

bridge *Canada*

**CANADIAN BRIDGE
CHAMPIONSHIPS**
2017 Overall Results
PHOTO GALLERY

.....
MEET JULIE SMITH
.....

THE BEAUTIFUL GAME
CNTC A Sneak Peek



THE CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

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



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Reflections of the Prez

PRESIDENT/EDITOR: NEIL KIMELMAN

WINNIPEG CBCS

Congratulations to all the winners at the recently completed Canadian Bridge Championships. A list of all winners and medalist can be found in this issue on page 5. The tournament had it all - great hospitality, some first time winners and some repeaters. Also the CNTC As may have been the most exciting one ever, culminating in a big comeback on the last few boards, with the Todd team overtaking the defending champion, L'Ecuyer!

I apologize for the delay and inconsistent updating of scores on the Championship Website. It is something I pledge will not be repeated next year.

Finally thank you to all my fellow Winnipeg bridge players, who volunteered to make this tournament successful and hospitality bar none. John Hindle came in as a last hour Chairperson, and maintained his cool in ensuring all went smoothly. Well done John! Finally, thank you Dave Brough for becoming a last minute replacement as Vugraph Coordinator and ensuring that the Finals of the CNTC A's was available for all to watch in Canada and around the world, showcasing the considerable bridge talent our country can offer!

Neil Kimelman
CBF President and Bridge Canada Managing Editor
President@cbf.ca

TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY

IMPs

Contract: 4 ♠

♠ Q 9 7
♥ 7
♦ A K 5 2
♣ Q J 8 7 3

♠ K J 10 8 6 4
♥ Q J 8
♦ 7 3
♣ 9 6

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	-	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Lead ♦10. Plan the play
Answer on page 18



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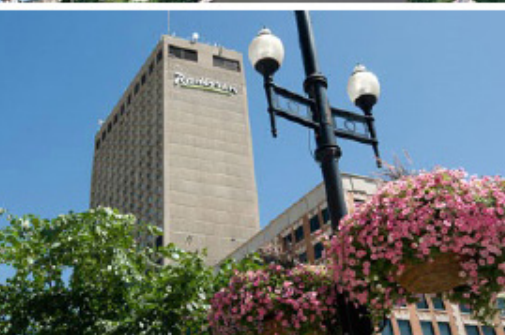
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CONGRATULATIONS WINNERS

CANADIAN NATIONAL TEAMS FLT A

Gold: Bob Todd, Doug Fisher, Brad Bart, Danny Miles, Steve MacKay, Neil Kimelman

Silver: Nicolas L'Ecuyer, Kamel Fergani, Nicholas Gartaganis, Judith Gartaganis, Frederic Pollack, Zygmunt Marcinski

Bronze: Gray McMullin, Bryan Maksymetz, Joel Martineau, Ben Takemori

Bronze: Irving Litvack, Ian Findlay, Vince Oddy, Roy Dalton, Doug Baxter, David Lindop

CANADIAN NATIONAL TEAMS FLT B

Gold: Bryant Town, Jason Dufault, Marek Foff, Garry Karst

Silver: Andrew Nalos, Kenneth Ramsay, Eda Kadar, Andrew Krywaniuk

Bronze: Leigh Anne Shafer, Deborah Gnoinski, Bobby Paul, Grant Woods

CANADIAN NATIONAL TEAMS FLT C

Gold: Freddie Mytykyshyn, Jason Walpole, Kevin Timanek, Brian Robinson

Silver: Roman Puzant, Regent Johnson, Dale Klassen, Brian Wallace

Bronze: Carolyn Douglas - Belva Gutkin - Penny Hyman - Paulette Migie

Bronze: Jeff Gosman - John Hindle - Dave West - Brian Macri

CANADIAN WOMEN'S TEAMS

Gold: Pamela Nisbet, Brenda Bryant, Hazel Wolpert, Linda Wynston, Rhonda Foster, Lorna McDonald

Silver: Lesley Thomson, Sondra Blank, Jill Thompson, Ina Demme

Bronze: Karen Turner, Karen Billet, Julie Smith, June Pocock

CANADIAN SENIOR TEAMS

Gold: David Turner, Fred Lerner, John Gowdy, Michael Schoenborn

Silver: Don Domansky, Cliff Campbell, Dave McLellan, Rollie Laframboise

Bronze: Ron Zambonini, Nader Hanna, Jurek Czyzowicz, Dan Jacob, Michael Roche, John Rayner

