



The Kibitzer

November 2015

Editors: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

President's Message

One – Two – Three – GO! That's the momentum of this year's Unit Board of Directors. We are excited about our initiative to sponsor a variety of seminars for our members and we hope our enthusiasm is reciprocated by your participation. Watch for Notices to the Membership and also be sure to visit the website regularly to keep up with news and events.

Here is just some of what is in the works.

- A Unit-sponsored Bridge Boot Camp with hosts Nancy Klym and Bev Mason, scheduled for November 14th and 15th, sold out in just 11 days with 6 players on a waiting list! This keenness has prompted the Board to schedule a second Boot Camp in the spring. Registrations will not be accepted until plans are finalized.
- A Unit-sponsored Club Director's Course with hosts Doug & Crystal Mann is scheduled for January 22, 23 and 24th. While designed for those opening a new bridge club or starting a new game, the course would also benefit players seeking a better understanding of common rules. A primer on using ACBLscore will be included in the course. A minimum of 12 participants will be required to sponsor the course.
- A Unit-sponsored ACBL Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP) is a strong possibility for early spring.
- A Unit-sponsored Newcomer-Master Team Game will be held in early spring.

The highlight of our summer was, of course, the very successful White Hat Regional. We may not have set a record in attendance but we sure did in hospitality. With 16 wonderful, hardworking Tournament Committee members (see photo page 12), 110 volunteers who baked an abundant supply of cookies and squares and 46 sponsors who contributed to gift baskets, giveaways and some of the evening hospitality – we just couldn't go wrong. Thank you everybody.

It has been said for many, many years that bridge is dying. Yet I keep seeing so many new faces. I started checking with the various teachers in the city to get a count of people taking lessons. I was surprised to find that there are 107 beginners currently enrolled in fall classes; 38 currently enrolled in

various intermediate classes; 30 presently enrolled in an intermediate-plus class and 12 enrolled in a 2-over-1 class. A recently concluded beginner-plus course had 31 graduates and two previous Boot Camps hosted by Nancy Klym and Bev Mason had a total enrollment of 58.

These are just the numbers from people I know of! I would bet there is a lot more teaching going on that I don't know about. Accolades are due to these teachers who supplied me with their numbers – Linda Walker, Rae Haaland, Dorothy Brayford, Gail Bews, Helen Dillen, Marilyn Haggins, Nancy Klym and Bev Mason.

After my research into teaching, I did a quick check of the number of tables playing bridge at the various clubs during a one week period – a total of 224. I think this is amazing and a tribute to the club owners, managers and directors who provide a great service for our enjoyment. I know they welcome your support.

Delores Hedley
President, Unit 390

Inside This Issue...

Endplays.....	2-3
Unit 390 Mentorship Program	3
2015 Ace of Clubs Unit 390 Race Year to Date	4
2015 Mini-McKenney Unit 390 Race Year to Date	4
Father's Day at the Local Duplicate Club	5
Endplay Solutions.....	5
The President's Award	6
Alberta Sectionals Masterpoint Race.....	6
Visions of Grandeur	7
Member Milestones.....	8
Scoring Error?	9
4 W's and the H: A Primer on Signalling.....	10-12
Thanks to the 2015 Regional Committee.....	12
Find the Best Chance	13

Endplays

By Daniel Bertrand

It can be satisfying to have your opponents help you make your contract. One technique that you can use is an endplay or throw-in play. Here is a three-card ending with declarer, West, having the lead:

♠ 6		♠ ---
♥ 64		♥ J109
♦ ---		♦ ---
♣ ---		♣ ---
	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W ■ E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	
		♠ 4
		♥ AQ
		♦ ---
		♣ ---
		♠ A
		♥ K7
		♦ ---
		♣ ---

West could lead a heart and try the finesse. But by leading a spade, West can guarantee two tricks for his side.

Let's try a complete hand:

♠ AQ6		♠ J74
♥ KQJ64		♥ A52
♦ A10		♦ 542
♣ 874		♣ AKQ2
	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W ■ E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	

As West, you get carried away and end up in 6NT after North opened 3♦ (showing 7 diamonds). North leads the ♦K. You can count nine top tricks, probably ten with a decent heart break. If clubs split 3-3 and the spade finesse works, you have twelve tricks.

You win the first trick with the ♦A as South follows with the ♦7. You play a round of hearts and all follow. You finish the hearts, discarding two diamonds from dummy. North discards four diamonds and South throws a spade on the last heart (hearts were 4-1). Now you cash three rounds of clubs but North discards a spade on the third round.

