

# bridge digest

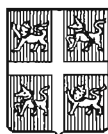
CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION  
FEDERATION CANADIENNE DE BRIDGE

Vol 6, No. 4

November/novembre, 1976



NOVA SCOTIA  
NOUVELLE-ECOSSE



NEWFOUNDLAND  
TERRE-NEUVE



YUKON



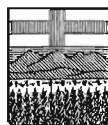
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND  
ILE DU PRINCE-EDOUARD



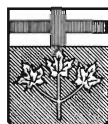
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST



QUEBEC



ALBERTA



ONTARIO



NEW BRUNSWICK  
NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK



MANITOBA



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
COLOMBIE BRITANNIQUE



SASKATCHEWAN

- Bridging the Communication Gap

Unit boards exist not simply to maintain status quo but to make improvements in their operation to either satisfy their members more or to satisfy more of their members. The ACBL has recently improved its communication to Unit Boards and Club Operators by introducing two invaluable magazines - The Unit Officers Digest and the Club Managers Digest. The (North) American Contract Bridge League communicates with its members in the USA, Mexico and Canada through the Bulletin. The Canadian Bridge Federation communicates to Canadian members through Bridge Digest (which you are reading now) and many Districts and Units have their own newsletters to communicate with members.

All these publications have increased the channels of communication but the problem is the communication is too often ONLY ONE WAY. How many times have you tried talking to a brick wall?

If we are to satisfy more members or satisfy members more we all need feedback. The Digest is willing to announce any changes in Unit presidents, secretaries and their addresses when this information is supplied. The CBF and Digest

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2708 Violet Street  
North Vancouver BC  
Canada V7H 1H1

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Please send contributions  
**SPECIAL DELIVERY** (60¢ extra)  
when near deadline.

would like to hear from Unit Boards regarding their Unit's view of the direction in which the CBF is heading so that the direction can be changed if necessary.

Without feedback it can only be assumed that the path being trodden is acceptable to the majority of our members. Please add the CBF to the items on your agenda and help to bridge the one-way gap.



## CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

## EXECUTIVE

President	Jack Murphy
Vice President	Henry Smilie
Executive Secretary	Dr. Alvin Baragar, 6608 - 84th St., Edmonton, Alberta
Treasurer	Aaron Goodman, Ste. 4, 1411 MacKay Street, Montreal

## ZONE EXPIRES

## DIRECTOR

1	76	Richard Brown, #308-21 Albert St. Dartmouth, N.S.
2	76	Jean Latraverse, Ste. 2700, 630 Dorchester W., Montreal, Quebec
3	78	Alex Kisin, 148 Combe Ave. Downsview, Ontario M3H 4K3
4	78	Helen Shields, 1103-45 Waverley St., Thunder Bay, Ontario
5	77	Jack Murphy, 55 Cawder Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta T2L 0L8
6	77	Henry Smilie, 334- 5740 Cambie Street, Vancouver, B.C.

## NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS

Doug Drew, 1783 Bayview Ave., Toronto M4G 3C5  
Henri Parent, 12129 Joseph Casavant, Montreal, Quebec

## CANADIAN CHARITABLE TRUST FUND

Maurice Gauthier, 7474 Churchill Road, Montreal, P.Q. H3R 3C2



## DIGEST EDITOR

Bob Brooks, 2708 Violet Street, North Vancouver, B.C. V7H 1H1

## Contributors to this Issue

- Zone 2 - Peter Hollander, Montreal  
Maurice Gauthier, Montreal
- Zone 3 - Dave Lindop, Toronto  
Alex Kisin, Toronto
- Zone 4 - Gim Ong, Winnipeg  
J. Ostry, Winnipeg
- Zone 5 - Myrna Thomas, Edmonton  
Jack T. Murphy, Calgary
- Zone 6 - Cameron Cameron, Vancouver  
Sandy McCreery, Vancouver  
Dorothy Shaw, San Francisco  
Lynne Brooks, N. Vancouver  
Henry Smilie, Vancouver  
Bob Brooks, Editor

## High Flying Prices Hit Olympiad Fund

Owing mainly to sky-rocketing plane fares, the Olympiad Fund went into the red this year by \$1,500.00. Treasurer Aaron Goodman revealed in his interim financial report to the Annual Meeting. But by the time this issue goes to press the deficit is expected to be erased, thanks to the October Canada-wide game.

The general account is in a reasonably healthy state. However the recent increase in the cost of mailing the Digest is a serious item. The Bulletin is somewhat fatter than it used to be and the added weight of the Digest puts an issue of the Bulletin containing the Digest insert going to Canada in a higher postal bracket. To offset the high mailing cost, Bulletins are now being mailed 3rd Class in Canada.

## Unit News

New president and secretary of the Vancouver Unit (430) are:

Mr. Henry Smilie, 334 Cambie Street,  
Vancouver, B.C.

Mrs. Jane Green, 17385 Hillview Place,  
Surrey, B.C.

This is Henry's 5th term as president of the Vancouver Unit and he has served continuously on that Board since 1965.

## President's Report

1976



Jack T. Murphy, Calgary

### 1. General Fund:

The Treasurer's Report covers this item in full but I am pleased to see that 21 out of 23 Units in Canada gave us their full support during 1975. In planning our expenditures however, it would assist the decision making of the Directors, if all membership dues were paid before the yearly deadline of June 1.

I have asked the Executive Secretary to make a report to all Units in his next billing to show the financial breakdown of where their \$1.00 per member is spent. When Units realize that almost \$.70 of each dollar goes toward the publication of the Canadian Bridge Digest it will be better appreciated.

### 2. Olympiad Fund:

(A separate fund that gets its revenue from Olympiad Fund Games and Club Olympiad Games. This fund is the only source of revenue for sending our players to International competition.)

In order to send our two Canadian Championship Teams to Monaco we found it necessary to borrow money to pay their airfare, fees and hotel. It is worthy to note that the bridge players and clubs of Toronto and Montreal raised about \$4,000 to pay for the player's meals. The Canadian Bridge Federation paid \$16,000 (airfare, hotel and fees) therefore the total cost was approximately \$20,000.

In the Treasurer's semi-annual report it is gratifying to see that our debt is only \$1,524.92 at this date. Before the year end this fund should be back on the plus side of the ledger.

### 3. Canadian Bridge Digest

This would appear to be our biggest problem at the moment.

Reason - cost! The May issue cost us an extra \$1,000 for mailing and mailing costs will increase again in Canada September 1. The Editor is trying to work out an arrangement with the A.C.B.L. and Canadian Postal Authorities to truck all A.C.B.L. Bulletins and Digests into Canada to be mailed from here at lower costs. Another possibility is publishing in Canada but costs seem to be prohibitive. All of these matters are being thoroughly investigated.

### 4. Charity Fund

In 1975 we had a record year and the sum of \$24,300 was presented to the Kidney Foundation of Canada by Mr. Maurice Gauthier, Chairman of the Canadian Charitable Fund, at the Montreal Regional Tournament. The 1976 Canadian Charity recipients will be the Arthritis Society and another record year is expected. Mr. Gauthier attended meetings of the A.C.B.L. Charity Foundation and will give a report of this meeting.

### 5. Dave Richmond Trophy:

The Dave Richmond Trophy was presented for the first time to the 1974 and 1975 winners. The Canadian bridge player that accumulates the highest number of master points in the calendar year is the winner. Mr. Richmond presented the trophies personally to John Carruthers for 1974 and Mike Schoenborn for 1975. The presentations took place at the Canadian National Regional held in Toronto, April 1976.

