

bridge Canada



Good Luck!

BERMUDA BOWL TEAM

NPC: Irving Litvack
Mike Hargreaves, Gord McOrmond,
Allan Graves, Bryan Maksymetz,
Joey Silver, Fred Gitelman

VENICE CUP TEAM

NPC: George Mittelman
Dianna Gordon, Sheri Winestock,
Beverly Kraft, Rhoda Habert,
Francine Cimon, Barbara Saltsman

TRANSNATIONAL TEAM MEMBERS

Colin Revill - with 3 U.S. players
George Mittelman - with 3 U.S. players
Elizabeth Redrupp, Shelagh Paulson,
Christyna & Vern Schock
Pierre & Nicole Beauregard,
David & Evelyn Kirsh
Fred Gitelman - with 4 U.S. players
Karl Hicks, Bernie Britten,
John Carruthers, David Deaves
George & Mari Retek - with 2 U.S. players

Follow our Canadian players on
the Orbis tournament web site:
www.bermudabowl.com



Happy New Year
Wishing a warm 2000 to all

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The previous issue of Bridge Canada focussed on ACBL-Canada relations.

The CBF motion which was sent to the ACBL was published in the September issue. Feedback was requested from the membership. Feedback we got, and then some.

Letters ranged from total condemnation of the CBF as irrelevant, through encouragement for what the CBF does currently, to strong support for separation. All the letters received were passionate in nature. It seems that feelings run high, but with no clear mandate emerging.

At the time I write this column, the Boston meetings have not yet taken place, but there is enough encouragement from the ACBL with regard to an apparent change of attitude reflecting a conciliatory approach for us to be at least somewhat hopeful.

Robin Wigdor, a lawyer who has been involved since the founding of the CBF, writes with his ideas of a solution (see page 4). Questions were asked about how the ACBL-CBF relationship deteriorated.

How we got here: The CBF resolution published in the September issue accurately reflected the state of affairs between CBF and ACBL at that time. Relationships swing like a pendulum. Deteriorating relationships spawn calls for creating an autonomous CBF, with full control of revenues, etc. However I agree with Robin Wigdor's view that an independent CBF may solve many of the problems, but would likely create a whole new set of issues...not the least of which is how to set up a permanent infrastructure for an organization that relies almost totally on volunteers.

The Canadian representatives on the ACBL Board of Directors (George Retek, Jonathan Steinberg, and Dick Anderson) have effectively

championed the interests of Canada, but constantly face the challenge of persuading other ACBL Board members that their views should be supported – a formidable task when there are three Canadian members and twenty-two non-Canadians. In recent years the make-up of the Board has shifted, and Canada's ability to advance its interests has suffered.

Due to a number of factors, some of which are listed below, the CBF Board felt it had little option but to state its case in the form of a motion.

1. The ACBL had voted to withdraw the right of Canada to approve their own teams for international play.
2. The ACBL was indifferent regarding its failure to reconcile membership accounts for Canadian members.
3. The CBF was facing steadily declining revenues, which if left unchecked, could have led to a financial crisis.
4. The ACBL was increasingly non-responsive to routine requests from the CBF.

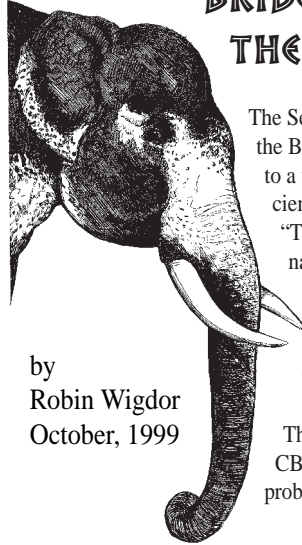
The CBF Board was prepared to seriously pursue a course that could have led to a completely independent CBF. This was not a particularly attractive option, but given the problems faced, there was little choice. Either the ACBL had to make a greater effort to address issues important to the CBF and Canadian ACBL members, or it would have to deal with the CBF in a totally different relationship.

Fortunately, since the CBF motion was passed, the ACBL has made a concerted effort, especially in communicating with the CBF, accounting procedures, and realizing that yes, there are problems.

There is still a lot of work to do, but at least progress is being made.

Doug Heron, President, CBF Board of Directors

BRIDGE WITH THE ELEPHANT: THE CBF AND THE ACBL



by
Robin Wigdor
October, 1999

The September issue of Bridge Canada printed a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of the Canadian Bridge Federation, addressed to a variety of problems (“...the ACBL accounting system is deficient...”; “the ACBL has been unwilling to work with the CBF...”; “The ACBL displays a lack of sensitivity regarding issues of national sovereignty,...”). The resolution also provided that, while cooperating with the ACBL in a search for solutions, “the CBF will concurrently investigate its options with respect to forming an independent, lower cost and more efficient organization to take over the sanctioning of duplicate bridge in Canada.”

The Board resolution, and other reports of Canada’s, and the CBF’s problems with the ACBL, reflect two structural and systemic problems.

Independent Sanctioning Organization

With the exception of CBF sponsored events, duplicate bridge in Canada is administered by the ACBL (both CBF and ACBL-wide events are sanctioned by the ACBL). Canada is not distinguished from the U.S. in tournament operation, membership services, master point awards and ratings, and so forth. One consequence is that tournament and membership revenues are enjoyed by the ACBL. Another is the “lack of sensitivity” reported by the CBF Board, reflected in the ACBL’s “inability to provide French language service to Canadian francophones”. While operational improvements may be negotiated, an implementation of the obvious solution to the underlying problem will not be simple and will not necessarily provide a net benefit to Canadian bridge players. Nonetheless, the CBF Board has (appropriately) resolved to “investigate its options with respect to forming an independent, lower cost and more efficient organization to take over the sanctioning of duplicate bridge in Canada”.

Eliminating the Conflict of Interest

Many of the issues stem from, or are exacerbated by, the ACBL’s inherent conflict of interest in acting both as the United States National Contract Bridge Organization and the North American Zonal Organization.

Zonal Organizations exercise control over competitors selected for many of the world championship events. This naturally extends to control over the selection process and player participation, financial subsidies, as many Canadian players are painfully aware. The Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge delegate regulatory authority in a number of areas to Zonal Organizations (including the power of an appeal committee “to do equity” (Law 12); and, as all tournament players must know, regulation of the use of bidding and play conventions, and even certain partnership understandings (Law 40)). The seven Zonal Organizations control the WBF through the appointment of its Executive Council. (The ACBL appoints 5 of the 15 appointed members.)

National Contract Bridge Organizations, on the other hand, have little influence on the World Bridge Federation. They meet only once every two years, coincident with WBF Olympiad events. One need only skim the minutes of the last such meeting to understand the pro forma role enjoyed by National Contract Bridge Organizations. The Canadian Bridge Federation is a National Contract Bridge Organization.

While the American Contract Bridge League is also a National Contract Bridge Organization, for the United States only, it also is the Zonal Organization for all of North America, including Canada. This circumstance is unique in the World Bridge Federation. It came about for obscure historical reasons, circumstances which existed when the World Bridge Federation was first created. The only rationale for continuing this anachronism is the biased preferment of the interests of the United States and American players over the other countries and players the ACBL purports to represent.

Unlike the first of the two structural and systemic problems, the obvious solution here is simple and will provide a net benefit to Canadian bridge players.



The Canadian Bridge Federation, and the other North American National Contract Bridge Organizations, should make the creation of a new North American Zonal Organization a priority. All of the powers and obligations of a Zonal Organization under the World Bridge Federation charter, and under the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, should be removed from the ACBL and transferred to that new Zonal Organization. Separating the control over North America's representatives to world championship events from the responsibilities of the body charged with representing the interests of the United States alone is obviously included.

This won't solve all of the problems enunciated by the Canadian Bridge Federation Board of Directors, but it will solve many of them, and be a start to solving others. Unless and until the ACBL representation in international and world bridge affairs, of the non-U.S. North American National Contract Bridge Organizations, is terminated, the creation of an "independent" Canadian Bridge Federation will create more problems than it solves.

CBF BOARD ELECTIONS

In Zone III only one candidate submitted his name; therefore Ray Lee is elected to the position of Zone III CBF Director by acclamation. In Zone VI no candidates submitted their names so Aidan Ballantyne is declared re-elected by acclamation.



