

# canadian bridge digest

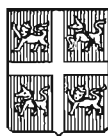
CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION  
FEDERATION CANADIENNE DE BRIDGE



NOVA SCOTIA  
NOUVELLE-ECOSSE



YUKON



TERRE-NEUVE  
NEWFOUNDLAND



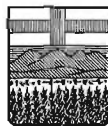
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND  
ILE DU PRINCE-EDOUARD



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST



QUEBEC



ALBERTA



ONTARIO



NEW BRUNSWICK  
NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK



MANITOBA



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
COLOMBIE BRITANNIQUE



SASKATCHEWAN



# Canadian Bridge Digest

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Bass**

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**Jill  
Savage**

## CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

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# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

No explanation, no justification, time just lunges ahead. This morning I just finished reading the proofs of the November Digest and tonight I looked at the calendar, and voila, it's suddenly three months later ... only Rip slumbered longer.

The price to pay for being a pussycat is that eventually you run out of lives. This may just be the case this time. I may have purred my last 'prrrr'.

I always seem to get requests from our contributors that I not edit their copy. Mind you, the requests come in many forms, sometimes in the guise of Diogenes with his lantern and other times wearing the mantle of Alexander The Great, but always anticipating compliance.

So that the broken lance can be aimed in the right direction, I should explain the rarified process whereby the determination of what will appear in the Digest is made. The answer to that is easy, and I hope for my sake, confusing. I do the writing and Ron does the thinking (unfortunately, usually in that order).

Having said that, I must now apologize for deleting, erasing, omitting, editing, not printing intact, or even, heaven forbid, sneaking in a phrase or two of my own. But always taking into consideration the delicate constitution of the L.O.M.'s who read the printed word.

In case I survive the onslaught of abuse from the malcontents waiting in line for the interment, I trust all our faithful authors will continue to send their excellent material for publication. The Procustes in me demands satisfaction. And life should never be a bore, or to put it more succinctly, a grand slam without a two-way finesse is puerile.

Life on the tournament trail is about to become much more costly for most players. After all, we'll all need the latest in Dior fashions and a visit to the hairdresser between sessions. If we're going to be movie stars let's dress and act like it, daarrllings ... Read more about this in Perspectives.



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## Bridge Players Beware

# Big Brother is Watching You

by Eric Kokish  
Montreal

George Orwell saw it coming when he painted a harrowing picture of state control ("Big Brother is Watching You, Citizens") in his whimsical "1984". It has been said that bridge is a microcosm of life. If this is true, life is in serious trouble.

ACBL members will find some interesting news in their November Bulletins, but some of that news is disastrous. Please be sure to read President Ira Corn's message on pp. 78-79. He tells us that the game is in dire straits. Most people are clean, but there are some who are "exceedingly careless or unethical." Complaints are pouring in from all over the country (presumably he includes Canadians while snubbing us in so many words) and actions like "wandering from table to table and from section to section, convening between rounds in the hall, whether deliberate or not, must be eliminated. Directors can't maintain control, and book regulations don't seem sufficient. "The solution has to be something tangible...that it will not attract long and expensive lawsuits." Later, Corn says, "Our primary goal is to root out those few players who have established a deliberate pattern of behaviour that is contrary to ethical practices."

That the ACBL may be in trouble is undoubted. The league is indeed facing two multi-million dollar lawsuits. These legal hassles, however, involve two situations where top-flight pairs were allegedly caught red-handed exchanging illegal information at their table and, again allegedly, through the medium of pre-arranged signals. While one suspects that these cases, and potentially related

types, are at the back of Corn's mind, his speech deals primarily with another kind of purposed offence. He says the deep concern is with "wires", i.e. attempting to learn results or layouts on deals not yet played. Yes, such sins are heinous. In all probability, ACBL knows the dastardly types involved in such sharp practices, and just can't seem to catch them in 'flagrante delicto'. Pity. But wait!

Corn tells us that he has the solution...videotape machines that can catch a subject from 200 yards away...hidden, yet! And then he tells us that the things were tested at the Chicago North American Championships and that their viability was proved "beyond a reasonable doubt", and that evidence obtained "will speak for itself." He does not say that these experiments were conducted on Board (or anyone else's) authority but he does say, "As you know, when a player signs an entry blank now, it gives us permission to photograph that player and film the proceedings. The new entry blank was the first step in the plan to gain control of the ethics of tournament bridge." Funny, a naive person would have thought that he consented merely to have his picture taken for the Bulletin or the 6 o'clock news. The rest of you, of course, were fully aware that you had signed away your right to privacy, your freedom to go to the john, perhaps even your freedom of speech, etc. News comes to me from the Lancaster meetings that the Board voted to table introduction of the machines until the Spring NAC, but Corn would not concede that the ugly things were dormant for the moment at the instant tournament.

It's probably worrisome that the

RCMP opens our mail if they choose, or that some of our telephones are bugged. After all, we might be plotting anarchy. But it's downright frightening that the ACBL (a Board of 25 very human and fallible and different Directors) can spy on us without our consent and knowledge and with no visible mandate to do so, and via the subterfuge of a sneaky

entry blank. Civil libertarians, please come forward before Mr. Corn becomes the next President of the United States. It is hard to see how the end could possibly justify the means here. Better to have an occasional "cheater" than to deprive innocent people of their constitutional and human rights in the name of justice.

## Smile - You're On Candid Camera!

**By George Retek**  
**ACBL Director District I**

At the Lancaster meeting the Board of Directors of ACBL deferred acting upon agenda item 803-64 until the Spring 1981 meeting to be held in Detroit. The major reason for this deferral was the sentiment expressed by our new President, Jim Zimmerman that our membership should have time to express views on this important issue, and our Board will act in a responsible manner taking into consideration the wishes of our members.

What is exactly involved here?

Item 803-64 states: "Management shall receive and be responsible for investigating complaints of alleged violations of ACBL regulations and shall use appropriate means to initiate action for resolving complaints through ACBL judicial processes." Those of you who have read the article by Ira Corn, Jr. on pages 78-79 of the Bulletin November 1980 issue may vaguely make the necessary connection. This revealing article advocates the use of videotape machines at "future North American Championships, regionals and other tournaments - to root out those few players who have established a deliberate pattern of behaviour that is contrary to ethical practices."

At first glance this appears to be a relatively inexpensive and practical method that maybe we should all welcome, should there be no other considerations. Is there a price to pay for using this tool? Yes, indeed! The price is

just too precious: it is our right to freedom of speech and privacy.

Bridge, hopefully, is a social game. Shall we tell our children that we play a game where videotape equipment will watch over the players? Shall we invite our friends to join the world of duplicate bridge that is policed by video surveillance? How comfortable can we feel at a tournament where all of our expressions (but luckily not our thoughts, as yet) may be recorded?

Ira Corn, Jr. described the videotaping equipment that is capable of zooming in on a subject from 200 yards away to allow management to monitor entire rooms, single players, pairs and full sessions. He called it "unfortunate that ACBL has to take these steps (i.e. using video equipment), but there seems to be no other solution." I believe that we did not exhaust all other solutions to combat existing problems. It indeed would be unfortunate to use an elephant gun to kill a fly. For example, the Board of Directors in Lancaster established very strict penalties against "wanderers and chit-chatters" (item 803-14). I believe these penalties may be enforced without the need of installing video equipment in playing areas, corridors and toilets.

