

Kontract

by
**EDWIN
KANTAR**



North-South

Vuln. North (Dir.)

♠ A Q 8 7 6

♥ None

♦ A K 10 8

♣ A J 9 3

West

♠ K 9 5

♥ A J 10 7 6

♦ Q 4

♣ 10 7 6

East

♠ J 10 2

♥ 9 8 5 4

♦ J 9 7 6

♣ Q 2

South

♠ 4 3

♥ K Q 3 2

♦ 5 3 2

♣ K 8 5 4

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: ♥J

Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela, the two highest ranking Canadian experts, recently have adopted the Italian version of showing a strong three suited hand.

Any three suited hand that contains 17 or more high card points is opened with 2♦, an artificial opening. If responder has less than six points he makes the negative response of 2♥. If he has a modicum of strength without a long suit he responds 2NT. Opener always rebids his short suit and responder tries to place the contract having all of this information at his disposal.

Kehela Sits South

This is a difficult convention to use properly and it prompted Edgar Kaplan, assistant coach of the U.S. team last year, to say that the best thing that happened to the U.S. team was the fact that the opponents also were using this convention. The American pair, Jordan and Robinson had five disasters using the bid!

This particular hand is from the last National Championships held in Dallas. Murray was North and Kehela South.

Kehela was one of a very select few that managed to make 3NT on this deal.

He won the heart opening with the king and immediately finessed the queen of spades as most other South players did. Here is where Kehela showed his stuff. Where the other players banged down the ace and another spade in hopes of setting up the suit, Kehela returned to his hand with a club to lead a spade. Why all this artistry?

Pity Poor West

Notice that if the ace of spades is led from dummy, West can unblock the king and allow East to win the third spade. A heart return then defeats the contract.

However, the way Kehela played this could not happen. If he plays low, the ace is played and West is thrown in with the king. If West plays the king it is allowed to hold.

In either case South gets four spade tricks and makes nine tricks without ever having to worry about a heart lead through his queen or taking the club finesse.

KANTAR ●

on Kontrakt

by
**EDWIN
KANTAR**



North-South

Vuln. North

♠ 542

♥ J432

♦ K862

♣ 86

West

♠ Q3

♥ 1097

♦ J5

♣ KQ9532

East

♠ K97

♥ K8

♦ 10943

♣ J1074

South (Dlr.)

♠ A J1086

♥ A Q65

♦ A Q7

♣ A

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: K♣

Do you think this hand was bid by two madmen? You're right! I was South and Lew Mathe was North and the hand is from last year's Team Trials in Dallas.

We use weak two bids so our only strong opening is 2C. I leave it to the reader to figure out who bid worse to arrive at this near impossible contract. (2D is a negative response to a 2C opening and denies the values for a positive response.

West, Sammy Kehela, led the king of clubs and my look was not exactly one of joy when I saw the dummy. Nevertheless, one battles on. In order to make this contract I was going to have to bring in the trump suit without the loss of a trick, which meant that Eric Murray, East, needed to have the doubleton king and, besides, I was going to have to hold my spade losses to one trick.

That King Falls!

All of this required entries to the dummy, entries that I did not have. I had the king of diamonds to take the heart finesse, and assuming the king of hearts was doubleton I still needed two more entries to take two spade finessses. Help!

I led over to the king of diamonds and finessed the queen of hearts. Next I cashed the ace of hearts and the king fell. Now what? Could I really be this lucky?

Faced with the task of tackling the spade suit, I had two choices due to my lack of entries. I could lead the jack from my hand, playing West for a doubleton honor, subsequently finessing East for the other honor if West took the jack, or I could finesse the jack by going over to the dummy with the jack of hearts. This play would require East to have a doubleton spade honor.

Finesse Is Wrong

I decided to play West for the doubleton honor. I led the jack of spades. Quick as a flash Kehela played low. Murray won the king and forced me in clubs.

I entered dummy with the jack of hearts and played a low spade. East played the nine. What should I do? I couldn't help but be influenced by how quickly Kehela had played low when I led the jack. I finessed the 10! Down one.

If I only had eyes in the back of my head!

Bridge: Culbertson System to Face New Test in Modern Play

By ALAN TRUSCOTT

FOR the first time in thirty years, a major bridge match aimed at demonstrating something more than the merits of the teams concerned will get under way today.

In the thirties, Ely Culbertson staged two matches against Sidney Lenz and P. Hal Sims in an attempt to prove to the world the effectiveness of his system.

Now, in the three-day match at the Park Lane Hotel, Culbertson's long-time associate, Alphonse Moyse Jr., hopes to prove that the traditional bidding methods popularized by Culbertson are adequate for modern expert play.

Sixty deals will be played each day through Sunday between the "traditionalist" and "scientist" teams. Admission will be by ticket only.

Three experienced pairs who play specialized bidding styles with a multiplicity of conventions will defend the "science" concept. Alvin Roth and Tobias Stone, both of New York City, have recently revived their long-standing partnership and will play their own Roth-Stone System.

This system, which has made many important contributions to modern bidding theory, will be used in a modified form by the Philadelphians Robert Jordan and Arthur Robinson, who have represented the United States in the last two World Championships.

