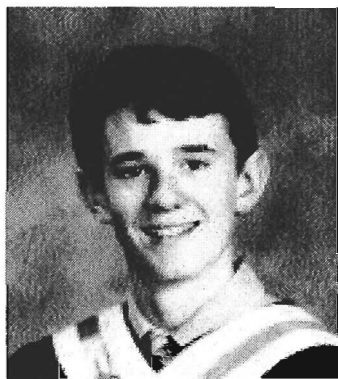


JANUARY 1999

bridge *Canada*



DAVID SABOURIN

Canada's Youngest Life Master
Story Page 15

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A Summary
by Aidan Ballantyne

LILLE - Reports and Stories
Junior Bridge News
Calendars
and more... of course!

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MUSINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Doug Heron

THE GOOD NEWS

With "Bridge Canada" on the masthead of our official publication for the first time in September 1998, the CBF has hopefully taken another small step towards achieving the somewhat ambitious goal of a united bridge community from coast to coast.

This summer in Montreal a vision became a reality when the first Bridge Week brought together an expanded field of 28 Canadian National Open Teams (CNTC), 16 Canadian Women's National Teams (CWTC), and 40 tables in the Canadian Open Pairs Championship (COPC).

The playing conditions were excellent, and screens were used throughout. Somewhat surprising, at least to me, were the results of a survey taken in the late stages of the tournament. The complete survey results will be published, but in general there was much stronger support than I would have guessed for all events being held together under one roof in the spring or summer.

Naturally everything did not go perfectly; we have left room for improvement. For instance the non-smoking policy could have been stronger. Some of the women mentioned that they did not have a dinner together as they had in the past. That could certainly be arranged. Bridge Appeal Committee arrangements were similar to those at all other CNTC and CWTC events (and North American Bridge Championships), but perhaps it is time to introduce a more structured and written policy

Canada will host a World Championship in Montreal in the year 2002. George Retek has been instrumental in putting together the bid for this championship. The organization has already begun with Tibor Bertalan of Montreal attending the Lille championships, making copious notes in his role as Organizer of the Montreal event.

The CBF is in better financial shape now than it has been for years. This is partially due to money raised for the Junior players in special games; partly due to the increase in CBF fees that took place two years ago; and partly due to the introduction of Bridge Week. With the larger number of teams competing, more subsidy money was raised for the International Fund.

BAD NEWS - OUR CURRENCY

The bad news is that the value of our currency is being eroded, and eroded, and then eroded some more, probably as you read this...

This does not mean a lot to the stay-at-homer, but to attend a Nationals, or to play a Regional over the border, or to attend a World Championship the costs become almost unbearable.

Canada will host a North American Championship this coming spring in Vancouver. Unfortunately, although the event will be held in Canada, the entry fees are almost certain to be pegged to the US dollar. Negotiations continue in this regard. But there is not much hope for Canadians to get any relief.

At times of economic crisis, old and new ideas are floated. You can be certain that the issue of a free standing Canadian bridge Federation will be resurrected for discussion at the Board of Director's annual meeting in Ottawa in May.



Highlights from the **NOVEMBER CBF BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONFERENCE CALL**

BRIDGE WEEK – Bridge Week 1998 in Laval was deemed a great success and was received favourably by the majority of players. At the CBF Board of Directors meeting in May a more comprehensive look will be given to the CBF policy on smoking, tournaments directors and appeal procedures. The Board extended a big vote of thanks to the organizers of the 1998 Bridge Week: Doug Fraser, Tibor Bertalan, Jean Guy Daoust, Nicole Brisbois, Doreen Primeau and Kevin Paul Gregoire. A special thank you was issued to George Retek who acted as an advisor to the organizing committee, was instrumental in helping get the playing space and provided CBF liaison for the event.

Steve Cooper and Karen Cooper are hard at work making arrangements and plans for the next Bridge Week in Toronto, July 11 - 17, 1999 at the Yorkdale Holiday Inn. 50 screens were purchased for use at Bridge Week

Options for Bridge Week 2000 were discussed. The board is currently considering a location in Halifax but plans will not be finalized for a while yet.

CANADIAN JUNIOR PROGRAM – The 1999 Canadian Junior Team and co-MPCs have been ratified. See page 18.

FUNDRAISING – A Canada-Wide STaC and a Calcutta connected with Bridge Week were both discussed. These matters are being researched and will be discussed in more detail at meetings in May.

MISCELLANEOUS – The CBF AGM was successfully held in Montreal. Motions raised at the meeting were reviewed. See our website for complete minutes.

Doug Heron is working on the arrangements with Mexico for the bi-country trials.

The CBF Board appointed Nick Gartaganis of Calgary to fill the Zone V Director position (Thank you to departing Zone V rep. Jerry Mamer)

les Distributions



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And many other items ...

Thank you BERNARD MARCOUX

The CBF would like to thank Bernard Marcoux for all the work he does in helping serve our French membership through writing and translations Bernard contributes regularly to bridge Canada as both French Editor and journalist. He also translates the Conditions of Contest for the CNTC and COPC every year and is always available to do any other translations that come up. Further, Bernard receives and responds to any forwarding of French email. Without Bernard's untiring work the CBF would be unable to provide so much material for our French speaking membership. *Thank you Bernard - we really appreciate your continued support and help.*

NEW CBF ARCHIVIST

Madelaine Contrad is the new CBF Archivist. Madelaine has a BA (Distinction) in History, worked as a Research Assistant on a book which was published in January 1998, and has worked in the Nova Scotia Public Archives doing research for an organizational history as an Honour's Thesis. She is a certified bridge instructor, Bridge America Director and Instructor, ACBL certified director, and has worked in bridge administration as a director on the unit level as well as the club level. She also co-chaired the 1998 CanAt held in July. Madelaine and her husband lived in Oshawa, Ontario for eleven years returning to Nova Scotia in 1980. She writes that bridge and bridge friends have been a constant in their lives, wherever they were.

1998 MARLBORO CHINA CUP

October 11-17, 1998 Beijing China – Four Canadians participated in the October Marlboro China Cup International Championships. All of them were members of the Canadian team that finished second in the 1995 Bermuda Bowl in China. A total of \$80,000 in prizes was distributed to competitors in the Open Teams and Open Pairs. Canadians snagged a good portion of that money placing 3rd in the teams and 2nd in the Open Pairs. Fred Gitelman and George Mittelman had a huge lead going into the final of the Pairs - almost 700 points ahead of the Chinese pair that stole the event in final session Still, George and Fred won another \$2000 for their troubles! A good showing for Canada.

OPEN TEAMS

EUROPE	98	\$18,000
World Stars	95	\$ 7,000
North America*	84	\$ 5,000
China	82	\$ 3,000

**(Peter Nagy and Eric Kokish, Kit Woolsey and Fred Stewart, Fred Gitelman and George Mittelman)*

WOMENS TEAMS

CHINA	112	\$13,000
Europe	100	\$ 6,000
North America	81	\$ 4,000
World Stars	65	\$ 2,000

OPEN PAIRS

Zhong Fu - Chuancheng Ju, China	1914.29	\$4000
Fred Gitelman - George Mittelman	1571.36	\$2000
Jihong Hu - Baogiang Zhu, China	1114.43	\$1500
Jason Hackett - Geir Helgemo	1050.36	\$1000
Xiaojing Wang- Weimin Wang	954.00	\$900
Ming Sun - Hongli Wang	840.57	\$800
Jiahong Zhou - Qingliang Li, China	776.71	\$700
Justin Hackett - Wayne Chu	750.93	\$700
Bep Vriend - Marijke Van Der Pas	577.57	\$600
Wenfei Wang - Yu Zhang, China	514.43	\$600
11-12 \$600 13-16 \$500		

THE CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION WEB SITE • www.cbf.ca

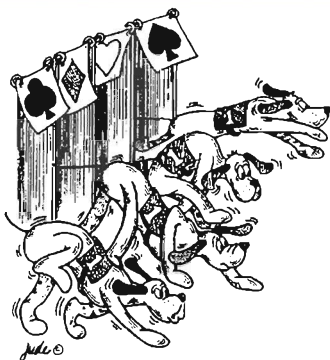
The latest dates, news, and announcements. Tune in for Bridge Week details!

NOW ONLINE: MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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5.	Robert McPhee, Belleville ON	516
6.	Gavin Wolpert, Thornhill ON	482
7.	Hans Jacobs, Aurora ON	450
8.	Jonathan Steinberg, Toronto ON	446
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48.	Gerry Marshall, Calgary AB	280
49.	Danny Miles, Waterloo ON	276
50.	Dan Jacob, Burnaby BC	274

THE RACES



YOUTH - Canadian Standings, ACBL in ()

1. (2)	David Halasi, Toronto ON	518
2. (3)	Gavin Wolpert, Thornhill ON	482
3. (9)	Erin Anderson, Regina SK	241
4. (10)	Charles Halasi, Toronto ON	231
5. (11)	Vincent Demuy, Laval PQ	212
6. (12)	David Sabourin, Dunrobin ON	189
7. (13)	David Grainger, Etobicoke ON	186
8. (14)	Josh Heller, Toronto ON	183
9. (19)	Ian Boyd, Calgary AB	119
10. (23)	Matthew Mason, Kingston ON	75
11. (25)	Brian Hardy, Ottawa ON	61
12. (26)	Andrew Haydon, Kingston ON	59
13. (27)	Susan Harbour, Scarborough ON	58
14. (31)	Daniel Lavee, Thornhill ON	50
15. (39)	Mark Donovan, Kingston ON	35
16. (43)	James McCahill, Sarnia ON	33
17. (50)	Stanley Everingham, Gilford ON	25

JUNIORS - Canadian Standings, ACBL in ()

1. (2)	David Halasi, Toronto ON	518
2. (3)	Gavin Wolpert, Thornhill ON	482
3. (5)	Jeff Smith, Gloucester ON	435
4. (11)	Darren Wolpert, Thornhill ON	312
5. (14)	Danny Miles, Waterloo ON	276
6. (16)	Mike Nadler, North York ON	272
7. (22)	Erin Anderson, Regina SK	241
8. (23)	Charles Halasi, Toronto ON	231
9. (27)	Vincent Demuy, Laval PQ	212
10. (28)	Craig Barkhouse, Barrie ON	209
11. (32)	David Sabourin, Dunrobin ON	189
12. (33)	David Grainger, Etobicoke ON	186
13. (34)	Josh Heller, Toronto ON	183
14. (37)	Bradley Bart, Vancouver BC	179

THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Duncan Phillips

The World Bridge Championships were a big success for most, in one way or another. The Rosenblum Cup was won by a solid Italian Team that has showed well in the last year or so. They crunched the good Brazilian Team in the finals. The McConnell Cup was won by the Austrian women with a convincing win over the strong German Team.

