

canadian bridge digest

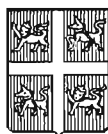
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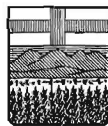
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ILE DU PRINCE-EDOUARD



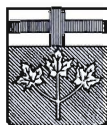
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
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NEW BRUNSWICK
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MANITOBA



BRITISH COLUMBIA
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SASKATCHEWAN



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Ron
Bass



Jill
Savage

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Kidney Foundation of Canada

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Editor's Notebook

As we approach the end of another year, we are reminded that the trials for the 1982-83 Canadian National Team Championships are upon us once again. The Editors encourage all Canadian bridge players to turn out 'en masse' to support this worthy venture. Check with your club manager for details.

The CBF recognizes that not all members feel they have a chance to win the national title, but at the very least the CNTC provides all players an opportunity to garner those elusive master points in clumps at the local level; and, this year, more so than ever before. Because, for the first time, you will be permitted to attempt to qualify more than once at the club level. (If at first you don't succeed, try, try again).

While we're on the subject of the CNTC's, a word of caution is in order. The Conditions of Contest for this event have been painstakingly established over the last few years. It is incumbent upon participants - particularly team captains - to become familiar with those conditions. Also, a vast amount of advance planning by clubs, units, directors, etc. goes into each stage of the event. Thus, it is understandably irritating to the organizers when a flagrant violation of the Conditions of Contest occurs. For example, a team that qualifies at one level then fails to show up - without adequate notice, as defined in the Conditions - for play at the next level is guilty of a serious violation. Why? Well, think about the director who has planned an exact movement for a specified number of qualifiers, then at the last minute has to come up with a new movement because of a no-show. Think about, also, the inconvenience to the other players who may be unexpectedly faced with last-minute revisions to scheduled starting times, byes, etc.

Due to receiving a number of complaints, the CBF has decided that stern disciplinary measures will be considered in dealing with infractions of this nature.

It takes a concerted effort by all concerned to ensure that the event is not only successful, but enjoyable to all participants.

Good luck and good bridge.

Did you hear about the bridge player who locked his keys in his car and it took his partner two days to get out.



Continuation of Canada's Top Master Point Holders

NUMBER	NAME	CITY	POINTS
51	Mr. R H Edney	Kingston On	2,588
52	Mrs. H R Roche	Calgary Ab	2,530
53	Mr. F Sontag	Vancouver BC	2,483
54	Mr. E Bridson	Toronto On	2,481
55	Mr. D Curry	Ottawa On	2,465
56	Mrs. B Saltsman	Montreal PQ	2,461
57	Mr. P Hollander	Dol Des Ormx PQ	2,459
58	Mr. M Rosenbloom	Montreal PQ	2,456
59	Mr. D Thomson	Winnipeg Mb	2,449
60	Mr. R F Crosby	Edmonton Ab	2,445
61	Mr. F Bandoni	Toronto On	2,441
62	Mr. H Creed	Toronto On	2,419
63	Mr. S Gold	Montreal PQ	2,414
64	Mr. V Giaccone	Nepean On	2,407
65	Mrs. M Edney	Kingston On	2,360
66	Mr. Gordon McOrmond	Vancouver BC	2,351
67	Mr. J J Currie	Halifax NS	2,347
68	Mr. A W De Groot	Winnipeg Mb	2,320
69	Mr. J Bowman	Ottawa On	2,320
70	Mr. S C Brown	Via Mt Royal PQ	2,313
71	Mr. R R Kemp	Kingston On	2,281
72	Miss S Forbes	Toronto On	2,281
73	Mr. R Connop	Vancouver BC	2,250
74	Mr. L Glaser	Willowdale On	2,238
75	Mr. D Da Costa	Toronto On	2,235
76	Mrs. P Smolensky	Calgary Ab	2,216
77	Mr. L Woodcock	Hamilton On	2,192
78	Mr. D R Phillips	Toronto On	2,192
79	Mr. P Daigneault	Chomedey PQ	2,184
80	Mr. E E Clarke	Ottawa On	2,180
81	Mrs. J Lupovich	Montreal PQ	2,171
82	Mr. J J Sabino	Pickering On	2,158
83	Mr. J Marsch	Winnipeg Mb	2,147
84	Mr. A Laliberte	Neufchatel PQ	2,141
85	Mr. B Gowdy	Willowdale On	2,138
86	Mr. J E Riegle	Ottawa On	2,123
87	Mr. A W Derby	Montreal PQ	2,120
88	Mr. J H Kerger	Calgary Ab	2,114
89	Mr. R L McKinney	Edmonton Ab	2,106
90	Mrs. L H Bouchard	Kenogami PQ	2,094
91	Mr. Ken Murray	Willowdale On	2,092
92	Mr. M Schoenborn	Toronto On	2,083
93	Mrs. R Jotcham	Scarborough On	2,081
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95	Ms. P F Lopushinsky	Edmonton Ab	2,074
96	Mr. E C O'Reilly	Kingston On	2,073
97	Mrs. J E Millward	Calgary Ab	2,072
98	Mr. J M Raynault	St Lambert PQ	2,069
99	Mr. K K Cheng	Winnipeg Mb	2,056
100	Mr. B Bowman	Ottawa On	2,054

Hear it from the experts

Editor's Note: Because of the length of Ted Horning's article, we serialized it into two parts. Continued here is the second half of a very instructive column.

COMPETITIVE RAISES



Part Two by Ted Horning

There is an advantage in having articles appear three months apart. The time lapse permits adjustments for the second installation. Two comments that will influence this article more than any others: From the editor, "It certainly is long" and another, "It certainly is hard".

Thus, I am going to shorten and attempt to simplify this article about competitive raises after our side has overcalled.

First, the entire structure of competitive raises occur only when our side has bid a MAJOR suit. No trump bids have a higher priority as natural bids when we have overcalled in a minor suit. Second, the full range of raises are used only when there is competition AFTER the overcall and prior to the responder of the overcaller's action.

With those two key phrases identifying the context, I will now outline the similarities between this article and the previous one.

1. ALL JUMP RAISES IN COMPETITION ARE PREEMPTIVE
2. ALL SINGLE JUMPS TO A NEW SUIT ARE FIT SHOWING BIDS OF AT LEAST LIMIT RAISE STRENGTH
3. NO TRUMP BIDS IN COMPETITION ARE RAISES AFTER A MAJOR: NATURAL AFTER WE HAVE BID A MINOR

and now a key difference - CUE-BIDS IN COMPETITION SHOW DIFFERENT HAND TYPES AFTER WE HAVE OVERCALLED. The reason for this is simple. When the opposition have opened the bidding, there are more possible cue-bids - a simple cue-bid and a jump cue-bid. There may even be choices of cue-bids in two different suits.

Rather than go through a long dissertation, I am going to show you a page out of my system notebook. First, some definitions.

NOISE: A weak raise designed to obstruct the opposition bidding. Generally, about four to a bad seven points.

CONSTRUCTIVE RAISE: Also known as a "happy" raise, from a good seven to a bad ten points.

DEFENSIVE LIMIT RAISE: A good ten to twelve dummy points with values that will contribute to a defensive cause.

OFFENSIVE LIMIT RAISE: Same point range but the hand has less defensive abilities - more likely to have a singleton and more points concentrated in partner's suit.

One point that will become clear as we look at the following chart - there are an immense number of bids available to show different types of hands. So many, that bids can be

treated as natural bids that might otherwise be considered cue-bids.

