.

Of the remaining eight directors on last year's Board, five were entering year two of their terms of office: John Sharpe, Ed Lamb, Delores Hedley, Brad Bowyer and Judith Gartaganis. The remaining three directors agreed to stand for re-election for another two-year term: Cynthia Clark, Roger Bolton and Paulette McWilliam.

In addition, Terry Nazar agreed to stand for election to the Board.

There being no additional nominations from the floor, the 2025-26 Unit Board was instated:

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

There are many Associate Directors who do not sit on the Board, but whose volunteer work is a critical component of Unit activities: Terri Bedard (Notices), Daniel Bertrand (Web Master), Bob and Shirley McLeod (New Member Liaison), Jim Murphy (Trailer Maintenance), Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis (Kibitzer) and Barbara Webster (Equipment and Assets Manager).

On behalf of all unit members, thank you to these volunteers. Their countless hours of work ensure the success of programs and initiatives within Unit 390 and, ultimately support our entire bridge community.

Time for Bridge!

Following the meeting, the AGM Pairs game was held, with 13 tables participating. The overall winners were **Shuo Shi** and **Wake Yao** (and they also topped Flight B). **Stephanie Martinez** and **Corliss Ward** took top honours in Flight C. You can check out the complete game results using this [LINK](#).

Thank you to Joy and Brian Saville

This year's AGM Pairs was once again ably directed by the Savilles, long-time owners/managers of the Bidwell-Bridgejoy Bridge Club. Brian and Joy make directing a game like this look easy, when it is anything but that. They managed to cope with all the last-minute organizational details and still got the game up and running on time.



Award Winners Announced at the AGM

2024 Ace of Clubs, Ace of Virtual Clubs and Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Races

You can check out the name of winners of these masterpoint races on the Unit 390 website using this [LINK](#). (There are 15 masterpoint categories in each race).

Ike Landon Virtual Trophy



Mike D'Aguiar is the 2024 winner of the Ike Landon Virtual Trophy, which is awarded to the Unit 390 member amassing the most masterpoints across all categories in all events. Mike earned a total of just over 525 points during the year.

The winners of other virtual trophies for 2024 are:

Edna Lougheed Virtual Trophy to the winners of the two-session A/X Pairs at the Calgary Fall Sectional:

Terri Bedard – David Johnson

The Ann Waldie Virtual Trophy to the winners of the A/X Swiss Teams at the Calgary Spring Sectional:

**Qi (Quincy) Ju – Yi Peng (Mark) Mai –
Nicholas Gartaganis – Judith Gartaganis**

John Davison Virtual Trophy ** to the winners of the A/X Swiss Teams at the annual Alberta Summer Regional:

**Judith Gartaganis – Nicholas Gartaganis –
Lloyda Jones – Peter Jones**

** Starting in 2025, the John Davison Virtual Trophy will go to the winners of the B/C Swiss Teams at the Calgary Fall Sectional.

At the Club

By Daniel Bertrand

These are recent actual hands played on BBO or at the Calgary Bridge Centre. You are West playing matchpoints.

Hand 1:

♠ K8753
♥ J75
♦ 93
♣ 972



♠ AJ
♥ 84
♦ K742
♣ AKQ105

North opens 1NT (15-17). Your partner (East) bids 2NT showing the minors; you play in 3♣. LHO (North) leads the ♥A, ♥K and continues with the ♥3 as South encourages. You ruff with dummy's ♣5 as South follows. Plan the play.

Hand 2:

♠ AJ854
♥ A53
♦ A654
♣ 2



♠ 1076
♥ 10986
♦ 109
♣ A654

You open 1♠, LHO bids 2♦ and partner raises to 2♠. LHO leads the ♦K. Plan the play.

Hand 3:

♠ 98
♥ 4
♦ AQ742
♣ KQ872



♠ AKQ
♥ AK9872
♦ 6
♣ A53

You reach 7♣. LHO leads the ♠J removing one of your dummy entries. Plan the play.

Please turn to page 11 for the problem solutions.



Meet Your New Board Members

Terry Nazar



Terry was recruited for the Unit 390 Board of Directors in June 2025. For him, it was trial by fire, as he assumed the position of Tournament Chair.

When asked for some background information we could share with our readers, Terry reluctantly agreed.

How did you get started playing bridge?

After university in Ottawa, my wife, Sylvia, and I came out West to Calgary for a job in one of the many booms. Sometime in the mid-eighties, we both decided to learn to play duplicate bridge. We took some lessons and started playing at the Martinique. We dove right in, not really knowing what we were doing (but we thought we did!). I still remember those days when people smoked at the tables and the evening game was always followed by gathering at the Tropicana afterwards to review all the hands! This was no easy task since there were no hand records back then.

Soon after, the reality of careers, raising a family, and other obligations meant we had to give up bridge.

What drew you back?

We hadn't played for some 25 years. One day, while camping in Osoyoos and newly retired, it was raining and we heard there was a bridge tournament starting in Penticton. We drove the hour or so to get there and bought an entry. Before we knew it, we were hooked again! We met some old partners and even got our pictures taken for winning an event! We ended up commuting from our campsite to the tournament every day for all seven days.

COVID-19 temporarily curtailed our return to bridge, but we were able to re-start our bridge journey once clubs re-opened for F2F bridge (masks required, of course). We moved back to the Calgary area in 2024.

What do you like best about bridge?

Both Sylvia and I are now active participants at the Calgary Bridge Centre. We enjoy the challenges of bridge and the camaraderie that ensues. The more we play, the more we appreciate the skill and intricacies of the game. It's a lifelong learning process!

What convinced you to serve on the Board?

Duplicate bridge has always depended on the many volunteers who pitch in to make it work, and Sylvia and I have always appreciated those efforts. I'm glad for the opportunity to help out now as part of the Unit 390 Board.

Osama Elshafey



Osama joined the Unit 390 Board of Directors in September 2025. He has taken on the duties of Vice President, which (little did he know) is really a "help everybody" position.

Your editors asked Osama to tell us a bit about himself.

How long have you been playing bridge and how did you get started?

My journey with bridge started in the 1970s when my mom, who was an experienced bridge player, introduced me to the basics of the game. In the following years, I stayed absent from the game for three decades as I pursued graduate studies in engineering, and then a long busy career in the oil and gas industry.

What drew you back?

When I retired 12 years ago, I took up the game again. Bridge has changed significantly since the days I started learning it. During the last 12 years I have enjoyed playing the game immensely and I have also established a lot of long-lasting friendships among the bridge players.

What do you like best about bridge?

To me, the game is full of variety and challenges that stimulate the brain. I enjoy mentoring two of the 299ers but I also appreciate being mentored by players more advanced than me!

What convinced you to serve on the Board?

When I was asked to join the Unit 390 Board, I welcomed the opportunity to pay back the bridge community that has given, and continues to give, me a lot of pleasure and good times.

Is there life away from the bridge table?

On the personal side, I am a retired engineer with a Ph.D. in structural engineering. I also play competitive tennis and I am passionate about the sport.

Editor's Note: Osama left out one of his best stories. When he came from Egypt to study in Calgary, he would normally have returned to his home country after graduation. However, he decided to stay on and, as his wife puts it, "Staying in Calgary has been the second-best decision he ever made!"