Canadian representation was sparse, to be expected, because of distance and cost, compared to France which filled out the event.

My wife, Joy, and I played the Senior Team with Montrealers Peter Schwartz and Jon Robinson. Jon and I were intercollegiate combatants almost 50 years ago. It was a good format - 40 teams played Swiss Imps for 6 sessions. The top four teams played Knockout to determine the winner while the remainder continued for 2 more sessions in a consolation.

The winning team, much the same as the 1994 Albuquerque winners, included Nissan Rand, a delightful goodwill ambassador from Israel. Much of his win in the final came from playing this trump combination:

	KJ4	
Q107		A3
	98652	

Before LHO was awake to the existence of the trump, Rand spun the 9 through him and ducked in the dummy to RHO's Ace - one trump loser only!

MOTTO: ALWAYS STAY AWAKE

Damp, rainy, cool weather contributed to bad colds/bronchitis and so we did not play the Senior Pairs as planned. Instead we took 2 days off and played in the 4 session Imp Pairs. Our

result was respectable, but not spectacular - 25th out of 150 pairs.

West had a bidding problem on this hand which pinpoints a modern change relating to doubles in competition.

♠ KQ9xx
♥ Txx
♦ x
♣ Axxx

♠ AJxx
♥ xxx
♦ AQ98xx
♣ -

♠ Txx
♥ -
♦ JTx
♣ KQJT98x

♠ x
♥ AKQJxxx
♦ Kxx
♣ xx

N	E	S	W
2♦	3♣	4♥	?

West gave up so I coasted to an easy 5 after the ♦A was led.

I convened a shadow panel to consider what E-W should do. A double by west was the consensus (NB-not showing trumps) 5♣ by east; a "piggy" 5♥ by south, now what? Pass by west might be construed as forcing and showing no trump trick. If east bids 6♣ - south better get a spade going. If south gets to play 5♥ - the opening lead is critical. West should start a trump and duck the spade lead - if he is COUNTING TRICKS. Throughout the week I noted several examples of getting to 'busy' against game contracts. The BOLS prize winning dictum of Garozzo stands - "defend games quietly!"

The victory point scale warrants comparison to North America where we use the 20 or 30 VP scale in Swiss Teams. The WBF as well as Europe generally use a 30 point scale, much different than our scale. The Victory Points are

divided according to a scale that varies based on the number of hands played in a match. For instance, in a 10 board match the VP's are divided 15-15 for a tie or a win by one; a 16 imp win awards 20-10; a 34 imp win awards 25-5; thereafter, the winner gets only 25 while the loser receives a diminishing amount as salvage. There is a loudly expressed feeling that the WBF scale should be used in Canada, at least in such events of Team Trials. The flaws are:

1) it fails to reward winning even though that is what life in the 90's is all about. In soccer, for example, they award 3 points for a win and a 1-1 split for a tie.

2) the scale makes it nearly impossible to catch up after a slow start.

One thing is clear - the 80 VP scale used in the CNTC until this year caters too much to good teams drowning the less experienced ones and fails to acknowledge and reward stable results throughout the event. Perhaps something closer to the North American 30 VP scale should be considered for CNTC and perhaps also the WBF - should we dare to suggest?

A Lille report must compliment the great French food, ambiance, atmosphere and sociability. On the down side, the 'ballsup's' can scarcely be overstates, including:

1) a change of times and number of sessions in the Imp Pairs (and publication thereof) that would have caused us to miss the start and hence entry opportunity were it not for blind luck!

2) a late session in the Open Pairs Finals was marred by movement mismanagement resulting in several rounds being average plus for several pairs and

3) the grand coupe finale - in the Open Pairs final session when the hand record became public in round 2. Fortunately the inevitable security problem was blocked thanks to the honesty of a Canadian.

The problem may be that we have come to expect too much! All the same we should rejoice in being here in Canada and appreciate the good.

LILLE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 1998

A Colour Commentary

By Doug Heron

DAY 1. Excitement building...off to the airport (flying Air Canada---strike looming---not so sure this is a good idea)...smooth flight Ottawa to Montreal, then to Paris...arrive 8:00 AM local time. Flying alone... My Mixed Pairs partner June Pocock already in Lille... My Team and Pairs partner Dave Kent arriving later... smooth arrival, no baggage lost, and a free shuttle to the BULLET train station... It helps to speak passable French... Air France had promised to provide free transport to Lille via the bullet train for anyone flying with them... unfortunately they had backed out of the deal after it was advertised... cost to travel the 45 minutes to Lille (return) almost \$200 Canadian. It was almost worth the price... very smooth... very fast... sort of like flying at ground level (up to 200km per hour). I talk with Bart Bramley on the train...he is taking part in the Par Contest, played on a computer, with devilishly difficult hands, scored as a function of time taken and errors made... it will take place over two days (four sessions). He tells me he is worried about embarrassing himself. The train arrives and I grab a taxi to the hotel, 40 Francs plus tip (about \$10 Cdn) and later find out I could have walked in 5 minutes... oh well.

Into the hotel, no problems with the reservation. Into the room...oops...more like a closet. 2 narrow beds with about 12 inches between them. No air conditioning. No cupboards...aha! There is room under the bed for belongings...reminds me of boarding school...however, clean, and relatively cheap...cost \$35 Cdn per night, includes a full breakfast of croissants, ham, eggs, coffee, juice etc. Into bed... few hours sleep... good as new.

DAY 2 and 3: Exploring Lille....the fourth largest city in France, northeast of Paris near the Belgian border. It is a delightful place that reminds me a lot of Quebec City with its Old City, cobblestone streets, friendly cafes, and a myriad of great restaurants to suit every pocket-book.

The city gates were fortified in the 17th Century, and have been transformed into restaurants. Strolling the streets is completely safe, even late at night.

I have met up with June, who is the Team Captain of the Canadian Women's Team in Lille. We are to play our first session of the Mixed Pairs Friday evening... all goes well, and we are lying about 25th in a field of 600 pairs. Sadly, the next 2 sessions are slightly below average, and we barely miss the cut to the final day. Darren Wolpert, playing with his mother in the Mixed Paris, makes the cut in spite of slipping and falling in the shower on his first day and fracturing his arm. He plays the rest of the event with a sling and a card holder on the table. None of the Canadian players do particularly well in the Mixed.

ROSENBLUM TEAMS

Canada has only three teams playing in the premier event, the open KO teams.

Team Canada 1, the winners of last year's CNTC competition, consists of Mike Hargreaves, Gordon McOrmond, Allan Graves, Joey Silver, with Fred Gitelman and George Mittelman added. Bryan Maksymetz stayed in Canada.

Team Canada 2, Michael Roche, David Turner, Darren Wolpert and Jurek Czyzowicz.

Team Canada 3, our team, George Retek, Brian Fraser, Doug Heron, Dave Kent, Leo Weniger, and Alan Schwartz.

WOMEN'S TEAMS

Canada's only Women's Team, winner of last year's CWTC, is June Pocock, Gloria Silverman (replaced Marylou Bert, declared non-eligible), Kathy Adachi, Leslie Gold, with augmentees Linda Wynston, and Maureen Culp-Brandl.

In the KO, the first 3 days will be a complete round robin within a group of 15 or 16 teams, with only the top four teams from each group advancing (*ed note: there were 16 of these groups in the Open, 4 in the Women's*). In the women's event, there are fewer entries, so that after a complete round robin in the group of sixteen, eight teams will advance to the KO stage.

We draw Chagas' team first match, play well, and lose heavily. We win the next four matches, and are lying in 5th place at the end of the day. A good start. Unfortunately, it is a tough road from there, and we slip deeper and deeper into the mud... we have virtually no chance to qualify after the first 2 matches on the third day.

Michael Roche's team does very well and is lying in third spot for most of the three days of play. Sadly, in the very last match, they lose by a blitz and just barely miss qualifying. What a disappointment!

Canada 1 are comfortable qualifiers for the KO stage.

June Pocock's team does well, and with one round to go, is in the last qualifying spot 20 victory points ahead of the team they will play in the last match. Thus they have a virtual lock on qualifying for the KO stage. Disaster befalls on several hands and suddenly they are worried. After the comparison, they have qualified by 3 victory points! Yes!!

But wait... there is a scoring error. After the correction, the score is 5 victory points to 25. After checking and rechecking, they are tied for the last qualifying spot. Frantic searching for the

conditions of contest... the first tie-break formula is the head-to-head match, so Pocock's team is OUT. The entire team is in shock.

Hargreaves will play Bart Bramley in the first round of the KO playoffs. Bramley has been playing in great form. Bramley himself finished second in the par contest. The match is not close and Canada's last hope in the Open Teams is gone.

OPEN PAIRS

The final championship event is the Open Pairs, a gruelling event held over seven days, with two sessions per day. The first two days of play eliminates most of our hopes but Darren Wolpert and Jurek Czyzowicz are playing very strongly. Allan Graves has switched partners and is playing in this event with George Mittelman, while Joey Silver and Fred Gitelman play together. Dave Kent and I never get off the ground. Michael Roche and David Turner falter. At the end of the semi-finals (the fourth day) only Darren and Jurek qualify. However, they have had eight huge sessions and are in *third place* overall. This should be a terrific carryover. Allan Graves and George Mittelman fail to qualify but just barely. WAIT! A pair drops out, and Graves and Mittelman are back in the event. More good news for George and Allan. There is *no carryover* and all finalists will start from ground zero.

