

THE 1st EPSON

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THE INTERCITY TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

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EDITORS: ERIC KOKISH, BEVERLY KRAFT

CANADIANS HANG ON TO WIN OPEN SERIES

When the day began, Montreal had 212 VP, Taipei A 196 and Epson 188. Epson moved to 198 with a 13th round bye and Taipei moved to 216 with a blitz. Montreal had some anxious moments against a gritty Osaka team, winning 14-6, and moving up to 226, a 10-IMP lead. That set the stage for a dramatic 14th round match with Taipei A while Epson faced Tokyo. Epson came through with their blitz, moving up to 218. Meanwhile, Taipei-Montreal was a hard-fought, exciting match (see elsewhere in this issue) with Taipei winning narrowly, 12-8. This left: Montreal-234, Taipei A-228, Epson-218. It was all very tense. Montreal had it in its power to secure the victory by winning at least 15-5 against Tokyo A, and in fact, they won a blitz, as Silver-Litvack turned in a tremendous card. Meanwhile Epson and Taipei A were facing one another with the second-place prizes on the line. This was everything it figured to be, and Epson won narrowly, 11-9. The final standings: Montreal-254, Taipei A--237, Epson-229 (290 possible)

The event itself was one of the best run that your editor has ever attended and Epson and JCBL are to be congratulated for a truly exceptional organizational effort. May there be many more of these tournaments in the future, we say.

A THRILLA FOR MANILA IN THE WOMEN'S

It was all down to the final match in the Women's Series, and the two leaders, Manila and Taipei, faced each other with Manila 4 VP behind. In the first half, Manila gained 2 IMPs, hardly conclusive. But in the second half, it was all Manila, as they won the match 97-63, or 18-2, winning the tournament with 111 VP. Taipei finished second with 99 and Yokohama finished third with 87. Congratulations to Mrs R Melhomme, npc, and her team: Mrs F Yap, Mrs H Tubangui, L Jalbuena, Mrs MC Del Gallego, Mrs R Santiago, and Mrs Carmen La Guardia.

THE OPEN WINNERS

SR Kehela (captain), Beverly Kraft, Joseph Silver, Irving Litvack, Eric Kokish

JAPAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE
Room 705, Fudosankaikan Bldg.,
5-ban, Yotsuya 3-chome, Shinjuku-ku,
Tokyo 160 JAPAN

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Two of the pre-tournament favourites met in the third round, and the boards disappointed no one.

The match started slowly, with a series of small swings to EPSON, the largest being a 6-IMP turnover when Silver-Litvack misdefended a partscore. After 7 deals, EPSON led 12-0. Then came board 8, one of the best played hands you could ever hope to see...

Bd 8	<u>NORTH</u>	
Dlr: W	A7	
Vul: NONE	J643	
	Q9763	
	Q3	<u>EAST</u>
<u>WEST</u>		104
8653		Q85
1097		1054
A82		AK965
1042	<u>SOUTH</u>	
	KQJ92	
	AK2	
	KJ	
	J87	

The two Norths, Irving Rose and Sami Kehela declared 3NT. Rose received the lead of the five of clubs, attitude. He won the first trick and immediately played on diamonds, hoping for 4-4 clubs. This proved to be a losing line since the defenders took the first diamond and cashed out their clubs. Had declarer been aware that Litvack and Silver rarely lead four-card suits, he might have done differently.

Kehela got the lead of the six of clubs, fourth best in principle. He ran five rounds of spades, discarding a heart and two diamonds. Martin Hoffman, East, discarded three diamonds.

Kehela cashed the heart ace, went into a serious huddle, and finally...called for dummy's eight of clubs. Jeremy Flint's ten of clubs had gone at trick one, and so Hoffman had to win (declarer knew this from the rule of eleven). He ran his clubs and Kehela discarded all the diamonds from both hands. At trick twelve Hoffman had to lead from the queen of hearts and so the contract was made. The throng of spectators were too polite to applaud, but they must have felt a strong urge to do that cut the margin to 12-10, EPSON still ahead.

And on the very next deal, the two Souths, Barnet Shenkin and Eric Kokish, held: J1072 742 KQ8 Q104. Shenkin was facing 15-17 HCP, balanced, and chose to pass his partner's notrump opening. Kokish was facing 16-18 and so had an automatic raise to at least 2NT. The North hand was entirely suitable, and 3NT was easy to make. Canada gained 7 IMPs for bidding it. 17-12.

