

canadian bridge digest

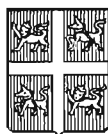
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NOVA SCOTIA
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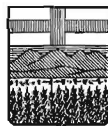
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**Jill
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Would someone out there please send me a new recipe for crow. In fact, better send some crows, as they are fast becoming extinct in Alberta, thanks to my unwilling voracious appetite. I've tried numerous recipes including crow a la king; ailloli; sol y sombra and hoosier fried, but it still tastes like eating crow ...

By the way, Rothmans of Pall Mall Canada Ltd., has come to the financial rescue of the CBF and The Canadian National Team Championships. It's a great feeling to see such nationalistic corporate spirit. We also owe thanks to Andy Altay and Ted Horning for making a successful presentation on our behalf.

Rothmans is doing its share, now it's up to every bridge player to get out and play in this year's Rothmans Canadian Team Championships.

It's certainly appropriate that Jim McAvoy and Eric Balkam, our two most recent "Hear It From The Experts" columnists, have chosen to discuss team play as the most important aspect of the game. Jim and Eric are considered two of Canada's leading team players and it's fortunate for the rest of us that they live at opposite ends of the country, because they would make an unbeatable combination. I wonder if the fact they are both Chartered Accountants has helped develop their logical and gentlemanly approach to the game?



Memories of Ottawa:

C N Teams Final, May 1981

By Michael Tyrrell,
Saskatoon,

Determined to avoid jet lag, our four man team from Saskatchewan arrived in Ottawa a day early for the CNTC national final. We were pleased to be met at the airport by John Morgan who had volunteered to look after us during our stay on behalf of the Ottawa unit. His car was stressed to the limit transporting the whole team to the hotel and he continued to be most generous with his time, advice and company which we enjoyed for the rest of our visit.

To cut a long story short, we played bridge continually (it seemed) for three days in the 13 match round robin and finished in the middle of the field having won against some of the most fancied teams and lost to some of the others. We had a chance of qualifying for the semi-final right up to our last match of the round robin if we blitzed our opponents but only managed to win by 20 IMPS instead of the requisite 40.

An entertaining hand occurred in a match against a talented eastern team which included a well known bridge scribe.

We held the following cards North/South:

NORTH	SOUTH
S X	S QX
H K10X	H AJXX
D AKQ	D J10X
C AQ10XXX	C KJXX

and bid inelegantly without opposition as follows:

S	N
1C	2C*
2H**	4NT
5D	6C

* = inverted, forcing.

** = heart stopper.

Clearly, the only problem is to find the heart queen.

LHO led the spade king and received an intermediate spade spot card from RHO which he studied intently and continued by leading a low spade.

What would you have done?

A review of the opponents' convention card revealed that they normally lead K from AKX but knowing the significant talent of this team, I credited LHO with machiavellian cunning and constructed the following possible East/West hands in my mind:

West.	East.
S KXXXXX	S AJXX
H Q	H XXXXX
D XXXX	D XXX
C XX	C X

Perhaps LHO had heard the bidding and knew that his singleton heart queen would drop on the first round of the suit and had presented me with the only possible losing option at trick two!

After some thought, I nevertheless discarded a low heart from dummy and was relieved to see a small spade from RHO which made the spade queen into the twelfth trick. An animated discussion ensued between the opponents as to whether the particular spade spot played by RHO at trick one signified count or attitude and the position of the heart queen was never divulged. If the cards **had** been distributed the way I had envisaged, LHO certainly deserved to beat the slam and RHO would have had a unique hand to publish in his column from sea to sea! We went on to lose this match by 26 IMPS as the opponents

played flawlessly from then on.

Looking back on the event a few weeks later, we agreed that we should have augmented our team up to six - there was just too much concentrated bridge for four. The directing by Stan Tench was most impressive as had been his organization of the entire event. The playing conditions were less than ideal - hot, smoky and noisy with the redeeming feature of a great Jewish delicatessen across the street which was enough to

make a person seriously consider a change of religion.

The hospitality of the Ottawa unit was fantastic from the initial welcome to the steady supply of liquid refreshments throughout.

It is now time to start all over again in the preliminary rounds of the 1981-82 CNTC and hope to qualify to travel all the way to Regina where the national final will be held in '82.

— CBF Newsletter —

By Doug Andrews

In my first newsletter it was mentioned that financing is a critical issue for the Canadian Bridge Federation. In this edition we'll explore the sources of funds and some of their uses.

Funds received are allocated to one of an Olympiad account, a charity fund and a general account. The Olympiad account is used to support our representatives to Olympiads and world championships. The Charity fund contributes at least 90% of its net revenue annually to a designated charity. The general account is used for all other CBF functions such as publishing the Canadian Bridge Digest, running the Canadian National Team Championships and holding elections.

The main source of funds allocated to the Olympiad Fund come from special Canada-wide Olympiad Fund games. In 1982 Olympiad Fund games will be held Monday, May 10 and Tuesday, November 2.

The Charity fund is supported by proceeds from charity games. Each club is required to hold at least two charity games annually. In 1981 the beneficiary is the Canadian Diabetes Society.

The fund has been managed capably for many years by Maurice Gauthier. Maurice has established intercontinental, intercity, and interclub competitions


in connection with charity games. Any club can participate by contacting Maurice. Additionally trophies are awarded to the top pair nationally and the top pair in each Zone in the nationwide charity games.

The principal source of funds for the general account comes from annual voluntary contributions from the Canadian units of \$1.00 per member. This year the CBF has asked units which think they can afford to contribute \$1.50 per member to do so. The additional \$0.50 will be allocated to the Olympiad fund unless otherwise directed by the contributing unit. Occasionally the CBF runs events which produce revenue which is credited to the general account.

A contribution of \$1.50 per member per year is a very nominal amount. Most players pay more than this for a single club game. Surely if the members were canvassed individually the average contribution would exceed \$1.50.

The other sources of funds available to the CBF come from donations and special fund raising projects. Both of these sources have produced modest amounts of revenues.

Approaches to the federal government for support have been completely unsuccessful. Bridge does not fall specifically within the purview of any ministry nor does it fall within any standard category



to which subsidies are granted. Some provincial governments have granted funds for bridge uses. Approaches to both levels of government are continuing.

Fund raising from private sources is being pursued by Zone III Director, Andrew Altay. The CBF is seeking sponsorship for certain events such as the Canadian National Teams.

