



This vugraph crew kept the audience informed and amused throughout the two weeks of championship play. Left to right: Phillip Alder, Edgar Kaplan and Sami Kehela.

BRIDGE, like Chess, can call forth exceptional powers of concentration. I was reminded of this when observing Sami Kehela and Eric Murray, making a welcome reappearance, in animated conversation with Giorgio Belladonna on the concourse of the Palazzo.

Twenty or so years ago, when the Bermuda Bowl was held at the Americana Hotel in Miami Beach, an outbreak of fire went unnoticed until officials outside saw smoke creeping under the door of one of the closed rooms, where the Canadian pair were locked in combat with Giorgio and Walter Avarelli -- the players themselves remaining oblivious!

If I am right, it came out that the source was not, as you might imagine, the notorious Kehela cigar, but a malfunctioning coffee percolator.

Incidentally, are Murray and Kehela, as I believe to be the case, the only competing pair who also faced the starter 28 years ago in Turin? (There are, I know, other individuals). Rival claimants, step forward.

By Phillip Alder

The fourth round featured an unusual start, the hands being the same as those for the previous evening. This was noticed after the auction of the first board on the Bridgerama. It resulted in a delay of some 20 minutes during which a couple of commentators campaigned to captivate the quietly captious congregation.

However, eventually the boards intended for the afternoon match were produced, and play got underway.

Board 1 had its amusing side in the Closed Room:

Dlr: North ♠ J 9 8 6
 Vul: None ♥ A 6 5
 ♦ Q 6 3
 ♣ K 4 2

♠ A ♠ 10 4 3
 ♥ K Q J ♥ 9 7 4 2
 ♦ K J 8 2 ♦ A 10 9
 ♣ Q J 10 7 3 ♣ A 8 5

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Forrester	Murray	Brock	Kehela
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Dble	Pass	1♣
Dble	Pass	2♣	Dble
Pass	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Molson	Sheehan	Baran	Flint
	1♣ (a)	Pass	1♦ (b)
Pass	1♣ (c)	Pass	1NT (d)
2♣	2NT	All Pass!	

- (a) Usually a pass
 (b) Any 0-12 points or some stronger ilk
 (c) Natural (d) Also natural!

Robert Sheehan and Jeremy Flint play a system in which, approximately, they switch the meanings for pass and 1♣. Here, Flint clouded the issue with his psychic 1NT rebid, and ended going seven(!) down in 2NT.

In the other room, Tony Forrester's 1♣ opening could have been natural or even on a doubleton with a minimum balanced hand. This gave Raymond Brock an awkward problem over Eric Murray's characteristic(?) takeout double. He chose to pass for the moment, but then to cue-bid when Forrester announced extra values with his double. However, just when it looked as though this would carry them to game, the auction ground to a halt. 11 tricks were made, but that gave Canada 5 IMPs.

Board 2 in the Open Room was certainly one of the slowest of these championships so far.

Dlr: East ♠ 9
 Vul: N-S ♥ Q 4 3 2
 ♦ J 8 6 3
 ♣ 10 9 3 2

♠ A K 8 3 ♠ Q J 7 6
 ♥ A K 9 7 6 ♥ 8
 ♦ K 9 7 ♦ 5 4 2
 ♣ J ♣ Q 8 6 5 4

 ♠ 10 5 4 2
 ♥ J 10 5
 ♦ A Q 10
 ♣ A K 7

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Forrester	Murray	Brock	Kehela
		Pass	1♣
Dble	2♣	2♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♣	All Pass

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Molson	Sheehan	Baran	Flint
		Pass	1NT (a)
Dble (b)	Pass	2♣ (c)	Pass
2♦ (d)	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♦ (e)	Pass	3♣	All Pass

(a) 12-14 points
 (b) A one-suiter (not diamonds) or both majors or a good hand!
 (c) Tell me, tell me
 (d) Both majors (e) Game-try

Against Boris Baran, the defenders started with a top club and a heart switch. Declarer took a diamond pitch, ruffed a heart and led a diamond. After this start, the play record ceases, but there are a couple of ways he might have collected the 11 tricks with which he is credited.