You have reached this position:

♠ AQ6		♠ J74
♥ ---		♥ ---
♦ 10		♦ ---
♣ ---		♣ 2
	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W ■ E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	

What should you do? First, what do you know? You know that South has the ♣J and has three more cards. If North started with seven diamonds, South's other cards should all be spades. You have to hope that South has the ♠K. What is your plan? You should play your last club to endplay South (discarding the ♦10 from your hand). This should be the end position:

♠ AQ6		♠ xx
♥ ---		♥ ---
♦ ---		♦ Q
♣ ---		♣ ---
	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W ■ E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	
		♠ J74
		♥ ---
		♦ ---
		♣ ---
		♠ Kxx
		♥ ---
		♦ ---
		♣ ---

South has the lead and must give you three tricks. When South plays a small spade, you let it ride to the ♠J and finesse on the way back. Well bid!

Try the hands on the next page to test your skills (you are West).

[continued next page]

Hand 1:

♠ AKJ54		♠ Q108732
♥ 108		♥ AQ
♦ K105		♦ AJ3
♣ AK7		♣ 63

You reach 6♠ and North leads the ♣Q. South follows suit. How do you ensure twelve tricks?

Hand 2:

♠ 95		♠ AQ8
♥ AKQ		♥ 9742
♦ J10		♦ AQ
♣ AKJ754		♣ Q962

You reach 6NT and North leads the ♥J. South follows suit. You win the ♥Q and continue with the ♥A. South discards a diamond. How do you ensure twelve tricks?

Hand 3:

♠ QJ963		♠ AK1084
♥ AJ		♥ 42
♦ AK63		♦ Q92
♣ AQ		♣ 984

You reach 6♠ and North leads the ♥K. South follows suit. You win the ♥A and pull trumps. North had two and South, one. You play three rounds of diamonds but South had four of them. How do you ensure twelve tricks?

Turn to page 5 for the problem solutions.



The Editors welcome submissions for future issues of The Kibitzer. Email your articles and news items to 390kibitzer@acblunit390.org.

2015 Mentorship Program

The 2015 mentorship initiative began in May with registration, both by those wanting to be assigned a mentor and those willing to act as a mentor. As in previous years, mentees needed under 500 masterpoints to qualify for a mentor.

There are a number of things that makes this program so successful.

Firstly, the mentorship committee tries its very best to match each mentee with just the right person. That is why it is important that mentees wait to be assigned their mentors. It can create an uncomfortable situation for a mentor when he or she has to dance around a direct request by a potential mentee.

Another idea that really works is that those who have mentors are encouraged to reciprocate if and when they feel comfortable. It's a give and take approach ... give back to those coming from where you've been.

The present mentorship program has 35 pairs participating. Pairs received their match-ups in July and it is hoped that everyone will finish the schedule by mid-March.

Unit 390 funds the program by providing free plays to volunteer mentors. If you have served as a mentor this year, you can expect to receive three free plays to Unit-sponsored events. This excludes those who have been both mentee and mentor.

If you would like to get involved in the program, either as a mentee or as a mentor (or both), watch for notices about next year's program. Sign-up sheets for 2016 will come out by mid-May.

On behalf of the Mentorship Committee
Janet Sharpe
Nancy Stewart

[Editors' note: Kudos to Janet and Nancy, along with the 35 volunteer mentors, all of whom deserve a lot of credit for the success of the program.]

The Kibitzer - November 2015

2015 Ace of Clubs Awards Unit 390 Race as of October 31st

0 to 5	1	Raymond Dickinson	Calgary AB	13
	2	Inge French	Okotoks AB	11
	3	Judith Slimmon	Calgary AB	8
5 to 20	1	Gilbert Fagnou	Calgary AB	15
	2	Gwen Fagnou	Calgary AB	15
	3	Jim Griffeth	Calgary AB	14
20 to 50	1	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	48
	2	Colin Macqueen	Calgary AB	27
	3	Harvey Wiehler	Calgary AB	24
50 to 100	1	Richard Bickley	Calgary AB	70
	2	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB	56
	3	Margaret Nielsen	Calgary AB	32
100 to 200	1	Claire Strachan	Calgary AB	40
	2	Donna Badiou	Calgary AB	38
	3	Judy Madge	Calgary AB	36
200 to 300	1	Peter Segers	Calgary AB	61
	2	Susan Bessant	Calgary AB	29
	3	Eileen McCashew	Calgary AB	25
300 to 500	1	Dale Bercov	Calgary AB	79
	2	Victoria Haines	Calgary AB	68
	3	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB	50
500 to 1000	1	Eileen Grady	Hamilton ON	83
	2	Gail Bews	Calgary AB	74
	3	Jack Sisko	Calgary AB	60
1000 to 2500	1	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	166
	2	Susan Julius	Calgary AB	118
	3	Jean Ward	Calgary AB	114
2500 to 5000	1	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	119
	2	Elaine Stewart	Calgary AB	101
	3	Martin McDonald	Calgary AB	101
5000 to 7500	1	Donald Gladman	Calgary AB	73
	2	Dann Kramer	Calgary AB	69
	3	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	36
7500 to 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	70
	2	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	12
Over 10,000	1	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	12

