



Checking their scores in the Spingold team match are bridge experts (l. to r.) Mrs. Dorothy Hayden, Edgar Kaplan, the team's leader, B. Jay Becker and Norman Kay. (Sun-Times Photo)

BRIDGE

Canadians 59 Points Ahead In Spingold

By B. Jay Becker

Eric Murray's defending champions jumped off to a wide lead in the first half of the Spingold team championship finals here Wednesday and then held on through a rocky third quarter to retain their big edge.

At the end of 54 deals, with 18 to go, the all-Canadian contingent led Edgar Kaplan's foursome by 59 international match points.

After getting off to a quick start, the defenders continued to press their advantage in the first half and went on to add more points to their lead as the half wore on.

IN THE FIRST quarter of the match, which was seen on Bridge-O-Rama by more than 200 bridge buffs, the Murray team moved into a 25-point lead.

The Canadians then added 37 more points in the second quarter. In the third quarter the Kaplan team cut three IMPs from the lead after failing to take advantage of several breaks thrown their way.

MURRAY'S TEAM, all from Toronto, includes Bruce Elliott, Sammy Kehela, and Percy Sheardown. Kaplan's group includes Norman Kay of Philadelphia, Mrs. Dorothy Hayden of Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y., and this writer. Kaplan is from New York.

Should the Murray combine go on to win, they will have gone through two straight years in the Spingold without a defeat. Last year they won the championship on their home ground when the summer national tournament, of which the Spingold is the final event, was held in Toronto.

The two teams won entry to the finals by winning matches in the semifinals Tuesday. The Murray team defeated a group led by Howard Schenken of New York by 50 IMPs, and the Kaplan team scored a 49-

THE FOLLOWING deal accounted for half of the Murray lead in the first quarter.

Both sides vulnerable.

North dealer.

NORTH

♠ 8
♥ AK 2
♦ KQ9842
♣ AK 8

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

SOUTH

♠ AK 10 5 2
♥ Q J 8 6 5
♦ —
♣ 7 6 2

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 NT	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
6 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

WHEN MURRAY, South,

removed three no-trump to four hearts, Kehela, North, could not envision a hand without some play for slam, and consequently leaped to six.

West led the club nine, won by dummy's king. The king of diamonds was covered by the

ace and ruffed. Murray played the ace and king of spades, trumped a spade in dummy, and cashed top club and diamond. Declarer was now able to ruff two diamonds in his hand (the second one with the

jack), and two more spades in the dummy to take 12 tricks, the last with the heart queen.

At the other table, North-South played in three no-trump making four, and the total gain was 13 IMPs to the Canadians.

Toronto Bridge Team In Semis

Special to the Globe and Mail

CHICAGO — The defending Toronto team of E. R. Murray, S. R. Kehela, C. B. Elliott and P. E. Sheardown clashed yesterday with the team of Howard Schenken and Peter Leventritt of New York, Lew Mathe, Robert Hamman and Alfred Scheinwald of Los Angeles and Albert Weiss of Miami in the semi-final round of the Spingold Trophy, the team championship of the American Contract Bridge League's Summer Nationals tournament.

The other semi-finalists are the team of Alvin Roth, Tobias Stone and Leonard Harmon of New York, and Ivar Stakgold of Chicago, and that of Edgar Kaplan, B. J. Becker and Mrs. Dorothy Hayden of New York and Norman Kay of Philadelphia.

The semi-finals are day-long 72-board matches, as is the final, which will be concluded today.

The four teams are the survivors of a 128-team field that started play last Wednesday.

Toronto Team Set to Retain Bridge Title

CHICAGO — Toronto's defending champion team of four yesterday clashed with a New York-based team in the final of the Spingold Trophy matches as the American Contract Bridge League concluded its 37th annual Summer Nationals here.

Fresh from a victory by 57 International Match Points over the team captained by internationalist Howard Schenken, the Canadians — Eric R. Murray and Sammy R. Kehela of Toronto, P. E. (Shorty) Sheardown of Downsview and C. Bruce Elliott of Weston — yesterday met the team of Edgar Kaplan and B. J. Becker of New York, Norman Kay of Philadelphia and Mrs. Dorothy Hayden of Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y., which had defeated the team captained by Alvin Roth of New York.