BID BOLDLY, PLAY SAFE

By Ray Lee

Watching the top Juniors play, it is hard not to think of the title of this article, which was a maxim of the late Rixi Markus. Many of our younger players, like Rixi, are certainly capable of playing the spots off the cards which, when one considers the contracts their aggressive bidding often lands them in, is just as well.

Just last week, several Junior stars were auctioned off as partners at Doubles Bridge Club in a Toronto fund-raiser for the Canadian Youth Bridge Festival team. Playing with Doug Markovich (not a shy bidder either), Colin Lee found himself declarer in the optimistic contract of seven spades on the following layout.

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

West rejected the 'automatic' trump lead, and put a diamond on the table, which Colin won in dummy. If spades were 2-2, he would need 'only' the ruffing finesse in clubs. The fourth club would be available for a diamond pitch,

and dummy would still have a trump to take care of South's third diamond. It seemed logical, therefore, to draw a couple of rounds of trumps early on and see how the land lay. Of course, as the cards lay, it's possible to ruff that third diamond in dummy anyway, since West has to follow to three rounds of diamonds, but declarer didn't know that, and it wasn't a risk he felt he could afford to take.

At trick two, Colin cashed the spade ace, then the heart ace, but now made an error by crossing over to the spade king. In order to time this hand exactly right, it's important to cash the two high clubs early and end up in hand after the second round of trumps. At the table, however, the defense did not take advantage of this slight slip.

After the second high trump, Colin cashed the top clubs and ruffed a heart back to hand, noting the fall of the king and nine of hearts on the two rounds of the suit. By this time, he could see that West was 3-2-3-5, so that the simplistic line of playing to ruff a diamond in dummy would actually have worked. It was too late for that, though, by now – entries are too tangled to manage it. But there was a very nice alternative. First came the club jack, which West forgivably did not cover (had he done so, there would be no story, as again the lack of communication would no longer have allowed South to engineer a winning ending). Declarer summoned up his courage and threw a diamond from dummy on the club jack, which held the trick as East showed out.

By now, Colin had a pretty complete count on the hand, so he drew West's last trump with the spade queen, arriving at this position (top of next page).

<p style="text-align: center;">West</p> <p>♠ — ♥ — ♦ 8 7 ♣ Q 8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">East</p> <p>♠ — ♥ Q 10 ♦ Q J ♣ —</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">North</p> <p>♠ 10 ♥ J 7 ♦ K ♣ —</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">South</p> <p>♠ 9 ♥ — ♦ 10 6 ♣ 10</p>

At this point the last club was led, covered by the queen (one trick too late!) and ruffed in dummy, catching East (a spectator so far) in the jaws of a trump squeeze. If he threw a diamond, declarer would cash North's king, then ruff a heart back to hand to claim the ten of diamonds as his thirteenth trick. Instead, East reluctantly parted with the ten of hearts. Now Colin ruffed a heart back to hand, setting up the jack in dummy as East's queen fell on this trick, returned to dummy with the diamond king, and scored up the grand slam via the jack of hearts.

Nicely done. Next time I get myself into one of those thin slams, I think I'll try to make sure there's a promising Junior around to play the hand.

CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION HALL OF FAME

BOARD SEEKING MEMBERS' INPUT - At its Annual Meeting in May 1999, the Board of Directors of the Canadian Bridge Federation voted to create a Canadian Bridge Hall of Fame.

It was felt that the time had come to honour those who, through their play, innovation or contribution to the game of bridge in Canada, deserved to be recognized. It was also noted that due to current ACBL procedures, a Canadian is highly unlikely to be voted into the ACBL Hall of Fame. Therefore the CBF has decided to honour the Canadian players, Directors, Administrators, Coaches, etc, who have been in the forefront of Bridge, and others who will have been there as time goes on.

Leo Weniger was appointed to look into the subject and come up with a proposal to create a Hall of Fame. It was noted that due to lack of funds, the Hall would have to start as a "virtual" Hall of Fame, with no actual physical location, but with a site on the CBF homepage. The aim is to have the proposal approved at the Annual Board Meeting in May. Leo is looking for CBF members' input into the creation and operation of the Hall of Fame. Please forward your suggestions or comments by February 1st to Leo Weniger (see page 2). The following are issues to be resolved:

- Who is eligible to be elected (citizenship and residency?)
- Election categories (deceased, players, builders, innovators?)
- Election criteria (how should voters decide who to vote for?)
- Eligible voters (who are the voters?)
- How many elected annually
- Nominating procedure (who nominates?)
- Election procedure
- Formal acknowledgment of election (reception at Bridge Week?)

Comments on any or all of the above questions would be appreciated.

CANADA'S TEAM: *International Youth Bridge Festival 2000*

by Jonathan Steinberg

In 1999, TEAM CANADA won the 7th Youth Bridge Festival in 'sHertogenbosch. There were 24 teams from 21 countries represented. I would like to introduce Canada's team for the 2000 International Youth Bridge Festival 'sHertogenbosch, the Netherlands this month.

Vincent Demuy, 16, Laval (Montreal), PQ. Vincent is a very well respected young player who will develop into one of Canada's leading experts. He already has 500 masterpoints.

Charles Halasi, 16, Toronto. You may see Charles behind the wheel of the family car as he is now licensed. Be warned! Charles has 650 masterpoints.

David Sabourin, 15, Dunrobin (Ottawa), ON. David holds the record of being Canada's youngest Life Master, a feat he accomplished at 14 years, 11 days! He already has 500 masterpoints.

This will be the first trip overseas for all three of the above. It will be a tremendous developmental experience for them. They are all extremely excited about the prospect.

Returning to the Netherlands for a second time (Colin in '97; Gavin in '98) are:

Colin Lee, 24, Toronto. Colin represented Canada at the WJBC in 1997 and 1999 and is eagerly looking forward to his last chance to

represent Canada in a WJBC (in 2001). Amsterdam will be a great training session for Colin as well as a chance to scout his eventual WJBC opposition.

Gavin Wolpert, 17, Toronto. Gavin is a Silver LM (almost 1,500 masterpoints). Gavin is a full time high school student who is also a part time caddy, teacher, and tournament director at Doubles BC. This trip will be an opportunity for Gavin to display his leadership abilities.

Ben Zeidenberg, 25, is our coach. He will be working with the players on OKbridge, trying to hone their skills and help them prepare for the Festival. Ben is teaching them how to download, fill out, and familiarize themselves with the WBF convention card and alert system (he will not be travelling to Holland with us).

Jonathan Steinberg will be the Non Playing Captain for the team.

Team 2000 would like to thank the Canadian Bridge Federation, Doubles Bridge Club in Toronto, Unit 166 (Ontario/Toronto), Unit 192 (Eastern Ontario/Ottawa), and Unit 151. Your support has helped make this trip possible and is greatly appreciated by all of us.

WANTED: JUNIOR NON-PLAYING CAPTAIN/MANAGER

The CBF is looking for a person to run the CBF Junior program leading up to the next World Junior Bridge Championship in the year 2001. The person selected would: run this program; make recommendations on the trials/selection process; organize coaching and training; play a major role in selecting the Canadian team or teams; and eventually be NPC of Canada I at the next WJBC.

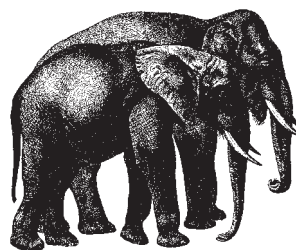
This is a volunteer position. Persons with serious interest should forward a formal proposal to Doug Heron (*see p 2*) by the end of January, 2000. Please include your ideas on how the program could work, and some indication of how much time and effort you would be prepared to devote to the Junior program over the next two years or so.

