

bridge digest

CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

Vol. 4, #2

OCTOBER, 1974



bridge digest

EDITORIAL



The CBF officials listed on this page would appreciate hearing your views on all topics which affect Canadian Bridge. Note particularly the agenda for the CBF Board meeting to be held in November. For CBF purposes Canada has been divided into the following 6 zones:

- Zone 1. - Atlantic Provinces
- Zone 2. - Quebec
- Zone 3. - Ontario except Northwest
- Zone 4. - Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Ontario
- Zone 5. - Alberta and Northwest Territories
- Zone 6. - British Columbia and Yukon

The directors of these zones are listed in the box below.

Bridge Digest (Part II of The Contract Bridge BULLETIN) is distributed free of charge to Canadian members of the ACBL by the Canadian Bridge Federation.

Deadline for material is six weeks prior to the month of publication (i.e., November 15 for January issue).

CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

EXECUTIVE

President	Jack Murphy
Vice-President	Henry Smilie
Secretary	Doug Drew
Treasurer	Aaron Goodman, Ste.8, 1437 Mackay Street, Montreal

<u>ZONE</u>	<u>DIRECTOR</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
1	Karl Hicks	Box 6, Dominion, Nova Scotia
2	Sam Maltin	4607 Beaconsfield Avenue, Montreal, Quebec
3	William Robinson	45 Rollscourt Drive, Willowdale, Ontario
4	Doug Cannell	404 Hosmer Blvd., Tuxedo, Manitoba
5	Jack Murphy	55 Cawder Drive NW Calgary, Alberta T2L 0L8
6	Henry Smilie	334-5740 Cambie Street, Vancouver, B.C.

NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS

Doug Drew, Apt. 210, 55 Maitland Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 1C8
Henri Parent, 12129 Joseph Casavant, Montreal, Quebec

CBF MEETING

WINNIPEG, NOV 6-9, 1974

Board meetings

Wed Nov 6: 8 pm - 11:30 pm

Thurs Nov 7: 9 am - 12 noon

1 pm - 5:30 pm

8 pm - 11:30 pm

Fri Nov 8: 9 am - 11:30 am

Delegates meeting

Sat Nov 9: 10 am - 11:30 am

Agenda

The following items outlined by President Murphy are for consideration of the board:

- 1) Reading of minutes of previous meeting and approval.
- 2) President's Report - J.T. Murphy
- 3) Treasurer's Report - Aaron Goodman
- 4) Executive Secretary's Report - Doug Drew
- 5) Canadian Charitable Trust Fund Report - Doug Cannell
(Canadian Mental Health Association beneficiary 1974)
- 6) Report on Government Brief - Doug Cannell
- 7) Written reports from each Director regarding:
 1. Olympiad Fund games held.
 2. Contribution of articles to Bridge Digest.
 3. Payment of dues by Units.
 4. Names of delegates for each unit.
- 8) Appointment of Director of Elections account elections to be held in Zones 5 and 6.
- 9) Redistricting:
Report from District 1
(Karl Hicks and Sam Maltin)
Report from District 2
(Doug Drew, Bill Robinson and Doug Cannell)
Report from Western Canada - Henry Smilie and Jack Murphy
- 10) Report on Canadian Bridge Digest - Bob Brooks

- 11) Publicity and Public Relations.
- 12) Report on Olympiad 1974 - Doug Drew, Aaron Goodman and Bill Robinson.
- 13) 1975 Team Trials - financing, conditions of contest, location, master points, etc. - Bill Robinson.
- 14) 1976 Olympiad - Location, financing, etc.
- 15) World Bridge Federation (dues and duties, etc.)
- 16) A.C.B.L. Reports - Doug Drew and Henri Parent.
- 17) National Championships and Sponsors.
- 18) Report on presentation of Eric Murray and Aaron Goodman trophies - Doug Drew.
- 19) Appointment of Treasurer.
- 20) Location of next meeting.
- 21) Other business.

Overheard at the Can-At—

"I am still speaking to John".

"Yes, but in what tone of voice?"

Estimating Your Score at Duplicate

For a fairly accurate estimation, use the "Estimated Points" column inside your convention card and after each hand, enter "0" for a ghastly result; 1 for a poor one; 2 for a normal score; 3 for a good result; and 4 for a top. At the end of the evening, total your estimated points, then divide by two and multiply the result by the average on a board to get your total estimated match point score.

