

canadian bridge digest

CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION
FEDERATION CANADIENNE DE BRIDGE



NOVA SCOTIA
NOUVELLE-ECOSSE



YUKON



TERRE-NEUVE
NEWFOUNDLAND



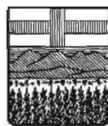
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ILE DU PRINCE-EDOUARD



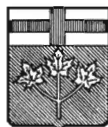
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST



QUEBEC



ALBERTA



ONTARIO



NEW BRUNSWICK
NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK



MANITOBA



BRITISH COLUMBIA
COLOMBIE BRITANNIQUE



SASKATCHEWAN



Canadian Bridge Digest

ISSN 0317-9281

87 Grandin Village
St. Albert, Alberta
T8N 1R9
Phone (403) 458-7332

Published quarterly.

Issue XXXVI Vol. 13 No. 2

Deadline for next issue
is June 10, 1982



**Ron
Bass**

**Jill
Savage**



Charity of the Year for 1982 is the
Kidney Foundation of Canada

CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

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3	84	Karen Allison, 73 McCaul St. #234 Toronto, Ont., M5T 2X2
4	84	Helen Shields, 1103-405 Waverley St., Thunder Bay, Ont., P7B 1B8
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Ron Bass & Jill Savage, 87 Grandin Village, St. Albert, Alberta



Editor's Notebook

Canada's top master point winner for 1981 is George Mittelman, of Toronto, who succeeded in amassing a whopping 681 points for the year. The three runners-up also had impressive totals. They were Ted Horning of Thornhill with 545, Peter Herold of North Vancouver who picked up 523 points and finally Keith Balcombe, Oshawa, 415. It's a pleasure to salute Canada's finest and it's also worth noting that three of those four were from Ontario. Obviously a hot-bed of bridge. The Little McKenney winners are shown on page 4 of this issue. They are also to be congratulated for their fine efforts.

I have been severely chastized by one of our readers for procrastination in asking some of Canada's top echelon players to submit an article for the expert column. I will agree I have been recruiting experts whose brilliance and excellent deportment is personally known to me. However I'm about to improve my record, and since I now have a list of all Canadians with over 1000 points (which will be published at a later date) the task should be relatively easy?

My "irked" expert also suggested that I was polarizing the Digest and tending to feature articles more representative of the West than the East. At this, I take great umbrage. Criticize my play, criticize my bidding and even criticize my defence, but DON'T even suggest that I practice unfair journalism . . . How could I (who has lived in 4 Eastern provinces) ever consider regionalizing the contents of this magazine. Articles are submitted to the Editors and then published (subject to editing, of course).

Has anyone kept count of the number of times I have pleaded for articles from readers. Maybe Westerners are just more loquacious. (We'll obviously run out of trees first).

Oh well, as I've said before, I love an eristic challenge. And for me a change of trouble is like a vacation. (My life is a continual vacation) Inundate me with letters of reprimand. Maybe someone could spare a postcard with a nice word on it . . .

Would you like
to hear some
nice words?

Ask any bridge
player to talk
about himself.

1981

Richmond Trophy Winner

George Mittelman, Toronto

681

George is one of the members of Canada's top flight team that represented us in the Netherlands last year. This team is proving to be virtually invincible in Canada, and I suspect George is one of the reasons for that success.



Rookie of the Year (0-5MPs)

Bill Moore, Collingwood

80

Ian Jack, Prince George

59

Non-Master of the Year (5-20MPs)

Eric Marchand, Westmount

225

Maria Moore, Collingwood

85

Percy Chen, Dollard des Ormeaux

83

Master of the Year (20-50MPs)

Mary Howe, London

103

National Master of the Year (50-100MPs)

Paul Janicki, Toronto

147

Peter Kosacky, Toronto

122

Senior Master of the Year (100-200MPs)

Vaughn Johnson, Calgary

217

Dee La Blanco, Vancouver

170

Advanced Senior Master of the Year (200MPs-Life Master)

Haig Tchamitch, Willowdale

330

Cliff Puskas, Saskatoon

228

Martin O'Reilly, Vancouver

195

From The Desk Of The Treasurer

Aaron Goodman

South Saskatchewan Unit #573 has earned the plaudits of the CBF by being the first Unit to submit their 1982 Member-

ship Fees to this office. Further, this payment was the earliest one recorded in the past ten years. Well Done!

CBF Financial Statement (1981)

For the 12th consecutive year I am pleased to submit this report on the financial operations of the C.B.F. covering the period Dec. 1/80 to Dec. 31/81.

I attach statements which show:

(a) Receipts and Expenditures on both Membership and Olympiad Fund account (maintained separately) indicating in each case the year end cash position,

and

(b) a detailed listing of contributions and payments made in 1980/81 by Units of the Canadian Bridge Federation and affiliated Clubs shown separately for Membership and Olympiad Fund account.

For better evaluation comparative figures are given for 1979 and 1980.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS - Dec. 1/80 to December 31st 1981.

	<u>R E C E I P T S</u>	<u>MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT</u>	<u>OLYMPIAD ACCOUNT.</u>
1981 Membership dues	15693.00		
1980 Membership dues (paid in 1981)	1547.00	17240.00	
INTEREST earned on Bank deposits		6907.44	
S. TENCH - surplus from CNFC Trials - finals		1284.73	
J.D. Harper - return of unutilized advance	1300.00		
LESS: expense account submitted	809.06	490.94	
P. HEITNER - Surplus, Ladies Team Contest	1724.50		
LESS: travel expenses pd. pro rata to players	1665.02	59.48	
G. BOIVIN - raised towards cost of translating Conditions of Team contest		77.00	
CNFC Fund - Travel cheques 596.97 cancelled		112.00	
TOTAL PROCEEDS Canada Wide and other Olympiad Fund games		8814.25	
EXTRA 50¢ per Member pd. by Units 166, 228, 230, 573		3120.50	11934.75
Rental of Bidding Boxes			188.00
A.C.B.L. - Surocharge collected on CNFC games			(US) 3497.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		326173.59	\$15619.75
Brought forward from Dec. 1/80		24924.97	14496.09
TOTAL available funds		\$ 51098.56	\$30115.84
	<u>D I S B U R S E M E N T S</u>		
ACBL Nov. 1 Digest '80	3382.34		
" May. 1/81 Digest	2429.87		
" Aug. 1/81 "	1985.59 (US)		
" Nov. 1/80 "	2376.29		
BASS/Savage Feb/May/Oct			
Nov	2608.44		
LESS advertisement -	12133.23		
	200.00	11983.23	
EXPENSES of Directors attending Directors/ Members Meeting at Ottawa May/81	4818.08		
Less pd. by Charitable Fund	405.00	4413.08	
Hotel charges for meeting space		375.41	
F.A. Baragar - 1981 Honorarium		1500.00	
F.A. Baragar - expense account		774.94	
A. Goodman, 1980/81 Honorarium		1000.00	
Bank Service charge & Miscellaneous		45.51	
Anna McPhee - expense a/c		132.00	
J. Murphy - Roche - expense a/c		95.21	
Moe Deschamps - expense a/c		60.31	
David Bryce - legal fees re Rothman contract	75.00	20454.79	
ACBL - Table Fees C/W Oct. '80		436.16	
" " " C/W Oct. '81		242.00 (US)	
Transfer to Charitable Fund - rec'd in error		119.00	797.16
Balance on hand Dec. 31-1981		\$30641.77	29318.68

RECORD of CONTRIBUTIONS BY UNITS - DEC. 1/80 to DECEMBER 31st 1981 with COMPARATIVE 1979-1980.

