

bridge *Canada*

TALES FROM THE CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

CNTC, COPC, CIPC, and MIXED pp 14-21



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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1. Be sure to include CBF dues with your ACBL dues.
2. Visit cbf.ca and click **Join The CBF**.
3. Email info@cbf.ca for more information.

NOTE: Membership dues are waived for Canadian players under 25 years of age. Junior players can join the CBF by sending their information to info@cbf.ca.

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ina@cbf.ca (CBF Executive Director)



1 416 706 8550



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Michael Yuen



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

BIDDING CONTEST CANADIAN STYLE! CASH PRIZES!

The Great Canadian Bidding Contest starts next issue. You can play too! Watch the homepage the week of August 12th for details on how you can play and win fabulous cash prizes and the admiration of your peers! The reader with the best combined score for the October and December Problems will receive a \$150 prize, with the 2nd place finisher going home with \$50!

CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Articles on the COPCs, CMTCs and CNTCs can be found in this issue of Bridge Canada.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Four Canadian teams will be proudly representing Canada at the Worlds being held in Wuhan China, September 14-28. Go to cbf.ca to get updates on our teams' successes, as well as links to live play via Vugraph.

WELCOME ANDY STARK

I want to express my sincere thanks to Michael Abbey for his contribution to Bridge Canada with his articles targeting newer players. Unfortunately he is unable to continue in this vein. I am very pleased to announce Andy Stark will be taking over from Michael, beginning with the Oct 19 issue.

FAMOUS QUOTES

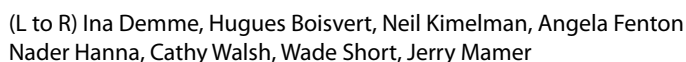
Starting with this issue you will find a 'sprinkling' of quotes throughout the magazine, from famous bridge players commenting on this game we love.

Neil Kimelman

Managing Editor, Bridge Canada

I'd like a review of the bidding with all of the original inflections.

George Kaufman



CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wade Short zone1@cbf.ca
8 Hemlock Rd,
Pointe du chene, NB 506-530-5612

Hugues Boisvert zone2@cbf.ca
1206-4239 Jean-Talon Quest
Montreal, QC H4P 0A5 514-889-9514

Nader Hanna zone3@cbf.ca
53 York Road
Toronto, ON M2L 1H7 416-756-9065

Neil Kimelman zone4@cbf.ca
110 260 Fairhaven Road
Winnipeg, MB R3P 1C9 204-487-2390

Jerry Mamer zone5@cbf.ca
151 Nordstrom Road
Saskatoon, SK S7K 6P9 306-668-3951

Angela Fenton zone6@cbf.ca
601-1395 Beach Ave.
Vancouver, BC V6E 1V7 778-386-4343



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BRIDGE CANADA MANAGING EDITOR
Neil Kimelman editor@cbf.ca

BRIDGE CANADA FRENCH EDITOR
Francine Cimon wirek@videotron.ca

PRODUCTION EDITOR
Jude Goodwin jude@cbf.ca

CBF EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Ina Demme ina@cbf.ca
99 Ellis Avenue, Nobleton, Ontario L0G 1N0

ACCOUNTING & FINANCE MANAGER
Cathy Walsh accounting@cbf.ca

WEB ADMINISTRATION
Louise Mascolo webmaster@cbf.ca

CBF HOTLINE
416 706 8550
FAX: 905 832 7184

CBF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
Gim Ong **charity@cbf.ca**
32 Sandusky Drive, Winnipeg, MB R3T 5W4
204-775-5114

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Sportsmanship in Action

We wanted to give a mention about the Sportsmanship displayed during the final round of the Bracketed 1 KO's at the 2019 Canadian Bridge Championships.

Stephen Mackay and Morrie Kleinplatz have our vote. After we had scored up 3♣ doubled down one in the first half of our match, Steve and Morrie came back in the second half, and reported that 3♣ actually made, as dummy's last spade beat Morrie's last spade, a difference of 13 IMPs.

We would have never noticed.

Gray McMullin
Bryan Maksymetz



MOLLO ON PLAY

EDITOR'S NOTE: Victor Mollo treated us to some great characters such as the Hideous Hog, Rueful Rabbit and Colin the Corgi. In addition, he shared with us some great declarer play problems. In this limited feature, we present some of these gems.

CONTRACT: 3NT AT IMPs
LEAD: ♠ 5 PLAN THE PLAY

♠ A Q 3
♥ J 10 4
♦ Q 2
♣ A K 8 6 4

♠ J 6
♥ A 6 3
♦ A J 10 9 8
♣ 9 5 2

SOLUTION PAGE 17



KAPLANISM 12 *(Quotes attributed to Edgar Kaplan)*

Editor's note: This is the twelfth 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.

North opens 1♦; and at both tables E-W finish in two diamonds on a 3-3 fit

"Seemingly East-West are inextricably trapped into a diamond contract by North's diabolical one diamond opening."

"A decision like that five-heart bid can be justified only by success, and this one wasn't so justified."

"Analysis of the 1958 World Championship", TBW 1958, as reprinted (abridged) in The Bridge World 1.1998, p. 25.



DECLARER PLAY 7

This is the seventh article in a new Bridge Canada series. Some of these concepts may be a review for you, but this series will also cover more advanced techniques and ideas.

In the first article of this series (Aug 18 BC) a Declarer Play Checklist was introduced as a methodology intended to improve your play of the hand. I included the full list in the February Bridge Canada article. I continue going down the list, focusing on item #9:

9: Is there one opponent I want to try and keep off lead?

