



# The Kibitzer

## May 2015

Editors: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

### President's Message

First Order of Business: Thank you to Nicholas and Judith Gartaganis for resuming editorship of the Kibitzer. The best part of 36 years of our Unit history is now archived and available on our webpage. A visit to the archives will provide a trip down memory lane for us "oldies" and to the newcomers - you will recognize many of the names and get a chuckle from some of the pictures.

I know it has been said many times before and it will be repeated again in the future, but bridge in Calgary would not be the same without the time, energy and commitment given by dozens of volunteers. We have those who volunteer on the Unit Board, those who work as Associate Members to the Unit Board, those who help set up and take down games at the clubs throughout the City and then once every three years (this being one of those years), the amazing number of volunteers who commit to ensuring a successful Regional. Pat yourselves on the back people, you deserve it.

At the upcoming Annual General Meeting, we will elaborate on the accomplishments of the Board this past year. I hope you are planning to attend.

Delores Hedley  
President, Unit 390

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### Upcoming Unit 390 Tournament Dates



Calgary White Hat Regional .....	July 13 - 19, 2015
Calgary Sectional (Shepard Community Centre).....	September 11 - 13, 2015
Calgary Sectional (Marlborough Community Centre).....	November 6 - 8, 2015
Calgary Sectional .....	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

## 2014 Ace of Clubs Awards Unit 390 Winners

<b>0 to 5</b>	1	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	45
	2	Gary Raab	Calgary AB	28
	3	Harvey Wiehler	Calgary AB	21
<b>5 to 20</b>	1	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB	36
	2	Mel Zimmerman	Calgary AB	33
	3	Simeon Bobtchev	Calgary AB	19
<b>20 to 50</b>	1	Margaret Nielsen	Calgary AB	46
	2	Judy Madge	Calgary AB	43
	3	Jan Brawn	Calgary AB	36
<b>50 to 100</b>	1	Peter Segers	Calgary AB	88
	2	Andrea Killackey	Calgary AB	45
	3	Alan White	Calgary AB	27
<b>100 to 200</b>	1	Lena Desjardins	Calgary AB	52
	2	Donna Badiou	Calgary AB	48
	3	Lorraine Somerville	Calgary AB	46
<b>200 to 300</b>	1	Victoria Haines	Calgary AB	71
	2	Pauline Boyd	Calgary AB	47
	3	Paula Hopwood	Calgary AB	44
<b>300 to 500</b>	1	Avril Karr	Calgary AB	86
	2	Judy McKeague	Bragg Creek AB	76
	3	Sandy Jean Robinson	Calgary AB	74
<b>500 to 1000</b>	1	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	105
	2	Caroline Colliver	Calgary AB	104
	3	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	97
<b>1000 to 2500</b>	1	Jean Ward	Calgary AB	181
	2	Susan Julius	Calgary AB	150
	3	Maged Wafa	Calgary AB	144
<b>2500 to 5000</b>	1	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	174
	2	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	161
	3	Keith Moores	Calgary AB	158
<b>5000 to 7500</b>	1	Donald Gladman	Calgary AB	67
	2	Dann Kramer	Calgary AB	67
	3	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	18
<b>7500 to 10,000</b>	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	91
	2	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	18
<b>Over 10,000</b>	1	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	18

## 2014 Mini-McKenney Awards Unit 390 Winners

<b>0 to 5</b>	1	Dennis Ooms	Calgary AB	49
	2	Gary Raab	Calgary AB	37
	3	Devra Drysdale	Calgary AB	22
<b>5 to 20</b>	1	Blake Fleming	Calgary AB	78
	2	Mel Zimmerman	Calgary AB	42
	3	Simeon Bobtchev	Calgary AB	38
<b>20 to 50</b>	1	Judy Madge	Calgary AB	65
	2	Jan Brawn	Calgary AB	58
	3	Margaret Nielsen	Calgary AB	52
<b>50 to 100</b>	1	Peter Segers	Calgary AB	119
	2	Andrea Killackey	Calgary AB	64
	3	Alan White	Calgary AB	49
<b>100 to 200</b>	1	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB	172
	2	Marian Kosior	Penticton BC	111
	3	Donna Badiou	Calgary AB	64
<b>200 to 300</b>	1	Victoria Haines	Calgary AB	186
	2	Pauline Boyd	Calgary AB	120
	3	Pam Wallace	Calgary AB	95
<b>300 to 500</b>	1	Elizabeth Sprague	Calgary AB	134
	2	Rick Boyd	Calgary AB	128
	3	Judy McKeague	Bragg Creek AB	122
<b>500 to 1000</b>	1	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	204
	2	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	166
	3	Grant Wharry	Calgary AB	131
<b>1000 to 2500</b>	1	Jean Ward	Calgary AB	276
	2	Diane Campbell	Calgary AB	249
	3	Marilyn Haggins	Calgary AB	237
<b>2500 to 5000</b>	1	Abdul Fakihi	Calgary AB	406
	2	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	274
	3	Keith Moores	Calgary AB	206
<b>5000 to 7500</b>	1	Donald Gladman	Calgary AB	203
	2	Dann Kramer	Calgary AB	148
	3	Gordon Campbell	Calgary AB	74
<b>7500 to 10,000</b>	1	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	364
	2	Judith Gartaganis	Calgary AB	247
<b>Over 10,000</b>	1	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	240

