

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CBF | AUGUST 2014



bridge *Canada*

The Expert Spot

BY NADER HANNA

Canadian Championships

WINNERS AND STORIES

The Life and Times

OF HENRY CUKOFF



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PHOTO CREDIT

Photographs throughout this magazine were generously donated by the following: Jonathan Steinberg, Michael Yuen, Ina Deme.

LOL Canadian Bridge Humour ~

Once again we have added another feature to Bridge Canada. There are many instances of humour at the bridge table, or often after the game. I thought it appropriate to start with a classic featuring Eric Murray. Thanks to Roy Hughes, who brought the anecdote back to life with his excellent book, Canada's Bridge Warriors.



I hope you enjoy. I once again strongly encourage all readers to pass on any feedback, along with hands, jokes, etc... that you would like to see featured in future Bridge Canada issues. I can be reached via email at editor@cbf.ca

Henry Cukoff, Life & Times ~ As promised we have a follow up article on the life and times of Canadian-born Director Henry Cukoff, who died suddenly this past spring. I among many other people in the bridge community who 'knew' Henry really didn't. As is seen in the article later in this issue, Henry was a man of many interests and skills.

For just such a reason I have created the Meet... feature in Bridge Canada. The goal in having a short bio on two Canadian bridge personalities in each issue of Bridge Canada is for all of us to really get to know one another. In that way we are all enriched in our interactions with each other, both at and away from the bridge table.

Neil Kimelman

Bridge Canada Managing Editor

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CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION MISSION STATEMENT: 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.

bridge Canada

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MESSAGE FROM THE

PRESIDENT

NADER HANNA

Youth are critical to the survival and growth of bridge. It is very important to not only to welcome young players but to also support them and make it easy for them to learn and appreciate the beauty of our game.

The CBF supports young players in various ways. For example, the Erin Berry Fund helps juniors up to 19 years of age with expenses incurred to attend bridge events, and the CBF Junior Program offers development and coaching for young players aspiring to represent Canada at the biannual World Youth Team Championships (WYTC). As you read this issue two teams will be representing Canada at the 15th WYTC in Istanbul, Turkey. These teams are fully subsidized by the CBF.

To further support young players, at the last CBF Board of Directors meeting in Calgary it was decided that the CBF membership be free for players 25 years of age or younger. The Board also decided to waive the entry fee for any team consisting of players 25 years of age or younger, competing in Flight B or C of the Canadian National Team Championship (CNTC).

Furthermore, we initiated the Future Canadian Bridge Stars program. The goal of the program is to mentor interested young players and help them learn and improve their game. I am pleased to report that 16 boys and girls ages 11-18 have already signed up for the program.

With such initiatives, and your support, we can all feel optimistic about the future of bridge in Canada.

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THE BUSINESS OF BRIDGE

NEWS FROM THE CBF

OFFICE

CBF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The CBF Board of Directors meeting was held April 30-May 1, 2014 in Calgary, AB. Some points of interest are:

- CBF membership for those 25 years of age and under is now automatic, and entry fees all-youth teams are waived for both the CNTC B and C events.
- The Board approved a budget for new website development. The Board will be moving ahead to investigate a more user friendly website with a "Members Only" section. There will be premium content available to CBF members.
- An International Advisory Committee (IAC) has been formed. It is made up of players with a great deal of International Experience. The role of the IAC is to advise the Board on issues related to International Events.
- For the 2014/15 year -- Nader Hanna was re-elected as CBF President and Neil Kimelman was elected as the CBF Vice-President.

ATTENTION CLUB MANAGERS

Packages containing information and applications for all club-level CBF events were mailed out in August. However, it is much easier and faster to use the on-line application forms which are available on the CBF website.

Our transition process is now complete and all sanction applications as well as any game reports that need to be sent to the CBF should come to Ina Demme ina@cbf.ca or sent to 1 Pietro Dr., Maple ON, L6A 3J4. If you are using an older version of ACBLscore, the report form may direct you to send these to Jan Anderson, but that is no longer correct.

ERIN BERRY MEMORIAL FUND

This trust fund was established in 2001 by Erin Berry's father, Larry Berry. The Trust Fund is meant to help Junior players 19 or younger with expenses incurred to attend bridge events.

The Trustees of the Erin Berry Memorial Fund met at the beginning of May in Calgary and granted subsidies to the following individuals:

Bob Feng -- \$800 Bob attended the Spring NABC in Dallas.

Victor Lamoureux -- \$800 who will be attending the Las Vegas NABC, and the Youth NABC

Vivian Lamoureux -- \$500 who will be playing in a few sessions of the NABC and the Youth NABC

VJ Lamoureux -- \$500 who will be playing in a few sessions of the NABC and the Youth NABC

CBF Junior Fund -- \$1500 to assist with the expenses of sending Canadian Junior and Youth teams to the World Championships in Istanbul Turkey.

For more information about the Erin Berry Memorial Fund please visit our website www.cbf.ca.



PHOTO: 2014 CBF Board of Directors L to R:
Nader Hanna, Peter Morse, Kathie MacNab,
Jerry Mamer, Andre Chartrand, Neil Kimelman,
Ina Demme

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The terms of office for the CBF Zone Directors in Zones III and VI expire on December 31, 2014. The CBF is currently accepting nominations for these positions. (The term of office will be January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017).

Any person interested in running for one of these positions should notify the CBF office in writing of their intent to seek election. To run for election, the person must be a paid-up CBF member and reside in the Zone in which they are running for election. Declaration of candidacy will be accepted until September 30, 2014. The declaration shall contain the name, address, ACBL number and Unit of the candidate and may contain biographical material not to exceed 100 words. Voting will be conducted from October 15, 2014 until November 21, 2014.



ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE CBF?

You can check your membership status in the MyACBL section of the ACBL website, www.acbl.org. Paying your CBF dues at the same time as your ACBL dues, this is the easiest and most cost effective way to maintain your CBF membership. If you did not include CBF dues with your ACBL dues, you can become a member of the CBF by completing and submitting the form below.

NEW! As of May 2014 all players 25 and under are automatically considered CBF members.

CBF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Please print clearly to ensure we can reach you

NAME: _____

ACBL PLAYER NUMBER (if you have one): _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

FEE ENCLOSED (\$22.00): _____ DATE: _____

Make cheques payable to Canadian Bridge Federation and mail to
Canadian Bridge Federation 1 Pietro Drive Maple, ON L6A 3J4

There are many instances of humour at the bridge table, or often after the game. Thank you Roy Hughes, who brought this classic anecdote back to life with his excellent book, *Canada's Bridge Warriors*.



CANADIAN BRIDGE HUMOUR

As reported by Tony Priday, one-time British champion and writer, Eric was once playing against two elderly ladies in a local duplicate game.

Turning to his left hand opponent, Eric said in his most impressive manner:

"Madame, I am going to make a skip bid of three spades. You must pause 15 seconds before bidding."

She turned to Eric and said, "As soon as those 15 seconds are up I am going to double you Mr. Murray."

He went for 1400.

Editor's note: I assume that the opponents were playing Fishbein, once more common, where an immediate double of a preempt is for penalties.



MURRAY, SHEARDOWN, KEHELA, ELLIOTT 1965

Did You KNOW?

Canadian Spingold Success: An All-Canadian Final!

In 1964 Toronto was the venue for the first Spingold ever to be held in Canada. We were not very good hosts as both finalists were all Canadian teams!!

Bruce Elliott, Percy Sheardown, Eric Murray and Sami Kehela won their first of two consecutive Spingolds by ousting an all Montreal-born team: Bruce Gowdy, Ray Jotcham, Fred Hoffer and Marvin Altman (who moved to Connecticut).

All players on the winning team are in the Canadian Bridge Hall of Fame, with Bruce Gowdy being inducted earlier this year at the Canadian Bridge Championships held in Calgary.



QUIZ

CONTRACT: 6 ♥
LEAD: ♣ K

TEST YOUR CNTC PLAY

ANSWER PAGE 27

♠ K 10
♥ A Q J 9
♦ K J 3
♣ A 7 4 3

♠ A J 9 6 2
♥ K 5 4 2
♦ A 10
♣ 9 6

Plan the play considering all possible contingencies



Chartwell Retirement Residences is a Canadian-owned company with its head office in Mississauga and corporate offices in Montreal and Vancouver. We own and operate over 180 retirement and long term residences across Canada, primarily in the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta. Through the efforts of our dedicated staff, we are focused on making a difference through a wide range of options including independent living, assisted living, enhanced and long term care.

