

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CBF | OCTOBER 2015

# bridge *Canada*



## CANADA WINS 2015 PLAYOFFS VS MEXICO

STORIES AND PHOTOS IN THIS ISSUE

## 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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# George Retek says *Thank you* VOLUNTEERS

As covered in the last issue of Bridge Canada, George Retek was the first recipient of the CBF's Lifetime Achievement Award. He asked that BC recognize the volunteers - the many hard working people behind the scenes - who worked with George to affect many positive changes to the game we love.

Here is George's list of Hall of Fame volunteers (In alphabetical order):

Tibor Bertalan  
Jean Castonguay  
Jean La Traverse  
Jean La Traverse Jr.  
Rollande Makarewicz  
Marie Jose Monti  
Heather Peckett  
Mac Peterson  
Jim Priebe  
Marie Retek  
Joan Stephens  
Leo Weniger

## Reflections of the Editor

### 2015 Canadian Bridge Championships ~ Continued

As promised here is the continuation of the results from the 2015 Canadian Championships held in Montreal. However we start off with the Mexico-Canada playoffs to qualify for the Worlds. In our December issue we will cover how our Canadian teams fared at the 2015 World Championships being held this month in Chennai, India.

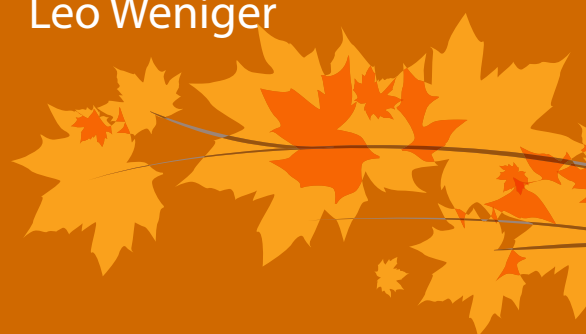
### 'Font' You Want

Feedback works! As requested we have gone to a darker text font to make your reading easier.

### Humorous Contributions to Bridge Canada

I encourage all readers to email me any of your funny bridge stories (we all have them!). A \$50 honorarium will be given to the authors of all such anecdotes used in future Bridge Canada issues.

Neil Kimelman  
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# Women's Playoff Mexico

BY SYLVIA CALEY

The Women's and Open Playoffs against Mexico were held at the Delta Toronto East during the last weekend of June. The facilities were quite nice and everyone appreciated the excellent WiFi signal at the hotel, which allowed the matches to be seen around the world on Viewgraph.

The Canadian Woman absolutely trumped their opponents. The final score after 120 boards was Canada 443 and Mexico 241, a margin of more than 200 IMPs!



## The Hands

Everyone likes a grand slam and this was a nice one. Samantha and Isabelle were sitting N-S, when this hand came up:

**Scoring IMPs. Dealer East. NS Vul.**

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

Lead: ♥4

This was their auction:

West	North <i>Isabelle</i>	East	South <i>Samantha</i>
-	-	Pass	1♠
2♦	2♣	DbI	3♦ <sup>1</sup>
3♥	4NT	5♥	DbI <sup>2</sup>
Pass	7♣	All Pass	

1 Splinter for Clubs  
2 0 or 3 Key Cards

Kuddos to Samantha for making the all-important splinter bid; and to both of them for having good, clear agreements following interference over 4NT. Isabelle told me that they play:

- Double is the 1st step = 0 or 3
- Pass is the 2nd step = 1 or 4.

# Women's Playoff Mexico CONTINUED

This was the auction at the other table:

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

There were three problem here:

1. South didn't make the informative splinter bid,
  2. North didn't let her partner know they had all the Key Cards, and
  3. North didn't show Grand Slam interest.
- Congrats to Isabelle and Samantha for bidding this grand despite the opponent's interference.

## Hand 2 ~ A Timely Two Suiter

In the last several decades bids that show two suits have become more and more popular. What follows is one of my favorite auctions of the entire match.

**Scoring IMPs. Dealer North. Both Vul.**

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

Lead: ♠A

West	North	East	South
-	Judith		Kismet
-	2♦	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Certainly this is a very efficient auction and gave nothing away. Judith's 2♦ bid showed a limited opening hand with at least 5-4 or 4-5 in the minors. Kismet's bid placed the contract.

With the ♠A lead, the play of the hand was short and sweet. Kismet lost one spade and one diamond. Assuming a safe heart lead, 5♣ makes any time clubs split 2-2. If clubs are 3-1 the contract still succeeds when the ♠J is with West and diamonds are 4-3. This was the auction at the other table:

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

The opening lead was a low heart to the King and Ace. With both pointed Aces in the West hand declarer could have made 3NT by setting up diamonds but she failed to find her way and was off one.

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# Women's Playoff Mexico CONTINUED

Another point about Judith and Kismet's bidding system on this hand, other than being simple and effective, it conserved energy. In a long match one needs to save their strength for the difficult deals. This hand was easy for the Canadians but much more difficult for the Mexican Pair.

## Hand 3

Now let's look at Francine in action with two suited information.

**Scoring IMPs. Dealer North. EW Vul.**

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

Lead: ♦Q

In the Open Room this was the auction:

West	North	East	South
	<i>Sandra</i>		<i>Francine</i>
-	2♠	Pass	3♣
Dbl	3♦	3♥	4♦
5♣	Pass	Pass	5♦
Dbl	All Pass		

Sandra's 2♠ bid showed a preemptive hand with spades and a minor. Francine's 3♣ bid was pass or correct. This call showed both toughness and experience. Francine might have found herself in a 4-2 club fit, but had to weigh that against the perhaps small possibility that partner's other suit was diamonds. Fortunately it was on this deal.

5♦ doubled lost one diamond, two hearts and one club for -300 which was an excellent save against 3NT, or 5♣ if the defense failed to find their spade ruff. The Closed Room auction began with three passes to a forcing club. Judith and Kismet arrived in 3NT making five, to score +660, and a well-deserved 8 IMPs for Team Canada.

## Go Get 'em and Good Luck!

Our Canadian team now heads to the World's in India. All three pairs are developing very effective systems. This team should do well at the Worlds if they continue with the plus IMPs and tighten up a little on the minus IMPs. We all know that it's a big tough world out there. Go get 'em and good luck!

## INFORMATION AND RESULTS

from the World Championships can be found on these websites

[www.bermudabowl2015.com](http://www.bermudabowl2015.com)  
[worldbridge.org](http://worldbridge.org)





# Canada Mexico

The Open Winners get to compete in the Bermuda Bowl



Rock Shi Yan (NPC), Danny Miles, David Sabourin, Jeff Smith, Shan Huang, Daniel Korbel, and Darren Wolpert

By Danny Miles

In late June, Canada faced off against Mexico to determine WBFs Zone 2's third and final spot in this year's Bermuda Bowl in India (USA gets the other two). Mexico sent their Open and Women's teams to Toronto to compete. Here are some problems from the Open match:

## PROBLEM 1

**Dealer North. Neither Vul.**

♠ A J 10 2 ♥ A 8 6 4 2 ♦ 7 5 ♣ 9 5

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	?

What's your poison?

## PROBLEM 2

**Dealer North. Neither Vul.**

♠ A 8 7 4  
♥ 9  
♦ A K 7  
♣ 9 8 7 4 3

♠ K 10 5  
♥ Q J 6 2  
♦ J 2  
♣ K Q 10 2

Lead: ♥4

West	North	East	South
	-	-	1♣
1♥	Dbl	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2♥	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

<sup>1</sup> Raise to 2♥ with ♥A, K, or Q

West leads the ♥4 to East's promised ♥K. The ♥7 is returned. Plan the play.



## PROBLEM 3

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ A J 9 6 2 ♥ A Q 4 2 ♦ 7 3 ♣ A 8

West	North	East	South
	-	-	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	?

2♦ promised 5+ diamonds and was game forcing. Your style is to open all 11 HCP hands and shapely 10s. What is your call over 3♦?

## PROBLEM 4

Dealer West. Both Vul

♠ A K 6 3 ♥ A 8 5 3 ♦ 10 9 3 2 ♣ 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1NT	?

RHO opens a strong notrump in 3rd seat. Your methods are:

- > DbI = 4M, 5+m
- > 2♣ = Both majors
- > 2♦ = 1 Major
- > 2M = Major/Minor two suiter.

These methods are becoming increasingly popular and are now legal to play in any ACBL tournament (the 2♦ bid containing an unknown suit was not allowed previously). In fact, all three Canadian pairs use this treatment. Using 2♣ to show both majors instead of 2♦ (as in Capelletti) allows advancer to bid 2♦ with equal majors, so the partnership does not play in a 4-2 fit, when the 2♣ bidder has 5-4 in the majors.

What is your call?