RICHMOND TROPHY

1.	Ken Warren, Delaware ON	1001
2.	Ken Gee, Regina SK	890
3.	Andy Stark, Mississauga ON	573
4.	Jeff Smith, Gloucester ON	527
5.	John Zaluski, Nepean ON	488
6.	Martin Caley, Montreal PQ	464
7.	Darren Wolpert, Thornhill ON	463
8.	Doug Fraser, Mount Royal PQ	452
9.	William Koski, King City ON	420
10.	Fred Gitelman, Toronto ON	402
11.	Allan Graves, Vancouver BC	392
12.	Patrice Roy, Sherbrooke PQ	364
13.	Don Brock, Brampton ON	362
14.	Barry Pritchard, Edmonton AB	362
15.	Claude Laberge, Longueuil PQ	359
16.	Helene Beaulieu, Sherbrooke PQ	358
17.	Faith Pritchard, Edmonton AB	352
18.	Heather Peckett, Nepean ON	333
19.	William Treble, Winnipeg MB	328
20.	Jonathan Ferguson, Vanier ON	327
21.	R. F. Smith, Don Mills ON	324
22.	Jurek Czyzowicz, Aylmer PQ	320
23.	Martin Hunter, Mississauga ON	315
24.	Gavin Wolpert, Thornhill ON	315
25.	Marc-Andre Fourcaudot, Montreal	314
26.	Boris Baran, Cote-Saint-Luc PQ	309
27.	John McAdam, Ottawa ON	308
28.	Jonathan Steinberg, Toronto ON	302
29.	George Mittelman, Toronto ON	300
30.	Dan Jacob, Burnaby BC	297
31.	Debbie Bennett, Scarborough ON	288
32.	Anna Boivin, Victoria BC	287
33.	Rene Pelletier, Quebec PQ	280
34.	Francesca Walton, Calgary AB	280
35.	Nader Hanna, Willowdale ON	279
36.	Richard Anderson, Regina SK	279
37.	Colin Revill, Burlington ON	278
38.	Louise Zicat, Gatineau PQ	271
39.	Kevin Conway, Kirkland Lake ON	270
40.	Henry Caspar, Toronto ON	266
41.	Ranald Davidson, Thornhill ON	266
42.	David Baker, Kitchener ON	265
43.	Jeffrey Blond, Cote St. Luc PQ	264
44.	Despina Georgas, Willowdale ON	261
45.	Paul Graham, Calgary AB	261
46.	Andre Chartrand, Chateauguay PQ	257
47.	Bernard Turenne, Charlesbourg PQ	257
48.	Hans Jacobs, Aurora ON	256
49.	Mark Liberman, Don Mills ON	255
50.	Pierre Beaugard, St. Lazare PQ	253

CANADIAN MASTERPOINT RACES

as of November 1, 1999

**JUNIOR**

1.	Jeff Smith, Gloucester ON	527
2.	Darren Wolpert, Thornhill ON	463
3.	Gavin Wolpert, Thornhill ON	315
4.	Ian Boyd, Calgary AB	252
5.	Craig Barkhouse, Barrie ON	251
6.	Erin Anderson, Regina SK	244
7.	Charles Halasi, Toronto ON	209
8.	Isabelle Brisebois, Gloucester ON	207
9.	Vincent Demuy, Laval PQ	155
10.	David Grainger, Etobicoke ON	148
11.	Danny Miles, Waterloo ON	134

YOUTH

1.	Gavin Wolpert, Thornhill ON	315
2.	Erin Anderson, Regina SK	244
3.	Charles Halasi, Toronto ON	209
4.	Isabelle Brisebois, Gloucester ON	207
5.	Vincent Demuy, Laval PQ	155
6.	David Grainger, Etobicoke ON	148
7.	David Sabourin, Dunrobin ON	115
8.	Susan Harbour, West Hill ON	111
9.	Josh Heller, Toronto ON	109
10.	Matthew Mason, Kingston ON	78
11.	Andrew Haydon, Kingston ON	58
12.	Daniel Lavee, Thornhill ON	53
13.	Andrew Thomas, Scarborough ON	38
14.	Mark Donovan, Kingston ON	30
15.	James McCahill, Sarnia ON	29
16.	Douglas Niblock, Maberly ON	27
17.	Samantha Nystrom, Burnaby BC	27



Bridge Week 2000 is part of an exciting Festival of Bridge in Halifax, Nova Scotia!

Experience Maritime Hospitality and all the bridge you want!

JUNE 23 - JULY 3, 2000

Festival of Bridge: Halifax 2000 will include several events:

- Bridge Week • CNTC, CWTC and COPC National Finals June 23-29, 2000
- Canadian Atlantic Regional (the CanAt) June 28-July 3
- Plus, some special local events for seniors, youth, and an educational program with Audrey Grant.

If you are interested in competing in one of the Bridge Week events, here are some things to know:

- **Air Canada** (and its Regional affiliated carriers) is our **official airline**. If you are flying to Halifax for any Festival-related events, just quote our personalized event number CV004071 and you receive a discount of *between 5% and 35%* off your fare (dependent upon the type of ticket you purchase).
- **The Lord Nelson Hotel & Suites** is the host hotel for Bridge Week and offers a special rate of \$99 Cdn per night. This recently renovated hotel is conveniently located in the downtown. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-565-2020 and referencing "bridge". **ALERT: Book before May 22, 2000.** After that day our "Block Booked" rooms will be released to the general public.
- the **CNTC starts on Friday, June 23** with a 4-day round robin
- the **CWTC starts on Saturday, June 24** with a 3-day round robin
- the 2-day **COPC starts on Wednesday, June 28**
In the COPC, only club level qualification is necessary. All players participating in the CNTC and CWTC are automatically qualified.
The top 4 placings in the COPC are awarded cash prizes.

For specific event details and schedules please refer to the Conditions of Contest or visit the CBF website www.cbf.ca. For local information contact Mary Moulton at (902) 455-9631 or by e mail: mary.moulton@ns.sympatico.ca



The CanAt Regional begins on Wednesday, June 28th and continues through **Monday, July 3rd**. A wide range of events including bridge tips and lectures for the I/N players is planned throughout this 6-day Regional. The World Trade and Convention Centre is the playing site for the CanAt and is a 10 min walk from the Lord Nelson Hotel & Suites. Other conveniently located accommodations are available and information can be obtained by contacting beryl@sprint.ca

Festival of Bridge: Halifax 2000 incorporates special days:

Canada Day Bridge & Brunch on July 1st. A fun-filled event for those 55 and over. A relaxed game for seniors with brunch to follow.

Thrills & Skills event for juniors & youth being held Wednesday, June 28th. This is an opportunity for our younger players to meet and watch some of the best players in Canada. A lunch with a game especially designed for our young players will make this an exciting day for participants.

Come and Join your Maritime hosts for this exciting Festival!



FROM THE CBF ARCHIVIST

Madeline Conrad

The Canadian Bridge Federation was formed in 1966 to develop a sense of national identity among Canadian bridge players. The CBF's first major project was to hold nation-wide trials to determine national representation for the World Championships. By 1968, this was accomplished and efforts then turned to another major project: a national publication as Canada was at that time one of the few member countries of the World Bridge Federation without at least one first-quality publication.

The "maiden" issue of the Canadian Bridge Digest went to press September 1968 and was a "Special Olympiad Issue" because "the mail strike" had prevented the arrival of material from all parts of Canada. The second issue appeared one year later with contributions from all Zones and had a truly national flavour. This issue marks the 30th year (Volume 30, Number 1) of Bridge Canada (aka Canadian Bridge Canadien, and the Canadian Bridge Digest).

I am presently in communication with the National Library of Canada and am in the process of gathering 2 full sets of CBF publications which will eventually be a part of the Library's holdings. One set will be kept on file, the other will be available for borrowing by anyone across Canada. A reader would need only look it up in the catalogue and have it sent to his or her library branch.

To this end, I ask that if anyone *happens* to have a complete set of publications, would they please contact me (see page 2).

MARY & DICK EDNEY

WORLD'S LONGEST
RUNNING CONTINUOUS
BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP

by Jim Priebe, Mississauga



Mary MacDonald and Richard Edney of Ottawa won their first major bridge tournament in Toronto in 1938. They emerged as winners of the Percy Sheardown event for intermediate players. Thirty-one years later, as Mary and Dick Edney of Kingston, Ontario, they returned to Toronto to win the regional Open Pairs championship in a field of 592 pairs! Twenty eight years after that, in 1997, they were ACBL champions in the worldwide instant match-point game. Will anyone ever beat their record of 66 plus years as a winning bridge partnership?

Fiery, beautiful, redheaded Mary had been an outstanding player in rubber bridge circles in her early twenties in Ottawa. "In the 1930's?" you ask. Mary says she made more money playing rubber bridge than she did at her job! She confides, "The men always played their best when I was their partner."

