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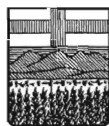
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**Ron  
Bass**

**Jill  
Savage**



Charity of the Year for 1982 is the  
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## Editor's Notebook

RON, Hey  
DID YOU KNOW  
THERE ARE  
7,982 WAYS  
TO MISPLAY  
A BRIDGE  
HAND?

OK  
THEN ONLY  
7,981... BUT  
THAT'S FROM  
PERSONAL  
EXPERIENCE

JILL... I'VE  
TOLD YOU  
A MILLION  
TIMES NOT TO  
EXAGGERATE...



# Hear it from the experts

## On doubling partscores at IMPS

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

*Doug Andrews is best known for his bridge articles which have been published in The Digest, The Bulletin, The Matchpointer, The Kibitzer, and What's Trump. He has been associated with experts throughout his career, professing to once having played two hands with John Laskin in an Individual (although John doesn't remember it) Doug is currently a Director of the Canadian Bridge Federation. With this introduction we welcome Doug to "Hear It From the Experts."*

### By Doug Andrews

Karen Allison, Canadian internationalist and potential C.B.F. Director for Zone III tells me that the rule she was taught as a beginner regarding doubling partscores at IMPs was only to double if you would be able to misdefend and still set the contract at least three tricks.

This is an excellent rule for beginners to follow. However, as your game develops you may wish to adopt some of the refinements suggested in this article.

In this article IMPs will include not only lengthy matches using IMP scoring but also Swiss Team Matches. However due to the brevity of most Swiss Team Matches you may wish to adopt some of these suggestions based on the state of the match and also the matchpoint features of Swiss Teams.

First let's explore why Karen's adage is valid. At IMP scoring one must avoid creating potential swings where one was otherwise unavailable. Conservatism is

the byword.

In a typical 26 deal matchpoint session where 12 is top on a board and 156 is average, there are 312 points available in each session. If you ascertain that the opponents have misjudged by bidding to a certain partscore you may judge that by doubling you are risking anywhere from 4 to 8 matchpoints (your score if the opponents are defeated undoubled) for 12 to 0 matchpoints (your score if the opponents go down doubled or make their contract doubled). In any event, in a matchpoint session, by doubling a partscore, you are risking 4 to 8 matchpoints for an 8 to 4 matchpoint gain. Given that there are 312 matchpoints available in a session this is a reasonably small risk.

An example may clarify this point. You hold: AQx K10xxx Axxx x. As dealer not vulnerable versus vulnerable opponents you open 1 heart and the auction proceeds as follows:

YOU	LHO	PARTNER	RHO
1H	pass	2H	2S
3H	3S	pass	pass

What action should you take?

Four hearts might make if partner holds AQxx of hearts and a doubleton diamond and the spade K is onside. However partner may hold 3 small hearts and KQJx of clubs and 4 hearts would be ridiculous. Nonetheless if partner holds either of these hands you will likely defeat 3 spades at least one trick. Considering that the opponents are vulnerable a double of 3 spades will likely score you at least 200, enough to beat

most heart partscores, and therefore gain you a very good score. At matchpoints double is recommended.

But what if the game were IMP's? If you double the opponents and score 200 will that be a good result? Certainly, but not nearly as good as if the game were matchpoints. If 3S is at all reasonable you must assume your partners will have bid it. If it goes down one and you have doubled and your partners have escaped undoubled you will win 100 or 3 IMP's. If 3S is an unreasonable contract you should assume your partners will not have bid it and they will be -140 or -170 for 3 hearts making 3 or 4. By doubling and setting 3S one trick you'll have gained 2 or 1 IMP's. These are all very small gains.

Consider the downside risk. If the opponents have that magical distribution which allows them to make 3 spades doubled you'll be minus 730. Meanwhile your partners will have chalked up 140 for 3 spades undoubled or minus 140 or 170 if they sold out to 3 hearts. This means you'll have lost 11, 13 or 14 IMP's depending on the outcome.

Is it worth risking 11 to 14 IMP's to gain 1 to 3 IMP's? No.

It is this type of reasoning that led to Karen's rule that you should not double a partscore at IMP's unless you can afford to misdefend and still set them 3 tricks.

