

Canadians Score Bridge Coup

BY JIM JACOBY

Special to The Telegram

Toronto lawyer Eric Murray, who has called himself the world's best bridge player, boosted his claim last night by carrying Canada to a history-making victory in the premier event of the American Contract Bridge League's competition at the Royal York Hotel.

The 35-year-old cigar-smoking expert led the all-Toronto foursome of Sammy Kehela, Percy (Shorty) Sheardown and Bruce Elliott to a sweep for the prized Spingold Trophy for Master Teams.

They dethroned the United States for the first time in the competition's 30-year history and did it without losing a game in 11 rounds-

the first to turn the trick since Oswald Jacob's team in 1959.

Recognized as one of the top five players in North America, Murray has won just about every Canadian bridge championship, has had a share in capturing the ACBL's team-of-four title in 1961 and the same year became the first Canadian to be picked to represent North America in a world championship tournament.

Last year, teamed with Kehela, they won the men's pairs title at the ACBL's fall championships in Miami.

But Murray, it must be noted, had the best going with him in Canada's triumph last night.

The equally excellent play of Kehela, Sheardown and

Elliott - all experts in their own right - made it the undefeated team triumph it was.

Unprecedented in the annals of bridge - and unforeseeable when the Spingold opened a week ago - was the fact that this was virtually an all Canadian occasion.

In the semi-finals Tuesday afternoon, while Murray's team was swamping a team captained by Dan Rotman of Chicago, another Canadian formation fought nip-and-tuck battle with the very powerful defending team.

Bruce Gowdy, of Ajax, with Fred Hoffer and Ray

Jotcham of Montreal and Marvin Altman of Waterbury, Conn. eventually triumphed by 25 international match points over Cliff Russell, Harry Harkavy, Edith Kemp, Albert Weiss and Russ Arnold, all of Miami Beach, and Waldemar Von Zedtwitz of New York City.

With one board left for play, Gowdy's team led by 12 IMP's but on the last board Waldemar Von Zedtwitz bid a vulnerable slam which could have won his side the match by a single point. Tight defense by the Canadians beat the slam.

All eight of last night's finalists are now qualified to play in the North American

Team Trials in the Fall, together with four other Canadian players. The top three pairs in the trials will form the North American team for the 1965 World Championship.

History repeated itself in a fantastic way in Murray's last two matches. At an early and critical stage of both matches, the bidding was opened with a weak two diamond opening on Murray's left. This was passed round to Murray, who doubled. In each case the outcome was a heavy jolt for his opponents, sending them on a downhill slide from which they never recovered. Here is the hand from the final:

South dealer

Both sides vulnerable.

S A J 8 6

H 9 8 4

D —

C K 9 7 6 3 2

S K 4 S Q 9 7 5 2

H K 3 2 H A Q J 10

D A 10 6 5 D Q 8 2

C J 10 5 4 C —

S 10 3

H 7 6

D K J 9 7 4 3

C A Q 8

South's weak two diamond opening was passed to Murray, East, who doubled for takeout. Since Kehela's best suit was diamonds, he left the double in for penalty. East-West put up a sparkling defense which racked up 800 points.

West's opening lead was a small club and East ruffed. The heart ace was followed by a heart to West's king and East got another club ruff. He played back a heart. South ruffed and made the good play of the trump king, pinning East's now lone queen. But West won with the ace and retaliated by leading the king of spades; this play later enabled him to get a trump promotion and make no fewer than three trump tricks with his holding of ace-ten-six-five.

Thus the declarer was defeated by three tricks and since Murray's team had lost only 200 points on the deal in the other room their net gain was 600, giving them twelve IMP's. This put them into the lead by 25 to 15 and they never



Toronto's Eric Murray studies a hand during the tournament.

Bridge: Murray of Toronto Takes Springold Trophy Out of U.S.

By ALAN TRUSCOTT

Special to The New York Times

TORONTO, Aug. 5 — Eric Murray of Toronto achieved a double triumph in the Summer National Championships of the American Contract Bridge League, which ended today in the early morning hours.

Not only did he organize one of the biggest tournaments ever held, but he also headed the Toronto team that took the coveted Spingold Trophy outside the United States for the first time in its 30-year history.

Murray's teammates were Sammy Kehela, Percy Sheardown and Bruce Elliott. Their victory in the final, over the team led by Bruce Gowdy of Ajax, Ont., was by 36 international match points. The Gowdy team included Ray Jotcham and Fred Hoffer of Montreal and Marvin Altman of Waterbury, Conn.