Brock had a tougher time in game. Sami Kehela led the ♠ A and switched to a trump. Brock won in hand, played three rounds of hearts, ruffing the last in hand, and led a diamond toward the king. Kehela was skewered on the infamous Morton's fork: if he won with the ace, he could not defeat the contract, so he played low. But then declarer just won with dummy's king and led a fourth heart, discarding his last diamond. He was forced to lose a trick at the end, but 10 tricks gave Great Britain 6 IMPs and the lead by one.

Three flat boards followed; and then Britain stretched their lead to two with a single-IMP gain.

The next deal was number 7:

Dlr: South ♠ Q 6 5
 Vul: Both ♥ 7 6 4
 ♦ A 8 2
 ♣ J 8 6 5

♠ A K 9 ♠ J 8 3
 ♥ J 8 3 ♥ A Q 9 5 2
 ♦ 9 7 4 3 ♦ Q J 6
 ♣ K 9 2 ♣ A Q

 ♠ 10 7 4 2
 ♥ K 10
 ♦ K 10 5
 ♣ 10 7 4 3

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Forrester	Murray	Brock	Kehela
		1♥	Pass
Pass	Pass	4♥	Pass
3♥	Pass		All Pass

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Molson	Sheehan	Baran	Flint
	1♦ (b)	1NT	1♣ (a)
Pass	All Pass		Pass
3NT			

(a) Not an opening bid
 (b) Probably not one either

Baran chose to show his strength immediately; and Mark Molson had no reason to look beyond 3NT with his sterile pattern. Declarer ducked the spade lead to North's queen, and a spade

was returned. A heart to the queen and king (I know, you would have ducked!) was followed by another spade. Now declarer unblocked his clubs and had nine tricks: two spades, four hearts and three clubs.

Forrester's leap to 3♥ purported to show a distributional hand. It is true he has a distribution, but perhaps this is not a textbook example of the bid. However, Brock did everything right in 4♥. He resisted the temptation to duck the ♠ 2 lead, winning in dummy with the ace. He finessed the ♥ Q unsuccessfully (yes, yes, you would have ducked), won the second spade in the dummy, played off the ace and queen of clubs, led a low heart to the ten and jack (was he planning to finesse the eight?), discarded his spade loser on the ♠ K and played a diamond toward his hand. Later, dummy's last heart was the entry that permitted a second diamond lead, and 10 tricks were gathered in. A well deserved round of applause from the Bridgerama audience - for one IMP to Britain!

This was board 8:

Dlr: West	♠ A				
Vul: None	♥ A 9 7 3 2				
	♦ A 6 4 2				
	♣ A 9 7				
	♠ 10 9 6 4 2		♠ 8 7 3		
	♥ K 8 5		♥ 4		
	♦ K Q 8 7		♦ J 10 9 5 3		
	♣ J		♣ 10 8 4 2		
	♠ K Q J 5				
	♥ Q J 10 6				
	♦ -				
	♣ K Q 6 5 3				
Open Room:		Closed Room			
North	South	North	South		
Murray	Kehela	Sheehan	Flint		
1♥	3♠	1♥	4♦ (a)		
3♦	3♥	(X) 6♥	Pass		
4♠	4♦				
4♠	6♥	(a) Splinter bid			
7♥	Pass				

Rather aggressive bidding by Kehela, but fortune favors the brave, or so they say. The winning trump finesse gave Canada 11 IMPs and the lead by 16-8.

Board 9 was a comedy of errors in the Open Room. Kehela was going down in 2♦, but Brock gave him a sporting chance. Unable to believe his luck, declarer went down anyway! As a more favorable lead for declarer had been produced at the other table, Britain gained four IMPs.

Murray struck again on deal 10.