This rule is excellent for beginners. For those of you beyond the novice stage you should be aware of the following refinement to the rule. **If you are doubling a partscore into game be sure you can set it at least 3 tricks even if you misdefend; however, if a doubled partscore will not be game, if made, you may double more freely.**

The first part of the refinement is Karen's rule applied to partscores which when doubled become game, that is contracts of 2 hearts doubled or higher. This segment of the rule was illustrated by the foregoing example,

Let's now explore the rationale behind doubling partscores which when doubled

ed do not produce games, those of 2 diamonds or less. Suppose that the opponents are vulnerable, are playing in 1NT, and you make a close double. If they go down one you score plus 200. If your partners go down one in 1NT undoubled you gain 100 or 3 IMP's. If your partners make 1NT and you've set 1NT doubled you gain a total of 190 or 5 IMP's. On the other hand if, by some fluke, perhaps a misdefense, your opponents make 1NT doubled you score minus 180. If your partners made 1NT your net score is minus 90 or minus 3 IMP's and if your partners went one down undoubled your net score is minus 280 or minus 7 IMP's. As you can see your close double is likely to gain about as much as it will lose.

This is completely different from the situation in which you doubled a partscore into game. In that situation your close double stood to lose far more than it stood to gain because of the game bonus awarded for making the doubled contract.

As an aside, there is one fundamental principle that is being assumed: at team bridge scored at IMP's always assume that your partners are getting their best possible result. Armed with this assumption it is your task to ensure that you obtain as good a result as is possible **without taking any undue risks and without giving your opponents a chance for a swing due to a fortuitous distribution of the cards or a defensive error.**

Let us examine some of the corollaries to our adaptation of Karen's rule, which was "if you are doubling a partscore into game be sure you can set it at least 3 tricks even if you misdefend; however, if a doubled partscore will not be game, if made, you may double more freely."

**Corollary #1:** If partner has doubled a partscore which is not game and bidding may risk a large minus, pass.

**Corollary #2:** Do not make bad overcalls at IMP's.

The reason for this is that the opponents are more likely to double you in a partscore which is not game,

**Corollary #3:** If there may be a chance for game but increasing the level of the **partscore** may jeopardize the contract, bid again.

This corollary is perhaps a little more difficult to understand. The following hand may help to explain it. Neither vulnerable, the bidding proceeds.

RHO	YOU	LHO	PARTNER
1N (12-14)	pass	2H	2S
pass	?		

What would you bid, holding

AQx xxx x Axxxxx?

It's true that taking another bid risks a minus score. At matchpoints the safest action is to pass. However at IMP scoring it is important to bid game if you can make it. At IMP's it is better to risk being defeated in three spades than to pass 2 spades and risk the loss of a game. The advantage of IMP scoring (and the rules we've been stressing) is that even if 3 spades will be defeated, the opponents will not double you. Certainly, neither the weak NT bidder nor the 2 heart bidder can be certain of setting 3 spades; hence, you run no risk of being doubled. Therefore go ahead and try for game.

This ends the article for all but the real experts. For them, I have a "spy versus spy" story which is reported to have happened to Karen. Karen allegedly held Kxxx AQ10xxx x Kx and with both vulnerable, the auction proceeded:

RHO	KAREN	LHO	PARTNER
1S	2H	pass	pass
double	pass	pass	redouble
pass	pass	?	

Karen made a reasonable overcall but when LHO passed his partner's re-opening double for penalties and partner redoubled for rescue into one of the minor suits Karen knew she was in trouble. She decided to try to shift the pressure to her LHO by passing. If he had a marginal pass of the double he might chicken out and bid something.

Unfortunately LHO held x KJ876 Jxx AQxx. Karen's pass of the re-double did make him sufficiently nervous that he did misdefend. Nonetheless he collected plus 1000 for defeating the contract 2 tricks. (Hence according to Karen's rule he ought not to have sat for the double).

It's tough being an expert when the opponents don't follow the rules.

## BOOK REVIEW

By Henry Smilie

### 1980 World Bridge Team Olympiad

A good read. So it should be, since the volume is the product of the resources of the American Contract Bridge League and of the World Bridge Federation. Those of the former include: top flight editor Henry Francis; reporter-analyst Eric Kokish; witticismist Edgar Kaplan; enough of the wherewithal to enable the book to be marketed at under

\$10. Of the various round robin hands reviewed, one-third involved Team Canada. To the interested Canadian, a good buy.