Bronze: John Carruthers, Paul Thurston, Katie Thorpe, Joey Silver, Keith Balcombe, Marty Kirr

CANADIAN OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

Gold: Jurek Czyzowicz, Dan Jacob

Silver: Stephen Cooper, Boris Baran

Bronze: Donald Kersey, Greg McKellar

CANADIAN IMP PAIRS

Gold : Jacques Cloutier, Kevin Paul Gregoire

Silver: Raymond Hornby, Marielle Brentnall

Bronze: Serge Hamelin, Robert Morin

HENRY CUKOFF SWISS

1st: Suzanne McCarthy, Phil Yakir, Larry Phillips, Anne Bigelow

2nd: Victor Chernick, Kathy Shefrin, Dale Klassen, Tom Berger

3rd: Paulette Migie, Penny Hyman, Belva Gutkin, June Desmarais, Franco Frittaion

PHOTO GALLERY CBC 2017

CNTC A GOLD: Doug Fisher, Neil Kimelman, Bob Todd, Brad Bart, Steve MacKay, Danny Miles.

CNTC B GOLD: Bryant Town, Jason Dufault, Marek Foff, Garry Karst

CNTC C GOLD: Freddie Mytykyshyn, Jason Walpole, Kevin Tomanek, Brian Robinson



PHOTO GALLERY CBC 2017

CWTC GOLD: Hazel Wolpert, Pamela Nisbet, Rhonda Foster, Linda Wynston, Brenda Bryant, Lorna McDonald

CSTC GOLD: David Turner, John Gowdy, Fred Lerner, Michael Schoenborn

COPC GOLD: Dan Jacob, Jurek Czyzowicz

CNTC SIVER: Nicholas Gartaganis, Jurek Czyzowicz, Judith Gartaganis, Kamel Fergani, Fred Pollack, Nick L'Ecuyer

CIPC GOLD: Kevin Paul Gregoire, Jacques Cloutier





the beautiful game

by Neil Kimelman

The team I was on was fortunate enough to win the CNTC A's last month, against the defending champion and World's quarterfinalist L'Ecuyer in a match that was one, if not the most exciting finishes in the Finals. Full coverage, of this and the other major events will be in the August Bridge Canada.

Here is a sneak peak, to exemplify how our game continues to confound and delight us all, with new combinations that seem to never end:

CNTC A's, Round Robin

Mmatch 16, Board 31. South deals, N-S Vul.

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

Bart		Kimelman	
West	North	East	South
-	-	-	pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	2♦
Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

It is not our style to open this hand, but felt I was worthy of a 2♦ call as a passed hand. Brad dutifully led my suit and I discouraged (upside-down) with the ♦7, the ♦9 winning in dummy.

The first five tricks went:

	W	N	E	S
Trick 1:	3	♦8	9	7
Trick 2:	6	3	♣K	♦5
Trick 3:	7	4	♣J	♦4
Trick 4:	9	A	♣3	♠6
Trick 5:	4	♥10	3	K

The position going into trick 6 was:

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

At trick 6 I returned a spade to partner's ace, and Brad returned a 2nd heart, that gave declarer an impossible choice at trick 7. If he plays the ♥Q, I duck setting up the heart suit. As the ♠Q does not fall, we score three hearts, two spades and one club. At the table the declarer actually played the ♥8. I rose with the ♥A, and threw dummy in with the ♥Q. The ♠Q was the setting trick. In case you were thinking declarer should play the queen on the first round of hearts, I simply duck that trick. Bridge can be such a beautiful game.



Meet ... JULIE SMITH

CANADIAN BRIDGE PLAYER & TEACHER

Editor's Note: *This regular BC column is intended to learn more about the players that make up the Canadian Bridge community.*

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

I always loved games, and spent many happy hours as a child playing card and board games. I first became aware of whist-like games when I received the game of Rook for Christmas, around the age of ten. I loved that game, and from that time, began to pay attention to the bridge my parents played. I was soon allowed a place at the table. I had a Charles Goren Bidding Wheel, which allowed one to dial up the appropriate bid for any situation. Voila! I was playing bridge. My cousin Kate, whose parents were the first Life Masters I ever knew, encouraged me to join her at duplicate, and I played briefly in Salem, Oregon, before moving to Canada after University.