There are only a few "exceedingly careless or unethical" players among us. We probably know most of them. Should a respected member of our bridge community in the respective areas talk to these few people, they may just change their ways in their own best in-

terest. I was told that this method was quite effective in the good old times.

Bridge is entertainment. At no other media of entertainment are video cameras watching over the people who are supposed to be entertained. Would you go to a theater where the management is filming you (possibly not for a star role)?

Is there such a thing as little bit less of freedom? Who will be responsible for controlling it? Who will establish where the cameras be focused? On what basis will a particular pair or person be picked for observation over others? How many camera operators and tape analysers will our organization hire and at what cost? What will be the policy for tape retention? Will local Units and Districts have any control over taping? Should tournament advertising include reference whether video equipment will be used? Should we have split events (like smoking and non-smoking) on and off camera? Will ACBL have responsibility for reporting any non-bridge related violations inadvertently recorded?

Questions like these can stretch from practical to ridiculous and simply serve to prove the magnitude of new problems that may arrive with the use of videotaping and other such equipment.

A french philosopher said a long time

ago that the state has no place in the bedroom of the people. This is not 1984 yet. George Orwell warned us in his book of "1984" that "Big Brother is Watching you Citizens." I firmly believe that our ACBL has no place playing Big Brother, and certainly hope that you will share the same views. Our countries, the U.S.A. and Canada, are the most democratic and free countries in the world. Let's keep them this way!

The experiments conducted in Chicago and Lancaster with videotape-machines may prove to be "successful", although we have not seen any report to that effect yet. But what is the price of success? This is what we have to decide for ourselves. This is the time to be counted. Make your views known to the ACBL NOW!

Canada's second most concealed bridge player was doing his thing at the Nationals in Lancaster when someone mentioned that hidden cameras were going to be utilized in the playing area. In the evening session, after executing a squeeze and end-play to bring home a difficult contract, our hero stood looking over his left shoulder and said (apparently to no one)...that's a wrap...

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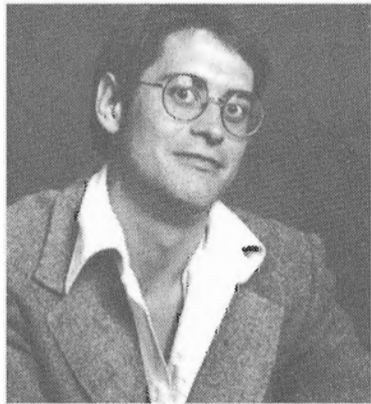
# Hear it from the experts

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## Tips To Live and Die By

**Editor's Note:** Neil Chambers needs little introduction to the elite of the bridge world, having earned a reputation nationally and internationally in all levels of competition. Neil's forte lies in his ability to do everything (bid, declare, defend and now his new-found talent, the art of coaching/kibbitzing, which has culminated in the production of this article).



by Neil Chambers

I'm putting my Valkenburg experience to good use and proffering advice from Joe Amsbury, editor of Popular Bridge Monthly, acting captain for Panama in the recent Olympiad and player of international reputation.

Joe and I, in a late night conversation at the BelaVista guesthouse, came to the agreement that partnership rapport is a number one requisite for success at bridge. My philosophy is that when a bad result is achieved, nothing is said.

Joe thought that attitude too extreme. He feels that in pressure situations

pressure has to be released, but also limits have to be set. His tip, to maintain partnership emotional balance, is to contain post-mortem discussions to two words. Constructive, positive phrases of two words to be used only when you (or partner) appears to need release.

"Well Played" or Good Luck" is to be used in plus situations for 'you', as a partnership, or partner.

"Bad Luck" or "That's History" when the opponents were extraordinary or partner hopeless.

"My Fault" or Sorry, Partner" when you err.

That's where I tended to disagree. To maintain silence after you do something dumb is to maintain strength at the table. But I also agree with Joe: if partner needs release, "That's History" is easier to deal with psychologically than a stream of abuse. A true expression of your feelings made to partner outside of competitive situations will go a long way toward establishing partnership rapport, or in quickly ending a partnership lacking a basis for communication. Mentally, I added my own two-worger, that good Canadian release expression, and although occasionally misused, but never misquoted, it does have its place.

Anyway, whether your partnership lets it all hang out, says nothing, or restricts comments to just two words, the important point is to be aware of this aspect of the game. Communication and rapport with partner means more than just knowing your bidding system. You and partner's emotional state of mind affects your play, and how you respond to 'crisis' at the table certainly affects that emotional state of mind.

# Office of the Treasurer

By Aaron Goodman

For the 11th consecutive year I am pleased to present a report on the financial operations of the Canadian Bridge Federation for the year ending December 1, 1980.

Attached are statements which show:

a) Receipts and expenditures on both Membership and Olympiad Fund account (maintained separately), indicating in each case the year end cash position.

b) A listing in detail of payments and contributions made in 1980 by Units of the Canadian Bridge Federation and by affiliated Clubs, listed separately for Membership and Olympiad Fund account.

You will note that on Membership account 1980, receipts of \$14,963.50 dropped off from \$16,526.50 in 1979. However, there are two, perhaps three, Units which I rather expect will pay 1980 dues before the year end. As it is, I record 18 Units as being paid up, 5 Units in default.

We were fortunate to earn 6,154.65 interest on deposit accounts in 1980, a figure right helpful this year, but I fear unlikely to be matched next year and perhaps in future years.

Disbursements on Membership account ran very high. Publication of 4 bulletin inserts (Digests) cost over \$10,000 and there appears no way this can be reduced. A new and substantial item of expense was the cost of staging a playoff to determine the Canadian National Team Champions (CNTC), a popular event across Canada. Even after collecting \$13,436.74 (roughly \$1,000 per competing Team) from six CBF Zones, the Canadian Bridge Federation had to underwrite and absorb

\$11,020.25 of the total expense, which of course ran to almost \$25,000. Cost of the Directors and Members Meeting in Fredericton came to just over \$4,000, a mite less than in the previous year at Calgary.

All in all, where we started the year with a cash balance of \$31,957.65, we ended the year with \$24,924.97, a drop of about \$7,000. If we are to avoid future deficits, we must either increase our revenue, a most difficult task, or manage somehow to limit expenditures more or less to conform to our current revenue.

Receipts on Olympiad Fund account were \$10,338.28 in 1980, compared to \$12,680.06 in 1978 and \$8,352.22 in 1979. Our take here can only be increased if more Units and Clubs hold more Olympiad Fund games (sanction free where permitted), something I have consistently urged, unfortunately without too much success.

Canada was well represented by a six-member Open Team and a six member Ladies Team at the World Bridge Team Olympiad held in 1980 at Valkenberg, Holland, both teams faring well against strong opposition. The cost of our participation totalled \$28,260.

We were fortunate to receive two contributions raised in Toronto, \$3,434 from J. Carruthers and \$6,000 from W. Lebovic, earmarked for our players participating in International Bridge events. This brought out total available funds to \$42,756.22, leaving us at year end after payment of all expenses with a cash balance of \$14,496.09, a drop of about \$8,500 from our starting position. If we are to continue to fully finance our players participating in World Bridge events, we need full support from all Zones, and it is important for our Directors to carry this message to their respective Zones.

