

4 try for World Bridge Tourney

By W. R. LUSCOMBE

Four Toronto bridge players will leave for San Francisco today to take part in selection trials for the North American team to contest the World Bridge Championship for the Bermuda Bowl, bridge's equivalent of the Davis Cup.

The four—P. E. Sheardown, C. Bruce Elliott, Eric R. Murray and Sammy R. Kehela—will vie with 16 pairs from the United States in 17 rounds of competition over six days to choose the top three pairs among the 18 qualified. These pairs will represent North America in the Bermuda Bowl contest next April at St. Vincent, Italy.

The Torontonians all have had experience in international competition, but only Murray has been a member of a team competing for the Bowl. He was on the North American team in 1962 when it lost at New York to the Italian squad, which has retained the Bowl since capturing it for the first time at New York in 1957. Murray's partner in the 1962 event was Charles Coon, then of Boston but now of New York.

Murray also represented Canada as a member of its

team at the First Bridge Olympiad, held at Turin in 1960, and at the Second Bridge Olympiad, at New York in 1964. Both the World Championships and the Olympiads are sponsored by the World Bridge Federation.

Besides being a member of Canada's two Olympiad teams, Kehela was named assistant to the non-playing captain of the North American teams that competed for the Bowl at St. Vincent in 1963 and at Buenos Aires in 1965, losing to the Italians both times.

Sheardown and Elliott were members of Canada's team in the First Olympiad.

The four, along with eight other Canadians, competed last year in the world championship selection trials at Dallas, Murray-Kehela finishing sixth and Sheardown-Elliott eighth among the 18 pairs competing. Murray, with Coon, won the selection trials at Houston in 1961.

The Toronto quartet gained qualification for this year's trials playing as a team. At the Summer Nationals of the American Contract Bridge League in Chicago last August they won, for the second year

in a row, the Spingold Trophy in masters' teams competition. Unprecedented in ACBL history, this feat is comparable in the bridge world to back-to-back wins in the Masters in golf or to successive victories in the Indianapolis 500 in auto racing.

The four, ranging in age from Sheardown's 54 to Kehela's 31, have competed as a team with fair regularity for the past five years, winning or placing well up in practically every tournament they entered. They have established a reputation, both in Canada and the United States, as the Canadian team.

All are Life Masters, highest ranking in the ACBL's classification of bridge players. Sheardown became Canada's first Life Master in 1948, shortly after returning from overseas service in the Second World War as a sergeant in the Canadian Army. Elliott, who had begun playing with Sheardown a year earlier, also became a Life Master in 1948.

Murray, who began playing bridge just before entering McMaster University in his native Hamilton in 1948, won the President's Pairs, the ACBL's premier event for novice players, the following summer. He became a Life Master in 1950.

Kehela started playing bridge as a student at the University of California, Berkeley campus, in 1954. He came to Toronto in 1957 after two years of playing bridge in England. He became a Life Master in 1959.

Sheardown, who was born in Gorderich, started his bridge career while a student at the University of Toronto in the early 1930s. A bachelor, he took charge of the St. Clair Bridge Club on his return from overseas and has remained in that position ever since.

A mathematical mind and the scourge of cerebral palsy contributed to Elliott's rise as a bridge star. Kept from more strenuous pursuits by the restrictions of his handicap, Toronto-born Elliott, 43, turned his love and sport and his brilliance with numbers to the card table when he was about 13 and in public school.

He met his wife through bridge, but, since their marriage in 1953, as he puts it, three active boys have conspired with him to keep her from the bridge table. He is general manager of a Toronto firm of painting contractors.

Murray, 37, has a wide range of interests, from cheering Hamilton Tiger-Cats, through tennis and tropical fish to scuba diving and playing a jazz banjo. A partner in a Toronto legal firm, he concentrates mainly on courtroom practice. His wife, whom he married in 1959, also is a lawyer, but she competes with her husband neither in the court nor at the card table. They have two sons.

Kehela, the other bachelor of the group, was born 31 years ago in Iraq. His parents live in England and Jamaica. An excellent card analyst, he makes his living teaching bridge and writing about it. He is editor of *The Kibitzer*, a periodical published by the Ontario unit of the ACBL, and a member of the staff of *The Bulletin*, official monthly publication of the ACBL.