In examining the financial position of the CBF one would note that participation in Charity Fund games is declining. Nonetheless we continue to be able to donate approximately \$35,000 per year to designated charities which is commendable.

It would be noted that the general account is relatively stable. While it is not substantial it is sufficient to support our ongoing requirements for other than Olympiad events.

Support for Olympiad events is the area in which the CBF is in dire straits. Participation in Olympiad Fund games is declining while costs of subsidizing our playing representatives are escalating rapidly.

At present the CBF estimates that some \$25,000 will be available toward the costs of participating in the 1982 Pairs Olympiad in Biarritz, France. Let us consider our possible representation in Biarritz and the potential cost.

1982 PAIRS OLYMPIAD

Canada has the following quotas for this championship: 12 Open Pairs; 7 Rosenbloom Teams; 6 Womens Pairs; 30 Mixed Pairs. Supposing that Canada met its quota for all events, that each Rosenbloom team was composed of 6 members, and that different players participated in each event the cost for economy airfare, modest hotel accommodation, a modest per diem allowance and entry fees would be in the order of \$325,000. Obviously the CBF cannot

consider full subsidization of our full quota.

Final expense allotments for Biarritz will be determined as the event approaches, based on funds then accumulated in the Olympiad Fund. At the time of writing the following financial arrangements have been agreed to: payment of entry fees for 10 approved Open Pairs, 1 approved Rosenbloom Team, and 6 approved Womens Pairs; partial payment of airfare and hotel accommodation for 8 approved Opens Pairs and 1 approved Rosenbloom Team.

The approved Rosenbloom Team is the 1981 Canadian National Team Champions (A. Graves, G. Mittelman, E. Kokish, P. Nagy, E. Murray, S. Kehela). The approved pairs will be selected by zone based on order of finish in this year's District finals of the Grand National Pairs. **Other Canadian players wishing to participate in the Rosenbloom Teams, the Womens Pairs, or the Mixed Pairs must apply to and be approved as representatives by the CBF.**

Applications may be obtained from Doug Andrews, 1841 East 38th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5P 1G6 and must be returned to him with the necessary entry fee by April 30, 1982. Pairs' applicants will be notified of the status of their application by June 1, 1982 and Team applicants will be advised by July 1, 1982. Applications will be reviewed by committees according to guidelines established by the CBF.

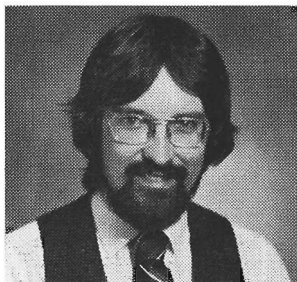
By merely comparing the costs associated with attending a world championship to the size of the Olympiad Fund it can be seen that being selected to represent Canada is not a financially rewarding experience. In fact our playing representatives are not awarded comparable financial support to U.S. representatives. Our Olympiad Fund and our international representatives need a great deal of financing from the membership.

Won't you help.

Hear it from the experts

EDITOR'S NOTE:

It would be impossible (due to space limitations) to list all of Jim's outstanding bridge achievements. To name just a few: 4 times Canadian Team representative from B.C., District 18 Grand National winner and he's picked up 3 regional K.O. and Swiss teams wins. Impressive? But even more outstanding is the fact that Jim is one of the most modest and gentlemanly people in the bridge community.



By Jim McAvoy

Winning at Teams

Let's look at playing winning team bridge and examine a few of the significant strategies that will often make the difference between winning and waiting for another day. The strategies with which we play pair events are put on the shelf, since team events are a whole new ball game. Here's a few basic concepts which lead to winning bridge:

1) Attitude and Concentration

We have all been in situations where we are midway through a Swiss or K.O. match and find that our partner has just committed some costly error which looks like an expense to our team.

Before you jump out of your chair to reprimand or criticize, think of what you are hoping to gain. We are trying to win the match, which we won't do if we disrupt partner's concentration or confidence. Leave discussions for later. Similarly, when we compare scores at half-time of a match, there is no need to discuss the poor results of our teammates.

The most difficult thing to do in pressure bridge situations is to relax and concentrate on our game. If we put our partner or teammates in the position of being defence lawyers every match, we cannot expect their concentration to be maintained at a level necessary to win.

Whether you are a newcomer to duplicate bridge or a veteran life master, it is critical to remove all outside influences at the table and concentrate on what you know how to do. Whether we are playing against Canada's national team or in the local Swiss championship should not matter. The game is still one of countless variables which will demand all of your mental focus. Do not consider whether your team should win the match, but rather concentrate on the application of your own methods. Let's leave the scrutiny of partner or teammates to after the match, at which point we will endeavour to be constructive. Now let's look at a few more technical aspects.

2) Look for Safety Plays to Ensure Your Contract

We all know that overtricks are generally less important at IMP scoring, but as declarer do we always consider the possible distributions that can defeat our contract. Let's look at a simple example:

Dummy
A9
xxx
KJxxx
Axx

You
K108xxxx
QJ
Ax
Kx

We have arrived at a contract of 4 spades, with no opposition bidding. Your left hand opponent leads the ace of hearts and continues with the king and another heart. How many declarers would rough the third heart and play a spade to the ace? If we stop to consider the possible distributions by which we can be defeated, the only problem appears to exist where all four trumps are held by our left hand opponent. The safety play here is to play a low spade toward the dummy, and when west follows we insert the spade nine. This maximizes the opponents spade tricks to one and guarantees the contract, at the possible expense of an overtrick.

Let's look at another example:

Dummy
AJx
xxx
Axx
Q643

You
KQxx
AKx
x
KJ852

We have bid this hand well to arrive at five clubs, and stay out of three no trump. Again the opponents did not enter the auction. West leads a diamond and you win the ace in dummy. The contract looks safe if we hold our trump losers to one trick. If your left hand opponent holds all four clubs you cannot avoid the loss of two club tricks which means the contract has no hope.

However, if our right hand opponent has four trumps A, 10, 9, 7 we can avoid the loss of two tricks by starting with the club queen from dummy, using spade entries to lead trump through east twice, and avoid the loss of two trump tricks. A moment's thought at trick two will prevent you from leading a routine low club from the board.

This principle of considering distributions which will lead to a favorable outcome also should be utilized in defensive situations where we are attempting to defeat a contract which appears unbeatable.