I did not rediscover duplicate for a few years. I was then living in the beautiful Kootenay region of Southeastern British Columbia in the late 1970s, and began to attend local games with friends. At that time, I fell headfirst into the world of bridge, and have never really climbed back out.

My close friend, Jude Goodwin and I became bridge addicts together, and played at local games and tournaments whenever possible. Jude is a gifted writer and cartoonist, as well as a creative and insightful bridge player. I once complained to her about an unsuccessful play she perpetrated upon defence. I

believe I was disappointed in what she chose to play, because a normal action by her would have gotten us a decent score on the board. Jude defended her unusual play by explaining that on some (unlikely) lie of the cards, her play would have been brilliant, and would have led to the defeat of the contract. At this point, I remarked to my friend, "You are not good enough to be brilliant!"



Chagrined, I am sure, she memorialized this moment in one of her best bridge cartoons (Jude's book of bridge cartoons, *Go Ahead Laugh*, is available through Master Point Press).

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

When our daughter was born, Peter and I retreated from duplicate bridge for ten to twelve years. It just seemed we were too busy with other things to get out to the bridge club. Once we began playing again, I did notice some striking differences, particularly in the appearance of all my long-lost friends. Everyone looked so much older! Of course, in the next moment, I realized that I was no different from any of them.

I started in bridge by being one of the youngest in the room, and now I cannot quite say the same. I miss many friends and one-of-a-kind characters from the past.

Bridge used to be played in smoke-filled rooms, and one needed to be willing to encounter grouchy and intimidating people. The smoke is gone now, and zero tolerance has eliminated much of the unpleasantness. Aside from all that, bridge is still an exciting game, and one that, for me, never gets old.

What about life away from the bridge table?

I was born in Oregon and moved to Canada after finishing university, in order to work with young children with autism. I remained in Canada, working as a teacher of children with special needs. Between then and now, I met and eventually married by bridge-playing husband, Peter Cooper. We have one wonderful daughter, and two foster daughters of whom we are very proud. Also, I must not forget to mention our cat, Peanut, often known as Cousin Fatty. We have lived in Vancouver since the early 1980s.

After my retirement from work with the Vancouver School District, I took on a new part-time career. I now work as a bridge teacher, which I feel is a perfect fit for my teaching experience and my passion for the game. Teaching bridge gives me the opportunity to meet new friends and introduce them to this wonderful game. It also gives my life the perfect amount of daily structure,

and provides me with some extra income, which, of course, I spend on bridge.

What is your most memorable bridge moment?

That is an easy question for me to answer. My most memorable moment came at the end of 2012, when Peter and I won the Phil Wood Trophy for the most masterpoints won at local Vancouver Sectionals in a calendar year. We played only with each other for that year, in a quest to do as well together as we possibly could.

The race was exciting. At the beginning of the last sectional of the year, we were near the top of the masterpoint winners list. Aidan Ballantyne was in the lead, and against his better judgment (I believe), he and his wife Katrin Litwin teamed up with us to win the Friday-Saturday Knockout event. Then, to my great surprise, Peter and I won the Sunday Open Pairs, putting us into the lead. Going into the last round of the final day Swiss with a good record, we lost our match, while Aidan's team had a big win, putting them into first place for the event. It looked like Aidan had won the Phil Wood Trophy, and we went home that evening believing that to be the case. Within the hour, however, Aidan kindly phoned to let us know that actually his team had finished in a dead tie in the Swiss, which lost him a masterpoint or two, and allowed us to win the Phil Wood by less than one point.

It was exciting to win the Phil Wood as only the second woman in Vancouver ever to do so, and it was even more pleasing to win it with my husband. We were the first duo ever to win this race. Aidan and Katrin accomplished the same feat two years later.

What do you like to do besides playing and teaching bridge?

I love to do many things, and wish I had several more lifetimes to devote to other pursuits. For this lifetime, however, I have chosen to focus on reading (I love mysteries, fantasy, and just plain good books), vegetable gardening, cooking, and the piano.

MEET JULIE SMITH

Do you have favourite bridge book?

I have fondness for many bridge books, but the one that comes to mind as perhaps my favourite is Card Play Technique, or the Art of Being Lucky, by Victor Mollo and Nico Gardener.

Can you share any amusing stories?