	MEMBERSHIP				OLYMPIAD		
	1979	1980	1981		1979	1980	1981
ZONE 1.							
ACADIAN UNIT #230	599.00	300.00 ('79)	599.00('80) 611.00	)	421.50	710.50	38.00 Bathurst DBC 144.00 Newcastle BC (3) 35.00 Nipisquit DBC 52.50 Moncton DBC 115.50 Fredericton DBC (3) 40.25 Algerine DBC 49.00 Summerside DBC 49.00 Unit (Kinsella) 49.00 Scotia DBC 305.50 UNIT X 50¢ 42.00 Greenwood B.C. 297.50 Halifax Br. World (3) 105.00 Cornerbrook DBC 294.00 Unit (from Trials)
CAN. MARITIMES #194	781.00	-----	-----	)	272.00	308.00	
ZONE 2.							
MONTREAL UNIT #151	2066.50	1936.50	1819.50	)	667.75	904.75	45.50 Club de Br. Sherbrooke 112.00 Lakeshore DBC 45.00 West Island DBC 38.00 Dorval DBC 119.00 Mirabel DBC 136.50 Cl. de Bridge St. George(2)
QUEBEC UNIT #152	339.00	307.00	350.00	)	60.00	420.00	104.00 Cl. de Br. Rimouski 125.50 Sept Iles DBC (3) 56.00 Pellatan DBC 119.00 Capital DBC 390.00 R.A. Dup. BC (2) 70.00 Pembroke DBC 80.50 Cornwall & Dist.
SAGUENAY UNIT #199	-----	372.00('79)	348.00 ('80)	)	36.22	133.00	
EASTERN ONTARIO #192	1268.00	1199.00	1517.50	)	597.00	884.00	
Carried Forward	5063.50	4114.50	5245.00	)	2054.47	3360.25	3057.25

	1979	<u>MEMBERSHIP</u> 1980	1981	)	1979	<u>OLYMPIAD</u> 1980	1981
Brought forward	5063.50	4114.50	5245.00	)	2054.47	3360.25	3067.25

ZONE 3.

ONTARIO UNIT #166	5437.00	4784.00	4910.00	)	2621.25	3066.00	2455.00	Unit X 50¢ Xtra
				)			57.00	Oakville BC (2)
							14.00	Woodstock DBC
							38.50	Burlington B. St.
							170.00	Etobicoke DBC (2)
							129.50	Caledon DBC (2)
							217.00	Audrey Grant BC (2)
							469.00	Kate Buckman DBC (3)
							94.50	Scarborough BC (2)
							63.00	Banbury DBC
							38.50	ABC Studio
							304.50	Ted Horning B. St. (3)
							66.50	Waterloo Kitchener BC
							140.00	Grant-Lindop BC
							258.00	Markland Wood BC (2)
							140.00	St. Thomas DBC
							63.00	Ridgetown DBC
							112.00	Welland DBC.
TRENT VALLEY UNIT #246	-----	-----	500.00('80)	)	-----	364.28	35.00	Belloville DBC
			482.00	)			56.00	Aurora DBC
							63.00	Blue Mountain DBC

Carried forward	10501.50	8898.50	11137.00		4675.72	6789.53	8041.25
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	1979	<u>MEMBERSHIP</u> 1980	1981)	1979	1980	<u>OLYMPIAD</u> 1981
Brought forward	10501.50	8898.50	11137.00)	4675.72	6789.53	8041.25

ZONE 4.

MANITOBA UNIT #181	585.00	491.00	464.00	)	203.00	96.50	42.00	Unit.
THUNDER BAY UNIT #228	212.00	230.00	228.00	)	277.00	311.50	112.50	Unit 228 X 50¢ Extra
							56.00	Kenora DBC
							49.00	Pointe au Baril
							28.00	Geraldton
QUONTA UNIT #238	396.00	405.00	374.00	)	409.50	414.00	63.00	Unit
				)			70.00	Falconbridge DBC
							182.00	North Bay DBC (2)
							70.00	Parry Sound DBC
							49.00	Noranda -Rouyn BC
SOO INTERNATIONAL UNIT #212 --	80.00	140.00		)	----	----	70.00	Nickel City DBC

ZONE 5.

LETHBRIDGE UNIT #392	155.00	156.00	148.00)	-----	-----	-----	
EDMONTON UNIT #391	720.00	674.00	664.00	)	315.00	469.50	129.50	St. Paul DBC (3)
							196.00	Klondike DBC (2)
							77.00	Red Deer D.B.C.
							56.00	Sherwood Park BC
							129.50	UNIT
MEDICINE HAT UNIT #393	-----	58.00	53.00	)	5.00	-----	35.00	Unit
CALGARY UNIT #390	664.00	710.00	720.00	)	451.00	364.00	210.00	Unit (2)
NORTH SASK. UNIT #575	468.00	483.00	468.00	)	191.00	255.50	164.50	SASKATOON B.C. (3)
							105.00	Nipawin BC (2)
							49.00	Prince Albert BC
							119.00	Lloydminster (4)
							28.00	Battleford DBC
SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN UNIT #573								
	423.00	450.00	497.00	)	405.50	402.50	49.00	Weyburn DBC
				)			273.00	Moose Jaw DBC (3)
							42.00	Swift Current DBC
							84.00	Regina DBC
							247.50	Unit Xtra 50¢

Carried Forward	14124.59	12635.50	14891.00	) 6932.72	9104.03	10826.75
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	