On the next deal Kehela risked a marginal vulnerable overcall and got himself doubled, down 500 into a problematical vulnerable 3NT the other way. The same overcall was made at the other table too but Silver-Litvack passed up the penalty and settled for 3NT, +660. 21-]2, Canada. Then...

Bd 11	<u>NORTH</u>	Flint	Kehela	Hoffman	Kokish
Dlr: S	102	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>
Vul: NONE	A752				1C
	987	P	P	DBL	1H
	8763	1S	2H	2S	P
<u>WEST</u>		P	P		
K873	<u>EAST</u>				
93	AQ54				
AJ63	1064	Litvack	Rose	Silver	Schenkin
J109	KQ1052	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>
	5				1C
	<u>SOUTH</u>	P	1H	DBL	4D*
	J96	4S	P	P	5H
	KQJ8	P	P	P	
	4				
	AKQ42				

Both 4H and 4S were, of course, ice cold. So who judged worst at the first table? Obviously, everyone could have bid some more. EPSON gained 3 curious IMPs, +170 at 2S, -50 at 5H. 21-15, Canada.

A couple of good pushes followed, setting the stage for another exciting hand, with the match very much on the line...

Bd 14	<u>NORTH</u>	Flint	Kehela	Hoffman	Kokish
Dlr: E	J87	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>
Vul: NONE	AK9876			1NT	3C
	QJ4	P	3H	P	3S
	6	P	3NT	(all PASS)	
<u>WEST</u>		<u>EAST</u>			
1096		A54	Litvack	Rose	Silver
J105		32		<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
9653		AK1087			<u>SOUTH</u>
K82		J94	P	4S	1NT
	<u>SOUTH</u>			(all PASS)	2D*
	KQ32				
	Q4				
	2				
	AQ10753				

Just look at the havoc wreaked by East's weak notrump. At the first table North-South were playing Landy, 2C for the majors. And so Kokish had to bid 3C to get

his long suit into the game. Three natural bids followed, and the final decision was South's. Reasoning that his heart queen might solidify that suit or that the clubs might run, he decided to pass, giving up on 4H, which would have been a much better contract. Hoffman led the DA, asking for attitude. Flint discouraged and Hoffman switched to a club. Kehela rose with the club ace and led a spade to the jack and ace. Came a second club. Kehela gave this some thought, but then did the right thing, finessing dummy's ten. It was too late now for the diamonds, and the defenders took only two diamonds, a spade and one club. +400.

In the other room, North-South were playing a form of Astro, so Barnet Schenkin trotted out 2D, spades and another suit. Rose leaped precipitously to 4S, and once again 4H was missed.

Joey Silver started the king of diamonds and switched cleverly to the three of hearts, working on declarer's communications. Irving rose won dummy's queen and called for the king of spades, six, seven, four. Then the queen of spades, nine, eight, five. Note how well Silver has defended so far. Now Rose, fearing four-two trumps, led a heart to the ace and a club to the queen. Litvack won his king and, mesmerized by the heart plays, returned...a third heart. Rose sat up, won the heart ace as Silver carefully discarded a diamond, and began to think again. He tried the queen of diamonds. Had Silver covered this, Rose would have ruffed and played a trump, endplaying Silver to give dummy the clubs with a finesse, or the hearts with the jack of diamonds. But Silver ducked. Now a heart. Silver discarded again, and Litvack scored the ten of trumps. Silver still had the trump ace coming, and that was a well-earned one down. 10 IMPs to Montreal..

And they gained 2 IMPs on the next deal for a better partscore, and the match ran out with the Canadians winning 33-15, 16-4 in VPs.

And this was a bad omen for EPSON. They lost their next match to CHIBA, 15-5, and after four rounds they stood no better than equal fourth, with 49 VP, a serious gap opening up between them and the spurting men from Taipei, who snatched all 80 victory points on a fine first day.

HATS OFF TO THE LADIES

Bd 25, round 2

<u>NORTH</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>	
104	AKJ2	This was an excellent 6C in round 2, but very
AK752	6	few pairs bid it. In fact, in the Women's Series,
AK3	842	just one pair achieved that result. Misses J Lin
A82	KJ1097	and H O'Yang bid 6C and made it en route to their
		(Taipei's) blitz of Kobe. This was worth 10 IMPs.

