



September 2012



## *President's Message*

The summer is a slower time for the bridge club as members are involved with such things as gardening, golfing and family visits. Being inside playing bridge is not a high priority. As fall approaches, more and more players will be back into playing bridge at the club.

On Saturday, September 8th, the club will be hosting our annual Open House in the afternoon and the annual Members' Appreciation Party in the evening.

We are so very fortunate that the founding members of our club had the foresight to build our facility. It is the envy of bridge clubs across Canada. As members, it is our duty to protect and build upon this legacy.

Volunteerism has been our strength in the past. Let's not stop now! Please consider how you can contribute? Think about letting your name stand to serve on the Club's Board

of Directors. The term of three of the four board members expire in December at our Annual General Meeting. Also, consider putting your name forward to serve on the Unit 575 Board for a two year term. We are entitled to four members on the Unit Board. The appointments will be made at the Saskatoon Sectional in November. Please consider by giving your name to me, Alex McGregor, Cydney Hayes or Pat Dickson well ahead of that time.

I would like to acknowledge Donna Pollard for her initiative in applying to her former employer the CIBC for support. Under the CIBC Retirees Ambassador Program, the Club has received \$1,500 from this program over the last four years. Thanks Donna and CIBC.

Hope to see you all soon at the bridge table.

*- Peter Galesloot*

## *Unit 575 News*

The Saskatoon Sectional will be held from November 8 to 11. Watch for the brochure. There could very well be changes to the type of events offered and game times.

Prince Albert Bridge Club games. Commencing in 2012, the club will be holding open-handicapped games Monday at 1, Wednesday at 1 and Thursday at 7. On Mondays, there will be a Novice with a 300+ player game. Game fees are now \$5 per session.

## *Two-way Finesses*

With an eight card fit, the five missing cards will divide three-two about 68% of the time. When missing the queen honour card only, a finesse is superior to playing for the drop of the queen, apriori. But, which way do you finesse? An overriding consideration is to finesse against the hand that could do you harm with a subsequent lead, should the finesse lose. This must be done in the context of the bidding and cards played prior to decision time.

## *Open House & Fall Lessons*

The annual open house will be held on September 8th from 2 to 4 at the bridge club, followed by our annual Members' Appreciation supper and bridge game. Let's party! All members are encouraged to spread the word to prospective new members. Posters are available at the club to distribute, as you choose. Information is also posted on our website.

The fall lessons for beginners commences on either September 10 at 7 PM or September 13 at 9 AM. Two choices. These lessons will be taught by Ken Connell. After the first four free lessons, newcomers receive a free club membership for the balance of 2012. Some Easy Bridge Workshops will be held on selected Saturdays.

A special 10-week series on "Defense" for advancing players commences on either October 2 or October 4 at 9:30 AM. Two choices. The cost is \$100, well worth it, because it is being taught by Verla Zerebesky.

*- Pat Dickson*

## *The CFB Report*

I take this opportunity to tell you a bit about the Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF). The Saskatoon Bridge Club is an affiliate. To obtain more information on our structure and activities visit our website (cbf.ca). You can even sign up there for our free newsletters!

One of our activities is to hold the annual Canadian Bridge Championships, which are the basis for selecting our Canadian representatives to international competitions. We also have a charity foundation which disperses money from our CBF Charity games to support worthy projects.

We support youth bridge through endeavours such as the Erin Berry memorial fund. Erin was a very fine junior player, who lived in Regina and obtained her Life Masters in 1997 at the age of 16. She was killed in a car crash early in 1998. Her family set up a trust fund to assist young bridge players to pursue the game. Contributions to assist junior players would be appreciated. Tom Walsh, from Saskatoon, was one of our Canadian representatives at the 2012 World Junior Championships in China. In 2010, he obtained some financial support from the fund to attend a Junior's event in New Orleans.

The CBF has two major revenue sources to finance our activities. When you pay your annual ACBL dues, add \$12 per year to support the CBF - only a few coffees at Tim Hortons. The second is our CBF annually sponsored regional tournament. In 2012, we held our sponsored regional in Toronto and made a profit of about \$6,000. In

January 2013, we will be hosting a regional in Calgary from January 21 to 27. Consider attending. It is a great way to support bridge in Canada and to play the game we all love!

This year, the CBF has added a new feature, the "Mini-Richmond Pins" for the winners of various match point categories in our six Canadian zones.