Published by the  
American Contract Bridge League,

190 pages, \$9.75 (U.S.)



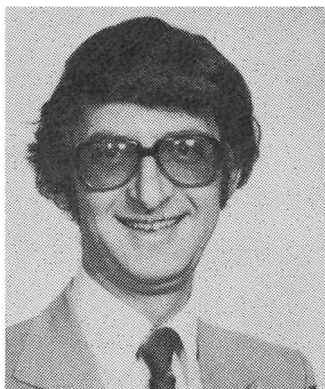
# **=CANADIAN BIDDING CONTEST=**

## **NOVEMBER HONOUR ROLL**

The November contest proved to be the most difficult ever, as only four solvers (out of 114) broke the 500 mark. The successful quartet was:

1. Dan Brown	Perth, Ont.	530
2. Joseph Doucet	Toronto, Ont.	520
3. Paul Godin	Montreal Nord, Que.	510
4. Bob Griffiths	Moncton, N.B.	500

*Congratulations to Mr. Brown, who won the hardcover edition of "Bridge Masters and Monsters," by Victor Mollo. Of course, he also joins our expert panel.*



by Allan Simon

## **FEBRUARY PANEL**

*In alphabetical order, this month's experts are:*

**JOHN ARBLASTER** (Thunder Bay, Ont.) has won his unit's Canadian National Teams and Grand National Pairs events for the past two years. He first reached the national limelight with an excellent performance at the 1980 CNTC finals.

**KEITH BALCOMBE** (Oshawa, Ont.) is one of the nation's leading stars. In the last two CNTC finals, he placed second in 1980 and sixth in 1981. At least three

times over the last two years, he accomplished something most of us don't even dream about: Winning two events at one Regional.

**DEBI BOKSHOWAN** (Saskatoon, Sask.) has warned me to abstain from hyperbole in presenting her resume. From personal experience (My lifetime Swiss Team record against her is about 0-and 8), I can attest that she is a very competitive individual who lacks the arrogance which keeps so many of our other young players from improving their game.

**PIERRE BOUCHER** (Quebec City, Que.) is the former president of his unit and one of his province's most successful players. He represented us at the 1980 Spring Nationals in Fresno, in the Grand National Pairs Final.

**DAN BROWN** (Perth, Ont.) was the November champion. Due to job pressures, he only plays locally, at the Smiths Falls Duplicate Club where one presumes he now has become a minor celebrity.

**VICTOR GOLDBERG** (Halifax) belongs to the miniscule group of Canadians who have been invited to compete in the prestigious and remunerative Cavendish Calcutta. His regional and

district titles are too numerous to list and at the 1978 Summer Nationals, he won the Mixed Pairs.

**ADY KOFFLER** (Montreal) won countless tournaments in the early seventies. In the past few years he has been less active on the master-point trail, due to his new status as family man.

**DICK McKINNEY** (Edmonton, Alta.) and his wife Christie are consistent winners at tournaments in their neck of the woods. Their triumphs include four Regional and dozens of sectional wins.

**MAURICE ("MOOSE") PAUL** (Toronto) has won more than his share of honours over the years, including a North American championship in 1958 and international participation at the 1978 Olympiad. But perhaps his greatest contributions have come as administrator; it is said of some experts that they have repaid their debt to bridge; in Moose's case, the game owes him a lot more than he received.

**BARBARA SALTSMAN** (Montreal) is a nationally famous competitor. She represented Canada at the 1972 Olympics and has won numerous Regionals, including no less than five Ladies Pairs - quite possibly a Canadian record.

## FEBRUARY SOLUTIONS

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	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
Pass	5	100
2S	3	70
Double	2	50

*This problem may lack pizzazz, but South sure has one tough call to make. Reading the panel's recommendations makes me feel like when I listen to good campaign speeches: I always agree with the most recent speaker.*

**McKINNEY:** Two spades. Odds favour balancing and partner should have a few spades. On a good day he will have five or six.

**BROWN:** Two spades. I can afford to go down two undoubled. I would rather have the lead coming up to my heart king, so I prefer not to double.

*Yes, gentlemen. That was my first inclination as well. But then I read the following comments and changed my mind:*

**BOKSHOWAN:** Double. Just in case partner has a five card club suit and only three spades.

**PAUL:** Double. Better than two spades. The worst distribution partner could have is 3343 or 3244, then HE should bid two spades. I would never pass.