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HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

The 2014 ceremony was held during the Canadian Bridge Championships in Alberta, May 6, 2014

By Paul Thurston

The Open Teams and Flight B Round Robins were now completed, and competitors were given a break before the knockout stage, as friends and family convened in the Clarion Hotel's Castle Room for the 2014 CBF Hall of Fame induction ceremony.



Prior to the inductions, CBF President Nader Hanna presented retiring Executive Secretary Jan Anderson with a gift from the membership in recognition of her stellar contributions to Canadian Bridge during her twenty-plus years of service. We're not quite sure what the CBF might have become without Jan's diligent and caring involvement behind the scenes but there can be no doubt her input has been hugely significant. Thank you Jan!



HALL OF FAME

2014 INDUCTION CEREMONY

By Paul Thurston

Agnes Gordon

"There was no better female bridge player in North America, and very few male players her equal".

Eric Murray

Bruce Gowdy served as Presenter for the first 2014 Hall of fame inductee: Mrs. Agnes Gordon (1906-1967), a long-time resident of Buffalo, New York who was a star Canadian player in an era before there really was "Canadian Bridge" at a national level.

One of seven siblings born and raised in Ridgeway, Ontario, Mrs. Gordon was a frequent partner of Hall of Fame (HOF) charter member Eric Murray.

Mr. Murray's appraisal of Mrs. Gordon's excellence was largely gleaned from the perspective of her partner's chair in events like the 1963 National Mixed Pairs which they won largely as a result of a record 78% score in the final session!

Mary Perkins travelled from her Florida home to receive her mother's HOF trophy and told those assembled how proud Mrs. Gordon would have been with the Canadian recognition as she never gave up her Canadian passport or citizenship despite being an American resident. Mrs. Perkins also brought a huge scrapbook with clippings of her mother's achievements (soon to be scanned into the CBF's online archives) that left no doubt of the worthiness of her induction.

You can also find details of Mrs. Gordon's impressive playing career in the ACBL Encyclopedia of Bridge, perhaps the most impressive of which was her four-handed team's victory (with Bruce Elliott, Charlotte Sidway and George Boeckh) in the very tough Chicago Board-A-Match (now the Reisinger) Teams in 1948, the year before Mrs. Gordon became an ACBL Life Master!

Bruce Gowdy

Next up was Ray Jotcham who presented his long-time friend, partner and teammate Bruce Gowdy as 2014's second inductee. Ray's recounting of the 1964 Spingold adventures of an unheralded team (Gowdy, Jotcham, Fred Hoffer and Marvin Altman) sounded like a who's-who of mid-twentieth century North American bridge. The Canadians reeled off upset victory after victory against a field sprinkled with names like Kaplan, Rubin, Jacoby, Goren and a host of others until they encountered the unstoppable "other" Canadian team with Eric Murray-Sami Kehela and Bruce Elliott-Percy Sheardown – Canadians won the Spingold! Other highlights of Gowdy's impressive playing career:

- Won the 1949 Spingold at the record age of 19 (!) - one year before becoming ACBL Life Master #67.
- Won the Canadian National Teams (the main event at Toronto's Easter National Regional) in 1949, 50, 51, 52 and 53.
- Won the Canadian Team Trials (now the CNTC Open Teams) and the right to represent Canada in World play in 1960, 1972 and 1976.
- Placed third in the World Team Olympiad in 1972.
- Won a Silver Medal in the 2002 World Senior Pairs (with Arno Hobart).

Well-known for his consummate skill and artistry as a card player, Bruce told the gathering of his soon-to-be-published (maybe!) book: "GWBB". Now "Guess What Bruce Bid" may not earn an endorsement as a teaching manual from the American Bridge Teacher's Association but will definitely provide insight into the mind of not only one of Canada's all-time greats but also a very fine gentleman.



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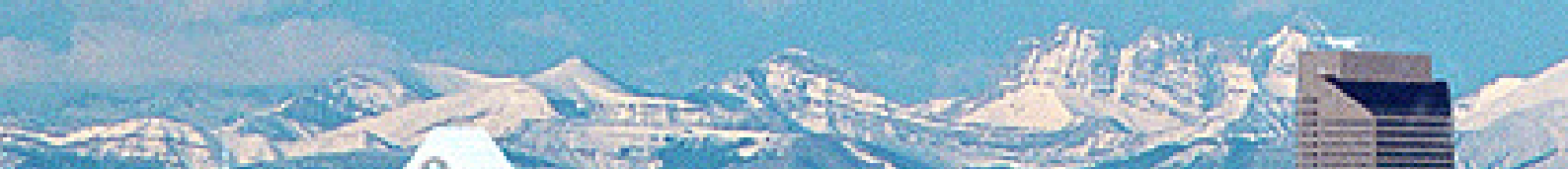
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CNTC A 2014 CANADIAN NATIONAL TEAM WINNERS



by Bryan Maksymetz

The Right Combination of Youth, Experience and Team Chemistry

This year's Canadian Open Team Championship was held in friendly Calgary. Although the weather was suspect, it was very well run and I would like to thank the host of people who organized and ran the tournament. Matt Smith, Steve Bates and Vince Lambert did their usual great job in directing and running the event smoothly.



Our team was put together by Gray McMullin, a strong player from Vancouver. Gray, Rock Shi Yan and I (all from Vancouver) would rotate with Samantha Nystrom (Sam), with Tom Walsh anchoring. Gray, Tom and I played on a team together the previous year in Toronto. Both Sam and Rock would be playing in their first CNTC A's, although Sam has competed in the Women's version of the event many times. Team spirit was magnificent and we all had a lot fun. We seemed to enjoy and laugh as much at our all-too-often silly results more than our brilliant ones. Team harmony means a lot in these long events, and ours was amazing.

Fifteen strong teams contested the round robin. The teams that I felt would be at the top landed, for the most part, in the 4th to 8th positions.

2014 CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALISTS

Left: CNTC Flt A Gold Medal. Shi Yan, Bryan Maksymetz, Gray McMullin, Tom Walsh, Samantha Nystrom
Right Clockwise: CNTC Flt A Silver Medal: Jeffrey Smith, Judith Gartaganis, Nicholas Gartaganis, Gordon Campbell, Ilya Kuzkin, Paul Thurston. **CSTC Gold Medal:** Dave Smith, Doran Flock, Fred Lerner, Michael Schoenborn. **CNTC C Gold Medal:** Charles Hitschfeld, Gerry Boudrias, Michael Harvey, Don Reble. **CNTC B Gold Medal:** Nazir Ahmad, Laurie Shapka Thiel, Cindy Cossey, Glenn Cossey



The final Round Robin Standings were:

1. Ayers – Tim Ayers, Michael Roche, Karen Cumpstone, James Galand, John Duquette, Ron Bishop
2. Carruthers – John Carruthers, Joey Silver, Marty Kirr, John Guoba
3. Lawrence – Steve Lawrence, Michael Newcombe, Sandy McIlwain, Frank Ayer
4. Todd – Bob Todd, Neil Kimelman, Brad Bart, Doug Fisher, Dave McLellan, Don Domansky
5. Zambonini – Ron Zambonini, Jurek Czyzowicz, Darren Wolpert, Dan Korbel, Shan Huang, David Sabourin
6. McMullin – Gray McMullin, Bryan Maksymetz, Samantha Nystrom, Tom Walsh, Rock Shi Yan
7. Turner – David Turner, Roy Hughes, Irving Litvack, Ian Findlay, Doug Baxter, Nader Hanna
8. Gartaganis – Judith Gartaganis, Nicholas Gartaganis, Jeffrey Smith, Paul Thurston, Gordon, Campbell, Ilya Kuzkin

Unfortunatley someone has to come ninth, and this year it was the Martineau team - Charles Martineau, Andre Chartrand, Jacques Cloutier, Kevin Gregoire, Robert Morin, Serge Hamelin.

Knockout Stage

So the top four teams had a difficult task in picking their first round opponents. In actual fact, three of the bottom four teams won their quarter-final and the fourth, Turner, lost in a close battle with the strong Todd team.

We played a veteran team in the quarterfinals – Canadian legends Joey Silver and John Carruthers and the solid partnership of Marty Kirr and John Guoba. In a close, hard-fought match, we got off to strong start and never trailed, eventually winning by 38 IMPs.