## PROBLEM 5

Put yourself in West's shoes for a defensive problem:

Dealer North. Both Vul

♠ J 9 5 ♥ K 10 6 4 ♦ A Q 3 ♣ J 9 5

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

2NT was 20-21. 3♣ was regular Stayman. You lead the ♣5 and see:

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

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

Declarer wins dummy's ♣K, partner discarding the ♥2 (standard carding). Declarer leads a heart to partner's ♥9, ♥Q and your ♥K. Any bright ideas?

## PROBLEM 6

An opening lead problem. As West, you hold  
♠ A K 7 ♥ 10 3 ♦ Q J 9 8 7 ♣ K Q 4.

The auction was identical at both tables:

West	North	East	South
1NT	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	2NT <sup>2</sup>	4♥
All Pass			

- 1 Both Majors
- 2 Lebensohl - relay to 3♣

What do you lead?

# Canada Mexico Continued

## PROBLEM 1

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ A J 10 2 ♥ A 8 6 4 2 ♦ 7 5 ♣ 9 5

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	?

What's your poison?

## SOLUTION

Nothing is appealing. I'd guess 2NT would be the leading call in a bidding poll, the ♠10 being a nice card. The Mexican South chose 2♥ which drifted one off opposite North's 3-1-4-5. Canada reached 3NT in the other room (North opening 1NT with a singleton ♥K), which had play but also went down one.

**Editor's Note:** I would bid 2♦.

## PROBLEM 2

Dealer North. None Vul

♠ A 8 7 4  
♥ 9  
♦ A K 7  
♣ 9 8 7 4 3

♠ K 10 5  
♥ Q J 6 2  
♦ J 2  
♣ K Q 10 2

Lead: ♥4

West	North	East	South
	-	-	1♣
1♥	Dbl	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2♥	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1 Raise to 2♥ with ♥A, K, or Q

West leads the ♥4 to East's promised ♥K. The ♥7 is returned. Plan the play.

## SOLUTION

It is instinctive to go up with a heart honour without thinking. However, that is a play that ensures defeat against competent opponents, unless hearts are 4-4 or East has the ♥AK, both impossible on the bidding and early play. If West has the ♣A, he will win and clear hearts, cashing the setting tricks when in with the ♣A. If East has the ♣A, West will allow your ♥Q to win trick 2. The defence will be in a position to take four hearts and the ♣A.

The winning play is to duck the ♥7 completely and hope East has the ♣A. This proves fruitful as it severs the opponents' communication, allowing you to develop your clubs and make 3NT. Canada won a swing when the Mexican declarer rose with an honour at trick 2.

## PROBLEM 3

Dealer North. None Vul

♠ A J 9 6 2 ♥ A Q 4 2 ♦ 7 3 ♣ A 8

West	North	East	South
	-	-	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	?

2♦ promised 5+ diamonds and was game forcing. Your style is to open all 11 HCP hands and shapely 10s. What is your call over 3♦?

## SOLUTION

This is a typical hand where each partner has 3-4 HCPs extra but worries about bypassing 3NT. And so it was. South bid a conservative 3NT and missed a lay-down slam facing ♠ void ♥ 83 ♦ AKQ10982 ♣ QJ104. A raise to 4♦ would have done the trick, and perhaps South's aces should have led him down the winning path.

### PROBLEM 4

Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ A K 6 3 ♥ A 8 5 3 ♦ 10 9 3 2 ♣ 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1NT	?

RHO opens a strong notrump in 3rd seat. Your methods are:

- > Dbl = 4M, 5+m
- > 2♣ = Both majors
- > 2♦ = 1 Major
- > 2M = Major/Minor two suiter.

These methods are becoming increasingly popular and are now legal to play in any ACBL tournament (the 2♦ bid containing an unknown suit was not allowed previously). In fact, all three Canadian pairs use this treatment. Using 2♣ to show both majors instead of 2♦ (as in Capelletti) allows advancer to bid 2♦ with equal majors, so the partnership does not play in a 4-2 fit, when the 2♣ bidder has 5-4 in the majors. What is your call?

### SOLUTION

It turns out entering the auction opposite a passed partner proves expensive. Partner is 3-2 in the majors with ♣ KJ10xxx, while LHO is 4-5 in the majors with enough to double but not enough for game. The penalty for showing the majors was -800. Can you and your partner get out in 2♣ after 1NT-2♣-Dbl?

North opened 3♣ at the other table; Canada defended and collected +100 for a 12 IMP loss.

### PROBLEM 5

Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ J 9 5 ♥ K 10 6 4 ♦ A Q 3 ♣ J 9 5

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

2NT was 20-21. 3♣ was regular Stayman. You lead the ♣5 and see:

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

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

Declarer wins dummy's ♣K, partner discarding the ♥2 (standard carding). Declarer leads a heart to partner's ♥9, ♥Q and your ♥K. Any bright ideas?

### SOLUTION

Did you play partner for the ♦K, or good spades? Cashing the ♦A gets a screaming ♦10 from partner (perhaps he should have discarded this at trick 1). The full deal:

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

♠ J 9 5  
K 10 6 4  
♦ A Q 3  
♣ J 9 5

♠ Q 10 8 6 ♥  
♥ 9 2  
♦ K 10 9 6 5 4 2  
♣ void

♠ A 7  
♥ A Q J 8  
♦ J 7  
♣ A Q 8 7 3

# Canada Mexico Continued

Mexico defeated 3NT four tricks and picked up a big swing when their South in the other room showed a reverse with clubs and hearts, allowing the sound contract of 5♣ to be reached. Canada's North-South here play precision, so getting both suits in would be more difficult - opening 2NT was practical but a little unlucky partner had one diamond and five clubs.

## PROBLEM 6

An opening lead problem. As West, you hold  
♠ A K 7 ♥ 10 3 ♦ Q J 9 8 7 ♣ K Q 4.

The auction was identical at both tables:

West	North	East	South
1NT	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	2NT <sup>2</sup>	4♥
All Pass			

- 1 Both Majors
- 2 Lebensohl - relay to 3♣

What do you lead?

## SOLUTION

All four suits, including a trump, look attractive. While this hand does not lead to any broad conclusions, both Wests were left unsatisfied after leading a trump (Mexico) and a top club (Canada). The full deal:

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

The defence must score their spade ruff; either a top spade or a diamond opening lead will lead to down 1.

## Movin' On...

In the end, both Canadian teams were victorious - 221-142 in the Open (Mexico withdrawing after 6 of 8 segments) and 443-241 in the Women's. Next stop: Chennai.

## CBC CHANGES

In response to feedback from our members, the CBF Board of Directors voted to introduce several changes to the Canadian Bridge Championships (CBC), starting with the 2016 CBC in Toronto. As a result of some of the changes, the CBC will now be held over a 9 day period instead of 8 days previously. The changes aim to make the CBC more appealing to Canadian bridge players of all levels; to reduce the cost of participation in the major team championships; and to enhance the format of some of the team championships.

Read about these changes and other CBF news on the website [www.cbf.ca](http://www.cbf.ca)



# 2015 CANADIAN Senior Team CHAMPIONSHIP

**Never**  
*Say*  
**Never**

*By John Carruthers*

This year's CSTC was held at McGill University, in my favourite Canadian city, Montréal. For me, going to Montréal always feels like going home as I had lived there during my school days and had attended McGill.

The event was comprised of 12 teams and was played over four days, two days of round robin qualifying, then full-day semifinals and final. About half of the teams entered had a decent chance to win, so it was a bit of a pleasant surprise that we (John Rayner/Michael Roche, Marty Kirr/Katie Thorpe, Joey Silver/John Carruthers) breezed through the qualifying rounds with 10 wins and only one loss, and that one loss was by a slim 5-IMP margin.

As is so often the case, aggressive game bidding seemed to be the hallmark of this year's championship. An early board put the opening leader to the test. You hold:

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

You are the dealer, West. With neither side vulnerable, this is what happens:

West	North	East	South
<i>B. Bowman</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>J. Bowman</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1 15-17

2 Promises a major

What would you lead? This was the deal:

Board 24. Scoring IMPs.

Dealer West. None Vul

♠ A J 9  
♥ Q 8 6 2  
♦ J 10 8 6  
♣ 9 4

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

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

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

Lead: ♣2

This board produced a curiosity, potential finesses in every suit, six in all.

If you choose a heart (not the king!) or a spade, careful defence thereafter results in the defeat of the contract. It often pays to be passive against games bid after invitations, but on this deal, it's difficult to even know which lead, if any, is passive. North had promised a major, so a spade could easily pick up an honour or an honour combination in partner's hand and a heart lead could do the same to yours. In any case, the Beagles, as John and Billy Bowman are known, are very aggressive opening leaders and Billy, true to his style, led a club from the queen, giving me a chance.

I have seldom seen so many potential finesses to take. With tenaces in every suit, my plan was to take two finesses in spades, hopefully winning one of them, and to use my two spade entries to take two diamond finesses, hopefully winning one of them as well. Then a bit of luck in any other suit would see me home. Accordingly, I won the first trick with the jack of clubs and led a spade to the jack, losing to the queen. East continued with clubs and I took another spade finesse. When East won and returned a third club (he'd played them in the order ten-five-three, looking like a man with three cards in the suit), I felt an impending sense of doom as West followed with the queen, which sure looked to me like a suit-preference signal for hearts. Hah, what did I know?