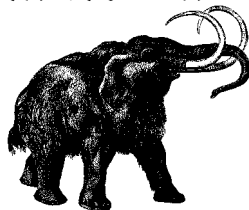
Dick became an expert bridge analyst at an early age. He wrote articles for *The Bridge World*

back in the late 1930's and early 1940's. His knowledge of squeezes and endplays was impressive, coming in an era when regular players were struggling to learn when to draw trumps. One article earned him a cheque from Ely Culbertson for fifteen dollars, and Dick says he wishes he had never cashed it! He has retained, in his files, letters of acceptance on behalf of *The Bridge World* from Alphonse Moyses and Alfred Sheinwold, for articles dated 1938 and 1939 (but no cheque!).

The Edneys won prizes in every activity they took seriously -- curling, lawn bowling, and gardening, as well as bridge. Here are a few of the headlines from their scrapbook: "Reaches Ontario Finals"; "Dominate District"; "Mary Edney Wins Title in Singles"; "Trophy Goes to Edney"; and "Edneys win Tourney". There is no end to these titles!

David Edney, their son, is a brilliant scholar and a professor at the University of Saskatchewan.

INTERNATIONAL FUND CALCUTTA



There will be a Calcutta or Cash prize game(s), with proceeds to the International Fund which subsidizes the Canadian teams that go to World Championships, during Bridge Week 2000 in Halifax. The options are a 1 or 2-session game or 2 single-session games, either on Thurs, June 22 (the day before CNTC starts) or Tues, June 27 (the day after the CNTC and CWTC Round Robin and the day before COPC and CanAt Regional). We invite readers' (and potential players and auction participants) comments on format and date. Contact Leo Weniger (see page 2) by January 31, 2000.

FILLING IN FOR MARGE

By R.H. Edney

Yesterday afternoon I answered the phone at the office and heard my wife Marge's voice at the other end. She is usually too busy playing bridge to phone me, so I began to think of a pipe bursting in the bathroom or a garage fire. "William dear," she began, and I knew something was up. "I forgot to tell you it was my turn to entertain the bridge club today, and would you mind very much coming home early and filling in for a few hands?"

I protested feebly, but Marge insisted that the girls were all good players, even if they did only play for a twentieth of a cent a point. I took Marge's place opposite an elderly Miss Keon, who, I learned, was a retired school teacher – a tall, sharp-featured woman with a long beaky nose, who looked as though she might rap me over the knuckles with a ruler if I made a wrong lead. Our opponents were Mrs. Bickerton who smoked endless numbers of cigarettes, lighting each one from the butt of the previous one, and Mrs. Porter, a meek white-haired old lady who smoked the same cigarette throughout the game, not noticing that it had gone out before she got it well started. After passing one hand our opponents managed to make game on two part scores, and then Mrs. Bickerton dealt out the following rock crusher.

Miss Keon ♠ 8 ♥ 106 ♦ J652 ♣ J109863	Mrs. Porter ♠ 9 ♥ QJ ♦ AK84 ♣ KQ7542
Me ♠ Q7632 ♥ 98753 ♦ Q103 ♣ ---	Mrs. Bickerton ♠ AKJ1054 ♥ AK42 ♦ 97 ♣ A

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
2♠	P	3♣	P
3♠	P	4♦	P
5NT	P	7♣	Dbl
7♠	P	P	Dbl
P	P	7NT	Dbl
P	P	Rdbl	All Pass

I must confess that my doubles were based chiefly on the fact that the hands seemed to be a misfit, and having scared them out of seven clubs felt they had got a little out of their depth. Against the re-doubled seven-notrump contract my partner opened the jack of clubs, I showed out, and the trick was won by declarer's ace. Mrs. Bickerton now entered dummy with the jack of hearts and continued with the queen. She could figure from my double of seven spades that the spade suit wouldn't run, and even assuming the spade finesse would work could count only 12 tricks. She therefore cashed the king and queen of clubs in dummy, led the nine of spades and finessed the ten from her own hand. She cashed the king of hearts and the ace and king of spades, Miss Keon discarding two clubs and a diamond. Mrs. Bickerton, the distribution clearly revealed, could now visualize this cute little set-up:

DUMMY	
Miss Keon ♠ --- ♥ --- ♦ J65 ♣ 10	Me ♠ Q ♥ --- ♦ Q103 ♣ ---
Mrs. Bickerton	
♠ J ♥ A ♦ 97 ♣ ---	

On the lead of the ace of hearts, Miss Keon had to throw a diamond to keep the high club. Dummy discarded the club and now I was on the spot. The lead being in Mrs. Bickerton's hand I had to part with a diamond to keep my high spade. Mrs. Bickerton then laid down her hand and chirped apparently for my benefit, "The diamonds are good now."

"Oh, beautifully played partner," gushed Mrs. Porter.

I glanced sheepishly at Miss Keon but that worthy only added to my discomfiture by remarking icily, "Too bad you doubled the spades partner. A club lead would have set them two at seven spades."

After another redoubled monstrosity which ended up minus an even thousand for Miss Keon and me, on a hand I could have made, this finale came along. By this time, the ladies at the other table had finished their game, and came over to watch us play.

	Mrs. Porter	
	♠ 1084	
	♥ J1095	
	♦ 9	
	♣ K983	
Miss Keon		Me
♠ AJ3		♠ K762
♥ AK83		♥ 64
♦ 52		♦ AKJ863
♣ AJ72		♣ 4
	Mrs. Bickerton	
	♠ Q95	
	♥ Q72	
	♦ Q1074	
	♣ Q106	

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
P	1♣	P	1♦
P	1♥	P	3♦
P	4NT	P	6♦
Dbl	All pass		

Remembering the pained look on dear Miss Keon's face when we lost the thousand points on a previous hand, I refrained from a spiteful redouble, realizing I was a bit optimistic as it was. Marge came round and looked at my hand then retired disgustedly to the kitchen. With a contemptuous sniff, Mrs. Bickerton went into a huddle over her opening lead and finally came up with the six of clubs.

It seemed logical that if Mrs. Bickerton had the king and queen of clubs she would have led the king, and surely she would not lead from a king against a six-bid. With the hope of an end-play in mind, I took the opening lead with the ace in dummy and ruffed a low club, Mrs. Bickerton playing the ten which led me to believe she had more than two clubs or she would have opened the ten to show her doubleton. I now laid down the ace of trump, hoping Mrs. Porter would follow suit. When she played a diamond I began to plan my play on the assumption that Mrs. Bickerton started with four diamonds to the queen ten.

I returned to dummy with the ace of hearts and trumped another club, Mrs. Bickerton's queen falling. I next played the king of hearts from dummy then ruffed a heart, and another of Mrs. Bickerton's queens bit the dust. However, I could not be sure she was not false-carding. I now turned my attention to the spade suit, led to dummy and with my heart in my mouth finessed the jack. When it held, things looked definitely brighter.

Fervently praying that Mrs. Bickerton had started with 3-3-4-3 distribution, I cashed the ace of spades and led a third round. I almost whooped for joy, as I triumphantly led out the thirteenth spade, knowing Mrs. Bickerton was down to trumps and would have to lead into my king-jack. But at this juncture Mrs. Porter cast a pall over the proceedings by saying, "Oh dear, I only have two cards left." I glared and told her she must have played two on the last trick.

"How many did you have when you started?" asked Miss Keon.

"Let me see," began Mrs. Porter, "I had a singleton diamond, four hearts to the jack, three spades and-yes, I only had twelve cards because I had only four clubs to the king."

After several minutes search, it was found that Mrs. Porter had been sitting on the ♣5.

"Misdeal," cried Mrs. Bickerton throwing her cards on the table.

"But Mrs. Bickerton," I remonstrated "the hand has to be played out now."

"Not in this club it doesn't," snapped Mrs. Bickerton. "We don't play any deals with less than 52 cards. Isn't that right, Alice?"

"Yes, I guess so," conceded my estimable partner.

With a sigh of disgust, I excused myself, lest I might speak my thoughts, and retired to the kitchen.

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IN MEMORIAM • JOHN DAVISON • 1948-1999

We regret to report the demise of the popular ACBL director, teacher and player Mr. John Davison, known to most of us by his nickname "JD", on August 23, 1999 after the onset of two forms of cancer.

John began directing in clubs in the mid - 1970's. He was promoted to sectional director in 1985 and subsequently worked at the NABC's in the early 1990's. JD's personality was very special in that he was able - as a director - to make rulings and resolve disputes among players without creating any enemies for himself. John was also a bridge teacher with a deep theoretical and practical interest in bridge systems. JD's teaching ability enabled his students to attain higher levels of bridge skill through his regular classes at the Bow River B.C. Many of us will also remember his post-game insights into the play of the cards.