The answer to this question is almost always yes! There is often a vulnerable suit that can be attacked by the defenders from one side, but not the other. There are many techniques that are available to you as the declarer to minimize this exposure.

Example 1:

Opening lead : ♥K. Plan the play.

♠ 10 8 2
♥ A 10 4
♦ A K 9
♣ K 6 3 2

♠ A K 3
♥ 9 8
♦ 10 8 7 6 3
♣ A 8 7

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

This is a basic avoidance situation. As declarer you have seven top tricks. If diamonds split 3-2 you can set up two extra tricks in that suit. However it appears that west has a long heart suit, and if he is the defender who wins the defense's diamond trick, you could go down, losing four hearts and one diamond.

The winning line is has two distinct aspects to it:

- 1) exhaust east of all of their hearts to exhaust, and
- 2) set up diamonds by losing a trick in the suit to the non-dangerous opponent, here east.

So first, duck the first two hearts, and win the ace on the third round, discarding a club. Lead a spade to the ace and lead the ♦3. If it goes small, insert the nine. Win East's likely spade return, unblock the ♦A K, and then lead a club to the ace to cash your two winning diamonds. As long as diamonds split a normal 3-2 (68% of the time) you have found a safe line to make your contract. The full deal:

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

Here is another basic avoidance geared at notrump contracts:

It's not the handling of difficult hands that makes the winning player. There aren't enough of them. It's the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones.

S. J. Simon

Example 2:

Playing IMPs, both vul.

♠ 10 8 4 2
♥ 5 4
♦ A 9
♣ K 6 3 2

♠ A K
♥ Q 9 8
♦ K Q 10 8 7 6
♣ A 2

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♦
1♥	Dbf	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Opening lead: ♥A*. East plays the ♥3 at trick one, and west shifts to a club. Plan the play.

*Many players play that the lead of an ace against a 3NT or lower notrump contract asks asks their partner to drop their highest honour, if any, or otherwise give count.

Declarer should win the ♣A, and play a diamond to the ace and lead a 2nd round, finessing the ten. He needs only five diamonds for his contract, so his safety play ensures east, the dangerous opponent, does not get on lead. The full deal:

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

Let's try a little more advanced problem (see next page).

Example 3:

♠ J 4 2
♥ 10 5 4 2
♦ Q 10 9
♣ J 9 8

♠ 7 6
♥ A K 3
♦ A K J 5
♣ A K 5 2

Playing teams the bidding goes:

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West leads the ♥9. Plan the play.

You are short one trick. It can either come from the heart suit (hearts are 3-3 or the QJ drops doubleton) or the club suit (scoring the ♣J, either by leading to it or the queen falling doubleton). Things are further complicated as you know that E-W can take at least four spade tricks!

You know it, and you think east knows it or will figure it out. That provides the clue in how to play the hand. You want to keep east off lead. If he has ♥QJ no problem. But what if he holds ♥QJx instead? The solution is if east follows suit with a small heart, duck the nine at trick one! If you are dedicated BC reader you know that it is best to give the opponents a critical decision as early in the play as possible, before they have collected enough information to find the winning defence.

The full deal:

♠ J 4 2
♥ 10 5 4 2
♦ Q 10 9
♣ J 9 8

♠ A Q 9 5
♥ 9 8 6
♦ 7 6 5 4
♣ 7 4

♠ K 10 8 3
♥ Q J 7
♦ 3 2
♣ Q 10 6 3

♠ 7 6
♥ A K 3
♦ A K J 5
♣ A K 5 2

This hand came up during the Canadian Bridge Championships week, and declarer found the duck at trick one, and the defenders continued hearts making three! Ducking the heart, although not as technically sound as trying to drop the ♣Q, is a better practical choice to land your contract.

Next issue: We continue to look at the different techniques to keep the dangerous hand off lead.



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Meet ...

HUGUES BOISVERT



CBF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Editor's note: *Hugues is new to the CBF Board, representing Zone II CBF members.*

How do you view yourself?

I view myself as an entrepreneur and a professor. All my life, I have initiated projects. As a teenager, I started a ski club; as an adult, I started a ski area that is still very successful. At HEC Montreal, I started the CPA International Chair in Management Control, initially The CMA International Chair, entirely funded from contributions of the Society of Management Accountants of Canada and several Businesses having their head office in greater Montreal.

What about your early years?

I was born in Joliette, Québec, and attended the University in Montreal and then I went to Stanford University in California where I got a Master degree in Operations Research and a Ph.D degree in Engineering Economic¹. I came back as a professor at HEC Montreal, that professional school initially created in 1907 by the Chamber of Commerce of Montreal and Today being affiliated to the University of Montreal.

As a professor of Operations Research and Management Accounting, I had such an active professional life that there was no room left to play bridge. Besides my work at the University, I started a business, Val Saint-Come, an alpine ski area, a childhood dream. During my 7 years involved in the ski industry, I was elected on the board and the last three years as the president of The Quebec Ski Area Owner's

Association. At HEC Montreal, I have been responsible to write the French version of the first CMA professional program in the late 1980, early 1990. Afterwards, I gathered several grants to fund the CPA International Chair in Management Control. During my professional years, I wrote several textbooks in management accounting and management control, still in use in French universities. I was often involved as a consultant and continuing professional education, and also had an appointment as a board member of CESAG, a business school in Dakar, Senegal, which gathers the best students from the 8 French West African countries. And, besides my professional life, I regularly accompanied my daughter to gymnastics and my son to hockey.

What drew you to start playing bridge and when did that happen?