# Canadian Bridge Federation

## Statement of Operations

December 1/79 to December 1/80

	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT</u>	<u>OLYMPIAD ACCOUNT.</u>
1980 Membership dues	14291.50		
1979 " " (paid in 1980)	<u>672.00</u>	14963.50	
INTEREST earned on deposits		6154.65	
Charitable Fund pro rate meeting exp.		854.00	
Total proceeds from Canada Wide and other Olympiad Fund Games			10338.28
J. Carruthers - conditions attached (for Int- ernational players)			3434.00
W. Lebovic - conditions attached (for Inter- national players)			<u>6000.00</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>21972.15</u>	<u>19772.28</u>
Brought forward from Dec. 1st 1979		<u>21957.65</u>	<u>22983.94</u>
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS, 1980		53929.80	42756.22
 <u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>			
F.A. Baragar, 1980 honorarium	1500.00		
A.C.B.L. Nov. '79 Digest	1905.23		
Feb. '80 "	2304.03		
May. '80 "	2101.84		
Aug. '80 "	2169.73		
BASS/SAVAGE Feb./May/Aug/Nov Dig.	<u>1879.71</u>		
	10360.54		
Expenses of Directors attending July Meeting of Directors and Members at Fredericton	3769.10		
Fredericton Hotel Meeting expenses	321.00		
C.N.T.C. playoffs, Toronto, net cost	11020.25		
1979 Honorarium to Treasurer	500.00		
Miscellaneous and Bank charges	233.94		
Advance to President Harper for attendance at WBF Meeting Valkenburg (not utilized and to be refunded)	1300.00		
A.C.B.L. - table fees for Ol. Fund Games		912.70	
Purchase of bidding boxes		600.00	
Cost of participation World Bridge Team Ol. Entry	1619.90		
Hotel accommodation	10793.61		
Travel	9201.00		
Per diem	<u>5132.92</u>		
		<u>26747.43</u>	28260.13
		<u>29004.83</u>	
BALANCE on hand, Dec. 1-1980		<u>24924.97</u>	<u>14496.09</u>









## MEMBERSHIP

## OLYMPIAD

	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>		<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	
ZONE 6.	12249.00	13701.50	12185.50	)	11076.07	6527.22	9104.03	
for'd	-----	-----	-----	)	73.50	91.00	56.00	Sparwood DBC (2)
EAST KOOTENAY 574				)			59.50	J. Keiller BC
OKANAGAN 571	200.00	409.00	307.00	)	128.00	283.50	108.50	Kamloops BC
				)			91.00	Summerland B.C.
				)			52.50	V. Marie B.C.
				)			71.00	Cliver BCC
VANCOUVER 430	1412.00	1329.00	1355.00	)	446.00	561.00	59.00	Port Coquitlam BC
				)			73.50	North Side BC
				)			56.00	Haida DBC
				)			52.50	A. Nagy
				)			91.00	N. Shore Winter BC
				)			61.25	Wellington B.C.
QUESTERL UNIT 436	100.00	100.00	-----	)	255.35	298.50	84.00	Port St. John BC (2)
				)			110.00	Spruce Capital BC
				)			21.00	Cariboo BC
VICTORIA UNIT 431	200.00	314.00	326.00	)	91.00	75.00	80.50	Doerwood DBC
PARKSVILLE 429	-----	250.00	250.00	)	219.00	115.50	88.00	Courteney B.C.
				)				
	14196.00	16526.50	14963.50	)	12430.06	8352.22	10338.28	
	-----	-----	-----	)	-----	-----	-----	

# Who's Holding My Hand?

By Jill Savage

**"Those God would destroy  
He first drives mad with power"**

Well, guys, which hand do you think we should write up for tonight's newsletter, I asked my two co-editor's at the Edmonton Regional. (Doug Deschner, Ron Bass and myself had undertaken the job of putting out a newsletter every evening of the week of the Regional, and selecting the most interesting hand each night was a chore we all looked forward to).

How about the six spade hand, I inquired. What are you talking about, Ron and Doug asked in unison. There was no six spade slam in tonight's session. Sure there was, what about Board 23, I said. My partner went down two in four spades on that board, said Doug. My partner did better than that, said Ron, he went down three in four spades.

Six is a laydown, I replied in my usual optimistic fashion, beginning to savor the feeling of power gained when one is sure of their facts. As we start to discuss the hand further, a small crowd of fellow players gather around, each testifying to the fact that they or their partner had gone down in four spades, and that no one in the room, except at my table, had bid six. Remember the cards, I said.

	<b>North</b>	
	S K10xx	
	H A10xx	
	D --	
<b>West</b>	C AQxxx	<b>East</b>
S Qx		S 7xx
H KQJxx		H xx
D A10xx		D J9
C xx	<b>South</b>	C KJ10xxx
	S AJ98	
	H xx	
	D KQ87xxx	
	C --	

Well, the bidding at our table was a bit unique, I informed each and every

one who was listening.

<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>
1D	1H	Double	Pass
3S???	Pass	6S	All Pass

What kind of bidding is that, someone asked. The bidding doesn't matter when you can play your hand well, I quipped.

The lead was the King of hearts, gobbled up by dummy's Ace, then the Ace of clubs to discard the small heart from declarer's hand. Finally a small spade back to the Ace (nothing like using up all your high cards early). At trick four the King of diamonds hits the table and West can fold his hand and concede. If he covers, you ruff small and cash the King of spades and lead a small one back to your hand (conveniently drawing the last outstanding trump). The Queen of diamonds drops the Jack, and you concede a diamond, ruffing any return and claiming. If West refuses to cover the King of diamonds (probably the smart play), run the Queen; if this gets covered, ruff and play trumps as before. If the Queen doesn't get covered, ruff a low diamond with the ten of spades at trick six, play trumps as before and concede that diamond.

The applause (although not deafening) was uplifting. How come you never make these brilliant plays when one of us is your partner, Deschner wanted to know.

The time of revelation was at hand (how best to abdicate from my new-found position of Miss Double Dummy). Suddenly, the solution was obvious as my partner, who had been at the scoring table all this time, yelled out across the room, "the best we could do was second East/West, Jill; too bad we got a zero on board 23."

So this is what Bergen Evans had in mind, I thought as I said aloud to all the retreating backs, "I only said that six spades were bid and made at my table ... is it my fault fate pushed me into the West chair?"

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# Canadian Bidding Contest

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by Allan Simon

## November Honour Roll

*131 good sports entered the November contest. Eight of them joined the 500-buster-club:*

1. John Hurdle, Vancouver, B.C. 570
2. Bobbe McDonald, Prince Albert, Sask. 560
3. Mary Drummie, Kanata, Ont. 540
- 4/5/6. Chuck Chapman, Guelph, Ont. 530
- 4/5/6. Ashok Sil, Regina, Sask. 530
- 4/5/6. Evelyn Richards, Fredericton, N.B. 530
- 7/8. R. Khan, Hamilton, Ont. 520
- 7/8. Robert Sowden, Gabriola, B.C. 520

*Mr. Hurdle received a copy of "The Tough Game" by Hugh Kelsey (once again generously donated by Camel Bridge Supplies of Vancouver) and, in addition, he joins the expert panel this month.*

## February Panel

Our experts this month are, in alphabetical order:

**ANDY ALTAY (Toronto).** His contributions as bridge administrator (organizer of the first Canadian Team Championships, CBF director) are so important that some people might have lost sight of his equally remarkable record in top-flight competition, including an appearance in the 1978 Olympiad.

