



The Kibitzer

October 2026

Editors: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

President's Message - Partnership at the Bridge Table

How many times have you witnessed conflicts between partners at the bridge table? It happens between experienced players as well as between beginners. It is usually because of a misunderstood bid, a missed signal, an unfavourable lead or failure to make a contract that should have been made. That usually creates tense moments between partners and overall frustration.

Often players forget that bridge is about partnership, not about a solo effort. The good news is that most partnership conflicts are avoidable with the right attitude, mindset, tolerance and habits.

1. Remember: It's a Partnership, Not a Solo Performance

Bridge is not about proving who is right and who is wrong—it's about achieving the best result together. Even when a mistake seems obvious, focusing on blame rarely helps. Strong partnerships recognize that errors are part of the game and work together to recover from them and avoid repeating them.

2. Keep Emotions in Check

A raised eyebrow, a sigh or a sharp comment can do more damage than the original mistake. Emotional reactions create discomfort and reduce your partner's confidence, often leading to more errors. Maintaining a calm and neutral demeanour—especially after a bad board—goes a long way toward preserving harmony and reinforcing the partnership.

3. Save Discussions for After the Game

The middle of a session is not the time to analyze or criticize. Post-mortems during play can distract both players and negatively affect subsequent boards. If something needs discussion, make a brief note and revisit it later in a constructive setting.

4. Be Clear in Agreements

Many conflicts arise from misunderstandings rather than mistakes. Take time outside of play to review your system, conventions, and carding agreements. The more clarity you have as partners, the less room there is for confusion. A good option is to create a personal bridge book to list things that have been agreed upon that are not necessarily included on the convention card.

5. Assume Good Intentions

Your partner is trying to do their best—just like you. When something goes wrong, it's far more productive to assume a misunderstanding rather than carelessness. This mindset reduces tension and keeps communication positive.

[President's Message continues next page]

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President's Message (continued)

6. Use Positive Reinforcement

Bridge partnerships thrive on encouragement. A simple "nice play" or "good bid" builds confidence and strengthens rapport. Positive feedback often leads to better overall performance than criticism ever will.

7. Choose the Right Partner—and Be the Right Partner

Compatibility matters. Beyond skill level, good partnerships are built on similar attitudes, temperament, and expectations. Just as important, strive to be the kind of partner others enjoy playing with: patient, respectful and supportive.

8. Remember the Real Objective

The best partnerships understand that the opponent is across the table and it is not your partner.

In the end, bridge is meant to be both intellectually stimulating and socially rewarding. Protecting your partnership from unnecessary conflict ensures that both aspects of the game remain enjoyable. After all, the best partnerships are not the ones that never make mistakes—but the ones that handle them with grace and respect. It is not about one player being perfect—it is about two players working together towards the best results.

I also recommend that you and your partner read Marty Bergen's "21 Rules of Being a Good Partner" which can be found on Larry Cohen's website [HERE](#).

Osama Elshafey
President, ACBL Unit 390
October 2026



SAVE THE DATE !

299er SPRING SECTIONAL

SATURDAY, MAY 8th, 2027

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

All Silver
Points!

Schedule:

10:00 am - 1:00 pm ...299er Stratified Pairs
.....49er Stratified Pairs
1:00 pm Lunch Break
2:30 pm - 5:30 pm 299er Stratified Pairs
.....49er Stratified Pairs



Tournament Chair: Sylvia Nazar
403-510-5318
Partnerships: Delores Hedley
403-254-4995
dollyd@telus.net
Director: Dan Dover
Assistant Director: Caroleigh Houghton

I think I'll just put an "Out of Order" sticky note
on my forehead and call it a day.

Anonymous

2026 Unit 390 Annual General Meeting Calgary Duplicate Bridge Association

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Unit 390 was held Sunday, May 31st 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 Osama Elshafey.

After approval of the agenda and minutes from last year's AGM, the next item of business was the presentation of the President's Annual Report for the past year. You can read President Elshafey's full report on the Unit 390 website [HERE](#).

Unit Board of Directors and Associate Directors for 2026-27

Thanks were extended to two retiring Board members:

- outgoing President, **Cynthia Clark**, who served on the Board for two years
- long-serving Director, **John Sharpe**, who joined the Board in 2015.

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

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

With no additional nominations from the floor, the five candidates were declared elected.

Your 2026-27 Unit Board is:

Roger Bolton	Ed Lamb
Brad Bowyer	Sylvia Nazar
Osama Elshafey	Terry Nazar
Judith Gartaganis	Paulette McWilliam
Delores Hedley	



President Elshafey acknowledged, not only the members of the Board of Directors, but also the many Associate Directors and other volunteers who contribute countless hours of their time to support bridge in Calgary.

On behalf of all unit members, thank you to these volunteers. The success of Unit programs and initiatives, and the continuing success of clubs within Unit 390, depends on them.

Awards

Recipients of the 2025 awards were announced.

John Sharpe was presented with the Jack Murphy Memorial Award for lifetime service to the Calgary bridge community. (see page 7)

AGM Pairs

Following the meeting, the AGM Pairs game was held, with 15 tables participating. The overall winners were **Gail Godwin** and **Steve Lawrence**. Flight B was won by **Beverley Erickson** and **Susan McMahon**, while **Guangren Wang** and **Vincent Gao** took top honours in Flight C. You can check out the complete game results using this [LINK](#).

Thanks to Caroleigh Houghton

This year's AGM Pairs was ably directed by Caroleigh Houghton, owner/manager of Bubbles Duplicate Bridge Club. She got the game going quickly, despite the inevitable last-minute glitches, and the game ran smoothly and wrapped up on time.

"Free shipping over \$35"
gets people to add \$20 of
stuff they don't need, just
to avoid a \$5 fee.

Anonymous

Award Winners Announced at the AGM

2025 Ace of Clubs, Ace of Virtual Clubs and Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Races

You can check out the names 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 captured the 2025 Ike Landon Virtual Trophy, which is awarded to the Unit 390 member amassing the most masterpoints across all categories in all events. Mike, who also won this award in 2024, earned a total of just over 542 points this year.



The winners of other virtual trophies for 2025 are:

Edna Lougheed Virtual Trophy to the winners of the two-session Flight A Pairs at the 2025 Calgary Fall Sectional:

Glenn Cossey – Cindy Cossey, Innisfail AB

The Ann Waldie Virtual Trophy to the winners of the A/X Swiss teams at the 2025 Calgary Spring Sectional:

**Daniel Bertrand –Gordon Campbell –
Nicholas Gartaganis – Judith Gartaganis**

John Davison Virtual Swiss Teams Trophy to the winners of the B/C Swiss at the at the 2025 Calgary Spring Sectional:

**Terry Nazar – Sylvia Nazar –
Lois Matton – Stephen Paul**

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 2027.

2026 Hattie Joffe Memorial Trophy

Mark Mai is the 2026 Hattie Joffe winner, leading all players in the race for points at the 2026 Edmonton Regional.

Edmonton hosted the Alberta Summer Regional over six days in August of this year. The tournament drew 459 tables and over 3,000 masterpoints were awarded to 269 players.

The table count was down about 30 tables compared to Edmonton's last regional in 2023. Pre-COVID numbers are a long way off (Edmonton achieved just under 700 tables at its 2017 regional).



Mark Mai, 2026 Hattie Joffe winner, is congratulated by Unit 390 President, Osama Elshafey

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](#).

Mark was a member of the winning team in both knockout team events: the Tuesday-Wednesday KO and the Friday-Saturday KO. In addition, his team had high placings in the Thursday and Sunday Swiss Teams events. Mark earned 78.9 masterpoints for the week, partnered with Jeff Zhao, of Edmonton.



Meet Your New Board Members

Randy Elson



Randy joined the Unit 390 Board of Directors in June 2026. He has taken on the duties of Assistant Tournament Chair. Organizing Unit tournaments is a big task, and sharing the workload with a co-chair will be a huge help to the Tournament Chair.

Your editors asked Randy to tell us a bit about himself and how he came to be a member of Calgary's bridge scene.

Tell us about your background.

I've lived and worked in several places over the years, starting in eastern Canada. I eventually moved west and built a career in which I transitioned from the energy sector into IT.

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

I spent a decade in the U.S., where I first learned duplicate bridge. There, I played regularly until the mid-90s. After returning to Calgary (long before retirement), life took me in different directions and I stepped away from the game for many years.

What do you like best about bridge?

This year I decided to reconnect with bridge, and I've been enjoying the mix of strategy, challenge, and community it offers.

What convinced you to serve on the Board?

As I was getting to know the people that played regularly at the Bridge Centre, I learned that nearly everyone had, in some fashion, contributed to the Bridge Centre or the Unit, either currently or in the past. I wanted to do my part too. When I was asked to join the Board and serve as Assistant Tournament Chair, I was happy to be able to contribute to the Unit in that capacity.



Sylvia Nazar



Sylvia was elected to the Unit 390 Board of Directors at the AGM in May 2026. She will assume the role of Future Masters Chair at the conclusion of the October 299er Sectional, taking over from retiring director, Roger Bolton.

Sylvia's husband, Terry, is also on the Board, serving as Unit 390 Tournament Chair. Busy household!

When did you get started playing bridge?

Terry and I started playing bridge many moons ago in the early 1980's and played at the Martinique Bridge Club. When our son was born, life changed and we stopped playing.

What drew you back?

We began playing duplicate bridge again when we lived in Canmore (2006-2019), and then Vernon BC (2021-2023). In 2023, we moved back to the Calgary area and now we play often.

What about life away from the bridge table?

I worked, and am still working, as an accountant. I have my own company and enjoy my work and my clients.

What convinced you to serve on the Board?

I wanted to get involved with supporting the 299er's in play and at tournaments because they are the up-and-coming bridge players who will keep the game going. I am looking forward to helping out.