All members of both teams in the 72-board final thus qualify for the trials in San Francisco to determine the North American team to contest the international team title in Venice next April.



Victorious Canadians: Bruce Elliott, Percy Sheardown, Sammy Kehela, Eric Murray.

Toronto Team Wins Bridge Tourney

CHICAGO (AP) — An all-Canadian team early today won the masters' team event at the American Contract Bridge League's summer championship for the second consecutive year.

The victory marked the first time the same four-

man team has taken the Nate B. Spingold Trophy two years in a row. The margin of victory was 91 international match points.

Members of the winning team are Eric R. Murray and Sammy Kehela, both of Toronto; Percy Sheardown

of Downsview, and C. Bruce Elliott of Weston.

They defeated a strong team captained by Edgar Kaplan of New York, playing with B. Jay Becker, also of New York, Norman Kay of Philadelphia and Mrs. Dorothy Hayden of Hastings-

on-Hudson, N.Y.

Both teams, by winning their semi-final matches Tuesday, earned the right to compete in the international trials to be held in November in San Francisco for the right to compete in the world event.

IMP victory over Alvin Roth of New York.

Team Returns After Winning Bridge Trophy

Toronto's premier bridge team, first four-man squad ever to win the Spingold Trophy two years in a row, returned yesterday from Chicago, where it accomplished the feat at the 37th annual Summer Nationals of the American Contract Bridge League.

The team — Eric R. Murray and Sammy R. Kehela of Toronto, P. E. (Shorty) Sheardown of Downsview and C. Bruce Elliott of Weston — defeated a U.S. team by 90 International Match Points in the 72-board final to retain the trophy it won at the 36th annual Nationals here last year.

The other finalists, survivors of an original 128-team field, were B. J. Becker of New York and Mrs. Dorothy Hayden of Hasting-on-Hudson, N.Y., both members of the 1965 North American International team, Norman Kay of Philadelphia and Edgar Kaplan of New York.

In setting its mark, winning 17 matches in a row, the Toronto team defeated squads including the other four 1965 internationalists — Kelsey Petterson of Long Beach, Calif., Howard Schenken and Peter Leventritt of New York and Ivan Erdos of Los Angeles — and such other name players as Alfred Scheinwold and Lew Mathe of Los Angeles.

The victory qualifies the team to compete in week-long trials at San Francisco in November when six 1966 North American internationalists will be selected to meet nine-times champion Italy in Venice in late April and early May for the Bermuda Bowl.

Bridge: Canadians Retain Title In the Spingold Knockout

By ALAN TRUSCOTT

Special to The New York Times

CHICAGO, Aug. 19—The Canadian defending champions retained their title in the spingold knockout team championship here in a session that ended early this morning.

Eric Murray, Sammy Kehela, Bruce Elliott and Percy Sheardown, all of Toronto, won the final match against Edgar Kaplan, B. Jay Becker, Mrs. Dorothy Hayden, all of New York, and Norman Kay of Philadelphia, by 91 international match points.

The Canadians went into the lead at the start of the match, and played inspired bridge. At the halfway stage, helped by superior bidding on several slam hands, they had built up a lead of 62 points and seemed certain winners. In the third quarter the hands were relatively dull, and the lead was cut by three points. In the final session the margin increased, partly because the Kaplan team was straining to recover lost ground.

First in 30 Years

To win this famous championship in two successive years is a remarkable feat. It is thirty years since a team defended its title successfully.

The choice of an opening lead made a difference of 26 international match points in the final of the Spingold. Elliott reached an optimistic seven no-trump contract on the deal shown. Mrs. Dorothy Hayden, sitting West, made the natural lead of the club jack, and declarer was able to make his contract.

He won the first trick with the club king, cashed two diamond winners to get some clue to the distribution, then led the heart ten. West played low, and dummy's jack was played. When the finesse won, the declarer was able to discard his three spade losers and make thirteen tricks.