The Canadian teams had beaten the pride of the United States — and had done so without reserve players. It was a tribute to their stamina as well as to their ability.

The Murray team won an easy semifinal victory on the deal shown today over the team headed by Dan Rotman of Chicago. Rotman sat West, and his partner was Charles Coon of New York. Coon was Murray's partner in the 1962 World Championship. Murray was North in the deal shown and Kehela, South.

Coon Opens With Weak Bid

Coon opened with a weak two-diamond bid, and Rotman made a good decision by passing. Murray made a balancing double. Rotman's hand looked like a good doubling proposition when Kehela bid two spades, but as Coon held a sub-minimum bid, a two-spade contract doubled proved to be a delicate affair.

The heart queen was won

NORTH (D)

♠ 8 5 2
♥ A 8 5 3
♦ A 9
♣ K 10 9 7

WEST

♠ A J 10 7
♥ Q J 10 9 4
♦ K
♣ J 8 6

EAST

♠ 9 3
♥ 7
♦ J 10 8 5 3 2
♣ A 5 4 2

SOUTH

♠ K Q 6 4
♥ K 6 2
♦ Q 7 6 4
♣ Q 3

North-South were vulnerable
The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
D'ble	Pass	2♠	D'ble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the heart queen.

in dummy, and the club seven led. Coon put up his ace and shifted to the diamond Jack. Kehela recognized that Coon would not be eager to lead the diamond jack from a holding headed by K-J-10, so he played low and Rotman's king obligingly appeared.

Kehela won with dummy's ace and entered his hand with the club queen. He led the spade queen, which Rotman took with the ace. Then Rotman gave his partner a heart ruff, which did not hurt Kehela because the heart was a loser in any event.

The diamond ten was returned, pinning the nine in dummy, and Rotman ruffed Kehela's queen. However, there was now no way to prevent Kehela from making his contract. He ruffed one losing diamond in dummy and discarded the other on the club king.

In the other room east played three diamonds and went down three. Murray's team gained 11 international match points.

Bridge: Toronto Knockout Match Proves a Test of Stamina

By ALAN TRUSCOTT

Special to The New York Times

TORONTO, Aug., 6—The Spingold knockout team championship, which ended in the early hours of Wednesday morning, was a test of stamina as well as a test of skill.

The eight Canadian players who contested the final had been playing 72 boards a day for four days, representing about 10 hours of concentrated effort, in addition to a full week of play in the early rounds and other events.

It is not surprising that in such a contest youth was served. The average age of the eight finalists was in the thirties, and three members of the Gowdy team were in their twenties.

In a long event, a winning team is sure to profit from luck as well as skill. The deal shown today was played in the last session of the final, and luck helped Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela, the premier pair in Canada, to bring home a slightly optimistic game contract.

Unusual Bidding

Kehela, sitting South, became the declarer in four spades in an unusual way. He had to respond two diamonds to North's take-out double, and was then faced with the task of finding a rebid when North cue-bid two hearts to show a hand of great power.

The choice of two spades with a three-card suit may seem odd, but Kehela would have bid a four-card spade suit on the first round if he

NORTH

♠ A K J 7 4
♥ A 6
♦ A 10 8 5
♣ K 8

WEST (D)

♠ Q 10 5
♥ K Q J 7 3
♦ K
♣ A J 10 5

EAST

♠ 6 3
♥ 10 9 4 2
♦ J 4 3
♣ Q 9 3 2

SOUTH

♠ 9 8 2
♥ 8 5
♦ Q 9 7 6 2
♣ 7 6 4

Both sides were vulnerable.

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	Double	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the king of hearts.

had held one. He knew, therefore, that Murray would not expect him to hold more than three spades when he bid them at the second opportunity.

The play was simple. Kehela won the opening heart lead, and laid down two high spades, hoping to drop the queen. When this failed he had to hope for a long-shot in diamonds and West duly obliged by dropping the king under the ace. The defense could make one spade trick, one heart and one club.

MAJOR VICTORY FOR THE CANADIANS

By ALAN TRUSCOTT

TORONTO—The Summer National Bridge Championships, which concluded here last week, were a triumph for Canada in every way. Not only was it one of the best-organized tournaments ever staged, but it was also the second biggest one on record.