2025 Unit 390 Sectionals

Masterpoint Race - Top 40

Year-to-Date Standings - as of October 6th, 2025 *

* Based on Unit 390 sectionals in 2025: three open sectionals (New Year's, Spring and Fall) plus the May 299er sectional

1	83.09	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB
2	65.17	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB
3	52.10	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB
	52.10	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB
5	43.83	Yi Peng (Mark) Mai	Calgary AB
6	42.41	Dmitry Komin	Calgary AB
7	40.36	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB
	40.36	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB
9	39.32	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB
10	34.94	Abdul Fakhri	Calgary AB
11	32.97	Terri Bedard	Calgary AB
12	32.90	David Johnson	Calgary AB
13	30.23	Qi (Quincy) Ju	Calgary AB
14	28.65	Mike D Aguiar	Calgary AB
15	27.59	Rod Hilderman	Calgary AB
16	22.79	Shuo Shi	Calgary AB
17	21.85	Garry Ramsden-Wood	Calgary AB
18	21.33	Chris Wuerscher	Calgary AB
19	21.03	Lamya Abougoush	Calgary AB
20	18.90	Bob Gagnon	Calgary AB
21	18.63	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB
22	17.92	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB
23	17.69	Terry Nazar	Cochrane AB
24	16.99	Frank Ayer	Calgary AB
25	16.44	Howard Coren	Calgary AB
26	16.40	Hai Hu	Calgary AB
27	16.07	Shuangbing (Frank) Guo	Calgary AB
	16.07	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB
29	16.05	Quentin Krogstad	Calgary AB
30	15.98	Stewart Brightman	Calgary AB
31	15.70	Devra Drysdale	Calgary AB
32	15.33	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB
33	15.10	Dale Bercov	Calgary AB
34	14.94	Carole Kirk	Banff AB
35	14.75	Eric Gutland	Calgary AB
36	14.61	Marjory Sword	Canmore AB
37	14.60	Yurong (June) Cheng	Calgary AB
38	14.13	Sylvia Nazar	Cochrane AB
39	13.99	Marcia Andreychuk	Calgary AB
40	13.70	Barry Crozier	Calgary AB
	13.70	Lana McFadden	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 October 6th, 2025 *

* Based on 299er events at Unit 390 sectionals in 2025: three open sectionals (New Year's, Spring and Fall) plus the May 299er sectional

1	13.48	Eric Gutland	Calgary AB
2	12.18	Corliss Ward	Calgary AB
3	8.80	Sylvia Nazar	Cochrane AB
4	8.41	Dianne McCubbin	Calgary AB
5	8.25	Susan Ruf	Calgary AB
6	8.01	Genevieve McLean	Calgary AB
7	7.40	Dee-Ann Clark	Calgary AB
	7.40	Gray Graves	Calgary AB
9	7.31	Stephanie Martinez	Calgary AB
10	7.22	Art Marche	Calgary AB
11	7.06	Joan Allwarden	Foothills AB
	7.06	Kerri Gallup	Longview AB
13	6.91	Warren Johnston	Calgary AB
14	6.58	Sherry Goldenberg	Calgary AB
15	6.35	David Spence	Calgary AB
16	6.14	Jerry Malone	Wheatland Cnty AB
	6.14	Sheila Morgan	Wheatland Cnty AB
18	5.99	Sandy Shuler	Calgary AB
19	5.98	Nancy Brooks	Calgary AB
	5.98	Nancy Penner	Calgary AB
21	5.85	Charles (Tony) Teare	Canmore AB
	5.85	Jennifer Teare	Canmore AB
23	5.16	Edward Lamb	Calgary AB
	5.16	Ted Lobley	Calgary AB
25	5.08	Chuck Cherry	Calgary AB
26	4.68	Janet Quiring	Calgary AB
27	4.48	Christina Larkins	Calgary AB
28	4.36	Steve Eastes	Calgary AB
29	3.74	David Pethrick	Calgary AB
	3.74	Adiel Rautenbach	Calgary AB
	3.74	Dave Ross	Calgary AB
32	3.71	Larry Dick	Calgary AB
	3.71	Michele Dick	Calgary AB
34	3.60	Ginny Hood	Calgary AB
35	3.42	John Frank	Calgary AB
	3.42	Sheila Frank	Calgary AB
37	3.35	Jodie Winquist	Calgary AB
38	3.27	Elizabeth Schweighardt	Calgary AB
	3.27	Nilima Sonpal-Valias	Calgary AB
40	3.19	Vera Young	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/>

Journey to Gold

By Frank Kelton



I first cut my teeth on duplicate bridge at Ted Horning's club in Thornhill Ontario (circa 1980), when Ted ran evening club games and the odd money game whilst writing a delicious Canadian syndicated bridge column. I had just joined the ACBL thinking I knew

a fair bit about bridge, having been taught rubber bridge as a young teen by my father.

I attended Ted's club with a friend (Rick Jotcham) whose brother, Ray, was a technically brilliant player. At Ted's club, we played against the likes of Ted, Audrey Grant, George Mittelman, Fred Gitelman, Ray and many other terrific Canadian players. Fred, interestingly enough, grew into a world-class bridge player and programmer who brought us Bridge Base Online from a small beginning in the early 1990s.



Original Toronto Star caption: Short-suited in hearts: Audrey and Ted Horning feel Toronto authorities are short of heart too, in forbidding them from opening a private bridge club at 491 King St. E. Their game on sidewalk with oversize cards dramatizes effect on them of city's crackdown on body-rub joints and pornography.

It quickly became clear, with all deference to my father, how little I knew about bridge. The intrigue of the game and the fascination with hand patterns and playing techniques, including looking for endplays and squeezes as well as avoiding finesses when possible, piqued my curiosity and also taught me a thing or two about how humbling this wonderful

game can be. Then, of course, bidding systems, defense and opening leads added to the necessary learning if one were to enjoy competitive success -- beyond the indelible socialization benefits of attending clubs.

After moving to Calgary years later, a good friend (Rob Hason) and I joined the Martinique club owned by Brenda and Dan Bertrand. We played two or three times per month -- sufficiently long enough to get my Sectional Master designation that year and my Regional Master the following year. Then, after a five-year hiatus from bridge for health reasons, I earned my NABC Master and Life Master ranks in 2010. It took 10 years of occasional play to become a Silver Master in December 2020 and less than a year later (November 2021) I earned my Ruby Life Master title. Despite the ravages on club play due to COVID-19, Bridge Base Online has been a godsend for some of us! It is wonderful to see and enjoy a return to face-to-face play over the past year or so.

I have many people to thank for my success, including my regular partner of the past 10 years -- Garth Wiggins. Garth has been patient, a mentor and a friend. I am grateful to have met him and to have him as a regular partner. I also want to thank some of Calgary's finest players whom I have had the pleasure to play with including Dan Bertrand, Dann Kramer, Allan Simon, Steve Lawrence and many others. I also appreciate the good competition, including Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis, who I have faced at the table on the odd occasion.

Like many pursuits in life, we tend to find success when we play with and against players that are more skilled than ourselves. I could have received the "loudest of eye rolls" from partners and opponents over the years for my gaffes and play. But instead, for the most part, these mentors have been both didactic and supportive. I encourage everyone to seek out patient, tolerant and better players if improving your game is a goal. And then, we might also consider giving back to the newbies who likewise wish to improve their game!

Editors' Note: Frank attained the rank of Gold Life Master in June of this year. To become a Gold Life Master, one must be a Life Master with at least 2500 masterpoints, 500 of which must be red, silver, gold or platinum points. Congratulations, Frank!