For example, in a 26-board match, 12 is top on a board. You add your estimated results and obtain a figure of 61. Divide by two to get 30-1/2 and now multiply by the board average of 6 to obtain 183. The average score is 156 - - Congratulations!

ON BEHALF OF THE OLYMPIAD FUND

Aaron Goodman, CBF Treasurer

Returns are just in from Olympiad Fund Games held across Canada in conjunction with the A.C.B.L. Summer National Olympiad Fund Game. Games held at 20 locations in Canada provided 293-1/2 tables of play, well distributed among our 6 C.B.F. Zones, as follows:

ZONE 1 - MARITIMES	4 Games,	46-1/2 tables,	yielding	\$ 325.50
" 2 - QUEBEC	1 Game	26-1/2	" "	185.50
" 3 - ONTARIO	6 Games	97	" "	678.50
" 4 - MAN.-SASK.	3 "	38	" "	266.50
" 5 - ALBERTA	3 "	41-1/2	" "	290.50
" 6 - B.C.	3 "	44	" "	308.00
		<u>293-1/2</u>		<u>\$2054.00</u>

The result, reflecting commendable efforts by Units and Clubs, is indeed praiseworthy, and appreciated, but - the 1973 Summer Olympiad Fund Games did bring out 321 tables and yield \$2250.00. Are we slipping? Is support lagging? I cannot emphasize too often, nor too strongly, the importance of maintaining support for our Olympiad Fund which makes possible Canadian representation and participation in International Bridge events. Our players have performed consistently well to the delight of our membership, richly deserve the right to compete further, and as well to receive more financial support than the C.B.F. in the past has been able to provide.

Mens' and Womens' Teams will soon be competing for the right to represent Canada at the 1976 Olympiad. They deserve your support. Do organize and hold Games to support the Olympiad Fund whenever possible, so that the C.B.F. will be enabled to meet the demands to be made upon it. Units, as well as Clubs, take note.



CONTINENT and CANADA-WIDE EVENTS

Continent-wide charity games are held during the Spring and Fall Nationals. Continent-wide Olympiad fund games are held during the Summer Nationals and in 1973 the first CANADA-WIDE Olympiad fund game was held.

The next Continent-wide charity game will be held Friday, November 29th at the time of the ACBL National Tournament in San Antonio, Texas.

More than 400 clubs and Units throughout the ACBL will be conducting games at that time - with some

25,000 bridge players contributing to the ACBL Charity Foundation and the Canadian Charitable Fund.

The Canadian charity for 1974 is the Canadian Mental Health Association. In 1973, \$20,000 was raised for the Canadian Cerebral Palsy Association.

The next Canada-wide Olympiad fund game will be Monday, November 18. Hand Analyst will be our own Eric Kokish (co-winner of the 1974 Vanderbilt at the Spring Nationals held in Vancouver, B.C.).

L'EQUIPE DE QUATRE

- Raymond H. Michaud

Depuis quelques années, dans les tournois sectionnels et régionaux de l'A.C.B.L., le "Mouvement Suisse" a remplacé, pour toutes fins pratiques, le "Board-a-Match" dans les tournois pour équipes de quatre.

D'aucuns ont dit du "Mouvement Suisse" que c'est simplement une vente de points de maître; c'est une opinion qui a sa valeur. Mais il n'en reste pas moins que je ne connais pas un seul joueur de bridge qui voudrait retourner à l'ancienne formule, et j'inclus ici les joueurs qui se foutent des points de maître.

La raison est simple: les I.M.P.'s. Fini le temps où une levée supplémentaire "chanceuse" ou un contrat hasardeux dans la couleur "payante", avait autant de valeur qu'un chelem difficile à trouver, ou la réalisation d'une manche ardue. Ajoutons que les jeux de sûreté prennent leur pleine valeur, aux I.M.P.'s.

L'A.C.B.L. a déjà proposé à ses clubs une formule de I.M.P.'s appliquée au match-play; à ma connaissance, cette idée n'a pas fait long feu, et cela, pour deux raisons: d'abord, l'échelle proposée n'était pas adéquate, et, surtout, l'usage de la nouvelle formule était limité aux clubs, car son application aux tournois de l'A.C.B.L. n'a pu se faire, probablement à cause des difficultés inhérentes au compte des points.