George and Allan are elated. Darren and Jurek are, as expected, disappointed. In the final, George and Allan play great, and end up 7th OVERALL. Darren and Jurek, perhaps affected by losing all their carryover, do not regain their form but still finish a credible 35th or so. Not so shabby with over 1000 people starting the event and playing a total of 13 sessions.

Here is a question for you. It is the morning of the last session of the Open Pairs which is just about to start. You look down, see a piece of paper on the floor, and pick it up. It is the hand record for the entire final session of the Open Pairs! This actually happened to Leo Weniger, a

member of the CBF Board of Directors from Halifax. Do you: 1) auction it off to the highest bidder? 2) turn it in to an official? Fortunately the session was just starting, there were no bidders, and Leo turned it in to George Retek, the WBF rep on site. After George recovered from his near-stroke, he managed to voice his displeasure to the organizers.

THE ORGANIZATION

The Negatives

1. Smoking allowed at the tables at all times unless you requested no smoking on your side of the screen (in which case there would still be smoking on the other side of the screen) and the entire huge hall hung heavy with smoke at all times. It seems every European is a smoker!

2. Courtesy and ability seemed far below the level expected of the directing staff. For example, in both the semi-final and final of the Open Pairs (the major event) the movement was botched, with pairs sitting out, playing each other twice, playing the same boards twice but E/W instead of N/S the second time, etc.

3. The incident with security described above.

4. The time taken to report the scores. Can you believe that travelling score slips are still used? If twelve rounds are to be played (the usual number at the worlds) then the carbon copy is torn off with five rounds to go, and the scores begin to be entered at that stage. The results are never available until *at least* one and a half hours after the session is over. It is virtually impossible to check your match points as no section results are given. A percentage is the only score you see. Frequency charts are available, but once again, practically speaking, there is no simple way to check your score.

The Positives

1. The playing conditions would have been great if smoking were prohibited. I have been assured that Lille is the last smoking tournament for the WBF. Screens were used throughout from the very first board, and they were very high quality.

2. The hours were terrific. Game time was usually 10 am or 11 am, with a 45 minute break, and then another session ending at about 7:30 pm or so. This meant the playing time was a bit of a marathon but the evenings were free.

3. The Press room was open to the public for the first time. Computers were available to everyone with a wide band of email access. It was easy for anyone wishing to communicate home. Simply log onto the screen, set up a hotmail account free of charge, and free communication, with password protection, was available to all.

4. The playing site was an architecture marvel. Very unusual, with half storeys, and enough space for anything ... from 10,000 people in one room down to small meeting rooms.

5. A final Victory Banquet after the prize giving was free and was accompanied by an extravaganza show patterned after the Folies Bergères in Paris. At our Canadian table, I was seated beside Joyce and Duncan Phillips of Toronto (Duncan won the prize for the high score in the continuous pairs). After a particularly vigorous and noisy dance number by an assorted bevy of beauties, Joyce leaned over and asked if I thought they would strip. I thought no, not at an event like this. We needn't have wondered. They did not strip - they came out topless for the next number.

6. Some highlights for me personally: As the President of the Host Nation for the next Rosenblum Teams, I was "obligated" to attend five black tie dinners. They certainly know how to put on a wonderful meal. The events included an evening for the World Champions, an International Bridge Press Association dinner, and an evening with the Volunteers and the Organizers of the current event.

7. For the finale of the Victory Banquet, George Retek (ACBL District 1 Director and WBF Vice-President), Tibor Bertalan (Organizer of the 2002 World Championships in Montreal) and I were called up to the stage for a flag-passing ceremony. We accepted the Canadian Flag, and said a few words welcoming players to Montreal in 2002.

THE ENDING

The trip back was definitely NOT like the trip over to Lille. First I misread my train ticket and showed up an hour late. I had to change my reservation which cost an extra 80 francs. That did not upset me too much. After all it was my fault. What *really* upset me was that no one showed up on the train to collect my ticket...

The Airport in Paris was a zoo. With Air Canada on strike, line-ups were endless. When I finally got fixed up, I found I was only on stand-by for Air France. I stayed an extra night at the Airport Hotel and waited for the next day from 10 am to 5 pm with my bags before I was finally told I would be on the plane home. Not to mention another wait in Montreal for a three hour delay.

Would I do it all again? I can't wait!



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Jude Goodwin-Hanson, Editor (see p.32)
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LES CHAMPIONNATS DU MONDE, UN CHAMPION DU MONDE ET UN BEAU CHELEM

par Bernard Marcoux, Montréal

Montréal tiendra les Championnats du monde 2002, et nous pouvons tirer plusieurs leçons de Championnats du Monde de cette année, à Lille, principalement au sujet de ce qu'il ne faut pas faire.

Premièrement, la fumée, évidemment. Même si les fumeurs devaient s'abstenir de fumer lorsqu'on leur demandait, les fumeurs autour continuaient et, au bout de 3 jours, vous commencez à en avoir assez de voir tous ces mégots partout, d'entendre tous ces toussotements d'emphysème en puissance, de rencontrer tous ces fumeurs faméliques, au visage grisâtre, véritables mourants ambulants.

Et quand vous sortez de la salle de jeu pour aller manger une bouchée (la session suivante commence 1 heure après la fin de la première), et qu'il pleut, vous vous retrouvez prisonnier dans cette autre salle, voisine de la salle de jeu, où maintenant les fumeurs ont tous les drouts (et ils fument donc non-stop, comme on dit en France), où il n'y a pas de tables ni de chaises en nombre suffisant pour tous les joueurs présents, où vous devez vous mettre en ligne pendant 30 minutes pour obtenir une sandwich que vous irez manger assis dans l'escalier, faute de sièges.

Vraiment mal organisé.

Vous terminez la session et vous voudriez bien voir votre score? Oubliez tout ça; malgré tous ces beaux discours du début des Championnats sur l'utilisation des dernières technologies pour Lille, vous n'obtiendrez vos scores que le lendemain matin. En effet, on inscrit encore les résultats dans ces petits carnets d'où, vers les deux tiers de la session, on détache une petite feuille bleue contenant les scores jusque-là. Pas de petits cartons comme ici, pas de caddie (personnage

inconnu en Europe, du moins en France) qui recueillerait les cartons après chaque ronde, ce qui vous permettrait de voir au moins où vous en êtes avant la dernière ronde. Doug Heron, qui avait une bonne première session dans les paires mixtes, a attendu les résultats pendant une heure après la fin de la session: rien, rien de rien. Il a obtenu les résultats le lendemain matin. Dernières technologies, qu'ils disaient.

Et tout se passe en anglais, évidemment (nous sommes en France après tout). Le bulletin quotidien, produit par la WBF, sort religieusement tous les jours, dans la langue de la religion orthodoxe du monde moderne: l'anglais. Philippe Brunel, un ami journaliste de bridge français, réussira après plusieurs jours à publier certains articles en français, sans accent (typographie anglaise oblige), sans cédille, sans aucun des signes qui distinguent notre langue.

À Montréal, il faudra penser à produire un bulletin quotidien en français.

Toutes les annonces de mouvement se faisaient en anglais (sans doute normal avec tous ces gens de pays différents), annonces que les directeurs français s'empressaient de répéter ... en anglais aussi. Leurs messages, déjà incompréhensible lorsque dits en français, l'étaient évidemment encore plus.

Au total donc, des Championnats du Monde 1998 mal organisés.

Aimez-vous kibitzer? Moi, beaucoup. Si vous ne kibitez jamais, vous perdrez quelque chose de très précieux: vous ne regardez pas les excellent joueurs en train de jouer. À Lille, nous pouvions donc kibitzer, et je me suis empressé de le faire un jour, dernière Franck Multon et Hervé Mouiel, champions du monde (les Français dominent tout le monde depuis le début des années 90).

Si je vous disais que Mouiel, multiples fois champion du monde, prend au moins 30 secondes entre chaque carte, feriez-vous comme lui à l'avenir? Les grands joueurs ne jouent pas vite, ils prennent leur temps, analysent, imaginent, comptent ... et se trompent rarement. Voyez Mouiel à l'oeuvre.

ADD	MOUIEL	ADG	MULTON
1♦	p	1♠	p
1sa	p	3sa	passent

Sur l'entame, Mouiel a:

♠ Dx
♥ Axx
♦ xxxx
♣ xxxx

Il entame trèfle et aperçoit le mort suivant:

MORT
♠ Vxxx
♥ Vx
♦ Axxxx
♣ Ax

Le déclarant duque au mort, Multon gagne du Roi et revient du 9. Au mort avec l'As de trèfle, le déclarant laisse courir le V de coeur, gagné par l'As de Mouiel. La position:

MORT
♠ Vxxx
♥ x
♦ Axxxx
♣ --

MOUIEL

♠ Dx
♥ xx
♦ xxxx
♣ xx

Que jouez-vous maintenant? Avant toute chose, faites comme Mouiel: RIEN!!

Réfléchissez!!! À ce moment-là, vous le voyez (Mouiel) fixer le vide; ses yeux regardent, mais ne voient pas ce qu'il y a devant, ses yeux fixent le vide, ou plutôt, ils examinent le jeu du déclarant, et voici ce qu'il se dit:

"Que sais-je? Qui a la D de trèfle? Le déclarant évidemment (mon partenaire avec RD aurait joué la D). Qui a RD de coeur? Le déclarant évidemment. Et pourquoi le déclarant, avec cette longue à carreau au mort, jour-t-il sa couleur courte, coeur? Parce que les carreaux sont bons, c'est sûr. Le déclarant a donc en main 2 levées de trèfle, 2 levées de coeurs et 5 levées de carreaux, ce qui fait 9 levées, son contrat. Si le déclarant a le R de pique, son contrat est rentré. Donc, mon partenaire doit avoir AR de pique pour faire chuter ce contrat."