Others on Teams

The other representatives of "science" are Sam Stayman and Victor Mitchell, of New York. They play Stayman's own methods, which vary considerably from standard practice.

All three "scientist" teams are well-known to New York bridge players. The same is true of one of the "traditional" pairs. B. Jay Becker, Flushing, and Mrs. Dorothy Hayden, Hastings-on-Hudson, have been extremely successful in recent National championships, and are the only players in the match to qualify for the 1965 North American international team. Becker, a player of world stature for 30 years, uses fewer conventions than any other top-ranking expert.

The other players are equally formidable, but are less well-known in New York. Lew Mathe, nominated as the outstanding player of 1964, is playing with another Los Angeles expert, Meyer Schleifer. They play a straight-forward style, with more limited, non-forcing bids than the eastern experts.

This applies also to the other players on the "traditional" team, Eric Murray and Sam Kehela of Toronto. They have been top-ranked in Canada for many years.

The two teams are evenly

NORTH (D)

♠ A Q 8 4 3 2
♥ K 6
♦ A 7 4
♣ A K

WEST

♠ K J
♥ Q 9 7 5 2
♦ 5 2
♣ 8 7 6 5

EAST

♠ 10 9 7
♥ 10 4 3
♦ K 10 6 3
♣ J 10 4

SOUTH

♠ 6 5
♥ A J 8
♣ Q J 9 8
♦ Q 9 3 2

Neither side was vulnerable. The bidding:

North	East	South	West
2♠	Pass	3 N.T.	Pass
4 N.T.	Pass	5♦	Pass
6 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the heart five.

matched, and the result is likely to remain in doubt until the final session. When bidding methods and playing skill have played their part, luck may decide the outcome. Either team will win if it is as lucky as Murray and Kehela were on the deal shown today.

It was played in this year's International Team Trials, with Murray sitting North and Kehela South. The opening bid of two spades was strong, but not as strong as in standard methods. It showed a hand likely to take at least eight tricks. Two no-trump would have been a negative response, so South jumped to three no-trump, showing fair honor strength, with guards in each of the unbid suits. On the strength of this mild encouragement North drove the bidding to a slam, an optimistic course in view of the broken nature of his spade suit.

The heart lead from West was helpful in a way, but South was short of entries in his own hand. After winning the first trick with the heart jack he led the diamond queen and finessed. If this had succeeded he planned to take a spade finesse, cash two club winners, and continue spades. This would have produced twelve tricks with the help of two finesses and a 3-2 spade division.

When the diamond finesse lost and East returned a heart, South was in serious trouble. He won with the king in dummy and cashed two high clubs. The fall of the club ten from East raised declarer's hopes slightly.

He cashed the diamond ace, and made a successful guess by finessing the diamond ten. West appeared to have greater length in hearts and clubs, so the diamond length was likely to be with East.

The club jack obligingly dropped under South's queen, establishing the nine, and South made the winners in his own hand before taking a spade finesse at the 12th trick to make the contract.

Without negative doubles, players face many choices

Put yourself in the South seat for a moment. East comes in over partner's 1♣ opening with 3♠ at unfavourable vulnerability so he will surely have a good suit.

With two aces and a club fit, you'd like to take some action, but is there a call that makes sense?

If you were playing negative doubles at this lofty level, you might look no further, but without this gadget you would have to choose among a gentle pass, a somewhat misdirected 4♣ (you are not very interested in 5♣), an aggressive penalty double and a bold 3NT.

Souths deals

East-West vulnerable

North

♠ 96

♥ Q83

♦ A9

♣ AKQJ42

West

♠ 2

♥ K7542

♦ KQJ87

♣ 65

East

♠ KQJ10754

♥ 10

♦ 6543

♣ 8

South

♠ A83

♥ AJ96

♦ 102

♣ 10973

W

N

E

S

1♣

3♠

3NT

Pass

4NT

End

Opening Lead: ♦K

When this deal was played (back in the '60s), Toronto's Eric Murray was South, Sami Kehela, North. South, true to his character, took a shot at 3NT. Just right! It would have been a bad idea to double 3♠ for penalty because it would have made in comfort and 3NT was quite cold.

Unfortunately for South, North had a good hand and invited slam with a natural raise to 4NT.

West led the ♦K against 4NT and the contract seemed to turn on the heart finesse. If someone

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had told South that his 3NT bid would produce an even money chance for game, he would have been delighted, but perhaps there was an even better chance.

Although East had advertised a hand with little defensive strength, it was possible that he held the ♥K.

West figured to hold more hearts than his partner, however, and so was more likely to hold the ♥K. Declarer based his

play on that assumption.

He won the ♦A immediately and ran six clubs. West had to make four discards and threw three hearts and one diamond. Declarer cashed the ♠A to extract West's exit card and led the ♦10.

West could take his three diamond tricks but then, at trick 12, had to lead a heart away from the king, giving declarer his 10th trick.

Murray explained that it had taken great restraint for him to pass 4NT, but no one was listening — least of all his partner, who was quite enjoying a Monte Cristo. Ah, those were the days.