Nevertheless, with only seven tricks on view, I tried a heart toward the queen. That was ducked by West and, when I played the queen from dummy, it gathered the jack from East. Apparently, West had not started with five clubs and the king of hearts—things were looking up. I tried a diamond to the nine, won by Billy with the king, and he exited with the king of hearts to my ace. A spade to the ace and another diamond finesse, this one winning, left me with three club tricks and two in each of the other suits, for nine in all, plus 400.



I'd begun with five tricks and six finesses to take. The opening lead had given me a free finesse that had been destined to lose and the tempo to take the other five.

They did not reach game at the other table and Rayner/Roche led a heart anyway, so declarer was held to eight tricks after accurate defence thereafter. That was minus 120 and a gain of 7 IMPs.

With one match to go, our team had a lock on qualifying, but the other three positions were still up for grabs and, somewhat unusually, only four teams were vying for those three spots. The final round-robin standings were:

Pos.	Team Name	VP Score
1.	CARRUTHERS (pictured above) Rayner/Roche, Kirr/Thorpe, Silver/Carruthers	150.67
2.	HEINO, NPC Herold/Scholes, McCully/Galand	134.90
3.	BOUCHER Boucher/Retek, Peckett/Dunn/Silverstein	133.17
4.	BAYKAL Baykal/Camp, Smith/Kertes	128.18
5.	HARGREAVES Smith/McAvoy, Hargreaves/Fraser	127.68



Strangely, no other team, including such fancied squads as JACOB (Lebi/Baran, Czyzowicz/Jacob), LERNER (Lerner/Schoenborn, Hughes/Turner) and GREENOUGH (Bowman/Bowman, Greenough/Caley) finished with as many as 95 Victory Points. HARGREAVES, though, had needed just 2 more IMPs over their 99 qualification boards to earn another partial VP and a spot in the semifinals.

By dint of winning the Round Robin, we were allowed to choose our semifinal opponent from between the third- and fourth-placed teams. We chose BOUCHER, leaving HEINO and BAYKAL to do battle.

Silver and I could not solve an early problem that George Retek and François Boucher brushed aside with ease.

Board 2SF. Scoring IMPs.  
Dealer East. NS Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Dunn	Silver	Peckett	Carruthers
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

I might have bid on over three notrump, but I had shown a 5-5 or 6-4 or, at the least, a maximum in high cards (about 14-16 HCP in our Strong Club system) and felt I'd not much in reserve. Silver thought he

might have bid three diamonds over three clubs, then three notrump over three hearts, expressing doubt about strain. I'd have bid on over that, but perhaps I should have done so anyway.

West	North	East	South
Kirr	Boucher	Thorpe	Retek
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Retek's evaluation proved more accurate than mine. On the lead of the ♦6, Retek had to decide whether to:

- (i) Build a heart trick or
- (ii) Discard hearts and play for a cross-ruff.

Since, if a heart to the queen lost to the ace and a heart was continued, he'd need to cash the diamonds immediately anyway (he'd still need two ruffs in the dummy), Retek decided upon the latter approach, the cross-ruff, which needed no more than diamonds 5-3 and the ability to make the four low trumps by ruffing spades and hearts. After that, high trumps would take care of the rest.

After winning three diamonds and a spade, Retek crossruffed hearts and spades and made one spade trick, three diamond tricks and eight trump tricks for +1370. On a diamond lead, Silver made 11 tricks in three notrump to lose 12 IMPs.

In addition to this dreadful result, Silver and I failed to follow P. Hal Sims' edict about bidding grand slams (NEVER!) and bid one in the second quarter to lose 14 IMPs. We discovered after the opening lead that we were off a cashable ace, a nugget that we had neglected to unearth in the auction. What's more, the ace was on lead and the opening leader had the temerity to lead it before the mice got at it (as they assuredly would have done). Nevertheless, those were our only two bad results and we had many good ones to win the match 146-74 after three quarters, when the opponents withdrew to avail themselves of Montréal's fine dining.

HEINO won the other semifinal in a nail-biter, 123-120, so we'd face our friends from B.C. in the final.

## Final - 1st Quarter

Try another opening lead problem. You hold as South:

♠ Q 9 7 3  
♥ 4 3 2  
♦ A 7 6 4  
♣ A 7

With your side vulnerable, you see the following auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Galand</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>McCully</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Choose your poison. Would it make any difference had East bid 3NT at his second turn and all had passed that?

Here's the board:

Board 15. Scoring IMPs.

Dealer South. NS Vul

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

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

Against the diagrammed auction, I led the ♥4 to the 6, 9 and Q. When Gerry McCully tried a low club toward the jack in dummy, I rose with the ace and led another heart to Silver's ten. North shifted to his low diamond: jack, ace, three. The two of hearts through the king meant one off, plus 50.

At the other table, Thorpe went directly to three notrump over two hearts. Herold led a third-best ♠7. With too much work to do if she won the spade with the ace or king in dummy, Thorpe successfully ducked the spade lead to her jack. The ♦K went to South's ace and Herold continued with the queen of spades to dummy's king, declarer discarding a club. Thorpe led a club to the king and South's ace and South persisted in spades, declarer winning with the ace in dummy and discarding her low heart from hand. A heart to the queen held the trick and the jack of diamonds went to the queen in North. The defence had three tricks in and could take no more than the ace of hearts. When North shifted to clubs upon winning with the queen of diamonds, declarer had the rest for plus 430 and 10 IMPs.

The defence can always beat three notrump on a heart or (double-dummy) the ♠Q lead, and declarer can always make it, double-dummy, on a low spade lead, by winning the ♠J and playing for the fortunate diamond position.



On the actual play, North could have beaten three notrump by rising with the ace of hearts after the (fatal) heart discard from declarer.

The first quarter ended with CARRUTHERS in the lead, 43-20.

## Final - 2nd Quarter

Board 23. Scoring IMPs.

Dealer South. Both Vul

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

Lead: ♥ 6

West	North	East	South
Galand	Silver	McCully	Carruthers
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Gerry McCully bewitched us here. On the 6♥ lead, he played the ten from dummy and won Silver's jack with his ace. McCully tried the ♠10 and, when I covered that with the king, he allowed me to hold it. Silver discarded the ♥4.

We can all see that a shift to the ♣J would then have garnered five tricks for the defence, but the ♥4 looked nondescript to me. If Silver had had the ♥7 and declarer the ♥2, the ♥4 might have been forced. Even if Silver had discarded the ♥2, intending it as suit preference for clubs, I could not have been certain that

it was not from ♥K J 8 7 2, where he would have been constrained to discard the two. Looking at his own his cards, Silver was not certain which suit he wanted me to play anyway.

As it happens, the continuation of a middle spade by South at trick three also beats three notrump by forcing declarer to take his spade winners immediately. That would have set up two more spade tricks for South. On that line of defence, North would have had to retain four cards in each of the red suits (look at those red-suit spot cards in the East hand) and discard the ♣KQ to allow South an entry with the ♣J. I could have helped Silver out by playing my spades in an order indicating a club entry(!) rather than one in diamonds—the eight on the second round of the suit rather than the nine, then he'd have to discard the ♣K, then the ♣Q on the third spade! Could we have got that right? Not in this universe.

In any case, I continued at trick three with the ♥3 to the ♥Q and ♥K. Silver shifted to the ♣K, ducked, and another club to declarer's ace. McCully played off dummy's three spade winners, he and Silver both discarding diamonds. Then, the two high diamonds and a club exit left Silver to lead from his eight of hearts into declarer's nine-seven for nine tricks and plus 600. It had been an annoying deal for us. More so when we compared with the other table's result:

West	North	East	South
Roche	Scholes	Rayner	Herold
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Again the ♥6 was led, this time to the ♥Q and ♥A. When Rayner elected to lead a diamond to the jack at trick two, Scholes won it with his queen and shifted to the ♣3, setting up five tricks for the defence, plus 100 and 12 IMPs to HEINO.

HEINO outscored us 41-22 in the second quarter to leave the running total:

CARRUTHERS 65 - HEINO 61

## Final - 3rd Quarter

We are still trying to forget the third quarter. HEINO drilled us a new... well, let's say we were comprehensively beaten, 44-6. It could have been even worse.

Board 32. Scoring IMPs.  
Dealer East. NS Vul

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

Lead: ♥A

West	North	East	South
Kirr	Scholes	Thorpe	Herold
—	—	1♦	Double
1♥	1♠	2♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Everything was pretty normal here, if not so good for E-W. East led the ♥A and shifted to the ♦A, then another diamond. Declarer ducked in dummy, and West ruffed it, and that was the end of the defence. +620 to North/South. East had to lead the ♦A and another diamond to beat 4♠, too tall an order. It would have been much easier with West on lead.

