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bridge

Canada

**The CBF Honours
José Damiani**



The World Bridge Series Championship in Philadelphia marked the end of José Damiani's 16-year reign as President of the World Bridge Federation (WBF). Damiani's achievements in the service of bridge during that period are numerous. Most notably, during Damiani's reign bridge was recognized as a sport by the International Olympic Committee, and the WBF became an active member of SportAccord, the biggest international sport organization bringing together over 100 of Olympic and non-Olympic international sports federations. Damiani was also the founder of the International Mind Sports Association (IMSA) which organized the 1st World Mind Sports Games in Beijing in 2008.

In recognition of Damiani's achievements and tireless efforts in the service of bridge, CBF President Nader Hanna, (on the left in above photo) on behalf of the CBF and all Canadian bridge players, presented Damiani with a plaque honouring him for his extraordinary service to the WBF and bridge throughout the world. The presentation was made at the WBF Congress meeting in Philadelphia.

Photos in this issue: Jonathan Steinberg

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Message from the President

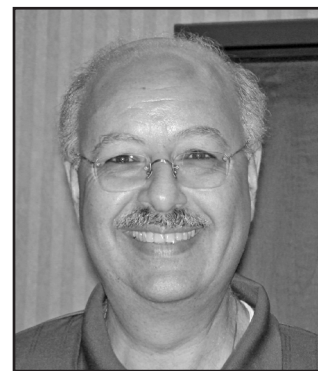
by Nader Hanna

The 13th World Bridge Series Championship, held in Philadelphia, October 1 – 17, was the most successful world championships ever for Canada. Kismet Fung and Susan Culham of Edmonton, Alberta, won the silver medal in the Generali World Women Pairs.

Kismet was also a silver medalist in the World Mixed Pairs, playing with Brian Glubok of the USA, thus becoming the only player to win two medals at these championships. Daniel Lavee of Toronto, Ontario, was a member of the Hinze team that won the World Mixed Swiss Teams, and became the first Canadian junior to ever win a gold medal at a world championship. Congratulations to Kismet, Susan and Daniel. Congratulations also to ex-Torontonians Geoff Hampson and Fred Gitelman, who were members of the Diamond team that won the World Open KO Teams (Rosenblum Cup).

As previously announced, starting with this issue, Bridge Canada is only available electronically through the CBF website (www.cbf.ca). However, we do recognize that some of our members may not have access to a computer and/or the internet. Accordingly, we are in the process of making arrangements with clubs to make hard copies of the magazine available for such members. If you or someone you know desires a hard copy of the magazine please let your club manager know.

Finally, I hope to see many of you at the Canadian Bridge Championships May 21 - 28, 2011 in Regina. The winners of the Open, Women and Seniors team competitions will earn the right to represent Canada at the next World Team Championships to be held in Veldhoven, Netherlands, October 15 - 29, 2011. If you are interested in being a Non-Playing Captain of any of the Canadian teams, and your name is not already on the pre-approved NPC list, please submit your expression of interest describing your international experience to Janice Anderson (jan@cbf.ca) before January 15, 2011.

**C.B.F. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

(Please print clearly to ensure you receive your mailings)

NAME: _____

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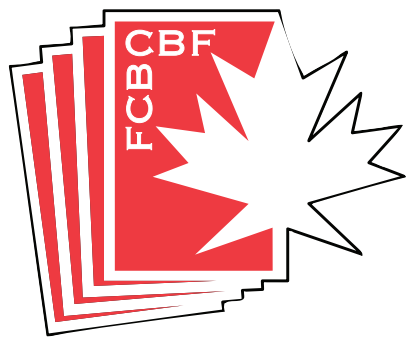
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from the cbf office

Executive Assistant
Jan Anderson

CBF Election Results

This fall elections were conducted in Zones II and V. In Zone II, Jean Castonguay of Montreal was re-elected by acclamation.

In Zone V, Jerry Mamer of Saskatoon was elected by acclamation. The CBF extends its thanks to Alex Fowlie of Edmonton for his service to the CBF Board of Directors over the last five years.

Please Support the CBF

Are you a member of the CBF? You can check your CBF status through My ACBL on www.acbl.org. If you did not include CBF dues with your ACBL dues you can still become a paid-up member of the CBF by completing the form on page 2.

Time to renew your ACBL membership? Don't forget to include the CBF dues with your ACBL renewal!

Address Changes

We get our mailing addresses directly from the ACBL. If you submit an address change to the ACBL, it will also result in an address change with the CBF.

International Fund Games at Sectionals

Would you like to earn 1.4 times as many masterpoints (silver) at your next Sectional?

For \$1 CDN per person, your Sectional can award silver points at Regional rating. Your Sectional organizers just need to decide to hold either a one session, a two session or two single session IF game at your next sectional. The tournament Director will know how to report the game and the extra \$1 per player per session is submitted to the CBF Executive Assistant. Easy as pie. Players win extra masterpoints and at the same time help teams that represent Canada in World Championship events. Talk to your Sectional organizers now!!

The CBF thanks the following for holding IF games at their 2010 Sectionals:

Vancouver Unit 430 ~ 3 sectionals
South Sask. Unit 573 B Regina ~ 4 sectionals
Northern Alberta Unit 391 B Edmonton ~ 2 sectionals
Ottawa ~ 5 sectionals
North Sask. Unit 575 B Saskatoon & Meota ~ 3 sectionals
Thunder Bay ~ 1 sectional



cbf.ca

Non-Playing Captain List

In 2008 the CBF established a list of potential non-playing captains for our open, women's and senior teams competing in the various World Championships. The purpose of the NPC list is to assist teams in selecting their NPC in a timely fashion, in order to maximize the team's preparation time for the championships. The list, which is updated annually, includes CBF members in good standing that have adequate international experience, either as a player or as a NPC, who have expressed interest in performing the NPC role, and have been approved by the CBF Board of Directors

If you are interested in being an approved NPC, please send your name, contact information and a brief description of your international experience, to Janice Anderson at jan@cbf.ca.

The deadline for submitting an expression of interest is January 15, 2011.

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

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2010 CBF Charitable Foundation Report

In 2010 the CBF Charitable Foundation focused on organizations that assist and improve the life of Seniors in Canada. \$31,000 was given to Canadian Charities. A National donation of \$4,000 was given to the Active Living Coalition for Older Adults. Each Zone Trustee and the CBF Charitable Foundation Chairman were allowed to give grants totalling \$3500 to charities in their regions. See below for a complete list of these donations.

In November the Trustees voted to sponsor Stephanie Whiteman in The Ride to Conquer Cancer. The Enbridge Ride to Conquer Cancer is a 2-day bike ride, over 360 kilometres, from Toronto to Niagara Falls. Stephanie is the daughter of the late Gary Whiteman. Gary, who passed away earlier this year, was a long-time competitive bridge player from London, ON. He was very much liked by all who knew him. Gary won the Canadian Open Pairs Championship in 1986 and was to have played in the 2010 CNTC National Final but passed away prior to the Championships. His team played under his name and reached the semi-finals. More information on Stephanie's ride can be found on her website: www.conquercancer.ca

Chairman Donations	\$ 3 500
Creative Retirement Manitoba	1 000
Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre	290
Good Neighbours Active Living Centre	500
Lighthouse Mission	200
Manitoba Chamber Orchestra	500
Morden Friendship Activity Centre - Snow Angels	300
Prairie Theatre Exchange	400
Riverside Lions Charitable Foundation	310



Zone One Donations

\$ 3 500

Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia - Halifax Duck Derby	500
Sackville Seniors' Advisory Council - D. Malloy Charity Golf Tourn.	500
Salvation Army - Senior Programs, Charlottetown, PE	500
Seniors' Resource Centre - Saint John, NB	500
Seniors' Resource Centre of Newfoundland & Labrador	500
Victoria Hall	1 000

Zone Two Donations

\$ 3 500

Centre Pauline Charron, Ottawa	500
Kemptville & District Home Support Inc.	500
La Fondation La Belle-Aide, Laval	1 500
Les Petits Freres des pauvres, Quebec City	1 000

Zone Three Donations

\$ 3 500

Concerned Friends of Ontario Citizens in Care Facilities	500
North York Seniors Centre	1 000
Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens' Organizations	1 000
Peel Senior Link	1 000

Zone Four Donations

\$ 3 500

Dauphin Multi-Purpose Senior Centre	600
Gimli New Horizons	600
Gordon Howard Senior Centre	600
Gwen Sector Creative Living Centre	1 000
Prairie Oasis Senior Centre	700

Zone Five Donations

\$ 3 500

Four Leaf Clover Seniors Independence Club, Catholic Family Services	\$ 1 000
Hospice Calgary Society	725
Osteoporosis Canada, Regina Chapter	300
Pilgrims Hospice Society	725
Saskatoon Council on Aging, Inc	750

Zone Six Donations

\$ 3 500

District 69 Society of Organized Services	400
Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society	800
Kelowna Community Food Bank Society	300
Lions Gate Hospice Society	500
Mustard Seed Food Bank	500
Nanaimo Community Hospice Society	500
Penticton & District Hospice Society	500

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can.bridge.fed@sasktel.net

How to Enter the Canadian Bridge Championships

Many events can be entered on site (see right). Those events that require Pre-registration are listed below.