3) Bidding with Vulnerability a Consideration

This principle can best be summarized by the old adage "Don't miss a vulnerable game at IMP scoring." Let's look at an example:

A10987
K Q x
Ax
xxx

You are vulnerable and as dealer open one spade. Your partner makes a limit raise to three spades, and you are faced with a decision to play three spades or proceed to game. Perhaps we should look at the mathematics involved in a decision to pass the limit raise. If you play three spades and make four, you will score ± 170 . Assuming that your opponents at the other table bid the game, your partner's score will be -620, and your team's net loss will be 450 or 10 imps.

If you play three spades and make three for ± 140 , and your opponents bid the game going down one, your partners will be ± 100 , for a net plus of 240 or 6 imps. The decision to pass the limit raise has a chance of winning six imps or losing 10 imps. As can easily be seen, we have more to lose by passing in these situations than by bidding on to game. That which would be a guessing problem at matchpoint scoring has become a much easier decision at IMP scoring.

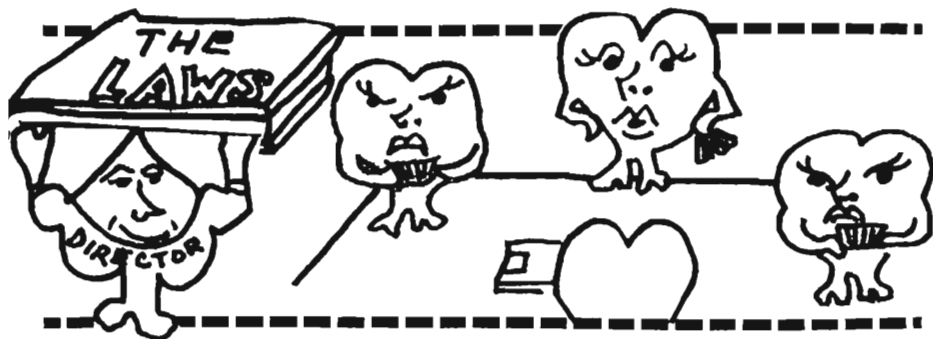
4) Doubling of Part Scores at IMPS

Unlike at matchpoint scoring where we sometimes will risk a three level double, (thinking that if our opponents make the contract our score will be poor anyway) we must be far more sure of our ground at IMP scoring.

In team games the double of a three level contract can easily put us in the situation where we have risked a loss of 10-12 imps in order to gain 3-6 imps, which doesn't seem to make much sense. Further, we quite often locate key cards

or poor distribution for the declarer, or even worse we inform our opponents that they should play the hand elsewhere if possible. In these situations take your sure plus score.

All of us have lost bridge team games which were important to us. At every level it's amazing that while we're crying in our beer, we can find fundamental concepts which we have violated in the process of losing. Simple adherence to concentration and fundamentals makes any team tougher to beat.



Eva plays bomma-lomma bridge

By Svend Novrup

Note: The Danish internationalist Svend Novrup has written a series of articles starring his wife, Eva. This episode appeared in the Austrian Bridge Magazine and was translated into English by Allan Simon.

Have you ever tried bridge with bomma-lommas? Never? It is not a tropical drink, although some people spice up their bridge that way and fill their wallets, to boot.

Bomma-lommas are very popular at our club; enthusiasts count their bomma-lommas more carefully than high card points. You might want to

play for a penny a point and fifty cents a bomma-lomma. You will soon see what this means...

But first you must memorize the following chart. There is also a rule that you must claim your bomma-lommas before seven cards have been dealt in the next hand. At duplicate you must claim them before anybody has bid on the next board. After that, it is too late, and the other players will make fun of you if they find out that you forgot your bomma-lommas. And please keep in mind that you receive 50 cents a bomma-lomma from every other player at the table, including your partner. Here is the chart:

Combination

Yarborough with one or more tens

Three aces

Void in a suit

Seven card suit

Eight card suit

Nine card suit

Ten card suit

Four honours in one suit

Bezique (spade queen and diamond jack)

Four cards of the same rank (e.g. four threes)

Four aces

Straight flush (e.g. 34567 of hearts)

Each additional card in straight flush

Royal flush (AKQJ10 of one suit)

True yarborough (no honour cards)

Two voids

Double bezique (QJ of spades and QJ of diamonds)

Identical holdings in two suits (e.g. 9754 of hearts and 9754 of clubs)

Identical holdings in three suits

Thirteen cards of different rank

Bomma-lomma(s)

1

1

1

1

3

5

7

2

2

4

5

5

5

10

10

10

10

10

25

50

With a bit of practice it becomes easy to figure out your bomma-lomma count.

It is exciting to pick up your cards and to examine your hand for the various bomma-lomma combinations. Often a single card will spoil everything. The excitement reaches a pitch when you pick up the seven of diamonds; we call this card the 'stinker,' since whoever holds it doubles his bomma-lomma count. Additionally, in Denmark most partnerships have agreed that if someone takes the last trick with the diamond seven, his partner must buy him a beer. Therefore this card is very popular in Denmark--as long as you're the one who holds it.

A few weeks ago, Eva showed us how bomma-lommas can affect the game if people concentrate on them at the expense of bridge. That afternoon, most of us were paying too much attention to bomma-lommas and the quality of the game had suffered. I had just blown two easy hands, when the following cards were dealt:

North

S:A10865

H:A6

D:AK65

C:A6

West

S:432

H:98753

D:93

C:432

East

S:QJ

H:KQJ104

D:QJ107

C:QJ

South

S:K97

H:2

D:842

C:K109875

East picked up his cards with mounting greed. When he looked at his last card, he let out a joyful whoop that I can still hear ringing in my ears. We didn't know it at the time but he had just picked up the diamond 7.

One can understand East's delight. He has four honours in hearts (2 B-L), four queens (4 B-L), four jacks (4 B-L), dou-

ble bezique (10 B-L) and two identical suits (10 B-L). All this is doubled for the possession of the diamond 7, giving him a total of 60 bomma-lommas. At 50 cents per bomma-lomma, this makes \$30 from each player, not a bad income from a single deal.

I sat North and had no reason to complain -- after all I held 19 bomma-lommas (four aces, four sixes and two identical suits), which is not bad in itself. But I suspected that East had far more...