**ERIC BALKAM (Fredericton, N.B.),** formerly of Halifax, has represented the Maritimes in numerous team contests. His credits also include multi-Regional wins. One of the Maritimes finest ...

**STAN CABAY (Edmonton, Alta.)** is one of Alberta's up-and-coming young stars. He captained a team all the way into the finals of the Canadian Team Championships last year. Remember the name.

**KAI CHENG (Winnipeg)** has been Manitoba's top masterpoint winner the last few years. His record at IMP play is particularly awesome.

**DON ELLISON (Rossland, B.C.)**. The sleepy and beautiful resort town of Rossland is an unlikely place for expert bridge activity. Yet a cluster of six or eight top-notch players has emerged, centered around Don Ellison.

**SERGE HAMELIN (Laval, Que.)** is one of the strongest players in the Montreal area. He has been successful with a variety of partners, playing a variety of systems.

**JOHN HURDLE (Vancouver, B.C.),** the November contest winner, would have been on the panel sooner or later anyway, since he is a bonafide expert. In 1975 alone he won over 300 masterpoints!

**JULENE JOHNSON (Vancouver, B.C.)** has burst onto the national scene in a spectacular way: her team took third place in the Canadian Women's championships; and in Open competition, Julene destroyed the myth of male

superiority by again finishing third in an otherwise male-dominated 13-team contest.

**MICHAEL KENNY (Montreal)** is a familiar name to anybody who reads Regional results or the McKenney list. And while he is well on the way to national stardom, he is also considered one of the most modest and gentlemanly opponents you'll ever meet.

**ED LICHTMAN (Winnipeg)** has a good thing going: In IMP-mad Winnipeg, he is a match-point shark who, incredibly over the past five years has won one out of two sectional open pair events he has entered.

**BILL LIM (Prince George, B.C.)** is of course one of Western Canada's best-known tournament directors. But many of our younger players might be surprised to learn that Bill once was, and judging by his answers to our problems still is, a brilliant player with many important championships to his credit.

**JOHN TAILLON (Regina, Sask.)** has won a number of Regionals over the years. I imagine I'll soon find out how good he really is, since he will soon move to Calgary.

### November Solutions

(A) Matchpoints, neither vul., South holds:

S:K4 H:QJ65 D:10763 C:Q52

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1NT	Pass	2C
Pass	2S	Pass	2NT
Pass	3C	Pass	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
3H	4	100
3NT	4	90
Pass	4	80
4H	0	50
3D	0	50

What is *OHO* (opposite-hand opponent) up to? The panel, like Gaul

or the House of Commons, is divided in three parts. Theory number one:

**HAMELIN:** Three hearts. Partner has a four card club suit, a maximum hand and a dislike for three notrump. A typical hand:

S:AQxx H:K10x D:xx C:AKxx.

**CABAY** suggested the identical hand replacing only a club x by the jack and another vote along the same lines was cast by

**LICHTMAN:** Three hearts. Partner can only be suggesting a 4-3 heart fit. His hand:

S:AJxx H:AKx D:xx C:AJ10x.

*These answers sound pretty convincing. Now to theory number two:*

**ALTAY:** Three notrump. I think partner is looking for a third spade or a fifth heart. I have neither. Also, he must have a forward-going hand.

*Eminently reasonable as well. The adherents of theory number three are represented by:*

**ELLISON:** A wistful pass. Jugular instinct screams to bid three notrump, but I would like to have the heart ten and the diamond nine...bound to be five losers or even more here.

**LIM:** Pass. Partner has a minimum 4-2-2-5 with broken clubs.

*Well, dear Reader, do you want to know the real-life winning call? The reader who sent me this hand actually held the North cards S:Axxx H:AK109 D:xx C:KJx. Three clubs was intended to show a four-card heart suit, with a help-suit game try in clubs. Our contributor goes on to say that his non-expert partner passed three clubs; and he wondered whether our expert panel would do better. Well, Mr. J., I am afraid nobody came up with the magical four-heart response. But in retrospect, I do admit: a)your bid was brilliant; b)there is a lot more to expert bidding than most of us ever*

*dreamed.*

(B) IMPs, both vul., South holds:  
S:K5 H:8 D:K10873 C:J10976

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
--	--	--	Pass
1S	2H	Dbl*	?

\*penalty double

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
Pass	6	100
2 NT	3	90
2 S	2	80
Redbl.	1	70
3C or 3D	0	20

*The vote was in fact closer than appears at first glance, since there is very little difference among the runoff bids.*

**TAILLON:** Two notrump. While my hand may be of little use played in hearts, a fit in one of the minors may be successful. Therefore, my partner should interpret my bid as a minor suit takeout.

*Certainly, two notrump is unlikely to be misinterpreted. A theoretical improvement was offered by:*

**ELLISON:** Two spades. Partner cannot help but read this as a request to bid his better minor. Has the advantage of allowing partner to bid two notrump if his minors are equal. Should two spades be doubled and partner has no preference, my declaring the contract will protect the spade king.

*Yet another rescue attempt was selected by*

**CABAY:** Redouble. Two spades would likely lead to confusion whereas two notrump should show something like  
S:K109x H:x D:K10xx C:QJxx.

*All these arguments about how to run from two hearts doubled obscure the real issue: Why must we run?*

**HURDLE:** Pass. Partner has played before and he's not overcalling garbage here. We're unlikely to suffer a major disaster unless I try a desperate SOS redouble and catch partner with a 3-6-2-2 pattern (or worse).

*Finally, my favourite answer to this problem:*

**JOHNSON:** Pass. Trusting partner to have his vulnerable overcall, especially at IMPs. The question with this hand is: who has the spade length besides West? I anticipate partner's three-card side suit to be spades. If not, West will pull with his seven card suit.

*The contributor of this problem, a Mr. V., writes that he sat North and held: S:Qxxx H:AKJxxxx D:x C:x. His partner redoubled two hearts and Mr. V. would like to know what to do next. Good question. In the meantime, it is becoming clear why Mrs. Johnson has been so successful lately.*

(C) Board-a-match, E-W vul., South holds:  
S:Q H:KJ8654 D:AJ863 C:7

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1S	Pass	2H
Pass	2S	Pass	3D
Pass	3NT	Pass	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
Pass	5	100
4D	5	80
4H	2	60
4C or 4S	0	20

*My personal preference is for the pass, hoping that partner will play*

*the hand well enough so that we will at least push the board. Against this, however, consider the opinion of two experts who win more honours every year than most or us win in a lifetime:*

**HAMELIN:** Four hearts. Based on scoring method, otherwise four diamonds.

**JOHNSON:** Four hearts. Hoping they get this high at the other table for a push.

*The merits of a wishy-washy four diamonds were expounded by:*

**HURDLE:** Four diamonds. I hate this problem, but I feel that four diamonds gives us a chance if the winning spot is 4H, 4S or 5D. A pass to 3NT is quite final.

**LIM:** Four diamonds. It is tempting to gamble out three notrump, but a club lead could easily isolate both hands.

*I don't know, Bill. You may be right, but somehow four diamonds just isn't macho. And here are the passers:*

**KENNY:** Pass. We don't seem to have any good fit, so I think our best chance is nine tricks at notrump. How'd we get so high?

**LICHTMAN:** Pass. They haven't doubled yet. Two spades was probably our last chance at a plus score.

**TAILLON:** Pass. My bid of three diamonds warned partner that the hand may be a distributional misfit. The queen of spades is the only reason I pass, otherwise I would bid four hearts.