CNTC-A, CNTC-B and CWTC

PRE-REGISTRATION DETAILS

Pre-register with the CBF Office (see address above) by March 25, 2011

Registration must include:

- Team Captain's Name & ACBL Number
- Captain's address, phone # and email
- Name & ACBL # for all team members
- Round Robin Entry Fee (Non-refundable)

CNTC-A: \$924.00

CNTC-B: \$540.00

CWTC: \$744.00

All team members must be paid-up members of the CBF. For CNTC-A and CNTC-B, all team members must have club round qualification earned in a club game or purchased from CBF Office.

The Events

CANADIAN NATIONAL TEAMS A (CNTC-A)

Sat, May 21 - Sat, May 28, 2011

Pre-registration required (see left column).

CANADIAN NATIONAL TEAMS B (CNTC-B) (<2500 mpts)

Sun, May 22 - Thu, May 26, 2011

Pre-registration required (see left column).

CANADIAN WOMEN'S TEAMS (CWTC)

Sun, May 22 - Thu, May 26, 2011

Pre-registration required (see left column).

CANADIAN SENIOR TEAMS (CSTC)

Wed, May 25 - Sat, May 28, 2011

All team members must be born in 1951 or earlier.

All team members must be paid-up members of the CBF.

Pre-registration is not required.

Purchase entry onsite prior to game time.

Guaranteed two days of play.

CANADIAN IMP PAIRS (CIPC)

Thu, May 26, 2011

No pre-qualification required and no pre-registration.

Participants must be paid-up member of the CBF.

CANADIAN OPEN PAIRS (COPC)

Fri, May 27 and Sat, May 28, 2011

Club qualification required and must be paid-up members of the CBF.

Pre-registration not required.

Two-session one-day qualifying followed by two-session final.

SWISS TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS (CSTC)

Sat, May 28, 2011

Two-session Regionally rated Swiss teams.

Open to all. No pre-registration, no pre-qualification and CBF membership is not required.



There are no Zone Finals. Form your teams and enter by March 25, 2011

13th World BRIDGE SERIES

by Francine Cimon

The 13th World Bridge Series was held in Philadelphia from October 2-16; this tournament is the only one organized by the World Bridge Federation that is completely open to all players. For the second time, all the events were transnational (except the Youth Championships), the only restriction being that the country had to be a member of the WBF and the player had to be a member of his country's Federation (for the CBF, \$12 per year). The 11th World Series was held in Montréal in 2002, but the major events were not transnational which meant that, in principle, all the members of a team had to come from the same country.

In Philadelphia, the Canadian players distinguished themselves by winning one Gold Medal (Daniel Lavee) and three Silver Medals (Kismet Fung twice and Susan Culham once). Congratulations to these champions!

MIXED PAIRS

The tournament started with the Mixed Pairs: 3 qualifying rounds and 3 final rounds. Four hundred thirty-four pairs from 49 countries participated, with 71 Canadian players. Kismet Fung from Edmonton, playing with Brian Glubok from the USA, won the Silver Medal. They came very close to taking the Gold Medal : before the final round, they were ahead and many Canadians anxiously awaited the results.

The opening lead is very important in pairs. In third seat after two passes, with ♠AK86 ♥72 ♦J2 ♣107654, what would you do?

Isabelle Brisebois Smith from Ottawa was bold enough to open 1♠. We often underestimate the effectiveness of opening a 4-card major in third position; it allows us to indicate a good lead and also has a preemptive effect. You should use this opening in third position even if your bidding system implies a 5-card major. However, you have to follow two rules: you should not have an opening hand and you should be telling your partner that this will be a good lead. Also, you should play Drury so that your partner can't get carried away. Here is the full deal:

Dealer: North Vul. : E/W

Jeff Smith

♠ 9 5 4
♥ K 8 6
♦ 10 5 4 3
♣ J 3 2

♠ J 10 2
♥ A J 10
♦ A K Q
♣ K Q 9 8

♠ Q 7 3
♥ Q 9 5 4 3
♦ 9 8 7 6
♣ A

Isabelle Smith

♠ A K 8 6
♥ 7 2
♦ J 2
♣ 10 7 6 5 4

West	North	East	South
	Jeff		Isabelle
	Pass	Pass	1♠
X	2♠	3♥	Pass
4♥			

At most tables, South passed, West opened 2NT, East transferred to hearts and North failed to find the spade lead. Every declarer in four hearts was successful, but most took 11 tricks instead of the 10 tricks that were made at Isabelle's table. One overtrick is not a big deal in team play but in pairs it is everything: the Smiths scored 105 matchpoints out of 154 while the NS who were minus 650 pairs only got 30 masterpoints. Quite a difference!

WOMEN'S TEAM (McCONNELL CUP)

The organizers were very disappointed with the 31 entries in the McConnell: normally we were supposed to play for three days to qualify 32 teams! The format was changed, and the teams were split into two sections, with fifteen 10-board matches qualifying eight teams per section. Canada was represented by the team that won the last CWTC (Francine Cimon, Pamela Nisbet, Kismet Fung, Susan Culham, Isabelle Smith and Sondra Blank). There were also Canadian players on other transnational Canada-USA teams.

The following deal was played in the first match (see next page).

Dlr : South Vul : None**Pamela Nisbet**

♠ J 6 5 4
♥ J 5 4 2
♦ K
♣ A J 9 6

West

♠ 9 8 7 2
♥ 6
♦ Q 7 6 4 3
♣ Q 8 2

East

♠ A 10
♥ A Q 9
♦ J 9 8 2
♣ K 5 4 3

Francine Cimon

♠ K Q 3
♥ K 10 8 7 3
♦ A 10 5
♣ 10 7

West

-
Pass

North

-
3♠

East

-
Pass

South

1♥
4♥

Lead: ♣2

After a 1♥ opening, instead of the traditional double jump in a new suit to show shortness in that suit with 9-12 HCP, Nisbet-Cimon prefer to bid 3♠ showing an unknown splinter. The advantage of this is to hide the short suit if the partnership has no slam interest; it also allows you to assign specific meanings to 4♣ and 4♦. The former shows a 3-3-(4-3) hand with 16-17 HCP while the latter shows a support preempt promising 4 or more trumps with one defensive trick. South, with no hope for slam, just bids the game. Nisbet's aggressive bid (3 HCP in the singleton) allowed a good game to be reached. With the club lead, declarer can afford only one heart loser. Cimon, afraid of a spade ruff, went up with the ace in dummy and led a low heart to the ten. When that won, she followed with a diamond to dummy to repeat the heart finesse. Making that contract was worth 6 imps, but we lost the match 12 imps to 8.

Team Canada didn't have a good tournament, finishing eleventh in their section, but two Canada-USA teams qualified for the round of 16.

OPEN TEAMS (ROSENBLUM CUP)

Canadian participation in the Rosenblum Cup was solid: 53 players scattered across 16 teams. Seven teams were completely Canadian and, in the other teams, Canadians found teammates from all across the globe (Poland, Australia, USA, Japan and Norway).

The 145 participating teams were divided into 16 sections of either 9 or 10 teams. The competition started with a 3-day round-robin, playing nine 16-board matches. The 4 leaders in each section qualified for the KO stage of 64 teams.

In the qualifying round, the Rayner all-Canadian team (Doug Baxter, Mike Hargreaves, David Lindop, James McAvoy, John Rayner, Michael Roche) played against the Lavazza team, which consisted of four Italian world champions and two excellent Egyptian players; the match was broadcast on BBO. Here are some of the more interesting deals.