West	North	East	South
Galand	Roche	McCully	Rayner
—	—	1NT <sup>1</sup>	Double
2♥ <sup>2</sup>	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- 12-14
- Hearts and spades (!)

North wanted to compete and, having been informed that West had both majors, bid 3♦. When East passed (should he have?), South was well within himself in taking a shot at 3NT.

What happened here? The screen runs diagonally across the table, with North and East being on one side, with West and South on the other. West had forgotten their agreement but, since North had been correctly informed as to their agreement, it was deemed "the rub of the green". Doesn't that feel wrong? It sure did to us.

West tried the sneak attack of a low club. Rayner won East's ten with his jack and ran spades. He reached this mid-game position:

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

Rayner led the ♦J from dummy. McCully rose with the ♦A and played the ♣2. Declarer ducked it to West's queen and West continued with clubs to declarer's ace. On this trick, East was squeezed out of an 'idle' heart; if he had discarded a diamond, the ♦Q would have fallen under the king. In actual play, East discarded the ♥Q, at least giving declarer a losing option. Nevertheless, Rayner knew every card at this point. He played the king and another diamond to East's queen and East

had to give declarer the king of hearts for his ninth trick. That was a 1-IMP loss for us, but it could have been 12 IMPs either way. With 15 boards to play, it was looking grim for us:

CARRUTHERS 71 - HEINO 105

## Final - 4th Quarter

(In this match, the boards were played in the order 8-15, 1-7, 23-30, then 16-22 in each half of the match. For the first three quarters, I've reported them according to the actual board numbers. However, for the fourth quarter, I've reported them in the order in which they were actually played (boards 23-30, then 16-22), as 46-60. Thus the board numbers reported here do not match those on the BBO play record. As well, the players in the second and third quarters are wrong on the BBO play records and the directions are incorrect on Board 23 (the actual board number), reported here as Board 46, the first of the set. Is that all clear?)

A team needing to win the final set of a match by more than a 2-IMPs-per-board differential needs a lot to happen. Firstly, Delia, the 'Dealing Machine God', must cooperate. There cannot be too many 1NT-3NT deals with 10 top tricks. Secondly, there is precious little margin for error. Since each swing to the leading team, however small, decreases the probability of a comeback.

Our comeback started immediately on this tightrope board (see top of next column):

Board 46. Scoring IMPs.

Dealer South. Both Vul

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

Lead: ♠7

West	North	East	South
Thorpe	Herold	Kirr	Scholes
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♥	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

(For this board only, Thorpe was West; Herold, North; Kirr, East; and Scholes, South. The board was incorrectly rotated 180 degrees on the table.)

It looks like 3NT by E-W can always be made, as long as declarer divines the club position, a Restricted Choice issue. There are two spades, two hearts, two diamonds and three club tricks available. Even if declarer mis-guesses clubs, he might still be able to arrange to endplay North for a third heart trick. 1♥ might go two off, perhaps three.

Kirr led the ♠7 to the king and Thorpe returned a trump, ducked to the jack. Another spade and a spade ruff followed. Kirr exited with a club to West's king. West shifted to a diamond to the ace and another diamond was won with the queen in dummy. Declarer ruffed a club, then cashed the king of diamonds. East had two trump tricks to come for +500.

The defence can come to another trick by

- i) exiting with a spade instead of a diamond at trick six, leaving diamonds alone for declarer to play, or
- ii) cashing one high club before delivering the spade ruff, allowing East to lead a second club through the queen, unless ...

North is prescient and leads the ten of diamonds through East for a backward finesse and then, upon winning with the queen, finesses West for the nine of diamonds. That seems rather unlikely. At our table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Galand</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>McCully</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♥	Pass	Pass
Double	1♠	2♠	All Pass

One must always measure the risks against the rewards in deciding whether or not to overcall. The North hand is very marginal for a vulnerable entry into the auction. Put another way, how would you feel if it went Pass-Pass after your overcall? Even before West balances with a takeout double, as North, you know the boom is about to be lowered. Silver is not one to sit still and let himself be savaged by wild dogs, however, so he ran from 1♥ before East could pass.

In this situation, double of one spade by East should simply say, "I had a penalty pass of one heart doubled." Apparently, East/West did not have that agreement and McCully tried two spades. One spade doubled would have been worse than one heart doubled, but... McCully made plus 170 when we dropped a trick on defence against 2♠. That was a gain of 8 IMPs for us when it might have been a loss of 3 (minus 600 in three notrump), 7 (down three in one spade doubled), or 12 (down four in one spade doubled).

HEINO 105 - CARRUTHERS 79

We lost 4 IMPs in a partscore battle and gained 3 IMPs in overtricks. Then -

Board 49. Scoring IMPs.  
Dealer East. Both Vul

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

Lead: ♦9

West	North	East	South
<i>Galand</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>McCully</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	1♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	1NT <sup>3</sup>
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

- 1 Strong: 17+ unbalanced/18+ balanced
- 2 Game-forcing, 8+ HCP, 0-2 controls, any distribution
- 3 18-19 balanced

Galand led the ♦9 and I claimed nine tricks, for +600. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Kirr</i>	<i>Scholes</i>	<i>Thorpe</i>	<i>Herold</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1 Transfer to spades

Kirr had a bit more information to work with. He knew South had diamonds, 18-19 HCP, no spade fit, and probably good hearts (no double by Thorpe). So he led the ♣K.

That resulted in one down, and 12 IMPs to us.



West	North	East	South
Galand	Silver	McCully	Carruthers
1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3NT	All Pass

## HEINO 105 - CARRUTHERS 91

HEINO had much the better of it over the next eight boards, winning 10 IMPs by making 3NT on 15 balanced HCPs opposite 8 balanced HCPs with no five-card suit in either hand, then winning some smaller swings to leave the score -

## HEINO 130 - CARRUTHERS 100 - with three boards to play.

Board 58. Scoring IMPs.  
Dealer West. Both Vul

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

Lead: ♠ A

West	North	East	South
Kirr	Scholes	Thorpe	Herold
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♣	Pass	2♦	All Pass

In mildly-swinging, state-of-the-match mode, Marty Kirr went low with his scattered values and passed out two diamonds. Herold, South, led out three rounds of spades, giving Scholes a ruff. There was still the queen of diamonds and the ace of hearts to lose, but Thorpe could arrange to ruff her third heart in the dummy after one high trump, for + 90. At the other table:

## 1 11-13

Silver led a fourth-best ♥4. Galand won that with his heart eight and tried the ♦AK. When they failed to break, he led a third round of the suit. In with the ♦Q, Silver obligingly discarded the ♥3 and ♥2 to make a heart continuation look futile, I shifted to the ♠7. Declarer played the three and Silver was able to win with his jack. That meant seven tricks for the defence, down three, -300, for a 9-IMP gain.

## HEINO 130 - CARRUTHERS 109 Board 59. Scoring IMPs. Dealer North. NS Vul

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

Lead: ♥ K

West	North	East	South
Galand	Silver	McCully	Carruthers
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

- 1 Precision: 16+ HCPs
- 2 8+ HCPs, 5+ diamonds

Silver led the ♥K. Galand won with dummy's ace and led the ♦J, covered by the king and ace. When declarer then led out the ♠AK and then continued with a diamond, he was one down, losing 2 spades, 1 heart and 1 diamond. +50 to N-S.

We could never have imagined what happened at the other table...

West	North	East	South
Kirr	Scholes	Thorpe	Herold
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
3♦ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3♥ <sup>4</sup>	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

- 1 Game-try; asks for the cheapest suit in which you'd accept a game try
- 2 Would accept a help-suit try in clubs
- 3 What about diamonds
- 4 Not necessarily in diamonds, but would accept a heart try

The same ♥K was led, again won with dummy's ace. Kirr, however, led the deuce of diamonds from dummy, inducing Herold to play the three. When the eight of diamonds won the trick, Kirr led out the two high trumps, getting the bad news there, and crossed to dummy with the ♣K. He came back to hand with the ♦A to play the ♣AQ, discarding hearts from the dummy, to leave this ending:

Board 59. Scoring IMPs.  
Dealer North. NS Vul

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

Lead: ♥ K

When West played the ♥J to North's ♥Q, Scholes had only hearts and clubs remaining. The ensuing ruff-sluff allowed Kirr to get rid of the losing diamond from his hand while ruffing in the dummy with the ♠10, to make his contract. +420 to E-W. That seemed like a minor miracle. The major miracle was still to come.

With the score:

HEINO 130 - CARRUTHERS 119

Board 60. Scoring IMPs.

Dealer East. EW Vul

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

Lead: ♥ A

West	North	East	South
Galand	Silver	McCully	Carruthers
—	—	1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1 14-16

McCully claimed 12 tricks for +1440 as soon as the dummy appeared.

Michael Roche, who was sitting out for CARRUTHERS, approached Joey Silver and me (we had finished play) with his iPad, on which he had been watching the match on BBO. John Rayner, Michael's partner had also been watching the match on BBO in his hotel room and, with one board remaining, had come down to congratulate the opponents on their win.