I was firstly introduced to social bridge (not duplicate) by my father who initiated a non affiliated club in my hometown of Joliette. I had no time left for bridge during my professional life. However, I had in mind that I would come back to the game someday. Then, when my children got to their late teenage years, I felt that it was the right time to come back to bridge. I was looking for a bridge club close to my home and I was lucky to find Kamel Fergani's club close by. Kamel Fergani is a Canadian champion and a member of the CBF Hall of fame. I followed his courses and I can say that I really start playing duplicate bridge then. I can add to Kamel's credit that he is also an exceptional teacher of the game of bridge and a master of pedagogy.

Meet ... HUGUES BOISVERT

What do you think the biggest differences are then and now?

Other than the related technology introduced to the bridge game, the biggest difference is certainly the level of knowledge of bridge players and the effectiveness of bidding systems. When I returned and started duplicate bridge some 10 years ago, I was surprised to see the experienced players were always on top. So, as one gets experience as a player, I believe that he can get a fair level of performance. What makes a difference between a Canadian champion and a player with decent experience is the constant reliability of the champions on every hand, in particular with some distributional hands. Champions can stay focussed and reliable through all hands in tournaments that last several days like the Canadian Championships.

What is your most memorable bridge moment?

I do not have one in particular, except having been successful with some very special hands that I recall. Also, I have had the opportunity to play Champions, like the members of Nicolas L'Ecuyer's recent Canadian championship team.

What about life away from the bridge table?

I have been the unit 151 (The Montreal unit) treasurer for the last 6 years, and also am a Board of Director for a 400 unit condominium. I take care of an old aunt and spend time with my family, still sailing, canoeing, skiing (alpine and cross country) and walking with rackets in the winter. I have to say that I have always had an active sporting life. I ran the Boston marathon twice, (as well as several others), triathlons, and one half iron man ...
Spending time with my family is highly important to me.

What do you like to do besides bridge?

I enjoy physical activities. I like to stay weekends and sometimes longer stays at Lake Ouareau, St-Donat, Québec. My retreat to the back country is what I enjoy the most.

I am a member of a philatelic club in Montreal and since I retired two years ago, I am a helpful partner to my wife and children for all kind of services.

What advice would you give to a new player who wants to improve?

You have to be patient, play with different partners, see different bidding systems. Doing so, you will be able to find the one system that you are the most comfortable with. It takes a lot of bridge hands to improve. Following courses from a champion like Kamel Fergani was highly helpful for me. As a complement, I read some bridge books on playing cards, on defence and strategy. Finally, you have to play in tournaments. This is where you get a lot of experience.

Can you share any amusing stories with us?

One day, I was playing against a very experienced player, who was playing with his wife, also an experienced bridge player. I was the dealer and opened one diamond (my best minor suit). He doubled as my left opponent, my partner passes, and his wife passed, and I was left playing one diamond doubled. He did not say a word, however the look in his eyes was terrible as he probably thought that she missed his double.

We played and I was down 4 vulnerable and doubled for 1100 points for a top score for the opponents. She had 7 diamonds in her hand! After the play, he looked embarrassed as he owed some excuses to his partner for that initial look in his eyes.



by Neil Kimelman

THE INTERMEDIATE

Spot

THE INTERMEDIATE SERIES

DEFENSIVE PLAY 16

DEFENSIVE STRATEGIES

By Neil Kimelman

I continue looking at some general defensive strategies. This issue: I continue looking at Anticipating Declarer's Plan. Specifically I cover the art of not helping declarer by not bidding indiscriminately.

ANTICIPATING DECLARER'S PLAN.

Example 1:

As West, playing matchpoints vul vs not, you hold

♠ Q8643 ♥ 5 ♦ KQ432 ♣ 87

and hear this auction:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
?			

Do you bid?

As I alluded to in the last issue's article of this series, bidding in competitive auctions can be very valuable. It can:

- Help partner find the right lead.
- Assist your side declare a contract (hopefully successfully 😊).
- Interfere in the opponent's communication during the auction by taking up space or hinder their efforts to describe their holdings.

However, the opponents have ears! If you bid, and the opponents end up declaring the hand, you have greatly aided their cause, by giving the opponents valuable clues to find the best line of play. That doesn't mean you should stop bidding in competition auctions. Instead, prudence is necessary to know which side will benefit greater by your bidding or your silence. In the above example, it is probably wise to pass throughout. It is not your hand. Bidding spades may lead to a disastrous lead. Making a two suited bid, like 2NT will not lead to a successful sacrifice at these colours, but tell declarer about ten of your cards. 1♦ is barely acceptable, as it is not totally revealing, and may secure the best lead.

DOUBLING FOR A LEAD

A tougher decision is whether to double an artificial bid to ask for that suit led. Take this situation:

Example 2:

As West you hold ♠ 1074 ♥ K9753 ♦ Q52 ♣ A4 and hear this auction:

West	North	East	South
-	1NT	Pass	2♥
?			

Do you double asking for a heart lead? It could be right, but the consensus of most experts would be to pass smoothly. First, north may have four or five hearts, and redouble for penalties. If south has anything, this could end up making with overtricks! If you survive this first hurdle, partner will lead a heart against the likely notrump contract, but often a minor would work better.

Your thinking should be that my hearts are poor, and I have an honour in whatever minor partner leads. This could be the set up:

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

3NT is down with a diamond lead, where the ♥J lead will give declarer the timing to knockout the ♣A, and land twelve tricks!

DOUBLING CUE-BIDS

The opponents who have embarked on a cue-bidding auction, are looking for slam. Do you double to get partner off to the best lead? Or will your lead-directing bid backfire, and cause the opponents to either bid to a better place or choose an alternate line of play that proves to be more successful, had the one they would have chosen had you not warned about the danger. This is a toughie, and there is no 100% right or wrong answer. I will say this: I have seen players make a lead directing double when they are on lead! Try not to do this.