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Test yourself as declarer on today's deal by covering the East and West hands before continuing.

Both sides vulnerable

South deals

North

♠ Q83

♥ Q

♦ KQ874

♣ 9643

West

♠ J754

♥ 96

♦ 1062

♣ A1085

East

♠ K102

♥ 1032

♦ AJ953

♣ J2

South

♠ A96

♥ AKJ8754

♦ ---

♣ KQ7

W	N	E	S
			2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	End	

Opening Lead: ♥6

South's 2♥ opening was strong but not game-forcing, a treatment known as Acol Two-bids, originating in England. North might have responded with a positive 3♦ but settled for a "waiting" 2NT, which did not imply any strength. South's 3♥ was nonforcing and North's gentle raise quite conservative, but 4♥ was high enough on these ill-fitting hands.

How would you play 4♥ on the challenging lead of the ♥6, which kills dummy sole sure entry before you get started?

When the deal was played originally, Toronto's Sami Kehela won with the ♥Q in dummy and led a club to the king and ace. West exited with a low club to the jack and queen. Declarer drew trumps (West had two, East three), discarding two diamonds from dummy, and exited with the ♣7 towards dummy's 9. West won the ♣10 as East showed out, so dummy had a good but so far inaccessible club trick.

Now West had to play a diamond or a spade. At the table he played a diamond and when the king was covered, declarer discarded a spade. East had to give declarer the ♦Q or lead a spade

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away from his king with the same effect.

When you uncover the concealed hands you can see that a low spade switch from West would not have saved the day for the defence. Declarer plays low from dummy, takes the ♠10 with the ace, and leads a spade to the eight on the way back. If West switches to the ♠J when he wins the ♣10, declarer simply covers and so does East, but the nine-eight of spades are later equals against East's 10.

And if declarer prefers to get fancy (which he shouldn't) he can ruff away East's ♦A when West shifts to that suit and lead a spade to dummy's eight to endplay East; if West puts up the ♠J in this variation, declarer plays the queen and East is again endplayed, this time to lead away from the ♠10. This line would not work so well if West held jack-10-small of spades.

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THE ACES ON BRIDGE

Opening lead: ♥ Q

Two of Canada's brightest stars were at the helm in reaching today's touchy no-trump game. Sami Kehela and Eric Murray of Toronto, affectionately known as the "Hommes de Fer," amassed an amazing national and international record several decades ago. They were members of the Aces Team in today's early 1970s world-championship deal.

A spade game would have proven easier (North would lose two trumps and a heart), but Kehela had an opportunity to demonstrate his skill in succeeding at three no-trump.

After West's troublesome heart lead, Kehela had to be careful.

He ducked two rounds of hearts and won the third with dummy's ace. He could also count on four diamonds and two clubs, but how was he to collect two spade tricks without allowing West to cash his high heart?

At trick four, Kehela led a low spade from dummy, intending to play his king and another spade if East played low. However, East foiled this plan by inserting his queen! No matter — Kehela was ready with his counterstroke. Instead of covering with his king, Kehela ducked.

Had Kehela taken East's queen and returned the suit (hoping for East to hold A-Q-J), West would have won his jack and cashed the high heart. East's spade ace would have been the setting trick. However, after Kehela's refusal to win East's queen, it was a relatively easy matter to establish dummy's spade suit, limiting the defenders to only four tricks.

NORTH

♠ 10 9 7 5 3
♥ A 8 5 3
♦ K J 5
♣ Q

WEST

♠ J 2
♥ Q J 10 6
♦ 10 9 6 3
♣ 6 4 3

EAST

♠ A Q 6
♥ K 7 2
♦ 7 4
♣ K 10 9 7 2

SOUTH

♠ K 8 4
♥ 9 4
♦ A Q 8 2
♣ A J 8 5

Vulnerable: North-South

Dealer: North

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl.	Pass	3 NT	All pass

3-16

BOBBY WOLFF

Our esteemed colleague the late Ted Horning once wrote that if bridge were like baseball and he were coaching the Canadian team, he would bring in Sami Kehela as his designated declarer when the going got tough. As we bid farewell to the 20th Century, we would like to share with you a deal that Ted reported in his column "Canadian Bridge" many years ago. North was Eric Murray, South Sami Kehela.

Both sides vulnerable
East deals

North
♠ 97
♥ AQ42
♦ QJ1072
♣ K4

West	East
♠ QJ3	♠ A2
♥ KJ	♥ 1098653
♦ 8543	♦ K96
♣ 10632	♣ A8

South
♠ K108654
♥ 7
♦ A
♣ QJ975

W	N	E	S
		1♥	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
End			

Opening Lead: ♥K

Although there appear to be two spades and two clubs to lose Kehela proved that this was not the case. If you'd like to try to duplicate declarer's winning effort, cover the East and West hands before planning the play.

Declarer took the lead of the ♥K with dummy's ace and called for a spade. When East followed low declarer won the king, cashed the ♦A and led a second trump. East won perforce and returned a heart as declarer discarded a club. East covered dummy's ♦Q and declarer ruffed away the king. A third round of spades put West on play. If he returned a diamond, declarer could discard his losing club, and if he returned a club declarer's nine would come into play.