NATURAL VERSUS CUE-BIDS

Starting a system book is easy. Write down a typical auction, follow this with a list of every conceivable bid and then, fill in the meanings.

1H
1D 1S
?

When ? is

1NT: Constructive raise to 2H: KJx K 10xx
xxx xxx

2C: Natural, constructive but N/F: xx
xxx xx AKJxxx

* 2D: One round force: may be used to
introduce a forcing suit bid or a no
trump hand

2H: Noise

* 2S: Natural, constructive but N/F

2NT: Defensive limit raise to 3H

3C: Fit-showing jump: xx QJxx xx
AKxxx

3D: Offensive limit raise

3H: Preemptive jump raise

3S: Splinter raise

3NT: Preemptive jump raise with some
defense

4C: Splinter raise

4D: Splinter raise

4H: Preemptive jump raise, no defensive
values

* There is one very important element in the example auction. The opponents have bid two suits. This gives you some degree of flexibility. For example, it is possible to keep a bid in one of their suits as a natural bid. Since many players open a convenient minor, another possible generalization might be - a bid in left-hand opponent's minor suit is natural. The cue-bid then is only made in right-hand opponent's suit. With a full complement of competitive raises, the most common use of the cue-bid is to show a hand with opening values - much like the cue-bid of several decades ago.

Curiously, if right-hand opponent makes a negative double, your side has just obtained the potential for great accuracy. You can now add another bid - the redouble.

NOW - THE REDOUBLE

Just rewrite the previous chart but change some bids. This is how the changed bids might look:

1H
1D 1S
?

When ? is

Rdbl: One of the top heart honours, denies
the ability to raise: xxx Kx xxx
QJxxx

1NT: Constructive raise without a top heart
honour: AQxx 109x xxx QJx

2D: Constructive raise with a top heart
honour: AQx Kxxx xxx xxx

2H: Noise; bad raise, no top honour

Clearly, other changes must be made to adjust for the different sequence. One spade would be a natural bid; two spades would become the one round force.

The important element of competitive raise is that you and your partner have the capability to communicate quickly. The hard work is on responder's part. If he can show, with one bid, the nature and strength of his hand, the overcaller should have a good idea of what action to take later in the auction.

It is not easy, but then, no one really said that serious bridge was an easy game.

Just to practice more, try the following auction and fill in the meanings. Remember to build as many consistencies as possible. The mind will hold only so many different sequences.

1S
1D 2D
?

Dble:

2H:

2S:

2NT:

3C:

3D:

3H:

3S:

3NT:

4C:

4D:

4H:
4S:

You might want to try to create three columns of information. The first is a general description of the bid, the second is a point count and the final one would be an example hand.

If you are considering implementing the concepts introduced in the two articles, your system book will look like this.

EXAMPLES

IS
1D 2D
?

When ? is

Dble: Responsive; 8 + HCP; xx Qxxxx xx AKxx

2H: Natural, constructive but N/F; xx AKQxx xxx xxx

2S: Up to a constructive raise; 5 - 10 points; Qxx Axxx xx xxxx

2NT: Defensive limit raise; 10 - 12; Q10x KQJx xx QJxx

3C: Natural, constructive but N/F; x xxx xxx AKQxxx

3D: Offensive limit raise; 10 - 12; AQxx xxx x QJxxx

3H: Fit showing jump; 10 + points; Jxxx AKxxx x Qxx

3S: Preemptive jump raise; less than 8; Qxxxx xxx x xxxx

3NT: Preemptive jump raise with one defensive trick; less than 8; x Jxxxx xx

Axxxx

4C: Fit showing jump; 10 + points; Jxxx xx xx AKQxx

4D: Splinter raise; 10 + points; Axxx Axxx x QJxx

4H: Splinter raise; _____

4S: Super preemptive jump raise, no defense; Qxxxxx x x xxxxx

You will see that as the auctions take space away from you, some bids must be combined. For example, the single raise is either noise or a constructive raise. There is no room left to separate them so they have to be combined. Individual comfort indexes may prefer to leave only the higher range for this one.

In this example, three diamonds shows an offensive limit raise. Responder would also have to make this bid with a stronger hand too. Thus, cue-bids become more ambiguous. The overcaller must treat these two-way cue-bids as if they were made with minimum values.

In concluding, I hope for one success - that these articles have shown the reader the great possibilities for accurate bidding in competition. They have not been all inclusive. It would take a complete book to do that job.

You may not wish to get to these levels of definition. Your partner may not.

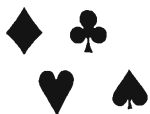
All of these things are individual preferences but whatever you prefer, don't take them lightly. Even the knowledge of what your opponents are doing will be valuable to you.

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Who's Holding My Head?

B
Y

T
H
E

B
O
O
T

Only a person with a death wish would play with a partner such as the one Edmonton's Steve Willard chose to help him capture the local Open Pairs Championship. The first session was quite uneventful and provoked little discussion between the two players, although the opponents often had quite a bit to say.

Steve's classic comment on one hand before he saw the dummy was "I suppose you have the usual top of your bid partner, 5 points". To which partner replied "Optimist", and put down four.

The second session went along reasonably well until the following:

Partner	Steve
1C	1H
4NT (1)	5C
5NT (2)	6D
6H (3)	

(1) I didn't have enough to open 2 clubs.

(2) We have all the Aces.

(3) OK, if that's the best you can do.

When dummy was tabled, Steve Willard proved his mettle. His countenance never changed as he stared at the following cards.

DUMMY

S A2
H AQJ10
D A1073
C A75

STEVE

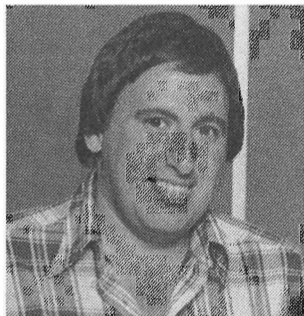
S 874
H 9753
D 96
C KJ92

Opening lead: King of Diamonds. Steve won the opening lead and played a second diamond won by RHO, - who then returned a club. After a moments thought Steve inserted the Jack of Clubs, and when this held Steve made short work of it all.

Finesse a heart, ruff a diamond, finesse a heart, ruff another diamond, a club to the Ace, producing the 10 from LHO. Two spade discards on the Ace, spot of hearts, Ace of Spades and finally finessing the 9 of clubs.

6 hearts bid and made "You're right partner, said Steve, four points is a lot".

BRIDGE UNABRIDGED



by Eric Kokish

MONTREAL TEAM SECOND TO ACES IN ALBUQUERQUE SPINGOLD

It was one last hurrah for the (Dallas) Aces at the ACBL Summer North American Championships, but the drama belonged to Canada in the Spingold Masters Knock-out Team Championship.

Seeded twenty-second in a starting field of well over one hundred teams, Mark Molson-Billy Cohen, Peter Nagy-Eric Kokish fought their way into the semifinals with a series of upset wins - the 11 seed (Steve Robinson-Peter Boyd, Larry Gould-Larry Kozlove); the 6 seed (Cliff Russell-Bobby Levin, Al Roth-Neil Silverman, Ron Gerard-Larry Cohen); the acquired 3 seed (Sam Stayman-George Tornay-Saul Bronstein, Ethan Stein-Joel Friedberg) and then faced Malcolm Brachman's cast of world champions (Ron Andersen, Mike Lawrence-Eddie Kantar, Paul Soloway-Bobby Goldman). The euphoria of five previous tough and often tension-filled matches left the Molson team a trifle too loose for the semifinal match and after thirty-two deals, Brachman had built a commanding 67-IMP lead. None of the Canadians were willing to concede, however, and in the third quarter the team

recouped 25 IMPs to trail by 42 going into the last sixteen deals, still a considerable margin with the opponents' sponsor on the sidelines.

