

bridge digest

CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

Vol. 4 No. 2

AUGUST, 1974



EDITORIAL

Let us not forget that many of our directors, Unit, District, and Zone officials can only perform properly when their families support them. We owe a great deal to the spouses of bridge officials who often act as unpaid secretaries. Many (most?) cannot even play the game but, come to think of it, nor - in many cases - can their beloved.

Express your appreciation to these home keepers, teach them the game, and maybe you can get a working team - like Jack and Peggy Whitehouse of Toronto - to help organize bridge in your area.



UNIT NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Please add me to your distribution list so that your unit can be reported on nationally as well as unit wide.

DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL

The deadline for receipt of material is SIX weeks prior to the month of publication. Present plans call for an October issue this year and publication dates of January, May and September next year.

BRIDGE DIGEST

PART II OF THE CONTRACT BRIDGE BULLETIN

Editor, Bob Brooks

A Canadian Bridge Federation publication distributed free of charge to Canadian members of the ACBL.

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Canadian Bridge Federation: write Doug A. Drew.

Indian Chiefs

by J. T. Murphy

Calgary is the only Regional Bridge tournament in North America that confers a special honour on bridge players of outstanding ability. There are many players who qualify in this regard, but to date only four have been initiated as Honorary Indian Chiefs of the Blackfoot Nation. Those initiated are: Messrs. Charles Goren, Eric Murray, Sammy Kehela and Oswald Jacoby.

It all started in 1962 the year of Calgary's first Regional tournament. At that time, tournaments of this calibre were unknown in Western Canada and we wanted a recognized bridge personality in attendance. Therefore, and naturally, we started at the top, inviting Charlie Goren, who at that time was the leading master point holder of the A.C.B.L. To our pleasant surprise he accepted and to the beat of tom-toms, singing, dancing, crowned with an eagle feather headdress and smoking the pipe of peace, he was inducted into the Sarcee band with a new name - Chief Deer Horn (many points).

Wally Luthy a past president of the Calgary Unit added the words in parenthesis!

We have found that the tournament presence of players of this calibre creates an atmosphere of excitement for the novice player and a challenge to the more experienced player.

Blackfoot Indians

The Blackfoot Indians received their name from the fact that many years ago they inhabited the central part of Alberta where the dark, fertile soil constantly discolored

their moccasins. Thus they were originally called the "Black Moccasins." Later they inhabited most of the State of Montana and the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan (A.C.B.L. District 18.)

The Blackfoot were the most aggressive and warlike of all the Plains tribes and were constantly at war with the Sioux, Cheyenne, Crow, Assiniboine, Snake, Kootenai and Flathead tribes. The Lewis and Clark Journals mention the Blackfoot as the only tribe against which the expedition was compelled to use firearms.

The American writer, Walter McClintock, chose to live for several years with the Blackfoot to learn their language and customs, because he thought they were a tribe of Indians who lived most closely to nature, and also one of the last to be influenced by the white man.

The Blackfoot Nation consists of four tribes, - the Peigans, Blackfoot, Bloods and Sarcees. The Sarcees are descended from the Beaver Indians of Northern Alberta but became separated from them many years ago and came under the influence of the Blackfoot. They were known as the Tigers of the Plains.

Indian Chief Ceremony

The making of an Indian Chief is a religious ceremony and requires a complete day of fasting and praying to the Great Alone (Sun) that the new Chief will be a brave leader and live to be old. It is followed by singing, dancing, smoking the peace pipe and the giving of a new name when the eagle feather headdress is presented.

Before the peace pipe ceremony, the new Chief is painted with sacred red paint on the forehead, chin and both cheeks - representing the sun's course

through the heavens. The forehead represents the rising sun and the left cheek the setting sun. The songs are prayers and the dances are imitations of sacred birds and animals. The Owl Dance, Chicken Dance, Snake Dance, and Grizzly Bear Dance are followed by a War Dance.

The peace pipe is a long ornamented tobacco pipe made of hard red clay or soft stone. The red pipestone represents the flesh and blood of the Indians, the smoke represents the living breath of the Great Spirit. A pipe smoked ceremoniously is a token or pledge of peace.