### 6. Redistricting:

Membership continues to increase at a rapid pace, with more than 5000 members in Western Canada. In the next two years, plans will be formalized to apply to the A.C.B.L. Board of Directors to create a third all Canadian District (B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan).

Excellent progress has been made in the other two all-Canadian Districts both financially and in tournament attendance. The establishing of three all Canadian Districts will permanently organize National Championships and possibly create a Canadian Conference that would deal more adequately and fairly with our Canadian problems.

### 7. Other Business:

(a) A tentative agreement was made with C.P. Airlines to promote C.P. Air at all tournaments in exchange for advertising in the Digest to help offset costs of same. Agents to be appointed from each zone by the Zone Director.

(b) Letter of thanks was sent to Mr. Dauphine, Manager of Canadian Press for excellent coverage of Canadian players at the World Olympiad held in Monaco May 9-22, 1976. All correspondence to me and the Executive Secretary received a reply. In summing up:

We have had a very successful year and hopefully we can go on to even greater things in 1977. I would like to encourage elections in all zones so that we get the best representatives possible.

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## A.C.B.L. Summer Nationals Salt Lake City

by Lynne Brooks, North Vancouver

Congratulations to the following players who achieved overall standings and/or section wins.

Max Blond, Montreal, Que.  
Bud Burns, Scarborough, Ont.  
David Gold, Pt. Moody, B.C.  
Leslie Gold, Pt. Moody, B.C.  
Kay Harmer, Oakville, Ont.  
Pearl Hunter, Vancouver, B.C.  
Sammy Kehela, Toronto, Ont.  
Jean Milner, Scarborough, Ont.  
Doris Moore, Vancouver, B.C.  
Bob Stuart, Scarborough, Ont.  
Eric Tobis, Montreal, Que.

## CBF Vice President Resigns

Henry Smilie



Henry Smilie who has served on the CBF Board of Directors since inauguration has resigned in mid-term.

Not one to ride with the herd and because of his unconventional behaviour, he is frequently in a minority position with his views except with people who know him well. By bluntly expressing them he antagonizes some people who react by rejecting his suggestions regardless of merit.

Those who know him best are amused by his eccentricities but listen intently because - more often than not - after discussion, their views will coincide. He devotes more time and skill to bridge administration than anyone else I know and the CBF Board will be poorer for his absence.

Since a resignation in mid-term is unusual, particularly after serving the organization of Canadian bridge for eleven years, the Digest conducted the following interview and obtained some surprisingly candid statements.

**Digest:** I am sorry that you are resigning from the CBF Board of Directors and wonder why you are not completing your three year term. Can you give any reason?

**H.S.:** The CBF has been ineffectively administered and since its infancy been bedevilled by machinations and deals on the one hand and on the other by docility in submitting to them. For example, in 1967, one Albert M. Lando came to the fore. In that year he got taken at CBF expense to the Winnipeg Extravaganza as scorer. Anyone with a Grade 6 education could attend to the scoring, but what Mr. Lando wanted, Mr. Lando got. Not since Rasputin has there been another the like of him.

Next he somehow got elected to the CBF Board. The President of the Ontario Unit told me just afterwards that he hadn't known that any elections were taking place. What astounded me was the latter's reaction: he laughed.

Mr. Lando's next move was to convince the Charlie McCarthys on the Board that what we needed was a paid executive secretary - with himself as the payee. After his being so appointed, the main assignment given him was to get the Digest going. Meanwhile, however, he got the job of editor of the Ontario Kibitzer. So he collected from both and resolved the conflict of interest by getting out six issues of the Kibitzer and no issues of the Digest per year.

In 1968, we borrowed \$3,000.00 from the A.C.B.L. By November of that year I suggested that we raise the money in Canada and pay off the balance of the loan on or before the due date which was December 31 of that year. No one supported me. After December 31 had come and gone, their plan was revealed. That is, since we were trustees of the A.C.B.L. Canadian Charitable Fund we would lend the money to the C.B.F. Surely any business or professional man who would use trust funds to make a loan to a borrower without assets, could not be in control of his own mind.

Eventually, Mr. Lando retired but the clique that he controlled survived.

It was my hope that sooner or later we would get people on the Board capable of doing their own thinking and capable of efficient management. However, most of the new boys merely joined the club.

We have had practically no input from Zones 1 or 2. The new director for Zone 2 wrote as follows in May 1976:

"I hold grave concern about the CBF as it is presently organized and run. I am opposed to spending one red nickel on anything until the Kingston meeting and I further propose the first item on the agenda to be a thorough airing of the problem of the CBF."

But, by the time the Kingston meeting was held in August his grave concern had completely evaporated into thin air.

At the time of the meeting, the Zone 1 director said that he was satisfied that things were being run efficiently except for the fact that he had not had his fare paid to Monte Carlo instead of the President.

The fact that we rented expensive premises in Monte Carlo when reasonably priced accommodation was available didn't matter. The fact that sloppy and confusing arrangements were made with travel agents for the teams didn't matter.

For the Toronto trials last year, we had undertaken to provide return airfare. When airfares went up, I suggested that we give each contestant the option of an airline ticket or cash in the amount of 75% of the cost of the ticket. Undoubtedly, in some cases, two or more players might have travelled together by car and ended up with money in pocket while the C.B.F. would have saved the 25%. The fact that this proposal came from me, of course insured its non-acceptance.

The antics of a paperback executive are no substitute for genuine administrative competence.

Digest: Do you see any future for the C.B.F.?

H.S.: Yes, but it will have to put its house in order. It's not so many years ago that the League itself was in dire straits, staring bankruptcy in the face. Now we take its efficiency for granted. Our District 19 organization appeared to be still-born for the first two years of its existence. It is now quite ably operated.

Digest: After seeing this interview in print do you think some of your comments are a little severe?

H.S.: Perhaps, but as you know, I'm not much of a politician.

## Annual Canadian National Team Championship

- Dave Lindop, Toronto

### Summary

The Canadian Bridge Federation will be conducting an annual Canadian National Team Championship starting in 1977. The full conditions of contest for each round will be distributed to the participating clubs.

### Schedule

Every participating club must determine its representative to the second round by February 28th, 1977 and the qualifiers to the National Finals must be declared by April 30th, 1977. The National Finals will take place in Toronto on the week ending June 18th, 1977.

### Eligibility

All team members must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants. Long time Canadian residents may appeal to the National Committee regarding their eligibility. No player may enter more than one qualifying event.

At least one member of the team must reside in the province in which the team elects to compete.

A team may consist of 4, 5 or 6 players.

### Types of Competition in the First Round

Each of the participating clubs will run an extended team competition played with IMP scoring and using either of the following formats depending on the size of the entry:

- A. A Round-Robin team event scored by Victory Points.
- B. A Swiss qualifying event.

A minimum of 30% of the teams entered will be qualified for the next round.

All inquiries should be addressed to:

The Canadian National Team Championship Committee,  
c/o Ms. C. Thorpe,  
63 Wellesley Street E.,  
Toronto

#### What is the Canadian National Team Championship?

For several years now, many bridge players across Canada have felt that there should be some truly CANADIAN annual bridge championships. The Olympiad Pairs Trials, run once every four years, only determine zonal qualifiers, never bringing them together in a playoff to determine Canada's premier pair. The Olympiad Team Trials are also only run every four years and have proven to be an expensive exercise to which the majority of bridge players contribute (through Olympiad Fund Games and Unit contributions) but in which they do not participate. Up until recently there have been insurmountable obstacles to holding an annual Canadian championship. However, it now seems that most of the difficulties have been overcome and we will be holding regular championships in the upcoming years. The first of these is to be a Canadian National Team Championship.