Qualification for the selection trials is based on high placing in pairs and team events specified by the ACBL during the past year or membership on the preceding year's North American entry in the World Championships, provided that the entry finished no worse than second in that event.

Included among the 16 other pairs in San Francisco will be the six members of the 1965 Bermuda Bowl team—Mrs. Dorothy Hayden of Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y. and B. J. Becker of New York; Howard Schenken and Peter Leventritt of New York; and Ivan Erdos of Los Angeles and Kelsey Petterson of Bellflower, Calif.

Other pairs are Alvin Roth and Tobias Stone of New York; Robert Jordan and Arthur Robinson of Philadelphia; Edgar Kaplan of New York and Norman Kay of Philadelphia; Samuel Stayman and Victor Mitchell of New York; Oswald Jacoby of Dallas and Albert Weiss of Miami; James Jacoby of Richardson, Tex. and Dr. John Fisher of Dallas; Philip Feldesman of New York and Ira Rubin of Fairlawn, N.J.; John Gerber of Houston and Paul Hodge of Abilene, Tex.; Mervin Key of Houston and Dr. Harold Rockaway of Galveston, Tex.; Lewis Mathe of Los Angeles and Robert Hamman of Van Nuys, Calif.; George Rapee and Boris Koytchou of New York; Robert Sharp of Miami Beach and Gunther Polak of Chicago; and Edward Rosen of Chicago and John Wachter of Milwaukee.

During the trials, which are to go on from Nov. 13 to 18 at the Hilton Hotel, each pair will play 20 deals against each other pair for a total of 340 hands in the six days. The deals will be scored on an International Match Point basis, in which each IMP represents about 100 total points.

The IMP difference will be translated into Victory Points, with a total of 60 Victory Points allotted to each 20-deal match. A one-IMP difference in match score would bring a Victory Point allotment of 31-29, with the range sealed upward until a 40-IMP margin would bring a blitz, 60-0 in Victory Points for the winners.

At the end of the trials the three pairs with the most Victory Points will form the North American team, with the pair finishing fourth named alternates.

Next April the North American team will journey to St. Vincent, in the Italian Alps near the Matterhorn, for the Bermuda Bowl competition. Their rivals will be the Italian trophy-holders; the Netherlands, representing Europe by virtue of placing second to the Italians in the 1965 European Championships; a team representing South America and one representing the Orient.

Local Telegram Monday Nov 15/65

Toronto pair press leaders in bridge trial

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Philadelphians Arthur Robinson and Robert Jordan yesterday took an early lead in the first day of the American Contract Bridge League's international team trials.

They had a total of 157 victory points when play ended.

Thirty-six players are competing through Nov. 18 to decide the three teams which will represent the United States at the world championships in Venice next year.

Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela of Toronto, Ont., were second with 131 points. In third place were Mervin Key of Houston, Tex. and Dr. Harold Rockaway of Galveston, Tex. with 124 1-2 points.

Lew Mathe of Los Angeles and Robert Hamman of Van Nuys, Calif. were fourth with 121.

Murray, Kehela Second In U.S. Bridge Tourney

SAN FRANCISCO — The Toronto pair of Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela have vaulted into second place in international trials to select the North American bridge representatives for the 1966 world championship.

The play, which neared the halfway mark today, is to decide which three of 36 pairs will travel to Italy next April for the world tournament.

Murray and Kehela have 256 out of possible 360 points after 6 of the trial's 17 rounds. They were third after five rounds with 196 points.

In first place are Lou

Mathe, of Los Angeles, and Robert Hamman, of Van Nuys, Calif., with 271 points.

There has never been a Canadian pair on the six-member North American team, although Murray made the team in 1962 with a player from the U.S.

One other Canadian team, Percy Sheardown and Bruce Elliot, began in seventh place, but were beaten 60 to 0 in their third game and plunged to 17th.

Toronto pair captures lead in bridge trials

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela, both of Toronto, captured the lead yesterday in the American Contract Bridge League's international team trials.

After the seventh of 17 rounds, Murray and Kehela, had 283 victory points.

Lew Mathe of Los Angeles and Robert Hamman of Van Nuys, Calif., were second at 279½. They held the lead in the third through the sixth rounds.

