



bridge *Canada*



OVERLOOKED IN WROCLAW

MEET ... DANNY MILES

THE CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

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IN THIS ISSUE

- 03. Reflections of the President/Editor
- 05. Overlooked in Wroclaw
IBPA Files by Mark Horton
- 06. Test Your Deceptive Play
- 07. Meet Danny Miles
- 09. The New Player Spot
by Michael Abbey
- 12. The Intermediate Spot
by Neil Kimelman
- 16. The Expert Spot
by Paul Thurston
- 19. LOL - Canadian Bridge Humour
by Doug Marsh
- 21. Brilliancy Awards from the
Swedish Premiere League
- 24. Solution to Test your Deceptive Play
- 26. Upcoming Events

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A New Year

2017 is the 50th Anniversary of the Canadian Bridge Federation. We have come a long way, and the CBF has a strong and vibrant voice in Canadian and World Bridge. To celebrate this milestone Jude Goodwin has developed a special logo that we will be proudly displaying throughout the year.

Speaking of achievements, Jean Castonguay will be honoured with the CBF Lifetime Achievement Award. Jean is in great company with the three other recipients who have done so much for Canadian Bridge, George Retek, Jan Anderson and Dick Anderson. Come join us in Winnipeg as we recognize Jean's substantial contribution to Canadian and Quebec Bridge.

Volunteers and Vugraph Operators

The CBF is largely made up of a small group of volunteers. We are always on the lookout for additional volunteers. The time commitment does not have to be great, but all assistance makes a difference! It could be as little as serving on a subcommittee, committing less than an hour each month. The CBF especially needs help in Website and IT support. We always need Vugraph Operators to help with the online broadcast of the CNTC and other Playoffs. An hourly stipend and all training are provided. Contact Ina Demme if you can help out in Winnipeg. Make a difference!

NHL Update

As I write this the Winnipeg Jet's inclusion in the playoffs is not a foregone conclusion, but you should still come and play at the 2017 Canadian Bridge Championships in Winnipeg April 29 – May 7. It will be a lot of fun. (ps: I will give the Jets a pep talk ☺.)

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OVERLOOKED

in Wroclaw

Mark Horton, Sutton Benger, Wilts., UK



THE IBPA FILES

Since there is such a huge number of boards played, it is very easy for excellent deals from major events to be overlooked. Such as the following pair ...

1. God Moves in Mestiri(ous) Ways

In a situation where you are a trick short of the required number it can be a sound strategy to play off your long suit before committing yourself. Take a look at this deal from the match between Poland and Tunisia from Round 1 of the Open Teams.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

<p>♠ 7 3 ♥ A Q 10 8 6 4 ♦ Q 4 ♣ 10 4 2</p>		<p>♠ J 9 ♥ K J 9 ♦ J 10 7 3 ♣ 9 6 5 3</p>		<p>♠ A K Q 8 6 4 2 ♥ 7 ♦ A K ♣ A Q 8</p>	
<p>♠ 10 5 ♥ 5 3 2 ♦ 9 8 6 5 2 ♣ K J 7</p>					
West	North	East	South		
Bellazreg	Gawrys	Mestiri	Klukowski		
—	—	2♣ ¹	Pass		
2♦ ²	Pass	2♠	Pass		
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass		
4♠	Pass	4NT ³	Pass		
5♣ ⁴	Pass	5NT ⁵	Pass		
6♠ ⁶	All Pass				

- King ask
- No side kings

In the other room, Jassem and Mazurkiewicz had stopped in four spades, so there was plenty riding on the result. South led the eight of diamonds (would you have found a heart lead?) and declarer won in hand with the ace and drew trumps. With time in hand, he continued with four more rounds of spades; South pitched the five, two, six and nine of diamonds, while North parted with the seven and three of diamonds, the three of clubs and the jack of diamonds. Declarer threw the queen of diamonds and three hearts from the dummy. When declarer cashed the king of diamonds, everyone threw a heart to leave this position:

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

Declarer cashed the last spade. South had to part with a heart – pitching a club would allow declarer to play ace and another club. Reading the position perfectly, declarer discarded dummy's queen of hearts, played a heart to the ace and a club, covering North's six with the eight to force South to lead into the ace-queen of clubs. What a wonderful feeling it must have been for Anas Mestiri – and against the reigning Bermuda Bowl champions.

- (i) Balanced GF, (ii) Minor-suit GF, (iii) Major-suit strong (cannot GF)
- 4+ HCP
- RKCB
- 1/4 key cards

2. CLASSICAL FRENCH

On this deal from the Open Teams Final, Frank Multon showed why he has won so many titles:

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Muller	Multon	De Wijs	Zimmermann
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	1NT	2♥	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East led the two of hearts. Declarer ducked West's queen, discarding a club from dummy. He won the next heart, pitching a diamond, played a club to the queen and a club back for the jack, king and ace. There was no future in continuing with hearts, so East switched to the eight of spades. Declarer won with the queen, cashed two clubs (West discarding spades) and the king of hearts, throwing two diamonds from dummy, and played a spade to the jack and ace. He won the spade return and, knowing that West had only diamonds left, he played the two from his hand and claimed – he knew that he was bound to score two diamond tricks (East could not have held both the king and queen of diamonds and not continued hearts). It was a bravura performance that was rewarded with +600.

TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY

Vul: Both, Playing IMPs

Contract: 4♥

Lead: ♠5

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East wins the ace and returns a spade.

Plan the play.

Answer on page 24



Meet ... DANNY MILES

INTERNATIONAL AND CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPION

Editor's note: *Danny's inclusion in this series has been long overdue. I hope that Danny's success will continue in 2017, as we will be CNTC teammates.*

How and when did you learn to play?

I first learned how to play from my paternal grandmother, Frances Miles, when I was a teenager. She taught our family and I'm pretty sure we were all pretty poor players. My father was into the game more than I was at the time and carried around a copy of Audrey Grant's "The Joy of Bridge" everywhere he went.

I've been lucky enough to play in social games with both of my grandmothers over the years - Frances, who is currently 95 and credits her longevity to keeping her mind sharp with bridge and crossword puzzles (though personally I think it's the nightly glass of scotch she drinks); and Freeda Baron, who recently passed away at the age of 95.