2015 Mini-McKenney Awards Unit 390 Race as of October 31st

0 to 5	1	Carl Ringdahl	Calgary AB	22
	2	Raymond Dickinson	Calgary AB	17
	3	Inge French	Okotoks AB	15
5 to 20	1	Shelley Mardiros	Banff AB	72
	2	Jim Griffeth	Calgary AB	24
	3	Gilbert Fagnou	Calgary AB	19
20 to 50	1	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	53
	2	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	37
	3	Harvey Wiehler	Calgary AB	37
50 to 100	1	Richard Bickley	Calgary AB	148
	2	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB	96
	3	Margaret Nielsen	Calgary AB	76
100 to 200	1	Mike Blancher	Calgary AB	71
	2	Marcia Andreychuk	Calgary AB	68
	3	Claire Strachan	Calgary AB	59
200 to 300	1	Peter Segers	Calgary AB	94
	2	Susan Bessant	Calgary AB	69
	3	Keith Wallace Pam Wallace	Calgary AB	60 60
300 to 500	1	Victoria Haines	Calgary AB	184
	2	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB	153
	3	Dale Bercov	Calgary AB	95
500 to 1000	1	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	186
	2	Eileen Grady	Hamilton ON	136
	3	Judy McKeague	Bragg Creek AB	120
1000 to 2500	1	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	330
	2	Jadwiga Polujan	Calgary AB	262
	3	David Johnson	Calgary AB	229
2500 to 5000	1	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	413
	2	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	210
	3	Perry Khakhar	Calgary AB	198
5000 to 7500	1	Donald Gladman	Calgary AB	189
	2	Daniel Bertrand	Calgary AB	168
	3	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	150
7500 to 10,000	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	406
	2	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	215
Over 10,000	1	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	217

Father's Day at the Local Duplicate Club

by Nicholas Gartaganis

My love of bridge came early in life and was acquired from my parents, rubber players who enjoyed competing, but only in friendly games at home. The scientific part of their game consisted of Stayman, Blackwood and signalling with a high card to encourage a continuation. Many years ago, during a moment of questionable sanity, I persuaded my father to accompany me to the local duplicate club. On our way to the club I tried to caution him about the different bidding and defensive agreements that some of our opponents would have, but his deathly silence convinced me to abandon any further effort to provide advice.

His first adjustment involved avoiding his natural tendency to scoop tricks during the play of the hand – a change that he found difficult since he was used to collecting for his side. When we were defending, it was futile to duck a King or Ace because my father's body language (starting the scoop!) gave the show away. Tops and bottoms seemed to be randomly scattered across our scorecard. One pair of opponents failed to run from my father's one-level penalty double, convinced I had forgotten to alert a negative double.

By the halfway point of the game, there were heavy ridges in my partner's brow. He was quite perturbed when the opponents opened what he thought was a strong 2♥, with only 8 HCP. His annoyance increased when he misplayed a hand because the opponents were using upside down signals. When we faced a Precision pair, I shuddered when my LHO opened 1♣. As you might expect, the conversation took some strange twists while RHO tried to explain the difference between a short club (perfectly acceptable in the home game) and a strong club (a devious attempt to mislead, according to my father).

Our game was going better than expected thanks to an inordinate degree of luck which offset several pathetic bidding sequences and defenses. We finally arrived at the last table where my father declared a 3NT contract. He won the opening lead and cashed his AKQ in my 4-card heart suit, which was headed by the eight. The opponents followed to all three rounds, whereupon my father nonchalantly reached across the table and turned dummy's ♥8 ninety degrees. The look of astonishment on our opponents' faces was priceless. I had forgotten my father's penchant for visually reminding himself that a low card in the dummy was a winner! The director was called to the table, but could not find any applicable reference in the Duplicate Laws of Bridge. He had no choice but to say "play on".

By some miracle we managed to win, but my father had had quite enough of duplicate bridge!

Endplay Solutions

by Daniel Bertrand

On the first hand, win the ♣A and pull trumps. Cash the ♣K and ruff your club loser. Now, play the ♥A and exit with the ♥Q. Do not try the finesse as South might win and play a heart back. Whoever wins the ♥K will be endplayed into leading a diamond or giving you a ruff and sluff.

