

canadian bridge digest

CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION
FEDERATION CANADIENNE DE BRIDGE

Maurice Paul Bidding Champs Receive Trophy



CBF President Aidan Ballantyne (R) congratulates Gord McOrmond and Dan Jacob.

Canadian Bridge Digest

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Editorial

We're back. As you may (or may not) have noticed, there was no August *Digest*. That issue had to be skipped because of the CBF's sorry financial situation.

So, what's happened since we last talked, back in May? The three Canadian championships (CNTC, CWTC and AC-COPC) have been held, and we have reports on all three events in this magazine.

And by the time you're reading this, our Open and Women's teams will have competed in Venice, at the quadriennial Olympiad. In this issue we profile the six members of our Open Team. We figure they have a decent chance to make the playoffs. Our Women's Team, which we profiled earlier this year, is rated even higher. We would not be amazed to see them reach the final, although even the most patriotic rooster will admit that the British ladies will be tough to beat.

On the political front (read: ACBL vs. CBF), there has been plenty of activity as well, but no dramatic development. Bridge politicians on both sides of the border are still hard at work, searching for a solution which will satisfy Canadian bridge players. The ACBL has sent a questionnaire on this topic to a number of Canadian ACBL members, while the CBF is polling Canadian units, all this preparatory to an important meeting between ACBL Directors and CBF President Aidan Ballantyne at the Fall Nationals. Aidan has promised to inform members of developments, via an article in the February 1989 issue of the *Digest*.

Nos lecteurs francophones peuvent être fiers de la victoire de l'équipe de Québec à Vancouver. Nos félicitations aux champions Canadiens. Bien entendu, je me dois, comme éditeur du Digest, féliciter en particulier notre chroniqueur Maurice Larochelle. Bravo.

Parlant de Monsieur Larochelle, vous vous souviendrez sans doute du questionnaire que Maurice avait inséré dans sa chronique, il y a plusieurs mois. Le résultat de ce sondage fut le suivant: 74 lecteurs ont répondu; 97% veulent que la FCB soit maintenue en vie; Les mêmes 97% ont indiqué qu'ils seraient prêts à payer un surplus, moyennant \$5/année, afin de permettre le financement de la FCB. Et dans le cas où les négociations entre la FCB et l'ACBL échouaient, 84% se joindraient à une nouvelle FCB indépendante et payeraient en moyenne \$25/année pour ce privilège. Enfin, exactement 50% nous ont laissé savoir qu'ils ne demeureraient pas membres de l'ACBL sous ce dernier scénario. Pas mal intéressant, hein?



The Vancouver CNTC

by A. Ballantyne & S. McIlwain

The 1988 Canadian National Team Championship (CNTC) national final took place last June 4 - 8 in Vancouver, on the beautiful University of British Columbia campus. The 20-team field included representatives from all over Canada.

THE FINALISTS:

Zone I (Maritimes)

I. CROWE, G. Chippen, A. Millman, B. Armstrong (primarily Nova Scotia)
G. HOLLAND, M. Betts, B. Alexander, G. Caldwell, J. Stewart, E. Balkam (Nova Scotia and New Brunswick)

Zone II (Quebec-Ottawa)

L. ATKINSON, E. Marchand, N. Krnjevic, D. MacRae, M. Beauchamp, D. Doston (Montreal)
M. STEIN (npc), M. Molson, B. Baran, E. Murray, S. Kehela, J. Guoba, J. Carruthers (Montreal-Toronto)
D. HERON, E. Zaluski, J. Riegler, L. Glaser, V. Pomykalski, Z. Marcinski (primarily Ottawa)
A. SMITH, M. Newland, W. Perrin, V. Oddy, M. Roche, J. Rayner (Ottawa-S. Ontario)
M. LAROCHELLE, A. Laliberte, J. Laliberte, J. Bernier, K. Fergani, R. Fortin (primarily Quebec City area)

Zone III (S. Ontario)

S. PAULSSON (npc), M. Caplan, D. Caplan, B. Boyle, F. Gitelman, M. Arbour, A. Graves (primarily Toronto)
H. EDGAR, M. Schoenborn, D. Turner, G. Carroll, M. Kirr, A. Hobart (S. Ontario)
S. AARONS, R. Taylor, T. Greer, W. Timms (S. Ontario)
D. PHILLIPS, N. Hanna, F. Lerner, J. Gowdy, R. Dalton, W. Crissey (Toronto)
S. COOPER, K. Balcombe, J. Duquette, J. Cohen, G. Mittelman, J. Silver (primarily Toronto)

Zone IV (N. Ontario-S. Manitoba)

R. MILLER, J. Miller, S. O'Connor, J. O'Connor, D. Thomas, B. Livingston (St. Ste. Marie)
A. MORIN, M. Yuen, K. Sired, D. Sired, R. Todd, R. Kuz (Winnipeg)

Zone V (N. Manitoba-Saskatchewan-Alberta)

S. CABAY, J. Galand, R. Gardiner, A. Terplawy, G. Johansson, S. Mathieson (primarily Edmonton)
P. JONES, B. Maksymetz, B. Crosby, David Smith, M. Chomyn, N. Gartaganis (Edmonton)
B. HARPER, G. Campbell, W. Zerebesky, K. Gee, Duncan Smith, J. McAvoy (primarily Saskatoon)

Zone VI (British Columbia)

A. CHAPELLE, J. Ribeyre, K. Bibby, D. Grant, M. Hargreaves (Vancouver Island)
N. DIVINSKY (npc), D. Jacob, G. McOrmond, A. Ballantyne, M. Strebinger, J. Dickie, R. Borg (primarily Vancouver)
D. RICHARDS (npc), C. Ellison, D. Ellison, T. McNie, B. Kupkee, T. Craig, D. Peterson (B.C. Interior)

The 20 teams played a complete round-robin over three days (10-board matches scored in victory points). The top four round-robin finishers qualified for single knockout playoffs. IMPs from round-robin matches involving playoff contenders were carried over (maximum 20 IMP carryover). The winner would compete in the tri-country playoff (Canada, Mexico, Bermuda) to determine North America's second representative in the 1989 Bermuda Bowl.



The winners: Kamel Fergani, Raymond Fortin, Jean Bernier, Maurice Larochelle, Andre Laliberte and Jacques Laliberte.

ROUND-ROBIN

There were two prohibitive favorites going in: STEIN (npc) and EDGAR. STEIN, who would play for Canada in the 1988 Olympiad, included Murray-Kehela, recently unretired. Historically, this pair has accounted for most of Canada's success in American and international competition. EDGAR also had international experience, having just played in the 1987 Bermuda Bowl where the team's three regular partnerships had acquitted themselves well. The other two playoff berths figured to be wide open.

The event took shape by the end of day 1 (after 6 matches) with the standings as follows:

1. STEIN 326 VPs (ave. = 240)
2. CABAY 316
- 3/4. LAROCHELLE and ATKINSON 304
5. PAULSSON 298
6. COOPER 288
7. EDGAR 276
8. SMITH 264

STEIN looked in form having begun with a blitz and won five of six matches. From their perspective the only downnote was a 22 IMP loss to LAROCHELLE in the last match of the day. CABAY had also started strongly with just one loss in six pairings, to EDGAR. LAROCHELLE and ATKINSON both looked good, but LAROCHELLE had had the tougher draw and had impressed with big wins over STEIN and well regarded HOLLAND. EDGAR, on the other hand, had begun tentatively and had already suffered three small losses.

By the end of the long second day (after 13 matches) the standings had changed somewhat:

- 1/2. LAROCHELLE 638 VPs (ave. = 520)
- AARONS
3. HOLLAND 635
4. PAULSSON 626
5. STEIN 617
6. CABAY 607
7. COOPER 606
8. JONES 602

STEIN had slumped a bit having lost 3 of 7 matches including a critical 26 IMP defeat at the hands of HOLLAND. LAROCHELLE had continued strongly with a series of wins that included a 12 IMP success over EDGAR who continued to struggle. However, LAROCHELLE had suffered a blitz at the hands of COOPER in the last match and would have to regroup for the next day. The second day marked the emergence of AARONS, a four-man team, and HOLLAND, the Maritimers. HOLLAND had gone on a streak with just one loss, by 1 IMP, and several big wins, including a blitz over the strong PHILLIPS team. AARONS had also recorded several sizeable wins and had ended day two with a blitz over ATKINSON. This marked the end of a long day for ATKINSON who had started off tied for third. CABAY, the western hope, had had a very average day but still contended. Meanwhile JONES, another western entry, had appeared among the leaders. At this point there were just 8 teams over the 600 VP mark. EDGAR lurked just below the leaders, at 589 VPs.

The third day began with an important match-up between last year's two finalists, STEIN and EDGAR. Somewhat unexpectedly, the defending STEIN team won by a blitz. This virtually ended EDGAR's hopes for 1988. It also propelled STEIN to a strong finish and victory in the round-robin. LAROCHELLE began day 3 well also, with two sizeable wins, and this ensured their qualification for the playoffs. The remaining contenders played unevenly and so, the other two playoff berths were in doubt until the end. With one match to go the standings were:

1. STEIN 903 (ave. = 720)
2. LAROCHELLE 881
3. AARONS 856
4. HOLLAND 835
5. COOPER 823
6. PAULSSON 817
7. EDGAR 791
8. JONES 790

COOPER had the good fortune of drawing HOLLAND, PAULSSON would play LAROCHELLE, while AARONS would play a noncontender. AARONS had an easy time of it, winning by 37 IMPs. This meant HOLLAND vs. COOPER would decide the final qualification. As it turned out, HOLLAND won easily to seal COOPER'S fate. The final standings were:

1. STEIN 980 (ave. = 760)
2. LAROCHELLE 956
3. AARONS 933
4. HOLLAND 900
5. COOPER 838
6. JONES 836
7. EDGAR 834
8. DIVINSKY 828
9. PAULSSON 822
10. HERON 788

The final four would consist of two Montreal-Toronto axis teams (STEIN and AARONS), one French Canadian team (LAROCHELLE), and one Maritime squad (HOLLAND). It's back to the drawing board for the West!

THE SEMIFINALS

The round-robin winners STEIN selected AARONS, against whom they enjoyed a 2 IMP carry-over, as semifinal opponents, leaving LAROCHELLE to face HOLLAND, the former being credited with the maximum 20 IMP carry-over.



They made the semi-finals: Eric Balkam, John Stewart, George Holland, George Caldwell, Mike Betts and Brian Alexander.

Although the same hands were played in both matches, the semifinals developed very differently. STEIN built a huge lead against AARONS in the early going and was never challenged, while LAROCHELLE and HOLLAND traded the lead at each quarter. There was one constant: there were plenty of IMPs to be had in both matches, right from the outset. This was a classic:

Dealer: South

Vul.: East-West

♠ 84

♥ A1082

♦ QJ63

♣ A93

♠ AQ762

♥ Q764

♦ K92

♣ 2

♠ KJ105

♥ KJ953

♦ 7

♣ KQ6

♠ 93

♥ -

♦ A10854

♣ J108754

STEIN vs. AARONS

West	North	East	South
<i>Aarons</i>	<i>Murray</i>	<i>Greer</i>	<i>Kehela</i>
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	Dbl.	2NT
Dbl.	3♦	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl.
Pass	Pass	Pass	
<i>Molson</i>	<i>Taylor</i>	<i>Baran</i>	<i>Timms</i>
-	-	-	Pass
1♠	Dbl.	4NT	5NT
Pass*	Pass	Dbl.	Pass
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl.	Pass	Pass	Pass

*Double = zero, Pass = one

LAROCHELLE vs. HOLLAND

Stewart	A. Lal.	Balkam	Bernier
-	-	-	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2NT**	3NT
Pass	5♦	5♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

*Spades and another suit

**Forcing



Ross Taylor and Wayne Timms

Fergani	Caldwell	Fortin	Alexander
-	-	-	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	2NT
3♥	4♦	4NT	5♦
Dbl.*	Pass	6♣	Dbl.
Pass	Pass	Pass	

*Double = odd, Pass = even

Aarons' pass combined with Murray's four-card major opener resulted in a clear double for Kehela and the first five tricks on defense, +500. Timms' 5NT bid gave Molson-Baran an easy plus position, and although one spade trick slipped away, they also scored +500. Overlooking the defensive potential of the South hand turned a potential swing to AARONS into a 14 IMP loss.

