

# BRIDGE IN CANADA

By PETER CRONIN

In response to numerous requests The Telegram will present a bridge column of a distinctive Canadian character every Saturday. The author is Peter Cronin, a well known Canadian bridge expert. The regular bridge column by Oswald and James Jacoby will appear on the other five days of the week.

It is fitting that, in Canada's centennial year, this country will select, for the first time in its history, an open team and a women's team to compete in the World Bridge Olympiad to be held in France next year.

On August 26 in Winnipeg, the national finals to select these teams will get under way. The Ontario zone has already held semi-finals to pick the two top open teams to send to Winnipeg.

Further, eight women's pairs from this area are competing for berths on the women's team. The two Ontario open team finalists are both excellent teams, one captained by Eric Murray, the other by Bruce Gowdy.

## WINNERS

The Murray team is one of the finest teams in North America. Eric Murray, Sammy Kehela, Bruce Elliott and Percy Sheardown won two consecutive (1964, 1965) Spingold events, the most coveted jewel in team competition in North America and which is held annually at the Summer Nationals.

Beside their Spingold wins, Murray and Kehela have won many national events and have twice represented North America in World Bridge competition.

Elliott and Sheardown do not compete as often in national events but have another national team victory to their credit as well as numerous regional and sectional successes.

Sammy Kehela, originally from Iraq, moved to Toronto in 1957. He has been playing with Murray since 1960, is a bridge writer and also does some teaching.

Eric Murray was born in Hamilton, graduated from McMaster University and later Osgoode Hall. He now practises law in Toronto.

Bruce Elliott and Percy (Shorty) Sheardown are both Torontonians. Bruce is a painting estimator while Percy is the proprietor of the St. Clair Bridge Club, a popular centre for top flight bridge.

## EXAMPLE

Here is a famous example from the 1967 World Bridge Tournament, the Bermuda Bowl, of Kehela's outstanding card sense at the bridge table. Sammy is declarer at three no trump on the following deal.

North America vs. France  
Dealer: North

Vul: Both

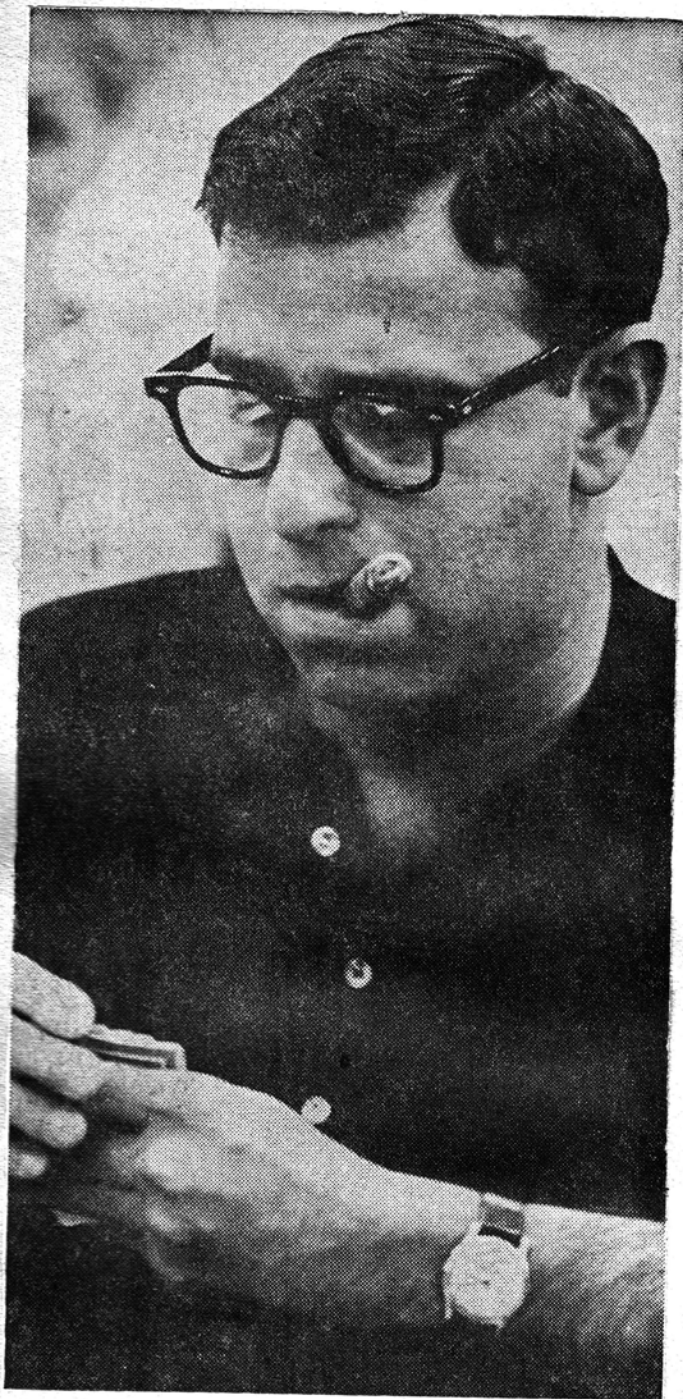
N (Murray)	
♠	K
♥	9 4
♦	A Q J 10 8 5
♣	10 9 6 4
S (Kehela)	
♠	A J 3
♥	K 8 3
♦	9 4 3
♣	A Q 3 2