OPENING A MINIMUM MINOR-SUITED HAND

This tip is from experience, both personal and from other experts. These type of bids often backfire, and in more than one way. Let's say you hold ♠ Q2 ♥ 73 ♦ KJ1054 ♣ AJ54. 11 HCPs, two doubletons, and an opening bid for a lot of players. If you hold this hand, let's say in 2nd or 3rd seat, and the bidding starts off with one or two passes. If you open 1♦ you may be propelling the opponents to overcall in a major, making

their contract, on a deal that was going to be passed out! If partner has an opener you will have time to show your values. But if partner is weak, the declarer will have an easy time figuring out the hand, and maximizing the number of tricks in their contract.

E-W will go -140 in 3♥. Had you passed, the deal would have been passed out, for a good score.

Next issue: *Masking your distribution. More ways to thwart declarer's information gathering efforts.*

Example 3:

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



Opening the east hand 1♦ allows south to overcall 1♥.

Did You Know that Bridge players are philanthropists?

Since inception, the CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION CHARITABLE FOUNDATION (CBFCF) has disbursed in excess of \$1.3 million to help other charities. CBFCF funds come from sanction fees charged for charity games held by clubs across Canada, as well as personal donations. (Charity games pay out enhanced master points to the players.)

CBFCF partners with the ACBL in running the "Longest Day" event during the week of the summer solstice to help Alzheimer's Society of Canada. This year 49 clubs (2018 – 35) participated in the Alzheimer's event. Last year Saskatoon Bridge Club raised a whopping \$9,500.00! Did any other club top this?

CBFCF can only gift/donate to registered charities. Our focus for 2019 is on seniors - organizations that enhance the lives of seniors, or promote bridge or bridge instruction. If you know of any group that would benefit, please contact your CBF Zone Director (at zone1@cbf.ca, zone2@cbf.ca etc).

Help us help others. www.cbf.ca/charity

34-Year-Old Murder of Barry Crane Solved?

News outlets reported early in May that an arrest had been made in the 1985 murder of television producer/director and World-Champion bridge player Barry Crane.

Crane had been bludgeoned and strangled to death in his Hollywood home. A 52-year-old North Carolina man, Edwin Hiatt, was arrested on May 9th after an FBI fingerprint specialist matched Hiatt's fingerprint to one found in Crane's stolen car after the murder. Police in Los Angeles said that Hiatt had admitted to the murder in an interview in March. As he was being led into jail in Burke County, North Carolina, Hiatt was asked by a television reporter if he was the killer. "Anything is possible back then," Hiatt answered, "I was big into drugs." FBI investigators also linked Hiatt's DNA to cigarette butts found in Crane's stolen car. At a court hearing on May 10th, a judge ordered Hiatt held without bail until his next court appearance on June 7th.

Crane was renowned in North America as the finest matchpoint player and bunny killer of his time. He won the World Mixed Pairs with Kerri Sanborn (then Shuman) in New Orleans in 1978. He won 13 North American Bridge Championships, 10 of which were pair events. Crane won the McKenny Race (most Masterpoints in a calendar year) so many times that the ACBL renamed it in his honour: it's now the Barry Crane Top 500. He was inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame in 1995. Crane had a few idiosyncrasies that he insisted on his partners adopting, for example, finessing for a queen (it lies over the jack) and playing for the drop missing king-to-three if the first defender to play followed with the lower of the two outstanding spot cards.



Crane was responsible for an ACBL rule change that now forbids a player from playing in two or more events concurrently. Before the rule change, Crane would play the first session of a Regional Swiss Teams in the Eastern time zone of the U.S., then hop aboard his private jet to fly back to the West Coast (a three-hour time difference) in time for the second session of a Regional Swiss Teams there. As a television director and producer, Crane was involved with many of the most-popular shows of the 1970s and 1980s such as "The Incredible Hulk", "Hawaii Five-0", "The Six Million Dollar Man", "Mission Impossible", "CHiPs", "Dallas", "Wonder Woman" and "Mannix".



PIVOTAL MOMENTS

from the 2019 CIPC and COPC Championships

By Mark and David Caplan



To win at bridge, you need to play well and have some luck. Bridge is also a game that emphasizes pivotal moments - whether on lead, during the bidding, or on play.

During the 2019 Canadian IMP and Open Pairs Championships recently held in Burnaby BC, we had good fortune, and were on the right side of some pivotal swings in the final sessions of both events that allowed us to win our first two National Championships.

CIPC

Here is a hand from early on in the final session CIPC. On Board 14, Mark held ♠AKJ8 ♥10432 ♦72 ♣754, neither Vul., and heard 1♣ Precision (16+), on his right. Double for the majors said Mark. Pass from West (0-7) and 3♠ from South (David) holding ♠Q1075 ♥- ♦Q653 ♣KJ986. Poor West held ♠96 ♥KQ987 ♦AK98 ♣AQ, and there was no reasonable action so he passed. The full deal:

♠ AKJ8
♥ 10432
♦ 72
♣ 754

♠ 96
♥ KQ987
♦ AK98
♣ AQ

♠ 432
♥ AJ65
♦ J104
♣ 1032

♠ Q1075
♥ -
♦ Q653
♣ KJ986

West led the ♦A and switched to the ♠6. Declarer won the ♠A in dummy and played the ♣4 to the nine and the queen. Now the defense could not stop 3♠ from making and 10.21 IMPs.

