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bridge

Canada



CHENNAI 2015
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT



THE CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

The mission of the Canadian Bridge Federation is to promote bridge within Canada and protect and advance the national interests of Canadian bridge, including the selection and support of Canadian bridge teams and players for international bridge competition.



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Bridge Canada is now available to members only.

If you know of anyone who wishes to become a member of the Canadian Bridge Federation please share with them these options:

1. Be sure to include CBF dues with your ACBL dues.
2. Visit cbf.ca and click **Join The CBF**
3. Email info@cbf.ca for more information

NOTE: Membership dues are waived for Canadian players under 25 years of age. Junior players can join the CBF by sending their information to info@cbf.ca.

REFLECTIONS OF THE EDITOR

by Neil Kimelman

A HOLIDAY GIFT FOR YOU

In the holiday spirit, the CBF Board has decided to make this issue open to non-members. In this way we want to encourage all bridge enthusiasts to subscribe, thus allowing us to better fund the Canadian Junior Program, as well as supporting the teams that represent Canada at international competitions.

Remember – memberships is not restricted to Canadians! Just to those who love bridge!

MORE CONTENT AIMED AT MORE OF OUR MEMBERS

Starting this month I personally will be writing the first in a series of articles aimed at improving the play of Intermediate level readers. Despite this focus, I think that all can benefit from reading. The level of the lessons will be definitely below the target audience in my three books I have written on bidding judgment (3rd to be published in 2016).

I am also pleased to welcome a contribution from Michael Abbey, a newer player living in Ottawa. His article is aimed at the novice, and told from that perspective. Michael is very enthusiastic about his new love, bridge. He has a website (link in article) and is writing bridge materials, all focused on newer players.

2015 WORLD BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Chennai World Championships are now over. Our Canadian teams failed to make the playoffs, but not from a lack of trying. The included articles tell their stories.

CANADIAN BRIDGE HUMOUR

Mike Dorn Wiss is the feature contributor this month with an excerpt from his Long Shadow series.



Photo Credit: Jonathan Steinberg

4 STEPS TO STARDOM

No this is not an article on youth bowling. It is a challenge to those who have been regularly reading the *Plan Your Deceptive Play* series. Can you solve this puzzle?

JAM PACKED SEASONAL ISSUE!

What with two *Meet ...* features, Paul Thurston's excellent *What Went Wrong* contribution, and Keith Balcombe's last part of his CNTC diary series - you will be kept reading for a long, long time!! Just don't forget to do your holiday shopping!

I wish for all to have a festive and safe holiday season, as well as a healthy and joyous 2016.

Neil Kimelman

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As 2015 nears its end we can look back with satisfaction at what the CBF accomplished during these past 12 months. Some of the key new initiatives we undertook in 2015 were:

- **The launch of our new website using a new technology platform and a different design.** This website introduces innovative features including: online registration for most of the Canadian Bridge Championship events; the ability to join the CBF and pay membership dues online; and the introduction of a rich library of historical articles and press clippings.

The website has been well received as evidenced by the significant increase in the average number of daily visits to over 800 a day. More new features are currently under development including the launch of the French version of the website in the first quarter of 2016.

- **Increasing the frequency of our bilingual Bridge Canada magazine from 3 to 6 issues annually.** The magazine is now designed to appeal to a wider segment of the Canadian bridge population by including educational articles, humor, and articles of general interest.

- **The introduction of the new Canadian Online Team Championships.**

- **The introduction of the CBF Lifetime Achievement Award with George Retek as the first recipient.** The addition of regionally rated events to the Canadian Bridge Championships (CBC) schedule, to encourage more players of all levels to attend the CBCs. Additional regionally rated events are being added to the schedule starting in 2016.

The above initiatives were in addition to our regular activities such as:

- Organizing our annual events including, the CBC, the CBF International Fund regional, as well as the club level CBF STaC and Rookie-Master games.
- Managing our charitable foundation and, on behalf of Canadian bridge players, donating over \$23,000 to the Alzheimer Society of Canada and other organizations that assist and improve the life of seniors across the country.

PRESIDENT: NADER HANNA



- Sending three teams (Open, Women and Seniors), to represent Canada at the 42nd World Bridge Teams Championships in Chennai, India.
- Managing our junior program to train and mentor over 30 juniors in preparation for our participation in the 2016 World Youth Team Championships
- Continuing to liaise with WBF and ACBL management to ensure that our voice is heard and to resolve issues of importance to the CBF and Canadian bridge players.

I want to thank my colleagues on the CBF board, our Executive Assistant Ina Demme, and the many volunteers for their tireless work on behalf of our members. I look forward to your continued support to help us achieve our mission: *Serve Canadian bridge players, and protect and advance the national interests of Canadian bridge.*

Finally, there has been no change in the CBF membership dues since 2006. Effective January 1, 2016 the dues will be increased by a modest \$6/year to enable us to continue delivering more, and better, services to our members.

Best wishes to you and your family for the Holiday Season and I hope to see many of you at the 2016 Canadian Bridge Championships in Toronto (May 21 - 29).

4 Steps to Stardom

Devoted readers will know that *Test Your Deceptive Play* has been a regular feature of Bridge Canada for one year. In commemoration of this anniversary, we have include a famous hand declared in 4♥:

♠ 10 8 2	♠ A Q 9 4	♠ K 7 6 3
♥ A 5	♥ K 8 7 6	♥ 4 2
♦ A 7 6	♦ K 5	♦ Q 10 9 8 3 2
♣ Q 8 7 6 2	♣ 5 4 3	♣ 10
	♠ J 5	
	♥ Q J 10 9 3	
	♦ J 4	
	♣ A K J 9	

The bidding:

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

The actual declarer made six! The opponents defended quite reasonably.

What was the order of play that the declarer took to achieve this amazing result?

What four Deceptive plays did the actual declarer employ?

Answers on page 49

TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY

Vul: Both

Contract: 6♥

after East opened a week 2♠

Lead: ♠7

♠ K 3

♥ 10 8 7 5

♦ K 5 4

♣ K 10 8 2

♠ A Q 4

♥ A K 6 4 2

♦ A 3

♣ A 5 4

Plan the play. West shows up with ♥QJx
Answer on page 48



Chennai 2015

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT



Hot & Spicy in Chennai

THE VENICE CUP

by Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

Chennai, site of the 2015 World Bridge Championship, is India's fourth largest city and serves as the gateway to southern India. Modern Chennai (formerly Madras) had its origins as a colonial outpost, first of the Portuguese, then the Dutch, and finally the British. As one of the most visited cities in India, Chennai is known for its cultural heritage and temple architecture. The city is the automobile capital of India, with around 40% of the automobile industry having a base there, and has emerged as a major centre for exported IT and business process outsourcing services.

Even those who know little about India might venture a guess that the climate would be hot and the food, spicy. Team Canada hoped that the bridge would be the same!

The event was held in the ITC Grand Chola, a magnificent hotel with almost ideal playing conditions. Even though the tournament did not start until late September, the daily temperature ranged from 31-38°C and it was invariably humid by our standards, which made for unpleasant walking conditions. Luckily, there were seven restaurants in the hotel complex itself, so going to dinner was not an issue. We had the opportunity to sample all kinds of dishes -- both vegetarian and non-vegetarian -- ranging from mild to fiery but with special flavour twists characteristic of the cuisine of the region, like curry leaves, coconut, mustard seeds, chilies and cardamom. Spicy and delicious!



Tuk-tuks, also known as auto-rickshaws, seem to be always busy, but it is a quick way to get around for a short trip in this city of nine million, provided you don't mind a few gas fumes and riding in rush-hour traffic in a golf cart with only three wheels rather than four.

Canada's Venice Cup team was Francine Cimon - Sandra Fraser, Kismet Fung - Judith Gartaganis, and Isabelle Brisebois - Samantha Nystrom. Canada finished 11th, but only the top eight teams qualified for the playoffs. Despite the disappointment there were highlights for all of the players.

A making slam can bring a smile to one's face, especially one with some risk involved. You can seldom predict that it will be a laydown, (and if you could, you might consider a more profitable calling).

In Round 10 the competitors were tested on the following combination:

♠ AKQ7652	♠ J109
♥ J	♥ 84
♦ QJ10	♦ AK83
♣ A5	♣ 7643

With no one vulnerable South passes, West opens 1♠ and North bids 2♠ (5-5+ hearts plus a minor). East bids 3♠ (competitive) and South chimes in with 4♥. What should West do? Brisebois chose 5♣ and Nystrom cooperated with 5♦. That was all Brisebois needed to hear and she contracted for 12 tricks. Only four pairs in the Venice Cup and three pairs in the Bermuda Bowl bid the laydown slam. A well-deserved 11 IMPs for judging the right level. In Round 14 Canada faced China.

DLR: N VUL: Neither
Contract: 6♥ Lead: ♦2

♠ A5	♠ Q73	♠ J42
♥ AQ985	♥ J3	♥ K1076
♦ AK9	♦ Q8762	♦ 5
♣ J98	♣ K62	♣ AQ743
	♠ K10986	
	♥ 42	
	♦ J1043	
	♣ 105	

Venice Cup



West	North	East	South
Cimon		Fraser	
-	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	3♥ ¹	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

1. Fit-showing bid (4+ hearts and 5+ clubs) [typically 3♣ is used as the fit-showing bid]
2. Two key cards without the queen

Cimon and Fraser bid to 6♥ and, with no hidden disaster lurking in the club suit, 12 tricks were easy on the lead of the ♦2. Had a spade been led declarer could have drawn trumps, eliminated diamonds (pitching a spade on the ♦K) and exited a spade. This line of play ensures the contract whenever the ♣K is onside, no matter the location of the ♣10. Note the effectiveness of the fit showing bid of 3♥ (hearts and clubs). Their Chinese counterparts missed this slam so 11 IMPs came Canada's way.

Suppose RHO opens 2♦, vulnerable versus not, showing a weak two bid in either major. You hold:

♠ A 9 7 6 5 4 ♥ A 5 4 ♦ 3 ♣ J 8 7

Would you overcall?

Although 2♠ is a distinct overbid, you do have two aces and a 6-card suit. You decide on the brash overcall. Partner takes you seriously and launches into Blackwood settling for 6♠. LHO leads the ♥Q and partner, while apologizing for being timid, puts down:

♠ K 8 3
♥ 2
♦ A Q 10 9 7 6 4
♣ A 4

You win the opening lead, finesse in diamonds, ruff a diamond and claim 12 tricks. You quickly go to the next

hand hoping partner hasn't had time to reconstruct your overcall. Despite the fact that Canada lost this match, Fung-Gartaganis picked up a handy 11 IMPs on this deal. If the world champion on your left had led the ♣K rather than the ♥Q the contract would have failed the four hands being:

DLR: E VUL: E-W

Contract: 6♠ Lead: ♥Q

♠ K 8 3		♠ 2
♥ 2		♥ K J 10 8 7 6 3
♦ A Q 10 9 7 6 4		♦ J 5 2
♣ A 4		♣ 9 5
♠ Q J 10		♠ A 9 7 6 5 4
♥ Q 9		♥ A 5 4
♦ K 8		♦ 3
♣ K Q 10 6 3 2		♣ J 8 7

Cimon demonstrated her analytical skills on this next hand and earned 6 IMPs for Canada.

DLR: N VUL: N-S

Contract: 2♠ Lead: ♦6

♠ K 9		♠ 10 3
♥ Q 7 5 3 2		♥ K 9 6 4
♦ A 10		♦ Q 7 5 4 2
♣ K 10 9 8		♣ 6 4
♠ Q 8 5 4		♠ A J 7 6 2
♥ A J 8		♥ 10
♦ K 8 6 3		♦ J 9
♣ A J		♣ Q 7 5 3 2

Venice Cup



West	North	East	South
Cimon		Fraser	
-	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Against 2♠ Cimon led the ♦6 ducked to Fraser's ♦Q. A diamond was returned to dummy's ace, and declarer now played a low club to her queen won by the ace. Cimon exited with the ♥A and ♥J, ruffed by declarer who played trumps now, rising with the ♠A on the second round when the ♠10 appeared. Next came a club to the king. When a third round of clubs was played, Cimon ruffed and paused for thought. At that point declarer claimed three of the last four tricks (contract making) with West on lead and the position as follows:

	♠ --		
	♥ Q 7 5		
	♦ --		
	♣ 10		
♠ Q		♠ --	
♥ 8		♥ K 9	
♦ K 8		♦ Q 7	
♣ --		♣ --	
	♠ J 7		
	♥ --		
	♦ --		
	♣ 7 5		

Cimon recognized the opportunity to defeat the contract and led the ♥8. Declarer ruffed and played a club, but Cimon pitched, stranding declarer in dummy. On the forced play of a losing heart, declarer had no further prospects for her 8th trick.

At the other table at the same juncture, the West defender elected to try the ♦K, allowing Gartaganis to discard that nasty high club from dummy. The defenders could take only the ♠Q from there.

Suppose as South you hold ♠K 9 6 5 ♥A 10 9 4 ♦9 6 ♣A 4 2 and you choose to pass in first seat, vulnerable. The auction proceeds thusly:

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	Pass
2♣ ¹	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1. 11-16 HCP, 5+ clubs

Now you wish you had opened. It might not have kept the opponents out of game, but at least your 1♣ bid would have complicated matters. Nevertheless, that doesn't help you select your lead. At a few tables the lead was the ♠5 which turned out poorly, the four hands being:

DLR: S VUL: N-S

Contract: 3NT Lead: ♠5

	♠ J 9 3		
	♥ Q J 8 6 5		
	♦ J 8 7 4		
	♣ 5		
♠ A 10 7		♠ Q 4 2	
♥ 2		♥ K 7 3	
♦ K 5		♦ A Q 10 3 2	
♣ K J 10 9 8 3		♣ Q 7	
	♠ K 9 6 5		
	♥ A 10 9 4		
	♦ 9 6		
	♣ A 4 2		

As you can see a heart lead is the winner.