*Indeed, I did not expect many panelists to pass. How can it be right to let them play at the two level, white against white?*

**KOFFLER:** Pass. The opponents have not necessarily found an eight-card fit, so it seems best to sell out with such a balanced hand.

**GOLDBERG:** Pass. Opponents haven't found a fit - too dangerous to balance in view of my length in RHO's suits.

*And most clinical of all:*

**BALCOMBE:** Pass. LHO likely has 8 HCP and 3235 distribution; RHO has 13 HCP and 3541 or 2542. Therefore part-



ner has about 8 HCP and 3343. So, pass seems best in long run.

*Perhaps the right answer depends on who your opponents are. Against aggressive doublers, pass seems most prudent. Against more timid opposition, one might prefer to re-open. But then, since the choice between re-opening bids is so tough, maybe we should pass after all. Or maybe we have talked this hand to death and let's go on to the next case.*

(B) IMPs, N-S vul., South holds:  
S:AK10642 H:KQ95 D:3 C:A6

West	North	East	South
-	1D	4C	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
5C	7	100
4S	2	60
4NT	1	40
6S	0	30

*Thanks to Ross Taylor of Hamilton for this fine problem. Many five-club bidders voiced arguments like:*

**BOKSHOWAN:** Five clubs. I would like to play in a major suit slam but would like partner to have some input as to which one.

*Hold it right there. Whenever RHO overcalls and we have a good hand our choices are: 1. We can make a negative double if the overcall is within our negative double range, 2. We can bid a new suit, which is forcing as long as our bid is below game, or 3. we can cue bid, which guarantees a fit in partner's suit.*

*If we had given South S:Axx H:xxx D:AQJxx C:Ax, the panel would rise up as one and crow "Five clubs. What's the problem? And if partner signs off with 5D, I'll try once more with 5 Spades."*

*It follows that with the actual hand South must grope for another solution. An interesting bid occurred to:*

**BALCOMBE:** Four no-trump. Blackwood, since it is too far removed from four clubs to be takeout. If partner shows two aces, six spades will be the likely landing spot. If partner shows one ace, I'll sign off in five spades and lose one ace and one trump (I hope).

*By process of elimination, the soundest bid is a pedestrian four spade call.*

**SALTSMAN:** Four spades. I don't like my choices. Hopefully LHO bids five clubs and I'll bid five hearts.

**GOLDBERG:** Four spades. I would like to cue bid to show my power - unfortunately, a five club bid does not show this hand. I refuse to allow the preempt to push me into an unsound guess - stay fixed.

*Well said, Victor. Incidentally Mr. Goldberg once defined a masochist as someone who makes an SOS redouble when partner is barred! Getting back to matters at hand, the harsh rules of our contest demand that while I and my think-alikes may usurp the bulk of printer's ink, the panel majority decides the score and five clubs won by a mile. Digressing one more time, the above phenomenon is reminiscent of my home life: I make all the important decisions in our household (e.g. what to do about the constitution; about interest rates; nuclear disarmament) while my wife makes the small decisions (where to go on holidays; which school the children should attend; whether to buy a new car).*

(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	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
4H	4	100
4S	2	80
4D	1	70
Pass	3	60
3NT	0	20

*The pass was demoted in the scoring because it is so final. Four spades gets to the most likely game while 4 hearts and 4 diamonds at least do not rule it out. Spokesman for the pessimistic passers are:*

**BOUCHER:** Pass. I am a pessimist and I am often tempted to pass these hands at the one level. Now I have had it! I like Moysian (4-3) fits anyway.

**ARBLASTER:** Pass. A lonely, miserable, arbitrary call. However, making any game rates to be a difficulty, and I'll collect if we can't.

**GOLDBERG:** Four spades. In view of the expected club tap, partner will need solid red suits to make game in hearts - if he has these, four spades should also make. And I object to one spade - I would have bid one notrump.

*While I find myself agreeing with Mr. Goldberg on most other problems (and I'll even cheerfully concede that an original one notrump response might be correct), let me suggest the following reasonable-looking North hand: S:AQJ H:KJ10xx D:Axxx C:A. The red suits are not what one would call solid, yet four hearts is the best contract (and I'd rather be in three notrump than in four spades). Majority spokesman is:*

**KOFFLER:** Four hearts. If partner has four spades he can correct.

Otherwise, hearts should play as well, if not better, than spades.