	1979	MEMBERSHIP 1980	1981		1979	OLYMPIAD 1980	1981	
Brought forward	14124.50	12635.50	14891.00	)	6932.72	9104.03	10826.75	
<u>ZONE 6.</u>								
EAST KOOTENAY #574	-----	-----	-----	)	91.00	115.50	21.00	Sparwood DBC
OKANAGAN UNIT #571	409.00	387.00	384.00	)	283.50	343.00	-----	
VANCOUVER UNIT #430	1329.00	1385.00	1182.00	)	561.00	383.25	105.00	North Side BC
							91.00	Maple Ridge BC
							72.00	Vancouver Golf
							132.00	Haida BC (2)
							108.50	Fraser Valley DBC
QUESNEL UNIT #436	100.00	-----	100.00 ('80)	)	298.50	224.00	77.00	Williams Lake (2)
			100.00				49.00	Fort St. John
							42.00	Cariboo DBC
							35.00	Spruce Capital
VICTORIA UNIT #431	314.00	328.00	333.00	)	75.00	80.50	84.00	Dogwood DBC
)				
PARKSVILLE UNIT #429	250.00	250.00	250.00	)	115.50	88.00	87.50	Alberni Valley
							154.00	Nanaimo DBC
	-----	-----	-----		-----	-----	-----	
	16526.50	14963.50	17240.00	)	8357.22	10338.28	11934.75	
	-----	-----	-----		-----	-----	-----	

—CBF Newsletter—

By Doug Andrews

Two CBF Directors are elected for a three year term each year. In Zone 3 (Southern Ontario) a new face, Karen Allison will join the Board. Karen is well known throughout North America for her accomplishments as a player and her presence should keep open the lines of communication with tournament players which were available through her predecessors, Andrew Altay and Alex Kisen.

In Zone 4 incumbent Helen Shields was re-elected. Helen is currently President of the CBF and one of the longest serving Directors - an indication of Helen's dedication and patience. To date, four applications have been received for CBF secretary, a position to become vacant as long-serving Alvin Baragar is retiring. The new secretary's term will commence with the annual meeting of the Directors in Edmonton in July.

In conjunction with the annual meeting is the Annual Delegates Meeting. All units are encouraged to send at least one delegate to this meeting. In addition, all members of the CBF are welcome to attend. Regardless of whether you can attend, you are advised to inform the Director of your Zone of your opinions so that they may be presented at the meeting.

Topics on which the Directors are particularly anxious to have your views include: methods of introducing new players to the game; ways of choosing Canadian champions or representatives in team and pair bridge; level of support for women's bridge competitions; methods of promoting good conduct, ethics, and deportment; means of strengthening the CBF ailing finances; ways of developing a national unity among Canadian bridge players and

establishing a stronger Canadian voice within the ACBL.

In connection with the last point one of the aims of the CBF as set forth in its constitution is "The establishment of a Canadian voice in the ACBL through redistributing, or by whatever practical means available." Over five years ago, District 1 and 2 were re-defined to comprise only Canadian units. ACBL District 1 is comprised of CBF Zones 1 and 2 and stretches from Newfoundland to Eastern Ontario. ACBL District 2 is comprised of CBF Zones 3 and 4 which represent the rest of Ontario and Manitoba. District 18 includes CBF Zone 5 representing Saskatchewan and Alberta and some prairie states in the USA. ACBL District 19 consists of CBF Zone 6, British Columbia, and the states of Washington and Alaska. The CBF Directors have proposed that the Canadian parts of Districts 18 and 19 be combined to form one all Canadian district of the ACBL. However, the CBF would not take action without the support of the member units. The units affected were polled in 1977. At that time support was unanimous in Alberta, barely existent in BC and completely lacking in Saskatchewan. The Western directors are conducting a poll of their units again this year.

Some of the arguments advanced for redistributing are as follows:

(1) Having an all Canadian District makes it easier to use ACBL events to select pairs or teams for Canadian international events.

(2) Having three all Canadian Districts would ensure that Canadians would have at least 3 votes out of 25 on the ACBL Board of Directors.

(3) Canadian units and Canadian tournaments tend to be stronger financially than their American counterparts

which would mean more funds to support Canadian bridge.

(4) Having all Canadian Districts would enhance our chances of receiving financial support from government or Canadian corporations since political/geographical boundaries may be important to these organizations.

(5) Having all Canadian Districts would strengthen a position in the World Bridge Federation Councils.

(6) An additional 1/6 of a regional each year would be available for Western Canadians.

Opponents of redistricting express some or all of the following concerns:

(a) Matters of importance to Canadians would be viewed with less interest by the ACBL Board of Directors since we have our own directors to represent us.

(b) Western Canada does not have a sufficient pool of adequately equipped administrative talent to insure satisfactory representation on the ACBL Board.

(c) The current district alignment appears to be working reasonably effectively so why disturb it.

(d) Strong north/south ties exist in both districts which might be disrupted by redistricting with severe financial consequences.

(e) There is fear in Saskatchewan that Alberta and British Columbia would dominate a Western District to Saskatchewan's detriment.

(f) There is a danger of lawsuits by American units opposed to redistricting.

Rothman's 1982 Canadian National Team Championships

The finals of Rothman's 1982 CNTC will be held June 4 to June 8 in Regina. According to National Co-ordinator Stan Tench, and local co-ordinator Richard Anderson, arrangements have

gone well.

The final will consist of a round robin among 14 teams followed by a single knockout among the first four teams. The 14 teams will be determined as follows: 1 from Zone 1, 3 from Zone 2, 4 from Zone 3, 1 from Zone 4, 1 from the host unit, 2 from Zone 5, 2 from Zone 6. The winners will receive individual trophies provided by Rothman's.

Attendance was up this year in all zones. While it would be nice to think that attendance has increased because players have come to enjoy this annual competition, it would be wrong to underrate the effect of Rothman's sponsorship. The excellent supplies provided for all levels of competition as well as the personal contact with Rothman's representatives has done much to improve the conditions and organization of the event. A continuing working relationship between Rothmans and the CBF will continue to mean that the Canadian National Championships are a high class event at all levels of competition.

When Zone 5 Director Richard Anderson, offered to have the finals held in Regina he stated that he wanted to show the rest of the country "a little Western hospitality." Those of you lucky enough to attend the final will be playing in a recently renovated hotel which has a spacious well lit playing area. An airport pick-up service will be sponsored by members of the South Saskatchewan Unit. Special bridge room rates are available at the hotel for players and kibitzers. Friday night a sit-down dinner, courtesy of the Government of Saskatchewan, will be provided for the participants. If the level of play and deportment of the players can match the tournament surroundings the Final will be a good event.

If you wish to be remembered as a bridge player, do one thing superbly well, like, say ducking smoothly.