BOTH VULNERABLE

SOUTH DEALS

NORTH
S Q3
H 975
D AJ9852
C KJ

WEST
S A108764
H A106432
D —
C 9

EAST
S K952
H Q8
D 62
C 87654

SOUTH
S J
H KJ
D KQ1073
C AQ1032

THE BIDDING:

NORTH EAST		SOUTH WEST	
		1	2
DBL	3	4	4
5	P	P	5
P	P	6	DBL
P	P	P	

OPENING LEAD: Heart ace

The diagrammed deal helped to get Molson back in the match in the third quarter. When the deal was first played, Molson (West) overcalled the one diamond opening with one spade and was eventually allowed to play the hand at five spades doubled, losing only a heart and a club for +850. In the replay, Kantar (West) started with a Michaels Cue-bid to show length in the major suits. Assisted by an encouraging preemptive jump to three spades by Lawrence, Kantar too drove the hand to

five spades but here Kokish (South) decided to sacrifice at six diamonds, expecting Kantar to hold eleven or twelve cards in his suits. Had Kantar cashed his two aces, Molson would have had to settle for a mere twelve IMP gain, but a funny thing happened on the way to the bank ... Kantar led the ace of hearts (recall Bob Hamman's opening lead problem in the Olympiad final in Valkenburg in 1980 from a very similar holding) and Lawrence followed in tempo with the **queen** and declarer the **king**! Lawrence's unusual card (it is normal to play low from Qx in such a situation) was an attempt to deny the king (he would have **had** to play low from Kx and with KQ he would have played the king) and give count all at once. He knew that his partner might well play him for the singleton queen but he was willing to take the chance that Kantar could work out the position. Declarer's king gave Kantar something else to think about. If it was a true card, Lawrence would have started with QJ8 and would surely have played the eight. No, the king had to be a false card and it was more likely to be from KJ8 in the light of East's play. Finally Kantar talked himself into a second heart and declarer was able to claim the balance after drawing trumps, dummy's spades going away on the clubs, +1540 and 20 IMPs to Molson.

That set the stage for a nail-biting fourth quarter in which every overtrick could turn the match. Both Molson pairs emerged from the playing rooms feeling that there was a chance to pull off the comeback if everything went well at the other table. In fact a few things had gone wrong but there were enough good boards to produce the miracle just the same and at two thirty in the morning the corridor of the Albuquerque Convention Centre was rocked by an enormous roar as the Canadians and their supporters discovered that they had won by a single IMP! For your writer this was one of the great moments in sport and his teammates concur.

Meanwhile the Aces (Bob Hamman-Bobby

Wolff, Peter Weichsel-Allan Sontag, Ron Rubin-Mike Becker) were attempting to make their very last tournament (Hamman-Wolff will be replacing Kantar-Lawrence on the Brachman team while the Aces disband following the death of their founder, Ira Corn Jr.) a winning one. They defeated Bud Reinhold (Ed Manfield-Lou Bluhm, Dick Pavlicek-Russ Arnold) by 45 IMPs in the other semifinal. The final, alas was something of an anticlimax. The Molson team played very well but the Aces did too and their luck was good to boot. The Aces gained 20 IMPs in the first quarter, lost back 4, gained 10, and added 19 down the stretch to win the 1982 Sengold by 45 IMPs.



Food For Thought

Quote By Vic Rapp (Head Coach B.C. Lions)

"The longer I stay in this game, the more I realize that winning isn't so much about talent, or intelligence or flair, it is about concentration, about absolute determination to see the job done."



Bridge Bolt

If you want the respect of an average bridge player, flatter him. But if you want the respect of an expert, question her.



Bridge Bolt

What we learn from playing a hand badly, is that we seldom learn how badly we play a hand ...



Hubba Bubba

the newest game in town

A very fertile mind in Winnipeg has just invented a new game. Hubba Bubba is played by bridge players who would like more action than the normal bridge game would provide. It is actually two games in one, bridge and poker with certain rules to enhance both games.

The cards are dealt as for bridge but the players bet their best five card poker hand with three raises allowed. After betting their poker hands, the players do not declare or show the poker hand immediately, but play out the hand according to the rules of rubber bridge or chicago. The only additional rule is that if a player feels he has the best poker hand, he must bid when his turn comes, regardless of his bridge hand.

An illustration would make this clearer. The following hand was dealt in a Hubba Bubba game last week:

East-West Vulnerable
East dealer

Mike Yuen

AQ84
AKJ72
AKQ
A

Bill Gray

KJ65
85
J75
K762

Al Mowat

72
9
943
QJ98543

Gim Ong

1093
Q10643
10862
10

The ante for the poker was two bits. East checked as he was missing the club ten for a good poker hand. Gim, with four tens,

imagined he had the best poker hand and bet. Bill, with a full house stayed in and Mike with the real poker hand of four Aces, raised. Gim, poor fish, re-raised and Bill folded. Now Mike started to think, for there was still plenty of room for Gim to hold a straight flush in either minor suit. However, he was not going to be bluffed out. Anyway, how often does anyone get dealt four Aces. He raised and Gim was in. At this time, the poker hand was not declared, but held in abeyance until the bridge hand was played.

This was the auction:

West	North	East	South
		P (1)	2H (2)
P	2N (3)	P	3H (4)
P	7H (5)		

- (1) Pass - I don't have a good poker hand, so I don't have to bid. Anyway, we are vulnerable.
- (2) Oh-oh. I think I have the best poker hand, so I must bid. Skip bid, 2H.
- (3) I think partner must have psyched with a long running minor. Better check this out. 2NT forcing.
- (4) Should I pass? Better rebid. 3H to show a poor hand.
- (5) Partner hasn't psyched the heart suit. Good, I think I'm going to like this hand. I think I'm also going to win the bridge hand too.

When dummy came down, Gim remarked that dummy did indeed have the best poker hand. Then he turned to Bill and asked if he had the King and Jack of spades. He better start eating them as otherwise he would make a grand slam.

Bill still hasn't commented on the taste of the cards.

I like this game, Hubba Bubba. Try it, you'll like it.

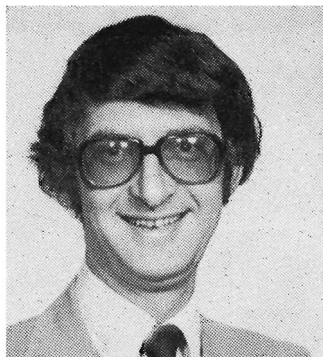
Canadian Bidding Contest

AUGUST HONOUR ROLL

Thanks to the 121 solvers who entered the August contest. The thirteen 500-point club members were led by a perfect score, the third time this achievement has been recorded.