The Blackfoot have a custom to name Honorary Chiefs after famous great Chiefs of the past, and they do not allow any outside influence in choosing the name.

I leave it to you to decide whether there is any relationship between the two.

Gu Yeni Dah - Chief Deer Horn
(Many Points) - Charles Goren

Head Chief of the Sarcees for

many years and who participated in so many war parties it would be impossible to list them all here. He had been on horse stealing expeditions as far south as Mexico. (Travel with Goren).

Some of his descendants were Chief Big Plume, Many Wounds and Big Belly. He lived to a great age of 110 and at the age of 98 was interviewed by an anthropologist who asked him many questions. Two questions were (1) Where did first man come from and (2) Why were there different colored races. He replied: "It is very simple (Goren Point Count System). The Great Spirit molded first man from clay and baked them close to the sun to make them hold their shape; then breathed on them. They did not bake long enough and came out white. He tried another batch of clay but they baked too long and came out with blackened skins. This was an improvement over the white creatures but was not exactly what he wanted. On his third attempt his specimens underwent exactly the proper treatment and the result was perfect: a rich reddish brown - and the Great Spirit exclaimed "There, that's the color I like." (The Chosen People).



**Starting the Chicken Dance
Russell Big Crow, Charles Goren, Jim
Dodging Horse, Jim Simeon**

Chief Running Rabbit
(Attistah Macan) - Sammy Kehela

Also known as "Spotted Calf" was one of the signers of Treaty No. 7 in 1877. He was a minor Chief under Chief Crowfoot, later becoming head chief of the Blackfoot Nation. When Sitting Bull fled to Canada after the Battle of Little Big Horn, June 25, 1876, at which time General Custer and the 7th U.S. Cavalry were annihilated, the Blackfoot and Sioux were mortal enemies and Running Rabbit's warriors wanted to fight them. However, Chief Crowfoot (Head Chief of the Blackfoot at that time) managed to keep peace between them until the Sioux returned to the U.S.A. in 1881.

The War Tipi of Running Rabbit was of entirely different character being covered with pictures of tribal victories. He battled with Crows, Sioux, Snakes, Cheyennes and Flatheads. He was also a member of the Tobacco Planters Society. (Now we know where those cheap cigars come from).

Running Rabbit as he grew older, was very kind while alive but became mean after death, and there are many ghost stories about him. The Indians believe that when people die, their spirits do not start at once for the other world. They feel lonely and are unwilling to leave home and friends. They wander around their old haunts for two months then start for the Sandhills (Spirit World). Some are never contented but keep returning to old haunts and are often seen. (Murray had better die first!)

How He Got His Name.

The Blackfoot utilized the horse a great deal in their buffalo hunts and when pursuing the buffalo, one brave rides ahead of the herd to lead them

towards the buffalo jump. The other Indians chase the buffalo on horseback pumping arrows into their hides to stampede them over the cliff. Buffalo are very difficult to kill even with a rifle.

When Running Rabbit was a young brave (Spotted Calf) leading the buffalo, he ran his horse too close to the edge of the cliff and the horse reared up and lost his balance, falling over the jump. He managed to jump clear of his horse and ran like a jackrabbit to safety before an avalanche of buffalo went hurtling over the jump.* (Kehela knows when to pass.) From that day on he was called Running Rabbit and when he became Head Chief of the Blackfoot his name was never changed.

* "Smashed in Heads Buffalo Jump" is a preserved historic site nine miles west of Fort MacLeod, Alberta.

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Chief Ermine Horn - Eric Murray

Known as the fiercest warrior of the western plains. Also known as "White Elk Horn" or "Big Horn".

"Counting Coup" might sound like bridge terminology but it means to narrate deeds of valor. It was counted as a coup to capture a weapon or article of clothing such as a shield, war shirt or war bonnet and these were displayed to the tribe after each war party. When Ermine Horn was "counting coup" he showed the tribe a mule that he had stolen from a white man. The Indians had never seen a donkey before so it was regarded as an act of special recknown.