R.H. Paterson

=CANADIAN BIDDING CONTEST=

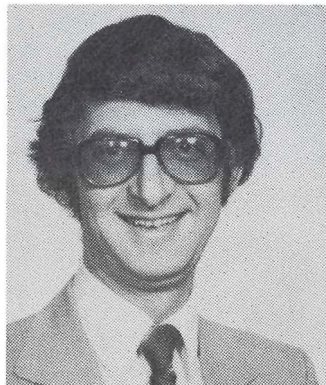
FEBRUARY HONOUR ROLL

In an unprecedented repeat performance, Clifford Dezell of Prince George, B.C. scored his second contest victory in less than a year. Since we have a policy of featuring a completely different panel in every issue, the spoils of victory go to the runner-up. Nevertheless, Mr. Dezell deserves an extra round of applause for his unique feat.

In total, 16 readers broke the 500 mark:

1.	Clifford Dezell	Prince George, BC	570
2.	Linda Howard	Saskatoon, SK	560
3/4/5.	Dan McCaw	Scarborough, ON	540
	Bruce Watson	St. Johns, NF	540
	Michael Tyrrell	Saskatoon, SK	540
6/7/8.	Bobbe McDonald	Prince Albert, SK	530
	Walter B. Hoover	Saskatoon, SK	530
	W.B. Cunningham	Sackville, NB	530
9/10/11.	Joseph Seigel	Thornhill, ON	520
	Michel Allard	St. Louis-de-France, PQ	520
	Richard Bickley	Stettler, AB	520
12/13	Marc Langevin	North Bay, ON	510
	Joseph Doucet	Toronto, ON	510
14/15/16.	Walter Palmer	Roxboro, PQ	500
	Monique Dombrowski	Ste. Foy, PQ	500
	Bill Woodcock	Courtright, ON	500

Congratulations to Ms. Howard, who wins a bridge book and joins our expert panel this month.



by Allan Simon

MAY PANEL

This month's experts are a par-

ticularly distinguished group. In alphabetical order, we have:

FRANCO BANDONI (TORONTO) has been called the best non-English speaking player in North America (outside of Quebec and Cajun territory)

STEVEN BROWN (Montreal) is a consistent winner in Montreal, where any win is tough to come by. His credits include at least eight regional wins and two trips to the Grand National Pairs finals.

DREW CANNELL (Toronto) has a fascinating biography. He was one of Winnipeg's top stars in the early seventies and represented Canada at the 1974 Pairs Olympiad. Since 1978, he has played internationally for Panama, with

great success. He now resides in Toronto, where he continues to work on refinements to his Panama Relay bidding system.

DON COWAN (Toronto) has won over 3000 masterpoints, mostly in mixed pairs events. He played on the Canadian team at the 1976 Olympiad in Monte Carlo.

RAYMOND FORTIN (Montmagny, Que.), at the 1981 Canadian National Team Championship, captained a team that barely missed the playoffs. Cognoscenti were not surprised, since he had presaged this performance with a remarkable string of regional victories. It is worth noting that he combines his bridge activities with those of a demanding profession: he is a medical doctor.

ALLAN GRAVES (Vancouver, B.C.) is the captain of the greatest Canadian team ever assembled. Graves-Mittelman-Kehela-Murray-Nagy-Kokish are virtually unbeatable in Canada and form one of the world's top teams.

LINDA HOWARD (Saskatoon, SK) says modestly that the high spot in her bridge career has been winning the bidding contest. In fact, she has been a consistent performer and frequent winner in Prairie tournaments for several years.

MICHEL LORBER (Montreal) won the consolation at the 1980 Grand National Pairs final in Fresno. He writes that he is on the verge of senility (he is 23) and his favorite system is Substandard American.

PETER NAGY (Montreal) is simply one of the world's great players of our time. Since his virtuoso performances in New Orleans (second in the 1978 Pairs Olympiad) and Valkenburg (ninth in the 1980 Team Olympiad), his name is a household word on both sides of the Atlantic.

ALEX ORLANDINI (Kelowna, B.C.) is

a regular inhabitant of the McKenney list, although he lives in a part of the country where major tournaments are few and far between.

LEO STEIL (Vancouver) has been winning tournaments for twenty years and Vancouverites have given up waiting for him to slow down. He is a very tough opponent at all forms of the game.

MAY SOLUTIONS

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

West ID	North dbl.	East Pass	South ?
------------	---------------	--------------	------------

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
2H	7	100
2D	1	60
4H	1	50
1H	1	40
3H	1	30

This problem was suggested by Ross Taylor of Hamilton, Ont. Mr. Taylor calls it a very tough problem and right he is; the book bid of two hearts does not really do our hand justice -- particularly the secondary diamond values suggest more aggressive action.

NAGY: Two diamonds. This hand is much too good to merely invite via two hearts. Accepting this 'fact,' a direct jump to four hearts is reasonable, but rules out the possibility of playing three notrump or six hearts.

BROWN: Four hearts. Texture (i.e. great spot cards) and distribution suggests that game is probable, only reservation is that partner will not be expecting this many side controls.

The majority of panelists disagreed with the Montrealers' optimistic evaluation.

STEIL: Two hearts looks automatic

to me. Not enough to force to game with weak distributional doubles being standard.

BANDONI: Two hearts; hoping partner can make a move.

COWAN: Two hearts. Two hearts more than I might have. Two jacks more than I might have. Two nines more than I might have.

He forgot about his threes. Finally, a surprising recommendation was made by Graves, but surely most players would interpret a jump to three hearts as showing a weak hand with a long, topless heart suit. Yet:

GRAVES: Three hearts. I doubt if game is on if partner passes.

(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	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
2H	5	100
2D	4	90
2NT	2	60

Let's start with the panel for a change:

HOWARD: Two hearts. Two notrump would promise a club stopper. A minimum bid of two hearts will allow partner to make his intentions clear.

BROWN: Two hearts. Must avoid bidding notrump with no vulnerable tenace. The ten of hearts is the clincher -- with two little hearts I would rebid two diamonds.

LORBER: Two diamonds. Although this usually shows six, or at least five diamonds, the hand is positionally wrong for a notrump bid. There is no hurry to support hearts on 10x, if that is the right strain partner will surely rebid them.

CANNELL: Two diamonds. Not doing justice to my distribution, but at least showing partner where my strength lies. Two hearts seems a little eccentric.

The above comments illustrate that the decision between two hearts and two diamonds is a very close one; no reasonable partner would criticize either bid. The point of the problem was that one must eschew the superficially appealing two notrump bid. Partner's last call was 'fourth suit forcing' and does not promise a club stopper. Still,

ORLANDINI: Two notrump. Two hearts would be my second choice.

STEIL: Two notrump. I don't have three card heart support or a rebiddable suit.

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

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

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

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
3NT	10	100
3H	1	30
3S	0	30

The panel shook its collective head at this easy problem:

CANNELL: Three notrump. The trick to this one has eluded me.

NAGY: Three notrump. I must admit that nothing else occurred to me.