Mais revenons aux équipes de quatre. Dans la région de Montréal, il existe au moins deux ligues d'équipes de quatre; de plus, quelques clubs, dont le "Club de Bridge Saint-Léonard", ont un tournoi hebdomadaire d'équipes de quatre.

Une idée nouvelle m'a été proposée dernièrement: une ligue pourrait être formée avec une équipe représentant chaque club de la zone métropolitaine.

En plus de l'intérêt très sain "de clocher" qu'une telle compétition susciterait, l'avantage d'une telle ligue serait qu'une équipe ne serait pas limitée à 6 ou 7 joueurs: il suffirait que les joueurs représentant un club dans un match donné soient membres du club en question. Ceci éviterait les "remises" de match, toujours malencontreuses.

Je termine en faisant remarquer que la formation de cette ligue susciterait plus d'intérêt pour les matches en I.M.P.'s, et y attirerait de nouveaux joueurs. Je continue de croire que le bridge de l'avenir est en I.M.P.'s. You'll see.

Victoria Unit

The new President and Secretary of this unit are Mrs. Lillian Goodwin and Mrs. Cora B. Lawson respectively.

CHARITY

For some time prior to 1966 the proceeds of charity games held in Canada were set aside pending the creation of a Canadian organization to handle the money. In that year Eric Murray, commissioned by the ACBL, brought the ACBL Canadian Charitable Fund into existence. Charity-wise we may have done fairly well, though not well enough. Some degree of expansion may be expected. At the present time Mr. Murray is negotiating a revision with the League with the view of revising the set up. (H.S.)

ASKING BIDS - 2

How to Recognise an Asking Bid

by M. Sapire, South Africa

The general definition of an asking bid remains as hitherto, any bid in a new suit at the level of 4 or higher, made after there has been agreement on a trump suit, either by a bid in support or by inference. As a result of experience however, the scope of the asking principle has been considerably widened, and it now includes bids made in the following situations:

1. A triple jump to the 3 level, as for example a response of 3 hearts or 3 spades to an opening bid of one in a minor suit. In Acol and other styles, this would be a pre-emptive jump on a 7 card suit with 4 or 5 points. This does not arise often enough compared with a strong all round hand opposite an opening bid.

2. Any unnecessary jump bid to the level of 3 or higher when a normal bid in the responding suit is forcing. In the sequence 1 club, 1 spade, 2 diamonds, 3 hearts, the latter bid is treated as an asking bid, as a bid of two hearts would have been forcing. It is useful in general to treat a bid of the fourth suit as forcing. In the above case it is clearly forcing in view of the reverse bid by the opener.

3. A bid in a new suit at the 4 level even if it is not a jump bid, where it follows an earlier forcing bid. In the sequence 1 spade, 3 clubs, 3 spades, 4 diamonds, we treat this 4 diamond bid as an asking bid. If the responder actually had a strong minor two suiter, the best style

of responding is to make a two over one bid in the stronger minor and then to bid the other minor at the 3 level over a sign off by the opener. This bid in a new suit at the 3 level is forcing in most concepts of bidding. Thus a forcing bid of 3 clubs over an opening bid of one in a major makes it most unlikely that responder has a two suiter, and his next bid at the 4 level in a new suit therefore becomes an asking bid.

4. A jump bid in a suit overcalled by the opponents. Over an opener's 1 club, the opponent bids 1 spade, and responder jumps to 3 spades. In all styles of bidding a bid of 2 spades would have been forcing. A jump in the opponent's suit is necessary for this type of bid to be an asking bid, as where opponents interfere either with a strong bid or high level pre-emptive bid, the asking bids are abandoned and all bidding becomes natural. Controls are then shown instead of being asked for. An overcall by the opponents in a suit at the one level is not regarded as strong enough to incur this abandonment, and in such cases the asking system remains. Sometimes it also applies after an overcall in a suit at the 2 level, but most other cases fall under the above structure.

On the whole there is a resemblance between the asking bid extensions and modern advance cue bids, in that the latter can only be used in cases where it is obvious that they are not pre-emptive bids or normal jump bids in a new suit made for fear that partner who opened on a minimum hand may step out.

Our first illustration is of some interest.

