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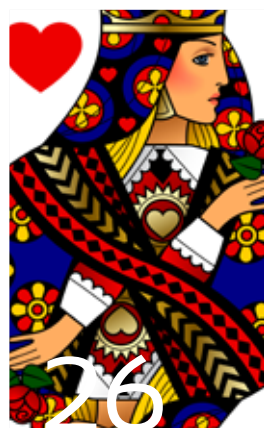


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With articles by Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis, John Carruthers & Marc Lachapelle

THE CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

The mission of the Canadian Bridge Federation is to promote bridge within Canada and protect and advance the national interests of Canadian bridge, including the selection and support of Canadian bridge teams and players for international bridge competition.



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Bridge Canada is available to members only.

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Editor's Message

NEIL KIMELMAN

Bridge Basics Series

The CBF recently confirmed that the majority of our membership are players aspiring to advanced levels of competence. In order to facilitate their bridge learning, Bridge Canada will commence with an additional feature focused on these players. Whereas the focus of Michael Abbey's feature is more on novice players, Bridge Basics will assume a more extensive knowledge of bridge basics. The intent is to have a variety of contributors to this series. Please contact me if you are interested in participating.

Montreal CBCs and Pics

As promised, the August BC has coverage on the main three events, CNTC A's, CSTC and COPC. Plus, we have added a page of various pics of miscellaneous players who participated in any event. Are you in one of these photos?

Neil Kimelman - Managing Editor, Bridge Canada

TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY

Contract: 4♣ Doubled

♠ 9
♥ Q 10 7
♦ Q 7 5 4
♣ A 10 8 7 5

♠ J 10 6 4
♥ 6 2
♦ A 2
♣ K Q J 6 4

The Bidding

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Rdbl	3♣
3♠	4♣!	Dbl	All Pass

Lead: ♦10

Plan the play. Answer on page 22.

KAPLANISM 6 *(Quotes attributed to Edgar Kaplan)*

Editor's note: *This is the sixth in a series of quotes attributed to Edgar Kaplan, one of the game's greatest: He was a bridge writer, teacher, administrator, commentator, coach, journalist, player and lawmaker.*

On Tobias Stone:

Just as Stone was about to pay the penalty for his rashness – the difference between a rash bid and a courageous one is a matter of result – Chiaradia came to his rescue.



(L to R) Kathie Macnab, Marc Lachapelle, Cathy Walsh, Nader Hanna, Ina Demme, Neil Kimelman, Jerry Mamer, Angela Fenton

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nader Hanna



Recognizing that youths are critical to the survival and growth of our beloved game, the CBF supports young players in various ways. For example, the Erin Berry fund helps juniors up to 19 years of age with expenses incurred to attend bridge events, and the CBF Junior Program offers development and coaching for promising young players aspiring to represent Canada at the biannual World Youth Team Championships (WYTC).

As you read this issue, three Canadian teams will be on their way to compete at the 17th WYTC in Wujiang, China, August 8-18. This is the first time that the CBF is able to send three teams to the WYTC. Our teams will be competing in the Juniors (under 26 years of age), Youngsters (under 21) and Kids (under 16) categories. As part of their preparations for the WYTC, the Youngsters and Kids competed in the CNTC-B and CNTC-C at the recent Canadian Championships in Montreal, and the Kids team came a close second in the CNTC-C. It was very heartwarming to receive many positive comments, not only about their level of play, but also about their poise and deportment.

With your continued support, we can all feel optimistic about the future of bridge in Canada.



2018 CNTC

by Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

2018 CSTC

by John Carruthers

2018 COPC

by Marc Lachapelle

Bienvenue à MONTREAL

2018 CNTC Flight A Canadian Team Championship



by Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis

The annual Canadian Bridge Championship was held May 26th to June 3rd. Montreal is a wonderful location to hold a tournament, and since the playing site was the McGill New Residence Hall, there were plenty of excellent restaurants within easy walking distance. Typically, the winners of the Canadian National Team Championship move on to represent Canada at world play. However, every four years is an "open year" in the world championship cycle which

means that any bridge player in good standing with his or her national bridge organization can compete. This year, the world championship is scheduled for September in Orlando, Florida. So, despite not needing a CNTC win to punch a ticket to the World Championship, the open flight of the CNTC attracted a large turnout. After a small entry of just 11 teams in 2017, there was a full complement of 22 teams this year, many of which believed they had a legitimate chance to secure the title.

CNTC A

Our team was comprised of two experienced partnerships (Judith-Nicholas Gartaganis, and Jeffrey Smith-John Zaluski) and one completely new partnership (Paul Thurston-Martin Caley).

Flight A CNTC Round Robin Stage

The 22 teams played a complete round robin of 10 board matches over four days to decide eight qualifiers for the quarter-finals. The World Bridge Federation 20 Victory Point (VP) scale was in use. It awards fractional VPs for each IMP won, not so easy to add up to be sure, but treating IMPs more equally has long been promoted as a fairer scoring method. For 10-board matches, 48 IMPs were required to score a blitz, and every IMP counted for some fraction of the 20 VP total.

In the last match of the round robin, HANNA, needing a good win, faced GARTAGANIS (who had already clinched first place), BISHOP squared off against L'ECUYER, desperately requiring a near blitz and ODDY battled CLOUTIER (who could not qualify). When the smoke cleared, three very strong teams (HANNA, ODDY and MCAVOY) had missed the cut.

After 21 rounds over four days, the round robin had produced this top ten:

GARTAGANIS	292.10
WANG	258.53
L'ECUYER	257.01
ANGUS	254.14
TODD	239.86
LITVACK	229.64
D'SOUZA	229.11
NISBET	228.73
ODDY	225.73
MCAVOY	221.86
HANNA	219.92

The qualifying pace this year was 10.89 VPs per match, less than one VP per match over average. For the last 12 CNTCs the qualifying pace has ranged from 9.59 (2017) to 11.72 (2010) VPs. The total posted by ODDY (10.75 VPs per match) would have qualified in six of the previous eleven CNTCs.

TEST YOUR CNTC JUDGEMENT

What would you do in these situations?

1. Vulnerable versus not, you hold:

♠A J 4 ♥A K 9 7 2 ♦8 ♣K J 8 2. Partner opens 3♦ and RHO passes. What is your call?

2. At favourably vulnerability you pick up

♠- ♥Q J 6 5 3 2 ♦- ♣A K 9 8 7 6 5. Partner passes and RHO opens 1♦. Suppose you bid 2NT (hearts and clubs). LHO bids 3♥ showing spades with at least invitational values, partner passes and RHO bids 4♠. What do you do now?

3. As West, you pick up ♠J 10 9 8 5 2 ♥10 6 4 3

♦7 3 ♣Q. With both sides vulnerable you pass in first seat and LHO opens 1♦. The auction proceeds as follows:

North	East	South	West
--	--	--	You
1♦	4♥	5♦	Pass
			?

With a weak hand and four hearts you choose to pass. RHO passes and partner bids 5♥. RHO doubles, you pass, LHO opts for 6♦ and partner passes. What now?



Hands From The Round Robin

The competitors faced a number of challenges in the second match. An aggressive auction lands you in 5♠ on the lead of the ♦A and a diamond continuation (by North). How would you proceed?