1.	Michael Schleifer	Montreal, Que.	600
2.	Brian Thomas	North Bay, Ont.	590
3.	Stephen E. Cooper	Toronto, Ont.	570
4.	Catherine Kula	Hamilton, Ont.	560
5/7.	Dan McCaw	Scarborough, Ont.	540
	Les Fouks	Vancouver, B.C.	540
	P.M. Banks	Bright's Grove, Ont.	540
8.	Joseph Seigel	Thornhill, Ont.	530
9.	Les Hajdo	Calgary, Alta.	520
10.	Jean Roche	Ste. Foy, Que.	510
11/13.	Christine Hutton	Toronto, Ont.	500
	John Cottee	Hawkesbury, Ont.	500
	Allan Coyne	Waterloo, Ont.	500

For his victory, Mr. Schleifer received a hardcover bridge book, "The Mind of the Expert", by Hugh Kelsey, and he was invited to join the expert panel this month.



by Allan Simon

NOVEMBER PANEL

We hope readers will agree that what our panel lacks in quantity, it more than atones for in quality. As usual, we present them in alphabetical order:

MARK ARBOUR (Toronto, Ont.), the captain of an impressive team of young Torontonians who placed third at the 1982 Canadian National Team Championships (CNTC).

GERRY CALLAGHAN (Halifax) did Arbour one better in Regina, when he placed second by the tragic margin of one IMP. This was by no means Callaghan's first encounter with fame: he is a pioneer of duplicate bridge in Nova Scotia, and has won numerous sectionals and regionals.

GORDON CRISPIN (Montreal) and teammates were the heroes of the Miracle of Regina, when they won the CNTC by one IMP. By the time you read these lines, they may well have added another chapter in their fairy-tale which could end with the Bermuda Bowl. Crispin's win in Regina was no fluke - he is a fearless bidder and a technically splendid card player.

MICHAEL DIMICH (Vancouver) is the West Coast's resident bon vivant, poetaster and (occasionally) wit. He is also a fair bridge player, as evidenced by the free trips he earned to Regina (1982 CNTC) and to Niagara Falls (1982 Grand National Pairs).

FRANCOIS GAUTHIER (Montreal) is one of Quebec's all-time greats. He won the Silver Cup at the Chicago Nationals; has played in three CNTC finals; and is the co-author of the classic "Améliorons Notre

Bridge", a French-language bridge text.
KIT KOSIOR (Regina) is a perennial and frequently successful challenger for major honours at Prairie tournaments. More important, she is living proof that it is possible to be chatty and sociable while still taking the game seriously.

MICHAEL SCHLEIFER (Montreal) won the August contest. Sentimentalists may be interested to note that Schleifer and I were frequent teammates fifteen years ago, but had lost touch with one another. It is certainly gratifying to see that Mike is not only alive and well, but has apparently learned how to bid. I understand he even scored a major triumph in Britain - he won the Oxfordshire Men's Pairs last year, while on sabbatical leave.

G. SEKHAR (Winnipeg) is a true Renaissance Man. He represented India at the 1964 World Chess Olympiad; he is the producer/host of a bridge show on TV; played for Canada at the 1974 World (bridge) Pairs Olympiad; is a perennial winner in Manitoba regionals; and was co-opted onto the Edmonton team for the 1982 CNTC.

NOVEMBER SOLUTIONS

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

S: Q74 H: 642 D: 9842 C: J107

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

Scoring:	Panel		Points
	Action	Votes	
	Pass	6	100
	3H	1	60
	3S	1	50

For most panelists, this problem hardly qualified as a warm-up. Why, went their reasoning, bid on a four-triple three near-yarborough?

GAUTHIER: Pass. Hate to be chicken but my partner will hate me even more if he goes for 300.

ARBOUR: Pass. I am quick to confess that no other call entered my mind.

SCHLEIFER: Pass. Partner is surely two-suited and big, but my hand hasn't improved enough to risk bidding and encouraging partner to bid four on his S:AKxxx H:AKxxx D:x C:xx. Let him bid three!

Continuing right where we left off in 1967, I take issue with Mr. Schleifer. First of all, partner's spades don't rate to be that good. East overcalled one notrump, after all. Let's give partner S:K10xxx H:AKxxx D:AQ C:x.

Secondly, if you don't act, neither will partner. If three clubs comes around to him, he should pass, whether he holds Schleifer's hand or mine. So while it goes against my placid nature to disagree with five experts (particularly on hand A!), I confess that I would re-value my modest hand and bid three hearts. Why hearts rather than spades? Because of the overcall. One notrump overcallers usually have a strong holding in opener's suit (maybe AJ9x?) and tend to be weak in the other major (maybe Jx?); therefore hearts may play one trick better. In agreement was:

DIMICH: Three hearts. West didn't cue bid two spades and didn't compete with two notrump; therefore he has at most six HCP. So partner has a near-notrump opening himself, perhaps S:AJ10xx H:AKQxx D:Kxx C:-. Also, it looks like East (who has a club fit) lacks a partial heart stopper; otherwise he would bid three hearts. And partner won't raise me to four as there are still too many losers in his hand.

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

S: AQ1098 H: 7 D: 1098 C: KQ73

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

Scoring:	Panel		Points
	Action	Votes	
	Dbf.	3	100
	5D	3	80
	4NT	1	70
	4S	1	70

This was possibly the most difficult problem of the entire set. Who knows what's

right when they pre-empt? I have no diatribe to inflict this time, other than to observe that a) in difficult situations it usually pays to enlist partner's co-operation and b) at IMPs, it is no great disaster when you're plus 500 instead of 620. So why not double?

DIMICH: Double, which in this situation is very informative. I can have neither: 1. more than a doubleton heart, 2. four diamonds (otherwise I would bid five diamonds), 3. five spades and five clubs (otherwise I would bid five clubs), 4. a six card spade suit. So North should be able to make a rational decision.

SEKHAR: Double Partner expects me to bid again and surely can read the heart shortness. Five clubs might be the spot, but I certainly cannot chance it myself. My partner will decide right.

The arguments in favour of the various also-rans are worth considering as well:

GAUTHIER: Five diamonds. If I lose the club fit, too bad. But I don't want to be left in five clubs when my partner holds six diamonds and three clubs.

CRISPIN: Four spades. The pass is forcing and must show at least tolerance for spades. If I bid it confidently, they may bid five hearts.

ARBOUR: Four notrump. Giving partner a choice of either minor suit. Four spades on the five-two may be too dangerous.

(C) Matchpoints, East-West vul., South holds:

S: Q106 H: 9864 D: J7 C: AKJ8

West	North	East	South
IS	Pass	Pass	?

Scoring:	Action	Panel	Points
		Votes	
	1NT	7	100
	2C	1	60
	Dbl.	0	40
	Pass	0	20

Tolerance is a virtue the Bidding Contest has taught me. Three years, seventy-two problems, one hundred and thirty-two

panelists! And not once has the panel been unanimous. This is what makes bidding such a marvelously intriguing skill - there are no absolutes. The "right" bid in a given situation often depends on the individual bidder's temperament and past experience. In problem C), none of the four bids under consideration is clearly 'wrong'. Each could work out and no reasonable and fair partner would criticize your choice should it turn out poorly.

Only one panelist argued for the best lead-director:

CRISPIN: Two clubs. Lead directing if they buy the contract. I realize we risk missing the heart fit, but my hearts are so bad that this may be a blessing.

Nobody voted for the double, for the reason given by Crispin. Still, it is easy to think of worse bids, so 40 points seems just. Here are the arguments in favour of the consensus choice:

SCHLEIFER: One notrump. Most descriptive. Double is a poor second choice in my opinion.