*One panelist attempted to straddle the four heart/four spade fence, but gets impaled on a dangerously strong-sounding bid:*

**McKINNEY:** Four diamonds. I'll do my best to get partner to play this one.

*I hate to argue with anybody who lives close to home, but I would never bid on jack-third in this situation. It just sounds too much like a cue bid.*

*It is often said that aggressiveness and confidence are hallmarks of youth. Moose Paul, while not exactly ready for the senior citizen's home, is likely the eldest member of the panel. Now hear this, all ye passers and pussyfooters:*

**PAUL:** Four hearts. Clear cut. If he bids four spades, I'll go along bidding five spades asking for a club control. If he bids five diamonds, I'll raise to six.

(D) IMPs, N-S vul., South holds:  
S:A854 H:106 D:KJ973 C:Q2

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	3H	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
Double	4	100
3NT	2	90
3S	2	80
4H	2	70
Pass	0	40

*Pre-empts are effective. That is why people use them. On this hand, four panelists refuse to let the pre-empt interfere with their search for a 4-4 spade fit. Presenting their cause are:*

**ARBLASTER:** Four hearts. Nothing is guaranteed here. I'll bid five diamonds over five clubs.

**McKINNEY:** Three spades. Best of a bad set of choices. If only the opponents would stay out of the bidding.

*It is of course impossible to find a 'perfect' bid for every situation. The doublers are at least making sure of a plus score and some of them are not excluding the possibility of partner finding another bid:*

**BOUCHER:** Double. Partner should know that my double is based on overall strength, not on my holding in hearts; he thus has an opportunity to pass, to bid 3NT or 3 spades if he wishes. I am not willing to bid four hearts without knowing if he has a spade fit and furthermore bypassing the 3NT level.

**BROWN:** Double. East has put all kinds of pressure on me. At IMPs, I'll take any plus I can get. There's no guarantee that partner has four, or even three, spades. I hope this hand doesn't come up at a major tournament as I would find it very uncomfortable. I've just been pre-empted out of my jockey shorts.

**BALCOMBE:** Double. This will net 100 or 300 points usually; an average of 200. Thus, 3NT must make one out of three times (in the long run) to equal the profit. Unless pard has a big diamond fit, 3NT will likely not make, RHO may also have a strongish pre-empt since his partner is a passed hand. Also, partner may pull the double with five spades or a heart honour plus a good suit.

*Finally, the three notrump bidders are taking a stab at the bid which (if it works) is likely to yield the greatest profit.*

**SALTSMAN:** Three notrump. The three heart bid is probably not on a solid suit. I take my chances on no Stayman here - and no double.

(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	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
2C	5	100
4C	0	90
6S	2	60
7S	1	50
4NT	1	40
5C	1	40

*A jump to four clubs in this situation is a convention known as 'splinter'. It would promise a singleton or void in clubs and imply a spade fit. Obviously, this convention is ideal for this problem. Unfortunately, the Canadian Bidding Contest does not recognize splinters, forcing the panel to find another bid to describe the South hand. Readers who voted for four clubs get 90 points. Any correspondence or complaints may be addressed to Allan Simon, General Delivery, Timbuctoo. The panel's answers are of interest in that they reveal the eventualities experts consider when contemplating a choice of bids.*

**McKINNEY:** Seven spades. Maybe they'll lead the ace of clubs instead of the ace of diamonds. I wish we had agreed to play splinters!

**KOFFLER:** Six spades. Two clubs is the 'correct bid' but it may prove difficult to recover in an unfamiliar partnership.

**ARBLASTER:** Six spades. A 'field' bid, given an unfamiliar partnership, the lack of splinter weaponry, and my abject fear of languishing gracelessly in three spades on this hand.

**BROWN:** Two clubs. Fourth suit forcing. There's no rush. Partner is going

to play at least six spades. Or maybe I'll play six or seven hearts. I'd like a little more information about partner's strength and distribution before I commit us to a specific slam.

**GOLDBERG:** Two clubs. Doesn't appear to be much choice. Good problem is that it points out the inability to Standard American to make an immediate forcing raise of opener's second suit. I hope to be able to jump in spades next, below game.

**SALTSMAN:** Two clubs. There is no number of spades I could bid to justify this hand. I just use fourth suit forcing and then when I raise spades partner will get the message.