A few rounds later David opened 1♠ on ♠AK752 ♥9732 ♦A ♣J103. Pass by LHO, 3♥ strong jump shift by Mark with ♠104 ♥AKQJ854 ♦8 ♣AQ8. David's minimum opener now looked quite powerful opposite a strong jump shift so he cue bid 4♦. Mark bid 4NT (RKCB for hearts) and over the 5♥ response showing two key cards but no ♥Q, Mark bid 5NT to invite a grand slam, and David accepted. While the grand slam isn't iron-clad, it looks pretty good (somewhere in

PIVOTAL MOMENTS

from the 2019 CIPC and COPC Championships

By Mark and David Caplan

the neighborhood of 70% by north). As the cards lay, the club finesse was wrong but Mark had time to test spades which turned up 3-3 and the grand came home, and 9.24 IMPs for the good guys.

With the margin of victory of around 11 IMPs, both of these hands were pivotal.

COPC

Toward the end of the second session (Board 16), Mark found an excellent lead against George Mittelman:

Ken Bercuson

♠ Q 8 6 5 4

♥ 10 9 5 2

♦ A K 6 3

♣ -

Mark

♠ 3

♥ Q J

♦ Q 9 8

♣ Q 8 7 6 4 2

David

♠ K J 9 2

♥ 7 6

♦ J 10 7 2

♣ A K 9

George

♠ A 10 7

♥ A K 8 4 3

♦ 5 4

♣ 10 5 3

David opened the bidding 1♦ and George overcalled 1♥. Mark bid 3♣, fit showing with limit raise values. Ken Bercuson cue bid 4♣ and George ended the auction with 4♥. While it is often right to lead singletons against suit contracts, Mark didn't want to help declarer with the side suits (and the ♥QJ may provide a trick on defense without a ruff) so he led a passive ♦8.

At every other table where hearts was the final contract, West led the ♠3 and declarer made eleven or twelve tricks. Here George won the diamond lead and cashed

the ♥A noting the fall of the jack on his left. The lead gave him a very different view of the hand and after considerable thought he went to set up spades, inferring some length on his left. David won the ♠J on the second round, cashed the K and played his fourth spade for a trump promotion holding declarer to ten tricks. While only worth 46% of the matchpoints for us, the deal highlights that not all pivotal moments are on bidding and play.

For us, the most pivotal round of the COPC was against Victoria's Sheldon Spier and Michael Ainsley midway through the 4th session. They were the event leaders after the first final session and we were 2nd about half a board behind. The first hand (Board 13), David held ♠KQ1092, ♥953 ♦7 ♣QJ65. The bidding proceeded, both Vul., pass from partner and 1♦ from East. This is a typical battlefield decision and the common choice was to make a simple overcall of 1♠. David decided to apply more pressure on the opponents and bid 2♠ (weak). West holding ♠765 ♥Q1084 ♦A86 ♣K32 had an easy negative double over 1♠ but with the prospect of no fit at the three level, has a more difficult decision over 2♠. He eventually chose to pass and the final contract became 2♠ making two for a 92% score, as E/W went plus at notrump or diamonds at most other tables.



PIVOTAL MOMENTS

from the 2019 CIPC and COPC Championships

By Mark and David Caplan



MOLLO ON PLAY Solution

Contract: 3NT at IMPs.

Lead: ♠5. Plan the play.

♠ -

♥ A K J 8 6 2

♦ A K 6

♣ A 5 3 2

♠ A 10 9 7 3

♥ 9 5 4 3

♦ J 10

♣ J 10

♠ A Q 3

♥ J 10 4

♦ Q 2

♣ A K 8 6 4

♠ 10 8 7 5 2

♥ K 5 2

♦ K 5 4 3

♣ 7

♠ K 9 4

♥ Q 9 8 7

♦ 7 6

♣ Q J 10 3

♠ J 6

♥ A 6 3

♦ A J 10 9 8

♣ 9 5 2

If south ducks the first trick in dummy he may be defeated as follows: East wins the spade king and shifts to a heart. Declarer must duck. West wins and leads another heart, knocking out South's ace. Now the closed hand has no entry to the diamonds (if West holds up his ♦K), so declarer can only take two spades, two hearts, two diamonds and two clubs. The defence can set up the setting trick in hearts before declarer can set up his 5th club.

If south wins the first trick with the ♠A he may be defeated as follows: West takes the diamond king and shifts to hearts, East covering dummy's honour. Now if declarer ducks, he may be defeated if west started with three or four hearts to an honour. And if declarer takes, he may be defeated if west has the spade king and east has the other heart honour.

Each of the above lines of play, although incurring some risk, has a high probability of success. But declarer is certain to make his contract if he plays the spade queen from dummy on the first trick. If it holds, declarer sets up diamonds for an immediate nine tricks. If the spade queen loses, declare now has two potential entries to the closed hand to get to his diamonds, and the defence cannot attack both.

The next hand proved equally pivotal in the bidding. This time East dealt and opened 1♠, both Vul. Two passes went to North (Mark) holding ♠- ♥AKJ862 ♦AK6 ♣A532. Mark doubled and East bid 2♦. South (David) bid a brave 2♥ on ♠A10973 ♥9543 ♦J10 ♣J10 and pass from West to reach the pivotal moment. With all controls and a three loser hand, Mark made the intrepid bid of 6♥ and all passed.

Even with the not unexpected 3-0 trump break, 6♥ cannot be defeated on careful play as David demonstrated. He ruffed the first spade in dummy and cashed the ♥A, ready to claim if both followed, but east showed out. He called for a low club from dummy and east went in with the ♣K. The ♠K came back, won the A♠ and pitched a diamond from dummy (in case east was 6-0-6-1), club to the ace, club ruff, heart finesse, club ruff, diamond to dummy and claim the balance. Only one other pair bid and made 6♥ for a tied top.