"You aren't the only one holding bomma-lommas" I said, "but perhaps we could play bridge now?"

East got ahold of himself and opened one heart.

West was still not thinking about bridge. "I probably hold more bomma-lommas than you two big-mouths," he remarked. Eva was South and hissed: "Why don't you eat your blasted bomma-lommas? Are we playing bridge or not? What do you want me to do with a bad hand and no bomma-lommas?"

The three of us gave her a friendly smile. Here was our chance to win back some of the money she had won from us earlier. Our friendliness increased when we heard her pass.

West raised to two hearts, a very brave bid. He later explained that he felt 24 bomma-lommas justified a single raise.

I had been deeply moved by Evas comment. Perhaps we really should concentrate more on bridge? I bid three hearts, adding: "After all, you must hold a little something, darling, for if you have no bomma-lommas, you cannot have a yarborough! Of course, I would never draw inferences from my partner's comments."

East and West giggled. East passed. "The moment of truth has come," he remarked to Eva.

"So it has. For I'm bidding six clubs," answered Eva. I broke out in a cold sweat. True, I had already overbid, but Eva had to have a reasonable hand for her leap to six; above all, she was bound to be very short in hearts. And if

East really had that many bomma-lommas, perhaps we might balance the books somewhat with a grand slam -- so I bid seven clubs. East doubled loudly; West hesitated for a few seconds but finally he passed and led the nine of hearts.

As I tabled my hand, it did not look quite as good to me as before; still, I remembered to claim my 19 bomma-lommas.

"Get rid of them," snapped Eve sarcastically, "I never want to play bridge with bomma-lommas again, if this is the way you're going to bid." She won the trick with the ace of hearts and played the ace of clubs, followed by a small club to the king. I felt better when I saw the queen and jack fall. Eva drew West's last trump. Her anger had subsided and she was now concentrating entirely on the lie of the cards. Her eyes sparkled as she led the king of spades and East played the queen. In the manner of Sherlock Holmes she began to think out loud:

"There appears to be a happy end, after all, thanks to the damned bomma-lommas. Without them we would never have bid this ridiculous grand slam, and without them I never would have made it."

Eva pounced on West:

"What can your hand be, if you have so many bomma-lommas? The six of hearts is in dummy and since I'm sure you led your highest card you can't have a straight flush. Surely you hold neither a void nor a seven card suit. Therefore one can assume that you have a true yar-

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borough and two identical suits.”

Now she turned her attention to East. She reminded me of Perry Mason explaining the solution to the mystery two minutes before the end of the program.

“Everything fits! You have lots and lots of bomma-lommas. Which ones? In hearts you are marked with four honours, but this makes only two bomma-lommas. But we already know that you held the QJ of clubs, the QJ of hearts and the Q of spades; you have opened the bidding and your partner has a true yarborough. This leaves you with the double bezique, four queens, four jacks and the good old stinker, the seven of diamonds. Still not enough for you to squeal like a pig on a spit. You also have two identical suits, namely spades and clubs, do you not?”

East blushed a deep crimson; that day he learned to hide his feelings. “If you would be so kind, we would like to see the jack of spades,” said Eve politely. “We are about to see justice prevail.” Eva played a spade to the ace, dropping East’s jack. Then she rubbed salt in his wounds. “Without your help I would

have taken the spade finesse and gone down; but now I write a plus score of 2330. I have made up most of my bomma-lomma loss and my husband comes out a winner, instead of losing at bridge and at bomma-lomma.”

Thus the afternoon ended successfully, although bomma-lomma bridge was never the same again.

P.S. The bomma-lomma payoff may be calculated as follows: North has 19, East 60, South none and West 24. Accounting is made easy by multiplying each player’s bomma-lommas by 4 and then subtracting the total of all bomma-lommas ($19 + 60 + 24 = 103$) Therefore: North has $19 \times 4 = 76 - 103 = -27$; he pays \$13.50.

East has 60. $60 \times 4 = 240 - 103 = +137$; he receives \$68.50.

South has 0. $0 \times 4 = 0 - 103 = -103$; she pays \$51.50.

West has 24. $24 \times 4 = 96 - 103 = -7$; he pays \$3.50.

Hands such as this hardly ever happen; usually the amounts are much smaller. Why not give bomma-lomma bridge a try some day?

Canadian Bidding Contest

AUGUST HONOUR ROLL

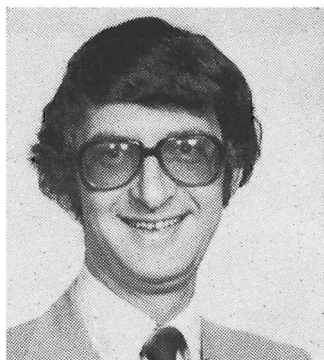
A record number of solvers broke the 500-point barrier in August. No less than 39 entries (out of a total of 199) surpassed the once magic mark. Space limitations force us to restrict publication to the top 15 solvers. Our sincere apologies to the other 500 point club members, whose achievement must remain anonymous.

1. Clifford Dezell	Prince George, B.C.	580
2/3. Clyde Paul	Winnipeg, Man.	570
Mrs. Kay McMullin	Sarnia, Ont.	570
4/7. Bob Griffiths	Parkdale, P.E.I.	560
D.R. English	Sarnia, Ont.	560
Andrew Chong	Toronto, Ont.	560
Gary L. Cohen	Nepean, Ont.	560
8/11. Pierre Stewart	Montreal, Que.	550
Anonymous	L2R 3B0	550

	Richard Bickley
	R.E. Sowden
12/14.	John Oelsner
	Roger Cormier
	Florence Bell
15.	Marthe Fournier

Stettler, Alta.	550
Gabriola, B.C.	550
Kamloops, B.C.	540
Laval, Que.	540
Toronto, Ont.	540
St.Geroges-Est., Que.	530

Congratulations to Mr. Dezell who wins: a) a hardcover book, 'Bridge at the Top' by Terence Reese, b) an invitation to join this month's panel; and c) fame.



by Allan Simon

NOVEMBER PANEL

The mail strike interfered severely with the expert poll; therefore this panel features only eight instead of the customary 12 experts:

BOB BARR (Regina, Sask.) is a veteran campaigner, a popular figure and a consistent winner in Prairie tournaments.