(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

Which card do you lead?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
Ace of clubs	5	100
3 of diamonds	3	80
Any spade	1	50
4 of hearts	1	20

**PAUL:** Heart five. Does not call for an unusual lead. He has defensive tricks with probably four trumps. I do not like declarers cross-ruffing.

**BROWN:** Ace of clubs. I told everyone what my hand was. The least I can do is try and help partner by taking a trick. I won't lead my diamond because if partner has the ace and returns the suit, he'll be embarrassed I took more tricks than he did.

**BOKSHOWAN:** Ace of clubs. Partners have been known to raise on stiff honours to try to get the opponents one level higher.

*Yes and no. Debi is certainly on*

*the right track. Something about partner's bidding doesn't add up. First he passes; then he is so sure that four hearts is making that he takes the sacrifice; and then he is so sure that five hearts will NOT make that he doubles. Maybe he is trying to tell us something.*

**BOUCHER:** Three of diamonds. I feel my partner should not double at IMPs if he wanted me to lead clubs. I must therefore look for an unusual lead and I don't like spades.

**BALCOMBE:** Three of diamonds. Since West bid five hearts, pard's double is not based on a heart stack, but a heart trick (or two) plus aces. Thus he may easily have the diamond ace and I may obtain a ruff.

*You're getting warm. But partner can't possibly know you have a singleton diamond. And once you've eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth. Could partner be looking for a spade lead? Could he be void? Sure he could be, and in fact he was! The last word goes to*

**McKINNEY:** Spade three. If partner wants a ruff it must be in spades.

## MAY PROBLEMS

To enter the May 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 receive a classy bridge book.

(A) IMPs, both vul., South holds:  
S:1082 H:J10963 D:AJ93 C:K

West	North	East	South
1D	Dbl.	Pass	?

(B) Matchpoints, North-South vul., South holds:

S:A1072 H:104 D:AKQ6 C:652

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

(C) Rubber bridge, both vul., South holds:

S:Q10864 H:KQ5 D:10 C:AJ74

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

(D) IMPs, neither vul., South holds:

S:2 H:6 D:AKJ10976 C:AQ74

West	North	East	South
Pass	4H	4S	?

(E) Matchpoints, both vul., South holds:

S:A7 H:AQJ3 D:K7 C:K6542

West	North	East	South
3D	3S	Pass	?

(F) IMPs, North-South vul., South holds:

S:65 H:J10942 D:4 C:A9643

West	North	East	South
1H	2S*	2NT	Pass
3C	Pass	3D	Pass
3H	Pass	3S	Pass
4D	Pass	4NT	Pass
5D	Pass	6D	Pass
Pass	Pass		

\*weak

Which card do you lead?

# CBF Newsletter

## By Doug Andrews

There is a significant time gap between the writing of these Newsletters and their appearance in the Digest. Consequently it is difficult to have the material appear current. In this edition I've attempted to foresee some of the events which will have occurred by the time you read this.

## THE ROTHMANS 1982 CANADIAN NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Canadian Bridge Federation is delighted by the support Rothmans is providing for the 1982 CNTC. Those of you who participated in this event at the club level will have used the convention cards, assignment slips, and recap sheets printed and supplied by Rothmans. Some of you will have sampled some of Rothmans products and used the ashtrays provided. As many as six of you per club will have been awarded Rothmans pens commemorating your victory in the club qualifying round.

As well as providing supplies for all

stages of this event, Rothmans will supply trophies for the eventual winners. Moreover, at the conclusion of the event they will be presenting a cheque for \$15,000 to the C.B.F.


These arrangements only pertain to the 1982 RCNTC. The CBF welcomes and endorses Rothmans participation. We hope they'll continue their sponsorship in the future.

## WORLD PAIRS OLYMPIAD IN BIARRITZ


Biarritz, France will host the 1982 World Pairs Olympiad between October 1 and 16. Canada's eligibility quota is 12 Open Pairs, 6 Ladies Pairs, 30 Mixed Pairs, 7 Teams. (Pairs composed of World Masters and International Masters (by points) may participate in the Open Pairs ex-quota, subject to certain limitations. If you fall into this category consult your Zone Director.)