West	East
♠ A 10 9 7	♠ J 6 3 2
♥ A Q	♥ K 10 9 7
♦ K Q 3	♦ 10
♣ A K 6 5	♣ Q J 7 2

As long as one or both spade honours are onside the contract is safe. To avoid problems you should ruff the second diamond in dummy (since the diamond trick is superfluous) and lead a low spade. If you make the mistake of winning in hand and crossing to dummy with a club, LHO wins the first spade and gives partner a club ruff.

Let's revisit your first test. Vulnerable versus not, you hold ♠A J 4 ♥A K 9 7 2 ♦8 ♣K J 8 2. Partner opens 3♦ and RHO passes. What is your call? Jeff Smith made a cagey pass and his opponents unsuspectingly reached 4♠, a contract Jeff was happy to double. That led to +800. The four hands were:

RR17 – Board 19

Dealer: South Vulnerable: N/S

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

At our table L'Ecuyer tried 3NT over Marcinski's 3♦. After leading the ♠Q, Judith could have defeated 3NT by finding partner's club entry for a spade through. She chose a heart instead, giving L'Ecuyer a chance. With the ♥10 serving as a late dummy entry, East cannot

afford to rise when declarer leads a diamond up. Now, there are two winning, albeit lucky, lines. One is to guess that the ♦A is now stiff and lead a low diamond from dummy. Or, use the two dummy entries for club plays toward the ♣KJ. L'Ecuyer didn't capitalize on the fortuitous layout, however, and that was worth 13 IMPs to GARTAGANIS on the way to a 34-6 win in the match.

At favourably vulnerability you pick up

♠-- ♥Q J 6 5 3 2 ♦-- ♣A K 9 8 7 6 5. Partner passes and RHO opens 1♦. Suppose you choose 2NT (hearts and clubs). LHO bids 3♥ showing spades with at least invitational values, partner passes and RHO bids 4♠. What do you do now?

RR19 – Board 3

Dealer: South Vulnerable: E/W

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

With much stronger clubs than hearts, Nicholas bid 5♣. The opponents doubled, Judith corrected to 5♥ and the opponents found that they could muster just the two top trumps +650. At the other table, Paul Thurston sensed that his screen mate wanted to bid again so didn't double when North bid 5♣. When South corrected to 5♥ North was unable to restrain himself and bid 6♣. Paul's prediction materialized and he was able to collect +100 against 6♣.

Here is your final test. As West you pick up ♠J 10 9 8 5 2 ♥10 6 4 3 ♦7 3 ♣Q. With both sides vulnerable you pass in first seat and LHO opens 1♦. The auction proceeds as follows:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	4♥	5♦
?			

CNTC A

With a weak hand and four hearts you choose to pass. LHO also passes and partner bids 5♥. RHO doubles, you pass, LHO opts for 6♦ and partner passes. What now?

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	4♥	5♦
Pass	Pass	5♥	Dbl
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
?			

Can the opponents possibly make 6♦ after they were willing to settle in 5♦? If you choose to bid 6♥ is there any risk that the opponents will bid 7♦? On balance you think this is a small risk so you opt for 6♥ rather than defending 6♦. LHO bids 7♦ and partner doubles. What a revolting development! The opponents were willing to play in 5♦ and you have to decide whether or not to save over 7♦. You choose to pass. Partner leads the ♠K for the only defensive trick. The four hands were:

RR20 – Board 20

Dealer: West Vulnerable: Both

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

You score +200 (phew!). At the other table Smith as North opened 1♦ (4+), East doubled, Zaluski bid 3♣ fit-showing (4+♦, 5+♣ with 2 of the top 3 honours [usually], 10+ HCPs). Smith raised to 6♣ and poor East was boxed. He passed and Smith Zaluski scored all the tricks for +1390 when West led a heart. That gave our team 17 IMPs. Note that even 7♥ turns out to be a profitable save against 5♦.

By virtue of finishing first in the round robin GARTAGANIS got to choose its quarterfinal opponents from the 4th to 8th place finishers. The quarterfinals

would be played in six 12-board segments over 1½ days and the matchups would be:

GARTAGANIS	versus	NISBET
WANG	versus	LITVACK
L'ECUYER	versus	D'SOUZA
ANGUS	versus	TODD

Quarter Finals

NISBET (Pamela Nisbet, Brenda Bryant, Gérard Turcotte, Robert Tremblay, Hervé Chatagnier, René Pelletier) got off to a good start, leading 6-1 after half a dozen boards. However, the next six boards saw GARTAGANIS pick up three double-digit swings. The first occurred when Smith Zaluski bid an aggressive game and Zaluski navigated the play to score 10 tricks. The second major swing came when Tremblay chose to pre-empt 3♦ directly over a 1♠ opening at equal non-vulnerable holding ♠7♥862♦AK10743♣987. Thurston made a negative double and Caley passed holding ♠AK1098♥Q♦J985♣AK2. Declarer might have saved a trick in the play, but -1100 didn't look so good compared to the non-vulnerable no trump game available to the opponents. The final major swing resulted when Smith guessed better than his counterpart to make a vulnerable 3NT. At the end of the 1st segment GARTAGANIS led 38-6.

In the 2nd segment the major swings continued in favour of GARTAGANIS. After a competitive auction Nisbet-Bryant reached 4♥ doubled while their partners were in 4♠. This was the layout:

QF52 – Board 19

Dealer: South Vulnerable: E/W

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

After starting proceedings with 2♦ (mini-Roman) Bryant played in 4♥ doubled on the lead of the 9♦. Nicholas scored a diamond ruff when East won the first spade, and, when Bryant did not divine the doubleton ♣K10, she lost a total of four side tricks in addition to the three top trumps (declarer had been tapped out and had to lose a second spade). That tallied to -800. Since nine tricks were the maximum in a spade contract GARTAGANIS won 14 IMPs.

Editor's note: *Although it seems that the defense can get one more trick on a spade lead and continuation at trick two, winning the likely heart lead at trick three, cashing the other two heart honours, and forcing with spades. However declarer can thwart this defense by retaining king of spades until the third round of the suit is played, blocking the suit.*

An additional 13 IMPs went to GARTAGANIS when Caley adopted a winning line of play in 4♠ to score 11 tricks while Nisbet could only come to nine. GARTAGANIS won the 2nd segment 41-17 to lead by 56. Segment 3 was tightly fought and ended up 4-3 in favour of GARTAGANIS. All four quarterfinal matches played the same hands. In the other matches the segment 3 scores were close but not nearly as low: 17-17, 34-21 and 38-34.

In segment 4 GARTAGANIS won 31-19 making the cumulative score 114-45. NISBET chose to withdraw.

In the other quarterfinal matches the standings after four segments looked like this:

WANG 82	LITVACK 120
L'ECUYER 92	D'SOUZA 99
ANGUS 83	TODD 104

LITVACK (Irving Litvack, Ian Findlay, Bob Kuz, Ganesan Sekhar, Jeff Blond, David Willis) had a comfortable lead, but L'ECUYER (Nicolas L'Ecyer, Zygmunt Marcinski, Michel Lorber, Ron Carriere, Kamel Fergani, Frederic Pollack) was facing a relentless challenge from D'SOUZA (Lino D'Souza, Terrence Rego, Kole Meng, Terry Du, Richard Chan, Ray Jotcham), whose team had a total of one CNTC win versus 15 CNTC wins for the L'ECUYER team. In the fifth segment WANG (Difan Wang, Jianfeng Luo, Peter Wong, Mike Xiaofeng-Xue) narrowed the deficit by 12 IMPs while TODD (Ray Hornby, Doug Fisher, Steve Mackay, Brad Bart, Daniel Miles, Neil Kimelman) increased its lead by 5 IMPs.