The semi-finals are never easy and we faced a daunting Canada-wide team of Bob Todd and Doug Fisher from Winnipeg, Dave McLellan and Don Domansky from Thunder Bay, and Neil Kimelman from Winnipeg playing with the under-rated Brad Bart from Vancouver. We won the first three quarters to lead by 47 IMPs going into the last quarter. The Todd team staged a furious rally that made the final comparison very tense. We held on to win by 18 in spite of a couple of grand slam swings that made on finesses.

2014 CNTC Winners

Continued from previous page

The Final

In the final, we would play one of the two strongest teams in the field. The Gartaganis team played extremely well and had defeated the star-studded Zambonini team by 64 IMPs in the other semi-final. So we would face a renowned team who has won many Canadian Championships. Nick and Judy Gartaganis are one of the strongest pairs in Canada. They play Precision and are always difficult to play against. Paul Thurston and Jeff Smith are a well-polished partnership playing mostly Standard American. The very talented Gordon Campbell was playing with a promising new player, Ilya Kuzkin using their own version of the Polish Club. A lot of weak no-trumps and multi two diamonds are played throughout their team.

We faced a daunting task and we were well aware that we were serious underdogs. The first day featured four fairly close segments (of eight total) and the total score was Gartaganis 170, McMullin 163. So, in spite of several misadventures, we were still in it.

Speaking of adventures, on the second board we played, Thurston had a nasty guess in a competitive auction. He held ♠ 973 ♥ 987 ♦ AKJ8762 ♣ -. He passed as dealer not vul vs vul, and the bidding continued (directions rotated):

West	North	East	South
	Smith		Thurston
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	1♥	1NT ¹	2NT ²
3NT	Pass	Pass	?

1 - 15-18

2 - limit raise with 3+ hearts

After much agonized thought, he bid 4♦. Here was the full deal (top right):



♠ Q 10 5
♥ K 4 3 2
♦ 5
♣ J 9 8 7 2

♠ J 6 4 2
♥ A Q
♦ 10 9 3
♣ Q 10 6 4

♠ A K 8
♥ J 10 6 5
♦ Q 4
♣ A K 5 3

♠ 9 7 3
♥ 9 8 7
♦ A K J 8 7 6 2
♣ -

His decision had good news and bad news. The good news was that he would only be down one, doubled, for -100. The bad news was that his partner corrected to 4♥. This was, of course, doubled, and went for 1100. The really bad news was that 3NT was a hopeless contract and was slated for down three.

The second day, our team settled in and played three strong segments. We lost the 6th segment 60 to 31, but we won the other three by a combined 187 to 45 to win by 106. Many of the IMPs were generated by decisions of when to make aggressive bids and when not to.

Would you open ♠ KJ10 ♥ J103 ♦ A105432 ♣ 2? This is a top-of-the-range 2♦ or a bottom of the range 1♦. Tom opened 1♦. His LHO bids 2♥ and after 3♣ by partner, you get to rebid 3♦ allowing partner to put you in the cold 6♦ slam. Partner held ♠ A7 ♥ K - ♦ KQ6 ♣ AKJ10743. At the other table, after passing, Gordon saw 3♥ by his LHO and 5♣ by his partner. Tough to reach 6♦ now – he passed and we won 13 IMPs.

One last hand. You hold ♠ 97 ♥ K7 ♦ Q92 ♣ A98752. All Vul, the bidding goes:

West	North	East	South
	Thurston		Smith
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	1♠	2♦	?

What do you bid? Rock passed and that ended the auction, -130. With the same hand, Smith bid 3♣, certainly reasonable, and watched the opponents reach their cold 4♥ contract. To add insult to injury they doubled, conceding 990 when the contract made an overtrick.



TOP MASTERPOINT WINNERS

2014 CNTC Winners

Continued from previous page

The full deal:

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

In summary a lot of the close decisions seemed to go our way. The weak no-trump used by the opponents ended up losing far more than it gained. Some days they win you a lot. Aggressive opening bids, as used by Sam and Tom, seemed to generate loads of IMPs. The Gartaganis team did not play poorly, rather it was simply our day.

Editor's Note: All three of pairs of McMullin's semi-final opponents were also weak no-tumper players.

Chartwell CSTC Silver Medalists: Peter Herold, Jim McAvoy, Gerry McCully, Ken Scholes, Duncan Smith



2014 CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Total masterpoints: 5269.33 earned by 241 players.

Total attendance: 414 tables.

- 1 149.00 Samantha Nystrom, Toronto ON
- 2 148.10 Rock Shi Yan, Richmond BC
- 3 146.30 Tom Walsh, Saskatoon SK
- 4 146.30 Gray McMullin, Vancouver BC
- 5 146.30 Bryan Maksymetz, Vancouver BC
- 6 109.95 Nicholas Gartaganis, Calgary AB
- 7 109.95 Judith Gartaganis, Calgary AB
- 8 109.95 Ilya Kuzkin, Calgary AB
- 9 109.95 Gordon Campbell, Calgary AB
- 10 108.60 Paul Thurston, Wellington ON
- 11 108.60 Jeffrey Smith, Ottawa ON
- 12 75.40 Shan Huang, Toronto ON
- 13 75.40 David Sabourin, Ottawa ON
- 14 75.14 Don Domansky, Thunder Bay ON
- 15 75.14 Dave McLellan, Thunder Bay ON
- 16 74.95 Doug Fisher, Winnipeg MB
- 17 74.95 Bob Todd, Winnipeg MB
- 18 74.50 Neil Kimelman, Winnipeg MB
- 19 74.50 Brad Bart, Burnaby BC
- 20 73.60 Jurek Czyzowicz, Gatineau QC
- 21 72.70 Ron Zambonini, Nepean ON
- 22 72.70 Darren Wolpert, Thornhill ON
- 23 72.70 Daniel Korbel, Waterloo ON
- 24 63.00 Glenn Cossey, Innisfail AB
- 25 63.00 Cindy Cossey, Innisfail AB
- 26 60.00 Michael Schoenborn, Brantford ON
- 27 60.00 Fred Lerner, Unionville ON
- 28 60.00 Doran Flock, Calgary AB
- 29 60.00 Dave Smith, Edmonton AB
- 30 54.58 Steve Mackay, Markham ON
- 31 54.58 Ray Jotcham, Scarborough ON
- 32 51.74 Nazir Ahmad, Red Deer AB
- 33 50.00 Laurie Shapka Thiel, Red Deer AB
- 34 45.00 Peter Herold, Ladysmith BC
- 35 45.00 Ken Scholes, Bellevue WA
- 36 45.00 James McAvoy, Victoria BC
- 37 45.00 Gerry McCully, Victoria BC
- 38 45.00 Duncan Smith, Victoria BC
- 39 41.25 Piotr Klimowicz, Edmonton AB
- 40 41.25 Dan Jacob, Vancouver BC



DOUBLE DELIGHT

Klimowicz and Jacob Win Both Pair Events At The 2014 Canadian Bridge Championships (CBCs)

By Neil Kimelman

Dan Jacob and Piotr Klimowicz were crowned the kings of pairs at the recent CBCs held this past May in Calgary. They swept the Canadian IMP Pairs (CIPC) and the Canadian Open Pairs Championships (COPCs). Besides achieving a feat never before accomplished, Dan and Piotr pocketed a nice sum of money, as both events awarded cash prizes to the winners and runners-up.

CIPC

Piotr and Dan put together a solid second half of 35.43 IMPs to go with a very good first session score of 50.95 for a total of 86.38 IMPs. That was good enough for a comfortable win over CBF Coordinator Ina Demme and her partner Bill Kertes, who score 77.91 IMPs over the two sessions. Third were Canadian bridge greats Joey Silver and John Carruthers with a score of 56.45 IMPs. Here is a gadget that made it easy for the champs to bid an excellent slam:

1st Final, Board 2, N-S vul, East deals:

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

After three passes Piotr opened 1♠ and Dan bid a systemic 2NT, 8-10 HCP with at least 5-5 in minors. That allowed Piotr to full appreciate his holdings, and ask for key cards, arriving in 6♣ when it was disclosed that the queen of trump was missing. Plus 1390 was worth 9 IMPs. Although this board occurred early, 9 IMPs was the final margin of their victory.