Our daughter, Katie, grew up in a bridge playing household, and though she has steadfastly refused to learn the game, she has always been able to mimic the language of bridge. From an early age, she was able to answer questions such as "What do you lead?" ("I lead the fourth best from my longest and strongest.") or "What were your Spades on that hand?" ("I had Ace empty fourth."). My favourite Katie-ism came when she was perhaps six years old. When asked her opinion of something to do with bridge, she remarked, "When Meckwell doubles, the game becomes rich in overtricks." It was nonsense, but delightful all the same to her proud parents.

How has bridge enriched your life?

Bridge has provided me with a life-long passion, and a never-ending quest for the next hand, the next bid, and the next play. Bridge has brought me many friends of similar interests, and some wonderful partners. It has also brought me my husband, who is my best teacher, best partner, and best friend.

Do you have any future goals for your bridge career?

I do have some future goals for my bridge career. I want to bring the game to as many people as I can, and do my part to keep bridge alive. Also, I hope to continue to learn and improve as a player, to develop better and more consistent focus, and to eliminate the many mistakes I make.

In the end, though, my main hope is to keep playing and having fun with bridge for a long, long time.



Photos: (Top left) Julie Smith and partner Jude Goodwin at a sectional in Cranbrook, 1984. (Top) Julie wearing her silver medal with CWTC Team 2010. (Below) Julie and team at the 2014 CWTC. Bottom left, Julie at the table.





DIRECTOR!

Please

By Michael Abbey

This month's article is about calling the Director, something that some new players may never have done or at least have not done frequently.

First things first ... the Director is at the duplicate bridge game to apply the accepted Laws of Duplicate bridge and, when required, restore equity to all at the table. Players must remember a Director should be called to deal with irregularities at the table. Players come to feel more comfortable calling the Director as their experience increases. Keep the following in mind at the table when you feel the need to utter those common words – "Director please."

- You are not reporting your opponents to a higher authority.
- You are not accusing your opponents of doing something wrong at the table.
- You are looking for a ruling on something that has happened at the table that may be contrary to the Laws of Duplicate Bridge.
- You are demonstrating your commitment to ensuring behaviour during the auction and the play of the hand conform to what is outlined in these Laws.

by Michael Abbey
THE NEW PLAYER
Spot

NEW PLAYER SPOT: Michael Abbey ... continued

I became a Director last fall. I regard Director calls as part of the game, and approach the table with an open mind and a copy of the Laws in tow. In some situations, a Director call may end up with a ruling that benefits you and your partner. Let's look at an example of where a Director call, while enforcing the Laws, could benefit your making a contract that may have otherwise gone down. Picture the following situation at the table, when you are declarer in a four spade contract:

1. On trick #5, a West (on defence) plays the ♣10, and while extracting the card from his hand, pulls out the ♥K by mistake as well.
2. The ♥K is left on the table as a major penalty card.
3. East wins the trick with the ♣K, and is on lead for the next trick.
4. All at the table know that West must play the ♥K penalty card at the first opportunity.
5. East, seeing the ♥K on the table and, in possession of the ♥A, leads the ♥2, allowing West to capture the trick with his exposed ♥K.
6. West leads back the ♥4, and East captures trick #6 with his ♥A.

The end result is the defenders have captured two tricks as a result, the first while the penalty card was exposed, and the second after it was played to win a heart trick. The lesson here to be learned is:

When a defender is on lead and his partner has one or more penalty cards on the table, call the Director. You, as declarer, have the right to enforce a lead restriction on that defender which may have a profound effect on the outcome of the contract.

There is no need to discuss what the lead restriction may be. Suffice to say, that is what the Director is at the game for ... ruling on irregularities. When the Director is summoned, he will inform you of your options. You will listen to what he has to say, and decide what to do based on each situation. You may choose an option

that does not allow the defenders to take the two heart tricks and, as a result, bid and make your contract rather than go down one or more tricks.

Often a Director call involves a discussion of what has just happened, followed by a decision based on what he has heard. A common example of this is as follows:

1. Declarer inspects dummy during a five diamond contract
2. He calls for the ♦9
3. Without pausing for thought, he changes the call to ♣A

A defender calls the Director, and explains the ♦9 should be played rather than the ♣A. During the ensuing discussion, the Director permits the ♣A play since the change of call was immediate without a pause for further thought.

