



# bridge

## Canada

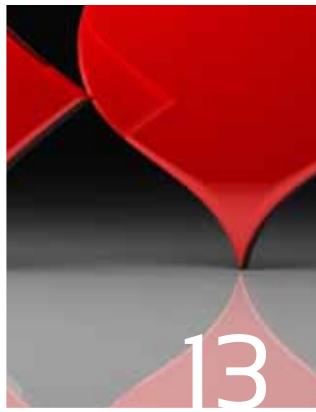


## FUTURE BRIDGE STARS

With such enthusiasm, and your support, we can all feel optimistic about the future of bridge in Canada. *Page 7.*

## 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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## MEMBERSHIP

Bridge Canada is now available to members only.

If you know of anyone who wishes to become a member of the Canadian Bridge Federation please share with them these options:

1. Be sure to include CBF dues with your ACBL dues.
2. Visit [cbf.ca](http://cbf.ca) and click **Join The CBF**
3. Email [info@cbf.ca](mailto:info@cbf.ca) for more information

NOTE: Membership dues are waived for Canadian players under 25 years of age. Junior players can join the CBF by sending their information to [info@cbf.ca](mailto:info@cbf.ca).

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Editor Neil Kimelman with CNTC teammate Brad Bart. Photo Credit: Jonathan Steinberg

# EDITOR'S COMMENTS

## VARIETY OF CONTENT

We continually strive to provide a variety of content in Bridge Canada issues. Please let me know which articles you like and which ones not so much. In this issue we introduce Christopher Rollins and his experience in Evinrude, Ontario. Hopefully you enjoyed his lighthearted misadventures.

## 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.

I hope CBF members will approach me with their feedback during the Montreal Canadian Bridge Championships, being held in late May.

Neil Kimelman  
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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

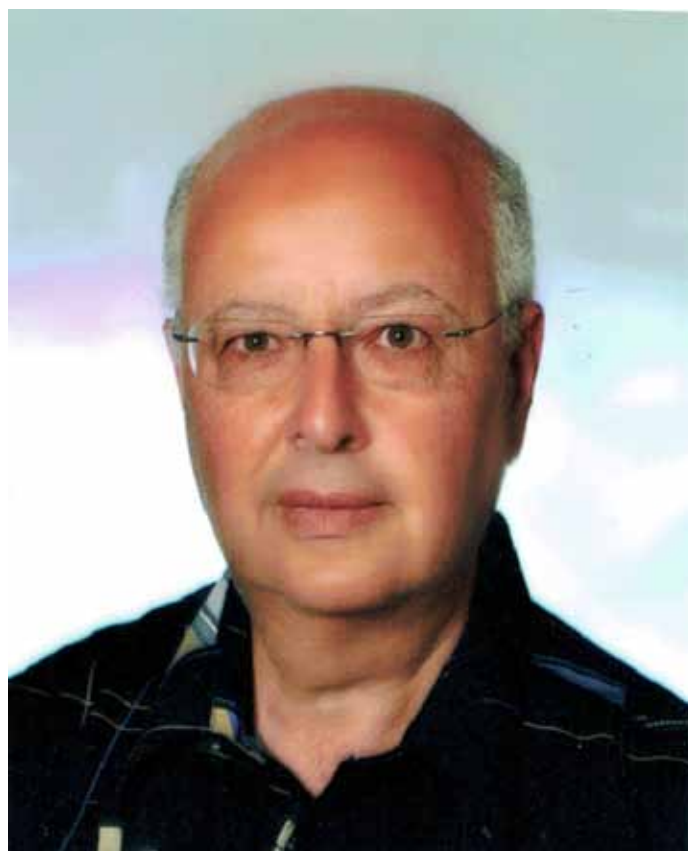
## NEW WEBSITE

By the time you are reading this issue of Bridge Canada our new website will have been available for a few weeks. I hope that you are enjoying the new look and feel, as well as the enriched content and improved navigation that the revamped website features. Sections such as the "Hall of Fame", "Events" and "About the CBF" have undergone major redesign in order to improve the user experience, and provide more organized and substantive information.

The "Members Only Section" of the new website allows CBF members to access current and past issues of the bi-monthly Bridge Canada magazine, and to review the latest standings for the various CBF masterpoint races. In addition, CBF members now have the ability to register teams for the Canadian Open and Women team championships, and pay entry fees by credit card online.

More new features are currently under development and include a French version of the website, a rich library of historical articles and press clippings, and a monthly interactive bidding contest, so stay tuned!

**TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE MEMBER ONLY FEATURES OF THE WEBSITE:** CBF members need to register by selecting "Existing CBF Members - Register Here" from the "Members Only Section" menu and submit the required information. Once membership is verified you'll receive an e-mail with a link to reset your login password.



## CBF BYLAW CHANGE

Section 8 of the CBF Bylaws defines eligible members of the CBF Advisory Committee as follows:

"Any Canadians who are members of the ACBL Board of Directors or of the World Bridge Federation Executive Council shall serve on an Advisory Committee to the Board of Directors, and while they serve in that capacity, be entitled to attend at all regular meetings of the Board of Directors of the CBF provided, however, that such persons will not be entitled to vote on any matter before the Board of Directors."

In order to benefit from the knowledge and experience of a wider range of people, and to

*Continued on next page*

improve the CBF's ability to control the annual board meeting expenses, the CBF Board of Directors has voted to revise the Advisory Committee membership eligibility, and to change the above section to read:

"The Board of Directors of the CBF will annually select members to serve on an Advisory Committee to the Board of Directors. While serving in that capacity, a member of the Advisory Committee may be invited to attend all or part of a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the CBF provided, however, that such person will not be entitled to vote on any matter before the Board of Directors."

The proposed change will be voted on at the CBF Annual General Meeting, which will take place on May 27 during the Canadian Bridge Championships in Montreal.

## CBF LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

I am pleased to announce that the CBF Board of Directors has voted to name George Retek as the first recipient of the CBF Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his 33+ years of service to Canadian bridge.