Bd 3 Dlr : South Vul : E/W**North**

♠ A Q 8 6 4
♥ A K Q J 8 3
♦ 7
♣ 6

West

♠ K J 3
♥ 9 4
♦ J 10 8 4 3 2
♣ Q 4

East

♠ 10 7 5 2
♥ 5
♦ Q 6
♣ K 10 9 8 7 2

South

♠ 9
♥ 10 7 6 2
♦ A K 9 5
♣ A J 5 3

*Open room***West**

Lindop
-
Pass
Pass
Pass
Pass

North

Bocchi
-
1♥
4♠
5♠
6♥

East

Baxter
-
Pass
Pass
Pass

South

Ferraro
1♦
2♥
5♦
6♦

Lead: ♣10

The 4♠ bid was RKCB and the response showed two controls without the ♥Q; 5♠ asked for the specific King and 6♦ shows the ♦K but denied the ♣K.

Declarer went up ♣A in dummy, led a spade to his ace and ruffed a spade in dummy. Bocchi crossed to his hand with the ♥A to ruff another spade with the ten and claim 13 tricks.

Closed room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Hargreaves	Sementa	McAvoy
-	-	-	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦
Pass	7♥		

Lead: ♥5

The 2♠ bid was a help-suit game try and McAvoy's jump to 4♥ showed a useful spade holding. North didn't need anything else to bid the grand slam, after checking with RKCB (4♠) that they had all the controls. On the heart lead, dummy played small and Duboin followed with the 9; now declarer could safely ruff his spades, dummy's trumps being higher than any the defence had left. That was 11 imps for Canada and the beginning of a real trend.

In this next deal, an unusual bid from the Italians turned out badly, giving Rayner another 9 imps.

Bd 10. Dealer : East. Vul : All

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

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

Open room

West	North	East	South
Lindop	Bocchi	Baxter	Ferraro
-	-	1♣	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠		

Lead : ♣A

Closed room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Hargreaves	Sementa	McAvoy
-	-	2♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Lead : ♣2

In the open room, Bocchi decided to reopen the bidding even though he only held 8 HCP and had three clubs. The defence gave him no chance, taking the first three club tricks, then switching to the ♥9 to establish a heart trick. Along with the two trump tricks, that was one down for -100.

In the closed room, the 2♦ opening showed a balanced hand with 18-19 HCP. West passed, hoping that his partner held some diamonds, but not this time... anyway, he had no other sensible bid. Declarer won the opening lead with ♣A and immediately attacked the diamond suit. Dummy's ♦J was won by North's Queen, and the ♥J came back, covered by the king and ace. South continued with a club to Sementa's King; he persisted with a diamond to North's ace, the defence played another heart. In hand with the queen of hearts, Sementa played a third heart, allowing Hargreaves to pitch his club. McAvoy gave his partner a club ruff, and now Hargreaves played the ♠7: Sementa finessed the ♠Q, losing to the king; with two more trumps for South, the contract went down three for -300, 9 imps to Rayner. Many players underestimate the IMPs that can be won by defending partscores well, especially when the opponents are vulnerable.

Bd 12. Dir : West. Vul : N/S

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

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

Open room

West	North	East	South
Lindop	Bocchi	Baxter	Ferraro
Pass	1♣ ¹	Pass	3♥

¹ strong club
Lead : ♣Q

More and more Europeans play a single or double jump in a new suit over partner's one-level opening as preemptive. With no fit for hearts, Bocchi decided to pass. The commentators on BBO said that Ferraro's hand was surely too good to bid 3♥ over a strong club: usually you should not have four cards in the other major. West led the ♣Q and continued clubs when that held. South ruffed and played a heart to dummy's Ace. At this point it seemed that declarer had 10 tricks, losing only a heart, a diamond and a club, but Ferraro claimed 9 tricks for +140, surely very disappointed with the result and indeed the whole match.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Hargreaves	Sementa	McAvoy
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
2♣	2♠	5♣	5♠

Lead : ♣A

The bidding was very rapid, indicating very distributional hands. McAvoy laid down his dummy, apologizing in advance if he made the wrong decision but explaining that, since he had very few HCP, he was afraid that the 5♣ contract would make.

Sementa led the club ace and continued with the king; Hargreaves pitched the diamond from dummy, ruffed in his hand and followed with a diamond ruff in dummy. He came back to his hand with ♥A and ruffed another diamond; when the ♦Q fell, there were no more worries for declarer. Another 11 imps. In the end, Rayner won the match 71 imps to 19, which converted to 25 VP to 4 VP.

The scale used by the WBF is unusual: there are 30 VP at stake, but the winning team cannot win more than 25 VP. When I started playing in WBF events, a long time ago (in 1976), the scale was 25 VP, but the losing team could have a negative score, up to minus 5. Imagine! The WBF wanted to coax more and more countries to become members and enter the Olympiads, an event implying "one country, one team" and occurring every four years. At their first participation, these countries often saw, in the opening days of the tournament, their team's results appear in the negative zone. It is very demoralizing for players to see their VP total go down instead of up, I can tell you from personal experience. This method obviously did not encourage new members entering the WBF. The scale was therefore changed but, in the real world, when you score 25 VP, you have blitzed the losing team – and if they get less than 5 VP, they really got wiped out. Congratulations to the Rayner team! They finished first in their section.

To my knowledge, this was the first time that a new seeding system was used for the final round. Usually, it's pretty much always the same: the first qualifier in one section meets the fourth qualifier in another section and so on. In the round of 64, Rayner won their match against Beijing Trinergy 127 to 106, but they lost in the next round to the Fredin team (Fredrik Nystrom, Bjorn Fallenius, Peter Fredin, Daniel Zagorin, Peter Bertheau, Kevin Bathurst) by the score of 123 to 78; on the previous day, this same team had already eliminated Team Canada (Piotr Klimowicz, Judith Gartaganis, Nicholas Gartaganis, Gordon Campbell, Paul Thurston, David Willis). No Canadian team went further than the round of 32.

Continued on next page



Lynn and Dale Johannesen, Connie Golberg, Canadian Daniel Lavee, JoAnn Sprung and Greg Hinze winners of the World Mixed Swiss Teams



Kismet Fung & Susan Culham won Silver in the World Women's Pairs

WORLD WOMENS PAIRS

After seven and a half days of competition, 5 qualifying sessions, 5 semifinals sessions and 5 finals sessions, Susan Culham and Kismet Fung won the Silver Medal. They were consistent throughout the event, finishing second in the semifinals and remaining in the top 5 pairs during the last four rounds of the finals.

They started the last session in second place, but we'll let Susan explain the end of that tournament:

The final day after 4 (of 7) rounds Kiz and I had 43% and slipped to 5th from 2nd place. With 3 rounds to go we had a huge 5th round, and did well after that to capture 2nd place.

Here are the last 2 boards and you must get them both correct for the silver medal:

1) Penultimate Board

You hold ♠ AQxx ♥ xxx ♦ xx ♣ xxxx

And the bidding: LHO 3♦ Kiz 3♠ RHO Pass You ?

Bid or pass?

2) Final board

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	All pass

Your lead holding: ♠ Jx ♥ Axxx ♦ A9xx ♣ Kxx

See next column for solutions.

Solutions: 1) I passed 3♠ which made 3. The field was in 4 down one and we scored over 80%. 2) Last board I led a diamond for down 2. If you lead a heart they make. This was worth over 75%.

This was the second Silver Medal for Kismet in this tournament. And it wasn't over yet for Canada: Daniel Lavee won a **Gold Medal** in the Mixed Swiss teams with American partners. What a feat: becoming a world champion while still eligible to play in the Juniors!

THE 13TH WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

This was the first time the World Youth Championships were held in conjunction with another World Championship event. The events are usually limited to a fixed number of teams so only some countries are invited to send teams and all team members must reside in the country they represent. Canada participated in two different groups, youth (players under 21 - Damiani Cup) and juniors (players under 26 - Ortis Patino trophy)

Selection of the members for these teams is a fairly complex process so we asked Janice Anderson, executive assistant of the Canadian Bridge Federation to explain it to us.

All Youth and Junior players register with the CBF and go through an 8 - 10 month process during which they have assigned work to do, play on-line tournaments, and have many on-line practices with Eric Kokish and Beverly Kraft-Kokish. There is also a team mentor for each age group who works further with the players and monitors their progress. After the 8 to 10 months, a selection committee looks at all the material and makes a recommendation on who the six players will be on each team. Once the teams and NPCs are named, they continue working and practising together.

Our junior team (Anton Blagov, Daniel Lavee, Samantha Nystrom, Chao Zhou, Gordon Zind, John Carruthers NPC and Catherine Thorpe coach) barely missed the knockout round: they finished with 257 VP and the last spot was 257.5 VP.