2026 Unit 390 Sectionals Masterpoint Race - Top 40

With one event to go in 2026 (the October 299er sectional),
here are the YTD standings at October 1st

1	112.21	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB
	112.21	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB
3	63.75	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB
	63.75	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB
5	54.49	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB
6	49.04	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB
7	48.01	Yi Peng (Mark) Mai	Calgary AB
8	43.71	Lois Matton	Calgary AB
9	41.02	Terry Nazar	Cochrane AB
10	36.83	Mike D Aguiar	Calgary AB
11	36.65	David Johnson	Calgary AB
12	33.41	Clarende Duby	Calgary AB
	33.41	John Prance	Calgary AB
14	30.77	Terri Bedard	Calgary AB
15	30.35	Keith Falkenberg	Calgary AB
16	28.00	Barbara Webster	Calgary AB
17	27.98	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB
18	27.65	Hong Wang	Calgary AB
19	26.57	Nian Jun (Nathan) Zhao	Calgary AB
20	25.96	Jim Murphy	Calgary AB
21	25.62	Janice Eliasson	Calgary AB
22	25.59	Qi (Quincy) Ju	Calgary AB
23	25.20	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB
24	24.81	Mike Blancher	Calgary AB
25	24.49	Stephen Cohen	Calgary AB
26	23.28	Barry Crozier	Calgary AB
27	21.13	Bob Gagnon	Calgary AB
28	20.04	Devra Drysdale	Calgary AB
29	19.51	Chris Wuerscher	Calgary AB
30	18.96	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB
31	18.47	Alex Knox	Calgary AB
32	18.45	Richard Piette	Calgary AB
33	18.32	Keith Wallace	Calgary AB
	18.32	Pam Wallace	Calgary AB
35	17.93	Chris Murphy	Calgary AB
36	15.92	Nok Yin (Jim) Lee	Calgary AB
37	15.40	Gail Godwin	Calgary AB
38	15.24	Nancy Klym	Calgary AB
39	15.11	Marc Maes	Calgary AB
40	14.74	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB

(Includes points won at all four 2026 Unit 390 open sectionals
plus the May 299er sectional)

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

2026 Unit 390 Sectionals 299er Masterpoint Race - Top 40

With one event to go in 2026 (the October 299er sectional),
here are the YTD standings at October 1st

1	13.30	Nancy Penner	Calgary AB
2	10.59	Nancy Brooks	Calgary AB
3	10.44	Warren Johnston	Calgary AB
4	8.05	Colleen Rogers	Calgary AB
	8.05	Cheryl Whittaker	Calgary AB
6	8.01	Kerri Gallup	Longview AB
7	7.87	Betty Carrier	Canmore AB
	7.87	Carol Poland	Canmore AB
9	7.18	Miriam Daniel	Calgary AB
10	7.01	Eric Gutland	Calgary AB
11	6.77	Penny Mellor	Cochrane AB
12	6.76	Christine Neff	Calgary AB
13	6.47	Barrie Pomerance	Calgary AB
14	5.64	Annalisa Bednall	Calgary AB
	5.64	Robert Penner	Calgary AB
16	5.34	Linda Prenioslo	Canmore AB
17	5.10	Joan Allwarden	Foothills AB
18	4.82	Mary Abel	Calgary AB
19	4.75	Valerie Thompson	Canmore AB
20	4.69	Barbara McNeil	Banff AB
21	4.68	Maureen Clark	Cochrane AB
22	4.62	John Frank	Calgary AB
	4.62	Sheila Frank	Calgary AB
24	4.56	Barbara McKay	Calgary AB
25	4.12	Donna Michael	Calgary AB
	4.12	Melvin Teghtmeyer	Calgary AB
27	4.00	Ginny Hood	Calgary AB
28	3.94	Trudy Allan	Banff AB
	3.94	Mary Young	Canmore AB
30	3.75	Chuck Cherry	Calgary AB
31	3.71	Jodie Winquist	Calgary AB
	3.71	Dianne McCubbin	Calgary AB
33	3.71	Janet Quiring	Calgary AB
34	3.60	Lois Clapperton	Calgary AB
35	3.56	John Dunn	Calgary AB
36	3.43	Gary Croxton	Calgary AB
37	3.39	Barbara Bastedo	Cochrane AB
	3.39	Ken Munro	Calgary AB
39	3.18	Kevin Falkenberg	Calgary AB
40	3.12	Sylvia Nazar	Cochrane AB

(Includes points won in 199er and 299er events at all four
2026 Unit 390 open sectionals plus the May 299er sectional)

* 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/>

John Sharpe Receives Jack Murphy Memorial Award

The Jack Murphy Memorial Award, first presented in 2013, commemorates an icon in Calgary's bridge history. The trophy is awarded for lifetime service to the Calgary bridge community.



Jack Murphy was not only a popular and accomplished player, but a dedicated volunteer for bridge. He served on the Unit 390 Board for nine years from 1963 to 1972, and also as the Alberta delegate to the District 18 Board.

Nationally, Jack was the first Zone V representative

on the Canadian Bridge Federation board, serving from 1971 to 1980. He served as CBF President in 1975 - 77.

Jack chaired two early Calgary regional tournaments (in 1967 and 1970) and both were resounding successes. The table count in 1970 — 2,195 tables — still stands as a record for Alberta regionals.

At the 2026 Annual General Meeting, the Jack Murphy Memorial Award was presented to **John Sharpe**.

John began playing bridge while living in Wales, taking in games several nights a week at the Cardiff Bridge Club. He represented Wales as a Junior player. John became an ACBL member in 1984 and is a Ruby Life Master.

John joined the Unit 390 Board in 2015 and has been on the Board ever since. In his first year, John served as vice president and he then took over the reins as president. During his 11-year tenure, he has been president for six years, and vice president for three.

Throughout that stretch, John has been a strong leader for the Unit, keeping the Board focused and well organized, handling a number of difficult issues, and always stepping up when called upon.

Thanks to his connections, the Board was able to hold meetings in the back room at the Inglewood Golf Club (this was, of course, before dedicated space became available at the Bridge Centre).

John also managed the first few Boot Camps (day-long intense bridge lessons) and Director Training Courses, all of which were held at Inglewood.

John announced his retirement from the Unit 390 Board effective at the conclusion of the AGM. His fellow directors on the Board and, in fact, all members of Unit 390 will miss him.



John is a deserving recipient of the Jack Murphy Memorial Award.

AGM attendees expressed their thanks to John for his service to bridge in Calgary with a huge round of applause.

Previous winners of the Jack Murphy Memorial Award include Delores Hedley, Steve Lawrence, Dave and Marilyn Swadron (joint winners), Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis (joint winners), and Barbara Webster.

Declarer's Tool Box

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

You are playing IMPs with no one vulnerable. Sitting South, this is your hand:

♠J7643 ♥A ♦K1032 ♣1065

West passes and partner opens 1NT (11-13). The auction continues:

North	East	South	West
--	--	--	Pass
1NT ¹	2♥ ²	2♠ ³	3♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	All Pass

¹ 11-13

² showing hearts plus clubs or diamonds

³ less than invitational values

You do have some defensive prospects in the form of the ♥A and the ♦K. But if partner has concentrated values in spades then 4♥ could be making while 4♠ is a good save, so you take the push. Happily no one doubles and you anxiously wait to see if your bidding decision is vindicated.

LHO leads the ♥9 and dummy is revealed.

IMPs

Contract: 4♠

Lead: ♥9

♠ K1052
♥ J63
♦ A97
♣ A42

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

♠ J7643
♥ A
♦ K1043
♣ 1065

You'd like to convince the opponents to keep attacking hearts rather than switching to clubs so you cover the ♥9 with the Jack and win RHO's ♥Q with the Ace. When you lead a low spade towards dummy, LHO plays the ♠8 and dummy's ♠10 holds as RHO follows with the ♠9.

The good news is that there is only one spade loser. The bad news is that, with trumps 3-1, the timing of the hand is trickier. You cross to the ♦K (both opponents play low diamonds) and lead another spade. LHO wins the ♠A (RHO discarding an encouraging heart) and after some thought, out comes the ♣8.

This is a bad development. With not much hope you play dummy's ♣2 and follow with the ♣6 as RHO wins the ♣Q. RHO tries to cash the ♥K, but you ruff and consider what to do next. Fortunately, the heart return gives you a chance. You have to rely on diamonds to be 3-3 or for one of the opponents to have a doubleton honour. You need to establish your ♦10 on which to ditch dummy's last losing club. After drawing West's ♠Q you cash the ♦A and fortune favours you, as East's Queen does indeed come tumbling down. You lead the ♦9 to West's ♦J and you've just wrapped up your contract.

The full deal:

♠ K1052	♠ K1052	♠ 9
♥ J63	♥ J63	♥ KQ10842
♦ A97	♦ A97	♦ Q5
♣ A42	♣ A42	♣ KQ73
♠ AQ8	♠ AQ8	♠ J7643
♥ 975	♥ 975	♥ A
♦ J862	♦ J862	♦ K1043
♣ J98	♣ J98	♣ 1065

Where did the opponents go wrong? Obviously East had to forget about trying to cash a heart and continue the attack on clubs. When West switched to the ♣8 declarer played the ♣6 to create some ambiguity as to the club situation. From East's perspective his partner may have been leading the ♣8 from doubleton ♣85.

[Continued next page]

Declarer's Tool Box (continued)

West was the prime culprit. He strongly suspected that partner's minor was clubs. He would have done better to shift to the ♣J. If declarer ducks, West can continue with a second club. Note that covering the ♥9 with the ♥J may have seemed pointless, but it was an attempt to entice the opponents to continue leading hearts. East should have seen through it, since West surely hadn't raised on a small doubleton trump!

There are two lessons on this hand.

Firstly, how declarer plays his spot cards can have a big impact on the opponents' picture of a deal. Here, declarer covered the ♥9, even though he had a singleton ♥A. Sure, it should have been futile, but it left a nagging doubt in East's mind about the heart distribution.

Then, on the club switch, declarer did not routinely follow with his lowest club. He hid a smaller card to suggest that West had not led his lowest. Sure, playing the ♣5 instead of ♣6 might have accomplished the same thing. But when a hawk-eyed opponent sees declarer follow with the ♣6, he might just assume declarer is playing "up the line".

Declarer has no partner to confuse during the play of the hand, so it is open season on falsecarding. The important thing is to do so in tempo. If declarer pauses to think and then plays a card, it should be a wake-up call to the opponents that something is fishy.

As a declarer, one somewhat helpful guideline is this:

Signal your opponent as you would if you were their partner.