299er May Sectional Report

Highlights



The annual Unit 390 Spring 299er Sectional was held on Saturday, May 10, at the Calgary Bridge Centre. The upper playing area was bursting at the seams with 25 tables for the morning session and 17½ tables in the afternoon. The Spring attendance surpassed that of the Fall 2024 tournament by 8½ tables!

Thank you to all the players who continue to support events specifically for players in this category -- under 300 masterpoints. Bridge in Calgary cannot grow without you.



Saturday May 10 - A full house at the Bridge Centre

Once again, under the leadership of Future Masters Chair, Roger Bolton, the tournament was ably organized and ran smoothly. Many other volunteers lent a hand in the days leading up to the event and on-site the day of the tournament.

Clarence Doby and John Prance were at the helm as directors. They were well-prepared and the day went off without a hitch ... not always easy with so many tables in play. Some attendees were playing in their first ever tournament.

Antara Keeler was the guest speaker over the lunch break. In her presentation about "Cuebids", she explained the basics and offered tips about cue bidding.

Kudos to all these volunteers! Without their effort and time commitment, events such as this simply could not take place.

In all, 73 players earned 81.94 silver masterpoints over the two sessions.

Morning Session Results

Overall Winners and Top Pair in Flights A and B:

Stephanie Martinez and Susan Ruf

Top Flight C Pair:

Nilima Sonpal-Valias and Elizabeth Schweighardt

Afternoon Session Results

Overall Winners and Top Flight A Pair:

Sandy Shuler and Corliss Ward

Top Flight B Pair:

Johannah Hall and David Spence

Top Flight C Pair:

Kerri Gallup and Joan Allwarden

You can check out the complete results on the Unit 390 website [HERE](#). Scroll down the page to May 10.

Upcoming Fall 299er Sectional

The final event of the year - the Fall 299er Sectional Tournament - is coming up on Saturday, October 25, 2025 at the Calgary Bridge Centre. Why not make plans to come out to play?



The year-to-date standings in the Unit 390 Sectionals 299er Masterpoint Race are neck and neck and we may see the top spot change hands after this tournament. Currently, Eric Gutland leads with 13.48 points. Corliss Ward is nipping at his heels with 12.18 points.



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 2026.

XYZ For Dummies

By Allan Simon

Over the last 10 years or so, the convention known as XYZ has become standard for nearly all expert pairs that play 2 over 1 as game forcing. I believe it is effective and easy to learn -- although at first, in the heat of the battle, you might forget it once or twice -- it has happened to me!

When does it apply?

It applies to responders 2nd bid whenever the auction is still at the 1-level. Here are some examples:

1♦ - 1♥	1♣ - 1♠
1♠ - **	1NT - **

The ** means it is XYZ time!! My regular partners and I have agreed to extend XYZ to more complex auctions where the opponents enter the bidding, for example:

1♣ - (1♦) - DBL - (1♠)
Pass - (Pass) - **

How does it work?

2♣ is a relay to 2♦ (continuations are shown below)
 2♦ is an artificial game force
 2♥, 2♠ are natural with less than invitational strength
 2NT is a transfer to 3♣

Continuations after 2♣ (relay) - 2♦:

Pass - to play
 Any other bid - shows a hand with invitational strength, about 10-12 HCP - use your judgment!
All invitational hands must bid 2♣, no exceptions!

Since 2♣ takes care of all invitational hands, this frees up all 3-level bids to be game-forcing with **great** suits, for example:

You hold ♠54 ♥AQ42 ♦42 ♣AKQ54

1♣ - 1♥
1♠ - **

** Bid 3♣ to indicate a game-forcing hand with great clubs.

You hold ♠A6 ♥KQJ10763 ♦73 ♣K4

1♣ - 1♥
1♠ - **

** Bid 3♥ to show a game-force with a great heart suit.

You hold ♠K7643 ♥AKQ85 ♦Q4 ♣8

1♦ - 1♠
1NT - **

** Bid 3♥ to show a game-force with exceptionally strong hearts.

You hold ♠AQ764 ♥AJ974 ♦Q6 ♣8

1♦ - 1♠
1NT - **

** Bid 2♦ to show a game-force, and rebid 3♥ unless partner bids 2♠.

Are there any disadvantages to playing XYZ?

Apart from the occasional oopses when one forgets the system, the only disadvantage is that you can no longer play in 2♣. Since all invitational hands have to bid 2♣, this frees up 2NT to use as a transfer to 3♣. For example:

You hold ♠KJ106 ♥65 ♦J9 ♣J8673

1♣ - 1♠
1NT - **

** Bid 2NT as a transfer to 3♣ (or pass 1NT if you wish).

Quiz

Hand 1: ♠Q1096 ♥K6 ♦AQ1043 ♣64

1♣ - 1♦
1♥ - ?

Hand 2: ♠A764 ♥108 ♦J7643 ♣J4

1♦ - (Pass) - 1♠ - (DBL)
1NT - (Pass) - ?

Hand 3: ♠KJ6 ♥K8 ♦AJ864 ♣Q42

1♣ - 1♦
1♥ - ?

Hand 4: ♠Q5 ♥A64 ♦AKQJ65 ♣52

1♣ - 1♦
1♠ - ?

Hand 5: ♠107653 ♥4 ♦KQ6532 ♣8

1♣ - 1♦
1♥ - ?

Please turn to the next page for the answers to the quiz.

XYZ For Dummies - Quiz Answers

Hand 1: ♠Q1096 ♥K6 ♦AQ1043 ♣64

Bid 2♣ - All invitational hand must bid 2♣! Partner will bid 2♦ over which you can bid 2♠.

Hand 2: ♠A764 ♥108 ♦J7643 ♣J4

Bid 2♣ - Partner will bid 2♦ and you will pass.

Hand 3: ♠KJ6 ♥K8 ♦AJ864 ♣Q42

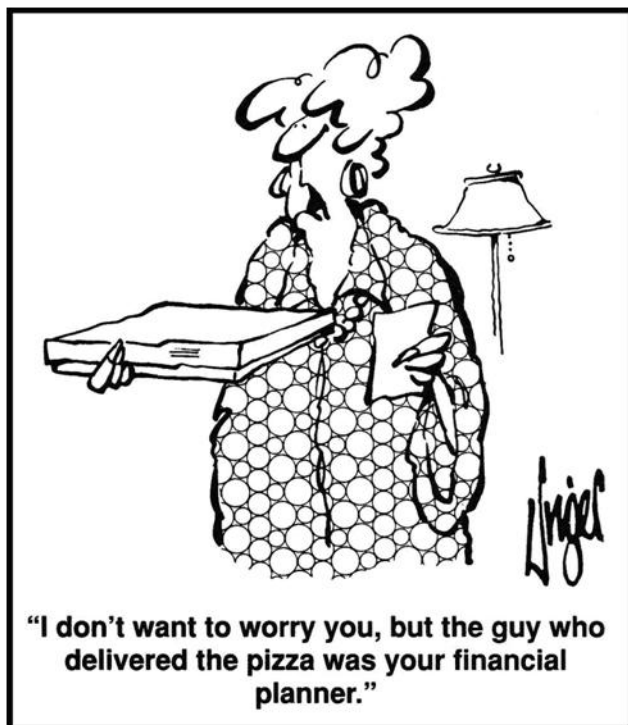
Bid 2♦ - Creates a game force. Then, natural bidding will lead to the correct contract.