The members of the youth team were Shan Huang, Aled laboni, Manlin Luo, Ethan Macaulay, Malcolm McColl, Geoff Webb, Andy Stark NPC and Eric O. Kokish coach. They finished in 12th position out of 16 teams.

Our congratulations to all the winners and to all the players who did a good job representing Canada.

2010 World Bridge Series - Team Canada

by Paul Thurston, Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis
SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE AVAILABLE ONLY AT CBF.CA

Finding His Way

by Michael Yuen

In the final of the Imp Pairs at the World Championship in Philly. Ahmed Hussein of Egypt playing with Apolinary Kowalski of Poland, found his way to an excellent contract.

Session 5. Board 28. Dealer West. North-South vulnerable.

Hussein as North held. ♠ 93 ♥ K43 ♦ AQ102 ♣ AJ75

This was their auction.

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	1♠	DBL
Pass	2♦	2♠	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass*	

* East regretting his spade overcall.

After East bid spades twice, Hussein deduced that their partnership was unlikely to have a spade stopper for three no trump. He knew enough about the hand to try for the four-three Moysian fit. These were the hands.

Dealer: West Vul: N-S

Hussein

♠ 93
♥ K43
♦ AQ102
♣ AJ75

West

♠ 54
♥ 875
♦ K94
♣ 109862

East

♠ AKQ862
♥ J92
♦ 82
♣ Q4

Apolinary

♠ J107
♥ AQ106
♦ J765
♣ K3

The lead was spade ace, seven, four and three. East played three rounds of spades, Hussein ruffed the third spade with the heart three, drew trumps in three rounds, and ended in dummy. He was then able to take the winning diamond finesse by leading the diamond jack. When that won he had eleven tricks.

4♥ made with an overtrick for +450, good for bushels ofimps.

Many North-South pairs, including myself, declared three no trump with silent opponents and went down two after the ♠A lead.

An Interview with Kismet Fung

by Jessica Mifsud

Kismet Fung is a well-known member of the Edmonton bridge scene, and was also the winner of two silver medals at this year's World Bridge Championships in Philadelphia. We were lucky enough to squeeze ourselves into Kismet's busy schedule, and obtain this interview with the Silver Woman herself!

How long have you been playing bridge? What got you into the game in the first place?

"[Kismet] first played with friends in her university days, then joined the Edmonton Bridge Centre after completing her law degree."

[Editor's note: To answer this question, Kismet sent us an article from an issue of Edmonton's "The National Magazine", a periodical for the legal profession, where she was interviewed about her bridge-playing hobby. She also notes: "The article is now almost 10 years old, but I found it funny how some things are still the same."]

How long have you been playing competitively?

My first win in the CWTC (Canadian Women's Team Championships) was in 2002. I also attended the World Championships in 2003. In the last 3 years, I have missed one NABC, but I have played at the CWTC every year since 2005.

Congratulations on your two silver victories at this year's World Championships! Would you like to tell us a little bit about that experience?

I have never played 15 solid days of bridge without a day off. I found it very grueling. Since I do not play bridge full-time, I found the actual play easier as the week went on because hand patterns and bidding systems became routine as I found my rhythm.

In the Mixed Pairs, we were 30th going into the last session, so a medal was considered remote. Eric Kokish, who saw us at the supper break, commented that we couldn't have been doing very well because we were eating a full meal in between sessions (i.e. no nerves). It wasn't until the second last round (and I suspected our game was a smoker) that the cameras were coming around so I knew we were in the hunt.

An Interview with Kismet Fung, continued from previous page.

While there was some disappointment to not win when holding the lead going into the last round, a Silver Medal is a joyous thing, and I learned a lot about the intangibles at the bridge table from my partner Brian Glubok, who is a bridge pro.

The ladies pairs was exhausting... 7 ½ days of bridge. Fortunately there was no carry-over, so before the finals when we were leading going into the last session of the semis, we could take a little bit of a much-needed mental break... it really was about pacing ourselves.

It has only just recently sunk in that I have two world medals; when you are playing, it doesn't register.

How did you meet your bridge partners, Susan and Brian? What do you think makes these "winning" partnerships for you?

Susan is my best friend. We played on the same team when we won in 2002. After some time off, we decided to try to play together. Our pact is to ensure that we are best friends after every tournament, regardless of the bridge result.

I met Brian at the NABC in Las Vegas when he was playing with Roy Welland. This year, both of my prospective Mixed pairs partners cancelled, so I begged Brian to play with me. He had offered to play with me "some time" and I found the right time to collect on it!

Mike Yuen has called you an "asset to the Edmonton Bridge scene", and has mentioned your participation in their "Bridge Week" in 2002. Tell us a little bit about Bridge Week and what your role as "event chairperson" involved.

I was Chairperson of Bridge Week 2002 when it came to Edmonton. It was an exhausting week, but I had a lot of help. The City of Edmonton is known for its volunteerism, and the Edmonton Bridge crowd is especially renowned. There was plenty of fundraising done to be able to put on a spread for the participants, and I heard nothing but wonderful comments about Edmonton hospitality.

How do you manage to balance your clearly successful bridge life with a busy work schedule and family obligations?

Work has always been busy, but my kids are now in their 20s – neither live with me. Since I was a single mother with a full time job at one time trying to play bridge, life now is very easy. Work has been very supportive of bridge, allowing me time off with pay to attend World Championships. I also manage my holidays around bridge.

Do your children also play bridge?

Neither of my kids ever learned bridge. I thought school was more important.

What do you enjoy most about the game?

Since the [last interview], I realize that I still love bridge for the attention to mental detail, and the requirement to continuously solve different problems presented to you. I also love the competitive aspect of the game, and the camaraderie.

What's next for you? Will you be aiming for gold at the next World Bridge Championships?

I haven't made any plans for my bridge future. I am going to Orlando for the NABC, but after that will take some time off and see.

Exciting New CANADA-WIDE SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS

by Linda Lee. 2011 is the inaugural year for an exciting new open event to be held in bridge clubs across Canada. We will be holding a one-session sectionally rated simultaneous matchpoint pairs game across Canada. All Canadians will have an opportunity to play the same deals and the event will be scored across all participating ACBL clubs. Our goal is to raise money to support our Canadian International teams.

The Canada-wide Simultaneous Pairs will be a chance for bridge players to come together from coast to coast, have fun at great events at local clubs, and compare scores with the whole country. Many of our top players will participate in their local games. We plan to have some prizes and some surprises too.

We'll be using ecatsbridge, a terrific technology, where we can post deals, analysis, results and talk to each other about each and every deal. Awards will be both local and nationwide.

The event will be held annually starting in 2011 on the second Saturday afternoon in September.

Details on how clubs can sign up will be posted on cbf.ca in the spring of 2011 but if your club is interested in participating, it would be helpful if you let us know so that we can plan. And be sure to add this event to your 2011 club calendar.

We are currently looking for people who are prepared to help with the event. If you would like to help with the event, let us know your club is planning to participate or for more information please contact Linda Lee via email: linda@masterpointpress.com.

World Open Pairs Final

Bridge in Philadelphia
by Neil Kimelman

After 5 qualifying and 5 semi-final sessions Karl Gohl and I made it to the finals of the Worlds Pairs Championship held in Philadelphia October 2010. 250 pairs started playing the qualifying with about 130 advancing to the semis. In the semis 50-odd pairs dropped in from the Rosenblum to make it 182 pairs, of which only 49 qualified for the finals.

QUALIFYING SESSIONS

We started off with a 46% game in the 1st qualifying session, but our scores continued to improve every session, and we qualified 109th.

Here is a hand from the 3rd qualifying session in which I was very impressed with our bidding – until I saw dummy!

E-W Vulnerable, as North I held:

♠ K8 ♥ Q732 ♦ KQJ432 ♣ A

The bidding:

West	Kimelman	East	Gohl
-	1♦	Double	Redouble
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	?		

In our system a bid of 2♦ denies two hearts – partner is not interested in hearing me double 1♥. His 2NT showed a heart stopper, thus he had to have a stiff ♥A. With this reasoning I asked for key cards and bid 6♦. The full deal:

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

I was unhappy when I saw dummy, but only on the inside. I won the ♠K and played a small diamond towards dummy. East did well to go up with the ace, and play another club

(otherwise I can partially strip the hand and endplay him to lead away from the ♥K). He did 'less well' when he didn't cover the ♥Q after I had ruffed the club return and pulled his trump.