COPC

To give you an idea of their dominance, Dan and Piotr led after the two-session qualifying, after the first final, and at the end when it most counted. Deserving of congratulations and kudos are the second place finishers, Andre Chartrand and Charles Martineau. Charles and Andre were in second after the qualifying, after first final and at the end! Third went to Stephen Mackay and Ray Jotcham. Here is an amusing hand that the winners shared from the 1st final session:



1st Final, Board 2, N-S vul, East deals:

	♠ A Q 3	
	♥ 6	
	♦ 9 8 5 4 2	
	♣ 9 8 5 3	
♠ J 8 7 6		♠ K 10 9 5 2
♥ K J 9 8 2		♥ 10 5
♦ K 10 7 3		♦ Q J
♣ none		♣ K J 10 4
	♠ 4	
	♥ A Q 7 4 3	
	♦ A 6	
	♣ A Q 7 6 2	

West	North	East	South
Dan		Piotr	
		Pass	1♣ ¹
1♠ ²	Dbl ³	Pass ⁴	Pass ⁵
Pass ⁶			

- 1 Strong Club
- 2 Clubs or Hearts and Diamonds
- 3 5-8 HCPs
- 4 Nothing to say, usually denying good support for clubs and a red suit
- 5 Let's find out what West is going to bid
- 6 Surprise!!

One spade doubled making three was an easy top.

Two other hands that Piotr and Dan highlighted from the second final session:

2nd Final, Board 8, neither vul, West deals:

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

Piotr narrates the successful auction they had on this deal: 'Dan responded 2♣ to my 1♠ opener, deciding not to bid 2♦ to avoid the awkwardness of the 1M-2♦ sequence. I bid 3♣. I could have splintered with 3♦ but it didn't seem right holding ♥AK. I also could have chosen 4♣ (keycard), but 2♣ could sometimes be bid with a three card suit, so that bid seemed a little bit premature and dangerous. Besides that, partner could have a spade fit. Dan now bid 3♦ confirming now that 2♣ was based on at least four clubs and denying three spades. The rest of the auction was easy. A♣ keycard ask, and the responses led to the final contract of 6♣. Plus 920 was worth 11 1/2 out of 13 matchpoints.'

The final example given:

2nd Final, Board 25, E-W vul, North deals:

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

Dan and Piotr as N-S, bid 1♠ - 1NT - 2♣ - 2♠ with no opposition bidding. Piotr points out the important strategy of getting into the auction with marginal values when it is favourable vulnerability. This is especially effective in first or second seat. Often the opponents will be cautious bidding vulnerable as here, and not be able to discern their combined high card strength.

I completely agree with Piotr. However for that reason it is incumbent on East to balance with a double, and then, in my view West has a fairly clear 3NT bid, opposite a partner willing to force his side to the three level, vulnerable, with his balance.

Congratulations to two of Canada's finest players, who have clearly demonstrated why they are so highly respected by both the Canadian and International bridge communities.



Calgary Alberta

CNTC FLIGHT A

- 1 Gray McMullin - Bryan Maksymetz, Vancouver BC; Samantha Nystrom, Toronto ON; Tom Walsh, Saskatoon SK; Rock Shi Yan, Richmond BC
- 2 Judith Gartaganis - Nicholas Gartaganis - Gordon Campbell - Ilya Kuzkin, Calgary AB; Jeffrey Smith, Ottawa ON; Paul Thurston, Wellington ON
- 3/4 Bob Todd - Neil Kimelman - Doug Fisher, Winnipeg MB; Brad Bart, Burnaby BC; Dave McLellan Don Domansky, Thunder Bay ON
- 3/4 Ron Zambonini, Nepean ON; Jurek Czyzowicz, Gatineau QC; Darren Wolpert, Thornhill ON; Daniel Korbel, Waterloo ON; Shan Huang, Toronto ON; David Sabourin, Ottawa ON

CNTC FLIGHT B

- 1 Glenn Cossey - Cindy Cossey, Innisfail AB; Nazir Ahmad - Laurie Shapka Thiel, Red Deer AB
- 2 Jason Dufault - Bryant Town - Garry Karst - Ross Armour, Edmonton AB
- 3/4 Diane Campbell - Garry Ramsden-Wood - Murray Haggins - Marilyn Haggins, Calgary AB
- 3/4 Andrew Nalos - Andrew Krywaniuk, Vancouver BC; Ken Ramsay, West Vancouver BC; Chris Chalcraft, Calgary AB; Ken Collins, Richmond Hill ON; Steve Mehta, Mississauga ON

CNTC FLIGHT C

- 1 Gerry Boudrias - Don Reble - Michael Harvey - Charles Hitschfeld, Edmonton AB
- 2 Clarend Duby - Fred Klein - Bev Mason - Camille Collver - Ed Porter - Mary Porter, Calgary AB
- 3/4 Bob Scott - Lorainne Curr - Judy Madge - Jan Brawn - Linda Wallace, Calgary AB
- 3/4 Doug Collister, Water Valley AB; Amiran Alavidze - Liz Sprague - Mike D'Aguiar, Calgary AB

CANADIAN OPEN PAIRS

- 1 Piotr Klimowicz, Edmonton AB; Dan Jacob, Vancouver BC
- 2 Charles Martineau, St-Lambert QC; Andre Chartrand, Montreal QC
- 3 Ray Jotcham, Scarborough ON; Stephen Mackay, Markham ON
- 4 Robert Morin, Val-Morin QC; Serge Hamelin, Montreal QC
- 5 Glenn Cossey - Cindy Cossey, Innisfail AB
- 6 Martin Hunter, Mississauga ON; Bill Koski, King City ON
- 7 Robert Short - Bryant Hawthorne, Red Deer AB
- 8 Joseph Seigel, Thornhill ON; Lino D'Souza, Burlington ON
- 9 Hash Mohamed - Douglas Mann, Calgary AB
- 10 Joseph Silver, Hampstead QC; John Carruthers, Kingsville ON

CANADIAN SENIOR TEAMS

- 1 Doran Flock, Calgary AB; Dave Smith, Edmonton AB; Michael Schoenborn, Brantford ON; Fred Lerner, Unionville ON
- 2 Duncan Smith - Gerry McCully - James McAvoy, Victoria BC; Peter Herold, Ladysmith BC; Ken Scholes, Bellevue WA
- 3/4 Joseph Seigel, Thornhill ON; Lino D'Souza, Burlington ON; Barry Onslow, London ON; John Arblaster, Niagara-Lk ON
- 3/4 Ray Jotcham, Scarborough ON; Bob Kuz, St Andrews MB; Barry Senensky, Toronto ON; Steve Mackay, Markham ON

HENRY CUKOFF SWISS TEAMS

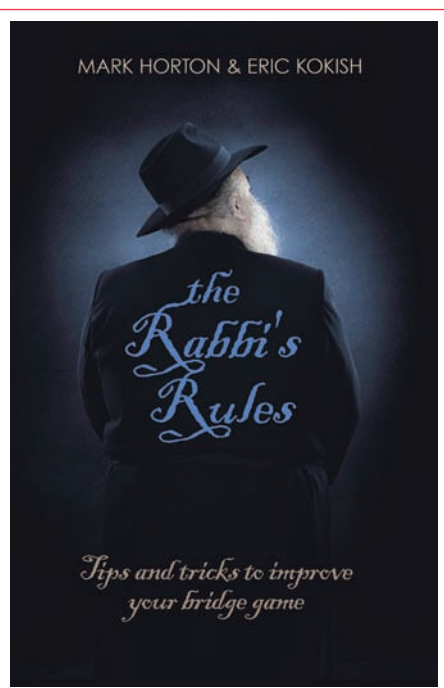
- 1 David Johnson - John D'Aguiar - Garry Ramsden-Wood - Diane Campbell, Calgary AB
- 2/1 Ian Findlay, North York ON; Irving Litvack, Toronto ON; Michael Roche, Victoria BC; Karen Cumpstone, Nanaimo BC
- 3/2 L. Tanja Hurlbert - Walter Brock - Rod Hilderman - Simeon Bobtchev, Calgary AB
- 4/6 3/4 Michael Farebrother - Ellen Kuiper - Dave Adelman - Dick Yuen, Calgary AB
- 4/6 3/4 John Sharpe - Janet Sharpe - Theo Deeder - Carrie Stockman, Calgary AB
- 4/6 Martin Henneberger - Dianne Isfeld, Coquitlam BC; Steven Lawrence - Carol McManus, Calgary AB
- 1 Dorothy Mersereau - Marcia Andreychuk - Peter Segers - Nancy Stewart, Calgary AB
- 2 Elizabeth Sprague - Caroline Colliver - Amiran Alavidze, Calgary AB; Douglas Collister, Water Valley AB