The District level competition of the Grand National Pairs was used to select 10 of Canada's Open Pairs. The qualified pairs will be announced in a






future issue of the Digest. The additional two pairs will be selected through the Open Pairs competition at the regional in Toronto in April 1982 and at the regional in Edmonton in July 1982. One pair from the competition at each regional will be selected. Therefore, if you have not yet qualified to represent Canada in Biarritz, take notice, here are two more chances to qualify.




One team has already been selected - the 1981 CNTC winners. All other team and pairs berths are by application. If you wish to represent Canada in Biarritz in a pair or on a team you must obtain an application from Doug Andrews, 1841 East 38th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5P 1G6. Applications will be reviewed by committee. **All applications with the accompanying entry fees must be received by June 30, 1982.**




### **MASTERS - NON-MASTERS PAIRS**




The C.B.F. is pleased to announce a new event: the Masters - Non-masters Pairs. A master is anyone with more than five masterpoints. A non-master is anyone else. Pairs comprised of a master and a non-master are eligible to participate.



The big event will take place across Canada on Wednesday, March 3, 1982. If it is successful it will become an annual contest. Clubs will be contacted directly by the A.C.B.L. Hand records will be provided so that everyone in Canada will play the same hands.




There will be special awards for the National Champions as well as for the six Zonal Champions. All masterpoint awards will be 80% of unit championship scale.



This is a good opportunity for all to introduce a new player to duplicate as well as to participate in a national event. Book your non-master partner early - before it is too late.



### **ELECTIONS**



Elections are being held this year from Zone III and IV directors. The incumbents are Andy Altay and Helen


Shields; however, Andy is not standing for re-election.

The secretary of the C.B.F., Dr. Alvin Baragar, has announced that he will resign at the end of this year. This is a volunteer, non-elected position. Anyone interested in becoming secretary should write directly to Dr. Baragar. On behalf of the Directors, thanks is extended to Dr. Baragar for the exceptional work he has performed as secretary. We hope that a volunteer will be forthcoming to replace him.

### **ROSENBLOOM TEAMS**

The C.B.F. has adopted a number of recommendations proposed by John Carruthers concerning methods of ranking teams which apply to participate in the Rosenbloom Teams. The Rosenbloom Teams is held every four years in conjunction with the World Pairs Olympiad, i.e. in non-Olympic even-numbered years.


This system of ranking teams could be used as a method of determining seeding for team events such as Zone finals of the RCNTC. Interested parties should contact their Zone Director.




One method of obtaining ranking points is by placing highly in a designated Knockout Team event at a regional. Each Zone is able to designate for ranking points the K.O. Teams at a regional within the Zone each year. For example, the K.O. Teams at the 1982 Zone VI Regional to be held in Penticton, B.C. has been so designated. Watch the Digest to see when the K.O. Teams for a regional in your area is designated.



### **ANNUAL MEETING IN EDMONTON**



The next annual meeting of the C.B.F. Directors will be held in Edmonton in July. If there are items which you feel should be added to the Agenda please contact your Zone Director. Your input is desired.



In closing, good luck and good bridge to all the membership in 1982.



# Silence is Golden

By Colin Ward

It seemed like such a good idea at first. On Saturday during the sectional's Open Pairs event a "clinic" would be held for non-players. Between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. the initiates would be taught the fundamentals and regulations of the game. After a dinner break the novices returned to "classes." The evening symposium covered more advanced and subjective bidding (i.e. "always support partner if he's a better player") and hand-play (i.e. "always take 2-way finesses into the weaker opponent -- if HE wins the trick he won't know what to return anyway") theories. The instructor, I later inferred, was not only patient and articulate but quite imaginative as well.

The initiates were certainly getting their money's worth. For one modest lump sum they received an extensive crash course, membership in the ACBL, two bar tickets and an entry into Sunday's Swiss Teams. From neophyte to tournament bridge player in 36 hours!

My wife snatched up the offer. I had been promising to teach her the game for years but procrastination always got the better of me. I never put off until tomorrow what I can get out of doing entirely.

After my mediocre performance in the Open Pairs I could think of nothing but a stiff drink and a long sleep. Where was my wife with those bar tickets? There she is! Oh, oh. From the looks of things she quite enjoyed her course, used both her bar tickets -- and then some -- afterwards and has no intention of calling it a night. Like a little girl with a new toy she wants to read, talk, hear and play nothing but BRIDGE.

"Did you know," she asked coyly, "that there's a thing called a 'midnight side-game' starting in five minutes?"