BROWN: Three notrump. What else can one consider? There is no other call worth considering.

LORBER: Three notrump. What else??

COWAN: Three notrump. Completing the picture of my hand. Stoppers in hearts and clubs. No voids.

So what was the point of this problem? Was it to determine whether the panel would for once come up with a unanimous decision? Not at all. (As it happens, the consensus

was destroyed by Orlandini's vote for three hearts. Now, Alex always plays the dummy superbly and I am immensely proud of the fact that we are occasional partners, but this time he is out somewhere near the left field warning track). Actually, the problem was lifted from a book by Terence Reese, who writes in part: "It is easy to see that three notrump may come to ruin even when partner has fair values such as AKxxxx in diamonds and one of the black kings...In theory, the change of suit is forcing at the three level...however, my partner is a sensible player and, if he had a game hand, I think he would look for a clearer call...I am going to pass before worse befalls, and I mark the alternatives.

Pass.....10
 3S.....6
 3NT.....4

The title of Reese's book? "Develop Your Bidding Judgement" if you can believe it.

(D) IMPs, neither vul., South holds:
 S:2 H:6 D:AKJ10976 C:AQ74

West	North	East	South
Pass	4H	4S	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
5D	3	100
4NT	3	90
5H	2	80
6D	2	60
6H	0	50
Dbl.	1	30

This one is straight from the chamber of horrors. Anything could be right, including a jump to six hearts. The combined judgement and experience of the panel gave its support to the three conservative options -- five diamonds, five hearts and four notrump. Let's listen to one

spokesman for each of these calls:

STEIL: Five hearts. Could be six hearts opposite a solid heart suit which I wouldn't open four hearts opposite a non-passed partner, or six diamonds if he has the right cards, which there is no way to tell. Probably will get a chance to double five spades.

NAGY: Five diamonds. I just can't pass with these cards and doubling is equally distasteful. The question is, can I make a bid which will help partner decide whether to play hearts or diamonds? Well, I'll try five diamonds. If it's right to bid I'll need some diamond length from partner anyway; besides, he is not barred from bidding five hearts. Tough hand!

GRAVES: Four notrump. Tactically, to establish a force in the unlikely event there is further competition. With suits breaking poorly I'll settle for five unless partner surprises with the second ace.

It is worth noting that Graves (a) seems to simply that he is asking for aces, an interpretation some people would quarrel with, and (b) neatly sidestepped the question of which red suit he intends to choose at his next turn.

In a full page treatise, one panelist makes an eloquent case for the radical option. Here are some excerpts:

BROWN: Six diamonds. Five diamonds would be cue bid in support of hearts; four notrump asks for minor suit controls. Five hearts is competitive and may be made with a bad hand. Opponents have been known to sacrifice with two cashing aces and they may stampede into six spades -- the ball is in the air!

To complete the political spectrum, it is odd to find the only panelist from an NDP province espousing a reactionary view:

HOWARD: Double. Prefer a likely plus 500 to a doubtful six diamonds.

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

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

West	North	East	South
3D	3S	Pass	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
4C	9	100
3NT	0	50
4NT	1	40
6NT	1	30
4S	0	20
4D	0	20

When this problem appeared in The Bridge World's Masters Solvers Club in February 1981, the US experts voted for three notrump, with four spades and four diamonds runners-up. Contest editor Jeff Rubens castigated his panel for overlooking the merits of four clubs, which in his words 'dangerously overstates the strength of the club suit, but at least offers the advantages of lowness and flexibility. If partner bids four spades, I will try four notrump (natural); if he bids five clubs, I will risk five notrump ('pick a slam'); if he bids four diamonds, I'll bid four hearts; if he bids four hearts, I will cry.' Either our panel includes many Bridge World readers (with good memories) or they're just plain smart:

NAGY: Four clubs. I couldn't believe how many experts bid three notrump with this hand when it appeared in the Bridge World. These cards are almost worth a slam force.

FORTIN: Four clubs. The aggressive view, even with such a broken five card suit, seems most flexible. Will try four hearts over four diamonds.

CANNELL: Four clubs. A good matchpoint problem. Should you bid three notrump? I think there may be a possibility of slam and therefore make a natural four club try. The worst thing that can happen is that we arrive in four spades.

GRAVES: Four clubs. Allowing us maximum room while choosing our most natural call. With East likely holding the heart king, six notrump seems most likely slam and natural bidding seems best way to get there while still allowing for the less likely suit slams.

The singleton spokespeople for alternative actions also get their say:

HOWARD: Six notrump. A reasonable gamble. I would expect partner to have a good six card suit and significant values at this vulnerability.

ORLANDINI: Four notrump. If missing an ace six notrump should be at worst on a finesse. (Must be something in the spaghetti sauce A.S.)

BANDONI: Four clubs; we could be missing a slam; maybe partner can bid four diamonds. Three notrump too conservative.

(Eats in a different restaurant than Alex A.S.)

(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?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
Club ace	8	100
Any heart	2	70
Spade 6	1	40

I found this hand in the 1957 World Championship book. In the Italy-US match, Helen Sobel led Ace of clubs, small club to give partner a ruff and earn a major swing, albeit in a losing cause. I figured a quarter of a century later the problem would be a cunning trap for our panel. After

all, everybody knows that only beginners lead aces against slams! But this month's panel is simply too good. Stephen Brown and Alex Orlandini divined the actual distribution of all four hands! Other spoilsports were:

GRAVES: Club ace. They may well be 4-3 in clubs.

FORTIN: Club ace. And hope for a singleton in partner's hand.

HOWARD: Ace of clubs. Followed by a second club which partner will hopefully trump.

I trust the three unlucky guessers will forgive me if I reveal their identities:

LORBER: Heart ten. (There follows an ingenious construction in which only a heard lead breaks up a trump squeeze. A.S.)

NAGY: Heart jack. It's possible we can beat the slam quickly with a club ruff. But that would mean East has 4-1-5-3 suit oriented hand, with which he might have bid three diamonds in the first place. I'll play him to be 4-2-5-2 instead.

Actually, East has 3-2-5-3 with AQx of spades. Without the ruff, he doesn't even need the spade hook to make six.

COWAN: Spade six. I recognize the trap. Partner's suit is probably four to the nine (now that's what I call weak), but just in case he thinks I don't have one I'll lead the spade six.

AUGUST CONTEST

To enter the August 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 receive a valuable bridge book and will be invited to join the expert panel.

(A) IMPs, neither vul., South holds:
S:1095 H:532 D:Q65 C:KQJ4

West	North	East	South
Pass	1D	2S*	Pass
3S	Dbl.	Pass	?

*weak

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

S:A4 H:AJ1053 D:- C:A97643

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1C
2H*	Dbl.**	3D	?