Arthur Robinson and Robert Jordan of Philadelphia were in third with 250. Fourth place was held by Sam Stayman and Victor Mitchell of New York at 228½. Alvin Roth and Tobias Stone of New York were fifth at 226.

The trials are to choose the three pairs to represent North America in the world championships next year in Italy.

Toronto bridge pair third in team trials

Special to The Star

SAN FRANCISCO — The ninth round of the international bridge team trials ended here late last night with Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela of Toronto still retaining their position among the top three pairs in the 18-pair field.

Third place in this event is just as vital as first. The top three pairs, when the event concludes Thursday, will be named as the team to be sent to the world contract bridge championships in Italy next spring.

Murray and Kehela have a firm grip on third place with a total of 321 points.

The Canadian duo trails

Lew Mathe and Bob Hamman of Los Angeles, who were first with 361, and Robert Jordan and Arthur Robinson of Philadelphia, with 333. George Rapee and Boris Koytchou of New York are fourth with 307.

Murray and Kehela led the field at the end of the seventh round earlier yesterday and were second at the end of the eighth. They dropped to third after suffering a ninth-round loss to Alvin Roth of New York and Tobias Stone of New York by a score of 46-14.

Canada's second entry in the event, Percy Sheardown and Bruce Elliott of Toronto, are running 17th in the field.

Metro Pair Drop To 3rd In Bridge

SAN FRANCISCO — (AP) — Lew Mathe of Los Angeles and Robert Hamman of Van Nuys, Calif., regained the lead after nine rounds in the American Contract Bridge League's international team trials.

The pair, which had led from the third through the sixth rounds regained top position last night.

The trials will produce three pairs to represent North America in the world championships next year in Italy.

The total of 361 points for Mathe and Hamman easily outdistanced the 333 score of second - place Arthur Robinson and Robert Jordan of Philadelphia.

Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela of Toronto were third with 321. Fourth place was occupied by George Rapee and Boris Kotzchou of New York City, at 307.

California pair regain lead in bridge trials

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Two Southern Californians led the international team trials of the American Contract Bridge League at the end of the 10th round yesterday.

They are Lou Mathe of Los Angeles and Robert Hamman of Van Nuys, Calif., with 389 points.

The top three pairs after 17 rounds of play will represent North American in world competition at St. Vincent, Italy, next year.

Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela of Toronto were second with 379½ victory points.

George Rapee and Boris Koytshou of New York City, with 334 points, were third.

Arthur Robinson and Robert Jordan of Pennsylvania had 333.

Toronto pair in 2nd place in bridge trial

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Two Southern Californians led yesterday after the 11th round of the International Bridge Team trials to determine which three of 18 pairs will represent North America in world competition.

Lew Mathe and Robert Hamman had 409 victory points to lead with six rounds to play.

Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela of Toronto were in second place with 399½.

Ira Rubin of Paramus, N.Y., and Partner Philip Feldesman were third with 384.

Tied for fourth place with 375 points were Arthur Robinson and Robert Jordan of Philadelphia, and James Jacoby and Dr. John Fisher of Dallas.

Kehela 7-16-65

Our bridge players still second

Special to The Star

SAN FRANCISCO—The Toronto pair of Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela clung to second place today after 12 of 17 rounds to select three teams to represent

sent North American in the 1966 world bridge championships.

Murray and Kehela had piled up 438.5 points, but trailed the leaders, Lewis Mathe of Los Angeles and Robert Hamman of Van Nuys, Calif. by 26.5 points.

The team of Robert Jordan and Arthur Robinson, both of Philadelphia, held down third place with 435 points, 16 more than Philip Feldesman of New York and Ira Rubin of Fairlawn, N.J.

Canada's second team, Percy Sheardown and Bruce Elliott, was out of contention for a place on the North American team.

Murray and Kehela had a good chance to close the gap on first place yesterday when Mathe and Hamman were beaten 40 to 20 by the team of Jay Becker and Dorothy Hayden.

But the Canadians also lost, 38 to 22, to Edgar Ka-

plan of New York and Norman Kay of Philadelphia.

The six-day trials wind up tomorrow.