The final pivotal hand for us came in the last round against Steve MacKay and Jim Priebe (Board 19). Vul vs not, Mark held ♠97 ♥K1063 ♦AK103 ♣K42 and heard pass pass to him. Mark upgraded his hand to a 14-16 notrump (at matchpoints, getting to 1NT first is generally winning strategy) and it went all pass. With no information to go on Steve led the ♣Q from ♠AJ4 ♥542 ♦J5 ♣QJ963. Unfortunately for him dummy had ♠Q632 ♥J87 ♦8 ♣A10875 and his partner had a club void. The opponents' cards were all friendly and Mark ended up +150 for 85% of the matchpoints.

VANCOUVER VICTORY: L'ECUYER ON TOP

The 2019 Canadian Team Championship Report

By Fred Pollack and Nic L'Ecuyer



After losing by one imp in the quarterfinals of the Canadian Championships in 2018, our regular team L'ÉCUYER (Nicolas L'Écuyer-Zygmunt Marcinski, Kamel Fergani-Frederic Pollack) felt like we needed to make a change.

Initially, we looked at playing four handed. Since the event lasts one week, this idea was soon shut down. Someone may not feel well, have a headache or even be sick. We felt it was too dangerous playing four handed. L'Écuyer suggested that we add one player to make it a five man team. We could rotate and keep everyone fresh. I was a tad skeptical at first. My teammates were also quite skeptical. When you think about, it makes some sense. When you have a team of three equal pairs, it is always a debate about who should be playing.

In our case, there would no debate. The experienced partnerships would play in the critical moments.

Of course, a suitable 5th would not be so easy to find. We were lucky to add Marc-André Fourcaudot. He is a very experienced player: he won the Canadian Championship in 2008, played in the Olympiad and partnered the superstar Vince Demuy for a few years. Since L'Écuyer-Marcinski play an extremely complicated version of Precision, Fourcaudot was set to play mainly with Fergani and Pollack. He could also play with L'Écuyer in a pinch. Fourcaudot revised the Fergani-Pollack notes while studying the system. After a few practices, we were on our way to the Canadian Championships in Burnaby, British Columbia in early May.

The round robin lasted three days and eight teams made the playoffs. We started strong on the 1st day, had a soft second day and had a very strong last day to win the round-robin by a small margin. Fourcaudot-Fergani-Pollack played as a threesome for the entire round-

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robin. In fact, we did deviate a little bit from the original plan. Fourcaudot-Pollack played the critical last match in the round-robin.

The new partnerships worked out very well. Fergani-Fourcaudot had played very seldom before the tourney but kept the bidding simple and had few problems. Fourcaudot-Pollack were regular partners 25 years ago so the transition was simple. I can say this: it helped a lot that we played together a lot, even though it was a long ago. The tendencies were still there. We had no problems. Many people, however, could not figure out why we playing five handed. A typical comment was; you could not find a sixth? Or is your sixth sick?

After winning the round robin, we got to choose our new opponents, which is sometimes a blessing in disguise. We chose ROCHE (Michael Roche-Daniel Lyder, Andy Stark-Nick Stock, Jacob Freeman-Michael Serafini) and had a real tough time with them. We were behind at the half but managed to come back and win by 19. In the second quarter, Fergani and I had a disaster: the opponents made 3♥ on a deal where our side was odds on to make 4♠. We were frustrated. It was a good time to have a new partner. Fourcaudot-Pollack played the 3rd set and brought back a very good card. The timing was great. We chose TODD (Bob Todd-Doug Fisher, Neil Kimelman-Brad Bart, David Willis-Jeff Blond) in the semifinals. TODD had a surprisingly easy time in

their quarterfinal match against MITTLEMAN (George Mittleman, Ken Bercuson, Les Amoils, Darren Wolpert). Mittleman conceded after being down 130-65 after the third quarter. TODD had beaten us by 2 in the final in 2017 and they are a very tough team. However, the semi-final match went our way from the start and we easily advanced to the two day final, to play our ex-teammates GARTAGANIS for all the marbles.

GARTAGANIS had to survive close matches to reach the final. They nipped ZHOU (Kai Zhou, Alex Hong, Xinguo Chen, Lu Gan, Sidney Yang) in the quarters, 149-145 and then beat a strong WANG team (Difan Wang, Jianfeng Luo, Mike Xue, Peter Wong, Yan Wang, Edward Xu) by 15 after trailing by two going into the last set.

The Final

The prize for the winners was gigantic – since Mexico declined to field an open team this year, the win would mean a direct entry into the 2019 Bermuda Bowl! In 2016, in the World Bridge Games in Wroclaw Poland, Judith Gartaganis – Nick Gartaganis, L'Écuyer – Marcinski, Fergani-Pollack beat Italy in the round of 16. It was the first win for Canada in the KO of a restricted world championship since 1995.

A few words about our opponents in the final.

GARTAGANIS (Judy and Nick Gartaganis, Jeff Smith-John Zaluski, Paul Thurston-Keith Balcombe) are all extremely experienced players, many times winners of the CNTC and all partnerships are of long duration. We knew we would have our hands full with these formidable opponents. For the first set, Fourcaudot and I sat against Smith and Zaluski. Kamel and I regularly play with Smith and Zaluski in GNT events, so I know first-hand that these guys are as tough as nails. I was ready to play but I never expected that the most exciting hand of the final would occur on the first board!