At the half way point, several of our club members are in the running. In the 0-5 MP category, Andrew Buchanan is in 3rd place. In the 20-50 category, Bette Wilson and Mike Broda hold down 1st and 2nd place. In the 200-300 category, Jim Spinney is in 2nd place. In the 1000-2500 category, Jay Anderson leads. In the 2500-5000 category, Curley Anderson is in the lead and in the 5000-7500 category Dennis Nelson is currently second. Continued good luck to all. I hope to present medals to some of you early in 2013.

Our 2013 CNTC finals will be from May 25 to June 3 in Toronto, and the 2014 finals will be from May 3 to 10 in Calgary. I hope to see many of you at our sponsored regionals and the Canadian championships.

We are now commencing a search for a new CBF executive director. If anyone has an interest in this 20 hour per week position or have suggestions or questions, please contact me at 306 668 3951 or mamej@sasktel.net

Submitted by Jerry Mamer, CBF Board Member for Zone V.

### *Preparedness & Execution*

Better bridge players possess traits and follow practices that often lead to good results.

Essential traits include extreme concentration, logical thinking, attentiveness to possibilities, good judgement, table presence and connectedness with partner. They also have a very strong understanding of the system they are playing.

As declarers, whatever the contract level, better players use available entries to achieve the doable. If 10 tricks are needed, they concentrate on that number and keep track of progress toward that number.

As defenders, better players remember the bidding, they study the dummy and remember the cards already played. They also watch partner's leads and suit preference signals.

"It ain't over til it's over"

*- Yogi Berra*

### *Member Stories*

Doreen Reid and partners recently had three makable 7NT contracts over a two week period. Her partnerships bid two of them and missed the third one due to a bidding misunderstanding. The frequency of a Grand Slam is about one in 5,848 deals.

Donna Pollard and her Swiss Team won a seven board match at the February 2012 Saskatoon Sectional by 71 IMPs. This is about 10 IMP per board. Too bad some of these IMPs could not have been spread over the next matches.

### *Lead a Trump!*

Many defenders have an aversion to leading a trump. It is a worthy consideration in the following situations:

- . When the declarer likely has a 4/3 trump fit. This may reduce the number of tricks made by declarer via ruffs.
- . When the opponents have a 9+ card fit. You might be finessing partner, but the honour may have come down or been finessed anyway.
- . When you have honours cards in other suits that you are not keen on under-leading.

## *Alert!*

When your partner makes an alertable call, say "Alert" and tap, lift or otherwise indicate the alert card. IF, and only if, your RHO asks what it means, explain the meaning of the call; do not just say, for example "that's Bergen" or "that's Cappeletti"; tell them it shows 4 trump with invitational values, or it shows the majors or whatever is the meaning of that particular call. It is not necessary to name the convention. Just explain the meaning of the call properly.

If you have made a call that your partner has failed to alert:

- a. If your side is declaring, make sure your opponents are aware of the missed alert before they lead.
- b. If your side is defending, wait until the hand is over and then explain there was a missed alert.

In either case, the opponents may wish to call the director if they feel they have been damaged.

You have a right to ask the meaning of a call whenever it is your turn; however, asking questions if you have no immediate reason to know is disrupting, time consuming and may give your partner unauthorized information. Unless the meaning of their call affects your call - for instances you may wish to bid or double - save all the questions until before you lead or partner makes a face-down lead. It is against the proprieties of bridge to ask a question solely for partner's benefit.

## *Whims of the Distribution God*

The frequently relied upon high card point guidelines to make, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 or 13 tricks are sometimes not effective because they attempt to reduce uncertainty to a mathematical certainty. The Distribution God is often lurking to make a mockery of the guidelines. There are some hands that can't make 10 tricks with 30 combined HCP and there are some hands where slams can be made with many fewer points than the accepted wisdom would suggest. Relying on the HCP guidelines and then parroting "But, I had 18 points" or "I only had 5 points" is often heard. Don't despair that the HCP guidelines has failed you! Move on, in silence, and expect commonality with the majority of your opponents.

## *Do You Feel Lucky?*

The number of boards in play and the number you actually played can be a major factor in determining your fate. In a 12 table game and playing three boards per round, each pair plays 27 of the 36 boards in play or 75%. Of the 27 boards you played, as few as 18 or 66.7% could have been played by any given pairs sitting in your direction.