WEST	EAST
S. AKxxx	S. Qxxx
H. Axx	H. xxx
D. Axxxx	D. KQx
C. -	C. xxx

The bidding:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 S.	2 C.	2 S.	P
3 C.	P	3 S.	P
4 D.	P	4 NT	P
5 D.	P	5 NT	P
6 S.	P	P	P

This slam was bid and made at the table and it is doubtful if many pairs would get there. If West made any sort of advance cue bid over 2S, East is not interested in a slam and would sign off 4S. The asking principle however attracts East's attention in the right direction. The 3C bid, since it is not a jump bid in opponents suit and it is below the 4 level, is not an asking bid. It is merely a normal strength showing bid and requests East to give some further information about his hand. East has no extra values and signs off 3S. The 4D bid by West is now clearly an asking bid, and holding D KQ, East is now deeply interested. His previous sign off limited his hand and showed he cannot be holding 2 aces, hence he can give an immediate positive response of 4 NT showing D K and no ace. The 5D bid is for third round control and 5 NT shows it, and the slam is bid with reasonable chances of making.

In the next example, one can see where the asking bids commence, and despite East's paucity of values, a sound grand slam is reached:

WEST	EAST
S. AKJxxx	S. Qx
H. AQJx	H. x
D. -	D. xxxxx
C. AKx	C. QJxxx

WEST	EAST
2 C.	2 D.
2 S.	3 C.
3 H.	3 S.
4 H.	5 S.
6 C.	6 H.
7 S.	P

After an Acol 2C force and a 2D negative, West shows his spade suit and East then shows his club suit. West tries hearts, but East shows his preference by a return to 3S, and spades thereby becomes the agreed trump suit. 4H is clearly an asking bid, and East having shown a poor hand without aces, responds 5S, showing second round heart control and the S Q. After a negative response, S K or S Q are treated as equal to S A. To be sure of a grand slam. West must still find C Q with East, as East might have held C J 10 xxx and the D K or H K. He cannot have both but that is of no consideration. The 6C bid is no attempt to sign off at small slam in East's earlier bid suit, as when the asking sequence started at 4H, spades was agreed as the final trump suit and all bids in any other suit, even previously bid suits become asking bids.

East responds 6H, showing third round club control which must be the Queen as he is known to have a club suit, and third round control in hearts, which West does not actually need but which East simply shows en passant. Even against a spade lead the contract can only fail if trumps or clubs break 5-0.

To be continued.

TREASURER AARON'S INTERIM REPORT COVERING
OPERATIONS FROM JANUARY 1ST TO JUNE 30TH, 1974

RECEIPTS

	On MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT	from TRIALS	for OLYMPIAD FUND
<u>ZONE 1</u>			
ACADIAN UNIT NO. 230	----	----	49.00 Moncton D.B.C. 56.00 Haliburton DBC 66.50 Charlottetown DBC 70.00 Fredericton DBC 84.00 Perth Andover DBC
CANADIAN MARITIMES NO. 194	614.60	222.62	112.00 Dartmouth DBC
<u>ZONE 2</u>			
MONTREAL UNIT NO. 151	1582.20	284.85	56.00 C. B. Rimouski
<u>ZONE 3</u>			
EASTERN ONTARIO UNIT NO. 192	----	----	108.00 Capital B.C. 84.00 Brockville DBC 84.00 Kingston DBC
ONTARIO UNIT NO. 166	3806.00	650.00	44.00 Central B.C. 25.00 Niagara Unit 100.00 Port Credit BC 150.50 Scarborough DBC 58.80 Oakville DBC 155.00 Regal Br. Studio 51.00 St. Catherines DBC 84.00 Chatham DBC
QUONTA UNIT NO. 238	328.85		212.45 Ten Clubs 90.50 Falconbridge DBC
SOO INTERNATIONAL UNIT NO. 212		60.40	84.00 Unit Game
<u>ZONE 4</u>			
MANITOBA UNIT NO. 181			185.00 Unit Game
NORTHERN ONTARIO UNIT NO. 228			91.00 Unit Game
SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN UNIT NO. 573			63.00 Regina DBC 70.00 Moosejaw DBC
<u>ZONE 5</u>			
LETHBRIDGE UNIT NO. 392	131.60	90.00	----
EDMONTON UNIT NO. 391		265.80	45.00 Klondike Br. Cen.
MEDICINE HAT UNIT NO. 393		25.00	
CALGARY UNIT NO. 390		189.22	70.00 Unit Game
<u>ZONE 6</u>			
VANCOUVER UNIT NO. 430	973.20	1.44	77.00 Lantzville B.C. 196.00 Unit Game 56.00 Courtenay DBC
QUESNEL UNIT NO. 456	_____	_____	63.00 Unit Game
Carried Forward	7436.45	1789.33	2740.25