Hand 4: ♠Q5 ♥A64 ♦AKQJ65 ♣52

Bid 3♦ - Creates a game-force with a great diamond suit.

Hand 5: ♠107653 ♥4 ♦KQ6532 ♣8

Bid 1♠ - Less than invitational strength and suggests your actual distribution.



The Best of Herman
By Jim Unger

Unit 390 Tournament Report

By Terry Nazar, Tournament Chair

The 2025 Calgary regular tournament schedule wound up with the Fall Sectional at the end of August. In 2024, the Fall tournament had attracted the fewest number of tables of the three sectionals that year, and the 2025 Fall version followed that pattern.

The Fall Sectional drew 203 tables, which was an increase of five tables compared to Fall 2024, but still lower than either the 2024 New Year's or Spring sectional. No doubt the beautiful weather offered up by Mother Nature convinced a few people to enjoy the closing days of summer away from the bridge table.

The strong attendance of the 299er players continues to bolster our tournament numbers. In August, 41 tables of players came out to the 299er games, including eight tables for the 199ers Pairs event on Sunday morning.

Top point winners over the tournament weekend all hailed from Calgary.

Flight A/X events: **David Johnson**, who won 21.24 masterpoints.

Flight B/C events: **Richard Wolfe** and **Thomas To**, each with 8.24 masterpoints.

299er / 199er events: **Art Marche** and **Tsz Yu Leung**, each with 5.17 masterpoints.

The virtual Edna Lougheed Memorial Trophy went to Glenn and Cindy Cossey of Innisfail, winners of the Saturday A/X Pairs. Congratulations!



Be sure to mark your calendars for Calgary's 2026 sectional tournaments. You can find the tournament schedule on page 22. All three regular tournaments will be held at the Doubletree.

Unit 390 will be providing complementary coffee every morning, as well as doughnuts Sunday morning. The 299er tournaments are planned for the Calgary Bridge Centre.

Unit 390 will be holding a 0-750 Non-Life Master Regional June 5 - 7, 2026, to run alongside the regular sectional. This will be a great opportunity to win gold points and climb closer to that Life Master title.

Member Milestones

The following members have reached new masterpoint milestones in the six months from April 2025 through September 2025. Congratulations to all on their achievements.



New Junior Masters (5+ MPs):

Joann Bast	Johannah Hall
Deanna Bryden	Donna Johnson
Susan Busser	Susan Jull
Larry Dick	Christine Neff
Michele Dick	Marion Mackie
Marilyn Dumka	Valerie Sherwood
Christine Ernst	Diane Yaciuk
Lyle Ford	

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

Deborah Bartlett	Liz McFetridge
Wendy Bursey	Nancy Penner
Patrick Harder	Teresa Serafini
Murray Knechtel	Judith Shaw
Sheila Lenes	Barbara Waskiewich
Zengfu Liu	

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

Chuck Cherry	Jennifer Scott
Miriam Daniel	Melvin Teghtmeyer
Steve Eastes	Mary Young
Hai Hu	

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

Quentin Krogstad	Dianne McCubbin
Ted Lobley	Dave Ross
Jerry Malone	

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

Donna Badiou	Lana McFadden
Dan Dover	Sheila Morgan
Atsuko McDonald	Maxine Rystephanick

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

Stewart Brightman	Dmitry Komin
Carolanne DeBiasio	Sandra Stewart

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

Beverley Erickson	Richard Weinberger
Qi (Quincy) Ju	

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

Beverley Erickson	Lynn Grisack
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New Silver Life Masters (1000+ MPs; a Life Master with at least 200 silver, red, gold or platinum points):

Marcia Andreychuk	Yi Peng (Mark) Mai
Blake Fleming	Kathleen Malo
Alberta Hutchings	Ann Slattery
Evelyn Iwasa	Richard Weinberger
Doris Lange	

New Ruby Life Masters (1500+ MPs; a Life Master with at least 300 silver, red, gold or platinum points):

David Boushy	Don Dumka
Barry Crozier	Janet Gent

New Gold Life Masters (2500+ MPs; a Life Master with at least 500 silver, red, gold or platinum points):

Mike D Aguiar	Gail Godwin
Jim Davies	Mae Jardine
Clarende Duby	Frank Kelton

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

Helen Dillen	Rod Hilderman
Christopher Galbraith	



2025 Hattie Joffe Virtual Trophy

The Hattie Joffe Memorial Trophy commemorates our Unit's first Life Master and is awarded to the Unit 390 member who wins the most masterpoints at the annual Alberta Summer Regional. You can read about Hattie Joffe on the Unit 390 website by following this [LINK](#).

The 2025 race for points won at the Red Deer Regional was captured by **Nicholas Gartaganis**, who led all players, earning just over 102 masterpoints for the week.

At the Club - Solutions

By Daniel Bertrand

Hand 1:

♠ K8753
♥ J75
♦ 93
♣ 972



♠ AJ
♥ 84
♦ K742
♣ AKQ105

You play in 3♣ after North opens 1NT (15-17) and partner (East) bids 2NT showing the minors.

LHO (North) leads the ♥A, ♥K and continues with the ♥3 as South encourages. You ruff with dummy's ♣5 and South follows.

You know that North must have the ♦A. So, cross to your hand by overtaking the ♠J with the ♠K and play a diamond. North can win the ♦A and play a trump. But you win in dummy, cash the ♦K, and ruff a diamond. Cross back to dummy with the ♠A and try to ruff another diamond with your last trump. It will win! Play one of your remaining spades and North will show out; so, dummy can win the last three tricks with the King, Queen and 10 of trumps. You will take 10 tricks.

The full deal was:

♠ 104
♥ AK32
♦ AQJ6
♣ J63

♠ K8753
♥ J75
♦ 93
♣ 972



♠ AJ
♥ 84
♦ K742
♣ AKQ105

♠ Q962
♥ Q1096
♦ 1085
♣ 84

The defense could have done better by leading rumps sooner. But you can always take nine tricks, even with just one diamond ruff. 80% of declarers only took eight tricks in a club contract.

Hand 2:

♠ AJ854
♥ A53
♦ A654
♣ 2



♠ 1076
♥ 10986
♦ 109
♣ A654

You are in 2♠, North having overcalled 2♦. LHO leads the ♦K.

You need to take care of your diamond losers. Win the first trick with the ♦A and return another diamond. LHO wins the ♦J and continues with the ♦Q. You ruff with the ♠10 (LHO might have both the ♠K and ♠Q), but RHO overruffs with the ♠Q and returns a small heart. What should you do?

You still have a small losing diamond to worry about, so win with the ♥A and play your last diamond. LHO covers with the ♦8 and dummy ruffs. RHO overruffs, but with the ♠K! The opponents can cash two heart tricks, but then you can pull trumps and claim.

The full deal was:

♠ 92
♥ KQ4
♦ KQJ82
♣ Q97

♠ AJ854
♥ A53
♦ A654
♣ 2



♠ KQ3
♥ J72
♦ 73
♣ KJ1083

♠ 1076
♥ 10986
♦ 109
♣ A654

Making your contract is worth 66%, going down (if you did not ruff your diamond losers) only 33%.

Hand 3:

♠ 98
♥ 4
♦ AQ742
♣ KQ872



♠ AKQ
♥ AK9872
♦ 6
♣ A53

You reach 7♣. North leads the ♠J removing one of your dummy entries.