If the opponents play upside-down signals, play your lowest if you would like the suit continued; play something higher to "discourage". You want to do your best to scramble the meaning of their cards. Play low to make their card seem low; play high to make their card seem high. Of course, just do this in reverse if the opponents play standard signals.

Falsecarding is a tool usually thought to be in the defenders' tool box. But there's nothing to stop declarer from shopping at the same hardware store!



2026 - 27 North American Pairs District 18 Final

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

The competition continues with district playoffs in each of the ACBL's districts and culminates with the North American final played at the spring nationals. There are four flights in the NAP: 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. 7, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. MST

Flt A - Sat. Nov. 7, 2026 at 10:15 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. MST

Flt B - Sat. Nov. 14, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. MST

Flt C - Sat. Nov. 7, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. MST

Note the staggered start times on November 7th. In Alberta, since the province stays permanently on MDT (ABT), start times will be one hour later than those listed above.

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, Oct. 31 at 10:00 a.m.

Flight B registration deadline:

Saturday, Nov. 7 at 10:00 a.m.

The entry fee is \$40 BBO dollars per player. Confirmation emails will be sent starting October 20.

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

For the complete list of District 18 qualifiers, click [HERE](#).

2026 Canadian Senior Teams Championship

By Daniel Bertrand

In June, my team (partner Gordon Campbell and teammates: Ian Findlay and Paul Janicki) won the Canadian Seniors Team Championship (CSTC) in Penticton. In the final, after three of four sessions, we trailed by 14 IMPs. Here are three problems we faced in the last segment.

Problem #1

You are South and hold:

♠K ♥KQJ943 ♦AK94 ♣K9

The auction proceeds as follows:

North	East	South	West
--	1♠	DBL	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♥ ¹	3♠
All Pass			

¹ very good hand

You lead the ♦A and partner signals an odd number of diamonds.

Dummy

♠ 8754	♠
♥ 106	♥
♦ Q73	♦
♣ A1043	♣

♠ K
♥ KQJ943
♦ AK94
♣ K9

You switch to the ♥K, and partner signals an odd number of hearts. Declarer wins your ♥K with the ♥A and returns a heart; you win with the ♥J as partner follows. You then cash the ♦K and continue with a diamond, with everyone following. Declarer plays a small spade from dummy and puts up the ♠A dropping your King! Declarer now leads a club to dummy's Ace, plays a spade to his ♠10 and continues with the ♠Q. What are your two discards? This is your holding when declarer plays to his ♠10:

♠-- ♥Q943 ♦9 ♣K

Problem #2

You pick up:

♠Q ♥AJ854 ♦J943 ♣Q53

Only your side is vulnerable. The dealer on your right opens 1♥. You pass, LHO bids 1♠ and partner chimes in with 2♦. RHO bids 2♥. What is your call?

Problem #3

As East you pick up:

♠Q9762 ♥4 ♦AK107 ♣QJ4

You and partner have the auction to yourselves:

North	East	South	West
--	1♠	Pass	2♥ ¹
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠ ²
All Pass			

¹ natural, forcing to game

² minimum game force

Contract: 4♠

Lead: ♣3

♠ A105	♠	Q9762
♥ KJ1098	♥	4
♦ 52	♦	AK107
♣ A72	♣	QJ4

South leads the ♣3 (playing third and fifth best leads). You play low from dummy and RHO puts up the ♣10. You win the ♣Q (hiding your ♣J from the opponents). On your lead of the ♥4 LHO plays the ♥3. If LHO has the ♥A you should play the ♥K to avoid a heart loser. If LHO has the ♥Q you should play the ♥J to set up a club discard from your hand. You decide to finesse but LHO wins the ♥Q and returns the ♣8. You play low, and LHO follows with the ♣5 as dummy wins the ♣A. You decide to continue hearts and, when RHO contributes the ♥2, you discard your ♣J. LHO wins the ♥A.

Yes, you guessed wrong, but forget about that! Concentrate on making 4♠! To make 4♠ you can only afford one more loser. LHO tries to cash the ♣K as RHO discards a small heart. You ruff and tackle trumps. When you lead the ♠6 LHO plays the ♠8, You cover and RHO wins dummy's ♠10 with the ♠K and returns the ♥7. What is your plan? You have reached this position:

♠ A5	♠	Q97
♥ KJ10	♥	--
♦ 52	♦	AK107
♣ --	♣	--

Please turn to page 20 for the solutions.



299er May Sectional Report

Highlights



The annual Unit 390 Spring 299er Sectional was held at the Calgary Bridge Centre. These events have outgrown the upper level, so play has expanded to both levels of the Bridge Centre. The 299er games were held in the upper playing area, while separate 49er games were held on the lower level.

Roger Bolton, Unit Future Masters Chair, was once again the event leader. The success of any tournament is in large part due to the contributions of numerous volunteers who assist with everything from planning, to errand running, to tidying up at the end of the day. In particular, many thanks to all the people who helped set up and take down tables on the lower level. Each and every one of these volunteers deserve a lot of credit ... thank you!

Lois Matton served as Director-in-Charge (DIC) and she ran the 299er games. Barbara Webster was Assistant DIC in charge of the 49er games downstairs.

The turnout was fantastic, with attendance numbers matching last May's event! There were 43½ total tables in play: 24 tables in the morning session and 19½ tables in the afternoon. 299er games accounted for 25½ of the tables with 18 in the 49er games.

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.

Upcoming Fall 299er Sectional

The final event of the year - the Fall 299er Sectional Tournament - is coming up on Saturday, October 24, 2026 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 close and this tournament may determine the eventual winner. Currently, Nancy Penner leads with 13.3 points. Nancy Brooks and Warren Johnson are within striking distance with 10.6 and 10.4 masterpoints respectively.



In all, 66 different players earned 84.4 silver masterpoints over the two sessions.

Sat AM 49er Pairs - 10 Tables

G H I		Score
1 1	Penny Mellor - Maureen Clark, Cochrane AB	66.4%
2	Sandy Fletcher - Hugh Lyons, Calgary AB	65.3%
3 2	James Parakin - Kathy Parakin, Calgary AB	60.3%
4	Larry Dick - Michele Dick, Calgary AB	59.2%
5 3 1	Deborah Keeler - William Keeler, Calgary AB	56.4%
2	Michael Sainas - Barb Lauzon, Calgary AB	48.3%
3	Caroline Marion - Karin Latter, Banff AB	46.9%

Sat AM 299er Pairs - 14 Tables

D E F		Score
1 1 1	Christine Neff - Miriam Daniel, Calgary AB	61.8%
2	Warren Johnston - Eric Gutland, Calgary AB	61.0%
3	Colleen Rogers - Cheryl Whittaker, Calgary AB	58.9%
4 2 2	Barbara Bastedo - Ken Munro, Calgary AB	58.8%
5 3	Dianne McCubbin - Janet Quiring, Calgary AB	57.3%
6 4 3	Naomi Pickrem - Susan Cooper, Calgary AB	56.8%

Sat PM 49er Pairs - 8 Tables

G H I		Score
1	Kerri Gallup - Barb Binkley, Longview AB	67.1%
2 1 1	Deborah Keeler - William Keeler, Calgary AB	65.9%
3 2 2	Rozane Tsai - Margaret Nicholson, Canmore AB	60.7%
4	Les Sherwood - Valerie Sherwood, Calgary AB	56.8%
5 3	Valerie Anderson - Kevin Falkenberg, Calgary AB	55.6%
4 3	Susan Manning - Charlene Bobyn, Calgary AB	55.1%

Sat PM 299er Pairs - 11.5 Tables

D E F		Score
1	Colleen Rogers - Cheryl Whittaker, Calgary AB	63.6%
2 1 1	Chuck Cherry - Jennifer Scott, Calgary AB	60.2%
3 2 2	Christine Neff - Miriam Daniel, Calgary AB	55.9%
4 3 3	Kathleen Goodwin - Shashi Lota, Calgary AB	55.5%

You can check out the complete results on the Unit 390 website [HERE](#). Scroll down the page to May 9.

The Photo Gallery of Winners appears on the following page.

The Kibitzer - October 2026

Winners Photo Gallery - 299er May Sectional

Morning Session Winners



Penny Mellor & Maureen Clark
Overall Winners and top pair in Flights G & H



Deborah & William Keeler
Top pair in Flight I (am) and Flights H & I (pm)



Christine Neff & Miriam Daniel
Top pair in Flights D, E & F

Afternoon Session Winners



Kerri Gallop & Barb Binkley
Overall Winners and top pair in Flight G



Colleen Rogers & Cheryl Whittaker
Overall Winners and top pair in Flight D



Chuck Cherry & Jennifer Scott
Top pair in Flights E & F



From Practice Nights to CNTC Gold

By Andy Melton

When Lois Matton first suggested that we put a team together for the Canadian National Team Championship (CNTC), I'm not sure any of us knew exactly what we were getting ourselves into. The CNTC was held June 18th and 19th in conjunction with the Penticton Regional. Our team—Lois Matton, Jim Watt, Richard Cripps and myself—was eligible to compete in the C Flight, as each of us had fewer than 1,000 masterpoints as of September 2025.

Lois deserves much of the credit for kick-starting the adventure. As a member of the Canadian Bridge Federation Board of Directors, she is committed to advancing bridge in Canada and is particularly enthusiastic about the CNTC. She saw the opportunity before the rest of us did and encouraged us to form a team. There was, of course, one small matter before we could go to Penticton: we had to qualify!

We discovered, early in the year, somewhat to our surprise, that, due to low participation, we qualified by default. Perhaps not the most dramatic beginning to a national championship run, but we were in! And once we were in, we decided we had better get to work.



It Takes a Bridge Community

One of the things this experience reinforced for all of us is just how supportive the Calgary bridge community can be. Abdul Fakhri, a very good player at the Calgary Bridge Centre, had taken an interest in our group. Abdul agreed to become our non-playing captain and began helping us understand not only how to improve our bridge, but how to compete as a team in an event like the CNTC.

He stressed the importance of all four players being on the same page. That meant playing the same convention card, understanding exactly what was on it and, perhaps just as importantly, knowing what wasn't. Abdul worked with us, played with us and reviewed our games. His advice went beyond bidding and card play. He taught us a great deal about the discipline required in team bridge.