Balkam-Stewart had a chance to double 5♦, and were fortunate to escape undoubled in 5♠, although East-West had no reason to suspect down three and +300. The bidding at table 4 worked to East-West's advantage to a point. Caldwell's decision not to make a takeout double made it difficult for Alexander to defend at the five-level. This gave Fortin a chance to convert the double of 5♦ for penalties, but this was a hand where Double-Odd-Pass-Even was no help at all. South now had an automatic double, +1100, and 13 IMPs to HOLLAND. Imagine how Caldwell felt when his partner doubled.



After sixteen boards, STEIN had a nearly unsurmountable 64 IMP lead, while HOLLAND had made up the carry-over and led by 18 IMPs.

In the second quarter, STEIN stretched their lead to no less than 99 IMPs, and while AARONS won the last two quarters, STEIN won comfortably by 67 IMPs. LAROCHELLE recovered to take a 10 IMP lead at the halfway mark. On one board, Fortin-Fergani played in 3NT requiring a finesse to make nine tricks, while Holland-Betts were in 5♦, requiring a ruffing finesse against the same king to make 11 tricks. The simple finesse was on, 11 IMPs to LAROCHELLE.

In the third quarter, HOLLAND regained the lead, partly because of this hand:

Dealer: East

Vul.: East-West

<p>♠ A5 ♥ Q32 ♦ A1087 ♣ 10973</p>	<p>♠ 93 ♥ A10764 ♦ 9 ♣ AKJ84</p>
<p>♠ K72 ♥ KJ8 ♦ KQ6432 ♣ 6</p>	<p>♠ QJ10864 ♥ 95 ♦ J5 ♣ Q52</p>

West	North	East	South
<i>Betts</i>	<i>A. Lalib.</i>	<i>Holland</i>	<i>Bernier</i>
—	—	2♠	Pass
3♣	Dbl.	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
<i>Fergani</i>	<i>Stewart</i>	<i>Fortin</i>	<i>Balkam</i>
—	—	2♦*	Pass
2NT**	Pass	3♠***	Pass
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass

*a form of multi

**asking

***revealing this mess



Semi-finalists Tom Greer, Steve Aarons

Here both NS pairs had a chance at 3♠ doubled for an easy +500 when the EW pairs engaged in some vulnerable frivolity, but found their way to the two makeable games on the hand. The defense led ace and a spade against Bernier's 3NT. Bernier next led the jack of hearts, holding, and had to decide who to play for the diamond ace. He chose East, and consequently played a club to the jack for his game-going trick, going down three when East showed up with the queen. Balkam had a rather easy time in 4♥, and ended up making five for a 14 IMP pickup.

The final quarter was dead even with eight hands to play, but then turned into a bloodbath, LAROCHELLE outscoring HOLLAND 74-22 for a winning margin of 43 IMPs. It was a tough loss for the Maritime team that had been so steady throughout the tournament.

LAROCHELLE would take a 20 IMP carryover into the finals against the heavily-favoured STEIN team.

THE FINALS

The first quarter featured LAROCHELLE outbidding STEIN on three slam deals:

First, Jacques Laliberte and Maurice Larochelle held:

<p>♠ 74 ♥ K10754 ♦ AQJ ♣ AK10</p>	<p>♠ A65 ♥ — ♦ K106 ♣ Q987653</p>
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They overcame an opposing Flannery opening to reach the cold 6♣ contract, while Kehela-Murray languished in game.

Then, Fergani-Fortin reached 6♣ on these hands:

♠ AK5	♠ J9764
♥ 2	♥ AK9
♦ 8732	♦ AQ9
♣ AJ1082	♣ K3

The clubs were 3-3 (queen in front of the jack) and the queen of spades was doubleton, so any line of play would yield 12 tricks and 13 IMPs. Molson-Baran did not bid the slam.



Kamel Fergani was a tower of strength for the winners.

Finally, this exciting board:

Dealer: South

Vul.: North-South

	♠ KQ1097653	
	♥ 82	
	♦ 2	
	♣ 65	
♠ A842		♠ —
♥ K5		♥ AQ9
♦ J		♦ AK106543
♣ AQJ984		♣ K72
	♠ J	
	♥ J107643	
	♦ Q987	
	♣ 103	

West	North	East	South
Molson	J. Lal'e	Baran	Lar'le
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	4♣	5♣	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♦	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

At the other table, Murray sat North and contented himself with a 3♣ preempt, and Fortin-Fergani reached 7♣.

Finally, the tide was stemmed on this spectacular deal, when Fortin-Fergani, affected by Murray's reputation for psyching, had a disaster:

Dealer: West

Vul.: East-West

	♠ Q87642	
	♥ 7	
	♦ 8764	
	♣ K4	
♠ A		♠ J95
♥ AKQJ42		♥ 985
♦ AK2		♦ QJ93
♣ A108		♣ J76
	♠ K103	
	♥ 1063	
	♦ 105	
	♣ Q9532	

West	North	East	South
Fergani	Murray	Fortin	Kehela
2♣	2♣	Pass	3♣
4♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass!	Pass



Fortin explains why he passed Fergani's cuebid.

Fortin's theory is that the 2♣ bidder's rebids in this competitive sequence are: pass = takeout, Double = Strong, balanced, suit = natural. He thought Murray quite capable of psyching the 2♣ overcall and thought it possible that Fergani's 4♣ was natural. Nevertheless, he bid 5♦, just in case. When Fergani rebid 5♣ Fortin's perception was confirmed and he passed

A mere 18 IMPs away when Molson-Baran had no trouble reaching 6♥. Despite this uncomfortable result, LAROCHELLE enjoyed a 39 IMP lead at the end of the first quarter.

In the second quarter, STEIN rallied to cut the deficit to 10 IMPs, aided by this hand:

Dealer: North

Vul.: Both

♠ KQ6
♥ KQ97
♦ 732
♣ K74

♠ 75432
♥ 42
♦ Q654
♣ 92

♠ J1098
♥ A
♦ AK108
♣ AJ86

♠ A
♥ J108653
♦ J9
♣ Q1053

West	North	East	South
Lar'le	Murray	J. Lal'e	Kehela
—	1♣	Pass	1♥
Dbl.	2♥	2♠	4♥
4♠	Dbl.	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Kehela didn't have the greatest hand for his 4♥ bid but he did have the spade ace so he went for the plus. The defense took the obvious four tricks for +200. At the other table the auction was the same but South pulled North's double of 4♠ to 5♥. This was doubled by Guoba-Carruthers for +500 EW and 12 IMPs to STEIN.



Sami Kehela ponders his opening lead while Andre Laliberte waits.

The match was effectively decided in the third quarter. LAROCHELLE earned several large swings, including:

Dealer: South

Vul.: North-South

♠ AK1083
♥ K32
♦ A9
♣ 1052

♠ QJ97
♥ 10875
♦ KQ1053
♣ —

♠ 65
♥ AJ
♦ J842
♣ 98763

♠ 42
♥ Q964
♦ 76
♣ AKQJ4

West	North	East	South
Bernier	Murray	A. Lal'e	Kehela
—	—	—	1♣
Dbl.	Redbl.	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Kehela went down one, losing one diamond and two hearts. At the other table Fergani-Fortin reached 3NT after Fergani opened a weak NT with the South hand. West led a diamond and Fergani was faced with 8 sure winners. With a shrug he took the double spade finesse, his best chance. When this worked he had his game contract and 12 IMPs. The matchbreaker came soon after:

Dealer: South

Vul.: North-South

♠ KQ9
♥ AK432
♦ AK
♣ 986

♠ J8643
♥ QJ6
♦ 1083
♣ Q3

♠ 52
♥ 10875
♦ 652
♣ AJ75

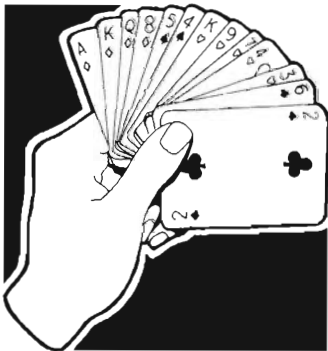
♠ A107
♥ 9
♦ QJ974
♣ K1042

West	North	East	South
<i>Molson</i>	<i>Fortin</i>	<i>Baran</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Dbl.	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Fergani ended a rather confused auction by jumping to 6♦. Molson led the club queen in response to Baran's double. Baran won and returned a club, and Fergani was at the crossroads. After some thought he played the king, played a heart to the ace, ruffed a heart, played a diamond to the king, cashed the ♦A, ruffed another heart and played his last trump. When everybody followed he was home: +1370 and another 12 IMPs.

LAROCHELLE outscored STEIN 70-14 in the third quarter and the match was over. The fourth quarter, a formality, enabled LAROCHELLE to pad their lead and the final score was LAROCHELLE 214, STEIN 125. The French Canadians were the new champs.

The Vancouver CNTC was a tremendous success and some new standards were set from the point of view of organization: a large, easily-read scoreboard; a well-lit comfortable playing area; and generous hospitality. These features should be implemented at all future CNTC national finals.



The Grand Illusion

by Ross Taylor, Edmonton

The scene was an intermediate round of the CNTC and our two pairs were battling it out for the final qualification spot. There would be only one survivor. Along came a relatively routine 6♣ contract. Not much in the cards here...or was there? Would you have declared 6♠?

South	North
♠AQJ10832	♠74
♥AQ	♥J1073
♦6	♦A982
♣KQJ	♣A52

The opening lead was the ♦K, taken by dummy's ace. The contract appeared to be on one of two finesses. Does it matter which one you take first?

Our declarer decided to hook the spade first, and was gratified to see the ♠9 come up on his left. It was a simple matter to overtake the ♣K and repeat the spade finesse. In fact, by riding the ♠7, he would still be on the board and could then finesse the ♥Q for the overtrick.

It occurred to him that this overtrick play could be thwarted if East was up to playing the ♠K at that point, but that didn't really matter. On to the next hand. However, East did not produce the ♠K, so declarer smiled to himself in anticipation of the overtrick. East produced the ♠6, and declarer underplayed with his deuce.

Perhaps East's failure to cover meant that he didn't care whether declarer remained on the board or not. In that case, the ♥K was probably offside. That pleased our declarer even more, for it meant that he had guessed correctly how to tackle the hand. Had he tried the heart finesse first, he would not have had the entries to take two spade finesses. Maybe there was a swing on the board after all...There was.

West produced the ♠K! With murder in his heart, declarer ruffed the diamond return and played all his winners, but there were no discarding errors. East saved his ♥K until the end, and declarer sheepishly went down in a routine slam.

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Defenders Win Another CWTC Crown

by Barbara Tench, Ottawa



Back: Stan Tench (tournament director), Mary Paul, Katie Thorpe, Gloria Silverman, Dianna Gordon, George Mittelman (non-playing captain). Front: Sharyn Reus, Francine Asselin Cimon.

The 5th Canadian Women's Team Championship was held in London, Ont. in July. The 20 team round-robin format produced four finalists to play in knockout competition leading to one final winner. The first day of knockouts saw the CULP team from Toronto playing the DICKIE team from Vancouver and the PAUL team, also mainly from Toronto, playing the SALTSMAN team from Montreal. The two Toronto teams of PAUL and CULP were the finalists and after two grueling sessions of knockout play the winners were Mary Paul, Francine Cimon, Katie Thorpe, Gloria Silverman, Sharyn Reus and Dianna Gordon, with George Mittelman as non-playing captain. This team will again represent Canada in the 1989 world competition. Congratulations and Good Luck.

A meeting of participants was held and 65 women attended. We all agreed the event was an exciting one and felt that the quality of bridge and competition was improving each year. A motion was put before the meeting that international women's teams be chosen through IMP Pairs games producing a team of three pairs to represent Canada. This was defeated 60-5. In 1990

there is no international women's team event for which to qualify, however the meeting was strongly in favour of holding the CWTC every year in its present format. It was agreed that the honour and prestige of winning the CWTC was sufficient reason to play in it and the event will be held annually.

Five women's pairs will represent Canada in 1990 in Geneva. The selection of these 5 pairs will be in the hands of a CBF selection committee. If you are interested in being selected, write to Aidan Ballantyne (address on last page of this Digest).

Information for the 1989 CWTC will be in the February issue of the Digest.