One of the drawbacks to holding an annual championship has been that most organized bridge in Canada is run under the auspices of the ACBL. This organization currently holds three "National" Championships each year in which pairs and teams can earn qualifying points for competing in trials to represent the U.S. in Olympiad events or the North American Zone in international events such as the Bermuda Bowl. There are no Canadian champions, only U.S. and North American champions, and only Canadians in a position to travel to these tournaments can become eligible to represent North America. The addition of the Morehead Grand National Teams, supposedly to add a more "grass-roots" national contest,

is not satisfactory since there is no determination of a Canadian champion, only district and zonal winners. Even at the district level some Canadian teams are competing with American teams to represent their zone.

Fortunately, the Canadian Bridge Federation, formed in 1967, has developed into a body capable of running cross-Canada contests. Amongst the original goals of this organization is the formation of Canadian championships and to this end it has formed a committee to start things off with an annual team championship.

A second drawback in the past has been the tremendous cost of transporting and accommodating the teams necessary for a national final (approximately \$25,000). The only way to raise the necessary funds without charging exorbitant fees in the early rounds is with the aid of a sponsor. The National Committee is currently looking into this and, at the time this article goes to press, the outlook is extremely bright (better than a 3-2 break!). The event will, however, be run even if a sponsor cannot be obtained although the format will have to be slightly altered to keep the costs down.

A third problem is the large geographical disparity of players across Canada. However, by starting the event at the local club level in all areas, everyone will have a chance to play and qualify for the playoffs. Localized playoffs during the second round will mean that no one will need to travel very far for the early rounds.

The event will be open only to Canadians but not restricted to ACBL members. All bridge clubs in Canada whether or not they are affiliated with the ACBL, will be asked to participate by holding the first round qualifying event. A minimum of 30% of the teams entering the event in each club will qualify for the second round. Each qualifier will receive a Certificate of Merit

from the Canadian Bridge Federation indicating their eligibility to compete in the next round.

If a sponsor is obtained for the event, the second round will be to determine a Provincial Champion from each province. For the smaller provinces, depending on the size of the original entry, qualifiers from the clubs will proceed directly to the Provincial Finals. In the larger provinces, probably Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia, there will need to be a provincial semi-final and then a final. The Provincial Champions will then meet in a National Finals to be held in Toronto the week of June 13th to 19th. The teams will play a 10 team Round-Robin with the top four teams going on to a semi-final and final.

In the event that there is no sponsor, the event will be run along similar lines to the 1974 Olympiad Team Trials but starting at the club level. Zonal champions will be determined and there will then be an Eastern final and a Western final followed by an East-West National Championship in Toronto the weekend of June 18th.

What will the result of all this be? Canada will have each year a team capable of representing it in international competition. Perhaps we will even be in a position to invite teams from the U.S. and Mexico to playoff for the right to represent North America in the Bermuda Bowl. We will no longer need to hold costly Olympiad Trials every four years to determine our representatives since we will have a ready-made vehicle. The media coverage of the local, provincial, and national championships should greatly increase the amount of publicity bridge receives across Canada and stimulate interest in the game. The winners of the event will be eligible for nomination by the CBF as International Masters (of which we have fewer than many smaller countries in the World Bridge Federation). If this event is successful it is hoped to add a pairs championship and non-masters

events in subsequent years.

In summary, this is an event run by Canadians for Canadians and it is hoped that bridge players across the country will participate in it and support it through to its conclusion.

[Editorial note: Dave Lindop is treasurer of the CBF National Championship Committee which is chaired by Alex Kisin, CBF Zone 3 Director]

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## Bridge Club Scene [Seen]

by Cameron Cameron

The Saskatoon Bridge Club's theme is "The Club with a difference". The story of the SBC is unique from its origin to its present successful operation. Its history is chronicled in a colourful scrapbook kept at the club.

Many clubs have been faced with the pinch of landlords having to raise rents on their premises. The SBC met the challenge by building their own club. They secured centrally located property with convenient access and lots of parking. They proceeded to design a 4000 square foot building designed expressly for duplicate bridge.

Financing the \$110,000 project appears to be mountainous but not to the enthusiastic duplicate players of Saskatoon. Everyone got into the spirit of fund raising. Bridge parties were the core of many a donation and even a group taking basic lessons (novice) did their thing to assist the finance committee. EVERYONE got into the act as the Saskatoon Bridge Club caters to EVERYONE in their bridge endeavours.

They enter the bridge annals as a unique club. Four generations of one family have played bridge at the same time. Great Grandmother - Jennie Dormer, Grandmother - Reta Hart, Mother - Shirley Donaldson,



and daughter - Terri Donaldson. Does any other club boast this type of family play in their club? Several of their players are still attending high school. A well rounded program that caters to every need is part of their success.

Jimmy Harris is generally credited in promoting the game as a director, teacher and writer of bridge articles back in the 1930's. The T. Eaton cup (donated in 1934) was the first trophy and is still played for annually. The prestigious Team-of-Four cup from Birks Jewellers was first presented in 1935 and the teams inscribed thereon are the best from those early days to the present champions.

The ACBL sanctioned duplicate games did not come about until 1958. A group of players from Saskatoon attended a tournament in Winnipeg. They got hooked and immediately started to organize their own games and introduce master points at home. The efforts of Ken McGuirl and Doug Scott have been rewarded by the opening of the best bridge facility that I have ever seen.

The club recognizes their life masters by posting a picture of every Lifemaster on the wall of the new club since the first in 1965. A nice way to honour their best and remember those from before.

Memories are still bright of the graduates who have carried the message of "fun" duplicate to other areas. Dr. Wm. Stitt donated a trophy to the club because of his good times and has recently been president of the Lethbridge unit. Les Real is still active in Kelowna and is a graduate of SBC. You can normally tell a Saskatoon player by the ever-present smile and the enjoyment they get from the competition.

The Saskatoon Bridge Club is a perfect place for a bridge history of Canada to be maintained. Mona Scott has started an excellent diary of the Northern Saskatchewan unit to be kept up to date. If you have any stories, updates, or pictures she will be glad to include them so that others might enjoy the past and present of our hobby.

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## The Turning of the Sod June 28, 1976

As Unit president Doug wielded the spade  
Where Allan vows cement soon will be laid;  
Brief speeches were made by Eddie, Ken and Cam  
(All of whom prefer bidding and making a slam).  
Thus history was made neath a prairie sky:  
Our own Club we will build since rents are so high.  
To some in our midst this is a dream come true  
With the co-operation of all, we shall see it through;  
Our Hearts are not light - we're aware dangers lurk  
But Duplicate players a challenge can't shirk;  
We'll sparkle like Diamonds in a home of our own,  
The very first such building in many a zone!

Ruth Holland



Partaking in the ground breaking ceremonies [from left to right] were: Ken McGuirl, Dr Ed Ashenhurst, Doug Scott, Allan Tubby [contractor] and Glen Penner [alderman].

## Personality Profile

by Cam Cameron, Vancouver, B.C.

'The meek shall inherit the Earth.'. The personality for this issue is Harold Edmunds of McLeese Lake, B.C. This gentleman is so modest that we were unable to get his picture to accompany the article.

The Williams Lake Duplicate Bridge Club recently held their annual banquet and bridge party. Harold was presented with an honorary life membership to their club. This is the first time that the WLDBC has recognized one of their players in this manner. The president of the club, Bill Cousins, presented a special scroll to the guest of honor to commemorate the occasion.