**ALTAY:** Pass. I bid my hand already. Partner probably has a singleton heart and two club stoppers. My spade queen should give us nine tricks.

(D) IMPs, both vul., South holds:

S:1074 H:1073 D:K C:AKJ986

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
--	--	Pass	Pass
Pass	1D	Pass	2C
Pass	2H	Pass	3C
Pass	3S	Pass	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
3NT	4	100
4H	3	90
4C	2	80
4D	1	70
5C	1	70
5H	1	50

*Yet another cliffhanger. Never have we had so many narrow decisions. Undoubtedly, most panelists' first thought was that the madman North from problem (A) was on the loose again.*

**ELLISON:** Five hearts. A double naked reverse is rarely seen these days. Partner appears to have a moderately tolerable hand. I'm going out on a limb and bid five hearts, probing the quality of his trump suit. If he is as courageous in play as bidding, the Moysian slam should wow the vu-graph audience!

**ALTAY:** Three notrump. We don't have enough ammunition or fit to make a slam. Three notrump should be the easiest game.

*Several other panelists shrugged their shoulders, gave partner something like S:KJxx H:AKJx D:AQxxx and bid three notrump as well. Others gave a preference to four hearts, again just guessing what partner was looking for:*

**LIM:** Four hearts. Partner might be 3-4-5-1 and a Moysian (i.e. 4-3) fit is better than a 3-3, isn't it?

*Okay, I admit I'm not sure what partner is doing; but I do know that I'm not going to bid three-small. As a matter of fact, here is a pretty valid generalization: If you aren't sure what partner is up to, a)don't pass, b)bid high cards.*

*In the present problem, I would therefore bid four clubs or, even better, four diamonds. Who knows, maybe partner has a club fit? Hey, now that would be a logical explanation for his sequence. In fact, North*

held: S:Ax H:Axxx D:AQJ10x C:Qx and over four diamonds he would have been able to bid the laydown seven notrump. Utopia, you say? Ridiculous, you snort? Then read this:

**CHENG:** Four diamonds. Partner could have bid three notrump if that's the right contract. I think he is looking for a slam, and I gladly tell him about this most useful key card. Partner's hand might be: S:Ax H:AJ9x D:AQJxx C:Qx and seven is odds-on.

*Not bad, Kai. Not bad at all.*

*(E) Matchpoints, N-S vul., South holds:*

S:J10 H:QJ543 D:106432 C:Q

<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>
2S*	Dbl.	4S	?

\*weak two-bid

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
Pass	10	100
5H	1	50
4NT	1	40

*We can save space here and go straight to the panel:*

**KENNY:** Pass. If the hand is ours, partner will surely act again, and to bid now is surely misleading. If partner doubles, I'll bid four notrump. Over his anticipated five club bid, I'll bid five hearts and he can make any decision after that.

**BALKAM:** Pass. Surely any bid now is highly unilateral, although I suspect five hearts will be the panel's bid.

**CABAY:** Pass. Partners never like me bidding their hands.

**CHENG:** Pass. If partner has a really good hand, he should make another call (double or four notrump) and I'll bid five hearts.

*Other panelists, including Hurdle and Taillon, also considered the pass automatic and instead debated the question of what to bid if partner*

*should re-open with another double. They would both bid a straightforward five hearts.*

*One proven winner at matchpoints demonstrated aggressiveness:*

**LICHTMAN:** Five hearts, and hope partner doesn't raise to six. Pass puts too much pressure on partner, and besides there's an excellent chance they'll save (which I hope they do).

(F) IMPs, neither vul., South holds:  
S:A103 H:93 D:75 C:987643

<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>
--	--	--	Pass
1D	1S	3NT	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Redbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Which card do you lead?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
7 of D	7	100
A of S	2	60
10 of S	0	50
3 of S	1	50
9 of C	1	40
9 of H	1	40

*This problem was a bit unfair. After all, partner's double is a conventional command to lead his suit. Yet declarer's redouble and especially our own spade holding make it likely that partner mistakenly thought he was telling us to lead a diamond.*

*So it all boils down to a matter of trust - do you think partner or declarer is the idiot? Against better judgment and past experience, I cast a minority vote for the spade ace, hoping for a 1,000 number.*

**HURDLE:** Ace of spades. Partner did double to say he would beat three notrump if I led to him. It seems perverse to disregard his suit because my support is too strong. I lead the ace to clarify my lead - I doubt partner would

suspect me to hold these spades unless I lead them.

**HAMELIN:** Ace of spades. Something strange is happening in spades. However, the double must be lead-directing. The ace should work well and give no chance for confusion to arise.

**CABAY:** Diamond seven; Double usually asks for spades or diamonds, depending on partnership understanding. RHO, in addition to a spade stop, likely has a solid heart suit; not clubs, otherwise who has the hearts; and not diamonds, otherwise partner's double is insane. Thus, partner has S:109xxx H:xx D:KQJ10x C:A and declarer S:Kx H:AKQJxx D:xx C:xxx.

**CHENG:** Diamond seven: The textbook lead is a spade, but I don't think he is demanding a spade lead with a suit headed by KJ9 at best.

**KENNY:** I lead the diamond seven and hope I'm playing a long match - either to recover or win by a ton. Somebody is nuts at this table. Hopefully not me.

**BALKAM:** Nine of hearts. God, bridge can be exciting. Partner is marked with four or five hearts. Accordingly, he does not want a diamond lead. East bet the match I wasn't up to finding the right lead, and I sure hope he's wrong.

#### Summary

*This was our toughest set of problems yet. I would like to thank the twelve experts for their fearless and thorough analysis and their witty comments; it is impossible to read their arguments and not improve one's bidding judgment. All readers are invited to solve the May problems and to send their answers (no comments required) to:*

**Canadian Bidding Contest**  
c/o Allan Simon  
1339 Hamilton St. N.W.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2N 3W8

*The winner will be invited to join the next expert panel and will also*

*be showered with a gift from Camel Bridge Supplies.*

*As I write these lines, in mid-December, many early ballots for the February contest (published in the November issue, Mr. C.) have already poured in, topped by a fine 590 authored by Krishan Chawla of Ottawa.*

#### Mailbox

A reader from Halifax wanted to know which province or region did best in the Canadian Bidding Contest. I promptly frittered away five hours to come up with the following averages:

Saskatchewan	480
Maritimes	441
British Columbia	435
Ontario	430
Manitoba	426
Alberta/NWT	423
Quebec	398

#### May Problems

(A) Matchpoints, E-W vul., South holds:

S:Q7632 H:A94 D:65 C:A64

West	North	East	South
Pass	1D	Pass	1S
Pass	3S	Pass	4C
Pass	4H	Pass	4S
Pass	4NT	Pass	?

(B) IMPs, E-W vul., South holds:

S:97 H:643 D:QJ6542 C:74

West	North	East	South
--	2C	Pass	2D
Pass	3H	Pass	4H
Pass	5D	Pass	?

(C) Matchpoints, N-S vul., South holds:

S:K10764 H:Q D:K8543 C:108

West	North	East	South
Pass	1H	Pass	1S
Pass	2C	Pass	?

(D) IMPs, N-S vul., South holds:

S:105 H:A9852 D:AK C:AJ108

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	1H
Pass	1S	Pass	2C
Pass	2H	Pass	?