JD's professional career did not prevent him from being a keen competitor. One of his proud achievements was to be the playing captain of the winning team in the Flight A VP Swiss in the Alberta Regional in Edmonton in July this year.

John held an M.A. degree in linguistics and had a linguist's knowledge of Spanish, French, German, Latin and other languages, but his speciality was the grammar of Halkomelem Salish, a Native Canadian language. John's love of language extended to limericks, wordplay, puns and jokes which were often risqué.

JD enjoyed good food, good bridge and good friends. He acquired an extensive collection of vintage wines to enhance the aforementioned. We all appreciated his bright, colourful personality which was accented by his flamboyant ties.

During John's illness there was a large outpouring of affection and support from all the members of Unit 390. He was assisted by many volunteers who assuredly lightened the load of his daily tasks and health care in his last months. John is survived by two siblings, his mother in Victoria, his good friend the linguist John Archibald, ACBL National Director Steve Bates and by his special friend Jean Bachinsky.

Compiled by his friends.

IN MEMORIAM

JERRY ACETI • 1927 – 1999

Partner: “But Jerry, why did you bid notrump? You had a perfectly natural suit bid.”

Jerry: “Because I had a feeling that the final contract was going to be notrump.”

Partner: “Yes, but then what about the agreed bidding system?”

Jerry: “ Well, what about it?”

Partner: “Aren’t we playing Standard American?”

Jerry: “If you say so. The bottom line is that, as declarer, I play a notrump contract way better than you. And this, my friend, is not part of any system.”

This conversation actually never took place. But it truly reflects the superior handling of notrump contracts by Jerry. He was too polite a man to elaborate on the shortcomings of others. Even though he was sympathetic to the somewhat limited expertise of most who played with him, it was not easy being his partner. He had a natural instinct for the game that far outweighed the need for exhaustive bidding conventions. And he expected partners to come up with the same brilliant bids and declarer play as he demonstrated time and again.

But if you think that playing with Jerry was difficult, playing against him was a formidable task. He terrorized his opponents. It was impossible to make out what he was thinking, sitting there without an expression. The unassuming declarers and defenders were often fooled with his carding, a trap first neatly laid out and finally well executed. At the bridge table, he got away with murder.

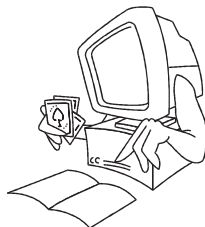
Jerry loved the game and traveled all over North America to play. As long as his health permitted, he and wife Jean were a constant feature at sectionals, regionals, and the North American Bridge Championships. However, in the last year, he had slowed down as his heart began to fail him. His accomplishments in tournament bridge were impressive. He was a member of our team which represented Northern Ontario (Unit 238) several times in the Canadian National Team Championship (CNTC). I had the opportunity to play with him in several major pair events, the last one being the North American Open Pairs (NAOP) unit final in Sault St. Marie in November 1997. We came second in both sessions.

I once complained to him that bridge players kept repeating their errors. Jerry smiled and quoted Hegel: “ *What experience and history teach is this – that people and governments never have learned anything from history, or acted on principles deduced from it.*”

“Riz”, he said “just replace people and governments by bridge players and history by the game.” I was reminded that Jerry was a scholar and teacher of history.

Jerry was born on Sept. 24, 1927 in North Bay. He died in Sudbury on Jan. 23, 1999. He is survived by his wife Jean. With his death, Canada has lost a remarkable bridge player and I, a mentor and dear friend. Bridge was his passion at which he excelled. At the Sudbury Bridge Club he will be sadly missed.

Rizwan Haq



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THE 1999 CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Eric Kokish & Beverly Kraft

The Canadian Bridge Federation's 1999 Bridge Week, our National Finals, took place in Toronto, July 11-17, at the Yorkdale Holiday Inn. The September 1999 issue of Bridge Canada listed results and team rosters so we will not reprint that here. Following are excerpts from Eric Kokish and Beverly Kraft's excellent coverage of the CNTC and the CWTC. Portions of this coverage were printed in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin September and October 1999. The hands discussed here are ones not seen in the ACBL's magazine. This issue will contain hands from the Round Robins only. The May 2000 issue will continue with stories from the Quarter, Semi, and Final matches.

The Open Team Championship (CNTC) featured a large field of 28 teams who had qualified over the preceding ten months in the six CBF zones. The Women's Team Championships (CWTC) attracted 20 entries. This was apparently a larger number than the organisers had expected, for the playing room for the women was bursting at the seams.

The first stage in both the National Teams Finals was a complete round robin of nine-board matches, duplicated boards, IMPs converted to Victory Points on the dreaded WBF VP scale. The scoring method was a contentious issue, with many of the strongest players favouring the traditional Canadian method in which every IMP up to the designated "blitz" level counted as a full VP (e.g., both teams start with 40 VP, team A wins by 26; the score is 66-14). The CBF Board of Directors, believing that the world should emulate the WBF in its teams championships, changed horses and sprung a straw vote on the Open

Team captains at the pre-tournament Captains' Meeting. That informal poll demonstrated strong support for the WBF method, which treats blocks of IMPs as VP, a method that leaves open the possibility that Team A might win 100imps more than Team B over the course of the round robin and finish with the same number of VPs. We can't help but feel that a matter of such significance merits a formal debate, laying out the issues clearly, and polling not only the captains (many of whom were totally unprepared) but also the rest of the players involved. As it happens, it was later revealed that several captains voted directly against the beliefs of their team-mates, who had not been consulted in advance. If we were less personally involved, we'd let you know just how reprehensible we feel this procedure really was. Not to mention that the women were not consulted at all. (*Ed note: The poll did not apply to the current event as the Conditions of Contest were already set for 1999. Rather, it was intended to provide some idea of how many players felt strongly about going back to the 'old' scale. As Eric points out, there was strong support for the WBF scale currently in use.*)

The round robins qualified eight teams for the knockout phase, with the winners earning the right to select their quarterfinal opponents from the teams finishing fifth through eighth, with second place choosing next. In the semi-finals, the highest surviving round robin finishers again chose their opponents. In theory at least, that's a nice reward for three (CWTC) or four (CNTC) days of work. There was no carryover into the knockout stage.

A VP tie for final qualifying spot in the CNTC was decided in the end by a highly ethical act on the part of Marc-André Fourcaudot when he remembered to check to see if a 1VP procedural penalty assessed to his team earlier in the round robin had actually been deducted (*see Bridge Canada September 1999 p16*). In the aftermath of such tumultuous proceedings, it is

surely anticlimactic to reflect upon that conclusive procedural penalty. Nonetheless, its nature might give us reason to consider the current state of the game. It was assessed because a pair playing variable notrump ranges had made a change a few weeks earlier and one partner had forgotten the latest arrangement. Different explanations of the strength range for a major-suit raise by a minor-suit opener created some confusion, although their opponents were not deemed by the Director or the Appeals Committee to have been damaged as a result. Why, then, was the penalty assessed? Because the Committee felt that it was important to send a message to pairs playing complex, unfamiliar, active methods to know their stuff.

THE ROUND ROBIN

There were plenty of good deals in the round robin. Here are a few of them.

Board 9-23	North		
Dealer: S	♠ AK5	East	♠ J1082
Vul: B	♥ QJ95	♥ —	♦ KQ103
	♦ 65	♦ AK653	
	♣ Q1084		
West		South	
♠ Q7643		♠ 9	
♥ K743		♥ A10862	
♦ J8		♦ A9742	
♣ 97		♣ J2	

At many tables the bidding started this way:

West	North	East	South
P	1♣	P	P
P	2♥	Double	4♥
?			