You will be much more comfortable at the table once you gain more experience, but should still call the Director to rule on all irregularities, regardless of how "simple" they may seem to be.

Visit Michael's website for beginners at beginnerbridge.net





THE INTERMEDIATE SERIES DEFENCE

DEFENSIVE SIGNALS Quiz #2*

Ok, here is the 2nd part of the Signaling Quiz: Good Luck!

* Assume standard signaling, 4th best and A from AKx (x...)

6 Both vul, Matchpoints. You are South.

♠ A Q 5 3
♥ K Q 10 5
♦ 2
♣ 8 5 4 2

♠ J 10
♥ A J 8 6
♦ J 9 4 3
♣ Q J 9

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

Partner leads the ♠6. Declarer plays small from dummy and wins your 10 with his ♠K. He plays the ♥3, 9 from partner and king from dummy. Plan your defence.

by Neil Kimelman
THE INTERMEDIATE
Spot



Signaling Quiz*

*Assume standard signaling, 4th best and A from AKx (x...)

7 Both vul, Matchpoints, you are South:

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

West	North	East	South
1♠	Dbl	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Partner leads the ♥K. What card do you play and why?

8 Both vul, Matchpoints, you are South:

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

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Partner leads the ♦K. What do you play and why?

9 N-S vul, Matchpoints, you hold as South:

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

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1NT	pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Partner leads the ♣K. What do you play and why?

10 Both vul, Matchpoints, you are South:

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

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

Partner leads the ♥K. The first five tricks go:

	W	N	E	S
Trick 1:	5	♥K	6	10
Trick 2:	A	♥2	8	Q
Trick 3:	♣K	9	2	3
Trick 4:	♣5	6	10	A

Plan your defence.

Solutions

6. PLAN YOUR DEFENSE

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

Play the ♥6. One advantage you have when the opponents open notrump is that you 'know' that declarer (usually) has no shortness. So it is easy to duck in tempo. Here you don't want to tip off that the hearts sit badly for declarer, and he may base his line on erroneous information. Once you duck the heart, declarer will likely pull the rest of the trump, lead a diamond to the ace, and then a 2nd heart. This holds declarer to 10 tricks, whereas winning the first heart may lead declarer to finesse the ♦10, leading to 11 tricks.

7. WHAT CARD DO YOU PLAY? WHY?

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

♥7. You do not want a switch to a minor when partner gets in, so encouraging is correct. The other issue is

whether to play the ♥J or ♥5. The former shows the card immediately below the one played, as well as denying the one immediately above. This can often be helpful to partner in deciding his continuation, or perhaps in underleading his other honour(s) to put you on lead. However, be cautious, as this signal can sometimes set up a trick for declarer. The other factor is whether partner can read your spot card as encouraging. Here I would play the ♥7, though it is close. A minor switch would likely set up at least one more trick for declarer.

8. WHAT DO YOU PLAY? WHY?

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

♦5. When the opponents play a suit contract, signaling from a doubleton can be tricky. Generally speaking if you have a doubleton you should signal encouragement if a ruff is likely. Otherwise, discourage, which usually signifies xxx or xxxx.

Do not encourage if you know from your bridge logic continuing the suit might blow a trick, or set up one or more for declarer. In the above example declarer will either give up a diamond, or might finesse spades on the second round, putting partner on lead. If you played the xDx7, encouraging partner, he may continue with a third round of diamonds, as a rounded suits switch looks dangerous. This would allow declarer to pitch both clubs from dummy on two good diamonds, making five, instead of four had you discouraged.

9. WHAT DO YOU PLAY? WHY?

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

♣A and play a 2nd club. You know that a club continuation will make it impossible for declarer to pick up the spades for one loser. Try not to play woodenly when you can take the matter into your own hands and make life easy for partner! It is impossible on the bidding that partner has eight clubs, or that he is leading from shortness.

10. WHAT DO YOU PLAY? WHY?

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

Declarer probably has 20-21 HCPs for his 3NT bid. You are unlikely to beat this contract, but you want to keep declarer to the minimum. Besides your hearts, your only other asset is your spade fragment. Your goal is to tell partner about it. Although a diamond could work, I would continue with the ♥9, a suit preference for spades. Declarer will win, cross to the ♠K and run clubs. I would play on the next two tricks the ♦3, discouraging, and the ♥7, reinforcing the suit preference for spades. On the last club partner has to pitch from the ♠Qxx and ♦Q107, and will know to keep his diamond guard, holding declarer to 10 tricks.