On behalf of the organizers of this year's event, I would like to thank each one of you who made the event possible and successful by your participation. We look forward to your continued support and enjoyment of our team championships. I wish to thank all of the co-ordinators, Zone and Local, for their hard work, and those in London for their hospitality and helpfulness. Last, but not least, thanks to Stan Tench and David Burke who directed the event in their usual efficient fashion and did a fine job.



How We Won The CWTC

by Mary Paul, Toronto

I have just returned from London ON where I competed in the 1988 Canadian Women's Team Championship. I would like to compliment the directors for a very well run event and the organizers for their hospitality.

There were 19 teams of "ladies" in the true sense of the word. The atmosphere was very friendly and we enjoyed the camaraderie.

As far as bridge is concerned, I would like to point out that ladies' bridge is no longer a joke. I saw some hands being played in an excellent fashion. Our team had a huge score in the round robin, but our pickups were mostly in the slam zone. Perhaps we have more experienced partnerships or our system is superior.

I remember three slams we bid and made.

Francine Cimon	Mary Paul
♠ AKQx	♠ xx
♥ Axxx	♥ QJ
♦ xxx	♦ AQJ10xx
♣ Kx	♣ AJx

I opened 1♦, Francine bid 1♥, I rebid 3♦, and my partner very shortly reached 6NT. At the other table my hand rebid 2♦ and the slam was not reached.

It is probably a 2½♦ rebid but, because my partner bid 1♥ rather than 1♠, my hand gets slightly promoted.

Francine Cimon	Mary Paul
♠ Ax	♠ QJxxxx
♥ Kxxx	♥ AQ10xx
♦ Qx	♦ A
♣ Axxxx	♣ K
1♣	1♣
1NT	2♣(1)
2♥	3♦(2)
3♠	6♥(3)

(1) Checkback Stayman: the only forcing bid in our system.

(2) Forcing to game; start cue bidding.

(3) Thank you.

Francine Cimon	Mary Paul
♠ xxx	♠ A
♥ AKxxx	♥ x
♦ x	♦ AKQJx
♣ 10xxx	♣ AKJxxx
—	2♦(4)
2NT(5)	3♣(6)
4♦(7)	7NT(8)

(4) Forcing to game; any suit.

(5) 3 controls (A = 2, K = 1).

(6) Club suit.

(7) Four clubs; singleton diamond.

(8) I can count on pitching my losing diamond on whichever major king partner holds. The only thing that can destroy this grand slam is that partner holds four small clubs and they break with the ♣Qxx on my left! I could ask for the exact trump holding, but even if partner shows four little clubs, I would bid 7NT.

I am looking forward to playing next year and many more years in this event.

It is an event with a lot of class.



Call for Elections

Elections will held this year for CBF Directors from Zones 1 (Atlantic Canada) and IV (Manitoba and Northern Ontario). Candidates may file by notifying Barbara Tench (address on last page of this Digest) in writing by November 30, 1988.



Les Championnats Canadiens par Paires

par Maurice Larochelle

L'unité de Québec était vraiment fière de tenir un tournoi régional en juillet dernier et encore plus fière de tenir en même temps, la finale des championnats canadiens par paires Air Canada. Comme vous le savez déjà sans doute, les gagnants sont deux bridgeurs sympathiques fort bien connus de la région d'Ottawa, John Valliant et Dave Willis.

John et Dave jouent régulièrement ensemble depuis une vingtaine d'années. Comme le souligne Dave, qui se consacre à temps plein au bridge en tant que professeur, gérant de club, directeur et chroniqueur, leur partenariat a résisté à l'usure du temps parce qu'ils sont de très bons amis et parce qu'ils n'ont pas tendance à se critiquer d'une façon trop sévère. Il souligne aussi qu'ils sont assez conservateurs au niveau des enchères. Ils ont adopté le Standard américain, avec le 2 sur 1 impératif de manche et plusieurs autres conventions particulières. Une de ces particularités est que même leurs ouvertures à 1 carreau montrent une suite au moins cinquième. Ainsi, avec un singleton de trèfle dans une distribution 4-4-4-1, ils ouvriront les enchères à 1 trèfle. C'est une annonce impérative évidemment, bien qu'elle puisse être faite avec une ouverture minimale.

Passons à la compétition, répartie sur quatre rondes avec l'élimination de plus de la moitié des paires après la deuxième ronde. Il restait alors 20 paires qui jouaient un round robin de 3 planchettes par ronde. Puisque personne, encore moins les joueurs concernés, ne veulent connaître les meneurs après telle ou telle ronde, qu'il suffise de mentionner que Greg Arbour et Don Brander terminèrent en deuxième place à 6 points des meneurs, alors qu'Albert Organ et Paul Graves étaient à 16 points des deuxièmes.

Il arrivera très rarement qu'une bonne paire prenne une si grande avance lors des rondes préliminaires qu'on lui donnera plus d'une chance sur deux de gagner une telle compétition. Celle de cette année ne fait pas

exception à la règle: les gagnants furent ceux qui surent bien jouer sous pression lors de la dernière ronde, le tout accompagné d'un peu de chance. Au début de la dernière ronde, John et Dave se trouvaient en troisième place, à un top de Gordon Chippin-Alice Manzer et près de deux tops d'Albert Organ-Paul Graves.

Voyons trois mains de cette dernière ronde, tel que rapporté par Dave et John.

Donneur: Nord N-S Vul

Nord
 ♠ RV3
 ♥ D76
 ♦ D7
 ♣ R10976

Ouest
 ♠ A62
 ♥ 1084
 ♦ ARV932
 ♣ 8

Est
 ♠ D987
 ♥ 92
 ♦ 1065
 ♣ 5432

Sud
 ♠ 1054
 ♥ ARV53
 ♦ 84
 ♣ ADV

Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
Willis		Valliant	
—	Passe	Passe	1♥
2♦	2♥	Passe	Passe
Passe			



Les gagnants: Dave Willis et John Valliant.

Entame: Roi de carreau

"La coopération et la communication, dit Dave, sont les ingrédients indispensables pour produire une bonne défense. Voyons ici comment John nous permit d'obtenir un bon résultat.

"Il joua le 5 de carreau sur mon roi (le compte), puis le 10 sur mon as (la préférence). Il me fut facile de rejouer le 2 de pique et quand le déclarant fut mal inspiré, nous nous méritâmes un bon résultat pour l'avoir limité à 9 plis."

Voici une autre donne sur le même thème d'une combinaison de bon jeu et de chance.

Donneur: Nord E-O Vul

Nord

- ♠ D654
- ♥ R872
- ♦ 432
- ♣ A7

Ouest

- ♠ 932
- ♥ V1094
- ♦ AD9
- ♣ V92

Est

- ♠ AV108
- ♥ A63
- ♦ 6
- ♣ R10653

Sud

- ♠ R7
- ♥ D5
- ♦ RV10875
- ♣ D84

Les Encheres

Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
	<i>Valliant</i>		<i>Willis</i>
–	Passe	1♣	1♦
1 SA	2♦	Passe	Passe
2♥	Passe	Passe	3♦
Ctre	Passe	Passe	Passe

Entame: Valet de coeur

Voici les commentaires de Dave concernant cette main: "Je fis la dame de coeur et rejouai un coeur immédiatement, appelant un petit du mort quand le flanc gauche joua le 9. Celui-ci changea au 2 de trèfle et Est gagna du roi. Sur le retour d'un atout, Ouest fit la dame. Quand il rejoua le 9 de pique, le flanc droit commit l'erreur de duquer. Je fis la dame, traversai au mort par l'as de trèfle, coupai un coeur, ce qui libérait le roi et coupai la dame de trèfle en Nord. J'encaissai

1989

Canadian Open Pairs Championship (COPC) News

The National Co-ordinator for this event is Janice Anderson, 107 Scrivener Cr., Regina Sk, S4N 4V6, Tel. (306) 757-6211. Mrs. Anderson made the following announcements about this event:

The club qualifying stage is now over; the Unit finals will be held between Nov. 1, 1988, and Jan. 31, 1989. Each Unit holding club games and having paid their 1988 CBF fees may hold a two-session Unit Final. To receive a sanction for this Unit Final, the Unit must apply to Mrs. Anderson. Each Unit holding a Unit Final will qualify one pair for every 250 members, to the National Final.

The National Final will be held in Toronto March 24-25, at the Royal York Hotel, in conjunction with the "Canadian Nationals" Regional. The entry fee will be \$35/pair for the four-session event. Each Unit in the CBF Zones I, II, IV, V and VI (basically, all Units located outside of Southern Ontario) will receive some subsidy money to help pay the travel expenses of the qualifying pairs.

The winning pair will represent Canada at the World Championships in Geneva in 1990. Pairs finishing 2nd through 10th will receive qualification points as follows: 2nd-5, 3rd-4, 4th-3, 5th-2, 6th through 10th-1. These qualification points will also be awarded in the 1990 COPC and will then be used to select our other pairs for Geneva in 1990.

The 1989 CNTC Finals are tentatively scheduled for June 3-7, 1989, in Montreal, while the 1989 CWTC Finals will take place in Toronto. Watch for announcements about these Finals in the February Digest.



le roi de coeur du mort, me défaussant de mon dernier pique, alors qu'Est ne pouvait couper. Cela valait 8 points sur une possibilité de 9'.

Pour la prochaine main, les adversaires ne pouvaient rien y faire contre le plan à long terme de Dave.



Les deuxièmes: Greg Arbour and Don Brander.

Donneur: Ouest Personne Vul

Nord

♠ 98764

♥ AD74

♦ AD

♣ 107

Ouest

♠ A10

♥ 532

♦ V86

♣ ADV84

Est

♠ RD532

♥ RV109

♦ 97

♣ 65

Sud

♠ V

♥ 86

♦ R105432

♣ R932

Ouest

1 ♠

Passe

Nord

Valliant

1 ♠

Passe

Est

1SA

Passe

Sud

Willis

2 ♦

Entame: as de pique

Voici les commentaires de John: "L'as de pique fut joué, suivi du 10. Mon partenaire Dave Willis fit un jeu-clef en se défaussant d'un coeur. Cela empêchait Est de prendre la main pour faire une promotion à l'atout en jouant pique.

"Ouest retourna un coeur. Le partenaire fit l'as, encaissa A-D de carreau et coupa un coeur. Après avoir enlevé le dernier atout à l'extérieur, il joua un petit trèfle et rien ne pouvait l'empêcher de faire éventuellement un trèfle, ce qui faisait huit plis et un top'".

Par cette victoire, John et Dave seront invités à représenter le Canada lors des championnats mondiaux de 1990, qui auront lieu à Genève. Nous leur souhaitons la meilleure des chances.



continued from p. 29

winning the event unless we can bounce back from that bad day. We had a couple of bad days in Seattle in 1984. I think we coped with them reasonably well; I hope we cope with them better this time.

Armstrong: *And how will you feel if you win?*

Guoba: Everyone will know about it!

Carruthers: Realistically, the U.S. will be favoured, with about ten other teams, of which we'll be one, having a reasonable shot. If we win, I'll be ecstatic!

Molson: It will be unbelievable! It will be the ultimate bridge achievement.

Armstrong: *Thank you all for your time, and good luck in Venice.*



Rookie/Master Game:

Albertans Snare Rookie/Master Crown

A Calgary pair has won the 1988 Rookie/Master championship. But just as significant is the fact that no less than 1105 pairs participated in this event. This proves that the concept of having novices play with experienced partners is enthusiastically welcomed by bridge players from both camps.