Harold's first contact with bridge was after WWI at Quesnel. The WLDBC started in the 1960's and he regularly and faithfully made the 64-mile round trip from his home and even now rarely misses a session.

### CAMEL ENTERPRISES

408 - 1245 Nicola St.  
Vancouver, B.C. V6G 2E7

#### Bridge Supplies

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Judgment at Bridge-Lawrence	\$5.95
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##### Revised Titles

5 card Majors-Hardy	\$4.95
Bridge Conventions-Kearse	\$8.95

Postage paid on all prepaid orders.

## Prize for Best Hand

Camel Enterprises offers a bridge book prize to the best hand submitted to the Canadian Bridge Digest for each of the next few issues. The hands submitted must have been played in Canada. The site, and event should be listed as well as the bidding and play.

He is a very popular partner with his contemporaries and is well liked by everyone. He has never turned a partner away because they weren't of his calibre.

In the Cariboo Country of BC's interior his name is amongst the leaders of the pioneer ranches in the area. Rancher, farmer and cowboy describe this quiet mild-mannered gentleman. A major part of his philosophy is to help wherever or whenever he is needed.

On "his" evening at the WLDBC he was so thrilled he shared it with the others present, by donating a prize to the winners of that game. Whither it is better to give or to receive, Harold Edmunds has the best of all answers in that he is capable of both Worlds.

A good choice by the Williams Lake Duplicate Bridge Club and our best wishes to their first honorary member, Harold Edmunds.

## Innovative Klondike Regional

By publication date, the Northern Alberta Unit will have hosted an innovative Regional in Edmonton. As usual fabulous hospitality has been planned. Interesting events planned include Lifemasters Pairs and Mixed Swiss Teams. Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela are chairing a panel show.

A different local duplicate bridge club will handle the hospitality desk for each major championship they have agreed to sponsor.

Tribute is being paid to some senior members of the Unit who will have a side event named after them. The committee regret that people worthy of such recognition outnumber the side games available.

[Myrna Thomas provided information for the above summary-Digest Editor]

### Correction

The South Saskatchewan and North Saskatchewan membership statements quoted on page 15 of the May Digest were inadvertently switched.

# A Bird's Eye View

by Sharyn Kokish

Before I left for Monaco, some friends asked me if I would keep a diary of my impressions and adventures, so that those back home interested in our team effort would be able to feel "involved". Well, I have lots of memories and I'd like to share my trip with you.....

## Thursday, May 6.

Thanks for coming to see us off and for the good wishes heaped upon us...

Our departure from Montreal's beautiful new Mirabel Airport was delayed one hour due to trouble with a motor, a circumstance that left us all feeling a little uncomfortable about the seven hour flight ahead of us...maybe we weren't meant to go... but we took off eventually and things went smoothly through the night.

## Friday, May 7.

We touched down at Charles De Gaulle Airport in Paris right on time and queasily switched planes for the hour and a half flight to Nice. As the plane started its descent over the beautiful blue waters of the Mediterranean, it seemed for a second we would be landing in the sea...but the landing strip magically appeared to the rescue at the last moment. Most of the players were not fortunate enough to receive their luggage and were delayed over an hour at the airport leaving descriptions of the baggage, long departed for darkest Africa and points worse.

The taxi ride to Monte Carlo was an experience in itself. All the cars are tiny, the roads narrow and winding, and everyone seems to drive without the use of the brake. Within 45 minutes we arrived at our hotel, miraculously alive and unmaimed. Most of the Canadians were staying at the Loews Monte Carlo, a

hotel that opened only last year. After checking in (which incidentally took quite a while due to a long wait for the lone bellhop) I took a walk around the hotel. I found the swimming pool up on the roof and a view that was absolutely breathtaking - to one side, the calm blue sea; to the other, the principality of Monaco built into the mountains. Downstairs in the lobby, I happened upon the room that was to be the downfall of many - the Casino. Never having seen one before, I was immediately captivated by the inviting arms of the slot machines, the spinning roulette wheels, the muttering of the craps shooters, and the beckoning Black Jack tables. By the end of my trip I had satisfied my curiosity and enjoyed several exciting hours of relatively painless futility.

## Saturday, May 8.

A sightseeing day. Some of us went to Cannes. Our chosen route took us through the little villages of Beaulieu, Ez, Juan les Pins and Golfe Juan. Unfortunately it also took us through the notorious traffic of Nice. Nobody cared, there was so much to see and absorb. Then the rain began to fall (and it was not to stop for the next two days). After a marvellous lunch at Le Bar Bleu in Cannes, we surveyed the famed sandy beaches - and we were not disappointed at what we saw, although the rain had scared off most of the bathing beauties. Since the driver of the car, Open Team coach Bill Crissey, had not yet received any luggage, we decided to take the short drive back to the Nice Airport where we were informed that his bags and those of a few other players had just been sent to Monte Carlo by taxi. One of Eric's garment bags, which had not arrived with our luggage, was confirmed to have landed in Zaire. I was carefully adding up the value of the three suits therein to claim from Air Canada, when Crissey dragged me out. We then returned to Cannes via a "highway" and arrived in time for a supper that will long be remembered. We were introduced to the best bouillabaisse on the Cote D'Azur (inciden-

tally, my first try). The bowl came brimming with the soup followed by platefuls of ingredients: langoustines, crab, sole and potatoes which we hungrily washed down with countless bottles of rose. It was time to return to Monte Carlo and I didn't relish driving along the dark and narrow winding roads in the heavy downpour, so I closed my eyes and dreamt of supper.

Sunday, May 9.

I woke up to the terrible sound of the telephone (remarkably similar to the cry of a wounded she-elephant). It was Captain Nagy informing me that the Opening Ceremonies would be held in the Monte Carlo Casino at 11:30 that morning. With the hope of seeing the Prince and Princess there, I jumped into my clothes and collected my partner Francine Cimon. Together we waded through ankle-high puddles to the Casino lobby where people milled around conversing in many strange languages. Several speeches were made; then champagne and hors d'oeuvres were passed around. No Prince or Princess. So I packed up my camera and headed back to the Loews. Crissey was in the lobby all up in arms about his luggage - the ones reputedly shipped out by taxi from Nice Airport. The hotel disclaimed receipt and Bill was ready to go to the police and make out a report.

Tension was mounting rapidly. Four years of waiting and the moment was almost near. It was a cruel blow to our contingent and others to find that no kibitzers were being allowed in the Open Room and that only the Vu-Graph room would be open to spectators. Nevertheless, play commenced on schedule at 6:30 that evening. Our first match was against Denmark and Captain Nagy started the foursome who had won the Canadian trials: Dianna Gordon - Irene Hodgson, Sydney Isaacs - Marilyn Pearce. The news at half time was not good - down 44 Imps. The same foursome went in to regain their poise. Denmark gained 14 more. Translated into Victory Points - we

were "blitzed" - 20 to 0. Desperately we searched for 1 Imp because losing by 57 would have salvaged 1 VP for us. It was not to be found. Of course, looking on the bright side, we were only 20 VP out of first. We retired disappointed nevertheless but anxious for the coming struggle.

Monday, May 10.

My nine o'clock wake-up call came at 9:45 but I couldn't be too annoyed once I looked outside and saw the beautiful sunshine. Once upstairs, decked out in my swimming gear, my swan dive was squelched by a sign "The Management regrets that the pool will be under repair till May 16". The height of ridiculousness - a thousand guests in the hotel and they emptied the pool for renovation! It was only the sunshine that kept me from going to the manager and sounding off. Unfortunately there was no beach within quick walking distance, so I settled for a deck chair beside the empty pool. By 12:30 I was ready to go out and kill the world; and Greece was first. After 16 boards we were down 8 Imps. I hurriedly ran out to check my horoscope but it said this shouldn't be happening. So we went back in and won by 28 Imps (15 - 5 VP).