Après une quarantaine de secondes donc, Mouiel a mis la D de pique sur la table, suivie d'un petit pique, et la défense a encaissé 3 levées de pique pour un de chute.

France et moi avons décidé de terminer notre voyage en Europe en jouant dans les paires mixtes les 21, 22 et 23 août. Nous ne nous sommes pas qualifiés pour la finale à cause d'une première session désastreuse; nous n'avons pas pu rattraper le retard dans les deux dernières sessions, car il fallait jouer 53% de moyenne pour les 3 sessions de qualifications afin d'accéder à la finale. Nous avons donc joué dans la finale de Zone (!), formule polie pour dire consolation, où nous avons terminé au-dessus de la moyenne. En fait, à part cette première session catastrophique, nous avons joué au-dessus de la moyenne pour les 4 dernières sessions.

Rejouer au bridge après presque 5 semaines d'inactivité est assez difficile, la tête est pleine de paysages (ah! l'Italie ...), de gens (ah! les Italiennes ...), de repas inoubliables (ah! l'Italie ...), etc. En finale de Zone, nous avons assez bien fait lors de la deuxième session et une paire se souvient sans doute de nous.

BERNARD

♠ AD9xx
♥ A
♦ Rxx
♣ AV98

FRANCE

♠ R10x
♥ RD109xx
♦ x
♣ 10xx

BERNARD

1♠
3♣
4SA
6♠

FRANCE

2♥
3♣
5♦
fin

La réponse 2♥ et justifiée, je crois, avec cette belle couleur œe, le fit à pique et un singleton. Sans fit, 1SA forcing serait la bonne enchère. 3♣ par l'ouvreur montre un surplus et l'enchère de 3♠ fut la musique à mes oreilles. L'entame fut le V de carreau, gagné par l'As de mon Add, qui revint du R de trèfle. À vous.

MORT

♠ R10x
♥ RDxxxx
♦ ---
♣ 10x

VOUS

♠ AD9xx
♥ A
♦ Rx
♣ V98

Il faut évidemment établir les coeurs du mort afin défausser les trèfles perdants du déclarant. On peut rêver en couleurs, penser que les coeurs sont 3-3 et qu'il suffit de jouer As de coeur, puis 3 coups de pique finissant au mort pour encaisser tous les coeurs maîtres. Les coeurs 3-3, c'est 30% de chances, alors que les coeurs 4-2, c'est près de 70% de chances. Il faut donc aller au mort une fois pour couper un coeur, et y retourner une deuxième fois pour encaisser les coeurs établis. Une fois qu'on a décidé de cette ligne de jeu, la solution s'impose d'elle-même : il faut simplement le Valet de pique à gauche, 2e ou 3e. Donc As

de coeur de la main, puis petit pique vers le ... 10, qui gagne!!! Petit coeur coupé, As de pique, petit pique vers le R, Adg fournissant le Valet. Tous les coeurs sont bons, +1430 pour un franc top, l'autre paire (joueurs canadiens très connus) au chelem ayant chuté (sûrement en jouant les coeurs 3-3).

Mais que faire si Adg (si jamais il est pleinement éveillé) joue le V de pique au premier tour e pique? Ce V est-il sec, ou Adg vous joue-t-il un tour? Voilà pourquoi il est sans doute mieux e jouer As de pique d'abord, puis petit pique vers le 10, pour neutraliser les petits farceurs.

Sur l'étui suivant, j'ai ouvert un 2♦ faibles et ma partenaire nous a menés jusqu'au chelem à coeur, contrés par son Add, qui avait AD de carreau dernière mon ouverture. Mal lui en prit : ma partenaire coupa l'entame carreau et réussit 13 levées pour un autre top. Je ne me souviens pas s'ils nous ont dit merci.

Sur ce, Bonne Année à tous, et j'en profite pour remercier tous ceux qui prennent la peine de me dire qu'ils apprécient mes articles. Vos bons commentaires me font toujours beaucoup plaisir.

YOUTH/JUNIOR CALENDAR

- 1999 International Youth Bridge Festival
Den Bosch, Netherlands January 1999
- Junior Sectional
Kingston ON January 22--24
- Junior Month February 1999
- Canadian University Team Championship
Hart House, Toronto February-March
- World Junior Pairs & Junior Bridge Camp
Czech Republic July 1999
- World Junior Team Championship
Sweden or Ft. Lauderdale August 1999

Watch the CBF Calendar online for updates on dates and sites <http://www.cbf.ca>

CANADA'S YOUNGEST LM

David Sabourin

Excerpted from 1998 The Chicago NABC Daily Bulletin, Number 6

When David Sabourin of Ottawa became a Life Master in a Midnight Swiss he became a very special Life Master -- Canada's youngest Life Master ever. He achieved the feat at the age of 14 years, 0 months and 11 days. The previous record holder was Gavin Wolpert of Toronto who was 14 years, six months and 19 days when he got his gold card.

David began playing two and a half years ago, and he started right out in duplicate. "I've never played house bridge in my life," he said. His mother, Elizabeth Scott, and her boyfriend Paul Hardy, both Life Masters, introduced David to the game.

"Brian Hardy, the son of mom's boyfriend, started a partnership with me and we started going to the local clubs," said David. "I went to my first national in Miami a couple of years ago, and now this is my fourth National. I played in Dallas and Albuquerque, too."

"How are you doing in school?" is the question everyone always asks a young Life Master.

There's always the fear that bridge has taken over and studies have taken second place -- or lower. Not so with David -- he's maintaining a B average as he enters the ninth grade at West Carlton Secondary School. "Bridge has helped me in my schoolwork. My concentration is much better than it used to be."

And he has other interests besides bridge. "I've been involved in baseball for the past eight years -- I'm a pitcher. And now I'm getting into basketball. I'm not all that tall so I play as a guard."

He's had a good tournament here [in Chicago] -- more than 34 points going into yesterday's sessions That includes a first in the Flight C Swiss, a first in a midnight game and a midnight second as well.

"I play a lot with my parents back home, but I haven't played with them at all here," said David. His partners here have included Kent Mignocchi, David Grainger, Jonathan Steinberg, Danny Miles, Ian Nicholson and Charles Halasi. In fact, he was playing with Halasi when Halasi became a Life Master earlier in this tournament.

"It's really exciting to be Canada's youngest Life Master," said David. "I want to thank all the folks in Ottawa who have helped me along the way."

New Members Inducted into ACBL Junior Corps

Excerpted from 1998 The Chicago NABC Daily Bulletin, No. 3

The Junior Corps, whose members promote the game through their dedication to bridge, inducted eight new members at the Junior dinner last evening.

The ceremony was opened by Aileen Osofsky, chairman of the National Goodwill Committee,

who welcomed the large group of attendees. Osofsky also welcomed special guests representing the successful Illinois Youth Bridge Group as well as members of the Swedish and Danish Junior teams who are visiting the U.S.

Osofsky said that the Junior corps is for those "who not only know how to handle their cards at the table, but also know how to handle themselves." Osofsky noted that since its inception in 1990, the Junior Corps has inducted 110 members, 47 of which are still young enough to be classified as a Junior (under 26).

Continued on next page

ACBL President Dick Anderson was also in attendance and was asked to induct the first member, his daughter Erin Anderson. A joking Anderson began by announcing "I am delighted to be able to induct Erin into the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame....Oh, sorry. I'm getting ahead of myself."

Erin, 15, attends Campbell Collegiate School in Regina SK. District 2 Director Jonathan Steinberg inducted three members from his district.

Danny Miles, 21, of Winnipeg is a student at the University of Waterloo in Ontario. He is studying math and business and is the President of the UW Bridge Club

Colin Lee, 22, is also a student at UW, studying math (combinatorics) and computers. Mike Nadler, 24 of Toronto is the owner of the bridge club Doubles ("Juniors play free," said a very salesman-like Nadler.) Nadler and Lee represented Canada at the World Junior Championships in Hamilton in 1997.

Also inducted, but not in attendance, were Craig Barkhouse (District 2), Brad Bart (District 19, Vijay Bal (District 21) and Joe Grue (District 14).

G.S. Jade Barrett, a former member of the Junior Corps and current non-playing captain of the U.S. Junior Team, reminded the Juniors present that, "when you play, you play not just for yourself but for your country. You reflect on the Junior program as a whole."

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST

Erin Berry

**FALL ROOKIE-
MASTER GAME**

by Brad Bart, Vancouver, BC

I have played in two rookie-master games since I moved to Vancouver in January. What happens in this. A rookie - a newer player with less than 20 masterpoints - is partnered with a master - a player with the opposite credentials - to play an evening of duplicate bridge together. The point of the game is to encourage new players (the bridge community's most valuable commodity) to play more duplicate bridge. Masters were warned before the game against masterminding, giving lessons and other turn-offs to the rookies. Fun was the main aim of the game.

Last April, in my first rookie-master game, I began with mixed feelings. On the one hand, I was excited about playing with someone new regardless of whether we won or lost; on the other hand, I was worried that my partner wouldn't be any fun. All that I wished for was a partner with personality. I got my wish when Ken Lochang (who was in charge of arranging partnerships) introduced me to Norm Dreger, a student from UBC.

We went over the Yellow Card once and decided what we wouldn't be playing on it. We were one of 50 pairs in the room and Norm was a little nervous to start, but after the first couple of boards he was totally at ease. In between rounds, we would talk about school, sports and the Spice Girls, of whom Norm is a big fan. Bridgewise, he hardly pulled a wrong card all night. He was truly happier than a kite in the clouds. The only thing that he seemed to have problems with was his opening leads. Norm would listen to the auction very carefully, and he would always lead the unbid suit. Always. This disappointed me whenever I had bid a suit.

We were leading the event by a landslide going into the last round. Sure enough, on each of the last two hands, Norm was on lead and didn't lead my suit. In the final standings, we dropped to second - edged out by half a matchpoint. A heartbreaker to be sure, but we had a blast of a good time. Norm is now a regular at duplicate

bridge and he is a promising young player. He now leads his partner's suit.

