

Bridge: Murray and Mrs. Gordon Win National Title for Mixed Pairs

By ALBERT H. MOREHEAD

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MIAMI BEACH, Nov. 25—Eric R. Murray of Toronto and Mrs. Agnes Gordon (Mrs. Ralph W. Gordon) of Buffalo, N. Y., last night won the National Mixed Pair Championship in the American Contract Bridge League's fall national tournament. They registered the highest single-session score in the history of major contract bridge pair contests.

In the final session at the Americana Hotel last night the winners had 506½ match points against an average of 325, nearly 78 per cent of maximum.

The previous record of 77 per cent was established by S. Garton Churchill of Great Neck, L. I., and Cecil Head of Stamford, Conn., who still hold the two-session record of 77 and 74 per cent in two consecutive sessions of the life masters' pairs.

Murray and Mrs. Gordon had a final total of 921 in the four-session mixed-pair contest, which began Saturday.

Miami Pair Second

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Brier of Miami were second with 854. Barry Crane and Mrs. Hermine Baron of Los Angeles were third with 849, Marshall Miles of San Bernardino, Calif., and Mrs. Barbara Tepper of Livingston, N. J., fourth with 845½, and Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Kaplan of New York fifth with 845. There were 506 pairs in the field.

Tonight's plays began in the life masters' men's and women's pair contests. These will end tomorrow night after three sessions instead of the scheduled four, the first session this afternoon having been canceled because of President Kennedy's funeral.

The winners' record-breaking score was aided by an unusual result on this deal shown today.

In the bidding shown, Murray was South and Mrs. Gordon North. South could have lost six club tricks and one heart, but faulty defense permitted him to win 11 tricks.

West started with the heart ace, then the jack, and South won. South led a diamond to dummy's king and when East showed out he led dummy's spade queen. East covered and

NORTH			
♠	QJ963		
♥	5		
♦	AKJ862		
♣	10		
WEST			
♠	—		
♥	AJ10942		
♦	Q73		
♣	K943		
EAST (D)			
♠	K10752		
♥	87		
♦	—		
♣	AJ8752		
SOUTH			
♠	A84		
♥	KQ63		
♦	10954		
♣	Q6		

East-West were vulnerable. The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	Pass	2♥	2♠
Pass	3N.T.	Pass	Pass

West led the heart ace.

South took his ace. South ran dummy's diamonds after finessing for West's queen.

East discarded down to three spades and the club ace. Thrown in with the ace, he had to lead a spade. South's eight won, the high heart was cashed and the spade jack won the last trick.

When Peter Leventritt of New York was East, the bidding started the same but North took out three no-trump to four diamonds. South bid four spades and Leventritt doubled and defeated the contract five tricks.

But the best East-West score was made by Douglas Drury, a teammate of Murray's on the Canadian international team. Holding the East hand, he reached six clubs and made it easily.

No defense can defeat six clubs, but when it was bid against Mr. and Mrs. Kaplan, Mrs. Kaplan did defeat it by a well calculated opening lead, the heart three.

If East had known, he could have let this ride to his heart seven; but fearing a singleton, he put up the heart ace, drew trumps with the club king and ace, and led his heart eight. South won and there no longer were enough entries to dummy to set up the hearts, without which East could not get the 12 tricks he needed.

THE BRIDGE DECK

By FLORENCE OSBORN

MIAMI BEACH.

Mrs. Ralph Gordon, of Buffalo, a member of the U. S. Women's '64 Olympiad Team, and Eric R. Murray, a Toronto barrister and member of the Canadian Open '64 Olympiad Team, won the national mixed-pair championship here at the Americana late Sunday night with a smashing 78 per cent game for the final session.

Mrs. Gordon and Murray, who entered the final standing eleventh in the field of 224 pairs (left from an original entry of 506), won 506½ match points against an average of 325 in the final 26 hands, which is the highest score ever achieved in a final of a national championship. The winners' total score for the four-session event was 921 match points.