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

N-S had a Polish Club auction to reach the acceptable 6♠ slam. I was sitting east and felt I felt like I had to double. South redoubled. North could have a good diamond suit on the auction and our club winners may well disappear. Zaluski was declarer. Trick one went ♣J, ♣K, ♣A, ♣9. I did not think for a second that Zaluski made a psyche redouble. I returned a trump and Zaluski could not quite get home at that point. Reasonably, he tried to cash two rounds of diamonds, surely planning to pitch a diamond on a heart winner and eventually dropping the diamond queen or taking a ruffing finesse. The second diamond was ruffed and L'ÉCUYER gained 12imps (L'Écuyer-Marcinski played in game and made five). We took the lead on the first board and never relinquished it. The match was close all the way but a good 7th stanza put the match out of reach for GARTAGANIS. L'ÉCUYER won the match 241-169. The final was played in a friendly and ethical manner. One other hand declarer by L'Ecuyer was interesting:

♠ 9 8 7
♥ Q J x
♦ A K J x x
♣ x x
♠ Q J 6 x
♥ A 9 x
♦ x
♣ A J 10 9 x

Nic as south played 3NT after and north opened 1♦ and east overcalled 1♠. The lead was a low heart, with the Queen winning (rightly playing an upside down 10). You now play a club, east inserting the queen from ♣Qx and you drive out the king which west wins on the 3rd round, and shifts to a diamond. Your play?

Basically, if the spades honors are split, you are home without risking the diamond finesse. So you win the ♦A and play a spade, low on your right. Now this is 100%. You play the queen, west wins the ace and plays back ... this is the position:

♠ -	♠ 8 7	♠ K 10 x
♥ K x x	♥ J x	♥ x x
♦ x x x	♦ K J x x	♦ Q x
♣ x	♣ -	♣ -
	♠ J 6 x	
	♥ A 9	
	♦ -	
	♣ 10 x	

One might think that a club back beats it since I cannot travel to take the diamond but look what happens to east when you win your two clubs: what does he discard?

If he pitches two diamonds, declarer plays ace and a heart and west has to lead a diamond. If east instead pitches two hearts, declarer plays a spade. East will win two spades but has to give up the ninth trick to the long spade or the diamond. If instead east throws diamond and a heart, south cashes the heart ace and then play a spade. A spade and a diamond would have been the most difficult pitches. Now declarer need to play ace and a heart and guess the diamond. But with the overcall, Nic would probably have found it.

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At the table, west played back a diamond. Nic won the king and played a spade down securing the 9th trick, and earning us 10 IMPs.

Playing five handed worked incredibly well for us. The only disaster based on lack of partnership experience was that one double was interpreted as penalty but was in fact for takeout. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Team L'ÉCUYER received the approval from the Canadian Bridge Federation to play five handed in the upcoming Bermuda Bowl in China. We added David Willis as NPC and are really looking forward to the opportunity. It will be the first Bermuda Bowl for Marcinski, Fourcaudot and myself. L'Écuyer and Fergani have played in many but have yet to make the playoffs. We will be ready for battle.



2019 CANADIAN MIXED TEAMS

The Canadian Bridge Federation's Inaugural Event

By Sandra and Doug Fraser

When this new event was announced during the 2018 Bridge Week, Jim McAvoy turned to Gerry McCully and said "We should play in this – why don't I call the Frasers".

Although I am no longer interested in competitive bridge, Douglas very much is, so of course we agreed. We thought it would be fun to play on an all Victoria team, especially with three strong partnerships. Clearly we were not the only ones who thought this event would be fun, as thirteen teams registered, from across the country, with some of Canada's strongest and most successful players competing.

As is normal with a Matt Smith tournament, the event was very well run and I believe we were all made to feel the importance of the event. And while there were clearly a couple of less experienced teams, the competition was generally tough, and enjoyable. If I had known in advance that an article would be requested, I would have kept notes and asked around for interesting hands. So regrettably I have only a few hands that we played that resulted in swings (good and bad!).

For our team, the toughest part was making it out of the round robin. At the end of Day 1, the Su team (Yue Su, Lawrence Pocock, Amy Gow and Baixand Liu) was leading, with Anderson (Andy and Curley Anderson, Cindy and Glenn Cossey) a close second. The Blank team (Sondra Blank, Marc-Andre Fourcaudot, Kismet Fung, Mike Gamble and Danny Miles) were third and we

2019 CANADIAN MIXED TEAMS

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were fourth. At the end of the round robin teams one and two had changed places, we were third and the Burns team (Shelley Burns, Kelvin Raywood, Les Fouks and June Keith) had edged out the Blank team into the last qualifying place. There were a couple of interesting hands in Round 8 of the Round Robin.

Here is Board 31. The contract was 3NT by South at both tables, with the lead of a low spade, won by the ace, and a spade return.

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

Connie won the spade return and played a low club to the jack, then a club back to the ace and exited a low club. She scored 3 clubs, 2 spades, 3 hearts and a diamond. At the other table, declarer crossed to dummy to take a club hook and ended up down two.

Board 32:

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



Doug found himself in 4♠ after a competitive auction, in which north seemed marked for trump shortage, so leading the trump jack off dummy felt correct. The contract makes if south has KQx and it is very normal to cover when holding K10x or Q10x, which is what happened. The contract at the other table was 3♠.

SEMI FINALS

Anderson chose to play Burns in the semi-final. They were trailing by 20 after the first quarter, clawed most of that back in the second and picked up a little in each of the remaining segments to win 93 – 65. Fraser was slightly ahead of Su after the first quarter and although they never lost the lead, the next two segments were very close. The final quarter was a comfortable 41 – 9, for a 137 – 91 final score. This was board 19:

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South passed, Doug opened 1♣, north bid 2♦ and Sandra made a negative double. South passed, Doug bid 2♠ and Sandra put him in game. Doug made it after guessing the club, and avoiding an available ruff, when south did not play Doug for only three trumps. That was 14 IMPs as at the other table West rebid 2NT and East corrected to 3♥, down two. On Board 22 the opponents bid a slam off an ace and the trump king, which was offside so that was an 11 IMP pickup for Fraser.