I asked Norm to play with me again this fall but he couldn't make it because he had to sit a midterm exam. Once again, I showed up at the game without a partner, with similar apprehensions as the last time. I asked Ken Lochang to fix me up with someone fun. I got my wish again.

Brad, meet Laurie Ailles, a PhD student at UBC. She had been playing in the Thursday night beginner's group for the last few months and this was her first time playing duplicate bridge. We quickly stripped off most of the stuff from the Yellow Card and began to play. I wondered if we would talk about the Spice Girls in between rounds?

We were one of 40 pairs in the room and this was her first time playing duplicate bridge, but surprisingly, Laurie was not nervous. Bridge-wise, she made a lot of good decisions both in the bidding and in her play. Here's a hand where she picked the right time not to sell out.

Dlr: West

LAURIE

♠ QJT43

♥ T

♦ KQ32

♣ JT9

♠ A2

♥ AQJ9876

♦ -

♣ 8765

♠ -

♥ K54

♦ JT54

♣ AKQ432

ME

♠ K98765

♥ 32

♦ A9876

♣ -

The master in the West chair opened 4♥, which was passed around to me. "6-5, come alive" convinced me to bid 4♠. East balanced 5♥. This was passed back to Laurie who didn't

feel much like defending hearts. She correctly bid 5♠ and got doubled by West who led the ♥A.

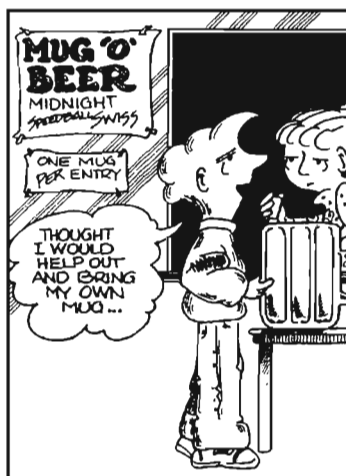
West shifted to a club which was covered and ruffed, and I led a spade up. West ducked, so I won in dummy, ruffed a club, then ruffed a heart, then a club. This I exited a spade. West was endplayed into conceding a ruff and sluff for my 11th trick. +850 for the good guys!

Laurie and I ended up winning the event by half a matchpoint, a result she is truly ecstatic about. It was an equally fitting end for me who came second by this same small margin in April. I'm glad that she was able to carry me through.

The CBF has named the Fall Rookie-Master game in memory of Erin Berry. I met and played with Erin on OKbridge. Her handle was "goddess", which suited her wit very well. Erin was developing into one of Canada's better junior players when she was killed in a tragic car accident while visiting her boyfriend, Aaron Papst (also a junior player). I am sorry I will never get a chance to meet the "Goddess" in person.

For this and other stories by Brad Bart visit <http://www.cs.sfu.ca/~bbart/personal/>

TABLE TALK
© Jude Goodwin-Hanson



TEAM CANADA '99

by Jonathan Steinberg and
Leslie Amoils, Co-NPCs

The Canadian Junior Team that will be representing Canada at the 1999 World Junior Championships is an experienced team of young players who have their sights firmly set on winning a medal. *(At press time the exact dates and location were not yet finalized. The event is usually held in August - editor)*

David Halasi, 20, and Mike Nadler, 24, won the CBF sponsored Junior Trials in Kingston last August. They came second in the Red Ribbon Pairs last summer at the Chicago NABC and were both members of Canada White at the World Junior Championships held in Hamilton, ON in 1997.

Runners-up in the trials were David Grainger, 18 and David Brower, 25. They both attended the ACBL Junior Bridge Camp last summer and will be working hard over the next nine months developing and fine tuning their partnership.

Darren Wolpert, 22, was a member of Canada Red in 1997 and was competing in Lille, France at the World Championships last August. He came 26th overall in the World Open Pairs! The CBF Board of Directors appointed him automatically to the team. He selected Ben Zeidenberg, 24, as his partner. Ben was also a member of Canada White in 1997 and in 1996 he and Halasi led the field in the Saturday afternoon World Wide Bridge Contest.

Leslie Amoils and Jonathan Steinberg are co-NPCs who are working hard to mold this talented group of individuals into a cohesive team. We have an ambitious training program lined up. We get together most Sundays either to bid hands or hold practice matches. Then we go out for dinner and discuss the boards and team strategy.

David Halasi • Mike Nadler
David Grainger • David Brower
Darren Wolpert • Ben Zeidenberg

Co-NPC Jonathan Steinberg

Co-NPC Leslie Amoils

Prior to the World Junior Championships in August, the team will be attending the International Youth Bridge Festival January 3-10, 1999 in 's-Hertogenbosch, Holland. This will be an exciting event for all of us and invaluable learning experience in preparation for the world championships.

But travelling, training and coaching is not cheap. We have just begun our fund raising efforts but already we have some successes to report. The Canadian Junior Team acquired a corporate sponsor who will be providing us with team uniforms. The support of our sponsor, BEVERLY HILLS POLO CLUB (a division of Alphi Apparel Group), a men's sportswear collection, is greatly appreciated.

To date, we have also received generous donations from Units 166 and 246. Our biggest cash donation is from the Canadian Bridge Federation whose support and counsel is unparalleled.

The Team will be planning lots of special events in 1999 leading up to the World Championships. Look for us in our team uniforms at the Toronto Regional in April and the Oshawa Regional in June. You may also see us at some of the sectional tournaments in the Toronto area. Say hello and introduce yourself. We are your representatives and without your support, there would be no TEAM CANADA '99 (Juniors)

The team is proud to represent Canada and we look forward to doing so with honour and distinction.



The big cat with 99 lives

(or why Boris always wins, part 2)

By Bernard Marcoux, Montréal

How do you become a great card player? Well, firstly, bad bidding will surely help; another good way is to forget what you play and end up in ridiculous contract. But, as we say in French, "le ridicule ne tue pas". A third way is for the opponents to let themselves get hypnotised by a big cat, just because he is a big cat. I have seen Boris Baran survive so many impossible contracts that I have come to think of him as a great big cat, not with 9 lives, but rather with 99 lives. Boris Baran has big claws and radiating presence: when he sits at the bridge table, he comes to play. He is also known to have psychic powers and is able to hypnotise opponents (who want to be hypnotised, by the way, like the poor little bird in the eye of the cat, or the deer at night that just jumps in front of your car). Some victims want to stay victims (it is easier).

In the quarter finals of the CNTC 1998, I witnessed this hand.

SOUTH (BORIS)

♠K9
♥AKT5
♦T5
♣AJ942

BORIS	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1NT	dbl	2♣	p
2♥	p	2♠	p
3♣	p	3NT	all pass

Some explanations. Double showed a 4-card major and a 5-card minor suit. 2♣ was Stayman, and 2♠ said: I have 4 spades and an invitational hand, or 4 spades with a long minor suit and a weak hand.

On 2♠, opener passes with a minimum and 4

little spades or 3 good spades (KQx); with 2 spades and a minimum, opener bids 2NT; responder then passes with the invitational hand with 4 spades or bids his long minor suit with the weak hand, to play.

If opener has a maximum and 4 spades, he bids 3♠; responder then bids 4♣ with the invitational hand and passes with the weak hand. If opener has a maximum without 4 spades, he bids 3♣, artificial; responder with the invitational hand can now bid 3NT; if responder has the weak hand with a long minor, he passes 3♣ or corrects to 3♦, to play. Really a very nice treatment (by Eric Kokish, I think).

On 2♠, Mark Molson alerted on his side of the panel; Boris bid 3♣, natural (he had forgotten his agreement on this sequence) and did not alert. When the auction was over, Boris woke up and said that he should have alerted 3♣; West then said he would have doubled 3♣, Molson then said he would have bid 3NT anyway, and that was that. Boris then told West, the 3♣ doubler, that he was on lead; West then woke up himself and realised he had doubled 3♣ to tell himself to lead clubs, which he did. And the "Big 99 Lives Cat" surveyed his prospects (next page).

On a Diamond lead, there would be no story. How do you become a bad defender? Firstly, not listening to the bidding will surely help. If West had asked what was 3♣, he would have learned that Boris (who had forgotten his agreement, remember) had bid naturally, so he would have led the unbid suit, Diamonds.

NORTH

♠ J875
♥ 864
♦ A83
♣ K63

WEST

♠ AT64
♥ 97
♦ J6
♣ QT875

EAST

♠ Q32
♥ QJ32
♦ KQ9742
♣ -

SOUTH

♠ K9
♥ AKT5
♦ T5
♣ AJ942

On the small club lead, Boris looked a long time at dummy, probably trying to figure out how many lives he had already spent playing and making impossible contracts. Could he survive still again and fall on his feet? Well, the lead seemed friendly, Boris ducked in dummy and now the bad news : East discarded a diamond. Count your tricks : 2 Hearts, 1 Diamond and 3 Clubs = 6 tricks!! You need 3 more; where will they come from? Boris won in hand, played a club to the K, and called for a heart. East played low and Boris inserted the 10, what else? HE NEEDS TRICKS! The 10 won, he is up to 7 tricks : 3 Hearts, 1 Diamond and 3 Clubs. Boris now thought for a long time, a very long time, toyed with the ♠K, then the 9, then the King. He decided on the ♠9 and ran it! East won with the ♠Q, and came back with the ♥Q.

With the heart return, you could sense the Big Cat starting to breathe a little: he had a chance to put his claws on yet another impossible contract, just because he is a thinking cat. Boris won and played the ♠K, ducked all around (long pause by West). Boris then ducked a diamond to East who came back a 3rd heart. Boris won (West discarding a club), played a diamond to the Ace, and announced he would endplay West, making 3.

A club to the Ace and a club put West in hand for a beautiful stepping-stone ending.

North

♠ J8
♥ ---
♦ 3
♣ 3

West

♠ AT
♥ ---
♦ ---
♣ QT

East

♠ 2
♥ 2
♦ KQ
♣ ---

South

♠ ---
♥ 5
♦ ---
♣ AJ2

West has to play a spade to dummy for the 9th trick of this impossible contract: 2 Spades, 3 hearts, 1 Diamond and 3 Clubs. The defence made 2 Spades, 1 Diamond and 1 Club.