On hand 2, you have eleven tricks. It would be great if South was on lead. Play three rounds of clubs ending in your hand (this gets rid of all the clubs in the opponents' hands). Then lead the ♠9 and cover whatever North plays. South is out of clubs and hearts. When he wins the spade trick, he will have to return a spade or a diamond. Either gives you another trick. Notice that if North covers the ♠9 with the ♠10, you play the ♠Q. If South wins the ♠K, he is endplayed since East has the ♠A8, and only the ♠J is relevant.

On the third hand, you can simply get out with a heart before or after ruffing your fourth diamond. After North wins the heart, he is endplayed. He must lead a club into your tenace or give you a ruff and sluff (you will ruff in dummy and get rid of the ♣Q).



"Someone once asked me why women don't gamble as much as men do and I gave the commonsensical reply that we don't have as much money. That was a true but incomplete answer. In fact women's total instinct for gambling is satisfied by marriage."

Gloria Steinem

The President's Award



At each sectional in the Unit 390 tournament cycle, the recipient of the President's Award is named. The award goes to the player who, over the course of the weekend, accumulates the most masterpoints in 199'er events. Winners are acknowledged at the annual Unit 390 trophy presentation and their names are engraved on the President's Award plaque.

The 199'er events are flighted. The President's Award can go to a player in any one of the flights.

At the September 2015 sectional, there was a tie for top spot between Debbie Hunt (Flight D) and Lisa O'Hara (Flight E), each with 4.11 masterpoints. Here is the full list of results:

Flight D (100 - 200):

- | | | |
|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Debbie Hunt | 4.11 masterpoints |
| 2/3. | Mary Anne Crookes | 2.28 masterpoints |
| 2/3. | Osama Elshafey | 2.28 masterpoints |

Flight E (50 - 100):

- | | | |
|----|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Lisa O'Hara | 4.11 masterpoints |
| 2. | Brian Johns | 1.46 masterpoints |
| 3. | Julie Larson | 1.42 masterpoints |

Flight F (0 - 50):

- | | | |
|------|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Derwyn Hughes | 3.54 masterpoints |
| 2. | Nancy Hughes | 2.45 masterpoints |
| 3/4. | Barb Feick | 1.94 masterpoints |
| 3/4. | John Feick | 1.94 masterpoints |

Congratulations to all! Well done.



Many thanks to our hard-working proof-readers: Marilyn and Dave Swadron, along with Delores Hedley.

2015 Alberta Sectionals Masterpoint Race

Standings as of November 1

1	101.45	Perry Khakhar	Edmonton AB
2	88.02	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB
3	82.81	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB
4	81.98	Kiz Fung	Edmonton AB
5	76.68	Steve Lawrence	Calgary AB
6	75.21	Janet Galbraith	Calgary AB
7	74.71	Chris Galbraith	Calgary AB
8	68.20	Peter Jones	Edmonton AB
9	63.58	Glenn Cossey	Innisfail AB
10	58.92	Verly Norquay	Calgary AB
11	58.87	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB
12	57.10	Adam Thiel	Red Deer AB
13	56.53	Keith Moores	Calgary AB
14	56.50	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB
15	55.15	Vince Nowlan	Edmonton AB
16	54.36	Barry Pritchard	Edmonton AB
17	51.84	Ray Grace	Sherwood Park AB
18	51.06	Dan Bertrand	Calgary AB
19	49.44	Garry Karst	Edmonton AB
20	48.82	Cindy Cossey	Innisfail AB
21	47.54	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB
	47.54	Jean Ward	Calgary AB
23	44.75	Bernie Lambert	Acme AB
24	44.38	Bob Wright	Calgary AB
	44.38	Olga Wright	Calgary AB
26	41.53	Lee Barton	Edmonton AB
	41.53	Lucille Barton	Edmonton AB
28	40.15	Laurie Shapka Thiel	Red Deer AB
29	39.84	Robert Short	Red Deer AB
30	37.76	Allan Simon	Calgary AB
31	36.68	Charles Lamb	Red Deer AB
32	36.40	Karen Long	Edmonton AB
33	32.19	Marilyn Haggins	Calgary AB
	32.19	Murray Haggins	Calgary AB
35	30.91	Gerry Marshall	Las Varas MX
36	30.69	Maurice de la Salle	Edmonton AB
37	28.46	Mike Christensen	Red Deer AB
38	28.03	David Johnson	Calgary AB
39	27.70	Vince Lambert	Edmonton AB
40	27.28	Ilya Kuzkin	Calgary AB
41	27.02	Don Carson	Edmonton AB
42	26.88	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB
43	26.86	Leslie Pettie	Edmonton AB
44	26.70	Hans Folkinga	Edmonton AB
	26.70	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB

Visions of Grandeur

by Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

You are playing at the world championships against expert opponents and pick up the following hand in opening seat, vulnerable versus not:

♠A ♥9 ♦AKJ108762 ♣A85

Of course, you have visions of slam ... who wouldn't? But you aren't quite strong enough to open 2♣ so you opt for 1♦. LHO bids 2♥ (ostensibly intermediate) and partner chimes in with 2♠. RHO leaps to 4♥. Now what? It seems that your table is using a pinochle deck! One (or more) of the people at this table is messing with you.