The deal was played 22 times, 17 of those in 3NT by East. A spade was led 7 times and, in an uncontested auction, that would be the choice of most. Although the record of results does not give the bidding, it is likely that the ten heart leads came after the auction started 1♣ - Pass - 1♥. Canada won 13 IMPs when Fung-Gartaganis reached 3NT on the above auction and made 12 tricks while their counterparts played

Venice Cup



in 5♣, down two. Only one other pair in the Venice Cup was in the club game. Jill Levin of USA1 made 5♣ when, after the ♥Q lead and heart continuation, she ran trumps and decided she had learned enough about the opponents' distribution to finesse against the ♦J.

Next, you hold ♠ J432 ♥ Q7 ♦ KQ983 ♣ 42. With only the opponents vulnerable, RHO passes, as do you, and the auction proceeds 1♦ by LHO, double by partner, pass by RHO.

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dbl
Pass	?		

Options include passing, 1NT, 1♠ or 2♠. The advantage of 1NT is that you show some values and leave open the possibility of reaching game if partner has a suitable hand. Bidding 1♠ is a bit of an underbid, but 2♠ is a bit of an overbid with such a poor suit and questionable diamond values. Pass seems like a decent option because the opponents are vulnerable; however, your trumps are sitting in front of declarer and it's unclear how the defense will come to enough tricks to beat 1♦. Brisebois assessed all these options and chose pass -- the winning decision! The defence collected +500 and won 9 IMPs for Canada, the four hands were:

DLR: W VUL: E-W
 Contract: 1♦Dbl Lead: ♠K

♠ J 4 3 2		♠ 9 5
♥ Q 7		♥ A 10 9 2
♦ K Q 9 8 3		♦ A 7 6 5
♣ 4 2		♣ A 7 6
♠ A 10 8 6		
♥ 8 6 4		
♦ J 4		
♣ Q J 9 8		
♠ K Q 7		
♥ K J 5 3		
♦ 10 2		
♣ K 10 5 3		

Credit the IMPs won to both Nystrom for her takeout double, aggressive opposite a passed hand, and Brisebois for her decision to convert to penalties.

Finally, with no one vulnerable, LHO passes, partner opens 1♣, and RHO overcalls 1♠. You hold ♠ 98 ♥ Q987 ♦ 98543 ♣ K10 and decide to make a negative double. LHO jumps to 4♠, partner doubles and no one has anything more to say. What's your choice for a lead?

You could start with a trump, but it is not unreasonable to commence proceedings with the ♣K. Dummy puts down:

♠ A J 7 6 3
 ♥ 10 4
 ♦ J
 ♣ Q 9 6 4 2

♠ 9 8
 ♥ Q 9 8 7
 ♦ 9 8 5 4 3
 ♣ K 10

Your ♣K holds, partner encouraging. What now? The dummy is intimidating. Assuming RHO has five spades for her overcall, you have no trump tricks. If you have another club trick coming, you need two red-suit tricks (so at least one heart trick). If you have no more club tricks, you will need all three red-suit tricks. Continuing clubs is no good because you can't overruff declarer and you don't want to help declarer set up the clubs for pitches. You choose to switch to hearts, but carefully choose the ♥Q to prevent partner from getting the notion that you have a singleton club. Against Fung-Gartaganis the defender failed to analyze the hand* and mechanically continued a club allowing 4♠ doubled to make.

CHENNAI 2015 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT *continued*

Venice Cup



The four hands were:

DLR: N VUL: Neither
Contract: 4♠ Lead: ♣K

♠ A J 7 6 3	♠ 5
♥ 10 4	♥ K J 3 2
♦ J	♦ A K 10 7
♣ Q 9 6 4 2	♣ A 8 7 5
♠ 9 8	♠ K Q 10 4 2
♥ Q 9 8 7	♥ A 6 5
♦ 9 8 5 4 3	♦ Q 6 2
♣ K 10	♣ J 3

***Editor's note:** *This defence is not completely unreasonable. It is necessary if partner has the ♥A and works out to shift to a low heart.*

In closing, India turned out to be an amazing place to visit, and we returned with many good memories. Still, all the players wish there had been more days of bridge and fewer days available to enjoy the sights.



PHOTO © WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

Chennai 2015 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT



8th d'Orsi Seniors Trophy

By Nader Hanna

The 42nd World Bridge Teams Championships were held September 26 - October 10, 2015 at the ITC Grand Chola hotel in Chennai, India.

The championships were marred by the cheating allegations that surfaced in the few weeks leading to the championships against three of the top pairs in the world. The allegations caused the three affected countries (Israel, Monaco and Germany), who qualified to compete in the Bermuda Bowl (BB) by virtue of their high finish in the 2014 Open Team Championships, to withdraw their teams from the BB due to the suspicion that their teams qualified with the aid of the accused pairs' usage of illegal methods. Due to more illegal signalling allegations that surfaced the day before the championships started, a fourth top Polish pair had their invitation to compete in the BB withdrawn.

Twenty-two countries, representing the eight WBF zones, competed for the 8th d'Orsi Senior Trophy. Canada's team consisted of John Carruthers, Joseph Silver, Kathie

Thorpe, Martin Kirr, Michael Roche, John Rayner and Nader Hanna (NPC).

The format was a seven-day complete round robin of 16-board matches with the top eight teams advancing to the knockout phase of the competition. The quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals were a 96-board match each. USA1 (Zia Mahmood, Michael Rosenberg, Bob Hamman, Mark Lair, Hemant Lall and Reese Milner) emerged as the eventual winner having defeated Sweden 263-126.3 in the final. Poland beat USA2 208-147 in the play-off match to win the bronze medal.

With a lot of talent and experience on the Canadian team, we had high expectations of advancing to the knockout stage and competing for a medal. However, we never hit our stride and finished a disappointing 12th with a record of 11 wins, 9 losses and one tie.

After missing the knockout stage of the d'Orsi Trophy the team competed in the 10th World Transnational Open Teams championships (I replaced John Rayner who went back home). The team finished the round robin stage (15 rounds) in 8th place among the 141 participating teams and qualified for the 16 team knockout stage. Disappointingly we lost our round of 16 match by 1 IMP.

CHENNAI 2015 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT *continued*

d'Orsi Trophy



On the following board from the match against India in the d'Orsi Trophy round robin, Rayner and Silver combined to convert what appeared to be a certain 10 IMP loss to Canada to a 10 IMP gain.

BRD: 21 DLR: N VUL: N-S

	♠ Q 8 5 4 3		
	♥ 7 4 3		
	♦ K 10 4 2		
	♣ 2		
♠ 10		♠ J 6 2	
♥ A K 10 8		♥ 2	
♦ 8 7 3		♦ A J 9 6	
♣ K Q 10 9 5		♣ A J 8 6 3	
	♠ A K 9 7		
	♥ Q J 9 6 5		
	♦ Q 5		
	♣ 7 4		

In the open room Rayner found himself in the inelegant contract of 3NT after the following auction:

West	North	East	South
Rayner		Roche	
-	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♣	2♥	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♥7 to South's J and declarer's K. With only 8 sure tricks and a wide open spade suit, desperate times called for desperate measures. John crossed to dummy in clubs and led a spade towards his hand. When South won the ♠K and continued with a low heart, John played the 10 to secure his ninth trick. +400 for Canada.

In the closed room East-West reached the better contract of 5♣ by West and received the ♠3 lead from North. Declarer ruffed the spade continuation, drew trumps, and eliminated the major suits ending in the West hand to reach the following position:

	♠ Q		
	♥ -		
	♦ K 10 4		
	♣ -		
♠ -		♠ -	
♥ -		♥ -	
♦ 8 7 3		♦ A J 9	
♣ K		♣ J	
	♠ 9		
	♥ Q		
	♦ Q 5		
	♣ -		

Declarer now led a diamond intending to play dummy's nine to endplay South. However, recognizing declarer's plan, Silver played his ♦K. Declarer now had no option but to allow Silver to win the trick hoping that North held both the K and Q of diamonds and would be forced to give declarer a ruff and discard or lead away from his presumed ♦Q. When Silver continued with a diamond, declarer took the losing finesse and was one down. +50 and a 10 IMP gain for Canada.



PHOTO © WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

Chennai 2015

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT

Bermuda Bowl in Chennai

By Daniel Korbel

The 42nd Bermuda Bowl was held in Chennai, India, in September of 2015. Our team (myself, Darren Wolpert, Danny Miles, Jeff Smith, Shan Huang, and David Sabourin) had won the right to represent Canada by winning the CNTCs earlier in the year. In Lille in 2012, the Canadian team had qualified for the playoffs, losing a close match to Monaco after leading after 5 of 6 segments. In Bali in 2013, we also qualified for the playoffs, losing a close match to USA1 after being tied after 4 of 6 segments. Would this be the year we finally broke through and showed the world what Canada could do? Our expectations were high.

The playing site itself was excellent, as the ITC Grand Chola is considered one of the top hotels in the world. The prices matched the rating, however, and meals could get very expensive. There was a ribeye on the menu for \$120, and even a tiny bowl of rice cost \$9(!). In addition, the city of Chennai was inhospitable to visitors, as it was

hot, run down, crowded, full of mosquitos, and there was nothing near the hotel. So leaving the hotel was a dicey proposition and most of the players in fact chose never to leave the accommodation! As a result, the consensus among all the players I talked to was that this was one of the worst locations for a bridge competition they had ever been to, and I agree.

A lot of people have asked me what kind of effect the recent firestorm of cheating had on the atmosphere of the Bermuda Bowl. Although it made for a popular dinner time topic, the players who were there were concentrating on playing competitive bridge at the highest level, not the theatrics around them. In that respect, it was very similar to the other international events I've played in.

Our first match was against Brazil. We did not get off to a roaring start, losing by 29 and getting only 3.42 VPs. That's alright, we thought, we'll get it back against Singapore. Well, Singapore played great against us and we most certainly did not, losing by 48 for a mere 1.03 VPs. After two matches, we were in dead last!



CHENNAI 2015 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT *continued*

Bermuda Bowl



We recovered in match 3 with a small win against one of the pre-tournament favourites, USA2. Here was our biggest pick up from that match:

BRD: 13 DLR: N VUL: Both

♠	5	♠	A 9 6 4 3
♥	10 9 8	♥	7 5 4 3 2
♦	A K 9 6 3 2	♦	-
♣	J 10 9	♣	Q 4 3
♠	K Q 10 8 2	♠	J 7
♥	6	♥	A K Q J
♦	10 7	♦	Q J 8 5 4
♣	A K 7 5 2	♣	8 6

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Sabourin</i>
--	Pass	Pass	1NT ¹
2♠*	3♦	4♠	5♦
Dbl	All Pass		
1. 14-16			

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Woolridge</i>
--	2♦	Pass	2NT
3♠	Pass	4♦	4♥
4♠	All Pass		

At Shan and David's table, Vince doubled 5♦ intending it to show a good hand, but Kranyak took it as pure penalty. In case Vince was ruffing a heart, Kranyak led one, and now Shan could draw trumps and claim. A sensational +750! Jeff and Danny were allowed to play in 4♠, which as you can see, is cold for six. They must have been delighted during the comparison to win 16 IMPs for +680.

The next day we defeated Denmark by 41 to start the day. We had climbed out of the cellar, sitting in 15th

position, only 12 VPs behind 8th. We were still in the game. Unfortunately, the next match against Bulgaria did not go so well. Here's an example of how our luck was running:

BRD: 15 DLR: S VUL: N-S

♠	K 6 3	♠	8 5 2
♥	K Q 7 6	♥	A 10 8 3
♦	2	♦	A Q 7 3
♣	Q J 10 7 3	♣	K 2
♠	J 7 4	♠	A Q 10 9
♥	J 9 5	♥	4 2
♦	J 8 5 4	♦	K 10 9 6
♣	9 8 6	♣	A 5 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Korbel</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Mihov</i>
--	--	--	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass (!)	1NT	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

North decided not to invite game with his 11 point hand opposite a 10-15 1♦ opener, and he decided to pass 1♠ in case he could catch a big fish. On a normal day, this eccentric decision would have cost him 10 IMPs, as 3NT is laydown. Unfortunately for us, on this day Darren was dealt almost all our points, and had a normal balance of 1NT. This was doubled and went for -800, so we lost 5 IMPs to our teammates' normal +630, instead of winning 10 IMPs if our points had been more evenly split. If I had run to 2♦ that would have been a more successful -500, but that was not at all obvious to me.

We ended the day in 15th place with a small win against France, but we were now an uneasy 26 VPs behind 8th place. It was starting to look ominous but all we could do was maintain a positive attitude and focus on playing the best bridge that we could. A solid loss to Egypt in round

CHENNAI 2015 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT *continued*

Bermuda Bowl



8 led us to face off against the Jordanians in round 9. The first board of the match against Jordan was entertaining.