## The Art of Finessing

by Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Mastering the finesse is one of the first techniques one learns on the way to becoming a better player. The power of the finesse is easily demonstrated by considering a holding of AQJ10 opposite three small. When the King is onside, four tricks are available and this holding plays the same as having started with AKQJ.

Assuming there has been no opposition bidding a finesse will win 50% of the time. Therefore, if you bid a game needing one finesse you have an even chance of success. What is the probability of success when one of two finesses is required? Most people are surprised to learn that the rate of success is 75%. There are four possibilities (WW, WL, LW, LL) and only in one of four cases do both finesses fail.

What happens when there are three finesses and you need to succeed with two of them? Players are inherently sceptical when told that their chances are as good as 50%. Suffice to say there are eight possibilities. There are three cases when two finesses succeed and one case when all three finesses succeed (and 4 out of 8 = 50%). You may well ask yourself why it matters? The answer lies in the reward associated with bidding and making a game. Let's assume the competition is IMPs.

### Non-vulnerable Major Suit Game

- a) The game succeeds and you score +420. Your opponents don't bid game and they score +170. The difference (420-170 = 250) equates to 6 IMPs.
- b) The game fails and you score -50. Your opponents don't bid game and they score +140. The difference (50+140 = 190) equates to 5 IMPs.

### Vulnerable Major Suit Game

- a) The game succeeds and you score +620. Your opponents don't bid game and they score +170. The difference (620-170 = 450) equates to 10 IMPs.
- b) The game fails and you score -100. Your opponents don't bid game and they score +140. The difference (100+140 = 240) equates to 6 IMPs.

Obviously there are many variations such as failing by more than one trick, making overtricks and being doubled; however, the analysis illustrates why experienced IMP

players aren't overly aggressive about bidding non-vulnerable games, but do worry about missing vulnerable games.

No matter how much experience a player has it is never easy to predict exactly how good the prospects of a game contract will be. But all players want to maximize their chances of success. Let's take a look.

**Contract:** 4♠

**Lead:** K♦

♠ AQJ92  
♥ 832  
♦ 974  
♣ A7



♠ K10875  
♥ AJ10  
♦ A83  
♣ K4

This is an excellent contract. There are two diamond losers and at most two heart losers. Looking at the heart suit in isolation, the AJ10 combination means that two heart winners are available 75% of the time (we need one of two finesses to succeed and we know that in only one of four combinations does both the King and Queen lie behind the AJ10).

The average player stops his analysis at this point and feels pretty good about his chances of success. The expert realizes that the contract can be made 100% of the time.

To achieve this goal the expert ducks the first trick, wins the diamond continuation, draws trumps, eliminates clubs and exits a diamond. Assume RHO wins the diamond trick and leads a heart. LHO wins with a heart honour, but must either return a heart into the ♥AJ or give a ruff and sluff.

Experts do take finesses, but they try to time those finesses in such a way as to overcome any unfavourable lie of the cards.

(continued next page)

Let's change the hand slightly:

**Contract:** 4♠

**Lead:** K♦

♠	AQJ92
♥	832
♦	97
♣	A76

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

♠	K10875
♥	AJ10
♦	A8
♣	K43

The winning line is to duck the first diamond, win any continuation, draw trumps, cash the ♦A and then play three rounds of clubs. It doesn't matter who wins the third round of clubs. At some point the defence will have to give you two heart tricks or a ruff and sluff.

Let's examine one last variation where there is no 100% line of play to succeed.