CBF CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS & REGIONAL TOP 20 MP WINNERS

Total attendance: 657 tables

Total masterpoints: 4627.36 earned by 323 players.

- 105.00 Stephen Mackay, Markham ON
- 105.00 Neil Kimelman, Winnipeg MB
- 105.00 Douglas Fisher, Winnipeg MB
- 105.00 Daniel Miles, Toronto ON
- 105.00 Brad Bart, Coquitlam BC
- 105.00 Bob Todd, Winnipeg MB

- 78.75 Zygmunt Marcinski, Westmount QC
- 78.75 Nicolas L'Ecuyer, Montreal QC
- 78.75 Nicholas Gartaganis, Calgary AB
- 78.75 Kamel Fergani, Montreal QC
- 78.75 Judith Gartaganis, Calgary AB
- 78.75 Frederic Pollack, Laval QC
- 64.89 Doug Baxter, Toronto ON
- 64.89 David Lindop, Toronto ON
- 64.05 Gray McMullin, Vancouver BC
- 64.05 Bryan Maksymetz, Vancouver BC
- 62.85 Joel Martineau, Vancouver BC
- 62.85 Ben Takemori, Burnaby BC
- 52.50 Vince Oddy, Aurora ON
- 52.50 Roy Dalton, Thornhill ON

SOLUTION TO TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY

PROBLEM ON PAGE 03

Contract: 4♠ Playing IMPs

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

You can see that declarer has no genuine hope of making 4♠. The defence can always take a spade, a heart and two clubs. Declarer won the ten of diamonds with dummy's ace and led the ♣Q: 5, 9, A. Back came the six of diamonds, taken by the king. Declarer now played the ♣3: a smooth 4 from East, 6, 2! When was the last time you saw a six win the trick on the second round of a suit with everyone following? You cannot blame East. Playing low could have been essential if South has started with the ♣9 singleton. This illusion was created at the table by Australia's Tony Nunn. He went on to make ten tricks at a Gold Coast tournament.



Judith Gartaganis (left) being inducted into the CBF Hall of Fame by Katie Thorpe



Nicholas Gartaganis (left) being inducted into the CBF Hall of Fame by Katie Thorpe



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by Paul Thurston
THE EXPERT
Spot

What. WENT. WRONG?

by Paul Thurston

Just in case you're not getting enough fruit in your diet, how about a serving of grapes (sour variety this time!) to start off this instalment of "WHAT WENT WRONG?"

DEAL 1

Dealer: East Vul: Neither

North			
♠ 10632			
♥ J74			
♦ 10987			
♣ J2			
♠ 8			♠ 9
♥ 105			♥ Q863
♦ J542			♦ AKQ
♣ KQ8653			♣ A10974
	♠ AKQJ754		
	♥ AK92		
	♦ 63		
	♣ –		
West	North	East	South
-	-	1♣	DbI
4♣	Pass	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	5♠	All pass	

South's two-step approach in the auction was designed to show a really good spade one-suiter, too good for a mere overcall of either one spade or four spades. With hearts as a fall-back position just in case partner should suggest length in that suit. As it went, North had nothing to suggest over West's preemptive

club raise to leave it up to South to follow through with his planned introduction of spades. That convinced East to bid five clubs, maybe as a make, more likely as a save with the possible upside of getting North-South to commit a high-level indiscretion.

And maybe that's what happened as South passed (forcing after his earlier show of great strength) and North judged his spade support might be just enough for eleven tricks. Well, it might have been! Declarer ruffed the opening club lead with the Jack to extract the lurkers in one round. There were several possible ways to avoid a heart loser but declarer saw no big rush to tackle the suit so he exited with a low diamond for East to win the queen, cash the king and continue with the ace.

So no help from the opponents and it was time for hearts but not before considering the likely distribution of the defenders' hands. Giving West a likely six clubs for his bid and the four diamonds strongly suggested by East's defense, that meant West would probably be 1-2-4-6 and East 1-4-3-5 to make one possible way of playing hearts would be to cash the tops and pray for the Queen to drop.