"They've got one board to play and we're down 9 IMPs," Michael told his teammates. (BBO had the score incorrect - we were down 11 IMPs at that point.)

"Then we have no chance," I replied, "the last board is flat. They bid six notrump at our table and had 12 tricks on top with no hope of a thirteenth except on a squeeze, which does not work because Joey has the ♥J to guard that suit while I guard spades."

"But they can make seven clubs," Michael pointed out.

I took a second look. "You're right, but there's no way to bid it," I responded.

Michael closed his iPad. "I can't watch," he said. But I couldn't stand not knowing. I re-opened it a moment later and this is what we all saw:

West	North	East	South
Kirr	Scholes	Thorpe	Herold
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
2♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>4</sup>	Pass
3♥ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	3♠ <sup>6</sup>	Pass
4NT <sup>7</sup>	Pass	5♣ <sup>8</sup>	Pass
5♥ <sup>9</sup>	Pass	6♣ <sup>10</sup>	Pass
7♣ <sup>11</sup>	All Pass		

1 Four-card suits up the line unless weak. Only with a one-bid hand, diamonds can be bypassed to bid a major.

2 Promises at least 4 clubs to go with the 4 spades

3 4th-suit forcing

4 Natural, usually 3-card support

5 Values in hearts

6 Spade concentration

7 RKCB for diamonds

8 1 or 4 key cards

9 Queen of trumps ask

10 Queen of diamonds and king of clubs

11 Choice of grand slams

Marty Kirr's visualization skills are second to none. He reasoned that Thorpe's 3♠ bid, showing a concentration there, must contain the ♠KQ as, otherwise, she'd have bid three notrump after he had shown values in hearts. Then, when Thorpe admitted to the ♦Q and ♣K, he visualized a losing heart, if there was one, being discarded on the fourth diamond. A spade ruff in his hand would provide the 13th trick if Thorpe had only four clubs. So he bid 7♣. Thorpe would have converted to 7♦ with four-card support (4=1=4=4, for example). Exactly as Kirr had visualized, on the ♥K lead, Thorpe arranged to ruff a spade in dummy and discard her losing heart on the fourth round of diamonds for plus 2140. That was 12 IMPs to CARRUTHERS.

As Vic Rauter of TSN would have said, "Make the final CARRUTHERS 131 - HEINO 130."

You may have noticed that an initial diamond lead, however improbable, defeats the grand slam, removing declarer's entry back to hand prematurely.

The final had featured many deals on which either side could have won a swing. We felt very fortunate to have survived.

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# THE INTERMEDIATE SPOT

*Developing Canadian Bridge Players*



## WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

*by Sylvia Caley*

### THINKING AHEAD

In Hollywood it's who you know not what you know, but in bridge it's clearly the other way around. Here's a hand from the Internet for you to consider. You are in 2nd seat, with both vulnerable and your RHO opens 1♣. Your hand:

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

At this point you know that if you bid 1♥ partner is going to bid spades. You can feel it in your bones. The solution is to bid 2♥. It's not perfect but it gives partner a better picture of your hand than a 1♥ bid.

At our table this was the full hand and auction:

Dealer West. Both Vul

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

Lead: ♥Q

West	North	East	South
1♣	2♥	3♣	All Pass



As you can see 3♣ was not a good contract. Declarer was off 1 heart, 2 heart ruffs, 2 spade ruffs, 1 diamond and the Ace of clubs. That was down 3, -300 undoubled.

At other tables the North hand overcalled 1♥ and to no surprise South started bidding spades.

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♥	2♣	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

This contract was off 1 heart, 1 diamond and 2 clubs. Murphy could have told you that something would go wrong if you started with 1♥!

**Editor's note:** South's 3♠ bid was ill-advised. 3♥ indicated a minimum. South also had a minimum with the ace of partner's trump suit – pass and be happy you don't have a void!





# WHAT DO YOU KNOW? ... CONTINUED

## IMPROVING YOUR TEMPO

Here's a declarer play problem, and you need to process what you know in tempo!

Dealer West. EW Vul

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

Lead: ♣A

West	North	East	South
-	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♣	Dbl	Rdbl	2♦
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

The opponents have a nine card club fit and, without seeing their cards, you expect that 3♣ will make. They are probably off 1 diamond and 3 major suit tricks on most normal breaks.

When dummy comes down it looks like you are off 2 hearts, 2 clubs and 1 diamond. On the go, after cashing the ♣A, West switches to a low trump! You immediately realize that it would be so nice to ditch the club loser from dummy on a good spade. The first four tricks proceed:

	West	North	East	South
Trick 1:	♣A	2	3	4
Trick 2:	♦2	3	9	10
Trick 3:	6	4	5	♠A
Trick 4:	J	10	3	♠K

Now, what do you know? You know that if you play the ♠Q West will ruff and you will lose five tricks. Smoothly you play the ♠9. This is how the play proceeds:

	West	North	East	South
Trick 5:	♥4	♣5	7	♠9
Trick 6:	5	2	K	♥Q
Trick 7:	8	♦8	♣7	6
Trick 8:	A	♦Q	4	5
Trick 9:	♣K	♥6	10	♦7
Trick 10:	8	9	A	♥3
Trick 11:	♣9	♥9	♥7	♦J

The lead is in the South hand with 2 tricks remaining:

♠ ---		
♥ J		
♦ K		
♣ ---		
♠ ---		♠ 8
♥ ---		♥ ---
♦ 6		♦ ---
♣ J		♣ Q
♠ Q 2		
♥ ---		
♦ ---		
♣ ---		

South leads the ♠Q and West is helpless. If you get lost looking at this hand it's worth the time to take a deck of cards and lay the hand out on the kitchen table. My mother actually used to do that with hands from the newspaper. If you have trouble visualizing using the actual playing cards is a tremendous help.



### WHAT TO OVERCALL?

Here's a tip that is included in Mike Lawrence's book on Overcalls.

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

When your RHO opens 1♣ you have a choice of bids. Some players might overcall 1NT with the balanced 16 count. If you bid 1NT either the opponents are going to lead spades or partner is going to transfer you into spades, neither of which looks like that great an option from your point of view. By the way, if this isn't true then you are living under very lucky stars! On this hand Lawrence and I would both overcall 1♦. Even if you don't buy the final contract, partner gets off to the right lead.

### IN CLOSING...

Always take a moment before you bid or before you play. It's important to look at all the information you are given in any situation. I don't know what others have experienced but in my life Mr. Murphy has always been very active.



## CANADIAN BRIDGE HUMOUR

### 'A TIMELY SKIP'

I and another single woman were playing at the Penticton Regional a few years ago and two single men were flirting with us all week. One session, while playing a pairs event, we were E-W and the men were N-S. As we approached their table Director Matt Smith told us the next round was an E-W skip.

When they saw what was happening, the two men complained to the Director: "Hey, you're making us miss these lovely ladies." Matt replied with no hesitation "But they're the ones who requested the skip!"

## CANADIAN ONLINE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Registration is now open for the new Canadian Online Team Championships to be held on Bridge Base Online. The championships are open to CBF members and will consist of five divisions; Open, Women, Flight-B, Flight-C, and 299ers. The championships are not sanctioned (i.e. no masterpoint awards), however there are prizes for each member of the winning team in each division.

See [www.cbf.ca](http://www.cbf.ca) for more information.

# MY CNTC DIARY

by Keith Balcombe, Whitby ON

## PART II

In the last issue of Canadian Bridge I shared my experiences in the Canadian National Team Championships (CNTC A) in Montreal during late May 2015. When we left our favourite team last month at the end of the round robin (OK, maybe *my* favourite team), the team had played well at times and remained consistently in fourth place.

Teammates: Bob Todd, Doug Fisher, Neil Kimelman, Brad Bart.

*Photo: Michael Yuen, Vancouver*



Our team was the mostly Winnipeg Todd team (Bob Todd-Doug Fisher; Neil Kimelman-Brad Bart; Paul Thurston-Keith Balcombe). The good guys qualified, with 7 other teams, for the 4 days of playoffs. The quarterfinals and semi-finals were both day long matches followed by the two day final. The winning team are Canadian champions, to play off with Mexico for the right to go to India and play in the prestigious Bermuda Bowl world championships.

Paul and I play a form of Swedish Club (1♣ is forcing and unlimited, either natural or balanced) with a wrinkle. 2♦ & 2♥ openings show 6+♥ & 6+♠ respectively with 10-14 HCP. 2♠ is a normal weak two.

### The Quarterfinals 1st & 2nd Quarters

*"Some days are just bad days, that's all".  
Dita Von Teese (American Dancer)*

I once again took cold medicine at 5 am to avoid a foggy head as Paul and I were scheduled to play the first quarter with Bob and Doug. Our opponents in the quarterfinal were the cross Canada Hanna team: Hanna-Altay (Toronto area); Mittelman-Amoils (Toronto area); Frukacz-Klimowicz (Ottawa-Edmonton).