East's double is takeout of hearts, suggesting length in clubs and a good hand. Actually, East is "classic" for his bidding. West has reasonable defense against 4♥ but not really enough

to double, and at the same time has reason to believe that he might make 4♣. West's decision — pass, double, or 4♣ — is a very close one. Say that West tries 4♣ and North doubles (as was often the case). What would you lead from the North hand? It is attractive to clear trumps and several Norths tried this approach. Not good enough. Declarer wins the third trump and plays three rounds of clubs, ruffing, then the ♦J, ducked, and a diamond to the king and ace. South can put declarer back in dummy with a diamond to ruff out the clubs, with a ruffing entry still in dummy, or play a heart, allowing declarer to score the ♥K for his tenth trick; plus 790. If North leads a simple heart, declarer is forced to use one of dummy's trumps prematurely (he can't afford to discard). If declarer plays three clubs, then two diamonds, South wins the second and clears trumps, this time to the advantage of the defense. Minor suit leads are somewhat neutral, but the defense is likely to prevail, perhaps by killing a diamond discard.

If West elects to defend, what should he lead? A spade allows declarer to discard a club and start diamonds, and he will be able to establish diamonds or cross-ruff. A diamond lead is equally ineffective, and although a trump makes a start on stopping ruffs, declarer will establish diamonds. The best lead is a club, and the auction suggests it. To defeat the contract, East needs only to take both club winners. There were several tables, however, where East switched to the ♦K, not knowing that West held so many spades. That seems wrong for several reasons, not the least of which is that the club lead might have been a singleton.

The biggest swings took place when doubled games were made at both tables, but less dramatic combinations created significant swings in nearly every match. This was the deal that brought the Fourcaudot team their procedural penalty and lost their place in the quarterfinals. After the popular start, their South player tried for game with an artificial 2NT. West asked

☛ CNC Continued from page 18

about North's raise, which had been alerted and was told that North would have four trumps, either unbalanced, or roughly 15-17 points, balanced. West passed, then sold out to 3♥. This was not so, as North/South had tinkered with their notrump ranges a few weeks earlier. South had given East the proper information (standard four-trump raise). East/West appealed but were given no redress (East figured to have a very good hand to bid into the teeth of a potential strong notrump on his right and West was surely safe in competing to 3♠). Nonetheless, the Appeals Committee, feeling that pairs with complex methods ought to be able to explain them properly, docked Fourcaudot 1 VP for what amounted to the sin of the nineties, "Convention Disruption".

How would you plan the play in 4♥ from the short side (transfer sequence) on the lead of the ♠2 (low from odd)?

North
 ♠ K75
 ♥ Q86432
 ♦ —
 ♣ K854

South
 ♠ A96
 ♥ A5
 ♦ AQ76
 ♣ J1092

If you win with the king and play ace and another heart, you will make 4♥ when trumps are three-two and you are able to guess the suit correctly or if you find West with the short queen of clubs and the defenders cannot arrange a ruff before you are able to draw the last trump.

An alternative line is to win the ♠A and run the ♣J immediately, making with the ♣Q onside. Even if there is a club ruff, it might come with a trump trick. On the actual lie, you can change tack even if you start on hearts . . .

North
 ♠ K75
 ♥ Q86432
 ♦ —
 ♣ K854

West
 ♠ 108432
 ♥ K
 ♦ KJ92
 ♣ Q73

East
 ♠ QJ
 ♥ J1097
 ♦ 108543
 ♣ A6

South
 ♠ A96
 ♥ A5
 ♦ AQ76
 ♣ J1092

Should you elect to win the ♠K and cross to the ♥A, the fall of the king should convince you to revert to clubs, which works well enough. A side issue is when to cash the ♦A. There were a few declarers who failed at the table, much to their chagrin.

This deal, from Round 11, presented more than one opportunity to shine or fail . . .

Board 11-2
 Dealer: E
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ K972
 ♥ AJ72
 ♦ Q1065
 ♣ 10

West
 ♠ AJ864
 ♥ K96
 ♦ 973
 ♣ A3

East
 ♠ Q103
 ♥ 10
 ♦ KJ42
 ♣ 86542

South
 ♠ 5
 ♥ Q8543
 ♦ A8
 ♣ KQJ97

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Hughes	Baran	Litvack
		P	1♥
1♠	4♥	All Pass	

Whether or not Boris Baran did well to avoid a reflex 4♠ with the East cards would be determined by the result in 4♥, but with the spade

☛ CNC *Continued from page 19*

save likely to cost 500 points, it seems much better to defend with the East/West cards, trying for a plus.

The defense got off to a good start with the lead of the ♠3, queen, king, ace. Declarer, Irv Litvack, tried the ♣7, but West went in with the ace to continue with the ♠9, which held. West cashed the ♠A before declare could establish the ♠6 (leading the ten to smother the seven) and continued spades. Declarer ruffed in hand, led a trump to the jack, and had to lose a trump to West for one down.

Two minutes later, South was kicking himself. "The defense was good, but I should have made it. Instead of playing a trump to the jack, say that I play ♣K and another club. West shows out, throwing a diamond or a spade, but I ruff in dummy, play ♠K, spade ruff. By this time, I know West has only five spades, exactly two clubs, and (apparently) three diamonds. That leaves him with three trumps, so I should play the queen of trumps from my hand, winning against singleton nine or ten in East. If West covers, I ruff myself in with a spade and finesse against the other minor honour."

He was right, of course. Perhaps spotting the winning line so soon after missing it should earn some brownie points, but Bob Hamman would tell you that it's counterproductive to waste your energy on a deal that you can't get back.

You are West, holding:

♠ K2 ♥ Q109732 ♦ 86 ♣ KQ9

After a pass on your right, you pass, because you do not believe your hand is suitable for a weak 2♥ or a light 1♥. Much to your surprise, it is your partner who introduces hearts . . . at the two-level yet.

These are the remarkably similar auctions you see, if you happen to be one of us:

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Grace	Baran	Bertrand
P	1♠	2♥	2♠
3♠	P	4♥	P
P	4♠	5♣	P
5♥	5♠	Double	P
?			
Kraft		Habert	
			P
P	1♠	2♥	2♠
3♠	4♦	4♥	P
P	4♠	5♣	P
5♥	5♠	Double	P
?			

Although Ray Grace did not mention his diamonds, it was clear that he had quite a few of them. Would you pass the double at either table?

Neither of us did. With the huge double fit and the possibility that most of our side's honours would be worthless on defense, we both took out to 6♥, doubled by North. This was the full deal:

Board 14-7	North	East
Dealer: S	♠ AQJ1054	♠ 73
Vul: B	♥ 6	♥ AK854
	♦ AQ10743	♦ K
	♣ —	♣ A10875
West		South
♠ K2		♠ 986
♥ Q109732		♥ J
♦ 86		♦ J952
♣ KQ9		♣ J6432

Daniel Bertrand led the nine of spades against Baran, who played the king. Grace took the ace, cashed the ♠A, and underled his spade honours to the eight to ruff a club with his singleton trump. Down 800. Well done by the Alberta guys, but it was not yet clear whether it would turn out badly to pull the double.

☛ CNC Continued from page 20

The script was just right to test this issue because the contract at the other table was indeed 5♠ doubled. East led a high heart, then switched to a trump, picking up West's king. Declarer used a trump entry to dummy to lead the ♦J. When it was not covered (diamonds were not bid), Allan Graves played the ace, dropped the king, and chalked up plus 1050. Gain 6.

Rhoda Habert got out for just one down when South led a diamond. North won and cashed the ♠A. Minus 200. Gordon/Thorpe were allowed to buy the hand at 4♠ doubled; plus 790. Gain 12.

Would North make 5♠ on a heart lead and club switch? We think he would fail, playing ♠A, spade to force an entry to dummy to take the wretched diamond finesse.

Many pairs got too high with these cards:
Board 15-5; Dealer: S; N/S Vulnerable

North	South
♠ AKJ10742	♠ —
♥ 8	♥ Q1043
♦ AK43	♦ Q95
♣ 7	♣ AQJ852

We like the disciplined, controlled auction of Mittelman/Graves, who earned 13 imps by stopping safely at 4♠ where their counterparts reached six.

Mittelman	Graves
	1♣
2♠	3♣
3♠	3NT
4♦	4♠

It's unusual to jump-shift when holding a second suit that might be trumps, but in a style that favours opening 1♦ with four diamonds and five clubs, there is less concern about missing a superior contract in diamonds. Graves was able to suggest his good suit without overstating his spade (sic) support and Mittelman was fully "bid out" at the four-level.

Paul Thurston's team (Phillips) finished just behind the Fergani/Fourcaudot teams, missing out on the knockout phase, but Paul will have a hand for his scrapbook from Round 21 ...