Ermine Horn also gained fame because of his ability to handle live rattlesnakes with his bare hands at Medicine Man's Hat. (Medicine Hat, Alberta).

On Ermine Horn's last war party he had taken six members of his tribe out on a horse stealing expedition. (The greater the horse thief, the greater the warrior.) Unexpectedly they ran into a band of 200 Cree warriors and a battle ensued. During the battle 30 Cree were killed before Ermine Horn was annihilated. On one occasion he sprang out from his entrenchment and taunted the Crees by recounting the number of them he destroyed. He was finally killed by overwhelming numbers and the Cree were so exasperated at him they tore out his heart and devoured it. Only one of Ermine Horn's band escaped and only because the Crees were war-whooping over the great warrior's death. It was his sad duty to relate the tragedy to Ermine Horn's ten wives. (Helen Murray take note!).

When Murray and Kehela were initiated by the Blackfoot in 1970, the governments of Canada and the U.S.A. had passed laws making it illegal to shoot an eagle. As a result, the eagle feather became scarce and the Calgary Unit was able to purchase only one eagle feather headdress. The other headdress was made of turkey feather and is much more colorful. But to the Indian, the eagle feather is supreme. The eagle is a Sacred Bird and when Chief Yellowhorn asked to see the

"The moment after Chieftanship"



**Eric Murray and
Sammy Kehela**

headdresses he was displeased and refused to smoke the peace pipe with Murray because he was destined to receive the turkey feather headdress on account of the larger size. Thus the Calgary Unit decided to abandon the peace pipe ceremony on that occasion. Murray and Kehela were never aware of this. (I don't know of any white man who would smoke the peace pipe with Murray so who can blame the Indians!)

Apenako-Sapop

Chief Morning Plume - Oswald Jacoby

Chief of the North Peigan (Blackfoot) at the time of the Riel Rebellion. He refused to join up with Chief Three Bears and Chief Poundmaker (Crees) to fight the redcoats (R.C.M.P.).

He was the son of Sacred Otter, another famous Blackfoot Chief.

Morning Plume hunted buffalo at the age of eight and took his

first scalp on his first war party at the age of twelve. The Indians had a slightly different method of registering master points. Instead of black points and red points, it was black feathers and white feathers. Black feathers denoted the number of horses stolen and white feathers denoted the number of scalps taken. From the rear of each war bonnet was a thong attached which contained black feathers and white feathers. There was no room on the thong for the black feathers so he wore them around his waist. (Jacoby Transfer.) Obviously white feathers were rated higher.



Oswald Jacoby being painted by Chief Yellowhorn

Headdresses

The cost of eagle feather headdresses has risen from \$125.00 to \$500.00. Turkey feather headdresses usually cost about \$75.00 so the Calgary Unit may have to abandon the peace pipe ceremony unless we can catch an eagle. And there is one method left - the Indian Way.

Dig a deep hole (depth of man standing upright). Kill a coyote and stretch hide on sticks with raw meat on the sides as if it had just been cut open. Before sunrise, enter the hole after rubbing your body with sweet grass (incense) to kill your scent and cover the top with branches and leaves. Stand in hole all day (no food, water nor smoking). Magpies will arrive first, then an eagle will arrive and chase them away. Eagle will walk suspiciously around before stepping on the branches to feast.

When he does, push your hands through the branches and grab eagle by the legs securely and pull him down into the hole and break his back. (This protects the large wing feathers). Golden eagles have the best feathers. Don't use black eagles and white-heads (Bald Eagles) which are

very scarce as well as dangerous. They have been known to pull an Indian out of the pit.

If a grizzly bear comes for the bait first - let him have it!

Any volunteers?

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Jack Murphy

Notes on Writer:

Jack was recently elected President of the Canadian Bridge Federation. He has served 5 years as Director for Zone 5 of the CBF.

McKenney Race

Six Canadian bridge players are among the North American leaders on a list of 319 named by the American Contract Bridge League as having won more than 300 Master Points in bridge tournaments during 1973.

