

Canadian champs aim for 3rd title

The question most players in the tournament world are asking now is, can the defending champions win three times in a row? Today is the last day of the playoffs for the Rothmans 1982 Canadian National Team Championships. It has been a great success with a growth of over thirteen per cent this year.

Toronto's Sammy Kehela, Eric Murray, and George Mittelman; Montreal's Eric Kokish and Peter Nagy and Allan Graves of Vancouver are planning an affirmative answer to this question.

Both vulnerable South deals

NORTH	
♠ AQ	
♥ K5	
♦ Q108743	
♣ 873	
WEST	
♠ 732	
♥ J9864	
♦ K6	
♣ Q106	
EAST	
♠ 65	
♥ Q	
♦ AJ92	
♣ KJ9542	

SOUTH (Sammy Kehela)	
♠ KJ10984	
♥ A10732	
♦ 5	
♣ A	

The bidding:

Bridge

S	W	N	E
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Two of spades

This team tied for first in the Flight A Swiss in the recent Canadian National Regional championships in Toronto but today's hand came from a rubber bridge game. It is a classic case of best defence versus best declarer play.

West got off to the only lead that had a chance to defeat the contract. Sammy won the ace of spades and played the king of hearts, followed by the five of hearts.

If East had discarded instead of trumping the lead of a small heart at trick three, the contract would have made with ease as well. One heart ruff would be the tenth trick but East also found two fine plays. He trumped the heart and made the perfect return of the two of diamonds.

This underlead let West back in to return

a second trump. No heart ruffs were available now with this excellent defence.

We don't expect any play but the best from Sammy. He continued perfectly. A diamond was led from the dummy and he trumped it. This removed a safe exit card from West's hand. He now ran the balance of the spades and this was the position as he cashed the last trump:

NORTH

♠ Void
♥ Void
♦ Q10
♣ 873

WEST

♠ Void
♥ J98
♦ Void
♣ Q10

EAST

♠ Void
♥ Void
♦ AJ
♣ KJ9

SOUTH

♠ 8
♥ A107
♦ Void
♣ A

West could not avoid one of two losing choices. If West discarded a heart, Sammy could play the ace and another heart and regain the lead with the ace of clubs. If West discarded a club, Sammy could play the

ace of clubs and follow this up with a low heart to endplay West in hearts.

West elected the latter play but to no avail. The ace of clubs was followed by the seven of hearts and the forced heart return gave Sammy his tenth trick.

Perfection, it doesn't happen that often by all four players. We do expect it from Sammy though.

Questions on bridge problems can be sent to Ted Horning, The Toronto Star, Room 295, One Yonge St., Toronto, M5E 1E6. Not every question can be answered but all will be considered. Personal replies cannot be guaranteed.

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A winning Canadian team! Here's a Toronto team to cheer about: Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela.

They're just back from the World Bridge Championships in France, where they anchored an underdog Canadian team that shocked the competition by vaulting to a bronze medal.

Coupled with the victory of Torontonians Dianna Gordon and George Mittelman in the mixed pairs competition, the Murray-Kehela coup gave Canada its best-ever performance in the glamorous world of international tournament bridge.

More than 50 countries battled in the two-week tournament in the resort town of Biarritz, with tense crowds of 800 watching the action on closed-circuit TV.

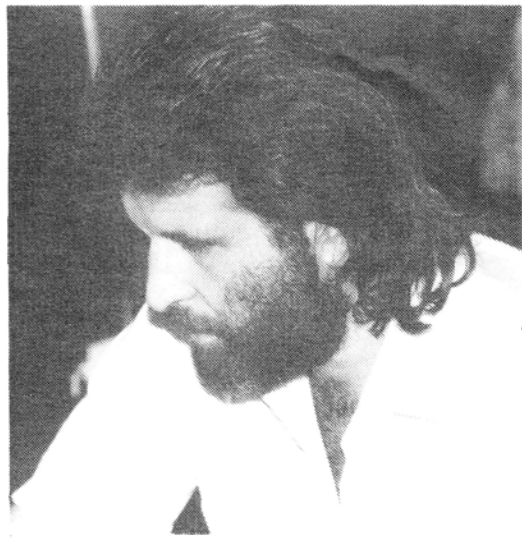
In a pressure-cooker situation where national pride and fortunes can turn on a single card, Canada's third-place finish behind France and the U.S. was outstanding, with powers such as Italy, Poland (the defending champs) and Britain eating our dust.

Does this set up the steely-eyed Forest Hill lawyer (Murray) and the intense professional player (Kehela) for gold at the next championship?

"Not me," says Murray. "That's it." After 24 years of competitions, he's had enough. Or maybe he's just sore about the weather in Biarritz: "First day was great. Lots of topless girls on the beach. Then it rained for two weeks."



Carefully studying his hand is Sami Kehela of Canada, one of the world's foremost players.



Allan Graves of Canada has won the Canadian National Team championship three times in the past four years.