BRD: 17 DLR: N VUL: Neither

♠ 8 2	
♥ A J 10 7 4 3 2	
♦ A 9 2	
♣ 6	
♠ K 10 7 5 3	♠ Q 9 4
♥ Q	♥ 8 6 5
♦ K 10 8 6 5 4	♦ 3
♣ J	♣ A 8 7 5 4 2
♠ A J 6	
♥ K 9	
♦ Q J 7	
♣ K Q 10 9 3	

Sitting West, I saw the auction: 3♥-P-4♥-? to me. Well, I didn't fly all the way to Chennai to pass, so I stuck in a 4♠ bid. The 3♥ opener doubled this, which was passed around to me fairly quickly (my RHO explained the double as "extra defense"). This was starting to look bad, but I had another club in my bag, so I tried running to 5♦. Imagine how I felt about bailing out from 4♠, when I saw partner correct back to 5♠! The full auction:

West	North	East	South
Korbel	Ghanam	Wolpert	Barakat
--	3♥	Pass	4♥
4♠	Dbl	Pass	Pass
5♦(!)	Dbl	5♠	Dbl
All Pass			

Luckily they let me out for a very cheap -300 (there were some -1100s and even a -1400 around the room on this board), so this BRD goes into the "fun adventure" category and not the "huge disaster" category. In fact, we won 4 IMPs against our teammates' +450. Darren and I bid two nice minor suit slams in this match that both made and we beat Jordan easily. Were we back in business?

The next round we defeated the tough English team handily, winning 39-9. We ended the day on a high note, moving up to 14th place, now only 19 VPs out of qualifying.

In round 10 we lost a close match to USA1. Here was a tough push in 6♠ that only one other pair in the whole Bermuda Bowl managed to get to:*

BRD: 24 DLR: W VUL: Neither

♠ A K Q 7 6 5 2	
♥ J	
♦ Q J 10	
♣ A 5	
♠ 8 4	♠ 3
♥ K 7 6 5 3	♥ A Q 10 9 2
♦ 9 7 6 5	♦ 4 2
♣ 8 2	♣ K Q J 10 9
♠ J 10 9	
♥ 8 4	
♦ A K 8 3	
♣ 7 6 4 3	

West	North	East	South
Korbel	Rodwell	Wolpert	Meckstroth
Pass	1♣	1♥	2♥
4♥	5♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

1♣ was Precision, 16+ points with any distribution. 2♥ showed a balanced game forcing hand without a heart stopper and without a 5 card suit. Darren led the ♥A and Rodwell immediately claimed making six. At the other table, Shan and David had the identical auction!

***Editor's note:** So did Canada's Isabelle Brisebois and Samantha Nystrom in the Venice Cup!

CHENNAI 2015 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT *continued*

Bermuda Bowl



Round 11 brought us a small win against South Africa. Here is a wild board where our luck ran poorly:

BRD: 3 DLR: S VUL: E-W

<p>♠ J 8 6 4 3 2</p> <p>♥ -</p> <p>♦ 6 3</p> <p>♣ A J 8 7 2</p>	<p>♠ K</p> <p>♥ J 5 4 3</p> <p>♦ K 8 7 5 4</p> <p>♣ K 9 6</p>
<p>♠ Q 9 5</p> <p>♥ K Q 7 2</p> <p>♦ A Q J 10 9 2</p> <p>♣ -</p>	<p>♠ A 10 7</p> <p>♥ A 10 9 8 6</p> <p>♦ -</p> <p>♣ Q 10 5 4 3</p>

West	North	East	South
Korbel	Stephens	Wolpert	Fick
--	--	--	1♥
2♦	2♠	3♥	3♠
5♦	All Pass		

If I were sitting North, I would envision putting partner in to give me a heart ruff, after which the ♣A would be the setting trick. Therefore, I would lead the ♣A, to see if partner's entry is the ♣K or the ♠A. This is what our teammate, Jeff Smith did, and as you can see the ♣A happens to get ruffed by declarer who can then claim +600. The South African North led a spade against me, which would not even have occurred to me, but it worked like a charm.

Round 12 brought more bad news, as we got walloped by New Zealand. Our hopes were getting slim: only 9 rounds to play and we were 33 VPs out of qualifying. We would need to go on a run.

We got things going in the next match against probably the weakest team in the event, United Arab Emirates, getting almost all 20 VPs.

We lost 15-5 in VPs to the very strong Chinese team in the next round, in a match with many interesting BRDs:

BRD: 18 DLR: E VUL: N-S

<p>♠ J 2</p> <p>♥ 8 6 5</p> <p>♦ K Q 8 7 6 5</p> <p>♣ J 4</p>	<p>♠ 9</p> <p>♥ Q 9 7 4 3</p> <p>♦ A J 3</p> <p>♣ K 9 7 2</p>
<p>♠ 7</p> <p>♥ A K 2</p> <p>♦ 10 9 4 2</p> <p>♣ Q 10 8 5 3</p>	<p>♠ A K Q 10 8 6 5 4 3</p> <p>♥ J 10</p> <p>♦ -</p> <p>♣ A 6</p>

West	North	East	South
Sun	Korbel	Kang	Wolpert
--	--	--	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Dbl	Rdbl
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Our system was very effective on this hand, as we found out that we were off two heart tricks below 4♠. My 3♠ bid was forcing and set trumps, and Darren's 3NT said that he had no aces but at least one king on the side. He showed me the ♦K and then he denied a heart control when he bid 4♠, so I had an easy pass. Despite his partner's lead directing double, Sun accurately stayed away from the diamond lead and so I scored up only the 10 tricks I had in my hand. Later in the hall, I overheard Steve Weinstein complaining about the deuce of spades. I just knew right away what he was talking about: if you switch the ♠2 and the ♠3, the North hand has two entries to set up and then cash a diamond for an 11th trick. (The USA1 result: 5♠-1, -50).

CHENNAI 2015 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT *continued*

Bermuda Bowl



BRD: 31 DLR: S VUL: N-S

♠ K Q 4	♠ A 10 9 2
♥ K 7 5 3 2	♥ J 9 8 6 4
♦ 9 7 4 3	♦ Q 10
♣ 3	♣ 9 7

♠ J 7 5	♠ 8 6 3
♥ A	♥ Q 10
♦ K J 8 5 2	♦ A 6
♣ A K J 8	♣ Q 10 6 5 4 2

West	North	East	South
Sun	Korbel	Kang	Wolpert
--	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥ ¹	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

3♥ showed a singleton or void in hearts, and we arrived in 5♣. It was hard for me to diagnose the major suit duplication and we were quickly down one after the ♠K lead. The winning action is to get to 3NT, and perhaps if I hedge with 3♠ over 3♥ we could manage it. At the other table the Chinese pair also got to 5♣, but from the North side, and Shan led a heart so declarer made an overtrick. We beat Japan by 23 in the next match.

What would you lead from this hand?

♠ 10 9 7 5
 ♥ 10 7 3
 ♦ J 4 2
 ♣ 5 3 2

West	North	East	South
Korbel	Tanaka	Wolpert	Yokoi
--	--	--	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Have you decided? I hope you led the ♥10, as that's the only card that legitimately defeats the contract. The full deal:

RND: 3 DLR: S VUL: E-W

♠ 10 9 7 5	♠ A 3	♠ J 4 2
♥ 10 7 4	♥ A J 6 4 2	♥ K Q 8 5
♦ J 4 2	♦ 8 6	♦ A K 7 5
♣ 5 3 2	♣ A Q 9 8	♣ 10 4

♠ K Q 8 6
♥ 9
♦ Q 10 9 3
♣ K J 7 6

I happened on the ♥3, which declarer ducked to Darren's queen. Darren then found the excellent and tricky switch to a low diamond, and declarer stuck in the ♦10. I won the jack and another heart set the contract. Our teammates faced a high diamond lead from the other side and were never in jeopardy.

In first seat, neither vulnerable, do you open 1♥ or 4♥ holding:

♠ 10 5
 ♥ A Q J 7 6 4 2
 ♦ 9
 ♣ K 8 7

Our teammates opened 4♥, and the auction continued 4♥-P-P-4♠-All Pass. At our table, Yokoi opened 1♥, and disaster ensued:

CHENNAI 2015 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT *continued*

Bermuda Bowl



BRD: 11 DLR: S VUL: Neither

♠ 8 4	♠ J 9 7	♠ A K Q 6 3 2
♥ K 10	♥ 9 5 3	♥ 8
♦ K Q 5 4 3	♦ 10 7 6	♦ A J 8 2
♣ A J 9 6	♣ 10 5 4 2	♣ Q 3
	♠ 10 5	
	♥ A Q J 7 6 4 2	
	♦ 9	
	♣ K 8 7	

West	North	East	South
Korbel	Tanaka	Wolpert	Yokoi
--	--	--	1♥
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♦	All Pass

This slam was cold, so we won 10 IMPs. Notice Darren's clever decision to accelerate the auction: in case we were off the ♣AK. He didn't want to give away any more information to North than he had to. North did in fact lead his partner's suit, so even if my ♣A had been the ♥A slam would still have made.

Round 16 saw us get shellacked by Guadeloupe and our chances were effectively over, back to 34 VPs out of qualifying with only 5 rounds to go. Round 17 against Poland was another loss, and then we lost by 3 to Argentina to end the day.

On the final day we beat India by 20, Sweden by 20, and then lost to Australia by 16. It was a real race for the 8th place qualifying spot, with three teams within a fraction of a VP of each other. Sweden eventually qualified in 8th place by 0.08 VPs (approximately less than an overtrick IMP!), and then went on to win the silver medal. Congratulations to Poland who finished 1st, and to USA2 who took the bronze.

Here is a hand where Danny and Jeff shone against India:

BRD: 1 DLR: N VUL: Neither

♠ K 4	♠ A J 10 8 6 3	♠ 5
♥ K 5 3	♥ 9 7 4	♥ A Q 10 8 2
♦ A 7 5	♦ J 2	♦ 8 6 4 3
♣ A 9 8 7 5	♣ 4 3	♣ K 10 6
	♠ Q 9 7 2	
	♥ J 6	
	♦ K Q 10 9	
	♣ Q J 2	

West	North	East	South
Miles	Banerjee	Smith	Roy
-	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	2♥	2♠
3NT	All Pass		

North led a spade, which was Danny's 9th trick. This was a 7-imp win against 4♣ making at our table. Note his thoughtful 3NT call with a prime hand and heart fit. Here's a rarity from the match against Sweden: can you construct an auction to get to 7D after your opponent has opened 1D?

BRD: 21 DLR: N VUL: N-S

♠ A K 10 8 7 5	♠ J 3	♠ Q 6 2
♥ A Q 5 3	♥ K 10 2	♥ J 8 7
♦ A 4 2	♦ 8 7 6	♦ K Q J 9 3
♣ -	♣ A Q J 6 5	♣ 10 4
	♠ 9 4	
	♥ 9 6 4	
	♦ 10 5	
	♣ K 9 8 7 3 2	

This BRD was a push in the 6♠ slam. Shan Huang also opened the North hand a Precision 1♦ (10-15, 2+ diamonds) and in my opinion both pairs did well just to get to a slam.

CHENNAI 2015 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT *continued*

Bermuda Bowl



LOOKING BACK

Overall, I would say that all three of our partnerships underperformed to expectations. One of the biggest disadvantages a country like Canada has is the general lack of professional bridge play; three of our members are not professional players, and all three of our partnerships were semi-regular. Therefore, we automatically don't have the polished, powerhouse types of agreements that a country such as Poland or USA has, whose partnerships play together constantly and sometimes exclusively. Practicing a lot can help, but it isn't a substitute: when bridge is a hobby (and even when it is a profession) the need to lead a normal, balanced, and healthy lifestyle will almost always overrule the possibility of devoting umpteen hours and enormous energy to practicing.

It is always a proud moment to represent Canada in international competition. The whole team surely wishes for another chance and we look forward to again testing our mettle in the future.

PHOTO: Opening Ceremonies.



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LONG SHADOW LEFT BEHIND

by Mike Dorn Wiss

It was with a heavy heart that I learned of the passing of my lifelong friend “Alan”, known as the Shadow in the Bridge World*. He passed away as he would have liked, sitting on the lanai of his home in upcountry Maui, nursing a doob of Maui Wowie and watching what would literally turn out to be his last sunset. I wondered if he saw the “green flash” of the sun’s last moment; I wondered if he flashed out at the same time.

To be honest, after the tears, and after a doob in his honour, I also wondered – hopefully – if he had doctored my currently impecunious state of being with a bit of generosity in his will. It turns out he did – but conditionally, the dirty dog – so I won’t acquire what he left me until a major publisher has seen fit to present the speculative fiction novel I have been working on forever. To that end I have recently found myself quite busy.

Alan did leave me notes, however, things he had apparently been penning over years of sunsets on that lanai. These I now have in my possession. Many were personal, but some, more than a few actually, were of a bridge related nature – interesting hands of course, and many anecdotes. Some of them are actually repeatable. One of Alan’s secret pleasures when playing bridge – as anonymously and shadowlike as he always did – was to play against good players, sometimes very good players, who assumed he was the usual card pusher found worldwide at bridge clubs. The results in those circumstances were seldom those expected by the



LONG SHADOW LEFT BEHIND

continued

Had I been there at that I moment I know the exact gleam that I would have seen flashing in Alan's eyes.

local Hog. Should the porcine one also display an attitude that Alan found unpleasant, or even reprehensible, he would derive even greater pleasure passing a come-uppance to the unsuspecting bridge jerk.

One of his notes to me recalled a hand he played in a Honolulu afternoon club game to which he was dragged by the visiting sister of a friend he had hopped over from Maui to visit. His friend insisted it was no problem as at any rate he needed the afternoon to run some errands. The fact that the sister was attractive and single mattered hardly at all.