(E) Matchpoints, N-S vul., South holds:  
S:3 H:Q10863 D:KQ5 C:AQ42

West	North	East	South
--	--	2S*	Dbl.
4S	4NT	Pass	?

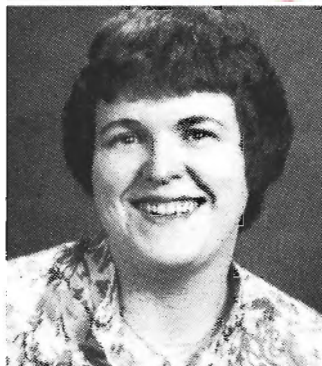
\*weak two-bid

(F) IMPs, neither vul., South holds:  
S:AQ1098743 H:4 D:-- C:10964

West	North	East	South
--	Pass	1NT	3S
4S	Pass	4NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Which card do you lead.

## Bridge Workshop



By Pat Lopushinsky

### Pre-Emptive Opening Bids

A pre-emptive opening bid is one which starts the auction at a level higher than the one level and thereby makes it very difficult for the opponents, who may well have the balance of power, to find their best spot, or indeed even enter the auction at all, and certainly not with any degree of accuracy or safety.

However, certain rules should be followed so that partner is able to make reasonable judgments about game bids, slams and sacrifice bidding.

### The Weak Two Bid

The weak two bid is a very descriptive bid when used properly, as it gives partner a very good picture of your hand while making it difficult for the op-

ponents to enter the auction. The margin of safety afforded the weak two bidder is in the quality of the suit, so that even if partner is broke, which makes it more likely that the opponents have a game or slam, you should be able to take several tricks in your own hand in the trump suit.

The weak two bid applies to all suits with the exception of clubs, and describes specifically a six card suit, headed by two of the top four honors. The total high card content of the hand should be between 6 to 11 HCP, but most of the strength should be the suit bid. Therefore, the hand will not contain more than one outside control card (ace or king) and, in addition, the weak two should not be used if the hand contains an outside four card major, as this makes it too likely that the best fit will be missed.

For example:

KQJxxx  
Kxxx  
xx  
x

This hand should not be opened with a weak two spade bid, although the quality of the suit is correct, because of the likelihood of missing a heart fit.

The following hands do qualify for a weak two opening.

1)KJ109xx  
xx  
Axx  
xx

2)x  
AKJxxx  
xx  
Qxxx

3)xx  
xx  
AQJxxx  
Jxx

In third or fourth seat the situation does change somewhat. Once partner is passed hand, the chance of missing a game is drastically reduced, and the reasons for pre-empting the opponents are even more important. In third seat you may open a weak two with a weaker suit than normal, or even with a five card suit, in an attempt to pre-empt the opponents, or as a lead-directing bid.

In fourth seat, however, you should have a very good suit and a maximum in terms of high cards. With less than this, you are advised to throw the hand in, rather than open the auction for the opponents.

### Responding to a Weak Two Bid

This is a forcing response and asks partner to show a control card outside the named suit, if he has one. This would normally be considered an Ace or King only, rather than a singleton or void, as partner is usually interested in notrump, when he uses this bid.

For example:

KQJxxx  
Kx  
xxx  
xx

You open with two spades and partner responds two NT. The correct re-bid is three hearts showing your feature.

Some partnerships agree that the feature will only be shown if the hand is a maximum.

### A New Suit Response

Most partnerships nowadays also play

this bid as forcing, and is basically asking the opener for support. With two cards to an honor, or three small, you should raise responders suit, and with less, return to your own suit with a minimum and bid NT with a maximum.

For example:

You open two hearts with this hand:

Qx  
AKxxxx  
x  
Jxxx

Partner responds with two spades. You should raise to three spades, as you have a doubleton spade, with an honor, and a ruffing value as well.

However, if you opened two spades with this hand, and partner bid three hearts, you should simply rebid three spades.

KQJxxx  
x  
Qxx  
xxx

but with this hand,

AQxxxx  
xx  
Kx  
Jxx

you could bid three NT.

### Game Responses

A bid of either three NT or four of the major is sign-off. Responder may sometimes have a tough decision between these two calls. Usually the suit contract will play better if you have controls, Aces or singletons, and the notrump contract will be superior when you have tenace positions, and want the lead coming up to your hand.

The raise to four of the major may be made on two different types of hands:

1) Strong hands, where you expect to make the contract; or

2) A weak hand with a good fit, where you expect to go down, but also expect that the opponents can make game or even slam, if left to their own devices.

### Examples

Your partner opens with two spades. You should bid four spades with either of these hands.

1) Axx  
Axx  
KQxxx  
Kx

2) Qxxx  
x  
Kxxxx  
xxx

### The Simple Raise

This is not an invitational bid, but rather a tactical bid. It is usually made either as an attempt to increase the preempt and hope to keep the opponents out, or sometimes with a reasonably good hand, although not enough to have a game your way, in the hopes that the opponents will come in and go down.

In all cases, after a weak two bid has been opened, the responder takes control of the auction, and unless a forcing bid is made, the opener does not bid again, but leaves all decisions as to sacrifices or doubles to partner.

### Opening at the Three Level

Three level opening bids have many similarities to the weak two bids in that they are descriptive and make it even more difficult for the opponents to enter the auction.

### Requirements for an Opening Three Bid

- 1) A seven card suit (occasionally may be done with a bad eight card suit).
- 2) No outside four card major.
- 3) No outside Ace and not more than

one outside King, as this makes it too difficult for partner to assess defensive prospects.

3) Do not pre-empt if your suit is headed by AKQ, as you may well miss 3NT.

If vulnerable, you should be within two tricks of your contract, and if not vulnerable, versus vulnerable opponents, you should be within three tricks of the contract.

### Responding to an Opening Three Bid

1) A new suit below game level by responder is forcing for one round. Opener should raise with any three card support or doubleton honor and rebid his own suit with no support.

2) A raise of opener's minor is tactical and not invitational.

3) A bid at game level is to play.

4) A bid of 4 NT is blackwood.

Again, remember that responder takes control of the auction and makes all decisions regarding sacrificing and doubling.

### An Opening Bid of Four of a Major

Partnership agreements will vary on these bids, especially if any convention such as Namyats is being used, but standardly an opening bid of four of a major should be made on a hand, with either a very good seven card suit or an eight card suit, with a trick taking potential of eight tricks. The hand should not contain more than one outside control, and most of the strength should be in the suit bid.

### Examples of Four Level Major Suit Opening Bids

1) AKxxxxxx  
x  
xx  
Qx

2)Ax  
KQJxxxx  
xx  
x

3)x  
AKQJxxx  
xxx  
xx

### Responding to an Opening Bid of Four of A Major

Always assume that partner can take eight tricks, and therefore he is already counting on you for two tricks for the contract. You should have four potential tricks in your hand before you look for a slam.

Examples:

1)xx  
AJxx  
AQxx  
xxx

Pass

2)Qx  
KQJ  
KQxx  
AKxx

Check for Aces

3)Qxx  
AQxx  
Ax  
Axxx

Bid 6 spades

Occasionally you will want to bid higher with weak hands and a fit, just to increase the pre-emptive value when you are sure that the opponents have a slam.