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
1♦	2♥	2♠	4♥
??			

Your choices are pass, double, 5♦, 6♦ or 4NT. You would feel comfortable passing if you were sure it was forcing, but partner may have stretched when she bid 2♠. If you choose 4NT partner will assume it's Keycard Blackwood for spades, not at all what you have in mind. It seems like a complete guess between 5♦ and 6♦. You opt for the aggressive bid of 6♦ and hear double from LHO, passed around to you. A redouble feels warranted, but since you "guessed" to bid 6♦ you decide to pass.

Here is the full auction:

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

LHO leads the ♥A and you anxiously await the dummy:

Contract: 6♦x

Lead: ♥A

♠ QJ9872
♥ K43
♦ 4
♣ KJ9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A
♥ 9
♦ AKJ108762
♣ A85

Unfortunately LHO has ♦Q95 behind you so your contract fails by one trick -- how disappointing. The full deal is:

♠ --	♠ QJ9872	♠ K106543
♥ AQJ875	♥ K43	♥ 1062
♦ Q95	♦ 4	♦ 3
♣ Q743	♣ KJ9	♣ 1062

♠ A	♠ A
♥ 9	♥ 9
♦ AKJ108762	♦ AKJ108762
♣ A85	♣ A85

Full credit to the opponents for making your life difficult. This hand was played 22 times in each of the Venice Cup and the Bermuda Bowl. Here is the profile of the results:

Venice Cup		
Contract	Frequency	Result
6♦	10	-100
5♦	10	+600
6♦x	1	-200
4NT	1	-300

In six matches the result was a push. Canada won 14 IMPs when Fung-Gartaganis played in 5♦ while their counterparts ventured 4NT. The given auction occurred in the Bermuda Bowl where the outcomes were more varied.

Bermuda Bowl		
Contract	Frequency	Result
5♦	8	+600
6♦	5	-100
6♦x	4	-200
6♠	2	-300 and -400
6♥x (E-W)	2	-800 and -1100
7♥x (E-W)	1	-1100

Yet again, we see that results may be difficult to predict no matter the level of the game. Even world champions don't get it right all the time!

Member Milestones

The following members have reached new masterpoint milestones since the beginning of May of this year. Congratulations to all on their achievements.



New Junior Masters (5 - 20 MPs):

Sheila Bailey	Lynette Payne
Raymond Dickinson	David Pethrick
John Frank	Sandra Pethrick
Palma Heming	Marion Synnott
Valerie Lueke	Frances Taillon
Michael McDonough	

New Club Masters (20 - 50 Mps with at least 5 black)

Vincenzo Botha	Judith Muir
Tom Flanagan	Godfried Schwering
Karen Gurevitch	Mary Tourigny
Chrystal Hay	Thomas Wilcock
Barbara Martin	

New Sectional Masters (50 - 100 MPs with at least 10 black and 5 silver)

Zan Aycock	Brent Muir
Leon Driscoll	Marguerite Paulsen
Osama Elshafey	Linda Peacock
Shelley Mardiros	James Porter
Norman Miller	Linda Snow

New Regional Masters (100 - 200 MPs with at least 15 black, 15 silver and 5 red, gold or platinum)

Carolyn Chachula	Bruce Petrie
------------------	--------------

New NABC Masters (200 - 500 MPs with at least 20 black, 25 silver, 5 gold or platinum and 15 additional red, gold or platinum)

Pat Anderson	Janice Gordon
Marcia Andreychuk	Andy McKaig
Susan Bessant	Jane Miller
Richard Bickley	Jan Mohr
Mike Blancher	Peter Segers
Jenna Dumka	

New Life Masters (500 - 1000 MPs with at least 75 black, 75 silver, 50 gold or platinum and 50 additional red, gold or platinum)

Rick Boyd	Shelley Quinney
Stephen Cohen	Margaret Woloshchuk
Naushad Dada	

New Bronze Life Masters (500 - 1000 MPs; members prior to Jan. 1, 2010 who are Life Masters)