His message was consistent: stick to the game plan. Don't take unnecessary risks. Avoid speculative doubles and don't push the opponents when letting them play a partscore will do. Above all, trust your teammates at the other table to do their job.

We were also fortunate to receive help from Chris and Janet Galbraith, two top-notch players who apparently saw something in our game that they liked. They generously offered their time, advice and willingness to play with us.

They weren't alone. Grant Wharry, Nancy Klym, Steve Lawrence, Mike D Aguiar, Daniel Bertrand and many other friends and good players took an interest in our progress. Some of their advice was encouraging. Some of it stung a little. Usually, the advice that stung was probably the advice we needed most.

Jim Watt took the lead in organizing practice matches, with Brian Johns helping to arrange boards and games for us. Many of those sessions were held at Jim and Cindy's house. A special thank-you goes to Cindy, not only for putting up with a house full of bridge players, but for the wonderful hospitality and food that accompanied our practices. By the time Penticton arrived, we had done the work. Now we just had to play.

Welcome to the CNTC

As the tournament approached, I'll admit that all four of us were becoming a little nervous. None of us had played in quite this format before. Each day consisted of 56 boards against a single team, divided into four segments, with scoring after each segment. The first day's match would determine who advanced to play for the gold medal on Day Two.

[Continued next page]

From Practice Nights to CNTC Gold (continued)

And then there were the screens. No talking. A physical screen separated you from your partner. Bids travelled back and forth on trays. You could sit at the same bridge table as your partner without actually being able to see them. This took some getting used to.



There is a flap that folds down to cover the opening while the auction is in progress; it is flipped up for the play of the hand.

We did, however, quickly discover one significant advantage to playing behind screens: When you make a mistake, you can't see your partner rolling their eyes. Among the four of us, we had decided that Lois and Jim would play together, while Richard and I would form the other partnership.

The CNTC was played in a separate room from the main Penticton Regional, and our C event shared the room with the CNTC-A flight. There was certainly a sense that we had entered a different kind of bridge environment. At first, the screens and silence seemed strange. But after the first few boards, something happened. We settled down. The surroundings stopped being intimidating, and we simply started playing bridge.

Day One: A Chance to Play for Gold

On the first day, we faced a team from Saskatchewan. They were very nice people, and the match remained close. This was where much of the advice we had received began to make sense. We didn't need to manufacture swings. We didn't need to win the tournament on every board. We needed to bid our hands, make our contracts, defend carefully and trust our teammates at the other table to do the same.

After 56 boards, we had done enough. We were going to play for the gold medal. Suddenly, our CNTC adventure had become very real.

Playing for Gold

On June 19th, our opponents in the gold-medal match were Team Forget, a French-speaking team. There was a small moment before or during the match that I particularly remember. I managed to pronounce their name correctly, which brought a smile to their faces. It was a simple thing, but it reflected something we experienced throughout the event: even with a national championship at stake, there was plenty of room for friendliness and good humour.

Once the cards were in the air, however, there was a match to play. We got off to a strong start and established a comfortable early lead. That presented us with a different challenge. It would have been very easy to start thinking about the finish line. At the break, all four of us agreed that we needed to remember Abdul's advice. "Don't get ahead of yourselves. Don't suddenly change the way you play because you're leading. Just play your game."

Team Forget changed its pairings for the final two sessions and came out hard. We knew they weren't going away quietly. But neither were we.

There wasn't one spectacular board that decided the championship. There were no enormous swings that we could point to afterward and say, "That was it." In some ways, that made the result even more satisfying. We simply played steady bridge. Board after board and segment after segment, we maintained our lead. When the final scores were in, we had won 169–113. We were CNTC-C gold medallists!

More Than The Medal

There were a lot of emotions afterward. Certainly there was a tremendous feeling of accomplishment. We were also surprised that we weren't completely exhausted. Fifty-six boards a day, two days in a row, in a national championship format is gruelling bridge. But mostly, we were struck by how many people had been following our progress. Friends from Calgary had been watching the scores online and sending congratulations. Lois's kids back home were following the posted results and cheering us on.

[Continued next page]

CNTC-C Gold (continued)

The Canadian Bridge Federation held a medal ceremony after the tournament. Standing there and hearing our efforts recognized was a very special moment. But the medal is only part of what we'll remember. Once everyone became accustomed to the screens and the unusual environment, there was plenty of room for humour and fellowship at the table.

Sometimes a bidding tray would disappear under the screen and come back with something on it that made it fairly apparent that, somewhere along the way, a convention might not have been interpreted quite as intended. Even without being able to talk across the screen, bridge players have ways of knowing when something interesting has just happened. There were plenty of those moments.

We also made new friends. We exchanged phone numbers with opponents, shared a bottle of wine and discovered once again that while bridge is a competitive game, some of its greatest rewards have very little to do with the final score.

A Team Effort

Looking back, four names appear on the winning team, but our CNTC experience involved far more than four people. Lois had the idea and pushed us to pursue it. Jim organized the practices. Brian helped make those practices possible. Cindy fed us and welcomed us into her home. Abdul taught us how to approach team competition with discipline and patience. Chris and Janet invested their time and experience in us. And a remarkable number of people in the Calgary bridge community encouraged us, challenged us, watched our progress and celebrated with us afterward. Perhaps that's the biggest thing I took away from the experience. Bridge can look like a game of four people sitting around a table—or, in the CNTC, four people sitting around a table divided by a screen. But behind those four people can be an entire community.

We went to Penticton hoping we could compete. We came home with gold medals, some new friendships, a lot more confidence and a much better appreciation for what team bridge is all about. And, most importantly, we're already looking forward to doing it again.



Winter Alert!

With winter on its way, please note that Supervised Bid & Play will be cancelled any Thursday when the temperature drops to minus 20°C or when heavy snowfall or weather warnings are in effect. A notice will be posted on the Unit 390 website in the event of a closure.



John Larter
Calgary Sun, May 21, 1997

Unit 390 Tournament Report

By Terry Nazar, Tournament Chair

The busy start to the 2026 Unit 390 tournament cycle continued through the Spring into the Fall.

The Calgary Spring event featured two tournaments running concurrently: the 0-750 non-Life Master Regional and the regular Open Sectional, held in early June. The combined table count was 234, an 8% increase over the 2025 Spring Sectional, with approximately 40% participating in the Gold Rush Regional. Many thanks to the volunteers who made this "double tournament" successful, including those who provided fun events between sessions for the Regional participants.

Two virtual trophies were awarded for the Spring Sectional Swiss Teams events:



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



B/C Winners of the John Davison Memorial Swiss Team Trophy:
(L to R) Pam Wallace, Maxine Rystephanick, Keith Wallace and Ron Licht

The Calgary Fall Sectional was held on the Labour Day weekend in September. The tournament attracted 238 tables, up 17% over 2025! While attendance across all levels of bridge players increased, the 299ers deserve special mention with an increase in participation of over 40%. This continued the trend from recent years and is a very positive result for the future of bridge. The virtual Edna Lougheed Memorial Trophy went to Dan Bertrand and Gordon Campbell, winners of the Saturday A/X Pairs. Congratulations!

Both tournaments were held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Calgary, which continues to provide great cost-effective service and location for holding the Sectionals.

The leading Unit 390 point winners at these events were:

Spring Sectional weekend

Flight A/X events: Dan Bertrand - Gordon Campbell (29.5 MP)

Flight B/C events: Kathleen Malo (7.6 MP)

Spring NLM Regional weekend

Open events: Gary Croxton (7.5 MP)

199er Sunday event: Kerri Gallup - Barb Binkley (2.73 MP)

Fall Sectional weekend

Flight A/X events: Dan Bertrand - Gordon Campbell (42.6 MP)

Flight B/C events: Maxine Rystephanick (7.7 MP)

299er/199er events: Nancy Penner - Nancy Brooks (5.7 MP)

A successful 299er Sectional was also held on May 9th at the Calgary Bridge Centre. Forty-four tables of participants entered in the one-day event. The full report appears on page 11.



Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2027 Calgary Sectionals. You can find the schedule on page 28. The Open Sectionals will, as always, be held at the DoubleTree. Unit 390 provides complimentary coffee every morning and an assortment of donuts and muffins on Sunday.

Overall the feedback from attendees on the operation of Unit tournaments has been positive.

[Continued next page]

Unit 390 Tournament Report (cont)

Some players have asked whether the time between morning and afternoon pairs sessions at the Sectionals could be shortened. Currently, pairs games are scheduled to start at 10:00 am and 3:00 pm, a 5-hour difference, which leaves about 1.5 hours for a break in-between sessions. The ACBL mandates a 5-hour spread for pair events when playing more than 24 boards.

There are good reasons for this. It is important to make sure that the Directors and all participants have enough time in between sessions to have lunch and prepare for the next session. Other tournament-sponsoring groups may use different start times (for example, start times of 10:30 am and 3:30 pm) while maintaining that 5-hour difference. The Unit currently has no plans to change our tournament start times.

Another concern raised pertained to excessive noise while play is still going on. One contributing factor is that different tables finish their boards at different times during a round which can lead to increased noise. As well, there is usually a cell phone ring or two during a session. Taking down the bridge tables on Sunday afternoon contributes to the noise level while some Swiss team matches are still in progress. The Directors have been great in reminding us if they notice noise levels getting too loud. Participants also need to be aware that the slower they play, the more likely things will get noisy while they are still playing because others will be finished (their round, their match or their session).

Please continue to give us your feedback. We'll listen and we'll fix the things we can. We want everyone to enjoy playing and to come play bridge with us!

*Come play bridge
with us!*

The Technology Invasion

Bridge has come a long way since the days of "shuffle, deal, play and duplicate", travellers to be matchpointed by hand at the end of a session and directors manually adding up row upon row of matchpoint scores to determine the game winners.

First came bidding boxes, then dealing machines. Perhaps the most significant "recent" innovation has been the Bridgемate. These small handheld devices brought instantaneous results and an end to manual scoring.

It was in 2005 that the World Bridge Federation (WBF) adopted the Bridgемate scoring system for use at international championships, and by 2010, wireless table scoring had become an everyday standard at clubs.