Paul and I sat against Mittelman and Amoils in the first quarter. The action heated up quickly with the first board. I held the East hand (directions rotated for convenience) defending against 3NT (see next page).

# MY CNTC DIARY ... Continued

by Keith Balcombe, Whitby ON

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Thurston	Amoils	Balcombe	Mittleman
		Pass	1NT <sup>1</sup>
2♠ <sup>2</sup>	3NT <sup>3</sup>	All Pass	

1 15-17

2 5+ spades & 4+ of either minor

3 Natural, but denies a spade stopper

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

Lead: ♣ 7 (4th best)

Paul led the ♣ 7 (4th best) and the ♣ Q won in Dummy. My first problem was whether or not to win the likely heart lead at trick 2. Sure enough, George played the ♥ J right away. There were enough HCPs for Paul to have the (stiff) Queen or King, so I played a low heart. Also, this would give me a chance to see Paul's discard. The ♥ J held (I played the ♥ 8, a Reverse Smith signal to discourage clubs). George continued with another heart, which I won and Paul pitched the ♠ 6 (upside down attitude).

Paul has shown spades and a minor, obviously clubs. Do I return clubs or switch to spades? What should I do?

There are two conflicting issues so far:

- The fact that Paul discarded ANY spade, suggests NOT to lead them.
- On the other hand, Paul's spades and clubs could be something like ♠ A Q 10 7 6 and ♣ J 9 8 7 6 or similar (♠ 6 = U.D. attitude) and be afraid to pitch a club as Declarer might also have five clubs.

Under this scenario, Paul will have the ♦ K, so Declarer will have 3 hearts, 3 clubs, 2 diamonds, plus the ♠ K when he endplays Paul by leading clubs. Even if I am wrong, Paul can continue clubs from his side if he held ♣ K J 9 7 6. I switched to the ♠ J and that provided the timing for 9 tricks as Declarer held ♠ K 10 9 and the key ♣ 9 so that Paul could not profitably lead clubs from his side. The full hand:

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

After the CNTC, Paul and I decided to play Extended Smith. E.S. occurs if either player's trick two card is a forced play, usually a singleton. Then, the card played on the next trick (usually a discard) is Reverse Smith. This means that any low card shows interest in opening leader's suit and a high card denies interest. That would have worked much better on this hand.

At the other table, Waldemar (with Paul's hand), led his singleton heart against 3NT in order to not break any suits. I tell my students to lead singletons only against

# MY CNTC DIARY ... Continued

by Keith Balcombe, Whitby ON

suit contracts. This lead still gave the defenders a chance, but they later mis-guessed how to beat 3NT and Declarer Todd was able to endplay Frukacz to lead from his ♣K for his 9th trick. Strangely, 4th best from your longest and strongest, in this case spades, beats 3NT, without much problem. Happy Bob, unhappy Keith....but for a push.

Our second hand, Paul and I bravely bid to 3NT with 32 HCP, off one ace but with two completely solid black suits. On the bright side, we took all 13 tricks to reduce the loss on this hand to 12 IMPs.

My "fun" continued as I ran from 3NT doubled (more-or-less cold) to 4♠ doubled (absolutely and definitely down one). We only lost 2 IMPs for this as our opponents were also in 4♠, but undoubled.

On board 4, Bob and Doug continued to enjoy their match as one opponent doubled Doug's artificial 3♣ bid to show good clubs. Doug's passed hand 3♣ bid showed a strong diamond raise after Bob opened 1♦ in third seat. When Bob and Doug later settled in 3NT, the other opponent optimistically doubled 3NT with ♦AJx and five clubs presumably asking partner to lead a club. Doug proceeded made 11 tricks (+1150) to win 11 IMPs. Hanna now led by only 3 IMPs. Later, I made an obscure competitive 2♠ bid which came home with some mis-defence. We won 6 IMPs on that hand and led by 2 IMPs.

I continued to be the Declarer du Jour, aka DuJ, (I played 9 of the first 15 boards) with this challenge (directions rotated for convenience):

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

♠ J 10 2  
♥ K Q 6 2  
♦ 10 9  
♣ J 9 6 4

Lead: ♠ 3

West	North	East	South
Mittelman	Thurston	Amoils	Balcombe
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Double	Pass	2♠
Double	All Pass		

How do you play? You have 3 probable spade tricks and ...? I did not foresee the danger and tried for an ♦ ruff. Sadly for me, the doubler was 5-6 in the blacks and I ended up with only those 3 spade tricks. Not my finest hour. The right play is the lead hearts to force Mittelman to trump. You then probably take 3 spade tricks and 1 or 2 heart tricks and maybe even a trick at the end. I was -1100 for an embarrassing 15 IMP loss. We recovered 10 IMPs, when the DuJ successfully made 5♦, a complicated play and defense hand, when our opponents were failing in a potentially inferior 3NT game.

We lost the first quarter by only 3 IMPs. Quite a relief. Paul and I did not play the second quarter, which was, by contrast with the first quarter, a well-played and low scoring affair. Hanna won 18 IMPs to 11, so we were down by 10 IMPs at half time. Paul and I were back in for the third quarter.



# MY CNTC DIARY ... Continued

by Keith Balcombe, Whitby ON

## Quarterfinal – 3rd Quarter

*"The way a team plays as a whole determines its success" Babe Ruth (baseball legend)*

I felt refreshed, confident and ready for action against Frukacz-Klimowicz. It would be our Swedish "W" Club (named after our home towns of are Whitby and Wellington) against their Polish Club. The third quarter is always pivotal in any day long match. Brad and Neil would be our Q3 teammates.

Being DuJ, I played the first hand in the Q3 in the always exciting five-nothing spade fit after their Multi 2♦ (weak two in either major)! Good news was that I made 8 tricks; bad news is that our teammates also play Multi! Our teammates opted to avoid their 6-2 spade fit with the 5-0 break and played instead their 3-2 heart fit (!) after 2♦ (Multi weak two in either Major) – (2♠ by my hand) – 3♥ (pass or correct) – All Pass. We lost 5 IMPs; down 15 IMPs overall.

On the second hand, Paul and I defended 3♣ for -110. However our teammates declared an unlikely 4♠ contract after some momentum from a weak notrump auction. A poor opening lead, some thoughtful play by Neil and a favourable trump split helped 4♠ make. We won 11 IMPs, suddenly down only 4.

After a push and a favourable part score swing, Piotr and Waldemar were in 4♣ +1, but our teammates bid the reasonable 5♣ after a more competitive auction. This auction was also revealing and Brad duplicated Piotr's adept handling to also make 11 tricks. We were now ahead by 10 IMPs!

Two boards later, both vulnerable, I picked up:  
♠J 8 7 ♥Q ♦A 9 ♣A K Q 10 6 5 3 in 2nd seat.

Dealer opened 1♦, showing 4+ diamonds. There are two basic choices: 2♣ and 3NT, although some would also consider double. If I held the ♣J or had been not vul, or perhaps ten years younger, I would bid 3NT without hesitation. I bid only 2♣, and took the push to 3♣, with Paul silent, after the opponents competed. In retrospect, double might have been the best bid.

Of course, Paul provided ♠Qx (to make a spade stopper between us), heart length and the diamond King, so 3NT was frigid. The opponents did even worse with our cards, ending in 4♣, down one with good defense by Brad and Neil. We won 5 IMPs and now led by 15.

Two hands later, I continued as DuJ when I picked up:  
♠J 10 6 ♥Q 10 7 ♦- ♣A K Q J 8 6 4 and made a poorly judged competitive 5♣ bid against 4♠, which was due to fail. Paul also had three low spades plus the AQJ10 of diamonds. Ugh. However, our teammates saved us again, as this was a push. We remained ahead by 15 IMPs.

What would you bid with:

♠A 5 2 ♥8 5 ♦9 5 ♣K Q 9 8 4 2 after 1♠ from partner and a both vulnerable 2♥ overcall? Too strong for 2♠ (although the ♣K Q could be useless), not quite right for 2NT (a spade limit raise that implies 4 trumps). I decided to make a negative double. Then everybody passed! Now what do you lead? I decided to lead a simple ♠A, expecting spade length in the Dummy and the possible need to tap declarer since they rated to have a big diamond fit. For once, this turned out to be accurate.

# MY CNTC DIARY ... Continued

by Keith Balcombe, Whitby ON

The full hand (directions rotated for convenience):

Both Vul.

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

Lead: ♠ A

West	North	East	South
Thurston	Frukacz	Balcombe	Klimowicz
-	-	1♠	2♥
Double	All Pass		

Klimowicz took five trump tricks and one diamond trick, for down 2, +500 for us. Brad and Neil had a strong result by beating 4♠. We won 12 IMPs and now led by 21.

Paul and I seemed bolstered by that result. I continued to be DuJ (I personally played half the hands again) and we ran off five sound results for the rest of the quarter. These were largely duplicated by our opponents. We ended the quarter +22 IMPs. However, my cold had caught up with me and I needed to leave the rest of the match to our teammates.