Master points are the basis for the ranking of all North American tournament bridge players by the ACBL and are awarded in relation to the number of entrants and the quality of competition in bridge events.

Barry Crane of North Hollywood, Cal., won the William McKenney Memorial Trophy for the fourth time with a record setting total of 1,562 points won during 1973, eclipsing his 1971 trophy total of 1,443.

Eric Kokish of Montreal was the highest ranking Canadian on the list, placing 78th with a total of 494 master points.

The American Contract Bridge League is the non-profit body which establishes rules of play and ethical standards for duplicate bridge tournaments in North America. Some 5,000 franchised clubs conduct weekly games for about 200,000 players and the League sponsors three National, 80 Regional and about 700 sectional tournaments throughout North America each year.

Canadian players ranked among the leaders are, by rank and number of points won in 1973:

Rank	Name and City	Points Won 1973
78	Eric Kokish, Montreal	494
133	Adolph Feingold, Ottawa	420
174	Allan Graves, Vancouver	381
188	Joseph Silver, Montreal	372
194	Al McDonald, Ottawa	363
228	G. Mittelman, Downsview, Ont.	346
251	Dom Di Felice, Hamilton	330
310	John Guoba, Toronto	306

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152	Quebec	Pierre Boucher	Mrs. Monique Boucher
166	Ontario	Maurice Paul	Mrs. J.E. Whitehouse
181	Manitoba	Joseph Lyons	Mrs. Joseph Halper
192	Eastern Ontario	Kenneth Dawe	Mrs. Sally Mann
194	Maritimes	Fred Park	Bernard McLeod
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430	Vancouver, B.C.	Bob Brooks	Mrs. Marjorie Gauer
431	Victoria, B.C.	Davis King	Mrs. Dorothy Housley
456	Quesnel, B.C.	John Polyk	Mrs. Therese Cheramy
571	Okanagan, B.C.	Mr. J.R. Stewart	Mrs. Isabel Vannatter
573	South Saskatchewan	Dr. S. Abrams	Harry Van Eyck
574	Kootenay, B.C.	George Webber	Mrs. Shirley Bjorn
575	North Saskatchewan	Mr. K.W. McGuirl	Mrs. Ruby Edwards

The above list, valid June 1st, is subject to change. Please advise the Digest of any corrections or changes.

Bridge

by the late Somerset Maugham

to give up not only reading, but also his favorite pastime, bridge.

New Bridge Players

"If I had my way, I would have my children taught bridge as a matter of course, just as they are taught dancing. In the end it will be more useful to them ... In fact, when all else fails -- sports, love, ambition -- bridge remains a solace and an entertainment."

Such was the stated conviction of the late British novelist, W. Somerset Maugham. Mr. Maugham, who died in 1965 at the age of 91, was not an expert player, but he was a good one. In his declining years, failing eyesight forced him

Please inform your non-duplicate playing bridge friends that the ACBL, 2200 Democrat Rd., Memphis, Tenn. 38116 will provide free of charge a directory of clubs if they wish to contact a bridge game. Club names, game day and playing hours, and telephone numbers for contacting the club managers will be sent without charge for the home city of any player making a post-card request to the ACBL.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mr. Bob Brooks,
2708 Violet Street,
North Vancouver, B.C.

June 20, 1974

Dear Mr. Brooks:

I fully understand the difficulties involved in publishing any sort of magazine, and a bridge magazine in particular, but I cannot believe that the very valuable few pages Canada has been allotted could not be filled with the work of Canadians. Please don't get me wrong - I believe in promoting international bridge wholeheartedly - but mere communication across our own country is so very difficult that we should take advantage of this opportunity to promote and talk up our own "first class" (sic.) brand of the game.