CLIFFORD DEZELL (Prince George, B.C.) won the August contest. He is a Life Master of recent vintage. He usually plays a strong club system, but his August victory - and his cogent answers to the November set - prove that Standard American holds no secrets for him.

STEVEN GOLDSTEIN (Montreal) is an old friend. His presence on a supposedly expert panel will be taken by many as evidence of rampant nepotism.

NANCY KOFFLER (Montreal) is one of Canada's top women players, as proven by her numerous Regional wins and a close second place in the 1980 Ladies Team Trials.

TIM McPHAIL (Toronto) is an oddity among top players. He disdains master points, preferring to play rubber bridge instead. He figures that you can't eat master points and, by all accounts, McPhail has been eating very well.

JILL SAVAGE (St. Albert, Alta.) edits the Canadian Bridge Digest with her husband Ron Bass; she has won countless tournaments, in the Maritimes as well as in Alberta and is known for her aggressive bidding style.

ROSS TAYLOR (Hamilton, Ont.) barely out of his teens, is already one of Canada's leading players. In the 1980 Canadian Team Championships, his team placed second.

BOB TODD (Winnipeg) has won numerous Regional and zonal titles over the years. An unforgettable win occurred in a pairs event a few years ago. Bob and his partner Bob Kuz had a 158 in the first session - so they reached back and rolled a 238, to win by one match-point - terrific!

NOVEMBER SOLUTIONS

A) Rubber bridge, E-W vul., South holds:

S:AK1083 H:54 D:KQ5 C:643



West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1S
Pass	2H	Pass	2S
Pass	5S	Pass	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
6S	7	100
Pass	1	50
5NT	0	40
7S	0	30

We start off with an easy problem. If partner is asking about overall strength, our answer is "no" and our bid "pass." But if he is asking about trump quality, the answer is "yes" and the bid "six spades." Grand slam tries are an aberration, since partner did not bid five no trump.

TODD: Six spades. Partner is only concerned about my spade strength and the number of possible spade losers.

KOFFLER: Six spades. Five spades must ask for trump quality because partner had so many other bids available.

TAYLOR: Six spades. When there are two unbid suits, five spades clearly asks about the quality of my spade suit. My spades are adequate, but with a suit headed by AKQ, or AKxxxxx, I would bid five notrump, to alert partner to the possibility of a grand slam. I anticipate in partner's hand, i.e. S:xxx H:AKQJx D:Ax C:Axx minimum.

We have never yet had a unanimous vote by the panel. Upholding tradition was

BARR: Pass. Should be two losers unless leader lays down a heart. Besides, at rubber bridge I really want this game. If clubs (he means diamonds. AS.) were ace instead of King-Queen, I might bid.

B) Matchpoints, N-S vul., South holds:
S;109 H:AQ D:Q9873 C:KQ98

West	North	East	South
-	1C	1H	2D
2S	Pass	Pass	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
3H	7	100
3NT	0	50
3S	0	40
3C	0	30
2H (!)	1	0

Speaking of unanimous votes, you can't get any closer. Mr. Barr apparently misread the auction; his choice of two hearts was a bit of an underbid. The rest of the panel found this one easy:

GOLDSTEIN: Three hearts. With the opponents bidding two suits, cue the one you have.

TAYLOR: Three hearts. This is the most flexible call, as it leaves room to explore 3 NT, five clubs, six clubs, etc. When the opponents have bid two suits, I must bid the suit that I have a stopper in for notrump purposes.

KOFFLER: Three hearts. Best descriptive bid as I have heart values. Partner should bid three notrump with spade values; otherwise we will play in a minor suit game.

This problem was lifted from Bridge Analysis, a book by Jose Le Dentu. The book contains 100 problem hands, with the answers graded on a scale of 100, much like the Canadian Bidding Contest. Le Dentu supplies the following "official" answer.

3NT or 3S	100
3H	70
4C	60
3C	30

Le Dentu goes on to ask: 'How can three notrump be reached

without South having a spade stopper? Isn't the simplest solution for South to risk bidding three notrump himself, on the supposition that North surely has a high spade honour?" When I first read these lines, I figured one of us was crazy. Now I know who.

C) IMPs, N-S vul., South holds:
S:AK64 H:QJ6 D:K83 C:A43

West	North	East	South
-	1H	Pass	1S
Pass	2S	Pass	3C
Pass	4S	Pass	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
4NT	6	100
5-level bids	1	60
6S	1	50
Pass	0	20

This problem was suggested by a reader, Judy Goodwin of Rossland, B.C. Ms. Goodwin is the creator of the delightful cartoon strip "Table Talk" which appears regularly in the ACBL Bulletin. A collection of her best cartoons will soon be published in the United States and you're welcome for the plug, Judy.

In spite of the huge majority (this seems to be landslide month - are we destined for a fistful of 600 point scorers?), the merits of four notrump escape me. But let's listen to the real experts:

McPHAIL: Four notrump. If partner held S:QJxx H:AKxxx D:Ax C:xx (and seven spades would be odds-on, A.S.), he would have bid three diamonds over my game-slam try. I intend to bid six spades unless off two aces.

TODD: Four notrump. Looks like six spades might depend on a 3-2 spade break or a spade finesse if he holds one ace.

GOLDSTEIN: Four notrump. Blackwood. Not ideal. I would not like to cue a second round control at the five level.

A natural slam try was suggested by our reader-champ:

DEZELL: Five hearts. It's worth investigating slam although I have a feeling that partner is 4-5-2-2 and we will be short a trick unless we get a diamond lead. However, we have to make one move so I bid five hearts - four notrump natural would be useful but I don't have enough tonal command to manage it.

Predictably enough, our Digest editor had no such doubts:

SAVAGE: Six spades. Why ask partner to do what I can do? It's easy for me to visualize a hand where partner can't take another call and six spades rolls ... such as QJxx K10xxx - KQxx.

D) IMPs, neither vul., South holds:

S:AK53 H:A6 D:754 C:AJ106

West	North	East	South
-	Pass	1D	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
1S	4	100
1NT	2	70
Pass	2	60
Double	0	40

Observant readers will have noticed that the editors have chosen to publish a more recent photograph of me. As you can see, my hair has turned grey from trying to solve this insoluble problem; also, I am laughing over the panel's efforts to do so.

BARR: One spade. I never double without at least three cards in each unbid suit. If there is a spade stack behind me and a penalty double, I can always

cheerfully shift to two clubs.