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Could East put up a better fight? Say that he goes in with the ♠A immediately to play a second round. Declarer wins the king, cashes the ♦A, and plays the ♣Q. East can win the ♣A and return the suit but declarer is in dummy to play the ♦Q, ruffing out the king. Now a third spade, forcing West to put declarer in dummy with a red card or play a club into declarer's tenace. If instead East ducks ♣Q, he must win the second club and play a red suit (say

a heart to dummy's queen). Declarer ruffs out the ♦K, and a third spade again endplays West.

And if East wins the first trump to play a second heart (best), declarer discards the blocking ♦A, ruffs out the ♦K, cashes the ♠K, and leads the ♣Q. East ducks, wins the second club and plays a heart but when West wins his second trump trick (now or on the next trick), he will again have to play a minor suit to his disadvantage. This variation would have been the most spectacular and you can be sure that Canada's Designated Declarer would have been equal to the task.

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The Bridge Beat has been pleased to present to you over the past years some of the great deals in the history of Canadian bridge, many of them featuring Toronto's legendary Sami Kehela. Today's offering is of a different ilk. Please cover the East and West hands before continuing.

North-South vulnerable

North dealer

North

♠AKQ10

♥QJ73

♦8

♣K842

West

♠J82

♥102

♦QJ963

♣976

East

♠9654

♥A84

♦A105

♣AJ3

South

♠73

♥K964

♦K742

♣Q105

W

N

E

S

1♣

Pass

1♥

Pass

3♥

Pass

4♥

End

Opening Lead: ♦Q

A rubber game at the Regal Bridge Club. Kehela, who doesn't play as often as he once did, was South, declarer in the normal, if slightly aggressive contract of 4♥. West led the ♦Q to East's ace, and East gave his next play considerable thought before cashing the ace of clubs. He continued with the ♣3. How would you play now, and why?

It would appear that East is trying to obtain a club ruff or give one, with the appropriate defender gaining the lead in trumps to do the dirty deed. If this is so, can you do anything to stop the club ruff?

You may need a bit of luck, but if you can discard a club on a high spade before relinquishing the lead in trumps, you will not be down "off the top."

With this in mind, Kehela won the second club with his queen, and played ace-king-queen of spades, discarding the

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♣ 10 as both opponents followed, West producing the ♠J on the third round. Good. When declarer continued with the ♥Q, he was in pretty good shape. If West held the ♥A and trumps were three-two, he would make the contract in comfort.

Alas, East took the ♥Q with the ace, West following with the two, and produced the outstanding spade. Declarer had to guess whether to ruff with the ♥9 or

the ♥K now, to shut out the ♥10 and draw the remaining trumps. As would you or I, declarer ruffed with the ♥9, the percentage play. West over-ruffed with the ♥10 and so the contract was one down. A glance at the complete layout reveals that the club ruff was never a factor, East having found the inspired switch from a holding of AJ3.

It was Sami himself who gave us this deal, laughing uncontrollably as we succumbed to East's insidious defence, just as he had done at the table. As Tom Hanks might have said, "There's no crying in bridge."

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Goren Bridge

Tannah Hirsch

Among the stars bridging the gap between the Golden Age of Bridge and the stars of today were Sammi Kehela and Eric Murray of Toronto. Born in Baghdad, Kehela honed his technique in London under the tutelage of such all-time greats as Terence Reese and Adam Meredith. His technique and Murray's grit made them a formidable partnership. The cornerstone of their bidding methods was Acol, which is built around four-card major opening bids.

On this deal from a world championship match against Sweden, Kehela, South, made an anti-systemic opening bid of one diamond and a competitive auction quickly led to a contract of five diamonds — hardly a thing of beauty. West led the king of spades and shifted to the jack of hearts.

Declarer won in hand and led the queen of diamonds, which was allowed to hold, and continued with the eight to the jack — East ducking again. The bidding and early play suggested trumps were breaking 4-2, so South abandoned trumps in favor of a club to the ace and a club back. Since a 3-3 break or a finesse for the queen would not work on the presumed lay-

North-South vulnerable.
South deals.

NORTH

♠ 3
♥ K 7 6
♦ K J 9 2
♣ K J 10 8 2

WEST

♠ A K J 9 8
♥ J 4
♦ 7 5
♣ 7 6 5 3

EAST

♠ Q 7 6
♥ 10 9 5 2
♦ A 6 4 3
♣ Q 4

SOUTH

♠ 10 5 4 2
♥ A Q 8 3
♦ Q 10 8
♣ A 9

The bidding:

SOUTH WEST NORTHEAST

1♦	1♠	2♠	3♠
Pass	4♠	5♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: King of ♠

out of East's distribution being 3-4-4-2, Kehela played the king, dropping the queen.

Two high hearts were cashed, ending in dummy, and high clubs were run. Whether East ruffed high or low, the ace of trumps was the only other trick the defenders could take.

E-mail responses may be sent to gorenbridge@aol.com.