In the Open Series, only four pairs reached 6C. This hand must be more difficult than it seems. How would you play 6C on a trump lead? Perhaps the right line is to cash four red winners and the ace-king of spades before ruffing two spades with the ace and eight of clubs..in that order. Well, bidding it was the real fun.

Sheinwold on Bridge

HAND OF THE YEAR

By **ALFRED SHEINWOLD**

About this time each year readers expect me to name the best-played bridge hand of the year: one in which the play is difficult and the player is a genuine hero (or heroine) not just some lucky stiff who stumbled into the winning maneuver.

Today's hand, my nomination for the best hand of the year, was played in the First Annual Epson International Bridge Tournament, held last June in Tokyo before a large audience of bridge enthusiasts. You must decide the difficulty of the play for yourself, but I'm sure you'll agree that virtue triumphed when it is revealed that the successful player was Toronto expert Sami Kehela.

As a youth, Kehela fled from his native Iraq to London, where he acquired a taste for bridge and watched the great British experts of the day. After a few years he pushed on to Toronto and represented Canada in the Bridge Olympics of 1960, 1964, 1968 and 1972. He also played for North America in the world championships of 1966, 1967 and 1974. Bridge players consider him one of the great technicians of the game; others, it is said, think of him as quiet, thoughtful

and witty — perhaps, to use an outmoded word, a gentleman.

When today's hand was played between Kehela's Canadian team and a team from London, the declarer in the first room took the first trick with the queen of clubs and led a diamond in the hope of getting his ninth trick before the defenders knew what was going on. If the clubs were divided 4-4, the defenders could take only three clubs and the ace of diamonds. But there might be chances even if the club break was less favorable. If West had the ace of diamonds he might automatically play low with the king-jack in dummy, in the hope that South was missing the queen of diamonds also and would misguess.

South's play was doubtful since the odds were more than 2 to 1 against a 4-4 break in clubs. The defenders had no problem. East took the ace of diamonds and returned a club, whereupon West defeated the contract before South knew what was going on.

When the hand arrived at Kehela's table, he took the queen of clubs and his five spade tricks. If the clubs

were divided 4-4 to begin with, they would still be divided favorably after South had run the spades. Kehela would have no discarding problems, but perhaps one of the opponents would. In any case, Kehela thought he might find something out by taking the spades and that all of his options would still be open.

Kehela discarded a heart and then two diamonds on the spades. East followed suit four times and then discarded the eight of diamonds. West discarded two low diamonds thoughtfully and then the ten of diamonds without any great joy.

Kehela thought West's unwillingness to discard a heart was significant. Kehela also read the meaning of the eight of diamonds and came to the conclusion that West had parted with all of his diamonds. If it had been right to lead a diamond to begin with, Kehela could lead a diamond now; but he really knew what was going on and had the courage to back his judgment.

After taking a club and five spades, Kehela led a club. West could cash his four clubs, but then had to lead a heart. Kehela had kept three

hearts in each hand and was therefore sure to win the last three tricks, making his contract.

"Well played," said West. And so, I trust, say all of us.

East dealer
Neither side vulnerable

NORTH

♠ K Q J 9 2
♥ A K 2
♦ K J
♣ J 8 7

WEST

♠ 10 4
♥ Q 8 5
♦ 10 5 4
♣ A K 9 6 5

EAST

♠ 8 6 5 3
♥ 10 9 7
♦ A 8 2
♣ 10 4 2

SOUTH

♠ A 7
♥ J 6 4 3
♦ Q 9 7 6 3
♣ Q 3

East	South	West	North
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 NT
All Pass			

Opening lead — ♣ 6

A Pocket Guide to Bridge written by Alfred Sheinwold is available. Get your copy by sending \$2.50, including a stamped, self-addressed No. 10 envelope to Sheinwold on Bridge, in care of this newspaper, P.O. Box 1000, Los Angeles, CA 90053.

BRIDGE

CANADIANS WIN EPSON TOURNAMENT

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH

♠ K Q J 9 2

♥ A K 2

♦ K J

♣ J 8 7

WEST

♠ 10 4

♥ Q 8 5

♦ 10 5 4

♣ A K 9 6 5

EAST

♠ 8 6 5 3

♥ 10 9 7

♦ A 8 2

♣ 10 4 2

SOUTH

♠ A 7

♥ J 6 4 3

♦ Q 9 7 6 3

♣ Q 3

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening lead: Six of ♣.