D'SOUZA continued its high level of play, gaining another 9 IMPs.

In the last segment LITVACK trounced WANG while ANGUS (Monica Angus, Alex Hong, Jack Lee, Edward Xu, Yan Wang) recouped some IMPs, but lost anyway. L'ECUYER won the last segment by 15 IMPs and after several recounts it appeared that D'SOUZA had prevailed by 1 IMP. However, this outcome did not include a disputed board on which the director had ruled in L'ECUYER's favour. D'SOUZA appealed. The committee decided the appeal had merit and overturned the director's ruling (the director did not have all the pertinent facts at his disposal at the time of his decision). After an incredible back and forth battle, D'SOUZA advanced to the semi-finals.

GARTAGANIS was allowed to choose its semi-final opponent and selected D'SOUZA, the giant killer, hoping to avoid being that team's next victim. That left LITVACK to face TODD in the other match. Interestingly only one of the top four teams from the round robin was still standing.

Semi Finals

In the first segment D'SOUZA served notice that perhaps GARTAGANIS had chosen poorly. On Board 2, Richard Chan negotiated J532 opposite Q976 for two losers to bring home his 3♥ contract. At the other table, Paul Thurston not unreasonably played to the ♥9, losing to the ♥10. That meant 5 IMPs away.

Those IMPs and more were recouped when Judith Nicholas reached a spade slam, after the opponents opened, on this layout (note that 6♥ also makes):

SFS1 – Board 6

Dealer: East Vulnerable: E/W

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

Three deals later, D'Souza, at favourable vulnerability, opened 3♠ holding: ♠A Q10 7 6 3 ♥3 ♦5 ♣10 9 7 6 2. That allowed his side to find a profitable save against the vulnerable heart game. Nicholas opened a wimpy 2♠ so Judith misjudged the auction – lose 11 IMPs.

The segment finished 24-21 in favour of GARTAGANIS. In the other match TODD jumped out to a 45-3 lead and won each of the following segments, cruising to a 225-73 victory.

The 2nd segment in D'SOUZA versus GARTAGANIS started with an exchange of IMPs leaving GARTAGANIS up three for the set after four boards. That advantage quickly evaporated when Judith failed to make the right switch to take Nicholas off an impending endplay. Rego took full advantage, bringing home his heart game and winning 11 IMPs for D'SOUZA. The 2nd segment finished 39-18 in favour of GARTAGANIS who now led 63-39.

The 3rd and 4th segments finished in a virtual tie while segment 5 brought D'SOUZA within 13 IMPs of the lead.

D'SOUZA entered the last set on a high, looking to beat the odds. It turned out that all the major swings went against them. On the very first board of the segment Caley Thurston defended well to defeat a 4♠ contract that was made at the other table. Then Smith Zaluski were allowed to play in a quiet 1NT making eight tricks for +120 while Caley Thurston pushed Du Meng to the three level and defeated the contract two tricks for +200. The final blow was when Caley-Thurston reached 4♥ making while their counterparts rested in 2♥. The game can be defeated, but only on an unlikely trump lead from ♥K9. The 6th segment finished 41-7 for GARTAGANIS, making the match look easy (173-126) when in fact it was anything but.

Finals

The final match-up -- TODD versus GARTAGANIS -- had some interesting history. TODD was making an impressive return to the final trying to defend its 2017 CNTC title (with Ray Hornby substituting for Bob Todd) while Judith Nicholas had been on the losing L'ECUYER team from that year. Both teams had members who had never won a CNTC and others who had won several times.

The finals would be played in eight 14-board segments over two days. Segment 1 was a quiet affair finishing in an 18-18 tie.

Segment 2 started with a 12-IMP swing for TODD when Smith-Zaluski got to the five level and Zaluski, concerned about the possibility of a defensive ruff, rejected the double finesse in trumps (the winning line), instead playing for them to be 2-2 or 3-1 with a stiff honour.

A few boards later GARTAGANIS picked up 17 unlikely IMPs

Finals S2 – Board 20

Dealer: West Vulnerable: Both

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

Both Norths (Bart/Smith) opened 3♣ and both Easts (Nicholas/Fisher) doubled. Judith decided her hand was worth only a 3♥ bid and passed when Nicholas bid 3♠. The defense allowed Nicholas to score eight tricks, picking up +100. That result became irrelevant based on the action at the other table. Over Fisher's takeout double Hornby optimistically bid 4♥. When Fisher ran to 4♠ Zaluski doubled. That would have resulted in +800, but Hornby tried to improve matters by redoubling. Fisher, perhaps not reading the redouble for rescue, chose to sit so Smith Zaluski recorded +1600 to give GARTAGANIS 17 IMPs. The last major swing of the segment also went to GARTAGANIS.

Finals S2 – Board 26

Dealer: South Vulnerable: Both

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

The contract was 3NT by North at both tables. Fisher/Nicholas led the ♦K. Hornby played a discouraging diamond and Fisher, to avoid breaking any suits for declarer, continued two more rounds of diamonds anyway. When Smith played a spade to the King, Fisher ducked his Ace. Now Smith found the only line to make the contract. A club to dummy's 10 allowed him to establish spades with the ♣A as an entry.

On the lead of the ♦K (asking for the Queen) Judith played a thoughtful ♦10 (discouraging with some suit preference implications), while Bart dropped the Queen. This allowed Nicholas to switch to hearts and the contract was defeated. The segment concluded 47-19 for GARTAGANIS. In segment 3 neither team made much headway. TODD won the set 28-27.

In the 4th set there were four significant swings. GARTAGANIS won 9 IMPs when Bart Kimelman took a phantom save against 4♠. Then TODD won 11 IMPs when Smith-Zaluski reached 6♣ with the following hands:

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

There was no way to guess diamonds ... the AQ sat over the KJ.

TODD won another 10 IMPs when Zaluski (South) was faced with this lead problem. Holding
♠3 ♥10 7 ♦KJ 6 4 ♣KJ 10 5 4 3 he heard this auction:

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	2♦ ¹	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
1 Weak two in either major			

Zaluski, perhaps somewhat unluckily, chose to lead the ♥10. That took away the guess in the suit (his partner held ♥K5) and gave declarer plenty of time and entries to lead spades twice toward his ♠KJ8 for nine easy tricks. GARTAGANIS had the better of this segment 39-26 and retired for the day with a useful 40 IMP lead (131-91).

The next day both teams began Segment 5 with some optimism. On board 7 Hornby mistakenly opened a weak 1NT with 15 HCP and Fisher raised quietly to 3NT with 17 HCP and a 5-card suit headed by the AKQ. The cards sat well for the defense so TODD booked a lucky 13 IMPs when Caley-Thurston arrived in slam.