Retek, who has served as a member of the WBF executive council for 23 years, is the only Canadian member of the WBF Committee of Honour, the highest honour that the WBF bestows on a member. He brought the world championships to Montreal in 2002, and served as chairman of the organizing committee. That is the only time a major bridge world championship has been held in Canada. Retek, who represented District 1 on the ACBL Board of Directors for 33 years before retiring in 2012, was elected ACBL president in 2002.

Retek will be presented with the award during the CBF Hall of Fame Ceremony which will take place in Montreal on May 26 during the Canadian Bridge Championships.



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George Retek honored by the Canadian Bridge Federation with new Lifetime Achievement Award..



# CANADA'S FUTURE BRIDGE STARS

For the last few months I've had the pleasure of mentoring a group of 14 young players ages 11 – 16. My involvement started when I was asked to help with last year's annual School Bridge Day. The event, which is held as part of the Toronto Easter Regional, is the brainchild of Flo Belford and thanks to her efforts over the last 20 years and the efforts of many teachers who introduced bridge in their schools, more than 400 students participate in the event each year.

Seeing that many young kids play and enjoy bridge raises the question of why they lose their enthusiasm for the game as they grow older, and why we do not see similar number of students playing bridge by the time they get to university.



**Though it is true that bridge has a lot of competition for the attention and interest of youth, I also think that one of the reasons that kids do not stick with bridge may be that we do not pay enough attention to helping them develop and learn more about the game.**

I believe that it is very important to not only welcome young players, but to also support them and make it easy for them to learn and appreciate the beauty of our game.

Accordingly, I made it known to some teachers that I am available to help their students develop their game to reach the next level. Teachers started

identifying kids who showed interest in learning more about the game and referred them to me.

Since September, I have been meeting with the group, every two weeks or so, for about three hours at a time. We also have some practices on BBO in between the in-person sessions. The group continues to grow and the kids show commitment and a great appetite for learning. They have tremendous enthusiasm for the game and many played at the Toronto CBF regional in September and the Toronto New Year sectional in January. Several are also planning to participate in the Youth NABC in Chicago this summer.

## CANADA'S FUTURE STARS ... Continued

The kids were excited to learn about the CBF Junior Program and the opportunity to represent Canada at the bi-annual World Youth Team Championships (WYTC) which consists of four team competitions, the World Junior and the World Girls Teams for players under 25 years of age, the World Youngsters Teams for players under 20 years of age, and the World Kids Teams for players under 15 years of age.

Upon learning that the CBF can only afford to send two fully subsidized teams to participate in the Junior and Youngster competitions, the kids and their parents decided to start a fundraising campaign to raise \$30,000 to help send a team to the Kids competition at the 2016 WYTC in Salsomaggiore, Italy.

You can read about this amazing group of kids, and their dream of representing their country in the game they love, on their fundraising website at [cbfkids.causevox.com](http://cbfkids.causevox.com).

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



Jacob, 14, studies the dummy



Julia, 11, and already fiercely competitive

## CANADIAN WOMEN'S TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS (CWTC)

The CWTC is open to women members in good standing of the CBF. The first National Final in the CWTC was held in Vancouver in 1984 (in 1980 there was a playoff held to select a Ladies team to go to the World Ladies Team Olympiad). Prior to 1998 the CWTC was held as a stand alone event. Since 1998, with the exception of 2014 and 2015, the CWTC has been held as part of the Canadian Bridge Championships.

Teams pre-register for the National Final. Winners are awarded the Tobi Mitchell Trophy. Upon ratification by the CBF board of directors, the winning team receives a subsidy to represent Canada at that year's world women team championship.

In 2015 there were not enough teams registered to stage a stand-alone event. In 2016 the CWTC will return to the Canadian Bridge Championships in Toronto ON and take place during the week of May 21 - 28. For more information visit [cbf.ca](http://cbf.ca) and select CWTC from under the Events menu.



# MEET SHAN HUANG

Shan Huang is a double winner of the Canadian Richmond Trophy, winning in 2013 and 2014.



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

I had always been a big fan of card games when I was young. I started playing bridge online in high school. Then I went to the first bridge club in University of Toronto Hart House. Gradually I'm getting hooked on the game and going to more and more tournaments. I joined the ACBL in 2009.

**What do you think the biggest differences in bridge are between 30 years ago and now?**

I think there are two big differences. First one is bidding. There are way too many ridiculous contracts reached because of bad bidding in the old days, even among top-level players. Second thing is carding and signals. I feel people signal a lot more delicately these days, like subtle suit preferences etc. I think the main reason for these changes is that, as bridge progresses, people start to realize the importance of communication and partnership, whereas in the old days it's more

about personal skills. Probably you can never trust your partner in a rubber bridge game anyway.

**What is your most memorable bridge moment?**

I don't really have any memorable bridge moments. I do always remember the bad things I did at the bridge table though. For instance, In the 2013 North American Swiss, I misdefended a 5♦ contract by giving the wrong signal at trick one because I was tilted by partner's lead. That unfortunately, in some sense, cost us the North American championship. So I would say that's fairly memorable. I hope there's going to be many good memorable moments coming in the future.

**What about life away from the bridge table.**

I have no life away from the bridge table.

*Continued on next page*

## MEET SHAN ... *Continued*

### What do you like to do besides bridge?

Typical. Drinks, women, party. At a bridge tournament, all I want to do is play bridge and talk about bridge. But being a bridge pro, I do like the fact that I can manage my free time when I'm not playing bridge.

### What is your favourite bridge book?

I haven't finished reading one yet.

### Cats or dogs?

Both are cute. I like most animals.

### Red or white?

White, not even close.

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

There's two pieces of advice I want to give to newer players. The first one is don't be lazy. Both at the bridge table and in the post-mortem. Stay focused and never give up at the bridge table. Remember the hands you have questions on. And after the game, talk to good players, and learn from their opinions. Second one is the most important one—never result and be objective. What I observed is people often ask about hands mainly because they want to defend themselves. It's not important who's right or wrong on some particular hand. Always try to make the conversation constructive.