*weak **negative

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

S:AQ92 H:92 D:AQ43 C:J64

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1D
Pass	2C	Pass	?

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

S:AQ10543 H:63 D:AJ7 C:5

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1S
2C	Dbl.*	Pass	2D
3C	Dbl.	Pass	?

*negative

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

S:AQ8653 H:7 D:3 C:AQ96

West	North	East	South
—	1D	1H	1S
Pass	2D	Pass	3S
Pass	3NT	Pass	4C
Dbl.	4H	Pass	?

(F) IMPs, East-West vul., South holds:
S:J32 H:J97 D:K C:AK10864

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2C*
Dbl.	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

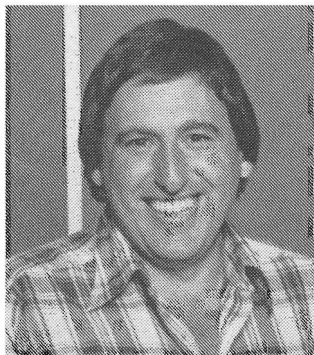
*natural, limited

Which card do you lead?

If you must go down,
for heaven's sakes get on with it.

Hear it from the experts

Editor's Note: I am particularly thankful to this month's resident expert. Eric accepted the challenge of an immediate time restriction and produced this excellent article. But what else would one expect from Canada's number 4 master point holder with 5,600MPs, and a member of our outstanding national team. How can I introduce him except to say "Here's Eric..."



By Eric Kokish

**(an extract from the
Middle East...Montreal)**

Shake a tree and ten good dummy players fall out of it, crushing the one wretched good bidder who was doing his homework innocently enough thereunder. Pity. Good bidders are so hard to find. The auction is as crude or sophisticated as you choose to make it. Your particular partnership philosophy emerges through experience and personality. You ultimately write your own language and within that language you will constantly be learning new wrinkles, fine nuances, beautiful concepts that will make the game more worthwhile for you. Perhaps.

The most lavish bridge gift I could ever hope to present to you is the suggestion that you are capable of almost anything where bidding is concerned.

The idea is to keep an open mind and to work together with one (or at most a few) cherished partner to develop a sound frame-work and as painless a set of agreements as possible. Artificiality is not for everyone but understanding is a universal prerequisite. When you do something that works out badly, discuss it to the point that you have an agreement about what to do next time. Sometimes this sort of discussion can go on for hours. That's not necessarily unhealthy. That's the way we learn. When we believe that we've got nothing left to learn we're in serious trouble.

On a technical level, I could discuss bidding with you for a week or two. As it happens, that's what I like to do best.

The book I'm writing will give us just that opportunity to get together. But that's another story. For now I'm going to touch on a few problem areas very briefly and hope that these introductory comments will lead to your pursuing some of these matters further with your partners.

(1) Set the trump suit

This is a mammoth topic to which to do justice. Simply stated, my tip here is the following: "whenever possible, tell partner which suit is going to be trumps at your earliest opportunity." The most obvious "danger" situations arise after one partner has made a strong cue-bid of the opponents' suit in mid-auction or after "fourth suit forcing" or after a jump shift response and rebid. There are many others. Some example sequences:

(a)	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1C	1H	1S	P
	2H	P	3D	P
	3NT			

(b)	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1D	1S	DBL*	P
	2S	P	3H	P
	4C			

In (a) West's 2H cue-bid sets up a force to **game**. In general, East should try to make it as easy as possible for West to describe the **nature** of his force. Thus he would tend to rebid a 5-card spade suit (unless that were already implied: no negative double, etc). Here's East 3D preempts his partner! West might have wanted to rebid clubs to show a hand too strong for a simple jump to 3C. Therefore East should be showing only four spades or 5-5 by agreement. That's something to discuss. What does West show with his 3NT? Well, the main point is that **he does not have a primary spade fit**. Depending on the number of spades implied by east, West would **always** bid 3S to confirm that his cue-bid was based on a spade fit. By bidding 3NT instead West says that his force was based on his own source of tricks: clubs. Why didn't he simply jump to 3NT at his last turn? Well, say he held: SKQ HA7 D3 CAKQ108653. Should he settle for 3NT and have them cash the whole diamond suit with 6C laydown? Perhaps. If the partnership understands the notion of setting trumps, West needn't fear that East will play him for a huge spade fit for that 2H cue-bid. In essence, there are only two hands West can have that require a cue-bid: spades or clubs. **All other problem types can improvise with a notrump bid or a reverse into diamonds or a natural raise or suit rebid. Once West doesn't support spades....!**

In (b) West's 3H after his negative double collected a cue-bid from partner is another self-inflicted preempt. This

must show a 5-card suit to be useful. What of West's 4C? Is it a cue-bid for hearts or an attempt to make clubs trumps? Look at it this way. West could raise hearts or cue-bid again to set hearts. He has no other way to suggest clubs. Remember that a jump to 3C over the double would not have been forcing. The key is to clarify the nature of the force as soon as possible.

(c)	WEST	EAST	(d)	WEST	EAST
	1H	1S		1S	3C
	2D	3C		3H	4D
	4C	???			

(e)	WEST	EAST
	1S	3C
	3S	4D

(c) is an awkward auction where West goes beyond 3NT in raising the fourth suit, one that may well be non-existent. I'd say that West should tend to hold a good hand to bid this way since East might simply have a solid opening bid with a long heart suit (where 3H over 2D would have been NF). What do East's bids mean now? Ostensibly, any bid that East makes is **an attempt to set trumps**, with 4NT suggesting a final resting place. The only genuine way that East can show **real** clubs is to raise himself! Sad, but true. That's a nice sequence to discuss. In (d), assuming that the partnership doesn't jump shift with two-suiters (other than opener's suit), what does East's 4D say - spades or clubs? If West is a trump-setter and expects East to be of the same mind, then East must be cue-bidding the DA in support of his own club suit. With clubs **and** spades, East would set trumps by bidding 3S. But (e) is a different sequence. There's a case to play either way. With spades East can raise to 4S, preempting all 4-level cue-bids. That would mean 4D was once again for clubs. The other view is that East can rebid 4C to set clubs so that the diamond cue-bid for spades is now available. Both views make sense. Discuss the sequence. It's worth the ef-

fort.

(2) Whenever doubt exists, bid out your pattern

Again, this is a very broad subject, but we can attempt to deal with it here as a sort of corollary to the first tip: “if strain and/or level are uncertain and you can finish describing the pattern of your hand, make an effort to do so.” This is also known as “bidding around your shortness” or “bidding out your shape.” Some examples follow...