Dlr: East	♠ Q J 10 6				
Vul: Both	♥ J				
	♦ A 6 5 3 2				
	♣ Q 9 6				
	♠ 9 8 4 2		♠ A K 5		
	♥ K 3		♥ A1087542		
	♦ Q J 10 8 7		♦ -		
	♣ J 8		♣ 5 3 2		
	♠ 7 3				
	♥ Q 9 6				
	♦ K 9 4				
	♣ A K 10 7 4				
Open Room:					
West	North	East	South		
Forrester	Murray	Brock	Kehela		
		1♥	Pass		
1NT	Dble	2♥	3♠		
All Pass					

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Molson	Sheehan	Baran	Flint
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Despite being vulnerable, Murray's double has a lot to recommend it. However, when Kehela bid 3♠, Brock was rather cowardly not to contest with 3♥, a bid he was almost worth on the previous round.

An initial diamond lead can defeat 3♠, but not unnaturally Forrester led the ♥ K. As 2♥ made with an overtrick next door, that was 6 IMPs to Canada.

There was in fact something more to this deal. When the tray was pushed under the table, Murray's double did not come under the curtain all that far. Without noticing, Kehela put a pass card onto the tray. Suddenly he saw red, removed the card and bid 3♠. Forrester, his screen-mate, was unhappy and called for the Director. The rules state you may change an inadvertent action; and the Director ruled that this was inadvertent.

A few more dull deals gave GB one point.

Board 14:

Dlr: East	♠ 9 3				
Vul: None	♥ A Q 10 4 3 2				
	♦ K J 10 8 3				
	♣ -				
	♠ 7 5 4		♠ A J 10 6 2		
	♥ K 7 5		♥ J 9 6		
	♦ A 9 7		♦ 4 2		
	♣ K 10 6 2		♣ A 8 4		
	♠ K Q 8				
	♥ 8				
	♦ Q 6 5				
	♣ Q J 9 7 5 3				

Open Room:					
West	North	East	South		
Forrester	Murray	Brock	Kehela		
Pass	3♥!	Pass	Pass		
		All Pass			

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Molson	Sheehan	Baran	Flint
		Pass	1♠ (a)
Pass	1♥ (b)	1♠	2♠
2♠	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

(a) A pass (b) 5+ hearts, 6+ points

Murray, presumably afraid of competition in the spade suit, chose to open with a preempt in fourth seat. However, perhaps 4♥ would have been better: it is unlikely to be exactly a nine-trick hand.

West won the diamond lead (no, declarer did not rise with dummy's queen) and switched to a low club. Declarer ruffed, played a spade to the king, finessed the ♥ Q and continued with two more rounds of the suit. 10 tricks made.

The slower auction in the Closed Room reached the diamond game. East led a trump, West won with the ace and played a second round. Declarer won in the dummy and finessed the ♥ Q. After that 11 tricks were easy and GB gained six IMPs: down by three.

The next deal:

Dlr: South ♠ Q J 10 8 6 5 4
 Vul: N-S ♥ J 9 6 2
 ♦ J
 ♣ J

♠ K ♠ 3
 ♥ A K 10 8 5 ♥ 7 4
 ♦ K Q 5 ♦ A 10 8 7 6 4
 ♣ A Q 10 9 ♣ 8 7 5 4

 ♠ A 9 7 2
 ♥ Q 3
 ♦ 9 3 2
 ♣ K 6 3 2

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Forrester	Murray	Brock	Kehela
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♠
Dble	3♠	4♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Molson	Sheehan	Baran	Flint
1♥	2♠	Pass	1♠ (a)
Dble	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

(a) You know what!

Murray certainly let the vulnerability and his partner's pass affect him. And when Brock made a 'free' bid of 4♦, Forrester had an easy raise to game.