### Can you share any amusing stories with us?

I hope I already amused you 😊

# IMPROVE YOUR DECLARER PLAY

IMPs. Contract: 3NT by South, no opposition bidding Lead: 5♠

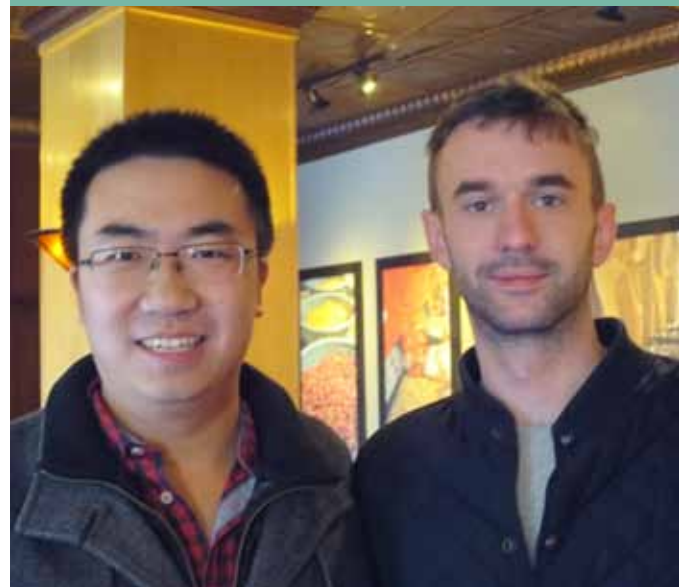
♠ A  
♥ A 7 4  
♦ 7 5 4 3 2  
♣ A 7 6 4

♠ K 9 6  
♥ K 9 3 2  
♦ K Q 6  
♣ 8 5 3

Plan the play.

Answer on page 25

PHOTO: Shan Huang & David Sabourin  
collecting masterpoints at the  
2014 NABC in Providence.  
*Photo Credits this article: J Steinberg*



# What Went Wrong?

by Paul Thurston

Although it's a fact of bridge life that errors abound at all levels of the game, as this deal was originally contested during an all-experts online team match, we might have expected better performances from at least two of the competitors.



Dealer: South Vulnerable: Both

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

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

As would many players, South got a full head of bidding steam up with his distributional and high-card powerhouse. After showing his 5-6 shape and extra values with his first three calls, South eventually extracted a heart preference from his partner and continued to show unbridled enthusiasm with his leap to slam.

There was both psychology and bridge at work here. Far too often, one partner will hold a really good hand and drag his uncooperative partner ever

higher without regard for what the weaker hand might actually contain. Optimism reigns supreme when holding good cards!

On the bridge side of things, North might have decided to soft-pedal his hand by choosing 3NT as his third call, but he did have two great cards in his partner's suits and didn't think a mere preference at the four-level could get him into too much hot water. The key word in his thinking process: "Preference"!

What North showed with 4♥ was just that, a preference for hearts over any other strain, not an actual "raise" or definitive statement of support. Consider this very common sequence:

Opener	Responder
1♠	1NT
2♥	2♠
?	

Responder is not actually "raising" or even supporting spades, he is simply taking a preference for spades over hearts and will most often have no more than two cards in spades. Notwithstanding that bridge reality, many openers gifted with a great hand will leap blithely to 4♠ over 2♠ and will be sorely disappointed when dummy tables the likes of: ♠ xx ♥ xx ♦ Qxxx ♣ KJxxx.



## *What Went Wrong?* ... Continued

But back at the ranch with the actual hand, South bought a dummy with perfect assets, the ♠A, ♥Q and ♦K representing a trifecta that could have allowed the wild gamble to succeed.

South ruffed the opening lead of the ♣A to lead a spade to the Ace and another back to the King. This was mere preamble to ruffing the third round of spades, drawing trumps and triumphantly claiming the slam with an overtrick.

But you know all about the best laid plans of mice, men and incautious declarers! South's happy dance got rudely interrupted when West ruffed the second round of spades to return a trump, a sequence of plays that left South having to confront another one of bridge's harsh facts of life: You can't ruff two losers with one trump and South did indeed have two spade losers, only one trump in dummy and nothing to do with that extra loser except eventually lose it!

While there still might be some bidding issues North-South will need to work out, given the actual start to the play, South had an "easy" route to twelve tricks that should have started as most good play campaigns do: By COUNTING!

Declarer could count six heart tricks, three high spades and two top diamonds for eleven fast winners with the twelfth readily available by way of a spade ruff in dummy.

But another fact of life: before embarking on a campaign to produce your twelfth trick, be sure to do everything you can to ensure none of the other eleven disappear enroute.

To do that: Ruff the club lead, lead to the spade ace, and return a second round of spades but play LOW from hand. Yes, that will sacrifice a potential overtrick when spades split reasonably (3-3 or 4-2) but with several hundred points available for ensuring the slam, one 30-point overtrick is of no account.

That way of managing the spade suit will still allow for ruffing one in dummy for the twelfth trick while preserving the high honours for part of the eventual trick count required (and initially tallied), and South will have won his bidding gamble in fine style.

But should that have been the case? The final culprit in this scenario? West! Even though that defender did score a ruff and delivered the crucial blow with his trump return, he had definitely dropped the ball at trick one!

For sure, leading an AK combination against a slam seems almost automatic (and should be against six notrump!), but South's dramatic leap to the six-level without having invoked Blackwood almost certainly indicates a void somewhere, and that somewhere is overwhelmingly a favourite to be clubs.

Further, North's bidding showed at most two cards in each of spades and hearts (no earlier show of real support for either suit by the eventual dummy), all to indicate that spades were splitting badly for South and that he might need to trump one or two in the dummy.

The remedy? Yes, an opening trump lead and North will certainly be entitled to ask "WHAT WENT WRONG?" no matter how carefully South declares!

The scoring swing was truly dramatic as well. The other team's North-South stayed in game and scored +620 after a trump lead to gain 12 IMPs – see, not every pair stampedes to even good slams! But if the 6♠ declarer had played better, there would have been +13 IMPs to his team to leave the final hypothetical question of "WHAT WENT WRONG" to be posed to the leader of the top club against 6♠.