Speaking as an occasional contributor to bridge publications, I felt a slight tinge of anger when I read Mr. Sapire's article on asking bids. Here my own group of players have been playing asking bids for five years and we now get to read about a slightly inferior version in a Canadian publication yet. It's not that I don't want to read about Mr. Sapire's methods - it just seems an injustice that we Canadians have not been given an opportunity to present our ideas to our countrymen in print through a national medium. Having written a reasonably well-received article for Mr. Sam Maltin some time ago, I was summarily informed that I could certainly contribute another article if there was space... ..and if there was no theory... ..and if there were no bridge hands. I am not a smart alec

kid who wants to show off, but I could do a better job if I had to write the whole thing myself. Sorry, but I'm popping off like a long-suppressed minority group member. I guess because I am still under thirty I have a giant chip on my shoulder. But gee, Mr. Brooks, give us a chance, we've got a lot to say.

Digressing for a moment, how many Canadians have ever won a major ACBL Knockout Championship? That's right, not too many. How many Canadians were the Youngest Players Ever To Win A Major ACBL Knockout CHAMPIONSHIP? But the digest talks about shuffling, federal tax, dull percentages, and some unrhyming poet, not to mention a life history of the Australian contributor. Not a word about the Vanderbilt, the Olympiad in Las Palmas, the World Championship in Venice where two CANADIANS finished second. I know the timing may have been bad, but a word or two about the last two events was surely in order. The thing I remember most about winning the Vanderbilt was the huge Canadian following our team had and the tremendous sincerity displayed by a throng of people I had never met. I made literally hundreds of new friends in Vancouver and received the congratulations of more Canadians than the winner of the next Canadian election will probably enjoy. This to me is what Canada can be proud of - a deep pride in being Canadian, not necessarily because of a moment of glory, but because Canadians can demonstrate some of the feelings of

brotherhood and companionship that are growing increasingly scarce in a world of madness and selfishness. I know that even if we had lost our final match, we had the hearts of most Canadians with us, and their sympathy would have touched me in the same way that their congratulations did. Write about Canadians, Mr. Brooks, for no one else will if we do not have the pride and fortitude to sing the virtues of our own very real, very true people.

I realize that very little of this injustice is your own fault and that getting support is a thankless job. I read the part of your editorial that urges readers to put their words in print. Thank you for the invitation. I for one, will certainly accept your offer and I urge you to encourage all CBF representatives to spread the word throughout their zones that this digest is a vehicle for expression and the opportunity to air new and topical views should not be missed.

I am prepared to do a continuing series on bidding if you can handle it - it's pretty revolutionary. I would suggest as well a Canadian Forum consisting of rotating panelists to discuss subjects of interest across the country, and a sort of write-in feature where all Canadians can have answers from Canadian experts. Please let me know your feelings soon, before all of Canada is playing the New South Wales Club. Feel free to print this letter.

Indignantly Canadian,
Eric Kokish,
Montreal.

[I will publish material regardless of the source if I believe it to be of value to digest readers. The world's leading authorities on Asking Bids are the Sapire brothers of South Africa. We are indeed fortunate to be able to republish Max Sapire's series which originally appeared in New Zealand Bridge. Max Sapire has used the asking system for 30 years.

Since material for the Digest is prepared at least six weeks prior to delivery, a report on winners will usually be a month later than the A.C.B.L. Bulletin. We are nonetheless proud of Canadian achievements and these will be listed and referred to at other times.

We look forward to articles from Eric and his offer of a bidding series. Ed.]

Penticton Regional

Norman Brookes, Tournament Chairman, reports a total turnout of 1358 tables which included a 60 table charity game, and a 30 table midnight game. The new B.C. liquor law prevents the holder of a permanent licence from catering in other than his regular premises. The Penticton and Summerland clubs saved the day by taking on the bar as their own venture.

The ACBL gained a titled member when Irene Waters of Lipton, Saskatchewan joined soon after winning the Women's Pairs with Diane Campbell of Vancouver, B.C.

CONVENTION CORNER

Reverse Flint

For those players who open 2 NT on anything less than a balanced 23-24 HCP, they would be wise to have responses which allow them to sign-off at the 3 level in a suit.