1. Dan Gloux-Jo Peterson	Calgary AB	70.24%
2. Gerald Rodrigue-Stan Custeau	Thetford PQ	70.00%
3. Ken Penton-Richard Suprunowicz	Calgary AB	69.64%
4. Erik Loppnan-Rita Henly-Lewis	Victoria BC	68.75%
5. Lise Phaneuf-Yvon Ranger	St. Lambert PQ	68.15%
6. Lillian and Bill Pearce	Ottawa ON	67.06%
7. Madeleine Brown-Madel. Racine	Les Saules PQ	66.29%
8. Bruce Burton-Joan Gillam	Corner Brook NF	66.20%
9. Nancy Pretty-Eileen Adams	Sarnia ON	65.83%
10. Elsie Brown-Vivian Brailan	Moose Jaw SK	65.53%
Dagmar Donaldson-Helen Stewart	Nanaimo BC	65.52%

Other provincial champions:

NS Bill Hooper-Annon Deeroos	Amherst NS	64.58%
NB Amelia Goldman-B. Donaldson	Fredericton NB	61.90%
PEI M. Carragher-Heather Diamond	Charlottetown PEI	61.31%
MB Geri Kostuchuk-R. Pierangeli	Flin Flon MB	61.11%



Senior's Championship:

Sudbury Pair Leads Ontario Sweep

549 pairs participated in the annual Canada-Wide Seniors' championship, for players 55 years and older. Ontario pairs garnered 9 of the top 10 places:

1. Emile Poitras-Bill Wallace	Sudbury ON	74.00%
2. Viv Chrom-Akbar Vaiya	Toronto ON	73.50%
3. Arnold Anderson-John Hewett	Kingston ON	70.45%
4. Ivan Kasiurak-Jim Lumsden	London ON	70.23%
5. Frank Shields-W.J. Shields	Ottawa ON	68.45%
6. Jenny Huntley-John Hazell	Barrie ON	67.56%
7. Leo Carragher-Charles Asprey	Charlottetown PEI	67.26%
8/9. Dave Stothart-Manny Ramalho	Ottawa ON	66.67%
8/9. Lois Robertson-Beryl Parsons	Toronto ON	66.67%
10. Ken Berlet-Peggy O'Brien	Toronto ON	66.37%

Other Provincial winners (sorry, no results reported from Manitoba or Newfoundland):

BC Mrs. W. Gartwell-Fred Smits	Penticton BC	65.51%
SK Sam Murray-Marg Sieverson	Weyburn SK	65.51%
NB Mrs. P. Chiasson-Mrs. R. Mahar	Bathurst NB	64.58%
NS Myrtle Moulton-Joe Currie	Halifax NS	64.40%
PQ R. Keller-E. Kristof	Montreal PQ	63.09%
AB Eileen Brown-Esther Jordison	Calgary AB	63.09%

Top Canadians at Epson World Simultaneous Pairs

Congratulations to Canadian pairs who placed among the top finishers in the Epson tourney:

Canada overall standings:

1. Richard Anderson-Gary Mitchell	Regina SK	1782
2. Brian Fraser-George Retek	Montreal PQ	1751
3. Art Eccles-Agnes Gregson	Mississauga ON	1714
4. P. Tinney-Mrs. L. Tinney	Port Hardy BC	1709
5. R. Selby-James Rounding	Deep River ON	1701
6. J.P. Milliquet-Martin Caley	Ottawa ON	1696
7. Jeana Reilly-Robert Dalglish	Cornwall ON	1684
Paul Sehrenbach-N.S. Tohner	Deep River ON	1684
9. Larry Pocock-June Sterning	Burnaby BC	1661
10. John Morgan-E.G. Davis	Ottawa ON	1659
11. Svetla Cepek-Milan Cepek	Boucherville PQ	1656
12. Michael Cait-Roger Allen	Toronto ON	1653
13. Floyd Wong-N. Anderson	Edmonton AB	1647
Boris Baran-Mark Stein	Mount Royal PQ	1647
15. Sunny Ngan-Peter Bambrick	Ottawa ON	1636
16. Roy Perry-Ed Hearn	Labrador City NF	1634
17. Kirk Rustad-D.G. King	Prince George BC	1630
18. Thomas Walker-Elton Hayward	Brandon MB	1628
19. Marie Carragher-Kathleen Murphy	Charlottetown PE	1624
20. Karen Billet-Edwin Johnson	Victoria BC	1621

Other provincial champions:

Louise Fisher-Ralph Fisher	New Glasgow NS	1614
Lauretta Wedge-Jeannine Poirier	Bathurst NB	1601



Gary Mitchell and Dick Anderson



1989 Rookie/Master Game

This game will take place at bridge clubs across Canada on Wednesday, April 12, 1989. Clubs will receive sanction application forms from Janice Anderson.





Re: EOK - the Man and the Myth (May 88)

I enjoyed reading the article about Eric Kokish. It brought back some wonderful memories about McGill bridge. By the way, my recollection is that Steve Caplan was Eric's first regular partner. Stevie was the brilliant one, while Eric was the rock solid one.

We all know about Eric's accomplishments and his excellent temperament. One EOK story centers around our Montreal Team of Four League team for 68-69. We had four pairs including Kokish-George Mittelman and Jean LaTraverse-me. We played a warm-up prior to our first match. In the first half, Kokish-Mittelman were our better half. During that round, Jean and I doubled a part score into game and forgot to beat it. At the break, Eric advised us that he could not remember the last time he doubled the opponents into game, unsuccessfully at IMPs. On the very first board of the next set, Jean opened 1 Heart, George doubled, I passed, and Eric converted to penalties. Jean tried an SOS redouble, but I had no better spot, and it was up to Eric. He passed and Jean brought in the contract with an overtrick. Before anyone could say "Well Eric???", he said, "I didn't say anything about redoubles."

Your article has me retired from active bridge. As a matter of fact, I moved to Florida in 1969. I still play, but do not travel to many tournaments.

*Jon Shuster, PhD
Gainesville FL*

Re: CBF/ACBL Debate

Your editorial analyzing the CBF's alternatives in the May issue was thoughtful, but in some ways incomplete. The Horning Solution (go it alone) is doomed to failure. The ACBL won't bar Canadians from membership. At best, the CBF would compete with the ACBL for members.

The Larochelle Solution (keep the status quo and surcharge Canadian memberships if the ACBL agrees) is a simple fix to the financial problems. It's obviously worth a try.

The Simon Solution (finance a non-competitive CBF with individual membership fees) is an approach requiring further analysis. Your elaboration presupposes the Digest is necessarily published by and at the expense of the CBF for free distribution to Canadian ACBL members. That's not a given.

While the Barnard Solution (give up) is no solution at all, he does make some good points, particularly, with respect, about the Digest. An underfunded volunteer-written publication cannot compete effectively with professionally prepared periodicals. The Digest copies in part the Bulletin, in part the Bridge World and largely fails to focus on an appropriate niche.

I don't pretend to have all the answers, but I'll throw my hat in the ring with the "Wigdor Solution":

- try for the Canadian membership surcharge through the ACBL
- open the CBF to individual memberships and revamp its structure
- drop the Digest in its present form
- expand CBF activities within the WBF and push for a Canadian host site for a future Olympiad
- push for CBF Executive ex-officio representation on the ACBL board.

*Robin Wigdor
Uxbridge, ON*

On a separate CBF: I consider this to be essential for Canadian bridge but not solely on financial grounds. Membership, attendance and the standard of play in North America are all falling relative to the rest of the world. The ACBL's way hasn't been working. I favour trying the Simon solution and if that fails, then the scheme you attribute to Horning (but) I can't imagine the ACBL giving us total control of our tournaments and then accepting the masterpoints on a 1:1 basis.

On the Digest: I normally remove the Digest from the Bulletin (sometimes the pages stay together, sometimes not) and read it first. Then I skim the rest of the Bulletin and pitch it. But I keep the Digest.

On a Canadian Bridge Identity: There may not be much of one but there would be a whole lot less without the Digest. (It should be packaged and mailed separately even if extra cost is involved. Barnard's idea is to send newsworthy items (like his article?) to regional publications like the Maritime Bridge Line. These newsletters have different publication dates and there is no guarantee that an item found newsworthy by one editor will be found so by another.
Bruce Watson
St. Johns NF

As an Albertan, a Western Canadian and a Canadian (in that order), whose place of birth, London, ON, still holds fond memories, I have to vote NO to a separate league. If the CBF wishes to ask for a restricted mandate to continue the existing operation, (it should) set down an organizational plan, start a membership drive and inspire confidence in the Canadian player a viable organization can result. Nothing written so far gives a compelling argument to separate. Indeed, Alberta would be advised to stay within the ACBL framework whether the CBF obtains a mandate (or not).
David Sutherland
Calgary, AB

The following letter accompanied a Larochelle poll ballot, in which the writer voted for immediate establishment of an independent CBF. He would join only the CBF, not the ACBL. But our correspondent did not answer the question pertaining to the suggested annual dues for such an independent CBF. Instead he writes:

Pour moi, le montant de l'abonnement annuel devrait être une somme qui serait accessible pour l'ensemble des bridgeurs de compétition. Il m'est très difficile d'indiquer un montant, cette tâche est celle des administrateurs, de faire parvenir aux membres de la FCB la facture la moins dispendieuse.

I am proud to be Canadian.
Jacques Vaillancourt
Rimouski, PQ

Affiliated or not to the ACBL you must lower the rate for participating in tournaments. It is far too expensive for what we earn in return: a few points, what else? Not even a coffee, not even a soft drink...it's a shame. Let's live according to our means.
Camille Villeneuve
Chicoutimi PQ

I joined the ACBL (on purpose). I am now, perforce, also a member of the CBF. I don't want to be - but conscription is one way to get members, even if they will never play in a CBF event. If enough people want a CBL, let them form it. Let those who wish to join do so. Don't take any ACBL money from the ACBL to support a CBL. (But if all this comes) to pass, I'll play in the US instead of Canada - I'll try to get my unit to opt out of the CBF/CBL and play ACBL tournaments in Prince George.
A. Becker
Prince George BC

Editor's note: The letters published above are only a fraction of the mail received on this contentious topic. On the whole, public opinion seems to favour the Larochelle Solution (overwhelmingly so in Quebec), but there is strong support (particularly in Western Canada) for the Barnard Solution.



Canadian Bidding Contest



Sandy McIlwain

The August/November Honour Roll

1. Doug McAvoy	Hamilton ON	550
2/3. Ray Grace	Calgary AB	540
Tony Reus	Roxboro PQ	540
4/5. Milton Brody	Toronto ON	520
Joseph Doucet	Toronto ON	520
6. John Gell	Toronto ON	510
7/8. Sallie Caty	Oakville, ON	500
Len Doerksen	Winnipeg MAN	500

Congratulations to regular contributor Doug McAvoy, who will receive the bridge book of his choice and an invitation to our next panel. Thanks once again to all who tried their hand and to the many of you who took the time to comment on the problems and the contest itself.

The May Honour Roll

1. Walter Dedio	Morden MAN	570
2. John Zaluski	Ottawa ON	540
3/5. Pam Cathrae	Belleville ON	520
Michel Letourneau	Chicoutimi PQ	520
Kirk Rustad	Prince George BC	520
6/7. W.B. Hoover	Saskatoon SASK	510
Tony Reus	Roxboro PQ	510
8/11. Jacqueline Carrier	Sainte-Foy PQ	500
Mary Drummie	Kanata ON	500
Blair Gamble	Charlottetown PEI	500
Dave Minty	Unionville ON	500

Walter Dedio is our guest on the panel this month, and with any luck will receive *Modern Bridge Conventions*, by Root & Pavlicek.

The November Panel

ROB CRAWFORD (Vancouver BC): is currently on the bridge touring circuit and may win the Richmond Trophy. He only recently took up duplicate seriously after years of serious rubber playing.

WALTER DEDIO (Morden MAN): won the May quiz. He is closing in on 1000 master-points, and has the highest masterpoint total and is the only certified director in Manitoba south of the Trans-Canada Highway.

EV HODGE (Burnaby BC): Described by a friend as “everyone’s favourite partner”, Ev currently is the leading masterpoint holder among BC women. She says her greatest pleasure in bridge was seeing her class of ‘slow learners’ blossom into first class players.

BERNIE LAMBERT (Calgary AB): is another of the new crop of young travelling proplayers from the West. He’s almost through his second year of full-time touring, and will finish high up on the Richmond and Top 500 lists again this year.

MICHEL LAMOTHE (Ottawa ON): has won several regional events and has represented the Ottawa area in ACBL District Finals and CBF National Finals. He is very proud of bridge in the Ottawa area, and even lives on Paul Anka Drive.

MICHEL LETOURNEAU (Chicoutimi PQ): is the leading masterpoint holder in the Chicoutimi area. He, too, is very proud of the bridge played in his part of the country, and we are delighted to have such a spirited addition to the panel.

JANINE RIVARD (Quebec City QUE): began playing duplicate in 1983 after many years of rubber bridge. She played in last year’s CWTC Final, and among her accomplishments has won seven straight Ladies Pairs (with Noëlla Massé) at local sectionals. She is a Director of la Ligue de Bridge de Québec.