The defenders started with two rounds of spades, declarer discarding the ♠ 9 from the dummy and ruffing in hand. Brock drew trumps, played three rounds of hearts, ruffing the last in hand, finessed the ♠ Q and ruffed another heart. Now a club to the ace and the 13th heart guaranteed 11 tricks.

In 4♥, Molson received the lead of the ♠ J. He won with the queen and played three rounds of trumps. However, North found the spade switch, and two rounds of the suit reduced declarer's trump length fatally. He had to play on diamonds to ensure only one down.

Whom do you blame for getting to the wrong game?

That was worth 10 IMPs to Britain, who had regained the lead by 29-22.

Canada collected four points from a partscore battle; there was a flat game; and Britain won three IMPs for an extra undertrick in a poor game bid at both tables. GB by six.

The penultimate deal:

Dlr: South ♠ 7 3 2
 Vul: E-W ♥ K Q 9 2
 ♦ J 2
 ♣ A 8 7 5

♠ K Q J 6 ♠ 9 5
 ♥ A 8 5 ♥ J 10 6 4 3
 ♦ Q 5 3 ♦ 6 4
 ♣ Q 9 4 ♣ J 10 6 2

 ♠ A 10 8 4
 ♥ 7
 ♦ A K 10 9 8 7
 ♣ K 3

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Forrester	Murray	Brock	Kehela
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♦
All Pass			

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Molson	Sheehan	Baran	Flint
1♠	Dble	Pass	1♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	3♦
All Pass			5♦

The general feeling amongst the commentators was that the South hand is nearer to the 3♦ rebid chosen by Flint than the 2♦ selected by Kehela. However, if the proof of the pudding is in the digesting, 2♦ was more successful. Flint was down before he could get started in his game: ♠ K lead, heart to the ace, two spades cashed, and a trump to come for two down.

Kehela was allowed to sneak a heart past the ace, so collected 10 tricks. That gave Canada six IMPs and the match was tied: 32-32.

This was the final board:

Dlr: West ♠ A K 10 6 4
 Vul: Both ♥ Q 6
 ♦ A Q 5 3
 ♣ A 6

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

 ♦ Q 9 8
 ♥ A K J 8 3 2
 ♦ 4
 ♣ J 10 5

Open Room:

North	South	North	South
Murray	Kehela	Sheehan	Flint
1♠	2♥	1♠	2♥
3♦	3♠	3♦	3♠
4♥	4NT (a)	4♠	4♥
5♠	5NT (a)	6♠	Pass
6♦	6♥		
Pass			

(a) Old-fashioned Blackwood

If Kehela had been able to use Six-Ace Roman Key Card Blackwood(!), he would have learned that his partner held two aces, the ♠ K and the ♥ Q, whereupon he might have been tempted to bid a grand slam. As it was, the Canadians bid the better small slam, making 12 tricks after a diamond lead.

A club start would have been embarrassing to 6♦, but East selected his singleton heart.

That meant the last deal was flat and the result was a 32-32 tie.

Or was it? Britain appealed the ruling that Kehela could replace his pass with 3♠ on board 10. The appeal succeeded, and the result was returned to 2♥ making three. This changed the score from six points to Canada to a flat deal, making the final result 32-26 to Great Britain. However, Canada felt they had been harshly treated considering that the Director had given an incorrect ruling. The Appeals Committee agreed, and so gave both sides the benefit of the doubt.

A final outcome of 16-15? Well, not quite! The play in the Open Room had been so slow that both teams were fined one VP, making the final, final, final result 15-14 to GB!

After four days of play, our big news has been the consistently excellent performance of our women. This sixsome avoided a playoff to qualify for the Olympiad by carefully winning both of the Canadian Women's Championships that produced the playoff contenders. George Mittelman's charges (Francine Cimon-Mary Paul, Gloria Silverman-Katie Thorpe, Dianna Gordon-Sharyn Reus) are involved in a tight battle with (in particular) France and Denmark in Group B.