That evening we were pitted against Finland and by 1:00 A.M. the result was 18-2 VP in our favour. This was more like it! We were now in 10th place.

Incidentally, all luggage was present and accounted for. Crissey's bags had actually been delivered but were locked into a room and no one at the front desk had been made aware of it. Children could have done a better job of running this hotel.

Tuesday, May 11.

Another gorgeous day - but my suntanning project had to be postponed since this time my wake-up call never came through - first class hotel, huh?

Our afternoon match was against

our fellow North Americans. The U.S. women had just won the Venice Challenge Cup and were certainly one of the favourites in this event. They played extremely well against us and emerged 15-5 victors.

Our 6:30 opponents were the Irish Ladies and we were up 24 Imps at the half as the day's play came to an end. Most of our lead could be traced to this hand:

Dlr. W  
Vul. None

	AQ9	
	Q1082	
	863	
	864	
763		Void
A763		J54
4		AQJ1095
AQ753		J1092
	KJ108542	
	K9	
	K72	
	K	

#### Open Room

Cimon N	Seligman E	Kokish S	Quinn W
P	3D	3S	P
4S	P	P	Db1
All Pass			

#### Closed Room

N	Pearce E	S	Isaacs W
P	1D	2S	1C
3S	5C	Db1	P
			All Pass

A light opening bid by Sydney Isaacs enabled partner Marilyn Pearce to take a two-way shot at game very quickly and South doubled to protect her potential game bonus. With a winning view in diamonds, Syd quickly negotiated 12 tricks for plus 650.

East's diamond preempt kept her side out of clubs in the Open Room and a defensive error by West turned an already large adverse swing into

a match-breaker. West's singleton diamond lead got her a second round ruff, but she misread her partner's return of the Queen as a suit preference signal and played Ace and another heart (rather greedily, wouldn't you say?). This caused me no pain, and the club loser disappeared forthwith. Plus 590 - for a huge 15 Imp pickup.

The supper we had in store for us was well worth the wait. Just outside Monte Carlo is the town of Menton. Up in the mountains, we found ourselves at a Spanish style restaurant called "Hacienda". The house wine was already waiting for us in big jugs on the table. Huge bowls of pate, raw vegetables and bread were passed around as several musicians serenaded us. The main course was lamb - roasted and mouth-watering - AND as much as you could eat!! Needless to say, the dinner lasted several hours and as we returned to the hotel, some of the sting of the afternoon's loss to U.S.A. had been removed.

Wednesday, May 12.

At 12:30 the Ireland match resumed. Sixteen boards later, we had our blitz and the Irish Ladies had gone minus 1. This win put us in 7th place. South Africa was next, a country that had placed second four years before in Miami. It was a very close match all the way, and the South African Ladies emerged victorious, gaining 11 VP to our 9.

Supper break took us to "Porto Vino Ristorante" where the traditional wine was out of the question for those of us who had to play the first half of the match against Germany at 10:45 P.M.

Before retiring to the Roulette table that evening, we were convinced that Lady Luck was on our side for we had a lead of 29 Imps to take us into the following day's second half.

Thursday, May 13.

The German Ladies succumbed

17-3, leaving us in a good frame of mind for the Switzerland delegation. Another victory for Canada could move us up to 4th place. With the lure of a medal tempting us terribly, we continued our winning streak by beating Switzerland 15-5. Irene Hodgson dealt herself: A5, A, QJ72, J107653, at unfavourable vulnerability against the Swiss team. Not quite enough to open this week - Pass, pass on her left, 1S from Dianna Gordon, 2C overcall from a solid-looking bankish type. Since the girls play negative doubles, Irene passed smoothly awaiting partner's reopening double. Dianna balanced with 2D, however. Too bad. But wait, RHO now bid 3C. Wiping saliva off her chin, Irene decided to forego the 'trifling' penalty a double might bring in favour of a try for the diamond slam...but which slam try? "6D" said Irene, who had passed twice to date. This made easily and we picked up a slam swing. Would Alvin Roth have done otherwise?

We chose "La Calanque" to celebrate. This little French restaurant does extremely well, for it is strategically located. One must climb 95 stairs (I counted) in order to get there and upon arrival, one is ravenous with hunger and desperately thirsting for a drink. It was a beautiful cool evening, so we chose one of the tables outside. "Les Blinis aux Salmon Fumee" (smoked salmon on a crepe covered with a cream sauce) proved to be the most delicious appetizer on the menu. Its universal success left our mouths watering for the main course - veal covered with langoustines and a wine & cheese sauce. Fresh strawberries smothered in a frothy whipped cream added a lovely touch to a fantastic meal.

By now, you may be getting the impression that we were eating like gourmets (and gourmands). If only the bridge results would continue to be as successful as our choice of restaurants.

Friday, May 14.

Only one match was scheduled for us today - and that was against Belgium. They capitulated 14-6. We would relax for the remainder of the day with a Bye, for which 12 VP were added to our score. Fourth place was still ours.

This time our spirits led us out of Monaco to the village of Ez, to a restaurant called "L'Oasis". The name was very apropos for this was a lovely little spot in the middle of a mountain. A delightful old gentleman charmed all the girls with freshly picked red roses. You've got to give the French credit.

Saturday, May 15.

Another one-match day. We faced our hosts in mortal combat and the Monegasque Ladies proved to be fierce competitors. At half time we led by 19 Imps. 7 more came our way in the second half, giving us a tight 14-6 win. We were still hanging on to fourth place but third was only 7 VP away, and second a mere 12. We were a very determined group of bridge players and it was not easy to get to sleep that night.

Sunday, May 16.

Armed with a little bit of morning sunshine, my lucky pen and my trusty scorecard, I collected Francine and we charged into the Australian match. The team continued to play well, and after the first half WE had 39 more Imps than THEY had. Sitting out the second half, we returned to our teammates a couple of hours later. Half of them were in tears. No, we hadn't lost; as a matter of fact we had won a blitz but there was the small matter of a "fouled" board. Try to understand that all the boards were predeclared and it was therefore impossible for any of the players to foul one. But, it was a rule to check the first four hands we played in each session against a sheet of hand records. One of our girls inadvertently missed a spot card - one of her nines should have been a ten. Since our boards were being shared

by three other tables and our partners were playing this board with the "correct" cards, it was decided that all four tables were affected. As no precedent had been set regarding penalties, they duly cancelled this board and thereby cancelled 2 VP from our total - for we had won 14 Imps on this deal. All protestations fell on the deaf ears of the Appeals Committee which now decreed that in the future not only would the result be thrown out but 1 VP would be deducted for having committed this terrible offense. Having conferred with my remorseful teammate, I learned that the 10 on this hand was naturally completely irrelevant to the bidding and play at both our tables. The importance placed on this type of mistake really is unwarranted. Our saving grace, nevertheless, was that we did move into 3rd place, as we had hoped to do, but we were tied with the U.S.A. instead of being 2 VP ahead.

Sweden, our next opponent, was in for big trouble because we were out to kill. Promptly at 6:30 we threw ourselves into the fray and less promptly emerged at half time leading by 26 Imps. This super hand brought in a good chunk of the lead:

Dir. W  
Vul. E-W

A73  
107643  
J62  
106

94	J108
5	KJ98
1054	AK97
KJ98753	42

KQ652  
AQ2  
Q83  
AQ

Hodgson		Gordon	
W	N	E	S
P	P	1H	Db1.
2C	P	P	Db1.
3C	3S!	P	3NT

All Pass.