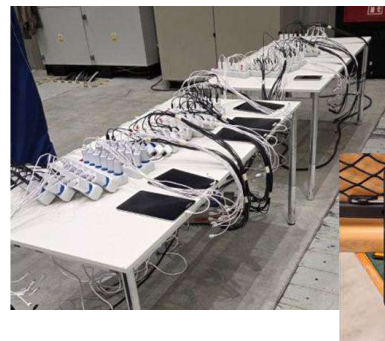
But technology changes have not stopped there. Scrap the bidding boxes and the Bridgемates! Bring on the tablets!

In 2023, the WBF first adopted electronic tablets for bidding using the LoveBridge Bid+Score system. The tablets were used during the KO stages at the 2023 World Championships in Marrakesh, and two years later, tablet usage expanded to the entire 2025 World Championships in Denmark.

At the recently concluded 2026 World Bridge Series held in Katowice Poland, there were 160 tables set up in the main playing area, each with a screen, of course.

Every player used a tablet for bidding — 640 tablets in all! There were six charging stations,

each with 100 or so charger cords lined up on giant power bars, so that the tablets could be recharged between sessions.



[Thanks to Gordon Campbell for the pictures and info.]

Thankfully, the essence of the game remains unchanged, even though this hybrid model (bidding on a tablet, but holding and playing physical cards) is bound to become more common.

Member Milestones

The following members have reached new masterpoint milestones from the beginning of April 2026 to the end of September 2026. Congratulations to all on their achievements.



New Junior Masters (5+ MPs):

Yvette Alongi	Ruth Hughes
Valerie Anderson	Arne Johansen
Anna Aubrecht	Karin Latter
Barbara Bastedo	Sally Lewis
Barb Binkley	Ken Munro
Dave Bonnar	Maureen Payne
Barb Clemes	Nicky Rutherford
Sandy Fletcher	Michael Sainas
Pat Halbauer	Catherine Tait
James Hornett	

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

Doug Birrell	Bev Krahn
Susan Busser	Shashi Lota
Susan Cooper	Marion Mackie
Larry Dick	Christine McGovern
Marilyn Dumka	Larry McGovern
Kevin Falkenberg	Tony Melton
Ross Galway	Myrna Michieli
Patrick Guo	Allie Peach
Johannah Hall	Jean Shannon
Lynette James	Diane Yaciuk
Peter Jull	

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

Annalisa Bednall	Michael Mannas
Lynn Gall	Joyce Melnyk
Anne Gallagher	Christine Neff
Kerri Gallup	Nancy Penner
Kathleen Goodwin	Robert Penner
Libby Jackson	Naomi Pickrem
Julie Jacques	Lori Russell
Willie Jurcevic	

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

Nancy Brooks	Anna Liu
Lois Clapperton	Genevieve McLean
Randy Elson	Dennis Quick
Sandra Fiell	Susan Ruf
Margaret Graham	Judith Smith
Warren Johnston	

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

Roger Bolton	Lyn Jessee
Ted Burgoin	Art LeMaistre
Gary Croxton	Corliss Ward

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

Sumit Chatterjee	Sheila Morgan
Dan Dover	Kevin Trickett

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

Dmitry Komin	Sylvia Nazar
Jane Miller	Linda Peacock

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

Richard Cripps	Thomas To
Jane Miller	Linda Wallace
Linda Peacock	

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

Pat Anderson	Yi Peng (Mark) Mai
Dale Bercov	Hailong Yu
Cynthia Clark	

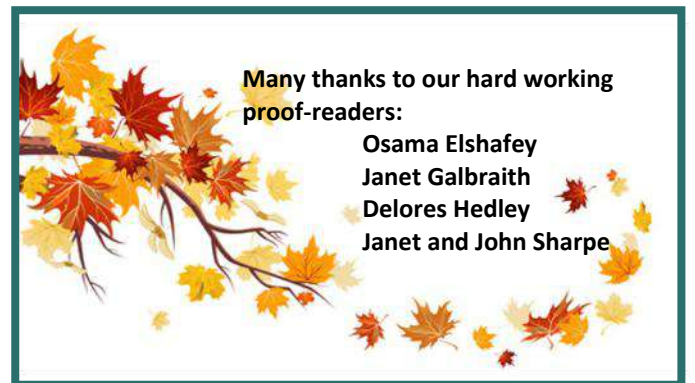
New Gold Life Masters (2500+ MPs; a Life Master with at least 500 pigmented points):

Rick Boyd



Many thanks to our hard working proof-readers:

Osama Elshafey
Janet Galbraith
Delores Hedley
Janet and John Sharpe



Supervised Bid & Play ... Still Going Strong!

By Delores Hedley



Supervised Bid & Play - October 2026

Well, the picture says it all! Supervised Bid & Play (SBP) continues to be a success, and with golf season coming to an end and lessons starting this fall, we expect to see an increase in table numbers as more players look to get back to bridge.

The results of the program are already evident. For the period September 14 - 28, I checked the attendance at the three weekly 299er games currently being held. I'm proud to report that **52 of our students were playing!** I know of at least 20 more who are definitely into the game, and I'm confident we will win over even more in the future.

I've also noticed some of our students venturing into the open games at the Bridge Centre, as well as at the North and South Ladies games. That's wonderful to see! Sometimes, all it takes is a smile and a warm welcome to help make new players feel comfortable and keep them coming back.

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to so many people. (I say "**we**" because Karen Mitchell, Dave Ross, and I were the ones who initiated the SBP program. Karen and Dave were there at the beginning, and they are still there today.)

- Special thanks to loyal volunteers **Freda Nychkalo, Jan McLeod, Michele Hyndman, Osama Elshafey, Paulette McWilliam, Richard Weinberger, Kathleen Malo, Ted Lobley, Jodie Winquist, Anna Aubrecht, Janet Quiring** and **Christine Neff**. (Anna, Christine and Janet are former students who now come to help.)
- Special thanks to the wonderful helpers who come down before the upstairs game to make everything run smoothly.

- Special thanks to **Richard Weinberger, Jim Parakin, and Ross Galway**, who set up our room every week.
- Special thanks to **Barbara Webster**, who keeps our equipment "ship shape."
- Special thanks to **Dan Dover**, owner/manager of Addicted to Bridge, who opened two additional 299er games (Wednesday and Saturday mornings) and who is always there when we need him. Dan will be hosting two "fake games" at SBP over the next two months to help our students understand the structure, scoring, and movement of a real game.



To every one of you: thank you. Your time, energy, patience and enthusiasm have helped make the Supervised Bid & Play program what it is today. We are incredibly grateful for everything you do. (I sincerely apologize to anyone I may have missed.)

Here's a little giggle for you.



At the Sunday 199er game at the last sectional, the Bridgemates broke down for a short time. The Directors went to the players to get the scores for the three missing boards, only to discover that nobody had kept score. They didn't know how!

I really can't say exactly how everything was resolved, but at SBP, we decided that everyone needed to learn how to score. So, for the last few weeks, we've been giving everyone a convention card, and they must score the first five boards they play.

Well, one pair bid and made 6 Spades for a score of 1430. They asked Karen, "How do you get to 1430?"

Karen came and asked me, and we both just looked at each other for a few seconds. Then I ran for my phone.

"Egg on our faces!" 🥚

2026 Canadian Senior Teams Championship - Problem Solutions

By Daniel Bertrand

[Please refer to page 10 for the problem layout.]

The full deal:

Solution to Problem #1

This is situation with the lead in dummy when declarer plays the second round of spades to his ♠10. You need to plan your discards:

Dummy		
♠	875	♠
♥	--	♥
♦	--	♦
♣	1043	♣

♠	--
♥	Q943
♦	9
♣	K

It looks like declarer has finessed your partner's ♠J. You know declarer started with five red cards and probably five spades. So, he started with three clubs. If you keep the ♣K, you will be thrown in with it and forced to return a red card; declarer will ruff in dummy while discarding his other club. To win two club tricks, you must discard the ♣K and hope that your partner has both the ♣Q and ♣J. Declarer's hand was:

♠AQ1092 ♥A5 ♦J85 ♣762

The identical scenario occurred at both tables for a push. Neither defender discarded the ♣K since that might easily have given up an overtrick.

[Editor's Note: For the record, Dan was declarer on this hand!]

Solution to Problem #2

Your hand:

♠Q ♥AJ854 ♦J943 ♣Q53

The auction thus far:

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♦
2♥	??		

What is your call?

I bid 2♠. By bidding one of the opponents' suits, I showed a good hand for diamonds. At the other table, my counterpart bid only 3♦ on the same auction. After LHO leapt to 4♠ over my 2♠ bid, my partner (Gordon), ventured 5♦ which was doubled. Gordon took the required 11 tricks for a great board.

♠	9	♠	Q
♥	KQ10962	♥	AJ854
♦	Q7	♦	J943
♣	AK97	♣	Q53

♠	A87	♠	KJ1065432
♥	7	♥	3
♦	AK10652	♦	8
♣	J106	♣	842

Our teammates managed to make 4♠ and the double game swing earned us 15 IMPs. Later, Gordon suggested that a splinter bid of 3♠ would have been even better. It conveys the same strength while also showing spade shortness.

[Editors' Note: Splintering likely rules out 3NT as a final contract when, in fact, sometimes that singleton honour is all that is needed to make 3NT the best spot.]

Solution to Problem #3

You are declarer in 4♠ and have reached this position:

♠	A5	♠	Q97
♥	KJ10	♥	--
♦	52	♦	AK107
♣	--	♣	--

You know that LHO has the ♠J left. It appears that he started with only two spades since he followed with the ♠8 when you played trumps (the missing spade spots were the 3, 4, and 8). There is only one heart outstanding, so I ruffed with the ♠Q as LHO discarded a club. When I continued with a small spade, LHO followed with the ♠J and dummy's ♠A took the trick as RHO followed with the ♠3. I played the ♥K from dummy and RHO was forced to follow helplessly with his last heart while I discarded a small diamond. On the ♥J from dummy RHO ruffed with the ♠4 which I overruffed with the ♠9.

Then I claimed. I had two winning diamonds and could ruff the last one with dummy's ♠5.