Goren Bridge

Tannah Hirsch

Canada's team was always feared at international events. It was spearheaded by Sammy Kehela and Eric Murray, who frequently played every board of an event. This was the case in this World Olympiad where Murray declared a spade game on this deal from a match against Iceland.

West led the king of diamonds and East discarded a club as declarer won. Murray played ace and another trump, winning with the knave when East ducked. Declarer shifted to the jack of diamonds, ducked by West and ruffed by East.

The king of spades was cashed and East exited with a heart. The king of clubs from the table was covered by the ace and ruffed in the closed hand, and two more rounds of trumps were drawn to produce this ending:

♠ —
♥ —
♦ 10 9 5
♣ Q

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ A 4
♥ Q
♦ 10 9 5 4 2
♣ K Q 9 6 3

WEST

♠ 9 7
♥ 10 5 3
♦ K Q 8 7 6
♣ 10 8 2

EAST

♠ K 10 8 6
♥ J 8 6 4
♦ Void
♣ A J 7 5 4

SOUTH

♠ Q J 5 3 2
♥ A K 9 7 2
♦ A J 3
♣ Void

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: King of ♦

♠ —	♠ —
♥ —	♥ J
♦ Q 8 7	♦ —
♣ 10	♣ J 7 5

♠ J
♥ 9 7
♦ 3
♣ —

Now Murray exited with a diamond (a heart would have done as well) and no matter how the defense continued one trick was all they could get.

Try it.

Email responses may be sent to gorenbridge@aol.com.

NORTH

♠ Q1086

♥ 853

♦ Q876

♣ J2

WEST

♠ 9432

♥ 74

♦ J109543

♣ 5

EAST

♠ J75

♥ QJ106

♦ 2

♣ Q10973

SOUTH

♠ AK

♥ AK92

♦ AK

♣ AK864

Vulnerable: North-South

Dealer: West

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	3♣	Dbl
Pass	3♣	Pass	3 NT

All Pass

Opening lead: ♣ 5

methods. Maybe it's the climate or their geographic remoteness, but these two countries seem to take devilish delight in creating unusual bidding problems for their opponents.

Just look at the auction that occurred when New Zealand sat East-West against Canadian stalwarts Murray and Kehela in the 1988 Olympiad in Venice, Italy. The "opening bid" was described as a "fert" — short for fertilizer (very apt!) — a bid that promised 0-8 points with virtually any distribution. East's jump response was preemptive, showing long clubs and very little else.

After that rambunctious start, there was Kehela with one of the best hands in international bridge history. South hopefully tried a double, but Murray read this as takeout and showed his spades, after which Kehela did very well to subside at the game level.

The auction helped West get off to a club lead, ducked in dummy, with East's nine forcing the king. Declarer continued by cashing the ace-kings of spades and diamonds followed by ace and a small heart to East. The defender

played a third heart, won by declarer, who once again passed the lead to East with a fourth heart.

Desperately trying to avoid helping declarer, East next led the club queen, but South ducked and the endplayed defender had to give up the ninth trick to declarer's club eight or dummy's spade queen.

■ Comments or interesting hands to thurston@computan.on.ca

Many strange and exotic bidding systems are on display when the world gets together every four years for the Bridge Olympiad.

In recent times, both New Zealand and Australia have been hotbeds for the development of decidedly non-standard bidding

BRIDGE *By Paul Thurston*

NORTH

♠ 4

♥ 632

♦ AK942

♣ 9762

WEST

♠ AQJ6

♥ KJ

♦ 85

♣ Q8543

EAST

♠ 9

♥ AQ10974

♦ Q1076

♣ AJ

SOUTH

♠ K1087532

♥ 85

♦ J3

♣ K10

Vulnerable: Both

Dealer: East

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
		1♥	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Opening lead: ♥ K

You can check the Bridge Encyclopedia biographies for Murray and Kehela as I couldn't begin to do justice to their manifold accomplishments and contributions in our column space.

Murray is the psychologist of the pair, always very active in the bidding and eager to pose problems for his opponents. When today's deal was played in the 1980 World Team Olympiad, Murray sat South against Israel's Birman-Frydrich.

Whereas the Israeli at the other table passed over the opening bid, Murray showed his flair by interjecting what was for him a virtually automatic overcall. Frydrich passed to await developments and decided to play for penalties when his partner made a reopening double.

The defence started with three rounds of hearts, the third ruffed by Murray with the seven and overruffed by the jack. West shifted to a club and East played a second club, won by declarer.

Crossing to dummy for a trump play, Murray was greeted by the very welcome sight of the spade nine, which meant he could hold West's AQ6 to two tricks and thus

make his contract.

Yes, the defence could have done better, especially by refusing to overruff, but the nature of Murray's pressure game is such that perfect defence isn't always easy to find.

Tomorrow: the silky-smooth dummy play of Sami Kehela.

Canadian bridge legends Eric Murray and Sami Kehela are to be inducted into the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame on July 19, when they will receive the very prestigious VonZedwitz Award as part of the opening festivities for the Toronto Summer NABC.