Dianna had an awkward bid to make at every turn. When Irene offered some encouragement with an imaginative 3S, Dianna made a delicate decision to try for the nine-trick game. This contract was cold against any lead but the actual one - a spade! Dummy's only entry was needed for the heart finesse and this brought the total trick count up to only eight. However, East began to feel the pinch on the run of spades. She could afford a diamond easily but...if she discarded a heart, Dianna would exit with the club Queen and cash that Ace before playing Ace and another heart, forcing East to concede a diamond trick. A club discard would just eliminate the first step. In fact, East threw a diamond. Now a diamond to the Jack and Ace. Dianna ducked the club return and after winning the next club, she led the 3 of diamonds to East's blank King. The diamond Queen was her ninth trick and this was worth 10 Imps when the Swedes failed in 4H in the outer room.

Play was over for the day and we felt we deserved to treat ourselves to some more of the wonderful food of the city. To this end we chose Le Bec Rouge, just up the hill from La Calanque and reputedly a first class establishment. The highlight of an excellent dinner was the first course - "moules a la rouille", a multitude of mussels in an extremely spicy sauce. One could not scoff at the poached turbot or steak "Diane" either, but the mussels were something special.

Monday, May 17.

The Swedish Ladies were not in their best form for the second half of the match, and 43 Imps more came to the aid of the Canadian cause. You can imagine how carefully we performed our checking duties this time. The American Ladies had also won the maximum, so we were still tied for 3rd. Great Britain, in 2nd place was only 2 VP away and this team was our next foe. Rixi Markus and Fritz Gordon were benched and it was rumoured that they were not going to participate in any more

matches - reasons unknown. So, we faced a team missing its two most famous players. A well-played set of hands by both teams, left us up 8 Imps at the half - the actual Imp total was 19-11 - an all-time low score. The second sixteen boards proved that this couldn't last. The Imps swing this time were 40-49 in their favour. One Imp to Great Britain and we split 20 VP, remaining 2 VP behind the British Ladies. The day's play had dropped us to 4th place since the U.S. had picked up 11 VP. A little disappointed, we climbed the 95 stairs to La Calanque, our mouths watering for "Les Blinis".

At 10:45, we were back and ready to wage war against the Netherland troops. We came away with a 9 Imp lead, and collapsed into bed.

Tuesday, May 18.

A break - play would not resume until 8:00 P.M. It was a bright clear day and it was ours to do with as we pleased. A small group of us started out early in the morning to do some shopping in San Remo, Italy. The scenic drive was less than an hour and we arrived in San Remo in time for breakfast. Since pizza reputedly comes from Italy, I ordered one but was greatly disappointed - I had tasted better pizza in my neighbourhood "greasy spoon". The ice cream was great, though. Our purses laden with thousands of lira (1 dollar equals 850 lira), we each went our separate way to buy out the town. By 4:30, I had walked what felt like 10 miles and had managed to purchase one pair of shoes and two ties. But it was time to get back and play.

Netherlands reclaimed their 9 Imps and we ended in a dead tie. As I sipped my umpteenth \$1.75 cup of coffee, some good news arrived. The U.S.A. lost their match 16-4 and we were now proud owners of third place.

For some unknown reason, the Spanish Ladies just didn't like us, and the atmosphere at our table was

kind of stale. Both teams called the director and nobody was happy. We led by 7 Imps at the half.

Wednesday, May 19.

You'll never guess what the result was after we completed the match against Spain. If you guessed 10-10, you were right. This was getting ridiculous. Three ties in a row - but I suppose it was better than losing.

Brazil, with two Roman Club pairs, was next. A 12-8 win broke our streak of ties. Whew!

Having played three sixteen-board sets, we were now famished. This time we didn't walk up any stairs - we descended several steep hills to a restaurant called "Europa", where we enjoyed home-style full course meals at very reasonable prices.

Back in the playing area at 10:45 P.M., we began the first set against the team from Israel. These ladies, although their Victory Point total didn't indicate it, played quite competently and we were lucky to be up 13 Imps when we retired from the long day's play.

Thursday, May 20.

Israel continued to play well and gained back all they had been down plus seven more, giving them 11 VP to our 9. By now we had slipped into 4th place and disappointment was setting in, for we still had to play the French and Italian women. The French had started the day in 3rd place - 3 VP ahead of us; but they lost "big" at the same time we lost "small". When play commenced in this match, we were 3 VP ahead. France didn't play particularly well, but unfortunately we didn't either and at half we were down 1 Imp. After a short rest, play resumed but it was not destined...final outcome: France 12, Canada 8. We sadly slipped into 5th place - 1 VP behind France and a full match out of third.



We had no late set to play so the rest of the evening was free. We had reservations to see the show at our hotel. For a mere \$20 a person, we started with a nice (although rather skimpy) dinner followed by a very entertaining group of artists. A bevy of topless beauties were first to parade around the stage. I think they were supposed to be dancing but I'm sure they weren't hired for their talent. They were followed by a multi-lingual magician whose forte was to make bottles of champagne appear from an empty cylinder. Quite professional. A juggler was next - he may have been multi-lingual but he never opened his mouth. He juggled pins while standing balanced on one foot atop a narrow stand. It was time for more flesh now, so they brought out the girls to do a modern jazz dance. They continued to show more skin than rhythm. Then an opera singer and a waiter did a comedy routine and the show was topped off with a Russian song and dance. The doors leading to the casino were then slid open and the sound of clanging slot machines weaved its magic spell over one and all. We were trapped.

Friday, May 21.

Poor Francine! She must have spent \$100 on water already. Water is even more expensive than coffee in this playing area.

This was to be the last day of play for the women, and it was to be a long and full one. We were to play first place Italy followed by last place Mexico. The Italians were performing very well and had only lost one match. Perhaps it is because they were so far ahead of the field that they seemed to let up a bit and at half time we were leading by 25 Imps. "To the pits, girls" ordered our captain. The "pits" were specially roped-off areas where kibitzing was permitted. There were two such designated areas and when we arrived we were told that the Italian and U.S.A. Open Teams were playing in the other. So naturally, the nervous

tension which had stricken us was immediately abated for we realized that "ain't nobody gonna watch us" except the captains and our steadfast Canadian friend, Mrs. Murphy. It was a pleasant session and we held on to win - but only by 7 Imps. Fourth place belonged to us.

Omar Sharif, who was doing the Vu-Graph commentating throughout the tournament, graced my scorecard with his autograph - in the only empty space, that being the box reserved for psychic bids! Now nobody will believe it's real!

The Mexican Ladies had been having partnership difficulties and it was against two unpractised pairs that we began our match. By suppertime they had surrendered 23 Imps.

Open Team Captain, Willy Lebovic, escorted us to "The Grill", a roof-top restaurant in the grand Hotel de Paris. On nice evenings like this, the roof slides open and we looked up at the stars as we enjoyed our succulent rack of lamb and vintage wines. This was really living! It was difficult to pull ourselves away to complete the last match. But somehow, we did, although a little light-hearted and light-headed. The Mexican Ladies won back one Imp and we won 14-6.

It was all over. Thirteen days of endless bridge and all of a sudden the exhaustion was overwhelming - but we had some celebrating to do. Tonight we would close the casino.

Saturday, May 22.