## Quarterfinal – 4th Quarter.

*"Some people think football bridge is a matter of life and death. I assure you, it's much more serious than that". - Bill Shankly (Scottish footballer)*  
*Slightly modified by your author*

The fourth quarter was scary for captain Bob, somewhat similar to my experience in the first quarter.

Bob and Doug started by missing a not easy to bid, but cold, 6♠ slam on the first board for a push. Two boards later, after Doug opened a weak notrump, Bob took a favourable vulnerability 4♠ "save" for -1100 and a 10 IMP loss. I know how he felt after my own -1100. Now Team Todd led by only 12 IMPs and was trying to win after twin -1100's – that would be quite a feat.

A few boards later, Bob had this teasing bidding problem. He held: ♠K ♥3 ♦Q J 6 2 ♣K Q J 8 7 6 2. At Unfavourable vulnerability the bidding was:

West	North	East	South
Fisher	Klimowicz	Todd	Frukacz
	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	?	

Bob decided to bid 6♣, only to discover that he was off two aces and swiftly was down one. At the other table, the bidding was:

West	North	East	South
Amoils	Bart	Mittleman	Kimelman
	4♥	5♣!	5♥
6♣	Pass	Pass	6♥
Dbl	All Pass		

That was doubled and down 3 for a loss of 12 IMPs. Now Hanna led the match by 4 IMPs.

The very next board involved another high level bidding problem for our poor beleaguered captain. He

# MY CNTC DIARY ... Continued

by Keith Balcombe, Whitby ON

held: ♠7 5 ♥Q 8 ♦Q J 8 6 5 4 3 2 ♣6. The bidding was:

West	North	East	South
Fisher	Klimowicz	Todd	Frucacz
		Pass	1♠
2NT <sup>1</sup>	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

1 Hearts and Clubs, at least 5-5

Bob reasonably elected to Pass 4♠ doubled and collect +200. At the other table, Mittelman-Amoils had a good auction to bid and make 6♦. We lost a whopping 15 IMPs on this hand. The margin was now Hanna leading by 18 IMPs with a scant four boards left to play. We were in deep trouble now.

On the next hand, board 27, both of our pairs had a plus in a part score battle to win back 6 IMPs. Hanna now ahead by 12.

On board 28, Bob was again on the hot seat: ♠5 2 ♥K Q J 8 4 2 ♦9 2 ♣Q 5 3. Doug opened 1♠, Bob bid the normal forcing 1NT, whereupon Doug rebid 3♠. Bob persevered with 4♥, for +420, their only makeable game, to win 7 IMPs. We were down by only 5 IMPs. Now we had a chance.

This was board 29:

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

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

Lead: ♠ A

West	North	East	South
Fisher	Klimowicz	Todd	Frucacz
	1♠	2♦	4♦
5♦	5♥	Dbl	5♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

As you can see, 11 tricks are cold for N-S in spades. Brad was doubled in 4♠ (1♠-Dbl-4♠-Dbl) at the other table, so we won 5 IMPs! More importantly, we were now within an overtrick swing, down by a solitary IMP.

Board 30, the last hand of the match, was itself very exciting.

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

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

Lead: ♠ A

# MY CNTC DIARY ... Continued

by Keith Balcombe, Whitby ON

The bidding against Bob and Doug was something like this:

West	North	East	South
Fisher	Klimowicz	Todd	Frucacz
		Pass	Pass
1NT <sup>1</sup>	2♥	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

<sup>1</sup> 11-14

As you can see, the bad heart split means that 8 or 9 tricks are the limit for N-S in hearts. At the other table, West opened 1♥. Brad, North, passed, then balanced with 2♥. So N-S made 9 tricks in a heart partial by knowing about the 5-0 heart split. We won 6 IMPs on board 30 and we won the match by 5 IMPs. We won it on the last hand!

Never a moment's doubt. Onto the semi-finals which was scheduled to be broadcast on BBO, so we need to avoid those -1100 scores.

Next month: The Semi-final

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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## TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY

Contract: 3NT  
Lead: ♠3

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

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

Trick 1: ♠ 3, Q, A, 4  
Trick 2: ♠ 2, 8, 10, K

Plan the play.  
Answer on page 34



# WHAT WENT WRONG?

by Paul Thurston



## 1. Game forcing or game forcing?

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

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

Lead: ♣2

West	North	East	South
-	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	All pass	

With game in spades almost a sure thing (and this time eleven tricks would roll home with trumps 3-2 and the ♦K offside), stopping in a mere part score missed the target for sure.

There are several possible variations that would lead to the promised land of 4♠, but before we propose at least one of those, the post-session conversation I had with the pair who conducted this auction might prove instructive.

Opener: "I didn't want to raise spades directly with only three but when I supported partner on the second round, I didn't think the auction would end".

Responder: "I knew I really shouldn't bid 2♥ on the second round because it was Fourth Suit Forcing (to game as we play) but I did have hearts and couldn't think of anything better to bid".

And there's the crux of the disaster in a nutshell: Responder made a bid she really didn't have the values for (2♥) and scared herself so much she couldn't bear to bid any more after the seemingly safe haven of 2♠ had been reached.

That leaves two main issues to deal with as far as "What went Wrong?":

1. Should opener raise spades directly at her second turn, and if she did, would that make getting to 4♠ any easier?
2. Did responder have any alternative to the 2♥ rebid she frightened herself with and if not, should she have passed at her third turn?

Like the French, I've never really believed in the usefulness of raising a one-over-one response with only three cards in support (you can actually have your membership in the French National Bridge Association revoked for doing so!). Partnerships who do so usually have some elaborate scheme of artificial follow-ups to find out if in fact the raise of a one-over-one in major has been raised with three or four cards but I much prefer simply not doing so.

Now this doesn't mean any of us should totally shy away from playing a major suit contract on a 4-3 fit just that you shouldn't go looking for such fits until other alternatives have been explored.



# WHAT WENT WRONG? ... Continued

Of course, if this auction had started with 1♦-1♠-2♠, Responder would make some kind of game try (maybe rebidding 3♥ as a Help Suit Game Try) so the three-card raisers could point to the efficiency of their methods – at least this time!

As for responder, clearly she shouldn't rebid 2♥ with a mere nine high-card points and no hint of a real fit to fall back on. Indeed, we might all have been too frightened to continue over opener's preference to 2♠ if we believed we were about an ace short of what we had promised.

As for alternatives, at her second turn responder might well have rebid 2♦: she doesn't have a great hand in the context of her partner's bidding and 2♦ is not showing anything more than a preference for partner's first suit. Consider where you might like to play this deal if Opener had:

♠ x ♥ J x ♦ A Q 9 8 x ♣ A J x x x, or a similar two-suited hands.

A tip for survival on many deals:

**When a misfit looms, head for cover as soon as you can, unless you have compensating factors like lots of high cards.**

That doesn't mean 2♦ needs to be the final contract as opener has just enough in the way of extra values to continue with 2♠ over 2♦. Here's how the entire auction might then unwind:

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

The first three calls seem automatic as does responder's preference to 2♦ showing little more than a weak hand unable to do anything more forward going than take a preference for partner's first suit.

But now when opener continues to 2♠ that isn't a forced preference but a delayed raise showing three-card support and more than a minimum opening (she'd quit at 2♦ with a poor hand for her early bidding).

After that start, responder would know of extra values, three-card support and, since her partner had bid three suits, shortness in hearts that could prove very valuable in the play. To make continuing to game straightforward – and there would have been no question of chickening out after the misguided 2♥ call!

## 2. Black is the New Black

Here's another deal from a recent online session that showcases one of my favourite treatments in 2/1 (although it's easily adaptable to Standard as well). First, the auction that didn't work:

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

Lead: ♦ Q

West	North	East	South
-	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

A truly messy and ineffective auction with 6♥ virtually laydown and 7♥ a favourite to make in the absence of a trump lead (and thus a grand to be avoided as defenders so very often consider a trump lead

# WHAT WENT WRONG? ... Continued

automatic against grand slams).

Again, there are a lot of different twists and turns the auction might have taken so What Went Wrong with this one?

Once Opener started with 1♠ and received the game-forcing two-over-one response, he was really stuck as a 3♣ rebid would have been a high-level reverse promising extra values he didn't have. This left 2♠ as his only possible rebid by default.

And when Responder continued with 3♦, he might have been seeking a ♣ stopper for notrump and one thing Opener did have was ♣'s well-stopped so he decided to show that in lieu of showing his doubleton honour in hearts.

As for Responder, none of his partner's bids really turned him on – yes, he had great hearts but he also had a lot of possible diamond losers and no guarantee (indeed, not even a hint) of a fit so closing up shop in the heart game seemed the wisest course.