The only lead that could

NORTH (D)			
♠	Q 93		
♥	A K J 7		
♦	6 2		
♣	A 8 6 5		
WEST			
♠	10 5		
♥	Q 9 6 3 2		
♦	7		
♣	J 10 9 7 2		
EAST			
♠	K J 4 2		
♥	8 5 4		
♦	9 8 3		
♣	Q 4 3		
SOUTH			
♠	A 8 7 6		
♥	10		
♦	A K Q J 10 5 4		
♣	K		

East and West were vulnerable. The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 N.T.	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	5 N.T.	Pass
6 ♦	Pass	7 N.T.	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West led the club jack.

have defeated the contract was an unnatural one: a heart. South could then take the finesse, but had no way of cashing two club tricks. Even then the defenders must be careful. If South won three heart tricks in dummy and then cashed diamonds, West must keep both his spades.

If West should discard a spade, South could cash the spade ace and end with a double squeeze in this position:

NORTH			
♠	—		
♥	7		
♦	—		
♣	A 8		
WEST			
♠	—		
♥	9		
♦	—		
♣	10 9		
EAST			
♠	K		
♥	—		
♦	—		
♣	Q 4		
SOUTH			
♠	8		
♥	—		
♦	4		
♣	K		

The lead of the last diamond forces West and East in turn to unguard the clubs, and dummy's club eight makes the last trick.

Bridge: Second Sight A Rare Quality Among the Opposing Bidders

By ALAN TRUSCOTT

IT IS reasonable to assume in the bidding that the opponents are not equipped with second sight. For example, a singleton queen opposite a guarded ace provides two stoppers in a no-trump contract about half the time. If the player on lead has the king of the suit, he will need a remarkable inspiration to lead it.

This is illustrated by the deal shown, from the final of the Spingold championship in Chicago last week. South was Sammy Kehela of Toronto, a member of the winning Canadian team, and he reached a contract that was not as easy as it looked.

The rebid of two no-trump, a balanced hand with stoppers in the unbids suits, was very much better than a rebid of two hearts. But South had a closer decision on the next round. North's bid of three spades suggested a preference for a suit contract, and therefore implied a weakness in diamonds.

Declarer Rewarded

Nevertheless, South persevered with three no-trump, and was rewarded when dummy's queen of diamonds won the first trick. If East had produced the diamond king, South would have needed six club tricks to make his contract. As it was he could afford a safety play.

One way of guarding against a four-one club division was to lead a low club from dummy at the second trick. This would have forced East to take his jack, and nine tricks would have been made easily.

Kehela achieved the same effect more elegantly and preserved the chance of overtricks. At the second trick he led the heart jack from dummy. East was virtually sure to play the king if he

NORTH			
♠	Q 9 7 2		
♥	J 6		
♦	Q		
♣	A K Q 10 9 8		
WEST			
♠	10 8 5		
♥	K 10 2		
♦	K 10 9 5 3 2		
♣	7		
EAST			
♠	K J 6		
♥	7 5 4		
♦	J 8 4		
♣	J 5 4 2		
SOUTH (D)			
♠	A 4 3		
♥	A Q 9 8 3		
♦	A 7 6		
♣	6 3		

East and West were vulnerable. The bidding:

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

West led the diamond five.

held that card, giving South a second heart trick.

When East played low on the heart lead, the declarer won with the ace and led a club to the eight. East won with the jack and continued diamonds, forcing South to take his nine tricks.

If South had led out the top clubs, optimistically assuming that the suit would break, the contract would have been in jeopardy.

When the hand was replayed, the bidding began in the same way but South raised three spades to four spades. North retreated to five clubs, which was a sound contract. Even six clubs would not be unreasonable with the North-South hands.

East led a diamond against five clubs, and North won in dummy and drew three rounds of trumps. He finessed the heart jack unsuccessfully, and a spade return from West doomed the contract. The contract would have been made if North had led a fourth round of trumps immediately, but North had no way of knowing the location of the spade king, the crucial card.