You need to assume that clubs break 3-2 to avoid a trump loser. Counting winners, you have three spades, two hearts, one diamond and five clubs for a total of 11 tricks. You need two more. You could try to ruff two of your losing diamonds in dummy, but you do not have enough entries to your hand.

[Continued next page]

What's the Rush?

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Playing in a Swiss team event, with both sides vulnerable, you pick up:

♠ K5 ♥ K108432 ♦ J93 ♣ A7

Although it crosses your mind to open a weak 2♥, that feels like an ultra conservative approach. You begin proceedings with 1♥ and, in an uncontested auction, partner responds 1NT (forcing one round). Your 2♥ rebid indicates extra length and partner raises to 4♥. LHO leads the ♦ Q and you get to assess whether this lead is bad or good for your side.

Partner tables a dummy that fits well with your hand:

IMPs

Contract: 4♥

Lead: ♦ Q

♠ A1042
♥ Q75
♦ K1072
♣ Q2

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

♠ K5
♥ K108432
♦ J93
♣ A7

Despite the combined assets adding up to only 22 HCP, after the favourable diamond lead, the prospects for making 10 tricks are excellent. You cover the ♦ Q with the King. RHO wins the ♦ A and returns the ♦ 5; LHO follows with the ♦ 4 as your ♦ J wins. There are two potential heart losers (maybe even three if LHO holds ♥ AJ96). However, there is no realistic way to protect against the nightmare scenario of a 4-0 break with LHO. You have a parking spot for your club loser (on the long diamond) so even if two hearts are lost, the road to 10 tricks seems almost certain. You lead the ♥ 2 towards dummy. LHO plays the ♥ 6 and when the ♥ Q is played RHO follows with the ♥ 9.

Now 11 tricks are possible if the hearts are 2-2. Before playing to the next trick an assessment is in order to determine what might happen if West started with ♥ AJ6. She would win the second round of hearts and switch to a club. You are in trouble if East holds the ♣ K because you won't have time to dispose of your club loser (assuming West can ruff the third round of diamonds). Do you have a counter to this possibility? Yes you do!

Rather than playing a second round of hearts, you must revert to diamonds. If West ruffs with the ♥ J and switches to a club you are in control. After winning the ♣ A you can travel to dummy's ♠ A and pitch the losing club while West ruffs with the ♥ A. There is no club trick for the defenders.

It is worth noting that the correct play is the same whether the game is matchpoints or IMPs. If West started with the ♥ A6, she will be ruffing with a natural trump trick when you play the third round of diamonds so 11 tricks will still be there for the taking.

Sadly, at the table, partner failed to consider the consequences of rushing to play a second round of hearts and ended up with only nine tricks.

Here is the full deal:

	♠ A1042	
	♥ Q75	
	♦ K1072	
	♣ Q2	
♠ 973		♠ QJ86
♥ AJ6		♥ 9
♦ Q4		♦ A865
♣ J9853		♣ K1064
	♠ K5	
	♥ K108432	
	♦ J93	
	♣ A7	



The Kibitzer - October 2025

2025 Ace of Clubs Races

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

0 to 5	1	Susan Jull	Calgary AB	15
	2	John Spence	Calgary AB	11
	3	Lyle Ford	Calgary AB	11
5 to 20	1	Patrick Harder	Calgary AB	11
	2	Wayne Rancier	Calgary AB	7
	3	Bev Krahn	Calgary AB	6
20 to 50	1	Stephanie Martinez	Calgary AB	37
	2	Chuck Cherry	Calgary AB	15
	3	Christina Larkins	Calgary AB	14
50 to 100	1	Quentin Krogstad	Calgary AB	34
	2	Janet Quiring	Calgary AB	31
	3	Lois Clapperton	Calgary AB	30
100 to 200	1	Eric Gutland	Calgary AB	50
	2	Corliss Ward	Calgary AB	50
	3	Lana McFadden	Calgary AB	47
200 to 300	1	Sherry Goldenberg	Calgary AB	42
	2	Sandy Shuler	Calgary AB	34
	3	Edward Lamb	Calgary AB	30
300 to 500	1	David Stephure	Calgary AB	42
	2	Dave Brett	Calgary AB	39
	3	Inge French	Okotoks AB	34
500 to 1000	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	105
	2	Ann Slattery	Calgary AB	59
	3	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB	53
1000 to 1500	1	Dale Bercov	Calgary AB	102
	2	Pat Anderson	Calgary AB	83
	3	Terry Nazar	Calgary AB	80
1500 to 2500	1	Mike D Aguiar	Calgary AB	164
	2	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	133
	3	Rick Boyd	Calgary AB	88
2500 to 3500	1	Terri Bedard	Calgary AB	126
	2	Garth Wiggins	Calgary AB	117
	3	Rod Hilderman	Calgary AB	101
3500 to 5000	1	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB	67
	2	Faiz Nadir	Calgary AB	33
	3	Maged Wafa	Calgary AB	27
5000 to 7500	1	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	67
	2	David Johnson	Calgary AB	45
	3	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	32
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	165
	2	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	107
	3	Nok Yin (Jim) Lee	Calgary AB	4
Over 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	113
	2	Gerry Marshall	Calgary	33
	3	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary	5

2025 Ace of Virtual Clubs Races

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

0 to 5	1	Karen Serafini	Calgary AB	1
	2	Warren Book	Calgary AB	1
5 to 20	1/2	Lori Conner	Canmore AB	2
	1/2	Rodger Conner	Canmore AB	2
	3/4	Murray Knechtel	Calgary AB	1
	3/4	Deborah Bartlett	Calgary AB	1
20 to 50	1	Julie Jacques	Calgary AB	18
	2	Kerri Gallup	Longview AB	6
	3	Diane Morais	Calgary AB	3
50 to 100	1	Philippa Fitzgerald-Finch	Calgary AB	18
	2	Joyce Gibson t	Calgary AB	9
	3	Celia Gaudet	Calgary AB	3
100 to 200	1	Colleen Rogers	Calgary AB	43
	2	Christine Stephure	Calgary AB	24
	3	Cheryl Whittaker	Calgary AB	19
200 to 300	1	Lynn Gall	Calgary AB	16
	2	Michael Mannas	Calgary AB	15
	3	Robert Scott	Calgary AB	19
300 to 500	1	David Stephure	Calgary AB	59
	2	Atsuko McDonald	Calgary AB	55
	3	Margriet Huisman	Calgary AB	37
500 to 1000	1	Morris Streich	Calgary AB	70
	2	Philip Coppard	Calgary AB	61
	3	Harvey Wiehler	Calgary AB	59
1000 to 1500	1	Martine Parent	Calgary AB	66
	2	Marny Simpson	Calgary AB	58
	3	Robert Boissain	Calgary AB	55
1500 to 2500	1	Mark Manzer	Calgary AB	119
	2	Barry Crozier	Calgary AB	49
	3	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	46
2500 to 3500	1	William Basler	Calgary AB	77
	2	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	50
	3	Gerry Marchant	Calgary AB	42
3500 to 5000	1	Stephanie McAdam	Calgary AB	84
	2	Michael Broadhurst	Calgary AB	36
	3	Gamil Tadros	Calgary AB	30
5000 to 7500	1	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	9
	2	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	9
7500 to 10,000	1	Allan Simon	Calgary AB	23
	2	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	20
	3	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	16
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	14
	2	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	2