THE SEMI-FINALS

In the semi-finals we were very consistent. The 1st session was our worst, 50.76%, good for 86th place. We moved up every session, 79th, 57th, 50th and finally 45th. We averaged 52.14% during the five sessions. Considering ourselves IMP players I was surprised how many matchpoints we generated – lots! Here was a big swing hand from the 3rd session of the semi-finals that didn't go our way, but was especially bitter:

N-S Vulnerable, as South Karl held:

♠ KJ62 ♥ AK2 ♦ J ♣ AQ963 and heard:

West	Kimelman	East	Gohl
-	1NT ¹	3♦	4♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

¹12-14.

East led the ♦K out of turn. We were late and Karl quickly forbade a diamond lead. It could have been right, but it wasn't. I held ♠ Q97 ♥ QJ6 ♦ A86 ♣ K1052. West led the ♠A and gave his partner a spade ruff! Ouch! The adage, 'A person who doesn't know whose lead it is probably doesn't know the right lead either' proved true once again.

THE FINAL

With the medal winners from the Rosenblum dropping in the field consisted of 72 of the strongest pairs in the world. There was no carryover. Each pair played each other once, 2 boards. All boards were played simultaneously, thus avoiding many ethical issues, as well as allowing barometer scoring. After every four boards each pair was provided with a recap of those boards. This recap showed the hands, who played whom, the score for each pair, their matchpoints and the up-to-date standings in the event. Nice!!

Unfortunately, Karl caught a bad cold the night before the Final started. Despite this we had a good start, and were 16th after 4 boards (can we stop now?).

This is partially due to the following hand, where I had a tough decision (hands rotated), vul vs. not:

♠ Q843 ♥ J32 ♦ AJ10984 ♣ Void

West	North	East	South
Li	Gohl	Tong	Kimelman
-	1NT ¹	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	2♠	?

¹12-14

I considered doubling, but chose to bid 3♦ as my spade spots were poor, the opponents were not vulnerable, and they were marked with at least a seven-card heart fit. The full deal:

♠ 10 7
♥ A 7
♦ 7 5 3 2
♣ A K 9 8 4

♠ 6 5
♥ K 10 8 5 4
♦ Q
♣ Q 10 5 3 2

♠ A K J 9 2
♥ Q 9 6
♦ K 6
♣ J 7 6

♠ Q 8 4 3
♥ J 3 2
♦ A J 10 9 8 4
♣ Void

3♦ making 4 was worth 53 matchpoints (70 top), beating all the pairs defending against two of a major, down one. On board 5 we scored 53 out of 70 again for what I thought was a nice auction to bid 6♠ on the following cards:

Gohl	Kimelman
♠ KQJ975	♠ A42
♥ 82	♥ AJ1076
♦ K9873	♦ AQ
♣ Void	♣ 1096

-	1♥
1♠	1NT
4♠	5♦
6♠	

Our streak ended several rounds later against Nunes and Fantoni. On the 1st board we bid a slam that had a decent play, but didn't make. See if you can do better than I did in the play of 6NT on the accompanying board:

♠ K J 7 5
♥ A K 10 3
♦ A Q 6
♣ Q J

♠ A 6
♥ 9 6 5
♦ 10 9 7 5
♣ A K 8 3

The ♣5 is led. Not the greatest slam. Besides only having 9 tricks, there is only one entry to the closed hand. Right or wrong, after cashing the 2nd club I played ♥A, ♥K. LHO showed out after following small. Now what (besides crying)? I listlessly played a spade to my hand, cashed my clubs, and took a spade hook, eventually making 11 tricks. Here was the full deal:

♠ K J 7 5
♥ A K 10 3
♦ A Q 6
♣ Q J

♠ Q 9 4 2
♥ 7
♦ K 4 3 2
♣ 10 7 5 2

♠ 10 8 3
♥ Q J 8 4 2
♦ J 8
♣ 9 6 4

♠ A 6
♥ 9 6 5
♦ 10 9 7 5
♣ A K 8 3

The key to the hand is to ask yourself, 'What do I need to make it?' The answer that eluded me was the spade finesse, and the singleton or doubleton J♦ with East (singleton K also works). Once you find the right answer it is simple to play the A♦ from dummy, followed by the Q♦.

In the 2nd session things got a bit better. Here is an example of aggressive competitive bidding by two World Champions, that cost them dearly:

Jassem
♠ 1076
♥ 103
♦ K1087
♣ Q863

Gohl
♠ A9832
♥ Q86
♦ Void
♣ J10542

Kimelman
♠ K54
♥ KJ2
♦ AQJ2
♣ AK7

Martens
♠ QJ
♥ A9754
♦ 96543
♣ 9

West	North	East	South
Gohl	Jassem	Kimelman	Martens
-	-	-	2♥ ¹
Pass	2NT ²	Double	3♦
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

¹5 hearts and 4 of a minor, 5-9 HCPs.

²What is your minor?

The bidding made it easy for me to prefer no-trump over spades, especially when a heart lead would be through my ♥KJx. In 3NT Martens led a small diamond, which went to the ♦K and the ♦A. I led the ♣A, and seeing the ♣9, played ♣K, club, claiming 11 tricks. This was worth 62 matchpoints, beating the pairs in spades, and the ones in no-trump making only 10 tricks.

Our 3rd session was our toughest on paper, but proved to be our best scoring session with the 9th best score in the field. We got off to a good start when Joel Wooldridge went for a subtle false card on board 3:

Hurd
 ♠ A J 9 3
 ♥ 5 4
 ♦ 10 7 4
 ♣ 7 6 4 3

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

Kimelman
 ♠ 5
 ♥ 9 8 6 2
 ♦ K Q
 ♣ K Q J 9 8 5

Wooldridge
 ♠ K Q 8 7 6
 ♥ A Q 10 3
 ♦ 8 2
 ♣ A 2

Karl led his stiff club against 3♠, and I played the ♣Q. We play Rusinow leads so Karl could have been leading from J10x(x). After some thought Joel ducked to facilitate communication. I won, gave Karl a ruff, and we cashed our diamonds and played a 3rd club. Wooldridge played accurately from there, but it was still down one and 43 matchpoints for the good guys.

Board 8 was a wild hand:

Kimelman
 ♠ J 8 2
 ♥ Q 10 8 4 3 2
 ♦ 9
 ♣ Q 7 6

Garner
 ♠ Void
 ♥ 6
 ♦ A K Q J 8 4 3 2
 ♣ A K J 5

Weinstein
 ♠ 10 9 7 6 5 3
 ♥ 9 5
 ♦ 10 7 5
 ♣ 10 4

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

At our table Garner opened 2♣, which shut us out of the auction (I almost overcalled hearts - Karl would have fallen off his chair I think 😊). After no encouragement from Weinstein, Garner eventually subsided in 5♦, for a very poor score. A lot of pairs were in slam, many doubled, all making with two making 7 (I assume with a club lead from North)! I know that Romex has methods to get to slam, as I am sure do some of the strong club systems. Do you?

The last two hands were from session 5 – one good, one bad. First board 22: You are declarer in 6♦ on the following auction:

West	North	East	South
Gohl	Tuszynski	Kimelman	Gawrys
-	-	1♦	1♥
Double	Pass	2♥	3♥
3♠ ¹	Pass	6♦	Double
All Pass			

¹Cuebid for diamonds.

Gohl
 ♠ K 4 3 2
 ♥ 7 6
 ♦ A 7
 ♣ A 8 6 4 3

Kimelman
 ♠ A 5
 ♥ A K J 5
 ♦ Q 10 8 6 5 4 3
 ♣ Void

How do you play on the ♣K lead? I will come back to this hand in a minute.

On board 19 with E-W vul I held as North:

♠ 6 ♥ 9 2 ♦ K 10 9 8 6 5 4 ♣ K 6 4.

The bidding starts:

West	North	East	South
Balicki	Kimelman	Pszczola	Gohl
-	-	-	1NT ¹
2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
6♠	?		

¹12-14

I passed on the first round as I wanted to see what would happen. I was glad I did. I bid 7♦ pretty certain the opponents were bidding for a make. It went double, all pass.

The full deal:

Kimelman

♠ 6
♥ 9 2
♦ K 10 9 8 6 5 4
♣ K 6 4

Balicki
♠ A 10 9 8 7 5
♥ A Q 7 6 5
♦ Void
♣ A 10

Pszczola
♠ K Q J 3
♥ 10 8 3
♦ 7 2
♣ 9 8 7 5

Gohl

♠ 4 2
♥ K J 4
♦ A Q J 3
♣ Q J 3 2

The operation was a success, but the patient died. As you can see, 6♠ is down as East has too many hearts. Not a good score.