CANADIAN IMP PAIRS

- 1 Piotr Klimowicz, Edmonton AB; Dan Jacob, Vancouver BC
- 2 Ina Demme, Maple ON; Bill Kertes, Toronto ON
- 3 John Carruthers, Kingsville ON; Joseph Silver, Hampstead QC
- 4 Ian Findlay, North York ON; Irving Litvack, Toronto ON
- 5/1 Pat Lang - Kaz Walewski, Edmonton AB
- 6 William Koski, King City ON; Martin Hunter, Mississauga ON
- 2 Rod Hilderman - Walter Brock, Calgary AB
- 3/1 Steven Mehta, Mississauga ON; Ken Collins, Richmond Hill ON
- 4 Sary Hilde, Leerdam Netherlands; William McKenney, Edmonton AB
- 5/2 Leigh Anne Shafer - Gord Pippy, Winnipeg MB
- 3 Keith Falkenberg - Chris Wuerscher, Calgary AB
- 4 Marlene Pontifex - Jeff Gosman, Winnipeg MB

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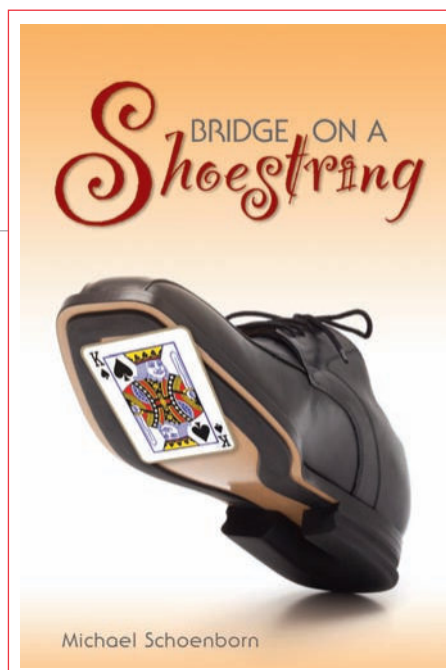
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Meet ... DANIEL

KORBEL

PROFESSIONAL BRIDGE PLAYER

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS MEDALIST

What drew you to start playing bridge and when did that happen?

I have always loved all sorts of games. When I was 14, my uncle (a life master) gave me *Watson's Play of the Hand at Bridge*. It's a dense book and after reading through it once I was left with little idea of what I had read. But I kept at it because bridge looked both challenging and complex, and by the time I borrowed *Bridge in the Menagerie* from the library I was completely spellbound.

What do you think the biggest differences are between then and now?

Even in the short time I have been playing bridge I see the game constantly evolving. The stuff that has become popular recently (Fantunes, transfers over 1C openings, the 14-16 no-trump, the "Mini-Meckwell" strong club to name a few) has shifted the landscape at the top a fair bit even in the last five years. As far as I can tell, card play is the same; experts have always known how to take their tricks. But really, the biggest difference for me from when I started playing to now is that then I had a nice head of hair and now I don't.

What is your most memorable bridge moment?

Winning a silver medal in the Mixed Teams in Lille. Actually that whole tournament is an incredible memory for me; not only is Lille a beautiful city, but Danny Miles and I had a sensational week in the open event, one of those weeks where everything seemed to go our way. We ended up compiling one of the top Butler scores across the entire field.

PHOTO: Mike Yuen

// *Don't get paralyzed by your own shortcomings. Bridge is a game of confidence and concentration ...*



What about life away from the bridge table.

I have a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Waterloo, but never followed through with my plans to become an English teacher. I have a five year old son named Matthew with my wife, Susan. We met at the Oshawa Sectional in 2001; Susie had just had her wisdom teeth removed and was doped up on Tylenol-3's. Her face was puffed up like a chipmunk, but I thought she was cute anyway, and the rest is history.

What do you like to do besides bridge?

I dabble in piano; I used to have aspirations of being good but just play for my own amusement these days. I spend a lot of time with Matthew -- all the bridge players tell me the time goes by so fast so I am heeding their advice and enjoying him while he's young. I like to play computer games. I love to read as well. I like to go bike riding and play tennis.

What is your favourite bridge book?

That's an easy one, it has to be *Bridge in the Menagerie* by Victor Mollo. "Curious hand; both sides can make 4H" must be the classic line in bridge literature. Second place goes to *How to Read Your Opponents' Cards* by Mike Lawrence, because I credit this book with really helping me get my

thoughts organized for the first time at the bridge table and start down the road to becoming an expert.

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

Don't get paralyzed by your own shortcomings. Bridge is a game of confidence and concentration, and you will develop neither of those skills if you let yourself be consumed with worries and insecurities.

Don't play too many conventions. I'd guess that 99% of non-experts are afflicted with conventionitis, the disease of playing far too many conventions (and playing many of them poorly). There are only five or six conventions that you really need to be playing, and the rest are all distractions.

The best way to improve is to focus on the card play and bidding judgment. Bidding judgment is something that is best improved without a lot of conventions, as you're forced to try to figure out which natural call in your arsenal best approximates the hand you hold. Ask better players questions. Play with better players. Take lessons, or read if that's your thing. I learned exclusively from reading.

And don't get discouraged! It's a hard game. A humbling game. Keep a good attitude.

Can you share any amusing stories with us?

I will tell you about the time I was captain of the Senior's Team in Shanghai, in 2007. Susie and I went to a big market with Boris Baran and Arno Hobart, and as we got out of the taxi, I noticed my wallet was missing. The taxi driver sped away, obviously realizing what he had in the back seat, and wouldn't slow down. I had gotten separated from the group, so there I was all alone with no money or identification! I raced around the giant market until against all odds I stumbled into Susie, Boris and Arno and explained what happened.

The police were utterly unhelpful even though I was able to provide the taxi plates. So there we were in Shanghai, with no money, no credit cards, only a passport! We had to beg the hotel we were staying at to let us continue to stay there until Visa Fed Exed us a replacement card. They took my passport as collateral, so I literally had nothing left!

I laugh at it now, but it wasn't so funny at the time.

Editor's note: As most readers are aware, Daniel and has been successfully playing bridge professionally, full-time, for approximately five years.



by Nader Hanna

THE EXPERT Spot

This is the third installment of a regular feature that provides tips to help readers take their bidding to the next level.

GO BIG OR GO HOME

By Nader Hanna

Editor's Note: I am very pleased to welcome CBF President Nader Hanna as a guest columnist for the Expert Spot. Besides his exceptional leadership and commitment to Canadian bridge, Nader more than qualifies as an expert. He has won numerous titles, including three NABCs and two CNTCs. He has represented Canada multiple times at the world championships both as a player and as a non-playing captain of the Open, Women and Junior teams.

Sometimes it may appear to defenders that a contract is impregnable. However, good defenders keep looking for the slightest glimmer of hope and the remotest possibilities to defeat the contract, even when things look quite hopeless.

To demonstrate let's consider the following deal that occurred in the quarter finals of the recent Canadian Open Team Championships (CNTC) in Calgary.

"Sometimes it may appear to defenders that a contract is impregnable. However, good defenders keep looking"

Your opponents bid to 6♥ after your LHO opens 2♥ (weak). Partner leads the ♣K and this is what you see:

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

Declarer wins the ♣A, plays the ♥J to his ♥Q and cashes the ♥A discarding a club from dummy while partner follows. Declarer then cashes ♠AKQ discarding two clubs from his hand while you and your partner follow. He then calls for the good ♠9. Here is the position at trick 7:

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

Things definitely do not look promising. We already know ten of declarer's thirteen cards (one spade, six hearts and three clubs). The other three minor suit cards remaining in declarer's hand seem to be covered by dummy's ♦AK and the good spades. Is there any hope? Well, if declarer's remaining three minor suit cards are three diamonds (i.e. he started with a 1-6-3-3 distribution) declarer will over ruff when we ruff the ♠9 with ♥6, concede the ♥K, and claim discarding his losing diamond on one of dummy's good spades. It would not help if we ruff with the ♥K as declarer would

just discard his diamond loser, ruff our club return and draws our last trump. The same is true if his remaining three minor suit cards are two diamonds and one club (i.e. he started with a 1-6-2-4 distribution). If we ruff the ♠9 with the ♥6, declarer would over ruff, cross to dummy in diamonds and play another spade discarding his losing club as we ruff with ♥K. Again, it would not help if we ruff with the ♥K as declarer would just discard his club loser, ruff our club return and draw our last trump.