The Canadian Open team (Marc Stein, npc: Boris Baran-Mark Molson, John Guoba-John Carruthers, Sami Kehela-Eric Murray) have been improving steadily and have moved up to 9th in Group B, not far off the qualifying pace.

A few worthwhile hands have appeared in the first few days and I will share them with you...

Canada vs. France

Dlr: West ♠ KJ83
Vul: E-W ♥ AJ982
 ♦ J
 ♠ A85

♦ 94 ♠ Q65
♥ 5 ♥ KQ76
♦ AKQ86532 ♦ 1094
♠ QJ ♠ 1032

 ♦ A1072
 ♥ 1043
 ♦ 7
 ♠ K9764

West	North	East	South
Multon	Baran	Quantin	Molson
3NT	4♠	4♦	4♦
All Pass			

West, Multon for France, opened with a gambling 3NT, and Baran had a toy for the North hand -- 4♠, Ripstra (majors, with "better" clubs). Quantin tried 4♦, but Molson had a comfortable bid of 4♠ staring him in the face, and that was that.

West started with his singleton, saving his diamonds for a potential later underlead. Molson read the hand just right. He rose with the ♥ A and played ♦ K and ♦ J, which held. Now came the ♦ A and ♦ K and a diamond. Poor West had to win, and since he was down to nothing but diamonds, he had to play a second round. Molson threw dummy's club, ruffed in his hand, ruffed the clubs good, drew the last trump and claimed ten tricks, losing two hearts in the end. Had West owned the last club, he could have cashed it, but then he would have had to concede the ruff and discard, so a heart loser would have disappeared.

Correction

In the Malaysian hand reported in Bulletin No. 4, the opposition were Italy, not France, and the Italian player involved was Gabriella Olivieri.

Canada vs. Morocco

Dlr: East ♠ 872
Vul: None ♥ K9
 ♦ Q84
 ♠ A10754

♦ AQJ6 ♠ K53
♥ 754 ♥ QJ1062
♦ 762 ♦ K5
♠ 862 ♠ Q93

 ♦ 1094
 ♥ A83
 ♦ AJ1093
 ♠ KJ

West	North	East	South
Carruthers	Hayet	Guoba	El Fasi
Pass	1NT	Pass	1♦
Pass	3♠	All Pass	Pass

In the Open Room, Kehela and Murray were permitted to play in 1NT with the N/S cards and they chalked up a pleasant +150.

In the Closed Room, Guoba's 2♥ overcall jockeyed Hayet-El Fasi into 3♠. This seemed like a safe enough contract, but Guoba managed to show declarer that this wasn't at all so. He led the ♥ J, Rusinow, and declarer won in his hand as Carruthers, West, gave count. Declarer led a trump to the jack, which held, and continued with the ♦ K. Guoba, who seemed to be marked with the ♦ Q, played that card.

Put yourself in declarer's position. Would you ruff yourself in with a heart to draw trumps and take a potentially losing diamond finesse? Of course you wouldn't. By then you'd be out of trumps and the defense might be in a position to claim. Instead the declarer made a very human play -- he led the ♦ J from dummy and played the queen on it. He was willing to lose a diamond to set up the suit, and he could see his way home as long as the remaining trumps really were on his right and as long as the defenders could not arrange a diamond ruff.

Well, you can see what happened now. Guoba scooped in his ♦ K and switched to a spade. Carruthers took the ♦ J and continued with the ♦ 6. Guoba took the king and led his remaining spade. Carruthers won and played the fourth round, "promoting" the phantom ♦ 9, a card that declarer really couldn't afford to credit him with. If you believe you would have ruffed high and drawn the last trump, you've managed to hide your steroids rather well.

Kehela and Murray, who have missed only one Teams Olympiad since 1960 (the last one, in Seattle) have been playing very well. So well, in fact, that it's difficult to pick out an outstanding hand. They're just getting the job done, and that's the highest Kompliment a Koach can give.

Editor's Note: The Koach, of course, is Eric Koxish.