

Bridge: Murray and Kehela Capture

Life Masters Title in Florida

By ALBERT H. MOREHEAD

MIAMI BEACH, Nov. 27—Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela of Toronto won the men's pair championship, and Mrs. Anne Burnstein of Las Vegas and Mrs. Hermine Baron of Los Angeles the women's pair championship in events restricted to life masters in the American Contract Bridge League's here yesterday.

Today play continued at the Americana Hotel with the first two sessions of the national board-a-match team contest.

For Murray it was a second consecutive victory in the principal events of the tournament; he won the mixed pair title with Mrs. Agnes Gordon of Buffalo, N. Y., by a record score on Monday.

Murray-Kehela had 1,160½ match points. The average was 975.

Charles Solomon of Philadelphia and Harry Fishbein of New York were second with 1,158, and R. H. Ecker of New York and William Vanderporten of New Rochelle, N. Y., third with 1,147.

Rubin-Smith in 4th

Ira Rubin of Fair Lawn, N. J., and Curtis Smith of Houston were fourth with 1,144. Sylvester Lowery of Philadelphia and Joseph Asber of Bethlehem, Pa., fifth with 1,123, and Julian Barth of Miami, a former New Yorker, and David Bayliss of Miami, formerly of Atlantic City, N. J., sixth with 1,119½.

Mrs. Burnstein and Mrs. Baron had 1,200½ points. Mrs. Thomas Gray and Mrs. Carrie Arnold of Fort Lauderdale, were second with 1,112½, and Mrs. Samuel Kransberg of Beverly, Mass., and Mrs. Harvey Poock of Marblehead, Mass., third with 1,106.

Mrs. Janice Stone of New York and Miss Peggy Rotzell of Philadelphia were fourth with 1,105; Mrs. Barth and Mrs. Charles Stenger of Morrisville, N. J., fifth with 1,100½, and Mrs. Barbara Kachmar of Bronxville, N. Y., and Mrs. Margaret Wagar of Atlanta, sixth with 1,092.

The freakish hand shown today was played in the men's pairs. North-South had superior cards, but they were so placed that most of the North South pairs bid to contracts they could not make, so East-West usually got the plus score.

With the bidding shown, Murray was East and Kehela West and luckily had five clubs bid against them. Although it was not an unreasonable contract, they doubled and played accurate defense to put the declarer down three. West opened the dia-

NORTH

♠ K Q 10 8 5
♥ 10 4
♦ Q J 10 8
♣ 8 3

WEST

♠ J 3 2
♥ K 9 8 3
♦ A K 9 2
♣ 5 4

EAST

♠ A 9 7 6 4
♥ Q 6 5
♦ 7 6 4
♣ 10 6

SOUTH (D)

♠ —
♥ A J 7 2
♦ 5 3
♣ A K Q J 9 7 2

North-South were vulnerable. The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	D'ble	1 ♠	D'ble
1 N.T.	Pass	Pass	2 ♠
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
5 ♣	D'ble	Pass	Pass

Pass

West led the diamond ace.

mond ace, and then he had to cash the diamond king and shift to a club to get the maximum from the hand.

South drew trumps and led a low heart, on which West played low and let East capture dummy's ten with his queen. On a heart return South played the seven and West won with the eight.

A spade lead by West, which brought forth dummy's queen and East's ace, forced South to trump and still had a heart trick with the king.

Against the defense adopted by some West players, of leading the diamond ace and then a trump, South could save a trick by drawing two rounds of trumps and leading his second diamond. West had to win and could shift only to a spade, which South trumped.

Now when South led a low heart, the opponents had to to continue hearts because any other lead would put dummy in to cash the good diamonds. South got an extra heart trick, in addition to his seven clubs and his heart ace, a total of nine tricks.

At three no-trump South was better off, with eight top tricks, and some South players made three no-trump.

Few players would have bid one no-trump on South's hand, nor would have many reopened the bidding with two spades on East's hand. Objectively, East must be credited for his two-spade bid because it introduced a series of bids that gave East-West a good result.

If permitted to play at one no-trump South would have won at least eight tricks, making a plus score. But South would have done even better if he had passed two spades and given his partner an opportunity to double or pass, transferring the plus score to North-South.