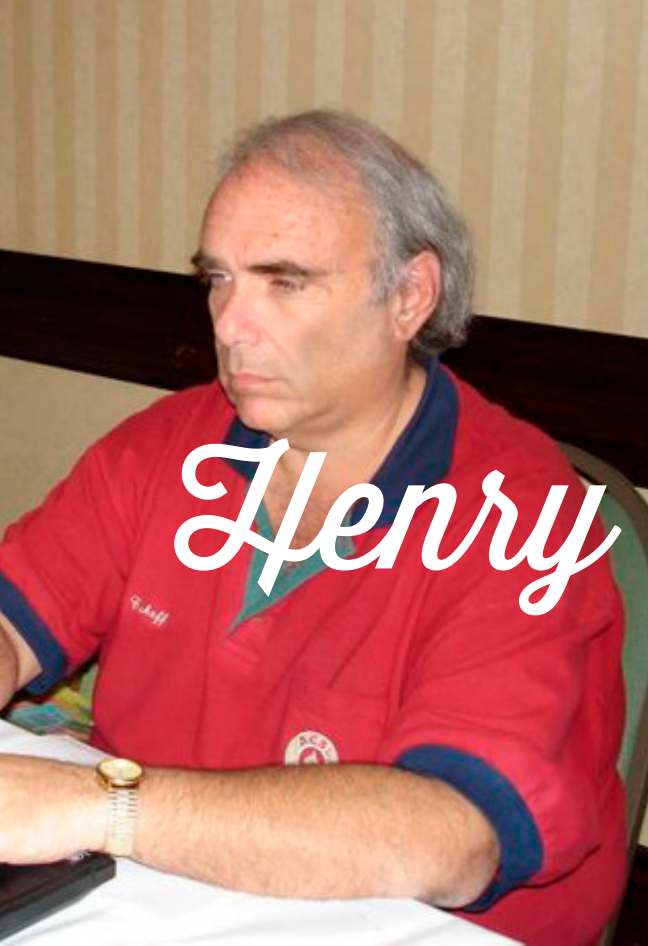
But what if declarer had started with a 1-6-1-5 distribution? His remaining three minor suit cards would then be one diamond and two clubs. Can anything be done in that case?

Well, if at trick 7 we ruff the ♠9 with the ♥6 declarer will over ruff, cross to dummy's ♦A, discard a club on the ♦K, and his last club on a good spade while we ruff with the ♥K. However, in this case if we ruff the ♠9 with the ♥K declarer can discard one of his two remaining clubs but we are still able to score partner's ♣Q to defeat the slam. This was the full deal:

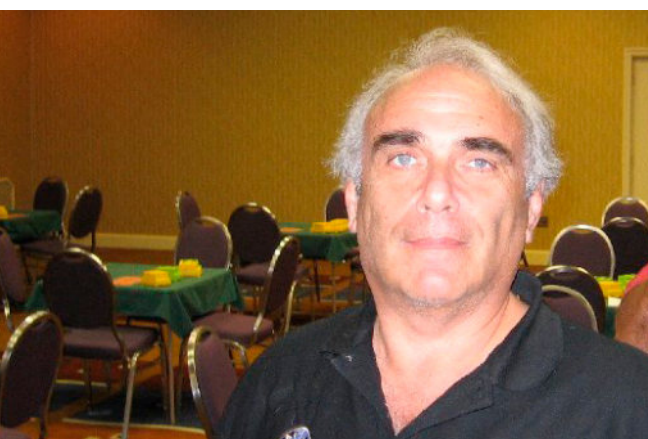
Board 29. Dealer North. Both VUL

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

Notice that declarer could not discard a club on the diamonds before he plays the good ♠9 because you would then ruff with the ♥6 (not the K) and declarer would have no way back to dummy to discard his last club.



Henry



THE LIFE

AND TIMES OF

CUKOFF

By Neil Kimelman

Both CBF's Bridge Canada and the ACBL Bulletin included articles on the passing of Henry this past spring. These articles cover a lot of material regarding his professional and personal lives. This piece continues in that vein and shares memories about Henry from people who knew him well. They and most of us are going to greatly miss the man who was Henry Cukoff.

HENRY AND THE FRANCHISE

Henry was the best man at my first wedding and we always had good words when we met at tournaments, with more of our conversation relating to baseball than bridge. When I was just starting to play seriously, Henry, Solly Weinstein, George Mittelman, Chuck Giser, Sharyn Linkovsky, Dianna Gordon, and a few others used to travel to New England and Maritime tournaments, more than holding our own in pretty good fields. On one of our sectional ventures to Vermont, we discovered a drive-in restaurant with 15 cent cheeseburgers, and our fertile

young minds contemplated how we could franchise this idea for Canada. But, like so many other good things, we parked that one in our mutual back burner, and moved on to the next tournament. It was called McDonalds.

Eric Hakish

HOW GOOD WERE THEY?

I do remember one time when I was playing in a game at the Montreal 'Y', which would normally have 50+ tables. Henry said if you drove a bus through here you would not scratch a real bridge player

George Mittelman

I AM RETIRING UNDEFEATED

I teased Henry for decades about taking up tournament directing in 1974 to avoid having to defend winning (during 1973) the first-ever, 70-some teams, Open KO Teams at a Montreal regional. Henry played with Robert Lebi. My partner was a young, relatively-inexperienced, Queen's University student and I only wish I knew now what I thought I knew then (Bob Dylan please

forgive me)! That is how good a bridge player Henry actually was! For that was the era of only four regionals annually in Northeastern America and thus drew many New England and further-away experts.

Ed O'Reilly

THE LONE RANGER TEAM STRIKES

Once we decided to take a serious road trip: Henry, Solly, Chuck, and I drove to Asbury Park, NJ for a regional, for the main team event, a four session Board-a-Match. All the best New York players were there, including the young Precision team with Sontag/Weichsel, Altman/Stuart, Neiger/Smith, Al Roth, Ira Rubin, Howard Schenken, Edgar Kaplan, to name a few. We were there to enjoy the beach and boardwalk and see if we were any good (which we really weren't), but amazingly we won that team game and felt a lot like the Lone Ranger riding away into the sunset... "Who were (those) masked men?" On one deal I remember declarer leading (essentially) the deuce towards the stiff three in dummy and Solly running in with the ace in front of dummy to switch to something apparently ridiculous, but which proved to be a very good play. Henry immediately dubbed that "The Solly Coup" and it's remained part of our Montreal heritage.

Eric Hokish

I MIGHT KNOW THE ANSWER, but make sure you are asking the right question

I was very friendly with Henry and loved his irreverence and penchant for telling it how it was. I was in line buying entries and innocently asked Henry how much it cost to play. Without skipping a beat, Henry countered with, "A more appropriate question from you would be "how much does it cost not to play?"

Beverley Kraft

I CHOOSE...

When a director comes to your table to make a ruling you are always apprehensive of the outcome. If you took a poll of top players as to which director they would most prefer to make an at the table ruling, Henry would be the unanimous choice.

George Mittelman

MONEY, WHAT MONEY?

In 2013 Henry recalled how he had been amused, when collecting untold amounts of cash entry fees, by my commenting several years ago that bridge may be a rare business in which security cameras are focused on players rather than on the cash. Henry was known for not using 'advanced security measures', but instead grocery bags when taking card fees proceeds to the bank for deposit.

Ed O'Reilly

HENRY PASSED THE TEST...AND THEN SOME!!

Henry was known for his prodigious knowledge of baseball. One night, Johnny Wiser, eventually one of ACBL's top TD's, decided to put Henry to the test. Armed with a

copy of the Baseball Encyclopedia, Johnny fired questions at a rapid pace. Henry answered them just as quickly. Finally Henry appeared to err. Asked to name the starting outfield for the 1939 Chicago Cubs, he got one wrong. Henry took some good-natured ribbing, but he stuck to his guns, insisting he was right and the encyclopedia was wrong. Needless to say, that ended the test.

Two weeks later, Henry arrived at the Vanderbilt Bridge Club with a letter. It was from the publisher of the Baseball Encyclopedia, thanking Henry for pointing out the company's mistake, and assuring that the next issue would get it right. Rest in Peace, Henry Cukoff.

Bud Marsh

EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE

My wife Moira and I grinned (and probably would scoff at such a remark from anyone else who might utter it) when Henry would occasionally state "I don't know why I know all this stuff – I just do!" And HENRY DID.

When asked his educational background, he said he quit McGill after one year because he felt he had not learned anything! Henry proved his brilliance to us so often that we believed he was correct. He did not require others' satisfaction with him. He was a know-it-all who actually did know almost all.