That seemed anti-percentage so your favourite WWW author crossed to the ♠10 and advanced the ♥J to draw the queen for the ace. Back to a spade spot in dummy and the moment of truth: with East having three hearts left and West but one, the indicated play would be to play a heart to the nine. Indicated? Yes, just not successful for a double-digit IMP loss so WHAT WENT WRONG, especially when the other team's declarer (an Italian Grand Master with multiple World Championship medals) was also in five spades after virtually the identical auction but with a decidedly more successful outcome.

He ruffed the club lead with the Jack, drew the missing spades and cashed the heart ace. Over to the dummy for the heart Jack to force the Queen and pin the ten and, once again, the card gods proved to be Italian. So did you enjoy those grapes?

DEAL 2

Most top experts (and many excellent players who have been burnt by ignoring the following advice) will tell you that it's losing strategy to bid speculative grand slams at team play as it seems far too many times, the grand goes down one and the other team has stayed in a mere game! How about this exhibit:

Dealer: North Vul: E-W

	♠	
	♥ A8643	
	♦ AQ7432	
	♣ K2	
♠ J6432		♠ Q1095
♥ Q9		♥ KJ72
♦ J65		♦ 8
♣ 876		♣ QJ43
	♠ AK87	
	♥ 105	
	♦ K109	
	♣ A1095	

West	North	East	South
-	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	7♦
All Pass			

As so very often seems to be the case, some gadgetry was lurking in the underbrush to at least assist North-South to arrive at the rarefied heights of the seven level when even a small slam would have been a doubtful undertaking. The rot started to set in with North's jump shift and artificial rebid of three clubs that showed a great hand with diamonds as the second suit. I'm not sure about the "great" hand part with two porous suits and a mere thirteen high-card points but the bidding toy was available and North used it! This dramatic jump attracted a second jump as South showed the diamond fit and slam ambitions at his second turn. Heart cue bid, and out came Old Blackwood with the 6♦ response

shrouded in mystery as it doesn't really conform to any system of Blackwood responses I'm familiar with (or can find anywhere in my extensive library!).

I'm not sure South was exactly aware of what six diamonds (or his partner's earlier bids) meant either but whatever he was expecting, it was enough to motivate him to go all in. West started proceedings with his small club lead and I'm sure South's first reaction at the arrival of dummy was the line from the Peggy Lee classic: "Is that all there is?" But with a lot of IMPs at stake, South soldiered on by winning the ♣K and playing the necessary three rounds of trumps ending in his hand. To continue by cashing the top spades and ruffing the third round. Presumably this line of play indicated he was trying for some obscure sort of squeeze but he actually got one of the more common squeezes: the pseudo variety!

Look at East's plight: on the second and third round of diamonds, he had discarded a small club and a small heart. But then came two more diamonds after the spade ruff in dummy – what now?

Unwilling to pitch the master spade or let go of his heart guard, East hoped for the best in the club suit by letting go of one more heart and one more club. To allow the run of three more club tricks by declarer for thirteen in all! So WHAT WENT WRONG?

We've all been subjected to the torture of having to find discards in similar circumstances so we should have some sympathy for East's plight. But almost none for West's choice of opening lead! When he started with a small club, East certainly had reason to hope for at

least the ten in his partner's hand – heck, even the ♣976 would have been enough! The foundation laid by the mis-informing low club lead was the fundamental cause of the disaster: West leads the more honest top-of-nothing ♣8, East will know it's mandatory he save clubs and, whatever else he might have to throw, North-South will not have that impressive score for their Grand Adventure!

DEAL 3

Here is another tale of woe from an online match.

Dealer: South Vul: Both

♠ A7			
♥ A862			
♦ QJ98			
♣ J74			
♠ Q1086432			♠ J
♥ J7			♥ Q53
♦ 62			♦ 10754
♣ K3			♣ A10965
		♠ K95	
		♥ K1094	
		♦ AK3	
		♣ Q82	

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

Opening Lead: ♣ K (no surprise!)

North-South had a more or less standard Stayman sequence to reach four hearts and the defense got off to a fast start with King of clubs, club to the ace and a third-round ruff by West who exited with the ♠2. Even after that semi-disheartening start, declarer might have prevailed by cashing the heart ace and finessing East for the guarded Queen but he preferred to play West to have started with three hearts and East's trump queen took the setting trick. WHAT WENT WRONG?



