

Canada's Bridge Masters Off To Rome

They'll Battle With Aces Against World's Best



James Kennedy, Telegram

The mood is serious and one of deep concentration as Harry Bork (left) and Percy Sheardown practice for the forthcoming bridge tournament in Rome. Canada's team of six will compete against 23 other nations.

They'll battle with aces and kings, deuces and treys for the world bridge championship against 23 other nations.

This is the first time Canada has had the opportunity to compete. In previous years entries were limited to one a continent, such as the U.S. for North America, Argentine for South America, and Italy, the present champions, for Europe.

Included in the nations to be added are England, France, Norway, Sweden, Belgium and Australia.

The tournament will take place in mid-April and will last about 10 days.

Canada's men for the team-of-four tournament are all life masters. They have acquired their points in tourneys in both Canada and the U. S. and against the highest competition the U.S. has to offer.

The organizer for the Canadian representatives is Eric Murray, young energetic Toronto lawyer. He gathered the team on his own, immediately after he heard that Canada was eligible for entry.

CANADA'S MR. BRIDGE

His second man was Percy (Shorty) Sheardown — "Mr. Bridge" in Canada for many years.

Third was Bruce Elliott, a driving power at the bridge table.

Next was Harry Bork, of Hamilton, steady and ranking player for many years.

Fifth was Bruce Gowdy, colorful speedy player.

The sixth was partly a sur-



SAMMY KEHELA
Slide-rule mind



BRUCE GOWDY
Colorful, speedy

prise. He is Sam Kehela, a newcomer from England.

Apart from Mr. Kehela, who has been in Canada only three years, all have won or placed in the first five U.S. tournaments in the past 15 years. And this against the top-ranking stars who have opportunity

to test their skills in tournaments almost every week.

On the other hand, Canadian bridge players must confine their abilities mostly to local competition with the odd visit to New York, Cleveland or other easily-accessible cities.

TWO-TIME WINNERS

In recent years Eric Murray and Bruce Elliott have twice won the U.S. open pairs title.

Shorty Sheardown on three occasions, before World War II, has had his name engraved on U.S. trophies.

Partnered with the then Brig. Donald Farquharson, Shorty defeated U.S. Generals Clarke and Guenther in a series of friendly matches in London, England.

Shorty was a sergeant, and although offered a commission, elected to remain in the ranks.

The addition of Mr. Kehela to the Canadian bridge scene is a happy one. He has a brilliant slide-rule mind and can calculate the percentage for a play in seconds.

Bruce Elliott is the chance-taking type. His bidding often exceeds the values of his hand, but his play more than makes up for it.

Harry Bork is an earnest card student. He is thoughtful in his play, but brilliant with a direct analysis for each situation.

Bruce Gowdy is one of the most colorful yet speedy players on the team.

When asked how the various nations with their diverse tongues could find a meeting ground at the bridge table they answered:

In music the language is Italian, in bridge English is becoming the common tongue.



Eric Murray, captain of the Canadian team, uses a giant instruction board to go over a hand with Percy Sheardown and Bruce Elliott.

By **STANLEY GEDDES**
Telegram Staff Reporter

Olympics draw Canada's highest trumps

By W. R. LUSCOMBE

WHEN the first World Bridge Olympics open at Turin, Italy, toward the end of April, six players from Toronto and Hamilton who have distinguished themselves against North America's best bridge competition will be representing Canada.

Though the Canadians are not sanguine about their chances, their records indicate they will finish among the leaders. But they face tough opposition from the more than 40 men's and women's teams entering from the Americas, Europe, South Africa and possibly Australia.

The Italians are considered the team to beat in the Olympics (which are being conducted by the recently formed World Bridge Federation). For the past three years they have defeated teams from the

United States and Argentina for the world championship, and have won the European championship.

However, Canada's team will include the nation's three leading life masters—E. R. Murray, P. E. (Shorty) Sheardown and C. B. Elliott, all of Toronto—and many authorities rank them among the best bridge players in the world.

The other members of the team are also life masters: Bruce Gowdy and Sammy Kehela of Toronto and Harry Bork of Hamilton, with N. M. (Don) Burns of Toronto as non-playing captain.

Each gained his place on the team and among the bridge world's elite by building up master points and fractional points through winning or placing in weekly duplicate bridge games, or in sectional, regional and national

tournaments sponsored by the American Contract Bridge League or its units. To become an ACBL life master a player must accumulate 300 points, including 50 won in regional or better competition.

So far, only about 60 Canadians have become life masters and only about 2,300 of the ACBL's 1,000,000 or so members have achieved this distinction.

Murray, a Toronto lawyer, holds the most master points—about 2,500—of the Canadian players. He began playing bridge in 1948 while a student at McMaster University, and became a life master in 1951. He has won five major titles at the ACBL's annual Summer Nationals—the World Series of U.S. bridge.

Long known as Canada's Mr. Bridge, Sheardown be-



—Erik Schack

Members of the Canadian team include Harry Bork (left), S. R. Kehela, E. R. Murray, C. B. Elliott and B. D. Gowdy

came the Dominion's first life master shortly after his return from overseas service in the Second World War. He holds about 2,200 master points, and is proprietor of a Toronto bridge club.

Kept from more strenuous pursuits by cerebral palsy, Elliott turned to bridge as a youth and became one of Canada's best players. Now a Toronto painting estimator, he has about 2,000 master points.

Bork came to Hamilton from Poland in 1930. A successful businessman, he owns a bridge club and has accumulated 1,300 master points.

Gowdy earned his life

mastership a decade ago, at the age of 20, after playing bridge for only 16 months. At that time he was the youngest player to gain this honor. He is a chartered accountant and president of the Ontario unit of the ACBL.

Iraq-born Kehela came to Toronto about three years ago, after acquiring a reputation in London as one of Britain's coming young bridge players. He became a life master in less than two years, and is now self-employed as a bridge teacher.

Mr. Luscombe, a bridge enthusiast, is a member of *The Globe and Mail's* editorial staff.

Canada Bridge Team In Slams

World Bridge Olympiad place recently in Italy. Canada's was eliminated while went on to win the event. Mrs. Florence Johnston, bridge and player, has re-

report on it.
**FLORENCE HUDSON
JOHNSTON**

winner of Canadian
onal open pairs

et that I was unable
d the World Bridge
ds in Turin, Italy.
ort the action.

ast week I have been
any times, what has
d to the Canadian
d where are they?

Canadian team, consist-
Eric Murray, Percy
wn, Bruce Gowdy,
liott, Sammy Kahela
ry Borke, put a good
l non-playing captain,
Burns watched every

s the Canadians first
n international com-
and they made a
ole showing in what
nowledged to be the
t section of 10 teams
hile they did not
for the finals they
third in the above

e first match the
as lost to UAR by
ernational Master
(tough break). Second
on from Phillipines,
om Austria, fourth
om the U.S. John
's team.

LOS

The fif
Great Br
to Switz
match v
Eighth m
Ninth m
land.

Per
slam bl
dians' o
missed
that she
and at
at slams
tract.

Against
were two
went sou
Canadian
down one
was a la
ond hand
no-trump
six heart
made.

Great
reach th
hands, v
made, it
team 28

Later t
ed the
which o
twelve-b
in two da
Canadian
heartened
average.

STAY

Eric M
Harry B
stayed in
and saw
way to v
bridge p
were on

Percy
Bruce C
land be
sammy
France.

The f
with a v
French t
ored.

Canadi
be proud
first sho