On a good day, you may not have played against the stronger pairs in the field or their system may have backfired. The boards you played fit your system well. Your opponents did not bring their "A" game-as bidders, declarers or defenders. Your errors may not have cost much. Your non-percentage plays may have succeeded and your sacrifices were not of the phantom variety.

Such is bridge.

## *Bridge Maxims*

Never teach a pig to play bridge. It wastes your time and annoys the pig.

Remember, when judging partner's actions, that Pard is judging you with the same smug and superior impartiality.

Delay criticizing partner for one complete round and the urge will die.

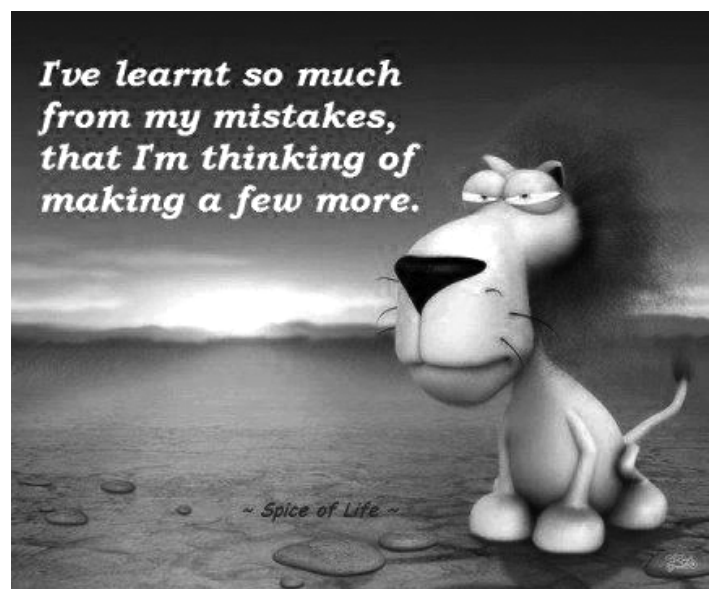
Isn't it unfortunate that you can't clone yourself!

The road to hell is paved with good conventions.

A gem cannot be polished without friction, nor partner perfected, without adversity - Chinese Proverb.

*Source: Bridge World, 1978.*

*I've learnt so much  
from my mistakes,  
that I'm thinking of  
making a few more.*





## *Choose Partners Carefully!*

On the evening of September 29, 1929 in Kansas City, Myrtle Bennett shot her husband John, after he was unable to bring home a makable four spade contract. She called him a 'bum bridge player' and he slapped her several times. Myrtle Bennett was acquitted of first degree murder after an eleven day trial in 1932. The verdict was that the murder was accidental, despite four shots being fired, two of which were fatal. Mrs. Bennett received \$30,000 from her husband's life insurance policy; not an insignificant sum in the Great Depression era. The assistant prosecutor in commenting on the verdict said it must be open season on husbands.

In 1934, Alexander Woolcott, a New York drama critic and essayist, wrote the following about Myrtle Bennett in his essay collection entitled *As Rome Burned*.

"Myrtle Bennett has not allowed her bridge to grow rusty, even though she occasionally encountered an explicable difficulty in finding a partner. Recently, she took on one unacquainted with her history. Having made an impulsive bid, her male partner put down a hand with some diffidence. He said Partner, I'm afraid you'll want to shoot me for this. Mrs. Bennett, says my informant, had the good taste to faint."

### *Combating the Sominex Coupe*

When a declarer takes a very long time to play a hand, use that time to review what has transpired and think about what declarer's problems could be? Do not take a snooze. The declarer is hoping you will!

## *Insights*

"Drawing on my fine command of the English language, I said nothing."

- *Robert Benchley*

"Have we eaten of the insane root that takes reason prisoner."

- *William Shakespeare*

"Kindness is in our power, but fondness is not."

- *Samuel Johnson*

"In a series of kindnesses, there is at last one that makes the heart run over."

- *James Boswell*

## *Editor Notes*

This newsletter benefitted from reviews by article submitters and Peggy McGregor. Thanks also to members who submitted suggestions for this and future newsletters.

Future articles are encouraged. Please submit them to [lelmgren@shaw.ca](mailto:lelmgren@shaw.ca) or talk to me at the Club or call me (306 373 9860)

- *Lyle Elmgren*



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