During 10 days, 11,144 tables were in play. This was about 1,000 tables less than last year, but nearly 3,000 more than any other tournament anywhere in the world.

Two Canadian teams eliminated the best United States players in the Spingold knockout event. The final was won by Eric Murray, Sam Kehela, Bruce Elliott and Percy Sheardown, all of Toronto, who achieved the rare feat of not losing once in 11 rounds of competition.

Their well-earned victory, by 36 points, in the final against the team headed by Bruce Gowdy of Ajax, Ont., was enthusiastically received by the Toronto supporters. It was the first time that an all-Canadian team had won a major American Contract Bridge League title.

The biggest surprise of the

tournament was undoubtedly the fine showing of the Gowdy team. Gowdy, himself, is a player of considerable experience. Although only 34 years old, he was a winner of the same trophy in 1949. Gowdy remains as the youngest player ever to have won this award, although his record of being the only Canadian with his name on the cup has now disappeared.

Plays Effectively

His three teammates were Ray Jotcham and Fred Hoffer, both of Montreal, and Marvin Altman, formerly of Montreal and now of Waterbury, Conn. Jotcham played most effectively with Gowdy, despite the fact that they had never played together before the start of the tournament.

Gowdy's only loss in the earlier rounds was to Murray, by the narrow margin of 12 points. The Gowdy victims included three teams of famous stars, including the defending champions captained by Clifford Russell.

There was a dramatic finale to the Gowdy-Russell semifinal match. The Gowdy team held a small lead throughout,

and, with one board remaining to be played in one room only, it was known to all except those still in play that the Russell team trailed by 12 points.

Waldemar Von Zedtwitz, one of the great veterans of bridge, judged correctly that his team was behind, and bid an optimistic slam in a last-ditch attempt to save the day. The hand was as follows:

NORTH

♠ A 4 2
♥ Q 5
♦ A Q 10 6
♣ 10 8 6 3

WEST

♠ K 9 8 3
♥ 7 4
♦ K 7 4
♣ J 9 7 4

EAST

♠ J 6 5
♥ A 2
♦ J 9 8 5 3 2
♣ Q 2

SOUTH (D)

♠ Q 10 7
♥ K J 10 9 8 6 3
♦ —
♣ A K 5

Both sides were vulnerable. The bidding was:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
6 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Von Zedtwitz made a good attempt at making his virtually hopeless contract after the helpful lead of the spade nine. He took the jack with the queen, cashed the club ace in the hope of finding an honor dropping, and then led a heart to the queen.

East won with the ace and returned the spade six. South won with dummy's ace, and ran all his hearts. This was a fine deceptive play, because, by leaving the diamond ace inaccessible, South left West with an embarrassing discarding problem.

Gowdy, East, helped his partner in a decisive way. His first two discards were the diamond nine, to show an even number of diamonds, and the club queen, to warn West to keep his clubs.

Jotcham, West, therefore discarded all his diamonds, and South had to resort to an end-play to make 11 tricks.

If Von Zedtwitz had been able to make the slam, as he could have done after a diamond lead, the Russell team would have won by one point.

"Contract Bridge" — news about the game and how the experts play it, by Alan Truscott—appears daily.



Big mug intrigues James Rutherford (Jamie) Murray, 18-month-old son of Eric Murray, captain of winning Canadian bridge team. It is Spingold Trophy, the American Contract Bridge League's premier prize for team competition. Canadian winners are (from left) C. Bruce Elliott, P. E. (Shorty) Sheardown, Samuel Kehela and Mr. Murray. It will be first time the trophy, in play more than 20 years, has left United States.

Undefeated Toronto Team Wins Premier Bridge Trophy

By WILLIAM LUSCOMBE
The 36th annual Summer Nationals of the American Contract Bridge League, held for the first time in Canada at the Royal York Hotel, ended in a triumphal note for the host country early Wednesday when a team of Torontonians

won the Spingold Trophy, the premier prize. Captained by Eric Murray, the Toronto team was the first to complete the knockout event undefeated since it became a double elimination affair. This was also the first time

that even one Canadian team has reached the Spingold final. Canada made it doubled when the other finalist team was that of Bruce Gowdy of Ajax.