(a)		(b)	
WEST	EAST	WEST	EAST
AKQ52	92	A108	J53
2	J73	AKJ102	Q6
KJ5	Q10986	AK95	864
KJ65	AQ2	3	KQ962
1S	1NT	1H	1NT
2C	2S	3D	3H
3D	3H	3S	3NT
3S	5D	PASS	
PASS			

(a) Many good players would raise themselves in spades with the West hand. Many did in the 1981 Bermuda Bowl. It's easy to see, however, that this was the wrong thing to do. If West goes on to finish the description of his hand with 3D (good 5-1-3-4 or 5-0-3-5 or perhaps even 6-0-3-4) East can sniff around for the diamond slam before settling into the best game, 5D. That 3H bid is a favorite toy of mine (and surely of many others). A bid of partner's short suit in a known “pattern” auction says “baby, you’ve just found me with your fragment.”

(b) is a straightforward jump-shift sequence where West can get lazy and raise himself to 4H or stop to show his spade fragment below the 3NT level, reaching the best game. All very nice, but what would West do with a singleton spade and a club fragment where East's black suit honors happened to be reversed? Again 3NT would be the best game. One solution would be to have East bid a

spade concentration over 3D every time that 3NT was a consideration and the club suit was a problem. Otherwise the only answer is to have West bid 3NT every time he didn't hold a sixth heart or a fifth diamond and that is just too obscure.

(3) Bid “suit” hands and notrump hands differently

Really this is a testimonial to the weak notrump, but if you can't be persuaded, then at least do something to improve your constructive bidding. The most frightening hand in bridge is the balanced minimum. If you can't start with 1NT and must begin with a suit or a non-suit, there's no telling what horrors can befall you in a competitive auction: partner makes a negative double and you're out of schitz (among things); partner raises your non-suit; partner gives you preference; partner takes you seriously, partner leads your suit...and the list goes on for weeks. I can only say this about that...when they deal you 4-3-3-3 shape (in that order), do not, repeat, **do not** open 1C and rebid 1S over either red suit. If you save that sequence to show real clubs and real spades you'll come out a winner. Trust me. Rebid 1NT and worry about everything else later. In a year or two you'll switch to weak notrumps, but I can't convince you all just yet.

A close cousin is the two-over-one response on balanced hands. This has come about partly because a 2NT response to a major is so widely used as a conventional raise of some sort. Now all those normal-looking balanced hands have to go through contortions to get their strength across. The real bugaboo is the 4-4-3-3 (in that order) responder to 1S. Can't bid 2H 'cuz that suggests 5 cards; can't bid 2NT 'cuz that's a strong 4-card spade raise. What's left? Why 2C (or 2D) of course. Then we support spades next time or guess to bid notrump with mixed results. Not for me. About two years ago we started to play 2NT as

a natural bid again (isn't bridge strange). This allows us to bid suits when we have suits and to bid notrump first when we have balanced hands. We can still get to the suit contract later but the big plus lies in getting the character of the hand across immediately. 1S-P-2C, for example, strongly implies length. When we later support spades, partner can count on clubs as a source of tricks. His doubleton honor is certain to be pulling its weight.

(4) Don't extend the principle of fast arrival to do away with "picture jumps"

Some partnerships play sequences like: 1S-P-2H-P 4H and 1S-P-2D-P 2H-P-3NT as terminal within a framework of strong two-over-one responses. The problem with this philosophy is that the opening bidder will often be interested in which **specific** poor hand responder owns. Any pilgrimage beyond the last bid in either sequence, however, comes with no security. This leads to partnership frustration and to plenty of inferior contracts, all in the interest of reserving a useful sequence to show a bad hand. Where is the gain? That 3H rather than 4H in the first sequence would show extra values and that 2NT rather than 3NT would show some plus features in the second. That is a narrow view, I submit to you.

Would it not be nice to be able to describe this hand: S:AKJ87 H:KQ105 D:76 C:J6 in one bid after: 1S-P-2H-P-??? You bet it would. Responder, with: S:Q32 H:A97642 D:A2 C:A4, could leap to 7NT with some degree of confidence. He would comfortably pass 4H with: S:5 H:AJ986 D:KQJ109 C:K8 and so avoid a five-level tragedy (diamond over and a club through or a diamond ruff or...) on occasion; so, if you use a jump to 4H as a **picture jump**: good spades, good hearts, no first or second round controls in the minors, you can do all this. This will pre-

vent you from jumping to 4H to show a bad hand with moderate support. Aren't you pleased. Perhaps 4H will be the wrong contract when you have a poor hand. Hmm.

Take the second sequence now. Should opener correct to 4H with 5-5+ in the majors. Should he correct to 4S with 6-4 or so? The "fast arrival" guys simply say that 3NT shows no extra values. Does it suggest any particular distribution in the majors? Probably not. If you go for picture jumps instead you might attach the following meaning to that jump to 3NT: 2-3-5-3 distribution, something like 15-16+ HCP. That's a tough hand to describe in one bid. If you get it off your chest immediately you will enable opener to make an enlightened decision as to major suit games vis-a-vis notrump and/or clubs and also enable him to move toward slam when the descriptive bid turns him on. And for this the price you pay is that 2NT is used to cover a vast variety of hands. So what. It already did. 2NT is an invaluable marking-time bid. It catches support, enables opener to finish describing his hand at the three level, enables responder to offer up tertiary trump support, enables the partnership to locate a new 4-4 fit, etc., etc. Picture jumps are wonderful things. Do not lose them.

(5) Don't play exactly 2NT when your side holds a long suit

That in itself would suffice as a useful bridge tip but I'll say just a bit more here. I'm referring to sequences like: 1H-P-1S-P and 1C-P-1D-P and 1D-P-1H-P and (in theory) to 2H 2C 2D

2-level overcalls. In all these cases, the partnership is unlikely to make exactly eight tricks in notrump. If the player with the long suit has a good hand or if the suit runs, it pays to be in game. If the long-suit hand is poor or if the suit doesn't come in, it will usually be at least as good to play in the long suit rather

than in notrump. What all this means is that it pays to play a continuation of 2NT by responder in all these (and related) sequences as a one-round force.

You will bid 2NT with all the invitational hands you once held but also with some of the hands that you once had to describe with a jump to 3NT or with a new-suit bid. Over your forcing 2NT, partner can retreat to his long suit, show a lower-ranking unbid 4-card suit (6-4 patterns or the like), or even show delayed support (forcing). He can, of course, raise you to game. This frees a jump to 3NT for a specific hand type—your choice. In the first sequence above, we would jump to 3NT with the following hand: S:AKJ65 H:AQ D:652 C:743 (good spades, two heart honours, no minor suit controls). This would make it easy to reach a good grand opposite: S:Q4 H:KJ9865 D:A8 C:A52. Well, relatively easy. Again, this is sort of a picture jump, but it's only made possible by treating 2NT as a one-round force.