I played lots at the University of Waterloo in the 90s. Eric Sutherland was the king there just prior. We would hold a weekly duplicate game that would draw maybe 6-10 tables. Brad Bart had not yet left for the west coast and took me under his wing where we played lots at the club and local tournaments. He christened me with the nickname "Hero Boy" after I psyched in a sectional pair game with ♠ KQ ♥ xxx ♦ xxxx, ♣ xxxx



with 1♠ in first chair. It went double, 4♠, double, and I went for a huge number. The opponents could not make a slam because of my spade trick. Lesson learned. I don't believe I have out and out psyched since.

Although one time, partnering Adam Melzak in my hometown (Winnipeg) Regional, I picked up a nine card diamond suit headed by the Ace-Jack. As

I was contemplating my bid, the LOL on my left kept muttering to herself excitedly. I decided to open 6♦. Partner thought two little diamonds and two aces merited a raise to 7♦. 1-1 trumps and a winning finesse led to +1540, and the Hero Boy moniker lived on.

Family life is slowly taking over - my wife Karen and I welcomed our daughter Hannah into the world on October 12th. She's been an absolute joy. I will teach her bridge as soon as she's able to recognize the cards! Speaking of teaching, which I have done a bit of, I strongly believe in teaching the play of the hand, dealing out a few hands (or even just one suit) and having players experiment trying to take more tricks. Bidding for a newcomer is a foreign language with no logic; it leads to frustration. Taking tricks is fun and has some logic - it is then not as far a reach for a sharp newcomer to "get" bidding.

What do you do besides play bridge and raise your daughter?

Though I have occasionally played for money, I'm not a full time player. My day job brings me to Beutel Goodman in Toronto, a privately owned investment firm, where I trade the firm's fixed income portfolios. The job involves a lot of numbers, negotiation, risk vs. reward, thinking quickly on your feet, adapted to changing environments, and trying to figure out the full picture with incomplete information; many similarities to bridge. I enjoy it immensely.

What are some bridge highlights?

The highlight(s) of my bridge career was winning the CNTCs in 2012 (partnering Dan Korbel) and 2015 (across the table from Jeff Smith) - the best part of those victories was that our teams were young and really were good friends - the chemistry and camaraderie helped our teams stick together when things got rocky. Representing Canada on the world stage was a thrill, especially making the playoffs in 2012 in France before losing a close match to Monaco. Korbel was incredible that whole tournament; in fact, we finished 4th in the group Butler standings behind Italians Bocchi/Madala, Versace/Zaleski and Russian stars Gromov/Dubinin.

Dan even had a hand written up from the playoffs where he discarded a winner to give Geir Helgemo the only losing option to go down in 3NT (which he fortunately for us, took).

Editor's note: See the article I wrote for the April 2013 *Bridge Canada*, 'Fruits of Your Labour'.

CNTCs in Montreal seem to be a thing for Dan Korbel and I. Not only did we win there in '12 and '15, we also won as a last minute addition to a mainly Winnipeg squad in the CNTC-B in 2001.

Speaking of 2001, that year the Toronto NABC was in town. I took the subway downtown on Friday just to kibitz the Life Master Pairs. I exit the subway and Jeff Smith spots me. We chat and he says his friend Elwin Brown wants to play today. I agree and we spend 5 minutes discussing our system. On the very first board, we execute a highly cooperative defence to score +800

and a top; Elwin and I defeated 175 other pairs to win the open pairs that day - sometimes being forced to keep things simple works out best.

In 2006, my team won the GNT-A championship in Chicago, going down to the final quarter, playing 5-handed with a mix of partnerships - if memory serves, we had the following partnerships: Miles-Stark; Miles-Korbel; Korbel-Grainger; Grainger-Baxter; Baxter-Stark. That was a fun tournament - one of my favourite hands I've played was this hand from a national pair game (hand 2 on page 4) - <http://web2.acbl.org/nabcbulletins/2006summer/db10.pdf>

The two keys were discarding instead of ruffing to keep the dangerous opponent off lead, and finessing the 7 of trumps in a nine card fit to gain an entry. Exciting!

How has bridge changed since you started?

The demographics have led to more afternoon games both at clubs and tournaments - which I don't mind as a morning person - I arrive at work at 7:00am daily. There are too many events catering to too many skill levels. But I understand the ACBL's thinking - the recruitment has been focused on new retirees with newly found time on their hands - throwing them to the sharks would not be good business - give them a chance to play amongst their peers and win some points. But small to medium sized tournaments don't need countless events starting the same day, leading to an A/X pair game being one small section.

I miss when midnight games were a party and not taken so seriously. I remember one midnight game in the 90s at the Toronto regional where a young Gavin Wolpert "rode the rocket" (i.e. took the subway) all the way from Thornhill after Passover Seder. Simply because midnights were awesome. One Gatlinburg midnight KO years ago, I was playing with Dan Korbel. We must've had a few beverages, or perhaps I was trying to impress the female kibitzer. Korbel opened 1NT and played there. My dummy was something like Kx, Qxx, 9xxx, xxxx. A low spade was led. I said "you should win the king". "Ok, sure. King". After it held I said "You should play a diamond to the Jack". "Ok, low diamond please" and he put in the Jack. This was what playing midnights was like.



COUNT YOUR LOSERS

By Michael Abbey

The contract has been set. The opening lead has been made. The dummy has gone down. It's now time for you, as the declarer, to make your plan. Making your plan is fundamental to fulfilling your contract. In a suit contract, we count losers and in a notrump contract we count winners.

Let's look at a few contracts to illustrate this concept.

by Michael Abbey
THE NEW PLAYER
Spot

Contract	Tricks Required	Count Losers	Count Winners
4♠	10	yes	-
1NT	7	-	yes
6♦	12	yes	-
3NT	9	-	yes
3♣	9	yes	-
1♥	7	yes	-

We are going to tackle the theory for suit contracts in this issue and will do the same for notrump contracts in the April 2017 publication. The number of losers is determined by the size of the contract. For example, a contract in :

- Four spades can at most have three losers
- Three notrump needs to win nine tricks
- Five hearts can at most have two losers
- One notrump needs to win seven tricks

When counting losers in a suit contract, there are as many possible losers as there are cards in the shorter suit between the declarer and the dummy as per:

Declarer	Dummy	Possible Losers
♥ xxx	♥ x	1
♥ xxxx	♥ xxxx	4
♥ xxx	♥ xx	2
♥ xx	♥ xxx	2
♥ xxx	♥ xxxxx	3

Some examples of putting this into play for a suit contract follow: (NOTE: Keep in mind that there are other factors that affect the count of losers in a suit contract. Since this article is for the newcomer, the nuances of what else is involved are not taken into consideration. First things first.)