Dlr: South
Vul: N-S

S 3
H K 7 6
D K J 9 2
C K J 10 8 2

S A K J 9 8
H J 4
D 7 5
C 7 6 5 3

S Q 7 6
H 10 9 5 2
D A 6 4 3
C Q 4

S 10 5 4 2
H A Q 8 3
D Q 10 8
C A 9

It was the best of times, it was the worst of the times. It was the penultimate round of the never-ending Swiss Teams, and Canada faced Sweden in a crucial match. It was all about a bronze medal, you see. Gold and myrrh and frankincense were now beyond reach.

All the world's a Swiss. The players were Anders Morath, West; Jorgen Lindqvist, East; Eric Murray, North, and Sami Kehela, South. The match was unbearably close, it seemed. See how they bid...

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
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1S	2S	3S	1D
4S	5D	All Pass	Pass

Of no small import was South's choice of opening bids. For the first (and surely the last) time in his young life, South elected to open in a three-card diamond

suit, preparing to avoid an uncomfortable rebid over, say, 1H-P-2C. But more uncomfortable still was the fate that awaited the brave Canadian warrior. Before you could say, "Bob's your uncle", South found himself at the wheel in 5D, a contract not to be the subject of one of your most pleasant dreams.

West led the SA and switched to the HJ, never expecting a three-card trump holding in the hand of the high priest of Acol Sauvage. Declarer won and tried queen of trumps and eight of trumps to dummy's jack, East ducking twice without a flicker (some of the trouble with this ducking without a flicker business is that it is often the second best play, but time is very precious in the heat of the battle).

Deciding that the trumps were probably 4-2 from the bidding and early play, declarer called for a new horse. CA and a club toward dummy. If clubs were 4-2, the finesse would do no good since the handling would prove to be impossible. Were they 4-2 after all? East seemed to hold three spades and four diamonds and very probably four hearts if West's bidding could be given any credit. That left two clubs. Only queen and one would do declarer any good. So... KING OF CLUBS. Good.

But it was not quite over yet. If all was as it seemed to be, it was vital to cash two more high hearts before torturing East with a barrage of club winners. So, HQ, HK and now clubs. East could ruff or not ruff, but declarer's only remaining loser was that elusive ace of trumps.

600 to Canada. 1IMP to Sweden since Sundelin-Flodqvist had bid and made 4H at the other table after South had opened with 1H. But Kehela's magnificent effort had kept Canada close. Sweden won the match by 3 IMPs to knock Canada out of first place in the Swiss for the first time in seven rounds, but there was still one round to be played. As fate would have it, the Swedes faced the new leaders, BARBONE-Garozzo-Porcino-Lumia-Franco-DeFalco, in the final round and they came through with a big victory to help the Canadians overtake Barbone and capture the bronze medal. Thank you Sweden. Thank you Sami.

The Bridge Beat

ERIC KOKISH AND BEVERLY KRAFT

At both tables in a 1982 teams match between Canada and South Africa the contract was 4♠, declared by South.

Both Wests led the ♦A. One continued with a diamond to the queen and king while the other switched to a heart. Cover the East and West hands and take over.

Neither side vulnerable
North deals

North
♠ K63
♥ AKQ
♦ 2
♣ AK8754

West	East
♠ AJ94	♠ 7
♥ J1032	♥ 98754
♦ A87	♦ Q1094
♣ 93	♣ 1062

South
♠ Q10852
♥ 6
♦ KJ653
♣ QJ

W	N	E	S
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥(1)	Pass	2♠(2)
Pass	4♠	End	

Opening Lead: ♦A

(1) Forcing, "natural"

(2) At least five spades

The South African declarer, in hand with the ♦K, led a spade to the king and a second spade, losing three "natural" trump tricks for one down.

The Canadian declarer, Sami Kehela, won the ♥A in dummy and led the ♠3, seven, queen, ace. West made a good play by switching to the ♣9, trying to convince declarer to lead the second round of trumps to dum-

my's king in order to prevent a club ruff.

Despite this threat, declarer won the ♣Q and led the ♠2, covering West's four with dummy's six. When the ♠6 held, declarer ran clubs from the top. West could ruff in but the ♠K remained in dummy to extract West's remaining trump and provide access to the remaining winners.

Had West shown out on the second trump, declarer would have won dummy's king and led a third trump toward his 10, holding the defenders to two trump tricks in a different way. How did declarer know that he could afford the safety play in trumps with the threat of a club ruff looming? Although it was no sure thing, he drew the inference that if West really had a singleton club and wanted a ruff he would have led it.

What if West plays the ♠9 on the second round to force the king? Declarer wins, cashes two high hearts to discard diamonds, crosses to the ♣J, cashes the ♦K, and ruffs the ♦J with the ♠6. Stuck in dummy, he is down to 1085 of trumps, but they are all equals against West's jack. West never takes a trick with the ♠4.

Had declarer not been in dummy with a heart at trick two do you think he have crossed to dummy himself to play a trump toward his hand? If you don't know the answer to that question you don't know enough about the legendary Sami Kehela.