SAVAGE: One spade. If partner passes and the suit breaks 5-4, I'll know I'm playing in a 4-0 fit. A pass ranks second to a chocolate éclair smothered in desiccated liver!

Tell that to

DEZELL: Pass. What's the problem? I don't have a diamond stopper so I can't bid one notrump and I have the wrong shape so I can't double.

GOLDSTEIN: Pass. Hand too good for a one spade overcall. A one notrump overcall at this form of the game is terrible - might be the only way to get a minus score.

Tell that to

KOFFLER: One notrump. Lesser of two evils. I would like to have a diamond stopper but I would never double with only a doubleton heart.

TODD: One notrump. A lot of different lies could be told on this hand. I think one notrump is the best way of getting to a game if partner has values.

Readers can decide for themselves in which form they wish to take their poison.

E) Matchpoints, N-S vul., South holds:

S:107643 H:4 D:AJ7 C:Q983

West	North	East	South
3H	3NT	4H	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
Double	5	100
4NT	2	80
4S	1	30

So far this month, I have been

quite restrained in my comments, but I am only human - so here we go: In my opinion any bid but four notrump reeks of equal parts of indecisiveness, cowardice, timidity and pusillanimity.

A bow to:

DEZELL: Four notrump. Partner is unlikely to have a running minor suit with my diamond and club strength so he should have lots of high card points and is expecting me to provide my normal 7 or 8 points. I don't expect more than a doubleton spade in his hand so four spades by me is wrong. I'm tempted to double to show values and let partner take the blame/credit if he pulls but I'm going to bid four notrump and hope we have 10 tricks.

TODD: Four notrump. Natural - what's the problem?

Beats me, Bob. Had East passed, I would have expected partner to easily fulfill his contract, scoring 630 or so. Unless East-West are nuts, they aren't about to go for more than 500. So I refuse to be fixed and I bid one more for the road.

KOFFLER: Double, reluctantly. We probably make three notrump but it's not a certainty. I can't find out if partner has spades so I'll just take my plus score.

TAYLOR: Double. The vulnerability is not going to bully me into bidding four spades. Partner can still try for four notrump if he has a hand such as S:Ax H:AQx D:xx C:AKJ10xx.

McPHAIL: Double. Will be treated like a double of an opening four heart bid. Tells partner they're going down while suggesting four spades or a minor if partner has a good six card suit.

Once again representing a minority of one was:

BARR: Four spades. Partner should have about 18 or 19 high card points, and I hope he has three (or more) spades.

Poor Mr. Barr. In an accompanying note he writes: "The problems do not seem nearly as tough as some you have set previously ... the percentage answers here seem to be fairly straightforward!"

F) IMPs, neither vul., South Holds:
S:K4 H:KJ10753 D:1094 C:74

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	2H
Pass	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Which card do you lead?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
Spade K	4	100
Heart K	2	90
Heart J or 10	0	70
Heart 7	1	60
Diamond 10	1	50

This kind of problem is maddeningly familiar to all of us. In situations like these, I lovingly fondle both major suit kings; then I turn chicken and lead a pedestrian diamond ten. When it turns out that a major suit would have been the killer, I earnestly assure partner: "I just about led ..."

But in a contest we can all be brave, like:

GOLDSTEIN: Heart king. Best shot to beat it. If you don't lead your suit, they will start bidding notrump without a stopper and rob you blind.

SAVAGE: King of spades. It's obvious partner's hand has to take the setting tricks. Let's hope he has the QJxxx of spades and an entry. Second choice: king of hearts.

BARR: Spade king - let's try and hit partner. Percentage is against partner having the heart queen.

McPHAIL: Spade king. I dealt out the hand and when I picked it up, the king of spades was closest to my left thumb.

TAYLOR: I try a surprise attack - the seven. Friends and peers tried to bully me into the king of spades (too macho) or the ten of diamonds (too passive). I know right hand opponent didn't invite a spade bid from his partner but they sometimes bid three notrump with Qxx, A9xx, Q9x or Qxxx in hearts.

Finally, an unspectacular but honest citizen:

DEZELL: Diamond ten. I hope partner has stoppers in clubs and diamonds along with the nine of hearts so that he can fire through the heart while I still have the spade king as entry.

MAIL BOX

In this space I answer some of the questions correspondents ask most frequently.

Q. What is the deadline for entering the contest?

A. Don't worry about deadlines. As long as you submit your guesses before you have seen the answers in the next issue, your entry counts.

Q. Why don't you publish the scores obtained by the expert panelists?

A. Because I want to encourage a diversity of responses. On problem F) for example, Ross Taylor must have known he would not score many points with his unusual lead; but he wasn't concerned with matching other panelists, and that's the way I want to keep things.

Q. Why don't you publish partner's actual hand so that we can judge how each bid would have worked out in real life?

A. When I know the deal, I usually print it. But most problems I just make

up and there is no North hand.

Q. Why do you sometimes describe the physical appearance of female panelists and never the males? Surely this is irrelevant to their bridge ability?

A. Touche. Some of the thumbnail biographies contain little in-jokes that admittedly have no place in a national publication. I won't do it again.

FEBRUARY PROBLEMS

To enter the February contest, send your guesses (no comments required), together with your name and address to:

*Canadian Bidding Contest
c/o Allan Simon
1339 Hamilton St. N.W.
Calgary, Alberta.
T2N 3W8*

The reader with the highest score will be invited to join the expert panel and will also be rewarded with a bridge book, courtesy of Prism Bridge Supplies of Saskatoon.

A) Matchpoints, neither vul., South holds:

S:A986 H:K53 D:J97 C:K63

West	North	East	South
-	Pass	1H	Pass
1NT	Pass	2D	Pass
2H	Pass	Pass	?

B) IMPs, N-S vul. South holds:

S:AK10642 H:KQ95 D:3 C:A6

West	North	East	South
-	1D	4C	?

C) Matchpoints, both vul., South holds:

S:K942 H:Q7 D:J62 C:8653

West	North	East	South
-	1H	Pass	1S
Pass	3D	Pass	3H
Pass	3S	Pass	?

D) IMPs, N-S vul., South holds:

S:A854 H:106 D:KJ973 C:Q2

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	3H	?