1	Declarer
	♠ A Q 10 7
	Dummy
	♠ J 8 5

The maximum number of losers is three, the length of the dummy's hand in spades. They are missing the ♠K, accounting for one possible loser.

2	Declarer
	♣ J 9 8 2

Dummy
♣ Q 10 6 4

The maximum number of losers is four, being the matching length of both hands. They are missing the ♣A and ♣K, accounting for two losers.

3	Declarer
	♥ A 4

Dummy
♥ 10 9 8 3

The maximum number of losers is two, the length of the declarer's hand in hearts. They are missing the ♥K, accounting for one loser.

4	Declarer
	♠ 10 4 3 2

Dummy
♠ J 9 8 6

The maximum number of losers is four, being the matching length of both hands. They are missing the ♠A K Q, accounting for three losers.

5	Declarer
	♦ 3 2

Dummy
♦ K

The maximum number of losers is one, the length of the dummy's hand in diamonds. This hand illustrates an important point related to counting losers in a suit contract. Once the Dummy goes void in diamonds, he can start ruffing diamond tricks, at which point the ♦3 is no longer counted as a loser.

Now let's try on a few review questions, showing the North and South hands alone since East/West are not relevant to the discussion (see next page):

NEW PLAYER SPOT: Michael Abbey ... continued

Contract: 4♠

1. Dummy

♠ 9 8 3
♥ A 9 4 3
♦ A K J 4
♣ A 3

Declarer

♠ A K J 7 5
♥ K 10 5
♦ 7 5 2
♣ J 8

Contract: 2♣

2. Dummy

♠ Q 4 2
♥ K Q 8 7 2
♦ Q
♣ Q 9 7 2

Declarer

♠ 10 6
♥ 6
♦ 10 9 8 6 3
♣ K 10 6 5 4

Contract: 3♥

3. Dummy

♠ 8
♥ A 10 9 4 2
♦ K Q 10 5
♣ A Q 5

Declarer

♠ Q J 10 5 4
♥ K 8 4
♦ A 4
♣ J 8 6

Contract: 6♠

4. Dummy

♠ Q J 9 4 2
♥ 7
♦ K J
♣ A Q 8 5 3

Declarer

♠ A 9 7 5 3
♥ A K J 10 3
♦ 5 3
♣ K

Contract: 2♦

5. Dummy

♠ A Q 10
♥ 7 5 4 2
♦ K 10 2
♣ J 6 3

Declarer

♠ K J 9
♥ 3
♦ A J 7 5 2
♣ 9 8 5 2

Contract: 5♠

6. Dummy

♠ A 9 7
♥ Q 10 9 5 2
♦ K 2
♣ K 7 3

Declarer

♠ K 6 5 4 2
♥ A 4
♦ A 10 6
♣ A 10 4

Let's see how you did.

Hand	Spades	Hearts	Diamonds	Clubs	Losers
1	1	1	1	1	4
2	2	1	1	1	5
3	1	1	0	1	3
4	1	0	1	0	2
5	0	1	1	3	5
6	1	1	0	1	3

Remember ... this is simply a plan. As the play commences and the opponents do everything they can to annoy the declarer, things may not play out exactly as planned, sometimes in your favour and other times not. It is wise to keep this in mind.

Happy planning ... and next issue we will tackle the same theory but for notrump contracts.

Visit Michael's website
for beginners at
beginnerbridge.net





by Neil Kimelman

THE INTERMEDIATE *Spot*

THE INTERMEDIATE SERIES

DEFENCE

By Neil Kimelman

2. COUNT & SUIT PREFERENCE

In the last issue we started to look at defence. We focused on signaling ATTITUDE, which in my opinion, is the primary tool in the signaling tool box. However count and suit preference do have their place to shine. Let's look at general rules as when to use them.

COUNT

Traditionally, players signal count on a trick when the lead is with declarer, whether he leads from his hand or from dummy. Playing standard signaling, high from a doubleton or four card length, low from an odd number of cards. With a singleton use your judgement 😊. As mentioned last week, the main exception is when you are either winning the trick, or splitting honours.

Example 1:

	Partner	
	♠ K 5	
♠ A 4 3		♠ 9 8 7 2
	You	
	♠ Q J 10 6	

This was an example hand from last issue, where partner led the ♠K. What if declarer leads the ♠2 from dummy? If you decide to play an honour, the expert play is the ♠Q, top of a sequence. It does not suggest a specific length. You would play the ♠Q from ♠QJ, ♠QJ10, ♠QJ10xx etc... There are some other non-standard cases when count overrides attitude.

a) Partner leads from AK and the Queen is in dummy

Many players adopt the common sense rule, that if partner leads from A K x (x...), and dummy shows up with the Queen of that suit, attitude does not make sense. They revert to count.

Example 2:

Partner leads the ♠K. Dummy shows up with ♠ Q872, and you hold ♠ 963. Play the ♠3, assuming playing standard signals, partner will know 100% this is from an odd number.

b) Partner leads the King and the opponents are at five level or higher.

Another good agreement is that when partner leads a King, and the opponents are at the five level, or in a slam, your card is count (Ace asks for attitude).

SIGNALING WHEN DUMMY HAS SHORTNESS IN THE SUIT LED

There is no universal practice, but I strongly believe that a singleton or void in dummy should not change the meaning of the trick one message. Encouraging means continue, and is not a suit preference or count signal (however see Example 10 below).