GARTAGANIS immediately recouped 10 IMPs when Kimelman blasted to 6♣ after 1NT by partner (weak) and 4♥ by RHO. His hand: ♠AQ62 ♥K5 ♦4 ♣AKQ974 Lady Luck smiled (partner had the ♦A) but then got cantankerous (LHO held ♣J1082) ... there was no way to avoid two losers.



Then Thurston timed everything just right in a 3♠ partscore on this layout:

Finals S5 – Board 10

Dealer: East Vulnerable: Both

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

Sitting East, Thurston ended up in 3♠, South having doubled his 1♠ opening. South led the ♥AK and switched to a diamond. Thurston won the ♦A, drew two rounds of trumps, ruffed a heart and eliminated diamonds before pulling the last trump ending in dummy. When the ♣5 was played, he ducked North's ♣10. A diamond was returned, ruffed in dummy (sluff and ruff) and, when the ♣Q appeared on the next club play, he could cover with his ♣K, +140. The declarer at the other table went down in the same partscore so GARTAGANIS picked up 6 IMPs.

A few boards later Smith-Zaluski reached another skimpy game (3NT) which was unbeatable on the actual layout – ten tricks for Zaluski and +630. At the other table Bart Kimelman played in 2♦ making eight tricks for +90 – 11 IMPs to GARTAGANIS. The segment score was 29-21 for GARTAGANIS who led 160-112.

For GARTAGANIS “reversal of fortune” is the best way to describe segment 6. TODD gained 9 IMPs when Mackay-Miles played in 2♠ with 24 HCP (+110) while Caley-Thurston ventured 3NT (-300). Next up, Nicholas (North) held ♠Q8 ♥9 ♦J7542 ♣J10762 and heard the following auction:

West	North	East	South
-	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	3♦ ¹	Double
4♥	All Pass		
1 Heart fit, short in diamonds			

Nicholas reasoned that Judith had not overcalled 1♦ and Miles had shown no interest in a higher contract when Mackay splintered. Perhaps that meant Miles held soft values in diamonds. Backing his judgement, Nicholas decided to lead a mildly deceptive middle club (a big gamble when one's partner has doubled for a diamond lead ☺). The full deal:

Finals S6 – Board 17

Dealer: North Vulnerable: None

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

Miles was unable to find a 10th trick after he fatally tried to cash a second club. The winning sequence is a heart to the Ace and a spade ducked to South's nine – a counterintuitive line of play. At the other table, North led a diamond in response to his partner's overcall, allowing Caley to make 11 tricks in hearts.

TODD recovered 10 IMPs almost immediately when a more informative auction by Judith Nicholas allowed Miles-Mackay to find a ruff to beat 5♣. Three boards later, both GARTAGANIS pairs played in heart partials – never a good situation. There was a mild triumph ... one pair took eight tricks and the other seven tricks. Still, 7 IMPs out the window.

The segment ended with another disaster for GARTAGANIS. At one table Caley misjudged the auction

and bid 6♣ (down two doubled) when his side could have collected +300 against 5♦ doubled. At the other table Judith Nicholas misdefended 5♣ when Mackay made a nice psychological play in a side suit, putting the defense to the test. Judith failed when she gave upside down count with the 8 instead of the 10 from 1084. That left Nicholas to guess whether to rise with the Ace or stick in the 9 when declarer led away from KJ toward the closed hand 3!, having played the Queen the first time. TODD won the segment 60-18 leaving GARTAGANIS clinging to a slender 6 IMP lead (178-172).

It was anyone's match at this point. In the 7th segment both teams played good tight bridge, as demonstrated by the low score (12-11 for GARTAGANIS).

The first board of the 8th segment provided an opportunity for both sides.

Finals S8 – Board 15

Dealer: South Vulnerable: N/S

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

Reflecting their relative styles in this match Mackay-Miles played in 2♠ (+140) while Smith Zaluski reached 4♠ doubled after a competitive auction. Based on his line of play, at a critical juncture Zaluski had to guess whether trumps were 2-2 or 3-1. He misguessed, ending with 9 tricks instead of 10 (lose 6 IMPs versus win 10 IMPs). The score was GARTAGANIS 190, TODD 189.

Then Mackay-Miles had a bidding misunderstanding, landing in their 4-1 club fit to go -100. Meanwhile, Smith-Zaluski were scoring +110 in their Moysean spade fit (5 IMPs for GARTAGANIS).

Two boards later Miles held ♠K ♥AKJ75 ♦Q1064 ♣QJ10. At favourable vulnerability RHO (Judith) opened 3♠ and Miles doubled. It now went 4♠ by LHO, pass, pass. Miles decided to double again and Mackay passed. Nicholas had a great hand so Judith was booked to make an overtrick, but a slip by the defense made it two for +790. That handed GARTAGANIS another 8 IMPs, now leading by 14.

After a few minor swings for each side, Board 23 resulted in a major gain for GARTAGANIS.

Finals S8 – Board 23

Dealer: South Vulnerable: Both

♠ 43	♠ AQ107
♥ J1042	♥ Q3
♦ AJ8	♦ Q103
♣ K954	♣ A1087
♠ J9652	♠ K8
♥ 95	♥ AK876
♦ K9752	♦ 64
♣ 3	♣ QJ62

Both Bart-Kimelman and Judith-Nicholas reached 4♥ on the lead of the ♣3. Zaluski decided to play partner for a singleton and Smith-Zaluski duly scored +200. Mackay chose to play the ♣7 and paid a bitter price. Judith stripped out spades and diamonds having played two rounds of hearts. In hand, she led a club to the King end-playing Mackay. The resulting 13 IMPs made the lead a bit more comfortable ... 19 IMPs.

Another 5 IMPs went to GARTAGANIS when Miles-Mackay reached 3♥, a contract that was makeable on a different line than that chosen by declarer. Judith-Nicholas scored +100 while Smith-Zaluski were collecting +110. With four boards remaining the lead was 24. All was not lost for TODD. Judith made a flimsy non-vulnerable overcall and Judith-Nicholas were doubled in 4♠ to lose 500 with no game making for the opponents – 12 IMPs to TODD narrowing the deficit to 12.

CNTC A

Yet once again the card gods offered up a potential swing board.

Holding ♠A 3 ♥J 9 8 3 ♦10 5 3 2 ♣A 7 5, Mackay and Zaluski both passed in 1st seat (all vulnerable). LHO opened 1♥, partner overcalled 1♠, and RHO passed. In keeping with their general approaches, Zaluski bid 1NT (raised to 3NT by Smith) while Mackay passed. Partner held the ♥10 making 3NT cold. 10 IMPs to GARTAGANIS when it could well have been 6 IMPs to TODD. The last two boards were routine game contracts and the segment finished 44-24 for GARTAGANIS. The final tally was GARTAGANIS 234, TODD 207.

When Paul Thurston, Martin Caley, John Zaluski and Jeffery Smith invited us to join them for the 2018 CNTC, we accepted with enthusiasm. After many hard-fought battles throughout the nine days of play, especially in the final, our team could not be more delighted with the ending. Martin Caley and John Zaluski were each winning their first CNTC and both became Grand Life Masters in the process. Paul Thurston was notching his third CNTC title and Jeff Smith, his fourth. No CNTC win feels the same, but it is fair to say this is one of the most enjoyable outcomes in our bridge career.