Toronto bridge pair drop to fifth place

By W. R. LUSCOMBE

Defeat by John Gerber of Houston and Paul Hodge of Abilene, Tex. in the 14th round of the North American bridge trials last night dropped Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela of Toronto from second place to fifth among the 18 pairs competing for three places on the North American team.

The team will compete in the World Bridge Championships at St. Vincent, Italy, next April.

Murray and Kehela lost their match by 54½ to 5½ Victory Points to Gerber and Hodge. The defeat left them with a total of 473 Victory Points of a possible 840 to date.

Robert Jordan and Arthur Robinson of Philadelphia moved into the over-all lead with 522½ Victory Points after toppling the former leaders Lewis Mathe of Los Angeles and Robert Hamman of Van Nuys, Calif. 56½ to 3½ in their 14-round match. Mathe-Hamman dropped to third place with 483½ behind Philip Feldesman of New York and Ira Rubin of Fairlawn, N.J., with 504½.

In fourth place were James Jacoby and Dr. John Fisher of Dallas with 479 victory Points.

Toronto's other pair in the competition, P. E. (Shorty) Sheardown and C. Bruce Elliott, are rallying after a poor start and still retain an outside chance to reach the last qualifying spot. Their final three matches are against teams practically out of contention.

Conversely, Murray and Kehela, in their three matches, will face James Jacoby-Fisher; B. J. Becker of New York and Mrs. Dorothy Hayden of Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y.; James Jacoby-Dr. Fisher and

and Jordan-Robinson, in that order.

Hence they will need decisive wins in at least two of the three matches in order to qualify.

The 17th and final matches will begin this evening at 7 o'clock EST

Toronto bridge pair sag in Frisco

Special to The Star

SAN FRANCISCO—The Toronto pair of Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela dropped to fourth place today but remained in contention for a position on the team to represent North America in the world championships in Italy next year.

With two rounds left to play Murray and Kehela trailed the third place team, Robert Jordan and Arthur

Robinson of Philadelphia, by 13.5 points. Eighteen teams are competing for three team places on the North American team.

Leading after 15 of 17 rounds were Lewis Mathe of Los Angeles and Robert Hamman of Van Nuys, Calif., with 538.5 points. Close behind were Ira Rubin of Fairlawn, N.J., and Phillip Feldesman of New York with 535. Then came the

Jordan-Robinson team with 527.5 and Murray-Kehela with 514.

Sixty points are at stake in each match so Murray and Kehela could still fight their way into the top three.

The Toronto pair faded to fifth place after the 14th round but came back into contention with a 41-19 victory last night over the Texas pair of Mervin Key and Harold Rockaway.

Toronto bridge pair hold second place

Special to The Globe and Mail

SAN FRANCISCO — With only four matches remaining Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela of Toronto remained in second place in the trials to choose the North American team for the World Bridge Championships to be held in St. Vincent, Italy next April.

They have 467½ Victory Points of a possible 780, trailing the leaders, Lew Mathe of Los Angeles and Robert Hamman of Van Nuys, Calif., who have 480 Victory Points.

Toronto's other pair in the competition, P. E. (Shorty) Sheardown and C. Bruce Elliott, are rallying after a poor start and still retain an outside chance to reach third place, last qualifying spot for the team. There are 18 pairs vying for the three positions.

Hot on the heels of Murray and Kehela, with 466 Victory Points, are Robert Jordan and Arthur Robinson of Philadelphia, North America team members in the 1963 championships.

In fourth place with 488 Victory Points are Philip Feldesman of New York and Ira Rubin of Fairlawn, N. J. Fifth, with 434½ Victory Points, are another pair with championship experience, B. J. Becker of New York and Mrs. Dorothy Hayden of Hastings-on-Hudson, N. Y. George Rapee and Boris Koytchou of New York hold down sixth place with 426 Victory Points.

Two of Murray and Kehela's remaining matches are with contending pairs—Mrs. Hayden-Becker and Jordan-Robinson.

son. Their other matches are with John Gerber of Houston and Paul Hodge of Abilene, Tex., and with James Jacoby and Dr. John Fisher of Dallas.

Sheardown and Elliott have already met all the top contenders. Consequently their path to possible qualification is eased and they cannot be counted out.

Canadians 4th In U.S. Bridge Trial

Canada's entry in the American Contract Bridge League's international team trials is in fourth place, trailing the leaders — two Californians — by only 24½ points.