**Contract:** 4♠

**Lead:** K♦

♠	AQJ92
♥	832
♦	97
♣	A76

	N	
W	■	E
	S	

♠	K10875
♥	AQ5
♦	A8
♣	K43

The expert wishes he had ♥AQ9 because he could follow the same line of play as in the prior examples with 100% success. In the end position, declarer simply covers whatever heart honour RHO leads. On this layout however, the expert continues to look deeper to see how to tilt the odds in his

favour. The principle of delaying the heart finesse until the last possible moment still holds true.

As before, declarer ducks the first diamond, draws trumps, cashes ♦A and then plays three rounds of clubs. Assuming RHO wins the trick and returns a heart, declarer will play low if RHO leads a heart lower than the eight, guaranteeing that LHO will be endplayed. Should RHO lead the J, 10 or 9 of hearts, declarer's best play is to win the ♥A, travel to dummy and play a heart to the Queen. Even if LHO has the ♥K, declarer might still be in luck if it is doubleton. LHO will have no option but to yield a ruff and sluff.

The ability of the expert to make contracts against adverse distribution seems magical at times, but is simply a matter of good planning and visualization.



## Calgary White Hat Regional

July 13 - 19th  
Marlborough Park Community  
Association  
6021 Madigan Drive N.E.



The Regional Committee is on track and is excited to host this year's Regional tournament.

We promise you great hospitality throughout the day; interesting topics presented by our guest speakers; a big time barbeque and a whole lot of bridge. Now we just need you to take advantage of what we have to offer. Please plan to attend.

For more information, check our web pages at  
<http://acblunit390.org/calgaryregional>



Your 2015 Regional Committee

## Member Milestones

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



### New Junior Masters (5 - 20 MPs):

James Allard	Jacquelyn Lanz
Keitha Baer	Don McDougall
Vincenzo Botha	Laurie Mummery
Inge French	Carl Ringdahl
Brenda Howey	Dixie Robinson
Bill Hyndman	Judith Slimmon
William Ingelson	

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

Diana Blud	Philip Magee
Gilbert Fagnou	Colin Macqueen
Gwen Fagnou	Shelley Mardiros
Jim Griffeth	Atsuko McDonald
Derwyn Hughes	Anne Olthof
Gail Ingelson	Orville Pycz
Julie Larsen	Harvey Wiehler

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

Don Bacon	Gary Raab
Charlene Delcourt	Bernard Siebring
Patricia Howell	Louise Shore
Rhonda Kerr	Pat Slessor
Dennis Ooms	Carol Thompson
Doris Ostergaard	Mel Zimmerman
Michael Raymont	

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

Richard Bickley	Andy McKaig
Blake Fleming	Margaret Nielsen
Lily Lister	Sharon Redmore
Joan Mackasey	Barry Rogerson
Sharon Mansell	

### New Advanced NABC Masters (300 - 500 MPs with at least 50 black, 50 silver, 25 gold or platinum and 25 additional red, gold or platinum)

Michael Shuster

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

Arlene Connell	Linda Legare
Cindy Ferguson	Dorothy Mersereau
Avril Karr	Patricia Roberts

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

Sharon Crowle	Elizabeth Sprague
Victoria Haines	

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

Helen Dillen

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

Jadwiga Polujan

Two wives were discussing whose husband plays worse. Wife #1 says it isn't even close, hers does. Wife #2 doesn't agree and says "Listen to what my husband did last night playing 7NT. He had 11 tricks outside of spades and dummy had AQ of spades and the spade finesse was onside. He had plenty of entries to his hand to take the finesse, but instead he went to dummy and led the ♠Q!"

"What's so bad about that?" wife #1 asks. "Against my husband that play works".

from <http://www.kantarbridge.com/humor.htm>

## Severing Communications

by Gordon Campbell

We have all seen examples of plays to sever the opponent's communications. Sometimes defenders try to sever communication between declarer and dummy; sometimes declarer tries to sever communication between the opponents. Until a few weeks ago I don't recall seeing two "severs" in the same hand.

[illegible]

The auction proceeded as follows:

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
1NT	Pass	2♦	Dbl
Rdbl	Pass	3NT	All pass

South's redouble said "I would like to play here if you can". As North, I declined to play in diamonds. But still I felt that, with my soft values, 3NT might be better than the obvious 4♥.

West led the ♦7, dummy ducked and East won with the ♦J. East, not wanting to set up declarer's diamond tricks, switched to a top spade. Declarer played the ♠K and West, correctly, ducked. Declarer unblocked the ♥A and ♥K but now what? Things did not look good because he cannot reach dummy to cash the good heart tricks. Optimistically, declarer saw a chance if the spade suit split 5-2 – not that unlikely once the diamond suit splits the other way.