Now back to Board 22. The full deal:

Tuszynski

♠ Q J 9 7 6 5
♥ 2
♦ 9 2
♣ 10 9 7 2

Gohl
♠ K 4 3 2
♥ 7 6
♦ A 7
♣ A 8 6 4 3

Kimelman

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

Gawrys

♠ 10
♥ Q 10 9 8 4 3
♦ K J
♣ K Q J 5

I have some chances in 6♦. Primarily I can play Gawrys to have three diamonds to the King, either KJ2 or K92. I can win the ♣A and pitch a heart, ruff a club to my hand, and lead the ♦Q. Assuming it gets covered, I can eventually ruff a heart with the ♦7.

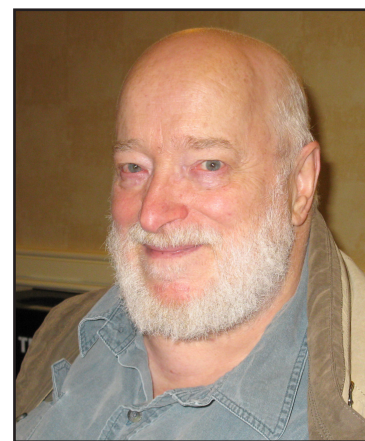
So I won the ♣A, pitching a heart, club ruff, then ♦Q, ♦K, ♦A, ♦2. No 9 or J from North. Now I had no choice but to play for diamonds 2-2 with KJ in Gawry's hand. I needed to strip the hand, and endplay him with the ♦J.

To make this contract I assume he is 6-2 in the reds. If he started with 2-3 in the blacks it is right to ruff a 2nd club, cash the A and K of spades and ruff a third club and South will have to lead away from his ♥Q109 into my ♥AKJ when he wins the ♦J. However, if he is 1-4 in spades and clubs, I must ruff the third club, play a spade to the king, and ruff a fourth club. I chose the former line. However, when I played a 2nd spade South showed out, but erred by not ruffing. Now I was in the clear. I ruffed out South's last club/exit card, and threw him in with a diamond. For me this was a nice way to finish the event.

SUMMARY

Although we got up to 34th place around the 3rd Final Session, Karl's health continued to fade and we ended up 62nd. It didn't help matters that we scored a top against the Stansbys as a bottom, which I didn't notice until we were home. The level of bridge was high. In the 5th final, 34 of 36 pairs bid a 7NT contract on board 1 with 35 HCPs between the two hands. The hands in the final were of the like I had never seen before. First of all they were interesting with lots of distribution. I also found that contracts could be made more often than I would normally expect.

This event proved to be a very enjoyable experience. I was treated with respect and friendliness by almost all participants. Some, like Bobby Levin and Jeff Meckstroth, were especially nice and classy (the latter despite having scored 10 out of 140 matchpoints on our round). Above all, this experience taught me that good players who play consistently and bid the cards in front of them can be very successful against their more famous opponents.



Karl Gohl



By Sylvia Caley

Dear Caley

Recently I was kibitzing a good player at a local tournament. On one hand he held:

♠ A J 10 x
♥ K J x x
♦ Q
♣ K Q x x

To my surprise he opened this hand 1NT! What do you think? Would you have done that? Doesn't 1NT show a balanced hand of 5332, 4432 or 4443?

Paula Peterson, Prince George, BC.

My answer to your second question is an emphatic NO! I would want to play this hand in hearts or spades if partner held a major suit. Also depending on partner's hand 6♣ is not out of the question.

One of the top pairs in World competition right now is Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes. They routinely open 1NT with 4441 patterns and 12-14 HCPs (High Card Points) but they have developed an entire system (called Fantunes) that is based on opening 5 card suits. I guess that means that you can open 1NT if you are in Italy but I don't think that it's such a good idea in this hemisphere. (I confess that I would open 1♣ even if I were in Italy!)

As for shapes for NT the patterns you have mentioned are ideal but often times you are not dealt the perfect hand. Most players would open 1NT (15-17) with

♠ A Q or ♠ A Q
♥ Q 10 9 x ♥ Q 10 9 x
♦ A 10 x x x ♦ K J
♣ K J ♣ A 10 x x x

I tend to open 1NT with

♠ K J
♥ A J x
♦ J x x x x x
♣ A Q

because I don't like my choice of rebids if I open 1♦.

Dear Caley

In a recent team game I held this hand in first seat:

♠ K J 10 9
♥ A
♦ J 9 8 7 6 3
♣ A 8

The auction was :

Me	Opp	Partner	Opp
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

We missed a slam because partner held:

♠ A 6
♥ Q 5 4
♦ A K Q 10
♣ Q J 6 3

This would have been a very good slam but it was missed at both tables. How should we have bid it?

Beth Bermeister, Cornwall, ON.

(For reference this was the entire hand)

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

Bidding minor suit slams is tricky but they are an excellent source of IMPs or matchpoints. If you play that 1m-2m is a single raise and 1m-3m is a limit raise then there has to be

something else that shows a forcing raise. In standard bidding the answer is that

1♣ - 1♦ and 1♦ - 2♣
(bid)- 3♣ (bid)- 3♦

show forcing raises. With this in mind I would think that a good auction might have been:

You	Opp.	Partner	Opp
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♦	

The South hand would love having a diamond fit but the North hand would have to take control because North is the one with excellent trumps.

Please continue to submit your questions to me or to the editor (editor@cbf.ca). I think that a question and answer format is a great way to improve your game!



Youth bridge committee now active

A committee to brainstorm ideas on how to attract youth to bridge in all countries has been formed. Rose Meltzer, Steve Goldstein and others say they are developing an e-mail contact list and plan to set up a Yahoo! group for interested people to discuss ideas.

Goldstein says they plan to develop a web site as well. He adds that those interested should e-mail him at sdvdg@yahoo.com. Copies of minutes from the committee meetings are available from Goldstein.

Forcing Pass Auctions

By Neil Kimelman

INTRODUCTION

Bidding, as we know, can be very competitive. This occurs even when our side has most of the high card strength. The vulnerability, form of scoring, and distribution all contribute to the opponents being able to bid at the four, five, and six levels, making our lives difficult. Should we bid on? How high? Should we double? The Forcing Pass Principle is one of our main tools in our bidding toolbox to help our partnership define our hands, and decide what is best.

Many newer players may be unfamiliar with the Principles of Forcing Pass auctions. Even for those that are, this is an area that is well worth reviewing with your partner(s). Many experienced players, even world class players, have gone wrong on specific hands. So the purpose of this article is to define the term "Forcing Pass", when it is applicable, what bids mean, and to offer my own thoughts on the subject. Naturally I will include example hands.

I. FORCING PASS DEFINITION

When your partnership has made a bid that has created a game forcing auction, the opponents cannot play a contract undoubled.

This is a simple definition and I will start with a simple hand.

Example 1:

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	5♦	

Assuming that 2♥ is game forcing then this becomes a forcing pass situation. If South passes 5♦, North cannot.

II. When else does a Forcing Pass situation occur?

i) Besides hands where the partnership is in a game forcing auction, forcing pass also applies when one hand opens and the other hand shows at least invitational values.

Example 2:

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦ ¹	5♦	

¹Four card limit raise in spades.

This is a Forcing Pass situation.

ii) *When your partnership bids game, and you are vulnerable versus nonvulnerable opponents.*

Example 3, N-S Vulnerable:

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1♠
2♥	2♠	4♥	4♠
5♥	?		

My partners and I play this is a forcing pass situation. **At any other vulnerability it is not.** This to me is a reasonable treatment, but may not be universal. The logic behind this agreement is that we should have extra values to bid game with a risk of being doubled for -200, -500 or more, versus 420 for the opponents.

iii) *When the opponents preempt and your partnership bids game.*

Example 4, none - vul:

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	Pass

This is a forcing pass auction. This would be true even if east were not a passed hand.

III. What do bids mean in a Forcing Pass situation?

Each bid has a specific meaning. Let's look at Example 1 again:

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	5♦	?

1. **Double** – This means, 'Based on the information I have available I think we should defend 5♦.' It implies one or more of the following:

1. A doubleton diamond.
2. No fit for hearts
3. Minimum values

A typical hand for the double:

♠KQ543 ♥105 ♦105 ♣AKJ9

2. **5♥** - This means, 'I have an offensive type hand and think we have a good chance to make 5♥, and I do not want to defend against 5♦'. It often shows good distribution and short diamonds. A possible holding:
♠AQ10872 ♥A853 ♦2 ♣32.