Board: 21-7	North	
Dealer: S	♠ AK87	
Vul: B	♥ Q73	
	♦ J102	
	♣ Q95	
	West	East
	♠ J65	♠ 2
	♥ AJ65	♥ 9842
	♦ A976	♦ 853
	♣ J2	♣ K10743
	South	
	♠ Q10943	
	♥ K10	
	♦ KQ4	
	♣ A86	

Paul declared 4♠ from the South position, having shown a minimum-range balanced hand. West found a safe lead, the five of trumps, and declarer had to decide whether to stake his fate on the heart finesse (low to the ten wins when the jack is onside or East flies with the ace, which is unlikely, given the revealing auction) or a play that would hold his club losers to one. Declarer decided to go for the clubs, so he drew two rounds of trumps and led the ♦J to the king and ace. West exited with a diamond to the queen, and declarer drew the last trump in dummy to lead a heart to the king and ace. West exited in hearts and Declarer won the queen, cashed the ♦10, ruffed a heart, and led a low club towards dummy. West was alive to the possibility that it might be best to put up the ♣J, but that would be horribly wrong if East held A10xxx, and the ♣J would at best leave declarer a guess when he held Axx (he might duck, playing West for the jack and ten, East for the king). So West followed low and declarer, who had already seen two aces and a jack in West and could place East with more clubs than West, put in the nine. East won the ten and

☛ CNC Continued on page 23



A DREAM HAND

by Prent Glazier

This hand never happened. I will swear that upon the Gideon Bible I stole from the tournament hotel in the same dream. Matchpoints, neither vulnerable, South deals:

	♠ Q43		♠ 9762
	♥ 653		♥ -
	♦ Q54		♦ 98732
	♣ Q853		♣ AK109
♠ K1085		♠ AJ	
♥ KJ1098		♥ AQ742	
♦ K106		♦ AJ	
♣ 6		♣ J742	

S	W	N	E
1♥	P	2♥	P
3♣*	P	3♥	P
P	Dble	All Pass	

* Help Suit Game Try

All of us get hands like this in real life on occasion, and those who use them anecdotally to highlight their feelings of triumph/misfortune miss the real point. Deals like this often profile their holders in high relief. Both declarer and defenders are at greater than usual risk from some form of internal distraction. Defenders inebriated by the prospect of a windfall, may well drop a trick (or more) while declarer may be so flustered that *he* drops one.

West knows his partner must have something, suspects from the auction that it's clubs, and doubles despite knowing that he is to some extent endplayed right at trick one, and may be again. He recognizes the ♥K as a red herring.

Four trump tricks are nominally possible if dummy doesn't table the ♥Q, but even then West anticipates having to lead a heart sooner or later. Feeling "least" endplayed in hearts, and in any case not wanting declarer to score with any small trumps, he opts for the ♥J lead. He carefully notes partner's ♦2/♠2 discard and also that declarer seems not the least perturbed. Declarer plays small, so West continues with the ♥8. East discards the other deuce. On the third heart South wins, leads high again and exits with a small heart, forcing West to win with his last trump. Do what partner says, lead a club. Partner returns a spade, West wins and really can only continue spades. Later he collects a diamond, his partner two more clubs. Eight tricks. This defense is not beyond the ken of a good club player, but there's many a slip t'wixt the cup and the lip and much the greatest risk falls upon those defenders who start counting their chickens before they hatch. I myself am more at risk for sloppy defense against wrong or "unfortunate" contracts.

As for the declarer, why would he appear unperturbed? Well, for years he's had a greater-than-average awareness that he is lucky. First that life has given him the chance to play bridge at all, and secondly that this hand didn't come in a high-stakes rubber game (even there, it's better than defending against a cold slam). Thirdly that 3♥ is a normal contract and that he might still get a decent result, and finally that good players do not lose their cool on hands like this one.

There's no postmortem. Declarer goes for -800, worth 1.5 matchpoints, says "nice defense" and moves on. He does not fault dummy's raise to 2♥ nor does dummy want to see the hand until after the session - he suspects declarer got all there was. Defenders are equally considerate. They know that opponents who have just gone for a number tend to feel very vulnerable, and

♣ DREAM HAND *Continued on page 23*

☛ CNC Continued from page 21

returned a club, but declarer ran it to dummy's queen and made his vulnerable game. That was a lot of work to halve the board; West had led the ♣J at the other table, allowing declarer to cover to secure a second club winner.

You are North, holding:

♠ Q86532 ♥ AKJ ♦ void ♣ Q983, none vul.

Before it gets to you, you see:

West	North	East	South
		1♠	2♠*
3♣	?		

(*hearts and a minor)

West's 3♣ shows diamonds, at least competitive values. Make your choice before reading further. The full deal is at right.

If you tried 4♥ you would have had a lot of company. The advantage in West's naming his suit (as opposed to passing and hoping to bid later) became apparent when East was able to double for penalty. Even on the best lead of a trump, declarer is entitled to five trumps in South and two ruffs in North, but at the table he lost his way and held himself to six tricks.

Down 800. At the other table, East/West finished in 4♠ doubled after East opened 1♣ and South competed with an Unusual 2NT, and went down 500. 16 imps to the side with the

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two plus scores. Why is this deal here? To give you an opportunity to see whether your methods would fare well or poorly with both pairs of hands.

Board 24-30
Dealer: E
Vul: None

North
♠ Q86532
♥ AKJ
♦ —
♣ Q983

West
♠ 74
♥ 52
♦ AQJ8732
♣ 75

East
♠ AKJ109
♥ 876
♦ —
♣ AKJ106

South
♠ —
♥ Q10943
♦ K109654
♣ 42

The May 2000 Bridge Canada issue will continue with stories from the Quarter, Semi, and Final matches. Visit the CNTC & CWTC pages on the CBF Web site for roster and overall info.

☛ DREAM HAND Continued from page 22

that any show of emotion, even smugness, will likely be noticed to the detriment of future relations. And any *feeling* will interfere with their own play in the next hand. Success makes good players feel simply less threatened.

The reader can make up his own scenarios about the whining, gloating and resulting that will go on at some other tables. If this hand offers some players the chance to profile their peccadillos at the table it also offers some to show their class. Bridge, the tired cliché goes, brings the worst out in some people but never forget, the best in others.

L'INVITATION AU VOYAGE!

par Bernard Marcoux, Montréal

*“Des rêves! toujours des rêves! et plus l'âme est ambitieuse et délicate, plus les rêves l'éloignent du possible. Chaque homme porte en lui sa dose d'opium naturel, incessamment sécrétée et renouvelée et, de la naissance à la mort, combien comptons-nous d'heures remplies par la jouissance positive, par l'action réussie et décidée?”**

(*Tous les extraits en italique sont tirés de L'Invitation au voyage, poèmes en vers et en prose de Charles Baudelaire.)

Pourquoi joue-t-on au bridge, sinon pour cette main parfaite qui surviendra, qui nous prendra pour nous emmener ailleurs, là-bas,

*“Mon enfant, ma soeur, Songe à la douceur
D'aller là-bas vivre ensemble”*

Qui nous sortira de la grisaille quotidienne pour nous faire “vraiment vivre”, et non plus simplement exister? Le paradis existe-t-il donc au bridge? La légende veut qu'il ne puisse se trouver que dans ces mains rapportées par les journaux, où des joueurs, après une séquence d'enchères exotique, atteignent un grand chelem et, sur l'entame, étalent leur jeu en disant qu'ils feront 13 levées sur un triple squeeze, nous convainquant encore une fois que nous sommes de simples mortels devant ces héros sans peur et sans reproche. Est-ce là vraiment le paradis du bridge?

C'est un lundi soir comme les autres à votre club. Votre soirée s'effiloche sans grand intérêt et vous ouvrez la main numéro 9, assis en Ouest.

Ouest

♠ 42
♥ A1087
♦ D1096
♣ V82

Nous sommes loin du paradis. Nord passe et votre partenaire ouvre 1♠, Sud met 1♥ et vous enchaînez avec 1SA; pas très emballant non plus. Nord passe, votre partenaire passe et Sud renchérit à 2♥.

Quel est ce petit frisson? Avez-vous froid? Pourtant non. Vous vous sentez toutefois comme avant de partir (“car il ne s'agit pas tant de voyager que de partir”, disait George Sand). Vous passez, présentant tout de même quelque chose; Nord passe et votre partenaire ... contre (“Main maximum, partenaire, courte à coeur”). Dans la grisaille qui se lève un peu, vous lui jetez un coup d'oeil; elle aussi semble déjà ailleurs ...