FINALS

The first quarter of the final was very close, 33 – 29 for Fraser. On a very bad auction, Douglas and I went for 1400 in 3♥ doubled. This was Board 4 (next page):

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

Doug as west opened 2♦ multi and I responded 2♠, saying I was prepared to go higher in hearts, but not a serious game try. Curley (south) doubled and Andy passed. I chose to run to 3♣, the premise being the opponents know what they are doing and maybe I will get a better split. This would have been -800 but Doug now bid 3♥, mesmerized by my 2♠ bid, but he knows he should not have!

The second quarter was telling, which Fraser outscore Anderson 80 to 24.

Board 16:

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

Following a spirited auction, N-S chose to take a non-vul vs vul sacrifice in 5♠ against 5♣, which goes down one. E-W took all their tricks for + 800. At the other table, Cindy elected to pass the west hand, Gerry opened 1♥ and passed his Rhonda's 2♠ preemptive response, which made.

Board 17:

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

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
-	Pass	1♦	2♠
Dbl	3♠	4♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♣	All Pass

There was nothing to the play but our opponents stopped in 5♣. Doug had to have more than just the ♠A for the cue bid. I had three hands in this quarter

2019 CANADIAN MIXED TEAMS

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By Sandra and Doug Fraser

where I bid slam without the benefit of Blackwood.

And finally Board 24:

Board 23:

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

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

Both sides reached 6♦ but because of our system, (Doug opened 3♠ to show a 4-level diamond preempt) I just jumped to 6♦ and played it from the east hand. A spade was led, so the hand was now cold*. At the other table, West opened 3♦ and Gerry found a club lead, and declarer misguessed who had the ♥Q.

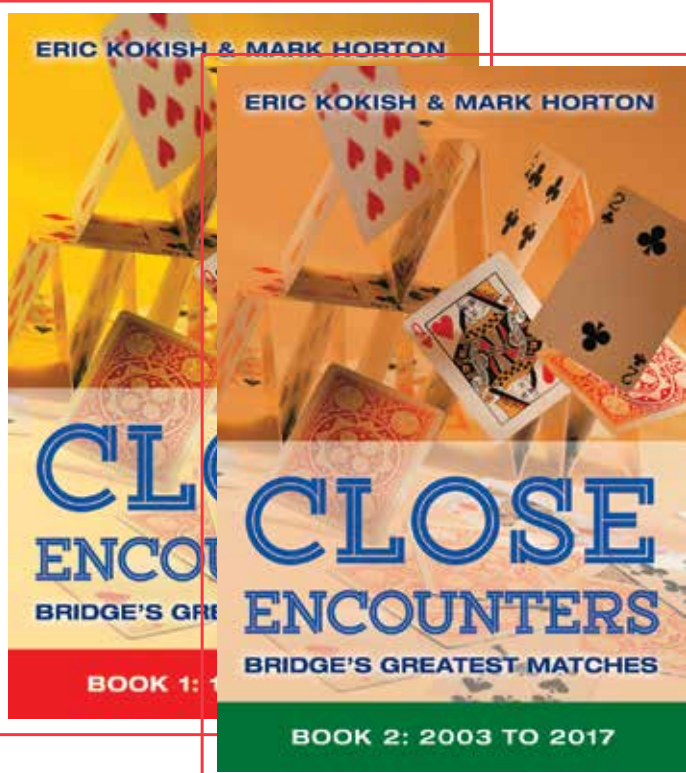
***Editor's note:** *It was?*

I was very surprised to see my partner open the bidding 4♥! I thought he had to have a very distributional hand with 1st round values to open at that level missing the ♥AKQ. I could think of no intelligent way of finding out his hand, so just bid 6♥, which, as it turns out, was an underbid! Doug reasoned that even if his partner was dealt a yarborough if the hearts were 2-2-2 he could still make it. It was a bad suit but a fun bid. At the other table, west opened 2♥ and partner jumped to 4♥.

We are now all working very hard to hopefully represent Canada well this September.



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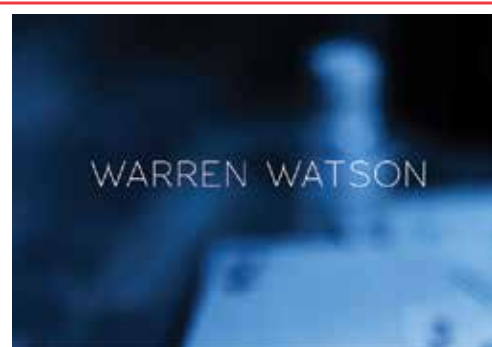
Eric Kokish and Mark Horton

Close Encounters is a two-book series that describes some of the most memorable bridge matches of the last fifty years. There are amazing comebacks, down to the wire finishes, overtime victories, and an insight into how the game has changed over the last half century.

PREEMPTS

Warren Watson

It has been many years since any bridge author attempted a comprehensive description of preemptive bidding, and much has changed in the interim. Modern players open the bidding on lighter values, and preempts, formerly based in at least a semblance of sanity, are now made on the flimsiest of excuses. This is a comprehensive treatment of preemptive bidding – not just when to open and with what, but the issues surrounding constructive and obstructive bidding in the subsequent auction.



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Registration is now open for the 2019 Canadian Online Teams Championship. Registration deadline September 30, Round Robin starts October 13.

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