CLEAR SIGNALING

Sometimes partner's signal is unclear, because of the spots out. All you can do is to signal as clear as possible. If you want partner to continue a suit, play the highest card you can afford (assuming standard signaling). So holding K8643, play the 8, not a wishy-washy 4 or 6. This practice will minimize ambiguous situations, and partner misreading your signal. Of course, judgement must be exercised. Don't give a count card that will potentially give up a trick:

Example 3:

	Partner	
	♠ 10 3	
		Dummy
♠ A 6 5		♠ K J 8 7
	You	
	♠ Q 9 4 2	

When declarer leads the ♠A from his hand, signal an even number of spades by playing the four. If you instead play the nine, giving a clearer count, declarer, if playing a notrump contract, can play the ♠K and then the ♠8, to set up his seven. Partner may be momentarily misled, but will be happy you defended as you did.

WHO ARE YOU HELPING?

Speaking of misleading, don't give a count that will be more helpful to declarer than the defence. How do you know? You don't for sure. But try to be aware of some general rules.

Example 4:

	Partner		Dummy
	♠ 3		♠ K Q 10 7
♠ 4			
	You		
	♠ 9 2		

Declarer leads the ♠4 towards dummy and partner follows with the ♠3. Do you give count? Normally, no. The full suit layout could very well be:

Example 5:

	Partner		Dummy
	♠ J 8 5 3		♠ K Q 10 7
♠ A 6 4			
	You		
	♠ 9 2		

The only exception is when declarer has no outside entry to dummy, and you don't want to give declarer an extra trick.

Example 6:

	Partner		Dummy
	♠ A J 5 4 3		♠ K Q 10 7
♠ 8 4			
	You		
	♠ 9 2		

Assuming no likely entries to dummy in any other suit, play the nine. Again you have to decide who will get the most benefit of your honest signal, declarer or partner. Some situations are obvious. If, for example, the opponents are in a slam in the above example, just play up the line in all suits. ALERT: However signaling honestly, and when to use deception, is an art and can only be acquired by experience and learning from your bridge experiences!

SUIT PREFERENCE

Suit preference is another bridge skill that is more an art, and can only be full developed with experience. ALERT: A word of warning, the better you get the more easily you and partner will have a disagreement on when suit preference applies, or for that matter attitude and count.

My advice: Start off with simple rules and do not overwhelm the partnership with 'Exceptions'.

SUIT PREFERENCE PRIMER

Example 7: When setting up a suit in notrump:

	Partner		Dummy
	♠ Q 3		♠ A J 9
♠ 8 5 4			
	You		
	♠ K 10 7 6 2		

Against a notrump contract you lead low spade. Partner plays the Queen which declarer ducks, and tries the Jack when partner returns the suit. You can now play a third round, setting up two tricks. The spade you play will correspond to the suit you want led. The ten will ask for a heart, etc...

Playing standard signals a high card says I want the suit led, while a low discourages. This is pretty straightforward. The latter signal is used when you don't want partner leading the suit to give declarer an extra trick such as...

Example 8:

	Partner		Dummy
	♠ 4		♠ K J 10 7
Declarer			
♠ A 6 3			
	You		
	♠ Q 9 7 5 2		

...Or if you really want another suit played, but can't afford to signal high in that suit.

Example 9:

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

You want a heart played, but can't actually signal in hearts. So you discourage in a side suit and hope partner will figure it out. Assume spades are trump, you signal discouragement in dummy's suit that partner will most likely switch to with no additional information from you. Here that suit is diamonds, so discard the ♦4 on the third round of spades.

DISCARDING OR PLAYING FROM A KNOWN LONG SIDE SUIT.

When it is obvious from the bidding or the play that you have a long side suit, discards from that suit can be used to convey suit preference information.

Example 10:

After opening two spades, the opponents arrive in 4♥. Partner leads the ♠2 and dummy is
♠ A ♥ 10 9 4 ♦ K J 9 4 3 ♣ K J 9 4. You hold
♠ J 10 8 6 5 2 ♥ 5 ♦ 10 8 2 ♣ A Q 2.

What spade do you play? As I suggested above, this is best played as an attitude situation. So you want to discourage by playing a small card. But with known extra length a small extra card shows no interest in spades, but at least some interest in the lower ranking suit. While a middle low card, such as the 5 or in this example, which no spade interested, but interest in diamonds. A high spot such as the 8 or 10 would ask partner to continue spades when they get in. Playing upside down signals the two says continue spades; the six don't continue, and play a club; and the Jack sends the message, 'don't continue and switch to a diamond'.

Next Column: Signaling Quiz

CBF Canada-Wide STaC

Feb 13-19, 2017

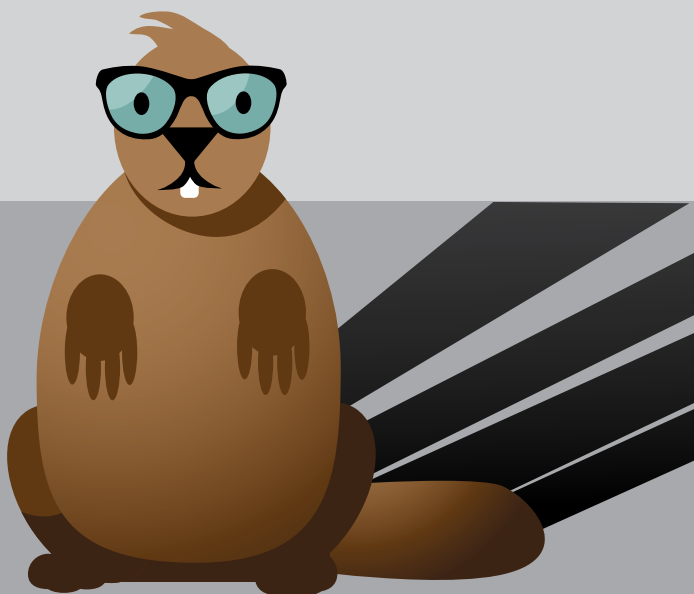
The CBF Canada-Wide STaC is played in clubs all across the country. Talk to your local bridge club to find out what their schedule of games will be in this year's STaC.

STaC is an abbreviation for a special kind of sectional tournament known as Sectional Tournament at Clubs. It offers sectional rating and is played in a number of clubs in a specific area over a period of several days. The

masterpoints awarded in this type of tournament are silver points.

