

Bridge: New York Players Greet Canadian Tournament Star

By ALAN TRUSCOTT

NEW YORK bridge players recently extended a warm welcome to one of the most popular and successful players in the tournament world. He is Sammy Kehela, who was nominated by two leading authorities as the outstanding player of 1963.

His numerous successes included the Life Master Men's Pair championship and a second in the Spingold Masters Team event. He was the coach of the 1963 North American international team.

Kehela has a cosmopolitan background. Born in Baghdad in 1934 and reared in India, he studied economics at the University of California, and subsequently lived in the West Indies and in England. Since 1957 he has resided in Toronto, and represented Canada in the World Team Olympiad in 1960, as he will do again this year, 1964. He is now working for the American Contract Bridge League here and may take up permanent residence in the city.

Today's hand was skillfully played by Kehela in a recent practice match against the 1964 United States Olympiad team.

The choice of opening bid with the South hand is a controversial matter of ancient origin. Kehela, who plays a variation of the English Acol system, belongs to the traditional school of thought that permits opening a four-card major suit. He bid spades first in order to be able to show both of his suits in the natural order. Notice that North-South followed the American style rather than the English in treating responder's jump to three spades as forcing.

Club Length Placed

From the opening lead of the club nine, the declarer was able to place the club length with East. It is usual with this combination to let the opening lead come around to South's king. East has to duck, and the queen remains as a stopper against a later club lead from the East side.

Kehela realized that he had little chance of preventing West gaining the lead, so he played dummy's club queen at once to break the defensive communications. East was forced to win, and won the club jack. South ducked, and won the third club lead on which West discarded the heart deuce.

With a shortage of entries in dummy, there was little prospect of using the diamond suit. The problem was to develop the major suits without allowing East into the lead, and the heart discard indicated that the heart king was probably with East. Dummy was entered with the diamond ace, and the heart queen covered with the king and ace. A low spade was continued, and dummy's queen won when West ducked. An-

NORTH

♠ Q 5 3
♥ Q 7
♦ A K J 10 4
♣ Q 8 3

WEST

♠ K 10 7 2
♥ 9 5 2
♦ Q 8 7 5
♣ 9 5

EAST

♠ 9 6
♥ K 10 3
♦ 6 3 2
♣ A J 10 7 2

SOUTH (D)

♠ A J 8 4
♥ A J 8 6 4
♦ 9
♣ K 6 4

Both sides were vulnerable.

The bidding was:

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

West led the club nine.

other heart lead from dummy was ducked to West's nine.

With nothing left but spades and diamonds, West had to let South score an extra trick with the diamond king or the spade jack. This, in addition to two spades, four hearts, a diamond and a club, gave South nine tricks.

It was a slight anti-climax to find that in the other room 10 tricks had been made without difficulty: the contract had been played by North instead of South, and the lead of the club jack by East had given declarer two sure club tricks.