	On MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT	from TRIALS	For OLYMPIAD FUND
Brought Forward:	7436.45	1789.33	2740.25
Transfer, proceeds of Olympiad Trials			1789.33
On hand at December 31st, 1973	11552.87		10875.25
Interest earned on Cert. of Deposit	677.14		
Held for disposition by Edmonton Unit	100.00		
TOTALS	<u>19766.46</u>		<u>15405.33</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

Executive Secretary	600.00		
L.D. Telephone Calls	100.38		
Editor of Digest Insert	361.25		
Photostats	47.59		
Expenses of Directors attending annual meeting at Vancouver	<u>2057.62</u>	3166.84	
L.D. Telephone Calls		53.79	
Entry fees paid to World Bridge Federation for Can. participants		705.59	
Economy return fares paid for 8 Canadian Pairs representing Canada at Las Palmas Olympiad		<u>12,700.00</u>	
			<u>13,459.38</u>
On hand June 30th, 1974.	<u>\$16,599.62</u>		<u>\$1,945.95</u>

BOOK REVIEW

Trick Taking Potential

This new book authored by Edward B. Jelks and Raymond L. Schmitt is a technical analysis of the trick taking potential of a large number of hands taken from the final rounds of international bridge championships held in 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972.

Some of their interesting conclusions are that:

"It is advantageous in most instances to bid game in

no-trump with only 24 combined high card points."

"Slam range probably begins at 31 points and surely at 32 points and not at the traditional 33 points."

This book which offers a new approach to bridge analysis can be ordered from "Jett" Publishing Company, P.O. Box 412, Normal, Illinois, 61761. Retail price is \$3.95 U.S. postpaid. A U.S. money order for this amount is required.

ANARCHY ANYONE

Doug Cannell
Zone IV Director, CBF

Me, an avowed anarchist? Never! At least not until the C.B.F. decided to approach the Federal Government for a grant to support the Canadian Olympiad Bridge Team in 1968. Of course, the feeling of anarchism was not immediate, but a creeping sub-conscious syndrome that completely engulfed me this year.

Going back to the beginning, (where else does one start) in 1967 the first team trials to select a truly representative Canadian Team were to be held in Winnipeg, the winners to play in Deauville, France for the 1968 World Olympiad Team Championship. The initial budget appeared prohibitive so I began what has seemed an interminable correspondence with Ottawa.

The first approach was to request sufficient funds to meet the shortfall between what the C.B.F. could raise on its own and the actual cost of the trials and the expense of sending the team to Deauville. The amount was estimated to be a paltry \$3500. Considering that Canada Council had provided a similar sum to the town fool in Vancouver to break up a piano in front of city hall we had high hopes.

The effort and I might say it was considerable, was completely fruitless. People we knew in government were contacted and the flow of correspondence commenced. It was to no avail, they didn't know how to categorize Bridge. It was not considered a sport or physical, therefore couldn't qualify under a Physical Fitness and Amateur Sport Grant. It was not an art and therefore no Canada Council subsidy. The end result

a flat refusal. The C.B.F. found it necessary to borrow funds from the A.C.B.L. an unpalatable decision but we were committed to send a team. The sum was subsequently repaid the following year.

The next approach was made for the 1972 Olympiad in Miami, with just as much of an effort as the previous one and with the same results. This time we attempted to work thru the Hon. Otto Lang who was not only a Cabinet Minister but an ardent Bridge player, and while he did everything within his power, we were refused once more.

The next step was to prepare a brief, the purpose of which was as follows:

Purpose:

To establish that the game of Contract Bridge is both a sport and recreation, and is deserving of financial support.

It provides beneficial diversion to physically fit or incapacitated and to young or old Canadians alike.