A member of the Murray team, P.E. (Shorty) Sheardown, became the first Canadian to win the Sally Fishbein Trophy for amassing the most master points during the Summer Nationals. He added his Spingold win to a second-place finish with teammate C. Bruce Elliott in the Life Masters Pairs and a section placing in the Master Mixed Teams with the fourth member of the Spingold team, Sammy Kehela, Mrs. A.W. Bowden, Mrs. Alex Fisher and Donald DaCosta, all of Toronto.

The Spingold finalists also shared the distinction of being the first two four-man teams ever to reach the final. Although the event is termed team of four, the squads may range, and usually do, up to six members.

Murray's victory was a close one, by 36 International Match Points, or about 5,000 total points, over the 36-board match, a margin of about 140 points per board.

The remainder of the Gowdy team all are Canadian-born, though former Montrealer Marvin Altman now

lives in Waterbury, Conn. The other two members are Montrealers, Ray Jotcham and Fred Hoffer.

2 Canadian Foursomes Contest Spingold Final

By B. JAY BECKER
On Tuesday Canada fired a shot heard around the bridge world. On that eventful day, two teams of Canadian players defeated two U.S. foursomes in the semi-finals of the Masters Team of Four, thereby guaranteeing the championship to a Canadian team. Thus the Spingold Trophy, emblematic of bridge supremacy in the United States for 40 years, was destined to be taken from U.S. hands for the first time.

During the final session Tuesday night, most Canadian observers were not concerned with which team eventually won the event. They were more preoccupied with the fact that Canadian players had proven themselves at least the equal of U.S. experts.

As a result of this fine showing, Canada has qualified an unprecedented number of pairs for the 1965 North American Team Trials at Dallas in November. Should the Canadian players display the same form there as they have here, it is almost certain that at least one of the pairs will be on the team that competes in the World Championship matches in South America next year, in which case the North American team will at least be North American in fact rather than just in name.

The following deal from the finals resulted in a 12 IMP gain for Eric Murray's team, which won the Spingold Trophy.

When South (Jotcham) opened with a weak two bid

NORTH
S AJ86
H 984
D ---
C K97632

WEST **EAST**
S K4 S Q9752
H K32 H AQJ 10 5
D A 10 65 D Q82
C J 10 54 C ---

SOUTH
S 10 3
H 76
D KJ9743
C AQ8

SOUTH DEALER, BOTH SIDES VULNERABLE, THE BIDDING:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2 D	PASS	PASS	DBLE
PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS

North (Gowdy) could do nothing better than pass and hope for the best. East (Murray) doubled for takeout and West (Kehela), with strong defensive values, passed. Fearful of now beginning a search for a new contract, Gowdy again passed.

After Kehela led a club, perfect defence defeated the contract three tricks, with the defence taking five diamonds, two hearts, and a spade trick for plus 800. At the other table, South passed and North opened the bidding with one club. After a competitive auction, North played four clubs doubled, down one, for a net gain of plus 600 for the Murray team.

Good Defence Shown By Toronto Players

By B. JAY BECKER
The American Contract Bridge League's first national tournament outside of the United States is off to a rousing start, with attendance records shattered at every session of play in the Royal York Hotel. In the Masters' Mixed Teams tournament, for instance, 164 teams participat-

ruffed by Kehela for the defense's sixth trick.

S J
H 76432
D AKJ2
C J73

S 974	S K82
H A98	H K 10
D 10 9653	D Q84
C AQ	C K8642

S AQ 10 653
H QJ5
D 7
C 10 95

WEST DEALT, EAST-WEST VULNERABLE, THE BIDDING:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
PASS	PASS	PASS	2 SPADES
DOUBLE PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS

ed, topping the record 145 at Washington in 1961.

On the following deal from the Mixed Teams, Mrs. Cecille Fisher and international star Sammy Kehela, both of Toronto, gained an excellent result with a precision defense against a doubled part-score contract.

After three passes, South decided to open a weak two-spade bid. Mrs. Fisher, West, doubled in the hope that her partner would have enough high-card strength to leave the double in. Kehela did just that, and Mrs. Fisher led the ace and queen of clubs.

Mrs. Fisher now shifted to a low heart, and Kehela won and cashed the club king. The heart ten was won by the ace and a heart continuation was

At this point it appeared that the declarer could take the remainder after finessing for the spade king. Kehela, however, returned a fourth club, thereby promoting a sure spade trick for the defenders: if declarer ruffed in dummy, a spade finesse was no longer possible; if he ruffed high in his hand, the spade nine would eventually take a trick.

In either case, East-West were plus 300, for a sure win on the deal.