He proceeded to sever the opponents' communication in the diamond suit by playing the  $\spadesuit 10$ . East won, cashed his other good diamond and exited with a spade. South played the  $\heartsuit Q$  and once again West had to duck to prevent dummy's  $\heartsuit A$  from becoming an entry to the good hearts. At this point, declarer

had successfully severed communication in the spade suit as well as the diamond suit. The coup de grace occurred when declarer led a low club towards dummy. East could win or duck but either way declarer had a club entry to dummy to make 3NT. Amusingly, the defence could never win its ♠A!

In the post-mortem (knowing all four hands), it was clear to see that if East shifts to a club at trick two, declarer has no chance because dummy's entry is removed prematurely.

Note that in 4♥ by North, declarer must play low on an initial spade lead. West has to win the ♠A otherwise declarer finesses in clubs, plays the ♥AK and then ruffs a club in dummy and draws the last trump. Unfortunately for the defense, winning the ♠A eliminates the impending spade ruff.

My current lifestyle has me commuting back and forth between Little Rock, Arkansas and Calgary -- a different form of severing communications since I am happy to be back in Calgary with my friends, but sad to be leaving those behind in Little Rock.





## LOL

By Daniel Bertrand

On the following hands, assume that you are playing in a team game (i.e. do not try for overtricks, just give yourself the best chances to make your contract). You are West.

♠ K7532	N	♠ AJ9864
♥ AQ3	W ■ E	♥ 864
♦ K652	S	♦ ---
♣ A		♣ Q765

Due to your great bidding, you reach a contract of 6♠. North leads the ♦Q. You could try to ruff all your diamonds and rely on the heart finesse. Is there anything better?

♠ AKQ5	N	♠ J102
♥ 8	W ■ E	♥ J92
♦ AK43	S	♦ 7652
♣ J632		♣ AKQ

You avoid 3NT and get to 4♠. North leads the ♥A and continues with the King. You could ruff and pull trumps; if they break 3-3, you will be OK. Can you improve your chances?

♠ AK9832	N	♠ Q104
♥ A95	W ■ E	♥ 87
♦ A54	S	♦ 632
♣ 2		♣ A10983

You are in 4♠ after North opens with a weak 2♥. North leads the ♥K as South follows with the ♥10 (Standard Signal). What is your plan? Perhaps you could ruff your third heart with the ♠10 hoping that North has the spade Jack, or ruff with the ♠Q and hope that you can pick up trumps without a loser. Do you have a better plan?

♠ AK9742	N	♠ QJ1083
♥ K3	W ■ E	♥ A862
♦ AQ4	S	♦ 532
♣ A3		♣ J

You reach 6♠ again. North leads the ♣10 and South plays the Queen on dummy's Jack. If South has the diamond King, you will be OK. You could play the ♦A first in case North has a singleton King; then if the King does not appear, go back to dummy and play a diamond toward your Queen. Can you improve on that plan? Once you decide to pull trumps, you will find that South has both of them.

Turn to page 9 for the problem solutions.

## Unit 390 Mentorship Program

*"Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction."*  
John Crosby

Each year Unit 390 runs a mentorship program which matches up more experienced players with those who have fewer than 500 points. In the last cycle, 32 pairs participated and we hope that everyone involved got something out of it.

The partnership commits to playing six times within the specified time frame. In recognition, mentors receive three free plays courtesy of Unit 390.

We particularly want to thank the clubs for their tremendous support of the program. Everyone agrees that mentoring is a crucial step to creating a much stronger bridge community.

To enlist for the coming program, please check out the Unit 390 website where you will find the sign-up sheet along with additional information. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact Nancy Stewart at 403-252-8584 or [ndstewart@shaw.ca](mailto:ndstewart@shaw.ca)

The Mentorship Committee

## Calgary Duplicate Bridge Association ACBL UNIT 390 Annual General Meeting

**When:** Saturday, June 13, 2015

**Where:** Kerby Centre, 1133 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW  
(lots of free parking across 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.)

The event starts at 11:00 am with Lunch and Meeting. Bridge to follow.