Here's what I think is a much better sequence that did culminate in the good small slam:

West	North	East	South
-	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

1♣: I've always believed that hands with 5-5 in the black suits and either minimum values (12-15 high-card points) or very strong (18+) should be opened 1♣ and the way it worked on this deal, you may become a believer too (If you're not already).

Responder (Mike Rippey of California, a student who didn't really believe in 1♣ being the best choice on hands like Opener's until he'd seen about a dozen instances where it worked really well and none where it misfired!) rebid 2♦ as Fourth Suit Forcing (to game) and I could continue with 2♠ to confirm a fifth card in the suit.

Now when Responder showed his great heart length and extra strength (by keeping the auction low instead of jumping to game, an instance of Fast Arrival), Opener could volunteer heart support.

To give Responder a complete picture of what the hand opposite looked like: an opening bid with 5-5 in the black suits and a doubleton heart to leave room for no more than one diamond to at least partially alleviate the concern about those three small diamonds Responder held.

Blackwood seemed best at that stage and over the one Key card answer, Responder had room to ask for the Queen of hearts and 5♠ said "I've got her and also the ♠ King".

So regardless of the opening lead, Responder knew before seeing dummy that, barring any really awful distributional snags, 6♥ would be cold: seven heart tricks in hand, three aces, the ♣K and one diamond ruff in the dummy!

And so it proved as nothing Went Wrong in the play!



Paul Thurston (Photo: Michael Yuen)

## TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY

Contract: 3NT

Lead: ♠3

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

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

Trick 1: ♠ 3, Q, A, 4

Trick 2: ♠ 2, 8, 10, K

Plan the play.

You have seven top tricks. A successful heart guess should get you enough tricks. Alternatively you could play on the minors hoping for the ♦Q is on side, and clubs coming in for three tricks.

Playing on hearts is the better line. However if West has ♥xx you have to decide whether to play the ♥10 or the ♥Q on the 2nd round of hearts, assuming you cash the ace first.

However if you consider the hand from a defensive perspective you can do better. Here is a hint: How would you play if your hand was?

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

You would cross to dummy to lead a heart, and hope for split heart honours (or East holding both). If you catch East sleeping with xHxHxx or xHxHx you can lose the first heart to West, who has advertised he has five spades.

Back to the actual deal here was the setup:

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

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

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

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

During the 2013 USBF Championships Zia did just that! He crossed in a minor and led the ♥3 acting like a man with either ♥Jx or ♥Jxx. East went up with the ♥K as hoped, and Zia ended up with five hearts, making overtricks!



Phoenix, Arizona May 9-18, 2014  
Reported by Suzi Subeck, Chicago



Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Nickell</i>
-	-	1♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
1♦ <sup>2</sup>	6♦	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Hampson</i>
-	-	1♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
1♦	5♦	Pass	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Both auctions started with a Strong Club and negative response. Katz took 12 easy tricks for +1370. At the other table, Meckstroth lost the expected three tricks and went quietly down two for -200. That resulted in 15 imps to Nickell.

**Editor's Note.** Distributional deals are always fascinating. I chose this hand for inclusion partly for its entertainment value, but also because of any learning we can glean

from these premier players.

My first observation is that both E-W pairs were playing a strong club system. These methods are prone to early preemption as neither player knows anything about suit length, just general high card values.

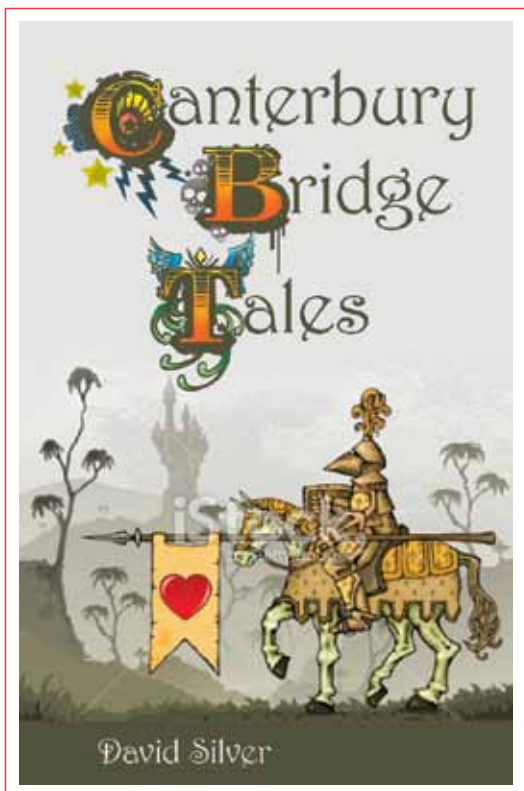
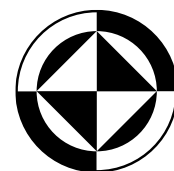
Notice that over 5♦ West was able to show his six card heart suit. Despite that I like Greco's first bid, but not his second. I think double is needed as a follow-up to show a strong offensive and defensive hand. In my mind they go together. Only now can South make an informed decision over any interference.

However 6♦ was the big winner here. It risks taking a small minus when the opponents are also going minus, but the upside, as we see on this deal, is huge. All partner needs is the ♣K with four plus cards for some chance, and sometimes like here, a good partner puts down a perfecto.

Finally, Rodwell's raise to slam was interesting. I am not sure he whether he meant it as trying for a make, or just an attempt to talk the opponents out of doubling them. For example if he passes and South bids 6♦, I suspect that Rodwell may bid 6♥, and that contract will be doubled.

# NEW FROM

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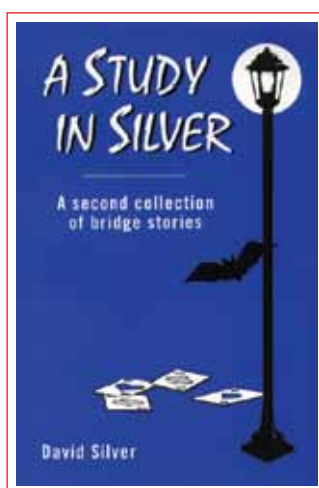
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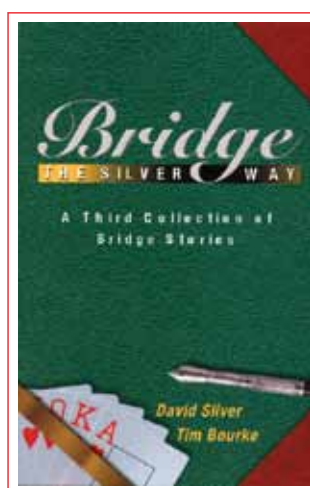
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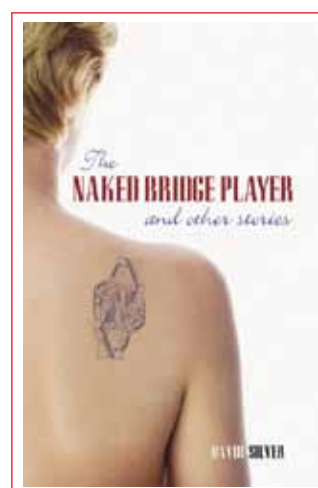
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# EVENTS & DEADLINES

Canadian Bridge Federation Calendar of Events as of September 2015.

For updates see our website [www.cbf.ca](http://www.cbf.ca)

2015

## OCTOBER

Club Appreciation Games all month

- Club Qualifying games for CNTC and COPC
- World Championships in Chennai continue from September 26 – October 10
- Monday evening October 5  
Canada Wide Olympiad Fund Game
- CBF Online Team Championships begins October 19
- Thursday anytime! October 22  
Erin Berry Rookie Master Game

## NOVEMBER

- Club Qualifying games for CNTC and COPC
- Monday evening November 30  
ACBL wide Charity Game

## DECEMBER

- Club Qualifying games for CNTC and COPC
- Monday morning Dec. 21st  
ACBL wide International Fund Game #3

2016

## JANUARY

Junior Fund month

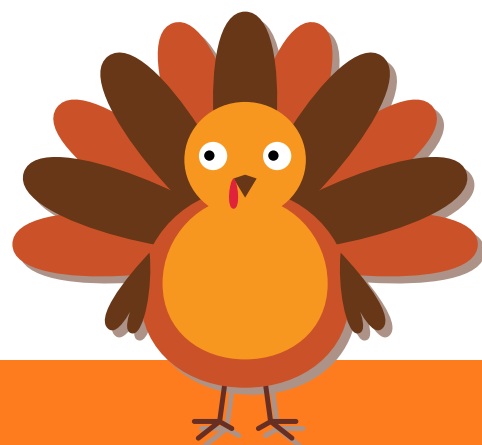
- Club Qualifying games for CNTC until January 18th

## FEBRUARY

- CBF Canada Wide STAC – February 15-21

## MARCH

- Registration Deadline for CNTC A,B & C, CWTC, CSTC – March 21st



## Important Dates

2015 World Team Championships | Chennai, India | 26 September - 10 October

2016 CBF Canadian Bridge Championships | Toronto ON | 21-28 May 2016