BRIDGE

By Paul Thurston

NORTH

♠ Q962
♥ A10543
♦ 82
♣ KQ

WEST

♠ K43
♥ KQJ96
♦ K105
♣ 105

EAST

♠ -----
♥ 82
♦ Q7643
♣ AJ8743

SOUTH

♠ AJ10875
♥ 7
♦ AJ9
♣ 962

Vulnerable: None

Dealer: South

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♥	3♥	Pass	4♣

All Pass

Opening lead: ♥ K

impeccable touch, a contract that would have failed if a semi-automatic play many players would find had been declarer's choice at trick two.

Kehela had no problem opening the bidding and jumping to game over his partner's limit-raise-or-better cuebid response. Some might see a "mere" ten high-card points while an expert sees a great six-card suit, two aces and some helpful distribution (the singleton heart), all contributing reasons for being bullish with South's hand.

Kehela won the heart King lead with dummy's ace to immediately call for one of dummy's high clubs. East won to shift to a low diamond but declarer won his ace, crossed to dummy's remaining club honour and conceded a diamond trick to

prepare for ruffing one club loser and one diamond loser in the dummy.

The trap many would fall victim to? Seeing the nearly solid ten-card trump fit, more than one unwary declarer might play a trump at trick two - "Get the Kiddies off the street!" - with fatal consequences.

When East discards on the first trump, declarer can duck or take his ace immediately but it won't affect the final outcome as the way will be clear for West to play a total of three rounds of trumps before South can get the two ruffs in dummy he needs to garner ten tricks.

Three rounds of trump reduces the play problem to a very simple proposition: you can't ruff two losers with one trump!

*Feedback always welcome at
tweedguy@gmail.com*

THE "K" FILES

Continuing our Saturday series on deals from the archives of Canadian legend Sami Kehela, here's a contract played with his usual

BRIDGE

By Paul Thurston

NORTH

♠ 3
♥ 1086542
♦ Q10
♣ K976

WEST

♠ 97
♥ AJ
♦ A75432
♣ A82

EAST

♠ AQ1065
♥ Q973
♦ 9
♣ QJ5

SOUTH

♠ KJ842
♥ K
♦ KJ86
♣ 1043

Vulnerable: Both

Dealer: South

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♥	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Dbl

All Pass

Opening lead: ♣ 6

Torontonian Eric Murray was Murray's propensity for stirring up the bidding waters just enough for Kehela to step in and harvest the benefits.

For Blue Jay fans, sort of like a renowned knuckleball pitcher having his own catcher equipped with an oversized glove!

During a World Championship Bronze Medal playoff match versus France, Murray overlooked the usual warning signs of the vulnerability, his partner being a passed hand and his own hand's paucity of values to butt in with a one-heart overcall. Even in that bygone era, entry fees were high enough that Murray hated to spend money sitting on the bidding's sidelines!

In spite off, maybe even a little bit because of, Murray's ostensible show of strength, the French pair stretched somewhat to limp into three notrump

– can't let that Canadian push us around!

Probably motivated at least as much by the struggling sound of the auction as by Murray's overcall, Kehela decided his opponents weren't going to have much success in three notrump (and he did have substantial holdings in both suits East-West might be counting on for tricks) as he lowered the boom with a penalty double.

Murray's "surprise" club lead didn't do declarer any favours and West's subsequent mis-assessment of the missing high-cards' locations led to down two and a substantial Canadian gain when Bill Crissy (West) and Gerry Charney fetched up in a mere two notrump after an unimpeded auction (no surprise there!) and emerged with the same seven tricks.

*Feedback always welcome at
tweedguy@gmail.com*

One of the recurring themes of the great World Class partnership Sami Kehela enjoyed for so many years with fellow

BRIDGE

By Paul Thurston

NORTH

♠ AK6
♥ 952
♦ 962
♣ A982

WEST

♠ 1083
♥ Q7
♦ QJ8752
♣ Q10

EAST

♠ Q952
♥ J108
♦ AK4
♣ J65

SOUTH

♠ J74
♥ AK643
♦ 10
♣ K743

Vulnerable: East-West

Dealer: East

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
Opening lead: ♦ Q			

expert declarer play at one table of a match is coupled with superior defence at the other.

At both tables of a Canada versus Kenya encounter during a World Bridge Olympiad, four hearts was the final contract with the Canadian declaration being in the very capable hands of Hall of Famer Sami Kehela.

West started with the diamond Queen that East overtook with the King to continue with the ace. Kehela ruffed and, needing both clubs and hearts to split 3-2, proceeded on the necessary assumption that they would.

Ace and King of hearts, King and ace of clubs and a diamond ruff to strip East of what South hoped would be that defender's last card in the suit (it seemed likely that East wouldn't have been so eager to overtake the first diamond

with greater length).

Finally, a club exit to East who could cash his high trump but then had to lead away from his spade Queen – the strip-and-endplay had delivered a tenth trick.

Team Canada scored a useful swing when Bruce Elliott (another Canadian Bridge Federation Hall of Famer) holding the West cards at the other table fished out a low spade for his opening lead. That may have been more of an attempt to not blow a diamond trick than for any other reason but it did have the tremendous effect of convincing declarer his best chance was that the lead was away from the Queen.