A strong Canadian team won the Epson Invitational Team Championship held recently in Japan. As usual, their effort was spearheaded by Sammy Kehela, one of the world's superstars.

Kehela and his partner reached three no trump after a standard auction. North judged that his good five-card spade suit made his hand too strong for a one no trump opening bid. The same contract was reached in the other room of the Canada-England match, and a club was led in both rooms.

The British declarer went

down quickly. He decided to bank on a 4-4 club division, so he led a diamond at trick two. The defenders quickly reeled off four club tricks in addition to the ace of diamonds.

Kehela decided to run his five spade tricks first. He discarded a heart and three diamonds from his own hand. West let go of three diamonds. (He might have done better to discard a heart, then the four and ten of diamonds in the hope that declarer would misread the position.)

Declarer next cashed the ace of hearts, then, after much thought, he exited with a club. West was end played. He could take his four club tricks, but then he was forced to yield the fulfilling trick by leading away from the queen of hearts into declarer's combined ace-jack tenace.

A pretty play. But over the years we have come to expect that sort of thing from Kehela.

How do you choose the best opening lead? Charles Goren has the answer. For a copy of "Winning Opening Leads," send \$1.85 to "Goren-Leads," care of this newspaper, P.O. Box 259, Norwood, N.J. 07648. Make checks payable to Newspaperbooks.

ALAN TRUSCOTT

A Brilliant Effort

Two decades ago bridge was like tennis: A simon-pure activity for ladies and gentlemen, virtually free from the taint of professionalism. But tennis organization, rather quickly, and bridge organization, rather more slowly, has become less amateur and perhaps slightly less amateurish.

Experts have more than one way to survive financially. In North America many rely on payments from partners and teammates of lesser skill. In Europe there is often prize-money. And major corporations are showing increasing interest in sponsoring teams or prize arrangements or tournaments. In the 1982 world championships in Biarritz, France, the organizers had financial help from Martell brandy and Gitanes cigarettes.

It is slightly surprising that computer corporations have not been noticeably involved in bridge sponsorship. Computers have many bridge applications, in particular for scoring, and there is a high correlation between bridge-playing and computer use. Change may be coming, however. Epson computers sponsored a major international tournament in Tokyo last month, and the company plans to repeat the exercise both in Japan and elsewhere.

The Tokyo event was planned to resemble a European Championship, with a major round-robin team contest in both open and women's divisions. In the women's event Manila nosed out Taipei, with six Japanese teams trailing. But the open series was decidedly international: As well as seven Japanese teams, there were three from Taipei and one each from Bombay, Montreal, Panama and Seoul. The 15th team, representing Epson, was a strong British squad including Jeremy Flint, Irving Rose, Martin Hoffman and Barnet Shenkin.

The favorites were Montreal, Taipei A and Epson, representing three different continents, and they finished at the top of the standings in that order. Sam Kehela of Toronto played on a Montreal team that included Eric Kokish, Joe Silver, Irving Litvack and Beverly Kraft; he won well-deserved plaudits for making an "unmakeable" game on the diagramed deal.

The bidding is not on record but may have proceeded as shown. At one table Rose for the Epson team received the lead of the club five, which was an "attitude" lead: It showed liking for the suit irrespective of the exact length. Rose decided, not unreasonably, that his best chance was an even split in the club suit. After win-

NORTH			EAST(D)	
♠ KQJ92			♠ 8653	
♥ AK2		♥ 1097	♦ A82	
♦ KJ		♣ 1042		
♣ J87				
WEST				
♠ 104				
♥ Q85				
♦ 1054				
♣ AK965				
SOUTH				
♠ A7				
♥ J643				
♦ Q9763				
♣ Q3				

Neither side was vulnerable. The bidding:

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

West led the club six.

ning the first trick with the club queen, he led a diamond; and the defense quickly took five tricks for down one.