# DOUBLE DUMMY

## *Problem 1*

**Introduction from Editor:** Welcome to a new feature that will appear periodically in Bridge Canada – Double Dummy. It is a selection of hands that are difficult to find the winning play, even seeing all four hands. We start with a classic, a hand that the great Italian player, Giorgio Belladonna, made at the table! The bidding:

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

Lead: ♣3  
 Make 6♦ against best defense.

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

Solution on page 24

# THE COUNT: *Part 2*

BY SYLVIA CALEY

Editor's note: This is Sylvia's second article on Counting, the first of which appeared in February's Bridge Canada.

In my previous article we looked at a few examples of counting on defense. Counting is of utmost importance on offense as well, so let us now take a look at the offensive point of view.

## Tip Three

**CONTINUALLY REVIEW  
all the information at hand.**

Here is a hand that came up on the internet. As South you hold a balanced 11 count with four spades:

♠ Q 10 9 3  
♥ A 6 5  
♦ 9 6 5 2  
♣ K Q

East dealt, and with EW Vul, this is the auction:

West	North	East	South
-	-	P	P
2♦	Dbl	P	3♠
P	4♠	All Pass	

The Opening lead is the ♦K and dummy appears with a flat 13 count with four spades.

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

♠ Q 10 9 3  
♥ A 6 5  
♦ 9 6 5 2  
♣ K Q

You play dummy's ♦A and East follows with the ♦3. (Note that West Opened 2♦ on a five card suit.)



In order to make your contract, you need to hold your losers to two diamonds and one club. At trick two you play a low club from dummy. East wins the ♣A and exits with another club. Now you take the spade finesse and are relieved to find that it works. Reflecting on what you know so far it seems that West opened 2♦ with the Spade King as well as 6 HCPs in diamonds. If he also held the Heart Queen he would have held at least 11 HCPs. A player with 11 and a good five card suit might have opened 1♦ not two.

Believing that the ♥Q is with the East player you win the third round of spades in the dummy and attack hearts by leading the Jack off dummy. This is covered by the Queen and you win the Ace. You continue by finessing the ten on the way back, making four.



This was the entire hand:

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



Of course 4♠ was an ambitious contract. Ambitious contracts are a challenge and it's always satisfying to make one.

## Tip Four

### KEEP COUNTING

Here is another hand from online play. North dealt, with NS Vulnerable. As South you hold:

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

This was the auction:

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

Notice the delayed 2♦ bid by East. This kind of bidding doesn't usually happen! Certainly there has to be a reason. With the ♦K most likely wasted, you opt for an invitational value bid on the second round of the auction.

The Opening lead is the ♦2 and this is your dummy:

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

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

East wins the ♦A and continues with the ♦J which you ruff, West following with the 3♦. At trick 3 you play a spade to the Queen and East wins the Ace. He exits with a low heart which you win in the dummy with the 10. At Trick 5 you play another spade: ♠ 4, J, K, 8. With only one high spade outstanding you cash two more heart tricks (both defenders following with small cards) and lead a spade to West's ten. West now exits with the 9♣. Do you play for the drop or do you finesse?

# THE COUNT: *Part 2* ... Continued

Let's go back to the auction. East should have at least six diamonds for his bid. He has shown up with two spades. It seems that the most likely reason for the delayed bid is that he didn't want to miss a potential heart fit. Both the bidding and the play make it appear that East started with 4 hearts to the Jack. This would mean that he held 2-4-6-1 distribution. If you take the finesse you score all the matchpoints as the entire hand is:

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

Maybe Martin (Caley) is right. "COUNT!!!" He has said it many times. Count your points, count the opponents' points, count your tricks, and count the opponents' tricks. This will not only improve your bridge game but it will exercise your brain and keep it working.

**Editor's note:** This was a real life hand, and East bid as above. In my view, East has a 1♦ overcall. Passing and then bidding 2♦ would normally show a hand not worth a 1♦ overcall, and flawed to preempt. Perhaps ♠A ♥x ♦10 xxxxxx ♣Kxxx.

## 2015 CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

May 23-30 2015 | Info: [cbf.ca](http://cbf.ca)

### EVENT INFORMATION

CBF membership is required to participate in any of the events except the Swiss Teams.

#### CNTC A

Saturday May 23 – Saturday May 30  
Pre-registration required

#### CNTC B (<2500 MPs)

Sunday May 24 – Thursday May 28  
Pre-registration required. Cash Prizes

#### CNTC C (<1000 MPs)

Wednesday May 27 – Friday May 29  
Pre-registration required. Cash Prizes

#### CSTC

Wednesday May 27 – Saturday May 30  
No Pre-registration Required. Entry Fee \$460 per team, for the Round Robin.

#### CIPC

Thursday May 28 Two-session event.  
No Pre-registration or Pre-qualification Required.  
Entry Fee \$80.00. Cash Prizes

#### COPC

Friday May 29 – Saturday May 30  
Club Qualification Required for anyone who did not play in CNTC or CSTC. If someone does not have it, they can buy it for \$25. Entry Fee \$80 per day per pair. Cash Prizes.

#### SWISS TEAMS

Saturday May 30  
Two-session regionally-rated Swiss Teams – Gold Points. Open to non CBF members. No pre-registration required. \$120 per team

# CANADIAN BRIDGE HUMOUR

## *Egads in Evinrude!!*

By Christopher Rollins

This story wasn't supposed to be a bridge tale. I went to the quite lake and retirement community of Evinrude, Ontario to write 'the great novel'. I had three months of paid leave from my employer, a good structure, a great plot, and complete isolation. This place looked great from the pics, and just as good in person! I mean it's not Hawaii or Bermuda but pretty darn nice.

I actually was 3 kms from Evinrude, but on the lake adjacent to the town. The accommodation lived up to all of my expectations. Day 1 was for supplies and getting settled. Day 2 went well, but the seven days after that were a complete bust. Only 81 days left. What could I do to get my writing mojo back on track? I knew - I would go play bridge at the Evinrude Bridge Club (EBC) and in that way refresh my mind, and start writing The Great Canadian Novel tomorrow.