Jeremy Flint, England, devised a system which allowed a sign off at 3H or 3S. Partner, with a weak hand and a long major would bid 3 diamonds which was a transfer bid to 3 hearts. The responder would pass if this was his suit or bid 3 spades as sign-off. Three clubs was Stayman asking for a major and forcing to game, and a direct bid of three hearts or three spades was natural and forcing. This convention was called "Flint".

An improved version which also allows a sign-off of three diamonds works as follows:

Over Two No Trump:

3C shows a weak hand with a long suit in diamonds, hearts, or spades. It forces opener to rebid 3D which responder then passes if this is his suit or corrects to 3H or 3S as necessary.

3D is forcing Stayman asking for a 4-card major. Opener rebids 3H with both majors and 3 NT with neither.

3H and 3S are both natural and forcing.

This improved version is called Reverse Flint.

Yarborough

This term, which is often used to describe bad hands after Lord Yarborough who would wager 1000 guineas to one against any player holding a hand containing no card higher than a nine. Since the true odds are 1827 to 1, he had a good thing going.

Oswald Jacoby, the first player to amass 10,000 master points, relates an incident which occurred some time ago. He was playing in a bridge tournament and a young male mathematician sat behind him to kibitz. Between rounds, the two conversed and part of the discussion concerned the fact that Jacoby was picking up one horrible hand after another. At the end of round six, Jacoby asked the young man's name. He replied, "Yarborough" to which Jacoby retorted, "I might have guessed it."

CANADIAN CONTINENT WIDE GAME

The next Canadian Continent Wide Game for the Olympiad Fund is scheduled for Monday, November 18th, 1974. Hand analyses will be provided. When it is understood that the cost of sending Canadian representation to the Olympiad Pairs event in the Canary Islands exceeded \$13,000 the need for good support of these events becomes obvious.

CBF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next meeting of the CBF Zone Directors will be held at the Winnipeg Regional in November.

WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

by Robert M. May
(Sydney, Australia)
II: THE WAY SUITS BREAK

What are the chances that the defenders' spades will divide 2-2 if their heart holding broke 6-2? You are declarer, missing QJ42 of trumps and East drops the jack under your ace: do you finesse West for the Queen, or play for the drop?

* * * *

One of the first things that the ambitious bridge beginner does is to learn the percentage probabilities for a given number of outstanding cards in one suit to be divided between the two defending hands in certain ways. Thus, for example, in the absence of any other knowledge, we may say that 6 trumps held by the defence will break 3-3 in 36% of cases, 4-2 in 48%, 5-1 in 15% and the dreaded 6-0 in about 1%. To choose another example, which will be the basis for most of the subsequent discussion, 4 outstanding cards in a given suit will in general divide 2-2 with 41% probability, 3-1 with 50%, 4-0 with 9%. It is the knowledge of such figures as these that leads the competent player to view with apprehension a slam contract which depends on a 3-3 break.

However, the key phrase in all this mathematical legerdemain is "in the absence of any other information". Of course, in the real world one has to deal with a multiplicity of additional information. Leaving aside such regrettable habits as peeking, one can learn much about the division of cards between the defenders from their bidding, if there is any.

As an extreme example, an opponent's pre-empt of three spades will rarely be based on a doubleton spade. Moreover, obviously as one plays early rounds of (say) spades, one learns more about the spade distribution; if both defenders follow to 3 rounds of spades, then the suit did not break 4-2 (or else the defence is skilful at flicking cards under the table). Similarly, as one plays other suits one learns indirectly about the division of the untouched suits. As an extreme example, after the defenders have each shown 4 spades, 4 hearts and 3 diamonds, then the club suit necessarily breaks 2-2. Finally, the values of the cards the defenders play to early rounds can have a bearing on the suit distribution.

We shall now go on firstly to explore in detail the way the odds for a given break change as (a) early rounds of the suit itself are played, or (b) as other suits are played. Secondly, we shall take up the question of the inferences to be made from the early fall of important cards in a suit: this latter topic rejoices in the jargon title of the "Principle of Restricted Choice".

How the odds change as cards are played.