Results of all games are sent to the director-in-charge of the event. Section results are determined by comparing the results of play at individual clubs. Overall pair game awards are determined by comparing the results of all games conducted at a particular session just as if all of the games were played at one site.

STaC results are uploaded directly to the ACBL results page, are available quickly and updates happen automatically.



by Paul Thurston

THE EXPERT Spot

What. WENT. WRONG?

by Paul Thurston

1} Mea Culpa!

During our CBF Online match with Jerry Mamer's team, this defensive debacle was witnessed:

Dealer: South Vul: Neither

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

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

Claire Jones got the bidding underway with a weak (11-14 HCP) notrump opening that attracted a 2♠ overcall showing spades and an unspecified minor from Keith Balcombe. Where it might have seemed attractive for North to insist on 4♥ as the final contract, Rick Gauthier made a great decision to show hearts at the three-level

and cease and desist when partner showed no great heart fit and, presumably, a spade stopper (or two, aye there's the rub as we shall soon see!).

With clubs as they were, a heart game would have been impossible to make for the loss of three clubs and one diamond but 3NT could have and really should have been defeated as well after Keith's fourth-best spade lead went to the Queen and declarer's Ace.

Needing a club trick to get to nine, declarer immediately tracked a small club towards dummy and West could find no way to duck! In with the club ace, West gave the matter some thought before playing back a small spade that made everyone on the MAMER Team very happy while causing severe brow-wrinkling from supporters of Team THURSTON: Had Balcombe lost his mind? WHAT WENT WRONG?

Well, there may have been temporary (we hope!) mind loss on the deal, but it was not even remotely by Mr. Balcombe but rather from the occupant of the East seat, Captain Paul! As you may have noticed, when the text mentioned Claire's good play of a club at trick two, there was no mention of the card played by East! Actually, it was the deuce of clubs, a misguided attempt by the defender to show count in standard fashion, playing from the bottom up to show an odd number of clubs. EXCEPT: the partnership of Balcombe-Thurston play Reverse Smith signals by both defenders on the first round of any suit declarer attacks after gaining in the lead in any notrump contract.

In this approach, East's obligation (assuming, as here, that the count in clubs is largely irrelevant information) is to tell the Opening Leader how much (or how little) he likes the suit that was led at trick one as far as future trick-taking is concerned: "small club = I Like spades, big club = I don't like spades". So that when the club deuce landed, the message was "I Like spades, play them some more" as well as "I can tell your second suit is diamonds and I really can't support a diamond shift".

In short, that losing spade continuation was accidentally at the behest of East when he mistakenly assumed the spade situation would be known by partner so that a Reverse Smith signal would be unnecessary. Lesson to be learned: don't make assumptions that aren't backed up by fact!

And, of course, the diamond lie was absolutely perfect from the defensive perspective for four fast tricks in the suit (low diamond shift from West for the King to win and the ten to come back) had East played the club seven at trick two to say "no more spade help over here, maybe try your other suit".

Sorry Keith!

2} LOCATION! LOCATION! LOCATION!

Well known by real estate professionals, this mantra also has a lot to do with bridge as witness this deal, also from an online team match.

Dealer: East Vul: Both

		♠ A 10 7 5 3	
		♥ 10 3	
		♦ 9 7 5	
		♣ Q J 10	
♠ J 9 2			♠ 6 4
♥ J 7 4 2			♥ A Q 6 5
♦ 8 3			♦ K J 2
♣ 8 6 3 2			♣ A 7 5 4
		♠ K Q 8	
		♥ K 9 8	
		♦ A Q 10 6 4	
		♣ K 9	
West	North	East	South
		1♣	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

North thought he had done his full duty by transferring to his five-card spade suit and leaving his partner in what was hoped to be a safe contract. Safe? Yes, but as you can see, far too safe as South found his way home with eleven tricks but without a game bonus to add to the haul.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

Well, North could argue that he had a “mere” seven high-card points so that game would be touchy so why risk losing a part score? Except that seven points opposite a strong notrump (15-18 HCPs) will often produce game when there is an opening bid to the right of the notrump bidder and all due to LOCATION!

As here, finesses will work more often than not because the defenders’ cards will be where the declarer wants and needs them to be – the ♥A and ♦K and, BONUS, even the ♦J are right where they do the most good for South. And the bidding says that is likely to be the case!

North even has a couple of tens connected to key holdings that might help in the play and his three clubs look quite powerful given that South will hold at least one of the ace or King for his stopper-showing notrump overcall.

All to lead the jury to determine that What Went Wrong was that North quit bidding too soon – he really does owe his partner a gentle nudge to two notrump and, of course, South will do the rest by jumping directly to four spades.

And now we give the floor to the rabid upgraders who will resolutely argue that South’s hand is too strong for a “mere” one notrump overcall with its seventeen excellent points and promising five-card diamond suit. “South should double first and bid notrump at his second turn to show a hand too strong for one notrump in the first place”.

Well, if your agreed range is 15-18 high-card points for a one notrump overcall, that South hand certainly looks

appropriate for that action as there is no law or bidding guideline against having maximum values for any action you might take in the bidding.

Lost in the Upgrader’s Mania for bidding more than a hand is really worth: what if we were to exchange the North and West hands? UGH!

The final word: North should know his points are good ones and that his partner’s values will be well-placed, both for the possibility of winning finesses and for the ease of play gained by knowing that East will hold most of the defenses’ values. Respect LOCATION more often and you will very often reap the benefits!

3} THE ERSATZ EXPERT RIDES AGAIN

Dealer: East Vul: Neither

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

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 ♦
1 ♠	Dbl	2 ♠	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All Pass	

Opening Lead : ♠K

N-S coasted into what looked like a promising heart game against which West led a top spade and, for lack of anything clearly better to do, shifted to a diamond to dummy’s lone ace.



CANADIAN BRIDGE HUMOUR

'What Doesn't Kill You...' or **The Tommy Roe Syndrome**

By Doug Marsh

South quickly cashed two top hearts before leading a club towards dummy. West played low and South won dummy's Jack to continue with his plan of executing a loser-on-loser play by calling for the ♠Q and discarding the ♣Q on the trick. West was happy to win a second spade trick, cash the ♥J and exit with a third round of spades. All to leave the contract in ruins as South didn't have the wherewithal to set up his hand's diamond suit or dummy's clubs and eventually had to concede defeat. So WHAT WENT WRONG with this "promising contract"? Should South have been able to make 4♥?