As a traveling pair late in the session, which Alan said had been quite pleasant until that point, they sat down to oppose what was clearly one of the local Hogs, a supercilious type who naturally sat North, where he could "control" the table. When Alan greeted the Hog and his partner, a timid squirrel-like lady who was an obvious client/student, he found himself ignored. The Hog was too busy admonishing the Squirrel for her poor defense on the previous hand to exercise a dollop of politeness. Had I been there at that I moment I know the exact gleam that I would have seen flashing in Alan's eyes. Come to think of it, I wish I had been there.

The first two hands of the three board round gave Alan no opportunity to straighten the Hog's curly tail, so he contented himself with holding his cards haphazardly, as weak players are wont to do, while munching on some of the delightful appies supplied by the club. On the last hand, like a snake in the grass disguised as a rabbit in a briar patch, the Shadow struck.

Contract: 3NT by South
Lead: ♣10

The Squirrel

♠ K 6 4 3

♥ K 10 5

♦ Q 9 4

♣ A Q 3

The Shadow

♠ J 9 5

♥ A 8 2

♦ K 7

♣ 10 9 8 4 2

The Hog

♠ A 7

♥ Q J 6

♦ A 8 5 3 2

♣ K 7 5

Cute Partner

♠ Q 10 8 2

♥ 9 7 4 3

♦ J 10 6

♣ J 6

The auction was straightforward, and every pair in the room was in a 3NT contract. Like most, the Hog opened 1♦ and rebid 1NT over the Squirrel's 1♠ response, which was raised immediately to game. A few pairs playing 12-14 weak NT's and one pair playing a 14-16 range all got their original 1NT raised directly to game, and the lone pair playing "Flat Stayman" – also known as SID "Stayman In Doubt" ended up in the same spot. The ♣10 was an automatic lead.

The Hog surveyed the hand. Obviously the world would be in the same contract. How would the other declarers play it?

The lead from the fellow on his left came quickly and without problem, so it was likely to be duplicated across the field. An entry attacking spade hadn't been led, so it wasn't important to win the lead in dummy in order to preserve a later club entry to declarer's hand. No doubt all declarers would immediately attack the diamond suit, either by cashing the ace and then leading low for an indirect finesse toward the



LONG SHADOW LEFT BEHIND

continued

The look on his face
was priceless.

queen, playing it if nothing interesting appeared. Or perhaps some might win the opening lead in hand and immediately lead a low diamond. Of course there was always one wise guy who would first take a Mickey Mouse finesse by floating the ♥J, and having scored that trick would then address the diamonds.

The Hog looked deeper into the hand, and the wizardry of Gabriel Chagas highlighted the diamond suit. If the Hog led a small diamond toward the dummy without cashing the ace first, the clown on his left busy filling his face with one hand while struggling to hold his cards with the other would no doubt play the king if he had it, or certainly balk and give away its presence. Where the Hog would lap the field would be when a low card appeared and the king was sitting over the queen. Then the famed intra-finesse would come into play. The Hog would insert the nine, losing to the ten or jack – or even to the king if the goofball on his left had failed to split the jack and ten when holding both of them – then on his next turn would lead the queen from dummy, simultaneously smothering the other intermediate in Alan's hand while finessing against the king. The Hog would make eleven tricks when everyone else would be holding themselves to only ten.

So he won the opening lead in hand with his ♣K and fired a low diamond up. Alan followed smoothly with the "beer card", the ♦7, and the Hog called for the nine from dummy. This lost to the cutie's jack, and she switched to the ♠2. The Hog played low from hand and won Alan's nine in dummy with the king, then he advanced the ♦Q with an air of smug. Cutie played low and so did the Hog.

Alan won his king and switched to the ♠J. The Hog, perforce, won his ace, but had only eight tricks. The look on his face was priceless when he cashed his ♦A and Alan showed out, pitching a club. After cashing his remaining diamonds the Hog was forced to lead a heart. Vainly he tried the ♥J, but Alan was having none of that; he flew with the ace and led his last spade.

Down one. The Hog had made three tricks fewer than anyone in the field. Had the top on the board been a thousand instead of the eight it was it would still have been the roundest egg in the history of the barnyard.

"However did you play that low diamond so smooth?" The Hog asked the Shadow.

"Oh, I meant to play the king," Alan said, "but my fingers were sticky from the puu-puu's and I pulled the seven by mistake." I guess if a bunny is going to crawl into a briar patch its best if he emerges from it without a scratch, like any good rabbit.

The Hog smacked his forehead.

* Shadow in the Bridge World – available from Amazon, Baron Barclay, and as an online eBook at ebooksbridge.com



by Keith Balcomb

THE EXPERT *Spot*

Keith Balcomb continues to share his good and bad experiences in the Canadian National Team Championships in Montreal during late May 2015.

CNTC DIARY III The Semi-finals

By Keith Balcomb

INTRODUCTION

Our team was the Todd team, mostly from Winnipeg (Bob Todd-Doug Fisher; Neil Kimelman-Brad Bart; Paul Thurston-Keith Balcombe). The good guys qualified, with 7 other teams, for the 4 days of playoffs. The quarterfinals saw team Todd come back in the last 4 boards to win by 5 IMPs against of very good Hanna team. The semi-finals were both day long matches followed by the two day final. The winning team are the Canadian champions, to play off with Mexico for the right to go to India and play in the Bermuda Bowl world championships.

Our semi-final match was broadcast on BBO (so we must play well to avoid embarrassment). We were matched against the pre-tournament betting line favourites, the professional Miles team: Danny Miles-Jeff Smith; David Sabourin-Shan Huang; Daniel Korbel-Darren Wolpert.

“Mistakes are the usual bridge between inexperience and wisdom” ~ Phyllis Therou, author

It would be:

- Our amateur team against their professional gunslingers.
- Our team of geezers (average age 60) against the youngsters (average about 30)!
- Our small city team against their BIG CITY team!!
- It's West vs East!!!

Its Good vs Evil!!!! (That's NOT true, but it sounded good in my head).

Paul and I play the “W Club” (named after our residences in Wellington and Whitby).

1♣ is forcing and unlimited, either natural or balanced.

2♦ & 2♥ openings show 6+ hearts & 6+ spades, respectively, with 10-14 HCP.

2♠ is a normal weak two.

SEMI-FINAL : 1ST QUARTER

I still needed to take cold medicine at 5:00 am to avoid a foggy head as Paul and I were scheduled to play the first quarter with Neil and Brad. I was eager to avoid a similar start to the quarter-final as Paul and I failed to beat a game on a signaling misunderstanding on the first board.

Paul and I played against Jeff Smith (Paul's former partner and his screenmate) and Danny Miles on my side of the screen. The BBO coverage was somewhat delayed and a bit of distraction. On our very first hand, I picked up:

♠ 5
♥ QJ975
♦ KQJ75
♣ K4

Paul opened 1♣ and I responded 1♥. Paul then rebid 1♠, which is often a balanced 11 to 13 HCP hand. I decided to only invite game and we ended up in a modest 2♥ contract after use of the “X-Y-Z” convention.

Upon examination of dummy, it appeared that game was only fair and I hoped for a distributional storm. What I got was a tempest. I just barely made 2♥. I thought it was a good omen and a likely IMP pickup. I was wrong and it was a push.

Instead, the first quarter was another nightmare. Neil and Brad bid a marginal slam, down (lose 11 IMPs).

Then we held:

Keith
♠ 8
♥ A96
♦ KJ1043
♣ AJ106

Paul
♠ K975
♥ KJ754
♦ Q2
♣ 72

Game was marginal and we played in 2♥ and Paul made 10 tricks to lose another IMP.

On the very next hand I had to lead against my RHO's 2♥ (10-14 HCP, 6+♥) raised to 4♥ by LHO. My hand was ♠Q54 ♥2 ♦AJ108 ♣J9642. I chose the ♠4 – which was the start of our downhill slide. The full hand (I was West and Danny Miles was South):

♠ KJ10873
♥ A73
♦ 2
♣ 753

♠ Q54
♥ 2
♦ AJ108
♣ J9642

♠ A962
♥ K93
♦ 543
♣ AQ8

♠ -
♥ QJ10854
♦ KQ976
♣ K10



Waiting for the new boards to be delivered
Left to Right: Danny-Keith-Jeff-Paul

“Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment.” ~ Buddha

Danny ruffed the opening lead and led the \heartsuit K. At that point, I probably could have beat the contract with a trump shift, but I chose to try to cash our \clubsuit AK, so declarer made 10 tricks. At the other table Shan found the trump shift in a similar position. Lose 10.

We lost the first quarter by 19 IMPs. Our opponents collectively played very well.

SEMI-FINAL : 2ND QUARTER

Paul and I played against Danny and Jeff once again; Bob and Doug replaced Neil and Brad.

The first hand was a routine game. Paul and I misjudged in competition on the second hand. With neither Vul, I held \spadesuit 10 6 3 \heartsuit 7 4 \diamondsuit 4 \clubsuit A K J 10 6 3 2. The bidding started slowly (1 \heartsuit)-Pass by Paul-(1NT forcing) to me. I bid 2 \clubsuit since 3 \clubsuit would show a two suited hand. The bidding continued (Dbl- takeout) -2 \spadesuit cue bid by Paul-(3 \spadesuit). I elected to bid 5 \clubsuit as a likely save or make. This was promptly doubled by Jeff. Paul had defensive stuff, \spadesuit K 4 \heartsuit Q J 10 8 \diamondsuit A J 7 5 3 \clubsuit Q 5. Ugh, down one when we could probably have made 3NT. Fortunately we only lost 2 IMPs, now down by 22.

A few hands later, Jeff Smith played 4 \spadesuit with a 5-0 trump split and read the hand perfectly to make it; down by 32. Then a dagger. Paul and I bid effectively to 6NT after I opened 2 \clubsuit . With our cards, Korbelt and Wolpert bid a grand slam, which was on a finesse. It made; lose 12 and down by 46. A 29 IMP swing based on the location of the \diamondsuit K!

We continued by not bidding a marginal, but makeable, 3NT. No swing. Then I misjudged the defense to 4 \heartsuit and crash the \heartsuit Ace and King. Lose 11, down by 57.

At times like this, it is so important and so difficult to maintain your focus. In my experience, the luck comes full circle so you gotta grind it out. It's easy to say, but not so easy to do. Sure enough, on the next hand I picked up:

\spadesuit J 7
 \heartsuit J 8 7 6 2
 \diamondsuit -
 \clubsuit A K 10 8 6 2

As Dealer, I decided to pass and then wound up in 3 \clubsuit doubled – which was very hard to defend and I easily made 9 tricks. A trailing team's dream. We only won 2(!) IMPs for this as Korbelt and Wolpert got to a reasonable 4 \heartsuit contract with our cards.

"It's not whether you get knocked down; it's whether you get up." ~ Vince Lombardi (football coach)

The next hand was a very interesting strong and distributional hand that you might see once every four years.

BRD: 25 DLR: N VLU: E-W

<p>♠ A 6 ♥ J 6 3 ♦ A 8 7 6 5 ♣ 10 8 4</p>	<p>♠ K 9 8 7 4 2 ♥ - ♦ Q 10 4 3 ♣ 9 5 3</p>
<p>♠ - ♥ A Q 7 5 4 2 ♦ K ♣ A K Q J 7 2</p>	<p>♠ Q J 10 5 3 ♥ K 10 9 8 ♦ J 9 2 ♣ 6</p>

Lead: ♦A

West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Fisher</i>	<i>Korbel</i>	<i>Todd</i>
-	2♦ ¹	Pass	3♣ ²
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

1. Multi – weak two in either major
2. Hearts with no spade fit

Trick 2 was the ♠A, which captain Bob ruffed. At that point, 6♣ is makeable double dummy by ruffing out the diamonds and extracting exactly one round of trumps. Bob played to ruff hearts in the dummy. This line of play works if clubs are 2-2 (or if the 4th round of hearts cannot be ruffed by ♣10). Otherwise you do not get the ♥A as the twelfth trick. It was not to be.

We recouped 14 IMPs when Danny & Jeff bid the wrong slam and Bob & Doug were reasonably in game. It was a tricky situation where responder's hearts were jump raised after a 1♦ opening bid. The only makeable slam

was 6♦ as that was the 9 card fit, but responder was the one who held 5 diamonds. It's not easy to shift gears away from the known major suit fit.

On the last hand, Paul and I missed an easy game through a homework error. Paul held: ♠ 76, ♥ KQ52, ♦ 9874, ♣ A72. The bidding was (1♦ from Danny)-2♦ Michael's by Keith-(Dbl showing cards by Jeff). Paul bid 3♥, which Keith thought was preemptive. We have since discussed that 2NT is a cue bid for the lower suit (♥) and the opened minor (on this hand: ♦) a cue bid for the higher suit (♠). We ended the quarter down 56 IMPs, a fair indication of the play and our poor luck.

SEMI-FINAL 3RD QUARTER

It was our turn to sit out. Paul and I watched some of the action on BBO. That was actually quite nerve-racking so I decided to only watch a little and relax most of the time. But that was even worse, so I went back to watching on BBO.

As often happens, the momentum shifted in our direction. Neil & Brad and Bob & Doug won almost every swing in the third quarter by sound, steady play. The Miles young front four of Korbel-Wolpert and Huang-Sabourin bid to a few anti-percentage games, all going down. Meanwhile our old geezers (excluding Brad of course) bid accurately to win four such swings and only lose one.