3. **Pass** – Pass has two likely meanings:

- a) The most common meaning is, 'I will leave the decision up to you – I can go either way.' Whatever partner chooses you would pass. Something like:
♠AJ1086 2♥Q3 ♦2 ♣AJ42
- b) The other meaning is: 'I have a very good hand for my last bid, definitely want to bid on, and have some slam interest.' If you have this type of hand you will pull partner's double and raise if partner bids. For example: ♠AK1082 ♥Q53 ♦2 ♣KQ42. With this hand you would bid 5♥ if partner doubles 5♦, and bid 6♥ if partner bids 5♥.

Pass usually denies exactly a doubleton diamond; otherwise a double would be the expected bid. Although, if you have a good hand such as ♠AKJ82 ♥AJ2 ♦54 ♣KQ4 a pass would be a very reasonable exception to this guideline.

4. **Partner's suit** – The normal meaning of such a bid is: 'I want to bid on and suggest your first suit as trump. I don't promise any extra values.' Here is an example auction:

Example 5, none vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠K1082 ♥K53 ♦KQ742 ♣2

West	North	East	South
-	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♣	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♣	5♦

As suggested by this example, bidding 5♦ implies more length and sometimes strength in diamonds. This is often important when the bidding suggests that bad breaks are very possible.

5. **New suit** – Example 6; N-S vulnerable:

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	5♣

There are three reasonable ways to play this bid:

1. 'I am trying for slam and have a club control.'
2. 'I am trying for slam and have a club suit.'
3. 'I have a club suit and am trying to help you decide what to do should the opponents bid 5♠.'

I have a strong preference for the 3rd option, as it has the highest frequency of occurrence. If I have one of the first two hands I can pass and then bid 5♣ if partner doubles 4♠.

IV. What are the pitfalls of Forcing Pass auctions?

This might sound funny, but don't forget to look at the auction and your hand before making a decision. Here is an example to illustrate this point:

Example 7

E-W vulnerable; as south you hold:

♠ AQ982 ♥ KJ105 ♦ 62 ♣ K5

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1♠
2NT	3♣ ¹	3♦	4♠
5♦	Pass	Pass	?

¹Limit raise (or better) in spades.

On this auction I would bid on. I am not sure I can even beat 5♦. The opponents are vulnerable. How much defence do you have? Not much. Partner does not promise the world's fair for the limit raise. This could easily be the hand:

♠ K J 10 4
♥ A 9 8 7 3
♦ 8
♣ 9 8 7

♠ 5 3
♥ Void
♦ K Q 10 9 5 3
♣ A Q 10 4 2

♠ 7 6
♥ Q 6 4 2
♦ A 7 5 4
♣ J 6 3

♠ A Q 9 8 2
♥ K J 10 5
♦ 6 2
♣ K 5

To emphasize this point here is an actual hand from the Round Robin of the 2010 CNTC:

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

♠ 4 3 2
♥ A
♦ K Q 10 9 5 3
♣ A 10 5 4

♠ Void
♥ Q 10 6
♦ 9 7 5 4
♣ K Q 9 8 6 3

♠ A K Q 10 9
♥ 8 5 3
♦ 10 2
♣ J 7 2

At one table that I am aware of the bidding went:

West	North	East	South
-	1♥	3♣	4♥
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Despite N-S being in a forcing pass situation the opponents are cold for 6♣!! South would have been better advised to bid 3♠, but that subject is for a future article! I encourage you to read more on the Forcing Pass. There are excellent books available by Edwin Kantar and others.

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Erin Berry

CANADIAN ROOKIE-MASTER GAME

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2010

Twenty-five clubs took part in our annual Erin Berry Rookie-Master Game, which is named in memory of Erin Berry. Erin was developing into one of Canada's best Junior players when she tragically died in an automobile accident in January 1998. The Club de Bridge St-Lambert had the largest turnout with 32 tables. The second largest game was at the Rideau BC in Ottawa with 23.5 tables. Maritime Cards & Games Bridge Studio was third with 22 tables. The Red Deer DBC came in fourth with 19.5 tables and fifth was the Bridge Centre of Niagara with 19 tables. The CBF would like to express its appreciation to Peter Jones of Edmonton AB for doing the analysis for this event.

NATIONAL WINNERS (664 PAIRS)

1.	Bill Wang & Huan Zhao Vancouver Bridge Centre	68.64%
2.	Monty Snowden & Bev Hanson Amherst DBC	68.58%
3.	Ron Senda & Bill Cox Edmonton Bridge Centre	68.15%
4.	Nicole Gudgeon & Claude Laberge Club de Bridge St-Lambert	67.50%
5.	Tim Quigley & Sandra Loughran Saskatoon DBC	67.23%
6.	Sue Foley & Robert Alison Capital City BC	66.75%
7.	Peter Peters & Donald Pearsons Tuxedo Bridge Studio	66.53%
8.	Rochelle Staeben & Gale Stevenson Corner Brook DBC	66.36%
9.	Connie Donovan & Ron Macdonald Cape Breton DBC	65.86%
10.	Susan Nazarenko & Linda Nelson Saskatoon DBC	65.72%

ZONE ONE WINNERS: (146 PAIRS)

1.	Monty Snowden & Bev Hanson Amherst DBC	68.58%
2.	Rochelle Staeben & Gale Stevenson Corner Brook DBC	66.36%
3.	Connie Donovan & Ron Macdonald Cape Breton DBC	65.86%
4.	Bill Hopper & Dave Hopper Amherst DBC	65.65%
5.	Randy Tsang & Effie Rose Corner Brook DBC	65.17%

ZONE TWO WINNERS: (111 PAIRS)

1.	Nicole Gudgeon & Claude Laberge Club de Bridge St-Lambert	67.50%
2.	Diane Harris & Marian Dupont Rideau BC	64.77%
3.	Renee St-Pierre & Gilles Castonguay Club de Bridge St-Lambert	64.72%
4.	Mary Grainger & Lionel Carriere Rideau BC	63.86%
5.	Annette Owen & Bella Davidson Rideau BC	62.57%

ZONE THREE WINNERS: (109 PAIRS)

1.	David Broderick & Richard Garlick Barrie Bridge Association	64.35%
2.	Chris Mesi & Margaret Goodwin Belleville DBC	63.19%
3.	Preben Schmidt & Paul MacFarlane Aurora BC	63.06%
4.	Bob Prystai & Malcolm Ewashkiw Belleville DBC	60.42%
5.	Lynn Gowan & Robert MacNeal Aurora BC	60.29%

ZONE FOUR WINNERS: (35 PAIRS)

1.	Peter Peters & Donald Pearsons Tuxedo Bridge Studio	66.53%
2.	Cynthia Coop & Shirley Pearlman Tuxedo Bridge Studio	65.63%
3.	Margaret Mulholland & Marielle Brentnall Tuxedo Bridge Studio	64.98%
4.	Barbara Parke & Jerry Cohen Tuxedo Bridge Studio	63.52%
5.	Mary Galloway & Leonard Doerksen Tuxedo Bridge Studio	60.47%

ZONE FIVE WINNERS: (143 PAIRS)

1.	Ron Senda & Bill Cox Edmonton Bridge Centre	68.15%
2.	Tim Quigley & Sandra Loughran Saskatoon DBC	67.23%
3.	Susan Nazarenko & Linda Nelson Saskatoon DBC	65.72%
4.	Rob Juker & Maureen Juker Prince Albert DBC	65.00%
5.	Judy Christman & Flora Ambrose Red Deer DBC	64.29%

ZONE SIX WINNERS: (120 PAIRS)

1.	Bill Wang & Huan Zhao Vancouver Bridge Centre	68.64%
2.	Sue Foley & Robert Alison Capital City BC	66.75%
3.	James Fitzsimmons & Edmund Blumenthal Capital City BC	65.51%
4.	Maureen Boudreau & Brian Grigg Kamloops DBC	63.66%
5.	Nancy Benner & Margaret Pearce Penticton DBC	63.10%



CBF REGIONAL

March 29th - April 3rd, 2011 • WYNDHAM AIRPORT HOTEL
12505 Côte-de-Liesse, Montreal