2018 CSTC

by John Carruthers

We (Nader Hanna-John Rayner, Michael Roche-Mike Hargreaves, Joey Silver-John Carruthers) qualified for the Canadian Senior Team Championship by dint of mediocre play in the CNTC, having finished in eleventh place, 10 VP over average and 9 VP out of making it to the quarterfinals. Perhaps we'd do better against people our own age!

This year, just six teams entered the CSTC, perhaps due to it being a Rand Cup year, meaning that any team could enter the World Championship in Orlando, as long as all of the players met the age restriction. In other years, it's one team per member nation (of the WBF) or 24 teams total, with all countries qualifying via WBF Zonal quotas.

The CSTC teams played a complete round-robin of 20-board matches in two halves over two days, then full-day semifinals and a full-day final. As usual in an event of this sort, slams played a big part in the outcome.



RR Match #4. HANNA vs. BAMBRICK

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

♠ 10 7 3
♥ 7 5 4 3
♦ J 5 2
♣ 9 7 6

West	North	East	South
JC	Noble	Silver	Harper
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣ ¹	Pass	1♠ ²	Pass
1NT ³	Pass	2♠ ⁴	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT ⁵	Pass
4♣ ⁶	Pass	4♦ ⁶	Pass
4♥ ⁶	Pass	5♣ ⁶	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 17+ HCP
2. 3 controls (A=2, K=1), game-forcing
3. 18-19/24-25 balanced
4. Natural, 5+ spades
5. Choice of games opposite 18-19
6. Control-bids

I reckoned that six notrump could not be a worse contract than six spades and would protect the ace-queen of hearts on opening lead (Silver had to have the ace of diamonds and king of clubs on the bidding). Tim Edwards-Davies saw the hand the same way I did after his two-club opener, so the board was a push.

The Round Robin results were:

1. HANNA	74.93
2. TURNER	57.71
3. BAMBRICK	44.59
4. McCULLY	43.62
5. RETEK	42.18
6. ANDREWS	36.97

Finishing first allowed us to choose our semi-final opponent; we picked BAMBRICK (Edwards-Davies, Bowman, Noble, Harper), leaving TURNER (Turner, Gowdy, Lerner, Schoenborn) to do battle with McCULLY (McCully, Flock, Galand, Smith).

As on the previous board, both sides did well here, and this time it did matter ...

Semifinals. HANNA vs. BAMBRICK

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
JC	Noble	Silver	Harper
—	—	—	2♥
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

When Silver offered me a choice between six clubs and six spades, the decision was easy with such poor spades and good clubs. Layne Noble led a heart to hold me to 12 tricks. Tim Edwards-Davies and Billy Bowman also avoided six spades and even won an IMP on the ace-of-diamonds lead.

As a collector of curiosities, the following deal was my favourite of the tournament. It was the first time I'd ever seen this type of auction – I got to make back-to-back forcing passes on the same deal:

Semifinals. HANNA vs. BAMBRICK

Board 30. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
JC	Noble	Silver	Harper
1♠	2♦	3♥ ¹	5♦
Pass ²	Pass	5♠	6♦
Pass ²	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Fit jump			
2. Forcing			

North led an unfortunate (for them) ace of diamonds, so making 12 tricks was easy.

Suppose, playing standard count and attitude, you lead the ace of hearts. When it goes two-seven-six (or two-seven-four), the location of the missing spot is unknown. It would take north placing a lot of trust in West for him to lead another heart to give south to ruff. There are two clues, however. North should realize that West would not make a second forcing pass with two red singletons and no ace of trumps. Secondly, South would surely not bid six diamonds with just a five-card suit. Don't tell me that upside-down-count-and-attitude solves this problem – if the seven and four were reversed, standard signalers would get it right while UDCA players would have the problem. An interesting situation would arise if south had the singleton six and declarer the seven-four: depending on his opponents' methods, declarer could make South's play ambiguous, by following with the four against UDCA players and the seven against standard players.

Here is one where neither side managed to diagnose the perfect fit:

Semifinals. HANNA vs. BAMBRICK

Board 55. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
JC	Noble	Silver	Harper
—	—	—	Pass
1♣ ¹	Pass	2♣ ²	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣ ³	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥ ³	Double
Pass ⁴	Pass	Redouble ⁵	Pass
4♠ ³	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 17+ HCP			
2. 5 controls			
3. Control-bids			
4. Second-round heart control			
5. First-round heart control			

I had a tough bid in our system after a Big Club and a control-showing response. If my heart had been the king or ace, I'd have chosen to rebid in notrump. Had I done so on this deal, Silver would have bid two diamonds, natural and I could have splintered with three hearts. Now there's an auction one does not see every day: a splinter bid after having bid notrump. I could have discounted the heart queen and opened one diamond (two or more if balanced), but then what? Silver would also have had a choice of two poor bids: two clubs or two notrump, both game-forcing. It might have been easier in a natural system after a one-diamond opening and a two-diamond inverted response or after some three-suited opening bid.

As it was, by the time Silver bid six diamonds, I knew quite a lot about his hand: he held both red aces and the king of clubs, no shortage (no splinter), no good

five-card suit of his own, no spade control, primary diamond support and a reason for not bidding three notrump at his third turn. What I did not know was that he held only five black cards and a fifth trump, making seven diamonds an excellent contract. From his side, he didn't know that I held such good clubs, allowing for a spade discard.

All that's needed to make seven diamonds is to ruff two hearts in the short hand. The board was a push at plus 940.

Neither semi-final was close: the scores were:

HANNA 147 BAMBRICK 75
TURNER 121 McCULLY 45 (retired after three quarters)

The two pre-tournament favourites would butt heads for the title. Lest you think Silver and I played the whole tournament against Harper and Noble ...

Final. HANNA vs. TURNER

Board 2. Dealer East NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
JC	Schoenborn	Silver	Lerner
—	—	Pass	2♠
3♦	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	5♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

It was difficult for all of us to tell who was bidding to make and who was saving. When Lerner ruffed my opening lead of the ace of clubs, it looked to me like they'd missed a slam. Minus 650 did not seem like a

good result since we had had a very profitable sacrifice. At the other table ...

West	North	East	South
Gowdy	Roche	Turner	Hargreaves
—	—	Pass	2♠
4NT	Double	6♣	Pass
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Gowdy/Turner's barrage stampeded Roche/Hargreaves into a minus and it worked better than my simple overcall. It had looked to Roche that Hargreaves was void in clubs, as he was, and that six spades would be easy, as it was not. That was a loss of 13 IMPs.

A few boards later, we were trailing 20-0 when the following movie appeared on my screen ...

Board 6. Dealer East EW Vul.

♠ A 10 4 3
♥ A J 10 4
♦ 8 5
♣ A 9 3

West	North	East	South
Carruthers	Schoenborn	Silver	Lerner
—	—	Pass	1♦
Double	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
?			

Would you bid four hearts? I did, a little aggressively. When the Shoe led the jack of diamonds and dummy appeared, I saw that Silver had also pushed a little in a quest for the Holy Grail of IMPs: the vulnerable game bonus and to ensure playing in the best strain. This is what I saw:

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

I ducked the jack of diamonds (three, two – UDCA – five) in the hope that Shoenborn had a singleton and

would have to do something helpful at trick two. No, he continued with the six of diamonds to Lerner's nine and Freddy continued with the king of diamonds. How would you play?