2025 Mini-McKenney Races

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

0 to 5	1	Evelyn Boucher	Calgary AB	32
	2	Nancy Penner	Calgary AB	18
	3	John Spence	Calgary AB	17
5 to 20	1	Patrick Harder	Calgary AB	11
	2	Wayne Rancier	Calgary AB	11
	3	Barbara Waskiewich	Calgary AB	7
20 to 50	1	Stephanie Martinez	Calgary AB	44
	2	Hai Hu	Calgary AB	27
	3	Chuck Cherry	Calgary AB	23
50 to 100	1	Quentin Krogstad	Calgary AB	60
	2	Janet Quiring	Calgary AB	38
	3	Warren Johnston	Calgary AB	35
100 to 200	1	Lana McFadden	Calgary AB	83
	2	Colleen Rogers	Calgary AB	79
	3	Dan Dover	Calgary AB	66
200 to 300	1	Sherry Goldenberg	Calgary AB	64
	2	Sheila Morgan	Wheatland Cnty AB	51
	3	Sandy Shuler	Calgary AB	48
300 to 500	1	David Stephure	Calgary AB	123
	2	Cindy Watt	Calgary AB	77
	3	Atsuko McDonald	Calgary AB	65
500 to 1000	1	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	141
	2	Thomas To	Calgary AB	91
	3	Jamie Watt	Calgary AB	87
1000 to 1500	1	John Prance	Calgary AB	147
	2	Pat Anderson	Calgary AB	140
	3	Richard Wolfe	Calgary AB	134
1500 to 2500	1	Mike D Aguiar	Calgary AB	387
	2	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	258
	3	Clarende Duby	Calgary AB	166
2500 to 3500	1	Terri Bedard	Calgary AB	271
	2	Rod Hilderman	Calgary AB	237
	3	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB	181
3500 to 5000	1	Yi Peng (Mark) Mai	Calgary AB	230
	2	Qi (Quincy) Ju	Calgary AB	178
	3	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB	152
5000 to 7500	1	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	298
	2	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	192
	3	David Johnson	Calgary AB	123
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	401
	2	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	300
	3	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	151
Over 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	306
	2	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	302
	3	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	215



2025 - 26 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. This year, there are four flights in the NAP (a change from the usual three): Open Flight (unrestricted), Flight A (under 6000 MP), Flight B (under 3000 MP) and Flight C (non-life master under 750 MP).

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:

Open Flt - Sat. Nov. 8, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. MST
 Flt A - Sat. Nov. 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. MST
 Flt B - Sat. Nov. 15, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. MST
 Flt C - Sat. Nov. 8, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. MST

The Open Flight and Flight A will be combined if fewer than five pairs register in either flight. If eligible, players may play the District Finals on both Saturdays.

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

Open Flight, Flight A and Flight C registration deadline:
 Saturday, Nov. 1 at 10:00 a.m.

Flight B registration deadline:
 Saturday, Nov. 8 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Not So Simple

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Playing in a Swiss team event, at favourable vulnerability, you pick up this nice hand:

♠AKQ3 ♥AKJ105 ♦8 ♣762

You open 1♥ in first seat, partner raises to 2♥ and you end the auction with a bid of 4♥. RHO momentarily hesitated before passing 2♥. In the postmortem your partner is likely to grill you about your failure to make a game try, but all will be well if you are able to dazzle him with your declarer play. LHO leads the ♣J.

This has been the simple auction:

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

¹ hesitation

Partner surprises you with a terrific dummy for once:

IMPs

Contract: 4♥

Lead: ♣J

♠ J542
♥ 764
♦ A102
♣ A85

♠ AKQ3
♥ AKJ105
♦ 8
♣ 762

This contract appears simple to play. You have two club losers and possibly one heart loser. Even if RHO has all five hearts you have an easy path to 10 tricks. Since you have a pessimistic nature and you do not want to botch the play, you think carefully about what could go wrong.

The first potential danger lies in the distribution of the club suit. Imagine if LHO has four hearts and a doubleton (or tripleton) club. After winning the heart finesse West plays another club and East can promote another trick for his partner's ♥8 or ♥9 by winning the second club and playing two more rounds. In the case where West has only one club, if you duck the club and his partner overtakes the ♣J to give him an immediate club ruff you were always destined to lose two club tricks anyway, so no damage

done. If West has club length there is no danger regardless of whether you take the ♣A on the first or second round (surely West has not led the ♣J from ♣KQJ). You decide to duck one club, hoping to cut the defenders' communication.

When you play low on the opening lead RHO overtakes his partner's Jack with the Queen and returns the ♣K. This play gives you a better idea of the club distribution. Although not a certainty, it seems that East has club length (and that is consistent with his hesitation during the auction). You win the ♣A as LHO follows with the ♣3.

Now you lead a heart. The card gods deal you a cruel blow as East pitches a low diamond. It seems you are destined to fail despite your careful planning. However, you aren't willing to give up just yet. Is there some miracle distribution that will save you?

West is known to have five hearts and at least two clubs. After considerable thought, you work out that there is just one distribution for West that provides a path to 10 tricks. If West is specifically 3-5-3-2 you can make one of the opponents' tricks disappear. After winning the ♥A, you cross to the ♦A, ruff a diamond, cross back to the ♠J, ruff another diamond and then play two more rounds of spades. To your delight, West helplessly follows suit to all these tricks. You have reached this end position:

♠ --	♠ 5	♠ --
♥ Q984	♥ 76	♥ --
♦ --	♦ --	♦ Q98
♣ --	♣ 8	♣ 10
	N	
	W ■ E	
	S	
	♠ Q	
	♥ KJ	
	♦ --	
	♣ 7	

You have eight tricks in (♣A, ♥A, ♦A, two diamond ruffs and three spades). Now you can lead either of your black cards and West, being trump tight, is forced to ruff and lead a trump into your ♥KJ, giving you your ninth and tenth tricks.

[See next page for the full deal]

Not So Simple (continued)

The full deal was:

♠ 976	♠ J542	♠ 108
♥ Q9832	♥ 764	♥ --
♦ KJ3	♦ A102	♦ Q97654
♣ J3	♣ A85	♣ KQ1094

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

♠ AKQ3
♥ AKJ105
♦ 8
♣ 762

The unfavourable vulnerability deterred East from competing, but his hesitation during the bidding provided a valuable clue about the club suit.

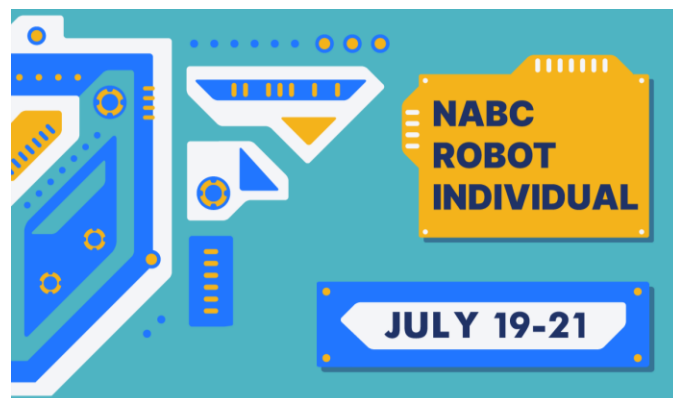
It is important to take time to plan before playing to the first trick, especially when a contract looks ironclad. This hand would have been hopeless had you not ducked the initial club lead.