Runners-up were Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Brier, of Miami Beach, with a total of 854 match points. Third were Barry Crane and Mrs. Hermine Baron, of Los Angeles, who had 849. Marshall Miles, San Bernardino, and Barbara Tepper, Livingston, N. J., were fourth with 845½ match points. In fifth place were Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Kaplan, of New York, with 845.

Today's Hand

A fine decision to go to six hearts by Philadelphian Mrs. Charles J. Solomon on today's hand from the mixed pair championship gave her and her husband, a past president of the league, nearly all the match points. Six was doubled and seven was made for 1,860 points. It is not easy to reach six without help from the adverse bidding. Mrs. Solomon counted on a spade opening lead and expected that the diamond suit could be established for club discards.

South would have done better to go to six spades for a non-vulnerable save (he loses only three diamonds and a heart) of minus 500 points. At one table where six hearts was bid and doubled, West redoubled—a dangerous call as North-South could run out to a profitable save at six spades—but they decided to stick with it and so lost all the points for 2,420.

Top on the board North-South went to Alvin Roth and Mrs. Barbara Rappaport, of New York, when they stole the contract at four spades, shutting their opponents completely out of the auction. As if that were not enough, Roth made six when he should have been down one at four.

Here was the bidding:

Roth			
South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Mrs. Rappaport's jump raise to four spades effectively shut out the somewhat timid vulnerable pair. A heart opening was taken by East who continued a heart, having no idea his partner had all the rest of the suit. East was shocked when Roth threw a diamond loser from his hand, ruffed, picked up the club king on a finesse, drew trumps, and later discarded two diamonds on dummy's good clubs. Roth

Today's Hand

East-West Vulnerable
SOUTH DEALER

♠	A852		
♥	K		
♦	742		
♣	J8743		
Mrs. Solomon			
♠	None		
♥	1096		
♦	53		
♣	AJ96		
3			
♣	1052		
Solomon			
♠	J43		
♥	AQJ8		
♦	72		
♣	K8		
♣	K6		
♠	KQ10976		
♥	4		
♦	Q105		
♣	AQ9		

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♠	3♥
4♠	5♥	5♠	Pass
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: K♠.

made four spades with two overtricks, losing only a heart.

Mrs. Gordon and Murray received a better-than-average East-West score, playing five hearts, doubled, making two overtricks for 1,250 points.

Oswald Jacoby and his wife were doubled at six hearts, making seven, on this bidding:

Mrs. Jacoby			
South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♠	4♥
4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
5♠	6♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

At the American Contract Bridge League annual board of directors elections last Saturday, league officers for '64 became: president, Leo Seewald, Minneapolis; chairman of the board, Jerry Lewis, Dallas; secretary, Elsie Matson, Ithaca; treasurer, Harry J. Fishbein, New York; honorary member, Jeff Glick, Miami Beach.

At this meeting Frank T. Wescott, of North Attleboro, Mass., was appointed non-playing captain of the U. S. Open team for the '64 Olympiad to be held in New York May 1-10 against representatives from 30 foreign nations. The U. S. Open line-up will be the three top pairs from the six-day Open trials which ended here last Thursday: young Californians Robert Hamman, Van Nuys; Don Krauss, Los Angeles; New Yorkers Samuel M. Stayman and Victor R. Mitchell, and Philadelphians and members of the U. S. '63 team, Arthur Robinson and Robert Jordan.

Paul Hodge, of Abilene, Tex., was appointed non-playing captain of the women's U. S. Olympiad team, the trials for which ran concurrently with the Open. The '64 U. S. Women's team will be made up of the three pairs who after 300 bridge hands ended in a tie for first place: Mrs. Jan Stone, Mrs. Muriel Kaplan, New York; Mrs. Agnes Gordon, Buffalo; Mrs. Helen Portugal, Los Angeles; Mrs. Stella Rebner, Mrs. Alicia Kempner, Los Angeles.

Bridge

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