HAIK TCHAMITCH (Thornhill ON): having made both Life Master and the McKenney List in 1981, has been “working steadfastly” on his reputation every since. “Most of my regular partners think I’m less dangerous [now] across the table.”

November Solutions

A) Matchpoints. N-S vul.

♠ A3	♥ AKQ975	♦ A642	♣ 2
West	North	East	South
–	–	–	1♥
1♠	2♠*	5♠	?

*Forcing heart raise

The panel was much in agreement here.

LAMBERT: 6♦ Should clearly be asking for first round club control for the grand.

LETOURNEAU: 6♦. Shows first round control and interest in bidding seven.

RIVARD: 6♦. Denies first round control of clubs, so I must have spades covered.

HODGE: 6♦. Partner must have minor cards and I’d hate to miss a grand.

DEDIO: 6♦. 6♥ is almost certain. I hope partner understands I need help in diamonds.

This last comment is well-formed, as numerous holdings by partner may depend on a diamond break or finesses, e.g. ♠x ♥Jxxx ♦Kjxx ♣AKxx, although squeeze chances will exist in many cases.

CRAWFORD: 6♦. If I make the easy and obvious pass, my LHO will probably bid 6♠, making any accuracy hopeless. If partner’s side suit is diamonds, 7NT is laydown (KJ987? - SM); if clubs, 7♥ probably has a play but I must double 7♣. The key is to give partner room to support diamonds.

A well-reasoned, practical approach to the problem, as no one knows whether the opponents are through bidding.

We did have one vote for the pass, however.

TCHAMITCH: Pass. Forcing. Will pull the expected double to 6♦, showing first round control and interest in the grand.

How does this sequence differ in substance from the direct 6♦ call, what would partner’s 6♥ bid show after the pass, and what would we do over 6♥ here?

It’s generally considered that a pass and pull is stronger than a direct bid in these situations, so I would take the proposed Tchamitch sequence as a demand to bid seven with the club ace, and the majority 6♦ sequence as a strong suggestion that thirteen tricks might be available. Partner’s

6♥ over the pass would show a source of tricks, exactly what we don't have ourselves, so we should raise to seven.

The direct 6♦ seems more likely to keep us out of a hopeless grand while keeping partner in the picture should the opponents continue their barrage.

There was a true minority of one taking a wide tack here:

LAMOTHE: 6♠. Confusion for the sake of confusion. 6NT may be the winner.

Confusion is certainly easy to achieve as partner will have no idea what to do next. In addition, 6NT is, for the most part, only going to make when 7♥ or NT is cold, and may go down several as the squeeze possibilities will be reduced considerably.

Several of our readers found the other reasonable alternative of 5NT, which should not be taken as the Grand Slam Force here due to the lack of space. This would allow both North and South to show their minor suit aces without bypassing 6♥. Bids like this often have the added feature of silencing the opponents, as they sense the potential for a slip-up. My choice, for what it's worth.

Action	Votes	Score
6♦	6	100
Pass	1	70
5NT	0	60
6♥	0	50
7♥	0	30
6♠	1	Unavailable at press time
Double	0	10

B) IMPs. N-S vul.

♠AKQ52 ♥KQ9865 ♦— ♣74

West	North	East	South
—	1♠	Pass	1♥
2♦	Pass	Pass	2♠
3♦	4♠	5♦	?

Our guests kept their bidding shoes on as they prowled the hallways sniffing out another grand. Most of them showed their void posthaste:

LETOURNEAU: 6♦. Seven should be cold with ♠xxxx ♥A ♦xxx ♣AKxxx. If he has the ♦ ace he'll sign off in 6♠.

DEDIO: 6♦. Hope partner bids 6♥ to show the ace or signs off in 6♠.

HODGE: 6♦. I'll show my void and let partner make the final decision.

RIVARD: 6♦. With the club and heart aces partner should bid 7♠.

LAMBERT: 6♦. Shows interest in the grand. I'll pay off to all hands partner could open missing the club and heart aces.

CRAWFORD: 6♦. If partner bids 6♥, I'll bid 7♠.

There is some disagreement beneath the surface here, as some panelists expect partner to go deep with both round aces and the others are expecting partner's 6♥ to confirm the club ace. It seems unlikely that North will know both to bid seven with both aces and to cue 6♥ with both aces.

There was another bid available to South:

LAMOTHE: Pass I'll remove a double to 5♠ and bid 6♦ over 5♥ and 6♣.

TCHAMITCH: Pass Forcing. Will bid 6♦ over partner's double. I have to convey the message that four little spades and the round aces are enough for seven.

The advantage of the forcing passes here is that it gives us one more round of bidding to get partner to co-operate with his eleven point dog. When we pull the likely double partner should be convinced of our trick-taking potential.

Whichever way we choose to move forward, the chances of taking all the tricks here are too good for us to not make the effort somehow.

Action	Votes	Score
6♦	6	100
Pass	2	80
6♠	0	50
5♥	0	40
5♣	0	20
Dbl.	0	10

C) Matchpoints. N-S vul.

♠Q8 ♥KQ92 ♦A ♣KJ7542

West	North	East	South
—	—	2♠*	?

*weak



Just when a good squawk was in order, the panel turned unanimous on me.

TCHAMITCH: 3♣. Too much to go quietly, if partner bids 3♦, I'll try 3♥.

HODGE: 3♣. Have to show some interest here.

DEDIO: 3♣. Might miss a 4-4 heart fit, but doubling and then bidding after a diamond response shows more strength.

RIVARD: 3♣. Risks missing a vulnerable game in hearts or NT. (*Shouldn't keep us out of NT very often. - SM*), but would prefer a better hand for an off-shape double at this vulnerability.

LETOURNEAU: 3♣. Can't double with singleton ♦ A, and can't pass as partner with ♠K ♥J10xx ♦Qxxxx ♣Axx will pass with 4♥ cold.

CRAWFORD: 3♣. The least of evils. Hopefully partner will have a decent hand. 800 anyone?

LAMBERT: 3♣. Too many losers for a double followed by 4♣ when partner bids diamonds.

LAMOTHE: 3♣. Double is not close.

All of which tells that a double here is clearly unsatisfactory, but points out that bidding may keep us out of our most likely game (hearts) and apparently commits us to bidding on when partner has no fit for clubs.

I had expected a little sympathy for a pass here, as our suit texture is poor, and our chances of playing in hearts are somewhat reduced after we bid. In addition, partner will strain to bid a NT game once we reach the three level, and we have no clear source of tricks. Pass allows partner to re-open (which I would do with Letourneau's suggested North hand), giving us some assurance that the hand belongs to us. Finally, this is a hand where, at matchpoints, our desire for a plus score should take precedence over our search for game. So there.

Action	Votes	Score
3♣	8	100
Pass	0	50
DbL.	0	40
2NT, 3♥	0	30 (but leave your number)
3♠	0	10
4♣	0	10

D) IMPs. Both vul.

♠AQ107		♥J63		♦A1096		♣54	
West	North	East	South	West	North	East	South
—	—	1♣	DbL.	—	—	1♣	DbL.
1♦	4♥	5♣	?	1♦	4♥	5♣	?

Here the panel's overwhelming consensus highlighted yet another forcing pass situation.

RIVARD: DbL. Minium hand with two club losers, telling partner I'd like to defend.

LAMBERT: DbL. Should show two club losers and marginal support.

CRAWFORD: DbL. Meaning don't bid partner. Obviously a forcing situation.

LAMOTHE: DbL. Since a pass would, it appears, be forcing, we are more likely to take three defensive tricks than eleven on offense.

LETOURNEAU: DbL. No other possible bid. With a poor hand and poor support I'm putting on the brakes.

TCHAMITCH: DbL. Chances of defending are much better. As to what I'll lead, I'll tell you when my new crystal ball arrives.

I expect many of our readers will have some sympathy for the lone vote of dissent:

HODGE: Pass. I've already shown my hand with my double. The rest is up to partner.

Certainly our hand will be no bargain as a dummy, but it's not as bad as all that, considering we have nothing wasted in the opponents' suits. However, our lack of support and lack of shape argue strongly for defence.

The problem with waiting to double until we have club tricks is that we will often go minus on hands that belong to us when partner is encouraged to bid on. This must be a forcing pass

situation, as the chances of 5♣ undoubled being the right spot for our side are about one in a hundred, which means we must bid on or double.

Action	Votes	Score
Dbl.	7	100
Pass	1	60
5♥	0	20
6♥	0	0

E) Matchpoints. None vul.

♠ A63	♥ K9	♦ A	♣ AKJ8653
West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	?

Just when our experts were wondering why I called them here, a problem slipped under the door with that some thought was a sigh.

The reverse was the most favoured bid, but the choice of suits was not clear.

LAMBERT: 2♥. A stall-for-time reverse. If partner rebids spades I'll aim for 4♠ or higher.

TCHAMITCH: 2♥. Too good for a leap to 3NT. If partner raises hearts, he'll have five spades.

CRAWFORD: 2♥. Obvious. (One of Rob's favorite words, don't you know. - SM). Can't bid three non-forcing clubs, 3NT precludes possible spade fit. 2♦ is poor because partner with a diamond fit is trapped.

Some couldn't resist reversing into their shortest suit:

LETOURNEAU: 2♦. If I hear 2♥, I'll jump to 3♠. Second choice is 4♣.

HODGE: 2♦. Doesn't exactly show my pattern, but I'd like to hear more from partner.

From here we were reduced to parties of one.

LAMOTHE: 4♣. Showing spade support.

Usually showing four-card support, but if spades is right, what happens after 4♠ (semi-automatic here) by partner?

DEDIO: 3♣. Some risk of being passed, but should help find a 5-3 spade fit.

Can we afford the double whammy of playing a partscore and a minor suit at matchpoints?

RIVARD: 2NT. Hoping partner won't pass.

If he bids 3♣ (Wolff Signoff*), I'll bid 4♣. Over 3NT I'll bid 4♣. I wonder why I didn't make a forcing bid in the first place!

*The Wolff Signoff is a convention enabling North to play 3♣ here; 3♣ directly would be forcing. An underused tool in many areas.

Unfortunately we must add to this partscore contract the additional risk of going minus when clubs don't run, making the forcing calls look a whole lot better.

Game should be uppermost on our minds here, with definite thoughts of slam, and those made-up reverses keep the bidding low and will help us to describe our hand as the action continues.

Action	Votes	Score
2♥	3	100
2♦	2	80
4♣	1	60
3♣, 2NT	1	50
4♣, 3♦	0	40
3NT	0	20

F) IMPs. E-W vul.

♠ AK42	♥ 95	♦ 9	♣ AQ9862
West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♣
1♦	Dbl.	2♦	?

This last one is a hand evaluation problem, with a little definition of the negative double thrown in. It boiled down to two choices:

RIVARD: 3♠. Partner should have four cards in both majors, or else she certainly has club support.

HODGE: 3♠. My partners know what to do in these auctions.

TCHAMITCH: 3♠. Showing a good offensive hand with spades and clubs, as opposed to a more balanced strong hand which I would first cuebid with. (No one explained where this cuebid auction was headed, or how. - SM).

LETOURNEAU: 3♠. Not strong enough to cuebid, but enough to invite game.

LAMBERT: 3♠. Partner can raise to game, pass with spades and a minimum, or return to clubs with a heart-club hand. (Or bid 3NT? - SM).

Why partner can't just bid 1♥ or 1♠ here on a four-card suit without the other major escapes me entirely. I guess East should have bid 3♦ or 4♦, since you'll be out of waffling room when the level increases.

Several brave souls took the bull by the short horns and bid game.

CRAWFORD: 4♠. Partner knows I have this hand, as I would cuebid diamonds with a stronger hand.

LAMOTHE: 4♠. What I think I can make.

DEDIO: 4♠. Anything else could easily result in missing game.

Instead of shuffling around to find out if partner has laid a trap for them, they see the chance for game and seize it. Even the impartial sphinx of a moderator is impressed.

Action	Votes	Score
3♠	5	100
4♠	3	90
3♦	0	50
4♦	0	40
2♠	0	20
3♣, 4♣	0	10

FEBRUARY CONTEST

To enter the February contest, write your answers to the February problems, together with your name and address, on a sheet of paper or postcard and send to:

Canadian Bidding Contest
c/o Sandy McIlwain
#6, 2160 - 39th Ave. West
Vancouver, B.C. V6M 1T5

The reader with the best score will receive a bridge book and an invitation to the expert panel.