	N	E	S	W
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass		

Henri Svarc, West, opens the king of clubs; Sammy wins his ace, plays to his ace of diamonds and continues with the queen. Jean-Michel Boulenger, East, wins with the king, West following, and then plays the queen of hearts which Kehela ducks; West plays the two. Boulenger now plays the six of hearts. What do you play as South?

Kehela thought about the situation for 15 minutes and finally played low, thereby hopelessly blocking the defence's heart suit and giving a big swing to North America. The East-West hands were:

W (Svarc)	E (Boulenger)
♠ 9 8 6 4 2	♠ Q 10 7 5
♥ A 10 2	♥ Q J 7 6 5
♦ 7 2	♦ K 6
♣ K J 7	♣ 8 5



Sammy Kehela of the leading Toronto Murray team.

# 8 Toronto teams aim for Bridge Olympiad

Tonight eight Toronto bridge teams will turn the first cards in a flurry of pasteboards that may propel one of them to the World Bridge Olympiad in France in 1968.

The occasion is the preliminary round of trials to provide two Ontario teams for the Canadian Olympiad trials at Winnipeg Aug. 31 to Sept. 4 this year.

A ninth team — Eric Murray, Sammy Kehela, C. B. Elliott and P. E. (Shorty) Sheardown — generally considered Canada's best, has been excused from the Ontario preliminaries but will be required to qualify in the Ontario trials final.

Captains of the eight teams in the preliminary are Robert Chow, Donald Cowan, Michael Cummings, Willie (Baron) Lebovic, Bruce Gowdy, Dr. Ronald Forbes, Duncan Phillips and F. B. Powley.

In the preliminary trials,

which continue to Sunday, each team will meet each of the other seven in a round-robin, 40-board match. The top three teams will qualify for the Ontario final.

The final will be a round-robin of 80-board matches among the three leading preliminary teams and the Murray team. Dates for the final, to be held within the next two or three months, will be arranged to the convenience of the four teams involved.

The two top teams at the conclusion of the final will advance to Winnipeg, where they will meet two teams each from Eastern and Western Canada in the Canadian Olympiad final. This event will be a five-day round-robin among the six teams.

The winning team at Winnipeg, plus any one other Canadian pair to be chosen by the winners, will represent Canada at the World Bridge

Olympiad on the French Riviera next spring.

Nicknamed by one of its members Chairman Chow and the Red Guards, the Chow team will consist of John Stevens, J. M. Norton and Robert Scull.

Cowan has as his team-

mates Peter Schwartz, Dr. George Sereny and Alan Lando.

Cummings has entered the youngest team in the trials. His squad is John Laskin, David Model and Thomas Greer.