The quarter was highlighted by two well played hands, one by Neil and the other by Bob. The hand played by Neil involved misdirection (see next page):

CNTC DIARY PART III Continued

BRD: 9 DLR: N Vul: E-W

♠ A 4 3	
♥ A 8 6	
♦ A J 10 7	
♣ A 8 7	
♠ K J 9 2	♠ Q 10 7 5
♥ Q J 5	♥ K 10 9 7 4
♦ 9 5 4 2	♦ Q
♣ K 4	♣ Q 5 2
♠ 8 6	
♥ 3 2	
♦ K 8 6 3	
♣ J 10 9 6 3	

Lead: ♠3

West	North	East	South
<i>Kimelman</i>	<i>Shan</i>	<i>Bart</i>	<i>Sabourin</i>
-	1♣ ¹	DbI ²	1NT ³
2♠	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

1. Strong club
2. Majors
3. Minors, 0-7

Shan Huang kept his options open with the best lead of a small spade. Neil realized that playing a heart was fruitless, as Shan would simply play two rounds of diamonds, leaving the defence in control. They would either get a heart ruff or a second diamond.

Instead he tried a double-cross and played a diamond! Shan went for the crossruff ploy and cleared trumps. Now Kimelman was in control, and could knock out the ♥A, and eventually build a club trick for his contract fulfilling trick. Todd-Fisher made 3♦ for +110 at the other table, so that was a well-earned 6 IMPs for the underdogs. Here is Bob at the wheels of 3NT doubled.

BRD: 15 DLR: S Vul: N-S

♠ J 7 2	
♥ A Q 10 8 5	
♦ A 9	
♣ J 6 2	
♠ Q 10 5	♠ A 9 3
♥ 2	♥ J 9 7 6 3
♦ Q 5 4 3	♦ J 10 8 7
♣ A Q 10 7 5	♣ 4
♠ K 8 6 4	
♥ K 4	
♦ K 6 2	
♣ K 9 8 3	

Lead: ♥2

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1NT ¹
Pass	2♦ ²	Pass	2♥
DbI	3NT	DbI	All Pass

1. 12-14 HCP
2. Jacoby Transfer

The play (underlined denotes who is on lead; bold who won the trick):

	W	N	E	S
Trick 1:	♥ <u>2</u>	5	7	K

Bob realized that suits were not splitting well, so he decided to develop some spade tricks.

Trick 2:	Q	2	9	<u>♠4</u>
Trick 3:	<u>♣7</u>	2	4	8
Trick 4:	5	J	A	<u>♠6</u>
Trick 5:	4	9	<u>♦J</u>	2

This duck was a key play. Bob hoped to create uncertainty with the defenders about the diamond layout.

Trick 6:	3	A	<u>♦7</u>	6
----------	---	----------	-----------	---

“Well, any good comeback needs some true believers.” John Boehner, American politician

At this point, Todd had no legitimate play – he had only 8 tricks (1 club, 2 diamonds, 3 hearts and 2 spades). So he played off his winners. The play at trick 5, indeed created some doubt with West and he discarded the ♣Q! Bob simply played a club now for his ninth, and game-going trick.

Team Todd won 14 IMPs on this last hand (At the other table Neil and Brad beat 3NT three, for +300) and we won the quarter by 32. We were now down by only 24 IMPs. We had a chance – it felt like the quarter-final comeback was about to be repeated.

BRD: 18 DLR: S VUL: E-W

♠ A K 6 3
♥ 10 8 7 4
♦ J 10 5 2
♣ J

♠ J 9 4
♥ A
♦ A K Q 9 8
♣ A K 10 4

West	North	East	South
-	Balcombe	-	Thurston
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	6♦	All Pass	5♣

SEMI-FINAL 4TH QUARTER

Paul and I were back in against Shan Huang and David Sabourin. Bob and Doug continued at the other table against Korbel-Wolpert.

On the very first hand, Shan and David bid to 7♥ after a strong club auction. Shan’s only play was a criss-cross squeeze to this 3 card ending:

Dummy	Declarer
♠ Q8	♠ A
♦ A	♦ J10

From declarer’s perspective, if an opponent was dealt ♠ King and ♦ KQ, that person would be squeezed. It was not to be. Down one and 14 IMPs for the good guys. Only down 10 now. The players did not know the running scores, but we all suspected that the match was now close. If that board had featured our opponents vulnerable, we would have gained 17 IMPs. Such is the Great Shuffler at play.

It was exciting for the players as well as the BBO audience. The next hand was a routine game for a push, but then a bidding challenge for the E-W pairs (Paul and I against Daniel and Darren). Paul and I held (Hands rotated for convenience):

I like jumps to assure partner about the trump suit. Paul’s 5♣ caused me to think. It looked like he was afraid to bid 4♥ as it might be considered a playable contract. I just could not conceive of a hand for Paul where he was trying for slam with no spade control and no heart control. So I bid slam. Similarly, I did not want to invite 7♦ by bidding 5♠. There was also some symmetry about a 9 HCP hand jumping twice after partner had jump shifted.

We won 10 IMPs for that effort, so the match was now tied. Notice that the vulnerability for each slam swing was fortunate for the leading team. If both slam swings were Vul, the good guys would be leading by 6 IMPs.

The next hand was 2NT making for a push. Then Shan and David pushed to 4♥ with 2 balanced hands and 24 HCP off 4 cashing tricks. Our teammates were in a heart part-score, so we gained 7 IMPs and led by that same amount.

CNTC DIARY PART III Continued

Then, Bob and Doug missed a Vul 5♦ in a competitive sequence, where each opponent took two bids with a combined 16 HCPs:

Fisher

♠ A J 8 4
♥ 6 2
♦ J 10 9 8 5
♣ 10 7

Todd

♠ 3
♥ A K 10 9 7
♦ A K 4 3
♣ A 9 2

West	North	East	South
-	<i>Fisher</i>	-	<i>Todd</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	1♥
2♣	2♦	2♠	3♦
All Pass			

11 tricks were easy, so we lost 10 IMPs; now down by 3 IMPs.

On the next hand, North held a rock-crusher:

♠ A K Q J 9 5 2 ♥ --- ♦ A 10 ♣ A Q 10 4. Both North players settled for a 4♠ overcall after the opponents bid and raised hearts. They made 11 tricks so that we were now behind by 4 IMPs.

One push later, Bob and Doug pushed to a game that required an ace with the opener, a 3-2 trump split and something to be done about a possible 4th round loser to the ♥10. Not so unreasonable, but the hand was foul and they were lucky not to be doubled. 4 IMPs away, now down by 8 IMPs.

The next hand involved delicate decisions by both of our pairs to defend four of a major, down at both tables.

We won those 4 IMPs right back.

This was followed by another slam, always useful for the trailing team. I held ♠ A K J 9 5 ♥ A K Q 10 3 ♦ 7 ♣ 8 4. Paul opened 1♥, usually unbalanced in our style. So I bid Jacoby 2NT, found out about his spade shortness and 'Blackwooded' into 7♥. Paul claimed after the opening lead. Korbelt-Wolpert had an accident and only bid a small slam. We won 13 IMPs to lead by 9 overall. Was the comeback going to happen 2 days in a row? There were 4 boards left.

The next hand was a play problem for me (hands rotated for convenience):

BRD: 27 DLR: E VUL: Neither

♠ 10 5 3
♥ K Q 10 3
♦ 9 4 3
♣ A 8 7

♠ A K 8 7
♥ A 8 5
♦ A 6 2
♣ K 9 4

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

1. Forcing, clubs or balanced
2. 4 or more hearts, 8+ HCP
3. 17-18 HCP, forcing, balanced but denies 5 diamonds

Our team of old geezers (Brad Bart is NOT an old geezer, but he plays with us) will play again next year in Toronto. Beware of our comebacks!

Play the hand with me (underlined denotes who is on lead; bold who won the trick):

	W	N	E	S
Trick 1:	<u>♦J*</u>	3	5**	6

*Rusinow – shows the Queen **low encouraging
I counted 8 tricks with two possibilities for a ninth trick – long ♠ or long ♥. I played the ♦6 trying to make the ♦5 look like a discouraging card.

Trick 2:	<u>♦Q</u>	4	8*	2
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* they play upside down remainder count

Trick 3:	<u>♦K</u>	9	7*	A
----------	-----------	---	----	----------

Huh – ♦ King?? That must be a guy trying to get me to duck to unblock the defensive winners. Also East gave remainder count, so he has the 13th diamond. Need to find out about the count now.

Trick 4:	4*	K	2*	<u>♥5</u>
----------	----	----------	----	-----------

* they play upside down count. They might not be able to tell if I am missing the ♥A or some club honours, so this is more likely to be true upside down count than false count. Time to try for a spade winner and to get the count in that suit.

Trick 5:	J	<u>♠3</u>	2*	7
----------	----------	-----------	----	---

* they play upside down count. Shan thought for 5 minutes before exiting a spade. Why not exit a passive heart? Is he afraid that I have ♥A9x or A8x?

Trick 6:	<u>♠6</u>	5	9	A
Trick 7:	<u>♣5</u>	10	8	<u>♠K</u>

At this point, I knew that I was going to finesse the ♥10. I cashed some winners and then won the ♥10 finesse ... for a push. The whole hand:

♠	10 5 3	♠	Q 9 8 2
♥	K Q 10 3	♥	6 2
♦	9 4 3	♦	10 8 7 5
♣	A 8 7	♣	10 6 3
♠	J 6	♠	A K 7 4
♥	J 9 7 4	♥	A 8 5
♦	K Q J	♦	A 6 2
♣	Q J 5 2	♣	K 9 4

Three boards to go. On board 28, both we and our teammates were in 2♣. Neither contract made – lose 5 IMPs, up 4 with two boards to go. The fateful second last hand (Hand rotated for convenience):

BRD: 29 DLR: W VUL: Both

♠	Q 9 7 6 4
♥	8 7 6
♦	Q 6 5
♣	5 2
♠	A 8 5
♥	K J
♦	A J 10 8
♣	A K 6 4

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dbl
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

As the reader can see, game is quite reasonable and we were the only pair in the semi-finals not in 4♠. That was the match as the last board was a push. We lost 10 IMPs and lost the match by 6 IMPs.

THE GREAT SHUFFLER SPEAKS

Two of the three major swings that we gained this quarter were non-vulnerable; both of the swings we lost were vulnerable. The grand slam on a finesse made by Korbelt-Wolpert was vulnerable. If even some of that was reversed, we are either tied or playing the next day. I cannot recall such poor luck with vulnerability.



Developing
Canadian Bridge
Players

THE JOY OF YOUTH

By SYLVIA CALEY

Earlier this year I started mentoring a group of players from Canadian Youth. Anu Goodman has been an excellent assistant in this venture, lining up the times and players for these sessions. For the most part the juniors play and I watch, later sending them my comments on the hands played. Some of the young players are exhibiting a great deal of talent.

When I saw this opening bid on Hand 1, I thought, "South I like your style!"

by Sylvia Caley
THE INTERMEDIATE
Spot

Hand 1: Aggressive Distributional Opener

Scoring: IMPs DLR: E VUL: E-W

♠ A Q J 9 7	♠ 10 8 5 4 3 2	♠ K 6
♥ 7 4	♥ K Q 6	♥ J 10 2
♦ K 4 3 2	♦ A 8	♦ 9 5
♣ 7 6	♣ K 2	♣ A 10 9 8 4 3
	♠ -	
	♥ A 9 8 5 3	
	♦ Q J 10 7 6	
	♣ Q J 5	

Lead: ♣7

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

Opening this type of hand is aggressive but absolutely correct. North, why did you respond 1NT? You have a great hand for hearts! I would have bid 2♠, a cue bid in support of partner's suit.

South played the hand nicely, losing only one club trick, as West covered the ♦Q when it was lead from the closed hand. West, if you had just waited it out, your ♦K would have taken the third round of diamonds.

Lessons from this hand

1. Let partner know about your trump fit at the earliest opportunity.
2. Don't cover an honour with an honour if you have nothing to gain. This is particularly true when the higher honour is in a hand that has fewer cards in that suit than you have.
3. A related guideline: If dummy has QJ(x...) and you have the King, cover the second honour not the first. Here are a couple examples highlighting why this can be beneficial:

Example 1:

<i>Dummy</i>	
Q J x x	<i>East</i>
	K 10 x x

Declarer

A

Example 2:

<i>Dummy</i>	
Q J x x x	<i>East</i>
	K 10 x

Declarer

A x

In Example 1 declarer is trying to tempt you to cover for an extra discard. In example 2 if you duck he has to unblock the suit. In both of these cases, if declarer has only one dummy entry you gain at least one trick.

Hand 2: Bid to Win - Play to Make

On this hand I was very impressed by the aggressive game bidding of the young stars.



INTERMEDIATE SPOT: The Joy of Youth continued

Here is the hand (rotated for convenience):

Scoring: IMPs DLR: W VUL: E-W

♠ 5 4 2 ♥ Q J 9 5 4 ♦ Q 4 ♣ 10 9 8	♠ A J 9 7 ♥ K 10 6 2 ♦ 5 ♣ J 6 5 2	♠ 8 3 ♥ A 8 7 3 ♦ A J 6 3 2 ♣ A 3	♠ K Q 10 6 ♥ - ♦ K 10 9 8 7 ♣ K Q 7 4
---	---	--	--

Lead: ♥Q

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

This is an excellent 4♠ game but let's look at what happened on the play of the hand:

	W	N	E	S
Trick 1:	♥Q	K	A	♠6
Trick 2:	4	7	3	♠K
Trick 3:	5	J	8	♠10
Trick 4:	4	♦5	A	7
Trick 5:	4	2	♥3	♠Q
Trick 6:	Q	♥6	2	♦K
Trick 7:	♥5	♥10	J	♦8

With 6 cards remaining this was the position:

♠ 2 ♥ J 9 ♦ - ♣ 10 9 8	♠ A 9 ♥ - ♦ - ♣ J 6 5 2	♠ - ♥ 8 7 ♦ 6 3 ♣ A 3	♠ - ♥ - ♦ 10 9 ♣ K Q 7 4
---------------------------------	----------------------------------	--------------------------------	-----------------------------------

At this point the East player cashed the ♣A so 4♠ made. Declarer entered the dummy with the ♣J and pulled trump. What happens if East doesn't cash his ace? A heart return must be ruffed in dummy and now South cannot pull the outstanding trump before setting up his/her club tricks.