Heather Bowyer	Avril Karr
Stephen Cohen	Shirley King
Betty Fenton	

New Silver Life Masters (1000 - 2500 MPs; a Life Master with at least 200 pigmented points)

Gail Bews	Patricia Purvis
Eileen Grady	

New Gold Life Masters (2500 - 5000 MPs; a Life Master with at least 500 pigmented points)

Diane Campbell	Ray Kittlitz
----------------	--------------

New Diamond Life Masters (5000 - 7500 MPs; a Life Master with at least 1000 pigmented points)

Allan Simon

Upcoming Unit 390 Tournament Dates



Calgary Sectional (Marlborough Community Centre)	January 8 - 10, 2016
Calgary Sectional	April 1 - 3, 2016
Calgary Sectional	September 9 - 11, 2016
Calgary Sectional	November 4 - 6, 2016

Lethbridge Regional	May 9 - 15, 2016
Red Deer Regional	August 8 - 14, 2016

District 18 GNT Final (BBO online)	May 6-7, 2016
------------------------------------	---------------



Scoring Error?

by Judith Gartaganis

When a declarer makes every wrong decision possible it can seem as though the defenders are playing all four hands instead of just their own. The often unbelievable result is sometimes brushed aside as a scoring error ... just not possible, they say.

Witness this hand from the Venice Cup at the recent World Championship in Chennai, India. You are South, with everyone vulnerable.

	♠ 102	
	♥ 108763	
	♦ A	
	♣ AQ954	
♠ 83		♠ AJ65
♥ 942		♥ AKQ
♦ KJ7643		♦ 95
♣ 106		♣ K732
	♠ KQ974	
	♥ J5	
	♦ Q1082	
	♣ J8	

The auction has proceeded:

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

¹ showing spades plus another suit

² "pass if hearts is your other suit, otherwise correct to spades"

³ eschewing the near certain penalty!

You lead the ♠Q (from KQ or QJ). Declarer briefly checks your convention card and wins the ♠A as partner follows with the ♠2 (encouraging!). After cashing one high heart, declarer starts to work on diamonds, so ♦5, 2, J and A. Now partner plays the ♠10 and declarer makes a serious error by covering (just what you are hoping for).

You cash three more spades on which dummy pitches a heart and two diamonds, partner an encouraging club, then a heart and another club, and declarer a club. Exiting a diamond cannot be disastrous so you do so. Declarer sighs and plays the ♣10 (smooth duck by partner!) to your ♣J (can this be real?).

Now watch what happens. It's a 4-card ending. Declarer is down to ♥KQ and ♣K7 and has to find two discards when you cash your two diamond winners. A squeeze against declarer! In practice, declarer chooses to pitch the ♥KQ, whereupon you cash your ♥J and let partner take the last trick with the ♣A.

As we were about to begin the next match, the Head Director approached to say there had been a scoring error on the board ... +600 had been credited to North-South instead of East-West. No, I assured him, it was indeed 3NT by E-W, down 6!

"I do not object to people looking at their watches when I am speaking. But I strongly object when they start shaking them to make sure they are still going."

Lord Birkett

4 W's and the H: A Primer on Signalling

by Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Why?

- for effective defense, you and your partner must send messages to one another and the only way to do that is through signals
- nearly every card you play tells partner something
- remember, signals are intended to help your partner

What can you signal?

Luckily, there is a limit on the types of signals you have to worry about:

1. you can signal whether or not you like your partner's lead – do you want the suit continued? This is called an **attitude signal**.
2. you can signal how many cards you have in a suit – to help partner work out your distribution. This is called a **count signal**.
3. you can signal which suit you would like your partner to switch to. This is called a **suit preference signal**.

Who do you signal?

- signals are intended for partner
- an observant declarer is always paying attention to your signals!

When can you signal?

Since there are three kinds of signals, how can we keep it straight which kind of signal we are making? There are some firm "rules" to help:

1. you can only give a signal if you are **not involved** in trying to win the trick
2. you need to discuss which signal takes precedence when partner leads a suit. The majority of players agree attitude first, count second.
3. **attitude** when partner leads and you aren't trying to win the trick
4. **count** when declarer or dummy leads (provided you aren't trying to win the trick)
5. **suit preference** only when other signals do not apply
For example, when leading a card for partner to ruff or when partner leads an Ace and dummy has a singleton, you can give a suit preference signal.
6. your first discard is **attitude**

How to signal

There is an assortment of signalling methods, but the two most common are so-called "standard", and "upside down" or "reverse". When it comes to discarding (which usually indicates attitude), there are even more variations.

Standard Methods

Standard methods have been around, well, since forever. All bridge players are familiar with them.