Lou Mathe, of Los Angeles, and Robert Hamman, of Van Nuys, regained their lead last night by beating Howard Shenken and Peter Leventritt, both of New York, 55-5, in the 15th round.

With just two more rounds to go, the pair had a total of 538½ victory points. The last two rounds are being played today.

The leaders before the 15th round, Robert Jordan and Arthur Robinson, both of Philadelphia, dropped to third place with 527½ points after losing to Houston's Mervin Key and Dr. Harold Rockaway, 54½ to 5½.

In second place are Philip Feldesman, New York, and Ira Rubin, Paramus, N.J., with 535½ points.

Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela, both of Toronto are fourth with 514. George Rappe and Boris Koytchou, both New York, are fifth with 506½.

The tourney is to pick three teams to represent North America April 26 through May 8 at an international contest at St. Vincent, Italy.

Last-minute win

Toronto bridge pair in American team

Special to The Globe and Mail

SAN FRANCISCO — The last hand of 340 hands in the last match of 17 matches played over six days qualified Toronto's Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela for the North American team to play in the World Bridge Championships at St. Vincent in Italy next April.

The Toronto pair finished the qualification trials at the Hilton Hotel here in third place among the 18 pairs competing. The first three pairs form the North American team, with the fourth pair standing by as alternates.

Finishing first in the trials were Philip Feldesman of New York and Ira Rubin of Fairlawn, N. J., with 615½ Victory Points of a possible 1,020. Second were Lewis Mathe of Los Angeles and Robert Hamman of Van Nuys, Calif., with 598. Murray and Kehela finished with 588 Victory Points.

Fourth and alternate pair were B. J. Becker of New York and Mrs. Dorothy Hayden of Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y., with 564. They are the only pair in the first four with previous international experience, although Murray was a member of the 1962 North American team, playing with Charles Coon, now of New York, but then of Boston. Kehela was assistant captain and coach of the North American team in 1963. Both teams placed second to Italy in the championships.

Robert Jordan and Arthur Robinson of Philadelphia, whom Murray and Kehela defeated 41-19 in the final match, finished sixth. They were members of the North American team in the 1963 championships.

In fifth place were James Jacoby of Dallas, also a member of the 1963 North American team, and Dr. John Fisher of Dallas.

The other Toronto pair in the trials, P. E. (Shorty) Sheardown and C. Bruce Elliott, got off to a bad start and despite a tremendous rally in the late rounds could finish no better than 12th, with a total of 494½ Victory Points.

Robinson and Jordan had gone into yesterday's final two matches in third place with 527½ Victory Points and had picked up 18 in their 16th round match to total 545 before their meeting with Murray and Kehela. The latter, who began the day with 514 points, split the 60 Victory Points available in the day's first match with Mrs. Hayden and Becker to enter the final match with a total of 544 points.

On the last hand of the match with Murray and Kehela, Jordan and Robinson had reached three no trump of the following hand:

North		East	
S—A Q		S—K 7 5 2	
H—Q 7 6 4 3 2		H—	
D—K 6 5		D—J 10 8 4 3	
C—7 2		C—A Q 10 4	

West	South
S—9 8 4	S—J 10 6 3
H—K J 10 8 5	H—A 9
D—9 7	D—A Q 2
C—J 6 5	C—K 9 8 3

The Bidding:			
E	S	W	N
(Kehela)	(Jordan)	(Murray)	(Robinson)
1 D	pass	pass	1 H
pass	2 no trump	pass	3 no trump
all pass			

Murray, the opening leader, led the nine of diamonds, which went to declarer's ace. Jordan led the ace and another heart to Murray's king. Murray led his other diamond, which Jordan won. However, when Jordan knocked out the spade king, Kehela was able to lead a third diamond, then, when he got in with the club ace, he was able to cash two diamonds, defeating the contract one trick.

Had Jordan played ace and queen of spades, knocking out Kehela's king, before touching hearts, then won the diamond return, he could have made his contract. Murray, when put in with the king of hearts, would have no diamond to return to his partner, who would thus be short one entry to cash his long diamonds.