The February Problems

A) Matchpoints. None vul.

♠ AK7 ♥ 876 ♦ KQ ♣ AJ532

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1NT
2♥	3♥	Dbl.	4♣
4♥	Pass	Pass	?

B) IMPs. (Swiss) N-S vul.

♠ AK1098 ♥ AKQ109 ♦ QJ9 ♣ -

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♠
Pass	1NT	4♣	?

C) Matchpoints. Both vul.

♠ AJ53 ♥ 4 ♦ AQ8 ♣ AJ753

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♦	?

D) Matchpoints. E-W vul.

♠ AK ♥ 6 ♦ AJ832 ♣ KQ1063

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	4♥	?

E) IMP Pairs. Non vul.

♠ KJ8652 ♥ J9743 ♦ K2 ♣ -

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	Pass
1♣	Dbl.	2NT*	3♣
5♣	Dbl.	Pass	?

* Preemptive club raise

F) IMPs. Both vul.

♠ - ♥ A83 ♦ AK9842 ♣ AK93

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	?



Meet Our Open Olympiad Team

Prior to their departure for Venice, the six players of our Open Olympiad team (Eric Murray-Sami Kehela, John Carruthers-John Guoba, all of Toronto, and Boris Baran-Mark Molson of Montreal) chatted with Digest Associate Editor John Armstrong:

Armstrong: How did Canada become involved in the Olympiad?

Murray: In 1959 when it was decided to hold a World Olympiad in 1960, I asked Alvin Landy of the ACBL board of directors, "Well, that's all very interesting; you have a method of selecting the American team, but what are you doing about Canada?" They mulled that one over and said that they thought the best idea was for me to pick a team. I said that a few people might think that undemocratic and perhaps a better method might be undertaken. Finally they decided that the three top masterpoint holders in Canada should each select a partner. That was I, Shorty Sheardown, and Sam Gold. We wanted Sam and Ralph Cohen, but Sam couldn't go. We worked it out so that we had Bruce Elliott, Bruce Gowdy, Sami Kehela, Shorty and I. That was the method of selection at that time. It would be a lot easier on me if they'd return to it.



Eric Murray

Armstrong: How will the 1988 Olympiad be different from the earlier ones?

Kehela: Over the years the tournament has grown progressively larger as more and more countries joined the World Bridge Federation. In addition, the game has

changed a great deal. However, the impression that I got when I was in Jamaica, was that the systems that are going to be permitted in the Olympiad were not going to be the same as those permitted in the Bermuda Bowl. Very abstruse systems may not be permitted. Everything is permitted in the Bermuda Bowl because there is a smaller number of teams and you have lots of time to prepare. However, in the Olympiad there are about 60 teams. You have two matches a day against different countries and it is difficult for six players to prepare to play against a system which they may not even face; you may play against an entirely different pair.

Murray: I know they are playing more artificial systems. I know they're playing the Forcing Pass and I've never played against it, although I don't expect Sami and I will. Competition is a lot tougher, there are many more countries entered, and it's not as much fun - at least, not for me, anyway.

Armstrong: How do the others feel about going to another Olympiad?

Guoba: I am thrilled to be going again. There is almost nothing I'd rather do in the world than play in the Olympiad. The only reason I play bridge now is to play in international events. The logical goal of any serious player is to represent his country.

Baran: I am very excited. I am certainly looking forward to getting that second chance. It is extremely rare that one would not perform one's best in such an important event and then get another chance at it the very time it came up. Our partnership did not play up to its potential in the 1984 Olympiad in Seattle.

Molson: I'm really looking forward to having another shot at it. One might not get an opportunity to go to one Olympiad, never mind back-to-back ones, so I feel very fortunate.

Carruthers: When you start playing in the CNTC you're obviously playing for yourself. Nevertheless, once you've won the CNTC and you go to the Olympiad or Bermuda Bowl and you see that huge scoreboard with the names of the countries on it, you're playing for Canada. At that point it's not the Molson Team or the Carruthers Team any more. It's Canada.

Kehela: It's never as exciting as the first time, which was 28 years ago in Turin, but it's always an honour. To a large extent the new systems have taken away a great deal of enjoyment from the game, certainly for me. I want to be able to speak an universal language - not be confronted with a babel of tongues. Nothing is natural. I find it more difficult to play well in those circumstances.



Sami Kehela

Armstrong: What are you doing to prepare?

Molson: We have to get ourselves ready as individuals and tune up our partnerships.

Guoba: The only way you can prepare for playing against something like "ferts" is to play against it. In 1984 we had to defend against it by the seat of our pants. There is only so much that you have met in your experience to prepare you for something like that - even playing at Hart House (University of Toronto) in 1970! However, after playing against a couple of pairs you have an idea of what approach is going to work. Since 1984 there have been developments in that area, and we have had informal matches against a Toronto team which learned to play "ferts" for our benefit. That was most helpful.



John Carruthers

Carruthers: I'll try to make sure that I'm physically and psychologically fit for the event, which is a long grind, sixteen days of intense concentration for those who make it to the final. My primary preparation will be with my partner John Guoba. We'll do what we did for the previous Olympiad in Seattle - conduct a thorough review of our system, bid a few thousand hands together, play together a lot, and answer a partnership testing questionnaire I acquired a few years ago. We'll have to fill out the WBF convention card as well, which in itself is a good review, since it takes about four or five hours to complete.

Guoba: The WBF convention card is different from the ACBL card. It takes up two sides of a legal size paper. The idea sometimes approaches ludicrousness as you make tree diagrams of all possible auctions which may ensue after an opening bid. As



John Guoba

you can imagine, what passes for Standard in Pago Pago may be different from what passes for Standard in Flin Flon. Someone from a different corner of the world, brought up in a completely different isolated bridge milieu, has a different approach. In a short match of 20 boards you don't have the luxury or time to prepare beforehand. You have to depend on full disclosure of your methods to pairs who were raised on different ways of thinking at the bridge table. Because approaches to bridge are very much different in other parts of the world, you can't take anything for granted. It certainly opens up a different perspective or view of the game from what you meet by playing exclusively in Canada and North America. The WBF takes the position that, if you don't disclose something on your convention card and the opponents suffer damage at the table, you tend to be penalized by having results changed, so you have to be very sure to list all the methods which may be strange. We have been racking our brains to think of what *could* cause our opponents difficulty or what could be considered strange or non-standard.

Carruthers: When we're in Venice our main concern will be with the opponents' systems. They may give you copies the night before your matches, and with three matches a day you'd better know your own system already because there's plenty to study in opposing the methods.

Kehela: Insofar as preparing for any particular system is concerned, I would say that experience is important. Having played against some artificial systems in the past may give one an advantage, but I don't think we ever faced anything quite as virulent as what is available now - relays, forcing passes, and what I consider to be the most noxious of them all, bids that have more than one meaning, like multi-bids. For example, a bid may show six diamonds and four hearts, or four spades and six clubs, and it is very difficult to play against such systems. I remember when the Italian systems were in vogue, they were considered so deadly and difficult to play against that I was hired to

coach the American team to play against them. Nowadays the Roman Club and the Neapolitan Club are child's play compared to what many of the people are playing.

Armstrong: Is sending teams to the World Championships good for Canadian bridge?

Carruthers: Absolutely. Any time you get people from different countries together, all with different ideas on bidding, play and defense it's good for the game. The players at the international events then come back with renewed vigour and spread the gospel in their own countries. We see how others handle success and failure. Then there are the printed reports which also help to improve everyone's game.

Armstrong: What will you have to do to win?

Murray: We'll have to play exceedingly well and be reasonably fortunate. We have an interesting bracket, I'm told, with a lot of Forcing Pass teams in it. Pakistan is in there, but Zia isn't playing. One of the problems that our teams have always had is that we do reasonably well against the good teams and we don't pick up bundles of points against the weak teams. I guess we have to gear our game in some way to make hay while the sun shines. It's certainly not the way Kehela and I play. Well, maybe I play a bit that way, but Sami certainly doesn't. So that's the key to success. We've got to be able to pile up the points against the weaker teams.

Kehela: The Montreal partnership has a strong reputation and Guoba and Carruthers have been doing very well in important tournaments for some time. Having been there before certainly helps, particularly in an Olympiad because it is really one long match. Reverses must be taken in stride, and experience helps to weather such storms. In my opinion, the number of people who play up to their potential in any long event such as the Bermuda Bowl or the Olympiad is limited to very, very few. It's very difficult to produce your best form day in and day out for two weeks. Nobody plays up to his potential. All you can hope for is

that you do not make more than your share of mistakes. To a certain extent, how well you play is a function, not only of your own abilities, but also what sort of problems you are faced with. Sometimes you can go through a session and say "Well, I played perfectly" but you had no problems because you had no difficult hands. If you are playing against a difficult pair who are also playing very well and are deceptive card players, the problems they set are much greater than those when you are playing an average pair who play a straightforward system. All points that you score are equal, whether against strong or weak teams, and I think that experience will help in scoring well against the weaker teams, if there are any, because the general level of play is much higher now.



Mark Molson

Molson: In 1984 the teams were divided into two 30-team groups. Poland was a late addition to our group. It turned out that we were the only team in the Olympiad to beat them; they won the whole thing. We also beat the top four teams in our group but we finished sixth. We averaged 18.5 out of a possible 25 Victory Points per match, but we didn't beat the weaker teams by enough. We have the experience now to do better against them. In the crossover the teams we beat all won their matches, as well. I feel that we're as competitive as anybody in the world. We're seasoned, and we came very close to being around at the end. We knew that we

were as good as any of the teams we played, and better than most. We know we belong.



Boris Baran

Baran: To win we are going to have to maintain our concentration and just play our game. I believe that we can beat anyone in the world, and we've shown it by having defeated all the top teams in our division during the round-robin play in Seattle. What we failed to do was to destroy the weaker teams which, we all know, is the key in this type of event. With another four years of experience under our belts, I feel we have a more competitive team than last time especially since it now includes Eric Murray and Sami Kehela, one of the world's all-time great partnerships.

Guoba: There are 60 nations and probably 20 countries will field very strong teams. To keep my sanity I can only rationalize that at best we can hope to have perhaps a one in ten or one in eight shot of winning. We won't even have that high a percentage unless we are ready to play and ready to pay a price beforehand.

Armstrong: What price?

Guoba: Burying one's ego to better one's partnership or the team. Things are going to go badly on at least one day of the 17 we're there. We are going to be disqualified from

continued on p.

If it Ain't Broken, Don't Fix it

by *Jaclynn Ross, Calgary*

Recent articles in *The Digest* by Mr. Ballantyne request our input and response to his position promoting an independent Canadian bridge league.

As he does not indicate why he finds this desirable, my comments are based on the assumption that he feels that having our own league with our own representatives, as do all countries outside of North America, would be better for bridge in Canada. My apologies to him if this is incorrect.

I feel that we are well served under and by the ACBL. A portion of our dues are returned to the CBF to foster Canadian bridge. We now have the right to enter qualified Canadians into international competition, and we have the right to decide on such qualifications.

The balance of our dues provide the ACBL with funds to give us: masterpoint registration; 12 fat magazines a year; a 200,000 member peer group; funds for unit operations; support programs and literature for our novice and junior players; a system of professional, accountable, promotable and enthusiastic directors; a paid staff at head office with clear mission statements from the Governors; the right to enter North American championship events; progress cards in the mail; and, out here in the west, a wonderful international rapport in a great environment.

At \$20.00 per year I find this inexpensive and productive. There is no way the CBF can compete with that kind of value. In addition to having a smaller dollar base, with a smaller dollar value, the CBF does not have a system in place for services, which no matter what "affiliation" is proposed will have to be duplicated.

The ACBL tells us from its in-depth surveys that there are no young people as new members. It will take a great deal of promotion to cure the problem of falling membership; promotion via the larger membership of the ACBL seems to me to have more possibilities.

I understand that there is little interchange among eastern members as their population densities warrant more tournaments not requiring travel back and forth between Canada and the USA. Here we have one Regional a year in Alberta; our bridge fixes regularly take us to the Northwestern states. It is not clear to me that such travel would be as feasible were I not a supporting member of the ACBL. It is further not clear that our District 18 and 19 directors would be allowed free access to work on the other side of their home border due to work and immigrations laws. I would be distressed to have the wonderful quality of our tournaments downgraded due to staffing problems.