(a) For the moment we shall pay no attention whatsoever to the pips on the cards held by the defence and for definiteness we shall confine our interest to the case where the opponents between them hold 4 cards in the suit of interest. Then at the beginning of play when we know nothing about the defenders' hands, the relative odds for the breaks 2-2, 3-1 and 4-0 are as given above. But suppose we play one round of the suit and both opponents follow: the 4-0 break is eliminated from consideration and the probabilities for the 2-2 and 3-1 breaks have consequently

Suit divides	Initial percentage probability	Probability after opponents follow to 1 round	Probability after both opponents follow to 2 rounds
2-2	40.7	45.0	100
3-1	49.7	55.0	-
4-0	9.6	-	-

altered. Even more obviously, if both opponents follow to 2 rounds of the suit, then it did not break 3-1; the 2-2 break is now known to have occurred (i.e. it has 100% probability!). These results are displayed in the table at the top of the page.

Similar considerations apply to any other number of outstanding cards held by the defence. Thus the probability for a 4-2 break of 6 cards is initially 48%, but it moves up to 49% after both opponents follow to 1 round and up to 58% after 2 rounds (and to 0% after both follow to 3 rounds).

Notice that in all cases the relative odds of the remaining possibilities do not alter much; the absolute probabilities increase as various possibilities are eliminated. In fact, the above remarks are really very obvious, although one can with ingenuity make them look obscure by draping the landscape with a proliferation of jargon "a prioris" and "a posterioris".

(b) More subtle are the effects introduced by playing off cards in other suits. Suppose you are playing in 3 NT, and the first 4 tricks are four spades cashed by the defenders, whose spades break 4-4. Suppose your 3 NT contract now depends on a 3-3 break in hearts: is this probability of success the 36% mentioned in the opening paragraph? No. The 4-4 division of the spades have moved the odds for a 3-3 break in any other suit held by the defence up to 38%. And if you somehow know that both spades and diamonds were divided 4-4 in the enemy hands, the odds for their hypothetical 6 hearts to divide 3-3 are up to 48%.

Once again this is a remark that is intuitively familiar to all bridge players. If some of the defenders' suits break evenly, the probability for the remaining suits to break evenly is enhanced; if some of the suits break badly, the chances for the remaining suits to break unevenly increases.

Division of spade suit between defenders	Percentage probability, given information about East-West side suits				
E-W	no other information	hearts divide 4-4	hearts divide 6(E) - 2(W)	hearts divide 4-4, diamonds divide 4-4	E has 5H,5D W has 3H,3D
4-0	4.8	4.1	1.0	2.4	-
3-1	24.9	24.7	12.6	23.8	3.3
2-2	40.6	42.4	37.8	47.6	30.0
1-3	24.9	24.7	37.8	23.8	50.0
0-4	4.8	4.1	10.8	2.4	16.7

For some detailed numbers to give us a feeling for the magnitude of this effect, we turn to our case where the defence holds 4 cards in our suit (say spades) and we tabulate some odds for the various breaks as side suits are played. (See table above.)

It is now sometimes necessary to distinguish between the East 3-West 1 and the East 1-West 3 breaks, rather than lump them together as 3-1 breaks.

Oddly enough, I find these changes in the odds smaller than I would expect intuitively, but maybe your intuition was better!

The Principle of Restricted Choice.

Now we allow the pips on the cards to become important. In our example where the opponents hold 4 cards in our suit, we become very specific and let these cards be (say) QJ42. And suppose our holding in the suit is:

North: AK983
West? East?
South: 10765

Now we play the ace to the first round, and East drops the jack. What next: finesse West for the queen, or play our king? The advanced player knows the answer (finesse!), but why and what are the odds?

To answer this question, we first enumerate all of the 16 different ways that these particular 4 cards can be divided between East and West. (This is prodigal of space, but makes for clarity).