“Il est une contrée qui te ressemble, où tout est beau, riche, tranquille et honnête, (...) où la vie est douce à respirer, où le bonheur est marié au silence.”

Vous passez sur le contre, évidemment. Vous entamez du 4 de pique et vous voyez:

Mort

♠ D73
♥ 65
♦ R87
♣ R7654

Ouest

♠ 42
♥ A1087
♦ D1096
♣ V82

Votre partenaire gagne la première levée du Valet de pique, et revient ... coeur. Vous lui jetez un autre coup d'oeil, admiratif; est-ce possible?

“Où, c’est là qu’il faut aller respirer, rêver et allonger les heures par l’infini des sensations.”

Sud joue le Valet et vous laissez passer. Vous savez que le déclarant a 4 piques, où peut-il les mettre? Votre partenaire a compris tout cela par son retour coeur. Laissons jouer le déclarant. Après son Valet de coeur, il joue le 2 de carreau; bien éveillé maintenant par le jeu brillant de votre partenaire, vous insérez le 9; même si vous jouez compte et attitude inversés, vous devez ici réfléchir et jouer au bridge, non compter bêtement. Le déclarant vous laisse votre 9 de carreau, votre partenaire jouant le 3 pour indiquer 4 cartes. Vous jouez votre 2 de pique; votre partenaire prend du 10 et revient ... coeur!

“Un vrai pays de Cocagne, te dis-je, où tout est riche, propre et luisant.”

Quelle beauté! Quel éblouissement! Quelle grâce! La pensée que Sud a répété une couleur cinquième ne vous effleure même pas l’esprit, fasciné que vous êtes par l’ange assis devant vous. Vous prenez le Roi d’atout avec l’As; il est temps de compter : votre partenaire a 4 piques, 2 coeurs, 4 carreaux et 3 trèfles. Le déclarant est cuit; vous jouez la Dame de carreau, pour épingler le Valet hypothétique du déclarant; celui-ci laisse passer au mort et . . . votre partenaire prend de l’As!!! Serait-elle la partenaire parfaite?

“Fleur incomparable, tulipe retrouvée, allégorique dahlia, c’est là, n’est-ce pas, dans ce beau pays si calme et si rêveur, qu’il faudrait aller vivre et fleurir?”

Elle rejoue As et Roi de pique, le déclarant fourmit, impuissant, pendant que vous jetez vos 2 carreaux. Elle revient carreau et vous ferez une autre levée de coeur pour +500 et un franc top.

Nord
 ♠ D73
 ♥ 65
 ♦ R87
 ♣ R7654

Ouest
 ♠ 42
 ♥ A1087
 ♦ D1096
 ♣ V82

Est
 ♠ ARV10
 ♥ 93
 ♦ A543
 ♣ D103

Sud
 ♠ 9865
 ♥ RDV42
 ♦ V2
 ♣ A9

Nord	Est	Sud	Ouest
passe	1♦	1♥	1sa
passe	passe	2♥(?)	passe
passe	contre	passe	passe

Où, le paradis existe, la perfection aussi; mais ce n’est pas une main de bridge qui les crée; c’est vous et votre partenaire, lorsque vous êtes sur la même longueur d’ondes, lorsque vos pensées communiquent et que vous voyez les 52 cartes, et la séquence de jeu, et l’ordre des levées, celles qu’il faut prendre et celles qu’il faut laisser passer, et lorsqu’il faut couper et lorsqu’il faut défausser; à ce moment-là, vous formez une seule pensée, une seule réflexion, un seul être, une paire, et vous voyagez vers ce pays de Cocagne, ce “pays singulier, supérieur aux autres, comme l’art l’est à la Nature, où celle-ci est réformée par le rêve, où elle est corrigée, embellie, refondue.”

Une main de bridge ne peut pas vous emmener au paradis; votre partenaire, où!

“Un musicien a écrit l’Invitation à la valse; quel est celui qui composera l’Invitation au voyage, qu’on puisse l’offrir à la femme aimée?”

J’ai composé cette petite prose pour ma partenaire, France Brunet, “ma tulipe noire et mon dahlia bleu”!

☛ Continued on page 26

☛ Continued from page 26

P.S. : je veux remercier tous les lecteurs qui, au cours des années, m'ont exprimé leur appréciation pour mes articles; celui-ci est le dernier. J'ai bien apprécié ces 5 ou 6 années et j'espère vous avoir communiqué, sinon des connaissances, au moins l'amour de ce magnifique jeu. Merci encore.

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Voici un très joli poème de Mme Denise Phaneuf, qui fréquente le club de bridge de Ste-Adèle. Il exprime, je crois, toute la fascination que l'on peut éprouver pour ce jeu magique, qui nous attire constamment et qui nous ramène à la table, semaine après semaine, à la recherche sans doute de cet "ailleurs" dont parle Baudelaire. Ailleurs dans ces pages, vous trouverez, en guise d'adieu à tous mes fidèles lecteurs, un de mes articles, qui se trouve, je crois, dans l'esprit de ce poème.

CANADIAN (and other) ACRONYMS

Have you been feeling acrimonious about acronym acrobatics lately? Here is a quick guide to initial-isms in bridge:

CNTC	Canadian National Team Championship
COPC	Canadian Open Pairs Championship
CWTC	Canadian Women's Team Championship
GNT	Grand National Teams
NAOP	North American Open Pairs
NPC	Non-playing Captain
WJBC	World Junior Bridge Championship
CBF	Canadian Bridge Federation
ACBL	American Contract Bridge League
WBF	World Bridge Federation
NCBO	National Contract Bridge Organization

BRIDGE

Noir de pique
Et Coeur de rouge
Se cachent au creux
des mains nerveuses.

L'éventail mystérieux
Frémit imperceptiblement
Lorsque le vent de la relance
Agite ses trèfles esseulés.

Pique de noir
Rouge de Coeur
S'enivrent de l'accord majeur.

Commence la danse effrénée
Des rois et des valets piqués
Devant le mort affaissé
Sur l'autel des jeux carrés.

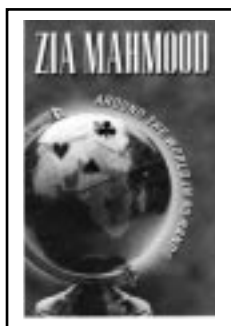
Les ponts d'entente se transforment
En plis soumis
En plis conquis. . .

Les éventails se referment
L'atout s'éteint
Duplicata.

Denise Phaneuf

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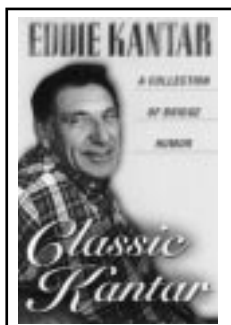
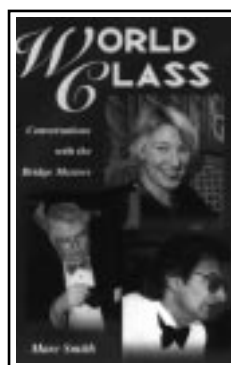
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National Final • Bridge Week
June 24-29, 2000 Halifax NS

CNTC

Unit Finals must be
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March 6, 2000

Zone Finals must be
completed by
May 8, 2000

National Final • Bridge Week
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Apr. 18 - 23 Royal York Hotel, Toronto, ON
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May 17 - 22 Palais des Congrès
Ottawa/Hull
Marion Dupont 613-237-8857
www.igs.net/~edalsj/00NCR.html

June 12 - 18 Trade & Conv. Centre
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Margaret Pearce 250-492-0582
www.cbf.ca/BinBC/Pen00

June 28 - July 3 Bridge Festival 2000 (see p.10)
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Kathie Macnab (902) 443-4676

July 4 - 9 Westin Hotel, London, ON
Mary Lynne Howe 519-657-9793

July 25 - 30 Cambrian Shield Regional
Lloyd Harris (site TBA)

July 24 - 30 Radisson Airport, Calgary, AB
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Aug. 21 - 27 Ambassador Hotel
Kingston, ON Moira O'Reilly 613-544-4544

Aug. 21 - 27 Miramichi Split Regional
Newcastle, NB JoAnn Lynds 902-893-9544

Oct. 3 - 8 Laval, PQ

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