So he played low from dummy at trick one and learned his fate immediately!

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THE "K" FILES

Good team results are frequently manufactured when

BRIDGE

Steve Becker

South dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A Q 3
♥ A Q J 10
♦ J
♣ 10 9 8 7 6

WEST

♠ 5
♥ 8 7 6
♦ K 9 8 7 6 2
♣ Q 3 2

EAST

♠ 9 8 7 6 4
♥ 9 5 2
♦ A Q 10 5 4
♣ —

SOUTH

♠ K J 10 2
♥ K 4 3
♦ 3
♣ A K J 5 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
6 ♣			

Opening lead — five of spades.

This deal occurred at the 1978 world team championship in the match between Canada and the Philippines. At the first table, with Sami Kehela and Eric Murray North-South for Canada, the bidding went as shown. Certainly six clubs was a good contract, but it would have failed had West led a diamond. However, West led a spade, and Murray then had to find the winning line of play to make the slam.

He won the spade lead with the ace and cashed the A-K of trumps, learning that West had a sure trump trick. Murray then had to decide whether to try to cash his spades or his hearts in an effort to avoid a diamond loser.

As usual, he guessed correctly. He played three rounds of hearts as West followed helplessly, then discarded a diamond from his hand on the fourth heart to bring home the slam for a score of +1,370. His only loser was a trump trick.

The bidding at the second table, with a Philippine pair North-South then took this unexpected turn:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	2 ♦	3 ♦	5 ♣
Pass	Pass!	5 ♥	6 ♦
7 ♣!	Pass	Pass	7 ♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	

Obviously, the Canadian East was afraid that South would make the grand slam because West had failed to double seven clubs. He therefore bid seven diamonds as a sacrifice. This went down four — 700 points in those days — sparing the Philippine declarer from going down either one or two tricks in seven clubs. Thanks to Murray's fine guess at the other table, however, the Canadians still showed a 670-point profit on the deal.

all, dealer North: North ♠AQ93
 ♦K53 ♥K ♣AKJ98; South ♠1082
 ♦AQJ ♥AQ108 ♣1073.

West	North Murray	East	South Kehela
	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Kehela received the lead of ♥10, which gave nothing away, and won the trick with dummy's king in order to keep heart entries to his own hand later. Next he cashed dummy's ♦K and ♣A. Crossing to his hand with a heart to the jack, Kehela ran the ♣10 – if West held the queen, the contract would be secure with five clubs, three hearts, three diamonds and a spade. But East won with ♣Q and returned the suit. Declarer ran dummy's club winners and crossed to the ♥A. He laid down ♦A and then ♦Q, hoping the jack would fall. It did not, as West discarded a heart. With two cards left, dummy had ♠AQ, South a spade and ♦10, and West two spades. Kehela led a spade, and West played the jack. Since East's second-last card was known to be ♦J, his last one was either the king or a low spade, and the success of the slam depended on Kehela's view of the position. What would you do?

Kehela knew the position was a guess – a count revealed that both defenders had begun with three spades, so each was equally likely to have the king. West's play of the jack meant nothing, since he would contribute it with the doubleton jack remaining in an effort to mislead declarer. After 10 minutes' thought, Kehela decided that since the choice was between a squeeze and a finesse, and that his fellow experts would prefer the more remarkable play of trying to drop the king, he would take the prosaic finesse. It worked, and the rest is history.

Bridge

Zia Mahmood

One of the most successful and durable bridge partnerships of all time was that between Sami Kehela and Eric Murray of Canada. Their story appears in an excellent new book, *Canada's Bridge Warriors*, by their countryman Roy Hughes.

In the final match of the 1965 American Trials in San Francisco, the Canadians needed a victory to ensure their place on the team. This deal would prove decisive – I will show you the North-South cards only, so that you can match your play against Kehela's. Game

>> BRIDGE

by Omar Sharif

Here is another deal from the book that won the International Bridge Press Association 2007 award for the best book of the year. Roy Hughes' 'Canada's Bridge Warriors' is not only a great story but has some splendid hands in it. On today's exhibit Eric Murray had reached a delicate doubled game contract.

Dealer West

Both Vul

♠ A532	♠ K986
♥ AKJ	♥ Q874
♦ AK872	♦ Q104
♣ 5	♣ KJ
♠ Q4	♠ J107
♥ 10	♥ 96532
♦ J63	♦ 95
♣ A Q109642	♣ 873

West	North	East	South
3C	Dbl.	Pass	3H
Pass	4H	Dbl.	All pass

On the lead of the club ace (NOT recommended -- a trump or diamond looks more sensible) against Four Hearts doubled, East followed to the first trick with the jack. West continued with another club, ruffed in dummy as East contributed the king. Murray took dummy's ace of hearts, on which the ten fell from West. How would you play now?

Warned by the double, Murray played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing the third in hand as all followed. He crossed to the king of hearts as his left-hand opponent pitched a club. Now Murray played a good diamond and East sensibly chose to ruff the fourth diamond low. Murray overruffed and had produced the position shown in the diagram at the end of the next column.