DIMICH: One notrump. I think most everybody plays this bid to show 10-14 HCP in pass-out seat. With such a flat hand what other choice have you?

ARBOUR: One notrump. Not perfect but better than the Italian take-out double, the exotic two club call and the too timid pass.

KOSIOR: One notrump. Just balancing in third position.

(D) Rubber bridge, neither vul., South holds:

S: - H: AJ84 D: KJ10942 C: K65

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

Scoring:	Action	Panel	Points
		Votes	
	5D	2	100
	4D	2	90
	Pass	3	70
	4H	1	60
	4S	0	30

A good problem, if I say so myself (it was

suggested by a reader from Windsor). For me, the biggest problem was not how to bid the hand, but how to score it. In the end, I decided that the pullers out-voted the passers and therefore they get the top score. But the pullers disagreed among themselves. Let's hear what they have to say:

CRISPIN: Four diamonds. The most flexible call. We can find a heart fit, or maybe we can reach a good diamond slam. Partner's failure to double three spades tends to deny a spade stack, so we must be playable in another strain.

ARBOUR: Four diamonds. With a double or triple spade guard partner might have started with a double. Anytime he has a single spade guard and no ace of diamonds, three notrump may go down while five (or six!) diamonds is gin.

Arbour and Crispin do not expressly say so, but one senses an implication that four diamonds shows a stronger hand at this point than five would. If this is so, it tips the scale in favour of awarding the top score to five diamonds, although the proponents of this bid do not address the four-or-five issue either:

DIMICH: Five diamonds. Partner has diamond honour card(s); playing in diamonds protects my club king; my spade void is useless for three notrump unless the opening lead is a spade.

An exotic-looking bid that has a lot going for it was suggested by an experienced rubber player.

CALLAGHAN: Four hearts. Should show six diamond-four heart pattern with a broken diamond suit. Three notrump is dangerous and game in any suit is as likely to be the best spot. On a good day we may even reach a makeable slam.

In my opinion (humble as usual) I would like to point out that, had we given South a singleton spade and one less heart, nobody would dream of pulling three notrump. So, apart from the remote slam possibilities, it seems presumptuous to run from the spot suggested by partner.

SCHLEIFER: Pass. I've known a few partners who have actually made this contract in the past.

SEKHAR: Pass. My distribution should hardly surprise partner. Slam might be there in any of three suits but I'll take my profit. Three notrump should make. If it doesn't, I'm glad to have North as opponent in the next rubber.

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

S: 97 H: Q106 D: A74 C: KJ976

West	North	East	South
Pass	1S	Pass	1NT
Pass	2H	Pass	?

Scoring:	Action	Panel	Points
		Votes	
	2NT	5	100
	3H	1	70
	2S	2	50
	Pass	0	20

Panelist Mark Arbour points out that this month's problems seem rather unspectacular and tame. Arbour is quite right; we'll try to give you some dramatic hands next month. But as any football fan knows, it is not the crowd-pleasing triple reverse or statue of liberty that wins ball games; football games are won and lost in the trenches, when it's third down-and-two. Same thing in bridge: Matches are decided by tough hand evaluation decisions like problem E). Is this hand worth a game try? If so, in what strain?

The majority voted for an aggressive two notrump:

SEKHAR: Two notrump. The diamonds are short and skinny but I am maximum for my one notrump. Too flat for a raise on three hearts, too good for a mere preference to spades.

CALLAGHAN: Two notrump. Must keep bidding open at this vulnerability. This appears to be most attractive, showing maximum values and no immediate preference in majors.

CRISPIN: Two notrump. The most flexible bid. With a fragment in a minor, opener will bid it. With 5-5 in majors, we will get to four hearts. The only problem is when opener raises with a 5-4-2-2 and good hearts, and three notrump goes down while four hearts makes.

Perhaps this spectre inspired one lone wolf to raise hearts:

ARBOUR: Three hearts. It is very close; with Qxx in hearts and A10x in diamonds I would call two notrump.

While only Callaghan made the points, I suspect most panelists would bid less aggressively if it wasn't a vulnerable IMP-game they were stretching for. The IMP table is such that a vulnerable game should be bid with as little as a 37% chance of making.

This problem is incidentally lifted from the 1973 U.S. selection tournament for the Bermuda Bowl team. Swanson bid a quiet two spades, and made three, while Grieve came to grief when he bid two notrump, and raised partner's three spade rebid to four. Two of our panelists came up winners:

SCHLEIFER: Two spades. I don't play forcing notrump, but I think that the awful two notrump rebid should be avoided, especially with ten points and not so good diamonds. That would seem to only leave two spades or pass.

KOSIOR: Two spades. I don't think we have two notrump. I'd hate to try it with just one stopper in diamonds.

(F) IMPs, both vul., South holds:

S: A754 H: 84 D: A1043 C: 865

West	North	East	South
1H	Pass	2C	Pass
2D	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Which card do you lead?

Scoring:	Action	Panel Votes	Points
	Spade	4	100
	Ace of D	3	70
	small D	0	60
	8 of H	1	50

Most panelists shrugged their shoulders at this apparently boring problem. Depending on their personality, they were either:

a) analytical and cautious:

SEKHAR: Four of spades. Many a match is lost by overcrafty defenders not leading the unbid suit. Partner might easily have

well-guarded minor honours in hearts and clubs, plus real help in spades. I hope heart eight gets zero.

b) Suspicious and ingenuous:

SCHLEIFER: Four of spades. Diamonds could be right (that sneaky ten must bear a message) but I'll go with the unbid suit at IMPs, saving the more clever lead for matchpoints, where one annoys one partner rather than three.

c) wise and fatalistic:

GAUTHIER: Four of spades. No imagination!

d) psychological and brilliant:

CALLAGHAN: Diamond ace. On this auction East is quite prepared for spades. Ace lead will protect against singleton honour in East hand.

or e) devious and verbose:

DIMICH: Eight of hearts (There follows a twenty-five line analysis culminating in the conclusion that the eight of hearts is almost certainly correct.)

So there you have the panel's advice: Lead a spade, diamond or heart and hope for the best. And what was the killing lead in real life, you ask? For an answer, let's turn to the January 1973 issue of The Bridge World, where this problem appeared in the Masters Solvers Club:

North

S: 8
H: 1052
D: 9862
C: AQJ109

West

S: K1032
H: AK976
D: QJ75
C: -

East

S: QJ96
H: QJ3
D: K
C: K7432

South

S: A754
H: 84
D: A1043
C: 865

"Only a club lead beats the contract, and not one panelist so much as mentioned the possibility of this lead".

"Ridiculous lead! Double-dummy!" you

doubtless are snorting. But you're wrong. The club was the opening lead chosen at the table in the last European championship, in the match between Austria and Yugoslavia. The opening leader was Peter Manhardt, playing with Fritz Babsch (together they won the Olympiad Open Pairs championship in 1970).

"It reminds us of S.J. Simon's description of the pre-war Austrian team (in "Why You Lose at Bridge"): "What impressed us most was not their bidding ... not their dummy play ... but their defense. And particularly their opening leads. 'Devastating' was the word unanimously used by players and spectators to describe them. "Apparently, the Austrians are still in form."

FEBRUARY CONTEST

To enter the February contest, please send your guesses (comments are welcome, but not necessary), together with your name and address, to:

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

Solvers are reminded that, for purposes of this contest, we have agreed to play five card majors, and negative doubles through two spades.