### BRIDGE DAY 1/TRIP DAY 11

I thought it also would be fun to check out the quality and quantity of the bridge here, compared to the CNTCs and NABCs to which I was more accustomed. It was an afternoon matchpoint game (18 pairs), and they told me to kibbitz the two white haired ladies in the corner, by far the best pair in the room. As you might imagine, that was not enough information to go on . . .

So I got to watch. Hand 2 came up and I knew I was in for a different style of bridge. The bidding went 1♥ by White Haired Lady (WHL) #1, who I was watching. Her partner, WHL#2, bid a prompt 4♥, with the opponents being silent (I will soon discover this is was a reoccurring theme). Expecting the usual ♠ x ♥ Qxxxx ♦ xxx ♣ Axxx, but instead



♠ A10xx  
♥ QJxx ♦ Axx  
♣ Ax rained down on dummy. Time to use names. WHL#1, who I was kibbitzing, was Delores. Her partner today was Bev. The next pair arrives, a couple of elderly ladies with silvery hair. The opponents get to declare the first hand on this uninterrupted auction: 1♠ - 2♣ - 2NT - 4♠. Bev leads a diamond. Dummy hits with:

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

That is one hell of a dummy on this auction. Delores holds ♠ xx ♥ AQx ♦ K9xx ♣ xxx. I am thinking that maybe a heart lead would have been required to beat 6♠. No matter. The full deal:

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

Declarer wins the ♦A and plays spade to the ace, spade to the queen, partner following twice. Then came a club to the ten, ace of clubs, ruff a diamond, king-queen of clubs, pitching a heart, and then the queen of diamonds. Dummy, now end-played,



leads a low heart. Delores sticks in the queen and it holds! She now leads the  $\heartsuit K$  and declarer sloughs her heart and ruffs in dummy. Making six. Post-mortem: "I could have held it to 5."

Here's another good one. The auction goes Pass - 1S - 2D - 2H - 3S - 4S (no Drury). Bev's lead is the  $\clubsuit A$ , which is probably not ideal, but hey, you're in Evinrude.

Dummy  
 $\spadesuit$  J x x  
 $\heartsuit$  x  
 $\diamondsuit$  A Q 10 x x  
 $\clubsuit$  Q J 10 x

Delores  
 $\spadesuit$  9 x x  
 $\heartsuit$  K J x  
 $\diamondsuit$  K x x  
 $\clubsuit$  K 9 x x

You play low and partner shifts to a trump. Declarer wins the  $\spadesuit 7$  in her hand and runs the  $\diamondsuit J$  to your king (a good play as it turned out). Prospects are grim, so you hope a second club is cashing and that partner has the heart ace (not totally unreasonable). So you try the  $\clubsuit K$ . The full deal:

$\spadesuit$ J x x	
$\heartsuit$ x	
$\diamondsuit$ A Q 10 x x	
$\clubsuit$ Q J 10 x	
$\spadesuit$ 10 x	$\spadesuit$ 9 x x
$\heartsuit$ A x x x x	$\heartsuit$ K J x
$\diamondsuit$ x x x	$\diamondsuit$ K x x
$\clubsuit$ A x x x	$\clubsuit$ K 9 x x
$\spadesuit$ A K Q 8 7	
$\heartsuit$ Q x x x x	
$\diamondsuit$ J x	
$\clubsuit$ x	

Declarer ruffs, so now dummy is looking pretty good! Declarer cashes a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of trumps with the  $\spadesuit A$ . Now declarer leads a diamond to the board. Yes, you still have your nine of spades.

Here's the position in case you are still awake:

$\spadesuit$ -	$\spadesuit$ J	
$\heartsuit$ A x x x x	$\heartsuit$ x	
$\diamondsuit$ x x	$\diamondsuit$ Q 10 x	
$\clubsuit$ x x	$\clubsuit$ Q J	
	$\spadesuit$ K Q	$\spadesuit$ 9
	$\heartsuit$ Q x x x x	$\heartsuit$ K J x
	$\diamondsuit$	$\diamondsuit$ x
	$\clubsuit$	$\clubsuit$ x x

Declarer now asks a few painful questions. "Queen of clubs?" She pitches a heart. "Queen of diamonds?" She pitches another heart. It turns out she can't go down because you have the last trump, but she doesn't know who has the last trump, or even IF there's a last trump. In fact, you are probably wondering why she didn't just draw trumps and pitch EVERYTHING to make five. I was wondering the same thing myself.

But it gets better. Declarer decides to switch tacks, and leads a heart off dummy. Delores jumps up with the king (good). If she returns a trump, declarer has nothing but high ones left, so the contract is probably two down, but instead she returned a club, and the contract made four. I think this hand is unique in its swings. It went from making 4, to making 5, to making 4, to down 2, to finally settle on making 4.

And finally, here is Delores at the helm in a 1NT-2 $\clubsuit$ -2 $\diamondsuit$ -2NT-3NT auction:

$\spadesuit$ J 9 x x
$\heartsuit$ Q J x
$\diamondsuit$ K Q x
$\clubsuit$ 9 x x
$\spadesuit$ A K 10
$\heartsuit$ K x
$\diamondsuit$ A 10 x x x
$\clubsuit$ Q x x

They lead a heart. Nine tricks look easy. I might've stuck in the Queen here, but my hero played low. RHO played the 10 to force the king. Can you guess what happened next?

If you guessed king-queen of diamonds, you are correct. Diamonds broke 3-2, which meant . . . 5 diamond tricks!! My hero ran all 5 diamonds, as is customary on these deals, and the defense didn't get the memo to let go of their hearts. They both signaled they liked clubs, LHO by pitching one, and RHO by pitching three. Declarer exited in hearts and RHO was in with: Qxx 9x -- A. He tried a low spade. Declarer, not content with ONE overtrick, stuck in the 10, WINNING. She then played the top spades and led a low club, to grant a stepping-stone entry to the good cards in dummy. +660. The full deal:

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

I went back to my writing abode, knowing I would be back to visit my new friends, and their different approaches at the bridge table.

Next Bridge Canada Issue:

**EGADS IN EVINRUDE!! PART II**

*From kibitzer to participant: Playing against the 'Greys'.*



**PROBLEM 3**  
Plan the play

# TEST YOUR *Deceptive Play*

CONTRACT: 6 ♠ Matchpoints.  
LEAD: ♦ K

♠	K J 7 4
♥	Q J 5
♦	A 4
♣	K J 7 3

♠	A Q 9 8 5 3
♥	A K 4 2
♦	2
♣	8 2

Solution on page 24.