	West	East
1.	QJ42	-
2.	QJ4	2
3.	QJ2	4
4.	Q42	J
5.	J42	Q
6.	QJ	42
7.	Q4	J2
8.	Q2	J4
9.	J4	Q2
10.	J2	Q4
11.	42	QJ
12.	2	QJ4
13.	4	QJ2
14.	Q	J42
15.	J	Q42
16.	-	QJ42

Each of these 16 specific distributions is roughly equally probable in the initial deal.* However, the only cases where a sane East will gratuitously play the jack under North's ace on the first round are the cases (numbered above) 4 (singleton jack) and 11 (doubleton QJ). In the event 4, East must play specifically the jack; but in the event 11, a competent East will half the time play the jack and half the time play the queen (i.e. from doubleton QJ he will play queen or jack at random). Thus the jack will fall under the ace always from case 4, and half the time from case 11. Since events 4 and 11 are themselves essentially equally probable, one has odds of 2 to 1 that East's jack was singleton. A second round finesse of West for the queen will win two times out of three; one time out of three it will lose to East's queen.

* Actually the individual 2-2 distributions are a bit more probable than the individual 3-1's and in turn than the 4-0's, due to effects of the kind just discussed arising from the other 22 cards in the defenders' hands. But for our present discussion, this effect may be neglected.

Similarly, if East drops the queen on the first round, it can come from case 5 (always), or from case 11 again (half the time) and again the odds are 2 to 1 on finesse West for the jack.

Another way of looking at it is to say that the fall of either the queen or the jack from East at trick one can come from one of the three cases 4, 5 or 11; a subsequent finesse for the other honour wins in cases 4 and 5, loses in case 11 -- odds of 2:1 on the finesse.

Actually, due to the effect noted in the previous footnote, the odds are not exactly 2:1 but rather 11:6.

One will appreciate that the crux of this phenomenon is that in case 11, doubleton QJ, the two cards queen and jack are essentially the same card, since they "touch". Thus, in case 11 one has a choice as to which of two equal cards to play, whereas in cases 4 and 5 one's choice is restricted (hence the jargon title). Once this central point is grasped,[†] the extension from our specific example (missing QJ42, East drops the jack) to a whole host of similar situations is immediate (e.g. missing QJ654, East drops queen; finesse West for jack; or missing J10 5432, both follow to first round, East drops 10 on second round; finesse West for jack with again odds of 2:1).

You will notice we have assumed that from QJ doubleton, East will play randomly either the queen or the jack. The question may be asked, what if East does not do this? How will our argument be affected if East always

[†] Thus missing Q 10 42, when East drops 10 under ace, do not finesse west for queen, but play for the drop (odds of 12:11, slightly better than 50%), because the 10 and queen do not touch. The principle of restricted choice does not apply.

plays queen from QJ, or has some other eccentricity? The answer (which I shall not elaborate and which is ignored in the conventional bridge literature) is that the strategy given above, namely finessing West for the other honour if East drops an honour, will give you odds of 2:1 regardless of East's habits. If declarer adopts a strategy other than that dictated by the principle of restricted choice, then he will have odds as bad as 1:2 against if defender plays his optimum strategy of random play from QJ. If both declarer and defender are twits and depart from their respective optimum strategies, declarer's odds vary from a low of 33% to the maximum of 67%.

Thus, regardless of what defender does, adherence by declarer to the principle of restricted choice is a strategy which, in the long run, can only win and cannot lose. In the language of Game Theory, it is the "minimax" strategy and indeed this whole example is a paradigm of the type of game theoretic strategic analysis which (following the seminal work of Von Neumann and Morgenstern) plays a central role today in economics, the behavioural sciences and (Heaven help us) military planning.

Redistricting

ACBL President, Ruth McConnell, appointed a redistricting committee with William A. Baldwin as Chairman. Included on the Committee are Edwin Clarke-Michigan, Jerome Silverman-New Jersey, Henri Parent-Quebec, Alfred Gilpin-California, Robin Mac Nab-Montana, Edgar Theus-Oklahoma and Doug Drew-Ontario. The final report of the Committee is due at the Fall meetings of the ACBL Board in San Antonio. It is important that your views on this subject be transmitted to your unit board so they may quickly pass on unit views to the ACBL committee.