- (A) Matchpoints, neither vul., South holds:

S: 1063 H: AKQ96 D: 6 C: 9754

West	North	East	South
-	-	1D	1H
Pass	2D	Pass	2H
Pass	4NT	Pass	5D
Pass	6D	Pass	?

- (B) IMPs, both vul., South holds:

S: K8 H: 8 D: J1084 C: QJ10876

West	North	East	South
	1H	1S	?

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

S: K H: A D: AJ108753 C: Q643

West	North	East	South
Pass	1C	2H*	3D
4H	Dbl.	Pass	?

* weak

- (D) IMPs, both vul., South holds:

S: 62 H: 8 D: 93 C: K10875432

West	North	East	South
1C	Dbl.	Redbl	?

- (E) Matchpoints, East-West vul., South holds:

S: AJ974 H: J10984 D: - C: 642

West	North	East	South
-	1H	2D	?

- (F) (See November problem A). Matchpoints, neither vul. South holds;

S: Q74 H: 642 D: 9842 C: J107

West	North	East	South
Pass	1S	1NT	Pass
2C	2H	3C	3H
Pass	4H	5C	Pass
Pass	Dbl.	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Partner leads the Heart Ace (promising the king), and dummy tables:

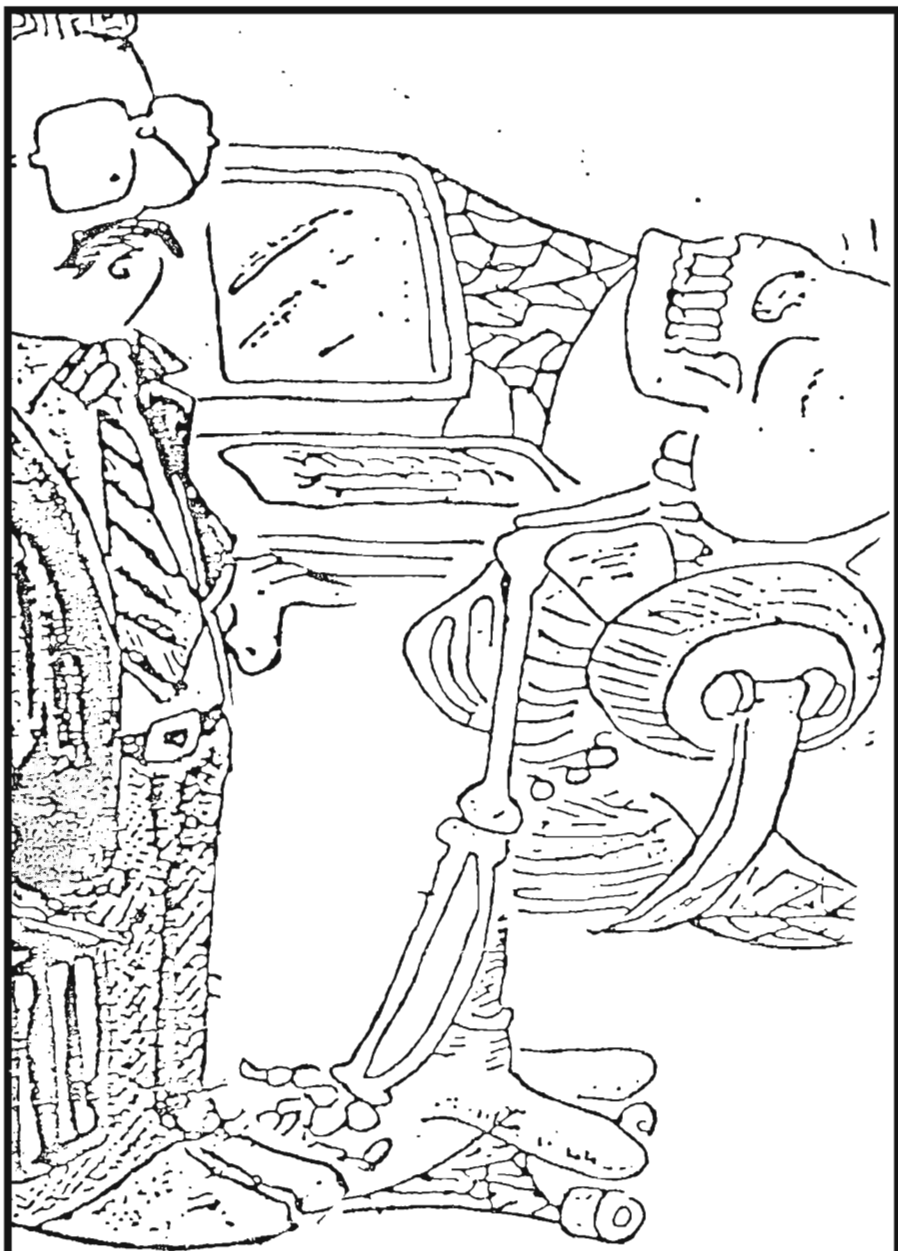
S: AJ H: J95 D: Q1073 C: AKQ2.

Which heart do you play to trick one?

World Bidding Championship

The World Bidding Championship will resume in 1983. Clubs may hold events anytime between March 7 and March 18,

1983 and each event will consist of 40 deals. If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact your local club



Been waiting at the partnership desk long?

FLAGS AND SCRAMBLES

(by Eric Kokish, George Mittelman and Allan Graves)

Editors Note: We are indeed very fortunate to have the combined talents of these three authors presented in one article. Due to the length, we have introduced it in serialized form.

Hello out there. We've been locked in this cellar for two weeks. Just the three of us. No fourth, you see. Wouldn't have mattered, really. No deck of cards either. Still, we three are lovers of the game. Bridge, that is. What do three bridge lovers do when they're locked in a cellar? They talk about bridge, of course. Then they talk about food. Graves discovers a barrel of pickles. We will not starve. We will merely be pickled. Who will rescue us?

MITTELMAN: "How do you and Nagy reject a major suit transfer over a 2NT opening bid?"

KOKISH: "Are the pickles, sour, Allan? We can't reject a transfer to hearts except by bidding 3S, because we play a Walsh variation 3D might not show hearts at all. But we play some things over a transfer to spades ..."

GRAVES: "Chomp. Yes, very sour. We think that we can do a lot without using 3D to cover a whole set of non-heart hands. By rejecting transfers to both majors we find that we can remove an important group of very good hands from the 2NT bidder's possible holdings in the later auction. In other words, if opener **doesn't** reject a transfer, his hand is limited **in support of responder's major**. What are the odds that we'll find some bread?"

MITTELMAN: "And maybe some sausage and cheese. Why am I suddenly starving? I know that we're on to something good with this transfer rejection stuff. Allan calls a bid that expresses pleasure with a particular strain a FLAG. You know, like 'wave the flag if you like it' or 'stand up and cheer' or something along those lines."

KOKISH: "I like that. I guess there are really three kinds of immediate FLAGS for the major-3NT, a new suit or a jump to four of partner's major. We all play something here but it seems that we might learn something together by trying to reach some conclusions as to what the bids should mean. If we can pin down some tight definition now we'll be well-placed to handle some of the later auctions. I smell garlic."