[Continued next page]

Problem Solutions (continued)

There were many ways to make this contract and many ways to go down. The other declarer went down and we won another 12 IMPs. This was the full deal:

♠ A105	♠ K43	♠ Q9762
♥ KJ1098	♥ Q7652	♥ 4
♦ 52	♦ Q93	♦ AK107
♣ A72	♣ 108	♣ QJ4

♠ J8	N	♠ Q9762
♥ A3	W ■ E	♥ 4
♦ J864	S	♦ AK107
♣ K9653		♣ QJ4



Best Tote Bag Ever!



Thanks to Barbara Webster for the photo.

2026 Mini-McKenney Races

Unit 390 Year-to-Date Standings - October 7th

0 to 5	1	Tony Melton	Calgary AB	33
	2	Sandy Fletcher	Calgary AB	9
	3	Ruth Hughes	Calgary AB	9
5 to 20	1	Kevin Falkenberg	Calgary AB	26
	2	Leanne Bannon	Calgary AB	21
	3	Christine McGovern	Calgary AB	20
20 to 50	1	Christine Neff	Calgary AB	46
	2	Christina Larkins	Calgary AB	43
	3	Nancy Penner	Calgary AB	36
50 to 100	1	Miriam Daniel	Calgary AB	41
	2	Anna Liu	Calgary AB	34
	3	Nancy Brooks	Calgary AB	33
100 to 200	1	Marjory Sword	Canmore AB	72
	2	Janet Quiring	Calgary AB	58
	3	Dianne McCubbin	Calgary AB	47
200 to 300	1	Cheryl Whittaker	Calgary AB	79
	2	Colleen Rogers	Calgary AB	75
	3	Eric Gutland	Calgary AB	74
300 to 500	1	Sheila Morgan	Wheatland Cty AB	72
	2	Richard Cripps	Calgary AB	71
	3	Maxine Rystephanick	Calgary AB	60
500 to 1000	1	Andrew Melton	Calgary AB	133
	2	Mike Blancher	Calgary AB	129
	3	David Stephure	Calgary AB	113
1000 to 1500	1	John Prance	Calgary AB	204
	2	Richard Wolfe	Calgary AB	168
	3	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	129
1500 to 2500	1	Terry Nazar	Cochrane AB	195
	2	Chris Wuerscher	Calgary AB	132
	3	Rick Boyd	Calgary AB	127
2500 to 3500	1	Mike D Aguiar	Calgary AB	403
	2	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	211
	3	Clarence Duby	Calgary AB	169
3500 to 5000	1	Terri Bedard	Calgary AB	258
	2	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB	240
	3	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB	148
5000 to 7500	1	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	340
	2	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	313
	3	Yi Peng (Mark) Mai	Calgary AB	311
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	385
	2	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	294
	3	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	222
Over 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	271
	2	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	234
	3	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	234

The Kibitzer - October 2026

2026 Ace of Clubs Races

Unit 390 Year-to-Date Standings - October 7th

0 to 5	1	Tony Melton	Calgary AB	25
	2	Nicky Rutherford	Calgary AB	8
	3	Sandy Fletcher	Calgary AB	8
5 to 20	1	Kevin Falkenberg	Calgary AB	23
	2	Leanne Bannon	Calgary AB	19
	3	Christine McGovern	Calgary AB	18
20 to 50	1	Christina Larkins	Calgary AB	41
	2	Christine Neff	Calgary AB	38
	3	Lyle Ford	Calgary AB	22
50 to 100	1	Miriam Daniel	Calgary AB	32
	2	Genevieve McLean	Calgary AB	19
	3	Randy Elson	Calgary AB	18
100 to 200	1	Janet Quiring	Calgary AB	47
	2	Dianne McCubbin	Calgary AB	37
	3	Stephanie Martinez	Calgary AB	35
200 to 300	1	Eric Gutland	Calgary AB	60
	2	Corliss Ward	Calgary AB	50
	3	Sylvia Nazar	Cochrane AB	40
300 to 500	1	Inge French	Okotoks AB	43
	2	Sherry Goldenberg	Calgary AB	42
	3	Robert Stothers	Calgary AB	36
500 to 1000	1	Mike Blancher	Calgary AB	77
	2	Osama Elshafey	Calgary AB	62
	3	Andrew Melton	Calgary AB	50
1000 to 1500	1	Richard Wolfe	Calgary AB	83
	2	Richard Weinberger	Calgary AB	79
	3	John Prance	Calgary AB	70
1500 to 2500	1	Paulette McWilliam	Calgary AB	105
	2	Rick Boyd	Calgary AB	96
	3	Dave Armstrong	Calgary AB	68
2500 to 3500	1	Mike D Aguiar	Calgary AB	187
	2	Howard Coren	Calgary AB	115
	3	Gail Godwin	Calgary AB	86
3500 to 5000	1	Terri Bedard	Calgary AB	140
	2	Rod Hilderman	Calgary AB	80
	3	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB	66
5000 to 7500	1	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	89
	2	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	49
	3	David Johnson	Calgary AB	45
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	185
	2	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	137
	3	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	34
Over 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	93
	2	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	20
	3	Douglas Rotchell	Airdrie AB	13

2026 Ace of Virtual Clubs Races

Unit 390 Year-to-Date Standings - October 7th

0 to 5	1	Warren Book	Calgary AB	3
	2	Karin Latter	Banff AB	1
	3	Tony Melton	Calgary AB	1
5 to 20	1	Joan Allwarden	Foothills AB	1
	2	Christine Ernst	Cochrane AB	1
	3	Leanne Bannon	Calgary AB	1
20 to 50	1	Harold Jacques	Calgary AB	3
	2/3	Murray Knechtel	Calgary AB	2
	2/3	Deborah Bartlett	Calgary AB	2
50 to 100	1	Julie Jacques	Calgary AB	19
	2	Celia Gaudet	Calgary AB	3
	3	Diane Morais	Calgary AB	3
100 to 200	1	Philippa Fitzgerald-Finch	Calgary AB	22
	2	Sandra Fiell	Calgary AB	2
	3	Jerry Malone	Wheatland Cty AB	1
200 to 300	1	Colleen Rogers	Calgary AB	29
	2	Cheryl Whittaker	Calgary AB	24
	3	Christine Stephure	Calgary AB	21
300 to 500	1/2	Lynn Gall	Calgary AB	38
	1/2	Michael Mannas	Calgary AB	38
	3	Betty Lovecky	Calgary AB	30
500 to 1000	1	David Stephure	Calgary AB	50
	2	Philip Coppard	Calgary AB	42
	3	Morris Streich	Calgary AB	40
1000 to 1500	1	Marny Simpson	Calgary AB	41
	2	Cathy Bird	Calgary AB	31
	3	Hailong Yu	Calgary AB	22
1500 to 2500	1	Emelie Quennell	Calgary AB	22
	2	Janice Eliasson	Calgary AB	21
	3	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	19
2500 to 3500	1	Mark Manzer	Calgary AB	60
	2	Elizabeth Sprague	Calgary AB	37
	3	Keith Falkenberg	Calgary AB	21
3500 to 5000	1	William Basler	Calgary AB	28
	2	Christopher Galbraith	Calgary AB	3
	3	Michael Broadhurst	Calgary AB	3
5000 to 7500	1	Yi Peng (Mark) Mai	Calgary AB	15
	2	Stephanie McAdam	Calgary AB	13
	3	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB	3
7500 to 10,000	1	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	4
	2	Allan Simon	Calgary AB	2
Over 10,000	1	Gerry Marshall	Calgary AB	4
	2	Douglas Rotchell	Airdrie AB	3

An Irrelevant Overtrick

By Allan Simon

Date: May 1991

Occasion: IMP game at Dick Anderson's home in Regina

Contract: 3NT

Lead: ♥Q

♠ J1092
♥ AK8
♦ 7654
♣ K4



♠ Q53
♥ 1076
♦ AQ2
♣ AQ75

Doug Heron	Allan Simon	George Retek	Katie Thorpe
East	South	West	North
Pass	1♣	1♦	DBL
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

This deal occurred in a home-style IMP game at Dick Anderson's house. A number of us had dinner there after spending the day at a Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) meeting. Holding our cards at the other table were Anderson and Doug Drew. Our teammates were Aidan Ballantyne and a local chap named Maurice Wilson, who filled in to make up the numbers.

The bidding was straightforward. Retek led the ♥Q, taken by dummy's ace, while Heron followed small and I played my second lowest spot card. I led a spade to the queen (which held) and another spade, on which Retek hopped up with his ace, to return a diamond to the jack and queen. This of course gave me nine tricks

I was able to knock out Doug Heron's ♠K, win the (surprising!) diamond return with the ace, cross to dummy's ♣K to cash the 13th spade. On that trick, I threw the ♥10, Retek, a club. I returned to hand with the ♣A, laid down the ♣Q and announced "a squeeze without the count".

Retek was in fact down to the ♥J9 and two winning diamonds—he threw a diamond. "I love it ...", said Katie Thorpe as I threw dummy's ♥8.

I gave George his diamond trick and claimed 10 tricks. If Retek had instead discarded a heart, both dummy's hearts would have been good.

The full deal:

♠ J1092
♥ AK8
♦ 7654
♣ K4



♠ A76
♥ QJ9
♦ K1098
♣ 963

♠ Q53
♥ 1076
♦ AQ2
♣ AQ75

♠ K84
♥ 5432
♦ J3
♣ J1082

Had Heron won the first spade trick to return a diamond, I would have gone up with the ace, stripped the black suits after conceding a trick to Retek's ♠A, and ultimately would have had to guess Retek's red suit holdings to make my contract. I might well have got it wrong.

When we compared with our teammates, +630 was a gain of one IMP. We lost the match by 79 IMPs! Overtricks can be fund, but sometimes irrelevant.

Editors' Note:

Allan Simon and the others mentioned in this article were volunteers on the CBF Board and were instrumental in developing and supporting Canadian bridge and keeping the CBF financially viable during the 80s and 90s.

For the CBF, Heron served on the Board from 1990 - 2001, including two terms as CBF President; Ballantyne served from 1985 - 2001 and was President for one term; Anderson served from 1981 - 1991 and was President for one term; Thorpe served from 1987 - 1993, including one term as President; Simon served from 1991 - 1992.