Aside from possibly playing too many trumps too soon, South made an error common with many "near" or "ersatz" experts who know all the plays of good technique but don't always pick the right time to apply them. Yes, South's play of the two black Queens, aesthetically intriguing, on the same trick to execute a loser-on-loser play may have avoided the direct loss of a club trick but at the cost of the game bonus. Needing club tricks far more than needing to avoid a club loser, South's best line would have involved taking but one round of trumps (two will work out as well) before playing on clubs to force out the ace.

The convenient 3-3 club split will lead to an early claim of ten tricks but wasn't totally necessary for the contract to succeed. What was necessary was establishing club WINNERS rather than the avoidance of one club LOSER.

We all have all our nemeses and challenges at the bridge table that keep us from doing better. Some fall into the category of memory, some concentration and sometimes... a person. I have such an adversary. She always seems to get the best of me. I don't know what it is. She is a very nice person; a keen intermediate player who drills me every time. And of course always asks if she could have done better as she scoops up another top. But I can endure. I mean it's only two boards a round that I have to tolerate.

Please understand, I am not your average player. I am an expert, with much success at all levels of tournament play. But against Hazel (not her real name), - I am reduced to the rank novice that I was many moons ago. Here is my latest story, I hope you will empathize. Playing the FIRST board of my weekly duplicate foray, I pick up in first seat ♠1052 ♥AJ10876 ♦Q6 ♣K6. This is a difficult hand to decide if you should open, and if so, 1♥ or 2♥. It was even more challenging as I was playing with a new partner, and would have preferred not to set the wrong tone for the day. I decided that my eight loser hand warranted caution, so I opened 2♥. The bidding continued:

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	2♥
Pass	3♥	3♠	All Pass

I was on lead, and chose the ♠2. West, rightfully suggesting he might have too much, put down:

CANADIAN BRIDGE HUMOUR

♠ Q 7 3
 ♥ K 5 3
 ♦ K 7
 ♣ 10 9 7 5 3

The play went (underlined hand is who is on lead):

	W	N	E	S
Trick 1:	J	<u>♠2</u>	3	9
Trick 2:	<u>♦3</u>	6	K	2
Trick 3:	A	Q	<u>♦7</u>	4
Trick 4:	<u>♦10</u>	♥8	<u>♠7</u>	5
Trick 5:	2	A	<u>♥K</u>	4
Trick 6:	4	<u>♣K</u>	3	2
Trick 7:	8	<u>♣6</u>	5	A
Trick 8:	J	♥6	7	<u>♣Q</u>
Trick 9:				<u>♠K</u>

I now had a complete count on the hand. The situation at trick 9, with the defence having four tricks in, was:

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

My partner, by finding the excellent shift to the ♠K, ensured the defence will now score one spade and one diamond for down two. Looks like +100 will be a good score, as we have five losers in 3♥. As I do this analysis I notice Hazel has not yet played to this trick. As usual, I have no clue what is going on in her mind. I thought she was planning her evening. However, the more I study her, I start to realize she is considering ducking the ♠K!

I try to avoid trying to answer questions such as, Does God exist? And why in God's earth would Hazel think of ducking? I realize if she does we will get another trick.

After winning the ♠K, partner will cash a diamond and play her 5th diamond, promoting my singleton ♠10. Five minutes have now gone by. In that time I have planned the next two weeks of my life, (and I have spittle running down my chin) and declarer finally plays the ♠4!

I have a good partner today and she does what I want and we score +150. My reverie is quickly halted when both declarer and dummy say to me, what did you play at trick 9!? You revoked! I turn it over and see a heart – I had revoked! Two tricks shipped the other way for down one. The full deal:

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

I contemplate what just has occurred:

1. Hazel overcalled at the three level on a five card suit with two aces and two jacks.
2. I revoked for the first time in 5 years.
3. My partner thinks this will be a long day.
4. I confirm Hazel's continued view that I am not really a very good player.

All those thoughts are hard enough for my ego to swallow. Then I realize the worst. Hazel has pulled off the Sominex Coup!! Although not her intention, she took so long to duck the ♠K, which sacrificed one trick, she gained two back when her LHO (me!) lost focus, and revoked. She didn't do that on purpose..... did she? Was that what she was thinking all along? Not possible! AAARRRRRGGGGHHH!!

She says thank you and goes to the next table. I think 'What doesn't kill you...'



Brilliancy Awards from the Swedish Premier League

By Mikael Grönqvist, Stockholm

Last month, the final five rounds of the Swedish Premier League were played. The format is a complete Round Robin among 12 teams where a 'mere' four teams are relegated at the end of the season. Winners of the event were Harplinge Bridgeklub, consisting of the Rimstedt family (twins Ola and Mikael, second-oldest sister Cecilia and dad Magnus) and the Dutch pair (but nowadays also a little Swedish/Norwegian respectively) Marion Michielsen and Meike Wortel. They won by more than a match, an impressive achievement in a tough field. I thought I would share what I think were the best-played, best-defended and best-bid deals of the tournament in some sort of unofficial brilliancy-prize ceremony.

1. Best-Played Deal

Try your hand at this play problem in four spades:

Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ Q J 9 8 5 4

♥ A 9 3

♦ A 9

♣ 10 7

♠ A 10 7 3 2

♥ K 8 2

♦ 6

♣ K J 6 2

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♠
Dbl	4♠	All Pass	
Opening Lead: ♥J			

Taking advantage of the limited 1♠ opener, North jumped directly to 4♠ so as not to give the opponents a chance to find a good sacrifice. West led the ♥J - what's your plan?

You could, of course, hope for one of the two club honours onside, or that you could guess the trumps, but there is a much better plan available considering that:

a) East cannot afford to overtake the jack of hearts with the queen without setting up a finesse position of the ace-nine in dummy, and

b) hearts are unlikely to be 5-2 after the takeout double.