How can you know if the opponents are in a 4-4 Spade fit or a 5-4 Spade Fit?

The answer is Count in Trump. A high-low in trump by the West player would have shown a three card trump holding and then East would have known that the heart continuation was called for.

When I looked at this hand it screamed Cross-Ruff at me! When you play a hand on a cross ruff you should first set up and cash your outside tricks. A recommended line of play here might have been:

	W	N	E	S
Trick 1:	♥Q	2	8	♠6
Trick 2:	8	2	A*	♣K

* A top notch defender might duck this trick but we hope that they are not that astute in our game.

Trick 3:	5	J	♠3	10
Trick 4:	4	♦5	A	7

At this point East will most likely continue with trump.

	W	N	E	S
Trick 5:	2	A	♠8	Q
Trick 6:	4	♥6	3	♠K
Trick 7:	Q	♠7	2	♦8

Tricks 5-7 are won by the A♠, heart ruff, and diamond ruff. Declarer now pulls the last trump and then cashes the three clubs and K♦. This line would score 10 tricks: 4 trump tricks in the dummy, 2 heart ruffs in the closed hand, 3 club tricks and 1 diamond.

The line of play that South actually took was a mix of crossruff and set up the outside suit (clubs). In the end game his line would not have worked if the opponent

INTERMEDIATE SPOT: The Joy of Youth continued

had not set up his side suit for him.

Lessons from this hand

1. At the beginning of the hand you should identify a line of play and stick to it!
2. Know how to give count in trump.
3. Before embarking on a cross-ruff or pulling trumps, it is often better to first knock out a side ace, as the recommended line of play did at trick 2.

Hand 3: The Coach Jumps In

With only one hand left to play in our most recent session one of the young players had to leave. I didn't want to cut the session short so I took the South seat for the last deal.

Scoring: IMPs DLR: N VUL: E-W

♠ A 7 6 4	♠ K J 3
♥ A 10 8 6	♥ 9 7 4
♦ Q	♦ A J 10 4
♣ A K 7 3	♣ 5 4 2
♠ Q 10 8 5 2	♠ 9
♥ Q J 5	♥ K 3 2
♦ 5 3	♦ K 9 8 7 6 2
♣ Q 9 6	♣ J 10 8

Lead: ♠5

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

North did very nicely here, passing my 3♦ bid. I lost three trump tricks and threw away a heart loser on the long club, making +130.

Lessons from this hand

1. Listen to the bidding.
2. Fewer comments are made when the instructor plays the hand. 😊

In Conclusion

The future belongs to the young. I've been impressed with some excellent declarer play.

A number of them are whiz kids at figuring out 3NT. I'd also like to recognize Albena-Maria Vassileva and Olivia Laufer for their recent 2nd place finish (losing in the finals by only 6 IMPs) in the Group B Knockouts at the Ottawa Regional. That was worth 8.22 Gold Points. Wahoo!





by Neil Kimelman

THE INTERMEDIATE
Spot

Neil's three bidding judgement books (3rd to be out in 2016) target advanced and expert issues. In this series, Neil shifts his to intermediate level bidding issues, hoping to facilitate learning for more players.

THE INTERMEDIATE SERIES

LESSON 1

THE POWER OF DISTRIBUTION

By Neil Kimelman

Distribution is a powerful weapon. It can nullify the opponent's high cards, as easy as waving your hand in the air. And of course it is a double edged sword. If the opponents seemed to have bid too much based on their expected high card, they might have extra distribution.

There is a famous hand where, despite only having 6 HCPS between them, a small slam is unbeatable!

LEVELS OF FIT

An eight card fit, as we have learned, is the minimum desirable to suggest a contract in that suit. With that degree of fit you need the full amount of high cards between the partnership for the level to which you bid. As an example, 25 HCPs serves as the minimum to have a reasonable play for a major suit game.

A nine card fit is better – maybe only 23 HCPs is needed on an average. Ten is obviously better than nine. An eleven card fit is on cloud nine!

What this means is you can often make higher level contracts than your point count would indicate. There are two basic techniques for scoring more than your aces and kings:

1. Ruff losers with the short trump hand (usually dummy).
2. Set up a long suit

Example

<p>♠ 9 7 4 ♥ A Q 7 4 ♦ A 7 4 3 2 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ J 10 6 ♥ 10 9 8 ♦ K J 9 8 ♣ J 9 8</p>	<p>♠ Q 8 ♥ K J 6 5 ♦ Q 10 6 ♣ K Q 10 7</p>
<p>♠ A K 5 3 2 ♥ 3 2 ♦ 5 ♣ A 5 4 3 2</p>	

On a spade lead you should make 9 tricks with normal breaks:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 4 | Aces |
| 1 | King of spades |
| 2 | Club ruffs in dummy* |
| 2 | Diamond ruffs in your hand. |

Notice that if you give up a trick early in the play, such as taking a heart finesse that loses, the opponents will continue spades. This reduces your total by 1, leaving 8. So unless you are a gambler, a more prudent approach would be to take your 'sure' nine tricks.

*You do not have transportation or trump length to set up a long card in a minor without running out of trump or be uppercut.

However change the degree of fit:

<p>♠ 10 9 8 7 6 4 ♥ A Q ♦ A 4 3 2 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ J ♥ 10 9 8 7 ♦ K J 9 8 7 ♣ J 9 8</p>	<p>♠ Q ♥ K J 6 5 4 ♦ Q 10 6 ♣ K Q 10 7</p> <p>♠ A K 5 3 2 ♥ 3 2 ♦ 5 ♣ A 5 4 3 2</p>
---	---

You haven't added one extra high card point, just three small spades in dummy, and now you can make a Grand Slam!! If you don't believe me here is the trick by trick play (Underline indicates who is on lead):

	W	N	E	S
Trick 1:	♥ <u>10</u>	♥A	♥6	♥2
Trick 2:	♣8	♣ <u>6</u>	♣7	♣A
Trick 3:	♣9	♠4	♣10	♣ <u>2</u>
Trick 4:	♠J	♠6	♠Q	♠ <u>A</u>
Trick 5:	♣J	♠7	♣Q	♣ <u>3</u>
Trick 6:	♦7	♦ <u>A</u>	♦6	♦5
Trick 7:	♦8	♦ <u>2</u>	♦10	♠2
Trick 8:	♥7	♠8	♣K	♣ <u>4</u>
Trick 9:	♦9	♦ <u>3</u>	♦Q	♠3
Trick 10:	♦10	♥Q	♥4	♣ <u>5</u>
Trick 11:	♥8	♠9	♥5	♥ <u>3</u>
Trick 12:	♦K	♦4	♥J	♠5
Trick 13:	♥9	♠ <u>10</u>	♥K	♠K

MORAL OF THE STORY

- Bid more with a better fit.
- If the opponents seem to be bidding higher than their high card total would indicate, then a lively possibility is because of a big fit(s). This is even more likely when you and are partner also have well-fitting hands.
- Any bid that shows exact or extra length is one worth having. Some that show specific or extra length are:

Weak twos. That is why in my books I discourage bidding a weak two with other than exactly six card in their suit. Partner will misevaluate the trick taking

potential otherwise. Same with three level preempts – have a seven card suit only.

Bergen Raises over a major. This shows 4+ card support.

Preemptive raises. If partner overcalls in a major a double raise usually shows 5+ card support with a weak hand (less than 7 HCPs or so).

LESSON TWO: How to bid when partner has shown two suits. *Coming next issue.*

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Getting Started **WITH BRIDGE**

By Michael Abbey

Sharing our stories with one another often assists others get started on new experiences. I am continually hungry for new ways to entertain myself and stimulate my thought processes, keeping my creativity flowing. I have always been a fan of card games, and one of my fondest memories of my childhood is playing Casino, Cribbage, and Durak with my Mother. I started when I was still a single-digit age, taking to cards like a baby to water, rather than diving into the board games of my generation like Risk, Clue, Sorry, and more. Bridge became a part of my life in early 2014, and I have not looked back since.

HOW I STARTED

Like most new things I do, I go all the way when I enjoy something and enjoyment for me has been, is and will always be my primary motivator for doing anything new. I got started with the game by self-teaching myself the basics with the iPad version of Audrey Grant's Bridge Basics 1. The topics,

by Michael Abbey

THE **NEW PLAYER**
Spot

NEW PLAYER SPOT: Getting Started With Bridge ~ continued

though foreign at first, fell nicely into my psyche and fun was part of my thirst for knowledge from day one studying this fabulous game. It just made sense ... not the game that is (at the start) but just doing it based on the enjoyment and initial feelings of accomplishment when making a contract.

In November 2014 I made the effort to go to a friendly Thursday evening game at an Ottawa club called The Bridge Connection. I was brand new at duplicate bridge and, even though I was a beginner, I assured myself the journey would be enjoyable and worth it. I had been taught the fundamentals of the game, and as well had finished courses based on Audrey's Bridge Basics 2 and The Play of the Hand in the 21st Century. I was realistic about what I had learned and knew on a scale of 1-10, I had not even reached a .5 yet.

As my duplicate career progressed, I played with some very experienced people and most of them were very pleasant, understanding, and helpful. All the clubs/tournaments I have played at since that snowy November day follow the ACBL Zero Tolerance policy so I knew I could expect to be well treated. I have met dozens of people at the bridge table and only two were not as tolerant of my newbie bridge skills as the Director and I would have hoped. There was one person in particular I played with a few times who was quite annoyed with me for not giving him signals and likewise for my not following his. Another person made contorting faces of disappointment on many of my cards played. I would discuss this with the Directors after the game and they encouraged me to call for assistance if I felt uncomfortable.

The owner of one of the clubs I play at mentioned to me at a game in February that he would like to speak with me. We chatted a few days later and he was curious about two things:

Why do I play bridge?

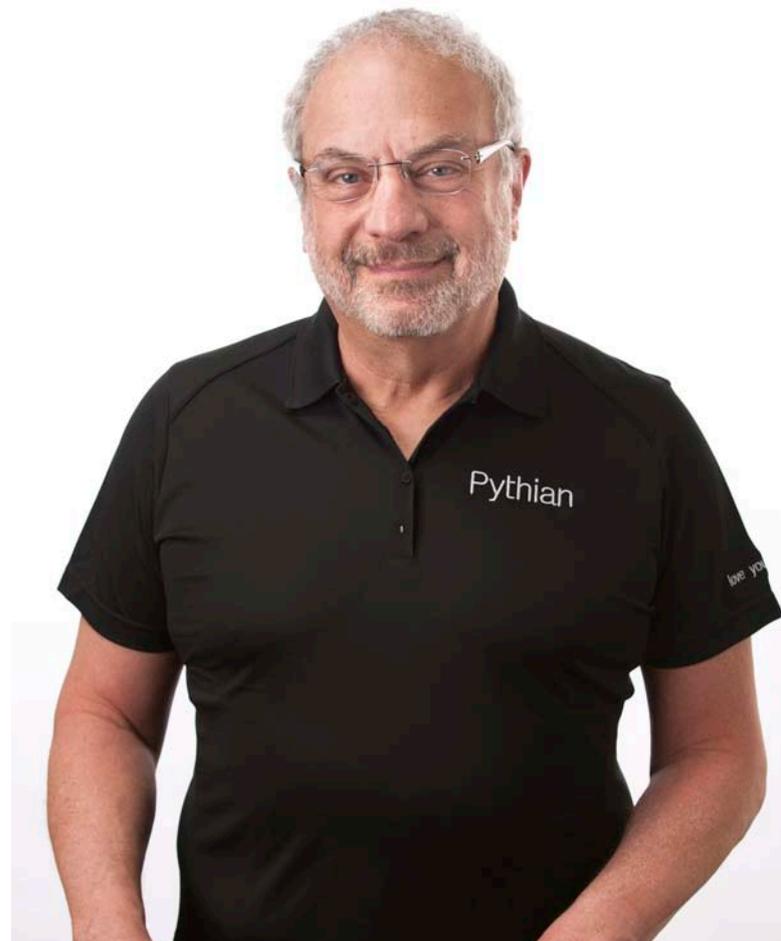
How much progress do I see myself having made?

We both liked my answers to both ... I play because I enjoy the experience and I see myself close to the bottom of the ladder of knowledge. I have never raised my voice at a table and do no complaining to my partners about anything they bid or how they played a hand. It's so easy to be nice at the bridge table and it's just not my style to behave any other way. This is my modus operandi for life in general, not just at bridge.

MY ADVICE TO OTHER NEW PLAYERS

As your game matures, you will find yourself learning new skills every time you play. I know very little but am making progress however slow. My advice to readers who are either beginners themselves or know people thinking of taking up the game is as follows:

- ▶ Take it slow at the beginning and include at least one person in your foursome who has experience with the game.