Anderson, Drew and Retek were long-serving District representatives on the ACBL Board of Directors and each completed a term as ACBL President.

Bring Your Lucky Charm and Life Vest

By Frank Ayer

I am playing in a local face-to-face club game. This is my hand:

♠ K3 ♥ A8532 ♦ KJ4 ♣ A87

I open 1NT in 2nd seat. The auction proceeds as follows:

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

¹ transfer to spades

² 0 or 3 keycards

³ pass if you have no keycards

The opening lead is the ♦ 10.

♠ AQ10972
♥ Q9
♦ AQ3
♣ 96



♠ K3
♥ A8532
♦ KJ4
♣ A87

I am lucky to escape a club lead. On a normal 3-2 spade break, there are 11 top tricks and hearts should provide a twelfth. I may need entries to my hand to establish my heart suit so I win the ♦ A and play to my ♠ K as both opponents follow small. When I lead the ♥ 2 West wins the ♥ K, dummy and East playing small hearts. West returns the ♥ 10 to dummy's ♥ Q as East follows. I've got 12 tricks now if spades are 3-2 (six spades, two hearts, three diamonds and one club), so I cash the ♠ A and prepare to claim but East discards the ♣ 2.

The position is:

♠ Q1097
♥ --
♦ Q3
♣ 96



♠ --
♥ A85
♦ KJ
♣ A87

An easy hand just got a lot more interesting. The only way to succeed now is to reduce dummy's trumps to the same number as West's (two) and have the lead in hand at trick 12. I will need three entries to my hand (two for ruffs to shorten trumps and one more to re-enter my hand at the end) and I have just enough: the ♦ KJ and ♣ A.

I lead the ♦ 3 to my ♦ J as both opponents follow. The priority now is to reduce dummy's spade length so I play the ♥ 5, West pitches the ♦ 9 and I ruff with ♠ 7. I hope West is kidding with that ♦ 9; his opening lead was the ♦ 10 so I already know he had the ♦ 9. I have to hope he has one more diamond. If I don't use the ♦ K entry now West will discard his last diamond as I ruff another heart and he'll be able to ruff the ♦ K. So I overtake the ♦ Q with the ♦ K as both East and West follow. Phew!

But wait! I also need to score my ♥ A. If I ruff my small heart the only way back to my hand will be the ♣ A. Then, West will ruff the ♥ A. I can overruff and draw the last trump but I will be stuck in dummy with a club loser.

West has two spades and three clubs left and East is down to one heart. Now is the time to play the ♥ A and establish the ♥ 8. If West ruffs the ♥ A I can overruff, draw the last trump pitching the ♣ 7, and claim with the ♣ A, ♥ 8 and the ♠ 9. West decides to throw a club on the ♥ A (as does dummy) and comes down to ♠ J8 and two clubs so I ruff the good ♥ 8 (necessary to reduce dummy's spades to two). A club to the Ace allows me to claim with ♣ 87 in hand and ♠ Q10 in dummy.

[Continued next page]

Searching for Certainty

By Gordon Campbell

Here is a hand from the last round of the Swiss teams at this year's Calgary Labour Day Sectional. My partner, Dan Bertrand, was North.

♠ QJ
♥ AQ5
♦ K4
♣ A109876

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

♠ AK9
♥ 73
♦ AJ8
♣ QJ543

Dan and I were playing weak NTs, so I opened 1♣. Dan responded 2♣. We play that as natural, denying a 4-card major, and forcing to game. I continued with 2NT showing 14-16 HCP balanced, maybe including a 4-card major. Dan has a difficult bid now.

On the plus side:

- our side has lots of trumps
- outside suits are shorter and therefore may produce fewer losers

On the negative side:

- Dan knows I might hold only 14 HCP
- our side may have duplication of values in the short suits
- even if I have 16 HCP we could still be off the ♠AK

Dan made the excellent bid of 4NT, quantitative. A jump to 4♣ would clearly have been Minorwood, asking for keycards, for clubs.

Over to me. What should I do? With 15 HCP I'm right in the middle of the range for my 2NT rebid. However, I do have an extra club. So I accepted the invitation and jumped to 6♣, hoping that a suit contract would provide some extra chances not available in 6NT.

To summarize the auction:

<u>Dan</u>		<u>Gordon</u>	
<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
--	--	1♣	Pass
2♣ ¹	Pass	2NT ²	Pass
4NT ³	Pass	6♣	All Pass

¹ natural, forcing to game

² 14-16 HCP balanced

³ quantitative (invitational to slam)

West led a spade. At first glance the slam looks to be 75%, needing either the club finesse (or a singleton King) or the heart finesse. But, there is a near-certain line. Indeed, provided West does not hold a 6+ suit and hasn't led a singleton spade, the probability of success is 100%!

How can I be so certain? And why the statement about West having a six-card suit or a singleton spade?

Take some time to come up with your plan. Then scroll to page 30 for further developments.



Jim Unger
The Second Herman Treasury

How Would You Bid This Hand?

By Janet Galbraith

Dealer: East
All Vulnerable

♠ A	♠ Q962	♠ K108754
♥ AK1065	♥ Q83	♥ J2
♦ AKQ4	♦ 2	♦ J53
♣ AK3	♣ 86542	♣ Q9

♠ J3	♠ N	♠ K108754
♥ 974	♥ W	♥ J2
♦ 109876	♦ E	♦ J53
♣ J107	♣ S	♣ Q9

This deal happened at a club game. West has a monster and likely has to take off their shoes to count it ten times over to be sure it really does add up to 27 HCP. Depending on your partnership style and system, there are many ways to bid this hand, and many places to end up. Let's examine a few possibilities.

Option A: East opens this hand 2♠

This is not a terrible 2♠ opener, especially if you have any form of Ogust bid available to allow partner to ask about your hand quality. Possible follow ups:

- West bids 2NT to discover more about opener's hand.
 - If you play Ogust, opener will respond 3♣ – a poor hand and poor suit. West will be despondent at this response, but can bravely move forward by jumping to 4NT to verify the presence of the ♠K. (normally West might cue bid to elicit more information, but they have all the controls so there is no point)
 - If you play Feature ask, opener will bid 3♠ – no feature. West won't care, since they have all the features, so should also proceed with a slam try in spades.
- West bids 4♣, using it as "Preempt Keycard", asking about keycards including the ♠Q.
 - Opener will respond 4♥, showing one Keycard but no queen (this system uses step responses, so 4♦ would show no Keycards, 4♠ would show one Keycard with the ♠Q, etc.)

In all these cases, East will likely end up playing in a tricky 6♠ contract which can be made by playing the ♠AK and then playing winners from dummy, forcing North to ruff in front of declarer so East can avoid losing two trump tricks. The preparation for the end game is tricky. East has to shorten his trump length by ruffing hearts so that in the end position he has ♠108 sitting behind North's ♠Q9. East must be careful to use his diamond entry early to prevent North from pitching his singleton diamond. On a diamond or club lead the only way to succeed is to win the first trick in either hand, cash the ♠A, cash the ♥AK and ruff a heart to hand to cash the ♠K.

- West advances with 3♥, which is forcing.
 - Opener will bid 3♠ as they do not have three-card heart support.
 - West can now try 4♦, still forcing. Opener will correct to 4♥, showing a doubleton honour.
 - West will likely carry on with RKC Blackwood for hearts.
 - A heart slam comes home with the lucky 3-3 heart split. A much better play to make the slam is to lead a low heart toward the ♥J (which is a little scary if the stiff diamond is led).

Option B: East passes and West gets to open

- West opens 1♥
 - This is risky because there is a strong chance the hand could get passed out. In this particular case, though, East will bid 1♠ and West can make a game forcing 3♦ bid.
 - Over 3♦, East will likely rebid 3♠.
 - West will ask for keycards now, find out there is one, then ask about the ♠Q. When that is missing, they will abandon all hope of a grand slam and settle in 6♠ or 6NT.

[Editor's Note: Sorry, Janet. No one we know would ever dream of opening this hand with 1♥! 😊]
- West opens 2♣ - This is the most likely scenario. At this point, no matter what you play over 2♣, most responders will bid 2♦, since the spade suit is not strong enough to reply 2♠
 - If 2♦ is just waiting (possibly negative), West will rebid 3NT to show their values of 25+ and a transfer to spades will ensue. East is aware that the HCP combination is enough for slam and will keep the auction open.

[Continued next page]

How Would You Bid This Hand? (continued)

- If you play 2♦ shows at least a king (so is game forcing), West must not rebid 3NT (that should be a suggestion to play there). Probably the best rebid is 2♥ and East will likely bid and rebid spades along the way. No one will stop short of slam, and 6♥, 6♠ and 6NT are all in the picture.
- If you play control-showing responses, East will bid 2♦ to show 0-1 controls (king = one control). Follow-up bidding should proceed as above.
- If you play Kokish Relay, the auction will be a bit more complicated. It will begin with 2♣ – 2♦ – 2♥ (forces 2♠) – 2♠ – then either 2NT to show 25+ HCP, or 3♦ to show hearts and diamonds, depending on how West feels at the time. The hand is a little off-shape to rebid NT, but some Wests will take that route.
- If you play step responses to show point count, East will respond 2♠ to show 7-9 HCP. Nothing will stop West from driving to slam now!

The concern for West in contemplating 6NT is wondering how they can get to East's hand. With that singleton ♠A, they would need to count on one of the ♥Q, ♣Q or ♦J as an entry to the ♠K and they would also need to be able to set up hearts. That might steer West toward a suit slam. On the actual lie of the cards for NT, it is relatively easy to establish

four heart tricks to bring home the contract. Trying to set up spades could easily backfire.

This board was played 12 times with the following results:

Contract	Declarer	Result	Frequency
6NT	West	=	4 times
6♥	West	=	1 time
4♠	East	+1	1 time
4♥	East	+2	1 time
3NT	West	+1	2 times
3NT	West	+2	2 times
6♠	East	-2	1 time

The point of this hand is to demonstrate that there will be many bidding paths to a successful final contract, and that you can get there with or without detailed conventions and agreements. You need to see the end zone and then navigate through the opposition (often your own partner's bids!) to reach it.