It has and will continue to provide considerable recognition for Canada internationally.

It requires as much physical stamina as any other sport, such as soaring, rifle shooting, archery, etc., which are already supported financially by the Canadian government.

The necessity of establishing a financially sound Canadian organization to represent Canadian Bridge Players.

In the opinion of the Directors of the C.B.F. it validated these objectives. This time we made the approach thru Hon. James Richardson and at one point his special assistant Mr. Rod Zimmer wrote "The

Federation clearly has a case to make for establishing Bridge as a sport and recreation".

After many phone calls, correspondence and personal contacts the latest answer is contained in the following letter.

April 16, 1974

Mr. Doug Cannell,
Director - Zone IV,
Canadian Bridge Federation,
404 Hosmer Blvd.,
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Dear Mr. Cannell:

This is further to my letter of February 27, 1974 concerning federal assistance for the Canadian Bridge Federation. The Department of Health and Welfare has reviewed the request in the light of the Fitness and Amateur Sport Act and their existing guidelines.

Specifically, the Fitness and Amateur Sport Act has enabled the Program to provide financial assistance to groups and associations which promote, encourage and develop physical activity, within a sport and recreation framework. Each year a number of requests are received for assistance to organizations which promote such activities as chess, bridge, dancing, model aircraft competitions, etc. Because of the constraints imposed by legislation and limited financial resources, the department responsible has been unable to react positively to such requests.

As you can appreciate, the Canadian Bridge Federation does not fall into what is normally accepted as physically oriented activity. Therefore, it is impossible for it to be considered for financial assistance.

I sincerely hope that the information contained in this letter has been helpful in explaining policies governing support programs. I regret that I am unable to give a more favourable reply.

Sincerely,

Rod Zimmer
Special Assistant
Office of the Minister
of National Defence

What is the next step? We understand the Department of Health and Welfare is in the process of separating Recreation from Fitness and Amateur Sport. So we will try again.

In the meantime, any Canadian Bridge player who has the ear (and I would like to have some of their heads) of someone in the upper echelon of Government, please be aware that the C.B.F. would welcome any support you can provide.

I haven't given up yet, but if the next attempt fails, does anybody know where I can get my hands on a do it yourself Atom Bomb Kit?

1976 TEAMS OLYMPIAD

Henry Smilie

Unit trials will be held in the Winter or Spring of 1975, Zonal trials in the Summer and National trials in the Fall, roughly speaking. It is expected that the CBF will make final plans at the November meeting. Last time 4-man teams competed with Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela designated as the 3rd pair.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

August 13, 1974

August 1, 1974

Dear Editor,

Was Sir Winston a Bridge Player?

60 years ago tonight, Sir Winston Churchill, then First Lord of the British Admiralty, was entertaining some political friends. While waiting out the tension caused by the impending holocaust, they decided to play bridge. The cards had just been dealt however when a red dispatch box arrived containing the message that Germany had just declared war on Russia. He changed out of his dinner jacket, proceeded to No. 10 Downing Street and then ordered mobilization of the fleet. Three days later the empire was at war. I remember it well.

Henry Smilie

Mr. Bob Brooks,
Digest Editor:

Mr. Murphy's article on the 'Indians' reminds me of an incident involving one of them.

Some years ago a player at one of our clubs, girl A, was informed by girl B that a mutual friend, girl C, had become engaged to a Doukhobor. Incredible, A suggested to B that she check up on her facts. Next week B reported that indeed she had been in error, that actually the groom was a 'Jacoby's Witness'.

Some months later I encountered Mr. Jacoby at a Tournament in Los Angeles and related the foregoing to him. He told me that he had an uncle, a professor of astronomy, whose students called him Jehovah.

Henry Smilie

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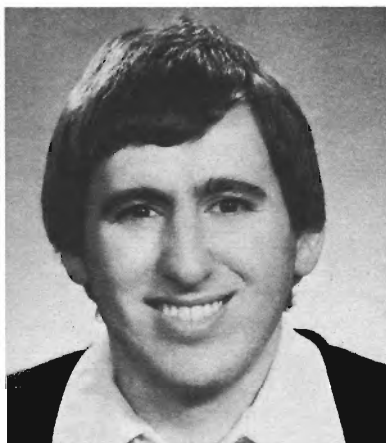
CHEEP CHEEP CHEAP

by Eric Kokish, Montreal

Canada's representatives to the World Pairs Olympiad in Las Palmas, Canary Islands have returned to her infinitely more friendly shores slightly battered but surely wiser in the ways of the world.