NEW PLAYER SPOT: Getting Started With Bridge ~ continued

- ▶ Play as much as you can with people who are more experienced than you. When playing with this type of player, it can enhance your learning experience especially if they are willing to discuss the hand(s) after the game.
- ▶ When time to learn bidding conventions, take it slowly. Some of the conventions you may learn at the beginning are fundamental to the game. As early as the Bridge Basics 3 book by Audrey Grant, you will learn Stayman, Jacoby transfers, Blackwood, and Gerber. One of the best ways to help yourself remember a convention is to get it wrong a few times. You will learn from your experiences good and bad.
- ▶ Be realistic as you learn and proceed with caution into new areas.
- ▶ As you learn more, be happy and proud of what you know and do not worry about what you have heard about but do not yet use at the table.
- ▶ Be open to suggestions from partners who deliver the dialogue in a friendly and constructive tone of voice and appear to be interested in your learning more than their winning.

GIVING BACK TO OTHER NEW PLAYERS

My 9-5 work is in high tech. I have spent most of my IT career working with a popular database software called Oracle. Bridge, in the card game arena, is just like Oracle – very complex. With that said, as a seasoned practitioner with Oracle, I can always learn something from someone who is just getting started. This exact sentiment has manifested itself in my corner of the bridge world and I just put up a web site for beginners at www.beginnerbridge.net. I have recently put two

books on Amazon and more details are on my site. I have received some attention and feedback as well on an article published in the ACBL October 2015 Bridge Bulletin called Bridge as a New Way of Life. By no means do I portray myself as an expert on this game but, just like each and every one of you, I do have something to share. I look forward to meeting some of you at the table and hope between the two of us we make 6NT or even 7 spades and one or both of them are top boards. My mantra about bridge has lots of truth in it and some irony ... one of the things I find so fascinating and intriguing about the game is you do something exactly the same way every time you run across it ... except when you don't.

About the author: Michael S. Abbey has been a software professional most of his adult life. He started writing about bridge in the summer of 2015 and attends tournaments, STACs, and regular games as much as time permits.

Michael can be contacted via his website or at beginnerbridge@gmail.com. He lives in Ottawa and calls himself MichaelAbbeyCAN on Twitter.



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Meet ...

KATHIE MACNAB

DIRECTOR, CBF BOARD • CLUB OWNER • BRIDGE TEACHER • PLAYER

Editor's note: *We get to meet the last member of the current CBF Board of Directors. Kathie Macnab. Kathy is a very important part of the Board. By offering the unique perspective of a club owner, bridge teacher and local player, she gives the Board diversity in perspectives during our discussions and decision-making.*

I am the owner of the MCG Bridge Studio in Halifax and an ABTA Master Teacher. I am also an ACBL accredited director, Grand Slam Adventure Bridge Cruise Host, Director and Instructor. I also serve as the Eastern Canada Director for the ABTA and on the Board of Directors for the CBF, Zone 1. I spent many years on the Unit 194 board as Education Director, Tournament Chairman and President.

What I am not – is a great bridge player, but like many others, I have great enthusiasm for the game and I strive to learn all the time. I recently achieved my Diamond Life Master status, without attending many Regionals and NABCs. I have participated in the CWTC finals although have never won. I have come 3rd on three occasions. Most of all I really enjoyed the camaraderie of the Canadian players. I immensely enjoy playing with a variety of players at The Bridge Studio.



Bridge is what I do. The MCG Bridge Studio has become the largest club (by table count) in the Atlantic Provinces. It is a full time club with games and lessons happening every day and evening during the week. I am pleased to have a wonderful staff of bridge lovers who direct games and teach lessons. I never fulfilled my childhood desire to become a teacher; but in 1990 I started teaching

bridge – and I loved it! And best of all I still love it! I teach at my Bridge Studio, in schools, and my passion – on cruises. I became a Master Teacher in 2008. Working with Audrey Grant's Better Bridge and Bridge at Sea has presented me with ample opportunity to improve my skills.

How do you like serving on the CBF Board of Directors?

My interests in bridge in Canada lie with the club level players. I will never be playing in the World Championships, but I will always work hard to promote Canadian bridge, and hope we can cultivate good international players. But I am more concerned that the CBF takes care of the 96% of the players that support Canadian bridge and have them participate in events such as club qualifying games, Rookie/Master Games and other events that the CBF promotes for the vast majority of the players.

What do you think the biggest differences are

between then and now? When I started to play bridge, the newbies like me were not considered bridge players, and often were shunned by the 'better players'. There were just open games and everyone played with everyone. Finding my results at the end of the game I simply started at the bottom of the list and worked up to find my name. I didn't care; I just wanted to get better, to be able to compete with my peers. The main difference with today's new players is that they do not rely on their own knowledge and judgement, but tend to rely on 'conventions' that they really do not understand nor play well. Also, they only play in games limited to other rookies. My advice to anyone who wants to improve their game – get in there and **play, play, play** – the harder the game the better for you. Remember – sometimes you win and sometimes you learn.

What is your most memorable bridge moment?

I have so many memorable bridge moments – but all those stories are wrapped up in my clinics, so drop into a class and listen to one of my many stories. But here is an amusing story I will share:

I attended one of my first tournaments intending to play in the novice section, but was asked to play in the open as they had a half table. A little nervous (and excited!) I was playing against some 'big' players. My partner opened 1♠, and my RHO overcalled 2♥, I said in my confident voice "Skip bid – 3♦!" My LHO of course hollered "DIRECTOR!" Seeing the embarrassed look from my partner I suddenly realized that I didn't really make a skip bid and I shrunk in my seat. The director marched over to our table, looked at the situation, looked at my hand, and said in the nicest voice ever "Your bid stands and Sir, you do not have to wait ten seconds." Thanks Karl.

What about life away from the bridge table.

My husband, Bill (we got married two years ago) and I took on a project of building four townhouses. It was quite a chore, and a large learning process. It was a two year project and we are now living in our brand new home and working on selling the other three. And of

course I find as much time as I can to travel – cruises included.

What keeps you so involved in your Bridge Studio?

My Bridge Studio has an incredible sense of community. We work with the Nova Scotia Alzheimer Society, and each year we have a team of about 20 participate in the Memory Walk. Over the years we have raised over \$30,000.00. The Studio fundraises and the walkers range from beginner students to expert players. My latest project is The Longest Day and moving it from an American Alzheimer's event to be a strictly Canadian Event. Watch for the launch of the NEW "Trump Alzheimer's" event to take place on June 20th – a Coast to Coast Canadian Fundraising initiative sponsored by the CBF and the Canadian Alzheimer Society.

What is your favourite bridge book?

For teaching bridge I use the Audrey Grant Better Bridge Series. For new players, they should all read "The Card Turner" by Louis Satcher. For my bridge - Watson's Play of the Hand. For enjoyment – mystery series.

What advice would you give to a new player who wants to improve?

Understand the basics - not just read about them but strive to understand. Learning conventions is useless unless you really know the problem and understand the basics to solve them. Learn card play and defense. Have agreements - not conventions. If you are a new player and playing in all limited masterpoint games, do yourself a favour and play in a higher rated game at least twice a month, get to know the better players, even ask them for a game, they will likely applaud your tenacity. And always remember to have some fun.

As for Red or White? Usually red, on a hot summer day – a cold glass of white, but most of all I like the company.

You want to know the difference between a master and a beginner? The master has failed more times than the beginner has ever tried. Spirit Science

Oops!

WHAT WENT WRONG?

by Paul Thurston



“EIGHT EVER, NINE NEVER”

I remember fondly a National Post column in which I featured this time-honoured cliché about when, or if, to finesse for a missing Queen. The said column sparking this note from a reader:

“Glad to read about the real meaning of this phrase as I always thought it referred to how many tricks my partner usually takes in his three notrump contracts!”

Ah, no!

Inherited from whist, the saying actually means that with a combined total of eight cards you should always (“ever”) finesse for the missing Queen while with nine cards, you should play for the drop (“never” finesse).

Thus with A 10 x x opposite K J x x, for maximum possible tricks you should finesse one opponent or the other (your choice, although I do like John Gowdy’s suggestion to “finesse through the opponent you like the least, to deny him the pleasure of winning a trick with his hypothetical Queen.”) Similarly, with A 10 x x opposite K J x x x, you should plan to cash the ace and King to (hopefully) drop the Queen.

At first blush, the mathematics of the situation would seem to favour taking the finesse with nine combined cards as there will be a 3-1 split 49.74% of the time while a 2-2 break occurs somewhat less frequently, at 40.70%. So back to the drawing board to see why the pure statistics and the classic saying seem contradictory.

With A 10 x x opposite K J x x x, when you cash the ace and next lead towards the King (or do it the other way round by cashing the King and leading towards the

ace), and the defender next to play follows suit, fully half of all possible 3-1 splits have been eliminated from consideration as the defender last to play can no longer have been dealt three cards in the suit. This makes the fluctuating odds favouring playing for the drop of the Queen approximately 8-5 in favour.

But enough of science and sayings, both of which assume there are no other sources of information and/or considerations about how to handle such a suit in the context of a real bridge deal.

For example, the player who has followed to the second round of the suit may have opened the bidding in first seat and your diligent counting has revealed he really needs the two high-card points provided by the missing Queen to justify his bid: take the finesse!

Distributional Considerations

Counting distribution can also tilt the odds: A player who has pre-empted will have less room in his hand for a missing Queen so you might give more than the usual reflection to finessing his partner for Q x x. Of course, as we’re about to see there can also be a wide variety of strategic considerations that can affect whether to finesse or play for the drop!

The following deal (see next page) comes from the 1974 Bermuda Bowl final (positions rotated for your reading convenience) and both World Class experts didn’t make their very makeable contracts so let’s see WHAT WENT WRONG?

WHAT WENT WRONG? ... Continued



DLR: N VUL: Both

<p>♠ J 6 4 2 ♥ A Q J 9 ♦ K 10 3 ♣ K 10</p> <p>♠ 10 9 8 7 5 ♥ 6 2 ♦ Q 8 5 ♣ 8 6 2</p> <p>♠ A ♥ K 8 5 ♦ A J 7 6 4 2 ♣ J 9 4</p>	<p>♠ K Q 3 ♥ 10 7 4 3 ♦ 9 ♣ A Q 7 5 3</p>
---	---

West	North	East	South
-	1♦	Dbl	Rdbl
1♠	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Opening lead: ♠10.

Declarer won his ♠A to play a diamond to the King and a second round back to the Ace, before conceding a trick to West's Queen. With his partner having signalled enthusiasm for clubs on the second round of diamonds, West shifted to that suit and the defenders had five tricks before declarer could get nine.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

There were two sound indicators that South should have favoured eschewing "EIGHT EVER, NINE NEVER" by finessing West for the ♦Q instead of playing for the drop.

INFORMATIONAL

East's takeout double normally shows shortness in the suit doubled in order to have support for the unbid suits so the 3-1 break after the bidding might be considered somewhat more likely than otherwise.

STRATEGIC

The real danger to the success of three notrump should have been seen to be the club suit: if West were to gain the lead, a club through dummy's King might produce just precisely the unfavourable result that eventually was obtained. A secondary consideration might be that if the spade suit was actually 4-4, East gaining the lead on the second round of diamonds would still leave dummy's ♠J 6 4 safe from attack.

All to indicate that the "NINE NEVER" attempt to drop the ♦Q was misguided and declarer should have taken a second-round finesse.

A different scenario developed at the second table of this World Championship match:

West	North	East	South
-	1♦	Dbl	RDbl
1♠	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Up to North's third turn, the auction developed identically to that of the other table until this North decided to plant the contract in 5♦, quite a reasonable decision.

Declarer astutely won the opening ♠K lead with North's ace and assessed his chances. Believing spades were likely 5-3 (West might not have stated his preference for that suit with only four-card length), South decided he'd try to ruff out the ♠Q so he'd have the ♠J and his fourth heart to discard two of dummy's clubs.

Accordingly, he played a diamond to the King and ruffed a spade. Heart to the ace and ruffed another spade. Ace of diamonds – whoops no Queen. And an attempt to cash more hearts was also unsuccessful as West ruffed the third round to play a club through the closed hand for down one. WHAT WENT WRONG?

Once again, a World-Class expert had put his faith in "EIGHT EVER, NINE NEVER" and been sorely disappointed.

WHAT WENT WRONG? ... Continued



INFORMATIONAL

As at the other table, West's takeout double would usually deliver diamond shortness to initially make a second-round finesse for the Queen a small favourite to work.

STRATEGIC

Deciding to play West for the $\heartsuit Q$ by taking a second round finesse would in no way jeopardize South's original plan of trying to set up a second spade trick from working. Further taking that finesse would do what could be done to keep West from gaining the lead for a club lead through the King.

In brief, not taking the finesse might put the contract at risk while taking it and even having it lose would do no harm (assuming the original idea that East started with the $\spadesuit K Q x$ would hold true).

Now if you are a staunch believer in "EIGHT EVER, NINE NEVER" don't discard your belief, just keep in mind that, as the late Paul Harvey used to say:

"There may be more to the rest of the story!"



Paul Thurston (Photo: Michael Yuen)

THE CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

Your favourite bridge partner

HOW DO I JOIN?

Any person is eligible to join the CBF upon payment of membership dues. CBF Membership is only \$18/year and includes a subscription to Bridge Canada magazine. Membership is free for Canadian junior players up to 25 years of age. You can join online at www.cbf.ca

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Meet ...

KENNY SCHOLES

Hi, I'm Kenny Scholes. I was born in 1948 in Vancouver, BC, but am currently residing just south of the border in Bellevue, Washington.