GRAVES: "Chomp. Yes, Garlic, Who ordered the sausage? This cellar is really neat. Maybe we can find some wine. Of course once we get this FLAG out of the way, we have to realize that we're just getting started. What happens if we accept the transfer and responder then introduces a minor at the four-level? That's when things start to get complicated. Georgie and I have been fooling around with some stuff that seems to have a lot of potential. Opener can still have a fair hand in support of the major. Really just a lesser FLAG than an immediate one. He can also have a poor hand with a fit for the major or any sort of hand with support for the minor or no fit for either suit, with or without a source of tricks of his own. Seems like we should be able to define these follow-up sequences quite closely. I don't believe it, George, you actually found some wine. Fortunately I have a corkscrew on my penknife. Give it here."

MITTELMAN: "If you like FLAGS, wait 'til you hear about SCRAMBLES."

KOKISH: "I have a sudden craving for smoked oysters and you're throwing SCRAMBLES at me. Let me guess. A SCRAMBLE is like a GROPE. A GROPE is an effort to make an inexpensive noise that will slow down the auction and keep a lot of options open. Is a SCRAMBLE like a GROPE?"

GRAVES: "Who ordered the oysters? Fortunately I also have a can opener on my penknife. All the easier to open this treasure chest of canned things. Eel, anyone? Artichokes? Sort of. We SCRAMBLE when we can't FLAG. Of course there are lots of

possible FLAGS once responder introduces a second suit — both his suits and notrump. The SCRAMBLE picks up the slack.”

KOKISH: “Wait a minute. Besides the oysters, eel and artichokes I think we’re opening up a can of worms. If we don’t get rescued for a while we might actually be able to make some sense out of this gibberish. Pass the Chianti, Graveyard.”

Well, we were eventually rescued. We had gained roughly thirty pounds between us in thirteen days. We emerged from the cellar pleasantly plastered, covered in brine and curiously content. As content as three guys can be who haven’t seen a woman in two weeks. You see, we learned some things about bridge. We’re going to try to pass our knowledge on to you.”

SIMPLE PLEASURES

One of the things we discovered in our subterranean think tank was that the material we were exploring was potentially very complicated. We discovered FLAGS within SUPERFLAGS and things like two FLAGS and a SCRAMBLE. We found opportunities to ask for doubletons and situations where it would be nice to know whether a 9-control hand was made up of four aces and a king or three aces and three kings. And much more. We soon realized that this kind of adventure wouldn’t be everyone’s cup of tea. The basic concepts, however, are quite simple and worthy of general revelation. So we’ll start with the bare bones of our research and attempt to deal with the more delicate stuff later on.

MAJOR SUIT SUPERFLAGS

(NOTE: throughout this analysis we will deal with a 20-21 HCP 2NT opening but adjustments can be made for different ranges and other 2NT “family” bids)

(1) The “control” SUPERFLAG: jump to 4M (H/S)

Some hands have so many controls (together with a good fit) that they justify a shot at game opposite any hand with 5-card length in the “known” major. We use a jump to four of the major to show this

hand rich in controls. It’s a bulky bid for slam purposes so we’ve attempted to keep it pretty specific: **exactly nine controls** (four aces and a king or three aces and three kings) and **four-card support** and **no side suit as good as KQJ2** (“concentration”). This is a hand that **won’t** produce slam on the basis of a “source of tricks” but won’t kill a slam, on the other hand, owing to “fast” losers. Later we will get into some interesting follow-up sequences but for now we’ll settle for some simple illustrations. These are “control” SUPER-FLAGS after responder transfers to spades:

(a) S K1032 (b) S AQ85
H AK2 H A5
D AK86 D A1092
C A8 C AK4

(c) S AJ102 (d) S AK92
H AK98 H K6
D AJ10 D AK96
C A2 C A98

These “pure” hands have a fairly low frequency but when they come up the “control” SUPERFLAG can simplify the auction rather spectacularly ...

S AJ103	S K87542
H A102	H 4
D AK8	D 65
C A109	C KQ82
2NT	3H
4S	7S

Here responder was going to introduce clubs next and look for a delicate slam in one suit or the other without committing his side to six. The auction was bound to be awkward. It’s never easy to try for slam in clubs and play game in spades without clouding the distributional issue. Here responder gets a good break. When opener shows exactly nine controls and **four or more spades**, the grand slam is suddenly easy to bid. Note that there is room in opener’s hand for the queen of trumps (instead of the jack) but that responder is in a position to risk the 3-0 break if **he wishes to** (with no intermediates in the trump suit a 2-1 break might be required). This little example helps to clarify something that we

might already have known: **When opener is known to have nine controls (ace=2, king=1), responder can always identify their nature if he himself holds two controls.** If responder holds an ace he can tell that opener holds three aces and three kings; if responder holds two kings, opener must hold four aces and a king. There's no other way to make up nine controls. Since responder will **usually** hold at least two controls to make a slam try opposite a 2NT opening bid, this control information will generally be available and will clarify the slam search. If responder holds only one control himself, he will sometimes be better off if opener holds one combination rather than the other and we will see later that it is not too difficult to graft a discovery mechanism onto the basic framework. One more illustration ...

S K1074	S AJ98532
H AK3	H 72
D A5	D K
C AK65	C 32
2NT	3H
4S	7NT

Here responder's slam interest was real but fuzzy and his plan of exploration was hardly well-marked. Of course many players would simply check for aces and shoot out six, perhaps rightly. If responder chooses to start with a 3-level transfer (prior to his slam try) he gets lucky and finds that he can count 13 winners at notrump (**opener must have 3 aces and 3 kings**).

(2) The "concentration" SUPERFLAG: bid a new suit

A second family of "great" hands in support of a known 5-card major is the group that includes a "source of tricks" as well as excellent controls and decent trumps. We call this subgroup the "concentration" SUPERFLAG and define the requirements thusly: **eight or nine controls including at least three aces, four-card support to at least two of the top four honours, a side suit at least as good as KQJ2, i.e. "concentration."** To nail things down, "con-

centration" means specifically: AKQx, AKJx, AQJx, KQJx. If you choose to open a concentrated 5422 hand with 2NT then you might have an even more promising trick source or particularly exciting trumps. Responder should not, however, count on more than four cards in the "concentration" suit. Some examples of "concentration" SUPERFLAGS after a transfer to spades:

(a) S AJ102	(b) S KQ87
H K2	H A2
D AKQ4	D A74
C A92	C AKJ10
(c) S AK85	(d) S KJ105
H KQJ5	H A9
D A32	D AJ10
C A2	C AKJ2

Of course these are all good hands for **game** but the real bonus comes in the slam zone when responder, with the fourth honour in the "concentration" suit, can count four sure tricks. Let's take a look at a couple of illustrations ...

S AJ102	S K98743
H K2	H A3
D AKQ4	D J65
C A92	C 54
2NT	3H
4D	7NT

Responder had intended to transfer at the three-level and raise himself to game, a mild slam try if Jacoby Transfers are used in conjunction with Texas Transfers. Suddenly the potential is dramatically altered. Responder knows that he's facing four trumps to the ace and a second honour, the other three aces and precisely AKQx of diamonds. That's only seven controls so opener must have another king. What's more, responder can now identify opener's remaining trump honour as the jack! With the queen he'd have 22 HCP, a point more than the announced range. From a position that looked touch-and-go for twelve tricks, responder can now visualize a tremendous play for thirteen winners in the safest possible strain. Of course, things won't always be this easy,

but sometimes the picture becomes astonishingly clear.