Had Jordan made his contract, he would have scored plus 11 International Match Points on the board. As it was, he scored minus 4 IMPs. This swing of 30 IMPs, representing approximately 25 Victory Points, would have made the final score about 50-10 in Jordan's favor, instead of 41-19 for Murray. Jordan and Robinson thus would have qualified as the third pair instead of Murray and Kehela.

Murray and Kehela will remain here to take part in the Fall Nationals of American Contract Bridge League, opening today. Sheardown and Elliott, however, are expected back to Toronto during the weekend.



SAMUEL KEHELA



ERIC MURRAY

Defeat three no-trump bid for place on team

Metro pair defeat 3-no-trump on last hand, reach world finals

Special to The Star

SAN FRANCISCO—Toronto's Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela made the North American bridge team last night—by defeating a three no-trump bid on the last of 340 hands played over six days.

If Philadelphia's Arthur Robinson and Robert Jordan

had made an overtrick instead of going down one they'd have finished third instead of sixth and qualified for the world bridge championships in Italy next April.

The Toronto pair finished third out of the 18 competing teams. The first three pairs form the North American team.

The fourth pair are alternates. This is the first time a Canadian team has qualified.

Murray and Kehela wound up with 585 points. Ira Rubin of Paramus, N.J., and Philip Feldesman of New York were first with 615½. Lew Mathe of Los Angeles and Robert Hamman of Van Nuys, Calif., were second with 598.

Fourth spot went to B. J. Becker of New York and Mrs. Dorothy Hayden of Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y., with 564, a half point ahead of James Jacoby and Dr. John Fischer of Dallas.

The Toronto pair were second or third the first few days but slipped to fourth spot Wednesday.

They needed a big win in the final round and got it with their 41-19 triumph over the Robinson-Jordan pair, members of the North American team in the 1963 championships. They had tied Becker and Mrs. Hayden 30-30 in the second-last round.

lievable," Murray said in an interview today. "People were jammed outside waiting to hear what happened. It had come right down to the line in that last hand which pair would qualify for the world championships team."

Spectators were not allowed in to kibitz but a huge crowd milled around outside waiting results.

The other Toronto pair, Bruce Elliott and P.E. Sheardown, were out of contention almost from the start, after being whipped 60-0 in one match. They put on a strong rally and came back from 17th to 12th place with 494½ points.

Murray and Kehela are remaining here to take part in the Fall Nationals of the

LAST HAND

On the 20th and final hand of the last match Jordan and Robinson reached a three-no-trump bid. Distribution of cards:

North		East	
S—A Q		S—K 7 5 2	
H—Q 7 6 4 3 2		H—	
D—K 6 5		D—J 10 8 4 3	
C—7 2		C—A Q 10 4	

West	South
S—9 8 4	S—J 10 6 3
H—K J 10 8 5	H—A 9
D—9 7	D—A Q 2
C—J 6 5	C—K 9 8 3

The bidding:

E	S	W	N
(Kehela)	(Jordan)	(Murray)	(Robinson)
1 D	Pass	Pass	1 H
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
all pass			

Murray's opening lead was the nine of diamonds. Jordan took the trick with his ace.

LED WITH ACE

Jordan led the ace and another heart, which Murray took with the king. Murray led his final diamond, which Jordan won. When Kehela took a trick with his spade king he led a third diamond which Jordan again took.

Kehela got in later with his club ace and was able to cash his two remaining diamonds and set the contract by one trick.

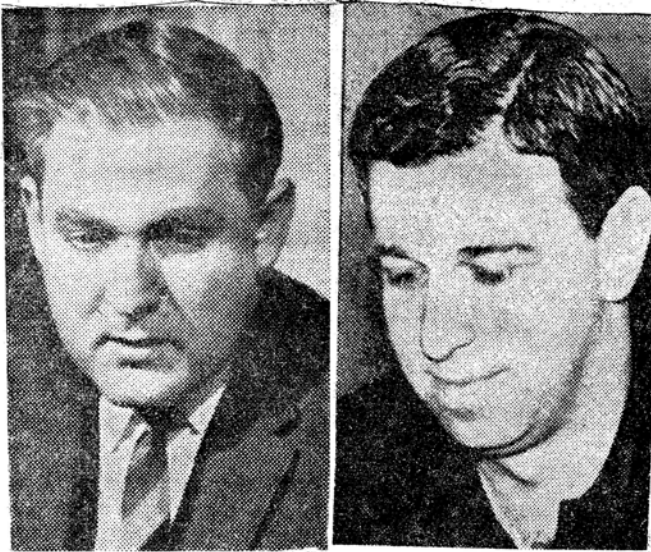
If Jordan had played his ace and queen of spades, getting Kehela's king out of the way, before he went into the heart suit, he could have made the contract.