How did we do? My own feeling is that we didn't do very well, but I'm probably influenced by the belief that Canada is capable of a standard of bridge comparable with the United States and Italy. Eight Canadian pairs were included in the 190 that started this grueling ten session open pair event. After six sessions, the field was cut to sixty pairs, but only two were Canadians. With the talent possessed by our delegation, this was a big disappointment.

Somewhat strangely, there was no carryover whatsoever going into the four-session final. While this seemed blatantly unfair at first, I soon realized that there was a sound reason for it. Very few nations had conducted trials to determine its representatives and very few federations had agreed to support its players financially in this international meeting. The CBF and ACBL were exceptional in their concern for top-flight representation. In Europe, it is quite common for those "experts" who could afford to pay their own way to "represent" their countries. While most of the better pairs were able to attend anyway, there was little to prevent many lesser players from attending if there was unfilled places in the national quotas. This type of arrangement left open the possibility of strategically timed "favours" among countrymen.



While the World Bridge Federation was not willing to acknowledge that this type of practice existed, and it could not insist that nations conduct trials to ensure top calibre representatives, it could and did impose a brutal cut to eliminate as many of the "tainted" pairs as possible. In addition, it was obvious through the elimination of carryover that the WBF regarded the qualifying rounds as something of a joke, a rather pompous attitude for an august body to effect. The players were, in fact, subjected to two very different contests: In the first, there was absolutely no reward for excellence, but survival was essential; In the second, if survival was accomplished, a consistent above-average performance meant nothing, but four sessions of super bridge (regardless of six previous mediocre ones) would win the whole thing. Even if every British pair played dead when they encountered Irving Rose and Rob Sheehan in the qualifying rounds (and this was not

the case), it seems disgusting that after six sessions they were only even with the pair that lay sixtieth, more than twelve full boards behind. But so it was, and who are we to question?

Joey Silver and I were subjectively happy about the carryover liquidation when qualified 55th. Suddenly we were tied for first again, albeit a 60-way tie. But for the strange rules, the makeup of the finalists might well have been different.

The World Bridge Federation ran this tournament, appointed the directors and staff, and determined the conditions of contest. The top flight directors, Harold Franklin and Maury Braunstein were instructed to call the rounds and to try to make palatable rulings, but their hands were tied organizationally. This was a tragedy.

I marvelled at the WBF convention cards that listed about 20 different leads with instructions for the partnership to circle the agreed card. This list differentiated between J10x and J109 but had no provision for honour-fifth.

There was a lengthy explanation before the first few sessions of each event, dealing with the "alert" procedure and how failure to alert any conventional bid would be dealt with mercilessly.

Bidding boxes were used for all events, but if one pair chose to object, neither pair at the table could use them.

English was the official tournament language, but apparently some pairs chose to understand English only at convenient moments.

There was no provision for verification of a score slip, as there is in America, but both pairs at the table were responsible for that score slip. The caddies were extremely efficient in picking up the tickets as soon as they were completed, but not nearly as apt otherwise. None of this would have been so serious, but for the WBF rule that stipulated that any scoring error was punishable by loss to both pairs of 25% of a top, regardless of fault and the scoring room's carelessness. If every pair went down one trick for -50, and one ticket came in -100 for the same score, the scorers would refuse to catch it, or if they did immediately, the same onerous penalty applied. To appeal an incorrect score, a deposit of 100 pesetas was required. This was refundable only if the scorer was at fault. There was at first no way to check for errors beyond verification of your total with what you believed your scores actually were. Pairs could calculate their scores from "frequency" sheets which came out shortly after each set of nine boards. If you felt that your total was wrong, there was nothing posted to see if and on which board you might have erred. It was terrifying to lose 50 match points at a time on trivialities, not to mention the money. This system was designed for the scorers to avoid as much extra work as possible, and ultimately achieved this end although accuracy suffered tremendously instead.