Mr. Ballantyne has provided a long list of how the CBF would manage its own league. I am extremely skeptical about almost every point. For instance, if government or corporate sponsorship was found, do we really want to rely on sources which may not be available after an election or depression?

Another change suggested is that without more cash the *Digest* may be cut back or discontinued. The *Digest* is a steadily improving, enjoyable source of information about subjects and people which is otherwise unavailable to the Canadian bridge player. It costs \$17,000 per year and is sent quarterly to the 17,000 members. As this translates to two bits per issue per member it does seem relatively inexpensive as a way of staying in touch with the members. It is less than three first class letters per year, which is certainly what would be required to keep us informed of the CBF meetings or qualifying conditions for the various Canadian events.

In closing, I would like to ask that the *Digest* provide more information about the CBF. Presumably it is chartered; I would like to know what its mandate is. I readily acknowledge and appreciate that it is a volunteer organization, nevertheless I would like to be able to assess whether its board

continued on p.39

Crawford leads Canadians

Rob Crawford maintained a wide lead in the Richmond Trophy contest after 54 points won at Pittsburgh and 79 won in Indianapolis were recorded. The Oct. 1 printout shows Crawford with a year-to-date total of 1158 points, 180 ahead of runner-up Lawrence Hicks.

The Richmond Trophy is awarded annually to the Canadian who wins the most points during a calendar year.

Players at the top of the list:

1. Rob Crawford, Vancouver BC	1158	45. John Rayner, Mississauga ON	182
2. Lawrence Hicks, New Westminster BC	978	46. Francois Girardeau, Montreal PQ	180
3. Gary Tomczyk, Parksville BC	648	47. Edward Zaluski, Ottawa ON	178
4. Dave Glen, Coquitlam BC	617	48. James McAvoy, Victoria BC	177
5. Bernie Lambert, Calgary AB	580	49. Valerie Hough, Toronto ON	177
6. Cliff Campbell, Thunder Bay ON	550	50. Dan Jacob, Burnaby BC	174
7. Ken Warren, Pickering ON	511	51. Ruth Gold, Toronto ON	173
8. Jonathan Steinberg, Toronto ON	412	52. Fred Gitelman, Don Mills ON	173
9. Leo Steil, Vancouver BC	394	53. David Curry, Ottawa ON	172
10. Cameron Doner, Richmond BC	370	54. Ron Bishop, Thornhill ON	172
11. Sadru Visram, Toronto ON	364	55. Jerry Aceti, Sudbury ON	171
12. Doug Fraser, Mont Royal PQ	358	56. Pierre Daigneault, Chomedey PQ	171
13. Gary Whiteman, Don Mills ON	339	57. Paul Heitner, Toronto ON	171
14. Douglas Heron, Ottawa ON	294	58. Daniel Doston, St. Leonard PQ	166
15. Aidan Ballantyne, Vancouver BC	290	59. Gary Mitchell, Regina SK	166
16. Doug Baxter, Thornhill ON	278	60. Keith Balcombe, Oshawa ON	164
17. Michael Cafferata, Scarborough ON	276	61. John Bowman, Nepean ON	163
18. Michael Kenny, Thornhill ON	275	62. David Kent, Ottawa ON	162
19. Sandra Fraser, Mont Royal PQ	272	63. Stephen Brown, Ottawa ON	161
20. Boris Baran, Montreal PQ	270	64. Michael Roche, Toronto ON	160
21. William Shyer, Kitchener ON	269	65. Dudley Camacho, Scarborough ON	158
22. Kamel Fergani, Montreal PQ	262	66. Gerald Richardson, London ON	156
23. David McLellan, Thunder Bay ON	257	67. Janine Rivard, Quebec PQ	156
24. Mark Molson, Montreal PQ	249	68. John McAdam, Ottawa ON	156
25. Ray Chen, Toronto ON	249	69. Mark Stein, Mount Royal PQ	155
26. Alex Piliarik, Sarnia ON	245	70. Harmon Edgar, Milliken ON	154
27. Laurie McIntyre, Ottawa ON	245	71. Sandy McIlwain, Vancouver BC	154
28. Mark Arbour, Scarborough ON	244	72. Martin Caley, Ottawa ON	154
29. Bert Eccles, Montreal PQ	241	73. Michael Gamble, Ottawa ON	154
30. Brad Boyle, Toronto ON	240	74. George Berton, Scarborough ON	153
31. Gregory Arbour, Vancouver BC	216	75. Fred Lerner, Markham ON	153
32. Helene Beaulieu, Sherbrooke PQ	212	76. Charles Milne, Toronto ON	153
33. Pat Roy, Sherbrooke PQ	207	77. Jacques Laliberte, Cap Rouge PQ	152
34. John Carruthers, Toronto ON	206	78. Ken Gee, Regina SK	152
35. Eric Marchand, Montreal PQ	199		
36. Michael Hargreaves, Victoria BC	198		
37. June Stenning, Burnaby BC	196		
38. Donald Pearsons, Winnipeg MB	196		
39. Dale Andersen, Busby AB	188		
40. Christopher Hough, Toronto ON	187		
41. John Duquette, Oshawa ON	186		
42. Gerry Marshall, Calgary AB	185		
43. Sheila Forbes, Toronto ON	182		
44. Nader Hanna, Toronto ON	182		

Notice

These Richmond Trophy standings and the all-time Canadian masterpoint lists are obtained from the ACBL computer. The ACBL of course, has no way of determining the citizenship of their members, so they simply provide a list of top masterpoint winners who have a Canadian mailing address. Even "Snowbirds" (Canadians who winter in the US) can get left off, depending on the date the list is printed. This explains why (among others) two prominent players from Lethbridge, AB were left off the all-time list published last February. "Hutch" Hutchinson should have been 10th with 5212 masterpoints, and Mary Hutchinson should have been 17th with a total of 4612.

Ben Lampert & Dudley Camacho

Digest: Congratulations on winning the Canada-wide Olympiad Fund Game in December 1987 with a 74.1% game! That's equivalent to a 231 on a 156 average. You had 20 positive scores and only four minus scores.

Ben: Thank you. We played at Ted Horning's Bridge Studio. It was a good time to have a good game.

Dudley and I have had an established partnership for about three years, although we had not played together for about six months before that game. We know each other's styles by now. Dudley is a very steady player and he doesn't give much away. He gives away ice in the winter!

We kept it simple and let the opponents bid out their hands. Our defence was on. That is the strength of our game.

We bid to where *we* should have been and Dudley bid a couple of hands beautifully. He makes it easy for partner to know what's there.

Of course, we got a few gifts. The opponents extended themselves occasionally and the odd person misplayed a hand. However, at Ted Horning's you don't get much of that. The field is pretty steady.

A hand I like was board 2. I was South.

	♠ AQJ765		
Dir: E	♥ K1074		
N-S vul	♦ A63		
	♣ void		
♠ K4		♠ 983	
♥ 6		♥ J8	
♦ Q1094		♦ KJ8752	
♣ AQ10965		♣ 32	
	♠ 102		
	♥ AQ9532		
	♦ void		
	♣ KJ874		

I opened 1♥ with my distributional hand. We did not get a weak 2♦ bid on my right because we our good opponents were playing a system in which 2♦ does not show that hand.

LHO overcalled 2♣ and Dudley bid 3♣. The key to it was that when Dudley's 3♣ showed a limit raise or better, I knew that he had at least four trump. We use 2NT to

show a limit raise or better with *three* trump. The 3♣ bid said nothing about clubs, but tends to be very forcing. With his four and my six I knew we were on a pretty good trump fit.

When it came around to me with my five-loser hand, I took an aggressive view and bid 3♦ as an advance cue bid. Dudley bid 3♣ showing the ace and an interest in slam. I didn't have an awful lot to bid, but I didn't want to bid just 4♥ and out. So I bid 4♦.

He knew I had a void because I bid it twice and he had the ace. If he had thought before that 3♦ was a Help Suit Game Try, he knew now that it was not. He bid 5♣.

Then it became interesting because I knew he had a void in clubs. He wasn't going to cue bid a stiff. I knew I could trust LHO's bids, so Dudley was not showing the ♣A. I had really bid my hand right out so I bid 5♥.



Ben Lampert

Dudley cue bid 6♦, and I just bid 7♥. I knew that partner had no club cards. I knew I could pitch a spade on the ♦A, so the hand was looking really good from my side. I knew he had four hearts which could handle at least three of the clubs if they led a trump (which they did). If worst came to worst, it might require a spade finesse. The comments accompanying the hand records mentioned that at worst 7♥ depended on a finesse. I thought it was a sure grand.

I didn't need the spade finesse. After a heart was led, I put in the 10 and won the jack with my queen. I played a spade to the ace, then the $\diamond A$, pitching my other spade. I played a low spade down and ruffed with the $\heartsuit 9$. When the king fell, the hand was all over.

I pulled the trump, ruffed one club, and pitched four clubs on the spades.

Digest: Thank you, Ben. You are from Markham and Dudley is from Scarborough. Let's hear from him. Well done, Dudley! Tell us about a defence you liked.

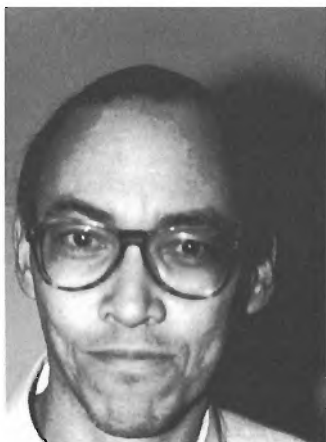
Dudley: Thank you. Ben played very steadily and well. I liked board 3 because we were able to retain our entries while establishing a second suit. After our grand on the previous board, perhaps the opponents were trying to get a board back. I chose not to lead my partner's suit, hoping that he had a major. The comments in the hand records discussed a heart lead, but I led my better major – a spade. Ben co-operated nicely.

	♠ Q972	
Dir: S	♥ J982	
E-W vul	♦ 754	
	♣ 43	
♠ KJ		♠ 10543
♥ Q4		♥ K65
♦ KJ963		♦ void
♣ QJ98		♣ AK10762
	♠ A86	
	♥ A1073	
	♦ AQ1082	
	♣ 5	

South	West	North	East
1 \diamond	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Ben won the $\spadesuit A$ and when the jack came down, he stopped spades. He knew we were sitting with a spade trick eventually. He pumped a low heart through and their hand crumbled. They could take six club tricks, one heart, and a spade for eight.

When he led a heart, declarer flew with the queen and played the clubs. Ben pitched his diamonds right down to the stiff ace



Dudley Camacho

because they were not good to him. Declarer led a spade to his king and exited with a high diamond. Ben was able to get a spade to my queen. I led a heart through for a one-trick set.

Ben: Dudley made a terrific play by not leading a diamond on that hand. He was able to ascertain that a diamond would not be beneficial. It was worth the price of admission.

Digest: Which of your conventions would you recommend to advancing players?

Ben: We play Two-Over-One with a forcing 1NT response by an unpassed hand. A little gadget which we find works well is the negative double in no-trump auctions.

For example, 1NT from me, and 2 \spadesuit on my left. We play lebensohl, but there are those 6-8 HCP hands where you don't know what to do with four hearts. Many people just take a chance, say double for penalties, and hope it goes down. We can make our negative double. Partner can co-operate and pass if he chooses.

We also play negative doubles if there is interference over our strong 2 \spadesuit opening.

"Negative" doubles are really takeout doubles.

Digest: Thank you, Ben and Dudley.

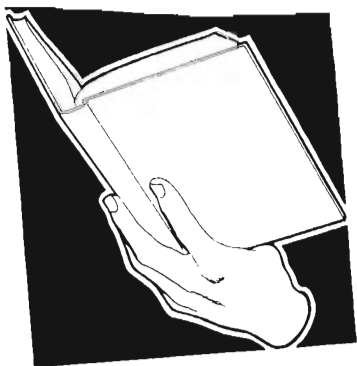


Book Review

by Roland Simon

This is a bridge textbook* designed for children 8 to 14 years old. Being a reasonably intelligent 14-year-old myself, I thought the book would be too easy for me, and thus was skeptical about it. After reading it, I found I knew more about the game, and enjoyed learning it too.