Note that opener could pass 3NT with: S:9 H:KJ10876 D:QJ7 C:KQ9 where 4H might go one down in several ways.

Where opener shows a 6-card minor we use the jump to 3NT to show specifically 5-3-3-2 shape with 5 cards in the bid suit and a doubleton honor in opener's suit and either (1) all the side aces or (2) all the side KQ's. It's actually happened a few times and slam bidding is a pleasant experience under those conditions.

After a two-level overcall, there's a case for playing 2NT non-forcing since the long suit may not turn out to be as long as you hoped. Still, it's comforting to be able to slow down the auction with a forcing 2NT to allow opener to introduce a new suit or rebid his old one. If you leap to 3NT he'll rarely remove it and often it would have been right to do so. You can save 3NT for any particular hand you choose, perhaps a hand with lots of trumps and stopper(s) **only** in the enemy suit.

MASTER/NON-MASTER PAIRS

Who's Putting Who Through?

By John Bryden, Vancouver

The long awaited Canada-wide Master/Non-Master Pairs, in which players with less than five master points played with experienced duplicateers, was held in Vancouver at the Haida bridge club.

One would expect an event of this sort to have more than its share of 'master' bidding, the North/East 'Hogs' shooting it out on behalf of their 'Rabbit' partners.

Here are some of the 'X-rated' hands

(I was East).

North

S:x
H:AKQJxxx
D:AK10xx
C:

East

S:AQJx
H:xx
D:J
C:10xxxxx

South

S:Kxxx
H:x
D:Qxx
C:KQJxx

West
S:10xxx
H:xxx
D:xxxx
C:Ax

South	West	North	East
—	P	4H(1)	4S(2)
P	P	5H	P
P	5S	6H	Dbl(3)

- (1) thought pard might pass a weak two hearts.
 (2) maybe they'll bid again.
 (3) now to collect the reward.

South asked if the double meant they weren't making six hearts. As North apologetically gathered in the last twelve tricks, partner asked if they would have gone set had I had my bid (Questions, questions!! I'm just here to play bridge).

Horns continued to clash at the next table.

		North		
		S:x		
		H:AKJxx		
		D:xxx		
		C:AKQx		
West			East	
S:AKxx			S:QJ10xxx	
H:10xxxx			H:	
D:KJx			D:Ax	
C:x			C:J10xxx	
	South			
	S:xx			
	H:Qxx			
	D:Q10xxx			
	C:xxx			

South	West	North	East
—	—	1H	3S
P	4S	5C(1)	Dbl(2)
5H	Dbl(3)	P	P
P			

- (1) I don't believe you.
 (2) & (3) Well, maybe you should.

As I accepted chastisement from the Church of Bridge Dogma for doubling after preempting (and picking up +800) we picked up:

		North		
		S:AKxx		
		H:Qxx		
		D:Kxx		
		C:KQ10		
West			East	
S:x			S:Q10xxx	
H:xxx			H:xx	
D:QJxxx			D:A10xxx	
C:Jxxx			C:x	
	South			
	S:Jxx			
	H:AKJxx			
	D:			
	C:Axxxx			

South	West	North	East
—	—	—	P
1H	P	1S	P
2C	P	4N	P
5H	P	5N!	P
6D	P	6H	All Pass

! - the all-too infrequently used double-inhibiting re-Blackwood.

After the stiff spade lead, declarer won the Ace, pulled trumps, failed to divine the club suit and quietly went one down. Even though the wily King-ask had worked like a charm, North was still unhappy, muttering something about a safety play as we left the table.

		North		
		??		
West			East	
S:xxx			S:AKQ10xx	
H:KJxx			H:x	
D:xx			D:AJxx	
C:AKQx			C:Jx	

South
??

Against my four spade contract, South emerged with an unhelpful low club lead, won in hand with the Jack; following three rounds of trumps, the low heart was led from hand. Non-master South matched this smoothly, with a bored look, so the Jack was played from dummy, alas, fetching only the Queen. The Ace of course was where it didn't figure to be, in the hand of Ian Hayter, sitting South; he, with Connie Delisle went on to top the field. Demonstrating a keen insight into the psychological aspects of the game, Ian remarked that his lead against six spades would have been the Ace of hearts (thus ensuring himself of fine results against me for quite some time to come).

The C.B.F. should continue to sponsor Junior/Senior Pairs games, if only to help veteran matchpoint players re-establish contact with the human race.

Bidding Problems I'd Like To See

Editor's Note: Judy Goodwin is the creator of that delightful cartoon Table Talk that appears regularly in the Bulletin.

**By Judy Goodwin,
Rossland, B.C.**

I enjoy the Canadian Bidding Contest but have long felt that Simon's problems are far too easy. I would like to see the experts handle a different kind of problem, of the kind we have all (I'd like to think I'm not the only one) run into. I felt it was about time these kind of problems were brought out of the closet and credit given to those who can successfully extricate themselves from such tricky situations as:

IMPS: all vul.

1. SOUTH S 10

H AKJxx
D AKx
C Jxxx

N	E	S	W
—	—	1S*	P
2S	P	?	

*oops

Matchpoints: N/S vul.

2. SOUTH S 10

H K10xxx
D x
C K9xxxx

N	E	S	W
1S	P	3C*	P
3H	P	?	

*meant to be a weak jump shift, but alerted by partner as a limit raise in spades with all the points in clubs and spades.

IMPS: N/S vul.

3. SOUTH S AQx

H AQJxx
D AJ10
C Ax

N	E	S	W
—	—	1N*	P
3N	P	?	

*concerned about whether this is a heart hand or not, you finally decide to open in no trump and what should come out of your mouth . . . ?

4. SOUTH S x

H AQxx
D AQxx
C Axxx

N	E	S	W
1H	2C	3S*	P
4S	P	?	

*meant to be a splinter in support of spades but when partner is asked, he describes it as a strong jump shift.

Editor's Note: Finally, someone has ventured into the realm of my expertise (Master of the ersatzic theory). But indeed, because of my familiarity with incorrect bids I have devised a system to attempt to extricate myself from the situation. The one thing I have learned is that there is no way to turn off partner once he/she thinks you hold a certain type of hand. Only a positive attitude can triumph:

(a) Bid 4NT and **pass** whatever response partner makes

(b) Start to cue bid and when you hear your suit mentioned, **pass**

(c) Or, the one I prefer, jump shift, and when partner bids 4NT, intending it for ace-asking, **pass**

The latter bid is the one I used to employ with one of the local experts (and my erstwhile partner, Doug Deschner). Erstwhile, because after I passed a few 4NT bids he quit playing with me...well, I never said the system was perfect, only practical... JS