- Complimentary light lunch if you attend the meeting
- Card fees \$5.00
- Unit championship points

### Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome and Introduction
3. Confirmation of Quorum
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes from 2014 AGM
6. President's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Appointment of Auditor for 2015/2016
10. Presentation of Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney Awards
11. Election of Directors
12. Questions from the floor
13. Adjournment

If you are planning to attend, please RSVP by June 5<sup>th</sup> to Ken Anderson at 403-547-4781 or by email at [nek.nosredna@icloud.com](mailto:nek.nosredna@icloud.com)



## District 18 GNT Final

The District 18 final for the Grand National Teams was held on May 8 and 9, 2015. As it has been for the past several years, the event was organized as an on-line competition. Players are closely monitored to preserve the integrity of the event, usually at playing hubs arranged in major centres.

In a district as geographically massive as ours, having an on-line final enables players from far and wide to compete if they wish without having to travel for a day (or more) to reach even the most central of venues. In fact, this year there were several teams whose members resided in different cities, different provinces and even different countries!

The event attracted 24 teams in four Flights: C (non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 masterpoints), B (under 2500 masterpoints), A (under 6000 masterpoints) and Open (unrestricted).

The Calgary contingent (23 players!) played at the Kensington Legion Board Room. The event went off marvelously, under the supervision of Marilyn Swadron, District 18 GNT, NAP and Special Events Co-ordinator.

Teams played two-session round robins (if possible) within their flights with top finishers advancing to knockout stages of the event. Winners receive funding to participate in the North American final to take place just prior to the Chicago NABC this summer. Here are the results.

### Open Flight (4 teams):

1. Steven Lawrence - Frank Ayer, Calgary AB; Susan Culham - Steve Bates, Edmonton AB

### Flight A (8 teams):

1. Perry Khakhar, Calgary AB; Adam Thiel - Laurie Shapka Thiel, Red Deer AB; Derrick Furber, Prince Albert SK
2. Abdul Fakh - Hash Mohamed - Daniel Bertrand - Allan Simon, Calgary AB

### Flight B (6 teams):

1. David Johnson - Jadwiga Polujan - Diane Campbell - Janet Sharpe, Calgary AB
2. Dana Christensen, Pocatello ID; G Richard Lee - Annis Keller - Randal Gentillon, Idaho Falls ID

### Flight C (6 teams):

1. Mike Blancher - Stephen Cohen - Richard Bickley - Simeon Bobtchev, Calgary AB
2. Dorothy Mersereau - Marcia Andreychuk - John D Aguiar - Mike Theilgaard, Calgary AB



## Loser On Loser Solutions

By Daniel Bertrand

LOL can have many different meanings. When you play a bridge hand, it can stand for Loser On Loser. Let's see how this technique can increase your chances of making some contracts.

On the first hand, the simplest way to make your contract is to play a small heart from Dummy on the opening lead. Your Right Hand Opponent (RHO) will probably win the Ace and then you will be able to throw a second heart from Dummy on the ♦K. If your RHO plays a heart at trick two, you win your Ace (no need to try the finesse), pull trumps and throw the remaining heart from dummy on the ♦K. Then you have the rest. By throwing a Loser On Loser, you were able to create an extra winner: the ♦K.

On the second hand, when the defense plays a second round of hearts, it is better to throw a small diamond from your hand. If the defense plays a third round of hearts, throw another small diamond from your hand. Now the defense cannot continue hearts since dummy can ruff high. The defense will probably shift to a diamond; you can win and try to pull trumps. You will succeed if they break 3-3 (36%) or 4-2 (48%). If you ruff the second round of hearts, you will only succeed if trumps break 3-3. (So you increase your chances by 48%). By throwing a Loser On Loser twice, you hopefully have kept trump control.

On the third hand, you should win the ♥A and play another heart. North will win and try to get her partner to over-ruff the dummy by playing another heart. But instead of ruffing, you play a small diamond from dummy! Since North has 6 hearts, it is quite likely that South has at least 4 diamonds. After North wins the third round of hearts, she will have to shift to another suit to avoid giving you a ruff and sluff. You will win that trick and then you can play your ♦A (if you still have it) and a small diamond. Then, when you regain the lead, you can try to ruff your small remaining diamond. By throwing a Loser On Loser, you are able to take a much safer ruff.

The fourth hand is more challenging. After winning the first trick with the ♣A, you should pull trumps. Then you play the ♥K; a small heart to dummy's Ace; then you ruff a heart. When you ruff your last club, you reach this position with the lead in dummy (East):

♠ K97		♠ 108									
♥ ---		♥ 8									
♦ AQ4		♦ 532									
♣ ---		♣ ---									
	<table><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>■</td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W	■	E		S		
	N										
W	■	E									
	S										

Since the defenders started with seven hearts between them, and three rounds have been played, one of them must be out of hearts. So you play the ♥8 from dummy and hopefully South will not be able to follow suit. When South does not produce a heart, you simply throw your small diamond and the slam is yours (Check it out). By throwing a Loser On Loser, you have end-played your opponent. (If South produces a heart higher than the 8, you ruff and will need a winning diamond finesse).