The Big Cat drew in his claws and smiled at me: "Beautiful hand", he said.

East commented that Boris had no play from the start!

Boris laughed like a kid.



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DONER VS. HARGREAVES: A SUMMARY

by Aidan Ballantyne,
Zone VI (B.C.) Director

The setting was the July 12-18, 1998 CNTC in Montreal. A controversial appeal decided the quarter final between two teams representing B.C.: HARGREAVES (Mike Hargreaves, Gord McOrmond, Allan Graves, Bryan Maksymetz plus Joey Silver from Montreal) and DONER (Cam Doner, Jim Dickie, Felipe Hernandez, Gery McCully, Dave Sokolow plus G. Sekhar from Winnipeg). Except for the addition of Maksymetz, HARGREAVES was the same squad that had won the CNTC the year before in Surrey, B.C.

At the end of the round robin the standings were:

1.	BARAN	517
2.	GARTAGANIS	465
3.	HARGREAVES	461
4.	SCHWARTZ	458
5.	JOTCHAM	440
6.	DONER	438
7.	TREBLE	431
8.	THURSTON	430

The Conditions of Contest required the 1st through 4th place finishers to each pick their quarter final opponent from the bottom half of the eight team pool of finalists. The Round Robin winner, BARAN, had first choice and picked JOTCHAM, GARTAGANIS had second choice and picked TREBLE, HARGREAVES had third choice and picked DONER, thus leaving SCHWARTZ to play THURSTON.

HARGREAVES' choice of another team from their home province may have heightened pre-existing B.C. rivalries and turned that particular quarter final encounter into something of a grudge match. Apparently the stage was set for the ill feeling that surfaced during the match

BOARD TWO

Vul: N/S Gery McCully
Dlr: East ♠ AK98
♥ 92
♦ KJ65
♣ JT3

G. McOrmond	B. Maksymetz
♠ QJT73	♠ 42
♥ KQ4	♥ T7653
♦ Q984	♦ T732
♣ 4	♣ 87

Felipe Hernandez
♠ 65
♥ AJ8
♦ A
♣ AKQ9652

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		Pass	1♣
1♠	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣(1)	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥
Double	7♣	All Pass	

(1) After an approximately two-minute hesitation, acknowledged by all players

and the extreme rancour that developed following the appeal.

By the end of the first 32-board half HARGREAVES had built up a useful 83-59 IMP lead. HARGREAVES decided to rest their captain. In the third quarter, McOrmond, Hargreaves' regular partner, would play with Maksymetz, a much less experienced combination. DONER was in the process of a strong comeback when the crucial deal arose (top of this column).

Gery McCully (N) and Bryan Maksymetz (E) were screen mates. McCully hesitated some time before bidding 5♣. The Director (TD) was called to the table by Maksymetz after the 5♦ bid and again at conclusion of play after the grand slam had made on a squeeze. The TD's ruling was the result would stand.

By the end of the match DONER's comeback was complete and it appeared the defending champions were beaten by 11 IMPs. Then came official notice that HARGREAVES was appealing the TD's ruling on the grand slam. A 3-man appeals committee (AC) chaired by Doug Heron (Ottawa), CBF President and member of the ACBL National Appeals Committee, and also comprising Doug Fraser (Montreal) and Don Kersey (Kingston), heard the case. The AC overturned the TD's ruling and assigned NS a score of 6♣ making 7, or +1390. The deal became a push instead of a 13 IMP gain for DONER (6♣ had been reached at the other table). Suddenly, DONER was a 2 IMP loser. The official scoreline read:

HARGREAVES	42	41	32	19	134
DONER	21	38	44	29	132

HARGREAVES went on to defeat GARTAGANIS in the 72-board final and successfully defended their title.

AFTERMATH

At the tournament, the AC came under fire from members of the DONER team and many others who felt strongly that the AC had made the wrong decision. Emotions ran high. Inquiries were made by some as to whether the AC decision could be appealed. No such mechanism existed. One DONER supporter placed a call to Alan LeBendig, Director of the ACBL's National Appeals Committee, for advice and commentary on the ruling. LeBendig was sympathetic but could offer no solution for a further appeal.

Following the tournament, on July 21 Felipe Hernandez, posted the deal on the internet's rec.games.bridge.newsgroup (RGB) under the subject header "How would you rule?". Thus began a long series of internet exchanges that went on well into November.

The CBF also received direct, written complaints from DONER and their supporters,

including a letter each from Jim Dickie and Dave Sokolow (members of the DONER team). The Sokolow letter was posted on RGB by "J.C. Butcher" (a pseudonym) under the subject heading "Open Letter to the CBF Executive". The Sokolow letter questioned the AC's logic, the AC make-up and process, and alleged a propensity on the part of some members of HARGREAVES to abuse the appeal process. The Sokolow letter also quoted LeBendig as saying the ruling was "incompetent".

Meanwhile, the AC was writing up their judgment with the aim of clarifying their reasoning. The case write-up was completed towards the end of July and appeared in time for inclusion in one of the Chicago NABC Daily Bulletins. It was subsequently posted on RGB and published in the ACBL Bulletin.

After the case history was published, the CBF received a supporting letter (unsolicited) from Alan LeBendig who claimed he had not had all the facts when he made comments attributed to him in Sokolow's letter. The CBF also received supporting letters from Rick Colker, ACBL's Chief Recorder, and from Jon Brissman, Co-Chairman of the National Appeals Committee.

CBF REVIEW OF APPEAL PROCESS

The Doner Vs. Hargreaves appeal and its aftermath raised a number of issues that are currently undergoing internal review by CBF. What the CBF can do is constrained by the Laws of Duplicate Bridge and also to some extent by ACBL policy (ACBL is the sanctioning organization for CBF events).

The CBF will look into producing explicit, written guidelines governing committee selection and operation. Factors likely to be considered include: pre-selection of a pool of eligible committee members, minimum number of committee members, geographic representation on committees, role of the TD in choosing the committee, timing of the committee (e.g.

between quarters vs. after completion of a match).

The CBF review will also look at other ways of improving the appeal process. Until recently, at NABCs, the ACBL had a policy that required appellants to deposit \$50 (U.S.) before proceeding to appeal. The deposit was kept if the AC determined the appeal was frivolous. The deposit attached a downside to the appeal process that aimed to punish those who might adopt a litigious approach to the game. At the recent Chicago NABC the ACBL decided to scrap the deposit system and instead go to a system of demerits. The AC will now be empowered to allocate points to appellants reflecting the merit of an appeal. The more points awarded, the more frivolous the appeal. A book-keeping system will allow ACBL to identify parties that abuse the appeal process and subject them to a related conduct and disciplinary hearing. The CBF has so far not had in place any system to monitor appeals. However, the CBF will likely give careful consideration to adopting the new ACBL points system.

The Future of the Appeal Process

In Orlando, ACBL will be considering a new proposal from ACBL Management to completely overhaul the appeal committee system (the outcome of the proposal is not known at press time). The thrust of the proposal is: appeals would be heard by select, trained professional Tournament Directors. Appeal committees would be discontinued. There would be a referee system rather than a jury system. Appeal decisions would be monitored and written up, a new "guidelines manual" produced and regularly updated. Expert players would advise the professional TD staff and review appeal decisions.

Time will tell whether or not this new system, if implemented, will eliminate the type of controversy experienced as a result of the DONER-HARGREAVES match-up. The CBF will be following ACBL developments with interest with a view to using a similar procedure.

OFFICIAL CASE WRITE-UP A GORDIAN KNOT UNTIED

by Richard Colker

(ACBL recorder and Co-Chairman of the National Appeals committee)

Teams: N/S DONER vs
E/W HARGREAVES

BOARD TWO (see page 21)

The Facts: 7♣ made 7, plus 2140 for N/S. The Director was called at the time of the hesitation and ruled that the table result would stand.

The Appeal: E/W appealed the Director's ruling. They claimed that the long hesitation strongly implied that a bid other than 5♣ was being considered. Even though the auction was being carried out behind screens, it appeared to be obvious to all that the hesitation was by North and not by his screenmate, East. E/W also claimed that North's slow 5♣ made it much more likely that bidding on would be more successful than passing.

North argued that he was considering whether or not 4♣ was a request for a key card response, or for a cue-bid. He eventually made the response which could be neither. Unfortunately it took a considerable amount of time to reach this decision. North argued that considerable time had been taken by the opponents in other auctions (implying the delay in returning the bidding tray could well have been caused by East).

The Committee Decision: It was easy to conclude that there had been a hesitation. It was also evident that N/S had no

agreements in this situation. Nonetheless, the Committee had valuable information from some of the things that were said by South during the hearing. The following reasoning was based largely on South's comments.

First, with respect to the 5♦ call, had North bid 4NT over 4♣ there would have been a strong argument to force South to pass that call. The 5♣ call showing a fit was at least somewhat encouraging. While N/S did not have an agreement here, North did indicate that a cue-bid over 4♣ would have promised first-round control. (He said he did not want to bid 4♥ as a response to Gerber, since that would have shown the ♥A). Likewise, South indicated that he would have expected a 4♠ bid to have shown the ♠A. Since South could still demonstrate that 6♣ was a possible contract (North might have the ♠K) and that 5NT would not be in jeopardy (if North does not have a spade control he must have either both red-suit queens or one red-suit king-queen, either of which will produce eleven tricks in notrump), the Committee was in favor of allowing the 5♦ bid. While the hesitation did suggest that bidding on over 5♣ could be more successful than passing, the fact that N/S might have a slam and could not get too high meant that bidding on was not suggested by the hesitation, but rather by the cards held. The Committee noted that one consequence of South's argument was that if North had bid 5NT over 5♦ that should have denied any spade control.