# FATHER KNOWS BEST

52nd European Team Championships  
Opatija, Croatia - June 21 - July 1, 2014

## OPEN ROUND 1 FRANCE V. ICELAND

By Ron Tacchi

In the opening round of the Open Teams in Group A, France faced Iceland. In the open room, the father and-son pairing of Thomas and Michel Bessis were pitted against Sigurbjörn Haraldsson and Jon Baldursson, whilst in the closed room, Magnus Magnusson and Throstur Ingimarsson competed against Frédéric Volcker and Alain Levy.

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Baldursson	Bessis T.	Haraldsson	Bessis M.
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣ <sup>1</sup>	1♠	Pass	3♠
4♣	4♦	4♥	4♠
5♣	Double	Pass	5♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

### 1 Strong Club

North would have had to have found a diamond lead to beat 5♣ but, in this case, 'father knows best' and Michel removed to five spades. East led the eight of clubs, won by West with the jack to switch to the seven of hearts, East contributing the



## THE IBPA FILES

three. Declarer now played a low diamond towards the queen which was taken by West, who attempted to cash the king of hearts. Much to his chagrin North ruffed, and now wrapped up the contract with club loser going on the good diamonds. West knew he had to cash out, but there was some doubt in Baldursson's mind about East's club holding: Haraldsson would have led the ♣8 from both ♣98 and from ♣986.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Levy	Magnusson	Volcker	Ingimarsson
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♣ <sup>1</sup>	2♠	Pass	4♠
5♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

### 1 Semi-GF or GF in hearts

North had to lead a diamond but, naturally enough, cashed his ace of hearts and played a low spade to put his partner in to give him a heart ruff. This was an excellent strategy, but no one had told West that this was the plot as he cruelly ruffed the spade and claimed plus one and a huge 15 IMPs to France.

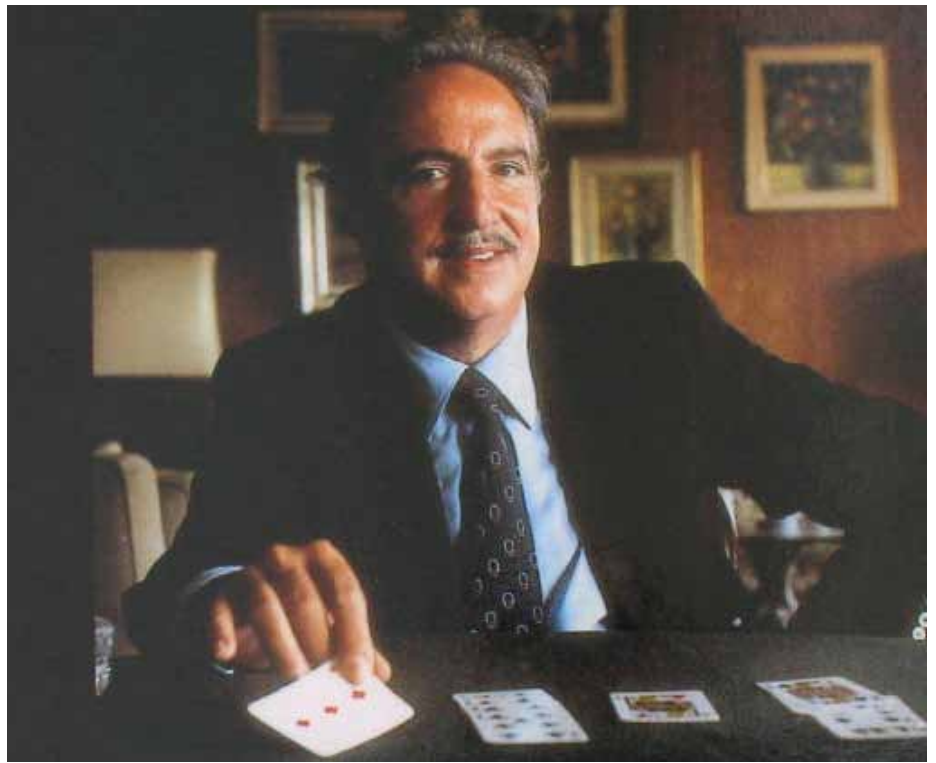


The IBPA Files is a regular article in Bridge Canada and features articles from the IBPA monthly bulletin.

## *Did You Know?*

### **Famous Hand has a Canadian Origin**

The hand played by Belladonna found elsewhere in this issue, was played in 1970 in Winnipeg! At that time Omar Sharif's travelling bridge team, named the Bridge Circus, played daily matches against the Dallas Aces, in locations across North America. (See Below).



## **Do You Remember? THE DALLAS ACES**

For those who don't remember, the U.S. (Dallas) Aces was a concept of Texan Ira Corn. In 1968 he put together a team of top experts, and systematically prepare them for World and National Championships. The team members, all professional players, moved to Dallas where they trained and lived together. They were paid a salary plus expenses to play in tournaments.

The original five were James Jacoby, Bobby Wolff, Billy Eisenberg, Bobby Goldman, and Mike Lawrence. Bob Hamman joined the team in 1969. Corn hired a coach and a trainer for the squad. A very systematic approach was taken to improve the skills and conventions used by the players. A number of systems came

out of this endeavor, including Aces Scientific and the Orange Club.

In 1969 the team won their first major event, the Spingold. Although the players changed, the Aces continued their success until April 1982, when they won the Spingold. This occurred three months after Ira Corn died from a heart attack.

Ira Corn was a pioneer who paved the way for others to put together teams, and systematically train them for success.





# BOB TODD

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

I used to watch my parents play bridge at home with their friends. I tried to learn by watching and asking questions. I learned that they didn't follow any rules when bidding and they were more interested in the play of the hand. Defence was non-existent – but they had fun.

In the mid to late sixties while in High School, I made most of my spending money playing poker and pool, and I was running out of opponents at school that would play against me. One day at lunch some friends suggested we play bridge to pass the time and gamble for small amounts. And there it began.