As you can see, playing a Loser On Loser can be done for many different reasons. There are many more: to prevent one particular opponent from gaining the lead, to establish a side suit, to rectify the count for a squeeze, to execute a scissor coup, etc.

But remember, if you make your contract due to a LOL, it is not proper etiquette to LOL (Laugh Out Loud). And let's not mention the other LOL.

"When I eventually met Mr. Right, I had no idea that his first name was Always"

Rita Rudner

## Where Do You Stand?

Have you ever wondered where you stand relative to other bridge players in terms of masterpoints? The ACBL regularly updates member masterpoint holdings and publishes the information at <https://web3.acbl.org/mpholdings>. The latest breakdown is in the table below. For those who prefer visual displays the ACBL also provides the information in the form of a graph.

The ACBL currently has 167,765 members.

Number of Members						Percent of Members					
Masterpoint Range	This Range	This Range and Higher	Below This Range	This Range and Higher	Below This Range	Masterpoint Range	This Range	This Range and Higher	Below This Range	This Range and Higher	Below This Range
10,000+ (Grand LM)	319	319	167,446	0.19	99.81	300 - 400	9,264	69,214	98,551	41.26	58.74
10,000+ (Platinum LM)	309	628	167,137	0.38	99.62	275 - 300	2,309	71,523	96,242	42.64	57.36
9,000 - 10,000	163	791	166,974	0.48	99.52	250 - 275	2,568	74,091	93,674	44.17	55.83
8,000 - 9,000	251	1,042	166,723	0.63	99.37	225 - 250	2,698	76,789	90,976	45.78	54.22
7,500 - 8,000	168	1,210	166,555	0.73	99.27	200 - 225	3,054	79,843	87,922	47.60	52.40
7,000 - 7,500	157	1,367	166,398	0.82	99.18	175 - 200	3,431	83,274	84,491	49.64	50.36
6,000 - 7,000	474	1,841	165,924	1.10	98.90	150 - 175	3,875	87,149	80,616	51.95	48.05
5,000 - 6,000	846	2,687	165,078	1.61	98.39	125 - 150	4,542	91,691	76,074	54.66	45.34
4,000 - 5,000	1,370	4,057	163,708	2.42	97.58	100 - 125	5,303	96,994	70,771	57.82	42.18
3,000 - 4,000	2,728	6,785	160,980	4.05	95.95	90 - 100	2,412	99,406	68,359	59.26	40.74
2,500 - 3,000	2,470	9,255	158,510	5.52	94.48	80 - 90	2,551	101,957	65,808	60.78	39.22
2,000 - 2,500	3,713	12,968	154,797	7.73	92.27	70 - 80	2,945	104,902	62,863	62.53	37.47
1,500 - 2,000	6,027	18,995	148,770	11.33	88.67	60 - 70	3,271	108,173	59,592	64.48	35.52
1,250 - 1,500	4,648	23,643	144,122	14.10	85.90	50 - 60	3,788	111,961	55,804	66.74	33.26
1,000 - 1,250	6,380	30,023	137,742	17.90	82.10	40 - 50	4,381	116,342	51,423	69.35	30.65
900 - 1,000	3,090	33,113	134,652	19.74	80.26	30 - 40	5,238	121,580	46,185	72.47	27.53
800 - 900	3,654	36,767	130,998	21.92	78.08	25 - 30	3,029	124,609	43,156	74.28	25.72
700 - 800	4,402	41,169	126,596	24.54	75.46	20 - 25	3,558	128,167	39,598	76.40	23.60
600 - 700	5,172	46,341	121,424	27.63	72.37	15 - 20	4,171	132,338	35,427	78.89	21.11
500 - 600	6,246	52,587	115,178	31.35	68.65	10 - 15	5,364	137,702	30,063	82.08	17.92
400 - 500	7,363	59,950	107,815	35.74	64.26	5 - 10	7,677	145,379	22,386	86.66	13.34
						0 - 5	22,386	167,765	0	100	0

October 25, 1952



from [http://peanuts.wikia.com/wiki/October\\_1952\\_comic\\_strips](http://peanuts.wikia.com/wiki/October_1952_comic_strips)

## Who Runs the Show?

Districts, units, clubs, zones ... where do they all fit? Who does run the show in terms of bridge administration?