E) Matchpoints, N-S vul., South holds:

S:AKQ103 H:AQ10764 D:J3 C:-

West	North	East	South
Pass	1D	Pass	1H
Pass	1S	Pass	?

F) IMPs, both vul., South holds:

S:J743 H:5 D:3 C:AQJ10642

West	North	East	South
-	Pass	1H	4C
4H	5C	Pass	Pass
5H	Dbl.	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Which card do you lead?

Person required for Executive-Secretary of the CBF

The office of executive-secretary of the CBF will become vacant as of July 1, 1982.

The responsibilities of his position are:

- managing the affairs of the Federation
- safekeeping of its chattels
- and such duties as the Board of Directors shall from time to time assign.

Persons interested in assuming these duties should declare their intentions prior to April 15, 1982, to the present secretary.

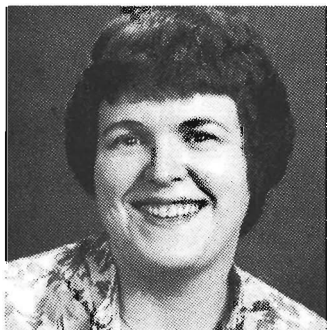
The position will be filled by the Board.

contact F. A. Baragar
(Executive Secretary)
6608 - 84 Street
Edmonton, Alberta.
T6E 2W9

Bridge Workshop

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is Pat's final article in the "Bridge Workshop" series. It has been an outstanding contribution by her. When Pat began writing the column, her aim was to improve the bridge playing ability of newer members, and we're sure she has attained that goal. It certainly makes the task of editing this Digest much easier when we can persuade people of Pat's calibre to donate so much time and effort.



By Pat Lopushinsky

The negative double is a device which makes bidding with interference much more accurate.

It is an immediate double of an overcall after partner has opened the bidding at the one level and is for TAKE-OUT rather than for penalties. We shall discuss later what you do with a hand with which you would have liked to make a PENALTY double.

The negative double can be used over both a major or a minor opening bid, but its meaning does vary depending on the opening bid, and so I will discuss them separately.

THE NEGATIVE DOUBLE AFTER A ONE LEVEL MINOR OPENING BID

When partner opens with one club the negative double of a one diamond overcall with show either ONE or BOTH Majors. Classically it will show the type of hand where you cannot bid a suit freely because of the suit length, or where a free bid would show greater strength than that actually held. Playing negative doubles a free bid of a new suit, even at the one level will show a FIVE CARD SUIT or longer. This means that you can differentiate immediately between four and five card suit length in unbid major suits.

e.g. Partner opens one diamond. The next hand overcalls one heart.

You hold:

Kxxx
Ax
Qxx
Jxxx

Bid "double." This is a negative double, and always **promises** four cards in the unbid major, and probably also has some support for the other unbid suit. As far as values are concerned it only promises the values for a response. If you would have responded to one diamond without the overcall, you can double with the right distribution.

This means that holding:

KJxxx
Ax
Qxx
xxx

You should now bid ONE SPADE, which promises the values for a response, and also at least five cards in the suit.

Over a one club opening and a one diamond overcall, you can use the negative double with only ONE four card major, but in that instance, you must either also have some support for partner's original suit, or the ability to bid no-trump, should partner rebid the WRONG major.

e.g. You hold

Kxx
QJxx
KJx
xxx

Partner opens with one club and the next hand bids one diamond. You make a negative double, which promises either one or both majors. Unfortunately partner now rebids one spade. You are now able to bid one no-trump, which describes your hand perfectly.

When partner has opened with a MAJOR and the next hand overcalls, the negative double always promises the other major, and suggests some tolerance for the unbid minor. If partner's opening is one heart, and the overcall is one spade, now the negative double would show either one or both minors. You probably do not have good support for partner's opening bid suit, and have either one or both minors: at least four cards in one however is promised.

When the overcall forces partner to respond to your negative double at the TWO LEVEL this alters the bidding considerably.

In these cases, a free bid would now show the values necessary to bid at the two level, which is of course at least a good 10 points. If you do not have 10 points, you must not make a free bid in a new suit, but can either PASS OR make a negative double, which will show the suit, but not promise so much strength. Also to bid a suit freely at the two level does require at least a five card suit. So in these cases, the negative double simply DENIES the ability to make a free bid, either because you are too weak OR because your suit is only four cards long.

e.g. Partner opens one heart. The next hand overcalls two diamonds.

With Kxxx
Qx
xxx
Axxx

Make a negative double. This shows some values, but not enough to bid free-

ly at the two level. Partner will respond with two spades if they have four, or three clubs, if they have four, or they can rebid 2NT with a better than minimum opener and a diamond stopper, or else they will rebid 2 hearts.

But with

Kxxxx
Qx
Axx
Kxx

You can now bid 2 spades directly over the overcall. This time you have both a five card suit, and over 10 HCP's which are necessary for a free bid at the two level.

e.g. Partner opens with one spade. The next hand bids two clubs. You hold:

Kx
Kxxx
Axxx
Qxx

You should make a negative double. You cannot bid 2 hearts freely even though you have an opening hand, because your suit is only four cards long. When you make a negative double of an overcall of one major, you always promise the other major.

REBIDDING AFTER PARTNER HAS MADE A NEGATIVE DOUBLE

If you have a second unbid suit, bid it now. Partner either has support for it, or will be able to put you back to your first suit or to bid no-trump.

e.g. You open with one Heart. The next hand overcalls two Clubs. Partner doubles.

You hold:

Ax
KQxxx
Qxxx
Kx

Rebid two diamonds.

Axxx
KQxxx
Ax
xx

Rebid two spades. This is not con-

sidered as a reverse - as partner has promised spades for the negative double of a one heart overcall.

If you have no second suit to bid, you can rebid your original suit, provided it is either a VERY GOOD five card suit, or a six-card suit.

If you have a stopper in their suit, you can consider rebidding no-trump. At the one level you can do this on a minimum hand, but if you have to rebid two no-trump, you should have a better than minimum hand.

e.g. You open one heart; partner makes a negative double over a one spade overcall.

KJx
Axxxx
Kx
Qxx

Rebid one no-trump. You cannot bid a second suit, as you do not have one, and your heart suit is far too poor to rebid.

You open with one spade. The next hand bids two clubs. Partner makes a negative double.