Any appeal of a floor ruling by a director required a deposit of 300 pesetas in order to be heard. This was to be refunded so long as the appeal was not deemed frivolous. Who knows what was frivolous? The

Appeals Committee was made up of alternating WBF officials, and the makeup of this committee was listed each day in the tournament bulletin, presumably so the players would know who would hear their appeals, but possibly because the WBF officials receive little recognition otherwise beyond their annual banquets.

There was to be no kibitzing (except in two pit areas) for security reasons. This was less than ideal for the unwary wives who came along on a very expensive trip hoping to be able to cheer their men on when the sun had subsided. There was to be no leaving the table without directors' permission. There was to be no looking at the last trick once your side had turned over both cards played to that trick. And most of all, there was to be no disagreement with the status quo.

In an early session, an opponent committed the cardinal sin and failed to alert a negative double and we got into trouble when partner failed to raise into the teeth of a penalty double, but chose to compete vigorously later after opener had removed the double and admitted his indiscretion on being questioned subsequently. As often happens in these situations, immediate action would have placed the damaged side in a far more advantageous position. The director awarded us with 60%, the opponents 40% (the most frequent decision at this tournament) and the opponents complained that we competed at our own risk, etc. The director ran for consultation and returned with the news that the original result would stand. We could, of course, appeal this

ruling if we would be kind enough to donate our 300 pesetas. As a matter of interest, I asked who was sitting on the Appeals Committee that day. After another exodus, the director returned to inform us that this was an insult and that I was in big trouble. She (the director) retained a firm grip on my 300 pesetas.

I was soon summoned into an antechambre where I recognized Geoffrey Butler and Julius Rosenblum of the WBF. One or two others were there as well. Butler was livid with rage. He announced that he was not involved in our appeal, but he was going to speak for the entire Appeals Committee regarding my outrageous allegations. He further bellowed that by asking the identity of the jury, I implied that they were biased and incompetent (note: not either but both). Of course I had made no such allegations and I pointed out that the information I requested was available in the bulletin. Since I was not permitted to leave the table without the directors' approval, I expediently had consulted the director. His persecution complex was apparently shared by his co-jurors, because they leaped to his aid, stating that I couldn't fool them - they knew very well why I had asked about the Committee. I was unable to identify the skelton in their closet, and I was also too shocked to speak.

It was an inevitable anti-climax to learn that our appeal had been turned down, although it was not deemed frivolous. Since I asked for the Committee's rationale, they gave it to me. Mr. Rosenblum, an international pillar for many years asked if we played negative doubles, if we had played in many tournaments, if we always alerted,

and why we didn't ask for an explanation if we wanted to bid? I chose to disregard the last question, and thanked the Committee for their valuable time. I asked for the deposit, and now the committee took great delight in telling me that they were going to keep this exact amount as punishment for impertinence. Just like a hockey game - two minutes for tripping - 300 pesetas for impertinence. They did advise me that I could take the matter further, for only 600 pesetas more. I believe I mumbled something about this being undemocratic, and bridge having become a rich man's game, and I staggered back to try to play some more bridge. Clearly the world had gone insane. I would be interested in knowing how the rest of Canada would have reacted to this affair. Please be careful that impressionable children are not allowed to read this account.

After consulting with some players whose opinions I respect, I came to the conclusion that a further appeal was futile, since all of these Committee members would serve on the Supreme Appeals Committee that would hear the new appeal and their peers would not go far enough to reverse their impulsive action. I was also faced with the spectre of a threat by this Committee to prevent me from playing further international events. All because the WBF had inferred something that I originally had not implied.

After the first session our score was 156 points less than we had calculated. Since we had no way to check the source of this error, I attempted to consult the scorers. Reluctantly, and with great annoyance, they agreed to check our score. Find-

ing the discrepancy on one board, a further check disclosed that someone had used our pair number and we were assigned their result. They never were willing to explain what they had done with our true result. I guess they just put it into the only blank spot on the sheet and of course it then balanced. Perhaps they cut cards to determine which score really did belong to pair 243. This was a world championship, believe it or not. I pointed out that since players had to put up money and risk fearfully large penalties to avoid stupidities like this, perhaps they should post sheets that at least gave each pair their match point results on each board. This rude awakening at least resulted in their acceptance of my proposal and thereafter these "group" sheets were posted before the beginning of the next session. There was no apology by the scorers and no attempt to determine who had calculated this particular board's results. Oh well, what the hell.

To be concluded.

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