When Murray took his king of hearts he would have no diamond left to lead to his partner. Kehela would thus be short one entry to cash his good diamonds.

American Contract Bridge League, opening today. Elliott and Sheardown are expected back in Toronto at the weekend.

None of the six players on the 1965 North American team finished in the top three pairs. The alternate team has previous international experience.

Murray was a member of the 1962 North American team when he was paired with Charles Coon, then of Boston, now of New York.



—Globe and Mail
Eric Murray

Sammy Kehela

BRIDGE

by

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Bridge

The King That Called the Turn

By ALAN TRUSCOTT

THE contract bridge team of Philip Feldesman of New York and Ira Rubin of Paramus, N. J., won a convincing victory in the recent International Team Trials in San Francisco. They will represent North America in the 1966 World Championship in St. Vincent, Italy, next April, and their teammates will be Lew Mathe and Robert Hamman of Los Angeles and Eric Murray and Sam Kehela of Toronto.

Many judges consider this to be the strongest team that America has fielded in many years, both in terms of technical skill and in terms of physical stamina. It should have a splendid chance of bringing the Bermuda Bowl, symbol of world bridge supremacy, back to the United States for the first time in 12 years. The chief opposition in a five-cornered contest will undoubtedly come from the Italians, who have won the last seven such events.

Spade King Crucial

It is sometimes supposed that there is no luck in tournament bridge. It is quite true that duplicate eliminates the luck of the deal, but luck can have a considerable influence in the short run. In the final crucial session of the Team Trials, the location of the spade king in one deal determined two of the three qualifying positions.

NORTH	
♠ A Q 9 3	
♥ K 5 3	
♦ K	
♣ A K J 9 8	

WEST	EAST
♠ K J 7	♠ 6 5 4
♥ 10 9 8 7 4 2	♥ 6
♦ 7 6	♦ J 9 5 4 3 2
♣ 5 4	♣ Q 6 2

SOUTH	
♠ 10 8 2	
♥ A Q J	
♦ A Q 10 8	
♣ 10 7 3	

This was Board 13, and it certainly was lucky for seven pairs out of the nine that

held these North-South cards. These seven pairs succeeded in reaching slams. One was in six clubs, and the six others were in six no-trump, which has excellent chances.

When the Canadian stars held these North-South cards against Robert Jordan and Arthur Robinson of Philadelphia, who were also in close contention, their bidding was:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 N.T.
Pass	3 N.T.	Pass	6 N.T.
Pass	Pass		

Against Kehela's contract of six no-trump, West led the 10 of hearts. The declarer won the first three tricks with the heart king, the club ace and the diamond king. He then entered his hand with a heart and took a club finesse, which lost.

East exited with a club, and South took his club winners. He entered his hand with the third round of hearts, cashed his diamond winners and led a spade at the 12th trick. The position was now this simple affair:

NORTH	
♠ A Q	
♥ —	
♦ —	
♣ —	

WEST	EAST
♠ K 7	♠ 6
♥ —	♥ —
♦ —	♦ J
♣ —	♣ —

SOUTH	
♠ 10	
♥ —	
♦ J C	
♣ —	

Any beginner knows enough to finesse a queen, but Kehela did not find it simple. He got up from the table, issued a mild expletive, grabbed a glass of water, sat down again, put his head in his hands and thought for 12 minutes.

In normal circumstances, the finesse would be the standout play, but the circumstances were not normal. Kehela knew that East held

the diamond jack and one more spade.

The defenders had clearly started with three spades each. If East had begun with the king of spades, he would have been forced to unguard it in order to retain his diamond protection.

The Queen at Last

In the late stages of the hand, there is nearly always a clue to the most effective play, but here it was a complete toss-up. As each defender had started with three spades, the location of the king was 50-50. After a tense silence in which he pursued some will-o'-the-wisp psychological clues, Kehela reluctantly called for the queen from dummy, made his slam and earned his place on the world championship team.