There was nothing to be gained by discarding, so I ruffed with the jack of hearts, drawing the five of clubs from North. What now?

There were a few possibilities. If South had the doubleton or queen-third of hearts, I could pick up the suit without loss, but dummy's diamond would then be a loser. Additionally, if North had the queen-third of hearts and I took a second-round finesse for the queen, a third trump would leave me one trick shy of my contract. I could try to ruff two clubs in the dummy, but that would weaken my trump position even if they were 3-2. It did seem that 4-1 trumps would scuttle the contract. I decided to play the ace of hearts and another to the king and ruff dummy's last diamond with my ten of hearts. Both followed to the top hearts and north over-ruffed my ten of hearts with the queen to lead the four of clubs to South's queen and your ace. Now all you have to do is play the spade suit without loss. How would you go about that?

South had started with two low hearts and five diamonds to the ace-king-ten-nine. The way he played the diamonds indicated suit preference for clubs and it looked like he had the king-queen of that suit. If they were as evenly divided as possible (5-4), that meant he had one or two spades. Would he have bid three clubs with 1=2=5=5? Maybe, maybe not. I decided to play the Shoe for the queen of spades and, just in case he held the queen-nine-fourth (three times as likely as four low ones), I led and ran the ten.

This was the full deal:

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

Making four hearts won us 10 IMPs, our first IMPs of the match. We went on to win 28 more in the quarter to lead 38-20. TURNER gained 16 back in the second quarter and we won the third 24-21 to lead by 5 going into the last 14 boards. Hargreaves/Roche and Rayner/Hanna were perfect in that last set, scoring a 22-0 whitewash.

The final score was HANNA 92 – TURNER 65. We could indeed do better against people our own age.

We could indeed
do better against
people our own age.





Winning the 2018 COPC

A case for 'be there for your partner' and 'just don't give up'!

by Marc Lachapelle

The very first year when I've started playing the game, I quickly realized that you need to be there for your partner when things go wrong, knowing that we always try to do our best at the table and that criticism and a bad mood can lead you nowhere fast. A few bad results can always be reverted by a few good ones, but if fire catches up, one error will quickly lead to another one.

Xavier Combey, with whom I've now been playing for two and a half years, is also a strong believer of those principles. We always have a terrific time playing together, and our attitude towards each other at (and outside) the table is certainly a contributing factor in our successes.

This past COPC win is for us another real demonstration. First day, first board: a most optimistic save made at the 5 level by my friend Xavier was rewarded by a cool -800 and a definite zero. Same round, two boards later, he refused a free finesse on a trump lead, which led to another resounding donut. He had a tough week at work and he knew he blundered: no need to put more pressure on him. Hence, not a word was said except 'don't worry, no problem' and we moved for the next round. He played very solidly for the rest of the session and we finished just under 50%.

The second round was a no fault by both of us, rewarded by a solid 58.5% and an eight place overall at the end of the day. We hence started our third session by trailing the leaders by a full board: nothing we couldn't overcome. X and I delivered one of our best round ever in this unforgiving field, resulting in another solid (but disappointing) 58%, putting us two matchpoints behind the leaders.

Out for a quick lunch and back to work for the last round. First hand out of the box, it is my turn to take an unclear save in five spades against a five hearts that was going down... Result: donut... We managed to average the next board and on the third, our opponents landed in 3NT making five, awarding us a nice 28%. Certainly not the start we were hoping for... We picked up our stuff and moved up to the next table. Without any mistake on our part, we couldn't scrape more than

22% out of it, defending on the 3 boards. Hence, after two rounds, we were standing at an abysmal 25%... Ouch... There again, not a word was spoken between us, although we both knew that our train was in dire needs to be put back on its rails...

We picked up our sleeves, kept our spirit and just persevered... An average of 75% on the 3rd round and another on the 4th put us right back on track... And our train was finally picking up speed again... We left 2.5 matchpoints out of 27 to a well renowned pair on the next round and kept playing very solidly until the end. After the last board, I told my friend Xavier that we might have enough, and with 57%, we finally did...

Our friendship and mutual support, along with our strong will to win and grinding abilities took us through a journey that we certainly will never forget. What an exhilarating ride!

Meet ...

KOLE MENG

CANADIAN SILVER MEDALISTS, 2018 COPC

How long have you played bridge?

It has been 30 years since I began in 1988.

Have you ever won a significant championships?

Not really. I've won some regional and sectional level events.

What are your favourite bridge books?

- "Killing Defence at Bridge" by H.W. Kelsey

- "Bridge for ambitious players" by Terence Reese

Who are those bridge people has made a significant role in your bridge life?

Mr. Chen, Shenghong from Shenzhen NanGang Power Co., Ltd influences greatly to a generation of Shenzhen Bridge players by his tremendous investment and contribution as well as his protection and care for the bridge players. I will take this opportunity to extend my sincerest regards to Mr. Chen.

Do you have a regular bridge partner currently?

Mr. Terry Du and I have been a regular partnership for over 5 years. We have won some regional and sectional Open Pairs.

Is there any bottleneck has limited you in Bridge nowadays?

I don't have a fixed and regular bridge team



Photo: L to R Terry Du, Zia, Kole Meng

with comparable high performance for the games I take part in. The teams I play are different for each game or team championship.

Any advice or suggestions to bridge players?

Firstly, your partner is always the most reliable person at the table. Your partner is the one who can help you out when you are in need or when you encounter difficulties. Every bid and/or every little card with maybe the least points from your

ing and defence, might be the

message delivered to help you out of the difficulties and make the right choice. You must memorize those messages carefully and trust them completely. The message you need the most when in defence, will be delivered through by your partner's cards.

Do you have any other hobbies apart from bridge?

I like travelling, playing Ping Pong, Chinese Ma Jiang etc. But my favorite game is still Bridge.

What else would you like to share about your non-bridge life?

I rely on investment income to support my life and my son's university education expenses.

What is your most memorable bridge moment?

During the quarter-final CNTC 2018, our team took the lead with 150-149 after completion of all 6

Meet ... KOLE MENG

phases. However, the team we played against called referee for a pair of cards we played. Our opponent had played a INT double contract, down 2, and had objections to my thinking during my defense, calling a director. The director penalized us after all the games completed, which gave our opponents the win. Our team appealed. After the collegial committee's meeting and confirmation, it was determined that we did not violate the rules. So we won the quarter-finals. This is the only hearing in my bridge career as a party to the Arbitration Commission.

Any family members play bridge?

Not at the moment. My son knows only a little about bridge as he's never received any bridge training or taken part in a games.

What advice would you give to a new youth / teenager player?

Start from the simplest strategy in bidding, defence or declarer play. Only when the foundation is solid will it be possible to learn more advanced techniques and skills. Don't rush to seek success.

Any advice you would give to the CBF?

In order to further expand and nurture the Canadian community and interests in bridge, the CBF may want to consider organizing some commercial bridge competitions in cities with more bridge lovers, such as Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal. These could be named for a number of well-known large companies or individuals that can provide appropriate sponsorships funding. The winning team can get a certain bonus. This will also promote the development of professional bridge in Canada, allowing more large companies and individuals to generate greater interest in bridge activities and form a virtuous circle. If Canada had some strong teams, it will attract more outstanding players, even foreign players, such as the United States, to participate in Canadian bridge team events. As opposed to the current situation where our best players are moving to the United States to play professional bridge.

TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY SOLUTION

Contract: 4♣ Doubled

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

The Bidding

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Rdbl	3♣
3♠	4♣!	Dbl	All Pass

Lead: ♦10

Things are bleak, but there is hope. You need East to have two or three diamonds to the king. As usual, the key play is early, here trick one. Duck the ♦10 smoothly! There is a good chance West will continue the suit and now you are home. Win the 2nd diamond, and only pull one trump, winning the ace. Ruff the 3rd round of diamonds (the king falling) high, and then lead a club to the ten, and cash the ♦Q, pitching a heart. Give up one heart and one spade, and cross ruff the last five tricks.

Being a regular reader of the Test Your Deceptive Play series should also help you on defence, avoiding becoming a victim of creative declarer play. Here East should avoid any chance for misdefence by putting in the ♦J at trick one.



DECLARER PLAY 1

Editor's Note: Bridge Basics is a new series for Bridge Canada (see Editor's message). A variety of writer's will add their perspective on the basics of bidding, declarer play and defence. Hopefully these different perspectives will add to your skill set, and allow you to successfully apply these principles at the table.

A final note: Some of these concepts may be a review for you, but this series will also cover more advanced techniques and ideas.

For most of us, declarer play is what attracted us to this game, and is still our favourite part. The anticipation of seeing dummy: Will dummy have good trumps? Which suit is my weakness? Is the lead good for me or bad? These are all questions that tease us before trick one is over. However if you play a lot of hands you may hear partner lament: 'I sure haven't played many hands today.'

However if you do well, partner's remarks will change from this lament to 'Well done partner!!' These are words we all love to hear!! So how can we increase the likelihood of hearing these compliments from partner and the opponents? Let's find out.

DECLARER PLAY CHECKLIST

Good players know that contracts are made and lost more often before trick one than at any other time during the play. They learn to think carefully before playing to trick one. What do they, and should you, think about?

Tip #1 – The following list is reasonably comprehensive. Players should not expect to be able to remember and apply this checklist the first time they try. Instead it should be something you try and apply more and more naturally, adding extra items the more you play. Eventually, mentally reviewing each item before play will become second nature.

SUIT PLAY CHECKLIST

1. Count your tricks.
2. Look to where you can develop more tricks.
3. Count your immediate losers.
4. What is your priority:
 - a. Pulling trumps
 - b. Setting up side tricks
 - c. Ruffing losers
5. Are there are communication issues between dummy and my hand that I need to consider?
6. What does the bidding tell me about the opponents' hands?
7. What does the lead tell me about the opponents' hands?
8. What are the opponents' signaling methods?
9. Is there one opponent I want to try and keep off lead?
10. Are there deceptive plays I can try to make the hand more difficult for the opponents to defend to their best advantage?
11. Am I maintaining a consistent demeanor, tone, etc..., whether your contract is cold or hopeless.

OK! NOW WHAT?

There it is. Learn it. Think about it. Apply it. In the post-mortem rate your performance in using the checklist, and try to do better next time! Try and track your progress in using the checklist. Ask your partner for their constructive feedback on how well you did. Maybe you can return the favor for partner?

MORE DETAILS, PLEASE!

Let us now delve into each of these items in more detail. I will first address each item in 'medium' detail. After that I will return to the list and get into more examples and help you learn the meat and potatoes of counting winners, losers, planning your declarer play in real examples.

1. COUNT YOUR TRICKS

First we start with top tricks. First there are aces. Next, AK combination is two tricks. AKQ three. AKQ5 is how many? The answer is... it depends. If the opposite hand

has x, xx, or xxx then the total for this holding remains at three. However if the other hand has xxxx, then a 3-2 split in this suit will occur about 68% of the time, then you can count four tricks. And any time the other hand holds the Jack, with any length, this suit can be counted for four tricks.

What about trump tricks? Counting trump tricks can be tricky, and dependent on other factors which will be discussed later. Normally we chose to play in a suit contract because we hold at least an eight card fit. So if the trump suit holdings are AKJx opposite Q10xx, how many tricks should you count? The answer is five. The reasoning is this: Trumps will split 3-2 most of the time (see above). So if you pull the opponents trumps it takes three rounds, which leaves one trump in each hand, which you normally would be able to score separately by ruffing losers. Now if the opponents' trumps are 4-1, you can only count four trump tricks, assuming trumps are pulled immediately. With AKJxx opposite Qxxx, the same calculation is used: three rounds* to pull trump leaves two trump in one hand, and one in the other for trumping losers; $3+2+1 = 6$. AKxxx opposite xxxxx is even better! Two rounds to pull trumps as they are usually 2-1. Then six more trumps to score separately – that is eight trump tricks. That is why experienced players value big trump fits like 5-5 or better. All of the opponents' aces and kings can be trumped if you have shortness in those suits!

*If trumps are 2-2, then the math is two tricks pulling trump, plus three for ruffing in one hand, two in the other: $3+2+2=7$.

The same principles apply in counting tricks with other trump holdings. KJxx opposite Qxxx counts for four tricks. KJxx with Axxx is also initially counted as four, assuming the finesse for the queen does not work. However, if you play a trump and successfully finesse the Jack, the total trump tricks in your mental trick list rises to five.

Next instalment: We will continue going down the list and look at the basic rules, along with examples.



THE INTERMEDIATE SERIES **DEFENSIVE PLAY 11**

DEFENDING AFTER THE OPENING LEAD

By Neil Kimelman

We continue our study of defending, after the opening lead. In the last few issues I focused on tricks 1-3, which are often the most important. However that doesn't mean you can take a siesta at trick four! Here are guidelines and tips to consider when defending a suit contract.

COUNT, COUNT AND COUNT SOME MORE!

Counting is the bloodline of playing bridge. Successful players get in the habit of constantly counting. And like any other practice, the more you do it the easier and more automatic it becomes. Muscle memory applies to mental activities as well as physical!

by Neil Kimelman
THE INTERMEDIATE
Spot

HIGH CARDS

It is always a good idea to count high cards, with the goal of identifying declarer's and partner's points. Generally speaking, when the opponents bid game they have 25-27 HCPs. The more distribution they have, the lower the high card requirement. Subtract what you have, and you know how many high cards you can expect from partner. Likewise if the opponents invite game but stop short you can roughly expect them to have 21-24 HCPs. Of course distribution is a factor to consider when counting the opponents' high cards. ♠ K Q x x x ♥ A J 10 x x ♦ x x x ♣ – is an opening bid, but only 10 HCPs.

DISTRIBUTION

Once again we need to listen to the auction. Has declarer shown a 2nd suit? A balanced hand? Extra shape? Did partner have the opportunity to overcall at the one level and didn't? The idea is to get a mental picture of the two hidden hands.

INFERENCES

from declarer's line and partner's lead.

Distributional and high card information can be gleaned from these plays.