In the replay the lead was a fourth-best club six, and when Kehela as South won with the queen he decided that the clubs were quite unlikely to be split 4-4. He ran five rounds of spades and the heart ace to reach this position:

NORTH			EAST	
♠ —			♠ —	
♥ K2		♥ 109	♦ A2	
♦ KJ		♣ 42		
♣ J8				
WEST				
♠ —				
♥ Q8				
♦ —				
♣ AK95				
SOUTH				
♠ —				
♥ J6				
♦ Q97				
♣ 3				

The spade plays had forced Hoffman as East to discard all his diamonds. So after careful thought Kehela, reading the position accurately, called for club eight from the dummy. He threw diamonds from both hands on the run of the clubs, and scored two tricks at the finish, making his game, when West had to lead from the heart queen. It was a brilliant effort by one of the world's great players. ■

**THE FRESH AIR FUND:
IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

A Canadian club bursts the bubble

The first Epson International Bridge Tournament was held at the New Otani Hotel in the centre of Tokyo, on land originally owned by Baron Otani. Perhaps the baron would recognize the extensive gardens. But I am sure he would find the twin skyscrapers that form the giant hotel somewhat unfamiliar.

In the main event, the Inter-City Teams Tournament, a round robin over 226 boards, six teams from Japan were joined by four from Taiwan, one each from Bombay, Seoul, Panama, Montreal, and a London team (L. Beresener, captain; M. Hoffman, B. Schenkin, I. Rose, J. Flint), carrying the sponsors' colours.

This may have been the first international tournament in Japan, but the computer scoring undoubtedly helped to make the organization exemplary. It was predictable that the issue would lie between Montreal, London, and Taipei A, a team of international strength.

We met the Canadians in the third round, in a match which

would obviously have a decisive bearing on the result. After seven of the 16 boards, the score stood at 12-0 in our favour.

This was board 8. Inter-City Teams Tournament. Epson v Montreal love all, dealer east:

♠ KQJ92	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 8653
N					
W E					
S					
♥ AK2	♥ 1097				
♦ KJ	♦ A82				
♣ J87	♣ 1042				
♠ 104	♠ A7	♠ 8653			
♥ Q85	♥ J643	♥ 1097			
♦ 1054	♦ Q9763	♦ A82			
♣ AK965	♣ Q3	♣ 1042			

The bidding followed the same course in both rooms:

W	N	E	S
-	-	No	No
No	1♣	No	3NT
No	2NT	No	3NT
No	No	No	-

In the closed room, Litvak, playing as West for Montreal, led the ♣5 in accordance with their "attitude" lead style. In this method, the lower the card the greater the emphasis the leader wishes to place on the suit. Irving Rose, the London declarer, played low from dummy and took East's ♠10 with his ♣Q. A careful scrutiny

of the club pips failed to reveal whether West had led his lowest club, so Rose attempted to steal a diamond trick by returning a diamond at trick two. But Jo Silver pounced on that like a hungry cat, and shot back a club to defeat the contract.

In the replay, Martin Hoffman led his fourth best club, the six, and Sammy Kehela started the same way, winning my ♠10 with his ♣Q. He decided that the defender's discards on the spades might give some clue to the distribution and elucidate whether West had five clubs or four. Hoffman smoothly parted with all his diamonds, and I also discarded a diamond. If the clubs were divided four-four, Kehela could make his contract by simply driving out the ♠A. But if West had five clubs and East the ♠A, that play would spell instant defeat. Kehela has represented Canada and the United States on innumerable occasions, so it came as a disappointment but no surprise when he elected to put Hoffman on play with a club. Hoffman, reduced to nothing but clubs and hearts, could take his four club tricks but was then forced to play a heart away from his Queen to give declarer his ninth trick.

This hand turned the tide and

Montreal went on to win the match by 33 IMPs to 15 IMPs, equivalent to 16-4 VPs. Although Taipei A and Epson chased the Canadians throughout the competition, Montreal held on resolutely to register a score of 87 per cent; 79 per cent was good enough for only third place.

These were the final scores: 1 Montreal 254 VPs; 2 Taipei 237 VPs; 3 Epson (London) 229 VPs.

In the ladies' section Manilla comprehensively defeated Taipei in the final match to win the event by a narrow margin.

The tournament ended with a pairs contest, in which some of the stars played with local partners. The winners and runners-up were both from Tokyo, Mrs Kyoka Salo and Mrs Etsuro, and Y. Nakamura and Y. Yamada, with the unfamiliar partnership of B. Schenkin and J. Flint third.

As we checked in at the airport, we were a little alarmed to receive an urgent message to telephone a Tokyo number. "Hello", said a voice at the other end, "You remember board 27 in the pairs? You said that if I overtake your Queen with my King, we beat them. Well, we don't."

Jeremy Flint

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