A beautiful sunshiny day. The Open Teams would still be playing till 5:30 but we were no longer interested in bridge. After lazing around the pool for a few hours, we decided to do a little sightseeing. The local bus gathered us up and delivered us to the Palace. Not overwhelmed by its elegance, and with no indoor tours to be had, we just snapped a few photos and walked over to the Oceanographic Museum nearby. This was a massive stone

building with several floors of exhibits. What most impressed me was the skeleton of an enormous whale. We were going to go to the Jardins Exotique next but it was time to go back to the hotel and get ready for the banquet. At last I was going to see the Royal Couple for they were going to attend.

Buses were hired to take us to the lovely Monte Carlo Sporting Club. The circular banquet hall was laid out with tables for each country but strangely, the Canadian Open table was at the other end of the room from that of the Ladies. Nobody knew why this was so and they told me this was no time to ask. All stood and applauded as the Prince and

Princess arrived (45 minutes late) escorted by an entourage of glowing WBF people. Dinner was served - delicious but rushed. A show followed, featuring an overweight chanteuse and a group of Mexican guitarists, singers and dancers. Then the presentation of awards finished us off. The orchestra played the National anthems of the medal-winning countries as their teams stood silently - beaming.

It was a happy moment for some, I know, but for me it was a cruel reminder of how close we had actually come. This magic moment was something I could only hope to enjoy "next time".....



[1] Murray and Kehela playing the Irish team. Note Bill Crissey [Asst. Team Captain] keeping records. [2] Sharyn Kokish patiently waits for next play. [3] The Open Team at the victory dinner. [4] Francine Cimon. [5] Sharyn Kokish lays down her hand for partner. [6] Versus Italy — note Team Captain Peter Nagy keeping tabs.



# Unit 181

## Bridge in the Penhouse

- by the Manitoba Correspondent

There are no card fees when you play bridge in the Penhouse. If you lived there, you would have no need for money since the Penhouse is a Duplicate Bridge Club at the Stony Mountain Penitentiary. It is franchised with the American Contract Bridge League and run by two most wonderful ladies. Doris McClure, the perennial Unit Secretary (Membership) directs at the club for no pay but a lot of satisfaction, and thanks from the inmates. She is ably assisted by Shelley Lugtig from Selkirk.

The club plays every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. A normal duplicate would run around 9 tables consisting of 80% inmates and 20% from the 'outside'. You don't have to be a member to play. If you are interested, just give Doris a call at (204) - 832-6276 by Monday so she could register your name with the Warden. Visitors are always welcome to make the game more enjoyable.

This is a keen club with the players fighting tooth and nail for every matchpoint. The following hand shows how two lifemasters got took:-

(This column will give the news, views and happenings, however improbable, in Manitoba. Any reference to bridge players, whether living or dead, is intentional although they would rather remain anonymous. This column does not represent the policies or views of the Unit Executive.

Any Manitoban reader who wishes to record any items or misplayed hands (by partner, of course) is welcome to send contributions to the Manitoba Correspondent, P.O. Box 3791, Postal Station "B", Winnipeg, R2W 3R6, Manitoba.)

J2  
AJ2  
K9763  
Q102

83  
Q109643  
105  
A96

954  
K75  
Q4  
KJ843

AKQ1076  
8  
AJ82  
75

How was Lifemaster West to know what to lead when the auction had gone -

South	North
1S	2D
3C!!	3S
4NT	5D
6S.	

The 3C bid effectively inhibited a club lead, as planned. On a heart lead, South cheerfully won with the Ace and gave up only one club loser to chalk up the slam and a top board.

The same South scored another top, on a miscue.

North-South vulnerable.

J82  
4  
KJ9742  
K42

K73  
AK72  
A6  
AQJ10

654  
Q85  
103  
87653

AQ109  
J10963  
Q85  
9

Mel Stover, of the Winnipeg Tribune fame, and Gim Ong give bridge classes to the inmates over the summer months. Their classes are always well attended and interesting and they are most willing to stay behind to reminisce over bridge hands. South might have picked up his bid from one of their hairy stories.

After two passes, South opened with the Flannery 2D bid presumably to show four spades, five hearts and an opening hand of 12-15 points. South was a little shy on points, but what's a few points among friends! This was doubled by West and passed around to South. He passed! Reason: He thought he had opened a 2H Flannery and thought he was in a reasonable contract with hearts as trumps. He almost died when he realized that he was in 2DX and vulnerable yet.

When dummy came down, all's well again. Making four for plus 580 and all the matchpoints.

We invite Unit officials to attend the Penhouse Bridge Club and meet some more members of Unit 181.

## Charlotte Ingram Obituary

The Canadian Bridge Federation's Charitable Fund lost a most devoted and dedicated worker in the person of Charlotte Ingram who passed away recently.

Under her chairmanship of District 2's Charity program (1973), her committees continued and broadened Ontario's charity campaign. It was through her efforts and organizing ability that a very successful two-session Swiss Team event was held by the Metropolitan Toronto Bridge Association at the Royal York Hotel in early December of that year. Over \$2,500.00 was handed to the CBF Charity Fund for the benefit of the Canadian Cerebral Palsy Association.

She leaves a void that will be hard to fill.

[Obituary prepared by Maurice Gauthier, Chairman - Board of Trustees, ACBL Canadian Charitable Fund]

## Born Loser

No Overtricks by J. Ostry, Winnipeg

Opponents vulnerable, West dealer.

	K75	
	102	
	A83	
	Q10842	
QJ3		A9864
Q95		KJ863
J9752		
A9		KJ3
Born Loser		Me
	102	
	A74	
	KQ1064	
	765	

The hand came up against a so-so team in a Swiss Teams event. The auction went as follows and I had no inclination of the disaster that awaited us. But I should have known better.

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
Pass	Pass	1S	2D
X	Pass	Pass	Pass

Partner thought X'mas had come early and I had no reason to disturb the contract. The defence was another thing altogether. Partner attacked with a diamond which ran to the four. Declarer played the Ace of hearts and another heart which partner ducked! This gave me problems no end for partner was marked with the heart Queen and he did not win the trick.

The light finally dawned for partner must be asking for a spade lead and I cranked down the spade Ace and played another for partner to ruff. This ran to the King and partner did not ruff. Partner did not ruff the next spade lead either as declarer ruffed! After ruffing a heart in dummy, the declarer claimed 2D doubled. We lost the match.

Partner considered defence the stronger aspect of his game.

# The Idiot's Finesse

## [Sorry, Partner!]

- Peter Hollander, Montreal

One of the most popular plays in bridge is the finesse and for the avid finessing connoisseur there exist several tempting varieties. The menu includes the simple finesse (a la carte), the double finesse (two for the price of one), the ruffing finesse (a trump in the hand is worth two in the bush), and the so-called Chinese finesse (never say die). Many bridge players never learn to count to thirteen but the ability to finesse is rapidly acquired.

A more obscure specie of the finesse family is the idiot's finesse. This somewhat pejorative term was undoubtedly conferred on what seemed to be a simple guess to a perplexed declarer and something less polite to a frustrated dummy. Basically defined this play entails the taking of a finesse that was not possible until the drop of a crucial card by a wily defender. Declarer, assuming an idiotic defence, now takes a finesse he could not otherwise have taken, only to lose to a card that could not take a trick.

As an example, imagine the defence against a contract at which you require two tricks in a key suit for a set. Dummy plays the ace.

Dummy  
Axx

You  
KJx

Declarer  
Q9x

All things being equal the defence is doomed to a single trick but you may alter fate by dropping the jack. Now when declarer leads towards the queen a finesse position is established. Only an idiot would take it, playing you for J10x, but declarer may be the one.

Example two has you declaring a contract which requires the success-

ful exploitation of this suit.