My personal choice is for the auction to begin with 2♠ in first seat, then 3♥ by West. Hopefully we would get to either 6♥ or 6NT.

Deep Finesse says you can make 6NT, 6♠, 6♥, and 6♦. Yet on a combined 34 HCP, only 50% of the field got to any slam.

Upcoming Unit 390 Tournament Dates

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

Calgary 299er Sectional	October 24, 2026
District 18 NAP Final - Flights Open, A and C (online)	November 7, 2026
District 18 NAP Final - Flight B (online)	November 14, 2026
Calgary New Year's Sectional	January 8 - 10, 2027
Calgary Spring Sectional	April 9 - 11, 2027
Regina Regional	May 3 - 9, 2027
Calgary 299er Sectional	May 8, 2027
Canadian Team Championship Playoffs (Quebec City)	May 19 - 25, 2027
Penticton Regional	June 14 - 20, 2027
Calgary Regional	August 3 - 8, 2027
Calgary Fall Sectional	September 3 - 5, 2027
Great Falls Regional	October 5 - 10, 2027



Waste Not, Want Not

By Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Playing IMPs, with no one vulnerable, you pick up this hand as South:

♠ KQJ62 ♥ Q ♦ AJ6532 ♣ 7

The auction proceeds as follows:

North	East	South	West
--	--	--	1♣
Pass	1♥	1♠	DBL ¹
2♣ ²	Pass	4♠	All Pass

¹ 3-card heart support

² 3-card limit raise in spades

There is no point making a game try at IMPs ... you know you want to be in game! The lead is the ♦10 and partner tables a highly suitable dummy.

IMPs

Contract: 4♠

Lead: ♦10

♠	A43
♥	K1043
♦	K8
♣	J862

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

♠	KQJ62
♥	Q
♦	AJ6532
♣	7

You run this to your ♦J, RHO playing the ♦7. Partner has two critical cards (♠A and ♦K) and the lead has been favourable. When things look rosy, a good declarer tries to envisage what could go wrong and makes an effort to take out insurance.

In this case the bad news could involve either a bad break in spades or diamonds or possibly a bad break in both suits. You already know that diamonds are no worse than 4-1 and, since neither opponent bid spades on the first round, it is unlikely that trumps are 5-0. How should the play proceed?

You can afford one round of trumps so you duly cash the ♠K, both opponents following (and confirming your premise that spades are not 5-0). Suppose you next try cashing the ♦K. What can happen? RHO might ruff and switch to clubs. You can ruff the second round of clubs, play a low diamond ruffing with dummy's ♠A and pull trumps. If RHO started with four trumps, he only has two left; otherwise trumps were 3-2 all along. In either case, you can draw them all.

The same line of play works if it is LHO who ruffs the second round of diamonds. If one opponent shows out of diamonds but does not ruff, you can pull three more round of trumps and concede a diamond. In all these cases 10 tricks are available.

The big mistake on this hand would be to draw two rounds of trumps initially because you can no longer handle both key suits breaking 4-1. The ♦K would get ruffed and the opponent's trump return would leave you with a diamond loser in addition to the two round-suit aces.

That would be an opportunity wasted, after the favourable lead.

The full deal:

♠	A43		♠	9875
♥	K1043		♥	J9865
♦	K8		♦	7
♣	J862		♣	K109

♠	10		♠	KQJ62
♥	A72		♥	Q
♦	Q1094		♦	AJ6532
♣	AQ543		♣	7

	N			
W	■	E		
	S			

It's true, you could pull four rounds of trump, but that ♦K is in the way! You don't have the hand entries to establish and run the diamonds.

West led the only suit that gives you a chance to make your contract. Plan carefully and make him pay! Waste not, want not.

Searching for Certainty - The Full Story

By Gordon Campbell

IMPs

Contract: 6♣

Lead: ♠10

♠ QJ
♥ AQ5
♦ K4
♣ A109876

N
W ■ E
S

♠ AK9
♥ 73
♦ AJ8
♣ QJ543

This story continues from page 26. Having arrived in the club slam, declarer needs to back up his claim that the slam has 100% probability of success provided West does not hold a 6+ suit and hasn't led a singleton spade.

He embarks on an elimination plan. Cash ♦AK of diamonds and ruff the third round in dummy. If the ♦Q appears singleton or doubleton, the diamond ruff becomes unnecessary. You can simply revert to trumps since both of dummy's hearts can be pitched (one on the ♦J and one on the third good spade).

With diamonds eliminated from both hands, play three rounds of spades to eliminate the spades (pitch dummy's small heart on the last spade). This position is reached after six tricks and the lead is with South:

♠ --
♥ AQ
♦ --
♣ A10987

N
W ■ E
S

♠ --
♥ 73
♦ --
♣ QJ543

Finally, despite holding an 11-card trump fit and not having played trumps for six rounds, declarer is ready to deliver the coup de grâce. Lead the ♣Q and let it ride unless West shows out. If it wins, there is no trump loser; if it loses there is no heart loser because East must either concede a ruff and sluff or lead away from the ♥K. If West does show out, rise with the ♣A, and exit a club which again endplays East.

The only way the contract can go down is if East holds two or fewer diamonds (giving West six+ diamonds) or two or fewer spades (giving West six+ spades) or if West has a singleton spade.

Even in these cases, you still have chances:

- if East ruffs the second or third round of diamonds and exits safely, there is no additional trump loser. You can fall back on the heart finesse.
- if East ruffs the second or third round of spades, he might be ruffing with a singleton trump, in which case the endplay is in effect. If he can exit safely with his other trump, you still have the heart finesse.
- if West ruffs the second round of spades there is no trump loser, and you have to bank on the heart finesse.

If West had led a heart at trick one I would still be thinking! Should I finesse the ♥Q immediately or try finessing the ♦J later to pitch my second heart loser (one goes on the third good spade)? Would West have led away from the ♥K on basically a blind auction? If I had risen with the ♥A, without doubt my next play would have been to cash the ♣A to see if I had a trump loser before banking on the diamond finesse. What would I eventually decide? Only the Shadow knows!





2026 Canadian Bridge Championships



The 2026 Canadian Bridge Championships (CBC) were staged in parallel with the Penticton Regional in June of this year.

Playoffs were held for six national team events:
Canadian National Teams, Flights A, B and C (CNTC)
Canadian Senior Teams (CSTC)
Canadian Women's Teams (CWTC)
Canadian Mixed Teams (CMTC)

National pairs events have transitioned to online events held on RealBridge. The Canadian Open Pairs Championship (COPC) was held April 25-26, 2026. Beginning this fall, a new Canada-wide national pairs event — the Canadian Mixed Pairs Championship (CMPC) — will be held on RealBridge. The event is scheduled to take place on November 7 - 8, 2026.

Prior to the Penticton face-to-face playoffs, the round robins of all the major team events were played online, with the qualifiers in each category advancing to the playoffs.

Participants from Unit 390 were overwhelmingly successful at the championship! The final medal count for Unit 390 players was 16, made up of nine gold, three silver and four bronze.

2027 Canadian Bridge Championships

The knockout stage of the 2027 Canadian Bridge Championships has been scheduled to run in Quebec City on May 19th to May 25th, in conjunction with the Quebec City Regional. The round robin stages of all team events will be played online in January and February. You can read more at <https://cbf.ca/2027-canadian-bridge-championship/> including registration deadlines and dates for the round robin events.

CNTC-C

Because only four teams entered Flight C, all four teams began play at Penticton. The winners were a foursome, all hailing from Calgary: **Richard Cripps, Lois Matton, Andrew Melton** and **Jim Watt**. You can read about their success in the article "From Practice Nights to CNTC Gold" on page 13.

CNTC-B

Flight B played a five-team round robin online, with one team being eliminated and the other four advancing to the semi-finals in Penticton. While no one from Unit 390 was on the winning squad, the Unit was well represented among the medallists. **Alex Heron Jr.** was a silver medallist as a member of the Shapka team. Capturing the bronze medal was an all-Calgary quartet: **Bob Gagnon, Richard Piette, Chris Wuerscher** and **Mike D Aguiar**.

CWTC

Six teams played an online round robin to select four teams for the playoffs in Penticton. **Susan Culham** won gold, playing for team Blank. The team travelled to Poland for the McConnell Cup Women's Teams, where they made the round of eight (in a field of 25) before bowing out.

Janet Galbraith captained her team to first place in the online round-robin portion of the event but suffered a heart-breaking 1-IMP loss in the semi-finals in Penticton.

CNTC-A

The original field of 16 teams was reduced to eight through the online round-robin qualification event. Thus, the face-to-face part of the event in Penticton began with the quarter-finals. When all was said and done, **Judith** and **Nicholas Gartaganis**, alongside teammates Jeffrey Smith and David Sabourin, of Ottawa, had to settle for the silver medal, losing the final to the Willis team.

Mark Mai was a member of the Bates foursome, which qualified handily for the playoffs but did not survive their quarter-final match.

[CBC report continued next page]

Maple Leaf Games



- Every Friday night bridge on RealBridge
- Players from all countries are welcome
- ACBL Masterpoints

Time 7:00 p.m. ET
Format 20 boards
Entry fee \$8 CAD

Every player must create a RealBridge Account before playing.

Read more at <https://cbf.ca/events/maple-leaf-games/>



2026 CBC (continued)



CMTC

The 13-team field in the mixed event also played a three-day online round robin to come down to eight qualifiers for the playoffs in Penticton. Team Gartaganis (**Judith** and **Nicholas Gartaganis**, Jeffrey Smith of Ottawa and Kismet Fung of Edmonton) emerged as champions, defeating Team Xu in the final.



(L to R) Kismet Fung, Jeffrey Smith, Nicholas and Judith Gartaganis

CSTC

Since only four teams entered the Seniors team event, all the teams qualified directly for the face-to-face semi-finals in Penticton. **Daniel Bertrand** and **Gordon Campbell**, along with teammates Paul Janicki and former Unit 390 member, Ian Findlay, were triumphant, outlasting Team Jacob to bring home gold medals.



(L to R) Daniel Bertrand, Ian Findlay, Paul Janicki and Gordon Campbell



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To read about the benefits of CBF membership, or to join/renew, please visit <https://cbf.ca/members/cbf-membership-and-benefits/>