Declarer now threw East on lead with his master trump. Endplayed, East could only lead a spade to the ten, queen and ace. Murray cashed the good diamond, pitching his club loser, and led a spade towards his jack for the game-fulfilling trick. There was nothing the defence could have done. In the four-card ending above, if East leads the king of spades, declarer simply lets him hold it, and has

the rest thereafter. Four hearts doubled and made was a big pickup instead of an even more sizeable loss, since Murray's team-mates had over-prempted, and had conceded 500 in four clubs doubled.

♠ A53	♠ K986
♥ J	♥ Q
♦ 8	♦ ---
♣ ---	♣ ---
♠ Q4	♠ J107
♥ ---	♥ 6
♦ ---	♦ ---
♣ Q109	♣ 8

Alan Truscott

Ghoulie Spices Up High-Stakes Play in Aspen

Half a century ago, it was normal to see bridge games on the rush-hour trains in and out of New York City. This tradition died in the 80's, partly because of the graying of the players and partly because of the introduction of laptops: computers occupied the commuters.

Enthusiasts headed for a terminal would make a "tunnel bid," a wild attempt on the final deal to avoid impending financial loss.

The excitement was heightened by the goulash or ghoulie. The cards were not shuffled and were dealt in groups of five, five and three. The predictable effect was to defeat normal distributional expectations.

The ghoulie occasionally survives in private games, often with a restriction: it comes into action only when the bidding ends below two hearts. That was the rule in a recent weekend of high-stakes play in Aspen, Colo.

The South player in the diagramed deal was Sami Kehela, long retired from tournament play and considered by many to be the greatest player ever to represent Canada. He muttered "ghoulie" to himself on looking at a 9-4-0-0 distribution and bid a gentle two spades after his partner had opened one diamond and

East had made a weak jump overcall in hearts.

A heart raise from West, a four-club bid from North and a dubious four-heart bid from East followed. "Being a life master," reports Kehele, tongue in cheek, "I quickly deduced that my partner could have very few hearts on the bidding and bid six spades."

Luckily nobody doubled, for the result was down five. The dummy was indeed very short in hearts, but it was also very short in spades. After taking four heart tricks, the defense led a fifth heart and promoted the spade jack as a trick.

But Kehela's leap to slam was very nearly on target. He would have succeeded if West had made the unlikely lead of a minor suit. And he would have had chances if the dummy had had a singleton trump. A singleton jack would have made the slam unbeatable, and a singleton five would have been sufficient unless West was inspired to lead his spade jack.

West was a Famous World Champion who tried to add salt to the wound by announcing that as South he would have doubled four hearts, led a trump and collected a penalty of 500. This statement was implausi-

NORTH(D)

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

WEST

♠	J 5 4
♥	K 8 6
♦	K J 6
♣	J 9 5 2

EAST

♠	2
♥	A Q J 1
♦	10 7 3
♣	Q 10 4

SOUTH

♠ AKQ1098763
♥ 9732
♦ —
♣ —

East and West were vulnerable.
The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 \diamond	2 \heartsuit	2 \spadesuit	3 \heartsuit
4 \clubsuit	4 \heartsuit	6 \spadesuit	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West led the heart six.

ble and inaccurate and met with incredulity. (A heart lead allows one down. A top spade leads to two down.)

Kehela had the last laugh. He was the big winner for the weekend, and the F.W.C. was the big loser.

All but one of the major titles—decided in the past two days at the Canadian National Bridge Championships have gone to players from outside Toronto.

Although this tournament always attracts players from all over Canada and the United States, the host city is generally well represented in the winner's circle. This year, however, the Toronto entrants are second-best.

The exception was the prized Knockout Team Championship, which went to six young players from Toronto and Montreal. George Mittelman, Dianna Gordon, Andy Altay and David Lindop combined with Montreal's Eric and Sharon Kokish in this event.

The losing finalists were also from Toronto and included Eric Murray, one of the only two members of last year's winning team who defended the title.

Sammy Kehela made his first appearance of the tournament in the Men's Pairs yesterday, playing with his international partner Eric Murray. Kehela's usual technical skill in dummy play was worth a lot of match points as he squeezed out an overtrick on the following hand.

South

♠ K J 8 5

♥ A 8 6

♦ J 10 9

♣ Q 7 3

West

East

♠ Q 9 6 4 2 ♠ 7 3

♥ J 9 7 ♥ Q 4 3

♦ K 6 5 4 2 ♦ 7 3

♣ void ♣ A J 10 6 4 2

North

♠ A 10

♥ K 10 5 2

♦ A Q 8

♣ K 9 8 5

Kehela was South, and became declarer in three no trumps, against which West led the four of diamonds. South took this with the queen in his hand, and played a club up, putting the queen in when West showed out.

East won the club ace, and returned a diamond, which declarer won with the ace. He now cashed the spade ace, successfully ran the ten of spades, and exited with the nine of clubs.

East won this with the ten, and returned a heart to the nine and dummy's ace. Kehela cashed the spade king, finessed the nine of clubs, and now had to read the heart position.

West had had several discards to find, and had let a heart go earlier, so South now played the king and another heart, making the last two tricks with the club king and a good heart.