Example: Your partner opens with four hearts and you hold:

x  
xxxx  
Qxxxx  
xxx

Bid six hearts at your earliest opportunity, as you can be very sure that the opponents can make six spades, and you must deprive them of bidding room.

---

## Valkenburg A Coach's Diary

**Bridge in the Olympiad is an exhilarating experience. One team per country, competing as equals ...**

**By Neil Chambers**

The Asst. Captain (me) was due in Amsterdam late Sunday morning, and with a quick connection to a functional European train, was expected to arrive as the first match was ending. The first was Turkey. George was bringing the cranberry sauce and Allan was doing the carving, so no problem was expected, but I wanted to be there for Israel and Argentina, the balance of a tough first day. However, my 'direct' flight spent a day in Calgary waiting for repairs to engine no. 3, and then the controllers went on strike.

With a bad case of jet lag, I reeled into the Cocarde (a mall area constructed around the local casino) just in time for the fifth match. Canada was solidly ensconced in the middle of Group A. Turkey had stopped us cold (-1 to 20), but like a fastball pitcher with a long windup, we blazed by Israel (20 to -1) and had not lost since. Spirits and hopes were high and I learned that Canada had won a preliminary tournament in Denmark, attended by the Olympiad teams from Denmark, Ireland and Poland.

The prize, a bust of JFK with a hole in his head (for use as a piggy bank) was definitely kitsch.

That night a key match was presented



Allen Graves contemplating the inevitable

on Vu-Graph, Canada vs. the Netherlands. Kokish-Nagy played in the closed room while Murray-Kehela started on boards 19 and 20, then their results were viewed live and compared with K-N's results. Netherlands played well, and after eighteen boards led Canada 39-28. The partisan crowd was raucous. Board 20 was a likely partscore pickup for Canada, as Zwaan had to play double dummy to go down only one in his three diamond contract.

**Maas**  
**Nagy**  
 S Q9x  
 H A9x  
 D K10x  
 C AK98

**Kehela**  
**Mulder**  
 S xx  
 H KQ108xx  
 D Jx  
 C Qxx

**Zwaan**  
**Kokish**  
 S Jx  
 H Jxx  
 D Axxx  
 C J10xx

**Murray**  
**Vergoed**  
 S AK10xxx  
 H x  
 D Q98x  
 C xx

And sure enough, Kokish-Nagy beat two spades a trick to win 5 imps and narrow the gap to 39-33 with only the penultimate board to be compared.

This had been the first board played in the Vu-Graph room, and Zwaan had started actively against Murray-Kehela.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<b>Zwaan</b>	<b>Kehela</b>	<b>Maas</b>	<b>Murray</b>
1D	P	2D*	X
P	2H	3H	4D
5D	P	P	5H
Pass	Pass	Pass	

\*inverted

**North**  
 S 10xx  
 H xx  
 D AKQxx  
 C AQx

**West**  
 S Jxx  
 H QJ9xx  
 D 10xx  
 C Jx

**East**  
 S AKQxx  
 H AK8  
 D Void  
 C K97xx

**South**  
 S xx  
 H xxx  
 D J9xxx  
 C 10xx

But Murray-Kehela judged the hand well to compete to five hearts, making just five after dummy was tapped with an opening diamond lead. Pulling all stops, six can be made, so it looked like sure defeat; despondent, Allan left to compare with the team.

Eric and Peter responded to Zwaan's opening salvo with a subtle blow of their own.

<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>
<b>Kokish</b>	<b>Vergoed</b>	<b>Nagy</b>	<b>Kreijns</b>
P	P	1D	X
1H	P	1NT	X
2C*	P	2D	3D
P	<b>3H**</b>	P	3S
Pass	<b>Pass</b>	Pass	Pass

Eric had created some confusion, Netherlands had missed game, Canada had won 10imps and the crucial match 43-39. The usually boisterous Dutch crowd confidently expecting victory was in a state of stunned shock as cheering cascaded from the Canadian camp in the right balcony.

Canada was marching and won all critical encounters in the next few days. Stamina and psychology were coming into play (Murray entered the open room, lighting and puffing his cigar to

'Deutschland Uber Alles' when he and Kehela faced Austria). Canada had played itself into a strong position to qualify, only one match out of the lead, on the eve of the Brazil confrontation.

Canada vs. Brazil and the Canadian ladies vs. the U.S.A. Saturday afternoon (incredibly neither match was on Vu-Graph) and only a last minute change had rescheduled the men to play beside the women in the 'Pit'. The Pit, holding two bridge tables, was a small square room, filled with vocal, smoking, hostile Dutch kibitzers who were pro-Brazilian. (Assumpcao dropped the doubleton queen of clubs, holding the ace, king and a nine card fit, and had no sooner called the kuHING than the crowd started clapping). It was perfectly acceptable to silently wander in, see who was playing, take two pictures and wander out. Not an ideal situation;

Graves-Mittleman started the pendulum toward Brazil early.

<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>
<b>Chagas</b>	<b>Graves</b>	<b>Assumpcao</b>	<b>Mittleman</b>
P	P	1C*	X**
P	3C	x	3D***
3S	5D	P	P
X	Pass	Pass	Pass



Joe Ambury, editor of Popular Bridge Monthly, waiting for the hand of the decade to materialize, as he kibitzes Alberto Calvo (Panama) playing against Hans Kreyens (Netherlands).

- \* 16 plus HCP or compensating distribution
- \*\* the reds or the blacks
- \*\*\*the reds

**Mittleman**  
 S Q83  
 H AQJ43  
 D A1083  
 C 4

**Assumpcao**  
 S A976  
 H K8  
 D 2  
 C AKQ982

**Graves  
 (Dummy)**  
 S J5  
 H 7652  
 D KQ95  
 C 1075

**Chagas**  
 S K1042  
 H 109  
 D J764  
 C J63

George was systematically heavy for his bid, Allan and Gabriel were just being themselves. Two rounds of clubs were led, and George ruffed low. He now blocked diamonds, leading the eight to the king, lost control and went

for 500. Four spades was bid and made by Kokish-Nagy in the closed room, but double dummy (and Graves would have been on lead to simplify the defense) four hearts is the only available game. From this point, the Brazilians were out-bid, but Canadian card play did not sparkle. The mood seemed to be infectious as the Ladies lost 20 to -5 while the men held steady at zero.

We were now 8th, rockily dropped to 9th, and had four more days to regain form in search of a qualifying spot. The team played well and came within 3 VPs of qualifying, but time ran out when the Netherlands lost only 20 to 0 against Denmark (we needed 20 to -3).

The Canadian Teams were highly emotional (problems, Problems, PROBLEMS) but seemed capable of rising to the occasion. They were talented players, capable of winning it all, but sometimes completely divorced from reality. On balance they played well, 5th was a commendable finish...they were close...close, but no cigar!



Assumpcao (Brazil) looking for inspiration? Or checking out a kibitzer!

# The Cooper Convention

Reprinted from The Matchpointer (Unit 430 B.C. Newsletter)

**Editor's Note:** The Matchpointer does not identify the author of the witty gambit of information, so we humbly apologize to that person whoever she/he may be...

If you play in an aggressive partnership which seems to try to buy the hand at all cost, then you'll find that you seem to be dummy more than your fair share, especially playing with a hand-hog. Of course, it's not much fun being dummy, as The Law has more or less robotized that role. The convention described here (developed by Peter Cooper, not D.B.) is designed to involve the dummy as play develops. The basic idea is that declarer can communicate to dummy by means of calling for unnaturally high cards, or by some other related method of signalling, how the hand is progressing and whether declarer is expecting good things or not.