S KQ82	S AJ6543
H A2	H 3
D A85	D 964
C AKJ2	C Q94
2NT	3 H
4C	7C

(3) The “general” SUPERFLAG: bid 3NT

Quite obviously there are other very good hands in support of the major that would suggest special treatment, i.e. more than simple acceptance of the transfer. We suggest lumping these “general” SUPERFLAGS into one last basket: 3NT. While these hands might well produce a slam opposite the right combination, we see these hands as “flawed” in some way, at least in terms of the requirements of our other two SUPERFLAGS. In some ways these “general” types may seem more promising. They are limited, however, by the tight definitions we’ve assigned to the “control” and “concentration” subgroups. We can identify several other types, but we can’t slot them into a convenient pigeon-hole. Assume a transfer to spades ...

- (a) S AQJ84 (b) S KQ102
H KQ2 H AJ98
D AQ7 D AK2
C K9 C A2
- (c) S AJ104 (d) S AK2
H K2 H 54
D KQ2 D AKQ75
C AKJ2 C A84

This is a very good hand for game, but only so-so for slam (only 6 controls). The immediate concern is not missing game so we realize that this hand can’t just settle for 3S. We’ve got to draw the line somewhere, however, and we think that **6 controls** is the lower limit. And then only with **great** trumps.

This is a very good hand for spades: **four trumps and eight controls**. Yet it doesn’t fit into the other two SUPERFLAG categories. We lump this type into the 3NT

SUPERFLAG, and we do so with no regrets. It looks right to do so. Note that there is no “concentration” in this eight-control type.

This looks like our “concentration” SUPERFLAG and it is indeed similar. What this hand lacks is an eighth control. It is fair to say that we approve of a 3NT SUPERFLAG on hands blessed with **four trumps**, “concentration” and “only 7 controls.

For the first time we come across a hand with only three-card support that looks like a SUPERFLAG. On the surface it seems easy to pin this one down: **three very good trumps, a solid-looking 5-card side suit, lots of controls**. We like that, of course, but is the 8-control requirement realistic? How about: S KQ2 H A4 D AKQ76 C K109? Can we then reduce our requirements to something like **7 controls plus the queen of trumps**? If we like this refinement, how do we deal with: S A85 H A2 D AKQ86 C A104? That’s 9 controls but three not-so-good trumps. Is this hand worth a SUPERFLAG? How about other balanced hands with 9 controls and no side suit or 4-card “concentration” that nevertheless contain a three-card fit, good or indifferent? These are very fuzzy hand types. It could be right to go either way. Despite the dangers in missing a decent game we feel that it’s a good idea to draw the line at **three very good trumps**, i.e. two of the three top honours. Even the 9-control example above with S A85 and the solid-looking diamonds will not produce a game that often opposite a very poor responding hand. So even with the maximum 9 controls we recommend that you do not SUPERFLAG without some security within the trump suit itself. If we don’t add this constraint we feel that we’re going to overload 3NT and cloud the slam search with trump worries. As we’ll see later on, there will usually be an opportunity to FLAG for the major without resorting to an immediate SUPERFLAG.

Another “rule” that seems to have some merit is this one (perhaps self-evident): **it is impossible to SUPERFLAG without 2**

aces. Four kings and an ace (6 controls) is simply not good enough. We'd like to be able to stipulate that when opener holds fewer than 8 controls he should hold no "dangerous" side suit (i.e. two quick losers) but we feel that: S KQ8 H 54 D AKQ97 C AK2 is certainly good enough for 3NT. Perhaps we can say that **if opener has neither 8 controls nor 7 controls plus the queen of trumps** (together with his meaty 5-card side suit) **he must hold no "dangerous" side suit**. Yes, that might well be playable.

So we can see that the 3NT SUPERFLAG is not the specific tool that the other two SUPERFLAGS appear to be. Yet we feel that a "general" rejection of the transfer is a necessary refinement and we feel that some definition can be provided. Within the guidelines we have suggested above we feel that constructive bidding can still be greatly simplified, at least beyond the level that go-as-you-please would seem to allow.

For example ...

S AK2	S QJ654
H 87	H A2
D AKQ32	D J4
C A54	C K863

OPENER	RESPONDER
2NT	3H
3NT	4C
5D	7NT

The jump to 5D gets the hand type across perfectly: three good trumps solid-looking side suit, 8 controls (since responder is looking at the trump queen)



Continued
next
issue

Laws, Axioms, Dicta and Other Truisms

By R.H. Paterson

Get your zeros early, that way you have more time to catch up.

Whoever said many hands make light work has never declared a 3-2 fit.

Counting your tricks before they're hatched is simple long range planning.

Those who pay their partners will become CLM (cloned life master) by artificial insemination.

No bad bid goes unpunished.

Letters To the Editor

To The Editor:

Although I'm weak enough of spirit to crave the falseties of flattery, I'm going to try and rise an inch or two above it all and take embarrassed exception to being labelled "captain of the greatest Canadian team", by one of the Digest's regular feature writers.

Some readers, and certainly the editors, were not active players during the sixties when Percy Sheardown, Bruce Elliott, Sami Kehela and Eric Murray won consecutive Spingolds in '64 and '65 and then performed with distinction by finishing third in the 1968 Olympiad (assisted in 68 Olympiad by Bill Crissey and Gerry Charney). Although we manage to curry consistantly favorable press (writing most of it ourselves seems to help) and although we've mastered the art of coming fifth in qualifying round robins whether here or in Europe, I would prefer to demur and defer to at least the previously mentioned quartet if not to a lot of others. However, flattery is often support with a hook and the support of each and every Canadian duplicate player both financially through the organizational efforts of the CBF and emotionally (expressed in so many ways) of Canada's ongoing International effort is not only tremendously appreciated by this current edition but, in my opinion, a necessary (but of course not sufficient) component to the overall vitality and growth of Canadian bridge in general.

Thank You,
Allan Graves,
Vancouver, B.C.

Editor's Note: O.K. Allan.

To The Editor:

Terence Reese has been and remains one of the few authors of Bridge Books capable of expressing worthwhile ideas with clarity and verse. "Develop Your Bidding Judgement" first published in 1962, remains

a landmark in bridge literature and is one of a handful of works guaranteed to send one deeper into the intricacies of bridge thinking. The function of the text is to present the experts train of thought as he/she sifts through various possibilities available in such bidding situations. Mr. Reese attempts to divorce the problems from bidding systems, but he was a child of ACOL, and the language changes over 20 years. What one bid revealed in certain circumstances may not be applicable today! But again that is not the point of this excellent book.

Which brings me to the reason for this letter. The discussion of problem (c) in the February Bidding Contest published in the May Digest is appendix by Allan Simon with misleading quotes from the book, and a sneer at Mr. Reese. To quote Mr. Simon, "so what was the point of this problem? Certainly nothing constructive." It appears to me the attempt of someone small to gain stature by denigrating his betters. W.H. Auden put it quite well: the function of criticism is to inform the public and laud the good, not to attack the bad for attention gives credibility. However, if Simon's remarks have caused one reader to study "Reeses" book in curiosity. Bridge has been well served.

Yours,
John Cunningham
Willowdale, Ont.

Editor's Note: Questions never confound me, although answers sometimes do. This is one of those occasions. Knowing Al Simon as a personal friend, I suspect his statement was made innocently and without rancor, but possibly to evoke comment.....

Anyway, John, Terence Reese has at least three loyal Canadian fans, you and the co-editors.