At University, I learned more of the rules and spent most of my first year playing bridge and poker in the cafeteria. Somehow, I managed to squeak through to second year. It was there that I found the University of Manitoba Bridge Club and discovered, for the first time (the first of many times), how little I knew about the game. I met Mike Yuen at the U of M Bridge Club and shortly thereafter, he dragged me out to my first duplicate game. I was hooked.

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

In the late sixties and seventies, players were very competitive (and often very miserable which made for a colourful game with lots of characters). There were many University students, as well as a full range of people of all ages. After club games, many players would congregate in the local bars to exchange stories and go over hands. That was the most fun and the biggest source of learning once the hands settled in.

In the 70's, the only restricted games were the Masters and Non-Masters pairs. It was the opposite of today. People wanted to play up – not down. I remember playing in a Masters Pairs event with a



friend who told me he had enough points to qualify. When we made the overalls I was quite happy until I got a letter from the ACBL indicating they wanted to suspend me for playing with an ineligible player. I had to write a few letters to convince them that I believed that he was a Master.

Sadly the opposite is true today. Many players object to having to play against better players (which I believe is the only way to learn the game). They only want to play against weaker players and the "masterpoint total" is the ONLY driver. I believe this attitude is very detrimental to the game. This attitude got worse when the ACBL caved in to the many (but not all) players who complained that they played for many years and would never make life master. Now, with an inflated masterpoint system, people are still complaining that it is too hard to become Life Master and they feel cheated when they have to play against better players. Instead of looking at a learning opportunity, they see easy masterpoints lost.

## *What is your most memorable bridge moment?*

No one event jumps out but a few events come to mind. My first big team event was my first major Regional win in the mid seventies when a group of youngsters: Neil Kimelman, Bob Kuz, Barry Senensky and I (the old guy) beat the Rangers from Minneapolis (Steve Garner, Howard Weinstein, Dick Melson, Dave Lehman and Larry Oakey) in our

Regional win in the mid seventies when a group of youngsters: Neil Kimelman, Bob Kuz, Barry Senensky and I (the old guy) beat the Rangers from Minneapolis (Steve Garner, Howard Weinstein, Dick Melson, Dave Lehman and Larry Oakey) in our Regional KO. That was huge for us and it created a big desire to compete at a higher level.

Another standout was making the round of 16 in the Vanderbilt in 2013 with Daniel Korbel, Jonathan Steinberg, Doug Fisher and a young American pair.

**Editor's note:** *At press time the New Orleans Vanderbilt is just finishing up with Bob, and his partner Doug Fisher, competed on a team that finished 9-16.*

Winning the COPC in 2009 with Doug Fisher was memorable as was winning the CNTC silver medal in 2009 and several bronzes in the CNTC and CSTCs. My favourite event is the CNTC. Neil Kimelman, Doug Fisher and I have been playing together in this event for several years but so far, winning has eluded us. We will keep trying.

### ***What about life away from the bridge table.***

I have been married to my wife, Pat for almost 44 years. We have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Anyone with grandchildren knows that they are the best part of life. Our two oldest children David and Erin work for the federal government in Ottawa. Our youngest son Jamie is a professional forester in BC.

Pat was a teacher and I was an IT guy before IT was invented. I started at the University of Manitoba in 1972 as a student and worked for the summer as a computer operator. The computer was an IBM model 40 mainframe with a whopping 28K of memory that filled a small room. They convinced me to stay on full time and get my Computer Science degree while working full time. I finally finished my degree in 1983 and went into the software side of networking at the University and eventually retired in 2010.

### ***What do you like to do besides bridge?***

I am pretty mechanically inclined and do a lot of work around the house. I do some volunteer web work

for our church. I volunteer at some food kitchens and the Winnipeg Harvest food bank. My wife and I love to travel. We also love to be entertained. We have season tickets for the Jets, Winnipeg Goldeyes, theatre tickets and we go to several concerts each year. In my spare time I love to read fiction. Most of all I like to laugh.

### ***What is your favourite bridge book?***

Bridge In the Menagerie by Victor Mollo

### ***Cats or dogs?***

Dogs. Dogs are human, cats are pests.

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

Learn to be a good partner. My partner, Doug Fisher is the best partner I have ever had. He has taught me a lot in this area and I am still learning. He never says anything at the table. He has great sympathy for partners when they go wrong because he will look at the result from partner's point of view. He doesn't expect perfection – so his partners try harder. When you focus on practical versus ideal results you improve much more quickly.

### ***Can you share any amusing stories with us?***

Yes , many – if only I could remember them. I often played with an expert local bridge player, Kenny Sired, who doesn't play in tournaments very often. He is quite a character and he detests conventions and the abuses of them. One quirk he has is that he often lies about whether he has a major after his partner uses Stayman. One day, playing in a local special event I tried Stayman after he opened a strong NT. He bid 2D and I bid a forcing 3C (this sometimes produced a real 3 bid in a major). After 3NT, he got to play the hand. We got a top and won the event by a small margin. Kenny did not have a four major for his 2 Diamond response. He had 4 spades and 5 hearts and made the winning call of 3NT. Well, at least that time it was the winning call.

## TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY

Problem on page 19

CONTRACT: 6♠ Matchpoints

LEAD: ♦K

♠ KJ74  
♥ QJ5  
♦ A4  
♣ KJ73

♠ AQ9853  
♥ AK42  
♦ 2  
♣ 82

### Solution

It looks like a club guess for your contract. However there is a way in which you can improve your chances. Win the diamond, pull trumps, and cash your hearts. On the fourth heart discard a diamond. Now lead a club. If West has the club ace he will likely go up, thinking you have 6-4-2-1 shape, and are trying to steal an overtrick. If he plays low in tempo, finesse the Jack.

## DOUBLE DUMMY 1 SOLUTION

Problem on page 13

Contract: 6♦

Lead: ♣3, after West preempted in clubs.