Lebovic has with him Max Krasman, Donald DaCosta and Harvey Mitchell, a newcomer from Scotland.

Gowdy's teammates are William Solomon, Gerald Charney and William Crissey.

Dr. Forbes will play with William Tucker, M. M. (Mickey) Miller and Brian Mathers.

Others on the Phillips team are Robert Pugh, Richard Hart and Dr. Eric Jones.

Powley's team is Arthur Newman, Hartley Maldaver and Albert James.

The Cummings team is the only one that does not include a life master of the American Contract Bridge League.

Five of the nine teams are composed entirely of life masters. The Forbes and Powley teams have three each and the Lebovic team has two.

Apart from the Cummings team, the four players in the trials who are not life masters are Krasman, Mitchell, Tucker and Newman.

# Two bridge fours to Canada finals

The foursomes of Eric Murray, Sam Kehela, Bruce Elliott and Percy Sheardown and Bruce Gowdy, Bill Solomon, Bill Crissey and Gerry Charney have won the Ontario Regional Bridge Team qualifications tournament.

The Murray team qualified Saturday in this double elimination event. They had no trouble with the young team of Bob Chow, John Stevens, Mel Norton and Bob Scull, winning by 69 IMPs (International Master Points).

In the other Saturday match, Gowdy eliminated the squad of Duncan Phillips, Bob Pugh, Dick Hart and Eric Jones by 51.

On Friday, Gowdy lost to Murray and Chow defeated Phillips.

Yesterday's 72-hand match between Gowdy and Chow was very close with the result even at the half.

In the second half, Gowdy won 26 IMPs, mainly due to a terrible opening lead by Norton to allow Crissey to make a vulnerable game, and Steven's failure in a slam depending on a finesse.

The outmatched Chow team rallied bravely, bidding and making seven hearts, missing a cashable ace-king-queen; however, this was too little and too late.

The Murray and Gowdy teams advance to the Canadian finals in Winnipeg on Labor Day against four other teams from the rest of Canada.

The winner of this event then represents Canada in the World's Bridge Olympiad in Cannes, France in May, 1968.

Both Ontario teams are well experienced in the world of bridge, with the entire Murray team being twice winners of the North American championships.

Bruce Gowdy is also no

stranger to strong competi-

tion. He was the youngest player ever to win a North American team championship.

Immediately after the yesterday session, Eric Murray and Sam Kehela left for Miami to represent North America in the 1967 World Bridge Championships.

# 5 from Toronto win place on bridge team

WINNIPEG (CP) — Five women from Toronto and one from Montreal have captured places on a Canadian team that will compete in the 1968 World Bridge Olympiad.

Earning the trip to Deauville, France, during trials here were Vi Broad and Mary Bowden, who topped a 15-round playoff on Tuesday with 512½ of a possible 720 points.

Their teammates will be Louise Mark and Maureen O'Brien, who finished second with 501 points, and Irene Reingold and Jackie Begin of Montreal, who came in third with 458½.

In trials to select an open team to compete at Deauville, a Toronto entry led by Eric Murray collected its fourth victory Tuesday to remain undefeated in the six-team round-robin elimination.

Murray's partners are Sammy Kehela, Percy E. (Shorty) Sheardown and Bruce Elliott.

Another Toronto team consisting of Bruce Gowdy, Bill Solomon, Bill Crissey and Gerald Charney is in second place with three wins and one defeat.

The Montreal team of Bud Marsh, Ralph Cohen, Marvin Altman and Don Cowan of Toronto and the Vancouver unit of Ron Borg, Jim Donaldson, Paul Hagen and Mike Sterbinger are tied for third place with 2-2 records.

The Halifax team of Ray Jotcham, Al Doane, Bryson Crowell and Saul Blum are fourth with one victory in four matches. Last without a win is the Vancouver team of Eric Stark, Joe Cheng, Sefton Levine and Murdoch Smith.

The open team for the world tournament will consist of the four players from the team finishing first in the trials plus two additional players.