Attitude:	highest card you can afford = "yes, I like your lead"
	low card = discouraging
Count:	highest card you can afford = even number in the suit (2, 4, 6, ...)
	low card = odd number in the suit (1, 3, 5, ...)
Discard:	high card in a suit = encouraging in that suit
	low card in a suit = discouraging in that suit

Upside Down Methods

The idea behind upside down carding is to avoid wasting high cards in suits you like. You retain your higher cards, hoping they will take tricks.

Attitude:	low card = "yes, I like your lead"
	highest card you can afford = discouraging
Count:	low card = even number in the suit (2, 4, 6, ...)
	highest card you can afford = odd number in the suit (1, 3, 5, ...)
Discard:	low card in a suit = encouraging in that suit
	high card in a suit = discouraging in that suit

Suit Preference

Suit preference signals are the same using either standard or upside down carding methods.

Highest card you can afford = I prefer the higher of the two remaining "obvious" suits
Low card = I prefer the lower of the two remaining "obvious" suits

You must work out which two suits are the "obvious suits". In a suit contract, trumps and the suit being led are excluded. In no trump, the excluded suits are the one being led and the suit known to be declarer's or dummy's strong suit.

[continued next page]

Discarding Methods

When you can't follow suit, you can signal some information to your partner by the card you discard. The two most prevalent discarding methods have already been summarized: standard and upside down.

However, there are at least two other methods you will occasionally encounter: Lavinthal and odd-even. Using either method, only your first discard is significant according to the method. Thereafter, discarding reverts to one of the common methods.

When using Lavinthal discards, the card you throw away is discouraging in that suit, and the size of the card is suit preference for the suit that you do like. The rationale is that you can keep all the cards in a suit you like (especially important when defending no trump) and still get your message across.

When playing odd-even discards, the name says it all. If you discard an odd card in a suit (e.g. 3, 5, 7, etc.) it says you like the suit. If you discard an even card in a suit (e.g. 2, 4, 6, etc.) it says you don't like the suit and the size is suit preference for the suit you do like. It is a very versatile method because there are two (or more) ways to tell partner which suit you like: discard an odd card in the suit or discard an appropriately-sized even card in another suit.

Signals in the trump suit

Many expert pairs give suit preference when declarer is pulling trumps. The idea here is that usually partner doesn't need to know how many trumps you have, and your attitude is a given (although bad bidders can mess up that assumption ☺). As always, you have to work out the two obvious suits.

Others pairs prefer to use a high-low in trumps, not as count or suit preference, but to signal the ability to ruff some suit if given a chance.

Signalling with honours

In general, following suit with an honour shows at least the honour below. If partner leads an Ace and you have KQJ, play the King which guarantees the Queen. Don't play the J, even if you are playing "upside down" signals.

When winning a trick, win with the lowest honour which will take the trick. For example, partner leads a low heart and you have AK. Win the King, then play the Ace. If you play the cards in the opposite order, it should send some special

message -- for example, alerting partner that you have a doubleton or that you like the higher ranking suit.

When covering a led card, cover with the lowest of your honours. For example, declarer leads the J from dummy and you have the KQ. Cover with the Queen; if you play the King, partner will wonder who has the Queen?

Ethical Considerations

Sending messages to your partner by the cards you play is perfectly legitimate. What *isn't* proper is sending a message to your partner by the speed with which you play a card. In many cases, you will need time to think about the hand and about a defensive plan. No problem ... you are allowed to take all the time you need. However, your partner must ignore your tempo and accept only the messages sent by the cards you play.

Here are a few example to illustrate some of the concepts outlined above. You are East.

Contract: 4♥

Lead: ♣8

♠ K108
♥ Q965
♦ K108
♣ QJ5

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

♠ A32
♥ 87
♦ 5432
♣ A963

Partner leads the ♣8 against 4♥. If it is a singleton, you will be able to defeat the contract straightaway via ♣A, club ruff, over to your ♠A and another club ruff. Accordingly, you win your ♣A and lead back another one. Hurrah ... partner ruffs. Then he starts thinking. You are willing him to lead a spade to your Ace. Did you tell him to do so? This is a situation for suit preference. When leading a club for partner to ruff, lead the ♣9. That high club signals partner that you want a spade back (higher of the two obvious suits). If you had the ♦A instead, you would have led back the ♣3 for partner to ruff.