With respect to the 6♥ call, some might argue that the 5♠ bid must promise the ♠A because North would have bid 6♣ instead with the ♠K. As a matter of theory that is debatable, but it was considered irrelevant as N/S clearly had no such agreement. Crucially, when asked why he bid 6♥, South said it was because 5♠ promised a spade control and he bid 6♥ "in case it was the ace." This indicated to the Committee that South did not believe North's

bidding alone had promised the ♠A. His reasoning must therefore have proceeded along the following lines: North's bidding has strongly suggested that he does not hold the ♠A (and if he does then his hand is somehow unsuitable for slam, else why would he not cue-bid immediately while holding trump support). The hesitation over 4♣ suggests he was considering some other call, that in the light of subsequent bidding was almost surely 4♠ (the other option, 4NT, is far less likely with a hand known to hold trump support). For this partnership, 4♠ would surely have shown the ♠A (as North's earlier comment attests). Therefore, the bidding suggests that North does not have the ♠A, while the hesitation suggests that he does.

Both 6♣ and 6NT were certainly logical alternatives to South's 6♥ call, and the hesitation certainly suggested 6♥ over either one of them. In fact, had there not been a strong likelihood that North had the ♠A (which, in the Committee's judgment, was demonstrably suggested by the earlier hesitation) 6♥ could be a very bad bid, since West would then be quite likely to hold both the ♠A and the ♥K, in which case 6♥ commits N/S to 6NT while guaranteeing that it will go down by allowing West to double for the lead. Thus, the Committee believed that it would be wrong to allow the 6♥ call, since it was demonstrably suggested over logical alternatives by the hesitation.

The decision between assigning South a call of 6♣ or 6NT in place of 6♥ remained. From South's point of view, 6♣ is in some danger of a spade ruff, while 6NT, played by North, is in some danger of a red-suit lead, setting up a king in West's hand while the ♠A is still outstanding. (For example, give North ♠KQx ♥Qxx ♦KQx ♣Jxxx or any other hand missing the ♠A and the ♥K and not containing the ♦KQx) In accordance with the Laws, when the offending side has a choice of actions any of which

could be right, they should be assigned the least favorable result that was at all probable. In this case, that result is 6♣. As a point of interest, on the actual auction, when the decisive moment arrived, N/S judged to bid 7♣ and not 7NT. Thus, the Committee believed there was no reason to assume that N/S would choose notrump as opposed to clubs at the six-level.

A final point not raised by the players at the hearing was the question of whether a continuation should be allowed over a theoretical call of 6♣. The Committee believed that such a continuation should not be allowed since North, who had been willing to play what he knew could be a likely slam in 5♣ (non-forcing; he could have jumped to 6♣ at that point instead) out of fear of risking a greater disaster should they have a misunderstanding, was clearly not about to bid a speculative 6NT or 7♣ if his partner signed off in 6.

The Committee adjusted the score for both sides to 6♣ made seven, plus 1390 for N/S.

Committee: Douglas Heron (chair), Douglas Fraser, Don Kersey

A SAMPLING OF OPINION

Sources of opinion include internet posts, correspondence, and various internal CBF memos. Volumes were written on the subject: there were more than 150 internet posts! Undoubtedly, many words were written in anger.

Limited space prevents a fully representative sampling of opinion. The following (inherently subjective) selection was compiled with the aims of educating and also stimulating mature reflection.

ON THE RULING

From Law 16A (Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, 1997 Edition):

"After a player makes available to his partner extraneous information that may suggest a call..., as by means of (an)...unmistakable hesitation...the partner may not choose from among logical alternative actions one that could demonstrably have been suggested over another by the extraneous information."

Law 12C (Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, 1997 Edition):

"...an assigned adjusted score...is, for the non-offending side, the most favorable result that was likely had the irregularity not occurred or, for an offending side, the most unfavorable result that was at all probable."

From Bryan Maksymetz (09-Nov.):

"...Once you bid 5♦ you are committed to slam. The possibility of playing in 5NT is ridiculous...5NT is...pick as slam...I believed then, as I do now, that the auction after 5♣ should not have been allowed...I believe that at a Nationals or World Championship, the result would have been rolled back to 5♣."

From a RGB post by Jan Kamras (28-Aug.):

"...Pass is a logical alternative over an in-tempo 5♣...Thus any slow sign-off is very likely to mean...he could have cue-bid. Thus the unauthorised information suggests (and since I just demonstrated it, it 'demonstrably suggests') bidding over passing. So I'd rule the contract back to 5♣."

From a RGB post by Tim West-Meads (05Aug.):

"I expect players of a decent level will fairly rapidly arrive at the conclusion that going on [over 5♣] will be right 9/10 and

wrong 1/10 (at most). Nobody will seriously consider passing once they arrive at this conclusion."

From Jim Dickie's letter to CBF (11-Aug.):

The ruling: in a nutshell--terrible. To deny 6♥ is to deny quality bidding. South, looking at both red suit aces and running clubs is aware that north's 3NT call is based on high cards and not running tricks and once North bid anything but 4NT over 4♣ we are off to the races."

From a RGB post by Mike Dom Wiss (21-July):

"...The 5♣ bidder is ALLOWED to bypass an ace with a minimum hand for his previous bidding...unless a partnership has a specific agreement that once one bidder Q-bids or initiates a Q-bidding sequence, the other MUST Q-bid...Ergo: the 5♣ bid MAY have an ace."

...If opener is 'allowed' to bid 5♦, as surely he must, since many would originally open his hand with a GF 2♣, then surely opener is also allowed to bid 6♥, as a 'last caboose', when responder holds AQ in the overcalled suit and judges to play in 6 or 7NT..."

From a "letter to the editor" from Bob Kuz (06-Nov.):

...Three times it is mentioned [in the official report] that N/S had no agreement on what continuations meant in this particular auction...What is undeniable is that North's 5♣ bid promised a high card control. Since they have no agreements, it could either be the Ace or the King. I believe this became a committee interpretation that it could not be the Ace, based on their own bridge upbringings.

...Every time I look at North's calls, I see progressive actions...3NT/5♣/5♠ are all encouraging actions to South, based on his cards alone...6♥ revealed the true nature of [South's] hand. Whether the bid would have been successful or disastrous is immaterial. In the con-

text of the auction, it should have been allowed to stand...

...The weight given to N/S statements that 4♠ would have been a cue bid. This is only the case when there is an agreement. As stated earlier, they had no agreements...

...All the correspondence give hands which could have worked successfully for both N/S and E/W. In my opinion, who could hold what is irrelevant. Were the N/S actions based on the values or the hesitation? In my opinion, value stands out.

...The committee chairman stated..."...we contended that bidding 6♥ could be a very bad bid, as it would allow the double of 6♥ and ensure that a 6NT contract would go down." Is it the committee's place to judge if a bid is good or bad, and reward or punish it accordingly? I thought it was the committee's place to judge whether a bid was allowable in the context of what preceded it. Since South was allowed to bid over 5♣ ("somewhat encouraging"), why was he not allowed to take further action over the strongest call his partner could make?"

From a RGB post by Dave Strasberg (27-July):

"The truth is the bidders were flailing about and landed in a terrible contract that happened to make. In my opinion 'that's life in the Big City' and they should not be punished for the 5% time they land on their feet when they are always punished for the 95% time they are wrong."

From a RGB post by Henry Sun (25-July):

"I agree with the committee's ruling on all counts. I consider south's 5♦ bid to be automatic and in light of north's failure to bid 4♠ over 4♣, north's 5♠ cue bid should show control but not the ace. Hence, south's first demonstrable logical alternative has to be the

6♥ bid and that should not be allowed...I agree with 6♣, as the 'least favorable result available to the offenders,' is the correct decision.

ON THE COMMITTEE'S MAKE-UP

From "Open Letter to the CBF Executive" by Dave Sokolow, posted on RGB by "Joan Butcher", an apparent pseudonym:

"I think it is time to set the record straight...the Doner Team beat the Hargreaves Team by 11 IMPS...The result was reversed to Hargreaves over Doner by Eastern Committee decision...

...Eastern committees have for over 20 years tried to determine the results of matches or selection criteria...

...I questioned the make up of the committee (why was an all eastern committee chosen?) and was told by the Director, 'That's the way it is.'...the Director should have given me the right of appeal of the committee make-up...I had grounds to appeal one or more of the committee members..."

From various emails from AC Chairman Doug Heron to the CBF Board:

"...Following completion of the...match...the Chief Tournament Director approached me and requested that I chair a committee on a bridge appeal...I accepted, and chose two other knowledgeable, experienced players who were no longer involved in the event...

...To the best of my knowledge, not one of the committee members has had either a close relationship or animosity with any member of the two teams involved.

...There were no objections to the make-up of the committee."

From a submission by Aidan Ballantyne, CBF Director for BC, to ongoing CBF review of appeal procedure (10-Nov.):

"...Having committee members from the same geographic area as the players can enhance a committee's knowledge of the players' bridge theory, habits, motivations, etc. and perhaps add useful insight into assessing damage and restoring equity. However, such committee members are often biased by that same pre-existing knowledge as well as by local rivalries and bridge politics. As the saying goes, "familiarity breeds contempt". For that reason, there are many advantages to having committee members from a different geographic area than that of the players."

From ACBL reply to CBF's query on ACBL's AC process:

"...The appeals and C & E Committees are the sole judges of any challenge to a proposed member of the committee."

ON THE APPEAL PROCESS

From memo to CBF Board from AC Chairman Doug Heron:

"...I outlined the procedures that would be followed [during the appeal]...There were no objections to the procedures which I had outlined.

...None of the members of the Appeals committee knew the result of the match, nor did we know any of the details of the appeal until the appeal commenced. We did not discuss the appeal in any manner prior to all parties being assembled."

From "An Open Letter to the CBF Executive":

"...Alan LeBendig...stated the...ruling was incompetent...the procedures followed were poor."