Tom Gärd (coach of the Swedish junior teams) ducked the first trick! West continued with hearts, but now Gärd could win in hand, play a diamond to the ace and ruff a diamond in hand. A heart to dummy eliminated that suit and he could now run the queen of spades, knowing that he would make the contract independently of the spade layout. If West won with

Brilliance Awards

the stiff king of spades, he would be endplayed, and if East showed out, Gärd's could go up with the ace and endplay West on the second round of trumps instead.

The entire deal was:

♠ Q J 9 8 5 4
♥ A 9 3
♦ A 9
♣ 10 7

♠ —
♥ J 10 5 4
♦ K 8 7 5 3
♣ A Q 8 5

♠ K 6
♥ Q 7 6
♦ Q J 10 4 2
♣ 9 4 3

♠ A 10 7 3 2
♥ K 8 2
♦ 6
♣ K J 6 2

Had East played the ♥Q on the second round of the suit, Gärd's would have had a difficult guess to make about whether to guess spades or try for the elimination.

E-W had a profitable sacrifice available in 5♦. This was reached at most tables after North started with a limit-raise-or-better 2NT, allowing East to enter the auction and N-S then competed to 5♠. That contract hinged on both the lead (on a heart lead South always goes down) and on guessing the trumps, but most declarers got it right. Tom Gärd's lost an IMP for his brilliant effort.

2. Best-Defended Deal

First, try playing this 3NT contract.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ J 7 2
♥ Q 5
♦ 10 6 4 3
♣ A K 6 3

♠ A 5 4 3
♥ A 9 8
♦ A Q 8 7
♣ Q 7

Opening Lead: ♠10

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

West leads a standard ♠10 that you duck. Another spade goes to the king and you duck once more. A heart shift from East is won by West's king and he now sets up his nine of spades by returning the queen. As you win the trick with the ace, East discards the ♦K! How do you plan it from here?

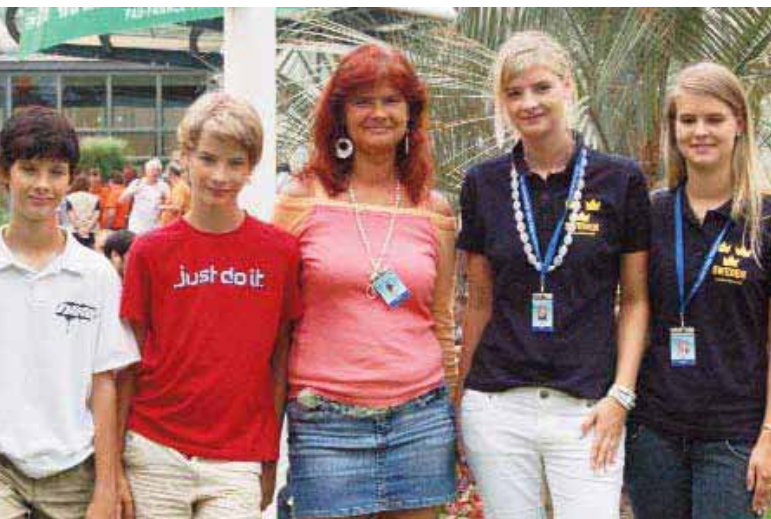
Former Swedish international Tobias Törnqvist deduced that East was trying to create an entry to his partner's high spade via the ♦J and that the layout of the East/West hands would therefore be:

♠ Q 10 9 8
♥ K J 7
♦ J 5 2
♣ 9 8 4

♠ K 6
♥ 10 6 4 3 2
♦ K 9
♣ J 10 5 2

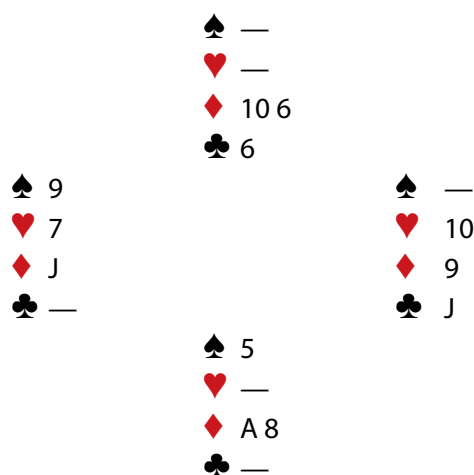
He thus planned to throw West in with the ♠9 to lead away from his ♦J in a three card-ending. Winning with the ♠A, Törnqvist cashed the two top hearts and the three top clubs, West following to all, before coming

*Shown at left: Mikael and Ola Rimstedt, Ann Rimmsted (mom), Sandra Rimmsted and Cecilia Rimmsted.
Photo: infobridge.it*



Brilliance Awards

to hand with a high diamond to endplay West with a spade. As this was the original layout, his plan was foiled when West exited with a heart in this end position:



East, Swedish Open Team Captain, PG Eliasson, had noticed that defensive prospects were looking grim after the start and decided that the only chance of beating 3NT would be to give South a chance to go wrong by throwing $\heartsuit K$ – a play worthy of just this outcome, two off!

At another table, Peter Fredin also found the $\heartsuit K$ discard, but not until taking quite some time to do so, and being very close to pitching a low heart (so close that Fredin had detached the heart and declarer could actually see it). Declarer, Simon Ekenberg, realized that from an original 2-4-2-5, East would rather pitch a club than a heart, so instead he played Fredin to be 2-4-3-4 and made his contract with an overtrick.

3. Best-Bid Deal

That the tournament winner was already decided with one match to go didn't stop the Rimstedt twins from bidding to the best contract on this freak deal in the last round:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

\spadesuit J 8 6 2
 \heartsuit 6 5
 \diamondsuit J 9 5 2
 \clubsuit 9 7 6

\spadesuit K 10 3
 \heartsuit A
 \diamondsuit A K Q 3
 \clubsuit K Q J 4 3

\spadesuit A Q 9 5
 \heartsuit 4
 \diamondsuit 8 6 4
 \clubsuit A 10 8 5 2

\spadesuit 7 4
 \heartsuit K Q J 10 9 8 7 3 2
 \diamondsuit 10 7
 \clubsuit —

West	North	East	South
Ola R.	P-O. Cullin	Mikael R.	S. Ekenberg
-	-	-	4 \heartsuit
DbI	Pass	4 \spadesuit	5 \heartsuit
5NT	Pass	7 \clubsuit	All Pass

7 \clubsuit was a great contract that the Rimstedts were the only one of three pairs to reach. Another chance to shine in the bidding, however, was Per-Ola Cullin's as North. Considering that his partner had bid twice on his own and that he didn't have any surprise defensive tricks he could and perhaps should have sacrificed in 7 \heartsuit . South couldn't do that, as partner easily might have had a trump trick and it was therefore up to North to save.