Ed O'Reilly

HIS MEMORY IS VERY GOOD, BUT PROBABLY VERY SHORT

One time at a club game, I called Henry to the table to explain that an opponent had asked to see my hand after a deal had been played, but had instead pulled out my hand for the upcoming deal. "Do you honestly think he'll remember your hand when you start to bid it? Just play it and call me back if there's a problem."

Beverley Kraft

TOLERANT, WHO ME?

Henry's quest for perfection and therefore lack of tolerance for fools of any kind may have been his downfall. His opinions seemed unfailingly logical and he frequently found it challenging to believe anyone capable of performing well consistently at the bridge table could show diminished reasoning capacity otherwise. It never bothered Henry to ruffle a few feathers if he believed it to be good for bridge. Henry was truly "His Own Man".

Ed O'Reilly

I WILL MISS YOU HENRY

For those who think of Henry as only a director, he was also a fabulous player. If he had concentrated on playing rather than directing, he would have been a hall of famer. I would often say to him, 'When are you going to give up this directing stuff and start playing?' His answer was 'As soon as you start paying my bills.' That would put a quick end to the conversation. I miss you buddy - the bridge world will not be the same without you.

George Mittelman

THE LAST WORD

Henry had a wicked sense of humour and wasn't shy about expressing himself, something that probably did not endear him to all ACBL officials. He loved his life and had no higher ambitions, turning down opportunities to work WBF events because he hated the politics. He had no time for posturing players with big egos and litigious players who seemed to violate Henry's sense of fairness.

I confess that I cry easily, sometimes during National anthems, but Henry's death hit me particularly hard and I'm still not over it.

Eric Kokish



CWTC GOLD MEDALISTS: Isabelle Brisebois, Sandra Fraser, Kismet Fung, Francine Cimon

CWTC CANADIAN WOMEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

AUGUST 11-17, 2014. Edmonton AB

GOLD: Francine Cimon – Sandra Fraser – Isabelle Brisebois – Kismet Fung

SILVER: Katie Thorpe – Ina Demme – Joan Eaton – Karen Cumpstone

The Canadian Champions will play off against Mexico for a chance to represent Canada at the World Bridge Teams in Chennai, India 2015.





QUIZ

TEST YOUR CNTC PLAY SOLUTION

FROM PAGE 8

Note: Because of the complexity of this hand I consulted some experts regarding the best lines. Thank you for the ones who responded.

CONTRACT: 6 ♥

LEAD: ♣ K

♠ K 10
♥ A Q J 9
♦ K J 3
♣ A 7 4 3

♠ A J 9 6 2
♥ K 5 4 2
♦ A 10
♣ 9 6

SOLUTION

Two of the techniques an expert declarer sometimes employs are:

- Avoiding finesses
- Delaying the pulling of trumps

Finesses

New bridge players are taught about finesses, and the different percentages that indicate their likelihood of being successful. Choosing among finesses, and avoiding them altogether is a skill players learn as their declare play improves. Experts not only know when finesses are unavoidable but also are aware when other techniques, such as endplays and squeezes, are superior.

Delay Pulling Trumps

Delaying pulling trumps is an art that is not as commonly known. There are many reasons for this technique, among them:

1. To retain effective communication with the dummy,
2. To avoid losing trump control,
3. To keep the opponents in the dark as to declarer and dummy's combined trump length and/or strength,
4. To delay the finesse for the trump queen, and
5. To give declarer the flexibility to adopt other lines when the trumps break poorly.

Sometimes declarer does not pull trumps at all but instead embarks on a cross ruff.

TEST YOUR CNTC PLAY SOLUTION

This hand is Board 2 from the first day of the 2014 CNTC Flight A qualifying. Declarer has 9 top tricks, and a 10th if hearts split 3-2. Without a club lead declarer would be best to play two rounds of trump, and pull the last trump if the hearts break 3-2, and then take a spade finesse, making 12-13 tricks (assuming spades are no worse than 4-2) : 4 (or 5) spades, 5 hearts, 2 diamonds and 1 club. However the club lead does not allow you the luxury of this line since if you mis-guess the spades the defenders will cash a club.

Some other possible lines are:

1. Pull trump and play on spades
2. Pull trump and guess which way to finesse in diamonds, then pitch your second club before playing on spades.
3. Pull trump, play $\spadesuit AK$ and then if the $\spadesuit Q$ does not drop finesse for the $\heartsuit Q$.
4. Pull two rounds of trump. If hearts are 3-2 play three rounds of spades ruffing with the $\heartsuit 9$. If spades split, claim. If not, play a diamond to your ace, finesse the $\heartsuit J$, cash the $\heartsuit K$ pitching a club, then $\heartsuit J$ to the $\heartsuit K$ pulling the last trump give up a spade.

My calculations say that line 4 is slightly better than 3, and far superior to lines 1 or 2. Note however that because of lack of communication you cannot select line 3 if you first pull three rounds of trumps. The declarer at my table chose line 1, guessing to play for 3-3 spades when the Queen didn't drop on the first two rounds. A better line is to play to ruff your minor suit losers in your hand. This is appealing because:

1. The opening leader strongly rates to have 3+ clubs (Against $6\spadesuit$ they would not likely lead from Kx or KQ) and
2. You would be ruffing in the hand where your trumps are weaker. This would be a poor line if declarer had $AQJ9$ of trumps as ruffing three times would promote at least one trump trick. The preferred line of play is:

Trick 1:	$\clubsuit K$	A^1	2	6
Trick 2:	$\clubsuit A^2$	8	9	Q
Trick 3:	$\heartsuit 6^2$	Q^3	3	2

¹ Ducking this club is an unneeded risk if clubs prove to be 6-1, as you have the necessary communication between the hands.

² The best defence.

³ Critical to play a high trump from dummy, saving the $\heartsuit K$ for ruffing at trick 10.

Trick 4:	$\clubsuit 4$	10	$\heartsuit 4$	5
Trick 5:	$\heartsuit A$	2	3	5
Trick 6:	$\heartsuit 10$	4	K	6
Trick 7:	$\heartsuit J$	8	$\heartsuit 5$	7
Trick 8:	$\spadesuit A$	7	10	3
Trick 9:	$\spadesuit 2$	8	K	4
Trick 10:	$\clubsuit 7$	J	$\heartsuit K$	$\heartsuit Q$

The three card ending:

Dummy	Declarer
$\spadesuit -$	$\spadesuit J 9 6$
$\heartsuit A J 9$	$\heartsuit -$
$\diamondsuit -$	$\diamondsuit -$
$\clubsuit -$	$\clubsuit -$

There are three hearts out, including the 10. When you play a spade, ruff with the $\heartsuit 9$. The full deal:

$\spadesuit K 10$	$\spadesuit 5 4 3$
$\heartsuit A Q J 9$	$\heartsuit 10 3$
$\diamondsuit K J 3$	$\diamondsuit 9 8 6 5$
$\clubsuit A 7 4 3$	$\clubsuit J 10 8 2$
$\spadesuit Q 8 7$	
$\heartsuit 8 7 6$	
$\diamondsuit Q 7 4 2$	
$\clubsuit K Q 5$	
$\spadesuit A J 9 6 2$	
$\heartsuit K 5 4 2$	
$\diamondsuit A 10$	
$\clubsuit 9 6$	

In summary, you make the slam if diamonds are no worse than 5-3 or 6-2 with the queen onside (88.41%), spades are not worse than 4-2 (83.98%), and only one of the following occurs:

1. West does not shift to a trump at trick two,
2. East has 4+ clubs and West has only two clubs, or
3. East has no spades (spades originally 4-2) and the $\heartsuit 10$ in the three card ending.

Other lines need a 3-2 heart break (67.83%) and some other good position. I don't know the exact percentages, but the indicated line seems a lot better than the other four lines. If anyone wants to do the math and share the results, I would be happy to publish them in our next

Meet ... PAUL THURSTON

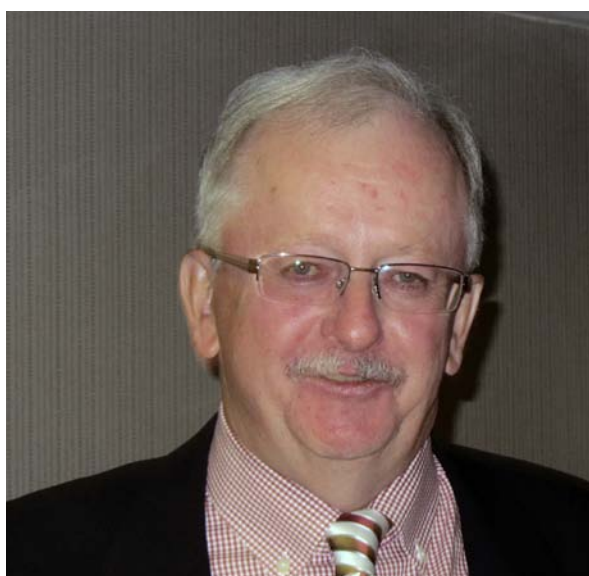
CANADIAN CHAMPION

When did you start playing bridge?