You hold:

KQxxx
Qxx
Ax
KQx

Because you have both extra values and a good club stopper, you can rebid 2 no-trump. You don't have to worry about poor stoppers in hearts and diamonds, because partner has shown those suits with the negative double.

In very rare circumstances, you may wish to PASS the negative double and play for penalties. This would be if you have extra strength and length in their suit.

e.g. You open with one heart. The next hand bids two clubs. Partner doubles (negative). You hold:

x
AKxxx
Ax
KJxxx

You should pass. Partner has spades

(at least four) and probably diamonds. They should also have about eight points minimum, as they are forcing you to rebid at the two level. With such a misfit, and length in their suit, you should elect to defend.

HOW TO HANDLE THE SITUATION WHERE YOU WISH TO MAKE A PENALTY DOUBLE IN DIRECT POSITION

It will sometimes occur that you have the type of hand with which you wish to make a penalty double directly over the overcall. In these situations, because a direct double is now negative, and for take-out, you cannot double. Also if you bid you will let them off the hook. Therefore the only course open to you is to PASS. You are holding that the next hand will also pass, and that partner will now re-open the bidding with "DOUBLE" which you, of course, will be delighted to leave in for penalties.

This puts a great onus on the opening bidder to re-open the bidding anytime there is an overcall and partner passes and the next hand also passes. Especially if you are short in the overcalled suit, which means that partner may have a "trap-pass" and be waiting to convert a re-opening double for penalties.

e.g. You hold

x
AQxxx
Kxx
Axxx

You open with one heart. The next hand bids one spade. Partner passes. The next hand passes. What should you do? There is something very strange about this auction. Where are all the points? You have only 13, the overcall probably has about 10 to 14 and yet neither your partner nor the overcaller's partner made a bid.

This could well mean that partner does have points, but also has spades, but was unable to make a direct penalty double. Therefore you must re-open with DOUBLE to protect them. The

whole hand could be:

KJxxx	x	AQxxx	xx
Kxx	AQxxx	x	Jxxx
Qxx	Kxx	AJx	xxxx
Jx	Axxx	Kxxx	Qxx

The only time you should not re-open the bidding at all is when you have length and/or strength in their suit, making it very unlikely that partner is trapping.

e.g. You open one heart, they overcall one spade and partner passes.

You hold:

KQxx
Axxxx
Kx
xx

You should PASS. You have only a minimum opener and partner did not make a negative double showing the minors, so it is quite likely that the opponents have a better fit in either clubs

or diamonds, and they may find it if you re-open the bidding.

You should not re-open the bidding with “double” even if you are short in their suit, if you have a very powerful two suiter, and fear that partner may leave it in, when you have a fit in your second suit.

e.g. You open with one heart. The next hand bids one spade. Partner passes.

You hold:

x
AKQxx
KQJxx
Ax

Do not re-open with double as partner may leave it in with:

AJ10xx
x
xxxx
Kxx

and you are cold for six diamonds.

In this example, you should re-open with a jump to 3 diamonds.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Sometime ago the Digest published a list of the top Canadian master pointholders. This was quite a while ago and I'm sure your readers would be interested in an update. This may involve a lot of work but it would be appreciated especially in view of the additions I propose:

i) The previous list did not have the rank. If someone wanted to know where he stood he might have to count through numerous names.

2) It would be nice to have comparative numbers with respect to the previous list's rank and it would also be nice to have figures showing;

- i) Ins and outs of the top ten
- ii) Greatest increase in rank
- iii) Anything else you might think of

and I'm sure there are lots of things.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Yours truly,

**Ed Lichtman,
Winnipeg.**

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Thanks for the good suggestion, Ed. We'll check into it.

To the Editor:

Your editorial references to the doubtful desirability of including humor in the Digest must not go unchallenged.

My long experience at the bridge tables, - circa- BC(before Culbertson), has converted me to the philosophy of Samuel Johnson who once wrote: “No man but a blockhead ever played bridge

except for comic relief.”

Bridge bereft of boyant banter is banal, boring, bland and blah. A little levity in the Digest would add a touch of class to an all too serious publication.

I am therefore submitting for publication the Paterson collection of one-liners gathered over many years in pleasant

pursuit of bridge mediocrity.

Cordially,

**R. H. Paterson,
Montreal.**

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is a partial list of Paterson's One-Liners. In future issues look forward to seeing more of the same.

By R. H. Paterson

Laws, Axioms, Dicta and Other Truisms

Slow pairs: “If Director hovers, the round is hover.”

Any pair held up for three consecutive rounds by slow play should play through.

The road to hell is paved with good conventions.

Obnoxious bridge players don't change; they become more so.

Today's losing finesse is tomorrow's throw-in.

There's no free hunch.

There's more than one way to play every hand; - that is unless it is the one you just played.

The first rule of the two way finesse: 'procrastinate.'

There's something wrong if you are always right.

The probability of a successful finesse is directly proportional to its desirability.

If you lead A from A, K, Q, J sixth against 3NT X you are probably leading out of turn.

Implosive psyches are never reported to the Director.

Never insult an opponent until the round has been called.

When selecting a partner for the mixed pairs, remember how Adam wrecked a promising career.

If you pay your entry, respect the proprieties and follow suit, no harm shall befall you.



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R. H. HAWKES
PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

September 1981

Dear Bridge Players,

As a fellow bridge enthusiast, I am personally pleased that Rothmans and the Canadian Bridge Federation have become team-mates in the 1982 Canadian National Team Championship.

Sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League, and administered by the Canadian Bridge Federation, our sponsorship which, incidentally, is the first in North America, will be in the form of prizes at all levels of play and the provision of all materials necessary for a championship of this stature. In addition, there will be a special grant of \$15,000 at the end of the tournament which will go to the Federation's international fund to help defray the costs of travel and accommodation.

I believe that one of the main reasons you will be playing in this event is to win "Red Points". This is one of only two events being held at the club level this year that offers this opportunity! A "Red Point" tournament with no travel or accommodation expenses!

From a corporate rather than a personal perspective, our goals are simple. This sponsorship enables us to help you as well as giving us the opportunity to present our excellent products to the smoking bridge players.

Whether you will be playing for "Red Points", supporting the Canadian Bridge Federation or trying to win a Canadian championship, I am pleased to invite you to play in the Rothmans 1982 Canadian National Team Championship.

Good Luck and good bridge!

R. H. Hawkes