Had Cullin bid 7 \heartsuit , E-W could then still have gained their maximum possible score by bidding on to 7 \spadesuit (and guessing the trumps) or to 7NT (squeezing North in the pointed suits). Nevertheless, 7 \clubsuit making was worth 17 IMPs when South bought the hand for five hearts doubled, for -500, at the other table.

SOLUTION TO TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY

PROBLEM ON PAGE 06

Contract: 4♥ Lead: ♠5

♠ 9 2
♥ A J 8 6
♦ Q J 9 5 3
♣ K 4

S Q 10 8 7 5
♥ 10
♦ K 7 6 2
C Q 9 8

S A J 4 3
♥ 9 5 4
♦ 8 4
C A J 3 2

♠ K 6
♥ K Q 7 3 2
♦ A 10
♣ 10 7 6 5

The danger on the hand is that if the diamond finesse loses then a club return through the King will defeat the contract if East has the ace. What can you do? Lead the ♦10! If East has the ♣K you are safe, as he cannot successfully attack clubs for two tricks. If East wins you have ten tricks – 5 hearts, 4 diamonds and 1 spade.

If West has it, he will assume partner has the ♦A, as with that card he 'knows' that declarer would have simply taken the diamond finesse. Consider this layout from West's perspective:

♠ 9 2
♥ A J 8 6
♦ Q J 9 5 3
♣ K 4

♠ Q 10 8 7 5
♥ 10
♦ K 7 6 2
♣ Q 9 8

♠ A 4 3
♥ 5 4
♦ A 8 4
♣ A 10 7 3 2

♠ K J 6
♥ K Q 9 7 3 2
♦ 10
♣ J 6 5

Here, if West goes up with ♦K, South will be able to taking a ruffing finesse on the next round of diamonds, setting up three diamonds for club pitches.

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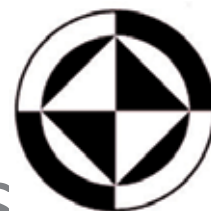
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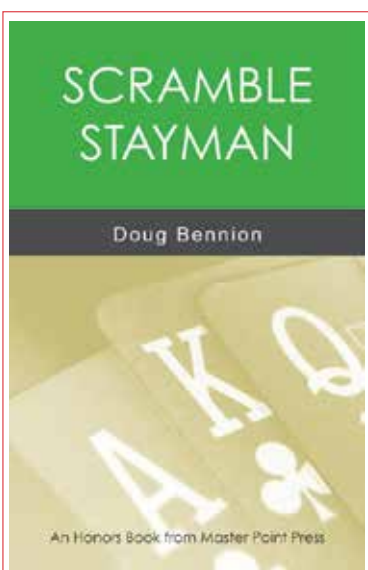
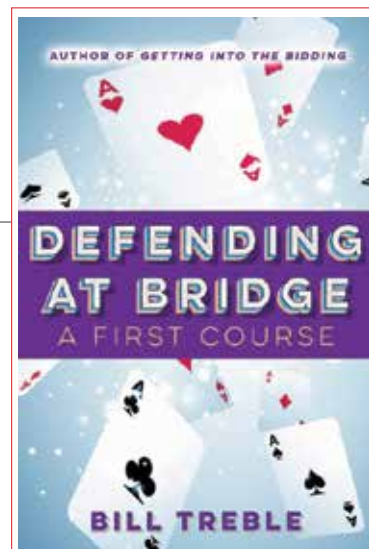
Bill Treble

Designed for players who are familiar with standard bidding, this book covers all aspects of switching over to a 2/1 Game-forcing approach. It's a comprehensive eight-lesson course, and includes dozens of full-deal examples that can be used to practice bidding and cardplay.

Defending at Bridge: A First Course

Bill Treble

Just the facts, ma'am. The basics of defense at bridge in eight short, clearly explained lessons, with lots of practical examples. Topics include opening leads, signaling, second- and third-hand play, and discards.



Scramble Stayman

An Honors Book

Doug Bennion

Scramble Stayman examines (1) which types of hands qualify to scramble, (2) the scramble technique to use and (3) how the various scramble contracts score compared to 1NT, measured over thousands of hands. The book features a 100-board 'match' between one player staying in 1NT, and another scrambling to a (usually) better contract, which the scrambler decisively wins.

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EVENTS & DEADLINES

Canadian Bridge Federation Calendar of Events as of January 15 2017.
For more information see our website www.cbf.ca

2017

FEBRUARY

- Groundhog Day
02 February, Canada-wide
- ACBL-Wide International Fund Game #1
04 February, Afternoon
- CBF Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STAC)
13-19 February, Canada-wide
- Registration Deadline CNTC, CWTC, CSTC
26 February - goto:cbf.ca

MARCH

- ACBL-Wide Senior Game
27 March

APRIL

- All month, Chairty Club Championship Games
- Helen Shields Rookie-Master Game
17 April

APRIL

- ACBL-Wide Charity Game
27 April, Morning
- Canadian Bridge Championships
29 April - 07 May

MAY

- Better Bridge Workshop, St. John's Nfld
12-13 May

JUNE

- Worldwide Bridge Contest
02 June, Evening 03 June, Afternoon
- ACBL wide International Fund Game #2
11 June, Morning
- Olympiad Fund Game, Canada-Wide
14 June, Afternoon
- Alzheimer Charity Event
21 June



Very Important Dates !

- 2017 Canadian Bridge Championships, Winnipeg | 29 April - 7 May
- 2017 Toronto NABC | 20-30 July
- 2017 World Team Championships | 12-26 August | France
- 2017 World Youth Championships | 15-24 August | France

PHOTO: Canadian Groundhog announces the beginning of Spring.