It is also critical to persevere when a contract appears impossible because a suit breaks badly.

Partner is suitably impressed and your failure to make a game try is erased from memory.

"If you resolve to give up smoking, drinking and bridge, you don't actually live longer. It just seems longer."

Anonymous



Summer 2025

First conducted in the Summer of 2017, an online NABC Robot Individual is staged by the ACBL just prior to each of the three annual NABC tournaments. The Summer 2025 event, held in July 2025 ahead of the Philadelphia NABC, was the 25th running of the contest.

The NABC Robot Individual is a three-day stratified online event (Unlimited/2000/500) hosted by Bridge Base Online (BBO). There are red and gold masterpoints up for grabs, as well as a NABC title for the winner.

A total of 1,749 players completed all three sessions. It takes a big game to come out on top -- the winning percentage this year was 71.36%.

Perennial performer, **Richard Bickley**, once again achieved the highest percentage among the twelve participating players from Unit 390. Richard's average score for the three sessions was close to 62%.

The bots on BBO use a custom 2 over 1 system and the human player can discover what a bid means by hovering over the bid during the auction.

The next Robot Individual is scheduled for November 22 - 24, 2025 in advance of the San Francisco NABC.



Criticized Unfairly ... Or Not?

By Gordon Campbell

I was lucky to be playing on a strong team at the recent Red Deer (Alberta) Regional. The tournament was organized fabulously by Gerene Albrecht and her merry team, who all devoted a great deal of time to make things run smoothly and seemingly effortlessly. As a player, it was a most enjoyable time.

But back to, "You be the Judge". The auction was short and simple.

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

Partner (West) was on lead, and naturally led the unbid suit - a low spade - revealing this layout:

♠ Jxxx	♠ AQx		♠
♥ 10xxx	♥ AKQxx		♥
♦ Q10xx	♦ x		♦
♣ A	♣ KJxx		♣

	N		
W	■	E	
	S		

	♠	
	♥	
	♦	Me
	♣	

I followed with an encouraging spade as declarer, not taking much time, won the first trick with the ♠A and continued with a low club. Partner won with the ♣A perforce. Now what should he do? He continued spades since I had encouraged. A few tricks later declarer pitched all his losing diamonds and claimed 12 tricks.



The full deal was:

♠ Jxxx	♠ AQx	♠ 10xxx
♥ 10xxx	♥ AKQxx	♥ xx
♦ Q10xx	♦ x	♦ Axxx
♣ A	♣ KJxx	♣ xxx

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

♠ Kx
♥ Jx
♦ KJxx
♣ Q10xxx

West's argument (echoed by all my teammates):

- You played an encouraging spade and dissuaded me from giving the hand more thought.

My arguments (mine alone!):

- Yes, at the time, I was happy to encourage spades since I didn't want to give away any information about high card location.
- I cannot hold the ♠K (or if I do, then declarer must have a singleton), otherwise declarer would have finessed the ♠Q or taken immediate pitches on dummy's heart suit if possible.
- You don't know the whereabouts of the ♥J -- a crucial card which, if it is in declarer's hand, means the hearts are ready to run.
- The auction was gambling - no Blackwood - so it's conceivable that we have two Aces to cash.
- If declarer holds the ♦A, how are we ever going to beat the hand?

Oh well. We can't always agree. What do you think? Should I ever play with these teammates again? 😊

Editors' Note: An expert partner will almost always get this hand right, but why not make it as easy as possible for partner to defend correctly by discouraging in spades at trick one?



Bridge in Croatia

By Barbara Webster

In mid-September, Steve and I, along with Lois Matton and her partner, Dennis, journeyed to Croatia for the Pula International Bridge Festival. It was the 63rd edition of the Pula Festival! We travelled as a group with eight other bridge players from Ontario and we had a "meet-and-greet" dinner in the Toronto Airport before flying out.



I played only a couple of games in the Festival and, for the remaining time, I enjoyed sightseeing, swimming in the sea and relaxing by the pool where we were staying. Others in our group played in as many as four of the events.

I could say bridge is bridge anywhere and it is ... but wow! What differences! At the Festival, the cost to enter was high at 25 Euros per player (about \$40), but the winners could earn cash as well as a trophy. The largest prize was 3000 Euros ... a little shy of \$5000! Sadly, no one in our group won anything. We had to be content to celebrate breaking average. Players from 50 countries participated in this year's tournament. Fortunately for us, all announcements were in English.

Here are some other notable differences we observed:

- We had to pre-register for the tournament so that the organizers could verify that we were members in good standing of our National Bridge Organization, and to get a Pula player number. Then, we had to register for each event at least six hours beforehand (last minute entries were allowed only if convenient).
- I didn't play in any of the team events, but Steve reported that the team games were seeded and playbacks (where you might play the same team twice) were possible.
- No convention cards were permitted on the table.
- No announcements were allowed. Alerts were used instead. A 1NT opener was alerted only if outside the 14-18 HCP range.

- The Bridgemates were set up to show how you were doing on each board as it was entered -- and you could ask to see every result for the board so far (the "traveller slip").
- To keep players from overhearing information from nearby tables, the tables were not in order. For example, when we sat at G6-NS, table G5 where we had to pass the boards ("boards lower") was three tables away. We also had to tell EW pairs that table G7 ("EW higher") was over in the next row, one table from the end. Even the directors got confused. Sitting EW was even more of a challenge. At least each section had only two or three rows to navigate.
- There were no games specifically for beginner players. We all played in one happy flight! Occasionally, two events - Mixed and Unmixed -- ran at the same time.



Don't you just love the Directors' mantra ...

Some local players from Zadar, Croatia found out that we planned to visit their city for a few days following the tournament, and we happily accepted the invitation to play at their club on Tuesday night. Our group went out to dinner at a restaurant recommended by our new friends and then walked over to the marina to play bridge in a beautiful room with a deck overlooking the water and a good view of the skyline.

Just as in any club, there was a mixture of skill levels and we had a great time. They did not use Bridgemates. Instead, they used cell phones with a BridgePal app to send the scores to the computer. High tech indeed!

In my future travels, I will definitely check out the bridge scene at local clubs and tournaments. It's a nice break from sightseeing (or is sightseeing a nice break from bridge?) and a great way to meet the locals in a non-touristy way. Everyone in our group was great, and I would have any of them as repeat travel companions.

Sour Grapes

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Once you've played bridge long enough, you will come to understand momentum. Not momentum associated with the physical concept related to an object in motion ... but psychological momentum!

Sometimes a bridge game just goes great -- you haven't had any misfires in the bidding, you haven't given away any tricks on defense, you are finding good plays as declarer and the opponents can't seem to do anything right. You wish the session would never end!

But the game can be fickle and momentum is fragile. It can disappear in a flash!

Let's start by looking at two hands from the Seniors Teams semi-finals at the Canadian Bridge Federation national championship held in April of this year.

With no opposition bidding, you and partner stumble into 6♥. Before you see the opening lead, how do you like your chances on the layout below?

Hand #1:

Contract: 6♥

Lead: TBD

♠ AQJ3

♥ A83

♦ QJ3

♣ A62

■

♠ K10

♥ Q107642

♦ A8

♣ Q109

With a near certain trump loser, you will need a winning diamond finesse to bring home 12 tricks.