Dummy  
10xx

LHO

Declarer (you)  
AK8xxx

RHO

LHO, for no apparent reason, leads the nine which goes ten, jack, king. Do you re-enter dummy and finesse the queen with your eight spot? Somedays you will be a winner but this is a classic idiot's finesse as you would never have picked up QJx. If you lose to Q9 doubleton you get what you deserve.

Occasionally the opportunity arises to set up an idiot's finesse on oneself.

Dummy  
9xx

LHO

Declarer  
AK8xxx

RHO

You cleverly lead the nine which proceeds ten, king and the queen appears on the left. Off you trundle to dummy to play small, small, eight and ..... jack! Congratulations! No one else could have dreamt of losing a trick in this suit.

No narrative on the glorious idiot's finesse would be complete without the tale of a successful one. As declarer in 6NT and, off an ace, I had to negotiate AK9xxx facing Jxx. The ace found the outstanding small spots but the lady behind the ace parted quite reluctantly with her deuce. This was indeed suspicious. While it is common practice to hesitate on singletons, small doubletons and such "critical" holdings, the holding of Qx seldom elicits a trace of pause or anxiety. I crossed to my hand and led the jack, which was instantly covered by the ten! Glaring malevolently at either adversary achieved no useful result so I fell back on a rule of restricted choice, i.e., he who hesitates is restricted from owning a useful card. I ducked and partner scored a gloating +990. The true art of finessing is not how to finesse, but when. On this occasion, at least, the hook was definitely on.

## ACBL Canadian Charitable Fund

by Maurice Gauthier, Chairman

The half yearly report by the trustees of the American Contract Bridge League's Canadian Charitable Fund has just been issued and it shows that the proceeds from the charity sessions held for the benefit of The Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society amount to \$14,670.65.

Here are the receipts by zones in the Canadian Bridge Federation:

	<u>Amounts</u>
1. The Maritimes	\$1,436.00
2. Quebec	2,462.25
3. Ontario	6,017.50
4. Manitoba-Sask.	1,017.00
5. Alberta	971.00
6. B.C.	2,750.90
Overseas	16.00
	<u>\$14,670.65</u>

[Editorial Note: Maurice merited a half page spread with a huge photograph in a July issue of the Montreal Star. His name was among those considered for Bridge personality of the year for 1975 by the World Bridge Federation.]

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## Two Fisted Giving

by Sandy McCreery, Vancouver

A small charity game with a big pocket. The Hastings Bridge Club in Vancouver ran a Swiss Team event for charity on September 11th. Having already run an event for the benefit of The Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society (selected by the Canadian Bridge Federation as charity of the year) earlier, they wanted to conduct another fund raising event for Cancer Research. Twenty-two teams entered this 2-session event and thanks to volunteer help, \$350 was raised for this worthy charity. There were many door prizes and much fun for all who played.

## Bridge Grants to Canadian Institutions

Alex Kisin, Toronto  
CBF Director, Zone 3

Each year the proceeds of charity games in Canada are donated to a designated charity, directed toward medical research. In the last three years these have been: The Kidney Foundation of Canada, The Canadian Mental Health Association, and The Canadian Cerebral Palsy Association. In 1976 it is The Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society.

At the Kingston meeting of the ACBL Canadian Charitable Fund, the trustees have inaugurated a new project. Effective immediately \$2,000.00 has been allocated for teaching bridge or running supervised play at institutions qualifying for charitable support. These may include hospitals, sanitoriums, senior citizens' homes and penal institutions. In fact, any project providing recreation to groups - which could not otherwise afford it - will be given consideration. Materials paid for by these funds must become the property of the institution (not the teacher).

APPLICATIONS BY INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS ARE INVITED IMMEDIATELY. They should be made to the CBF or Charity Committees in each Unit and after screening will be submitted to the National approval Committee consisting of Eric R. Murray and myself.

We hope this project will find support in the Canadian bridge community.

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# London Bridge

By Dorothy Shaw

[Dorothy Shaw, formerly of Vancouver, is a Regional Director of the ACBL and has owned and operated a bridge club in San Francisco]

During a recent trip to England we were fortunate enough to play in a London Congress, this would be similar to one of our Sectionals, with many, many differences.

The tournament was sponsored by Selfridge's, one of London's great department stores, so the prize awards were very generous merchandise vouchers.

There was only one event, a 3-session Open Pairs, with the first session qualifying, and as a bonus, the last evening of play was a Board-a-Match Team of Four.

Starting times were 2:00 P.M. and 8:30 P.M.; there was no attempt at seeding the field, everyone sat down at any table they fancied, and after the game got underway, a lady came by to pick up £6-1/2 per player, and hand out small slips of paper on which to register. Approximately 80 tables were entered.

Travelling scores were used throughout, so there were no pickup slips, hence no caddies. There were no female directors. No halves were used in matchpointing, so we played the first session with a 24 top, and the 2nd and 3rd with a 50 top.

There were no water stations whatsoever (how U.S. players would scream!) but beer and tea was available at a price. Numerous small round tables with immaculate cloths were strewn around the room adjacent to every card table, and tea was served in high style by a uniformed waiter bearing a silver tea service.

Most of the players were playing ACOL, mostly 5-card Majors, Intermediate strong 2-bid, and a variation of NT; 10-12; 12-14; 13-15 etc. some positional, other dependent on vulnerability.

Instead of a Skip Bid warning,

the British version is "STOP" which is so startling that one perforce stops, and neither bids or passes in a hurry. Although they do not use timers, when the move is called, most players move along, if not, the director stands rather menacingly over your table. No "late plays" seemed to be meted out.

There were very few director calls, no squabbles, no protests, no Committee meetings. Every pair we encountered were uniformly pleasant and courteous.

Needless to say, we did not qualify, since our defense against the vagaries of the ACOL NT, plus something called Benjamin, was not the greatest - however we did put together two good games in the Consolation to place in the overall.

That evening, before the Team game was Prize Giving time, and when our names were called, we proudly marched to the podium to pick up our £10 Selfridge voucher. Head director, Harold Franklin was kind enough to announce that Mr. & Mrs. Harold Shaw were well known bridge players from America, which earned us a very nice, albeit undeserved, round of applause.

The Team of Four was sponsored by Lutomer Wines and numerous bottles were passed out to winners and near-winners.

No recaps were made out, nor were any scores turned in during the game, and scores were verified before the opponents left the table, and at the end, only those with plus scores checked in at the director's table, and the highest plus score was declared the winner. Although our teammates, a delightful youngish couple from Nottingham, were the Consolation winners none of us played brilliantly, so did not get to sample the Lutomer product.

Next day we happily placed the Selfridge Voucher on a down payment on a Burberry for Harold.

Altogether a delightful experience in the wonderful world of duplicate bridge, British style.

## Traveling to Britain?

Anyone interested in playing duplicate while travelling in Great Britain can obtain addresses of clubs from the following:

Scotland - Mrs. Morag Malcolm, Secy.  
Scottish Br. Union, Shawbost,  
Brookfield-by-Johnstone, Renfrewshire  
Scotland

England - Mrs. Rhoda Lederer, Secy.  
Eng. Br. Union 5 Ellis Ave. Chalfont  
St. Peter, Bucks. England SL9 90A

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### From the Guts of the Guru

- Henry Smilie, Vancouver

Last year a member of a certain Unit had a suggestion to make. So he sent a letter to a tournament director. The letter gathered dust for ten months.

Staff, including tournament directors, are hired to carry out policy, not to make it.

Communicate your idea to your elected representatives. If it concerns your Unit, address it to

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your Unit board; if it concerns your District, address it to your District organization; if it concerns Canada, address it to the CBF; if it is of general concern, address it to the League.

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