[continued next page]

The Kibitzer - November 2015

Contract: 3NT

Lead: ♥10

♠ 987
♥ J4
♦ KQJ109
♣ 832



♠ QJ103
♥ Q76
♦ 83
♣ J1098

Partner leads the ♥10 against 3NT, South having opened 2NT (20-21). Declarer tries the ♥J but you cover and the ♥A wins. Now declarer leads the ♦7. You hope that partner has ♦A and your top priority is to give declarer only the diamond tricks to which he is entitled. If he has a doubleton, partner can duck the first diamond and win the second. If declarer has three diamonds, partner must duck two rounds to shut out the diamond suit. How can you help? On the first diamond lead, partner should duck and you must begin a count signal to show an even number. That will help partner figure out what to do.

Contract: 3♠

Lead: ♦A

♠ A1096
♥ KJ9
♦ 643
♣ Q85



♠ 74
♥ AQ10
♦ Q952
♣ J763

Partner leads the ♦A (A from AK) against 3♠. Yes, it's true that you like diamonds. But what you really want partner to do is switch to hearts. Play a discouraging diamond! Partner should shift and it's 50-50 that he'll play a heart. There is no suit preference here.

Calgary 2015 White Hat Regional Committee



Front Row (L to R): Janet Sharpe, Diane Campbell, Olga Wright, Dorothy Mersereau, Barbara Webster, Delores Hedley
Back Row (L to R): Nancy Klym, Hazel Skelton, John Gilchrist, Edna Gosbee, Jim Murphy, Chris Murphy, Carol McManus, Dave Johnson, Steve Lawrence, Brian Johns

Fantastic job! Thank you.

Find the Best Chance

by Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

One of the most enjoyable aspects of participating in a world championship is that you get an opportunity to play against competitors from all over the globe and to witness, and perhaps even be involved in, some excellent bridge play. When the Canada Women's team did not qualify for the Venice Cup playoffs in Chennai, India this year, we decided to enter the World Open Transnational Team Championship.

The WOTC usually has a large field, made even more so this year because there were 99 teams from India entered. There were 146 teams in the event, with the top 16 to qualify for the knockout phase.

Try your technique on this hand from round 12:

As South, you find yourself in 6♥ after North opens 1♦. You find out that partner has 3 hearts and, after you cue bid both your aces, partner finally owns up to a spade control. The lead is the ♦10.

Contract: 6♥

Lead: ♦10

♠	K
♥	A83
♦	KJ763
♣	K1093
N	
W	■ E
S	
♠	42
♥	KQJ1092
♦	A52
♣	AQ

With 11 top tricks there are multiple chances to make the slam. How would you play the contract?

If hearts are 2-2, you can draw trumps and eventually ruff a spade. But if the opponent with ♠A has 3 trumps, he will be able to play a third round of trumps and prevent your ruff.

Alternatively, you can draw just one round of trumps and exit a spade. Then you will certainly be able to ruff your other little spade.

But that ♦10 looks suspicious. It might be from ♦Q109 but the opponents play the lead of the 10 shows zero or two higher. Possibly, it is top from ♦1098(x). But the chance that it is a singleton is worrisome. If you try to ruff a spade and

West has the ♠A, there will be no problem. But if East has it, you will lose a diamond ruff (it is unlikely that West has two red singletons yet has managed to remain silent during the auction).

If the ♣J is doubleton or tripleton then it doesn't matter whether or not hearts are 2-2 because the ♣10 will provide the needed 12th trick.

Suppose all the cards lie poorly: trumps are 3-1, the ♣J doesn't come down in three rounds, the ♦10 is singleton (so East has ♦Q9 of diamonds behind dummy's ♦KJ) and East has ♠A. Is there anything to be done? Yes there is! You will need nothing more than to find clubs no worse than 5-2.

Accordingly, you win the ♦A and cash two high hearts in hand, preserving dummy's ♥A. If trumps are 2-2, your job is done. Otherwise, cash the two high clubs in your hand and travel to dummy in trumps, pulling the last one. Now, cash the ♣K, discarding a spade. If the ♣J appears, once again your job is done. No such luck.

What now? Ruff dummy's last club to hand and run your remaining two trumps, discarding diamonds from dummy. On the last trump, East discards the ♦8.

This is the 3-card ending you visualized when you made your plan:

♠	K		♠	A
♥	--		♥	--
♦	KJ		♦	Q9
♣	--		♣	--
♠	??	W ■ E		
♥	--			
♦	--			
♣	?	S		
♠	4			
♥	--			
♦	52			
♣	--			

A finesse against the ♦Q is still an option but you have also set up for an endplay. You back your instinct and exit with your spade hoping to endplay East. Et voila!

That is exactly how the Japanese declarer played the slam against us. Despite being the unlucky opponents, we had to admire declarer's expertise, not just in his sequence of plays, but in choosing the endplay rather than the finesse. Perhaps he had a peek at Dan's article.