The same guess occurred in two other matches involving contenders for the second and third positions in the final standings. Against James Jacoby and Dr. John Fisher of Dallas, Sam Stayman of New York took the finesse.

George Rapee of New York, who was in second place with Boris Koytchou before the final round, put up the ace from dummy. He thought that this play would stand the best chance of boosting his score in a match that was going against him. He failed in his slam, and Mathe and Hamman, who were defending, gained heavily.

A Parcel of 'Its'

If the spade king had been East instead of with West, almost all the final standings would have been changed. It is true that Feldesman and Rubin would still have won, and by a wider margin. But Rapee and Koytchou would have been tied for second and qualified for the team, instead of their actual seventh position.

Equal with them, and also qualified, would have been Jacoby and Dr. Fisher, who finished fifth. Jordan and Robinson would have been fourth instead of sixth, Mathe and Hamman would have

been fifth instead of second, Murray and Kehela would have been seventh instead of third, and B. Jay Becker and Mrs. Dorothy Haylen of New York would have been sixth instead of fourth.

Another slam deal that swung the match against Rapee and Koytchou in the final round was the following:

NORTH	
♠ A K 7 4 3	
♥ 9 5	
♦ A Q 5	
♣ A 10 4	

WEST	EAST
♠ Q 9 5 2	♠ J 6
♥ K Q 10 3 2	♥ J 8 7 6
♦ K 8	♦ 10 9 7 4 3
♣ 8 6	♣ J 5

SOUTH	
♠ 10 8	
♥ A 4	
♦ J 6 2	
♣ K Q 9 7 3 2	

East-West did not bid, and the bidding by Mathe, South, and Hamman, North, was:

North	South
1 ♠	2 ♣
2 ♦	3 ♣
5 ♣	6 ♣
Pass	

This was a good contract to reach, because there is an excellent chance of establishing the spades in dummy to discard a heart loser.

West chose the old lead of the diamond eight, and Mathe had no trouble after the finesse won. After the more normal lead of a heart, he would have won in his hand, cashed the king-queen clubs and started on the spades.

This play would offer a near certainty of success against all normal divisions of the black suits. As the cards lie, South would eventually lead to the diamond ace, refusing the finesse, in order to make sure of 12 tricks.

Mathe and Hamman were the only pair to bid and make this excellent slam contract.

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

NORTH (D) 10	
♠ K 7 6	
♥ Q 9	
♦ J 5	
♣ A K J 7 4 2	

WEST	EAST
♠ Q	♠ 9 8 5 2
♥ J 10 8 6 4 2	♥ 5
♦ 10 8 6 3	♦ A Q 9 7 4
♣ 6 5	♣ Q 9 8

SOUTH	
♠ A J 10 4 3	
♥ A K 7 3	
♦ K 2	
♣ 10 3	

North-South vulnerable			
West	North	East	South
2 ♦	1 ♣	1 ♦	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 N.T.
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead—♦ 3.

When Julius Rosenblum of New Orleans, the nonplaying captain of North America's 1966 team for the world's championship, starts to pick his lineup for the various matches he will have a tough problem. In other years there was always a weak spot on the team. This year his three pairs are so good that he will have a time figuring which one to leave out.

Ira Rubin of New Jersey and Philip Feldsman of New York who finished first in the trials are dead in competitive situations. Lew Mathe and Bob Hamman of Los Angeles are sound in bidding and brilliant in their play of the cards.

This really representative North American team is completed by two Canadians. Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela of Toronto.

We will devote several articles to hands from the trials in which these pairs made the team and we will start with an ambitious slam bid by Murray and Kehela in their first match.

The key bid on the way was Eric Murray's jump to four spades. Kehela needed no further encouragement and merely used Blackwood to make sure that there were enough aces for six and not enough for seven.

Sammy won the second diamond with his king and led a spade toward dummy. When West produced the queen, things looked really promising. Sammy ran off four rounds of trumps and cashed dummy's ace and king of clubs. When both opponents followed to the second club, Sammy used his last trump to ruff out East's queen and claimed the rest of the tricks for his slam.