♠ 6543  
♥ K62  
♦ J63  
♣ KQ5

♠ KJ87  
♥ Q10984  
♦ 74  
♣ 32

♠ 92  
♥ J  
♦ 52  
♣ AJ1098764

♠ AQ10  
♥ A753  
♦ AKQ1098  
♣ void

Trick 1:	<u>♣3</u>	Q	A	♦8
Trick 2:	4	3	2	♦ <u>A</u>
Trick 3:	7	6	5	♦ <u>K</u>
Trick 4:	♥4	J	♣ <u>4</u>	♦9
Trick 5:	3	♣ <u>K</u>	6	♠10
Trick 6:	♠7	♣ <u>5</u>	7	♦10

\* Underlined card indicates who is on lead.

The position after trick 6:

♠ 6543  
♥ K62  
♦ -  
♣ -

♠ KJ8  
♥ Q1098  
♦ -  
♣ -

♠ 92  
♥ J  
♦ -  
♣ J1098

♠ AQ  
♥ A753  
♦ Q  
♣ -

Belladonna now led his last diamond and West was squeezed. If he pitched a spade, declarer would pitch a heart from dummy, and play the A♠, Q♠, to set up two extra spade tricks. If instead Eisenberg threw his ♥8, Giorgio would play three rounds of hearts, forcing a spade return into his AQ, and now the good ♥7.

## IMPROVE YOUR DECLARER PLAY

Problem on page 10

IMPs. Contract: 3NT by South, no opposition bidding

Lead: 5♠

♠ A  
♥ A 7 4  
♦ 7 5 4 3 2  
♣ A 7 6 4

♠ K 9 6  
♥ K 9 3 2  
♦ K Q 6  
♣ 8 5 3

### Plan the play

The overall plan is fairly straightforward, as there is only one legitimate line. You have five top tricks. The only place where you can get four tricks is from the diamond suit. In order to achieve this, you must hope that East started specifically with three diamonds, including the ace. So the play starts (bold indicates who won the previous trick and is on lead):

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

The North-South cards remaining are:

♠ -  
♥ A 7  
♦ 7 5  
♣ -

♠ 9  
♥ K 9 3  
♦ -  
♣ -

Simply cash the ♥K, cross to the ♥A and cash your two good diamonds, making three. The full deal:

♠ A  
♥ A 7 4  
♦ 7 5 4 3 2  
♣ A 7 6 4

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

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

♠ K 9 6  
♥ K 9 3 2  
♦ K Q 6  
♣ 8 5 3

### IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

The timing and choice of using entries is a vital skill to learn. This is one such example.

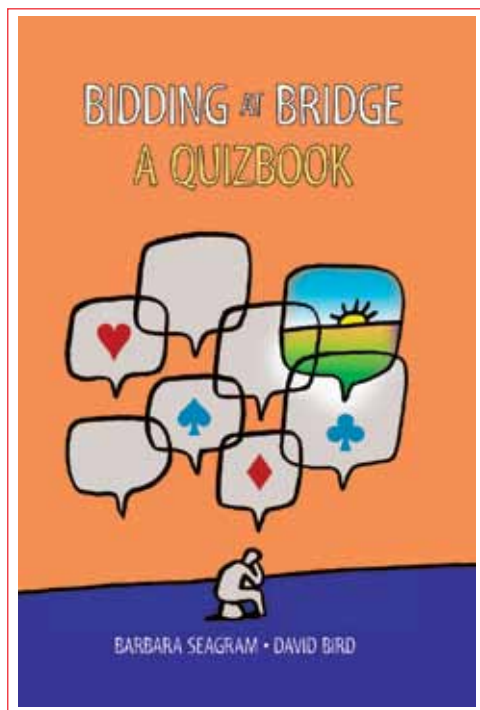
The line chosen had a real risk that East had five or more clubs. Unfortunately there is no better choice, and you must hope for the best. There is an alternate line, but it is definitely inferior. After winning the first diamond with the King, duck the second one, hoping that East has Ax.

As in last month's problem we had to be optimistic and hope the cards lay exactly so, as the contract was an inferior one. However this is not always the case. Sometimes declarer is in a very good contract, and the strategy is to safeguard against a bad split, or lie of cards.



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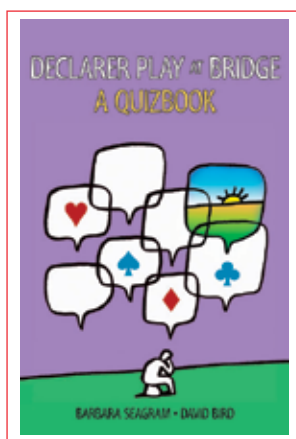
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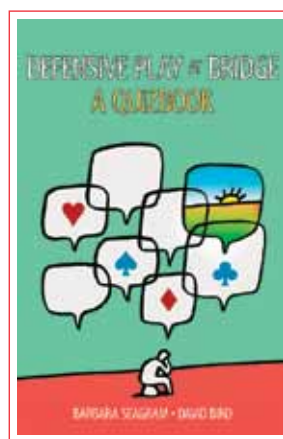
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# EVENTS & DEADLINES

Canadian Bridge Federation Calendar of Events as of April 2015. For more information see our website [www.cbf.ca](http://www.cbf.ca)

2015

## April (Charity Month)

- ACBL-Wide Charity Game. Thu morn. 2 April 2015
- Helen Shields Rookie Master Game. 22 April 2015

## May (Grass Roots FUNd month)

- Canadian Bridge Championships. Montreal, QC. 23-30 May 2015

## June

- Canada-Wide Olympiad Fund Game. Tue Eve. 23 June 2015

## July

- ACBL-Wide International Fund Game #2. Wed Eve. 15 July 2015
- CBF International Fund Regional. Kingston, ON. July 28 – August 3, 2015

## September

- World Team Championships. Chennai, India. Sep 26-Oct 10 2015



## Important Dates

- 2015 CBF Canadian Bridge Championships | Montreal QC | 23-30 May 2015
- 2015 CBF International Fund Regional | Kingston, ON | July 28 - August 3 2015
- 2015 CWTC National Finals | Cancelled for 2015 | 21-28 May 2016
- 2016 CBF Canadian Bridge Championships | Toronto ON | 21-28 May 2016