Everyone automatically thinks of our parent organization, the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL), which was founded in 1937 and has its head office in Horn Lake, Mississippi. It has an annual budget of more than US\$16 million and supports bridge play in clubs across North America and the operation of bridge tournaments at all levels. Among other activities, the ACBL certifies directors and teachers, awards masterpoints, and publishes the monthly Bridge magazine.

The ACBL is divided into 25 geographical areas (covering Canada, Mexico and the United States) called **Districts**. Each District is subdivided into **Units** with the size of each Unit varying considerably. In some cases a Unit encompasses only part of a big city while in other cases, it covers an entire U.S. state or even more territory than that. The ACBL has 297 Units.

Districts have administrative responsibility for organizing regional tournaments, ACBL-wide events such as the Grand National Teams (GNT) and North American Pairs (NAP), and for addressing disciplinary matters.

Our District (**District 18**) is the geographical area including Wyoming, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Utah, Montana, Idaho and Northern Manitoba. Alberta's District representative is Charlie Lamb of Red Deer. There are 24 Units in District 18.

Our Unit is 390. Like all other Units, it supervises ACBL bridge activities and conducts tournaments at the local and sectional levels. The officers and board members of Units elect the District's representative to the ACBL Board of Directors. Alberta is comprised of the following five Units:

*ACBL Unit 390 - Calgary*  
*ACBL Unit 248 - Red Deer*  
*ACBL Unit 391 - Northern Alberta*  
*ACBL Unit 392 - Lethbridge*  
*ACBL Unit 393 - Medicine Hat*

In Canada, the Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) represents Canadian players. The CBF was formed in 1965 and is the national bridge organization responsible for promoting and protecting the rights and interests of Canadian bridge players

both domestically and at the international level. Domestically the CBF represents our interests to the Canadian government and the Canadian Olympic Committee. As a partner of the ACBL the CBF ensures that the ACBL recognizes and supports the special needs and interests of Canadian bridge players. There are similar organizations (the USBF and the FBM) operating in the interests of American and Mexican bridge players respectively.

The CBF also represents Canadian interests with respect to international bridge, including our eligibility to send Canadian representatives to the world championships. The CBF has a web site with many resources including Bridge Canada, a magazine published in digital format, with primarily Canadian content. You can also read archived articles, find information about upcoming events and learn about the Canadian Hall of Fame.

The CBF is divided into 6 areas (primarily along provincial lines) called Zones.

*CBF Zone 1 - Maritimes*  
*CBF Zone 2 - Quebec*  
*CBF Zone 3 - Ontario*  
*CBF Zone 4 - Manitoba and Northern Ontario*  
*CBF Zone 5 - Alberta and Saskatchewan*  
*CBF Zone 6 - British Columbia*

The CBF representative for Zone 5 is Jerry Mamer of Saskatoon.

Of course, clubs are at the root of the entire picture. Without them, bridge players would most certainly find kitchens in which to play amongst a small circle of friends. But think what we would be missing!

Here are some links you may want to check out:

Unit 390: [www.acblunit390.org](http://www.acblunit390.org)  
District 18: [www.wasumi.org](http://www.wasumi.org)  
CBF: [www.cbf.ca](http://www.cbf.ca)  
List of Units and Clubs in our District:  
[www.wasumi.org/Units%20&%20Clubs/18alberta.htm](http://www.wasumi.org/Units%20&%20Clubs/18alberta.htm)



## 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 (usually at the September sectional) and their names are engraved on the President's Award plaque.

The 199'er events are flighted (Flight F: 0 - 50; Flight E: 50 - 100; Flight D: 100 - 200). The President's Award can go to a player in any of the flights. Here are the results for the first two sectionals of 2015:

### President's Award Recipients and Runners Up

#### January Sectional

The winners (from Flight F) were:

Gary Raab and Carl Ringdahl 5.02 masterpoints

Runners up:

Sandy Lough (Flight E) 4.16 masterpoints

Tracy Horan (Flight D) 4.16 masterpoints

#### March Sectional

The winner (from Flight E) was:

Mel Zimmerman 4.21 masterpoints

Runners up:

Lorraine Somerville (Flight D) 3.96 masterpoints

Sharon Donaldson (Flight D) 3.96 masterpoints

William Ingelson (Flight F) 3.77 masterpoints

Gail Ingelson (Flight F) 3.77 masterpoints

Congratulations to all! Well done.