No sleep tonight.

It is local practice to allow ANY convention or system providing a full written explication is provided for public

scrutiny more than 30 minutes in advance of the event. Failure to register such weapons with the director restricts the pair to Class A, B, C and D conventions only. Those, like us, who arrive too late to peruse esoteric convention cards had only themselves to blame. This policy satisfied both the old guard and the young gadgeters. As John Prine would say, I was a victim of the great compromise.

Despite the labyrinth of foreign systems, alerts and misguiding explanations it was to be my **partner's** calls that would prove most baffling to one and all.

	WIFE	
	s-KJ72	
	h-63	
OPENER	d-9742	RHO
s-AQ	c-Q7	s-64
h-KJ97		h-Q1052
d-AQJ4		d-K83
c-A53	ME	c-J862
	s-109853	
	h-A84	
	d-106	
	c-K109	

My left hand opponent dealt and opened 1D, not vul.-vs.vul. My wife bid 1NT without batting an eye. Both adversaries now turned to me and asked about the range of such overcalls. 15 to 18 HCPs. RHO passed reluctantly. 2S by me, anxious to see the dummy. Three hesitant passes later West led a small heart and partner tabled her holding.

"Nice psyche, darling," I mused, chalking up 110 as against 4H or 3NT for the enemy. It was only when the director was called over that I realized that the opponents were indirect victims of my wife's confusion. Her instructor had apparently failed to define the term "respond" ...

"He opened 1D," she defended, pointing at her RHO, "so I responded 1 NT. That shows 6-10 points--4 for an Ace, 3 for a King ..."

The sectional was not a success for me. All I could brag about was winning a midnight side-game.

As fate would have it my 4-man team drew my wife's 4-novice team in the first round of the Swissies the next morning. I tried to soften the blow:

"Don't worry if you lose your first match, dear. You can just shrug it off as a Swiss Gambit Accepted -- you'll get weaker opposition for the rest of the event and can still 'slip in the back way'.

She understood exactly none of this blither.

"Swiss Gambit Accepted?" she queried.

"Yes. That's when you **lose** your first round. Were you to **tie** it that would be the Swiss Gambit Declined."

PARTNER

s-A2

h-AQ96

d-KJ953

c-Q7

LHO

s-3

h-872

d-864

c-J109632

ME

s-Q74

h-KJ103

d-A10

c-AK85

WIFE

s-KJ109865

h-54

d-Q72

c-4

Vul.-vs.-not, my partner opened 1D. My wife knew better than to overcall with less than 8 HCPs and passed. I responded 1H and ended up declaring 6H. RHO led the spade 3. The opponents had been silent during the auction so I confidently ducked in dummy. My wife won with her King and promptly led back "partner's suit." LHO smacked her lips and asked: "Now, what're trumps again?" As her heart hit the table mine sank in my chest.

I didn't need to be told that our partners were getting brutalized in 3S doubled.

Twice the ladies stopped in partscores when 68% games were failing to foul trump breaks. I politely suggested that the ladies should stop bidding so timidly. Loosen up! They took my suggestion

to heart:

LHO

s-J10

h-64

d-AKQ10

c-KJ987

PARTNER

s-K98

h-10932

d-J32

c-Q43

ME

s-AQ6

h-875

d-8754

c-652

WIFE

s-75432

h-AKQJ

d-96

c-A10

My wife opened 1S and found herself declaring 6NT two bids later. I led the diamond 8. Declarer won in dummy, crossed to her club Ace and then paid me the compliment of finessing through me for the Queen. Partner won this trick and, sure enough, didn't know what to return. His heart retort allowed declarer to collect 6NT, picking up his diamond Jack along the way.

I offered my foes no more advice.

Four eternities later the mismatch came to a close. I was greatly relieved when I compared scores with our teammates. No, they hadn't rescued us. Far from it. Rather, they had incurred disasters that dwarfed even ours, thereby saving me the humiliation of having to make endless apologies and explanations.

We accepted the 59-IMP triple-blitz with the dignity and grace of perfect gentlemen. I even wished the ladies luck -- despite my doubts that they could possibly have any left over.

Friends often wonder about the fact that I quit playing bridge the very same day my wife started. Was there a story behind it, some reason for it? No reason, I tell them; some things just happen that way.

A coincidence, that's all.