Experts North of the Border

By ALAN TRUSCOTT

THE American Contract Bridge League has a continental jurisdiction, for it includes Canada, Bermuda and Mexico in addition to the United States. It is possible, therefore, for North America to be represented in the world championship by a predominantly Canadian team, and such an occurrence is by no means remote.

In the recent Spingold Knockout Championships, the best United States teams were beaten decisively by a team from Toronto.

Two of the Canadians, Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela, have been recognized as leading players for several years. Their teammates, Bruce Elliott and Percy Sheardown, are players of great experience who showed to particular advantage in defensive play.

In the following deal from the Spingold final, Murray appeared to be facing an impossible task:

NORTH

♠ A 5 3 2
♥ A K J
♦ A K 8 7 2
♣ 5

WEST (D)

♠ Q 4
♥ 10
♦ 6 4 3
♣ A Q 10 9 6 4 2

EAST

♠ K 9 8 6
♥ Q 8 7 4
♦ Q J 10
♣ K J

SOUTH

♠ J 10 7
♥ 9 6 5 3 2
♦ 9 5
♣ 8 7 3

Both sides were vulnerable, and the bidding was:

West	North	East	South
3 ♣	D'bl.	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	D'bl.	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Murray, sitting South, was no doubt unhappy when his partner doubled three clubs. As it happened, South's hand would have provided the setting trick in three clubs doubled, but he not unnaturally bid three hearts. The raise to four hearts and the double by East were no sort of comfort, but the dummy raised South's hopes.

The Bridge-O-Rama audience predicted down one, but Murray proceeded to make 10 bricks with a meager supply of straw.

Ace Was Cashed

West led the club ace, and continued with a club, which was ruffed in dummy. The heart ace was cashed, thus reducing the chance of an overruff by West, and three rounds of diamonds were played.

When the third-round ruff established diamonds, South's prospects became much brighter. He entered dummy with a trump lead, leaving this difficult end-position:

NORTH

♠ A 5 3 2
♥ —
♦ 8 7
♣ —

WEST

♠ Q 4
♥ —
♦ —
♣ 10 9 6 4

EAST

♠ K 9 8 6
♥ Q 8
♦ —
♣ —

SOUTH

♠ J 10 7
♥ 9 6
♦ —
♣ 8

A winning diamond was led from dummy, and East could find no way to make three tricks. A low ruff would be overruffed, and South would lead the spade jack, establishing two spade tricks.

After a high ruff, South would discard his club loser, and would again come to two spade tricks eventually. And if East discarded a spade, it would only postpone the evil day. After another diamond lead, South would remain in control of the situation, for, if East discarded again, the lead of the ace and another spade would leave South with a sure trump trick.

As the play went, the defenders were helpless, and it is difficult to see how any other opening lead would have helped them. When the hand was replayed, West did not open the bidding and was eventually set two tricks in four clubs doubled. The Murray team gained seven International Match Points.

Kehela demonstrated his good technique on the following hand from an earlier round of the Spingold.

NORTH

♠ Q 9 6 2
♥ A 10 5 4 3
♦ 8 2
♣ K Q

WEST

♠ K 4 3
♥ K Q J 9 6
♦ K 10 5
♣ 10 5

EAST

♠ —
♥ 8 2
♦ Q 7 6 4 3
♣ A J 8 7 4 3

SOUTH

♠ A J 10 8 7 5
♥ 7
♦ A J 9
♣ 9 6 2

Against Kehela's contract of four spades, West led the heart king, which was won by the ace in dummy. It seems natural for the declarer to start the trumps, but Kehela saw that he would endanger his contract.

Instead, he led the club king, and East won with the ace and shifted to a diamond. Declarer took the diamond ace, led to the club queen and played a second diamond. It was then a simple matter to ruff both a club and a diamond in the dummy.

Observe what happens if South incautiously leads a trump at the second trick. He can win with the ace, but West gains the lead later in diamonds and plays two more rounds of trumps. South can only ruff one of his losers in the dummy, and the contract is defeated.

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