The initial likelihood of success thus depends on two things: no more than one trump loser and a finesse. If you chart the possible trump layouts to figure out when you will have one trump loser, you will discover the following:

Break (LHO - RHO)	# Cases	# Successful Cases (max one trump loser)
4 - 0	1	0
3 - 1	4	2 ¹
2 - 2	6	6
1 - 3	4	4
0 - 4	1	1
TOTAL	16 cases	13 cases

¹ you will succeed with stiff J or K but lose if the stiff is small

So, in 13 out of 16 cases, you are still alive but you still need a finesse. A finesse will win 50% of the time, so your total chance of success is a little over 41% ($0.5 \times 13/16$). In fact, in one case, you will have no trump losers (when trumps are distributed ♥K - ♥J95) and you don't even need the finesse. Adding that possibility in brings the success rate up to nearly 44% (1 out of 16 plus half of 12 out of 16). Those are pretty decent odds to capture the slam bonus.

The actual lead is the ♣3. That's pesky. You have no choice but to run it to your queen and ... it wins! How do you like your chances now? You no longer need the diamond finesse and your chances are back up to 13 out of 16 or roughly 82.5%. Excellent! Hold that thought.

Now, take a look at the very next hand. After you start with a strong club, partner buries you in 6♦ (how can he not?). Your LHO leads ♥4 and you survey the dummy:

Hand #2:

Contract: 6♦

Lead: ♥4

♠ J1092

♥ A

♦ AKQ1082

♣ J9

■

♠ KQ3

♥ KQ1082

♦ ---

♣ AQ1082

Even without a spade lead, there is no practical way to avoid losing the ♠A if you have a trump loser. So success pretty much comes down to that ... you cannot afford a trump loser!

[continued next page]

Sour Grapes (continued)

What are the chances? Once again, if you lay out the seven outstanding trumps, you can calculate your chance of success.

Break (LHO - RHO)	# Cases	# Successful Cases (no trump losers)
7 - 0	1	0
6 - 1	7	0
5 - 2	21	1 ¹
4 - 3	35	15 ²
3 - 4	35	15
2 - 5	21	1 ¹
1 - 6	7	0
0 - 7	1	0
TOTAL	128 cases	32 cases

¹ if Jxxxx, you have a loser; if Jx, then 9xxxx will win a trick.

You win in just one case: J9 is doubleton

² success only if the three-card holding is Jxx

You will succeed in 32 out of the possible 128 cases ... exactly 25%. There is not much justification for bidding this slam.

Note that if there happens to be a trump to lose because an opponent holds Jxxx, there is a slim chance to get rid of all of dummy's spades before the defender with the winning trump can ruff in. You will need ♣Kxx onside. Then, you can pitch two spades on the ♥KQ and two more on the third and fourth rounds of clubs. You might get away with ♣Kx or even stiff ♣K onside if the trump winner is with LHO. It's a long shot at best and this possibility adds maybe a fraction of a percent to the chance of success!

Of course, at the table, there is no point in trying to work all this out for either of these hands. Plotting the math will have to wait for the pub. At the table, you must simply concentrate on playing your contract ... with your fingers crossed!

It's time for the big reveal.



Hand #1:

Contract: 6♥

Lead: ♣3

♠ 952	♠ AQJ3	♠ 8764
♥ KJ5	♥ A83	♥ 9
♦ K5	♦ QJ3	♦ 1097642
♣ K8543	♣ A62	♣ J7

♠ K10	♠ 8764
♥ Q107642	♥ 9
♦ A8	♦ 1097642
♣ Q109	♣ J7

After you successfully run the club lead around to your ♣Q, you feel almost giddy. The psychological momentum belongs to you and your partner ... or so you think. You lead a trump to the ♥A and continue with another from dummy. Oh no! Two trump losers ... argh!

Hand #2:

Contract: 6♦

Lead: ♥4

♠ 764	♠ J1092	♠ A85
♥ J964	♥ A	♥ 753
♦ J96	♦ AKQ1082	♦ 7543
♣ 654	♣ J9	♣ K73

♠ KQ3	♠ A85
♥ KQ1082	♥ 753
♦ ---	♦ 7543
♣ AQ1082	♣ K73

On the very next deal, the opponents, too, wander into their own odds-against diamond slam. You desperately check your hand, hoping to find a little trump stuck behind your ♦J96. But it's not to be. The other side chalks up +1370 right below their +100.

Pouf! Just like that, whatever momentum you and your partner once had has swung convincingly to the opponents and you are unable to muster much of a threat to their lead for the remainder of the match.

The bridge gods must have lost their odds calculator as they looked down on your table that day. Sour grapes? You bet!

Upcoming Unit 390 Tournament Dates

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



Calgary 299er Sectional	October 25, 2025
Whistler Regional	October 27 - November 2, 2025
District 18 NAP Final - Flights Open, A and C (online)	November 8, 2025
District 18 NAP Final - Flight B (online)	November 15, 2025
Calgary New Year's Sectional	January 2 - 4, 2026
Unit 390 Rookie-Master Team Game	February 21, 2026
Lethbridge Regional	April 13 - 19, 2026
Calgary 299er Sectional	May 9, 2026
Unit 390 Annual General Meeting	May 31, 2026
Calgary Spring Sectional	June 5 - 7, 2026
Calgary 0-750 Non-Life Master Regional.....	June 5 - 7, 2026
Penticton Regional	June 15 - 21, 2026
Canadian Bridge Championships (Penticton)	June 15 - 21, 2026
Edmonton Regional	August 11 - 16, 2026
Calgary Fall Sectional	September 4 - 6, 2026



After he had fixed my computer, I overheard my grandson chatting with one of his friends. He said "It was just an I.D. Ten T error" and they both laughed.

Not wanting to appear dumb, I walked away and wrote down the phrase: ID10T.

He was never my favourite grandkid anyway.



Canadian Bridge Federation



In Canada, the Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) represents Canadian bridge players. The CBF was formed in 1965 as a federation of Canadian ACBL units. In 1990, the CBF transitioned into a membership organization.

In cooperation with the ACBL, the CBF works to ensure that the ACBL recognizes and supports the needs and interests of Canadian bridge players. There are similar organizations (the USBF and the FBM) operating in the interests of American and Mexican bridge players respectively.

The CBF also represents Canadian interests with respect to international bridge, including our eligibility to send Canadian representatives to the world championships.

Administratively, the CBF is divided into six geographical areas called Zones. The Zones are defined primarily along provincial lines:

CBF Zone 1 - Maritimes

CBF Zone 2 - Quebec

CBF Zone 3 - Ontario

CBF Zone 4 - Manitoba and Northern Ontario

CBF Zone 5 - Alberta and Saskatchewan

CBF Zone 6 - British Columbia

Each Zone has a representative on the CBF Board of Directors. In addition, the CBF By-Laws allow for up to three additional members-at-large from anywhere in Canada to sit on the Board.

The CBF web site (<https://cbf.ca>) has many resources including information about various programs and upcoming events as well as archived articles about bridge in Canada and the Canadian Bridge Hall of Fame members.

The CBF publishes Bridge Canada, an online magazine issued four times a year and featuring primarily Canadian content.

This fall, the CBF began sponsoring the Maple Leaf Online Games on Friday evenings. Players worldwide are welcome to participate, online on RealBridge: You can earn masterpoints and share profit with your home clubs! For more information, click [HERE](#).

New Zone V Director Named



Lois Matton of Calgary has been named as the Zone V representative on the Canadian Bridge Federation Board of Directors.



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/>