My Early Bridge Years

I started playing bridge in College in 1969, and I have been hooked ever since. In the early 1970's there were a lot of good young players coming out of the universities in the Pacific Northwest. I was fortunate enough to get to play with some future stars like Allan Graves and Bruce Ferguson. I also met Peter Herold then and we have remained great friends ever since. Peter and I started a serious partnership in the 90's and have since played in several Canadian and US nationals, winning 4 silver medals and several more bronze.

Away from the bridge table

I have a degree in Computer Science and worked most of my career as a systems analyst for the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, retiring in 2008. Since then, my wife Sandy & I have travelled to many tournaments on both sides of the border, but we find that our friends living to the north are the nicest and most fun to be with. We also enjoy driving through wine country in Oregon and California to visit our two daughters and 5 five grandchildren who live in Los Angeles.

2015 Bridge year

This past year has been very emotional for me. It started in Montreal at the CSTCs, where our team lost a chance to represent Canada in Chennai. Despite being up 30 IMPs with three boards to go, we lost the finals by 1 IMP when the opponents bid a grand slam on the final board. *

Two months later, while preparing for the Grand National Teams in Chicago, my partner Dick Yarrington unexpectedly passed away. We had to re-shuffle our team, me playing with Dan Jacob, and Rock Shi-Yan playing with Bryan Maksymetz. We made Dick our NPC. Once again we made it to the National Finals of The Championship Flight before losing by 9 IMPs to the strong Specter team from Florida. When I got home it was heartwarming to find that hundreds of people in

the Northwest had followed our exploits on BBO, and offered both condolences and congratulations.

A humorous anecdote

I was playing with Dick Yarrington in a NABC Open Pairs many years ago.

We had a good 1st session except for two boards. In the first, Dick doubled Georgio Belladonna in 4♠ and he made five. A few boards later he doubled Edgar Kaplan in 5♠ and it also made five. I got to the table a little early for the 2nd session and removed all of the double cards from his bidding box. On the 1st hand he had a perfect takeout double of 1♥, and frantically went through the bidding box looking for a red card. After about 15 seconds I pulled them out of my pocket and said "looking for these?"

For players wanting to improve

My message to upcoming payers is to know your system and count, count, count. Also, don't be afraid to play up, and don't be afraid to ask questions of the better players. Most are happy to answer your questions and it's a good way to learn.

**Editor's Note: For complete coverage of this match please read John Carruther's excellent article 'Never Say Never', in the October issue of Bridge Canada.*

Solutions

TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY

Puzzle on page 06

Vul: Both

Contract: 6♥ after East opened a weak 2♠

Lead: ♠7

♠ K 3
♥ 10 8 7 5
♦ K 5 4
♣ K 10 8 2

♠ A Q 4
♥ A K 6 4 2
♦ A 3
♣ A 5 4

Plan the play.

Things do not look good. It looks like you need East to have ♣Q J, or a stiff honour. However there is a deceptive play that many Wests will fall for. First play a low spade from dummy (I will tell you why in a minute). Win the spade lead with the ace. Then cash off two high trumps to get the news there. Next cash off the two high diamonds and ruff the ♦4 in your hand. Now cash the ♠K and get out with a heart. West is on lead at trick nine. Based on the play to date he may well play partner for seven spades, to justify his vulnerable preempt.

If this were true, he knows that declarer has 2-5-2-4 shape. The only sensible division of the two outstanding club high cards that matters is if declarer has the ♣A and partner the ♣Q. Therefore a ruff and a sluff will not give up anything, whereas a club could give up the whole suit.

This is the ending that you are trying to sell:

♠ -	♠ -	♠ J 10 8
♥ 10	♥ -	♥ -
♦ -	♦ -	♦ -
♣ K 10 8 2	♣ 9 7 6	♣ Q x
♠ -	♠ -	♠ -
♥ -	♥ 6	♥ -
♦ 10 8	♦ -	♦ -
♣ 9 7 6	♣ A J x x	♣ -

Playing the ♠K at trick one is wrong, as most East's will signal with the ♠J, denying the queen. There goes your deception try right out the window. The full deal:

♠ K 3	♠ J 10 9 8 6 5
♥ 10 8 7 5	♥ 3
♦ K 5 4	♦ Q J 9
♣ K 10 8 2	♣ Q J 3
♠ 7 2	♠ A Q 4
♥ Q J 9	♥ A K 6 4 2
♦ 10 8 7 6 2	♦ A 3
♣ 9 7 6	♣ A 5 4

Solutions

4 STEPS TO STARDOM

Puzzle on page 06

♠ 10 8 2	♠ A Q 9 4	♠ K 7 6 3
♥ A 5	♥ K 8 7 6	♥ 4 2
♦ A 7 6	♦ K 5	♦ Q 10 9 8 3 2
♣ Q 8 7 6 2	♣ 5 4 3	♣ 10
	♠ J 5	
	♥ Q J 10 9 3	
	♦ J 4	
	♣ A K J 9	

The bidding:

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

The actual declarer made six! The opponents defended quite reasonably. What was the order of play that the declarer took to achieve this amazing result? What four Deceptive plays did the actual declarer employ?

This hand was played like this in 1954 by Jose Le Dentu, as described in his book *Championship Bridge*. He says at the time 300 players were polled and only six got all four key gambits right!

These deceptive plays were:

- Winning the first club with the King.
- 'Finessing' for the ♥Q
- 'Finessing' for the ♦Q by leading the Jack
- Eschewing the spade finesse, instead playing ace and another.

How did you do?

Solution (with Colour Commentary)

	W	N	E	S
Trick 1:	♣ <u>6</u>	3	10	A!

Declarer knows from the bidding the 10 is stiff.

Trick 2:	5	6	2	♥ <u>J</u>
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Trying to encourage a duck, to avoid a ruff.

Trick 3:	A	7	4	♥ <u>3</u>
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Trick 4:	♣ <u>2</u>	4	♦2	♣9
----------	------------	---	----	----

'Knowing' partner has the ♣J from Trick 1.

Trick 5:	6	K	3	♦ <u>J</u>
----------	---	---	---	------------

West has either the ♦A or ♠K for the bidding. West can't hold both as he is a passed hand.

Trick 6:	2	♠A!	3	5
----------	---	-----	---	---

East has the ♠K from the last trick and bidding.

Trick 7:	8	♠ <u>4</u>	6	♠J
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Looking like a man wanting to ruff a spade.

Trick 8:	7	5	♦8	♣ <u>K</u>
----------	---	---	----	------------

Trick 9:	Q	♥8	♦9	♣ <u>J</u>
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Trick 10:	10	♠ <u>Q</u>	K	♥9
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Hoping the ♠8 at trick 7, is from 1087.

Trick 11:	♣8	K	♦10	♥ <u>10</u>
-----------	----	---	-----	-------------

Yes!

Trick 12:	♦7	♠ <u>9</u>	7	♦4
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Trick 13:	♦A	♦ <u>5</u>	Q	♥Q
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CAVENDISH *redux*

By Marek Wojcicki,
Przemysl, Poland

One of the Bridg24 players came to me during the final of the Cavendish Invitational Pairs and told this story from the C final, 2nd session, board 11. As south you hold:

♠ 10 6 4 3
♥ 6 4
♦ 8 6 2
♣ 8 7 6 4

At our table this was the auction:

West	North	East	South
-	3♣	3♥	?

What do you bid?

I saw three spades bid twice in the A final, once leading to seven spades doubled down 12! Chmurksi, sitting south, simply doubled. This was the full deal (hands rotated):

♠ Q 5		
♥ 10 9 3		
♦ 10 9		
♣ K Q J 10 9 3		
♠ A K 9 7 4		♠ J 9
♥ K 7 5		♥ A Q J 8 2
♦ K J 4		♦ A Q 7 5 3
♣ A 5		♣ 2
	♠ 10 6 4 3	
	♥ 6 4	
	♦ 8 6 2	
	♣ 8 7 6 4	

LHO was so surprised that he passed, and the bidding ended there. All 13 tricks were taken for the score of 930. Plus 930 was not enough to compensate for the +1520 available for the thirteen certain notrump tricks.

THE IBPA FILES

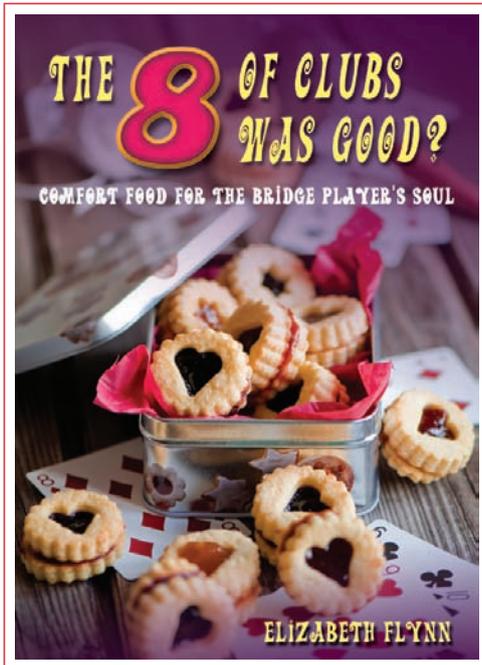
The International Bridge Press Association (IBPA) is a world-wide bridge organization of more than 300 members in all corners of the world. Its main objective is to assist bridge journalists in their bridge related professional activities. The IBPA publishes a monthly online Bulletin, which consists of interesting deals involving some of the best players of the world, competing in key international tournaments.

As part of its service to members, the IBPA Bulletins have hands and stories that are available for reproduction. In this regular feature of Bridge Canada we reproduce some of those hands.



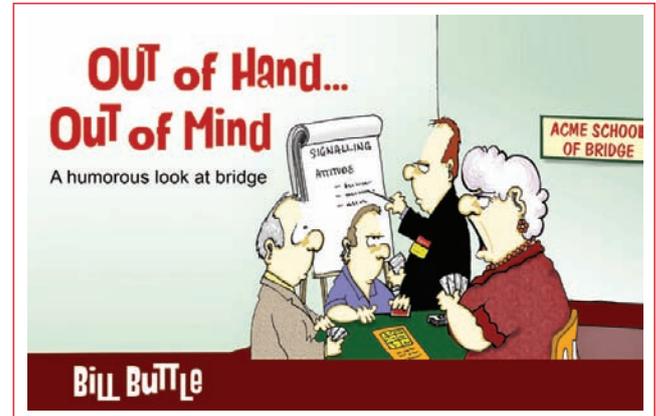
Great Gift Ideas from

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The Eight of Clubs was Good?
Comfort Food for the Bridge Player's Soul
Elizabeth Flynn

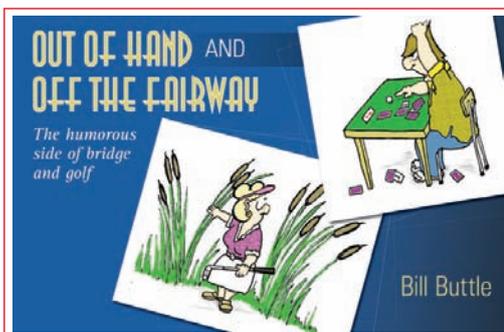
In this book, through a series of heartwarming and humorous anecdotes, we follow the struggles of a new player learning the complex game of bridge. The perfect stocking stuffer for any bridge enthusiast, it even includes recipes for some goodies to take along to your next game.



Out of Hand... Out of Mind
A Humorous Look at Bridge
Bill Buttle

Bill Buttle's 'Out of Hand' cartoon panels appear regularly in a number of bridge magazines, notably the ACBL's monthly *Bulletin*. This is his first collection devoted solely to bridge humor.

Also from Bill Buttle



Out of Hand... And Off the Fairway
The Humorous Side of Bridge and Golf

Canadian cartoonist Bill Buttle is well-known to readers of the *Bridge Bulletin* for his trenchant lampooning of bridge and bridge players. This book of hilarious one-panel cartoons will make a great gift for any bridge nut or golf addict.

EVENTS & DEADLINES

Canadian Bridge Federation Calendar of Events as of November 2015. For more information see our website www.cbf.ca

2015

DECEMBER

Club Qualifying games for CNTC and COPC

ACBL wide International Fund Game #3
Monday morning Dec. 21st

2016

JANUARY

Junior Fund Month

Club Qualifying games for CNTC until January 18th

FEBRUARY

ACBL Wide International Fund Game Sat Afternoon, Feb 6

CBF Canada Wide STAC February 15-21

MARCH

Registration Deadline for CNTC A,B & C, CWTC, CSTC
March 21st

APRIL

Charity Month

ACBL wide Charity Game
Thursday Morning, April 14

Helen Shields Rookie Master Game
Thursday April 21

CBF Regional
April 6-10 Montreal Sheraton Dorval

MAY

Grass Roots FUNd Games

Canadian Bridge Championships
May 21-29 - Toronto

JUNE

Canada Wide Olympiad Fund Game
Tuesday afternoon June 14
Trump Alzheimers
June 20th (more details to be announced soon)

JULY

ACBL Wide International Fund Game #2
Thursday afternoon July 14



Important Dates

- 2016 STaC Canada Wide | 15-21 Feb
- 2016 CBF International Fund Regional | Montreal Sheraton Dorval | 6-10 April
- 2016 CBF Canadian Bridge Championships | Toronto ON | 21-29 May
- 2016 The 16th World Youth Teams Championship | Salsomaggiore Terme | 3 - 13 August
- 2016 World Bridge Games | Wroclaw, Poland | 3 - 17 September