EXAMPLE 1

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

So right away you know that North has a club suit, four plus diamonds, and two hearts. And very likely a singleton or void in spades, as they avoided notrump. Despite two fits, neither opponent made a clear slam try, so you can assume that they do not have extra high

cards. Ok. Now let us look at our hand: ♠AQ102 ♥84 ♦Q982 ♣Q54. Initially we are playing partner for 3-5 HCPs. Partner leads the ♠3 (standard carding). Dummy comes down with:

♠ 7 4
♥ K 3
♦ J 7 5 3
♣ A K J 10 3

♠ A Q 10 2
♥ 8 4
♦ Q 9 8 2
♣ Q 5 4

What are you thinking? That is a good dummy for the defence. Not only is it only 12 HCPs, but dummy has two spade losers. Revising high card count, 40- 12- 10 leaves 18 for declarer and partner. So partner's high card expectation rises to as much as 7, if declarer has 11 HCPs. Next, why didn't partner lead his stiff diamond? There are two logical answers: either he is void, or has a stiff king or ace. Finally what about spades? Partner has given you a valuable clue: the ♠3. He has only four. Now you can confidently reconstruct declarer's hand to one of the following (♦A could be the King):

♠ x x x ♥ A Q J x x ♦ A 10 x x ♣ x
♠ K x x ♥ A J x x x ♦ A 10 x x ♣ x
♠ x x x ♥ A Q J x x ♦ A 10 x x x ♣ –

In all cases it is right to play the ♠Q at trick one. Assuming that wins (cases 1 & 3), lead back a small diamond. Declarer has no choice but to finesse. Partners wins his diamond honour, returns a 2nd spade to your ace, and a diamond ruff defeats the contract. What if it is hand 2? Declarer will win the spade and has a tough choice. But whatever he does, you will be able to do your best as you took the time to count and visualize West and South's hands.

Intermediate Spot : by Neil Kimelman ... Continued

Here was the full deal:

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

EXAMPLE 2

Playing IMPs, Both Vul. As East you hold

♠7 4 ♥A Q 10 9 3 ♦J 7 5 ♣A J 4. The bidding:

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

So right away you know that partner is likely on the weaker side of a raise as the opponents bid game. South bid 3♥, an all-purpose game try instead of a minor, which normally means that he does not have a second suit. Partner leads the ♣10 (standard carding). Dummy comes down with:

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

What are you thinking? North has a lot of high card for his raise, but reasonably down-valued his heart holding.

TIP: An advanced technique is to constantly upgrade and downgrade your hand, as more information is available. Here North knew that East had longer hearts

and more high cards, and thus more likely to have both outstanding heart honours. Another application of this theory is a heart holding of ♥A Q 10. Usually we count this for 6 HCPs. However if RHO opens 2♥, our holding is as good as ♥A K Q! Conversely if LHO opened the weak two, then your heart value shrinks to ♥A x x.

What do you play to trick one? Partner has led a very ambiguous card. He could have 10x, 109x, 109xxx, Q109, Q109xx, K109xx to name a few. Since he could have the King, the correct play is the ace. Declarer follows with the King! With nothing better to do, you return a 2nd club which declarer ruffs. The next tricks come quite quickly (The underlined card denotes who is on lead):

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

Now what?

It appears declarer has six spades. He has shown one club and two hearts. Does he have a 3rd heart? No. Partner kindly gave you the count of hearts so you know declarer is 6-2-4-1. You may wonder why South didn't bid 3♦ instead of 3♥? Trying to be tricky and hopefully mislead the defenders – perfectly legal! So what should you lead, a diamond or a heart? Once you think about it, the answer becomes obvious. Declarer has:

♠ AQJxxx
♥ xx
♦ ??xx
♣ K

Declarer must have the ♦A for his bidding. If he has the Queen, it doesn't matter what you do. So partner's

Intermediate Spot : by Neil Kimelman ... Continued

diamond holding is Qx. Leading a diamond will allow declarer to pick up the whole diamond suit and his contract. The correct play is a heart, giving declarer a ruff and a sluff. This still leaves declarer with a diamond loser, and he has to lead the suit himself – down one!

The full deal:

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

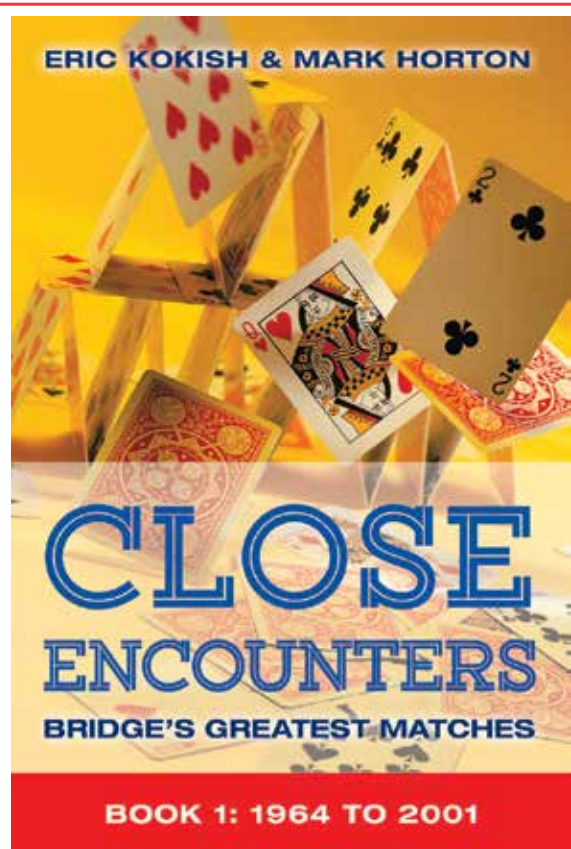
To be continued...



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HAND OF THE WEEK

Joel Martineau

Perhaps the best way to improve your bridge is to watch an expert play, and try to understand the reasoning behind their bids and plays. Here, readers follow the bidding and play (or defense) of fifty-two deals – one a week for a year – and listen to the author's thinking as each hand develops. Understanding why the experts do what they do is the first step towards being able to do it yourself – at least some of the time!



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CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

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International Fund Month, clubs can hold any sanctioned game as an International Fund game to support Canada's international teams

COPC Qualifcation- club level Sept - Dec
CNTC Qualifcation- club level Sept - Dec

4-9 Sept. CBF International Fund Regional
St. Catharines

13 Sept (Aft) ACBL-wide International
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21 Sep - 6 Oct World Bridge Series
Orlando Florida

OCTOBER

COPC Qualifcation- club level Sept - Dec
CNTC Qualifcation- club level Sept - Dec

Oct 11 Canada wide Olympiad Fund Game #2
Afternoon

Oct 25 Erin Berry Rookie Master Game

Oct 25-28 9th World University Championships
Xuxhou, China www.worldbridge.org

NOVEMBER

COPC Qualifcation- club level Sept - Dec
CNTC Qualifcation- club level Sept - Dec

Nov 22-Dec 2 Fall NABC Honolulu, HI www.acbl.org



IMPORTANT DATES

Aug 9-18 17th World Youth Team Championships Wu Jiang, China www.worldbridge.org

Sep 22-Oct 6 11th World Bridge Series Orlando, FL www.worldbridge.org

Oct 25-28 9th World University Championships Xuxhou, China www.worldbridge.org

COPC Qualifcation- club level Sept - Dec
CNTC Qualifcation- club level Sept - Dec