I grew up in the Eastern Ontario village of Tweed. Card games were a regular feature of our home life although I had to make do with Cribbage, Euchre, Crazy 8's and Rummy in my early years. Then one fateful August Saturday when a social game raged at our kitchen table with my mother (Phyllis) and aunt (Nell Austin) facing off against my uncle (Gerry Austin) and a neighbour lady (Georgie Macdonald).

Seems Uncle Gerry had made a bid his partner didn't like and she loudly explained his error to him (pre-Zero Tolerance)! My dad (Oscar) arrived home from work and I came in with some smallmouth bass I had just caught (we lived on the banks of the Moira River) just as the debate was getting ugly so the two men left for the friendly confines of the Legion and I was conscripted as the fourth for bridge. A few scribbled notes of instruction and I was soon hooked on our great game.

Several of my high school friends also learned the game at home and regular sessions with parents and peers ensued, maybe our substitute for video games as even Pong hadn't been invented yet and pinball at the pool hall cost money!



Did you also play after high school?

After graduating from Tweed High School, it was off to Brock University in St Catharines for a four-year degree in English and lots and lots of bridge. We had a regular cafeteria rubber game and we also started a duplicate game, both contributing a great deal to our social life.

By mid-point in my time at Brock, Jo-Anne (Chisholm)

and I were married and we played a lot of bridge together with our fellow students – bridge was a growth industry with University students in those days! Shortly after graduation, a younger and very promising player appeared on the scene. Rick Delogu and I were to form one of Canada's most enduring partnerships while enjoying our fair share of success.

What about your time away from the bridge table?

I worked at a variety of jobs, mostly revolving around either journalism (reporter-photographer for a Niagara-wide chain of weekly papers) or sales (oil, insurance, moving services and radio). However they were only revenue-producers to contribute to our family (son Matthew came along in 1975) and purportedly keep me out of trouble between bridge games.



CNTC A 2013 WINNING TEAM

I did open my own small bridge club along the way but the lifestyle required to make it work didn't suit our family, so it only lasted a few years. I did however learn lessons that were used at a later date!

Could you share some highlights from your playing time?

Winning the CNTC in 1996 was a huge thrill (with partner Rick Delogu, Nader Hanna-Doug Fraser and Jim Green-Michael Roche) as the team was very close (and remains so today as we had a great 10-year reunion get-together hosted by Jim and his lovely wife Agnes at their fabulous summer home in Muskoka). We then won the tri-country playoff in Mexico City against the host country and Bermuda, thus advancing to the 1997 Bermuda Bowl. No medals in Tunisia but a fabulous experience. Our playing performance as a team was okay if not up to the standards we would have hoped. The Bowl was followed by the First Transnational Swiss Teams and we finished fourth to qualify for the medal round but lost in the semi-final (to the eventual Gold medalist).

It was to be a long wait for another Bermuda Bowl entry as I didn't win the CNTC again until 2013 – with new partner Jeff Smith, Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis and Darren Wolpert-Daniel Korbel. Again it was off to Mexico City for the Zonal Playoff, but no Bermuda representative this time. Minus Daniel Korbel (professional commitments elsewhere) but with very capable substitute in our NPC Hazel Wolpert, we had the closest of close matches with a good Mexican team and, aided by a cell phone penalty, we eked out a 1-IMP! victory and we were off to Bali.

What a trip and what an event that was! We made the playoff round on the very last match of the Round Robin (the first Canadian team to get that far in many years) and then faced an excellent young American team in the quarter-final. We did come up short in that match but, just like our beloved Blue Jays, we'll get 'em next time.

I've also represented our country in world events in Montreal, Philadelphia, Miami and Verona, Italy as a player and as our Open Team's NPC in the World Olympiad in Istanbul. No medals yet but I'm not prepared to hang up my convention card anytime soon!

Tell us a bit about other bridge activities.

Back in 2000, I started writing a daily column for the St Catharines Standard and then along came the National Post. Aided by the good offices of Araminta Wordsworth (the significant other of Toronto's Brian Johnston, an excellent player in his own right), I managed to convince the Post's powers-that-be that "Canada's Newspaper" needed a true Canadian bridge columnist and I've been contributing six columns a week ever since.

I cobbled together "Twenty Five Steps to Learning Two-over-One" back in 2002 (an outgrowth of teaching and playing Two-over-One for twenty-plus years) and aided in no small measure by editor/publisher Ray Lee, that book has been an enduring success. The American Bridge Teacher's Association recognized the book as their "Book of the Year" in 2002.

A Pocket Guide to 2/1 and "Bridge at The Breakfast Table" (a collection of favourite National Post columns)

have also been published by Master Point Press whose extremely patient publisher still awaits the Two-over-One sequel (but it is coming, Ray, I promise!)

I also make semi-regular contributions to the ACBL Bulletin, the Kibitzer, the International Bridge Press Association's Bulletin and the CBF's Bridge Canada.

Any other bridge-related activities?

I did about eight bridge cruises as host-lecturer-director but have given those up in favour of what Jo-Anne likes to call "Land Cruises", 1-3 day events of lectures at clubs wherever they'll have me (and that ranges from Anchorage to Hilton Head to Arnprior and dozens of places in between).

I do novice-intermediate lesson-seminars at tournaments near my home (Kingston, Trenton and Ottawa to name three) and try to fit in an annual six-week course at the Belleville Bridge Club and the Picton Duplicate Club. I also do a bit of online teaching.

Shortly before we left St Catharines, I joined with several like-minded local veterans to found the Bridge Centre of Niagara. The club is still going strong with a current active membership of 400-plus players, and has been a model for several other clubs to follow during their start-up periods.

St Catharines was also the site for the CBF's 2004 Bridge Week, an event I co-chaired with the late Fred Andreychuk. With a battalion of enthusiastic volunteers, we staged what many have acknowledged as the best Bridge Week ever!

The CBF Hall of Fame Committee (I'm the current Chair) takes up some time as does being a voting member on the ACBL Hall and a jury member for the International Bridge Press Association's Book of the Year Award.

Other interests?

Like many other bridge players, I'm thoroughly infected with the golf bug. We moved in 2008 to our new home in Wellington, Ontario and the local course is an ultra-convenient six-minute walk from our house. I also read a lot (mostly fiction – favourite authors like Baldacci,



Laukannen, Nesbo, Martini, Coben, Mankell, Sandford

to name a few. I enjoy local theatre – professional touring companies in the summer and local amateur productions in the winter).

All in all, bridge has been a huge part of my life ever since that fateful argument at the kitchen table of my parents' home in Tweed ...



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EVENTS & DEADLINES

2014

September (International Fund Month)

- Club Qualifying games for CNTC and COPC
- Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships – Glasgow, Scotland | 8-14 Sep 2014

October (Club Appreciation Games)

- Club Qualifying games for CNTC and COPC
- Red Bull World Bridge Series – Sanya, China | 20-25 Oct 2014
- Thursday afternoon – ACBL wide Instant Matchpoint Game | 16 Oct 2014
- Monday evening – Canada wide Olympiad Fund Game | 20 Oct 2014
- Tuesday evening – Erin Berry Rookie Master Game | 28 Oct 2014

November

- Club Qualifying games for CNTC and COPC
- Nov. 5 - Wed afternoon – ACBL wide Charity Game #2

December

- Club Qualifying games for CNTC and COPC

2015

January (Grass Roots Month)

- Club Qualifying games for CNTC until January 11

February (Junior Fund Month)

- Canada Wide STAC | 16-22 Feb 2015

March

- Registration Deadline CNTC A,B & | 1 March 2015

April (Charity Month)

- Helen Shields Rookie Master Game | 22 April 2015

May

- Canadian Bridge Championships | Montreal, QC | 23-30 May 2014

Important Dates

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2014 | World Bridge Series : Sanya China 10-25 Oct 2014 |
| 2015 | STaC Canada Wide 16-22 Feb 2015 |
| 2015 | CBF Canadian Bridge Championships Montreal QC 23-30 May 2015 |

Canadian Bridge Federation Calendar of Events as of August 2014.

For more information see our website www.cbf.ca