The book keeps children interested with activities to do, and games to play. It goes from the very basics of whist, to bidding conventions. The biggest fault of the book I found was that it concentrated almost entirely on bidding and never got into playing the hand. What good is bidding a slam if you can't play it?



It presented in a way that is easy for a child to understand, but gives a little too much for a child to remember and comprehend. At several points throughout the book I found myself lost, getting too much information thrown at me in a short time.

All in all, I think it is a good "bridge primer", but younger children may not be able to keep their attention focused on the book, so it would probably be a good idea for a parent to help out with the learning.

Computers Can Help Bridge

by Paul Heitner
Bramalea, ON

I wrote a scoring program which we used in Calcuttas and a bridge hand generator called BGEN, which I market. John Lowenthal, my best friend and long-time partner, has also written a program with many similarities and differences. Mine is easier to use. They run on IBM PC's, but I expect to be marketing a Macintosh version by the end of the year.

Some uses for a bridge hand generator are partnership practice, study of different methods, generating lesson deals for teachers, and simulation of specific situations.

It would be valuable for Canada, particularly, to use for what I call telebridge – computer-mediated. It gives the ability to play bridge at a distance. Most of Canada's players are in a strip 8,000 kilometres long and 80 kilometres wide glued across the top of the States. Either you restrict Canadian championships to those who can afford the travel or the CBF has to subsidize bringing people from St. John's and Victoria, which costs a lot.

continued on next page

It is obvious that there is a lot of hard work put into this book, and is worthwhile. Perhaps a sequel about playing hands would be in order.

*Teach Me To Play: Jude Goodwin and Don Ellison, Pando Publications; Large size paperback; 170 pages; available from the authors at Box 339, Rossland BC; \$10.95 plus \$2 postage and handling.



Henry Smilie

1908-1988

On March 28, the Canadian bridge scene lost one of its most distinguished and beloved members. Henry Smilie had served his home unit, his district and the CBF in countless capacities. He was elected Secretary of the Canadian Bridge Federation at its founding meeting in 1965.

The following is a composite of letters and reminiscences by Phil Wood, Joanne Elliott and Doug Cowan, published in the May issue of The Matchpointer, the Vancouver unit newsletter. Ed.

When I am feeling a little blue, I can conjure up the memory of a man in his seventies, dressed as a duck, dancing to the strains of Disco Duck, and winning a trophy to boot. I can even catch myself unconsciously smiling, and realize that I've been reminiscing about a Henry story. What better legacy can a man leave than humour?

Henry was well-defined as an individual and I admired his ability to be true to himself. He did not load himself down with superfluous baggage and because his mind was so alert and his wit so adept, he could



always be relied upon for the perfect 'bon mot'.

We'll all remember the trademarks - that ever-present, drooping cigarette glued to Henry's lower lip; ashes cascading to vest, vest riddled with burn holes; neat ankles encased in red socks; the neatly combed hair which became a crest when ruffled in frustration; and his eyepatch, which he was forced to wear after a stroke a few years ago caused his eyelid to remain closed.

Henry's thirty years of service leave us all richer, and he will be sorely missed.



continued from previous page

Furthermore, you have to have your competitions organized regionally. It's very hard for people to compete with partners from far away. It's technically easy to build a computer-mediated system in which the players could be anywhere. The computer would mediate, keep score, prevent irregularities, generate hand records, and so on.

We have a very powerful, economical communications system in Canada called Datapac which is very inexpensive. I'd be interested in developing telebridge.

We could have a junior championship, an intercollegiate championship, or use it for

the CWTC or CNTC, where partnerships could be people living far apart. For pairs you would need a lot more communications ports. A team game would require only eight communications links and one central place with a printer where the director would be. A local phone call to the local Datapac node would connect to the host. It would cost probably less than ten thousand dollars to set up.

You wouldn't have to buy computers; enough people have them. You need the communications latching and the software.



The Cecchetto 3NT

by Gary Mugford
Bramalea ON

Habit is action without thought. Thoughtless action is rarely good news when playing Bridge. Now, isn't what you write down in your 3NT slot on your convention card just a habit?

Like many people, I habitually wrote down Gambling in the 3NT slot, whenever my partner wasn't playing 25-27 balanced or Namyats (minor-suit pre-empt). I'd open 3NT about once a year or once-a-week Bridge and think nothing about it. That was until Kathy Cecchetto refused to play the Gambling 3NT.

"Why should we. We never open it," she observed. Neither of the two alternatives appealed. She suggested we play it as a super Unusual No-trump. Thus, the Cecchetto 3NT was born.

A friend with Paul Heitner's computer hand generator was able to produce some numbers that really opened my eyes. My disciplined Gambling 3NT (solid minor, no side ace or king) indeed comes up about once a year. The big balanced hand came up about once every 28 sessions. And the Namyats opening was also limited in frequency because of discipline, coming up about once every 32 sessions.

What started as an Unusual No-trump opening got fine-tuned a little bit in action. The result is the following agreement:

3NT = at least 5 cards in each minor, no more than a doubleton in a major, 8-13 HCP, no major-suit ace.

Rather than limit the opening to exactly five cards, we found that playing at least 5-5 increases the frequency of the bid. With no more than a doubleton in a major, the possibility of having a major-suit fit (and of

not pre-empting the opponents out of a major-suit fit) are decreased. The point-range is acknowledging the fact that the opening still requires you to win a few tricks, if doubled. Less than that runs the risk of running into excessive penalties too frequently. The ace requirement makes sure the hand is even more offensive-minded rather than defensive. It helps your partner better gauge the defensive assets.

This opening has a frequency of about once every nine sessions, according to my friend. (Take the ace requirement out and it comes out once every seven sessions)

Our bidding agreements over the Cecchetto 3NT are simple. All bids between 4♣ and 5♦ are to play. 4NT is modified RKC, with the four minor-suit ace-kings being the key cards.

5♣ = 0-3 key cards

5♦ = 1 key card

5♥ = 2 key cards no major-suit void

5♠ = 2 key cards with a major-suit void

Oddly enough, the responses are largely superfluous. On most hands, if partner just responds at the four-level in his or her best minor, the best contract is reached for our side. This happens about 80 per cent of the time.

With the other side holding the majors most of the time on the hands that start with a Cecchetto 3NT, it is very rare to play below the three-level anyway. Opening the Cecchetto 3NT only costs one level and it forces the opponents to guess right at game level how high and far to go. That's really rolling the dice.

It also reduces the number of those terrible unusual no-trumps bid AFTER the opponents have made at least one information-passing bid. That's when they know to stop off and double.



Canadians in Europe

Drew Cannell Treats Dutch

Winnipeg's finest player, Drew Cannell, is surely our most cosmopolitan bridge expert. In the past, he has represented both Canada and Panama in international competition. This spring, he wore the colours of the USA at the prestigious Hoechst tournament held annually in Scheveningen (Netherlands).

Drew's teammates were Bill Eisenberg, Alan Sontag and Michael Polowan. In a 4-cornered national match, USA placed second behind Sweden, ahead of the Netherlands and Great Britain. In the main tournament, the US team again placed second (out of 80 teams), an excellent performance considering the very strong field.

The official tournament Newsletter mentions several splendid decisions taken by Cannell, including a brilliant lead:

♠ J8764
♥ 943
♦ KQ4
♣ 64

♠ A
♥ A1087
♦ 32
♣ QJ10832

♠ KQ105
♥ 62
♦ AJ1076
♣ A5

♠ 932
♥ KQJ5
♦ 985
♣ K97

Against 3NT, Cannell (South) found the only lead to embarrass declarer, Henri Leufkens of the Netherlands. He led the 5 of hearts ("in the true manner of a great player", says the Newsletter). Not surprisingly, Leufkens played small from dummy, allowing Polowan to win his 9 and return another heart. Leufkens could no longer play on clubs, since Cannell would have won his king, cashed the last heart and returned a diamond, setting up the fifth trick for the defense. Leufkens, however, correctly decided to play on diamonds (presumably after cashing the ace of spades) and fulfilled his contract.

Chalfin-de la Salle Enjoy(?) Prize

The 1987 Canadian Open Pairs champions, Mark Chalfin and Maurice de la Salle of Edmonton, toured Europe for free as reward for their victory last summer. They report they had a good time, but had no noteworthy results. In fact we did hear of one hand they would rather forget. It happened in Mondorf-les-Bains, Luxembourg:

Dealer: South
Vul.: Both

North
♠ J93
♥ A982
♦ 762
♣ A93

West
♠ 1075
♥ KQ6
♦ 105
♣ J10842

East
♠ 862
♥ J104
♦ QJ98
♣ KQ5

South
♠ AKQ4
♥ 753
♦ AK43
♣ 76

West	North	East	South
<i>De la Salle</i>	<i>Cannell</i>	<i>Chalfin</i>	<i>Forrester</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

De la Salle led the jack of clubs, ducked in dummy, and overtaken by Chalfin's queen. Chalfin, fearing that clubs might be Forrester's suit, switched to the queen of diamonds, ducked, and continued with the diamond jack. Forrester won and ducked a heart to Chalfin's ten. Chalfin returned another diamond. Forrester won and played a heart, letting Maurice win the queen. De la Salle switched back to clubs. Forrester took the ace, and the 3-3 heart split gave him 9 tricks: 4 spades, 2 hearts, 2 diamonds and one club. Four baffled players.

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Before we laugh at declarer, however, spare a round of applause for West's brilliant defence. Would you have played the hand any differently? Hats off to Wayne Timms, who was West, for his play of the ♠9, and kudos to Ross Taylor for both following suit successfully and avoiding the impulse to reach for the trick when declarer finessed the ♠Q at trick two. West was dealt ♠K9 ♥652 ♦KQJ ♣109763.

You will note, of course, that if Wayne had won his ♠K like a human being, then declarer would have easily made his contract by using the ♣A as an entry to finesse the hearts.

As you might expect, that hand was instrumental in determining which of the two teams advanced to the Zone final.

Post mortem: what is the best way to play this hand? Did declarer err when he chose to play spades first? Should he have adjusted his plan after the first spade finesse?

If you choose to finesse the ♥Q first, you are cold if it wins. If it loses, you can still pick up stiff ♠K or doubleton ♠K onside. In neither event can you pick up ♠Kxxx onside, so hooking the heart will cost only with ♠Kxx onside and the heart hook losing.

If you choose to finesse the spades first (twice if necessary), you cater to ♠Kxx onside. If the spade hook loses, you still have the heart finesse available. If the spade hook wins, you are faced with the same decision you had at trick one.

You can use up your remaining board entry to play either spades or hearts. Or you can bang down the ♣A and then play hearts from the board. Again, that will give up only on ♠Kxx onside, and will avoid being duped by an expert West holding ♠Kxx or even ♠Kx.

At the point that the first spade finesse wins, if you plan on repeating the spade finesse, you are limiting yourself to one specific instance when your play is right, and 50% of the time you won't care because the ♥K was onside anyway. If, instead, you play off the ♣A now, you will give yourself the best chance to make the contract in all other cases, and there are three of these:

♠Kx in either opponent's hand, or the ♠Kxx onside. That last holding is a keen possibility against an expert West.

As to the best play at trick two, I imagine that the heart finesse first is the stronger play for reasons similar to those above. I'm glad I didn't have to face that problem, aren't you?



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is meeting, exceeding, or failing its stated goals. Such information would enable me to better evaluate whether I would want this board to direct me towards independence from the ACBL. I am one of those people who, as Matt Smith pointed out, feels like cannon fodder, and I do not feel that my membership in the CBF confers on me any privilege. I do feel privileged to be a member of the ACBL and this approach by the CBF to fix something that I do not feel is broken leaves me wondering whether it is possibly just an attempt to obtain more power for the elite Canadian player.



BRIDGE WORLD HONOR ROLL 1987

Doug Heron of Ottawa was **SIXTH** in the world in *The Bridge World Master Solvers' Club* in 1987 with 8650 points, and Neil Kimelman of Winnipeg was **EIGHTH** with 8430.

Honorable mention went to:
Sashi Taylor, Willowdale, ON. 8210.
David Morgan-Dave Turnbull,
Ottawa, ON 7745.
Edward Zaluski, Ottawa, ON 7440.
Phyllis Barrington, Vancouver, B.C. 7410.
Robert McKinnon, Victoria B.C. 7167.
Well done!

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