TUESDAY-29	WEDNESDAY-30	THURSDAY-31	FRIDAY-1	SATURDAY-2	SUNDAY-03
9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	
	Morning KO (1-4)	Morning KO (2-4)	Morning KO (3-4)	KO III (1-3) Morning KO (4-4)	
13:00 KO-I (1-4) Side Game Series (1-6) Strat. Open Pairs (1-2)	13:00 KO-I (3-4) Side Game Series (3-6) Strat. Open Swiss (1-2) Strat. Open Pairs (1-2)	13:00 KO II (1-4) Side Game Series (5-6) Strat. Open pairs (1-2) Pairs 0-50	13:00 KO II (3-4) Side Game Series (1-5) Strat. Open Swiss (1-2) Strat. Open Pairs (1-2)	13:00 Side Game Series (3-5) KO III (2-3) Sam Gold Pairs (1-2) Pairs 0-50	10:00 Side Game Series (5-5) Stratified Swiss (1-2) A=2000+, AX=0-2000 B=1000-2000 C=500-1000 D=0-500
19:00 KO I (2-4) Side Game series (2-6) Strat. Open Pairs (2-2)	19:00 KO I (4-4) Side Game series (4-6) Strat. Open Swiss (2-2) Strat. Open Pairs (2-2)	19:00 KO II (2-4) Side game series (6-6) Strat. Open Pairs (2-2) Horizontal strat. Swiss (1)	19:00 KO II (4-4) Side game series (2-5) Strat. Open Swiss (2-2) Horizontal strat. Swiss (2) Strat. Open Pairs (2-2)	19:00 KO III (3-3) Side game series (4-5) Sam Gold Pairs (2-2)	Stratified Swiss (2-2)
<p>Information: Jean Castonguay (450) 692-4974 • castonguayjean@videotron.ca Director in charge : Henry Cukoff Partners: Luc Tremblay • (450) 649-2849 • Luke_tremblay@yahoo.com Stratification: A= 1500+, B=500-1500, C= 0-500 Internet: www.cbf.ca</p>				<p>• We would appreciate if you could avoid wearing perfume during tournaments for everybody's well being.</p>	<p>Wyndham airport Hotel Room Special for bridge players 106\$/db occupancy Reservations: (514) 631-2411</p>



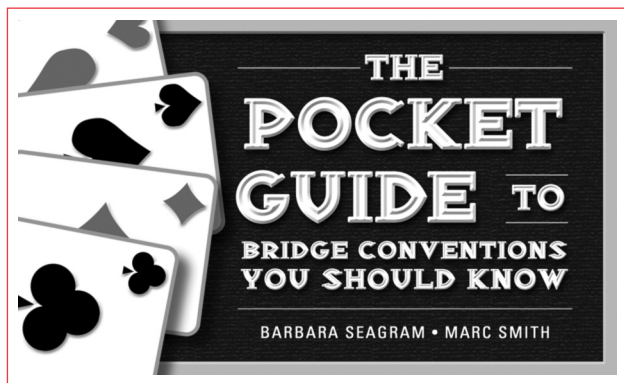
Régional de la Fédération Canadienne de Bridge
29 mars - 3 avril 2011 • HÔTEL WYNDHAM AÉROPORT
12505 Côte-de-Liesse, Montréal



MARDI-29	MERCREDI-30	JEUDI-31	VENDREDI-1	SAMEDI-2	DIMANCHE-3
9h00	9h00	9h00	9h00	9h00	
	KO matinal (1-4)	KO matinal (2-4)	KO matinal (3-4)	KO III (1-3) KO matinal (4-4)	
13h00 KO-I (1-4) Paires secondaires en séries (1-6) Paires stratifiées (1-2)	13h00 KO-1 (3-4) Paires secondaires en séries (3-6) Paires stratifiées (1-2) Suisse stratifié (1-2)	13h00 KO II (1-4) Paires secondaires en séries (5-6) Paires stratifiées (1-2) Paires 0-50	13h00 KO II (3-4) Paires secondaires en séries (1-5) Suisse stratifié (1-2) Paires stratifiées (1-2)	13h00 Paires secondaires en séries (3-5) KO III (2-3) Paires Sam Gold (1-2) Paires 0-50	10h00 Paires secondaires en séries (5-5) Suisse par stratégies (1-2) A=2000+, AX=0-2000 B=1000-2000 C=500-1000 D=0-500
19h00 KO I (2-4) Paires secondaires en séries (2-6) Paires stratifiées (2-2)	19h00 KO-1 (4-4) Paires secondaires en séries (4-6) Paires stratifiées (2-2) Suisse stratifié (2-2)	19h00 KO II (2-4) Paires secondaires en séries (6-6) Paires stratifiées (2-2) Suisse horizontal stratifié (1)	19h00 KO II (4-4) Paires secondaires en séries (2-5) Suisse stratifié (2-2) Suisse horizontal stratifié (2) Paires stratifiées (2-2)	19h00 KO III (3-3) Paires secondaires en séries (4-5) Paires Sam Gold (2-2)	Suisse par stratégies (2-2)
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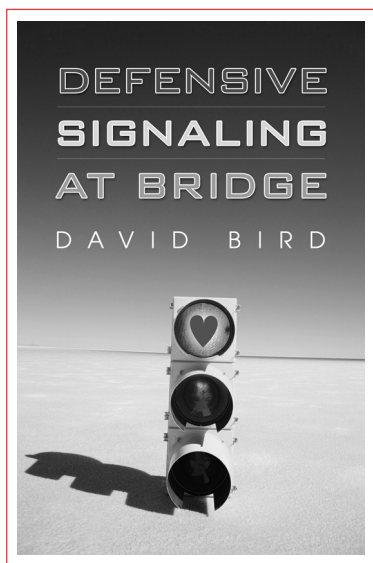


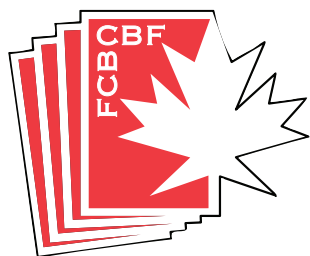
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CALENDAR

Canadian Bridge Federation Calendar of Events as of December 2010.

For more information see our website at

cbf.ca

2010-2011 SPECIAL EVENTS AND DEADLINES

2010

December Club qualifying games in the COPC (\$4/table) and CNTC (\$4/table)

2011

Jan 1 - 15 Club Qualifying games in the CNTC (\$4/table)

February Junior Fund Month
Feb 5 (Sat. Aft) ACBL Wide International Fund Game #1 (\$8.35/table)
Feb 21 - 27 CBF STaC - open to all clubs in Canada (\$9/table)

March 15 (Tues. Eve) ACBL Wide Charity Game #1 (\$6.35/table)
March 28 (Mon. Eve) Canada Wide Olympiad Fund Game (\$8.35/table)
March 25 Deadline for registering for CNTC-A, CNTC-B and CWTC National Final

**09 Mar - 03 Apr CBF International Fund Regional - Montreal, QC
Wyndham Airport Hotel. See page 24 for schedule**

April Charity Fund Month
April 26 (Tues. Eve) Helen Shields RM Game (\$6/table)
April 30 Deadline for changes to team rosters & deadline for submitting pre-alerts

May 10 Deadline for applying for grants from Erin Berry Memorial Fund
May 11 (Wed. Aft) ACBL International Fund Game #2 (\$8.35/table)
May 18 - 20 CBF Board of Directors meetings - Regina, SK

**21 - 28 May Canadian Bridge Championships - Travelodge, Regina, SK
See page 5 for information and schedule**

May 28 (Sat. Morn) CBF Annual General Membership Meeting - Regina, SK

July 20 - 21 Bi-Country Playoff - Toronto, ON - note: tentative date
July 21 - 31 ACBL Summer NABC - Toronto, ON
July 22 (Fri. Eve) ACBL Wide International Fund Game #3 (\$8.35/table)

September International Fund Month
September Club qualifying games in the COPC (\$4/table)
September Club qualifying games in the CNTC (\$4/table)

October Club qualifying games in the COPC (\$4/table)
October Club qualifying games in the CNTC (\$4/table)
Oct 15 - 29 Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup/Senior Cup - Eindhoven, Holland
Oct 19 (Wed. Eve) Canada Wide Olympiad Fund Game (\$8.35/table)
Oct 27 (Thurs. Eve) Erin Berry RM Game (\$6 a table)

November Club qualifying games in the COPC (\$4/table)
November Club qualifying games in the CNTC (\$4/table)
Nov 28 (Mon. Eve) ACBL Wide Charity Game #2 (\$6.35/table)

December Club qualifying games in the COPC (\$4/table)
December Club qualifying games in the CNTC (\$4/table)