In the play, declarer relied on Vacant Spaces Theory: East, who started with five clubs to West's two, had fewer spaces for hearts so West was more likely to have three than East. Vacant Spaces does have its place in card play but it often suffers from what Vancouver's Robert Mackinnon calls "incomplete information". This time, it's West who has fewer vacant spaces for hearts because of his seven-card spade holding as compared to his partner's singleton. For sure, if a competent declarer had any inkling of West's great spade length, he would be able to restrict his losers to three even after the two clubs and ensuing ruff were the start to the play. But that's all good academic conjecture but what really went wrong did so in the bidding!

When East showed good clubs with his double, North-South might have taken advantage of that information if they had effective systemic counter-punches available. One possible scheme: when an opponent doubles Stayman, the next player passes when holding a club stopper regardless of what he might otherwise have responded to Stayman. In this instance, if his partner passed to show a club stopper for notrump purposes, North would have at least been made aware of the defensive ruff potential in a possible suit contract because of his own weak length in clubs. And with lots of high-card points, when the double came round to him, North would have had very little problem fishing out a three notrump call and the game bonus would have been saved – Forewarned really is forearmed!

Of course, the Responder in such circumstances might still want an answer to his Stayman question when the double is passed round to him and the method used to "restart" Stayman is for Responder to redouble. One of the subsidiary benefits to this approach comes when the lead-directing double is used and Opener doesn't have a stopper in the doubled suit: he makes his normal answer to Stayman and Responder, unless holding an ironclad club stopper of his own, knows to avoid notrump! On the bright side, our team did not suffer a game swing on this deal and not because the same double was used and the same unsuccessful line

of play was executed! No, North-South had the bidding to reach four hearts all by themselves and still went down in that game. WHAT WENT WRONG?, especially if you know that declarer would be on anyone's short list of the best declarers all-time. Generally known by his illustrious opponent to be an honest sort when it came to leads and signals, West picked the perfect time to indulge in a tad of chicanery as he started proceedings with the spade deuce, ostensibly fourth-best so from no more than four cards in the suit.

Seeing an easy route to ten tricks as long as he didn't lose two heart tricks, South won the spade ace, cashed the heart ace and took the reasonable precaution of a trump safety play by leading the second round to his ten. Not this time as West won the trump Jack and played back a second spade that East ruffed with two defensive club winners to come.

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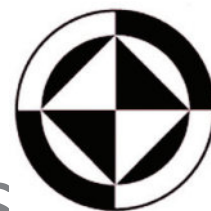
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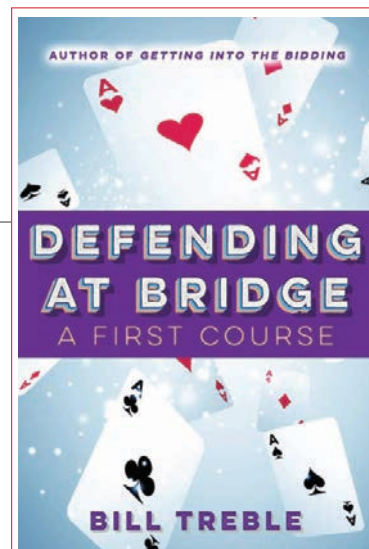
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EVENTS & DEADLINES

Canadian Bridge Federation Calendar of Events as of May 20 2017.

For more information see our website www.cbf.ca

JUNE

Worldwide Bridge Contest
02 June, Evening 03 June, Afternoon

Olympiad Fund Game, Canada-Wide
14 June, Afternoon

Day of Bridge benefitting Alzheimer Societies
21 June

JULY

ACBL Wide International Fund Game
11 July, morning

NABC Toronto, 20-30 July

AUGUST

World Team Championship
12-26 August Lyon, France

World Youth Championship
15-24 August Lyon, France

Deadline to submit team applications for
Commonwealth Games
31 August



SEPTEMBER

All month – Club International Fund Games

COPC and CNTC club games begin – September
through December

OCTOBER

Canada-Wide Olympiad Fund Game
6 October, Friday afternoon

Erin Berry Rookie Master Game
18 October

NOVEMBER

ACBL wide Charity Game
21 November evening

DECEMBER

ACBL wide International Fund Game #3
20 December evening



VERY IMPORTANT DATES !

2017 Toronto NABC | 20-30 July

2017 World Team Championships | 12-26 August | France

2017 World Youth Championships | 15-24 August | France