## Unit 390 Membership Profile

Here are a few bits of trivia you may find of interest about the Unit 390 membership.

As of May 1, 2015 our unit had 889 members. Of those, 42% have under 100 masterpoints and more than half (53%) are 199'ers. In total, 40% (357) have achieved the rank of Life Master.

Rookie (0-5 masterpoints) .....	98
Junior Master (5+).....	88
Club Master (20+) .....	99
Sectional Master (50+).....	87
Regional Master (100+).....	101
NABC Master (200+) .....	55
Advanced NABC Master (300+).....	4
Life Master (500+).....	193
Silver Life Master (1000+) .....	127
Gold Life Master (2500+) .....	27
Diamond Life Master (5000+) .....	7
Emerald Life Master (7500+) .....	2
Platinum Life Master (10000+) .....	0
Grand Life Master (10000+) .....	1

The ranks of Club Master and higher have a wide range of stipulations regarding the colour of masterpoints one must hold.

In 2010, the ACBL added the Advanced NABC Master category and increased the Life Master point requirement from 300 to 500. The old category of Bronze Life Master (500+ masterpoints) was discontinued (143 of our 193 Life Masters satisfy the Bronze LM requirements). These changes apply to members who joined after January 1, 2010;

As of March 31, 2015, the average age of Unit 390 members was 67.35 years. We are spring chickens compared to the average ACBL member, who comes in at 71.23 years of age.

Our Unit is slightly below average in terms of new member recruitment with a growth of 5.21% from April 2014 to March 31, 2015. That ranks 193<sup>rd</sup> out of the 297 ACBL units.

But we are pretty good at keeping our new members. Over the past three years, we averaged 63% retention of new members into year 2. That ranks 137<sup>th</sup> out of the 297 ACBL units.

## New Venue for September Sectional

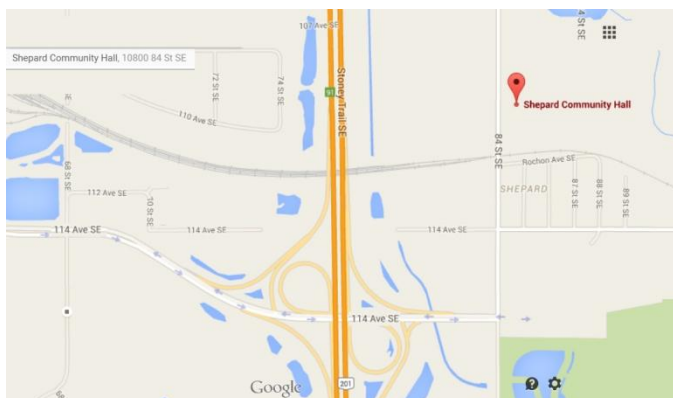
Due to a scheduling conflict, Marlborough Park Community Centre is not available for the upcoming fall sectional. So ... we are venturing afield to Shepard Community Centre in southeast Calgary.



Shepard Community Centre  
10800 84 St. SE, Calgary



The centre, opened in 2013, is just 2 minutes from Stoney Trail (take the 114 Ave. exit and head east). There is ample free parking.



## Close-Up ...

### of Delores Hedley, our hard-working Unit President



I started playing bridge when my children were younger than my grandchildren are today. After two sessions of bridge lessons and countless home games, my bridge friends and I were told of an afternoon bridge club where they provided babysitters. And from that first game of duplicate bridge, my world changed.

The beginning years in duplicate are some of my fondest memories. Leaving partner in 4NT (Blackwood at the time) provided laughs – not the end of a partnership; double booking was nothing serious – you just let the two you booked with play together and you watched; a 30% game was normal – in fact it quite often won the "pot" as high game amongst my friends.

And ... I have a "favourite memory". At the Atlanta NABCs (many years ago), I sat and chatted with Omar Sharif. Nobody else was at the table – just Omar and me (he was waiting for his team to finish their match). Wouldn't you know – there were no cell phones back then so I couldn't take a "selfie".

I've been a student, a teacher, a director and a partner in a bridge club. I've travelled to places I never thought I'd find myself. I've made more friends than I can count and I've lost more than I want to count.

I've been berated, deflated, sedated and elated at a bridge table and I'll just keep going back for more.

The Editors welcome submissions for future issues of The Kibitzer. Email your articles and news items to [390kibitzer@acblunit390.org](mailto:390kibitzer@acblunit390.org).

Watch for the tournament program, coming out soon.

We'll be back at Marlborough in November.