From subsequent letter to CBF from Alan LeBendig, Chairman of the ACBI National Appeals Committee:

"While I was in Chicago at the NABC, I received a phone call...concerning this appeal...discussions made it clear that I totally disagreed with the committee decision...I have seen a copy of the Committee Report and now feel that I was misled as to the 'facts' in the case. I now regret my earlier criticism of the Committee decision. ...Even in my earliest discussions about this case, I made it clear that this committee had in no way misapplied the Law. I thought they had exercised poor judgement but made it clear that they had ruled within the scope of the Laws...as prescribed by 12C2...

...Whether the system was perfect here is not the point. We have a system in place and we must accept that fact."

From Aidan Ballantyne's response to an inquiry from Sheila Dickie (24-July):

...A big problem is people appearing in front of committees don't always tell the truth so, inevitably, it is normal procedure for a committee to put themselves in the position of a player of equal standing to those involved and try to figure out what they themselves would have done rather than ...decide whether or not [players] are lying...the committee's job is...to listen to bridge arguments that [the players] may raise that the committee may not have thought of themselves.

...the above "procedure" has to be borne in mind when you read the written summary of the committee's decision...You will see that they formed an impressions based on what the players said, chose to weigh some things more heavily than others, and for much of the process determined on the basis of their own experience, how a typical player of the offenders' standing would have reasoned when faced with the situation. Forming a judgment in these circumstances is very difficult. Whatever the case, using the principle of "administrative fair-

ness" that comes into evaluating legal liability of tribunals (which is what a committee is), the committee cannot be held to blame on judgement as long as due process was followed.

...In my experience there are always differences of opinion [on committees] and it's sometimes difficult to work towards consensus...In this case the vote was unanimous...That gives the verdict added strength.

...I think the Doner team was unlucky. The reality, as we should all know by now is: he who hesitates is usually lost. It's the way the procedure and precedents are slanted. When you hesitate, especially where the stakes are high---Big IMP swing, BIG match---you run a BIG risk. You rate to come up short. It's that simple. And when it goes against you, it shouldn't come as a total shock."

From a RGB post by Bruce McIntyre (28-Aug.):

"...It's entirely possible the Doner team was out-lawyered by the Hargreaves Team."

ON DIRECTOR CALLS AND CALLING AN APPEAL***Law 16A2 (Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, 1009 Edition):***

"When a player has substantial reason to believe that an opponent who had a logical alternative has chosen an action that could have been suggested by such information, he should summon the Director forthwith. The Director shall require the auction and play to continue, standing ready to assign an adjusted score if he considers that an infraction of law has resulted in damage."

Law 92 (Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, 1997 Edition):

"A contestant or his Captain may appeal for a review of any ruling made at his table by the

Director...Sponsoring organizations may establish penalties for appeals without merit."

From "An Open Letter to CBF Executive":

"At the end of play the Hargreaves Team assembled to decide which Director ruling they could appeal to overcome 11 IMPs. During the match they called the Director several time. First they called to say I may not have a Flannery call..The Director ruled result stands. An 8 IMP gain, not 11 IMPs, so no appeal. Next...I alerted them to partner's raise of my 1♦ opening (me, 1♦, Hargreaves 1♠, Partner 2♦) because...it showed a good hand. McOrmond bid 3♠...we ended in 4♦ making for a 7 IMP gain...McOrmond then asked if 2♦ was forcing and I said yes and he called the Director. Again, 7 IMPs did them no good, no appeal...The only hand worth 11 IMPs became the hand to appeal."

From a RGB post by Mike Hargreaves (01-Sept):

"Sokolow is correct in describing 2 director calls against him. I was at the table and thus have direct knowledge of both...calls and of the calls made by him (protesting...that McOrmond was taking too long to play a hand)...One was precautionary in case an irregularity had occurred: it had not so was not pursued. These had nothing to do with the appeal (which arose...in a different segment...while I was on the bench)..."

...Our segment against Sokolow was characterized by considerable unpleasantness...it was ugly and not an advertisement for either team.

...We notified the Director at the end of the third quarter that we intended to

appeal the board in question. There was at no time any thought given to any other board..."

From a RGB post by Bryan Maksymetz (11-Sept):

"After our table completed the third quarter (our teammates were not yet finished), I asked the Director what his (their) decision was and he stated that the result stood. I notified him that we would appeal the decision...During scoring, I mentioned that there was a protest board. The Head Director was notified that we would be protesting their ruling on the board in question...At no time was any other board in this match under consideration for appeal."

From Jim Dickie's letter to CBF (11-Aug.):

"I personally confronted Mike Hargreaves the next morning to tell him...that what they had done was a large part of what was wrong with the game...that calling committees appeared to be his and McOrmond's forte...his response was that he had called only 6 committees in the past 3 years!!! That's 6 more than I have called in the 30 years.

...We would all be better off if the directors ruled the game and their decisions were binding."

Memo to CBF Board from Aidan Ballantyne, CBF Director for BC, (07-Sept):

"...The opportunity cost of playing the CNTC is

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very high. The stakes are very high. Both teams have rights. The final outcome was the result of a process that is in place to protect ALL participating teams, including the Doner Team. Apparently the Doner camp is loathe to call in the authorities and bring that process into play. That's their choice and their style..."

From a RGB post by Bob Currie (05-Nov.):

"Frankly, how many among us would not at least consider calling the director if one of our opponents in a national championship signed off in game after a hesitation of at least two minutes and the other then made not one, but two cue bids, first to get to small slam, then grand slam? If we accept that calling the director and being willing to file an appeal in those circumstances is normal in a national championship event, then why go beyond the details of the hand and the ruling to make other accusations?"

ON APPEALING AN AC DECISION

From "An Open Letter to CBF Executive":

"...Attempts...to appeal the committee ruling to the ACBL were fruitless...We could not appeal to the President of the CBF as he chaired the committee..."

From ACBL's reply (Gary Blaiss) to a CBF query on ACBL avenues for appealing an AC decision:

"...Once a committee makes a decision on a bridge related matter, that decision is final and is not subject to further appeal."

From a submission by Aidan Ballantyne, CBF Director for British Columbia, to ongoing CBF review of appeal procedure (10-Nov.):

"There is perhaps some merit in disqualifying members of the CBF Board from sitting on an AC because the CBF Board comprises the CBF Committee on CNTC Procedures which is the highest level of appeal in CBF events. However, the conflict of interest is minimal, it seems,

because the jurisdiction of the CBF Committee on CNTC Procedures does not apply to "cases which would normally be heard by an Appeals Committee, at a tournament" (Section F (4) of the CNTC Conditions of Contest). Rather, the CBF Committee on CNTC Procedures hears "questions of residency, health or other extraordinary circumstance" (Section F(1)).

ON CLOSURE

From LeBendig:

"...not the first team to lose a match because a Committee had to make a ruling...won't be the last...Yes, the ruling could have gone [the other way]. But it didn't. And life goes on."

From a RGB post by Craig Senior (27-Aug.):

"It is time to move on...The light has flashed...it's too late to knock the net off the pins."

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 14-17 Cap Gemini World Invitation Pairs, Le Hague
- 20-22 The Macallan World Invitation, London
- 21-23 Marbella Bridge Festival
- 25-28 The Tolani World Invitation, Mumbai, India

FEBRUARY

- 27-28 The Forbo International, Scheveningen

MARCH

- 15-20 European Open & Senior Pairs, Warsaw
- 18-28 Spring NABC, Vancouver BC

JUNE

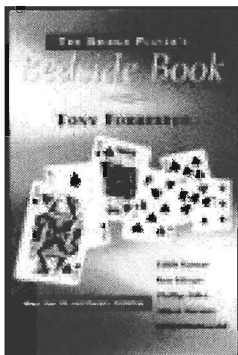
- 12-26 Generali European Teams & Women's Pairs, Malta

JULY

- ?? World Junior Pairs & Camp
- 22-Aug 01 Summer NABC, San Antonio, TX

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR UPDATES can be found on the Great Bridge Links Tournaments page <http://www.cbf.ca/GBL>

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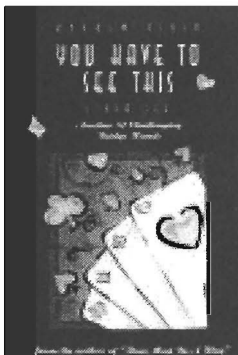
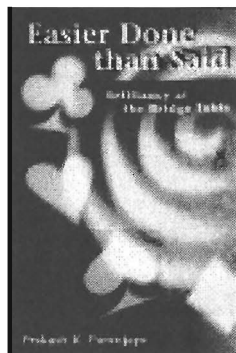
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JANUARY 1999

VOLUME 29, NO. 1

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A CALENDAR

COPC

Club Rounds

September - December 1998

National Final at Bridge Week

July 16-17, 1999 • Toronto

CWTC

Zone representatives must be reported no later than
May 10, 1999

National Final at Bridge Week

July 12-17, 1999 • Toronto

CNTC

Club Rounds

Sept. 1, 1998 - January 10, 1999

Unit Finals

Must be completed by
March 10, 1999

Zone Finals

Must be completed by
May 17, 1999

National Final at Bridge Week

July 11-17, 1999 • Toronto

ROOKIE-MASTER

** April 19, 1999 **

October 28, 1999

INTERNATIONAL FUND GAMES

Jan 30, 1999 ACBL Wide

Mar 9, 1999 Canada Wide

May 12, 1999 ACBL Wide

July 23, 1999 ACBL Wide

Oct 21, 1999 Canada Wide

CHARITY FUND GAMES

March 23, 1999

November 22, 1999



CANADIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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BRIDGE WEEK

July 11-17, 1999

YORKDALE HOLIDAY INN, TORONTO

Tentative Schedule

- July 11 CNTC round robin Day 1
- July 12 CNTC round robin Day 2
- July 12 CWTC round robin Day 1
- July 13 CNTC round robin Day 3
- July 13 CWTC round robin Day 2
- July 14 CNTC round robin Day 4
- July 14 CWTC round robin Day 3
- July 15 CNTC & CWTC Quarter Finals
- July 16 CNTC & CWTC Semi-Finals
- July 16 COPC Day 1
- July 17 CNTC & CWTC Finals
- July 17 COPC Day 2

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