The convention finds its origins in the "Dummy Falsecards", which Peter used when he first started playing bridge at the clubs. He found to his amazement that if a weak opponent led an ace or king in a suit in which he had quick losers, initiating an echo with dummy's worthless cards was often enough to persuade the opponent to shift! The psychology behind this is presently being investigated by a PhD student at U.B.C. The convention also had its origins in a Bridge World article, "The Congratulatory Jack", which describes a legitimate means of signalling emotion at the table, rather than just card holdings.

It is up to the individual partnership to devise a specific method of signalling dummy, but here are a few examples: Calling for the J from a holding of QJT<sub>x</sub> could mean "the contract is making...", whereas calling for the 10 could mean "Overtricks, partner!". Meaningless echoes with small cards can be used to

mean that things are going well and a good result is anticipated.

It is the duty of the declarer to pass on news as early as possible. This allows dummy to relax and save himself for the next hand, even though in certain partnerships he may be dummy once again. And if the good news never comes? Well, dummy may be an emotional wreck by the end of the hand, but at least he'll feel he has participated in the action.

Here is a sample of the Cooper Convention in action:

As the eventual dummy, you hold:

S 8642  
H 2  
D Q987652  
C 2

Matchpoints, both vul.

You hear partner open 1S and a pass on your right. You automatically reject the forcing raise in favour of the more conservative raise to 2S. L.H.O. jumps to 4H, partner tries 5C, and R.H.O. comes to life with 5H. Your defensive ability has always been in question so to make sure your side buys the hand you bid 6S. This goes around to R.H.O. who sacrifices in 7H, taking out some insurance. Of course you still have no

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defense so you get a piece of the rock yourself by competing to 7S. Oddly enough, it goes Double on your left. You're not playing for money, so there doesn't seem to be any point in redoubling. The person on your right pulls out various cards and finally tables the heart king. This is overtaken, but partner ruffs with the spade jack. He now plays the spade ace, (both follow, with the queen falling), and lays down the ace of diamonds. The king is played on your right, and partner studiously calls for the 8 of D. Aha! We're making this one!

Funny, the last time you held four deuces you bid and made Grand Slam too! (Thank you, Peter Walton, for len-

ding this hand from your collection). After ruffing high, partner has three spade entries to set up and cash the diamonds. He doesn't need a club break. "I should have redoubled, but you always put down such bad dummies," says pard.

Partner  
S AKJT753  
H Void  
D A  
C Axxxx

Dummy  
S 8642  
H 2  
D Q987652  
C 2

## Valkenburg,

# Olympiad Team Championship

By Eric Kokish

East-West Vulnerable. North deals.

### NORTH

S 6  
H KJ7  
D 42  
C A1087542

### WEST

S A1074  
H A84  
D Q108  
C K93

### EAST

S Q952  
H 53  
D J9653  
C Q6

### SOUTH

S KJ83  
H Q10962  
D AK7  
C J

The Bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
P	P	1C*	P
2C	P	2H	P
3C**	P	4H	(all pass)

Opening lead: Heart four

- \* usually 16<sup>+</sup> HCP, forcing
- \*\* good heart support, minim.

Another Gabriel Chagas brilliancy from the Valkenburg Olympiad. The bidding was exuberant PRECISION and the final contract was uncomfortable after West (Israel's Hochzeit) started a trump. Dummy's seven won and declarer (Chagas) crossed to a diamond to lead the club jack. West ducked

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Eric Kokish during a lighter moment

and declarer passed it to East's queen. A trump back would be devastating, of course, but East (Levit) not unreasonably attempted to tap dummy.

He led the queen of spades. Smoothly, Chagas followed low! West thought about overtaking the ace to play trumps, but how could he know? East played a

second spade, eight, ten ruff. Now...diamond to the closed hand; spade king, ace, ruff; club ace to pitch the diamond loser; club ruff; trump nine. Declarer could ruff any return, draw the last trump and claim his jack of spades. Chagas lost only the trump ace to West and...the two black queens to East. The Brazilian maestro had done it again!

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*Reprinted from the Dorbitzer (Ontarion Unit 166 publication), edited by John Carruthers.*

Both Canadian teams had disappointing results in the World Team Olympiad in Holland last month. The Open Team, despite winning 23 of 28 matches, could do no better than finish 5th in its section, missing a qualifying berth by a scant 3 v.p. (Canada was picked to win its section by one British magazine). They finished 10th overall out of a field of 58 teams, a slight improvement on the 13th place showing in 1976. This Olympiad marked a record 6th appearance by Murray-Kehela, the only partnership to play in all Team

Olympiads since their inception in 1960.

The Ladies Team finished 7th of 29 in Valkenburg, slightly worse than their 4th place finish in Monte Carlo. The winner of the Open Team event was France, which defeated the U.S. 131-111 in an 80-board final match. The Ladies section was won by the U.S. with Italy 2nd.

Our Open Team has been defeated in the semi-final of the 1981 Bermuda Bowl Trials held in Memphis at the beginning of November. They were beaten by 23 I.M.P.'s by a team led by Sontag--Weichsel. Had they been fortunate enough to reach the final, they would have carried a 41 I.M.P. lead over the Reinhold team into a 72-board final match. Tough luck.

## Canadians Triumph Once Again

# Grand National Rookies From Ontario

For the second straight year Canadian rookies have brought that title back to Canada. Sunny Ngan and his uncle, Peter Ngan of Willowdale, Ontario, managed to put together a terrific second session to outdistance all their competitors by ten points.

Sunny has been involved in the game of bridge for the past ten years but only recently took up the intricacies of duplicate and was able to convert Uncle Peter away from the rubber bridge table. The two Ngans rarely played together and even after they won the District Rookie Pairs, didn't put enough time in to developing a well-honed partnership. Their first session in Lancaster suffered due to this factor, but with a little discipline they were able to do well enough in the second session to overcome the bad beginning.

The following hand is an indication of aggressive defence:

Dealer East  
N/S Vulnerable

**NORTH**  
**Peter**  
S A64  
H AK8653  
D 876  
C 3


**WEST**  
S 87  
H 942  
D AKJ102  
C A94

**SOUTH**  
**Sunny**  
S J32  
H QJ7  
D Q95  
C 10765

**EAST**  
S KQ1095  
H 10  
D 43  
C QJ82

East	South	West	North
1S	Pass	2D	2H
3C	Pass	3S	Pass
4S	Pass	Pass	Pass

Sunny led the Heart Queen and was surprised to find himself on lead again at trick four after declarer went to dummy with the Diamond Ace to lead a trump to the ten. After that bit of surgery, South returned the Heart Jack and the Ngans were able to force declarer with a by pass (Heart pump) every time they were in to cause East to completely lose control of the hand. The result, down two, simply because the Ngans gave declarer a 'heart attack' that decimated him.



## Bridge Bolts

One of our tournament rated directors was playing at a local club with a female partner (known more for her striking beauty than her bridge ability) when an opponent began questioning the lady partner about one of the director's bids.

After several fruitless attempts to find out the meaning of the call, the frustrated opponent finally inquired, "well, what do you think the bid means?" The director drew upon his most authoritative manner and said "are you trying to accuse my partner of thinking?"

	N	
W		E
	S	